



GITANA THESPROTIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GUIDE



Ekaterini Kanta - Kitsou

ISBN 978-960-98656-4-7



PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

MINISTRY OF CULTURE
32ND EPHORATE OF PREHISTORIC AND CLASSICAL ANTIQUITIES OF THESPROTIA

GITANA THESPROTIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL GUIDE

Ekaterini Kanta - Kitsou



ATHENS 2008

GENERAL SUPERVISION

Ekaterini Kanta – Kitsou, archaeologist, Director of the 32nd E.P.C.A.

TEXTS

Christina Gania, archaeologist

Eleftheria Christodoulou, archaeologist

TEXT EDITING

Vasiliki Lambrou, archaeologist of the 32nd E.P.C.A.

PHOTOGRAPHS

32nd E.P.C.A. archive

Stefanos Stournaras

Petros Konstantopoulos

GROUND PLANS

Charoula Gogolou, designer

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Miltiadis Gogolos, graphic designer

TRANSLATION

Th. C. Bouchelos, I.E. Saridakis

Vasiliki Lamprou (photograph titles)

PRINTING

Vatiras New Media Solution



*PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND*

© Ministry of Culture

32nd Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of Thesprotia

Kyprou 68, Igoumenitsa

Tel.: 26650 29177 - 26650 29178

Fax: 26650 25133

E-mail: lbepka@culture.gr

ISBN: 978-960-98656-4-7

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	5
Thesprotia – General historical context	7
Archaeological sites along the course of Kalamas river	15
Gitana	16
• Historical evidence	16
• Later travellers	16
• Identification - Name	17
• Background of the archaeological site	19
The selection of the site	19
Earlier inhabitation	19
Foundation of the city of Gitana	20
Initial form and development of the city	22
Later interventions	24
The survey	24
• The archaeological site – The surviving monuments	27
Fortification	27
The settlement: urban organisation	38
• The most important monuments of Gitana	49
Agora	49
«Building B»	52
«Small Temple»	53
«Building C»	54
Prytaneion – Archives	55
«Building F»	59
Theatre	59
Cemeteries	61
• The mobile finds	67
• The value enhancement works	71
Bibliography	75



An aerial photograph of a lush green landscape. In the upper right, a river flows through a valley. The surrounding hills are covered in dense green vegetation. The foreground shows a mix of green fields and some rocky patches.

Preface

Ancient Gitana was built on the south-western part of the Vrysella hillock, in the Municipality of Filiates and is beyond any doubt the most significant settlement in Thesprotia during the late Classical and Hellenistic period. It was extensive and populous, organised according to the Hippodamian urban system and protected by strong fortifications; it served as political centre for the Thesprotians during their period of flourishing until its destruction by the Romans in 167 BC.

Although the ruins of its impressive fortifications have been located and identified from as early as the 19th century, it wasn't until the mid 1980's that the first systematic clearing and excavating works actually took place. By that time, this exceptionally valuable archaeological site was inaccessible to both researchers and the public, reserved only to the local herders and their animals, since the area is an excellent pasture. This picture of abandonment was also shared with the other –largely unknown to the scientific community- large fortified settlements of Thesprotia (Elea, Doliani, Dymokastro).

This situation changed rapidly over the past few years, with the inclusion of the Thesprotia main archaeological sites rehabilitation and value enhancement projects in the 3rd CSF Epirus ROP, which secured the necessary funding which would ensure their accessibility as well as the protection and promotion of their monuments. The aim of all implemented projects was to upgrade the cultural infrastructure and cultural values of Thesprotia -a degraded frontier area- through the creation of a network of archaeological sites and monuments that are open to the public.

The Gitana archaeological site value enhancement works took place from October 2003 until December 2008 in the framework of the project entitled “Value enhancement – Rehabilitation of the Archaeological site of Gitani, Thesprotia”. With the completion of these works, citizens are presented with a modern and well-organised archaeological site, accessible by and friendly to visitors, equipped with all necessary infrastructures that ensure the protection of both its visitors and its antiquities. So, after centuries of abandonment, ancient Gitana takes the place it so rightfully deserves among the most significant archaeological sites of Western Greece.

The successful outcome of the effort to enhance the value of the archaeological site would not have been feasible without the valuable contribution of many individuals, who worked zealously and, often, with self-denial to materialise this aim: archaeologists, architects, designers, graphic designers, agriculturalist etc. Particular mention is also worth to the field workers, who worked hard on site, in order to achieve the result that we enjoy today. I am deeply thankful to all of them.

Ekaterini Kanta - Kitsou

Director of the 32nd Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

The main archaeological sites of Thesprotia in the classical-hellinistic period



ALBANIA
ALBANIA

ΥΠΟΜΝΗΜΑ (LEGEND)

- ▲ Θέσεις κλασικής ελληνιστικής εποχής
Sites of classical and hellinistic period
- Κύριοι οικισμοί Ν. Θεσπρωτίας
Main settlements of Thesprotia P.
- Σύνορα Ελλάδας - Αλβανίας
Greek-albanian borders



Thesprotia – General historical context

Thesprotia, even though it was one of the first places of settlement of Hellenic tribes, already since the early 2nd millennium BC, did not have a central role in terms of the cultural and historical developments of Hellenism until the late Classical period.

The Thesprotians were one of the three largest tribal groups in Epirus, together with the Molossians and the Chaonians. Before the Molossians actually settled in Epirus (1100 BC), it is probable that they occupied the entire continental coast facing Corfu, up to the mountain range of Pindos. Until the 5th century BC, their settlement was limited east of the plain of Ioannina. During the 5th century BC, river Kalamas marked the frontier between Thesprotia and Cestrini, an area within the Chaonian sphere of influence. At the time, the sanctuary of Dodona and the Necromanteion of Acheron, i.e. the two sanctuaries of Epirus with a Greece-wide influence, were part of the Thesprotian territory.

New territorial arrangements took place afterwards, with the annexation of Dodona by the Molossians, the independence of the Thesprotian tribe of the Cassopaeans (between Amvrakikos gulf and Acheron river) and the annexation of southern Cestrini (i.e. an area between Kalamas and Pavlas rivers) by the Thesprotians. These re-arrangements finalised the borders of Thesprotia, during the 4th century BC, within an area more or less identical to the contemporary territory of Thesprotia, and a small part of the now south Albanian territory.

Based on ancient sources, by the late 5th – early 4th century BC, the residents of Thesprotia were organised in smaller tribes and lived in unfortified cities, allied into a unified tribal state, in which the tribal kingdom had already ceded its place to the elected power of the protector from as early as the 5th century. Their economy relied basically on agriculture and stock-farming. Their few contacts with other parts of Greece were ensured mainly by Elean, Corinthian and Corfiot immigrants, who had settled along the Epirus coastline already during the Archaic period (8th -6th century BC).

Ever since they first settled the area, the Thesprotians were under Corinthian influence, even though the presence of Corfiot colonies at the Delta of Kalamas river (Mastilitsa, Lygia, Pyrgos Ragiou) would complicate their stance in the course of the Peloponnesian war events. At the time, Thesprotia was the theatre of war conflicts, as the naval battle of Syvota took place on its coastline.

The centuries that followed, from the late Classical and Hellenistic years until the Roman conquest of Epirus in 167 BC, mark a period of prosperity, not



The late classical - hellenistic settlement of Elea, Paramythia.



The late classical - hellenistic seaside settlement of Dymokastro (ancient Elina).

only for Thesprotia, but for the entire region of Epirus as well. The historical conjunctures (the Peloponnesian war, the decline of the city-state, the rise of wider political alliances and the gradual displacement of the centre of influence towards northern Greece) placed the Thesprotians amidst new and radical developments, such as their political organisation (establishment of the Koinon of the Thesprotians during the second half of the 4th century BC and participation in the Epirotic League), the foundation, for the first time in their history, of fortified towns with elements of urbanisation, i.e. a phenomenon accompanied by an impressive population growth, the introduction of writing, coinages and the potter's wheel.

The foundation of Elea, destined to become the centre of the Eleatans, the strongest Thesprotian tribe (mid 4th century BC), was followed by the coalition of the remaining Thesprotian tribes around fortified cities, such as Elina and Fanoti, i.e. two areas currently identified as the locations of the remains of ancient Dymokastro and Doliani, respectively. At that time, Gitana was also founded, at the limits of the Delta and north of the basin of river Kalamas, with the aim to become the capital city of the Koinon and to fortify both its position and the prevalence of the Thesprotians in the recently annexed southern Cestrini.

However, the newly established Thesprotian state hardly managed to plan



Roman Nikopolis. The Odeion.

an independent course of action. The Macedonian involvement in Epirus, starting with the marriage of Philip II of Macedon to Olympias (357 BC) and hence his connection with the Molossian royal family, and continuing with the enthronement of Olympias' brother, Alexander I the Molossian and the ceding to the latter of the Elean colonies of Cassopaea (343/2 BC) contributed to the further strengthening of the Molossians. The establishment of the Molossian Alliance (342 BC), in which also participated the Thesprotians, as well as other Epirus tribes, marked the acknowledgement of the Molossian supremacy. The Alliance, headed by Alexander I, was soon renamed to Epirus Alliance, after the end of the war operations of Alexander in Italy (334-331 BC).

This formation, despite having been initially created as a defence alliance, was soon transformed into a type of federal state, in which the Molossian kings had enhanced and concentrated powers. At that time, the term "Epirus nation" was first coined. The concentrationism of power peaked at the time of the descendants and successors (epigones) of Alexander the Great, at the time of Pyrrhus' reign (293 – 272 BC). The latter managed to impose himself as one of the most powerful Hellenistic sovereigns of the Hellenic area, with expansionist views to Sicily and southern Italy. During the years of his reign, Epirus reaches the peak of its prosperity, while its territory extends from Epidamnus in southern Illyria to the Gulf of Corinth. Moreover, an explosive



The burial chamber of the roman villa in Zavali, Igoumenitsa.

construction activity is observed, that focuses on the construction of a defence network of forts and guardhouses. This network, along with the older fortified locations, covers the entire Thesprotian territory and extends along the coastal zone, the rivers and its mountain ranges (e.g. Mourgana, mountains of Paramythia and Souli).

The unstable period of the descendants of Pyrrhus, during which pressure was put on the Epirus state by the Illyrians and the Aetolians, ended with the anti-monarchic movement that led to the definitive abolition of kingship and the emergence of the federal state of the Koinon of the Epirotes (232-167 BC).

During the period of the Koinon, the Thesprotians participated actively and had representatives in various offices. Moreover, there is evidence that Gitana had also hosted some assemblies of the Koinon. Generally speaking, this was a period of unrest, with Epirus at the centre of events during the second and third Peloponnesian wars.

The active involvement of the Epirotes in the third Macedonian war (172-167 BC), with their occasionally unstable stance and, generally speaking, the separation of the north-western (mainly Chaonians) and eastern Epirus tribes (Molossians and a significant number of Thesprotians) between Romans and Macedonians respectively, resulted in the brutal Roman reprisals of 167 BC, after the ultimate defeat of Perseus in Pydna by the troops of Aemilius Paulus



The port facilities of the late roman - early christian settlement in Ladochori, Igoumenitsa.

on June 22, 168 BC. Within a few hours, and despite having surrendered, no less than seventy Epirus cities were simultaneously destroyed. This event was further accompanied by unprecedented massacres and the transfer of thousands of hostages and loots to Rome. These events are described in detail by the historian Polybius, also a hostage in Rome, who attributes the destruction primarily to Charops the Younger of Thesprotia and his ambivalent stance.

After the Roman conquest, king Charops imposed a regime of terror, with the generalised massacre of citizens and the seizure of properties. The centre of this regime was Phoenice of Chaonia, capital of the Koinon of the Epirotes that functioned also after 167 BC. For some time, the Koinon appeared divided into two Koina, one “around Phoenice” and one of “demeaned areas” respectively, and was later rejoined, after Charops’ death.

The re-unification of Epirus marked the return of many hostages from Rome. Nevertheless, the population was already shrinking, economy and social structures had been reorganised and the Thesprotian cities were declining. More in particular, the financial condition of the local populations was also burdened by the installation of large Roman farms in the plains, after the conquest. Following the total destruction of Corinth by the Romans, in 146 BC, Greece was transformed into a Roman province, and Epirus became part of the province of Macedonia, preserving its political institutions only on the provincial level of administration.

