1999

The Rough Cilicia Archaeological Survey Project: Report of the 1999 Season

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The fourth season of the Rough Cilicia Archaeological survey project was conducted in August 1999.[1]

Figure 1: 1999 Rough Cilicia Survey Team: front row: LuAnn Wandsnider, Matt Dillon, Ali Bay; second row: Rhys Townsend, Betul Sahin, Molly Boekhe; Michael Hoff; Max Black; back row: Jason DeBlock, Nick Rauh, Matt Evans

Our research during the 1999 season was supported by grants from the American Research Institute in Turkey, Purdue University, and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Electron1c measuring equipment was donated by Hickerson Instruments Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana. To conduct our work we received authorization from the Director of the Turkish General Directorate of Monuments and Museums, and as always we were greatly assisted by Dr. Ismail Karamut, Director of the Alanya Archaeological Museum. Our service representative, Berrin Taymaz, researcher at the Alanya Archaeological Museum

1 This report was transformed from an html format into a PDF by Stanislav Pejša, the data curator at PURR. The article was lightly edited in order to accommodate the different presentation format. Typos and minor character encoding issues were corrected.

bravely walked with us through the mountains of Rough Cilicia. To everyone concerned we wish to express our extreme gratitude for the opportunities made available to us this past season.

From 1996 through 1998 the Rough Cilicia Survey Project has conducted a systematic surface survey of the coastal areas in the vicinity of the modern town of Gazipaşa (see figure 2).

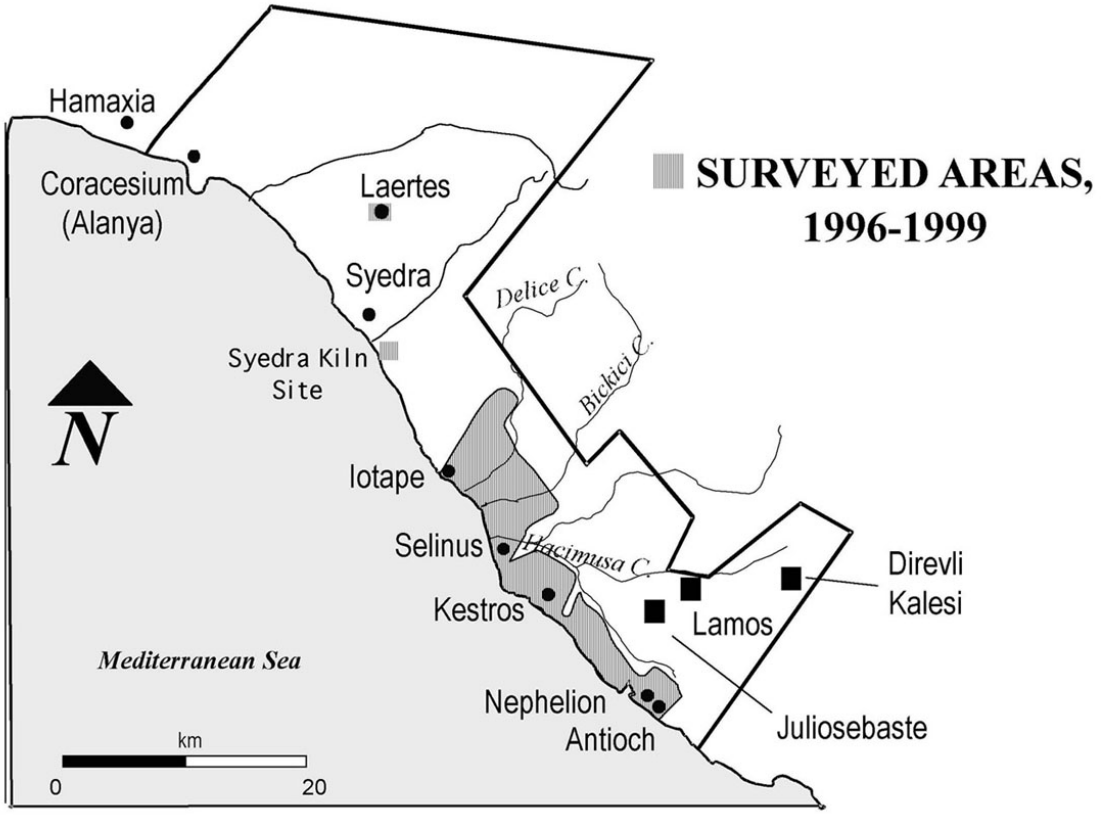


Figure 2: Systematic surface survey of the coastal areas in the vicinity of Gazipaşa

