CHAPTER III

PRESENT EXPLORATIONS IN THE REGION
A. Explorations

In chapter I an exhaustive survey of the past explorations and excavations in the region and its neighbourhood has been made. With the clues left by earlier scholars, especially Bruce Foote, an intensive and systematic exploration of the region was undertaken by the writer. While doing so, almost all the sites discovered by Foote have been revisited and collections of artifacts made from them to make the study as comprehensive as possible.

Generally, the sites, particularly neolithic, are confined to feet, slopes, or tops of high castellated granite hills, a characteristic physiographic feature of the Deccan, where rock-shelters to live in and raw materials in the form of trap dykes to manufacture tools were available.

The area on the Tungabhadra river bank as well as on other rivers, were mostly late stone age sites have been found, is a vast plain country devoid of any hills or hillocks. As such, the sites are only open air sites on plain ground most of which is now under cultivation, thus causing unavoidable destruction and irreparable loss to archaeological wealth. The topography of the area is indistinct and inconspicuous, thereby differing in its nature from the rest of the region. The sites on the river bank have a mixture of river silt known as 'Chavuda' in Telugu which means saline soil.

In the following pages is given a detailed list of the sites, their geographical location and the number of artifacts collected at each. On the basis of the study of their material evidence and field observations, all the sites have been conveniently placed under their respective cultures - Late Stone Age, New Stone Age
and Megalithic Monuments. Explored mounds and iron-smelting sites have also been described. All the sites, including those of Foote and others, have been plotted on the map of the region. (Fig. 2).

B. Description Of Late Stone Age Sites

1) ANANTAPUR (ATP):

The site lies a little west and south-west of the Police Training College on the right bank of a seasonal stream called 'Nadimi Vanka'. It yielded 42 artifacts comprising three flake cores, eight blade cores, three flakes, 17 chips, seven unretouched blades and four microliths.

Bruce Foote (1916: 105) had reported a site in this area but whether his collection came from the spot as the writer's is not clear from his description.

2) BOGASAMUDRAM (BSM):

It is a village about 13 km. north of Tadipatri town. The site is about half-a-kilometer east of the village in the inam land of Sri Anjaneya Swamy of Bogasamudram, on the right bank of a perennial stream called 'Sugga Vanka', a tributary of the Pennar river. The present collection comprising 221 pieces includes three chunks, eight flake cores, 53 blade cores, 22 flakes, 26 chips, 48 unretouched blades and 61 finished types.

This site was first found by Bruce Foote (1916: 104) who did not give its exact location and treated the site as an unimportant one. The site is proved to be fairly extensive occupying an area of about eight to ten acres of land by the side of the stream.
3) CHINNAKOTHALIKI (GZL):  
This is a small village on the bank of the river Tungabhadra about 46 km. north-east of Adoni. The site occupying an area of about five acres is about one km. to the east of the village on the river bank. It yielded a total of 117 artifacts of which 71 are waste products, eight unfinished types, six utilised types, and 32 finished types.

4) DORIGAL (GZL):  
It is a small village situated on the northern bank of Maddiluru river, about 64 km. south-east of Anantapur town and about ten km. north-west of Anantapur-Mandanapalle road.

The site lies seven-and-a-half km. south of the village on the western side of the Madigubba-Dorigal road. It yielded 55 artifacts of which 28 are waste products, nine flakes, 12 unretouched blades, two microliths, two borers and two scrapers.

Efforts made to locate Foote's (1916: 106) site on the syenitic Rotikonda, from where he collected two neolithic flakes and a bead, did not succeed.

5) SURZALA (GZL):  
The village is located right on the bank of the river Tungabhadra about 49 km. north-east of Adoni and about three km. east of Nagaladinne neolithic site. The site is few metres east of the village on the Tungabhadra river bank.

Foote (1914: 88, Nos. 1451-1 and 2) collected two fluted cores of agate and chalcedony and a large quantity of red slipped

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1. This and a few other sites are in the revenue jurisdiction of Adoni taluk of Aurora District. The rest of the sites unless otherwise mentioned are situated in the district of Anantapur.
potters. Later Subbarao (1949: 94) visited this site and collected two cores of jasper and a large quantity of red slipped ware with grooved rims. He compares this pottery with that found at Sanganakallu and Brahmagiri in the megalithic and early historic periods.

The site yielded only 50 artifacts of which 30 are waste products, seven unfinished types, nine utilised types, one obliquely blunted blade and three scrapers.

6) JOHRAPURAM (JPM):

This is a small village on the Tungabhadra river bank about 48 km. north-east of Adoni. The site is about half-a-kilometer to the west of the village. Five specimens were found at this site out of which two are flakes, while the other three include a flake core, an unretouched blade and a side scraper.

7) KOLIMIGUNDLA (KOL):

The village is about 60 km. south of Koilkantha town in Aurnool district and about 29 km. north-east of Tadipatri.

The site is an open rocky strip of waste land, with a sparse growth of stunted shrubs, lying about half-a-kilometer south of the village on Koilkantha-Tadipatri road. It occupies a large area and yielded 162 artifacts of which 61 are waste products, three unfinished types, 21 utilised types and 57 finished types.

8) MADHAVARAM (MVM):

This village is about 42 km. north-east of Adoni town and half-a-kilometer south of the Tungabhadra river.

The site is located about one-and-a-half km. to the north-west of the village in an uncultivable patch of the saline soil in the midst of the wet lands of black soil. It yielded 53 arti-
facts. Of these 35 are waste products, 15 unfinished types, one utilised blade and two finished types. Part of the site is now under cultivation.

9. MANTRALAYAM (KM):

Also spelt as 'Mantasala' in the Adoni taluk map, this village is situated on the right bank of the river Tungabhadra, about 52 km. north-east of Adoni town.

The collection comprising 37 artifacts of which 22 are waste products, seven flakes and eight scrapers comes from the east and west of the village over a stretch of about two km.

10. MUCHUKOTA (MT):

It is a village situated about 16 km. south of Tadipatri and about 37 km. north-east of Anantapur on the Anantapur-Tadipatri road. The place is known for its rich baryte deposits.

The site, located a little north-west of the village at the foot of a hillock, was first discovered by Foote (1916: 104-5) in 1890, who called it a 'flake factory'. The present collection comprising a total of 216 artifacts includes 117 waste products, 11 unfinished types, 56 utilised types, and 52 finished implements.

11. PEDDAKOTHALIKI (PAL):

This village is about a kilometer west of Chinnakothaliki (page 40, No.5 above). In between these two villages flows a seasonal stream called 'Peddakothaliki Vanka' into the river Tungabhadra. The village is located over an ancient ruined fort.

The site is situated on the Tungabhadra river about half-a-kilometer east of the village. Only 16 artifacts - 11 waste products, three unfinished types, a lunate and a scraper - were collected from this site.
12) RAYACHOTI (RCH):

This small village is about four-and-a-half kilometers east of Gursala (see pages 40-41, 5.No. 5 above). The site is located on the right bank of the river Tungabhadra about a kilometer west of the village. Subbarao (1949: 95) reported a core of chert and a few flakes from this site.

