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PREHISTORIC SURVEY AT AVEY MOUNTAIN A WORKING REPORT OF THE 2015 SEASON

Gazakh district

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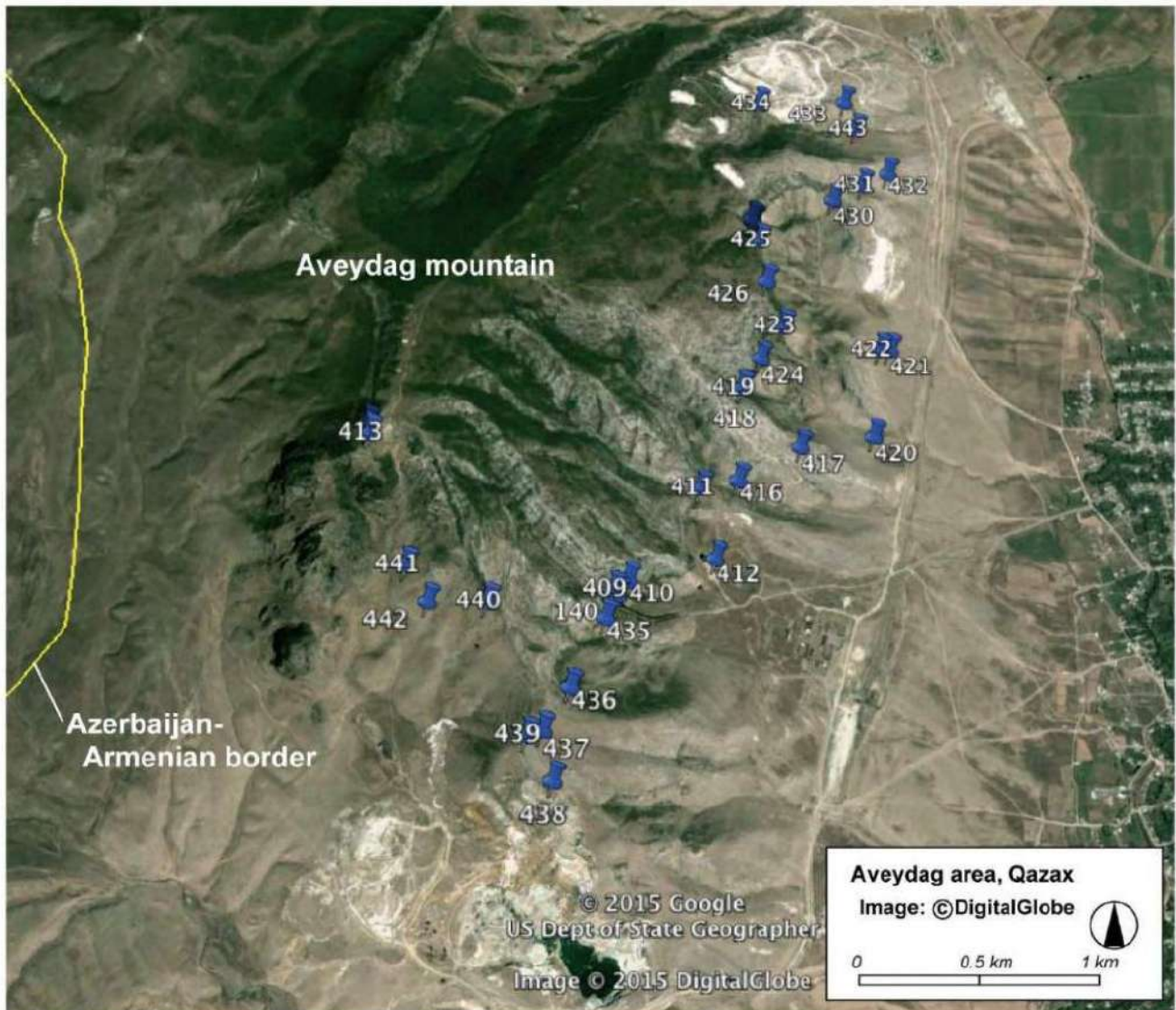


