



Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium (Durrës) coins and hoard in the Mediterranean territories from 4th to 3rd centuries BC: A spatial distribution analysis

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Keywords: trade, mintage, colony,
military campaigns, city-state

Түйін сөздер: сауда, монета соғу,
отар, әскери жорықтар, қала-
мемлекет

Ключевые слова: торговля,
чеканка монет, колония, военные
кампании, город-государство

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The study of the territorial distribution of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium coins is a relevant topic in the context of the study of the history of Antiquity, because by studying the history of numismatics, a number of general historical conclusions can be made. The purpose of this article is to study and analyze the territorial distribution of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium coins in the 4th-3rd centuries BC. In the course of conducting this research, a number of methods were used, in particular: analysis, synthesis, comparison, specification and generalization. As a result of the study, the history of the coinage of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium was considered, and the characteristic features of the first coins were determined. All the finds of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium coins were also framed and displayed on the map. It was determined that the coins of the 4th century BC were mostly spread on the coastal area of the Adriatic Sea, which is evidence of maritime trade, and also in Sicily, which is the result of military campaigns. In the 3rd century BC coins of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium appear in the territory of modern Romania and Bulgaria, which indicates the development of overland trade routes. Many coins were also found in the territory of coastal cities, which indicates a stronger development of sea trade. This article is the first comprehensive study of the territorial distribution of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium coins, and is useful for historians studying the economic and military aspects of Antiquity.

For citation: Kasa, A. 2024. Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium (Durrës) coins and hoard in the Mediterranean territories from 4th to 3rd centuries BC: A spatial distribution analysis. *Kazakhstan Archeology*, 1 (23), 62–78.

[DOI: 10.52967/akz2024.1.23.62.78](https://doi.org/10.52967/akz2024.1.23.62.78)

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**Б.д.д. IV ғ. мен III ғ. аралығында Жерорта теңізі
аумағындағы Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium (Durrës)
монеталары мен көмбесі:
кеңістікте таралуын талдау**

Эпидамн/Диррахий монеталарының аумақтағы таралуын зерттеу ежелгі тарихты зерттеу тұрғысынан қарағанда өзекті тақырып. Өйткені нумизматика тарихын зерттей отырып, бірқатар жалпы тарихи тұжырымдар жасауға болады. Бұл мақаланың мақсаты – Эпидамн/Диррахий монеталарының б.д.д. IV—III ғғ. аумаққа таралуын зерттеу және талдау. Осы зерттеу

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**Монеты и клад Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium (Durrës)
на средиземноморских территориях
с IV по III в. до н.э.:
анализ пространственного распределения**

Изучение территориального распределения монет Эпидамна/Диррахия является актуальной темой в контексте изучения истории античности, поскольку, изучая историю нумизматики, можно сделать ряд общих исторических выводов. Целью данной статьи является изучение и анализ территориального распространения монет Эпидамна/Диррахия в IV-III вв.



барысында талдау, синтез, салыстыру, нақтылау және жалпылау секілді бірқатар әдістер қолданылды. Зерттеу нәтижесінде Эпидамн/Диррахий монеталардың соғу тарихы қарастырылып, алғашқы монеталардың өзіне тән ерекшеліктері анықталды. Табылған Эпидамн/Диррахий монеталарының бәрі рәсімделіп, картаға түсірілді. Б.д.д. IV ғ. монеталар негізінен Адриатика теңізінің жағалау аймағында таралғаны анықталды, демек онда теңіз саудасы жүрген, сонымен қатар әскери жорықтар нәтижесінде монеталар Сицилияға да тараған екен. Б.д.д. III ғ. Эпидамн/Диррахий монеталары қазіргі Румыния мен Болгария аумағында пайда болған, бұл құрлықтағы сауда жолдарының дамығанына дәлел бола алады. Жағалаудағы қалалар аумағынан да көптеген монета табылған, бұл теңіз саудасының қарқынды дамығанын білдіреді. Аталмыш мақала – Эпидамн/Диррахий монеталарының аумаққа таралуын жан-жақты қамтыған алғашқы зерттеу, ежелгі дәуірдің экономикалық әрі әскери аспектілерін зерттейтін тарихшыларға пайдалы.

Сілтеме жасау үшін: Каса А. Б.д.д. IV ғ. мен III ғ. аралығында Жерорта теңізі аумағындағы Epidamnus/Dyrrachium (Durres) монеталары мен көмбесі: кеңістікте таралуын талдау. *Қазақстан археологиясы*. 2024. № 1 (23). 62–78-бб. (Ағылшынша).

[DOI: 10.52967/akz2024.1.23.62.78](https://doi.org/10.52967/akz2024.1.23.62.78)

до н.э. В ходе проведения данного исследования был использован ряд методов, в частности: анализ, синтез, сравнение, конкретизация и обобщение. В результате исследования была рассмотрена история чеканки монет Эпидамна/Диррахия и определены характерные особенности первых монет. Все находки монет Эпидамна/Диррахия также были оформлены и отображены на карте. Было установлено, что монеты IV в. до н.э. были в основном распространены в прибрежной зоне Адриатического моря, что свидетельствует о морской торговле, а также на Сицилии, что является результатом военных кампаний. В III в. до н.э. монеты Эпидамна/Диррахия появляются на территории современных Румынии и Болгарии, что свидетельствует о развитии сухопутных торговых путей. Многие монеты также были найдены на территории прибрежных городов, что свидетельствует о более интенсивном развитии морской торговли. Эта статья является первым всесторонним исследованием территориального распределения монет Эпидамна/Диррахия и полезна историкам, изучающим экономические и военные аспекты античности.

