

THE THRACIAN PIT COMPLEX IN ROUSSE (EXCAVATIONS IN 2006)

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In 2005, in the course of rescue archaeological excavations within the territory of the Roman fort Sexaginta Prista, cultural levels dating from the Hellenistic period to modern times were registered (Върбанов, Драгоев, Иванов 2006, p. 193-196). In 2006 an area of about 75 square metres was additionally excavated, which made it possible to specify the dating of some of those levels. Structures from the 2nd-3rd century were found above the level from the Hellenistic period. One of them has been identified with a temple of Apollo. It is partially overlapped by another big building – the *principia* of Sexaginta Prista. The remains of the *principia* were found covered with a thick layer from the 19th-20th century, which had destroyed the chronological levels after the 5th century. Nine new pits and a masonry tunnel from the second half of the 19th century were discovered (**Fig. 1**).

The earliest level contained more than 30 pits with materials from the late-3rd century BC until the 1st century AD (Varbanov, Dragoev, in print). The newly excavated 9 Thracian pits and two other structures belong to the same level (**Fig. 2**). They are traced in depth with difficulty, because their filling does not differ from the surrounding soil by colour. Only their lowest, dug in the loess part is clearly seen. The loess lies at a depth of 4,10-4,30 m from the modern terrain (34,00-34,20 m above sea-level). The pits and structures which were excavated in 2006 are deep from 1,00 to 2,00 m. Their diameter varies from 0,90 to 2,30 m, but is most often about 1,50 m. The shape usually resembles a beehive, hemisphere or frustum of a cone (**Fig. 3**). Pits 31 and 33 are rectangular and trapezium-shaped in cross-section (fig. 2). Some of the pits are almost entirely destroyed by later diggings-in (pits 37 and 39). The rest of them are only partially excavated (from one-fifth part to a half), because of either their being overlapped by later structures or their destruction by other pits.

The filling of the pits is similar to the one registered during the previous archaeological campaign. Except for earth, charcoals and ashes, it also contains about 200 pieces of clay plastering, 100 sherds of *pithoi*, stones, flints, bones, spindle-whirls, whetstones, a millstone, fragmented bronze items and some 2200 pottery sherds (1214 from vessels made by hand and 987 from vessels made by means of a potter's wheel). The concentration of finds varies: it is smaller in the upper part of the pits and much greater from the bottom to a height of about one metre. Judging by the fragments from one and the same vessel in their lower and upper parts, each of the pits seems to have been filled in at a single time. Most of the pits are synchronous. The finding of homogeneous pottery as well as parts of a particular vessel in different areas proves that. Probably from the ruined pits into the squares I 2 and I' 3 belong the discovered in the leveling layer (from 3rd century AD) fibula (**Fig. 17**- dating from the first half of I c AD see Garbsch 1985, p. 565-566) and two coins: denar-serratus from Q. Antonius Balbus and imitation of Alexander The Great (picture 1 and 2 see Sydenham 1952, 742a).

The ceramic complex consists of vessels made by hand as well as by means of a potter's wheel. The hand-made pottery is rough and fine. The first group includes *pithoi*, pot with and without band and incised decoration, cups of the so-called "ceașca dacica" type as well as vessels with widely open mouth. Their colour usually varies within the range of ochre to brown, more rarely brick-red. The vessels of the group sometimes reveal traces of secondary burning – most often on the bottom of pots and "ceașca dacica" cups. The traces of burning on the edges of sherds prove that the vessels were placed in fire after their ritual breaking.

The other part of hand-made pottery is with burnished surface on the inside and outside – 312 sherds of bowls, fruit dishes and jugs. These vessels are brown and grey to black in colour.

The pottery made by means of a fast potter's wheel includes sherds of fruit dishes, bowls, jugs, pots, cups, amphorae and *pithoi*. A great part of the vessels are grey in colour, but brown- and brick-red-coloured ones are also met. Sherds of a *pithos* with incised linear and wavy decoration have been found. There are many fragments (449 pieces) of amphorae, which are yellow, ochre and brick-red in colour. Some of them are yellow-varnished on the outside. Two stamped handles were found in structure 33. Five sherds of imitative Megarian cups were found in pits 33b, 34, 35, 38 and structure 31. They date from the second half of the 2nd – 1st century BC (Vulpe, Gheorghiță 1976, p.169). Imported pottery (small fragments of thin-walled red-varnished ceramics and a sherd of a black-glazed vessels) was found in pit 32 and structures 31 and 33. The presence of fine pottery with brick-red to ochre colour and white-painted decoration is also worth noting.

In 2006 the dating of the excavated part of the pit complex was specified. The pottery, coins and other materials from the pits date to the period from the late-3rd century BC to the 1st century AD, but offering of older materials was a common practice at sites of the kind (Вълчева 2002, 115). Sherds of wheel-made pottery with grey colour and decoration of burnished stripes have been found in almost all of the pits. Since this kind of pottery is mostly characteristic of the 1st century BC – 1st century AD (Вагалински 2002, p. 24; Кабакчиева 2005, p. 96-97), *that is the dating of the excavated pits*. The coins from the early-1st century AD in the central pits 3 and 30 and the fibula from the second half of the 1st century AD in pit 32 support the argued dating. Future excavations in the adjacent areas on the hill will answer the question whether there were earlier or later pits.

The cult function of the complex already was proved during the first archaeological campaign in 2005. The excavations in 2006 brought about strong additional evidence of that – intact or fragmented vessels without utilitarian function. The part of a fruit dish from structure 33 merits a special attention. It contained unidentified organic material and a bone and was placed upwards with its bottom directly on the black earth. Small charcoals and pieces of charred timber were found beneath it. The offered vessels are remains of unknown to us ritual, in which fire and pouring of liquids played a significant role.

So far no remains of dwellings have been found at the supposed Thracian walking level (at a depth of 1,10-1,40 m from the 0,00-mark for the site = 36, 50 m above sea-level). Synchronous pottery sherds and other archaeological materials are rarely found outside the pits. Judging by similar sites in Romania, future discovery of dwellings or other settlement-life structures might well be expected (13 dwellings and 123 pits in Bordușani; 38 dwellings and 201 pits in Grădiștea) (Trohani 2006, p. 108; Sîrbu 1996, p. 114).

The complex most probably stopped functioning in the last third part of the 1st century AD, at the time of the Roman settling on the hill.

The pits and structures are numbered according to the sequence of their excavation.

Structure 31. Its size and shape are not entirely specified. The excavated part of the structure is situated in working squares I 1 and I' 1 (**Fig. 2**). It is rectangular by plan, with north-east/south-west orientation. Its bottom lies at a depth of 2,75 m from the 0,00-mark for the site and has dimensions of 1,20 by 0,40 m. The structure (a ditch?) probably connected pit 32 with the central pit 3. It cuts across pit 32, but is some 0,20 m shallower than it. The walls of the ditch are not parallel to each other – the ditch widens from the bottom upwards. The upper part of the structure was probably disrupted during the construction of the Apollo temple (the Thracian materials lay at a depth of 1,40-1,50 m from the 0,00-mark for the site). Spots of burnt clay were registered at a depth of 1,90-2,00 m. The filling does not differ from the surrounding earth. Sherds of a *pithos* (*pithoi*?), pottery, stones, flints and bones were found in the upper part of the structure.

The *pithoi* sherds were 17 in number (**Fig. 4. 02**). Their concentration was higher at a depth of 1,60-2,00 m. There were stones (6 pieces) and flints (7 pieces) only at the bottom. Bigger stones lay at a depth of 1,70-1,90 m. Twelve pieces of clay plastering from walls and hearths and 9 pieces of burnt earth flour were also found in the structure. The latter lay at its bottom. A flat clay spindle-whirl and a piece of an imitative Megarian cup were found at a depth of 1,90 m (**Fig. 4. 08, 10**). There were pottery sherds everywhere in the structure. The relation between hand-made and wheel-made pottery is approximately 3:1. There are 136 sherds of hand-made pottery, 77 of them being pieces of bowls and fruit dishes with burnished surface on both sides (**Fig. 4. 03**). They are ochre-brown to grey-black in colour. One of the sherds was additionally shaped as a token, 4,4 cm in diameter (**Fig. 4. 09**). The rest 59 sherds are of ochre-coloured pots with rough surface (**Fig. 4. 05, 07**). Some of them bear band decoration. There are 23 ochre-coloured amphora fragments with yellow outer surface. The sherds of pottery made by means of a fast potter's wheel (24 pieces) are grey in colour and belong mostly to bowls and to one sifter (fig. 4. 01, 04, 06). One of them is black-glazed, and another one – white-painted.

Pit 32. Pit 32 is situated in working squares I' 1 and I' 2 (**Fig. 2**). Although placed among the walls of later structures, it is the most thoroughly excavated pit until present. Its bottom lies at a depth of 2,92 m from the 0,00-mark for the site and is 1,50 m in diameter. The pit was found sealed with the floor level of the Apollo temple at a depth of 1,05-1,10 m. That level as well as the earth immediately beneath it contain small sherds of unrepresentative pottery from the 2nd-3rd century. The lower layer is poor in finds. Small fragments of Thracian pottery are accidentally found in it. The concentration of finds grows up at a depth of 1,60-1,70 m. Except for ceramics, stones, flints and many bones begin to appear. A heaping of 3 big (up to 0,40 m) and about 10 smaller stones, 8 fragments of a *pithos* and 2 of a millstone (**Fig. 7. 17**). was registered at a depth of 1,80-1,90 m. The filling of the pit from a depth of 1,60 m to its bottom contained many pottery sherds, 3 small stones, a flint, 9 pieces of clay plastering and 3 small lumps of melted material. A jug with broken mouth was found at a depth of 2, 40 m, almost in the centre of the pit. It had been placed there in straight position and covered with a flat stone (**Fig. 8. 01**). There was black greasy earth (remains of some organic substance) inside the jug. The jug is made of grey clay and is decorated with burnished vertical stripes. A bronze rivet and a broken bronze appliqué had been put just under the jug (**Fig. 8. 10, 11**). The bronze fibula which was found at the very bottom of the pit (**Fig. 8. 12**) is of great importance for the dating of the whole pit complex. It belongs to the so-called Langton-Down or Riha 4.4.4 type and dates to the second half of the 1st century AD (Riha 1994, p. 88-89, taf. 14, 2113). The fibulas of the type are usually met in the Roman provinces Britannia and Gallia as well as along the Rhine (Riha 1994, p. 87). The fibula from pit 32 points to either economic relations with those lands or presence of foreigners from there in the settlement. Only one more sample of the

type is known until now from Bulgaria (found in Lom) (Генчева 2004, p. 79). On the borderline between pit 32 and pit 36 was found fragmentary fibula, so-called thracian type (**Fig. 8. 13** see Домарадски 2000, p. 209-210).

