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# The Late Chalcolithic Pottery and Ground Stone Assemblages from the Western Fringes of Tel Yehud

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## Introduction

Two Late Chalcolithic ceramic assemblages were retrieved from the fills of two fully excavated pits: Pit 1[1] (L111, L151; 21 baskets) and Pit 2 (L115, L136; 16 baskets; see Jakoel, this volume). These include 641 diagnostic potsherds (Table 1) and fragments of five distinct basalt bowls and a single piece of a basalt grinding stone.

The pottery from this excavation is usually well-fired, with orange cores and light orange exterior oxidation zones. Temper was frequently added to the clay paste, visible with the

**Table 1. Morphological Quantities Per Pit**

| Vessel Type | Pit 1 | Pit 2 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Small V-shaped bowls | 9 | 44 | 53 |
| Medium-sized and large V-shaped bowls | 33 | 101 | 134 |
| Deep bowls/small basins | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| Large basins | 11 | | 11 |
| Fenestrated bowls | 5 | 22 | 27 |
| Cornets | 13 | 7 | 20 |
| Jars without necks | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| Necked jars | 36 | 36 | 72 |
| Kraters | 34 | 11 | 45 |
| Churns | 30 | 6 | 36 |
| Handles (excl. churns) | 22 | 17 | 39 |
| Flat bases (excl. small V-shaped bowls) | 102 | 71 | 173 |
| Incised body sherds | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Drilled body sherds | 2 | | 2 |
| Stoppers | 2 | 1 | 3 |

[1] Following extensive research of pits in the area of Yehud, it is possible today to differentiate pits from shafts on the basis of their diameter and depth measurements. Hence, Pit 1 should actually be considered a shaft, as the diameter of its opening (1 m) is smaller than its depth (3 m).

naked eye in the form of small angular white (crushed calcite?) and/or gray (crushed chert?) grits. A significant portion of the potsherds is made of a rather gritty, friable orange fabric, probably obtained from the local *ḥamra* soil that is part of the site's subsoil make-up.

Although the quantities of each morphological type within the two pottery assemblages significantly differs in detail from one to another, the same types of vessels reoccur in both pits;[2] therefore, potsherds selected from both assemblages for presentation and illustration have been combined here and arranged from unrestricted, open to restricted, closed vessels. The differences in quantities of each type of pottery noticed between the two assemblages (Table 1) will be addressed in the discussion concluding this report.

## THE POTTERY

*Open Vessels* (Figs. 1–4)
A total of 262 open vessels (56.7% of diagnostic sherds) were found in Pits 1 and 2. The 173 flat bases (Table 1) that are mostly non-diagnostic have been excluded from the total and the following counts and statistics. Included, however, are the typologically diagnostic bases of small V-shaped bowls.

*V-Shaped Bowls* (Fig. 1).— These bowls vary in size from small to large, and are coil-coated (Fig. 1:1, 14–16), wheel-finished (Fig. 1:2–5, 17) or wheel-shaped (Fig. 1:6–12), typically with flaring walls and tapered rims.[3] The assemblage includes 187 of these bowls (71.4 % open and 40.5% open and closed diagnostic sherds). The rims of all these bowls are usually tapered but occasionally slightly flattened (Fig. 1:11), and can either be flaring in axial extension of the vessels' flaring wall or slightly in- or out-folded. Rims are either plain or have a red-painted band that is usually broader on the inside than on the outside (e.g., Fig. 1:4, 5, 7, 11, 12). Notable are a few sherds that show parallel concentric and horizontal grooves on their interior (cf. Fig. 1:13). Similar tool-marks were noticed on three sherds from a nearby contemporary site.[4]

A related subclass of small V-shaped bowls, known as "bell-shaped" bowls or cups with sinuous walls/rims (e.g., Roux, Brink and Shalev 2013:71, Fig. 6), are notably absent in the assemblages of both Pits 1 and 2.

*Thick-Walled Large Bowls* (Fig. 2).— These large open, flattened-rim bowls, closed, spouted bowls and large, open basins are 10.7 % of open and 6% of open and closed diagnostic sherds (n = 28). The invariably flattened rims of these relatively thick-walled large bowls can be either plain (Fig. 2:2, 3) or indented (Fig. 2:4–6). The surface of these vessels had

[2] This is true of all types except one: large basins do not appear in Pit 2 (Table 1).

[3] For a technological description of these production modes, see Roux, Brink and Shalev 2013:66–72.

[4] The Lugano project in Yehud (Permit No. A-6526) was excavated by Eriola Jakoel and Edwin C.M. van den Brink, on behalf of the IAA (Jakoel and Brink 2014).

