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Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey: Report of the 2011 Season, Part Two

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Rough Cilicia Highland Archaeological Survey, Report of the 2011 Season

Part Two: Pedestrian Survey

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2011 RCSP Pedestrian Survey Report

The 2011 season of the Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey Project was conducted between July 21 and August 12 2011. Pedestrian team participants included project director, Prof. Nicholas Rauh of Purdue University, Prof. Mathew J. Dillon of Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles), Caroline Autret of the University of Paris, Grace Conyers of Purdue University, and undergraduate students, Matthew J. Dillon Jr. of Fordham University, Amber Hawley of University of Wisconsin at Lacrosse, Kevin Kay of the University of Evansville, and David O'Brochta of the University of Maryland. Our service representative was Yusuf Kiraç from the General Directorate for Cultural Heritage and Museums in Ankara.

During the 2011 season of the Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey, pedestrian survey was secondary to the main task of obtaining pollen and carbon samples from geomorphic trenches in the Taseli Plateau. If time allowed, the team walked limited transects in the vicinity of the trenches themselves. Toward the end of our stay at Gökgözlük Yayla we devoted one full day of pedestrian survey in the vicinity of Sugözü Yayla where sherd scatters had been observed in 2007, when the team excavated a geomorphic trench at that location. In addition, the team obtained information about uninvestigated sites known to local inhabitants and devoted a few days to attempts to locate these. In all, some nine transects were inspected during the highland survey. We identified one pre-ceramic lithic production site near Trench 5 at Günnercik Yayla (RC 1101), house remains at Beobaşı Yayla (RC 1103), evidence of settlements at Sugözü Yayla (RC 1102) and Armutlar Mevkii (near Çile, RC 1104), and a monumental village site at Çoruş in the valley of the Geceler River behind Gazipaşa (RC 1105). We also re-inspected the lithic production center at Sivritaş Tepe in the Bickici Highland (RC 0802) and the amphora kiln sites near Syedra (Yeşil Öz River mouth), the Delice River, the Bickici River, and Antiochia ad Cragum. We list below (Table 1) the number of ceramic and stone artifacts (209 total artifacts) that we collected and brought to the Alanya Museum to be stored in the depot.

Table 1: Sites Investigated during the 2011 RCSP Season

Location	Typology	RC Code	x_coord	y_coord	elevation	collected
Günnercik Yayla	Neolithic remains	RC1101	457465	4031855	1799	15
Sugozu Yayla	settlement	RC1102	450546	4034620	1666	0
Beobaşı Yayla	settlement	RC1103	457489	4040319	1738	4
Armutlar Mevkii	settlement	RC1104	456811	4010079	839	0
Çoruş	monumental village	RC1105	449105	4020830	515	7
Sivritaş Tepe	Lithic quarry	RC0802	445479	4028629	668	1
Syedra Amphora Kiln Site	kiln site	RC 9615	427493	4026337		19
Antioch Amphora Kiln Site	kiln site		448472	4001216		26
Bickici Amphora Kiln Site	kiln site	RC 9604	435056	4015990		67
Delice Amphora Kiln Site	kiln site	RC 9603	434010	4017549		70

