

EARLY ROMAN POTTERY GROUPS FROM THE CENTRAL SECTOR OF THE LATE ROMAN CITY AT HISTRIA

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Abstract: The paper presents four Early Roman pottery groups from the excavations of Basilica C (preceding the episcopal basilica of the 6th century), situated in the central sector of the Late Roman fortress at Histria. These contexts display at least two chronological moments: group 1, dating to the late 1st century BC – first half of the 1st century AD, offers a reliable *terminus post quem* for groups 2–4, belonging to habitation structures dating to the second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century AD. These ceramic assemblages can contribute in the future to the chronological refinement of the first two centuries of the Roman period at Histria (phases I A and I B).

Cuvinte-cheie: Histria, ceramică romană, sec. I–II p.Chr.

Rezumat: Articolul prezintă patru contexte ceramice de epocă romană timpurie provenind din sondajele efectuate în sectorul central al cetății romane târzii pentru identificarea Bazilicii C, anterioare bazilicii episcopale din sec. VI. Acestea surprind cel puțin două momente cronologice: contextul 1 datează de la sfârșitul sec. I a.Chr. și prima jumătate a sec. I p.Chr.; acest prim context oferă un bun *terminus post quem* pentru contextele 2–4, care aparțin unor structuri de locuire databile în a doua jumătate a sec. I și în prima jumătate a sec. II p.Chr. Loturile ceramice analizate pot contribui pe viitor la nuanțarea cronologiei primelor secole ale epocii romane de la Histria (fazele I A și I B).

Excavations carried out in 2002–2003 in the central sector of the Late Roman fortress had intended to establish the plan of the earlier Christian building preceding the Episcopal basilica built in the 6th century. Surveys have led to a number of stratigraphic observations and to a preliminary chronological setting¹. The study of ceramic assemblages now allows to refine the chronology

of the recorded layers. In the preliminary report the chronology of the investigated layers is too schematic, influenced by the traditional sequence of habitation layers established by A. Suceveanu² and without processing the pottery.

The most important aspect to be underlined here is that the location of the two basilicas seriously affected the stratigraphic units from the second half of the 3rd century to the first three decades of the 6th century (corresponding to phases II A, II B, III A, III B of the stratigraphy established by A. Suceveanu). In the current state of research one can argue that in the central sector there are a lot of buildings enclosed in an *insula* of the city's hippodamic plan that appear to have been used in the 1st–3rd centuries (and probably also in the first half of the 4th century). It must be stressed that at least two destruction layers were recorded for this period, with the most important one from the middle of the 3rd century. The processing of pottery assemblages enabled some corrections to the interpretation of recorded plans and profiles (see below).

I considered important to publish these ceramic contexts because it can contribute in the future to the improvement of the chronology of the first two centuries of the Roman period at Histria. Of course this will be possible after the publication of materials from recent excavations, especially those from the “Basilica Extra-Muros” and “Poarta Mare – Turnul Mare” sectors.

¹ Băjenaru 2003–2005.

² Suceveanu 1982, p. 75–92.

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GROUP 1

(late 1st century BC – first half of the 1st century AD)

The first group comprises 15 pottery fragments from a context recorded in area γ' through a small sounding made in the south-eastern corner of Basilica C, to the exterior of it (Fig. 1/1). This context is most likely the result of a general leveling of the area and probably a construction fill for new buildings erected in the central sector. The arrangement of a pavement of large limestone slabs was recorded in this area as part of this construction moment³ (for the time span of its usage see the context illustrated by group 2).

Even if the quantity of material in this group is insufficient to establish more firm chronological considerations, it seems that the accumulation started in the Augustan period, as shown by the late variant of ESA form Hayes 3, with close parallels in dated contexts at Knossos and Sabratha (no. 1) and the bowl (or beaker?) in micaceous fabric no. 7 (probably Aegean) with analogies in the Augustan layers in Ephesos. No. 2 is a rare ESA version of a typical Late Hellenistic form, with a frequency in the first half of the 1st century BC and therefore could be residual in this context⁴. The Pontic sigillata sherd no. 4 and the volute-lamp fragment no. 15 could be dated in the second or third quarters of the 1st century AD. The volute lamp, with its distinctive micaceous fabric, belongs most probably to an Eastern Aegean production, one of the workshops being identified in Phocaea. I do not know if the grey wares nos. 11–12 could be connected with the local production, with a long tradition in the Classical and Hellenistic period, or with imports from the North-Pontic area⁵.

Two Histrian autonomous bronze coins of Apollo-on-omphalos type found in this context are countermarked on the obverse and therefore could be dated to the second half of the 1st century BC – first quarter of the 1st century AD⁶.

³ Băjenaru 2003–2005, p. 155, fig. 6 (wrongly considered phase II B).

⁴ Fragments of 1st century BC ESA plates, either black- or red-glossed, were also found in the Histrian Sacred Area (Alexandrescu 2005, p. 373–375, C 229–234, fig. 54).

⁵ In the 1st century AD similar forms were produced in a workshop from Kobjakovskoe settlement in the Don delta, near Tanais (see Schultze 2005, p. 208, Abb. 4).

⁶ MINAC Numismatic Cabinet Inv. 82,212 and 82,213. Thanks to my colleagues G. Talmatchi and D. Vasilescu for identification.

Based on these observations we can establish the date of this group mainly in the late 1st century BC – first half of the 1st century AD. This dating is a good *terminus post quem* for the chronology of the pavement made of limestone slabs and the probable nearby buildings.

Eastern Sigillata A

1. Dish. D.⁷ 37. Brownish-red clay, clean in fracture. Dark red gloss. “Double-dipping” streak visible outside.
Hayes 1985, form 3, tav. I/ 7, 8.
Closest parallels at Knossos (Sackett 1992, p. 185, A2, no. 8, pl. 128, “Augustan”) and Sabratha (Hayes 1994, p. 123, no. 8, fig. 25, “Augustan”).
2. Plate. D. 35. Light brownish-cream clay, granular, with fine white particles. Brush smoothing inside, spatula smoothing outside. Hole for fixing a possible break in antiquity. Red gloss, slightly lustrous on interior, dull on exterior with a brownish-red tint. Intrusive?
Hayes 1985, form 6, tav. II/3, 4.
Kenrick 1985, p. 227, B 316.2, fig. 41 (late 2nd – 1st c. BC); cf. Robinson 1959, p. 11, F5, pls. 1, 60 (“last three quarters of 1st c. BC”). See also an imitation in micaceous fabric imported in Athens (Rotroff 1997, p. 418, no. 1723, fig. 102, pl. 137, context c. 115–50 BC). Hellenistic counterpart in local Athenian wares, mostly black slipped (Rotroff 1997, p. 154, nos. 838–846, fig. 57).

Pergamene ware or Pontic imitations?

3. Skyphos. D. 10. Brown clay with mica particles. Dull dark brown slip (with brown-black discoloured portions).
Rim form close to Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, form S 8, no. 32, Taf. 29 (“mitte 1.Jh. v.Chr.”). Pontic imitations frequently attested at Histria in the 1st century AD (cf. Suceveanu 2000, type XXIII, p. 87–88, nos. 17–26, pl. 34). See also Irimia 1987, p. 111, fig. 2/2 (tumular tomb at Pecineaga, in the territory of Callatis, first half of the 1st century or c. 50–75 AD).

Pontic Sigillata

4. Bowl. D. 19. Light brown clay with mica particles. Orange slip, slightly lustrous.
Kühnelt 2008, form S–1d, no. 224 (c. 25–75 AD, fabric PS IV of Chersonese); Žuravlev 2010, p. 54–55, 141, form 14.7, no. 160, pl. 23 (last quarter of 1st century AD) or form 17.1.1, p. 55, 142, no. 165, pl. 24 (end of 1st – beginning of 2nd century).

Red slip-coated ware, probably local

5. Bowl. D. 22. Dark brown clay, mica, white particles. Dull reddish-brown slip (outside and inside only below rim), with discoloured areas (brown on interior or brown-black on exterior).
Suceveanu 2000, p. 27 ff., type VI A, pls. 6–8 (1st–3rd centuries AD).

⁷ Abbreviations: D. – rim diameter; D.b. – base diameter; D.m. – maximum diameter; D. est. – estimated diameter; H. – height; L. – length. All dimensions are in centimeters.

6. Jug. D. 11.6. Light brown clay, slightly porous, golden mica, rare white and black particles. Dull reddish-brown coating (exterior and interior only below rim, here discoloured dark brown).

Common ware

7. Bowl/beaker? D. 12. Brown, micaceous clay. Self-slip. Ladstätter 2005, p. 268, K 26, Taf. 148 (“spätes 1. Jh. v.Chr.”), p. 289, K 229–234, Taf. 160 (“Augusteisch”).
8. Beaker. D. 8. Light brown-buff clay, fine, mica, rare white particles. Beige slip.
9. Pot. D. 14. Beige-yellowish clay, semifine, mica, white particles and rare limestone inclusions (2–5 mm). Orange-red slip, dull inside (coating aspect and flaky), slightly lustrous on exterior, with polished surface.
10. Crater? D. 34. Orange clay, with mica and white particles, quartz, some limestone inclusions (1–2 mm). Exterior fired reddish-brown.

Grey ware – “rolled rim” and similar

11. Bowl. D. 28.5. Grey clay, mica, rare limestone particles. Polished on both faces. Cf. Alexandrescu 2007, p. 382, C 276, fig. 59 (kaolinitic fabric, deposit 17/1974). See also Schultze 2005, p. 208, Abb. 4/12 (1st century AD).
12. Bowl. D. 25. Grey clay, micaceous, some white (calcareous) particles. Polished on both faces. Cf. Alexandrescu 2007, p. 383, C 279, fig. 60 (small variant, deposit 9/1974); Schultze 2005, p. 208, Abb. 4/1, 7, 8, 13 (1st century AD).

Cooking ware

13. Frying pan. D. 36; H. 3.8. Brown clay, micaceous, quartz, rare limestone inclusions. Secondary burning. Phocaeen? Ladstätter 2005, K 246–247, Taf. 162 (“Augusteisch”); Ladstätter 2010, p. 220, A–K 256, Taf. 78 (context c. 50–75 AD); Meriç 2002, p. 106, K 658, Taf. 55 (context D1, “flavisch”); Warner-Slane 1990, p. 73, 79, no. 161, fig. 16 (“middle to third quarter of the 1st c.”); Tekkök *et alii* 2001, p. 357, no. 90, pl. 9 (C29 well, “early Hadrianic” fill). See also Krapivina 1993, p. 103, “skovorody” type 2a, fig. 36/11.

Varia

14. Unguentarium. D.b. 2.2. Fine reddish-brown clay, rare mica particles. Light brown coating. Intrusive? Late Hellenistic. Cf. Bruneau 1970, p. 490, nos. 85.3–14, figs. 143–146, 211 (late 2nd – early 1st century BC).
15. Lamp. Beige-light brown clay, micaceous. Red slip. Traces of use. Loeschcke Type IV (Phocaeen fabric?). Civelek 2008, p. 126–127, fig. 6 (Phocaeen workshop, “after the middle of the 1st c. AD”). Probably some “unplaced” Eastern Roman provincial lamps from the British Museum may be connected with this production (Bailey 1988, p. 413, Q 3287, 3290, pl. 120, micaceous fabric, “about AD 25–75”). For the traditional Italian fabric cf. Ladstätter 2010, p. 209–210, A–K 146, Taf. 74, 120 (“spätaugusteisch” context).

GROUPS 2–4

(second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century AD)

The other three groups constitute a rather homogenous ensemble that allows chronological synchronization of the contexts in which they were found: the combined schist/limestone pavement in the area γ' (group 2), limestone pavement and possible sewer? with dumped rubbish fills in area β' (group 3), as well as one stratigraphic unit in two limited soundings in the same area β' (group 4). Future extension of research in the central sector could supplement the three groups with additional material (and possibly relevant coins) and thus can refine the chronology of these contexts.

GROUP 2

This context is well-represented in area γ' by the pavement made of large limestone slabs, with traces of a long-term utilization evidenced by the use of supplements and additions with schist rocks (Fig. 1/1). Most probably this pavement belongs to a complex of buildings erected in the central sector sometimes in the middle of the 1st century AD or shortly later, as evidenced by the context of group 1 discussed above.

The pottery was recovered mainly from two successive layers, each having a thickness of about 15 cm: “fill 1” – upper layer, immediately below the general leveling of the area who took place in the period when the episcopal basilica was built⁸; “fill 2” – lower layer, deposited over the pavement⁹. To these main fills it can be added also some fragments found between the stones of the pavements or in a thin layer of soil deposited between the original limestone slabs pavement and the additional schist (“fill 3”)¹⁰.

⁸ Fill 1 contexts: 2002 / γ' / –0.10–0.30 and 2002 / γ' (SW corner) / –0.00–0.20/0.30 (entrance area?). This fill could be considered also a result of a leveling action, probably after the disposal of the pavement. It has a hard consistency, due to intense traffic during the construction moment of the Episcopal Basilica. See catalogue nos. 19–21, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 37–41, 46, 47, 49–53.

⁹ Fill 2 contexts: 2002 / γ' / –0.30–0.45 and 2002 / γ' (exterior basilica C) / –0.20/25 – 0.45/50 (to the pavement). See catalogue nos. 16, 17, 22, 23, 26, 28, 30, 32–36, 42, 44, 45, 54–56.

¹⁰ Fill 3 context: 2003 / γ' (between schist and limestone slabs). See catalogue nos. 18, 43, 48.

The chronological frame of this assemblage is fairly uniform. Residual fragments occur (e.g. the Late Hellenistic fragments **16** and **17**, probably also **40**) and the possibility of some later intrusions is very low (no. **49**?). Firstly it should be noted the presence of *Çandarli/Pergamene sigillata* (nos. **18–21**), with forms and fabric typical for the 1st century AD, which are equally found in deposits from the first quarter of the 2nd century at Pergamon and Troia/Ilion. Pontic *sigillata* forms (nos. **22–25**) are typical for the period of maximum development of this category (second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century) and some forms are imitated in the local (or western-pontic?) production of red slip-coated wares (nos. **26–32**). In addition to these we notice the appearance of the widespread “a collarino” mug type among the thin-walled wares (nos. **33–35**). The common wares (no. **36**) and the cooking wares (nos. **37–39**) are quite rare. Amphora findings are relatively numerous, Pontic fabrics clearly predominating (nos. **42–47**, **51–53**). Note here the association between the Heracleian type Zeest 64 / Kameneckij A / Šelov A / Vnukov S IVA₂ (nos. **43–44**) and the probable Western Pontic type Rădulescu 1976, type 4c / Opaiț 1987a, type III (no. **50** and, with caution, no. **49**), which is repeated on a large scale in group 3. The Pergamene lamp fragment no. **55** fits very well in the chronological limits of this deposit (second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century).