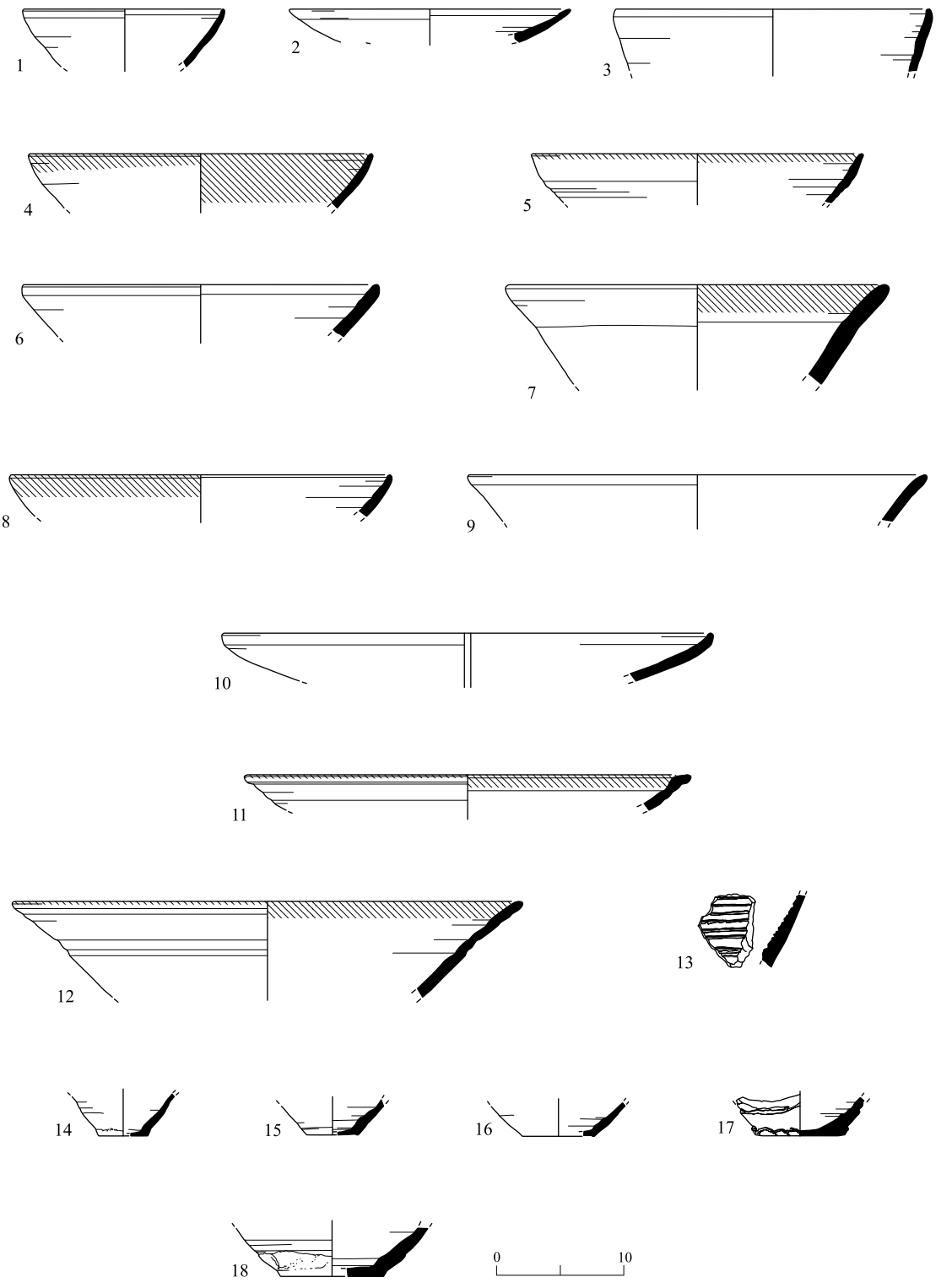


Fig. 1. Small to large V-shaped bowls.

**◂ Fig. 1**

| No. | Locus | Basket | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 136 | 1099 | Plain light orange surface; tapered, slightly infolded rim/wall |
| 2 | 151 | 1179 | Light orange surface; traces of red paint on int. and ext.; tapered rim/wall |
| 3 | 111 | 1138 | Plain, light orange surface, some gray grits; tapered, slightly infolded rim |
| 4 | 151 | 1216/3 | Traces of red paint on int. and ext; tapered rim/wall |
| 5 | 151 | 1223 | Light orange surface and core throughout, small gray grits; red paint on int. and ext. rim; tapered rim, slightly incurving wall |
| 6 | 111 | 1061 | Plain, light orange surface; tapered, slightly infolded rim, flaring wall |
| 7 | 136 | 1099 | Cream, light brown surface, small white and gray grits; well-fired; red-painted band on int. of rim; tapered, slightly out-folded rim, flaring wall |
| 8 | 136 | 1145 | Light orange surface; red-painted band on ext. rim; tapered rim, flaring wall |
| 9 | 111 | 1061 | Plain, orange surface, many small and coarse white grits |
| 10 | 151 | 1179 | Plain, light orange surface, light orange core throughout, small gray grits; incurved rim, flaring wall |
| 11 | 115 | 1042 | Thick, orange core with light orange oxidation zones, coarse angular white grits and few small gray grits; red-painted band on int. rim; tapered, diagonally flattened rim, flaring wall |
| 12 | 115 | 1042 | Orange core throughout, small white grits; red paint on int. rim; joins between coils clearly visible on both ext. and int.; well-fired |
| 13 | 115 | 1097 | Plain, light orange surface; concentric, horizontal, parallel grooves on int. |
| 14 | 115 | 1097 | Plain, light orange surface |
| 15 | 136 | 1114 | Plain, orange surface |
| 16 | 151 | 1216/5 | Plain, light orange surface, light orange core throughout, levigated (no added inclusions) |
| 17 | 111 | 1061 | Plain orange surface (*ḥamra*?), coarse white grits; band of clay applied near base, and a layer of clay is applied to the wall of the vessel (visible in break) |
| 18 | 151 | 1223 | Plain, light orange surface and core throughout; clay patch near base ext.; well-fired |

**Fig. 2 ▸**

| No. | Type | Locus | Basket | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bowl | 111 | 1138 | Plain, light orange surface |
| 2 | Bowl | 111 | 1142 | Plain, light orange surface, coarse white grits |
| 3 | Bowl | 151 | 1223 | Plain, light orange surface, thick orange core with thin, light orange ext. oxidation zones, small gray grits and very few white grits |
| 4 | Bowl | 111 | 1142 | Light orange surface, some gray grits; traces of red paint on int. |
| 5 | Bowl/basin | 151 | 1216/4 | Plain, light orange surface, white angular grits; soot stains on int. |
| 6 | Bowl | 111 | 1138 | Plain, light orange surface |
| 7 | Spouted bowl | 115 | 1092 | Plain, light orange surface |
| 8 | Spouted bowl | 111 | 1061 | Plain orange surface |
| 9 | Basin | 151 | 1179 | Plain, light orange surface, light orange core and oxidation zones, small and coarse, angular white grits (glimmering) and fewer small gray grits; in the break, a layer of clay was added to strengthen the outer rim/wall area; soot stains on int. |
| 10 | Basin | 151 | 1221 | Orange core and surface, many small and coarse, angular white grits |

