

## **VISIBILITY OF NEOLITHISATION WITHIN LITHIC COLLECTIONS FROM CENTRAL SUDAN**

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Within central sudanese prehistory is strong traditionality within lithic toolkit. There are almost no ruptures and majority of types of last hunter-gatherers are similar if not the same as are those of first agropastoralists. Most typical tool are segments/crescents/lunates for both periods/ lifestyles. There are slight changes within representation of different types of microliths. But this evidence did not show any major shift of subsistence strategies.

Fortunately for the early Neolithic period there is one exception and this is presence of gouges (axe like bifacially shaped artifacts). Within lithic collection they are seen as a marker of Neolithic period. They last for quite short period (about 500 years 5500–5000 cal. BC). Especially for surface collections or sites with badly visible stratigraphy (which are quite abundant in this region) within lithics gouges are almost only way how we are able to distinguish neolithic collections from slightly older hunter-gatherer assemblages. Until today no detailed use wear analysis was done on them so we are not sure how they fit to the puzzle of Neolithisation. According to our preliminary use wear observations they served for woodworking.

### **Keywords**

central Sudan, Nile valley, Lithics, gouges, neolithisation

### **Note/comment**