

## **Three Middle Palaeolithic open-air sites from the Cserhát Mountains (Northern Hungary): new excavations, new results, new questions**

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During the last 15 years, three Middle Palaeolithic open-air sites with leaf-shaped implements were excavated in the Cserhát Mountains (Northern Hungary). At each locality, the finds were excavated in reddish or yellowish palaeosols(?) laying at a depth of 50–100 cm below the current surface. Samples for sedimentological and secondary carbonate analysis, as well as OSL-dating were collected at Szécsénke and Galgagyörk. From the Vanyarc site, two radiocarbon dates are known.

From the beginning of the excavations, the emphasis was on the reconstruction of the artefact-bearing layers.

The sites, lying very close to each other (at a distance of 20–25 km at a maximum) on the northern periphery of the Hungarian Plain show several differences in spite of the general stratigraphic and typological uniformity. For instance, one-third of the assemblage of Vanyarc was made of extralocal metarhyolite (felsitic porphyry, the characteristic raw material of the Szeleta Cave), imported from a distance of 100 km. The ratio of the same rock is 14% in the Galgagyörk assemblage and it is represented only by some pieces at Szécsénke. On the other hand, the local andesite and the distant obsidian was used only at Galgagyörk. The dominating raw material in each case is the limnic quartzite having various macroscopic types in the Cserhát area and the adjacent territories.

From a typological point of view, the dominant tool types are end-scrapers at Szécsénke, leaf-shaped implements at Vanyarc and side-scrapers at Galgagyörk.

The observations made on the recently excavated sites raise the question of the variability of the assemblages belonging to the leaf-shaped industry (*“Blattspitzenindustrie”*).