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# Prehistoric rock art painting in Bontocani South Sulawesi Indonesia

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# Introduction

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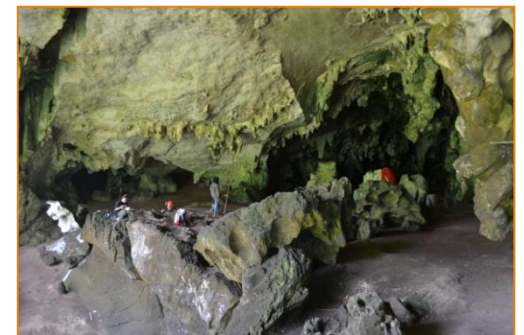
- ❑ The existence of prehistoric caves in Bontocani first obtained based on information from Awalluddin, Langi village residents who found the cave paintings in Gua Uhallie in 2009.
- ❑ In 2011, Awaluddin reported his findings to the Department of Archaeology, University of Hasanuddin. Then the Department of Archaeology submit the report to Balai Pelestarian Cagar Budaya (BPCB) Makassar (Makassar Cultural Heritage Protection Office).
- ❑ BPCB then conducted a survey in Bontocani which the authors were involved in these activities. Results of the survey, it was found archaeological remains in the form of cave paintings in Uhallie and Batti.



# Prehistoric Caves in Bontocani

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- ❑ **Uhalie Cave**, located on the cliffs of Tulekke hill, which is based on GPS measurements lies at an altitude of about 635 meters above sea level, with astronomical position  $05^{\circ} 01' 14.4''$  south latitude and  $119^{\circ} 58' 44.5''$  East Longitude. Lane slope conditions vary from flat to uphill and a decrease of up to  $70^{\circ}$ . Roads that form the rice fields, especially in the river and the gardens of the population.
- ❑ **Batti Cave**, located in the hamlet Soppo in astronomical position  $04^{\circ} 59' 08.4''$  south latitude and  $120^{\circ} 01' 05.3''$  east longitude at an altitude of about 273 meters above sea level. Location of the mouth of a cave on the side of a hill, so it's up to the mouth of the cave must go through a fairly steep hiking trail with quite thick vegetation.



# Rock Art Painting in Uhallie Cave

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- ❑ Rock art that has been identified is an image a hand with a variety of shapes and sizes, images of animals and non-figurative images that cannot be identified shape.
- ❑ Overall the picture is red with shades of light to dark. Based on identification on the shape and pattern of drawing hands, which are still visible distribution of dots of ink around the image, concluded that this image was made with sprayed technique.



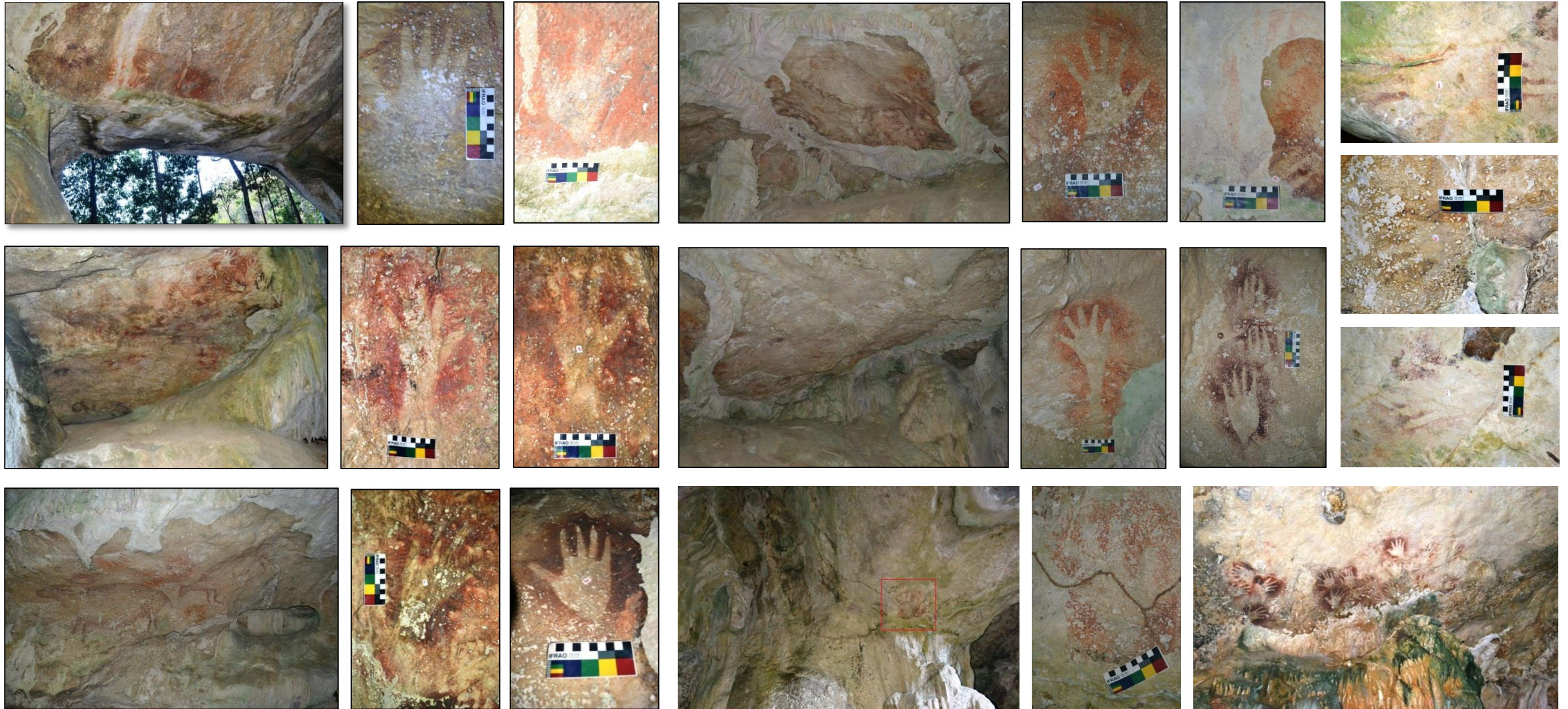
# Hand Image and Fauna Figure in Uhallie

