

EXCAVATIONS IN DADE AND BROWARD COUNTY, 1958

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As part of salvage archaeology in this region, three middens two in Dade and one in Broward County, were excavated during 1958; they are presented here in descriptive form to record the data.

As has been the policy in the past, with the exception of the Miami Springs which now no longer exists, large areas of the cultural deposits were left untouched for future excavators.

The numerous shell fragments found in the sites included Strombus, Fasciolaria, Macrocallista, Ampularia, Planorbis, Venus, Codakia, Mytilus, and Ostrea. Four thousand bone fragments from the three middens included turtle, fish, deer, bird and rodent. A small percentage of human bones were found widely scattered in the Miami Springs and Tamiami Trail 3 sites.

BROWARD COUNTY SITE

The site is located in a hammock two thousand feet south and fifteen hundred feet west of the intersection of Snake Creek Road and the Hollywood Boulevard extension in Broward County. It is in the SE 1/4 of Section 14, Range 40 East, Township 51 South.

The midden, covering some 120 feet NE-SW and 75 feet NW-SE, is surrounded by low, marshy ground in which shallow water stands a considerable part of the time.

Three pits, confined to the north and east side, were excavated. Soil strata showed two feet of black dirt, a few inches of grey sand and hard marl down to the limestone.

MIAMI SPRINGS SITE

This midden was in a vacant lot about 200 feet north of the intersection of Apache and Raven Streets in Miami Springs, Dade County. It is located in the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 13, Range 40 East, Township 53 South.

Elevations above Mean Sea Level showed 5.0 feet for the inter-

section, 6.5 feet for the lot and 10.6 feet for the midden.

The habitation refuse was revealed when the owner started removing soil for fill. The exposed material attracted the attention of a neighboring resident who called the University of Miami who, in turn, called the author.

Excavation began in November and by December the entire lot had been removed down to bedrock. By May, 1958, new homes occupied the site and a through street bisected the area.

TAMIAMI TRAIL 3 SITE

This large, high and prolific mound is well known and is designated as "Tamiami Trail 3" by Goggin (1950). It is located 1100 feet south of the Tamiami Trail, one mile west of SW 117th Ave., in the NW 1/4 of Section 12 and the NE 1/4 of Section 11, Range 39 East, Township 54 South, Dade County.

The mound measures 5.0 feet above the surrounding sawgrass and since it is easily accessible to within 200 feet by car, except following heavy rains, it has been trenched in a number of places.

Salvage excavations, with the exception of one pit, were confined to the slopes in the NE quadrant.

Limestone appears on the surface in the southern portion of the midden. Marl is reached at a comparatively shallow depth on top. Black dirt to a depth of two feet is found on the north slope. A few feet off the northern rim of the mound, water can be reached at two feet. Just above the waterline can be found a white, clayey marl that can be molded with the fingers. It offers the possibility that such local deposits might have been used to make the "muck" or temperless pottery sometimes found.

CERAMIC STRATIGRAPHY

Specimens from the three sites are listed in the vertical DISTRIBUTION CHART by 6 inch levels. The results, in terms of changes in pottery types with depth, are very satisfactory.

The marker for the Glades III period, Glades Tooled was limited almost entirely to the highest 6-inch level at all three sites. St. Johns Check Stamped sherds have the same vertical distribution. Surfside Incised, a very early Glades III type, had a

slightly deeper average distribution. Similarly, Matecumbe Incised (Fig. 2, 11) seems in these tests to span the Glades II/III transition.

Pottery types of the Glades II period - Key Largo Incised, Dade Incised, Miami Incised (Fig. 2, 6-7), Opa Locka Incised and Ft. Drum Incised show up in quantity in the second level and continue to be found, in reduced numbers, in the third level. Of these Glades II pottery types, Ft. Drum Incised seems to have been the earliest. Several variants of Key Largo Incised are illustrated (Fig. 2, 5-8).

Unique sherds, some of which may be presumed to indicate trade or other influences from the Gulf coast, seem to be attributable to late Glades II and early Glades III times. Of two unique sherds in the 6-12 inch level at the Trail site, one had a "feather" incising (Fig. 1, 6) and the other was "chevron"-marked (Fig. 1, 5). A lateral rim projection with Ft. Walton-like markings (Fig. 2, 9) was found on the surface of the Trail midden. Two examples of the zig-zag" incised motif, suggesting possible communication with Cuba (Bullen and Laxson, 1954), were found in the 6-12 inch level of the Miami Springs (Fig. 2, 1) and of the Tamiami Trail site.

It will be noted from the chart that the lowest level at Snake Creek and the two lowest levels at the Trail site produced only undecorated pottery (except for one sherd). While the quantities are relatively small by comparison with higher levels, it is possible these lowest levels represent Glades I deposits.

