CHAPTER II

CATALOGUE AND DESCRIPTION OF MEGALITHIC SITES
EXPLORATION

In the northern and southern part of Bharatapuzha river valley covering largely the middle part of the Palghat region 40 localities were explored. Among them megalithic sites were noticed for the first time in 23 localities in addition to the previously known sites. They are catalogued in detail in relation with the topographical features.

THE REGION AND ITS TOPOGRAPHY:

In the region under study Bharatapuzha is the major river system that flows across the region westwards, joining the Arabian sea. The other rivers are the Bhavani, Siruvani in the east and Kunthi in the Mannarghat Taluk to the north.

The western ghat forms more or less south-east, north-west border with Palghat gap. This pass, known from very early time is an important trade route leading to Tamil Nadu (Logan W. 1884 P.86). Ponnani, which is the most important town in the western part of Palghat region, is on the west coast. It is on the confluence of Bharathapuzha with the sea. Another important town Shornur is about 30 kms away from the sea border. This region constitutes a part of the down ghat belt. Long ranges of hills of the western ghat complex lie
in the north-east region. The remaining parts are scattered hills and hillocks.

Thus the whole region largely is of hills and valleys with their evergreen forests.

The topographical feature of this region probably accounts for human habitation sites sparingly found. Large tracts of cultivable land are not numerous and must have been less in the past. The region therefore in the past was favourable more for hunting and pastoral economy than for regular agriculture. Thus these factors seem to explain for rather less number of sites in the past especially in the pre-historic period.

The major rock formations are in general, the laterite and granite exposure. Most of the isolated hills are granite. The western, northern, and southern parts have laterite formations. Whereas eastern part near the ghat has more granite covered hill ranges.

As mentioned above explorations were carried out in the Bharatapuzha river valley comprising largely laterite covering with granite exposures here and there and granite will ranges in the east. In this area are found 23 megalithic burial sites. The chief types of megalithic burials in these sites are
1. Cist with stone circles.
2. Cist chambers concealed under burrow.
3. Topikals
4. Kudaikals
5. Menhirs
6. Rock cut caves.

They will be discussed in detail at the relevant places.

In the explorations neither pre-historic sites (i.e., early palaeolithic, neolithic or the habitation sites of the early historical period) nor the early mediaeval sites were found. Some of the important temples of this region are studied by Sarkar (1978). Inevitably therefore the study is essentially of the megalithic burial sites.

The localities with megalithic sites are grouped area-wise keeping in view the rock materials there i.e., megaliths in the area north of Bharatapuzha and south of Bharatapuzha. However, in majority of the sites megaliths are damaged beyond restoration. Therefore the description is confined only to sites with intact megaliths.

DESCRIPTION

LOCALITY

Palakuzhy near Vadakkancherry in Alathur Taluk - 600 mts
above M.S.L - Presently a rubber estate in the vicinity of the sites.

**TOPOGRAPHY**

Thickly forested hilly region with granite exposures outside the plantation area that yields large sheets of granite slabs.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS**

Megalithic chamber tombs within burrows (Plate I - 2). All are of one type. Totally there are 8 burrows with 13 chambers. The burrows are not in alignment. The distance between the burrows varies from 2 mts to 5 mts. All the burrows are raised on bare rock surface. The diameter of the burrow may vary from 4 mts to 10 mts. A burrow may conceal one chamber or more. One of them contained as many as 3 and another 4 and the rest contained a chamber each. In burrows containing more chambers, the chambers may be usually in two rows and in each row they are arranged roughly parallel. In such burrows on the oblong side the space between the chambers varies from 1.47 to 2.21 mts. Thus they are not equidistant from one another. However, the orientation of all the chambers is exactly the same. None of the chambers is with either porthole or passage. But they are north-east, south-west oriented. The interior at the south-west end is wider than that at the north-east end. If the wider end is indicative
of the orientation it may be said that the chambers are south-west oriented. The chambers are clockwise and contra-clockwise. Contra-clockwise chambers are more in number.

