



Archaeol Method Theory (2014) 21:781–823
DOI 10.1007/s1081601391765

The Transition to the Acheulean in East Africa: an Assessment of Paradigms and Evidence from Olduvai Gorge (Tanzania)

Ignacio de la Torre · Rafael Mora

Published online: 2 May 2013
Springer Science+Business Media B.V. 2013

Abstract The origin of the Acheulean constitutes a key aspect of current research in the archaeology of human evolution. Olduvai Gorge is one of the main sites in Africa in the study of the transition from the Oldowan to the Acheulean due to both the uniqueness of its archaeological record and the influence of early investigations at Olduvai on the development of Early Stone Age research. This paper reviews the impact of work at Olduvai in shaping a modern view of cultural evolution from the Oldowan to the Acheulean. It also evaluates the lithic assemblages excavated by Mary Leakey in Olduvai Middle and Upper Oldowan based on a firsthand review of the collections. We conclude that previous paradigms used to explain inter assemblage variability are not superseded as much as generally assumed and that a modern view of the origins of the Acheulean requires a reassessment of the cultural biological and paleoecological evidence at Olduvai and elsewhere in Africa.

Keywords Olduvai Gorge · Acheulean origins · Oldowan · Early Stone Age

Introduction

Current evidence points to Africa as the region where the Acheulean first emerged. The archaeological record in Konso (Leakey et al. 2013), Olduvai (Leakey 1971), Gona (Wade et al. 2004), Koobi Fora (Leakey and Isaac 1976), West Turkana (Leakey et al. 2011), Sterkfontein (Kuman and Clarke 2000) and the Vaal River (Gibson et al. 2009) among others indicates that the earliest handaxes appeared in the 1.76–1.4 myr time

I. de la Torre (✉)
Institute of Archaeology, University College London
3134 Gordon Square, C10 Pondon K
email: i.torre@ucl.ac.uk

R. Mora
Centre d'Estudis del Patrimoni Arqueològic de la Prehistòria, Facultat de Lletres
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 08193 Bellaterra, Spain

spanned and rapidly dispersed across the East (Arosef and Goren-Inbar 1993) and India (Pappu et al. 2011). While refinement of the exact timing of Acheulean beginnings is still ongoing, there is general agreement that the Acheulean must have emerged from the previous Oldowan technology widely documented in East Africa.

Olduvai Gorge was the first archaeological sequence in East Africa where stratigraphic succession from the Oldowan to the Acheulean was documented (Leakey et al. 1931b). Extensive fieldwork since the 1930s, the quality and abundance of the archaeological record and the long succession of well-dated assemblages have made Olduvai one of the main sequences of reference for the study of early stages of cultural evolution in Africa. The influence of research at Olduvai is not only empirically based but also theoretical as many current paradigms are deeply rooted in models originally proposed by Leakey (1951) and then reformulated by Mary Leakey (1971).

Debate over the interpretation of interassemblage variability and its bearing on cultural evolution at Olduvai Gorge has been ongoing for decades (e.g. Isaac 1971, Leakey 1976, Ower 1977, Stiles 1979, Davis 1980, Gowlett 1988) and continues today (de la Torre and Mora 2005, Semaw et al. 2009). In recent years, cultural history implications of Mary Leakey's (1971) model have been substituted by ecological-functional explanations of interassemblage variability at the onset of the Acheulean, but her terminology and data interpretation are still widely accepted. This paper reviews the history of ideas on the interpretation of cultural evolution and assemblage variability at Olduvai Gorge and presents data on several Middle and Upper Pleistocene assemblages based on a direct revision of Leakey's lithic collections. In doing so, our aim is twofold: to point out pitfalls of past and current models explaining variability at the beginning of the Acheulean and to highlight the importance of sustaining hypotheses on a primary study of assemblages. Our results indicate that cultural and biological dual-phyla paradigms such as the classic binomial equation Oldowan *Homo habilis* and Acheulean *Homo erectus* widely used to explain interassemblage variability are yet to be superseded.

The Establishment of a Cultural Evolutionary Sequence at Olduvai Gorge

Despite a 3-month field season in 1913, Reck (1914) did not find any stone tools that could prove the presence of humans in Olduvai Gorge. Apparently, Reck was convinced that no lithic artefacts were present at the Gorge, whereas even before his first visit, Leakey was certain that he would eventually find specimens of the handaxe culture at Olduvai with the added advantage of finding this culture in association with a rich fauna (Leakey 1951). Indeed, on the very first day of his first expedition to Olduvai in 1931, he found handaxes in level IV (Leakey 1951). Within a few days, unrolled coupes de poing (i.e. handaxes) had been found in situ in various parts of the sequence and were compared to the Kenyan Chellean and Acheulean (Leakey et al. 1931a).

Only a couple of months later (Leakey et al. 1931b), a preliminary cultural sequence of the Olduvai record had been established. This included a newly discovered industry first termed Pre-Chellean (Leakey et al. 1931b) and then formally named Oldowan (e.g. Leakey 1936) as well as a long sequence of handaxe-bearing assemblages.

Following the original proposal by Reck (1914) Olduvai deposits were divided into five beds by eakey et al. (1931a). ed I the lowest deposits in the series contained archaic looking stone tools without handaes. These were followed by early Chellean tools at the bottom of ed II above which an advanced Chellean occurred. In ed III eakey et al. (1931b) reported artefacts regarded as transitional from the Chellean to the Acheulean while the lower part of ed IV contained early Acheulean and ed V the so called Kenya Aurignacian. To a great extent this earliest description of the Olduvai archaeological series claiming to have in beds s 1 to 4 the gradual evolution from a PreChellean type of culture to a developed Acheulean (eakey et al. 1931b 1075) would prevail until today.

Subsequent field seasons at Olduvai in the 1930s led to refinements of the archaeological stratigraphic sequence (Table 1) in which a steady unilineal progression in the shaping of artefacts was portrayed (eakey 1936) Oldowan bifacial chopping tools at the top of Olduvai ed I led to Chellean archaic handaes. likewise the progressive improvement of handaes differentiated several phases within the Chellean and then the Acheulean. eakey (1936) was careful to stress that the distinction between the Chellean and Acheulean was in some instances only a matter of classificatory convenience and asserted that during the latter part of the Chellean both cultures were indistinguishable. The Acheulean stages 4 and 5 constituted the height of handaemaking whereas stage 6 was marked by the decadence (eakey's words) of this technology due to the less sophisticated appearance of bifaces (Fig. 1).

Documentation of in situ material throughout the entire sequence of Olduvai led eakey (1951) to report that ed I had at least four levels with Oldowan stone tools none of them with handaes. The separation of five phases within the Chellean and six in the Acheulean was still sustained but instead of considering stages 1–5 in the Chellean and stages 1–6 in the Acheulean (eakey 1936) eakey (1951) proposed consecutive numeration of the entire archaeological sequence perhaps to emphasize continuity of progressive evolution of cultures at Olduvai. Furthermore such cultural stages were now meticulously correlated with stratigraphic markers. Following Reck's (1914) original division of sedimentary beds eakey (1951) positioned stage 1 of the Chellean between the top of ed I and the bottom of ed II and characterized this period by the crudeness of its handaes. The development of the Chellean would cover the whole of ed II and according to eakey's (1951) new evolutionary scheme (Table 1) the Acheulean per se began in stage 6 of the cultural sequence which corresponded to ed III deposits. Given that stage 9 handaes resembled those from stage 7 eakey (1951 117) asserted that stage 8 toolmakers did not evolve from stage 7 but rather they represented an intrusive element at Olduvai. Then the Acheulean would continue evolving up to the top of ed IV with the last phase of the Olduvai Acheulean stage 11 (Table 1).

Thus eakey's (1951) model at Olduvai became a sequence of reference for cultural evolution during the Early Stone Age. The Olduvai record was unique in Africa due to the presence of stone tools in a diachronic sequence often in situ and associated with faunal remains. As summarized a little later (eakey 1954) Olduvai represented the gradual transition from the pebble tools of the Oldowan (ed I) to the first handaes of the Chellean (base of ed II) the discovery of soft hammer in the transition to the Acheulean (top of ed II) and the development of the Acheulean with cleavers, bolas and carefully shaped bifaces in ed IV.

Table 1 The evolution of Early Stone Age cultures at Olduvai Gorge, according to Louis Leakey (1936, 1951)

Leakey 1936		Leakey 1951				
Stratigraphy	Culture	Stone tool features	Stratigraphy	Chelles\Acheulean stage	Culture	Stone tool features
Acheulean stage 6	Poorly made handaxes		Top of Bed IV	Stage 11	Acheulean	Small, crude and asymmetrical handaxes
Acheulean stage 5	Ovates and almond-shaped bifaces		Upper part of Bed IV	Stage 10	Acheulean	Most handaxes made on flakes. Predominance of soft hammer
Acheulean stage 4	Very large and well-made handaxes			Stage 9	Acheulean	U-shaped cleavers and <i>bolax</i> . Great morphological and metrical variability of handaxes
Acheulean stage 3	Ovate bifaces and U-shaped cleavers			Stage 8	Acheulean	Smaller bifaces and cleavers. "S twist" ovates. Cleavers are V-shaped rather than U-shaped
Acheulean stage 2	Pointed elongated handaxes		Base of Bed IV	Stage 7	Acheulean	Common use of soft hammer and cleavers. Large and well-made bifaces
Acheulean stage 1	First appearance of cleavers		Bed III	Stage 6	Acheulean	First in situ appearance of cleavers. More evolved bifaces
Chellean stage 5	Symmetrically biconvex handaxes with entirely trimmed edges		3 m above stage 4	Stage 5	Chellean	Use of soft hammer. Bilaterally symmetrical handaxes with biconvex sections
Chellean stage 4	Biconvex handaxe sections. Lower face of handaxes still flatter than upper sides		3 m below junction of Bed II and Bed II	Stage 4	Chellean	Handaxes with entirely trimmed edges
Chellean stage 3	Thickness of upper side of handaxes less pronounced. More carefully trimmed handaxes		6 m above stage 2	Stage 3	Chellean	Large and thick handaxes with roughly triangular and oval shapes
Chellean stage 2	More pointed and elongated handaxes		3–5 m above bottom of Bed II	Stage 2	Chellean	Large handaxes with thick butt-ends and flat lower sides
Lowest Bed II	Crude handaxes		Top of Bed I–bottom of Bed II	Stage 1	Chellean	Crude handaxes

Table 1 (continued)

Leakey 1936		Leakey 1951	
Stratigraphy	Culture	Stratigraphy	Culture
	Stone tool features	Chelles\ Acheulean stage	Stone tool features
Bed I	Oldowan or Pre-Chellean	Bed I	Oldowan
	Worked pebbles with unifacial and bifacial flaking		Unifacial and bifacial choppers

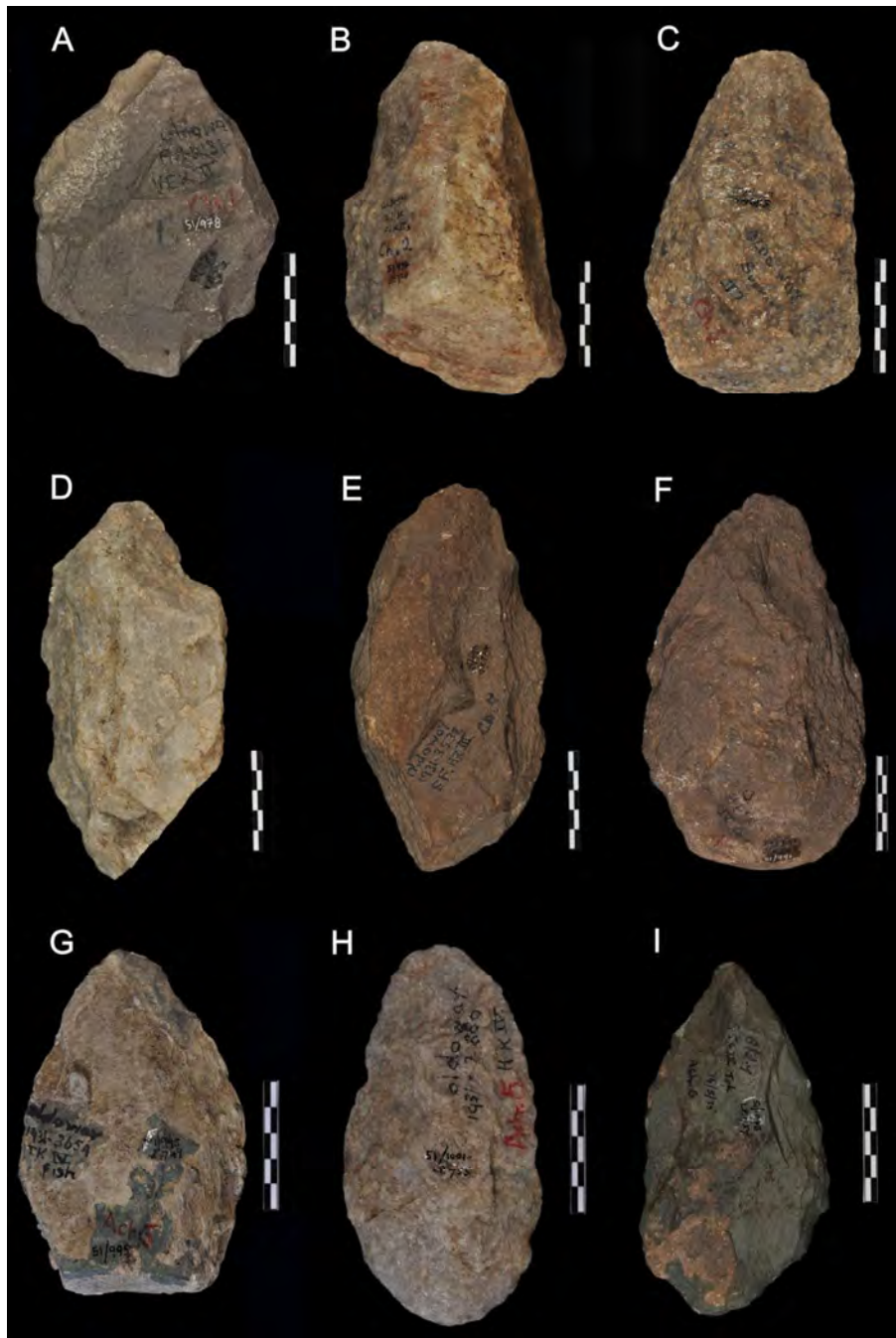


Fig. 1 Olduvai Gorge handaxes attributed by *ouis eakey* to various stages of the Chelles-Acheulean culture. **A** Chellean 1VEK II **B** Chellean 2FK II **C** Chellean 3Surface II **D** Chellean 4FK II **E** Chellean 5EFR III **F** Acheulean 2K IV low **G** Acheulean 3TK IV Fish **H** Acheulean 5K IV **I** Acheulean 6GTC IV. All artefacts courtesy of CInstitute of Archaeology Collections

Cultural change was seen by Leakey (1936, 1951, 1954) as gradual and usually driven by local evolution of tool techniques within a unilineal sequence. This is interesting for in those years unilineal evolutionary lines of Palaeolithic cultures paradigmatic of the de Mortillet's approach were being substituted by Leakey's models of parallel phyla. Leakey (1936) contemplated the existence of two cultural complexes in Africa: the Chellean-Acheulean (made by *Homo sapiens*) and the Clactonian-Valloisian tradition (attributed to the eanderthals). However, he believed that at Olduvai and in the whole of the Chellean-Acheulean complex only Middle Pleistocene *H. sapiens* were involved. Therefore, cultural evolution had to follow internal mechanisms of gradual change (Leakey 1936). In the following years Leakey (1951, 1954) held to this model of local transitions and steady change at Olduvai, although in some instances he did not rule out external influences, for example when proposing that stage 8 in the Olduvai sequence probably represents a migration into the area of a group of handaxe makers who had specialized in this particular direction elsewhere (Leakey 1951:118).

Fieldwork between 1931 and 1947 at Olduvai enabled Leakey (1951) to construct the cultural evolutionary framework discussed above. Once the geological and archaeological sequence had been structured, Leakey (1965) states that in 1951 a new phase of research began at the Gorge, now focused on the excavation of so-called living floors of early handaxe man. Between 1951 and 1958 the Leakeys concentrated on ed II, essentially at K and SK (Leakey 1958). Whereas K had originally been positioned at the base of ed II and considered as Chellean stage 1 (Leakey 1951, 1958), new fieldwork suggested it was placed substantially higher up in ed II (Leakey 1965). Nevertheless, the cultural sequence originally proposed by Leakey did not undergo substantial modifications, although it was expected that with a little luck the day will come when we shall be able to announce the discovery of well-preserved remains of early handaxe man (Leakey 1954:71). And indeed that day came and heralded a new phase of research at Olduvai, one that provided the basis for an alternative model of cultural evolution (Leakey 1971).

