

MISCELLANEOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK: 1971

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INTRODUCTION

Several archaeological surveys and other activities not covered in the other papers were undertaken as part of the Salvage Project during 1971. These activities were a survey of the upper Skagit Valley, a survey of the Maurer property at Agassiz, a survey at Camp Hatikvah on Kalamalka Lake, and analysis of the materials recovered from an earlier salvage excavation at the Glenrose site on the Fraser Delta.

UPPER SKAGIT VALLEY SURVEY

A nine day site survey of the upper reaches of the Skagit Valley was conducted by Jack Eisner and David Butlin, students in the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University. The survey was initiated as a result of proposed further flooding through the intended heightening of a downstream dam. The area surveyed was generally restricted to those portions of the valley that would be inundated. The floodwaters are expected to rise to approximately the 2000 foot level thus the width of the survey area was six to seven miles except for the adjoining Klesilkwa Valley. The length of the surveyed area is 11 miles commencing at about one mile north of 26-mile bridge and extending south toward the U.S. border.

The Klesilkwa Valley intersects the Skagit Valley from the northwest. The area of the Klesilkwa included in the survey extended westwards from 26-mile bridge for three miles at the upper end to about six miles at the intersection of the Skagit and the Klesilkwa.

A cursory description of the terrain surveyed is as follows: The Skagit Valley is relatively narrow with the Skagit River flowing through it. Steep mountains flank both

sides of the valley. The western flank is formed by Whitworth Peak rising to 7525 feet while Shawatum Mountain on the eastern flank is 7081 feet high. Immediately south of Shawatum is Nepopekum Mountain at a height of 6357 feet. Approximately half way between 26-mile bridge and Chitlin's bridge to the south there is a 2300 foot ridge about a mile in length on the east side of the river. The ridge is conspicuous by the way it juts out from the surrounding terrain and because of its close proximity to the river. Several marshes exist in both the Klesilkwa and Skagit Valleys. The main concentration of these in the Skagit is along the western banks especially to the south near Ross Lake. There is a small marsh in the northern part of the valley on the east bank and another one in the south part on the same bank. It also should be noted that the Skagit has shifted its course eastwards thus leaving long stretches of dry river bed. The vegetation of both valleys is predominantly coniferous forest. Most of the present forest growth in the Skagit is secondary as the valley had been logged off some years back. Patches of deciduous growth exist along both banks of Skagit River and also in the marshes. The dry stretches of former river bed have sparse patches of deciduous growth and green lichen. The surface of both valleys is overgrown with rain forest type bushes and there is a thick layer of forest debris.

The survey area centred on two main routes. Firstly, the survey party followed the main logging road which approaches the Skagit from the Klesilkwa and continues to follow the Skagit River's east bank crossing to the west bank at Chitlin's bridge near the border and following the west bank northwards for nearly one mile. The party surveyed along this route on the east bank and also all the minor logging trails that branch off eastwards from the main

road. On the west bank just beyond Chitlin's bridge the main road divides into two minor routes that lead in a southerly direction. The survey party surveyed both these roads to the northern extent of Ross Lake which has now enlarged its boundaries approximately 11 miles into Canada. The second main survey route was covered by boating along the Skagit River. An employee of Slaney Consultants made it possible for the pair to borrow a small boat. A full day was spent surveying the river and its banks down to the vicinity of Chitlin's bridge. Both banks of the river for about one mile north of 26-mile bridge were surveyed on foot as were the ridges on the south part of the east bank.

During the course of the survey, no archaeological sites were found. The operations were exceedingly hampered by dense undergrowth and forest debris. Another factor was the short time allowed for the survey of the valley.

In an effort to determine whether archaeological sites exist within the newly proposed boundaries of Ross Lake a survey of available ethnographic literature was made.

The first task undertaken was that of delineating ethnographic tribal boundaries in the region. This was accomplished by consulting a tribal distribution map (Spier 1936:42-43) which indicates that the upper reaches of the Skagit were considered as the lower sections of the Ntlakyápanuq or Thompson Indian territory. Spier (1936:39) notes that the Utamptamux Indians (Lower Thompson tribes) were mentioned by James Teit. Referring to the Lower Thompson Indians Teit points out:

"The Lower Thompson Indians had their villages at favourable spots along the banks of Fraser River, from a little below the village of Si'ska in the

north, to a few miles below Spuzzum in the south. Their hunting-grounds extend westward to Harrison Lake and the mountains east of the lower course of Lillooet River, southward to the head waters of Nooksack and Skagit Rivers, and eastward to the head waters of Tulameen and Coldwater Rivers."(1900:168)

Teit reports no villages, settlements or sites within the region concerned yet in view of the above statement some cultural remains should occur in the vicinity.

Attempts to locate reports on artifact finds were only slightly successful, the present research locating only one such report. The item is a soapstone bowl now in the Provincial Museum (#7906). It is reported to have been found in the Skagit Valley about one mile north of the International boundary (Duff 1956:62). Data of the find and exact provenience are not given and in view of seasonal fluctuations of precipitation it could be that the site of the find is occasionally submerged in the head waters of Ross Lake.

