

The First Bediasite Tektites From Washington County, Texas. H. Povenmire¹, B. Burrer² and D. Davis,
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Approximately 36 million years ago, some celestial related phenomenon caused a massive event. In this event, small natural glass tektites fell in the Jacksonian Sands over at least nine east Texas counties.

In approximately 1936, the first of these tektites were recognized by Virgil Barnes near Bedias, Grimes County, Texas and were named after this small town. By approximately 1950, they were confirmed along a narrow strip of land in nine countries. In spite of extensive field work, efforts to expand the size of this strewn field, no further counties were confirmed.

In March 2006, a report reached the first author that a Texas A&M geology graduate student had recovered a small bediasite from the south shore of Lake Somerville in extreme northern Washington, County, Texas. This location would be geologically logical since the Jacksonian Sands border southern Burleson County and northern Washington County.

All bediasites have been reworked at least once. No bediasite or georgiaite has been found *in situ*. Lake Somerville is an artificial lake created about 1950. The flow of water filling the lake comes primarily from the Yegua Creek and originates from the northwest. The veteran bediasite field researcher, Brian Burrer believes that the most likely strata where the bediasites are eroding out of is the Manning member or the Jacksonian Sands (upper Eocene). From the locations found, it is believed that these bediasites originated from Washington County rather than from Burleson County.

On March 18-19, 2006, a team of highly experienced bediasite hunters made an extensive search of multiple areas of this shoreline. While this search was inconclusive, during this time an experienced artifact hunter was queried on the beach and expressed knowledge of suspected tektites found at several locations near there. Examination of one revealed an excellent bediasite. It was approximately 49.45 gms, and was roughly cylindrical in shape. It measured 49 X 28 X 27 mm., was unchipped and had a large ablation bald spot on one end. Since that time, possibly 17 smaller bediasites have been recovered in northern Washington Co.

The Georgia tektite strewn field in east central Georgia is believed to have occurred from the same event. This strewn field has a known area of approximately 8084 square miles in 20 counties. If the Washington County is included as the tenth confirmed county, then the area of the bediasite strewn would have an area of approximately 7994 square miles. It is believed that both strewn fields are somewhat larger but much more field work needs to be done. It is encouraged that other geology field workers attempt further confirmation and report their results to the first author.

References: [1]Yancy, T. (2006) Personal Communication [2]Povenmire, H. (2003) *Tektites: A Cosmic Enigma* Blue Note Publications, Cocoa Beach, FL [3]Povenmire, H. (2005) The Georgia Tektite Strewn Field – Newly Documented Specimens *M&PS* Abstract A123.