PREFACE

Human adaptation to Northeast India remains less known. It is true that various aspects have been studied and usually interpreted within the conventional framework of prehistory. But here an endeavour has been made to go beyond the conventional limit to explore some new dimensions of the material under study. Hence, our orientation differs a little. To have a better comprehension of the life and cultures during archaeological past of this area an anthropological evaluation proves more effective and imperative as well. So, we are inclined to resort to anthropological orientation wherever it is necessary.

The data incorporated in this study are obtained through archaeological exploration and excavations. This lead us to identify three adaptive mechanisms; each stands for adaptive patterns of its own. The variations in adaptive patterns in a given time plane operating within an area analogous to its eco-cultural setting are the resultants of cultural variables. The contributing variables specific to the emergence of distinct and individual adaptive patterns could better be analysed by aforesaid approach.

The present study lead us to elicit this picture that variations in ‘Broad Spectrum Tradition’ (discussed in the context of Hoabinhian tradition in this area) is not an outcome or a result of a particular or specific factor, such as climato-ecological adjustment, population expansion or sudden exposure to a new technology (as are generally outlined). It is something else. It is a resultant of an interaction of behavioural traits relating to technology, economy and ‘mental template’. This is key to the understanding of the formations of cultures within a Culture that had been here during archaeological past in a contemporary time plane.

The present study embodies eight chapters. The first chapter starts with introduction, dealing with the geographic, ethnic, linguistic and materialistic
aspects relevant to the understanding of cultural configurations of prehistoric traditions. This includes the methods adopted and analytical aspects, also the previous researches in the area.

The second Chapter is on physical setting and the people inhabiting the area. The third Chapter deals with the morphological features and analysis of the elements of the respective assemblages. The fourth Chapter evaluates the proximity and distances among the sites on the basis of comparative analysis of morphological characters. While the fifth Chapter examines the functional aspects of the morphological types and evaluate the functional relation of working edge and grip-axis.

The sixth Chapter provides a detailed list of artifacts along with their important properties. Summary and conclusion is included in the chapter seventh.

The Chapter eight provides a glossary of certain terms and effects that have been incorporated in the text and also the important schedules used in processing the data coupled with appendices.

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