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Campu Stefanu (Sollacaro, Corsica). Middle Bronze Age amber and glass beads analyses. A new evidence for Mycenaean connection in Corsica?

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Analiza bursztynowych i szklanych paciorków ze stanowiska środkowej epoki brązu w Campu Stefanu (Sollacaro, Korsyka). Nowy dowód mykeńskich relacji z Korsyką?

Excavations in Campu Stefanu in Corsica have been conducted in 2005-2011 and concerned a large house (structure 2) as well as the natural cave located beneath. The exploration of shelter 1 revealed a stratigraphy extending back to the Mesolithic until the end of Iron Age. In the context of this last phase a necklace made with 29 resinous beads, 25 blue vitreous beads and a small metallic ring was discovered. The fossil resin was identified as amber from Baltic deposits. Resinous beads can be tied with forms diffused in Aegean during the Late Helladic IIB/III. Vitreous artefacts resemble beads found in Corsica for which spectrometric analyses demonstrated a Near East origin of the raw material. The recognition of its eastern origin allows to substantiate the debate concerning the place of Corsica in the exchange networks linking up the two Mediterranean basins. It also permits a more accurate description of the forms of the Mycenaean presence in the western Mediterranean islands.

Key words: Mediterranean, Corsica, Iron Age, amber, glass, exchange network, Mycenaean culture

Wykopaliska w Campu Stefanu na Korsyce, prowadzone w latach 2005-2011, objęły duży dom (struktura nr 2) oraz znajdującą się pod nim naturalną jaskinię. Eksploracja tej ostatniej ujawniła stratyfikację sięgającą od mezolitu po koniec epoki żelaza. W kontekście tej ostatniej fazy odkryto naszyjnik złożony z 29 paciorków z żywicy kopalnej, 25 paciorków z niebieskiej substancji szklistej oraz małego metalowego pierścienia. Żywicę kopalną zidentyfikowano jako bursztyn ze złóż bałtyckich. Wykonane z niego paciorki mają formę zbliżoną do typów charakterystycznych dla strefy egejskiej w okresie późnohelladzkim IIB/III. Przedmioty z substancji szklistej przypominają znalezione na Korsyce paciorki, dla których analizy spektrometryczne wykazały bliskowschodnie pochodzenie surowca. Rozpoznanie wschodniego pochodzenia omawianego znaleziska umożliwia podjęcie dyskusji nad rolą Korsyki w sieciach wymiany łączących dwa krańce basenu Morza Śródziemnego. Pozwala także na bardziej precyzyjne opisanie form mykeńskiej obecności na wyspach w zachodniej części Morza Śródziemnego.

Słowa kluczowe: Śródziemnomorze, Korsyka, epoka żelaza, bursztyn, szkło, sieć wymiany, kultura mykeńska

1. Campu Stefanu: site presentation

1.1 Geographic aspects

The prehistoric site of Campu Stefanu is located in Sollacaro territory, South of Corsica. It is based on a 94 m height hill, 500 m south from the Taravu windings, before this river flows into the sea. From this site, the visual management of the territory is limited to a section of the lower valley. The location itself gives value to the field, unlike other neighborhood prehistoric complexes, especially I Calanchi-Sapar'Alta, Basi and Filitosa, does not fit in a defensive position, but is associated with the crossing of the river. The potential of the territory, part of the

Mesomediterranean lower floor, changed to a farming operation. This activity is conditioned by a poor and shallow hilly relief due to the deterioration of granite soils. However, the Campu Stefanu area is in contact with alluvial soils which ease the growth in the area of Taravu and Bujo adjacent valley. Campu Stefanu was excavated from 2005 to 2011 (Cesari *et al.* 2011; 2012a; 2012b).

1.2 Anthropogenic structuration

Various constructions have implemented local granite, whose joints ease the production of regular thick slabs over a meter, which is detached by fol-

lowing the thread of the stone. The rock has also flat surfaces that have formed the basis of circular constructions. The morphology of these natural surfaces didn't allow the sedimentary accumulation and their multiple functions must be interpreted from the stigma of use. The built structures are of various types: simple retaining walls made of blocks arranged in a row and leveling courses of buildings with various levels: elliptical, circular and quadrangular.

An artificial terrace supported by a wall of large blocks, supports an important building, the structure 2. This most representative building of the site is elliptical (16 x 4.5 m) and still preserves a semi-circular apse. The art of constructions highlights the juxtaposition of fifty cyclopean granite blocks which define an interior space of about 65 m². Excavations allowed us find four stratigraphic levels, the first three are abandoned. The level of circulation of the building was gone most of its inner surface, probably due to runoff. Only buried facilities were found. Among these, we noted the presence of two pits containing a large jar, and several postholes where we can see the original appearance of the structure. The furniture is homogeneous and datable between the second half of the Early Bronze Age and the end of the Middle Bronze Age, between 1800 and 1200 BC. The discovery of four fragments of crucible, slags, scrap bronze and a mold fragment demonstrates the in situ practice of metallurgy.

Total field operations helped to highlight a limited number of housing units. Of the three spacious enough to have been used rock-shelters, only one (shelter or taffonu 1) was the subject of excavations that showed a longue durée occupation between Mesolithic and Iron Age, and delivered an important artifacts series relating to ceramic, lithic industry, faunas, and glass/amber beads which have been physically analysis to identify origin of materials.

2. The shelter 1

The shelter 1 of Campu Stefanu (fig. 1) is situated at the bottom of the northern slope of the site in a granitic outcrop area of around 250 m². This zone, which is compartmented by rock masses, still hosts remains of various anthropic implementations. The shelter is made of a hollow granite block of about 27 m² and corresponds to a taffonu which has a form characteristic of the natural erosion of the granitic

stones in South Corsica. The western end of the rock mass broke and collapsed onsite in the northern extension of the main cavity, thus forming a second lower and smaller depression. This internal double cavity of around 13 m² is composed of two rooms (loci 1 and 2) with vaulted ceilings.

The interior space of this double taffonu is also divided by the installation of an ovoid monolith which forms the end wall of a later implementation. The rocky roof presents a quasi-horizontal surface which is flattened and longitudinally cracked. Three openings situated at the north, west and south-east give an access to the roof. The southeast opening faces the slope and exposes the shelter to the runoff water, bringing colluvial sedimentary deposits. An artificial terrace partly supported by blocks extends the shelter to the east.

