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INSIGHT INTO PRODUCTION AND MARITIME TRADE OF METALS 3200 YEARS AGO: NEW STUDIES ON THE CAPE GELIDONYA SHIPWRECK



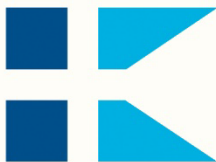
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KUDAR

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The archaeological significance of the discovery and excavation of the Cape Gelidonya shipwreck near Kumluca on the southwest Anatolian coastline is multifold. First, dating to the end of the Bronze Age (ca. 1200 BC), it is one of the very few excavated shipwrecks from the Bronze Age Mediterranean. Second, with its raw copper ingots and scrap copper alloy artifacts, the ship's cargo constitutes one of the largest metal assemblages from the Bronze Age, making it one of our most valuable sources of information on the production and trade of copper and bronze, the most crucial raw materials of the period. Finally, the excavation of the wreck in 1960 by George Bass was the first complete recovery of a shipwreck, and the first direct application of the methodologies of terrestrial excavations under the water, marking the birth of underwater archaeology as a new research discipline. In this paper, we present the preliminary results from a recent research program on the metal cargo of the Cape Gelidonya shipwreck, incorporating typological investigations, 3D object modelling and archaeometrical examinations including metallography, elemental analyses, lead isotope analyses and copper isotope analyses of ingots and ingot fragments.