

THE FIRST GEORGIA TEKTITE FROM WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

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On January 23, 2004, the first Georgia tektite found in Wilkinson County, Georgia was identified. It was found several years earlier but not recognized. A significant period of search time had been attempted in this area of Wilkinson County but no specimens were found. This has been a problem area in that tektites have been found in the bordering counties of Washington, Johnson, Laurens, Bleckley and Twiggs but none in Wilkinson County. The geology was logical for finding tektites, especially in the southern third of the county.

The specimen was found by an Indian artifact collector, J. Walker. It was shown to the second author who immediately identified it as a tektite. It measures 34 x 25 x 18.5 x 6 mm and has the general shape of a trapezoid. It has a weight of 4.901 gms. It is an excellent specimen not having any chips or breaks. There does not appear to be any inclusions and only one tiny bubble. The surface is unusually eroded, the cause is currently being investigated. The rough coordinates are long. 83° 07' W. and lat. 32° 54' 30" N. This is found on the USGS 7.5 Gum Pond, Georgia topographic map.

Only approximately 2000 Georgia tektites are known. These are found in approximately 18 counties which border on the Eocene-Oligocene boundary. With the finding of this tektite, the total area of the Georgia tektite strewn field is now almost identical in size to the bediasite tektite strewn field in eastern Texas. Both strewn fields have approximately 2400 square miles.

References: (1) Povenmire, H. (2003) Tektites: A Cosmic Enigma Blue Note Publishing Cocoa Beach, FL (2) O'Keefe, J.A. (1976) Tektites and Their Origin Elsevier Scientific Publishing Co. Amsterdam, The Netherlands (3) Povenmire H. (2003) The Distribution of the Georgia Tektites M&PS Abstract p. A19. (4) Povenmire, H (2003) The Largest Splashform Georgia Tektite M&PS Abstract p. A18.