

Ivory sled arch with Okvik engraving, 23 cm



This half segment of an arch contains two holes near the convex edge, and a notch for fastening with a scored underside at one end.

Eight specimens (3 ivory, 5 bone, one decorated) of such sled arches are described by Rainey (1941), and three are illustrated in his Fig. 16, No. 7, 8 and 9 (see below). These are bow-shaped with a rough groove or notch at each end for fastening and have perforations in the outer edge of the bow. The ~44 cm specimen, that is almost identical to the example shown above except that it is undecorated, has four perforations on the outer edge (Fig. 16-9). Rainey writes that "these probably are arches used across the front end of a sled to which the traces or towing lines are attached", and that "those with several perforations like No. 9 suggest end pieces in which several towing lines or traces were attached".

Rainey, F.G. (1941): *Eskimo Prehistory: The Okvik Site on the Punuk Islands*. Memoirs, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

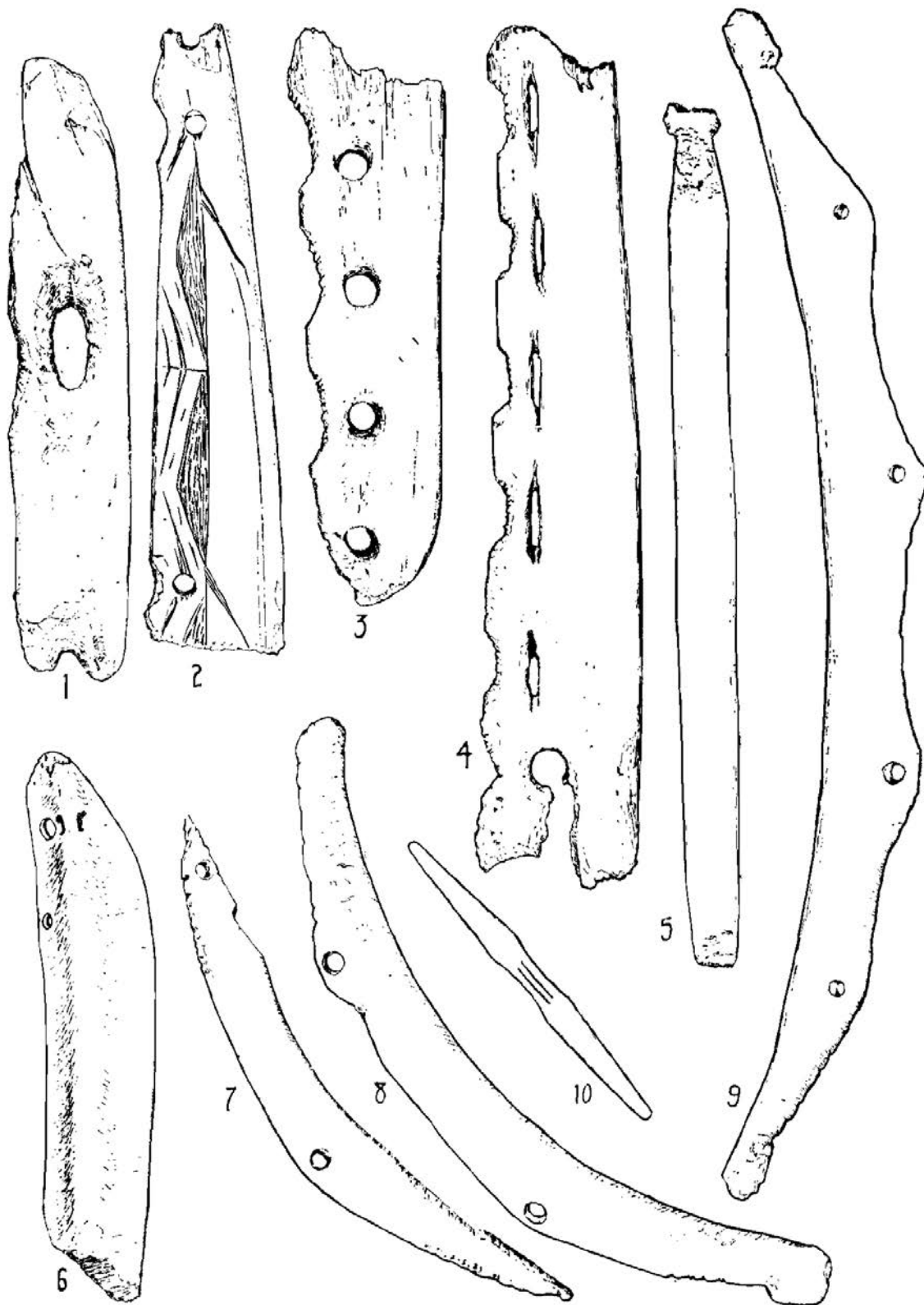


Fig. 16. Sled Runners, Sled Cross-Pieces, Sled Shoes, Sled Arches, Drag-Line Handles, and Balcen Toboggans. Length of No. 1, 23 cms.