

GLASS FINDS FROM ḤORBAT ṬARBENET

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INTRODUCTION

An important assemblage of glass vessels was found during the excavations conducted at Ḥorbat Ṭarbenet (see Atrash and Mazor, this volume; for a preliminary report, see Mokary 2015). Among the 1600 unearthened fragments, 600 were unidentified body fragments, and 52 are presented below.¹ Though the ceramic and the numismatic finds discovered during the excavation are attributed mostly to the sixth–seventh centuries CE, the glass vessels found at Ḥorbat Ṭarbenet are dated mainly to the fourth century CE, except for an aryballos handle dated to the Early Roman period (Fig. 1:1) and a few typical Byzantine vessels, such as wineglasses and oil lamps (Figs. 4, 8).

The assemblage comprises bowls (Figs. 2, 3), beakers and wineglasses (Fig. 4), bottles and juglets (Figs. 5, 6), cosmetic vessels (Fig. 7), oil lamps (Fig. 8), and two bracelets and a probable seal fragment (Fig. 9). Three chunks of raw glass were also discovered (Fig. 10).

The quantity and quality of the glass vessels, and the similarity in their fabric and workmanship, suggest that the site served as a local production center, as did Jalame in the north and Khirbat el-Ni‘ana in the south. The finds are presented typologically and chronologically.

THE FINDS

Aryballos (Fig. 1:1)

The complete rim, part of the neck and one handle of an aryballos were found in the excavations. These vessels were used in both the eastern and western parts of the Roman Empire during the Early Roman period, from the end of the first century to the first half of the second century CE. This type of vessel, made of clay or glass, was used in bathhouses, mainly as an oil container (Barag 1985:97–98). Such a vessel was found in the bathhouse

¹ The finds were drawn by Carmen Hersch.

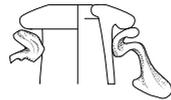


Fig. 1. Aryballos.

at ‘En Gedi (Jackson-Tal 2007: Fig. 4, with further references therein) and Netanya (Ouahnouna 2014: Fig. 1).

1. L95, B1527/1. Aryballos. Complete rim (diam. 3 cm), neck fragment, one complete handle, and the beginning of the second one. Colorless, with bluish tinge, covered with a layer of white–golden weathering, iridescence and severe pitting. Flaring and infolded, even, collar-shaped rounded rim. Beginning of the cylindrical neck. Small uneven handles, drawn from the shoulder to below the rim, pinched.

Bowls (Fig. 2)

Bowl with Thickened Rounded Rim (Fig. 2:1).— A bowl with a rounded, thickened and flaring rim, belonging to a type probably with a thickened, concave and flattened base, assigned to the Late Roman–early Byzantine periods. Published parallels are rare. One example was found at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:83–84, Fig. 4:3, and see further references therein).

1. L95, B1527/2. Bowl. Rim fragment (diam. 7.5 cm). Colorless, with light bluish tinge. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Rounded, flaring, thickened rim; thin tapering wall.

Bowl with Rounded Rim and Horizontal Ridge (Fig. 2:2).— A bowl with a shallow horizontal ridge below the rim and, probably, a hollow ring base. Many similar shallow or deep bowls were found in the north of Israel, mostly in fourth-century CE burial caves of Western Galilee (for a detailed discussion, see Winter 2010:145, Fig. 1:1). Some were also found at Bet She’an (Katsnelson 2014:24*–26*: Fig. 1:2–4) and Khirbat el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:77–79, Fig. 1:6–9).

2. L77, B1411/1. Bowl. Rim fragment (diam. 21 cm). Colorless, with light greenish tinge. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Polishing marks on exterior. Upright rim with horizontal ridge below it.

Bowls with Out-Folded Rim (Fig. 2:3–6).— Bowls with out-folded rims were very common from the Early Roman to the Umayyad periods, differing in fabrics and workmanship,