We began our survey here partly because a greater concentration of urban sites existed in this vicinity and partly as well because the extensive and rapidly encroaching development of hotels, apartment houses, and resort villages make the process of systematic survey in the Alanya vicinity extremely challenging. In three seasons we have been able more or less to complete a sweep of the coastal areas that extend from Iotape in the north to Antiochia ad Cragum in the south. This work entailed employment of several survey methodologies, including coarse interval survey of rural landscape units, intensive survey of selected rural landscape units, and an adaptation of intense survey methodologies for the five urban centers -- Iotape, Selinus, Kestros, Nephelion, and Antioch. Employing a Sokkia total station and GPS devices, our architectural specialists, Rhys Townsend and Michael Hoff, have completed preliminary plans for three of these urban sites as well as for six additional non-urban architectural sites. The non-urban sites range from “villages,” and fortified hill sites, to smaller sites that we preliminarily classify as farms and/or tombs.

With respect to the ceramic remains, we have conducted grab collections in designated areas (paced off at approximately 100 m. sq.) at the five above-mentioned urban sites plus Laertes. We have conducted similar if less intensive collections at all non-urban sites. In 1998 we also experimented with an intensive form of rural transect survey in which one team member collects all visible ceramics remains along his line of sight while the rest of the 5-7 person team concentrates on collections of diagnostic sherds. We employed this method in areas previously explored through coarse interval survey, such as the coastal ridge between Kestros and Nephelion that was discussed in our report of 1998.

It is our intention and best hope to place the results of this coastal phase of the Rough Cilicia Survey on the Internet in a GIS format in the near future. We hope to make this data accessible to all users world-wide by employing ArchExplorer, GIS freeware made available by ESRI.

In 1999 we turned our attention during a brief but interesting three-week season to an area of mountainous rural hinterland behind Iotape and some 500 m. above the valley of the Delice Çay and the village of Kahyalar (see figure 3).

Figure 3: The map of the Kahyalar district.

Employing coarse interval survey methodology we conducted a sweep of a network of ridges extending from a peak known locally as Nergis Tepesi to the village of Kahyalar below (see figure 4).

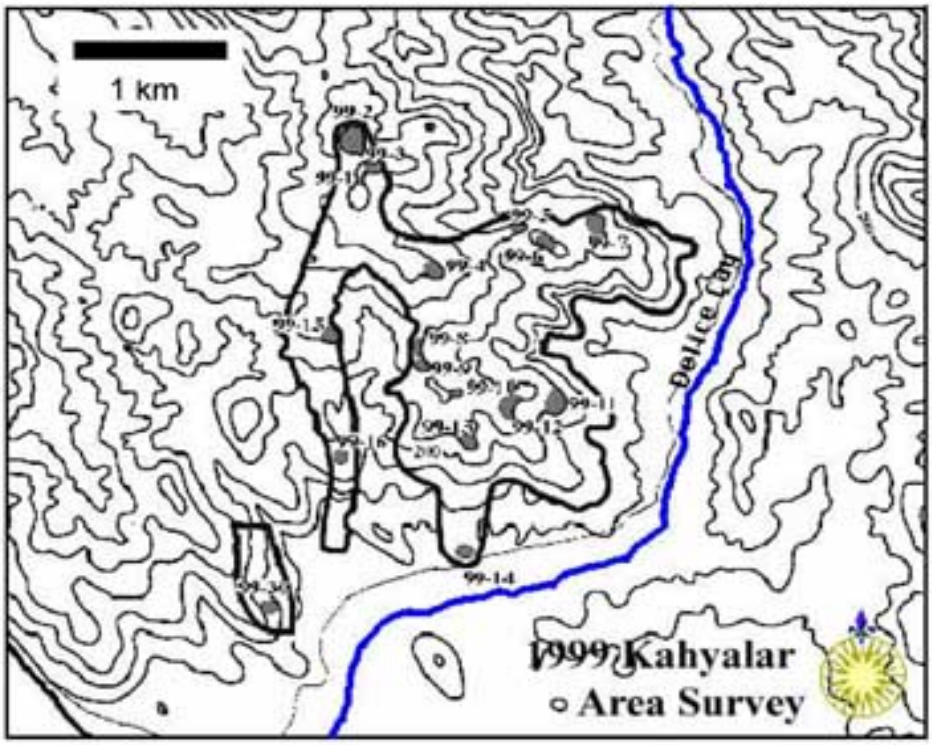


Figure 4: View of the 1999 Survey Area, Nergis Tepesi (Site 99-2).