Fig. 1. Map of the sites and locations (numbered blue pins) in the Avey Mountain (Aveydağ) visited during the 2015 survey.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides a preliminary account of a site reconnaissance survey conducted August 18–21, 2015, by the Azerbaijan-Japan Archaeological Mission to Göytepe in the Avey Mountain, West Azerbaijan. The purpose of the survey was to examine the feasibility of the region for intensive prehistoric investigations in the future. Specifically, the survey aimed to discover pre-Neolithic settlements to help clarify the origins of food-producing economies in the South Caucasus. This aim derives from our current archaeological work at Göytepe and Hacı Elamxanlı Tepe, Tovuz. Our excavations at these Neolithic sites revealed that a fully developed food-producing

economy in the region dates from at least the beginning of the sixth millennium BC (Guliyev and Nishiaki 2012, 2014; Nishiaki et al. 2015). Moreover, the excavations showed that pottery was rarely used during that period, suggesting the first full-fledged food-producing economy was a local aceramic community rather than a Neolithic society with knowledge of pottery that was fully developed outside the region.

These results led us to establish our next research target, which was to investigate the local hunter-gatherer society—namely, the Mesolithic society considered to have developed a food-producing economy during the early sixth millennium BC. In fact, we had already conducted site reconnaissance surveys in areas such as the valleys of the Zayam Cay (2011), Esrik Cay (2012), and Tovuz Cay (2013). However, none of these surveys revealed possible Mesolithic sites. During the 2013 season in particular, we paid special attention to the hilly/mountainous region west of Tovuz, but failed to locate any possible early sites, despite the fact that the region geologically consists of limestone formations with caves and rockshelters, which are considered favorable for Paleolithic-Mesolithic occupations. Accordingly, we felt it necessary to investigate new regions. Avey Mountain was thus chosen for the 2015 survey. This mountain is known as the site of the prehistoric Damcılı Cave, where Mesolithic artifacts were discovered in the 1950s (Huseynov 2010). In light of this fact, and considering that the mountain is located next to the Ganja-Qazax plain—one of the heartlands of the first food-producing communities in the South Caucasus—Avey presents a promising field for our research.

Against this background, we conducted a feasibility survey this summer. The survey was organized as a project of the Azerbaijan-Japan Archaeological Mission to Göytepe, in collaboration with the Keşikçidağ National Historical-Cultural Reserve. The latter is in charge of the cultural and natural heritage of the Avey. On the occasion of submitting this report, we would like to thank Dr. Maisa N. Ragimova, director of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences, who obtained a permit for our archaeological work. We also acknowledge our fruitful and ongoing collaboration with Dr. Farhad Guliev, director of the Azerbaijani mission to Göytepe, who helped make the necessary arrangements for completing the fieldwork. Last but not least, our deepest thanks go to Dr. Musa Mursaqulov of the Keşikçidağ National Historical-Cultural Reserve. Without his kind understanding and support, this survey would not have been possible. Moreover, Dr. Mursaqulov joined our actual survey, offering his expert knowledge of the mountain.

The members who joined the survey consisted of the following: Dr. Musa Mursaqulov, Keşikçidağ National Historical-Cultural Reserve, Azerbaijan; Mr. Məmməd Musaqliev, Keşikçidağ National Historical-Cultural Reserve, Azerbaijan; Mr. Pərviz Qasimov, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Azerbaijan; Mr. Yaqub Məmmədov, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Azerbaijan; Mr. Şahin Salimbəyov, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Azerbaijan; Prof. Yoshihiro Nishiaki, the University of Tokyo, Japan; Dr. Hiroto Nakata, Aoyama-Gakuin University, Japan; Mr. Kazuya Shimogama, Ancient Orient Museum, Japan.

Travel and research expenses were supported by a grant from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science under the auspices of the University Museum, the University of Tokyo.

2. PREHISTORIC SURVEY

2.1 Survey area

The area of our survey is in the eastern foothills of Avey Mountain, located west of the modern town of Daş Salahlı, Qazax Province, western Azerbaijan (Fig. 1). It covers an area of ca. 21 km² (7 km north–south by 3 km east–west) that is dissected by numerous valleys, most of which lack perennial water flows. Avey Mountain consists mainly of Upper Cretaceous limestone/chalk rocks, some parts of which have been recently exploited as quarries for high-quality limestone. Several lines of cliffs develop along the anticline slopes of the eastern Avey, where springs emerge in some places. Rockshelters are visible from afar along these cliff bottoms, which became our main targets.

