

# Two Thousand Years in Dendi, Northern Benin

*Archaeology, History and Memory*

*Edited by*

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BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

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## Kompanti (PTI-14-SI)

*Alexandre Livingstone Smith and Nicolas Nikis*

### 1 Location

Kompanti is a modern settlement located a few kilometres south of Kompa. It was described to us as a place founded by people from Boyeri after the sack of that locality by the *Saka* of Kandi towards the end of the nineteenth century (see Gosselain & Haour, this volume). It is located on the edge of the floodplain.

### 2 Geographical Coordinates

LAT: 12,1623470261693 LONG: 3,06278597563505 (WGS84)

### 3 Discovery

The site was identified and excavated by Alexandre Livingstone Smith and Nicolas Nikis on 26 January 2014.

### 4 Destruction Risks

The site is not prominent and is under a modern village. It is not under any specific threat and mitigation measures are not urgent.

### 5 Excavation

Kompanti had never been excavated before. This test pit was 1 × 1 m and excavated by spits of 10 cm (except for the superficial layer which was excavated in one spit of 20 cm). Within each spit, archaeological contexts (i.e. distinct units) were separated, sieved and bagged separately. All the spits were sieved down to 5 mm. The test pit was finished at 50 cm, 20 centimetres into sterile yellow sandy soil.

### 6 Site

Kompanti is a modern village. The main road cuts through the village and a new ditch following the track yielded some ceramic material during the initial survey. The test pit was positioned near the main road next to one of the oldest houses of the village.

### 7 Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy of PTI-14-SI displays only one archaeological context below the disturbed layer. It is a light brown compact sand layer overlaying the substrate of sterile yellow sand.

### 8 Finds

Material recovered included a cowrie shell fragment (SF 2014-16; 0–20), a plastic sheath (SF 2014-13; 0–20), a broken ceramic figure (SF 2014-03), and (in level 20–30) an opaque pale pink glass bead of Magnavita's Type 2 (SF 2014-76; S. Magnavita, this volume). The majority of the pottery consisted of very small fragments, with only a few dozen identifiable sherds.

### 9 Interpretation and Cultural Attribution

The absence of settlement mound, the position in the landscape (flood plain) and the absence of folded strip roulette decorated pottery could indicate a post-thirteenth century occupation. The rather shallow deposits indicate a short span occupation (one or two generations?) which is consistent with the idea advanced by oral tradition that Boyeri (Kompanti's predecessor) was sacked in the late nineteenth century.

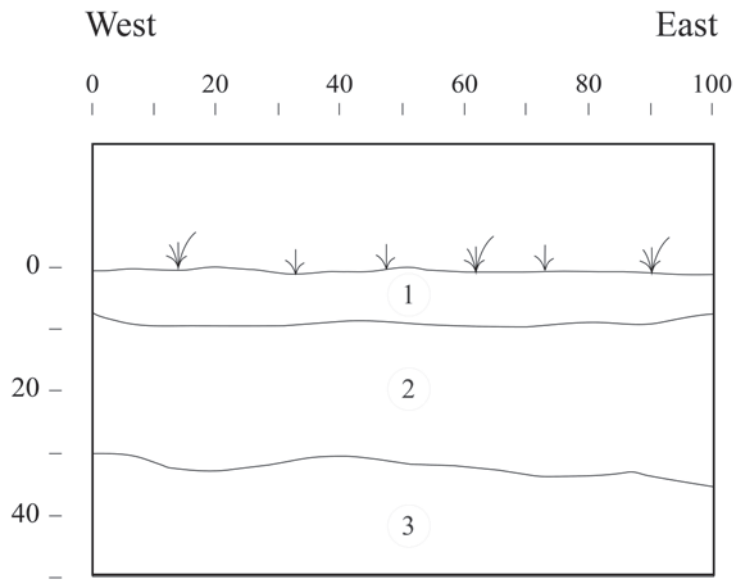


FIGURE E.1  
PTI-14-SI, North section  
1 Grey brown clayey sand with undecorated pottery fragments – top disturbed by modern activities  
2 Light brown clayey sand with pottery fragments  
3 Compact yellow sand (natural substratum)

TABLE E.1 Desampling

Level	Number
0-20	103
20-30	27
30-40	17
40-50	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>

Analysis in the field by Anne Haour and at UEA by David Kay

TABLE E.2 Category 4

Context	Undecorated	Illegible
0-20	2	2
20-30	3	0
30-40	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

Analysis by David Kay

TABLE E.3 Category 3

Context	#	Burnish	Dec1	Dec2	Dec3	Dec4
0-20	2	ext/int				
	1	ext	indis			
	1	int				
	3	ext				
	1	int	undec	sl-1	roul	
30-40	1	int	rc-1a	indis		
40-50	1	ext/int	roul			
	1	ext/int				
	1	ext/int	roul	indis		
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>					

Analysis by David Kay



TABLE E.4 Rims

Context	#	R Type	Brn	Deci	L1	Ang	Diam	Mx thick
0-20	1	S1	ext			3	21	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>							

Analysis by David Kay