

Short note

Gastropod Shells from Excavations of the "Antic Forum" Complex in the City Of Plovdiv (Bulgaria): IV-VI Century

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Abstract. Total of 35 shells were found and identified during the archeological excavations 2012-2014, studied Slavic dwellings-dugouts which reuse earlier structures of the roman forum in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. From both localities shells from 7 species of snails were found. Most of the shells were from two species: *Zebrina detrita* and *Helix philibinensis* - total of 28 shells, other were represented by 1-3 specimens per species. The lack of shell materials from *Eobania vermiculata* supports the theory of later introduction of this species in the city of Plovdiv.

Key words: archeology, Mollusca, late antic period, Plovdiv.

Introduction

During the archeological excavations 2012-2014, it is studied Slavic dwellings-dugouts which reuse earlier structures of the roman forum. Slavonic ceramics made by hand was found from home № 2 and was discovered a coin from Justin II and Sofia (565-578), which allows us to date the Slavic presence in the city in the third quarter of the VI century. Last emissions coins found the Roman Forum of Philippopolis minted during the reign of Emperor Flavius August Phocas (602-610). Upon the ruins of Slavic settlement was established a sediment layer about 20-25 cm thick, which contain river's sand and gravel, probably spill basin, where shells of molluscs were found. This situation is recorded in other sectors of the ancient Philippopolis, which gives us reason to assume that the city regions are spilled from the river Maritsa (KESYAKOVA, 2014). The

shell material collected during these excavations is described in this short note.

Material and Methods

Shells of gastropods were collected from two late antic layers (IV-VI century) and two localities at the archeological area of the "Antic Forum" complex in the city of Plovdiv (Bulgaria) in 2013 from the first author. Species were identified using comparative shell collection of the second author and deposited in his collection.

Results and Discussion

Total of 35 shells were found and identified:

I. "Forum-West", late antic layer, IV-V century (so called "Magazin №1 - south"):

Helix philibinensis Rossmässler, 1839: 1 ad. well preserved shell;

Zebrina detrita (O. F. Müller, 1774): 2 ad. (1 fragmented shell);

Planoris planorbis (Linnaeus, 1758): 1 ad. well preserved shell;

II. "Forum-West", late antic layer, V-VI century:

Cepaea vindobonensis (Férussac, 1821): 1 ad. fragmented shell;

Monacha cartusiana (O. F. Müller, 1774) - species complex: 3 ad. (2 fragmented, 1 well preserved shell);

Chondula microtragus (Rossmässler, 1839): 1 ad. well preserved shell;

Zebrina detrita (O. F. Müller, 1774): 18 ad. well preserved shells, 2 ad., and 10 juv. fragmented;

Helix philibinensis Rossmässler, 1839: 1 ad. well preserved shell, 1 ad., and 5 juv. fragmented;

Planorbarius corneus (Linnaeus, 1758): 1 juv. well preserved shell;

From both localities shells from 7 species of snails were found. Most of the

shells were from two species: *Zebrina detrita* and *Helix philibinensis* - total of 28 shells, other were represented by 1-3 specimens per species.

The lack of shell materials from *Eobania vermiculata* supports the theory of later introduction of this species in Plovdiv city.

The presence of freshwater species could be one of the evidences of periodical floods on the human settlements at the area of the "Antic Forum" complex.

References

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