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194 *Hinojosa Site, 41 JW 8*

FEATURE 9

Provenience: N108 E102, Levels 3 and 4 and N108.5 E103, Level 2, 99.82-99.71.

Dimensions: Approximately 73 cm (N-S) x 10-13 cm (E-W).

Associations: Two lithic artifacts were found within Feature 9, a modified tertiary flake (MD2) and a thick unifacial tool (U2). Other items found in direct association were a thermally fractured chert spall, several chunks of charcoal, several very small mussel valves, and a number of land snails. The plotted items recovered from Feature 9 are shown in Figure 19 and listed in Table 24. Feature 8 was located some 1.5 to 2 m to the west of Feature 9 at a slightly higher elevation.

Radiocarbon Assays: None; the amount of charcoal recovered was inadequate for an assay.

Special Sampling: None.

Description: The feature consisted of a tight cluster of fragmented animal bone arranged in a narrow, elongated area. Some of the bone were stacked three elements deep. At least six species are identifiable from the faunal assemblage: bison, three types of rodents, javelina, and turtle. In addition, several rib fragments of a deer-sized mammal were recovered. With the exception of the rat bones, all elements are fragmented. Most of the bison elements and bison-sized fragments are burned, spiral fractured, or have cut marks.

The spatial arrangement of the feature suggests that the contents were placed in a long, narrow depression and were not simply piled on a surface. Unfortunately, the feature matrix was no different from the surrounding soil and, thus, a pit or depression outline could not be detected. Turtle plastron, fire discolored and broken into two large sections, formed the upper layer. Several comparatively large chunks of charcoal were recovered in the upper portion of the feature. No evidence of direct burning (of the feature area) was detected.

This feature was very carefully excavated by Kenneth M. Brown who noted the orientation and direction of dipping for most of the linear bone fragments. Most elements were oriented more or less parallel to the long axis of the feature and predominately dipped to the north. The bone elements were obviously tightly packed and placed one atop the other. Several of the larger bison elements were the deepest elements in the feature.

Interpretation: Feature 9 appears to be a purposeful bone disposal pile. The location of the feature near the edge of the bluff and the spatial arrangement of the contents suggest that the discarded bone was placed in a narrow erosional gully. The absence of any evidence of sedimentation or weathering suggests that the feature was quickly covered soon after deposition. The nature of the bone (fragmented, butchered, and burned) suggests the interment probably followed processing and/or consumption which included removal of all meat and marrow processing.

