-ARTICLES-

STILL MORE MATERIAL FROM THE LATE PALEOINDIAN SITE 34RM602B

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Don Wyckoff and I were profiling and collecting radiocarbon samples from two exposures in the headwaters of Brokenleg Creek on September 15, and made the mistake of stopping at 34RM602B to see if anything had washed out since we last visited the site in May. It has been a year of exceptional rainfall. The Oklahoma Climatological Survey Mesonet station just east of my house (and 1.5 miles east of the site) has recorded 44.13 inches of rainfall for 1995 through September 26. Annual rainfall for Roger Mills County has averaged 24.5 inches since 1950, and the highest annual total on record before this year was 37.8 inches in 1977.

We picked up another 24 artifacts from the site, which is really a very small one. The entire site measures perhaps 20 by 20 meters (its west and north margins are buried), but the visible exposure is less than 5 x 15 meters. What we see today is likely just a remnant of a once larger Late Paleoindian campsite, much of which was apparently destroyed by mid-Holocene canyon fill flushing. A pasture road and several cow paths cross the site, but it is well vegetated and protected by a small diversion immediately upslope, which we built last winter for that purpose. The original collection of 1990 totaled 50 specimens, including two Plainview points (Thurmond 1991), and we collected 44 artifacts from the site on May 11 (Thurmond and Wyckoff 1995). To see that an additional 24 specimens were exposed in such a small area in four months is certainly a lesson in how rapidly artifacts can cycle to (and probably from) the surface of a site. Of course, one should bear in mind that the site received about an average year's worth of rain (28.4") during those four months. Since this collection represents a 25% increase in what we previously collected from 34RM602B, a brief description of the material follows (I have sworn not to pick up any more).

UNMODIFIED CHIPPED STONE FLAKES

Spec #	Dimensions (mm)	Weight (gm)	% Cortex	Platform	Compl.?
Ogallala Quartzite					
98	16x11x5	1.1	none	faceted	Yes
99	39x26x13	13.3	platform	flat/wide	Yes
100	27x25x8	6.1	platform	flat/wide	Yes
101	22x14x10	2.3	<25	faceted	Yes
102	14x13x5	1.0	25-50	flat/thin	Yes
103	10x19x10	2.2	none	flat/wide	Yes
104	11x14x3	.7	none	faceted	No
105	17x24x3	1.4	none	absent	No
106	14x20x3	1.0	none	absent	No
107	13x13x4	.6	none	absent	No
108	8x16x3	.3	none	absent	No
109	9x8x4	.2	none	absent	No
Medium Gray Fusilinid Chert (Patinated)					
110	25x21x8	3.1	none	faceted	No
Dakota Quartzite					
111	12x23x6	1.4	none	flat/wide	Yes
Unidentified Coarse-Grained Quartzite					
112	19x20x3	1.4	none	faceted	Yes

BURNED ROCK FRAGMENTS

Spec #	Dimensions (mm)	Weight (gm)	Material
113	39x29x27	40.6	Orthoquartzite
114	47x34x23	28.4	Orthoquartzite
115	35x33x15	23.4	Quartz
116	34x24x11	11.0	Orthoquartzite
117	32x21x10	6.6	Orthoquartzite
118	16x12x12	3.6	Orthoquartzite

Chipped Stone Tools

#95: 28x24x7 mm, 6.1 gm. A decorticate Alibates hard hammer percussion flake with a faceted platform, which has been unifacially worked on its dorsal face to form a thumbnail endscraper. The distal end and left lateral edge have been pressure retouched to form steep angles (61° distal, 49° lateral). The apex of the distal edge is moderately abraded, presumably from use. Both worked edges are strongly convex (height of distal convexity 5 mm, lateral convexity 3 mm).

#96: 17x20x5 mm, 1.8 gm. A small decorticate billet

flake with faceted platform of Ogallala quartzite, which has apparently been deliberately snapped in two to form a flat resting point for the index finger along its distal edge, and pressure retouched to create a tiny, hook-shaped graver spur on the left lateral edge. The tool fits comfortably in the right hand, with the index finger on the snapped edge, the middle finger against the ventral surface, and the thumb against a 5mm high, 45° flake scar on the right lateral edge, presenting the graver spur for use at a 90° angle to the index finger. The tip of the graver spur has been rounded off by abrasion. The total reworked edge is 10 mm long, and the concavity which produced the spur is 4mm deep, entering the edge at a plan view angle of 30°. Cross-section angle of the retouched edge is 22°.

#97: 21x14x7 mm, 2.8 gm. A small fragment of a fairly thick, decorticate Ogallala quartzite flake. The extant portions of the left lateral and distal edges (14 & 15 mm) are visibly abraded from use. Distal edge angle 37°, lateral edge 46°. The flake seems to have been used as a tool without any preparation.

References Cited

Thurmond, J.P.
1991 An Additional Paleoindian Component on the Dempsey Divide: 34RM602B, Roger Mills County, Oklahoma. ***Bulletin of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society*** 39:159-169.

Thurmond, J.P., and D.G. Wyckoff
1995 Recent Surface Collections from Two Late Paleoindian Sites on the Dempsey Divide, Roger Mills County, Oklahoma. ***Newsletter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society*** 43(4):4-6.