The total of pottery sherds is over 900 and the relation between hand-made and wheel-made pottery is approximately 1:1,5.

There are 388 sherds of hand-made pottery, 317 of them being with rough surface in different colours (ochre, brick-red, brown, grey). Most of the sherds are of pots (**Fig 7. 01, 02, 04, 05, 16**). At least 20 different vessels have been identified. Twenty-nine sherds bear band decoration and have bud- or tongue-shaped handles. Over 50 sherds are with incised decoration of straight or wavy parallel lines. The decoration of a few others is combined. Some of the sherds are of vessels belonging to the so-called “ceașca dacica” type and others are of shallow vessels with wide mouth. Fifty-one fragments are blacken with smoke or bear traces of secondary burning. Seventy-one sherds are of vessels made by hand or by means of a slow potter's wheel (**Fig 7. 03, 06, 07**). They have burnished surface and are ochre, brown or black in colour. These sherds are of bowls, jugs, pots and fruit dishes (over 15 vessels). Four of them are secondarily burnt and two others (black-coloured) are additionally shaped like tokens (**Fig 8. 14**).

The wheel-made pottery is represented by 534 fragments, 254 of which are grey in colour. They come from bowls, fruit dishes, pots, jugs and small-sized vessels (**Fig 7. 08, 12, 13, 14, 15**). Some 10 per cent of the vessels from this group (mostly the fruit dishes) are decorated with burnished bands (**Fig 8. 04, 05, 06**). There is a hole pierced in the foot of a fruit dish (**Fig 8. 09**). The burnished decoration of one of the jugs is also worth mentioning: it divides the surface into fields filled with branch or tree pattern (**Fig 8. 02**). This decoration resembles very much the decoration of a zoomorphic ceramic vessel which was found during the campaign in 2005.

There are 32 sherds of wheel-made vessels with brick-red, ochre and brown colour (**Fig. 7. 09, 11 and fig. 8. 03**). Two sherds of bottoms are red-varnished. Other 8 sherds are of bowls with white-painted decoration over the brown-varnished outer surface. In a few cases red lines are painted over the white ones. Some wall sherds are ochre-coloured, but with yellow varnish on the outside.

The amphora sherds are 247 in number. They are yellow/ochre to ochre/brick-red in colour, with outer varnish in yellow as well as in the shades of brick-red (**Fig. 7. 10, 18 and fig. 8. 07**). Eight of the amphora walls are shaped as tokens (**Fig. 8. 14**). A *graffito* of two letters is inscribed on another one (**Fig 8. 08**). More than 10 sherds come from a brick-red-coloured *pithos* with rich incised decoration (**Fig 7. 09**).

The rich osteological material is rather interesting. It includes lower jaws of more than 40 pigs.

Structure 33. It is situated in working squares I 2/ I 3 and II 2/ II 3 (**Fig 2**). The structure is registered from a level of -1,35 m downwards. Its bottom lies at a depth of 2, 50 m from the 0,00-mark for the site. The ground plan of the structure resembles a trapezium. The structure appeared in the form of strips of burnt earth and charcoals immediately beneath the dismantled south-eastern wall of the Apollo temple, at a level of -1,35/1,40 m. The structure is about 3,50 m long from the north-east to the south-west, its width varying from 1,50 (on the south) to 1,00 m (on the north). The upper layer of its filling was 0,05-0,15 m thick and contained small sherds of (mostly hand-made) pottery and a few bones. The next layer downwards (about 0,20 m) was poor in finds. The level from -1,80 to -1,90 m yielded bones, pottery, stones and flints, but in low concentration. An amphora handle with stamp reading MEN...EYS, a part of a bronze object and a sherd of an imitative Megarian cup were found in it (**Fig 9. 05, 13**). Irregular strips

of ashes and small charcoals were registered at a depth of 1,90 m. The concentration of finds sharply grew up from that level downwards. The list of finds includes pottery sherds (a *pithos* wall and an amphora mouth with crased stamp among them), bones, stones (36 pieces, one of them with a hole pierced in it, *see* **Fig. 9. 14**), flints (8 pieces) and more than 50 pieces of different by size clay plastering (from walls, floors and a hearth).

A fragmented fruit dish (about two-thirds of it) was found in the profile of the excavated area in working square II 3. It had been laid upwards with the bottom on flat black earth, over an animal bone. The hollow of the vessel was full of charcoals and charred timber. The other part of the discussed fruit dish was found in working square I' 3, in the level from -1,50 to -1,70 m. The vessel has been successfully restored, with a small missing part of its foot (**Fig. 10. 01**).

The total of collected sherds is about 500. The ratio between hand-made and wheel-made pottery is approximately 1,5:1. The first group includes 293 sherds, 236 of which are with rough surface and different colour (ochre, brick-red, brown, grey, *see* **Fig. 9. 01, 02, 03**). Most of them are of pots (only one is of a "ceașca dacica", and two – of vessels with wide mouth). Thirty-six sherds bear band decoration and have bud- or tongue-shaped handles. The sherds of hand-made (or made by means of a slow potter's wheel) pottery with burnished surface and ochre, brown or black colour are 57 in number. They are mostly of bowls. Two of the wall sherds are shaped as a tokens (**Fig. 9. 15, 16**).

The wheel-made pottery is represented by 201 sherds, 89 of which are grey in colour. They are parts of bowls, fruit dishes, pots, jugs, lids and small-sized vessels (**Fig. 9. 06, 10 and fig. 10. 04, 05**). About 10 per cent of the group is decorated with burnished stripes (almost all the fruit dishes, *see* **Fig. 10. 01, 02, 03**). Seventeen sherds are of wheel-made vessels with brick-red, ochre or brown colour (parts of about 9 bowls). Three wall sherds are red-varnished (**Fig. 9. 12**), and other six are decorated with white painting over brown varnish (**Fig. 10. 06**). There is only one black-glazed fragment, most probably of a *kantharos*. Two other sherds are of small bowls with brick-red colour (one of them has been restored, *see* **Fig. 9. 11**).

Ninety-three sherds come from ochre- to brick-red-coloured amphorae, some of which were yellow-varnished on the outside (4 bottoms and 8 handles, two of which stamped, *see* **Fig. 9. 04, 05, 07, 08, 09**).

Pit 33 A. It is situated in working squares I 2 and I 3, and is partially overlapped by structure 33 (**Fig. 2**). About one-fourth part of it was excavated. The pit is recognizable only in the loess, downwards from level -2,50 m. Its bottom lies at a depth of 2,72 m and was found covered with a thin (about 0,03 m) layer of ashes and charcoals. The lower part of the pit was full of earth mixed with charcoals, small bones, stones, flints, pieces of clay plastering (23 pieces) and broken pottery (163 sherds).

The ratio of hand-made and wheel-made pottery is approximately 3:1. The sherds of hand-made vessels are 125 in number. Ninety-eight of them (mostly of pots) are with rough surface and differ in colour from ochre, brick-red and brown to grey. Sixteen of them bear band decoration and have bud- or tongue-shaped handles (**Fig. 5. 02**). The sherds of hand-made (or made by means of a slow potter's wheel) pottery with burnished surface and ochre, brown or black colour are 27 in number. They are mostly of bowls.

The wheel-made pottery is represented by 38 sherds, 13 of which are grey in colour. They are parts of bowls and jugs (?). Some of the fragments have a burnished decoration.

Twenty-five sherds are of ochre- to brick-red-coloured amphorae, some of which were yellow-varnished on the outside (the total includes 1 handle and 1 mouth, *see* **Fig. 5. 01**).

Pit 33 B. It is situated in working squares I 3 and II 3. The pit is partially overlapped by structure 33 and pit 8, and a part of it was destroyed in the past by the partition wall of the

Roman *principia*, whose foundations were laid at level -1,65 m from the 0,00-mark for the site. Less than a half of the pit was excavated. It is clearly recognizable in the loess, downwards from level -2,50 m. Its bottom lies at a depth of 2,68 m and was found covered with a thin layer of earth mixed with ashes. The pit was beehive-shaped, with diameter of 1,40 m at the bottom. A layer containing charcoals, pieces of baked clay (6 pieces of clay plastering), certain amount of broken pottery, 2 red and 1 brown flint and bones was registered in the pit, some 0,30-0,40 m beneath the foundations of the *principia*. There was a homogeneous layer of charcoals immediately under it (0,50 m beneath the foundations of the *principia*). The filling of the pit downwards was similar to the already described one – grey-brown earth mixed with charcoals and small pieces of baked clay. A spindle-whirl was found in the pit (**Fig. 6. 02**).

The amount of collected pottery sherds is 47. The ratio of hand-made and wheel-made pottery is approximately 1,5:1. The sherds of hand-made vessels are 29 in number. Twenty-six of them (mostly of pots, but a handle of a “ceașca dacica” as well) are with rough surface and differ in colour from ochre, brick-red and brown to grey. Eight of them bear band decoration and have bud- and tongue-shaped handles (**Fig. 6. 01**). One of the wall sherds is shaped as a token (**Fig. 6. 03**). The sherds of hand-made (or made by means of a slow potter's wheel) pottery with burnished surface and ochre, brown or black colour are 3 in number.

The wheel-made pottery is represented by 18 sherds, 6 of which are grey in colour. They are parts of bowls and a foot of a fruit dish. Some of the fragments are decorated with burnished stripes (**Fig 6. 04**). One sherd is of a thin-walled vessel with brick-red colour.

There are 11 fragments of ochre- and brick-red-coloured amphorae.

Pit 34. It is situated in working square I' 3. The pit is asymmetrical and more or less cone-shaped, with diameter of 0,70-0,90 m at the bottom. It was partially destroyed to a level of -1,70/1,80 m by a later embankment (with materials from the 3rd century AD). The filling of the upper part of the pit probably consisted of earth, with a small amount or without broken pottery. Between levels -2,30/2,40 and -2,80-2,90 m the pit was tightly filled almost entirely with pieces of clay plastering from floors, walls and hearths (20 big and over 30 small pieces). Most of those had been laid downwards with their front side. There was little pottery in the pit – 6 sherds of hand-made and other six of wheel-made vessels (ratio of 1:1). Four of the hand-made sherds are of pots with ochre and grey-brown colour. Three of them are mouth parts (one of them has a handle and bears a band decoration, *see Fig. 11. 01*). The rest two hand-made sherds are of vessels with grey-brown burnished surface (**Fig. 11. 02**). Four of the wheel-made sherds are grey in colour. They are parts of two bowls, of a fruit dish (a mouth decorated on the periphery with a burnished wavy stripe) and an imitative Megarian cup (a hemispherical bottom, *see Fig. 11. 03; 04; 05; 07*). The rest two wheel-made sherds are brick-red in colour. One of them is a preserved handle and bears relief decoration in a horizontal stripe (**Fig. 11. 06**).

