

The History of Médéa in the Prehistoric Era

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Abstract:

The city of Medea has a rich historical and cultural heritage due to its strategic location and the Titteri Mountains, which offer a favorable climate for living. This suggests that it was an important station for early humans. Numerous archaeological sites and artifacts from the prehistoric and early historical periods have been found in Medea, reflecting the life and beliefs of the people from those times. One of the most significant sites is Achir, which contains geographical features with funerary monuments and archaeological remains (such as stone tools and funerary furniture) from those periods, as well as other areas with rock engravings. Another notable site is Chamblaine, also known as al-Amariya, where various archaeological remains, such as stone tools from the Acheulean civilization and human remains, have been found. Additionally, the Ain Sakra sites contain some preserved stone tools. There is also a stone tool workshop in the Berouaghia area where tools made from quartzite using the Levallois technique (hand axes, blades, etc.) have been discovered, along with other archaeological sites that showcase various aspects of early human life and activities.

Keywords:

Medea; Prehistory; Early history; Stone tools; Funerary monuments; Achir; Chamblaine.

• Introduction

The regions of North Africa have experienced significant human settlement since the beginning of prehistoric periods, due to its climate and the nature of its terrain. This is evident through the cultural material remains left behind by early humans as a result of their daily activities. Recent archaeological research and discoveries, such as stone tools and animal bone remains, have provided numerous scientific evidences indicating that Algeria was among the oldest settlements where prehistoric humans resided. This is supported by findings from the archaeological sites of Ain Hanech and Ain Boucherit in eastern Algeria, in the province of Sétif, which have been dated to approximately 1.8 to 2.4 million years ago.

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It is also important to note that early humans were not confined to a single area; they were constantly moving for several reasons, such as climate conditions and the search for food. This mobility led to the distribution of their settlements across various geographical points within and beyond the country's borders. The region of Médéa served as a transit and settlement point for prehistoric humans.

Study Problem:

Therefore, we aim to shed light on Médéa during this period to introduce its history and highlight its significance, addressing the following questions:

- Where did prehistoric humans settle in the Médéa region?
- And what are the main sites that contain evidence of human habitation during the prehistoric and protohistoric periods in this geographical area?

To study and analyze this, we first introduced the Médéa region geographically and historically, providing a brief overview of its nature. We then highlighted the most significant prehistoric and protohistoric sites in the region and provided an introduction to them. Finally, we discussed the most important archaeological discoveries and industries found at these sites.

1. Defining the Study Area:

1.1 The Geographical and Astronomical Location of Médéa:

Astronomically, Médéa is located between the longitude of 5.0° west and the latitude of 36° and 16° north, at a distance of 88 km south of the capital city, Algiers. It rises between 950 m and 1240 m above sea level.¹ Geographically, it is bordered to the north by the province of Blida, to the south by the province of Djelfa, to the east by the provinces of M'sila and Bouira, and to the west by the provinces of Aïn Defla and Tissemsilt. It covers an area of approximately 8,700 km² and serves as a connection between the Tell and the Sahara, as well as between the eastern and western High Plateaus, due to its geographical location (see figure (01)).²

1.2 The Origin of the Name "Médéa":

During the Roman era, it was known as Lampedia, derived from Lampadia, which was the Roman village preceding the city of Médéa.³ Under Roman rule during the reign of Septimius Severus in

1- Léon Gortès, Monograph of the Commune of Médéa, Algiers: Algerian Printing Press, 1909, p. 255.

2- Gyver, "Lamdia," Encyclopedia of Islam, Leiden: E.J. Brill; Paris: G.P. Maisonneuve, 1986, vol. V, p. 1006.

3- Moulay Belhamissi, The City of Médéa Through the Ages in the History of Algeria's Three Cities: Algiers, Médéa, Miliana, edited and commented by Abdelrahman Djilali, Ministry of Culture, 2007, p. 321.

210 A.D., Médéa was referred to as Medias, a city situated between two Roman cities, Sufnsar and Hanramusa Castra, now known as Berrouaghia and Amoura.⁴

Some suggest that the name is linked to the Roman princess Medea, who supposedly ruled the city at that time, based on archaeological remains discovered during the construction of the military hospital at Bab El-Aqwas by the French colonizers in the first half of the last century. Among these remains was a vase bearing the image of a woman.⁵

Another theory claims that the name is derived from the craft or industry for which the local population was famous, as the people of Médéa were known for making knives ("midi" in the local language). The name of the city in French, Médéa, indicates this association with the craft.⁶

Additionally, the city was also called Titri, a term that, according to local residents, means cold and ice, which are characteristic of the region. Alternatively, it might refer to a mountain in the southern part of the area (Aïn Boucif) known as Titri.⁷

1.3 The Climate of Médéa:

Médéa experiences a harshly cold climate in winter due to the significant drop in temperatures, which rises equally during the summer season.⁸ A key characteristic of this climate is the short transition period between winter and summer, which is attributed to the brief duration of spring. The cold intensifies starting in October, making the autumn season nearly non-existent. According to Thomas Shaw, Médéa served as the capital of Titri, a term that itself signifies cold.⁹

Despite its somewhat cold climate, Médéa's climate is considered suitable and healthy. Over the past two centuries, there has been no significant increase or decrease in temperatures, which have not fallen below -2°C. In rural areas, snow accumulation has reached up to one meter. The average annual precipitation exceeds 350 mm, and the humidity levels are high. This aligns Médéa's climate with that of the Mediterranean, making it a region with diverse vegetation.¹⁰

4- Fatima Zahra Djami, Residential Architecture in the City of Médéa During the Ottoman Era, PhD thesis in Islamic Archaeology, 2019/2020, p. 15.

