

## TRANSPORT AMPHORAE FROM AKANTHOS\*

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**Summary:** *Akanthos was a famous colony of Andros, founded in the middle of 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C. The site occupies an area, which has contributed to the development of the city into a very important harbor of the Northern Aegean. In this harbor goods from all the ancient world markets, especially Eastern Greece, were commended, along with local goods, among which the famous "Akanthian wine". The archaeological research in the ancient settlement, as opposed to the cemetery, is quite limited. The majority of the burials are "enchytrismoι" especially in transport amphorae from various production centres, among which Miletus, Samos, Chios, Klazomenai, Lesbos, Thasos, Corinth, Corfu, Athens, Laconia, local amphorae and other imports of unknown origin. The existence of a local workshop is also confirmed by the investigation of six ceramic kilns and the discovery of a huge amount of amphorae, dated mainly to the fourth century B.C. The study of the imported transport amphorae to Akanthos, along with the local products, is presented. This variety of amphorae comprises evidence of the exchanges in the region of the Strymonic gulf and of the vitality primarily of Eastern Greek and secondly of Southern Greek exports during the seventh and the fourth century BC.*

The ancient city of Akanthos was founded in the middle of the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC by colonists of Andros, according to Thucydides<sup>1</sup>, or Andros and Chalkis, according to Plutarchus<sup>2</sup>. At the same time three other known colonies were founded in the area, Sane (modern N. Roda), Stagira and Argilos<sup>3</sup>.

Akanthos is situated on the eastern edge of Acanthus Gulf, on the three hills of Mount Stratonikos, near the modern village of Ierissos (Fig. 1-2). The foundation of the city in this privileged area is particularly important, as it is placed between the Strymonikos and the Siggitikos Bay and controls the entrance to the eastern peninsula of Chalkidiki, the Akte<sup>4</sup>, famous in antiquity for timber

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\* Akanthos counts as production center and as consumption center as well.

<sup>1</sup> Thuc. IV 84, 1

<sup>2</sup> Plutarch, *Quaest. Graec.* 30

<sup>3</sup> ZÄHRNT 1971, p. 146-150; RHOMIOPOULOU 1999, p. 127-130.

<sup>4</sup> Thuc. IV 109. Diod. Sic. XII 68: 5. Steph. Byz. s.v. *Akanthos*. See also ZÄHRNT 1971, p. 151-152.

and ores<sup>5</sup>. This turned Akanthos into an important trading port between eastern Greece, the interior of Chalkidiki and the Macedonian hinterland.

The prosperity of the city, as a result of its commercial relations, is evident through its rich monetary production (Fig. 3). In the late 6<sup>th</sup> century BC it is among the first cities in Macedonia with widely spread silver coins, which can also be found in hoards, even in distant places, outside the Aegean areas<sup>6</sup>.

The ancient city is surrounded by strong fortification walls, within which public buildings have been identified, whereas an "ekatompedos" temple is placed on the hilltop, probably dedicated to the goddess Athena<sup>7</sup> (Fig. 4-5). An Iron Age settlement preceded the city, remains of which are part of a vaulted building and enclosures. These remains along with some contemporary graves are associated with the local populations which inhabited the area before the arrival of settlers from Andros<sup>8</sup>.

Ceramic workshops have been located in the area between the city and the cemetery. In total eight ceramic kilns of the «round type» have been identified, mainly belonging to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, some of which are related to the production of transport amphorae. Particular attention was given to the construction of two kilns, which were placed on a rectangular stone structure. This workshop complex also acquired various auxiliary areas and a stoa<sup>9</sup> (Fig. 6-9).

The cemetery extends to the coastal zone. The number of graves investigated so far exceeds the 14,000, with the earlier (belonging to local inhabitants) dating to the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC and the latter to Roman imperial times (mid 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD)<sup>10</sup>. The majority of the graves though belongs to the late Archaic and Classical period, eras during which the city flourished. About 40% of them are *enchytrismoi* (Fig. 10) mainly in transport amphorae and secondarily in hydriae, pithoi, jugs and cauldrons. Inhumations in amphorae were commonly not accompanied by offerings, a fact that complicates their chronology, which can be based solely on typological criteria.

This study concerns the amphorae of the Archaic and Classical periods, recovered in the area of the cemetery, along with the findings related to the local workshop of the ancient city. The preliminary results of the study of an assemblage of 150 conserved jars will be discussed<sup>11</sup>. Though it is only a small amount compared to the total of the recovered amphorae, it is representative of the provenance of the products that arrived at the port of Acanthus. Hopefully, future conservation and study of the rest of the amphorae will enable, apart from a typological analysis of the various amphora production centres, a more precise quantitative approach, which is particularly important for the evaluation of the commercial and economic data of the life of the city, from the early stages of its foundation to its decline.

