

A VERY LARGE BEDIASITE TEKTITE FROM BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS. H. Povenmire¹ and B. Burre², ¹Florida Institute of Technology 215 Osage Dr. Indian Harbour Bch., FL 32937 (cpovenmire@cfl.rr.com), ²1500 S. College Ave. Bryan, TX 77801.

Introduction: Bediasite tektites are found in 9 counties in southeast Texas. These counties are: Grimes, Lee, Fayette, Walker, Brazos, Burleson, Gonzales, DeWitt, and LaVaca. Efforts to expand the size of this strewn field by field work have not been successful. The Texas strewn field is very similar in size to the Georgia tektite strewn field. Bediasites are characterized by a darker shade of green than the Georgia tektites. This is apparently due to the iron content.

In 1990, Brian Burre started searching for bediasites. His search techniques are apparently very successful, as he has recovered approximately 600 specimens. On September 18, 1996, he found a very large bediasite in southern Brazos County about 5 km east of Wellborn Community. This nearly spherical tektite measures 59 x 57 x 47 mm and weighs approximately 200.84 gms. It is in excellent condition but has one

area which has spalled off. This missing portion is estimated to have weighed approximately 30 gms.

In appearance, it is similar to the Bikal-type indochinites with many deep grooves. This may have occurred when the hot tektite landed in water or moist soil. This tektite also has the characteristic worm tracks or grooves. It is possible that these are a function of water and surface erosion.

The previous largest bediasite that could be found in a literature search weighed about 191 gms. [1]. This bediasite will be examined by electron microprobe to establish authenticity and for comparison of composition with other known specimens. Because this bediasite is unique at this time, it has been named the "Star of Sabine" after his daughter [2].

References: [1]Povenmire, H. (1997) *Tektites: A Cosmic Paradox*, Scott Publishing, Cocoa, FL. [2] Burre, B. (2001) Personal communication.