

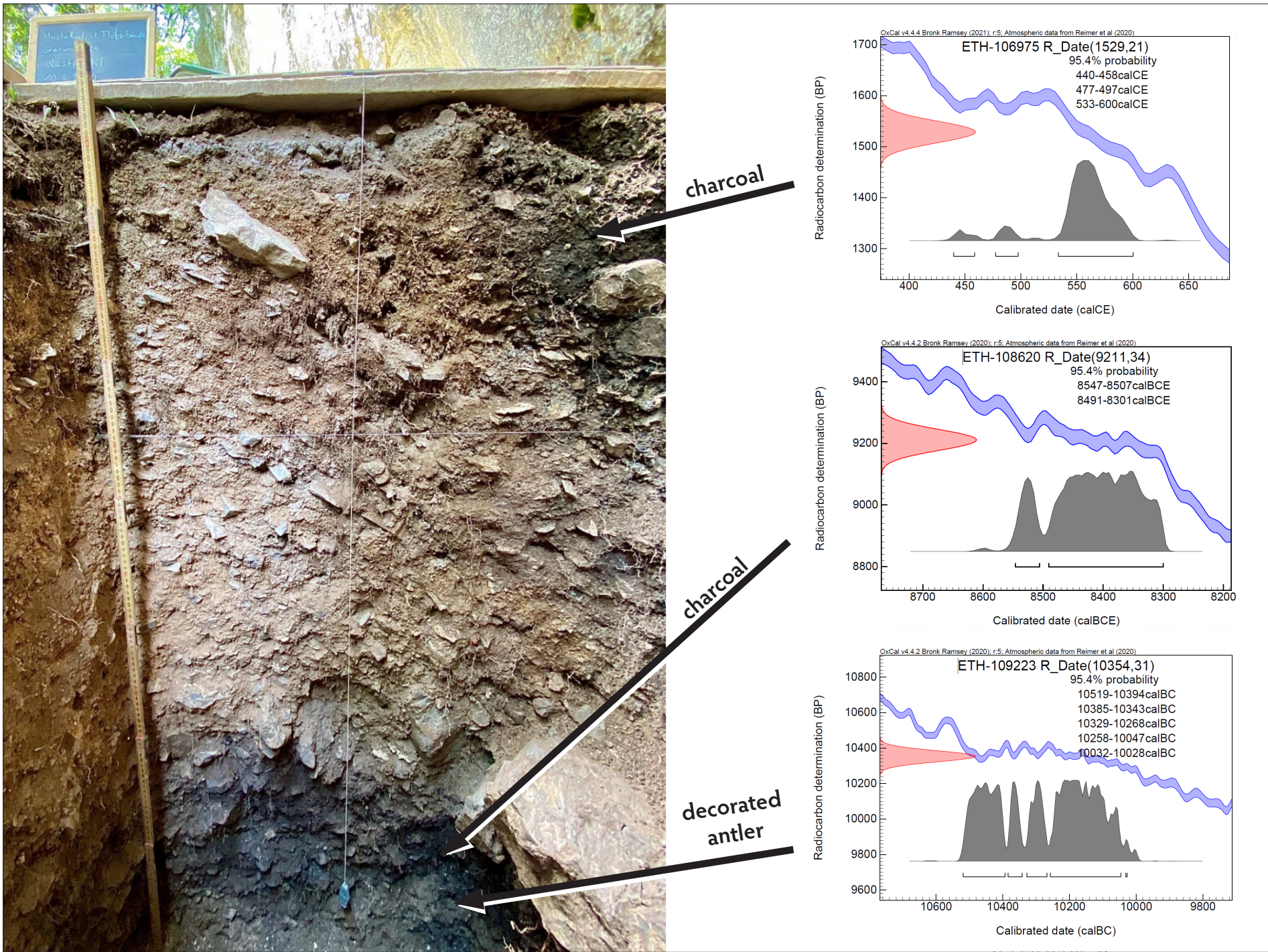
A decorated object of red deer antler from the Mesolithic of Switzerland

