

A MIDDLE BRONZE AGE II BURIAL CAVE AT MAZOR (WEST)

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INTRODUCTION

A Middle Bronze Age II¹ burial cave, reusing a Chalcolithic burial cave, was discovered during excavations carried out at Mazor (West), prior to the construction of the Cross-Israel Highway (Road 6; Fig. 1).²

The excavation at Mazor (West; map ref. 194883/661588) was located west of the Mazor Mausoleum (Kochavi and Beit-Arieh 1994: Site 94) and southwest of the present-day town of El'ad. The MB II cave, designated Cave B-4, was situated on the eastern slope of a hill (c. 80 m asl), surrounded on the west and south by Naḥal Mazor. Close to the cave, on the hilltop (c. 85 m asl), lies the cemetery of the Arab village of el-Muzeiri'a (Conder and Kitchener 1882:291; Khalidi 1992:399; Kochavi and Beit-Arieh 1994: Site 226). Caves and other findspots attributed to the Chalcolithic period were found in the excavation on the slope (Fig. 2: Areas A–C; Milevski 2007; Lupu 2008); the Chalcolithic remains will be published together with the salvage excavations conducted at Qula, a site located c. 500 m south of the Mazor site (Milevski, Lupu and Cohen-Weinberger, forthcoming; see Milevski and Shebo 1999; Milevski 2001b; 2001c).

The Mazor (West) Cave B-4 lay in proximity to several MB II domestic and burial sites uncovered at El'ad prior to the construction of the town (Kochavi and Beit-Arieh 1994: Site 226; Milevski 1999; 2001a; Nagorsky, forthcoming). Other MB II remains in the vicinity are known at Khirbat Sha'ira (Peilstöcker 2004), and at Kefar Avraham (Kochavi and Beit-

¹ The period terminology used in this article: MB I (= MB IIA), MB II (= MB IIB) and MB III (= MB IIC).

² The excavations (Permit Nos. A-3321, A-3364) were carried out in October 2000 and January and April–May 2001, on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority and were directed by Ianir Milevski, with the assistance of Deborah Sklar (physical anthropology), Avi Hajian (field plans), Yair Rahamim and Raed Abu-Halaf (administration), Elie Haddad and Dorit Lazar of IAA Central Region (logistics). The pottery was processed by the author (LG), with the assistance of Elisheva Kamaisky (pottery restoration), Irena Lidsky and Carmen Hersch (pottery figures), Clara Amit and Tzila Sagiv (photography), Dov Porotzky and Bracha Zilber (final plans), Elena Delerzon (final maps). The anthropological remains were studied by Yossi Nagar (see Appendix 1) and the faunal remains were studied by Liora K. Horwitz (see Appendix 2).

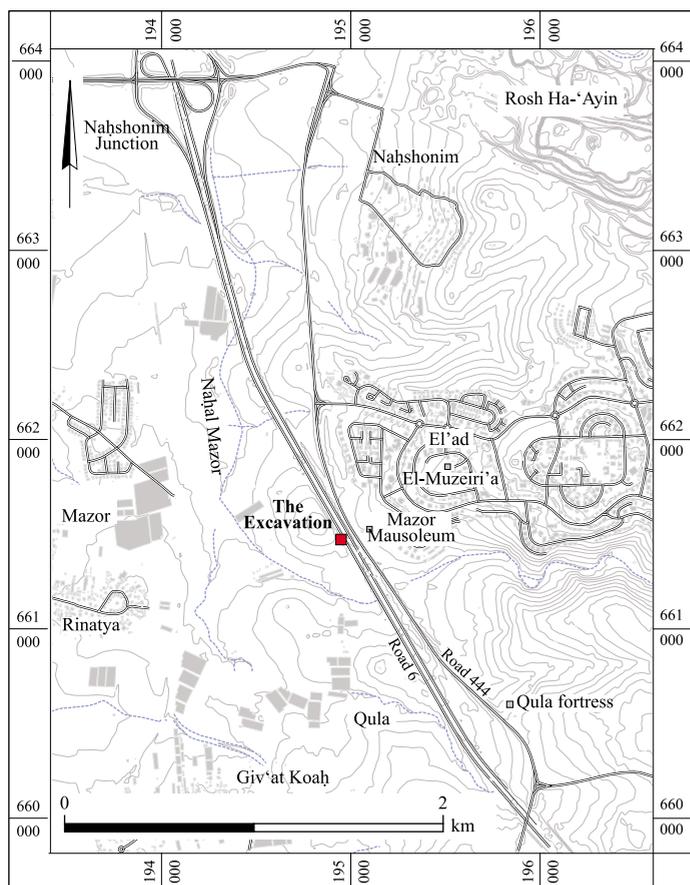


Fig. 1. The Mazor (West) excavation and its immediate vicinity.

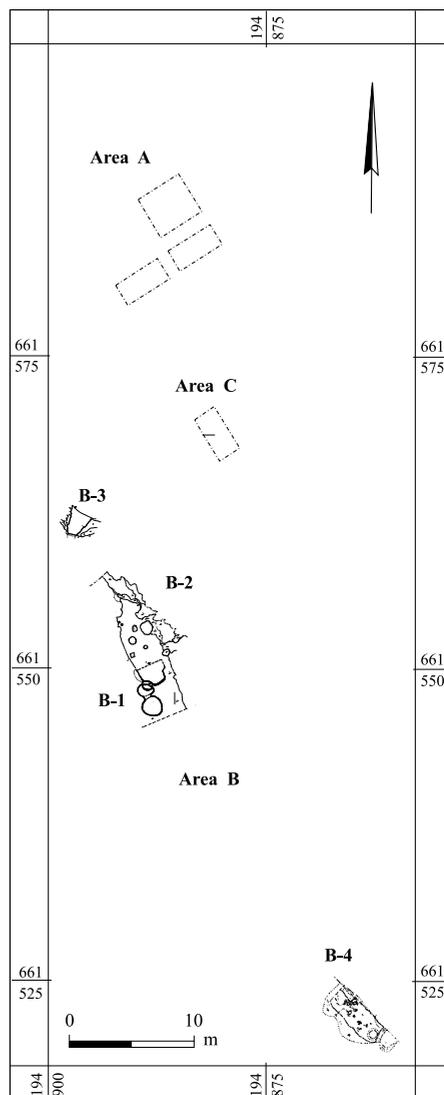


Fig. 2. Mazor (West) excavation Areas A–C.

Arieh 1994: Site 94) and Fajja (Kaplan 1993:444–445; Kochavi 1981:75–86), today within Petah Tiqwa (Fig. 3). The major Middle Bronze Age urban center in the area was at Tel Afeq, located c. 6 km north of Mazor (Kochavi 2000). It is probable that Mazor (West) Cave B-4, and the other MB II sites in the vicinity, belonged to a system of villages and associated mortuary grounds, which were related to the main urban center at Tel Afeq.

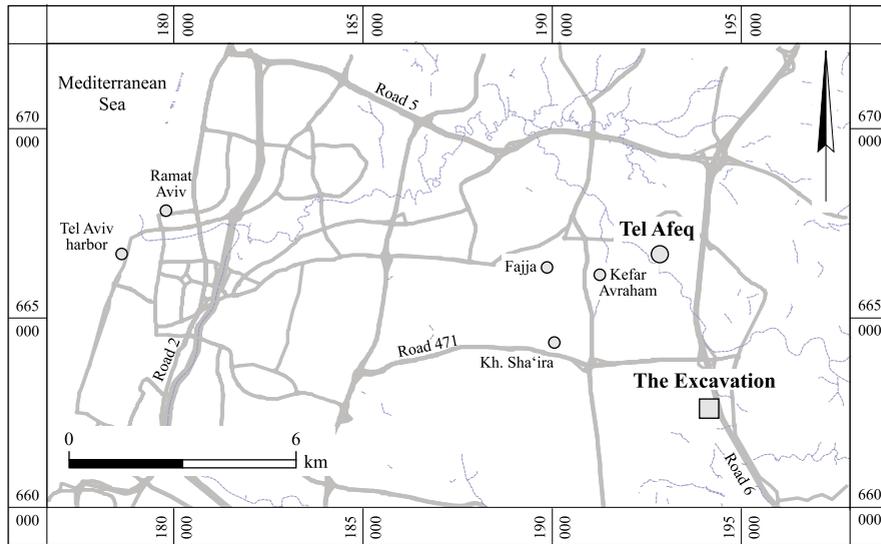


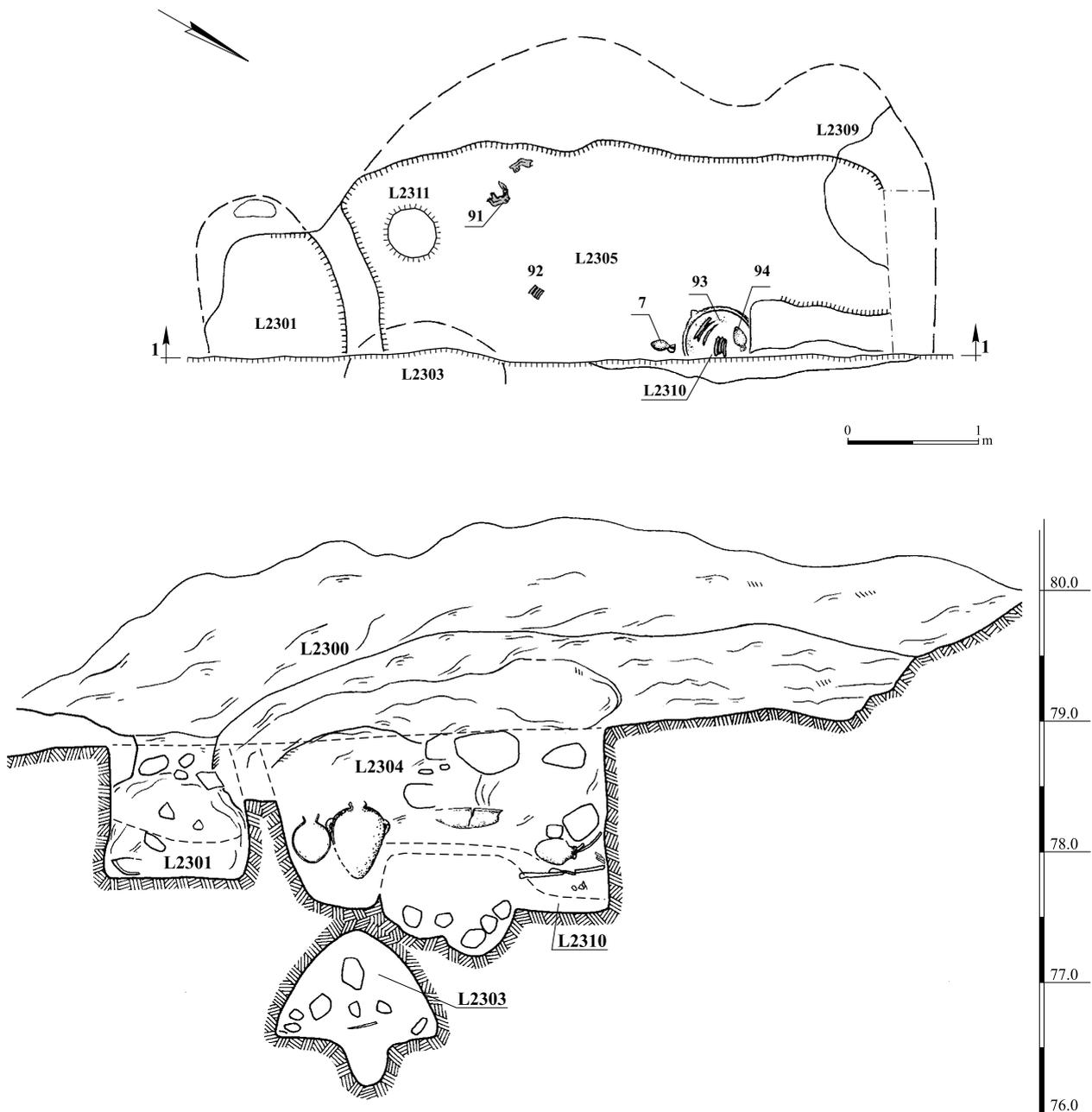
Fig. 3. Location map of the excavation, showing other MB II sites in the region.