The present collection comprises 51 artifacts of which 28 are waste products, nine unfinished types, four utilised types and ten finished types.

13) TALIPATRI (TPT):

This is a taluk place with a population of about 20,000 people and lies about 33 km. north-east of Anantapur on the southern bank of the Tenna river. The site lies about one-and-a-half kilometers east of the great temple of Sri Ramalingaswaraswamy on the Tenna river. Here 16 artifacts comprising nine waste products, four - two each - utilised flakes and blades, and three finished types were found.

Foote (1916: 100-1, Pl. 48, No.2055-88; Pl. 50, No. 2055-1 and Pl. 56, No. 2055-15) had found highly decorated and painted pottery belonging to post-neolithic period but his site could not be located in the present exploration.

14) UDRIPUKONDA (UPK):

The village, named after a big fortified granite hill, located a little to the north-west of the village, lies about 34 km. north-west of Anantapur town on the road to Bellary. The site is about a kilometer south-east of the village in a locality called 'Musalamma Chena', close to the southern bank of a perennial stream called 'Marri Vanka'. Here 71 artifacts were collected of which
30 are waste products, 19 utilised flakes and blades and 22 finished types.

C. **Description of Neolithic Sites**

1) **ADONI-EAST (ADR-E)**

Adoni, the largest town in Kurnool district, is situated about 94 km. west of Kurnool town. Robert Bruce Foote (1916: 32) visited Adoni hills and collected a few potsherds.

The present site is about a km. east of Adoni town on the right side of Adoni-Temmiganur road just opposite the college site (now under construction) on the top of the Fateh Mahal hills. The site consists of a vast plain surface running 43 meters (3-4) in length and 21 meters (3-4) in breadth and exactly similar to the made ground on the top of Ganganakallu-Sanarasamma hill. The site is not very extensive and yielded 50 ground stone tools, 103 microliths and one unburnished grey ware potsherd.

2) **AKKAAMAKONDA (AKK)**

It is a steep granite hill about two km. north-east of Kalyandrug town (S.No.16). The name 'Akkaamakonda' is in vogue due to the hill goddess 'Akkamma' residing at the north-western foot of the hill.

The eastern, western and northern slopes of the hills yielded 60 ground stone tools and 4 microliths. Besides, five saddle querns were noticed. Many specimens are in a broken state. There are habitation deposits at the eastern foot of the hill opposite a deep gorge.

3) **ANDEPALLI (APL)**

It is a hamlet of Kambadur village about 22 km. south-east of Kalyandrug on the road to Favagada. About a km. east of the
village and a little east of Ramappakonda, the area between the two halves of Ramappakonda and the western foot of its southern half retain neolithic habitation deposits and above them traces of iron age. The made grounds are mainly confined to the northern foot of the southern half and southern foot of the northern half. Forty-nine ground stone tools, three microliths and two neolithic and nine megalithic potsherds were collected from this site. Six saddle querns were also located here.

4) BUDAGAVI HILL (BGH):

This hill is locally called 'Peddapakonda'. The village is at the southern foot of the hill about 55 km. north-west from Anantapur on the high road to Bellary. All the hill slopes except the eastern one and the top of the hill yielded 176 neolithic implements and 51 microliths along with two potsherds of blotchy grey ware and five of dull red ware. Thirty-one saddle querns of various sizes were also located. There are habitational deposits on the top of the hill.

5) SUTHAMAHAL HILL (SHH) (Foote's budinal hill):

This is a castellated granite hill, full of natural rock-shelters, lying half-a-kilometer south-west from Budagavi hill on the western side of the Anantapur-Bellary road. It was visited by Foote (1916: 98) first.

The eastern and northern slopes and the top of the hill yielded 74 ground stone tools and eight microliths along with 12 potsherds of burnished and unburnished blotchy grey ware and dull red ware. Nine saddle querns were also noticed during the exploration.

6) CHETNAPALLI (CHP):

This village, also known as Chetnahalli, is about 45 km.
north-east of Adoni town. The site is located at two localities on the right bank of the Tungabhadra— one about a km. north-east and the other about one-and-a-half km. north-west of the village. The former locality of the site is richer in antiquities than the latter one. The two localities yielded together 320 artifacts of blade industry along with one rubber, one hammer stone and six flakes, one neolithic and 25 megalithic potsherds.

7) CHINNADANDUKONDA (CDK):

This is a small granite hill situated a few meters to the north-west of Feddandandukonda (No.26). The southern slope and the top of the hill yielded five ground stone tools and 30 artifacts of blade industry.

8) DONSKAL NORTH-EAST (DKL-NE):

The village is about 20 km. west from Guntakal junction on the road to Bellary. The site is about a km. north-east from the village. The antiquities collected from this site comprise nine ground stone tools and 30 microliths.

9) GADSKAL SOUTH-WEST (GKL-SW):

Gadkal village is about 15 km. north-west of Guntakal Junction and about 33 km. south-east of Bellary on the Bellary-Guntakal road.

The site is on the top of a granite hillock a little to the south-west of the village. The site yielded 44 ground stone artifacts and a solitary flake of chert but no evidence of habitation deposits. Two saddle querns were located on the top of the hillock.

10) GADSKAL NORTH-WEST (GKL-NW):

It is a little to the north-west of the village, almost at
the foot of a granite hill. The southern and eastern foot of the hill were fully occupied. There is a habitation deposit of about three meters thickness which is made up of both neolithic and historic periods. Eighteen ground stone implements were collected from this site.

11) GULAPALAYAM (GPA):

The village is located at the western foot of a big fortified granite hill about nine km. south-west from Guntakal junction and about 22 km. north-east of Uravakonda, a little east of the road to Guntakal. The hill runs 3-5 for a km. and links Konakonda and Gulapallyam villages. The habitation deposits at the western foot of the hill run all along its length. Much of the deposits has been destroyed by the farmers to extend the area of the cultivable land.

The site yielded 80 ground stone tools, two blade cores along with 23 potsherds of blotchy grey, dull red, red-and-black and red slipped wares and two ground discs of dull red ware. Seven saddle querns were also noticed at this site.

12) HATTIBELAGALLU (HSG):

It is a village about two-and-a-half km. south of Alur town. The site is about one km. to the west of the village on the top of the granitoid hills.

Foote (1914: 76, Nos. 1357-59) had collected three neoliths from this site. Some members of the Archaeological Survey (IAR 1958-59: 11) also collected neolithic celts and a few sherds of megalithic black-and-red ware but they wrongly reported the location.

The present collection includes 71 ground stone tools and 58
artifacts of blade industry besides two beads of steatite and 14 sherds of grey and dull red wares. Seven saddle querns were noticed on the granitoid boulders. There are habitation deposits at several spots on the hills.