Azerbaijani researchers have excavated two prehistoric cave sites—namely, Damcılı and Daş Salahlı Caves—that demonstrated the existence of Paleolithic and Mesolithic human occupations in this mountainous area (Huseynov 2010). While Daş Salahlı Cave is located to the west, Damcılı lies within our target area. We first visited Damcılı and then searched for similar locations in the numerous valleys of the mountain.

2.2 Survey methods

We employed a more or less intensive pedestrian survey method. To find caves/rockshelters with anthropogenic deposits, we walked along the abovementioned cliffs and mountain ridges in each valley. We encountered problems, however, in some areas where thick vegetation made locations invisible or inaccessible. Although this hindered us from visiting the whole cliff surface, we believe most of the valleys in the eastern foothill were sufficiently surveyed.

Once caves/rockshelters or artifact scatters were identified, the geographical information for each visited point (latitude, longitude, and altitude) was recorded using a handheld GPS navigator (GPSMAP 60CSx, Garmin Ltd.). For rockshelters, we measured the basic dimensions and terrace size according to the measurement protocols of Suzuki and Kobori (1970). For artifact scatters, the distribution ranges (length and width) were roughly measured, if possible. A laser rangefinder (TruPulse 200TM, Laser Technology, Inc.) was used for measurements.

2.3 Survey results

During the four days of the survey (August 18–21, 2015), we identified 15 rockshelters, including Damcılı (numbered QA001); six artifact scattering points; and three kurgan fields of modest size. We collected a small quantity of archaeological materials from some of the locations.

(1) Caves/Rockshelters

- QA001: Damcılı 1

To our understanding, Damcılı represents an area with a group of caves situated nearby at the deepest end of one major valley. The best-known cave is shown in Fig. 2, where springwater still comes out of an underground aquifer, making the small valley rich in vegetation. For this reason, the site is now a popular recreation area for locals. For convenience, we have provisionally called this cave Damcılı 1. Since its floor has been almost completely covered with concrete as a result of recent construction, we were unable to observe any anthropogenic deposits inside.

- QA002: Damcılı 2 (Fig. 3):

Situated ca. 100 m east of Damcılı 1 is another cave, which is one of the largest recorded in our survey. It is ca. 45 m wide, 8 m long, and 3.2 m high, with a sizable terrace 8.4 m in length (Table 1). This cave corresponds to the "Damcılı Cave" that was extensively excavated in the 1950s. Although no prehistoric artifacts were collected on the surface, it very likely has a considerable depth of anthropogenic deposits, possibly dating back to Paleolithic periods.



Fig. 2. Damcılı 1, seen from the northeast.



Fig. 3. Damcılı 2, seen from the northeast.



Fig. 4. General view of QA006 (arrow), seen from the northeast.



Fig. 5. QA006 rockshelter, seen from the east.

- QA006 (Figs. 4 and 5):

We found two other large rockshelters in the southeastern part of Avey Mountain that are believed to accommodate cultural deposits. One is QA006, located on the deepest end of a broad valley where aquifer water gushes out—a topographical condition analogous to the Damcılı rockshelter. Its dimensions (over 30 m wide and 4 m long) are so large that we wonder if it might contain long-term occupational deposits, though no artifacts were recovered.

- QA021 (Fig. 6)

The other rockshelter is QA021, which has a maximum width of more than 20 m. Facing a flat natural terrace to the north, it has practically no overhanging ceiling but just a broad precipitous cliff surface (Fig. 6). A single piece of Late Bronze potsherd and a chipped obsidian flake were found in the vicinity of the location; however, it is unconfirmed whether these artifacts have direct associations with the rockshelter. - Various smaller rockshelters (QA009–016, 18–19, 24) were also visited to verify the presence of any prehistoric occupation or deposits. Their dimensions are mostly moderate (i.e., less than 10 m wide and several meters long). We did not find any anthropogenic deposits, except for thin layers of natural sediment that might derive from fallen or weathered rocks. Nor did we recover any archaeological materials from around these rockshelters.

