

CHAPTER 5

Projectile Points from the Central and Northern Mainland Coast of British Columbia

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Introduction

Until the mid-1960s very little was known about the archaeology of the central and northern coasts of British Columbia (Figure 1). Earlier site surveys by Harlan Smith (1909b, 1930) and Philip Drucker (1943) involved few excavations and those sites tested had only late components that lacked flaked stone tools. The ethnographic evidence indicated that the peoples of this coastal region did not make flaked stone artifacts, and the discovery of two large lanceolate chipped stone points near the mouth of the Bella Coola River was judged sufficiently unique by Harlan Smith (1909a) to write an article about them for the *American Anthropologist* in which he concluded that they were recent imports from the Interior. Another early find was a hafted side-notched arrow point (Figure 2) found in 1925 eroding from Tsitsutl glacier northeast of Bella Coola, that is now in the Royal British Columbia Museum (Keddie and Nelson 2005). Subsequent excavations beginning in the late 1960s did reveal that flaked stone points were part of the cultural inventory on both the North and Central coasts, particularly in the early period, and it is these points that form the database for this chapter. Figure 1 shows the locations of sites or localities where chipped stone points have been found. Particularly noticeable is the presence of chipped stone along the main routes to the Interior, the Skeena River on the north and the Dean and Burke channels and river systems on the south, and their absence in the intervening region. There have been some surveys and excavations in

this intermediate region but the most likely reason for this absence is the lack of communication links between the Interior and the Coast.

The type of stone used for making chipped stone points in both these coastal regions is for the most part volcanic rock in the andesite/basalt/dacite range in which differentiation is difficult to determine visually as surfaces frequently weather to a medium grey colour. No detailed studies of the raw materials have been undertaken such as Smith (2004) has accomplished for Haida Gwaii. A few points of slate, chert, milky quartz, quartz crystal, quartzite, chalcedony, and obsidian have also been found.

The North Coast

On the north coast George MacDonald (1969) initiated research in 1966 as part of the North Coast Prehistory Project that saw the excavation or testing of 10 sites in Prince Rupert Harbour over the next several years and excavation at the site of Gitaus about 150 km up the Skeena River although still in the coastal zone. No sites earlier than 5000 BP were discovered. Louis Allaire (1979) analyzed the Gitaus collection, and Ken Ames (2005) has recently described the artifacts from the Prince Rupert Harbour excavations. Later work at Kitselas Canyon (Coupland 1996) recovered no classifiable projectile points. Donald Clark found two points at a cave site on the Nass River that are now in the Archaeological Survey collections in Gatineau. One large leaf-

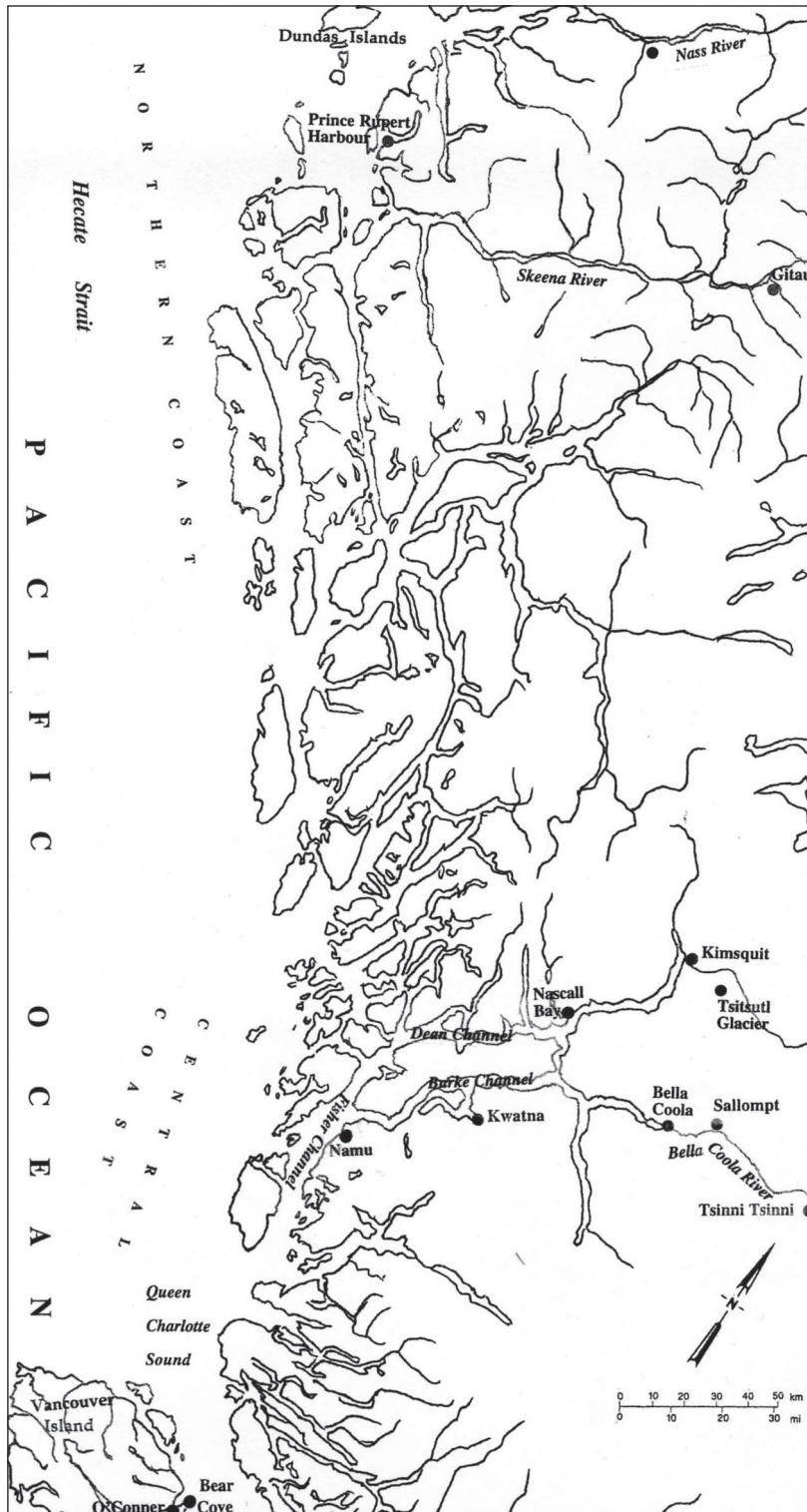


Figure 1. Map of the central and northern coasts of British Columbia showing locations of sites mentioned in the text.

shaped point (Figure 3) has recently been found on the beach on Kaien Island at Prince Rupert as a result of CRM work by Millennia Research.

