Jean-Pierre Digard



Ses principales recherches portent sur l'ethnologie de l'Iran, notamment de la tribu nomade des Bakhtyâri où il a effectué entre 1965 et 2005 de nombreux séjours prolongés, et sur l'anthropologie de la domestication animale et des relations hommes-animaux domestiques, cheval, chien et chat plus particulièrement.

His Focus

- As ethnographer his interest was on material culture – technology – and animal husbandry
- He recognized that he was doing "archaeology of the present"
- He focused on Bakhtiari camps and their seasonal and physical structure
- He studied the Babadi, the tribe in the film

The Bakhtiari

- The largest tribe in Iran of which 100-200 thousand migrated
- Seasonal migration from lowland to highland is 300 km
- Travel between Khuzistan and Isfahan
- Have facilities at each place where they stay for long periods
- These facilities are used annually by the same people

Evidence

- One does not find any objects domestic or manufactured on abandoned sites. Why?
- Abandonment is normal and people take their belongings with them
- Their equipment is nearly all made of plant or animal materials
- Even bones are chewed by dogs
- Trampled tent sites and animal pens
- Stone walls

Tent Sites

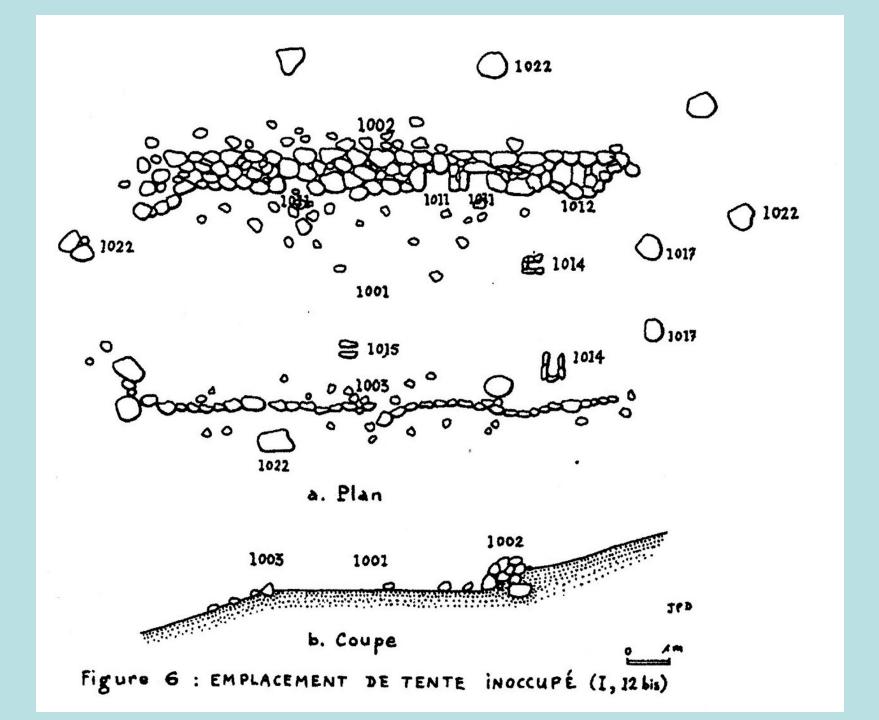
- Generally a terrace about 10m long and 3-4m wide.
- Ground is flattened and packed down
- Row of stones, 60-80 cm, along one side
- Little evidence of fireplaces
- No post holes
- In winter, stone walls enclose tent site

