

I.2. Taxon C: Preforms, incipient reduction of blanks
 (17 items; #10–26)

#10. Item no. sn-10632

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	28/01/2016	J3	-0.90/ -1.60*	?	283921.79	2724531.73	?	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction?	45.3	26.4	14	14.77	B		



Characterization. This piece has a questionable anthropic origin, yet it still presents a few good technological traits to make it stand as a candidate for a proper artefact, in the form of a potential preform of a tool on a tabular nodule; the nodule still conserves parts of two opposite parallel flat planes. The grainy gray-blueish coarse limestone obliterates the traits of intentional flaking, as the flake scars do not have smooth separation surfaces. The invasive, bifacial removals were obtained using opposite edges as platforms. The convergent base also displays at least two small flake scars. Overall, the oval-shaped potential preform shows multiple bifacial flake removals in an organized pattern that supports intentionality.

#11. Item no. 1065-13364

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	11/01/2017	O4-NW	-1.60/-1.70	-1.65	283926.56	2724533.35	1203	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	37	23.6	8.9	9	V		



Characterization. This is an incipiently reduced blank for a tool, presumably a point preform, made on a tabular pale-green limestone. The piece has an overall ogival or convex-edged triangular shape. The ventral and dorsal sides of the blank are indistinguishable. One side of the blank has been left intact. The other face has been thinned by a large transversal *ourepassé* (or *overshot*) removal that affected the entire surface. The edges present an incipient shaping made by abrupt percussion.

#12. Item no. 965-13329

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	09/01/2017	O4-SE	-1.50/-1.60	-1.53	283927.26	2724532.75	1203A	B

Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	33.5	18.8	11.4	7.20	NI		



Characterization. This item is the initial reduction of a thick secondary flake blank originated from a tabular nodule, and coated by the dark reddish brown patina characteristic for the upper layers in the easternmost sector of the excavation X-12. The raw material is not identifiable due to the coating, but the texture points at the green limestone variety. The blank was separated from its tabular nodule through a strong blow applied to a slightly higher point in the middle of one of the sides of the brick-like parent material. The impact area is visible from the ventral side of the resulting blank. There are two flake removals apparent on the dorsal sides of the blank. It is difficult to evaluate whether these extractions were achieved before or after the separation of this blank from its parent nodule.

#13. Item no. 949-13321

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	08/01/2017	N6-NE	-1.50/ -1.60	-1.51	283926.31	2724535.42	1204	B

Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	41	19.2	8	6	B		



Characterization. This is the potential point preform barely commenced on a grey-blueish limestone small tabular preform chemically weathered on the dorsal site. The ventral side of the piece was created by the extraction of a large transversal flake that invaded the entire face. A few other smaller scars are visible on the distal edge of the blank. No other flaking was performed before the abandonment of the preform.

#14. Item no. 1044-13356

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	11/01/2017	N6-NW	-1.60/ -1.70	-1.61	283925.71	2724535.47	1204	B

Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	24.7	22	9.1	5.53	V		



Characterization. This artefact is an incipient preform with bifacial reduction, abandoned in the early stages of its way to probably becoming a point. The blank is a coarse, thick flake of pale-green limestone extracted from a tabular core. The dorsal side is conformed by several flake scars and a small portion of cortex. The ventral side presents an extraction made after the separation of the flake. The large platform is faceted, partly lipped, and leaning towards the ventral face.

#15. Item no. 1314-13673

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	14/01/2017	O6-NE	-1.70/-1.80	-1.72	283927.46	2724535.45	1204	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	31.6	19.2	9.9	5	V		

Characterization. This eroded and thermally or chemically worn item is probably the incipient reduction of an ovoid nodule. Extractions are visible on one side and on one edge. The anthropic nature of the item could be questioned.



#16. Item no. 906-13627

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	08/01/2017	N4-NW	-1.50/ -1.60	-1.53	283925.81	2724533.52	1204 ABC	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	33.4	21.3	11.6	8.84	V		



Characterization. This specimen is the incipient preform of a bifacial point on a greenish limestone ovoid nodule. The contour of the piece is cordiform. The approach is clearly bifacial, as mostly failed removals are evident on both faces of the blank. Two parallel and contiguous flake extractions were successful on a distal edge, but most of the impacts failed to remove the heavy masses of rock from the centre of the preform. The artefact is probably the product of an unexperienced knapper, as it displays mistakes that are common in the bifacial reduction of thick blanks.

