

Recent Advances in Indian Archaeology: With Special Reference to Jwalapuram, South India

Ravi Korisettar

Dr. DC Pavate Professor of Art and
Archaeology

Karnatak University, Dharwad

28-11-2015

Two-day Meeting of the *Current Science* Editorial Board

Preamble

Africa is the cradle of humankind and human behaviour (culture)

If people are found all over the globe it is because humans are a migratory species and they continue to occupy or colonize habitable geographical environments on the earth.

The Indian Subcontinent forms part of the old world (Africa and Eurasia) which witnessed the early expansion of human ancestors out of Africa. Their presence outside of Africa is evidenced by either stone tools or fossils or both occurring together at prehistoric sites.

The timing of hominin colonization of different parts of the old world is a complex issue dependent on the presence of securely datable contexts and the preservation of fossil and archaeological material in geological and archaeological strata.

Archaeological, fossil and genetic footprints constitute indelible evidence of the hominins' journey out of Africa.

Oldowan, Acheulian, Levalloisian, Mousterian and Aurignacian are some of the typo-technological stages reflecting on bio-cultural evolution of Pleistocene hominins and their expansion out of Africa.

In the context of human exodus out of Africa two major expansion events are under consideration, though scholars are of the view that there were multiple expansions out of Africa since the emergence of *Homo* in eastern Africa.

The Out of Africa I refers to the first hominin expansion into Eurasia and is riddled with a conflict of long and short chronology.

The Out of Africa II refers to expansion of anatomically modern humans (AMH) since their emergence in Eastern Africa and is equally confronted by the arguments similar to the first out of Africa.

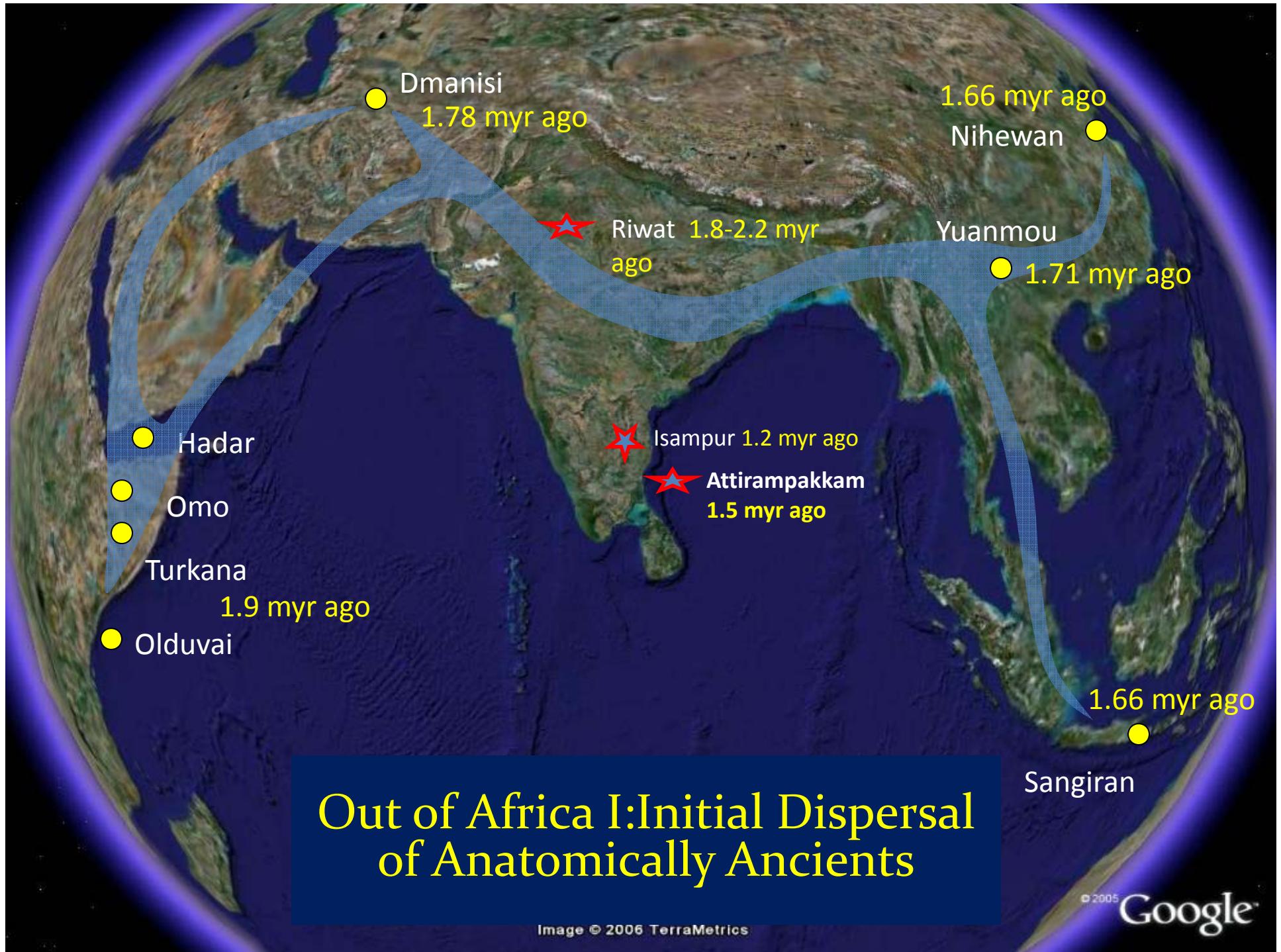
In India understanding the distribution pattern of the earliest humans and their settlements, timing of their entry into the subcontinent, their chronology, their adaptive radiation into distinctive geographical environments and behavioural reconstructions have been the chief concern of archaeologists for a long time.

However, during the last couple of decades there have been encouraging and significant results in these areas. In this presentation I would like to restrict to select examples from

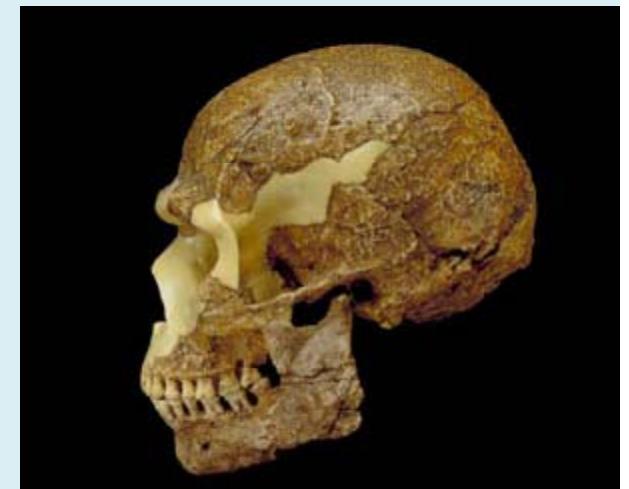
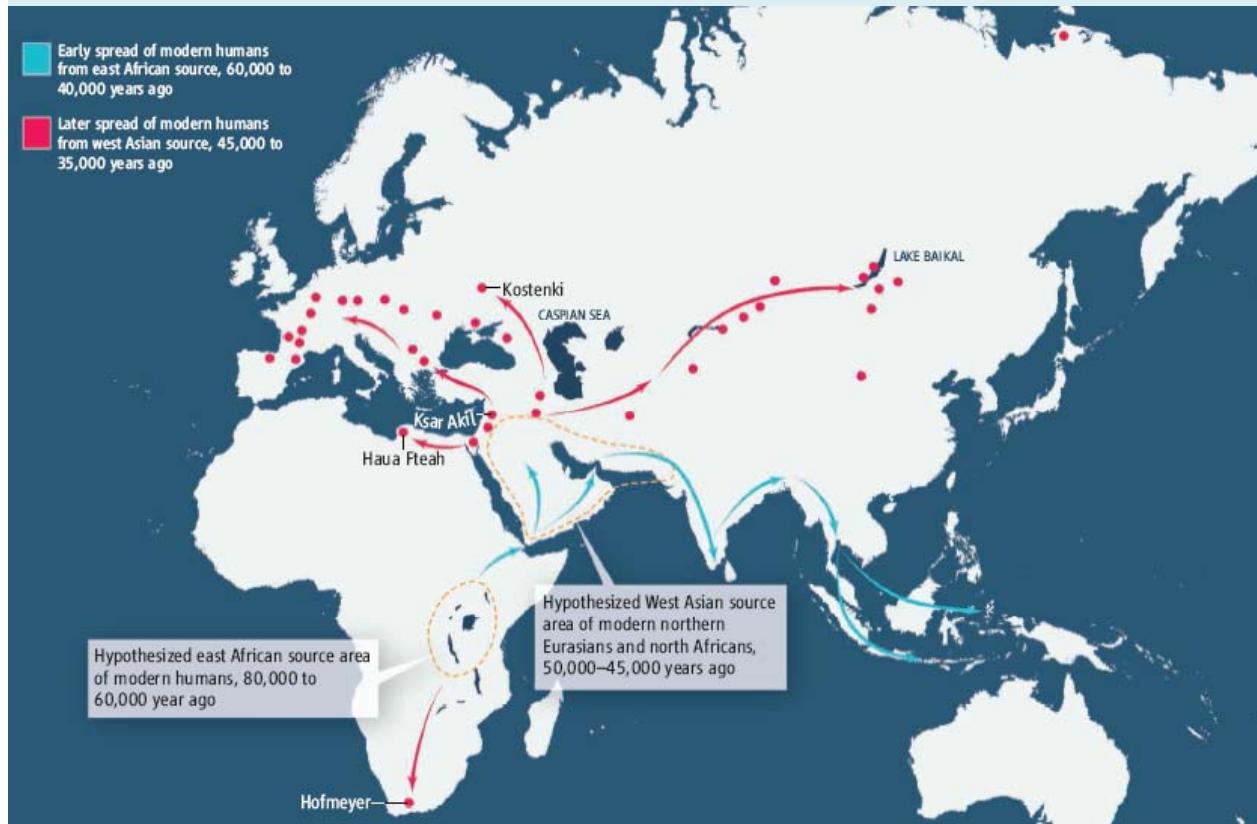