Pergamene ware or Pontic imitations?

16. Skyphos, body-herd. D.m. est. 17. Light brown clay, mica, rare white particles. Dull black slip on the upper part of exterior, red on interior and below the maximum diameter on exterior. White paint (band and leaf) in West Slope style. Fill 2, residual.

Pergamene? Cf. Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, forms S 3, Sü 21, Sü 23a. See also Zhuravlev 2002, p. 268 ff., fig. 35/2 (Olbia); Žuravlev 2007, p. 284 ff., nos. 35–38, fig. 4–5 (“Čaika” settlement, small forms, dated c. 50 BC – early 1st century AD). Cf. Popescu 2010, p. 53, 56–57, no. 3, fig. 1, pl. I (Dacian fortress Răcătău, mid 2nd – mid 1st century BC).

Two fragments from Athenian Agora are very similar to our sherd: Hayes 2008, p. 114, 284, nos. 1740, 1741, fig. 55 (treated in the Central Greek ware category, but not excluding “to be Pontic products, related to the barbotine-ware jugs”; no. 1741 appeared in a context dated c. 1–25 AD).

17. Skyphos? D. 14. Beige-light brown clay with mica. Black slip on both faces (flaky outside). Fill 2, residual.

Çandarli/Pergamene Sigillata

18. Bowl. D.b. 3.7. Orange-brown clay, mica, rare white particles. Orange slip, slightly glossy inside. Fill 3.

Loeschcke 1912, types 15 or 19, Taf. XXVIII; Hayes 1985, p. 76, forms L15 or L19 (antico), Tav. XVII/4, 5 (second half of the 1st and early 2nd century); Kozal 2001, p. 329, no. 26, pl. 4 (1st century AD context); Tekkök *et alii* 2001, p. 349, no. 7, pl. 1 (C29 well, “early Hadrianic” fill).

19. Deep bowl. D.b. 12. Orange-brown clay, mica, white particles. Orange slip, thick and lustrous on interior, thin and dull on exterior, bottom unslipped. Two fine grooves on floor. Fill 1.

Loeschcke 1912, p. 373–374, type 26A, Taf. XXVIII; Hayes 1985, p. 77, form L26A, Tav. XVII/10 (“dalla metà alla fine del I sec. d.C.”).

Same treatment of the foot on Loeschcke types 21 and 28 (see below, no. 59).

20. Saucer. D.b. 7. Light orange clay, mica, white particles. Orange slip, thick and slightly lustrous on interior, thin and dull on exterior. Fine groove on floor. Fill 1.

Loeschcke 1912, type 9a; Hayes 1985, form L9.

See references for nos. 57 and 58 in group 3.

21. Saucer. D. 16.5. Beige-light-brown clay, very fine small white particles. Red-brown slip, rather dull on both sides. Fill 1.

Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, p. 145–146, form T23, nos. 298–299, Taf. 18 (c. 25–125); Kozal 2001, p. 328, no. 18, pl. 3 (1st century AD). Cf. Loeschcke 1912, type 9b (prototype).

Pontic Sigillata

22. Bowl. D. 14. Light brown clay, rare mica. Red slip, glossy, applied to both sides, with dark brown discoloured parts, including lower part of interior. Fill 2.

Hayes 1985, form V, tav. XXIII/5,6; Kühnelt 2008, p. 111–113, form N–1a, nos. 190–196 (last quarter of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century, in PS II fabric); Žuravlev 2010, p. 60–61, form 30 (frequently found in tombs dated to the last quarter of the 1st and first half of the 2nd century).

Examples from Histria: Alexandrescu 1966, p. 200, T. XXX,14, pl. 99 (second half of 1st century AD); Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II” – phase IA, p. 99, nos. 1–2, pl. 5. See also the piece found in funerary context at (L)Ibida (Paraschiv *et alii* 2006, p. 402–403, no.2, pl. 1/2, second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century) and the specimens discovered in the Geto-Dacian settlements on the Siret Valley, dated mainly in the 1st century and early 2nd century AD (Popescu 2009, p. 20, 27, nos. 32–35, pl. 2).

See below nos. 72–74 in group 3.

23. Bowl, rim missing. D.est. 7.2; D.b. 3.6. Light brown clay with mica. Reddish-brown slip on interior and on the upper part of exterior, with streaks of slip leaking on the lower part. Fill 2.

Miniature version of no. 22.

See one specimen of inferior quality in a tomb at (L)Ibida, dated to the second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century AD (Paraschiv *et alii* 2006, p. 403, no. 3, pl. 2/3).

24. Bowl. D. 13. Pinkish-brown clay, rare mica. Brownish-red slip, lustrous. Fill 1.

Žuravlev 2010, p. 140, form 12, nos. 146–148 (second half of the 1st century AD). Pontic version of Pergamene/Çandarlı form L6 (Hayes 1985) / T4 (Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988) – see references for no. 67 in group 3.

25. Cup. D. 17. Red-brown clay, mica, white particles. Red-brown slip, mostly dull, with some dark brown metallic tints. Two bands of rouletting decoration. Fill 1.

Hayes 1985, form VIII, tav. XXIII/9 (“metà I sec. o più tardi”); Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II”– phase IA, p. 102, no. 59, pl. 6 (= Suceveanu 2000, type I, p. 11, no. 5, pl. I). See also no. 77 in group 3.

There is also a barbotine-decorated variant. One specimen with lustrous slip was found in the Histrian tumular necropolis (Alexandrescu 1966, p. 198, T XXX,10, pls. 79, 99, dated to the second half of the 1st century AD). Two other examples were found in tombs at Callatis (Iconomu 1968, p. 256–257, fig. 37 right, probably second half of the 1st – early 2nd century; Cheluță-Georgescu 1974, M9, p. 182, pl. 6/4, dated “end of 1st–2nd century”) and another one at Olbia (Krapivina 1993, p. 117, “vazy” tip 2a, fig. 58/8).

Among the imported pottery in the Geto-Dacian settlement of Poiana (*Piroboridava*) four fragments of Hayes VIII cups were discovered, both in rouletting and barbotine variants, but with a slightly different moulding of the rim (Popescu 2009, p. 21, 28, nos. 36–39, pl. 3/36, 37).

The findspots are concentrated in the Western and North-Western Pontic regions and probably this is also the production area.

Red slip-coated ware, mostly local or Western Pontic

26. Bowl. D. 14. Orange-brown clay, mica, quartz, rare limestone inclusions (1–2 mm). Dull red slip. Fill 2.

Imitation of *Pontic Sigillata* Hayes form V / Kühnelt N–1a / Žuravlev 30.2.

27. Bowl. D. 20.5. Red-brick clay, mica, limestone particles (1–2 mm), holes from burned organic material. Red-brown slip on exterior, with streaks leaking on lower part. Fill 1.

Suceveanu 2000, p. 27 ff., type VI A, pls. 6–8 (1st–3rd centuries).

28. Bowl. D. 20.5. Beige clay with mica. Brown slip, dull on interior, slightly lustrous on exterior. Fill 2.

Suceveanu 2000, p. 29, type VI A, no. 3, pl. 6 (2nd–3rd centuries).

29. Bowl. D. 19. Red-brick clay, mica, limestone particles (0–1 mm). Dull red slip on exterior (with brown-black discoloured parts) and under the rim on interior. Fill 1.

Same type as the preceding. Cf. Alexandrescu 1966, p. 219, T XXV¹, 3, pl. 101 (tomb dated by the author to the first half of the 1st century AD, but more probably second half of the 1st century). Small forms: Irimia 1987, p. 112, fig. 2/5 (tumular tomb at Pecineaga, in the territory of Callatis, first half of the 1st century or c. 50–75 AD).

30. Bowl. D. 19. Orange-brown clay, mica, rare white particles. Red slip on exterior (with metallic sheen) and under the rim on interior. Fill 2.

Suceveanu 2000, type VI B. Late 1st – 2nd century examples: Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II”– phase IA, p. 100, nos. 24–25, 28, 30, 31, pl. 5 and phase IB, p. 103, nos. 11–12, pl. 6.

31. Crater. D. 18. Orange-light brown clay, fine, rare mica, rare white particles. Red slip on exterior (patchy). Handles with applied clay lumps. Fill 1.

Traditional Hellenistic applied lumps. See for example types S7 and S9 of Pergamene skyphoi (Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, nos. 23, 37, Taf. 8).

32. Cup (skyphos?). D. 7.3. Brick-brown clay (grey to the interior), mica, very fine white particles, rare shell fragments. Brown slip on exterior. Fill 2.

Thin-walled ware

33. Jug (beaker?). D. 8. Orange-brown clay, micaceous, rare white particles. Exterior fired light brown. Fill 2.

Meriç 2002, p. 63, K 284, K 285, Taf. 26 (context B3, “neronisch”).

34. Mug. D. 7.2. Reddish-brown clay with mica. Exterior fired grey. Fill 2.

“Collarino” type, North-Eastern Aegean (“Thracian”, cf. Hayes 2008, p. 102–103, with extensive bibliography). Widely distributed in the Aegean and Black Sea areas and frequently imitated.

Our example belongs probably to the earlier, classic type, with rather globular body and a pronounced outspreading rim. Cf. Hayes 2008, p. 267–268, nos. 1602–1605, figs. 50, 51, pl. 76 (contexts of c. 75–150 AD); Tekkök *et alii* 2001, p. 353, no. 51, pl. 6 (C29 well, “early Hadrianic” fill). Histrian examples: Alexandrescu 1966, p. 208, T XXIV,7, pl. 99 (2nd century); Suceveanu 2000, p. 99 ff., type XXXII C, nos. 32–59, pls. 43, 44 (with many local imitations).

35. Mug. D. 7.6. Brown clay with mica. Poor dull brown slip on exterior. Fill 2.

Probably local imitation of the preceding type.

Common ware

36. Jug. D. 5. Beige clay, fine, micaceous. Self-slip. Fill 2.

Cf. the larger variant in Alexandrescu 1966, p. 212, T XXVII, 9, pl. 80, 100 (tomb dated to the 2nd c. AD).

Cooking ware

37. Cooking pot. D. 21. Brown clay, fine, mica, rare quartz crystals, some white particles. Secondary burning. Fill 1.

Pülz 1987, p. 37, 42, no. 41, Abb. 14 (1st century AD).

Cf. Ladstätter 2010, p. 242, A–K 522, Taf. 91 (c. 50–75 AD).

38. Cooking pot. D. 21. Brown clay, pyroxene? inclusions, abundant white particles. Secondary burning. Fill 1.

39. Hand-made pot. D. 16. Dark brown clay (grey-black towards exterior), mica, rare limestone inclusions. Fill 1.

Amphoras

40. Amphora. D. 13.5. Beige-light brown, mica, limestone inclusions (1–2 mm). Exterior beige. Fill 1.

Aegean fabric.

41. Amphora? D. 6. Orange-light brown, fine, mica, rare white particles. Exterior light brown. Fill 1.

Type „Crétoise 2”. Cf. Marangou-Lerat 1995, p. 77 ff., type AC2, variant A, pl. XII–XIV (second half of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD).

42. Amphora, handle fragment. Beige-yellowish clay, mica, black particles, rare white particles. Fill 2.
Pontic (Heracleian “pseudo-Kos” type): Zeest 1960, type 61 / Vnukov 2003, type S Ib (c. 20/25 – 130/135 AD).
Cf. Opaïț 1987b, p. 151–153, type V, fig. 5/6–10 (Aegyssus, 1st half of the 1st c. AD); Golofast 2010, p. 86–87, fig. 7–8 (Panticapaeum); Opaïț 2012, p. 452, fig. 4–5 (Dacian fortresses Brad and Poiana, 1st century AD).
43. Amphora. D. 6.6. Beige-yellowish clay with pyroxene. Fill 3.
Pontic (Heracleian): Zeest 64 / Kameneckij A / Šelov A / Vnukov S IVA₂ (c. 50/60 – 100 AD).
See references for nos. 111–120 in group 3.
44. Amphora. D. 6.8. Beige clay with pyroxene. Exterior beige-yellowish. Fill 2.
Same type as 43.
45. Amphora. D. 9.5. Whitish-beige clay with abundant pyroxene. Fill 2.
Pontic. Sinopean or Heracleian unknown type ?
46. Amphora. D. 14. Reddish-brown clay, white particles, iron oxide. Exterior fired grey-brown. Fill 1.
Pontic: Zeest 1960, type 77e (?).
47. Amphora. D. 12.8. Light brick clay, golden mica, abundant iron oxide. Fill 1.
Pontic.
Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II”– phase I A, p. 102, no. 68, pl. 6; Ursachi 1995, p. 210, pl. 183/11 (level III, end of the 1st century BC – first half of the 1st century AD¹¹).
48. Amphora. D. 17. Brown clay, micaceous, white particles. Fill 3.
Aegean fabric?
Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II”– phase I A, p. 102, no. 70, pl. 6 and phase I B–C, p. 112, no. 78, pl. 12.
49. Amphora. D. 18.5. Light reddish-brown clay, sandy, mica, black and white particles. Exterior beige. Fill 1.
Fabric close to no. 139 in group 3. Western Mediterranean origin? (Dressel 23?, in this case probably intrusive). A possible variant of Rădulescu 1976, type 4c / Opaïț 1987a, type III should not be excluded¹².
Rim form: Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes I”– phase I A, p. 95, no. 45, pl. 2; Ursachi 1995, p. 210, pl. 183/4 (level III, end of the 1st century BC – first half of the 1st century AD).
50. Amphora. D. 13.5. Brownish-orange clay, abundant white particles, rare mica, iron oxide. Exterior fired brown. Fill 1.
Western Pontic? (Rădulescu 1976, type 4c / Opaïț 1987a, type III).
See references for no. 125 in group 3.
51. Table-pitcher. D. 12. Red-brown clay, mica, white particles. Fill 1.
Pontic. So-called “amphoroidal jugs”, widely distributed in Dobroudja from the end of the 1st century AD until the first half of the 4th century (cf. Opaïț 2003, p. 215, with references).
Histrian examples at Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes I”– phase I A, p. 95, no. 36, pl. 1, “Thermes II”– phase IA, p. 102, no. 65, pl. 6. Contexts of 2nd century AD: Babeș 1971, p. 28, fig. 3/1–4, 4/1–2, 8/1; Bogdan-Cățănicu, Barnea 1979, p. 181, N II 3(7), fig. 146; Vasiliu, Paraschiv 1999, p. 257, M 5, nr. 1, pl. 4/9.
See also no. 136 in group 3.

52. Table-pitcher. D. 12.2. Orange-brown clay, fine, rare mica and white particles. Exterior light brown. Fill 1.
Same type as 51.
53. Table-amphora. D. 10.5. Orange-brown clay (red core), mica, limestone inclusions (0–1 mm). Exterior light brown. Fill 1.