#17. Item no. 912-13630

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	08/01/2017	M4-NE	-1.50/ -1.60	-1.58	283925.49	2724533.03	1204 C	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	37.4	28.7	20	18.17	V		



Characterization. This interesting artefact made of fine-grained green limestone is the incipient bifacial reduction of a tabular nodule meant to produce, probably, a bifacial tool on nodule. The incipient tool is unevenly coated by a thin layer of white carbonate patina, consistent with its deposition in a fine-grained context. The artefact shows compelling intentional flaking patterns on both sides, with more preponderance on one of the sides, where the overlapping flakes occupy the whole face.

#18. Item no. 1033-12366

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	10/01/2017	M6-SE	-1.60/ -1.70	-1.65	283925.34	2724534.73	1204 D	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	27.8	26.6	8.6	8.04	V		



Characterization. This artefact is a small tabular blank, probably a thick flake, that presents incipient flaking around the edges, presumably for the creation of a point preform. The flaking is marginal only. No use-wear or other cultural traits are visible.

#19. Item no. 1160-12375

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	13/01/2017	M4-SE	-	-1.80	283925.40	2724532.75	1204D	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
B? C?	Core or preform?	24.9	23.7	11.6	7.08	V		

Characterization. This bifacially flaked artefact is either an exhausted core on tabular nodule meant for the obtention of small flakes or a preform that was abandoned for not achieving the desired result. The second option is more likely, considering the size of the piece. One side of

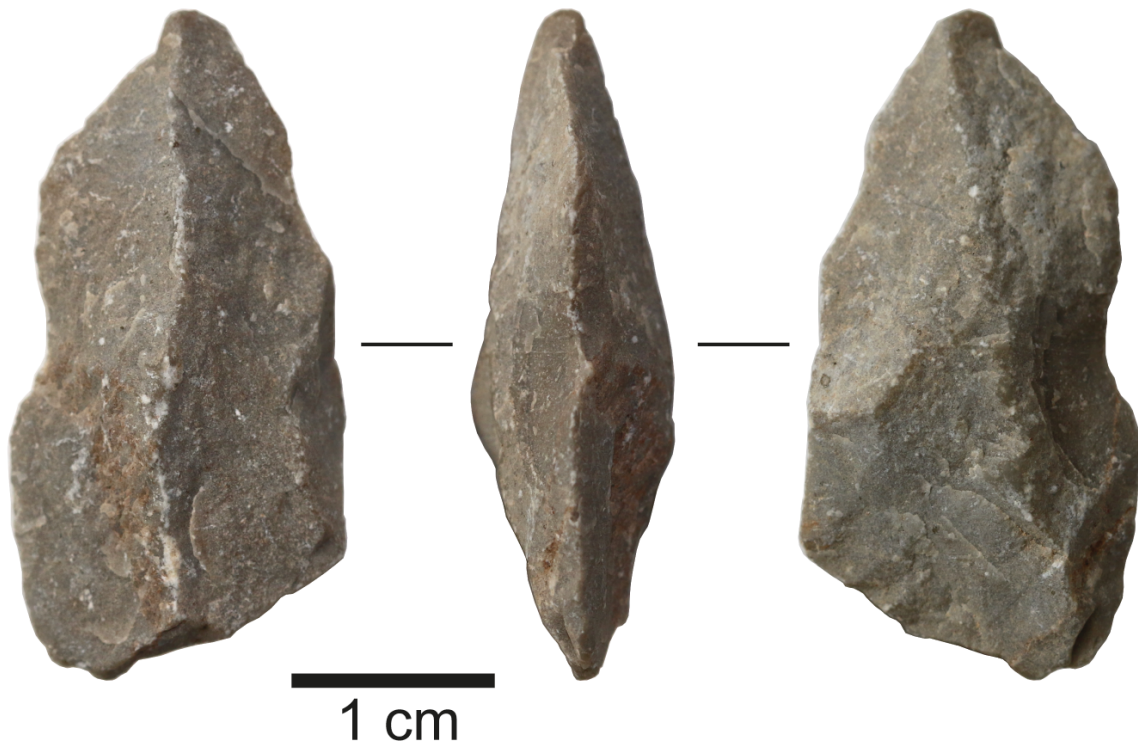
the artefact contains one invasive, fan-shaped flake scar. The other side of the preform is more protuberant, with three flake removals (one longitudinal and two transversal) disposed around one central untouched area covered by preserved cortex.



