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

Université Paris Nanterre

UMR 7041 ArScAn Archéologies et Sciences de l'Antiquité

AnTET

CNRS

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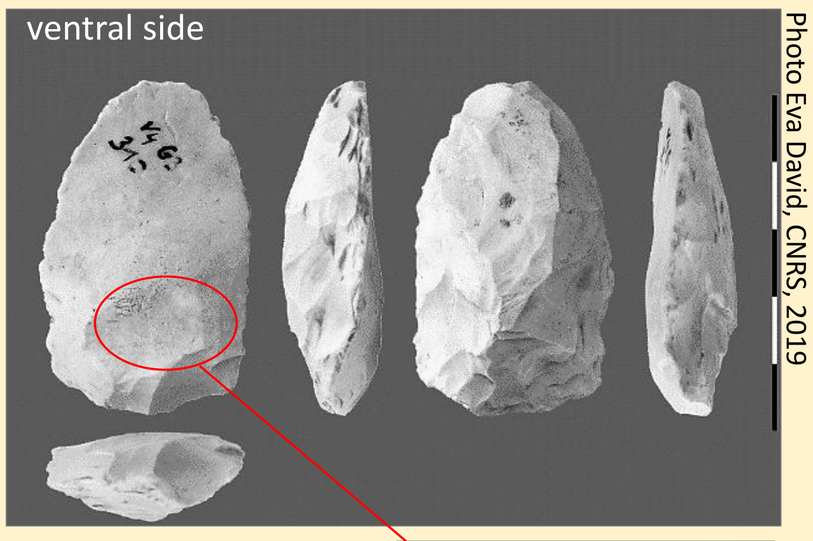


Photo Eva David, CNRS, 2019

Photo M. Maasoulié, 2019

extrait de Condemi et al 2016

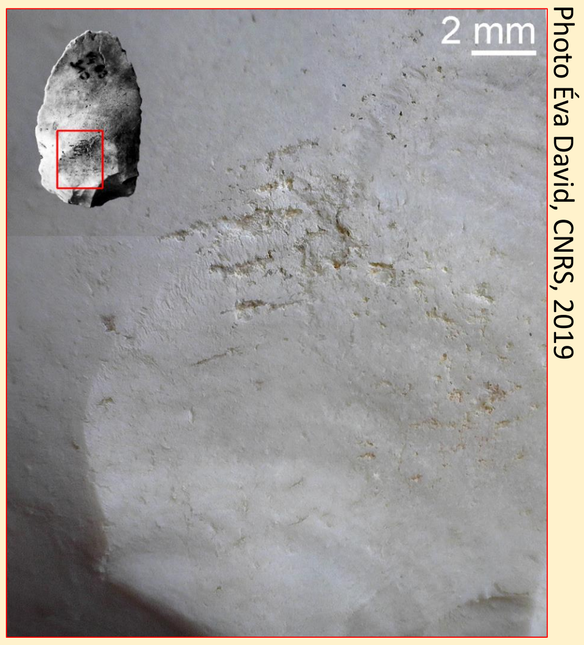
- Archeological site excavated by Jean Combier (CNRS) between 1954-1964
- Lithic material analysis in progress, undertaken by Marine Massoulié (Ph.D directed by Sylvain Soriano, CNRS)

1-Aspect of its features

-percussion marks
-scars
-lustre aspect

2-Related issues

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



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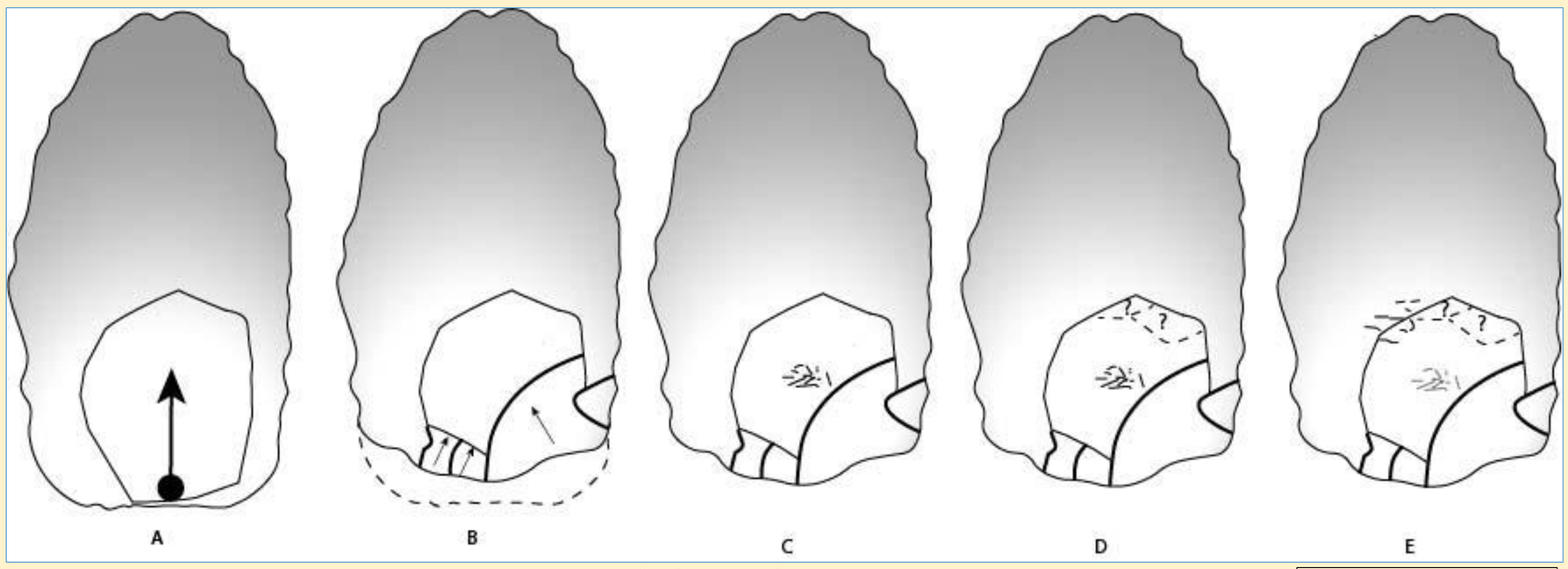


