Preliminary Report on the Second Season of the Konya-Ereğli Survey (KEYAR) 2014

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Çiğdem MANER*

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE SECOND SEASON OF THE KONYA-EREĞLİ SURVEY (KEYAR)¹ 2014

The second season of the Konya Ereğli survey project (KEYAR) was conducted from June 7 - July 7, 2014 with the permission of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism General Directorate of Museums and Antiquities. Ali Haydar Atalar from the Kayseri Archaeology Museum was our representative from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism Directorate of Museums and Antiquities. The project was generously supported by Koç University's College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Koç University Seed Fund (SF 00013), Ereğli Municipality, AVIS and Demireller Tesisleri. I would like to thank especially the director of the Ereğli Museum, Mr. Mahmut Altuncan, the mayor of Ereğli, Mr. Özkan Özgüven, and his deputy, Mrs. Zuhul Savaş, for their endless help and support. I am also grateful to Mrs. Sadiye Kaya, who has been driving us safely for two seasons through the southeastern Konya Plain, Mr. Hilmi Erel Muhtar of Pir Ömer Mahallesi in Ereğli, Pınar Özyürek from Koç University and Assistant Professor Caner Güney from Istanbul Technical University for their help and support. The survey team consisted of students from Koç University and Istanbul Technical University². I am grateful for their work and support.

The general aim of the five year project is to locate and survey the settlements of the Bronze and Iron Ages in the southeast provincial towns of Konya, namely, Ereğli, Halkapınar, Emirgazi and Karapınar³. All of these provincial towns are under

the supervision of the Ereğli Museum. Minor surveys were conducted by James Mellaart in the 1950s⁴ and by Semih Güneri⁵ in the 1980s in Ereğli and Karapınar. However, these surveys did not aim to survey the whole area of these four provincial towns, only just a few major and obvious *höyük*s. This led to the fact that Ereğli, as well as Karapınar, were only partially surveyed, and Emirgazi and Halkapınar, not at all. Hence, to understand the settlement distribution during the Bronze and Iron Ages of the southeast corner of Konya, a survey of the whole region was necessary.

In 2013, the survey of the provincial town of Ereğli began (Map 1). During the two week survey, fourteen settlements and two tumuli were determined. Twelve of these settlements were new discoveries. In addition to the survey, small finds in the Ereğli Museum which date to the Bronze and Iron Ages, and which are from the region, have started to be published⁶. Recently, a spool-shaped, decorated clay object and the lower part of a Hittite bronze figurine have been published by the author⁷. Three more small finds dating to the Middle and Late Bronze Ages stored in the Ereğli Museum will be published in 2015. These objects give important clues especially about the Middle and Late Bronze Ages of the survey region and a match with the located settlements as possible find spots can be attempted.

We followed the same methodology as the 2013 survey⁸. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism General

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1) KEYAR: Konya Ereğli Yüzey Araştırması. Konya Ereğli Survey Project.

2) Aymesey Albay, Aysel Arslan, Hazel Bahar, Ece Bulak, Ayşe Bursalı, Muhip Çarkı, Betül Gaye Dinç, Elifgül Doğan, Sernaz Engin, Ahmet Yüksel Erel, Naide Gedikli, Yavuz Selim Güler, Alihan Keskin, Alican Kutlay, Aksel Mert Mağiya, Günce Pelin Özgüden, Zeynep Özge Özdemir. I would like to thank Muhip Çarkı and Pelin Peker for their help in preparing the map and pottery charts.

3) For the research questions and results of the first survey season, see Maner 2014, also Maner in press a.

4) Mellaart 1955; 1958; 1963; 1965.

5) Güneri 1989-91; 1990.

6) I would like to thank the Museum director Mr. Mahmut Altuncan for his generous permission to publish these small finds.

7) Maner 2015a.

8) Maner 2014: 344-345.

Map 1.

Directorate of Museums and Antiquities still continues to apply the regulation that does not allow the collection, storage and creation of pottery assemblages. Hence, we collected pottery from the surface, selected the significant ones from the results (Fig. 1), photographed (Fig. 2) and sketched (Fig. 3) them *in situ* and put them back where we collected them.

In 2014, the aim was to continue the survey of the Ereğli provincial town, which started in 2013 and also to begin the survey of the border districts between Ereğli and Halkapınar and between Ereğli and Emirgazi. During the one month survey in 2014 we visited the following villages of Ereğli: Bulgurluk, Aziziye, Yeniköy, Yukarı Gündelen, Acıkuyu, Aşağıgündelen, Acıkuyu, Zengen, Obruk, Çukurkuyu, Kutören, Belkaya, Kızılgedik, Taşbudak, Beyören, Deveağıl, Karaağıl, Kuzukuyusu, Sazgeçit, Kargacı, Pınarözü, Selvili, Türkmen, Çiller, Kamışlıkuyu, Akhöyük, Göktöme, Özgürler, Aşıklar, Tatlıkuyu, Taşağıl, Adabağ, Büyükdede, Gaybı, Yıldız, Orhaniye, Belice, Gökçeyazı and Taştepe Obası. In addition, we surveyed a *höyük* in Halkapınar in a village

Fig. 1 : Pottery selection during the survey.

Fig. 2 : Photographing the pottery during the survey.

Fig. 3 : Sketching the pottery on the site.

called Seydifakılı, and in Emirgazi short visits were paid to Eskikişla Mevkii and Dikilişla Mevkii. Just southeast of Eskikişla Mevkii, a *höyük* (Maltepesi) was located and surveyed.

