



Fig.V.a.11 Fragment of an elm bow and sharpened/worked poles and sticks. Møllegabet II. 1:3.

V.a.4.3. Bow

In the top of the gyttja deposits at a depth of 5m out towards the navigation channel west of the dug-out boat, a 34.6cm long fragment of a horned longbow was recovered. The outermost c. 5cm of the horn is missing (fig.V.a.11:1). The carefully smoothened, very flat limb of the bow has a rounded, oval cross-section measuring 3.2 x 1.2cm at the break. The limb terminates at the other end in a fragmented, now ca. 7cm long horn for the attachment of the bowstring. The horn has a slightly oval cross-section, 1.5 x 1.1cm, with the greatest breadth at right angles to that of the shaft. The bow has been split from a slim elm trunk such that the tree rings came to lie approximately at right angles to the rounded outer surface.

V.a.4.4. Miniature bow

In the gyttja a little east of the dug-out boat, a bow-like wooden object was uncovered. It was made from a slim

branch or trunk of red cornel (fig.V.a.12). The wood for the bow had not been split as with proper bows, but the surface had been debarked and scraped off with the exception of a couple of opposing knots 27-28cm from one end. Both ends had been tapered to form a cone; on one a small 4cm long horn is preserved, on the other 2-3cm of the outermost point was broken off during recovery. In the middle of one of the broad sides, a c. 0.5cm deep, 2cm broad and 9cm long flat incision has been made. The mini bow curves slightly along its length.

With a length of only 83cm (originally 86cm) and diameters at the middle and ends of 2.7-2.9cm and 1.5-1.6cm respectively, the piece can hardly have been used as a proper hunting bow but rather as a toy bow or in connection with boring holes or making fire. A closely-related piece, broken at one end, but preserved to a length of 75cm, was found during Lars Larsson's excavation of the slightly older Ageröd V settlement in Scania (Larsson 1983:61).