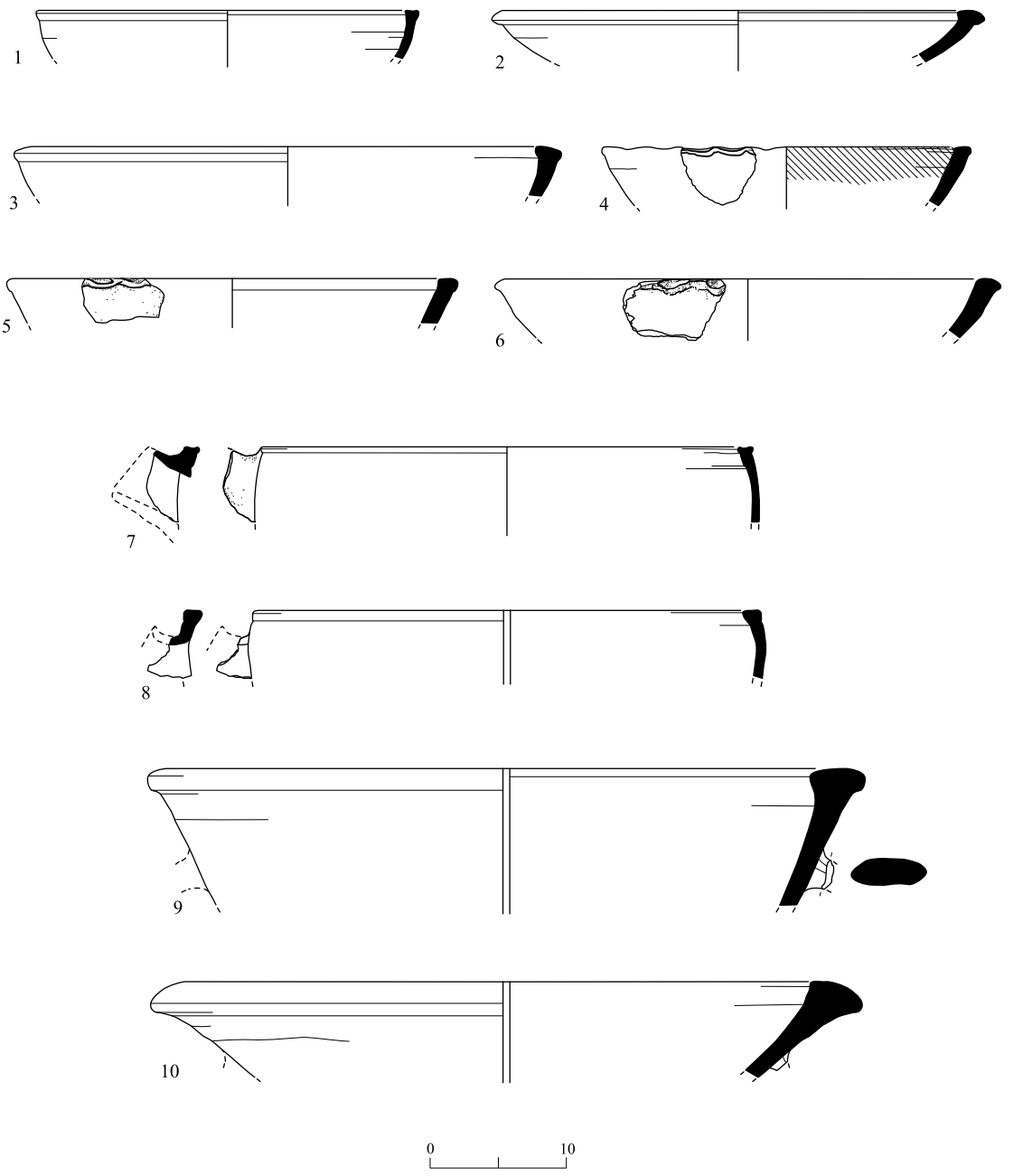


Fig. 2. Large open bowls, restricted spouted bowls, and large, open basins.

been painted red occasionally (Fig. 2:3). Only two spouted bowls were identified (Fig. 2:7, 8). Also, large, thick-walled basins with knob-like handles were found (Fig. 2:9, 10), their surfaces are invariably plain.

*Cornets* (Fig. 3).— Cornets were found in both pits (n = 20), comprising 7.6 % of open and 4.3% of open and closed diagnostic sherds. Rim fragments of cornets (Fig. 3:1) are notoriously difficult to distinguish from those of small V-shaped bowls and therefore, are probably underrepresented in the former and overrepresented in the latter group. It is more reliable to identify cornets by their medial and (cylindrical) base fragments (Fig. 3:2–6 and Fig. 3:7, respectively); the latter was sometimes found soot-stained. One medial fragment (Fig. 3:5) had been re-used—its lower extreme had been ground flat. Only in a few instances traces of red paint were preserved (not illustrated). It is notable that most base fragments from many other assemblages often show vertical scrape marks, whereas in this assemblage the scrape marks had been carefully smoothed out.

*Fenestrated Pedestal Bowls* (Fig. 4).— Fenestrated pedestal bowls (n = 27) comprise 10.3% of open and 5.8% of open and closed diagnostic sherds. As in the case of cornet rims, the rims of fenestrated pedestal bowls are notoriously difficult to distinguish from those of flat-based bowls in comparable sizes. Even fragments of the ring base of the pedestals can sometimes be mistaken for a bowl or even a jar rim. More diagnostic for identifying this type of bowl are the medial segments with part of both the bowl and the pedestal (Fig. 4:1–4), ring-base fragments with part of the cut-out fenestration (Fig. 4:5) and 'leg' fragments with

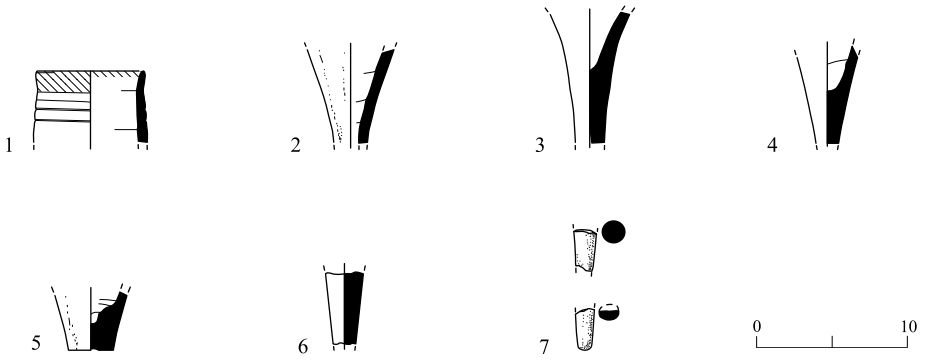


Fig. 3. Cornets.

