

THE AURIGNACIAN IN POLAND

Elzbieta SACHSE-KOZLOWSKA

Résumé

Les stations aurignaciennes en Pologne appartiennent à la période du Würmien moyen, entre la sédimentation du premier et deuxième loess würmien.

L'analyse typologique et statistique des outillages aurignaciens nous conduit à distinguer plusieurs groupes ou faciès, dont le plus important est le groupe de Zwierzyniec, Piekary et de Gora Pulawska. Si les premiers sont apparentés avec l'Aurignacien ordinaire, le troisième représente le type de Krems-Dufour.

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The aim of this work is the abbreviated presentation of more important Aurignacian inventories from the territory of Poland. Many of these materials are drawn from older excavations, so their validity is somewhat limited. We do not always have sufficiently exact data concerning the stratigraphic position of given artefacts, assemblages are often discomplete or intermixed with assemblages of other cultures. Owing to those reasons the presented information cannot be complete.

The Specificity of Polish Sites

Polish Aurignacian sites are mostly grouped in the country's south (fig.1). They are nearly exclusively open sites, with loess sites prevailing. Some of them are multilayer sites, containing also other Upper Palaeolithic materials (Cracow - Spadzista Street, Site C, Cracow - Swierzyniec, Site I). There occur also sites with traces of repeated Aurignacian occupation (Piekary, Site II, Cracow - Swierzyniec, Site I). Moreover Aurignacian materials are known from several caves (Mamutowa Cave, Zytia Skala Rock-Shelter). A separate position is that of Site II in Gora Pulawska being the only trace of Aurignacian in Central Poland.

Particular discussion is due to the problem of the stratigraphic position and state of preservation of Polish Aurignacian materials. The Middle Würm sections of Polish loess sites are represented by seriously reduced sediments. The reduction was caused by strong erosion processes that had developed in the Middle Würm period, simultaneously to weak sedimentation. This is certainly in contrast with the situation known from the neighbouring Moravia (e.g. Section in Dolni Vestonice). The archaeological consequence of the above mentioned phenomena is often :

