

Further experiments using an actual Kimberley Aborigine hardwood pressure-flaker loaned by the American Museum of Natural History proved more successful, with results closely similar to the Australian points.

One peculiarity of Kimberley points is the steep bifacial marginal retouch on the base. This feature was duplicated by pressing straight down in removing a row of flakes, then turning the point over and repeating this process on the other face. All flaking on Kimberley points was done on an anvil of wood, ^{or a padded stone}, following the traditional Aboriginal method.¹

1 A collection of 15 ethnographic Kimberley points from Australia was loaned for this project by the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

part / Possible conclusion:

No horned or antlered mammal occurs naturally in Australia, and the same may be true for the Straits of Magellan. However, good hardwoods occur in both areas. Thus, it may be that, given these ecological considerations, the ancient hunters of Palhaika and the Kimberley Aborigines found hard wood superior as pressure-flakers than the only other resources namely animal longbones — which experiments show longbone flakes are unduly brittle and have a tendency to crush more easily than hardwood. Given the limited possibilities set by the ecology of these two regions, the preference for wooden flakes may be more easily understood