

CHANGES IN SETTLEMENTS AND LANDSCAPE CAUSED BY EARLY LAND USE IN SW FINLAND

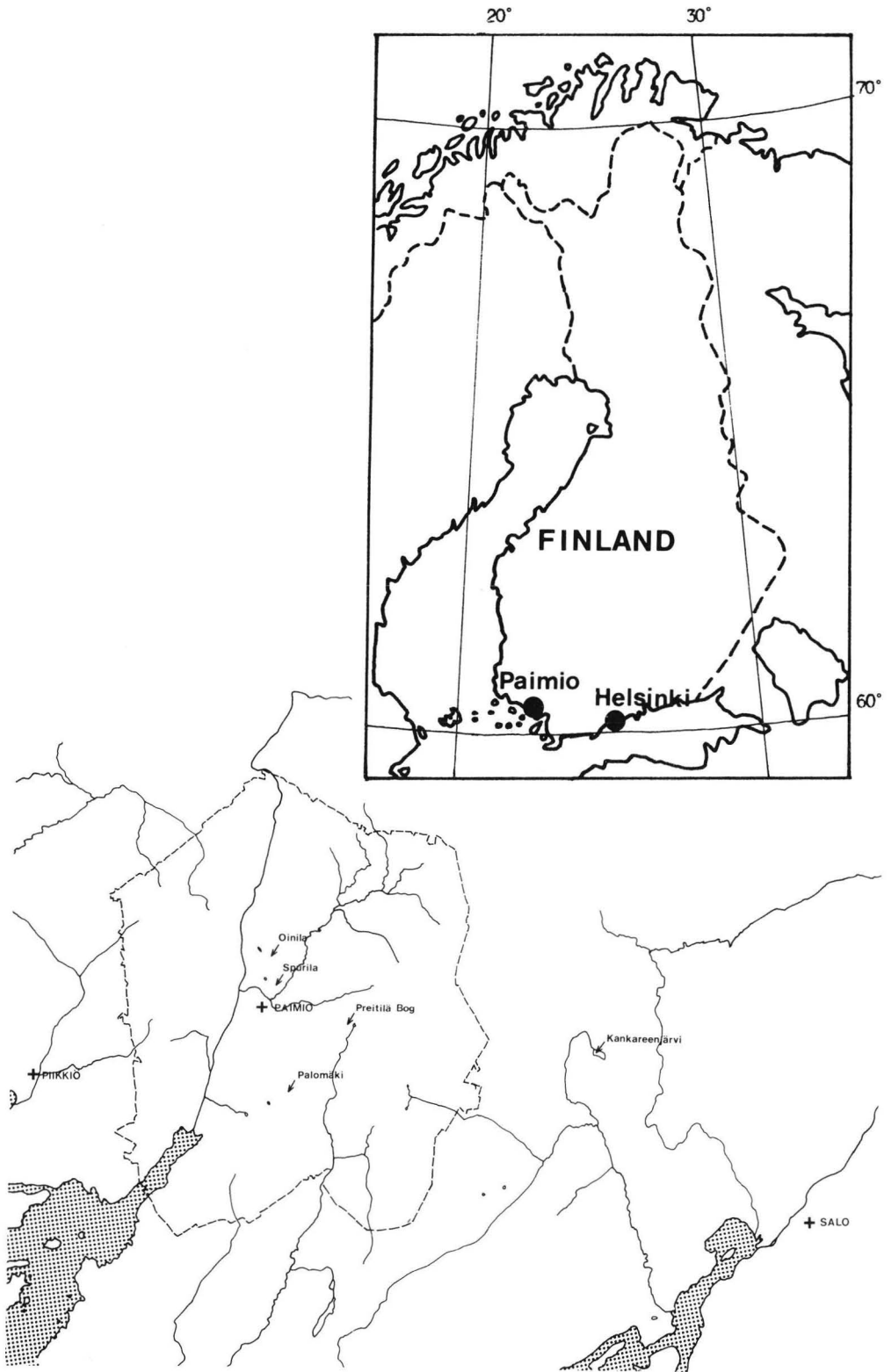
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A multidisciplinary project, financed by the Academy of Finland for the period of 1983–1985, aims to study the changes in settlements and landscape caused by early land use in SW-Finland. The participants are Esa Hiltunen (History, Univ. of Turku), Ilkka Kukkonen (responsible, Botany), Jukka Luoto (Archeology, Univ. of Turku), Merja Seppä-Heikka (Paleoethnobotany, Univ. of Helsinki), Anneli Terho (Soil chemistry, Univ. of Turku) and Mirjami Tolonen (Paleoecology, Univ. of Helsinki). The emphasis of the investigations is placed on archeological, paleoethnobotanical and paleoecological studies.

The aim of the project is to investigate the development of the environment from a virgin state through to the present landscape, which is characterized by hill side villages and large openings used for cultivated fields. These investigations focus on distinctly contrasting cultures from the year 2500 B.C. to 1150 A.D. in western Finland. During the former time the region was dominated by a typical hunting culture, while during the latter time, the settlements were obviously for the most part agrarian, especially in SW-Finland. It is evident, that during this period of 3500 years, the landscape in West Finland was transformed to a major agricultural area that centred around villages.

The efforts of the team concentrate to the parish of Paimio, on southwest coast of Finland (Map 1). The following seven papers report some of the first results.



Map. 1. Location of Paimio parish in SW-Finland. Shaded areas: Bay of Paimio (left) and Bay of Halikko.