



***Southern African Trade Networks:  
Forager participation at Little Muck  
Shelter***



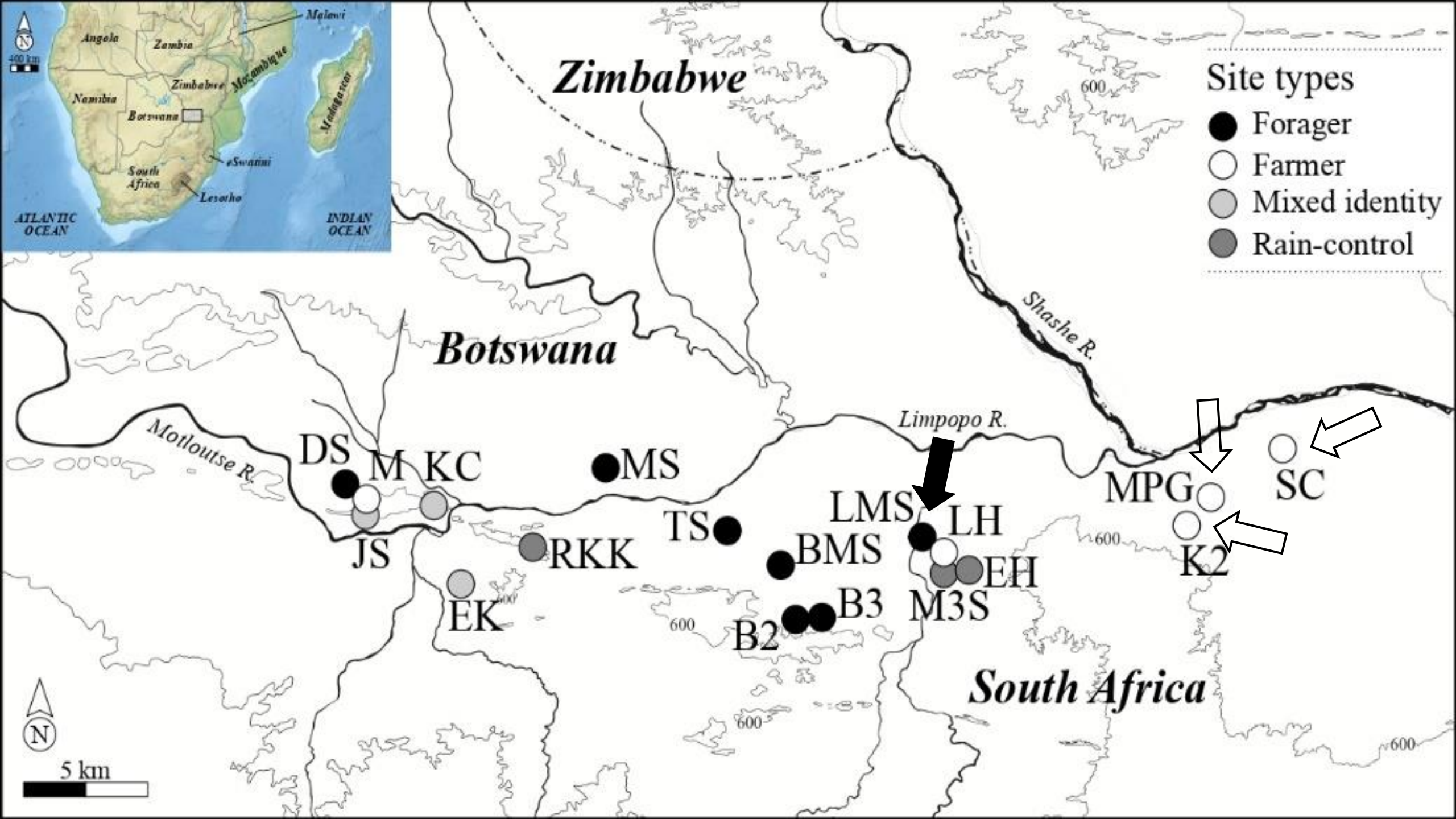
# *Hunter-gatherer Archaeological Project (HARP)*

Main objectives:

- to expand on known forager sequences
- to investigate new ideas about forager roles
- to situate foragers in larger trade economies







- Site types**
- Forager
  - Farmer
  - Mixed identity
  - Rain-control

# *Little Muck Shelter*

- Archaeological material:
  - craft goods
  - exotic wealth items



- Showed interesting trade patterns that could inform on:
  - forager-farmer interactions before, and during, Mapungubwe period (AD 1200-1300)
  - foragers' role across the economic landscape



# Craft Goods for Trade

## Formal stone tools

- degree of standardisation
- specialisation



## Ostrich eggshell beads

- different production stages evident
- *Hxaro* exchange



## Worked bone

- potential hunting implements



# Trade Wealth

## Glass beads

- status symbol
- contributing factor to social differentiation
- associated with farmers



