Danielle Sekula Collection Arrow, Dart and Fragmented Projectile Points Found Within the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region

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## OUR GOAL

Our goal at CHAPS is to try to identify evidence for the 10,000 year occupation of the Rio Grande Valley region. This entails photographing, describing and sometimes drawing or casting projectile points and establishing their date within known typologies. Identifying the stone or lithic source materials for the points and locating their place of discovery. With the permission of the "finder" and the landowner we will record sites with the Texas Historical Commission to ensure information on the sites is preserved for future generations. Information gleaned from these descriptive endeavors will be used for scholarly research purposes. All site locations will be kept confidential per the guidelines established by the State of Texas and the larger code of ethics adhered to by the Register of Professional Archaeologists.

## SITE LOCATIONS

The points found at the Rio Queen Edinburg, Texas came from various locations owned by the Rio Queen (Paramount) citrus company. One location is located off of Los Ebanos Road and Mile 9. All of the points were found from 2008 to 2012.

The points found on the ground of Rio Queen (Paramount) property outside of Edinburg, Texas have scattered locations. One location that was identifiable by Danielle Sekula is located in Donna, Texas where various points were found near a drainage canal in the orchards. One point in particular was located on flat ground half under soil and other half exposed. All the points were found from 2008 to 2013.

The points located in Zapata County were located on the ranch owned by Mr. Sekula when Danielle Sekula was a young girl. The property has since changed owners but holds great significance to the Sekula family. The points analyzed were found from 2000 to 2004. The ranch is located just north of Roma City, TX and was 1,700 acres in size.

## LOCATION COORDINATES (degrees, minutes, seconds)

## Sekula (Rio Queen Edinburg, Texas Points Location)

Lat: 26° 20' 36.80" N

Long: 98° 19' 15.82" W

## Sekula (Rio Queen Various Locations where points were found) Donna Property

1) Lat: 26° 15' 41.34" N

Long: 98° 4' 34.09" W

- 2) Lat: 26° 22′ 39.02″ N Long: 98° 16′ 3.94″ W
- Lat: 26° 22' 26.55" N Long: 98° 16' 4.72" W

# Sekula (Zapata County Private Ranch)

Lat: 26° 27' 38.97" N

Long: 99° 0' 4.34" W

#	Material	Туре	Color	Location	Period
1	Chert	Preform	7/3 Very Pale	Rio Queen –	Unidentified –
		(unfinished)	Brown	Edinburg	unfinished point
					or broken tip
2	Chert	Possible	7/1 Light	Rio Queen –	Middle Archaic
		Tortugas	Gray	Edinburg	2500BC – 1000BC
3	Chert	Matamoros	6/3 Pale	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
			Brown	Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
4	Chert	Abasolo	4/6 Dark	Rio Queen –	Early Archaic
			Yellowish	Edinburg	6000-2500 BC
			Brown		
5	Chert	Catan	5/3 Brown	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
				Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
6	Chert	Tortugas	8/1 White	Rio Queen –	Middle Archaic
				Edinburg	2500BC – 1000BC
7	Chert	Possible	8/3 Very Pale	Rio Queen –	Middle Archaic
		Tortugas	Brown	Edinburg	2500BC – 1000BC
8	Chert	Possible	6/4 Light	Rio Queen –	Middle Archaic
		Tortugas	Yellowish	Edinburg	2500BC – 1000BC
			Brown		
9	Chert	Catan	8/1 White	Rio Queen –	Middle Archaic
				Edinburg	2500BC – 1000BC
10	Higly Weathered	Guerrero	8/2 Very Pale	Rio Queen –	Historic
	Fine Grain; Possibly		Brown	Edinburg	AD1700 – AD1600
	a Rhyolite				
11	Chert	Guerrero	6/3 Pale	Rio Queen –	Historic
			Brown	Edinburg	AD1700 – AD1600

Projectile Points: Danielle Sekula Collection (Rio Queen – Edinburg) – March 2013