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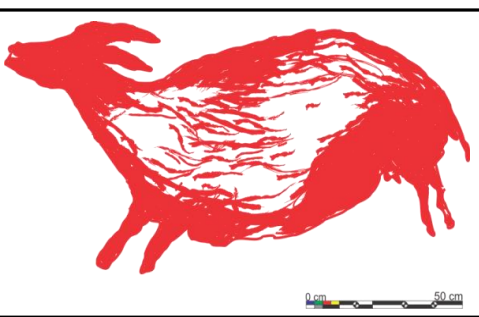
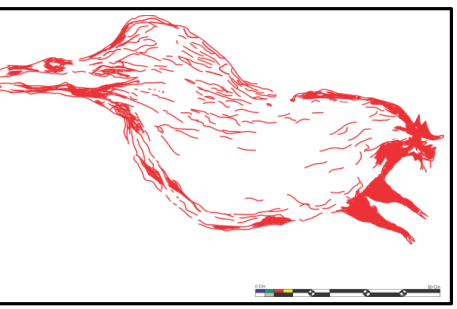
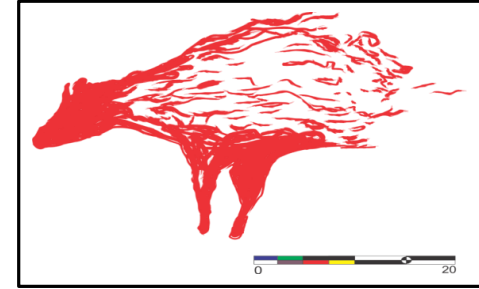
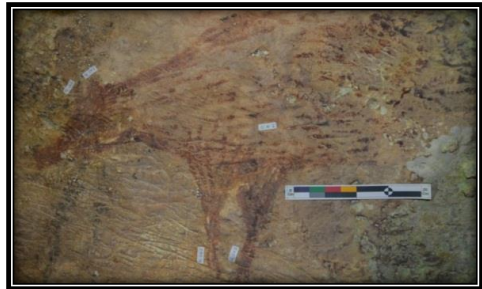
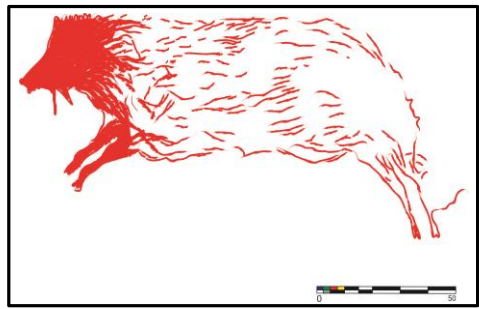
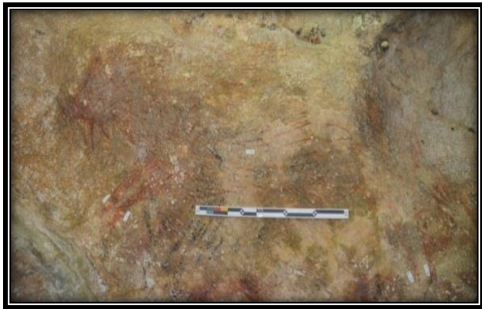


