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The South Carolina Paleoindian Point Survey on the Occasion of the Recording of the 800th Point

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South Carolina Paleoindian points began to be recorded occasionally starting in 1970 using the recording form that is in use to this day. James L. Michie created the first comprehensive inventory with his B.A. Honors thesis in 1977. At that time, he was able to document 95 lanceolate points suspected to be Paleoindian specimens (Michie 1977). His effort inspired the work of Tommy Charles to continue recording points as part of his state-wide private collections survey (1979-1986) where he added some 300 more examples (Goodyear 2016). Charles continued recording points up until his retirement in 2009. Even after that he continued to add points to the survey because of his extensive contacts in the collector community. In 2005, the Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey (SEPAS) was founded, and the Paleo point survey was added to the mission of SEPAS (Goodyear 2006a). The SC database has been included in the national database for Paleoindian points as created by David G. Anderson known as Paleoindian Data Base of the Americas (http://pidba.utk.edu/) (Anderson et. al 2010). The contacts for the South Carolina data in Pidba are Albert Goodyear and Christopher Moore (Anderson and Miller 2017).

The typologies used to record points have evolved based on excavations of *in situ* Paleoindian sites in South Carolina, as well as the recognition of new forms not recognized in earlier recordings. The Clovis point (Figure 1) is the most frequent type and corresponds with Clovis points found outside of SC. It is by far the most common fluted point compared to forms thought to be post Clovis. The excavation of Clovis points *in situ* at the Topper site and their dating by radiocarbon and Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating have demonstrated they are of the same age as Clovis points found elsewhere in North America, ca. 13,000 years ago. In addition, the preforms used to make Clovis points have been well defined and recognized as a common artifact with excavated Clovis assemblages (Smallwood 2010). Clovis preforms have been subsequently included in the South Carolina Paleoindian point survey.

A second distinctive fluted point was recognized starting in 2005, known as the Redstone (Goodyear 2006b). Formerly these have been misclassified as Clovis due to their pronounced elongated flute (Figure 2). They have a deeper basal concavity requiring them to be fluted using some type of intervening instrument as opposed to Clovis flutes percussion struck off the base. Radiocarbon dates from sites in the Midwest and Northeast suggest they date immediately post Clovis and may have lasted three or four centuries (Goodyear 2010).

There are other forms of lanceolate points that do not conform to the above fluted types. They are lanceolate shaped with some waisting like the Florida Suwannee and Simpson types but lack the size and flaking of those. Typical Suwannees and Simpsons are common in South Georgia but seem to diminish going further north. In our SC recordings, they are listed as simply unfluted lanceolates. They may be that or possibly late stage preforms perhaps for Dalton points. As for Dalton points, they were never recorded in the SC Paleoindian point data base but have been recorded variously in separate lists according to specific studies (cf. Smallwood et al. 2018).