Varia

54. Lamp fragment. Red-brick (with grey core) clay, mica particles. Red slip with brownish discoloured variations and slightly lustrous. Fill 2.
Cf. Loeschke 1919, type VIII, p. 230, nos. 688–690, Taf. XVI/688 (“Rosette aus zwölf Blättern”).
55. Lamp fragment. Light brown clay with rare mica particles. Reddish-orange slip, with brownish discoloured variations. Traces of use. Fill 2.
Loeschke 1919, type VIII (and nozzle type H).
Pergamene fabric: Heimerl 2001, Gruppe 9g, p. 132, no. 425, Taf. 10 (second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century AD).
56. Glass beaker, bottom fragment. D.b. 4.6. Light green, translucent. Fill 2.

GROUP 3

The third deposit is a rubbish dump identified in β' area, on the exterior of the apsis of Basilica C¹³. It was found in a soil containing many organic debris, traces of it being substantially deposited on ceramic fragments. All this refuse material was discarded over a stone pavement (made of limestones, schists and marble *spolia*) and drains as well in a possible pit (or sewer?) placed to the East (Fig.1/2). No traces of burning were preserved, so it is probably a fill for the new constructions erected in the central sector sometimes in the first half of the 2nd century AD. Unfortunately, the habitation layers from c. 150–350 AD are totally missing here and for this reason we do not have a necessary *terminus ante quem* for this deposit. The cause is most likely the construction of Basilica C, which required a massive intervention in the area. Thus, immediately above the Early Roman dump a thin leveling layer of about 5–10 cm was discerned, making an horizontal platform for laying out a compacted layer of yellowish soil mixed with cobblestones, shells, small tiles and pottery fragments, which surrounds the apse of basilica on exterior¹⁴. This compact layer was connected with

¹³ Contexts recorded: 2003 / β' (north) / –0.45–0.90 and 2003 / β' (south) / –0.20–0.50.

¹⁴ Băjenaru 2003–2005, p. 151, figs. 4, 5. The chronological assertions here must be treated with caution. The dumped fill of context 3 was poorly dated to the 4th century (phase II B, cf. p. 155 and the eastern profile in fig. 2), without processing the pottery and mistakenly interpreting the 4th century coins found in the apsis of Basilica C and in a pit dug next to it.

¹¹ Chronological refinements based on a recent analysis of the Dacian fortifications on the Siret valley (Cristescu 2013, p. 130–133).

¹² Suggestion offered by A. Opaïț.

the first phase of Basilica C, dated after the middle of the 4th century.

It should be noted that we do not exclude some contamination of the material in this group with some sherds from the above-mentioned leveling (e.g. nos. **94**, **137**, **138**), because the upper limit of the dumped fill and its subsequent leveling was more susceptible to mixing.

This deposit is the most consistent of the four groups. The fine wares are well-represented: some Çandarli/Pergamene sigillata fragments (nos. **57–59**) and lots of Pontic sigillata forms (nos. **60–77**)¹⁵, much more present here than in group 2. Both categories are frequently found in the second half of the 1st and first half of the 2nd century AD. The red slip-coated wares nos. **78–82** are mostly local or Western Pontic products. Among the thin-walled wares (nos. **84–90**) a notable appearance is the cup decorated in rough-casting technique (no. **84**), one of the Eastern counterparts of this well-known category in the Western provinces and in military sites on the Lower Danube limes as well¹⁶. A residual fragment of the fine gray ware with black gloss produced in Ephesos region is also present (no. **83**).

The common wares (nos. **91–95**) are rather scarce and without close parallels, except for no. **91** – a trefoil-mouthed jug of the same fabric as the well-known “collarino” mugs of North-Eastern Aegean (Thracian) production¹⁷. Better represented are the local and imported cooking wares (nos. **96–104**). Some have good parallels in Aegean dated contexts (e.g. Phocaeen casserole no. **96** in Hadrianic deposits at Knossos and Troia/Ilion, Eastern Aegean dish/casserole no. **103** in Flavian contexts in Ephesos). It also should be noted the occurrence of hand-made wares (nos. **105–109**), some imitating Roman forms. A rare find here is the Sinopean mortarium no. **110**, with best analogies in the Eastern Pontus, at Apsaros, where it is dated at the end of 1st – first half of the 2nd century AD.

¹⁵ Including the rare form no. **66**, with decoration inspired by Italian sigillata, that could be seen as a regional variant of Pontic sigillata, probably Western or North-Western (Olbian?) production.

¹⁶ See for instance the recent finds from Noviodunum in Dobroudja (Baumann 2010, p. 123–126, figs. 9–12).

¹⁷ When it is found in fragmentary state this type of jug is often confused with the widespread Eastern Aegean trefoil-mouthed jug (cf. Robinson 1959, G 188, K 106, M 101). More details in Băjenaru 2013, p. 57–58.

Amphoras are also well-represented, with remarkable frequency of Pontic types. As is the case of group 2, the Heracleian type Zeest 64 / Kameneckij A / Šelov A / Vnukov S IVA₂ is predominant (nos. **111–120**, with a single piece – no. **117** – that could be considered transitional to Vnukov S IV B and therefore an indicator for a late 1st – first quarter of the 2nd century date)¹⁸. Nos. **121–136** are displaying many rims of different Pontic or related (local?) amphora types, among these one type being more frequent – Rădulescu 4c / Opaït III (nos. **125–129**, as well as no. **130**, probably an imitation). The fact that we do not have a closed context (and therefore the possibility of intrusiveness is not excluded for some pieces) leads us to treat with caution the Zeest 80 fragment (no. **137**), for which more reliable contexts are needed in order to be sure of its earlier dating. A rare find in the Pontic area (and in the Eastern Mediterranean also) is no. **139**, very probably a Lusitanian amphora of Dressel 14 type.

Dating elements are also two non-ceramic materials found in this context: the glass beaker no. **145**, dating no later than the mid-2nd century AD, and the fragmentary strongly-profiled brooch no. **146**, typical for the second half of the 1st and the early 2nd century AD.

It can be seen that the accumulation of material is mainly second half of the 1st century – early 2nd century AD, as shown by: Pontic beaker with barbotine decoration Žuravlev 32.5 (no. **76**), the Eastern sanded-ware cup (no. **84**), amphoras Zeest 82 / 82 similis? with rolled rim (nos. **121–124**) that have the closest parallels in Geto-Dacian settlements abandoned at the beginning of 2nd century, the almost exclusive presence of Heracleian amphoras type A and the absence of 2nd century type C. Evidence for a date in the first half of the 2nd century is ensured by the presence of some Pontic sigillata types which seems to begin at the limit of the 1st and 2nd century (Žuravlev 4.2 form, see no. **62**), the Sinopean mortarium (no. **110**) and the frequency of the amphora type Rădulescu 4c / Opaït III (nos. **125–129**), which now seems to be well attested in Dobroudja in the first half of the 2nd century. For the same period speak the close

¹⁸ The typical 2nd century variant Zeest 94 / Kameneckij C / Šelov C / Vnukov S IVC (c. 125 – end? of 2nd century AD after the last author) is totally absent.

parallels with the pottery from the construction fill of “Thermes II” at Histria (probably Hadrianic or slightly later) and the “early Hadrianic” fill of the C29 well at Troia/Ilion.

This context offered two Histrian autonomous coins: one is of Apollon/wreath type, dated to the 1st century BC – (first half?) 1st century AD and the other of Demeter/wreath type, dated to the second half of the 1st century BC – first quarter of the 1st century AD¹⁹.

Çandarli/Pergamene Sigillata

57. Saucer. D. 15; D.b. 9; H. 2.8. Light brown clay, mica, some white particles. Orange slip, glossy on interior, thinner and mostly dull on exterior.

Loeschcke 1912, p. 365–366, type 9a, Taf. XXVIII.

Frequent in the North-Eastern Aegean region: Akyürek 1992, p. 139, no. 46, Abb. 8 (“1. Jh. – 1. Hälfte 2. Jh.”); Hayes 1995, p. 194, no. 67, fig. 5 (from the “upper fills”, possibly later 1st century AD); Tekkök-Biçken 1996, p. 47, A85, fig. 16 (“Augustan”); Tekkök *et alii* 2001, p. 348–349, no. 2, pl. 1 (C29 well, “early Hadrianic” fill); Malamidou 2005, p. 30, nos. 75, 96, fig. 36 (wrongly considered ESB); Ladstätter 2005, p. 312, K 462, Taf. 177 (“frühes 2. Jh.”).

58. Saucer. D. 10; D.b. 7.3; H. 1.8. Brownish-orange clay with mica. Orange slip, glossy on interior, thin and mostly dull on exterior.

Same type as preceding, with a slightly different treatment of the rim.

Akyürek 1992, p. 139, nos. 42–45, Abb. 8 (“1. Jh. – 1. Hälfte 2. Jh.”); Tekkök-Biçken 1996, p. 92, C7, fig. 50 (second half of the 1st century AD context); Tekkök *et alii* 2001, p. 348–349, no. 1, pl. 1 (C29 well, “early Hadrianic” fill); Malamidou 2005, p. 32, no. 155, fig. 38 (wrongly considered ESB); Ladstätter 2005, p. 313, K 464, Taf. 177 (“frühes 2. Jh.”).

59. Deep bowl. D.b. 11. Pinkish-light brown clay with mica. Reddish-orange slip, glossy on interior, dull on exterior, absent beneath foot. Fine groove on floor.

Loeschcke 1912, type 28? (p. 378, Taf. XXVIII).

Closest parallel at Berenice: Kenrick 1985, p. 263, no. 369.4, fig. 47 (deposit 61 – third quarter of the 1st century AD, but considered possibly intrusive, from late 1st century, see p. 443–444).

Same treatment of the foot can be seen on Loeschcke types 21 (Tekkök *et alii* 2001, p. 350, no. 20, pl. 3, from “early Hadrianic” C29 well) and 26A (see no. 19 in group 2).

Pontic Sigillata

60. Dish. D. 19. Orange-brown clay, mica, rare white particles. Orange slip, lustrous, applied to the upper parts of both sides, with streaks leaking to lower parts.

Hayes 1985, form I, tav. XXII/6; Žuravlev 2010, p. 46–47, form 4.2, pls. 17–19 (c. 100–240/250 AD).

Cf. Krapivina 1993, p. 112, “tarelki” type 16b, fig. 51/33.

61. Dish. D. unknown. Light brown clay with mica. Orange slip, slightly lustrous, applied to interior and only under the rim to exterior.

Same type as 60.

62. Dish. D. 23. Light brown clay with mica. Red slip, slightly lustrous and sometimes discoloured brown on exterior, brown slip and glossy on interior.

Hayes 1985, form I, variant; Žuravlev 2010, p. 46–47, form 4.2, pls. 17–19 (c. 100–240/250 AD).

Close parallels at Histria (Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II”– phase I A, p. 99, no. 8, pl. 5) and Olbia (Krapivina 1993, p. 112, “tarelki” type 15a, fig. 51/20–23, 1st century AD).

63. Dish. D.b. 5.8. Light brown clay with mica. Reddish-brown slip on interior, lustrous. Two circular bands of rouletting decoration on floor.

Base of Hayes 1985, form I. Rouletting decoration on Kühnelt 2008, forms T–1b–II, T–1b–III and Žuravlev 2010, forms 1–4. Other examples from Histria at Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II”– phase I A, p. 101, nos. 34–36, pl. 5. See also bases from larger versions found at Troesmis (Opaiț 1980, p. 339, 359, nos. 86, 87, pl. XVII/1–2, first half of the 2nd century) and one entirely preserved dish in funerary context at (L)Ibida (Paraschiv *et alii* 2006, p. 402, no. 1, pl. 2/1, second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century).

64. Dish. D.b. 6.4. Orange-brown clay, mica, rare white particles. Slip of the same color as the clay, thin and lustrous, absent beneath foot. Three fine grooves and one circular band of rouletting on floor.

See no. 63.

65. Dish. D.b. 6.5. Pinkish-brown clay, mica, one accidental iron pellet (3 mm). Red slip on interior, slightly lustrous. Two circular bands of rouletting on floor.

See no. 63.

66. Dish. D. 13.5. Orange-brown clay, mica, rare fine white particles. Red slip, glossy, both on exterior and interior, discoloured black on the rim. Applied rosette on the rim.

Pontic imitation of Italian sigillata. Applied decoration typical for the Italian sigillata *Conspectus* 34 form, dating to the late Tiberian – Flavian periods. The same rosette appear as stamped motif on various ESB forms (58, 63, 65, 70, cf. Hayes 1985) and Pontic types (Žuravlev 2010, forms 2.1.1 and 2.2, dated to the last quarter of the 1st – beginning of the 2nd century AD, form 6.2 from the first quarter of the 2nd century, and also forms 11.1 and 11.2, dated to the first half of the 2nd century).

Rare form. Possible Western or North-Western (Olbian?) origin, judging from the parallels: Krapivina 1993, p. 112, “tarelki” type 12, fig. 51/6 (2nd century AD) and Žuravlev 2002, p. 270, fig. 36/3. Examples at Histria: Alexandrescu 1966, p. 212, T XXVII,12, pl. 100 (2nd century); Suceveanu 1982, p. 100, “Thermes II”– phase I A, nos. 13 (with applied double-S on rim) and 14, pl. 5.

67. Saucer. D. 11. Orange-brown clay with mica. Orange slip, slightly lustrous, applied both to interior and exterior, excepting the bottom, with some leaking streaks.

Žuravlev 2010, p. 53, form 12, nos. 146–148, pl. 22 (dated to the second half of the 1st century AD). Pontic imitation of Çandarli/Pergamene form Loeschcke 6 / Hayes L6 / Meyer-Schlichtmann T4 or maybe of ESB form Hayes 53.

An entirely preserved specimen was found in the Histrian necropolis: Alexandrescu 1966, p. 218–219, T XXV¹,1, pl. 101

¹⁹ MINAC numismatic cabinet inv. nos. 82.227 (Apollon/wreath) and 82.229 (Demeter/wreath). Identification and dating G. Talmățchi and D. Vasilescu.

(= Suceveanu 2000, type VI A, no.1, pl. 6), tomb dated by both authors to the first half of the 1st century AD, but probably rather later, from the second half of the 1st century.

68. Bowl. D. 19. Light brownish-orange clay, mica, rare fine white particles. Orange slip, slightly lustrous.

Cf. Kühnelt 2008, form S-4a (PS IV fabric, 1st century AD). For the rim treatment see Žuravlev 2010, form 17.1.1, no. 167, pl. 24 (end 1st – first half of the 2nd century).

69. Bowl. D. 19. Red-brick clay, mica, white particles, iron oxide. Dull red-brown slip on interior, brown-black and slightly lustrous on exterior.

