



Preliminary Notes on Tulu Settlement Site, Bauchi State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Tulu is a small ancient settlement named after a great hunter who established it. It is situated in the present day Sabon Kariya, Bauchi State. Tulu was said to have migrated from Old Kariya to avoid conflict between him and his brother who established Old Kariya. This paper presents the archaeological investigation carried out on Tulu hill-top and plain settlement site, evidence surviving from this site includes; relic of stone wall, relic of house foundation, granary foundation, lower grinding stone and graves. The paper adopts archaeological survey and collection of oral tradition as methods for data gathering. Thin Section Analysis was also employed to understand data, specifically pottery for the reconstruction of human activities on this site.

Keywords: Archaeological Survey, Oral Tradition, Relics, Settlement Site, Tulu

Introduction

Tulu hill-top and plain settlement sites are situated in the present-day Ganjuwa Local Government Area, Bauchi State, Nigeria. The site is accessible through motor cycle and on foot from the present Sabon (New) Kariya settlement. Sabon Kariya settlement is situated on the Federal Trunk A road leading to Bauchi town from Jigawa State.

These settlement sites are situated both on the hill and plain at the foot of the hill. The name Tulu given to the hill was gotten from the name of the founder of the settlement. The Hill-top settlement was said to be their first choice of habitation as a result of incessant war but finally settled at the foot of the hill after the war was over. The hill is said to have played a significance role in providing shelter and hideouts for the past inhabitants of Tulu settlement from external aggressors most especially during the war with the Ningawas. Archaeological evidence on the hilltop includes; defensive walls, (made of stone and mud materials), circular stone arrangement of different sizes and function (relics of house foundation), shrines (in form of built with stone arrangement), rock hollows, lower grinding stones, granary foundations, burial ditch and scattered potsherds. More so, on the plane are grave marks, granary foundation, perforated lower grinding stone and heaps of stone arrangement.

The hill-top site covers about 330 meters north-south and 212 meters east-west; the hill is very high and sloppy in nature with an elevation of 633.6 meters above sea level. While the plain site covers 187 meters north-south and 162 meters east-west. This research therefore evaluates the archaeological potentials of Tolu settlement sites (hilltop and valley) with special interest on cultural features related to the people. This research acknowledge that archaeological research in Bauchi State is still at its incipient stage and therefore more is needed to improve our understanding of human occupation of the area.



Objectives and Methods

The objectives of this paper is to report the survey of the archaeological relics found on Tulu hill-top and plain site. In carrying out this research, two basic methods were adopted; the first is the collection of oral tradition which focused on the tradition of origin, culture and traditions while the second is archaeological survey that deals with documentation of finds and features and their dimensions (length, depth, height and width).

Environmental Setting of Tulu

Tulu sites falls on Latitude 10° 51' N and Longitude 009° 44' E. It is located in Ganjuwa Local Government Area, Bauchi State. These settlement sites are about one and half kilometers to Sabon Kariya the present settlement The site is bordered by Kariya to the North, Giwa to the west, Old and new Siri to the South and Miya to the East (See fig. 1).

The weather and climatic condition of the area of study is similar to that of the north eastern region of Nigeria, considered to be a semitropical climate with temperature ranging from as low as 6-14°C, (night and day). During the harmattan season, it gets to as high as 45°C between March and April during the hot and dry season. This period is also characterized by high temperature in the day and intense heat. At this time, farming activities comes almost to a standstill. Rivers and streams dry up and water for domestic use becomes very scarce (Udo, 1970 cf Giade, 2016). The climate is essentially hot, with the raining season varying in length from 5 months to barely 3 months in a year. The season in the region are of two types, the wet and dry season. The raining season begins in April and stops in September and sometimes lasts up to October; while the dry season starts from late October to March (Giade, 2016).

The geological base of Bauchi region belongs to the crystal basement of the West Africa region, which forms the geology of most part of northern Nigeria. (Rocci, etal. 1991 cf Giade, 2016). The area is characterized by clusters of inselbergs and some low laying rock outcrops which breaks the monopoly of the flat terrain and streams dissected undulating planes. The inselbergs and other rock outcrops are made up mainly of granite-gneiss rock types. They are also composed of quartz syenite, granites and biotite's granites (Bawden, 1972).