The pit's bottom lies at a depth of 3,27 m from the 0,00-mark for the site. There were very little finds in its lower part (from -2,90 to -3,27 m): only 4 pottery sherds and a piece of clay plastering.

Pit 35. The pit is situated in working square I' 2, partially beneath the partition wall of the *sacellum* of the headquarters building. A half of it was excavated. The pit has the shape of a truncated cone, with larger diameter (at the bottom) of about 1,50 m. Another pit with diameter of 0,40-0,50 m was later dug in pit 35, a little bit aside from its centre. The later pit (designated as pit 35a) did not contain any finds. Its filling's colour was similar to the one of pit 35.

The pit was partially destroyed to a level of -1,70/1,80 m by a later embankment containing materials from the 3rd century AD. The pit's bottom is flat and lies at a depth of 3,43 m from the 0,00-mark for the site. The filling was comparatively poor in finds: a bronze eagle's

head (fig. 14. 10), 2 stones, 4 pieces of clay plastering (from walls, floors and a hearth) and some 90 pottery sherds. The layer from -2,30 to -2,60 m of the filling contained 23 fragments of walls and the bottom of a *pithos* (Fig. 14. 09). The latter was found in horizontal position. There were traces of burning on its inner side. It is possible that the whole lower part of the *pithos* was laid intact in the pit, and was broken into pieces during its filling in. The breaking might have also been caused by the impact of moisture. The *pithos* is light-brown in colour. It was made of clay with a great admixture of quartz.

Forty-five of the sherds are of hand-made vessels, and 43 – of wheel-made ones. The ratio is approximately 1:1. The fragments of wheel-made pottery come from about 20 different vessels. Twenty sherds are of amphorae with yellow, ochre, brick-red and brown colour. The grey-coloured sherds are 18 in number and come from jugs, bowls, a sifter, a pot and an imitative Megarian cup (Fig. 14. 05, 07, 08). There are 7 ochre- and brick-red-coloured sherds. Some of the grey-coloured sherds are decorated with burnished stripes.

The hand-made pottery sherds belong to about 15 different vessels. Sixteen of them are polished on both sides (walls of bowls with ochre-brown to black colour; one of the bowls has been restored, see Fig. 14. 02, 03, 06). The rest 27 fragments are of ochre- and brown-coloured pots (6 of them bear incised or relief decoration in bands, see Fig. 14. 01; 04). Two bottoms of pots are blacken with smoke on the inside.

Pit 36. The pit is situated in working squares I 2 and I' 2, partially beneath the partition wall of the *sacellum* of the headquarters building. Less than one-fifth part of it was excavated. The pit's shape was not exactly established, but it seems to have resembled a beehive. Its diameter is more than 1,50 m at the bottom, which lies at a depth of 3,18 m from the 0,00-mark for the site. The pit was partially destroyed to a level of -1,70/1,90 m by a later embankment containing materials from the 3rd century AD. The upper part of the pit, to a level of -2,30/2,40 m, probably contained less archaeological materials. Downwards from that level the excavated part of the pit yielded a few stones, 2 flints, 11 pieces of clay plastering and baked earth flour, three sherds of a *pithos*, a lump of melted substance, bones and 104 pottery sherds.

Forty-three of the sherds belong to about 20 different wheel-made vessels, and the rest 61 are of some 30 hand-made vessels (ratio of about 1:1,5).

There are 8 amphora fragments (yellow, ochre and brick-red in colour). Three of them are shaped as tokens with diameters ranging from 4,5 to 6,5 cm (Fig. 15. 10). The sherds of wheel-made pottery are brick-red (7 pieces, see fig. 15. 11) or grey in colour (28 pieces, see Fig. 15. 06, 07, 08, 09). They belong to bowls, jugs, fruit dishes, a two-handle cup, a pot and a lid. About one-fourth part of them are decorated with burnished stripes. One of the sherds is shaped as a token (Fig. 15.10).

The hand-made pottery is represented by 17 sherds of vessels with polished surface (bowls, fruit dishes and a pot; colour range: brown, grey-brown, black, see Fig. 15. 04, 05) and 44 sherds of vessels with rough surface (mostly pots, ochre to grey-brown in colour, see Fig. 15. 01, 02). Two of the latter are shaped as tokens (Fig 15. 10). Three sherds of walls bear band decoration. Two others are decorated with incised parallel lines. There are 2 fragments of "ceașca dacica" cups (Fig. 15. 03). Nine of the sherds are blacken with smoke on the inside.

Pit 37. The pit is situated in working square I' 3. About a half of it was excavated. The original shape of the pit has not been established, because part of it was destroyed to a level of -1,70/1,80 m by a later embankment from the 3rd century AD and pit VII from the late-19th century. Its diameter is about 1,50 m at the bottom, which lies at a depth of 3,10 m from the 0,00-mark for the site. The pit was poor in finds: 13 fragments of a *pithos* (two of them with traces of secondary burning), a flint, a piece of wall clay plastering and 6 pottery sherds. Three

of the sherds are of wheel-made vessels (an ochre-coloured bowl, a brick-red vessel of unknown shape and a token made of an amphora wall, *see* **Fig. 12. 01**) and the rest – of hand-made ones (a pot with rough surface and two bowls with polished walls, *see* **Fig. 12. 02**).

Pit 38. The pit is situated in working square I' 3, partially beneath the partition wall of the *sacellum* of the headquarters building. A little more than a half of it was excavated. The pit is bell-shaped. Its diameter is about 2,30 m at the bottom, which lies at a depth of 3,27 m from the 0,00-mark for the site. A part of the pit was destroyed to a level of -1,90/2,00 m by a later embankment from the 3rd century AD and pit VIII from the late-19th century. There is another pit next to pit 38 on the east, with diameter of 0,40 m. The smaller digging was registered as pit 38a. Its filling did not differ by colour from that of pit 38, but there were no finds in it.

Similar to the already-discussed cases, the upper part of pit 38 (to a level of -2,30/2,40 m) must have contained less archaeological materials. Its lower part yielded a copper bracelet, a sherd of an imitative Megarian cup, a spindle-whirl, several stones, 2 flints, 10 pieces of clay plastering and baked earth flour, bones, the bottom and many wall sherds of a *pithos*, a fragment of a tile and 132 pottery sherds (**Fig 16. 05, 14, 15, 16**).

The layer from -2,40 to -2,80 m of the filling yielded 53 fragments of walls, 3 of the mouth and the whole bottom of a *pithos* (**Fig. 16. 11, 12, 13**) The latter was found in horizontal position. There were traces of burning on its inner side. Sherds of other vessels were found within the *pithos*. The *pithos* is light-brown in colour and was made of clay with a great admixture of quartz. Quite a big part of it seems to have been laid intact in the pit and broken into pieces later, during the filling of the pit.

The pottery sherds are of wheel-made and hand-made vessels. The first group includes 39 pieces of about 20 vessels, and the other one – 92 sherds of about also 20 vessels (a ratio of approximately 1:2).

The amphora sherds are 19 in number (yellow, ochre and brick-red in colour). The wheel-made pottery is also represented by 2 brown/ochre-coloured (one of those of a jug with burnished vertical stripes) and 17 grey-coloured sherds (of bowls and jugs, *see* **Fig. 16. 09, 10**).

The group of hand-made pottery includes 23 sherds of vessels with polished surface (bowls, fruit dishes and pots with different colour – ochre, brown, grey-brown and black, *see* **Fig. 16. 02, 03, 04, 06, 07**) and 65 sherds of vessels with rough surface (mostly pots with ochre or grey-brown colour and a few cups, *see* **Fig. 16. 01, 08**). One of them is additionally shaped as a token (**Fig. 16. 17**).

Pit 39. The pit is situated in working square I' 3. About a half of it was excavated. The shape of the pit was not established. Its diameter is about 1,00 m. The pit was recognized only in the loess, at a level of -2,45 m. Its bottom lies at a depth of about 3,10 m from the 0,00-mark for the site. The pit yielded 35 sherds of hand-made pottery (18 of pots and 17 of vessels with polished surface) and 7 others of wheel-made pottery (2 of amphorae with yellow surface, 1 of an ochre-coloured vessel and 4 of vessels with grey colour, *see* **Fig. 13. 02**). The layer immediately above the remains of the pit (from level -2,40 m to level -2,00 m) contained no materials from the Thracian period. The upper layer (from -2,00 m to -1,70 m) however yielded a spindle-whirl and a Hellenistic coin (picture 2). Sherds of a hand-made pot (now restored) and of two fruit dishes were also found at the same level. Another part of one of those fruit dishes was discovered in structure 33 (**Fig 13. 01 and fig 10. 01**). The finds from the layer upwards from level -2,00 m might well not belonged to pit 38, but to another structure or pit above it.

