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## Variability of Late Gravettian lithic industries in southern Poland: A case study of the Kraków Spadzista and Jaksice II sites



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### ABSTRACT

This article summarizes archaeological data obtained from two Late Gravettian assemblages discovered at Kraków Spadzista and Jaksice II sites. At the Kraków Spadzista site different tool types in each zone were discovered, what could be a reflection of the varied activities carried out on each part of the site. From the other hand at Jaksice cite a homogeneous lithic assemblage, with a predominance of the armatures was discovered. These two inventories differ fundamentally both in terms of the raw materials used, tool-making technologies, as well as the lithic typology and morphology. These dissimilarities could be observed not only between above mentioned sites, but also among other Late Gravettian localities known from Central Europe and they concern primarily retouched tool assemblages. This leads us to conclude that in this period we could observe a mosaic of dissimilar inventories, but – at least at the current stage of research – they do not define any group of sites either geographically or chronologically. Whether this is the reflection of cultural diversity or seasonally varied assemblages used by Palaeolithic hunter–gatherers we can not unriddle. We could only state that the problem is most complicated, and needs more detailed studies focused not only on the lithic artefacts, but also on faunal remains, chronology, and paleoenvironmental reconstruction. Only the correlation of all this data can bring us closer to solving the problem of the diversification of the Late Gravettian industries.

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### 1. Introduction

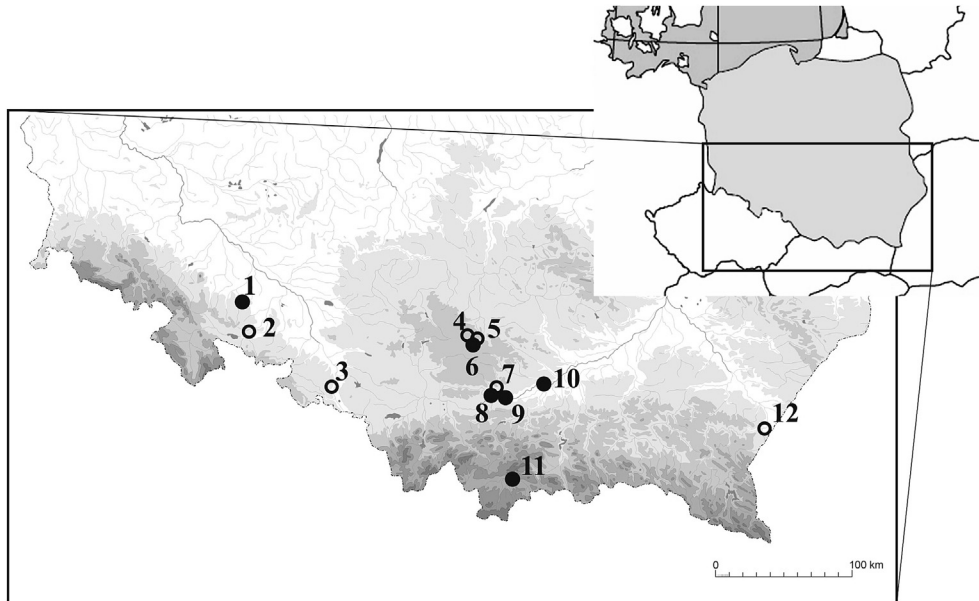
The main goal of this paper is to present the differences and the similarities in Late Gravettian assemblages from Poland in the context of other Central European localities. Due to the problems with the chronology of the many sites from Poland and the low quantity of artefacts discovered on them, this study centers on two main Late Gravettian assemblages: Kraków Spadzista and Jaksice II.

Late Gravettian lithic assemblages in Central Europe are characterized by the presence of different types of backed implements, such as backed blades and shouldered points, as well as specific tool types such as Kostienki knives. These are known since the Pavlovian and, during 24,000–20,000 <sup>14</sup>C yrs. BP, their proportion increased significantly and they became frequent and widespread forms. In the older studies, assemblages dated to this period are commonly named as Willendorf-Kostienkian, and later they were qualified as 'shouldered point horizon' assemblages within the Gravettian (Grigoryev, 1968, 1993; Kozłowski, 1969, 1986, 1996). Nevertheless, currently more commonly used is the term Late Gravettian, which, in the light of recent research, seems to be more appropriate because