The chambers within one burrow vary in dimensions but in small degree. The orthostats measuring 81 cm to 254 cm long and 75 cm to 250 cm broad were set in upright position abutting one another adjacently to form a rectangular chamber (Plate II: 3 & 4). Interior of the chambers measure 2 x 1.20 x 1.5 mts maximum and 1.41 x 0.98 x 0.75 mts minimum. However, the interior width of the chamber at the south-western end is 1.20 mts maximum and 0.98 mts minimum and at the north-east end 0.98 mts maximum and 0.65 mts minimum. The shape of the chamber is a trapezium.

What is striking in the structure is the burrow in the midst of the others is relatively the most prominent in height but not in diameter (Plate III - 1 & 2, Plate IV - 1 & 2). It measures 4 mts in diameter and 2.5 mts in height. Secondly the centre of the burrow is not a chamber but a platform with pillars. The pillars at the corners are fixed in the burrow packing. Whether these pillars are placed on the bare rock surface or from certain height can be known only by partial correct exposure. These pillars are not monolithic but structural-formed by placing irregular rubbles one on the other. The pillar form is also therefore irregular. The platform with pillar is
oblong in shape. It measures 2.62 mts length x 1.65 mts width x 2.50 mts height.

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All these burrows are previously disturbed. No antiquities are found inside or outside the chamber excepting one. In a single chambered burrow 2-3 potsherds and terracotta figurine were found in the earth inside the chamber.

The most interesting occurrence is terracotta figurines and pieces of pottery vessel ashy earth within a burrow beneath the platform.

LOCATION

Koranapara (Palakuzhy) near Vadakkencherry in Alathur taluk - 600 mts above M.S.L.. A rubber estate in the vicinity of the site.

TOPOGRAPHY

Granite exposures yielding granite slabs.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Megalithic cist chambers inside burrow (Plate V - 1 & 2, Plate VI - 1). Totally 5 burrows are found. The burrows are raised on the basal rock. They vary in size. The diameter of the burrow may vary from 4 to 8 mts. One burrow may contain one or more chambers. Out of the five burrows two burrows contained 3 chambers each, two contained two chambers each and one contained a single chamber. In the case of burrow containing more than one chamber, the chambers are arranged in a row.

The size of the chamber proper also varies slightly. The chamber measures 2.84 x 1.61 mts maximum and 1.41 x 1.04 mts minimum. The south-western side of the chamber is broader than north-eastern side. In one instance the south-western side measures 1.55 mts whereas the north-eastern side has 0.85 mts breadth. If broader side is any indication to the orientation, the chamber is north-east - south-west oriented. The chambers are trapezium in shape. None of the chambers have either porthole or passage.

LOCATION:

Mukhaparutha in Kizhakkencherry village-II in Alathur Taluk.
TOPOGRAPHY

Vast granite exposures yielding large granite slabs.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.

Megalithic cist chambers concealed under burrow.

In this site totally 8 such burrows are found. The size of the burrows is not uniform. The smallest had 24 mts and the biggest had 12 mts diameter. Number of chambers in a burrow ranged from 1 to 7. Burrows with single chamber, 4 chambers and 7 chambers were encountered. The chambers were arranged in a set pattern. In the case of a burrow with 7 chambers they are arranged in the following pattern. Three chambers in a row on the north-eastern periphery of the burrow and another 3 in a row on the south-western periphery of the burrow, and a single chamber in the centre of the burrow in between the two rows. In burrow with 4 chambers, the chambers were arranged in two parallel rows. Majority of the chambers were previously disturbed. The interior measurement of the chamber was maximum 2.21 x 1.64 mts and minimum 1.33 x 0.85 mts. All the chambers were north-east - south-west oriented. The south-west end of all the chambers were broader than the north-east end. Chambers were in contra-clockwise. None of them had porthole.
LOCATION.

Anayadiamparutha in Kizhakkencherry village near Vadakkencherry in Alathur taluk.

TOPOGRAPHY

Granite exposure covering a vast area that yields large granite slabs.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.

