

The Tivydale Point

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Introduction

This paper proposes a new point type named after the small community of Tivydale in Gillespie County (Figure 1), which is near to 41GL496. This study analyzes 29 points found at five different sites scattered across the Balcones Escarpment from Gillespie County in the east to Val Verde County in the west. We also include the data and descriptions of 34 Early Triangular points found intermixed with the Tivydale points from 41UV465.

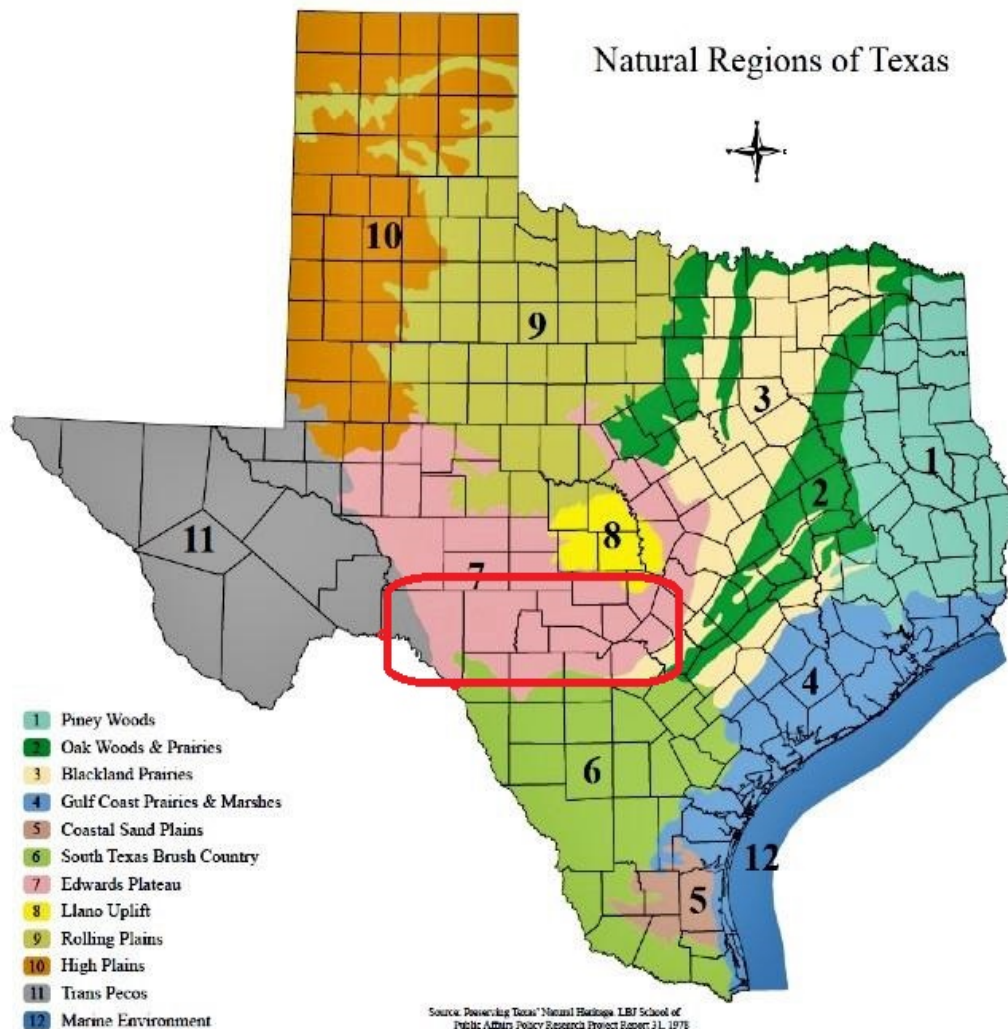


Figure 1. Texas County Map showing counties in which Tivydale points have been found and reported.

Description and Discussion of the Tivydale Point Type

The Tivydale point is a medium-sized dart point with an expanding stem and a triangular body. Its recurved lateral edges are the result of steep alternately beveling that leaves the lateral edges highly serrated by exceptionally wide re-sharpening pressure flakes.