13) HAVALIGI (HVG):

The village is about 67 km. north-west of Anantapur. The site is an isolated granite hill located close to the north-east of the village. This was first discovered by Roots (1916: 101-2) in 1890.

The site yielded 108 ground stone tools and 13 microliths along with 30 neolithic and two megalithic sherds. The middle and eastern parts of the hill had a number of small, deep, oval querns made on big flat granite boulders. Besides, 16 loose and big saddle querns were noticed at this site.

14) HULIKAL (HKL):

It is a village about ten km. north-west of Kalyandrug and about two km. west of the Kalyandrug-Hayadrug road.

The northern and southern foot of Hallappakonda, lying about a km. east of the village and close to the west of the road, have thick habitation deposits. The slopes and foot of the hill on all sides except on the east yielded 159 ground stone tools and six artifacts of blade industry along with 36 potsherds of grey, and dull red wares. Besides, 15 saddle querns — some of them broken — were noticed at this site.

15) IDUKAL (IKL):

Idukal, a hamlet of Itekal village (5.Ro.35), is about six km. north of it and about five km. west of Kalyandrug.

About one-and-a-half km. south-east of the village there is a granite hill merged with another hill of Mangampalli village
jurisdiction. The south-eastern foot and slopes of the hill facing
the other hill through a gorge yielded 48 ground stone tools, 19
implements of blade industry and two grey wares and one black-and-
red ware sherds. Four saddle querns were also located. Besides,
many large rock-shelters suitable for habitation were noticed.

16) KALYANDRUG FORT (KD-G-F):

The town of Kalyandrug is at a distance of about 55 km. south-
west from Anantapur on the Anantapur-Kalyandrug road.

The Kalyandrug fortified hill locally known as Orvankonda
(meaning village hill) is about half-a-kilometer to the west of the
town. The eastern and western slopes of the hill yielded 17 ground
stone implements.

17) KARAKUMUKKALA (KML):

The village is about six km. south-south-west of Vidupana-
kallu (S.No.32) and about five km. north-north-west of Navaligi
(S.No.13). The granite hill, bearing evidence of neolithic remains,
is a little to the west of the village. Habitation deposits were
found at three spots on the hill top. The site yielded 17 ground
stone tools and 15 artifacts of blade industry along with a few
potsherds of grey and dull red wares. Three saddle querns were also
located here in the exploration.

Foote (1916: 103) who first visited this site treated it as
a moderately important one.

18) KATANADHYDAM HILL (KD-H) (Foote's Kalamdevur Hill):

It lies about 21 km. south-east of Anantapur town and about
the same distance north-west of Dharmavaram on the Anantapur-
Nadanapalle high road, close to, and north-east of Sanjeevapura,
a hamlet of the nearby Kasthuru village. Here the southern foot
of the hill retains traces of a neolithic settlement. On the surface are lying large quantities of trap flakes, probably the debitage of the neolithic stone industry, and pieces of iron slag suggesting a later occupation.

The foot and slopes of the hill yielded 122 ground stone tools and 461 implements of blade industry along with three beads, 32 grey and red ware sherds, three sherds of black painted red ware and 25 megalithic sherds. The pottery is much comminuted like the broken artifacts. The habitation deposits occupying a vast area have been disturbed by digging. Ten saddle querns were also noticed at this site.

The hill, named after the god 'Katamadevudu', was first discovered by Foote (1916: 102) who considered it as a very important site, an impression that is confirmed by the present exploration.

19) KUNDURIP (KDP):

it is a village about 30 km. south-west from Kalyandrug. The village and the fortified hill are named after the hill-goddess residing on the north-east top of the hill. The hill, lying close to the north of the village, is about 893 meters above the sea level and is one of the highest points in Anantapur district.

The western foot of the hill left traces of a neolithic settlement over which thick deposits of later debris are lying. The slopes and foot of the hill yielded a total of 43 artifacts of ground stone industry and nine implements of blade industry along with two potsherds, one each of burnished grey and red wares. Two megalithic sherds were also collected. Further five saddle querns were located.
20) LATTAVARAM HILL (LVH):

The village of Lattavaram is about 51 km. north-west of Anantapur. A little south-west of the village is a semi-castellated granite hill, the western slope and top of which yielded 90 ground stone tools, 27 artifacts of blade industry and 21 potsherds of grey and dull red wares. The implements are ill preserved. Nineteen saddle querns were seen on the western slope of the hill. The site was originally discovered by Foote (1916: 97-8).

21) MALAPURAM (MPR):

This village is about 68 km. north-west of Anantapur and about two km. south of Vidupanakallu (S.No. 32) on the Anantapur-Bellary high road. About a km. south-west of the village is a vast plain ground surrounded by granite hills on all sides except the east. Here is a small mound (see for details under the heading 'ash-mounds') in the vicinity of which 42 ground stone tools were collected. The neolithic habitation deposits have been succeeded by later periods.

22) MALLAPPAKONDA (MPK):

This is a small granite hill about 56 km. north-west of Anantapur, a little north-west of Badagavi hill (S.No. 4) and exactly a little north of Buthnajahal hill (S.No. 5) on the western side of Anantapur-Bellary high road. Only six ground stone tools were collected from this site.

23) MUDIGAL (MGL):

It is a village about five km. east of Kalyandrug at the northern end of a big pointed granite hill called Urakonda (meaning village hill). The western, southern and south-eastern slopes and foot of the hill yielded 45 ground stone tools, five artifacts of
blade industry and a number of neolithic and megalithic potsherds.

The southern foot of the hill throughout its length has neolithic deposits overlain by thick megalithic deposits, rich in pottery.

24/ NAGALADINNE (NND):

The village is situated right on the bank of the river Tungabhadra about 46 km. north-east of Adoni town. It is an ancient place and has remains of a ruined fort.

The site was first visited by Bruce Foote (1914: 85) who collected microliths out of made ground one km. to the east of the village.

The late Dr. Subbarao (1949: 95-4) also collected a number of artifacts of blade industry.

In the present survey, the artifacts were collected at three localities - Nagaladinne-1, about three-fourths of a km. east of the village in an uncultivated patch of river alluvium belonging to one Yemiganuru Sannappa of Nagaladinne village; Nagaladinne-2 about one km. east of the village in an uncultivated 'chavudu' or saline inam land of Namalingeswaraswamy of Garzala village and the site lying in between the two streams, Vaddevasiri vanka and Mangali Nanumappa vanka; and finally Nagaladinne-3, located at a few meters to the west of the village in a similar to Nagaladinne-1 and 2 soil type land - all on the river bank of Tungabhadra.

The present collections from all the three localities has been treated as one for the sake of convenience. It includes a total of 180 artifacts of blade industry out of which 74 (41.11%) are finished types and the rest unfinished. No neoliths were found, but seven potsherds of grey and dull red wares were collected.
Also 13 megalithic sherds were found.

