

"Archaeometrical research of lithic raw materials for early Neolithic prehistoric communities with the help of Prompt Gamma Activation Analysis, with special regard to radiolarites and obsidian"

***Radiolarites and radiolarian cherts in Northern Croatia – a possible sources for the production of artifacts***

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Rhythmic bedding of alternating nonsiliceous and siliceous layers is one of the most prominent features of biogenic siliceous sediments. One of the best examples of rhythmites are Mesozoic ribbon radiolarites. The deposits of radiolarian cherts and radiolarites, partially associated with magmatic rocks, in Northern Croatia are located in county Banovina (Zrinska Mt), Žumberak, Medvednica, Ivanščica and Kalnik Mts. This rocks are constituents of Late Jurassic subduction complex (tectonic melange). Palaeontological investigations revealed theirs Triassic (Ladinian – Carnian) and Jurassic (latest Bajocian-early Callovian) age. Field investigations and microscopical examinations indicate its lower quality for stone tools production, but also its feasibility for local ad-hoc production. The radiolarites and radiolarian cherts near Lasinja in the northern Banovina are the possible sources for production of artifacts during (at least) the Lasinja culture period on wider territory of continental Croatia. The major part of artifacts from archeological finds near Slavonski Brod and Đakovo are composed of other kind of cherts and they do not belong to the typical radiolarites from Jurassic tectonic melange. This cherts are of Late Cretaceous age.