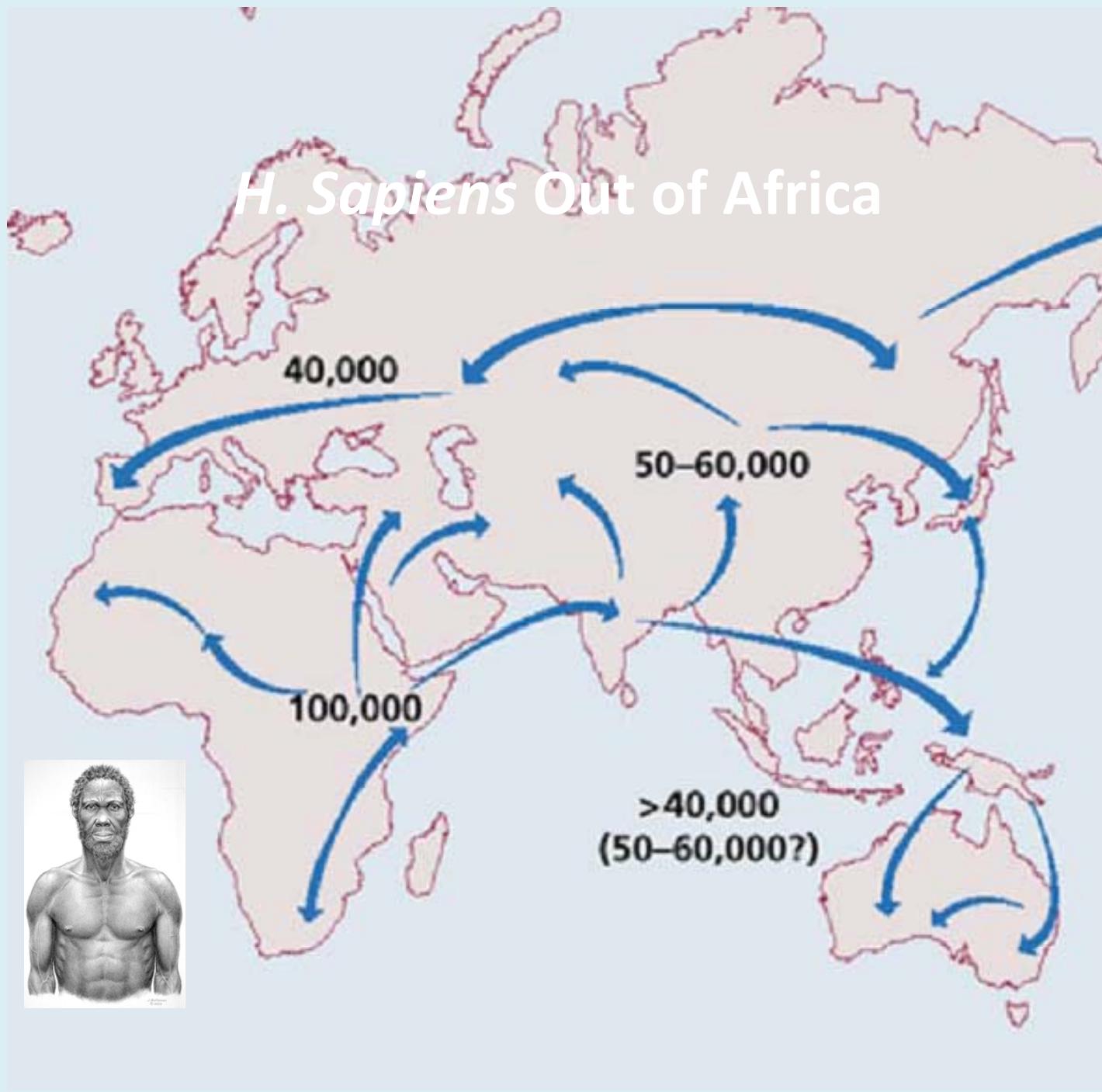
3. Dezember 2015

Workshop on “Palaeoclimate and Human
Dispersal during Marine Isotope Stage 3”



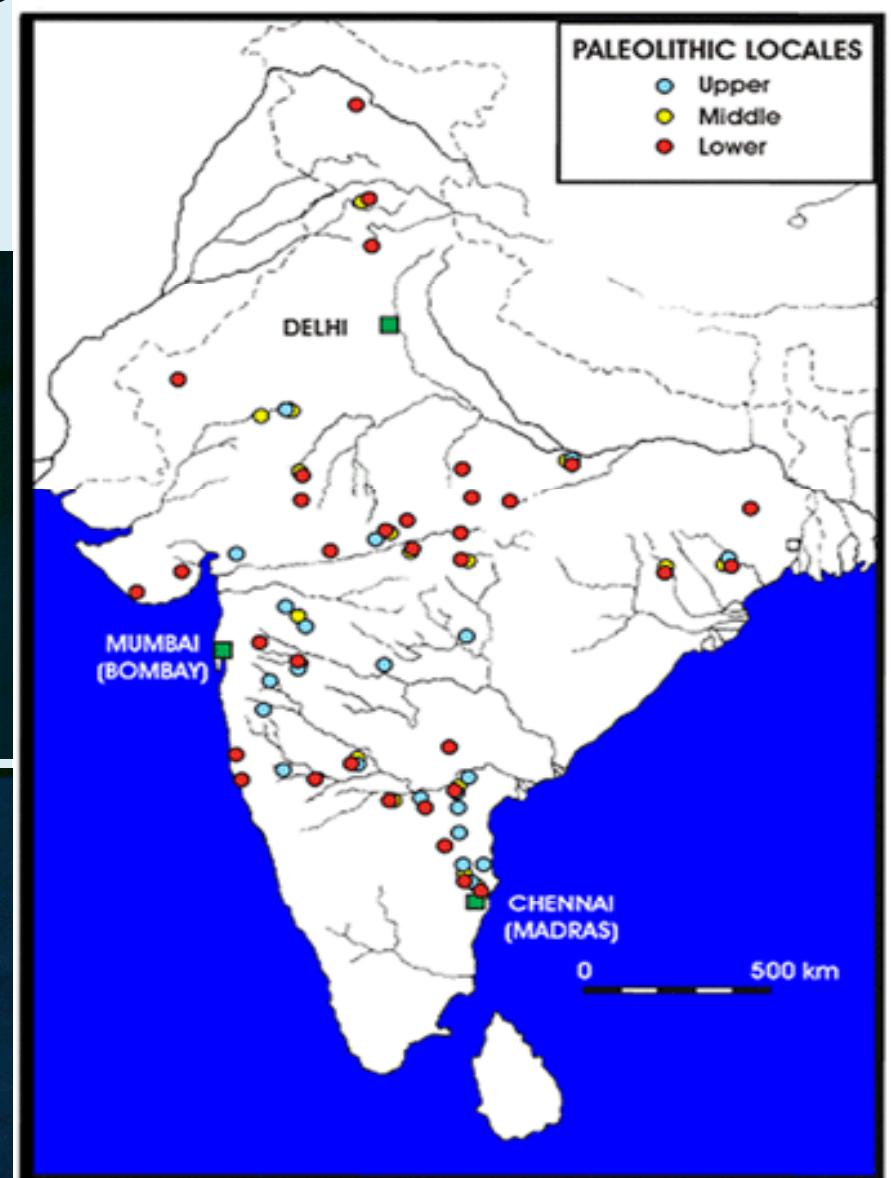
Out of Africa II: the spread of Modern Hominins



