

252490

Provenience: Western Caroline Islands; Palau Islands

Field No.

People or Culture: Palauans**Object:** ground stone object

55-158

Material: conglomerate, indurated stone

Description: elongated egg-shape; conglomerate has a greenish tint; somewhat battered at the ends. Discovered by the collector in a boat channel in the village of Ngerebeched in Koror, Koror Island. Native name: dechil a beibeloch...(mouse feces) or dechil a eiyos...(sun's feces). (over)

Neg. No.

Dimensions:
(in cm.) length: 39.0
greatest circumference: 45.7

Acc. 2574

Collection: Presented by Roland W. Force; Collector, 1956. Tri-Institutional Pacific Program Ethnological Expedition to Palau, 1954-1956.

There is a story to the effect that there was a mouse who ate rocks from the limestone islands south of the island of Koror and that this and other stones like it were the resulting feces. There used to be many such stones, but today there are only a few. They were used in the men's houses and the council houses in contests of skill and strength. The object was to grasp the stone at one of the ends with only one hand and to carry it as far as possible. The stones were carried inside the men's houses and possibly on the stone platforms outside.