The Classic Model of Early Stone Age Cultures in Olduvai

The discovery of *in anthropus* in 1959 boosted a new phase of investigation at Olduvai in which large-scale excavations took place in eds I and II. This archaeological research, now led by Mary Leakey, proved so fruitful that an entirely new hypothesis of cultural evolution at Olduvai would be proposed. Mary Leakey's (1967, 1971, 1975) model was based on a finer-grained record than previous attempts, whereas Leakey's view was grounded on only a few dozen *in situ* artefacts in each stratigraphic interval (Leakey 1936, 1951, 1954). Mary Leakey (1967) stressed that her new model contemplated full-scale excavations in four sites in ed I and nine in ed II.

Whereas the interpretation of ed I remained largely unchanged (with all the assemblages attributed to the Oldowan), the ed II sequence would be (in the words of Mary Leakey (1967:417)) radically altered. New work at sites discovered back in 1931–1932 indicated that some localities originally thought to be in different stratigraphic levels were in fact in a similar position. That was particularly true of the

upper part of ed II where the position of sites previously had been determined according to their stratigraphic distance from ed III. However, that assignment was based on the misidentification of red sediments as belonging to ed III while they were actually from ed II (eakey 1967).

The other main factor contributing to a major reconsideration of the sedimentary sequence was the identification of a new stratigraphic marker, the Aeolian Tuff (then also called Tuff IIA) which was used to separate lowermost ed II from the rest of the upper sequence. eakey (1965) had stressed that on paleoenvironmental and paleontological grounds, ed II was more similar to ed I than to the rest of ed II. eakey (1967) would also introduce cultural elements whereas the former evolutionary model (eakey 1951) constrained the Oldowan to ed I. eakey (1967) proposed that there was no cultural change in lower ed II and sites in such stratigraphic position were nearly indistinguishable from the ed I Oldowan. Therefore, eakey's (1951) stage 1 of the Chellean was now subsumed into the classic Oldowan and the formerly named *crude handaxes* typical of the Chellean stage 1 were reconsidered as one of the few indicators of internal evolution within the Oldowan and named as *protobifaces* (eakey 1967). In this new model, it would only be in Middle ed II that novel cultures emerged (eakey 1967).

Excavations in Middle and upper ed II had revealed an unexpected cultural development, more complex and quite unlike the simple succession originally thought to have existed () as there now appears to be no progressive evolution from the Oldowan through the Chellean to the Acheulean (eakey 1967:431). The key aspect of the new model was the rejection of the unilinear trajectory traced by eakey (1951) based on slow and gradual cultural change. According to the new hypothesis, during Middle and upper ed II times there were two distinct but coexistent cultural elements (early Acheulean and Developed Oldowan) which had occasional contact with one another (eakey 1967). The Early Acheulean culture was characterized by the relative abundance of handaxes and included EFRCK Elephant Korongo (the three of them originally placed by eakey in the Chellean stage 4) and some other unexcavated sites formerly considered as Chellean stage 5. In contrast, the Developed Oldowan usually lacked handaxes. The degree of cultural contact between the Acheulean and the Developed Oldowan was measured by a variable frequency of handaxes in the latter assemblages but when they are in extremely low numbers without any suggestions of local manufacture, they may well merely be objects picked up by the makers of the Developed Oldowan culture (eakey 1967:432). Therefore, on the one hand there would be Developed Oldowan sites such as MKFCFC est (all in Middle ed II) and TK over Floor (upper ed II) which due to the low (3–9) but still significant presence of handaxes indicated some contact with Acheulean toolmakers. On the other hand, sites such as KE Sandy Conglomerate TK over Floor and K where handaxes were absent or rare warranted no cultural contact between the Developed Oldowan and Acheulean makers.

In summary, the new model portrayed little evolutionary change in ed I and upper ed II except for the appearance of protobifaces in the higher Oldowan levels and the increasing rarity of the so-called diminutive choppers. Following the paleoecological break marked by the Aeolian tuff, eakey (1967:441) proposed

that in Middle and upper Oldowan two cultural elements are represented: a development of the Oldowan which is probably indigenous and a lower Acheulean which appears to be intrusive and to have reached the area at a lower Acheulean stage of development. This was a crucial statement in changing the perspective of the Olduvai sequence not only were the Developed Oldowan and the Acheulean phylogenetically unrelated but these different cultural entities had shared the same territory during a considerable time period. Louis Leakey's unilineal evolution of one single cultural thread throughout the Olduvai sequence was definitively superseded.

The introduction of biological parameters was another novelty of the new model and had great impact in later interpretations. As mentioned above early views (e.g. Leakey 1936) considered some kind of *H. sapiens* as the author of the entire Chellean Acheulean complex. Cultural variation was explained by migrations of new groups into Olduvai (e.g. Leakey 1951) but interassemblage variability was not attributed to different species. The phenomenal succession of human fossil discoveries at Olduvai since 1959 however would bring relationships between speciation and stone tool making into the limelight. This occurred for example with the taxonomic and phylogenetic debate of *H. habilis* and *Paranthropus boisei* and the authorship of the Oldowan at FK in (see review in de la Torre 2011a). It is therefore not unexpected that M. Leakey (1967) also speculated with possible links between hominins and different cultures and hypothesized that the Oldowan was made by *H. habilis* and the Acheulean by *H. erectus*.

The complete study of the Oldowan I and II assemblages soon followed (Leakey 1971) becoming probably the most influential monograph ever published on Early Stone Age research. Although with some modifications M. Leakey's (1971) monumental work reaffirmed her preliminary model (Leakey 1967). Firstly Olduvai Gorge volume 3 (Leakey 1971) consolidated Leakey's (1966–1967) typology of Early Stone Age artefacts associating specific tools with particular stratigraphic intervals and cultural periods. Quantitative parameters became an essential part of the interpretation the 1960–1963 excavations provided a prodigious number of archaeological remains in each site which enabled M. Leakey to assess statistically interassemblage variability. This was probably the main reason for the different interpretations drawn by Louis and Mary Leakey: the evolutionary sequence in the first model (Leakey 1951) considered the earliest appearance of particular tools or techniques (bifaces, cleavers, soft hammer, etc.) as the main proxy for cultural change in contrast Mary Leakey's (1971) interpretations relied on the variable frequencies of types and not on the presence/absence of specific objects.

The cultural evolutionary model proposed in Olduvai Gorge volume 3 (Leakey 1971) built on her earlier interpretation (Leakey 1967). Thus all Oldowan I and Oldowan II assemblages were assigned to the Oldowan. According to Leakey (1971) even the earliest Oldowan had a diversified tool kit characteristic of the whole period which contained various forms of choppers, polyhedrons, discoids, scrapers, burins and other heavy (i.e. larger than 50 mm) and light duty (smaller than 50 mm) tools. The so-called protobifaces were considered to be numerically rare and restricted to the time span between Oldowan I and the Sandy Conglomerate in Middle Oldowan II. Initially M. Leakey (1967) only considered an undetermined Developed Oldowan in Middle and Oldowan II. However subsequent full analysis of assemblages (Leakey 1971) revealed two facies: the Developed Oldowan A (DOA) and the Developed

Oldowan (DO). The DOA was characteristic of the Sandy Conglomerate in the lower part of Middle ed II (i.e. between Tuff IIA and II) and the DO was located above Tuff II (in the upper part of Middle ed II) and in pper ed II. From this perspective the DOA (present at K levels 3–5 and in FK orth Sandy Conglomerate) showed continuity of typically Oldowan tools although the frequency of spheroids and subspheroids increased as did the number and variety of light duty tools. The main difference between DOA and the DO sites was the presence of some handaxes among the latter although the frequency of spheroids and subspheroids continued to increase with respect to earlier assemblages as did the percentage of battered stone tools.

While the DOA and DO presented a clear stratigraphic (below and above Tuff II respectively) and typological (handaxe absence versus presence) divided distinction between the DO and the Acheulean was more complicated as both contained handaxes and were potentially stratigraphically penecontemporary. eakey (1971) established percentage of bifaces as the key differentiating variable bifaces had to form over 40–50% of the tool types for an assemblage to be considered as Acheulean. Based on this and other proxies such as the morphology and size of handaxes it was argued that DO sites were convincingly separated from the Acheulean in Middle and pper ed II. In the new model the Middle ed II sequence would begin with Early Acheulean assemblages (mainly EFR but also CK and Elephant K) followed by Developed Acheulean sites such as FC est MK Main Site and SK and TK and K in pper ed II (eakey 1971).

The absence of bifacial tools that could be considered as intermediate forms between protobifaces and Middle ed II handaxes led to the hypothesis that the Acheulean culture was intrusive in Olduvai right after the deposition of Tuff II. Therefore in eakey's (1971) view the Developed Oldowan was an uninterrupted local continuation from the Oldowan in which the same tool forms persist with the addition of some new elements and an increase in others that were rare in the Oldowan (page 269) which when compared to the Acheulean seem to indicate that the two dissimilar industrial complexes of Middle and pper ed II should be interpreted for the present as representing two distinct cultural traditions perhaps made by two different groups of hominids (page 272). Given that there was convincing proof of the association of *H. habilis* with Oldowan assemblages eakey (1971) corroborated her previous hypothesis (eakey 1967) about links between *H. habilis* and the Developed Oldowan and the intrusive Acheulean with a new hominin species in Olduvai *H. erectus*.

The essence of the model presented in Olduvai Gorge volume 3 remained unchanged in later publications although some minor modifications were added. eakey (1975) for instance did not change her interpretation of the classic Oldowan record but reconsidered some of the evidence for later periods. Firstly the DOA was said to appear not only in the lower part of Middle ed II but also in lower ed II at KE (eakey 1975:483) this means that KE level 2 previously considered as indeterminate Oldowan (eakey 1971:3) or possible DOA (eakey 1971:285) was now definitely classified as the latter. With regards to more recent assemblages eakey (1975) was still confident that SK and TK pper Floor were DO among these tool categories such as scrapers burins saws outculls and laterally trimmed flakes showed similar frequencies and also contained low percentages (2–13%) of poorly made

handaxes. The status of TK Lower Floor (TK F) and MK Main Site (MK MS) however was unclear. ealey (1971) had already commented on handaxe similarities between such assemblages and those of the Acheulean. Returning to the point again ealey (1975) considered that TK F and MK MS could possibly be classified as Acheulean. Later publications (e.g. ealey 1978) were more specific about this issue both MK MS and TK F contained abundant choppers, spheroids and small tools typical of the DO. However, unlike the small and crude bifacial handaxes from the DO in MK MS and TK F bifaces were large and boldly flaked, typical of the Acheulean. Therefore on the basis of bifaces these two sites could be considered as Acheulean while based on the tool kit as a whole they fitted best with the DO (ealey 1978:13). Similar doubts were raised by ealey (1975) about FC sites where handaxes were also Acheulean like but in which the low number of bifaces precluded further discussions on the assemblage's cultural status.

Setting aside minor readjustments the main innovation of ealey's (1975) contribution was to extend her own hypothesis of cultural evolution to the top of the Olduvai deposits. Between 1968 and 1971 she had resumed fieldwork at Olduvai now focusing on excavations in beds III and IV. As a result M. ealey (1975) stated that there were no grounds on which to propose a progressive refinement of handaxe techniques from bed II up to the top of the Acheulean sediments at Olduvai in the Masek beds. This was a definitive rupture with the model of gradual and unilineal evolution once defended by ealey (1951). Even more importantly M. ealey (1975) suggested that the duration of the Oldowan tradition was much longer than had been thought previously in fact this tradition continued to bed IV with what she now named the Developed Oldowan C (DOC). As with the DO the DOC was characterized by low percentages of small, step-flaked and asymmetrical handaxes together with high frequencies of light-duty tools. ealey (1975) still considered that the Developed Oldowan had evolved from the bed I Oldowan and had no evolutionary relationship with the Acheulean. Although acknowledging that it is difficult to explain why this tradition the Developed Oldowan should have remained distinct from the Acheulean which was contemporaneous from middle bed II onwards and from which the concept of bifacial tools was almost certainly borrowed (ealey 1975:485) she was firmly convinced of the separation between the two cultures and of their coexistence throughout the entire Olduvai sequence.

With the refinement of her cultural evolutionary model (ealey 1975) Mary ealey closed this second period of research at Olduvai. The monograph of 1968–1971 excavations at beds III and IV and Masek (ealey and Roe 1994) was belated and published in a different research context which explains the lesser impact of ealey and Roe's (1994) results when compared to the massive influence of earlier publications. Based on an unparalleled empirical record Mary ealey's excavations at Olduvai beds I and II (ealey 1966, 1967, 1971, 1975, 1978) became the milestone for all subsequent investigations on the Early Stone Age (ESA). Although its influence has been well acknowledged at the empirical level (i.e. for the importance, quality and quantity of the Olduvai record) other elements should be remembered too: ealey's work had a profound impact on the way early stone tools were studied, the perspectives by which industrial complexes were defined and on understanding relationships between human species and cultural change. All this explains why soon after her model was formulated ealey's hypotheses began to be contested.

The Olduvai Cultural Sequence Reconsidered

Mary eakey's technological and stratigraphic characterization of the classic Oldowan is still widely accepted. In contrast the interpretation of the cultural sequence in Middle and Upper II sparked a long debate from the start and even today (Semaw et al. 2009 de la Torre and Mora 2005 this paper) is an issue of discussion. Isaac (1974:512) summarized the problem when stating that some favour the idea that each industrial pattern was the habitual product of a distinct cultural and ethnic group which over hundreds of thousands of years propagated its traditions separately from the traditions of other cultural groups (). Others argue that recurrent differences in the need for certain artefact types could give rise to situations in which they were sometimes abundant sometimes rare this has come to be known as the activity facies explanation of variability . Alternatives to Mary eakey's interpretation of interassemblage variability in Olduvai offered two main explanations some authors accepted the arguments proposed by eakey to distinguish between two cultures and/or facies (e.g. Isaac 1969 1971 1972; Y 1976; Power 1977; Davis 1980; Roe 1994; Callow 1994) although such variability is interpreted differently. For others (Mason 1976; Ones 1994; Stiles 1980; Gowlett 1988; de la Torre and Mora 2005; Semaw et al. 2009) interassemblage variability at Olduvai is not significant enough to justify any distinction between sites (Table 2).

Isaac (1969) pioneered the proposal of alternative explanations to eakey's interpretation even before the publication of Olduvai Gorge volume 3 (eakey 1971). Isaac (1969 1971) and then Y (1976) would draw attention to the fact that Acheulean sites seemed to be in riverine contexts as opposed to Developed Oldowan assemblages which apparently were situated closer to the Olduvai paleo lake margin. Functional hypotheses were not new to explanations of interassemblage variability in the ESA (e.g. Clark 1959; Kleindienst 1961; Posnansky 1959). It is likely that examples from other East African Acheulean sites with variable percentages of handaxes influenced Isaac's proposal that the DO at Olduvai could be a functional facies of the early Acheulean. This model which can be termed as the ecological or functional hypothesis of the Acheulean Developed Oldowan variability soon became popular and provided an environmental alternative to eakey's view of parallel cultural phyla. For Isaac (1969) the key innovation of the Acheulean was the production of large flakes as blanks for handaxes which entailed the formulation of specific techniques distinctive from Oldowan knapping methods. Therefore variability within Middle and Upper II assemblages could be explained either by functional parameters related to the need for large flakes or by the distance of settlements to the large cobbles from which such large flakes were obtained (Isaac 1969:16). As a third option to eakey's (1967 1971 1975) parallel cultural phyla and his own activity differences (Isaac 1969) hypotheses Isaac (1971) reminded that interassemblage variability could also be explained by random change of cultural norms that is some recurrent varieties of industry may well result from independent repeated stochastic variation rather than from long term persistence of a cultural phylum (Isaac 1971:561).