25/ PALAVOY (PLY)¹:

It is a small village lying about eight km. south-east from Kalyandrug on the Kalyandrug-Dharmavaram road. About two km. south-east of the village is a big and long granite hill, the western foot of which retains habitation deposits merged with four ashmounds. Forty-nine ground stone tools and ten artifacts of blade industry along with grey, and red ware potsherds were collected. Besides, three bone scrapers, one terracotta bull, a crudely made carnelian bead, a coin belonging to Sri Satavahana period and plenty of black-on-red ware and megalithic sherds were the other interesting finds from this site. At least thirteen saddle querns were located here during exploration.

26/ PEDDADANDUKONDA (PDK) (Foote's Jambuldinne Hill):

It is a castellated granite hill lying at a distance of about 20 km. north-east by north of Anantapur town, about three km. east of Anantapur-Gooty road, and on the southern side of the Garladinne-Singanamala mud road and about a km. east of Jambuldinne village. Foote (1916: 105) made a small collection from the top and western slope of the hill.

In the present survey, besides the top and western slope of the hill explored by Foote, the eastern slope was also found to be exhibiting traces of neolithic settlements. The site has yielded 37 ground stone tools and 107 artifacts of blade industry. There are several flat terraces on the top of the hill which Foote called 'linchets'. A solitary piece of burnished blotchy grey ware was also collected. Besides, ten saddle querns were spotted.

¹. Since this site has been excavated, see Chapter VIII on 'The Excavations at Palavoy' for details. The surface collections made at this site during the course of excavations could not be included here and hence a summary of these is given in the same chapter on excavations.
27) PILLALAPALLI (PPL):

It is about 12 km. north-west of Kalyandrug. About one-and-a-half km. north-east of the village is a big granite hill, the eastern foot of which preserves man-made grounds. The site yielded 69 ground stone tools and three artifacts of the blade industry. The number of axes far outnumbers the other types and most of them are technologically in stage 1 suggesting it to be a factory site. Two potsherds of burnished grey ware were also collected.

28) RAYADRUG (RDG):

It is 90 km. west from Anantapur town situated on the western extremity of the taluk bordering the Mysore State. The town, surrounded on all sides by a number of granite hills, is said to have derived its name from the stronghold on the rocky hill at the foot of which it is built.

The fortified hill called 'Yellammakonda' is to the west of the town the eastern slope of which in a small area yielded 11 neolithic implements. The late Dr. Subbarao (1949: 87) had collected a ground flake celt behind the taluk office while he was in search of a dolmen reported by Taylor. He states that Wuchopé collected two ground axes from Rayadrug.

29) URAVAKONDA (UKD):

The place is about 53 km. north-west from Anantapur town. The sharp pointed granite hill 60 meters high above the surrounding plain is almost in the centre of the village. The northern and western slopes of the hill yielded 43 ground stone tools, one short blade core and eight potsherds of grey and dull red wares. Two megalithic sherds were added to these finds. Besides, 13 saddle querns were noticed on the hill slopes. The site was first dis-
covered by Foote (1916: 103).  

30) VAJRAKARUR (VKR):

It lies 58 km. north-west of Anantapur and about 16 km. south of Guntakal Junction. This place is known for the occurrence of diamonds from a long time and hence the name 'Vajrakarur'.

The site is about half-a-kilometer west of the village on the surface of a small mound-like heap of stones, which Foote (1916: 102-3) called a 'knoll', surrounded by agricultural fields. Eighteen ground stone tools and a chert blade were picked up from this site.

31) VELPUMADUGU (VMG):

This village is situated at the northern foot of a round-topped fortified granite hill about 73 km. north-west by east of Anantapur town and about three km. east of Vidupanakallu (S.No. 32). Foote (1916: 99-100) had made a small collection of artifacts from this fortified area.

The present exploration which extended to the east of Foote's site yielded 134 ground stone tools and 26 artifacts of blade industry. One carnelian bead and 27 potsherds of grey and dull red wares were further added to the above collection. Besides, 14 saddle querns were located at this site. There are thick habitation deposits at several places which are being continuously depleted by the recent diggings.

32) VIDUPANAKALLU FORT (VKL-F):

The village is situated at about 70 km. north-west of Anantapur town on the road to Bellary. The rocky hill lying close to the west of the village crowned with a fortification of post-neolithic date yielded 69 ground stone tools, 16 artifacts of blade industry and one potsherd. Five saddle querns were located
on the western hill slope. This and the following site were first visited by Foote (1916: 98-9).

33) VIDUPANAKALLU WEST (VPL-W):

It is a little to the west of the pointed fort hill (S.No. 32, above). Bruce Foote (1916: 99, No.1853, pl.18) reports a palaeolith from this site, being the only specimen from Anantapur district.

The present exploration brought to light 22 ground stone tools and ten specimens of blade industry from the eastern face of the hill besides noticing three saddle querns.

34) VITLAMPALLI (VPL):

It is a hamlet of Mulikal village (S.No.14) lying at about two-and-a-half km. south-west from it and about ten km. north-west from Halyandrug.

About a km. south-west from the village there lies a granite hill called 'Thimmappakonda' named after the hill-god, the eastern foot of which preserves habitation deposits of the neolithic period. Fifty-eight ground stone and eight blade tools were collected in the exploration. Also, eight saddle querns were located. The site is almost in jungle area with thick forest.

35) YATARAL (YKL):

It is a small village about nine km. south-west of Halyandrug on the road to Chitaldrug in Mysore. A little to the south-east of the village is a granite hill, the western face, the northern hill top and the foot of which yielded a total of 57 ground stone implements and 33 specimens of blade industry.

At a point on the western foot of the hill is a small thickness of habitation deposits. The northern hill top which is a plain
ground appears to be man-made. As the top is sealed by lateritic gravel nothing can be said unless it is dug.

D. Ashmounds

For well over one-and-a-half centuries ashmounds of the Deccan have attracted the attention of many professional and amateur archaeologists. Though a number of hypotheses have been advanced as to their origin, no convincing explanation has yet emerged. Since Chapter VIII is devoted to a full discussion of this problem, here only a physical description of the ashmounds found to date in this part of the Peninsula is given.

To date, around 60 ashmounds have been reported in Raichur, Gulbarga, Bellary and Chitaldurg districts of Mysore and in Mahbubnagar, Kurnool and Anantapur districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The following is a detailed list of the ashmounds (Fig.2) discovered by the writer, including those visited by earlier workers, in South-western Andhra Pradesh.

While describing, the location of certain sites is not given since it has already been mentioned earlier. For location of such sites, reference has been made here.

1) ANDERALLI: (For location see pages 44–45)

There are two ashmounds at this site, one at the north-western foot and the other at the western foot of the southern half of Durgamsekkonda.

The first one is a huge, roughly circular and undisturbed mound measuring about 50 meters in length, 45 meters in width and about four meters in height from the western ground-level. The second one is small, is in much disturbed state and hence its precise dimensions could not be recorded.
The surroundings of these mounds have yielded plenty of iron ore and slag besides a large number of animal bones, pottery - both neolithic and megalithic - and artifacts of pecked and ground stone industry.