- ❑ Hand image becomes the dominant findings in this Uhallie cave, this refers to the amount of hand drawings were identified more than finding other images. To facilitate identification of hand drawings and other images, we divided the painting area into five panels, namely 4 panel at chamber one and 1 panel at chamber two.
- ❑ Based on the results of the identification, there are 135 hands stencil in 8 panel. Hands stencil be identified here is an easily recognizable shape as a hand stencil relatively intact. The terms of shape, size, and color brightness level, hand stencil on Uhallie has many variants.
- ❑ Similarly, images of animals contained in this cave more numerous when compared to images of animals in prehistoric caves such as Sumpang Bitu, Sakapao in Pangkep and Peta Kere in Maros.

# Hand Image in Uhallie Cave



@BPCB Sulawesi Selatan



*Drawing by Arizona Rais*

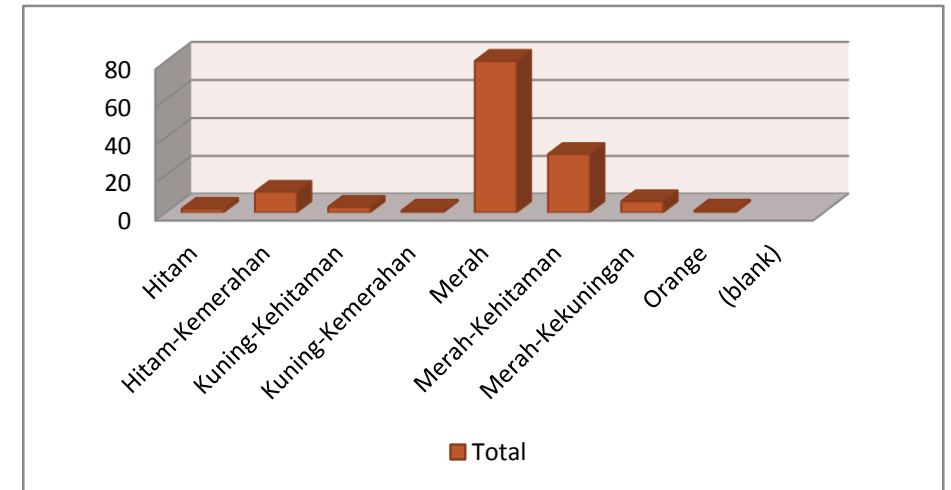
# Animal Figure In Uhallie Cave

Pictures of animals that have been identified as many as 7 pieces which are all located in the chamber 1. The image of these animals have a variety of different types and sizes. Based on the observations, animals drawn with sufficient detail in every part. In addition, there is also an image that is identified as arrowheads. This further adds significant value Uhallie Cave as cultural heritage sites.

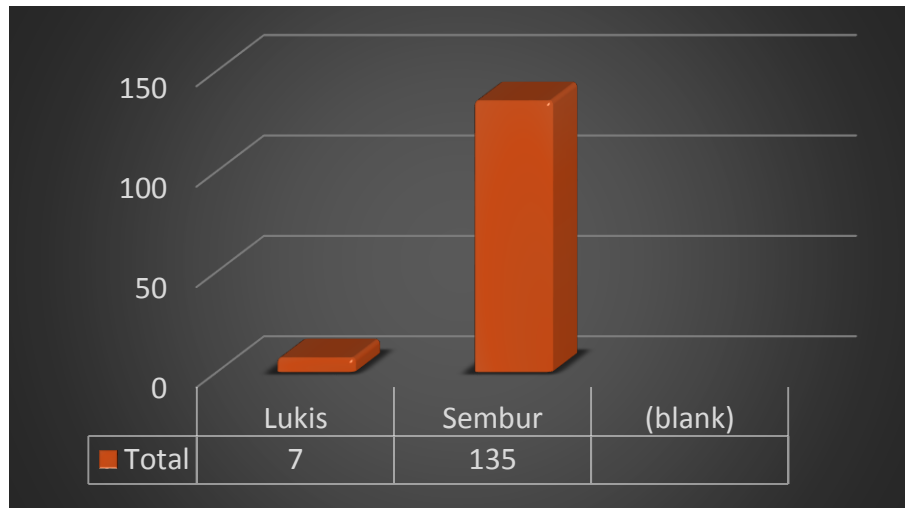
The percentage of the findings in Uhallie