Fig. 4. General view of Caves B-1, B-2, B-3 and B-4, with the Cross-Israel Highway in foreground, looking northwest.

CAVE B-4: THE EXCAVATION

The Mazor (West) excavation was carried out in three stages, subject to the progress of the Cross-Israel Highway roadworks, and the damage caused to the site by the terrace cut along the hillside in the course of the mechanical infrastructure works (Fig. 4). Prior to the excavation, the section and terrace were cleaned to evaluate the extent of the damage (Milevski, Lupu and Cohen-Weinberger, forthcoming).



1-1

Plan 1. Cave B-4, Phases 5 and 4.

Table 1. Cave B-4, Loci Assigned to Phases 1–5

Phase	Locus	Description
1	2300	Cleaning mechanical works
	2306	Topsoil in cave
	2309	Cleaning
2	2302	Loose sediment layer in cave
	2307	Brown sediment layer in cave
3a	2304	Dark brown sediment layer above bedrock, burial layer
3b	2308	Dark brown sediment layer above bedrock in concavity, burial layer
4	2305	Packed surface, burial layer
5	2301	Fill in pit
	2303	Fill in pit
	2310	Fill in pit
	2311	Fill in pit, light brown sediment
	2312	Fill in pit

Excavation Methods

The cave and the finds were severely damaged by the roadworks, and the ceiling had previously collapsed, damaging the eastern part of the cave. At the outset, the eastern section of the cave (Plan 1: Section 1–1) was cleaned to examine the state of the finds and the sediment layers within the cave. The cave was excavated in a 2 × 2 m grid, and all the excavated soil apart from the surface layers, was dry-sifted (0.5 cm mesh size). Loci numbers were assigned according to changes in the color of the sediment within the cave, or based on concentrations of finds; baskets were the minimal units within the loci.

Five phases were distinguished, summarized in Table 1: Phases 1 and 2 are topsoil and sediment layers that accumulated after the cave was abandoned; Phase 3, with two sub-phases, and Phase 4 represent the MB II burials; and Phase 5—pits carved in the bedrock in the Chalcolithic period. This report deals mainly with Phases 3 and 4. Complete or restorable pottery vessels, as well as recognizable human bones and other finds, were allocated separate basket numbers. The human bones were mapped and studied on-site. The location of the finds is marked on Plans 1–3 and is detailed in Table 2.

Description of the Cave

The cave was a rectangular-shaped room (2.5 × 5.0 m, height c. 2 m), with two irregularly shaped niches on the western side and bell-shaped pits adjacent to and carved into the cave's bedrock floor (Plan 1: Section 1–1). The entrance into the cave was not found, but the northwestern side was the most feasible location, based on the moderate slope leading from the outside, which probably included steps. The pits (L2301, L2303, L2310 and L2311; Phase 5) yielded artifacts attributed to the Chalcolithic period, implying that they may have been part of the settlement that existed at the site contemporaneously with adjacent Caves B-1 and B-2.

Table 2. Cave B-4, the *In Situ* Finds

No.	Find	Locus	Basket	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Fig. No.
7	Juglet, carinated/ovoid	2305	23007	78.08		17:4
8	Juglet, dipper	2304	23008	78.25		17:2
9	Skull	2304	23009	78.23		
11	Jar	2304	23011	78.58	78.03	
15	Jug, bag-shaped	2304	23015	78.28	78.13	15:2
19	Bowl, globular	2300	23019			12:7
25	Long bone	2304	23025			
27	Amphoriskos	2304	23027			15:1
28	Bowl, platter	2304	23028		78.08	10:1
29	Bowl, carinated	2304	23029			12:1
30	Pithos	2304	23030			14:1
31	Store Jar	2304	23031			13:1
32	Juglet	2304	23032			
33	Juglet, dipper (found inside pithos 30)	2304	23033			17:3
34	Juglet, piriform (found under bowl 28)	2304	23034			16:1
35	Skull	2304	23035			
38	Juglet, dipper	2304	23038	78.18	78.07	17:1
39	Juglet, piriform onion	2304	23039	78.14	78.07	16:5
40	Bowl, carinated (found inside bowl 41)	2304	23040	78.18	78.10	12:2
41	Bowl, platter	2304	23041	78.07		10:3
42	Juglet, piriform	2304	23042	78.10	78.07	16:3
43	Bowl, platter	2304	23043	78.15		10:2
44	Bowl, carinated	2304	23044	78.08	77.98	12:4
45	Bowl, carinated	2304	23045	78.07	78.02	12:3
46	Juglet, piriform	2304	23046	78.03	77.98	16:2
47	Jug, wide high neck	2304	23047	78.11	78.03	15:3
48	Juglet	2304	23048	78.20	78.16	
49	Bowl, platter	2304	23049	78.16	78.07	11:1
50	Bowl, platter	2304	23050	78.22	78.17	11:2
51	Juglet, piriform	2304	23051	78.16		16:4
52	Juglet, Cypriot WP PLS	2304	23052	78.15		16:7
53	Juglet (found under long bones)	2304	23053	78.11	78.06	
54	Bowl, globular	2304	23054	78.16	78.09	12:6
56	Bowl, globular	2304	23056	77.98		12:5
57	Bowl, globular	2304	23057	77.98		12:8
58	Juglet, broken	2304	23058			
62	Tibia	2304	23062	78.00		
63	Femur	2304	23063	78.01		
65	Skull	2304	23065			
66	Skull	2304	23066			
67	Long bones	2304	23067			

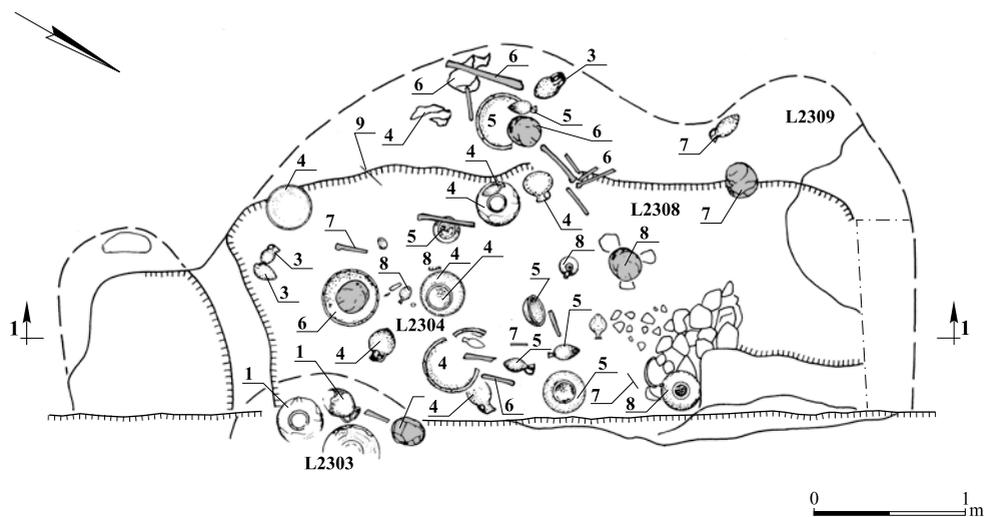
Table 2. (cont.).

No.	Find	Locus	Basket	Upper Elevation	Lower Elevation	Fig. No.
68	Pelvis	2304	23068	78.20	78.00	
69	Long bone	2304	23069			
70	Long bone	2304	23070	78.20	78.00	
71	Bone	2304	23071			
72	Pin, metal	2304	23072	78.15		18:3
73	Juglet	2308	23073	78.16	78.11	
74	Skull	2308	23074	78.21	78.11	
78	Pin, metal	2304	23078	78.10		18:1
79	Bowl	2304	23079	78.09		
80	Juglet	2304	23080	78.08		
81	Skull	2304	23081	78.07	78.00	
82	Teeth	2304	23082	78.07		
83	Juglet	2304	23083	78.12		
84	Juglet, Tell el-Yahudiyeh	2304	23084	78.05		16:6
85	Juglet, fragments	2304	23085	78.05		
87	Pithos	2304	23087	78.46	78.05	14:2
90	Pin, metal	2304	23090	77.93		18:2
91	Mandible	2305	23091	77.88	77.85	
92	Animal teeth	2305	23092	77.83		
94	Juglet, cylindrical	2310	23094	77.83	77.78	17:5

