

THE LATE MESOLITHIC OF THE ALENTEJO COAST (PORTUGAL). LITHIC INDUSTRY IN FOCUS

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Abstract

The authors will present a synthesis about the technological and functional structure (microwear analysis) of chert knapped industry from late Mesolithic societies of the Alentejo Coast. Their study will be focused on the settlement of Santa Marinha near the lagoon of Melides in the northern sector of the region, and on the site of Vale Marim, directly on the cliff of the Atlantic shore, close to the harbour of Sines.

The results of the lithic assemblages study will be discussed in order to shed new light on the subsistence marine adaptations and to the complex hunter-gatherer social organization model of these Mesolithic groups in transition to the food production economy, at the second quarter of the 6th millennium cal BC.

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