

GRÈCE – 2011/2013

In the past three years research on the Greek Upper Palaeolithic has focused on the Earlier phases, with emphasis on the dating framework of the Uluzzian and the Aurignacian .

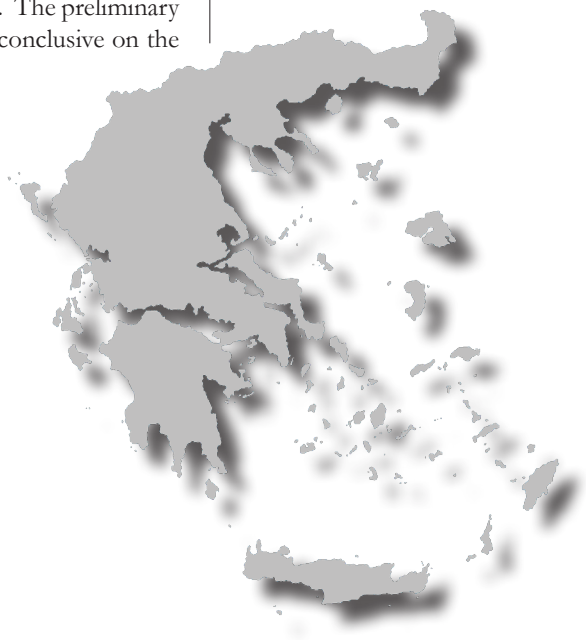
Douka *et al.* (2011) address the issue of the Middle-to-Upper Palaeolithic transition under the light of new radiocarbon dating techniques and protocols. They focus on the so far undated Aurignacian occupation of Franchthi cave in the Argolid, through the re-analysis of the lithic industries and the dating of burnt marine shells; nine dates from eight shells and two from charcoal support the sporadic use of the site “...before and shortly after the CI ash fall (35 ka BP or 40–39 ka cal BP) and for at least the following three millennia.” (Douka *et al.*, 2011, 1146). They suggest that the evidence from the Argolid sites (i.e. Franchthi and Klissoura I caves) indicates that the Early Aurignacian was not absent from Eastern Europe, as previously thought.

The Middle-to-Upper Palaeolithic transition is the focus of attention of another paper focusing on the Uluzzian; the Uluzzian is so far represented in Greece by Layer V of the Klissoura Cave 1 sequence (Kaczanowska *et al.*, 2010). Two dates were produced, one at 39.9-38.5 ka cal BP, on a Dentalium sp. shell bead, and a much younger one (c.28 ka BP-possible of contaminated provenance). The restricted archaeological record does not encourage a thorough discussion on the relation of the two technocomplexes (Douka *et al.*, 2014).

The Later Upper Palaeolithic phases are represented by the ongoing excavations at the Late Upper Palaeolithic open-air site of Ouriakos on Limnos island (northern Aegean), and Anonymous Cave of Schisto (Keratsini, Attika).

The ongoing excavations at the Final Palaeolithic site in Limnos show similarities of the industry with the western asian coast. The stone industry is attributed to a “... Levantine Final Pleistocene cultural complex?” (Efstratiou *et al.*, 2013), a period so far underrepresented in the northeastern Aegean area.

At Schisto Cave a sequence of deposits dating from the Late Pleistocene to the Early Holocene is being investigated. The available dates indicate that the use of the cave covered a period from 10,000 to 5,700 B.C. (Mavridis *et al.*, 2013, 250). The preliminary analysis of the lithic finds (a total of 316 pieces, *ibid.*, p. 252) is not conclusive on the presence of a distinct Upper Palaeolithic industry.



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