Backed pieces and their variability in the Later Stone Age of the Horn of Africa

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Supplementary Material 1. List of variables recorded and their definitions

	Name of attribute	Coding	Data type	Values	Definition attribute and values
Contextual data	ID	**ID**	integer		unique ID
	Site	**SITE**	categorical	B1s1, DW2s2, Dw2s3, GB, MB	GB= Goda Buticha; MB=Mochena Borago
	Stratigraphy	**STRAT**	categorical	text	
	Site area	**SITE AREA**	categorical	text	excavation square, if available
	Artefact number	**ARTEFACT_NO**	integer		artefact number
	Assemblage	**GROUPING**	categorical	B1s1_Lower, B1s1_Upper, Dw2s2, Dw2s3, GB_IIC, GB_I, MB_3010, MB_7	Site + layer
	Chronology	**CHRONO**	categorical	Late Glacial, Early Holocene, Mid-Holocene, Late Holocene	
Basic attributes	Completeness	**COMPLETENESS**	boolean	COMPLETE, SUB	Sub refers to sub-complete, and corresponds to micro-fragmented backed pieces (estimated break <1/10th of total length)
	Raw material	**RM**	categorical	OBS, CHERT, CHAL, BAS	Obsidian, Chert, Chalcedony, Basalt
Morphometrical variables	Weight	**WEIGHT**	decimal		taken with 1 decimal, using the same scales (in g)
	Length	**LENGTH**	decimal		Maximal dimension, recorded with 2 decimals (in mm)
	Width	**WIDTH**	decimal		Maximal width, perpendicular to the maximal dimension, recorded with 2 decimals (in mm)
	Thickness	**TMAX**	decimal		Maximal thickness recorded with 2 decimals (in mm)
	Thickness at Maximal Width	**TWL**	decimal		Maximal thickness, perpendicular to maximal width, recorded with 2 decimals (in mm)
	Elongation index	**LW**	decimal		Ratio length / width
	Flatteness index	**WT**	decimal		Ratio width / thickness

	Name of attribute	Coding	Data type	Values	Definition attribute and values
	Transversal symmetry	**SYMM (TRANSV_SYM in raw data)**	boolean	YES, NO	Symmetry observed when considering an axis perpendicular to the longest morphological axis of the piece
Blank selection	Curvature	**CURVATURE**	categorical	CURVED, FLAT, SIN, SLIGHT	Curvature of the longitudinal profile: Curved, Flat, Sinuous, slightly curved
	Twisting	**TWISTING**	boolean	YES, NO	Twisting (lateral profile): Twisted (Yes) / Flat (No)
	Angle of opposed edge	**OPPEDGE (OE_ANGLE in raw data)**	boolean	SHARP, STEEP	Sharp <45 degrees, Steep >45 degrees
Blank transformation	Proximal back thickness	**BK_T_PROX**	decimal		Thickness of the back at 25% of the max dimension, recorded with 2 decimals (in mm)
	Mesial back thickness	**BK_T_MES**	decimal		Thickness of the back at 50% of the max dimension, recorded with 2 decimals (in mm)
	Distal back thickness	**BK_T_DIST**	decimal		Thickness of the back at 75% of the max dimension, recorded with 2 decimals (in mm)
	Mean back thickness	**BKMean**	decimal		(BK_T_PROX + BK_T_MES + BK_T_DIST)/3
	Relative back thickness	**BKTrel**	decimal		Ratio BKMean / TMAX
	Butt	**BUTT**	categorical	PART REM (PRES RET), PRES, REM (ABS RET, ABS)	Partially removed (Retouched but present), Present, Removed (Absent because retouched, Absent)
	Bulb	**BULB**	categorical	YES, NO	Present, Removed
	Back location	**LOC BK (LOCATION in raw data)**	categorical	TOT, PARTIAL, ALMOST	Back affects the whole edge, proximal or distal part only, almost the whole edge
	Back retouch type	**RET TYPE**	categorical	ALT, CROSS, DIR	Alternate, Crossed, Direct

	Name of attribute	Coding	Data type	Values	Definition attribute and values
Other	Edge transformation / damage	**OE TRANSF**	categorical	CONT, DISCONT, NONE	Continuous, Discontinuous, none