



HAL
open science

Un unusual Mousterian retoucher from Vergisson IV, Saône-et-Loire, France

Marine Massoulié, Éva David, Eric Boëda

► **To cite this version:**

Marine Massoulié, Éva David, Eric Boëda. Un unusual Mousterian retoucher from Vergisson IV, Saône-et-Loire, France. 61st Annual Meeting of the Hugo Obermaier Society for Quaternary Research and Archaeology of the Stone Age, Apr 2019, Erkrath, Germany. hal-03884983

HAL Id: hal-03884983

<https://hal.science/hal-03884983v1>

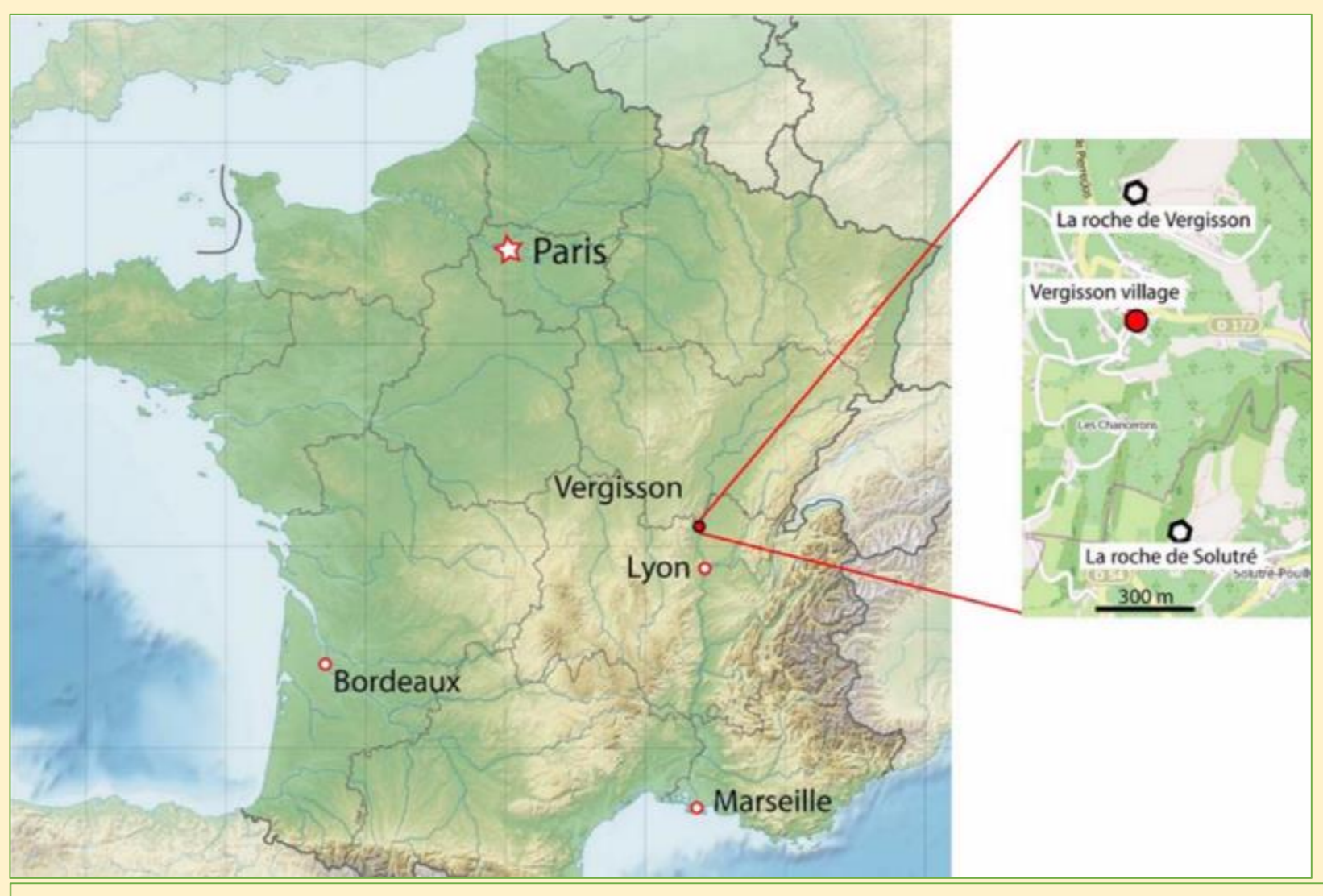
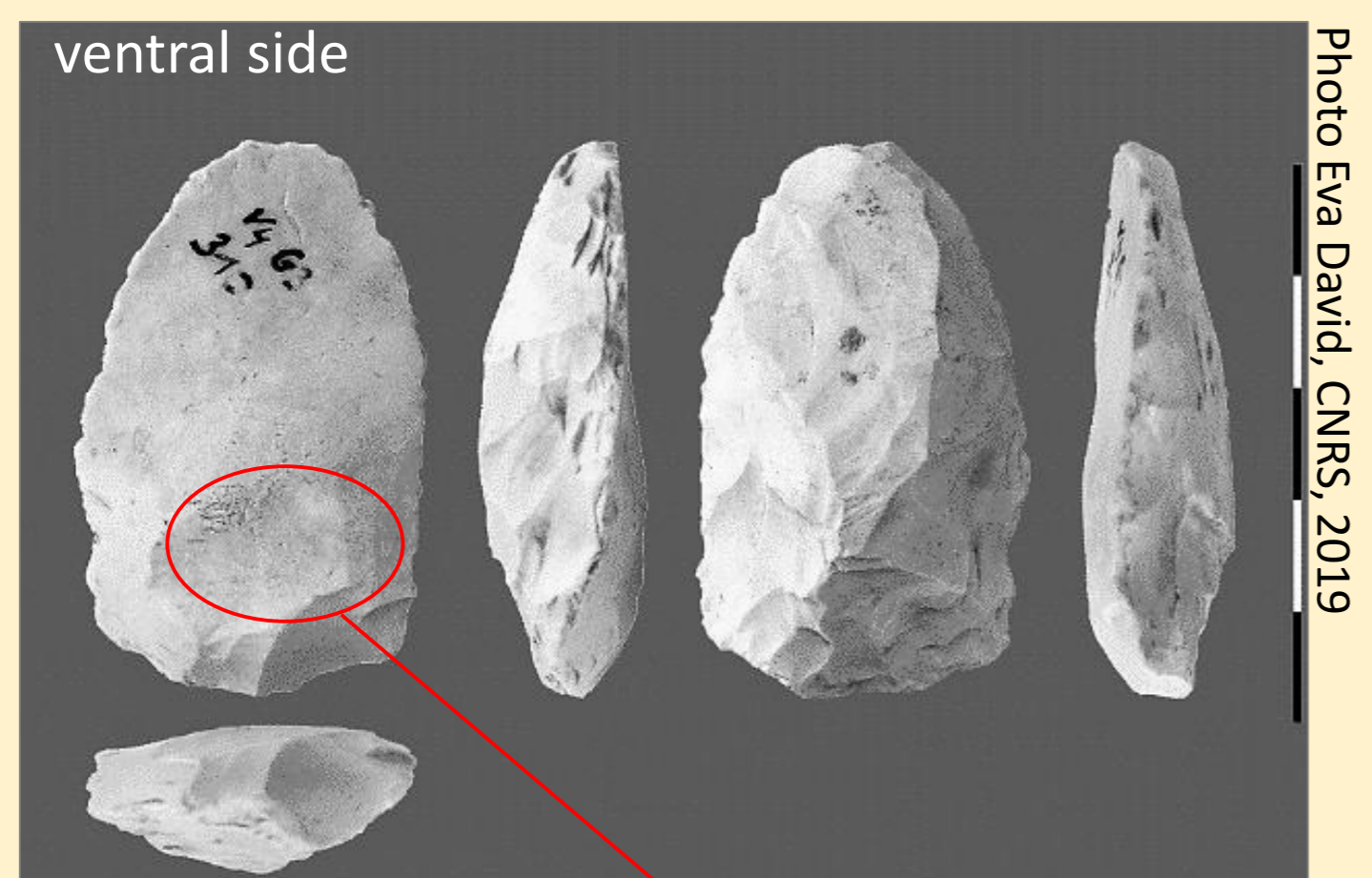
Submitted on 30 Jan 2023

