ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

From Old to New Knidos: Insights into Human-Environment Interplay Inferred from Harbor Sediments

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Abstract

One of the most significant events in the history of Knidos was its relocation to its current site in the 4th c. BC at the western tip of the Datça Peninsula. Making such a decision had far-reaching consequences and therefore requires compelling motivations that historical records do not clarify. Underwater archaeological excavations conducted between 2011 and 2015 excavated a ca. 3-meter-thick submerged stratigraphic section into the harbor basin associated with the prior location of the Knidian's home city, along the peninsula's south at Burgaz. We undertook sedimentological and geochemical analyses on sediment samples from throughout the section to assess whether one or more shifts in socio-environmental systems could have contributed to the decision to relocate the city. Particular attention was devoted to changes in natural conditions, whether sudden or gradual, as well as to traces of lead (Pb) contamination resulting from past urban and/or maritime activities. Despite a relentless struggle against the harbor siltation, the record of Pb paleopollution seems to match the major urban transformations of the city. Previously focused on central Greece and the Aegean Islands, the trade routes supplying Pb to Knidos, as raw materials and/or by-products, became polarized towards Macedonia and Thrace following the Macedonian Wars.

Keywords

Geoarchaeology, Sediment, Palaeopollution , Knidos, Pb isotopes

Session

2. Natural resources and anthropised landscapes

Poster session