

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE POTTERY OF ḤORBAT ‘ALONA (KHIRBAT EL-‘ALAWINA)

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INTRODUCTION

Excavations at Ḥorbat ‘Alona (see Weksler-Bdolah, this volume) yielded an extensive assemblage of Middle Bronze Age pottery.¹ The main building of the Middle Bronze Age period was uncovered in Area B and it seems to have had two construction phases that did not show up in the pottery, as was the case at Manaḥat (Edelstein, Milevski and Aurant 1998:37). The majority of the pottery fragments were chosen from the rooms of this structure. Additional Middle Bronze Age architectural remains were excavated in Areas A, A20 and F and a pottery sample from each area is displayed in the illustrations.

The pottery assemblage in each area is arranged typologically. The discussion follows a typological order, beginning with the open shapes on to the closed ones. Each pottery type includes the vessels in all four areas, with specific assessments per area when necessary. Following the pottery typology is a short presentation of a distinct ceramic lid.

The comparative material is drawn from sites in the central mountain region, i.e., Shekhem, Shillo and Bet Z̤ur. References to sites in other regions are given only when comparisons could not be traced otherwise.

THE POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE

Open Bowls

These bowls are known as platter bowls (Cole 1984:41) or shallow bowls (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993:86); here, the term “open bowls” is preferred (Amiran 1969:91; Beck

¹ I wish to thank Shlomit Weksler-Bdolah for inviting me to publish the Middle Bronze Age pottery. Regretfully, I wrote the section long after the excavation had ended. Thus, I had no access to the bulk of the pottery as a whole and had difficulties in locating the specific potsherds that were drawn. Under the circumstances, I have utilized whatever means I had at my disposal but, at the same time, I am aware of the shortcomings of this composition. This report was first submitted in 2000; after initial reading and checking, it was resubmitted in 2004. After a long freeze, it was updated in 2011 and submitted once again.

1975:56; Sion and Greenhut 2011:9²), as it is a less restrictive definition for a bowl that attains different heights and widths. Most of the bowls (66%) have an inverted rim. It is either slightly turned-in (Figs. 1:2; 2:1, 3; 6:2, 3), or sharply inverted (Figs. 1:1; 2:5; 6:5–8). One bowl (Fig. 6:1) has a shallow, plate-like form with a plain rim and a tapered end, and another (Fig. 6:4) has a thick wall and rim, which is somewhat externally beveled. Other plain rims with rounded ends occur in bowls of different sizes (Fig. 2:2, 6). One bowl (Fig. 1:3) has a plain, somewhat thickened rim with a rounded end. The bowl in Fig. 5:13 has a folded-out rim, such that is usually found in holemouth jars, and the bowl in Fig. 6:9 has a folded-in rim. A single bowl has a sharply everted, flanged rim (Fig. 6:10), and two bowls have a rilled rim—one has two rills (Fig. 6:11) and the other, three (Fig. 6:12). Rilled rims occur on small kraters in Shekhem during MB IIB, but are more dominant in MB IIC (Cole 1984:47). They also appear on a small krater in Shillo Stratum VIII (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993:88).

None of the bowls were complete and no bases could be directly associated with the open bowls; nonetheless, it is feasible that most of the retrieved ring bases (see below) belonged to open bowls.

Open bowls are usually plain, neither slipped nor burnished. One bowl (Fig. 2:6) has a decorated band of grooved diagonal strokes below the rim and shorter incisions on the outer, rounded edge of the rim.

The surface of the bowls is either reddish yellow (50%), or pale brown (27%); the rest are either light red or red. The most dominant clay matrix has both white and dark inclusions (64%), whereas the white, dotted fabric, which is common in mountain wares, appears here in small numbers (18%).

Overall, the open bowls fit well within the picture at other mountain sites. Exceptions could be attributed to variations within the region, various production centers, or external relations.

Carinated Bowls and a Goblet

The group of carinated bowls includes bowls with a rounded carination, known as globular or S-shaped bowls. All the bowls have an everted rim, sometimes with a tapered end and at other times, with a rounded one. All the bowls lack surface treatment; the bowl in Fig. 2:4 has an incised herringbone band below the rim, which is usually found on kraters. All the carinated bowls are of the open kind, namely the rim diameter equals or is larger than the maximum diameter of the bowl (Figs. 1:4; 5:14; 6:13, 15–17).

The goblet top in Fig. 6:21 is exceptional. It has a plain rim, internally beveled and a row of holes below it. It is made of regular, bowl-type clay and does not show the inclusions common to cooking pots. A similar goblet was recovered in Jericho from Room 30 of Garstang's palace storerooms (Garstang 1934: Pl. XXI:3), and another analogous

² Yet, in a previous paragraph, the same bowls are defined as rounded and flattened.

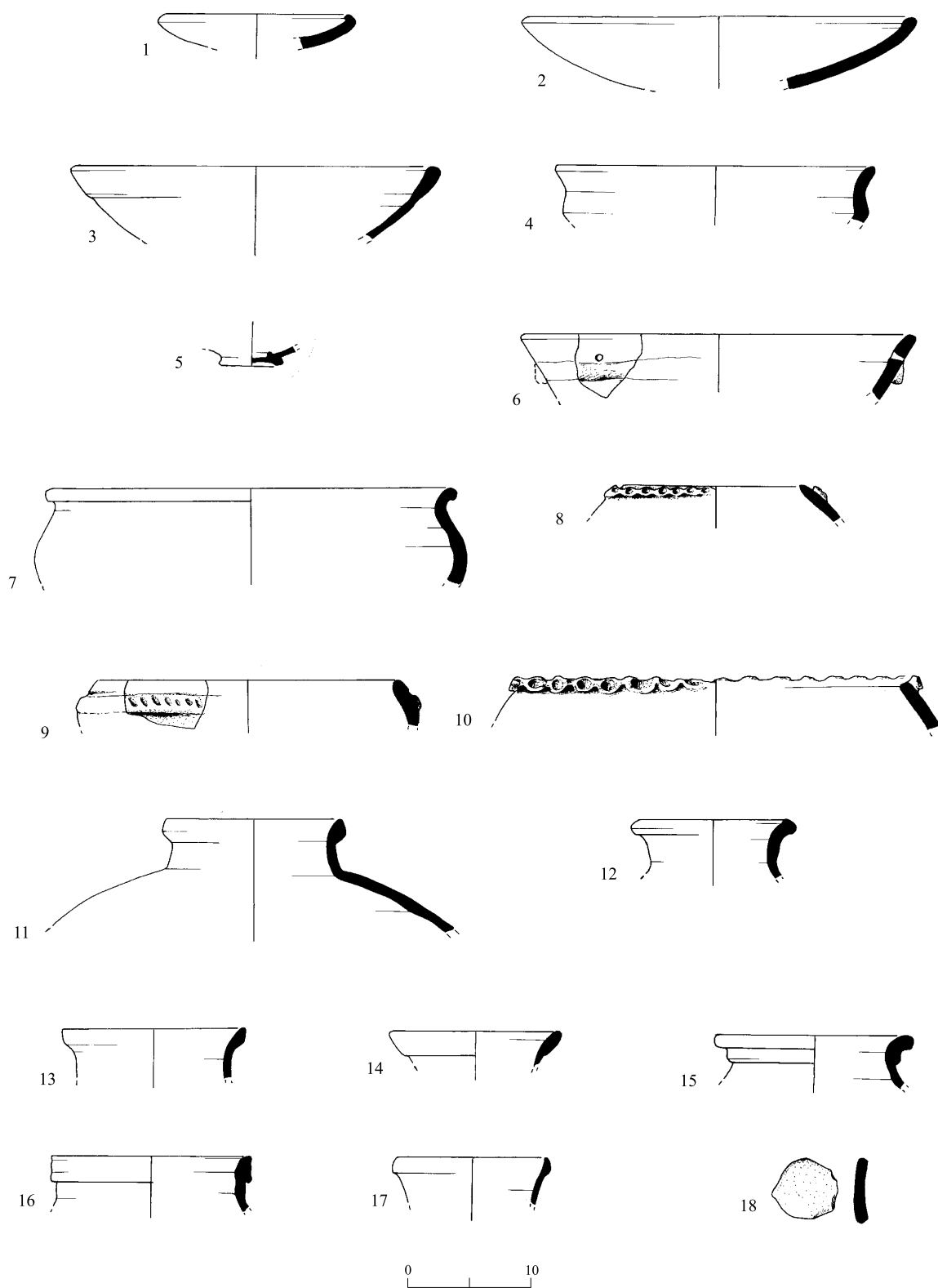


Fig. 1. Pottery from Areas A20 and A.