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Rescue excavations in Sexaginta Pista / Rousse - 2006/

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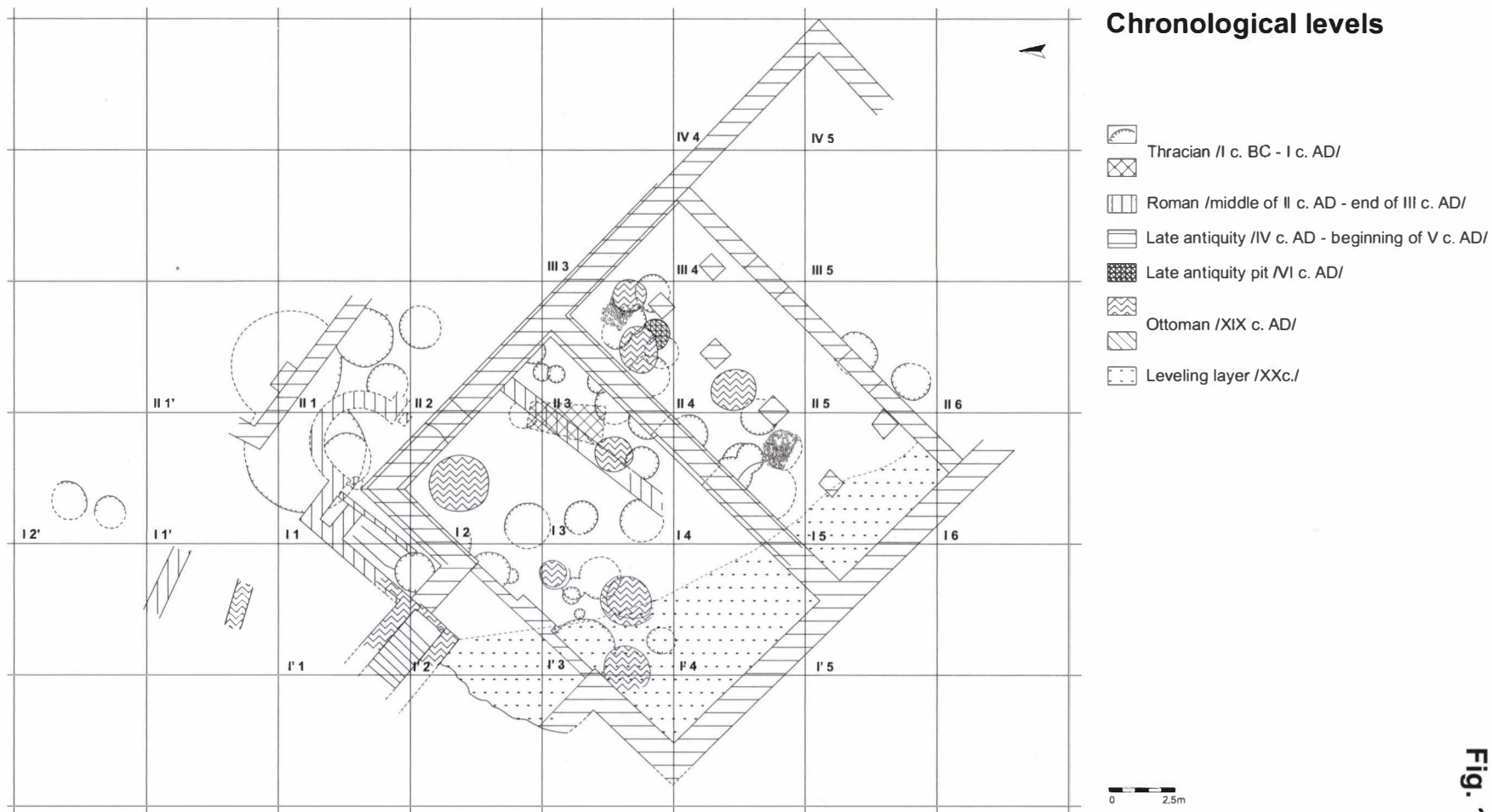


Fig. 1

The Thracian pit complex /Rousse - 2006/

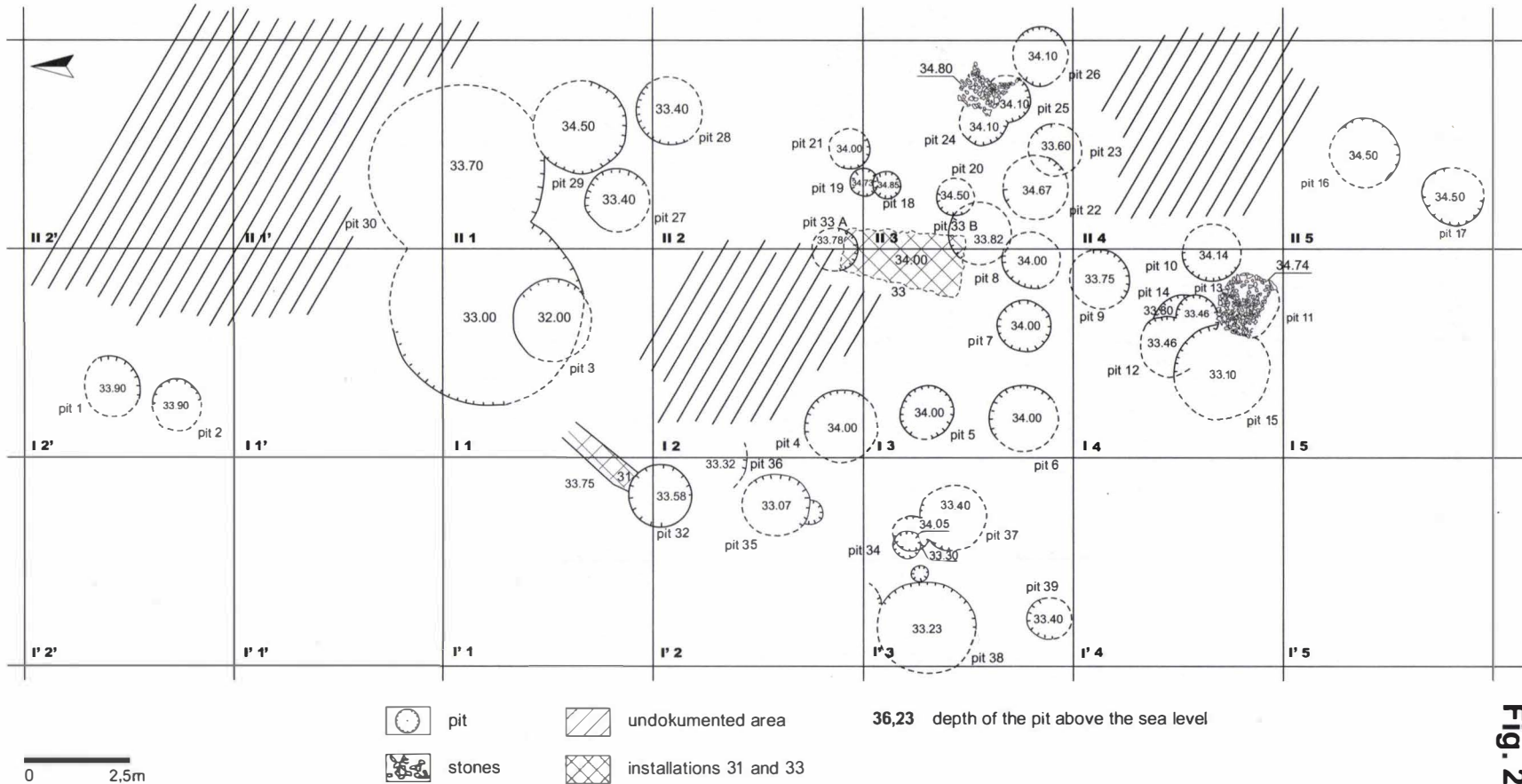
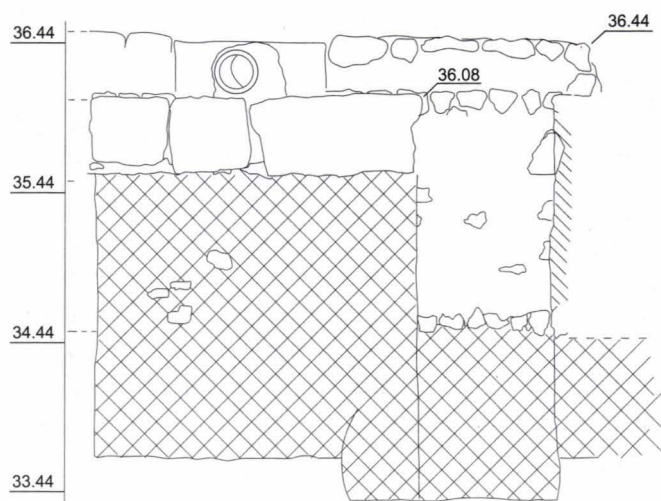
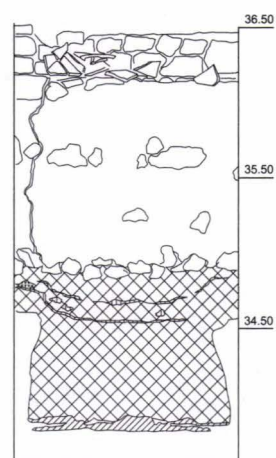


