PROFILE STRATIGRAPHY AND SAMPLING

Profile Overview
Profile Section 12 (PS12) is located centrally in the south trench wall of Eagle Cave at a point of transition from superior preservation (just behind the shelter’s dripline) to increasingly fragmented organics and compacted sediments near the back of the shelter. The profile is characterized by dense fire cracked rock (FCR) from earth oven cooking capping alternating deposits of fibers (plant remains), FCR, and latrine deposits. Two sampling columns (Units 57 and 64) were excavated by stratigraphic layer (strat) in the eastern half of the profile. When sampling strats individually was not feasible, several strats were combined into a unit layer.

Strat Descriptions (listed top to bottom)
1. Disturbed, dominated by dense FCR.
2. Dense FCR with ash and some fiber.
3. Thin lens of burned fiber.
4. Thin lens of “ashy” silt with little FCR.
6. Charcoal stained “ashy” silt; few FCR.
7. Lens of fiber and coprolites in silt matrix.
8. Fibrous; possibly urine compacted.
9. Lens of fiber and coprolites in silt matrix, extends only ~40cm into exposure.
10. Compact with irregular topography and some fibers; possibly urine compacted; overlaying or intermixed with FCR.
11. Semi-compact “ashy” silt with few FCR, some fibers likely intrusive from S234.
12. Small patch of fiber and coprolites.
13. Dense FCR in a loose “ashy” silt.
14. Thick fiber layer with scattered FCR.
15. Originally thought to be intact but found to be disturbed during excavation.
16. Originally thought to be intact but found to be disturbed during excavation.
17. White “ashy” silt with crumbly limestone and FCR.

Data Summary
The graphs at right present data from the sampling columns (Units 57 and 64). Note that data correlate imperfectly in the sampling columns as some strats were lumped together into layers during excavation, and other strats were not present in both sampling columns. An asterisk indicates that a strat was sampled individually in one unit, but was not sampled individually in the unit-layer listed in parenthesis. For instance, within Matrix volume, S229 and S232 were collected individually in Unit 64, but S230 was not present in Unit 64. In Unit 57, S229, S231, and S230 were collected as part of Layer 2.

PS12 PRELIMINARY DATA

Matrix Volume of Layers/Strats
Fiber Mass in Layers/Strats
Debitage Count in Layers/Strats

Fiber Mass in Layers/Strats

Debitage Count in Layers/Strats

Artifacts
Artifacts found in sampling PS12 include a bone tool, a groundstone fragment, a wooden artifact with cut marks, 6 fiber knots and 2 strands of cordage, 2 cores, 8 modified flakes, 3 painted pebbles, 19 manuports, 2 quids, 45 paleofeces or fragments of paleofeces, and abundant faunal and botanical remains.

The Future of PS12!
Anticipated data and study includes radiocarbon dating, faunal, botanical, coprolite, pXRF, micromorph, residue and artifact analysis. PS12 has an important role to play in understanding site use, formation and preservation processes at Eagle Cave.

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EAGLE CAVE SOUTH TRENCH 2015: PROFILE SECTION 12

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