### Supplemental Text 1. Investigating Tamarindito Group 6BP-a

The Petexbatun Regional Archaeological Project as well as the Tamarindito Archaeological Project have investigated Group 6BP-a (previously known as Group Q6-1) (Figure 5; Eberl and Vela González 2016:53–56; Emery 1994). Looters destroyed Structures 6BP-1, -2, and -5 partially. They opened two cist burials in Structure 6BP-2’s bench. The burials as well as the location of this building on the east side of the group suggests a shrine for the remains of the group’s ancestors. The Tamarindito Archaeological Project investigated Structure 6BP-5 (TM28A), Structure 6BP-4 (TM28B), and three middens (TM28C–E). Only Structure 6BP-5 had an Early Classic predecessor and we found no Early Classic evidence in middens or Structure 6BP-4.

Test pit TM28B targeted Structure 6BP-4’s center. It revealed two construction phases. Dark gray humus covered the last construction phase whose original gravel surface graded into the structure fill below. At a depth of 0.4 m was the stucco and gravel floor of an earlier construction phase. This floor capped an airy structure fill (typical of Late Classic constructions) in which the rocks increased in size towards the bottom. The ceramic sherds from all levels come from the Nacimiento Tepeu sphere. The fill of the second construction phase (lots 1-4-1 and 1-4-2) contains 34.0% unslipped Cambio group, 15.5% polychrome Palmar and Zacatal, and 47.4% red-slipped Tinaja group sherds. The same ceramic groups predominate in the first construction phase (32.4%, 13.5%, and 43.2%, respectively). Both construction phases of Structure 6BP-4 date to the Late Classic.

We excavated three test pits (TM28C–E) into areas where superficial artifact concentrations suggested middens. The test pits proved to be shallow with black humus above bedrock in TM28C and D and black humus covering dark gray soil mixed with gravel and rocks in TM28E. Sherd densities vary from 268.7 (TM28C) over 540.3 (TM28E) to 1137.1 sherds per cubic meter (TM28D) and affirm the presence of middens around Group 6BP-a. Many sherds were too eroded – likely due to prolonged exposure to the elements – to be classifiable (84.4% in the case of TM28D). The ceramic assemblage from these three middens belongs mostly to the Late Classic Nacimiento Tepeu ceramic sphere. Unslipped Cambio group and polychrome Palmar and Zacatal group sherds account for approximately two-thirds of all sherds (35.6% and 28.7%, respectively). Another quarter (23.8%) comes from the red-slipped Tinaja group. Only 5.9% of all sherds belong to later types like Trapiche Incised and Tohil Plumbate. The middens show no Early Classic or Preclassic and only a thin Terminal Classic and Postclassic occupation (see also Emery 1994).

The excavation of Structure 6BP-5 (TM28A) revealed three construction episodes (Figure 6). Post-abandonment humus covered wallfall on top of the first stucco floor (at a depth of 0.5 m) and an airy fill. At a depth of 1.0 m was the second and much thinner stucco floor with the corresponding gravel and rock fill underneath. The noticeably more compact third stucco floor was at a depth of 1.2 m. Its dense clay-rock mixture is typical for Preclassic and Early Classic constructions.

The ceramic assemblage from TM28A dates the construction phases and use of Structure 6BP-5 (Supplemental Table 1). The sherds from humus, wallfall, Floor 1, and Floor 2 are from the Late Classic Nacimiento Tepeu ceramic sphere. The unslipped Cambio group, the polychrome Palmar and Zacatal group, and the red-slipped Tinaja group account for the majority of all sherds (between 64.7% in the humus and 78.8% for Floor 2). The ceramic composition shifts markedly below Floor 3. Recognizable sherds come from Early Classic ceramic groups like Quintal, Balanza, and Dos Arroyos and from Late Preclassic groups like Flor and Iberia.

Structure 6BP-5 started out as a 0.5 m-high building during the Early Classic (Floor 3). During the Late Classic, it grew to 0.7 m (Floor 2) and then to 1.2 m (Floor 1). Late eighth-century ceramic types like Zacatal Cream suggest that Floor 1 is slightly later than Floor 2.

**References**

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