The soil texture in the area is considered to be stony which is as a result of the basement complex (Nwankwo, 2006; BSADP, 1994 cf Giade, 2016). The nature of the soil in the area is as a result of complex inter-relationship between several factors among which are geology, climate, geomorphology and hydrology. In essence, it is simply the weathering of rock minerals which involves feldspars, quartz and biotite which results to soil types such as clay, kaolinites, mica amongst others. The soil can also be classified as drained sandy-loamy that is moderately deep reddish-brown or brown soil of the semi-arid and arid region; (considered relatively poor for agriculture but is improved through the increased use of animal manure) (Giade, 2016).

The vegetation of Tulu hill-top and plain settlement sites falls within the Northern Sudan Savannah, it is characterized by open woodlands with trees and mostly low ranged grasses and shrubs. Notable trees in this area includes; Baobab trees (*Adansonia digitata*), Madrid trees also known as African teak (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*), Neem trees (*Azadirachta indica*), and Locust Bean Tree (*Tripochitons cleroxylon*). The grasses include Congo grass (*Imperata cylindrical*), Spear grasses (*Heteropogan contortus*), and Elephant grasses (*Penniselum purpureum*). Presently, the vegetation is largely being affected by human and natural agents of destruction in form of farming, logging and erosion (Connah, 1981; Giade, 2011; Sule, 2013).

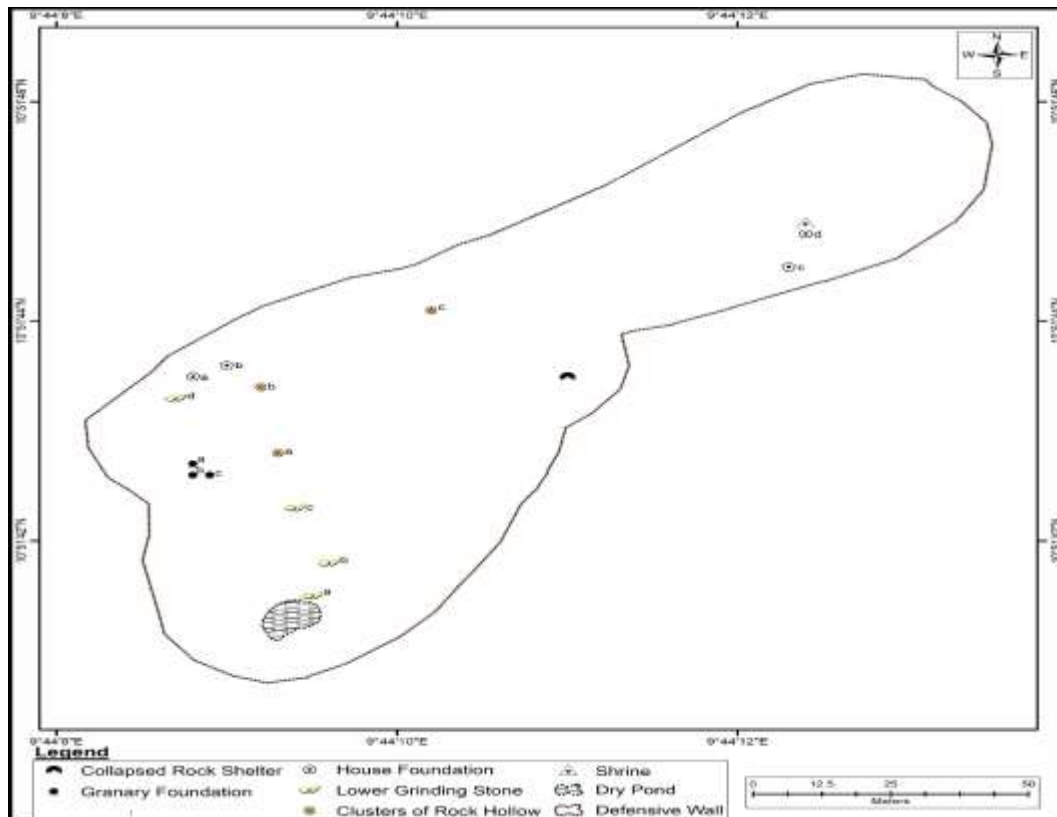


Figure 2: The Tulu Archaeological Site
Source: Plotted by Omoraiyewa (2019)

The Cultural Landscape

III. Potsherds

The broken pieces of pots which probably must have been used by past inhabitants on the hill-top and plain were seen scattered all-over the surface of the site. They were found in different proportions and at different locations of the site. As the researcher moved around the surface of the site, samples were hand-picked and bagged in a polythene bag. A total number of 84 potsherds were collected, serving a data for visual analyses and a platform on which explanation and interpretation can be made.