Fig. 2

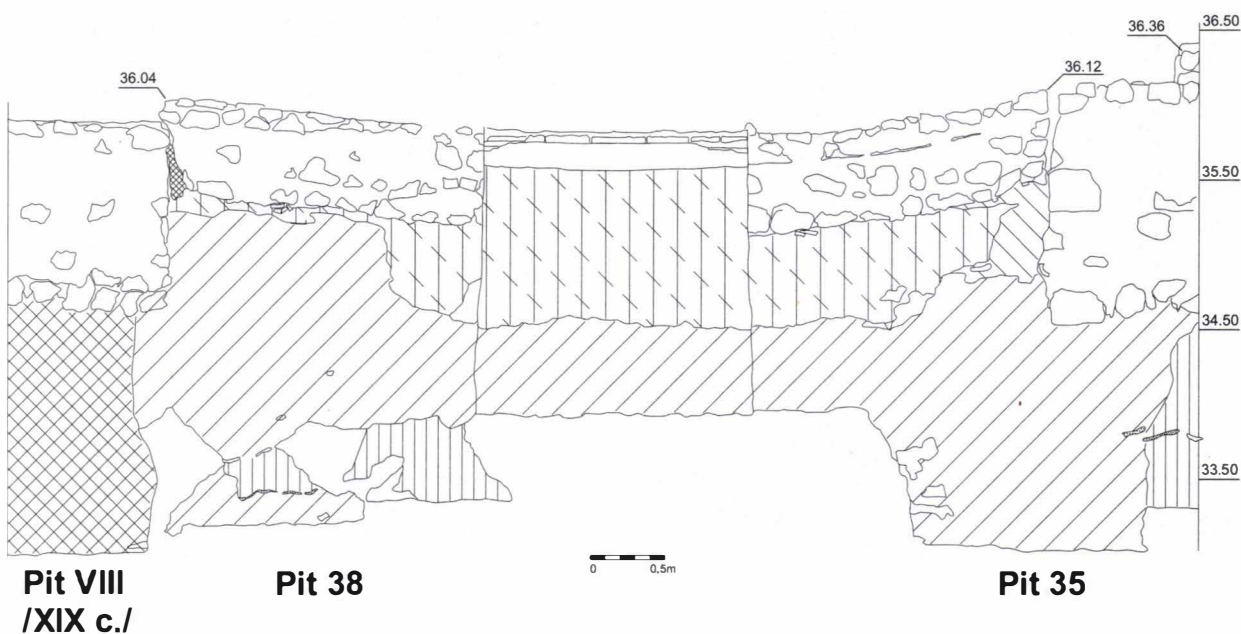
Profiles and shapes of the pits



Pit 32



Pit 33 B

Pit VIII
/XIX c./

Pit 38

Pit 35

Fig. 6

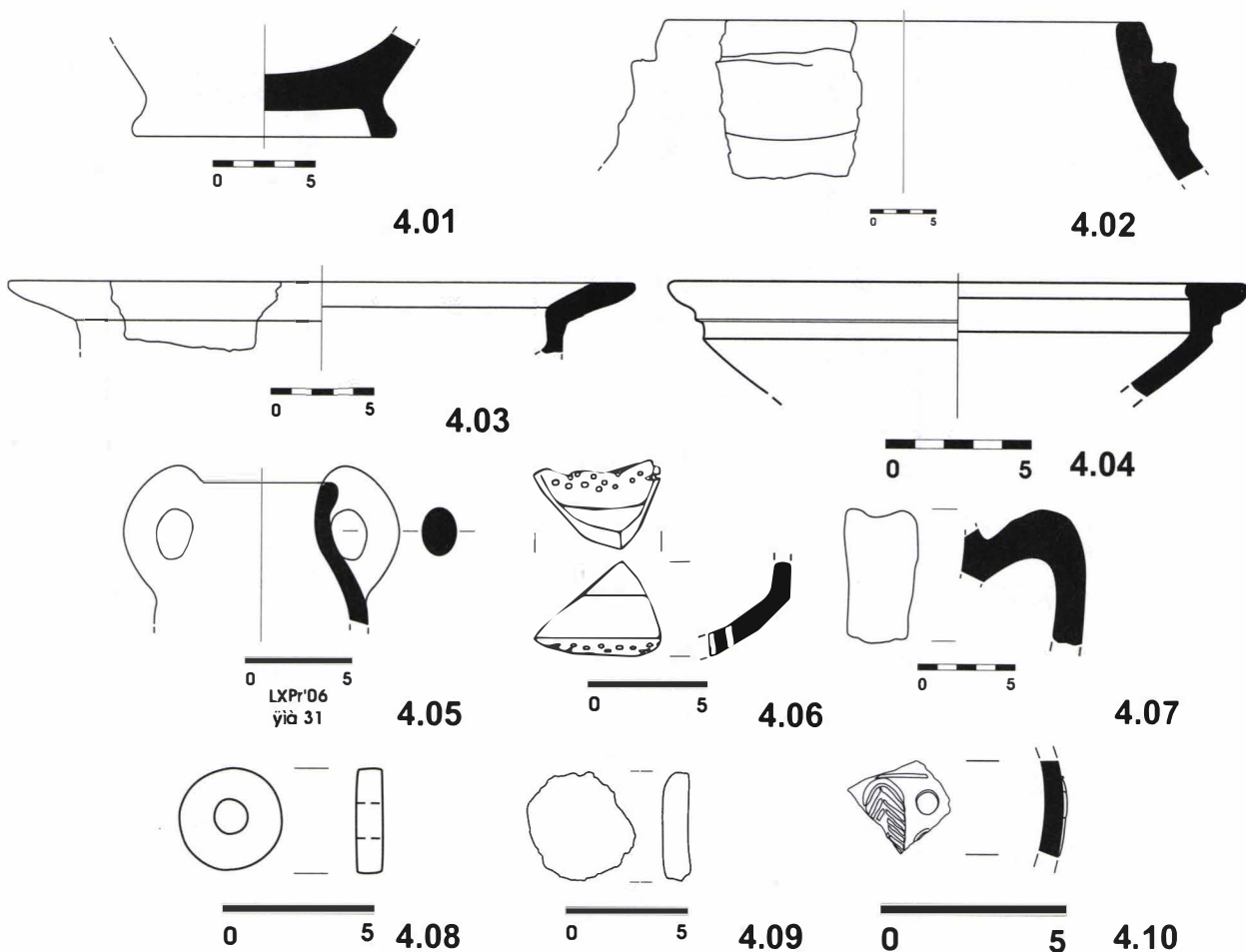


Fig. 4

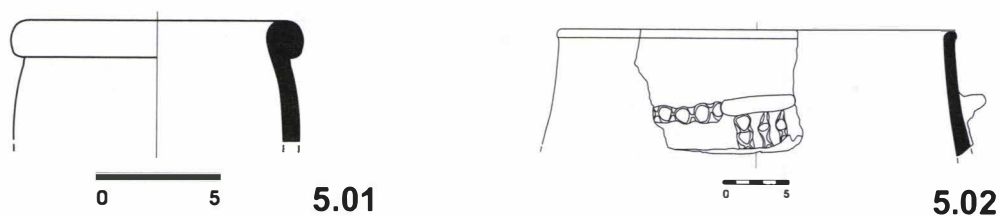


Fig. 5

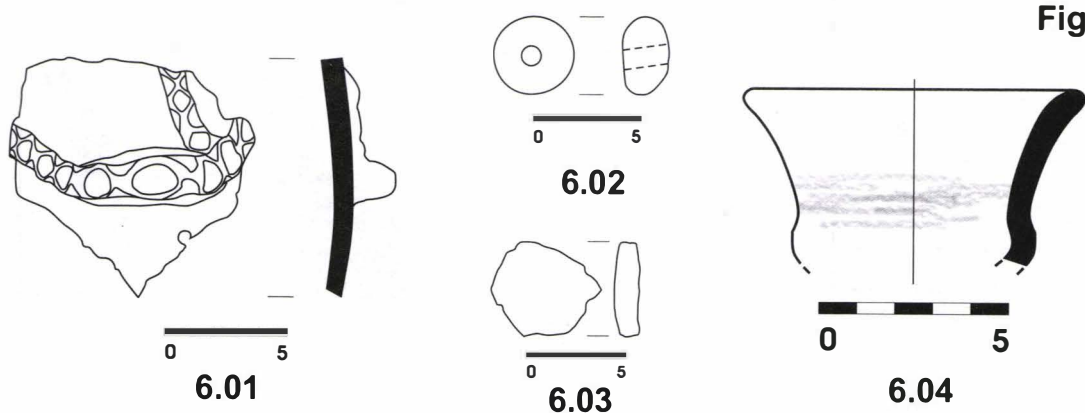
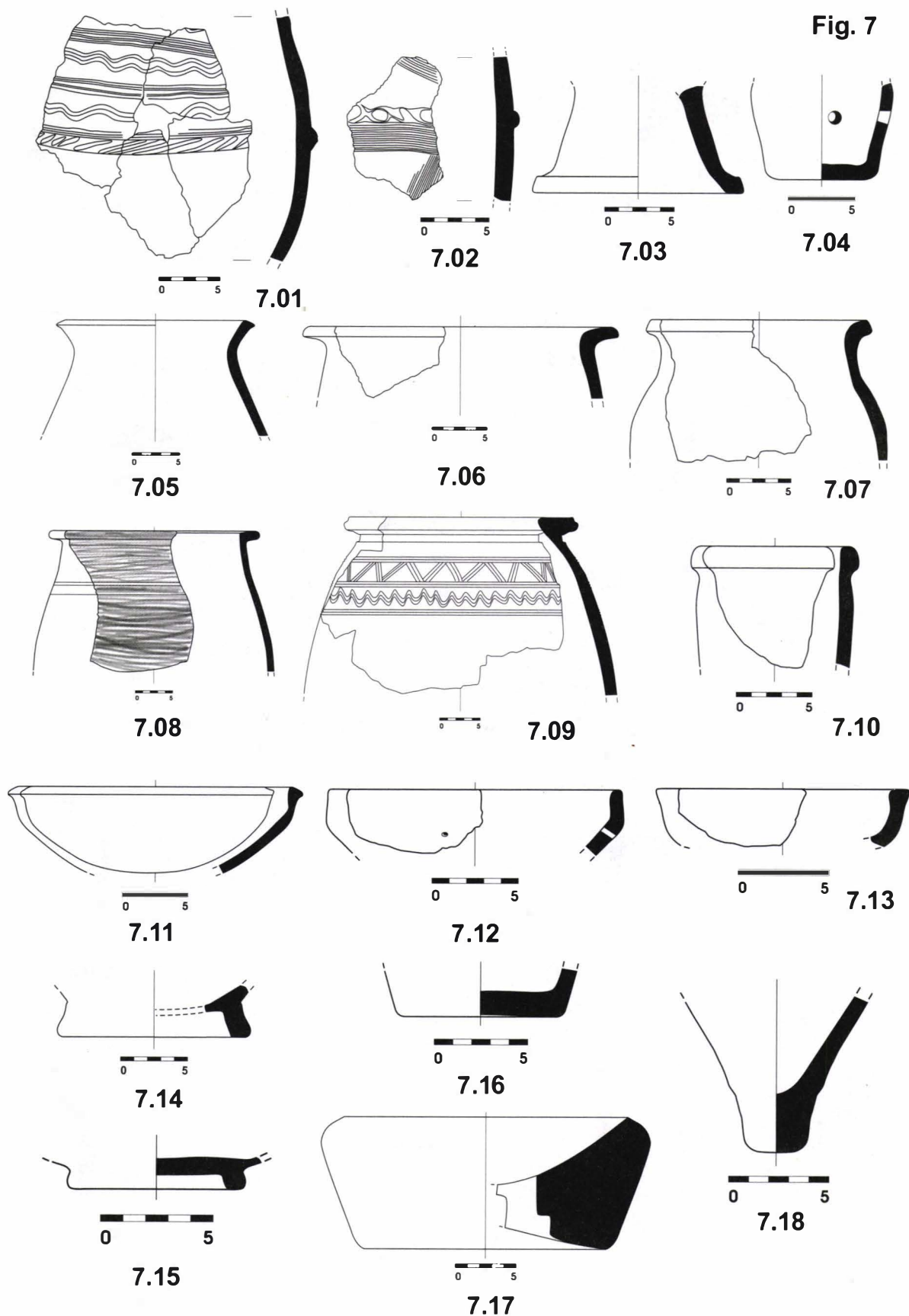