| No. | Locus | Basket | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 115 | 1097 | Light orange surface; coil joins visible on ext.; red paint on int. and ext. rim |
| 2 | 111 | 1138 | Plain, light orange surface |
| 3 | 151 | 1216/2 | Plain, light orange surface; well-fired |
| 4 | 111 | 1012 | Plain, light orange surface; possible residue on int. |
| 5 | 151 | 1177 | Light orange surface, white grits; vertical scrape marks and possible traces of red paint on ext.; flat base (the result of grinding the break zone) |
| 6 | 136 | 1137 | Orange core and surface (*ḥamra*?); no visible inclusions; well-smoothed ext. |
| 7 | 115 | 1097 | Plain, light orange surface; smoothed ext. |

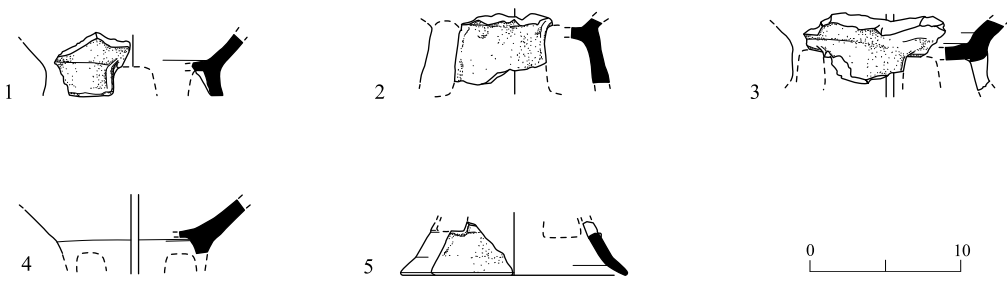


Fig. 4. Fenestrated pedestal bowls.

| No. | Locus | Basket | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 111 | 1141 | Plain, light orange surface |
| 2 | 115 | 1098 | Plain, light orange surface, orange core throughout, few white and gray grits; well-fired |
| 3 | 115 | 1097 | Plain, light orange surface, white grits; soot stains on ext.; well-fired |
| 4 | 111 | 1141 | Plain, light orange surface; soot stains on ext.; well-fired |
| 5 | 115 | 1030 | Plain, light orange surface, white grits |

part of a pedestal's wall that had not been cut-out (not illustrated). Soot stains were noticed on a few fragments (Fig. 4:3, 4). Except for a single body sherd with an incised herring-bone pattern made prior to firing that was possibly part of a pedestal leg fragment (Fig. 8:7), incised decorations are absent, as is red paint.

*Closed Vessels* (Figs. 5–8)
In total, fragments of 200 closed vessels were recovered from the excavation (43.3% of diagnostic sherds). Non-diagnostic base sherds were not used in the statistics.

*Holemouth Vessels* (Fig. 5:1–4).— Eight small and medium-sized plain holemouth jars were retrieved (4% of closed and 1.7% of open and closed diagnostic sherds). Holemouth jars are markedly rare in the assemblages of both Pits 1 and 2. The few relevant sherds retrieved represent only thin-walled, small (Fig. 5:1) and medium-sized (Fig. 5:2–4) jars, while larger specimens are absent. The frequent occurrence of restricted (holemouth) kraters (see below) stands in direct proportional contrast with the sparse number of the plain holemouth jars.

*Necked Jars* (Fig. 5:5–11).— Necked jar fragments are common in the Yehud assemblage (n = 72; 36% of closed and 15.6% of open and closed diagnostic sherds). These represent mostly small and medium-sized jars. Large storage jars or pithoi are conspicuously absent. Necks are either very short (Fig. 5:5–8) or somewhat tall (Fig. 5:9–11). Sometimes the rim and neck are painted red (Fig. 5:6, 11).

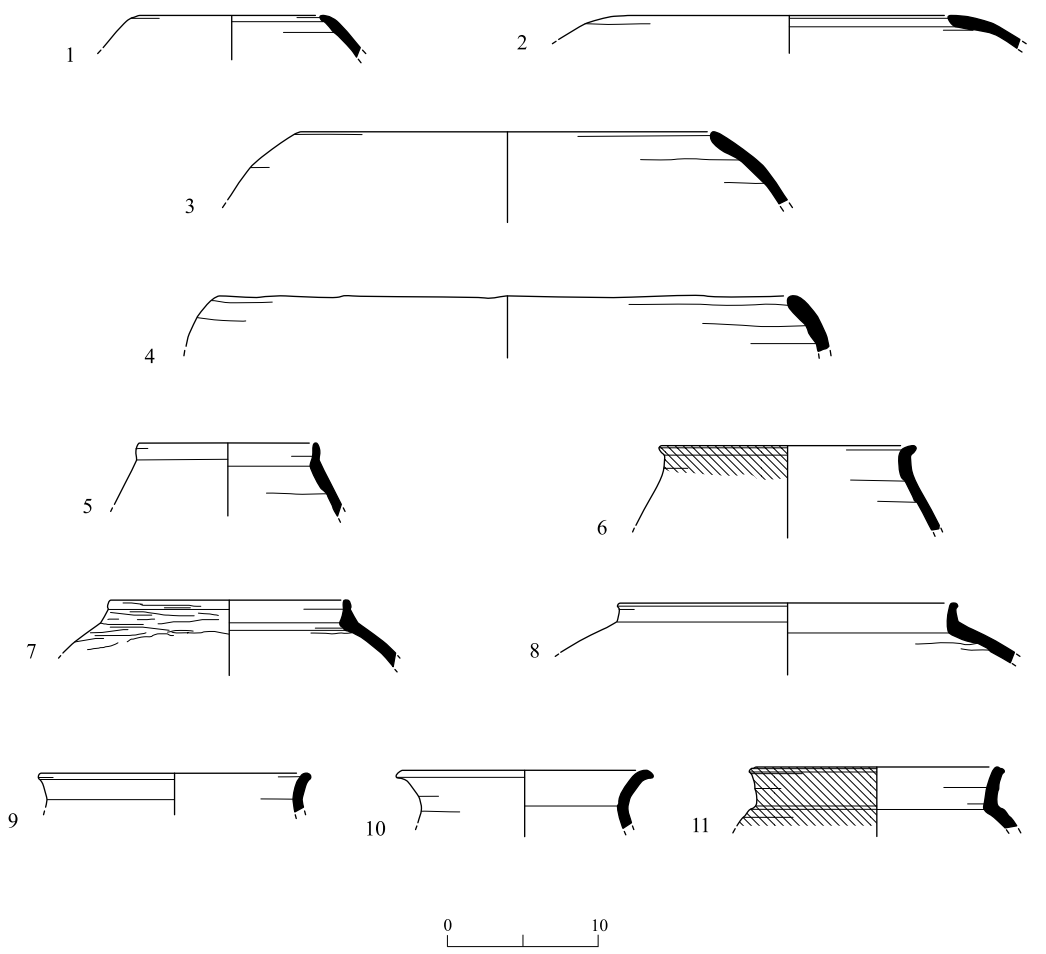


Fig. 5. Holemouth jars (1–4) and medium-sized necked jars (5–11).

