

Summary

Iron Ore Smelting in Kelenderis

Unearthing considerable amounts of scoria (smelting waste) from the excavations has shown that iron ore smelting was carried out at Kelenderis, a port city of Cilicia Tracheia. This information, related to the practice of metallurgy in the antique city of Kelenderis during the Roman Imperial period, was obtained through examination of the metal slag found at the location identified as the 1st Scoria Stratum.

Here, the metallurgists of Rome obtained the smelting of iron ore with a silica ratio as high as 21.2 percent. The iron ore (hematite) was transported to the port city of Kelenderis from an ore-bed situated near Tana Deresi (Tana valley), approximately 10 kilometers west of -Aydıncık (Gilindire-Kelenderis) in İçel province. Moreover, it has been determined that iron ore smelting was conducted in a medium sized furnace in the suburbs of antique Kelenderis. The furnace must have operated a number of times. Upon losing its function, the ore melting furnace was demolished, and its site was added to the new areas of settlement in the Roman Imperial period at Kelenderis.