RCASP 2011 Site Catalogue

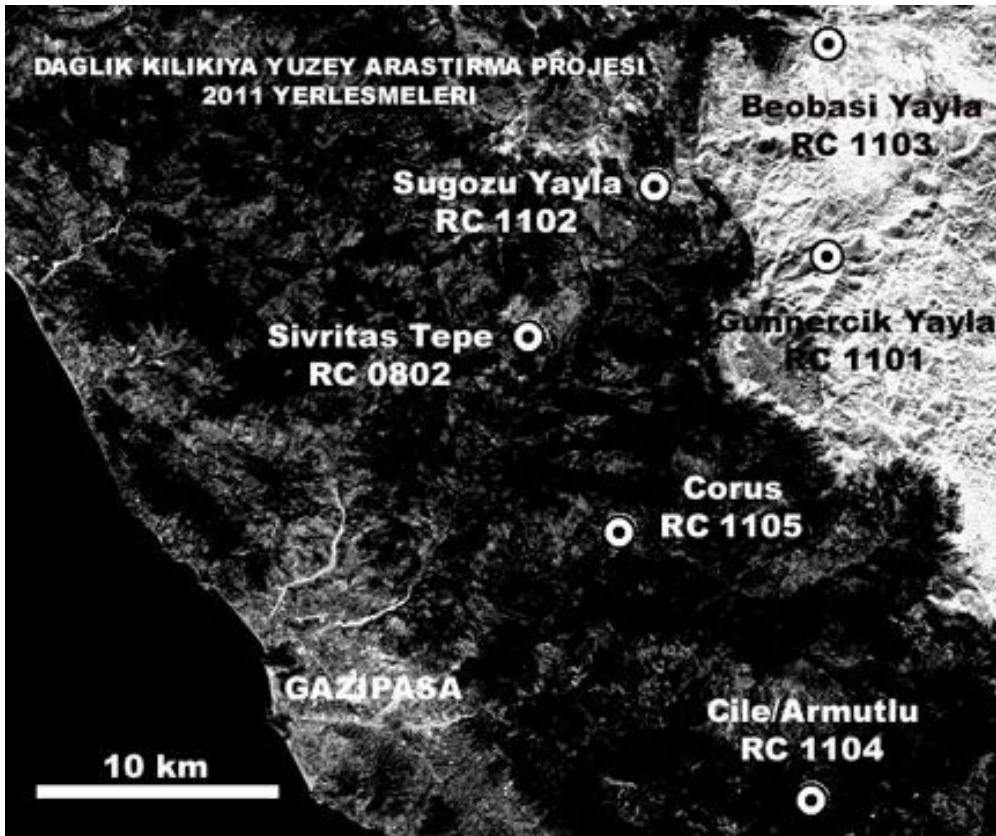
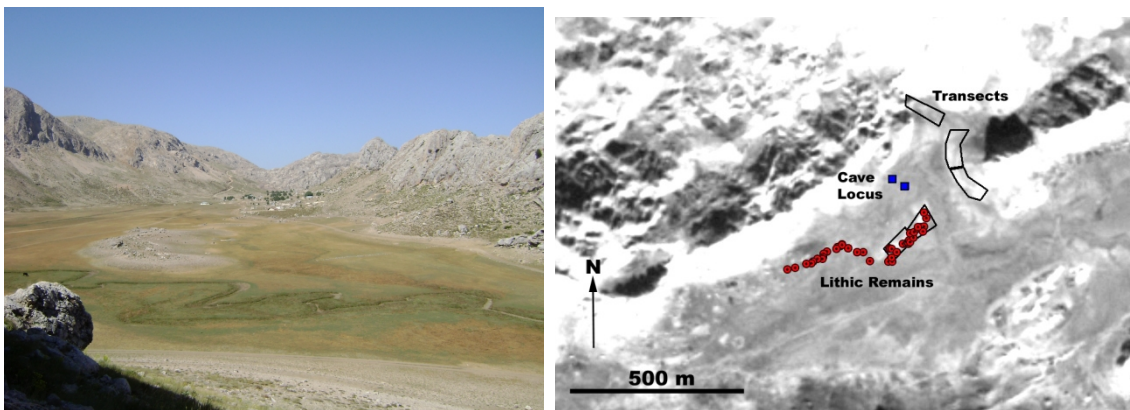


Figure 1: Map of New Sites RCSP 2011

RC 1101 Günnercik Yayla Pre-Ceramic Lithic Site (UTM 36N 457500; 4031840; Elevation 1799 m; 07/28/2011)



Figures 2-3: View of Günnercik Yayla, RC 1101; Satellite Image of Areas Walked



Figures 4-5: Worked Flake, Polished Beads at RC 1101, Günnercik Yayla



Figures 6-7: Possible Hammer Stone Fragment, Worn Scraper from RC 1101

While excavating Trench 5 in a dry stream gully in the plain of Günnercik Yayla, the team walked 3 transects (transects 3, 4, and 9) and identified a pre-ceramic lithic site on a long rocky rise in the middle of the plain. Local inhabitants informed the team that the valley received considerable snowfall (3 m) in winter and that it frequently turned into a large shallow lake in early Spring. Extending approximately 220 m, the low rise at the center of the valley likely furnishes a small island at that season. The team observed a number of minimally worked lithic forms including numerous broken hammer stones of granite, worked adage flakes, fragments of parent material with evidence of percussion strikes, and dozens of highly polished beads, some rectangular, some rounded. Drill hole impressions were observable on several of the beads. The team returned to the site on 03/08/2011 to conduct a prospective survey from the “island” toward houses situated on higher ground at the base of the hills that enclose the valley. Hundreds more lithic remains were observed at this time, including dozens of polished beads. Team members mapped these remains for 270 m across the valley to the flank of the hill until they reached the yards of the houses. The density of beads and worked stone (approximately 1 per