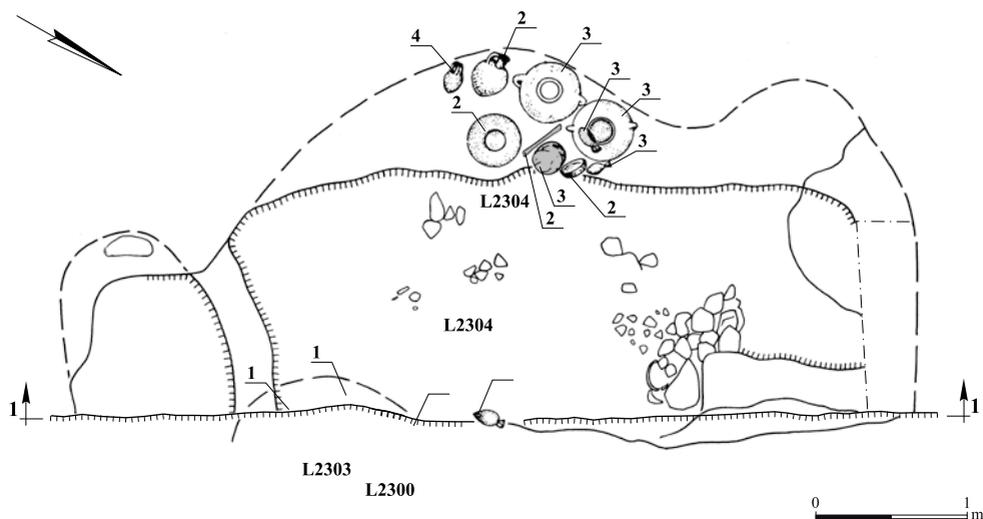
The excavation revealed that the Middle Bronze Age finds accumulated for a depth of c. 1.5 m above the cave's bedrock floor. Phase 4 was represented by a fine-packed layer (L2305) above bedrock and below L2304; this layer was also present in the upper layers of the bedrock-carved pits (e.g., L2310, L2311; Plan 1). Phase 3 was a dark brown soil layer with numerous finds (L2304, L2308), comprising two subphases: Phase 3b (Plan 2) and Phase 3a (Plan 3). The phases and subphases were identified by the superposition of vessels and the sediment matrix in which the vessels were found. However, since the floor of the cave was uneven, different elevations may not necessarily point to either later or earlier interments. It was difficult to distinguish between different chronological layers within the cave, and we consider that Phases 3a, 3b and 4 belong to the same archaeological period.

In general, the entire space in the cave was utilized. The finds appeared to be concentrated in several spots or clusters (Figs. 5–9), in arrangements that are discussed below (see below, *Summary and Conclusions*). Since the northeastern and southeastern parts of the cave were destroyed, the cave's exact dimensions and the arrangement of burials and vessels in these missing parts, are unknown.

Based on the anthropological finds, seven individuals were discovered in the excavated area (see Appendix 1). About fifty intact or restorable MB II pottery vessels, augmented



Plan 2. Cave B-4, Phase 3b.



Plan 3. Cave B-4, Phase 3a.

by numerous fragments, were retrieved, indicating that there were at least 74 vessels in the cave. In addition, three metal pins, three flint items,³ and animal bones were found (see Appendix 2).

³ The flint items in Cave B-4, studied by Omry Barzilai, were two retouched pieces and a burin, and they probably belonged to the Chalcolithic occupation in the cave.



Fig. 5. Cave B-4 prior to the excavation, with vessels and bones in the cave sediment and collapsed ceiling, looking southwest.



Fig. 6. Phase 3a, cluster of vessels, looking west.



Fig. 7. Phase 3a, dipper juglet within pithos.



Fig. 8. Phase 3b, vessels and human bones in center of cave, looking southeast.



Fig. 9. Phase 3b, two *in situ* juglets in southern part of cave, looking southeast.

THE FINDS

Pottery

The pottery assemblage in the cave includes characteristic MB II ceramic types (Table 3). The most common vessel type is the piriform juglet, followed by platter bowls, dipper juglets, carinated bowls and store jars or pithoi. The discussion of the assemblage follows the accepted order of open to closed vessels, referring to the illustrated vessels.

Bowls

Platter Bowls (Figs. 10, 11).— The platter bowls have a concave disc base (Figs. 10; 11:2), apart from a single, shallow ring base with a convex center (Fig. 11:1). The bowl in Fig. 10:1 has a plain rim ending in a rounded edge, whereas the bowl in Fig. 10:3 has an externally beveled rim. The other three bowls (Figs. 10:2; 11) have a flanged rim with a rounded edge. Two bowls (Fig. 11) have loop handles and a red cross is painted on the interior; red paint is also applied to the top of their flanged rim. Both bowls are very similar in size (rim diam. 34.5 and 35 cm), although one is slightly taller than the other. The other bowl with a brown-red-painted cross on its interior (Fig. 10:3) is smaller (rim diam. 18.5 cm), and it has rilling on the exterior, less evident on its interior; brown paint was also applied to the exterior face of its beveled rim. The crosses were hand-painted and consequently not entirely even (width of cross bands 2.5–3.0 cm); the width of the bands is the same on the larger bowls as on the smaller bowl. Radial burnishing is clearly visible on the interior of two of the bowls (Figs. 10:2; 11:1).

Table 3. Cave B-4, Pottery Assemblage According to Vessel Types

Vessel	N	%
Bowl, platter	14	19.0
Bowl, carinated	8	10.0
Bowl, globular	4	5.0
Store jar/pithos	7	9.0
Amphoriskos	1	1.5
Jug	4	5.0
Juglet, piriform	22	31.0
Juglet, Tell el-Yahudiyeh	2	3.0
Juglet, Cypriot White-Painted PLS	1	1.5
Juglet, dipper	9	12.0
Juglet, cylindrical	1	1.5
Juglet, ovoid/carinated	1	1.5
<i>Total</i>	74	100.0

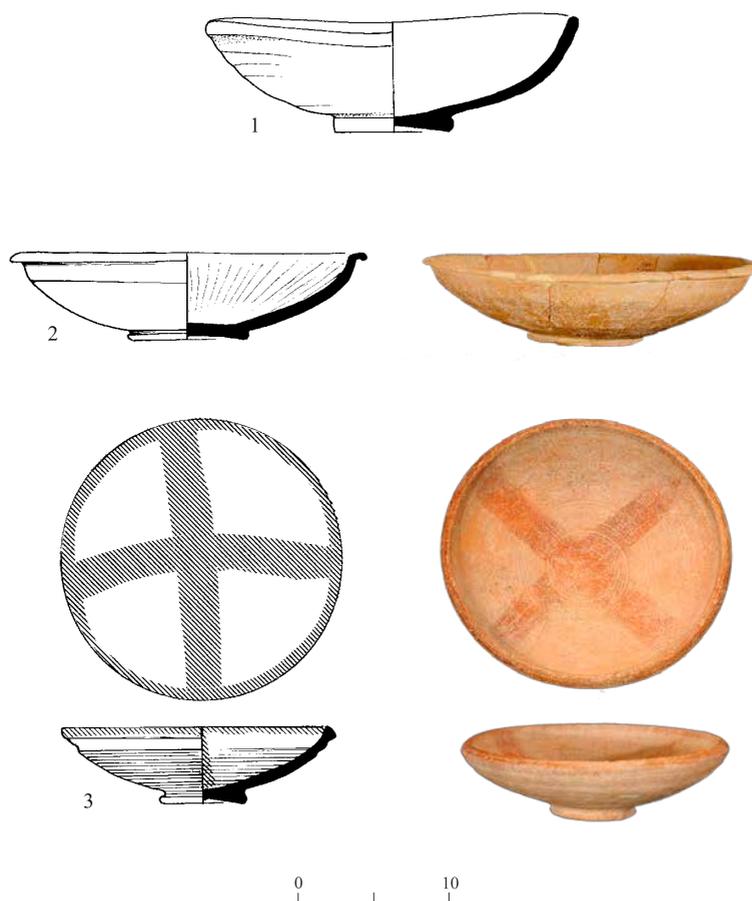


Fig. 10. Platter bowls.

No.	Locus	Basket	Cat. No.
1	2304	23028	28
2	2304	23043	43
3	2304	23041	41

The flanged rim of the platter bowls is a clear MB II marker, appearing on contemporary platter bowls from Jatt Tombs 2 and 3 (Porath, Yannai and Kasher 1999: Figs. 20, 23). A bowl with a slightly shorter flanged rim, also with a red-painted cross on the interior, comes from an MB II burial at Azor (Gorzalczany, Ben-Tor and Rand 2003: Fig. 3:3). At Tel Qashish, the rim is everted, and Bonfil confines this rim form, designated Type B Vb, to the later MB II strata at the tell (Bonfil 2003:279, Fig. 113). An everted, red-slipped and burnished bowl rim from Stratum XII at Tel Mevorakh is dated to MB II (Kempinski 1984:55, Fig. 11:18), and another bowl with an everted rim appears in the similarly dated

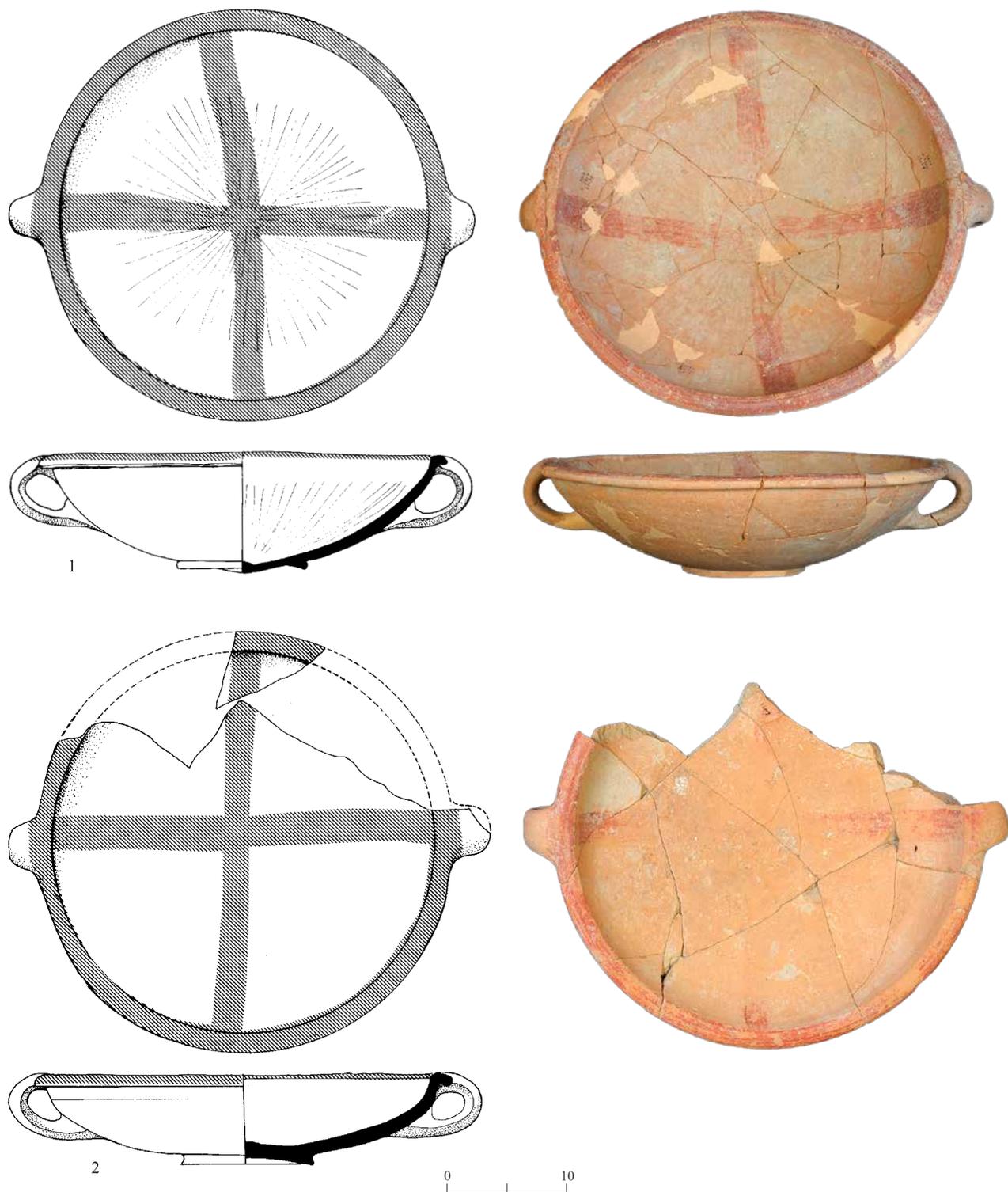


Fig. 11. Platter bowls.