Fig. 7



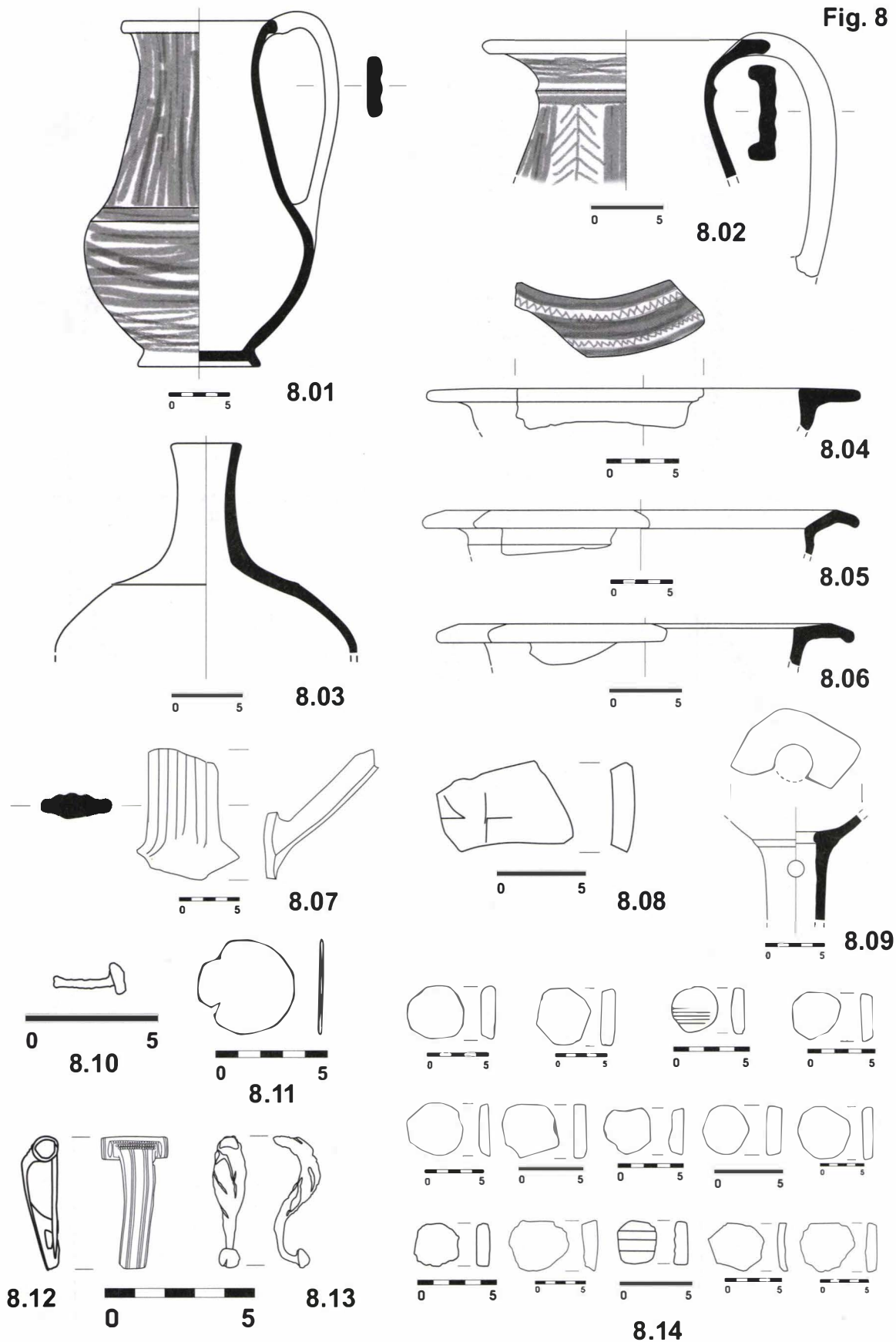


Fig. 9

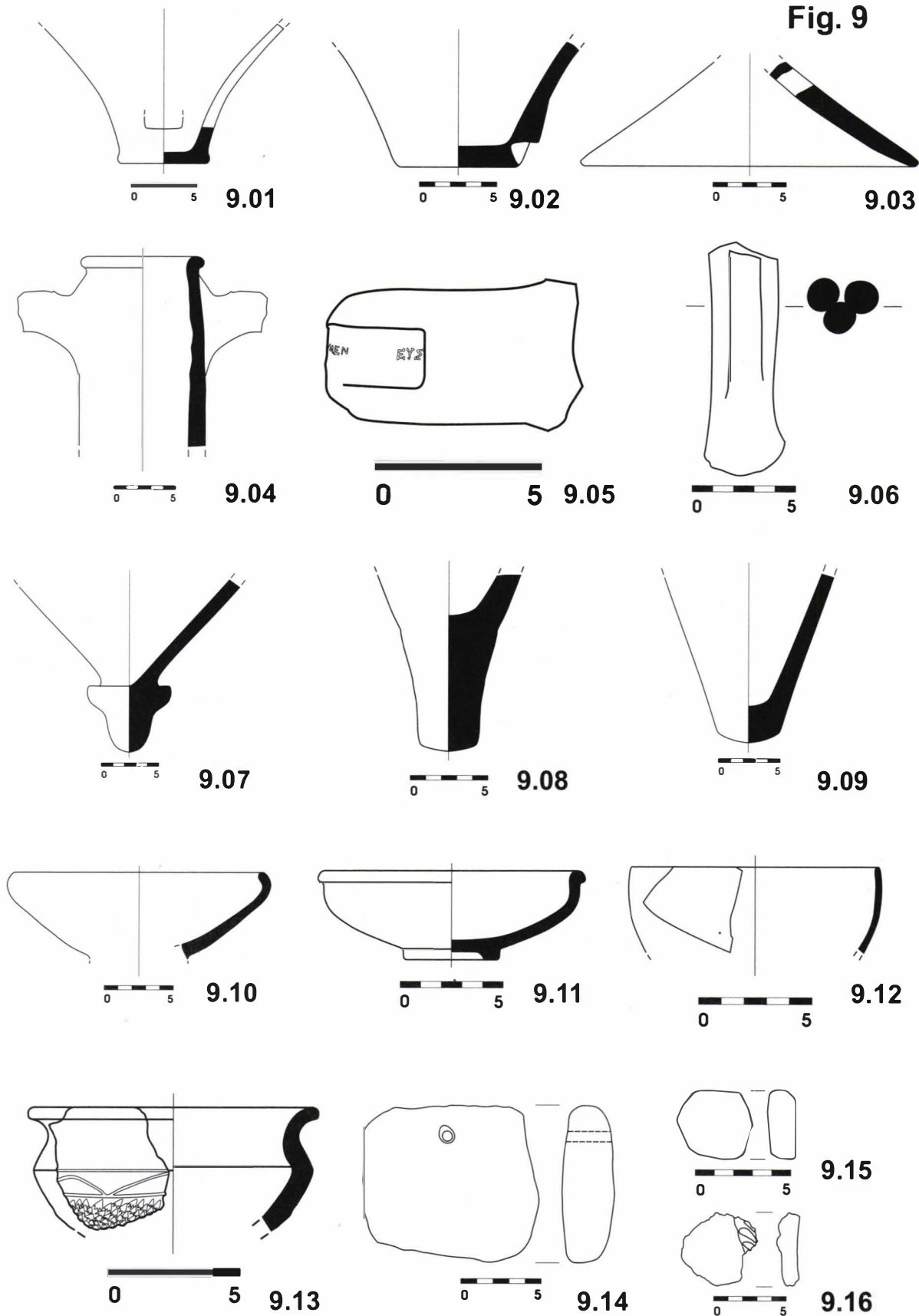
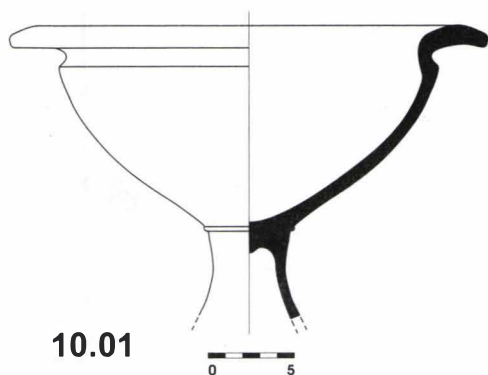
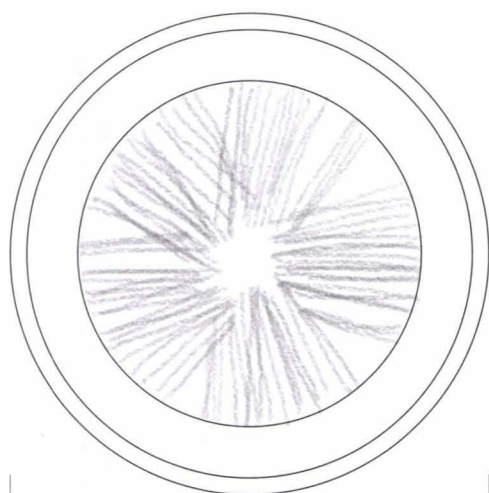
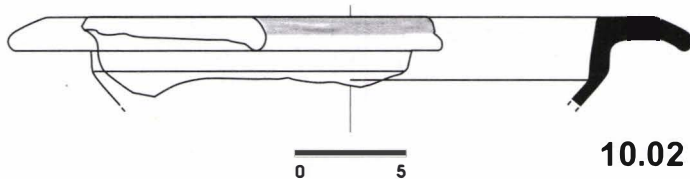
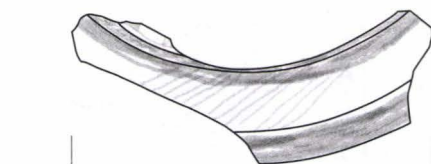


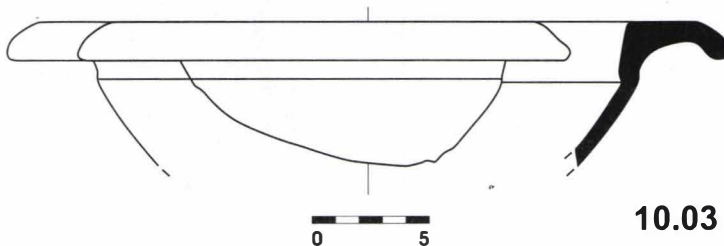
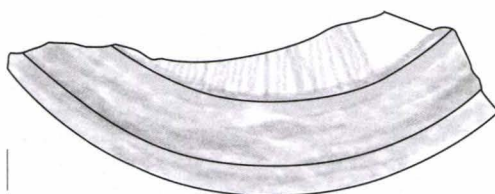
Fig. 10



