Reply to Perttula: Identifying an early Holocene projectile point type from central Mexico

Perttula’s letter (1) calls attention to the fact that the stemmed, indented base point type called “Pedernales” dates much later in time in Texas than the stemmed, indented base point that we recovered from the Xihuatoxtla Shelter excavations in the Central Balsas Valley, Guerrero. In our article (2), we did not compare the characteristics of the Xihuatoxtla point with Texas Pedernales points, and we certainly did not wish to imply that there was any cultural connection between the makers of the Texas Pedernales points and the early Holocene occupants of the Xihuatoxtla Shelter, Guerrero. We did want to emphasize that the Xihuatoxtla point base was similar to stemmed, indented/concave base points recovered in contexts dated between ca. 9510 and 7742 calendrical years B.P. from Guila Naquitz, Oaxaca (3) and the Tehuacan Valley (4) and classified as “Pedernales” points. Perhaps, as Perttula (1) suggests, stemmed, indented base points from the early Holocene of Central Mexico should be defined and named as a new point type.

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