#20. Item no. 1517-13470

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	18/01/2017	N5-SW	-1.90/ -2.00	-1.93	283925.71	2724533.77	1204D	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction?	33	16.8	9	4.5	B		

Characterization. This item has a doubtful human nature and an angular diamond-shaped cross-section that suggests that a natural morphology is more likely in this case. At Chiquihuite, however, the employment of natural elements for human use and reuse and the minimal modification of natural pieces of stone have been confirmed during the multi-year analysis of the cave’s assemblage. This means that items like this one can still be used as points, as part of an opportunistic approach. A couple of flake extractions could be suspected on the edges of this object, but they are questionable and could be the result of natural processes.



#21. Item no. 1292-13668

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	14/01/2017	O4-SW	-1.70/ -1.80	-1.78	283926.56	2724532.85	1204	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	28.9	18.7	10.8	5.97	B		

Characterization. This item has a questionable human origin, and it could still be a natural product. It has the aspect of an incipient reduction of a small grey-blueish limestone blank, apparently a thick flake; but the flaking scars are not compelling enough for it to pass a thorough test. Yet, considering the expedient nature of the technology, it has been considered as part of the assemblage.



#22. Item no. 1677-13697

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	20/01/2017	N6-NW	-	-2.14	283925.68	2724535.26	1206	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction ?	35.2	22	14.2	8.5	V		



Characterization. This is another item of an uncertain human origin. It can be interpreted as the incipient reduction of a nodule, yet not sufficiently supported. Flakes were extracted from both faces around a longitudinal axis, producing a relatively symmetrical shape.

#23. Item no. 1770-12430

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	21/01/2017	N4-SW	-2.20/ -2.30	-2.27	283925.66	2724532.67	1207	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	38.4	24.2	11.9	9.57	V		



Characterization. This item, once more, has a questionable human attribution, and it could well be a geofact, considering that the extraction scars look rather fresh and lack coherence. If an artefact, it is an irregular blank, thick and of a triangular cross-section, with a few removals on the thick edge and one face. Unlikely to be an actual artefact or tool, it may rather be a non-used blank abandoned before use and later affected by post-depositional damage. It is kept as part of the assemblage as a reference.

#24. Item no. 1814-12434

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	22/01/2017	M4-SE	-2.30/-2.40	-2.34	283925.44	2724532.63	1207	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	46.2	18	16.3	15.43	V		



Characterization. This item is probably an incipient reduction of a wedge-shaped blank of fine-grained green limestone made on a tabular nodule. Its anthropic origin could be questioned. Yet, unlike pieces described above, this specimen does present a clear coherence in the disposition of the flaking scars. A bit of calcite crystal cortex is preserved on one of the faces. One narrow side displays three contiguous flake scars originating on a side of the blank that was later removed by a large *outrépassé* longitudinal extraction, giving the blank its wedged shape. The intention was probably to obtain a bifacial point.

#25. Item no. 1919-13707

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	23/01/2017	M4-NW	-2.50/-2.60	-2.52	283924.59	2724533.18	1208	B

Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	36	22	11.8	8.5	B		



Characterization. This item is of a dubious origin, yet it may represent the very early stages of the bifacial reduction of a small grey-blueish limestone nodule. Both faces have traces of fine-grained carbonaceous depositions. The anthropic nature of the item could be questioned.

#26. Item no. 1932-12452

Exc. nr.	Discovery date	Square-subsq.	Depth range Z(D)	Depth Z(datum)	UTM E (x)	UTM N (y)	Stratum	Stratig. comp. (SC)
X12	23/01/2017	M4-NW	-2.50/-2.60	-2.55	283924.84	2724533.43	1208	B
Taxon code	Taxon definition	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material class		
C	Incipient reduction	33.1	21.3	9.3	5.42	V		

Characterization. This slightly rhomboidal item is a transversal flake blank that was further modified presumably for the creation of a point preform. The platform is no longer present, except for a very small elevated point. The dorsal side is conformed by the intersection of three plains. One is a flat natural surface, and the other two are flake extractions originating in the same area as the platform of the blank.

