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THE BEREGOVO GROUP OF UPPER PALAEOLITHIC SITES IN TRANSCARPATHIA

SUMMARY — *The Upper Palaeolithic in Soviet Transcarpathia is known thanks to two investigators — to Tivadar Lehoczky and to the Czech archaeologist Josef Skutil. Especially significant is the information by J. Skutil, describing the Upper Palaeolithic site on Malaya gora, below the town of Beregovo (Beregovo I).*

Since Transcarpathia belongs to Soviet Ukraine, Soviet prehistorians paid naturally great attention to the research carried out by J. Skutil in Beregovo. Their research realized in Malaya gora or Beregovo I and in the vicinity of Beregovo, has resulted in the discovery of new Upper Palaeolithic sites in eastern central Europe.

With the discovery of early Upper Palaeolithic in Korolevo the Beregovo group of Upper Palaeolithic finds has acquired special significance: it was important to compare Beregovo sites with the sites in Korolevo, both from the stratigraphic and technical-typological viewpoints.

This paper is an attempt at such a comparison.

KEY WORDS: USSR — Transcarpathia — Beregovo — Upper Palaeolithic — Stratigraphy — Typology.

Considering the archaic Upper Palaeolithic Korolevo horizons we justly ask about their dating. It is logical therefore to compare these complexes with the collections of other Upper Palaeolithic sites in Transcarpathia. In the course of the research realized by the Permanent Archaeological Expedition of the Archaeological Museum of the Institute of Zoology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, headed by V. N. Gladilin, more than 40 Upper Palaeolithic sites have been discovered in the investigated region. The largest group is formed by the sites discovered in the surroundings of the town of Beregovo (Beregovo I—V, Muzhievo I, Dobroselie I). The sites are situated on various terraces level, between 20—80 m above the flood-plain of the Borzhava river.

Most important for the study of the Upper Palaeolithic in Transcarpathia is the open-air Beregovo I site on the Malaya Gora hill. The site

is known from the early thirties of this century. It was investigated and studied by M. Jankovieh (1931), J. Skutil (1935), V. N. Gladilin S. V. Smirnov (1970, 1972), Gladilin, Smirnov, P. P. Sova (1972) and Smirnov (1974). For its stratigraphy it is of fundamental importance for the research of the Upper Palaeolithic of the region. Part of the site which is situated on a 20 m high terrace of the small river Verka, tributary of Borzhava river, was destroyed by quarrying. The excavations on Malaya Gora uncovered a many metres thick section of loess sediments with several paleosols (*Fig. 1*):

1. humified cinnamon-brown loam — contemporary soil (0.6 m)
2. greyish pale-yellow loam (0.7 m)
3. yellowish-cinnamon-brown loam — the first paleosol of the Transcarpathian regional section (0.5 m)
4. pale-yellow loam (0.3 m)

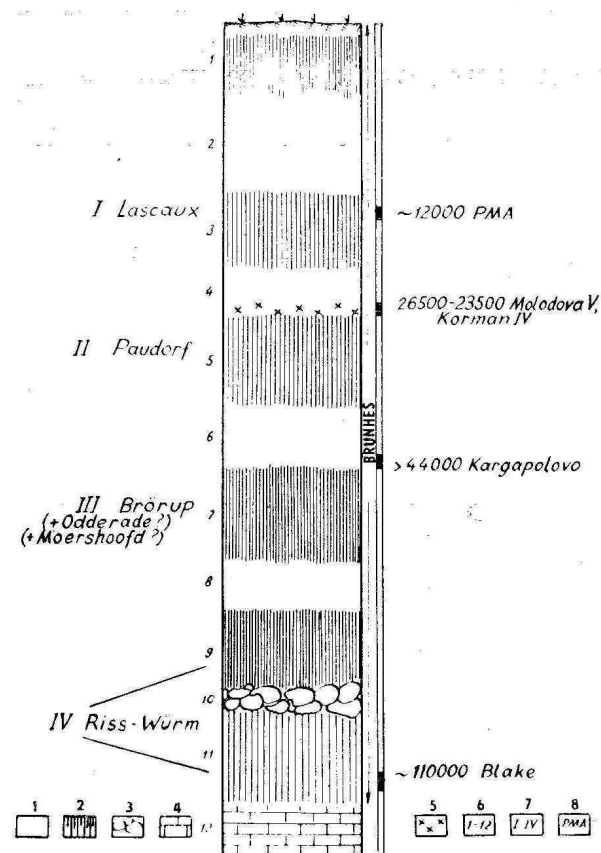


FIGURE 1. Beregovo I. Stratigraphic section. 1 — loams; 2 — paleosols; 3 — displaced pebbles; 4 — primary rocks; 5 — stone artifacts; 6 — lithological layers; 7 — paleosols; 8 — paleomagnetic anomalies.

