

# Stone artifacts found from the Gonglou site in China

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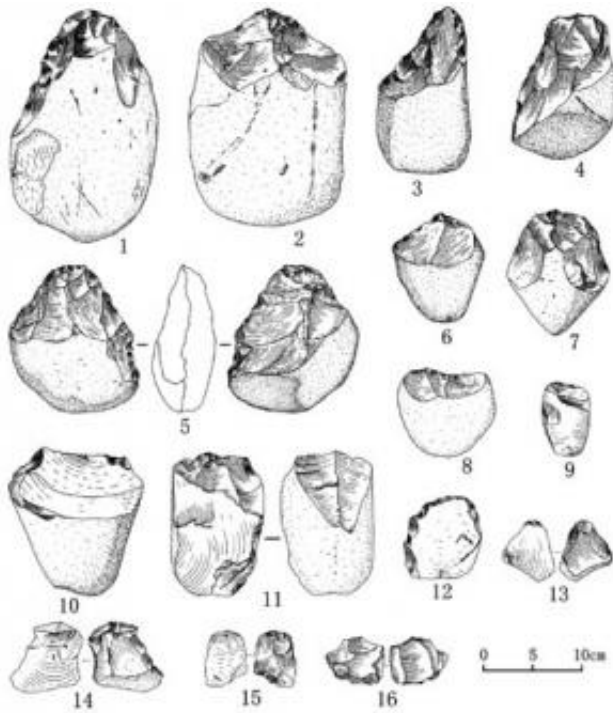


Fig.1 Stone artifacts from the Gonglou Site in Bose Basin. 1-4, picks; 5, handaxe; 6-8, 10, 11, choppers; 9, 12, 13, scrapers; 14, 15, flakes; 16, core. (Image by LIU Yang)

The Gonglou Paleolithic site in Baise (Bose) basin is located on the fourth terrace of the south bank of the Youjiang River in Tianyang county, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and was first discovered in 1980s. Researchers from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and

Paleoanthropology (IVPP), Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Nanning Museum carried a survey in 2010 and gathered a total of 102 stone artifacts. Researchers reported their findings in the latest issue of *Acta Anthropologica Sinica* 2013 (1), providing new data for the study of lithic techniques in the early Middle Pleistocene in South China.

Stone artifacts of the Gonglou site were gathered on the surface of vermiculated red earth, including cores(n=4), flakes(n=22), choppers(n=47), picks(n=21), scrapers(n=6) and handaxe(n=1). The stone tool assemblage shows close associations with the Pebble Tool Industry (Main Industry) in South China.

Lithic raw materials exploited at the site were locally available from ancient riverbeds, and quartzite (43%), quartz (18%), silicalite (15%), siltstone (13%), fine sandstone (10%) and breccia(1%) were utilized in core reduction and tool manufacture. Blanks for tool fabrication are most cobbles.

Most of the [stone artifacts](#) are large and middle in size, while some cores, flakes, and scrapers are small. Tools are modified by direct hammer percussion.

Geomorphological and chronological comparison with other sites of the Baise Basin indicates that the age of the site should be close to the early Middle Pleistocene, which places the Gonglou paleolithic industry in the Lower Paleolithic in China.

"With these details, a future project with a good stratigraphic and chronological control should help better understand human adaptive strategies and patterns in this region, particularly, how the human behavior at open-air sites in south China", said first author LIU Yang of the IVPP.

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Provided by Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology

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