5- Mohamed Mokhtar Iskander, Médéa Between the Old and the New, Algiers: Ministry of Culture Publications, 2007, p. 17.

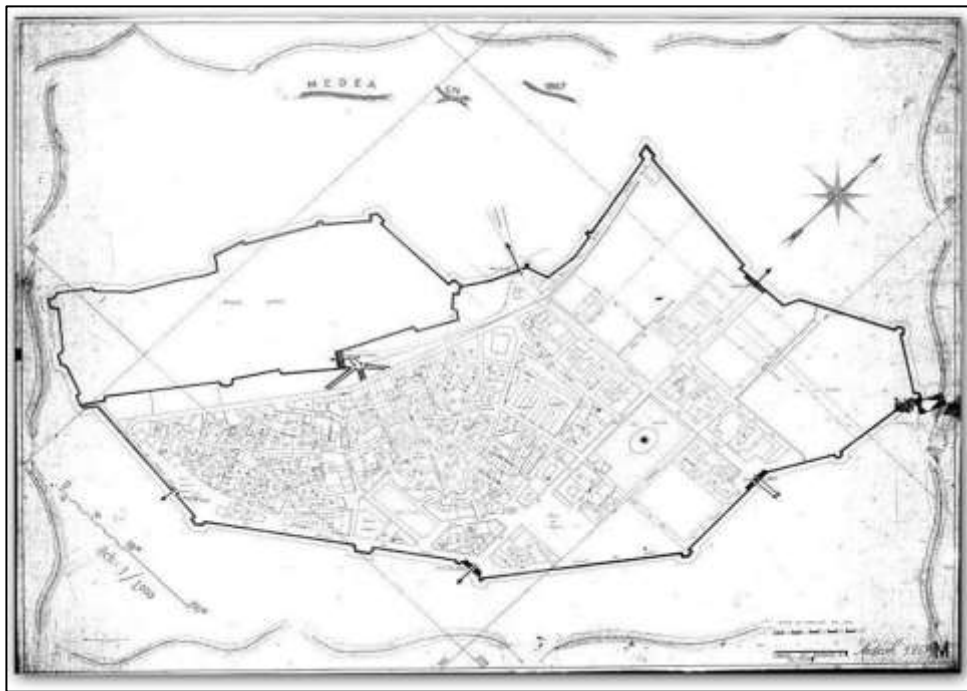
6- Ibid., p. 19.

7 - Dr. M., Médéa: The Cradle of Civilization and the Forum of Authenticity, Audiovisual and Communication Technical Agency, Algiers, 2008, p. 14.

8- Mouhyiddine Hamdani, An Attempt to Evaluate the Agricultural Development Process in the Province of Médéa Within the Development Strategy Followed in Algeria, Master's thesis, University of Algiers 3, Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management, 2001, p. 148.

9- Tomass Chaw, Journey in the Regency of Algiers, translated from English by J. Mac Carthy, Marlin Publisher, Paris, 1830, p. 321.

10- Oudan Boughefala, The Waqfs of Miliana and Médéa in the Ottoman Era: A Study on Economic and Social Activity and Cultural Life, University of Algiers, 2006-2007, p. 70.

Figure (01): Map of the City of Médéa in 1987

Source: Mahmoud.¹¹

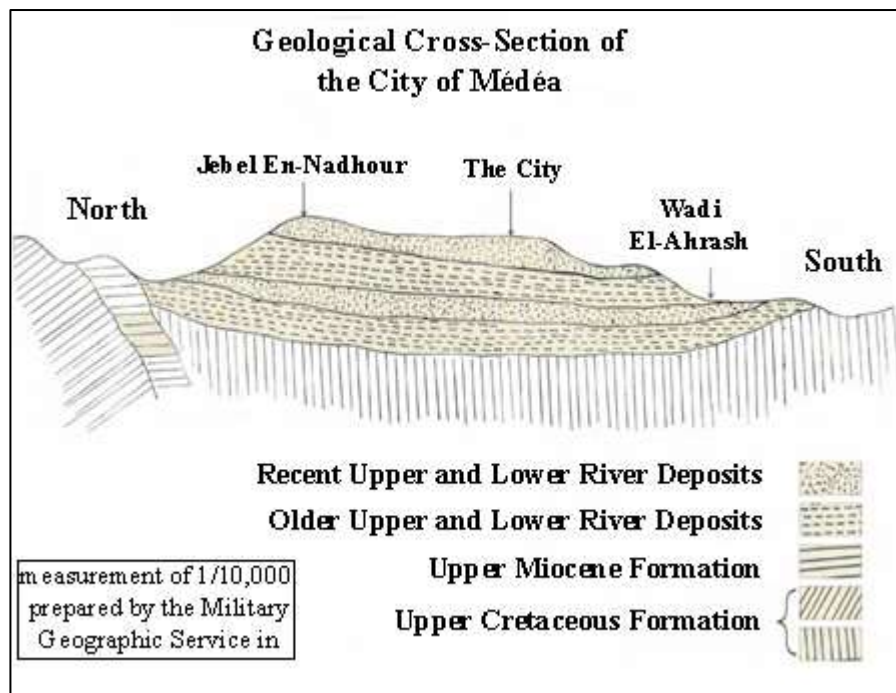
1.4 Geology of the Médéa Region:

