

The Cultural Sequence on Busi Island, Lake Victoria

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Introduction

This paper is about the excavations conducted at Nkuba rock shelter in Bussi Island, on Lake Victoria, so as to establish early farming cultural sequence. The sequence is then used to shed light on the Early Iron Working and the period before it in the region of Lake Victoria Basin.

Site description

Nkuba site is found on Bussi Island, Busiro County, in Wakiso district, 0.3°0.02'S, 32° 0.23'E (fig. 1). It is located in the northern part of Lake Victoria, and it is about 2km due south of Gulwe fishing port. The site is largely covered by a sandstone flat knoll of limonite which contains small rock fragments and minerals like feldspar and mica (fig. 2). Bussi Island falls generally within modified equatorial climate. It receives rain twice a year, and are both heavier and of long duration. The peaks of rainfall occur from March to May and October to December. Because of good climate, Bussi Island is famous for growing the sweetest pineapples as well as beans, sweet potatoes and cassava. A few animals such as goats, cows and pigs are also reared. Fishing is carried out and is normally done early in the morning and in the evening.

Research background

Early farming in East Africa and Africa South of the Sahara has been looked at in two ways: that is; in relation to Sahelians (including Cushitic speakers) and Bantu speaking people. The former were associated with Neolithic farming which involved the use of stone tools to carry out agriculture and pastoralists as well.