**CLOVIS MACROBANDS IN THE CAROLINAS**

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**Abstract**

The recognition of Clovis in the Carolinas has largely come from state-wide fluted point surveys. Studies have focused on style, raw materials, and geographic distributions. Raw material patterns suggest a single macroband centered on the fine-grained metavolcanic stone used in South mountains in the Piedmont. To the south, raw material distributions suggest another macroband centered on the Allendale-Chattahoochee-valley metavolcanic stone predominates in South Carolina. Evidently, there are two probable Clovis macrobands centered on the Saluda-Congaree-Santee rivers being something of a major physiographic boundary.

**Introduction**

In the past two decades, great strides have been made in the study of Clovis in this allegedly widespread North American cultural horizon. The eastern U.S., in particular, has seen great progress in the areas of radiocarbon dating, excavations of sites with good chronological control, and in the study of chart quarries with their central role in providing cryptocrystalline limestone critical to Clovis technological systems. While more dating is needed, Clovis in the East and West are essentially contemporary (Waters and Stafford 2007) and studies of caches and quarry related assemblages reveal a basic homogeneity in stone tool technology. The continental wide mapping of Clovis and post quarry related assemblages reveal a basic homogeneity in stone tool technology. The continental wide mapping of Clovis and post-Clovis projectile points is also coming of age, providing provocative regional patterning in probable territorial ranges and possible exchange among macrobands (Anderson et al. 2010). Here we present evidence for two probable Clovis macrobands in the Carolinas focusing on the Saluda-Congaree-Santee rivers as a major physiographic boundary.

**Clovis in the Carolinas**

As elsewhere in the Southeastern United States, the recognition of Clovis in the Carolinas has come from a state-wide fluted point survey largely based upon isolated finds from surface contexts (Daneal 2006, 2006, 2006; Daneal and Goodyear 2006; Goodyear 2010; Goodyear et al. 1989; Peck 1984; Parker 1973). Clovis is the predominant fluted point type in both states followed by Redstone and lesser amounts of other presumably post-Clovis point types.

What are labeled as Clovis in the Carolinas do not differ appreciably from Clovis elsewhere in North America except that they have an expanding or exfoliating cortex. They also generally have a pronounced which is a narrow band concavity (Figure 1). Points were fluted by direct percussion off the base in various stages during preform manufacture, often resulting in more than one flake or flaking flakes (Figure 2).

**Spatial Patterns**

The volatile sourcing studies described above provide a unique opportunity to examine potential spatial patterns in the distribution of Clovis points by raw material across both states (Figure 3). Perhaps, the most important consideration in this study is the distributional differences in the northern South Carolina while metavolcanic points dominate in North Carolina and southern South Carolina. This difference is often reflected in the raw material used in each context. Given this raw material spatial distribution, we are intrigued by the possibility that this pattern might represent the geographic ranges of two macrobands centered on their respective to lithic source: the Uwharrie Mountain metavolcanic stone sources to the north and the Allendale Coastal Plain sources to the south.

A closer examination of this distribution also reveals a possible boundary between the two provinces (Figure 6). The distribution of metavolcanic points is associated with the distribution of point. This occurs near the Saluda-Congaree-Santee rivers in the northern part of South Carolina. To the north metavolcanic Clovis points predominates while to the south the Allendale Coastal Plain Clovis points predominates. This boundary is most evident in the Piedmont with the Saluda River and on the Coastal Plain with the Santee River (Figure 6). To examine this more closely, a distributional study was conducted of Clovis points by raw material (2006, 2006; Daneal and Goodyear 2006) and South Carolina (Table 1) that appear to represent a variety of unknown based upon the color and texture of the amorphous raw material. Where these sources, they most likely originated outside the state. Interestingly, Coastal Plain chart points are definitely appearing to be expanding Clovis in North Carolina.

The Uwharrie Mountain metavolcanic stone sources in South Carolina are metavolcanic bedrock sources and quarries known to exist in the eastern Piedmont of South Carolina (2005), although they tend to be fairly localized, rare, and often of inferior flaking quality compared to Uwharrie volcanic. Generally speaking, metavolcanic points in South Carolina because of color, binding and siliciclastic content macroscopically resemble Uwharrie metavolcanic material, which is also observed in South Carolina, metavolcanic stone which is often prone to chemical weathering (2002). In sum, analysis of Clovis raw material use combined with sourcing studies suggest two geographically and macroscopically distinct bedrock sources provided the vast majority of stone in the Carolinas. The Uwharrie metavolcanic stone sources in the North Carolina Piedmont and the Allendale chart points in the Coastal Plain of the middle Savannah River (Figure 2).

**Table 1. Carolina Clovis Points by Stone Types**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stone Types</th>
<th>North Carolina</th>
<th>South Carolina</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>metavolcanic points</td>
<td>61 (30.2%)</td>
<td>61 (18.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthoquartzite points</td>
<td>34 (10.4%)</td>
<td>61 (30.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slate points</td>
<td>5 (18.6%)</td>
<td>61 (30.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>61 (30.2%)</td>
<td>61 (30.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A few of more probable patterns should be noted. First, Clovis artifacts of other raw material types are present in both states. For example, points made from quartz, and orthoquartzite were used but are recorded in much lower frequencies than either Coastal Plain chart points or metavolcanic. The trend, however, is towards more use of quartz and orthoquartzite with a shallow broad concavity (Figure 1). Points were fluted by direct percussion off the base in various stages during preform manufacture, often resulting in more than one flake or flaking flakes (Figure 2).

**Conclusions**

Using a sample of 530 Clovis points, it has been shown that two geographic clusters exist related to the dominant toolstone sources in the Carolinas. They are suggestive of two demographic groups of Clovis peoples, contemporary macrobands centered on the Uwharrie Mountain sources in North Carolina and the Allendale-type Coastal Plain-cherts of the Savannah River. It is proposed that a physical and culturally significant boundary was present from the Saluda River down through the Congaree and Santee Rivers. The high proportion of points coupleted to the Congaree-Santee segment derived from raw material sources from the north and south, suggests a zone of human interaction where the two macrobands aggregated periodically for social purposes and mate exchange. The possible role of warfare among the Piedmont and South Carolina Clovis peoples, is illustrated by other cultural markers of the time, such as the absence of significant differences in point dimensions between the two macrobands except for point length is consistent with the notion of decrease in tool length as a function of distance from to lithic source (Daneal and Goodyear in press).

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**References cited**


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