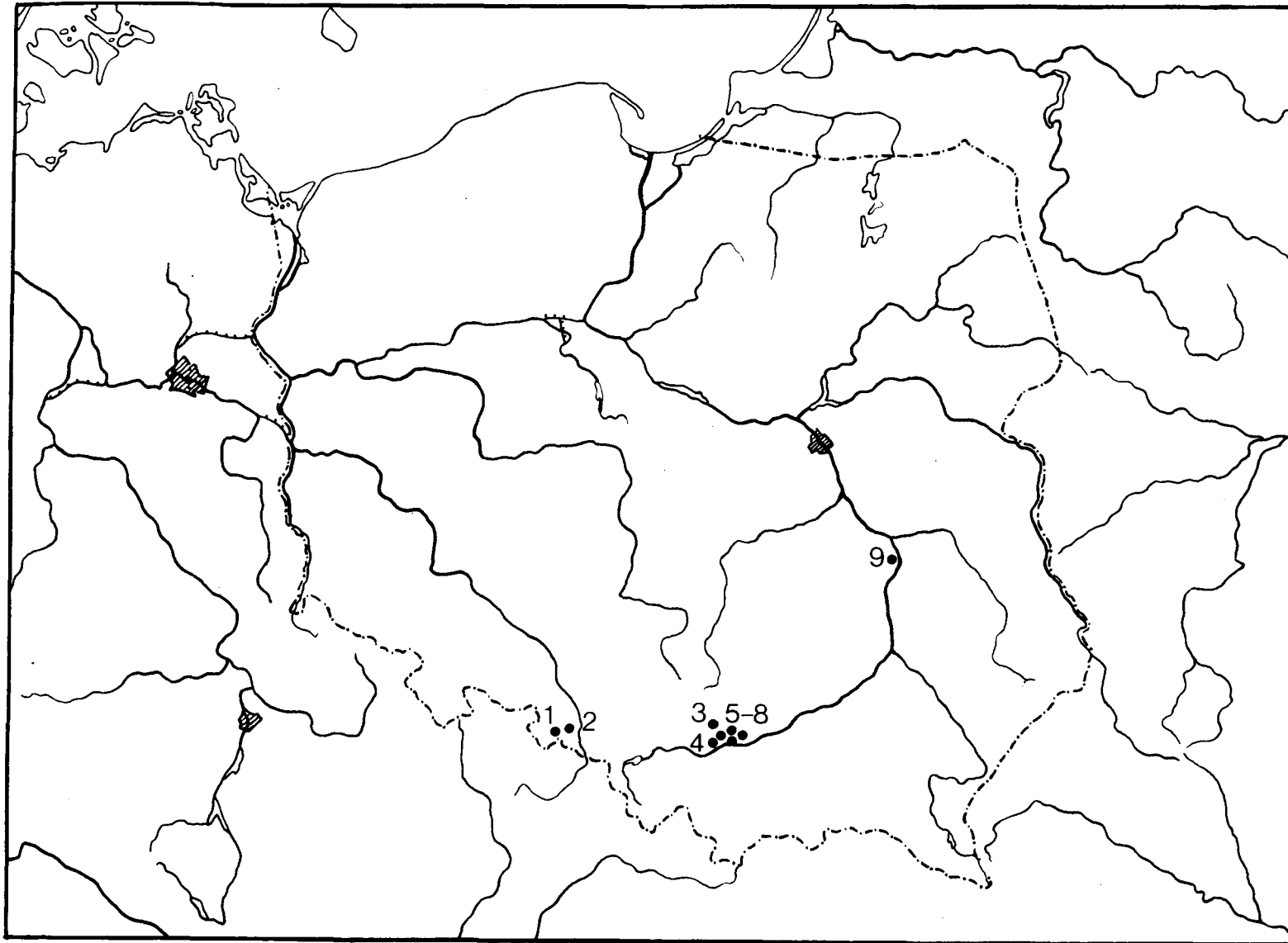


Fig.1. The main Aurignacian sites in Poland.

Cracow-Zwierzyniec I lower loess	Cracow-Spadzista Street C	Góra Pufawska II	Piekary II	
184	42	35	34	Number of tools
28,8	28,5	54,2	61,7	End-scrapers
54,8	40,4	5,7	23,5	Burins
1,0	7,1	-	-	Side-crapers
12,5	9,5	2,8	8,8	Retouched blades
-	7,1	31,4	-	Dufour bladelets
0,5	-	5,7	2,9	Truncated blades
45,2	58,3	94,7	52,3	Carinated + nosed scrapers / IG = 100% /
5,6	8,3	-	-	Ogival scrapers
37,6	41,1	100,0	25,0	Dihedral burins / IB = 100% /
18,7	23,5	-	50,0	Burins on truncation
35,6	29,4	-	-	Carinated burins

Table 1. Statistics of four Polish Aurignacian assemblages.

1. The lack of stratigraphic backgrounds to the dating of Polish Aurignacian sites;
2. The reduction or dislocation of layers leading to the mixing of materials of diverse cultures (e.g. Cracow-Zwierzyniec, Site I);
3. The lack of organic materials, destroyed by the mentioned processes, to undertake radiocarbon dating.

Catalog of more important sites

In the following catalog I present 9 of the richest Polish Aurignacian sites, endeavouring to take account of most essential data concerning the site, its stratigraphy and the validity of archaeological materials. A list of more important bibliographic positions is also given. A table presenting four of most valuable and most characteristic Aurignacian assemblages closes the catalog. The remaining ones are either very poor or too strongly intermixed with materials of other Upper Palaeolithic cultures.