No.	Locus	Basket	Cat. No.
1	2304	23049	49
2	2304	23050	50

third burial layer in the tomb at Barqai (Gophna and Sussman 1969: Fig. 5:15).⁴ Maeir addresses the issue of these bowls in his discussion of a specimen with a plain everted rim from Bet She'an (Maeir 2007:248, Pl. 32:9). The comparisons cited are a mix of bowls with everted and with flanged rims, from the central region, including the coast and the central hill area, as far as the Jezreel and Bet She'an Valleys, none coming from sites further north.

Yannai suggested that the distribution of bowls with a flanged rim is limited to the Sharon region as far north as Megiddo, as these bowls are not known in more northern assemblages (Porath, Yannai and Kasher 1999:27). Their presence at Mazor, however, extends their distribution southward. The prominent presence of the flanged-rim bowls at Mazor and Jatt, and their absence from occupation levels, seems to indicate that this bowl form was primarily associated with mortuary contexts. Unlike the everted rim, which is common on MB II bowls throughout the country, the bowls with a flanged rim seem to prevail in the central interior region of the country.

Carinated Bowls (Fig. 12:1–4).— The carinated bowls are all open bowls, namely the rim diameter is wider than the maximum diameter of the bowl. One bowl has a flat disc base (Fig. 12:1), whereas the other three bowls have a concave disc base. Apart from one bowl with a flanged rim (Fig. 12:3), the other three bowls have an everted rim with a rounded edge. One bowl has a creamy slip on the exterior and interior of the rim, down to the carination line (Fig. 12:4); the lower border of the slip is uneven, with smearing on both sides of the bowl. The other three bowls have a red-painted band on the rim. The band in Fig. 12:2 is on the interior, with drippings inside the bowl, which is covered with a brownish slip. The bowl in Fig. 12:3 has a reddish yellow slip, and a band, mostly flaked-off, on the top of the flanged rim. The bowl in Fig. 12:1 also has a reddish yellow slip, and the band appears inside the rim, and outside, where it is wider, but not uniform. The larger carinated bowl (Fig. 12:4) is a common form in MB II assemblages, both in tombs and occupation levels. A similar bowl, although with a ring base, was recovered from Jatt Tomb 2 (Porath, Yannai and Kasher 1999: Fig. 21:15).

The carinated shape of the bowls in Fig. 12:1–3 can be compared to a bowl from Tomb 212 in Ramat Aviv, west of Tell Qasile (Kletter 2006: Fig. 17:1); the latter has red-slip traces all over, unlike the red-painted bands on the bowl rims from Mazor. A bowl of a very similar shape and with a similar red-painted rim, was found in the MB II cemetery near the Tel Aviv harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 2:8). A bowl of the same shape but lacking any slip or painted bands, was retrieved from Cave 7 at 'Askar (Magen and Eisenstadt 2004: Pl. 9:2). The somewhat concave shoulder of the bowl in Fig. 12:2 appears on a bowl from Jericho, which is restricted to Group III (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 158:2); the somewhat

⁴ Yannai (Porath, Yannai and Kasher 1999:27) cites a bowl with a plain everted rim from Barqai (Gophna and Sussman 1969; Fig. 5:14) that should not be considered together with the flanged-rim bowls.



Fig. 12. Carinated (1-4) and globular (5-8) bowls.

No.	Locus	Basket	Cat. No.
1	2304	23029	29
2	2304	23040	40
3	2304	23045	45
4	2304	23044	44
5	2304	23056	56
6	2304	23054	54
7	2300	23019	19
8	2304	23057	57

oblique shoulder of the two bowls in Fig. 12:1, 3 appears in Jericho Groups I–III (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 158:1). The Fig. 12:4 bowl type is restricted to Jericho Group IV (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 160:3).

The carinated bowls are clearly of MB II date, as the analogies indicate. Yet, they are distinguished by the rather rare, red-painted bands on their rims. The irregularity of these painted lines stems, no doubt, from the manual application of the paint.

Globular Bowls (Fig. 12:5–8).— The globular bowls have various base forms: a flaring shallow ring base (Fig. 12:5), a flat ring base (Fig. 12:6) and a concave disc base (Fig. 12:8); the base of Fig. 12:7 is missing. The rim forms also vary, including everted and internally beveled rims (Fig. 12:6, 7), one with a pointed edge and a red-painted band applied to the exterior and interior lip (Fig. 12:6), and the other, with a rounded tip (Fig. 12:7). The bowl in Fig. 12:5 has an inverted, folded-in rim that is flattened and rounded, while the bowl in Fig. 12:8 has a flanged rim. The curved shape of the bowls in Fig. 12:6–8 is similar, although varying in size, differing from the cup-like shape of the bowl in Fig. 12:5, which has rilling on the exterior body and a wide (c. 3 cm) red-painted band applied to the outer side of the rim. The bowl in Fig. 12:7 is fired light brown and has a thin slip of the same hue. The bowl in Fig. 12:8 is fired brown and bears a creamy buff slip, whereas the bowls in Fig. 12:6, 8 are fired reddish brown, with no clear signs of slip, which may have faded over time; vertical burnishing is clearly visible on the bowl in Fig. 12:8.

The use of red-painted bands on the outside and inside the rim of globular bowls is rare. It appears on several bowls from the MB II cemetery near the Tel Aviv harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 2:7, 8). A large globular bowl, very similar to Fig. 12:8, was found near a (burial?) jar at Ramat Aviv (Kletter 2006: Fig. 27:6). Another bowl of similar shape, although with a simple everted rim, was recovered from Bet She'an Stratum R-4a (Maier 2007: Pl. 18:15).⁵ Analogies for the bowls in Fig. 12:6, 7 are noted in the third burial layer at Barqai (Gophna and Sussman 1969: Fig. 6:2, 3). The unusual proportions of the bowl in Fig. 12:5, being higher than its width, may be considered a local development, as similarly shaped bowls are usually wider than their height. Comparing the globular bowls to those from the Jericho tombs shows that Fig. 12:5 is attributed to Jericho Groups II–III; the bowl in Fig. 12:6, to Jericho Groups III–V; the bowl in Fig. 12:7 is confined to Jericho Group IV; and the bowl in Fig. 12:8 spans Jericho Groups II–V, although it mainly belongs in Groups III and V (Kenyon and Holland 1982:392–400).

⁵ Maier (2007:252) includes this bowl in his BL26c type, which is defined as “closed carinated bowls with cyma profile”. However, this bowl is of the open type, as its rim diameter is wider than its maximum bowl diameter.

Store Jar and Pithoi

Store Jar (Fig. 13).— A single restored store jar, heavily encrusted on the exterior, has a plain, somewhat everted rim with a rounded end, concave on the interior. It is finger-marked on the exterior rim base, creating a small ridge. At the base of the shoulder, where the handle joins the body, there is a panel of incised decoration, composed of a single upper line, a pair of lower lines and an undulating line between them; the incised lines are uneven.



Fig. 13. Storage jar.

A rim of a similar store jar is defined as a convex rim at Tel Qashish (Bonfil 2003:292, Type SJ VIII, Fig. 122:18), and it appears as a different variant in the third burial layer at Barqai (Gophna and Sussman 1969: Fig. 8). A store jar with a similar rim was also found within the settlement area at the Ramat Aviv site, although it may have belonged to a burial (Kletter 2006:99, L102, Fig. 32:1). Cole (1984: Pl. 41:f) defined a similar rim as profiled externally with a rounded edge.

Pithoi (Fig. 14).— Two pithoi were identified and restored. One pithos (Fig. 14:1) is heavily incrustated and has an ovoid shape and a small, rounded base (base diam. 3 cm), possibly to be embedded in a floor. The flanged rim is grooved on the interior and thickened on the exterior. The shoulder is decorated with incising, which creates shallow ridging; two horizontal bands, each of four concentric lines, are connected at one spot by a somewhat oblique group of four lines. A close analogy to the rim of this pithos appears on a jar or pithos from Kh. Sha'ira, where it is defined as an MB II rim type, known at other contemporary sites in the region (Peilstöcker 2004:72–73, Fig. 8.5). This rim bears a certain similarity to the rim of the Type V pithoi at Tel Qashish (Bonfil 1992: Fig. 5:3, 4), although the latter rims have no inner groove or gutter.

The other pithos (Fig. 14:2), found broken *in situ* on the cave floor, has an ovoid shape with dense combing on the upper body and a flattened, rather straight base (base diam. 6.5 cm). The rim is folded out flat with an interior groove or small gutter (rim diam. 14 cm). This pithos rim and its variations account for more than half of the large jars found in Shekhem (Cole 1984:74). It can be compared to Type JI 42 (Cole 1984: Pl. 34:g), which is slightly concave on the exterior and has a flattened top. Another similar rim, also concave on its exterior, comes from Shillo Stratum VIII soil fills (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.9:8). It appears that this rim type is common at sites in the central hill region and its foothills.

Amphoriskos

A single specimen, partially covered with incrustation, was discovered in the cave (Fig. 15:1). It has an ovoid-shaped body, a small flat base and two loop handles positioned below the shoulder, at the vessel's maximum diameter. The everted rim is thickened and marked on the exterior and interior by a shallow incision. At the base of the shoulder, another incised line circulates the body, but is mostly obliterated by the incrustation. No slip is evident.