(2) Kurgans:

Three sets of kurgans (QA008, QA022, and QA023) were found during the survey. The latter two kurgan fields lie on the high plateau of the southern piedmont overlooking the Qazax plain, each consisting of four to ten kurgans. The mounds, usually composed of piled rubble (cairns), are relatively small and round or elliptical in shape. They are moderate in size, usually 1–2 m long, or 2.5 m in diameter, and 0.5–0.6 m high.

Kurgan field QA008 (Fig. 7) is located at the bottom of a pediment beside a dry riverbed. Here, we identified a dozen kurgans similar in construction to those described above but with larger dimensions (ca. 4–5 m in diameter and 1–2 m high). Some parts of these kurgans were destroyed either by modern construction work or looting.

It is difficult to date these kurgans without stratigraphic excavations since the collected artifacts are scant or absent. At QA008, a handful of red/brown ware fragments were collected from the surface, all dating from the Late Medieval period.



Fig. 6. QA021 rockshelter, seen from the east.



Fig. 7. QA008 kurgan field, seen from the west. White arrows indicate the locations of kurgan mounds.

(3) Artifact scatters:

A few pottery shards and chipped stone fragments were obtained from the surfaces of some locations across the Avey foothills. QA003 is an artifact scatter without any visible structures like kurgans, located on the saddle-like terrace of a hill ridge (Fig. 8). Given the wide range of artifact categories (pottery fragments, ground stone, glass bracelet, and obsidian flakes) and the estimated ages (Late Bronze and Antique), this terrace might have been used recurrently as a pastoralist camp or station site. However, the absence of mounded kurgans does not eliminate the possibility that an ancient graveyard could have been situated here.

In contrast to QA003, another scatter area, QA007, is interesting since it shows a different geographic setting, on a low hill near the plain. The pottery sampled here can be assigned to the Late Bronze to Early Iron

Ages based on a few pieces of obsidian chipped stone. There is no evidence that this area was used as a burial field.

Sporadic distributions of potsherds and chipped stones were also found at QA017, QA020, QA025, and QA026. However, the small quantity of collected artifacts does not allow us to date these sites with confidence. It is suggested that the early Christian monastery site of Ay məbədi (QA005) on the summit of the Avey, as well as the extensive rock-cut residences below the monastery building, might be linked to the increased occupation of the Avey and its surrounding areas during the Late Antique period (early first millennium AD).



Fig. 8. QA003 artifact scatter, seen from the southwest. White arrows indicate the artifact-distributed area.

Table 1 Survey data of the visited sites and locations in the Avey Mountain.

