



Figure 24. Sewn wooden dredgers used on Goa's rivers: a), b) 12m long under repair at Volvoi Ferry; c) beached near Keri. Author.

survived in a colonial backwater? Are they the descendants of the thousands of Indian coasters which continued to be built there after they had become obsolete elsewhere? Certainly sewn ships survived on the West Coast into the 20th century to be highly regarded by Hawkins for their qualities. As late as the 1970s he was able to see sewn dhows working along the Indian coast (1979:105,132). It may be that the last example of indigenous sewn-plank construction is represented by these humble, now threatened, dredging vessels.