In the wake of Isaac's observations Y (1976) confirmed that some patterning existed in the sedimentary contexts of the DO and early Acheulean sites with the

Table 2 Main archaeological sites in Olduvai Gorge and their cultural attribution according to different authors

Stratigraphy	Site	Leakey 1951 ^a	Leakey 1958	Leakey 1967	Leakey 1971	Leakey 1975	Stiles 1977	Davis 1980	De la Torre and Mora 2005	Semaw <i>et al.</i> 2009
Bed II Upper	BK		CHEL. 1	DEVEL. OLD.	DOB	DOB		DOB2	ACH.	ACH.
	TK UF			DEVEL. OLD.	DOB	DOB	ACH.	DOB2	ACH.	ACH.
Middle	TK LF	CHEL. 5		ACH.\DEVEL. OLD.	DOB	EARLY ACH.?	ACH.	DOB2	ACH.	ACH.
	SHK		CHEL. 2		DOB	DOB		DOB1		ACH.
	MNK MAIN SITE			ACH.\DEVEL. OLD.	DOB	EARLY ACH.?		DOB1		ACH.
	FC WEST			ACH.\DEVEL. OLD.	DOB	INDET	ACH.	DOB1	ACH.	ACH.
	EF-HR	CHEL. 4		LOWER ACH.	EARLY ACH.	EARLY ACH.	ACH.		ACH.	ACH.
Lower	MNK SKULL SITE				OLD.	OLD.		OLD.		OLD.
	FLK NORTH SC				DOA	DOA		DOA	OLD.	OLD.
	HWK EAST SC			DEVEL. OLD.	DOA	DOA		DOA	OLD.	OLD.
Bed I Upper	HWK EAST LEVEL 2	CHEL. 1		OLD.	INDET	OLD.		DOA	OLD.	OLD.
	FLK NORTH LEVELS 1-6			OLD.	OLD.	OLD.		OLD.	OLD.	OLD.
Middle	FLK ZINJ	OLD.		OLD.	OLD.	OLD.		OLD.	OLD.	OLD.
	FLK NN LEVELS 1-3	OLD.		OLD.	OLD.	OLD.		OLD.	OLD.	OLD.
Lower	DK			OLD.	OLD.	OLD.		OLD.	OLD.	OLD.
				OLD.	OLD.	OLD.		OLD.	OLD.	OLD.

^aBased on correlations between Louis Leakey (1951) and Mary Leakey (1967)

latter usually located inland (i.e. further than 1 km from the Olduvai paleolake) and the DO normally within the lake margin. Therefore this spatial paleoenvironmental divide seemed to support the hypothesis that interassemblage variability could be due to functional factors and was explicitly linked by (1990) to Isaac's activity facies hypothesis.

Despite the originality of the ecological model in subsequent years debate on the character of the Olduvai stone tools remained basically taxonomic. (1977) was one of the few who directly studied Olduvai lithic collections although his reanalysis was limited to choppers from the Oldowan (DKFKFK in and FK orth) DOA (K East) DO(TK) and the early Acheulean (EFR). (1977) agreed that there were grounds on which to differentiate industries but based on the typometric features of choppers he concluded that there was cultural continuity. Thus whereas Mary (1967, 1971) had portrayed the early Acheulean as intrusive in Olduvai and unrelated to the Developed Oldowan (1977) proposed that there was a direct ascendant-descendant relation between the two and in fact suggested that the Acheulean should be included in the Oldowan Industrial Complex.

Stiles (1977) also studied the original assemblages reviewing EFR and TK F as examples of the early Acheulean and TK F and FC est OF for the so-called DO. Stiles (1977) did not challenge (1971) typology and his analysis remained mainly morphometric. He concluded that some differences existed between the two sets of assemblages: choppers were more intensively worked in EFR and TK F which also contained larger handaxes and flakes with a higher number of dorsal scars. In contrast scrapers in TK F and FC est OF were larger and more heavily retouched. Nevertheless Stiles (1977) multivariate analyses did not support significant differences in the percentage of tool types. In fact Stiles (1991) argued that (1971) arguments on the different proportions of tool types between the DO and the Acheulean were invalidated once (1975) herself considered that TK F could be Acheulean for this assemblage had the larger frequency of light-duty tools (Stiles 1980, 1991). On the other hand Stiles (1977) multivariate analysis suggested a dual pattern in handaxes with the larger Acheulean bifaces made on flakes as opposed to smaller handaxes on blocks in the DO. These differences were nonetheless attributed to raw material constraints. Stiles (1991) asserted that DO handaxes were made primarily on quartz whereas those of the Acheulean were typically on lava. The unsuitability of quartz for the production of large flakes therefore would explain differences between the two types of handaxes.

Of the six criteria used by (1977) to differentiate the DO from the Acheulean (1) larger proportion and variety of light-duty tools in the DO (2) higher frequency of spheroid, subspheroid, and modified blocks in the DO (3) larger handaxes in the Acheulean (4) more heterogeneity in size and form of DO handaxes (5) handaxes on flakes in the Acheulean versus bifaces on block in the DO and (6) inability of DO toolmakers to produce large flakes) Stiles (1977, 1980) considered that only two were valid: handaxes in TK F and EFR were indeed larger than in the other assemblages and were usually made on big flakes. These differences however only reflected the high variability among Acheulean assemblages and differential access to raw

materials. Following Mason's (1976) firm opposition to the DO term, Stiles (1977, 1980) proposed that the Olduvai Middle and Upper II sites were all early Acheulean assemblages.

Condon (1979, 1994) focused on the study of Middle II rather than on earlier assemblages, but his comprehensive experimental program was also relevant for discussions on the character of the Developed Oldowan and Acheulean. First, he agreed with Leakey (1975) that no evolution from crude to refined handaxes existed from Middle II to Middle IV and beyond (but see Roe 1994). Nevertheless, Condon (1994) noticed a clear patterning between Developed Oldowan and Acheulean handaxes. Focusing on the Middle IV sample, he showed that DO handaxes were rarely on flakes (10–20%) whereas flakes accounted for 70–90% of handaxe blanks in the Acheulean. Despite this, the few DO handaxes on flakes were identical technologically to the Acheulean ones. The other main difference, according to Condon, was that DO handaxes were more intensively shaped than those in Acheulean assemblages. Condon (1994) favored a new interpretation of differences between the Developed Oldowan and Acheulean handaxes could be explained by intensity of reduction. Handaxes from the Developed Oldowan with a greater number of scars and smaller in size than those of the Acheulean could represent later stages of biface resharpening, whereas Acheulean handaxes were in the initial stages of their functional life and hence markedly unformatted. Condon's interpretation (based on his 1976–1983 experimental knapping program) was proposed roughly at the same time as the very same reduction hypothesis was used to explain Middle Palaeolithic tool types (Dibble 1984, 1988) and variation of forms in the Oldowan (Toth 1982, 1985, 1987; Potts 1991). According to Condon (1994), the wider diversity of tool types in Developed Oldowan sites could be the result of a variety of functional activities, while the Acheulean assemblages represented discard areas produced by the same hominins.

Further studies discussing the Developed Oldowan–Acheulean problem in Olduvai (e.g., Davis 1980; Gowlett 1988; Roe 1994; Callow 1994) were based not on firsthand revisions of the actual collections but on a reconsideration of published data. Despite this, conflicting interpretations arose. For example, Davis (1980) reached opposing conclusions to those of Stiles (1977) and supported the validity of Leakey's original definitions. Davis (1980) criticized Stiles for not including the whole sample of DO sites in his analysis, for not taking the DOA into consideration, and for basing his entire analysis on only one type of artefact, i.e., bifaces. By comparing statistical frequencies of tool types in DOA and DO sites, Davis (1980) found continuity between the DOA and the earlier DO assemblages and a break between these and the Upper II sites. According to his results, the DO Middle II sites (FC est OFSK and MK Main Site) had more choppers and spheroid/subspheroids than the DO Upper II assemblages (TK, FTK, Fand K), whereas the latter contained higher frequencies of bifaces and small flake tools. Given the variable frequencies of tool types and the disparate paleoenvironmental location of sites (the majority of Middle II sites were said to be along the lake margin), Davis (1980) not only defended the validity of the Developed Oldowan as a distinctive industry but proposed a division of the DO into Developed Oldowan 1 and a later DO2.

Also using eakey's original data, Gowlett's (1988) statistical analysis yielded some disparities between the DO and Acheulean handaxes, although he insisted that such morphometric dissimilarities in bifaces did not necessarily have to be interpreted as evidence of cultural differences. Roe (1994) and Callow (1994) considered both the Middle II sites and the upper sequence of Olduvai and found significant statistical differences in the metrics of handaxes of DO, DOC and Acheulean sites. This led them to support a separation between the Developed Oldowan and the Acheulean. Interestingly, whereas eakey (1971) had originally stated that one of the defining characteristics of the DO was heterogeneity in handaxe morphometrics as opposed to the Acheulean, Roe (1994) proposed exactly the opposite; he suggested that Developed Oldowan handaxes showed remarkable homogeneity in contrast to the higher variability of Acheulean bifaces. Callow (1994) stated that the contrast between the Acheulean and the Developed Oldowan bifaces was associated not only with size but also blankness with handaxes on flakes in the Acheulean versus handaxes on blocks in the Developed Oldowan. This latter differentiation, already emphasized by eakey (1975) and ones (1994), was considered by Callow as essential in order to differentiate the two industries.

Not surprisingly, a unified perspective of the Developed Oldowan–Acheulean problem is lacking (Table 2). Furthermore, reviews are not exempt from contradictions, whereas the original proposition moved from tool type frequencies as the base for the DO–Acheulean distinction (eakey 1971) to qualitative differences between handaxes (eakey 1975). Some of M. eakey's supporters used those percentages to defend the original classification (e.g. Power 1977) or even to further taxonomic differentiation (Davis 1980). While eakey (1971) proposed that DO handaxes showed heterometric shapes with respect to those of the Acheulean, supporters of the same differentiation of industries stated exactly the opposite (Roe 1994: 203). For some (e.g. Stiles 1980) DO and Acheulean handaxes were too similar to use this kind of tool as the main differentiating element. For others (ones 1994; Gowlett 1988; Roe 1994) disparities found in bifaces were too significant to be ignored.

Nevertheless, these divergent viewpoints have some points in common: Power (1977), Stiles (1980) and ones (1994) studies were based on published or indirect data and their quantitative analyses closely followed eakey's typology. Problems of eakey's typology have been raised on a number of occasions (e.g. Isaac 1986; Potts 1991) but classification of the actual Olduvai stone tools usually remained unchallenged and consequently occurred with frequencies of types in assemblages. Only recently have some authors (de la Torre and Mora 2005; Semaw et al. 2009) begun to discuss the meaning of eakey's types and their implications for the understanding of interassemblage variability at Olduvai, given the contradictory results of statistical analyses based on eakey's original classification of assemblages it may be argued that only direct revisions of the actual assemblages can shed some new light on the topic.

A Current View of the Developed Oldowan–Acheulean at Olduvai Gorge

Recent contributions (de la Torre and Mora 2005; Semaw et al. 2009) agree that Mary eakey's classic model of cultural evolution in Olduvai needs reconsideration and

propose a more straightforward interpretation of the sequence where only the Oldowan and Acheulean technocomplexes are recognized. According to that view transitional stages such as DOA and DDO do not exist. In this paper relationships between the Oldowan and the so-called DOA will not be discussed as they are much more complex than de la Torre and Mora (2005) initially thought and require further investigation. Instead we will focus on the problem of the DOA and Acheulean for which the theoretical grounds of Mary eakey's model will be contextualized in our restudy of the archaeological assemblages.

The Theoretical background of the Two Cultural Phyla

Mary eakey (1971) claimed to overcome eakey's (1951) cultural evolutionary model on the grounds of her new fieldwork results and on a change of theoretical perspective. She recalled that when eakey (1951) published the first detailed description of the Olduvai cultural sequence there was a general tendency to follow the late Abbéuil in subdividing the Acheulean and indeed the majority of Stone Age lithic industries into a whole series of evolutionary stages and phases basing the subdivisions largely on typologies of selected specimens and not on entire assemblages (eakey 1971:262).

With regards to the latter part of the above statement in the late 1950s to early 1960s a new perspective favored excavating large horizontal areas in order to expose living floors with large numbers of artefacts (Clark 1960; Kleindienst 1961, 1962; Howell and Clark 1964 etc.). The 1960–1963 excavations at Olduvai followed such a premise in which whole assemblages rather than individual objects were the main subject of study. Kleindienst's proposals had substantial influence on Mary eakey's own research design particularly the adoption of a 40 (eakey 1971:2) or 50 (eakey 1971:269) threshold of handaxes for an Olduvai assemblage to be considered as Acheulean. Criticism of this proposition requires some clarification firstly it was Kleindienst (1961:40) and not Kleindienst (1962) who proposed such a frequency. Mary eakey (1971) misquoted the reference and following her many researchers did so too including one of us (de la Torre 2011b). That is not irrelevant for Kleindienst (1961) was not suggesting that assemblages with less than 40–60 of bifaces should be considered as non-Acheulean but just reporting that at Acheulean sites normally had such percentages and that variability could be explained by site function. Nevertheless Kleindienst (1962) firmly advocated that qualitative studies had to be replaced by quantitative analysis which was in her view the only way to account for inter-assemblage variability. In this Mary eakey (1967, 1971, 1975) fully agreed with Kleindienst replacing eakey's (1951) former model (based on qualitative descriptions of handaxes) by one where object frequencies determined cultural descriptions. That probably explains why earlier publications (eakey 1967, 1971) relied so heavily on the variable percentages of retouched tools, spheroids, subspheroids and handaxes to classify assemblages either as Oldowan, Developed Oldowan or Acheulean. Of course this quantitative perspective was not exceptional in a scientific context where the ordinal approach based on cumulative frequencies of tool types (ordes 1961) ruled Palaeolithic research worldwide. Kleindienst and eakey only adapted the East African record to the internationally dominant paradigm.

Returning to Mary eakey's (1971, 1972) quote above, she was implicitly stating that her hypothesis overcame theoretical problems of previous interpretations (e.g. eakey 1951) by superseding reuil's paradigms. However, that is debatable; there is no doubt that eakey's model was heavily influenced by reuil's view of cultural change. Nonetheless, in the particular case of Olduvai Gorge, eakey (e.g. 1951) depicted a gradual evolution of cultures with little or no contact (see above). In fact, it could be argued that Mary eakey's model was nearer to reuil's paradigms than eakey's (1951). reuil, as Peyrony before him, portrayed variation in terms of dual cultural phyla and applied such concept to the Lower Palaeolithic to explain differences between assemblages with and without handaxes.

The issue of the Clactonian is essential here and might help towards understanding the roots of Mary eakey's Olduvai model. Formally defined by reuil (1932) the Clactonian was considered as a core and flake industry by cultural groups who were different from those making handaxes. Essential in reuil's original model is that the Clactonian was seen as contemporary to the Chellean and both had a parallel evolution with the latter ultimately leading to the Acheulean (reuil 1932). The earliest descriptions had already introduced another element in the model, that of cultural contact, by stating that the Clactonian lithic artefacts contained some clumsy pointed forms which might perhaps be considered as unsuccessful attempts to copy the Chellean implement (arren 1922, 598) and stressing the divergence of races and cultures which were living contemporaneously together (arren 1922, 602). In Britain, this culture history approach prevailed until the 1970s and maintained a divide between the Acheulean and the Clactonian (hite 2000) under reuil's framework, cultures could coexist and evolve in parallel without necessarily having to share evolutionary links. The influence of this dual cultural phyla model on Mary eakey's (1967, 1971, 1975) hypothesis for Olduvai is fairly obvious. In fact, parallelisms can be traced back to the 1930s when M. eakey herself conducted excavations in a Clactonian site in Britain and explicitly accepted the existence of two contemporary Palaeolithic cultures (the Clactonian and Acheulean) considered to be the product of separate racial groups (Oakley and eakey 1937).

M. eakey's (1967, 1971) hypothesis in Olduvai resembled closely the Clactonian model, following almost every point made by reuil decades earlier. The Developed Oldowan (as the Clactonian) had an independent although parallel evolution to the Acheulean but which (at least in Olduvai) had no evolutionary links. As with the Clactonian, coexistence between the Acheulean and the Developed Oldowan would eventually lead to cultural contact, as reflected by the adoption of handaxe making by the latter. Mary eakey's model presented some novelties over former proposals: first, the rich human fossil record of Olduvai enabled the introduction of a biological divide between cultures. And secondly, instead of using the fossil directeur approach (characteristic of the reuil and eakey models), Mary eakey sustained her hypothesis in the differentiation of assemblages and cultures through tool type frequencies in the same fashion as popularized byordes.