Werner Müller, Urs Leuzinger & Walter Imhof

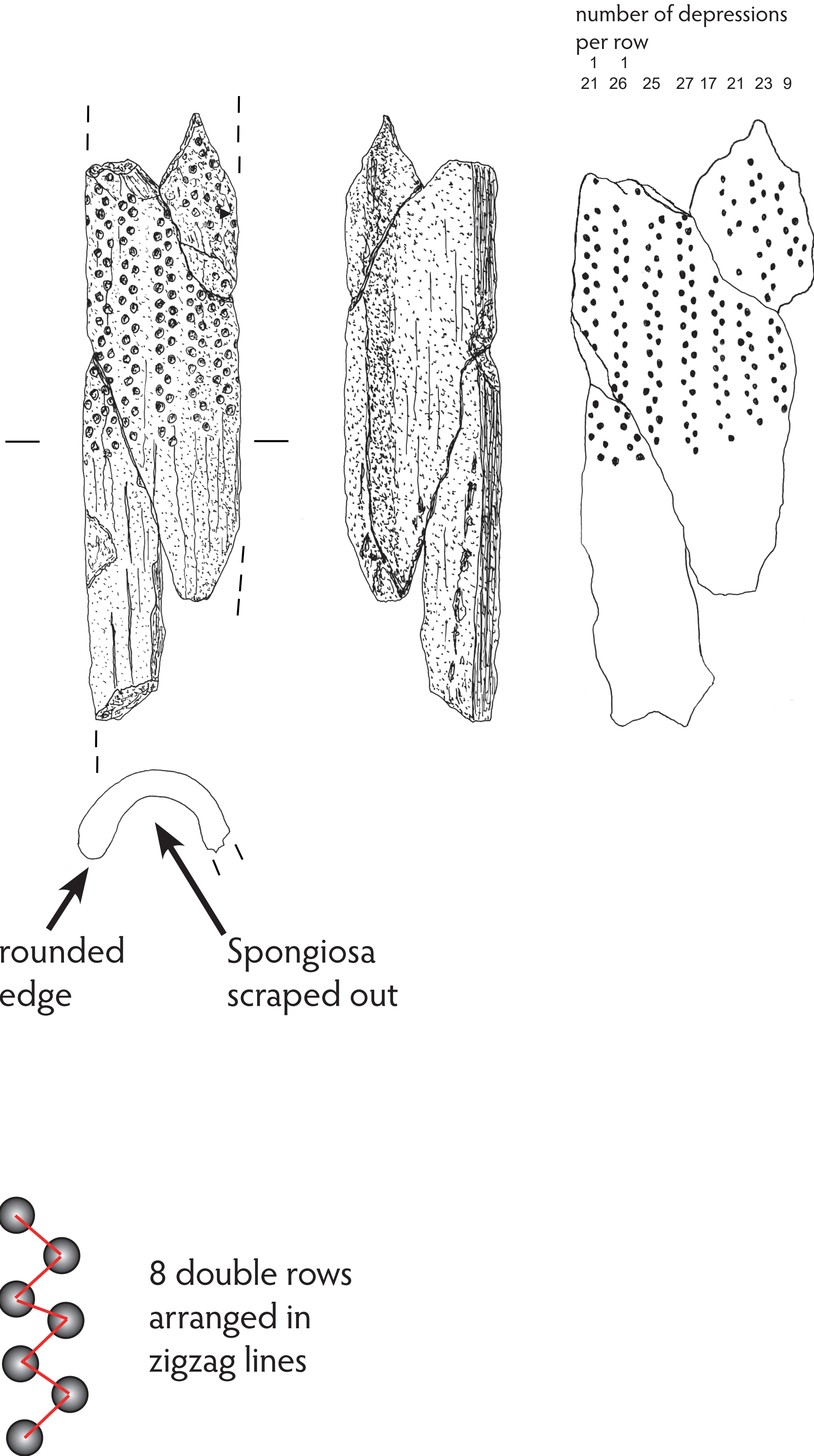
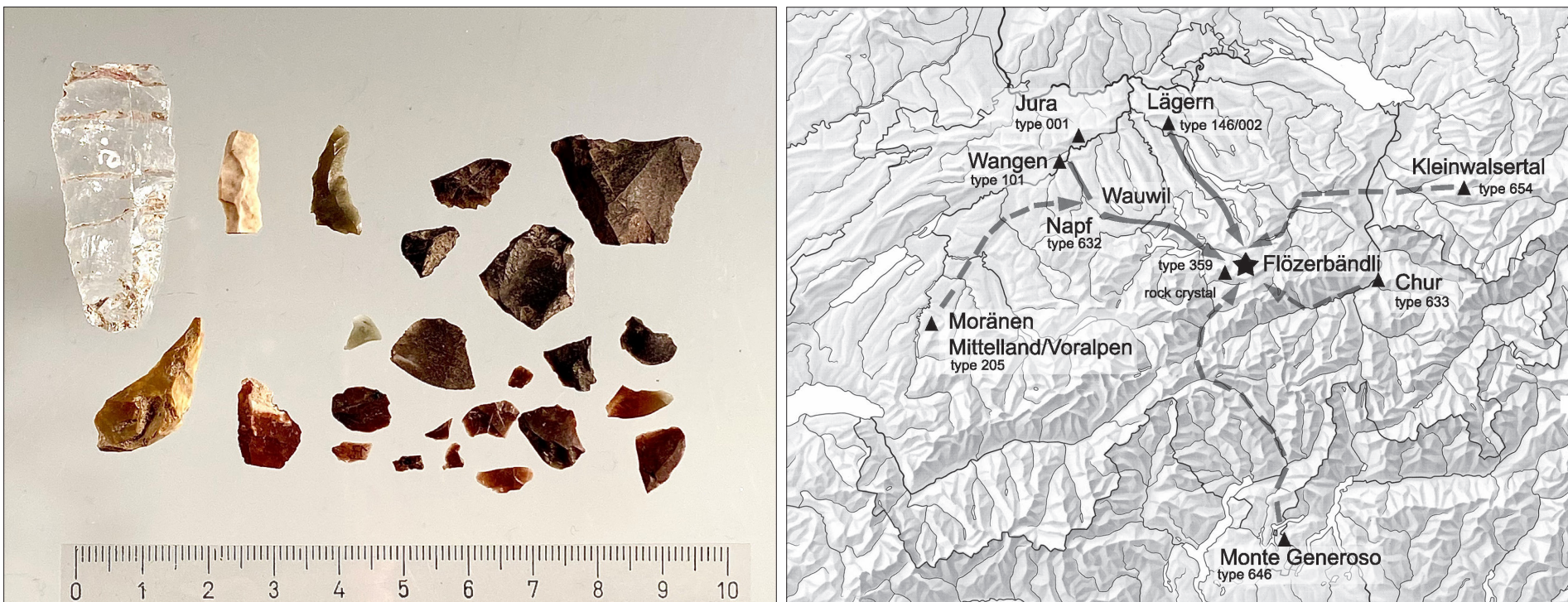
The rockshelter “Flözerbändli” is located in the steep valley of the river Muota, at 740 m a.s.l. in central Switzerland in the Canton of Schwyz. It is a 140 m long, partly overhanging rock wall. In 2020, a small test pit of less than one square meter was excavated to assess the archaeological potential of a rock shelter. In more than 1.5 m depth, charcoal, flint artifacts, and bone fragments were uncovered. Charcoals were determined as pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), juniper (*Juniperus* sp.), willow (*Salix* sp.), and wild rose (*Rosa* sp.).