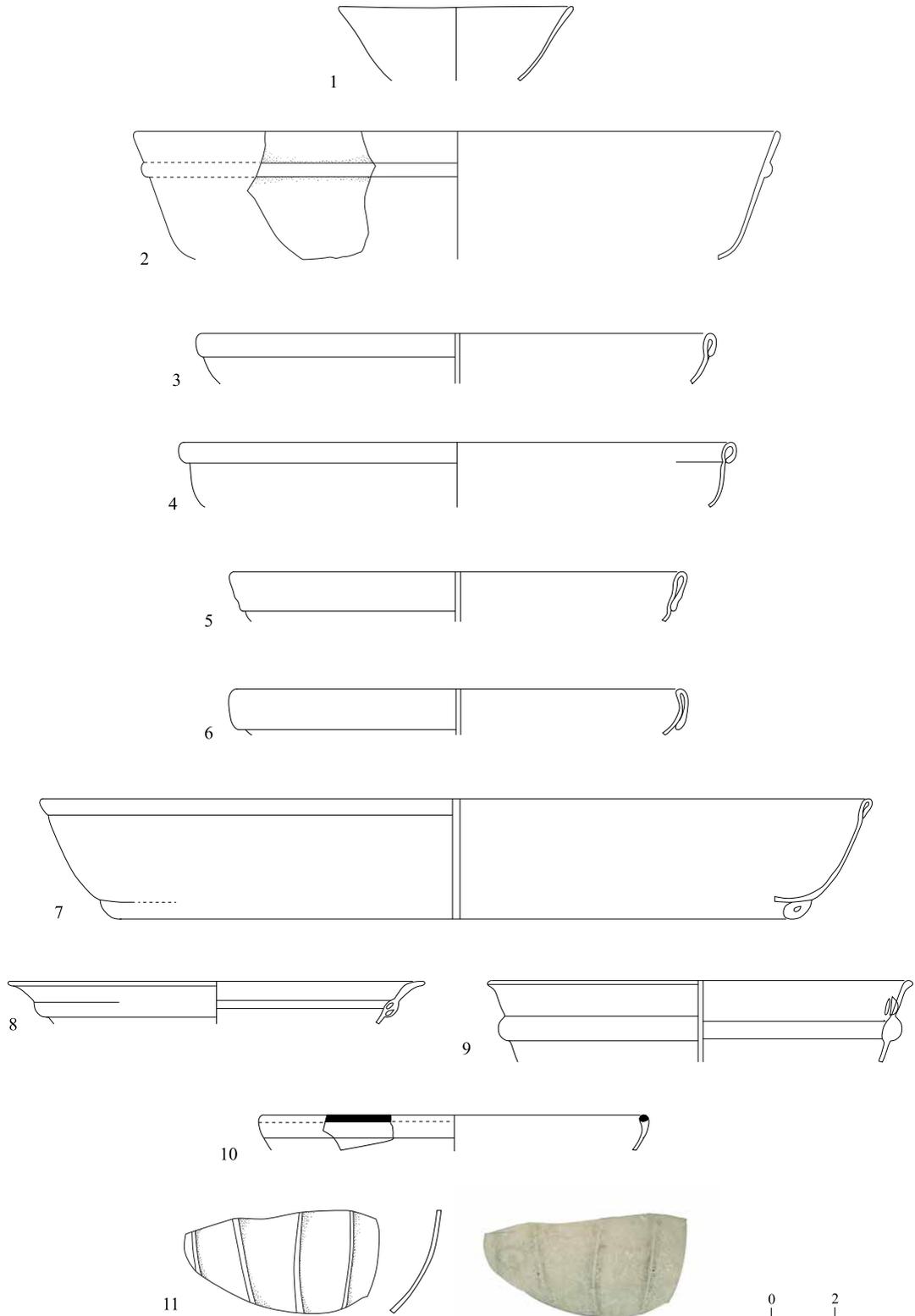


Fig. 2. Bowls with rounded rims (1, 2), out-folded rims (3–7), double fold below rim (8, 9), fused-in trail on rim (10) and decorated with vertical ribs (11).

though in some cases, these could be assigned to a specific period only by their context. The bowls in Fig. 2:3, 4 are the upper part of shallow bowls with curved walls. The rims are folded outward, forming a hollow tube with a thickened edge. All known parallels have a low tubular ring base. Variants of bowls with out-folded rims were found at Jalame, within the remains of the workshop dump dated to the second half of the fourth century CE (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:41–43, Fig. 4–3:14–19) and Khirbat el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:77–80, Fig. 2:1–3). Bowls such as those in Fig. 2:5, 6 were found at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:77–80, Fig. 2:4–7).

3. L30, B1159/1. Bowl. Rim fragment (Diam. 16 cm). Colorless, with light bluish tinge. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Upright out-folded rim, and beginning of convex wall.

4. L95, B1527/3. Bowl. Rim fragment (diam. 17.5 cm). Colorless, with dark greenish tinge. Silver weathering, iridescence and severe pitting. Upright out-folded rim and beginning of convex wall.

5. L77, B1435/1. Bowl. Rim fragment (diam. 14 cm). Colorless, with light bluish tinge. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Wide, almost upright out-folded rim, thickened at the edge of the lower fold.

6. L77, B1435/2. Bowl. Rim fragment (diam. 14 cm). Colorless, with light bluish tinge. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Out-folded rim, wide, slightly incurved.

Bowl with Out-Folded Collar Rim (Fig. 2:7).— These deep or shallow bowls have a rounded rim folded outward and then back toward the wall, forming a heavy collar. The large shallow bowl in Fig. 2.7 had a wide collar extending from the rim down to the bottom of the wall and folded at the lower edge. It belongs to a type common in Galilee, probably produced at the Jalame glass workshop (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:47–48, Fig. 4.7:71–73).

7. L84, B1444. Bowl. Rim fragment (diam. 26 cm). Light greenish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence, sand deposits and severe pitting. A large number of bubbles, low-quality fabric. Uneven folds.