Western Pontic fabric? Suceveanu 1982, p. 100, “Thermes II” – phase I A, nos. 24, 25, 28, 31, pl. 5. Cf. Kühnelt 2008, form S-1d, no. 223 (PS IV fabric, 1st century AD).

70. Bowl. D. 15.5. Pinkish-brown clay with mica. Orange slip, both on exterior and interior, lustrous. Deep groove below rim.

Krapivina 1993, p. 108, type 7b, fig. 46/20 (1st century – first half of the 2nd century AD); Sackett 1992, p. 224, T1, no. 11, pl. 169/11 (Trajanic deposit), p. 232, D3, no. 2, pl. 173/2 (Hadrianic deposit). See also Histrian finds at Suceveanu 1982, p. 100, “Thermes II” – phase IA, no. 21, pl. 5; Suceveanu 2000, p. 17–18, type IV, nos. 3 (with rouletting decoration) and 9 (later example, probably imitation in local Western-Pontic red-slip fabric), pl. 2.

71. Bowl, body-sherd. Beige-grey clay with mica. Brown slip with metallic sheen on interior, red and brown, slightly lustrous on the upper part of exterior, with streaks leading to the lower part. Deep rouletting.

Cf. Suceveanu 1982, p. 100, “Thermes II” – phase I A, no. 27, pl. 5 for the same treatment of the slip, by differential burning.

72. Bowl. D. 10.2. Brown clay, rare mica. Glossy orange-red slip on both sides.

Hayes 1985, form V. See references for no. 22 in group 2.

73. Bowl. D. unknown. Pinkish-brown clay, some white particles. Orange slip.

Same type as no. 72.

74. Bowl. D. est. 9.8. Lip missing. Brown clay with rare mica particles. Glossy orange-red slip on interior, brownish-red with brown discoloured parts on the upper part of the exterior.

Same type as no. 72.

75. Bowl. D. 18. Orange-brown clay with mica. Red slip, slightly lustrous, applied to both sides (discoloured black in the lower part of the rim on interior). Barbotine decoration.

Possible variant of Hayes 1985, form V. No parallels found.

76. Beaker. D. 8.4. Pinkish-brown clay, rare white particles. Orange slip on exterior and under the rim on interior (with streaks). Barbotine decoration.

Žuravlev 2010, form 32.5 (second half of the 1st – beginning of the 2nd century AD).

The form is attested at Noviodunum (Baumann 2010, nos. 12–13, fig. 4, 8, wrongly considered Asia Minor production) and (L)Ibida (Paraschiv *et alii* 2006, p. 403–404, no. 4, pl. 2/4, without decoration) in contexts dated to the second half of the 1st and first half of the 2nd century. This is one of the most frequently imported type in the Dacian settlement of Poiana-Piroboridava (Vulpe, Teodor 2003, p. 326, 328, nos. 829, 830, 849, figs. 238/5,6, 239/7; cf. Popescu 2009, p. 21, pl. 3/93, 150).

77. Cup. D. 18.2. Red-brick clay, mica, white particles. Red-brown slip on exterior, rather dull.

Western or North-Western Pontic fabric? See references for no. 25 in group 2.

Red slip-coated ware

78. Bowl. D. 26. Orange-buff clay, mica, white limestone particles (0–2 mm) erupting from surface. Red slip, dull, rim discoloured brown on exterior.

Suceveanu 2000, type VI A, p. 32, no. 30, pl. 8.

79. Bowl. D. 27. Brown clay with mica particles. Red-brown slip, dull, brown discoloured parts on exterior. Two more fragments of the same type.

Suceveanu 2000, type VI A. See nos. 27–29 in group 2.

80. Jug?/Jar? D. 12.5. Dark beige clay, mica, white particles. Dull red-brown slip on exterior and below rim on interior, some brown discoloured parts.

Krapivina 1993, p. 118, “kuvšiny” type 7, fig. 61/4. Cf. Kozal 2001, p. 330, no. 50, pl. 7 (white slipped, 1st century AD). A possible later evolution (c. 170–250 AD): Suceveanu 1982, p. 97, “Thermes I” – phase I C, no. 18, pl. 3 (= Suceveanu 2000, p. 157, type XLVIII, no. 5, pl. 74).

81. Jug. D. 9.8. Light brown clay, mica, rare white particles. Dull brown slip on exterior and below rim on interior, some discoloured dark brown parts.

82. Jug, mouth missing. D. unknown. Light brown clay, mica, rare white particles. Brown slip, frequently discoloured dark brown-black, applied to exterior and the upper part of the mouth on interior.

Possible connection with no. 81 (same fabric).

Fine grey ware with black gloss

83. Platter. D. unknown. Fine grey clay, micaceous. Black gloss on interior and on rim. Exterior polished. Molded rim, with fine rouletting.

Residual fragment.

Product of Ephesos region: cf. Hayes 2008, p. 60, 213, no. 908, fig. 29 (“late 1st c. BC to early 1st c. AD?”); Kenrick 1985, p. 51 ff., B 73.2, fig. 9, pl. III (“the earliest contexts in which sherds of this ware were found were Tiberian”).

Thin-walled ware

84. Cup. D. 8.7. Light brown clay, mica, white particles. Slip of the same color as the body clay, slightly metallic sheen on interior. Fine sand in “rough-cast” technique applied to exterior. One “sliced” handle preserved, but probably two-handled.

Eastern Aegean (probably Knidian). Closest parallel at Troia: S. Heath, B. Tekkök, *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Pottery at Ilios (Troia)*, section “Early Roman thin-walled wares” (online at <http://classics.uc.edu/troy/grbpottery/html/r-tw-early.html>), no. 2 (= B. Tekkök, RCRF Acta 38, 2003, no. 29 – *non vidi*), dated “early to mid 1st c. AD”.

Cf. other Eastern products (different forms): Hayes 1973, p. 463, no. 199 (cup), 200 (mug), pl. 90 (third quarter of the 1st century AD); Gebhard *et alii* 1998, p. 446, no. 2, fig. 14 (mug, c. 50–75 AD).

- 85.** Mug. D.b. 3.4. Beige clay, mica, exterior fired black. North-Eastern Aegean (“Thracian mug”). See references for no. 34 in group 2.
- 86.** Mug. D.b. 3.6. Light brown clay with mica. North-Eastern Aegean (“Thracian mug”). See no. 85.
- 87.** Mug. D.b. 3.8. Light brown clay, porous, micaceous, white particles. Local?
- 88.** Mug. D.b. 3.8. Reddish-brown clay, mica, white particles. Dull red slip on exterior, with streaks leaking to the inferior part. Local.
- 89.** Beaker? (miniature bowl?). D.b. 3.3. Light brown clay, mica. Dull red slip on exterior, with streaks leaking to the inferior part. Probably a local imitation of Çandarlı/Pergamene ware (see the molded base similar to Loeschke forms 15 and 19).
- 90.** Mug. D.b. 4.5. Grey clay with mica particles (reduction firing). Exterior polished. Local. Treatment of the bottom very similar to an imitation of the mug type “a collarino” (light-yellowish clay and dull, yellowish-brown slip), found in a 2nd century tomb from the Histrian necropolis (Coja 1974, p. 40, fig. 2/3, pl. 1/4 = Suceveanu 2000, p. 105, no. 37, pl. 43).

Common ware

- 91.** Trefoil-mouthed jug, mouth missing. D. unknown. Red-brown clay, mica, white particles. Exterior fired grey, semivitrified aspect. North-Eastern Aegean (Thracian). Same fabric as the so-called “Thracian mug”. Probably belongs to the early variant, with tall neck, for which see the complete examples found at Tomis (Stoian 1962, fig. 2, low left) and in the Crimean necropolis Zavetnoe-Alma Kermen (Kühnelt 2008, p. 99–100, 208, nos. 143–144, Form O–3)²⁰, the last one certainly dated to the 1st century AD. See also the fragments discovered in dated layers at Corinth (Hayes 1973, p. 466, no. 235, pl. 79/d – contexts of c. 55–70 AD; Warner-Slane 1990, p. 100, 102–104, no. 214, fig. 25, “middle to third quarter of the 1st c.”). During the 2nd and 3rd centuries its body becomes taller and the neck is shorter (Rădulescu 1975, p. 341, type 10, pl. VIII/2; Warner-Slane 1990, p. 100, 104, nos. 215, 216, fig. 25; Băjenaru 2013, p. 57–58, nos. 48–50, with extensive bibliography). Frequently found at Troia/Ilion, in both earlier and later variants: Tekkök-Biçken 1996, p. 122, F32, F33, fig. 88, 2nd–3rd century; Kozal 2001, p. 336, no. 137, pl. 8; Tekkök *et alii* 2001, p. 358, no. 109, pl. 10, C29 well, “early Hadrianic” fill). In the Northern Aegean area is attested at Abdera (Malamidou 2005, p. 68, no. 1617, fig. 105, wrongly considered Eastern Aegean type). See below no. 155 in group 4.
- 92.** Jug with two handles. D. 8.3. Brown clay, micaceous, rare white and iron oxide particles. Beige slip. Another small fragment of the same type has a red slip.
- 93.** Crater? D. 20. Brown clay, fine, porous, micaceous, black particles. Smoothed exterior. Secondary burning.
- 94.** Deep bowl. D. 18. Light reddish-brown clay, mica, rare white particles. Beige-light brown slip. Suceveanu 2000, type X B, nos. 5, 7, 8, pls. 11, 12.
- 95.** Basin? D. 23. Brown clay, sandy, rare mica and quartz crystals, white particles. Beige-yellowish slip.

Cooking ware

- 96.** Casserole. D. 21. Red-brown clay, micaceous. Exterior fired grey. Secondary burning. Phocaeen. Sackett 1992, p. 237, D4, no. 22, pl. 176 (Hadrianic deposit); Tekkök *et alii* 2001, p. 356, no. 80, pl. 8 (C29 well, “early Hadrianic” fill).
- 97.** Casserole. D. 20. Brown clay, mica, white particles. Secondary burning. Local?
- 98.** Pot. D. 14. Beige clay, kaolinitic, mica, black particles. Exterior fired brown. Secondary burning. Local.
- 99.** Pot (mug?). D. 10.5. Light beige clay, kaolinitic, mica, quartz?, black particles. Exterior fired light brown. Local. Possible imitation in coarse ware of the thin-walled mug type “a collarino” (see “Thracian mug” no. 34 in group 2).
- 100.** Pot. D. 13. Grey clay with gravel inclusions and mica particles. Local.
- 101.** Pot. D.b. 9.3. Reddish-brown clay, mica and quartz particles, abundant gravel inclusions. Exterior fired grey-brown. Local.
- 102.** Large bowl. D. 27. Grey-brown clay, mica, gravels. Secondary burning. Preserved fragment of an applied lump of clay under the rim. Local. Probably an early version of a type frequently found in 2nd–3rd century layers (Suceveanu 2000, type XIII, pl. 16, 17).
- 103.** Dish/casserole? D. 22.5. Brown clay (grey core), mica, gravels, rare iron oxide particles. Secondary burning. Aegean? Cf. Meriç 2002, p. 105, K 647a, Taf. 54 (context D1, “flavisch”); Ladstätter 2010, p. 244, A–K 537, Taf. 92 (c. 50–75 AD), p. 250, A–K 613, Taf. 97 (second half of the 1st century).
- 104.** Frying-pan. D. 30. Fine micaceous brown clay, porous. Secondary burning. Suceveanu 2000, p. 92, type XXVI, no. 6, pl. 36 (2nd–3rd centuries); Krapivina 1993, p. 103, “skovorody” type 1a, fig. 36/2, 3 (1st–3rd centuries).

Hand-made ware

- Getic tradition. Nos. **105–106** bases of the so-called “jar-pot”, no. **107** probably a beaker, nos. **108–109** imitations of Roman cooking wares.
- 105.** Pot. D.b. 7. Brown clay (fired grey towards interior), rare gravels. Secondary burning.
- 106.** Pot. D.b. 10. Brown clay (fired grey towards interior), mica, gravels.
- 107.** Beaker? D.b. 4.7. Brown clay (fired grey towards interior), gravel inclusions. Secondary burning.

²⁰ Chemical analysis established a certain non-pontic origin, most probably Aegean (Kühnelt 2008, p. 100, 208).

- 108.** Lid? D. 24. Grey-brown clay with gravels. Secondary burning.
- 109.** Cooking dish. D. 24. Grey-brown clay, rare mica, rare gravel inclusions. Secondary burning.

Mortaria

- 110.** Mortarium. Rim broken. D. 36. Light brown clay (grey core), pyroxene, quartz, rare iron oxide.
Southern Pontic (probably Sinopean). Closest parallels in the Eastern Pontus (Apsaros): Kakhidze 2008, p. 316, 328 with note 43, fig. 23 (end 1st – first half of the 2nd century AD); Inaishvili, Khalvashi 2010, p. 502, fig. 9/4–6. See also an Eastern Aegean slipped variant from Miletos: Pülz 1986, p. 16, nos. 32, 33, Abb. 12 ("Heroon I", first half or maybe early 2nd century context). For the Hellenistic tradition cf. KašaeV 2002, p. 175–176, C 224, pl. 101.

Amphoras: Southern Pontic (Heraclea)

Typology: Zeest 1960, p. 110, type 64, T. XXVIII; Kameneckij 1963, p. 30, type A, fig. 6/1–14; Šelov 1986, p. 395–396, type A, fig. 1; Vnukov 2003, p. 118–128, type S IVA (variant 1, c. 25/30 – 75/80 AD, variant 2, c. 50/60 – 100 AD). Cf. Vnukov 2004, p. 412–415, fig. 7 (short synthesis) and Vnukov 2006 (petrography, chronology, distribution).

Numerous parallels in the Black Sea area and the Lower Danube: Arsen'eva *et alii* 1997, p. 188, fig. 7, 8 (Heraclea); Dyczek 2001, type 28b, p. 202 ff. (with bibliography); Paraschiv 2002, type 3A, p. 170, pl. 1/5–7, 2/8–9 (with bibliography); Golofast 2010, p. 85–86, figs. 4, 5/1–8, 6 (Panticapaeum, 1st century – first half of the 2nd century); Naumenko 2012, p. 64–65, figs. 2/6, 7, 9 and 3/5, 7 (Tanais and surroundings, 1st century – first half of the 2nd century AD). See also in the Histrian necropolis: Alexandrescu 1966, p. 198, T XXX, 6–8, pl. 99 (second half of the 1st century AD) and in the Dacian sites on the Siret valley: Opaït 2012, p. 456–457, subtypes I D/E and I E, figs. 16–17 (Răcătău, late 1st – early 2nd century AD).