- Most of Médéa's land consists of sedimentary rocks, which contributed to the formation of layers from the second and third geological eras during the Upper Cretaceous and the Upper and Lower Miocene periods, resulting in two geological layers:
 - The first layer consists of sandy deposits found in the central parts of the city, as well as in the southeastern and northwestern areas of the region.
 - The second layer consists of silt formations found in the northeastern parts and parts of the southeastern and southwestern areas of the region.
- The bedrock is a mixture of limestone layers overlaid with larger layers of silt and sand.¹² (see figure (02))

Figure (02): A Map Showing a Geological Cross-Section of the City of Médéa, Depicting Layered Formations from the Prehistoric Period

11- B. Mahmoud, https://www.flickr.com/photos/avocats_medeas/3418342143/, accessed June 25, 2024.

12- Houzan Suleiman Al-Doski, Urban Growth of the City of Médéa: Reality and Prospects, 2011, p. 19.



Source: Houzan Suleiman Al-Doski .¹³

2. Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sites in Médéa:

2.1 The Achir Site:

2.1.1 Geographical Location:

Achir is located 160 km southeast of Algiers and only 10 km northeast of Aïn Boucif in the province of Médéa, between the longitudes of 35.5° and the latitudes of 3.15°. It is bordered to the northeast by Mount Kaf Lakhdar and to the southeast by Kaf Tissemsilt, which nearly converge in the eastern part, separated by a narrow passage that ends in a closed corridor at Mount Ras Jreid. To the southwest lies Kaf Maaskar (see figure (03)).¹⁴

The Achir site is situated within the Titri Massif of the Tell Atlas, confined to the southern foothills of the Atlas ranges, and is bordered to the north by the High Plains.¹⁵ What distinguishes Achir is the abundance of springs and fresh water sources, utilized by early inhabitants for drinking and agricultural activities. Two of these springs flow into Kaf Lakhdar, while "Ain Benia" and "Ain Baara" flow into the "Benia" area. Additionally, there are three other springs that flow into the southern part of the city.¹⁶

13- Houzan Suleiman Al-Doski ,Op.cit, p. 19.

14- Saoudi D.J., "Presentation of the Achir Site," Internal Seminars of the CNRPAH, Algiers, February 1996, p. 19.

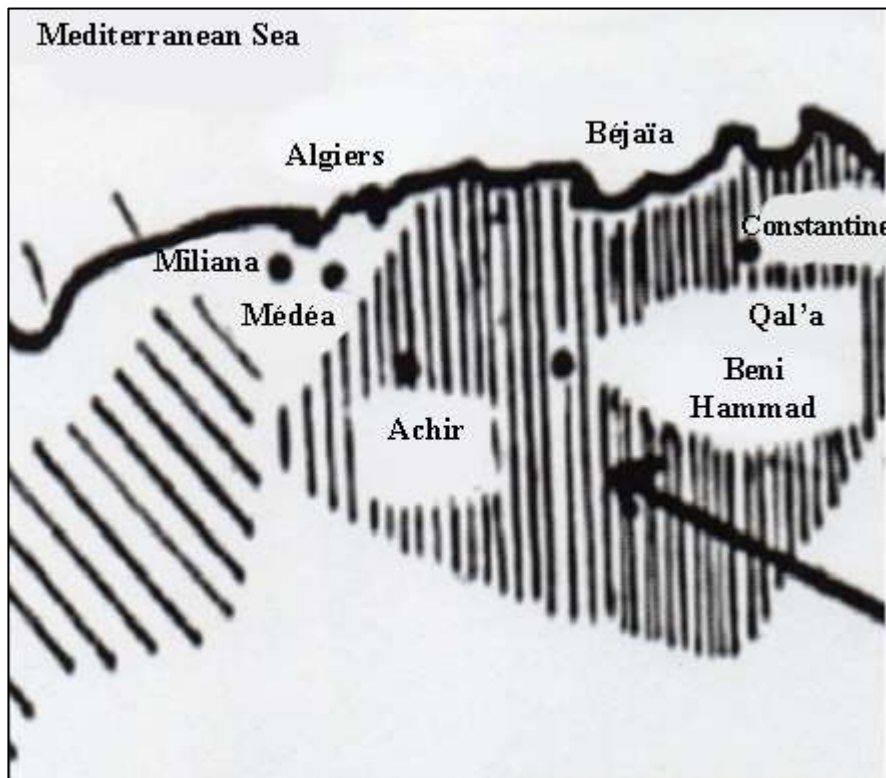
15- Mohamed Qadi, Preventive Conservation Procedures in the Archaeological Excavation of the Ashir Archaeological Site, University of Tlemcen, p. 02.