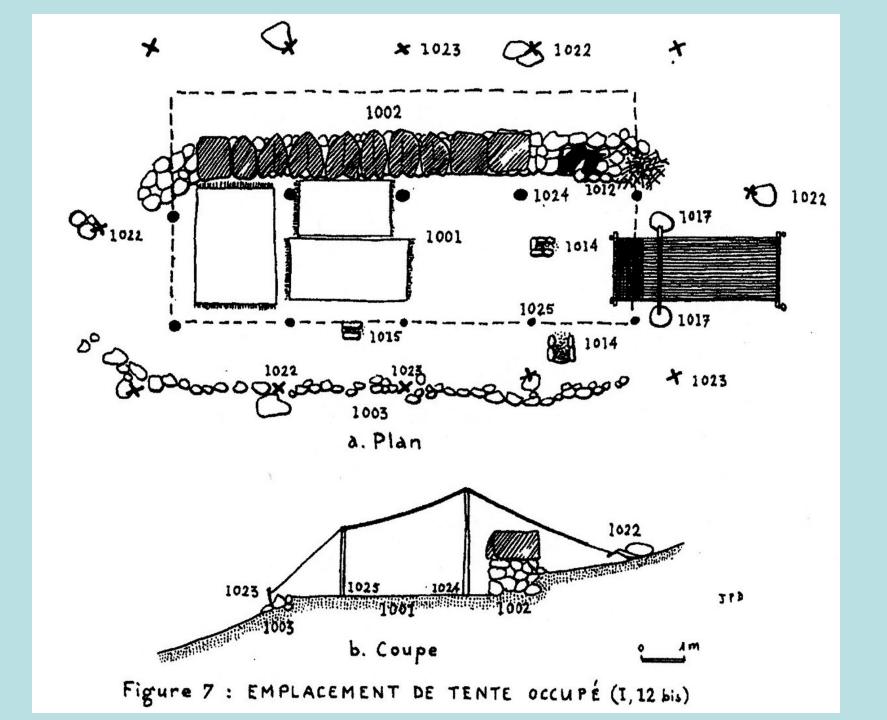
Tent Camps

- Camps of variable size, 9-11 tents
- In winter in sheltered spot; in summer on hills
- Tents oriented so can see one another and with view to landscape
- In camp I, a chute to present sheep for milking
- A small corral to hold lambs and kids

Seasonal Facilities

- The camp is the unit of production; the tent is the unit of consumption
- Camp I Milking chute
- Camp II -a large bin for straw storage
- Camp III Two straw storage bins, large corral
- Camps II, IV Pens for young animals and grain are individually owned, but storage bins and corrals are communal



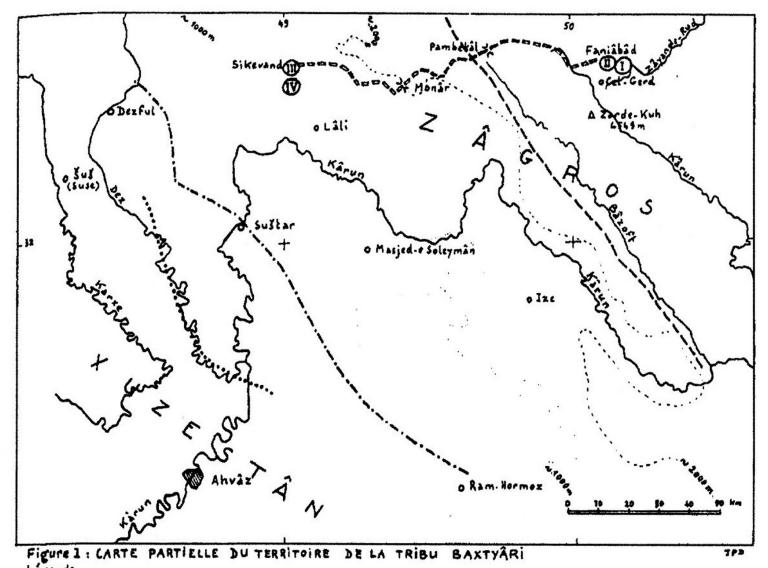


Successive Campsites

- He recorded two sites (I and II) in the spring-summer pastures and two (III and IV) in the winter pastures.
- I- mid-May to mid July
- II mid-July to mid September
- III beginning of October to end of December
- IV end of December to end of March

Facilities

- In camp II (fall), harvest; large corrals and mangers for animal, straw storage, threshing floor
- In camp III (Oct-Dec), threshing floors, plant crops, large circular bins for spring harvest
- In camp IV little pens for newborn animals, stne walls around tents