- 111.** Amphora. D. 6.9. Beige-yellowish clay with pyroxene.
Rim form: Vnukov 2003, fig. 48/8; Golofast 2010, fig. 5/3.
- 112.** Amphora, neck fragment. Same fabric as 111.
- 113.** Amphora, handle fragment. Same fabric as 111.
- 114.** Amphora. D. 6.4. Same fabric as 111.
Rim form: Kameneckij 1963, fig. 6/1; Vnukov 2003, fig. 48/2; Golofast 2010, fig. 5/1.
- 115.** Amphora. D. 7.6. Same fabric as 111.
Probably Vnukov 2003, variant S IVA₁. Rim form: Kameneckij 1963, fig. 6/3.
- 116.** Amphora. D. 7.2. Same fabric as 111.
Rim form: Vnukov 2003, fig. 48/1.
- 117.** Amphora. D. 6.5. Same fabric as 111.
Rim form probably transitional between Vnukov S IVA and S IVB. Cf. Kameneckij 1963, fig. 6/2, 4; Paraschiv 2002, p. 195, pl. 1/7 (Isaccea-Suhat, context of 1st century AD); Golofast 2010, p. 85, fig. 4/8–10 (context of 1st century – first half of the 2nd century AD).
- 118.** Amphora. D.b. 5.7. Same fabric as 111.
Cf. Kameneckij 1963, fig. 6/10; Vnukov 2003, fig. 47/3.

- 119.** Amphora. D.b. 5.8. Same fabric as 111.
Cf. Golofast 2010, fig. 6/7–10.
- 120.** Amphora. D.b. 4.5. Same fabric as 111.
Cf. Kameneckij 1963, fig. 6/12.

Amphoras: various types, mostly Pontic

- 121.** Amphora. D. 14.5. Light reddish-brown clay, mica, white particles, rare iron oxide. Beige coating on exterior.
Pontic, unknown type.
- 122.** Amphora. D. 20. Light orange-brown clay, sandy, mica, rare white particles.
Pontic, unknown type.
Cf. Suceveanu 1982, "Thermes I" – phase I B, no. 8, pl. 2; Ursachi 1995, p. 210, pls. 179/10, 183/13 (layers III and IV, end of the 1st century BC – 1st / early 2nd century AD).
- 123.** Amphora. D. 17.5. Brown-brick clay, mica, white particles, iron oxide. Exterior fired red-brick.
Pontic: Opaït 1987a, p. 247, type I, fig. 2/1 (Troesmis, 2nd century AD), but see also p. 247–248, type II, figs. 2/2–5 (Poiana) and 2/6 (Aegyssus) (1st century AD). Cf. Suceveanu 1982, "Thermes II" – phase I A, no. 70, pl. 6; Ursachi 1995, p. 210, pl. 183/14 (layer IV, second half of the 1st – early 2nd century AD); Bogdan-Cătănicu, Barnea 1979, p. 181, N II (3.2), fig. 144 (2nd century AD).
- 124.** Amphora. D. 17.5. Light brown clay (grey core), mica, white particles. Rim fired dark-brown.
Variant of nos. 121–123?
- 125.** Amphora. D. 17.5. Brick-red clay, mica and quartz, numerous white particles, rare iron oxide. Exterior fired reddish- or dark brown.
Rădulescu 1976, type 4c / Opaït 1987a, type III.
To the older example found at Straja, in the territory of Tomis (Rădulescu 1976, p. 104, pl. 4/2, 2a; Opaït 1987a, p. 251, fig. 5/1a–b), new examples could be added from Histria (Suceveanu 1982, "Thermes II" – phase I A, p. 102, no. 71, pl. 6), Arrubium (Paraschiv 2004, p. 144, pl. II/6, middle of the 2nd century) and (L)ibida (Opaït, Paraschiv 2012, p. 114–115, figs. 2, 3). This amphora is also attested in Dacian fortresses on the Siret Valley (Ursachi 1995, p. 210, pl. 182/4, layer III, end of the 1st century BC – first half of the 1st century AD; see also Opaït 2012, p. 465, with references)²¹.
- In the North-Pontic region it occurs at Panticapaeum (Golofast 2010, p. 90, figs. 11/9–10 and 26/20–22, dated in context of 1st century – first half of the 2nd century and residual in the first half of the 3rd century layer) and Tanais (Arsen'eva, Naumenko 2001, p. 60–61, fig. 16/4–6 (first half of the 2nd century); Naumenko 2012, p. 65–66, figs. 2/11, 3/6, 7/7, second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century). One variant with a slightly modified rim in the necropolis "Sovhoz 10" near Chersonesos (Strželeckij *et alii* 2003–2004, p. 72–73, type XVII, pl. VIII/6, "urn 117", in association with ESB cup Hayes form 70, dated c. 75–125 AD).
- 126.** Amphora. D. 21. Beige-light brown clay, mica, quartz, numerous white particles, rare iron oxide. One more example in light brown clay.
Same type as the preceding.

²¹ The type is also documented in the recent excavations at Ulmetum, in contexts dated to the first half of the 2nd c. AD.

127. Amphora. D. 16. Light brown clay, mica, rare quartz, white particles (including limestone), sandy aspect, rare iron oxide.

Same type as no. 125, smaller capacity. Rim very similar to a rare discovery at Pompeii (Timby 2004, p. 388, fig. 6/6).

128. Amphora. D. 13.8. Brown clay, mica and quartz, rare white particles, some gravel inclusions. Interior and the rim fired brown-red. One more example in beige-light brown clay.

Same type as no. 125, smaller capacity. Similar fabric to no. 129.

129. Amphora. D. 16.8. Brown clay, mica and quartz, rare white particles, some gravel inclusions.

Similar fabric to no. 128 above.

Variant of nos. 125–128? or more probably type Aegyssus IB (cf. Opaïț 2012, p. 463, fig. 28). Rim form: Ursachi 1995, pl. 175/4 (layer IV, second half of the 1st – early 2nd century AD).

130. Amphora. D. 16.5. Brick-brown clay, extremely sandy, mica, numerous white particles, iron oxide. Rim and upper part of the neck on interior fired brownish-red to dark-brown.

Imitation of nos. 125–128 or different workshop. Very close to Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes I”– phase I A, no. 46, pl. 2. Cf. Ursachi 1995, p. 210, pl. 183/24.

131. Amphora. D. 18. Brick clay, mica, numerous white particles, rare small gravel inclusions. Exterior fired pinkish-red.

Rădulescu 1976 type 4a / Opaïț 1987a type II.

Rim form very close to the Tomitan example published by Rădulescu 1976, p. 103–104, pl. III/3–3a.

132. Amphora. D. 11. Dark brown clay, rare mica and quartz, white particles, iron oxide. Possible traces of white paint on exterior.

Rim form related to Zeest type 76, fabric and treatment of the body close to Zeest 72 (“Myrmekion type”).

133. Amphora. D. 13. Brick clay, rare mica and white particles, iron oxide.

Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II”– phase I A, no. 67, pl. 6; Ursachi 1995, p. 210, pl. 183/21 (layer IV, second half of the 1st – early 2nd century AD); Arsen’eva, Naumenko 2001, p. 60–61, fig. 17/3 (first half of the 2nd century). Cf. Zeest 1960, p. 114, type 77 j, T. XXXII.

134. Amphora. D. 17.8. Red-brick clay, golden mica, numerous white particles, rare iron oxide.

Cf. Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II”– phase I A, no. 69, pl. 6.

Similar fabric to no. 140 below.

135. Amphora. D. 13. Brown clay (grey-brown core), white particles, rare mica, iron oxide.

Pontic, unknown type.

136. Table-pitcher. D. 9.6. Brick clay, mica, white particles, iron oxide. So-called “amphoroidal jug”. Two other small fragments in this group. See references for nos. 51–52 in group 2.

137. Amphora. D. 15.5. Orange-buff clay, mica, rare white particles. Intrusive?

Zeest 1960, type 80.

Type frequently found in late 2nd and 3rd century contexts (Robinson 1959, p. 69, K 115, pl. 14; Williams, Zervos 1983, p. 15, no. 27, pl. 7; Golofast 2010, fig. 26/1–8). Rare finds from 1st–2nd centuries dated contexts. The reference to the 1st

century finds from Apollonia in Illyricum (Zeest 1960, p. 115, n. 323) is not verified. If the interpretation of graffiti encountered in the Athenian Agora indicate the possible production in late 1st and 2nd century AD (Lang 1955, p. 281–282, nos. 28–35; Robinson 1959, p. 69, P21330, pl. 40), then it is possible that our sherd belongs to this group and it is not intrusive.

Amphoras: uncertain origin

138. Amphora. D. 12.5. Beige clay, mica, rare white particles. Intrusive?

139. Amphora. D. 22. Light reddish-brown clay, sandy, mica, black and white particles.

Lusitanian? Possible type Dressel 14: Raposo 1990, p. 125, figs. 29–33 (“Porto dos Cacos” workshop); Fabião 2008, p. 729, 733, fig. 8 (Pinheiro workshop). Cf. Raposo 2012, p. 102, fig. 18 (1st–2nd century AD).

Rim form very close to a sherd from Sirmium (Brukner 1981, p. 124, T. 162/63, identified as a Spanish Dressel 20 form, unfortunately no description and no scale given). This type is imported in the 2nd century AD at Elaiussa Sebaste in Cilicia (Ferrazzoli 2010, p. 43, fig. 21, middle up).

Fabric close to no. 49 in group 2.

Amphoras: base fragments

140. Amphora, base fragment. Red-brick clay, golden mica, white particles, rare iron oxide.

Pontic. Fabric similar to no. 134.

141. Amphora, base fragment. Red-brick clay (grey core), rare golden mica.

Pontic.

142. Amphora, base fragment. Brown clay, mica, rare iron oxide.

Varia

143. Weight. D. 6.3/6.7. Beige clay, rare mica and quartz particles, some gravel inclusions.

144. Loom-weight. D. 3.5. Brown clay with mica particles.

145. Glass beaker. D.b. 5.2. Base with thick solid rounded knob on inside. Opaque green colour.

Isings 1957, form 34 or related. Variants with thick knobbed base. Cf. Rütli 1991, p. 44, AR 37.1, nos. 1138–1144, Taf. 49 (“tiberisch/clauidisch bis 2. Jh.”).

Hayes 1975, p. 56, no. 133, fig. 5 (Isings 34, mid 1st century AD) and p. 56–57, no. 136, fig. 5 (“probably late 1st – early 2nd c. AD”); Lightfoot, Arslan 1992, p. 66, no. 25 (Isings 34, second half of the 1st century AD); Whitehouse 1997, p. 227, 365, no. 384 (Isings 34, 1st century AD) and p. 227–228, 365, no. 386 (“late 1st to mid–2nd c.”). See also an example from Odessos: Minčev 1988, type XII, p. 42–43, 55, no. 25, Tabl. V (dated “1st–2nd c.”). Another variant in a tumular tomb at Bărăganu, in the territory of Tomis: Irimia 1987, p. 122, fig. 4/2 (second half of the 1st – early 2nd century AD).

146. Strongly-profiled brooch, fragmentary (missing foot, spring broken). L. 2.9. Bronze, with iron spring.

“Danubian-pontic” type.

Cociș 2004, p. 42–44, 166, type 6b2, nos. 31–39, pl. III (second half of the 1st – early 2nd century); Nuțu 2009, p. 184–185, pl. III/10–11.

GROUP 4

The fourth group comprises 14 fragments found in two limited soundings²² in the interior of the apsis of Basilica C. This stratigraphic unit is sealed by a consistent layer dated in the second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd century AD. I decided to publish this small group, based on obvious analogies with material from groups 2 and 3, and to illustrate some rare forms at Histria, such as the “Pompeian red” ware (no. 158). It can be seen the constant presence of collarino-type mugs (nos. 152–154) of North-Eastern Aegean (Thracian) production, here in context with a fragmentary lower part of the trefoil-mouthed jug with the same fabric (no. 155), and also the continuity of production for the local (?) skyphoi of Pergamenian tradition (no. 151). Datation for this group is only tentative, eventually late 1st – first half (or just first quarter) of the 2nd century AD. Future extension of the excavations is needed to provide additional material and concrete data on this small group belonging to a habitation layer that can be certainly attributed to Early Roman buildings in the central sector.

- 147.** Bowl. D. 11. Light brown clay with mica. Reddish-brown slip, with slightly metallic sheen, rim discoloured dark brown on exterior.
Pontic sigillata (Hayes 1985, form V).
See references for no. 22 in group 2.
- 148.** Dish. D. 20. Light brown clay, micaceous, rare white particles. Orange-brown slip, dull, applied to exterior.
Imitation of Pontic sigillata in (local?) red-slip coated ware. See Žuravlev 2010, p. 44–45, form 3.1.1, nos. 88–90, pl. 15 (last quarter of the 1st – early 2nd century).
- 149.** Bowl. D. 24. Light brown clay, porous, mica, rare white particles. Red slip-coating on exterior.
Local red slip-coated.
Suceveanu 2000, p. 35–36, type VII, nos. 1–6, pl. 10 (1st–3rd centuries).
- 150.** Crater. D. 18. Light brown clay, mica, rare white particles.
Red slip on the rim and red-brown on exterior, dull.
Local red slip-coated.
Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II”– phase I A, p. 101, no. 50, pl. 6.
- 151.** Skyphos. D. 7.4; D.m. 8.6. Orange-light brown, mica, rare white and black inclusions. Dull red-brown slip on exterior and under the rim on interior.
Local red slip-coated. Probably later products of imitations inspired by 1st century BC – 1st century AD Pergamene ware (Meyer-Schlichtmann 1988, types S8, S9).

Alexandrescu 1966, p. 199, T XXX,11–12, pl. 99 (second half of the 1st century AD), p. 202, T XXXVI,1–2, pl. 99 (tomb dated to the second half of the 1st century, but in my point of view an early 2nd century could not be excluded), p. 208, T XXIV,13, pl. 100 (2nd century AD). See other Histrian examples at Suceveanu 2000, p. 84 ff., type XXIII, pls. 33–34 passim. One piece in a Callatian tomb dated to the end of 1st century – 2nd century AD (Chelută-Georgescu 1974, M9, p. 182–183, pl. 6/6) was found in association with Pontic sigillata cup Hayes VIII with barbotine decoration (see our rouletting decorated specimen above no. 25 in group 2).