Bowls with Double Fold Below Rim (Fig. 2:8, 9).— The walls of the bowls in Fig. 2:8, 9 have a double fold. Similar bowls were found in the region, e.g., in the fourth-century CE burial at Mount Gilbo‘a (Gorin-Rosen 1999:65*, Fig. 8:8) and at Bet She‘an, dated to the Byzantine period (Hadad 2006: Fig. 19.2:16; Katsnelson 2014:24*: Fig. 1:5, 6). Parallels were collected at the late fourth-century CE workshop dump at Jalame (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:53–54, Fig. 4.15:109, 111, 112), and at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:80–83, Fig. 3).

8. L79, B1475/1. Bowl. Rim fragment (diam. 13 cm). Light bluish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Flaring, rounded, thickened rim with double hollow fold.

9. L95, B1519. Bowl. Rim fragment (diam. 12 cm). Colorless, with light greenish tinge. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Almost upright, rounded, thickened rim with double hollow fold.

Bowl with Fused-In Trail on Rim (Fig. 2:10).— Bowls decorated with a single horizontal trail of turquoise or deep blue glass, fused in the fold of the rim. Some examples were found at Khirbat el-Ni'ana, dated to the fourth–early fifth centuries CE (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:86, Fig. 5:6–8).

10. L22, B1047. Bowl. Rim fragment (diam. 12 cm). Colorless, with light yellow tinge. Deep blue trail. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Rounded, thickened and slightly incurved rim with horizontal fused-in trail.

Bowl(?) Decorated with Vertical Ribs (Fig. 2:11).— This fragment is a small body fragment decorated with vertical ribs belonging to a bowl or a small jar, such as those exhibited at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and dated to the third–fourth centuries CE (Israeli 2003:234, No. 306). One similar example was found at Netanya (Ouahnouna 2014). A vessel with mold-blown decoration was found at Ḥorbat 'Uza (Gorin-Rosen 2009:96, Fig. 2.55:2).

11. L74, B1425/1. Bowl(?). Body fragment. Colorless, with greenish tinge. Silver weathering, iridescence and severe pitting. Thin wall decorated with vertical ribs.

Bowls with Pushed-In Hollow Ring Base (Fig. 3:1, 2).— In this ring-based variant, the bottom of the bowl is thickened in the center and pushed-in, and the hollow, tooled-out ring varies in thickness and height. During the Late Roman and Byzantine periods, it was the most common type of bowl base. Such bases were found in wide distribution, including the refuse of the glass workshops at Jalame and Khirbat el-Ni'ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:86–88, Fig. 6, and see parallels therein).

1. L47, B1204. Bowl. Complete base (diam. 7.5 cm) and beginning of body. Greenish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Outsplayed base with convex floor thickened at the center. Pontil scar.

2. L20, B1045. Bowl. Complete base (diam. 6.5 cm). Greenish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. High hollow ring base thickened at the center. Pontil scar.

Bowls with Solid Ring Base (Fig. 3:3–6).— Four specimens of solid ring bases belonging to a common fourth-century CE type distinguished by diagonal tooling marks on both sides

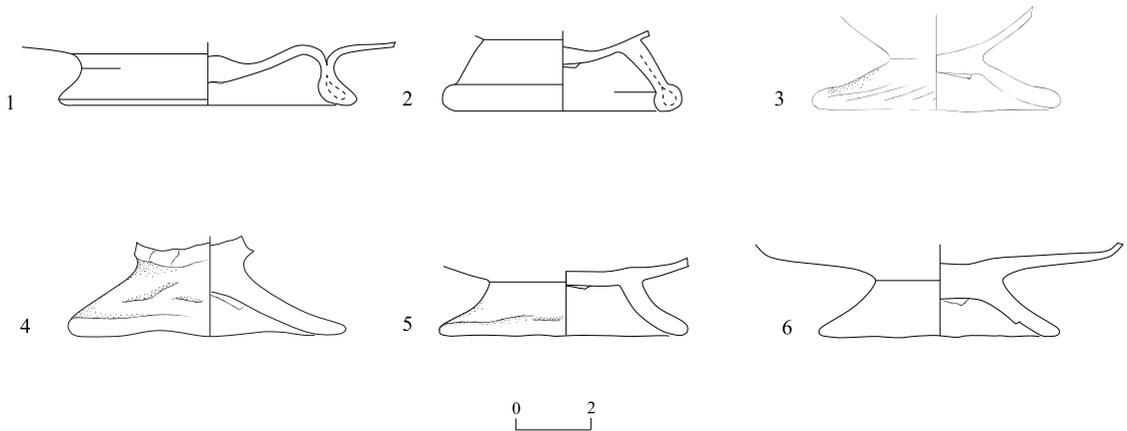


Fig. 3. Bowls with pushed-in hollow rim bases (1, 2), and solid ring bases (3–6).

(for a discussion, see Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:58, Fig. 4.20). They all show very low fabric quality. A bowl with a similar base was found at the Bet She'an Youth Hostel (Katsnelson 2014: 30*, Fig. 4:2), and another one, at Akhziv (Syon 1988: Fig. 14:4).