Bases on the specimens in this study vary widely, from slightly convex to straight and even concave (Table 1). Five of seven specimens from Gillespie County (Figure 3) have convex bases. The remaining two from that county are straight. Specimens from Uvalde County (Figures 2 and 4) and Val Verde County (Figure 5) have either straight or concave bases. The two specimens from Val Verde County (Figure 5, Specimens 28A and 29A) have concave bases while seven specimens from Uvalde County (Figures 2, Specimens 3A and 4B and Figure 4) have concave bases. A significant number of these specimens exhibit a very glossy appearance that may be evidence of heat treatment.

Table 1. Metrics for Tivydale points.

specimen #	Length	Width	Thickness	Stem Length	Stem Width Min	Stem Width Max	Stem Thickness	UV Light Response	Base
1	47mm	41mm	6mm	11mm	19mm	24mm	4mm	Pumpkin orange	convex
2	48mm	37mm	5mm	9mm	16mm	21mm	4mm	Pumpkin Orange	straight
3	56mm	31mm	6mm	11mm	21mm	25mm	5mm	Pumpkin Orange	concave
4	57mm	32mm	6mm	11mm	22mm	25mm	4mm	Pumpkin Orange	concave
5	62mm	34mm	7mm	10mm	18mm	22mm	4mm	Pumpkin Orange	concave
6	54mm	32mm	5mm	9mm	18mm	22mm	4mm	Pale Yellow	convex
7	51mm	28mm	5mm	9mm	15mm	19mm	4mm	Pale Yellow	convex
8	49mm	28mm	6mm	10mm	18mm	22mm	4mm	Pumpkin Orange	convex
9	44mm	27mm	5mm	11mm	20mm	25mm	4mm	Pumpkin Orange	convex
10	48mm	29mm	5mm	9mm	13mm	17mm	5mm	Pale Yellow	convex
11	49mm	28mm	5mm	10mm	19mm	24mm	4mm	Pumpkin Orange	convex
12	58mm	33mm	5mm	12mm	19mm	25mm	4mm	Pumpkin orange	convex
13	61mm	30mm	6mm	13mm	22mm	25mm	4mm	Pumpkin orange	convex
14	42mm	41mm	6mm	13mm	22mm	28mm	5mm	dark orange	convex
15	47mm	39mm	6mm	14mm	21mm	26mm	5mm	pumkin orange	convex
16	64mm	34mm	6mm	11mm	23mm	28mm	4mm	Pumpkin orange	convex
17	64mm	31mm	5mm	12mm	17mm	20mm	4mm	dark brown	straight
18	44 mm	32mm	6mm	11mm	26mm	28mm	5mm	dark orange	convex
19	48mm	32mm	5mm	11mm	18mm	22mm	4mm	Pumpkin Orange	Concave
20	49mm	33mm	6mm	10mm	19mm	22mm	5mm	crimson	concave
21	34mm	31mm	6mm	8mm	19mm	22mm	4mm	reddish orange	Concave
22	36mm	24mm	5mm	11mm	19mm	22mm	4mm	Pumpkin orange	concave
23	37mm	25mm	6mm	11mm	19mm	22mm	5mm	Pumpkin Orange	concave
24	64mm	33mm		12mm	19mm	22mm		Pale Yellow	concave
25	43mm	36mm		8mm	18mm	21mm		Pumpkin Orange	straight
26	42mm	34mm		10mm	19mm	21mm		Pale Yellow	Straight
27	41mm	26mm	5mm	8mm	16mm	19mm	3mm	Yellow Brown	Concave
28	48mm	33mm		9mm	16mm	19mm		pumkin orange	concave
29	44mm	28mm		12mm	19mm	23mm		pumkin orange	concave

