



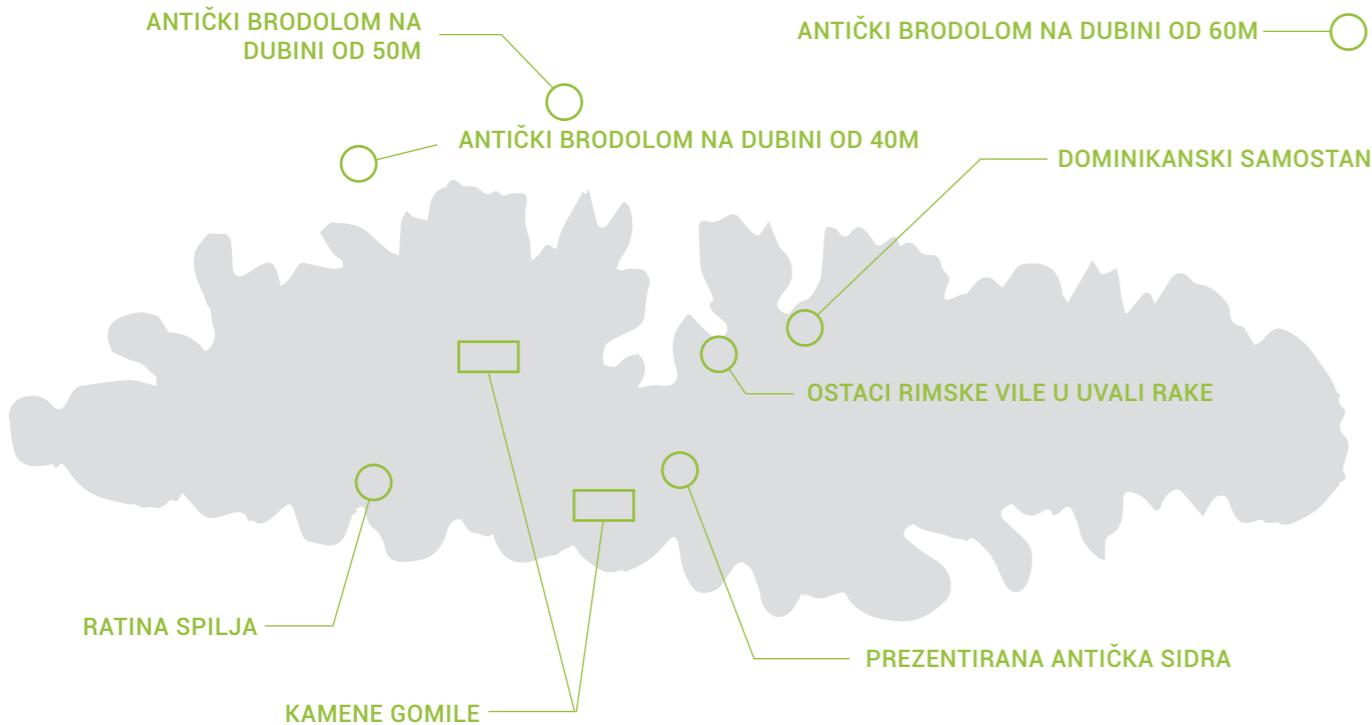
Šćedro

KULTURNO-POVIJESNI VODIČ
ARHEOLOŠKE BAŠTINE OTOKA ŠĆEDRO
CULTURAL-HISTORICAL GUIDE TO THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF ŠĆEDRO ISLAND



Na Jadranu postoji milostivi otok, otok Šćedro. Milostivim su ga nazvali naši preci, koji su u njegovim sigurnim uvalama s izvorima pitke vode, plodnim poljima i bogatim šumama nalazili utočište

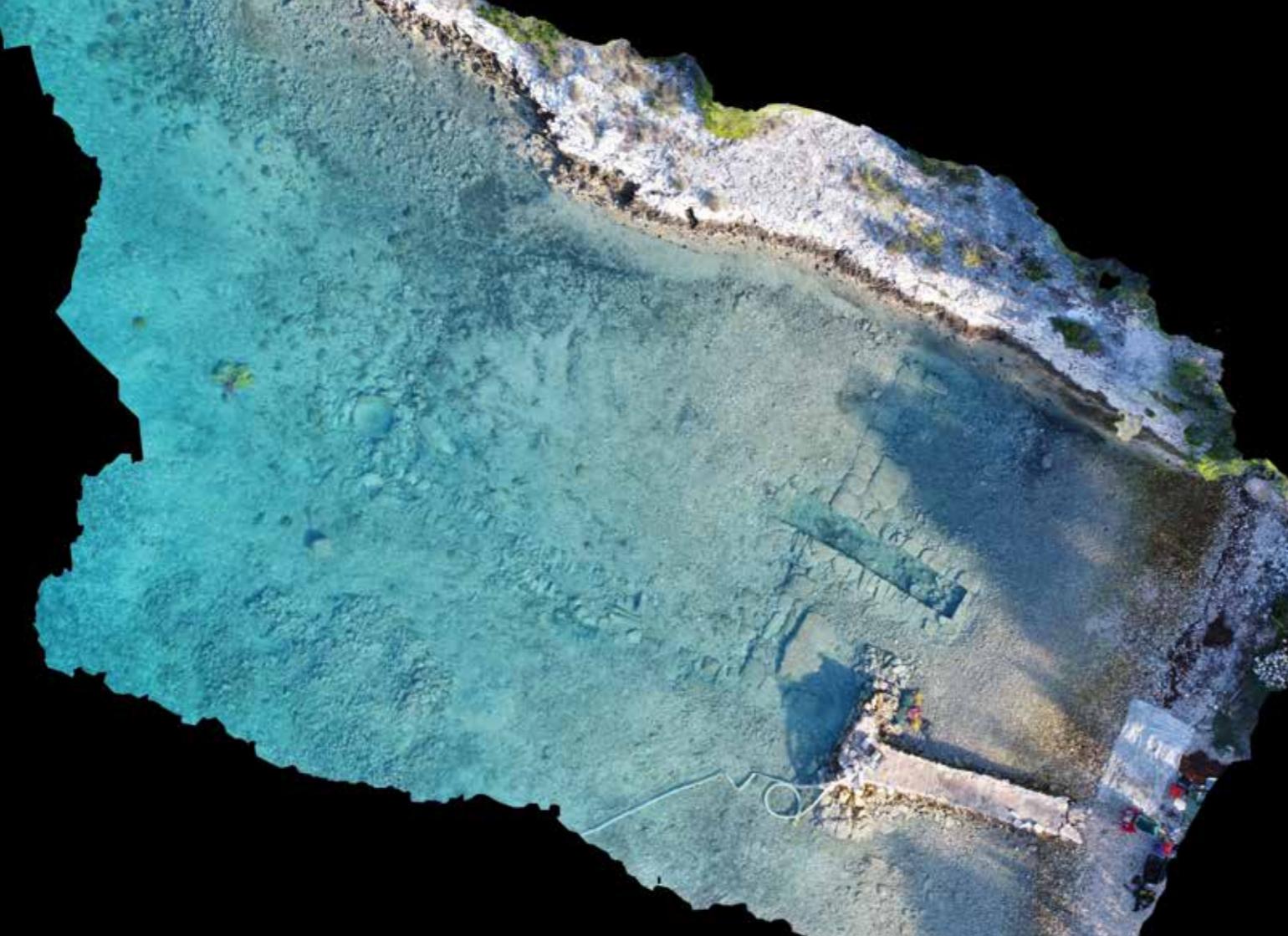
There exists in the Adriatic a gracious island, the island of Šćedro. Our ancestors called it gracious because they would find refuge in its safe bays with springs of drinkable water, fertile fields, and rich forests.



