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Recording Paleoindian Projectile Points in Georgia

Jerald Ledbetter, David G. Anderson, and Scott C. Meeks

Detailed recording of Paleoindian projectile-point data has been underway in Georgia for over 20 years. This paper represents the first update since an extensive period of reporting took place during the first decade of the survey (Anderson et al. 1986, 1987, 1990a, 1990b, 1994; Ledbetter et al. 1992, 1996). In the intervening years the sample of recorded artifacts has grown dramatically, from 216 points reported in 1990 to 1,445 at present, April 2008. The quality of the information has likewise improved. A standard recording form has been used since the start of the survey, and digital color photographs of the obverse and reverse side of each point now exist for the great majority of recorded specimens, and line drawings sometimes accompany the forms where there is time to produce them. An extensive series of measurements are also taken from each point. Summary data on points by type and county as well as individual artifact attribute data are posted on the Paleoindian Database of the Americas (PIDBA) website <http://pidba.utk.edu/>, and pdf images of each form have been produced to facilitate circulation of the primary information.

The current sample includes 1,386 points, for which specific site or county-level provenience data exist, that can be used in distributional analyses (Figure 1). While there are still obvious gaps and biases in coverage, especially as represented by those counties for which little or no data have currently been

Jerald Ledbetter, Southeastern Archaeological Services, P.O. Drawer 8086, Athens, GA 30603; e-mail: rjledbettr@aol.com

David G. Anderson and Scott C. Meeks, Department of Anthropology, 250 South Stadium Hall, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996; e-mails: dander19@utk.edu smeeks1@utk.edu

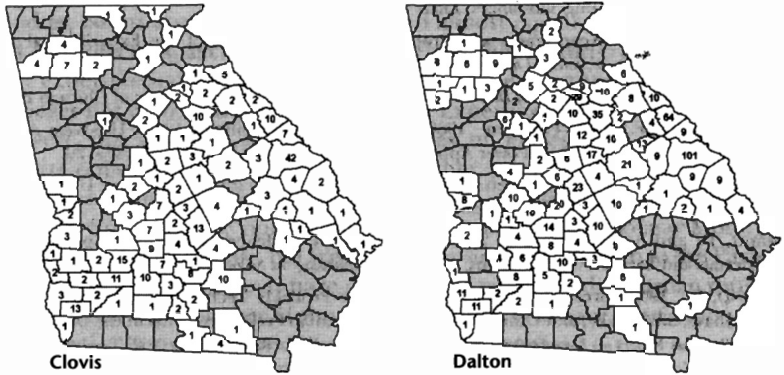


Figure 1. The distribution of Clovis and Dalton projectile points in Georgia by county, April 2008.

recorded, large numbers of points tend to occur in a diagonal band running from southwest to northeast and encompassing the inner coastal plain and lower piedmont portions of the state. The largest numbers of Clovis and Dalton points in Georgia occur in Burke County, immediately west of the Savannah River below the Fall Line. This area, and the area immediately to the east in Allendale County, South Carolina, is where major outcrops of high-quality and easily exploited Coastal Plain chert occur, and large numbers of early points have been recorded (Goodyear 1999; Goodyear and Charles 1984; Goodyear et al. 1990). The area appears to have been a locus of early and prolonged settlement from Clovis times onward.

County-level provenience data are available for 316 Clovis, 55 Suwannee, 77 Simpson, and 704 Dalton points. Lesser numbers of other point types are also present, including 3 Cumberland, 21 Redstone, 19 Wheeler, 15 Beaver Lake, and 29 Quad. A total of 105 points are what we have placed into an "unfluted lanceolate" category; these appear to be early but do not conform to identified types, and may be unfluted or unfinished Clovis or later-Paleoindian types. A little under 10 percent of the Dalton points in the sample ($n = 66$) exhibit basal fluting or pronounced thinning, a pattern noted during our earlier work (Anderson et al. 1990a:83), and suggesting possible continuity with earlier fluted forms. Perhaps the greatest lesson our work demonstrates is that recording projects such as this must continue for a long time if we are to hope to attain a widespread and fairly representative coverage of the occurrence of Paleoindian artifacts, sites, and assemblages.

Most of the artifacts were documented with the help of members of the Georgia avocational and professional archaeological community, whose support for this effort is deeply appreciated. A single individual (RJL) has recorded most of the primary data directly, and information about Paleoindian sites and artifacts found in Georgia should be directed to his attention.

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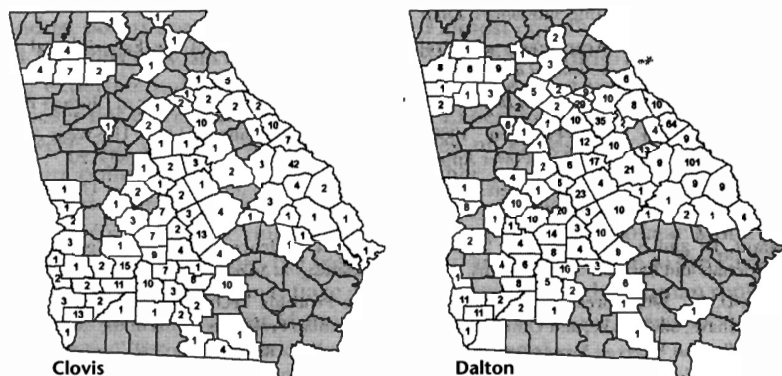


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Preliminary Analysis of Turtle Material from the Gault Site, Texas

Ashley Lemke and Cinda Timperley

American archaeologists have frequently debated subsistence strategies of Clovis Paleoamericans (Bryan 1991; Dillehay 2000:15–17; Waguespack and Surovell 2003). Zooarchaeological assemblages often are interpreted as reflecting either generalized or specialized strategies. Such remains from Great Plains and Southern High Plains sites suggest generalized strategies, a database that increasingly underscores the validity of revising the Clovis-as-big-game-hunter model. The diversity of faunal taxa at such sites as Aubrey,

Ashley Lemke, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Museum of Anthropology, 1109 Geddes Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079, and Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station R7500, Austin, TX 78712-0714; email: aklmke@umich.edu

Cinda Timperley, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station R7500, Austin, TX 78712-0714; e-mail: ctimperley@austin.rr.com