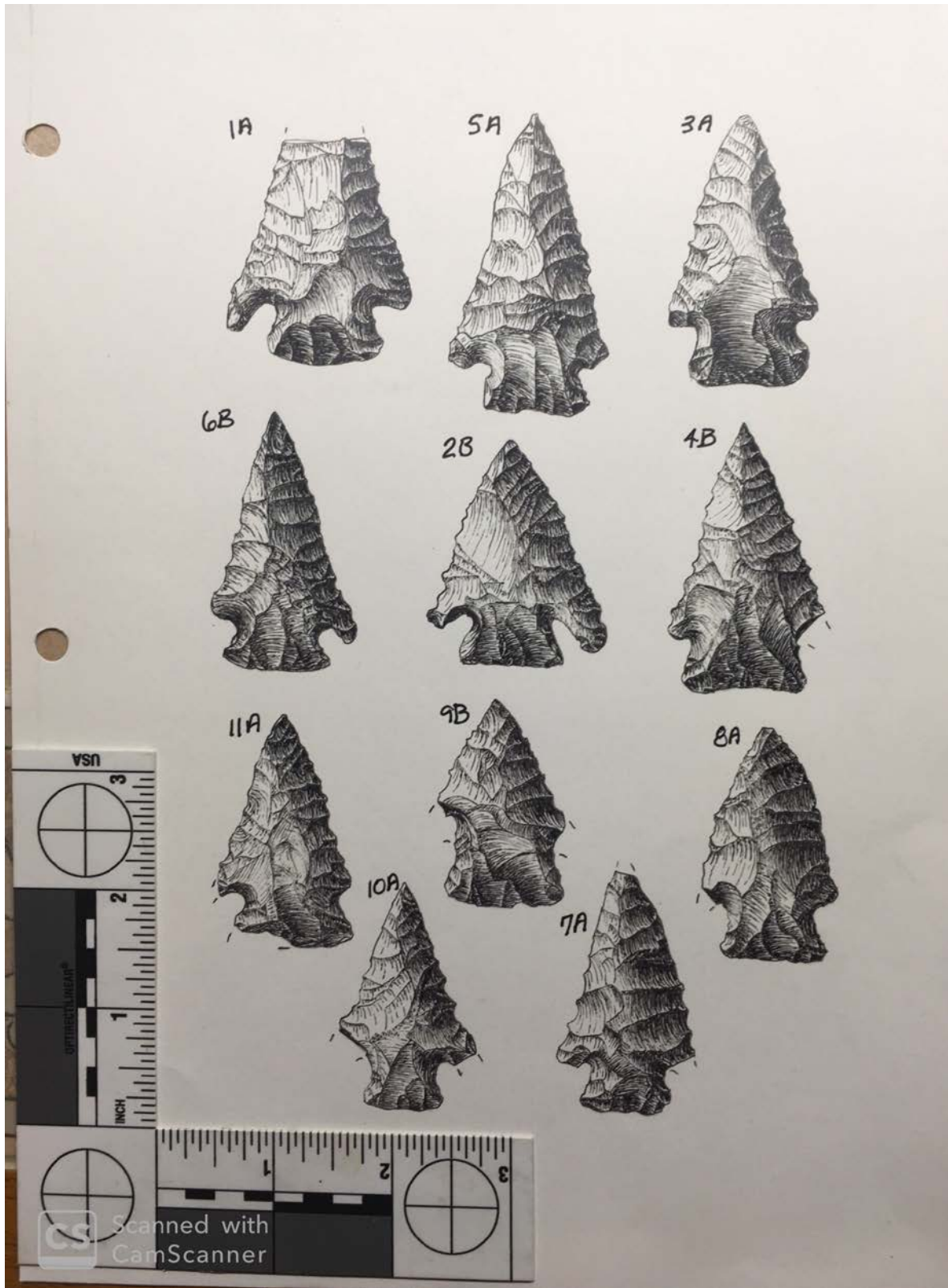


Figure 2. Tivydale specimens from 41UV465.



Figure 3. Tivydale specimens from 41GL496.

