

Fig. 6. Concave arrowheads.

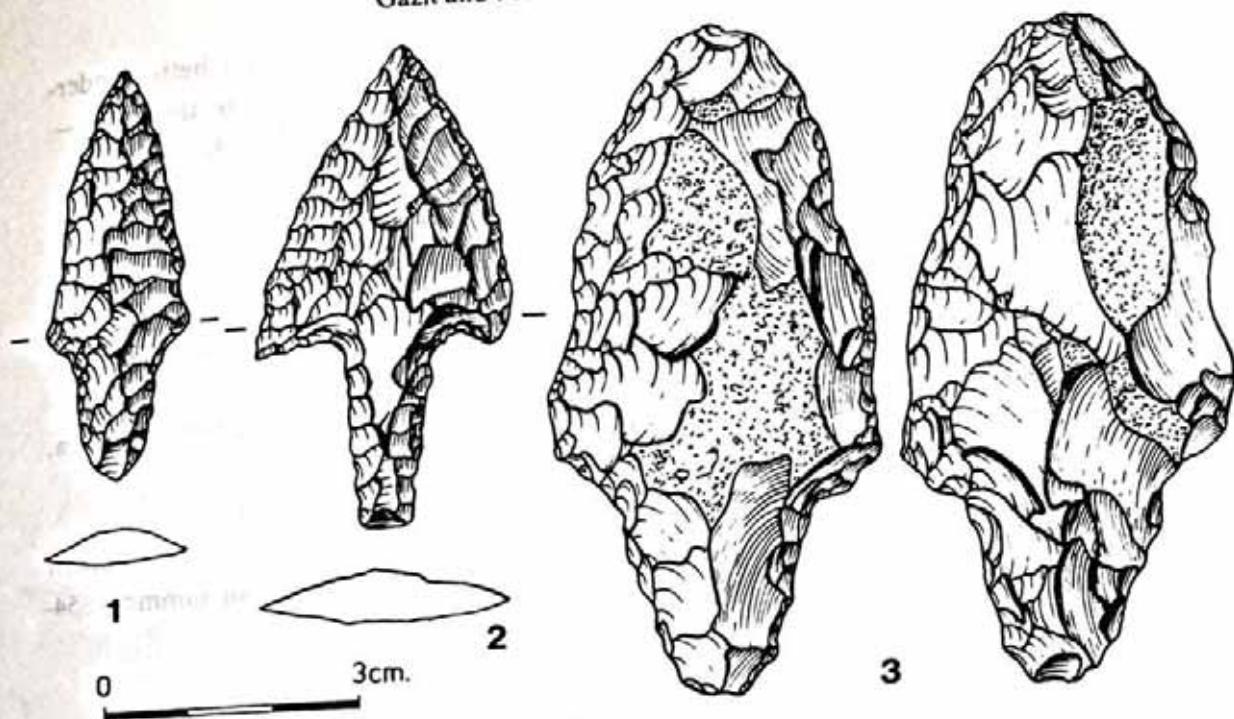


Fig. 7. Tanged arrowheads (1-2); spearhead (3).

CONCLUSIONS

The lithic industry of the Fayum is foreign to that of the Levant, whose southern boundary is southern Sinai (Bar-Yosef and Phillips 1977).

More effort was expended on manufacturing the Fayum tools than would be necessary to produce implements for everyday use — to the extent that several of them arouse the suspicion that they served as cult objects. Side by side with these appear the types familiar to us from Israel: microliths, knives, barbed arrowheads, etc. The question is: Can these tools serve as chronological indicators for the Fayum industry or are they types that could have developed independently anywhere?

The fact that the Fayum collection (in spite of being an arbitrary assemblage) contains both early and late types supports the suggestion that at some of the Fayum sites there is chronological continuity ("horizontal stratigraphy"), at least from the Neolithic period to the end of the Old Kingdom (Hoffman 1980:182-190), a theory that cannot be completely clarified at this stage of research. At any rate, one must be wary of using, for example, the tanged knives as chronological indicators, since neither the technique used to produce them nor their shape changed appreciably from the Pre-dynastic period until the Middle Kingdom (Semenov 1964:47). The microliths are another example, since they continued to be produced in the Epipalaeolithic tradition in some cases up till the 4th millennium (Perrot 1955:178).