Amphoriskoi do not prevail in the Middle Bronze Age, and usually appear in mortuary contexts. A similar amphoriskos was discovered in a burial at Bet She'an Area M (Maier 2007: Pl. 36:17). It is practically the same size, although its rim is everted and ridged.⁶ Another similar amphoriskos was found in Megiddo Tomb 5067, attributed to Stratum XII (Loud 1948: Pl. 27:4; Kempinski 1989:54, Fig. 23:16). All three amphoriskoi have a flat

⁶ The amphoriskos from Bet She'an appears under the category of Storage Jars/Large Jugs, although it has a complete profile, and its classification should not depend on rim morphology (Maier 2007:264).

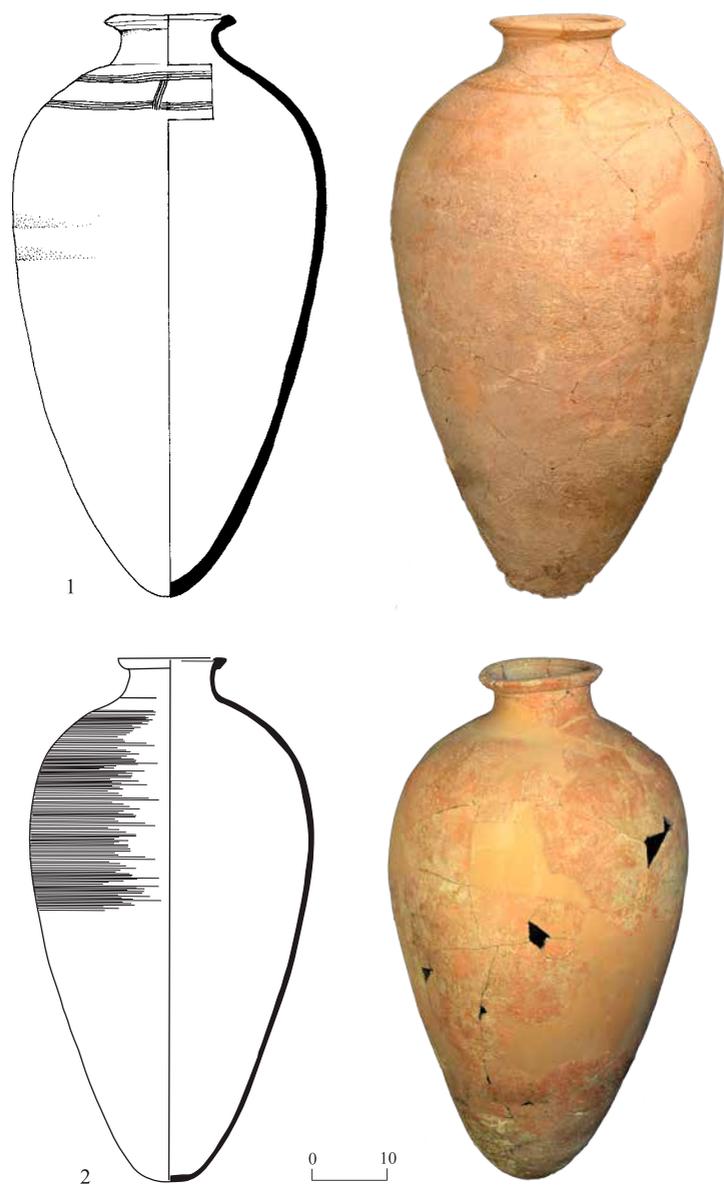


Fig. 14. Pithoi.

No.	Locus	Basket	Cat. No.
1	2304	23030	30
2	2304	23087	87

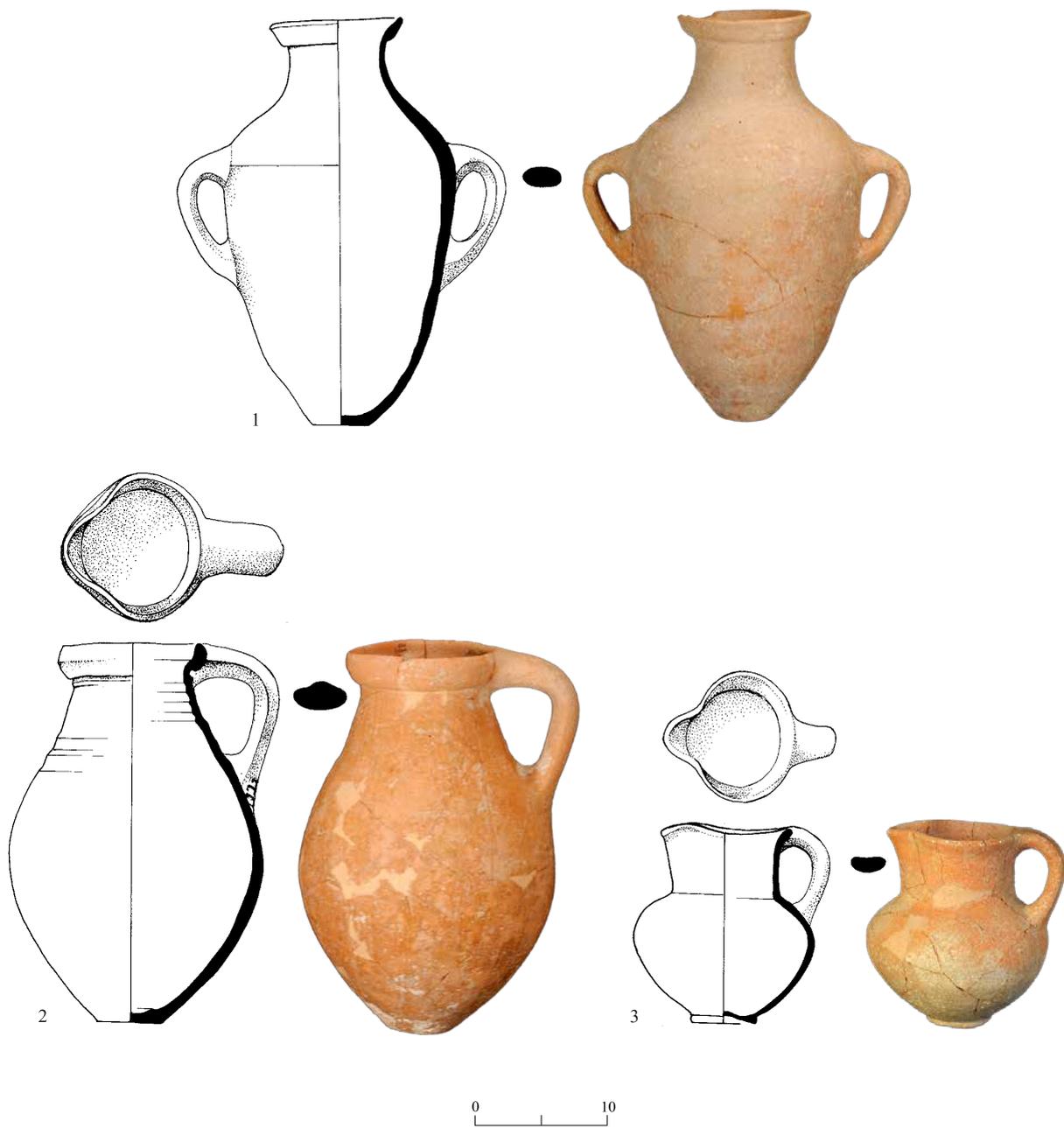


Fig. 15. Amphoriskos (1) and jugs (2, 3).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Cat. No.
1	Amphoriskos	2304	23027	27
2	Jug	2304	23015	15
3	Jug	2304	23047	47

base, two loop handles at the vessel's maximum diameter and an incised line around the body at the base of the shoulder. Another amphoriskos from Megiddo Tomb 5067 appears taller due to its rather narrow body (Loud 1948: Pl. 26:20; Kempinski 1989:54, Fig. 23:12). It has a flat base, two loop handles at the vessel's maximum diameter and an incised band around the base of the shoulder. A comparison of the dimensions of the amphoriskoi from Mazor, Bet She'an and Megiddo shows a height of 30–35 cm and a maximum diameter of 17–22 cm. Another amphoriskos, defined there as a storage jar, comes from Lakhish Tomb 9025 (Singer-Avitz 2004: Fig. 17.11:9). Although it is similar in height (c. 32 cm), shape, location of handles and base, it differs in having a white slip and linear red decoration. A somewhat larger amphoriskos (height 39 cm) was found in Ginosar Tomb 4, a tomb whose initial usage is dated to the MB I–II transition period, whereas its later assemblage, including the amphoriskos, dates to MB II (Epstein 1974:23, Fig. 17:1). The amphoriskos seems to have served for storing liquids or dried goods; its smaller size was perhaps more useful in a burial context, where smaller amounts of foods needed to be retained.

Jugs

Two jugs of different shapes and types were recovered from the cave (Fig. 15:2, 3). One (Fig. 15:2) has an ovoid, somewhat biconical shape, with the maximum diameter at the lower half of the body, a small flat base and a trefoil orifice. The rim is thickened and concave, and a single wide ellipsoid handle extends from the rim to the shoulder. The jug has a brownish, vertically burnished slip. The other jug (Fig. 15:3) has a spherical body, a concave disc base, a high and wide neck, comprising 37% of the jug's total height, and a trefoil orifice. The rim is everted and plain with a rounded end.

Both jug types are prevalent during MB II in mortuary as well as settlement contexts. The first jug belongs to a rather large group of vessels that usually have a rounded, sack-like shape. It appears sporadically in MB I contexts, i.e., in the cave at Nebi Rubin, Hall A, Group c (Mayer 1926: Pl. I: Ac4) and in Ginosar Tomb 1 (Epstein 1974: Fig. 6:8), but is predominant in MB II (Singer-Avitz 2004:996–997, and see comparisons therein). The comparisons cited from Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pls. 11:6; 17:10) are mugs of a different shape and concept and bear no relation to the sack-like jug.⁷

Most of the comparisons to the first jug come from the south of the country, i.e., from Tel Aviv southward. Several specimens were discovered in a large MB II cemetery in Ashqelon (Zelin 2002; Gershuny 2019: Figs. 31:10; 35:6; 48:8; 51:4; 52:5); they were all manufactured locally, as were the jugs analyzed from Lakhish (Singer-Avitz 2004:997). The basic shape of the jug, namely a baggy-shaped body whose maximum diameter is in the lower half or third of the vessel, strongly resembles an Egyptian jar shape that is similar to a situla shape

⁷ The suggestion put forward by Gerstenblith (1983:76) that the mug shape, or goblet, as she refers to it, originated in Mesopotamia, is somewhat too general. It is a known fact that shapes are adopted in different regions and receive local variations, which then become part of the indigenous ceramic repertoire.

and appears in mortuary contexts of the Second Intermediate period and the Hyksos era, e.g., at Tell el-Yehudiyeh (Tufnell 1978:89, Fig. 6), Tell el-Maskhuta (Redmount 1995: Fig. 6), Dahschur (Arnold 1982: Figs. 3:1; 12:1) and Tell ed-Dab'a (Bietak 1991: Figs. 120:32; 178:2; 194:8, 9). The adoption of this shape in southern Canaan was supplemented with specific features, such as a small flat disc base, a loop handle extending from the rim to the shoulder, and various rim types, so that the final product appears to be in tune with the local pottery assemblage.