◀ Fig. 1

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core	Comparisons
1	Bowl	138/139	1143/5	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 3:h
2	Bowl	139	1060/21	7.5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 6/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 4:f
3	Bowl	154	1261/3	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 6/1 Gray	Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1982:294, Fig. 105:29 (Type A.III.f)
4	Bowl	138	1084			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 16:l
5	Bowl base	156	1111/10	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 21:l
6	Cooking pot	138/139	1251/5	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	7.5YR 5/4 Brown	Giv'at Sharet: Bahat 1976: Fig. 15:11 Bet El: Kelso 1968: Pl. 50:1 H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 6:1
7	Cooking pot	133	1056/11			Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.22:5
8	Cooking pot	156	1111/6	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	10YR 3/1 Very dark brown	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig.6.8:17
9	Cooking pot	156	1111/13	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	10YR 3/1 Very dark gray	Manahat: Edelstein, Milevski and Aurant 1998: Fig. 4.5:2 Giv'at Sharet: Bahat 1976: Fig. 16:3
10	Cooking pot	156	1111/9	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	10YR 3/1 Very dark gray	H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 6:5 Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:56, Fig. 22:15
11	Store jar	138/139	1101	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 7:3; Giv'at Sharet: Bahat 1976: Fig. 40:1
12	Store jar	138	1061	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	10YR 6/1 Gray	Giv'at Sharet: Bahat 1976: Fig. 27:3 Tel Masos: Singer 1983: Pl. 130:8
13	Store jar	165	1116	5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 7:11 Giv'on: Pritchard 1963: Fig. 24:88 (T.15)
14	Store jar	165	1258/1	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 6/1 Gray	Giv'at Sharet: Bahat 1976: Fig. 26:22
15	Store jar	139	1137/2	7.5YR 7/1 Pink	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.11:12
16	Store jar	165	1258/5	10YR 6/4 Yellowish brown	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	
17	Jar	138/139	1151	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.7:1; Pritchard 1963: Fig. 21:48 (T.15) Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 42:l Giv'at Sharet: Bahat 1976: Fig. 36:1
18	Reused potsherd/stopper	165	1258/3			

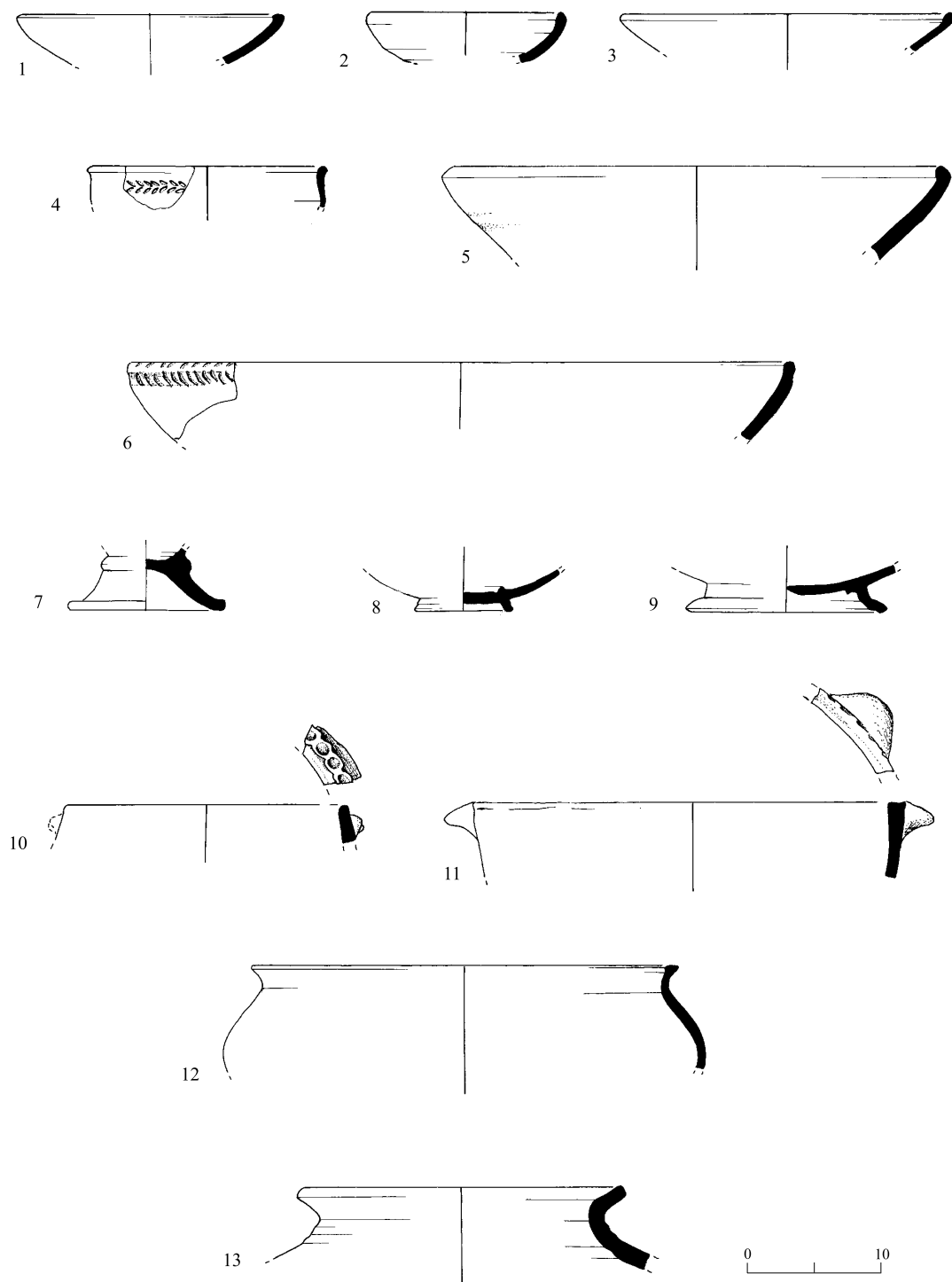


Fig. 2. Pottery from Areas A and A20.

◀ Fig. 2

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core	Comparisons
1	Bowl	708/770	7265/1	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 2:l Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.5:4
2	Bowl	763	7245/1	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	7.5YR 4/1 Dark gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 1:d
3	Bowl	767	7206	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 4:a
4	Bowl	713	7226/1	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 16:e
5	Bowl	708/770	1008/2	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	10YR 6/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 4:b
6	Bowl	764	7212			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 1:c
7	Bowl base	780	7371	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 6/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 22:a Giv'on: Pritchard 1963: Fig. 40:16 (T.30)
8	Bowl base	138/139	7260	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 21:c
9	Bowl base	750	7154	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	10YR 7/1 Light gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 21:bb
10	Krater/ Cooking pot	708	7308			Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:431, Fig. 182:2
11	Cooking pot	184	1184/5	5YR 6/8 Reddish yellow	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	
12	Cooking pot	734	7265/2			Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Figs. 6.6:9; 6.8:16
13	Cooking pot	763	7245/2	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	Tel Masos: Singer 1983: Pl. 129:9

goblet was found in Room 73 (Garstang 1934: Pl. XXVI:11); none of these goblets has perforations below the rim. The function of our goblet is enigmatic; it may have served as a simple domestic incense burner (Ochsenschlager 1974:168).

The clay matrix of the carinated bowls (57%) contains both white and dark inclusions; the rest have only white ones. None of these bowls are made of the 'dotted' clay paste. Most bowls (71%) have a gray core, indicating they were insufficiently oxidized during firing.

Since not all the material from Ḥorbat 'Alona was accessible for examination, it is impossible to determine whether the globular bowls outnumbered the carinated ones (Cole 1984:56); within our sample, the numbers are nearly equal. Comparisons for the carinated bowls are found in MB IIB mountain sites; however, shapes that imply the last phase of the Middle Bronze period, such as flaring, delicately and sharply carinated bowls, are absent.

Bases

Ring bases are predominant, and their edges range from rounded (Fig. 2:8), flattened (Fig. 1:5) and tapered (Fig. 6:18) to elaborate (Fig. 2:9; Cole 1984: Pl. 21). Another, very shallow ring base (Fig. 6:20) has diagonal incisions along its flattened edge. Two high ring bases could belong to either very open bowls or sharply carinated ones (Figs. 2:7; 6:19), but no complete vessel was either recovered or restored. Both bases have a rounded edge; one of them has a cordon between the base and the lower body, indicating a later development in the Middle Bronze Age. The cordoned vessels in Shekhem appear in late MB IIB and extend into MB IIC levels (Cole 1984:55).

Kraters

Kraters comprise a wide selection of shapes and sizes. These include the high-necked and deep bowls of Cole's classification (1984:34–35), as well as the holemouth, open and deep kraters.

A group of decorated kraters is highly reminiscent in their shape and decorated bands of the cooking pots. It has already been claimed that unless potsherds are examined manually, it is difficult to differentiate between a cooking pot and a krater (Cole 1984:48), as demonstrated by Meitlis (1997:22). The krater in Fig. 2:10 has a plain rim with a rounded end, slightly incurved walls, and a rope band of thumb indentations below the rim. Three other kraters (Figs. 3:9, 10; 7:6) have a very elaborate, square rim, and are decorated with bands on the upper body and the rim. The krater in Fig. 3:9 exhibits a simple version of the elaborate rim, which includes a band of incised herringbone design below the rim and a band of diagonal notches on the rim. The krater in Fig. 7:6 has two narrow bands of V-shaped chain links on its squared rim and below it; the latter is identical, yet more spaced out. The krater in Fig. 3:10 has the widest rim diameter (57.75 cm) and a band of linked diagonal notches on top of it. The elaborate square rim points toward the end of MB IIB and MB IIC (Cole 1984:47).