5. yellowish-cinnamon-brown loam with dispersed iron and manganese concretions — the second regional soil (0.6 m)

6. pale-yellow loam with scattered iron and manganese concretions (0.4 m)

7. light-brown loam with ochre-red hue and with relatively frequent iron manganese concretions in its upper part — third regional paleosol (0.8 m)

8. pale-yellow loam with sporadic small iron-manganese concretions. (Section of the northern wall of the quarry (excavation site), with remains of deposits in the southern part of the section of the eastern wall of the quarry.)

9. brown loam with reddish hue and frequent iron-manganese concretions — the upper part of the fourth regional paleosol (0.5 m)

10. a layer of rounded fragments of volcanic rocks, with transferred pebbles

11. yellowish-cinnamon-brown loam with ochre-red hue — lower part of the fourth local paleosol (0.6 m)

12. bedrock.

The lower (fourth and third) regional paleosols of Beregovo I evidently correlate with the fourth and third regional paleosols in Korolevo. The two upper paleosols of Beregovo I, absent in Korolevo, can be attributed to the Paudorf and Lascaux interstadials. These datings of the paleosols Beregovo I

are proved also by palaeomagnetic data (Adamenko et al. 1981, 1984). In the sections of the Upper Pleistocene sediments of the site the first palaeomagnetic anomaly appears in the 3rd loam layer, below cultural remains of the Bronze Age and it may compare with the youngest event dated 12,000 years B. P. The other anomaly has been recognized in loam layer 4, above the second fossil soil. It correlates with an event of 26 500 — 23 500 years B. P., discovered in the sections containing archaeological artifacts and dated with radiocarbon method in Molodova V and Korman IV. The following (third) anomaly (Kargapolovo), has been recognized at the top of the third paleosol and is dated more than 44 000 years B. P. The fourth and last anomaly was observed at the bottom of the fourth paleosol and seems to be the Blake-event dated to about 110 000 years.

The Upper Palaeolithic cultural layer discovered in the lower part of pale-yellow loam 4 above the second paleosol (Paudorf), contained sporadic dispersed small charcoals, ochre and stone artifacts. No faunal remains have been preserved. The collection consists of 1 073 artifacts. As raw materials for the manufacture of tools served dark-grey and black flint, light-grey flint with coarse structure, and a light-ochre non-transparent flint. Also yellow-greyish slightly transparent chert was used, alongside with obsidian and andesite. Besides stone artifacts large quantities of ochre fragments, pebbles and unworked concretions have been collected. Most of the collection are waste, prismatic cores and precores, flakes, knapping debris and fragments — 959 pcs. (89.5%). Tools — 114 pcs (10.5%).

The technique is characterized by parallel flaking of the blanks. This is proved by exclusive prismatic cores (25 pcs — 2.4%) and precores (6 pcs. — 0.6%). For their manufacture mostly fragments were used, less frequently also nodules. The dimensions of cores do not exceed 5—7 cm. They are usual for the developed Upper Palaeolithic industries and are represented by standardized types. Prismatic blades without traces of trimming amount to above 10% of all flakes. The prevailing majority of these flakes is fragmented. The blade index is 26.7%.

The Beregovo I industry is dominated by end-scrapers — 20 pcs. (30.3%). 62.5% of them are on prismatic flakes, 32.5% on prismatic blades, 5% on core-like fragments. Characteristic feature of the end-scrapers is the standardization of types. They are simple end-scrapers, some uni- or bilateral retouched and also with a platform for gripping.

Burins — 12 pcs. (18.2%). They are on broken blades, angle, median and beak-shaped, busked and core-like. 60% of artifacts are on blades and 40% on flakes.

Rezhiks amount only to 9.1% of all tools (6 pcs.). They are various so-called flat burins on flakes and blades with well perceptible working parts at the angle of the artifact or protrusions on the longitudinal edges, in the form of beaks. The proportion of these tools on flakes and on blades is roughly the same.

Knives — 15 pcs. (22.7%). The working edges of these artifacts are usually straight, slightly convex or slightly corrugated. Some of them have backs. 40% of these tools are on blades, 60% on flakes.

There are two microblades in the collection, one of them with retouched longitudinal edge is truncated by steep retouch, the other is broken.

The collection includes few borers — 1 (1.5%), chopping-tools on flakes 2 (3%), chisels — 1 (1.5%), push-planes — 2 (3%).

Whole or fragmented pebbles were used as hammerstones (5 pcs. — 7.5%).