| No. | Locus | Basket | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 111 | 1138 | Plain, light orange surface; tapered rim/wall |
| 2 | 106 | 1006 | Plain, light orange surface, thick orange core, thin light-orange oxidation zones, many angular white grits; tapered rim/wall |
| 3 | 151 | 1216.1 | Plain, light orange surface, light orange core throughout, many angular white grits; tapered rim/wall |
| 4 | 115 | 1097 | Soot traces on int. and ext.; irregular rounded rim/wall |
| 5 | 115 | 1072 | Plain, light orange surface, orange core throughout, small white grits; slightly tapered everted rim |
| 6 | 111 | 1142 | Light orange surface; out-folded rim; red-painted ext. rim; well-fired |
| 7 | 136 | 1183 | Plain orange surface; tapered rim; well-fired |
| 8 | 151 | 1114 | Plain, light orange surface, small white grits; flattened, slightly everted rim |
| 9 | 111 | 1012 | Plain, light orange surface; out-folded rim |
| 10 | 111 | 1093 | Plain, light orange surface, white and gray grits; tapered, out-folded rim |
| 11 | 111 | 1061 | Light orange surface, many gray grits; flattened, out-folded rim; red-painted ext. |

*Kraters* (Fig. 6).— Medium and large-sized holemouth kraters with plain or indented rims comprise 22.5% of closed and 9.7% of open and closed diagnostic sherds (n = 45). Rims are invariably flattened, usually extending beyond the vessels' interior wall, occasionally, they extend beyond their exterior walls. Most rims are plain (Fig. 6:1–8), but a few are finger-indented (Fig. 6:9, 10). Plain surfaces are the norm; red-painted surfaces are rare (Fig. 6:3). In one instance, a fragment had been drilled through after firing, possibly repairing a break (Fig. 6:8).

*Churns* (Fig. 7).— Medium and large-sized churns comprise 18% of closed and 7.8% of open and closed diagnostic sherds (n = 36). Churns, found more frequently in Pit 1 than in Pit 2, are either thick-walled and large (Fig. 7:1, 2) or thin-walled and medium-sized (Fig. 7:3, 4). They are frequently decorated with red-painted bands (Fig. 7:2–4). The break in No. 2 shows the complex build-up of the join between the neck and shoulder.

*Varia*

*Handles* (Figs. 7:3, 4; 8:1–6).— Thirty-nine handles were found, comprising 19.5% of closed and 8.4% of open and closed diagnostic sherds. These are either knobs or plain ledges applied to large open basins (n = 2; Fig. 8:1), unilaterally (n = 1; Fig. 8:2) or bilaterally pinched jar handles (n = 1; Fig. 8:3) and small to large jar lugs (n = 35; Fig. 8:4–6), which are pierced either vertically or horizontally, or loop handles applied to churns (Fig. 7:3, 4). Although a few large lugs, triangular in section, are recorded, none display a finger-indented edge.

*Flat Bases*.— Although 173 bases were found (37% of open and closed diagnostic sherds), no attempt was made to further subdivide them into those belonging to open or closed vessels. Therefore, this group is excluded from the total count and statistics of the diagnostic potsherds.

*Sherds Incised Pre-Firing* (Fig. 8:7–9).— The pre-firing incised sherds (n = 3) comprise 1.5% of closed and 0.6% of open and closed diagnostic sherds. One may be part of a leg fragment of a fenestrated bowl (Fig. 8:9). Sherd No. 8 has a rolled or impressed palmette design, examples of which have been found elsewhere, e.g., in Late Chalcolithic burial caves in Shoham North (Commenge 2005:55, 81, Fig. 6.23:3).

*Sherds Drilled Post-Firing* (Fig. 8:10).— There are two sherds that had been drilled after firing, comprising 1% of closed and 0.4% of open and closed diagnostic sherds (Figs. 6:10; 8:10). This was possibly done for repairing fractures.

*Reworked Sherds* (Fig. 8:11, 12).— Four reworked sherds comprise 2% of closed and 0.9% of open and closed diagnostic sherds. These were probably used as jar stoppers.

