Case 1-Afr-Aterian Tanged Points-North Africa-Magreb Region-Middle Stone Age -100-30 kya.



Fig. 1. Aterian Tanged Points-North Africa-Magreb Region-Middle Stone Age -100-30 kya.

**Case No.: Projectile Points**

**Accession No.:**

**Formal Label:** Aterian Tanged Points-North Africa-Magreb Region-Middle Stone Age -100-30 kya.

Display Description:

The Aterian lithic industry is a Late Pleistocene, flake-oriented, techno-complex defined by small (2-5 in) Mousterian Levallois tanged lithic spades and chisels designed for hafting with a wooden shaft. It spans the Middle Paleolithic-Middle Stone Age (MP-MSA) (e.g., Hahn 1984; Wengler 1997). It extends time transgressively with a west to east flow of Aterian culture across North Africa from Morocco (103±3 ka,mean OSL at La Grotte des Contrebandiers) to Haua Fteah (47 kya ± 3.2 kya) a karstic cave in Cyrenaica, Libya, to Egypt (>30 kya) (Tixier, 1967; Petit-Maire, 1982; Wendorf and Schild, 1992).

**LC Classification:** GN775

**Date or Time Horizon:** 100-30 kya

**Geographical Area:** Maghreb region of North Africa

**Cultural Affiliation:** Aterian

**Medium:** Flint, Silicified sandstone

**Dimensions:** H 1-3 in

**Weight: varies**

**Provenance:** Morocco

Condition: Fine

Discussion:

The question of why anatomically modern humans in the Maghreb at ca 100,000 BP developed Aterian tanged tools. One answer may be that they were invented because resin–bearing trees became scarce during a climatic drying shift, so hafting with a leather thong around a tang became more feasible than hafting with resin using a non-tanged lithic (see Ferring, 1975). These tanged tools were used for agriculture as a spade and wood-working as a chisel in a peaceful and agrarian setting for 70 ky (Mercier *et alii* 2007).

Sites Age BP Lab. No. Reference

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| Grotte des Contrebandiers | 103±3 ka OOOSL(OSL) |  | Jacobs et al. 2011 |
| Grotte des Contrebandiers | 24,500 ± 600 | Gif-2582 | Delibrias *et al.* (1982) |
| Grotte des Contrebandiers | 23,700 ± 1000 | Gif-2585 | Delibrias *et al.* (1982) |
| Dar es Soltan | >27,000 | UCLA-678B | Ruhlmann (1951) |
| Dar es Soltan | >30,000 | UCLA-878A | Roche (1956) |
| Taforalt (layer 18) | >32,370 +2470/-1890 | Gif-2276 | Debenath (1992) |
| Taforalt (layer 19) | >34,550 +3200/-2280 | Gif-2277 | Debenath (1992) |
| Taforalt (base layer 19) | >40,000 | G if-2588 | Debenath (1992) |
| Taforalt (top layer 19) | >40,000 | Gif-2589 | Debenath (1992) |
| Taforalt (layer 23) | >40,000 | Gif-2279 | Debenath (1992) |
| Bir el Ater | >35,000 | MC-657 | Close (1980) |
| Wadi Saoura | >39,900 | 1-1787 | Chavaillon (1964) |
| Haua Fteah | 47,000 ± 3200 | GrN-2023 | McBurney (1967) |

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