## Beads at different shelters

Dzombo – 18

Balerno Main – 1

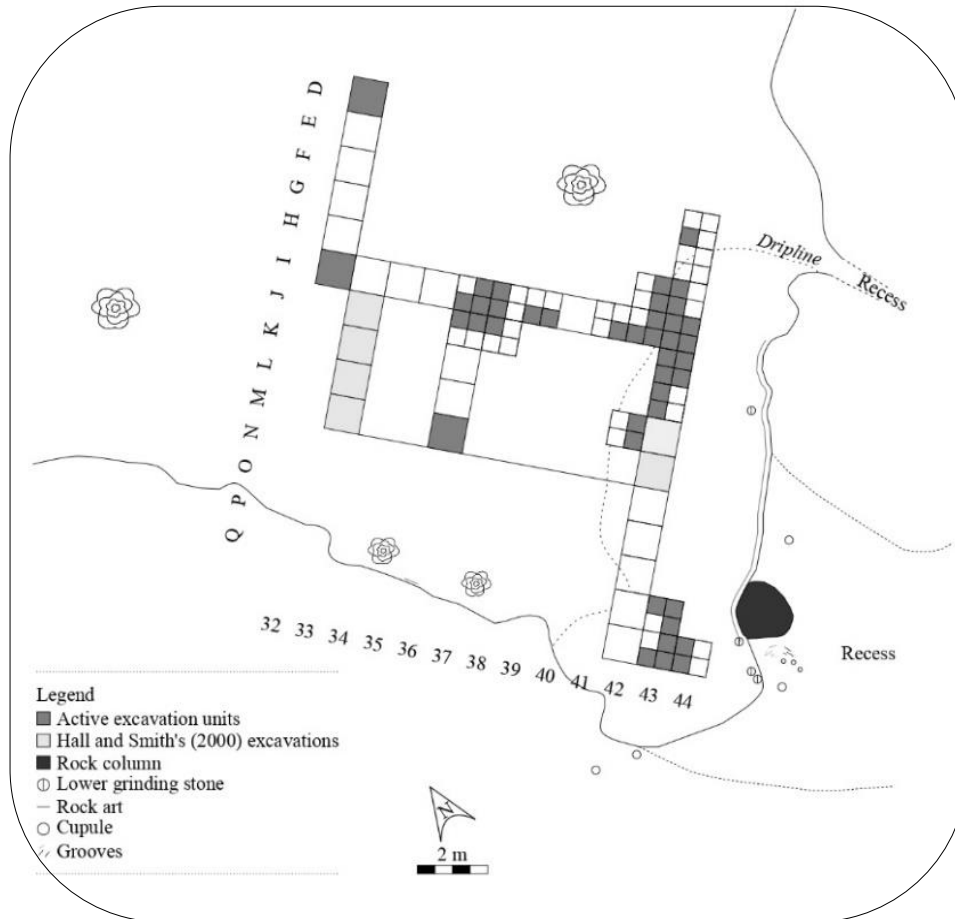
Little Muck – 496

## Metal

- evidence of forager-farmer interactions



# Findings

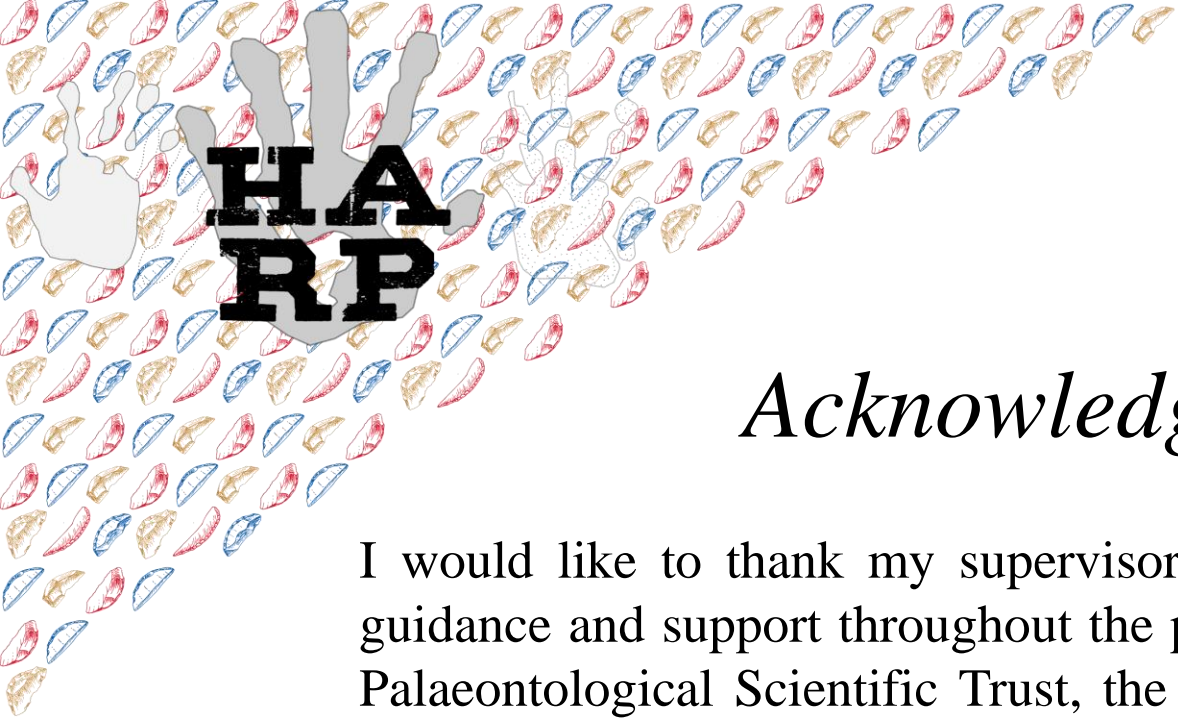


a greater number, and variability, of trade wealth items

intense forager involvement in production processes and farmer trade economies

the possibility of wealth accumulation





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