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2012 Eurpoean Neanderthal stone hunting weapons reveal complex behavior long before the appearance of modern humans. Journal of Archaeological Science, 39 (2012) 2304-2311.

The objective of this article is provide evidence of their hypothesis that European Neanderthals used lithic weapons before contact with modern humans during the Middle Paleolithic. The recurrent evidence of these tools proved that hunting large game by well organized Neanderthal groups was widespread. This article collects projectile points (n=560, 7 types, various materials) and faunal analysis from a few locations in Northern Spain. The researchers dated and studied the impact fractures of the projectile points. They analyzed that their structural traits had been standardized using a specific Levallois technique. When discussing that the size of the points (Length, Width, and Thickness) were all similar, with little divergence from the standard measurement, they used the coefficient of variation (ratio for the standard deviation to the mean). On the provided graph, all of the coefficients were between .00 and .43. Thickness was the most standardized dimension. They used other forms of analysis, but this was the one that I could somewhat understand. They provided six results from their analysis to provide evidence of their hypothesis. From my limited understanding of statistics, and almost no understanding of lithics, this article provided detailed evidence for their conclusions, but I am unqualified to answer whether it is enough evidence for their controversial conclusions.