<sup>5</sup> DAVIES 1932, p. 145-162; KIOURTZOGLU *et al.* 1999, p. 295-297.

<sup>6</sup> TSELEKAS 1996.

<sup>7</sup> TRAKOSOPOULOU-SALAKIDOU 1996, p. 301, fig. 2, pl. 6.

<sup>8</sup> TRAKOSOPOULOU 1995, p. 482; TRAKOSOPOULOU-SALAKIDOU 2006-2007, p. 45-54.

<sup>9</sup> TRAKOSOPOULOU-SALAKIDOU 2004b, p. 167-179.

<sup>10</sup> TRAKOSOPOULOU-SALAKIDOU 1993, p. 413-415; RHOMIOPOULOU 1999, p. 289.

<sup>11</sup> The study of this large assemblage is still in progress as part of my Ph. D. thesis.

Highly representative in the assemblage are the Chian amphorae<sup>12</sup>. The earliest amphorae of this group, dated to the second half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, are quite large vessels with heavy proportions. Their entire surface is covered with a whitish slip, while their banded decoration appears to be variant<sup>13</sup>. The results of the chemical analysis of their clay paste, conducted by the Cultural and Educational Technology Institute at Xanthi, have demonstrated that these amphorae belong to the same chemical group. These are the first transport amphorae that arrived in Acanthus shortly after its foundation and are dated to the third and the last quarter of the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC (*Fig. 11a*).

Early Chian amphorae from the northern Aegean have also been found in Abdera, Thasos, Oisymi, Mende, Sindos, Karabournaki and Leibithra<sup>14</sup>, indicating a particularly active Chian trade not only along the Macedonian coast but also in the hinterland.

During the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, amphorae with whitish slip become more delicate in shape<sup>15</sup>. To this latter phase belong two almost intact examples. The one of them has a more oval body, which allows its dating to the second quarter of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, while the other becomes spindle-shaped with more slender proportions, clearly a more developed shape classified in the last examples of the series of amphorae with «white slip», dated to the third quarter of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC.

The amphorae of the «funnel» neck type appear in the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, before the production of amphorae with whitish slip ceases<sup>16</sup> (*Fig. 11b*). Six examples from Akanthos bear traces of thin whitish slip and decoration with very thin stripes. They belong to Lambrino A1 type and date from the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

Regarding the swollen-necked jars, according to the classification of Knigge<sup>17</sup>, two belong to the C/1 type, with painted rim, and date from c. 500 BC (*Fig. 11c*), two to the C/2 type of the second quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century (c. 450 BC) and one to the C/3 type from the third quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC.

<sup>12</sup> See general DUPONT 2003, p. 146-148; MONACHOV 2003a, p. 11-24.

<sup>13</sup> Regarding the possibility that Chian vessels were manufactured in other workshops off the island, e.g. in Maroneia, Abdera, Klazomenai or the area of Erythres, see LEMOS 1986, p. 157-173; SKARLATIDOU 2000, p. 287-288; DOĞER 1986, p. 461-471; DUPONT 1983, p. 30-31. Regarding the issue of transporting clay from Chios to Naucratis, see BOARDMAN 1986, p. 251-258.

<sup>14</sup> GHALI-KAHIL 1960, p. 28 nos. 1-4; BERNARD 1964, p. 137-140, fig. 50; KOUKOULI-CHRYSANTHAKI 1989, p. 375-376, pl. 206β; KOUKOULI-CHRYSANTHAKI & PAPANIKOLAOU 1990, p. 492, fig. 16; MOSCHONISIOTI 2004, p. 279; OETTLI 1994, p. 39-44 nos. 16-27, 38, figs. 8-9, pl. 7; TIVERIOS 1987, p. 252, fig. 17; PANTI 2008, p. 158-159, pl. 60 (α-γ). The examples from Lebethra in Pieria are not published.

<sup>15</sup> DUPONT 2003, p. 148, fig. 23.1e, f.

<sup>16</sup> In Russian bibliography they are referred as amphoras with «funnel» neck, see ZEEST 1960, p. 74-78, pls. II-III, while according to Lambrino's classification as type A1 and A2, see LAMBRINO 1938, p. 110-112.