Three kraters (Fig. 3:2–4) have a plain, everted rim with a flattened oblique end. These are classified as a deep bowl with a globular body at Shekhem (Cole 1984:113, Bd C12); a similar rim belongs to a carinated krater from Shillo, dating to MB IIC (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.13:11). Three other kraters have a short neck (Figs. 3:7; 7:1, 2); the rim of Fig. 7:1 has a band of incised, wide notches at the seam between the shoulder and the rim, and two kraters (Fig. 7:4, 5) have a high neck, defined as high-necked bowls by Cole (1984:52). The first (Fig. 7:4) has a red-burnished slip over its high neck and rim, which is very popular with these bowls at Shekhem (Cole 1984:53).

Two carinated kraters are presented. The first (Fig. 3:6) usually has two loop handles (cf. Cole 1984: Pl. 11:c, d), yet our fragment is too small to determine that. The second (Fig. 5:15) has an odd rim, thickened and inverted, with a short upright neck and a row of holes at the juncture between the neck and the upper body.

Two more kraters (Figs. 3:8; 7:3) have a very mild curvature of the walls and a slightly everted rim; the rim of a third similar krater, or a large bowl (Fig. 6:14) extends further out

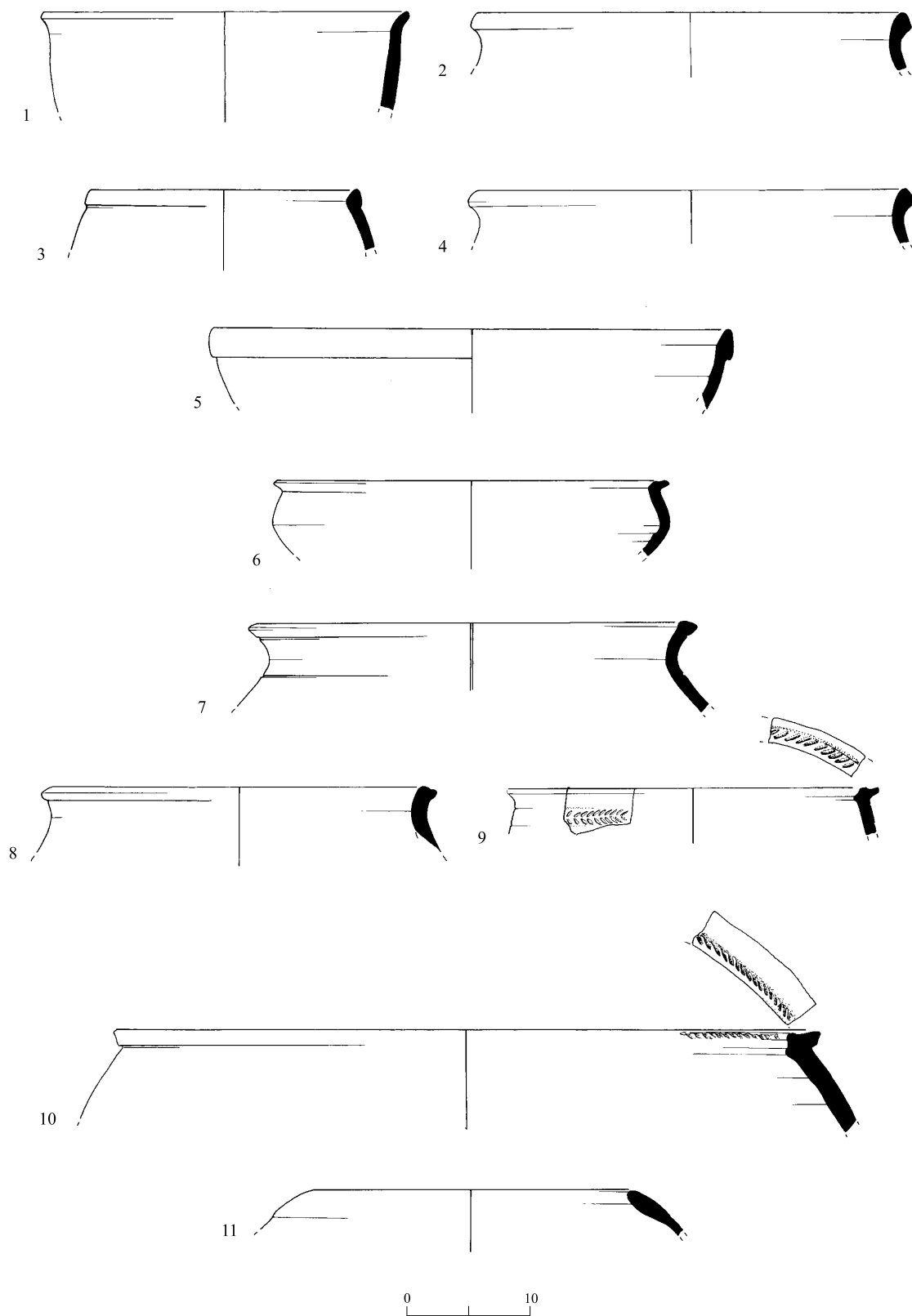


Fig. 3. Kraters from Area A.

◀ Fig. 3

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core	Comparisons
1	770	7321			Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:429, Fig. 181:5
2	708/770	7269/1			Giv'at Sharet: Bahat 1976: Fig. 17:7 Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:431, Fig. 182:3
3	708/770	7260/1			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 7:I
4	708/770	7348			
5	785	7033	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 5.1 Gray	
6	738	7122	5YR 6/8 Reddish yellow	2.5YR 5/8 Red	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 11:c, d Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:419, Fig. 176:6
7	766	7052	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 6/2 Pinkish gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 14:c Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:462, Fig. 205:2
8	763	7245/3	7.5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 11:b
9	713	7226/3			Manahat: Edelstein, Milevski and Auran 1998: Fig. 4.4:1.5 H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 5:11 Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:56, Fig. 22:16
10	713	7320			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 7:b–d
11	713	7274	5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	5YR 6/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 9:f

and has a flat top. A single wide krater has a folded-out rim (Fig. 3:5) and yet another krater (Fig. 3:1) is rather narrow, with a plain everted rim and a flat upright edge.

Four of the holemouth kraters (Fig. 7:6–9) have a folded-out rim and a single specimen (Fig. 3:11) has a plain, somewhat thickened rim with a tapered end; the krater in Fig. 7:8 has a fine combing on the upper body and the folded-out rim in Fig. 7:6 is inverted so that the fold faces up. Cole (1984:48) considers these holemouth kraters a separate group and maintains that the shape was adopted from the Early Bronze Age holemouth jars into MB IIA, extending into MB IIB. He suggested that the holemouth bowl/krater shape could be the predecessor of the holemouth cooking pot in MB IIB. Yet, it appears that at Ḥorbat 'Alona, both holemouth kraters and cooking pots occur during MB IIB.

Among the kraters in our sample, 54% have white and dark inclusions mixed in the clay, 26% have only white inclusions and 20% are of the 'dotted'-type clay matrix. A gray core was observed in 80% of the kraters, which is reasonable for fairly thick-walled vessels that have not been fully oxidized. A single krater (Figs. 3:11) contains mica in its clay—rather unusual for kraters, although not entirely rare.

Cooking Pots and a Cooking Jug

The cooking pots are divided into several categories: flat-bottomed with fairly upright walls; open pots; round-based holemouth pots; and cooking pots with everted rims and carinated or curved walls. The flat-bottomed cooking pots, conjectured since none of them has a base, include one specimen with rather straight walls and a row of vestigial holes above a band of drop-shaped notches (Fig. 8:6). Another cooking pot with an apparently similar base (Fig. 8:5) has upright walls, slightly in-turned toward the rim, which flares out and is slightly depressed in its center. This rim is fashioned to receive a lid, as does a similar rim from Shillo (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.10:17), where it is described as a lid device. Below the rim of this cooking pot is a double-row band of oblique rounded grooves, resembling small leaves.

The open cooking pots include a specimen with a plain rope band below the rim and a series of perforated holes above it (Fig. 1:6). The pierced holes and the open shape point to a date very early in MB IIB, as it continues MB IIA traditions. An unusual cooking pot (Fig. 2:11) is open like a bowl and has two horizontal, rounded handles at the rim.

The holemouth cooking pots have a rounded base and are decorated with a band of thumb indentations (Fig. 1:8), or rounded notches (Fig. 1:9), below the rim and thumb indentations on the rim (Fig. 1:10). The molded band on the rim is a late development in the period. It only appears in MB IIC contexts at Shekhem (Cole 1984:63) and is completely absent in Shillo (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993:89). Since the rope molding on cooking pots seems to be in vogue in southern Canaan, its presence in MB IIB contexts, like at Ḥorbat 'Alona and Ḥorbat Zimri (Meitlis 1997: Pl. 6:5), in the vicinity of Jerusalem, appears natural.

Round-based cooking pots have different variations of an everted rim. There is a plain rim with a rounded edge (Fig. 1:7) or a flattened edge (Fig. 2:13), a tapered, upright edge (Fig. 8:1), and a flattened edge, slightly inverted (Figs. 2:12; 8:2). Two cooking pots have a thickened neck: one (Fig. 8:3) has an externally beveled rim and the other (Fig. 8:4), a mildly rounded rim. Another cooking pot is a jug (Fig. 8:7), with a rather narrow neck and an externally beveled rim.

All cooking pots contain quartz inclusions in their clay matrix, a fact already observed at Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1932:16) and attested at other sites, e.g., Shekhem (Cole 1984:63); 58% of the cooking pots contain mica as well. The surface color of the pots is mostly brown, in different shades, and 50% of the pots have a gray core.