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Un unusual Mousterian retoucher from Vergisson IV, Saône et Loire, France

-Marine Massoulié, Ph.D. student, AnTET
 -Éva David, CNRS, AnTET
 -Éric Boëda, Professor, Université Paris Nanterre



- Archeological site excavated by Jean Combier (CNRS) between 1954-1964
 - Lithic material analysis in progress, undertaken by Marine Massoulié (Ph.D directed by Sylvain Soriano, CNRS)

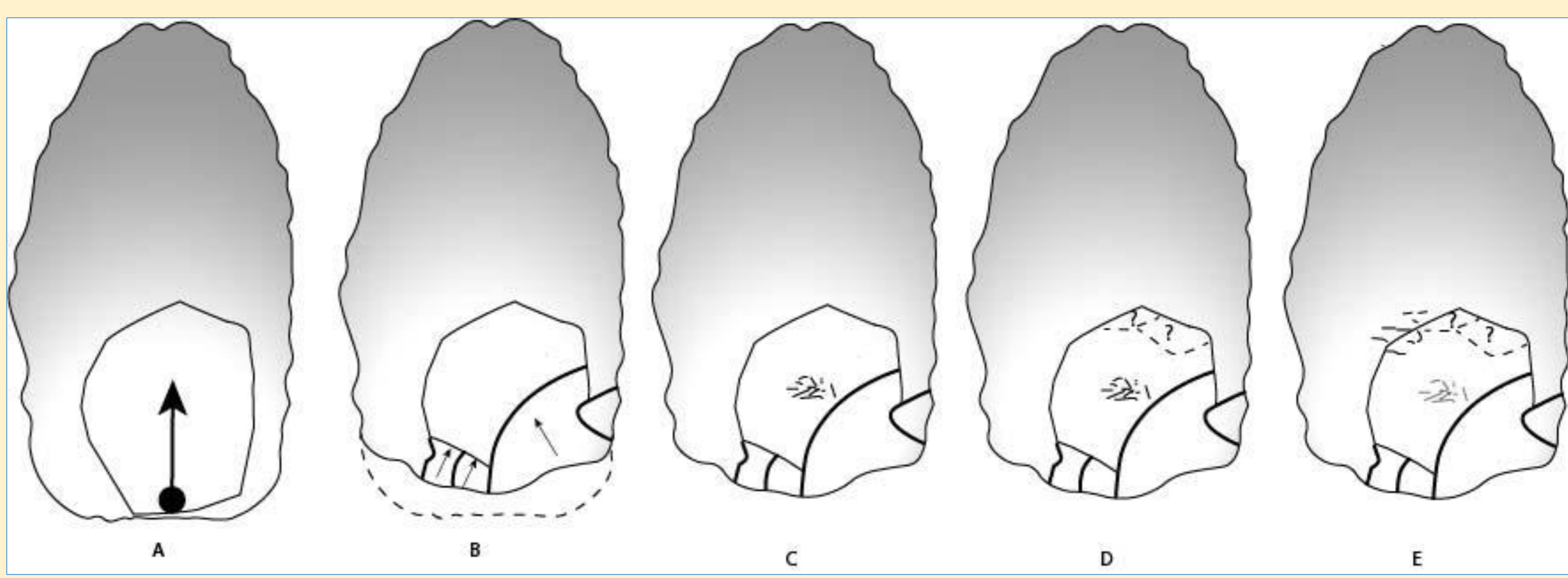
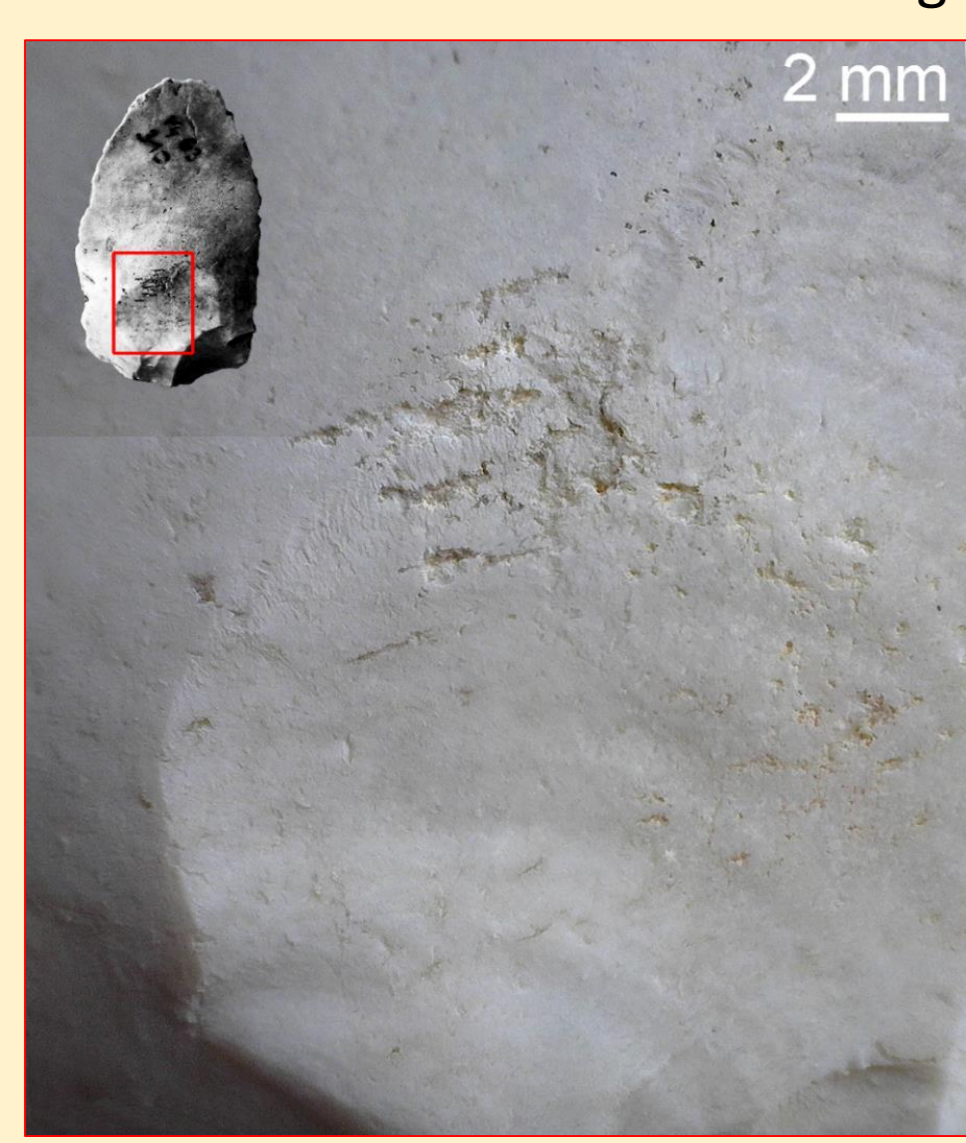
1-Aspect of its features

- percussion marks
- scars
- lustre aspect



2-Related issues

Flint retoucher? Fire stone? Result of hafting? Usewear?



