

MIMOZA ZHORZHOLIANI

MATERIALS FROM ARTIFICIAL SETTLEMENT MOUNDS OF CENTRAL COLCHIS (TSKHENISTSKALI-GUBISTSKALI ORMDINARETI)

Scientific study of one of the types of the ancient Colchian sites of settlements, the artificial settlement mounds, the so-called "Gorikebi" started in 1930s.

Several tens of artificial settlement mounds ("hillocks") are identified as a result of exploratory works carried out in 1990s in the surroundings of the Rivers Tskhenistskali-Gubistskali, on Imereti lowland by the route archeological expedition of N.Berdzenishvili Kutaisi State Museum of History and Ethnography (current Kutaisi State Historical Museum).

These types of monuments are located either one by one or in the form of complexes near the rivers with which they connect by means of channels. The territories around the hillocks are criss-crossed with old systems of channels which, apparently (due to specific physical-geographical features of Colcheti Lowlands) was used for traveling, drainage and also for self-defense purposes.

There are well known accidental archeological discoveries (fragments of ancient buildings and ceramic items) to which (on the basis of functional and structural-typological analysis) parallels with the analogous type of various monuments of Colchis have been identified; therefore these fragments of ancient buildings and ceramic items can be dated as far back as the 1st millennium BCE.

The work carried out has demonstrated that the commencement of systematic archeological research in the above-mentioned region is appropriate.