



14<sup>th</sup> International Congress on the Archaeology  
of the Ancient Near East

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# The Lower City of Mardaman (Bassetki) during the Early and Middle Bronze Age Neighbourhoods, Production, and Public Spaces

*LANGE-WEBER S. 1\**, *PFZNER P. 1*

<sup>1</sup> University of Tbingen, 72070 Tbingen, Germany

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

As many other cities of Northern Mesopotamia, an extensive lower city was established at Mardaman (modern Bassetki) during the Early and Middle Bronze Age. Archaeological investigations of lower cities have often been of secondary priority, as archaeologists focused on the central upper cities. Therefore, our knowledge about the organization and function of lower cities is still limited. In order to further research in this direction, the lower town of Mardaman was excavated from 2021 to 2024.

Four domestic structures of the Middle Bronze Age were excavated. They include both living spaces and economic areas. The buildings are integrated into a dense complex of urban space, which can be considered a kin-based neighbourhood or a quarter of closely associated households. During an earlier stage, huge pottery kilns were used in this quarter, demonstrating the importance of production in the lower city.

Below, structures of the Early Bronze Age were uncovered. These include a rectangular, one-room building of large dimensions of the mid-3rd millennium, probably a temple. A Ninevite 5 layer indicates the emergence of the lower city already during this early period.

Thus, the excavations provide new insights into the patterns of living and production in a Northern Mesopotamian lower city.

## Keywords

Bronze Age, urbanisation, Northern Mesopotamia, residential architecture, Kurdistan (Iraq)

## Session

1. Advances in Near Eastern Archaeology

## Type of paper

Oral presentation