In recent years, as more attention is being paid to the careful recording and classification of lithic materials from excavations and surveys in Israel, an increasing number of flint tools of Fayumic origin and other Egyptian tools, as well as local flints produced with Fayumic techniques, are being recognized in material gathered from prehistoric and protohistoric sites in southern Israel. There is no doubt that the discovery of Egyptian implements in these assemblages and comparison of them with tools of the Fayumic industry (which has been

relatively more studied than other Egyptian industries) will contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between the local population and its neighbour to the south — and perhaps may even help to solve some of the problems of protohistoric Egypt.

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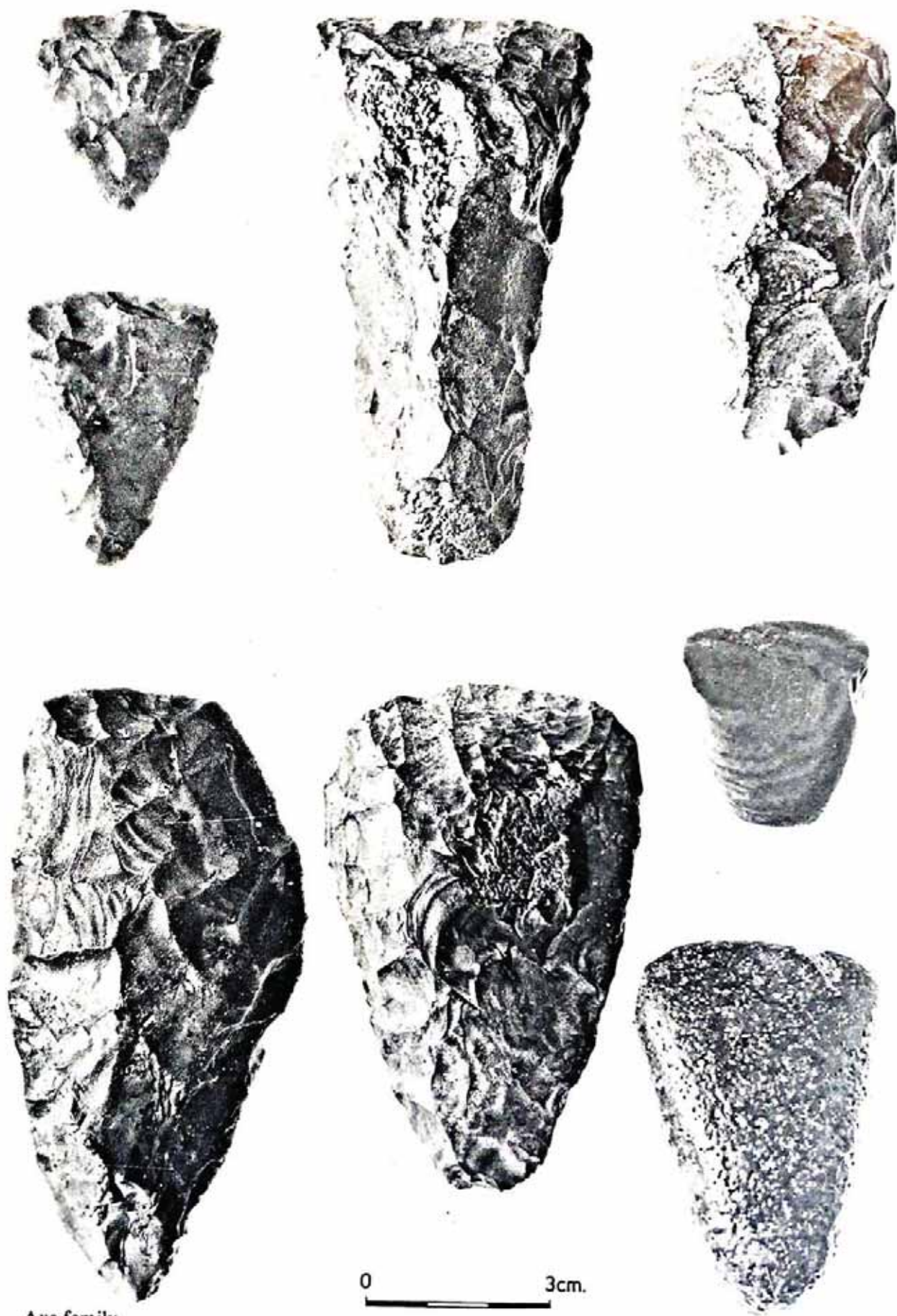
Points (upper row); points on blades or bladelets (middle row, except the middle item);
borers and awls (lower row).

