

Dolge njive - Draga: Roman Crucium? The Roman roadside settlement in Dolenjska (southeast Slovenia)

Dolge njive - Draga: rimski Crucium? Rimska naselbina na Dolenjskem

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Izvleček

V prispevku so predstavljena arheološka najdišča v okolici Bele Cerkve, podrobneje izsledki izkopavanj iz leta 2002, ko smo pri raziskavah na različnih lokacijah (Dolge njive, Draga 1, Draga 2 in Draga 3) dokumentirali del trase ceste, zidane temelje objektov, večje število vkopov za stojke, grobišče in naselbinsko gradivo iz rimske dobe. Povzeli bomo tudi hipoteze o domnevnih lokacijah rimske poštne postaje *Crucium*. Domnevamo, da smo odkrili rimski *Crucium*, ki je bil poseljen oziroma v funkciji od 1. do 4. st. n. št.

Ključne besede: Slovenija; Dolenjska; rimska doba; obcestna naselbina; *Crucium* (Dolge njive, Draga 1, Draga 2 in Draga 3); grobišče

Abstract

The paper presents the archaeological sites in the environs of the modern settlement of Bela Cerkev and the results of archaeological excavations in 2002, prior to motorway construction. Excavations at four (?) different, but contiguous locations (Dolge njive, Draga 1, Draga 2 in Draga 3) revealed and documented part of the line of the road, the masonry foundations of buildings, numerous post-built structures, a cemetery and domestic material, dating to the Roman period. The paper also considers hypotheses surrounding the location of the Roman-period roadside settlement of *Crucium*. It is posited that the excavation on these sites have revealed the location of the Roman roadside settlement of *Crucium*, which was occupied or functioned in the period from the 1st to the 4th Centuries AD.

Key words: Slovenia; Dolenjska; Roman period; roadside settlement; *Crucium* (Dolge njive, Draga 1, Draga 2 and Draga 3); cemetery

The Dolge njive - Draga Roman roadside settlement is located on the northern edge of the Šentjernejsko polje in the central part of the Krka valley in Dolenjska (Fig. 1). The valley of the Toplica stream (a left bank tributary of the Krka at Kronovo) defines the south-western edge of

the Vinji vrh massif and the Krka terrace at the foot of the southern slopes of the Vinji vrh massif. The broad marshy valley of the river Radulja (a left bank tributary of the Krka at Dobrava pri Škocjanu) defines the northern edge of the Vinji vrh massif as a whole, combining with the Žlebec