



Aerial view of Dymokastro

MINISTRY OF CULTURE
32ND EPHORATE OF PREHISTORIC
AND CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF
DYMOKASTRO



*Female figurine (3rd - 2nd cent. BC),
black-painted skyphos (3rd - 2nd cent. BC)
and lamp (mid 4th cent. BC)*



*Bronze Epirotic coin
(234 -168 BC)*



*Silver Corinthian coin
(4th - 3rd cent. BC)*

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Head of horse figurine (3rd - 2nd cent. BC)

Erēmokastro, Elinokastro or Elimokastro, D(ē)ymokastro are modern place-names assigned to the coastal fortified settlement founded during the second half of the fourth century BC. The site occupies an oblong hill to the south of Karavostasi Bay near Perdika of Thesprotia. The existing ruins have been tentatively identified by Nicholas Hammond and Sotiris Dakaris with ancient Elina, the seat of the Thesprotian tribe of Elinoi, which inhabited, roughly, the area delimited by present-day Margariti, Plataria and Perdika.

The settlement flourished during the Hellenistic Period until its devastation by the Romans in 167 BC. However, contrary to the rest of the Thesprotian fortified sites, which were completely abandoned, habitation at Dymokastro continued well into the first century AD. This was probably due to its key coastal position, securing control over maritime routes along the Ionian Sea.



Fragment of votive relief (2nd - 1st cent. BC)

Dymokastro, covering an area of 22 hectares, is divided in three sectors, built on consecutive plateaus along the hill and enclosed within successive fortification circuits. During the time of its foundation, habitation was restricted to the smooth and leveled eastern part of the hill, where the -conventionally called- "citadels" A



Cistern on the northern part of "citadel" A

and B are situated. In Hellenistic times, the enceinte was expanded in order to include the western sector ("citadel" C), where the wall descended to the coast, protecting thus, the ancient port.

Rather than being organized along the lines of a rigid urban plan, the layout of the settlement follows the natural configuration. The positioning of the buildings does not follow a uniform pattern, while the buildings themselves - mainly private houses - are quite distinct from each other, in terms of their ground plan, size and structural details.

At Dymokastro, no clearly demarcated area of an Agora (a commercial and/or civic centre) has been traced: a stoa, housing



Sherd of hellenistic skyphos with relief decoration

the commercial activities taking place within the settlement and a small shrine are the only public buildings excavated so far.

One remarkable feature of the site is the presence of three rock-hewn round cisterns for the collection and storage of rainwater.

Outside the fortification walls, on the foothill of the site, is located a burial mound, which forms part of the settlement's ancient cemetery.

The project for the enhancement of the archaeological site began in 2002, with funds from the Regional Operation Programme of Epirus within the Third Communal Support Framework and is due for completion in the autumn of 2008. The work, focused on the two upper "citadels" of the settlement, includes clearing away dense vegetation, removing rubble piles and surface soil, which cover the fortifications and the ancient structures, as well as opening pathways for the visitors. With the beginning of the second phase of the Programme, in the summer of 2006, additional funds were procured to facilitate the conservation of movable finds, the necessary stabilization and restoration of the ancient monuments, as well as the construction of protective shelters.



Roman transport amphora



Frog figurine



Miniature stone altar

The "citadel" A of the settlement



Head of hellenistic female figurine



Small close vessel (3rd cent. BC)