The second jug appears in the center and north of the country. Apart from two examples that derived from occupation contexts in Shekhem Stratum XIX (Cole 1984: Pl. 31:a) and Tell el-Far'ah North Stratum 4 (Mallet 1987: Fig. 19:2), all the other specimens were recovered from mortuary contexts. Another feature of the Shekhem jug is the plain mouth and rim, which is also found on another jug from Askar Cave 6 (Magen and Eisenstadt 2004: Fig. 19:2). Otherwise, all these jugs have a trefoil orifice, usually with a plain everted rim. Examples are known from Jericho Tomb A I (Kenyon 1960: Fig. 112:17), which is attributed to Group I only. This first group was dated by Kenyon to the seventeenth century BCE, although earlier dates have been suggested for the beginning of Kenyon's groups (Kempinski 1989:56). At Tell el-Far'ah North, another such jug was discovered in Cave RM T (A) (Mallet 1987: Fig. 1:1). Three jugs were found at Megiddo: one, from Tomb 5267, assigned to Stratum XII (Loud 1948: Pl. 24:36); and another, from Tomb 4099, assigned to Strata XII–XI (Loud 1948: Pl. 25:3); and a third, from Tomb 3122, assigned to Strata XII–IX (Loud 1948: Pl. 25:4). More jugs of the same type were found in Tomb 641 at Horbat Minḥa (Ferembach, Furshpan and Perrot 1975:107, Fig. 8:11), in Tel Te'enim Subterranean Complex 1001, L1050 (Oren and Scheftelowitz 1998: Fig. 19:3) and in the third burial layer at Barqai (Gophna and Sussman 1969: Fig. 7:12).

As evident from the cited assemblages, this wide-necked jug is dated to MB II, apart from its earlier dating in Jericho, an anomaly which should perhaps be reconsidered. It is neither a prevalent nor a distinct type (Oren and Scheftelowitz 1998:68). Five of the comparisons cited above have ring bases, four have flat disc bases, and only three, including the jug from Mazor (West), have a concave disc base. The average height of the jugs is 12 cm, and the neck's height comprises 30–40% of the total jug height. In brief, the most distinct feature of this jug is its wide neck whose height is about a third of its total height.

Juglets

A total of 36 juglets were discovered in the tomb; a third of these—including five piriform juglets, a Tell el-Yahudiyeh juglet, a Cypriot WP PLS juglet, three dipper juglets, an ovoid/carinated juglet and a cylindrical juglet—are illustrated here and discussed.

Piriform Juglets (Fig. 16:1–5).— Two piriform juglets have a slim piriform shape (Fig. 16:2, 3), two others have a fuller shape (Fig. 16:1, 4), and the fifth one is a miniature version whose shape resembles an onion (Fig. 16:5). The various button bases include a flat wide button (Fig. 16:1), a flat disc button (Fig. 16:2) and a small convex button (Fig. 16:3–5). The

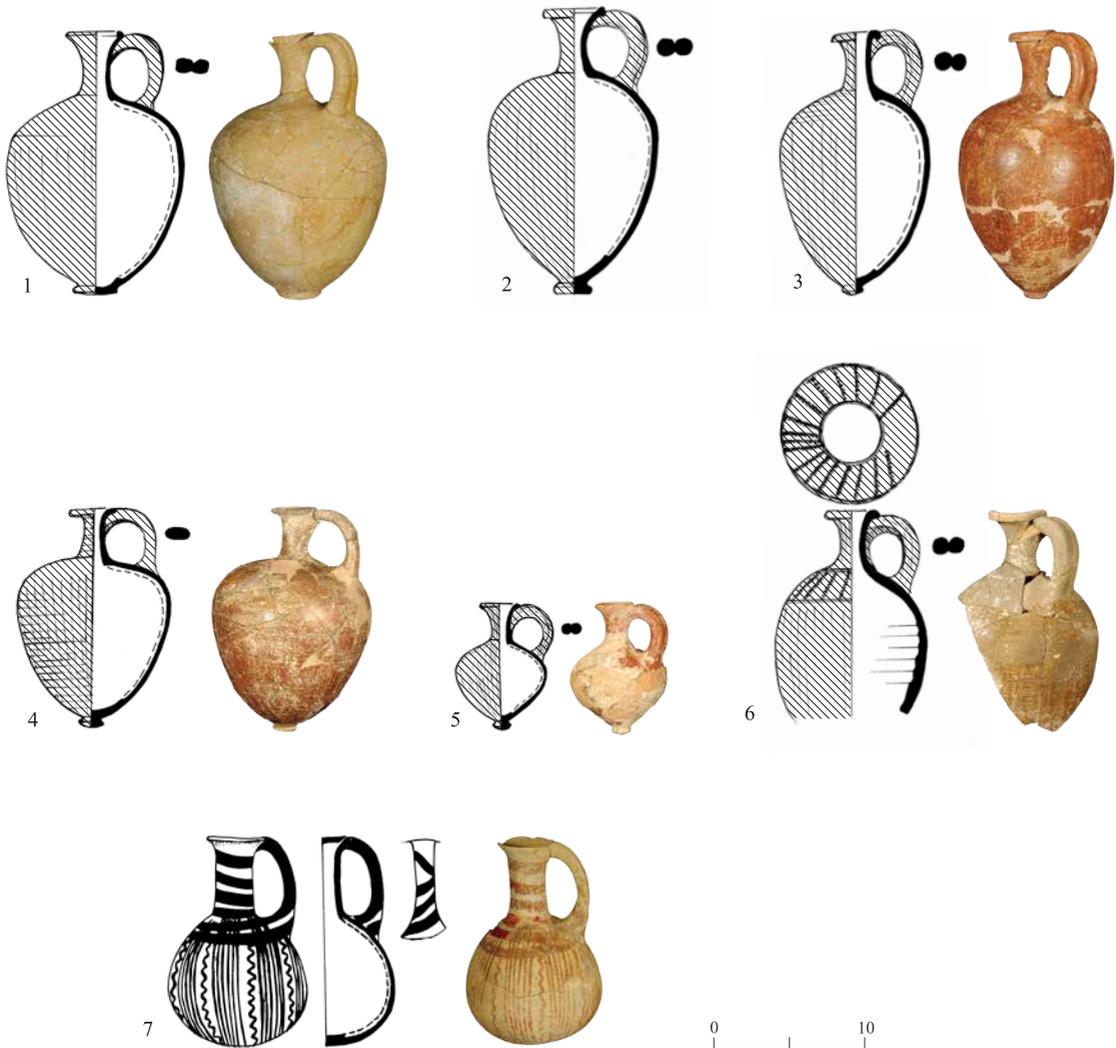


Fig. 16. Piriform, Tell el-Yahudiyeh and Cypriot White-Painted PLS juglets.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Cat. No.
1	Juglet, piriform	2304	23034	34
2	Juglet, piriform	2304	23046	46
3	Juglet, piriform	2304	23042	42
4	Juglet, piriform	2304	23051	51
5	Juglet, piriform onion	2304	23039	39
6	Juglet, Tell el-Yahudiyeh	2304	23084	84
7	Juglet, White-Painted PLS	2304	23052	4

rims are everted and guttered on the interior (Fig. 16:2); everted and guttered on the interior, but externally beveled (Fig. 16:1); everted and externally beveled (Fig. 16:5); rolled out rounded (Fig. 16:3); and flaring out with a rounded end (Fig. 16:4). The two-strand handle is standard, except for the juglet in Fig. 16:4, which has a single handle with an ellipsoid cross section. The handles extend from the high neck below the rim to the shoulder and are vertically burnished. The slip is gray to dark gray on the juglets in Fig. 16:2, 4; on the latter, it is both vertical and horizontal, creating a net pattern. A red-brown slip was applied to the juglets in Fig. 16:1, 3, 5; the shoulder of Fig. 16:3 has concentric burnishing, whereas the body bears the common vertical burnishing.

The piriform juglet is probably the most common vessel in tombs of the period, and its numbers always exceed other vessel types. It cannot be viewed as a utilitarian type of vessel, but it is certainly one of the loveliest vessel shapes of the period. If it contained any substance, it must have been liquid, and probably one that pours out slowly in drops to fit its constricted neck (diam. 1.0–1.5 cm). The popularity and high occurrence of this juglet is such that comparisons can be dispensed with. The button bases that occur in all our piriform juglets are also the prevailing shape in the MB II layers of Shekhem (Cole 1984:70, Fig. 20).

Tell el-Yahudiyeh Juglet (Fig. 16:6).— The single Tell el-Yahudiyeh juglet in the assemblage has a rather simple design. The juglet base is broken and it has a piriform shape with a two-strand handle that extends from the base of the neck, below the rim, to the shoulder. The rim is everted, rolled out and down. The interior surface of the juglet is gray, while the core is brown-red, as is the slip applied to the whole vessel. Traces of vertical burnishing are noted on the body below the design on the shoulder and rill marks are visible on the lower body, below the design. The design pattern is composed of two concentric lines that bound the shoulder and between them vertical columns of punctured dots that were filled with white paste. The juglet belongs to the Piriform 3 group, which is a local Canaanite type, mainly spread out in the Judean Mountains and Shephelah, up to the Jezreel Valley (Kaplan 1980:23–24; Cohen-Weinberger 2007:67, 76, Fig. 3.14; Aston 2008:188). The Piriform 3 group first appears in MB II, and its extension into MB III is questionable (Cohen-Weinberger 2007:100–101).

Cypriot White-Painted Pendent-Line Style (PLS) Juglet (Fig. 16:7).— This intact juglet has a globular, thin-walled body, with a long cylindrical neck and an everted rim with a pointed lip. The single ribbon handle extends from the rim to the shoulder and is decorated with three oblique bands toward the bottom of the handle and a single oblique band toward its top. The light brown fabric is well-levigated and has a creamy white slip, to which a brown-red decoration is applied. It consists of nine groups of vertical stripes and between them, eight undulating lines. The group below the handle and the two groups on the fore of the juglet include five stripes each; the three groups on each side of the juglet include six stripes. The stripes extend from the base of the neck to the curve of the round base. The

subsequent decoration of concentric bands, three around the shoulder and three circulating the neck, partly conceals the group decoration on the shoulder. The inside of the rim has a red-brown painted band.

