

The Samarāṅgaṇasūtradhāra by king Bhojadeva, an eleventh century work, defines Palli thus :

“Where Pulindas⁴⁴⁶ live building their huts with leafs, branches and stones etc. is called Pallī and a small Pallī is called Pallikā”.⁴⁴⁷

Its derivation from √pal to go, to move, fits in very well as it was an inhabitation of Ābhīras, thieves and barbarians who moved from one place to another and were usually in small number.

It seems to be a Dravidian word loaned in Sanskrit. We find in Tamil, Malayalam and Kannada the word palli meaning hamlet, settlement, small village and in Telugu the words Palli and Palliya denoting ‘a small village’.⁴⁴⁸

Pallī⁴⁴⁹ is changed into :

- (a) bal : Āśāpallī, Yessabal
- (b) Poli, as Triśīrapallī (= Trishṇāpallī), Trichinopoly
- (c) oli, as Ahalyapallī, Ahiroli (also Ahiāri).

We have only one place-name ending in this suffix, with a slight variation which is ‘palla’ and is detailed below :

Eraṇḍapalla (No.I, L. 19) :

It is mentioned in the list of countries of Southern region conquered by Samudragupta. Its ruler was Damana. Fleet identifies Eraṇḍapalla with Erandol in the E. Khandesh district of the Bombay Presidency.⁴⁵⁰ K.N. Dikshit and Y.R. Gupte agreed with this view.⁴⁵¹ But according to Dubreuil and K.G. Sankar, it is the same as the town Erandpalli near Chicacole on the Coast of Orissa.⁴⁵² G. Ramdas opposes Fleet’s identification on the ground that Eraṇḍapallī mentioned immediately after the kingdom of Svāmidatta cannot be so far away on the western coast, it must have been in the vicinity of Kaliṅga and Piṣṭapura kingdom.⁴⁵³ Eraṇḍapallī is mentioned in the Siddhantam plates of Devendravarman of Kaliṅga.⁴⁵⁴ Banerjee counts Damana of Eraṇḍapalla among the three chiefs of Kaliṅga who obstructed the passage of Samudragupta through their country.⁴⁵⁵

G. Ramdas⁴⁵⁶ regards Dubreuil’s identification also to be incorrect because Chicacole lies in Kaliṅga which was clearly the country ruled by Svāmidatta. Eraṇḍapallī will have, therefore, to be identified with the village Yendipalli in the Golconda