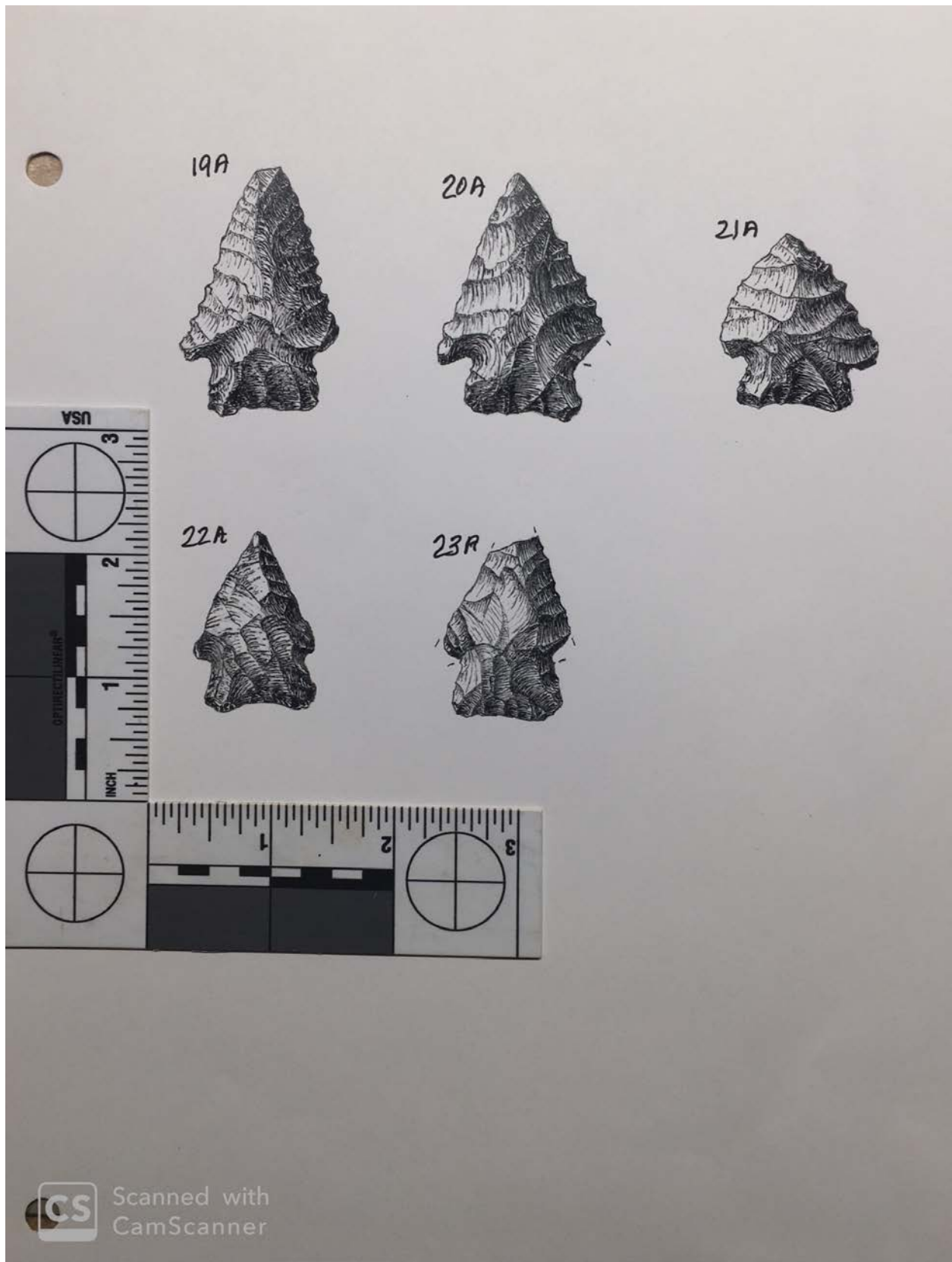


Figure 4. Tivydale specimens from 41UV510.