Season	GPS Point	Site number	Site name	Type	Period	Finds	N		E		Altitude (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Height (m)	Terrace Width (m)	Terrace Length (m)	Remarks		
							+	-	+	-									
2015	409	QA001	Damcılı 1	rockshelter	-	none	41	8	51.6	45	13	95.1	581	17	7.3	4.2	-	-	
2015	410	QA002	Damcılı 2	rockshelter	Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic?	potsherd, ground stone?	41	8	54	45	13	99.4	585	44.8	8	3.2	45+*	8.4	Excavated in the 1950's by M. M. Hüseynov
2015	411	QA003	-	artifact scatter	Late Bronze-Antique	potsherd, obsidian, ground stone, glass bracelet	41	8	76.6	45	14	21.4	589	35	65	-	-	-	-
2015	413	QA004	-	rock-cut monastery	Antique-Medieval?	-	41	8	83.8	45	13	21.9	902	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	414	QA005	Ay məbədi	architectural monument	Antique-Medieval	-	41	8	85.9	45	13	21.3	922	-	-	-	-	-	located next to the modern military garrison
2015	418	QA006	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	0.07	45	14	34.4	662	31.6	4.2-8	1.2-2	35+*	3?	-
2015	420	QA007	-	artifact scatter	Late Bronze-Early Iron	potsherd, obsidian	41	8	91.6	45	14	76.8	510	34	87	-	-	-	-
2015	422	QA008	-	kurgans	Late Medieval	potsherd, obsidian	41	9	14.4	45	14	79.9	502	30	40	-	-	-	kurgan diameter ca. < 5 m
2015	423	QA009	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	17.3	45	14	47.6	652	5-6*	N/A	N/A	-	-	inaccessible due to thick vegetation
2015	424	QA010	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	0.84	45	14	40.3	679	3*	N/A	N/A	-	-	-
2015	425	QA011	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	25.4	45	14	42.4	645	8.8	2.9	2.6	9+*	0.3	ca. 5 cm of sediment?
2015	427	QA012	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	44.6	45	14	38.3	648	8	6	1.8	N/A	N/A	-
2015	428	QA013	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	44.6	45	14	38.2	651	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	inaccessible due to thick vegetation
2015	429	QA014	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	45.1	45	14	37.7	653	3*	5+*	1.2*	N/A	N/A	fallen ceiling rocks
2015	430	QA015	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	53.3	45	14	65.2	583	8.1	1.2-1	1.6-2.5	10+*	5*	-
2015	431	QA016	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	58.6	45	14	75.7	543	4	0.7	2	N/A	N/A	-
2015	432	QA017	-	artifact scatter	Unknown	obsidian	41	9	63.3	45	14	84.9	539	-	-	-	-	-	campsite?
2015	433	QA018	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	83.5	45	14	70.6	555	5.3	0.5	2	N/A	N/A	-
2015	434	QA019	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	9	79.7	45	14	40.9	634	4.9	2.9	2.3	-	-	-
2015	435	QA020	-	artifact scatter	Medieval	potsherd	41	8	45	45	13	93	621	-	-	-	-	-	on a ridge
2015	436	QA021	-	rockshelter	Late Bronze	potsherd, obsidian	41	8	28.6	45	13	83.2	659	26.5	-	4-5*	27+*	1-2*	-
2015	438	QA022	-	kurgans	Unknown	flint	41	8	0.81	45	13	78.9	691	10*	20*	-	-	-	4-5 kurgans
2015	439	QA023	-	kurgans	Unknown	?	41	8	17.6	45	13	71.1	718	20*	30*	-	-	-	approximately 10 kurgans
2015	440	QA024	-	rockshelter	-	none	41	8	47	45	13	58.2	735	8.5	4	1.5	-	-	-
2015	441	QA025	-	artifact scatter	Unknown	potsherd	41	8	55.9	45	13	32.8	685	-	-	-	-	-	-
2015	445	QA026	-	artifact scatter	Unknown	obsidian	41	11	75.7	45	13	58	443	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes

- Figures with asterisks (*) indicate the estimated dimensions instead of those of actual measurement.
- For the age/period determination of the collected pottery sherds, our codirector Dr. Fərid Güllüv gave us valuable advices.

3. CONCLUSION

Having obtained sufficient materials to define the earliest Neolithic society at Göytepe and Hacı Elamxanlı Tepe, our next objective is to search for its relation to earlier communities. While we hypothesize that the first Neolithic society in the South Caucasus was established by local Mesolithic communities who adopted a food-producing economy that had foreign origins, the archaeological details of such communities remain unclear. The available evidence for the Mesolithic society of this region is simply too sparse to reconstruct the transitional processes themselves.

Our reconnaissance survey for the 2015 season is the first attempt to fill this important gap in our understanding of Neolithization in the South Caucasus. The survey identified a couple of sites worthy of future research—namely, QA002 (Damclı), QA006, and QA021 at Avey Mountain. Though none of these sites yielded prehistoric artifacts in our survey, their geomorphological settings suggest that artifact-bearing deposits might exist deep in the sediment. Therefore, we propose test excavations of these caves and rockshelters in the next season to see if there are any anthropogenic deposits. Such excavations would provide a unique opportunity to reconstruct the history of human occupation in the region from an even longer perspective, starting from the Paleolithic.

