

A TEKTITE FROM RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA H. Povenmire Florida Institute of Technology 215 Osage Drive Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937 and R.L. Strange 2105 Highway 272 Tennille, GA 31089.

Georgia tektites are small, natural glass objects of uncertain origin found in about 17 counties bordering the Eocene-Oligocene boundary in east central Georgia. They are believed to be eroding out from strata to the northwest of about 34.5 million years age [1].

The Savannah River separates Georgia and South Carolina. Augusta, Georgia is in Richmond County and North Augusta, across the river is in Aiken County, South Carolina. If Georgia tektites or Georgiites are going to be found in South Carolina, a new name may have to be applied to them.

Approximately 3 years ago, Daniel Brown was fishing with his grandfather on the Savannah River about 8 miles south of Augusta, Georgia. He found a glassy, disk shaped object on a sandbar and put it in his fishing tackle box and it stayed there for about 3 years. Recently his stepfather, Larry Sheppard recognized it as a possible tektite and notified the second author who quickly confirmed it as a Georgia tektite.

This disk shaped specimen weighs 31.473 gm and measures 46.7 X 41.3 X 12.5 mm. It shows the typical water etching and also some sand and water abrasion but is in excellent condition with no major breaks or chips. It does not appear to contain any bubbles or inclusions. This tektite is not found "in situ" as it is obvious that it has eroded out of strata upstream and been carried down to the present find site. It is still by far the northernmost Georgia tektite find site. The approximate location is at long. 81° 54' W. and lat. 33° 19' N. about 2 km south of the Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam. This location is found on the USGS 7.5 Mechanic Hill, GA 1981 topographic map. This location extends the known length of the Georgia tektite strewn field to about 210 km [2]. It also changes the area of the Georgia tektite strewn field from smaller than the bediasite strewn field to slightly larger [3].

References: [1] Povenmire, H., Glass, B.P. and Strange, R.L. (1994) Discovery and Description of a Muong Nong-type Georgia Tektite *Lunar and Planetary Science Conference XXV* Houston, TX 1101-1102. [2] Povenmire, H. (1995) The Georgia Tektite Strewn Field *Lunar and Planetary Science Conference XXVI* Houston, TX 1131-1132. [3] Povenmire, H. and Chance, S. (1997) Tektite From Jenkins Co., GA *Lunar and Planetary Science Conference XXVII* Houston, TX 1135.