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HRVATSKI



UVOD

Šcedro je otok južno od otoka Hvara u Korčulanskom kanalu udaljen 2,7 km od naselja Zavala. Latinski naziv za Šcedro je Tauris iz čega proizlaze talijanski nazivi Tauricola ili Torcola, pa se u povijesnim zapisima nazivao Torkola.

Današnji naziv dolazi iz staroslavenskog štedri u značenju milosrdan ili milostiv, vjerojatno zbog svojih dobrih luka koje su nudile sklonište moreplovцима. Naime, na njemu se nalazi preko 50 uvala koje su orientirane prema svim stranama svijeta i zbog toga za svaki smjer vjetra postoji uvala koja je u tom trenutku sigurna za pristajanje. Iz tog su razloga i moreplovci već od prapovijesnih vremena na njemu tražili zaklon od olujnog mora i vjetrova.

Upravo oni su najvjerojatnije i gradili prve kamene

gomile kao grobove i kultna sveta mjesta, a koje svojom brojnošću, položajem, monumentalnim izgledom i velikim dimenzijsama predstavljaju iznimski raritet na istočnoj obali Jadrana.

Prvi spomen Šcedra javlja se još u antičkim izvorima kada se u njegovoј blizini 47. g. pr. Kr odvila pomorska bitka tijekom građanskog rata između Cezara i Pompeja, a otok je kroz cijelu svoju povijest imao veliku pomorsku važnost u plovnom putu od juga prema sjeveru Jadranu jer je bio jedina sigurna stanica brodovima koji su putovali od Korčule do Hvara.

Iz svega navedenog razvidno je zbog čega se na otoku Šcedru i u njegovom podmorju nalazi tako veliki broj iznimno vrijednih i dobro sačuvanih arheoloških lokaliteta.

02

DOMINIKANSKI SAMOSTAN

Na sjevernoj strani otoka Šćedro, u uvali Mostir, nalaze se značajni ostaci crkve i dominikanskog samostana. Ova crkva, posvećena sv. Mariji, datira iz razdoblja ranije od 14. stoljeća, iako točan datum njezine izgradnje nije poznat. Podignuli su je korisnici općinske zemlje, vjerojatno neki ugledni plemić s otoka Hvara. Crkva ima svojstven oblik s bačvastim svodom i pravokutnom apsidom, bez posebnih ukrasa. Pretpostavlja se da je izgrađena na temeljima kasnoantičkog sakralnog kompleksa koji datira iz 4. / 5. stoljeća.

Godine 1486. dominikanci iz Hvara stigli su na otok

i, vjerojatno uz podršku mletačke vlasti, izgradili su samostan uz crkvu sv. Marije. Dominikanci su proširili crkvu sv. Marije dodajući prostrani brod s gotičkim svodom i dekoracijom na fasadi, transformirajući staru crkvicu u središte novog samostana.

Prvotna samostanska zgrada bila je manjih dimenzija, no tijekom 16. i 17. stoljeća proširena je do svojih današnjih dimenzija. Zvonik, koji je zapravo služio i kao obrambena kula, izgrađen je tijekom 18. stoljeća. Kompletan kompleks bio je okružen zidinama, iako je danas sačuvan tek manji



dio zidova. Prema katastarskom nacrtu iz 1834. godine, uz samostansku zgradu nalazile su se dvije manje prizemnice, a uz obalu još dvije, no do danas sačuvana je samo jedna prizemnica uz more.

U povijesnim izvorima, posebice u arhivu dominikanskog reda, samostan i crkva spominju se pod imenima Sveta



Marija od Šćedra (Santa Maria Torcula de Pharo) i Sveta Marija od Milosrđa (Santa Maria Gratiarum). Postoji mogućnost da je Sveta Marija od Milosrđa bilo ime starije kasnoantičke i kasnije srednjovjekovne crkve (ecclesia in mare) koje je dominikanska zajednica na Šćedru zadržala.

Šćedro se nalazi uz glavnu pomorsku rutu uz obalu te je svojim uvalama služilo kao prirodno zaklonište za brodove tijekom nepovoljnih vremenskih uvjeta. Ovaj povoljan položaj na glavnoj plovidbenoj ruti uz istočnu obalu Jadrana privukao je gusare. Smatra se da su ove prijetnje s mora vjerojatno dovele do napuštanja samostana na Šćedru sredinom 18. stoljeća. Prema predaji, posljednji vikar samostana prešao je kanal između Šćedra i Zavale na crkvenim vratima, označavajući početak postupnog urušavanja ovog zdanja. Kameni materijal iz crkve i samostana korišten je za izgradnju seoskih kućica, dok su dragocjenosti i umjetnički predmeti preneseni u druge hvarske crkve. Unatoč napuštanju samostana, život na Šćedru se nastavio, a država je 1811. preuzeila samostansku imovinu. Godine 1889. prodana je dvjema obiteljima sa Hvara koje su se bavile poljoprivredom.

Danas su jedini preostali tragovi ovog nekada impozantnog kompleksa ruševine crkve i samostana u Mostiru.



03

KAMENE GOMILE

Otok Šćedro bogat je arheološkim nalazištima koja svjedoče o ljudskoj aktivnosti na tom području tijekom prapovijesti, antike, srednjeg i novog vijeka. Najbolje su dokumentirana antička i srednjovjekovna kulturna baština otoka, dok je prapovijest otoka slabije istražena. Prvi zapisi o kamenim gomilama otoka Šćedra potječu još iz 15. stoljeća, dok detaljnije zapise donosi austrijski arheolog Carl Patsch 1909. godine.

Prvo arheološko istraživanje na otoku Šćedru izveo je hvarske arheolog Grga Novak 1923. godine. Tijekom posjeta otoku istraživao je Ratinu šipilju te je pronašao ulomke željeznodobne keramike. Kasnije, 1973. i 1977. godine, arheolozi Marin Zaninović i Nikša Petrić proveli

su arheološko rekognosciranje otoka i istraživanje na lokalitetu Kadunje gomile.

Najdetaljniji arheološki pregled otoka izведен je 1989. godine u sklopu međunarodnog projekta Jadrani otoci. Tada su dokumentirana brojna arheološka nalazišta na Šćedru, uključujući više od 50 kamenih gomila.

U sklopu projekta Mapiranje, dokumentiranje i pregled arheoloških lokaliteta otoka Šćedra, provedenoga u ljeto 2018. i 2019. godine pod vodstvom Mie Marijan, izведен je pregled otoka s ciljem dokumentacije zatečenog stanja već registriranih nalazišta kao i traženje novih nalazišta. Nakon toga, 2020. i 2021. godine, započela su sustavna arheološka istraživanja kamenih gomila na Šćedru pod





vodstvom arheologa Eduarda Viskovića. U istraživanjima zasad nije pronađen pokretni arheološki materijal, a 2022. godine izvršeno je sondažno arheološko istraživanje Ratine špilje. U razdoblju od 2020. do 2021. godine izvršen je obuhvatan pregled otoka Šćedra unutar okvira projekta Gomile otoka Šćedra. S obzirom na gusto vegetaciju i šumu koja prekriva otok pristup terenskim istraživanjima prilagođen je uvjetima otoka. Terenski pregled proveden je kombinacijom pješačkog istraživanja na pristupačnim područjima otoka i primjenom bespilotnih letjelica za nepristupačne dijelove otoka. Za izradu dokumentacije korištene su zračne snimke iz 1968. godine, kada otok nije bio toliko prekriven šumom, zajedno

s modernim satelitskim snimkama. Također je korišten postojeći arheološki registar otoka Šćedra, razvijen u sklopu projekta Jadranski otoci. Ovaj integrirani pristup omogućio je detaljno istraživanje i dokumentiranje gomila na otoku, koristeći perspektivu iz zraka.

