

TWO HELLENISTIC WEIGHTS OF CYZICUS FROM DASCYLIIUM

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Keywords: *Weights • Cyzicene • Cyzicus • Dascylium • Daskyleion • Mna • Hemistateron*

Abstract: The article deals with two lead weights found during the 1954 campaign of excavations at Dascylium under the direction of Ekrem Akurgal. The first weight measures 48 x 46 x 13 mm and weighs 246.28 g; it is square in form with rounded corners (Fig. 1). On the obverse is a dolphin in relief; there is no inscription. The reverse is plain. It is a *hemimnaion*. The second weight, also square in form, measures 22 x 22 x 3 mm and weighs 8.93 g with slightly rounded corners (Fig. 2). On the obverse, there is a dolphin too, to right, holding a small fish in its mouth; the dolphin is flanked by the words of KYZI(κηνῶν) and ΗΜΙΣ(τάτηρον), all in relief. The reverse of the weight is blank. It is a *hemistateron*, i.e. “half-stater”. Both weights belong to Cyzicus and date back to the Hellenistic Period.

DASKYLEION’DAN İKİ HELLENİSTİK KYZIKOS AĞIRLIĞI

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Ağırlık • Kyzikos • Cyzicus • Daskyleion • Mna • Hemistateron*

Özet: Makalede, 1954 yılında Ekrem Akurgal başkanlığında Daskyleion’da yürütülen arkeolojik kazılarda bulunan iki adet kurşun ağırlık ele alınmaktadır. İlk ağırlık 48 x 46 x 13 mm boyutlarında ve 246.28 g ağırlığında olup köşeleri yuvarlaklaştırılmış yaklaşık kare bir forma sahiptir (Fig. 1). Ön yüzde kabartma olarak işlenmiş bir yunus yer almaktadır; ağırlığın üzerinde etnik veya birim adına işaret eden bir yazı bulunmamaktadır; arka yüzü düz olan ağırlığın birimi *hemimnaion*’dur. İkinci ağırlık yine kare formunda olup 22 x 22 x 3 mm boyutlarında ve 8.93 g ağırlığındadır; köşeleri çok az yuvarlaklaştırılmıştır (Fig. 2). Ön yüzde, ağzında ufak bir balık tutan yunus yer almaktadır; yukarıda ve aşağıda KYZI(κηνῶν) ve ΗΜΙΣ(τάτηρον) yazıları yer alır tümü kabartma işlenmiştir. Ağırlığın arka yüzü boştur; birimi *hemistateron* yani yarım-stater’dir. Her iki ağırlık da Kyzikos’a ait olup Hellenistik Döneme tarihlendirilmektedir.

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Dascylium (today Ergili-Hisartepe) was an important satrapal centre in Northwestern Anatolia, where Ekrem Akurgal carried out excavations during 1950's¹. Numerous archaeological artefacts from the Achaemenid period were unearthed and most of them are now kept in the Bandırma Museum. Dascylium continued its presence for a while after Alexander the Great defeated the Persians but lost its importance in time. During the Hellenistic Period, Dascylium lived in the shadow of Cyzicus and stayed under its control. The Cyzicene weights found at Dascylium show the impact of Cyzicus at the site². The present article deals with two lead weights, which were found during Akurgal's excavations in 1954 at Dascylium and then kept at some length at the Faculty of Languages, History and Geography of Ankara University³.

The first weight which was found as a surface find at the Trench of Ergili C measures 48 x 46 x 13 mm and weighs 246.28 g; it is nearly square in form with rounded corners; there is a depression on the left bottom corner; it is worn (Fig. 1). On the obverse is a fish in relief placed horizontally, to left; there is no inscription or mark indicating the ethnic or its denomination; Although the fish with its plain anatomy resembles a tuna fish, it should be a dolphin since it has a

beak or a marked nose and a large tail. There is a depression on the side near the head which gives an impression of a pectoral fin but it is solely a depression. The reverse of the weight is plain. Although it does not bear its unit name, its mass corresponds to a *hemimnaion*. And although it does not bear the ethnic, one may conclude that this weight belongs to Cyzicus since it was found at Dascylium, where Cyzicene weights are found commonly. Besides, dolphin is a symbol seen on the Cyzicene weights although not so frequent. With this example, a *hemimnaion* is added to the units of the known examples with dolphin device – *distateron*⁴, *hemistateron*⁵ and *mná*⁶. The masses of the Cyzicene *hemimnaion* are 280.87 g⁷, 254.05 g⁸, 252 g⁹, 243.2 g¹⁰, 234.8 g¹¹, 227.85 g¹² and 221.20 g¹³; they usually bear the abbreviation of ethnic (KYZI) and unit name (HMI). When we consider the masses listed above, we see that the average mass of a Cyzicene *hemimnaion* was c. 245 g (see also Table). The *mna* weights known to the author are 673.3 g¹⁴, 506.80 g¹⁵, 506.1 g¹⁶, 493.7 g¹⁷, 492.1 g¹⁸, 480 g¹⁹, 466 g²⁰, 465.10 g²¹ - and if the

¹ Akurgal 1956, 20-24.