Excavations at the sites in Prince Rupert Harbour produced only 11 chipped stone points, and Ames (2005:169) suggests that these were traded from up the Skeena River. Outlines of a sample of these bifaces that I made when I examined the collection in the mid-1970s are shown in the lower two rows in Figure 4. These points are made of basaltic stone and are large with convex sides and a rounded or slightly flattened base. Most are long and narrow and three of the 11 points have slightly indented margins at the proximal end forming weak shoulders and a long stem. Ames (2005:169) reports a mean length of 32 mm and mean width of 16 mm. The presence of only 11 flaked stone points contrasted with the presence of 242 points and fragments of points made of ground slate out of the approximately 9000 artifacts recovered is a strong indicator of the relative unimportance of flaked stone projectile heads during the last 5000 years of prehistory at Prince Rupert Harbour. MacDonald (1969:250–253) indicates that chipped stone in general was common at about



Figure 2. Hafted arrow point from Tsitsutl Glacier north of Bella Coola dated at 335 ± 30 BP (Keddie and Nelson 2005:118). The flaked point is 4 cm long and appears to have been re-sharpened.

4500 BP, but had virtually disappeared by 1500 BP. These same types of points are found up the Skeena River at Gitau (Allaire 1979) and Hagwilget (Ames 1979, Pl. 3) where they are dated by radiocarbon to between 5000 and 1500 BP. Ames (2005, Fig. 8.9) also reports a 200 mm long concave based ground stone point with edges sharpened by flaking from Prince Rupert. MacDonald (1983, Fig. 6:17) illustrates a large concave-based basalt “dagger” found as part of a cache of warrior weapons dated 2500 BP at the Boardwalk site at Prince Rupert.

Allaire (1979, Pls. 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11) recovered 27 classifiable projectile points and additional biface point fragments from his excavations at Gitau (GdTc-2). All of these points are large and have foliate outlines. They vary in their width/length ratios



Figure 3. Foliate biface from Kaien Island, Prince Rupert. (Photo courtesy of Morley Eldridge.)



Figure 4. Bifacially flaked points from sites in Prince Rupert Harbour (lower two rows) and Gitaus (upper rows). The latter re-drawn from Allaire (1979).

with about half lanceolate (<0.35 mm W/L ratio), and in the treatment of the base: expanding stem 6; contracting stem 1; flat to slightly rounded base 5; concave base 6; diamond shaped with rounded base 5; and foliate with rounded base 4. None have corner or side-notches for hafting although there is one in which the stem is missing and it could have been notched. They are dated by ¹⁴C in the period between 4400 and 1500 BP. Outline drawings of a sample of these points are shown in the upper rows in Figure 4.

The Nass River cave on the lower Nass was investigated by Donald Clark and two small projectile points (Figure 5), one with a contracting stem like Kavik points, only larger, and one side-notched point broken at the notches, were recovered. These points are late and probably date within the last 1500 years.

The Central Coast

On the central coast Philip Hobler (1970) began archaeological investigations in 1968 with a site survey of the seaward reaches of Nuxalk (Bella Coola) territory, and in 1969 began excavations at several sites at Kwatna. That same year Jim Hester started the Bella Bella Prehistory Project including testing at Namu that continued for two years, and succeeded in establishing a 9000 year long cultural sequence at that site (Hester and Nelson 1978). In 1970–1972 Roy Carlson (1972) continued the excavations at Kwatna and in addition discovered a number of



Figure 5. Points from the Nass River cave.

lithic scatters on the beaches that contained artifacts different from those found in the excavations at Kwatna, and were interpreted as lag deposits from early sites eroded by rising sea levels. In 1971 and 1972 Hobler shifted his excavations to Kimsquit and found one early site (FeSr-5) with both microblades and a bifacial point. In 1974 Brian Apland undertook a low tide survey of beaches in the islands of Heiltsuk territory west of Fisher Channel and discovered a number of lithic scatters that he analyzed (Apland 1982) along with those from Kwatna and from Quatsino Sound on northern Vancouver Island (Carlson and Hobler 1976). In 1977, 1978, and 1994 Carlson re-opened the Namu excavations and discovered pre-microblade levels with bifacial projectile points dating back to 9700 BP (Carlson 1996). In 1977 Hobler excavated the quarry site of Joashila (FaSu-19) at Kwatna with a component with bifaces dating to ca. 5000 BP, but no classifiable points were found. In 1994 and 1995 Hobler (1995, 1996) excavated at Tsinni Tsinni, an early site on two high terraces in the upper Bella Coola Valley (Hall 2003), and in 2001 excavated the Sallompt site (FcSp-017) on a lower terrace in the middle reaches of the Bella Coola Valley that produced about 30 mostly fragmentary bifaces (Hobler 2004). In 1995 Millenia Research (Maxwell, Eldridge, and Wilson 1995) undertook an impact assessment at Nascall Bay and found two flaked points at FcSt-3.

To the south in Southern Kwakiutl territory on the northern end of Vancouver Island three leaf-shaped points were recovered from the undated basal deposit at the O'Conner site (Chapman 1982), and at Bear Cove (C. Carlson 1979, 2003) one crude diamond-shaped and three leaf-shaped points were found in Component I dated between 8000 and 4500 BP as well as other point fragments. In Nuuchahnulth territory on the west coast of Vancouver Island no flaked stone points were found in the long sequence at Yuquot beginning 4200 years ago (Dewhurst 1980). Subsequent work in this region has uncovered crude leaf-shaped points at high elevations (McMillan 1996) and the occasional foliate biface in younger shell middens that may have been traded into the region (McMillan and St. Claire 2005).

Flaked stone projectile points are not common on the central coast although some are found throughout the 10,000 year cultural sequence. Eighty-four (58%) of the 145 classifiable points

(Table 1) are from a single site, Namu (EISx-1), and 65 (77%) of these pre-date 5000 BP. Nineteen points were found as parts of lithic scatters on eroded beaches (Apland 1982), and the others were found at various sites (Table 1). The first *in situ* points came from Phil Hobler's and my excavations at Kwatna (1969-73) and Jim Hester's (1969-71) at Namu. Additional points and the earliest ones were found in excavations at Namu that I directed in 1978 and 1994 (Carlson 1996) and at sites that Hobler (1995, 1996) excavated on the high terraces in the Bella Coola Valley.

Central Coast Projectile Point Types

The following types are based on form and are numbered from I to IX beginning with the earliest. **I.** Foliate, un-stemmed, un-barbed, rounded or pointed base; **II.** Small tear-drop "Chindadn" points; **III.** Trianguloid Chindadn variant; **IV.** Squared or concave base foliates; **V.** Diamond-shaped; **VI.** Contracting stem; **VII.** Expanding (fishtail) stem; **VIII.** Corner-notched; **IX.** Side-notched. The numbers of points of each type are shown in Table 1.

Type I Foliate Unstemmed Points with Rounded, Pointed, or Flattened Base. Figures 6-9.
N = 97 (26 measured).