Tijekom istraživanja zabilježeno je više od stotinu kamenih gomila. Gomile se mogu podijeliti u dvije osnovne kategorije: gomile koje imaju pravilan kružni ili ovalni oblik te one nepravilnog oblika. Od svih gomila, one koje bi mogle biti relevantne u arheološkom smislu su one koje imaju pravilan oblik s kružnim ili ovalnim tlocrtom. Tijekom pregleda u 2020. godini dokumentirano je ukupno 60 takvih gomila. Gomile su raspoređene diljem otoka i grupirane su u sedam različitih skupina. Važno je napomenuti da su gomile smještene na istaknutim položajima na otoku, što ih vidljivima i istaknutima u krajoliku.

Najčešći površinski promjer kružnih gomila na otoku Šćedru iznosi između 20 i 25 metara, međutim, postoje i gomile s manjim promjerom te nekoliko gomila s većim promjerom. Visina im je od 1 do 4 metra, a razlikuju se i po veličini kamenja kojim su građene.

Dosadašnja istraživanja ukazuju da se kamene gomile, koje su služile kao grobni humci, počinju pojavljivati

na otocima istočne jadranske obale i njihovom zaleđu u kasnom eneolitu. Izgradnja ovih gomila nastavila se intenzivno tijekom brončanog doba te sve do kraja željeznog doba. Međutim, tijekom mlađeg željeznog doba primjećuje se postupno smanjenje izgradnje ovih gomila.

Na temelju ovih činjenica, vjerojatno je da su gomile na otoku Šćedru nastale u prapovijesti, tijekom brončanog ili željeznog doba, slično kao i gomile na otoku Hvaru. Međutim, dosadašnja istraživanja sugeriraju da nisu sve gomile koje imaju arheološki karakter služile kao grobnice. Neke gomile u kojima nisu pronađeni grobovi možda su služile kao simbolične grobnice bez ukopa. Također, postoje i gomile u funkciji obrambenog sustava prapovijesnih naselja.

Bez nastavka sustavnih arheoloških istraživanja gomila otoka Šćedra nije moguće odrediti njihovu funkciju i karakter.

POLOŽAJ I PRISTUP

Većina gomila je nepristupačna te do njih ne postoji uređen put. Dostupne su one na središnjem dijelu otoka, grupe Centar i Jugozapad.

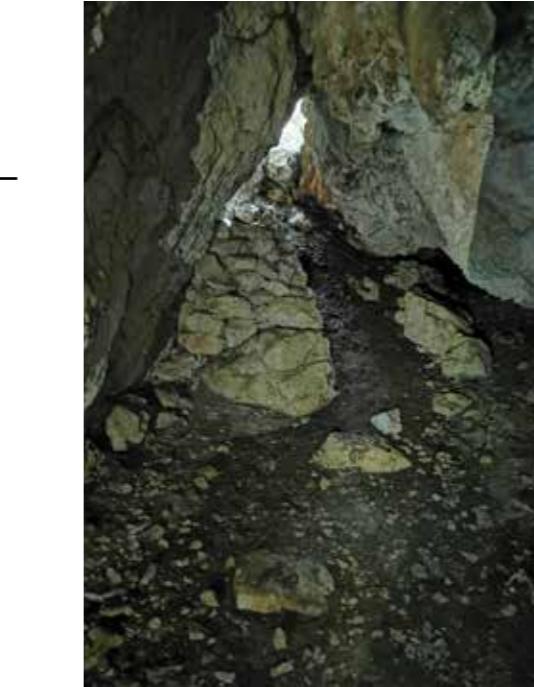


04

RATINA ŠPILJA

Ratina špilja, smještena na jugozapadnom dijelu otoka Šćedra sastoji se od ulaznog prostora te dviju odvojenih galerijskih prostorija. Dužina špilje iznosi 23 metra, a najveća širina joj je 8 metara. Ova špilja predstavlja ključno otkriće u prapovijesti otoka, pružajući jedine pouzdane dokaze o naseljenosti u to davno razdoblje. Sam naziv

špilje potječe od lokalnog otočanina Ratomira, poznatog kao Rato, koji je krajem 20. stoljeća uputio arheologe na ovo važno nalazište dok su istraživali arheološke lokalitete na otoku. Prva arheološka istraživanja špilje datiraju još iz 1923. godine kada je Grga Novak prvi put proveo arheološko



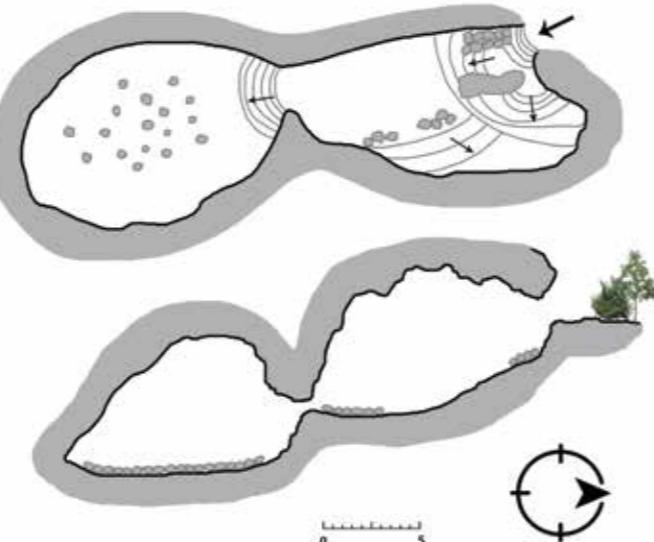
sondiranje. Tijekom tog istraživanja pronađeni su ostaci keramike iz željeznog doba. Međutim, budući da su ta istraživanja bila ograničena opsega, tek buduća sistematska istraživanja imaju potencijal pružiti sveobuhvatnije informacije o prapovijesnoj naseljenosti otoka.

Ulaz u špilju nalazi se na njezinoj sjeverozapadnoj strani i ima nepravilan oblik s približnom širinom od 1 metra i visinom od 1,7 metara. U nazužem dijelu ulaza širina je samo pola metra. Špilja se blago spušta prema jugu, a nakon ulaza dolazi se do sjeverne galerije dimenzija 12 x 6 metara, s maksimalnom visinom od 5 metara. Pod ove prostorije pokriven je slojem zemlje na kojem su vidljivi brojni ostaci životinjskih kostiju. Na dnu sjeverne galerije nalazi se mali prolaz koji vodi do južne galerije, koja ima dimenzije 11 x 8 metara i maksimalnu visinu od 4 metra. Pod ove prostorije također je prekriven slojem zemlje, a vjerojatno je nastao od materijala koji je prenesen iz sjeverne galerije. Na tlu južne galerije također su vidljivi ostaci životinjskih kostiju.

Na temelju položaja i karakteristika špilje te dosadašnjih saznanja, vjerojatno je da je špilja služila kao sklonište tijekom loših vremenskih uvjeta, te nije bila trajno naseljena tijekom duljih razdoblja prapovijesti. Postojanje kulturnih slojeva u dubljim dijelovima nasipa je vjerojatno, no to će morati utvrditi buduća arheološka istraživanja.

POLOŽAJ I PRISTUP

Smještena na jugozapadnom dijelu otoka Šćedro, iznad uvale Spilski Dolac, Ratina špilja se nalazi na visokom platou koji pruža panoramski pogled na



Pelješac i Korčulu. Na otoku Šćedro nema dostupnog motornog prijevoza, stoga se do špilje može doći jedino pješačkom stazom koja polazi iz Velog porta. Pješačenje od Velog porta do špilje traje otprilike sat vremena i nije izazovno, iako treba biti pažljiv pri spuštanju u samu špilju. Staza je jasno označena i uređena za posjetitelje.

