

# SITE DA-140 in DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

by  
Wesley F. Coleman

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FLORIDA  
COLLECTION

REFERENCE

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## SITE Da-140 IN DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Wesley F. Coleman

This site was tested early in 1969 by D. D. Laxson (1970) at a time of high water so that only a few feet vertically could be excavated. In the last few years, South Florida has had a dry spell which enabled us to excavate almost the complete midden.

Appreciation is expressed to Dr. W. H. Sears of Florida Atlantic University for consultation; Dr. W. Weaver and Professor L. Ober, Department of Biology, Miami Dade Jr. College, for help in identifying food bones; Professor L. D. Wicks of Miami Dade Jr. College, for inviting his student archaeological club to help excavating; and Mr. D. D. Laxson for help in ceramic identification. Most of all appreciation is due each member of the Miami-West Indies, Dade County Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, for excavating the site and showing the material in the South Florida Archaeological Museum, Opa Locka, Florida.

The site (Da-140) is located in the southwest 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of Section 9, Township 54, Range 39 Dade County, Florida. It is situated .3 of a mile west of SW 144 Ave. and .6 of a mile south of U.S. 41 or SW 8 Street. The site is 250° by 90 feet. It has the dark organic soil of the area. Vegetation consists of the rubber tree (*Ficus Aurea*), day blooming Jasmine, Dog Fennel (*Eupatorium Capillifolium*), wild papaya (*Caria*), snow vine (*Mikania Cordifolia*), and swamp willows.

### Excavations

Excavations began Jan. 1, 1970 and ended March 1, 1971. The main problem was a large rubber tree, approximately 20 feet in diameter and 75 feet in height, which took up most of the southern part of the midden. Datum was established at the northwest corner of the tree. Three east-west trenches, consisting of 5- by 5-foot squares, were laid out all north of the tree (Fig. 1). Excavation was done by 5-inch levels. Bones of land animals such as deer, coon, opossum, bob cat, bear, and large wading birds were found abundantly in all levels. Usually shell fish are found at sites in this area but absolutely none were found in this site.

Vertical distribution of sherds and other artifacts are given in Table 1. In unit T-A-1 at a depth of 4 in. was found a gold watch chain composed of two

