

Amphibole-rich metabasite from the Bohemian Massif and its importance in the Neolithic of Europe

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In a few last papers Pétrequin et al. (e. g. 2013) have divided Neolithic Europe into “Jade Europe” in the West and “Copper Europe” in the East according to the two principal raw materials used for axeheads. In their map of the both raw materials distribution there is a conspicuous blank place just in the area of roughly Central Europe. This gap represents the territory with prevalent using of the third key Neolithic raw material in Europe: amphibole-rich metabasite originating from the Bohemian Massif (especially from the Jizerské hory Mts.). Comparing the firstly mentioned raw materials, the amphibole-rich metabasite started to be use already in the beginning of the Neolithic (in Central Europe around 5600 BC) with maximal production up to the end of the older stage of Lengyel culture (around 4500 BC), i. e. the boundary between the Neolithic and Eneolithic in eastern Central Europe. As is the Bohemian metabasite shoe-last adzes and axeheads concerned, besides thousands tools of smaller dimensions we are also facing to the distribution of anomalous big polished artefacts (hoards with 35-38 cm long adzes in eastern Bohemian and NW Moravia). The complex characterization of the most important metabasite source from the Jizerské hory Mts. and its circulation in Central Europe will be presented.