

## The Mesolithic levels of La Vela (Trento). 1987-88 excavation campaigns

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ABSTRACT - Preliminary results about raw material and lithic industry are here presented.

KEY WORDS: "La Vela", Trento, Mesolithic

PAROLE CHIAVE: "La Vela", Trento, Mesolitico

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During the excavations undertaken in 1987-88 at La Vela (TN) by the Ufficio Beni Archeologici della Provincia Autonoma di Trento in collaboration with the Dipartimento di Scienze Filologiche e Storiche of the Università di Trento, two surveys were carried out beneath the Neolithic strata and two levels were brought to light, US234 and US249, with fauna and a lithic industry referable respectively to the Early Mesolithic (US249) and to an early phase of the Late Mesolithic (US234).

The lithic findings in both levels were made of flint from the following:

- local outcrops of Scaglia Rossa
- local outcrops of variegated Scaglia from the Non Valley
- outcrops of Biancone mainly documented in the southern part of the Adige Valley (Monte Baldo) and Monti Lessini.

Scaglia Rossa was used the most both in the

production of the tools and debitage. The implements attributed to the Early Mesolithic are: short end scrapers, scalene and isosceles triangles and backed pieces. The cores are small with one or more striking platforms and uni-directional or orthogonal blade detachments. The lithic industry in the levels that possibly refer to the Recent Mesolithic is poorly documented. The implements found are: a long end scraper, an isosceles triangle, a short scalene triangle, a fragment of a backed knife, simply retouched blades and flakes. There is only one core with one percussion plane. As for the typometric values, the two levels are quite similar.

The preliminary analysis of the fauna indicates an economy based on hunting. In the Early Mesolithic deer predominate, followed by chamoix, ibex, badgers and wild boars. During the Late Mesolithic deer still predominate, followed by chamoix and ibex which are however poorly documented.



Fig. 1 - Lithic industry of the Early Mesolithic



Fig. 2 - Lithic industry of the Late Mesolithic