Length: 3.2 to 15.7 mm with 13 (50%) between 8.0 and 5.5 mm; **Width:** 3.5 to 1.2 mm with 13 (50%) between 2.4 and 1.8 mm; **W/L Ratio:** 0.18 to 0.60 mm with 13 (50%) between 0.37 and 0.27 mm.

Distribution. Eleven sites (See Table 1) with 68 including fragmentary examples (70%) from Namu.

Time Range. >9000 BP to contact and most common in the 9000-8000 period at Namu. The earliest dated point made of quartzite (Figure 6) is from the 9700-9000 BP level at Namu very close to the 9000 BP radiocarbon date. Neither the Tsinni Tsinni nor the Sallompt assemblages (Hall 2003; Hobler 1995, 2004) are radiocarbon dated, but their geological context—old terraces above the Bella Coola Valley—and their cultural inventories place them in the early period before 5000 BP with TsinniTsinni probably in the 10,000 to 8000 period, and Sallompt in the 8000 to 5000 BP range. Three of the large lanceolate points of this type (Figure 7), two of slate and one of basalt, were found with an adult male burial at

Table 1. Numbers of central coast projectile points by type and site. Types: I Foliate, unstemmed; II Chindadn; III Trianguloid; IV Lanceolate, unstemmed; V Diamond; VI Contracting stem; VII Expanding stem; VIII Corner-notched; IX Side-notched.

SITE \ TYPE	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	TOTAL
Namu Periods BP										
Ia 10,000–9000	1									1
Ib 9000–8000	29	3	1							33
Ic 8000–6000	16					1				17
II 6000–5000	11	1				2				14
III 5000–4500	1									1
IV 4500–3500	7					1				8
V 3500–2000	1						1			2
VI 2000–200	2					1	1	2	2	8
Beach Scatters										
FbSu-1					1	2	1			4
EkTa-10	2							1		3
EITb-10	4				2	1		1	1	9
FaSu-21					1		1			1
FaTc-7	1									1
EdSv-1										1
Kwatna										
FaSu-1									1	1
FaSu-2	1						1	3	2	7
FaSu-10								1		1
Kimsquit FeSr-5	1									1
TsinniTsinni FcSm-11	6	3								2
Tsitsi Glacier									1	1
Trumpter Mtn.				1						1
Nascall FcSt-3	1								1	2
Sallompt FcSp-17	7	1		1						9
Bella Coola						3				3
Bear Cove	3	1								4
O’Conner	3									3
TOTAL	97	9	1	2	4	11	5	8	8	145



Figure 6. Quartzite projectile point >9000 BP from the basal layer at Namu.



Figure 7. Lanceolate points associated with adult male burial at Namu dated 4390 ± 160 BP. Middle point is 14.3 cm long.

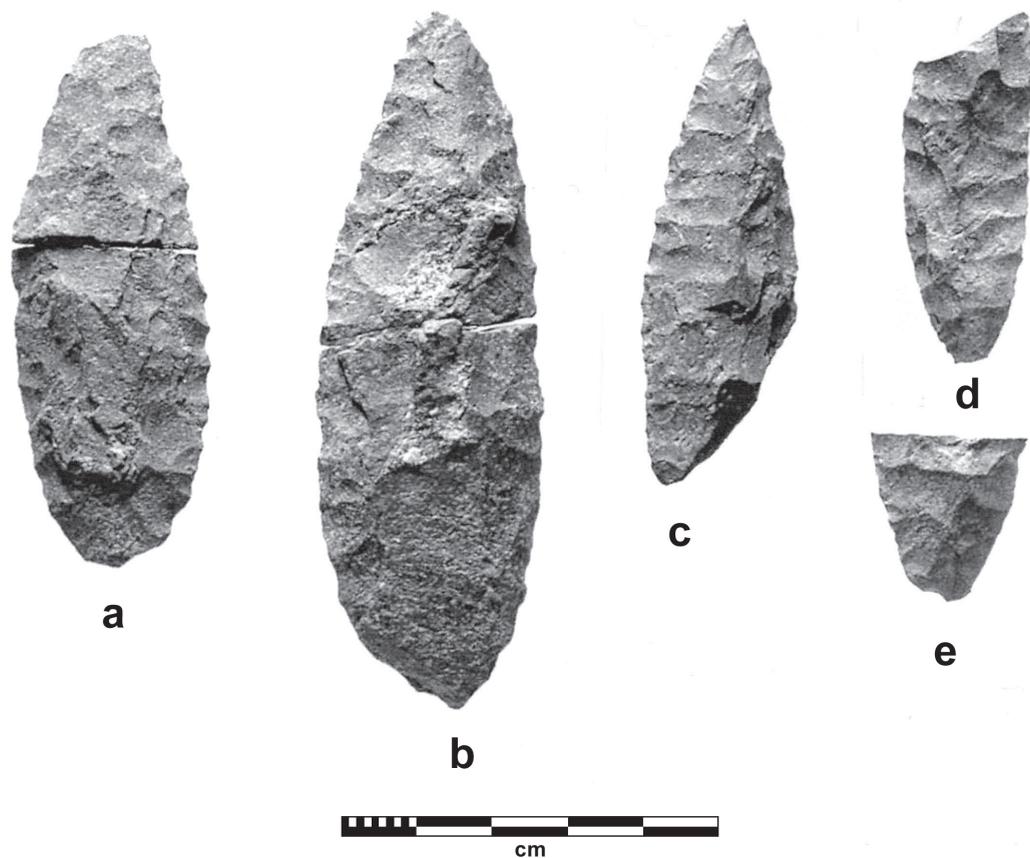


Figure 8. Early andesite bifaces from Namu showing patterning of flake scars. a, b, e: 9000–8000 BP levels; c: 6000–5000 BP levels; d: 8000–6000 BP levels.

Namu (Hester and Nelson 1978, Fig. 22) that was dated at 4390 ± 160 BP. Two unfinished points (Figure 8a, b) from Namu, apparently broken during manufacture, were found in levels dating 9000 to 8000 BP. Two points (Figure 9d, g) from Namu dated 2440 and 7800–4540 BP (Hester and Nelson 1978:50) may be re-sharpened examples of longer points.

Discussion. Namu has yielded 68 points of this type of which only nine are complete enough for measurement. All of these points have a pointed or rounded base except for one of the large lanceolate points mentioned above that has a rough flat base. They vary greatly in size. Twenty-five of the points from the 9000–8000 period at Namu are end fragments. One point from Tsinni Tsinni (Figure 9h) is made of quartz crystal and three are of basalt. The two basal fragments of lanceolate basalt points (Figure 9b, c) from Tsinni Tsinni both show grinding and smoothing on their basal margins as

does the earliest point of quartzite (Figure 6) from Namu, and the undated point (Figure 9e from Kimsquit). At Tsinni Tsinni and at Namu there are fragments of other rather broad bifaces with rounded base that are probably parts of knives and have not been included in this count. A small lanceolate point with a single shoulder (Figure 9a) from the 7000 BP level at Namu is also made of quartzite.

