New Data on the Original Inhabitation of North-East Europe

by O. Bahder, Moskow

It has been a long time since new traces of Mousterian campsites were first discovered in the South European part of the USSR and later in Middle-Asia. For 90 years the Upper Palaeolithic campsites near the village of Karacharovo on the Oka River (approx. 56th Latitude North), were investigated in 1877 and had been considered to be the Northern limit of human settlement on the Old World continents (locations of the following sites, see fig. 9). In 1938 this boundary was shifted further northwards in the area of the Urals, when the Talitski Palaeolithic campsite on the Chusovaya was discovered. A number of archaic flakes and a small "hand-axe" of the Mousterian type[1] were found not far from Pescherni Log in 1939 (fig. 8 ; 1). The possibility of such a remote migration of man northwards in the area of the Urals (up to 58th Parallel) is explained by a more continental climate of these Eastern territories, which resulted in a restricted glacial movement on this part of the continent. But the problem of the directions of the migration was not raised seriously at that time[2]. It was only, thanks to the new and abundant discoveries during the post-war years, that Soviet archaeologists could re-evaluate the problem. This new and at the same time very important information has almost been completely overlooked in the recently published Handbook of Pre-History (by H. Müller-Karpe, Vol 1)[3]. This induced us to present this subject topic to "Quartär".

The role of the Caucasus as the largest centre of the Lower Palaeolithic culture in the South of the USSR was established in the first post-war years. In Eastern Georgia, the remains of the Late Tertiary anthropoid known as Udabnopithecus garedziensis[4] were found near the village of Udabno. In Armenia an ancient Palaeolithic campsite with a series of handaxes of late Chellean and Acheulian types[5] was found in the area

[1] M. V. Talitski, Paleoliticheskaya stoyanka Pescherni Log (The Palaeolithic site of Pescherni Log). Kratkiye soobshcheniya IIMKK AN SSSR, Vol. XII, 1946.

[2] O. N. Bahder, Pervonachalnoye zaseleniye Urala i Volgokamya chelovekom (The beginnings of Ural settlement by the Volgokama people). Ucheniye zapiski Permskogo Universiteta, Vol. V, No. 2, Perm 1947.

[3] H. Müller-Karpe, Handbuch der Vorgeschichte. Bd. I, Altsteinzeit. München 1966.

[4] N. I. Burchak-Abramovich and E. G. Gabashvili, Nakhodka iskopayemoy cheloveko-obraznoy obezyani v predelakh Gruzii (The discovery of fossil Anthropoid apes in the area of Grusinia). Zhurnal Priroda 1950, No. 9.

[5] M. Z. Panichkina, Paleolit Armenii (The Palaeolithic of Armenia). Vol. I, Leningrad 1950.

–, Shchelskiy kompleks drevnepaleoliticheskogo mestonakhozhdeniya Satani-Dar (The Chellean-Complex of the Lower Palaeolithic site at Satani-Dar). Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii SSSR, No. 39, 1953.

of Satani-Dar (fig. 1 ;1, 2). A larger Chellean-type axe was found not far from the village of Saratovski (fig. 2 ;2) and a number of other archaic implements were discovered in locations of the Northern Caucasus Region[6]. The finds of the Acheulian period have become much more numerous. These include the well-known site of Yashtukh near Sukhumi (fig. 2 ;1) and 17 other sites of Southern Osetia, Lashe-Balta etc. (fig. 3 ;1 and 3 ;2)[7] further in Satani-Dar and Dgraber (Armenia) and on the Abadzekh site near Maikop along with other sites of the Northern Caucasus. The Acheulian cultural layers in the caves of Kudaro I, in Tsona (South Osetia) and in Azikh (Azerbaidgan) lay under the strata of the Mousterian period, which indicates their great chronological importance. Furthermore undisturbed campfires and numerous stone tools, along with crushed and burnt animal bones were discovered for the first time in the USSR Acheulian layer of the Kudaro I caves.

Outside the Caucasus, flint artifacts of the Chellean type as well as choppers were discovered in 1946 on the left bank of the Dnester River, 20 km from the town of Kamenets-Podolsk[8], near the village of Luka-Vrublevetskaya (fig. 2 ;3).

The numerous Palaeolithic finds of the Caucasus established a conception during the 1950's of the importance of the Caucasus as the main source for the original settling on the Russian Plain[9]. It is in the Acheulian period, at least in the times of the developed Acheulian, that unmistakable traces of man appear for the first time in the Southern part of the Russian Plain. These finds are similar to those Acheulian-hand-axes found near Amvroscievka in the area of the Azov sea (fig. 6 ;1) or on the bank of the Volga River in Samara Province (former name) (fig. 7 ;1), near Shubnoye (Voronea Region) (fig. 6 ;2) and other sites within the same region. It was at that time that the Manichzh Strait, which connected the Pontian- with the Caspian sea, dried out and opened a route to the North from the Caucasus with its most Ancient Chellean and Early Acheulian population. This period, in fact, coincides with the end of the Ancient Evksin era according to the geological classification of the Pleistocene in Eastern Europe.The migration in the direction of the North was taking place under the pro-

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[6] S. N. Zamyatnin, Ocherki po paleolitu (A short summary of the Palaeolithic). Moskva-Leningrad, 1961.

[7] V. P. Lyubin, Nizhnepaleoliticheskiye pamyatniki Yugo-Osetii (The Lower Palaeolithic sites in Southern Osetia). Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii SSSR, No. 79, 1960.

[8] P. I. Boriskovski, Paleolit. Ukraini (The Palaeolithic of the Ukraine). Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii SSSR, No. 40, 1963.

[9] S. N. Bibikov, Nekotorye voprosi zaseleniya Vostochnoy Yevropy v epokhu paleolita (Some questions on the settlement of Eastern Europe during the Palaeolithic Epoch). Sovetskaya Arkheologiya, No. 4, 1959.

–, O yuzhnykh putyakh zaseleniya Vostochnoy Yevropy v epokhu drevnego paleolita (Notes on the Southern settlement routes of Eastern Europe during the Lower Palaeolithic Epoch). Chetvertichnyi period, No. 13/14/15, Kiev 1961.

O. N. Bahder, K istorii Urala i Volgo-Kamya v epokhu drevnego i srednego kamennogo veka (The history of the Ural and Volga-Kama areas during the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic times). Sbornik Iz istorii Urala, Sverdlovsk, 1960.

gressive onset of colder climatic conditions. It was a period when vegetational zones began to shift southwards and when some representatives of the Khazar-fauna complex[10] began to die out. At this time man accomplished an act of greatest historical significance: He, for the first time, notwithstanding nature, extended the natural habitat of his ancestors. The mere possibility of this settling was conditioned by his developing material culture, by inventing means of obtaining fire artificially, primitive clothing and elements of artificial dwelling, and by perfecting the organization of primitive hunters when considering herds of big animals. The social relationships which were developing in the primitive society were most efficiently displayed for the first time at that period and allowed man to overcome the immediate forces of nature. However, earlier South-Western and South-Eastern migration-routes of the ancient population on the Russian Plain[11] were not neglected, if not preferred. In the literature the wonderful discoveries of the past years have shown that the role of the Caucasus as centre of the Lower Palaeolithic culture was not important though it might have been significant.