A second and equally harsh period of turmoil, between 88 and 86 BC, completed the dismal picture of catastrophe, i.e. the pillages suffered during the raid of Mithridates VI Eupator against the Romans. Even later, the area of Epirus was the theatre of Roman civil conflicts, between the Caesar and Pompey (49-48 BC) and, subsequently, between Octavianus Augustus and Antonius, peaking with the naval battle in Actium (31 BC).

The settlement of these large troops in Epirus resulted in the outbreak of famines, while the outcome of conflicts had also more permanent consequences, such as the desolation of the countryside and the gradual abandonment of cities and forts, as evidenced by Strabo and archaeological finds. Initially, on the Caesar’s initiative, an organised programme of Roman immigration was initiated, with the installation of new farms and the establishment of colonies, such as Fotiki in the area of Paramythia.

However, it seems that the cities were abandoned definitely, as a result of the imposition of the Pax Romana, after the prevalence of Octavianus. The desolation of the Thesprotian cities was intensified further by the compulsory joint urban development with Nicopolis, a city founded in the area of Preveza to commemorate the victory in Actium, and having developed hugely,

considering the area's history.

Ever since, and despite the fact that inhabitation is pursued within many of the unfortified settlements of the countryside, of all Thesprotian cities, only Doliani (ancient Fanoti) is still inhabited. Moreover, the abandonment of cities results in the dissolution of the Koinon of the Epirotes, while Epirus is partitioned between the province of Macedonia and Achaia. Administratively wise, Thesprotia was part of the latter.

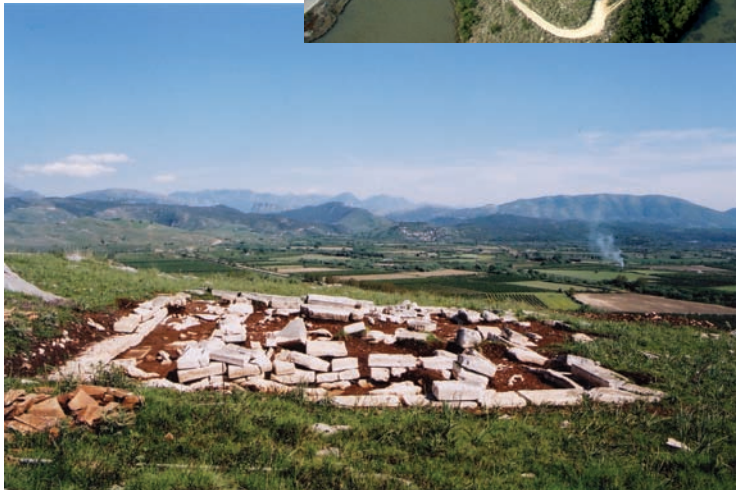
The Imperial years, until 250 AD, is a period of relative stability, during which the Roman immigrants were active in the plains and along the coastline, and improved the conditions of the primary sector production and of the trade to their benefit, while also adapting to local customs. During the 2nd century AD, the commercially-oriented organised settlement of Ladochori was founded in the gulf of Igoumenitsa, while Fotiki functioned as a prosperous local administrative centre. Epirus became a distinct province, centred in Nicopolis.

The subsequent years mark a period of turmoil (mid 3rd – mid 6th century), during which the raids of the Goths were a permanent threat, resulting in the abandonment of the most important centres and the gradual decline of the entire area of Epirus.



The small fort of Pyrgos Ragiou (Tower of Ragion), in use from the classical to the ottoman periods.

*The classical - hellenistic
settlement of Lygia.*



*Ruins of an archaic -
classical temple in
Mastilitsa.*

The fort of Raveni.



Archaeological sites along the course of Kalamas river

The Kalamas River (Thyamis in Ancient Greece) was a significant waterway, connecting the shores of Thesprotia in the Ionian Sea, with the hinterland of Epirus, from the prehistoric until the post-Byzantine period.

Kalamas was navigable along most part of its course. During the Late Classical and, mainly, the Hellenistic period (4th-2nd centuries BC), the river concentrated a series of settlement sites along its course, thus contributing to the urban development of Thesprotia and to the movement of people and goods during this period.

Along the course, from the estuary of the river in the Ionian Sea, until the borderline between Thesprotia and Ioannina, significant cities were located (Gitana, settlements of Lygia and Doliani), as well as small settlements, both fortified and unfortified (Mastilitsa, Pyrgos Ragiou, Raveni, Vrosyna, Osdina, Skala Zorianou). In particular, the fortified sites of Lygia, Pyrgos Ragiou and Mastilitsa in the Kalamas river estuary are believed to be colonies established by Corfu, parts of the wider Corfian settlement (“Corfiot Peraia”) mentioned by Thucydides.



The fortified settlement of Doliani (ancient Fanoti), inhabited from the late classical to the ottoman periods.

Gitana

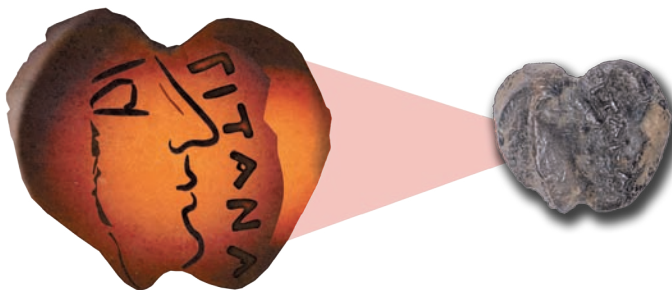
Historical evidence

The first reference to the city of Gitana is by the Greek historian Polybius (204-114 BC), who wrote his book during the time of his captivity in Rome. More in particular, he mentions that at the beginning of the year 170 BC, the Roman consul Hostilius, being in charge of the Roman troops that would cross Epirus to move into Thessaly, settled in the house of Nestoras Kropios in Fanoti. From there, following Kropios' advice informing him about the forthcoming attempt of the Molossians Theodotos and Philostratos to capture him and deliver him to king Perseus, Hostilius changed his course and arrived in Gitana (Gitana) during the night, before sailing to Antikyra, in the Gulf of Corinth, and from there to Thessaly (Polybius 27.16.4 – 6).

Also, the Roman historian Livy (Titus Livius) (59 BC-17 AD) mentions that, in 172 BC, two Roman emissaries arrived in the city, located at a distance of 10 Roman miles from the sea. They addressed the general assembly of the Thesprotians and ensured their commitment for 400 men, who were sent to Orestae, in order to protect them from the Macedonians (Livy 42.38.1).

Later travellers

The subsequent references to Gitana are attributable to Greek and foreign travellers of the 19th century (François Pouqueville, Henry Holland, Emile Isambert, Panayiotis Aravantinos, etc.), who visited the city's ruins, an area that until then was known as Paleovenetia. The descriptions of the ruins include references to the fortifications, in which they distinguished Greek, Roman and later repairs, the roads, the remains of houses and of later-built churches.



*Clay sealing from
the Prytaneion with
the inscription
GITANA (GITANA).*

Identification - Name

The ancient city of Gitana was considered as related with its ruins, already by the 19th century foreign travellers, based on evidence provided by Polybius and Livy. In the course of time, its identification, accepted also by all of the 20th century travellers, was confirmed by inscriptions discovered in situ.

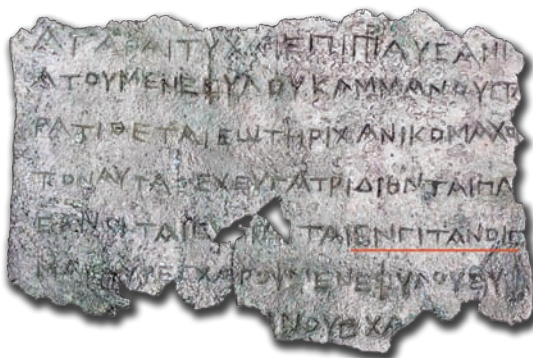
The first stone inscription, discovered in the 1960s in the area of the Kalamas dam, NW of the ancient town, relates to a mid 4th century BC manumission decree. The inscription mentions the Koinon of the Thesprotians prostates (protector) institution and Themis, the goddess to whom the liberated slave was dedicated.

Later, during the excavation of the city's Prytaneion – archival building, on the SW edge of the settlement - two clay sealings, out of a total of about 3,000 discovered in the area, bear the inscription “TITANA”. However, the area's identification was confirmed definitely with the discovery of a bronze votive inscription in the small two-room temple of the western part of the settlement, where the name of the city is clearly marked (“EN GITANOIS”).

As pertains to the settlement's exact name, there had been many assumptions in the past. The form Gitana appears both in Polybius (“μετελθεῖν εἰς Γίταναν τῆς νυκτός” - “[...] made him at once leave for Gitana by night”) and in Livy (“ad Gitana”), in whose text the plural form of the name is confirmed.

However, S. Dakaris, approaching the issue of the name in a manner analogous to that of Titani in the area of Corinth, erroneously considered that the name “Gitana” was a corrupted form of Titani. His assumption was based on the fact that the town was partially built on a limestone layer (anc. “τιτανόλιθος” – titan stone). After the recovery of the sealings, and analogously to Titani, the name “Gitana” was considered a Doric singular form of the name “Gitana” and was adopted by the scientific community.

The recent discovery of the votive inscription of the temple has ascertained the ancient name Gitana, which is expected to substitute eventually the erroneous type Gitani.



Bronze inscription from the «Small Temple» with the name of the city (EN GITANOIS, i.e. in Gitana)



Aerial view of Gitana and Kalamas river.

Panoramic view of the Kalamas delta from the top of Vrysella. The coast of Corfu is in the background.



Background of the archaeological site

The selection of the site. The fortified late Classical/Hellenistic town of Gitana is built on the SW edge of the elongate hill of Vrysella, north of the river Kalamas basin, at its confluence with its tributary, Kalpakiotikos, and at a distance of approximately one kilometre from the modern hydroelectric dam. It is located in the periphery of the river Kalamas deltaic plain, at a distance of approximately eight kilometres from the sea. The greatest part of the settlement extends on a low, pebble-rock limestone plateau (altitude: 30-80m), surrounded on three of its sides by the basin of river Kalamas. On the northeast, the fortification includes the SW edge (altitude: 183m) of the limestone volume of Vrysella.

Even though the area's terrain is peculiar, when compared to the remaining Epirus ancient settlements that generally occupy the top of a hill, the location is naturally fortified, as it is protected by the river's meanders and Vrysella on the northeast. From a distance, the settlement is hardly visible –if at all-, owing to the many hills that surround it. This was the reason why, apart from the direct protection, the edge of Vrysella was included in the fortification, as it offers a perfect panoramic view of the river Kalamas downstream area and its deltaic plain, of the northern Thesprotian coastline and of Corfu. It does offer, also, a direct visual contact with the coastal fortifications of Mastilitsa, Pyrgos Ragiou and Lygia.

Earlier inhabitation. The location of the area, privileged in terms of the protection it offers and its proximity to natural resources, contributed to its early inhabitation, already during the prehistoric times, as suggested by the discovery of flint blades and prehistoric pottery in the greater area. More in particular, during the rescue excavation performed in the cemetery area in order to erect a visitors' building within the archaeological site, a variety of handmade prehistoric potsherds were discovered in the lower brown-red ground layer.





Building remains under «Building E» in the agora.

With very few exceptions, the lower archaeological layers of the settlement have yet to be surveyed, resulting in an unclear picture in terms of the area's probable inhabitation before the fortification and the foundation of the city during the second half of the 4th century BC.

Foundation of the city of Gitana. Until the 5th century BC, the area, as part of southern Kestrini, was in the sphere of influence of the Chaonians. After the establishment of the Koinon of the Thesprotians, most probably somewhat after the mid 4th century BC, and after the area was annexed by the Thesprotians, the city of Gitana was founded, with the aim to become the seat of the Koinon.

The fact that the town was the political centre of the Thesprotians is confirmed both by the inscription of the manumission decree that mentions the Koinon prostates, as well as by the existence of a theatre and a coin mint, its impressive size and its location. Whether the city was a religious centre of the



Thesprotians as well has not been confirmed yet by the archaeological research.

