
A technological reappraisal of the Earlier Stone Age lithic artefacts of Baboungué, Central African Republic

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Résumé

The development of Pleistocene lithic technology in Central Africa needs to be investigated more deeply. In this area, sites attributed to the Earlier Stone Age (ESA) are rare despite their importance for documenting early hominins behavioral variability in Africa. Among the few registered sites, Baboungué open air localities, is located in the Sangha River Basin, close to the town of Nola in southwestern Central African Republic, delivered ESA remains, which were gathered by Roger de Bayle des Hermens in the late 1960s.. The site delivered an assemblage of Earlier Stone Age lithic artefacts collected by Roger de Bayle des Hermens in the late 1960s and are currently stored at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (*Institut de Paléontologie Humaine*) in Paris,(France), the Baboungué lithic assemblages originated from . Two identified localities, named localities have been identified: Baboungué 1 and Baboungué 2. The collection comprises 90 diagnostic lithic artefacts for both localities (n=Baboungué 1=26 / Baboungué 2 =and n=74 respectively). All the lithic artefacts have been characterized and categorized by R. de Bayle des Hermens based on their morphological and typological attributes: pebble tools, flakes, cores, and slab tools. In 2021, we renewed our approach on these two assemblages using updated lithic technology approaches aiming to highlight (the flaking and shaping reduction strategies), . Nevertheless, we re-used while keeping and completing the original classification of R. de Bayle des Hermens and completed it (large flake tools, trifacial shaped tools). Finally, we applied techno-functional analysis in order to highlight give new insights on the structural specificities of the shaped tools of these assemblages.

Mots-Clés: Baboungué, Earlier Stone Age, flaking, shaping lithic technology, techno, functional, reduction sequence, shaped tools.

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