05

ŠĆEDRO VILA MARITIMA U UVALI RAKE KOPNO

U uvali Rake provode se sistematska istraživanja vile maritime, bogatog rimskog ladanjskog i gospodarskog kompleksa s termama, ukrašenog s oslikanim zidovima i mozacicima. U prvoj polovici 20.st. u uvali su još bili vidljivi antički zidovi kompleksa koji su nestali prilikom gradnje kuća i suhozida te je zabilježeno i postojanje sarkofaga. Antički tragovi vidljivi su i danas posvuda u uvali, kao i u moru. Na žalu se nalazi mnoštvo ulomaka keramičkih posuda, dijelovi hidraulične žbuke, podloge za mozaik, obrađenog kamenja, kao i kamen tufac koji se koristio za gradnju svodova, a čiji se kamenolom nalazi u uvali Tufera. Ogradni suhozidi parcele građeni su i od





pravilnijih klesanaca s tragovima antičke žbuke, među kojima se vide ulomci dolija i amfora. Na nekoć obrađivanim poljima uz narušene kuće te po ogradnim zidovima nalazi se mnoštvo ulomaka keramičkih

posuda, ulomak kamenice ili urne s drškom te profilirani veliki pravilno obrađeni kameni ulomci koji bi mogli biti dijelovi preše za ulje, ili turnjačice za vino. U gustoj makiji zapuštenog dolca ponovo je lociran zagubljeni kameni sanduk sa sekundarnim perforacijama. Vjerojatno je služio kao kamenica ili dio preše za proizvodnju ulja. Najizglednije je da je to spomenuti sarkofag kojeg nakon polovice 20.st. nije bilo više moguće vidjeti nakon što je gusta vegetacija prekrila polja.

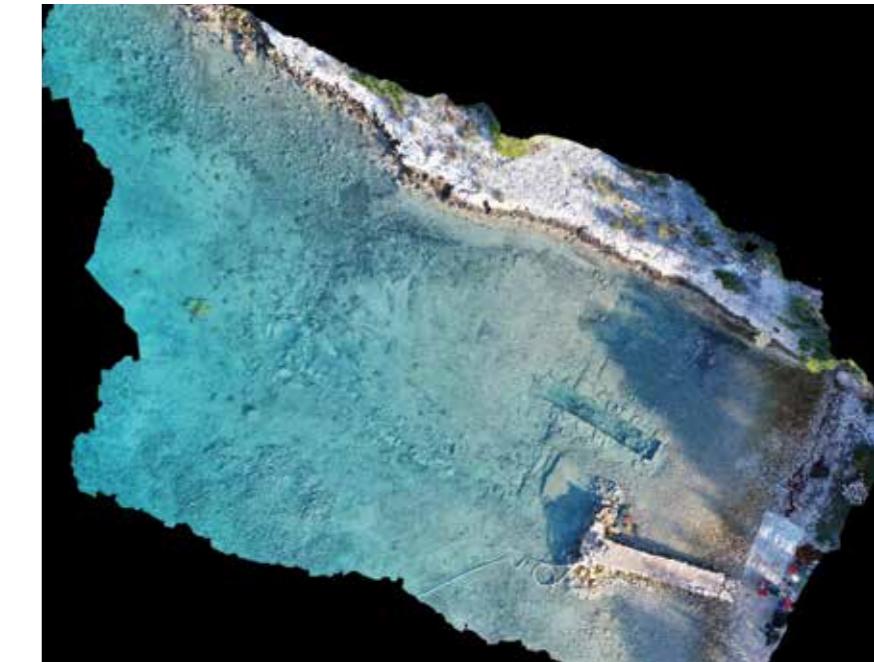
Kuće uz obalu sagrađene su 1914.g. na stepenastim stijenama antičkog kamenoloma iz kojeg se brao kvalitetan vapnenac za izgradnju vile, proizvodnju vapna, nivelaciju i drenažu terena. U zidove kuća ugrađeni su lijepo obrađeni antički kvadratni kameni blokovi i grede, a u zapadni prozor veće kuće i dijelovi kaneliranog antičkog stupića. U arheološkim slojevima pronađeno je mnoštvo ulomaka keramičkih posuda, opeka i tegula, ulomaka stakla, kockice mozaika, komadi

raznih vrsta antičke žbuke s otiscima kuteva i ravnih površina, bijele freske s crvenim, žutim, crnim i zelenim oslikom, životinske kosti i ljuštare školjaka te olovni okovi, brončani i željezni čavli i novci. Najraniji nalazi po kojima se može, za sada, datirati život na području vile, a možda i sama prva faza izgradnje objekta su ulomci tegula s pečatima radionice SOLONAS iz 1.st. Vrijeme rušenja, u potpunosti ili djelomično, zidova rimskog objekta može se odrediti nakon polovice 4.st. po novcu Konstancija II iz 348-351.g. s kružnim natpisom na reversu FEL(icium) TEMP(orum) REPARATIO i prikazom rimskog vojnika koji trijumfira nad neprijateljem. Novac je pronađen ispod ruševnog sloja građevine. Sam prostor, kao i mogući, reducirani objekt koristio se i u kasnijim vremenima.

Umjetnička akademija Sveučilišta u Splitu provodi sistematska istraživanja struktura vile na kopnu i pod morem od 2014. godine.

ŠĆEDRO VILA MARITIMA UUVALI RAKE MORE

Na morskom dnu u svim uvalama otoka nalazi se mnoštvo tragova života iz svih perioda. Najveća uvala otoka Porat razvedena je s tri manje uvale. To su Lovišće s Velikom Pazuhom, Krakavac i Rake. Antički lukobran, koji se sada nalazi pod morem, štitio je uvalu Veliku Pazuhu od sjevernih i istočnih vjetrova. Na morskom dnu leži i odbačeno balastno kamenje. U dnu uvale u plitkom moru pronađen je skeletni ukop nekog antičkog moreplovca ili možda ratnika koji je sudjelovao u odlučujućoj bitci između Cezarove i Pompejeve flote koja se mogla odigrati baš tu u vodama pored Šćedra. Najzaštićenija uvala otoka je uvala Rake. U uvali je sagrađena rimska antička *vila maritima*, bogati rimski ladanjski i gospodarski





kompleks s termama, ukrašen s oslikanim zidovima i mozacima čije se podvodne monumentalne strukture sustavno istražuju od 2014.godine. Istraživanja provodi Umjetnička akademija Sveučilišta u Splitu. Pod morem se otkrivaju strukture vile koje su nekada bile uz samu morsku obalu i u plitkom moru. Podizanjem nivoa mora danas se one sve nalaze pod morem,

a vidljive su i s kopna. U obali učvršćenoj velikim kamenim blokovima obzidan je bazen, takozvani vivarij, za uzgoj i čuvanje ribe. Na dnu pristanišnog mula uglavljen je velika keramička prošupljena posuda dolja koja je služila kao ribnjak. Dijelovi mozaika od bijelih i crnih kamenih kockica i antički zidovi vidljivi pod morem pružaju se i prema kopnu. U živu stijenu obale uklesane su stepenice koje su vodile na više katove ili nivoe kompleksa. Arheološki kulturni slojevi su iznimno bogati. Pronađeno je mnoštvo ulomaka keramičkih posuda, opeka, tegula, ulomaka stakla, kockice mozaika, komadi raznih vrsta antičke žbuke, bijele freske s crvenim, žutim, crnim i zelenim oslikom, životinjske kosti, ljuštture školjaka, spaljene grane, koštice maslina i oskoruša, olovni okovi i drugo.

Najraniji nalazi iz vile koji se mogu pouzdano datirati su ulomci tegula, krovnih keramičkih ploča, s pečatom proizvođača SOLONAS iz 1.st.

Vila je djelomično ili u potpunosti porušena nakon polovice 4.st., što je određeno novcem Konstancija II iz 348.-351. g. s kružnim natpisom na reversu FEL(icium) TEMP(orum) REPARATIO i prikazom rimskog vojnika koji trijumfira nad neprijateljem. Novac je pronađenog ispod ruševnog sloja građevine.





