

Palaeolithic Sites Discovered in the Lower Sind and their Significance in the Prehistory of the Country

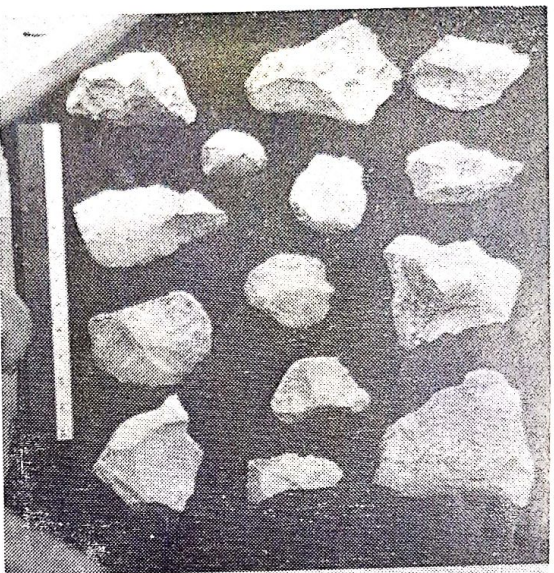
Summary

The discovery of Palaeolithic sites in the Lower Sind is the culmination of ten years' search by the author in the Karachi region and Sind Kohistan for the evidence of earliest human occupations in this region. It was anticipated in an earlier study by him published in 1968. During a field trip on 2nd April 1972, a fairly good number of tools were collected, which established the presence of the Levalloisian industry in the area beyond any doubt.

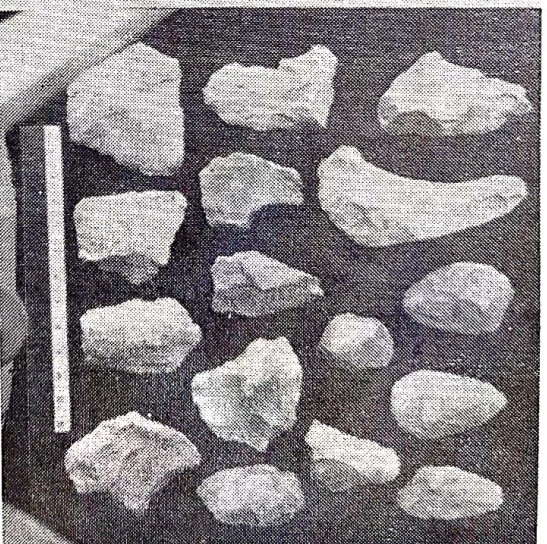
Main exploration work was carried out during the summer vacations of 1973, when the University provided jeep for field work. The work was done under extremely trying conditions of excessive heat, but the results obtained proved to be equally rewarding. From the large collection of numerous sites five main industries of Palaeolithic age were recognized and traces of two transitional industries were also found.

The three oldest industries are associated with three gravel terraces or remnants of old piedmont slopes of varying elevations. The two later industries, particularly the fourth one, are found as surface material scattered all over the area. The following industries have been distinguished:-

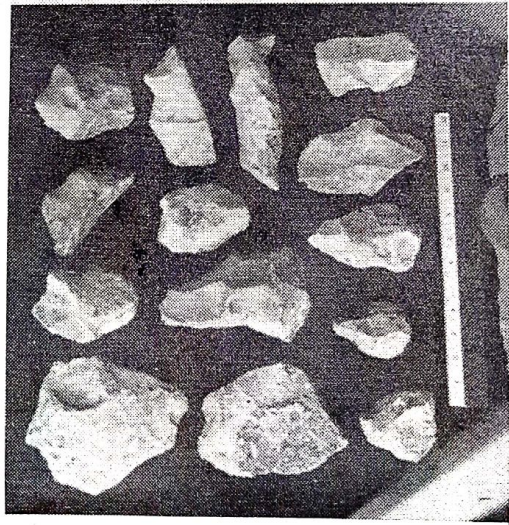
1. **Khaskheli Industry:** The oldest industry is the chopper-chopping-tool industry with predominance of chopping-tools. This industry has been named as *Khaskheli* Industry, after an old *Khaskheli* tribe, a family of which owns a farm near the oldest site.



