

## **Comparison of stature of Bellan-bandi Palassa man with historic, vadda and present population**

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Human stature is a quantitative trait that can vary among population and in different eras. It can be estimated from long bones or certain fragments of long bones. Stature estimation is important in examining archaeological remains and in forensic work. In this study we have reconstructed stature of "Balangoda man" by using fragmented long bones excavated from Bellan-bandi Palassa Pre-historic site and the estimated stature was compared with historic, vadda and present population. Due to non availability of intact whole long bones in the Bellan-bandi Palassa collection the fragmented bones were used. First, the total lengths of the bones were calculated by using bone fragments applying formulae described by Krogman (1962). Then, the regression formulae described by Trotter & Gleser (1952) was applied to estimate the stature. Humeral, radial and tibial bone fragments from Bellan-bandi Palassa Prehistoric site were measured by using a digital sliding caliper.

The reconstructed mean stature of the Prehistoric man in Bellan-bandi Palassa is  $140.05 \pm 4.21$ . According to the literature, mean stature of historic population (Polonnaruwa) is  $154.18 \pm 1.67$ , vaddas being  $165.28 \pm 7.82$  and present

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population being  $164.79 \pm 6.77$ . This result is consistent with gradual increase of body size from Prehistoric to the present.

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