3. L74, B1486. Bowl. Complete base (diam. 6.5 cm) and beginning of wall. Green glass. Silver iridescence and severe pitting. Uneven ring base with tooling marks on exterior. Pontil mark. Low-quality fabric.

4. L19, B1019/1. Bowl. Complete ring base (diam. 7.5 cm), uneven, very irregular. Green glass. Silver iridescence, milky patches and severe pitting. Marks of tooling on base exterior. Pontil mark. Low-quality fabric.

5. L30, B1159/2. Bowl. Complete ring base (diam. 6.5 cm), uneven, very irregular, and beginning of wall. Green glass. Silver iridescence and severe pitting. Marks of tooling on base exterior. Pontil mark. Low-quality fabric.

6. L30, B1159/3. Bowl. Complete ring base (diam. 7 cm), uneven, very irregular, and beginning of wall. Green glass. Silver iridescence and severe pitting. Marks of tooling on base exterior. Pontil mark. Low-quality fabric.

Beakers and Wineglasses (Fig. 4)

Beakers with Solid Base (Fig. 4:1–4).— Beakers with a solid base constitute one of the most common types among fourth-century CE drinking vessels, widespread in both parts of the Roman Empire and particularly prevalent in Syria–Palestine and Egypt (e.g., Stern 2001:267, 293–294, Cat. Nos. 157, 158). This type was produced in large quantities at Jalame (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:60–61). These beakers, with rounded rim and thin,

vertical, or slightly concave walls, are often decorated with a horizontal trail contrasting the body's color. The most characteristic part of these beakers is their solid disc base.

Vessels of this type were found in two areas at Bet She'an, one together with a fourth–fifth century CE coin (Winter 2011:356, Fig. 12.4:1) and another, at the Youth Hostel excavations (Katsnelson 2014:28, Fig. 2:8–11), as well as at Khirbat el-Ni'ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:90–93, Fig. 8:4–8, and see parallels therein).

1. L85 B1483/1. Beaker. Rim (diam. 7.5 cm) and body fragment. Colorless, with light greenish tinge. Silver weathering, iridescence and milky patches. Rounded rim.

2. L30, B1159/4. Beaker. Rim (diam. 7 cm) and body fragment. Light bluish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and some impurities. Rounded rim, very slightly thickened.

3. L72, B1419. Beaker. Complete solid base (diam. 4.5 cm). Bluish green glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and some rusty patches. Solid base with beginning of curving wall. Pontil mark.

4. L79, B1502/1. Beaker. Complete solid base (diam. 4.5 cm). Green glass. Silver weathering and iridescence. Solid base with beginning of straight wall. Pontil mark.

Beakers (or Jugs) with Pushed-In Base (Fig. 4:5–7).— Pushed-in bases with hollow rings are frequent in Late Roman beakers or jugs (Magen 2005: Pl. 18:16–21). Beakers with this type of base were found in fourth-century CE contexts at Jalame (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:62–63, Fig. 4–24:187–192) and at Khirbat el-Ni'ana, where they continue up to the early fifth century CE (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:93, Fig. 8:11–15).

Fig. 4:5. L77, B1476/1. Beaker or jug. Complete hollow ring base (diam. 4.8 cm). Green glass recovered by milky weathering and iridescence. Flattened floor. Pontil mark.

Fig. 4:6. L95, B1527/4. Beaker or jug. Complete hollow ring base (diam. 4 cm). Bluish green glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Concave floor. Pontil mark.

Fig. 4:7. L30, B1159/5. Beaker or jug. Complete hollow ring base (diam. 6 cm). Green yellowish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and severe pitting. Concave floor thickened at center. Pontil mark.

Wineglass Bases (Fig. 4:8, 9).— Two wineglass bases are presented. Figure 4.8 is a hollow ring base with a solid stem, while the base in Fig. 4.9 has a beaded stem and is completely deformed. They both belong to wineglasses with a footed base and a rounded rim, often trailed, very common in Israel, mainly along the Jordan Valley, in the fifth century CE, and