Another distinctive lanceolate referred to as Haw River has been noted and

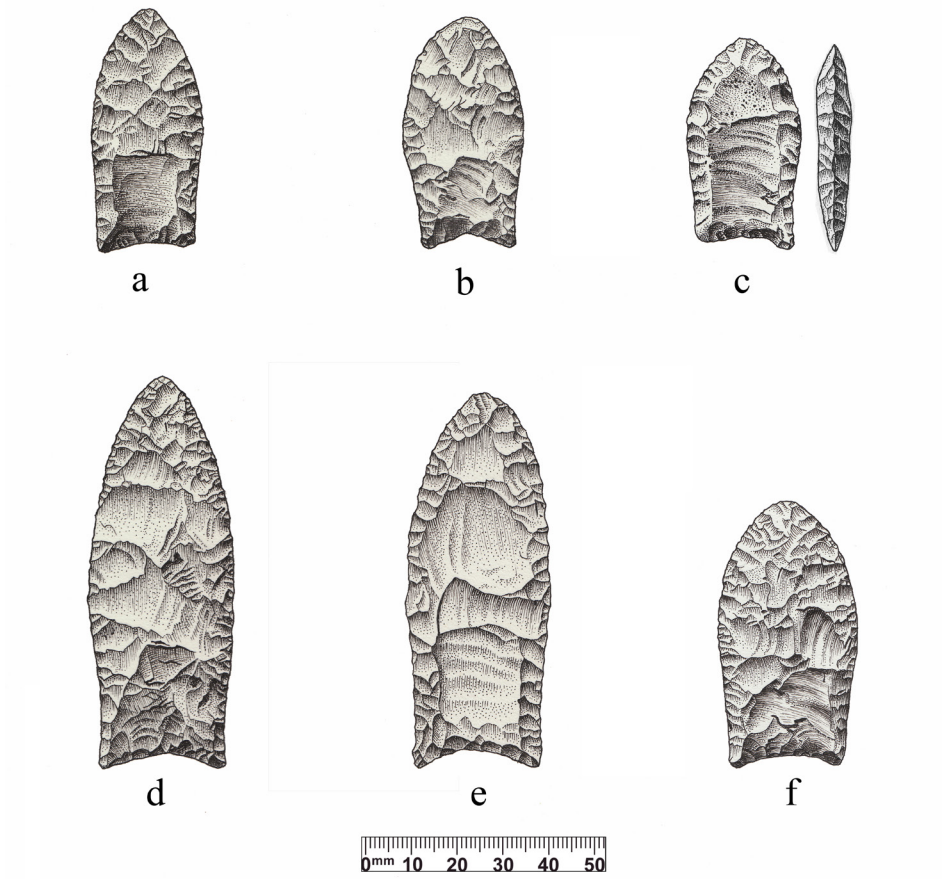

Figure 1: Allendale Coastal Plain chert Clovis points. (Drawings by Darby Erd)

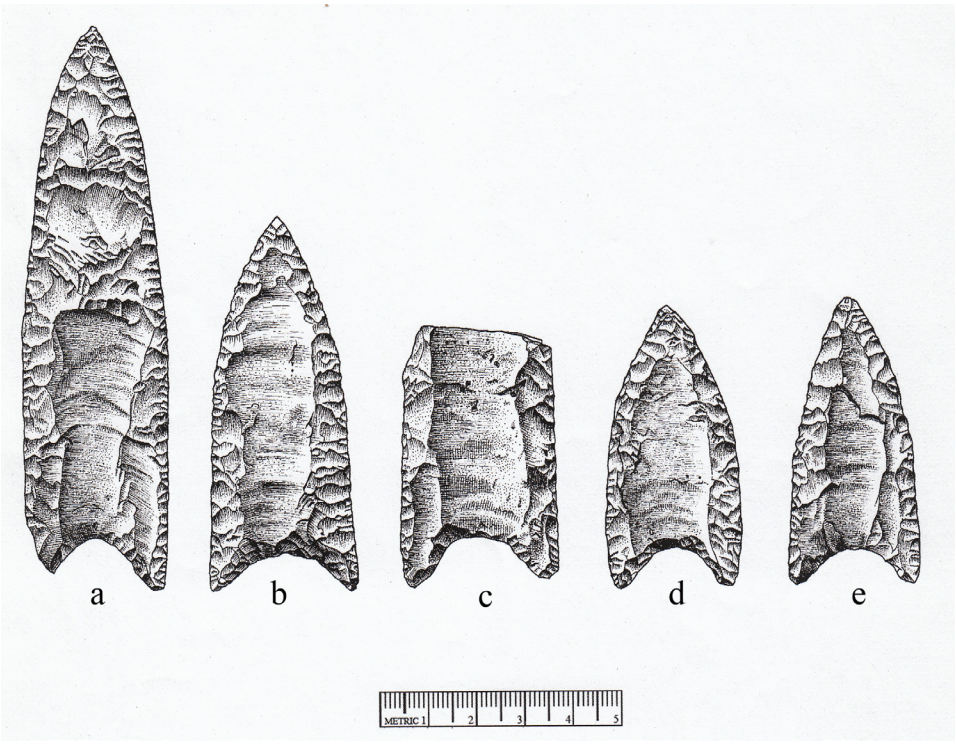

Figure 2: Allendale chert Redstone points (A) Burke County, Georgia, (B) green tuff Redstone from Cooper River, Berkeley County, (C) Allendale County, (D) Charleston County, (E) Cooper River, Berkeley County. (Drawings by Darby Erd)