12 13	Chert	Catan	5/3 Brown	Rio Queen –	
13			5/5 DIOWII	Kiu Queen –	Late Archaic
13				Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
	Chert	Matamoros	7/3 Very Pale	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
			Brown	Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
14	Chert	Matamoros	3/2 Dusty	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
			Red	Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
15	Chert	Matamoros	8/2 Pinkish	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
			White	Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
16	Chert	Matamoros	5/1 Gray	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
				Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
17	Chert	Fresno	7/1 Light	Rio Queen –	Late Prehistoric
			Gray	Edinburg	AD700 – AD1600
18	Chert	Fresno or	8/1 White	Rio Queen –	Late Prehistoric
		Possible		Edinburg	AD700 – AD1600
		preform			
19	Chert	Catan	5/2 Brown	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
				Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
20	Chert	Early	7/4 Very Pale	Rio Queen –	Early Archaic
		Triangular	Brown	Edinburg	6000-2500 BC
21	Chert	Guerrero	6/4 Light	Rio Queen –	Historic
			Yellowish	Edinburg	AD1700 – AD1600
			Brown		
22 F	Fine Grained highly	Matamoros	6/1 Gray	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
v	weathered Volcanic			Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
	Igneous rock				
23	Chert	Perforator/Drill	6/4 Yellowish	Rio Queen –	Archaic Period
			Brown	Edinburg	
24	Chert	Matamoros	6/2 Pinkish	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
			Gray	Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
25	Chert	Matamoros	6/1 Gray	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
				Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
26	Chert	Matamoros	5/2 Grayish	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
			Brown	Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
27	Chert	Matamoros	4/3 Brown	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
				Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
28	Chert	Catan	6/3 Pale	Rio Queen –	Late Archaic
			Brown	Edinburg	1000 BC – 300 BC
29	Chert	Fresno	4/3 Weak	Rio Queen –	Late Prehistoric
			Red	Edinburg	AD700 – AD1600

#	Material	Туре	Color	Location	Period
30	Chert	Possible blade/scraper	6/2 Light Brownish Gray	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Various forms from Paleo-Indian to Late Prehistoric
31	Chert	Fresno	6/3 Pale Brown	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
32	Chert	Fresno	7/3 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
33	Chert	Catan	8/4 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
34	Chert	Possible Tool used for small cutting	6/1 Gray	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Various forms from Paleo-Indian to Late Prehistoric
35	Chert	Catan like	4/1 Dark Gray	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
36	Chert	Catan like	7/4 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
37	Chert	Matamoros	6/2 Light Brownish Gray	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
38	Chert	Guerrero	7/1 Light Gray	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Historic AD1700 – AD1600
39	Chert	Catan/smaller for an average Catan	6/4 Light Yellowish Brown	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
40	Chert	Fresno	2/1 Black	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
41	Fine Grained Volcanic; Layered almost like glass*	Cameron	2/2 Very Dark Brown	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
42	Chert	Guerrero	8/1 White with very pale brown	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Historic AD1700 – AD1600
43	Chert	Matamoros	6/1 Gray	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
44	Chert	Cameron	8/3 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
45	Chert	Cameron	7/1 Light Gray	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
46	Chert	Cameron	6/3 Pale Brown	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600

#	Material	Туре	Color	Location	Period
47	Chert	Cameron	6/2 Light Brownish Gray	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
48	Chert	Cameron	7/2 Light Gray	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
49	Chert	Cameron	7/3 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen – Edinburg	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600

Projectile Points: Danielle Sekula Collection (Rio Queen Various Locations) – March 2013