The selection of the actual location, apart from enhancing the control of the Thesprotians over the newly annexed southern Kestrini, had also its strategic, political and economic implications. The location, apart from being naturally protected, was a nodal point, controlling the outflow of river Kalamas into the sea. Kalamas was the main route of communication with the hinterland and linked the city with the rest of the fortified Thesprotian settlements located along its downstream areas (e.g. Skala Aetou, Doliani, Raveni). At that time, the river was navigable. Moreover, in addition to the commercial activities offered by the communication with the sea, the city controlled the largest Thesprotian plain (river Kalamas delta), while in its territory belonged also part of the plain of Kestrini, which was famous for its ox.

Contrary to other Thesprotian settlements (e.g. Elea, Elina, Fanoti), that borrowed their name from the tribes that gathered around their locations, Gitana is not apparently connected to any particular tribe. Moreover, its territory linked two regions which, before its foundation, were separated by Kalamas between Thesprotia and Chaonia. The foundation of the city was based on political grounds, on the part of the newly established Koinon of the Thesprotians. Despite all this, an important element of the city must have been that of the Kammanes (or Kestrinoi), as mentioned on the temple votive inscription.

The foundation of Gitana is also considered determinant for the single and extremely limited coinage of the Koinon of the Thesprotians (335-330/325 BC), that adopted the coin symbols of the Eleatans, i.e. the first Thesprotian tribe that circulated a coin between 360 and 335 BC. The coin symbols –head of Persephone with a wreath of wheat on the obverse and the three-headed Cerberus on the reverse– are directly related to the worship of Persephone and Hades by the Thesprotians in the Necromanteion of Acheron. This was the Thesprotians' principal worship, after the loss of the sanctuary of Dodona.





*Coin from Elea
(360 - 335 B.C.).*

Initial form and development of the city. Ever since its foundation, the city was fortified using a strong outer compound with a polygonal wall, reinforced with towers and retrenchments, surrounding an area of 287,000m². Based on evidence known so far, the city was initially planned based on the Hippodamian construction pattern, oriented from the N/NE to the S/SW. The only known remains of buildings, dating before the known planning of the city and built with a slightly diverging orientation, were discovered beneath «Building E», west of the stoa of the Agora, as well as beneath the Prytaneion of the city, on the SW edge of the settlement.

Apparently, the settlement was built over its entire fortified area, even on the hill of Vrysella, and with the exclusion of some steep slopes on the SE side. Based on the surface area and the inhabitation density, it is estimated that the settlement's inhabitants would have been more than 6,000 at the time of its peak. Moreover, remains of buildings outside the fortified area have also been discovered SW of the theatre and in the area of the cemetery, in the visitors' building area. However, the usage of these buildings has not yet been ascertained.

It is unknown whether inhabitation was spread over the entire settlement from the beginning, or whether the city was gradually inhabited until the Hellenistic years. What is certain, however, is that around the mid 3rd century BC, at the time the Koinon of the Epirotes was governed by the descendants of Pyrrhus, building activity was far from insignificant, and included the erection of the theatre and the urban planning of the Agora. West of the fortified settlement, a bailey was erected in parallel to the theatre, to protect the latter and the entire riverside area. The bailey connected the NW edge of the fortification with the river bank.

The dominating location of the agora, on the foot of Vrysella and east of the main entrance of the settlement, had probably been included in the initial planning of the city, even though there is no evidence on how it was initially formed. Generally, as was also the case with the other agoras in Greece, that were enclosed by stoas, the Gitana agora was arranged with the erection of a stoa on its northern side and, most probably –given that it has not yet been dated with precision–, the construction of an elongate shop complex on the southern side. Some time later, a two-room construction was erected on the narrow western side of the stoa («Building E»). It is probable that the rooms

of the building functioned as an ambry and a sanctuary of Apollo Agyieus, respectively.

The road of the agora extending in front of the shop complex led, on the east, to the south-eastern riverside entrance of the fortification, outside which the city harbour facilities would have been located.

There is not sufficient evidence available on the extent of the use of the city's cemetery, northwest of the fortified settlement, for each time period. However, it is known that the cemetery also extended outside the fenced archaeological site, alongside river Kalamas and its tributary, Kalpakiotikos, at a distance of more than one kilometre.

The city's initial Hippodamian planning was later modified by means of interventions, which seem to have focused on the western part of the settlement. The spatial re-arrangement seems to have been imposed also by the erection of a partition wall that isolated this part, with an area of 51,000m², from the remaining parts of the settlement, leaving the agora area outside.

As pertains its construction, the partition wall dates roughly after the 3rd century BC. The planning of its course, however, extending over the foundations of older buildings and crossing diagonally building blocks and roads, leads to the assumption that it was actually built after a disaster. This is suggested also by a newer construction phase, found inside the partition wall sector. The hypothesis that the partition wall would have been constructed after the Roman destruction of 167 BC is now particularly attractive, despite the previous general belief that the settlement had been definitely abandoned after the raids.

It is probable that the area's population, which had already dropped significantly as a result of the Roman conquest, was restricted within the partition wall sector. Mobile finds point also to this conclusion: even though the end of the use of the agora and the theatre is thought to have been 167 BC, it is arguably suggested that, on the contrary, the city's inhabitation within the partition wall was pursued until the end of the second period of operation of the Koinon of the Epirotes (167-27 BC). The duration of the settlement's



*Silver coin of the Roman Republic
(20c cent. B.C.).*



*Bronze coin of the
Epirotic Koinon
(167 - 27 B.C.).*

inhabitation is also suggested by the finds in the area of the cemetery, that date until the 1st century BC.

Later interventions. After the city's abandonment, very few mobile finds, both Byzantine and Ottoman, suggest human presence in the area. Remains of later, rough constructions of reused ancient construction material are sporadically found in the area. It is however impossible to determine their age or usage. Some of the finds are probably parts of the remains of churches spotted by the 19th century travellers, when the name "Paleovenetia" was still in use. Similar small-scale interventions are also preserved in the fortifications, while the roughly built retaining walls and the stone piles are more frequent remains of the period during which the area was still used for farming. Despite being limited, human presence in the area has been crucial for the contemporary preservation level of the ancient city.

The more recent name of the area, Goumani, is still the unofficial name used by the locals. Over the past decades, the destruction of the ancient remains was further intensified by the use of the area for animal stabling and grazing. A significant number of stock-farming facilities is preserved from this period. The facilities are built using ancient construction material, often founded upon ancient walls. In 1962, Gitana became officially an archaeological area. Its fencing was placed only in 1986, when it ceased to be used as a grazing area.

The survey

After a short, first identification of the ancient remains, which was carried out by Fotios Petsas, Curator of Antiquities of Epirus and published in the 1952 Archaeological Review, the ancient settlement was described briefly by the English traveller and archaeologist N. G. Hammond, in his popular book *Epirus* (1967).

In the late 1960s, and in the context of a research project undertaken by the Residential Centre of Athens, the ancient location was plotted on cartographic background of the Army Geographical Service, together with an extended surveying of the fortifications and the visible buildings inside the settlement. The findings of these projects are included in S. Dakaris' pertinent study (*Thesprotia*, 1972), on which further research has been based.

Until the mid 1980s, when systematic clearing and excavation works were



The theatre area of Gitana in the 1980's.

first undertaken in the ancient settlement, research was limited to rescue interventions, as a result of illegal excavations in the area of the ancient cemetery, as well as in random finds from the remaining archaeological area.

The excavation works undertaken between 1986 and 1997, under the supervision of the then head of the 8th Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities, Mrs Kalliopi Preka-Alexandri, focused on five buildings within the western sector inside the partition wall, in the city theatre outside the western fort, in the agora and in three burial monuments from the area of the cemetery.

More specifically, inside the agora, the elongate stoa was uncovered, together with its adjacent two-room building ("Building E") and a number of stone platforms in the central square. In the sector inside the partition wall, the small prostyle two-room temple was excavated on the NW, along with a monumental building ("Building C"). At the SW edge of the area, a large construction was revealed, identified as the city's Prytaneion – Archives ("Building A"), and, at a short distance therefrom, a private house was fragmentarily

*Bronze statuette of
a reclining satyr
from the Prytaneion.*





The northern fortification in the 1980's.



surveyed ("Building F"). Moreover, SW of the agora, a public elongate building was surveyed, presenting a tripartite transversal arrangement ("Building B").

In 2001, the Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration carried out a geological-geotechnical survey of the archaeological site and its surrounding area, in order to examine the impact from the intense erosive action of the adjacent river Kalamas on parts of the archaeological site (agora and theatre) and to elaborate on the necessary protection measures.

The project entitled «Value enhancement – Rehabilitation of the Archaeological area of Gitani, Thesprotia» began in October, 2003, in the context of the 3rd CSF ROP of Epirus and was completed in 2009.

Bronze statuette of a standing satyr from the Prytaneion.

The archaeological site – The surviving monuments

Fortification

The strong polygonal wall, the perimeter of which, including the cliff on the east, is almost 2,500 metres, surrounds the city of Gitana on all sides (p. 78-79). It is preserved in a fair condition, over most of its length, with the exception of its NE side, where it is only fragmentarily preserved. On its eastern side there is a gap, extending over almost 244 metres, that has probably collapsed and drifted away by river Kalamas, because of the unstable geological background.

The wall thickness, ranging between 2.50 and 4 metres, the method of its reinforcement, i.e. using towers or retrenchments, as well as the locations of the towers are determined by the terrain and the accessibility, or the presence of natural obstacles. Access to the ancient settlement was ensured through three main gates (gates 1, 4 and 5) and three smaller gateways (entrances 2, 3 and 6).

The walls of Gitana follow, more or less, the polygonal wall erection system, with a more or less meticulous construction. The construction material used is local grey limestone, a material abundant in the area, while at some spots white limestone has also been used.

In terms of construction, the system of the two parallel sides has been adopted, with the gap in-between being filled with smaller stones, soil and, occasionally, broken tiles (it is the so-called «woven» masonry technique).



The polygonal fortification surrounding the Prytaneion.

*Isodomic masonry
in the western
fortification.*



*The northern fortification
west of the main gate.*

*Tower 3 in
the northern
fortification.*



Together with the polygonal system, the isodomic system has also been used at specific locations of the external fortification, as well as for the towers, the retrenchments and the gate pilasters, mainly in order to enhance the joints between stones on the corners, and to reinforce wall strength.

On the northern side, which is the most vulnerable, the wall presents its maximum thickness (approximately 4 metres). It is reinforced with six rectangular towers (towers 1-6). In terms of typology, and based on their positions in relation to the curtain, they all belong to the category of towers adjacent to the external side of the wall. Moreover, on the ground level, the towers were internally compact, without a room opening. The dimensions of the rectangular towers were approximately 7 x 6 metres, while the thickness of their walls ranged between 0.80 and 1.20 metres.

Towers 1-3 are preserved at a maximum height of 2.70 metres. The wall construction system is the pseudo-polygonal system, while at some locations the isodomic system is also used.

Towers 4-5, surrounding the central gate, present a vague picture, owing to the existence of the modern access road and the fallen construction material. More in particular, the restoration of the southern and eastern sides of tower 4 is still problematic.

The northern side is preserved, at a maximum height of 1.40 metres. The exact form of the tower's interior is not visible, because of the significant quantities of fallen material, most probably as a result of the reinforcement filling. An exception to the polygonal masonry is the point of junction between the tower and the wall, where for three rows of cornerstones developing vertically, the isodomic system has been adopted. Similarly in tower 5, there are very few visible remains of the sides, because of the significant damage suffered at certain locations. The cross-section of the tower is almost rectangular and is preserved at a maximum height of 1.40m. Only the outer front is visible, with a thickness ranging from 0.60 to 0.80m, for a single row of construction stones.

*Gate 3 in
the western
fortification.*



Tower 6 delimits the passable and weaker part of the northern wall, given that the course of the fortification line east of the tower follows the steep incline of the mountain of Vrysella. Owing to the intense slope of the terrain at this location, most part of the tower has collapsed. Nowadays, only its foundation is visible.