square meter) indicate that lithic remains extend possibly along the entire northern flank of the valley. At the base of the enclosing ridge near Trench 5, the team also encountered a shallow cave with sparse ceramic and skeletal remains. Wheel-ridged ceramic remains indicate that this locus was occupied in the Late Roman era. In short, the site exhibited an extensive pre-ceramic lithic site, possibly a production center for polished beads of chert, adage, and limestone, as well as a small Late Roman cave locus (see figures 2-7).

RC 1102, Sugözü Yayla Highland Settlement (UTM 36N 450546; 4034620; Elevation 1666 m; 08/02/2011)



Figures 8-9: General Views of RC 1102, Sugözü Yayla

RC 1102: Roof Tile and Pithos Sherds



Figure 10: RC 1102, Exposed Roof Tile and Pithos Sherds



RC 1102: Black Slipped Fineware



RC 1102: Black Slipped Fineware Sherds

Figures 11-12: RC 1102, Black Slipped Classical/Hellenistic Fineware Sherd

In 2007 the survey team excavated a geomorphic pollen trench at the crest of the Biçkici Canyon at Sugözü Yayla. A brief pedestrian survey conducted at that time identified sherd scatters of highly eroded sherds along the crest of the ridge just above the trench. These remains are all in close proximity to the pass of the road leading up from the valley below. On 08/02/2011 the team devoted a full day to pedestrian survey at two benches along the crest of the ridge; one, an open bench along the road east of Sugözü at Soğukoluk Yayla where Akkemik's tree ring survey sampled some relic juniper trees in 2008; the other, a high rock outcrop to the west of Sugozu Yayla beginning near the pass where the main road ascends from the valley below. No remains were identified in Transect 5 at Soğukoluk Yayla; however, at Transect 6 Unit 2 on a steep slope just beyond a large radio tower, the team identified numerous exposed remains of structures and ceramics. Visible scraps of walls indicated the presence of several structures (perhaps as many as 10). The chronological range of the recorded ceramics included Black Slipped Classical and Hellenistic fineware sherds; Early Roman Cypriot Sigillata remains; and combed Late Roman amphora body sherd. Together with numerous finds of roof tiles, these indicate the presence of a small settlement of permanent stone structures; The ceramic context indicates that the site was occupied throughout antiquity (ca. 400 BC to 600 AD). At 1666 m elevation this settlement would have been exposed to deep snowfall (as much as 3 m) in winter. However, since it sits directly above the pass rising from the Biçkici Valley below, it was possibly accessible even in winter (see figures 8-12).

RC 1103 Small highland settlement at Beobaşı Yayla (UTM 36N 457489; 4040319; Elevation 1738 m; 08/04/2011)