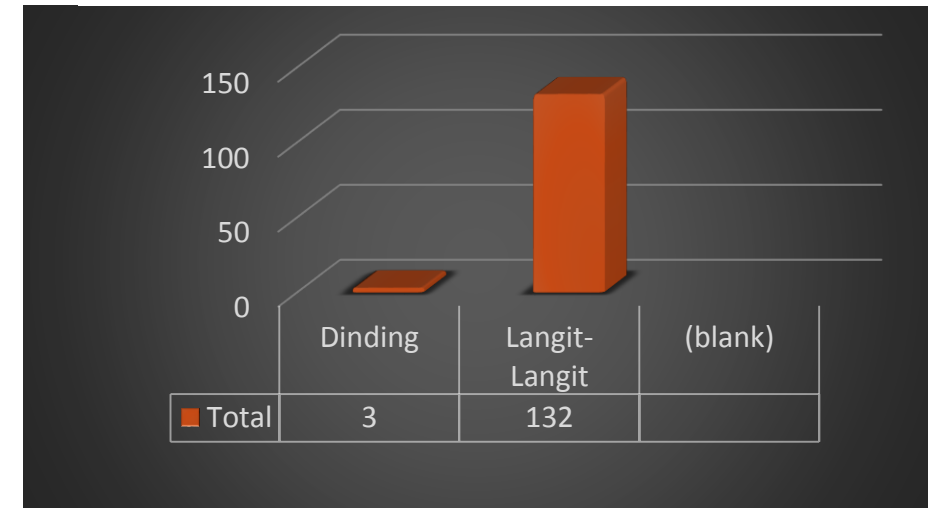
The percentage of color paintings in Uhallie



The percentage of the technique of making paintings in Uhallie

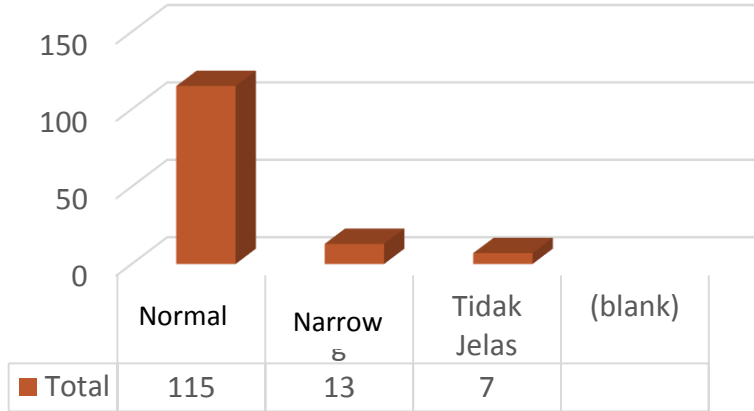


The percentage of the paintings location in Uhallie

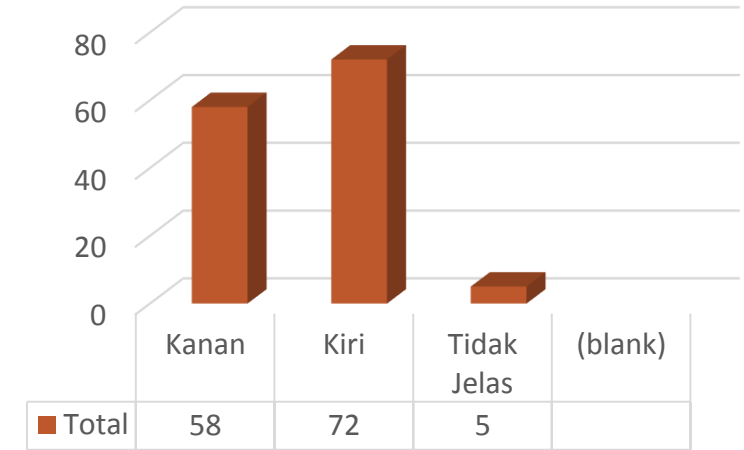




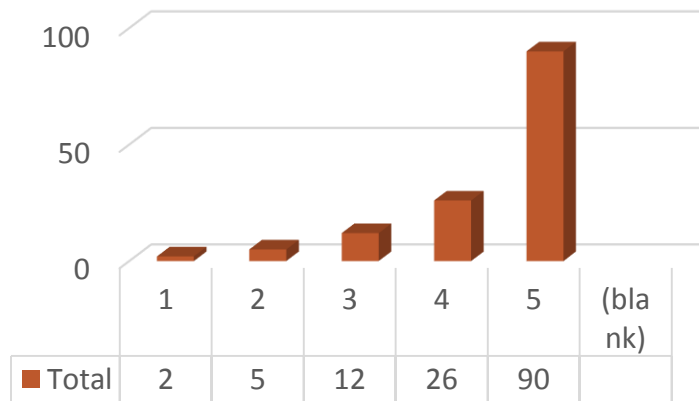
The percentage of the shape of the finger on the hand stencil in Uhallie



