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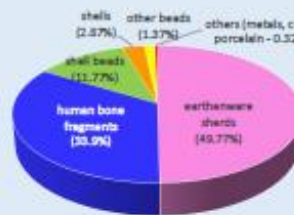
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MAKANGIT MALIIT NA BATO SITE (MNB, National Museum Site Code IV-2016-O) is a rockshelter that is elevated at 5m above the ground. The site was formed by fallen boulders that accumulated beneath and around a ledge or shelf on the north wall of the karst (segment of a wave cut), effectively creating a 'floor' or platform of about 24 sqm.

IN BETWEEN THE BOULDERS on the platform were 10 patches of sediment deposits, designated as Areas A to J. All areas had surface finds of earthenware sherds & human bones.

UPON EXCAVATION, at least 5 deposits were recorded. All deposits had metal objects & beads mostly of the shell type, in addition to human remains & earthenware sherds. This suggests that in general, the deposits do not represent discrete episodes or time periods.



OTHER ARTIFACTS & ECOFACTS include metal ornaments like rings & bangles, as well as implements (blades). There are also stone & glass beads aside from shell beads. The few animal bones, plant remains & land snails recovered were mostly lacking in human modification, indicating that these probably entered the archaeological context naturally.



Based on manufacturing features & traces, 8,132 earthenware fragments were initially classified to 6 groups including one "Novaliches-related" group. 'Novaliches' is from the eponymous site of Novaliches, located north of Manila & excavated in the 1920's (Beyer 1926). Novaliches pottery is characterized by the presence of vessels with high pedestals decorated with cut-out triangles often combined with other motifs (Beyer 1947).

OVERALL, the materials forming the bulk of the artifacts are all consistent with jar burial sites so far found elsewhere in the Philippines (i.e., Fox 1970). However, the presence of the bowl can extend the dating of the site to the 19thC. There's also the presence of 8 chert materials which, although not characteristic of Metal Period Sites as these are typically in older Neolithic or Palaeolithic sites, could still have been used in later periods. The implications are that either the MNB site was used for a long period, from circa 500 BC-900 AD (Metal Periods) until recently as the 19thC, or the site is actually younger than has been frequently ascribed of jar burials being Metal Period deposits. Dating of materials from the deposits is envisioned in the future for clarity.



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