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POSTERS

CHERT'S SOURCE IN LAS TRAVESÍAS FROM THE CENTER OF ARGENTINA. A CASE STUDY IN THE ARID ZONE

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Cryptocrystalline sedimentary rocks have been recovered in a large number of archaeological sites from central Argentina (Pampas, Central-West, and Central Mountains archeological regions). Most of the analyses on this rock were focused on technotypological studies of the artifacts and wastes recovered from residential sites. Accordingly, the study of archaeological quarries has been relegated. Las Travesías is a semi-arid zone where the water and the lithic sources are critical in the decisions taken by the hunter-gatherers. In this opportunity we present the detection and survey of two chert quarries - "Loma de Los Pedernales" and "Alto

del Lechuzo"- that are situated on the edges of the archaeological regions of the Pampas and the Central-West. These sources are located in the province of San Luis and are 200 km separated from each other. So far, the provenance of artifacts from both quarries has been verified in different sites that are distributed on a total surface of more than 40,000

km². We present the results obtained on the characterization of the rocks in both quarries characteristics (abundance, visibility, distribution, among others). Finally, we discuss some distributional trends on these resources in the landscape, as well as the potential presence of similar lithic supplies.