1. LUBOTYN, Site I (Opole prov.).
Surface site.
Excavated by : H. Lindner and others before 1939; J.K. Kozłowski in 1958.
Inventory : some Aurignacian tools.
Bibliography : J.K. Kozłowski, 1964.
2. PIETROWICE WIELKIE, Site 4b (Katowice prov.).
Surface site.
Excavated by : H. Lindner in 1932-34; M. and W. Chmielewski in 1954.
Inventory : some Aurignacian tools.
Bibliography : J.K. Kozłowski, 1964.
3. WIERZCHOWIE - MAMUTOWA CAVE (Krakow prov.).
Multilayer cave site.
Excavated by : J. Zawisza in 1870-75; S. Kowalski in 1957-73.
Inventory : some pieces of carinated and nosed scrapers; some Mladec type bone points. All of them are intermixed with backed points industry (Zawisza collection).
Bibliography : L. Kozłowski, 1922; S. Krukowski, 1939-48; J.K. Kozłowski, 1966.
4. PIEKARY, Site II (Krakow prov.).
Open multilayer loess site.
Excavated by : S. Krukowski in 1927; L. Sawicki in 1954-56.
Stratigraphy : Aurignacian artefacts occurred in the stratified and deluvial loess below thick deposit of typical loess with some traces of solifluction.
Inventory : see table 1 and fig.2; admixture - some Middle Palaeolithic pieces.
Bibliography : S. Krukowski, 1939-48; J.K. Kozłowski, 1966.
5. CRACOW - SOWINIEC, Site I/II.
Open multilayer loess site.
Excavated by : A. Jura before 1938.
Stratigraphy : the Aurignacian assemblage was found below the typical loess.

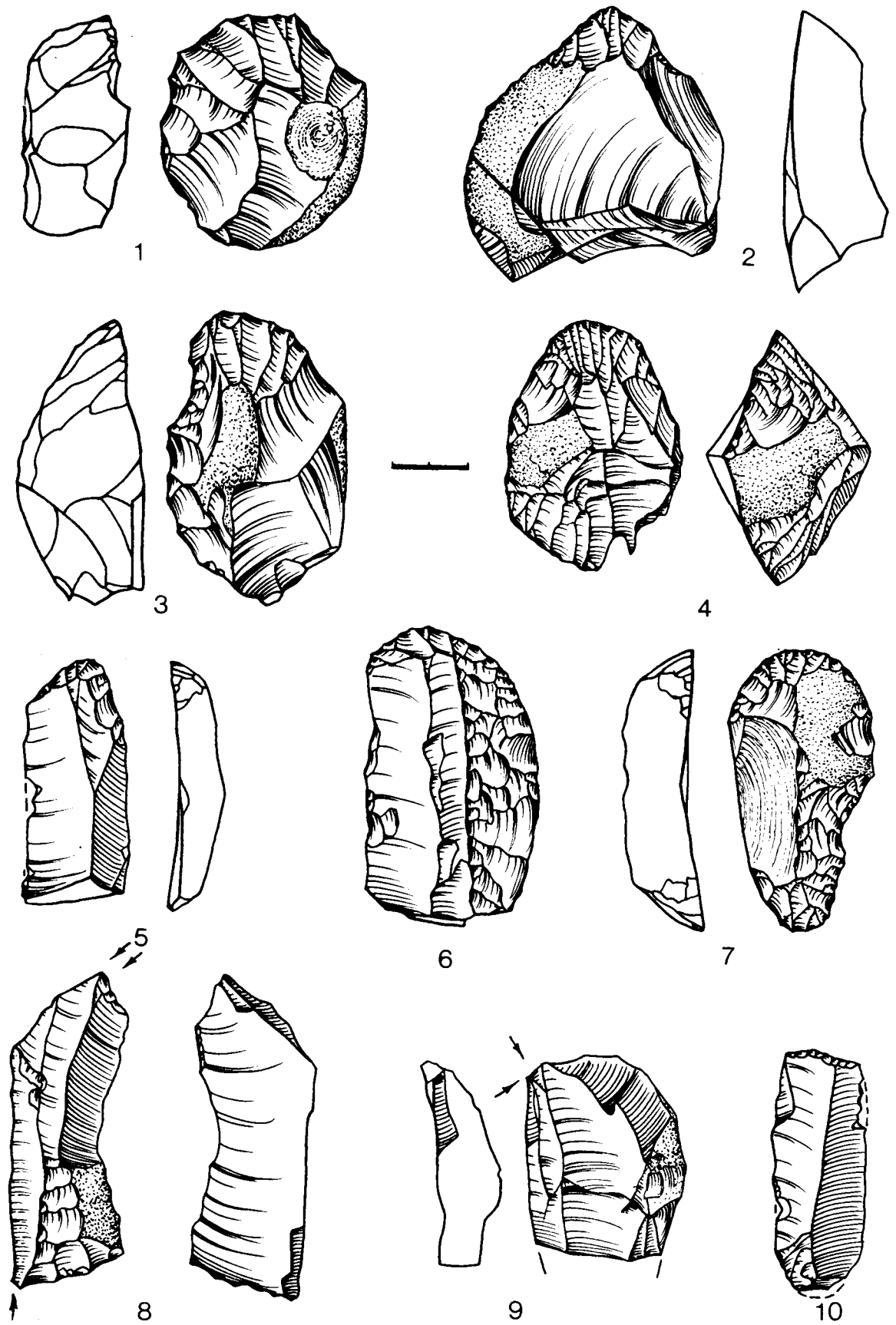


Fig.2. Piekary II.