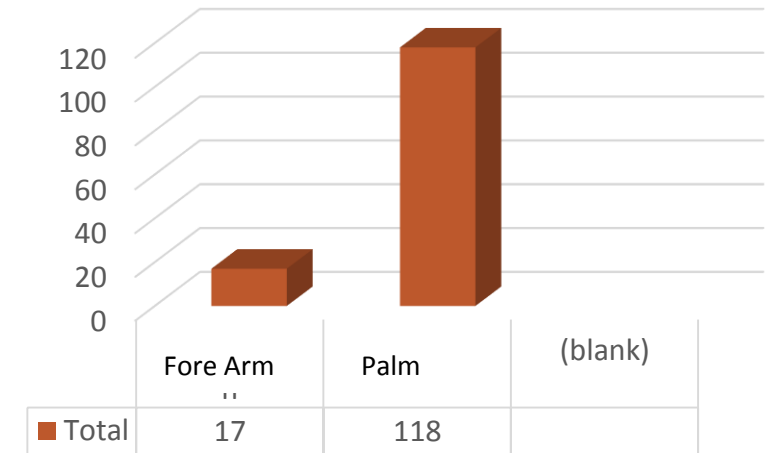
The percentage of Hand Side of hand stencil in Uhallie



The percentage of the amount of fingers on the hand stencil in Uhallie



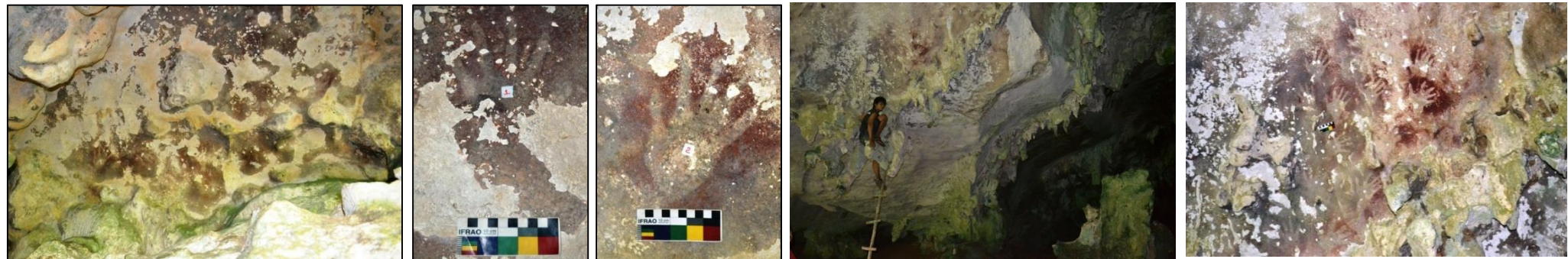
The percentage of part of hand on hand stencil in Uhallie