Для цитирования: Каса А. Монеты и клад Epidamnus/Dyrrachium (Durres) на средиземноморских территориях с IV по III в. до н.э.: анализ пространственного распределения. *Археология Казахстана*. 2024. № 1 (23). С. 62–78 (на англ. яз.).

[DOI: 10.52967/akz2024.1.23.62.78](https://doi.org/10.52967/akz2024.1.23.62.78)

1 Introduction

Study of the spatial distribution of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium coins in the 4th-3rd centuries BC is important in various aspects. In particular, coins are important sources of information about the culture and history of ancient societies. Studying coins and treasures can help recreate the history and culture of that time. In addition, coins were an important means of exchange and payment in ancient times. Thus, the study of coins and treasures can help in studying of how the economy of ancient civilizations functioned and how trade was conducted. Also, the study of this topic will allow for understanding how the trade routes passed in this region.

First of all, the problem of this study is the complete collection of sources, because during the 20th and 21st centuries a number of archaeological excavations took place, as a result of which a significant number of coins produced in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium was found. Thus, the first problem is to collect all the sources in order to fully disclose the given topic. Another problem of studying the spatial distribution of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium coins is that the origin of coins in various territories is unknown, due to which assumptions should be made based on general historical data. In particular, in the case of researching the issue of a large number of finds on the island of Sicily, which date back to the 4th century BC, it can be argued that they connected with the military campaigns of the Greeks. However, due to the analysis of a coin from the 4th century BC found on the territory of modern Iraq, it can be argued that drawing an accurate conclusion about its origin is difficult.

A number of scholars have studied this topic, in particular, S.R. Poole (1876) is the author of the catalog of Greek coin findings. This catalog is a complete collection, which also includes coins minted in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium. However, this work is exclusively a descriptive catalog, without a detailed analysis of the territorial distribution of coins. In the context of the history of the foundation of Epidamnus/



Dyrrahchium, the work of A. Blank (2021) is important. The author managed to fully describe the history of the founding of the mentioned Corinthian colony, and to describe the origins of its coin business. K. Pratt (2021) has studied the economic activity of Ancient Greece. The author studied in detail the issue of trade activities of the leading cities of that time, but almost did not pay attention to the activities of the colonies in this area. Regarding the question of Timoleon's military campaigns in Sicily, an important study is the article by L. Cappelletti (2020), in which the author identified the main aspects of the activities of the mentioned commander. R.J. Crampton (2005) is the author of a book on the history of Bulgaria, in which he determined the main aspects of the development of this country, but little was mentioned about the economic relations on the territory of this state in Antiquity.

The purpose of this study is to consider and analyze the spatial distribution of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium coins in the 4th-3rd centuries BC. Thus, the main tasks are the collection of data on all the coin findings known to date, and their display on the map, consideration of general information about the development of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium, and analyzing the distribution of coins in different territories in the context of general historical events.

2 Materials and Methods

First of all, it should be noted that this research is interdisciplinary. That is, this scientific work lies in the plane of various disciplines, in particular, numismatics, history and geography. This factor was important in this study.

Gathering the necessary information played an important role in conducting this research. Due to the fact that today there is a large number of archaeological finds of coins that were created in Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium, it was necessary to consider a large number of sources in order to include all existing finds in this study.

The main method of scientific knowledge, which was used in this study, is the method of analysis. Due to the use of this method, the study of each of the individual sources was carried out, the general trends of the geographical distribution of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium coins were described, and assumptions related to general historical aspects were derived. In particular, a large number of coin finds dating back to the 4th century BC is located on the coast of the Adriatic Sea, which may indicate the development of sea trade between Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium and other Greek cities. Also, this method was used in the course of deriving general assumptions about the development of the trade direction of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium in the 3rd century BC.

Another method that has been used is the synthesis method. Due to the use of this method, new conclusions were reached as a result of combining the outcomes that were derived from the analysis of certain aspects. For example, this method was used in the case of studying the activities of the general Timeleon, who took an active part in public life on the island of Sicily.

In the context of the description of the first examples of the monetary case of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium, the method of comparison was used. Due to this method, the common and distinctive features between the first coins of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium and the money of Corinth were identified.

Also, the method of concretization and generalization were used in the study. By using the concretization method, it was possible to concentrate on the key aspects that were highlighted. In turn, the method of generalization was used in order to derive the main conclusions at each stage of the research. In particular, this method was used during the study of general historical information about Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium, the development of its coin business, and during the study of individual periods within which groups of finds are dated.