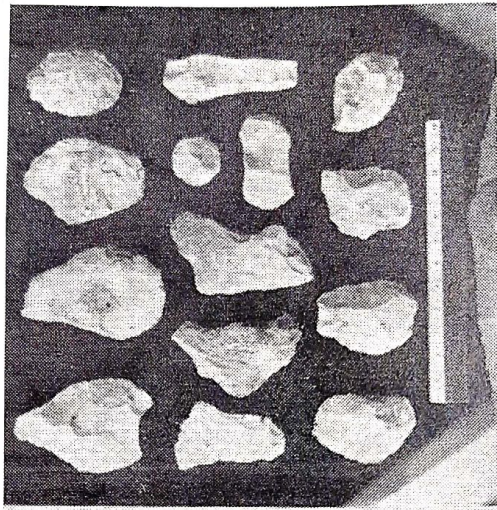
KHASKHELI Industry : Chopping tools
Middle Terrace



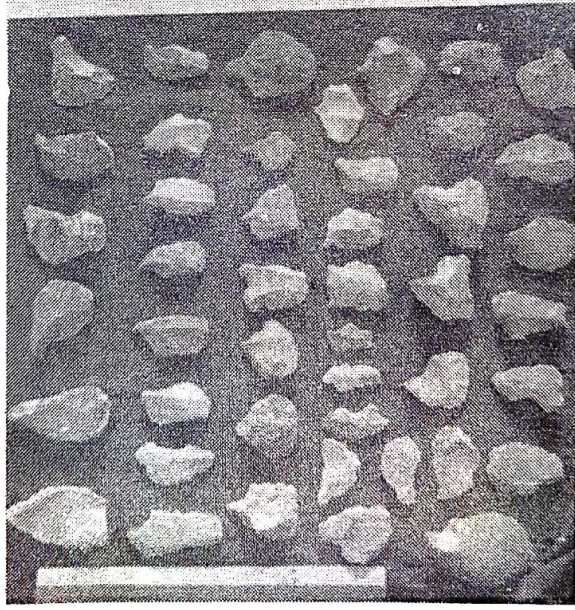
**ONGAR Industry : Acheulean hand-axes
& flakes; Middle Terrace**



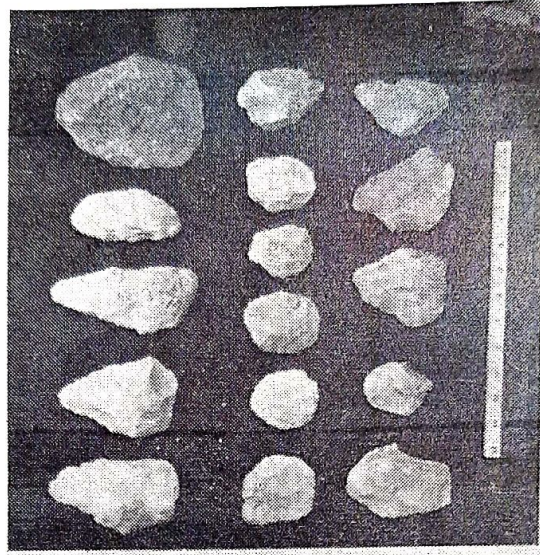
**KHASKHELI Industry : Choppers and
Chopping tools; Higher congl. Terrace**