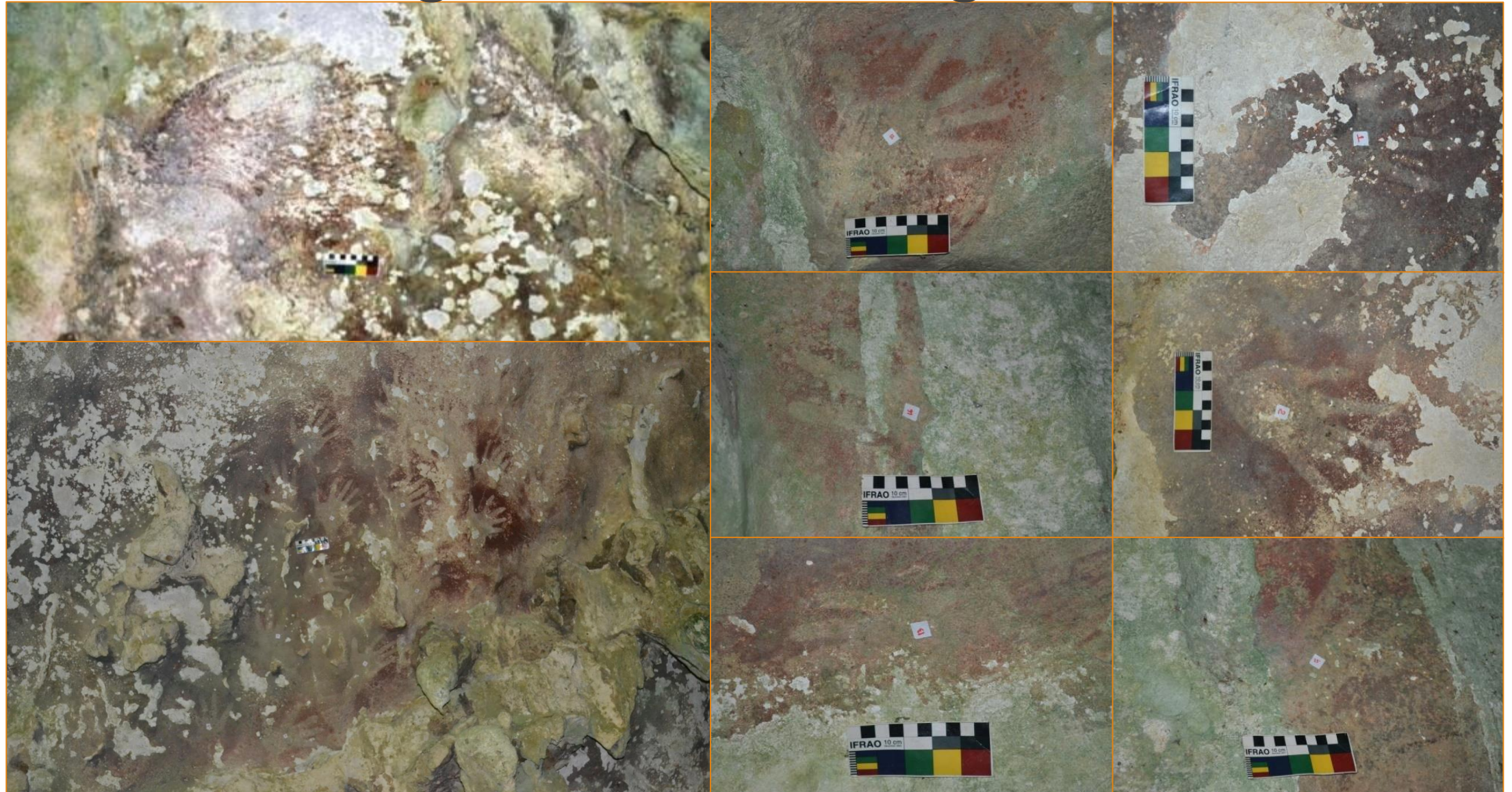
# Hand Image and Fauna Figure in Batti

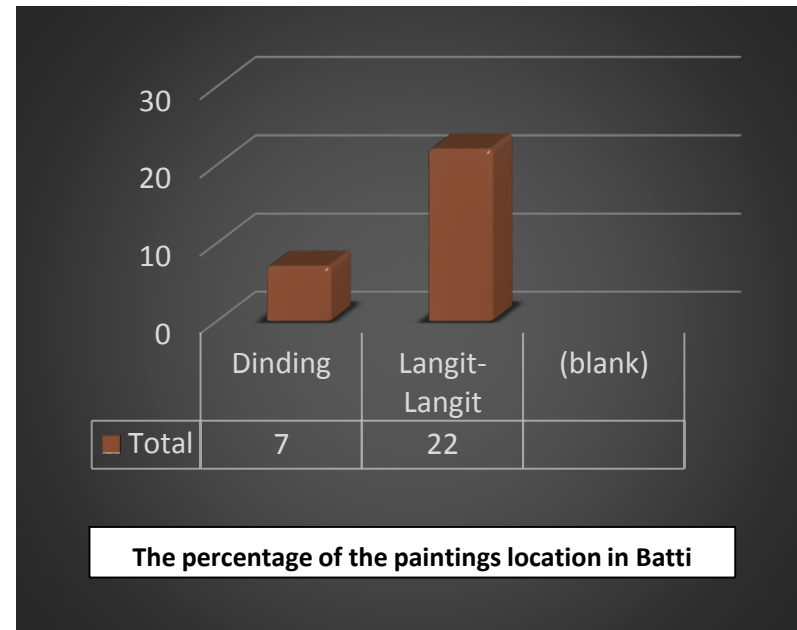
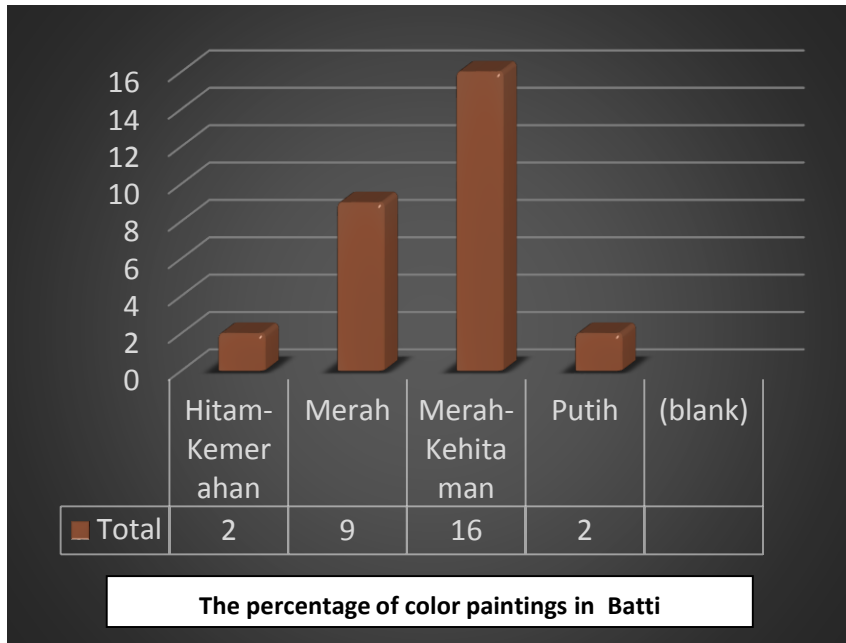
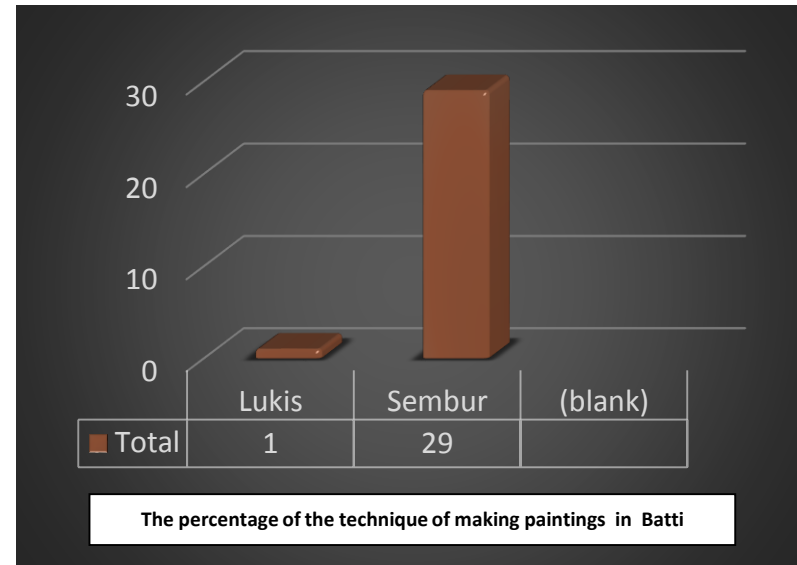
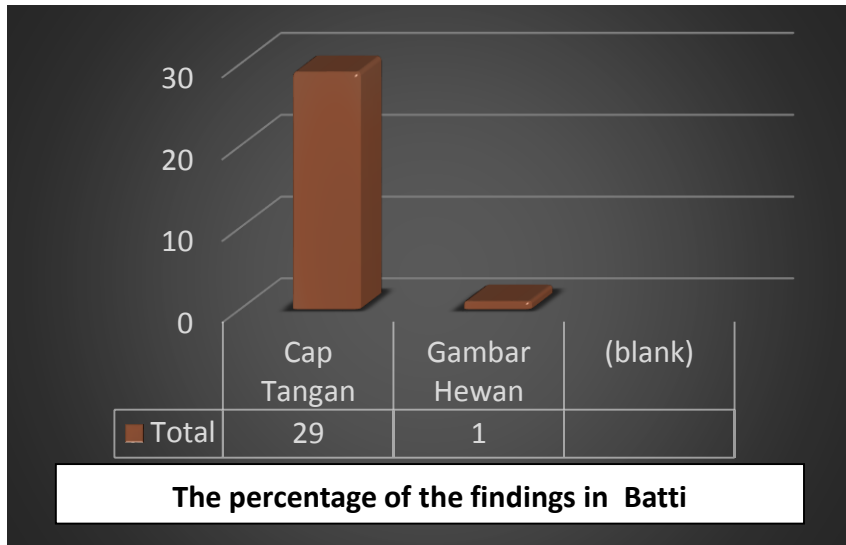
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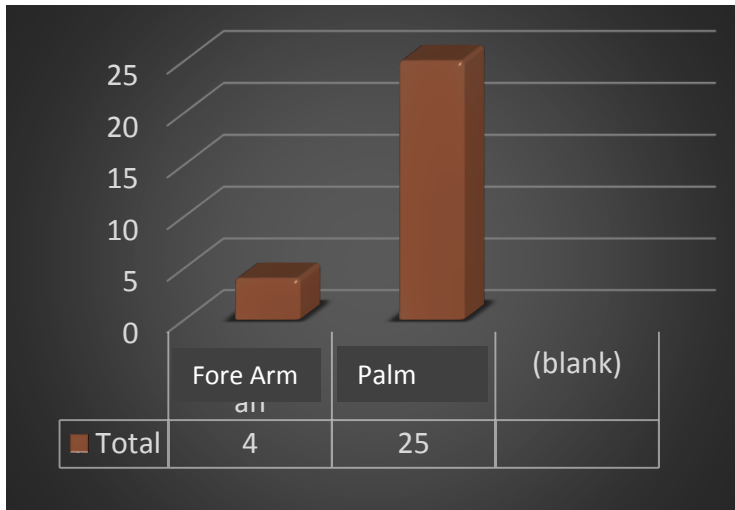
- ❑ Hand image becomes the dominant findings in this Batti cave, this refers to the amount of hand drawings were identified more than finding other images.
- ❑ Based on the results of the identification, there are 29 hands stencil in 5 panel. Hands stencil be identified here is an easily recognizable shape as a hand stencil relatively intact. The terms of shape, size, and color brightness level, hand stencil on Batti has many variants.
- ❑ Only one figure animal in Batti Cave.