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AVEY DAĞINDA İLKİN TƏDQİQATLARININ
2015-ci il HESABATI

XÜLASƏ

18-21 avqust 2015-ci ildə Azərbaycan-Yaponiya beynəlxalq arxeoloji ekspedisiyasının Avey dağında apardığı arxeoloji kəşfiyyatın əsas məqsədi regionun gələcəkdə tarixə qədərki tədqiqatlar üçün arxeoloji potensialını öyrənmək, xüsusilə, neolitə qədərki məskənlərin aşkar edilməsi idi. Göytəpə və Hacı Ələmxanlıtəpə (Azərbaycan Respublikasının Tovuz rayonu) neolit dövrü məskənlərində aparılmış cari arxeoloji tədqiqatlar göstərdi ki, regionda tam inkişaf etmiş ərzaq istehsal edən iqtisadiyyat e.ə. VI minilliyin əvvəlindən başlayır. Qazıntılar, bu dövrdə keramikadan çox nadir istifadə olunduğunu göstərib. Bu isə ona işarə edir ki, birinci tamdəyərli ərzaq istehsal edən iqtisadiyyat yerli keramikaya qədərki cəmiyyət idi; bu cəmiyyət, regiondan kənarda inkişaf etmiş və keramikanı tanıyan neolit cəmiyyətindən fərqli idi.

Hələ XX əsrdə azərbaycanlı tədqiqatçılar regionda iki tarixi mağara obyekti aşkar və tədqiq etmişlər, əsasən Damcı və Daş Salahlı. Bu isə, həmin dağ rayonunda paleolit və mezolit insan məskənlərinin mövcudluğunu göstərdi.

Arxeoloji kəşfiyyat qrupunun tədqiqatlarında iştirak etdirlər: **1) Azərbaycan tərəfdən:** Kəşikdağ Milli Tarixi-Mədəni Qoruğu— doktor Musa Mursaqlıov, cənab Məmməd Musaqlıyev; AMEA Arxeologiya və Etnoqrafiya İnstitutu: cənab Pərviz Qasımov, cənab Yaqub Məmmədov, cənab Şahin Səlimbəyov; **2) Yaponiya tərəfdən:** professor Yoşihito Nişiaqi, Tokio Universiteti; doktor Hiroto Nakata, Aoyama-Qakuin Universiteti; cənab Kazuya Şimoqama, Qədim Şərq Muzeyi.

Daş Salahlı mağarası qərbdə, Damcı isə, arxeoloji kəşfiyyat qrupunun hədəf zonasında yerləşmişdi. Əvvəlcə arxeoloji kəşfiyyat qrupu Damcıya baxış keçirmiş, sonra isə, çoxsaylı dərələrdə analoji yerləri araşdırmışdır.

Mağara və qayaaltı sığınacaqlar, ya da artefaktlar aşkar edilən kimi həmin yerlərin lazımi coğrafi məlumatı (en və uzunluq dairəsi, hündürlüyü) GPS-naviqator (GPSMAP 60CSx, Garmin Ltd.) ilə qeyd edilirdi. Dağ suxurları üçün əsas ölçmələr və terrasın ölçüləri Suzuki və Kobori (1970) ölçmələrinin protokollarına müvafiq aparılmışdır. Yayğın artefaktlar üçün paylanma diapozonları (uzunluq və en) nisbi ölçüldü. Bu zaman lazer uzaqölçənindən (TruPulse 200™, Laser Technology, Inc.) istifadə edildi.

Dörd gün ərzində arxeoloji kəşfiyyat qrupu 15 dağ suxuru, o cümlədən, Damcılı (№ QA001); artefaktların coğrafi paylanmasının 6 nöqtəsini və kiçik ölçülü kurqan çöllərini müəyyən etdi.

Göytəpə və Hacı Ələmxanlıtəpə məskənlərində erkən neolit cəmiyyətin təyini üçün yetərinə materiallar əldə etdikdən sonra arxeoloji qrupun əsas məqsədi daha erkən cəmiyyətlərə bu materialların münasibətini müəyyən etmək idi. Baxmayaraq ki, Cənubi Qafqazda ilk neolit cəmiyyətinin, əcnəbi mənşəli ərzaq istehsal edən ayrıca növ təsərrüfatı mənimsəmiş yerli mezolit icmaları tərəfindən yaradıldığı ehtimal edilməkdə idi, amma bu yerli icmaların arxeoloji detalları hələki qeyri-müəyyən qalır. Keçid proseslərinin dərk

üçün regionda mezolit cəmiyyətinə aid faktlar sadəcə olaraq çox azdır.