FLINT TOOLS FROM THE FAYUM



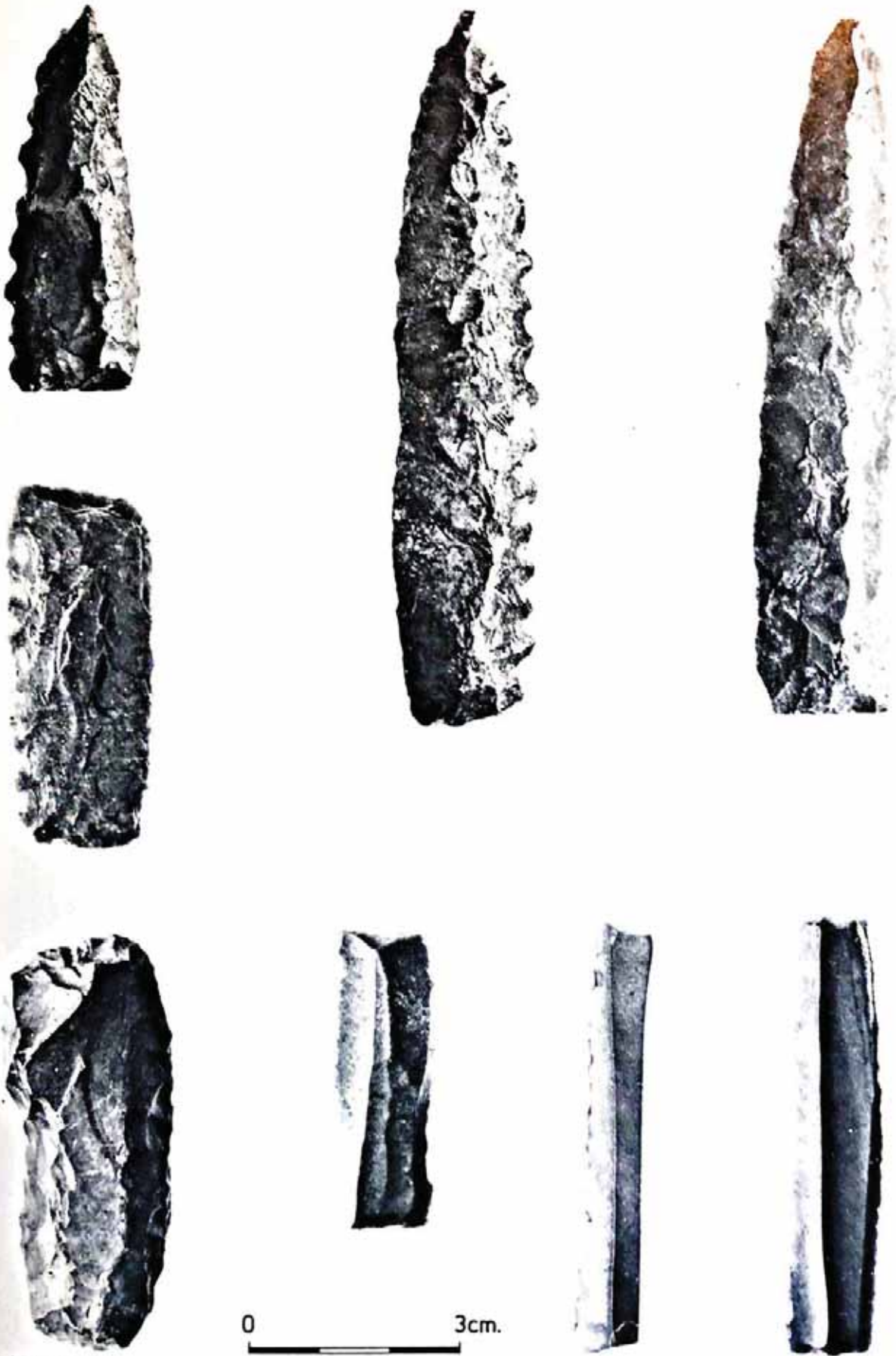
Bifacial points.