# Animal Figure & Hand Image in Batti Cave



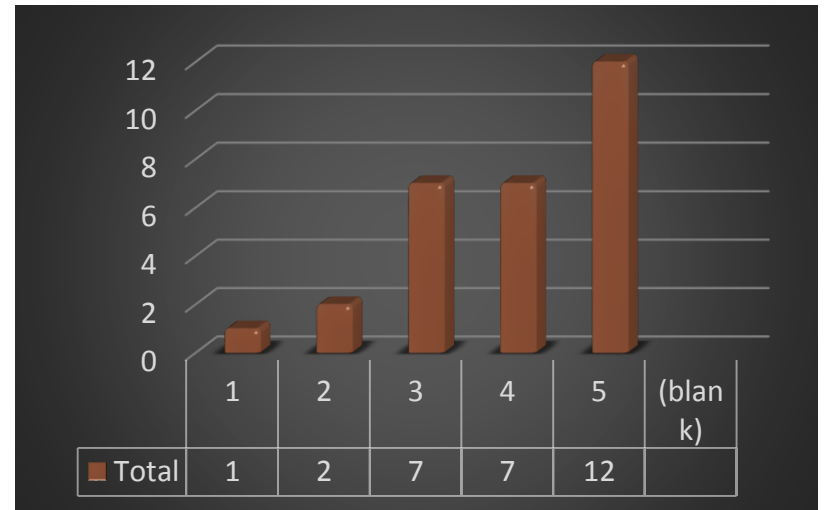




The percentage of part of hand on hand stencil in Batti



The percentage of Hand Side of hand stencil in Batti



The percentage of the amount of fingers on the hand stencil in Batti

# Conclusion

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- ❑ Two prehistoric cave contained Bontocani region, being evidence of early humans spread regions in Sulawesi.
- ❑ The existence of archaeological remains in the cave became a strong reason for entering Batti and Uhallie as cultural heritage sites that need to be protected in accordance with applicable regulations.
- ❑ Figure presence of both hands and the animals, as well as the findings of stone tools and the shells of mollusks result of excavations in the Gua Batti be evidence of past human activity ever inhabit this cave.
- ❑ Hand drawing in large numbers, as well as images of animals and arrowheads in the Gua Uhallie indicate hunting traditions that developed in the past. Experts argue that the prehistoric people, hunting is a battle between life and death. Hunting was always haunted by the shadow of events that can not be suspected and known in advance, and the shadows of evil forces. Therefore, according to Howell, they tried to prevent misfortune, accidents, and death of wild animals such as bears, lions, and wolves through hunting magic (hunting magic). With the magic power that will not only help misfortune, but also help the control animals who want killed (Howell, 1980: 149).

- ❑ In the context of hunting that is reflected in the picture cave paintings in Uhallie, clear that there is a pattern that describes hunting activities.
- ❑ Hand image contained in the image Anoa and Babi Rusa in Gua Uhallie expected a sympathetic magic. Through hand strength is expected Anoa and Pig will not be helpless and successfully hunted.
- ❑ This hunting tradition was apparently is still carried out by the village community Langi. According to one community leader, at certain events people hold hunting deer or wild boar together using manual guns one of which is the arrow.
- ❑ Of course, because this is the beginning of the survey to prove this hypothesis required more comprehensive research. This further reinforces the importance of knowledge contained in these cultural heritage sites.
- ❑ As for other matters related to the condition of archaeological remains, particularly hand drawing and animals in the Cave Batti, the competent authority if it were immediately handling painting conservation because of the threat of damage due to high humidity levels is enormous. It is feared that if not dealt with quickly, then the existence of the painting will be destroyed and disappear without trace.

# Acknowledgement

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