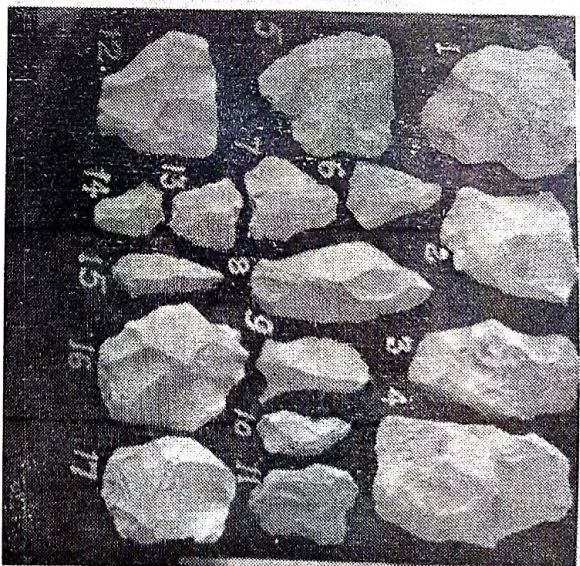
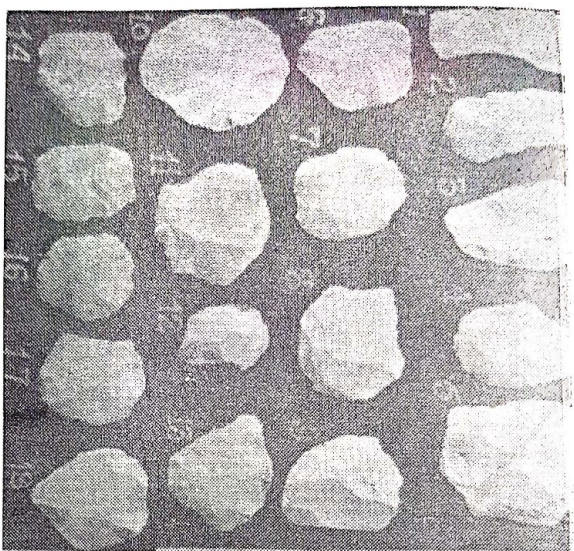
**ONGAR Industry : Mid-Acheulean hand-axes
and other tools; Higher Terrace**



**Denticulate Mousterian : Covering
the whole area and all Terraces**



**ONGAR Industry : Lanceolate Hand-axes
Late Middle and Late Acheulean; Middle Terrace**



MIHARO INDUSTRY : Typical Levalloisian cores, flakes and points; Lowest Conglomerate Terrace

2. **Ongar Industry**: The second oldest industry is a hand-axe industry with typical Mid-Acheulian hand-axes, cleavers and a host of other tools. This industry has been named *Ongar Industry* after the name of the entire hilly area. This industry shows affinities with the hand-axe industries of the Potwar in the north-east, Madrasian Industry in the southeast and the Middle Acheulian industries of Nubia in the far west.
3. **Miharo Industry**: The third industry, associated with the lowest gravel terrace and covering much larger area is Levalloisian industry, with its typical prepared cores and Levallois flakes and points. This industry has been named *Miharo Industry* after the village, close to which this industry has been found *in situ* in the gravel terrace.
4. The fourth industry is a crude industry spread all over the area—over all hill-tops, all terraces and valleys. It includes discoidal cores, crude cortical flakes, denticulate tools, scrapers, borers or beaked tools, resembling tools found extensively in south India, and belonging to, what is now termed, Middle Stone Age of India. A similar industry has recently been reported from Jahrom in Fars, Iran. A characteristic feature of this industry is that the tools show a shining reddish brown patina, resembling desert patina. This industry shows affinities with the Denticulate Mousterian.
5. The youngest industry of the area is a blade-burin and steep scraper industry resembling the earliest Upper Palaeolithic industry of the Levant coast, which Clark Howell has classified as Upper Palaeolithic 0 and Up. Palaeolithic 1.

Among the transitional industries, the first is the Acheuleo-Levalloisian industry, indicated by some tools like a cordiform hand-axe, one twisted ovate, both with very slight patina and some flake-tools resembling those reported by J. D. Clark from Somaliland and classified as Lower Acheuleo-Levalloisian. A few convergent scrapers on Levallois flakes and a few similarly worked points, suggest the development of Levalloiso-Mousterian industry in this region. These tools show resemblance with the Levalloiso-Mousterian industries of Cyrenaica and Nubia. After the early Upper Palaeolithic

Phase the area appears to have been abandoned by man for some reason.

Accumulation of all these industries suggests that this area served as a great corridor for the dissemination of ancient cultures from the earliest times of man's history. From here the cultural traits fanned out to the northeast upto Potwar Plateau, eastward into Rajasthan and Central India and southeastward into Narbada Valley and further on to the Madras region. Further researches on this area promise to fill vast spatial and chronological gaps of history of the early man in the South Asian sub-continent, and may also help establish correlations with other parts of the world at different levels of cultural evolution.

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