During the 2014 season, we identified 27 settlements (Map 1, Table 1). The settlements and material remains will be explained in the following section.

Table 1: Investigated Settlements of the 2014 Survey Season.

Nº	Name of Settlement	Province and Village Name	Altitude
17	Sırçanlı Tepe	Ereğli, Bulgurluk, Kamışlıkuyu Köyü	1041 m
18	Boğazkuyu Höyük	Ereğli, Bulgurluk	1072 m
19	Holtan Mevkii Yerleşimi	Ereğli, Bulgurluk	1056 m
20	Zencirli Höyük	Ereğli, Yeniköy	1052 m
21	Yaldızlı Höyük	Ereğli, Yeniköy	1042 m
22	Pınar Mevkii Yerleşimi	Ereğli, Eski Zengen	1093 m
23	Zengen Höyük	Ereğli, Eski Zengen	1038 m
24	Mezarlık (Yeni Zengen) Höyük	Ereğli, Yeni Zengen Köyü	1043 m
25	Akhöyük	Ereğli, Akhüyük	1021 m
26	Çiller Höyük	Ereğli, Çiller	1023 m
27	Göktöme	Ereğli, Göktöme	1023 m
28	Aşıkmezar Höyüğü	Ereğli, Aşıklar-Tatlıkuyu	1009 m
29	Butalık Mevkii Höyük	Ereğli, Aşıklar	1011 m
30	Balı Höyük	Ereğli, Tatlıkuyu	1007 m
31	Adabağ Höyüğü	Ereğli, Adabağ	1004 m
32	Adalıyer Mevkii Yerleşimi	Ereğli, Pınarözü	1017 m
33	Başın Yaylası Höyük	Ereğli, Kuzukuyu	1021 m
34	Asar Mevkii Kale Yerleşimi	Ereğli, Beyören, Keklikören-Asar Mevkii	1526 m
35	İbizlik Kalesi Örenyeri (Çekin Kalesi)	Ereğli, Kutören	1103 m
36	Obruk Höyük	Ereğli, Kutören, Obuk Yaylası	1050 m
37	Karaağıl Ören yeri (Maşatca Höyük)	Ereğli, Karaağıl	1047 m
38	Cihan Kalesi	Ereğli, Kutören, Obuk yaylası üstü	1085 m
39	Sarıçören Kalesi	Ereğli, Belkaya köyü sınırında, Kötü Dağ mevkiinde	1192 m
40	Tont Kalesi	Ereğli, Gökçeyazı Köyü	1266 m
41	Eskikişla Dikili Taş	Mevkii yerleşmesi Emirgazi, Eskikişla (Kıcıkışla)	1075 m
42	Maltepesi Höyük	Emirgazi, Yunus Emre Kale Mahallesi	1266 m
43	Osmanköseli Höyük	Halkapınar, Seydifakılı Köyü	1445 m

Sırçanlı Tepe Höyük (Map 1 N° 17, Fig. 4)

The settlement is located *ca.* 7 km northwest of Bulgurluk village and has been registered since 2003. It is a *höyük* settlement *ca.* 95 m x 95 m large and *ca.* 1.8 m high. No architectural features are preserved and no worked building blocks were seen. The plain around the *höyük* and also the *höyük* itself is used for agriculture. This led to the destruction and also to the reduction of the settlement size.

Two small fragments of obsidian tools were discovered. The number of pottery sherds on the mound were limited. Among them were hand-formed body sherds, probably Early Chalcolithic, also pottery from Middle Iron Age and Roman periods were found.

Boğazkuyu Höyük (Map 1 N° 18, Fig. 5-7)

In 2013, we had visited Bulgurluk; however, we entered the village from the east and couldn't locate any settlement. During this year's survey season, we approached the village from the west, from the Ereğli-Adana highway, and passed through the village. At the northern end, a medium-sized *höyük* appeared (Fig. 5). The *höyük* and also the plain around it is used for agriculture. The *höyük* stands 1.7 km north of Bulgurluk. The *höyük* is called 'Boğazkuyu Höyük' by the local people and is not registered. It is an almond-shaped settlement mound, which measures (N-S) 414 m x (E-W) 183 m and is around 3 m high. The settlement is located inside a fertile alluvial plain and has an important strategic location. Since the whole *höyük* is used for agriculture and the barley was around 1.5 m high during the survey period and covered the whole area, only a few pottery sherds could be collected. At the southern edge of the *höyük*, in between the barley, a 0.7 m long, 0.45 m wide and 0.55 m high worked stone block was discovered (Fig. 6). One side is flat and the other dome-shaped. It is likely the cover of a small tomb. On one of the short sides it has a dome-shaped cavity. As the mound was covered with belly-high barley, no other worked stones or architectural features were discovered. Among the pottery were pieces from the Middle Bronze Age (Fig. 7: 1), Middle Iron Age (Fig. 7: 2), Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Periods. Also, a few obsidian tool fragments were found.

Holtan Mevkii Yerleşimi (Map 1 N° 19, Fig. 8)

This settlement is located 6 km north of Bulgurluk and was shown to us by a villager who had discovered *pithoi* fragments in this area. The settlement is not a *höyük*, but a flat settlement, and is not registered. The area is used as a field, which made surveying impossible. The size of the settlement could not be measured, as only very few pottery fragments were found. No worked stones or architectural remains were observed. Among the pottery fragments which lay on the ground were Roman pottery sherds and green glazed ones, which probably date to the Byzantine Period.