- 152.** Mug. D. 9.6. Brown clay, mica, rare white particles.
Exterior fired dark grey-black.
“Collarino” type, North-Eastern Aegean (Thracian).
See references for no. 34 in group 2.
- 153.** Mug. D.b. 3.7. Brown clay, mica, white particles. Exterior fired dark grey.
Same type as the preceding.
- 154.** Mug. D.b. 4.1. Reddish-brown clay, mica, white particles.
Exterior fired grey.
Same type as no. 152.
- 155.** Jug. D.m. 17; D.b. 4.1. Brown clay, mica, white particles.
Exterior fired grey, with semivitrified portions.
Trefoil-mouthed jug, North-Eastern Aegean (Thracian).
See references for no. 91 in group 3.
- 156.** Pot. D. 11. Light brown clay, with mica and gravel inclusions.
Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II”– phase I A, p. 101, no. 56, pl. 6.
- 157.** Pot. D. 11.5. Brown clay, micaceous, quartz, rare white and black particles. Secondary burning.
Suceveanu 1982, “Thermes II” – phase I A, p. 101, no. 45, pl. 6.
- 158.** Baking dish. D. est. 60. Brown clay, mica, crushed quartz, gravels, white particles. Thick red slip on interior and on the rim. Secondary burning.
“Pompeian red” ware (cf. Goudineau 1970, p. 166, form 4, pl. I). Probably Eastern workshops.
Closest parallel at Olbia: Krapivina 1993, p. 103, “skovorody” type 1b, fig. 36/5 (with a large time span, 1st–3rd centuries AD). Cf. Sackett 1992, p. 168, fig. 3/1 (cf. p. 189, deposit A2, no. 84a, Augustan period) and fig. 3/10 (deposit U, no. 70, mixed context); Ladstätter 2010, p. 238, A–K 472, Taf. 87 (context c. 50–75 AD).
- 159.** Casserole. D. 24. Brown clay, mica, white particles.
Exterior and interior fired grey-brown. Secondary burning.
Aegean/Phocaeen? cooking ware.
Cf. Krapivina 1993, p. 101–102, “kastrili” type 3, fig. 33/8 (date uncertain).
- 160.** Basin? D. 27.5. Dark brown-grey clay with abundant flakes of golden mica, rare gravel inclusions. Secondary burning.
Pontic (local?). No parallels found.

CONCLUSIONS

As has been noted above, a lot of pieces from groups 2–4 from the central sector find good parallels in phase I A discerned at “Thermes II” sector, but

²² 2002 / α' (interior absis) / –0.50–0.65/0.70 and 2003 / β' (interior absis) / –0.50–0.65.

obviously with more pieces datable to the second half of the 1st century in our groups.

Phase I A at Histria, traditionally dated in the 1st century AD, is known only by the pottery from excavations of the two thermal edifices ("Thermes I" and "Thermes II"). But it must be stressed here that, in both two cases, there are no examples datable with certainty before the late 1st century – early 2nd century. More than the published material from "Thermes I"²³, the pottery illustrated by Al. Suceveanu for "Thermes II" is fairly homogenous and rather can be dated to the late 1st – first half of the 2nd century²⁴. The 1st – early 2nd century AD Pergamene ware²⁵ is lacking, also Pontic sigillata forms that could be certainly dated before the last quarter of the 1st century. There are no published contexts at Histria that could be dated between the late 1st century BC and first half / third quarter of the 1st century AD, apart from our group 1.

Based on these preliminary observations, the first phase of Roman period at Histria must be divided hypothetically in two distinct periods: I A–1, between late 1st century BC – middle/third quarter of the 1st century AD (Augustan and Julio-Claudian periods) and IA–2, between the middle/third quarter of the 1st – first quarter/middle of the 2nd century (Flavian and early Antonine periods). Anyway, we need more reliable contexts for the early period, both for the beginning and the end of it, and I think that the excavations in the Sacred Area could better explain in the future the transition from Hellenistic to Roman period at Histria. The key point for dating the end of phase IA is the chronology of the area enclosed by the Early Roman wall (which is the starting point for phase I B). Until now we have very little conclusive

²³ Contexts belonging to phase I A here are poorly dated by pottery and much more by architectural observations. The illustrated pieces in Suceveanu 1982, pls. 1–2 are very heterogeneous, with a high degree of intrusive material of later date (second half of the 2nd – 3rd century and even 4th century!; see e.g. nos. 13, 16–19, 30, 48).

²⁴ Cf. Suceveanu 1982, p. 30, where it is stated that the latest materials from the levelling fill (which is in fact a construction fill) are dated end 1st – early 2nd century AD.

²⁵ The Çandarlı bowl form Hayes 3 published in Suceveanu 1982, "Thermes II" – phase I A, nr. 11 pl. 5, typical for the second half of the 2nd and 3rd c., is obviously an intrusive material (it was found in S I, –0.60 context, which obviously belongs to an upper layer, probably I C). It was erroneously placed by the author in the repertory of phase I A, probably thinking that it belongs to this phase but moved to the upper levels (probably in the same situation is no. 17, pl. 5).

evidences on the construction of the city-wall and of "Thermes II", the two coins of Hadrian²⁶ being only a *terminus post quem*. But the needed synchronisation between layers identified in different places inside the Early Roman city is missing, due to the insufficient processing of material from older excavations (M. Coja or H. Nubar) and the lack of unique methodology in the new ones ("Basilica extra-muros" and "Poarta Mare-Turnul Mare")²⁷.

The chronological framework established by Al. Suceveanu was a great step forward to understand the development of Roman Histria, but this must not be treated as a handbook. A correct methodological approach, with more attention to the processing of ceramic material, which in many cases is more reliable than the numismatic one, can contribute to the refinement of this chronology and lead to a correct interpretation of the stratigraphic units.

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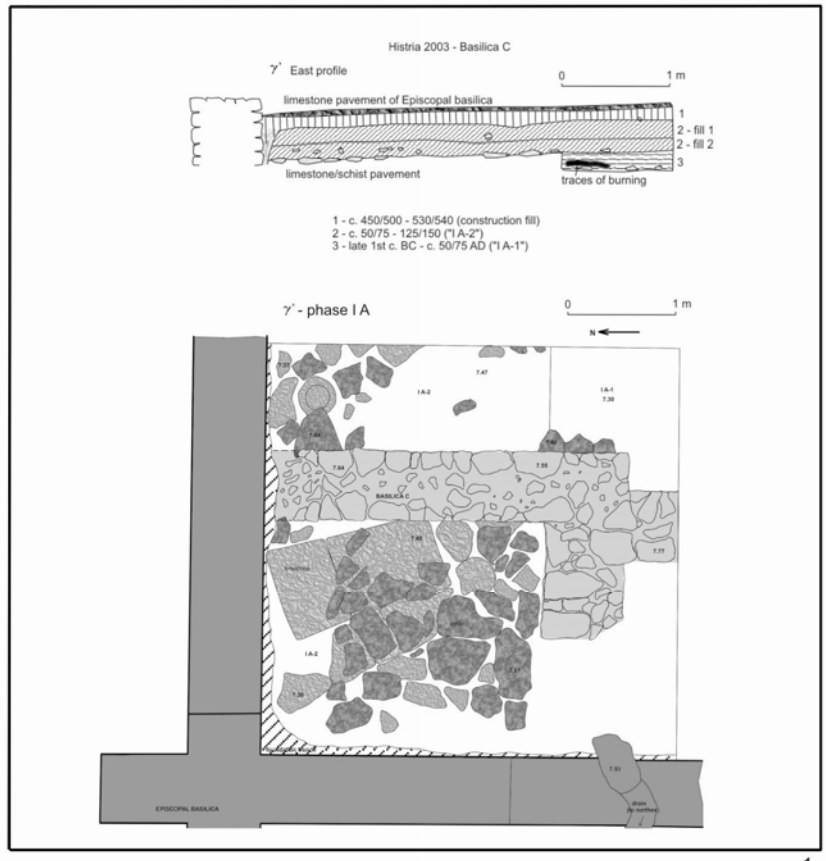
²⁶ Suceveanu 1982, p. 32, n. 79 ("Thermes II" – coin of Hadrian, dated 125–128, found "dans le paroi du canal β") and p. 79, n. 64 (dating of the Early Roman wall with a coin of Hadrian "découverte contre la plinthe de ce mur").

²⁷ See for example Rusu-Bolindeț, Bădescu 2003–2005, p. 125–127, with the interesting layer I A–B, largely dated c. 30/20 BC – 170 AD.

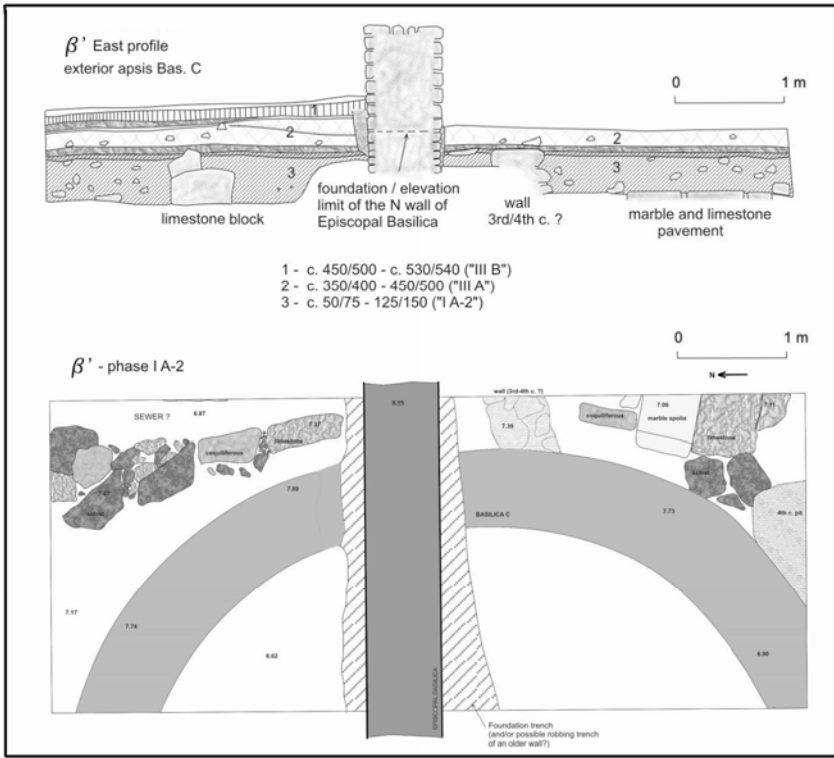
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Fig. 1. – 1 – Area γ'; 2 – Area β'.

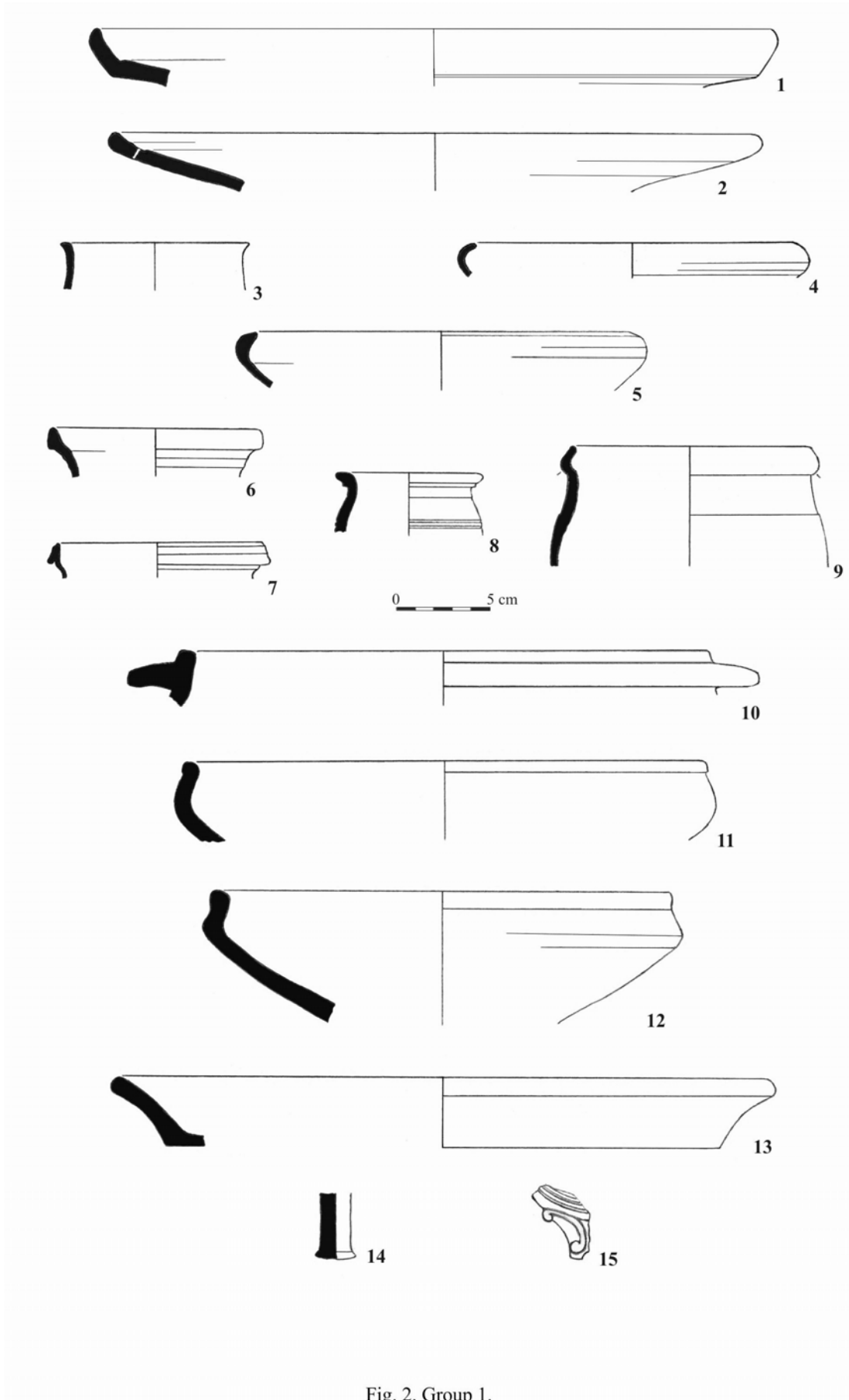


Fig. 2. Group 1.