White-Painted PLS juglets were a dominant component of imported Cypriot wares to the eastern Mediterranean littoral during the Middle Bronze Age. They are customarily found in tombs and rarely in occupation levels, apart from occasional fragments. All imported Cypriot pottery originated in the south and east of Cyprus (Maguire 2009:49), and the beginning of the PLS juglets is ascribed to MC II (Maguire 2009:71). The PLS juglets begin to appear sporadically in the Southern Levant toward the end of MB I, e.g., at Tel Nami (Artzy and Marcus 1992:105), as well as in assemblages of the MB I–II transition period, e.g., at Ginosar Tomb 4 (Epstein 1974: Fig. 15:9) and Daharat el-Humraya Tombs 2, 18, 38 (Ory 1948:79, 82, 84). The peak of PLS juglets in this region occurs in MB II, e.g., in Lakhish Tomb 129 (Tufnell 1958:229–230) and Tel Dan Tomb 4663 (Ilan 1996:172, Fig. 4.92).

As the majority of PLS juglets are found in tombs, the question arises whether this is due to the juglet's contents, or to its attractive form. Maguire (2009:53) suggested that the small narrow-necked juglets contained a liquid that could only be used in minute quantities, such as oils or perfumes; however, such commodities were likely to exist in Canaan, and local juglets of small size and narrow neck could also function as containers of distinct oils and perfumes. It seems that the Cypriot juglets, different from the local wares, both in technique and in ornamentation, had an intrinsic value that endeared them in the eyes of the local population and made these splendid vases an integral part of many mortuary contexts.

Dipper Juglets (Fig. 17:1–3).— Three dipper juglets are illustrated. One (Fig. 17:1) has an ovoid body with a pointed base and a two-strand handle that begins below the rim and ends at the shoulder. The juglet is extremely light, as its walls are thin, and the fabric is well-levigated and fired. A bright red slip, burnished vertically from the shoulder toward the base, is applied to the juglet. The two-strand handle, standard on piriform juglets, is an unusual feature in dipper juglets, which as a rule, have a single handle with either a circular or lentoid cross-section. Dipper juglets with a two-strand handle appear at Shekhem Phase 9a of the MB III period (Seeger 1965: Pl. XLVIII: Jgd.0.0.2 a–c). The vertical cylindrical neck is also unusual; dipper juglets have a neck that widens toward the rim, as in another juglet (Fig. 17:2). It seems that this juglet displays features, which are ordinarily found in piriform juglets and somehow, the potter who produced it decided to combine details that are foreign to dipper juglets. Was it a momentary decision or was it done on request? This dipper juglet (Fig. 17:2) also has an ovoid body shape with a pointed base. Its single strap handle begins at the rim, which is an extension of the thinned edge neck. This juglet represents the bulk of MB II dipper juglets that are found all over the country.

The third dipper juglet (Fig. 17:3), discovered within a pithos (Fig. 14:1), is unusually large. It has an ellipsoid shape with a thick base ending in a small and shallow button. The

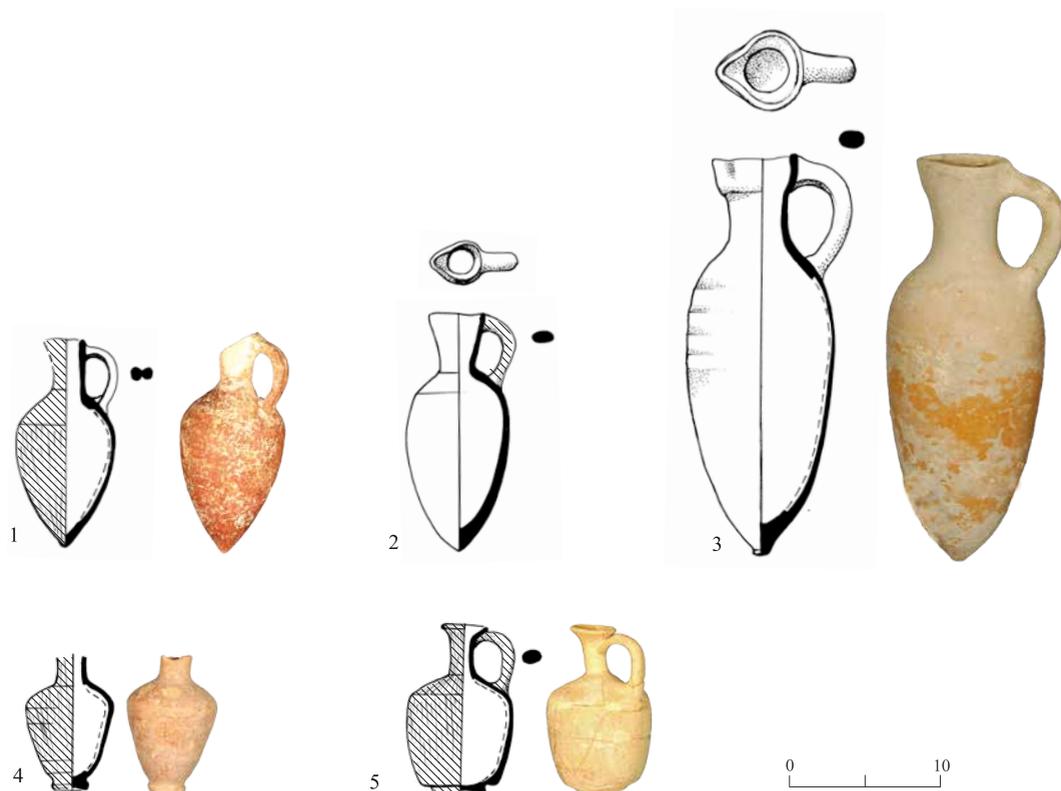


Fig. 17. Dipper, carinated/ovoid and cylindrical juglets.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Cat. No.
1	Juglet, dipper	2304	23038	38
2	Juglet, dipper	2304	23008	8
3	Juglet, dipper	2304	23033	33
4	Juglet, carinated/ovoid	2305	23007	7
5	Juglet, cylindrical	2305	23094	94

thickness of the base is probably intended to counter the height of the juglet. The rim has a slight step and is somewhat concave with a rounded edge; the pinched mouth is very even. Light rilling marks are visible on the upper body below the shoulder and a brownish self-slip is applied to the juglet. The large size of this juglet is uncommon, as is its button base and stepped rim. Another large dipper juglet of the same height (26 cm) was discovered in a burial cave at Tul Karm (Gershuny 2009:5*, Pl. 6:9); this juglet has an ellipsoid body, wider than that of the Mazor juglet, and the regular widening neck ends in a pointed rim. The button base and the stepped rim of the Mazor juglet recall piriform juglets, and once more, we have a dipper juglet in which two details characteristic of other juglet types were incorporated. Having two dipper juglets that combine details from piriform juglets in the

same tomb may not be accidental, but perhaps a trend of producing unusual dipper juglets that served as burial offerings in the tomb.

Ovoid/Carinated and Cylindrical Juglets (Fig. 17:4, 5).— The ovoid/carinated juglet (Fig. 17:4) has an ovoid body with a flat disc base and a two-strand handle, indicated only by its negative on the shoulder. The handle probably began below the rim that was an extension of the vertically cylindrical neck, but the rim and part of the neck are missing. The shoulder of this juglet is common to cylindrical juglets (see Fig. 17:5), but the body becomes ovoid toward the concave disc base, which is somewhat tubular. It is missing its rim, upper neck and handle. The shoulder line and for c. 1 cm, the burnishing of the red slip is horizontal, while it continues vertically down to the base. The shape of this juglet is rather unusual. The combination of a carinated shoulder and a slender body shape is unfamiliar. A juglet from Hāzor L9024 (Yadin et al. 1958: Pl. CXXI:25) and another juglet from Kefar Veradim Cave 3 (Getzov and Nagar 2002: Fig. 21:8) have a slender body with a moderately sloping shoulder. It appears that the rare shape of the juglet from Mazor was probably produced only for the sake of burial.

The cylindrical juglet (Fig. 17:5) has an unusual flat disc base. Its cylindrical body tapers toward the base and its narrow neck ends in a sharply everted plain rim. The single handle extends from below the rim to the bottom of the shoulder. Traces of vertically burnished brown-red slip are discerned over the whole juglet.

Cylindrical juglets have either flat or slightly convex bases; any other base shape is fairly rare. A cylindrical juglet with a flat disc base was recovered from Giv'on Tomb 36, dating to MB II (Pritchard 1963: Fig. 41:23). This juglet is missing its neck, rim and handle and its cylindrical body tapers somewhat toward the base, similar to the Mazor juglet. Another cylindrical juglet with a flat disc base was found in Jericho Tomb J12, whose assemblage is confined to Group IV (Kenyon and Holland 1982:434, Fig. 181:6). This juglet has an oblique shoulder and a parallel oblique turn of the body toward the base. A third cylindrical juglet with a flat disc base and a two-strand handle was recovered from Lakhish Grave 9003, dated to MB II (Singer-Avitz 2004: Fig. 17.4:9). An earlier specimen of a cylindrical juglet with a flat disc base was discovered in Ginosar Tomb 4 (Epstein 1974: Fig. 16:2). This juglet, which has a tall body that tapers toward the short sloping shoulder, is assigned to the initial use of this tomb in the transition MB I–II period (Epstein 1974:22).

Metal Artifacts

Three toggle pins (Fig. 18:1–3) were recovered from the cave, located in several spots in Phase 3b (Plan 2; Table 2). All three are plain, and one is badly corroded and broken. Pin 1 (length 12.3 cm) is the longest of the three; it has a square-shaped eyelet (inner diam. 0.2, outer diam. 0.5 cm) and its lower part (L 7.4 cm) has a pointed end. Pin 2 (length 9.4 cm) is the shortest of the three. It has an oval eyelet (inner diam. 0.2 cm, outer diam. 0.6 cm). The upper part ends in a round cover whose sides step out from the upper part. The lower



Fig. 18. Toggle pins.

No.	Locus	Basket	Cat. No.
1	2304	23078	78
2	2304	23090	90
3	2304	23072	72

part has an uneven thickened end. This may either have been the original shape of the pin, or its form may have been distorted due to its poor state of preservation. Pin 3 (length 12.1 cm) is badly cracked and the top of the upper part is broken. The oval eyelet (inner diam. 0.2 cm, outer diam. 0.6 cm) is located close to the center of the pin, whose upper and lower parts have nearly the same length. All the three pins classify as Henschel-Simon's Type 8 (1938: Pl. LXIX).