MAURER PROPERTY SURVEY

On July 31, 1971 Mr. Fred Maurer of Agassiz, British Columbia advised the Salvage Project that he suspected a depression on his property was the remains of an old Indian pit house. He expressed a willingness to forget plans to level the spot if the remains were proved to be indeed cultural. The project unfortunately by that late date had all crew members assigned to various digs and could not spare anyone to check the site. Mr. Maurer however, arranged for a local volunteer crew and I agreed to supervise them for a one day test excavation which took place on August 7, 1971. Mr. Maurer's property is located in Kent Municipality on a dead slough on the north bank of the Fraser

River and is very close to the derelict limestone mill which which ceased operations sometime around the turn of the century.

The depression in question is on an earthen bluff overlooking the slough and is roughly 35 to 40 feet in diameter. Surface vegetation consisted of scrub grass and thistles with clusters of deciduous along the slopes of the bluffs.

A 3 foot by 6 foot test pit was excavated on the crest of the depression closest to Mr. Maurer's house. The excavation was oriented in such a fashion that a small cross-section of the crest would be laid bare. Because of the shortness of time and the unknown depth of the site it was decided to dig in 6 inch levels. For the first 12 to 20 inches the soil was a medium brown colour and flecked with charcoal. From the 24 inch to about the 54 inch level the deposit gradually yellowed and was still flecked with small bits of charcoal. Below the 5 foot level the cultural yield stopped. The pit was closed off at the 72 inch level.

The cultural material was sparse but varied, it included basalt debitage and retouched flakes, an obsidian chip and a number of abraders made of limestone which were very rotten and crumbled to powder soon after being exposed to the atmosphere. The yield did indicate that some sort of prehistoric activity had taken place at the site and that the hollow was in all probability the remains of a pit house. With the above confirmation at hand Mr. Maurer (the owner) has delayed his plans and has indicated that he would welcome a proper excavation of the site if it could be arranged. At the request of the owner the materials recovered were to be held by him for deposit in the local municipal museum.

THE CAMP HATIKVAH SURVEY

Jack Eisner and Stuart Syme were assigned the task of investigating the reported archaeological remains at the camp. The pair spent two days at the site which lies on a peninsula off a thin stretch of land separating Wood and Kalamalka Lakes. A small test pit yielded a few pieces of prehistoric stone debitage while examination of local collections revealed a few artifacts from the site. A story regarding an earlier disturbance of a large burial at the site could not be substantiated. The paucity of material in addition to the large amount of construction disturbance indicates that further excavations would not be warranted.

THE GLENROSE SITE DgRr 6

The Glenrose site is in the Municipality of Delta and is situated on the south bank of the south arm of the Fraser River, 13.5 miles from its mouth (Fig. 53). The site is half a mile upstream from the St. Mungo site excavated by Calvert (1970). The total size of midden deposits at Glenrose is difficult to determine because of considerable construction and other disturbance during the past 75 years: the tracks of the Great Northern Railway run through the site. The downstream boundary appears to be about 75 feet beyond the mouth of a small stream which enters the Fraser immediately behind the Glenrose Cannery buildings, and the upstream boundary about 400 feet east of the same point. The width of the midden varies considerably from about 20 to 150 feet.

The small test excavations at the site took place between April 24 and May 25, 1969. (The Salvage Programme provided me with the opportunity to withdraw the collections from storage in order to compile this report.) On the south end of the eastern bed timbers of the railway overpass at the site I