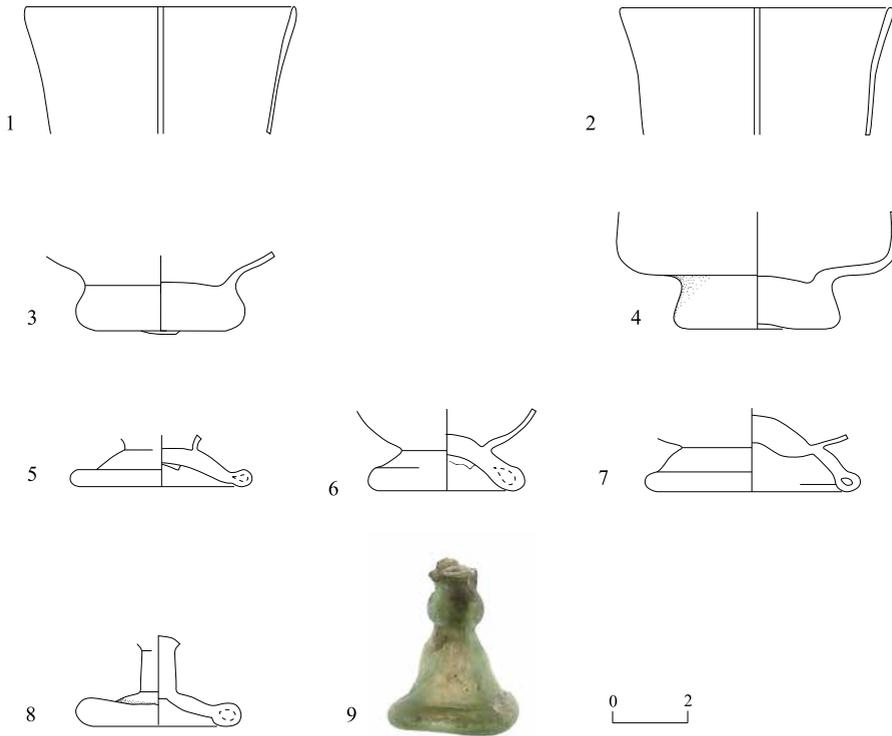


Fig. 4. Beakers with solid bases (1–4); beakers/jugs (or Jugs) with pushed-in bases (5–7); and wineglass bases (8, 9).

particularly during the sixth century CE (Barag 1970:146–148, Pl. 33:1–5). Similar vessels were found at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:93–94, Fig. 8:16, 17) and also in sixth–seventh-century CE contexts at Giv‘at Ha-Maṭos, Jerusalem (Gorin-Rosen 2000: 84*–86*, Fig. 2:14).

8. L20, B1075. Wineglass with cylindrical stem and hollow ring base (diam. 4.5 cm). Complete base. Greenish yellowish glass covered by milky weathering. Small concavity on floor.

9. L85, B1482. Wineglass with beaded stem and hollow ring base (diam. c. 3 cm). Broken. Green glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Small concavity on floor, beaded stem, completely deformed.

Bottles and Jugs (Figs. 5, 6)

Bottles and Jugs with Funnel-Shaped Mouth (Fig. 5:1–9).— Several variations of these bottle and jug types were very common in the Late Roman–early Byzantine periods. They are characterized by a cylindrical neck, a funnel-shaped mouth, a piriform or cylindrical body, and a concave or pushed-in hollow ring base. Vessels of this type were found in the

Bet She'an Youth Hostel excavations (Katsnelson 2014:28*, Fig. 3, with further references therein) and at Khirbat el-Ni'ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:98–99, Fig. 11).

The bottles in Fig. 5:1–4 have a rounded rim. Figure 5:5 is a rather large bottle or jug fragment decorated with an unevenly applied trail under the mouth. Figure 5:6 presents a bicolor jug with a rounded rim and a short funnel-shaped mouth with a single wound trail. Similar jugs were found at several sites, such as Khirbat el-Ni'ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:98, Fig. 11:7) and Ashqelon (Katsnelson 1999:72*–73*, Fig. 3:6, 7; Katsnelson and Jackson-Tal 2004: Fig. 2.3). The handles in Fig. 5:7, 8 belong to the same type of vessel; the strap handle in Fig. 5:9 is also typical of this jug type.

1. L19, B1019/2. Bottle. Complete rim (diam. 4.0–4.5 cm) and neck. Light greenish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and black impurities. Bubbly glass. Rounded uneven rim. Careless workmanship.
2. L79, B1502/2. Bottle. Complete rim (diam. 6 cm). Light bluish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and sand pitting. Bubbly glass. Rounded rim.
3. L74, B1422. Bottle. Fragment of rim (diam. 5 cm) and complete neck. Light bluish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Bubbly glass. Rounded rim.
4. L79, B1502/3. Bottle. Fragment of rim (diam. 4.5 cm) and complete neck. Light bluish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Bubbly glass. Rounded thickened rim.
5. L30, B1191. Bottle. Fragment of rim (diam. 8.5 cm). Light bluish green glass. Silver weathering, iridescence, sand deposits and pitting. Bubbly glass. Rounded thickened rim with uneven horizontal applied trail. Careless workmanship.
6. L30, B1180/1. Rim (diam. 5.5 cm) and neck of jug with complete handle. Yellow glass (body) and bluish greenish (handle). Silver weathering, iridescence, sand deposits and severe pitting. Rounded rim with horizontal, uneven trail. Cylindrical neck with applied trail of the same color as the handle. Trail handle.
7. L12, B1090. Jug handle. Bluish glass. Silver weathering and iridescence.
8. L85, B1483/2. Jug handle. Incomplete. Yellowish glass. Silver and milky weathering and iridescence.
9. L29, B1165. Ribbed strap handle (four ribs) of jug. Incomplete. Bluish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting.