3-Analysis

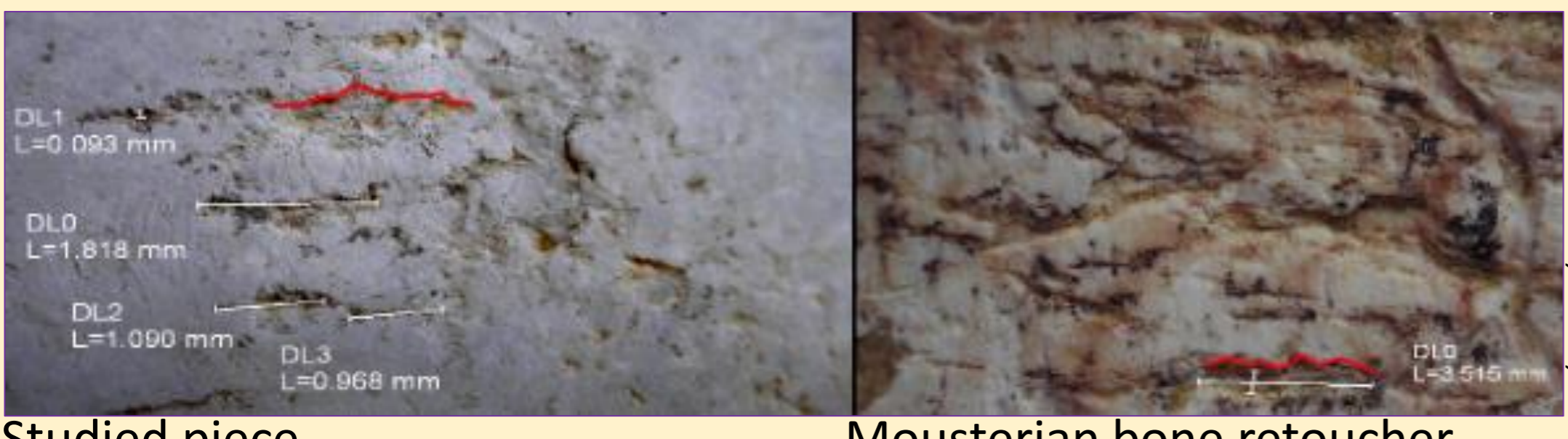
- group of pseudo-parallel marks : 0,2-2 mm long, 0,05 mm thickness
- perpendicular to morphological axis
- « zig-zag » shape
- concentrated on the bulb scar

4-Events' chronology

- A: natural flake with its bulb scar
- B: truncation with removal of the butt-end
- C: first-identified use as a retoucher
- D: percussion scars?
- E: second-identified use as a retoucher

