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“FROM TOOLSTONE to Stone TOOLS”



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CACAO 1: LITHIC EVIDENCE AND MOBILITY RANGES DURING THE PLEISTOCENE IN THE ATACAMA PUNA (ANTOFAGASTA DE LA SIERRA, CATAMARCA, ARGENTINA)

Carlos A. ASCHERO¹, Wilfredo FAUNDES CATALÁN² and Federico BOBILLO³

¹ISES (CONICET/UNT) e Instituto de Arqueología y Museo (FCN-UNT), Argentina.
ascherocarlos@yahoo.com.ar

²Instituto de Arqueología y Museo, FCN-UNT, Argentina.
wankarani.wilfredo@gmail.com

³ISES (CONICET/UNT) e Instituto de Arqueología y Museo (FCN-UNT), Argentina.
fede_bobillo@yahoo.com.ar

Cacao 1 is a shelter with rock art situated at the confluence of the Cacao and Curuto bogs, at 25°54'46" S, 67°20'27.1" W and 3755 masl, in the Antofagasta de la Sierra Department, Catamarca. We here present a small lithic artifact assemblage composed of flaked tools, utilized flakes and debitage, all found in a flat, horizontal position in level 5. This level is characterized by a matrix mainly composed of vegetal remains and a smaller proportion of fine sand, originating from the disaggregation and trampling of extinct fauna feces (megatherium, mylodon, horse). At

the time of writing this abstract there are two dates of about 38,000 yr BP for this level. Also the top of level 5 is dated to about 37,000 yr BP, and its base is dated to about 40,000 yr BP. An extension of the excavation during May 2017 yielded new findings, which are currently are being dated. Lithic artifacts include obsidian from the Ona or Salar de Hombre Muerto sources, quartzite and vulcanite from sources close to Antofagasta de la Sierra, and a local vulcanite. These indicate a provisioning range of 80 km, which is larger when considering also vegetal remains.