Megalithic cist chamber tombs within burrow. These burrows were raised on the bare rock. 10 such burrows were noticed. Burrows having single chamber, 3 chambers and 5 chambers were met with. In the case of multichambered burrows the chambers were arranged in a systematic way. In the case of burrows with 5 chambers, the chambers were arranged on the periphery of the burrow leaving the centre portion vacant. A similar pattern was followed in the case of burrows with 3 chambers also. But the space between the chambers was not equal. The size of the burrow varied. The burrows had diameters ranging from 3 mts to 9 mts. The chambers were north-east - south-west oriented. The interior measurement of the chamber was 1.90 x 1.30 mts maximum and 1.74 x 0.80 mts minimum. None of them had porthole. The south-west ends of all the chambers are broader.
than the north-east ends. All the chambers are contra-clockwise.

LOCALITY.

Thonipadom in Tarur village near Vadakkencherry town in Alathur Taluk, about 1 km away from the Gayatri river.

TOPOGRAPHY

Hillocks with granite exposures that yield granite slabs.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.

Metalithic chamber tombs of the cist type and urn burials are noticed. In the cist type two varieties are found. They are:

1. Cist chambers with and without stone circles and porthole,
2. Dolemenoid cist with and without porthole.

CIST BURIALS WITH AND WITHOUT STONE CIRCLES (Plate VI - 2)

Altogether 23 cist chambers are noticed. Majority of them are disturbed. They are not in alignment. The chambers are subterranean. The top of the orthostats is in flush with the ground. The chambers are clockwise and contra-clockwise. But contra-clockwise chambers are more in number. The chambers are east-west oriented. Orthostat
measuring 259 x 200 cms (maximum) and 107 x 100 cms (minimum) were used to make the chambers. The size of the chamber proper also varies from 201 x 96 cm to 80 x 60 cm.

**SQUARISH CIST CHAMBER WITH PORTHOLE**

At the time of exploration this cist chamber was found completely exposed. It is roughly squarish in plan. The chamber is in east-west orientation. The chamber is divided into two parts by placing an orthostat measuring 145 x 37 cms, horizontally inside the chamber. For the convenience of study the two parts of the chamber are marked as part A and part B.

Part A measures 145 x 42 cms. It was covered with a Capstone. Part B measures 145 x 98 cms. Thus the chamber was not divided equally i.e., the measurement of Part A is less than that of Part B. Both parts of the chamber are connected through a hole, made in the center of the intersecting slab. The chamber is clockwise. The bottom width is 140 cms and the top width is 88 cms. On the south-eastern corner of the slab at the eastern end there is a porthole which connects Part B with open space outside.

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This burial did yield two bowls—Russet coated white painted in wavy line design. In the vicinity of the tombs a thick deposit of iron slag is noticed indicating the practice of iron smelting.
The Part A of the chamber was empty. It was covered with a stone slab. Part B was filled with mud.

**EXPOSED OBLONG CHAMBER** (Plate VII - 2, Plate VIII - 1).

It was partially exposed at the time of exploration. The chamber is oblong in plan. It is east-west oriented and counter-clockwise. The chamber is divided into two parts horizontally by placing an intersecting slab. But the intersecting slab does not touch the rear end slab of the chamber on the west. There is a gap of 10 cms between the two. Thus it acts as a passage to connect both parts. The two parts of the chamber are marked as A and B for the convenience of study.

Part A measures 155 x 95 cms and Part B measures 155 x 37 cms. Here also the chamber is not divided equally, but the chamber is tapering towards the top. The bottom width of the chamber is 132 cms and the top width is 89 cms. Thus the bottom width is obviously more than the top width. This type of upward tapering chambers is reported from Coimbatore region also (Sandford, 1901 pp. 461-71).