² For the Cyzicene weights in the Bandırma Museum see Tekin 2013d, 621-626, No. 1-4, 6.

³ I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Kutalmış Görkay, Head of the Archaeology Department, for permitting me to publish the weights and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zeynep Çizmeli Ögün for her help in accessing the weights.

⁴ Weiss 1990, 121, No. 11; Private Collection of G. Kürkman, No. 09; *CPAI Turkey* 3, No. 18.

⁵ Tekin 2013b, 46-47 (second weight in this article).

⁶ Tekin 2013a, No. 15.

⁷ Tekin 2013c, No. 1.

⁸ *CPAI Turkey* 3, No. 007.

⁹ Tekin 2013d, No. 1.

¹⁰ Balıkesir Museum, Inv. No. 2282.

¹¹ Tekin 2013a, No. 18.

¹² *CPAI Turkey* 3, No. 008.

¹³ Tekin 2013d, No. 2.

¹⁴ Tekin 2013a, No. 15.

¹⁵ *CNG* 94, 874.

¹⁶ Tekin 2013a, No. 16.

¹⁷ Tekin 2013a, No. 17.

¹⁸ Balıkesir Museum, Inv. No. 1712.

first figure of 673.3 g, which is heavier than the others, is excluded - we find an average mass of c. 487 g (see also Table). Thus, considering the average masses, it appears that the *mna* and the *hemimnaion* of Cyzicus have nearly strict proportional values to each other (c. $487 \div 2 =$ c. 244 g or c. $245 \text{ g} \times 2 = 490 \text{ g}$). The varying masses of the Cyzicene *mna* may be explained with the rising quantity of drachm in *mna* during the Classical and Hellenistic periods. The present weight dates back to the Hellenistic Period.

The second weight was also found in a context near to surface during the 1954 campaign (Fig. 2)²². The weight measures 22 x 22 x 3 mm and weighs 8.93 g with slightly rounded corners. On the obverse, there is a dolphin, to right, holding a small fish in its mouth; the dolphin is flanked by the words of KYZI and HMIS, all in relief. The tail of the dolphin is taller than usual and curled. Dolphins are rarely seen on the Cyzicene weights as stated above; in fact, the civic badges of Cyzicus were tuna fish and torch²³. The reverse of the weight is blank. While KYZI denotes that the weight belonged to Cyzicus or rather to the people of Cyzicus (Κυζικηνῶν); HMIS denotes that it was a *hemistateron* (ἡμιστάτηρον) i.e. a “half-stater”. The surviving *hemistateron* weights of Cyzicus vary from 8.65 g to 17.75 g (see the

Table). This means that the average mass was somewhere between 12 and 15 g because the masses of the *stater*s also vary from 17.65 g to 30.52 g (see the Table). Since the mass of the present weight is 8.93 g, it should be half of a *stater* of 17.86 g (8.93 g x 2). The varying masses of the same units may be explained by the change in the weight standard in Cyzicus in time. Considering that the standard was on the rise in time, the present weight may be dated to the early Hellenistic Period. In fact, on the present weight, which was used to check the masses of the coins of precious metal in the market, it reads Σ instead of C in HMIS and this may indicate its Hellenistic character, although it is not an absolute criterion.

List of the Tables and Figures:

Table 1: Stater and hemistateron units of Cyzicene Weights.

Table 2: Mna and hemimnaion units of Cyzicene Weights.

Figure 1: Hemimnaion

Figure 2: Hemistateron

¹⁹ Weiss 1990, 122, No. 18.

²⁰ Weiss 1990, 122, No. 19.

²¹ CPAI Turkey 3, No. 006.

²² There is a short description in Köker 2008. For a revised and corrected commentary on the weight see Tekin 2013b, 46-47.

²³ For the Cyzicene weights see also Weiss 1990, 117-128.