Inventory : 16 Aurignacian tools - 8 end-scrapers, 1 burin, 3 retouched blades, 1 truncated blade; intermixed with Middle Palaeolithic material.
Bibliography : J.K. Kozłowski, 1966.

6. CRACOW - ST. BRONISLAWA HILL, Site "Upper Fort".

Open loess site.

Excavated by : W. Kuzniar and W. Demetrykiewicz in 1909.

Stratigraphy : between two typical loesses - cluster of artefacts and Mammoth bones.

Inventory : (after J.K. Kozłowski): about 22 tools - 5 end-scrapers, 11 burins, 6 retouched blades.

Bibliography : L. Kozłowski, 1922; J.K. Kozłowski, 1966.

7. CRACOW - SPADZISTA STREET, Site C.

Open multilayer loess site.

Excavated by : J.K. Kozłowski and E. Sachse-Kozłowska in 1970-73.

Stratigraphy : on the Eemian and Early Würm deposits occurred :

1. traces of three soils;
2. loam-sandy layer with Aurignacian artefacts;
3. loam with traces of lessive soil;
4. loam (solifluction) with Kostienki type industry (younger than 21.000 B.C.).
5. typical loess.

Inventory : see table 1 and fig.3.

Bibliography: B. Drobniewicz, J.K. Kozłowski, E.Sachse-Kozłowska, 1975.

8. CRACOW - ZWIERZYNIEC, Site I.

Open multilayer loess site.

Excavated by : A. Jura before 1938 (in so-called "Point J");

L. Sawicki between 1947 and 1958 (sections 1, 2, 3, 4a and 4b),

W. Chmielewski in 1972-75.

Stratigraphy : on the Eemian and Early Würm sediments occurred :

1. lower loess with small concentration of Szeletian and two big clusters of Aurignacian artefacts in the top;
2. destroyed soil; two cultural elements were found here : Aurignacian and of the Zwierzyniec type; they are badly intermixed;
3. upper loess - in the base (which presents traces of solifluction) the same industries as in the soil occurred.

Inventory : see table 1 and fig. 4 - 5.

All Aurignacian materials from this site, except of the industry found in lower loess, and possibly from A. Jura collection (?) have no statistic value.

Bibliography : J.K. Kozłowski, 1966; W. Chmielewski, 1975; E. Sachse-Kozłowska, J.K. Kozłowski, 1975.

9. GORA PULAWSKA, Site II (Lublin prov.).

Open site.

Excavated by : J. Samsonowicz and S. Krukowski in 1924-27, L. Sawicki in 1952.

Stratigraphy : the Aurignacian layer (4 small concentrations of artefacts around the hearths) occurred in the base of stratified loess. Loess sediment was covered by fluvio-glacial sands.

Inventory : see table 1 and fig.6; part of the material could be lost during the war ?

Bibliography : S. Krukowski, 1939-48; J.K. Kozłowski, 1966.