IV. Relic of Defensive Wall

A unique stone arrangement with a mixture of mud material indicating defensive system of the past inhabitants was identified on the site. This stone walling was said to have surrounded the hill-top in the past, the relics of it was identified and was mapped out by the researcher (see appendix ii). The thicknesses from the different parts of the site range between 1-1.5m. All other features identified on the site are inside the dry-stone walling.



PLATE I: Relic of defensive wall

V. Shrine foundations

A total of two (2) relic of shrine foundations were identified at the north-eastern part hill-top. One of which houses the offering and black goat for sacrifice while the other houses masquerade. The diameter ranges from 6.6- 8.5meters and the circumference ranges from 13.2 -17meters. The stones used were observed to be of similar shapes and their height ranges between 30–50cm. The coordinates were taken.



PLATE II: Shrine foundation

VI. Granary foundations

A total of three (3) granary foundations were identified on the site, the diameter ranges between 3.6- 4.8meters. These granary foundations were found in close association. They were labeled “A”, “B” and “C”. The coordinates were taken.



PLATE III: Granary foundations

VII. Lower Grinding Stone

Four lower grinding stones were identified and were also labeled “A” - “D”. Coordinate of each was taken and their diameter ranges between 0.6 – 0.9 meters. These features are spherical in shape and are made of igneous rock. Their level of depression shows the constant use they must be put to by the past inhabitants of this site.



PLATE IV: Lower grinding stone

VIII. Clusters of Rock Hollows

Concentration of smaller rock hollows were also identified on a rock outcrop with the following dimensions: N-S 3.5 meters and E-W 2.6 meters. A total number of three (3) complexes of these were found and were labeled “A”, “B” and “C”. The diameters of these rock hollows range between 10cm-30cm and the depths ranges between 10-15cm.



PLATE V: Concentration of rock hollows of “A” complex

IX. Relics of House Foundations

Four of these features were identified on the site. These are remains of circular stone arrangement; these relics of house foundations has diameter ranges between 6.4 – 9.3meters. Two were identified at the south-western part, while the remaining two were situated at the north-eastern part of the site. These features were labelled “A” – “D” (see fig. 2).



PLATE VI: Relics of house foundation

X. Collapsed Rock Shelter

Two big collapsed rock outcrops with an opening said to be entrance to the cave were seen resting on a tree on the hill-top. Oral information claimed it was a rock shelter and was used for shelter in the past.



PLATE VII: Collapsed Rock Shelter

Thin Section Analyses of Pottery

All the three (3) samples are highly ferruginous, which means they have high Iron content in them, the colour variation is a product of environment of formation of the clay minerals or activities that the clay has been subjected to. The dark colour clays are likely to have been buried in areas that has high Humus content or the clay mineral was formed in environment rich in humus or activities of Humans lead to the dark colour.

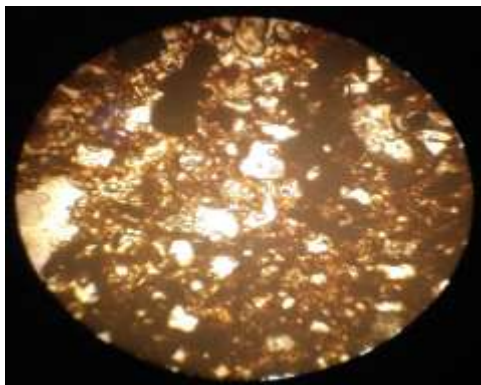
Elements present giving the clay its reddish color are Iron (Fe) and Magnesium (Mg).

Minerals present in Sample 1

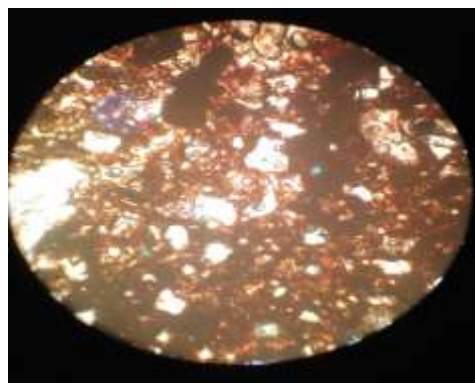
1. Quartz,
2. Plagioclase feldspar
3. Muscovite
4. Kaolinite
5. Calcite



