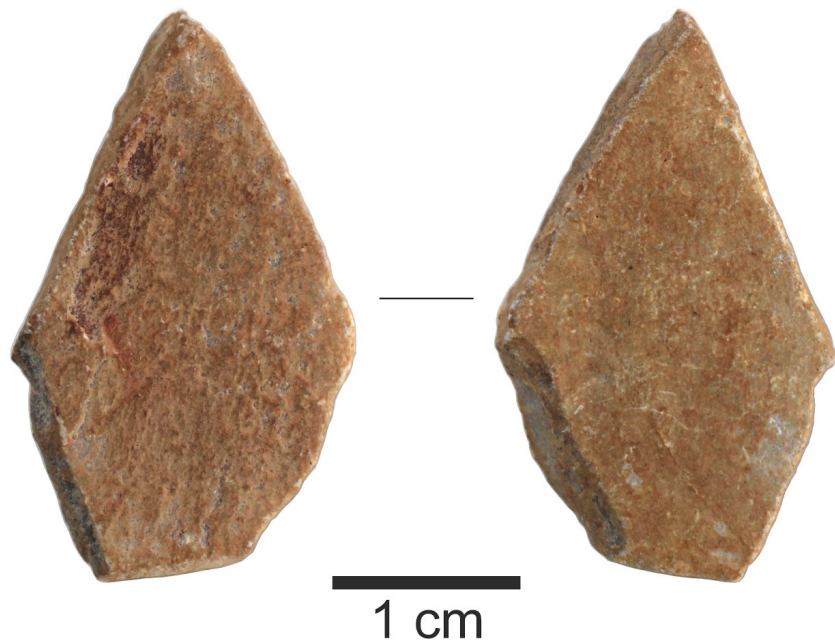


IV.14. Taxa HL and Hm: Points on plaquette and point-like effigies
 (3 items; #1071–1073)

#1071. Item no. 583-10083

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	06/02/2016	L6	-3.15/ -3.30	-3.20	283924.36	2724534.71	1222	C
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
HM	Point-like effigy	30.6	18.3	3.3	2.35	V		



Characterization. This pentagonal item is a human-made point-like effigy, a geometric form resembling a projectile point, made by partially modifying the edges of a natural, thin plaquette of green limestone coated by an orange-brown patina. The blank, probably, already had a pre-determined, favoring shape, which was only adapted artificially. Two of the edges are natural and cortical (flat planes, common in calcite-rich rocks), with the other two produced by fracturing





the edges in a controlled manner. The result is a symmetrical shape that looks roughly like a point, related to unknown cultural activities apparently practiced regularly by the visitors of the cave during millennia. This item would also qualify as a Geometric (taxon O).

#1072. Item no. 643-10203



Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	07/02/2016	L6	-3.40/ -3.50	-3.45	283924.06	2724534.91	1223	C

Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
HL	Point on plaque	43.2	17.8	5.3	4.9	V		



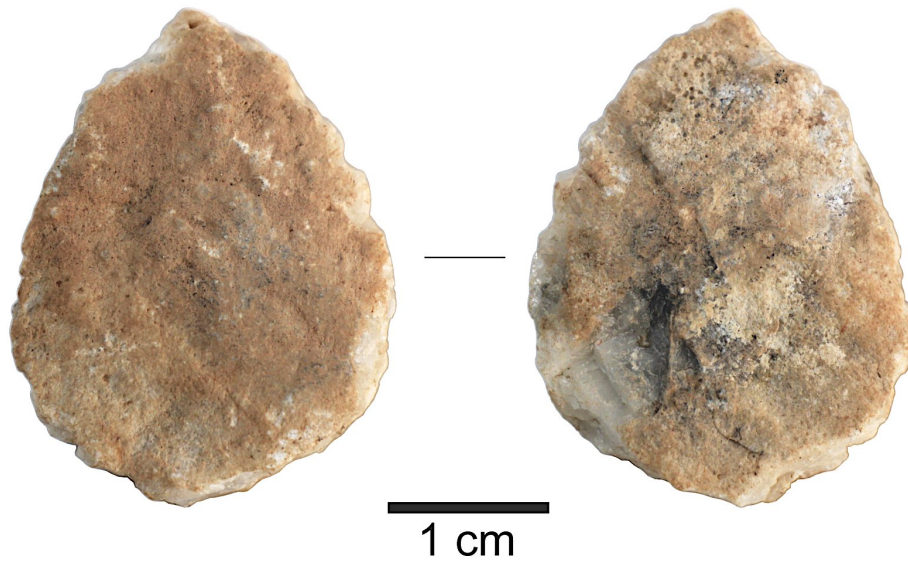
Characterization. This artefact, despite its general aspect that makes it look like a non-functional point effigy, is, in fact and more probably, a point on plaque, an item that was intended to become a functional projectile point through the combination of more than one technique in two successive manufacturing stages. This is also one of the oldest expedite point shapes at Chiquihuite, recovered from the deepest excavated layers in X12. The artefact is made on a natural thin slab or plaque of dark-green limestone, covered by cortex on both sides. In a first



stage, the plaque was shaped into a laurel leaf form by edge fracturing or controlled edge snapping, although not all around its contour. This technique, common among point effigies and Geometrics (O), was employed to create one long edge and the converging base of the point. The remaining edge was naturally beveled, resembling a dull knife edge. This edge was not shaped by the fracturing method, but approached by two retouch techniques. The proximal segment of the edge presents small retouch micro-scars forming over the beveled edge, originating from the opposite face of the tool, which could be labeled as ventral. But, along its distal segment, the edge was worked in a more aggressive manner, with proper thinning by percussion, as if starting to thin the entire edge, commencing from the tip of the point. The flake scars are relatively invasive over the ventral side. The length of the thinned portion of the edge is only 14 mm, after which the task was abandoned. However, the product is a fairly symmetrical point, with a distal tip that could penetrate easily, if employed as a projectile. The ventral, flatter, side of the artefact also presents a scratch-like mark, which is rather natural.

#1073. Item no. 2125-13764

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	27/01/2017	M5-SW	-3.00/-3.10	-3.06	283924.89	2724533.78	1219	C
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
HM	Point-like effigy	31	24.1	6.7	5.81	Ca		



Characterization. This is a very interesting and intriguing find, a point-like shape, a point effigy made on a calcite crystal lamina by systematic edge fracturing, a technique that allowed the obtention of a symmetric, tear-drop-like artefact. One side presents natural cortex, and the other face is covered by cemented sediment coating.