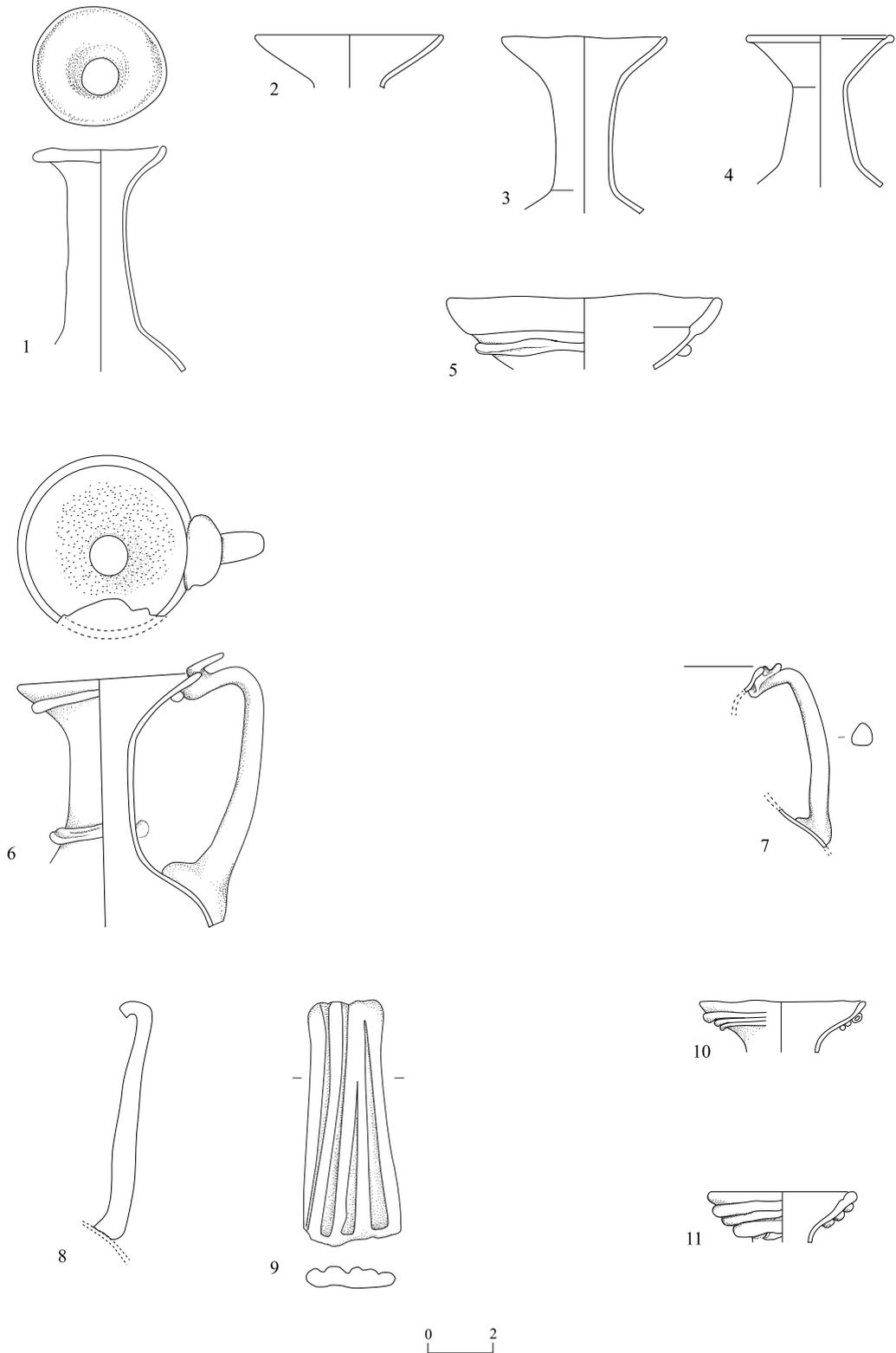


Fig. 5. Bottles and jugs with funnel-shaped mouths (1–6); jug handles (7–9); bottles with funnel-shaped mouths and multiple wound trails (10, 11).

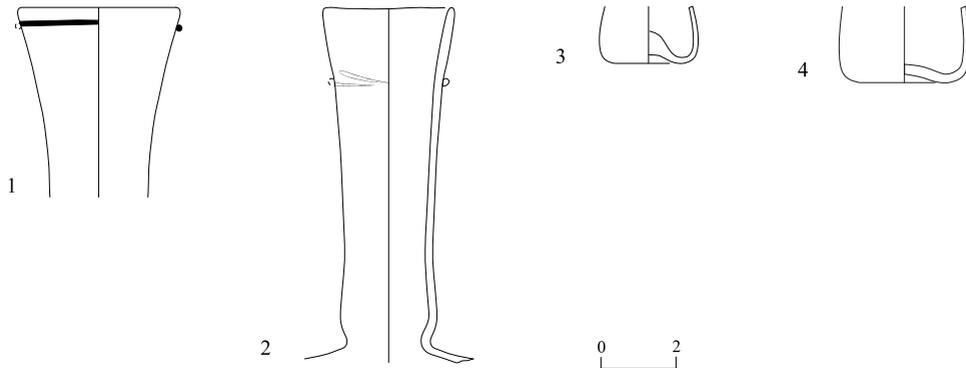


Fig. 6. Bottles with upright rims (1, 2); the lower part of small bottles (3, 4).

