Tropical Forager Palaeoecology at the Tràng An Landscape Complex, Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam

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Abstract

Palaeolithic stone tool assemblages throughout Southeast Asia are characterized by simple stone tools. Past approaches towards identifying technological variability in these assemblages have tended to rely on cultural typological methods, which are poorly suited for assemblages that comprise tools that are rarely curated and that exhibit limited evidence of a formal template. More recent approaches that include attribute analysis and behavioral ecological modelling are proving more adept at identifying and interpreting variability in these assemblages, and placing tool use into its environmental context. This poster addresses the interaction between lithic technology and environmental change at a cluster of Terminal Pleistocene/Early Holocene cave sites in Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam. It synthesizes lithic analysis, raw material studies, and behavioral ecology to deliver new insights into prehistoric tropical hunter-gatherer land use in Southeast Asia.