CHAPTER II

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The earliest discovery of stone implements in Rajputana was made by A.C.L. Carlleyle, an officer of the then Archaeological Survey of India, who toured Rajputana in 1871-73. Near the village of Deosa in district Jaipur he found in one or two cairns "rude stone implements". Of these he mentions "a flat piece of hard black stone shaped exactly like the fragment of a sword blade, it having a sharp edge on one side, while the opposite one was thicker and blunt. This fragment was about three inches in length, by, I think, rather less than two inches in breadth, with a thickness at the thickest edge of about a quarter of an inch. I believe it to be a fragment of a stone knife or dagger. I also found a stone ball and a bulb-shaped or conical-shaped quartz implement, very thick at one end and sharp pointed at the other - perhaps a rude borer." 1

Carlleyle also excavated a 12 ft. high mound near the cairns. In the fourth layer from the surface in this mound he found "a few flakes of flinty quartzite" along with human bones and the shank bone and jaw of an animal, probably a horse. "The shank bone was very heavy and solid as if half petrified". This layer was sealed by a layer which yielded "an immense quantity of human remains the greater portion of which were contained in roundish-shaped earthen vessels which were covered with lids at top besides some loose detached bones and fragments of pottery" 2


2. Ibid., pp. 107-8.
Though it is difficult to say anything about the exact archaeological nature and age of these implements, judging from the descriptions given by Carlileyle they would seem to be pre-Chalcolithic or pre-Megalithic microliths.

Carlileyle also found "several flakes of flinty quartzite and two rude implements of the same material" on a mound the surface of which was covered with "bricks and old pottery" at Ghar, a small village, about twenty five or thirty miles east of Deoli in district Tonk.

At about the same time C.A. Hackett of the Geological Survey of India found some palaeoliths from Bundi, Jaipur, and Indargarh, the last in present day district of Tonk. The exact provenance of these implements and also the context of their discovery are not known. Of the total number of ten implements mentioned by Coggin Brown (through whom only we know of Hackett's discoveries) three are reported missing. Of the remaining seven six are handaxes and one cleaver. Six of them are made of quartzite and one of sandstone. Three of these are illustrated by Coggin Brown. These include one specimen each of an almond-shaped handaxe, a cordate and an ovate. All are highly evolved specimens and especially the cordate is remarkably fine.

After these initial discoveries no work was done in the prehistory of this area for nearly eighty years. Indian prehistoric studies had lain moribund during these years though occasional studies had been made in some parts of the country, for example Cammaide and Burkill's work


in south-east India and the monumental work of De Terra and Paterson in the Punjab. However a general awakening to search for stone age remains set in only after Sankalia revived prehistoric studies in the early forties of this century with his work in Gujarat. The new cadre of officers in the Department of Archaeology of the Government of India also began explorations in their respective areas.

In Rajputana M.N. Deshpande, then superintendent of the Western Circle of the Department of Archaeology made a number of palaeolithic discoveries in 1953-54. He explored the valleys of the Gambhiri and the Berach near Chitorgarh, the Bamani at Singali, and the Chambal at Sonita. At all these sites he found pebble tools, handaxes and cleavers. This exploration was continued in the following years by S.R. Rao who succeeded Deshpande in the Western Circle. Rao reported six more palaeolithic sites in 1954-55 in the rivers Bamani and the Ruparel, tributaries of the Chambal and the Berach respectively. He also found microliths comprising lunates, triangles, and points at Sigoh on the Kadamali in district Chitorgarh. Further palaeoliths were found by Rao in 1955-56 from a nulla joining the Berach near Chitorgarh and microliths from the mounds on the banks of the Berach and the Gambhiri near Chitorgarh. In the same year K.V. Sounder Rajan found a Lower


Palaeolithic site on the Sanwan Nadi, a tributary of the Sangesara in district Alwar in northern Rajasthan, and Sankalia reported the discovery of a flake tool from near Nathdwara on the Banas.

In 1956-57 Rao found Lower and Middle Palaeolithic tools from the Chamli, a tributary of the Chambal near Badoli. In the same year he also carried out some digging at Sonita and Bhainsrorgarh on the Chambal where he found handaxes and cleavers from the lower cemented gravel and levalloisian-type flakes and scrapers from the upper gravel. A similar sequence was observed on the Baman, a tributary of the Chambal at Bhainsrorgarh and on the Chambal itself at Navghat.

In the same year the Exploration Branch of the Union Department of Archaeology undertook an archaeological survey of southern Rajputana. They discovered a Lower Palaeolithic site on the Wagan river, a tributary of the Berach at Beawar, besides collecting tools from the already known sites of Chitor, Khor and Nagari. They also discovered a number of microlithic sites in Chitorgarh and Udaipur districts in the valleys of the Berach and some near Bhainsrorgarh on the Chambal. In this year some microliths were also collected from Khinsawar near Nagore in district Jodhpur by the Department of Archaeology of the Government of Rajasthan.

The Exploration Branch reported three more microlithic

4. Ibid., pp. 6, 8.
5. Ibid., p. 79.
sites in district Bhilwara and one in district Chitorgarh in 1957-58. In the same year Rao collected palaeoliths from the cemented gravel layers of two tributary nallas of the Berach near Bichore in district Chitorgarh. B.K.Thapar found microliths at Kakoni on the Parwani, a tributary of the Chambal in district Kotah. In the following year the Exploration Branch added a few more microlithic sites in the districts of Ajmer, Bhilwara, Jaipur and Tonk. In Western Rajputana P.C.Ganam, Exploration Assistant in the Western Circle discovered a Middle Palaeolithic site in district Barmer in a dried up stream bed.

The number of discoveries made by the members of the Union Department of Archaeology during the last few years makes an impressive list. Unfortunately none of these sites has been published in detail; only brief notes have appeared in the Indian Archaeology - A Review. The amount of material collected from all the sites is very large and at present lies scattered at several places. Some of it was studied by me and is incorporated in the present study. But this was done admittedly in a hurry and secondly it is not supported by illustrations which are so necessary in the treatment of archaeological material. The need for a detailed study of this material preferably by those who collected it cannot be over-emphasized.

My work was begun in the background of the information

2. Ibid., p.45,
3. Ibid., p. 69.
5. Ibid., p. 74.
available in June, 1958. Till then though a number of microlithic and palaeolithic sites had been discovered in Eastern Rajputana, only one stone age site, namely the microlithic site of Khinsawar in Jodhpur district, had been found in Western Rajputana. This area was therefore virtually a Terra Incognita. I therefore concentrated primarily on this area to find out its prehistoric potentialities.