#	Material	Туре	Color	Location	Period
1	Chert	Pandora	8/4 Very Pale	Rio Queen	Middle Archaic
			Brown	Various	2500 BC – 1000 BC
				Locations	
2	Chert	Early Triangular	7/3 Very Pale	Rio Queen	Early Archaic
			Brown	Various	6000-2500 BC
				Locations	
3	Chert	Catan	3/1 Very	Rio Queen	Late Archaic
			Dark Gray	Various	1000 BC – 300 BC
			with Brown	Locations	
			stripes		
4	Chert	Preform	8/2 Very Pale	Rio Queen	-
			Brown	Various	
				Locations	
5	Chert	Tool/Serrated	7/2 Light	Rio Queen	-
		Edge	Gray	Various	
				Locations	
6	Fine Grain Black	Catan	3/1 Very	Rio Queen	Late Archaic
	Chert; Almost like		Dark Gray	Various	1000 BC – 300 BC
	glass*			Locations	
7	Chert	Early Triangular	6/2 Light	Rio Queen	Early Archaic
			Brownish	Various	6000-2500 BC
			Gray	Locations	
8	Chert	Matamoros	4/3 Reddish	Rio Queen	Late Archaic
			Brown	Various	1000 BC – 300 BC
				Locations	
9	Petrified Wood*	Unknown	7/4 Pink	Rio Queen	Unidentified –
				Various	unfinished point
				Locations	or broken tip
10	Fine Grained	Matamoros	5/1 Gray	Rio Queen	Late Archaic
	Volcanic Rock;			Various	1000 BC – 300 BC
	Dacite			Locations	

#	Material	Туре	Color	Location	Period
11	Chert	Catan like/ edge cut off/ possible small tool	7/4 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
12	Chert	Matamoros	7/1 Light Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
13	Chert	Cameron/Large	7/2 Light Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
14	Chert	Fresno	3/1 Very Dark Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
15	Chert	Fresno	3/6 Dark Yellowish Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
16	Chert	Fresno	5/4 Yellowish Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
17	Chert	Guerrero	7/4 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Historic AD1700 – AD1600
18	Chert	Clump/ unidentifiable	2/1 Black	Rio Queen Various Locations	Unidentified – unfinished point or broken tip
19	Chert	Frio base	4/1 Dark Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Transitional Archaic
20	Chert	Fresno (thick)	5/3 Reddish Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
21	Chert	Unknown	7/3 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Unidentified – unfinished point or broken tip or stem
22	Chert with Inclusions*	Unknown	4/3 Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Unidentified – unfinished point or broken tip or stem
23	Chert	Fresno	4/1 Dark Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
#	Material	Туре	Color	Location	Period

24	Chert	Fresno	7/2 Light Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
25	Chert	Fresno	7/1 Light Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
26	Chert	Starr	6/4 Light Yellowish Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
27	Chert	Caracara	6/2 Light Brownish Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
28	Chert	Tip of point/type of point unknown	7/1 Light Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Unidentified – unfinished point or broken tip or stem
29	Chert	Starr	8/1 White	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
30	Chert	Starr	5/6 Yellowish Red	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
31	Chert	Starr	6/6 Brownish Yellow	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
32	Chert	Tip of point/ type of point Unknown	6/2 Light Brownish Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Unidentified – unfinished point or broken tip or stem
33	Chert	Fresno	6/2 Light Brownish Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
34	Chert	Possible Knife/Blade*	7/3 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	-
35	Chert	Unknown	7/3 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Unidentified – unfinished point or broken tip or stem
36	Chert with Iron Bands	Preform	7/2 Light Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	-

#	Material	Туре	Color	Location	Period
37	Chert	Possible Abasolo Preform	7/4 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Early Archaic 6000-2500 BC
38	Weathered Rhyolite	Base of Refugio	5/3 Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Middle Archaic 2500 BC – 1000 BC
39	Chert	Unknown	7/4 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Unidentified – unfinished point or broken tip or stem
40	Chert with Inclusions*	Unknown	4/2 Dark Grayish Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Unidentified – unfinished point or broken tip or stem
41	Chert	Possible Catan	7/6 Yellow	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
42	Rhyolite; Igneous Rock	Refugio	7/1 Light Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Middle Archaic 2500 BC – 1000 BC
43	Chert	Preform/not complete/possi ble cutting utensil	8/1 White	Rio Queen Various Locations	_
44	Chert	Refugio	5/2 Grayish Brown (Speckled)	Rio Queen Various Locations	Middle Archaic 2500 BC – 1000 BC
45	Chert	Fresno	7/2 Pinkish Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
46	Chert	Matamoros	6/1 Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
47	Weathered Rhyolite	Cameron	7/8 Yellow	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
48	Super Fine Grain Volcanic rock; like glass*	Matamoros	2/1 Very Dark Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC

#	Material	Туре	Color	Location	Period
49	Chert	Fresno	6/1 Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
50	Chert	Catan (thick)	8/3 Very Pale Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
51	Chert	Catan base	4/2 Dark Grayish Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
52	Chert	Fresno	8/1 White	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
53	Chert	Matamoros	¾ Dark Yellowish Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
54	Chert	Cameron	6/2 Light Brownish Gray	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
55	Chert	Cameron	6/4 Light Yellowish Brown	Rio Queen Various Locations	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600

# Projectile Points: Danielle Sekula Collection (Zapata County) – March 2013

#	Material	Туре	Color	Location	Period
1	Chert	Preform	6/3 Pale	Zapata	-
			Brown	County	
2	Chert	Possible	7/1 Light	Zapata	-
		Tool/Scraper	Gray	County	
3	Chert	Preform	7/2 Light	Zapata	-
			Gray	County	
4	Chert	Catan	4/6 Dark	Zapata	Late Archaic
			Yellowish	County	1000 BC – 300 BC
			Brown		
5	Chert	Unidentified/	5/3 Brown	Zapata	Late Archaic
		Possible		County	1000 BC – 300 BC
		Matamoros			
6	Chert	Matamoros	8/1 White	Zapata	Late Archaic
				County	1000 BC – 300 BC

7	Chert	Matamoros	8/1 White (has speckles around it)	Zapata County	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
#	Material	Туре	Color	Location	Period
8	Chert	Guerrero	6/3 Pale Brown	Zapata County	Historic AD1700 – AD1600
9	Chert	Matamoros	6/3 Pale Brown	Zapata County	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
10	Chert	Guerrero	8/3 Very Pale Brown	Zapata County	Historic AD1700 – AD1600
11	Chert	Fresno	¾ Dark Yellowish Brown	Zapata County	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
12	Chert	Matamoros	7/1 Light Gray	Zapata County	Late Archaic 1000 BC – 300 BC
13	Chert	Fresno	2/2 Very Dark Brown	Zapata County	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
14	Chert	Fresno	8/3 Very Pale Brown	Zapata County	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600
15	Chert	Starr	8/1 White	Zapata County	Late Prehistoric AD700 – AD1600

All points with a star symbol at the end of the material will have a special comment below\*

## Descriptions for each type of point:

<u>Abasolo</u> (dart point) is a large, triangular point that has a distinctive well rounded base. The lateral edges may be beveled or steeply chipped, and the base is sometimes thinned. It is similar to Catan points but larger in size (Turner and Hester 1999: 68).

<u>Cameron</u> (arrow point) is a tiny, usually equilateral, triangular point with straight to slightly convex edges a few are unifacially chipped, and some are made of glass. Similar to *Fresno* type, but smaller (Turner and Hester 1999: 204).

<u>Caracara</u> (arrow point) is side-notched, small, very thin point that has been defied by R. K. Saunders. The convex to nearly straight lateral edges of the point are often finely serrated. Flaking is random but usually well executed (Turner and Hester 1999: 205).

<u>Catán</u> (dart point) is a triangular, unstemmed point that has straight to slightly convex lateral edges that are sometimes beveled and a convex, well-rounded base that has been thinned by the removal of tone or two broad, arch-shaped flakes. The outline is similar to *Abasolo*, but *Catán* points are smaller (Tuner and Hester 1999: 89).

**Early Triangular** (dart point) is a triangular point that usually is characterized by careful paralleloblique flaking, straight to slightly concave basses, and alternately-beveled lateral edges (which may be slightly serrated) (Turner and Hester 1999: 108).

