

BONE ARTIFACTS

By

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A limited number of bone tools were recovered during fieldwork activities (Fig. 53). The nine bone fragments showed evidence of use, although not all appeared to be deliberately finished. All were from large mammals, probably deer.

For descriptive purposes, the tools have been placed in three categories:

Type A (Fig. 53a-c): Bone awls made from a deer metapodial, either proximal or distal. The natural articular end of the bone forms the end opposite the tool point. Three examples were recovered, all from the pit house at Az.Z:11:5. Two examples retained the distal condyle of the metapodial as their handle; the other had a handle formed by the proximal end. In both cases, the metapodial had been split lengthwise in making the awl.

Type B (Fig. 53d-g): Bone awls made from splinters of large mammal bone. No effort seems to have been made to smooth or otherwise finish the non-functional end of the tool. Six examples are in the collection, four from Az.Z:14:33, one from Az.Z:14:21 and a final one from the pit house at Az.Z:11:5.

Type C (Fig. 53h, i): Small fragments of worked bone, most likely from broken awls. Two examples were recovered, one from Az.Z:14:21 and one from Az.Z:14:30.

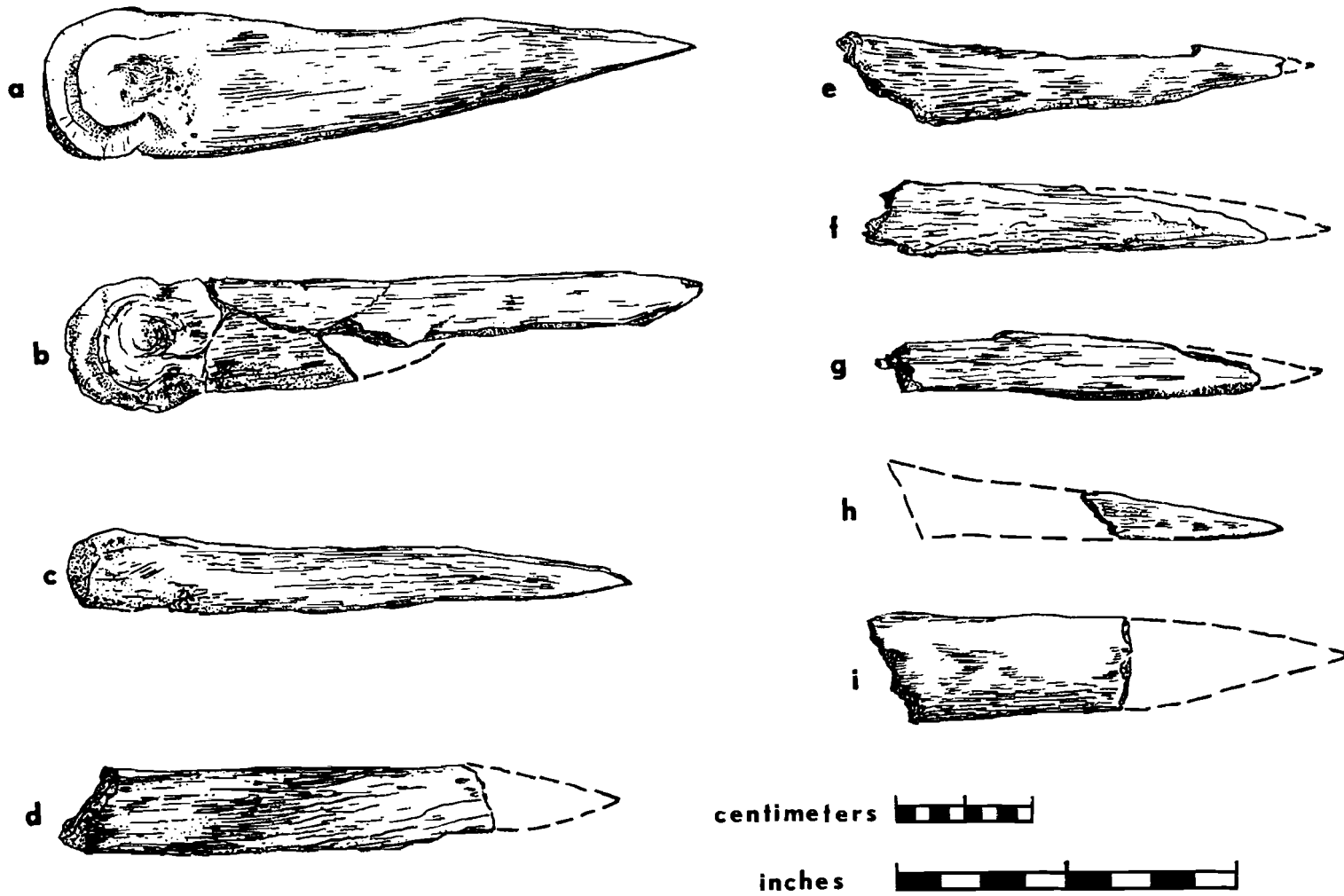


Figure 53. Bone artifacts. Type A - a, b, c; Type B - d, e, f, g;  
Type C - h, i.

Discussion

The condition of these tools and data on their lengths and widths is summarized in Table 19. At present, there is a paucity of information on bone awls, except for Haury's discussion (1950: 375-9) on Ventana Cave. At that site, 111 bone awls were recovered. Our types A and B were both represented in the midden material at Ventana Cave. No temporal or cultural affiliations, however, could be attributed to these artifacts.

It may be presumed that all our awl types are common to the late Sedentary and Classic periods because of their archeological context. It is not possible, at present, to suggest that they belong exclusively within that time frame.

Table 19 BONE TOOL ATTRIBUTES

Specimen No.	Site	Length	Max. Width	Burned	Type
HPH-1-8-3	Az.Z:11:5	106.5	23.5	no	A+
HPH-1-11-2	Az.Z:11:5	94.3	19.8	no	A
HPH-1-4-1	Az.Z:11:5	80.9	9.6	no	A
32a-71-79-4	Az.Z:14:33	59.1	10.1	no	B
32a-70-75-3	Az.Z:14:33	61.8*	11.8	yes	B
32a-72-79-5	Az.Z:14:33	56.1	7.7	no	B
32a-70-77-5	Az.Z:14:33	65.7	11.9	yes	B
15c-191-123-2	Az.Z:14:21	39.6*	15.4	yes	B
15c-189-121-6	Az.Z:14:21	20.4*	7.6	yes	C
28-131-107-1	Az.Z:14:30	19.1*	10.3	yes	C
HPH-1-8-3	Az.Z:11:5	29.5*	7.5	no	C

\* Measurement of broken fragment.

+ Refer to type descriptions in the text.