According to hite (2000) a new period on Clactonian research began in Britain in the 1970s when the new processual perspective overtook the culture history paradigm. Parallelism with the Olduvai case is again remarkable as many of the alternative perspectives on eakey's interpretation were clearly embedded in the new

Archaeology paradigm (e.g. Isaac 1971, Stiles 1977, Toth 1982). However, the new theoretical perspective was not usually accompanied by a reconsideration of Maryeakey's typology. As argued elsewhere (de la Torre and Mora 2009), most revisions of the Olduvai stone tools in recent decades may have adopted alternative theoretical backgrounds and new research questions but few actually challenged Maryeakey's original lithic taxonomy. That compliance has a great impact on the interpretation of assemblages for if a study is to follow eakey's classification ultimately it is bound to find the same tool type variability. Such variability can then be explained by cultural history, reason, ecological variables, functional hypothesis etc. but is nonetheless grounded on the same interpretation of the material culture and therefore needs to account for the interassemblage differences already identified by eakey. This circular process can only be avoided by critically reassessing eakey's typology as pioneered by Toth (1982), Isaac (1986) and Potts (1991) and lately updated by de la Torre and Mora (2005) and Semaw et al. (2009). The typology of Olduvai ed I and II assemblages was the third pillar of Maryeakey's model alongside the quantitative approach and the culture history theoretical background. We have just reviewed the latter two but there is no point in criticizing alternative models to eakey's if they all are based on the acceptance of an interassemblage variability which is not necessarily warranted. First of all, a reconsideration of the actual assemblages is required in order to ascertain whether or not such variability is visible in Middle and Upper Olduvai II.

The Middle and Upper Olduvai II lithic Assemblages

De la Torre and Mora (2005) presented a detailed report of the stone tools excavated by Maryeakey in EFRFC est OFTK Fand TK F plus some data on a sample from K. The present section is based on de la Torre and Mora (2005) for FC est OFTK Fand TK F updates the information available for EFR (only M. eakey's excavations) and adds the study of further collections (i.e. the whole assemblage of SK Anne and a sample from SK Main Site Channel and MK MS) also based on a direct analysis of the eakey's (1971) original collections. De la Torre and Mora (2005) discussed each site assemblage separately and inferences were made regarding site formation processes, integrity of levels and cultural ascription. Instead of adopting an individual approach to each site the updated dataset serves to consider on an interassemblage basis the key parameters traditionally used to distinguish the Acheulean from the Developed Oldowan.

The first question is whether there is significant interassemblage variability in the overall composition of tool categories at the Olduvai Middle and Upper Olduvai II sites. Although comparative statistics of tool types have been the focus of most previous works (e.g. Stiles 1977, 1991, Davis 1980) the present study is based on a technological breakdown of categories (Table 3) as defined by de la Torre and Mora (2005) rather than on eakey's typological classification. The most conspicuous association (i.e. proportional overrepresentation of cores in SK Anne) revealed by the χ^2 test and correspondence analysis (Fig. 2) is probably meaningless given that eakey (1971) explicitly stated that not all the debitage had been collected in SK and K therefore leading to an overabundance of core forms. The same collecting bias may also explain the proportionally high number of small retouched pieces in SK. Tests

Table 3 breakdown of stone tools from Olduvai Middle and pper ed II assemblages excavated by eakey (1971) in Olduvaiaaccording to our classification (see discussion of lithic categories in de la Torre and Mora 2005 and de la Torre 2011b)

	EFR		FC est OF		SK Annee		TK F		TK F	
Cores and test cores	35	9.2	43	6.4	98	24.1	10	2.4	24	1.4
CT and broken CTs	33	8.7	2	0.3	3	0.7	10	2.4	17	1.0
CT blanks	3	0.8			5	1.2				
Small retouched pieces	5	1.3	13	1.9	46	11.3	20	4.9	25	1.5
ammerstones	4	1.1	84	12.4	4	1.0	2	0.5	24	1.4
Flakes and flake fragments	300	78.9	494	73.2	229	56.4	338	82.2	1472	88.1
ammerstones with fractured angles			31	4.6	15	3.7	9	2.2	28	1.7
Anvils and broken anvils			8	1.2	5	1.2	18	4.4	33	2.0
Spheroids and subspheroids					1	0.2	4	1.0	48	2.9
Total	380	100.0	675	100.0	406	100.0	411	100.0	1671	100.0

epectedly highlight the large number of large cutting tools (CTs) in EFRbut this assemblage is not too different from TK and SK. In realitythe greatest disparity does not seem to occur between DOsites and EFRbut between FC est and all other sites. The overrepresentation of regular hammerstones (ien test) and hammerstones with fracture angles (correspondence analysis) at FC est OF may or may not have a functional meaningbut it is certainly difficult to draw cultural implications from this pattern.

eakey (1975) admitted the problems of using only tooltype frequencies to maintain her previous cultural classification (eakey 1967 1971)so she turned to

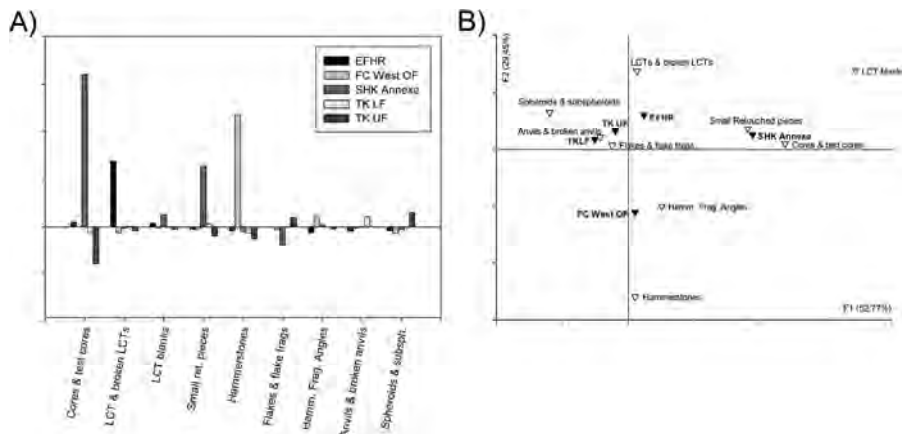


Fig. 2 a ien test and b correspondence analysis of the main technological categories in Olduvai Middle and pper ed II assemblages. The ien is a nonparametric Chi square test used to highlight significant differences in assemblage compositionand is based on the inertia of the correspondence analysis (see equations in Volle 198161 69aplace 1980). Correspondence analysis is a generalized principal component analysis used for the treatment of qualitative data (Abdi and illiams 2010)

qualitative differences in handaxes as the main criterion on which to differentiate the DO from the Acheulean. Size and manufacturing techniques were the two main parameters involved. Following Isaac's (1969) ideas on the relevance of large flake production for the emergence of the Acheulean, eAkey (1975, 1985) argued that basically the factor that distinguishes the two traditions Acheulean and DO is an inability to detach large flakes in the Developed Oldowan. Nonetheless, Table 4 shows that handaxes on flakes are present in all DO sites. Indeed, considering that we did not have access to the entire handaxe sample from some collections (SK Channel K) it is likely that frequencies of handaxes on flakes are even larger. Large flake production should not only be accounted for on the basis of handaxes in SK Annee for instance although the number of handaxes is low there are several large (10 cm) non-retouched flakes clearly related to the CT chane opatoire (see Table 3). Similarly with K where not only are very large (2 kg) flakes documented but so are huge cores that evidence the production of CT blanks (Fig. 3). Therefore although EFR stands out for the overwhelming use of large flakes as blanks for CT shaping large flake production is present in every single assemblage studied here.

eAkey (1971, 1975) also asserted that DO handaxes were consistently smaller than Acheulean ones. Most authors (Davis 1980, Stiles 1991, Roe 1994) accepted such a suggestion since they had used the classification and metrics originally proposed by eAkey. Stiles (1991) for example proposed that the smaller size of DO handaxes was due to raw material constraints as they were usually made on quartzite rock from which it is more difficult to obtain large flakes. However, Table 4 shows no particular predominance of quartzite handaxes with the exception of TK F (which in any case is considered as Acheulean by eAkey (1975)). Also examples of the production of large quartzite flakes exist in nearly all Middle and Upper Pleistocene sites. Therefore raw material constraints alone do not explain the alleged size difference between Acheulean and DO handaxes.

ones (1994) explained size variation by handaxe reduction stage. Acheulean handaxes would represent early phases of flaking whereas those of the DO were more heavily reduced forms. However, our review of the materials suggests that only in K do handaxes show consistently higher numbers of scars than in EFR (see de la Torre and Mora 2005). SK Channel (Fig. 4) may also contain more heavily reduced handaxes but with regard to the other assemblages, resharpening or long reduction sequences of faonage are rare or absent. CTs are usually poorly shaped and faonage is normally limited to the shaping of the tip and edges. In fact, intensity of faonage is probably more related to blank type than to resharpening or long reduction sequences. Sharon (2008) points out that large flake CTs worldwide consistently show minimal trimming if a blank of appropriate size and shape is available. Lava flakes at EFR or quartzite slabs in TK for example would provide such blanks which required minimal secondary retouch.

In our view the consistently smaller size of DO handaxes may be due to morphometric bias introduced by the so-called diminutive bifaces (eAkey 1971) as discussed elsewhere (de la Torre and Mora 2005) some of those pieces could be broken handaxe tips while others are not even retouched. The problem with some of the former morphometric studies lies in the comparison of proper complete handaxes with items that were originally (eAkey 1971) classified as such but

Table 4 Breakdown of large cutting tools by raw materials and blanks

	Raw material					Blank								
	Lava	%	QTZ	%	Total	%	Flake	%	Block\cobble	%	Indet	%	Total	%
BK	8	100.0			8	100.0	3	37.5	1	12.5	4	50.0	8	100.0
TK UF	9	52.9	8	47.1	17	100.0	3	17.6	4	23.53	10	58.8	17	100.0
TK LF	3	30.0	7	70.0	10	100.0	2	20.0	5	50	3	30.0	10	100.0
SHK Channel	12	66.7	5	27.8	18	100.0	7	38.9	2	11.11	9	50.0	18	100.0
SHK Annexe	2	66.7	1	33.3	3	100.0	1	33.3			2	66.7	3	100.0
FCWEST			2	100.0	2	100.0	1	50.0	1	50		0.0	2	100.0
EFHR	24	72.7	9	27.3	33	100.0	30	90.9	1	3.03	2	6.1	33	100.0

It includes complete and fractured LCTs. A sample only was studied for BK and SHK channel

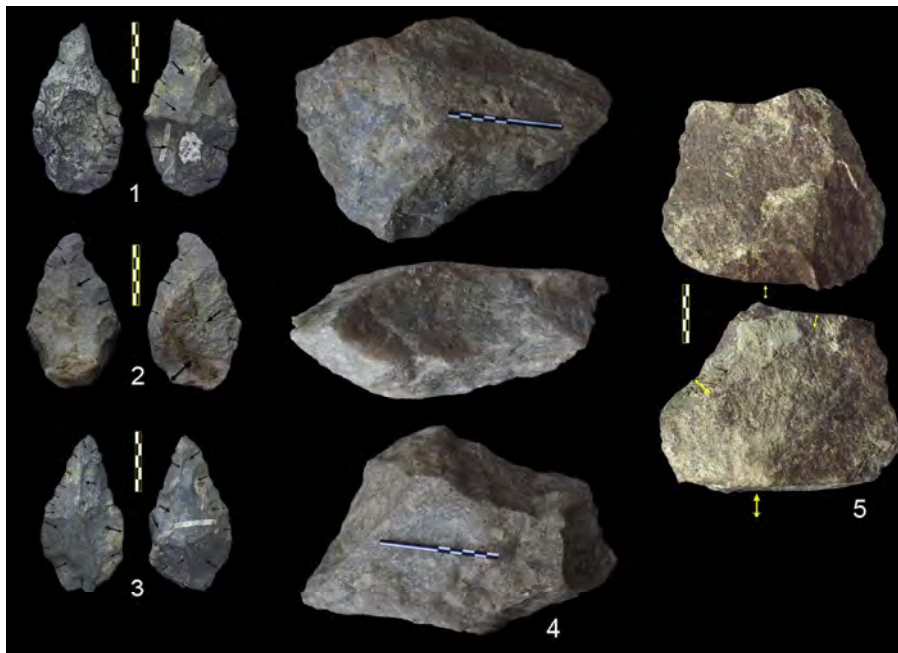


Fig. 3 Elements of the CT chane opratoire in K. 1 3 ifaces 4 CT core 6.9 kg. 5 nretouched CT blank weighing over 2 kg

whose typological and/or technological signatures can be reasonably challenged (de la Torre and Mora 2005) once the original assemblages are revisited (see Fig. 5). In fact, once dubious pieces are removed from the Middle and Upper II assemblages, the size of handaxes is very similar and no consistent morphometric differences are recorded (Table 5 and Fig. 6) as supported by the Kruskal–Wallis test of average length (Chi-square 5.366, df 6, $p = 0.498$) and weight (Chi-square 6.464, df 6, $p = 0.373$) of the whole sample of handaxes.

Once tool type frequency, the inability to produce large flakes and the systematic smaller size of handaxes in the DO are ruled out as valid criteria to differentiate these assemblages from the Acheulean, it remains now to discuss Leakey's (1971, 1975) proposition that DO bifaces were cruder and poorly made. Although CTs from EFR have usually been considered as bifaces (e.g., Leakey 1971; Stiles 1991), in reality most handaxes excavated by Leakey at that site are unifacially shaped large flakes in which retouch is unsystematic and is normally restricted to the edge of the piece with non-invasive faonnage (and therefore no reduction of the central volume of artefacts), no bilateral symmetry and poor bifacial interaction (Fig. 7). As argued elsewhere (de la Torre and Mora 2005), most of those handaxes fit best in the group of knives (sensu Kleindienst 1962) or other categories of crude CTs than within that of real bifaces. On the other hand, several sites attributed to the DO contain handaxes that can be considered as proper bifaces (Fig. 8) in SK Channelsome CTs show bifacial retouch all around the edge with invasive scars from opposite directions that meet at the centre, hence shaping the volume of artefacts (Fig. 4). The same applies to K where several handaxes show some bilateral and

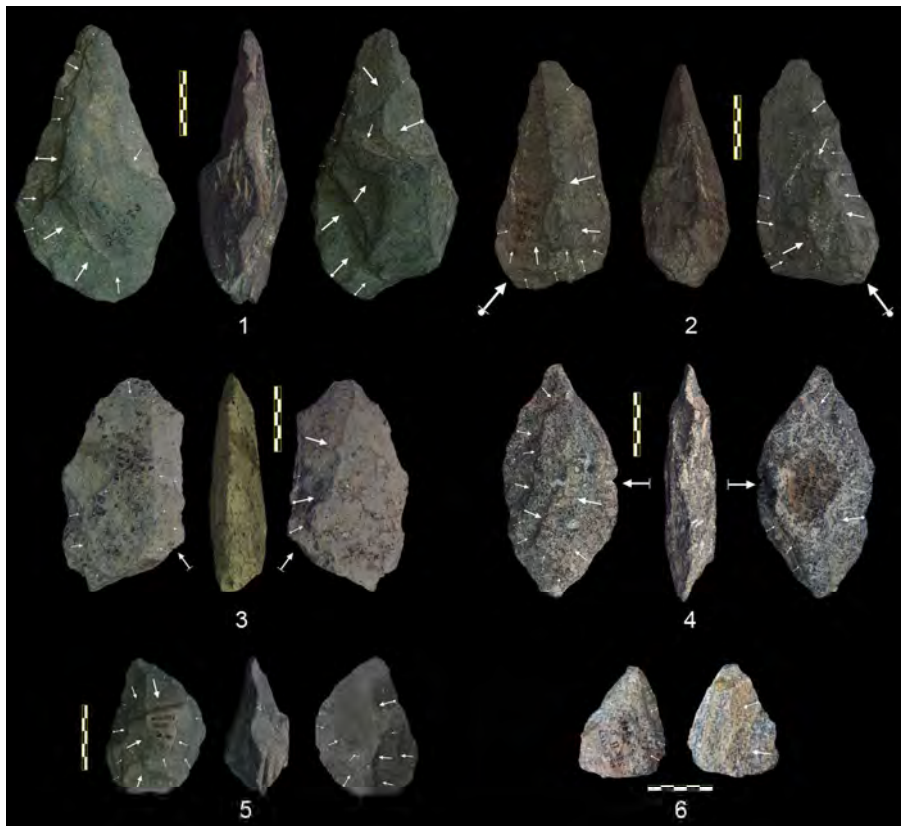


Fig. 4 CTs from SK Channel. 1 *ava handae* on an indeterminate blank. 2–5 *ava handae*s on flake. 6 Small gneiss *handae*s on an indeterminate blank

biconvexsymmetry (Fig. 3 nos. 1–3). In brief the term biface can be used accurately to describe a number of CTs from both K and SK Channel (with some examples also at MK, MS and TK) where there seems to be an attempt to obtain bilaterally and bifacially symmetrical *handae*s. These templates however are absent in the key EFR collection where *faonnage* is rare, unsystematic and produces unstandardized forms. Therefore if we were to assess the skill of Middle and Upper II knappers in making real bifaces the most unsuitable assemblage would be EFR which is nonetheless the only one originally considered as Acheulean.

