

North American Atlatl Dart Mainshaft Materials List

By Devin Pettigrew, 2012

MATERIAL	SITE(S)	CITATION(S)
Birch (<i>Betula</i> sp.)	Yukon ice patches	Hare et al. 2004:263
Box-elder (<i>Acer negundo</i>)	Du Pont Cave, NV	Kidder et al. 1922:107-113
Elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i> sp.)	Newberry Cave, NV	Davis & Smith 1981
	Falcon Hill, NV	Hattori & Tuohy 1982
Hazel (<i>Corylus</i> sp.)	Crystal Cave, SD	Weathermon 2011
Maple (<i>Acer</i> sp.)	Yukon ice patches	Hare et al. 2004:263
Phragmites Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i> subsp. <i>americanus</i>)	Crystal Cave, SD	Weathermon 2011
	Falcon Hill, NV	Hattori & Tuohy 1982
	Gypsum Cave, NV	Harrington 1933
	Leonard Rockshelter, NV	Heizer 1951
	Newberry Cave, NV	Davis & Smith 1981
	White Dog Cave, AZ	Guernsey & Kidder 1921
Sotol / Desert Spoon (<i>Dasyllirion</i> sp.; probably <i>texanum</i>)	Ceremonial Cave, TX	Cosgrove 1947
Spruce (<i>Picea</i> sp.)	Yukon ice patches	Hare et al. 2004:263
Willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.)	Crystal Cave, SD	Weathermon 2011
	Daughtery Cave, WY	Frison 1968; Weathermon 2011
	Falcon Hill, NV	Hattori & Tuohy 1982
	New Berry Cave, NV	Davis & Smith 1981
	Spring Creek Cave, WY	Frison 1965; Weathermon 2011
	White Dog Cave, AZ	Garnett (personal communication)
	Yukon ice patches	Hare et al. 2004:263
NOTES		

The above list includes only definitive identifications for pre-columbian artifacts, mostly from the Western US where drier conditions lend to perishable artifact preservation. Hare et al. also looks at artifacts melting out of the Yukon ice. Some may wonder why River Cane (*Arundinaria* sp.) is not on the list. Cushing reported a cane dart fragment in his excavations at Key Marco, though it should be further analyzed. Artifacts from the Ozark Bluffs also likely represent cane darts (Pettigrew 2012). In any case the humid climate of the East is likely the only culprit in its exclusion. Based on the Aztec codex imagery, which appear to represent cane darts, we may also believe forms of it were popular in Mesoamerica. Garcilaso de la Vega (Swanton 1938) mentions darts used against the Spanish near the mouth of the Mississippi, made of, "a firm rush, though spongy in the center, from which they also make their arrows." This may be Arrow Grass (*Gynerium saggitatum*).