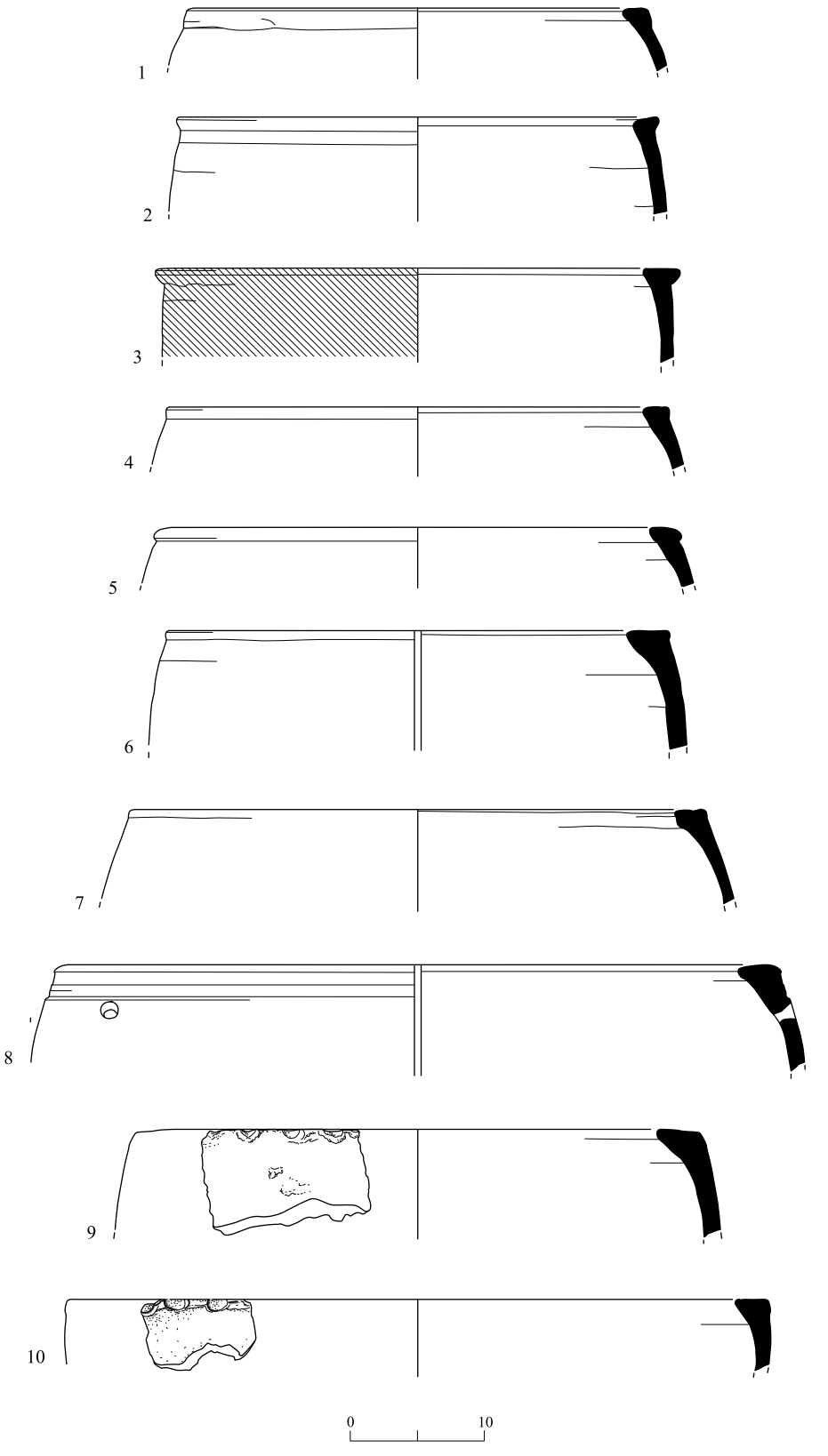


Fig. 6. Small and large holemouth kraters with plain or indented rim.

**◂ Fig. 6**

| No. | Locus | Basket | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 115 | 1072 | Small white grits; flattened rim/wall; soot-stained int. and ext.; well-fired |
| 2 | 115 | 1097 | Plain, orange surface; flattened rim/wall; well-fired |
| 3 | 136 | 1137 | Light orange surface, small gray grits; flattened, slightly overhanging rim/wall; red and red-painted rim and rim ext. |
| 4 | 111 | 1012 | Plain, light orange surface, white and gray grits; flattened rim/wall |
| 5 | 111 | 1012 | Light orange surface, coarse angular grits; slightly flattened rim/wall; soot stains on int. and ext. |
| 6 | 151 | 1221 | Plain light orange surface, gray core with thin, light brown oxidation zones, many coarse, angular white grits; flattened rim/wall |
| 7 | 111 | 1073 | Plain orange surface, light orange core, orange oxidation zones, many coarse white (some glimmering) and gray grits; flattened rim/wall |
| 8 | 151 | 1223 | Plain, cream-light brown surface and core throughout, many small gray grits; flattened rim; post-firing drilled hole c. 2 cm below rim |
| 9 | 106 | 1006 | Plain, light orange surface, white angular grits; flattened, indented overhanging rim/wall |
| 10 | 151 | 1178 | Plain, orange surface, orange core throughout; coarse angular white and grayish white grits; flattened, indented rim/wall; well-fired |

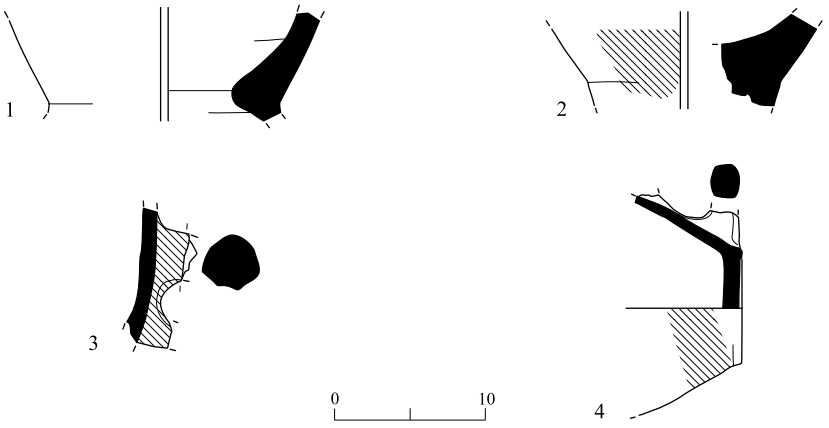


Fig. 7. Large (1, 2) and medium-sized (3, 4) churns.

| No. | Locus | Basket | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 111 | 1061 | Plain light orange surface, coarse white grits; incrustations (secondary?) on int. neck |
| 2 | 115 | 1092 | Light orange surface; traces of red paint on ext. |
| 3 | 111 | 1142 | Light orange surface; red-painted decoration on ext. |
| 4 | 151 | 1221 | Light orange surface, orange core throughout; white angular grits and few gray grits (*ḥamra*?); well-fired |