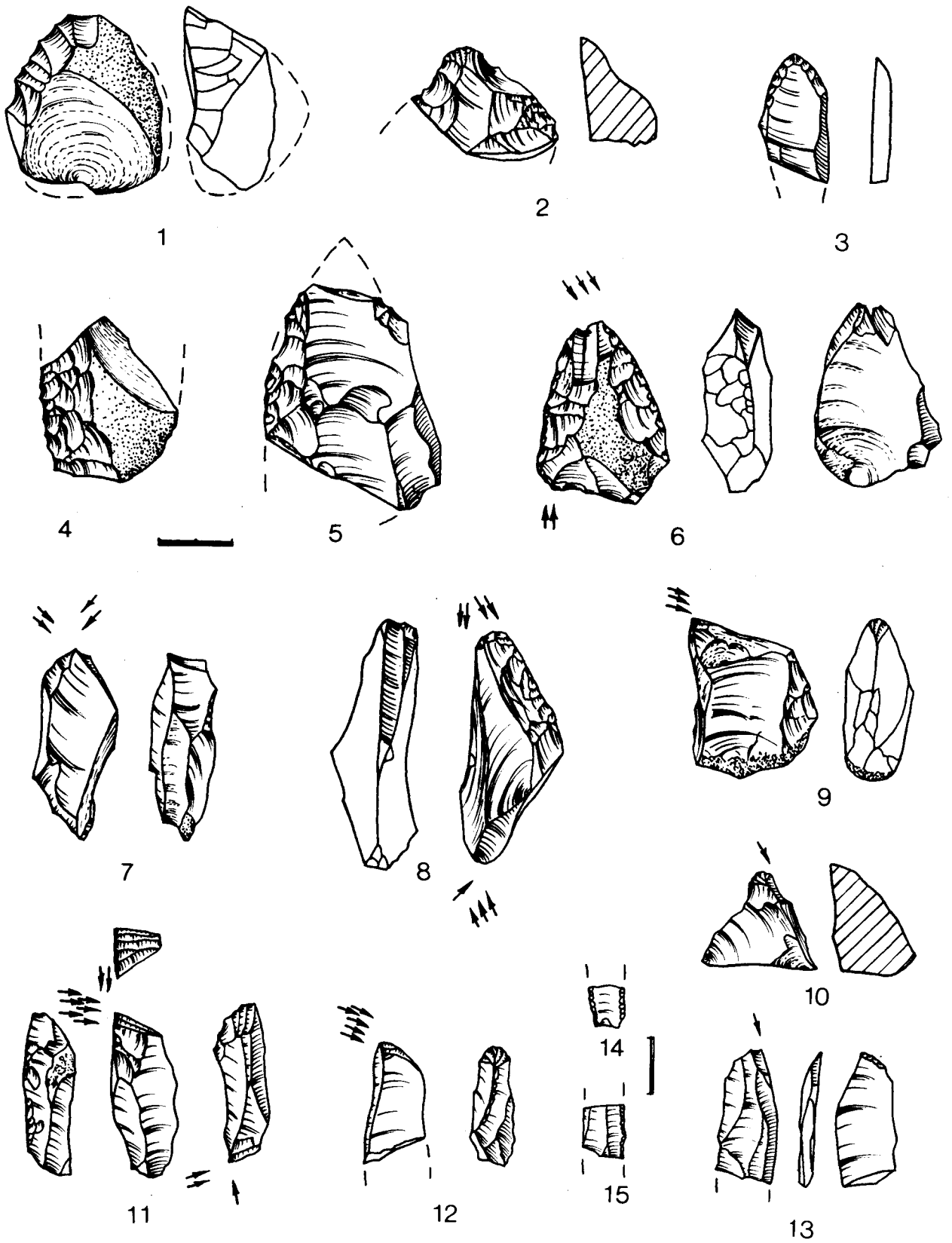


Fig.3. Cracow - Spadzista Street C.