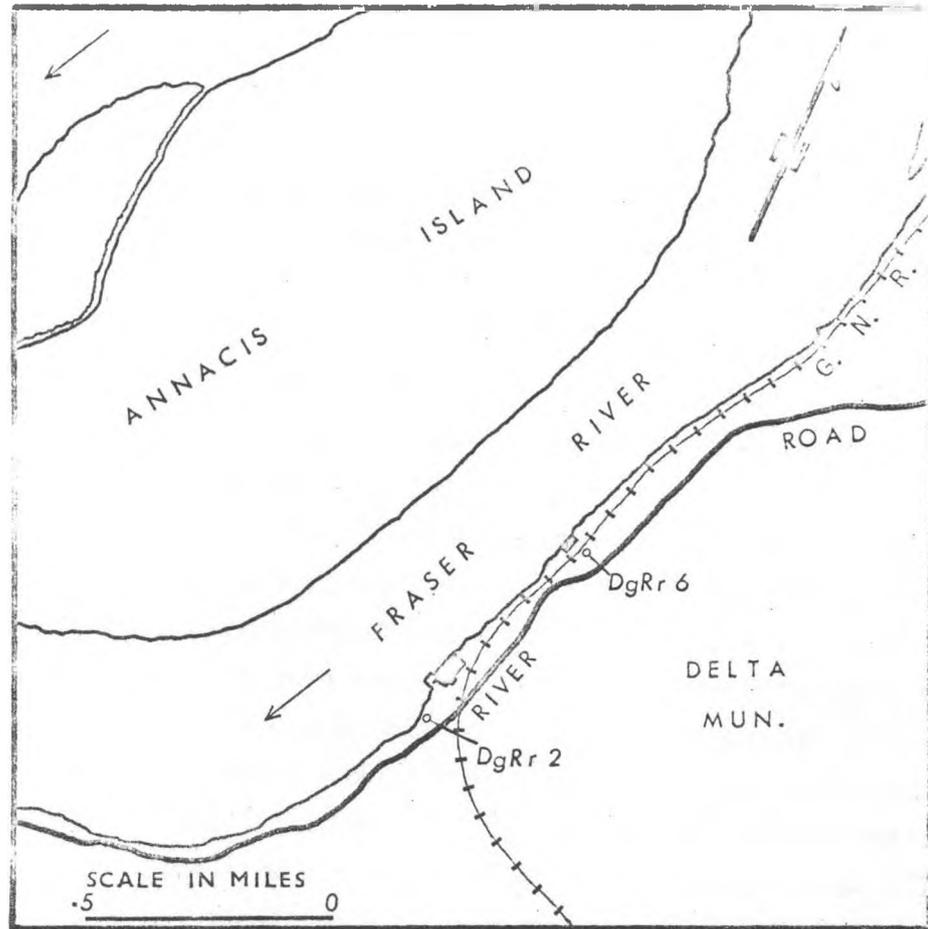


FIG. 53. Map showing location of site DgRr 6, the Glenrose site

placed an 'X' of nailheads to mark the permanent datum point. Two pits, both 2 meters square were excavated into the midden. The north edge of pit 1 was 6 meters south of the datum point and pit 2 adjoined it to the south.

Stratigraphy

There are three stratigraphic zones in the midden. Zone I extended from 240 centimeters, where it rests upon sterile river clay, on up to approximately 145 centimeters. Within this zone the deposits were highly convoluted and consisted of fire cracked rock, charcoal lenses, patches of yellow clay, layers of sandy soil and brown earth intermingled with highly fragmented shell. Zone II reached from about 145 centimeters upwards to around 75 centimeters. Noticable in this zone were large amounts of hard packed fragmented shell intermingled with some ash and light to medium brown soils. Zone III was comprised of black greasy earth with small amounts of broken shell and patches of light sandy soil. Large sections of this zone were highly disturbed especially in pit 1 (Fig. 54).

Artifacts from the Excavations

Excavations at the site yielded a total of 199 artifacts, of which only 79 are complete enough to permit classification. Zone locations and frequencies are shown in Table 13. Only those artifacts warranting comment are discussed below.

Bone and antler artifacts: A small spindle shaped object bearing incised encircling lines (Fig. 55a) is almost identical to specimens recovered at the St. Mungo site dated to roughly 2000 B.C. (Calvert 1970). The sole example from Glenrose, recovered from the middle of zone I, has one end broken off. The larger of the two bird bone tubes (Fig. 55m)

Table 13. Artifact Distribution at Glenrose, DgRr 6

	I	II	III	III DISTURBED	FIGURE ILLUSTRATION
<u>BONE ARTIFACTS</u>					
Incised spindle-shaped object	1				55c
Bird bone tubes		1	1		55m
Chisels	2				56d
Awls	5	4	1		58e, f, g
Worked rib	1	1			58c
Flesher				1	58d
Small points		3			58b
Spatulate objects	2	1		1	55b
<u>ANTLER ARTIFACTS</u>					
Unilaterally barbed harpoon fragments	1	2			55a
Wedge tip fragments		3			
<u>CHIPPED STONE ARTIFACTS</u>					
Biface choppers	2				57a, b
Scrapers - Unifacial retouch	2	1			
Bifacial retouch	3	2		2	
Obsidian flake, utilised	1				
Ovate bifacially retouched scraper		1			55h
Bipointed bifacially retouched scraper		1			55g
Cores	1				
Core fragments	1		1		
<u>PROJECTILE POINTS</u>					
Leaf shaped	1				59a
Single shouldered	1				59c
Slender triangular		1			59b
Triangular			1		
<u>GROUND STONE</u>					
Abrader fragments, sandstone	1		5	3	
Adze blade fragment		1			56f, g
Ground slate fragments		1		12	55j, k
Steatite bead				1	55f
Labret		- 1 -			55d
Tubular pipe bowl fragment				1	55e
Totals	25	23	-1-9	21	