recorded separately from the Paleoindian point database. They are usually present in small numbers in large private collections and have been noted as a point type in South Carolina (Charles and Moore 2018) and Georgia (Whatley and Arena 2021). They are strongly suspected to be preClovis in age like the Cactus Hill points and the Miller lanceolate from Meadowcroft Rock Shelter (Goodyear 2005). Some have been found at the Topper site where they appear immediately below Clovis (Figure 3).

In 2005, the North Carolina fluted point database was revised by Randy Daniel and Albert Goodyear bringing it into conformity with the South Carolina classifications in terms of Clovis and Redstone types (Daniel and Goodyear 2006). A plotting of Allendale chert and metavolcanic Clovis points has revealed two basic geographic clusters shared by SC and NC (Figure 4). The Allendale chert sources are well known from quarries in the Central Savannah River area (Goodyear and Charles 1984), and high-quality metavolcanic tool stone sources have been mapped for NC (Daniel 2001). These clusters are associated with major river valleys such as the Savannah and Pee Dee rivers. The intervening river valley formed by the Congaree, Wateree, and Santee Rivers (COWASEE) appears to be something like an aggregation zone based on the majority (75%) of the Clovis points there were made of lithic raw materials originating from the south and north (Goodyear 2014). Clovis use of the local raw materials such as orthoquartzite is minimal. A possible trail running east and west in the Piedmont of SC and NC based on plotting of nine metavolcanic points suggests regular contact between the two groups. Interestingly, the line of points plots near the trail from the Cherokee to the Catawba as placed on the Mouzon Map of 1775 (Daniel and Goodyear 2018, Fig 11.6). The suggestion by the two major Clovis clusters that they represent two contemporary demographic groups referred to as macrobands seems to be the most plausible explanation. Such patterns being based as they are on the results of 50 years of Paleoindian point recording for both SC and NC should be regarded as a major justification for the validity of such surveys.

The question of where and when Clovis culture arose in North America and its seemingly sudden end everywhere continue to be issues of research priority. The end of Clovis about 12,700 years ago that coincided with the loss of some 35 Pleistocene genera with the sudden onset of the Younger Dryas climatic event, all contribute to the mystery of the demise of this extinct Palaeolithic culture. The archaeological evidence of these dramatic changes is the precipitous drop of Clovis point frequency and the replacement by the post Clovis Redstone point. In South Carolina, the ratio of Clovis to Redstone is about 4:1. This drop was noticed in SC as early as 2005 (Goodyear 2006b) and subsequently seen throughout the