The archaeological excavations provided a partially disturbed stratigraphic sequence which nevertheless made possible a refinement of the chronological phasing and shed light on remains attributed to the Cardial Early Neolithic. These were found above a Mesolithic sepulchral deposit, contributing to the question of the early insular settlements in the Mediterranean area. During the Middle Bronze Age, the period we focus on, the utilization of the cavity is associated with a new sepulchral usage, materialized by the implementation of a cist made with granite slabs. The various adornments presented in this contribution have been unearthed in levels corresponding to this chronological phase. At the end of the Iron Age, the cavity will be used again for funeral purposes. These different Protohistoric levels are characterized by several disturbances of natural or man-made origin which considerably limited their global understanding.

3. Middle Bronze Age amber and glass assemblage in Shelter 1: physico-chemical analyses and first interpretations

The excavations led in shelter 1 allowed the collection of an assemblage composed of a metal necklace separator (silver?), 29 resinous beads and around 25 glass beads of azure hue (fig. 2). Physico-chemical analyses of the major part of these artefacts were performed to precise their nature and look for their provenance, obviously exogenous from Corsica in these contexts.



Fig. 1. View of the shelter 1 during the excavation (2008)

Ryc. 1. Widok schroniska skalnego nr 1 podczas prac wykopaliskowych (2008)



Fig. 2. View of the necklace during the excavation

Ryc. 2. Widok naszyjnika w trakcie wykopalisk

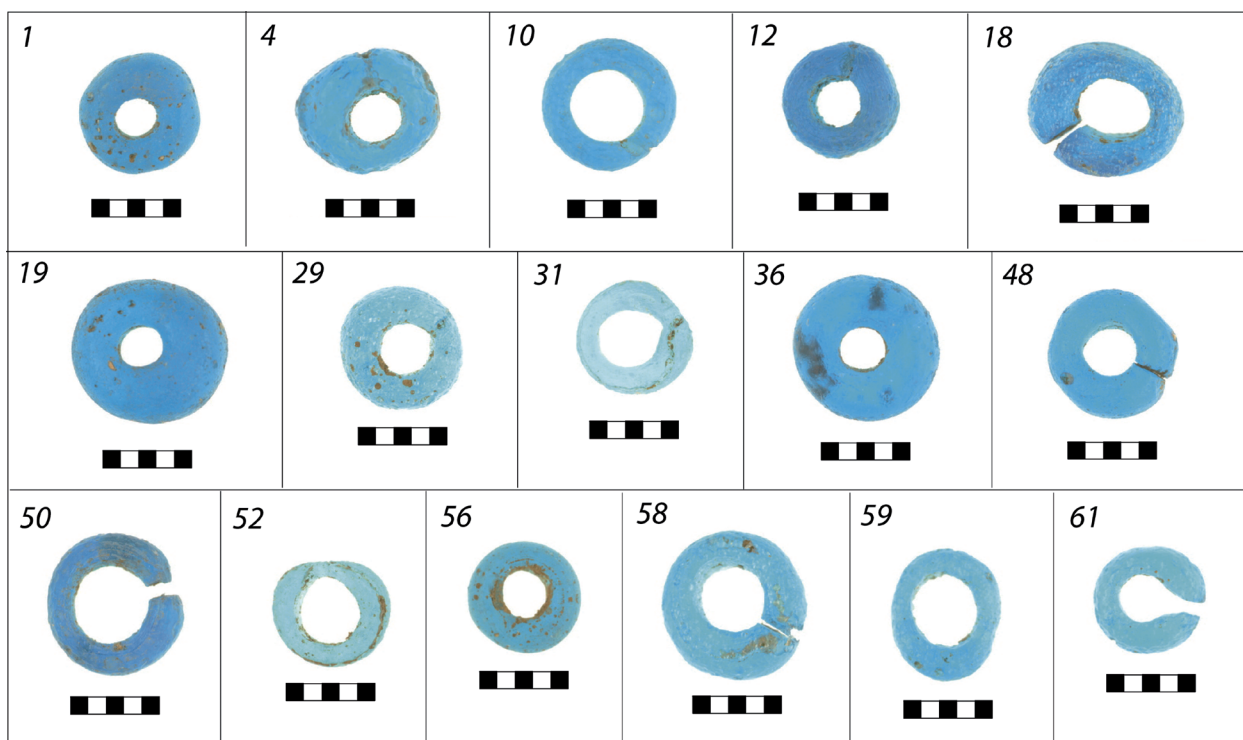


Fig. 3. Glass beads nos. 1, 4, 10, 12, 18, 19, 29, 31, 36, 48, 50, 52, 56, 58, 59 and 61 (scale: 5 mm)

Ryc. 3. Szklane paciorki nr: 1, 4, 10, 12, 18, 19, 29, 31, 36, 48, 50, 52, 56, 58, 59 i 61 (skala: 5 mm)

3.1 Typology and hypothetical reconstruction

Whereas the corpus of the glass artifacts is homogenous, consisting of annular beads, either plano-convex or sub-circular in section (fig. 3 and 4), with a size range of 5-10 mm in diameter, which is quite classical for beads of Eastern origin during this time period, the sizes and the shapes of the resinous objects are remarkably diverse. The beads are circular to sub-circular in shape and present a central or slightly offset perforation (fig. 5), whose shape and size vary; some of them are double drilled. The morphology of their section ranges from circular to rectangular, including ovoid and plano-convex shapes. Some of them are discoid. Their diameter, often irregular, fluctuates between 8 and 50 mm. The biggest one has a biconic shape that evokes a flattened whorl. Its faces bear irregularly spaced indents, which could be interpreted as an altered decoration.

Unfortunately, the entirety of the artifacts degraded rapidly after their exhumation, so that no drawing could be made.

There seems to be a morphometric hierarchy between those elements, since one of the beads is much larger and notably different from the others

in shape, while five or six objects are of intermediate dimension. This constatacion suggests that they were part of a necklace rather than a bracelet, even though the cumulated length of the widths, estimated to be between 20 and 25 cm, seems pretty short. The necklace may have been completed with elements made out of perishable material, or may have only been adorned in its lower part.

