Finding a standard procedure in impact-fractures analysis: the case of Grotta di Pozzo (L'Aquila – Italy).

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Grotta di Pozzo is a small cave at 720 m asl and 42◦ N in the Apennine range of Abruzzo (central Italy). Excavations were aimed at investigating the timing and mode of recolonisation of the central Apennine after the LGM. The archaeological sequence starts on the top of a fluvial-lacustrine deposit at 23 ka cal. BP, with layers including lithic industry of the Early Epigravettian. After 16 ka cal. BP, and up to 14.5 ka cal. BP, the lithics belong to the Late Epigravettian.
In this archaeological site is demonstrated the seasonal hunting of chamois, followed by ibex and red deer, as well as for marmot and black grouse. Recently, impact damage analysis has been carried out for the Epigravettian lithic industry in order to recognize possible projectile points. The results allowed understanding the hunting strategies of the final Pleistocene hunter-gatherers and the function of the archaeological site.
Despite the perspective opened by that investigation, doubts have arisen, notably concerning the methodology used to identify the projectile points, which was based on the literature and without experimentation. We present here a use-wear re-analysis of the lithic artifacts considered as projectile points, with a new methodology, making use of a large reference collection. The results will be compared in order to check the reliability of both approaches.

Keywords: Upper Palaeolithic, Projectile points, Hunter, gatherers, use, wear, Epigravettian

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