

Team E Report

Field Season:

17 May – 12 June, 2012

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Team Members and Roles

Name	#	Affiliation	Status/Occupation	Team Role
Sylvia Deskaj	5	Michigan State University	PhD student, Anthropology	Team leader
Dora Lambert	30	Millsaps College MSU, <i>As of 2017: The Coastal Restoration Branch (NWRC)</i>	Undergraduate, SOAN MA in GIS, <i>GIS Specialist</i>	Field walker
George Bey IV	31	Millsaps College	Undergraduate, SOAN <i>BA in SOAN</i>	Field walker
Alba Selita	28	University of Tirana	MA student, Archaeology	Field walker
Erilda Selaj	40	University of Tirana <i>As of 2017: Tirana Municipality</i>	MA student, Archaeology	Field walker
Brunilda Sinani	29	University of Tirana	MA student, Archaeology	Field walker
Jon Eaton	41	Fulbright Student, <i>As of 2017: Cultural Heritage without Borders</i>	Researcher, <i>Program Officer</i>	Visiting field walker

Methodological Notes:

All tracts were surveyed using standard Mediterranean survey methods. For each tract, surveyors walked at 15-meter intervals and counted all tile/brick, ceramics, and small finds. The last category – small finds – included, but was not limited to, lithics, iron tools, mill stones, beads, and glass. Field walkers were instructed to collect all small finds as well as a sample of the different ceramic fabrics counted that were larger than a thumb nail. Additionally, any diagnostic sherds, or those with notable markings, indentations, glaze, color, or shape, were also collected.

All land, including fields, hills, and terraces in the survey zone described below, was surveyed unless the landowner objected or the vegetation was so dense as to render survey impractical

Team Objectives:

The team had 2 main objectives:

- To identify potential sites from all periods for site collection and/or test pits on the plains of Shtoj.
 - o To count material from all periods – Bronze Age, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman, Medieval, Post-Medieval, Modern, etc. – within the survey zone
 - o To collect small finds, diagnostic sherds, and a sample of the different ceramic fabrics from all periods within the survey zone
- To locate, map, and document all extant tumuli within the survey zone, as well as those previously destroyed by landowners and/or excavated by Aristotle Koka in the 1980s (see Koka 1990)
 - o To revisit all mapped tumuli in order to assess their current state of preservation and suitability for future excavation
 - o To input all collected data from this exercise in the Tumuli database.

Survey Zone:

Team E surveyed the plains, west of Team C's survey zone. The zone is a vertical line running north to south, extending from the settlement of Hysaj in the north to the main road to Mes in the south. The zone encompasses the areas north and south of the Kullaj village. (*See the 2017 Map of Dragoç with all survey zones*)

The area surveyed by Team E contained primarily fields, most of which were flat. Many of these fields were planted with cash crops such as tobacco, onions, maize, wheat, and beans and, as such, were fenced by their owners who had recently migrated from the surrounding hillside. Some of the fields were fallowed and planted with alfalfa. The tracts in this survey zone had an average visibility of **71.8%**.

Tracts, Sites, and Mounds:

Team E surveyed a total of **250** tracts, covering a total of **1** square kilometers. The size of each tract varied depending on the natural characteristics and features of the landscape. Their average tract size was 0.4 hectares, with their largest tract recorded at 1.6 hectares and the smallest at 0.05.

Team E identified, and later documented, **3 prehistoric tumuli** within the survey zone, **2** of which were visible in Google Earth. These additional tumuli were located in fields adjacent to those with tumuli concentrations identified by Teams A and C. Tumuli in Team E's zone were most likely undercounted as some tumuli have been destroyed during previous excavations or recently by landowners. The absence of visible and/or known tumuli beyond these fields in Team A, C, and E's survey zones is of equal interest and should be investigated in the future.¹

¹ For more information regarding Tumuli counts, please see the Tumuli database and/or reports for Team A, C, H, and K.

Each of the **3** tumuli were mapped, photographed, and described in detail over the course of 1 day at the end of the 2010 field season. **2** were in good shape and **1** had been completely removed (presumably to open up the field for farming). In general, many tumuli in the Shtoj region have been removed for construction purposes or to open up fields for farming. Additionally, some have also been mined and sold by owners as soil.

Summary of Findings:²

Regarding museum counts, Team E collected a total of **29** fine-textured; **7** coarse-textured; and **54** medium-textured ceramics, of which **15** were tile. The texture of **1** ceramic was not labeled. Team E also collected **113** lithics (between the categories of “lithics” and “tool”); and **24** other small finds, falling under the categories of “**metal**,” “**stone**,” “**coin**,” “**natural**,” and “**waste**.”

Ceramics:

Team E collected **91** ceramics from few periods, including the Late Roman, Medieval Byzantine, Early Medieval, Post Medieval, Early Modern, and Modern periods. **38** ceramics, or **41.7%** of Team E’s ceramics, were not dated and marked as “**Unkn.**” **1%** was associated with the Roman period; **38.5%** with the Medieval and Early Medieval periods; and **18.7%** with the Post-Medieval to Modern periods.

The Team’s Medieval (**34** ceramics), Early Modern (**6** ceramics), and Modern (**9** ceramics) finds were distributed throughout the survey zone. This ceramic distribution is most likely due to the latter occupation of the plains regions and the close proximity of modern villages.

The Late Roman (**1** ceramic), Early Medieval (**1** ceramic), and Post Medieval (**2** ceramics) periods were poorly represented in the ceramic finds.

Small finds:

Team E collected a total of **137** small finds from the Upper Paleolithic, Neolithic, Medieval, and Modern periods. **84.7%** of the material (**n=116**) was not identified with a period and left blank or labeled “**UNKN**” or “**unknown**.” **2.2%** was associated with the Upper Paleolithic period (**n=3**); **0.7%** with the Neolithic period (**n=1**); **0.7%** with the Medieval period (**n=1**) and **11.7%** with the Modern periods (**n=16**).

Regarding the **113** lithics found under the categories of “lithic” and “tool,” the team identified material associated with the Upper Paleolithic (**3** lithics) and Neolithic (**1** lithic) periods.

Regarding all categories of small finds that were dated, the team found **1** Medieval chisel fragment made of iron. The rest of the material was dated to the Modern period and included **15** “**metal**” objects

² The number of collected material (such as ceramics or small finds) listed in this report corresponds with the number of entries in the ceramic and small finds databases. While entries are typically associated with **1** artifact, some entries are associated with 2 or more artifacts. For example, small ceramic pieces associated with the same period and/or located in the same tract might be labeled in the pottery database under **1** entry.

Additionally, all periods listed in the report represent the “start period” and do not reflect the “end period.”

such as nails, horseshoes, and pieces of a door, as well as **1** gold “**coin**” minted during the Albanian Monarchy and thought to have been previously used as jewelry.³ Of note, the team located **1** grinding stone fragment in tract **E-250**.

Tumuli:

The map of tumuli provides some identifiable location patterns. They appear to be clustered in a concentrated area, possibly indicating family or lineage groups.

Works Cited:

Fistani, Anton. 1989. “Gjetje të paleolilit në afërsi të shpellës së Gajtanit (Shkodër).” *Iliria* 19 (1): 5-23.

Koka, Aristotle. 1990. “Tuma 6 e Shtojit.” *Iliria* 20 (1): 27-73.

³ See the small finds database for more information.