The alternance of resinous beads and glass beads was observed when the set was unearthed. The almost equivalent number of amber and vitreous beads may imply that the set had two balanced parts, with the larger amber beads disposed in the center (fig. 6) on both sides of a separator consisting of a twisted cylindrical element, which might be made out of silver wire (analysis pending). The observation of the connections did not yield any further information.

The set of beads was discovered in an interstice between the paving stones of the grave which were still extant vertically above the west entrance to the shelter. They had been threaded with a perishable material, and subsequently stayed connected, gathered in a small heap in the shallow depression where they were found. The fact that they were not dispersed when the

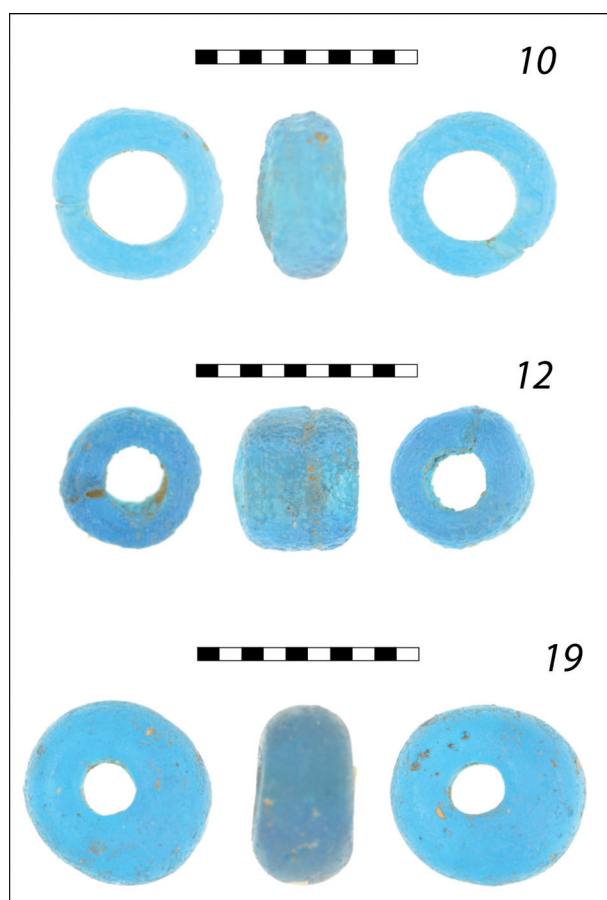


Fig. 4. Glass beads n° 10, 12 and 19 (scale: 10 mm)

Ryc. 4. Szklane paciorki nr 10, 12 i 19 (skala: 10 mm)

grave was destroyed suggests that it might be the result of an intentional deposit. This hypothesis is reinforced by their location at the entrance of the shelter. In any case, they were buried rapidly.

3.2 Amber beads analyses

The study is still in progress with 26 of the 29 resinous beads analysed. For all samples macro and microscopic observations have described an interior, “the bulk part”, with a darker colour (with a resinous aspect) while the most superficial surface has a clearer colour (fig. 7). The material’s cohesion is quite poor leading to surface or more extended fragmentation of artefacts which gives access to their interior parts. Colour variations and decohesion relate the effects of ageing. Analyses by infrared and Raman spectroscopies were preferred because discriminative signatures for fossil resins in a non-invasive way would be obtained (Daher *et al.* 2010; 2013). Resinous aspects let think to its identification as amber, the most famous fossil resin in Europe, with mainly the Baltic deposits but also others men-



Fig. 5. Amber beads no. 2 and 16

Ryc. 5. Bursztynowe paciorki nr 2 i 16

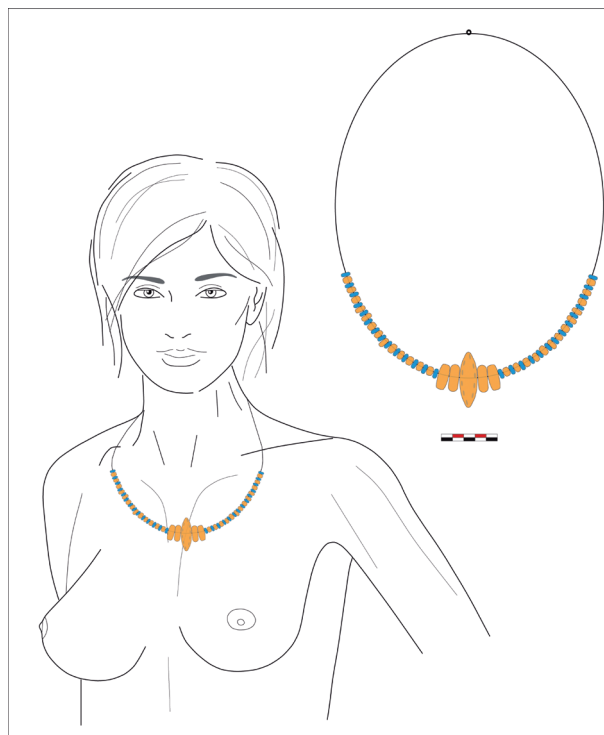


Fig. 6. Hypothetical reconstruction of the necklace (scale: 5 cm)

Ryc. 6. Hipotetyczna rekonstrukcja naszyjnika (skala: 5 cm)

tioned in France and Italy for example (Angelini, Bellintani 2005; Du Gardin 1986; Neraudeau *et al.* 2012; Onoratini *et al.* 2009; Perrichot *et al.* 2007). The aim of the analytical characterisation, respecting to the artefact’s integrity, is to properly identify the nature of the resin and its potential provenance. Non-destructive micro-infrared spectroscopy analysis is carried out in micro Attenuated Total Reflectance mode (IR-microATR). Measurements by contact were performed with a 20x ATR objective made of a 100 μm diameter Germanium crystal tip (mono-reflection) fixed on an IRscope II microscope which also allows the visualization of the analyzed area. The microscope is linked to a Bruker Equinox 55 spectrometer equipped with a liquid nitrogen cooled MCT detector. Spectra between 4000 and 600 cm^{-1} with a 4 cm^{-1} resolution were recorded with 200 scans accumulated.