The technical-typological characteristics of other sites of the Beregovo group (Beregovo II, V, Muzhie-

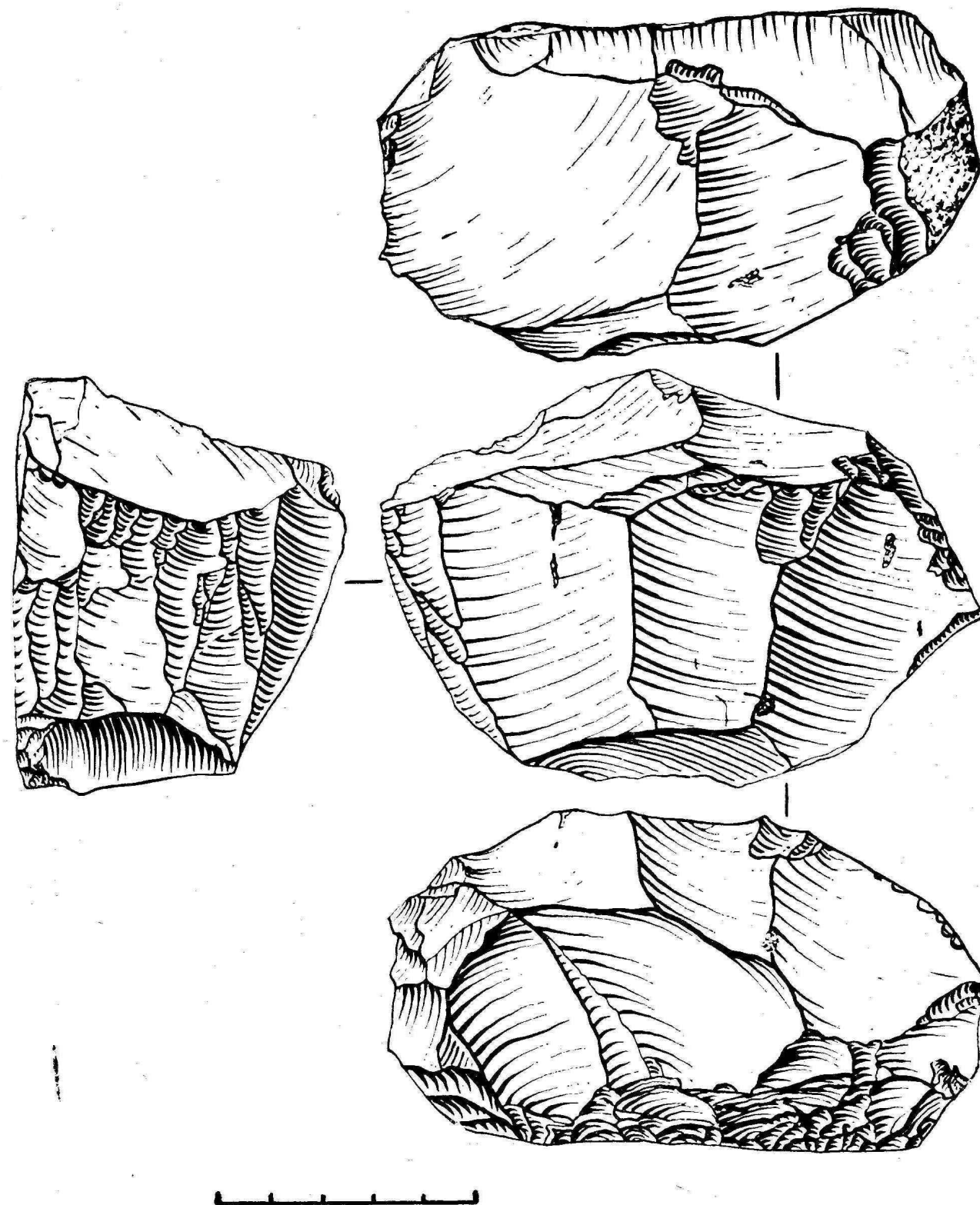


FIGURE 2. Muzhievo I. Prismatic transversal cylindrical core.



FIGURE 3. *Beregovo I*: 1—2 — end-scrapers. *Beregovo II*: 5 — end-scraper. *Beregovo V*: 3—4, 6—8 end-scrapers.

vo I) are very close to Beregovo I, (Figs. 2—8).

In the literature there were already attempts to compare the Upper Palaeolithic Beregovo collections (*Beregovo I, II, Bigany and Didovaya Gora* — Smirnov, 1973, 1974, 1975).

The common territory comprising the sites of the Beregovo group, similarity and in many cases identity of primary flaking methods and in the structure of the assemblage, and the practically contemporary age of the sites support the views of V. N. Gladilin, that they belong to an independent Upper Palaeolithic culture — to Beregovo Culture.