<sup>17</sup> KNIGGE 1976, p. 23-24. See also ZEEST 1960, p. 74-78, pl. III no. 10a, 11a-b and pl. IV no. 11c-d; LAZAROV 1973, p. 10-12, pl. I nos. 8-9, pl. II, pl. III nos. 25-27, pl. 24 nos. 14, 15, 29; LAWALL 1995, p. 96-97.

The presence of transport amphorae from Klazomenai is evident from the late 6<sup>th</sup> century, with four examples belonging to Dupont's type A<sup>18</sup> (*fig. 11d*). The jars from Akanthos have similar dimensions, while their fabric bears differences mainly in colour, but similarities in composition, containing mainly micaceous inclusions. A thin whitish slip covers the outer surface. This type of Klazomenian amphora appears to be widely dispersed and dates from the late 6<sup>th</sup> century BC.

Noteworthy is the absence of «gray» lesbian amphorae from the cemetery of Akanthos. One amphora comprises a typical example of the «red» series<sup>19</sup>, bearing the characteristic vertical plastic formation ("rat-tail") below the handles, dated to the early 6<sup>th</sup> century<sup>20</sup>. Two more jars could be included to the same group. They bear small differences from the previous, such as fingerprints impressed on the joint of the handles. The two latter examples date from the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC (*Fig. 11e-f*).

A large group of amphorae could be attributed to the «Lesbian type» amphorae (*Fig. 11g*). Their fabric varies from red to dark red-brown in colour, while in some cases greyish areas are observed on the outer surface and in the core, containing a sufficient amount of inclusions, mainly micaceous ones<sup>21</sup>. The main features of this group is the conical shape of the lower body (with almost straight walls), the short wide cylindrical neck with the characteristic horizontal offset ridge on its upper part, the relatively wide ring base and the particularly highlighted rim, which is rounded or semi-rounded in cross section. Finally, their short, solid, rounded in cross section, handles bear fingerprints impressed on their base. The above characteristics allow their date to the first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

A second group of «Lesbian type» amphorae could be described as «table amphorae», as they have morphological similarities with the two types of Clinkenbeard's «table» amphorae<sup>22</sup>. This group dates from the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC (*Fig. 11h*).

As the separation between the Samian and the Milesian amphorae in the 5<sup>th</sup> century is quite difficult, 13 amphorae can be attributed to the group of Samian-Milesian type, belonging to the S/1 type of Lawall<sup>23</sup> (*Fig. 12a-c*). They have the characteristic protruding rim (thick rolled rim), the offset ridge on the neck and the spindle shape body, while there are small differences in the type of the base. Differences are also observed in fabric colour and composition. The examples date from the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> to early 4<sup>th</sup> century. Two jars belong to the latter examples of the 23.9 b,c type of Dupont and date to the end of 6<sup>th</sup> and early 5<sup>th</sup> century<sup>24</sup>.

Finally, two jars from Akanthos belong to Zeest's «Samian» group (*Fig. 12d-e*). The first is close to the 23.10a type, while the other varies, regarding the funnel shape of the neck (type 23.10c, d). They date from the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup>

<sup>18</sup> DUPONT 2003, p. 152-154, fig. 23.3a-d.

<sup>19</sup> ZEEST 1960, p. 72-74, pl. II no. 7-8. CLINKENBEARD 1986, p. 354.

<sup>20</sup> PELAGATTI 1976-1977, tav. LXXVI no. 13. BÎRZESCU 2005, p. 50-52, abb. 1 no. 3.

<sup>21</sup> DUPONT 2010b, p. 37-47.

<sup>22</sup> CLINKENBEARD 1982, p. 258-259, pl. 69a-d.

<sup>23</sup> LAWALL 1995, p. 177-181.

<sup>24</sup> DUPONT 2003, p. 168-169, fig. 23.9b-c.

century BC. Four additional jars could be included in the same group, dated possibly to the late 6<sup>th</sup> century. According to the latest data, the origin of these amphorae could be detected in N. Aegean (probably in the area of Abdera)<sup>25</sup>.

The conserved amphorae deriving from Thasos are quite limited (*Fig. 13a-b*). They belong to the double-banded rim type (late 6<sup>th</sup> - early 5<sup>th</sup> century BC)<sup>26</sup>, to the "pithoid Thasian" type (mid 5<sup>th</sup> century)<sup>27</sup>, while one example is of the "unstamped Thasian" type of the late 5<sup>th</sup> century<sup>28</sup>.