Comparison may be made with Goggin's test at the Bear Lake 1 site in the Everglades National Park (Goggin, 1950, p. 233). In Goggin's test pit 2, Ft. Drum Incised was the lowest decorated sherd while a small amount of plain pottery was found continuing downward for 18 inches. The situation is similar to that given in the chart for the Tamiami Trail site. Data from the Trail site (and possibly also from Snake Creek) supports that found at Bear Lake 1 to indicate an undecorated Glades I period characterized, chiefly, by Glades Plain pottery.

OTHER SPECIMENS

Seminole beads, both faceted and spherical, mostly blue in color, were found at the Snake Creek and Trail sites. The faceted beads were badly worn and are presumed to be an earlier type.

A single "laurel leaf" chert arrowhead was found just below the surface at the Trail site.

Bone points, both fluted and socketed, were at all sites. As usual they were much more common in Glades II than in Glades III deposits. The socketed variety, (Fig. 2, 2-10) on the average, were at the greater depths.

Strombus celts were common. One specimen, (Fig. 1, 2) resembling a large spear point or arrowhead, was located at the 18" level at Snake Creek. A grooved columella plummet, (Fig. 1, 1) rare in the interior Glades middens, was found in Miami Springs at the 6-12 inch level. At Snake Creek an unfinished shell ornament, (Fig. 1, 3) with the beginning of a perforation at the top, was found at the 12-18 inch level.

In the 24 inch level at Snake Creek was found a single-ended, bone tool socket (Fig. 1, 4). It was 3.1 inches in length, 1.1 inches in diameter and constructed from the antler of a large deer.

Circular drill marks in the bottom formed an inverted cone. The socket plainly showed it had been scraped, both inside and out, with a shark's tooth. The top had been squared off and the other end "angled". The object bore a resemblance to sockets found at Belle Glade and illustrated by Willey (1949).

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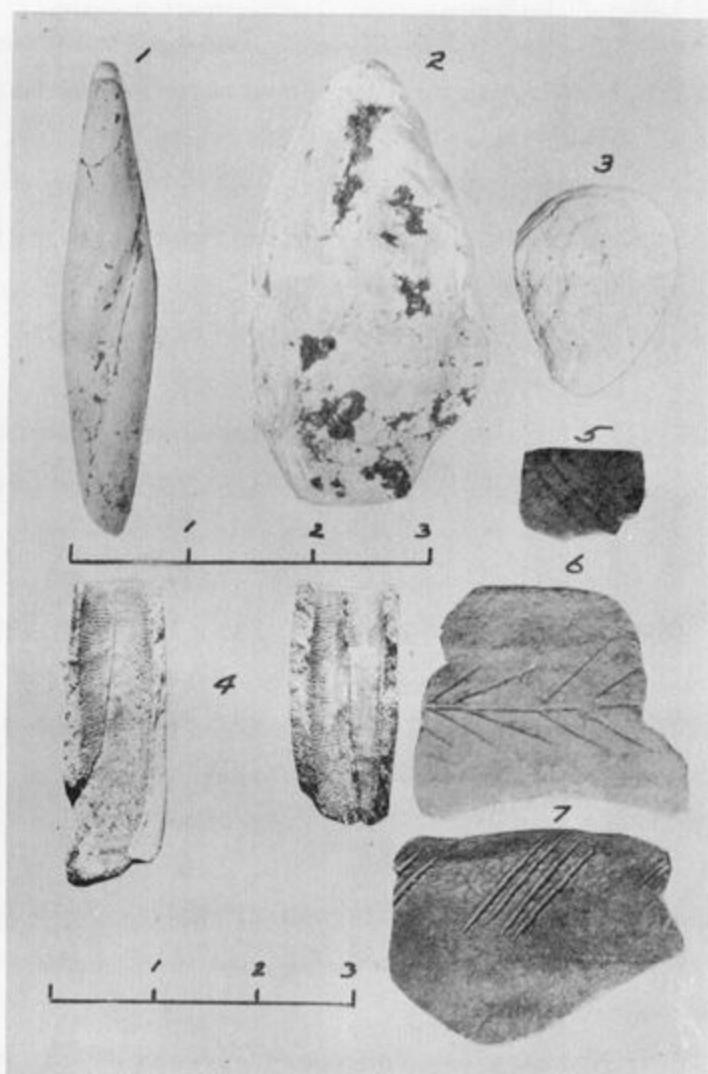


Fig. 1. Shell, bone and pottery from Snake Creek, Miami Springs and Trail sites. 1, *Colummella* plummet; 2, *Strombus* celt; 3, shell ornament; 4, bone tool socket; 5-6, Unique Incised sherds; 7, Miami Incised.