16- Capitaine Rodet, Les ruines d'Achir, Revue Africaine, no. 52, 1908, pp. 91, 93, 94.

2.1.2 Origin of the Name "Achir":

The name "Achir" is derived from the Berber dialect as "Yachir," which refers to an African Berber city located in the Titri Mountains. The meaning of the word "Achir" is "claws." Additionally, the local population refers to the remnants found south of Kaf Lakhdar near the Benia area by the name "Achir."¹⁷

Figure (03): A Map Showing the Location of Achir in Relation to the City of Médéa and the Mediterranean Sea



Source: Naima Boukerdimi.¹⁸

2.1.3 Stratigraphic Layers of the Achir Area:

The Achir site features three distinct stratigraphic levels. The first and most recent consists of recent river deposits composed of sand and stones mixed with clay, forming a low surface for watercourses. The second level consists of older river deposits, made up of sand and stones mixed with clay, creating layers with a thickness ranging from 20 to 40 meters below the current riverbed level. The third and oldest level is characterized by slope collapses occurring in the Oligocene and Miocene geological formations of Kaf.

17- Shihab al-Din Abu Abdullah Yaqt ibn Abdullah al-Hamawi al-Rumi al-Baghdadi, *Mu'jam al-Buldan*, Dar Sader, Beirut, 1977, vol. 1, p. 202.

18- Naima Boukerdimi, *The City of Ashir Through Historical Writings and Geographical Sources in the Medieval Period*, p. 09.

- Oligocene: This period is defined by sandy and conglomerate formations that are part of the Ksar El Boukhari formations. These formations are characterized in the Achir area by large ridges extending from west to east. Gypsum-bearing conglomerate rocks begin to appear at an elevation of 100 meters, followed by coarse sandstone rocks. In Kaf Lakhdar, the environment is relatively moist, as indicated by the type of rocks found there—primarily non-gypsum claystones with more sandy content, featuring coarse-grained shells and containing small living organisms.
- Miocene: In the lowlands and basins, a variety of sedimentary layers from the same period are present, distinguished by two levels. The first level contains mollusk remains (Pectinides) alongside sandy deposits, while the second level consists of gray clay interspersed with thin layers of sandstone. It also contains foraminifera, which are characteristic of the Miocene base in the southern Tell Atlas¹⁹.

2.1.4 Climate:

The climate at the Achir site is continental, characterized by fluctuations in rainfall and temperatures. Temperature levels decrease significantly at the higher peaks, making the central area colder in winter compared to the steppes. Snow frequently covers the mountain peaks due to heavy snowfall, and snowstorms occur whenever rain falls on the steppes. During summer, the weather remains mild in elevated areas and can even be cold due to nighttime frost, with temperatures not exceeding 15°C in Aïn Boucif in June. The clean air and the northwesterly winds, which bring humidity, along with a northern sea breeze, help moderate the intense summer heat.²⁰

2.15 Vegetation:

Climate is the primary factor influencing the vegetation cover, as is the case in the Titri Mountains, which are significantly affected by climate due to the limited impact of flowing waters. Forests are found at an altitude of 880 m, about 3 km east of Ksar El Boukhari, extending to Kaf Jhaifa. These forests are abundant in cedar, pine, juniper, and thuja trees, sometimes including green oak, forming the primary vegetation cover in the Titri region. On the northern slope of Kaf Lakhdar, oak trees intermingle with holm oak. Additionally, juniper trees are spread across Kaf Terkraket and Monqar. Other plants growing in the highlands include cistus, blackberry, pistachio, wild jasmine, and rosemary.²¹

2.1.6 Water Network:

Groundwater flows beneath sandstone layers and above shelly clay, serving as the main watercourse in Titri. However, this watercourse is somewhat disrupted by fractures and fissures due to erosion processes. The aquifers are formed by rain-saturated sandstone rocks, which produce reservoirs such as waterfalls and springs, including Majbour, Aïn Boucif, and El Azdoura, while

19- Mostafa Remili, *Funerary Monuments of the Dawn of History in the Ashir Region - Titeri Mountains*, Master's thesis in Prehistory, Institute of Archaeology, 2000/2001, pp. 19-20.

20- Ibid., pp. 20-21.