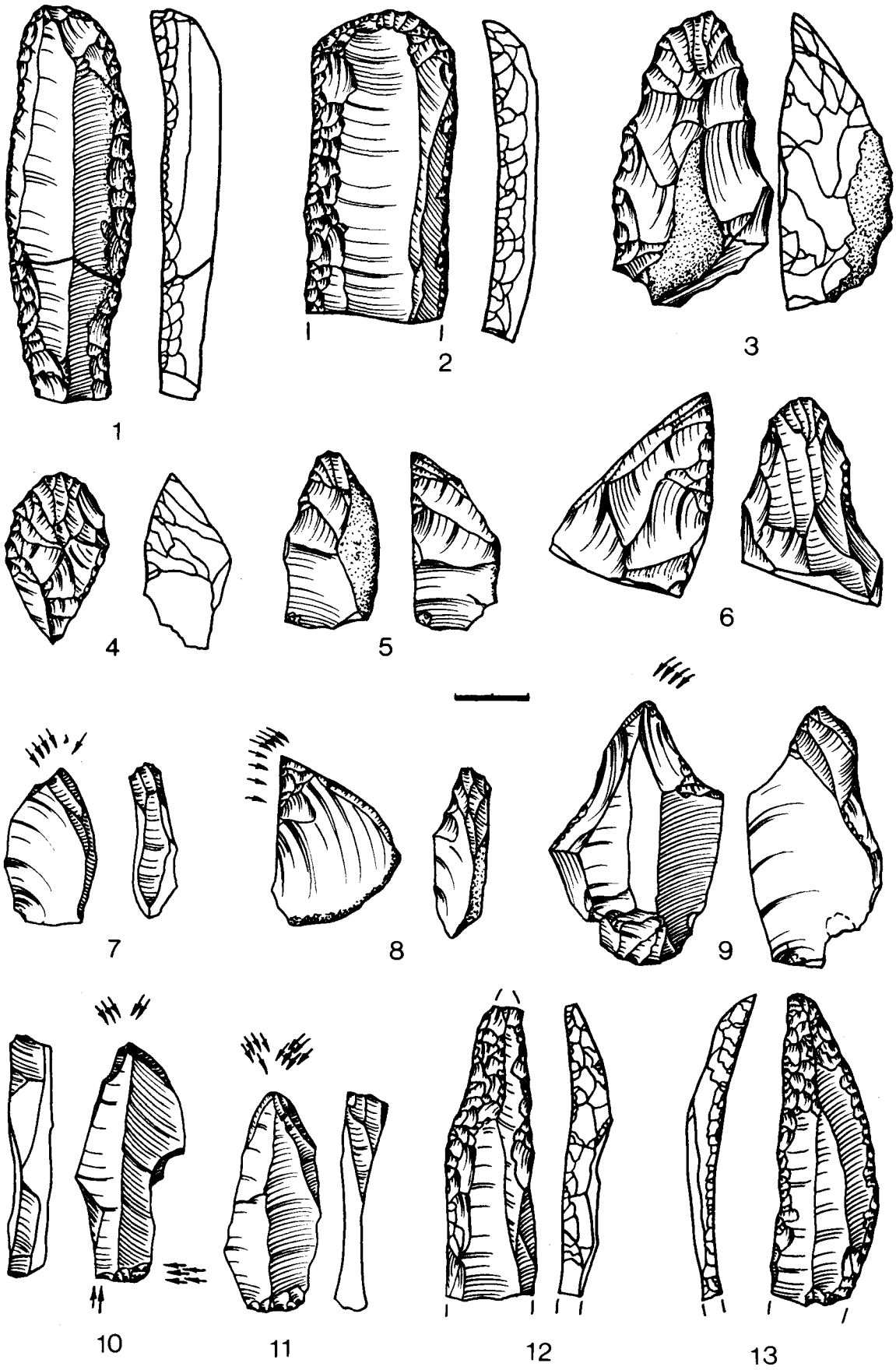


Fig.4. Cracow - Zwierzyniec I, Lower Loess.