2) HULIKAL (for location see page 48):

At the northern foot of Mallappakonda is situated a big, partly disturbed ashmound that merges into the habitation deposits. The mound is roughly circular in outline measuring about 60 meters in length (north-south) and 52 meters in breadth (east-west), with a height of about six meters from the northern ground level. It is now under cultivation. This mound too has yielded iron ore and slag lumps besides a few neolithic artifacts.

3) GUDIRALLU (GEL):

This is a small village about 26 km. north-east of Adoni and about three kilometers south of Yemmiganur. The granite hill, a little to the south of the village, has an old fortification.

The top of the hill with a big ashmound is locally known by the name 'Norriavulegattu'. Subbarao (1949: 213), who visited the hill mentions a traditional belief that a large number of cattle were burnt here. The surface of the mound is strewn over with iron ore and slag pieces.

4) KANCHAGARABELAGALLU (KBS):

It is a village on the bank of the Nagari river about 35 km. west of Alur town in Kurnool district. The ashmound here was first discovered by Foote (1914: 92; 1916: 94) who describes it

1. The mound is partly in the patta land of Sri Potturi Venkateswarlu and partly in Sri Ediga Ramappa's land, both of Hulikal village.
as oval in shape, measuring 70 paces by 40. He collected a polished celt, many broken rubbing stones and saddle querns on the mound and on that basis assigned it to neolithic period. The vicinity of the mound is full of iron ore and slag lumps besides ground stone artifacts and pottery.

5) LINGADAHALLI (LHL):

This is a village about six km. north-west of Alur town and about 19 km. south-west of Adoni. Bruce Foote (1914 and 1916: 93) describes the ashmound here as roughly circular in shape measuring 254 paces in circumference. The mound lies close to the village from where Foote collected many polished axes, and cores and flakes of siliceous materials and a few grey ware potsherds in the enclosure. The mound is very much disturbed and its surface is covered with iron ore and slag pieces.

6) MALAPURAM (For location see page 51):

This ashmound is only partially preserved owing to destruction largely by cultivation in recent times. The mound is about eight meters in length (S-N), six meters in width (E-W) and about one meter in height from the surrounding ground level. The surroundings of the mound are full of iron ore and slag pieces besides neolithic implements and pottery.

7) MALLIPALLI (ML):

A hamlet of East Kodipalli village, Mallipalli lies at about 12 km. south-east by north-east from Kalyandrug and about three kilometers north-east from Kalyandrug-Dhamavaram road.

About half-a-kilometer south of the village in a patta land on the southern bank of a perennial stream called 'Mallipalli Vanka' is a small ashmound of about ten meters' length, eight
meters' width and about half-a-meter height from the ground level. The vicinity of the mound did not yield any neolithic implements nor pottery except for a few dolerite and chert flakes. Huge vitrified ash lumps are scattered around the mound, and the local iron slag and ore lumps occur in the vicinity of the mound, and the local inhabitants say that it is an ancient iron-smelting place.

8) MUDIGAL (For location see pages 51-52):

The ashmound, which is as small as the above two mounds (S. No. 6 and 7), is situated at the south-eastern foot of the Mudigal hill besides the neolithic and megalithic habitation deposits. The mound is about 12 meters in length and about the same dimension in width. Since it lies on the hill slope, is partly cut by a cart-track and has got merged with the surrounding ground-level. Due to erosion and other causes its correct thickness cannot be estimated. The surface around the mound is strewn with iron ore and slag lumps.

9) PALAVOY (For location see page 53):

There are four ashmounds of varying dimensions at the western foot of a huge granite hill. For convenience's sake, they are designated ashmound I, II, III and IV.

Ashmound I: This is the northernmost and the biggest mound and is well preserved. It is approximately circular in plan, measuring 83.05 meters in south-north direction, 76.20 meters in east-west direction, and has a height of about six meters from the western ground-level.

Ashmound II: This mound is located about 120 meters south of mound I. It is almost circular in outline measuring 72.40 meters in south-north direction and 72.00 meters in east-west
directions. Its height from the western ground-level is about five meters. It extends right up to the foot of the hill, and is much disturbed.

Ashmound III: This is situated outside the potta land a little to the south-east of mound II. The mound is only partially preserved. It is circular in outline, and is about eight meters in diameter. As its height is in level with the surrounding ground, it could not be estimated.

Ashmound IV: This is the southernmost mound about 200 meters south of mound III and is close to the hill slope. It is surrounded on all sides by huge granite boulders and cactus plants which protect it from disturbance. The mound is roughly circular in form measuring about 50 meters in length and 47 meters in width. Its approximate height is four meters from the western ground-level. The north-eastern portion of the mound is much destroyed by recent digging.

All the four ashmounds merge with habitation deposits. The surroundings of the mounds yielded lot of iron slag and ore lumps, animal bones, neolithic implements and pottery.

10) SUGURU (SGR):

It is a village on the Nagari river bank, about eight kilometers north of Kanchagarabelagallu (for location see pages 58-9) in Alur taluk. The mound is small and flat, and lies about one one kilometer south of the village. Foots (1916: 94), who discovered it, did not find any antiquities except a black potsherd.

11) VANTAREDDIPALLI (VAF):

A hamlet of Kambadur, this place is about four kilometers east of Andepalli ashmounds. The writer was informed by the in-
habitants of Vantareddipalli that in the patta land of one Ven-
ganna, there is a big ashmound by the side of a small rocky knoll.

While exploring the south-eastern and south-western corners
of Kalyandrug taluk in 1966, the writer had the opportunity of
recording two ashmounds in the adjoining territory of Mysore State
though strictly out of the geographical limits of the present
survey. They are here mentioned for the sake of historical record.

AGALAPURAM (NFM):

This village is situated in the revenue jurisdiction of Nava-
gada taluk of Tumkur district in Mysore State, about 32 km. south-
est of Kalyandrug town.

The ashmound is fairly large, roughly circular in outline
and is situated at the foot of a granite hill locally called
'AamiliKonda', named after the hill-god 'Siva' residing on the
hill-top. The top of the hill retains a vast plain surface which
might contain habitational deposits. The vicinity of the mound is
strewn over with iron ore and slag lumps besides neolithic stone
artifacts and pottery.

KOLIMIPALAYAM (KFM):

The village Kolimipalyam (meaning 'Smelting place') lies
about 38 km. south of Kalyandrug town and about six kilometers
from Aunduripi (for location see page 50) neolithic site. The
ashmound proper is at the foot of a granite hill.

The word Kolimipalyam means a "smelting place" (Kolima-
smelting; palyam = furnace). This, in the context of the finding
of iron ore and slag pieces, would suggest the existence of an
iron-smelting industry in the past.
E. Iron Smelting Sites

It is a known fact that the ashmounds of the Deccan are situated in areas which are geologically rich in iron ore. The occurrence of iron slag and iron-containing haematite fragments in the vicinity of these ashmounds is not uncommon, just as we see the existence of megalithic monuments and settlements directly succeeding those of neolithic at a majority of the sites.