Analogies close to Beregovo collections appear also in the adjoining East Slovakian Region of Czechoslovakia, (*Barca I, Seňa I and Kechnec I*; Bánesz, 1959, 1960, 1968, 1968a), and in Moravia (*Křepice*, Klíma 1959). These Upper Palaeolithic complexes are also characterized by prismatic technique of stone flaking. In the tool collections of the above Czechoslovak sites the share of end-scrapers varies between 29—37 %; a proportion typical of the Beregovo collections too. Among burins prevail those on broken blades and median ones amounting to 55 %. Angle burins occupy an important position. The multifaceted artifacts with truncated retouch, similarly as in Beregovo materials, are not too numerous. The Czechoslovak sites yielded also analogous core-like burins. Many flakes and blades with partial retouch,

made on the angle of the artifacts, according to their illustrations look very much like the Beregovo rezchiks. There are also flat burins, appearing also in the Beregovo collections of rezchiks. Knives on blades appear in significant series. The retouched microblades (up to 7 %) appearing in the above Czechoslovak sites are also analogous to Beregovo finds.

The comparison of Beregovo complexes with the Upper Palaeolithic sites of East Slovakia and Moravia reveal their close relationship.

In the past it was believed that there were two Upper Palaeolithic groups in East Slovakia (the Hornád River Valley and the Upper Tisa Valley groups (Bánesz, 1968). It has been proved also that the Beregovo complexes are somewhat younger than the analogous East Slovakian sites (Smirnov, 1974). On the technico-typological level the Barca I assemblage is attributed by L. Bánesz without any doubt to Aurignacian, namely to its central European type. Besides that, due to the unclear stratigraphic situation it is impossible to date the site more precisely. In the meantime Bánesz, referring to F. Prošek, attributes Barca I to the Würm II stadial. However, Bánesz adds, that the dating of the excavated Barca pits is not well founded (Bánesz, 1968a, 14—17). Neither is it clear, according to the attached section of pit 2 (the sections of pits 1 and 3 are missing), where were situated the palaeolithic finds. According