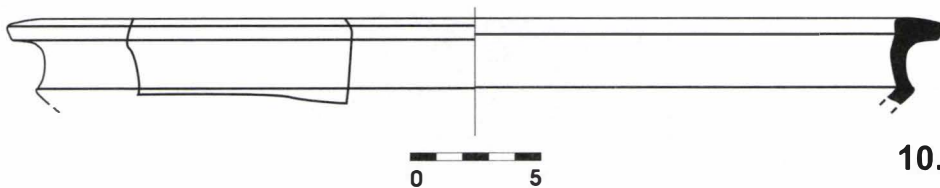
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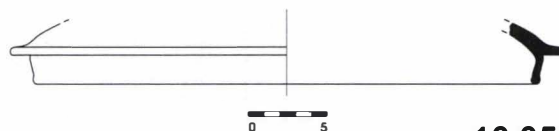
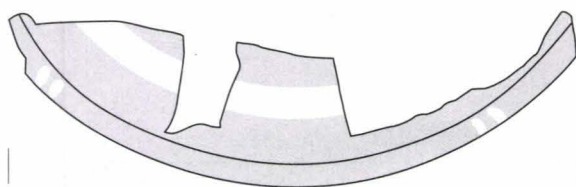
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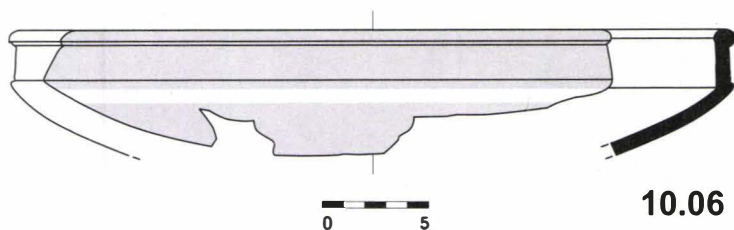
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Fig. 13

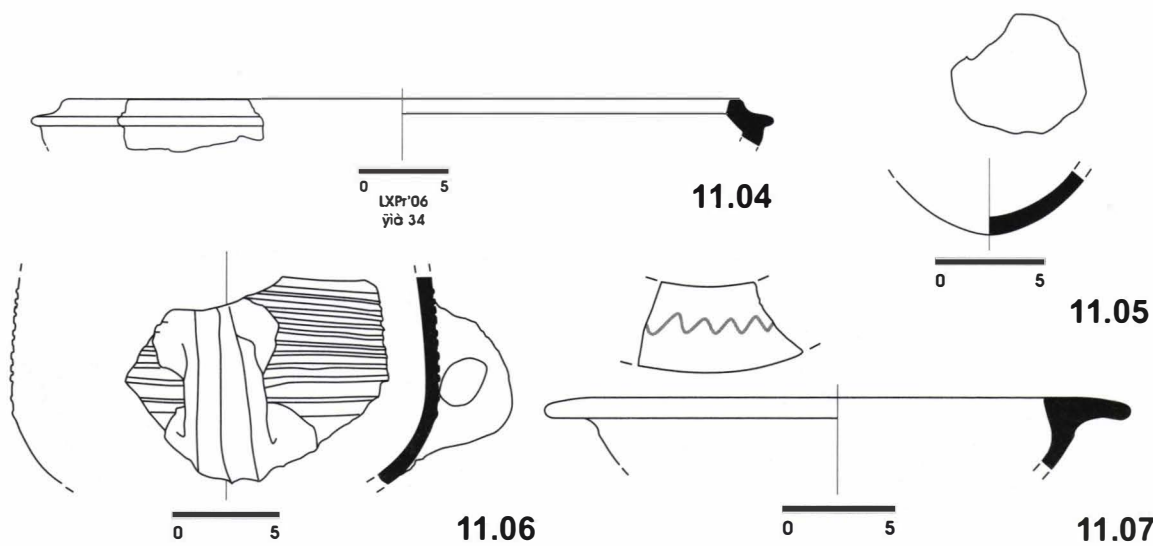
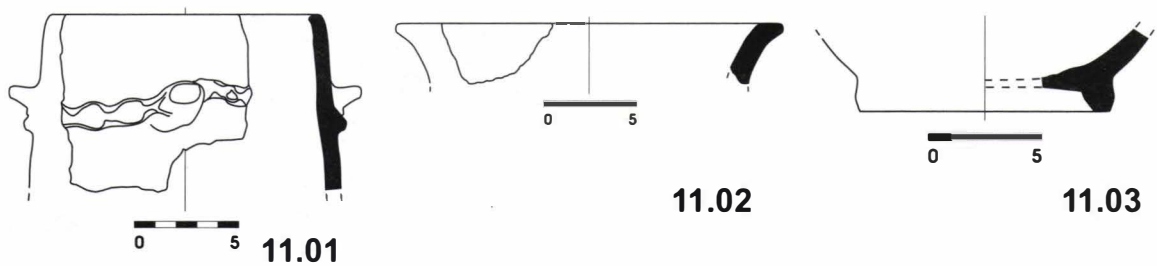


Fig. 11

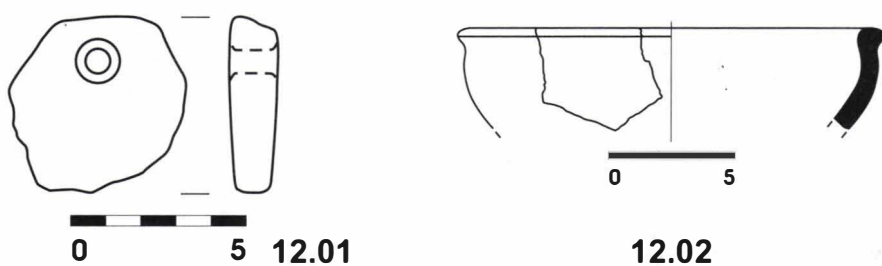
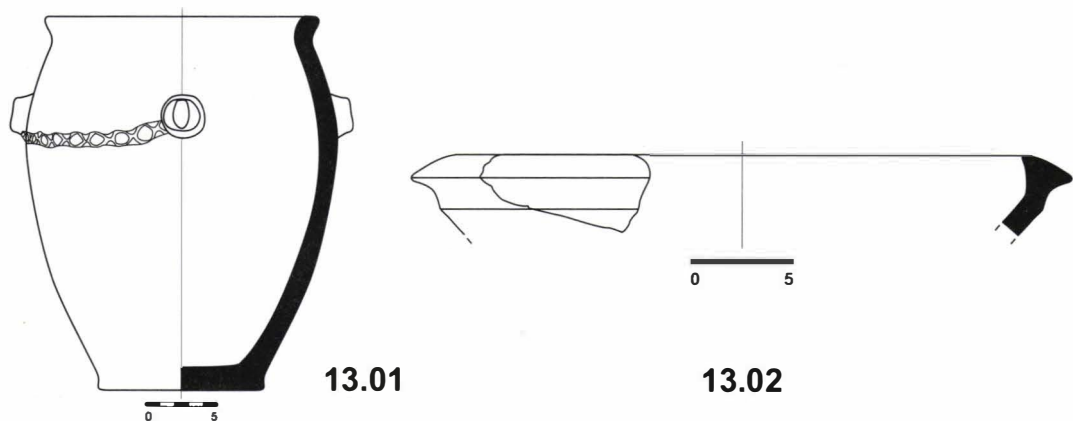
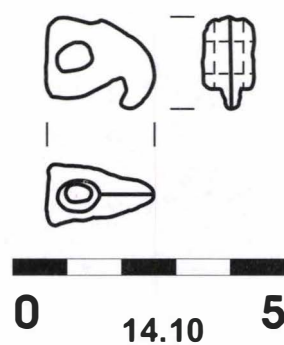
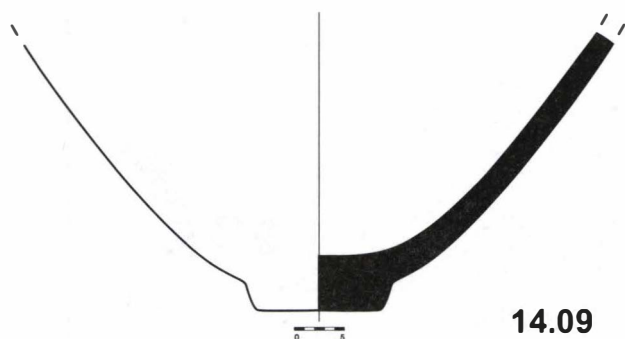
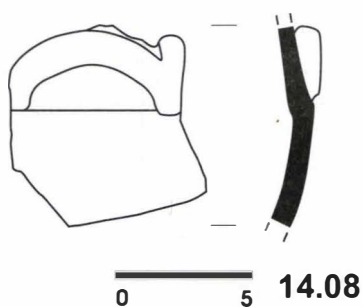
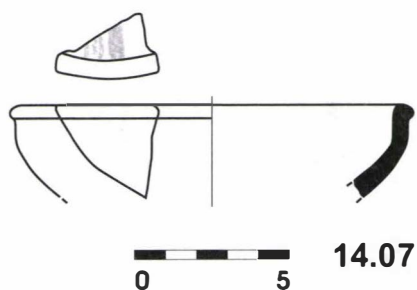
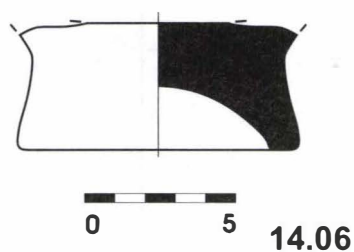
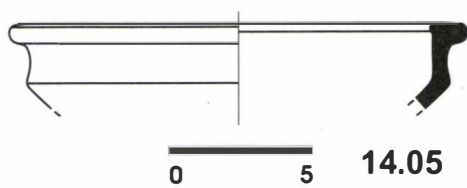
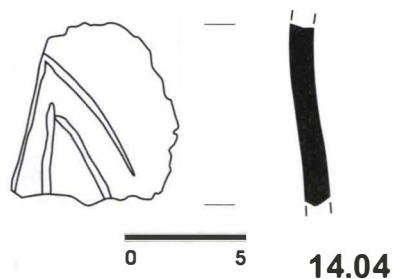
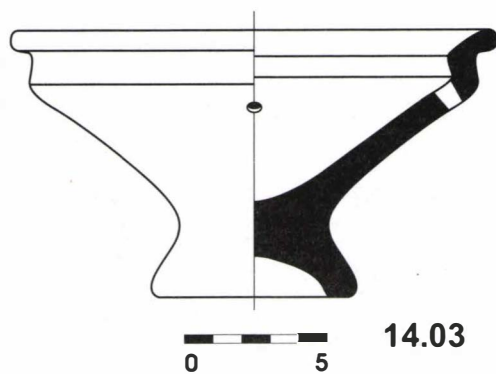
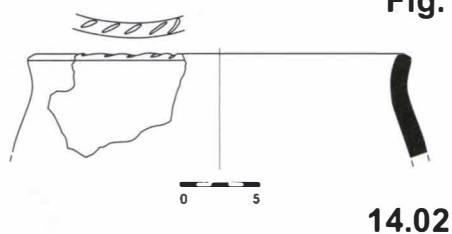
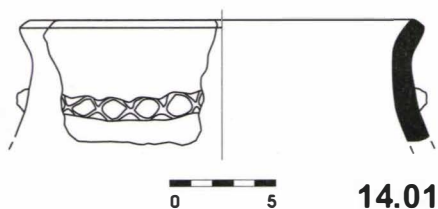
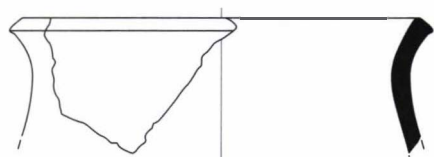