**CIST BURIAL INSIDE A CONCENTRIC CIRCLE** (Plate VIII - 2)

This cist chamber is horizontally transepted and within a concentric stone circle. The diameter of the stone circle is 9 mts. The space between the two circle is 50 cms. The chamber is damaged. It
is east-west oriented. The two parts of the chambers vary in size. One part has an interior measurement of 163 x 42 cms and the other part measures 174 x 81 cms. The chamber is oblong in shape. It is contra-clockwise.

**DOLMENOID CIST WITH STONE CIRCLES AND PORTHOLE** (Plate IX - 1 & 2)

In the same site dolemenoid cists with stone circles are also noticed. The circles vary in diameter from 6 to 9 mts. In the circle the number of bounding stones also vary from 10 to 27. The orientation of the chamber is east-west. The majority of the chambers are contra-clockwise. Though the chambers are of similar type the number of chambers within a circle varies from 1 to 2. Transepted chambers are also found. Chambers with and without porthole are noticed.

Within a stone circle a roughly square dolemenoid cist chamber measuring 140 x 135 x 50 cms is found. It is east-west oriented and contra-clockwise. The orthostat on the eastern side has a square porthole measuring 40 cms (Plate IX - 1). Touching this orthostat on either side of the porthole two more orthostats are horizontally placed in flush with the ground on the external side. This might have been part of another chamber or it was a pavement. It appears to be a deliberate attempt by the builder to keep the porthole within a small external chamber. The stone circle has 21 bounding stones. It has 6 mts diameter.
Another stone circle contains two dolmenoid cists in a row. The orientation of the cist is east-west. Each chamber is divided into two parts by placing a slab vertically inside the chamber. Each part varies in measurement. In both the chambers the parts on the western side measure 122 x 118 x 100 cms. The parts on the eastern side measure 110 x 96 x 100 cms. Obviously the parts on the western side are larger than the parts on the eastern side. The orthostat on the eastern end has a porthole having 30 cms diameter in both the chambers. Both the chambers are contra-clockwise. The stone circle has 6 mts diameter.

In the same area a few feet away from the above mentioned site, an urn burial with capstone was noticed. A pit was dug by the local people earlier. So the urn was partially damaged. The capstone of the urn was oval shaped measuring 64 x 33 cms. It was a granite capstone having 14 cms thickness. The height of the urn was 43 cms. According to the information by the local people the urn contained knife, small sword and grinding stone etc., which were destroyed.

CIST CHAMBERS WITH STONE CIRCLES WITH LATERITE BOUNDING STONES
(Plate IX - 2)

In the same area about 11 such stone circles were found. The capstones of the cist chambers are granite but the bounding stones are laterite. They vary in diameter from 4 mts to 9 mts. At the same time
in the same area stone circles with granite bounding stones are also noticed.

The use of granite and laterite side by side may suggest the attempt made by the megalithic builders to gradually use laterite in making the megalithic tombs. The use of laterite blocks as bounding stones in the circles may indicate the beginning of this process. This feature is noticed in many sites. It may also suggest that at this stage they were not experts in cutting laterite rock into desired shapes. Though both the rock materials are locally available granite was preferred to laterite.

In many sites where granite is not locally available, but laterite exposures are in plenty, granite slabs were brought from distant places to make the chambers whereas locally available laterite was used as bounding stones only. This feature appears to be peculiar. The same has been reported from many sites in Tamil Nadu (Ramachandran, 1980 P. 46). But in course of time, where laterite exposures were locally available and granite was scarce, the megalithic builders used only laterite to make the tombs. It evidently shows that gradually they acquired the expertise to work on the laterite rock. This may have probably resulted in the evolution of new types like topikals and kudaikals.
LOCALITY

Kattukulam in Alanallur village, Mannarghat Taluk undulated plain land

TOPOGRAPHY

Laterite exposures covering a large area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.

In this site totally 11 stone circles are noticed (Plate XI - 1 & 2). Some of them are completely destroyed. Local people have removed the slabs.

The diameters of the circles vary from 2.68 to 4.53 mts. In one instance the slabs used for the cist chambers were completely removed. In other circles they are completely concealed with mud. So the exact measurements of the chambers cannot be known without proper excavation. The number of bounding stone vary from 7 to 12 in the circles. The bounding stones are rarely horizontal but usually vertically planted.