In 1957–1958 on the slope of Karatau (South Kazakhstan) Kazakh Archaeologist Kh. A. Alpisbayev investigated the Chellean- Acheulian sites of Borikazgan and Tonirkazgan and also the Acheul-Mousterian sites of Tokaly I–V[12]. Almost at the same time A. G. Medoyev investigated a series of analogical sites in Central Kazakhstan (or Sari-Atka), located to the North of Lake Balkhash[13]. The stone tools of the above mentioned sites (fig. 4 ;$_2$ and 5 ;$_{1\text{-}2}$) belong to the Old World Ancient Pebble Culture and do not differ from the rough stone implements of the Lower Palaeolithic Chellean-Acheulian sites of South-Eastern Asia and Afrika. In the Borikazgan stage they are similar to the unilaterally retouched pebble tools of the ancient Soanic culture in India (stages B and C) and in the Tokaly stage they are similar to the tools of the late Soanic culture (stage A). They are also similar to the tools of the Early Pebble Culture of Africa and to the choppers of Burma. Retouched choppers from Borikazgan and Tonirkazgan in form and technique are similar to the Chellean-Acheulian choppers of Southern Asia, Europe and Africa. Apart from Kazakhstan the implements of Ancient

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[10] V. I. Gromov, Paleontologicheskoye i arkheologicheskoye obosnovaniye stratigrafii kontinentalnykh otlozheniy chetvertichnogo perioda na territorii SSSR (Paleontological and archaeological bases for the stratigraphy of continental Quaternary deposits within the territory of the U. S. S. R.). Trudy Instituta geologicheskikh nauk AN SSSR, No. 64, geologich. seria, No. 17, Moskva 1948.

[11] O. N. Bahder, Ranniy paleolit Urala i Povolzhya (The Lower Palaeolithic of the Ural and Volga Regions). Uchenye zapiski Permskogo Universiteta, Vol. VII, No. 2, Perm 1955.

[12] A. A. Alpisbayev, Otkrytiye pamyatnikov drevnego i pozdnego paleolita v Yuzhnom Kzakhstane (Known sites of the Lower- and Upper Palaeolithic in Southern Kazachstan). Sov. Arkheologiya, 1961, No. I.

[13] A. G. Medoyev, Kamennyi vek Sary-Arka v svete noveishikh issledovaniy (The Sari-Arka Stone-Age in the light of new investigations). Izvestiya Akademii nauk Kazakhskoyi SSR, seria obshchestvennykh nauk, No. 6, Alma-Ata, 1964.

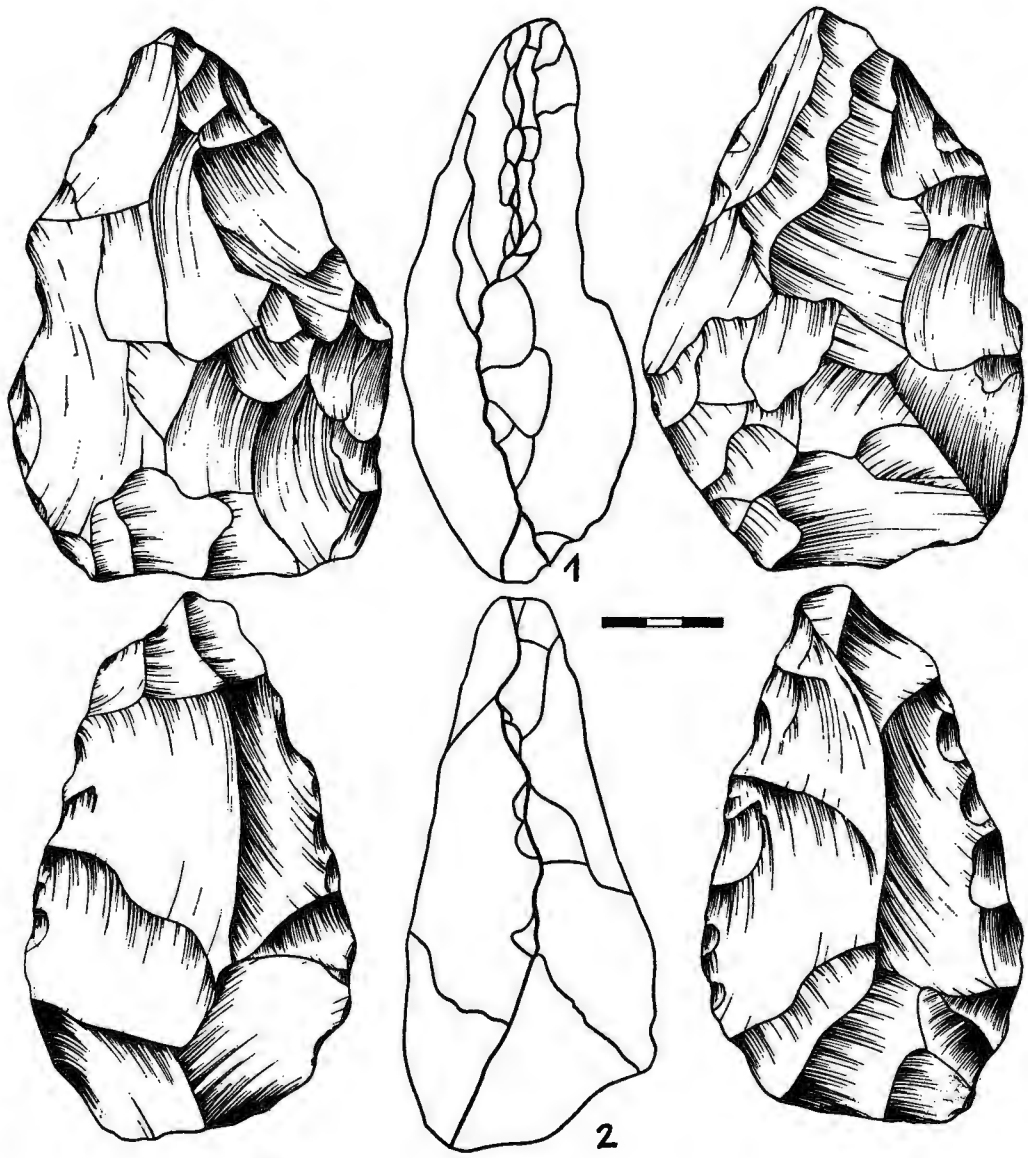

Fig. 1. 1–2: Chellean hand-axes from Satani-Dar (Armenia).