3 Results

Greek colonization an important page in the ancient history of Europe, in particular in Albania. It was a long process in which different Greek city-states established their own colonies in different territories. The city-state of Corinth played a leading role in colonization process. Corinthian colonization on the Balkan Peninsula began in the 7th century BC and lasted until the 5th century BC. Many colonies were



located on the Balkan Peninsula, in particular in the valley of the Strymon River, in Macedonia, Thrace and Illyria. It is worth to emphasize that a significant number of Corinthian colonies were located on the territory of modern Albania, and one of the most famous is the city of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium. This colony was founded in the 7th century, namely in 627 BC (Blank 2021).

It should be noted that the city had this name during the era of Greek rule, but during the expansion of Rome in the 3rd century BC the name of the city was changed to Dyrrachia, because the “-damnos” part of the old name was distasteful to the Latin-speaking citizens. In modern Albania, this city is called Durres (Blank 2021).

Colonization by Corinth contributed to the development of trade and the expansion of the influence of Greek culture on the Balkan Peninsula. Colonists from Corinth brought with them not only their traditions, but also new technologies and arts, and their own means of trade, in particular, metal money. Later, the citizens of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium learned to produce their own coins, which is where the history of the development of the coin business of this city begins.

It should be noted that Epidamnus/Dyrrachium was founded not only at the expense of the colonizing activity of Corinth. The polis of Corinth played an important role in the founding of the city. In the 8th-7th century BC, Korku was one of the most prosperous cities in Greece. The city was an important trading center on the Ionian Sea and had a significant fleet. This situation was determined by the fact that Corinth was located at the intersection of important trade routes in the Ionian Sea, and played an important role in trade relations between different cities. The influence of Corinth, in particular, extended to trade relations in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, due to which coins produced in the above-mentioned trading city were used in this city for a long time (Blank 2021).

However, starting from the 4th century BC Epidamnus/Dyrrachium began to produce its own coinage, which was largely similar to that minted at Corinth, but with some differences. In particular, an image of a cow feeding a calf was placed on the obverse, and a square with a characteristic star pattern was depicted on the reverse. The difference between this coin and the Corinth coin was the placed maces on the reverse, and the writing of the legend in Greek (fig. 1) (Blank 2021).



Fig. 1. Epidamnus/Dyrrachium stater similar to Corcyra coinage,
after – Poole 1876, BMC 3 or SNG Delepierre 1166 (2023)

1-сур. Корсура монеталарына ұқсас Epidamnus/Dyrrachium статері
([Poole 1876, BMC 3 or SNG Delepierre 1166 (2023)] бойынша)

Рис. 1. Статер Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, аналогичный чеканке Корсура
(по: [Poole 1876, BMC 3 or SNG Delepierre 1166 (2023)])



Other coins issued at this time in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium were similar to money from Corinth. The obverse of this coin featured a Pegasus flying to the right, but the difference was the presence of the Δ (D) monogram. The reverse featured a helmeted depiction of Athena, similar to the Corinthian coins, but with a club after Athena's head, and a dolphin on the helmet (fig. 2) (Poole 1876).

In addition, during this period, a number of other coins were minted, which had a similar image, but differed in their denomination. But starting from the 3rd century BC there were certain changes in the production of silver coins. In particular, the system of control signs began to consist of two names in the nominative and gender cases of persons. Researchers suggest that these inscriptions were used to indicate the rulers during whose reign these coins were minted (Picard and Gjongecaj 2000). This is an important aspect, because in this case the coins become more important in the context of the study of the history of this city.



Fig. 2. Epidamnus/Dyrrachium Stater similar to Corinth coinage, after – BMC 10, 2023
2-сур. Corinth монеталарына ұқсас Epidamnus/Dyrrachium статері ([BMC 10, 2023] бойынша)
Рис. 2. Статер Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, аналогичный чеканке Corinth (по: [BMC 10, 2023])

With silver coins, starting from the 4th century BC, bronze coins were minted in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium. The main distinguishing feature of these coins was their exchange value, which was lower than that of silver coins. Due to this, the variety of bronze money was many times higher (Poole 1876).

The obverse of the first bronze coins featured the image of the head of Hercules, and the reverse depicted his weapons (mace, bow and scabbard) and the legend ΔΥΡ (DYR). In the 3rd century BC in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, bronze coins of a new type were created, on the obverse of which the head of Zeus was depicted, and on the reverse the legend ΝΙΚΑΝ-ΔΡΟΥ to the right and left of the tripod inside the wreath and the inscription ΔΥΡ below (fig. 3). A different type of bronze coins was also minted in the 3rd century BC which featured the head of Helios on the obverse and the stern of the ship on the reverse (fig. 3) (Picard and Gjongecaj 2000).

These coins were actively used in trade by Illyrian and other tribes living on the territory of the Balkan Peninsula. Also, as mentioned above, bronze coins had a lower exchange value than silver coins. This factor is important in the context of the study of the territorial distribution of the mentioned coins. Thus, bronze coins were mainly used in the territory of modern Albania. On the other hand, silver coins, given their higher value, were more common in other areas of the Balkan Peninsula and the Apennines.