The bounding stones also vary in size. The maximum size of the bounding stone is $2.25 \times 1.51$ cms and minimum $0.93 \times 0.43$ mts. In 2 or 3 instances the largest bounding stone is vertically placed.
It has more width at the bottom than at the top. In one instance the bottom width of the bounding stone is 1.67 mts and at the top 0.97 mts. Such stones are usually found in as many as 8 circles. These bounding stones remind one of the clinostats of the topikals. One such vertically placed bounding stone on the eastern side of the circle has a hole in the middle (Plate XIII - 1). The exterior of the hole has 0.26 mts diameter and interior has 0.12 mts. In another stone an attempt was made to make a hole but the hole was left incomplete (Plate XIII - 2). If this indicates the orientation of the chamber inside, the chamber is east-west oriented.

The method of erecting these cist chambers as understood from one instance is noteworthy. Firstly the chambers are formed by using granite orthostat. Then a granite capstone was placed over it. After that over the capstone mud heap was raised. Then the tall bounding stones were placed around the chamber in slightly inclined position. These clinostats shaped bounding stones prevent the erosion of mud. From the shape and mode of construction of these stone circles one is inclined to think that the topikal type of monuments may have evolved from them. Moreover, the bounding stones of these stone circles resemble the clinostats of the topikal. Further, the circumference of the circle in this site is very less compared to circles in many other sites. The biggest circle in this site has 4 mts diameter whereas stone
circles with 9 mts diameter are noticed in many other sites. Thus it appears that the builders of these stone circles were making a deliberate attempt to reduce the size of the circles. Moreover, the shape of the circles appears to be more conical exteriorly unlike the circles noticed in many other sites.

LOCALITY

Mavandiyur, Edayur village, Tirur Taluk, Malappuram (district).

TOPOGRAPHY

Laterite exposures spread over large area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Kudaikal constructed of laterite stone (Plate XIV - 1 & 2). In this site 8 Kudaikal are noticed. Among them 6 are single Two are within a stone circle. The measurements of the Kudaikal are given below.

The maximum diameter of the capstone is 151 cms and the minimum is 95 cm. The height of the capstone from the ground level varies from 52 cms to 50 cms. The stone circle has 15 bounding stones.
LOCALITY

Ponmundam village, Tirur Taluk, Malappuram (district).

TOPOGRAPHY:

Laterite exposures in many places. The entire area is highly cultivated.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS:

In this site was found one topikal extant which is intact. It has 5 clinostats and a capstone. The clinostats roughly triangular in shape are of not uniform measurement. The width at the top is 82 cms maximum and 62 cms minimum and at the bottom 138 cms maximum and 92 cms minimum. The height of the clinostat from the surface level is 186 cms. The height of the capstone is 65 cms. The height of the monument from the surface is 251 cms. The circumference of the capstone is 863 cms.

LOCALITY

Thazhekulappuram, AR Nagar Village, Tirur Taluk, Malappuram (district).
TOPOGRAPHY:

Large area covered with laterite exposures.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Topikals are noticed in clusters and single (Plate XV - 1 & s). Totally 11 topikals are noticed at the time of exploration. They are arranged in two parallel rows, in one row 5 and in another 2. There might have been many more. Owing to agricultural operations most of the topikals are destroyed. The details of the intact topikals are given below.

TOPIKAL No.1

It has 4 clinostats. The width of the clinostat at the top is 77 cms maximum and 64 cms minimum and at the bottom is 138 cms maximum and 106 cms minimum. The height of the clinostat from the ground level is 120 cms. The height of the capstone is 61 cms. Total height of the monument is 181 cms. The circumference of the capstone is 678 cms.

