

The Achaemenid Settlement of Dashtestan (Borazjan): A View from Persepolis*

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Tre importanti edifici monumentali di età achemenide sono stati scoperti nella regione del Golfo Persico, nella contea del Dashtestan (Iran sud-occidentale) e vicino alla moderna città di Borazjan, dove gli storici collocano la città chiamata Tamukkan nelle fonti elamite. Inoltre, nel corso di ricognizioni condotte in quest'area sono stati individuati numerosi siti archeologici, tra cui alcuni del periodo achemenide. Nel presente lavoro tutte le fonti archeologiche e storiche relative alla presenza di età achemenide nel Dashtestan sono state riunite, con l'obiettivo di interpretarle con lo stesso approccio degli studi sugli insediamenti che ha prodotto ottimi risultati nel Fars centrale, soprattutto a Persepoli. Così facendo, la topografia del Dashtestan in epoca achemenide è stata ricostruita nelle sue linee generali. Il risultato di maggiore novità è che per la prima volta è possibile dimostrare l'esistenza nella contea di Dashtestan di un insediamento del periodo achemenide, che oltretutto condivideva con i coevi insediamenti di Persepoli e Pasargade le stesse caratteristiche planimetriche e architettoniche.

INTRODUCTION

Dashtestan is a humid county in the present-day Province of Bushehr in Southern Iran located between the Zagros mountains and the Persian Gulf (Fig. 1). The county neighbours the Province of Fars on the North and East, the counties of Bushehr, Tangestan and Ganava of the Province of Bushehr on the West and the Dashti county within the same province on the South. Dashtestan comprises three districts.¹ The main centre of the Dashtestan county is the city of Borazjan (Figs. 1, 2), situated South of the Hilleh river roughly 50 km from the Persian Gulf coast and 60 km from Bushehr port, the provincial capital. Borazjan is located in a plain having the same name with an area of almost one fifth of Dashtestan.² The perennial Hilleh river divides upstream in Dorudgah village into two small rivers, i.e. Dalaki and Shapur (Figs. 2, 3).³ The Northern coast of the Persian

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¹ Namely, Sa'dabad, Shabankareh and the Markazi (central) districts with Borazjan being in the latter district (Sadagat-Kish 2011).

² For the Borazjan plain, see Mohammadkhani, Parsaee Borazjani, Ebrahimi 2020: 1126-1127, with related bibliography.

³ The name of Dorudgah ("conjunction of two rivers") village is taken from the fact that the Shapur joins the Dalaki in this zone (Yaghmaee 2017: 131).