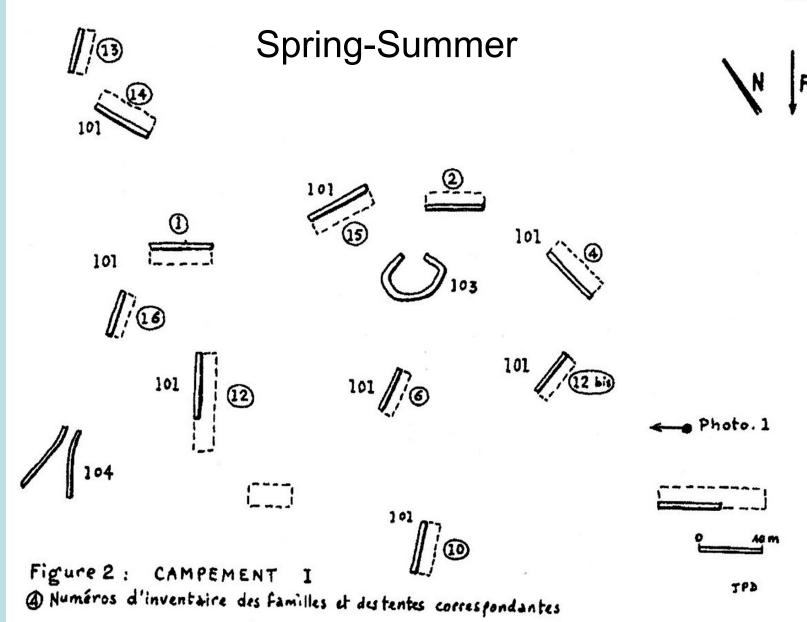
Lépende

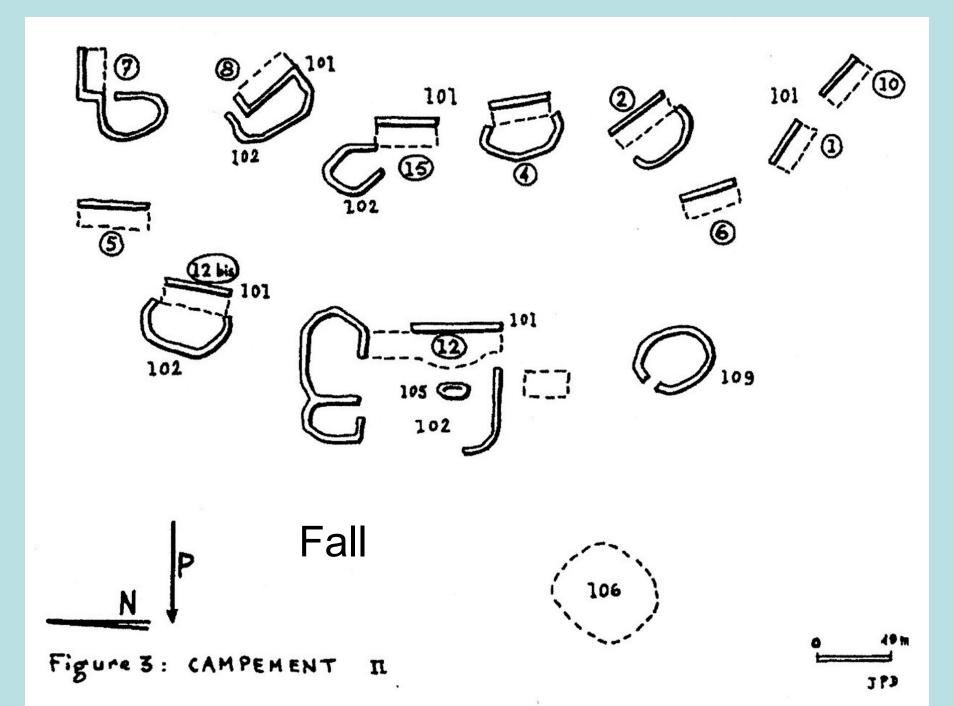
Compement étudié Itinéraire de nomadisation