Bottles with Funnel-Shaped Mouth and Multiple Wound Trails (Fig. 5:10, 11).— Two bottle rims with a funnel-shaped mouth and multiple wounded trails are presented. These vessels show noticeable careless workmanship (like the bottle in Fig. 5:5), reflecting, perhaps, the product of a local workshop.

10. L72, B1305. Bottle. Fragment of rim (diam. 5 cm). Light green yellowish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Rounded thickened rim with three uneven horizontal applied trails.

11. L85, B1483/3. Bottle. Fragment of rim (diam. 4.5 cm). Light bluish glass. Silver and milky weathering, iridescence and pitting. Rounded thickened rim with three uneven horizontal applied trails. Careless workmanship.

Bottles with Upright Rim (Fig. 6:1, 2).— Bottles with upright rims were frequent during the Byzantine period. They were either plain or decorated (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:103–106, with descriptions and references therein). The two bottles from this excavation bear an applied trail on their necks.

1. L30, B1159/6. Bottle. Rim (diam. 4.2 cm) and neck fragment. Yellow glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Upright rounded rim with turquoise applied trail below it.

2. L30, B1159/7. Bottle. Complete rim (diam. 3.5 cm) and neck. Light bluish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and sand pitting. Upright rounded rim with applied turquoise trail 1.5 cm below it. Conical neck constricted at the junction with the body.

Lower Part of Small Bottles (Fig. 6:3, 4).— The lower part of small bottles with concave base.

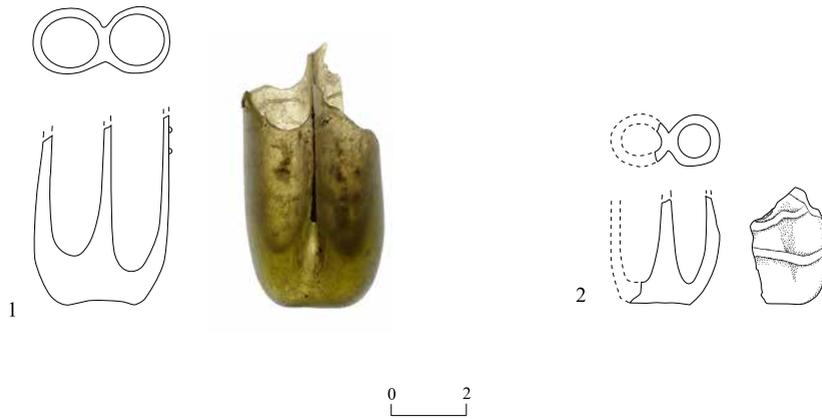


Fig. 7. Cosmetic tubes.

3. L77, B1411/2. Bottle. Fragment of concave base (diam. 3 cm) without pontil mark, and beginning of the bottle's wall. Light bluish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting.

4. L77, B1476/2. Bottle. Concave base (diam. 2.5 cm), thickened in center, with pontil mark and beginning of the bottle's wall. Light bluish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting.

Cosmetic Tubes (Fig. 7)

One of the few glass vessels whose function is definitely recognized is the kohl bottle, sometimes discovered with kohl remnants and a bronze or ivory applicator. These are single or multiple tubes, with or without handles. They are frequent in burials throughout Israel, Jordan and Syria. They first appeared at the beginning of the fourth century CE, continuing throughout the fifth and sixth centuries CE. It should be noted that double-kohl tubes are missing in European assemblages (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:75). Figure 7:1, 2 are the lower parts of two double tubes with two handles. Parallels were found in the Bet She'an Youth Hostel excavations (Katsnelson 2014:31*, Fig. 5:4) and at Khirbat el-Ni'ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:111, Figs. 17:1, 2; 18:1, 2).

1. L20, B1062. Lower part of a double tube. Green glass. Silver and milky weathering, iridescence and sand pitting. Flattened by pontil scar (6 × 19 mm).

2. L84, B1521. Fragment of a double-tube lower part. Bluish greenish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Flattened by pontil scar. Trace of applied trails on the body.