Our coarse interval survey requires that the field director, LuAnn Wandsnider, deploy a team of 5-7 survey walkers spaced approximately 25 m. apart (see figure 5).

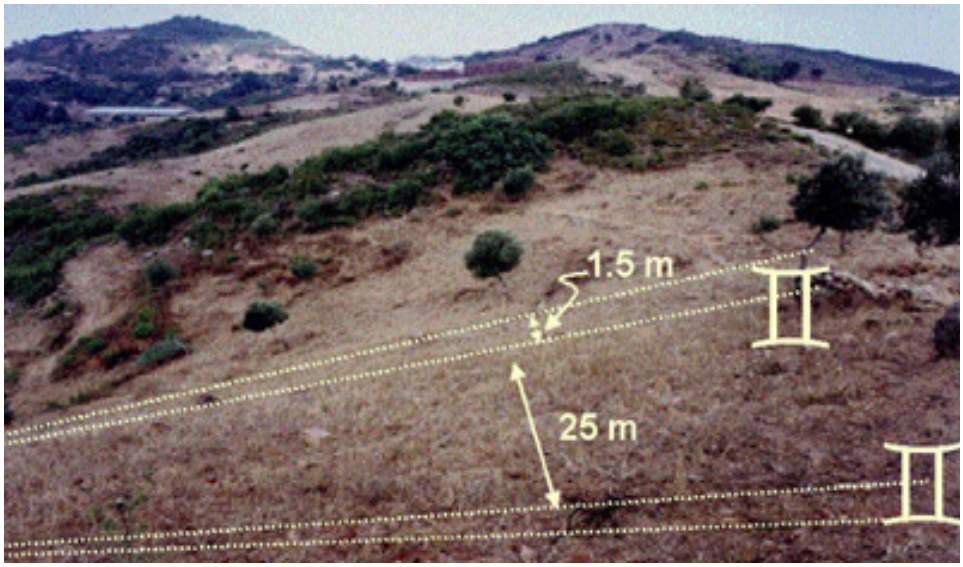


Figure 5: Coarse interval survey

Typically the field director walked the crest of the ridge while the line of team members extended down slope on each side. In this manner the team is able to extend the width of the survey transect some 50 to 75 m. to each side of the crest. Each field walker was

instructed to observe a 1.5 m. line of sight for any evidence of material remains, worked features, or past human disturbances. Individual field walkers, however distant, remained in close contact with the director and with each other by using small portable radios.

When evidence of past human activity or disturbances was observed by the team, especially architectural remains or ceramics clusters of more than one sherd per square meter, the area became designated as a 'site', if only for purposes of recording. Once encountering such an area we recorded our location on 1:5000 topographical maps and through static GPS measurement employing a Sokkia Locus III device. Every site location, description, and typology was recorded on field data sheets prepared by Wandsnider.

If present, architectural remains were measured, photographed, and sketched. In addition, team members conducted relatively thorough ceramics collections, particularly in view of the relative scarcity of remains in the Kahyalar district. However, unlike past seasons when we conveyed all ceramics collections to the project laboratory to be cleaned, analyzed, processed, and digitally recorded in our Survey Project Chronotype database, we experimented this season with the methodology of conducting all ceramic research in the field. This method had the advantages of enabling us to leave material remains relatively undisturbed and near their original locations. It also enabled us to complete the ceramic work of the survey more rapidly on site, and ultimately to cover more terrain by avoiding the need to carry large accumulations of pottery long distances through high, remote, and often times difficult terrain. Typically, our transects were quite removed from any accessible roadway.

The disadvantages of this method require equal emphasis. Processing the pottery in the field meant that there was no possible way to clean the pottery for purposes of optimum analysis. Comparison of individual sherds with the 300+ representative examples of forms previously identified and stored in the Rough Cilicia Survey Project Study Collection back at the laboratory was equally impossible. Nicholas Rauh essentially assumed responsibility for identifying sherds in their existing state based on his familiarity with the ceramic materials examined during previous seasons. As a result our ceramic identifications in several instances remain tentative and susceptible to error. We did at least attempt to ameliorate this risk by photographing every sherd processed, in order to generate as thorough as possible a record of the pottery finds. Nevertheless, the members of the audience need to be aware of the limitations inherent in our methods and results this past season.

