Preface

The present thesis entitled “Study of palaeoenvironment of Early Holocene Period in the Northern Vindhys and the Middle Ganga Plains: Archaeobotanical Approach” deals with paleoclimatic reconstruction of Northern Vindhys and middle Ganga plain using phytolith as a main proxy along with some additional proxies. The sediments from three archaeological sites were studied. The thesis is divided into five chapters.

The first chapter comprises of general introduction and archeological importance of the study area, study of palaeoenvironment and required tools, general introduction of proxies used, review of literature and objectives.

The second chapter throws light on methods used to extract studied proxies like phytolith, diatom, thecamobians and sponge spicules. The carbon isotope measurement calibration of radiocarbon dates and statistical analysis is also described in this chapter.

Chapter three describes results, part I deals with phytolith results from Tokwa archaeological site and part II deals with phytolith and carbon isotope analysis of Hetapatti archaeological site. While part three provide results from Phytolith, diatom, thecamoebian and sponge spicule analysis from Karela Lake, adjacent to Hulaskhera archaeological site.

In chapter four interpretations and discussion of results has been placed considering palaeoclimatic inferences from each studied site. The first part deals with interpretation of results from Tokwa, Hetapatti and Karela Jheel. The latter part deals with discussion and reconstruction of palaeoclimate with emphasis of early Holocene climate.
Chapter five concludes the findings of the present study along with palaeoclimatic reconstruction of early Holocene period in Northern Vindhyas and Middle Ganga Plain.

The thesis ends with the last section, in which various references have been cited, consulted during the present study.
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