Analyzing the distribution of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium coins in territories outside the city, it is worth first of all taking into account the years of minting of these coins. As already mentioned above, money



Fig. 3. The Bronzes coins of Dyrrahchium, 4th–1st BC, after – BMC 163, 2023; Betsiou 2020
3-сүр. Дуррахчиум жасалған қола монеталар, б.д.д. IV–I ғғ. ([BMC 163, 2023; Betsiou 2020] бойынша)
Рис. 3. Бронзовые монеты из Дуррахчиум, IV–I вв. до н.э. (по: [BMC 163, 2023; Betsiou 2020])

was actively issued in the 4th and 3rd centuries BC. However, given that this process was started in the 4th century BC, this period saw the formation of the coinage of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium, so coins dating from this century are less common outside modern Albania, as the polis needed time to develop its own coinage (Pratt 2021).

Analyzing the map (fig. 4), it can be argued that the coins of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium played an important role in local and regional trade. Thus, the analysis of coins on the territory of the Balkan Peninsula makes it possible to assert that, given the fact that Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium is a port city, trade was conducted with other coastal cities.

Thus, coin findings (Table 1-2) testify to trade relations between the polis of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium and the Illyrian tribes in the territory of modern Albania, as well as with Epirus and Greater Greece in Southern Italy. Local production could not meet all the needs of consumers who were looking for a variety of goods for daily consumption, such as fruits, vegetables, grains, clothes, wood, dairy products and others. In addition, manufacturers also sought various raw materials such as clay, wood, minerals, slaves, wool and leather. Merchants satisfied these requests for a buyer's fee, and such supply and demand existed both in the 4th century BC and in the 3rd century BC. All these trading relationships required coins as a means of payment (Pratt 2021).

It should be noted that during this period the coins produced in Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium competed with the coins of Corcyra, Corinth, the Macedonian kingdom, Damastion, Athens and other Greek cities that had been on the market for a considerable time (Poole 1876).

On the other hand, the coins of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium, which were found in Sicily, reflect not only the trade, but also the military campaigns of Timoleon, who was a general from Corinth, and at that time was active in the territory of the mentioned island. Timoleon needed large sums of money, so he ordered all Corinthian colonies to mint silver staters. Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium, as one of the colonies, reacted to this decision and began minting Corinthian-type staters around the middle of the 4th century BC (Capelletti 2020).

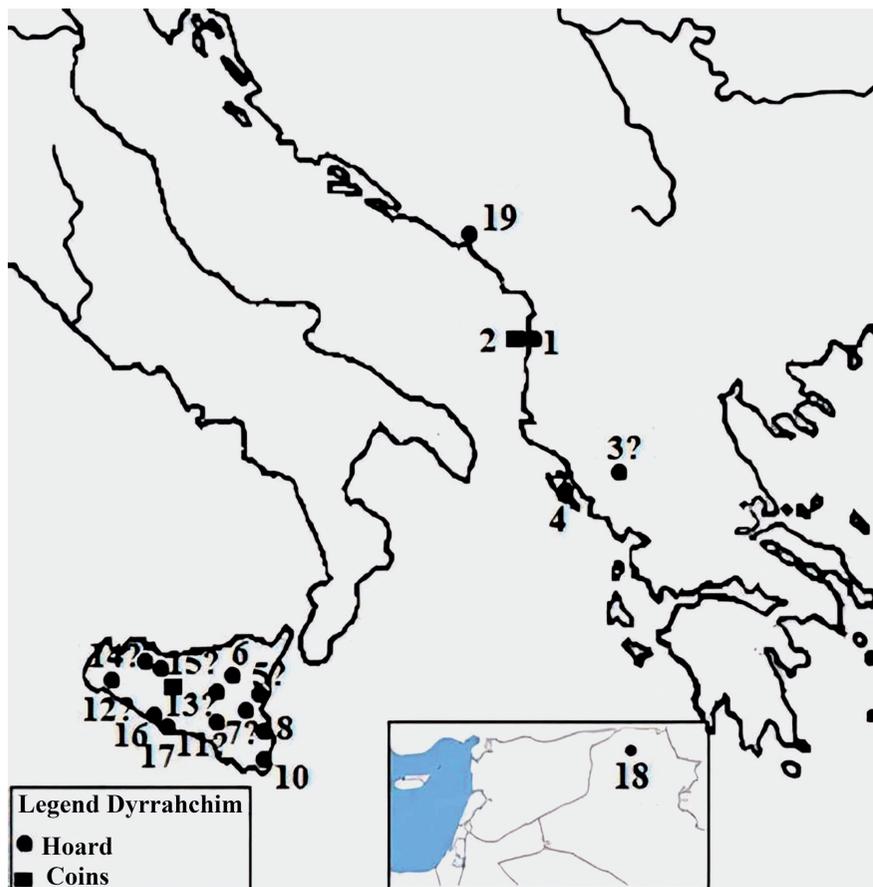


Fig. 4. Map with sites where the coins and Hoards of *Epidamnus/Dyrrachium* are found, cent. 4th BC.

Performer: Arlind Kasa

4-сур. *Epidamnus/Dyrrachium* монеталары мен көмбелерінің табылған жерлері белгіленген карта, б.д.д. IV ғ.