Foote (1916: 80-81) while surveying the Bellary district found an iron-smelting site by the side of a neolithic settlement on the north, or "Face" hill of Bellary, not far from Kupgal ashmound, where he saw iron slag and fragments of haematite of both rich and poor quality. He observes, "this haematite must have been brought by human agency, for there are no signs of geological formation on the hill from which the ore could have been washed down, and the nearest natural source from which it could have been obtained lies in the great haematite quartzite beds of the copper mountain located 3 miles to the south-westward. The assumption of the existence of an iron-making industry in this neolithic settlement is supported by the occurrence in it of a small pottery tuyere suitable in shape for the protection against direct flame action of the nozzle of a small bellows". He suggests, "I fully expect that if the made ground in this and around many other sites were turned over carefully under competent exper super­vision many discoveries would be made illustrating more fully the status of civilization attained by the polished stone people and their probable direct descendants, the early iron people".

Yazdani and his assistant Khwaja Muhammad Ahmed (1938: 19-21) 26-31, who discovered many neolithic sites in Raichur district
also found by the side of a majority of these a number of earthen mounds and iron smelting sites. Mr. Muhammed Ahmed mentions that at Hasaki in the horse-shoe shaped valley two smelting furnaces were successfully excavated. He says that crucibles and stones used by the smiths for sharpening the tools and pounding stones were found by the side of the above furnaces.

Allchin (1960: 10) in his explorations in Saichur district found iron-smelting factories at a number of places. He makes mention of the Fikilhal site and thinks that such spots would belong to the Medieval period.

The writer in his explorations discovered, at one point on the south-eastern slope of the Muldaal hill, lumps of iron slag covered over and above a number of cylindrical furnaces or tubes made of brownish red murum mixed with earth. These signs indicate the ancient smelting activities, the significance of which is fully discussed later (Chapter VIII).

F. Megalithic Monuments

The term 'megalithic monument' means any structure built of large, undressed or roughly dressed stones erected commonly in memory of the dead. Unlike other pre- and proto-historic remains, which are usually buried in the soil, many of the megalithic structures occur on surface mostly at the foot of the hills and hillocks.

There are several types of megalithic monuments. Of these, those found in our area are:

1) Tsort-hole cists,
2) Stone circles,
3) Dolmens, and
4) Menhirs.

None of the sites possess all the four types.

1) Port-Hole Cist

It is an underground structure, rectangular in plan, made of two long vertical slabs and one or two short horizontal slabs driven into the ground with a floor-slab and with or without a roof-slab. Then one of the side-slabs is pierced with a circular, semi-circular or trapezoidal hole. "The opening is called a 'port-hole'; and a cist with such an opening is called a 'port-hole cist' (Krishnaswami 1949: 43). About a portion of 8 cm. to 10 cm. of the cist is usually found above the natural ground level.

This is the most common type in this region, as indeed all over the Deccan. Majority of the monuments described by Kelly (Taylor 1952: 86) are port-hole cists. In Brahmagiri excavations a typical port-hole cist has been exposed (Wheeler 1948: Pl. XXXII 3).

When one of the sides or ends of a cist wants a slab, then the structure is called a cist with an entrance chamber. Subbarao (1949: figs. 2 and 3, Pl. XXXX) illustrates an exposed cist with a port-hole at Bellapur and another cist with an entrance chamber at Bellapur, both the places located in Rayadurg taluk.

A number of cists were found by the writer at Falavoy, Thimmaganipalli and Madigal. None of these cists has a covering slab; and very few have port holes. Port-hole with a circular shape in the eastern side-slab is the characteristic feature of the cists in this area. Simple cists from Madigal and Thimmaganipalli are seen in plate 8, Nos. 2 and 3.

The absence of roof-slabs in the majority of cists in this
The functional significance of the port-hole is interpreted in various ways. Its frequent occurrence at several places has been attributed to a common origin of the culture. Childe (1948: 10) says, "it seems to me a highly specialised trait suitable for defining a generalised 'megalithic' culture if any such exist". But, somewhere (Childe 1947: 208) on the basis of the furniture, he thinks that such monuments do not belong to a single culture. Wheeler (1947-48: 554) points to the relationship between these and similar other structures. He further envisages that the port-hole at Brahmagiri was probably meant for dropping food and other offerings to the dead in the beginning, throwing light on its symbolic character.

Cists are burial plans containing human bones, polished red and black pottery, red slipped pottery, a number of iron implements such as swords, spears and axes, and ornaments of gold and precious stones. Subbarao (1949: Fig. 1, pl. XXXIX) illustrates a cist from Brahmagiri containing a bundle of bones in its centre with pottery and other things put around. The orientation of cists is always east-west so far as this region is concerned.

2) Stone Circles

These are usually circular in fashion, sometimes oval or irregular, with several flat small and big stone slabs arranged vertically all round with or without a huge pit inside the circle. They were located at all the places where cists were found. Stone circles sometimes enclose a number of cists, menhirs but
in no case dolmens have been seen except for those reported by Felly in Rayadurg area. Also, Krishnaaswami (1949: 38) reports a number of dolmens bounded by a single stone circle in Kerala State.

Some scholars think that the stone circles were used by their builders for exposing the dead body after the desiccation of which a few selected bones were isolated and ritually put in the cist (Wheeler, 1947-48: 554). It is not known what explanation can be offered when cists are found in stone circles, as is the case at Falavoy in Rayadurg taluk. Stone circles from Falavoy and Thimmagenipalli are illustrated in plate A, No. 4; and plate B, No. 1.

3) Dolmens

These are roughly square or quadrangular in plan, consisting of several upright orthostatic slabs erected on the natural ground level to support a solitary flat slab of stone, which covers a space or chamber below it. A port-hole may or may not present in a dolmen. Thus, dolmens differ from cists, which are underground.

The orthostats may be three in number erected or three sides as walls with one side open and the roof with a capstone. Two such dolmens were located in the present exploration, one at Falavoy about one-and-a-half kilometers west of Falavoy hill on the left side of a perennial spring, and the other on the highest point of Muthalabanda hillock (for location see pages 53 and 74) situated right on the naturally formed granite rock. The former has its opening to the east while the latter opens to the north (Plate C, No. 1).

The writer had the opportunity of recording a different kind of dolmen from the above in the vicinity of the modern grave-yard
a little north-east of Madigal village. This dolmen has four side-slabs one of which has a port-hole and the top with a roof-slab. The monument is oriented north-east to south-west and there is a circular hole made at the bottom of the north-eastern orthostat. This slab is almost broken completely retaining a portion of the port-hole (Plate C, No.1).

Felly had reported several dolmens at Addaguppa, Mallapuram, and particularly in the 'Gallapalli Reserve Forest' area of Rayadrug taluk.

