



Hrvoje Kalafatić¹, Ivana Ožanić Roguljić², Bartul Šiljeg³, Emily Zavodny⁴

AR5

¹Institut za arheologiju, Gajeva 32, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

⁴Department of Anthropology, The Pennsylvania State University, 312 Carpenter Bulding, University Park PA 16802

**Decreasing significance –
from lapodian center to small Roman town**

In this paper, we utilize landscape survey and analyses of material assemblages to track the development and decline of the prehistoric settlement at Brinje in modern-day Croatia. Brinje was first known as Monetium, and important cultural center for the Bronze and Iron Age Japodians, but became increasingly marginalized as the area came under the control of the Roman Empire, starting ca 200 BC. We hypothesize that changes in site characteristics, artifacts, and the surrounding landscape hold the key to understanding the reasons behind the waning importance of Monetium as a cultural center. This paper represents an important first step in a long-term investigation of lapodian sociopolitical development in the context of the European Iron and Roman Ages, as well as in building a systematic framework for testing prehistoric site function that can be used in different regions and time periods.



Roman pottery from Brinje shows us a range from terra sigillata, thin walled pottery and 19th CE find of tile with SOLONAS stamp, 1 st CE which is a testimony of vivid trade routes and economy in hinterland of Roman Dalmatia.



- 1. prehistoric Monetium
- 2. hillfort Blažani
- 3. hillfort Lipova glavica
- 4. hillfort Stražbenica
- 5. hillfort Sokolac
- 6. Roman Monetium

Visibility: Japodian Monetium was situated in the middle of the field which follows typical Japodian pattern of organization and control of landscape. From historical sources we know about smoke signals that were used as communication, warnings etc.

Monetium and tribe Moentini were important center and population in prehistoric period which is clear from historical sources where they are mentioned (Strab. VII, 5,2) and their name was also mentioned in the list of Japodian tribes that were conquered during the war campaign of Octavian which ended with the siege Siscia in year 35 BC (*App. Illyr.* 16- 21).