FLINT TOOLS FROM THE FAYUM



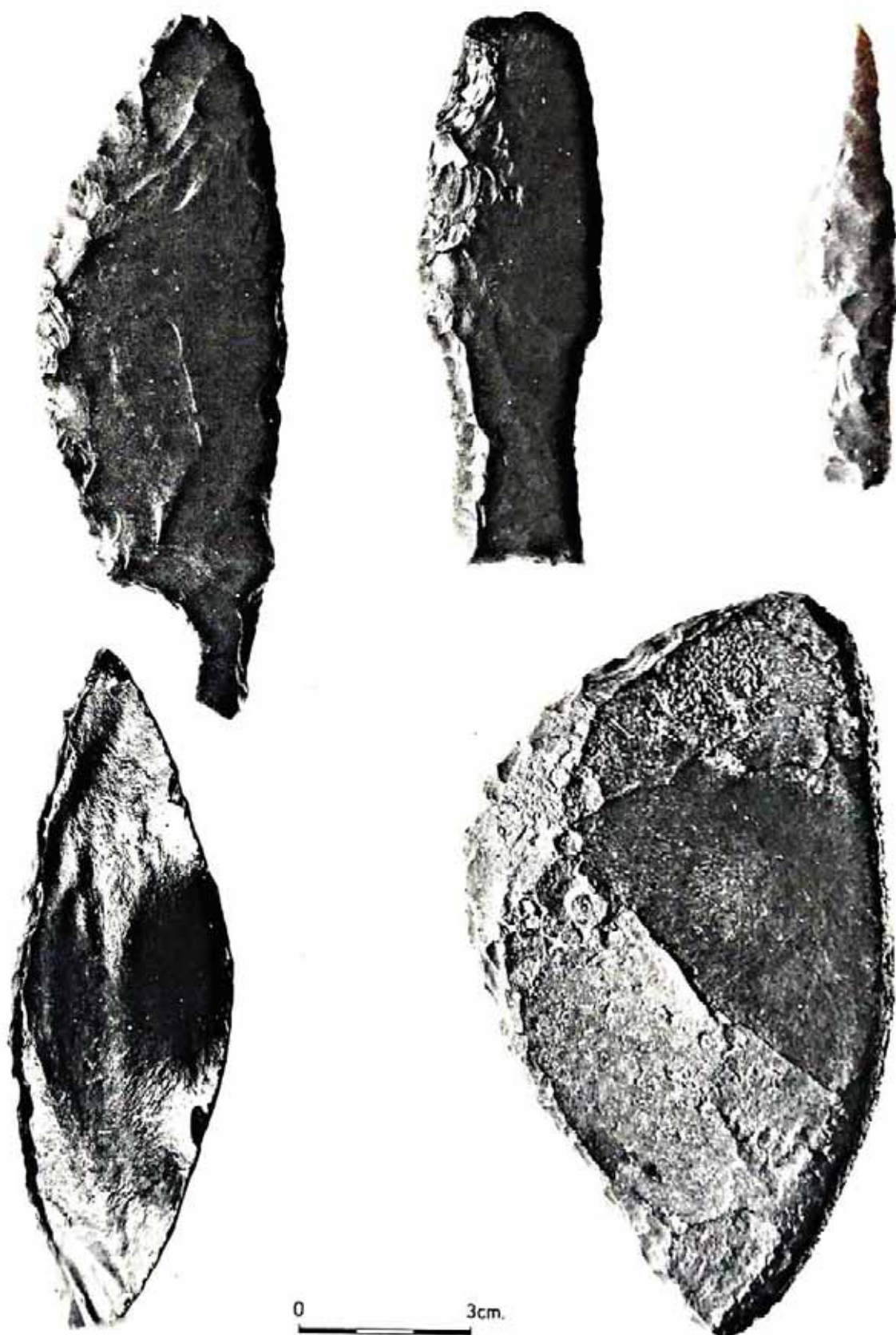
Axe family.

FLINT TOOLS FROM THE FAYUM



Sickle-blades, saws and "Canaanite blades".

