

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GEORGIA TEKTITES. Hal Povenmire Florida Institute of Technology 215 Osage Dr. Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937 cpovenmire@cfl.rr.com.

Since 1970, one hundred and ninety two field expeditions have been made to east central Georgia in an effort to determine the parent formation and distribution of the Georgia tektites by locating new specimens. These have been given the name, georgiites. About 100 new specimens have been recovered, they represent about five percent of the known Georgia tektites. The primary area is a fan shaped region approximately 30 by 72 kilometers. The total area of distribution appears to extend to the ENE towards Augusta. It is likely that the tektites have been transported by water from the parent formation (1). The parent formation has been identified as the Tobacco Road Sand (2). No correlation has been found between size, shape, soil type, elevation and tektite location.

The first Georgia tektite was found by Dewey Horne in 1938 near Dubois in Dodge Co. By 2003, approximately 2000 Georgia tektites have been found covering an area of 6934 sq. miles and 17 counties as shown in Fig. 1.

The greatest concentration has been found within the rough triangle formed by the towns of Empire, Chester and Plainfield in northern Dodge Co. Approximately 90 percent of all georgiites have been found in Dodge and Bleckley counties (3).

Several georgiites found outside of the 90 percent area should be mentioned because some of them are unique specimens. To the south, one large 17.8 gm thin, disk shaped georgiaite was found in Irwin County near Osierfield. To the west, a large disk shaped tektite was found 3 km southwest of Hawkinsville in Pulaski Co. In June, 1994, a 10 g georgiaite was found near the southwest border of Pulaski County suggesting that the neighboring counties of Dooly, Crisp and Wilcox should also contain tektites. To the northeast, 32 georgiites have been found in Washington Co. including the first Muong Nong-type georgiaite (4). In 1984, the first tektite was found in Montgomery Co. Six georgiites have been found in Johnson Co. and two specimens have been found in the western part of Jefferson Co. Four tektites have been found in Wheeler Co. and three from Treuten Co. In 1992, four tektites were found in western Emanuel Co. along the Ohooppee River. One tektite has been found in Jenkins Co. and more recently one tektite has been found in Richmond County in the Savannah River. From this trend, it is very likely that tektites will be found in South Carolina.

Much more field work needs to be done especially in the northeast. This is important with the announcement of the 90 km crater found under Chesapeake Bay (5). If this were the source of the North American tektites, then tektites should be found near the source crater.

References: (1) Povenmire, H. (1985) The Parent Stratum and Distribution of the Georgia Tektites *Meteoritics* 20, pp. 795-799. (2) Povenmire, H. (2003) Tektites: A Cosmic Enigma Blue Note Publishing Cocoa Beach, FL (3) Povenmire, H. (1990) Our Current Knowledge of the Georgia Tektite *Ga. Jour. Sci.* Vol. 48 No. 3 pp. 152-157. (4) Povenmire, H. (1994) Discovery and Description of a Muong Nong-type Georgia tektite *LPS XXV* pp. 1101-1102. (5) Poag, C.W. et al. (1994) Meteoroid Mayhem in Ole Virginia: Source of the North American tektite strewn field *Geology* Vol. 22 pp. 691-694.