

in MFS-8 cells, Sindbis and Chikungunya multiplied but Sendai did not multiply<sup>1</sup>. From these results it appears that the susceptibility and the ability of interferon production (by MFS-8 and L-M cells) are different phenomena and there is no correlation in these two properties.

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## ON THE OCCURRENCE OF A PLEISTOCENE OSSIFEROUS GRAVEL AT NAGPUR, CENTRAL INDIA

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DURING field investigations of the Nagpur area in December 1981, a Middle-Upper Pleistocene Ossiferous Gravel was observed in an east-west trending nala, about 9 km south of the City. Although several Pleistocene localities have been recorded along the Narbada Basin, e.g. Hoshangabad, Narsingpur and Jabalpur<sup>1-3</sup>, there is as yet no documentation of Pleistocene mammals in the Nagpur region. The present finds include a large number of stone tools of palaeolithic culture along with several limb bone fragments and molars of *Equus* and *Bos*. The vertebrate remains are silicified and permineralised (figures 1-2b).

The vertebrate remains were recovered from a ossiferous gravel which overlies the Lameta beds exposed in the same nala. While the remains of stone tools and isolated bones are fairly common, dental material is less frequent. The gravel is composed of a partially unconsolidated assemblage of rolled Deccan Basalt boulders, fragments of chalcedonic silica and silicified *Physa*-bearing Intertrappean rocks. An interesting find from the same gravel is that of a fossil wood probably derived from the Kamphthi Sandstone. Petrified woods have been reported earlier<sup>4</sup>.

The gravel was obviously a widespread sediment of the Pleistocene, blanketing all older deposits. At



Figures 1-2b. 1. *Equus* upper molar, 2a. *Bos* occlusal view, b. Lingual view (Bar represents 1 cm).

Takli, the tusk of an elephant was reported<sup>5</sup> in a conglomerate and the authors correlated the conglomerate with the ossiferous horizon of Jabalpur<sup>6,7</sup>.

The Ossiferous Gravel appears to have good potential for Pleistocene vertebrate palaeontology and archaeology. Lateral extensions of the bone-bearing horizon are being investigated in Nagpur and surrounding areas for a more detailed study.

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