It has been shown that the length of the pin and its metallographic composition are related (Tufnell and Ward 1966:217–220; Shalev 2002:313–315). The longer and thinner pins usually have a higher arsenic content and less tin, whereas the shorter and thicker pins are distinctly richer in tin content, with minor quantities of arsenic. The longer pins usually preceded the shorter ones. Both pin types appear in the Mazor cave, but since both types were probably produced from scrap, their coexistence is possible.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The spatial diffusion of the pottery vessels in Cave B-4 shows that the entire space was used for interments, apart from the northwestern side, where the entrance to the cave may have been located (see Plans 1–3). There is no indication that vessels were pushed to the sides of the cave prior to new interments. The highest and apparently latest vessels in the cave were a store jar (B23017, not illustrated) and an open bowl (Fig. 10:1), positioned more or less in the center of Phase 3a.

Two of the skulls (B23035, B23065) were located on the southwestern side of the cave, together with a fairly large cluster of pottery vessels, including open and carinated bowls (Figs. 10:1, 3; 12:1–3, 5), a store jar and a pithos (Figs. 13; 14:1), an amphoriskos (Fig. 15:1), and piriform juglets (Fig. 16:1, 2). The largest dipper juglet in the cave (Fig. 17:3) was found within the pithos (Fig. 14:1), and one of the carinated bowls (Fig. 12:2) was placed inside a platter bowl (Fig. 10:3). A third skull (B23066) was discovered with a cluster of bowls (Figs. 10:2; 12:4, 6, 8). A fourth skull (B23009) on the eastern side of the cave, was probably associated with a store jar (B23011, not illustrated), a jug (Fig. 15:2) and possibly a dipper juglet to its north (Fig. 17:9; Plan 1). The fifth skull (B23081) was located in proximity to the Tell el-Yahudiyeh juglet (Fig. 16:6). The sixth skull (B23074) lay on the western side of the cave; it could have been part of the latest interment, as it lies close to the posited entrance, but this is difficult to determine as it was not associated with any finds. Long bones were dispersed over the entire cave, a concentration in the center and on the west possibly associated with the three skulls placed in this area.

Some of the pottery vessels in the cave's assemblage were produced for the sake of burial, and these types are completely missing from contemporary occupation levels. Foremost among these are the platter bowls with flanged rims, either plain (Fig. 10:2) or decorated on the interior with a red-painted cross (Fig. 11). This design probably reached the Southern Levant from Cilicia and southern Anatolia, most likely via an immigrant population (Gerstenblith 1983:68–69). Other vessels in the assemblage routinely associated with burial are the piriform juglets, including the Tell el-Yahudiyeh and the Cypriot PLS juglets. It is questionable whether these had contained any substance when placed in the cave; yet, the idea of inserting whole and crushed herbs into these juglets, to spread a pleasant smell and create a cleansing aura, should not be overlooked.

Although a multiple burial, this cave displays a coherent ceramic assemblage, with a handful of metal finds. Somehow, it seems that the diverse and rich ceramic assemblage in the cave had enough presence that did not call for additional finds, apart from the toggle pins, to enhance the surroundings. Yet it cannot be ruled out that there were originally other small finds in the cave that were lost over time.

APPENDIX 1: ANTHROPOLOGICAL REMAINS

Yossi Nagar

The human skeletal remains found in Cave B-4 represent seven individuals: six adults and one child; the bones were in a poor state of preservation. Only skull fragments were available for the anthropological analysis, while long bones were found in several spots, but not in articulation. This limited our ability to fully reconstruct the necessary anthropological parameters, and it was not possible to reconstruct the burial postures of the dead. The remains are presented according to locus and basket.

Locus 2304

B23009.— The remains included a partial, fragmentary skull vault. An occipital fragment is separated along the lambdoidal suture, indicative of an adult individual aged <35 years (Hershkovitz et al. 1997). Whilst the precise age at death and sex of this individual could not be determined, it is obvious from the proportions of the skull that it represents an adult individual.

B23035.— The remains included adult skull vault fragments and an upper jaw fragment. A canine in the upper jaw shows slight dentine exposure, and a premolar and a first molar show slight dentine exposure on one cusp. Age at death, based upon tooth attrition stages, is estimated as 18–25 years (Hillson 1986:176–201). No porosity or trauma were noticed on the cranial vault.

B23055.— The remains included postcranial fragments and four teeth. An upper lateral incisor shows enamel attrition; a lower first molar shows slight dentine exposure in one cusp; a second molar shows enamel attrition. Age at death, based upon tooth attrition stages, is estimated as 18–25 years (Hillson 1986:176–201). The fourth tooth was identified as an upper first molar, manifesting attrition of above half crown height, indicative of an older individual aged >50 years.

B23065.— The remains included adult skull vault fragments. Suture closure is already advanced on the endocranial side of the bones, but incipient on the ectocranial side, characteristic of an individual aged <30 years (Hershkovitz et al. 1997). A frontal bone fragment manifests a relatively developed glabella, indicative of a male (Bass 1987:82). Porosity was not noticed in the roof of the orbit.

B23066.— The remains included adult skull vault fragments and teeth. A frontal bone fragment manifests an undeveloped glabella, while the mastoid processes are relatively small, morphology indicative of a female (Bass 1987:82). An upper canine shows attrition

of about half crown height; an upper premolar shows attrition of over half crown height; upper second molar and lower premolar show dentine cups on both cusps. Age at death, based upon tooth attrition stages, is estimated at 50–60 years (Hillson 1986:176–201). No porosity or trauma were noticed on the cranial vault.

B23081.— The remains included adult skull vault fragments. Suture closure is already advanced on the endocranial side of the bones, but incipient on the ectocranial side, characteristic of an individual aged <30 years (Herskovitz et al. 1997). Porosity was not noticed in the parietal and occipital bones. The sex of this individual could not be determined.

B23086.— Fragmentary human remains that comprised adult long bone fragments, and two teeth. An upper central incisor exhibits dentine cups; the lower incisor shows deep dentine cups. Age at death, based upon tooth attrition stages, is estimated as >40 years (Hillson 1986:176–201).

Other baskets in this locus (B23026, B23036, B23063, B23064, B23067–69) included a few postcranial fragments. No additional indicative osteological elements were noticed.

Locus 2305

B23087.— The remains included a few long bone fragments. Most fragments were non-diagnostic; however, two lower limb medial phalanges show fused epiphyses, indicative of an adult individual (>15 years; Johnston and Zimmer 1989).

B23091.— The remains included postcranial fragments and a lower jaw fragment (left side). In the lower jaw, the first molar shows slight dentine exposure on two cusps; the second molar was lost *ante mortem*; and the third molar has already erupted. Age at death, based upon tooth eruption and attrition stages, is estimated at 20–25 years (Hillson 1986:176–201).

Locus 2308

B23074.— The remains comprised adult skull vault fragments. A temporal fragment manifests a relatively small mastoid process, while at the occipital bone the superior nuchal line is not developed. This morphology is indicative of a female (Bass 1987:82). Porosity was not noticed in the parietal and occipital bones.

B23075.— The remains included a non-diagnostic, long bone fragment.

Locus 2310

B23093.— The remains comprise long bone fragments of an adult individual and two teeth. One tooth was identified as a lower third molar. Since its root is closed (the crown is broken), it must represent an adult individual aged >20 years. The other tooth was identified as deciduous canine with dentine exposure such that it represents an individual aged 4–8 years (Hillson 1986).

APPENDIX 2: FAUNAL REMAINS

Liora K. Horwitz

A small collection of 12 identified animal remains, and several unidentified faunal long bone fragments, were recovered from two loci (L2304, B23086; L2305, B23087) in Burial Cave B-4 (Table 4). The fauna were found intermingled with the human remains (see Table 2).

Locus 2304

B27082.— Goat: 1 left lower M3 (Payne stage J) and a fused 1st phalanx.

B27082.— Sheep/goat: 2 left upper M3, very worn; 1 right upper M3's, very worn; 1 right and 1 left upper M2, very worn; 1 left humerus shaft.

Locus 2305

B23092.— Sheep/goat: 1 left upper M1, M2 and M3 from the same adult animal. The M1 and M2 are quite worn and the M3 is just in wear.

Apart from a single burned bird talon (3rd phalanx) of a medium-sized raptor, the 11 other remains represent domestic caprines (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), of which at least two remains were positively identified, using criteria given in Boessneck, Müller and Teichert (1964), as belonging to a goat (*Capra hircus*). The estimated minimum number of caprines (MNI) is three. Based on dental attrition, the caprines represent adult animals at least 3.5 years of age.

As illustrated in Table 4, the most common skeletal elements in the assemblage are maxillary teeth. This is probably not due to selection of crania, but to biased preservation that has resulted in the destruction of the more fragile post-cranial remains, as evidenced by the presence of several unidentifiable long bone shafts that are caprine-size.

Table 4. Cave B-4, Identified Faunal Remains

Skeletal Elements	Goat	Sheep/Goat	Raptor
Maxilla M1		1	
Maxilla M2		3	
Maxilla M3		4	
Mandible M3	1		
Humerus shaft		1	
1st Phalanx	1		
3rd Phalanx			1
<i>Total</i>	2	9	1

The small faunal assemblage from the cave may be compared to the extant large corpus of published data on Middle Bronze Age tomb fauna from the Levant (e.g., see summary in Horwitz 2001; 2017; Vila 2004; Marinova et al. 2012). These animal remains have been interpreted as sacred offerings deriving from sacrificed animals, either intended as food to accompany the deceased into the afterworld, as gifts for the gods or as remnants of funerary feasts (e.g., Horwitz 2001; 2017; Vila 2004; Genz et al. 2010).

Irrespective of specific geographic location within the Levant, most MB II tomb faunas are characterized by a predominance, if not exclusive use, of sheep and goat for offerings. In most instances, the majority of caprines exploited were immature, while females were often preferred (Horwitz 2001; Vila and Chahoud 2006; Marinova et al. 2012). The Cave B-4 assemblage partly accords with this picture, since caprines are almost the sole species represented, whilst all the identified caprine remains at Mazor belong to adults. However, we probably only have a partial picture of the fauna that was originally interred in this cave as the northeastern and southeastern parts were destroyed. The raptor talon is unmodified but is burned, suggesting that it too was a funerary offering rather than the result of natural mortality of a bird in the tomb, although none of the caprine remains show evidence of burning (neither of butchery damage).

Despite the small size and relatively poor preservation of the faunal remains, the Mazor cave assemblage offers a welcome addition to the growing zooarchaeological database on ritual activities in the Mediterranean region of Israel. Until recently, most research on MB II tomb fauna focused on sites in the semi-arid and arid regions of the Southern Levant (e.g., Jericho, Efrat, Emeq Repha'im), a picture that is now changing with new research from central and northern Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

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