We suggest that a clear consistency in *handae* making is shared by all sites under study: production of large flakes as blanks for *handae*s predominate in some assemblages (e.g. EFR) while in others there is more frequent use of slabs (TK) or cobbles (K). The predominance of any particular blank is probably linked to raw material availability as Stiles (1977, 1991) proposed but the ability to produce large flakes and use them as *handae* blanks is present at all sites. Some *handae*s are more intensively reduced (e.g. some examples from K and SK Channel) than others (EFR, TK) as ones (1994) stressed but the overall pattern is one where *faonnage* was unsystematic and barely modified the original shape of blanks. TK epitomizes the inconsistency of attempts to distinguish two cultural traditions where

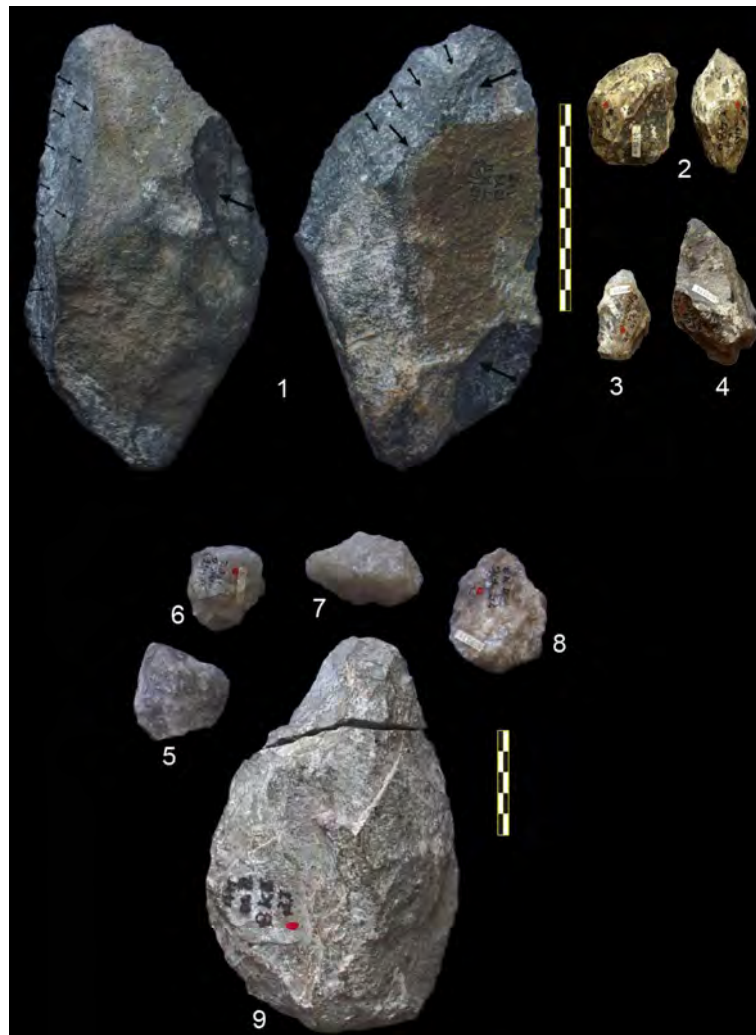


Fig. 5 1 lava handae compared to so-called diminutive handaes 2–4 from TKF. 2 and 3 are here interpreted as quartzite chunks whereas 4 could be a fragment of a broken lava handae. 5–8 Alleged diminutive handaes on quartzite compared to a genuine lava handae (9) from K. 5–8 are considered here as irregular fragments with no shaping involved

there is only one TK F reclassified as early Acheulean by eakey (1975) contains handaes which are virtually indistinguishable either in terms of the raw materials blanks or technology from those at TK F supposedly DO (Fig. 9).

Although small debitage systems played no part in eakey's differentiation between the Acheulean and DO a comparison of cores and retouched tools may also contribute towards an assessment of interassemblage variability. eakey's (1971) typological classification of small retouched tools contains considerable inconsistencies (e.g. Torre and Mora 2009) and nearly all the small retouched pieces in Middle and Upper II can be classified typologically either as sidescrapers or denticulates (de la Torre and Mora 2005). Table 6 and Fig. 10 show that EFR small retouched tools are

Table 5 Dimensions of CTs in the Middle and pper ed II sites (length measured following the typological ais)

Site		o.	Minimum	Maimum	Mean	Standard deviation
K	ength	8	90	190	142.75	30.222
	idth	8	58	110	78.13	16.208
	Thickness	8	29	68	39.75	12.937
	eight	8	157	1260	485.50	337.150
EFR	ength	32	103	235	146.69	27.691
	idth	32	62	110	84.06	12.725
	Thickness	32	27	63	43.78	8.151
	eight	32	306	1375	586.50	217.665
FCest	ength	2	92	120	106.00	19.799
	idth	2	63	105	84.00	29.698
	Thickness	2	32	60	46.00	19.799
	eight	2	225	1065	645.00	593.970
SKAnnee	ength	1	190	190	190.00	
	idth	1	117	117	117.00	
	Thickness	1	56	56	56.00	
	eight	1	1160	1160	1160.00	
SKChannel	ength	12	80	196	146.08	38.316
	idth	12	53	112	85.42	16.195
	Thickness	12	35	72	51.00	11.370
	eight	12	189	1228	686.67	327.385
TKF	ength	9	100	290	156.11	60.267
	idth	9	60	118	86.11	16.120
	Thickness	9	30	55	44.67	7.730
	eight	9	289	2230	844.44	604.792
TKF	ength	10	86	265	149.00	53.628
	idth	10	59	112	86.30	17.852
	Thickness	10	27	74	46.40	15.414
	eight	10	199	1788	831.10	585.038

Included here are only those considered as proper handaeshwhich ecludes many of those originally classified (eakey 1971) as diminutive bifaces

significantly larger than those in the other assemblageswhich is also supported by Kruskal allis tests of mean weight and length (Chisquare22.764df4 p0.000 and Chisquare20.369df4 p0.000respectively) that indicate significant differences in the sample. onethessthis trend can be attributed to the small sample from EFR(n5)and to constraints of classificationwhile the term CT is usually reserved for artefacts 10 cm (Kleindienst 1961 1962)at EFR there is a size continuum between handaesh and smaller retouched pieces that makes it difficult to draw a line between the two categories. All the other assemblageshowevershow similar size dimensions and raw material proportionsirrespective of their original assignation to the DOr Achulean (Tables 6 and 7and Fig. 10).

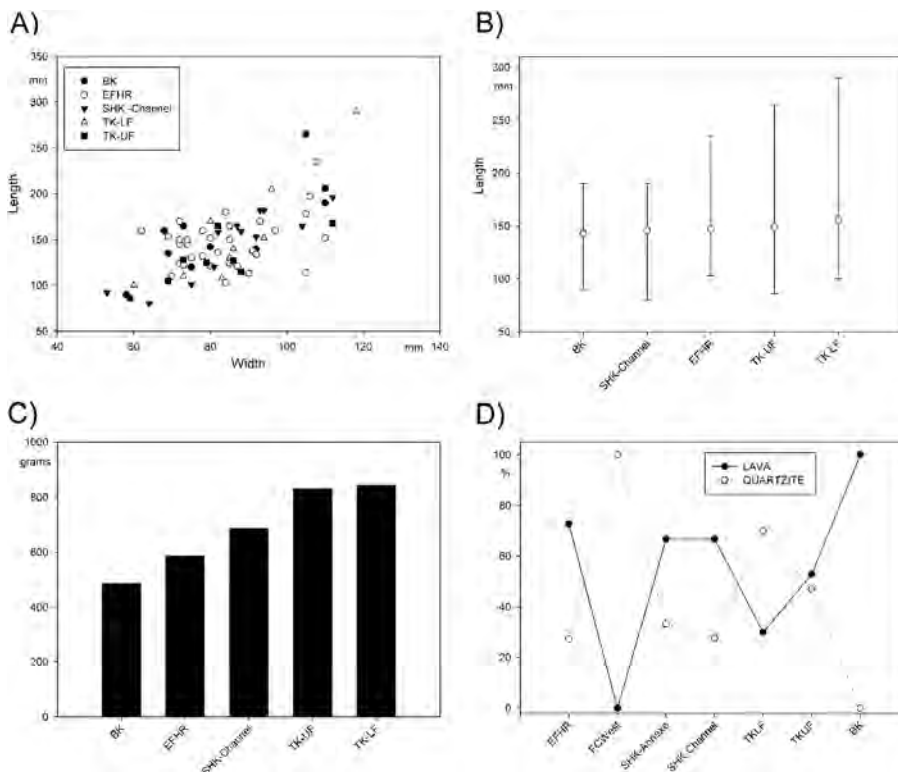


Fig. 6 Comparative features of Middle and Upper Pleistocene handaxes. a Length and width (mm). b Average length (mm). c Mean weight (grams). d Distribution of main raw materials

with regards to cores structured methods of reduction (Fig. 11) are present in all Middle and Upper Pleistocene assemblages (de la Torre and Mora 2005) a pattern that has been considered a proxy for the emergence of the Acheulean (de la Torre 2009 2011b). Table 8 and Fig. 12 show the main features of small debitage cores which can be used to discern possible technological clusters. The Kruskal Wallis tests of average length ($\chi^2=22.742$, $df=4$, $p=0.000$) and weight ($\chi^2=13.241$, $df=4$, $p=0.010$) indicate that there is no homogeneity in core size across sites with larger cores in TK F and EFR. Nonetheless other variables suggest a different clustering of assemblages for instance the Chi square test ($df=8$, $p=0.025$) indicates significant differences in the number of exploited core surfaces (see also Fig. 12f) but here EFR FC and TK F show similar dynamics in contrast to the relative overabundance of multifacial cores at TK F and unifacial cores at SK Annee. Significant differences are also detected in raw material composition (χ^2 : $df=8$, $p=0.0001$) which highlight the predominance of lava cores at EFR and FC and of quartzite cores at SK Annee. Figure 12e indicates a smaller number of flake scars on the SK Annee cores and higher frequencies in TK F which is supported by the Chi square test ($df=12$, $p=0.017$). Chi square tests of other variables from Fig. 12 such as core blanks ($df=12$, $p=0.09$) and cortex ($df=12$, $p=0.05$) do not reject the null hypothesis and hence no further differences are observed. Therefore no clear patterning emerges from the inter-assemblage comparison of

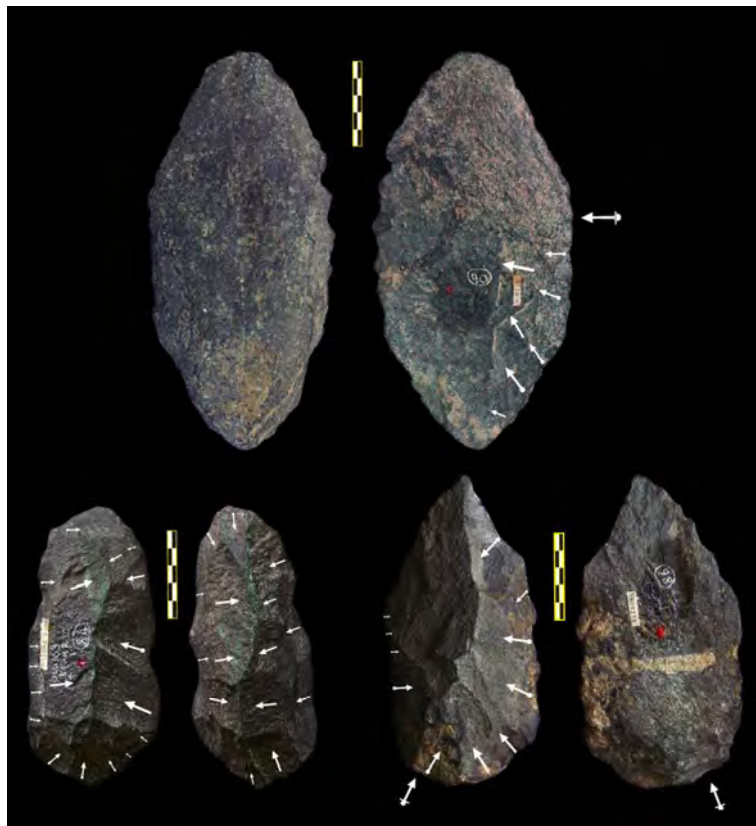


Fig. 7 a va handaes from EFR

cores. In fact when all attributes are considered together in the correspondence analysis (Fig. 12h) no obvious clustering occurs that could separate the alleged DO from Acheulean assemblages.

In summary cores and retouched pieces do not help distinguish the so-called DO sites from the Acheulean. Curiously enough, the category that was supposed to convey interassemblage differences (i.e. handaxes) according to the typological approach has been shown to yield no significant interassemblage size variability (see discussion above) whereas such variability is attested among cores and small retouched tools. However, the heterogeneity of the small debitage sample does not cluster the alleged DO sites in contrast to Acheulean ones but rather shows random trends that cannot be attributed to any consistent dual pattern.

Having discarded several possible lines of evidence aimed at distinguishing the DO from the Acheulean, it seems that it all comes down to the variable frequencies of handaxes. EFR contains a substantial number, while the other sites yield lower percentages. The meaning of such dissimilar frequencies is more difficult to unravel although it seems plausible that relative numbers of handaxes were a function of the activities carried out onsite. From the viewpoint of the formation of lithic assemblages, handaxe frequency can be related to the nature and stages of the chaîne opératoire represented at each site. At SK Annee and FC, for instance, lithic