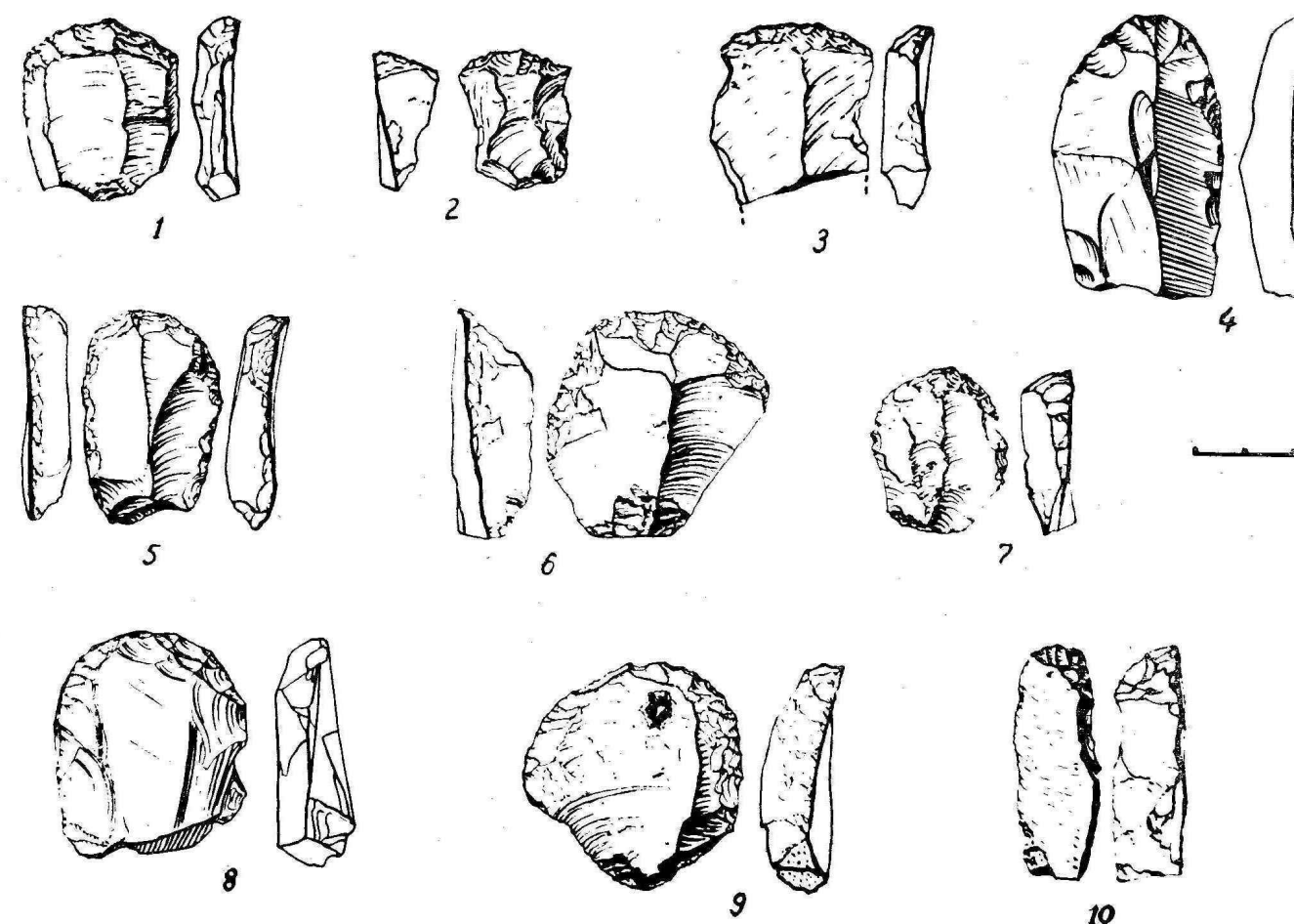


FIGURE 4. *Beregovo II*: 4, 8 — end-scrapers. *Beregovo V*: 1—3, 5—7, 9—10 — end-scrapers.

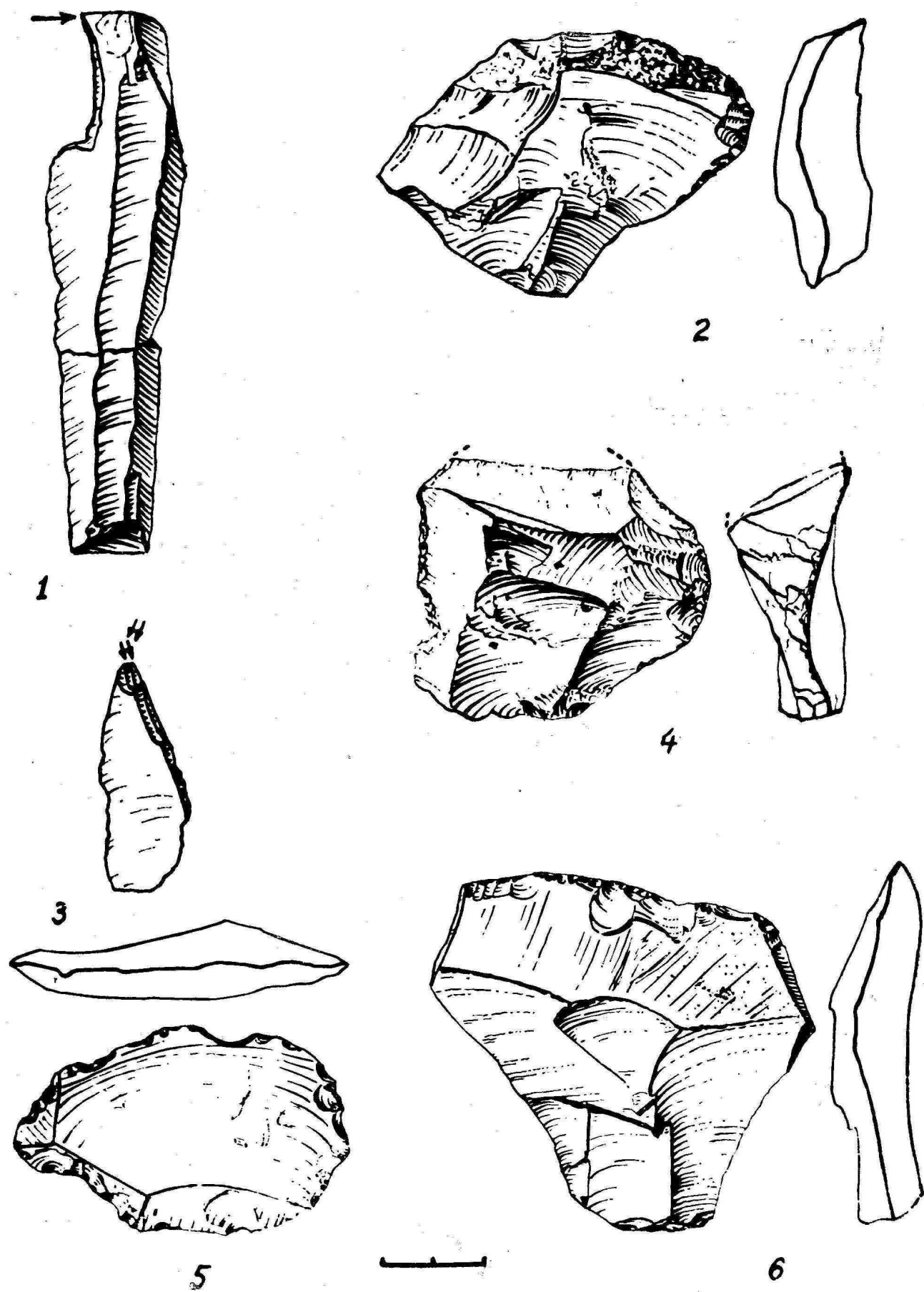


FIGURE 5. *Beregovo I*: 1 — burin, *Beregovo II*: 2, 6 — end-scrapers; 5 — denticulated tool. *Beregovo V*: 3 — burin; 4 — end-scraper.

