

THE FIRST TEKTITES FROM DOOLY AND CRISP COUNTIES, GEORGIA. H. Povenmire¹ and R. L. Strange², ¹Florida Institute of Technology 215 Osage Drive, Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937 katie-grazel@aol.com, ²2105 Highway 272, Tennille, GA 31089 wodart@hotmail.

Since 1970, there have been about 246 field trips to east central Georgia to map out the Georgia tektite strewn field and discover new specimens. At that time there were four known counties with about 500 square miles and about 200 known specimens.

On November 6, 2006 the second author stopped to examine a road cut with expose gravel. It was assumed that this was in Pulaski County but the dirt roads here are not well marked. Within minutes he found a 4.273 g tektite. When the site was identified on the USGS 7.5 Finleyson West topographic map, it was found to be the first to be recorded in Dooly County. The altitude was 364 feet. Dooly County has approximately 393 square miles. This specimen was found on a county line road in the central part of Dooly County beside Pulaski County. This is about two miles north of the Wilcox County line. This would imply by the similar geology and proximity that tektites should also be found in Wilcox and Crisp Counties. The soils here are composed of Altamaha, Hawthorn and a reddish soil, probably reworked Tobacco Road Sands. Plinthite and white quartz pebbles are often found with tektites and these were found here. The coordinates were accurately determined by GPS. This tektite was the typical drab olive green color and showed no obvious bubbles or inclusions. It was crescent shaped with the dimensions of 40 X 23 X 5 mm.

On December 1, 2005, a 15.4 g tektite was confirmed by the first author found in Crisp County approximately seven miles due west of Cordele, Georgia. It was found by Michael Cunningham and reported by Robert Davis. It was found about August 2005. It is a near perfect teardrop shape with dimensions of 46 X 20 X 13 mm. It contains no obvious inclusions, bubbles or chips. This is the westernmost georgiaite found and the 20th confirmed Georgia tektite county.

The estimated length of the SW-NE Georgia strewn field from Crisp County to Richmond County is approximately 135 miles.

These tektites along with the two found in Wilkinson County last year make the Georgia tektite strewn field larger than the bediasite tektite strewn field in eastern Texas. The bediasite strewn field has approximately 7373 square miles and the Georgia strewn field has approximately 8048 square miles. The distance between the westernmost Georgia tektite and easternmost bediasite is just under 680 miles. The bediasite strewn field is believed to be related to the Georgia tektite field because of the age and composition, but the connection is not well understood.

References: [1] Povenmire, H. (2003) *Tektites: A Cosmic Enigma* Blue Note Publications, Cocoa Beach, FL, [2] Povenmire, H. (2005) *M&PS* Abstract # A123.