Case 1-ME-Israel-Ubeidiya-Figurine-Silicified Sandstone-Lower Paleolithic-1.2 mya

Figs. 1-4.Israel-‘Ubeidiya-Figurine-Silicified Sandstone-Lower Paleolithic-1.2 mya

**Case no.: 1**

**Accession Number:**

**Formal Label:** Israel-‘Ubeidiya-Figurine-Silicified Sandstone-Lower Paleolithic-1.2 mya

**Display Description:**

“The discovery is exciting by any standard. Was found to the north of the Dead Sea about 15 km from its right [bank]. In a cave in which an archaeological excavation is carried out. Dating to the beginning of the Paleolithic Stone Age. There are several figures engraved on it.” A product of *Homo Erectus*.

Lower Paleolithic hominin sites in the Levant include 1. Yabrud. 2. El Kowm. 3. Umm El Tlel. 4. Hummal. 5. Tabun cave. 6. Azraq sites. 7. Latamne. 8. Kefar Menachem West. 9. Revadim. 10. Holon. 11. Bizat Ruhama. 12. Nahal Hesi. 13. Kisufim. 14. Evron. 15. Ubeidiya. 16. Gesher Benot Yaakov. 17. Berekhat Ram. 18. Umm Qatafa. 19. Nahal Zihor. 20. Qesem Cave; Eyal 23. 21. Adlun cave sites: Bezez. Adlun and Abri Zumoffen caves (See Fig. ).

The Lower Paleolithic site of ‘Ubeidiya at ~1.4 Ma in the Jordan Rift Valley is in the area where this worked stone originated. The site provides evidence for the earliest migration of Homo erectus out of Africa (Belmaker et al. 2002; Martínez-Navarro et al. 2009). The Zihor River valley was surveyed in 1996 by H. Ginat and I. Saragusti of the Hebrew University, which uncovered an early sequence of Pleistocene fluvio-lacustrine deposits and a paleo “Lake Zihor” with a minimum date of ~1.6 Ma for the fluvio-lacustrine deposits (Guralnik et al. 2010). The gradual formation of valleys and terraces in the southern Negev (Ginat 1997: 188) were created by tectonic uplifting, post-dating Lake Zihor (Ginat et al. 2003). Lower Paleolithic Acheulean hand axes and worked stones like this one were concentrated in many find spots near the paleo shoreline of Lake Zihor and neighboring terraces in an area of 12km2 (Ginat 1997; 2003: 450).

**LC Classification:** [GN772.32.I75](http://josiah.brown.edu/search~S7?/c1-SIZE+GN772.32.I75+S27x+2004/cgn++772.32+i75+s27+x+2004/-3,-1,,E/browse)