Орындаған: Арлинд Каса

Рис. 4. Карта с обозначением мест находок монет и кладов *Epidamnus/Dyrrachium*, IV в. до н.э.

Исполнитель: Арлинд Каса

It is quite difficult to explain the finding of a coin in the territory of modern Iraq. It can be assumed that this coin was used in the trading activities of a merchant of that time. On the other hand, this coin could have belonged to a collector who lived in a later period. In general, this issue requires further research.

First of all, it should be emphasized that in the 3rd century BC *Epidamnus/Dyrrachium* gained independence (Poole 1876). In the 3rd century BC it is possible to trace the spread of the use of *Epidamnus/Dyrrachium* coins on the territory of the Balkans, in particular within the borders of modern Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as on the territory of modern Croatia, Northern Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria, which may indicate the strengthening of the use of these coins in regional trade (fig. 5). At the same time, the lack of finds in the territory of Kosovo, Montenegro and Macedonia is explained by the small number of archaeological excavations.

An increase in the number of coin finds (Table 3-4) dating back to the 3rd century BC confirms that the competition of the *Epidamnus/Dyrrachium* mint with other cities was successful. Also, the finds in the Western part of Albania are important. This territory is exclusively land, which indicates the use of the appropriate type of transport in the trade relations of this region.



Table 1 – Sites where the coins and Hoards of Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium are found, cent. 4th BC
1-кесте — Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium монеталары мен көмбелерінің табылған жері, б.д.д. V ғ.
Таблица 1 – Местонахождения монет и кладов Epidamnus/Dyrrahchium, IV в. до н.э.

State	No.	Place/Site	Cent.	Types	Amount	Value	Mention in
Albania	1	Durrës 2006	4 th	Hoard	135	¼ Stater	S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	2	Durres	4 th	Coins	23	Stater and Bronze	S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
Greece	3	Western Greece 1907	4 th	Hoard	1	Stater	IGCH* 88 (2023); I.N. Svoronos (1908)
	4	Corfu 1997	4 th	Hoard	150+	Stater	K. Preka and S. Gjongecaj (2007)
Italy	5	Sicily 1935	4 th	Hoard	1	Stater	IGCH 2148 (2023); O. Ravel (1936)
	6	Cesarò 1915-1916	4 th	Hoard	6	Stater	IGCH 2145 (2023); Italian Institute of Numismatics (1940); M.T. Currò Pisano (1962)
	7	Sicily 1912-1913 (near Catania?)	4 th	Hoard	1	Stater	IGCH 2147 (2023)
	8	Megara Hyblaea 1949	4 th	Hoard	3	Stater	IGCH 2135 (2023); G. Vallet et al. (1987); G. Vallet (1958); M.T. Currò Pisano (1962)
	9	Leonforte 1952	4 th	Hoard	15	Stater	IGCH 2133 (2023); P. Pelagatti (1981); M.T. Currò Pisano (1962)
	10	Pachino 1957	4 th	Hoard	5	Drachms	IGCH 2151 (2023); A. Di Vita (1958); P. Pelagatti (1981); M.T. Currò Pisano (1962)
	11	Sicily 1837	4 th	Hoard	3	Stater	IGCH 2144 (2023); J.Y. Akerman (2018); A. Zograph (1928)
	12	Sicily 1960	4 th	Hoard	3	Stater	IGCH 2127 (2023)
	13	Sicily	4 th	Coins	2	Stater	O. Ravel (1936)
	14	Sicily 1879 (near Palermo?)	4 th	Hoard	4	Stater	IGCH 2146 (2023); T. Cutroni (1960)
	15	Sicily 1877 (near Palermo?)	4 th	Hoard	6	Stater	T. Cutroni (1960); IGCH 2149 (2023)
16	Palma di Montechiaro 1929	4 th	Hoard	2	Drachms	T. Cutroni (1960); IGCH 2153 (2023)	
17	Licata 1926	4 th	Hoard	2	Stater	IGCH 2130 (2023); M.T. Currò Pisano (1962)	
Iraq	18	Mosul 1949	4 th	Hoard	1	½ Drachms	IGCH 1758 (2023)
Montenegro	19	Risan 1927	4 th	Hoard	4	Stater	M. Ujes (2019); IGCH 391 (2023); Tetradrachme “grada”... (2023)

*IGCH – Inventory of Greek Coin Hoards



Table 2 – Total coins and Hoards of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, cent. 4th BC
 2-кесте — Epidamnus/Dyrrachium монеталары мен көмбелерінің жалпы саны, б.д.д. IV ғ.
 Таблица 2 – Общее количество монет и кладов Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, IV в. до н.э.

