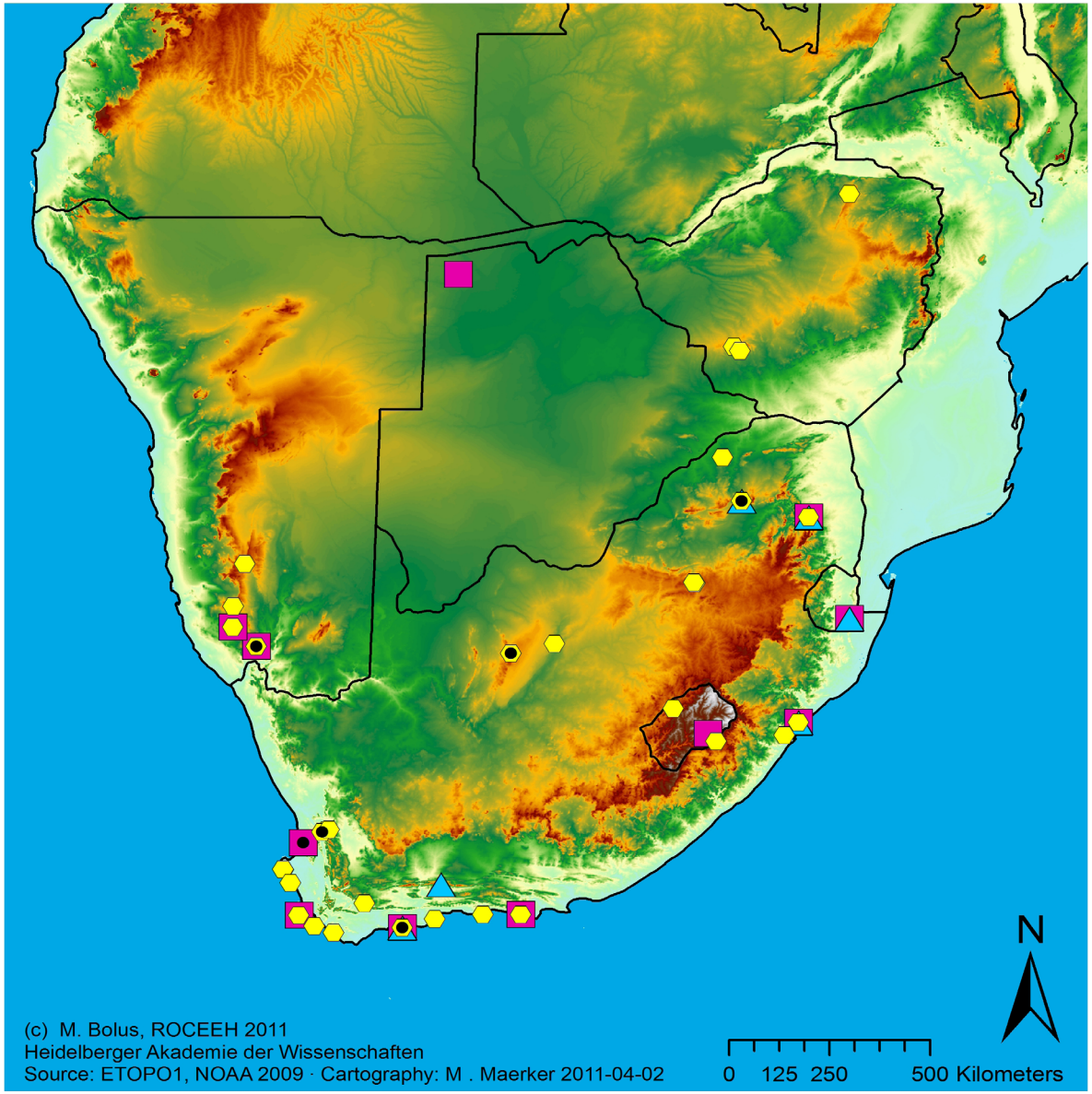
THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN EARLY EXPANSIONS OF HUMANS

Evidence of art, pigments, personal ornaments and organic tools in the MSA of southern Africa



Find Category

- Art
- Pigments
- Personal Ornaments
- Organic Tools
- country borders

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While stone artifacts and faunal remains are found in all or most MSA sites in southern Africa, other find categories are restricted to a limited number of sites as is illustrated by ROCEEH's present Map of the Month. Most of the organic tools such as points and notched pieces are made of bone, but fragments of worked ostrich egg shells, which had been used as flasks, are also included. Personal ornaments are represented primarily by intentionally perforated mollusks, but also by the first ostrich eggshell beads, which became much more common in the Later Stone Age. Expressions of art or decoration normally consist of engraved geometric patterns, while figurative art does not occur prior to the end of the MSA. In contrast, the use of pigments in the southern African MSA is much more common.