



Australian Artefact Fact Sheet

Tula adze



Tula adze slug



Tula adzed dish



Tula adze slug

<i>Where?</i>	Across most of Australia with a focus on Central and Western Australia. The name <i>tula</i> or <i>tuhla</i> comes from the <i>Wangkangurru</i> people of the Simpson Desert.
<i>What?</i>	The tula adze is a hafted flaked stone tool mostly used for wood working (scraping, adzing and hardwood such as Acacias and Eucalypts. They were also used to butcher animals and to chop plants. When they are used to adze hard wood they blunt quickly and were then resharpened repeatedly by knocking off small flakes along the working edge. In archaeological sites they are usually found as exhausted slugs that have been removed from their hafting, discarded and then replaced.
<i>When?</i>	Tools such as tulas are rare in archaeological sites and especially places that can be dated. This has meant that there are small numbers that have been securely dated. The oldest dated tula adzes come from rockshelters in the Hamersley Ranges near Newman and Packsaddle dated to between 3,700 and 3,500 years ago.
<i>How?</i>	Tula adzes are made by flaking a core. They have a wide flat top (platform) that allows easy hafting and they have a curved shaped back (convex). The adzes were usually hafted into the ends of a wooden stick or spear thrower encasing the end of the stick/spear thrower in a resin glue made from spinifex or grevillea resin, kangaroo poo and sand. It took about two tulas to make a boomerang and an undecorated spear thrower would take about eight hours to make with a tula adze.
<i>Who?</i>	They are an Aboriginal Australian invention first developed in the centre of Australia in the arid-zone. Their invention perhaps gave those people who used it an advantage over those who didn't during a time when the climate was more variable with longer periods of no rain owing to the intensification of the El Nino Southern Oscillation.

Other useful
fact sheets

Glossary
Flaked Stone Tools
Ground axes
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Web-
Resources
Sources

[Glossary](http://archaeologywordsmith.com) of archaeological terms - archaeologywordsmith.com

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