**Fresno** (arrow point) is stemless, triangular that has straight to slightly convex or concave lateral edges, and a convex or slightly concave base. It is similar to *Cameron* but over 20mm in length (Turner and Hester 1999: 213).

**Frio** (dart point) has a triangular body, often short and broad, with wide side or corner-notches and a concave basal indentation that ranges from shallow to deep U-shaped notch (Turner and Hester 1999: 122).

<u>Guerrero</u> (arrow point) triangular to lanceolate points made during the Spanish Colonial era (1700's) of Coahuila and Texas, often referred to as "mission" points. They sometimes have very careful parallel-flaking and are often found in mission Indian middens as well as ranchos and at historic Indian occupation sites (Turner and Hester 1999: 216).

<u>Matamoros</u> (dart point) is a small, often thick, triangular or sub triangular, point that is similar to *Tortugas*, but markedly smaller. Average length of *Tortugas* is 4.9 mm – 6.7 mm and *Matamoros* ranges from 3.2 mm to 4.7 mm in length (Turner and Hester 1999: 153).

# <u>Preform</u>

**Perforator/Drill** is a tool that is characterized by a long and tapered bit that is diamond-shaped in cross-section. The bit and proximal end are bifacially flaked and sometimes exhibit retouching; the tips of drills are often blunted or dulled (Turner and Hester 1999: 270).

**<u>Refugio</u>** (dart point) is unstemmed, elongated-triangular point that sometimes has a needle-like distal tip. The base is convex and often thinned. It is possible that some may be preforms or knives (Turner and Hester 1999: 178).

<u>Scraper</u> various forms and quality of workmanship in this category of unifacially flaked artifacts that are traditionally referred to, and presumably functioned, as scrapers. Found in a wide range of shapes and forms; most are made on large flakes or blades and are characterized by a steeply flaked working edge. Scrapers are found throughout the Texas region (Turner and Hester 1999: 280).

<u>Starr</u> (arrow point) a triangular point that is distinguished by slightly concave lateral edges and has a pronounced basal concavity (Turner and Hester 1999: 231).

**Tortugas** (dart point) are large, triangular points that have an approximately straight to concave base and alternately beveled edges. It is often thick and crudely flaked in the midsection and well-thinned basally (Turner and Hester 1999: 188).

# **SPECIAL COMMENTS**

Item #9 (Rio Queen Various Areas Collection) has been identified as petrified wood. The point is triangular in shape but is unidentifiable. It is very rare to find a petrified wood projectile point.

Items # 41(Edinburg Collection) #6 and #48 (Rio Queen Various Areas Collection) were found to be very unique in that they both were very fine grained and resembled the material of glass.

Item # 22 (Rio Queen Various Areas Collection) was unidentifiable in point type but showed very find knapping. Noted because the knapping are almost paper thin, not commonly found in all projectile points.

Item # 40 (Rio Queen Various Areas Collection) was unidentifiable in point type but when viewed under a microscopic lens, the stone shows little specks of something that seems to be metallic. This material type was identified as chert with angular inclusions.

Item # 34 (Rio Queen Various Areas Collection) was unique in that it is a much larger projectile point than the others. At first glance we wanted to place it within the Paleo-Indian era as a Scottsbluff but revisited the point and found that it was most identifiable to a knife or blade of some sort. This is a very unique and large piece.

Special note: Some points within this collection that are comprised of chert could have been made using the materials found at the outcrop of chert just north of Rio Grande City that is referred to as El Sauz Outcrop. Prehistoric people settled in these areas and possibly mined and visited the outcrop.

## SOURCES

## Munsell Color 2009 <u>Munsel Soil-Color Charts</u>. Munsel Color, Grand Rapids, MI.

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2010 "El Sauz Chert: A Distinctive Lithic Resource on the Lower Rio Grande". Southern Texas Archaeological Association, San Antonio.

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