2015-ci il mövsümü üçün bizim arxeoloji kəşfiyyat tədqiqimizin əsas məqsədi Cənubi Qafqazın neolitləşməsi barədəki anlayışımızda mövcud ağ ləkələrin aradan qaldırılması oldu. Tədqiqat bir neçə yeri, xüsusən, Avey dağında QA002 (Damcı), QA006 və QA021 müəyyən etdi. Baxmayaraq ki, bu obyektlərdən heç birində tarixəqədərki artefaktlar əldə edilmədi, amma onların geomorfoloji quruluşu artefaktların daha dərin çöküntüdə olduğunu təxmin edir. Ona görə, növbəti mövsümdə hər hansı antropogen çöküntünün tapmaq üçün həmin mağara və qaya suxurlarının test qazıntısı planlaşdırılır. Bu qazıntılar paleolitdən başlayaraq regionun məskunlaşma tarixinin modelləşdirilməsi imkanını yaradır.

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**ПРЕДВАРИТЕЛЬНАЯ АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКАЯ РАЗВЕДКА 2015
года В РАЙОНЕ ГОРЫ АВЕЙДАГ**

РЕЗЮМЕ

В 2015 г. Азербайджано-Японская археологическая экспедиция провела археологическую разведку в районе горы Авейдаг (Avey dağı). Целью разведки было обнаружение донеолитических поселений для прояснения проблемы происхождения производящего хозяйства на территории Южного Кавказа. Археологические раскопки на неолитических поселениях Гейтепе и Гаджы Алемханлытепе (Товузский район) показали, что полностью развитая экономика производящего хозяйства в регионе датируется началом VI тысячелетия до нашей эры. Кроме того, раскопки показали редкое использование керамики в тот период. Это однозначно указывает на то, что производящее хозяйство исследуемого региона было создано местным докерамическим обществом, отличающимся от культуры неолитического общества, знакомого с керамикой.

Азербайджанские исследователи еще в XX в. Обнаружили и исследовали доисторические пещеры Дамджилы и Даш Салахлы, подтвердившие существование палеолитических и мезолитических человеческих стоянок в этом горном регионе.

В исследованиях 2015 года участвовали: от Азербайджана - д-р Муса Мурсагулов, г-н Мамед Мусагулиев, Национальный Историко-Культурный заповедник «Кешикчи-даг», г-н Парвиз Гасымов, г-н Ягуб Мамедов, г-н Шахин Салимбеков, Институт Археологии и Этнографии НАНА; от Японии - профессор Йошихиро Нишиаки (Токийский Университет), д-р Хирото Наката (Университет Аояма-Гакуин), г-н Казуя Шимогама (Музей древнего Востока).

Участники археологической разведки, ознакомившись со стоянкой Дамджилы, исследовали аналогичные места в многочисленных горных долинах. В течение четырех дней были зафиксированы 15 скальных пород, включая Дамджилы (№QA001); шесть мест с археологическими артефактами и три небольших курганных.

Достаточное число археологических артефактов с ранних неолитических поселений Гейтепе и Гаджы Алемханлытепе позволили предположить их принадлежность к более ранним общинам. Ранее была выдвинута гипотеза о том, что неолитическая культура на Южном Кавказе было создана местными древними обществами мезолита, которые позже заимствовали иной тип производящего хозяйства. Однако, археологически предполагаемые мезолитические общества остаются неясными. Имеющиеся незначительные археологические данные для полноценной реконструкции переходных процессов в мезолитическом обществе данного региона слишком малочисленны.

Археологическая разведка 2015 года — это первая попытка заполнить важный пробел неолитизации территории Южного Кавказа. Разведка выявила несколько мест для будущих исследований, QA002 (Дамджилы), QA006 и

QA021. Хотя ни один из названных объектов при разведывательных раскопках не дали доисторических артефактов, можно предположить, что геоморфологически артефакты могут существовать глубоко в осадочной породе. Планируются тестовые раскопки этих пещер и скальных пород с целью выяснения каких-либо антропогенных отложений, которые позволят реконструировать историю заселения региона, начиная с палеолита.

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