Radiocarbon dating places this horizon between 10'519 and 8'294 BCE.



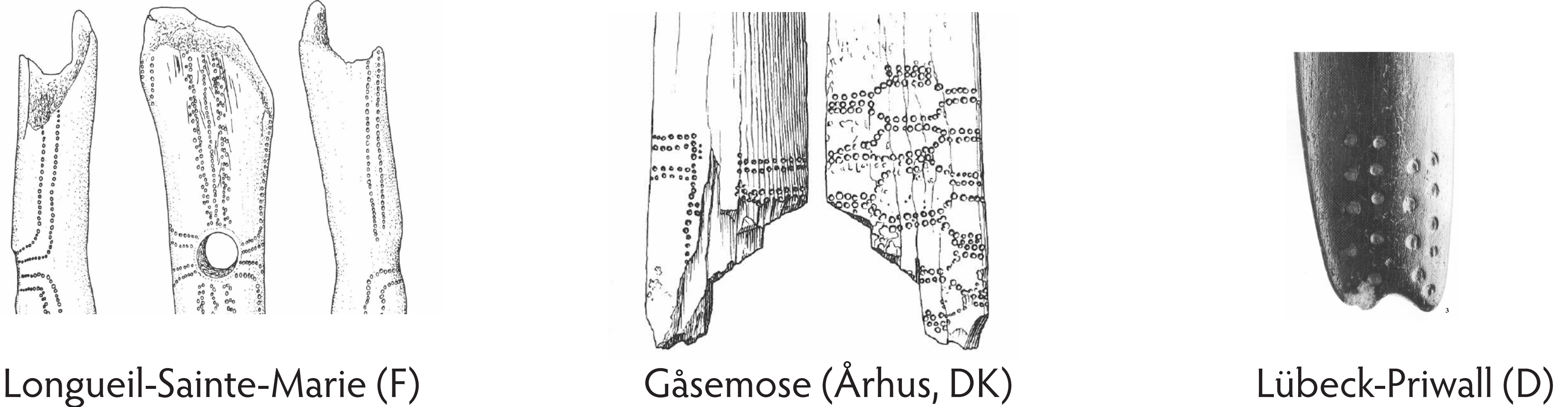
The provenances of the flint raw material illustrates the connectedness and/or mobility of the mesolithic groups.



Depressions of ~1 mm diameter, 0.1-0.3 mm depth. One would expect that the little depressions were produced with flint piercers, however, in most cases, no traces can be discerned inside the depressions.

Remaining questions:
How were the depressions produced?
What is the function of this piece?
Was the piece produced locally or in northern Europe?
If not locally, how did it end up in Switzerland?

Other decorated objects from the Mesolithic of northern Europe



Urs Leuzinger, Jehanne Affolter, Jean Nicolas Haas, Irka Hajdas, Walter Imhof, Werner Kofler, Werner Müller und Werner H. Schoch (2021) Die alt- und mittelsteinzeitliche Fundstelle Flözerbändli im Bisistal, Gemeinde Muotathal (Kt. Schwyz, Schweiz). *Mitteilungen des Historischen Vereins des Kantons Schwyz*, Heft 113: 11-18.
Urs Leuzinger, Jehanne Affolter, Irka Hajdas, Walter Imhof, Werner Müller und Werner H. Schoch (2021) Das Flözerbändli – ein kunstvolles Jagdlager aus der Mittelsteinzeit. *archäologie schweiz* 44 (1): 24-31.

Werner Müller
laboratoire d'archéozoologie
Université de Neuchâtel
Avenue de Bellevaux 51
CH-2000 Neuchâtel
werner.mueller@unine.ch

Urs Leuzinger
Amt für Archäologie Thurgau
Schlossmühlestrasse 15
CH-8510 Frauenfeld
urs.leuzinger@tg.ch

Walter Imhof
Hauptstrasse 154
CH-6436 Muotathal
hofers_walter57@hotmail.com

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