PREZENTIRANA **ANTIČKA SIDRA**

Sa sjeverne strane otoka, na dubini od 37 metara pronađena je antička olovna prečka sidra duga 1,2 metra. Sidro je najvjerojatnije bilo dio brodske opreme obližnjeg brodoloma koji se datira u 1. st. pr. Krista. Sidro je izvađeno, obavljeni su radovi primarne konzervacije te je rekonstruirano i prezentirano na platou južno od Velog porta zajedno s još jednim željeznim sidrom također pronađenim u podmorju otoka.

07

ANTIČKI BRODOLOM NA DUBINI OD 40 METARA

U studenom 2017. godine uz sjevernu obalu otoka Šćedra pronađen je novi brodolom. Već pri prvom pregledu bilo je jasno da se radi o antičkom brodolomu s potpuno očuvanim teretom rimskih republikanskih amfora tipa Lamboglia 2, datiranih u 1. stoljeće pr. Kr. Ostaci tereta broda leže na pjeskovitom, gotovo ravnom morskom dnu, na dubini od 40-42 metra orijentirani u smjeru sjever-jug. Dimenzije površinskog rasprostiranja brodoloma su otprilike 15 x 7m, a vidljivo je više od 200 amfora posloženih u sedam paralelnih redova i tri nivoa jedan iznad drugoga. Većina amfora je cjelovita, a samo ih je manji broj oštećen prilikom potonuća broda, a veliki ih je broj još uvijek zatvoren keramičkim poklopциma. Na

lokalitetu su započeta podvodna arheološka istraživanja, u suradnji Umjetničke akademije Sveučilišta u Splitu i Konzervatorskog odjela Ministarstva kulture i medija, kojima je utvrđeno postojanje kulturnog sloja i amfora i u dubljim slojevima pijeska i mulja. Vidljivost na predmetnom lokalitetu je izrazito dobra, a morske struje uglavnom slabe (ovisno o dobu godine), što čini lokalitet iznimno prezentabilnim i atraktivnim za turističko ronjenje. Novoprонаđeni brodolom jedan od najznačajnijih arheoloških lokaliteta u podmorju Splitsko-dalmatinske županije prije svega po stupanju očuvanosti i brojnosti nalaza, te je zbog toga prekriven metalnim zaštitnim kavezom u svrhu očuvanja i prezentacije.



08

ANTIČKI BRODOLOM NA **DUBINI OD 50 METARA**



Tijekom lipnja 2023. godine provedena je zajednička vojna vježba Hrvatske ratne mornarice s Ratnom mornaricom Italijanske Republike s ciljem pretraživanja morskog dna koja se pokazala sjajnom prilikom za unaprjeđenje suradnje s drugim tijelima državne uprave i znanstvenim institucijama te su u njoj sudjelovali i djelatnici Konzervatorskog odjela u Splitu Ministarstva kulture i medija te Sveučilišta u Splitu. S obzirom na brojnost podvodnih nalazišta i važnost kakvu je imao u plovidbi za vrijeme antičkog razdoblja, za područje pretrage izabran je upravo Šćedrovski kanal.

Višeslojnim snimanjem (skeniranjem) dna bočnim (side scan) sonarom, obradom dobivenih podataka, pregledom ciljanih pozicija podvodnim ROV-om (Remotely Operated Vehicle) opremljenim manjim sonarom i kamerom te zajedničkim zaronima timova hrvatskih i talijanskih ronioca pronađen je novi do sada neotkriveni antički brodolom.

Riječ je o potpuno očuvanom brodolomu s teretom antičkih amfora iz 3. stoljeća prije Krista, koji leži na dubini od 48 do 50 metara na ravnom dnu. S obzirom na dataciju riječ je o jednom od najranijih potpuno očuvanih brodoloma pronađenih na istočnoj obali Jadrana. Izrađena je primarna dokumentacija te je napravljen detaljan 3D model nalazišta, a buduća arheološka istraživanja utvrdit će točan kontekst, rasprostiranje i karakteristike lokaliteta, na osnovu čega će biti doneseni planovi za njegovu zaštitu, konzervaciju i buduću prezentaciju.

S obzirom na relativno dostupnu dubinu na kojoj se nalazi, odličnu vidljivost na lokalitetu te relativno slabe morske struje kojima je izložen, ovaj brodolom osim što ima iznimnu znanstvenu vrijednost također pokazuje veliki prezentacijski potencijal te će sigurno doprinijeti dalnjem razvoju ronilačkog i arheološkog turizma na ovom području.

09

ANTIČKI BRODOLOM NA **DUBINI OD 60 METARA**



Temeljem prijave lokalnog ronioca, 2020. godine pronađen je novi brodolom na području Šćedrovskog kanala između otoka Šćedra i mjesta Zavale na otoku Hvaru. Kao i slučaju ranijeg pronalaska brodoloma iz 2017. godine, riječ je o potpuno očuvanom antičkom brodolomu s teretom amfora koje se može datirati najvjerojatnije u 2. stoljeće prije Krista. Lokalitet je dokumentiran te je napravljen i detaljan 3D model nalazišta. Ostaci brodoloma leže na pjeskovitom,

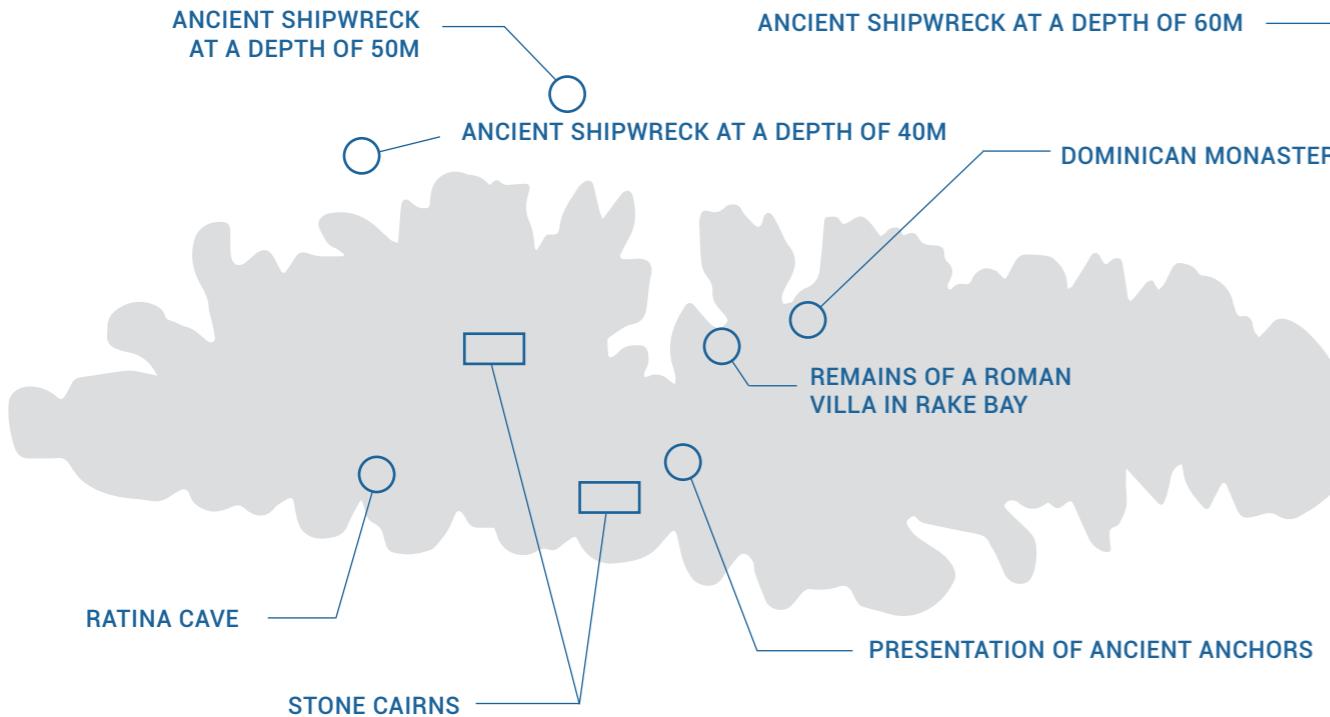
ravnom dnu, na prosječnoj dubini od 60 metara, a površinske dimenzije iznose mu otprilike 10 x 12m. Većina vidljivih amfora cjelovita je i izrazito inkrustrirana, a veliki broj ih se nazire u pjeskovitom mulju te je očuvan u dubljim slojevima dna.