State	Amount	Value	No. Sites	Hoards	Isolate Coins
Albania	158	Stater, ¼ Stater, and Bronzes	2	1	1
Greece	151+	Stater	2	2	-
Montenegro	4	Stater	1	1	-
Italy	53	Stater, and Drachmas	13	12	1
Iraq	1	½ Drachmas	1	1	-
Total	367+	Stater, ¼ Stater, Drachmas, ½ Drachmas, and Bronzes	19	17	2



Fig. 5. Map with sites where the coins and Hoards of Epidamnus /Dyrrachium are found, cent. 3rd BC. Performer: Arlind Kasa
 5-сур. Epidamnus/Dyrrachium монеталары мен көмбелерінің табылған жерлері белгіленген карта, б.д.д. III ғ. Орындаушы: Арлинд Каса
 Рис. 5. Карта с обозначением мест находок монет и кладов Epidamnus /Dyrrachium, III в. до н.э. Исполнитель: Арлинд Каса



Table 3 – Sites where the coins and Hoards of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium are found, cent. 3rd BC
3-кесте — Epidamnus/Dyrrachium монеталары мен көмбелері табылған жерлер, б.д.д. III ғ.
Таблица 3 – Места обнаружения монет и кладов Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, III в. до н.э.

State	No.	Place/Site	Cent.	Types	Amount	Value	Mention in
Albania	1	Durres 1894	3 rd	Hoard	50	Drachms	R. Caka (1996); S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	2	Durrës 2006	3 rd	Hoard	135	¼ Stater	S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	3	Hamallaj	3 rd	Coins	7	Bronzes	S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	4	Buthrotum, Sarandë 1927	3 rd	Hoard	5	DiDrachms	IGCH 207 (2023); Italian Institute of Numismatics (1940)
	5	Cakran 1962	3 rd	Hoard	59	¼ Stater	IGCH 437 (2023); S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	6	Kreshpan 1982	3 rd	Hoard	135	86 Statere and 49 ¼Stater	S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	7	Apollonia 1941	3 rd	Hoard	77	Bronzes	S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	8	Shalës 1963	3 rd	Hoard	46	Bronzes	S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	9	Cërrik 1963	3 rd	Hoard	60	3 ¼ Drachms and 57 Bronzes	IGCH 438 (2023); S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	10	Zgerdesh (Albanopilos?)	3 rd	Coins	3	1 Drachms and 2 Bronze	Unpublished
	11	Pllanë (Lezhë) 1960	3 rd	Hoard	21	¼ Stater	IGCH 436 (2023); S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	12	Lezhë (Lisoss)	3 rd	Coins	1	Bronze	Unpublished
	13	Koplik 1967	3 rd	Hoard	4	Drachms	S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
	14	Jubicë 1965	3 rd -2 nd	Hoard	47	Drachms	IGCH 557 (2023); S. Gjongecaj-Vangjeli (2019)
Montenegro	15	Risan 1927	3 rd	Hoard	9	½ Drachms and 8 Bronze	M. Ujes (2019)
	16	Risan	3 rd	Coins	3	Bronze	M. Ujes (2019)
	17	Risan	3 rd	Coins	4	Drachms and 3 bronze	M. Ujes (2019)



Continuation of table 3
3-кестенің жалғасы
Продолжение таблицы 3

Bosnia and Herzegovina	18	Ošanići	3 rd	Coins	2	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	19	Slijenčić	3 rd	Coins	2	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	20	Humac	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	21	Ljubuški	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	22	Studenci	3 rd	Coins	3	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	23	Luka	3 rd	Coins	2	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	24	Hadžići	3 rd	Coins	3	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
Croatia	25	Narona	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	26	Hvar (Pharos)	3 rd	Coins	2	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	27	Stari Grad	3 rd	Coins	3	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	28	Kolovare, Zadar	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	29	Sisak	3 rd	Coins	2	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	30	Vukovar 1912, 1961	3 rd	Hoard	3	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	31	Osijek	3 rd	Coins	2	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
Serbia	32	KarlovciSrem-ski	3 rd	Hoard	24	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	33	Novi Banovci	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	I. Mirnik (1996)
	34	Zemun	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
Romania	35	Șofronea 1965	3 rd	Hoard	8	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	36	Sinnicolau de Munte	3 rd	Coins	2	Drachms	L. Conovici (1986)
	37	Drobeta-Turnu-Severin	3 rd	Hoard	2 (imit.)	Drachms	L. Rüzicka (1922); D. Benea (1939); C. Voicu (1986)
	38	Arcuș (Árkos) 1985	3 rd	Hoard	100	Drachms	R.Găzdac and N. Cociș (2021)
	39	Hilib 1979	3 rd	Hoard	31?	Drachms	R.Găzdac and N. Cociș (2021)
Greece	40	Corfu	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	I. Mirnik (1996)
	41	Corfu 1997	3 rd	Hoard	120+	Drachms	K. Preka and S. Gjongočaj (2007)
	42	Ioannina	3 rd	Coins	2	Drachms	I. Mirnik (1996)
	43	Cephallenia 1935	3 rd	Hoard	11	4 Drachms and 7 Stater	IGCH 140 (2023)
	44	Aegea (Aiga)	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	S. Psoma (2022)
	45	Epirus (Greece) 1825	3 rd	Hoard	1	Drachms	IGCH 201 (2023)