Type II. Chindadn Points. Small thin Tear-drop Points with Marginal Retouch made on a Flake. N=9 (5 measured) Figure 10.

Length: 52 to 55 mm; **Width:** 2.3 to 2.6 mm; **W/L ratio:** 0.44 to 0.48 mm. **Th:** 5–6 mm.

Distribution. Namu, Tsinni Tsinni, and Sallompt
Time Range. Three of these points are from the 9000–8000 levels at Namu. The fourth point of andesite was found in the 6000–5000 level and

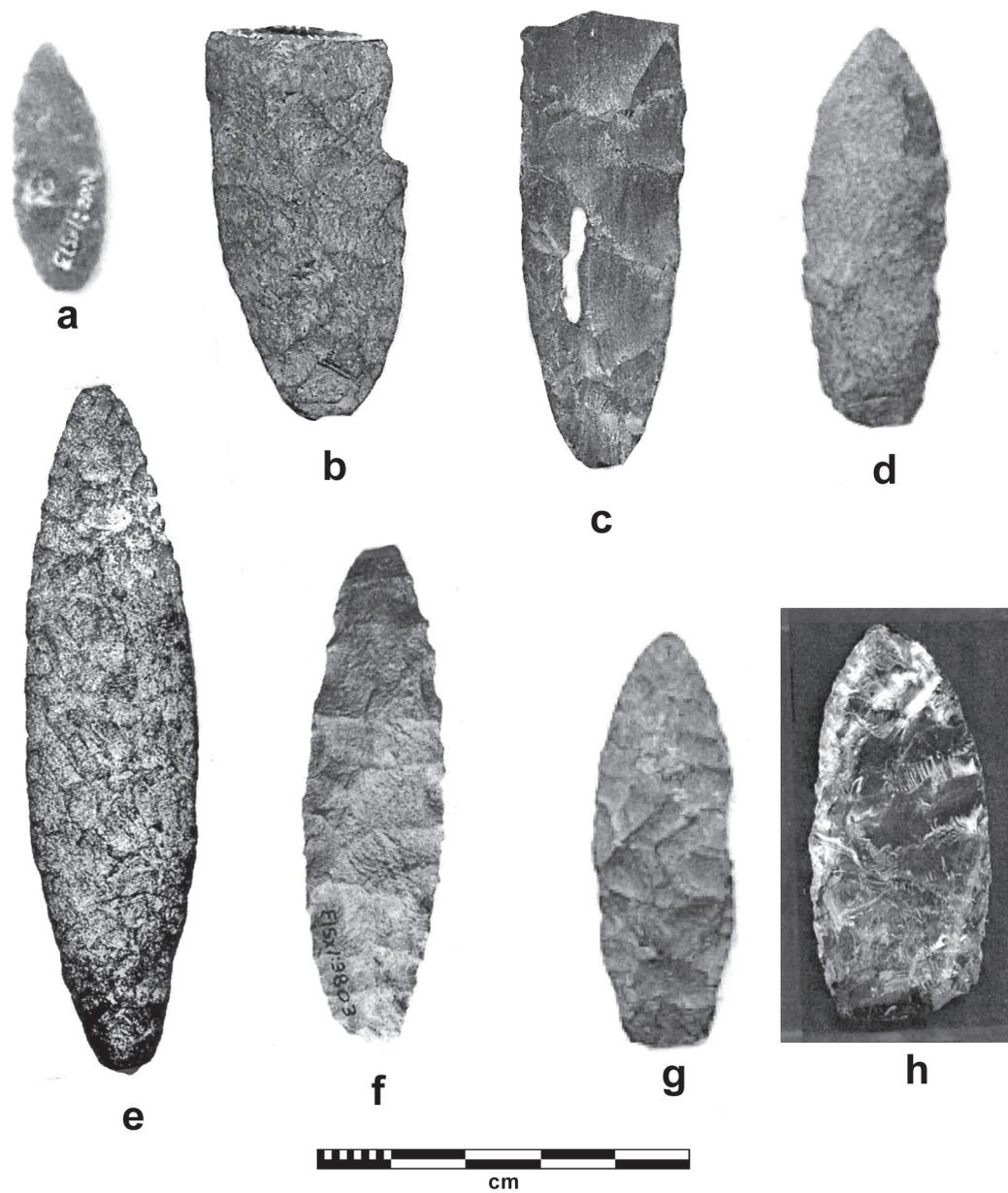


Figure 9. Early foliate points from various sites. a: quartzite point from 7000 BP level at Namu. b, c: bases of lanceolate points from Tsinni Tsinni that show grinding on basal lateral edges; d: basalt point from Namu with lateral grinding at base dating between 7800 and 4540 BP. e: point from FeSr-5 at Kimsquit; f: andesite point from Namu from the 7000 BP levels; g: slate Point from Namu dating to 2400 BP; h: quartz crystal point from Tsinni Tsinni.

could be intrusive from earlier levels. There are two fragments and one complete point from Tsinni Tsinni.

Discussion. These points (Figure 10) resemble the tear-drop Chindadn points from the Nenana Complex in Central Alaska (Cook 1996, Fig. 6–11) and are also found in the Yukon (Figure 10i; see Easton, this volume). Microblades are also present at Namu, Sallompt, and TsinniTsinni in the levels that contain these points as they are at Healey Lake although they are absent in the earlier Nenana Complex sites in Alaska. Two points from Namu are basalt/andesite and two are a light-coloured chert or rhyolite as are

the three from Tsinni Tsinni. This type is also found in Haida Gwaii at this same time period (Fedje 2003, Fig. 3:6). The fact that other artifacts types—core scrapers/scrapper planes, drills, and other scrapers—along with these points make up a lithic complex found in both Nenana and Northwest Coast sites indicates an historical connection (Carlson 1996, 2007).