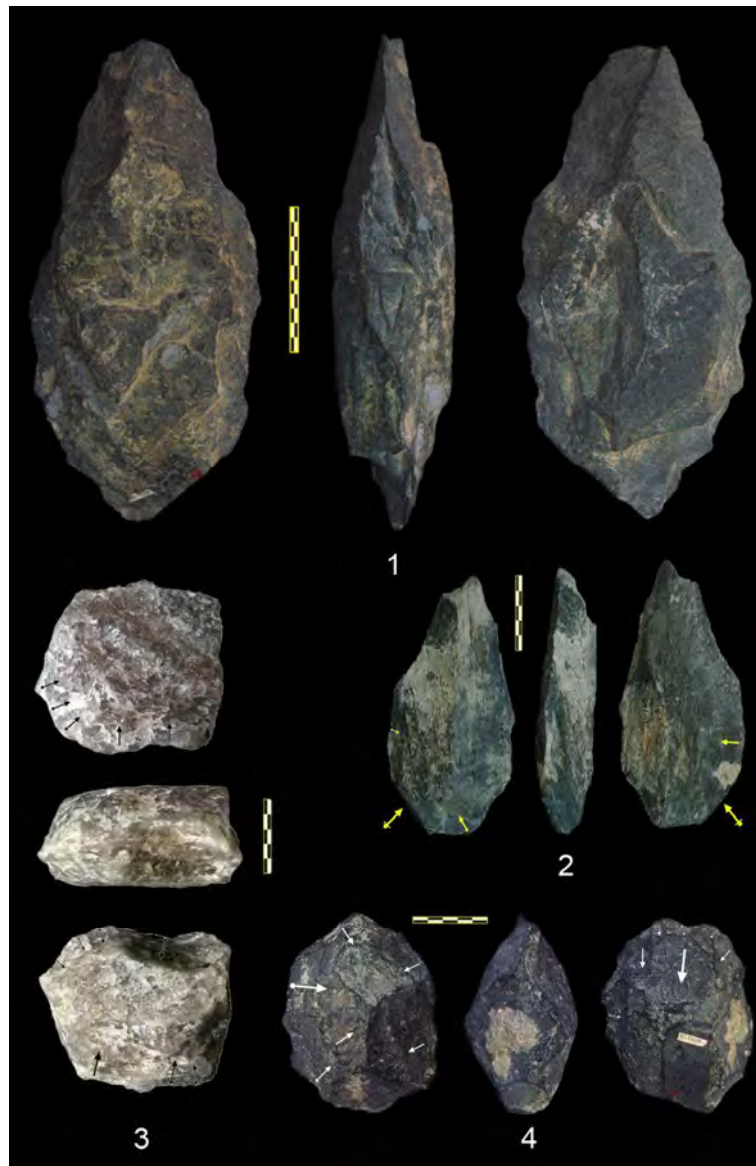
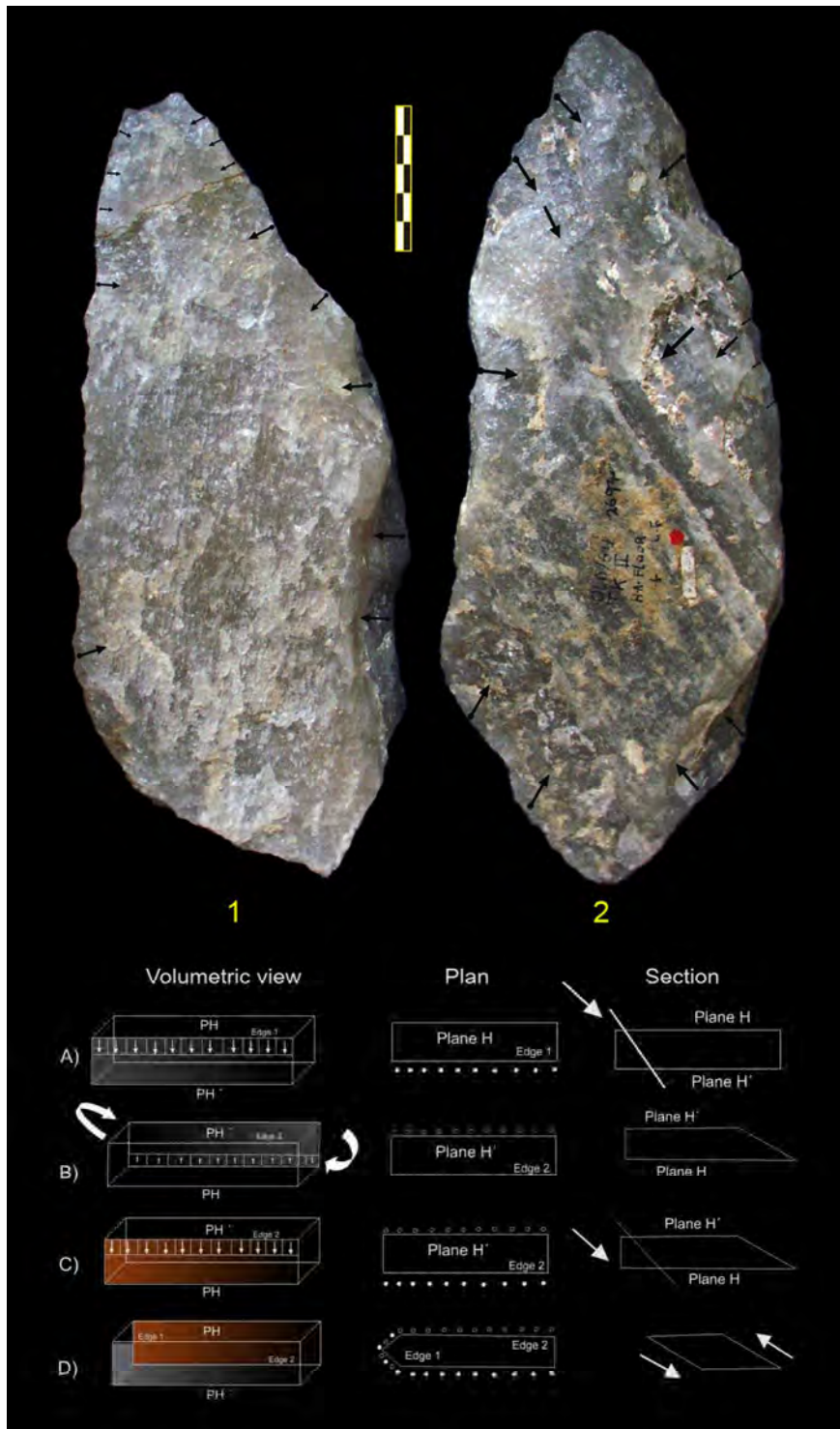


Fig. 8 1 and 4 avandaxes from MK Main Site. 2 one tool from FC site resembling CT technology. 3 broken quartzite handaxes from FC est

production was focused on the reduction of small debitage cores and flakes whereas at EFR such production also included abundant CTs (Table 3). At EFR no large cores suitable for the production of CT flake blanks are documented and therefore fragmentation of the chaine opératoire between quarry and discard must have existed. At TK many CTs were made on quartzite blocks (Table 4) which could have been transported to the sites as unmodified blanks. Onsite handaxe shaping at TK could then explain the significant numbers of flakes and the proportionally lower frequencies of small cores with respect to other sites (Table 3).



◀ Fig. 9 CTs from TK F (1) and TK F (2) almost identical morphologically and technologically but proposed by eakey (1975) as belonging to different lithic traditions (TK F to the Acheulean and TK F to the DO). Manufacturing techniques are remarkably alike following a similar rhomboidal strategy to that described by arsef and GorenInbar (1993) at beidiya. A The horizontal plane (P) serves as a striking platform for extractions on edge 1. The blank is turned over and C the opposite surface (P ') is used as a striking platform to shape another edge of the blank (edge 2). D o bifacial interaction between surfaces P and P ' occurs and edges 1 and 2 remain unifacial with the exception of the tip where some bifacial shaping exists in order to create a point (see full description of this method in de la Torre and Mora 2005)

The points presented above however should be considered just as a working hypothesis to explain the documented interassemblage divergences in overall tool frequencies an accurate reconstruction of the formation of lithic assemblages must be based on a proper understanding of Olduvai site contexts (enito Calvo and de la Torre 2011) and a more accurate estimate of time averaging processes (e.g. Stern 1994) both of which are still lacking.

If the above is based on the stone tools are there other proxies that may enable patterns to be discerned Systematic studies of eakey's Middle and Upper II bone assemblages are not abundant and contribute little in addressing inter assemblage variability Monahan (1996) analyzed K and MK MS and Egeland (2007) KTK and FC est OF. Other authors stressed the relevance of carcass processing by humans at K which Monahan (1996) extended to MK MS while Egeland (2007) highlighted the difficulty in determining human involvement in both

Table 6 Dimensions (millimeters and grams) of small retouched tools in the Middle and Upper II sites

Site		Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard deviation
EFR	length	80	99	88.75	7.974
	width	61	74	68.75	5.737
4	Thickness	28	41	33.25	6.021
	weight	132	300	201.75	74.5313
FCest	length	27	79	45.23	13.299
	width	23	53	35.54	8.599
13	Thickness	14	38	18.62	6.104
	weight	14	140	45.38	32.875
SK Annee	length	21	63	38.07	10.005
	width	18	65	34.13	9.972
46	Thickness	7	37	15.37	5.389
	weight	5	116	27.326	22.1011
TK F	length	25	93	51.3	17.945
	width	24	85	45.2	16.913
20	Thickness	10	47	21.1	9.222
	weight	11	414	90.1	97.9237
TK F	length	17	84	47.12	18.791
	width	20	75	36.92	15.055
25	Thickness	10	25	15.88	4.157
	weight	7	212	62.84	66.227

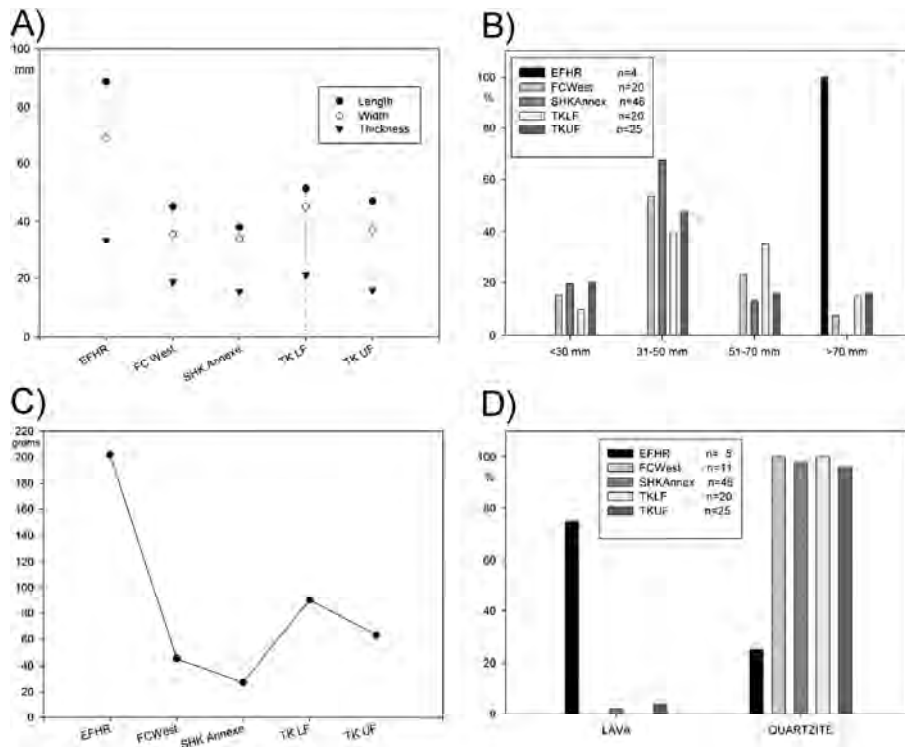


Fig. 10 Main attributes of small retouched tools. a Average dimensions. b length ranges. c Average weight. d Raw materials

levels of TK and FC est OF. Therefore there is very little zooarchaeological data available to sustain comparisons of subsistence strategies of Middle and Upper Pleistocene hominins.

The paleoecological setting of sites has also been used to discuss interassemblage variability leading to a popular hypothesis proposed to explain differences between the DO and the Acheulean (by Isaac 1976, 1969, 1971). Mary Kay was well aware of this ecological hypothesis but she explicitly ruled it out (Mary Kay 1971:272) asserting that no clear paleoecological differences were visible in the Middle and Upper Pleistocene record. Despite the appeal of this approach (Acheulean riverine environments distant from the Olduvai paleolake/shore settings)

Table 7 Percentage of cores and small retouched tools by raw materials (see absolute frequencies in Table 3) for those sites where the whole assemblage was studied

Site	Cores			Retouched	
	lava	quartzite	Gneiss	lava	quartzite
EFR	85.7	14.3	0	100	0
FCest	69.3	30.7	0	0	100
SK Annee	17.4	81.6	1	2.2	97.8
TK F	37.5	62.5	0	0	100
TK F	57.9	36.8	5.2	4	96

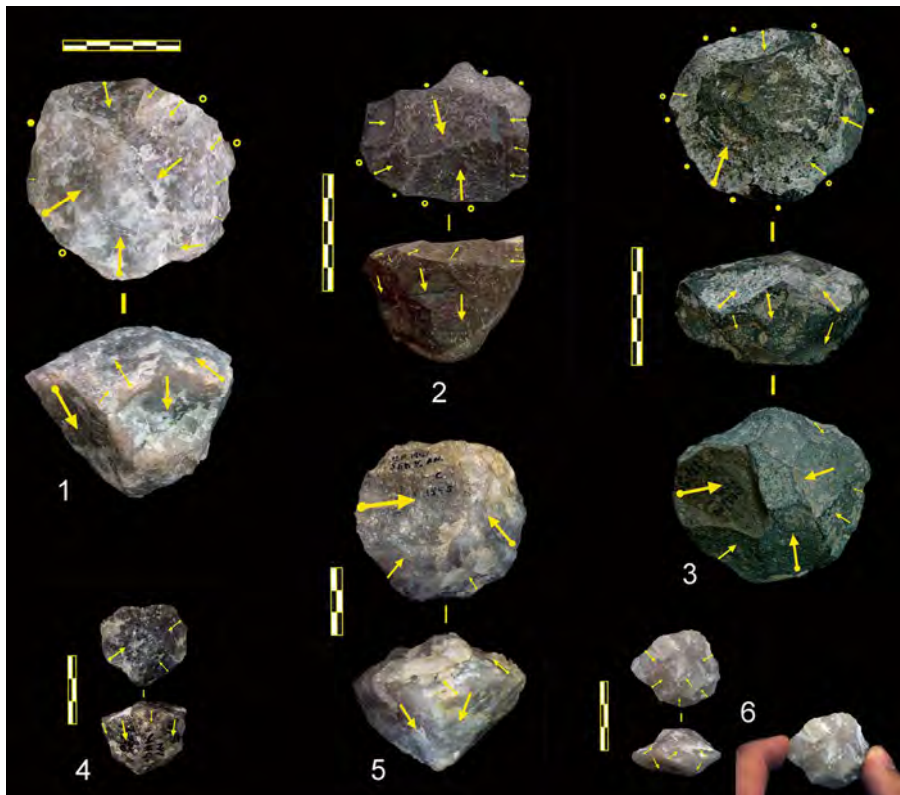


Fig. 11 Bifacial centripetal cores from Middle and Upper Pleistocene II assemblages. 1 and 3 MK Main Site. 2 EFR. 4 and 5 SK Annee. 6 TK F

which is still greatly favored in recent literature we agree with eakey that the hypothesis is not entirely grounded on the evidence currently available at Olduvai. Although eakey (1971:124) reported the presence of a channel at EFR she also stated that the archaeological level lay over clays which we assume should have formed on a lake floodplain or alike. uteven accepting ay s (1976) estimation of the 1 km distance from EFR to the lake the TK evidence does not fit the model assuming that the lakeshore was more or less in the same location during the two occupations (and therefore TK was positioned within the lake floodplain) then we would have an Acheulean occupation (TK F according to eakey 1975) 1 km from the lake. ikewise the SK Main Site contains socalled DO materials in channel environments (e.g. SK Channel) as do K and TK (eakey 1971:166, 173 and 199). It is true that most supporters of the ecological hypothesis do not attribute cultural meaning but rather a functional one to the alleged interassemblage variability. owever even if we were to assume such interassemblage variability the evidence currently available does not support an ecological separation between handaerich assemblages and the others if anything it would be paleogeographical as the assemblages with lower handae frequencies are clustered in the Side Gorge.

To summarize at present there are no solid arguments to support meaningful inter assemblage differences in the post Tuff II Middle and Upper Pleistocene II sequence

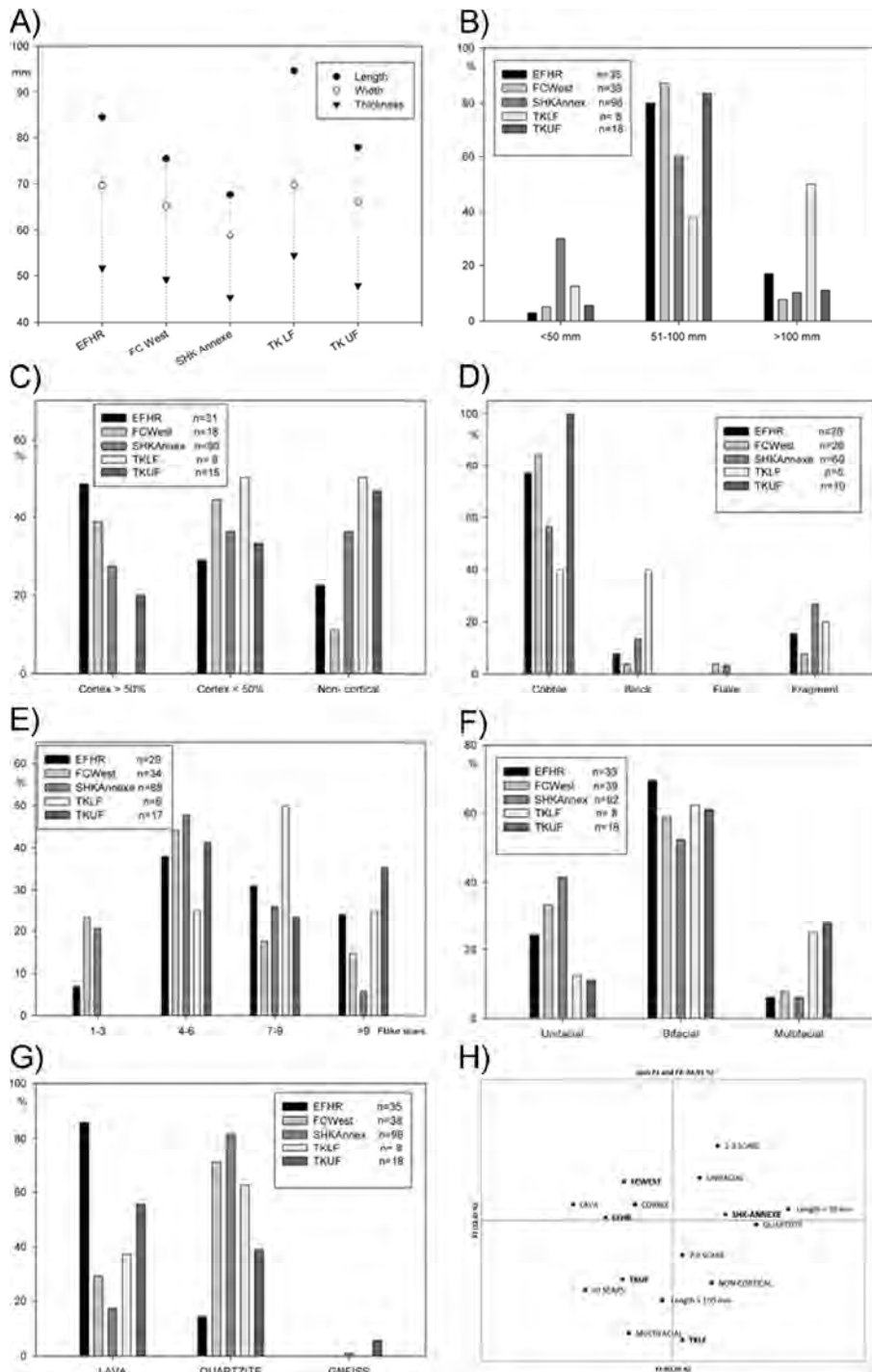
Table 8 Dimensions (millimeters and grams) of small debitage cores in the Middle and Upper II sites

Site		Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard deviation
EFR	length	47	118	84.72	16.583
	width	26	100	69.66	16.046
32	Thickness	26	94	51.63	13.555
	weight	143	1153	449.7	265.2876
FCest	length	47	125	75.42	18.011
	width	35	118	65.18	19.871
43	Thickness	22	100	49.18	15.598
	weight	41	2049	387.92	378.117
SK Annee	length	25	144	67.63	26.387
	width	24	133	58.63	22.689
98	Thickness	20	108	45.31	18.384
	weight	15	2657	333.9	433.535
TK F	length	50	160	94.63	35.42
	width	47	97	69.75	20.155
10	Thickness	34	88	54.25	19.869
	weight	113	1186	544	431.054
TK F	length	44	140	77.89	22.736
	width	38	145	66.11	23.121
24	Thickness	26	68	47.89	11.172
	weight	47	1341	295.67	301.05

excavated by eakey. This applies to the lithic collections (in which there is overall similarity of tool frequencies and shared technological skills) the faunal assemblages (where preservation and taphonomic issues make it difficult to make comparisons) and the paleoecological setting (for which the available data is limited and ambiguous). As such no cultural functional or paleoecological explanations explain alone the variability of the Olduvai Middle and Upper II sites which according to the available evidence should be all considered within the same technocomplex.