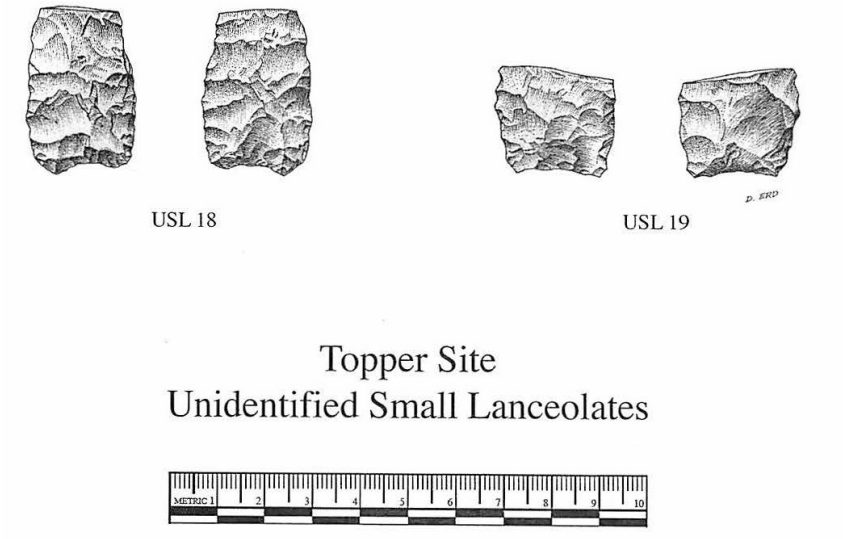

Figure 3: Two excavated Haw River-like points from the Topper site, 38AL23. (Drawings by Darby Erd)

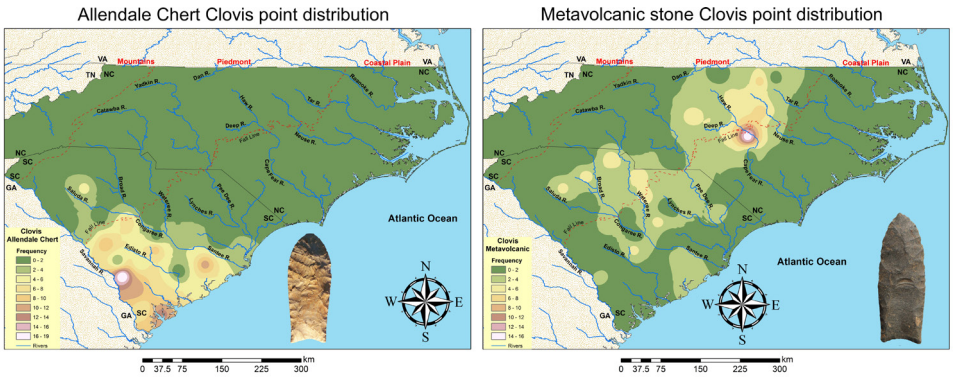

Figure 4: Clovis macrobands in the Carolinas. (Courtesy of Christopher Moore)

Southeast (Anderson et al. 2011). The latter bespeaks of a major demographic and cultural change that must have occurred. The geographic evidence of this change can be readily seen in the GIS maps prepared by Christopher Moore using county frequencies (Figure 5). Allendale chert Redstones are still in the former Allendale Clovis heartland area, but the metavolcanic examples form an unusual band of densities along the Fall Line of the Carolinas. This suggests that post Clovis groups were trying to maintain social relations in the former macroband areas.

One new analytical technique has been successfully applied to Paleoindian points in the Carolinas is known as protein residue analysis (Moore et. al 2016). In spite of the often-weathered appearance of both Coastal Plain cherts and metavolcanic lithic materials, about 20% of the points have positive readings for prehistoric animals including Clovis. One surprising result has been that bison that were thought to be extirpated in the Southeast were present and hunted through Morrow Mountain times ca. 8,000 years ago (Figure 6). Work is continuing using residue analysis on additional Paleoindian points and the Haw River-like points suspected to be preClovis searching for the presence of extinct animals such as proboscideans.

In conclusion, the SC Paleoindian Point survey that has developed over a 50-year span now reaching its 800th recording, has become substantial enough to generate several significant patterns related to settlement systems and even possible demographic macroband changes. The very real prospect of studying preClovis points found in South Carolina similar to those discovered elsewhere along the Eastern seaboard is an exciting advance in Paleoamerican studies. The public has been the source of most of these finds and without the close cooperation we have enjoyed with them over the decades, our information and understanding would no doubt be far less. The Archaeological Research Trust (ART) is thanked for their support for this work as we are currently updating and digitizing the Paleo point records.