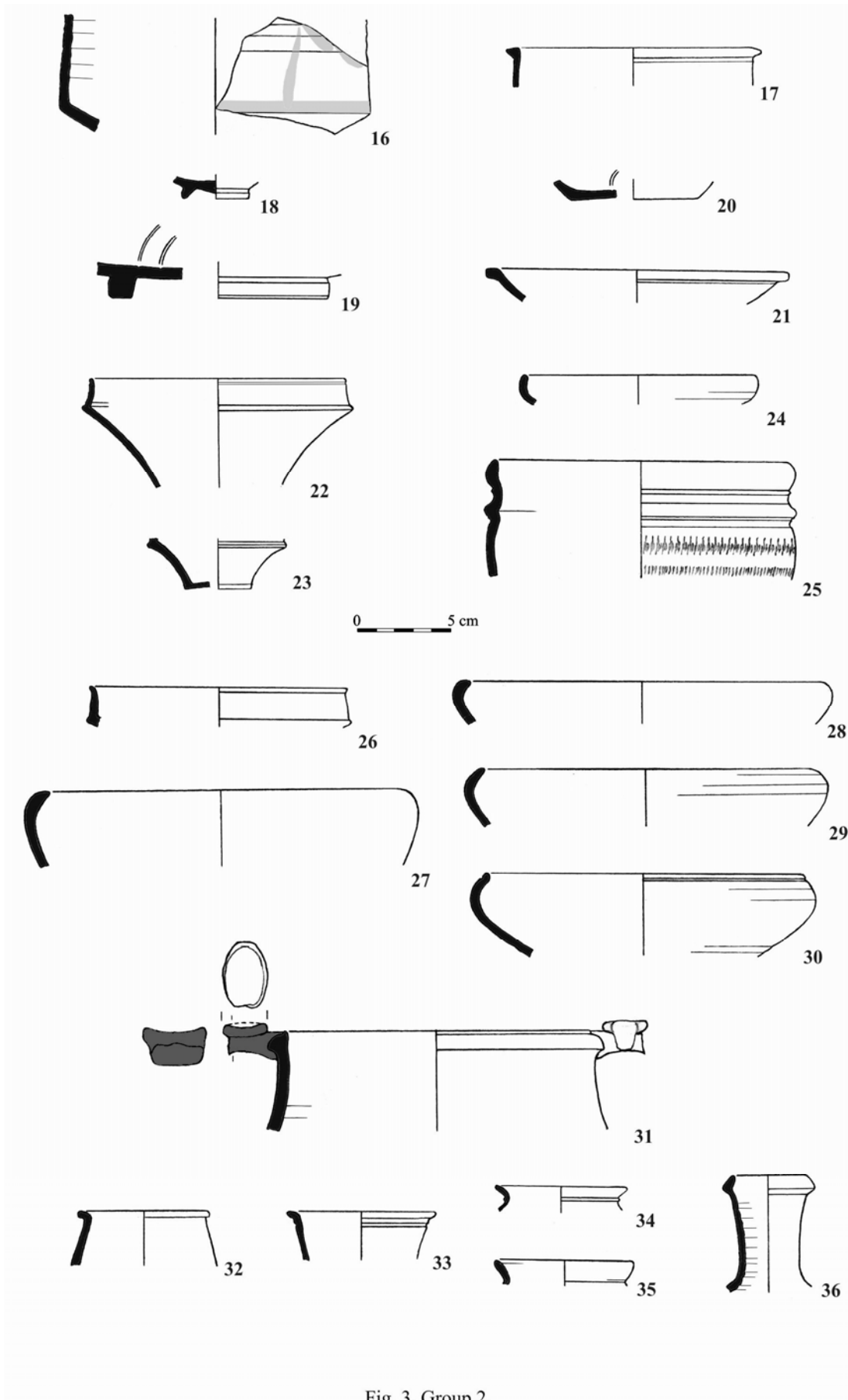


Fig. 3. Group 2.

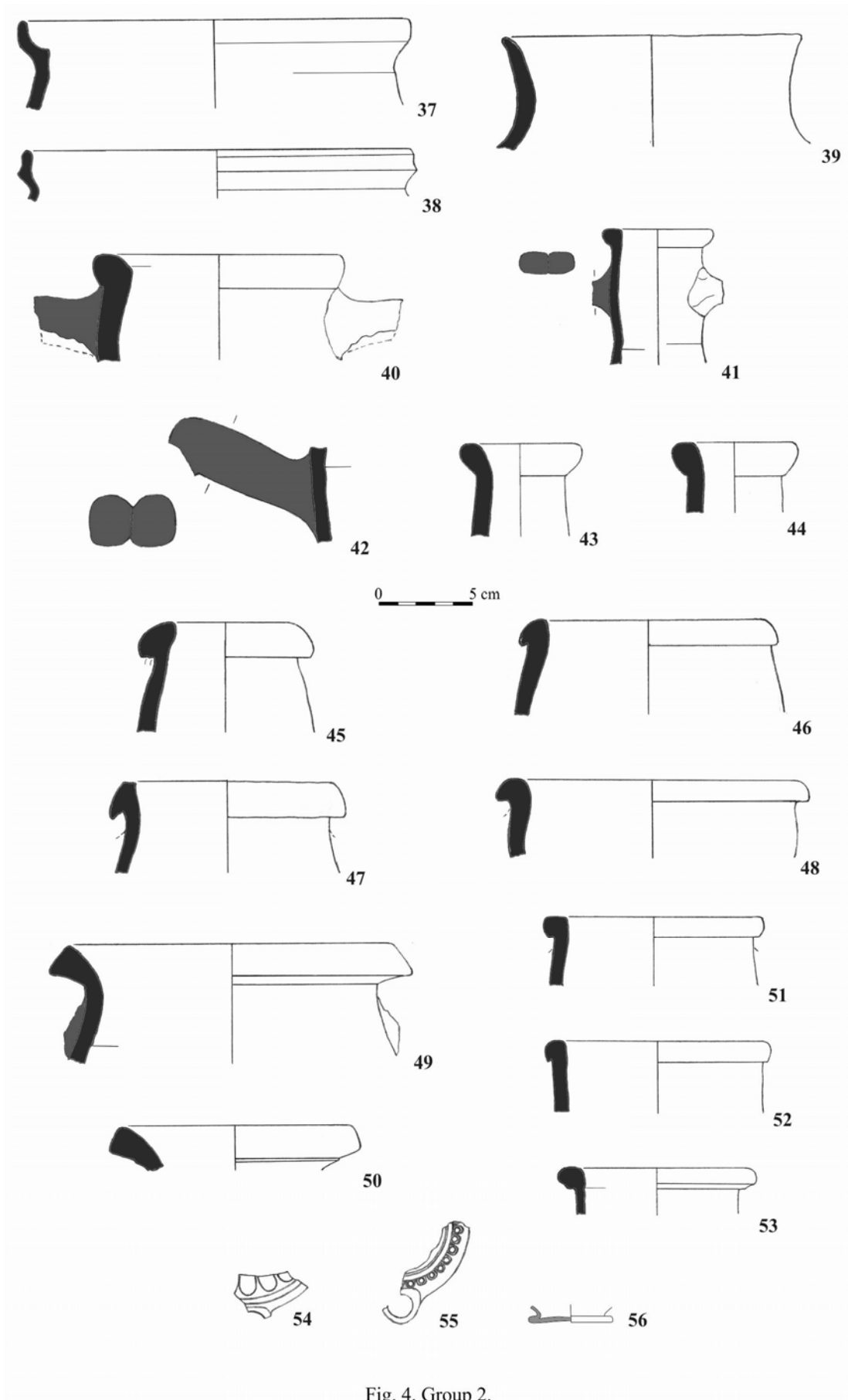


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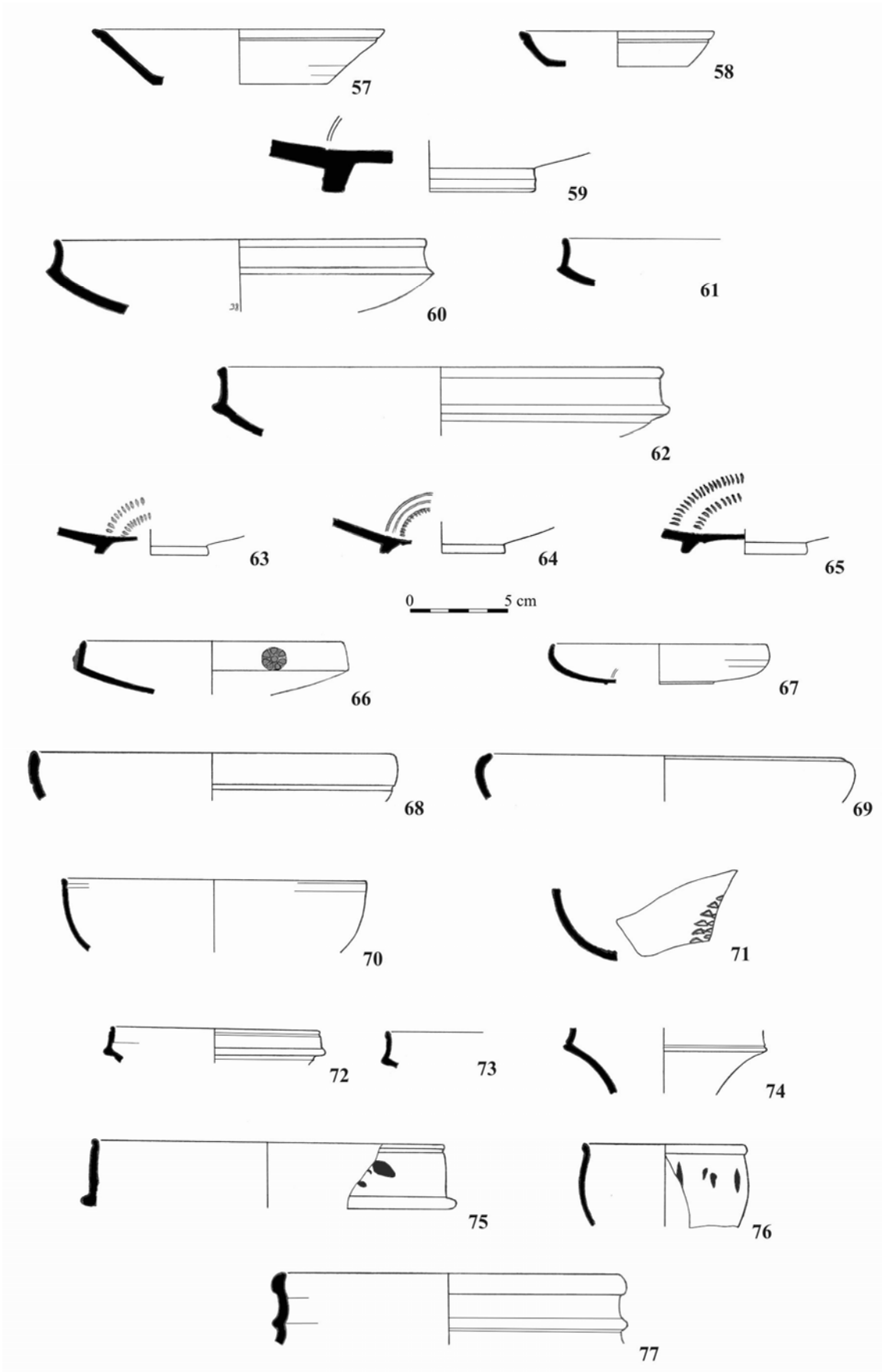


Fig. 5. Group 3.