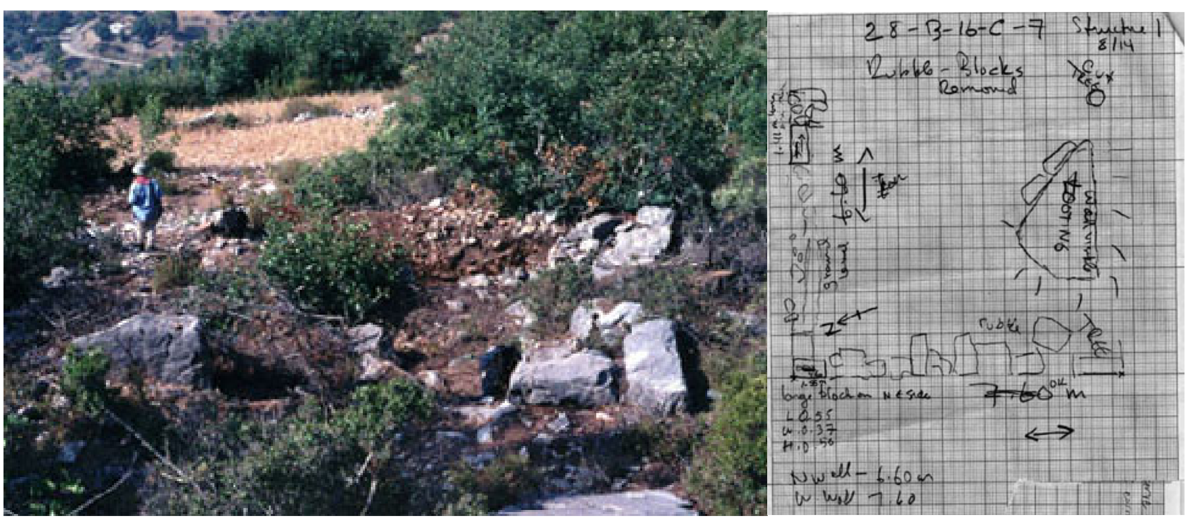
Having said that, the results of the 1999 season proved extremely interesting. Never having systematically explored the Gazipaşa hinterland we did not know what to expect. Perhaps we would find nothing at all.

We were pleasantly surprised in the end. As the plan of the Kahyalar Survey indicates we encountered seventeen individual 'sites' in an area of a few square kilometers (see above, figure 4). At several locations, these sites exist within 100 to 200 meters of one another. While nine of the sites exhibited architectural remains, eight were characterized by little more than significant concentrations of pottery. With the exception of Site 99-2 at the peak

of Nergis Tepesi itself, all other sites exhibited very minimal architecture, if any(see figure 6).

Figure 6: Site RC 9902, Nergis Tepe from southeast

Typically, the architecture presented itself as simple square structures of rough fashioned stone-block construction, such as the one seen here at Site 99-7 (see figures 7-8).



Figures 7 and 8: Architectural remains with sketch plan, Site RC 9907

Site 99-2 (Nergis Tepe) at the mountain's peak exhibited extensive but heavily overgrown structural remains as well as a necropolis with monumental tombs bearing stone-cut molding (see figure 9).

Figure 9: Architectural tomb fragment with relief, Site RC 9902, Nergis Tepe

One of the sites, Site 99-6 (see figure 10), exhibited what appear to be ceramic remains of black slipped Hellenistic incurved bowls (see figure 11).

