



## Prehistoric Tok Sik Cave and Baling Cave, Baling, Kedah, Malaysia: Archaeological and environmental perspectives

Muhammad Afiq Omar<sup>(1)</sup> Zuliskandar Ramli<sup>(2)</sup> Mohd Syukri Yeoh Abdullah<sup>(3)</sup> Muhamad Shafiq Mohd Ali<sup>(4)</sup> Nur Sarahah Mohd Supian<sup>(5)</sup> Nuratikah Abu Bakar<sup>(6)</sup> Mohd Samsudin<sup>(7)</sup> Adnan Jusoh<sup>(8)</sup> Yunus Sauman<sup>(9)</sup> Muhammad Rizal Razman<sup>(10)</sup>

- <sup>(1)</sup> Institute of The Malay World and Civilisation (ATMA), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.  
<sup>(2)</sup> Institute of The Malay World and Civilisation (ATMA), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.  
<sup>(3)</sup> Institute of The Malay World and Civilisation (ATMA), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.  
<sup>(4)</sup> Institute of The Malay World and Civilisation (ATMA), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.  
<sup>(5)</sup> Institute of the Malay World and Civilization, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.  
<sup>(6)</sup> Institute of the Malay World and Civilization, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.  
<sup>(7)</sup> History Programme, Politics, and Security Research Centre, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.  
<sup>(8)</sup> Institute of Historical Department, Faculty of Humanities Sciences, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Perak, Malaysia.  
<sup>(9)</sup> Institute of Historical Department, Faculty of Humanities Sciences, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Perak, Malaysia.  
<sup>(10)</sup> Research Centre for Sustainability Science and Governance (SGK), Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia.

### Abstract

*An archaeological and environment research was made around Baling mountain complex to trace any prehistoric settlement around the complex. The complex can be divided into three sections which are Pulau Mountain, Baling Hill and Wang Hill. Two caves were chosen for excavation which are Tok Sik Cave at Pulau Mountain and Baling Cave at Baling Hill. The data from the venture and excavation shows that the area had been occupied by Hoabinhian and Neolithic prehistoric community. Artefact findings show that they interacted with other communities especially the coastal prehistoric community and trade with them. This assumption is based on the findings of pottery shards that were believed originated from the coastal area. The prehistoric people at Baling also ventured deep into other communities territory in order to obtain a suitable stone tools to forge their stone tools. They ventured into Gerik and Kroh, thus might made contact with the prehistoric community who lived at Lion and White Cave. The dating for Baling Cave is around  $8760 \pm 50$  BP which is parallel with the dating of Lion Cave which is  $9250 \pm 60$  BP*

### Author Keywords

Tok Sik Cave, Baling Cave, excavation, trade, interaction

### Acknowledgement

This research was conducted using the FRGS/1/2016/WAB04/ UKM/02/2 and TD-2014-005 research grant; and therefore, we would like to express our gratitude to the Ministry of Higher Education and The National University of Malaysia (UKM) for the research grants awarded.

ISSN Print: 1459-0255

Source Type: Journals

Publication Language: English

Abbreviated Journal Title: JFAE

Publisher Name: WFL Publisher

ISSN Online: 1459-0263

Document Type: Journal Article

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1234/4.2018.5486>

Access Type: Restricted Access

Resource Licence: CC BY-NC

**Scope Database Link:** <https://sdbindex.com/documents/00000051/00000-76286>

**Article Link:** <https://www.wfpublisher.com/Abstract/5486>

**Major Subject:** Social Sciences and Humanities

**Subject area:** Archaeology

**Subject Area classification:** Arts and Humanities

**Source:** SCOPEDATABASE