End of table 3
3-кестенің соңы
Окончание таблицы 3

Italy	46	Calanna, Calabria	3 rd	Coins	1	Stater	R. Ashton (1976)
	47	Megara Hyblaea 1966	3 rd	Hoard	7	Drachms	IGCH 2180 (2023)
	48	Ancona	3 rd	Coins	7	Drachms	G. Gorini (2013)
	49	PalazzoloAcreide 1896	3 rd	Hoard	2	Drachms	IGCH 2181 (2023); A. Salinas (1897)
	50	Kamarina 1928	3 rd	Hoard	1	Drachms	IGCH 2187 (2023); M.T. Currò Pisano (1962)
	51	Sicily (near Syracuse?)	3 rd	Hoard	6	Drachms	IGCH 2187 (2023)
	52	Aquileia	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	G. Gorini (2013)
	53	Ugento	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	A. Travaglini (2011)
	54	Oria	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	A. Travaglini (1990)
	55	Vaste	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	A. Travaglini (1990)
	56	Brindisi	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	A. Travaglini (1990)
	57	Gnathia	3 rd	Coins	3	Drachms	A. Travaglini (1990)
	58	Valesio	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	A. Travaglini (2011)
	59	Santa Maria di Leuca	3 rd	Coins	2	Drachms	A. Travaglini (2011)
60	Taranto	3 rd	Coins	2	Drachms and Bronzes	A. Travaglini (2011)	
61	Crotone	3 rd	Coins	1	Drachms	B. Arslan (2000)	
62	Messina 1868	3 rd	Hoard	2?	Drachms	IGCH 2188 (2023); L.W. de Molthein (2019)	
Bulgaria	63	Blagoevgrad	3 rd	Coin	4	Drachms	M. Minkova, J.M. Cvetkova and I. Prokopov (2019)
	64	Stara Zagora	3 rd	Coin	6	Drachms	M. Minkova, J.M. Cvetkova and I. Prokopov (2019); V. Grigorova and I. Prokopov (2002)
	65	Lyubimets	3 rd	Coin	1	Drachms	M. Minkova, J.M. Cvetkova and I. Prokopov (2019)



Table 4 – Total coins and Hoards of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, cent. 3rd BC
 4-кесте — Epidamnus/Dyrrachium монеталары мен көмбелерінің жалпы саны, б.д.д. III ғ.
 Таблица 4 – Общее количество монет и кладов Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, III в. до н.э.

No.	State	Amount	Value/Type	No. Sites	Hoard	Isolate Coins
1	Albania	650	Drachmas, ¼ Stater, DiDrachmas, and Bronzes	14	11	3
2	Greece	136+	Drachmas, and Stater	6	3	3
3	Montenegro	16	Drachmas, ½ Drachmas, and Bronzes	3	1	2
4	Italy	40	Stater, Drachmas, and Bronzes	17	5	12
5	Serbia	26	Drachmas	3	1	2
6	Croatia	14	Drachmas	7	1	6
7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	14	Drachmas	7	-	7
8	Bulgaria	11	Drachmas	3	-	3
9	Romania	143?	Drachmas	5	4	1
Total		1050+?	Stater, ¼ Stater, DiDrachmas, Drachmas, ½ Drachmas, and Bronzes	65	26	39

Findings of coins in the territory of modern Greece, Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which date back to the 3rd century BC have examples of both treasure finds and isolated coin finds, which is evidence of the strong distribution of this money on the territory of the mentioned states. In the 3rd century BC, sea trade continued to occupy an important place, but land routes were increasingly used for this. In the valleys of rivers such as Neretva, Morava, Danube, Sava and Drava, trade routes began to form. On the territory of Croatia, Montenegro, Italy and Greece, there are archaeological monuments that testify that ancient cities were located near the sea or had important seaports.

Thus, it can be concluded that the territorial distribution of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium coins is an important historical source. Due to this analysis, a number of important conclusions can be described not only in the context of the history of this city, but also in the general aspect of the history of Antiquity.

4 Discussion

Among modern historians, not only the question of the coinage of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, but also the topic of the history of this city in general is quite debatable. There is a diverse number of opinions on the mentioned issues, and the results of the study of the territorial distribution of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium coins allowed to confirm, and vice versa, to refute a number of conclusions of previous studies on this topic.

G. Sanders et al. (2020) determined a thorough analysis of the history of Ancient city. It should be noted that the book described not only the history of Corinth itself, but also a number of its colonies. In particular, one of these colonies is the aforementioned Epidamnus/Dyrrachium. The author notes that the modern territory of Albania was the territory within which Corinth created its own colonies. In addition, the author says that the colonies were an important element of the aforementioned policy. One should agree with this opinion, since as already mentioned in this study, the colonists brought their own traditions, technologies, arts and means of trade. All this contributed not only to the maintenance of the colony, but also to the development of new technologies, based on previous experience. In particular, one such technology, which, as was highlighted in the study, played one of the leading roles in the economic activity of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, is the minting of its own coins, following the example of money from Corinth.