Store Jars and Pithoi

Store jars and pithoi form the largest group of vessels in the assemblage. Although only a single vessel has been defined as a pithos (Fig. 4), it is very likely that other rims in the sample belonged to pithoi. Unfortunately, our pithos is missing its rim, as is the case of a store jar with an ovoid-shaped body, small convex base, and two loop handles below the shoulder, which is slightly angular (Fig. 9:1). The main group of store-jar rims (46%) consists of an everted rim with a ridge below it ('stepped'). The variations apply to the degree of the curvature, the edge termination and the size of the ridge below (Figs. 1:15,

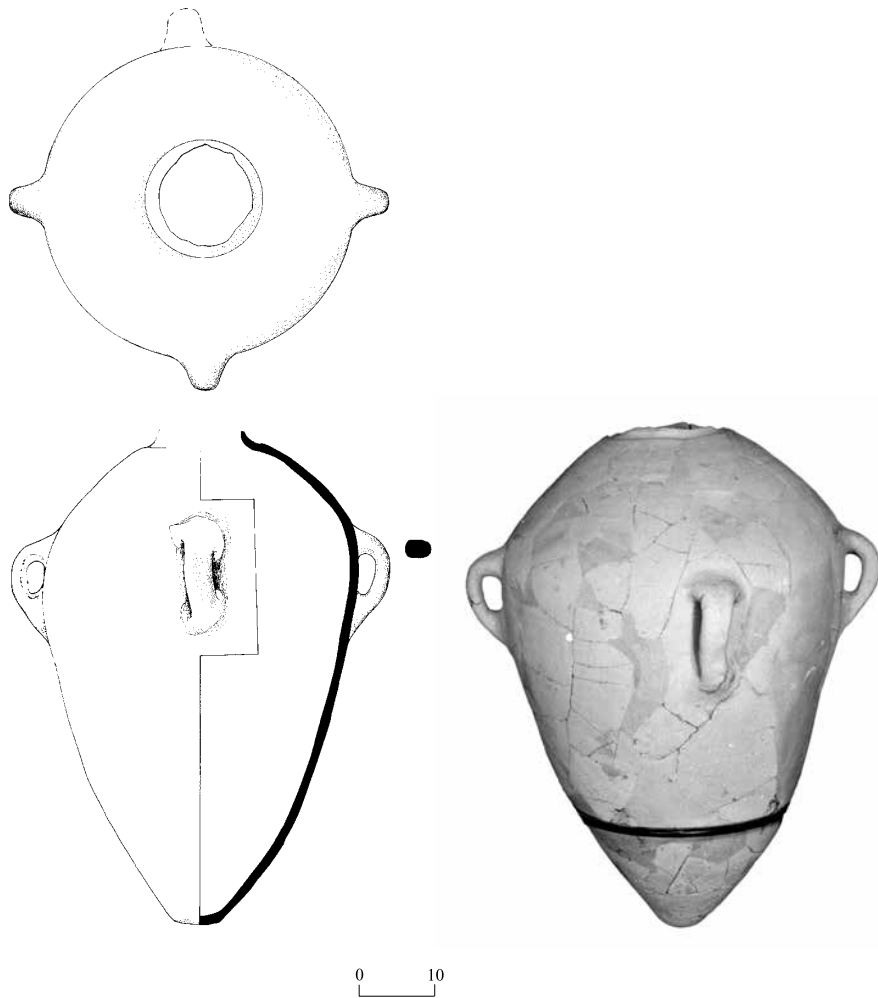


Fig. 4. A pithos from Area A.

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core
1	763	7218	5YR 6/6	7.5YR 6/6

16; 5:1–5; 9:3, 11–14; 10:1, 2). This rim type is attributed to a pithos of Group IVd (Bonfil 1992:29), which is predominant in the central mountain region. This rim type is also the most prevalent at Shillo (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993:91) and in MB IIB strata at Shekhem (Cole 1984:74).

Another cluster of store-jar rims displays the everted rim with a thick, square cross section, having either a rounded (Fig. 1:12) or a flat edge (Figs. 1:11, 13; 9:4, 10); a complementary cluster includes everted rims that are thickened and elongated (Figs. 1:14; 5:7, 8, 11; 9:9). Plain, everted store-jar rims that are rolled out (Fig. 9:6) have a flattened

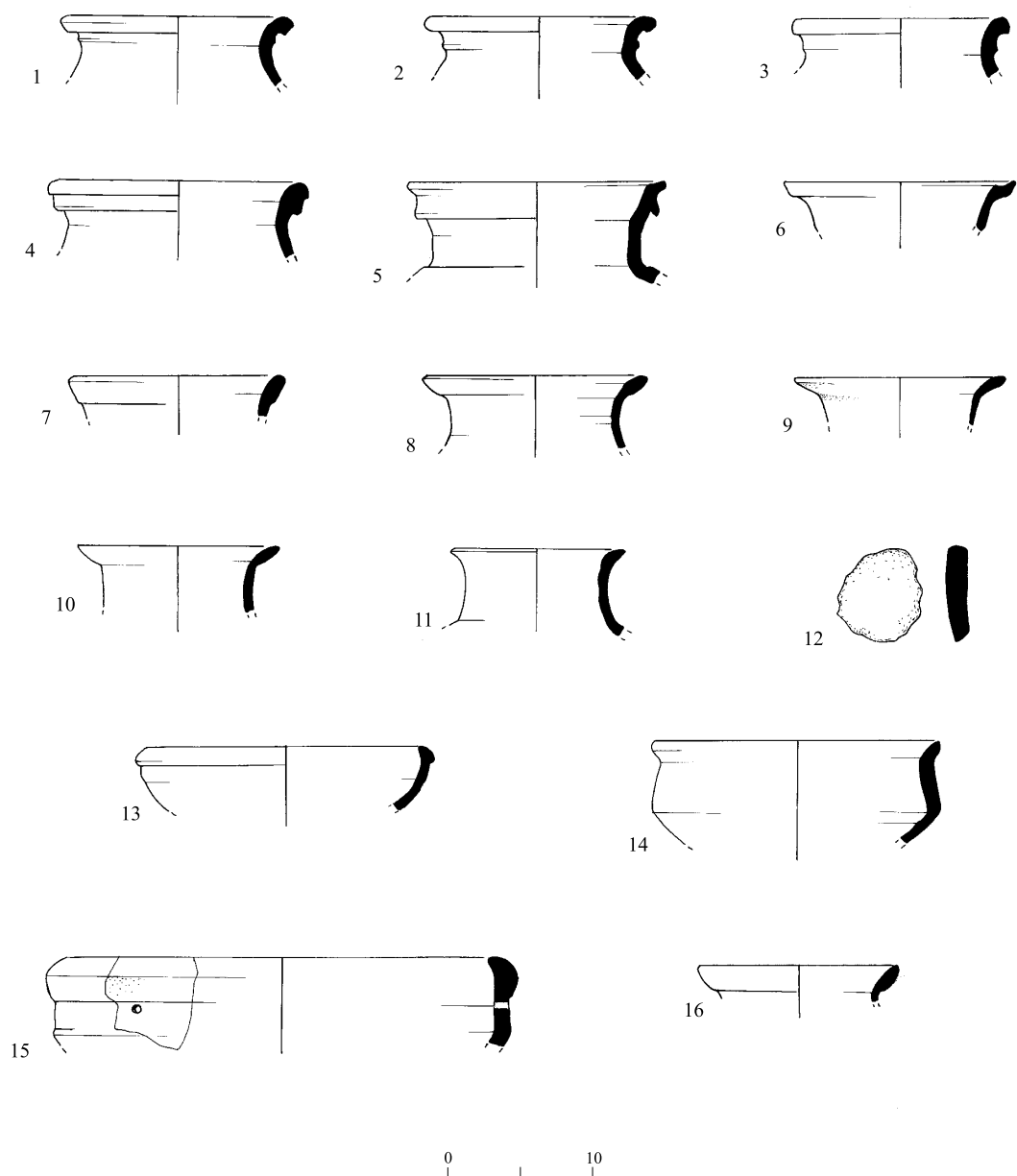


Fig. 5. Pottery from Areas A (1–12) and F (13–16).

top (Fig. 9:5), or are slightly beveled (Fig. 10:3). The latter has a high neck and a molded rope band at the juncture of the neck and the shoulder. A nearly identical analogy was found at Ḥorbat Zimri (Meitlis 1997:Pl. 1:17). Finally, three store-jar rims are plain, everted and tapered, with an inner gutter (Figs. 5:6; 9:7, 8). The gutter rim is defined by Kenyon as Type VIII.C.I: rim upright out, slightly concave (Kenyon and Holland 1982:356). It is not the prevailing rim profile in the central mountain region.

