



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Debedavan: A Newly Discovered Neolithic Site in Northeastern Armenia

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Abstract

The neolithic site of Debedavan is located in the Tavush region, on the right bank of the Debed River (a tributary of the Kura River), about 350 meters from the Georgian border. This artificial tell, which rises 5 meters above the surrounding area (altitude 388 m above sea level), is about 0.8 hectares in size.

The site was discovered in 2022 during Tavush Project survey. A preliminary sondage confirmed a stratified sequence with a mixed upper layer followed by a well-preserved Neolithic horizon. The five C14 dates has substantiate the site's occupation in the 6th millennium B.C.

Debedavan is a remarkable find, as it represents the first Neolithic site in Armenia located outside the Ararat Valley. The material culture uncovered at the site closely parallels that of the Shulaveri-Shomutepe culture, reflecting its proximity to other important Neolithic sites in the Kura River Valley, such as Aruchlo, Khramis Didi Gora, Gadachrili Gora, and Imiris Gora.

Excavations during the initial seasons shed light on the material assemblages of this Neolithic settlement, including obsidian and dacite tools, ceramics, bone tools, and evidence of circular earthen architecture.

This settlement will undoubtedly play a crucial role in defining the Neolithic of the South Caucasus.

Keywords

Neolithic, Debedavan, Armenia, South Caucasus, Ceramic

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