Zencirli Höyük (Map 1 N° 20, Fig. 9-11)

Zencirli Höyük, along with Ereğli Karahöyük⁹, is an important settlement just to the north of the Cilician Gates. The settlement has an important strategic location, connecting south-north and west-east and is also located within very fertile alluvial land. The *höyük* (Fig. 9) is 2.5 km east of Yeniköy, a village of Ereğli, which is on the border with Niğde. The *höyük* was registered in 2012 and the registration process is still in progress. It was surveyed by J. Mellaart¹⁰ and S. Güneri¹¹.

The *höyük* is (N-S) 377 m x (E-W) 327 m. The top is much narrower than the *höyük* itself and is only (N-S) 100 m x (E-W) 100 m. The highest part of the *höyük* is around 6 m high. On the slopes, on top, and surrounding it are several large and small animal holes, mostly from foxes, as well as illicit excavations. The *höyük* consists of three artificial terraces, which probably mark the extension of different settlement periods. At the edges of the northern and northeastern slopes are 2-3 m high small mounds (Fig. 10). The villagers say that once (around 100 years ago) there were tin workshops under these mounds. The pottery on these small, shallow mounds dates to the Middle Iron, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods. Among them were also rounded pot sherds, which have rounded edges and generally are interpreted as lids. On the southern edge of the *höyük* are the foundations and remains of a rectangular building. According to the *muhtar* of Aşağıgöndelen village, the building functioned during the Republican Period as a caravanserai. The pottery and beads which were found in this building seem to be Late

9) Maner 2014; 2015b.

10) Mellaart 1954: 192; 1955: 125, 130; 1958: 335; 1963: 209 N° 93. Mellaart calls the settlement in his 1954 publication *Sincirli Höyük*. In his 1963 publication it is mentioned as Zencirli Höyük.

11) Güneri 1989-91: 99, 102. Güneri calls the settlement Zencirli Höyük, however it is registered as Zencirli Höyük by the authorities.

Fig. 4 : Sırçalı Tepe Höyük (from Northwest).

Fig. 5 : Boğazkuyu Höyük (from Southwest).

**Fig. 6 : Boğazkuyu Höyük:
Dome-shaped stone slab.**

Fig. 8 : Holtan Mevkii Yerleşimi (from Northwest).

Fig. 10 : Zencirli Höyük (from North).

Fig. 7 : Pottery samples from Boğazkuyu Höyük.

Fig. 9 : Zencirli Höyük (from West).

Fig. 11 : Zencirli Höyük: Pottery samples.

Ottoman and Republican. Other than these foundations, no other architectural remains were discovered.

The pottery which was collected, especially on the southern and northern slopes, is very interesting and shows that Zencirli Höyük was occupied continuously from the Neolithic until the Byzantine Period. Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age pottery sherds (Fig. 11: 5, 7, 9) were strayed over the mound. Mellaart mentions both Karum Period pottery and Cappadocian Ware at Zencirli Höyük¹². During the 2014 survey season, several fragments of Middle Bronze Age pottery were found (Fig. 11: 1, 4, 6), among them were also two decorated Cappadocian Ware sherds and two horizontal handles (Fig. 11: 4, 6) which probably date to Karum II or Ib¹³. The red-burnished handle belongs to a two-handled bowl (Fig. 11: 4). Among the collected handles was also a fragment of a deer-shaped handle, which dates probably to the Middle or Late Bronze Age (Fig. 11: 8). A similar example of a deer-shaped handle was found at Alişar Höyük in Level II¹⁴.

Zencirli Höyük is 88 km south of Acemhöyük and 11 km southwest of Ereğli Karahöyük, which also has a Karum Period occupation. Zencirli Höyük and Ereğli Karahöyük were surely part of the Old Assyrian Trading networks. A bear-shaped stamp seal and an Old Babylonian cylinder seal¹⁵ on display in the Ereğli Museum, are from the Ereğli region, according to the entries in the museum database. Perhaps they were looted from these sites.

As Mellaart observed, the Bronze Age level settlements are covered by a thick Iron Age layer¹⁶. During our survey, we encountered the same phenomenon. In addition to Mellaart's remark, it is important to mention that very distinctive and important Iron Age pottery fragments were distributed over the mound (Fig. 11: 2, 10). Among them are several decorated rim fragments which have parallels with Porsuk Zeyve Höyük Level IV and Level III¹⁷. A painted body sherd with a wild goat motif has parallels with examples from Alişar IV¹⁸. Mellaart also observed that Alişar IV pottery was distributed over the mound¹⁹. Among the Middle Iron Age

pottery were examples with compass-made circles (the compass hole is still visible) which are painted black on buff ware. This type of painted pottery was also found in Porsuk Zeyve Höyük Level IV²⁰ and in Midas City²¹.

Yaldızlı Höyük (Map 1 N° 21, Fig. 12)

This crescent-shaped settlement is a shallow *höyük* (Fig. 12) that extends over quite a large area and has been registered since 1988. It is located on the eastern side of the Adana-Ankara highway, 2 km north of the entrance to Yeniköy village. This settlement is on the same vertical axis as Zencirli Höyük. It is (N-S) 440 m - 160 m x (E-W) 500 m - 140 m large and 0.5-1 m high and is surrounded by dry, arid land, which is right now not used for agriculture. The survey showed that this settlement was occupied mainly during the Late Bronze Age, Middle and Late Iron Age, Roman, Byzantine and Seljuk periods. Several glazed pottery fragments and glass bracelet pieces were found. These glass bracelet fragments, in particular, suggest that there was likely a production center for these bracelets here.