**Date or Time Horizon:** Paleolithic 1.2 mya

**Geographical Area:** right bank of Jordan River near ‘Ubeidiya

### Map:

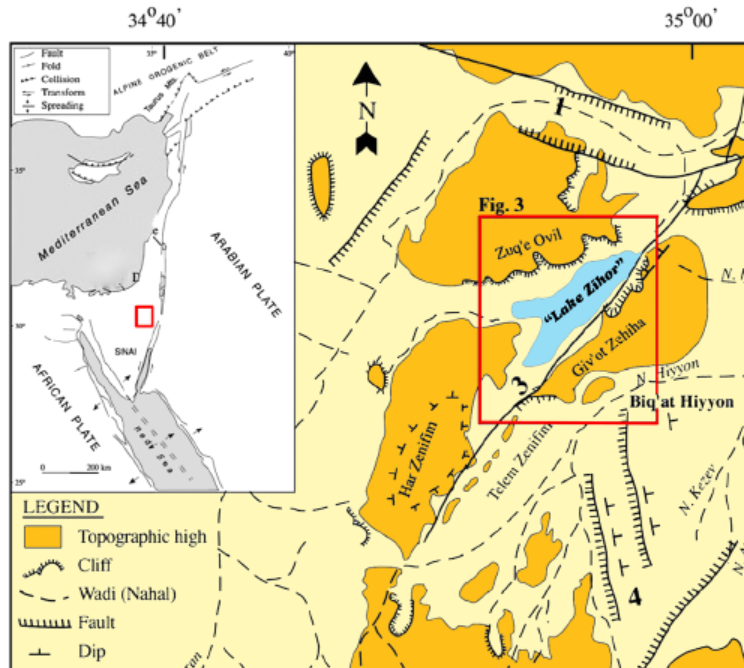
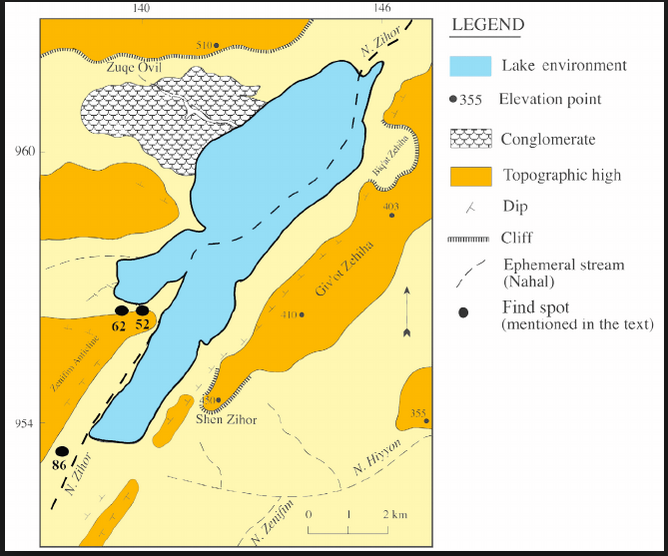
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Fig. 5. Map of Lower Paleolithic sites in the Levant: 1. Yabrud. 2. El Kowm. 3. Umm El Tlel. 4. Hummal. 5. Tabun cave. 6. Azraq sites. 7. Latamne. 8. Kefar Menachem West. 9. Revadim. 10. Holon. 11. Bizat Ruhama. 12. Nahal Hesi. 13. Kisufim. 14. Evron Quarry. 15. Ubeidiya. 16. Gesher Benot Yaakov. 17. Berekhat Ram. 18. Umm Qatafa. 19. Nahal Zihor. 20. Qesem Cave; Eyal 23. 21. Adlun cave sites: Bezez. Adlun and Abri Zumoffen caves.

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Fig. 6. Location of Ubeidiya after <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/a4/>

Israel\_outline\_northeast.png/375px-Israel\_outline\_northeast.png

Figs. 7-8. Location of ’Ubeidiya in its geological setting (no. 62) in right map. After https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Leore\_Grosman/publication/233859889/figure/fig1/AS:299980108648450@1448532239685/Location-of-the-Pleistocene-lake-Zihor-in-the-Arava-region-Southern-Israel-after-Ginat.png



Fig. 9. Type of terrain in the Zihor River valley in which the artifact was found. From the research Reconstructing the Paleo Geohydrological aspects of the Early Pleistocene water body at Nahal Zihor (led by Yuval Lorig; co-supervised by [Hanan Ginat​](http://www.adssc.org/reserchers/דר-חנן-גינת)). After http://in.bgu.ac.il/en/humsos/fluv/images/zihor1.jpg

**GPS coordinates:** unknown

**Cultural Affiliation:** Paleolithic

**Medium:** silicified sandstone

**Dimensions:** H 7.6 cm; W 4 cm

**Weight:** 103 grams; 3.55 oz

**Condition: “**The stone was cleaned professionally by the archaeological team, and then coated with a transparent lacquer that gives it protection and custody as well as beauty for display. This is the standard treatment offered by the museum and carried out by those who are involved in it and at a high level.”

**Provenance:** Zihor River valley

**Discussion:**

“The incision of the present channel of Nahal (wadi) Zihor in the lacustrine sediments is manifested by a series of rock-cut and fluvial terraces (Q1–Q4) capped by gypsic-salic soils, which reflect the onset of the present, extremely arid climate. Over 100 find-spots and larger occurrences of prehistoric artifacts assigned to the Lower Paleolithic were discovered near Lake Zihor. On the basis of techno-typological and stratigraphic considerations, these assemblages are divided into two groups, the first of which may be contemporaneous with the lake, while the second is found mainly on the younger Q1 and Q2 terraces. It is estimated that the lake existed for more than 100,000 years” (Ginat, Zilberman, and Saragusti 2003).

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