*Type III Trianguloid Point with Flat Base. N=1
Figure 10 d.*

One trianguloid point (Figure 10d)) resembling those from the Nenana Complex of central Alaska

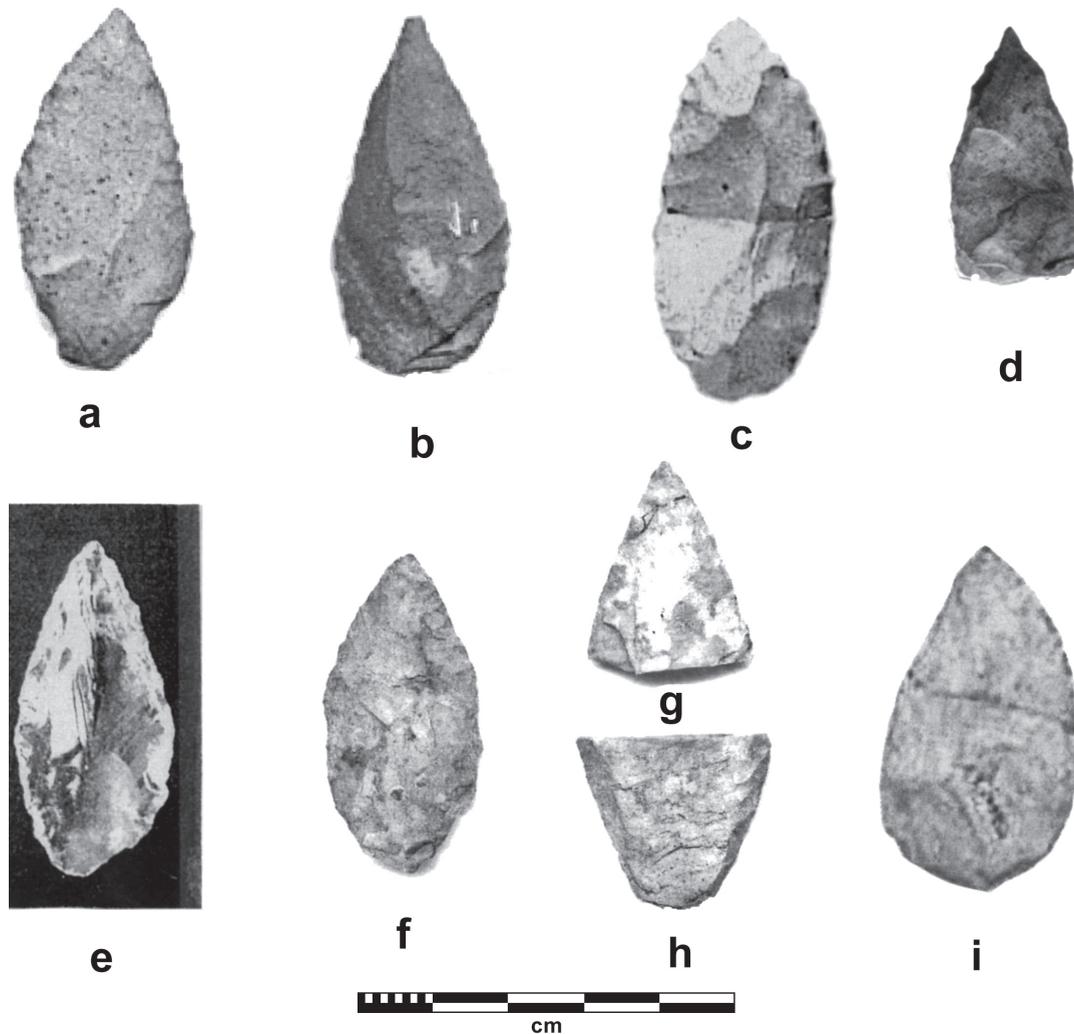


Figure 10. Chindadn and related points. a, c: Chindadn points from the 9000–8000 levels at Namu; b: possible Chindadn point from the 6000–5000 levels at Namu; d: trianguloid point from the 9000–8000 levels at Namu; e: quartz crystal point from Sallompt; f, g, h: Chindadn point and fragments from Tsinni Tsinni; i: Chindadn point from Walker Road site, Alaska.

was recovered from the 9000–8000 levels at Namu.

Length: 33 mm; **Width:** 18 mm; **W/L ratio:** 0.55 mm.

Distribution. Namu only.

Time Range. 9000–8000 BP.

Discussion. This point is unlike any others found except for one possible fragment and is similar to the small triangular points found in the Nenana Complex in Alaska (Hoffecker, Powers, and Bigelow 1996, Fig. 7–8d), and for this reason has been designated as a separate type.

Type IV Lanceolate Points with Squared or Concave Base. N=2 (one measured) Figure 11.

Length: 98 mm; **Width:** 25 mm; **W/L ratio:** 0.26 mm.

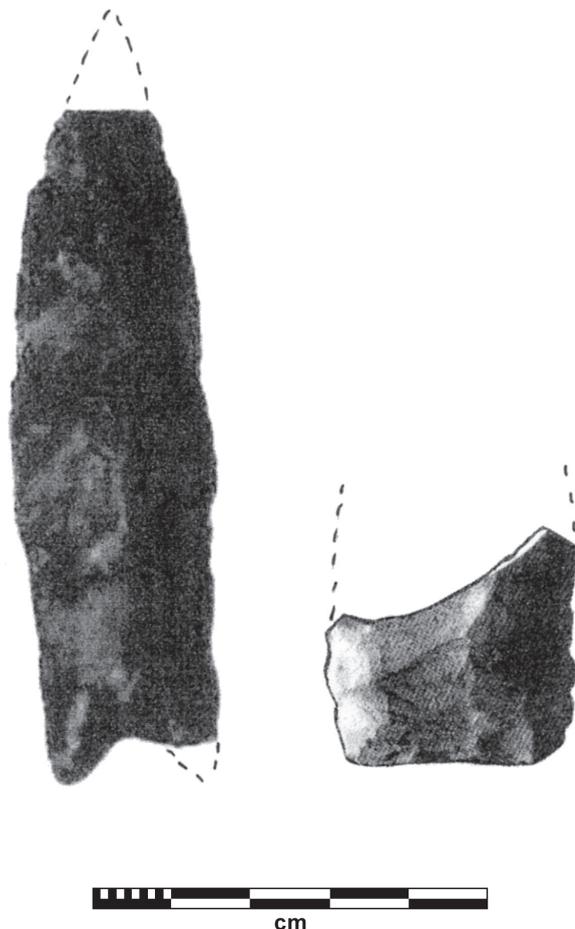


Figure 11. Lanceolate points from the Bella Coola valley. Left, point found by Jack Turner at the 5500' elevation on Trumpeter Mountain; right, point base from the Sallompt site.

Distribution. One point base from Sallompt and one point from the 5500 foot elevation on Trumpeter Mountain.

Time Range. Probably between 8000 and 5000 BP.

Discussion. The point of this type from Sallompt is a fragmentary base that shows grinding on both edges (Hobler 2004). This point resembles the “plainview-like” points from Hagwilget reported by Ames (1979, Pl. 3) that he dates about 5000–3500 BP. The second point was found by Jack Turner at the 5500 foot elevation on Trumpeter Mountain. Both points more closely resembles the Skeena River/Prince Rupert types (Figure 4) than those from the Central Coast.

Type V Diamond N=4 (4 measured) Figure 12.

Length: 47 to 110 mm; **Width:** 18 to 31 mm
W/L ratio: 0.26 to 0.49 mm.

Distribution. Three beach scatters (see Table 1).