It has been argued that the mere presence of handaxes regardless their frequency shall be considered as an indicative of the Acheulean character of the assemblages (Gowlett 1986 de la Torre 2011b) although other technological features such as the sophistication of small debitage methods (de la Torre 2009) and the fragmentation of reduction sequences (de la Torre et al. 2008) can also be used to characterize early Acheulean technologies. On these grounds our analysis concludes that all the currently known Middle and Upper II sites should be attributed to the Acheulean.

Fig. 12 Main features of small debitage cores (only those sites for which the whole assemblage was analyzed). a Average length width and thickness. b Core length ranges. c Amount of cortex on cores. d Core blanks. e Number of flake scars on cores (scars per core averages: EFR 7.66 FC est 5.79 SK Annee 5.73 TK F 9.00 TK F 8.82). f Number of flaked surfaces on cores. g Core raw materials. h Correspondence analysis of main features of cores



Discussion

In the last few decades there has been growing consensus that the DOat Olduvai is only an activity facies of the Acheulean linked to functional and/or paleoecological factors. Nevertheless the term Developed Oldowan is used profusely in current literature even though authors are cautious not to embrace eakey's dual phyla model. However it could be argued that we are still far from falsifying the dual phyla paradigm let alone superseding it theoretically. eakey (1978) reminded us of the consistent (and on several occasions direct) association between Oldowan lithic artefacts and *H. habilis* fossils at Olduvai. Stratigraphically the most recent *H. habilis* (MK Skull Site) is found in a nonhandae contet. In contrast all *H. erectus* fossils at Olduvai appear in handaebearing deposits. Therefore the classic binomial equation Oldowan *H. habilis* and Acheulean *H. erectus* would work if one is to support that post-Tuff II interassemblage differences represent only activity related Acheulean variation. Nonetheless how do we interpret cultural variability if biological diversity is empirically demonstrated? In that case a more cautious approach to straightforward functional/ecological explanations for cultural variation would have to be taken.

That is exactly what the paleoanthropological record seems to suggest at present: an increasingly complex scene of biological and archaeological diversity drawn from penecontemporary sequences such as the Turkana basin where *H. habilis* seems to have coexisted with *H. erectus* during a substantial time span (Spoor et al. 2007). The persistence of *H. habilis* at Koobi Fora in contexts where both the Acheulean and *H. erectus* exist extends the range of culture/biology possibilities for example that *H. habilis* continued using an Oldowan technology after the emergence of the Acheulean and *H. erectus* or that *H. habilis* adopted the new technological innovations. These are only some of the options (which arbitrarily leave *P. boisei* aside of the discussion despite its presence in Oldowan and Acheulean contexts) and are based on the working hypothesis that *H. erectus* was responsible for Acheulean innovations. Fossils assigned to this species such as KMER 3733 dated at 1.6–1.78 myr were thought to predate the emergence of the Acheulean but new data from east Turkana (epre et al. 2011) and Konso (eyene et al. 2013) situates the earliest handae ust around that time 1.75 myr. This of course does not exclude potential associations of *H. erectus* with Oldowan assemblages as well.

Thus if the traditional Oldowan *H. habilis* and Acheulean *H. erectus* equation were applied to this increasingly complex biological and archaeological record we have to presume then that the dual phyla model supposedly superseded could still be used to explain interassemblage variability. In other words there would be no grounds on which to rule out that a dual pattern of cultures and species applies to the Olduvai archaeological record exactly as originally portrayed by eakey (1971, 1975, 1978). In such a case we would be no closer to superseding dual phyla models than we were decades ago despite the overwhelming (and arguably untested) current preference for ecological and functional interpretations explaining interassemblage variability at the onset of the Acheulean.

The documented coexistence between *H. habilis* and *H. erectus* is fascinating and raises the possibility for several different scenarios. One is the return to eakey's dual phyla of Oldowan *H. habilis* and Acheulean *H. erectus* to explain the documented

interassemblage differences in the 1.8–1.4 myr interval in East Africa. However, this option raises many other questions. For example, if there were biological reasons (e.g. anatomical and cognitive constraints) that prevented *H. habilis* from adopting an Acheulean technology. Another possibility would be that *H. habilis* did adopt the technological innovations of the Acheulean. In this case, however, we would be no closer to identifying the reasons for the inconsistencies in the definition of the Developed Oldowan. Additionally, this would require engaging in discussions about acculturation as the cause of cultural change and interassemblage variability, which, as we will argue below, also hinders research in other Palaeolithic contexts such as the Chatelperronian.

The early half a million years of coexistence (Spoor et al. 2007) also triggers questions regarding the niches exploited by these species. The paleobiology of early *H. erectus* suggests that this hominin had larger home ranges than *H. habilis* (e.g. Antón 2003) and the very fact that the two hominins remained sympatric for half a million years would probably require some kind of niche compartmentalization. Other factors could potentially account for ecological differences between the two species, dictating different behavioral strategies that could in turn explain variability in stone tool assemblages. Therefore, in this scenario, interassemblage variability could result from both biological differences between the two species and behavioral and ecological constraints imposed by variations in the niches exploited by each species.

In the case of Olduvai Gorge, it is also possible that *H. habilis* simply did not coexist with *H. erectus* for a considerable period of time. The most developed II assemblages are definitely Oldowan (e.g. Key 1971; de la Torre and Mora 2005; Lumenschine et al. 2012) and human remains are attributed to *H. habilis* in a time span (circa 1.75 myr) in which the earliest Acheulean assemblages are documented in West Turkana (epre et al. 2011) and Konso (eyene et al. 2013). In contrast, the fossil record above Tuff II at Olduvai is devoid, thus far, of *H. habilis* remains, and it could therefore be argued that all the Middle and Upper II assemblages were made by *H. erectus*. Given that in this paper we have proposed that all post-Tuff II sites documented thus far belong to the Acheulean, embracing the Acheulean–*H. erectus* equation would then rule out any role by *H. habilis* in the formation of the Middle and Upper II assemblages.

Unfortunately, the low resolution of the available evidence currently precludes adequate testing of these possible scenarios. We have argued in this paper that this is not only due to the many empirical hindrances inherent to the coarse-grained nature of the Early Stone Age record (e.g. Stem 1994) but also our poor conceptualization of the fossil and archaeological evidence, which is still deeply rooted in paradigms developed several decades ago.

Resilience of old paradigms is certainly not restricted to the emergence of the Acheulean. For instance, the current debate on the composition of Asian Middle Pleistocene assemblages still largely revolves around the frequency and morphology of handaxes, only which are used to support (orton et al. 2006) or challenge (e.g. Petraglia and Shipton 2008) the nature of the Movius line. Despite the totally different temporal and geographic contexts, resemblance can also be identified between the theoretical framework of the Developed Oldowan (originally interpreted as a crude copy by *H. habilis* of Acheulean technology developed by a new hominin

H. erectus) and the Chatelperronian (considered by many as an attempt by eanderthals to reproduce Aurignacian technology developed by early modern humans). Curiously enough influential views (e.g. Mellars 2005) support such an interpretation of the Chatelperronian (although see d'Errico et al. 1998) despite the serious problems of fossil and stone tool associations (Arosef and Ordes 2010) while in East Africa (where *H. habilis* and *H. erectus* do seem to have coexisted for hundreds of thousands of years) functional interpretations of interassemblage variability are currently favored.

This poses an interesting paradox: the more intensive fieldwork in Europe and the recognition of the unsuitability of Ordes (1961) typology to measure cultural and functional interassemblage differences (e.g. Dibble 1988, Delagnes et al. 2007) have led to the acknowledgement of problems surrounding functional interpretations of Mousterian variability as originally proposed by Inford (1973). Thus current Mousterian archaeologists are cautious when correlating lithic variability with specific activity facies. In contrast, the influence of the processual approach in East Africa has favored such activity facies models for Early Stone Age assemblage variation despite the deficient knowledge of archaeological and paleoecological contexts and the untested correlation between lithic variability and particular paleoenvironmental settings. In the meantime, cultural contact between different hominin species dominates discussions over the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic transition in Europe despite the problematic fossil/industry associations (Arosef and Ordes 2010) whereas today very few would defend the proposal that assimilation of a new technology by *H. habilis* explains the Developed Oldowan despite the increasing evidence of a long coexistence between *H. habilis* and *H. erectus* (Spoor et al. 2007).

In summary, it seems that theoretical and empirical problems still surround the debate over cultural evolution and interassemblage variability at Olduvai and elsewhere. Given the increasingly more complex scenario of hominin interactions in the 1.8–1.4 myr span, it should not be ruled out that assemblage variation actually reflects cultural and/or biological differences in that particular time frame. Nonetheless, it has also been argued here that the available evidence from Olduvai is too ambiguous to support either cultural or ecological explanations of variability.

In reality, a major part of the problem surrounding the long debate over the DO and the Acheulean is that all comparisons have been based on contrasting EFR against the other Middle and Upper II sites. Although EFR shares a technological background with the other assemblages, it seems to be an oddity in several aspects, including the overall predominance of large tools, greater distance from the lake and the abundance of handaxes. The absence of assemblages like EFR higher up in the Upper II sequence makes comparisons with the so-called DO sites difficult. The same applies to the extremely limited information currently available on subsistence strategies and the paleoecological context of Middle and Upper II sites, which hinders the validity of the popular (but untested) ecological/functional interpretations of the Developed Oldowan/Acheulean at Olduvai.

Our technological reassessment of EFR's collections indicates an overall similarity of small debitage, cores, retouched tools and CT flint techniques. The only main difference in the post-Tuff II assemblages seems to be frequency of handaxes between EFR and the other sites. Apart from that, all the EFR assemblages can

confidently be attributed to the same technocomplexe Acheulean. oweverthat does not automatically preclude the eistence of interassemblage variation in the Olduvai recorder its eplanation by culturalbiologicalor paleoecological factors this paper simply underlines the point that the available data is insufficient to defend such variabilityand that only by etending the sample can this issue be addressed.

Conclusions

Olduvai Gorge has played a pivotal role in the shaping of our view of cultural evolution in the Early Stone Age. For two decadesouis eakey s (1951) gradualist model of the ChellesAcheul culture at Olduvai was the main conceptual and empirical framework used to understand the evolution of the Acheulean in East Africa. This gradual progression model of the Acheulean was refuted empirically by Mary eakey (1967)and the influence of the stochastic hypothesis (Isaac 1977) led to generalized reection of temporal trends in the refinement of early Acheulean handaes. ouis eakey s (1951) model was definitely superseded by the publication of Olduvai Gorge vol. 3 (eakey 1971)which became even more influential than the previous monograph. eakey (1971) proposed that the Oldowan led to the DOAand the latter to the DOdue to the influence of a new culture (the Acheulean) and hominin species (. erectus). hereas the attribution of the preTuff IIevidence to the Oldowan currently remains unchallenged (independent of the acceptance or not of the DOA)most later studies (e.g.ay 1976ones 1994) have favored a functional interpretation for the alleged variability in the Middle and pper ed II assemblages which for many is only a matter of variation within the Acheulean technocomple (Gowlett 1988Stiles 1980de la Torre and Mora 2005Semaw et al. 2009).

This paper has attempted to place the debate of cultural variation and evolution at Olduvai Gorge in a historical contetand to emphasize how far we still are from superseding earlier paradigms. It has been argued that even functional and paleoecological eplanations have a number of flawsstemming both from the uncritical acceptance of Mary eakey s original definitions and the very limited record available. e agree that the study of lithic interassemblage variability should not be an end in itself (Shea 2011)and evolutionary perspectives on stone tool analysis must consider the widest possible range of eplanations for cultural change (Kuhn 2004). ut a better knowledge of the organization of technology (elson 1991) and the role of cultural constraints (emonnier 1990) in the shaping of the Olduvai assemblages can only be achieved by combining these perspectives with a full understanding of the paleoecological and paleogeographical settingsas attempted in roughly contemporary contets (e.g.raun et al. 2008). Theoretical models such as those developed for the Oldowan (lumenschine and Peters 1998) would help identify priorities of research on the origins of the Acheulean in Olduvai. And all of this should be accompanied by substantial enlargement of the empirical dataset.

Apart from the broad perspective provided by ay (1976)we know very little about the paleoecological and stratigraphic contets of Middle and pper ed II sites. The same applies to subsistence activities (for which most of the available data refers only to one siteK (Monahan 1996Egeland 2007DominguezRodrigo et al. 2009)and to raw materials (Kyara 1999)for which a detailed mapping of available

sources is still missing. Even the chronology is uncertain. EFR used to be considered as the earliest Acheulean occurrence in East Africa at around 1.5 myr (eakey 1971) but the discovery of new sites in Konso (Asfaw et al. 1992; eyene et al. 2013) at West Turkana (epre et al. 2011) and Gona (uade et al. 2004) along with the stratigraphic inconsistencies of the Middle Pleistocene sites (see eakey (1976) versus eakey (1971)) and the problems of recent dating attempts (Manega 1993; Tamrat et al. 1995) have relegated the Olduvai early Acheulean to the background. New data on all these aspects plus reconnaissance of the stratigraphic sequence in search of new sites in different stratigraphic and paleogeographic positions is thus essential in order to explore the nature of cultural change and ecological adaptations at Olduvai Gorge.

Acknowledgments Current research in Olduvai by OGAP (Olduvai Geochronology Archaeology Project) is authorized by the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTEC) and the Department of Antiquities Tanzania. Funding by the SF (CS0852292) British Academy (IP090186) and the European Research Council Starting Grants (283366) is gratefully acknowledged.