21- Ibid., pp. 21-22.

some springs, such as those at Aïn El Qattara, have weaker flows. The slopes of Titri make it a key center for the water network, encompassing four basins: the Yesser Basin, the Chélif Basin, the Dayat Boughezoul Basin, and the Oued El Lham Basin. The waters are of good quality and suitable for drinking and irrigation. They originate from eroded massifs, with some, like the Bougara waters, containing magnesium from modern rocks mixed with silt or saline clay.²²

2.1.7 Wildlife:

There is ambiguity regarding the fauna of Algeria in general, so little information is available about the animals of Titri. However, it is certain that they are closely linked to the climate and vegetation, as these two elements complement each other to create a suitable environment for both animal and human habitation. Among the mammals adapted to the Titri region are foxes, jackals, hyenas, rabbits, and jerboa dogs. Bird species include eagles, falcons, kestrels, and swallows, while on the peaks of Terkraket, Kaf Lakhdar, and Moqar, the bashteq can be found. There is also an abundance of turtles, both aquatic and terrestrial, as well as a wide variety of lizards, snakes, and scorpions.²³

2.1.8 Funerary Monuments in the Achir Area:

Funerary monuments are among the most significant archaeological evidence indicating burial architecture in the prehistoric and protohistoric periods, reflecting the thoughts and beliefs of early humans. This type of architecture is prevalent across North Africa in general, and Algeria in particular. The types of these monuments vary according to the nature of the location and the availability of raw materials, while their presence is mostly concentrated in the areas inhabited by humans during those periods. These monuments are often accompanied by funerary furniture or remnants of daily human activities. Achir contains approximately 18 archaeological sites, encompassing around 325 funerary monuments, most of which are simple tumuli (mounds) known as "gatha" (tumulus: a mound that is oval or circular in shape, derived from the Latin word *tumulus*, meaning a pile of earth or stones accumulated into a small hill).²⁴ These are distributed differently compared to current cemeteries. Besides these monuments, the area also contains shelters, rock engravings, and stone industries, all dating back to the prehistoric period and spread across different sites. Some examples include:

- Eastern Kaf Lakhdar Prominence: Standing at 1,467 m, this site is part of a mountain range, with geological features that have resulted in varying terrains, including elevations and slopes shaped by natural factors such as erosion. This site contains approximately 96 funerary monuments of different types, including some with burial furniture, and 18

22- Ibid., pp. 22-223.

23- Ibid., pp. 23.

24- Badr al-Din Salahja, Human Settlement During the Dawn of History in the Biskra Region, Zab Mountains, PhD thesis in Prehistory, 2019/2020, p. 62.

unidentified structures. It also features stone industries made of black and dark brown flint (fragments, blades, serrated tools, etc.), most of which date back to the prehistoric period.²⁵

- Draidera Al-Kabira Site: A natural rock shelter dating back to the prehistoric period, this shelter consists of red sandy clay carved into calcareous sandstone. It has two layers: the first is a black sandy layer about 4 cm thick, containing stone tools made of black flint (blades, chisels, polished fragments, and numerous cores), while the second layer is also sandy but lighter in color and interspersed with carbonate materials.²⁶
- Al-Qa'ada Al-Kahla: Located about 200 m away, this site covers an area of approximately 4,000 m² and contains remnants from the prehistoric period. About 500 m away, numerous stone tools made of black flint were found. The site gets its name from the dark brown color of its soil (plowed clay) mixed with the color of the flint stone tools.²⁷
- Kaf Dris: On its slopes, three tumuli-type funerary monuments were found, where black flint fragments are dispersed, a characteristic known in protohistoric burials. About 1,500 m to the east, additional sites containing shelters and stone industries dating back to the prehistoric period were discovered.²⁸
- Kaf Maaskar: Located south of the high plains of Benia, Kaf Maaskar extends from east to west, reaching an elevation of 1,299 m. The mountain range of Kaf Maaskar spans 10 km from east to west, south of the high plains of Benia. Known for its complex terrain, this site contains funerary monuments, structures, and stone industries made of flint dating back to the prehistoric period.²⁹
- Aïn Sukra: Situated southwest of the village of Shalalat El-Azdoura on the slopes of the Red Kaf, which stands at an elevation of 1,238 m, this site contains rock engravings in poor condition. These are the first drawings found in the Titri region, most depicting parts of various animals such as giraffes and deer. Additionally, a mold of gray soil was found preserving black flint stone tools.³⁰
- Kifan Al-Jordan: Located at the exit of Aïn Boucif, southwest of Achir, this site extends from east to west and takes the shape of a hill. It contains around 24 simple tumuli spread across various locations and in good condition.³¹

Through the study and analysis of the remains found during excavations at the archaeological site of Achir by researcher Dr. Mustapha Ramili and his archaeological team, it was revealed that the individuals inhabiting the area had morphological features similar to those of the humans of M'shata El-Arabi (Iberian civilization) and the humans of Ruknia Cemetery in Beni Messous.

25- Mostafa Remili, op. cit., pp. 80-81.

26- Ibid., p. 82.

27- Ibid., p. 83.

28- Ibid., pp. 84-85.

29- Ibid., pp. 88-90.

30- Ibid., pp. 91-93.

31- Ibid., pp. 97.

