

slides so prepared showed many angiospermic pollen grains, some of which belong to the Leguminosae and the Gramineae. Also a few pteridophytic spores were observed.

One well-preserved pollen grain resembles very closely that of *Acacia longifolia*. It is a smooth compound 16-celled grain; eight cells are centrally placed, forming a sort of cubical block with the others arranged in a rectangular fashion. The central group is surrounded by eight peripheral cells all in a plane at right angles to, and bisecting, the central group. The peripheral cells are so placed that their eight contacts with each other are alternately opposite and midway between the four contacts of the central group. The group as a whole is flattened, with a more or less rounded outline, and the intersecting lines between the individual grains cross each other at right angles.

The exine is thick and its corners are rounded. The individual grains measure about 24.5μ in diameter and the whole compound grain is 69.5μ in diameter.

It is significant to note that fossil pollen grains of the *Acacia* type have been recently described from the Victorian Tertiary deposits, Australia, by Cookson².

I thank Dr. Chitley for her guidance in this work.

T. TRIVEDI

Government College of Science,
Nagpur.

¹ Murty, T. V., Proc. Forty-second Ind. Sci. Congr. Assoc. (1955).
² Cookson, C. I., *Austral. J. Bot.*, 2 (1), 52 (1954).

ARCHAEOLOGY

Stone Implements from Western Nigeria

RECENTLY a number of stone implements have been uncovered by labourers in sand quarries at Green Springs near Ibadan, Western Nigeria. These implements are associated with deposits of river sand and clay. The workmen wash the sand, discarding the clay and stones, usually placing the latter in heaps or scattering them about the ground. Thus it has not been possible to determine the level at which they were lying before excavation. Generally, however, the layers containing stone are between one and seven feet below the main surface-level.

Table 1 lists the definite artefacts found. The material is mainly quartz from the basement complex.

Polished stone axes are common in Nigeria, where they are often used as protective charms against thieves and thunder, in the belief that they are fallen thunderbolts. Flaked and tanged implements, however, have not previously been recorded from the Western Region of Nigeria, although flaked implements which have been compared to the Chelles-Le Moustier epoch in Europe are found in Northern Nigeria¹, and other flaked implements have been reported from the Eastern Region and the Cameroons². Typologically, the Green Springs

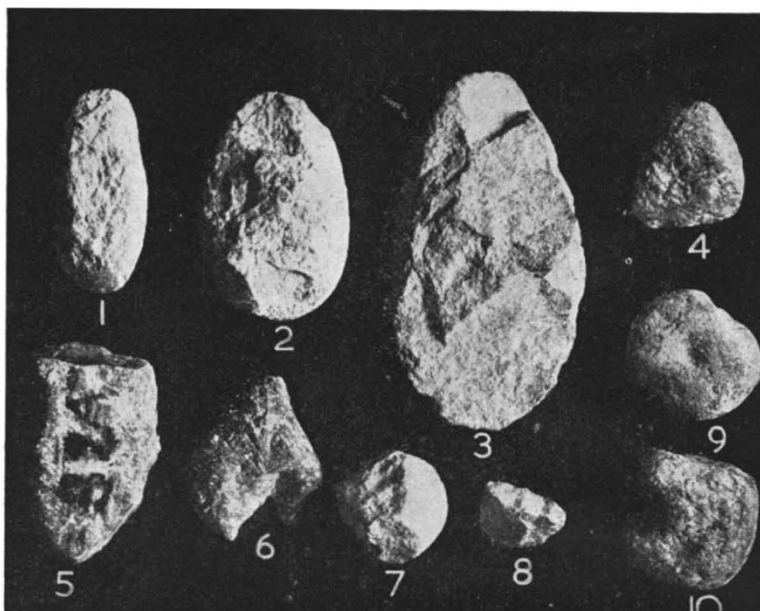


Table 1

Description	Dimensions	No.
Polished hand axes, Fig. 1	Approx. $12 \times 6 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ cm.	5
Fragments	Average width: 6 cm.	10
Well-formed bifaced hand axe, Fig. 2	$14 \times 9\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ cm.	1
Unifaced hand axe, Fig. 3	$23 \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ cm.	1
Polished cleaver-like stone, Fig. 4	$7\frac{1}{2} \times 7 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ cm.	1
'Points', Fig. 5	Approx. $13 \times 9 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ cm.	2
Tanged uniface blade, Fig. 6	$11 \times 9 \times 2$ cm.	1
Hand-held polishing or grinding stones, Fig. 7	Approx. $7 \times 6 \times 6$ cm.	3
Bifacial discoid stones (scrapers?), Fig. 8	Approx. $4 \times 6 \times 2$ cm.	2
Anvil stones indented both surfaces, Fig. 9	Approx. $9 \times 7 \times 4$ cm.	4
Balls	5-8 cm. dia.	15
Eccentrically perforated stone, Fig. 10	Width, 8 cm.; perf., 2 cm.	1
Fractured stone cylinder	6 cm. dia.	1

implements fall into two groups: (a) neolithic types, represented by stone balls, polished axes, anvils, and grinding stones; and (b) palaeolithic types, represented by the points, the flaked axes and the tanged blade. The latter are suggestive of the Aterian cultures of North Africa^{3,4}.

We are of the opinion that systematic excavation in the area may be of advantage to pre-history. We wish to acknowledge the kind help of Mr. R. Hockey, geologist, Geological Survey Department, Federal Government of Nigeria.

E. L. KOSTICK
C. N. WILLIAMS
S. A. WILLIAMS

University College,
Ibadan.
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¹ Braunholtz, H. J., "Stone Implements of Palaeolithic and of Neolithic Types from Nigeria", Geological Survey of Nigeria, Occasional Paper No. 4 (1926).

² Jeffreys, M. D. W., Pan-African Congress on Pre-History, Livingstone, 1955, edit. Clark, J. D., 262 (1957).

³ Caton-Thompson, G., *J. Roy. Anthropol. Inst.*, 76, 87 (1946).

⁴ Allimen, H., "The Prehistory of Africa", English trans., Chapter 7, 234 (1957).