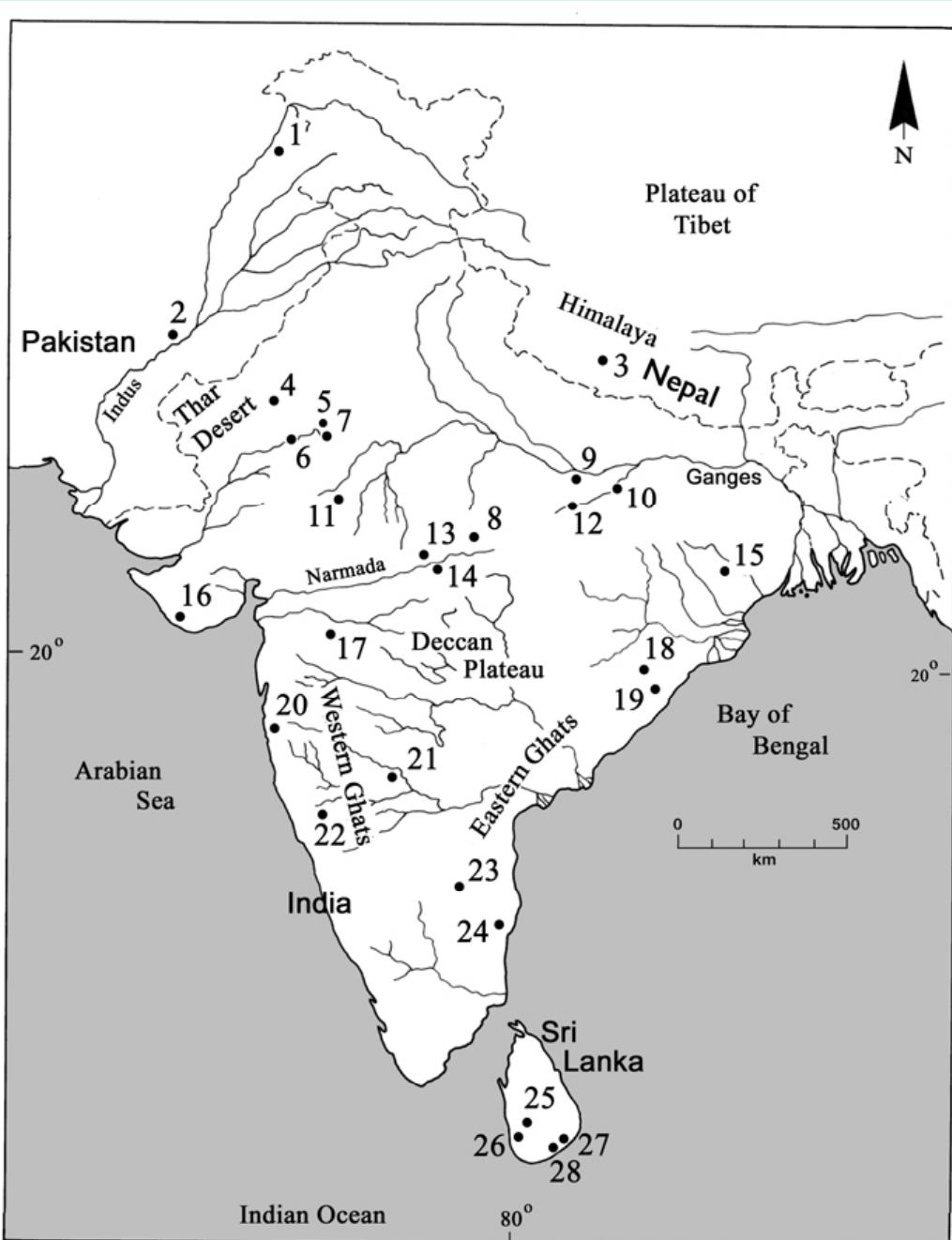


The South Asian Palaeolithic

An abundance of Palaeolithic sites in India



Middle Palaeolithic Localities



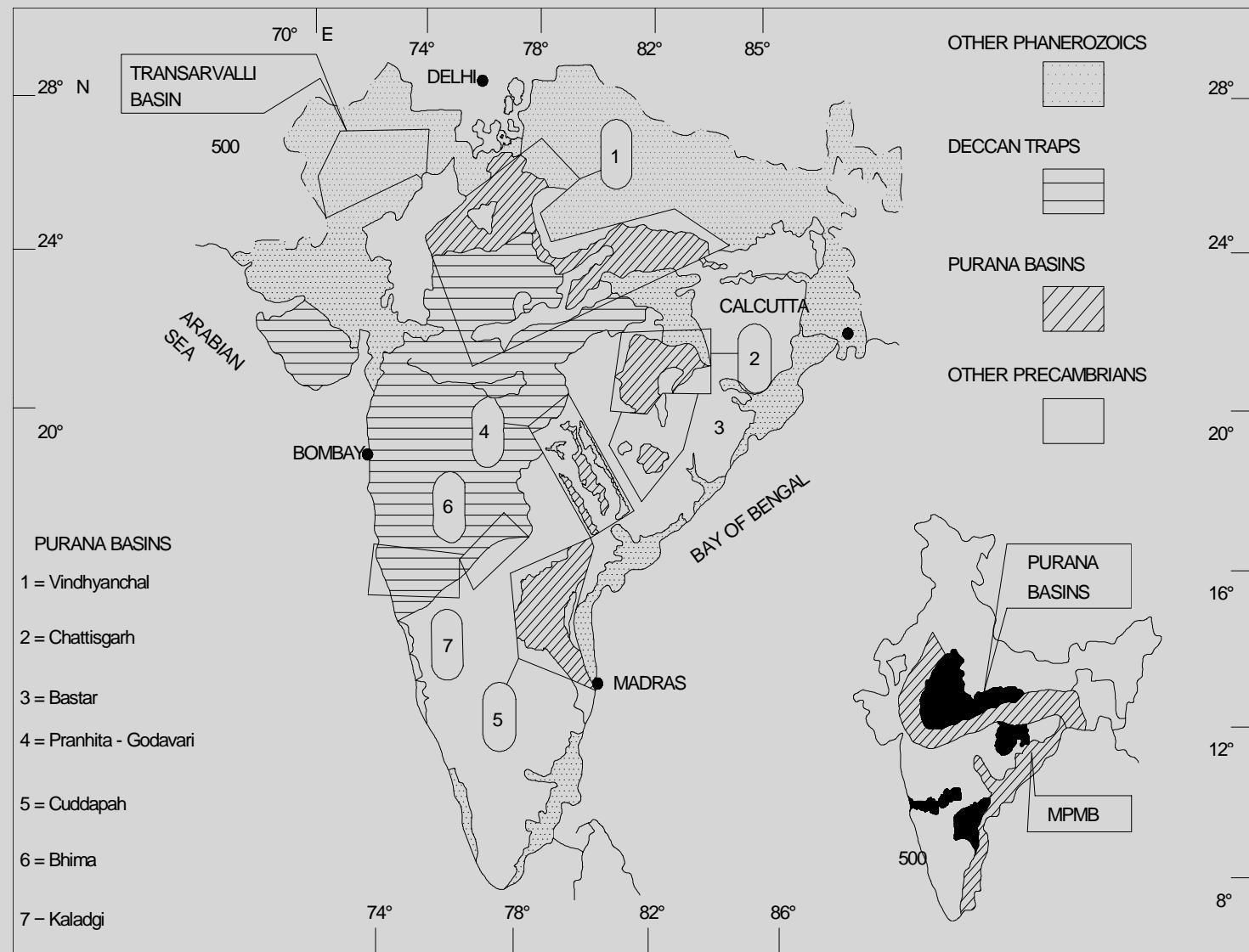
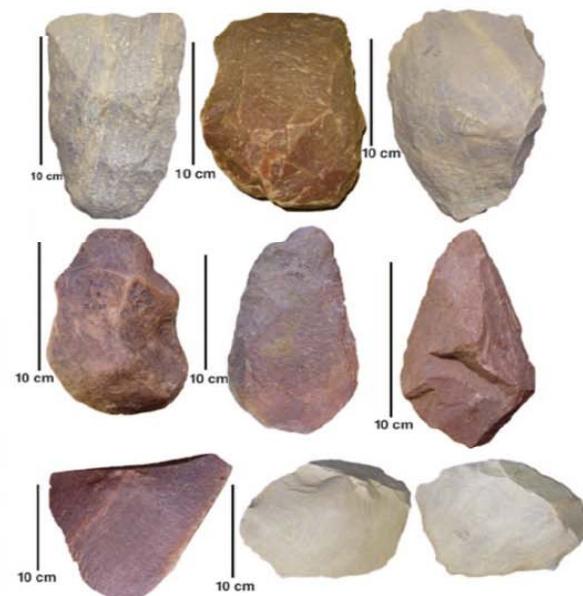


Fig.1. Purana Basins of Peninsular India. The Inset depicts the geographical disposition of the Purana Basins vis-a-vis the Middle Proterozoic

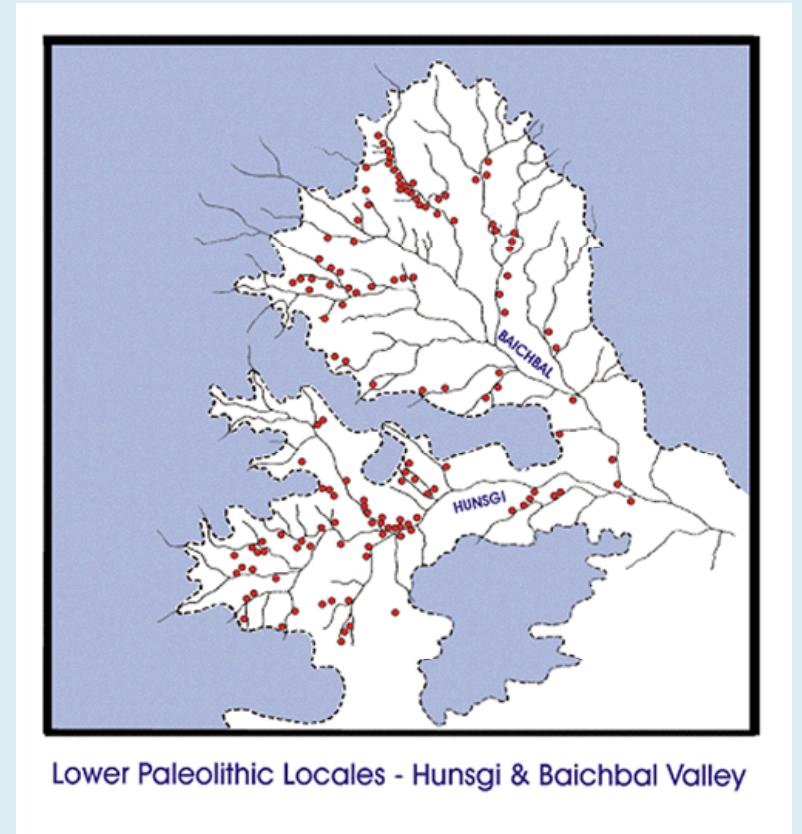


Attirampakkam in Tamil Nadu dates back to 1.5 Myr
The oldest known Palaeolithic site in India



Acheulean in the Hunsgi-Baichbal Valleys

- 200 Acheulean localities found in a 500 km² basin



Lower Paleolithic Locales - Hunsgi & Baichbal Valley

after Paddayya,
1989

Isampur Quarry



- Entire reduction sequence present
 - 15,000 artifacts

Hominin Actions at Isampur

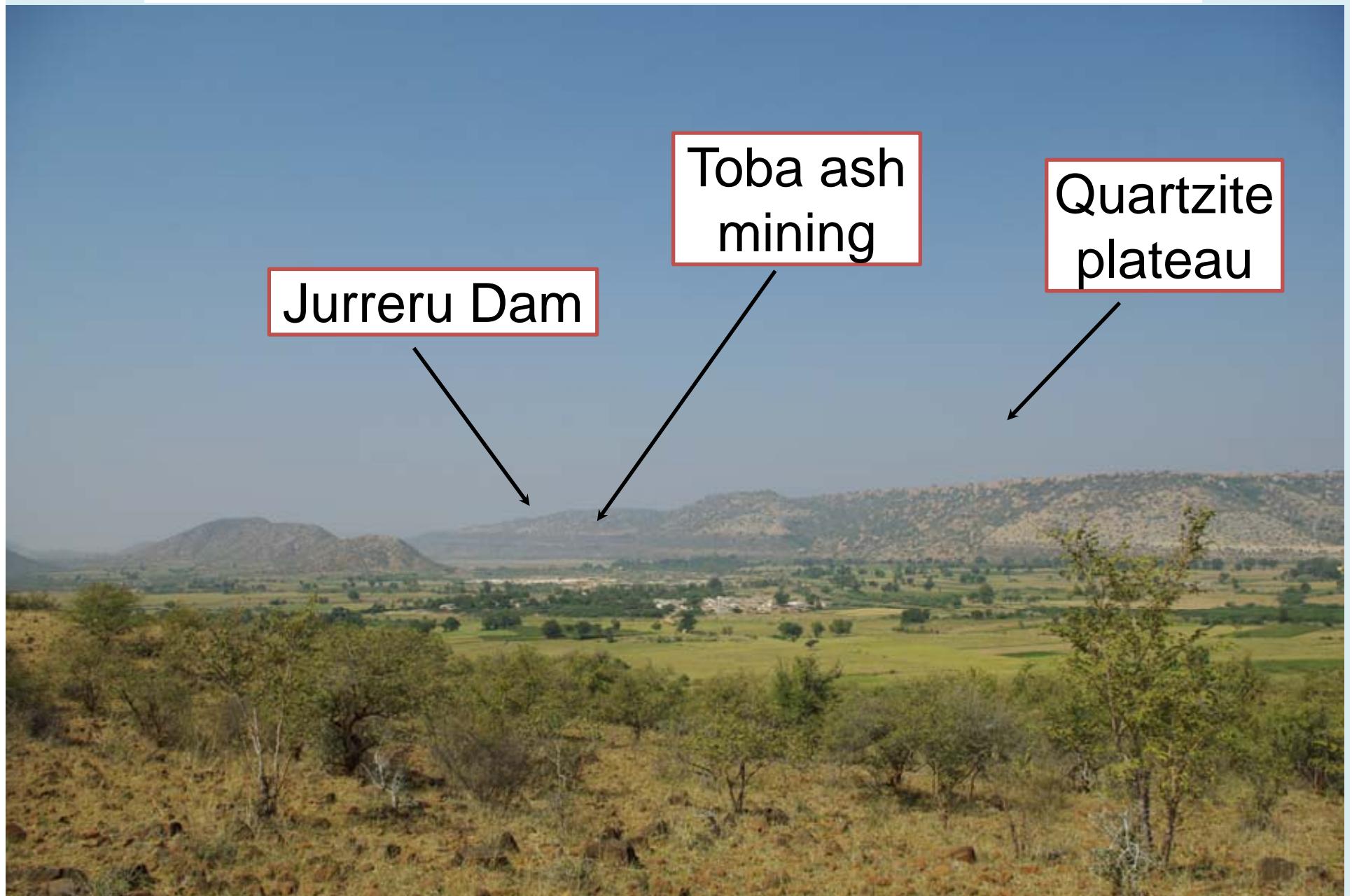
Spot where joints in bedrock
struck with hammer blows