Podvodna arheološka istraživanja, koja tek trebaju započeti, otkrit će daljnje arheološke artefakte te utvrditi točan kontekst, dataciju i važnost predmetnog brodoloma.

S obzirom kako je lokalitet smješten gotovo po sredini Šćedrovskog kanala, te je izložen jakim morskim strujama, i na njemu je relativno loša vidljivost, u ovom trenutku nije od znatnijeg prezentacijskog značaja, ali je planirano praćenje vidljivosti i morskih struja kroz godišnji ciklus kako bi se utvrdila povoljnija razdoblja kada bi zaron na brodolomu bio atraktivniji i sigurniji.

Na lokalitetu trenutačno nije dozvoljeno ronjenje dok ne budu završena podvodna arheološka istraživanja, nakon kojih će obavljanje ronilačkih aktivnosti biti dozvoljeno preko ovlaštenih centara.





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INTRODUCTION



Šćedro is an island on the southern side of the island of Hvar in the Korčula Channel, 2.7 km away from the settlement of Zavala on Hvar. The Latin name for Šćedro is Tauris, from which derive Italian names Tauricola or Torcola, hence why it was historically called Torkola. Its present name comes from Old Slavonic 'štедри,' meaning merciful or gracious, probably due to its convenient bays that offered shelter to seafarers. There are over 50 coves on the island facing all directions and providing a safe harbor sheltering from winds regardless where they blow from. This feature has drawn seafarers seeking refuge from storms and turbulent seas since ancient times. They likely built the first stone cairns as graves and sacred ritual sites, which, due to their number, position,

monumental appearance, and large dimensions, represent an exceptional rarity on the eastern coast of the Adriatic. The first mention of Šćedro dates back to ancient times when, in 47 BC, a naval battle occurred nearby during the civil war between Caesar and Pompey. Throughout its history, the island has held significant maritime importance along the navigational route from the south to the north of the Adriatic, being the only stop for ships traveling from Korčula to Hvar.

All these factors contribute to why there's such a large number of exceptionally valuable and well-preserved archaeological sites both on the island and in its underwater surroundings.

02

DOMINICAN MONASTERY

On the northern side of the island of Šćedro, in the bay of Mostir, significant remains of a church and Dominican monastery can be found. This church, dedicated to St. Mary, dates back to the period before the 14th century, although the exact date of its construction is not known. It was built by users of municipal land, most likely some distinguished noble from the island of Hvar. The church has a distinctive shape with a barrel vault and a rectangular apse, without many decorations. It is assumed to have been built on the foundations of a late antique sacred building complex dating back to the 4th or 5th century.

In 1486, Dominicans from Hvar arrived on the island

and, probably with the support of Venetian authorities, built a monastery next to the church of St. Mary. The Dominicans expanded the church of St. Mary by adding a spacious nave with a Gothic vault and decorations on the facade, transforming the old church into the center of a new monastery.

The original monastery building was of a smaller scale, but during the 16th and 17th centuries, it was expanded to its present size. The bell tower, which also served as a defensive tower, was built during the 18th century. The entire complex was surrounded by walls, although today only a small part of these walls remains. According to a cadastral map from 1834, there were two smaller ground-





floor buildings next to the monastery building, and two more along the coast, but only one ground-floor building by the sea has been preserved to this day.

Historical sources, especially in the archives of the Dominican order, mention the monastery and church under the names Saint Mary of Šćedro (Santa Maria Torcula de Pharo) and Saint Mary of Mercy (Santa Maria Gratiarum). There is a possibility that Saint Mary of Mercy was the name of the older late antique and later medieval church (*ecclesia in mare*) that the Dominican community on Šćedro retained.

Šćedro is located along the main maritime route along the coast and its bays served as a natural shelter for ships during adverse weather conditions. This favorable position on the main maritime route along the eastern coast of the Adriatic attracted pirates. It is believed that these threats from the sea likely led to the abandonment of the monastery on Šćedro in the mid-18th century. According to local tradition, the last vicar of the monastery crossed the channel between Šćedro and Zavala on the church doors, marking the beginning of the gradual collapse of this building. The

stone material from the church and monastery was used to build village houses, while treasures and art objects were transferred to other churches on Hvar. Despite the abandonment of the monastery, life on Šćedro continued, and in 1811, the state took over the monastery's property. In 1889, it was sold to two families from Hvar engaged in agriculture.

Today, the only remaining traces of this once imposing complex are the ruins of the church and monastery in Mostir.



03

STONE CAIRNS

The island of Šćedro abounds in archaeological sites that testify to human activity in the area during prehistory, antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the modern era. The island's ancient and medieval cultural heritage is well-documented, while prehistoric exploration of the island is less extensive. The first records of stone cairns on the island of Šćedro date back to the 15th century, with more detailed accounts provided by Austrian archaeologist Carl Patsch in 1909.

The initial archaeological research on the island of Šćedro was conducted by the archaeologist Grga Novak from Hvar in 1923. During his visit to the island, he explored Ratina Cave and discovered fragments of Iron Age

pottery. Later, in 1973 and 1977, archaeologists Marin Zaninović and Nikša Petrić conducted archaeological reconnaissance on the island and investigated the Kadunje cairn site.

The most detailed archaeological survey of the island was carried out in 1989 as part of the international project "Adriatic Islands." Numerous archaeological sites on Šćedro, including more than 50 stone cairns, were documented during this time.

As part of the "Mapping, Documentation, and Survey of Archaeological Sites on the Island of Šćedro" project, conducted in the summers of 2018 and 2019 under





the leadership of Mia Marijan, a survey of the island was conducted to document the existing condition of registered sites as well as to search for new ones.

Subsequently, systematic archaeological investigations of the stone cairns on Šcedro began in 2020 and 2021 under the guidance of archaeologist Eduard Visković. No mobile archaeological material has so far been found in these investigations, and in 2022, a probing archaeological survey of Ratina Cave was conducted.

From 2020 to 2021, a comprehensive survey of the island of Šcedro was carried out as part of the "Cairns of the Island of Šcedro" project. Due to the dense vegetation and forest covering the island, fieldwork was adapted to these conditions. The on-site survey was conducted through a combination of hiking exploration in accessible areas and the use of drones for inaccessible parts of the island. Aerial photographs from 1968, when the island was less forested, were utilized along with modern satellite images for documentation purposes. Additionally, the existing archaeological register of the island of Šcedro, developed as part of the "Adriatic Islands" project, was used. This integrated approach facilitated a detailed investigation and documentation of the cairns on the

island, utilizing an aerial perspective.

During the investigations, more than a hundred stone cairns were recorded. The cairns can be divided into two basic categories: those with a regular circular or oval shape and those of irregular shape. Among all the cairns, those potentially relevant in archaeological terms are those with a regular circular or oval layout. In the 2020 survey, a total of 60 such cairns were documented. The cairns are distributed across the island and grouped into seven different clusters. It's important to note that these cairns are located in prominent positions on the island, making them visible and easily discernible in the landscape.

The most common surface diameter of circular cairns on the island of Šcedro ranges between 20 and 25 meters. However, there are cairns with smaller diameters as well as several with larger ones. Their height varies from 1 to 4 meters, and they differ in the size of the stones used in their construction.