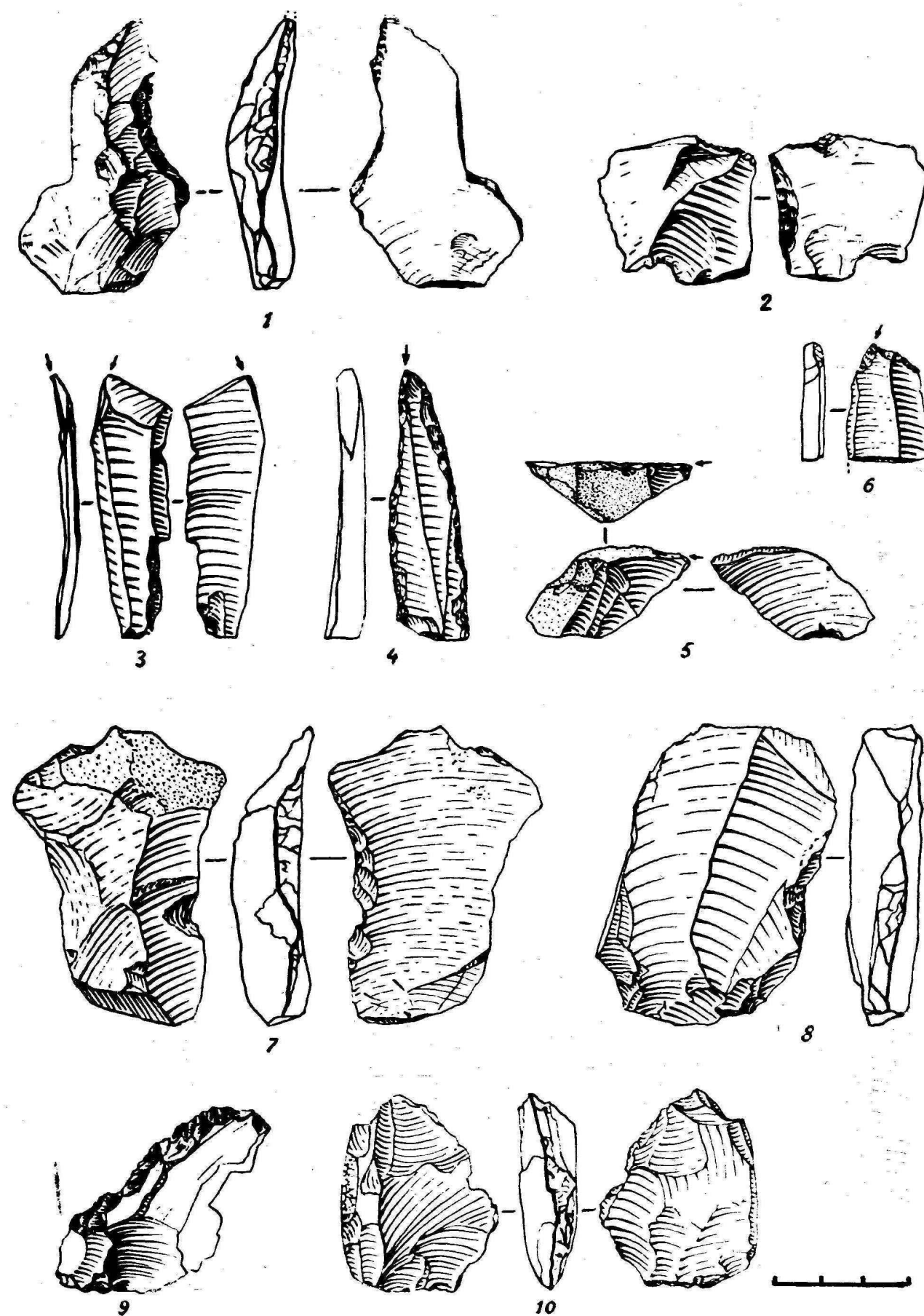


FIGURE 6. *Muzhevo I*: 1 — borer; 2, 5 — rezchiks; 3—4, 6 — burins; 7—8 — pushplanes; 9 — denticulated tool; 10 — chisel.