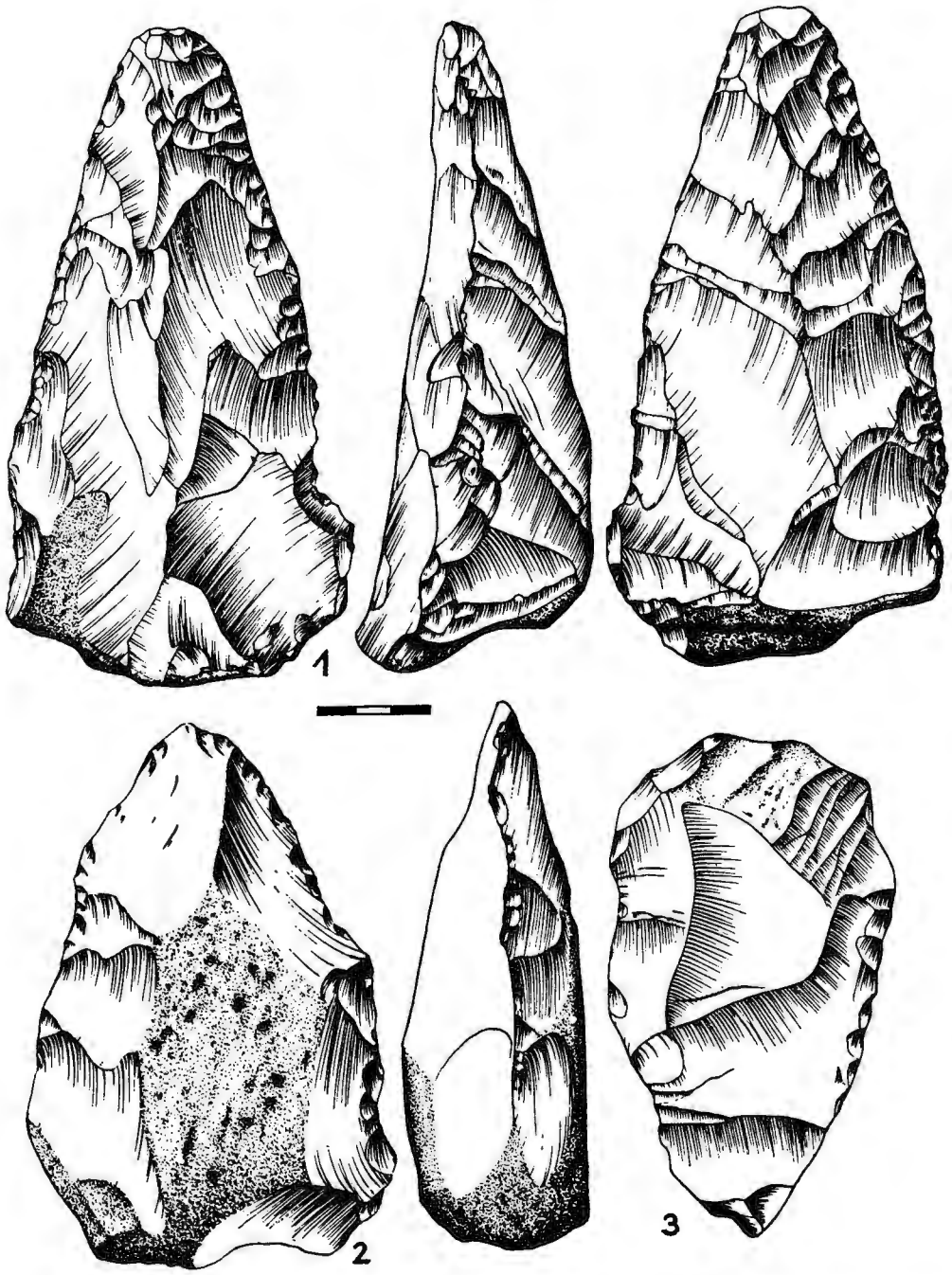

Fig. 2. Chellean and Acheulian hand-axes. 1: Yashtukh near Sukhumi; 2: Stanitsa Saratovskaya (Caucasus near Krasnodar); 3: Luka-Vrublevetskaya near Kamenets-Podolsk.

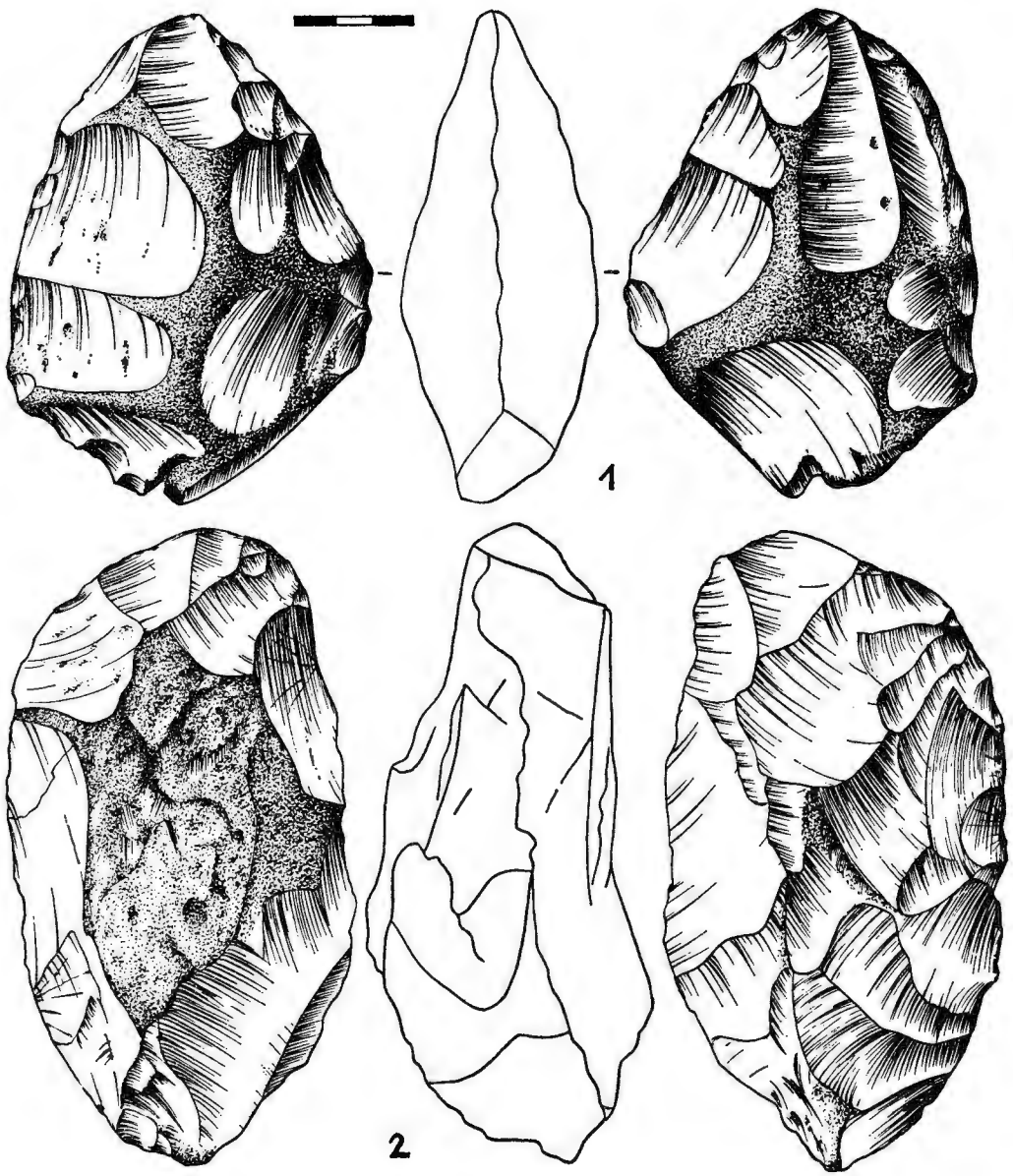

Fig. 3. 1–2: Acheulian hand-axes from Lashe-Balta (Southern Osetia).