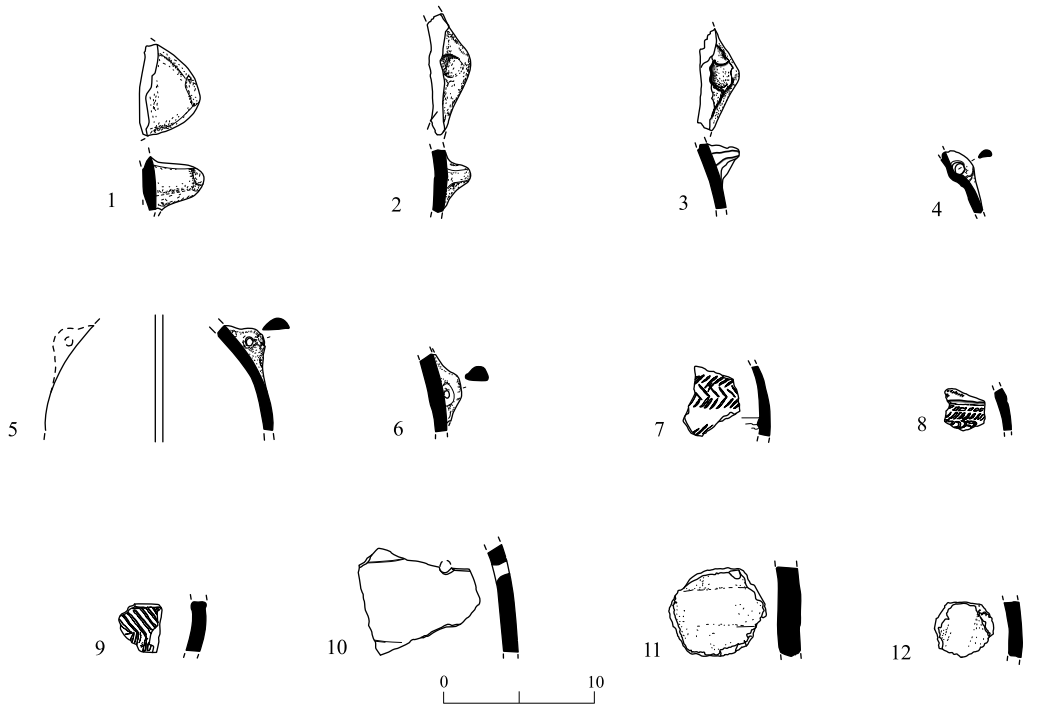


Fig. 8. Handles, pre-firing incised sherds, drilled sherd and reworked sherds (jar stoppers).

| No. | Type | Locus | Basket | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Plain knob handle of large basin | 111 | 1121 | Plain, light orange surface; some white and gray grits |
| 2 | Horizontally applied, unilaterally pinched handle | 136 | 1137 | Plain, light orange surface; light orange core throughout; small gray grits and very few white grits |
| 3 | Bilaterally pinched handle | 111 | 1138 | Plain, light orange surface; thick orange core, thin light orange oxidation zones; many angular white and gray grits (*ḥamra*?; petrography) |
| 4 | Small, horizontally pierced lug handle | 111 | 1073 | Orange surface (*ḥamra*?); red-painted |
| 5 | Vertically applied, horizontally pierced small lug handle | 136 | 1184 | Plain light orange surface, light orange core throughout, few coarse white grits |
| 6 | Vertically pierced lug handle/wall fragment of closed vessel | 115 | 1097 | Plain, cream-light brown surface, small gray grits; well-fired |
| 7 | Body sherd | 136 | 1099 | Cream white surface, many small white grits; pre-firing incised herringbone design |
| 8 | Body sherd | 111 | 1144 | Plain, light orange surface; pre-fired incised or stamped ‘palmette’ design (cf. Commenge 2005:55, 81, Fig. 6.23:3) |
| 9 | Body sherd | 136 | 1183 | Light orange core and surface; pre-firing incised design |
| 10 | Perforated body sherd | 111 | 1012 | Post-firing drilled hole |
| 11 | Reworked body sherd (jar stopper) | 111 | 1142 | Plain, light brown surface |
| 12 | Small, reworked body sherd (jar stopper) | 111 | 1142 | Plain, light brown surface |

## The Ground Stone Assemblage

A small fragment of a vesicular basalt grinding stone, most likely a *mano* (Fig. 9:1), as well as a rim-and-wall fragment of an extremely thin-walled, small basalt bowl decorated with an incised chevron design around the rim's interior (Fig. 9:2) and a ring-stand fragment of a pedestaled basalt bowl (Fig. 9:6), were retrieved from Pit 1. Two incompletely preserved large, flat-based(?) basalt bowls with incised, hatched chevron decoration on the inside of