Access to the ancient settlement is ensured through the main central gate (gate 1), approximately halfway along the NW side of the fortification. The opening of the gate is estimated at a length of about 7m, with a corresponding width of 4m. This is the gate through which the contemporary road extends, and it is therefore difficult to survey for additional evidence related to its construction. Its monumental character is nevertheless obvious, given that it is reinforced on either side by towers.

Further to the west, a second gate (gate 2), with a length of 3.65m and a width of 2.10m, was probably connected with the area of the ancient cemetery north of the fortified settlement. A staircase would have existed in its interior, with the doorstep and fragments of its crow-steps surviving to date.

The NE part of the fortification extends from tower 6, and up to the semicircular tower 10 on the east. This side of the wall is preserved only fragmentarily, given that the collapse of the soil would have entrained also a part of the construction, as suggested by the fallen cornerstones. At the locations where the wall is best preserved, its height ranges between 0.50 and 1.50m. It is probable that, owing to the particularly steep relief, towers 7-9 were placed at longer intervals.



The northern fortification with the main gate at the front.



The semi-circular tower at the top of Vrysella.

The NE edge of the fortification is dominated by the tall semicircular tower (tower 10), a construction overlooking a large part of Gitana and, at the same time, the plain of Kalamas and up to the settlements of the «Corfiot Peraia» in Mastilitsa and Lygia. The tower is characterised by its meticulous isodomic masonry, and is built using limestone blocks. The maximum height of the surviving structure is 3.50m, its width 1.20m, and its maximum diameter up to 11.70m. Five radially extending joints on the interior provide additional reinforcement, while a transverse wall closes its opening on the west. On the upper surface of the stones, there were tenons and grooves of axe-shaped joints, an element indicative of the fact that the tower dates before the 3rd century BC. West of the semicircular tower, a rectangular construction is visible, that has been subjected to later interventions, while on the NW there is a smaller gateway (entrance 6).

Owing to the natural protection ensured by river Kalamas and the formation of the terrain, the western and southern sides of the wall are not reinforced with towers, but with twelve entrenchments in total. The width of this wall, over most of its length, reaches 2.50m.

The western side of the fortification follows the formation of the terrain, from the NW corner, up to the tower-like projection of the wall, west of «Building A». It is preserved at a height of 2m, while its width reaches 2.50m. The wall construction system is polygonal –non meticulously executed–,

differentiated at the entrenchment corners and on the southern part of gate 4, where the isodomic system has been adopted.

Two gates located on this side (gates 3-4) ensured the unobstructed contact between the settlement and the area of the theatre. The northernmost gateway (gate 3) has an opening with a length of 2.60m, and a width of 1.50m. Its internal sides are built using large orthogonal stones, based on the isodomic wall construction system. A staircase is formed inside the gate. Parts of the staircase crow-steps are visible, and are made of small-sized, coarsely hewn stones.

The SW gate (gate 4) is one of the main entrances, through which extends stone-paved road 11, connecting the southern part of the settlement with the theatre. The gate has an opening length and width of 6.50m and 5.50m, respectively, and is surrounded by two pilasters, of which the best preserved one is that on the southern side, with a width of 2.20-2.30m, and a preserved height of 1.50m. The northern pilaster follows the polygonal construction system, while the southern pilaster has adopted the isodomic system. Approximately halfway along the internal sides of the pilasters, there are two orthogonal projections, 1.40m long, that define a door opening with a width of 2.60m. The recess for the door panels is visible on the southern projection.

The southern fortification includes the part extending from the SW edge of the wall, to the SE gate (gate 5), following the flow of river Kalamas until the



Part of the southern fortification.

point where the river extends into the foot of the steep calcareous slope of the mountain of Vrysella. At this location, part of the wall has been drifted away by the river.

Ten retrenchments are, in total, formed on the southern sides, at average intervals of 52m. These are right angle projections of the wall line. Inside the retrenchments, the wall is configured in a similar manner, i.e. has an angled recess or a curve. The selection of retrenchments, combined with the lack of towers, is due to the natural protection offered by the river.

The wall construction system is polygonal and particularly meticulous close to the SE gate, while at the point of junction between the retrenchments and the wall, the isodomic system has been adopted. Its maximum height is 2.50m. Along most part of the southern fortification, the width is 2.50m, with the exception of the area close to gate 5, where it reaches 3.50m, purely for defensive purposes. This is the second strongest part of the wall, behind the NW side. It is probable that this gate led to a riverside harbour facility, given that the river was navigable up to this point. This, in fact, explains the particular importance attributed to its protection.

At a distance of 12m past the NW edge of the fortification, there is a strong polygonal bailey in the form of a branch oriented towards the west and following the steep descent of the terrain up to the river. The bailey reinforces the defence of the western fortification and protects the area of the theatre



The western fortification. The bailey is visible in the background.

*The towers of the
partition wall.*

Tower iii.



Tower ii.

Tower iv.



from the north. It is preserved at a length of 36m, its width is 2.30m, and its maximum preserved height is 3.20m.

Inside the settlement, a strong partition wall, with a total length of 315m, (p. 40-41) maintains the same width (2m) throughout its length, from the point of its junction with the external compound, west of the main entrance (gate 1), up to the southern end on the eastern wall of building 59. The height preserved does not exceed 1.60m.

The wall construction pattern is a combination of both the polygonal and the isodomic systems. Along the part of the partition wall south of tower iv, the pattern is strictly polygonal, interchanging with the isodomic system between towers i and ii, obviously in order to enhance the protection of the structure, because of the terrain gradient. The part of the wall between tower ii and gate II is purely isodomic.

Five rectangular towers (towers i-v), the dimensions of which are approximately 7x8m, break the continuity of the wall, contrary to the towers of the external fortification, that have been constructed adjacent to its external front. The length of the curtains is, on average, 35m, while two of the towers (towers ii and iv) control the access into the partition wall, protecting gates I and II respectively. On the inside face of the towers in relation to the partition wall, there is a small door opening, ranging in width between 1.20 and 1.60m, and leading to a ground level room. This is indicative of the age of the construction, which dates after the 4th century BC. The width of the towers does not exceed 0.50m, while its sides consist of a single or a double transversal row of stones.



The partition wall of Gitana.



Gate I of the partition wall leading to the agora.

Tower I has been built based on the polygonal wall construction system, with two transversal rows of stones, while on the northern side there is an isodomic stereobate. The tower location is ideal for supervising the central gate of the settlement (gate 1), as well as the agora access road. Tower ii is located at a distance of 3.40m NW of gate I of the partition wall, which it protects. The remains of a staircase crow-steps are visible at the 1.60m-wide door opening.

Tower iii projects at the point where the partition wall turns to the SW, breaking the continuity of road no. 16 of the agora. Its sides, meticulously built, consist of a continuous isodomic stereobate, posts, and a horizontal copestone.



Gate III of the partition wall leading to the «Lower City».

At the tower entrance, which is 1.30m wide, the remains of crow-steps are visible.

Tower iv is located south of the partition wall gate II. The entrance opening of tower IV is 1.20m. At the southernmost Tower v, only the upper surface of the stones on its sides is visible, while on its western side, there is a 1.40m-wide entrance.

The partition wall had four gates (gates I-IV). In-between the partition wall and the southern fortification, an opening has been revealed, found to be 7m wide. It is also probable that one more gate existed in this location.

Main gate I of the partition wall ensured direct communication between the western part of the town, where the public buildings were built, with the ancient agora, i.e. the commercial and political centre of the settlement. The gate was built according to the isodomic system. Two rows of vertically extending cornerstones are preserved, with the maximum height of pilasters being 1.10m. The gate width is 3.20m, while the length of the pilasters matches the width of the partition wall (2m).

Gate II of the partition wall was the endpoint of road 6, that led to the area of the «Small temple» (building 25), through public building 1 («Building B»). After performing the recent rehabilitation works in the area, it was found that the dimensions of the entrance opening were 3x2m, approximately. Posts made of white limestone have been used as pilasters, preserved at a height of 0.90m. They are based on a stereobate made of meticulously shaped orthogonal stone blocks of white limestone. Outside the gate, a stone baetylus has been revealed, a phallus-form symbol of Apollo Agyieus.

*Gate II of the
partition wall.*



Gate III is located south of tower v and has an opening length of 2.50m and width of 2m. Posts made of white limestone function as pilasters and are based on an isodomic stereobate. The latter, on the southern side of the construction, consists of meticulously shaped stone blocks.

In the part between towers i and ii, one more gateway has been discovered during the site's value enhancement works (gate IV). It has a length of 2.80m, and a width of 1.80m, while on the western front of the opening there is a threshold, made of second-use monolithic piers.

The settlement: urban organisation

The Hippodamian urban planning system has been used, in general, in the organised cities of the late Classical and Hellenistic periods. The city plan is formed generally based on a system of intersecting roads, which form orthogonal construction insulae (construction blocks) of similar dimensions, usually having two to four houses per insula. Typical examples of this system in Epirus are the cities of Cassope and Amvrakia.

Gitana, a city founded during the late Classical period, is the only Thesprotian example known to date, in which the Hippodamian system had been adopted. It is worth mentioning, though, that the system is not followed strictly, throughout the settlement (p. 40-41). Owing to the steep descent of the terrain, on the N-S direction, as well as to the artificial terraces that had



The Hippodamian urban plan at the southern part of Gitana.

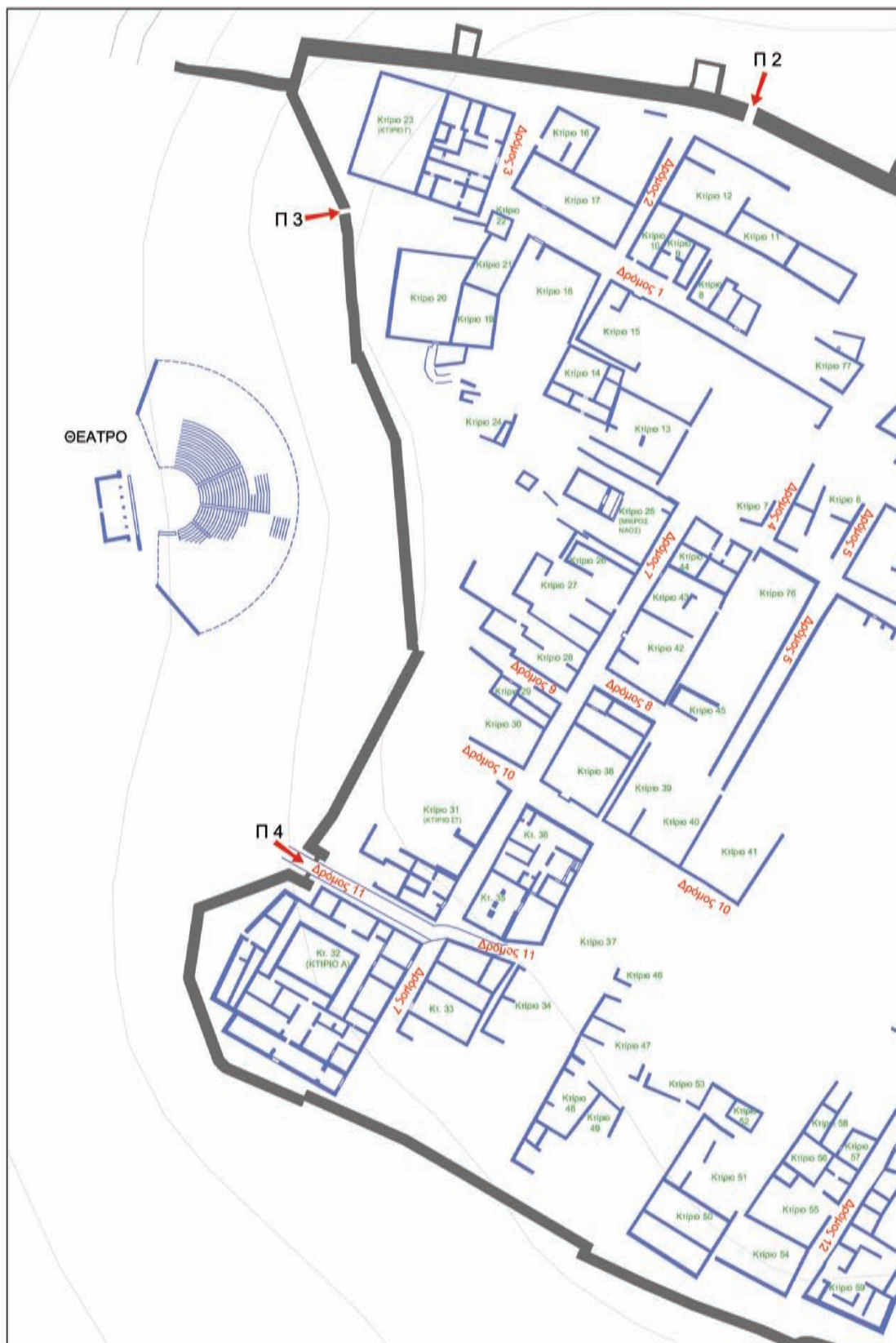
to be formed at various locations to compensate for hypsometric differences, the buildings west of the partition wall are arranged gradually. The terraces follow the basic inclination, from north to south, while there are also some deviations (E-W, or W-E). It is characteristic that the retaining walls defined by the terraces, also serve as the external walls of the buildings.