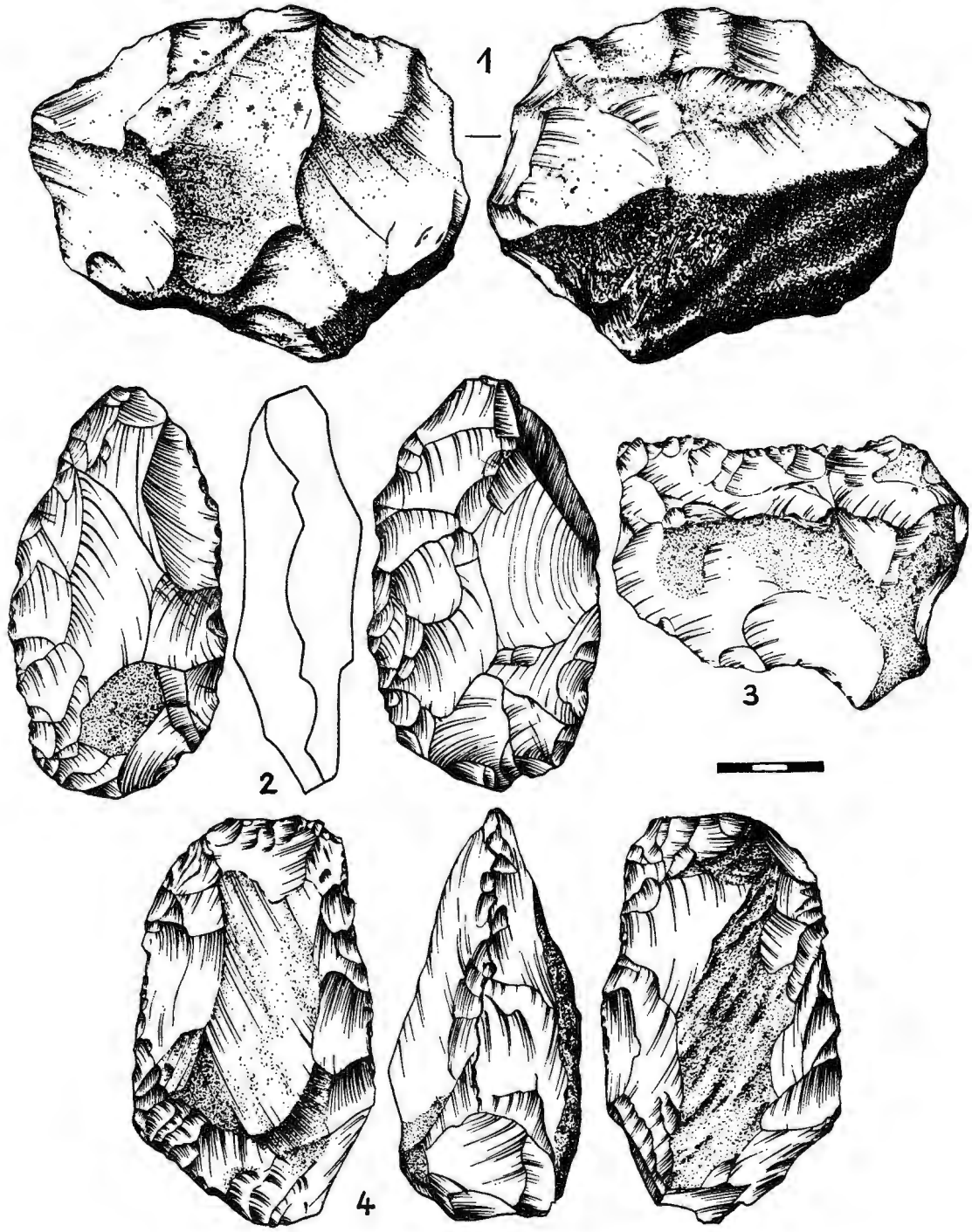

Fig. 4. Acheulian artifacts. 1, 3: Gerasimovka (near Taganrog); 2: Sari-Arka (Central Kazakhstan); 4: near Krasnovodsk (East shore of the Caspian sea).

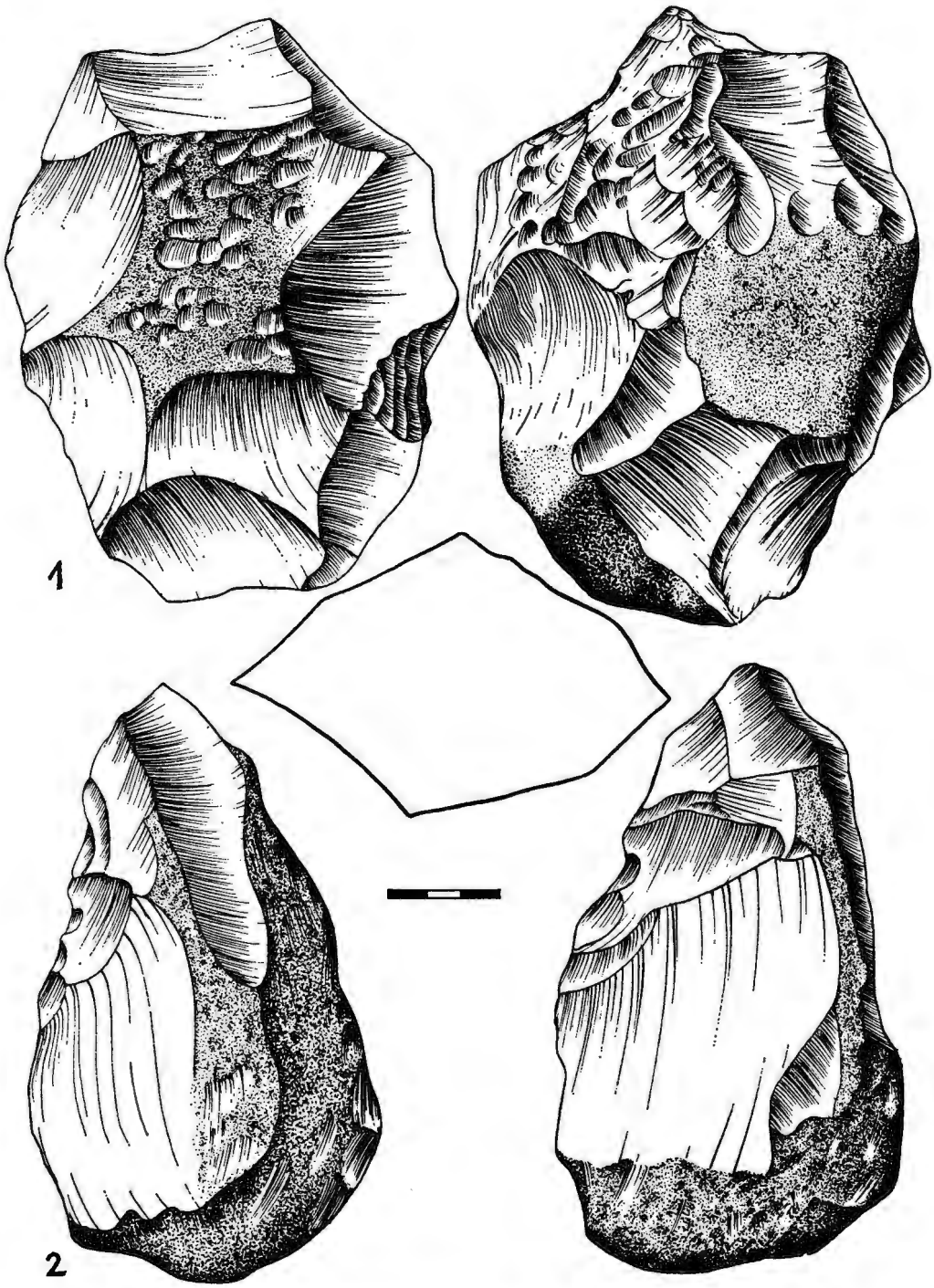

Fig. 5. 1–2: Chellean artifacts. Slope of Karatau (South Kazakhstan).