Time Range. This type was not found in the Namu sequence. To the south in the Gulf Islands it dates between 5000 and 1500 BP with most examples early in this period. Apland (1982:225) on the basis of indirect evidence suggests that the beach scatters from which all four of these points came date between 6000 and 3000 BP.

Discussion. One point is very well made whereas the others are crude.

Type VI Points with Contracting Stem N= 11 (8 measured) Figure 13.

Length: 115 to 40 mm; **Width:** 35 to 17 mm;
W/L ratio: 0.30 to 0.50 mm

Distribution. 4 sites (See Table 1)

Time Range. The earliest point (Figure 13f) of this type is very small and made of mottled red chaledony, and was found in the 7000 BP level at Namu. A small quartzite point (Figure 9a) from the same period with a single shoulder could be considered to have an incipient stem, as could the large undated point (Figure 9e) from Kimsquit, although both have been classified as Type I. Two points (Figure 13b, e) of andesite were found in the 6000 to 5000 year levels, and the base of a very large slate point in the 4000–3000 levels. The latter is very similar to a complete point (Figure 13a) found in the front trench at Namu dated at 1880–1600 BP

(Hester and Nelson 1978, Fig. 32a); however the surface of this point is very smooth as if it had been weathering on a sandy beach whereas its edges are sharp from recent retouch. It is probably an older point picked up on the beach and re-used, in which case 4000–3000 BP might be the more valid time period.

Discussion. The two large, lanceolate points reported by Smith (1909, Fig. 73) from Bella Coola have contracting stems and are probably made of slate. Two biface fragments from the Sallompt site that Hobler (2004) calls incipient stemmed have not been included as they are very crude and the stems are not well defined; they could be performs.

Type VII Points with Expanding Stems (corner removed). N=5 (5 measured) Figures 14, 15, 16g.

Length: 50 to 75 mm with three points between 60 and 63 mm; **Width:** 24 to 30 mm with three points between 24 and 26 mm; **W/L Ratio:** 0.49 to 0.31 mm.

Distribution. 4 sites (See Table 1).

Time Range. At Namu the three points occur in levels dated 3000 to 1500 BP. At FaSu–2 at Kwatna the deposits are younger than 2000 BP.

Discussion. The expanding stem on these points was made by notching the base at the corners. One corner is broken on each of the points from Namu. The raw materials of the two Namu points are light chert, and mottled red and tan chert. The point (Figure 15) from the beach at Cathedral Point (FbSu–1) is of Edziza obsidian and is more similar to points from the Skeena than those from the Central Coast. The point from FaSu–2 is of andesite. This type may be the youngest of the atlatl dart points.

Type VIII Corner-notched Points N= 8 (8 measured) Figure 16 d, e, b, i.

Length: 64 to 34 mm; **Width:** 26 to 18 mm; **W/L Ratio:** 0.65 to 0.37 mm.

Distribution. 5 sites (See Table 1).

Time Range. All are probably younger than



Figure 12. Diamond-shaped points from lithic scatters on beaches of the Central Coast.

2000 BP. At Namu (Hester and Nelson (1978 Fig. 32c) date one point at 1840 BP, and at Kwatna these points are all in deposits younger than 2000 BP. At FaSu-10 at Kwatna there is a single ^{14}C date of 1760 ± 90 BP (Gak 4333).

Discussion. This type seems to be transitional in form between the Type VII expanding stem points and the Type IX side-notched points.

Type IX Side-notched Points

N=8 (7 measured) Figures 2, 16a-c.

Length: 60 to 25 mm; **Width:** 25 to 15 mm;
W/L Ratio: 0.72 to 0.29 mm.

Distribution. 6 sites

Time Range. The large crude obsidian point (Hester and Nelson 1978 Fig. 32f) from Namu is dated at 1470 BP. The two small points (Figure 16a, b) from Kwatna were found on the house floor at FaSu-2 dated at 330 ± 80 BP (Gak 3909). The hafted point from the Tsitsutl glacier (Figure 2) is of this type and appears to have been resharpened. The haft is dated at 335 ± 30 BP (Keddie and Nelson 2005:118).

Discussion. All points of this type may have been traded from the Interior.