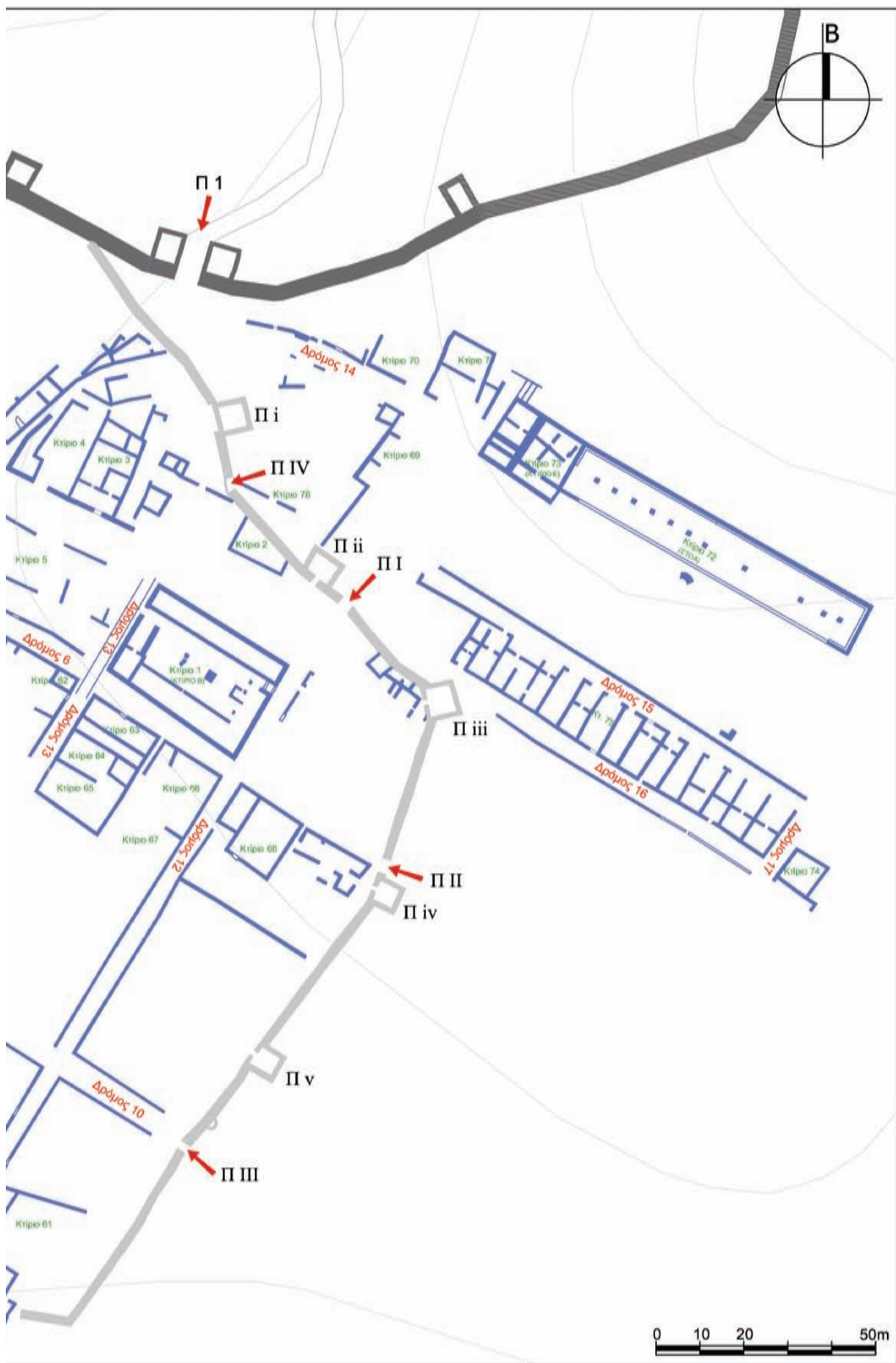
In addition to the southern slope of the hill of Vrysella (alt. 183m), where no foundations of buildings have been revealed because of the intense descent of the terrain, the remaining, and relatively smooth, extent of the fortified settlement presents an impressive building density. The structured zone, with the exception of the top and the SW slope of Vrysella, develops from the level area on the southern foot of Vrysella, towards the south, at an altitude ranging from 30 to 80m.

The partition wall divides the ancient settlement into two residential sectors, eastern and western. The western part of the settlement, where the 3rd CSF value enhancement and rehabilitation project was primarily undertaken, has a total surface area of 51,000m². Based on evidence available to date, it has been found that the most important public -and sacred- buildings of Gitana are indeed located within this part of the settlement, which is protected by a partition wall. Currently, the construction remains of approximately eighty (80) buildings are visible, including the already excavated ones («Buildings



Part of the settlement of Gitana inside the partition wall.





Roads of Gitana.

Road 1.



Road 13.

Road 7.



A, B, C, F» and «Small Temple»). The stoa and «Building E» of the agora are located NE of the partition wall.

Generally speaking, a variant of the Hippodamian system has been adopted, with several deviations from the regular pattern, such as the orientation-wise deviating buildings and roads, the varying size of houses and construction insulae, the varying number of houses per construction insula and the varying internal arrangement of the houses. Some of these deviations are attributed to the changes to the initial planning imposed by the construction of the partition wall, as well as to the adaptation of the external fortification and, by extension, of the city plan, to the area's natural relief.

Each construction insula was divided by a central alleyway into two rows of houses. Stone-build conduits ran along the alleyways, forming part of a very dense drainage system. The number of houses per construction block has yet to be precisely determined (most probably, it was 2 to 6). This is due to the fact that, on the longitudinal axis of the construction insulae, the houses were divided from one another by a simple partition wall. It is therefore difficult to distinguish between the houses, given that the arrangement of their interior has yet to be clarified. Some of the buildings, generally the public ones, occupied a whole construction insula. It seems that the higher regularity is observed on the row of construction blocks on the E-W axis, which is defined by the main roads numbered 6 and 10 respectively, where the dimensions of each insula are approximately 34x74m, with the exception of the two westernmost, which are in turn divided into smaller parts by roads 8 and 9.

Two long streets, one extending from the NW and one from the SE (6 and



The Prytaneion («Building A») occupies an entire insula. Next to it the slab-paved road 11 leading to gate 4.

10), develop across the settlement. The roads are related with gates II and III of the partition wall and provide connection between the two parts of the settlement. Four other roads, extending parallel to the former (roads 1, 8, 9 and 11) are limited to the western part of the town sector inside the partition wall. Finally, yet another set of four roads (14-17) are connected with the area of the agora, NE of the partition wall.

Perpendicularly to the above-mentioned roads, five principal road axes are defined (roads 5, 7, 12 and 13). Of these, road 12 extends through gate I of the partition wall and ends at the area of the Agora, while one more road seems to have been abandoned during the construction of the partition wall. Three more roads, parallel to the former (roads 2, 3 and 4) are limited to the NW part of the settlement.

The settlement agora (buildings 72-75) is located on a flat area, on the foot of the hill of Vrysella. It was a social and transaction area, not only for the city residents, but also for the countryside populations, in the context of their exchange of agricultural and processed products. The area is formed as an open square, closed on its north by a stoa. Next to the stoa, there is an orthogonal building, which also functioned as a place of worship. The southern part of the agora is delimited by a tile-paved road and a complex of dozens of shops.



The agora area.

Road 14, leading from the main entrance of the fortification (gate 1) to the agora, is delimited on the north by buildings 70-71 and by another building, located west of building 70. On the south, it is delimited by the northern wall of a room/pre-building construction of building 69.

North of road 6, close to the partition wall and gate I, buildings 1-7 are located. They are formed on two terraces, from the north to the south, between which an ancient road must have existed. The highest artificial terrace is supported on its western side by a retaining wall, which is interrupted by the partition wall on its NE edge. Three unequal construction insulae are formed on the lowest level terrace. In the easternmost insula, one of the most important buildings of the settlement is located (building 1). Building 1 («Building B»), only a few metres apart from gate I of the partition wall, is a structure with particular functions, built most probably to host large crowds. The dimensions of a fourth insula, more to the west, where building 7 had been constructed, remain unclear.

In the NW part of the settlement, the buildings (buildings 8-23) are formed on equitant -artificial- terraces. Most of the external and partition walls of the buildings function also as retaining walls.

In the SW part of the settlement, four construction insulae are defined, and extend west of the central road (7), along a relatively smooth descent of the terrain. The insulae are defined by three roads (roads 9-11), parallel between one another and transversal to the central road (7). Buildings 24-32 are formed on equitant terraces, extending from north to south, and are supported by retaining walls, which, at the same time, form their external walls. In addition to the already excavated buildings 25 and 32 («Small temple», Prytaneion) and to the partially excavated building 31 («Building F»), which have been revealed to their maximum preserved height, the remaining buildings are preserved, for their most part, at the level of their foundation.

The first insula on the south is occupied by building 32 («Building A»). It is a public building of particular importance, most possibly the town's Prytaneion



*Bronze compass from a
Gitana building.*

*Bronze coin hoard of the
hellenistic period.*



Head of a hellenistic clay figurine.

– archives building, that is formed around a central open court. Around the court, there were rooms for symposia, decorated with mosaic floors, workshops and storage areas.

On the northern side of the same road, the partially excavated building 31 («Building F») appears to have occupied the SE corner of the island, in which one or two more buildings might have been included. The third insula is defined by roads 7, 9 and 10 and includes buildings 29-30.

The fourth insula to the north includes buildings 25-28. It is defined on the north by the plateau of building 25, which has been identified as a small temple construction conventionally named «Small temple» and by roads 7 and 9, on the east and the south.

East of the main road axis 7, a total of eighteen (18) buildings are found (buildings 33-45), defined by roads 5-8, 10 and 11. In this part of the settlement, particularly on its northern part, the Hippodamian system has been followed more consistently, with the construction insulae having almost identical dimensions. Characteristic is also the existence of alleyways, which seem to divide the insulae longitudinally, into two equal parts. Four construction insulae are visible. Starting from the south, the first insula is located between roads 7 and 11 and seems to end at a distance of 5m from the wall. Its eastern edge remains however unclear. Initially, it must have included four buildings, of which only two are visible (buildings 33-34). An alleyway is formed between the buildings.

Northbound, a second insula includes buildings 35-36. It is also assumed, that in the same construction insula, there were two more buildings. One of these (building 37) is preserved only fragmentarily. The third insula is formed north of road 10. It includes buildings 38-40 and is defined by roads 7, 8 and 10. It is assumed that the eastern limit was road 5, which probably extended to the south, until the level of road 10. The fifth insula, including buildings 42-45 as well as building 76, is clearly defined by four roads (roads 5-8). Finally, inside the sixth insula, east of road 5 and up to road 13, the construction remains of two buildings have been discovered (buildings 62 and 79). Most of the buildings in this area are formed at equitant graded terraces, for the support of which the external walls of the buildings have been used.