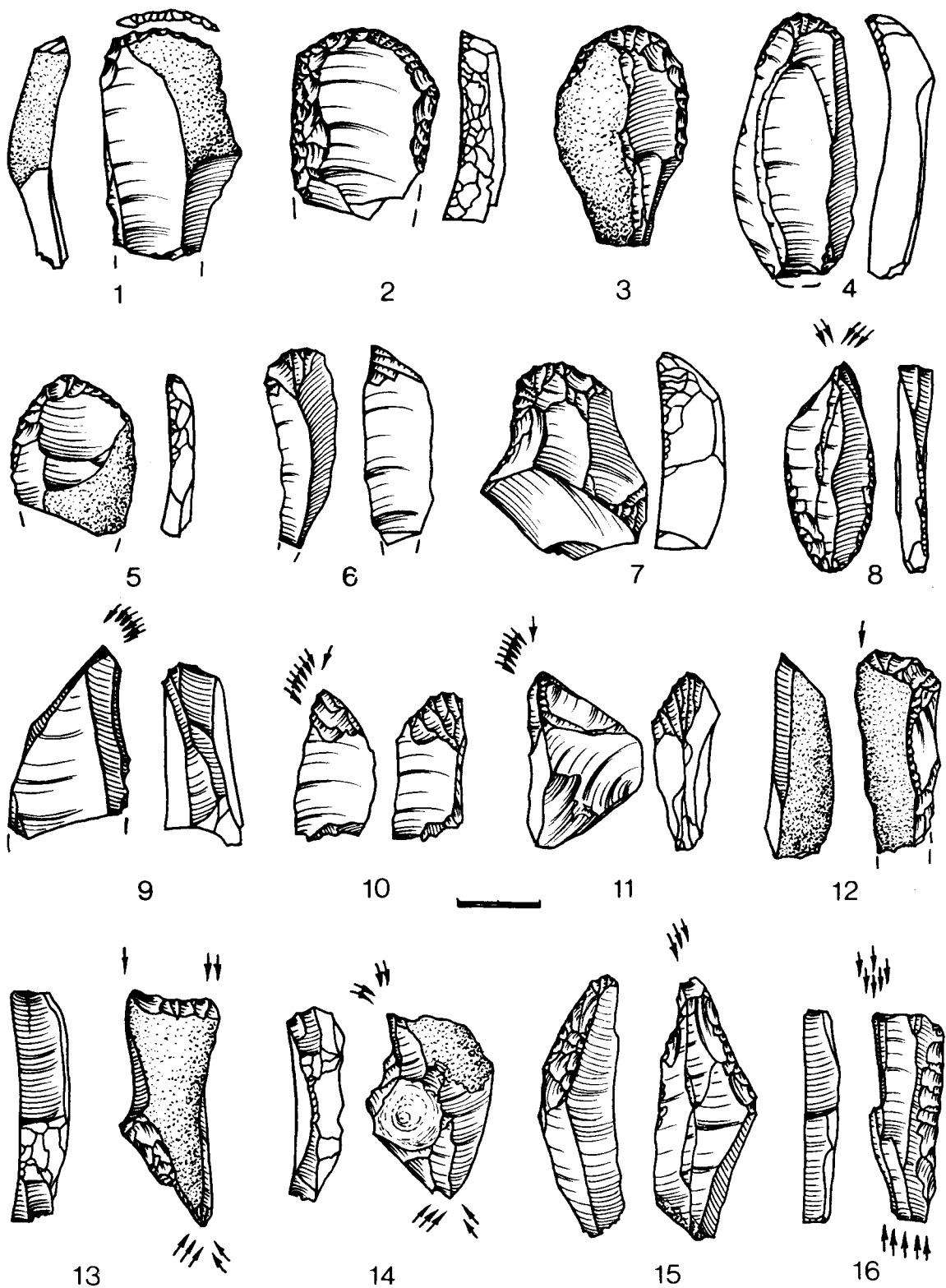


Fig.5. Cracow - Zwierzyniec I, soil.