MINERALS	Optical properties
Plagioclase	Colour: Colourless under PPL and milky to white colour under XPL Shape: Euhedral Relief: Low Extinction: Inclined Interference color: white to grey
Quartz	Colour: Colourless under PPL and XPL Shape: Anhedral Relief: Low Extinction: Undulose extinction Alteration: Absent Cleavage: Absent Twinning: Absent Interference color: white, pale yellow
Muscovite	Colour: Colourless under PPL, Greenish under XPL Shape: Subhedral Relief: Moderate Pleochroism: Absent Twinning: Absent Interference color: Green
Kaolinite	Kaolinite does not show any optical property observed because it is a so mineral which is formed from the weathering of feldspar. The inclusion of Iron(Fe) gives Kaolinite its reddish to pinkish color as physically observed
Calcite	Colour: colorless under PPL and grayish under XPL Shape: Subhedral Relief: Moderate relief Pleochroism: Absent Cleavage: Absent Interference color: Grayish blue



1PPL



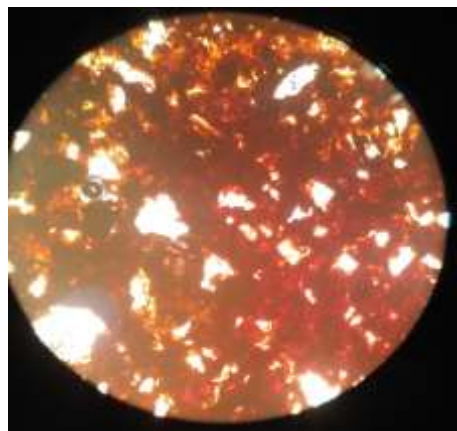
1XPL



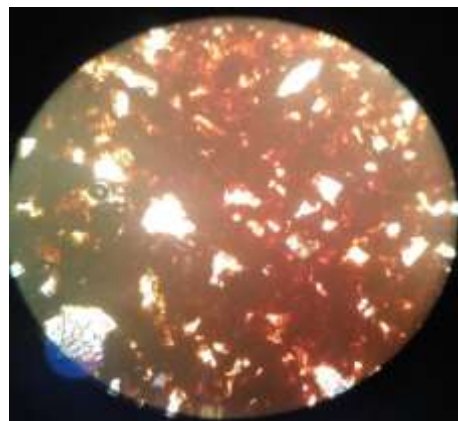
Minerals present Sample 2

- Quartz,
- Plagioclase feldspar
- Muscovite
- Kaolinite
- Calcite
- Montemorrilonite

MINERALS	Optical properties
Quartz	Colour: Colourless under PPL and XPL Shape: Anhedral Relief: Low Extinction: Undulose extinction Alteration: Absent Cleavage: Absent Twinning: Absent Interference color: white, pale yellow
Plagioclase	Colour: Colourless under PPL and milky to white colour under X Shape: Euhedral Relief: Low Extinction: Inclined Interference color: white to grey
Kaolinite	Kaolinite does not show any optical property observed because it is a whitish mineral which is formed from the weathering of feldspar. Inclusion of Iron(Fe) gives Kaolinite its reddish to pinkish color as physically observed in field.
calcite	Colour: colorless under PPL and grayish under XPL Shape: Subhedral Relief: Moderate relief Pleochroism: Absent Cleavage: Absent Interference color: Grayish blue
Muscovite	Colour: Colourless under PPL, Greenish under XPL Shape: Subhedral Relief: Moderate Pleochroism: Absent Twinning: Absent Interference color: Green
Montemorrilonite	Colour: White, pale pink, Green, red, yellow Pleochroism: pleochroic Relief: moderate Interference colour: Green