Previous research indicates that stone cairns, serving as burial mounds, began appearing on islands along the eastern Adriatic coast and its hinterlands in the

late Chalcolithic period. The construction of these cairns continued intensively during the Bronze Age and persisted until the end of the Iron Age. During the late Iron Age, however, a gradual decline in the construction of these cairns can be observed.

Based on these facts, it is likely that the cairns on the island of Šcedro originated in prehistory, during the Bronze or Iron Age, similar to the cairns on the island of Hvar. Current research, however, suggests that not all cairns with archaeological characteristics were used as burial sites. Some cairns in which no graves were found might have served as symbolic tombs without burials. Additionally, there are cairns serving as part of the defensive systems of prehistoric settlements. Without systematic archaeological investigations of the cairns on the island of Šcedro, it's not possible to determine their function and nature.

LOCATION AND ACCESS

Most of the cairns are inaccessible with no established paths leading to them. Those which are accessible are in the central part of the island, making up the Central and Southwestern clusters.



04

RATINA CAVE

Ratina Cave, situated on the southwest part of the island of Šćedro, consists of an entrance area and two separate gallery rooms. The cave's length measures 23 meters, with its maximum width being 8 meters. This cave represents a crucial discovery in the prehistory of the island, providing the only reliable evidence of inhabitation dating to that distant period.

The name of the cave originates from a local islander named Ratomir, known as Rato, who in the late 20th century directed archaeologists to this important location

while they were exploring archaeological sites on the island.

The first archaeological survey was conducted in 1923 by Grga Novak, during which fragments of Iron



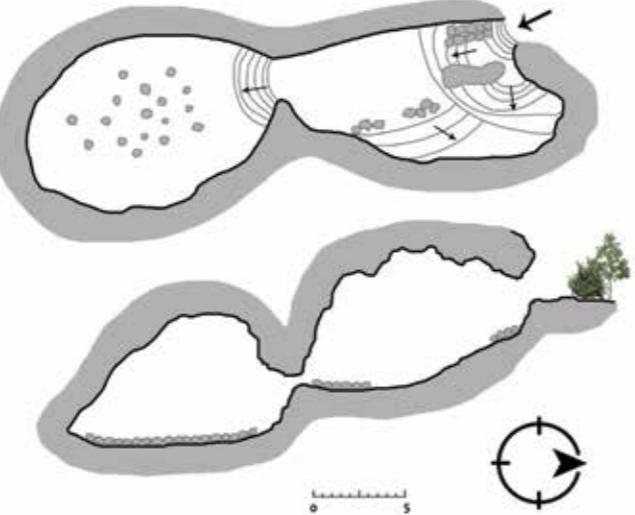
Age pottery were unearthed. However, seeing as these surveys were conducted on a relatively small scale, it will be up to future systematic research to provide more comprehensive information about the prehistoric inhabitants of the island.

The entrance to the cave is located on its northwest side and has an irregular shape with an approximate width of 1 meter and a height of 1.7 meters. At its narrowest point, the entrance is only half a meter wide. The cave gently slopes towards the south, and just past the entrance lies the northern gallery measuring 12 x 6 meters, with a maximum height of 5 meters. The floor of this room is covered with a layer of soil where numerous remnants of animal bones are visible. At the very end of the northern gallery is a small passageway leading to the southern gallery, which is 11 x 8 meters in size with a maximum height of 4 meters. The floor of this chamber is also covered with a layer of soil, likely originating from material transferred from the northern gallery. Remnants of animal bones are also visible on the floor of the southern gallery.

Based on the position and characteristics of the cave, as well as current knowledge, it is likely that the cave served as a shelter during harsh weather conditions and was not permanently inhabited for extended periods during prehistoric times. The existence of cultural layers in the deeper parts of the embankment is probable, but this will need to be confirmed by future archaeological research.

LOCATION AND ACCESS

Situated on the southwest part of the island of Šćedro, above the bay of Spilski Dolac, Ratina Cave is located on



a high plateau that offers a panoramic view of Pelješac and Korčula. There is no motorized transportation available on the island of Šćedro, so the cave can only be reached via a hiking trail that starts from Veli Porat. The hike from Veli Porat to the cave takes about an hour and is not challenging, although caution should be exercised when descending into the cave itself. The trail is clearly marked and organized for visitors.

05

ŠĆEDRO VILLA MARITIMA IN RAKE BAY LAND

Systematic research is being conducted in Rake Bay on a villa maritima, a wealthy Roman country estate and economic complex with thermal baths, adorned with painted walls and mosaics. The walls of the villa were still visible in the bay during the first half of the 20th century, but they disappeared when houses and dry stone walls started being built. The presence of a sarcophagus was also recorded. Traces from Antiquity remain visible in the bay and underwater. On the shore, numerous fragments of ceramic vessels, parts of hydraulic plaster, mosaic substrates, worked stone, and tufa stone used for vault construction can be found, originating from the quarry in Tufera Bay. Enclosing dry stone walls were constructed from more regular hewn stones bearing traces





of ancient plaster, among which fragments of dolia and amphorae are visible. Ceramic fragments, parts of a stone vessel or an urn with a handle, and large finely worked stone fragments, potentially parts of an olive or wine press, can all be found in the once-cultivated fields and around abandoned houses and enclosing dry

stone walls. In the dense undergrowth of the neglected valley, a lost stone chest with secondary perforations was rediscovered. It was most probably used as an amphora or as part of an oil press. It is likely that this is the mentioned sarcophagus that could no longer be seen after the mid-20th century due to dense vegetation covering the fields.

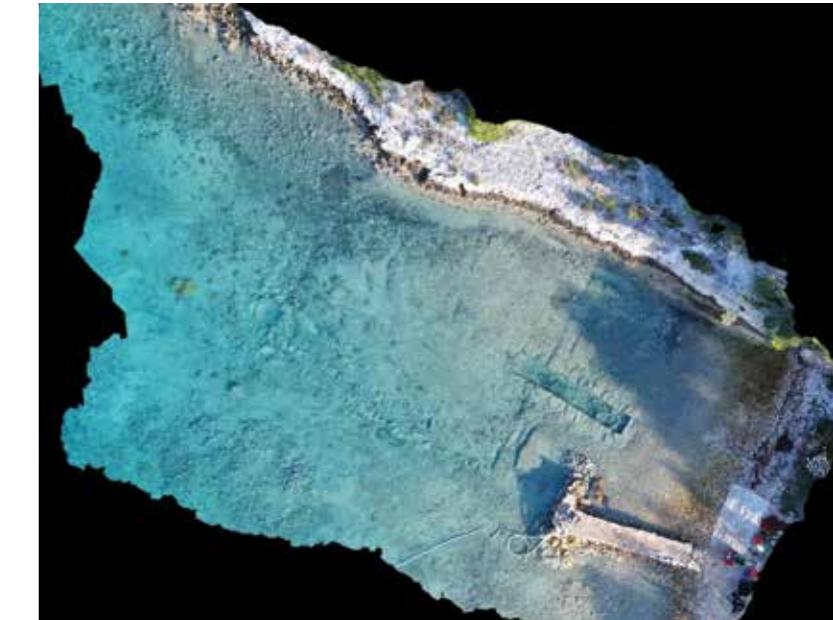
The houses along the coast were built in 1914 on the terraced rocks of an ancient quarry where high-quality limestone was extracted for constructing the villa, producing lime, and for land leveling and drainage. The walls of these houses were built using finely crafted ancient square stone blocks and beams, while parts of a fluted ancient column were incorporated into the western window of the larger house.