On either side of the intersecting roads 10 and 12, buildings 46-68, 79 and 81 are arranged. In-between this visible road network, presenting a regularity in this area of the settlement, six construction insulae are formed, north of road 10. The buildings (62-68) are visible at their foundation level and are formed on equitant terraces. The preservation condition is better in the case

of constructions arranged parallel to the southern fortification, where some of the buildings (50, 54 and 59) are preserved at a particularly tall height, reaching 2.50m. The strong polygonal masonry, the short distance from the walls and the arrangement in space as if imitating the fortification retrenchments with breakages of the walls' continuity at right angles, suggest some underlying defensive character. Apparently, the constructions reinforced in a way the front side of the fortification and at the same time constituted the continuity of the partition wall, which abuts at the NE corner of building 59.

S. Dakaris suggests that an ancient road must have existed at the location between the southern fortification and the external front of the above buildings. Most probably, this road led to the SE gate of the fortification (gate 5). Fieldwork confirms this suggestion, as it has revealed parts of an ancient road paving.

A large, naturally formed, plateau west of road 12, with a surface area of 6,000m², is bare in terms of architectural remains and contains only scarce stone piles and later-built retaining walls, given that during the previous decades, the area had been used for cultivation.

The stone-built theatre of Gitana was discovered between the western fortification and the river, in a picturesque location. Although it is located outside the wall, it is protected by the bailey, while additional natural protection is provided by the river, towards which it is oriented. Given that Gitana was the political centre of the Koinon of the Thesprotians, the theatre was aimed to serve both political gatherings and theatrical performances, as well as to host political events of the Koinon, in which participated representatives of the various Thesprotian tribes.

Construction of the theatre is reasonably assumed to have taken place around the mid 3rd century BC, i.e. a period of increased construction activity in Epirus, particularly during the reign of Pyrrhus, and a period of prosperity

*The theatre of Gitana
outside the fortification.*





Part of the «Lower City» of Gitana.

for Gitana. As excavation evidence proves, the theatre was destroyed by the Romans in 167 BC.

The sector of the settlement east of the partition wall, which was conventionally named «Lower City» covers a surface area of approximately 100,000m². In an area, where the inclination of the terrain sometimes follows a N-S direction (south of the agora) and sometimes a W-E direction (SE of the agora), artificial terraces that were formed to smooth out hypsometric variations, determine the urban organisation of the area, to a large extent. As a result, the buildings and the roads were arranged in gradients.

Owing to the limited extent of research in this part of the settlement, the fragmentary picture of the construction remains does not allow, for the time being, the drawing of conclusions on the precise floor plan and consequently, on the number of the buildings included in each construction insula. Usually, two large, or more than two smaller, buildings occupy the eastern and the



*Small stone altar and
bronze frying pan from
Gitana houses.*

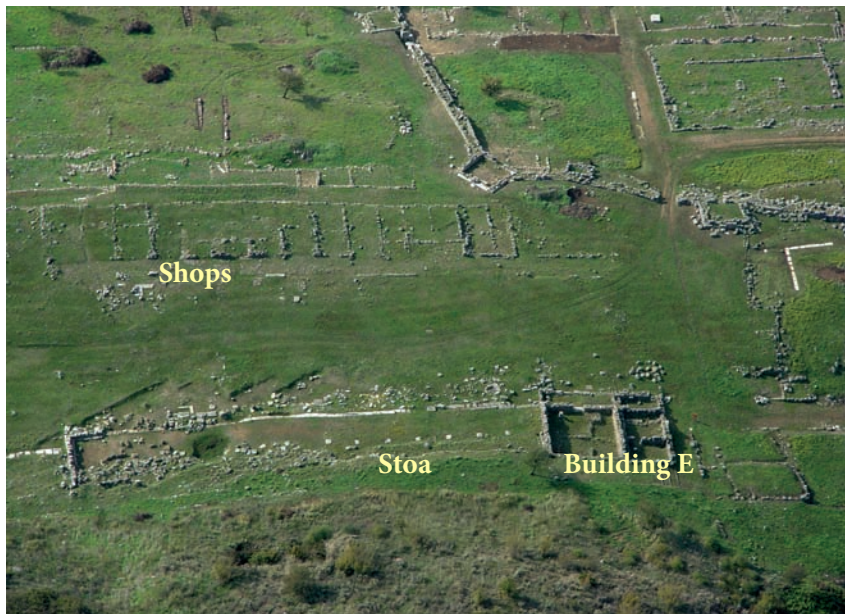


western part of the insulae (on the N-S axis). In-between them, at the middle of the insula, an alleyway (1-1.5m. wide) is formed.

In terms of planning, here too, as in the sector west of the partition wall, the Hippodamian system has been adopted, with some deviations from regularity. The buildings and the roads are arranged in gradients and, in most cases, the retaining walls of the terraces function also as external walls of buildings and side walls on road axes.

The most important monuments of Gitana

Agora. The agora of the settlement was defined, northbound, by a stoa complex, having adopted a type common in western Greece, with the side walls partially extending the façade. The stoa (building 72, approx. 76x13m), is an oblong building with double colonnade. A row of 26 Doric columns on the façade and 14 Ionian columns inside the building supported the roof, creating an ample housed area and offering shelter against the rain and the sun for people in the agora. Because of the intense descent of the terrain, its northern side consists of a strong retaining wall, built according to the polygonal masonry pattern. Internally, along the stereobate, a continuous



The Gitana agora.



*Part of an ionic semi-column
from «Building E».*

stone bench is formed. On the stoa façade, parts of twelve circular, orthogonal and rectangular votive pedestals have been discovered, together with a semicircular exedra. The destruction layer on the eastern part of the stoa revealed a significant quantity of bronze coins (around 250), everyday and luxurious ceramic artefacts, a clay statue head, metal weapons, tools and jewellery. Of particular importance is a bronze horse bridle component belonging probably to a –lost today- bronze statue.

Adjacent to the western part of the stoa, there is a 20m long by 16m wide building of an almost rectangular floor plan, divided into two rooms. This building, conventionally named «Building E» (building 73) appears to have been a later addition to the stoa construction. It consists of two rooms and protrudes from the stoa by 2.80m. The room on the west seems to have functioned as an ambry and the one on the east as a place of worship for Apollo, as suggests the discovery of a stone base, which is considered to have supported a baetylus (worship pillar with a pointed top). The assumption that this room was a place of worship is supported also by the discovery of parts of a manumission decree inscription. Fragments of small walls have also been found in this room, most probably suggesting the existence of anterior buildings.



The «Building E» at the western end of the stoa.



Shattered columns from the inner colonnade of the stoa.



Bronze bridle component of a horse statue from the stoa.

In front of the stoa and of «Building E», there is an orthogonal area, 100m long by 30m wide, within which no foundations of buildings have been discovered to date. It is the square of the agora, defined on the south by a central road (road 15), along which a complex of shops (building 75) is arranged. A second road (road 16) extends across the rear side of the shops, until the point where its course is discontinued by tower III of the partition wall.

The complex of shops, where the city's financial life was focused, extends on a NW-SE direction at a length of 100m. It is a series of successive orthogonal areas, directed mostly towards the central road 15. Sixteen (16) shops in total are distinguishable, most of which are preserved at the foundation level. Only a few of the shops seem to communicate internally, through door openings.



Iron kreagra (meat hook) from the stoa.



Animal iron chain.



«Building B».

«Building B». Very close to the partition wall main gate, there is a large public building (Building 1), mentioned in the literature as «Building B». Initially, owing to its floor plan and its significant dimensions (36x25m), S. Dakaris had classified the building as a temple. The building's floor plan, together with excavation evidence, suggests that it must have been a public construction with a particular function in the city, probably used as a boarding area or for large crowds, given that it had a peristyle around a large open-air court. Among the excavation finds, there is a significant quantity of everyday use pottery and lamps, ugentaria, parts of statuettes, coins, bronze components, as well as coin metal blanks, suggesting that at some stage of its usage, the building might have functioned also as a mint.

The worshipped deities. The worship of Apollo Agyieas, whose sanctuary was found in the area of the agora of Gitana, is a Corinthian influence that reached the Thesprotian area via the Corinthian colonies in NW Greece. The worship of Themis is confirmed by the inscription of the manumission decree that has been discovered in the area of the river Kalamas dam. However, a main worship in the city seems to have been the virgin woman deity, to whom was dedicated the small prostyle temple in the western part of the settlement. If it is not Themis, a possible candidate would be Artemis, whose statuette has been recovered also in the city's Prytaneion. Artemis was among the main deities worshipped in Epirus and is depicted also on some of the coinages of the Koinon of the Epirotes.



The «Small Temple».

«**Small Temple**». Building 25 is located at the start of the central road axis (road 7). It is a small temple with an orthogonal floor plan, the so-called «Small temple», the external dimensions of which were 13x7m. It comprises an antetemple and a cella and a tile-paved parvis in front of its entrance. The antetemple communicates with the cella by means of a 2.50m-wide door opening, where the limestone threshold is partially preserved. Because of the hypsometric difference, the entrance to the antetemple had a staircase comprised of two unequally dimensioned crow-steps. The latter were made of large limestone plates, meticulously carved, of which only those of the NE part are preserved on site. In the temple parvis there is abundant construction material, collected during the excavation of the building. Among the architectural members, there are also parts of columns which might also come from the antetemple, where there was probably also a prostasis (a line of columns at the front of the building).



Marble female statuette with inscribed base from the «Small Temple»



Mould and cast of a clay figurine from the «Small Temple»

The small size, the simple orthogonal floor plan with the two-space division into an antetemple and a cella, along with the lack of a perimeter colonnade are the usual characteristics of the temple constructions of the Hellenistic period in Epirus (e.g. the temples at the sanctuary of Dodona). The temple excavation has revealed -among other finds- an important number of woman- and animal-form clay statuettes, parts of marble statuettes (one of which bears an inscription at the base), and a clay mould for an hermaphrodite statuette.

Interesting is also an embossed tile with the inscription «[A]ΝΔΡΟΚΑΔΗ» (Androkadi).

During the execution of the value enhancement works, NW and S of the temple, a deposition pit and a small deposition area were revealed. Hellenistic period potsherds and intact pots were collected therefrom, such as a small lekythus with floral decoration, black-glazed lamps and small bowls.

«**Building C**». The NW part of the settlement is characterised by the presence of a large building complex (Building 23), 33m long by 25m wide, which was conventionally named «Building C». Only the eastern half of the building has been excavated. It is the part hypsometrically superior by 5m,



«Building C».

compared to the corresponding western half. A built desk was discovered in one of the rooms, while halfway along the NW side of the atrium, there was a meticulously constructed conduit, with a length of 7m, most probably used to drain rainwater through two smaller rooms towards the western -and non excavated to date- part of the building and from there, probably towards outside the city's wall. The excavation of five rooms, out of a total twelve that have been discovered, has revealed a large number of coins, two woman-like statuettes that were probably connected to an area of home worship and bronze furniture components. Owing to its ideal position on the edge of the fortification, close to the bailey, it is probable that the building was used also as an observatory.

Prytaneion – Archives. The excavated building 32 («Building A»), with a total surface area of 1,500m², covers an entire construction insula on the SW edge of the settlement, at the junction of the two main road axes 7 and 11. Its excavation lasted four years and revealed very important finds that allowed the identification of the building as the city's Prytaneion – Archives.

Inside the building, the rooms are arranged in wings developing around an orthogonal court, 16m long by 12m wide, traversed by a corridor - peristyle. A stone-built conduit, meticulously arranged, was used to drain rainwater from this court, towards road 11. Each wing includes smaller areas, elongate and rectangular rooms.



The Prytaneion - Archives building.

*The propylon of
the Prytaneion.*



*The mosaic floor of the
southeastern wing andron.*

*The mosaic floor of
the southwestern wing
andron.*





Floral tile antefixes from the Prytaneion.

Inside the SE wing, the main entrance from road 7 is formed, leading into the building interior, through a small monumental propylon. The door opening, with a length of 2.25m, is defined by a limestone threshold, currently extensively fragmented. To this threshold leads a crow-step of white calcareous stone-blocks. In front of the threshold, the road paving is particularly configured, using small limestone slabs. Two of the three rooms of this wing, opening to the common corridor, would have been used for housing symposia, as excavation finds suggest.