◀ Fig. 5

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core	Comparisons
1	Store jar	785	7342	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	10YR 6/1 Gray	Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:423, Fig. 178:8
2	Store jar	764	7215	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	10YR 6/1 Gray	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.23:14 (MB III)
3	Store jar	135	1069/3			Manahat: Edelstein, Milevski and Auran 1998: Fig. 4.6:5 Kh. 'Addasa: Greenhut and 'Adawi 2010: Fig. 6:31
4	Store jar	770	7323	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	10YR 6/1 Gray	H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 6:10 Bet Zur: Funk 1968: Fig. 2:5
5	Store jar	708/770	7269/2	7.5YR Pink	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	Naḥal Qidron: Sion and Greenhut 2011: Fig. 10:12
6	Store jar	713	7226/2	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 7/1 Light gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 42:I
7	Store jar	713	7258			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 41 Kh. 'Addasa: Greenhut and 'Adawi 2010: Fig. 5:7
8	Store jar	708/770	7123	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.9:18 H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 7:5 Kh. 'Addasa: Greenhut and 'Adawi 2010: Fig. 5:11
9	Store jar	140	1082/1	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 6/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 40, JJ 11
10	Store jar	708/770	7265	7.5YR 6/6 Very pale brown	7.5YR 5/6 Dark brown	H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 7:7 (SJ)
11	Store jar	750	1171/1	10YR 8/2 Very pale brown	10YR 6/1 Gray	H. Zimri: Meitlies 1997: Pl. 8:2
12	Reused potsherd/ stopper	770	7228			
13	Bowl	624	6062/1	2.5YR 5/6 Light red	2.5YR 5/4 4/6 Red	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 3:b
14	Bowl	624	6038	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	5YR 5/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 16:b
15	Krater	608	8008/13	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	Shekhem: Dever 1974: Fig. 14:14 (without holes)
16	Store jar	632	6053/5	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	5YR 6/1 Gray	Bet Zur: Funk 1968: Fig. 2:19 Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:174, Fig. 71:3

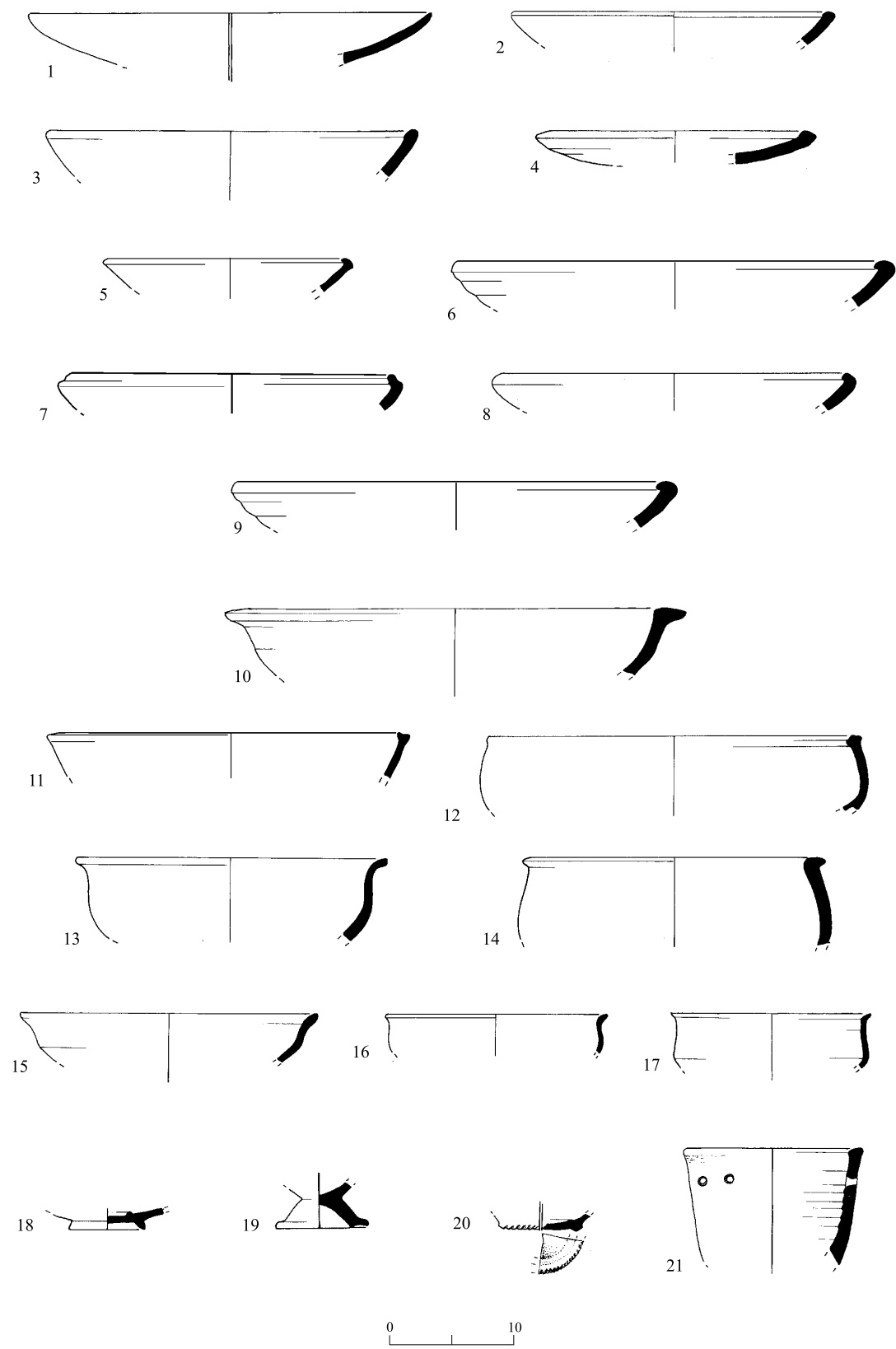


Fig. 6. Pottery from Area B.

◀ Fig. 6

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core	Comparisons
1	Bowl	254	2187/2	2.5YR 7/6 Light red	2.5YR 5/4 Reddish brown	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 1:b Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.5:1
2	Bowl	260	2225/3	10YR 8/4 Very pale brown	5YR 6/4 Light reddish brown	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 4:a Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.8:5
3	Bowl	209	2020	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 5:f
4	Bowl	260	2108/1			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 3:f
5	Bowl	226	2141/11	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	5YR 5/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 4:I
6	Bowl	226	2039/2	7.5YR 7.6 Reddish yellow	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 3:j
7	Bowl	236	2270	2.5YR 6/6 Light red	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 4:d
8	Bowl	211	2022/2	2.5 YR 6/6 Light red	5YR 5/2 Reddish gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 2:j Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.8:4
9	Bowl	211	2057/1	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	Manahat: Edelstein, Milevski and Auran 1998: Fig. 4.2:8
10	Bowl	226	2192/2	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	2.5YR 4/1 Very dark gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 1:I Lakhish: Tufnell 1958: Pl. 71:611
11	Bowl	209	2033/3	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	7.5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 3:e Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.8:6
12	Bowl	282	2268/1			Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.6:3
13	Bowl	254	2187/1			Tel Masos: Singer 1983: Pl. 128:17.20
14	Bowl	273	2110	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	10YR 5/1 Gray	Giv'at Sharet: Bahat 1976: Fig. 5:19
15	Bowl	226	2141/16			Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:302, Fig. 109:34 (Type C.II.a)
16	Bowl	223	2072/6	5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 6/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 16:e Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.5:12
17	Bowl	238	2225/6	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 16:h Manahat: Edelstein, Milevski and Auran 1998: Fig. 4.3:12
18	Bowl base	272	2231	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	5YR 6/4 Reddish brown	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 21:t
19	Bowl base	226	2150/3	10YR 8/4 Very pale brown	2.5YR 5/3 Reddish brown	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 22:a
20	Bowl base	282	2268			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 21:I
21	Bowl/goblet	226	2243/1	2.5YR Light red	5YR 5/2 Reddish gray	