3-Analysis

- 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

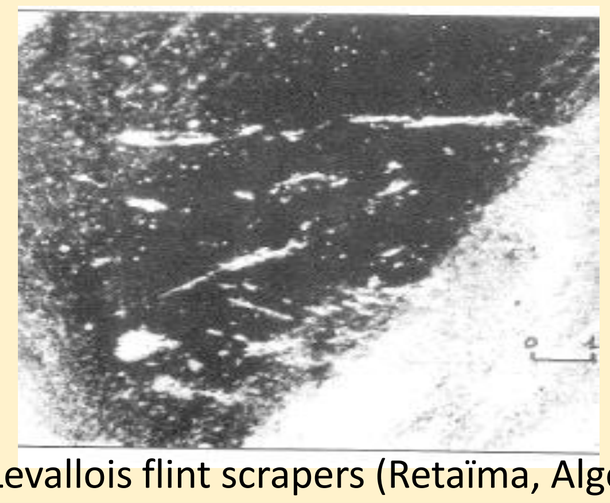
5-Comparisons

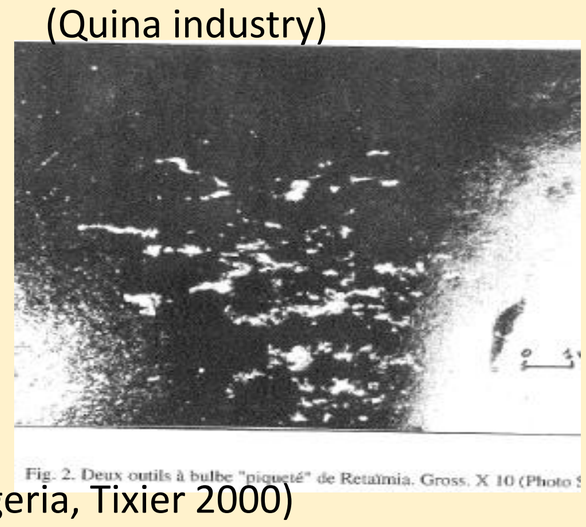
Archeological

Photo Éva David, CNRS, 2019

Studied piece

Mousterian bone retoucher (Quina industry)



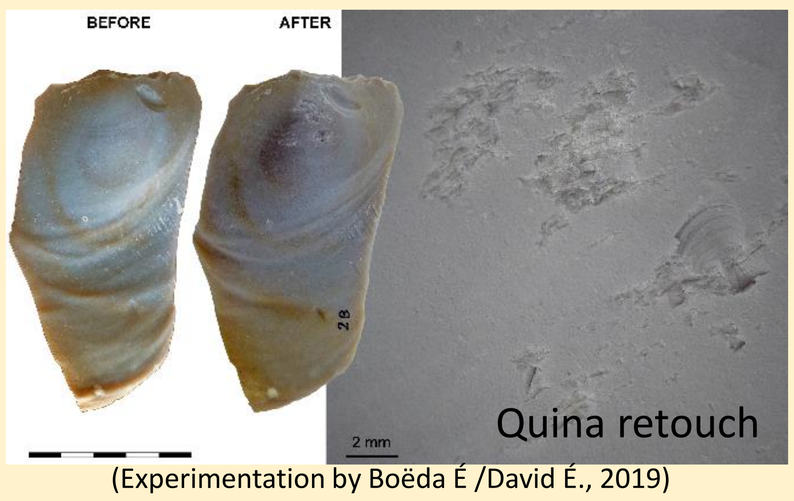


Extrait de Tixier 2000

Levallois flint scrapers (Retaïma, Algeria, Tixier 2000)

Experimental

Photos Éva David, CNRS, 2019



(Experimentation by Boëda É /David É., 2019)

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, Thiébaut 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 fashionning 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 occurences

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