

THE FIRST TEKTITES FOUND IN WILCOX AND TURNER COUNTIES, GEORGIA. H. Povenmire,¹ Florida Institute of Technology, 215 Osage Drive, Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937, katiehall@yahoo.com.

Since 1970, more than 360 field expeditions have been made to east-central Georgia to map out the tektite strewn field and recover new specimens. These tektites seem to be eroding out of the Eocene-Oligocene border. In both Wilcox and Turner Counties, the geology was right indicating that they should be found there but even with extensive field work, none were recovered. This changed in April 2008.

A small tektite was found about 5 km northeast of Rochelle in Wilcox County. It was small, thin and crescent shaped weighing only 1.76 g with dimensions of 32 X 18 X 2 mm. The markers in the matrix soil are white quartz four cm cobbles, plinthite and reworked Altamaha or Tobacco Road Sands. Later a 2.8 g tektite was found several kilometers further east in similar soil with white quartz cobbles. This tektite was 37 X 12 X 7 mm and without bubbles or inclusions.

Another small tektite was found approximately 11 km northeast of Ashburn in Turner County. It was shaped like a small disk and weighed 4.342 g and had dimensions of 22 X 18 X 8 mm. The same markers in the soil were present. This now brings the total confirmed Georgia tektite counties to 22. The total number of Georgia tektites is now estimated at approximately 2,500. The total area of the strewn field is more than 8,550 square miles. This is some 20% larger than the area of the Texas bediasite tektite strewn field and even with the recent confirmation of Washington County, Texas as the 10th tektite county. There are approximately 16 more Georgia counties where the geology is favorable for the confirmation of tektites.

The eventual goal of this effort is to connect the Georgia and Texas tektite strewn fields. At the present time, the distance between the westernmost Georgia and easternmost bediasite counties is approximately 650 miles.

Two other Georgia tektite finds of interest are an 18 gm, water worn tektite from central Twiggs Co. and the second tektite from Houston Co., weighing approximately 12.5-13 gms. It was found on the west side of the Ocmulgee River. There are also weak confirmations of tektites being found in Sumter and Bibb Counties but more field work is needed.

There is a revised Ar40/Ar39 age for the Georgiaites (35.3 ± 0.1 my) and Bediasites of (35.3 ± 0.1 my) as determined by V. A. Fernandez of the Berkeley Geochronology Lab.

[1] Povenmire, H.(2007) The North American Tektite Strewn Field – New Parameters, *Meteorite Magazine* Feb; 18-21. [2] Fernandez, V. A., (2008) Personal Communication.