Dolmens unlike cistas were probably built in memory of the dead but they were not the houses of a short-statured tribal as Taylor (1852: 55-57) thought, nor were they the burying places of the dead. They must have been erected with a great religious significance. The sporadic occurrence of these monuments in Kalyandrug taluk suggests us to conclude that they were built in memory of a few important persons of a particular community of the Megalithic culture.

4) Menhir

A menhir consists of a single dressed or undressed standing stone with its base driven into the ground. These monuments vary in height from small to big and are frequently oriented north to south.

They have been recorded at almost all the sites in Rayadrug and Kalyandrug taluka. A few of these from Kalavoy are illustrated in plate A, No.1-2 and Plate B, No.4. Their occurrence at or near a burial spot shows their sepulchral character. Besides, menhirs may be commemorative also.

A great deal of our knowledge on these various types of
stone alignments in this region and in the neighbouring Bellary, Reichur and Hyderabad districts has been recorded by the pioneer efforts of Meadows Taylor, Felly, Fawcet and Francis since the early fifties of the 19th century.

With the clues left by these scholars the writer could bring to light a number of new megalithic monuments. These exist generally in a badly preserved state due to extensive cultivation of land. In the following pages is given the geographical distribution and description of the sites of these monuments in this region.

ANANTAPUR DISTRICT

Dharmaveram taluk

In this taluk the following four places are reported to have the existence of megalithic monuments.1

1) DHAVADHOOOLAGONDHI (probably Devadulagonda) (DBK):

Felly, while giving the location of this village to the south-east of Dharmaveram did not mention at what distance the place is situated. Efforts made by the writer to trace this place could not be fruitful.

Felly reports 104 structures, which he calls 'dwellings' at this place. They are nothing but 'dolmens' consisting of a single capstone supported by three side slabs, one on each side, as walls leaving one side open. The roof stones of these dwellings are missing and are reported to have been taken away by the merchants of the village for their houses

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1. The description of these sites is adopted from a statement of C.J. Felly appended to Taylor's "Notices of Cromlechs, Cairns and other ancient Caytho-Bruidal remains in the principality of Shahpur", JFRAS, IV, 1852.
2/ KONDAPOORAM (Kondaparam) (KDH):

This village was in the jurisdiction of the former Kondikonda taluk. Pelly unfortunately did not give precise location, and enquiries made to trace the village revealed that no such village exists today.

Three dolmens, which pelly calls 'structures', were circumscribed by a single stone circle, which he names 'dwelling'. The first dolmen consists of an enclosure of three upright stone slabs topped by another slab and leaving one side open. The second and third structures have an enclosure of four upright slabs and another slab on the top; while the second one also has a central aperture in one of the side slabs. Pelly adds, "it is said to be a pagoda of sandawas. On being dug up some iron nails and plates were found therein".

Krishnasawamy (1949: 38) mentions the existence of a number of such dolmens bounded by a single stone circle at a place near Veradarapalli in the Falappalli Reserved Forest in the former Cochin state of Kerala. He defines them as 'multiple' dolmens'.

3/ KODDEGULUR (probably Kudegulur) (MDH):

This is a village to the south-east of Dharmanavaram. Efforts made by the writer to trace this village both through the revenue records and local enquiries did not bear fruit. Pelly reports 580 dwellings from this place. All the structures are dolmens similar to those found at the previously mentioned sites.

4/ RODLAIR (possibly Puluru) (PLA):

The village lies in the south-east corner of the former Kondikonda taluk. The site here, too, could not be located in the present survey. A single dolmen was found at this site.
An extract of the Tahsildar's recorded by Felly (Taylor 1852: 86) on the subject is as under: "It is said that human beings, dwarfs, called Gujeria, resided in these dwellings, that they were built with no other material but flags of stone, from fear of showers of fire, and that the beings were under a yard in stature. One or two of these buildings were dug up, but nothing was found. The dwellings situated near Bhavadinholasonda are without the flags that were placed on the top as roofs, they were carried away by the merchants of the village."

Gooty Taluk

5. GUNTAKAL (GIL):

Guntakal is about 32 km. and 60 km. north-west of Gooty and Anantapur respectively, on the border of Bellary and Anantapur districts. The site, a little south of the railway Junction was first found by Foote (1916: 103) in 1887, who collected a good number of neolithic implements from here.

Later, Cornelius Cadrew (Foote 1916: 12, 103), the then incharge of the Railway Locomotive Workshops at Guntakal, who took keen interest in the work, excavated the 'barrow' and 'graves' which yielded an excellent collection of pottery and iron implements. This collection was catalogued by Foote in 1901. Subbarao (1949: 175-7), who also visited the place, out of curiosity but not as a part of his research, could not locate Foote’s site. He, however, describes the pottery and iron implements recovered by Cadrew in his excavations. The iron implements mainly comprise flat celts with concave sides, meeting in a splayed cutting edge, arrow-heads (barbed) with tang, spears, swords, a dagger, javelin heads with tang and a bit for horse. Pottery divided into seven
types consists of black polished, black-and-red and red slipped wares.

Kalyandrug Taluk

All the sites save for one, Mudigal, described under this taluk are writer's new discoveries.

6) AKKAMMAKONDA (For location see page 44):

To the east of the hill in the fields were located a number of stone circle and menhirs. These monuments are facing destruction through cultivation or diggings for treasure by the villagers.

7) ANDEPALLI (For location see pages 44-45).

There are two megaliths here. These are situated – one each – on the western slopes of the northern and southern halves of Burgamakonda. The megaliths consist of a solitary, undressed, long granite slab erected in the centre around which were laid in a circular fashion a number of big and small granite boulders. These structures may be called menhirs bounded by stone circles.

All over the surface of the man-made deposits were found scattered plenty of iron slags and pieces of wheel-made pottery indicating the existence of an early iron age settlement.

8) HULIKAL (For location see page 43):

There are a few menhirs on the eastern slope of the hill. The surface has yielded a good number of potsherds belonging to iron age.

9) MUDIGAL (For location see pages 51-52):

The megalithic monuments here, particularly, port-hole cists were first recorded in 'Anantapur Gazetteer' (1905: 175-6) followed by G.O. Nos. 975 Public, 4th Aug. 1913; Annual Progress Report,
In the present survey, around one thousand megalithic tombs were located in the cultivated and uncultivated lands and as well in the modern grave-yard. These localities lie a little to the north and north-east of the village and close to the east, south-east and north of a hillock locally called 'Ramappakonda', after the hill-god of that name. The monuments comprise dolmens, cists, stone circles, cists surrounded by stone circles and menhirs. A few menhirs were also found in the fields to the south of Mudigal hill.

Of all the dolmens here only one is well preserved measuring 3.50 meters in length (SW-NE) 3.20 meters in breadth (NN-SE) with a height of about one meter. The north-eastern wall also with a port-hole has been partly broken (Plate 6, No.2). The cists and dolmens are oriented north-west to south-east. Most of the structures situated in the field to the east of 'Ramappakonda' are gradually vanishing on account of continued cultivation of the land.

