The Usual Suspects

Exotic Toolstones in Quoddy Region Archaeological Assemblages

C. Drew Gilbert, Patrick M. Gamblin and David W. Black, Department of Anthropology, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton

(All artifacts illustrated are from Deer Island Point, Charlotte County, New Brunswick)

Washadamoack
Multi-coloured Chert

Munsungun Chert

Minas Basin
Multi-coloured Chert

Kineo-Traveler Mountain
Porphyry

Tobiuche
Chert/Rhyolite

Greenstone Tuff

Colour: red variant
Transparency: highly translucent
Variation: vague and indistinct but complex
Lustre: vitreous (frothy), silky (weathered)
Fracture: smooth conchoidal
Salient features: large-scale strain fractures

These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials associated with Caribouvouchenockeart at the Washadamoack Chert location, Queens County, New Brunswick.


Colour: red and green variants
Transparency: opaque
Variation: simple, distinct
Lustre: dull to waxy
Fracture: smooth conchoidal
Salient features: small circular radiolarian microsells

These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials associated with Onotobidock bedrock at the Munsungun Lake source area in Aroostook County, Maine.


 colour: various reds, yellows and white
Transparency: patchy translucency to opaque
Variation: complex and highly distinct
Lustre: waxy
Fracture: conchoidal to sub-conchoidal
Salient features: apatite forstossite structures enclosing mottled quartz mosaics

These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials associated with Mesoqoch bedrock in the Minas Basin/Portage Valley area of Nova Scotia.


Colour: light grey/green, weathers to white
Transparency: semitranslucent (groundmass), transparent (quartz), opaque (feldspar)
Structure: igneous groundmass with randomly distributed phenocrysts, occasionally flow-banded
Lustre: greasy (fresh), chalky (weathered)
Fracture: conchoidal to sub-conchoidal
Salient features: feldspar and quartz phenocrysts

These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials associated with Deaverock bedrock in the Piscataquis Volcanic Arc, Piscataquis County, Maine.


Colour: red and black
Transparency: opaque, occasional patchy translucency
Variation: simple and distinct
Lustre: dull
Fracture: conchoidal
Salient features: scalby fracture surfaces, red and black mottling

These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials recovered as cobble in secondary geological deposits around the junction of the Tobique and Saint John rivers in Victoria County, New Brunswick.


Colour: dark grey/green
Transparency: opaque
Structure: fine-grained groundmass, laminated
Lustre: bright (fresh), dull (weathered)
Fracture: brittle
Salient features: differently weathered laminae, feldspar phenocrysts

These toolstones are consistent with lithic materials used during the Ancient Period in Maine and New Brunswick to make groundstone tools. Their source may be near Greenville, Piscataquis County, Maine.


Acknowledgements: The authors wish to thank Bob Boskin of Cummings Cove, Deer Island for his efforts and contributions to this research, and Brent Sutcliffe for his assistance in identifying the Greenstone Tuff.