Figures 10 and 11: View of Site RC 9906; Likely Hellenistic black slipped bowl from Site RC 9906 (traces of slip visible at top of foot)

Otherwise, the pottery finds of all other sites dated to the Roman and Late Roman eras (with some evidence of possible early Byzantine wares). We present some of the more easily recognized examples as follows:

- a likely Hellenistic ring foot - 3-2 centuries BC (see figure 11)
- a fragment of a "dribble ware" bowl – 1-2 centuries AD (see figure 13)
- a handle of a Zemer 41 pinched handled amphora (one of our most commonly utilized and locally produced forms in the region - 1-4 centuries AD; see figure 14)

- a possible rim fragment of a Dressel 20 transport amphora from Spain, for which several previous examples have been identified in the study collection, 1-2 centuries AD (see figure 15)
- the ring foot base of a Phocaean ware plate - 4-6 centuries AD (see figure 16)
- a small fragment of a possible Byzantine glazed ware – 10-12 centuries AD (see figure 17)

Figures 13 and 14: Dribble ware bowl; Whiteware Zemer 41 Pinched-handled amphora, both from Site RC 9902, Nergis Tepe

Figures 15-17: Possible Dressel 20 rim, very worn; Phocaean ware plate; Possible Byzantine green glazed ware

As figure 18 indicates, with one possible exception it seems safe to conclude from the identified remains that the Kahyalar sites underwent intensive, if structurally limited development during the Roman and Late Roman eras.

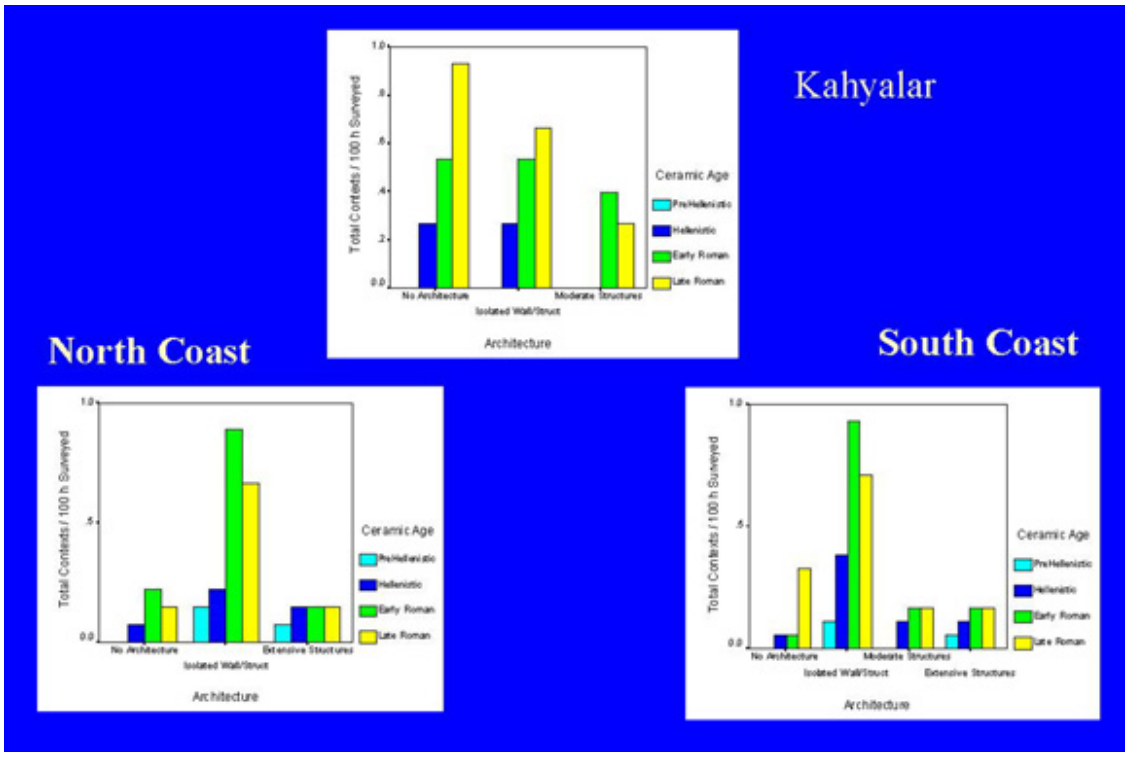


Figure 18: Comparative results of the architectural survey, by region

The significance of this data lies mainly in its contrast with that of the surveyed coastal zone, particularly the high ridges between Kestros and Nephelion that underwent intensive rural survey in 1998 (see figure 19).