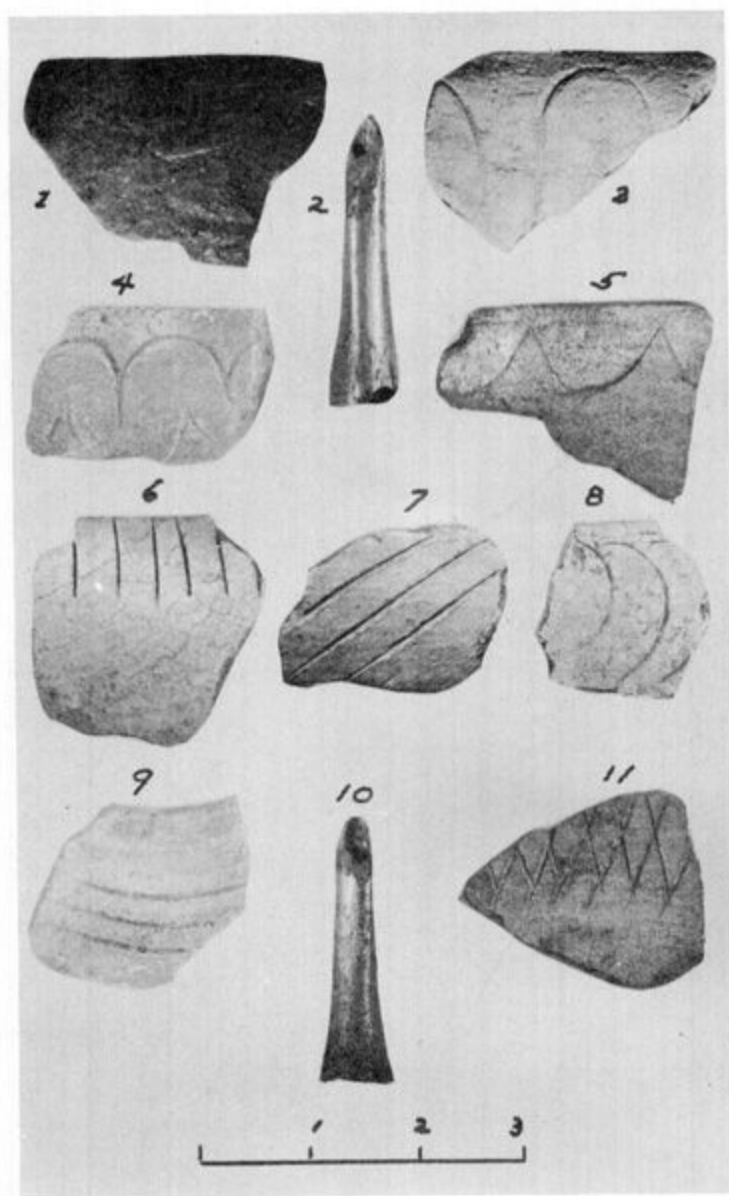


Fig. 2. Sherds and socketed bone points. 1, Unique "zig-zag" incised; 3, 5, 8 Key Largo variations; 6, 7 Miami Incised; 9, lateral rim projection; 11, Matecumbe Incised; 2, 10 socketed bone points.

DISTRIBUTION CHART

Site Name	Snake Creek				Miami Springs			Trail Site					Totals
No. of pits	3				3			8					14
Depth in 6" levels	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	
Body sherds	276	367	100	31	402	393	153	2275	1833	1018	225	58	7131
Glades Plain rims	46	57	13	8	52	57	12	338	368	111	35	5	1102
Glades Tooled	6				18	4		112	5				145
St. Johns Check Stamped	18	4			13	1		15					51
Surfside Incised.	1	1			2			11	4				19
Matecumbe Incised					1	2		1	1				5
Key Largo Incised		5	2		1	12	1	13	40	14	1		89
Dade Incised.					3				2				5
Miami Incised		9	1		3			7	35	12			67
Opal Looka Incised		1			4			2	5				12
Ft. Drum Incised		4	1		3	1		13	5				27
Ft. Drum Punctate										1			1
Zig-zag motif, top of rim								3					3
Zig-zag motif, side								2					2
Ticked rim								1					1
Ft. Walton "like" rim lug								1					1
Chevron marked									1				1
Unique "feather" marked									1				1
Drag and jab, top of rim								1					1
Weeden Island "like"								3					3
Strombus celt	2	2	1		3	7	2	1	1				19
Busycon pick						1			1				2
Fasciolaria digging tool	1							1					2
Columnella awl			1					1		1			3
Busycon scoop						2					1		3
Columnella plummet						1			1				2
Macrocallista knife						1							1
Bone tool socket				1									1
Bone projectile point		9				3		4	6	2			24
Bone awls or pins			2			1		1	3	2	1		10
Chert arrowhead								1					1
Unfinished petaloid shell- pendant.			1										1
Seminole beads	7							2					9