Mudigallu Satyanarayana Rao (1963: 18 and 32) wrote a booklet in Telugu on the glimpses of Ramappakonda, the vicinity of which is full of megalithic tombs. Rao mentions a locally current tradition that these structures were the dwellings of a small statured people called 'gujaris' or 'liliput' - also popularly known by the name 'Aryamauryas'. These houses and their owners suddenly met destruction according to some, while some others believe that they were the graves constructed in memory of the dead.
Luckily a day before the writer's visit to the place, the clearing of a stone circle in the course of ploughing a field yielded a large number of sherds of black polished ware and iron implements. A few potsherds from this find could be procured but the disposal of the iron implements was not disclosed.

The south and south-eastern foot of the Madigal hill, on the southern edge of the village, retain thick habitation deposits containing pottery of megalithic period over a comparatively thin neolithic deposits. These evidences suggest that this site, if excavated, will throw light on life and culture during iron age.

10) MUTHALABANDA (MTB):

This is a small granite hill about two kilometers to the north-east of Kalyandrug and a little north of Akkammakonda. A dolmen measuring 5.42 x 2.71 x 1.93 meters with its opening to the north stands on a big bare granite rock at the highest point of the hillock (plate C, No.1). The approach path leading to the plains to the south-west of the dolmen is lined on both sides with huge externally tilting stone slabs. This indicates that the dolmen on the top of the hill has had considerably religious importance in the life of the iron age people.

To the east and north of the foot-hill there are numerous cists.

The eastern slope, close to the grinding groove on a granite rock, yielded a crude stone axe and a rubbing stone.

11) PALAVOY (For location see page 53).

To the south and north of mounds at the western foot of the hill were located ten stone circles, 11 menhirs and three cists. About 210 meters south of mound II, there is in a field
a huge menhir of undressed granite measuring 3.20 meters in height from ground level and 2.55 meters in circumference.

12) THIMMAGANIPALLI (TGP):

A hamlet of East Kodipalli village, Thimmaganipalli is about a kilometer north of Falavoy village. A little to the west of the place and close to the east of a dome-shaped hillock in the patta land (Survey No. 26 and in area 65 acres) of Mr. P. Subba Rao of Kalyandrug town, there are 36 stone circles (of which four have been dug for treasure) and a few menhirs, and some cists. The four stone circles dug by the owner, Mr. Subba Rao, yielded some pots containing ash, husk and a few iron implements. Mr. Rao, however, could not recollect the disposal of the antiquities found in the dig.

The biggest stone circle measures 14.40 meters east-west, 14.20 meters north-south, while the smallest measures 6.10 meters by 5.90 meters. These dimensions indicate that the stone circles are roughly circular in plan. One cist, which measures 1.84 meters in length and 1.24 meters in breadth is representative of most of the cists recorded here and at Mudigal.

About one km. to the north of Thimmaganipalli, there is a row of standing granite slabs suggesting the view of a passage burial.

Rayadurg Taluk

The western part of this taluk goes under the name Rayadurg-Brahmagiri area when it was in Bellary district of Mysore. It includes the eastern part of Kudliggi taluk of Bellary district. The whole territory is called the Valley of Chinna Nageri, which is about 16 km. east of Rayadurg town. The area round about the town within a radius of eight kilometers contains nearly 1,200 megalithic burials. A statement of these burials prepared by C.J. Felly,
the then Collector of Bellary district was appended to a paper on megaliths by Meadows Taylor (1852, 1873: 329). These structures were later described by Francia in 1904. Longhurst (1912-13) also wrote on the Kiatvaena (Port-hole cists) of the Rayadrug already included in the Gazetteer.

Subbarao (1949: 78-86), who visited this area has already given a detailed description of the megaliths and their locations. Here only a brief description of each site found in Rayadrug area is given.

13/ ADDAGUPPA (AGP):

The village is about six km. south-west of Rayadrug. Five hundred and twenty-five megalithic burials were recorded by Kelly in the Addaguppa Reserve Forest area. He divided these structures into four groups. The first group consisting of a stone circle enclosing three kinds of dolmens is similar to that of Kondapurum. This group includes 17 such structures. The second and fourth groups, consisting of 51 and 214 structures, have an enclosure of four upright stone slabs while the third group, comprising 243 structures, has only three upright slabs and leaving one side open; but structures of all the three groups are without a top slab. Besides, one of the side slabs of the dolmens in the fourth group has got a port-hole also.

14/ GALLAFALLI (GFL):

This village lies about nine km. south-west of Rayadrug town. Kelly recorded the existence of 200 structures and he divided them into four groups similar to those found at Addaguppa. Their group-wise distribution is as under: group 1) six, 2) 85, 3) 81 and 4) 28.
Many of these monuments were reported to have been dug by various zamildars and their excavations yielded bone splinters and potsherds (Francis 1904: 296). Felly states that the villagers said that the monuments were the houses of the pigmies, called Moravandla (Moriyas). Longhurst (1912-13: 42) who visited these structures calls them "cell-tombs".

15) MALLAPURAM (MLP):

The village is about six km. north of Rayadurg and about nine km. from Brahmagiri. Felly recorded 485 megalithic tombs at this place. Three of these consist of four upright stone slabs and another on the top, and one of the side slabs with an aperture. The rest 482 tombs fall into the following four groups similar to those found at Addaguppa and Gallapalli, group 1) 18, 2) 48, 3) 132 and 4) 284.

16) RAYADURG: (For location see page 54):

Longhurst (1912-13: 42) reports a big dolmen about a km. east-north-east of the Rayadurg taluk office. Subbarao (1943: 87) could not locate the dolmen found by Longhurst, but, instead he picked up a ground flake axe. The writer, who also visited the place in 1965 did not see any dolmen at the reported spot. The exploration, however, resulted in the collection of some neolithic implements.

KURNOOL DISTRICT

Adoni Taluk

17) ROGSI (RSG):

Roggi town is situated about 29 km. north of Adoni and 14 km. south of Tunganahadra. About one-and-a-half km. south of the town at the junction of three hills, Captain Meadows Taylor (1851-52: 53-57) found six megaliths. His description of these shows that four structures are dolmens (Taylor's Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5) while the rest two
(his Nos. 4 and 6) include a cist and a stone circle respectively. All the monuments are oriented east to west. Usually, the southern upright slab possess a port-hole. In one of these structures (No. 1) Taylor mentions to have found fragments of red and black pottery, and a small piece of kindled wood. He observes that four of the erections were small houses of a nomadic tribe, while the remaining two were their burying places.

Monuments of similar structure were located at this site in the present exploration also.
MAP OF SOUTHWESTERN ANDHRA PRADESH SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRE-AND PROTO-HISTORIC SITES

EXCAVATED SITE
* LATE STONE AGE
△ NEOLITHIC
O ASHMOUND
★ MEgalithIC
+ IRON SMELTING
-- ROAD
--- RAILWAY
--- RIVER