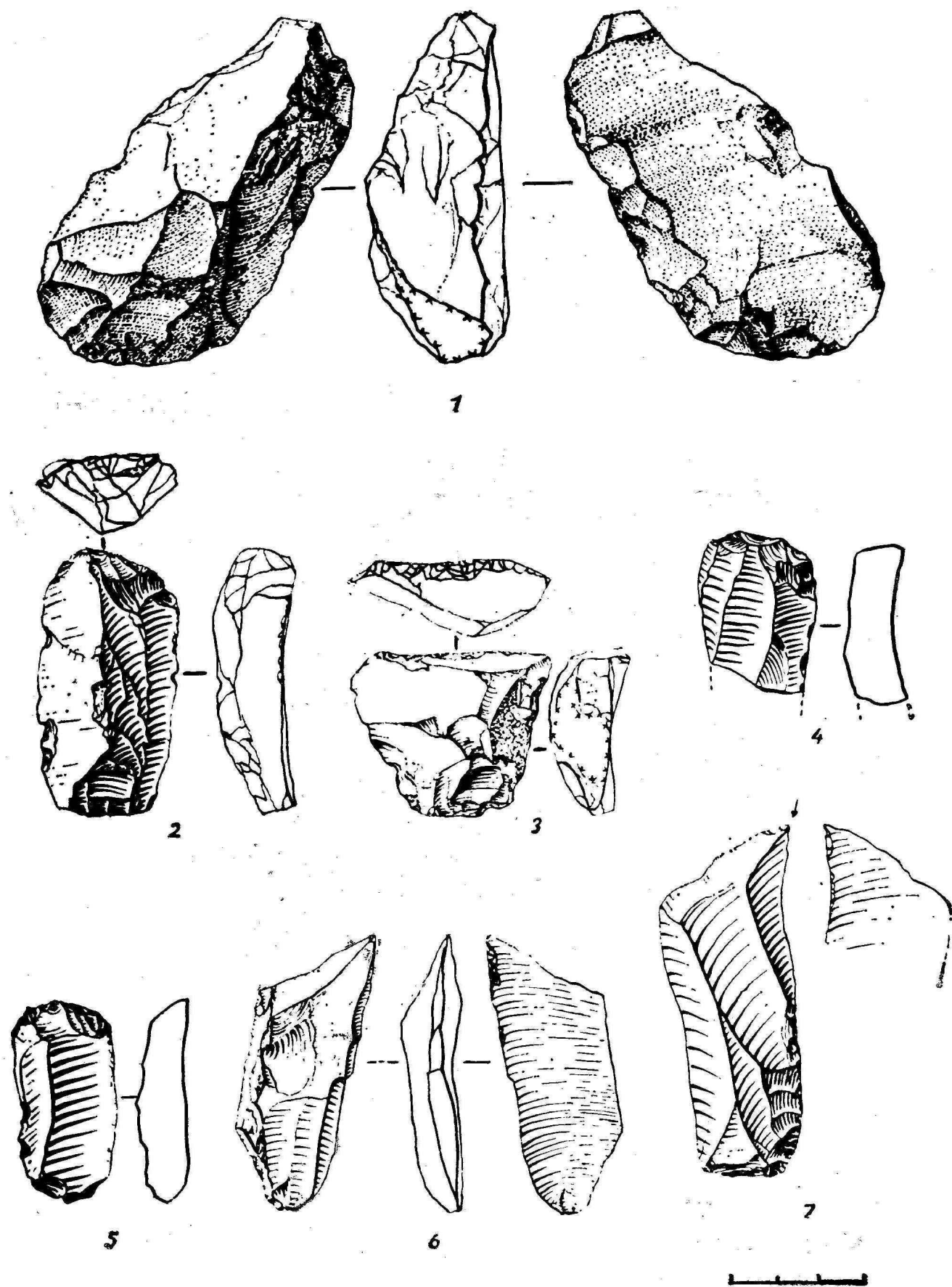


FIGURE 7. *Muzhievo I*: 1 — knife; 2—5 — end-scrapers; 6—7 — rezchiks.

