

MODERN STONE TOOLS

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Abstract: Stone tools remained in use in Uganda for crushing and grinding of gold-bearing quartz until recently. Photographs and drawings are presented.

The tools were used at Kubong in north Uganda in the exploitation by small scale miners of a previously unknown gold-bearing quartz vein. There appears to have been no prior knowledge of mining methods and the use of stone tools can be compared to wooden pestles and mortars used for grinding mealie flour. The upper photograph shows a crushing stone in its stone mortar, whilst at right they are shown *in situ* outside a wood and thatch domestic hut. The find results from the first author's work prospecting in Uganda and the stone is now in Peak District Mining Museum.

The drawings, by the second author, shows a shaped granitic upper grinding stone. It has been well used and has an almost flat, or slightly convex, surface and a less used more rounded surface. The slightly convex surface, which is in both directions, shows it is an upper grinding stone or "rubber". The stone was pre-shaped which can clearly be seen from the left-hand diagram. The lower edge is broken off and is presumably also due to pre-shaping.

The first use was the slightly convex side, mainly along the longer axis. There is some evidence of across-wear too. The wear goes over the lower edge suggesting this break is part of the original shaping of the stone. The top was then broken which may have caused it to cease being used since there is no wear on this edge.

The second use is on the more-rounded side and is in one direction only. The wear goes over the broken lower edge and over the accidental break at the top. There is less wear on this side which may indicate it has not been worn out.

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