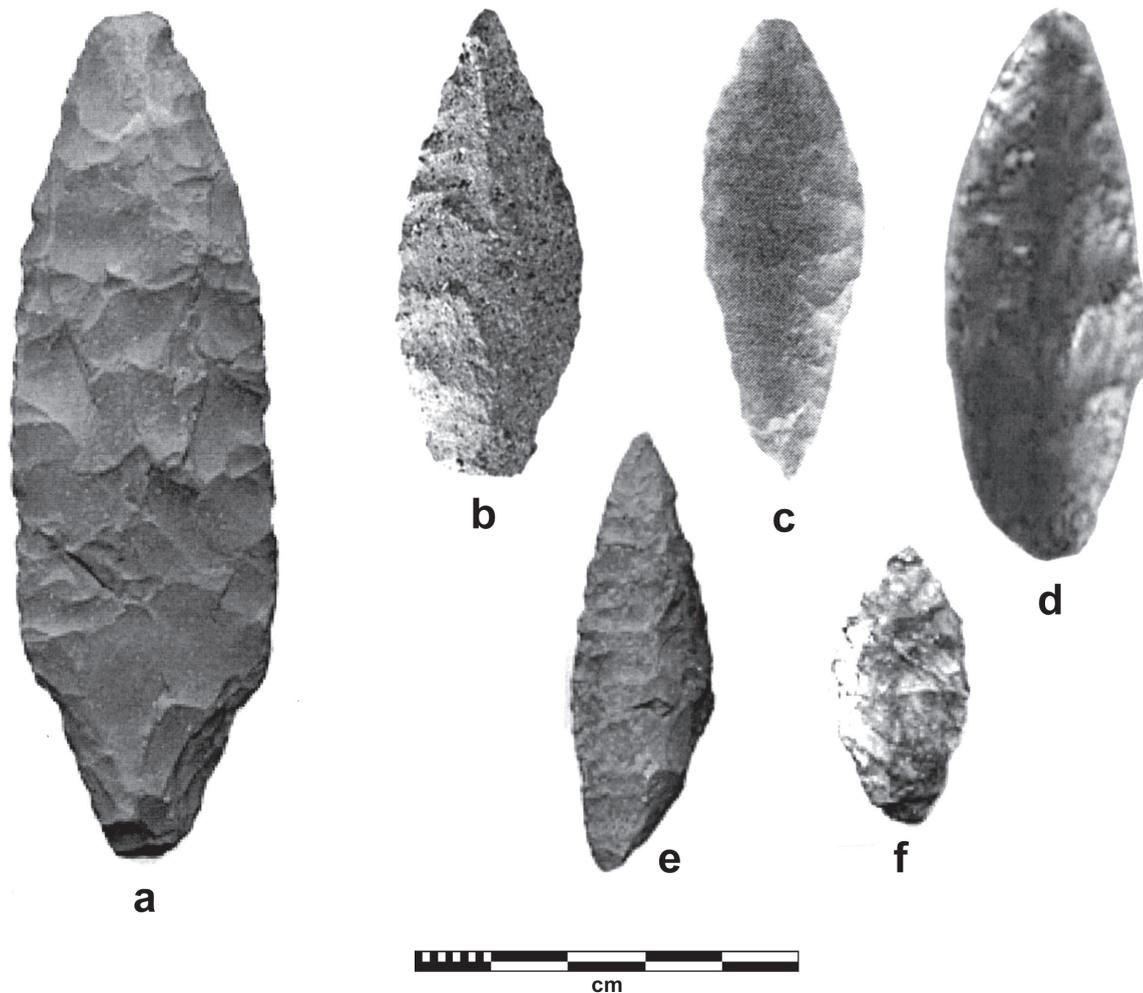


Figure 13. Contracting stem points from the Central Coast. a: slate point from Namu dating ca. 1880–1600 BP, but possibly earlier; b, e: andesite points from Namu dating 6000–5000 BP; c, d: beach finds; f: red and white chalcedony point from 7000 BP level at Namu.



Figure 14. Expanding stem point of red and white mottled chert from Namu dating 3000–2000 BP. The lower left side of the stem is broken and missing.



Figure 15. Expanding stem point of Edziza obsidian from the beach at Cathedral Point (FbSu-1).

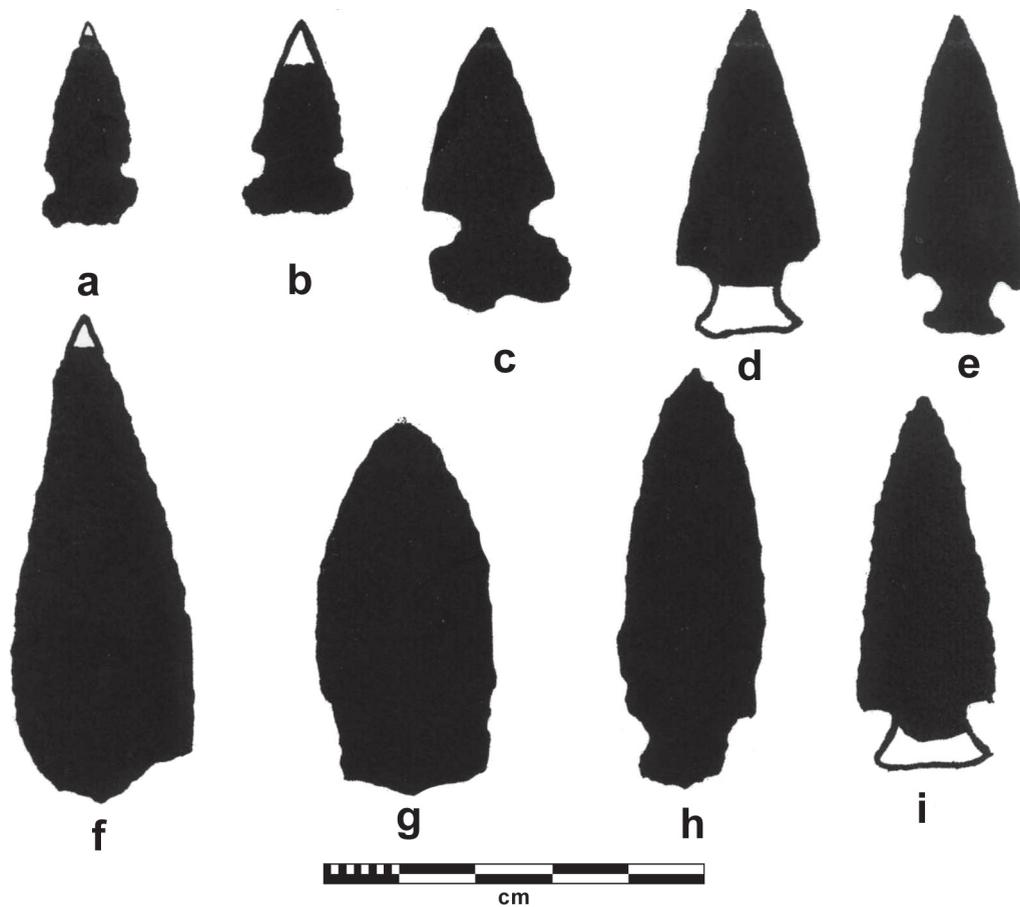


Figure 16. Late points from Kwatna and Namu. The two small side-notched points were found on the house floor at FaSu-2 dating 330 ± 80 BP. The earliest of the corner-notched points dates 1840 BP.

