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## AGRICULTURAL ADZES

Alan Taylor

Almost from the beginning of Maori agriculture there is evidence of adzes being used for clearing cultivations and initial agricultural work: breaking up hard, difficult ground preparatory to digging and planting. Described as 'garden' adzes, the toki are normally found in association with kumara storage pits and areas in both the North and South Island where early Maori agricultural development has been observed (Davidson, 1967). In the Manukau area, 'garden' adzes are characterized by badly fractured, flaked and bruised blades (line drawings) and consist of a large variety of adze types dating to both the Archaic and Classic Phase - which suggests that adzes were not specifically designed for agricultural purposes, nor confined to a particular cultural phase or period. Among 'garden' adzes recovered from Manukau pa are type 2B, the most common type, and Duff's (1950) type 4 adze (drawing: C) recovered from cultivations close to Classic pa sites. Like the 2B (and all other adze types), this could merely have been utilized for cultivation when, through wear or damage, it was no longer suitable for its original purpose: timber working.

In addition to agricultural use, adzes could have been used in the excavation of artificial cave stores (Best, 1916); for pa trenching (clay); for excavating in papa and clay food pits and water wells; for working ochre and gravel deposits and for pa drainage excavations. Normally, large adze types used for agricultural purposes (D) consist only of bladed butts or mid-sections; the smaller type (A) consisting, generally, of the complete adze (Phillipps, 1966).

Easily mistaken for 'garden' adzes recovered from Manukau pa are toki that were utilized as 'hammer stones' (B) which are characterized by bruised blades or butts-flake damage to blades being completely, and evenly, reduced to a fine hammer-dressed surface, normally convex.

REFERENCES

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