Figure 19: Map of RCSP rural transects investigated in 1998

Identified sites in the coastal area are generally larger--bearing resemblance to village settlements or large farming establishments, and they are more widely dispersed. Ceramic evidence for many coastal sites, including remote fortified hill sites such as Guda Tepe ("Cloud City"; discussed in last year's report and shown here) indicate quite clearly that many sites in the coastal region were developed during the Hellenistic era and occasionally even earlier. In the Kahyalar survey, with the lone possible exception of Site RC 9906, development occurred later. Moreover,with the exception of Nergis Tepe (RC 9902), this development appears to be of an extremely limited character. As the figure 20 demonstrates, there are fewer architectural sites and those that do exist tend to exhibit extremely limited structural remains. The ceramic remains consist predominantly of plainwares and coursewares, less often of fine wares. Even when finewares do exist they are of the most common varieties only,exhibiting little of the range of internationally imported pottery we have encountered at sites along the coast.

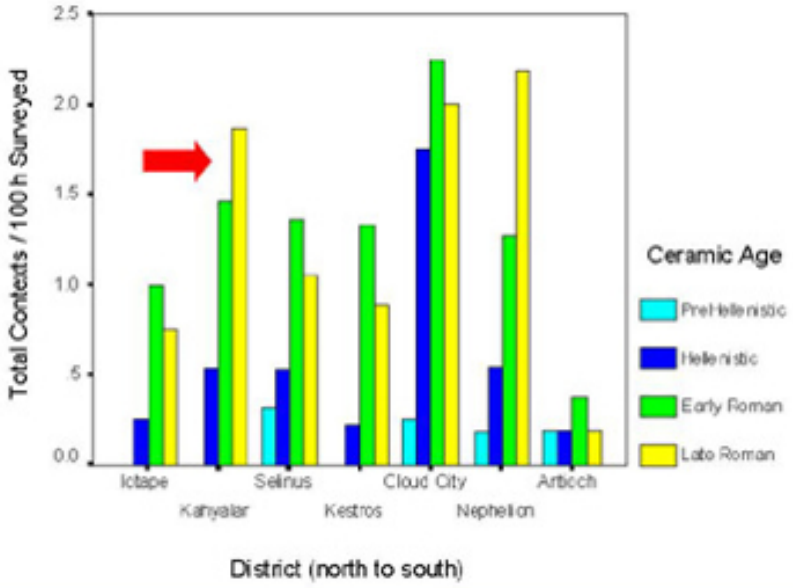


Figure 20: Summary of concentrations and chronological range of ceramic remains at selected sites

The close proximity of so many small, minimally developed sites in the Kahyalar District contrasts significantly with the dispersed character of the larger more developed sites along the coastal ridge. The relative proximity of the Kahyalar sites to one another and their minimal development present almost an industrial appearance. Apart from Site RC 9902 at Nergis Tepe, large scale agricultural features such as press stones and storage silos were not detectable at these sites. This too contrasts remarkably with the highly developed, seemingly self-sustained agricultural sites of the coastal ridge. Apart from the extensive remains of Site 9902 at the very top of Nergis Tepe, we found little evidence of features to confirm the existence of residential-agricultural settlement on this ridge. Even the sherd concentrations of the two regions in question seems at odds. Whereas intensive survey of

the coastal ridge revealed a consistent presence of low density ceramic remains throughout the landscape, in the Kahyalar district sherds tended to be concentrated in the specified localities with very little presence in between. This may suggest that the landscape of the Kahyalar Ridge was worked more rapidly and with less complex agricultural strategies than the terrain of the coastal ridge.

We mention all this because the ancient source literature insists that the region of Rough Cilicia was valued in antiquity for its forestry resources, particularly its virgin stands of tall, straight cedar trees which were so vital to ancient ship construction. One of the questions our survey is attempting to answer is the approximate time at which the forestry resources of western Rough Cilicia became exploited. By the Roman period it seems clear that the area of the coastal ridges was successfully adapted to complex agricultural usages that include terraced viticulture, olive production, and livestock raising. We base this conclusion on our abundant finds of terracing, press stones, amphoras, and loom weights. The virgin forests of the coastal ridge would appear to have been deforested before or during the early Roman era. The question remains whether or not the minimally constructed, yet densely clustered 'sites' of the Kahyalar district reflect an expansion and evolution of land clearance, including timbering operations, expanding into the interior highland during the Roman and Late Roman eras. At this point we are hardly in a position to say, but the Kahyalar survey may very well offer us a glimpse of what is to come. It is certainly different from that which has preceded. We expect that future seasons of our survey--during which time we intend to work our way up the river valleys of the Gazipaşa watershed toward Lamos and Direvli Kalesi -- will shed further light on this question.