The examples from Mende are many and are characterized by a short, everted rim, set off by one or more grooves around the neck, broad flat handles punctuated by a thumbprint at the lower attachment, and a flaring toe with shallow depression on the underside (*Fig. 13c-d*). Some of them have a reddish horizontal band on the lower part of the body and an impressed cycle on the neck. The clay fabric is coarse and micaceous, light to reddish brown in colour, with moderate in size inclusions, including often quartz. They belong mainly to the early and middle variant, with globular body and sloping shoulders, and date from the second and third quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century<sup>29</sup>.

A set of amphorae derives from Northern Aegean workshops, which exact locations are still uncertain (*Fig. 13e-g*). They are quite often referred as amphorae of the «Thasian circle»<sup>30</sup>. Their clay fabric is reddish to red-brown in colour, with many inclusions, mainly micaceous ones. They are characterized by the spherical body, the ring base and the short, solid, oval in cross section, handles with thumbprints on their base. Variations occur in the formation of the rim. Their morphological attributes allow their dating to the early 5<sup>th</sup> century BC.

Only one fragmented example from the cemetery of Akanthos belongs to the Attic SOS amphora (*Fig. 14a*). On the basis of the decoration on the neck it can be attributed between types S, O, S and S, Oa, S, according to Johnston and Jones and dates from late 7<sup>th</sup> century<sup>31</sup>. Typical examples of the *à la brosse* amphorae group are eight jars dating from the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> and early 5<sup>th</sup> century<sup>32</sup> (*Fig. 14b-c*).

There are three examples of Laconian amphorae in the cemetery of Akanthos<sup>33</sup>. The first belongs to Stibbe's group G (or Pelagatti's type 1), dated to the mid 6<sup>th</sup> century, the second to Stibbe's group I (or Pelagatti's type 2), dated to the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century (*Fig. 14d*). The third could also be included in Stibbe's group I (or Pelagatti's type 2) but shows some peculiarities that occur in early Laconian «table» amphorae of Stibbe's Group A and mainly in 7<sup>th</sup> century Attic SOS amphorae, a fact which makes Pelagatti's assumption that Laconian amphorae

<sup>25</sup> DUPONT 2010a, p. 3-11.

<sup>26</sup> JOHNSTON 1991, p. 363-365; GRANDJEAN 1992, figs. 1-5, 9 nos. 2, 7, 10, 16-18, 26-28, 34, 61-63.

<sup>27</sup> BRAŠINSKIJ 1980, p. 19; GARLAN 1988, p. 13-14 fig. 11.

<sup>28</sup> ZEEST 1960, p. 80-81, pl. VI no. 16; GRANDJEAN 1992, p. 563-565, fig. 11 nos. 71-75.

<sup>29</sup> LAWALL 1995, p. 120-124, figs. 37-41.

<sup>30</sup> DUPONT 2003, p. 186-190; LAWALL 1997, p. 113-130.

<sup>31</sup> JOHNSTON – JONES 1978, p. 135-136, fig. 8a-b.

<sup>32</sup> LAWALL 1995, p. 34-42, figs. 1-5.

<sup>33</sup> PELAGATTI – STIBBE 1992, p. 123-247; STIBBE 2000, p. 70-72.

derive from them quite plausible. The latter jar dates from late 7<sup>th</sup> century BC, according to its morphological attributes.

Three examples of amphorae come from Corinth. They belong to type A of the last quarter of the 6<sup>th</sup> century<sup>34</sup>, to type A' of early 5<sup>th</sup> century<sup>35</sup>, and type B of Corinthian - Corcyrian amphorae (Type B/3) of mid-5<sup>th</sup> century<sup>36</sup> (Fig. 14e).