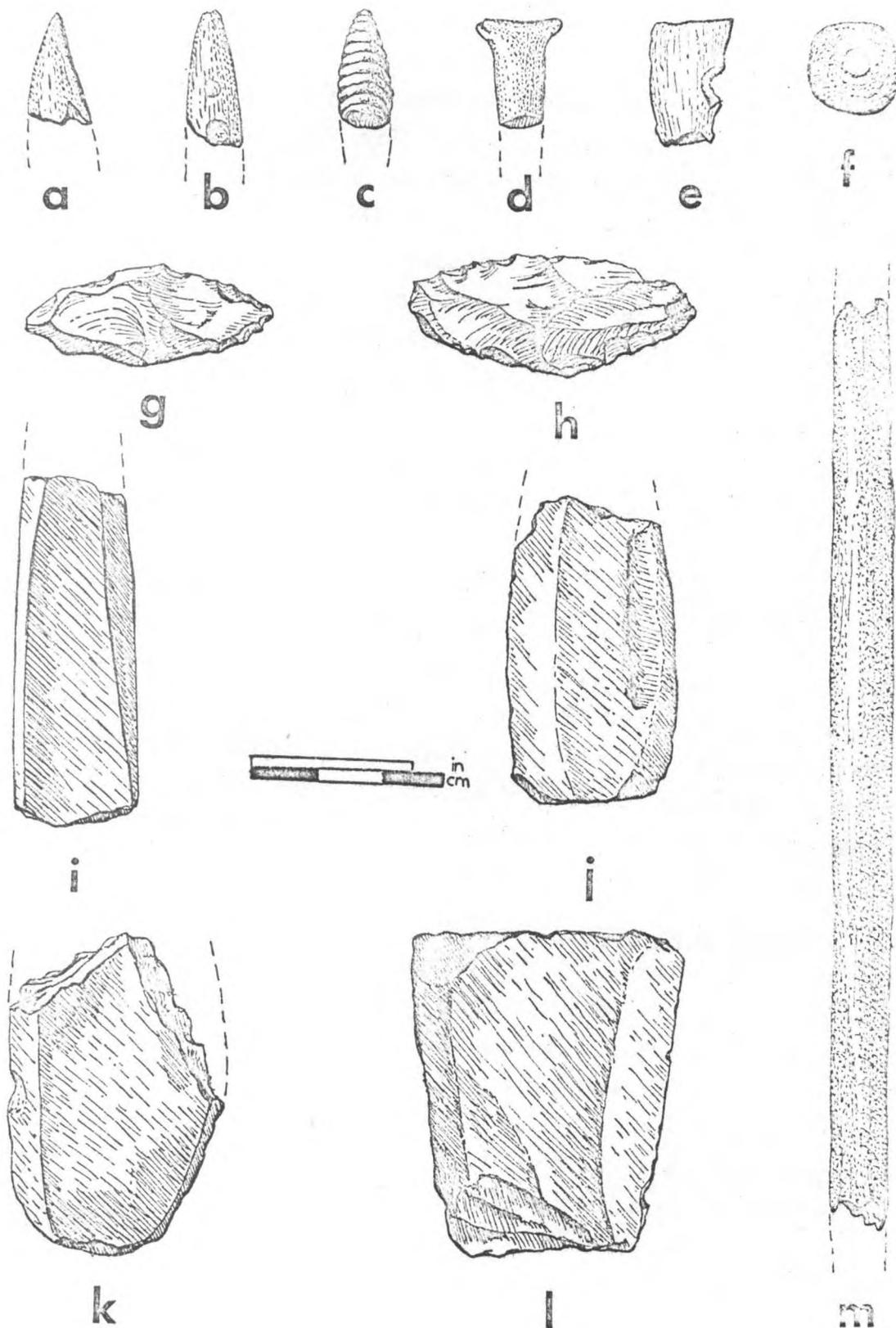


FIG. 55. DgRr 6 artifacts. a, tip of unilaterally barbed harpoon. b, ground "decorative" object. c, incised spindle-shaped object. d, labret fragment. e, tubular pipe bowl fragment. f, steatite bead. g, bipointed, bifacially retouched scraper. h, ovate bifacially retouched scraper. i, j, k, l, ground slate fragments. m, bird bone tube

came from zone II; the other from zone III. One of the bone chisels (Fig. 56d) was located on river clays in close proximity to the two biface choppers (Fig. 57a, b). All awls found were either splinter awls or fragments of elongate bone objects ground all over. One awl (Fig. 58c) from zone I has been fashioned from a longitudinally split rib bone. Portions of worked split ribs were also found in zone II. A bone flesher quite similar to one illustrated by Calvert (1970 Fig. 15a) came from the disturbed section of zone III. The spatulate bone objects are only tip fragments and have been highly polished during manufacture. There are about 50 miscellaneous pieces of worked bone and antler from all stratigraphic zones.

Chipped stone artifacts: Bifacially worked chopping tools (Fig. 57a, b) were only located in the lower portions of zone I. A few unifacial choppers (Fig. 57c) have been found along the river banks at the site, however none appear among the excavated materials. Both thick and thin scrapers with unifacial retouch were found in the lowest levels whereas bifacial retouch was more prevalent in the upper portion of zone I and throughout zone II.

Ground stone artifacts: Abraders: While ample evidence of the use of these artifacts exists throughout all zones only one small fragment was found in zone I while all others appeared in zone III. The one ground adze blade (Fig. 56g) is missing its bit end and the sides taper away from the butt quite sharply. Material identity is ambiguous as the article has been badly burned. Other shattered adze blades (Fig. 56a, f) were retrieved from the beach. The excavations yielded 12 fragments of ground slate, 11 from the disturbed portion of zone III and one piece from zone II. All are from points and knives but are too fragmentary to

