

A Polyhedral Blade Core from Travis County, Texas

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ABSTRACT

A polyhedral core found at a site southwest of Austin, in Travis County, Texas is reported and discussed. Examination indicates that it is derived from Clovis blade technology.

THE SITE

The specimen described in this paper came from the surface of site 41TV2266. The site is located on a hilltop approximately 5 miles southwest of the City of Austin and just east of FM1826. The locale is described by the finder as an uplands setting overlooking Slaughter Creek to the north. There are sparse amounts of debitage scattered on the surface, along with thick bifacial cores, all related to the site's use as a small lithic procurement area,

THE ARTIFACT

This small, heavily patinated, blade core (Figure 2, 3) strongly resembles conical blade cores from Clovis contexts (Collins 1999; Collins and Lohse 2004; see also Turner and Hester 1993:39). The artifact is heavily patinated except for two, unpatinated blade removals, which were probably struck off this core at a much later date, as both blade scars appear to have removed patina. The material appears to be light grayish tan Edwards chert, of a medium grade with some inclusions. The specimen is roughly conical in shape, with the striking platform roughly polygonal in shape. As seen in Figure 2, there are five blade facets existing on this specimen. The core total length is 91 mm and its maximum width is 59 mm. The maximum blade removal is 89 mm and, interestingly, this is the unpatinated blade scar. The maximum width of any blade removal scar is 30 mm. It is possible that this blade core was exhausted by Clovis



Figure 1. Location of Travis County.

standards. It is important to remember that this specimen's measurements are representative of an exhausted Clovis blade core, as discussed by Collins and Headrick (Collins 1992).

Scattered Clovis blade cores have been reported from Bexar County (Chandler, 1992, 1999; Kelly 1992) and Victoria County (Birmingham and Bluhm 2003). Collins (1999) illustrates such cores from other central Texas sites, and from the Gault site in Bell County.

UV LIGHT ANALYSIS

The core from 41TV2266 was subjected to ultraviolet light analysis using a Model UVGL-55

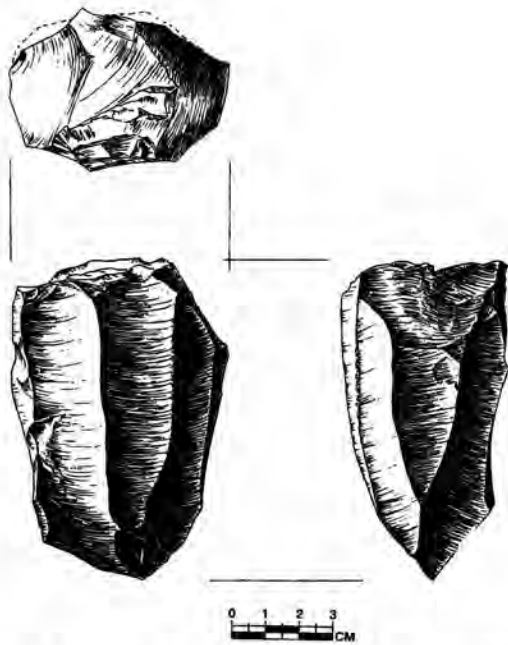


Figure 2. Views of the Polyhedral Core from 41TV2266. Drawings by Richard McReynolds.

Mineralight Lamp. This model emits ultraviolet light in both short and long wave. Only the unpatinated surfaces on this specimen fluoresced, responding with a "pumpkin orange," so common in Edwards cherts. All patinated surfaces on this specimen simply reflected the ultraviolet light, shining quite purple. This response occurred in both short and long wave.

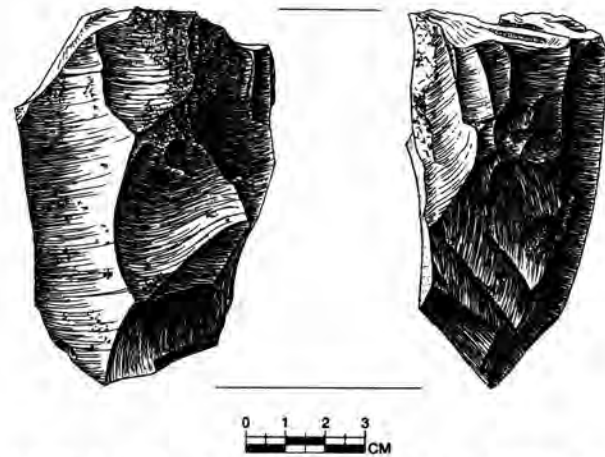


Figure 3. Views of the Polyhedral Core from 41TV2266. Drawings by Richard McReynolds.

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