Note Missing Slab

Over-turned slab with
alternate flaking

The Jwalapuram Investigations

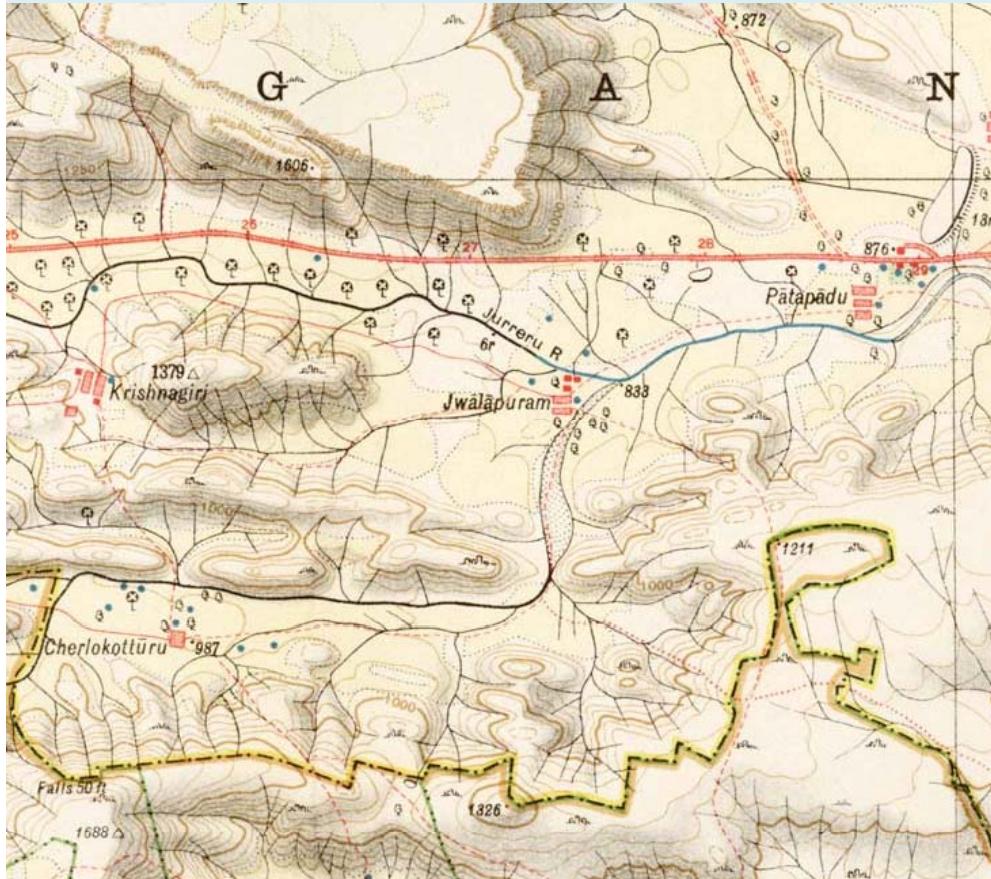


Tank



KK 31
KK 1
PTP 1
JWP 85 (2)
JWP 38
JWP 12
JWP 11
Neolithic +
JWP 9
JWP 85 (1)
JWP 112
Microlithic
JWP 142
JWP 137
JWP 22
JWP 21
JWP 20
JWP 17
JWP 3
Middle
Palaeolithic
PTP 25
JWP Tank
Acheulean

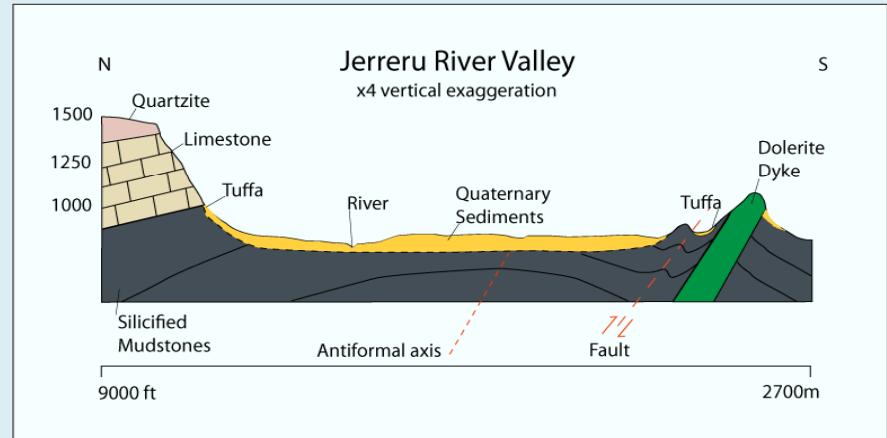
Jerreru Transect



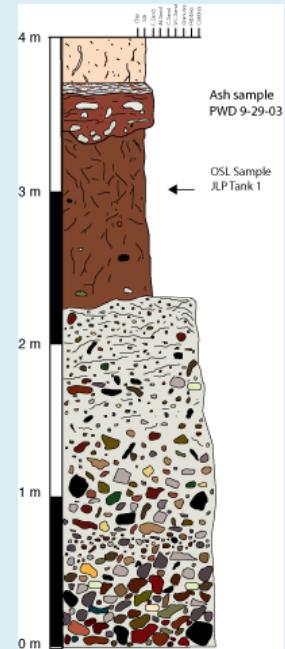
The east-west transect along the Jerreru: a number of prehistoric sites ranging from Lower Palaeolithic to the Early historic have been documented, including excavation.