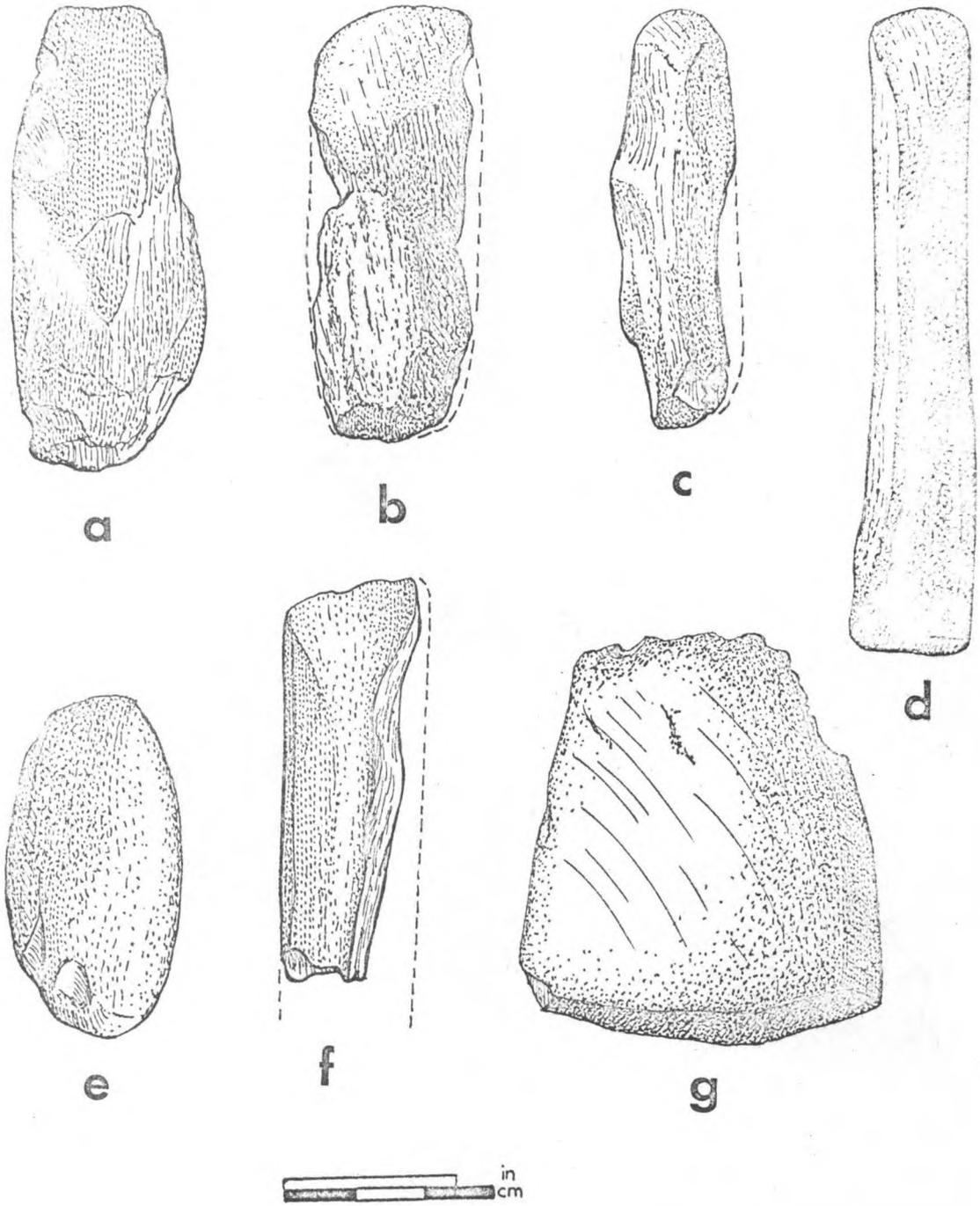


FIG. 56. Adzes, wedges and chisel, from DgRr 6. a, adze blade remnant. b, c, antler wedge fragment. d, bone chisel. e, small ground pebble wedge. f, stone adze blade fragment