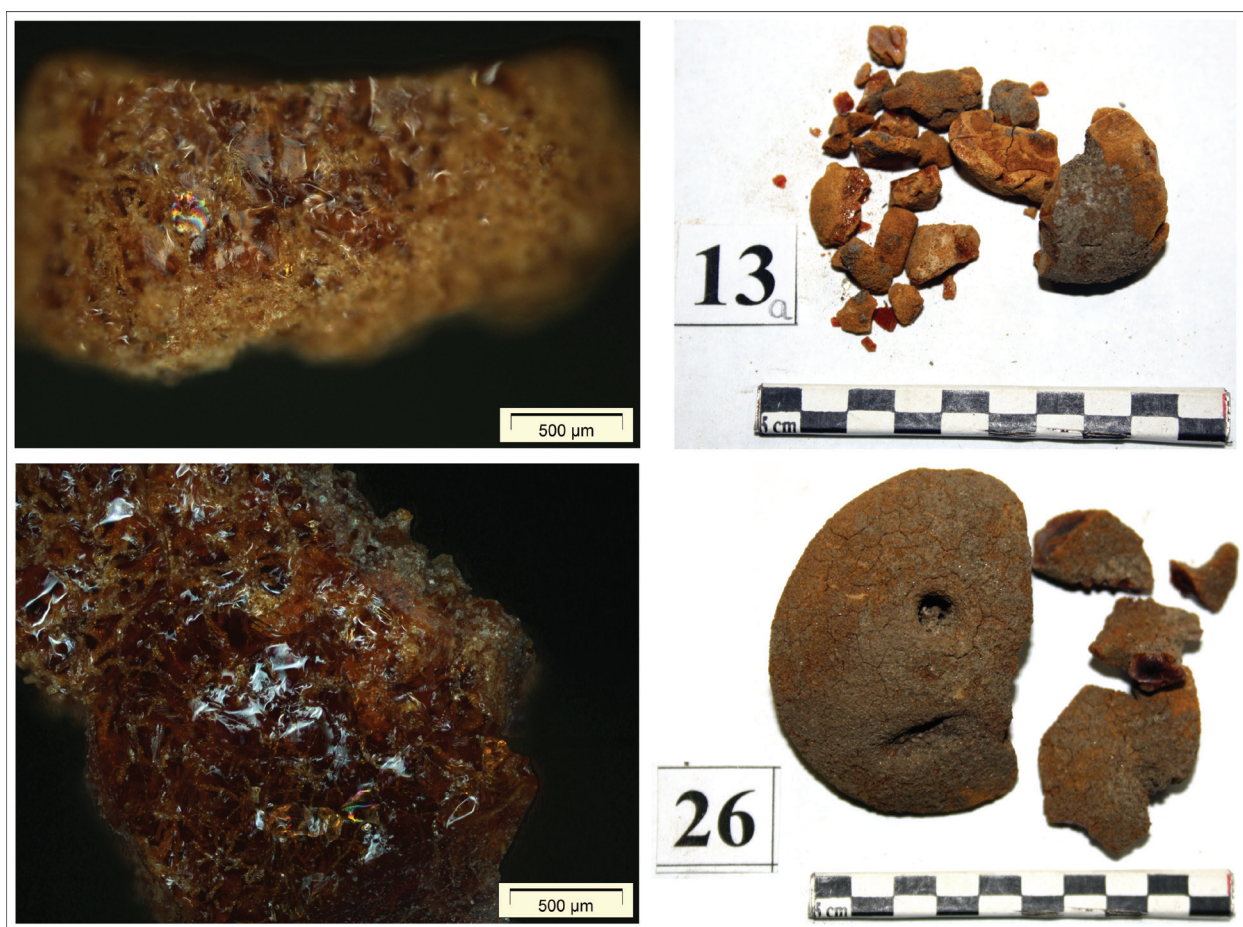


Fig. 7. Macro and microscopic views of the beads 26 and 13, which underline their colours heterogeneities and their poor conservation state
 Ryc. 7. Widok makro- i mikroskopowy paciorków nr 26 i 13, ujawniający ich heterogeniczność pod względem barwy i zły stan zachowania

To overcome the high fluorescence of such organic samples which prevents the observation of Raman scattering, we favour a near infrared excitation at 1064 nm from an Nd-YAG laser diode. The FT-Raman spectrometer is a Bruker RFS 100/S based on a Michelson-type interferometer and equipped with a liquid nitrogen-cooled Ge detector. The samples were analyzed non-invasively using a microscope interface with a 40x IR objective (spot size of $\sim 30 \mu\text{m}$). Laser power at the sample was adjusted to not damage the samples by heating. Spectra were recorded between 3500 and 50 cm^{-1} with a 4 cm^{-1} resolution and a low signal-to-noise ratio was achieved by accumulating 2000 scans.

Figure 8 presents the ATR-IR spectra of some representative spectra from archaeological artefacts and a Baltic reference sample. All the beads analysed present ATR-IR spectra corresponding to fossil resins signatures and especially exhibit the characteristic Baltic amber pattern with a wide absorption band in the wavenumbers range $1100\text{-}1330 \text{ cm}^{-1}$. This specific pattern

of the infrared spectra usually called “Baltic shoulder” (Beck 1986; Beck *et al.* 1965) uniquely characterise the amber provenance to succinate. The carbonyl groups ($1650\text{-}1780 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) IR signature evolution is usually related to the resin degradation. The samples presented in figure 8 seem in a similar chemical state as we observe no significant differences between each sample’s spectra, neither from bulk or surface.

Representative Raman spectra are presented in figure 9 underlining also the resinous nature of the artefacts. The bands at 1640 and 1610 cm^{-1} assigned to C=C motions which evolve with the ageing processes shown different profiles between reference sample and beads (sometime also between bulk and surface). FT-Raman spectra are less discriminative between amber provenances, but more sensitive to ageing and the architecture of the polymeric network of these resins. A further deeper study of spectra profiles will allow to document the different conservation states of these artefacts (Daher, Bellot-Gurlet 2013; Pastorelli *et al.* 2013).