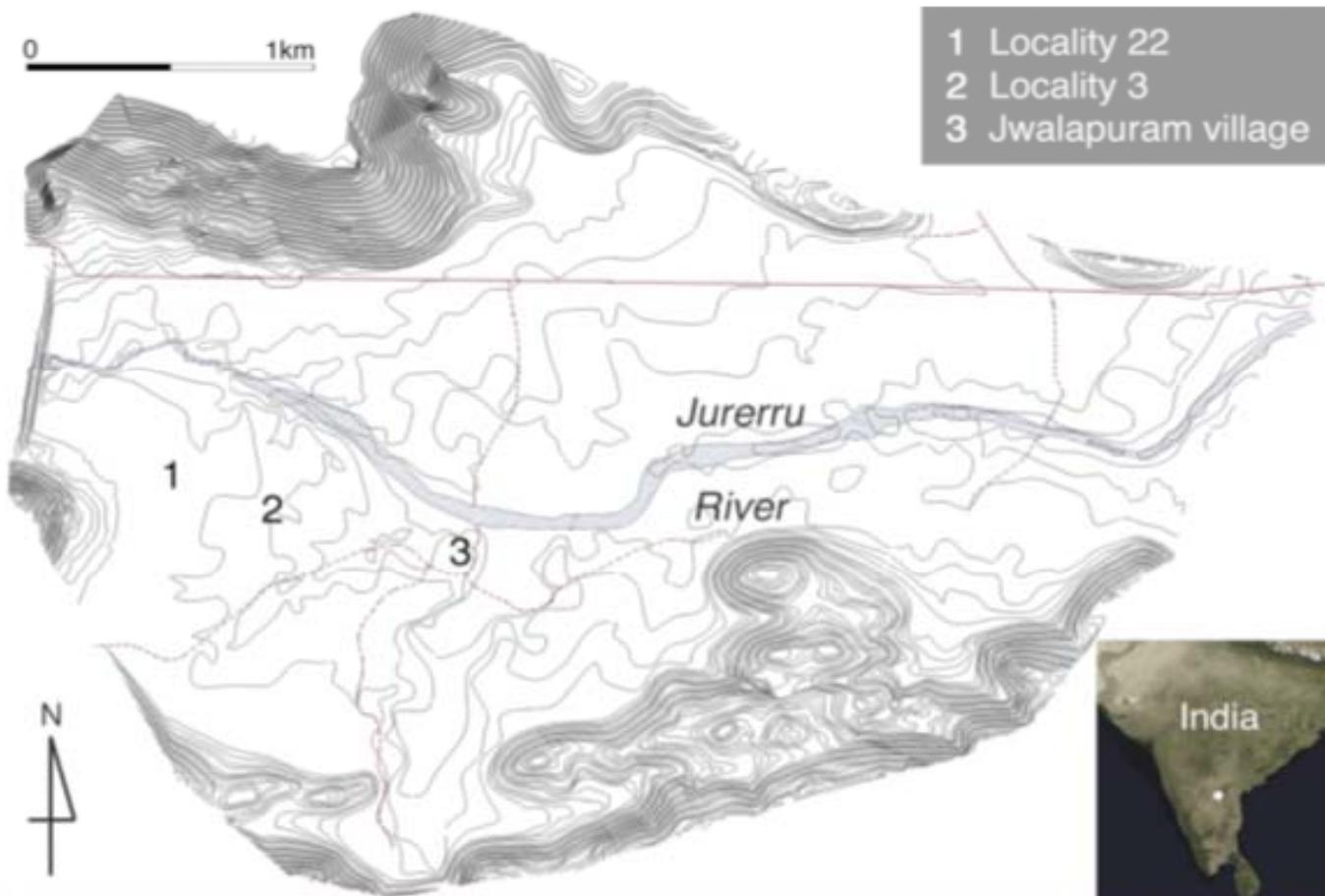


Jerreru Quaternary Sequence



Colluvial deposits ,
secondary YTT, condensed
P-sols and Acheulian
artefacts



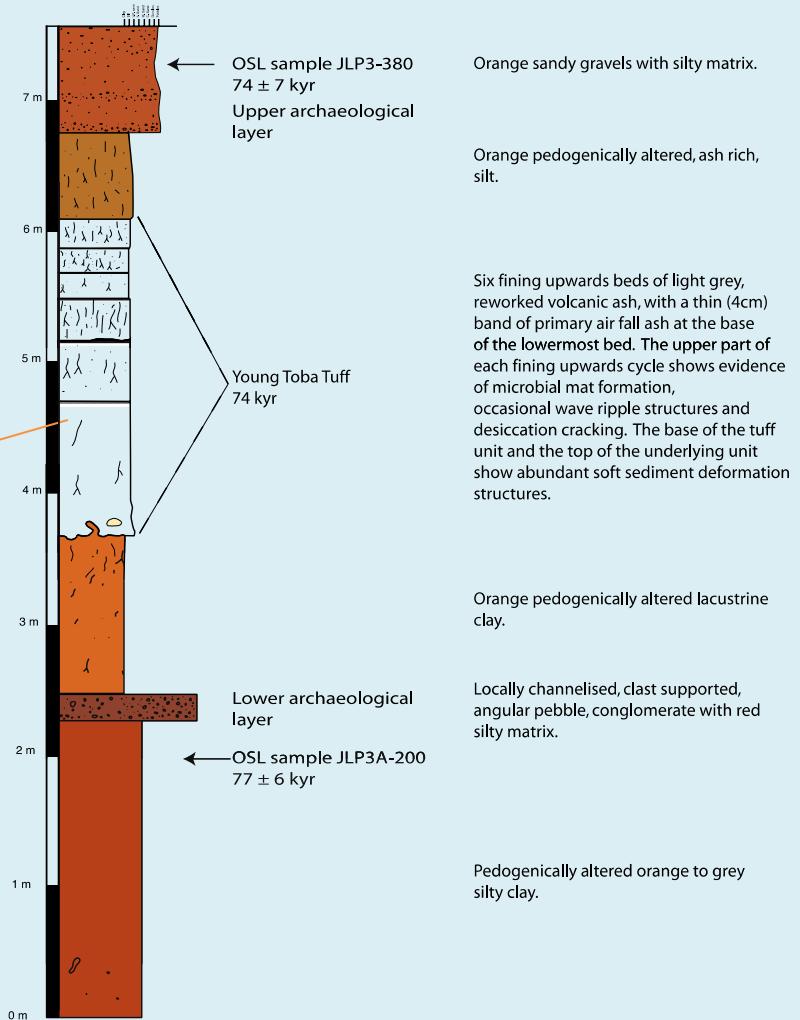


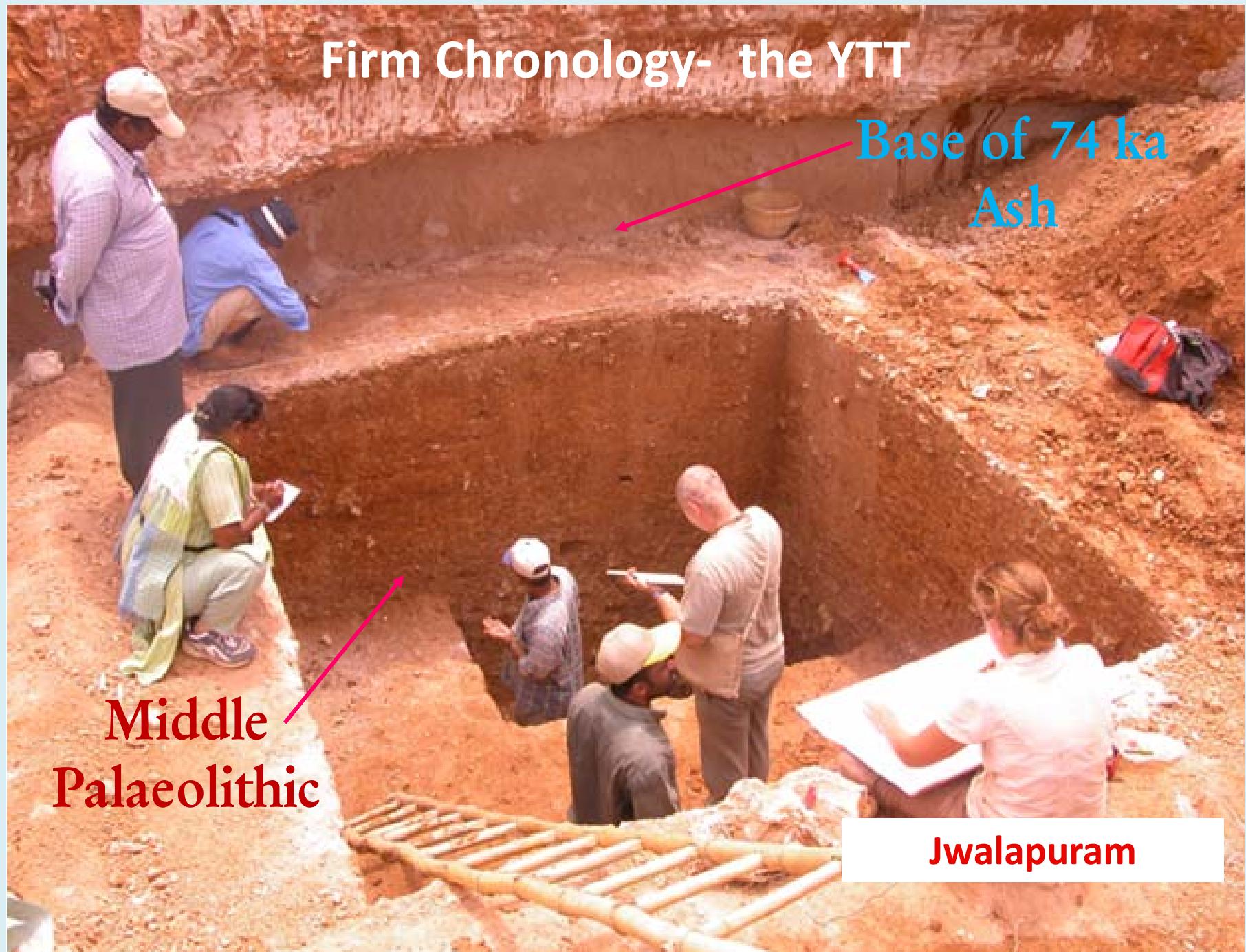


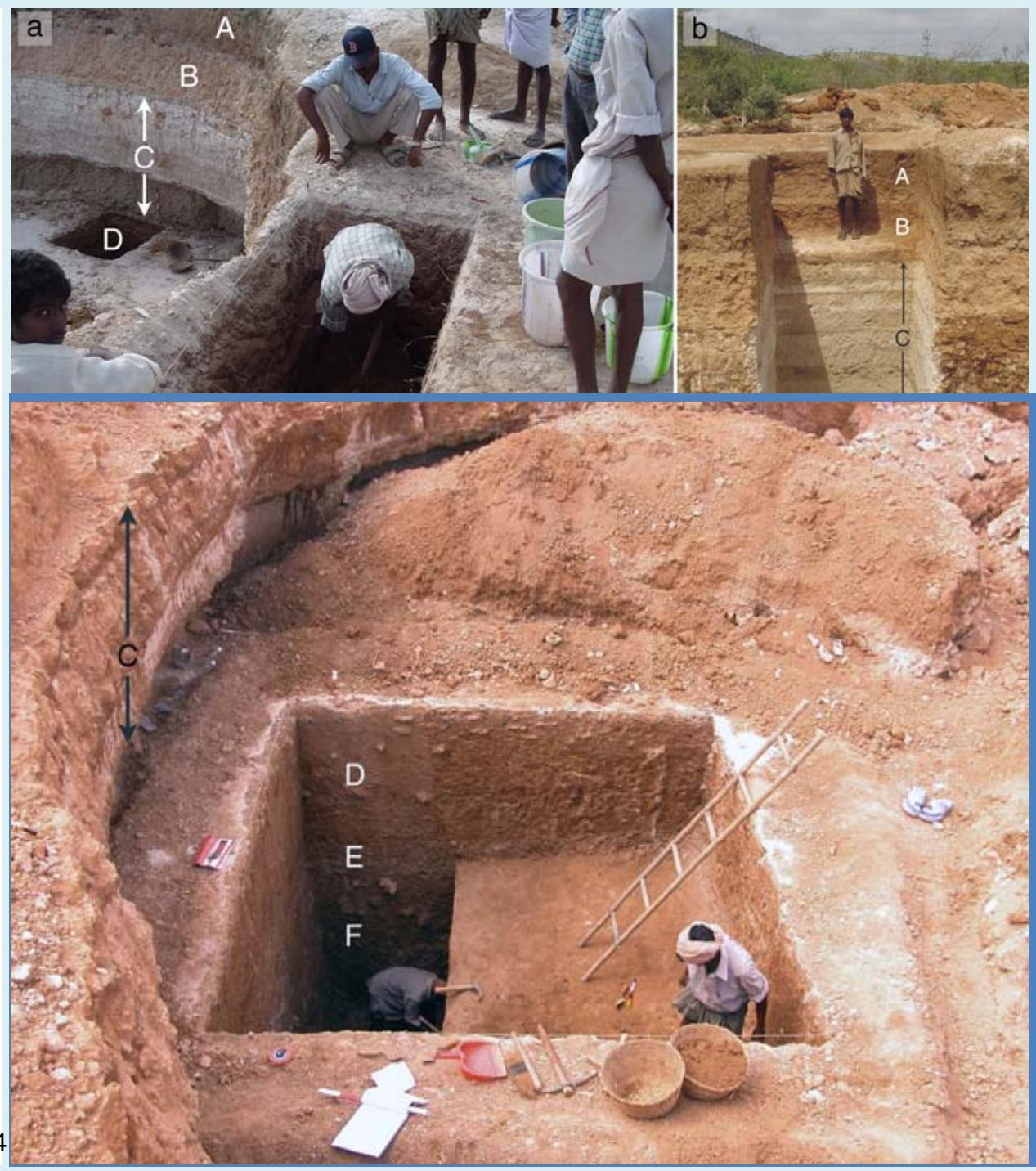
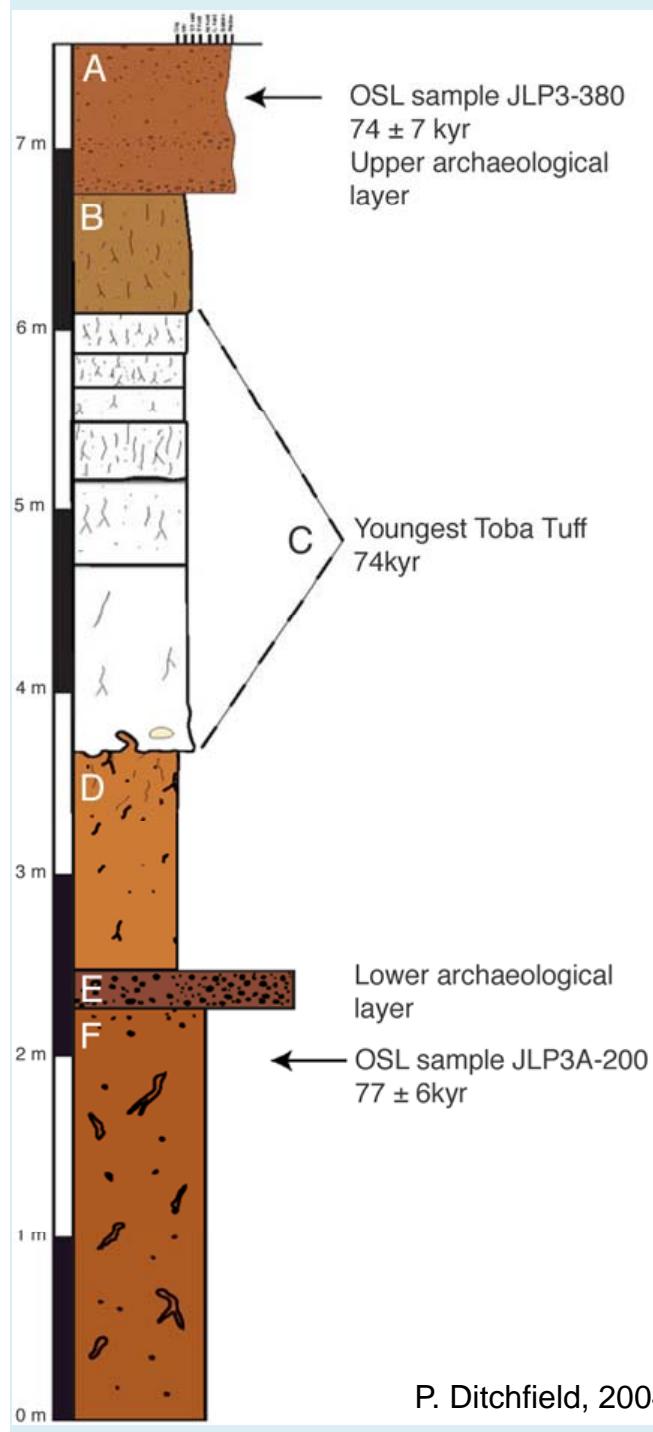