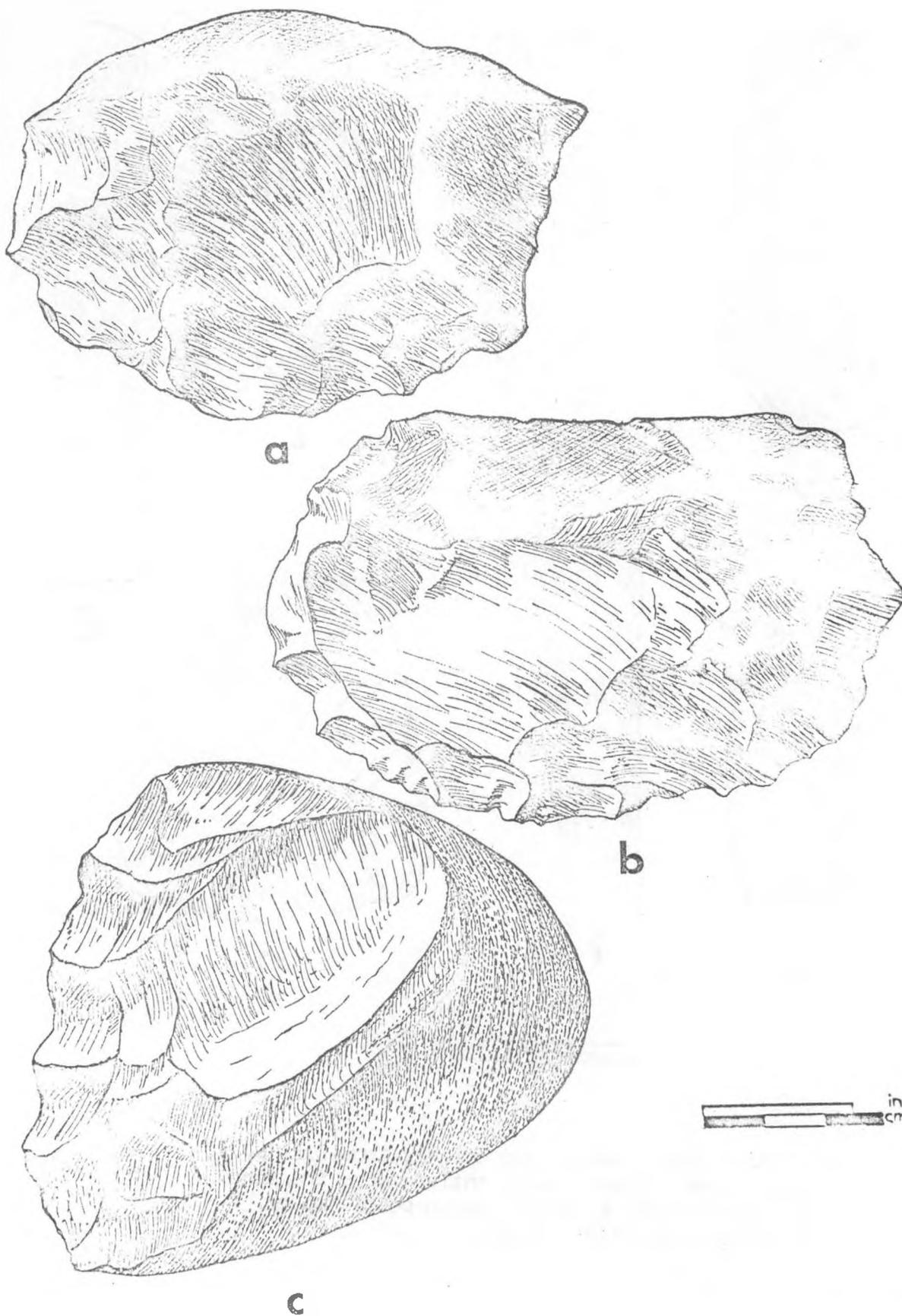


FIG. 57. Choppers from DgRr 6
a, b, bifaces. c, uniface

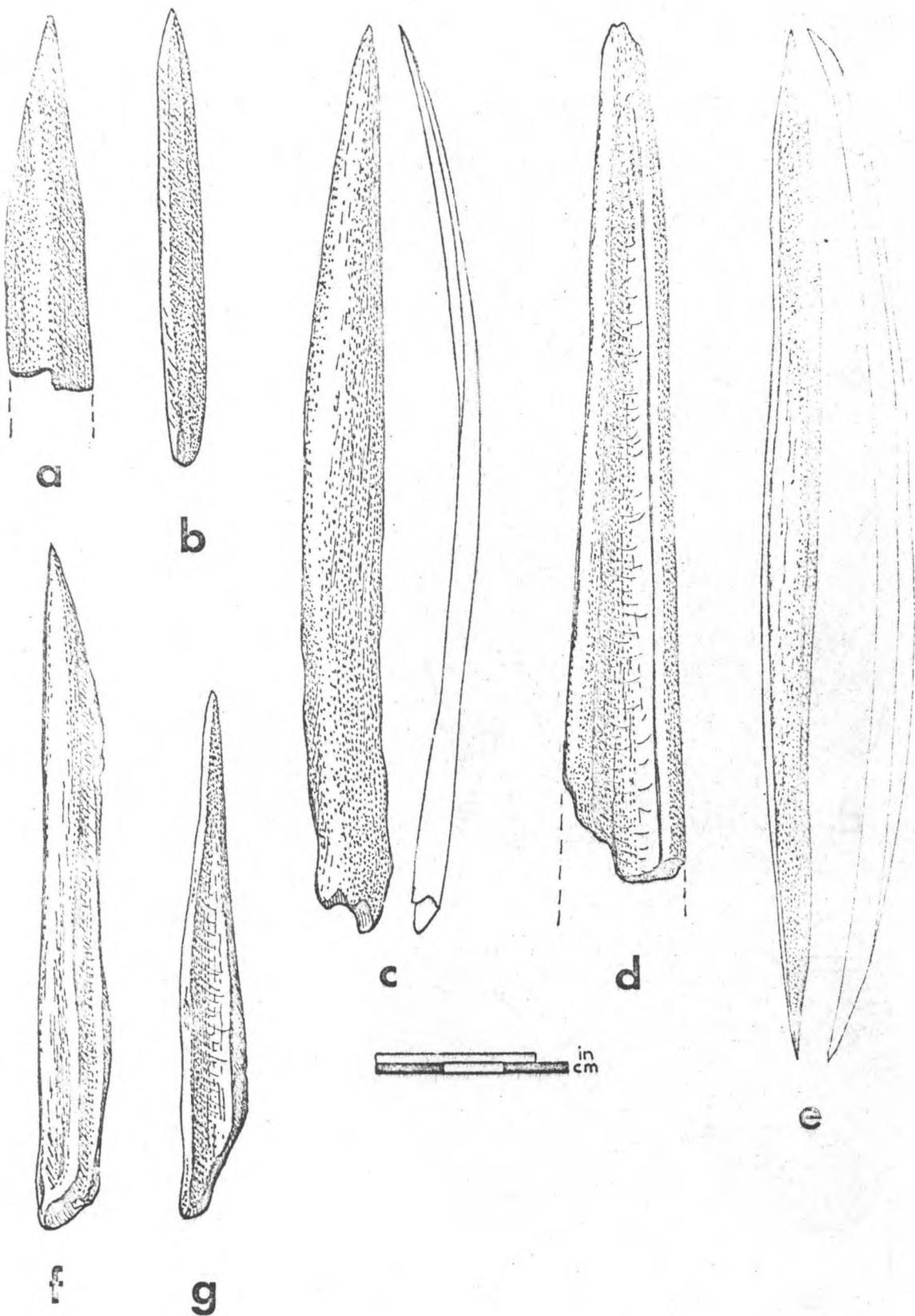


FIG. 58. Bone artifacts from DgRr 6. a, awl fragments. b, small point. c, worked split rib. d, flesher. e, bipointed awl. f, splinter awl