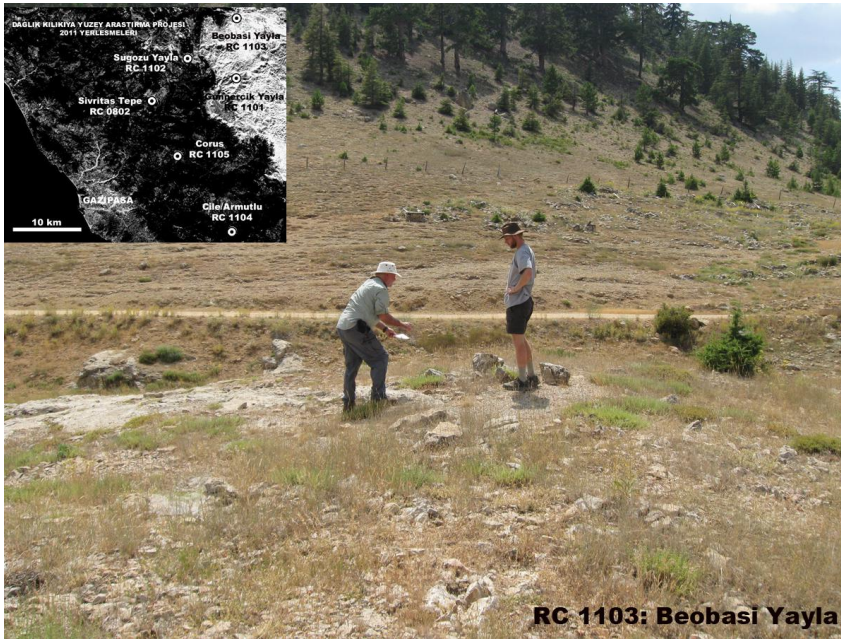


Figure 13: RC 1103, Beobaşı Yayla, General View



Figure 14: RC 1103, Structural Remains at Beobaşı Yayla



Figure 15: RC 1103, Pithos Rim at Beobaşı Yayla

While excavating Trench 9 at Beobaşı Yayla, the team was informed by local residents of the existence of a nearby locus of archaeological remains. Approximately 1 km northeast of the trench in a narrow stream valley surrounded by forested hills, the team was shown a small, concentrated area of ceramic remains and cut block indicating the presence of house remains (perhaps as many as three structures). Visible ceramic remains included wheel-ridged body sherds and large forms such as amphoras and pithos remains. It appeared to be an isolated Late Roman residence situated near the crest of the mountains facing the Göksü river valley. However, due to lack of time no pedestrian survey was conducted (see figures 13-15).

RC 1104 Small Permanent Settlement at Armutlar Mevkii (Çile) (UTM 36N 456811; 4010079; Elevation 839 m; 08/07/2011)