Locality 3

thick ash sequence

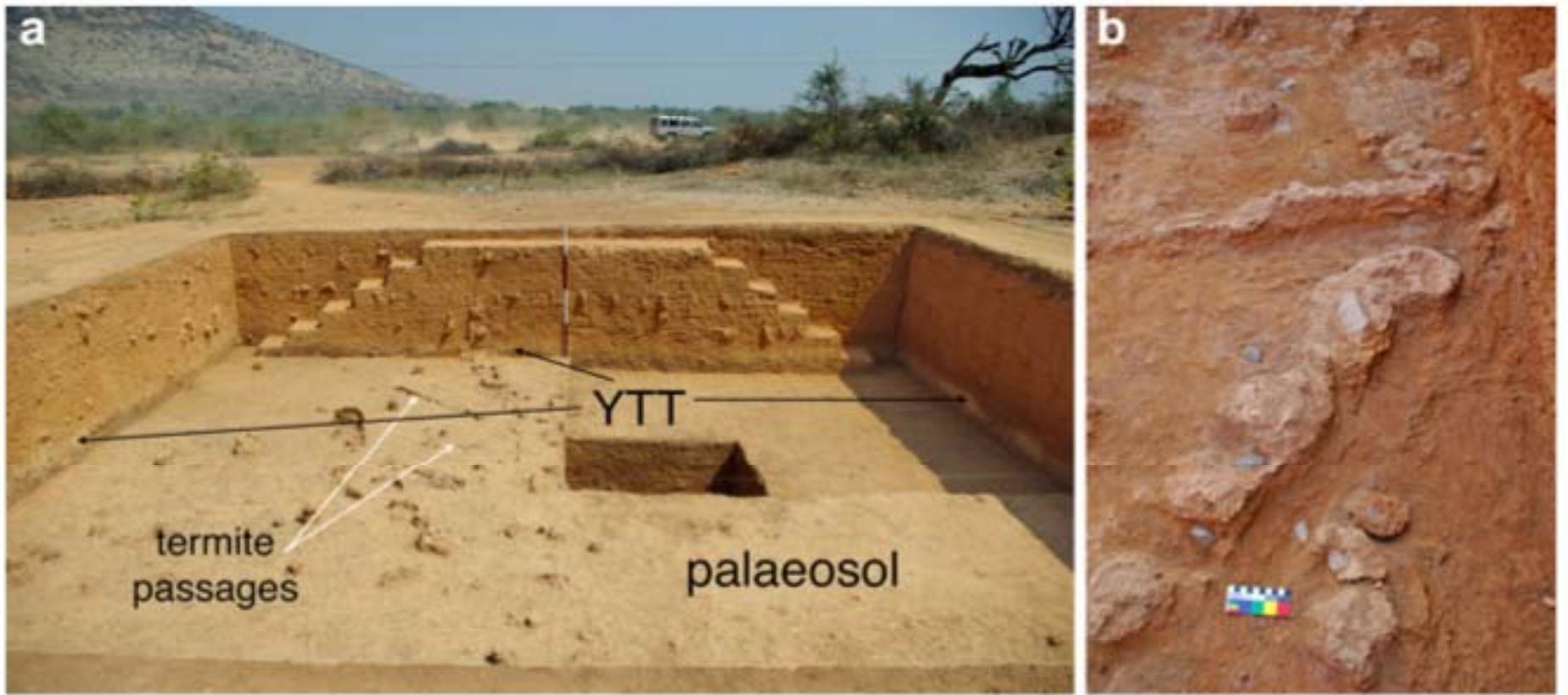


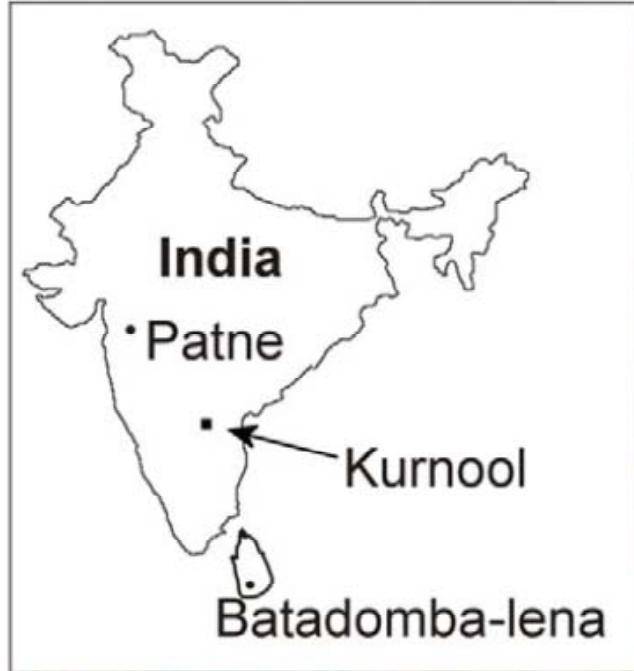






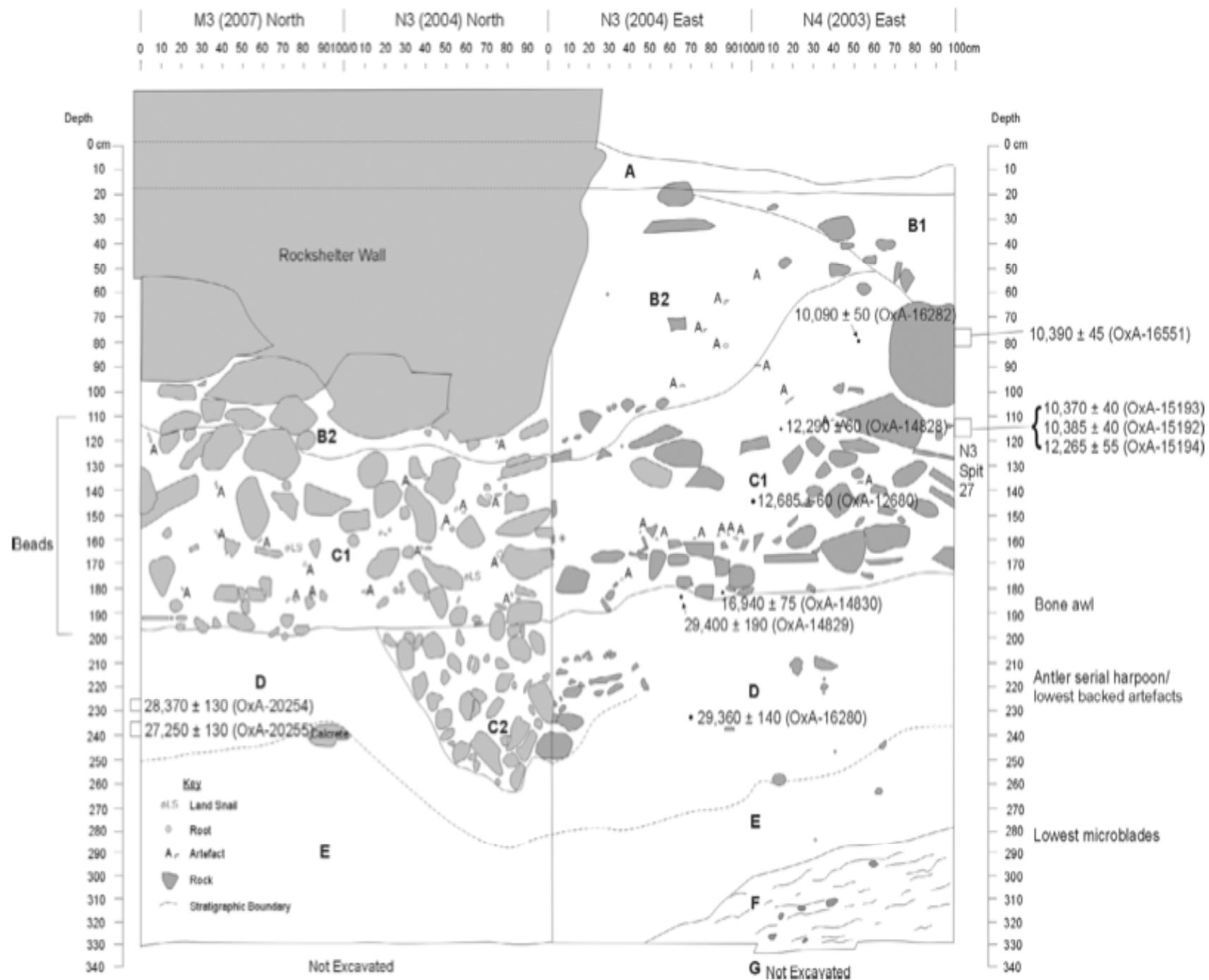
Locality 22











Emergence of New Technology

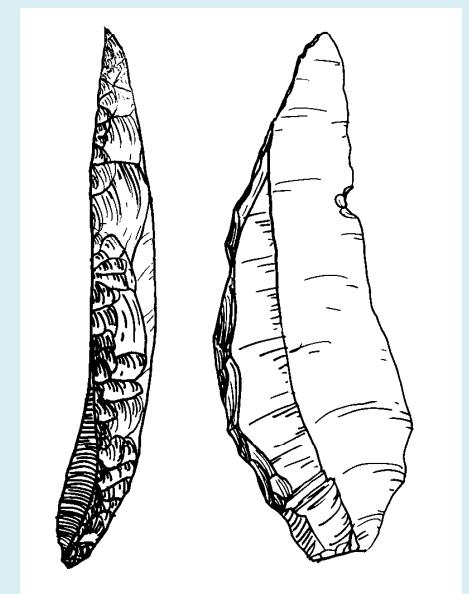


Microlithic industries

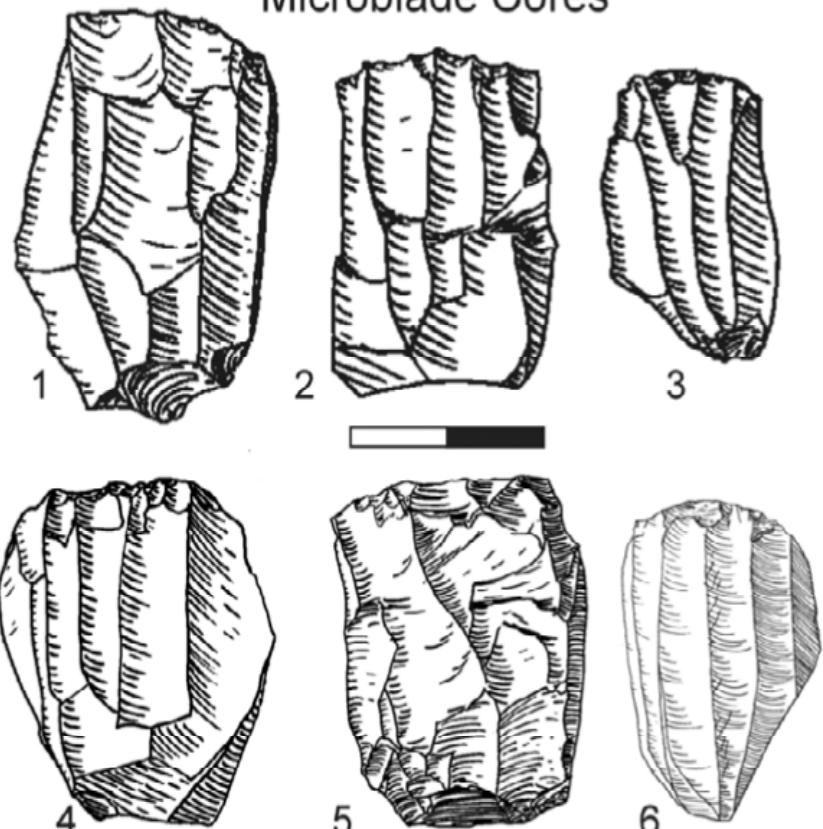


34,284 cal BP

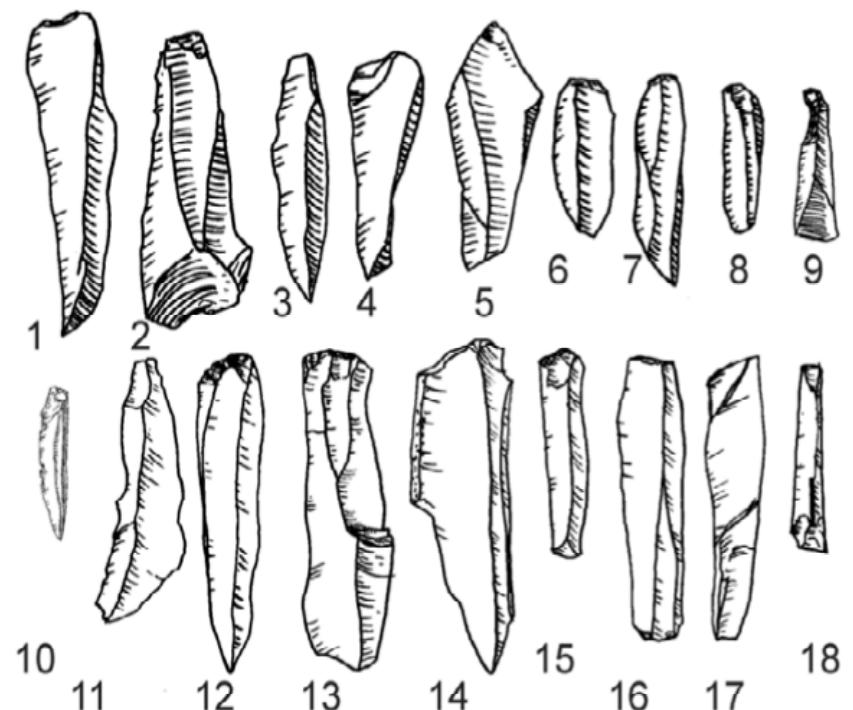
34,305 cal BP



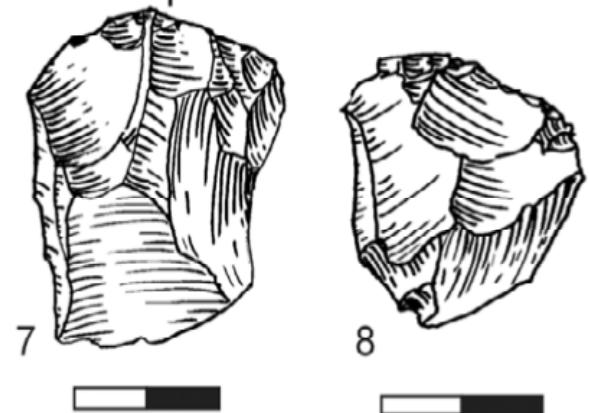
Microblade Cores



Microblades