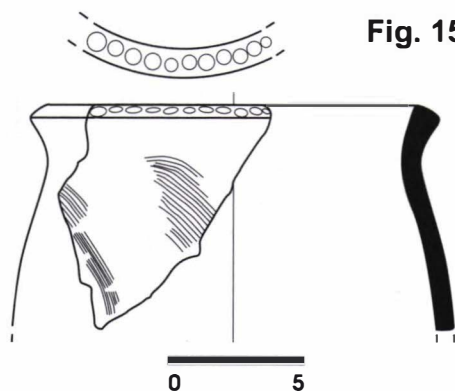
Fig. 12



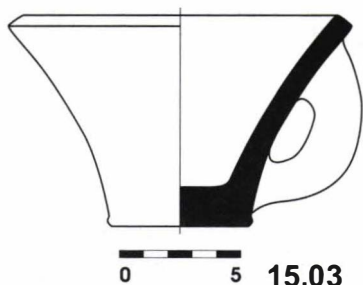




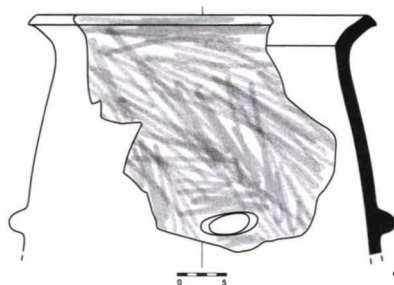
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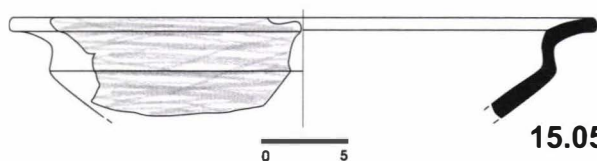
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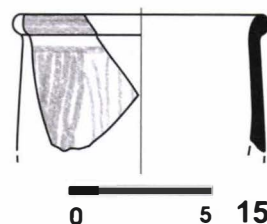
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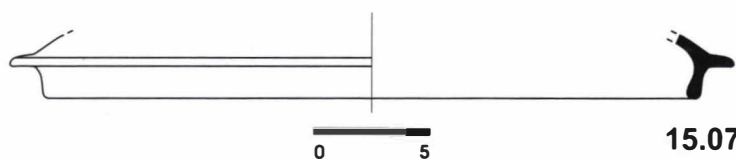
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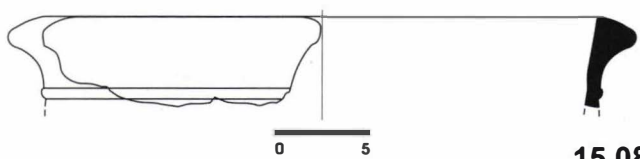
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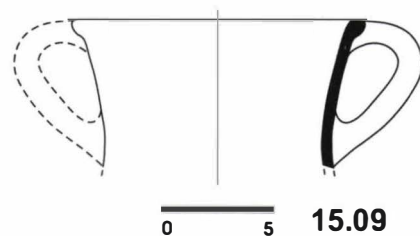
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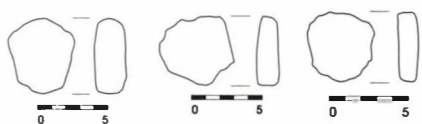
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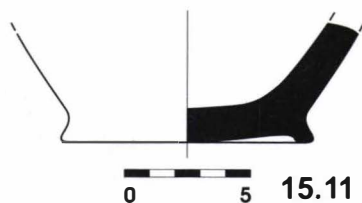
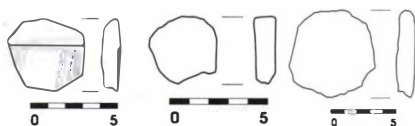
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Fig. 16

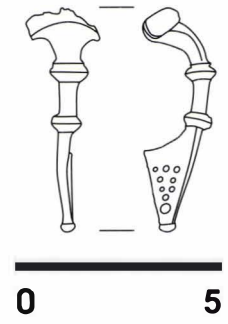
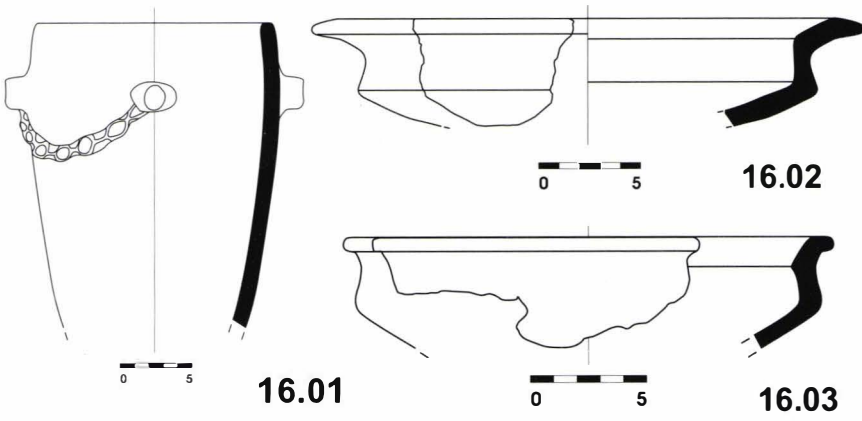
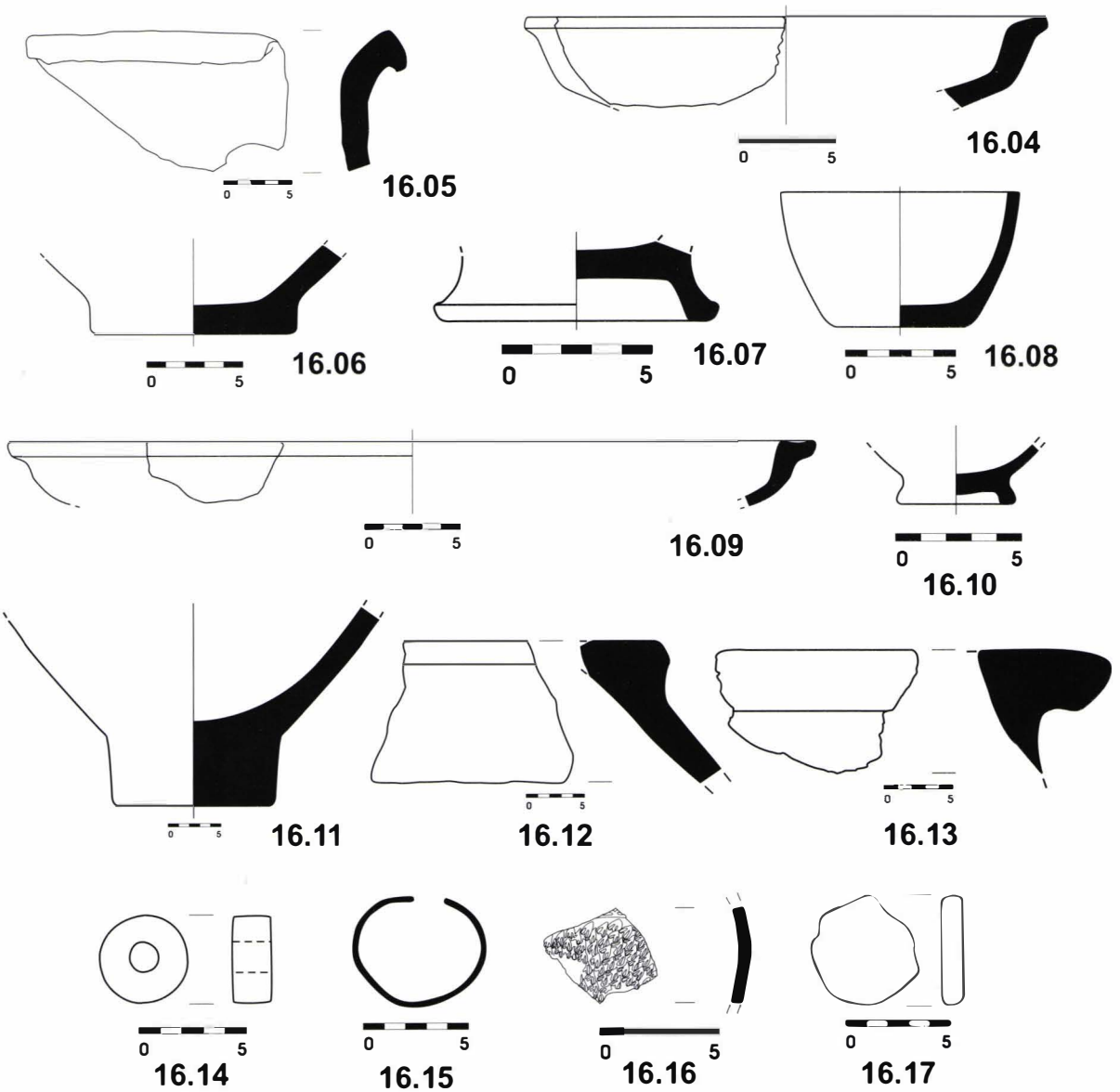


Fig. 17





Pic. 1

Pic. 2



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