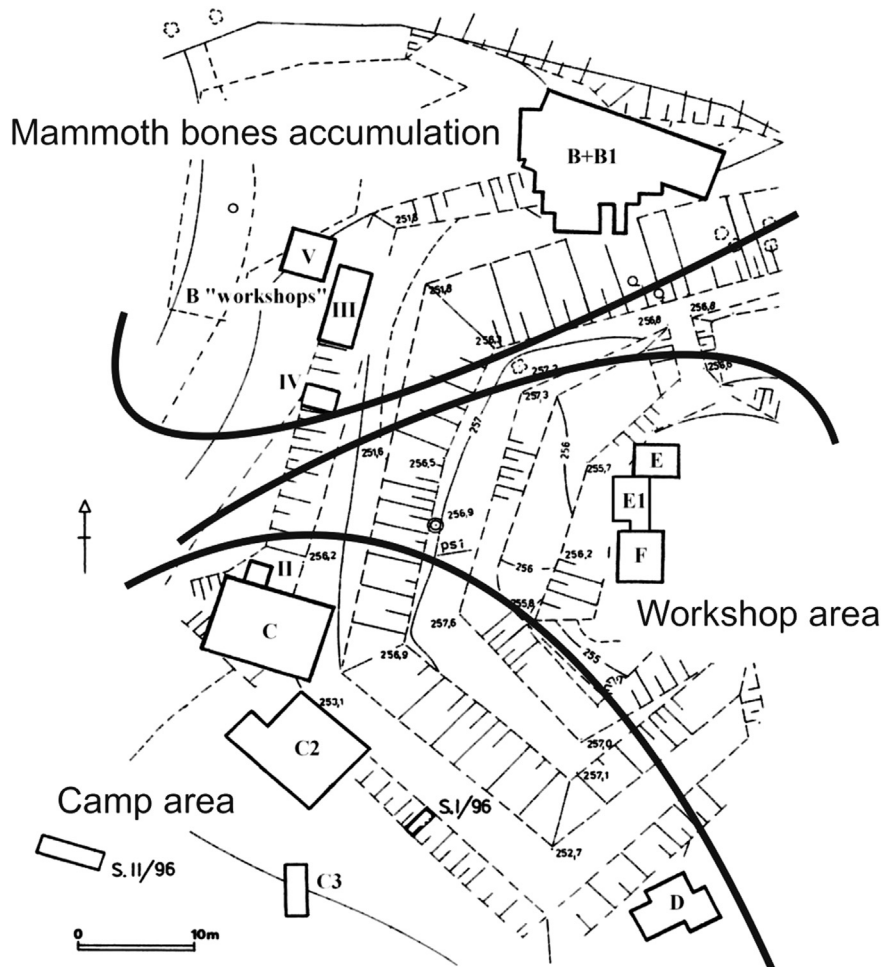
it underlines the period of the existence of that cultural unit, as opposed to the older term that emphasised single sites or a tool type. In Poland, Late Gravettian settlement is concentrated in Lesser Poland, with other cave sites recorded in the Kraków-Częstochowa Upland (Fig. 1). Among open-air sites, two are notably important: Kraków Spadzista and Jaksice II (Kozłowski et al., 1974; Kozłowski and Sobczyk, 1987; Wilczyński et al., 2012, 2015a). They yielded diversified lithic assemblages, faunal remains, and, what is especially important in the context of sites known from Polish territory, they chronology is based on reliable radiocarbon dating. In contrast to these two localities, assemblages from other sites (e.g., Kraków-Zwierzyniec I, Kraków-Przegorzały, and Deszczowa Cave) provided mostly scanty and not easily datable stone assemblages (Wilczyński, 2015). Only the assemblage from Mamutowa Cave is larger but, unfortunately a part of it represents an older collection, very limited in value, and the materials excavated during the second half of the twentieth century are still unpublished (Kowalski, 1967).

The most informative Late Gravettian data come from materials recently analysed – especially those discovered at Kraków Spadzista, trench B + B1 where a mammoth bone accumulation was found, in trench E1 at the workshop area excavated in 2012, and trench C2 located in the camp zone (Wilczyński et al., 2012). All

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**Fig. 1.** General map showing Gravettian/Mid Upper Palaeolithic sites known from Poland. Circles – undated sites or surface collections, dots – sites with radiocarbon dates. 1 – Henryków; 2 – Wójcice; 3 – Cyrzanów; 4 – Jasna Cave; 5 – Dziadowa Skala Cave; 6 – Deszczowa Cave; 7 – Mamutowa Cave; 8 – Borsuka Cave; 9 – Kraków Spadzista; 10 – Jaksice II; 11 – Obłazowa Cave; 12 – Przemysł.



**Fig. 2.** General plan of the trenches at the Kraków Spadzista site.

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