Pınar Mevkii Yerleşimi (Map 1 N° 22, Fig. 13)

Pınar Mevkii Yerleşimi (settlement) is a newly discovered settlement. It is on the way to Eski Zengen Höyük, 800 m northeast of the townhouse. On our way to Eski Zengen Höyük, we passed by an artificial pool with an entrance to a cave to the west. This cave is referred to as an underground town by the villagers. However, it wasn't possible to enter, as the entrance had collapsed. North of the pool, just next to the road, a shallow *höyük* is located on a natural rock slope (Fig. 13). The pottery dates to the Early and Middle Bronze Ages, Iron Age and the Roman period. Also, two obsidian tool fragments, an obsidian arrow and flint pieces were found.

Zengen Höyük (Map 1 N° 23, Fig. 14-16)

Zengen Höyük (Fig. 14) has been a registered settlement since 1988. The settlement is 500 m

12) Mellaart 1958: 323, 335.

13) This type of handle is known, for example, from Alişar (Schmidt 1932: Pl. X; Von der Osten 1937: Fig. 219-220).

14) Schmidt 1932: 135 Fig. 168, also from Kültepe. In Kültepe, this type of handle belongs to two-handled bowls. For example, see Özgüç 2003: 177 Fig. 169.

15) Both objects are described and analyzed in forthcoming publications.

16) Mellaart 1955.

17) Dupré 1983, shaped like: Pl. 73 N° 101, with inner rim decoration like Pl. 67 N° 60.

18) Schmidt 1932: Pl. 35 N° b 1180:69, Pl. 3 N° b 743: 10.

19) Mellaart 1955: map.

20) Dupré 1983: Pl. 50 N° 42, Pl. 59 N° 42.

21) Mellaart 1955: 118.

Fig. 12 : Yıldızlı Höyük (from South).

Fig. 13 : Pınar Mevkii Yerleşimi.

Fig. 14 : Zengen Höyük (from East).

Fig. 15 : The garden walls around Zengen Höyük are built with stone boulders from the *höyük*.

Fig. 16 : Zengen Höyük pottery samples.

southeast of Pınar Mevkii Yerleşimi. Güneri²² surveyed this *höyük* as well. The settlement is located inside a fertile plain, which is divided into small garden units. The settlement is (N-S) 120 m x (E-W) 110 m and around 6 m high. It consists of an acropolis and a lower level settlement, which have a height difference of around 3 m. On the northeastern part are the remains of a stone foundation. These wall foundations are around 1 m wide and 5 m long and extend from north to south. The foundation is made of medium-sized stones. The villager who went with us to the *höyük* told us that once there were many stone foundations and remains of walls. The villagers dismantled these walls around 50-60 years ago and have built walls for their fields and gardens (Fig. 15). Among these walls are also large, roughly-shaped boulders, which might have been part of monumental structures. West of the *höyük*, inside a garden, a 0.8 m long and 0.5 m wide worked stone slab was discovered.

The majority of the pottery which was collected from the acropolis of the settlement and the north-western side date to the Early (Fig. 16: 1) and Late Bronze Ages, Middle Iron Age (Fig. 16: 2), Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods. Inside an illicit excavation hole, fragments of red-painted plaster, mud-brick pieces, and body sherds were found. Since there was no diagnostic pottery among the group, it is difficult to date them.

Mezarlık Höyük (Yeni Zengen Höyük) (Map 1 N° 24, Fig. 17)

The Zengen village is divided by the Adana-Ankara highway. Zengen Höyük (Fig. 17) is located in the eastern part of the village and Yeni Zengen

Höyük in the western part. Yeni Zengen Höyük which lies south of the western part of the village is also known as Mezarlık Höyük (cemetery mound). The settlement has been a registered area since 1988. The *höyük* is about 12 km northwest of Yeniköy and 2.6 km south of Zengen village. It is around 2 m high and (N-S) 48 m x (E-W) 66 m large and is used partially for agriculture and also as a cemetery, hence the name 'Mezarlık Höyük'. Except for the tombs on the southern slope of the *höyük*, which belong to the villagers, no architectural features were discovered. The pottery ranges from Early-Middle-Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age, Roman and Byzantine periods.

Akhöyük (Map 1 N° 25, Fig. 18-20)

Akhöyük is one of the biggest settlements in the Ereğli region. It has been a registered *höyük* since 1992. Güneri surveyed this mound as well²³. The *höyük* is located 130 m northwest of the Akhöyük mosque. It is around (N-S) 210 m x (E-W) 130 m and around 15 m high (Fig. 18-19). The ancient settlement was established on a natural rock plateau. The rock is known as 'Akhöyük taşı (stone)' by the inhabitants and is a sort of tuff stone. 112 m northeast of the *höyük* is a sulfur spring (Fig. 19). The intense smell of the sulfur can be detected from miles away. The southern slope and the top of the *höyük* have been used as a cemetery for several centuries. There are two rectangular tombs made of the indigenous Akhöyük tuff stone. One of them is on the southern slope and is 2.34 x 1.04 x 2.53 m large. The tomb on top is 2.34 x 1.07 x 2.60 m big and has stone decorations on both edges (*şahide*). No other archi-

22) Güneri 1989-91: 118.

23) Güneri 1989-91: 118.