Another topikal is partially damaged. So some of the details are missing. It has 4 clinostats intact. The clinostats have maximum 99 cms and minimum 81 cms width at the top. The bottom width varies from 131 cms maximum and 112 cms minimum. The height of the
clinostats is 117 cms from the surface level. Height of the monument from surface is 178 cms. The height of the capstone is 61 cms. The circumference of the capstone is 884 cms.

Another topikal is partially damaged. Two clinostats are intact. The maximum width at the top is 90 cms and minimum is 86 cms and at the bottom maximum is 145 cms and minimum is 141 cms. The height of the clinostat is 109 cms. Total height of the monument is 181 cms. The height of the capstone is 72 cms and the circumference is 904 cms.

Another topikal, partially damaged has two clinostats intact. The maximum width at the top is 60 cms and minimum is 56 cms and at the bottom maximum is 83 cms and minimum is 84 cms. The height of the clinostat from the surface level is 152 cms. Total height of the monument is 209 cms. Height of the capstone is 57 cms and the circumference is 715 cms.

LOCALITY

Kolupalam Angadi Tirunavaya village, Tirur Taluk, Malappuram district.

TOPOGRAPHY

Laterite exposures in many places.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Topikal type of the megalithic monuments. The monument is completely damaged. The capstone of the Topikal has 8.79 mts circumference. No other data are available.

LOCALITY:

Vennur in Tennala village, Tirur Taluk, Malappuram district.

TOPOGRAPHY

Laterite exposures in many places.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

The Topikal type of the megalithic monuments. Three Topikals in a cluster are noticed. Each topikal has 4 clinostats.

The measurements of each Topikal are given below:

One Topikal has 4 clinostats. The top width of the clinostats varies from 59 cms maximum to 41 cms minimum and at the bottom maximum is 100 cms and minimum 55 cms. The height of the clinostat is 81 cms. Total height of the monument is 175 cms. The height of the capstone is 94 cms and the circumference is 509 cms.
Another Topikal has 4 clinostats. The maximum width at the top is 81 cms and minimum is 51 cms at the bottom maximum is 139 cms and minimum is 129 cms. The height of the clinostat from the surface level is 122 cms. Total height of the monument is 268 cms.

The height of the capstone is 63 cms and the circumference is 841 cms.

LOCALITY.

Kunnumpuram, Koduvayar village, Tirur Taluk, Malappuram district (Plate XVI - 1).

TOPOGRAPHY:

Highly cultivated area with laterite exposures in many localities.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

One megalithic topikal type extant. The monument is intact, but partially exposed. It has 4 clinostats. Two of them are concealed in a mud wall. The measurements of the clinostats are given below.

The maximum width of the clinostat at the top is 71 cms and the minimum is 69 cms at the bottom maximum is 147 cms and minimum is 131 cms. The height of the clinostat is 151 cms. Total height of the monument is 181 cms. The capstone has a height of 30 cms and circumference is 715 cms.
LOCATION.

Thachanattukara village, Mannarghat taluk.

TOPOGRAPHY:

Laterite covered area with granite outcrops in a few places.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS.

Menhir type of megalithic monuments. There were two sites with three menhirs extant. They are of granite rock. For the sake of study the sites are numbered as I & II.

SITE NO. I

There were two menhirs in this site. One had a height of 157 cm. The width varied from 150 cm at the top to 140 cm at the bottom. It had 40 cm thickness.

The other had a height of 140 cm. Its width varied from 135 cm at the top to 130 cm at the bottom. Thickness of the menhir was 49 cm.

SITE NO. II

This menhir is situated by the side of a road. It had 180 cm height. The width varied from 150 cm at the bottom to 160 cm at the top.
The menhir had a thickness of 50 cm.

LOCATION:

Tirunnavaya, Tirur Taluk, Malappuram.

TOPOGRAPHY:

Laterite covering over a vast area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS:

Menhirs of laterite (Plate XVI - 2, Plate XVII - 1). There were two menhirs in this site. They are marked as I & II for the convenience of study.

MENHIR NO. I.

This menhir was made of laterite stone. It was rectangular in shape, well dressed and had a height of 200 cm. Its width varied from 155 cm at the bottom to 128 cm at the top. It has no uniform thickness from top to bottom.