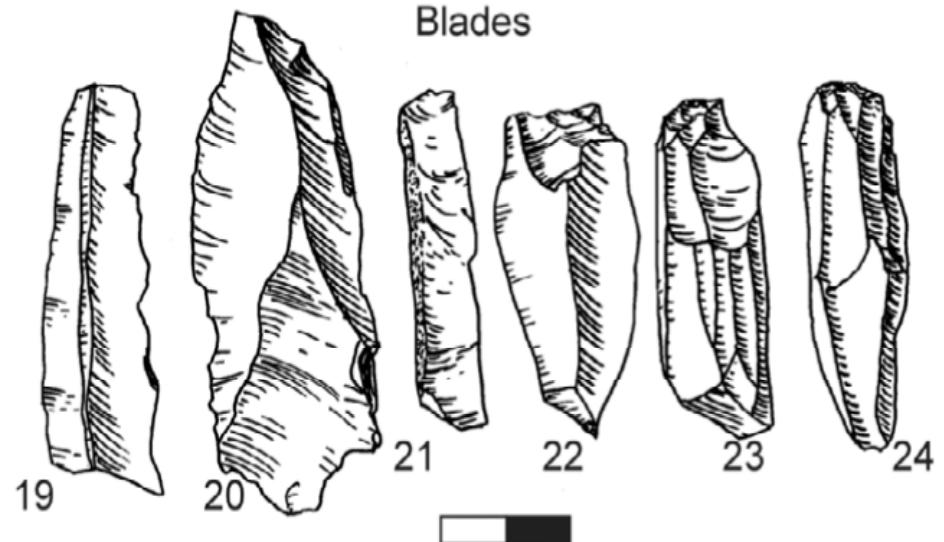
Multiplatform Cores



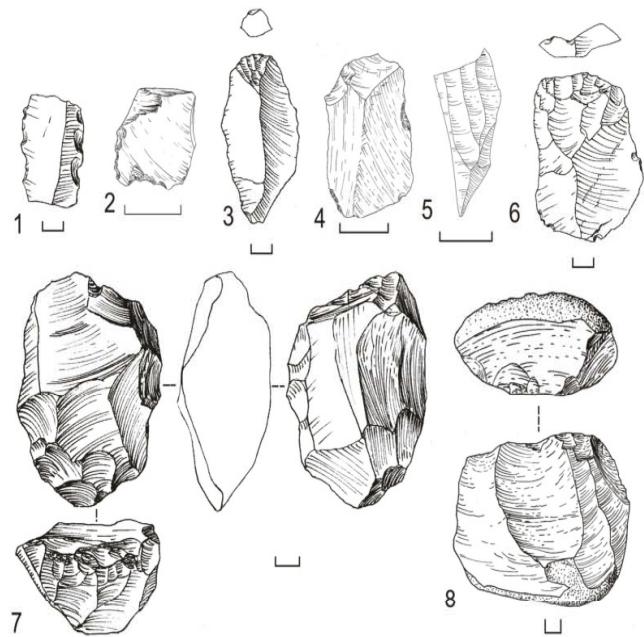
Bipolar Core



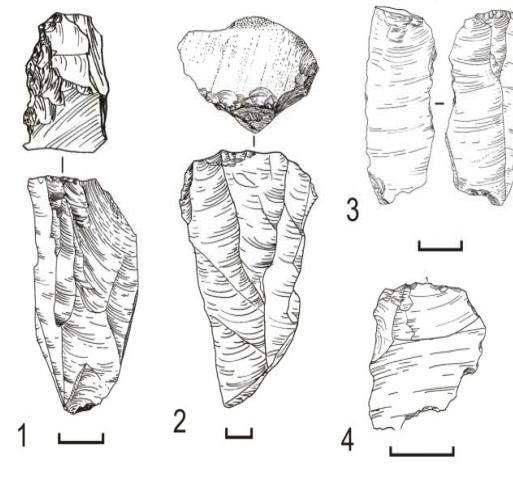
Blades



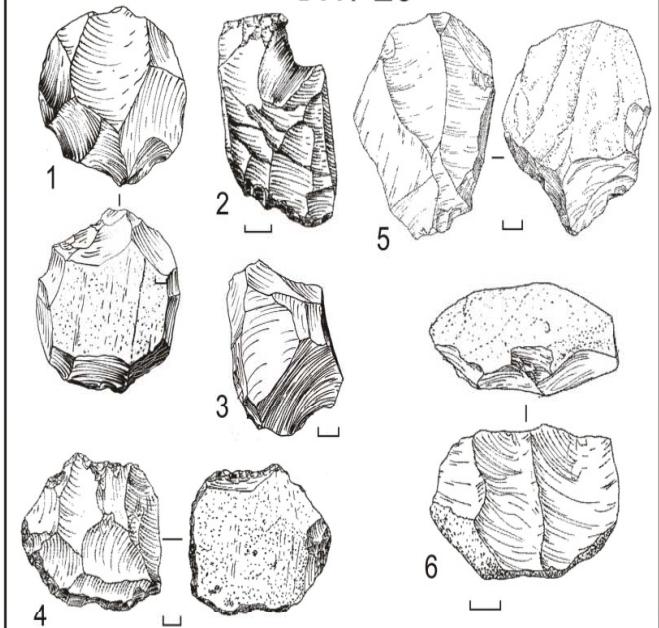
JWP3, 3b & 23



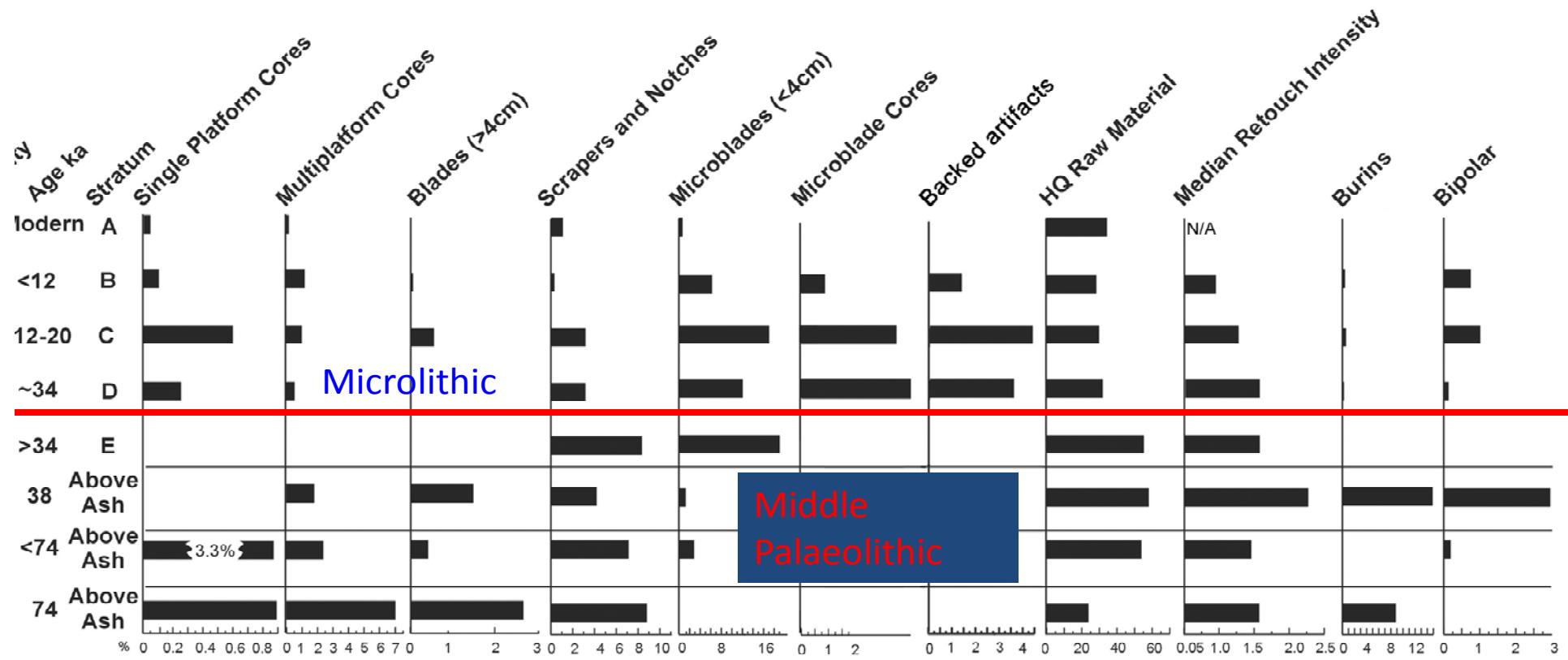
JWP17



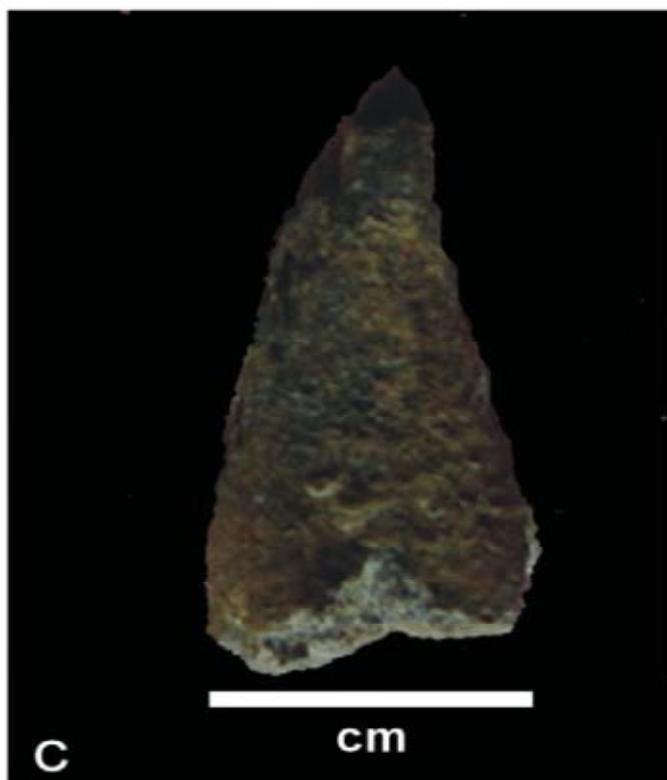
JWP20



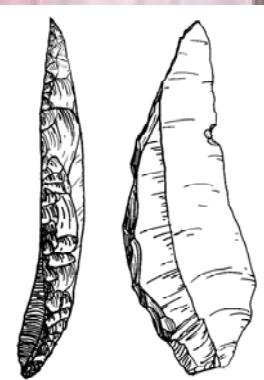
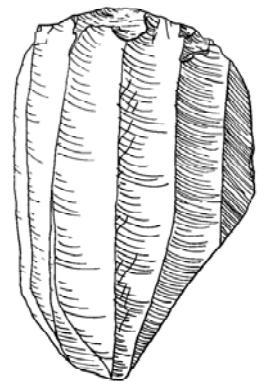
Microlithic innovations are an adaptive response



