



Figure 9. The crew operate entirely at the level of the discontinuous deck. Velsao Dando. Author.

It is perhaps significant that a hull design with load-bearing at an elevated level is of great antiquity and occurs as a feature of ancient Egyptian sewn ships (Ward 2004). Above the beams the method of attachment changes. The narrow sheer strake is never attached to the thwart-beams but is merely rabbeted over them. To the strake below it is only intermittently attached by pads oversewn with two or three stitches spaced at intervals (Fig. 10). This strake is narrower than the lower strakes and thicker, with tholes and ledges left proud on its inner face (Fig.10b).



Figure 10. a) wedged stitch pad. Colva; b) narrow sheer strake with carved thole and thole-pin wear, flanked by paired padded stitches. Benaulim. Author.