References

- Abdi, Williams. (2010). Correspondence Analysis. In Salkind (Ed.) Encyclopedia of research design (pp. 267–278). Sage: Thousand Oaks.
- Antón, S. C. (2003). A natural history of Homo erectus. Yearbook of Physical Anthropology 46, 126–170.
- Asfaw, eyene, Suwa, G., alker, R. C., hite, T. D., olde, Gabriel, G., emane, T. (1992). The earliest Acheulean from Konso Gardula. Nature 360, 732–735.
- arose, O., ordes, G. (2010). Who were the makers of the Châtelperronian culture? Journal of Human Evolution 59, 586–593.
- arose, O., Goren, Inbar. (1993). The lithic assemblages of beidiya. A lower Palaeolithic site in the Jordan Valley. Monographs of the Institute of Archaeology 34. Jerusalem: Qedem.
- enito, Calvo, A., de la Torre, I. (2011). Analysis of orientation patterns in Olduvai bed I assemblages using GIS techniques: implications for site formation processes. Journal of Human Evolution 61, 50–60.
- eyene, Katoh, S., olde, Gabriel, G., art, K., to, K., Sudo, M., Kondo, M., yodo, M., Renne, P., Suwa, G., Asfaw. (2013). The characteristics and chronology of the earliest Acheulean at Konso, Ethiopia: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.
- inford, R. (1973). Inter-assemblage variability: the Mousterian and the functional argument. In C. Renfrew (Ed.) The explanation of culture change. Models in Prehistory (pp. 227–254). London: Duckworth.
- lumenschine, R., Peters, C. R. (1998). Archaeological predictions for hominid land use in the paleo-Olduvai basin, Tanzania during lowermost Pleistocene times. Journal of Human Evolution 34, 565–607.
- lumenschine, R., Masao, F., T., Stollhofen, Stanistreet, G., amford, M., K., Albert, R., Mau, K., Prassack, K. A. (2012). Landscape distribution of Oldowan stone artifact assemblages across the fault compartments of the eastern Olduvai basin during early lowermost Pleistocene times. Journal of Human Evolution 63, 384–394.
- ordes, F. (1961). Typologie du Palolithique Ancien et Moyen. Paris: CRS Editions.
- ower, R. F. (1977). Attributes of Oldowan and lower Acheulean tools: tradition and design in the Early Lower Palaeolithic. The South African Archaeological Bulletin 32, 113–126.
- raund, R., Rogers, M., aris, J., alker, S. (2008). Landscape-scale variation in hominin tool use: evidence from the Developed Oldowan. Journal of Human Evolution 55, 1053–1063.
- reuil, (1932). Les industries claires du palolithique ancien. Le Clotaire. Prhistoire 1, 125–190.
- Callow, P. (1994). The Olduvai Gorge: Technology and Raw Materials. In M. D. eakey, D. A. Roe (Eds.) Olduvai Gorge. Volume 5. Excavations in beds IIIIV and the Masek beds 1968–1971 (pp. 235–253). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Clark, D. (1959). Excavations at Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia. Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland 89, 201–232.
- Clark, D. (1960). Human ecology during Pleistocene and later times in Africa South of the Sahara. Current Anthropology 1, 307–324.

- D'Errico, F., & Hensley, M. (1998). Neanderthal acculturation in eastern Europe: A critical review of the evidence and its interpretation. *Current Anthropology*, 39(1), 1–44.
- Davis, D. D. (1980). Further consideration of the developed Oldowan at Olduvai Gorge. *Current Anthropology*, 21, 840–843.
- de la Torre, I. (2009). Technological Strategies in the Lower Pleistocene at Peninj (East of Lake Tanganyika, Tanzania). In K. Schick & T. Toth (Eds.), *The cutting edge: new approaches to the archaeology of human origins* (pp. 93–113). Bloomington: Stone Age Institute Press.
- de la Torre, I. (2011a). The origins of stone tool technology in Africa: a historical perspective. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, 366, 1028–1037.
- de la Torre, I. (2011b). The Early Stone Age lithic assemblages of Gadeb (Ethiopia) and the developed Oldowan/early Acheulean in East Africa. *Journal of Human Evolution*, 60, 768–812.
- de la Torre, I., & Mora, R. (2005). Technological Strategies in the Lower Pleistocene at Olduvai Gorge I and II. *Journal of Human Evolution*, 48, 112–122.
- de la Torre, I., & Mora, R. (2009). Remarks on the Current Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to the Study of Early Technological Strategies in Eastern Africa. In E.overs D. R. Raun (Eds.), *Interdisciplinary approaches to the Oldowan* (pp. 15–24). Dordrecht: Springer.
- de la Torre, I., Mora, R., & Martínez Moreno, B. (2008). The early Acheulean in Peninj (Lake Tanganyika, Tanzania). *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology*, 27, 244–264.
- Delagnes, A., & Aubert, M. (2007). Les technocomplexes du Paléolithique moyen en Europe occidentale dans leur cadre diachronique et géographique. In J. Vandermeersch & J. Maureille (Eds.), *Les industries lithiques du Paléolithique moyen en Europe* (pp. 213–229). Paris: Éditions de la Société Préhistorique Française.
- Dibble, C. (1984). Interpreting typological variation of Middle Paleolithic scrapers: function or sequence of reduction? *Journal of Field Archaeology*, 11, 431–436.
- Dibble, C. (1988). Typological Aspects of Reduction and Intensity of Utilization of Lithic Resources in the French Mousterian. In C. Dibble & A. Montethite (Eds.), *The Upper Pleistocene prehistory of eastern Eurasia* (pp. 181–197). Philadelphia: The University Museum.
- Domínguez-Rodrigo, M., Mabulla, A., & T. Arba, R. (2009). The Oldowan at Olduvai Gorge (Tanzania): new archaeological and taphonomic research at Olduvai Gorge II. *Journal of Human Evolution*, 57, 260–283.
- Egeland, C. P. (2007). Archaeological and taphonomic perspectives on hominid and carnivore interactions at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. Bloomington: Unpublished PhD Indiana University.
- Gibbon, R., Granger, D. E., Kuman, K., Partridge, T. C. (2009). Early Acheulean technology in the Rietputs Formation, South Africa, dated with cosmogenic nuclides. *Journal of Human Evolution*, 56, 152–160.
- Gowlett, A. J. (1986). Culture and conceptualisation: The Oldowan/Acheulean gradient. In G. A. P. Callow (Eds.), *Stone Age prehistory: studies in memory of Charles Mcurney* (pp. 243–260). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gowlett, A. J. (1988). A case of developed Oldowan in the Acheulean. *World Archaeology*, 20, 13–26.
- Isaac, G. (1976). The Karari industry: early Pleistocene archaeological evidence from the terrain east of Lake Turkana, Kenya. *Journal of African Studies*, 12, 102–107.
- Isaac, G. (1976). *Geology of the Olduvai Gorge*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Isaac, G. (1990). Olduvai Gorge: case history in the interpretation of hominid paleoenvironments in East Africa. In J. F. Clark (Ed.), *Establishment of a Geologic Framework for Paleoanthropology*. Boulder: Geological Society of America, 242–253.
- Isaac, G., Clark, J. F., & Clark, D. (1964). Acheulean undergatherers of Sub-Saharan Africa. In F. C. Howell & F. Howell (Eds.), *African ecology and human evolution* (pp. 458–533). London: Methuen.
- Isaac, G. (1969). Studies of early culture in East Africa. *World Archaeology*, 1, 28–38.
- Isaac, G. (1971). The diet of early man: aspects of archaeological evidence from lower and middle Pleistocene sites in Africa. *World Archaeology*, 2, 278–299.
- Isaac, G. (1972). Chronology and tempo of cultural change during the Pleistocene. In J. H. Bishop & A. Miller (Eds.), *Calibration of hominoid evolution. Recent advances in isotopic and other dating methods as applicable to the origin of man* (pp. 381–417). Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press.
- Isaac, G. (1974). Stratigraphy and patterns of cultural change in the Middle Pleistocene. *Current Anthropology*, 15, 508–514.
- Isaac, G. (1977). *Olduvai Gorge: Archaeological studies of a Middle Pleistocene site in Kenya*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Isaac, G. (1986). Foundation Stones: Early Artifacts as Indicators of Activities and Abilities. In G. A. P. Callow (Eds.), *Stone Age Prehistory: Studies in Memory of Charles Mcurney* (pp. 221–241). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- onesP. R. (1979). Effects of raw materials on biface manufacture. *Science*204 835–836.
- onesP. R. (1994). Results of Eperimental ork in Relation to the Stone Industries of Olduvai Gorge. In M. D. eakey D. A. Roe (Eds.) *Olduvai Gorge. Volume 5. Ecavations in eds IIIIV and the Masek eds*1968–1971 (pp. 254–298). Cambridge: Cambridge niversity Press.
- KleindienstM. R. (1961). Variability within the ate Acheulian assemblage in East Africa. *The South African Archaeological ulletin* V35 52.
- KleindienstM. R. (1962). Component of the East African Acheulian Assemblage: An Analytic Approach. In G. Mortelmans . enquin (Eds.) *Actes du IV Congr Panafricain de Prhistoire et de IEtude du uaternairecopoldville*1959 (pp. 81–108). Tervuren: elgie AnnalenMuse Royal de l Afrique Centrale.
- KuhnS. . (2004). Evolutionary perspectives on technology and technological change. *orld Archaeology*36 561–570.
- KumanK. ClarkeR. . (2000). Stratigraphyartefact industries and hominid associations for SterkfonteinMember 5. *ournal of uman Evolution*38 827–847.
- KyaraO. A. (1999). ithic Raw Materials and Their Implications on Assemblage Variation and ominid ehavior During ed IIOlduvai GorgeTanzania. ew runswick: npublished Ph.D. niversity of Rutgers.
- aplaceG. (1980). e lien comme mesure de l information dans un tableau de contingence. *Dialektik* 1979–19801–15.
- eakey. S. . (1936). *Stone Age Africa. An outline of Prehistory in Africa.* ondon: Oford niversity Press.
- eakey. S. . (1951). *Olduvai Gorge. A report on the evolution of the handae culture in eds I–IV.* Cambridge: Cambridge niversity Press.
- eakey. S. . (1954). Olduvai Gorge. *Scientific American*190 66–71.
- eakey. S. . (1958). Recent discoveries at Olduvai GorgeTanganyika. *ature*181 1099–1103.
- eakey. S. . (1965). *Olduvai Gorge 1951–61. Volume 1. A preliminary report on the geology and fauna.* Cambridge: Cambridge niversity Press.
- eakeyM. D. (1966). A review of the Oldowan culture from Olduvai GorgeTanzania. *ature*210 462–466.
- eakeyM. D. (1967). Preliminary Survey of the Cultural Material from eds I and IIOlduvai Gorge Tanzania. In . . ishop . D. Clark (Eds.) *ackground to evolution in Africa* (pp. 417–446). Chicago: niversity of Chicago Press.
- eakeyM. D. (1971). *Olduvai Gorge. Vol 3. Ecavations in eds I and III*1960–1963. Cambridge: Cambridge niversity Press.
- eakeyM. D. (1975). Cultural Patterns in the Olduvai Sequence. In K. . utzer G. . Isaac (Eds.) *After the Australopithecines. Stratigraphyecologyand cultural change in the Middle Pleistocene* (pp. 477–493). Chicago: Mouton.
- eakeyM. D. (1978). Olduvai Fossil ominids: Their Stratigraphic Positions and Associations. In C. olly (Ed.) *Early ominids from Africa* (pp. 3–16). ondon: G. Duckworth.
- eakeyM. D. RoeD. A. (1994). *Olduvai Gorge. Volume 5. Ecavations in eds IIIIV and the Masek eds*1968–1971. Cambridge: Cambridge niversity Press.
- eakey. S. .opwoodA. T.Reck. (1931a). Age of the Oldoway one edsTanganyika Territory. *ature*128 724.
- eakey. S. .opwoodA. T.Reck. (1931b). ew yields from the Oldoway one eds Tanganyika Territory. *ature*128 1075.
- emonnierP. (1990). Topsy turvy techniques. Remarks on the social representation of techniques. *Archaeological Review from Cambridge*9 27–37.
- epreC. .Roche.KentD. V.armandS.uinnR. .rugal. P.TeierP. .enobleA. FeibelC. S. (2011). An earlier origin for the Acheulian. *ature*477 82–85.
- ManegaP. C. (1993). GeochronologyGeochemistry and Isotopic Study of the PlioPleistocene ominid Sites and the gorongoro Volcanic ighland in orthern Tanzania. oulder: npublished Ph.D. niversity of Chicago.
- MasonR. . (1976). The Earliest Artefact Assemblages in South Africa. In (. D. Clark G. . IsaacEd.) *es plus anciennes industries en Afrique. nion Internationales des Sciences Prhistoriques et Protohistoriques*9th Congr. ice: ISPP140 156.
- MellarsP. (2005). The impossible coincidence. A singlespecies model for the origins of modern human behavior in Europe. *Evolutionary Anthropology*14 12–27.
- MonahanC. M. (1996). Variability in the foraging behavior of early omo: A taphonomic perspective from ed IIOlduvai GorgeTanzania. Madison: npublished PhDniversity of isconsinMadison.

- elson M. C. (1991). The Study of Technological Organization. In M. . Schiffer (Ed.) *Archaeological method and theory* vol. 3 no. 1 (pp. 57–100). Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- orton C. .aeK. aris. . K.e.e. (2006). Middle Pleistocene handaxes from the Korean Peninsula. *Journal of Human Evolution* 51, 527–536.
- Oakley K. Peakey M. D. (1937). Report on excavations at Aywick Sands, Essex (1934) with some observations on the Clactonian industry and on the fauna and geological significance of the Clacton Channel. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 3, 217–260.
- Pappu S. Gunnell A. Khillesh K. raucher R. Taieb M. Demory F. Thouveny. (2011). Early Pleistocene presence of Acheulean hominins in South India. *Science* 331, 1596–1599.
- Petraglia M. D. Shipton C. (2008). Large cutting tool variation west and east of the Movius line. *Journal of Human Evolution* 55, 962–966.
- Posnansky M. (1959). A hope fountain site at Olorgesailie, Kenya Colony. *The South African Archaeological Bulletin* IV 83, 89.
- Potts R. (1991). The Oldowan–Plio–Pleistocene toolmaking and the transport of resources. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 47, 153–176.
- Quade E. Vin. Semaw S. Stout D. Renne P. Rogers M. . Simpson S. (2004). Paleoenvironments of the earliest stone toolmakers, Gona, Ethiopia. *Geological Society of America Bulletin* 116, 1529–1544.
- Reck. (1914). Erste vorläufige Mitteilung über den Fund eines fossilen Menschen skelets aus Zentralafrika. *Sitzungsberichte der Gesellschaft Naturforschender Freunde zu Berlin* 3, 81–95.
- Roe D. A. (1994). A metrical analysis of selected sets of handaxes and cleavers from Olduvai Gorge. In M. D. Eckardt D. A. Roe (Eds.) *Olduvai Gorge. Volume 5. Excavations in ed IIIIV and the Masek beds 1968–1971* (pp. 146–234). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Semaw S. Rogers M. . Stout D. (2009). The Oldowan–Acheulean Transition: Is there a Developed Oldowan Artifact Tradition? In M. Camps P. Chauhan (Eds.) *Sourcebook of Paleolithic transitions. Methods, theories and interpretations* (pp. 173–193). New York: Springer.
- Sharon G. (2008). The impact of raw material on Acheulean large flake production. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 35, 1329–1344.
- Shea. . (2011). Stone tool analysis and human origins research: some advice from Uncle ScrewTape. *Evolutionary Anthropology* 20, 48–53.
- Spoor F. eakey M. G. Gathogo P. . Brown F. . Antn S. C. McDougall L. Kiarie C. Manthi F. K. eakey. . (2007). Implications of new early Omo fossils from Ilkereteast of Lake Turkana, Kenya. *Nature* 448, 688–691.
- Stern. (1994). The implications of time averaging for reconstructing the land use patterns of early tool using hominids. *Journal of Human Evolution* 27, 89–105.
- Stiles D. (1977). Acheulean and developed Oldowan. The meaning of variability in the Early Stone Age. *Mitteilungen des Instituts für Ethnologie Berlin* 6, 1–35.
- Stiles D. (1979). Early Acheulean and developed Oldowan. *Current Anthropology* 20, 126–129.
- Stiles D. (1980). Industrial Taxonomy in the Early Stone Age of Africa. *Anthropologie* VIII 189–207.
- Stiles D. (1991). Early hominid behaviour and culture tradition: raw material studies in ed II Olduvai Gorge. *African Archaeological Review* 9, 1–19.
- Tamrat E. Thouveny. Taieb M. Opdyke. D. (1995). Revised magnetostratigraphy of the Plio–Pleistocene sedimentary sequence of the Olduvai Formation (Tanzania). *Palaeogeography Palaeoclimatology Palaeoecology* 114, 273–283.
- Toth. (1982). The Stone Technologies of Early Hominids at Koobi Fora, Kenya: An Experimental Approach. Unpublished Ph. D. thesis, University of California.
- Toth. (1985). The Oldowan reassessed: a close look at Early Stone artifacts. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 12, 101–120.
- Toth. (1987). Behavioral inferences from Early Stone artifact assemblages: an experimental model. *Journal of Human Evolution* 16, 763–787.
- Volle M. (1981). *Analyse des Données*. Paris: 2nd Edition Economica.
- Warren S. . (1922). The Mesolithic industry of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia* 3, 597–602.
- White M. . (2000). The Clactonian question: on the interpretation of Core and Flake assemblages in the British Lower Paleolithic. *Journal of World Prehistory* 14, 1–63.