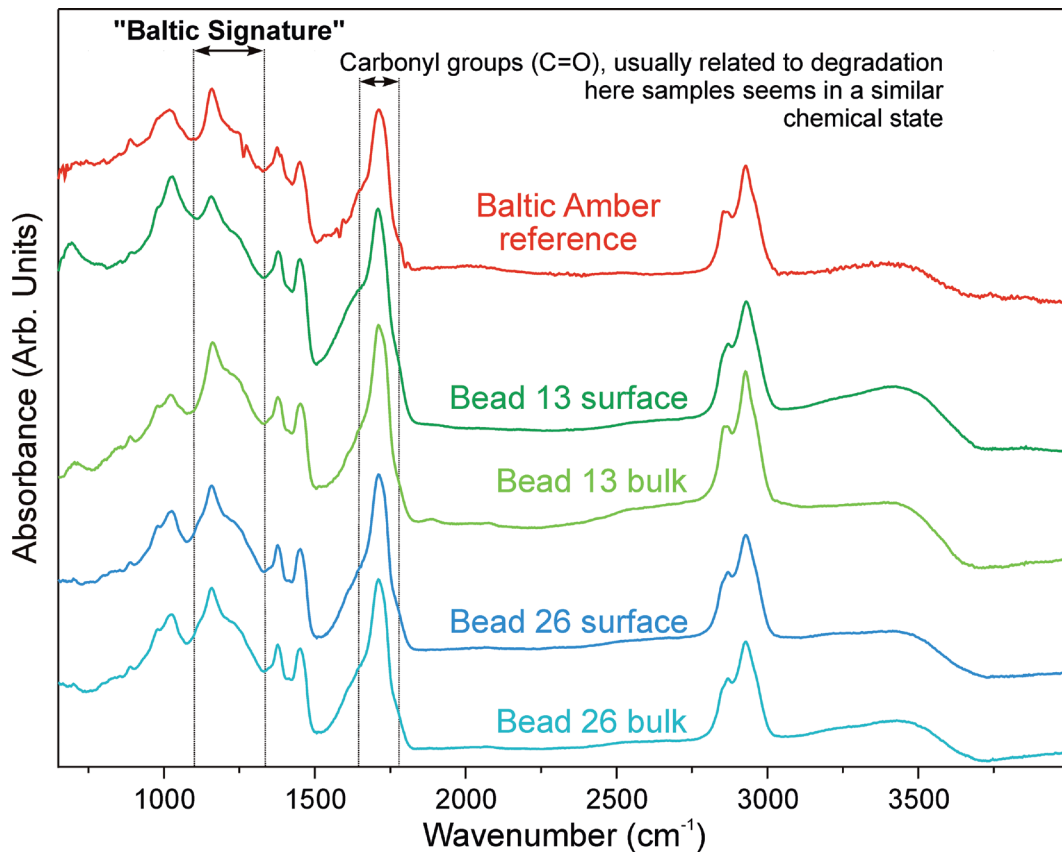


Fig. 8. ATR-IR representative spectra of two amber beads, for their surfaces or bulk parts, compared to the signature of Baltic reference amber

Ryc. 8. Widma ATR-IR dwóch paciorków bursztynowych, z powierzchni oraz części luźnych, porównane z reprezentatywnymi widmami bursztynu bałtyckiego

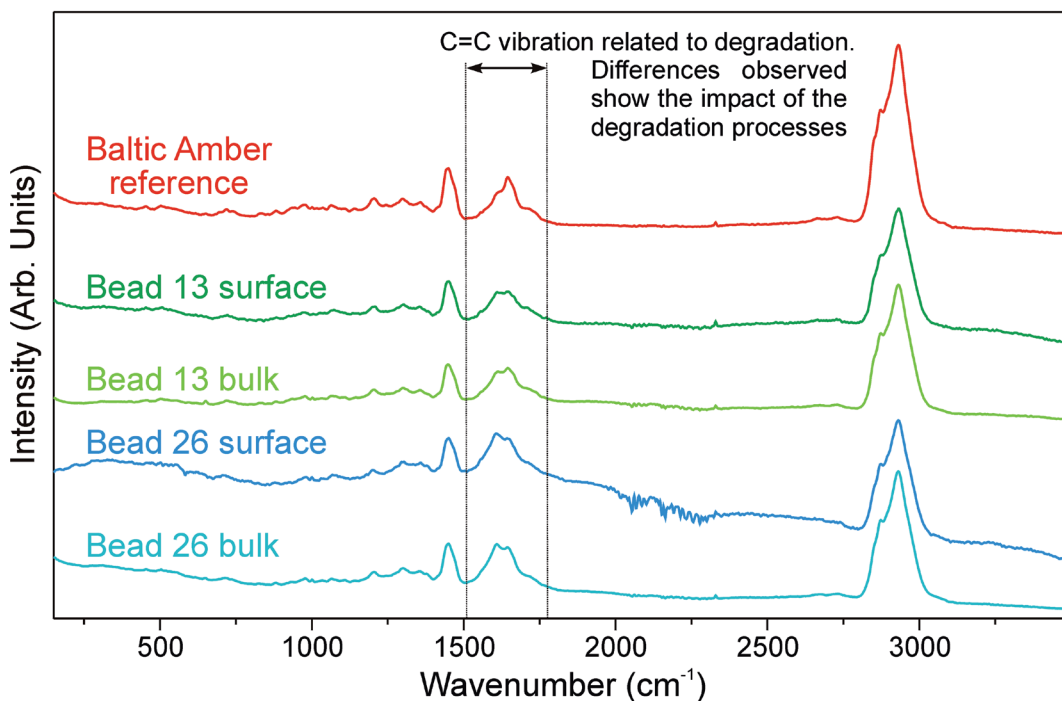


Fig. 9. FT-Raman representative spectra of two amber beads, for their surfaces or bulk parts, compared to the signature of Baltic reference amber

Ryc. 9. Widma spektroskopii ramanowskiej dwóch paciorków bursztynowych, z ich powierzchni oraz części luźnych, porównane z reprezentatywnymi widmami bursztynu bałtyckiego

% Oxide			ppm oxyde			ppm oxyde		
Na ₂ O	17.0%	1.3%	Li ₂ O	55	9	SnO ₂	30	15
MgO	4.8%	0.5%	B ₂ O ₃	416	88	Sb ₂ O ₃	9	23
Al ₂ O ₃	1.2%	0.3%	V ₂ O ₅	17	4	BaO	57	13
SiO ₂	65.7%	1.9%	Cr ₂ O ₃	29	7	La ₂ O ₃	3	1
P ₂ O ₅	0.19%	0.04%	CoO	9	5	CeO ₂	9	5
Cl	0.8%	0.1%	NiO	19	3	PrO ₂	2	3
K ₂ O	3.0%	0.4%	ZnO	39	9	Nd ₂ O ₃	4	3
CaO	5.5%	0.8%	GaO	2	1	PbO	15	3
TiO ₂	0.05%	0.01%	As ₂ O ₃	28	8			
MnO	0.049%	0.009%	Rb ₂ O	17	6			
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.6%	0.1%	SrO	490	125			
CuO	1.1%	0.2%	ZrO ₂	17	4			