MENHIR NO. II.

It was a laterite menhir. It had a height of 375 cm. The width varied from 183 cm at the top to 155 cm at the bottom. It had a thickness of 50 cm.
LOCATION:

Kattiparuthy village, Tirur Taluk.

TOPOGRAPHY:

Vast laterite exposure on a hillock - locally known as Kasankunnu.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Rock-cut caves - four in number, covering an area of ½ Hectare. Two of them were partially filled up and other two were completely filled up with mud. So internal architectural features cannot be ascertained. For the convenience of study the caves are numbered as I & II.

CAVE NO. I

It has an open court roughly rectangular in shape measuring 262 cm x 169 cm x 189 cm. The court was approached from the open space by a flight of three steps each measuring 30 cm x 27 cm, 18 cm x 18 cm; 22 cm x 18 cm in width and height respectively. On the northern side wall of the open court there were two entrances each had three offsets. This is a noteworthy feature. The entrances were square in shape measuring 39 cm. Each entrance leads to a chamber.
Both the chambers were polygonal in plan and separated fully by a partition wall, extending from the floors level to the roof of the chamber.

CAVE NUMBER II:

This was to the east of the former cave. It had an open court with a flight of steps. The size of the court was 145 cm x 59 cm x 147 cm. There were five steps. Each was 30 cm high and 100 cm long.

On the northern side wall of the open court, slightly above the ground level there was an entrance leading to a chamber. It was square in shape measuring 39 cm.

LOCATION.

Chamaparambu near Kurkol in Vilavunnur village, Tirur Taluk Malappuram district.

TOPOGRAPHY:

Extensive laterite exposure.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS:

Rock-cut cave. It was disturbed earlier. This cave had two chambers. They were separated from each other completely by a
The partition wall was made, by leaving a mass of rock in between the chambers at the time of excavation. Therefore it is not structural. However, there were two holes on the partition wall, each measuring 25 cm in diameter. They may have served as passages of communication between the chambers. The floor of the chambers was polygonal in plan. For the convenience of study the chambers are marked as I & II.

CHAMBER I:

This is on the eastern side of the cave. Originally it had a square entrance on the southern side measuring 39 cm square in shape. Later it was closed with a small slab of laterite. The chamber was partially filled up at the time of exploration. The height of the chamber from the floor level to the ceiling was 110 cm.

There was a raised rectangular shaped portion inside the chamber attached to the side wall on the east. This may have served as a bench or bed. Provision for it was made at the time of excavation of the chamber by leaving a mass of rock in requisite shape and size while quarrying the rock. The bench had a measurement of 155 cm x 100 cm. This cave had a roughly rectangular top opening measuring 60 cm x 46 cm.
CHAMBER II

It is on the western side. The entrance of the chamber was rectangular in shape measuring 56 cm x 35 cm. Inside the chamber, on the western side there was a raised bench. It measured 190 cm x 95 cm x 26 cm.
PLATES

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS
1. A general view of the site with burrows at Palakuzhy.

2. A burrow with multiple chambers.
1 & 2. A trapezium shaped chamber in a burrow
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2. A close-up view of the pillars.
1. A horizontal view of the pillared platform.

2. A close-up view of the interior of the pillared platform.
1. A burrow with multiple chambers.

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1. A burrow with three chambers.

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1. A dolmenoid cist.

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2. Stone circle with tall laterite bounding stones.
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1 & 2. A view of the topikal from different angles.
1. A topikal at Koduvayur.

2. A laterite menhir.
A rock-cut cave with open court, entrance and a flight of steps (Sharma, 1956: pp. 93-115).
1. A rock-cut cave with a flight of steps, entrance and top opening (Sharma, 1956: pp. 93-115).

2. Rock-cut cave with a flight of steps and double entrances (Sharma, 1956: pp. 93-115).
A rock-cut cave with a recessed entrance and circular top opening (Sharma, 1956: pp. 93-115)