



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# A New Protohistoric Archaeological Survey Project in Western Black Sea: Eskipazar Province Protohistorical Survey Project (EPYA) - The First Season Results

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### Abstract

Although the Western Black Sea Region has not been suitable for settlement throughout history with its forested vegetation and mountainous geomorphology, archaeological research has revealed findings from the protohistoric period, especially in caves and a few mounds. Eskipazar district, which includes the Late Antique City of Hadrianopolis, was also interesting in terms of settlement in the protohistoric period with its rich water resources, wood raw materials, copper and precious stones. This is how the idea of investigating Eskipazar villages with an intensive survey based on the protohistoric findings from the Hadrianopolis excavations was born, and EPYA officially started in 2024. In the first season, various findspots were revealed. In Eskipazar District, black-slipped and red-slipped, brightly polished and hand-made Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age pottery, incised-decorated Bronze Age spindle whorls, obsidian and flint-based stone tools and flake residues collected from these findspots were found. These findings update the knowledge that the oldest data for the archaeological history of this district belonged to the Late Antique period until the EPYA project started and constitute strong evidence for more reliable information that will be provided by a future excavation in the mounds or caves where.

### Keywords

Protohistoric Period, Western Black Sea, Chalcolithic Age, Bronze Age, Survey

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