Bowl-Shaped Oil Lamps (Fig. 8)

Two oil-lamp fragments are presented here: a stem (Fig. 8:1) and a handle (Fig. 8:2). They belong to the widespread type of bowl-shaped oil lamps, generally found in public buildings

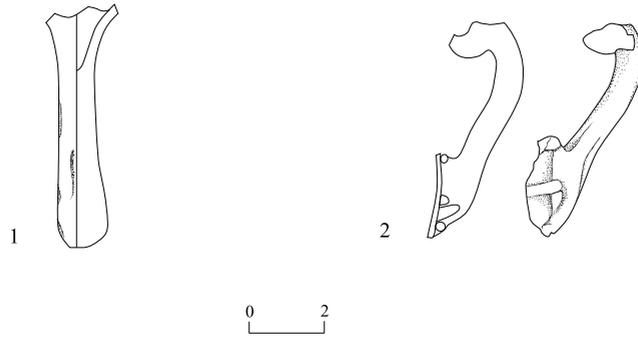


Fig. 8. Oil Lamps, bowl-shaped.

and private dwellings. They were frequent during the fifth–seventh centuries in the Eastern Mediterranean. Lamps with stems were found, for example, at Ḥorbat ‘Uza (Gorin-Rosen 2009:97, Fig. 2.55:98). A handle, similar to the one in Fig. 8:2, was discovered at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:116, Fig. 22:2).

1. L45, B1213/1. Lamp stem. Bluish green glass. Silver weathering, iridescence, and pitting. Uneven. Flattened by pontil scar.

2. L45, B1213/2. Lamp handle. Bluish green glass. Silver weathering iridescence and pitting.

Bracelets (Fig. 9:1, 2)

The fragments shown in Fig. 9:1, 2 belong to circular-sectioned twisted bracelets. This type of monochrome bracelet is considered pre-Islamic (Spaer 1988:59, Fig. 11). A similar bracelet was found at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:123–124, Fig. 24:2).

1. L52, B1277. Bracelet fragment. Yellowish glass. Monochrome. Circular section, twisted, irregularly-set ribs.

2. L29, B1207. Bracelet fragment. Yellowish glass. Monochrome. Circular section, twisted, densely-set ribs.

Glass Disc (Weight?) (Fig. 9:3)

This fragment belongs to a thick glass disc (weight?) with either a smooth surface or signs of the viscous glass being placed on some surface to create its shape. Two such discs were found in the Zippori (Sepphoris) synagogue, beneath the mosaic floor dating from the end of the Roman or the early Byzantine periods (Gorin-Rosen 2005:299, Pl. D.I.:9, 10, and see further references therein).

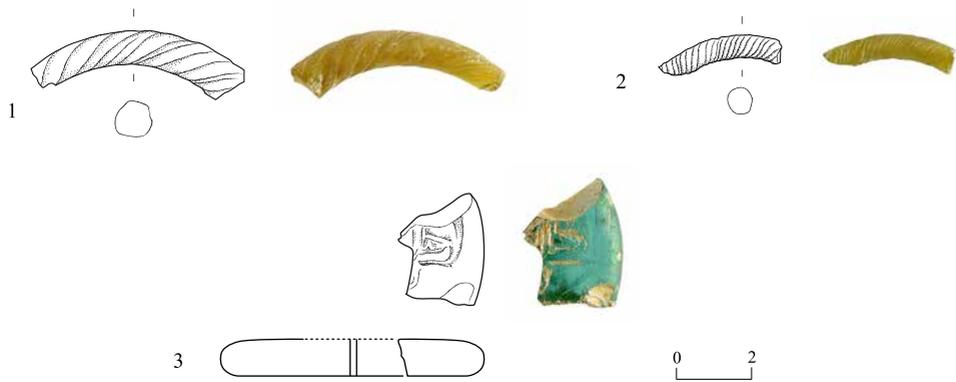


Fig. 9. Bracelets (1–2) and weight (3).

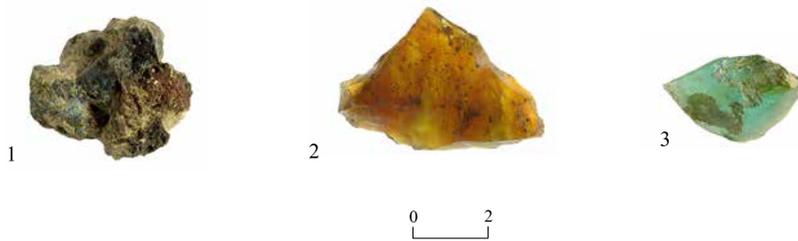


Fig. 10. Raw glass fragments.

3. L94, B1512. Glass disc (weight?) (estimated diam. 7 cm, thickness: 0.9 cm). Shard of a quarter of disc. Bluish glass covered with silvery weathering, iridescence and pitting. The glass has bubbles and impurities. The disc is round and slightly asymmetrical.

Glass Debris (Fig. 10)

Three specimens of raw glass were discovered. Number 1 (L12, B1107) is a furnace-debris fragment containing bluish green glass, and Nos. 2 (L11, B1011) and 3 (L11, B1001) are small, yellow and light blue raw-glass chunks.

CONCLUSIONS

The discovery of glass production debris and deformed vessels, along with the homogeneity in fabrics and the repetition of several vessel types, might point to the existence of a glass workshop at the site, similar to and contemporary with those of Jalame and Khirbat el-Ni'ana.

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