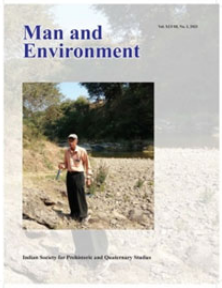

Man and Environment
ABSTRACTS
Volume XLVIII, No. 1 (January-June 2023)

1. Notes on Geoarchaeology of Hunsgi-Baichbal Valleys of the Shorapur Doab, North Karnataka
S.N. Rajaguru

After brief comments about the geological and climatic history of India, this paper highlights the principal geoarchaeological aspects of the Hunsgi-Baichbal valleys located in the southwestern corner of Shorapur Doab in North Karnataka. These observations relate to the lateral origin of high-level gravels found on the banks of the Krishna and Bhima rivers, the erosional origin of the two valleys in the Tertiary period, Pleistocene sedimentary stratigraphy and the Stone Age cultural record associated with it. The Early Acheulian levels at Hunsgi and Isampur are assigned to the Early Pleistocene on the basis of their association with weathered bedrock (granite/limestone), and the absence of calcrete in these levels suggests that the climate was of the wet semi-arid type.

S.N. Rajaguru, *Man and Environment* XLVIII (1): 1-4 [2023].
ME-2023-1A01

2. Evidence for the Presence of Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherer Communities on Khadir Island, Great Rann of Kachchh, Gujarat
V.N. Prabhakar, Shikha Rai, Vikrant Jain, J.S. Ray and Ravi Bhushan

The human occupation from Early Harappan times onwards on Khadir Island, the Great Rann of Kachchh, is well-known due to the excavations at Dholavira. The possible presence of other Early Harappan settlements on this island has also recently been indicated by researchers. The entire cultural dynamics of the Harappans and the related trade activities are well-attested by evidence at Dholavira. The well-planned settlements at a vantage location on the island would not have been possible without a proper understanding of the topography and surface run-off during the monsoon season. However, the discovery of an Early Harappan settlement between the streams of Mansar and Manhar has led to several questions being raised about human occupation during prehistoric times. The possibility of prehistoric sites on Khadir Island is strengthened by the discoveries made in the similar geographical location of the Las Bela region of Pakistan, where hunter-gatherer presence has been attested to in over 29 locations. The chance findings from a channel cutting on a hillock near Bambhanka exposed a compact shell-midden horizon of roughly 30-40 cm thickness. Most of the shell remains display breakage on the central part presumably to extract meat from them. The

evidence also corroborates similar findings from the Las Bela region of Pakistan, which are placed between the seventh and fifth millennia BCE. The possibility of hunter-gatherer communities depending on the shell remains as a food source and participating in long-distance trade with inland sites like Mehrgarh cannot be ruled out. This paper discusses in detail the discovery of shell-midden sites on Khadir Island.

V.N. Prabhakar, *et al.*, *Man and Environment* XLVIII (1): 5-14 [2023].
ME-2023-1A02

3. An Appraisal of Shell Working Evidence from Harappan Settlements in Kachchh, Gujarat
Arati Deshpande-Mukherjee

In Gujarat, evidence for shell working, i.e., the manufacture of shell objects, during the Harappan/Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) is now well attested from its several settlements. The shell evidence reveals the large-scale manufacture of shell objects such as bangles, beads, inlays, ladles, etc. between 2600 and 1900 BCE. Although attempts at reconstruction of shell working have been carried out for sites such as Nageshwar, Kuntasi, Nagwada, etc., for the sites in the Kachchh region they have been limited. In the last few decades, excavations of some important Harappan sites in this region have yielded appreciable evidence for this particular craft activity. Hence, this paper attempts to get insights into its various aspects by taking into account the shell evidence recovered from excavated sites such as Khirsara, Shikarpur, Dholavira, and Kotada Bhadli. These sites strongly indicate shell working as one of the important craft activities in Kachchh, which was chiefly carried out during the mature/urban phase, following which it declined only to be continued at very few sites like Dholavira.

Arati Deshpande-Mukherjee, *Man and Environment* XLVIII (1): 15-27 [2023].
ME-2023-1A03

4. Cupules found in the Megalithic Site of Kalikavu in Meenachil Taluka, Kottayam District, Kerala
Cyriac Jose

This paper provides details about recent investigations of Iron Age-Megalithic sites in the Meenachil River Basin in the Kottayam District of Kerala where evidence of a dolmen with cupules on its capstone was discovered. This paper briefly discusses the megalithic finds from the Meenachil River Basin and cupules reported from the other sites in Kerala with special attention on the cupules of the Megalithic site at Kalikavu.

Cyriac Jose, *Man and Environment* XLVIII (1): 28-36 [2023].
ME-2022-1A04

5. A Note on Rock Shelters from Pennagaram Region, Middle Cauvery Basin, Tamil Nadu
Mutharasu Anbalagan, Aditti Ponnaiyan and M. Don Wesley

The abundance of rock art in South India from the Late Pleistocene period provides a glimpse of the early human artistic, cognitive, symbolic and aesthetic behaviours. Six new sites from the authors' micro-regional survey in Tamil Nadu's Pennagaram region are reported in this note.

Mutharasu Anbalagan *et al*., *Man and Environment* XLVIII (1): 37-41 [2023].
ME-2022-1A05

6. A Preliminary Report of the Excavation at Bhorkala (2021-22), District Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
Anil Kumar Dubey, Virag G. Sontakke and Rahul Kumar Tyagi

Bhorkala is situated about 35 km west of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The site was excavated by the department of Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology, Banaras Hindu University, to understand the cultural sequence of the site, nature of the site, and its relationship with adjoining big centres like Agiabir and Rajghat. The small-scale excavation of the session 2021-22 revealed ceramics like Black Slipped Ware, Red Ware, and Red Slipped Ware including the NBPW and associated Grey Ware. The excavations yielded significant artefacts such as bone points and arrowheads, terracotta discs, and a few terracotta and stone beads from the NBPW period. The material recovered during surface exploration indicates that the site was inhabited till the Gupta and post-Gupta periods. The present paper focuses on the preliminary results of the first session of excavations at the site.

Anil Kumar Dubey *et al., Man and Environment* XLVIII (1): 42-51 [2023].
ME-2023-1A06

7. An Annotated Bibliography of Prof. S.N. Rajaguru's Research Publications (1966 to 2023)
Sushama G. Deo and Jayendra J. Joglekar

This is a compilation of a comprehensive annotated bibliography highlighting Prof. S.N. Rajaguru's extensive contributions.

Sushama G. Deo and J.J. Joglekar, *Man and Environment* XLVIII (1): 52-89 [2023].
ME-2023-1A07

8. Reminiscences about Prof. S.N. Rajaguru

Hema Achyuthan, R.K. Ganjoo, Niranjan Ghate, Savita Ghate, Vishwas S. Kale, Shrikant Karlekar, Kiran Kaul, Ravi Korisettar, Arun Kumar, Sheila Mishra, S.B. Ota, K. Paddayya, R.S. Pappu, Shanti Pappu, Kumar Akhilesh and Prachi B. Joshi, A.K. Singhvi, Sudha Vaddadi

This is a collection of reminiscences about Prof. S.N. Rajaguru written by various academics that were influenced and motivated by this eminent person's exceptional work and intellectual accomplishments. These reminiscences contain a rich tapestry of personal accounts, anecdotes, and reflections that collectively paint a vivid portrait of Prof. Rajaguru's life, achievements, and impact on their respective fields.

Hema Achyuthan *et al.*, *Man and Environment* XLVIII (1): 90-111 [2023].
ME-2022-1A08