Fig. 17 : Mezarlık Höyük (Yeni Zengen Höyük).

Fig. 18 : Akhöyük (from West).

Fig. 19 : Akhöyük (from Northeast).

Fig. 20 : Akhöyük Pottery samples.

tectural features were recorded. A survey of the *höyük* was demanding, as it was covered with high grass, in addition to the tombs.

Fifty pieces of worked obsidian were found, among them seven blades and two arrowheads. The pottery showed that the site was inhabited from the Neolithic period until the Byzantine period. Pottery from the Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Early, Middle (Fig. 20: 1) and Late Bronze Ages, Middle Iron Age (Fig. 20: 2), Roman and Byzantine periods was found.

Çiller Höyük (Map 1 N° 26, Fig. 21-22)

Çiller Höyük (Fig. 21) is, together with Ereğli Karahöyük, Zencirli Höyük and Akhöyük, one of the largest settlements in this region. They are all located on the same horizontal axis. The *höyük* is situated around 2 km northeast of Çiller Köyü mosque and has been registered since 1988. The mound was surveyed by Mellaart²⁴ and Güneri²⁵ as well.

The *höyük* is (N-S) 270 m x (E-W) 260 m and around 8 m high. The ancient settlement consists of a *höyük* and a lower town. The northern part of the lower town is divided in two by the road from Akhöyük village to Çiller village. The eastern part was destroyed by small roads and irrigation canals. In the northeastern lower town were the tents of Syrian refugees who came here as seasonal workers. This has led to destruction and illicit excavations.

No architectural remains or worked stone blocks were discovered. Pottery was collected from the northern lower town. This shows a settlement history from the Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Early, Middle (Fig. 22: 1) and Late Bronze Ages, Iron Age (Fig. 22: 2), Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods. Basket handle fragments with fingertip prints at the bottom were discovered. Similar types are known from the Middle Bronze Age levels of Beycesultan²⁶.

1.2 km northeast of Çiller Höyük, the villagers showed us the old village cemetery. Among the tombstones were ancient stones. One of the tombstones depicts two crosses and probably dates to the Byzantine period. Among the tombstones were also two Roman millstones (*meta* and *catillus*), as was found last season at Taştepe Obası²⁷.

Göktöme (Map 1 N° 27, Fig. 23)

Göktöme²⁸ (Fig. 23) is a small settlement which is 3 km southeast of Çiller Köy Camii, and 0.65 km southeast of Ak Köprü, a Roman bridge (not registered) connected to a Roman road (not registered) which stretches from east to west. The *höyük* is (N-S) 75 m x (E-W) 75 m and around 4 m high. On top are several large, deep illicit excavation holes. No remains of architecture were visible. Only a few sherds were found, which date to the Roman and Byzantine periods. This must be a small settlement connected to the Roman bridge.

24) Mellaart 1954: 192; 1963: 209 N° 91.

25) Güneri 1989-91: 118.

26) Abay and Dedeoğlu 2009: 79 Fig. 6.

27) Maner 2014: 357-359 Fig. 28-29.

28) *Töme* is another term used for *höyük* in this region.

**Fig. 21 : Çiller Höyük
(from South).**

Fig. 22 : Çiller Höyük pottery samples.

Fig. 23 : Göktöme.

Aşıkmezar Höyüğü (Kırhöyük)

(Map 1 N° 28, Fig. 24)

This settlement is located between the villages of Aşıklar and Tatlıkuyu and was registered in 2012. Aşıkmezar Höyük (Fig. 24) is 3.23 km west of Aşıklar village and 80 km north of the main road. The *höyük* is 4 m high and (N-S) 150 m x (E-W) 160 m. On the settlement, and also around it, no architectural remains were preserved. The collected pottery shows a wide range from the Early Bronze Age to Byzantine periods.

Butalık Mevkii Höyük (Map 1 N° 29, Fig. 25)

This *höyük* (Fig. 25) is 1.2 km northwest of Aşıklar village and 2.25 km northeast of Aşıkmezar Höyük. It appears to be a flat settlement, although it is a *höyük* which lost its elevation due to agricultural activities. No architectural remains or worked stones were seen. The few collected pottery sherds date to the Roman period.

Balı Höyük (Map 1 N° 30, Fig. 26)

Balı Höyük (Fig. 26) was shown to us by one of the villagers of Aşıklar village. It is located around 1.2 km southeast of Tatlıkuyu village. Due to agricultural activities, this *höyük* is very shallow, around 0.5-1 m high, and (N-S) 160 m x (E-S) 160 m. Several foxholes are spread over the ancient settlement, and it is covered with short, thorny bushes which made a survey almost impossible. The pottery sherds were on the mound and also spread across the fields. They date to the Middle Iron Age, Roman and Byzantine periods.

Adabağ Höyüğü (Map 1 N° 31, Fig. 27)

Adabağ Höyüğü (Fig. 27) is situated 1 km northeast of Adabağ village and was registered in 1996. This medium-sized *höyük* is (N-S) 150 m x (E-W) 150 m and *ca.* 5 m high. Its northeastern part was bulldozed to create a water canal and to remove dirt for construction. The northern tip of the *höyük* is cut by a road. No architectural remains were discovered, except for two rectangular-shaped and stone-framed structures on the southern slope, which supposedly are graves of the villagers. Pottery was mainly col-

lected from the top, southwestern and eastern slopes. The northern part did not reveal much pottery due to deep bulldozer activity. The pottery ranges from the Early-Middle-Late Bronze Ages, Iron Age, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods.