R. Crampton (2005) is a historian who has carried out a thorough study of the history of Bulgaria. In the book of this scientist from Cambridge, the entire historical path followed by Bulgaria was described, from the beginning of the settlement of this territory to the formation of a modern state. In this context, attention is paid to the topic of the ancient period in the history of Bulgaria. In particular, the author claims that in 4th-3rd centuries BC, tribes that lived outside the territory of the modern Bulgarian state conducted active trade with Greek city-states. It should be emphasized that this opinion is correct, and the results of this study confirm it. In particular, as shown in the results, there a number of findings of coins minted in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium in the territory of modern Romania and Bulgaria, which is evidence that this city played an important role in trading activities with the Bulgarian tribes.

Another author whose research is important for consideration is P. Gardner (2004), who in his historical guide made the most complete description of Greek coins. Among these coins, the money that was produced in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium occupies an important place. In general, in this aspect, the researcher was able to carry out a sufficiently broad and accurate description of the coin business of this Corinthian colony. However, one should not agree with his opinion that the first examples of coins that were produced in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium are exact copies of those that were minted in Corinth. In general, it can be agreed that there are facts that can support this opinion, since in general the coins produced in Corinth and Epidamnus/Dyrrachium at the beginning of the 4th c. BC similar. Nevertheless, there are fundamental differences between these coins, due to which it can be argued that these finds are different.

S. Frey-Kuper (2020) is a scientist who also studied the issue of coinage in Antiquity. The researcher focused on a narrower spectrum of the topic, namely on the distribution of coins of various Greek cities in the territory of the so-called "Punic Mediterranean". This includes the territory that was located further west of the location of the city of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium. In particular, one of the geographical objects that belongs to the "Punic Mediterranean" is the island of Sicily (Frey-Kuper 2020). As discussed in this study, this island is an important place of circulation of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium coins in the 4th century BC, which was connected with the military activities of the Corinthian general Timeleon. S. Frey-Cooper (2020), in an attempt to generalize the main features of Greek coins in the territory of the mentioned region, claims that these coins did not have a legend. However, such an opinion is not true, since, as was noted in the study, from the very beginning of the minting of coins in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium, each had its own legend.

Speaking about the period of Timeleon's activity, should also be mentioned the work of the Polish historian A. Dudzinski (2021). In his scientific article, the author studied the period of the history of Ancient Greece of the 4th century BC, and focused his attention on the issue of the history of Sicily. An important role in the history of this island in the 4th century BC was played by the general Timeleon from Corinth. This figure is quite controversial among modern historians, given that there is a certain lack of sources regarding his activities, which makes certain aspects of the subject difficult to examine. On the other hand, a number of researchers have different views on the mentioned figure, in particular A. Dudzinski (2021) claims that Timeleon's activities were exclusively military in nature. However, this opinion is not correct, since, as already shown in the results of this study, a significant number of findings of coins from Epidamnus/Dyrrachium are located in Sicily. This is due to the fact that general Timeleon carried out economic activity, due to which it can be argued that this figure of ancient history is not only a military figure.

Summarizing, it should be noted that the study of the territorial distribution of coins that were produced in Epidamnus/Dyrrachium is not only important in the context of the study of numismatics. The analysis of this question allows for description a number of conclusions in many aspects of ancient history, in particular, in the context of economic and military activity.

5 Conclusions

As a result of the research, an analysis of the main stages of the formation of the coin business of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium and the geographical expansion of the coin finds of this city was carried out, based on modern archaeological research. Thus, it was determined that the first money of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium was created in the 4th century BC, and, given that the city was a colony of Corinth, the



coins were largely similar to those produced in the metropolis. In the 3rd century BC, the city gained independence, which was reflected in the development of the coin business. The coins of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium were made of both silver and bronze and had different exchange values.

Based on the results of the analysis of the geographical distribution of coin finds, the following conclusions were drawn:

- in the 4th century BC, a significant number of coins circulated in the coastal cities of the Balkan Peninsula, which may indicate the significant role of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium in regional trade.
- a large number of finds of coins of the 4th century BC on the territory of Sicily is evidence of the economic activity of the general Timeleon.
- bronze coins are more often found in the territory of modern Albania, and silver coins in other territories, due to their greater value.
- findings of coins in the territory of modern Romania and Bulgaria are evidence of the development of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium in the 3rd century BC and the spread of its trade relations.
- the coins that were found on the coastal territory of modern Italy and Greece are evidence of the development of the maritime trade of Epidamnus/Dyrrachium.

Further research requires a detailed study of the find of a coin in the territory of modern Iraq, which dates back to the 4th century BC, but the history of which is the most mysterious. Also, it is necessary to expand archaeological research in Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia, with the discovery of new coins, for a more detailed study of this topic.

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Мүдделер қақтығысы туралы ақпаратты ашу. Автор мүдделер қақтығысының жоқтығын мәлімдейді. / Раскрытие информации о конфликте интересов. Автор заявляет об отсутствии конфликта интересов. / Disclosure of conflict of interest information. The author claims no conflict of interest.

Мақала туралы ақпарат / Информация о статье / Information about the article.

Редакцияға түсті / Поступила в редакцию / Entered the editorial office: 26.05.2023.

Рецензенттер мақұлдаған / Одобрено рецензентами / Approved by reviewers: 15.07.2023.

Жариялауға қабылданды / Принята к публикации / Accepted for publication: 15.07.2023.