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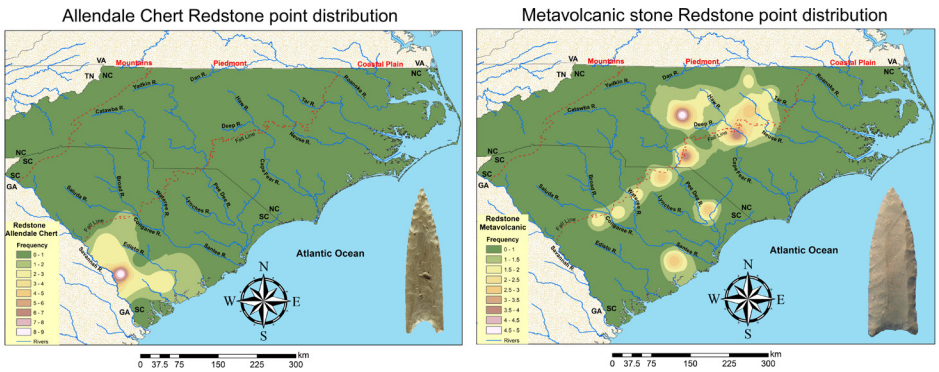

Figure 5: Allendale chert Redstones versus metavolcanic Redstones in the Carolinas. (Courtesy of Christopher Moore)

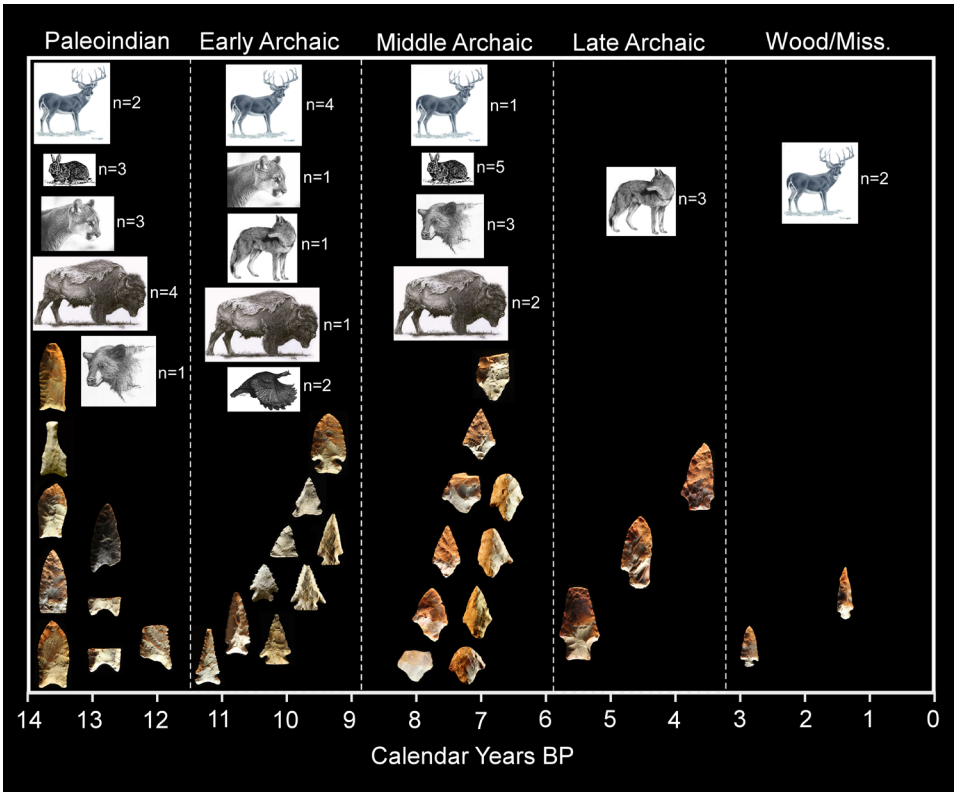

Figure 6: Positive responses to protein residues by species and time period. (Courtesy of Christopher R. Moore)

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Figure 7: Logo of the Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey. (Courtesy of Albert C. Goodyear)