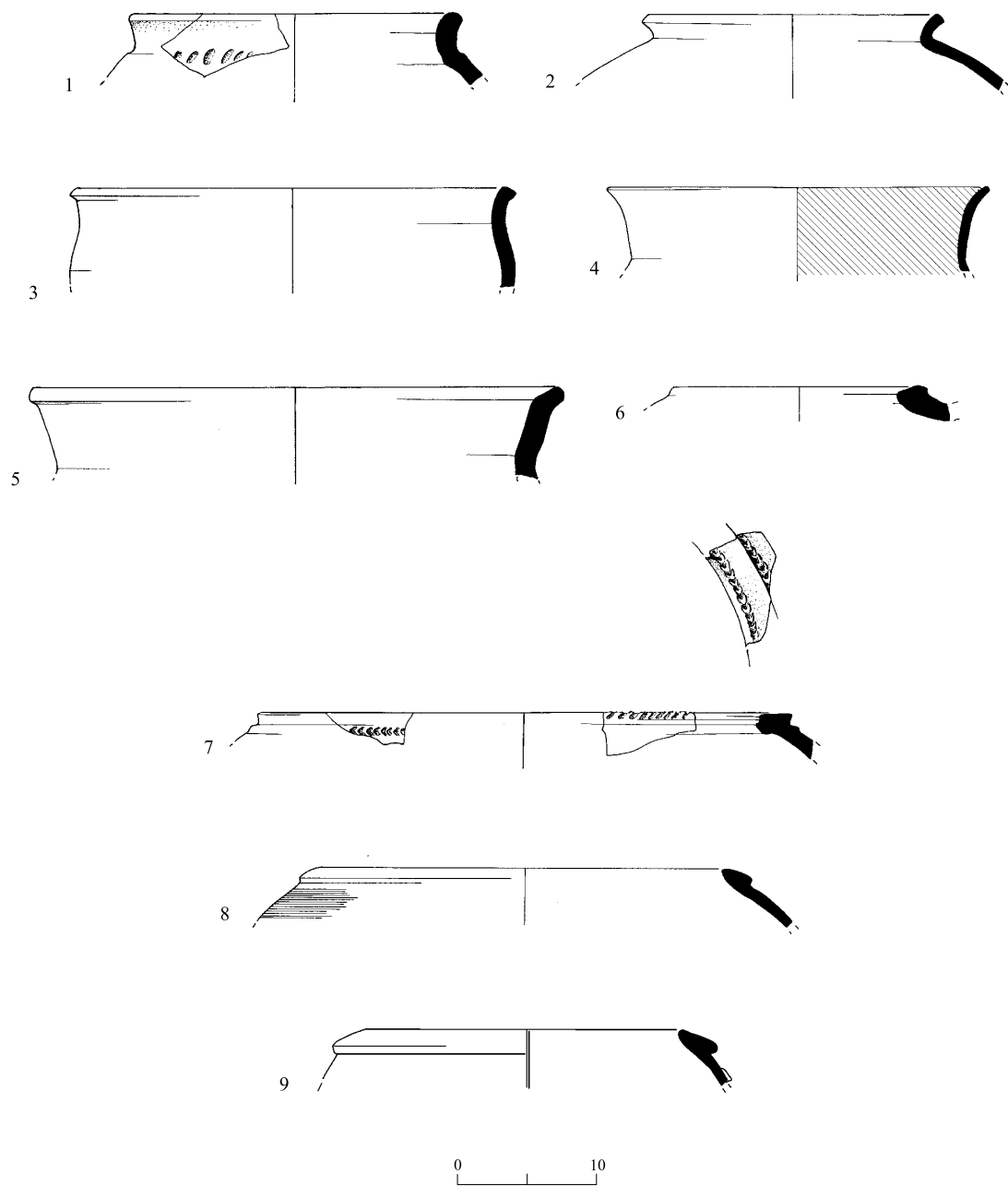


Fig. 7. Kraters from Area B.

◀ Fig. 7

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core	Comparisons
1	226	2143/8	10YR 8/2 Very pale brown	7.5YR 6/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 14:b (BnA) Manahat: Edelstein, Milevski and Auran 1998: Fig. 4.4:8
2	268	2096/9	7.5YR 5/1 Pale yellow	7.5 YR 5/1 Gray	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.10:12
3	268	2223/9	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	5YR 6/2 Pinkish gray	
4	209	2267/3			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 14:h (BnB)
5	226	2150/5	2.5YR 8/2 Pale yellow	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	Tel Masos: Singer 1983: Pl. 130:5 (jar)
6	201	2021/11	10YR 6/6 Brown yellow	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 9:e
7	226	2197/2			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 7:b–d
8	226	2233/2	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	7.5YR 4/2 Dark gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 10:e
9	226	2162/8	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 10:b

Unlike the clay matrix of other pottery types, the store jars exhibit the highest percentage of the 'dotted' clay paste (33%); still, the dominating fabric is that with the white and dark inclusions, accounting for 40% of the store-jar sample. Other than the rope band on the store jar in Fig. 10:3 and the potter's mark on the handle of Fig. 9:2, no surface treatment or decoration occur on any of the store jars.

It is quite evident from the data above that the rim with the ridge below it was the crowning feature of store jars and pithoi during this period. It is also clear that certain store jar rims occur at Ḥorbat 'Alona, Ḥorbat Zimri and Manahat, yet are absent in the northern mountain sites. This raises again the issue noted regarding the open bowls, namely that differences in pottery profiles existed within the region (Kempinski 1983:127).

Jars/Jugs

The jars could have actually been small store jars; they were awarded a separate heading based on the thickness of their walls and the diameter of their rims. The jar in Fig. 1:17 has an upright, slightly thickened, concave rim, whereas the jars in Fig. 5:9–11 have a flaring rim, slightly thickened with rounded or tapered edges. The single jug (Fig. 10:4) is one of the few complete vessels from Ḥorbat 'Alona. It has an ovoid-shaped body, a shallow ring base with a flat edge, a two-strand handle with a round cross section on the shoulder, a tall, narrow neck and an inverted, upright rim with an inner, angular gutter. Comparisons for the angular gutter are rather scarce; a rounded gutter is found in both Shekhem (Cole 1984:

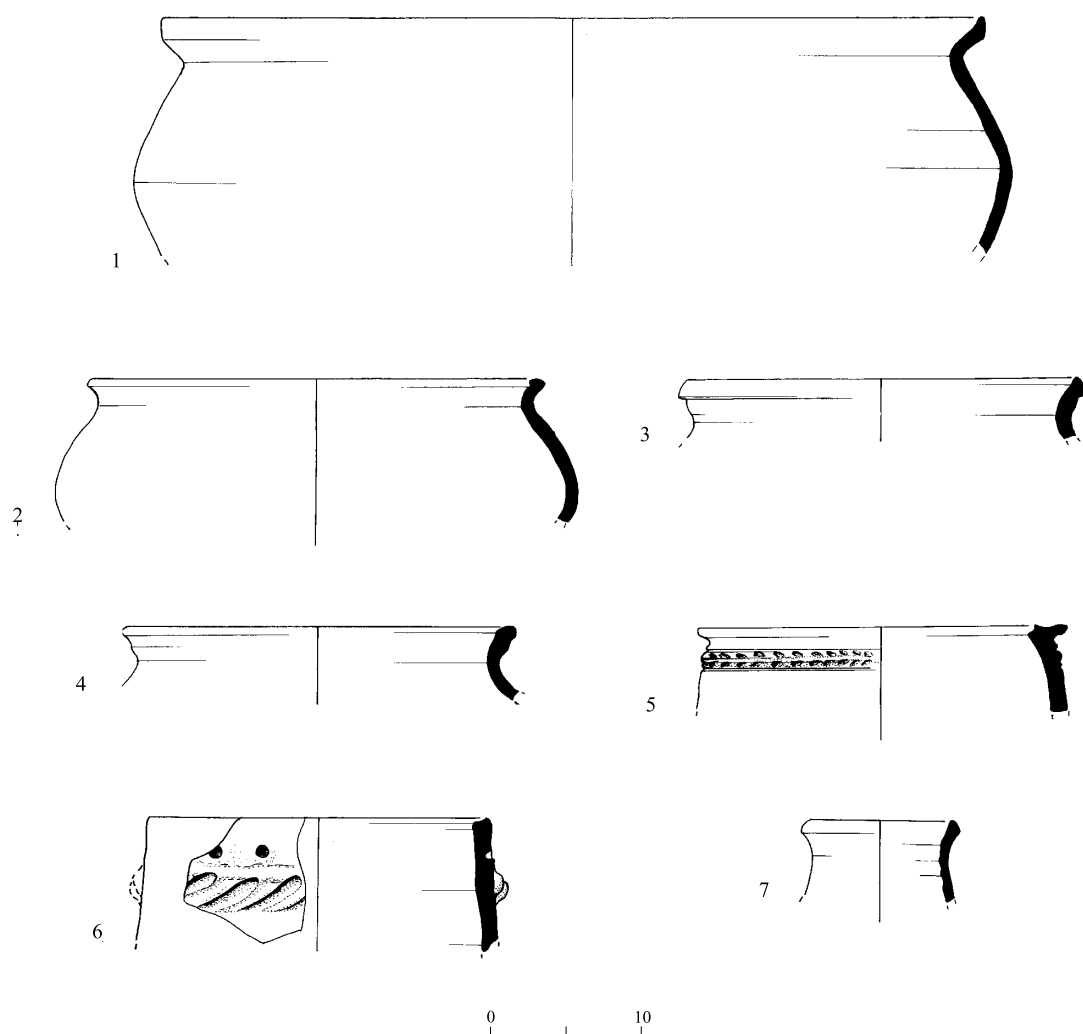


Fig. 8. Cooking pots (1–6) and a jug (7) from Area B.

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core	Comparisons
1	215	2037	7.5YR 5/4 Brown	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 5:5 (krater)
2	286	2075/5	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	5YR 5/1 Gray	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.14:1 (MB III)
3	211	2059/1 2062/1	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	7.5YR 5/4 Brown	Shekhem: Dever 1974:46, Fig. 13:17
4	260	2262/2	5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	10YR 2/1 Black	
5	226	2129			Shekhem: Seger 1974:128, Fig. 6:7
6	231	2091/4	10YR 8/2 Very pale brown	7.5YR 5/4 Brown	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.6:12
7	209	2029/4	5YR 4/4 Reddish brown	5YR 3/3 Dark reddish brown	

