

The Cretan Mesolithic in context: new data from Livari Skiadi (SE Crete)

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4312/dp.43.3>

Keywords: Greece, Aegean Islands, Mesolithic, Neolithisation, lithics, Knossos

Abstract

Investigations at Livari (south-eastern Crete) produced a small Mesolithic chipped stone assemblage, whose techno-typological characteristics situate it within an 'early Holocene Aegean island lithic tradition' (9000–7000 cal BC). The material provides antecedent characteristics for the lithics of Crete's founder Neolithic population at Knossos (c. 7000–6500/6400 cal BC). The idiosyncrasies of the Knossian material can be viewed as a hybrid lithic tradition that emerged from interaction between migrant Anatolian farmers and indigenous hunter-gatherers. Small quantities of Melian obsidian at Livari attest to early Holocene maritime insular networks, knowledge of which likely enabled the first farmers' successful voyage to Crete.

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Published
2016-12-30

Supporting Agencies

Tristan Carter, McMaster University, Danica D. Mihailović, Belgrade University, Yiannis Papadatos, Athens University, Chrysa Sofianou, 24th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

Issue

[Vol 43 \(2016\)](#)

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Information

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Ljubljana University Press, Faculty of Arts
(Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani)

Print ISSN: 1408-967X

Online ISSN: 1854-2492

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