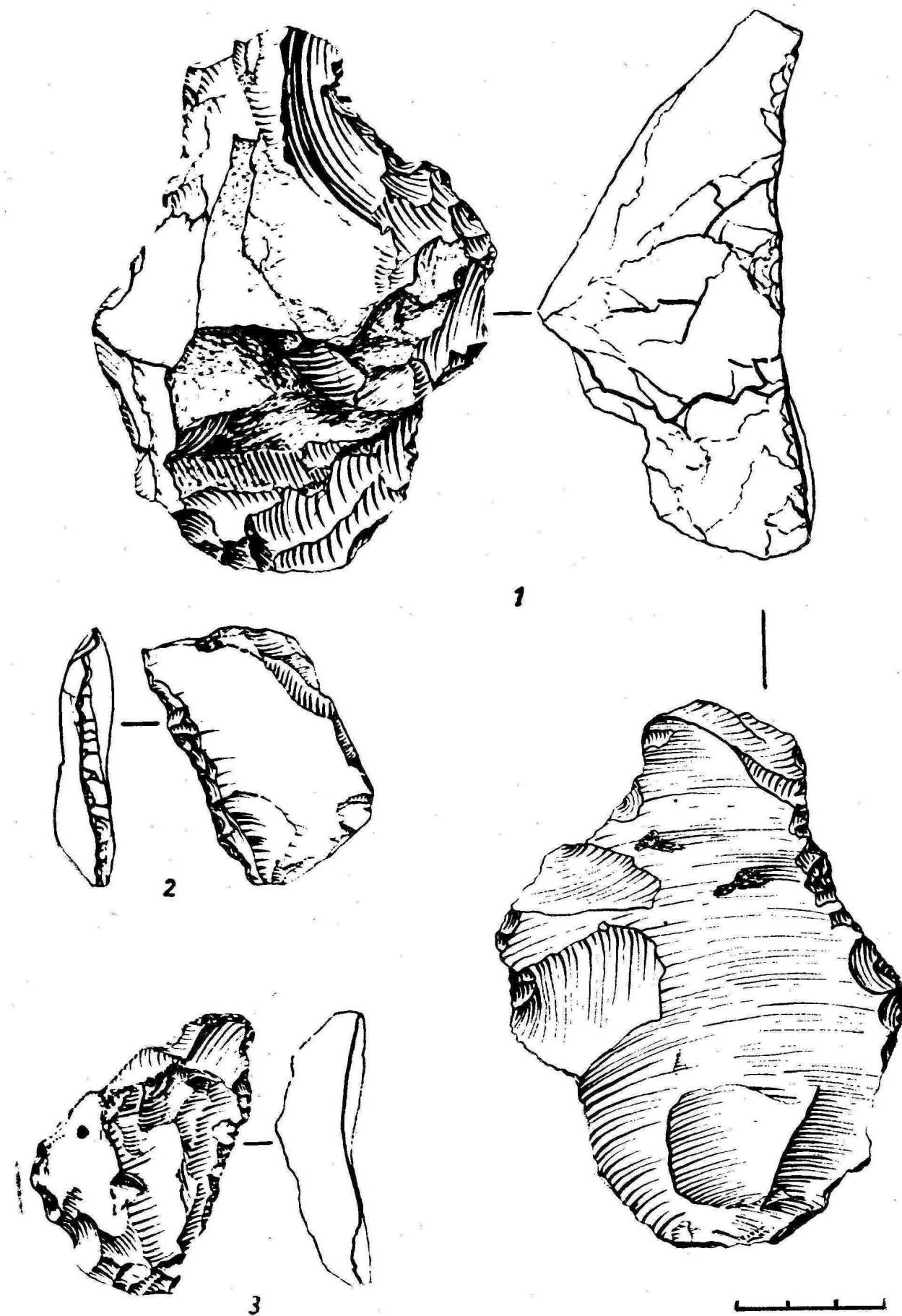


FIGURE 8. *Muzhievo I*: 1 — chopping-tool on flake; 2—3 — knives.

to the description of the stratigraphic scheme of pits 1 and 2 the geological layers have been disturbed.

J. K. Kozłowski and S. K. Kozłowski doubt the correctness of the dating of Barca, mentioning also the vague stratigraphic situation of finds (Kozłowski, Kozłowski, 1975), 353—354). If we take into account the stratigraphy of Beregovo I, the dating of the east Slovakian sites appears to be too earlier. On comparing the assemblage of the Beregovo sites with the earliest Upper Palaeolithic complexes in Korolevo, we can see differences both in the technique, and also in the composition of the tools in the assemblage. In the Upper Palaeolithic industry in Korolevo II (complex II) there is still a considerable component of Mousterian type. In Beregovo appear Mousterian-type tools only sporadically. In the Upper Palaeolithic Korolevo I (complex Ia) end-scrapers amounted to 46.8% of all tools, but burins are seldom and not too expressive. End-scrapers prevail also in the Beregovo group, but they clearly differ from the Korolevo industry with their rich standardization and high degree of perfection. Here we have considerably more burins — between 10—26%; they show also high degree of standardization and perfection, characteristic of the developed Upper Palaeolithic industries of the post-Paudorf period. In the Upper Palaeolithic Korolevo collections there are few rezchiks (flat burins), widespread in the Beregovo assemblages and also chisels, borers and some other kinds of tools, typical of the Beregovo collections. And, finally, andesite artifacts of the late Mousterian and of the Upper Palaeolithic Korolevo complexes are more weathered than the Upper Palaeolithic artifacts made of the same raw material in the Beregovo group of sites. This very fact also documents their earlier age.

Following the above-mentioned facts we can conclude that the Upper Palaeolithic Korolevo and Beregovo collections are two independent Upper Palaeolithic groups of different age existing in the Transcarpathian region.

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