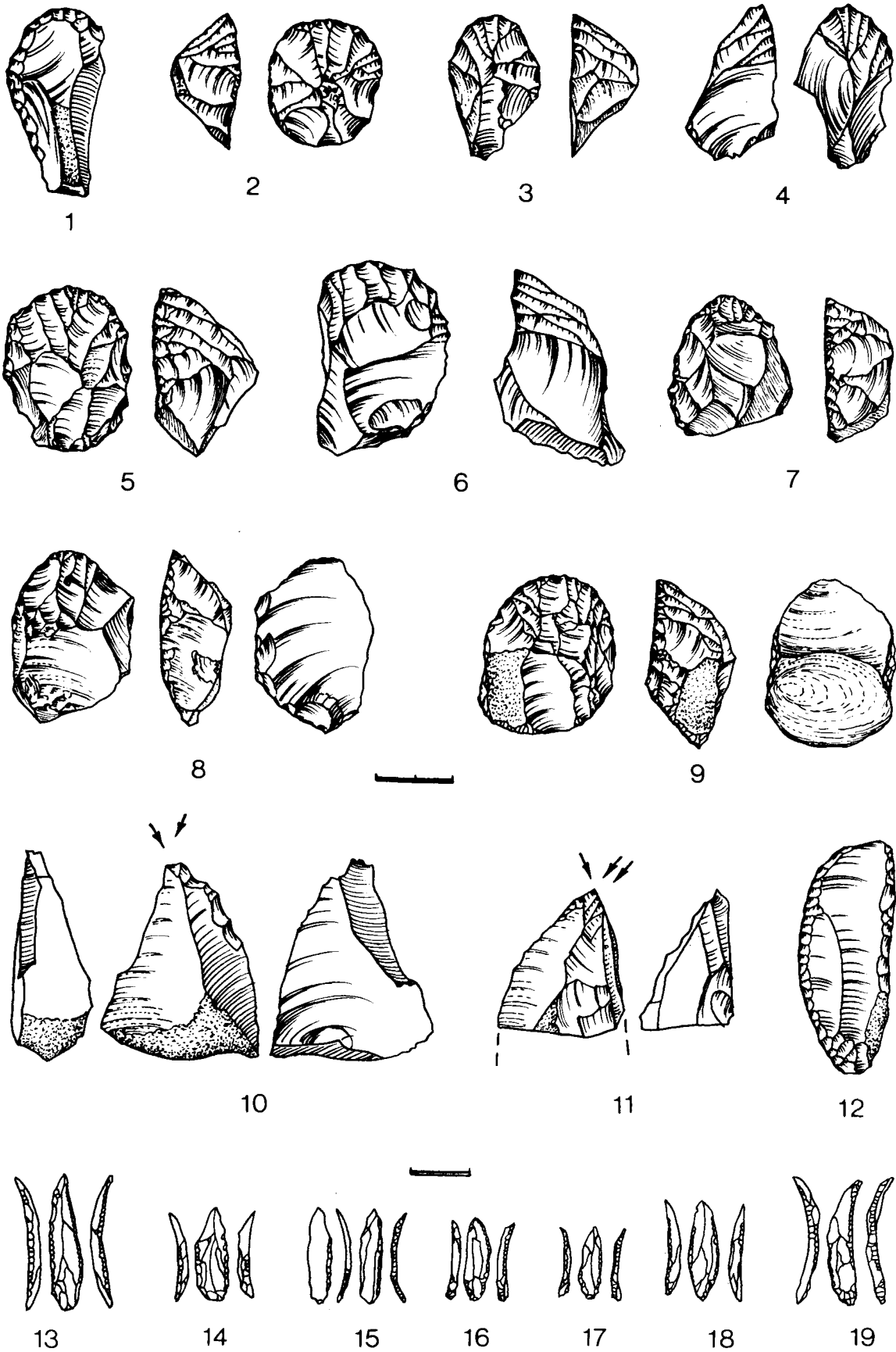


Fig.6. Gora Pulawska II.

Differentiation of Aurignacian Assemblages in Poland

An opening typological analysis and statistical one admits the division of Polish materials into the following variants :

1. Materials of type Zwierzyniec I
are characteristic for their medium size tools, among which burins (40-50%) are most numerous. The second group in numerical order are end-scrapers (ca 30%). There occur also retouched blades (ca 10%). Among burins we find many carinated ones (ca 1/3) and dihedral ones doubly prevail over burins on truncation (about 2/5 : 1/5). Among the group of end-scrapers most numerous are carinated and nosed specimens (2/5 - 3/5). Some of the assemblages display microretouched bladelets. The following units may be grouped to the above mentioned type : Cracow - Zwierzyniec I - lower loess, Cracow - Zwierzyniec I - soil and solifluction, Cracow - Spadzista Street C, Cracow - St. Bronislawa Hill. Assemblages of type Zwierzyniec I refer to "Aurignacien ordinaire" described by J. Hahn.
2. Assemblages types Piekary II
big and massive artefacts. Most numerous are end-scrapers (IG = 62; carinated and nosed forms = more than 1/2 of all scrapers). Burins (IB = 23) are represented by forms on truncation which are twice as numerous as the dihedral; carinated burins are completely absent. Other important forms are retouched blades (9%). The Piekary materials could eventually be connected with J. Hahn's "Aurignacien ordinaire" (?).
3. Assemblages type Gora Pulawska II
they are characterized by small artefacts, made mainly on flakes. End-scrapers are the most numerous (IG = 54; almost all of them are carinated and nosed). Also the microretouched bladelets are numerous here (31%). Other groups of tools (burins, truncated blades, retouched blades) are not very rich (3-6%). Assemblages of Gora Pulawska II type are connected with Aurignacian of the Krems - Dufour type.

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