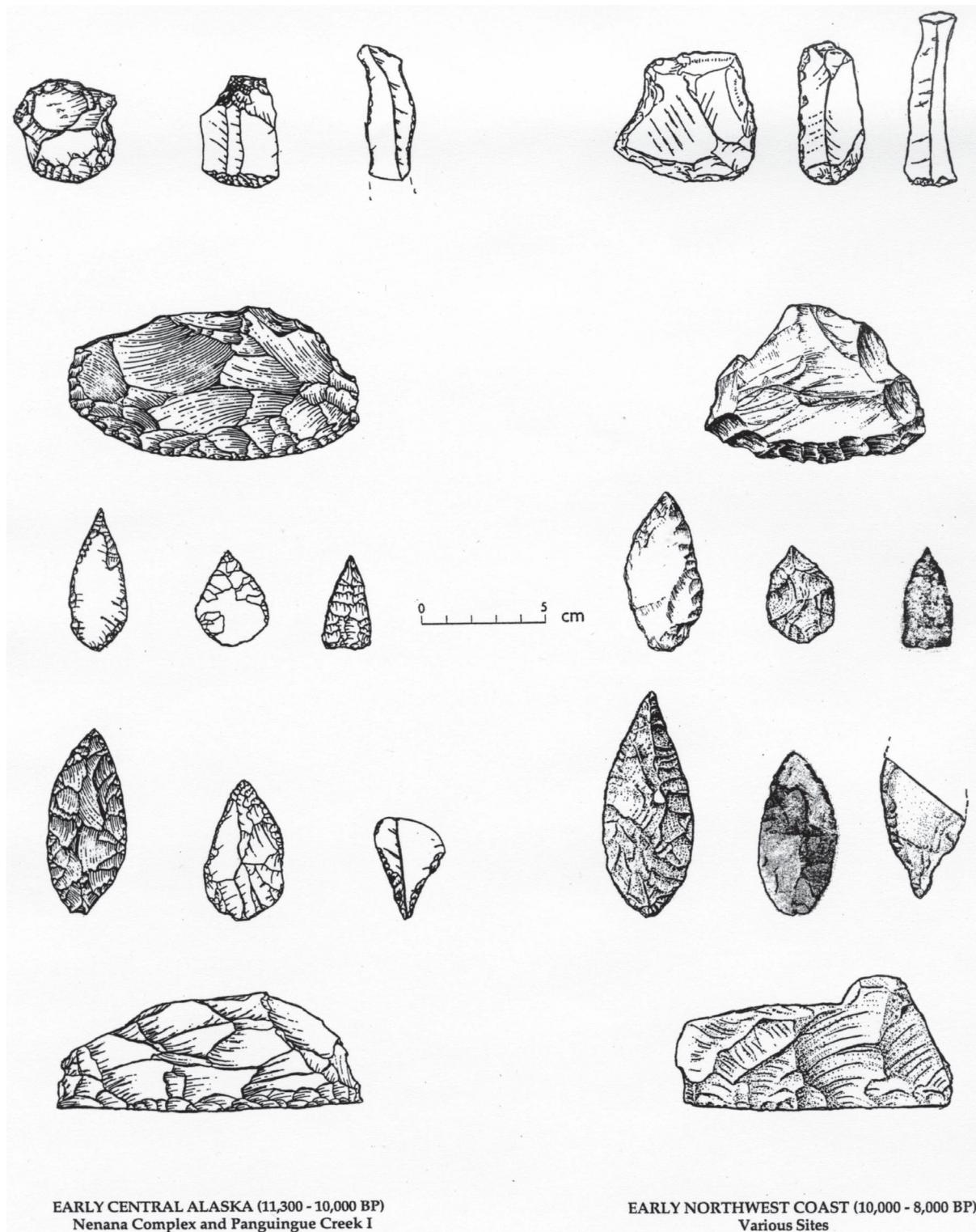


Figure 17. Types of flaked stone tools found in Nenana sites in Alaska and in early Northwest Coast sites. Top two rows: scrapers. Third row: triangular and Chindadn bifaces. Fourth row: foliate and Chindadn bifaces and drills. Bottom row: scraper planes. Artifacts re-drawn from Carlson (1996), Fedje (2003), Pearson (1999), West (1996).

Conclusions

Bifacially flaked stone projectile points were part of the cultural inventory brought to the Central Coast of British Columbia by the earliest known inhabitants about 10,000 years ago, and very probably to the North Coast as well although pre-5000 BP evidence of projectile points there is yet to be found. The earliest point at Namu and two early point bases from Tsinni Tsinni show grinding along the lateral margins of the base as do early points from Haida Gwaii. Some of the earliest points are similar to those of the Nenana Complex of central Alaska and the Yukon where they occur earlier, and it is probable that some of the early migrants to the Coast were derived from the same population. Other shared stone tool types shared with the Nenana Complex are scraper-planes, trianguloid points, perforators, and several forms of scrapers (Figure 17). Flaked points continued to be used throughout the 10,000 year sequence of occupation, but varied in form and in frequency throughout this period.

Both large and small bifacial points that probably served different uses are found throughout the Namu sequence (Figure 18). Foliate points (Type I) without stems or barbs are found between >9000 and 8000 years ago as are Chindadn (Type II) and one small trianguloid point (Type III). Lanceolate forms of Type I points continue into subsequent periods to as late as 1500 BP. The earliest stemmed and shouldered point (Type VI) is found about 7000 BP; others are found about 4000 BP and possibly later although the latter may be intrusive from earlier deposits. Points with the lower corners removed to form an expanding stem (Type VII) begin about 3000 BP and persist to perhaps 1500 BP when they are superseded by corner-notched (Type VIII) and side-notched (Type IX) forms. The frequency of flaked stone points at Namu (Table 1) peaked between 9000 and 6000 BP and drastically declined after 5000 BP. Abundant flaking detritus (Rahmetulla 2006) is present at Namu in pre-5000 BP deposits, but is much less common in younger assemblages. Similarities in the forms of later points are primarily to the Interior to the east and to the Skeena to the north rather than to the Gulf of Georgia to the south.

In the Bella Coola valley at TsinniTsinni the lithic assemblage including foliate and Chindadn points, scraper-planes, scrapers, and perforators, and in younger deposits, microblades, is very similar to that found in the 10,000 to 8000 year deposits at Namu. The

similarity in projectile point forms is also present in the somewhat younger deposits at Sallompt where there is also a basal fragment of a different type more similar to points found to the north on the Skeena River.

On the North Coast all the known points post-date 5000 BP. These points are part of the coast-wise tradition of leaf-shaped points that in this region are usually lanceolate in form and are frequently slightly shouldered to form long stems for hafting. These same types are found at sites up the Skeena River. Very few of the types of small triangular notched or stemmed arrow points known to post-date 1500 BP in the Interior and on other parts of the Coast have been found on the North Coast.

The unavailability of choice raw materials for flaked stone tools on the Coast may have contributed to the decline of flaked stone points and to an increase in projectile heads made of bone and antler that are common in the post-5000 BP period. Examples of the latter are illustrated in R. Carlson (1996) and Hester and Nelson (1978).

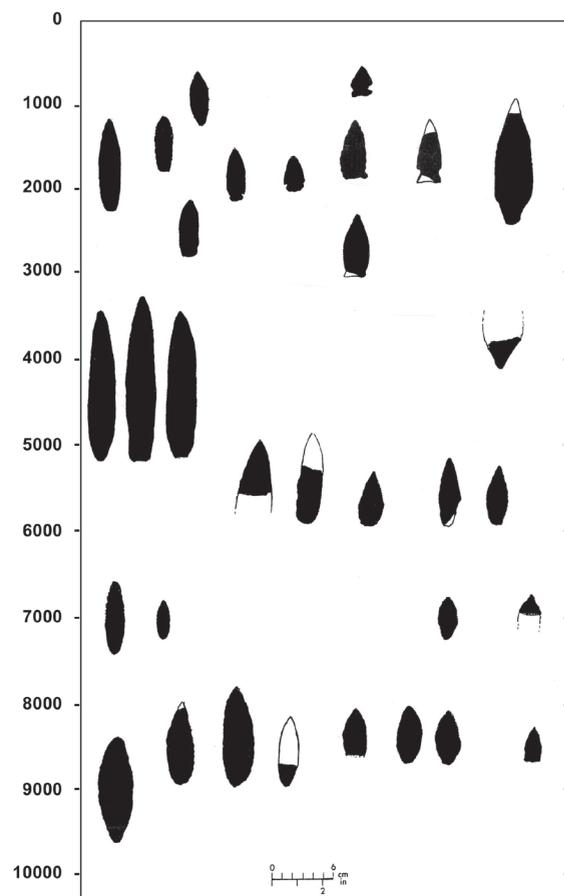


Figure 18. The sequence of projectile points at Namu based on ^{14}C dates BP.

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