2PPL

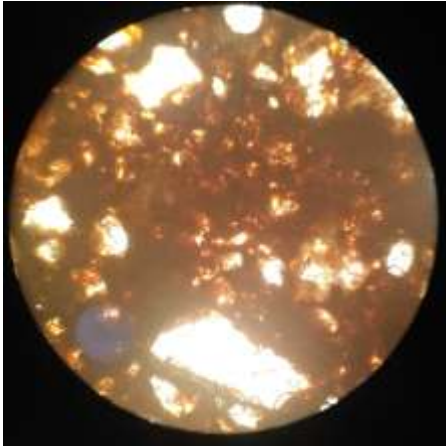


2XLP

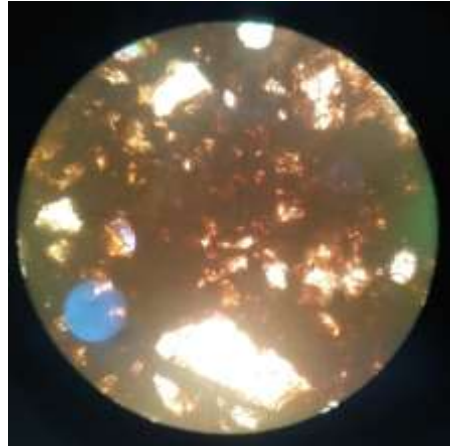
Minerals present Sample 3

1. Quartz,
2. Plagioclase feldspar
3. Calcite

MINERALS	Optical properties
Quartz	Colour: Colourless under PPL and XPL Shape: Anhedral Relief: Low Extinction: Undulose extinction Alteration: Absent Cleavage: Absent Twinning: Absent Interference color: white, pale yellow
calcite	Colour: colorless under PPL and grayish under XPL Shape: Subhedral Relief: Moderate relief Pleochroism: Absent Cleavage: Absent Interference color: Grayish blue
Plagioclase	Colour: Colourless under PPL and milky to white colour under XPL Shape: Euhedral Relief: Low Extinction: Inclined Interference color: white to grey



3PPL



3XPL

Discussion and Conclusion

This research though limited to only surface investigations, has shed more light on aspect of the archaeology of Bauchi area. It has brought to light how man utilized what was obtainable within his immediate environment to meet his immediate needs, providing his food, shelter, technological advancement and his daily needs. That is not to say that man was solely dependent on the environment, but that the environment was a contributing factor to the different developmental stages of man's existence. Tulu hill-top and plain site provides a good example of how man influenced his environment and how the environment in return influenced man's ways of life. It suggest how past inhabitants of Tulu made use of resources within their immediate environment, to develop their technological know-how, religious and social functions and their general well-being.

Although more research is needed to be carried out in the Tulu area before any logical conclusion can be made. However, evidence surviving from the site and the Oral tradition collected revealed possibilities of close relationship between past inhabitant of Tulu and their neighbours in terms of trade. Tulu is said not to have engaged in pottery production, but that the past inhabitants purchased their pottery wares from Burku a nearby village which is about 30km distance from Tulu (Muhammed pers. comm. 2019). This was confirmed by the type of decorations (grooves and notching) observed on the partially buried pots and samples of potsherds collected from the site in the course of this research.

With the lower grinding stones, rock hollow, granary and house foundations on the site, it is assumed that the society that lived on this hill is an agrarian and sedentary one. With the knowledge of their environment, the past inhabitants must have manufactured these stone artifacts out of the stone cores on the hill to meet their day-to-day need like grinding of pepper, beans, maize, melon seed among others; which also showed that such society must have engaged in agricultural practice as a main stay of their economy. The numerous house foundations found on this hill suggest that the past society that settled on this site must have had a sedentary type of settlement. The nature of the house foundations on the hill as compared with some of those found among the extant society



reveal that the past inhabitants on the hill are ancestors to those presently in the plain. This was confirmed by oral tradition collected (Ibrahim and Yusuf pers. comm. 2019).

This research has helped in the collection and documentation of oral tradition of the people which aided in the reconstruction of the history of Tulu inhabitants; it has also helped in the documentation of finds and features identified on the site through which a site map was produced. The research has been able to add to the number of sites studied in the Bauchi area, thereby giving a better understanding to the early culture history of the Tulu people. This research is the first of its kind in Tulu. Hence, it is considered a preliminary work which only focused on the survey of surface artifacts identified on Tulu hill-top and plain settlement site. More so, analysis and interpretation of finds cannot be considered total at this stage of the research, rather, a tentative one; as it is expected that further research which may involve excavation and chemical/ macroscopic analysis of data will help in no little way in giving definite explanation about human activities in this study area.

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Appendix I

S/N	Name of Informants	Age	Title/Occupation	Nature of Information	Place of Information
1.	Mal. Yusuf Adamu	65	Sarki/ Farming	Oral tradition	Sabon Kariya
2.	Mal. Muhammed Danmasani	65	Farming	Oral Tradition/ Guide	Sabon Kariya
3.	Mal. Musa Ibrahim	55	Farming	Oral Tradition	Sabon Kariya