In the central room, which is also the building's largest one, there is space for twelve couches, placed perimetrically alongside the walls. The room was decorated with a mosaic floor covering its entire surface. A frame decorated with a spiral and a reticulated pattern surrounds a partitioning of white and black tesserae, with the forms of five dolphins, four of which occupy the corners. A second partitioning of tesserae, with the depiction of an attacking panther decorates the area inside the entrance threshold. In exploratory cuts, executed in the context of the maintenance works on the floor background, fragments of older construction remains were revealed. Further to the north, the room directly adjacent also had a mosaic floor, of which only the supporting surface is preserved.

The north-eastern wing includes two rooms along road 11. The westernmost room is traversed by the stone-built conduit that extends from the court to road 11. The middle, orthogonally shaped, room has been identified as the city's room of archives, owing to the large number of clay sealings of documents (more than 3,000) found



Iron tripod from the Prytaneion.



inside it. On some of the sealings, the inscription with the name of the town is visible («ΓΙΤΑΝΑ» – Gitana). One sealing bears a woman-form stamp and the inscription «ΒΟΥΛΑΣ» – i.e. the personification of the city Boule. This is proof of the building's public character, a finding enhanced also by the discovery of a clay roof tile with the inscription «ΔΑΜΟΣΙΟΣ» (public).

Six rooms are arranged in rows of three, on either side of a spacious interim corridor of the south-eastern wing. This wing is accessible from the southern corridor of the atrium, through two doors. Of the western apartments, distinguishable is an orthogonal room providing direct access to the atrium. This room, which was also an andron with space for nine couches, was decorated with a pebble mosaic floor: a frame with helices surrounds a partition with the picture of a star within a circle. The adjacent room to the south is elongate and served as a storage area, preserving more than twelve storage pithoi.

Of the apartments east of the corridor, the central room preserves a clay Π-shaped graded fireplace. Directly adjacent, to the northeast, is a small, elongate room divided into two parts. On its south-eastern edge, a small construction of stone has been identified by the excavator of the site as an altar. A stone-built conduit extends through this room, to abut onto road 7. It is however possible that these areas were used as kitchens serving nearby symposium rooms. This assumption is further enhanced by the existence of storage areas, further to the south.

At some later stage of the building's usage, the two elongate rooms were added, on the southern side. These are a storage area, preserving at least nine pithoi, and a workshop room. Access to this part of the building was ensured by a monumental entrance – propylon on the SE edge of the building, similar to that of the main entrance.



The workshop area of the northwestern wing.



The storage areas in the southern part of the Prytaneion.

The north-western wing includes a four-room complex, of irregular trapezoid floor plan. This, too, must have been added to the central construction during a later stage, in order to house workshop areas. It is located at a level hypsometrically lower in relation to the remaining building, while its masonry is not as meticulous as in the other rooms. Seen from the north, in the first room two ceramic kilns have been revealed and later covered, while in the second room, a stone-built basin with a spout is preserved on site almost intact.

Among the finds, interesting are the bronze statuettes and the accessories decorating the luxurious furniture. Also, the number of bronze coins is significant, including a thesauros (treasure) of 178 pieces. Finally, the variety of metal weapons (both bronze and iron) is interesting.

«**Building F**». North of «Building A», a large and -apparently- private building complex is located (building 31), which has conventionally been named «Building F». The excavation of five rooms has revealed that in a part of this building, there were workshop areas. Large quantities of finds have been revealed, including everyday-use and fine ceramics, storage pots (pithoi and amphorae), loom-weights, parts of statuettes, bronze coins, metal tools and small articles, etc. Among the finds noteworthy is the abutment of a bone brooch presenting the head of Medusa, an artefact of great quality.

Theatre. Excavation surveys, performed ten years ago in the settlement theatre, has revealed part of the koilon, formed on a rocky bank, the orchestra and part of the stage construction, while an excavation in the retaining walls of the koilon, the backstage and the parodoi is currently under way. The koilon, with a maximum diameter of 65m, consists of twenty-eight rows of benches, formed in two tiers, while four staircases divide the construction into five gradins. To these, an additional two gradins formed at the two edges, nowadays half-destroyed, must also be taken into consideration. White limestone was



The theatre of Gitana.



*Limestone theatre seats
with inscriptions of
names.*

the main construction material of the benches, while part of the koilon seems to have been hewn directly on the conglomerate rocky substrate that was obviously covered by whitewash mortar. The orthogonal stage construction had an internal row of piers, while the front stage had a series of twelve monolithic half-columns, which supported a Doric entablature with a stone-built epistyle. The existence of a wooden apron is also considered probable. The construction details of the theatre have much in common with similar theatrical constructions in Epirus (Cassope, Amvrakia). A large number of benches bear, on the front side, engraved inscriptions with names of persons, including, inter alia, those of Menedamos, Charopidas, Pausanias, Timodamos, Antinous, Alexandros, Cephalos, Dokimos, Nikomachos, Nikostratos, etc. In exploratory cuts opened SW of the stage, parts of walls have been revealed, indicating an irregular polygonal masonry construction, the function of which has yet to be determined.

Cemeteries. The cemetery of the ancient settlement, outside the NW fortification has been excavated to reveal three partially pillaged burial monuments of the Hellenistic period. In their core, the monuments consist of a cist grave, built of monolithic plates and are surrounded by a Π-shaped precinct, or by a precinct rectangular externally and octagonal internally. The precincts imitate temple-form constructions and had engraved decorations.

On the occasion of the widening works carried out in the area, in front of the entrance of the archaeological site, four graves and a cluster of twenty graves were discovered in 1996 and 1997, respectively. Moreover, in 2003, owing to the sliding of the soil caused by intense precipitation, twenty one more graves were surveyed; thirteen of which were tile-roofed, one had a perimeter stone precinct, seven were holes hewn in the calcareous rock and one was an orthogonal cist grave, with a stone-built precinct.

During the value enhancement works, part of the cemetery was revealed also at the location of the visitors' building, which had been excavated and surveyed in 2003 and 2004. Thirteen graves were surveyed in total, i.e. nine grave constructions and four pot burials, together with three engravings on the natural rock and five small collections of vessels, most probably burial gifts related with some of the nearby burials. The mobile finds revealed during the survey of the above monuments date mainly from the 3rd and the 2nd century BC.



Excavation works, on the occasion of the construction of the road between Igoumenitsa and Sagiada and the formation of a modern dam, in the 1960s and the 1980s respectively, brought to light cist graves with funeral gifts. Recently (in 2004 and 2005), in the same area, and on the occasion of the construction of a hydroelectric power station, part of the same cemetery was surveyed. Typologically, the cist

The cist grave 11 at the Kalamas dam area (3rd - 1st c. B.C.).



Graves from the main cemetery of Gitana.



Finds of the hellenistic period from the main cemetery.



Medical vessel and iron forceps from grave 14.



Black glaze lamp from a burial pithos.



Burial amphora.



Clay ink pot.



Late classical - hellenistic clay vessels from the burial monument in the area of the Kalamas dam.



Oinochoe, kantharos and pyxis from the graves at the entrance area of the archaeological site.

Finds from grave 11.



Limestone urn.



Clay animal-shaped vessel (thyton).



Lead pyxis.



Gold danake (Charon's obol).

graves prevail, made of monolithic plates or tiles. Usually, the graves have also a monumental precinct. The graves are both stone-built and pot burials. Among the significant finds, there is jewellery, coins, bronze and clay vessels, iron studs and various metal objects, suggesting that the period of use of the cemetery was between the 4th and the 1st century BC.



Bronze decorative couch parts (fulcra) from the Prytaneion depicting an amazon, Dionysus and Artemis.



Gold earring with cupid figure and bronze ring.



Heads of a clay statuettes.



Clay statuettes of a young girl and a woman.



Head of a marble male statuette from the «Small Temple».

The mobile finds

The finds brought to light in the excavated buildings of Gitana and during the value enhancement works in the archaeological site, reveal everyday life, the occupations and the direct and indirect aspects of the economy of this important settlement. The majority of the finds from Gitana date since the Hellenistic period (3rd century BC – 167 BC), and, more in particular, the 2nd century BC, thus suggesting its period of prosperity.

Pottery, the most usual and numerous finding, consists mostly of everyday use items. The pithoi (clay storage vessels), fragments of which have been found all over the settlement, are classified as large, open storage vessels.

In the pithos storage areas of the Prytaneion, 25 or 26 storage pithoi were found: 15 in the northern, and 10 or 11 in the southern one. The pithoi are made using the so-called «roll» technique, i.e. the placement, one on top of the other, of clay rings, so as to form the body of the vessel. There are no visible traces of decoration or coating on the pithoi, while all of them have been externally smoothed out. The pithoi vary in size, their height reaches 0.70m until the middle of their body and their maximum diameter is 1.30m. Most of the pithoi are sharp-bottomed and have a pole on their base, allowing their partial fixation into the ground. Some of them were broken or cracked in ancient times and were repaired using lead joints.

Other categories of everyday use vessels are the amphorae, of various shapes and sizes (some of which had impressive samples of stamped handles), the drinking vessels, such as the kylixes, the kantharoi and the skyphoi, the table-use pots, such as plates and lekanides and, finally, the vessels for storing small articles and beautification items, such as pyxides and ugentaria.

The lighting of the areas was ensured using clay black-glazed and unpainted lamps. The discovery of loom-weights, i.e. weaving weights, is linked to spinning and weaving. Clay statuettes have also been found, both man- and animal-form, as well as statuette moulds, suggesting the operation of koroplastics workshops in the settlement.

Many of the roof tiles of public buildings and of large private houses had inscriptions (“ΔΑΜΟΣΙΟΣ”, “ΧΑΡΟΠΙΟΣ”, “[A]N-ΔΡΟΚΑΔΗ»), while the ceramic tile roofing was usually complemented by floral antefixes of cover-tiles.

There are many examples of small, everyday use metal objects and jewellery (pins, fibulae and earrings) witnessing the use and processing of metals. Bronze items outnumber items made of other metals. Noteworthy are the statuettes of satyrs, fulcra – i.e. decorative accessories for beds, with Artemis, Dionysus and an Amazon – a bronze component of a horse bridle, ladles and strigils (boby



Clay moulds and casts of figurines.

*Clay mould of an animal figurine with the inscription
ΛΑΒΙΧ.*

Hellenistic pottery from Gitana.



Pyxis lid with relief medusa head.



Clay strainer.



Vessel lid with relief decoration.



Cantharoi.

Coins of the Koinon of the Epirotes. (234/233 - 168 B.C.).



Coins from Corfu.



350 - 300 B.C.

223 - 248 B.C.



585 - 500 B.C.



Silver coin from Arcadia (370 - 280 B.C.).



Bronze coin from Amvrakia (3rd - 2nd cent. B.C.).



Iron sickles and daggers.

scrub swabs).

Iron objects are usually agricultural tools (sickles, hoes), cutting tools, as well as weapons, such as arrowheads and spearheads, swords, arrows and daggers. Among the metal finds, an iron tripod is noteworthy.

In the Archives of the Prytaneion, inside a pithos, clay sealings of inscriptions were found, depicting coin types of Epirus, the Aetolian League, as well as various animals, birds, plants, statue types and portraits.

Finds with a significant artistic quality are the headless woman-form stone-made statuette, a part of a naked woman-form marble statuette, the head of a man-form marble statuette, a bone fibula with the head of the Medusa and a votive ivory plaque.

The coins -mainly bronze- are mostly coinages of the Koinon of the Epirotes, as well as older coinages of the Eleatans or of the Koinon of the Thesprotians. Usual are also coins from nearby towns of Epirus and of the Macedonian kings. Coins from Corinth, Lefkada, Dyrrachio (Durres) and southern Italy witness the city's commercial contacts with the centres of the remaining Hellenic world. Distinguishable are the types with the forms of Dione, with a three-legged lebes on a laurel wreath and of Artemis with a spearhead on a laurel wreath. Both forms bear the inscription «ΑΠΕΙΡΩΤΑΝ» (of the Epirotes).

The value enhancement works

The ancient settlement of Gitana is directly accessible from the NW, through an already existing, 2.3km-long road, extending from the Igoumenitsa – Sagiada road. The paving of this road was completed with the support of the Prefecture of Thesprotia.