Fig. 10. Average composition of the Campu Stefanu glass beads expressed in oxide weight percent and in part per million (1 ppm = 0.0001 % or 0.1 % = 1000 ppm)

Ryc. 10. Średni skład tlenków w szklanych paciorkach z Campu Stefanu, wyrażony w procentach oraz w liczbie części na milion (1 ppm = 0.0001 % lub 0.1 % = 1000 ppm)

Results from infrared allow to identify the nature and the provenance of the 26 resinous beads analysed for the moment. Sources of Baltic amber being identified, this underlines a very long distance procurement. According to the infrared or Raman signatures some further discussions will also be possible on the amber conservation state.

3.3 Glass beads analyses

Although the discovery of glass dates to the middle of the 3rd millennium BC, most likely in Mesopotamia, glass production on a large scale really started in the mid-2nd millennium BC, in both Mesopotamia and Egypt.

Glass is a synthetic material obtained by fusing rocks high in silica (quartz or sand) with fluxing agents (soda or potash from natural deposits or plant ash) to lower the melting temperature. Lime and alumina may enter the mixture either as impurities of the raw materials or as added components, and help to stabilize the silica matrix and prevent its corrosion. Glass obtained in this manner may be coloured light blue, yellow or green by natural impurities such as iron oxides. In order to produce colourless or coloured glass that might imitate natural stones, glassmakers added decolourants or colorants in the form of metallic oxides. The chemical composition of ancient glasses (raw materials and colouring recipes), vary with the place where the glass was

made, but also, in favourable cases, with the historical period of its production.

The glass beads from Campu Stefanu were analysed by laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS). The ablation system used here is located at the National Centre of Scientific Research (CNRS) in Orléans, France. It consists of a Neodyme: YAG laser working at 266 nm (quadrupled frequency) coupled with the Thermo Electron Finnigan ELEMENT2 mass spectrometer. The measurement carried out need no special preparation of the samples prior analysis (Gratuze 2013). The results show that the glass used to make these beads was fused from relatively pure siliceous sand mixed with the ashes of plants high in soda, such as *Salicornia* sp. or *Salsola kali*. The blue colour is the result of added copper (fig. 10). The low tin concentration suggests the addition of relatively pure copper. From a fashioning point of view, we see that all the beads were realized from a cut stem and twist.

This overall composition is characteristic of Bronze Age Near Eastern glass, while the trace element patterns of the Campu Stefanu beads suggest an origin in Mesopotamia rather than Egypt (fig. 11). In addition, both in typology and composition, the Campu Stefanu beads, formed by folding softened glass around a rod, are similar to beads from Egyptian tombs dating to the mid-2nd millennium BC (Nakai *et al.* 2009; Shortland *et al.* 2007),

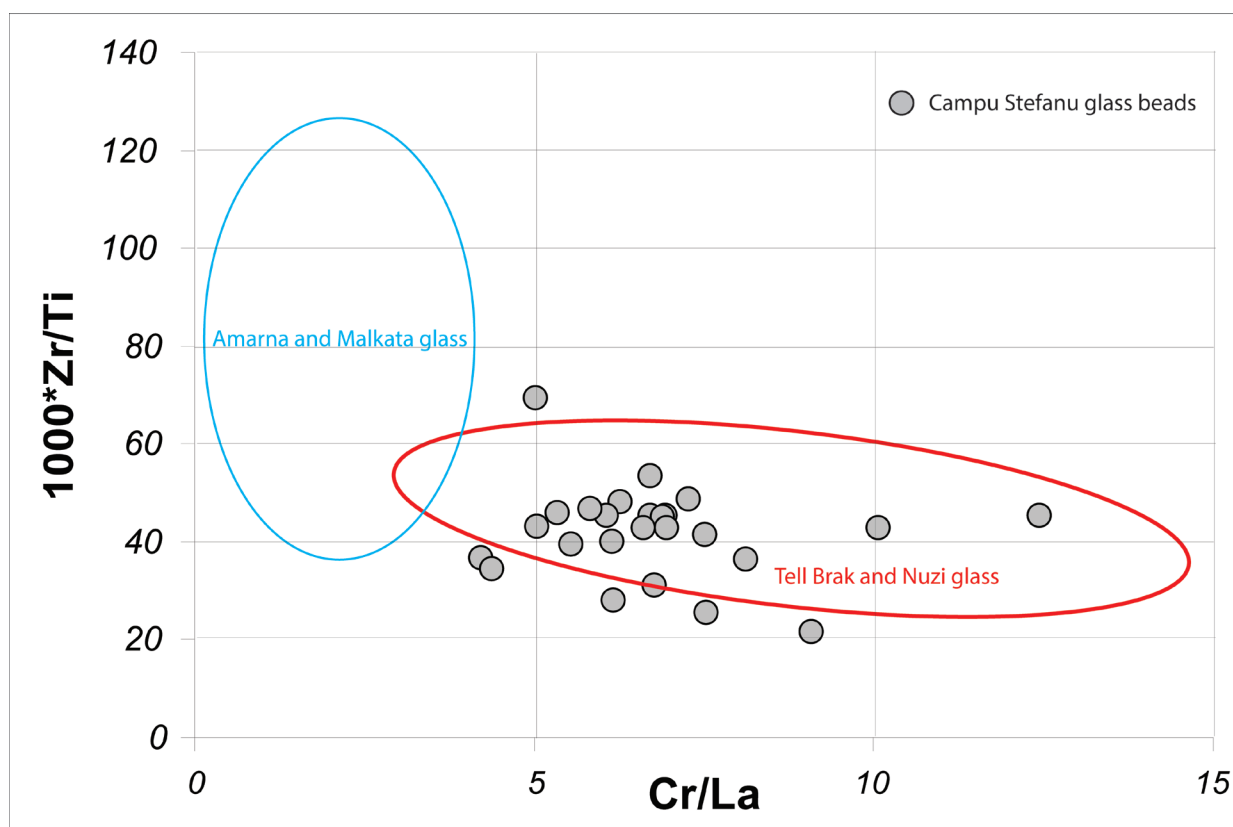


Fig. 11. Comparison of chromium/lanthanum and zirconium/titanium concentration ratios of Campu Stefanu glass beads with those of Egyptian and Mesopotamian glasses analysed by A.J. Shortland

Ryc. 11. Porównanie zawartości chromu/lantanu i cyrkonu/tytanu w szklanych paciorkach z Campu Stefanu z zawartością tych pierwiastków w szklanych artefaktach pochodzących z Egiptu i Mezopotamii analizowanych przez A.J. Shortland

and characteristic for glass beads found on European Middle Bronze Age sites.