Metal	Mass	Symbol	Ethnic	Unit Mark/Name	Reference
<u>STATER</u>					
Lead	30.52 g	caduceus	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	Weiss 1990, no. 9
Lead	30.18 g	torch	KYZ(ικηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	<i>JE</i> 113, # 613
Lead	27.90 g	caduceus	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	Weiss 1990, no. 8
Lead	26.4 g	winged caduceus	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	Tekin 2013a, no. 11
Lead	22.50 g	torch	KYZ(ικηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 3, no. 19
Lead	22.1 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	Tekin 2013a, no. 12
Lead	21.13 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	Tekin 2013c, no. 6
Lead	21.0 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	Tekin 2013a, no. 13
Lead	20.75 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	<i>CNG</i> 94, # 878
Lead	20.46 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	<i>CNG</i> 94, # 879
Lead	20.25 g	torch	KYZ(ικηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)?	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 3, no. 20
Lead	19.85 g	winged caduceus	KYZ(ικηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 3, no. 21
Bronze	19.18 g	tuna fish	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	Weiss 1990, no. 5
Lead	18.90 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	Weiss 1990, no. 7
Lead	18.04 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	Weiss 1990, no. 6
Lead	17.65 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	CTA(τήρ)	Tekin 2013d, no. 6
<u>HEMISTATERON (Half-stater)</u>					
Lead	17.75 g	tuna fish	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMI(στάτηρον)	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 3, no. 22
Lead	14.43 g	torch	KY(ζικηνῶν)	HM(ιστάτηρον)	Weiss 1990, no. 4
Lead	13.3 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMI(στάτηρον)	Tekin 2013a, no. 14
Lead	13.05 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMI(στάτηρον)	<i>CNG</i> 94, # 880
Lead	12.55 g	torch	KYZ(ικηνῶν)	HM(ιστάτηρον)	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 3, no. 24
Lead	10.50 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMIC(τάτηρον)	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 3, no. 25
Lead	10.35 g	no symbol	KYZ(ικηνῶν)	HMIC(τάτηρον)	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 3, no. 28
Lead	10.30 g	torch	KYZ(ικηνῶν)	HMI(στάτηρον)	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 3, no. 27
Lead	9.85 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMI(στάτηρον)	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 3, no. 23
Lead	9.40 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMIC(τάτηρον)	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 3, no. 26
Lead	8.9 g	dolphin	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMIΣ(τάτηρον)	Tekin 2013b (second weight here)
Lead	8.65 g	torch	KYZ(ικηνῶν)	HMI(στάτηρον)	Tekin 2013d, no. 7
Lead	5.66 g (pierced)	torch	KY(ζικηνῶν)	H(μ)C(τάτηρον)?	<i>CPAI Turkey</i> 2, no. 32

Table 1

Metal	Mass	Symbol	Ethnic	Unit Mark/Name	Reference
<u>MNA</u>					
Lead	673.3 g	dolphin	KYZIKH(νῶν)	MNA	Tekin 2013a, no. 15
Lead	506.80 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	MNA	CNG 94, # 874
Lead	506.1 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	MNA	Tekin 2013a, no. 16
Lead	493.7 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	MNA	Tekin 2013a, no. 17
Lead	492.1 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	MNA	Balikesir Mus. Inv. no. 1712
Lead	480 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	MNA	Weiss 1990, no. 18
Lead	466 g	tuna fish	KYZI(κηνῶν)	MNA	Weiss 1990, no. 19
Lead	465.10 g	tuna fish	KYZI(κηνῶν)	MNA	CPAI Turkey 3, no. 006
<u>HEMIMNAION (Half-mna)</u>					
Lead	280.87 g	tuna fish	no ethnic	HMI(μναιον)	Tekin 2013c, no. 1
Lead	254.05 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMI(μναιον)	CPAI Turkey 3, no. 007
Lead	252 g	tuna fish	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMI(μναιον)	Tekin 2013d, no. 1
Lead	246.28 g	dolphin	no ethnic	no unit name	First weight here
Lead	243.2 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMI(μναιον)	Balikesir Mus. Inv. no. 2282
Lead	234.8 g	torch	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMI(μναιον)	Tekin 2013a, no. 18
Lead	227.85 g	tuna fish	no ethnic	no unit name	CPAI Turkey 3, no. 008
Lead	221.2 g	tuna fish	KYZI(κηνῶν)	HMI(μναιον)	Tekin 2013d, no. 2

Table 2

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Figure 1



Figure 2