These features include elongated and very elongated skulls, high and low with wide and narrow foreheads, a medium-sized nose, and a broad palate. Additionally, there were also broad and high round skulls with wide foreheads, high faces, and narrow noses, with ages estimated between 24 to 25 years.³²

3. The Champlain Site (Champlain):

3.1 Geographical Location:

Champlain is located 42 km east of the province of Médéa, covering an area of approximately 115 km², near the Zaouia of Sidi Chaker. It is bordered by Ouled Bouachra and Hamdania to the west, Bachta to the east, Sidi Naaman to the south, and the province of Blida to the north.³³

The site was named "Champlain" after the French settler Samuel Champlain. It is currently known as El-‘Amariya.³⁴

3.2 Geology of the Champlain Site:

The archaeological site of Champlain is situated at an elevation of around 1,200 m. It contains deposits with stone industries belonging to the Acheulean civilization, including bifaces and fragments.³⁵

3.3 Research History:

The site was discovered in 1934 by researchers Gastellani and Bellin, who found stone tools at four points in agricultural fields. These remains date to various periods of the Paleolithic era—the Old Acheulean and the Developed Acheulean periods. (The Acheulean civilization is named after the French site of Saint-Acheul, where early humans, *Homo erectus*, produced bifacial tools and innovated the Levallois technique.) The tools include large cores, specific stone axes, rough bifaces, and trihedral picks (Triédrique Pic) made from sandstone.

Subsequent excavations took place between 1951 and 1952, conducted by researchers Balout and Bellin, resulting in the discovery of fragments and cores, mostly belonging to the Acheulean civilization. In 1952, Gastellani and Bellin collected a number of bifacial stone tools for study; however, their research yielded no significant results.³⁶

32- Ibid., p. 182.

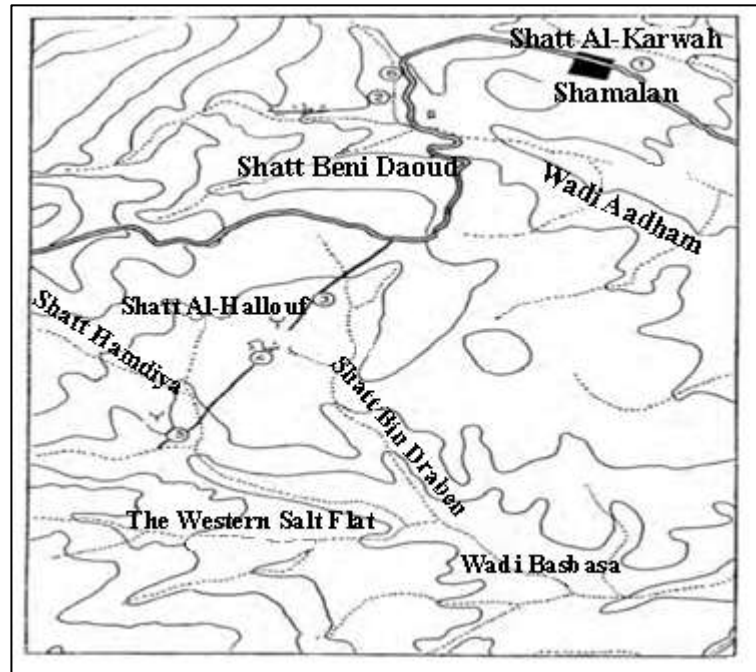
33- Farah Chemmarek, *The Technological Development of the Acheulean Cultural Facet in Northwestern Algeria: A Study of the Rayeh Site, Sidi Ali Mostaganem*, PhD thesis in Prehistoric Archaeology, University of Algiers 2, 2017-2018, p. 26.

34- H. Balout, *Prehistory of North Africa*, AMG Edition, Paris, 1955, p. 30.

35- Ibid., p 360.

36- Ibid., p. 360.

Figure (04): A Map Showing the Location of Champlain in Relation to the City of Médéa



Source: Mohamed El-Saghir Ghanem.³⁷

3.4 Lithic Industries at the Champlain Archaeological Site

Most of the archaeological evidence found at the Champlain site dates back to the Paleolithic period. The stone industries are primarily from the Lower Paleolithic era, along with some findings from the Upper Paleolithic period. In 1952, researchers Gastellani and Balout discovered Acheulean hand axes near the Sidi Chaker shrine in Médéa. Additionally, on the banks of Oued Besbas, stone tools and other bone artifacts were found, which are now displayed at the National Bardo Museum in Algiers (see figure (06)). Balout's research indicated that these tools have similarities with those found in other Algerian sites, as well as in western and southern African regions.³⁸

3.5 The Snail Station (Champlain)

The Snail Station is located in the village of Champlain, 25 km east of Médéa at the base of the Tell Atlas Mountains, at an altitude of 735 m. The area has yielded tools and archaeological remains, making it an important site that reveals details about prehistoric human life in North Africa. It offers insights into the tools, rituals, and culture of that era.³⁹

37- Mohamed El-Saghir Ghanem, *Prehistoric Sites and Civilizations in Ancient Maghreb*, Dar Al-Huda, Ain M'lila, Algeria, p. 34.

38- Ibid., pp. 30-31.