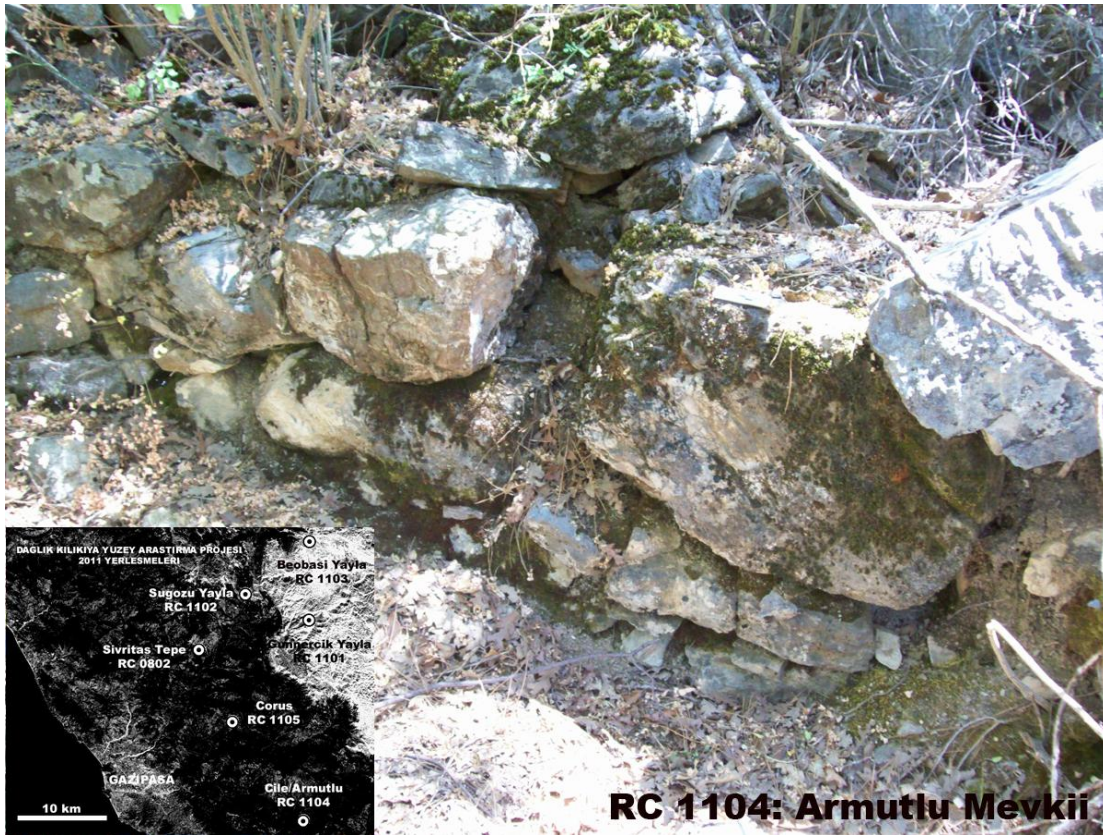


Figure 16: Wall Remains at RC 1104, Armutlar Mevkii



Figure 17: Mortared Wall Remains at RC 1104, Armutlar Mevkii



Figure 18: RC 1104, Armutlar Mevkii, Roof Tile Fragment

While camping at Gökgözlük Yayla the team was informed by the village muhtar, who works for the Forestry Ministry, about the existence of several monumental village sites in the midlands below. The team devoted the last three days of the survey to an effort to locate as many of these sites as possible, specifically targeting reported monumental sites at Çile, Çoruş, and Öznürtepe. All three sites were reportedly situated on remote foothills in the midlands behind Gazipaşa. A considerable part of each day was consumed by the process of driving to the nearest modern village in the vicinity to acquire more precise locations and climbing to the identified locations. The team managed to locate one of the aforementioned sites (Çoruş). At Çile the team was lead by a local resident to a small locus at Armutlar Mevkii that did not match the description, leaving the team to presume that the “kale” at Çile remains elsewhere. Our climb to a peak identified by local inhabitants as the “kale” at Öznürtepe resulted in no finds, indicating once again that the site in this location likewise awaits identification. Other sites mentioned by the muhtar but not investigated due to a lack of time include Doğantaşı Kale, and Ciglık –Asar Tepe.

At Armutlar Mevkii the team was shown a small heavily overgrown locus of mortared wall remains and numerous ceramic roof tiles. The location sits on a rock ledge above the Inceağı river valley above the main road leading to the Roman era castle at Direvli (Doğanca). The site is situated approximately 3 km southwest of Direvli and 2.5 km north of RC 0305 Gurcam Karatepe. The extent of the remains (perhaps 10 or more structures) indicate the presence of a small Roman era village (approximately 100 x 100 m). Due to the density of the forest and ground cover few ceramic remains apart from roof tiles were recovered, but building technique visible in the walls (large dressed limestone blocks cemented by mortar with small stone tiles used in interstices) suggested Roman or Late Roman occupation (see figures 16-18).

RC 1105 Midland Monumental Village at Çoruş (UTM 36N 449105; 4020830; Elevation 515 m; 08/08/2011)

