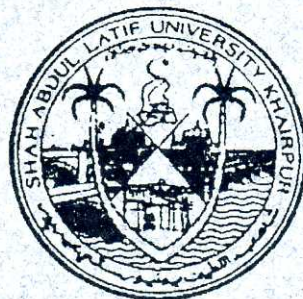


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## AN AMS RADIOCARBON DATE FROM THE HARAPPAN FLINT QUARRY-PIT 862 IN THE ROHRI HILLS (SINDH-PAKISTAN)

**SUMMARY** - An AMS radiocarbon date from the Harappan flint Quarry-pit 862 in the Rohri Hills (Sindh-Pakistan). During the excavation of the flint Quarry-pit 862, two small charcoal fragments of *Zizyphus cf. nummularia* were collected from the bottom of the structure. One of these fragments has been  $^{14}\text{C}$  dated to  $3870 \pm 70$  BP (GrA-3235), which indicates that the flint mine was exploited during a period of time in the development of the Mature Harappan Civilization. The date is particularly important since it helps dating the bullet-core technology for the production of narrow and very narrow bladelets.

### PREFACE

The Harappan Site 862 is located on the Rohri Hills, some 3.5 kilometres south of the Shrine of Shadee Shaheed, along the western fringe on the hills themselves (fig. 1). It consists of two flint workshops (BIAGI *et al.*, 1995) and one large quarry-pit, a few square metres of which were excavated in February 1995. The major flint workshop, distributed over a surface of some 15 metres (BIAGI *et al.*, 1996), was characterized by debitage flakes, bullet-cores and narrow bladelets (fig. 2/1-14) as well as by a few potsherds of a flat-based globular pot with light buff surfaces which, according to J.M. KENOYER and R.P. WRIGHT (pers. comm. 1995), belongs to a type which was in use during the Mature Harappan Civilization and is comparable with a few globular vessel types from Mohenjo-daro (DALES and KENOYER, 1986: 251, fig. 7).

During the excavation of Quarry-pit 862, a 2x2.5 metres test-trench was opened inside the deposits (fig. 3). Two charcoal fragments of *Zizyphus cf. nummularia* (det. M. Madella) were recovered in square E6 at the depth of 1.30 metres, close to the quarry front. More precisely, the charcoals come from layer 4, rich in decortication flakes obtained during the preliminary chipping of the nodules, which also produced a few almond-shaped pre-cores (fig. 2/15).

### THE $^{14}\text{C}$ DATE

One of the charcoal fragments was radiocarbon processed at the Centre for Isotope Research of the University of Groningen (NL). It gave the result of  $3870 \pm 70$  BP (GrA-3235) corresponding

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