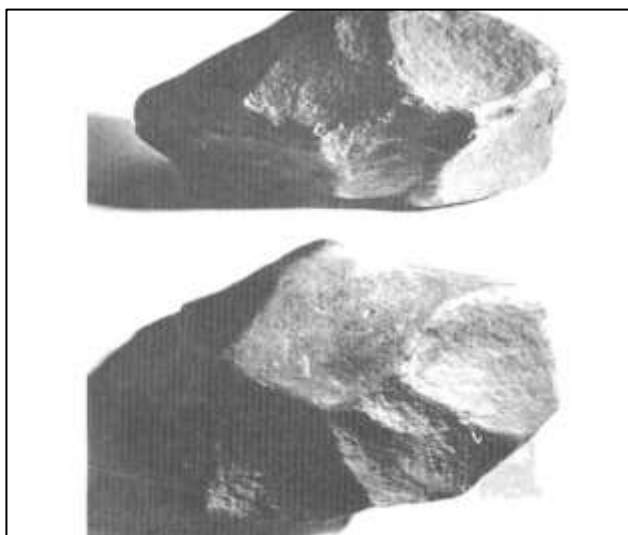
39- L. Jolkaud and Castellani, "Prehistoric Shell Mound of Champlain, near Médéa (Algiers)," in *Journal of the Africanists Society*, 1935, vol. 5, issue 2, p. 160.

3.6 Archaeological Remains of the Snail Station

The Snail Station has provided numerous indications of human activity during the Paleolithic and intermediate periods, particularly through its stone industries. Key findings include:

- A large number of snail shells
- Stone tools made of flint (see figure (05)), such as fragments, scrapers, blades, double-edged blades, and spearheads
- Pieces of galena (raw lead) and a round stone
- Bone tools (spear points and double drills made from bone or ivory)
- Pieces of schist (clay stone) without inscriptions
- Human remains, including pieces of teeth, jawbones (see figure (08)), fragments of skull, femur, and pelvis
- Animal remains, consisting of bones from various animals such as wild cattle, wild goats, and deer⁴⁰

Figure (05): A Stone Core Dating Back to the Lower Paleolithic Era at the Champlain Site



Source: Mohamed El-Saghir Ghanem .⁴¹

Figure (06): A Shell Found at the Champlain Archaeological Site in the City of Médéa

40- Pierre Roffo, "A Workshop of Levallois Technique at Berrouaghia (Department of Algiers)," in Bulletin of the Prehistoric Society of France, vol. 32, no. 12, 1935, pp. 629-639.

41- Mohamed El-Saghir Ghanem, op. cit., p. 35.



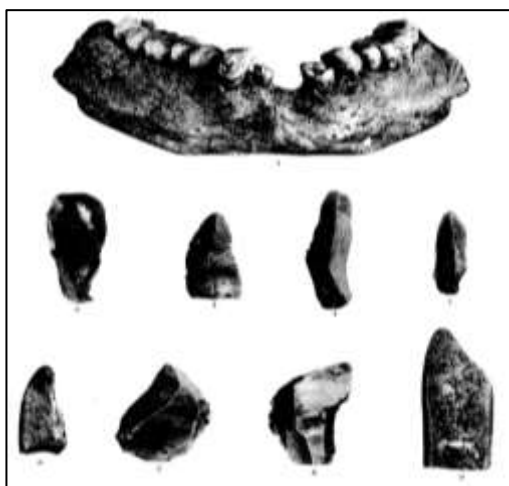
Source: Mohamed El-Saghir Ghanem.⁴²

Figure (07): A Biface Tool and Stone Axe from the Champlain Site, Preserved at the Bardo Museum



Source: Farah Chmerik.⁴³

Figure (08): Human Lower Jaw and Stone Tools from the Champlain Archaeological Site



Source: L. Jolkaud and Castellani.⁴⁴

42- Ibid., p. 33.

43- Farah Chmerik, op. cit., p. 27.

44- L. Jolkaud and Castellani, op. cit., p. 163.