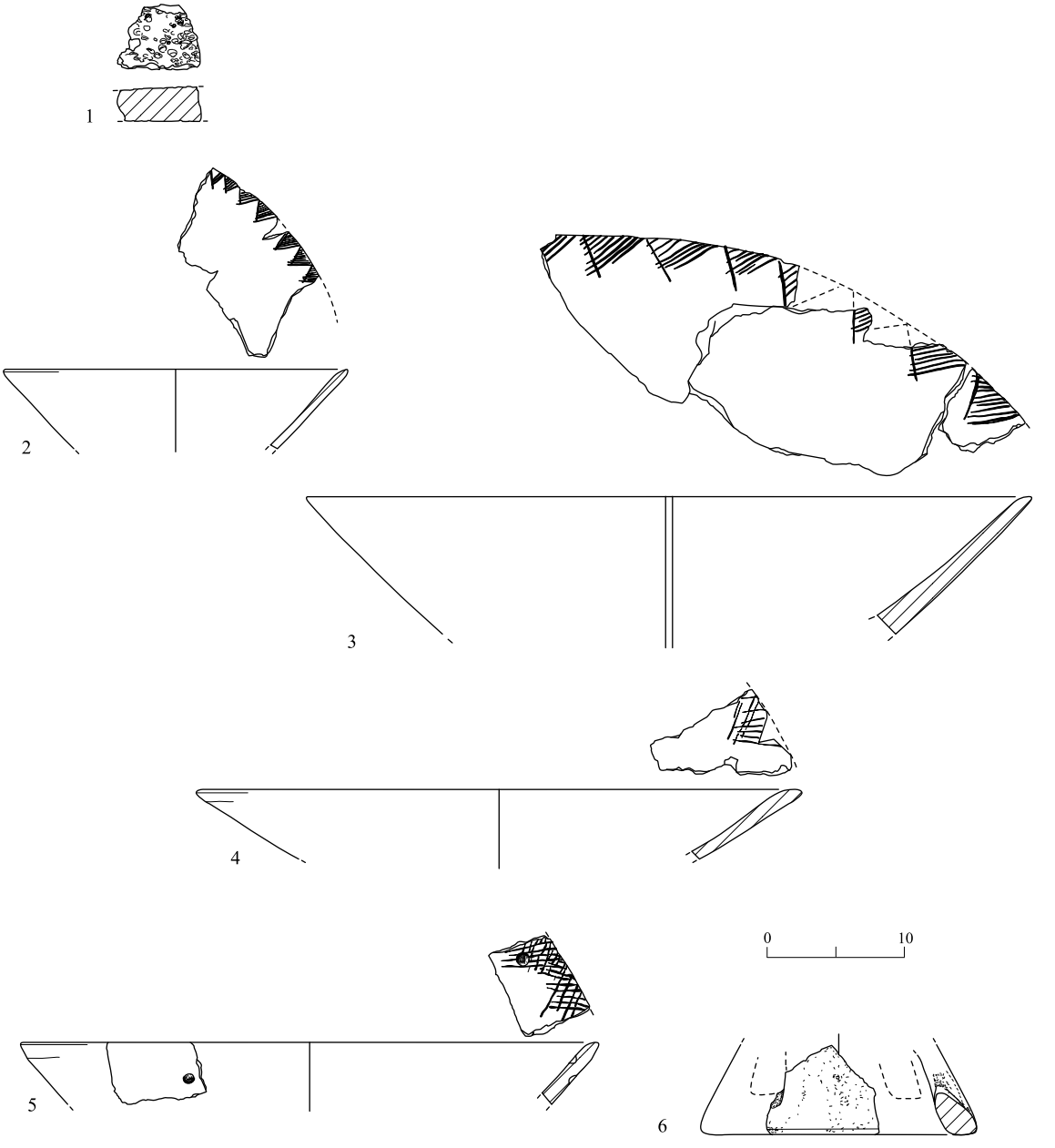


Fig. 9. Basalt ground stone tool and vessels.

◂ **Fig. 9**

| No. | Type | Locus | Basket | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Upper grinding stone (*mano?*) | 111 | 1138 | Vesicular basalt |
| 2 | Basalt bowl | 111 | 1012<br>1138 | Incised hatched chevron design around int. of rim; polished int. and ext. |
| 3 | Basalt bowl | 136 | 1111/2 | Hatched chevron design around rim int.; int. surface polished |
| 4 | Basalt bowl | 115 | 1065 | Hatched chevron design around rim int. |
| 5 | Basalt bowl | 115 | 1092 | Hatched chevron design around rim int. |
| 6 | Pedestalled bowl | 151 | 1177 | |

the rim (Fig. 9:3) and additional rim/wall fragments of another two basalt bowls (Fig. 9:4, 5) were found in Pit 2.

Flat-based and pedestalled basalt bowls are considered one of the hallmarks of the Late Chalcolithic period (e.g., Rowan 1998; Brink, Rowan and Braun 1999).

## DISCUSSION

The pottery and ground stone assemblages from Pits 1 and 2 comfortably fit the Ghassulian (Late Chalcolithic) aspect of the domestic ceramic repertoire. The V-shaped bowls, fenestrated pedestal bowls, cornets and churns are all hallmarks of the period. Open shapes (n = 262) predominate the closed shapes (n = 200), while large storage jars (pithoi), as well as large plain holemouth jars, are noticeably lacking.

In the past, this author has argued in favor of a subdivision of the Late Chalcolithic period into two subphases (Late Chalcolithic 1a–b and Late Chalcolithic 2) for the adjacent Shephelah region, based on the presence versus absence of cornets from various stratified, superimposed contexts in early Modi‘in (Brink 2013:53–55). While the ratio of cornets in comparison to some other pottery classes retrieved from Zionist Congress Street in Yehud is not overwhelmingly high, it is not negligible; therefore, it might fit the characterization of the ceramic repertoire from early Modi‘in dated to the Late Chalcolithic 1b. The absence from the Yehud assemblage of small, incipient indented ledge handles (cf. Commenge 2005:55) and pre-firing incised potmarks typical of the succeeding Late Chalcolithic 2 (cf. Commenge 2005: Figs. 6.33–6.35; Brink 2013: Figs. 4.4–4.8) is a further—although admittedly *ex silentio*—argument in favor of an earlier, Late Chalcolithic 1b phase, rather than a later Late Chalcolithic 2 phase.

Comparison of the quantities of the morphological types in the pottery assemblages retrieved from Pits 1 and 2 (Table 1) reveals a few, possibly significant differences between the pits’ assemblages in both open and closed groups. While small V-shaped bowls are

well-represented in Pit 2 (n = 44), they are rare in Pit 1 (n = 9). A similar, perhaps correlated discrepancy is noted in the class of medium-sized to large V-shaped bowls: these are well-represented from Pit 2 (n = 101) but there are significantly fewer in Pit 1 (n = 33).

Though somewhat less pronounced, the same observation applies to the distribution of fenestrated pedestal bowls: 22 items were accounted for in Pit 2, but only 5 pieces were identified in Pit 1. On the other hand, large basins are present in Pit 1 (n = 11) but absent from Pit 2. The reverse is true for certain types of closed vessels: holemouth kraters and churns are significantly more common in Pit 1 (n = 34 and 30 respectively) than in Pit 2 (n = 11 and 6 respectively). Only short- and tall-necked jars are found in equal numbers in both pits (n = 36 each).

Three questions can be raised—yet cannot be answered at this point due to the absence of a satisfactory fine-tuned screening of published Late Chalcolithic 1 and 2 pottery assemblages—regarding the chronological progression of pottery types:

1) Is there a connection between the relatively low number of V-shaped bowls (in all three size classes) and the high numbers of holemouth kraters and churns in Pit 1?

2) Is there a connection between the relatively high number of V-shaped bowls (in all three size classes) and the low number of holemouth kraters and churns in Pit 2?

3) Can the inverse proportions of each type, as reflected in the assemblages of Pits 1 and 2, be explained in terms of chronology, spatio-functionality or other?

One explanation for the differences in the composition of the assemblages could be that these two pits were filled during two distinct chronological episodes; however, this seems unlikely given the short distance (5 m) between them, and the fact that both were dug from the same level. The two pits were found isolated, without any obvious connection to contemporary structural remains, preventing a better understanding of their context. This situation is similar to that which occurred in a previous excavation nearby, where 18 pits and shafts yielding exclusively Late Chalcolithic material were unearthed without a clear (structural) settlement context (see n. 3). Similarly, in the Late Chalcolithic site excavated on Namir Road, Tel Aviv, 30 pits and shafts were uncovered (Area A2; Brink et al. 2016: Fig. 3), which were clearly separated from the contemporary, sparse settlement remains some 50 m to the south (Area A1; Brink 2011; Brink et al. 2016:41–49, Figs. 29, 34–35, 38–39). Another 67 pits and shafts were exposed near Namir Road, viz., on Nissim Aloni Street (Jakoel and Brink 2019). Here too, no structural settlement remains were found in the vicinity of the pits and shafts; however, their nearby presence is evidenced by the composition of the rich material culture retrieved from the shafts.

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