4. Conclusions

For several years, studies on the insular Bronze Age have mainly focused on fortified sites, essentially on the torre located inside the castelli (hillforts surrounded by one or several defensive walls). The excavations of Campu Stefanu are part of a new trend of research, interested in the evolution of open settlements; they disclosed a domestic ambiance, with hints of craft activities. The contrast with the hill settlements, whose typology was first established in the Taravu by the older works of R. Grosjean (1958) and then refined by J. Cesari (1989a; 1989b; 1992), is remarkable. Thus, the excavation of the structure number 2, situated in the middle of that open settlement, revealed in situ structures, for the first time in Corsica. It should be underlined that the parure discovered in shelter number 1 is contemporary with the last occupation phase of the structure number 2, which is interpreted as a dwelling.

This jewelry set reveals, for the first time in a reliable context, evidence about elements that were imported around the 13th century BC (1325-1188 Cal BC at 72.5% probability), which corresponds to the end of the Middle Bronze Age according to the chronology in use in Corsica (Pêche-Quilichini 2013). It should be reminded that the question of the arrival of exotic artifacts had already been raised, first at the occasion of the discovery of several isolated glass beads¹, then when a copper oxide ingot was found at Sant'Anastasia (Lo Schiavo 2006).

The individualization of these items had led to postulate the existence of some forms of contact between the natives and some Eastern Mediterranean ships, either directly or indirectly (through Sardinia). In effect, these remarks confirmed facts already observed half a century earlier in Sardinia (Cucuzza 2009; Ferrarese-Ceruti 1979; 1980; Lo Schiavo, Vagnetti 1993; Pompiani, Sorro 2011; Usai 2007) and in the whole Tyrrhenian basin (Cazzella, Recchia 2009; Vagnetti 1999), attesting the circulation, between

¹ At Filitosa, Foce and Tiresa (Gratuze *et al.* 2007).

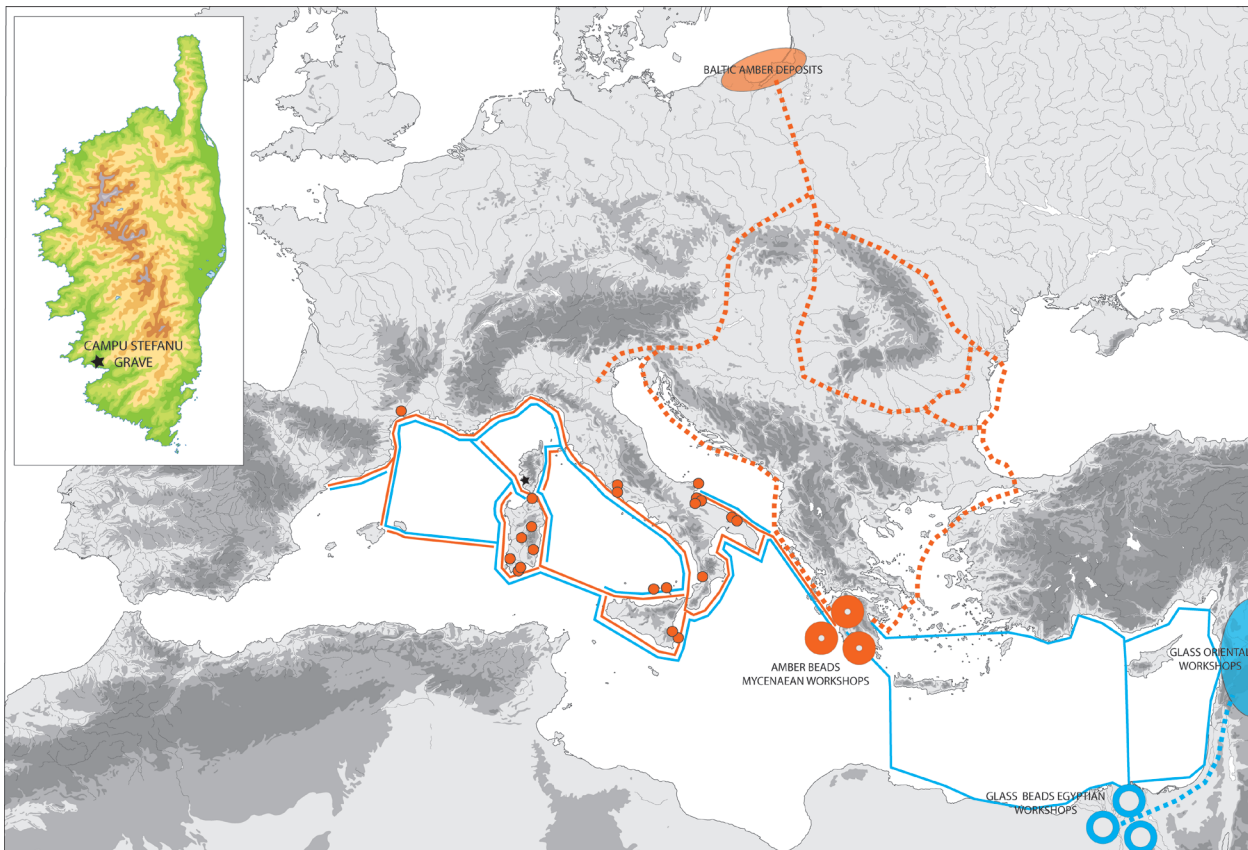


Fig. 12. Location of amber deposits, amber (orange colour) and glass (blue colour) workshops as well as supposed roads of distribution in relation to Baltic amber beads discoveries (orange points) and Campu Stefanu grave (black star)