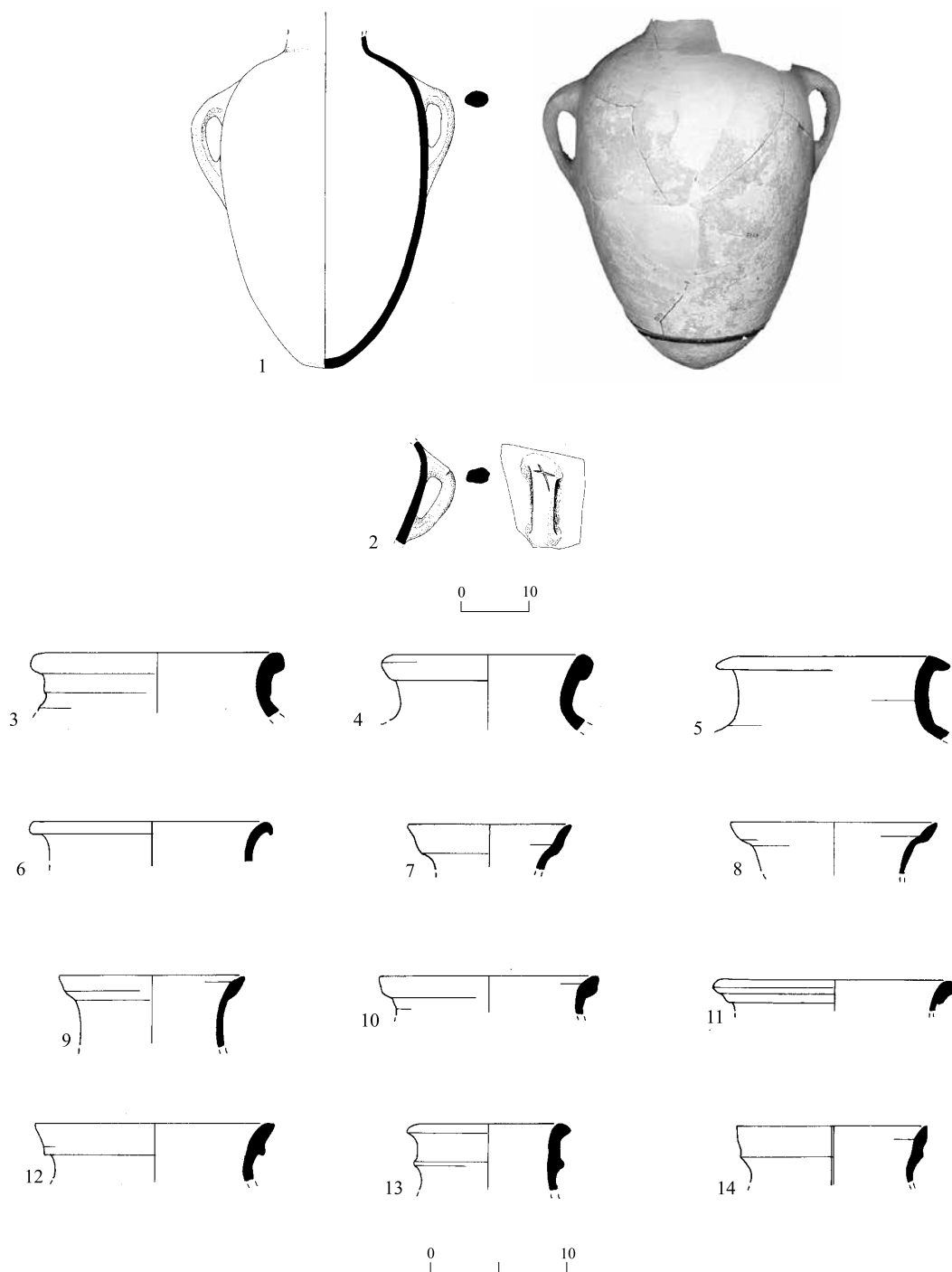


Fig. 9. Store jars from Area B.

◄ Fig. 9

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core	Comparisons
1	238	2250/2	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	
2	272	2241/1	7.5YR 7/3 Pink	5YR 6/1 Gray	
3	226	2113	7.5YR 7/3 Pink	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 32:h; Seger 1974:126, Fig. 5:34
4	220	2176/2	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	Manahat: Edelstein, Milevski and Aurant 1998: Fig. 4.6:2 Bet Zur: Funk 1968: Fig. 2:27 Giv'at Sharet: Bahat 1976: Fig. 26:12
5	209	2021/8	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	10YR 5/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 32:d Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.7:6
6	211	2062/3			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pls. 32:e; 40:k
7	248	2240	10YR 7/3 Very pale brown	7.5 YR 6/4 Light brown	
8	211	2054/2	5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	5YR 4/1 Dark gray	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.23:10 (MB III)
9	226	2154/3	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	5YR 5/2 Reddish gray	Tel Masos: Singer 1983: Pl. 130:12
10	273	2254/1	7.5YR 7/4 Pink	7.5YR 6/4 Light brown	
11	226	2129/2	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	7.5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.9:12
12	211	2027/5	7.5YR 7/6 Reddish yellow	7.5YR 6/1 Gray	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 41:a Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.9:11 Manahat: Edelstein, Milevski and Aurant 1998: Fig. 4.6:16
13	220	2219/4	10YR 8/2 Very pale brown	10YR 4/1 Dark gray	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.15:6 (MB III) Manahat: Edelstein, Milevski and Aurant 1998: Fig. 4.6:12 H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 6:8
14	226	2073/10	10YR 7/4 Very pale Brown	5YR 5/6 Yellowish red	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.20:7 (MB III) H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 6:17

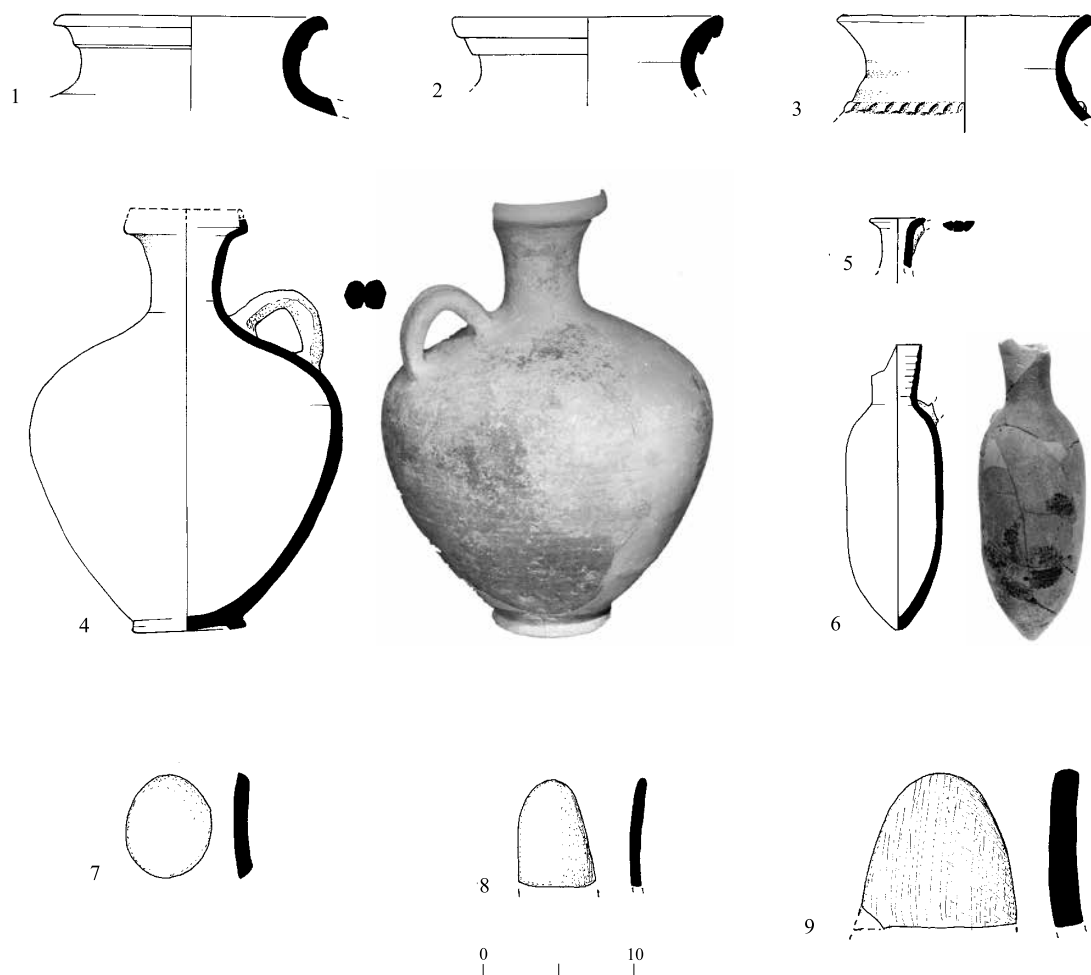


Fig. 10. Pottery from Area B.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core	Comparisons
1	Store jar	209	2067/2	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	7.5YR 5/1 Gray	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.9:14
2	Store jar	268	2224/2	7.5YR 6/6 Reddish yellow	5YR 6/2 Pinkish gray	Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.9:13
3	Store jar	211	2050/2	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	5YR 5/4 Reddish brown	H. Zimri: Meitlis 1997: Pl. 1:17 Jericho: Kenyon and Holland 1983:459, Fig. 203:14
4	Jug	248	2271/2			Shillo: Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.7:2 Ginosar: Epstein 1974:22, Fig. 15:8
5	Juglet	226	2277/3	10YR 7/4 Very pale brown	7.5YR 5/6 Dark brown	Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 28:q
6	Juglet dipper	215	2036/9			Shekhem: Cole 1984: Pl. 27:e
7	Clay spatula	209	2020			
8	Clay spatula	260	2216/13			
9	Clay spatula	273	2124/2			

Pl. 42:m) and Shillo (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.7:2). An upright, angular guttered rim belongs to a jug from Ginosar Tomb 4 (Epstein 1974:22, Fig. 15:8), where it was attributed to the early MB IIB phase of the tomb.