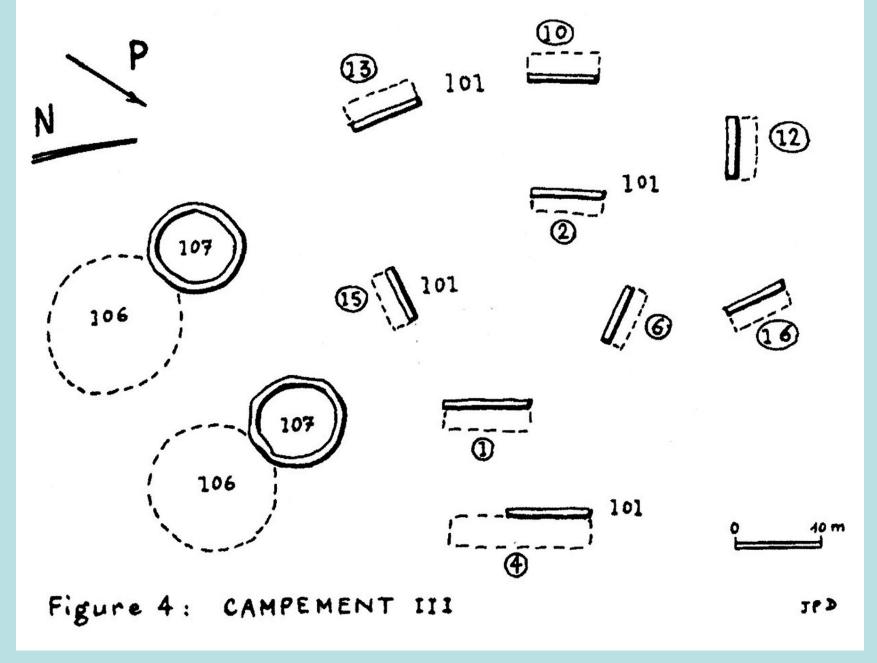
Limite occidentale des terres d'estivage

Limite occidentale des terres d'hivernage (campements) Limite occidentale des terres d'hivernage (troupeaux)

Bakhtiari territory and campsites







October-December

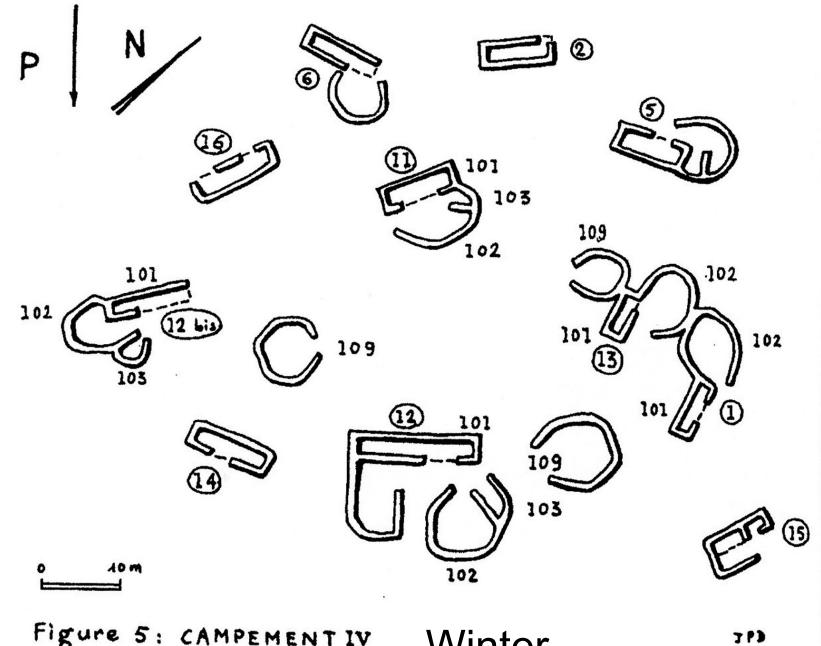


Figure 5: CAMPEMENT IV

Winter