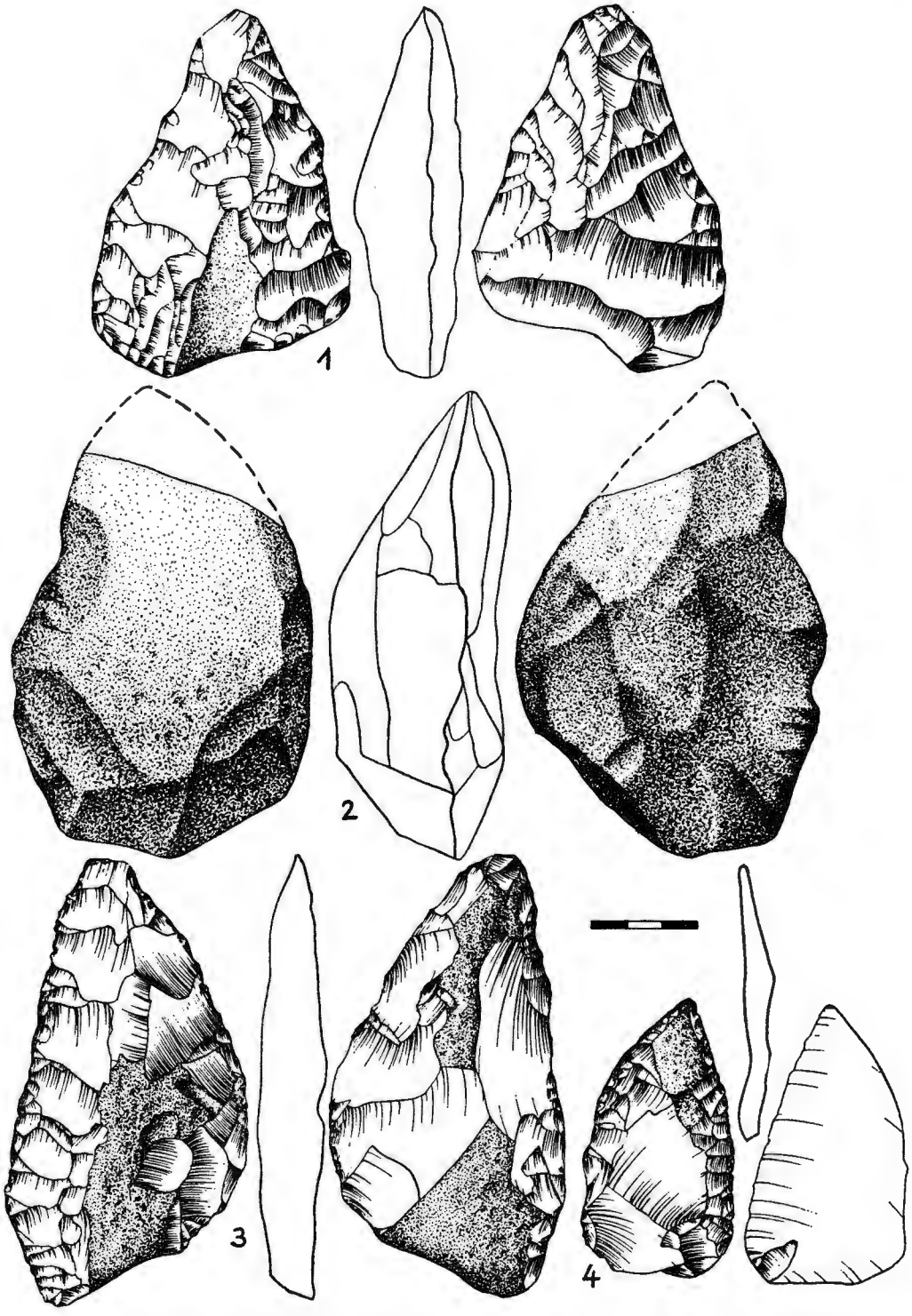

Fig. 6. Acheulian and Mousterian artifacts. 1: Amvroscievka (near Schdanov); 2: Shubnoye (Voronesch Region); 3–4: Khotilevo (Bryansk Region).

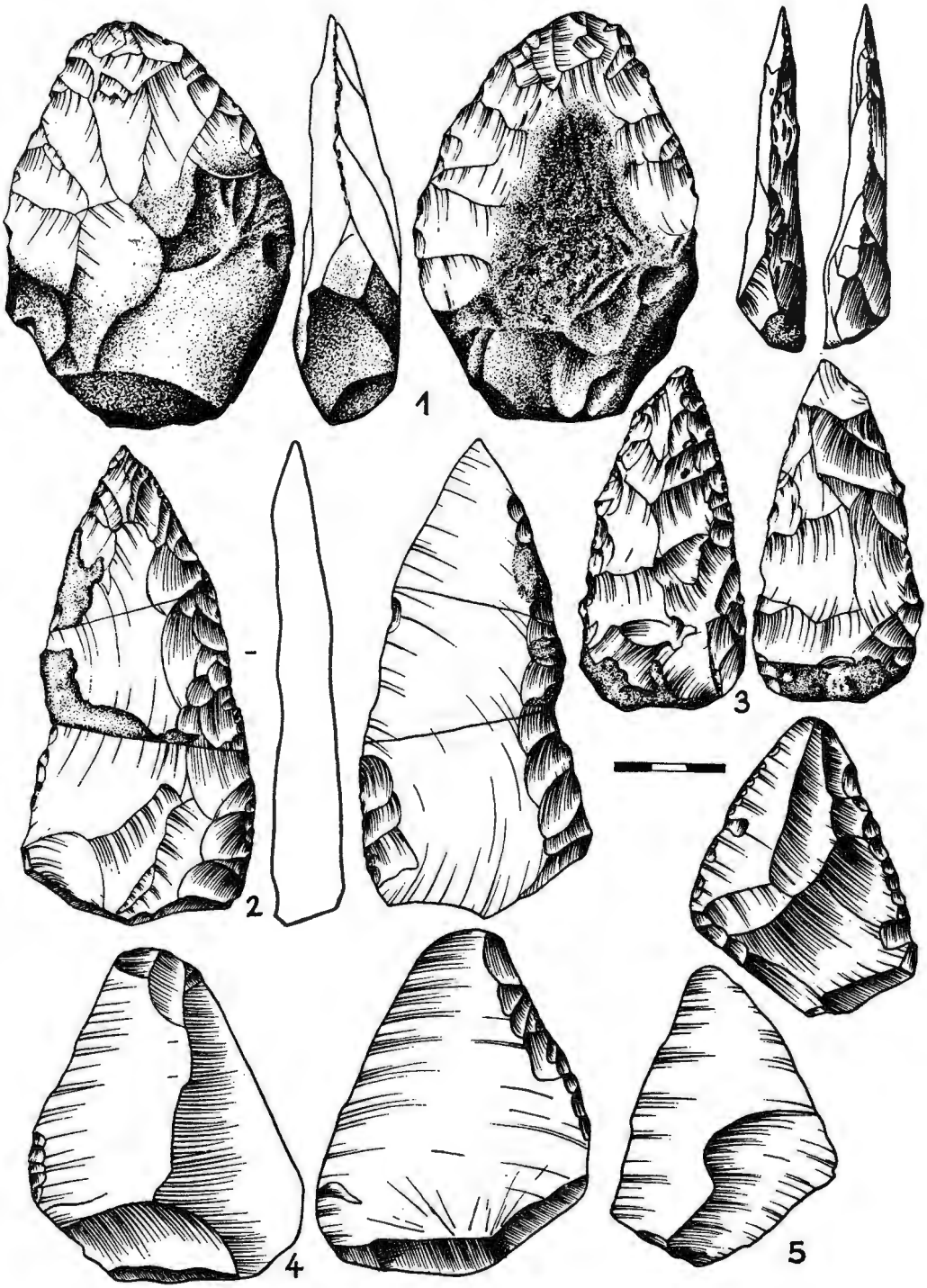

Fig. 7. Acheulian and Mousterian artifacts. 1: from the former district of Samara; 2–3: Sukhaya Mechetka (near Volgograd); 4: Krasnaya Glinka (Ulyanovsk Region); 5: Tungus Peninsula (Kuibishev Region).