Petraglia et al., 2009



Behaviour in the Late Pleistocene: Jwalapuram 9 Evidence



The Kurnool District
India

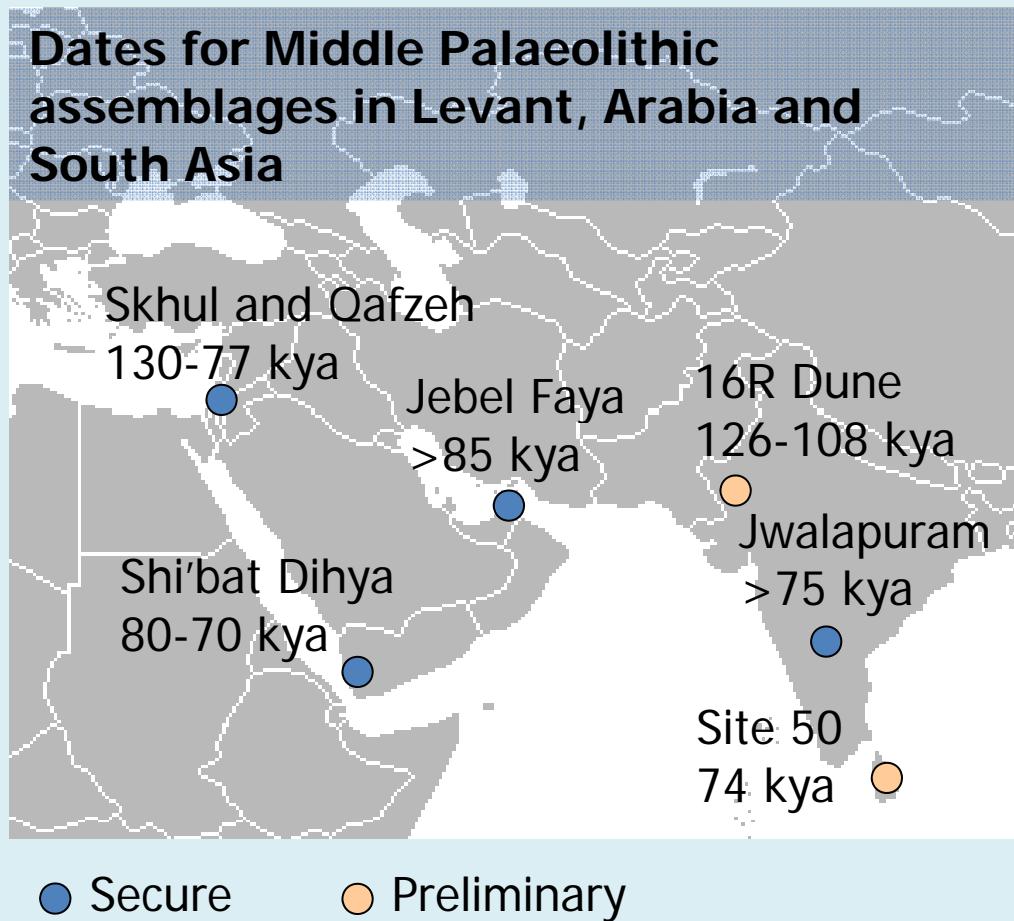
Late Appearance of “Modernity”

- Batadomba Lena:
 - Bone points, shell bead
~34 ka
- Patne:
 - Beads, engraved pcs ~30
- Jwalapuram:
 - Worked bone ~33 ka
 - Beads ~20-12 ka



Sali 1989; Deraniyagala 1994; Clarkson et al. 2009; Petraglia et al. 2009

A localised event?





Thank You
We Need to Go Back
Again and Again