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Connections with Hawaiki: the Evidence of a Shell Tool from Wairau Bar, Marlborough, New Zealand

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ABSTRACT A tool from the archaeological site at Wairau Bar, New Zealand, is

identified as an import from the tropical Pacific. The tool was made by working a cutting edge on the apex of a spiral gastropod shell, identified as *Acus crenulatus* (formerly *Terebra crenulata*) (family Terebridae). Similar tools have been found in a number of sites in tropical East Polynesia, dating to the same general time period as Wairau Bar. The tool supports the view that the Wairau Bar site was a pioneering settlement close in time to the initial Polynesian arrival in New Zealand.

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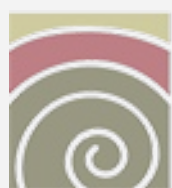
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