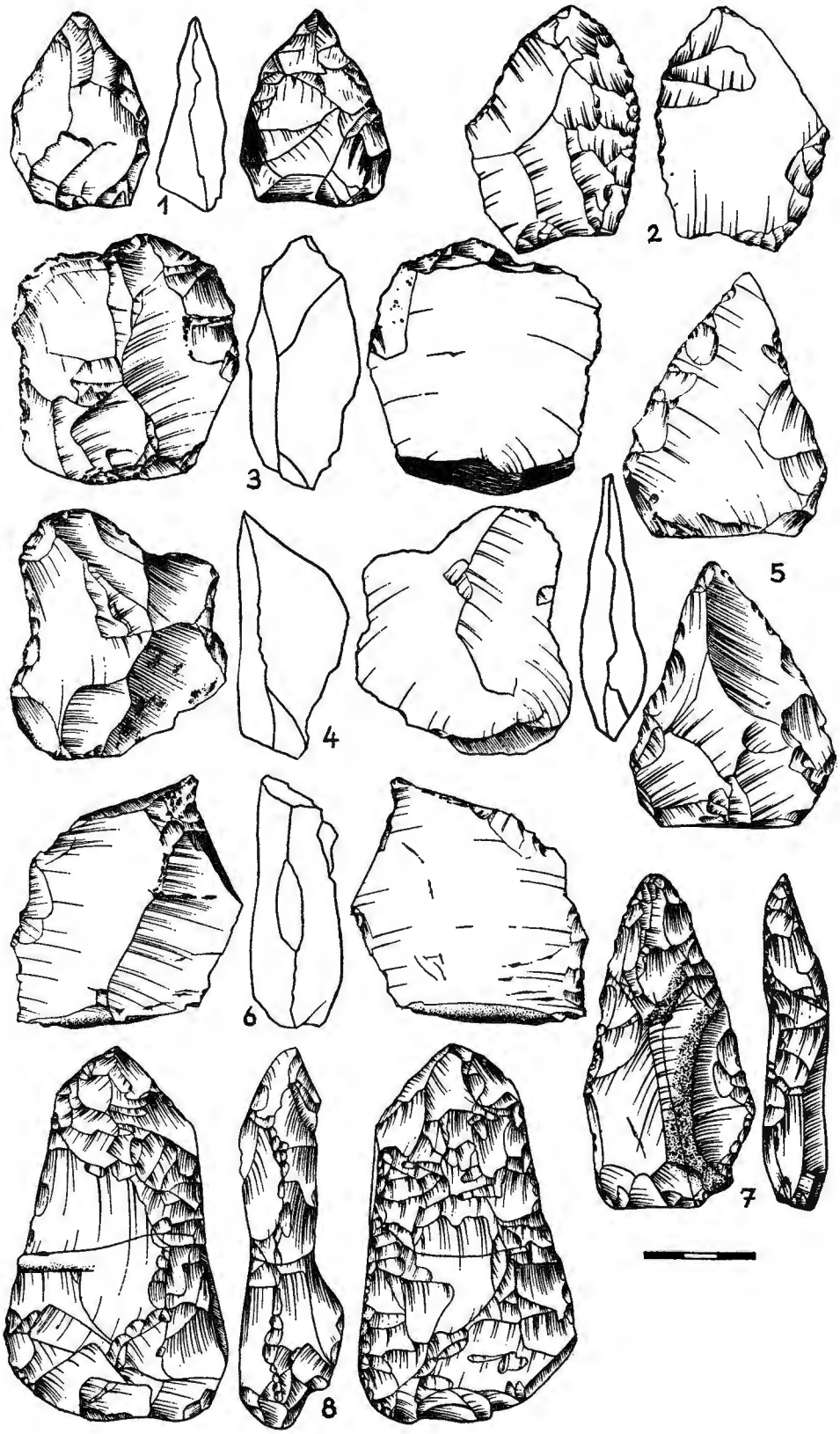

Fig. 8. Mousterian artifacts from the Kama (1–6) and Peschora (7–8) Regions. 1–2: Pescherni Log; 3–4: Sludka; 5–6: Gremyachevo; 7–8: Krutaya Gora.

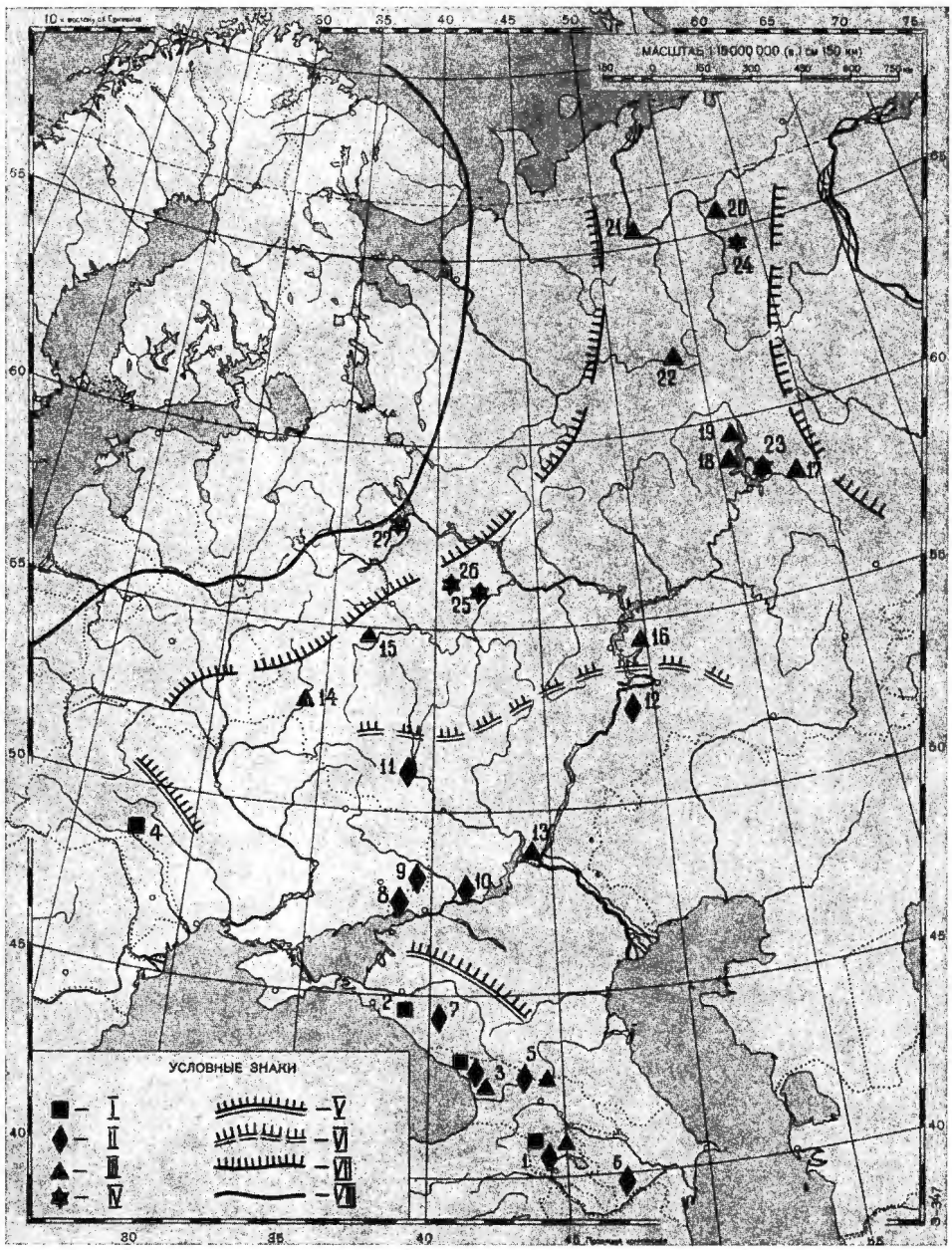

Fig. 9. Location of the North-East Palaeolithic Sites:

Palaeolithic Sites: I – Chellean and Ancient Acheulian; II – Acheulian; III – Mousterian; IV – Upper Palaeolithic; Northern border and distribution: V – Chellean and Ancient Acheulian; VI – Acheulian; VII – Mousterian; VIII – Greatest expansion of the Würm-glaciation (after G. F. Mirchink).