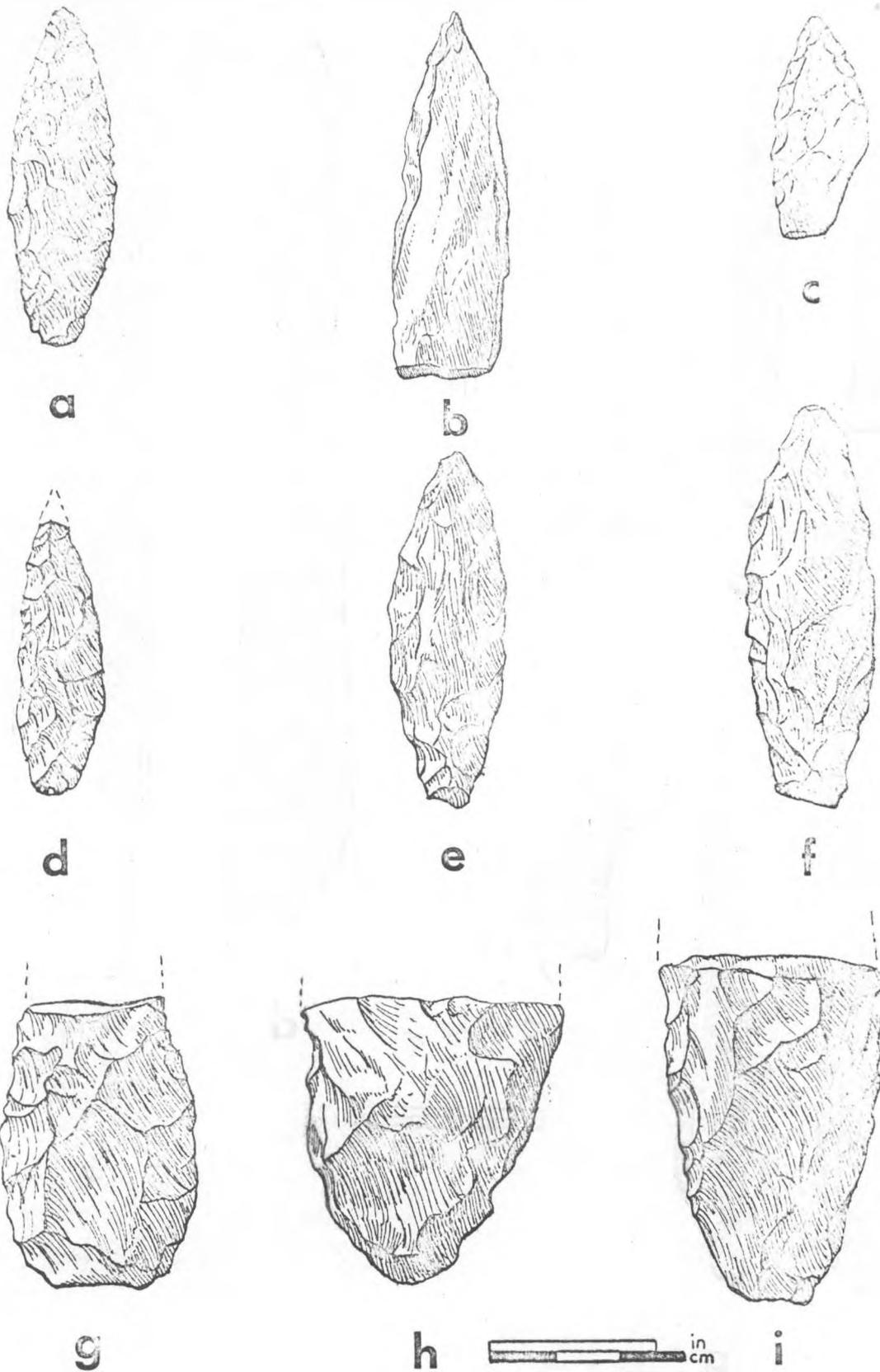


FIG. 59. a, b, c, projectile points from DgRr 6 excavation. d, e, f, projectile points surface collected in the immediate vicinity of DgRr 6. g, h, i, bifaces surface collected in the immediate vicinity of DgRr 6

