

A UNIQUE BICOLORED BEDIASITE FROM BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS.

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Bediasites are North America tektites found in the Upper Eocene, Manning-Wellborn stratums in 10 counties in east central Texas. Their normal color is a very dark green due to the oxides of iron (Fe₃O₄). Bediasites are noted for their homogenous color and composition. The 40/39 Argon age of the bediasites is approximately 35.5 my.

There is very little variation in the color of tektites from a strewn field, but rare cases have been reported from the Georgia strewn field of light brown and colorless specimens. Unfortunately, no electron microprobe analysis has been reported for these specimens. The Muldoon area of the Texas strewn field has had reported specimens with a much lighter shade of green. There are also light and dark specimens and reports of bicolor tektites from the Moldavite strewn field in the area of central Europe.

In late 2011, veteran Bediasite hunter and researcher, Brian Burrer announced the recovery of an 11.8 gm. bicolored bediasite from the area 8 km SE of College Station, Brazos County, Texas. Interestingly, this is within 2 km of where the "Star of Sabine", the largest known bediasite with a weight of 200.84 +(30?) gms was found. This bediasite was also found by Brian Burrer.

This bediasite has an ovaloid shape with dimensions of 29x19x15mm. There is a deeply etched Schlieren sharp dividing line between the two colors with a 9 mm section being a very light green, similar to the Muldoon bediasites found in Fayette County, Texas. The remainder is more like the typical bediasites.

This is a unique specimen as no other similar bediasite has been reported in many thousands of bediasite finds. An effort is in progress at this time to get electron microprobe data on its composition. A comprehensive report will follow.

[1] Povenmire H. 2003 Tektites-A Cosmic Enigma Blue Note Publications Cocoa Beach, FL [2] Wittke, J.H. and Barnes, V.E. 1980 Multicomponent Source for a Muong Nong-type Bediasite. 30775-2 *Meteoritics* 23,311 [3] Glass, B.P., Wasson, J.T. and Futrell, D.S. 1990 A Layered Moldavite (Jukule) Containing Baddeleyite 20th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference LPSI, Houston, TX pp. 415-420.