A Grey Ware ram-shaped *rython* in the Ereğli Museum (Inv. N° 1951) is supposed to have come from Adabağ Höyüğü, according to the museum entries²⁹. The *rython* is 7.6 cm long and 4.5 cm high and currently exhibited. It was acquired in 1988 by the Ereğli Museum³⁰.

Adalıyer Mevkii Yerleşimi

(Map 1 N° 32, Fig. 28)

This interesting flat settlement was shown to us by a resident of Pınarözü village. It came to his attention because it is close to his fields, and he saw people digging there at night. When we went there, we encountered several looted Roman graves. It is a flat settlement with a cemetery, with no elevation, like most of the Roman settlements in this region. The settlement is 2.1 km west of Pınarözü village, and the western side seems to be the settlement while the eastern side is the cemetery. The graves are mainly cist graves which are lined with slightly-worked, rectangular, flat stone slabs (Fig. 28). They are east-west oriented. The western part was covered with Roman and Byzantine pottery pieces. However, since the Roman Period is not included in our permit, we did not conduct any further investigations.

Başın Yaylası Höyük (Map 1 N° 33, Fig. 29)

This ancient settlement (Fig. 29) is 4.75 km southeast of Kuzukuyu village. The settlement mound is (N-S) 150 m x (E-W) 300 m and stretches southeast to northeast across a hill. The southern slopes seems to be part of the settlement. The whole area is used for agriculture. At first sight, it looks like that there are two settlements. However, closer investigation showed that it is actually one *höyük*, which was divided in two by plough activity. Among the collected pottery sherds were Early, Middle and Late Bronze Age, Middle Iron Age, and Roman pieces. The settlement seems to be at an important strategic location, higher up on the hill and surrounded by fertile land.

29) It was bought from a villager who said that it comes from Adabağ.

30) The publication about the *rython* is forthcoming. The *rython* was already depicted in the MA thesis by Ali Haydar Atalar titled "Ereğli Herakleia Kybistra Antik Kenti" submitted to Kafkas University in 2009. The *rython* is mentioned and depicted on pages 7, 67, and 87. However, Atalar dates it to the Early Bronze Age, which is incorrect. The Grey Ware is typical of the Iron Age.

Fig. 25 : Butalık Mevkii Höyük.

Fig. 27 : Adabağ Höyük (from South).

Fig. 24 : Aşkmezar Höyüğü.

Fig. 26 : Balı Höyük.

Fig. 28 : Adalıyer Mevkii Yerleşimi
Roman cist grave.

Asar Mevkii Kale Yerleşimi (Map 1 N° 34, Fig. 30)

This hilltop settlement respectively fortress, or rather castle, is on top of a steep hill (Fig. 30). It is 2.5 km northwest of Beyören Köy mosque. The castle is around half an hour walking distance from the village. On top are round cisterns and steps carved into the rock. The settlement is fortified, and remains of the foundations are visible. The stones used were quarried from the hilltop. Within the wall are rectangular and oval building structures. There are several illicit excavations, and in one of them a capital was discovered. The pottery seems to be mainly Late Antique and Byzantine. Since this period is not included in our permit, we couldn't conduct any further investigations.

In Beyören village several Late Antique and Byzantine blocks were used as *spolia* in houses and also in the mosque (Beyören Köy Camii). Some of them have crosses depicted on them. Also next to the mosque was a set of Roman millstones (*meta* and *catillus*), as was discovered in Taştepepe Obası in 2013³¹ and the cemetery of Çiller village in 2014³².

Fig. 29 : Başın Yaylası Höyük.

31) Maner 2014: 358 Fig. 28-29.

32) See above.

Fig. 30 : Asar Mevkii Kale Yerleşimi.

İbizlik Kalesi Örenyeri (Çekin Kalesi)
(Map 1 N° 35, Fig. 31-33)

İbizlik Kalesi Örenyeri (also known as Çekin Kalesi by local people) lies 6.5 km southeast of Kutören, which is a village 37.5 km north of Ereğli. It is located inside the fertile Çekin valley (Fig. 31) and controls the whole plain, including important road networks, such as to Tyana (modern Kemerhisar, Hittite Tuwanuwa) in the west, Aksaray in the north, and the Cilician Gates and the Taurus Mountains in the south. It is a fortress built on a natural, shallow rock. The fortress stretches from northwest to

southeast and is (N-S) 215 m x (E-W) 108 m, occupying an area of around 23.2 ha. The whole site was once fortified with a cyclopean wall. The fortress is built of a dark grey-blackish stone, which shines in the sun like silver. It is probably some kind of volcanic stone. The northern portion is the highest part (around 6 m high) of the fortress (Fig. 32). The fortification walls are built around a rocky outcrop, and some wall portions are still standing in the northern section, where they are around 1-2 m high with 3-4 courses preserved. The rest of the walls are destroyed and the boulders are scattered across the site. The fortification walls of the southern part are

Fig. 31 : İbizlik Kalesi Örenyeri (from South).

Fig. 32 : İbizlik Kalesi Örenyeri Acropolis.

Fig. 33 : İbizlik Kalesi Örenyeri (Çekin Kalesi) pottery samples.

practically all destroyed, and here the stones are also widely scattered. The local villagers told us that they used the stones to build their houses and removed many from the site.