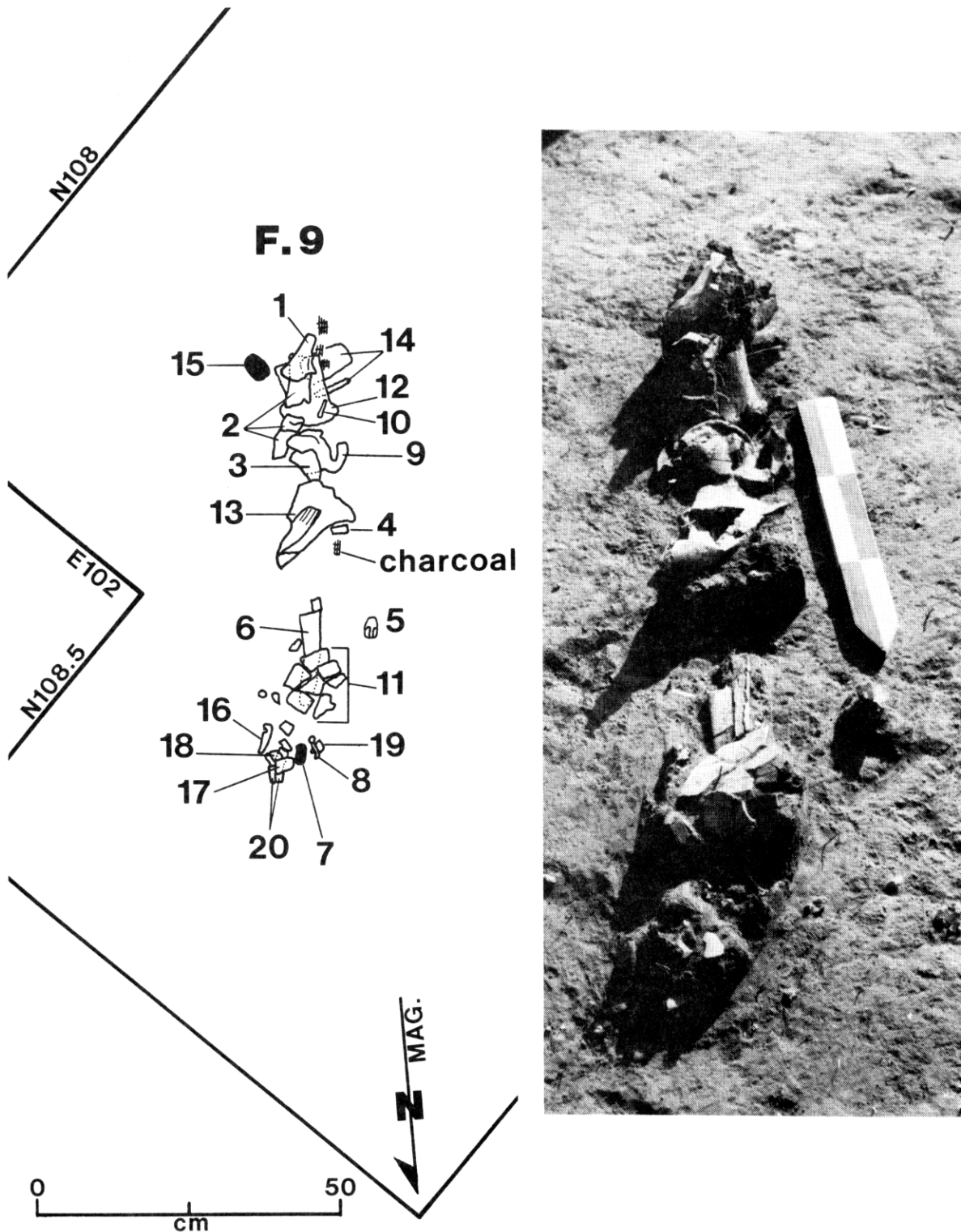


Figure 19. **Plan Map and View of Feature 9.** The photograph is an oblique view taken from the magnetic north end of the feature looking south. Refer to Table 24 for the identification of the numbered items in the plan map.

TABLE 24. PLOTTED ITEMS FROM FEATURE 9

Lot Number	Item Number	Elevation	Identification
472	1	99.82	deer ulna tool
472	2	99.77	bison size long bone fragments
472	3	99.79	tortoise plastron fragments
472	4	99.80	large mammal fragment
472	5	99.78	javelina mandibular fragment
472	6	99.78	large mammal fragments
472	7	99.80	modified tertiary flake (MD2)
472	8	99.79	wood rat humerus
472	9	99.76	tortoise plastron fragments
472	10	---	small mammal fragment
472	11	99.80	tortoise plastron fragment
472	12	99.73	bison ulna fragment
472	13	99.73	bison radius fragment
472	14	99.71	bison size marrow fragments
472	15	99.74	unifacial tool (U2)
472	16	99.77	large mammal long bone fragment
472	17	99.78	large mammal long bone fragment
472	18	99.80	tortoise scute fragment
472	19	99.80	burned corticate chip
472	20	99.76	deer size rib fragments

Note: The faunal elements are plotted by item number on a map of the feature in Figure 19.

FEATURE 10

Provenience: N104 E97, Levels 2-4, 99.94-99.68.

Dimensions: Approximately 60 cm (grid N-S) x 50 cm (grid E-W).

Associations: Several burned calcareous concretions were found within the cluster along with several flakes and a mussel shell. Feature 6 was located some 1.5 m to the grid north. The faunal elements recovered from Feature 10 are listed in Table 10.

Radiocarbon Assays: None.

Special Sampling: None.