



## AN ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED *HOMO SAPIENS* IN ESTABLISHING HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AT BATADOMBALENA

Ven. Pahiyangala Sumangala, G.B.I. Weerasingha

*Department of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya*

[chapa.weerasingha@ymail.com](mailto:chapa.weerasingha@ymail.com)

Batadombalena cave is situated at Kuruvita area in Ratnapura district. The cave measures approximately 15 m in high, 18 m in width, and 25 m in length, totaling the internal cave area to 6,800 m<sup>3</sup>. According to current excavation researches, the settlements dates back to 27000 years. Batadombalena is recognized as one of the oldest settlements in South Asia. Research problem was “what are the environmental factors influenced in establishing settlements of Homo sapiens at Batadombalena cave?” Information and data were gathered through primary and secondary sources including literary sources, field based survey, site observation conducted during two weeks in December 2014. The research discusses how strongly the geophysical factors have affected on Homo sapiens in establishing settlements around Batadombalena cave. Geophysical factors including location, drainage pattern, soil, flora and fauna, climate, rock and minerals and physiography were identified as the key factors in establishing human settlement nearby the cave. Hunter gathering pattern was the basic livelihood of the pre historic man. Natural environment, specific landscape, geophysical condition with hedge stone caves around the periphery can be recognized as the much supportive elements for human settlement. As the cave is located at a high elevation from the sea level pre historic man had occupied this cave mainly to escape from torrential rain, natural hazards and animal affects. Pre historic man has created stone tools using the quartz and chert minerals were found nearby the cave. Geometric microlithic of exceptionally high quality, beautifully pressure-flaked ‘Balangoda Points’, bone tools, beads of marine shells, and anatomically modern human skeletal remains-from the earliest layer upwards. Due to those factors it shows that pre historic man has occupied this place for establishing their settlements.

**Keywords:** *Pre historic man, Cave, Flora and Fauna, Climate, Geography*