Ryc. 12. Lokalizacja źródeł bursztyanu oraz warsztatów obróbki bursztyanu (kolor pomarańczowy) i szkła (kolor niebieski), a także przypuszczalnych szlaków ich dystrybucji w odniesieniu do znalezisk paciorków bursztynowych (pomarańczowe punkty) i grobu w Campu Stefanu (czarna gwiazdka)

the 16th and 17th centuries BC, of trade goods of Aegean (Cycladic, Minoan, then mostly Mycenaean), Egyptian, Cypriot, Phoenician and Eubean origin. The related discovery of the Campu Stefanu sets gives valuable information on the supply networks of semi-precious materials. The strict association of Baltic amber, probably worked in Greece, with Near-Eastern glass used to realize Egyptian style beads shows the complexity of the circumstances which lead to the convergence of those artifacts in southwestern Corsica, through an undetermined number of intermediaries. Given our current state of knowledge, the most credible hypothesis about the route used to import those goods may be conceived out of a morphological interpretation of the amber beads, which belong to the Myrsinochori type (Beck, Beck 1995: 122-123; Maran 2013), crafted in Messenian workshops² during the 15th and 14th centuries BC

(LHIIB/IIIA1), which would imply that the conception of the necklace (or of the bracelets) took place on Mycenaean territory; the glass elements of Egyptian origin may already have been included at this stage. The set was then assembled in southwestern Greece, the region which in average shows the most evidence of contacts with Western Mediterranean basin, through the installation of many craftsmen in Apulia and Calabria³. The chronology of the deposit of the shelter number 1 corresponds to the LHIIB. Given the potential multiplicity of the routes used by the Mycenaean transmitters in the Western Mediterranean basin (fig. 12), the introduction of these artifacts in Corsica may have been indirect and occurring at a later date.

² On the corpus of Mycenaean amber artifacts in the Peloponnese, see: Gaslain, Casanova 2009: 92-94.

³ See for instance: Buxeda *et al.* 2003 or Jones *et al.* 2005 on the phenomena of craft transfer in the field of ceramics. Currently, the hypothesis of an Aegean origin, in the context of an association of glass and amber, in the Middle Bronze Age, is collegially accepted for the Western Mediterranean basin (Bellintani 2010; Bellintani *et al.* 2012, and related bibliography).

The question of the presence of exotic objects in this Corsican grave in the middle of the Bronze Age is most likely related to the circulation, or even to the exchange practices, of prestige goods and exotica (Brysaert, Vettters 2013) between local chieftains. Such practices are documented in the whole Western Mediterranean basin from the second millennium BC (Gestoso Singer 2006; 2008; Lerouxel 2002); they are envisioned to have happened in the West, especially in Sardinia, as early as the late phase of the Middle Bronze Age (Bellintani *et al.* 2006; Lo Schiavo, Vagnetti 1993; Radina, Recchia 2006). Against this background, it must be underlined that the discoveries of amber and/or glass parures from the Nuragic Middle Bronze Age come essentially from funerary contexts⁴ (Atzeni *et al.* 2012; Bellintani, Usai 2012; Bellintani *et al.* 2012), as is the case with Campu Stefanu. Presently, due to the extreme complexity of the scenarios to be envisioned, this phenomenon cannot be further enquired (Jung, Mehofer 2013).

Anyway, these artifacts show that Corsica, nearly seven centuries before the Phocaeen Alalia foundation, already had relations with the emerging Greek world.

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Analiza bursztynowych i szklanych paciorków ze stanowiska środkowej epoki brązu w Campu Stefanu (Sollacero, Korsyka). Nowy dowód mykeńskich relacji z Korsyką?

Streszczenie

Wykopaliska na stanowisku z wczesnej i środkowej epoki brązu w Campu Stefanu, w południowo-zachodniej części Korsyki, w pobliżu znanego kompleksu megalitycznego w Filitosa, były prowadzone w latach 2005-2011 pod kierunkiem

J. Cesari. Badania dotyczyły pozostałości dużej chaty (struktura nr 2), wzniesionej w okresie wczesnej epoki brązu 2 oraz znajdującej się pierwotnie częściowo pod budynkiem naturalnej jaskini. Wykopaliska w obrębie tej ostatniej ujawniły kompletny układ stratygraficzny od poziomów mezolitycznych (pochówki siedmiu, lub ośmiu osobników) do końca epoki żelaza. Użytkowanie miejsca (składanie pochówków) właśnie w najmłodszym z okresów spowodowało częściowe zakłócenie stratygrafii. Badania zachowanego układu warstw przyniosło odkrycie elementów naszyjnika w postaci 29 paciorków wykonanych z żywicy kopalnej, 25 paciorków z substancji szklistej oraz niewielkiego metalowego pierścienia. Paciorki z żywicy kopalnej mają formę zbliżoną do typów charakterystycznych dla strefy egejskiej, dystrybuowanych w okresie późnohelladzkim IIB/III. W wyniku przeprowadzonych analiz ustalono, że paciorki te wykonano z bursztynu, prawdopodobnie pochodzącego ze złóż bałtyckich. Elementy wykonane z substancji szklistej przypominają natomiast paciorki odkrywane w innych częściach Korsyki (Filitosa, Foce, Tiresa), których pochodzenie surowca określono, przy pomocy analiz chemicznych, jako bliskowschodnie. Rezultaty badań nad znaleziskami z Campu Stefanu ujawniły bardzo zbliżone wyniki. Chronologia znalezisk na stanowisku określona została na podstawie datowań radiowęglowych, z prób pozyskanych z warstw ostatniej fazy użytkowania struktury 2 (ostatni okres środkowej epoki brązu, według lokalnej sekwencji dla wyspy). Identyfikacja wschodniego pochodzenia wyjątkowych znalezisk stanowi podstawę dyskusji nad rolą Korsyki w systemach wymiany łączących dwa krańce basenu Morza Śródziemnego. Ponadto dokonane odkrycie pozwala na bardziej precyzyjne opisanie formy potencjalnej mykeńskiej obecności na obszarze wysp zachodniej części Morza Śródziemnego.

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