FLINT TOOLS FROM THE FAYUM



Upper row: tanged knife (left), "fish-tail" (centre) and awl (right); Lower row: scrapers.

FLINT TOOLS FROM THE FAYUM

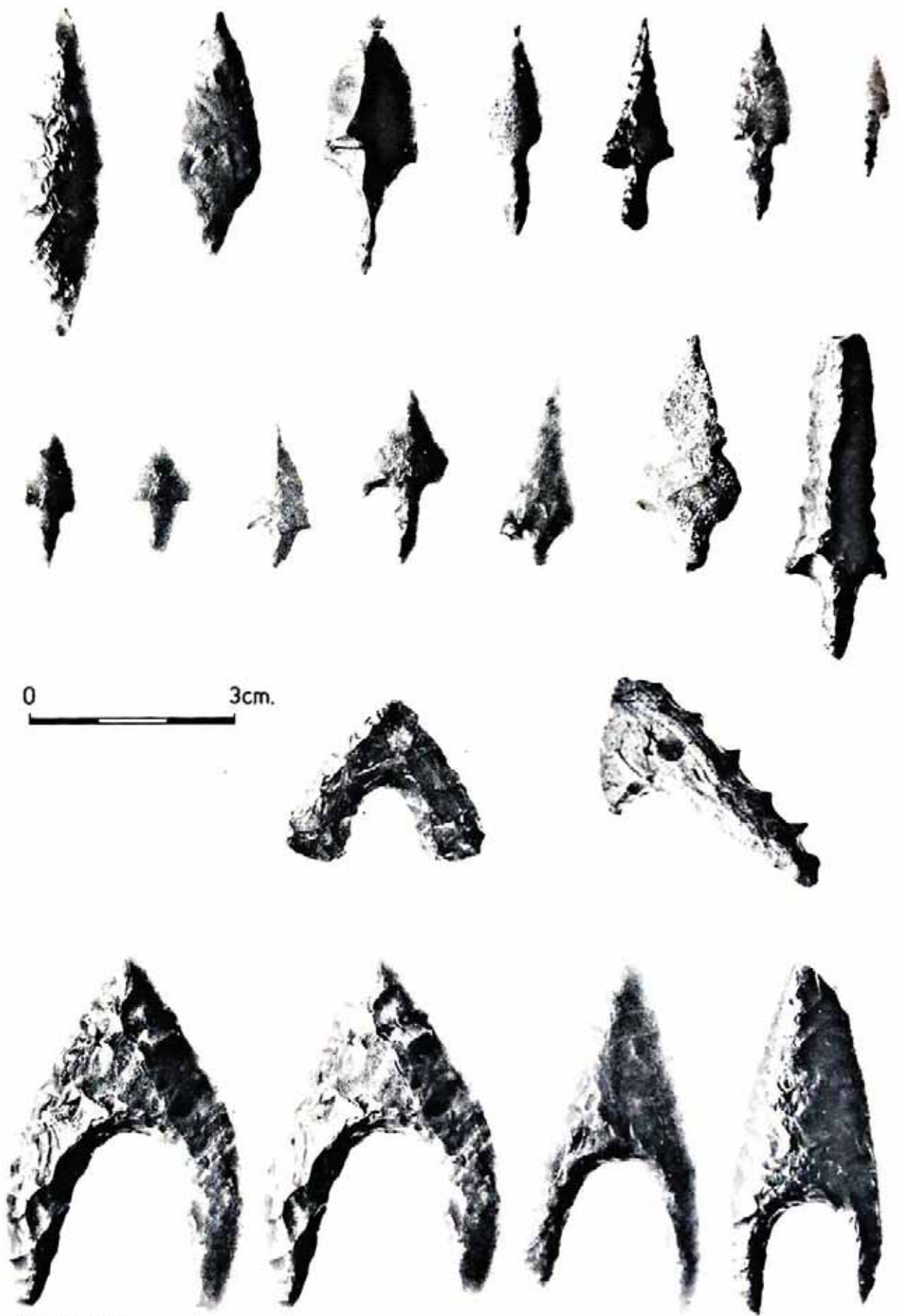


0 3cm.

Hand-axe family.

FLINT TOOLS FROM THE FAYUM

PLATE 40



Arrowheads.

FLINT TOOLS FROM THE FAYUM