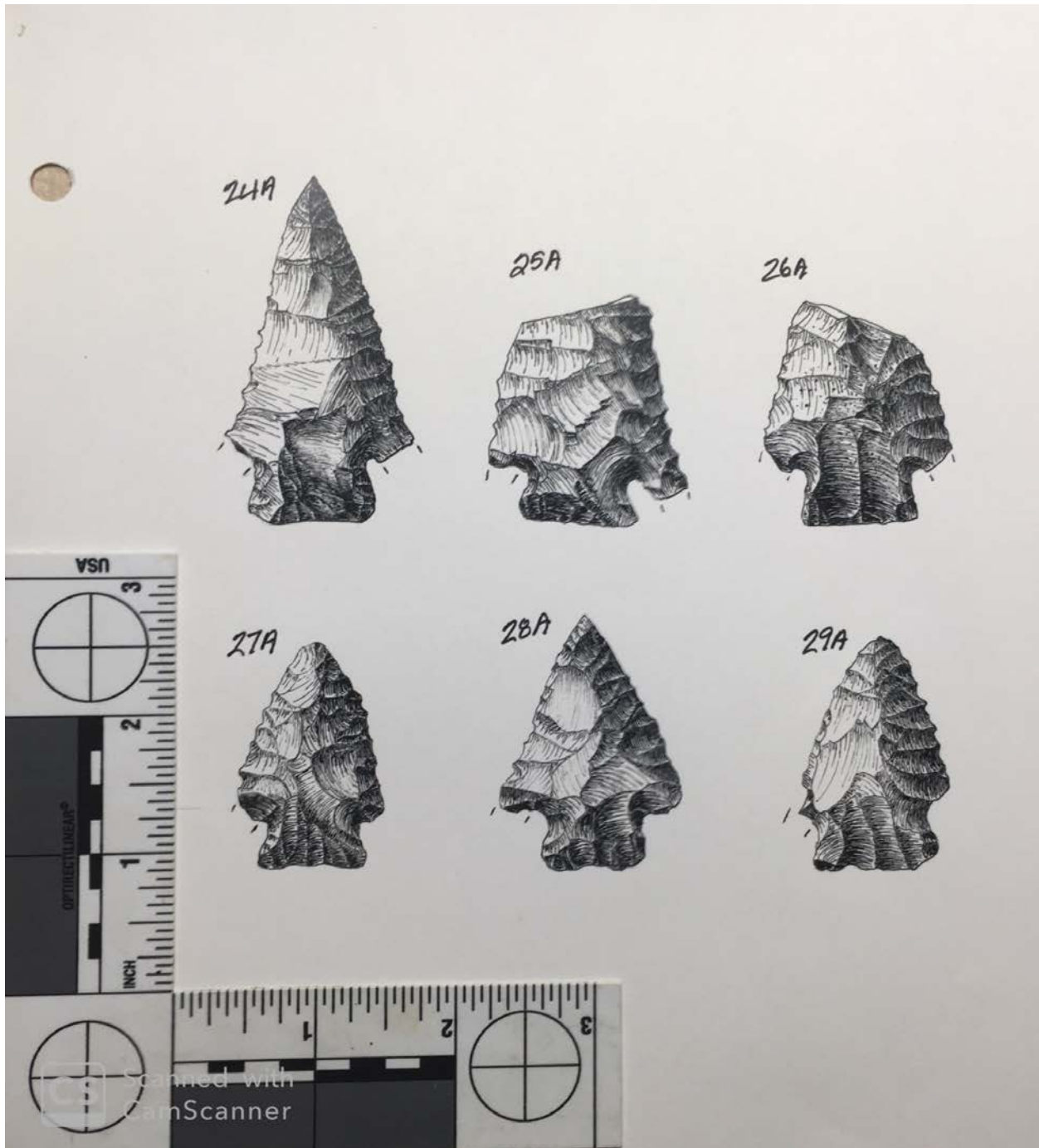


Figure 5. Tivydale specimens from unrecorded sites near Barksdale (specimens 24-27) and Comstock (specimens 28-29).

Specimens have several characteristics in common with Early Triangular dart (Figure 6) points. This includes thin bases that are well thinned by long basal pressure flakes, steeply beveled lateral edges, with highly serrated and recurved lateral edges that have been created by alternately beveled re-sharpening.