Numerous fragments of ceramic vessels, bricks, tegulae, glass shards, mosaic tiles, various types of ancient plaster with impressions of corners and flat surfaces, white frescoes with red, yellow, black, and green

paint, animal bones, shell fragments, lead weights, bronze and iron nails, and coins have been found in the archaeological layers. The earliest findings indicative of habitation in the area around the villa, potentially from the initial phase of construction, are fragments of roof tiles stamped with the seal of the SOLONAS workshop from the 1st century. The villa was partially or completely demolished after the middle of the 4th century, which can be determined by a coin dating to the reign of Constantius II from 348 to 351 AD with a circular inscription on the reverse side, FEL(icium) TEMP(orum) REPARATIO, and a depiction of a Roman soldier triumphing over the enemy. The coin was found beneath the ruins of the villa. The location, along with the potentially downscaled building, continued to be utilized in later periods. The Academy of Arts of the University of Split has been systematically investigating the villa's structures on land and underwater since 2014.

ŠĆEDRO VILLA MARITIMA IN RAKE BAY UNDERWATER

The seabed in all the island's bays is littered with numerous traces of life from all periods. The largest bay of the island, Porat, is divided into three smaller coves: Lovišće with Velika Pazuha, Krakavac, and Rake. An ancient breakwater, now submerged, protected the Velika Pazuha cove from northern and eastern winds. Discarded ballast stones can also be found lying on the seabed. In the shallow waters at the bottom of the bay, the skeletal remains of an ancient seafarer or perhaps a warrior who participated in the decisive battle



between Caesar's and Pompey's fleets, which could have taken place in the waters off Šcedro, were discovered. The best sheltered bay on the island is Rake Bay which hosts a Roman *villa maritima*, a wealthy country estate and economic complex with thermal baths, adorned with painted walls and mosaics. The underwater monumental structures of this villa have been systematically studied since 2014 by the Academy of Arts of the University of Split. Parts of the villa that once stood along the coastline and in shallow waters are being unearthed beneath



the sea. The rising water levels have submerged these structures, but they are still visible from the shore. A pool for breeding and keeping fish, called a vivarium, was built by the coast using large stone blocks. Embedded at the bottom of the docking pier is a large ceramic perforated vessel, a dolium, which was used as a fishpond. Fragments of a mosaic made of white and black stone cubes as well as the remains of ancient walls are visible underwater and extend towards the mainland. Carved into the rocks of the coast are stairs that led to multiple floors or levels of the complex. The archaeological cultural layers are exceptionally rich. Numerous fragments of ceramic vessels, bricks, tegulae, glass fragments, mosaic tiles, pieces of various types of ancient plaster, white frescoes with red, yellow, black, and green paint, animal bones, shell fragments, burnt branches, olive and medlar pits, lead fastenings, and more have been found. The earliest findings from the villa that can be reliably dated are fragments of tegulae, roof ceramic tiles, with the seal of the manufacturer SOLONAS from the 1st century. The villa was partially or completely demolished after the middle of the 4th century, which can be determined by a coin dating to the reign of Constantius II from 348 to 351 AD with a circular inscription on the reverse side, FEL(icium) TEMP(orum) REPARATIO, and a depiction of a Roman soldier triumphing over the enemy. The coin was found beneath the ruins of the villa.





PRESERVATION OF **ANCIENT ANCHORS**

On the northern side of the island, at a depth of 37 meters, an ancient lead anchor stock measuring 1.2 meters was discovered. The anchor was most likely part of the equipment from a nearby shipwreck dating back to the 1st century BC. The anchor has been retrieved, reconstructed after undergoing primary conservation work, and is now displayed on the plateau south of Veli Porat, alongside another iron anchor also found in the underwater vicinity of the island.

07

ANCIENT SHIPWRECK AT A DEPTH OF 40 METERS

In November 2017, a new shipwreck was discovered off the northern coast of the island of Šćedro. Upon initial inspection, it was evident that it was an ancient shipwreck with a completely preserved cargo of Roman Republican Lamboglia 2 type amphorae, dating back to the 1st century BCE. The remains of the ship's cargo lie on a sandy, almost flat seabed at a depth of 40-42 meters in a north-south direction. The dimensions of the surface area of the shipwreck are approximately 15 x 7 meters. More than 200 amphorae are visible, arranged in seven parallel rows and three levels one above the other, the same way they would have been positioned in the belly of the ship while it was sailing. A large number of amphorae still have their ceramic lids sealed. Most of the amphorae are intact, with only a small number damaged during the sinking of the

ship. Underwater archaeological research has commenced at the site, in collaboration with the Academy of Arts of the University of Split and the Conservation Department of the Ministry of Culture and Media. These efforts have revealed the existence of a cultural layer and more amphorae in the deeper layers of sand and mud. Visibility at the site is exceptionally good, and the sea currents are generally weak (depending on the time of year), making the site extremely presentable and attractive for tourist diving.

The newly discovered shipwreck is one of the most significant archaeological sites in the underwater territory of the Split-Dalmatia County, primarily due to the level of preservation and the abundance of findings. Consequently, it has been covered with a protective metal cage to better preserve and present it.



08

ANCIENT SHIPWRECK AT A DEPTH OF 50 METERS



In June 2023, a joint military exercise was conducted by the Croatian Navy and the Navy of the Italian Republic aimed at exploring the seabed. The exercise served as an excellent opportunity to enhance cooperation with other state bodies and scientific institutions. Personnel from the Conservation Department in Split of the Ministry of Culture and Media, as well as the University of Split, participated in this exercise.

The Šćedro Channel was chosen as the location for the exercise and seabed inspection due to the abundance of underwater archaeological sites discovered there over the past years, testifying to its significance for maritime navigation during Antiquity. Through multilayered seabed scanning using side-scan sonar, data processing, examination of targeted positions using a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) equipped with a smaller sonar and camera, along with joint dives by Croatian and Italian diving teams, a previously undiscovered ancient

shipwreck was found. This fully preserved shipwreck from the 3rd century BC carries a cargo of ancient amphorae and rests at a depth of 48- 50 meters on a flat seabed.

Given its dating, this discovery ranks as one of the earliest fully preserved shipwrecks found on the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea. Primary documentation has been completed, and a detailed 3D model of the site has been produced. Future archaeological investigations will determine the precise context, extent, and characteristics of the site, upon which plans for its protection, conservation, and future presentation will be based. Due to its relatively accessible depth, excellent visibility at the site, and relatively mild sea currents it is exposed to, this shipwreck not only holds exceptional scientific value but also demonstrates significant presentation potential. It is likely to contribute to the further development of diving and archaeological tourism in this area.

09

ANCIENT SHIPWRECK AT A DEPTH OF 60 METERS



In 2020, a new shipwreck was discovered in the area of the Šćedro Channel between the island of Šćedro and the town of Zavala on the island of Hvar, based on a report by local diver. Similar to the previous case, this is a completely preserved ancient shipwreck with a cargo of amphorae, likely dating back to the 2nd century BC. The site has been documented and a detailed 3D model of the site has been created.

The remains of the shipwreck lie on a sandy, flat

seabed at an average depth of 60 meters, with surface dimensions approximately 10 x 12 meters. Most visible amphorae are heavily encrusted yet intact, while many can be seen preserved in the sandy mud of the deeper layers of the seabed. Underwater archaeological research, which is yet to commence, will uncover further archaeological artifacts and establish the precise context, dating, and significance of this shipwreck. Given the site's location nearly in the middle of the Šćedro Channel, exposed to strong sea currents and poor visibility, it currently holds no significant presentation value. However, there are plans to monitor visibility conditions and sea currents throughout the yearly cycle to determine favorable periods when diving to the shipwreck would be more attractive and safe. Diving at the site is currently prohibited until the completion of underwater archaeological research. Afterward, diving activities will be allowed through authorized centers.



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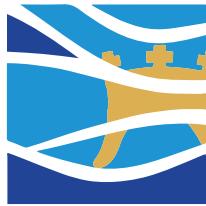
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The Association of Friends of Šćedro Island is constantly engaged in protecting the environment and preserving the heritage of this island, which is one of the special pearls of the Croatian Adriatic.

Prijatelji otoka
Šćedro