



Abstract Details

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Title: Emerging evidences of antiquity of human settlements in some areas of western coast of India transgressed by sea

Abstract:

A number of potential sea bed samples were dated by ¹⁴C dating method from the shores of western India to understand the antiquity of human settlements in the coastal areas of India. The main localities investigated in the present context are Bet Dwarka Island, Gulf of Cambay and Thakkal on Kerala coast. The recovered charcoal and shell pieces from Bet Dwarka Island, excavated sites by K.H. Vohra, NIO, Goa were dated by ¹⁴C method and their ages range from 1940-3600 B.P. The dates are of great significance in establishing the cultural sequence of the Bet Dwarka Island. A carbonised wood sample was found at a depth of 20-40 m from a submerged palaeochannel in the Gulf of Cambay by NIOT, Chennai and was dated at BSIP by ¹⁴C method. It was found that the age of the wood sample is about 9500 years BP. The date shows that this is one of the early records of prehistoric human activity of early Holocene in the coastal area of India now submerged. A wood sample of a ship excavated from Thakkal, Alappuzha District, Kerala was dated to understand the age of ship building industry in Kerala. The age of the wood sample was found to be 990 years B.P. (BS-1982). The result shows the wood was from a recently made ship. The anatomical study of the wood revealed that the present specimen belongs to the wood of *Artocarpus hirsuta* Lamk. Thus these studies have provided latest information on human settlements along the western coast.

Presentation Mode: Oral

Keywords: C-14 dating, Bet Dwarka Island, Gulf of Cambay, Thikkal wood, Wood Anatomy, Antiquity of human settlements

Status: Pending.

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