Juglets

Several juglet fragments were found at Ḥorbat 'Alona, but only two were illustrated. The dipper juglet (Fig. 10:6) has an ellipsoid body, a slightly rounded base, a gentle curvature of the shoulder and a straight neck, widening toward the rim. The single handle is broken, and it is impossible to determine whether it began at the rim or below it. Cole (1984:69) maintains that the gently curving shoulder of dipper juglets preceded the more angular one that seems to become popular toward the end of MB IIB and during MB IIC. The other fragment (Fig. 10:5) is a neck and rim of what seems to have been a piriform or a cylindrical juglet. It has a plain everted rim and the beginning of a triple-stranded handle that began at mid-neck and extended below the rim. Triple-stranded handles, as well as double-stranded ones, appear already at the end of MB IIA and continued well into MB IIB, although the single handle seems to be the only one that lasted to the end of the period (Cole 1984:69).

Clay Spatulas and Stoppers

The spatulas (Fig. 10:7–9) and stoppers, or reused potsherds (Figs. 1:18; 5:12), presented here are but a small sample of such items recovered from the excavation. It raises the question, whether these finds are related to the type of settlement at Ḥorbat 'Alona, i.e., a rural village. No evidence of pottery manufacture was uncovered in the excavations, precluding the usage of the spatulas in that process; nonetheless, they could have been used in other capacities and/or in other crafts. As for the clay stoppers, they are reshaped potsherds that usually occur in large quantities. Their size is small (mean diam. 5 cm), so they could only be used as covers for small apertures. It has been suggested that such clay discs were used as gaming pieces or possibly, if divided into different size groups, as counters for people or commodities (London 1991:419).

A Clay Lid

This unusual object was discovered in Area A (Fig. 11). It has an oval shape, slightly convex on top and fairly smooth (length 8.1 cm, width 3.3 cm). The margin folds under and creates a clear inset that would fit the top of a vase with an appropriate mouth shape. Two conical legs, each pierced through, are attached to the base. Whereas one leg is nicely trimmed, the other is fairly crude and has an uneven bottom, which had chipped with time. The object is handmade and bears no surface treatment; the manner in which the clay was eased to form the legs is clearly visible.

Various lids are known in the Land of Israel; our specimen is rather distinct in having two legs that are placed crosswise, rather than the more ordinary shape of an oval lid with a single leg, longitudinally pierced through. Such lids were found at Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl. 255:10, 11); Gezer (Macalister 1912: Fig. 310, Pl. 144:2), where it seems to have had a

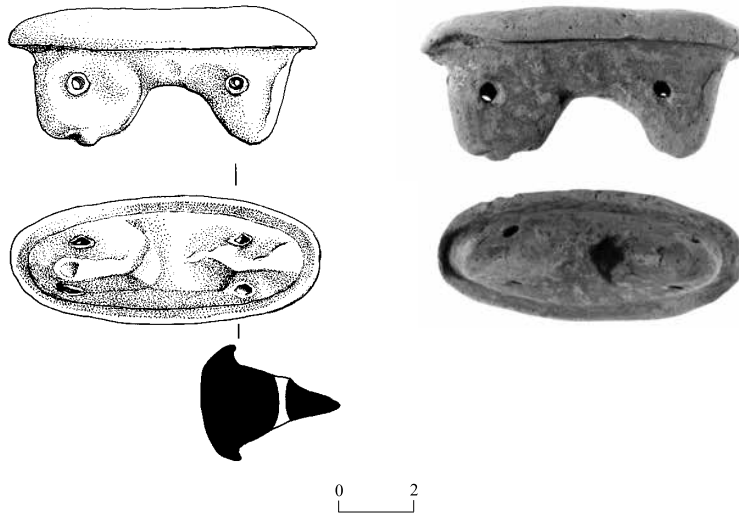


Fig. 11. A clay lid from Area A.

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Munsell Surface	Munsell Core
1	708	7022	10YR 7/4	7.5YR 7/6

circular top, rather than oval; and Shillo (Brandl 1993: Fig. 9.4:1, 2, and see further references therein). If indeed the lid was placed with the leg downward, then the perforation in the leg must have been used for tying the lid to its container. In the case of a single, lengthwise leg, a piece of wood, such as a small hard branch, was inserted through the perforations in the container that matched the one in the lid's leg. A similar method was offered by Macalister (1912:145), who suggested a cord for tying the lid to the vase. Our lid requires a slightly more sophisticated method of securing it to the vase; however, it is presumed that it was not beyond the ingenuity of the Middle Bronze Age potters. Since the legs are crosswise, the perforations in the container should have been pierced on each side. It is suggested that a string, or cord, possibly a vegetal one, was inserted through the container's hole, then through the leg and then, back through the container, where it was tied. Such a manner of binding would close the lid tightly over the container.

It is the issue of the vase that is enigmatic, as there are no known vases with an ovoid mouth that could match such lids. The trivial response would be that the vase was made of perishable material, such as a gourd, as suggested by Brandl (1993:227). It is doubtful whether the contents of such a container would be liquid, due to the holes required to be drilled into the container. It could have contained dry goods, and not necessarily edible ones, but perhaps some important commodity that needed safe-keeping storage. A possible vessel for a cover such as ours was recovered from the floor of Room 1526 of Area F at Shillo (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Figs. 6.21:3; 6.24:7). The elongated and narrow jar (height 52 cm) has an ellipsoid aperture with an everted rim (length 11 cm, width 8.5 cm).

A single perforation is visible below the rim on one side and since no detailed description of this jar is available in the text, it is not clear whether a parallel hole was borne on the other side of the jar. If there were two parallel holes, then we suggest that a small branch was pulled through both holes and the cover would have been tied securely to the branch. A similar, yet smaller jar, was discovered in Stratum R-3, L78524, at Bet She'an (Maeir 2007: Pl. 31:9). Only the upper half of this jar was preserved (12 cm), and it appears not to have exceeded 30 cm in height. It has a pinched lentoid aperture (length 7 cm, width 3 cm) and four perforations are visible below the somewhat inverted rim, two on each side. Maeir (2007:285–286) thought that the jar was either hanging or attached to another object, perhaps a pipe segment. We propose in this case that a rope, probably vegetal, was used for tying a cover such as ours to the jar; it would have been inserted via the hole in the jar through the cover and out via the parallel hole in the jar and the same route via the other three holes on the right. The rope would then be tied securely between the two holes on the side of the jar.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The pottery assemblage of Ḥorbat 'Alona clearly represents the MB IIB period. Although a few of the types appear to have continued into MB IIC, and even to prevail in the latter, it does not seem to apply to Ḥorbat 'Alona, where the MB IIB settlement was abandoned or destroyed at the end of the period.

Pottery shapes that appear to dominate in the MB IIC period are absent at Ḥorbat 'Alona and at the same time, there are no obvious shapes that continue from MB IIA. The fact that several of the pottery shapes here differ from similar shapes in the northern mountain sites is explained by the association of Ḥorbat 'Alona with southern Canaanite sites.

The pottery assemblage represents the various vessel shapes typical of the period, but does not necessarily cover the complete range. The most prominent pottery shapes in the assemblage are the store jars/pithoi and the open bowls. It is also interesting that a relatively large number of jugs or jars were counted in Area B; this may be due to the fact that the remains in this area were more intact as opposed to the other areas.

The domineering presence of store jars and open bowls was attested at other sites as well, e.g., Jericho (Chapman 1989:178); however, cooking pots that are a dominant feature at Jericho, are not so at Ḥorbat 'Alona. Given the character of the site as demonstrated by the excavation, it is only natural that a rural settlement, whose economy is based on agriculture and herding, will exhibit such a vessel breakdown, wherein the utilitarian shapes predominate.

It is still debated whether the MB IIB period should be divided into MB IIB and MB IIC or considered as early and late MB IIB. It is beyond the scope of this report to delve into the roots of this debate; however, it is relevant enough to comment upon. It is maintained that pottery forms can change or be altered, not so much due to exterior factors, but rather as a result of the potters' experience and their usage by people. A change in form could imply a

change in economic conditions that may result in the introduction of new products and thus, a need for different ceramic containers. Alternatively, altered forms could be the result of faults in vessel manufacture, or an expression of a demand for a change in vessel shape that would make it more practical. It agrees with the idea expressed by Cole (1984:45), regarding the concave disc bases of open bowls. Although the change must have been gradual and could have resulted from a firing accident, it seems more likely to have resulted from the craftsmen's experience in the firing process, as well as the users' handling of the bowls. The new forms that developed toward the end of MB IIB do not, *a priori*, indicate a change in the overall aspects of the period and when these shapes take the lead and dominate the assemblage, it should be regarded as a separate phase, i.e., MB IIC. This phase was noticed also in the architecture exposed in sites located in the Jezreel Valley (Bonfil 2003:323).

The end of the MB IIB settlement at Ḥorbat 'Alona could be attributed to diverse circumstances; it may have been abandoned due to changing economic conditions, conquering enemies or natural causes.

The unwallled MB IIB settlement at Ḥorbat 'Alona is one of several rural agricultural settlements that had been excavated or surveyed around the Jerusalem area in the last decades, e.g., Ḥorbat Zimri to the north of Jerusalem (Meitlis 1997) or Manaḥat (Edelstein, Milevski and Auran 1998) and the site of Naḥal Refa'im (Eisenberg 1993) to the southwest of the city.

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