

A szomszéd fűje mindig zöldebb

-The grass is always greener elsewhere-

Flint tools used to be employed for every needs during the Prehistoric period. We usually think about hunting or cutting the meat. But in the way of life of Prehistoric people, gathering herbs and cutting with flint tools must have had a big importance. In experiment thesis, we tried different methods in order to see the residues (streaks) made by high cut and low cut. The main objective of this experiment is to see the differences on the tools (scars, cracks, residues ...) between the high waist and low waist herbs.

Materials and methods

"one shot" experiment of 15 minutes for each flint tool. 5 tools out of 10 were used by the right-handed experimenter and the other 5 by the left-handed experimenter after testing grips of each tool. These 10 tools were measured, weighed, drawn, photographed and examined before and after the experiment. In addition, the handling tools and stigmas of the material were also marked in order to compare the differences and the size of the scars, and the implications trace residue and cutting scars on the cutting tools. 2 Tools were cleaned in ultrasonic bath (*Reference of ultrasonic cleaner VWR® Ultrasonic Cleaners, 220V ; Supplier: VWR International*) were emerged intact; all residues have resisted this washing and remained hanging on the flint tools.



Prehension of the flint tool before the experiment ; © Klinga F. and Milon J.



Motion of cutting in low cut ; © Klinga F. and Milon

Hypothesis

Before the experiment we supposed that those tools, which we use on the bottom, have more scars and residues because the bottom of the herbs are thicker and stronger.

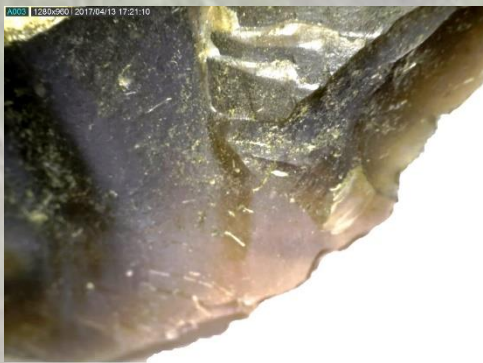
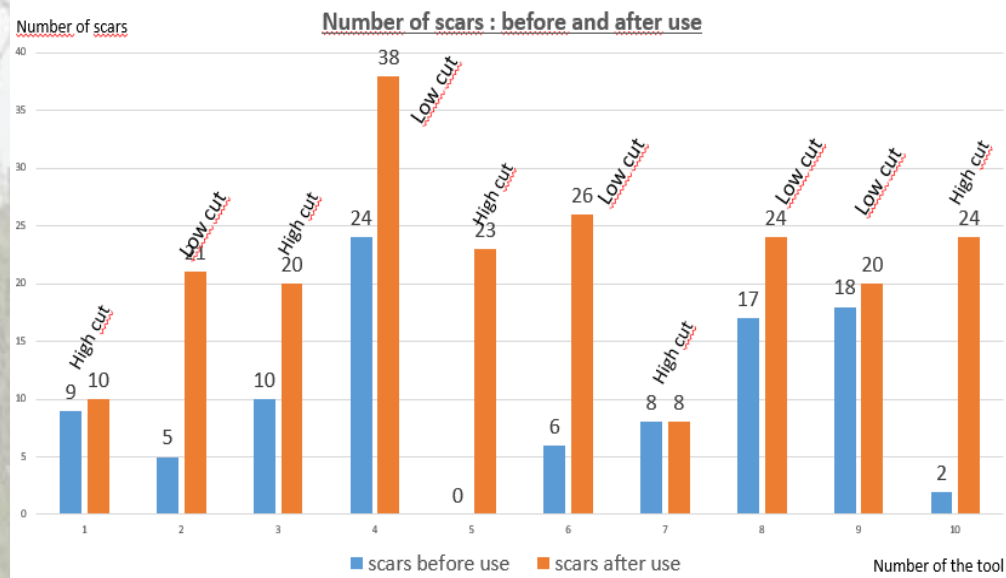
The Results

After the experiment we examine the flints and our expectation was proved. As we can see on the 5 tools used on the low parts, more scars appear after the experiment. It confirms the fact that it is harder to cut the bottom of the herbs than the higher parts. We discover that some bigger parts have broken down for the low cut.

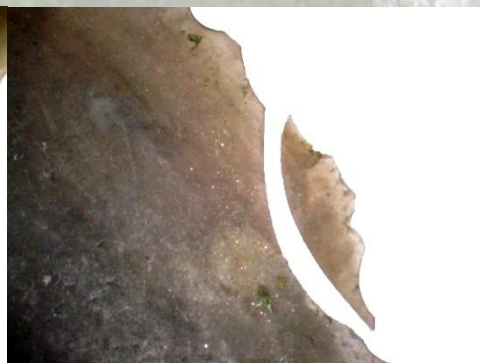
The obtained residues after cutting plants are persistent on the flint pieces, they let green and stubborn marks and also plant particles that are resistant to ultrasonic baths.

From these tools one comes from Hungary and the other ones come from Ukraine. We cannot notice any dissimilarity between the 2 types of flints. On all of these tools, we can see green residues and even soil on tool number 4.

Before the experiment we saw some scars on cutting parts but only few and small ones. After we used them, nothing remarkable could be noticed. On tool number 7, there was no new scar, only green residues. It can be important to mention that this flint come from Hungary. On 2 of these tools, we can see longer residues than on the other ones because of the raw material.



Evidence of residues and scars in the tool number 1 using for high cut; © Klinga F. and Milon



Evidence of broken part and in the tool number 1 using for high cut; © Klinga F. and Milon

Discussion

These results, though interesting, are the products of a modern and modest experiment conducted during a short period of time. It would have been interesting to make sequential experiments by observing the evolution and emergence of the residues and scar in time and not in a "one shot" experiment. It would be interesting to observe the evolution and persistence of these residues in time and face taphonomic processes. Moreover, with a parallel connection of these modern tools and archaeological objects, results and comparative analysis would have enabled to highlight other aspects of the experiment. Also it can conduct to a better understanding of the behavior of the hunter-gatherers prehistoric about their grass cutting methods.

It might be interesting to replicate this experiment by associating with archaeobotany studies. The phytoliths analysis on the copies of archaeological and modern tools could also be very relevant to add to these experiments in order to improve it.

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