

## Geochemical and Archaeological Evidence in Proto Historic Iron Age in Sri Lanka

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The protohistoric people had settled in Kok-ebe megalithic burial site situated in Kahatagasdegiliya 2800 years ago. They have constructed several types of burials for burying remains such as bones and ash of their dead. This work reports evidence gathered through site excavation and geochemical analysis. Four soil profile samples (n= 24) are analyzed using X-Ray Fluorescence for 22 major and trace elements. Archaeological data of the study area from over the past two decades suggests that the Mesolithic period was formally superseded by the protohistoric Iron Age. During archaeological explorations 267 stone burials including cist burials, Cairn heap/cairn mounds, cairn circle, Alignment and Urn pot are identified. The soils are basic with significantly high content of Zr. Concentrations of Ni, Cr, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub> show that the source material may be intermediate to basic in composition. Soils were less weathered and of homogeneous in composition when evaluated using moderate contents of CaO and Sr, and depicts lower LOI values. Lower concentration values of Zn and Cu show the absence of remains of metal manufacturing. The main phase of burial at Kok-ebe is accordingly dated between 790-540 cal BC, 770-415 cal BC and 5-125 cal AD. The carbon dating results and cultural sequence of the site indicates a multi-phase burial site from protohistoric Iron Age to early historic.

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