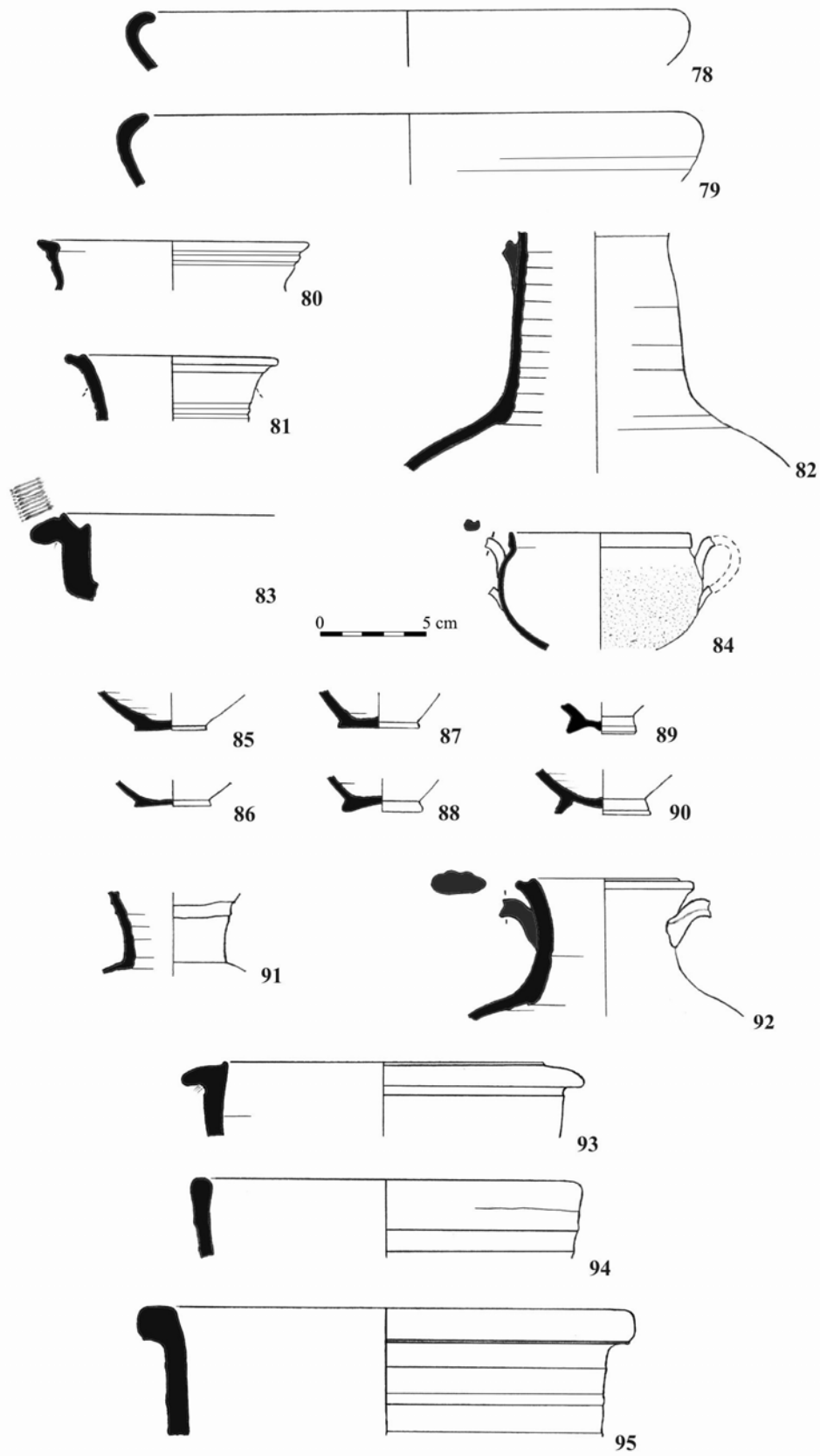


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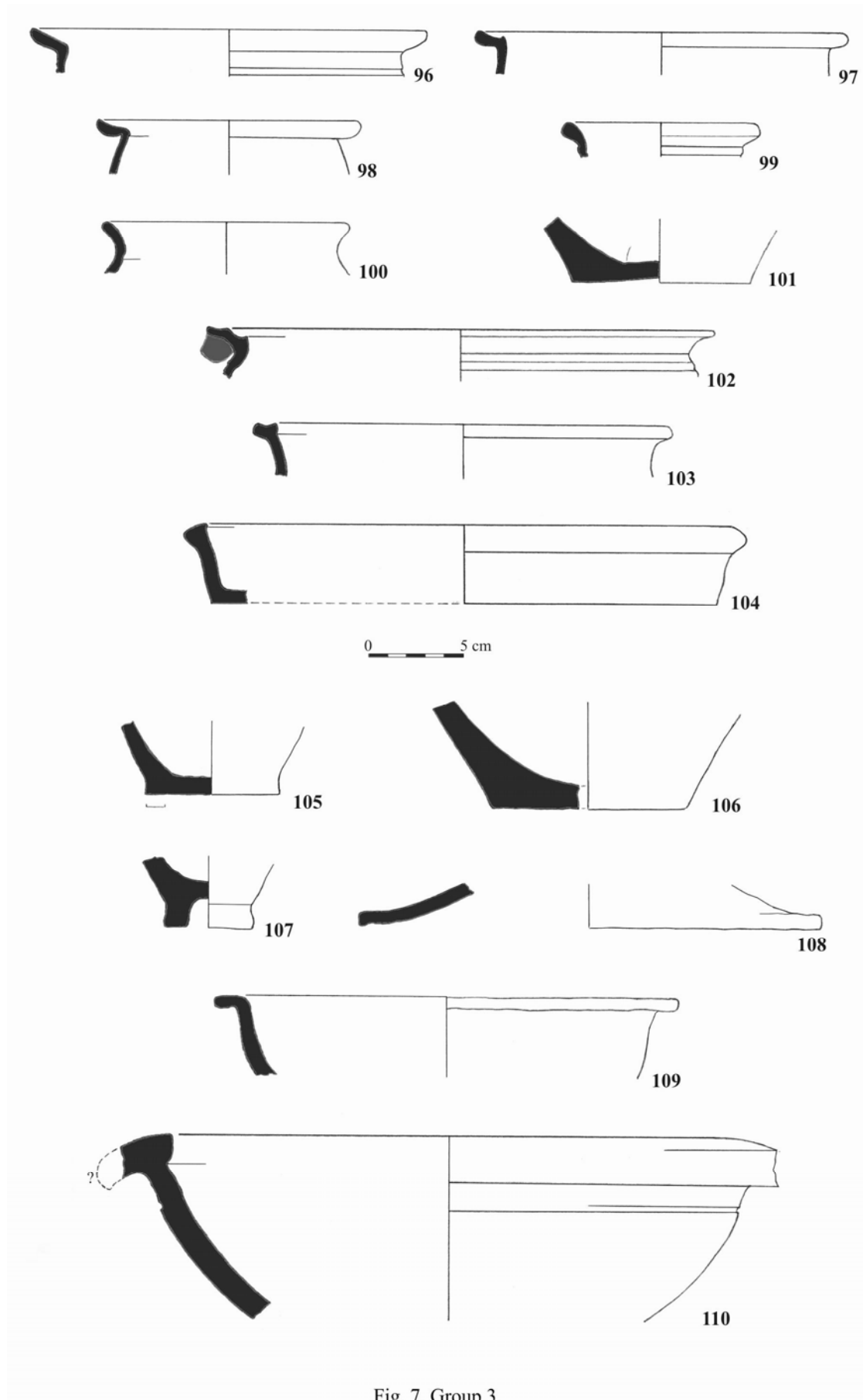


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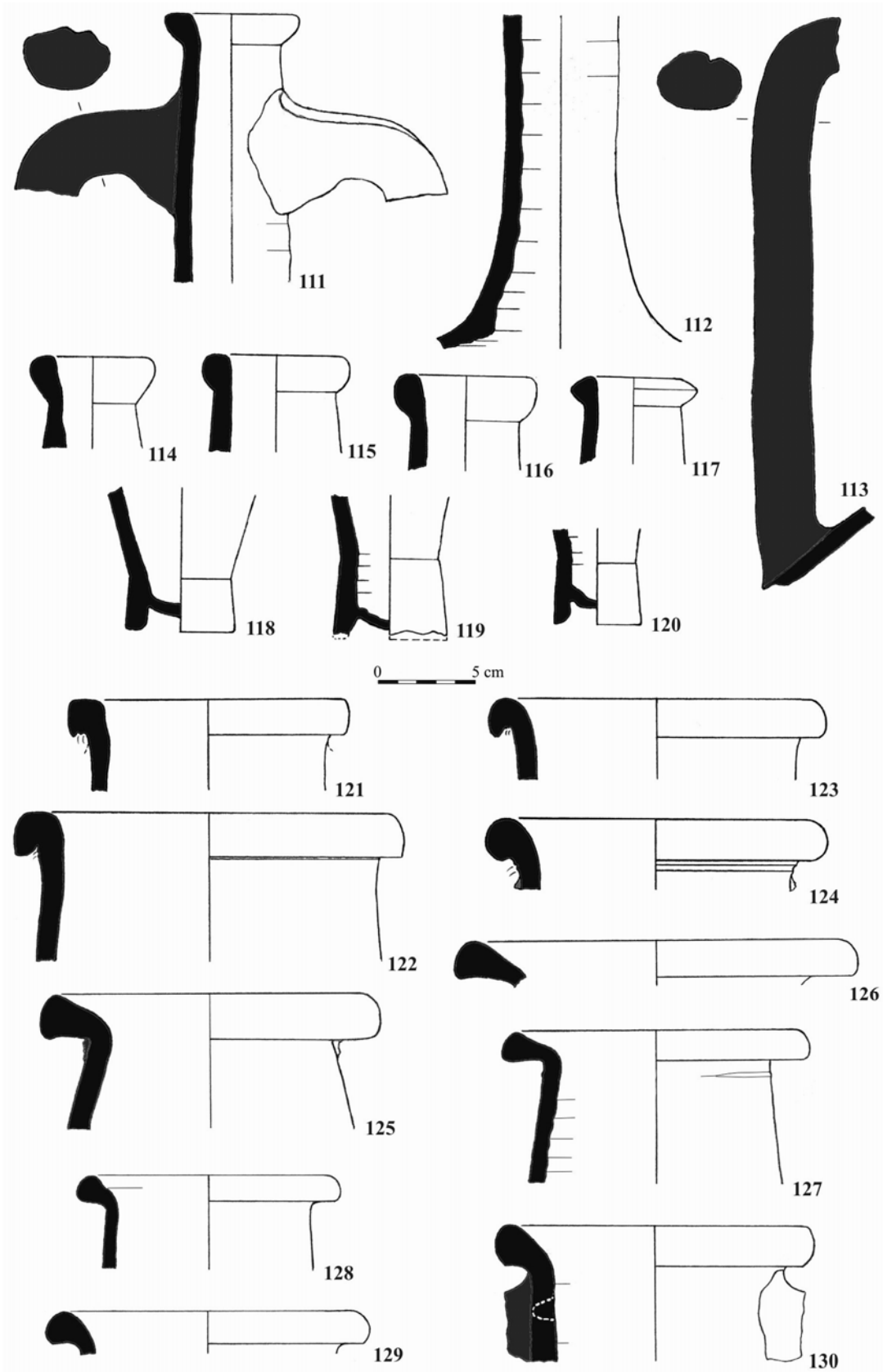


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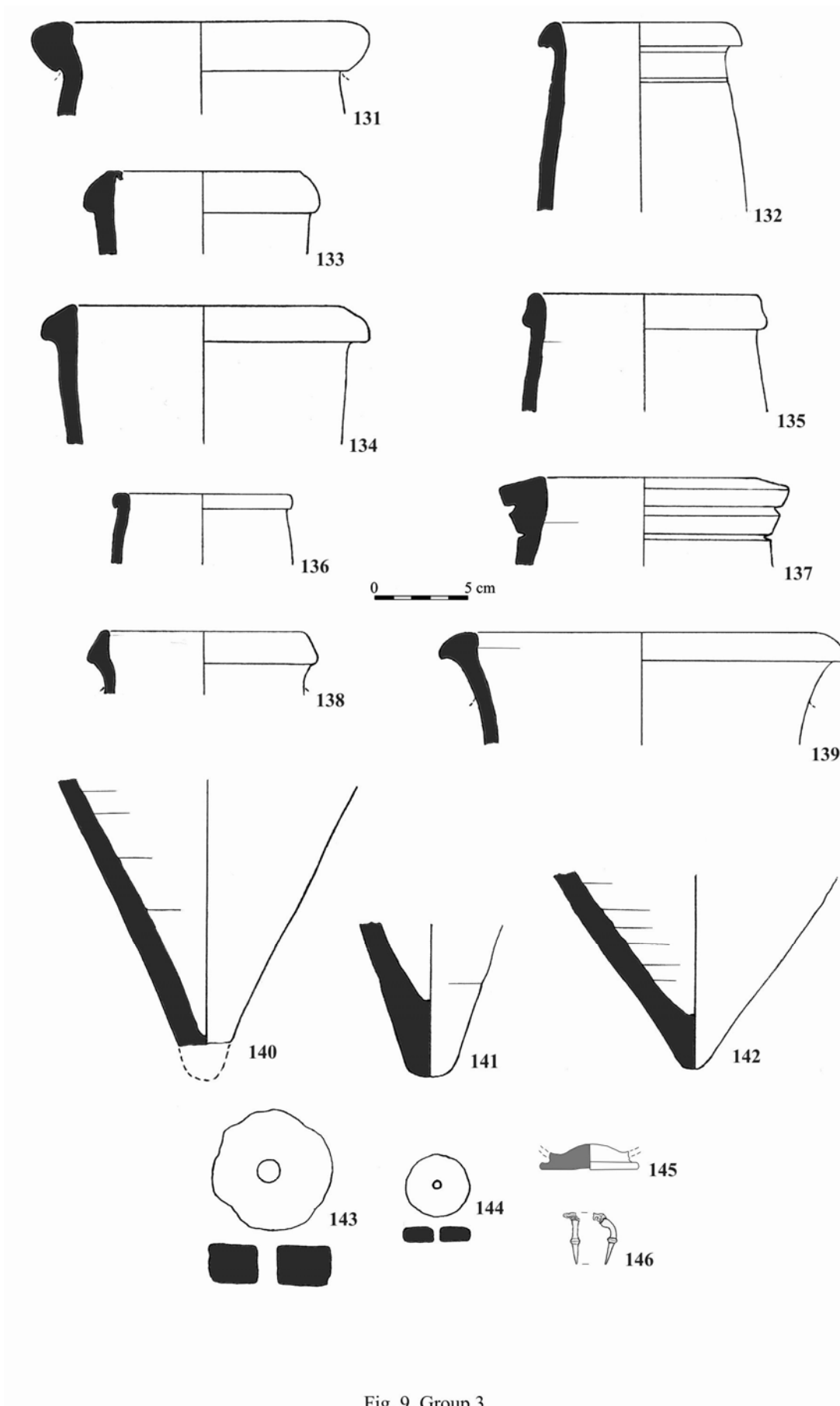


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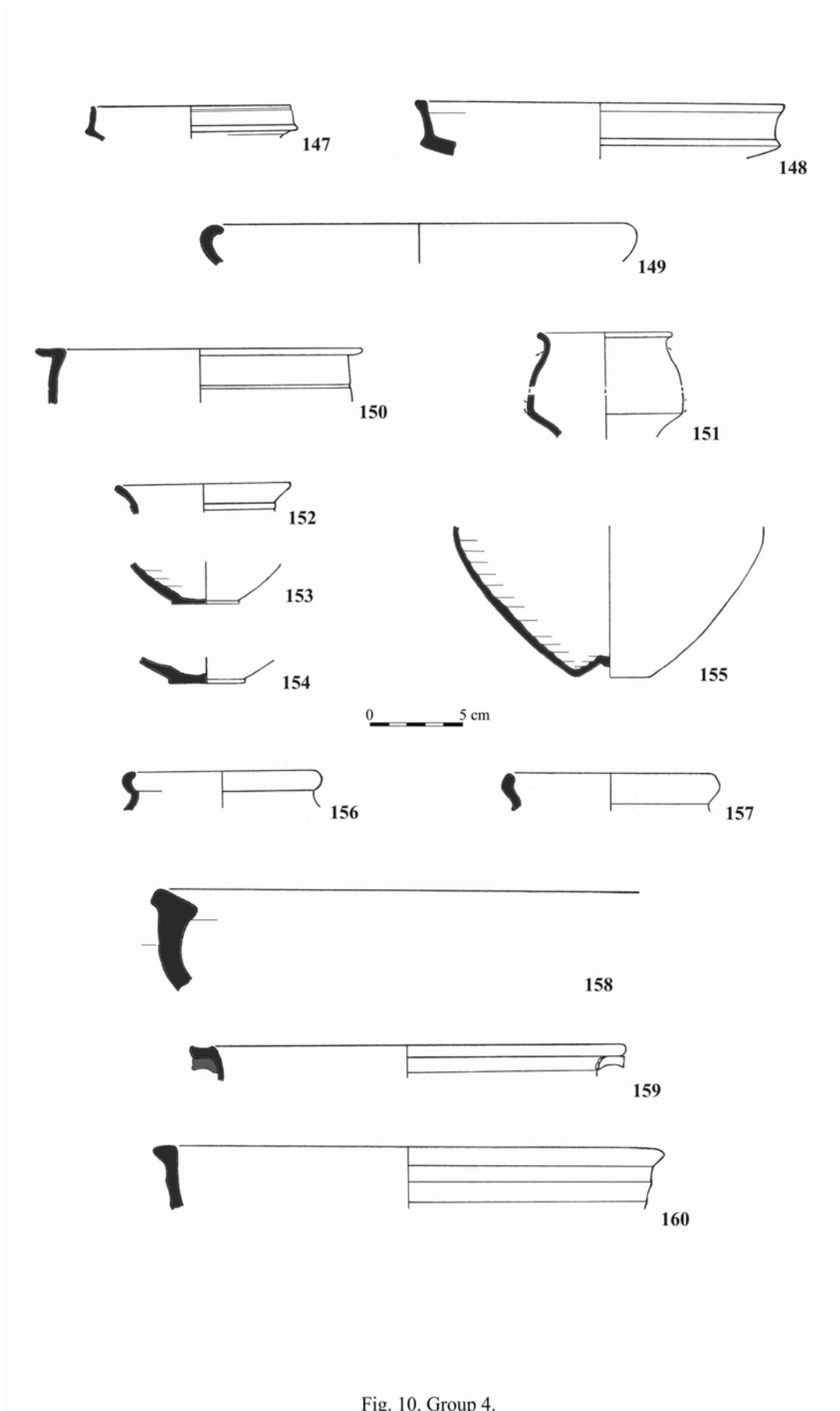


Fig. 10. Group 4.