Manufacture and Repairing Activities of Bone/ antler Tools at the Camp Site of Microblade Industry in Hokkaido: Use-wear Analysis of Lithic Artifacts at the Oruika 2 Site.

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Sakkotsu type microblade industries were spread from Siberia via Hokkaido Peninsula to the northeastern region of Honshu island during 18,000-17,000 calBP. The author has already analyzed 3 microblade industries in Hokkaido Peninsula from the viewpoint of lithic tool function. Bone/antler tool manufacture was assumed by the existence of use-wear of bone/antler at the Akatsuki site where is thought to have been one of the central base camp of microblade industries in this period. In opposite, it is not clear that what kind of work has done at the small camp site except for making lithic tools.

The object of this paper is to find out traces of bone/antler working at the camp site in Hokkaido. To understand function of burin is especially main object. The Oruika 2 site was located at the Chitose city on the Yuhutsu plain, Hokkaido. The lithic assemblage was composed of 4 lithic concentrations formed within a limited period.

Six burins and five burin spalls at the Oruika 2 site were observed under the high power microscope. D1 type use-wear polish which was formed by scraping bone /antler experimentally was detected on two burins and two burin spalls. Light uses of them imply that several burins were used to have repaired bone/antler spears. E2 type polish which is strongly connected with scraping dry hide was detected on a burin and a burin spall. Moreover, severe striations were found around the ridges of four microblades at the lithic concentration 1. They would have been hafted in the slits of spears and be removed there. Activity patterns at the Oruika 2 site are similar to the camp site in Honshu. It is highly probable that bone/antler spears in which microblades had been hafted were repaired at the Oruika 2 site.