

THOUGHTS ON ROUTES OF SETTling THE CAUCASUS IN LOWER PALEOLITHIC

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1. Recently, especially after publication of the extremely important materials from the Dmanisi site there is increase of special interest to such problems as initial occupation of the Caucasus and the South of Russia as well as genesis of the regional Paleolithic industries. In my opinion, these questions need to be discussed with more extensive use of data obtained from the comprehensive morphological, technological and use-wear analyses of lithic industries.

initially occupied by Acheulean people from Europe (L.V.Golovanova).

2. Results of my researches into lithic collections from several Lower Paleolithic workshops (Djraberd, Fontan, Kendarasy (Armenia), Bogos (the Sochi Black sea-side), Abadzekhskoye (North Caucasus) permit to conclude that the studied knapping technologies were very similar as to blank types, techniques of preparing and reduction of cores etc. It may indicate to similar levels of technological development and, probably, near ages of the sites. At the same time, their tool assemblages are quite different that suggests different origins of these industries. The industry of Abadzekhskoe seems to belong to the East-European Micoquian tradition. All the Armenian assemblages dominated by bifaces have analogies in Acheulean occurrences of Western Asia and Near East. The Bogos industry was assigned to peculiar variant of Tayacian located in the Black sea-side and may be regarded as binding link between the local Denticulate industries of Middle Paleolithic and Acheulean of so-called "the Ubeidiya-Latamne tradition" (after I.I.Korobkov).

3. So, detailed investigation into both technological and morphological features of certain Lower Paleolithic industries appeared to confirm both present hypotheses concerning the routes of early human migrations to the Caucasus. The characters of the considered Armenian industries and those of the Bogos industry are in accordance with assumption about two main stages of early human movements from Near East to the Caucasus (V.P.Lioubine). The assemblage of Abadzekhskoye seems to be an evidence in support of opinion that the North Caucasus was