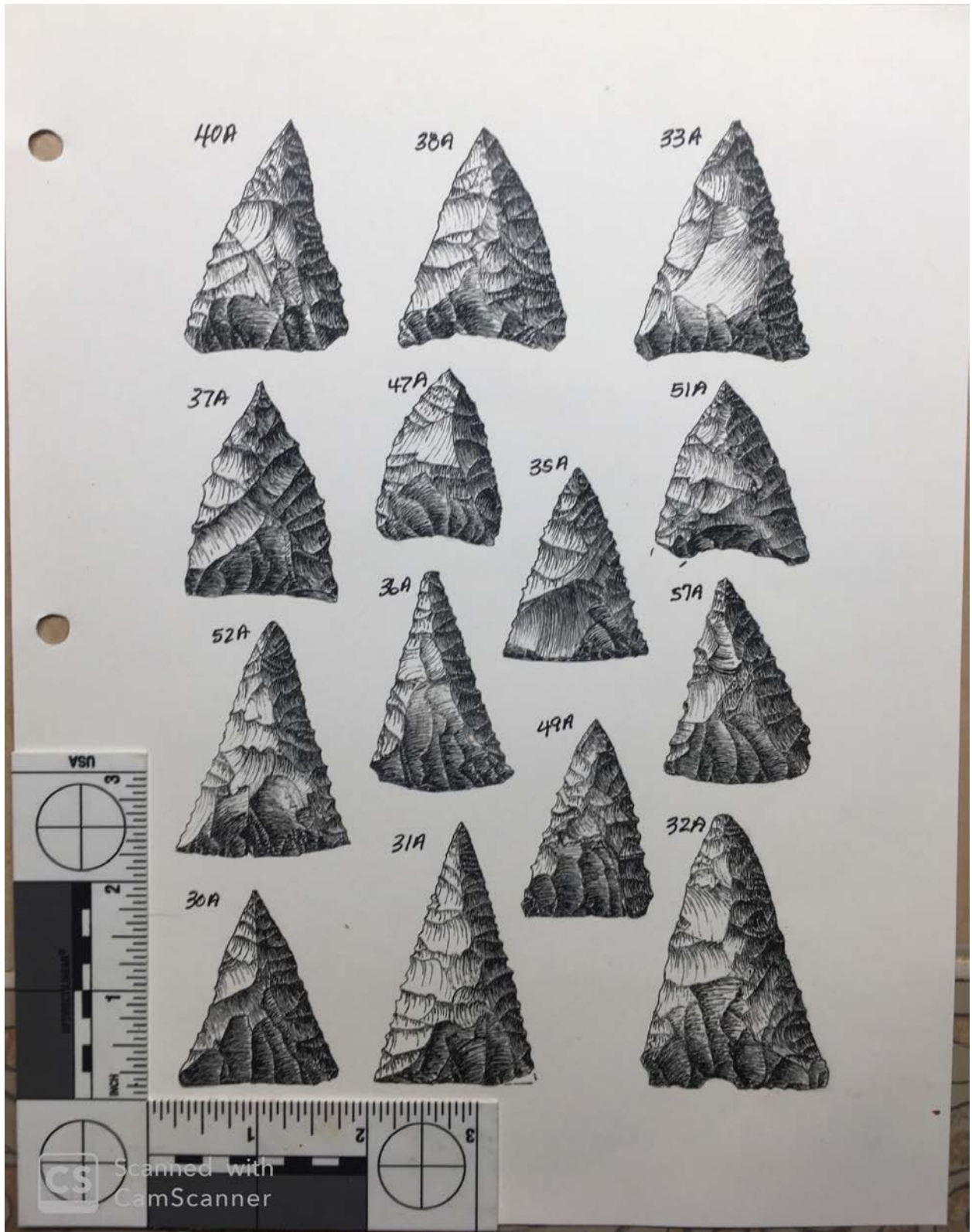


Figure 6. Early Triangular points.

At 41UV465 (see Figure 2) in northern Uvalde County, 14 Tivydale specimens were found in uncontrolled excavations intermixed with 34 Early Triangular darts (Table 2; see Figure 6). Seven Tivydale points at 41GL496 in Gillespie County (Figure 3) all exhibited slightly convex bases.