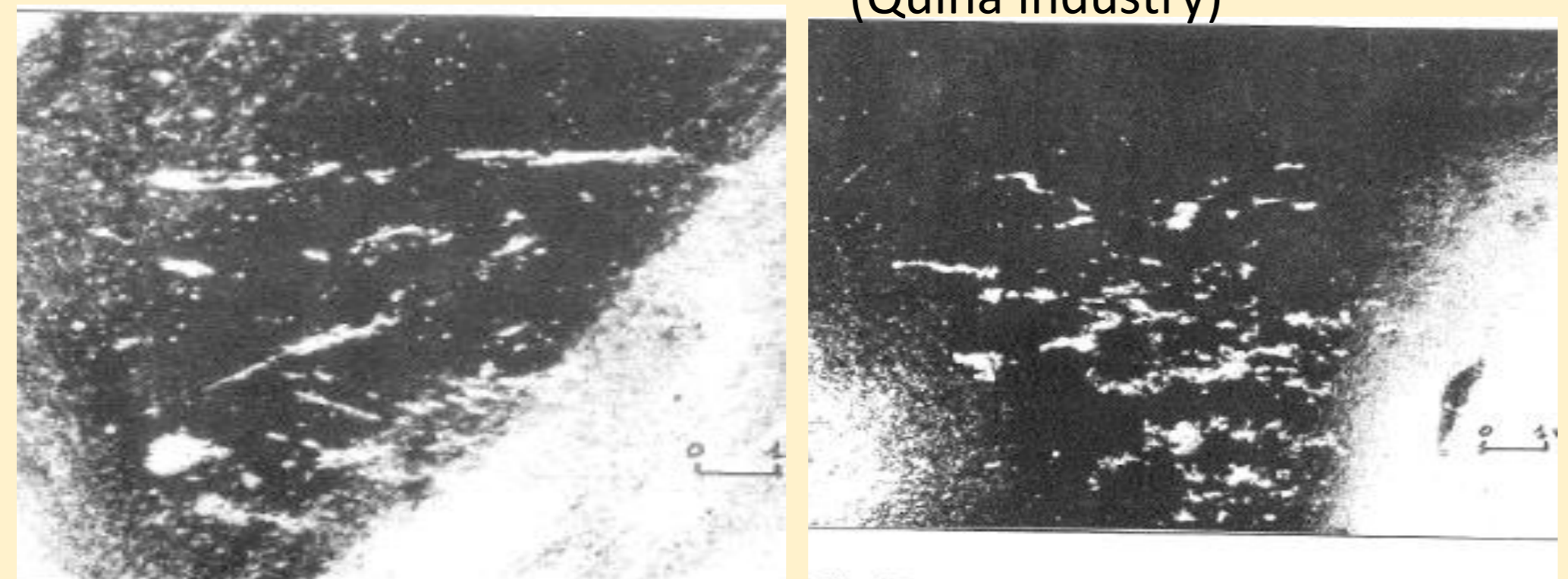
5-Comparisons

Archeological



Studied piece

Mousterian bone retoucher (Quina industry)



Levallois flint scrapers (Retâima, Algeria, Tixier 2000)

Experimental



6-Conclusion

- Resembling impact marks from both bone and flint retouchers
- Differences with firestone
- Rarity of flint retouchers : only a few from the literature (Tixier 2000, Plisson 1988, Mathias C., Viallet C. 2018, Thiébaud et al. 2010)
- Research hypothesis: Neandertal behaviour associated mousterian Levallois only?

7-Research perspectives

- Constituting a referential pattern in retouch activity:
- Are such impacted flint associated to a specific tool or cutting-edge making?
- Which tool fashioning or retouch is associated then to implement these marks: biface making? scraper making? Levallois scrapers?
- Relations between impact marks and the other related patterns observed and occurrences

Condemi, S. et al. 2017. Vergisson 4: a left-handed Neandertal. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 162 (1): 186-190.
 David, E., et J. Pelegrin. 2009. « Possible Late Glacial bone «retouchers» in the Baltic Mesolithic: The contribution of experimental tests with lithics on bone tools ». In *Humans, environment and chronology of the Late Glacial of the North European Plain*, Proceedings of Workshop 14 (Commission XXXII) of the XVIIth Congress of the Union Internationale des sciences pré- et protohistoriques UISPP, Lisbon, 4th-9th of September 2006, édité par M. Street, R. N. E. Barton, et Th. Terberger, 155-168. Mainz: Verlag der Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums (Tagungsbander 6).
 Mathias C., Viallet C. 2018. On the possible use of flake-bulbs for retouch during the early Middle Paleolithic in southeastern France: first results of an experimental approach. *Bulletin Arqueologic - dianet.unirioja.es*
 Plisson, H. 1988. Technologie et tracéologie des outils lithiques mousteriens en Union Soviétique: les trouvés de Ve Strelinskii. *L'homme Néandertal* 4, 121-168.
 Thiébaud C., Claud E., Mourre V., Chacón M.-G., Asselin G., Brenet M. et Porrovel B. 2010. Le recyclage et la réutilisation de nucléus et de bifaces au Paléolithique Moyen en Europe occidentale : quelles fonctions et quelles implications culturelles ? *Paléolithologie. Archéologie et sciences humaines*. Adresse : <http://journals.openedition.org/paleolithologie/> 588
 Tixier, J. 2000. Outils mousteriens à bulbe «piqueté» (Retâima, Algérie). *À Rech. L'homme Préhistorique* 95, 125-130