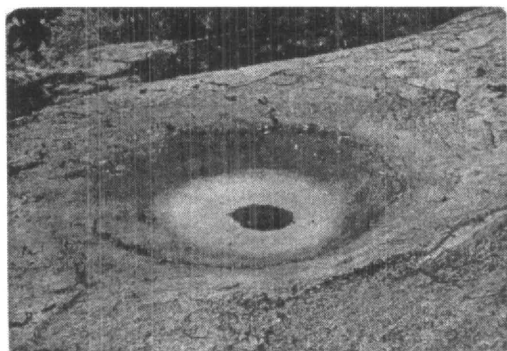
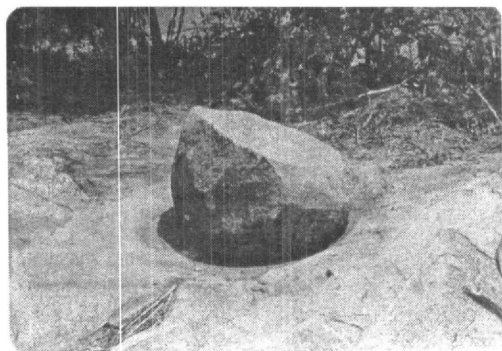


## ANCIENT STONE PESTLE AND MORTAR FROM VEPPANAPALLI AREA, DHARMAPURI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

In the course of exploration for gold in the southern extension of Kolar Schist Belt, authors have come across a granite outcrop with six circular mortars used as an *anvil* for crushing operations on the bank of the Veppanapalli *nadi* in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu. The surface of the mortars are very smooth indicating that these were used for considerable period. The diameter of the depressions vary from 30 cm to 1.00 m and depth varies from 5 to 15 cm. A huge stone pestle (*Mallacker*) measuring 60 cm by height and having a diameter of about 80 cm is found near the mortar (Figs.1 and 2). Water from Veppanapalli stream was probably being used for washing powdered ore and winning gold by panning.



**Fig.1.** Close-up view of a stone mortar with smooth polished surface



**Fig.2.** Huge stone pestle (*Mallacker*)

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE POTENTIAL OF RAINWATER HARVESTING: TRADITIONS, TECHNOLOGIES, POLICIES AND SOCIAL MOBILIZATION: October 3-5, 1998, New Delhi, India.** Organised by The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). It is proposed to survey the current scenario in the country and abroad with respect to rainwater harvesting systems; to revive them where they have fallen into disuse; and most importantly, to discuss ways to make rainwater harvesting a thrust area in the national water policy planning and programme. The importance of rainwater harvesting systems, which have long been a part of India's traditions, is being accepted more and more. The ultimate aim of the conference is to create a vigorous nation wide movement in favour of rainwater harvesting by starting a network of rainwater harvesters and motivators and to impress upon the policy makers to give due attention to community based rainwater harvesting efforts. For details contact: Director, Centre for Science and Environment, 41, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 062, India. **Tel:** 6981110, 6981124, 6983394, 6986399, **Fax:** 91-11-6985879, **Email:** cse@sdalt.ernet.in, **Website:** www.oneworld.org/cse.