To the Point

Rice Lobed

Neal Lopinot

Description

Rice Lobed is typically a medium to large stemmed point with a broad base that is often lobed or broadly bifurcated as shown in Figure 1 (Sandstrom and Ray 2004:56). However, some specimens also can have a straight base as shown by some points in Figures 2–3. The haft element is almost always moderately to heavily ground (O’Brien and Wood 1998:130). Resharpened blade edges are always beveled and sometimes serrated. Although left beveling predominates, there are examples of right beveling. Shoulders on unresharpened specimens may be slightly barbed, but resharpening typically results in their removal. Although the blade may be excurvate, resharpening also may eventually result in an incurvate blade form.

Age

First identified at Rice Shelter in Stone County, Missouri (Bray 1956; Marshall and Chapman 1960), the age of Rice Lobed points has remained relatively elusive until recently. Chapman (1975:254) estimated that it dated to 7500–5000 B.C. and suggested that they first appeared during Dalton times and continued to be manufactured into the Middle Archaic period. Curry et al. (1986:96, 141–142) also reported on the recovery of Rice Lobed points from Middle Archaic contexts at the Pigeon Roost Creek site, but it seems clear that the Archaic deposits at this site were somewhat mixed.

Four radiocarbon ages were obtained for deposits containing Rice lobed points or associated Kirk-like bifaces at the Albertson site in northwest Arkansas (Dickson 2003:12). The uncorrected ages consist of 8410 ± 245 B.P., 8320 ± 80 B.P., 8200 ± 100 B.P., and 8000 ± 90 B.P. An approximate age of 8400–8000 B.P. is supported by the stratigraphy and a series of radiocarbon ages bracketing the occurrence of Rice Lobed points at the Big Eddy site. The Rice Lobed component at Big Eddy was considered to date to 8200–8000 B.P. (Ray and Lopinot 2005:254).

Distribution

Rice Lobed points are especially common in the southern part of Missouri, although they also occur north of the Missouri River with the exception of the extreme northwest corner of the state. They also occur throughout much of Arkansas and Illinois, as well as small portions of other nearby states (Justice 1987:86).

Comments

Rice Lobed may be a western version of the MacCorkle Stemmed and Kirk Corner Notched point types that occur east of the Mississippi River (Justice 1987:85–89).

References Cited

Bray, Robert T.
1956 The Culture-Complexes and Sequence at the Rice Site (23SN200), Stone County, Missouri. The Missouri Archaeologist 18(1–2):46–134.

Chapman, Carl H.

Dickson, Don R.

Justice, Noel D.

O’Brien, Michael J., and W. Raymond Wood

Ray, Jack H., and Neal H. Lopinot

Sandstrom and Jack H. Ray
Figure 1. Rice Lobed points from 23CE490. Photo courtesy of Center for Archaeological Research.

Figure 2. Rice Lobed points from (l to r) 23WB294, 23DL187, 23CN57, 23WB404, and 23WB275. Points actual size. Drawings by Del Sandstrom.