1: Satani-Dar, Arzni, Dgraber and other Chellean-Acheulian and Mousterian Sites of Armenia; 2: Stanitsa Saratovskaya; 3: Yashtukh and other Chellean-Acheulian and Mousterian Sites in strand terraces of the Sukhumi Region; 4: Luka-Vrublevetskaya; 5: Kudaro I, Tsona, Lashe-Balta and other Acheulian and Mousterian Sites in South-Osetia; 6: Azikh cave; 7: Abadzekh; 8: Gerasimovka; 9: Amvroscievka; 10: Khryaschi, Mikhaylovskoye; 11: Shubnoye; 12: Former district of Samara; 13: Suchaja Mechetka; 14: Sites on the Desna (Khotilevo, Jazvi, Arapovichi, Chulatovo III, Orekhovi Log); 15: Sites on the Oka in the Kaluga, Tula and Moskow Regions; 16: Tungus, Krasnaya Glinka and other Sites on the Middle Volga; 17: Pescherni Log; 18: Sludka; 19: Gremyachevo; 20: Krutaya Gora; 21: Ust Tsilma; 22: Ust-Kulom; 23: Sites of Talitski; 24: Bizovaya; 25: Karacharovo; 26: Sungir; 27: Altinovo and Zolotoruchie.

Pebble Cultures are known in Fergana and Tadgikistan[14], for instance, 40 km from Krasnovodsk (fig. 4 ; 4), in On-Archa on Tyan-Shan, at a hight of 2500 m above the sea level, etc.

On the basis of this information we conclude that the existence of ancient human culture in Middle Asia, and, consequently, the real possibility of migration to Siberia came from the South. These highly significant criteria make the old hypothesis, suggested by A. P. Okladnikov[15], on the original settlement of Siberia during the Upper Palaeolithic only via Eastern Europe superfluous. Moreover, now it is impossible to ignore the possibility of the movements of the ancient population groups from Middle Asia to the Southern Ural and to Eastern Europe.

New very important discoveries were made during the past few years in the Northern area around the Azov sea. These finds have shaken the hypothesis about the original settling of the regions to the North of the Black sea in the period of the developed Acheulian. In 1959, near Gerasimovka, which is located not far from the town of Taganrog on the bank of the Miuski Firth, N. D. Praslov discovered seven flint and quartzite implements of a very archaic Acheulian type. The quartzite nucleus (fig. 4 ; 1) in form and technique is similar to the choppers of the ancient Caucasian complexes as is a scraper on a massive flake of a light-yellow flint showing a straight crudely retouched working edge (fig. 4 ; 3)[16], are most interesting. Some implements near Gerasimovka as well as the above mentioned artifacts were found on the surface under an exposed stratum. We have every reason to associate them with the ancient "Baku-Chaudinski" geological layers, where the tooth of an Elephas wüsti was found. According to Praslov the tools are characteristic for their extremely primitive technique of chipping, their massiveness and the smooth weathered surface. They are similar to more ancient implements of the Russian Plain from Luka Vrublevetskaya on the Dnester River.

It is interesting to note that the next, a younger group of Early Palaeolithic finds from the same territory, i. e. from the area of the Azov sea and the Nizhni Don River[17], lay in situ and thus are undoubtedly associated with the Lower Ancient Evksin terrace. These sites are: Khryaschi and Mikhaylovskoye, at the mouth of the Severski Donets River and Bessergenovka on the bank of the Taganrogski Strait. Thus the area to the North of the Black sea was inhabited by people in an earlier period of time than we believed, at least it was inhabited during the Early Acheulian age. Here migration

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[14] V. Ranov, Kamennyi vek Tadzhikistana (The Stone-Age of Tadzhikistan). Dushanbe, 1965.

A. P. Okladnikov, Chast I kollektivnogo truda, Średnaya Aziya v epokhu kamnya i bronzy (Middle Asia in the Stone- and Bronze Age). Moskva–Leningrad, 1966.

[15] A. P. Okladnikov, Osvoyeniye paleoliticheskim chelovekom Sibiri (The occupation of Sibiria by Palaeolithic man). Materialy po chetvertichnomu periodu SSSR, No. 2, Moskva–Leningrad, 1950.

[16] P. I. Boriskovski, N. D. Praslov, Paleolit basseyna Dnepra i Priazovya (The Palaeolithic of the Dnepr Basin and the Asov Region). Svod arkheologicheskikh istochnikow, No. 1–5, Moskva–Leningrad, 1964.

[17] Compare 16.

routes take us as far as Luka Vrublevetskaya on the Dnester River and farther on to the newly discovered pebble tool site, also containing human and animal bones, of Mindel Age in Vértesszöllös (Hungary)[18]. The sites in Vértesszöllös on the Danube River together with some other sites of the oldest pebble tools in Central Europe and the jaw of Heidelberg man from Mauer testify to the fact that Middle Europe as well as Southern Europe belong to the most ancient habitational area of humanity. The migration of the first people to the Russian Plain from this area during the Late Chellean (Luka-Vrublevetskaya) dating and Early Acheulian period seems to be quite apparent.

The northward migration in Eastern Europe during the Mousterian period was already progressing rapidly. The proof of it lies in the numerous Mousterian campsites in the Ukraine and Southern Russia. But the Northern Border of the Mousterian campsites is far from being similar either in the West or in the East. This absence of conformity is likely to be dependent on the continental glacial advances of the Würm period. The masses of ice retreated slowly or with intervals towards the North-West in the direction of Fennoskandia.

The problem of the geological age of the Mousterian is still under discussion in Soviet geological and archaeological literature, though some rich ancient sites have been discovered containing developed Mousterian culture complexes, lying in comparatively distinctive stratigraphical situations, as, for instance, the campsite Sukhaya Mechetka near Volgograd on the Volga River (fig. 7 ; 2, 3). It has a well displayed cultural layer with the remains of hearths and an abundance of flint implements distributed in the sub-soil of the khazar sands where it was covered later with attel loam and finally with khvalinsk sands and clay.

For years there has dominated a conception suggested by V. I. Gromov going as far back as the middle Nineteenthirties, according to which the Mousterian artifacts in their earlier phases precede the period of maximal Riss glaciation. As to its later phases, the Mousterian assemblages are simultaneous with the Riss Glacial period. Recently V. I. Gromov's conception was subjected to criticism by a number of archaeologists and geologists. In accordance with Middle European and West-European investigations a much later Riss-Würm and Early-Würm age for the Mousterian sites has been confirmed.

The northern most Mousterian site in the North-West region of the USSR and Europe is the one near Khotilevo on the Desna River, in the area of Bryansk, which was investigated in 1960–1961 by V. M. Zavernyaev[19], a scientific worker of the Bryansk museum. The numerous flint implements lay scattered over a large area at the base of

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[18] M. Kretzoi, L. Vértes, Upper Biharian (Intermindel) Pebble-Industry Occupation Site in Western Hungary. Current Anthropol. Vol. 6, 1965, No. 1.

L. Vértes, Typology of the Buda Industry a Pebble-Tool Industry from the Hungarian Lower Palaeolithic. Quaternaria, Vol. VII, Roma 1965.

