DIS-MEX-Colima-Obsidian Blades

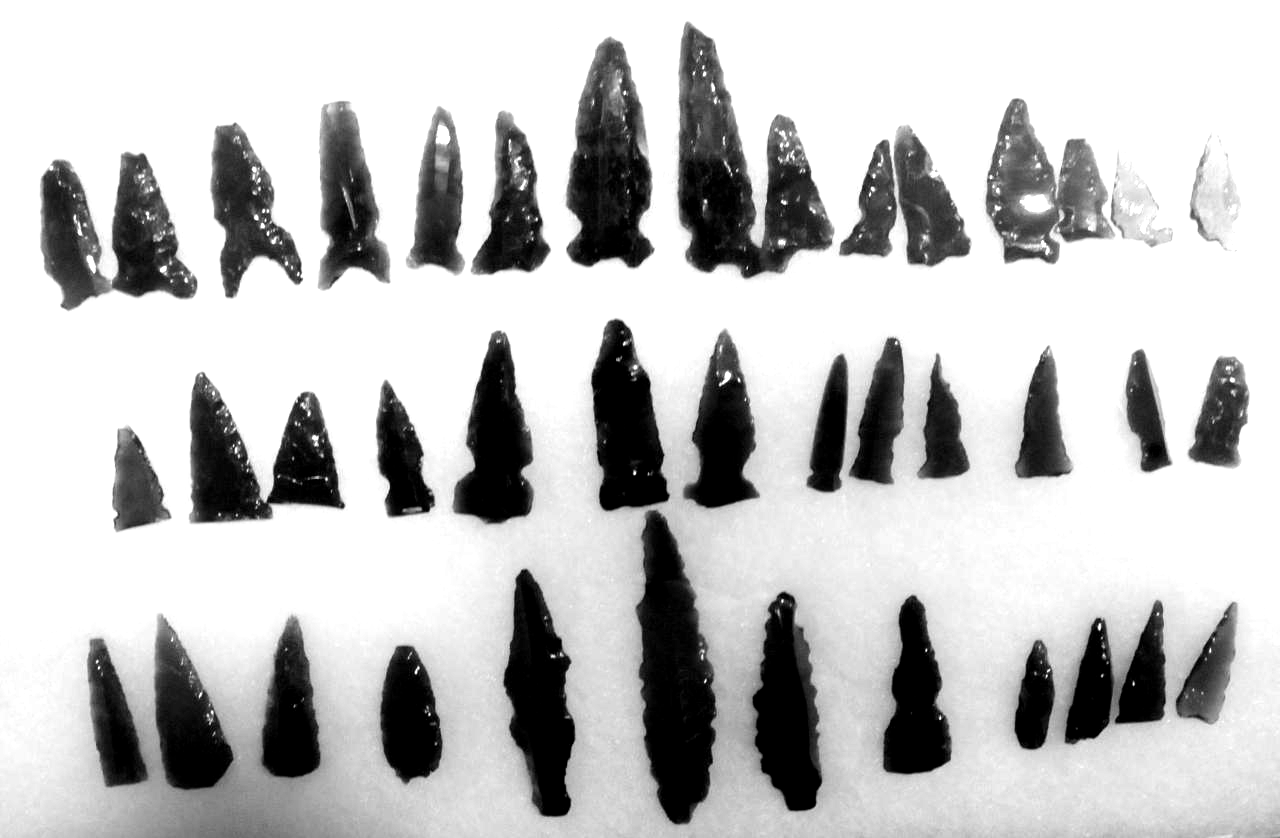


Fig. 1. 15 concave base and 13 straight base side notch projectile points and

12 lanceolate blades (including 2 heavily serrated, bottom row, center)

These obsidian points and blades were traded to villages in Colima beginning ca. 900 BCE during the Capacha Period and trade continued until the Late Tabachines Period (ca. 450 AD/CE) into villages in Colima from obsidian-bearing quarries in the central highlands of Jalisco and Michoacan (Beekman and Galvan 2006; nos. 1-5 and 6-12 in the map below).

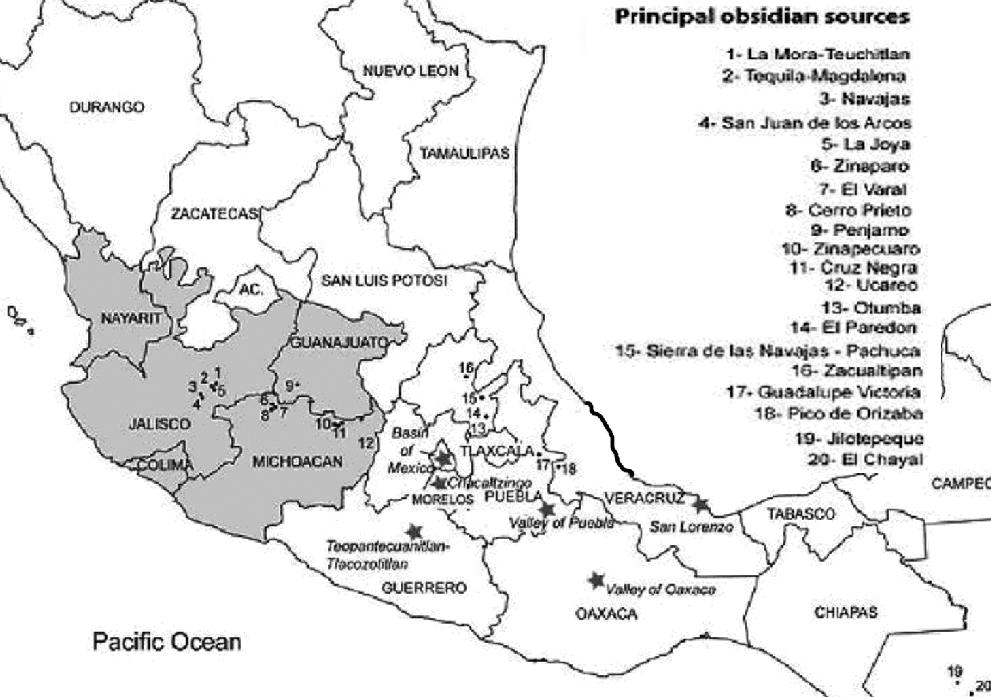


Fig.2. Location of principal obsidian quarries in Central and Southern Mexico. After Darras 2015

This long-distance trade and exchange of obsidian prismatic blades from craftsmen in Jalisco and Michoacan involved the preparation of obsidian cores close to the quarries. The cores were then transported to their village “customers” in Colima where the craftsman flaked and traded projectile points and blades for Colima products (Boksenbaum 1978; Boksenbaum et al. 1987). This spirit of entreprenurialism created a produducer and consumer market and a network of end–product dependence. Central Mexico, therefore, became the leader in pressure flake blade technology and the organization of itinerant production systems in long-distance networks. These blades are a result of this innovative spirit of invention and its concomitant economic system of trade and exchange.

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