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Title: (BG1)< SIGNIFICANCE OF MARINE ARCHAEOBOTANICAL INVESTIGA FROM GULF OF KHAMBAT(CAMBAY) REGION, INDIAN SUB-CONTINEN

Abstract:

Prof. Mukund Kajale Archaeology Department Deccan College Postgra & Research Institute Pune-411006 (INDIA) Email: mkajale@vsnl.net T paper deals with initial archaeobotanical investigations on the wattle & materials (mud -plasters) retrieved by the team of scientists from Nat Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, India from offshore lo in Gulf of Khambat(Cambay) region. This is a part of various archaeol assemblage dredged out by NIOT scientists from zone I, about 20-40 shores of Suwali and zone II, about 20 km offshore of Hazira. .The zo has yielded extremely well preserved mud-plasters with occasional po pieces while zone II has yielded some evidence of hearth and structur features (Kathiroli et al. 2003 & 2004). The author has focussed study palaeobotanical aspects of ancient wattle and daub remains, which is of its kind in the Indian sub-continent, leading to the birth of new sub disciplines of MARINE ARCHAEOBOTANY and MARINE PALEO PHYTOLITHOLOGY in India. The mud plaster served as veritable mine variously broken vegetal parts in sub-fossil mineralised, semi-mineral and burnt conditions and the present study is giving new insights into regional Archaeology, prevailing natural resource exploitation/lifeways construction practices of ancient inhabitants occupying different locati within zone I during the period ranging from c. 7000-3500 B.P., as ba thermoluminescence/OSL dates directly obtained on wattle and daub and associated potsherds by NIOT (Grateful thanks to NIOT, DOD coll and Dating experts). The botanical components are mostly remains of different parts of plants belonging to family gramineae, (especially bamubseae), palmae, etc. in the form of sub-fossil casts, petrifactions impressions and compressions with few traces of silicified organic mat (phytoliths) accidentally preserved in few mud plaster pieces as well a cast hollows. The parts tentatively diagnosed include Bambusoid leav bases, intact stems with nodes and internodes, culms, whitish encrust inside the nodes, burnt needle fragments, charred pointed bamboo pi solidified remains accidentally embedded in vitrified silica. They have assumed different structural forms but can be reasonably assigned to Bambusoid group through comparative examination of split portions c reference materials and prevailing ethnographic practices on Gujarat