[19] F. Zavernyaev, Khotylevskoye nizhnepaleoliticheskoye mestonakhozhdeniye (The Lower Palaeolithic sites of Bryansk). Bryansk 1961.

the right high bank of the Desna River at a depth of 20 m, in a pebble stratum, at the bottom of the infermented river plain. Among the tens of thousands of flint artifacts collected here thousands of them have a secondary retouch. One can also find typical forms of the developed Mousterian among them; for example hand points, small flat bifaces (fig. 6 ; 3, 4) and nuclei.

M. V. Voyevodski[20] and V. I. Gromov also discovered Mousterian tools South of the Desna River, in the area of Yazvi, Arapovichi, Chulatovo III, Orekhovi Log: part of them were unearthed from an occupation layer. Some of these sites were used by V. I. Gromov to collaborate his views on the geological age of the Mousterian[21].

For the past few years S. P. Pototski has collected quite archaic, probably, Mousterian artifacts still further North of the Moskow region[22].

East of the Russian Plain Mousterian man migrated to the North immeasurably further. Here his route can be very well traced to an area North of the Acheulian site in Samara Province (former name), (fig. 7 ; 1), located along the Volga and Kama Rivers, or to be more precise the Proto-Kama River, (an ancient river which originated on the Western slopes of the Urals and descended toward the Caspian sea). Such finds of Mousterian tools were made on the Volga River sand-banks and in the layers of the ancient alluvium together with the bones of Khazar and Mousterian-complex animals on the Tungus peninsula (fig. 7 ; 5), on the site "Krasnaya Glinka" (fig. 7 ; 4) and other sites. There is another well known site of Mousterian flakes, containing a small biface and a scraper-like tool up the Kama River from Pescherni Log (fig. 8 ; 1, 2). They were found on the surface and can be associated with a pebble lens in the stratum of gray-blue clay of the third flood-deposited terrace. The bones of Bos, Elephas (of unidentified species), as well as the bones of Megaceros sp. and Saiga tatarica were found in the same layer. According to V. I. Gromov, to whom these investigations belong, the combined remains of the Megaceros together with Saiga testify to the presence of Ancient Pre-Riss and Early-Riss Khazar-fauna elements.

Recently on the Kama River, geologist E. M. Timofeev has discovered new finds of flint implements of the Mousterian culture, which take us still further to the North. Near Sludka (not far from the mouth of the Obva River) two very technically archaic, massive, patinized flakes were found (fig. 8 ; 3, 4). They belong to the Taiyak-type with the traces of secondary retouch on their concave edges. They are similar to the implements from Yashtukh near Sukhumi, on the Western border of the Caucasus. Here the remains of Pleistocene fauna so far unidentified were also found.

About 1959 bones of a mammoth (evidently of an early type), saiga, aurochs, reindeer, bull and other representatives of the Quaternary fauna were invaribly found, on the

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[20] M. V. Voyevodski, Ranniy paleolit Russkoyi ravniny (The Lower Palaeolithic of the Russian Plain). Uchenye zapiski Moskovskogo universiteta, No. 158, Moskva 1952.

[21] Compare 10.

[22] S. P. Pototski, Sledy rannego paleolita v basseynakh rek Oki i Moskvy v Moskovskoyi oblasti (Traces of the Lower Palaeolithic along the Oka and Moskva rivers in the Moskow area). Byulletin komissii po izucheniyu chetvertichnogo perioda, No. 26, Moskva 1961.

North Kama River, not far from the mouth of the Vishera River, in the quarries of a plant not far from the village of Gremyachevo (60th Parallel). There were also some flints found, one of which was taken out of an exposed layer. Among the flint implements (fig. 8 ; 5, 6), one is a typical Mousterian hand point retouched on the outer edges and with some traces of flat retouch on the ventral surface (fig. 8 ; 5). This tool leaves no doubt of its Mousterian Age and could be considered to be the northern most find of its epoch in the world, if it had not been for the fantastic finds of the recent years on the Pechora River, discovered by the same geologist E. I. Timofeev in the area of Krutaya Gora, as well as investigations in 1967 by him and archaeologist V. I. Kanivets[23].

The site Krutaya Gora is situated on the right high terrace of the Pechora River, South of the town of Pechora, in the Northern Taiga (above the 65th Latitude North) 175 km from the Polar Circle and the forest-tundra boundary. Here, in a 40-meter terrace lie two Palaeolithic cultural strata. The upper, lying at a depth of 4,5 m in the lake-alluvial sands and sandy soils which have produced dozens of flint, quartz, quartzite and obsidian implements, a perforated fang of a polar fox, mammoth, horse, wolf, hare bones as well as a phalange from a human hand. The upper strata can be undoubtedly referred to the Late Palaeolithic. But it is neither its latest stage nor the Siberian one as the Talitski campsite on the Chusovaya. It should be referred to the Easteuropean cultural type. The lower cultural stratum lies at a depth of 9,5 m, under the piles of sands, sandy soils and rough loams in a gravel layer. The stratum contains stone implements (fig. 8 ; 7, 8) and single bones of reindeer and mammoth. The finds are distinctively localized in a thin five centimetre horizon and consist so far of 20 flint and quartzite artifacts. Rough flakes from disk-type nuclei are very typical. A hand point (fig. 8 ; 7) some scrapers and cutting tools are also characteristic. The tool form and technique referring to the lower complex of Krutaya Gora are considered to be of Mousterian type. The fact that the complex lies below the Upper palaeolithic stratum leaves no doubt of its Mousterian age. On the whole, the Mousterian implements of Krutaya Gora make an impression of a rather archaic Mousterian, but this does not necessarily predetermine its Early Mousterian dating, as on the Northern habitational border a peculiar type of Mousterian culture could preserve the technical features of the Early Mousterian for a long time.

The geological age of gravels containing the Mousterian cultural stratum of Krutaya Gora is determined by boreal transgression and Riss-Würm Interglacial dating. It is likely to think that it was in this period, which was characterized by a comparatively mild climate, that the original settling of Northeast Europe by man was taking place. One can hardly doubt the fact that man reached the far North and for the first time saw the coasts of the Arctic Ocean. The skeletal remains of the white bear were not known before the discovery of the deposits at Palaco, the Upper Palaeolithic campsite near the village of Bizovaya, which is located not far from Krutaya Gora.

[23] E. M. Timofeev and V. I. Kanivets, Dvusloynaya paleoliticheskaya stoyanka Krutaya Gora v Pechorskom pripolyarye (The two level site of Krutaya Gora in the Sub-Polar region of Peschora). Sb. Arkheologicheskiye otkrytiya 1967, Moskva, 1968.

The settlement of the far North-East during the Mousterian period is proved not only by the campsite Krutaya Gora but also by other newly discovered campsites of the same type such as "Koroviy Ruchei", situated somewhat further South than Krutaya Gora (on the Pechora River), not far from Ust-Tsilma and in the area of Ust-Kulom on the Vichegda River.

In addition it is interesting to note the double edged retouching of the Mousterian point from Gremyachieye on the Kama River and the scraper-like tool with a retouch on the convex edge from Pescherni Log which are typical of the campsite Sukhaya Mechetka near Volgograd. The same is true of the campsite on the Pechora River. This observation shows the direction of the migration into the Northern area of the Pechora along the Volga and the Kama Rivers and into the Eastern Ural area of the Russian Plain.

New discoveries in the Northern part of this region such as the Upper Palaeolithic campsites of Soungir on the Klyazma River near Vladimir, Altinovo and Zolotoruchye and areas still further North, on the Upper Volga, in the Yaroslav Region, illustrate the gradual process of settling the North-West-Russian Plain, i. e. the territories, which were previously occupied by the continental ice of the Würm period that had then begun to retreat slowly and irregularly towards Fennoscandia.

But this is the subject matter of another investigation which shall not be touched upon in this article.