However, on the western side, an 8 m long section of a wall is preserved to two courses. The boulders are *ca.* 0.8-1 m x 0.6-0.8 m large and the wall is built with cyclopean masonry, which means that the interstices between the big boulders are filled with small stones. It seems like this wall belongs to a tower structure. This type of masonry was applied during the Late Bronze and Iron Ages. Likely, the fortification dates to one of these periods. Within the fortress are the remains of a 10 m x 10 m structure in the centre. There were so many stones scattered around the site that it was very difficult to determine buildings and structures.

The pottery from this site shows a long occupation period. There are examples from the Chalcolithic (Fig. 33: 3), Early, Middle, and Late Bronze Ages (Fig. 33: 1-2), Iron Age, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods.

Obruk Höyük (Map 1 N° 36, Fig. 34)

Obruk Höyük (Fig. 34) is located under Obruk Village. The village and the mound are placed within a wide, natural cavity. The *höyük* is located within Obruk Yaylası and 5.8 km southeast of Çekin Kalesi. The ancient settlement has been registered since 1988. It is unfortunately not possible to determine the original size of the *höyük*, as it is used for habitation and the nature of the *höyük* is mostly lost. The preserved size of the *höyük* is approximately (N-S) 87 m x (E-W) 63 m. However, the villagers

Fig. 34 : Obruk Höyük.

report that the *höyük* was previously much higher and wider. Only the remains of a slope are visible on the eastern part. The stones from previous settlements were used by the villagers to build their own houses. However, there is a stone building built with grey stone, probably basalt, with an arched roof. This structure probably dates to Late Antiquity. On the eastern slope are the remains of a road, which is around 4.5 m wide and preserved for about 218 m. The few collected pottery sherds date to the Early-Middle-Late Bronze Ages, Middle Iron Age and Roman period.

Karaağıl Örenyeri (Maşatca Höyük)

(Map 1 N° 37, Fig. 35)

Karaağıl Örenyeri (Fig. 35) is also known as Maşatca Höyük and has been registered since 1988. The *höyük* is located within fertile fields 800 m southeast of Karaağıl Yaylası, and hence the slopes of the ancient settlement mound are also used for agriculture. The top is still in use as a cemetery. According to the villagers, the cemetery was placed here one hundred years ago. The graves are made of unworked, medium-sized boulders, which were probably taken from architectural remains. Upon our arrival, no architectural remains were discovered. The *höyük* is (N-S) 90 m x (E-W) 90 m large. The pottery dates mainly to the Late Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age.

Cihan Kalesi (Map 1 N° 38, Fig. 36)

The fortress (Fig. 36) is located 12 km southeast of Kutören, 5.7 km southeast of Ibizlik Kalesi Örenyeri and just 1 km west of Obruk village. Built on an elevation and controlling the whole plain, it is a smaller fortress than Ibizlik Kalesi Örenyeri, although much better preserved. The walls of the fortress are also made of cyclopean masonry with slightly-worked stone boulders. The fortress is (N-S) 53 m x (E-W) 79 m large. The well preserved entrance is in the west and is a direct access gate. The foundations of the room walls inside the fortress are partially preserved. On the northeastern slope are partially preserved steps going down the hill. 1.6 km northeast of the fortress is a small cemetery with ovoid graves which are marked with stones. Among the collected pottery were fragments from the Middle Bronze Age, Middle Iron Age, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods.

Sarıçören Kalesi (Map 1 N° 39)

This castle is 3.9 km northwest of Belkaya village, 3.5 km east of Mount Arısama (also known as Kötü Dağ) and is located on its western hilltop. According to the *muhtar* of Belkaya, the first settlement of Belkaya was located here. Upon arrival, many house foundations and a village cemetery were visible. The cemetery is surrounded with a fence. Within the old, abandoned village, a rock

Fig. 35 : Karaağıl Örenyeri (Maşatca Höyük).

Fig. 36 : Cihan Kalesi.

massif was observed. Interestingly, it is surrounded with a wall built of huge boulders, the foundations of which are visible among the high grass. The construction also has an entrance. 5 m west of the construction was a boulder with square lewis holes. This technique was generally used in the Iron Age. 200 m north of this is a rock massif where there were the possible remains of a castle which is known as Sarıçören Kalesi by the locals.

Unfortunately, the weather conditions were not good and, since it was the end of the survey season, we decided to return in the 2015 survey season to conduct more detailed investigations.

Tont Kalesi (Map 1 N° 40, Fig. 37-38)

Tont Castle (Fig. 37) is 1.9 km southeast of Gökçeyazı village, 2.6 km north of the Ivriz dam and 5.8 km north of the Neo-Hittite water sanctuary of Ivriz. It has been a registered settlement since 1988. The settlement is located on a hilltop which extends from west to east. The western part of the settlement was partially removed and damaged because it was used as a stone quarry. Again, the top of the western part was dynamited, which has led to destruction on the top of the castle. The hilltops 0.7 km and 1.8 km west of Tont Castle are used as stone quarries.

The site consists of a castle and a settlement. The settlement is located north of the castle, down the slopes of the hill, and foundations of buildings are visible among the grass. The castle (to the south) is built around the highest peak of the hilltop (Fig. 37). There are steps going up to the peak. However, they were not very solid, and it was too dangerous to climb up. The walls of the castle seem to date to Late Antiquity, because they are made with white mortar. About 70 m north of the castle are the foundations of a building with twelve rooms visible. The building is (N-S) 170 m x (E-W) 100 m. The walls are partially preserved up to two courses and are made of cyclopean masonry. Slightly-shaped boulders were used. The remains and masonry are reminiscent of Hittite buildings, although the pottery from within the rooms was mainly green glazed, and therefore probably Byzantine. Down the slopes in the northwest were the foundations of several buildings among high grass. Among the pottery from the southern part of the settlement were sherds from the Chalcolithic, Early (Fig. 38:3, 4) - Middle (Fig. 38: 6) - Late Bronze Ages (Fig. 38: 1, 2), Iron Age (Fig. 38: 5), Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and perhaps Seljuk periods. Among the Middle Bronze Age pottery were basket handles

Fig. 37 : Tont Kalesi.