4. The Levallois Technique Workshop in Berrouaghia:

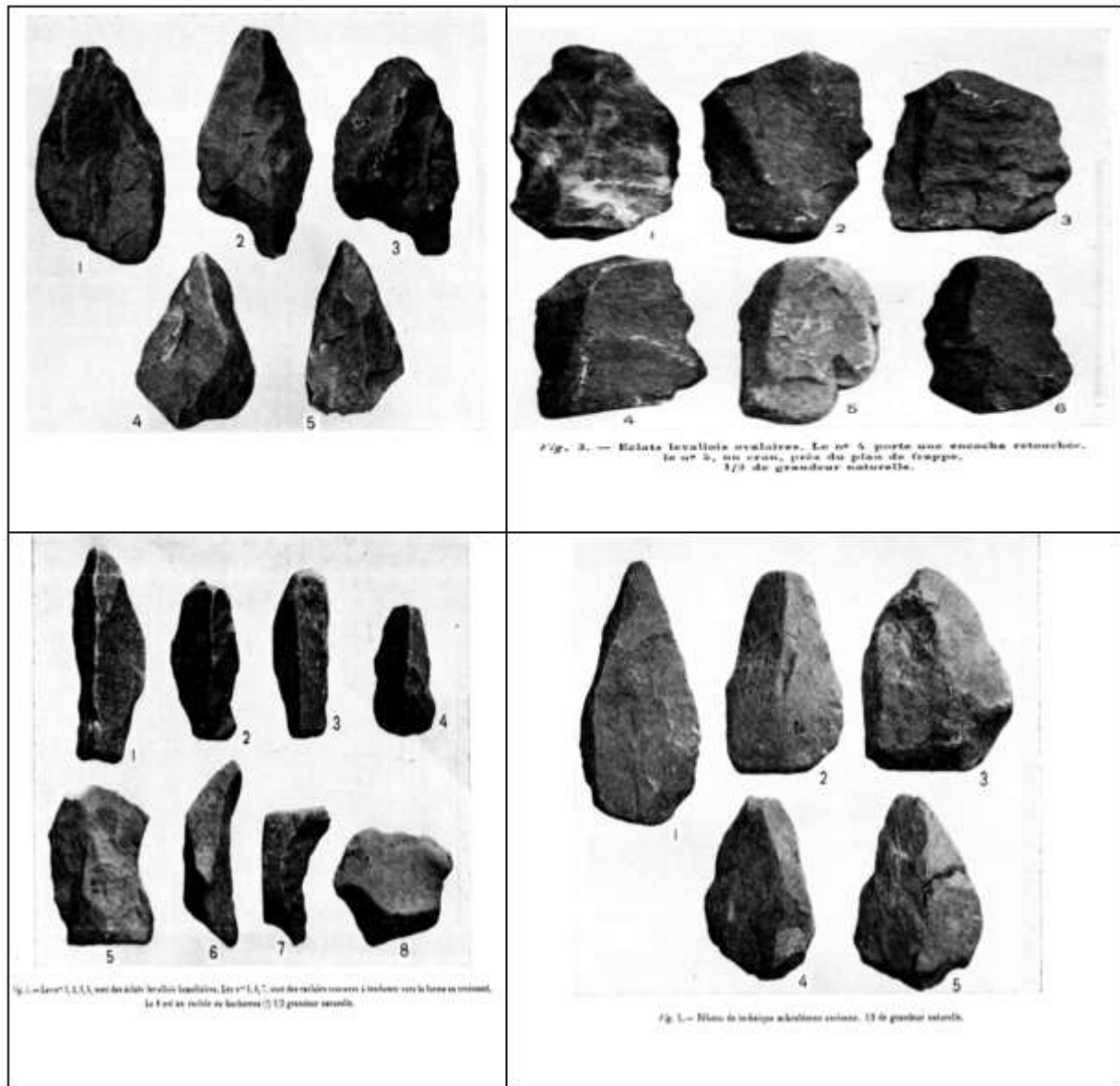
The archaeological site is located in the vicinity of Berrouaghia (120 kilometers south of Algiers), west of National Road No. 1 from Berrouaghia to Médéa, about 1,500 meters from the church square in Berrouaghia. The center of the site is approximately pinpointed at point 1020 on the 1/50,000 scale map of the Military Geography Service, sheet number 110, Berrouaghia. The site is a workshop from the Lower Paleolithic period in North Africa. It features an elevated quadrangular terrace at a height of 24 meters above the current valley to the right of Wadi Souk, a tributary of Wadi El-Hamam. This terrace is covered with topsoil, where agricultural activities revealed an unusual quantity of quartzite of all sizes, mostly rounded and eroded, with tools scattered on the surface.

4.1 Archaeological Remains:

In this workshop, stone tools made of quartzite or quartzitic sandstone were discovered. These tools are rounded and uncoated. The tools found demonstrate various techniques such as the Levallois technique, some hand axes made with the Chelles-Acheulean technique, and fragments using the Mousterian technique. The Levallois technique industries form a homogeneous industrial group, with around 85 collected tools, while no flint was found. There were seven large hand axes made of rounded quartzitic sandstone without coating, including quartzite hand axes with almost straight side edges, a wide rounded base, and broken tips.

The tools made with the Levallois technique number 32, made of quartzite or rounded quartzitic sandstone, and include triangular-shaped fragments, some long and thick fragments, large scrapers, thick blades, discs, cores, and many non-standard fragments. (See figures 09).

Figures (09): Various Stone Industries Found at the Berrouaghia Workshop



Source: Pierre Roffo.⁴⁵

• Conclusion

The admiration that Médéa enjoys indicates its considerable historical significance and deep-rooted history, which it has gained due to its strategic location and natural resources. These factors made it a destination for human settlement since the earliest prehistoric periods. Humans needed several essential conditions for settling in a particular area, the most important being water, a suitable climate, and a landscape that provided food. These elements are interconnected, and this was likely what the Titri region offered to prehistoric humans, allowing them not only to live and carry out daily activities but also to conduct burial rituals in accordance with their beliefs within the same environment.

Through our study and research, we deduced that Médéa contains several sites dating back to the prehistoric and protohistoric periods. These sites held remnants of the activities and beliefs of early humans, such as stone industries and tools like the bifaces found at the Champlain archaeological

45- Pierre Roffo, op. cit., pp. 629-639.

site and the Berrouaghia workshop, as well as funerary monuments and furniture. Approximately 325 funerary monuments were discovered across various locations in Achir (such as the eastern Kaf Lakhdar prominence, Draidera Al-Kabira, Kaf Maaskar, etc.), rock art like that found at Aïn Sukra, and both animal and human remains such as those discovered at Champlain.

From this, we can conclude that the city of Médéa, or Medias, has ancient origins dating back millions of years, contrary to the common belief that it only emerged with ancient civilizations or the beginning of recorded history.

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