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## THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY OF MUTUNDA, A NILOTIC-LWO/ BANTU NEXUS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

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Research in the Mutunda/Karuma area of northern Uganda draws on historical, ethnographic and archaeological data to evaluate the history of the Palwo and their pottery traditions.

La recherche dans la région de Mutunda/Karuma située dans le nord de l'Ouganda se base sur des données archéologiques, ethnographiques et historiques en vue d'évaluer l'histoire des Palwo ainsi que leurs traditions en matières de poterie.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Victoria Nile research project focuses on reconstructing the past of communities within this riparian environment. While most of the archaeological research in Uganda has been confined mainly to the west of the country and more recently in the central districts, it is only Soper's (1971) and Connah's (1966) work which monumentally stands out in the area to the north and north-west, through which the river Nile winds its way out of Uganda to Sudan and beyond.

The Mutunda/Karuma area which was the focus of this research is linked to a lot of historical traditions, many of them quite mythical. Ethnographic research, archaeological site surveys and test excavations carried out in this area, as well as reference to documentary evidence is all becoming useful in sorting out fact from fiction. This research was also an attempt to further investigate Soper's observations in Chobe which point to this area as the borderland between EIA (Urewe) and LIA (Lwo) communities. It is hoped that further archaeological research may also help to explain the velocity with which the LIA (Roulette) ceramic traditions appear to have swept through the interlacustrine region in the Late Iron Age and in a sense, submerged or absorbed the EIA Urewe and its related ceramic traditions which were most predominant in the region for millennia before.

### **BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMAN MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN THE KARUMA-MUTUNDA AREA**

The settlement history of this area fits within the general pattern of the Lwo-speaking people's history. The main southward stream of Lwo migration into Uganda occurred between c.1500-1650 AD from the area across River Nile to