

# Environmental adaptation by the analysis of end-scrapers in the Upper Paleolithic Japan

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this paper is to consider the human environmental adaptation in the Upper Paleolithic Period with reference to the analysis of the end-scrapers in Japan. The end-scrapers appeared with the blade technique and was in use until the incipient Jomon Period.

To achieve this goal, the author analyses the distribution and the edge wear marks of end-scrapers and concludes that they were mainly distributed in the higher latitudes in Japan and were supposed to be used to make tanned leathers. Taking into consideration that tanned leather production using end-scrapers had played an important role in its society shown by the ethnographic evidence, the author proposes that such tanned leather production had already been systematized in the Upper Paleolithic Period. Furthermore he infers that such production system was established as the result of human adaptation to the cold environment caused by the climatic change.

**Keywords:** End-scrapers; microwear analysis; environmental adaptation; Upper Paleolithic Japan.

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