Table 2. Metrics for Early Triangular points found intermixed in excavation with Tivydale points

Specimen	Length	Width	Thickness	UV Light	Comment
30	44mm	36mm	6mm	Pumkin	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
31	61mm	37mm	5mm	Pumkin	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
32	63mm	42mm	5mm	Pumkin	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
33	52mm	38mm	6mm	Pumkin	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
34	64mm	27mm	5mm	dark brown	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
35	44mm	32mm	5mm	dark orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
36	51mm	32mm	5mm	dark orange	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
37	48mm	34mm	5mm	dark tan	Some flake termination outline hafting area
38	47mm	37mm	5mm	pumpkin	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
39	38mm	29mm	6mm	bright yellow	Some flake termination outline hafting area
40	51mm	36mm	6mm	no response	Some flake termination outline hafting area
41	38mm	32mm	6mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
42	34mm	31mm	6mm	pumkin	Some flake termination outline hafting area
43	36mm	33mm	5mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
44	34mm	32mm	5mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
45	45mm	37mm	6mm	orange	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
46	39mm	36mm	6mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
47	39mm	27mm	5mm	orange	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
48	44mm	36mm	6mm	dark brown	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
49	45mm	30mm	6mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
50	59mm	35mm	7mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
51	42mm	35mm	6mm	pale yellow	Some flake termination outline hafting area
52	53mm	39mm	6mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
53	48mm	33mm	6mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
54	44mm	41mm	6mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
55	50mm	27mm	6mm	orange	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
56	41mm	30mm	6mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
57	47mm	33mm	6mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
58	62mm	33mm	5mm	crimson	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
59	50mm	35mm	7mm	orange	Some flake termination outline hafting area
60	50mm	39mm	7mm	orange	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
61	31mm	34mm	5mm	orange	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
62	61mm	35mm	6mm	orange	No flake terminations outlining hafting area
63	40mm	37mm	6mm	orange	No flake terminations outlining hafting area

Tivydale points are found in other collections from the Nueces River valley and the Pedernales River valley. Others have been reported from Val Verde County near the towns of Barksdale and Comstock (see Figure 5).

Description of Sites

Tivydale points presented in this paper were unscientifically excavated from three different recorded sites and two unrecorded sites scattered across the Balcones

Escarpment from Gillespie County (41GL496) in the east to Val Verde County in the west near the town of Comstock, Texas. The majority of these points come from two sites within the Nueces River valley in Uvalde County (41UV465 and 41UV510). The Laguna-Montell site (41UV510) is situated on the east bank of the Nueces River and on the first terrace above the river. This is a very large site scattered amongst three large spring channels emanating from the hills along the valley's eastern margins. This site was occupied occasionally throughout most of the prehistory and historic eras, from the Late Paleoindian period to current times. The Laguna-Montell site has intact and deeply buried Early Archaic and likely Paleoindian deposits.

Site 41UV465 is situated on the opposite side of the Nueces River valley alongside an old remnant channel of the Nueces River. It is also a large open camp with extensive prehistoric archeological deposits. Calame, jr. has seen dozens of other Tivydale points in collections farther north in the Nueces River valley.

Site 41GL496 is on the east bank of the Pedernales River on the first terrace above the river at the confluence of Spring Creek. It is also an open camp that was occasionally occupied from the Late Paleoindian to Historic period times.

The area is a transitional zone of three biotic provinces described by Blair (1950) as the Balconian, the Chihuahuan and the Tamaulipan biotic provinces.

Summary

The Tivydale point is a newly defined stemmed Archaic projectile point. The known distribution of the Tivydale projectile point is along the Balcones Escarpment from Gillespie County in the east to Val Verde County in the west, with concentrations found in the Nueces and Pedernales river valleys. This point type dates to the Early Archaic period, based on its association with Early Triangular dart points. This co-association does suggest that there was a shift from dart points with well-thinned bases to dart points with notched base points. Notched base points would have allowed a different way of hafting a dart point, likely brought about by a need for dart points to also serve as hafted cutting tools. This implies a possibly very rapid shift in resource processing using such points. Use wear analysis needs to be done on samples of Tivydale points from different sites in the region to ascertain their functional characteristics.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank Ms. Jennifer E. Goode and Dr. Timothy K. Perttula for editing assistance. Thanks to Booner Beck, Todd Chisum, Will Lessner, and Steve Smith for the loan of artifacts and sharing information concerning their discovery.

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