The value enhancement works in the archaeological site of Gitana started in October 2003, in the context of the project entitled «Value enhancement and Rehabilitation of the Archaeological Site of Gitani». The works were completed in the end of 2008. The value enhancement works were carried out in a significant part of the site, including the area inside the internal partition wall, in which the most important preserved buildings are located, the agora,



2002

The archaeological site of Gitana before and after the value enhancement works.



2008



the eastern sector of the city outside the partition wall, and the area of the ancient theatre.

The systematic clearing of the ground has helped to reveal the fortification and other visible monuments of the settlement, to identify new architectural remains and to configure the visitors' path. Extensive earth removal was performed, in order to facilitate the construction of the visitors' guided tour path, and to reveal all monuments along its course. Caulking and short-scale support works were also executed on fragile parts of the fortification and the roadside walls.

The infrastructure works in general, which were executed in the archaeological site in the context of the same project, relate to the accessibility and the protection of the site itself, and aim to facilitate and safeguard the visitors. It was for this purpose that emphasis was placed on the installation of a fence, the transfer and installation of water- and power-supply networks and fire-protection of the area.

The parking area is located north of the archaeological site, next to the entrance. Within a short distance from the entrance of the archaeological site, a visitors' building was erected, with a multi-faceted role, given that it simultaneously serves as a guard-post for the entrance, as the site's ticket issuing premises and a display area for brochures. It also houses a small exhibition area, with rich documentation material about the history and monuments of the archaeological site, as well as a brief account of the value enhancement works.



The Prytaneion after the installation of the mosaic floors metal protective shelters.

The planning of the visitors' path, using only the ancient road axes, aimed to create a clearly defined walk path, by means of mild interventions based on the particularities of the terrain, so that the visitors can gain an overview of the most important surviving monuments and of the settlement's character.

Along the visitors' path, specific overview stops have been selected, offering the visitors a panoramic view over certain buildings or areas within the archaeological site. The visitors' path is facilitated by the placement of topographic and informative posts, as well as of posts with monument names-titles.

In the context of the value enhancement works of the Prytaneion, maintenance and restoration works were performed on the mosaic floors and the store pithoi. Following this, the areas were covered using metal protective shelters.

In order to protect the ancient theatre against the winter rise of the waters of river Kalamas, an anti-flood wall was built.

Following completion of the value enhancement and rehabilitation works, the archaeological site of Gitana, the other important ancient settlements of Thesprotia (Elea, Dymokastro, Doliani), in which similar value enhancement projects were undertaken and the Igoumenitsa Archaeological Museum, constitute a network of archaeological destinations throughout the prefecture. This is in fact a major contribution to the cultural, tourist and financial development of the border area of Thesprotia.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ancient literature

- Thucydides 3.85.2
Livius, 42.37.4, 42.38.1
Polybius, 27.16.4-6

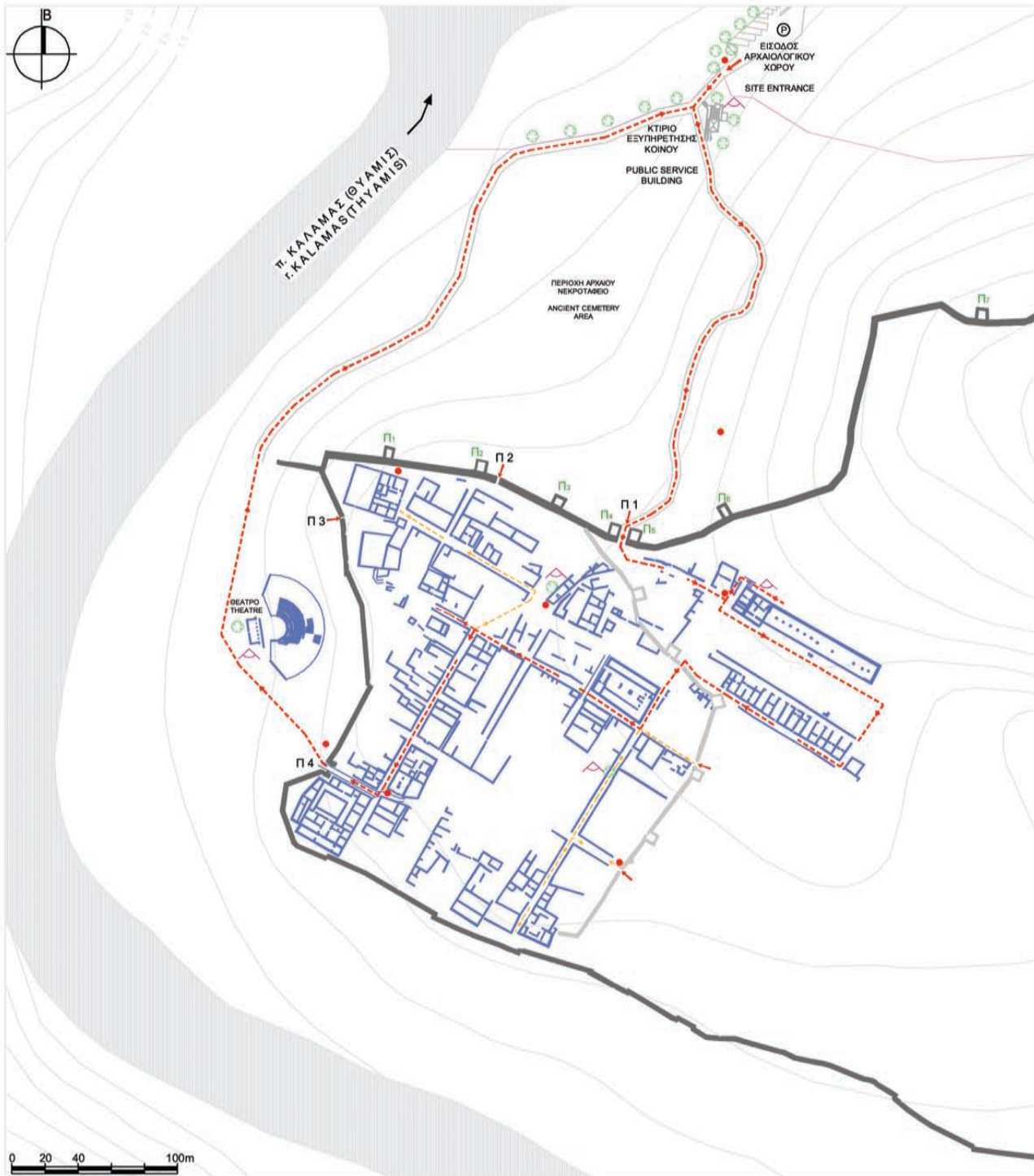
General bibliography

1. Aravantinos S., Χρονογραφία της Ηπείρου των τε όμορων Ελληνικών και Ιλλυρικών χωρών, Athens 1856
2. Vasiliadis S. and Christodoulou E., Αρχαία Θεσπρωτία: από την προπολιτική στην πολιτική κοινωνία, ή, πώς ο χωρικός γίνεται πολίτης, Epirotika Chronika 40, Ioannina 2006
3. Vlachopoulou-Ekonomou A., Επισκόπηση της τοπογραφίας της αρχαίας Ηπείρου, Ioannina 2003
4. Gania Ch., Ο αρχαιολογικός χώρος της Γιτάνης και οι εργασίες ανάδειξης, Epirotika Chronika 40, Ioannina 2006
5. Dakaris S.I., Θεσπρωτία, Athens 1972
6. Hammond N.G.L., Epirus. The geography, the ancient remains, the history and the topography of Epirus and adjacent areas, Oxford 1967
7. Epirus 4.000 years of Greek history and civilisation, Athens 1997
8. Lambrou V., Οικιστική οργάνωση του θεσπρωτικού χώρου κατά τη ρωμαιοκρατία, Epirotika Chronika 40, Ioannina 2006
9. Leak W., Travels in Northern Greece, I-II, London 1835 (reprint 1967)
10. Mouselimis S. G., Αρχαιότητες της Θεσπρωτίας, Ioannina 1980
11. Paton, William Roger, Polybius. The Histories: With an English Translation, vol. 5, London 1927
12. Pouqueville F. C. H. L., Ταξίδι στην Ελλάδα, Ήπειρος (trnsl), Athens 1994
13. Preka-Alexandri K., Archaeologikon Deltion 40 (1985), B', Chronika, 230
14. Preka-Alexandri K., Archaeologikon Deltion 42 (1987), B'1, Chronika, 347 – 348
15. Preka-Alexandri K., Archaeologikon Deltion 44 (1989), B'2, Chronika, 302-316
16. Preka-Alexandri K., Archaeologikon Deltion 45 (1990), B'1, Chronika, 296-300
17. Preka-Alexandri K., Archaeologikon Deltion 46 (1991), B'1,

- Chronika, 272-273
18. Preka-Alexandri K., *Archaeologikon Deltion* 50 (1995), B'2, Chronika, 440-447
 19. Preka-Alexandri K., *Archaeologikon Deltion* 51 (1996), B'1, Chronika, 414-420
 20. Preka-Alexandri K., *Archaeologikon Deltion* 52 (1997), B'2, Chronika, 609-628
 21. Preka-Alexandri K. Seal Impressions from Titani, a Hellenistic Metropolis of Thesprotia, *PACT* 23, 1989
 22. Preka-Alexandri K., A First Presentation of three Recent Excavations in Thesprotia – Epirus – Greece, *L' Illyrie meridionale et l' Epire dans l' antiquité II*, Actes du IIe Colloque International de Clermond-Ferrand, Paris 1993
 23. Preka-Alexandri K., Recent Excavations in Ancient Gitani, *L' Illyrie meridionale et l' Epire dans l' antiquité III*, Actes du IIIe Colloque International de Chantilly, Paris 1999
 24. Preka-Alexandri K., Inscribed seal impressions from Thesprotia, *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique*, Supplément 29, 1996
 25. Riginos G., *Archaeologikon Deltion* 56 (2001), Chronika, in press
 26. Riginos G., *Archaeologikon Deltion* 58 (2003), Chronika, in press
 27. Riginos G., *Archaeologikon Deltion* 59 (2004), Chronika, in press
 28. Riginos G., *Archaeologikon Deltion* 60 (2005), Chronika, in press
 29. Riginos G., Οικιστική οργάνωση στην αρχαία Θεσπρωτία την ύστερη κλασική και ελληνιστική περίοδο, *Epirotika Chronika* 40, Ioannina 2006
 30. Sarras G., *Η Θεσπρωτία δια μέσου των αιώνων 40.000 π.Χ. μέχρι σήμερα*, Athens 1998









ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΤΟΠΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΟ ΔΙΑΓΡΑΜΜΑ GENERAL GROUND PLAN

-  ΑΡΧΑΙΑ ΟΧΥΡΩΣΗ
ANCIENT WALLS
-  ΔΙΑΤΕΙΧΙΣΜΑ
INNER PARTITION WALL
-  ΑΡΧΑΙΑ ΚΤΙΡΙΑ
ANCIENT BUILDINGS
-  Π 1-6 ΠΥΛΕΣ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΥ ΤΕΙΧΟΥΣ
GATES OF THE ANCIENT WALL
-  Π 1-10 ΠΥΡΓΟΙ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΥ ΤΕΙΧΟΥΣ
TOWERS OF THE ANCIENT WALL
-  ΒΑΣΙΚΗ ΠΟΡΕΙΑ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΠΤΩΝ
MAIN TOURING ROUTE
-  ΕΝΑΛΛΑΚΤΙΚΗ ΠΟΡΕΙΑ ΕΠΙΣΚΕΠΤΩΝ
ALTERNATIVE TOURING ROUTE
-  ΧΩΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΘΜΕΥΣΗΣ
PARKING AREA
-  ΣΤΑΣΗ ΘΕΑΣΗΣ - ΑΝΑΠΑΥΣΗΣ
RESTING POINT
-  ΠΥΡΟΣΒΕΣΤΙΚΗ ΦΩΛΙΑ
FIRE SPRING
-  ΔΕΝΤΡΟ
TREE
-  ΠΕΡΙΦΡΑΣΗ
FENCE

