

IV.13. Taxon Hk: Bifacial points and preforms
 (2 items; #1069–1070)

#1069. Item no. 570-10056

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	06/02/2016	i5-E/ J5	-	-2.55	283921.53	2724534.18	1223	C
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
HK	Bifacial point	55.7	16.4	9	7	V		



Characterization. This artefact is the “Holen point”, colloquially named like this on the field, by the members of the 2016 excavation crew, in honor of Steven and Kathe Holen, first major sponsors of the explorations at the Cave, through their organization, Center for American

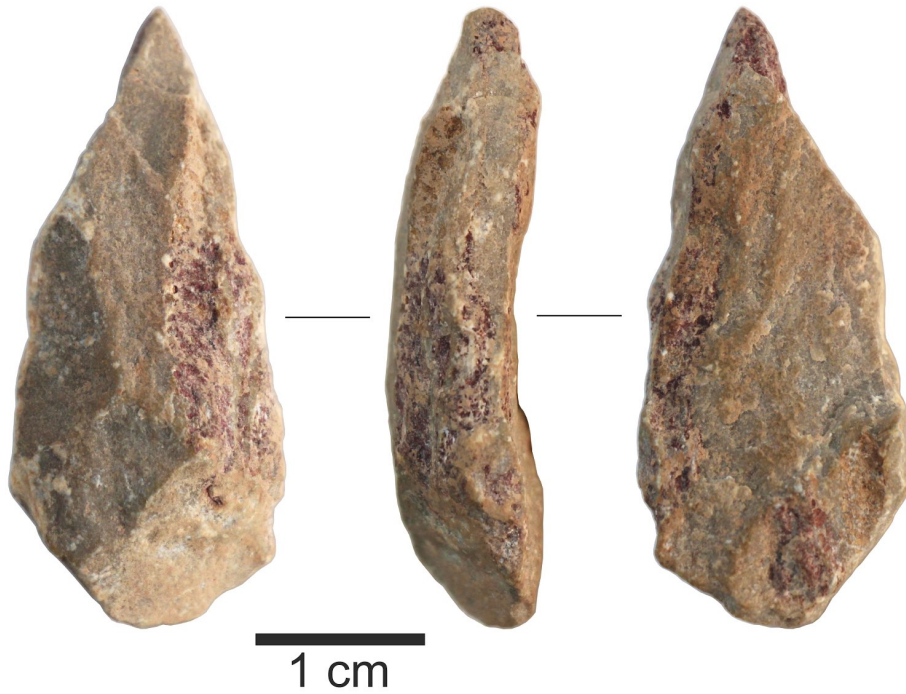


Paleolithic Research (CAPR). Probably, without CAPR's seed money, the large-scale excavations at Chiquihuite would have never started. This bifacial artefact is probably the most important, intriguing, and outstanding lithic item in the entire Chiquihuite assemblage, presumably among the oldest bifacial flaked stone artefacts ever reported in the Americas. It is a lanceolate, properly bifacial, advanced point preform of fine-grained, green, recrystallized limestone, recovered from the deepest, pre-LGM, excavated stratum at the cave. It stands out as the most relevant technological and typological example of this industry in its earliest times. The shape and category of the initial blank can no longer be determined, but it probably was a thick flake or a narrow tabular nodule. Both faces of the artefact reveal flake scars originating from multiple directions. One of the longitudinal edges shows clear alternating bifacial flaking, with the location of the platforms clearly visible. The piece displays remarkable symmetry. It was probably not finished, abandoned in an advanced stage of manufacture. The point was found next to a small thinning transversal flake of identical raw material (artefact #1014), but the refitting attempts did not support the hypothesis that it belonged to the *chaîne opératoire* of the biface. Yet, they could be related.

#1070. Item no. 612-10158

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square -subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	06/02/2016	L6	-3.30/ -3.40	-3.37	283924.06	2724534.81	1223	C
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		

Hk	Bifacial point	36.8	16.2	8.1	5.6	V		
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Characterization. This interesting artefact is a projectile point or point preform, made by bifacial flaking on a thick blank of green limestone that could have been a flake or a tabular nodule. The raw material is of relatively poor quality, with brown mineral intrusions that limit the potential for a fine artefact. The item shows evidence of flaking on both faces. One face is defined by multiple flake scars; the other side is occupied by the scar of a single extraction,



which makes it appear concave. The origin of that extraction is visible on one edge. That edge shows evidence of having been approached with the technique of “square-edge management”: the centre of the edge has extractions extending towards both faces, but the distal and proximal segments of the edge remained square. The opposite edge was shaped by abrupt, coarse flaking. The piece shows good lateral symmetry, and a partially thinned base.

