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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT
EjMg-2, CHILDS LAKE,
DUCK MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL PARK
MANITOBA

by

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(Badertscher: In Press) from vessels recovered at FbMb-1 in 1976 and 1977. These sherds were confined to the two most northeasterly units and recovered from either the base of the Ah horizon (black sand) or within the Ae horizon (grey sand). The Duck Bay Punctate sherds were intermingled with a few Laurel sherds in these two units, but this occurrence was not unexpected considering the number of tree roots throughout those units. Also found within 13N 25E and associated with the Duck Bay Punctate vessel was one small blue seed bead, of a type commonly used during the historic fur trade period (Plate 25). ✓

Only three units of the eight held any faunal material. In 13N 25E and 13N 26E, many small fragments of burned mammal bone were recovered, along with broken pieces of tooth and a portion of antler; the latter was not inconsistent in size with that of elk. One piece of burned bone was retrieved from 12N 26E, completing the faunal inventory for the entire eight units. Many small fragments of charcoal were located in the Ah horizon of 13N 25E and 13N 26E; whether they were connected with the burned bone or the 1885 forest fire is, unfortunately, an unanswerable question. Equally interesting in Area 11 was the relative absence of lithic debris compared to other areas, especially considering the amount of pottery recovered. Only 12N 25E contained more than a few flakes (Table 22). Another oddity was the high percentage of chert (23%) among the lithic raw materials utilized (Table 23).



PLATE 25 Seed bead from Area 11. Note rootlet growing through the centre of the bead.

it is not inappropriate to assert its affiliation with the Duck Bay Punctate vessel. Few Laurel sherds were recovered in these two units and they appear to have been pushed up from beneath by root action. All of the Duck Bay Punctate sherds were located in the uppermost soil horizons (Ah, Ae), while many of the Laurel sherds were found in the lower red sand horizon (Bf). It seems likely in this instance that the Laurel sherds are intrusive, rather than vice versa.

Again, a temporary camping situation is indicated, although the burned bone could have resulted from forest fire rather than cultural activities. The time frame for this component is problematical. It is difficult to accept even the later two of the four Duck Bay dates (A.D. 1255 \pm 175 and A.D. 1180 \pm 110) as applicable to a vessel associated with trade goods. Several explanations could apply here. The 1977 Duck Bay carbon-14 assays do not date Duck Bay pottery directly; there were no carbon samples of sufficient size directly associated with these pottery types, but there is a sizeable Blackduck component at the site for which these dates would not be inappropriate. Further, a small bead was also found at Duck Bay, as was a metal button dating between 1750 and 1812 (Snortland-Coles 1979: 76). Also, Ray (1974: 51-71) documents the movement of trade goods west from Lake Superior and Hudson Bay far in advance of actual European traders through the vehicle of Indian middlemen. It is probable that the Duck Bay Punctate vessel and trade bead relate to the late 17th century or early 18th century, at the close of the Terminal Woodland period when European trade goods became more and more accessible in western Canada. ✓