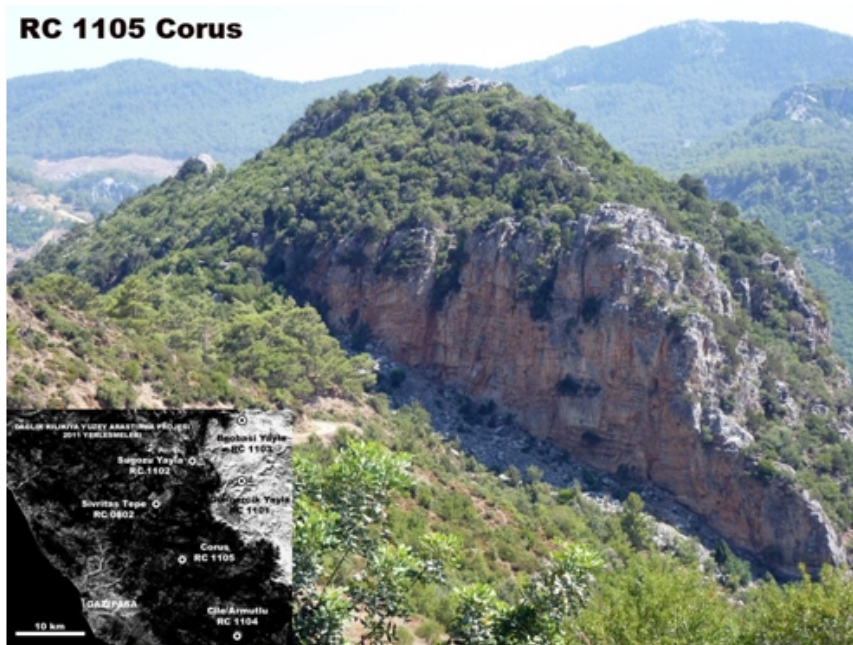


Figure 19: View of Acropolis Village of RC 1105, Çoruş



Figures 20-21: RC 1105, Çoruş, Rider's and Ploughman's Reliefs



Figures 22-23: RC 1105, Çoruş, Vintner and Family Reliefs



Figures 24-25: RC 1105, Çoruş, Views of Vaulted Structure on the Acropolis

The archaeological remains at Çoruş are situated on a large cliff-faced mountain above the modern village of Çoruş and the Geceler river basin at 560 m elevation. Modern Çoruş is situated in the midlands approximately 12 km northeast of the city center of Gazipaşa. The village of Çoruş is situated in a narrow ravine fed by springs and enclosed on two sides by mountain spurs. The heavily forested mountain to the east of the village rises above a tall cliff face. At the saddle leading to the cliff face the team encountered a large Roman era necropolis (approximately 50 x 50 m). The exposed remains of the necropolis consisted chiefly of dressed limestone blocks and dressed ossuary urns (*larnaces*, *osthotekai*), several with Isaurian style reliefs, much like the necropolises at Kenetepe (RC 0304) and Direvli (Doğanca). The team recorded approximately 14 tomb elements (dressed blocks and *larnax* fragments), at least six bearing reliefs. Reliefs included one of a horse and rider being led by a walking figure; one of a ploughman working with plough animals; one of birds seated on winding vines; one of a standing human figure (a vintner) surrounded by boughs of grapes; and two of family portraits. Above the necropolis a narrow path led to a stone-dressed gate complex (approximately 6 m long, preserved height 1.7; preserved wall thickness 1.1 m) that appears to have served as an entrance to the fortified precinct above the cliffs. Fragments of a defensive wall constructed of large ashlar limestone blocs were photographed in dense undergrowth. One preserved segment of the defensive wall near the gate complex measured 5.6 m long, 2.1 m tall, and 0.8 m thick. Remains of stone structures were visible throughout the area of the gate, indicating the presence of a Roman era monumental

village. In particular a large, well preserved barrel-vaulted building stands approximately 70 m west of the gate complex. The building exhibited a long, single interior room with joist holes visible below the collapsed vaulted roof. The interior space measured 8.5 m long, with walls of mortared limestone blocks approximately 1.35 m thick. The wall construction exhibited mortar with small flat stone slabs fitted in the interstices, but no visible use of ceramic tile in the aggregate. This would indicate that the structure was Early or Late Roman in date. The structure appears to have been built into the defensive wall which extended for 15 m to either side. The sloping northern wall of the building survives approximately 7 m in height. The building exhibited windows or low doors (ca. 1.5 m tall) on all sides. A particularly large vaulted door was visible on the building's west side (see figures 19-25).

RC 0802, Revisit of Lithic Production Center at Sivritas Tepe (UTM 36N 445479; 4028629; Elevation 68 m; 08/10/2011)



Figure 26: RC 0802, Sivritas Tepe, Grey Flint Arrow Head

On the last day of the season the team revisited the lithic production center at Sivritas Tepe that was first inspected in 2008. One grey chert arrow head was recovered and brought to the museum (see figure 26).

Amphora Kiln Sites



Figure 27: View of Delice “Kiln Site”

For purposes of completing her PhD dissertation on Roman era amphora production in Rough Cilicia, Caroline Autret (U. Paris Sorbonne) revisited previously identified kiln sites at Syedra (Yeşil Öz River); the Bıçkıcı Kiln Site; the Delice Kiln Site, and the Antiochia ad Cragum Kiln Site. Sample amphora fragments were collected and deposited at the Alanya Archaeological museum along with the rest of the project’s survey pottery.