Fig. 38 : Tont Kalesi pottery samples.

fragments (Fig. 33: 6) with finger prints at the bottom part, like they have been found in Çiller Höyük³³.

Tont Kalesi is, according to *Tabula Imperii Byzantini*, the town of Heracleia³⁴. Heracleia is the successor settlement of Kybistra. Kybistra was the hometown of St. John "in puteo". In some cases the two town names (Heracleia Kybistra) also appear together as a compound name. In 708 A.D. the town was conquered by the Arabs and was renamed Hiraqla³⁵. Kybistra derives from the Hittite toponym Ḫupišna/Ḫubišna³⁶. Ḫupišna/Ḫubišna is mentioned in the Old Assyrian texts³⁷ and was conquered in the Old Hittite Period by the Hittite king Labarna I, who understood that it had an important strategic location³⁸. Mellaart argued that Ereğli Karahöyük is the Hittite town of Ḫupišna/Ḫubišna³⁹. However, if Kybistra is linguistically equated with Ḫupišna/Ḫubišna, and Kybistra is located in Tont Kalesi, it would be possible to assume that Tont Kalesi is the Hittite town of Ḫupišna/Ḫubišna. Hence, Ereğli Karahöyük must be another Hittite town.

Eskikışla Dikili Taş Mevkii Yerleşmesi (Map 1 N° 41)

At the beginning of the 20th century, four inscribed altars from Emirgazi were shipped to the Istanbul Archaeological Museums⁴⁰. These Hittite altars were found in Kıcıkışla (today Eskikışla) in a secondary context, west of Arısama Dağ. A short visit was paid to Eskikışla towards the end of the survey season to determine if it would be possible to find the spot where the Hittite altars were discovered and also to plan the next survey season, which will investigate parts of Emirgazi, specifically the region around and on top of Arısama Dağ. Today Eskikışla is used only as a habitation place during the summer. The small village is around 4.2 km north of Emirgazi, 2.8 km west of Arısama Dağ and is divided by a road. The western part was inhabited during the first half of the 20th century and the eastern part

from the second half of the 20th century onwards. When we arrived, only three families were living there, pasturing their animals. One of the family members (around 55 years old) remembered from his grandfather's stories about the altars standing next to a water spring in the western part of the village.

He showed us settlement remains 1.9 km west of Arısama Dağ in a place known as Eskikışla Dikili Taş Mevkii. The grass was very high, which made investigation and surveying almost impossible, so we decided to postpone the research of this area until 2015.

Maltepesi Höyük (Map 1 N° 42, Fig. 39)

Maltepesi Höyük (Fig. 39) is located on the southwestern slope of Mount Arısama, in the Kale district of the Emirgazi province, 1.2 km north of the main mosque. The *höyük* is (N-S) 210 m x (E-W) 170 m large and is 7 m high. There are several rock outcrops on the surface, although no architectural remains or worked stone boulders or slabs were seen. The pottery dates to the Early Bronze Age, Middle Iron Age, Hellenistic and Roman periods.

Osman Köseli Höyük (Map 1 N° 43, Fig. 40)

Osman Köseli Höyük is the only registered *höyük* in the Halkapınar province. The settlement mound is 3.65 km northeast of Seydifikılı village. The *höyük* and the surrounding area are used for agriculture. During the survey, high grass and crops made it difficult to find pottery and also to determine the size of the mound. The mound is *ca.* (N-S) 130 m x (E-W) 160 m large and around 1.5-2 m high. According to villagers, agricultural activities removed several layers from the top of the mound, meaning that originally the mound was higher and probably also wider. The collected pottery dates to the Chalcolithic, Early Bronze Age, and Middle Iron Age.

33) See above. These types of handles have been also found in Beycesultan. Abay and Dedeoğlu 2009: 79 Fig. 6.

34) Hild and Restle 1981: 188-189.

35) *Loc. cit.*

36) *Loc. cit.*

37) Barjamovic 2011: 236 n 898.

38) Garstang and Gurney 1959: 16, 72; Kessler 1975.

39) Mellaart 1955: 117; Kessler 1975.

40) Today they are on display in the Ancient Near Eastern Museum (Eski Şark Eserleri Müzesi) within the Istanbul Archaeology Museum.

Fig. 39 : Maltepesi Höyük.

Fig. 40 : Osman Köseli Höyük.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The 2014 survey has added a fourth type of settlement to the three previously designated types in 2013 (mounds, flat settlements, hilltop)⁴¹, namely fortresses respectively castles. The survey also showed that it is absolutely necessary for the Roman period of this region to be investigated by a specialist,

as there are many Roman settlements. In 2015, the eastern corner of Ereğli around Akgöl and the north-eastern portion (east of Kutören, west and north of Belkaya) will be surveyed. In addition, the survey of Emirgazi and Mount Arısama will start in 2015 and will be hopefully continued in 2016.

Ç. M.

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41) Maner 2014: 360.

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