



Prehistoric Human Remains from Tam Nai U-Bol, Amphoe Sai-Yok, Thailand

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Abstract Human skeletal remains, probably of the Neolithic period, were found at Tam Nai U-Bol, Wang-Po Tambol Sai-Yok district, Kanchanaburi Province Thailand. They were rather poorly preserved, but some reliable measurements could be taken from the mandibles and their teeth. PENROSE's distance analysis based on those measurement data showed the close affinities of the Tam Nai U-Bol samples with the Neolithic Ban-Kao series and Jomon Japanese.

Introduction

Since VAN HEEKELEN and his co-researchers worked in the Ban-Kao and Sai-Yok cave sites at Kanchanaburi province, the studies on Thai prehistory have been considerably increased with the discoveries of new sites and materials, as reviewed by REYNOLDS (1990). The excavation at the Ban-Kao site produced considerable Neolithic human skeletons, whereas further findings of the prehistoric human specimens are still expected for the examination of microevolution and population history of the Thai people. Therefore, the present authors coordinated efforts with the Thai-Japanese joint research team for further excavation on purpose to find new specimens of prehistoric human skeletons. In March 1993, we conducted a preliminary survey on the prehistoric limestone cave sites in the Sai-Yok district, Kanchanaburi Province, and found some prehistoric human skeletons, probably of the Neolithic period, at the Tam Nai U-Bol (Nai U-Bol Cave), in Wang-Po Tambol (Fig. 1). This cave is situated in a small valley, where the area all around is a field for plantation. From the foot of the hill up to the cave is rather steep (Fig. 2). The distance is about 20 meters. The entrance of the cave is 1.5 m in width, 1 m in height and about 1 m from the en-