



Tepe Gryashan. Late Chalcolithic Pottery from the Region of Sanandaj, Western Iran

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Tepe Gryashan. Late Chalcolithic Pottery from the Region of Sanandaj, Western Iran

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Abstract: This paper presents the first results of a study of pottery evidence from a new archaeological project being conducted at the site of Tepe Gryashan located in the province of Kurdistan, western Iran. The collected pottery, including Sprig ware-like sherds and Flint-scraped Coba bowls, are rare evidence of material culture contact with northern Mesopotamia from the early Late Chalcolithic period.

Introduction

This paper presents new evidence for the Late Chalcolithic (LC) period from the region of Sanandaj, which lies in the centre of the province of Kurdistan in western Iran. Investigations at the site of Tepe Gryashan have revealed intriguing evidence of material culture contact with northern Mesopotamia dating to the early LC period (approx. 4500-4000 BCE). Archaeological investigations, the most recent of which took place in February 2019, provide evidence of pottery cultures that are well known in northern Mesopotamia, including Sprig ware and Coba bowls.

Kurdistan province and the early late Chalcolithic period

From an archaeological point of view, the province of Kurdistan represents one of the least understood regions of Iran, despite the fact that a growing number of archaeological investigations conducted by Iranian archaeologists have started to shed light on the historical significance of these westernmost regions of the country (see e.g. Binandeh *et al.* 2012; Motarjem and Sharifi 2015; Sharifi and Motarjem 2018; Saed Mucheshi *et al.* 2012 and 2017; Nobari *et al.* 2012; and Zamani Dadaneh *et al.* 2019).