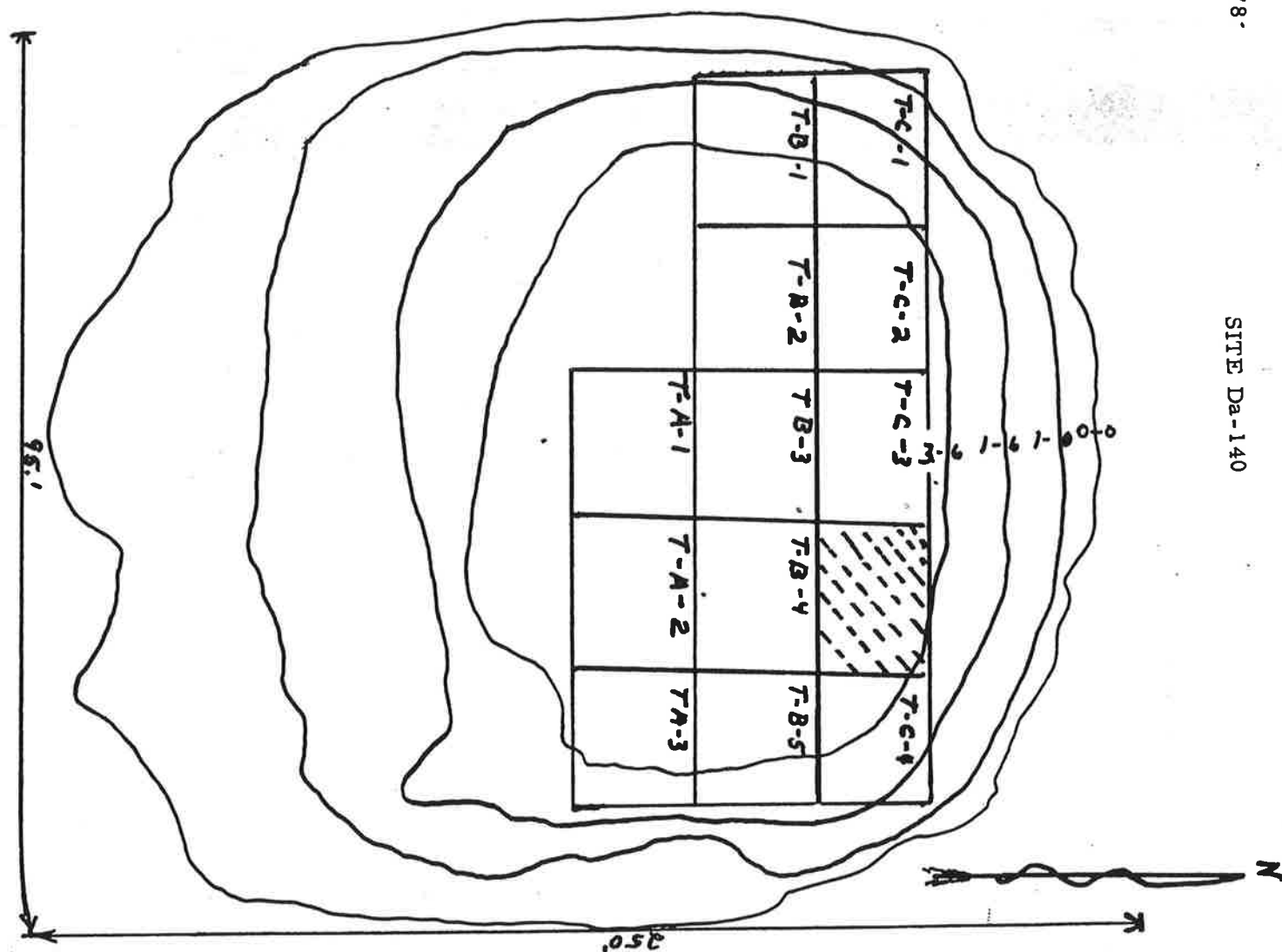


Table 1

## DISTRIBUTION OF ARTIFACTS AT SITE Da-140

T-A

T-B

T-C

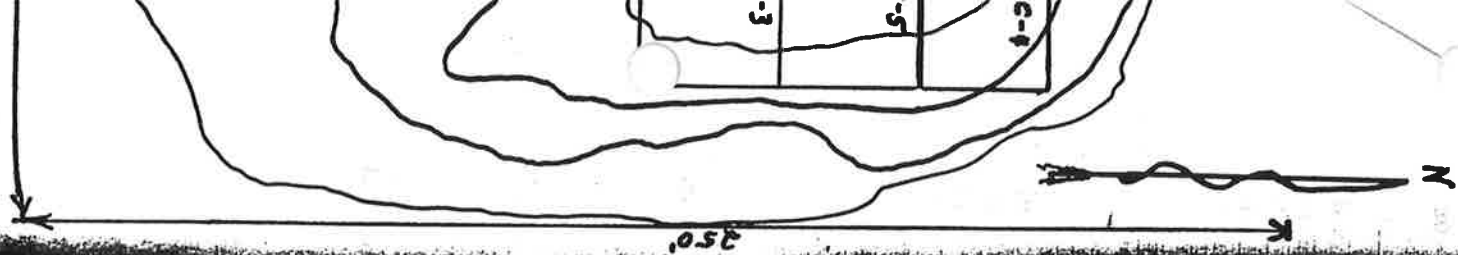


Table 1  
DISTRIBUTION OF ARTIFACTS AT SITE Da-140

	T-A			T-B			T-C		
	0-6	6-12	12-18	0-6	6-12	12-18	0-6	6-12	12-18
Glade Plain, body	170	95	•	511	82	62	550	267	137
Glade Plain, rims	29	3	6	34	3	14	11	-	-
Glades Tooled	10	2	-	14	-	-	11	-	-
Surfside Incised	12	-	-	2	-	-	9	-	-
Cane Patch Incised	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Opa Locka Incised	-	-	-	-	2	-	10	4	-
Miami Incised	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	-
Dade Incised	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Key Largo Incised	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Matecumbe Incised	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
St. Johns Incised	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Bone points	9	7	-	10	5	2	14	-	6
Bone awls	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sharks teeth, perforated	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	2	-
Carved bone objects	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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large links and seven small links. The links have cast marks on the insides and jewelers believe the chain to be late 19th century in date. In unit T-A-3, carved bone pendants were found exhibiting fine artistic ability (Coleman 1971) which is not reflected in incised pottery of the Glades area.

### Discussion and Summary

Pottery was found down to 18 inches. St. Johns ware was found scattered in almost all excavated sections. The deposit reached a thickness of 27 inches in the south central area at which level no pottery was found. The highest concentration of pottery was found between 9 and 12 inches below the surface. In the highest part of the mound, the north central area, the concentration was also at a depth of 9 inches but occurred just above coral rock. The mound slope is up higher on the north end and presumably was older. This higher surface elevation reflects a rise in the underlying coral formation not increased thickness of the midden.

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- 1970 Seven Sawgrass Middens in Dade and Broward County, Florida. Florida Anthropologist, Vol. 23, No. 4.

Miami, Florida  
 November 1971

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