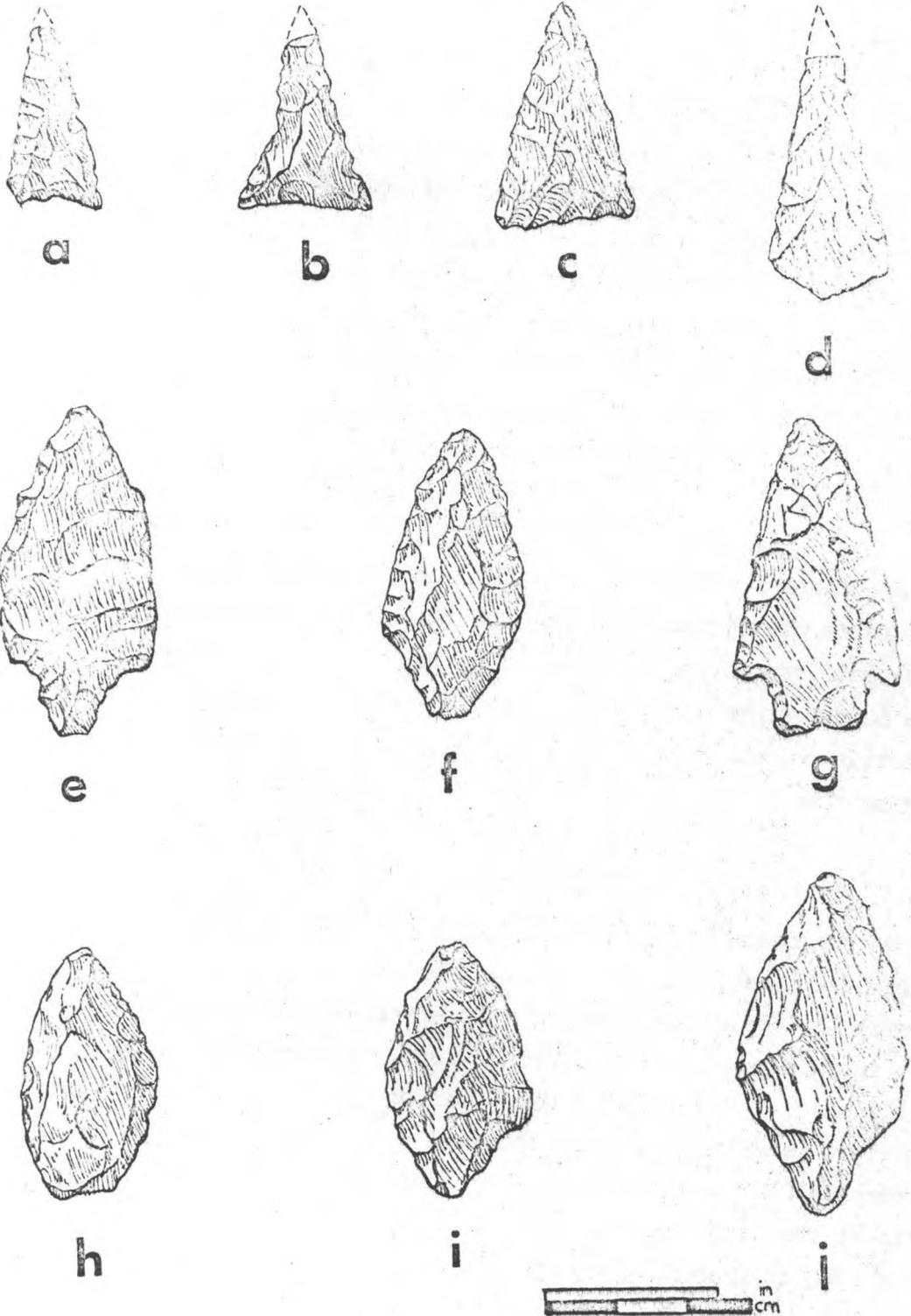


FIG. 60. Types of projectile points surface collected in the immediate vicinity of DgRr 6

classify specifically. One ground and polished steatite bead was found in the disturbed section of zone III. The labret (Fig. 55d) was found while straightening the walls of pit 2 at the 100 centimeter level and as such it came either from zone II or III. The tubular pipe fragment (Fig. 55e) came from the disturbed section of pit 1.

No artifacts of milky quartz or pitchstone were recovered but debitage of the former was located in all zones while that of the latter only in zone III. The presence of red ochre was noted in all zones.

Beach Artifacts

A number of artifacts were found on the beach and on the surface of adjoining portions of the site. Among these are a small ground pebble wedge (Fig. 56e) unifacial choppers, stone beads, stone and antler wedge fragments, a quantity of projectile points along with a few fragments of heavy ground slate objects.

CONCLUSIONS

No far reaching conclusions can be drawn because the sample of artifacts is too small. However, most of the materials have similarities with those recovered from other sites in this general area (Carlson 1960; Calvert 1970). The small incised spindle shaped object is of particular interest in that it is only known from the time period 3000 - 2000 B.C. (Calvert 1970). As such, it is suggested that the lower levels of the Glenrose site date to that period and before disturbance it probably exhibited a similar sequence of cultures as the St. Mungo site.

Acknowledgements

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