### **The local workshop products**

Although the late 4<sup>th</sup> century amphorae bearing wheel stamps can be definitely attributed to the local workshop of Akanthos, especially since they have been recovered in the area of the ceramic kilns, it is still uncertain whether local production begins early in the late 6<sup>th</sup> or early 5<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of amphorae used for *enchytrismo*i belong to a type which could be produced in Akanthos. The similarities with the late fifth-century Mendeian amphorae and the top-shaped Thasian type ones are obvious, a fact that led many researchers to ascribe them to the one or to the other production centre<sup>37</sup> or to support more generally the view of the existence of a regional style – the North Greek *koine* – of amphora production, common between Mende and Thasos<sup>38</sup>. Nevertheless there are obvious differences in the clay fabric and mainly in the vessel shape. Specifically, the Akanthian fabric is reddish in colour<sup>39</sup> occasionally with a gray core and contains a sufficient amount of micaeous and limestone fragments. Their surface is relatively smooth covered with a thin slip, light in colour<sup>40</sup>. The preliminary results of the chemical analysis of the clay paste appears to confirm the relation of this group with the amphorae bearing wheel stamps. Regarding the morphological characteristics, the rim is plain and slightly projecting, usually separated from the neck with a horizontal groove (intense or less). The body shape is oval in the beginning, with the maximum diameter in the upper half or in the middle, and later develops into conical shape. The neck is very short and the disk shape base is low and narrow with a small underside circular depression, in some cases bearing a low nipple projection in the centre<sup>41</sup>. The handles are quite short, oval in cross section, while their upper joint occupies almost the whole height of the neck, while they have thumbprints on the shoulder. One example bears a circular stamp with an A<sup>42</sup> (Fig. 15a). Important evidence suggesting the attribution of this group to the local workshop is that some examples have strong manufacturing defects, due to the firing process. These examples, based exclusively on their morphological attributes, date from the beginning to the second quarter of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>34</sup> KOEHLER 1978a, p. 98-99 no. 22, pl. 4; VASSALLO 2003, p. 333, 335 fig. 2 no. 7.

<sup>35</sup> KOEHLER 1978a, p. 16-17, 106 no. 39, pls. 6 and 15.

<sup>36</sup> KOEHLER 1978a, pls 30, 39 no. 229.

<sup>37</sup> ROBERTS 1986, nos. 426-428.

<sup>38</sup> LAWALL 1995, p. 156-175; LAWALL 1997, p. 113-130.

<sup>39</sup> Munsell Soil Color 2.5 YR 5/6.

<sup>40</sup> Munsell Soil Color 10 YR 8/2.

<sup>41</sup> The shape of the base is similar with Lawall's "FG 1 disc-base", see LAWALL 1997, p. 116-117, fig 3.

<sup>42</sup> RHOMIOPOULOU 1986, p. 480-481, figs. 2, 6 no. 1.

The local workshops become more active in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The 4<sup>th</sup> century examples deriving from the workshop area bear slight variations in the shape of the rim. It is generally triangular in section with flat or slightly sloping the upper surface and have a slightly horizontal groove on the joint with the neck. The neck is sharply conical and often bears a horizontal groove on the base. The tall, oval in cross section, handles adjust just below the rim, rise slightly and vertically reach the shoulder, where thumbprints are set. Usually the back of the handles carry stamps in the form of a three-or four-spoked wheel, often with letters between the spokes, including the letters *AKAN* (Fig. 15b). For the interpretation of these seals the contribution of Y. Garlan is of great importance<sup>43</sup>. An intact example of the type with conical neck has not yet been found in the workshop area. However, an almost intact example deriving from the cemetery area gives us the overall shape. (Fig. 15c) The flaring outward shoulder curves to form a conical body that in the lower part ends in a stem toe with a small underside depression. There are not any stamps on the handles. The clay fabric is reddish to brown in colour<sup>44</sup> depending on firing conditions, usually having a gray core. Its hardness is moderate and contains a sufficient amount of sand, micaceous and limestone fragments of different sizes (some coarse grained quartz fragments can be identified). The outer surface is usually covered by a thin slip light in colour<sup>45</sup>. This particular jar should be dated to the first half of the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.

Another type of amphora associated with the local production was found not only in the kilns complex (in the exterior of kiln 5) (Fig. 15d) but also in large quantities (around 250), in an area of about 100 meters from them (Fig. 16). They were placed in order under a roofed stoa, next to a partially preserved complex, also related to the industrial zone of the city. According to the excavator E. Trakosopoulou, they date from the 4<sup>th</sup> century, based on the numismatic and other ceramic evidence<sup>46</sup>. They present the following morphological features: very bold lip, broad, triangular in cross section, with a flat upper surface separated from the neck by a horizontal groove; tall neck, cylindrical at the upper part, flaring to the broad horizontal shoulder that bends sharply to form a conical body shape. At the bottom, a cylindrical stem is formed with a wide knob toe, angular in profile with a conical underside depression. The handles are tall, oval in cross section, and always bear thumbprints on their base. A second type of amphora, smaller in size (capacity aprx 9 lt.), with spindle-shaped body and a similar rim shape, was found in smaller quantities in the same area (Fig. 15e). Some of them are characterised by a clay fabric orange-red in colour, while others by dark brown with a gray core. Their composition is sandy with sufficient amounts of mica and limestone fragments of various sizes. Its hardness is moderate and it is quite brittle in overall. In some cases the surface is covered by a thin whitish slip<sup>47</sup>. These specific types of amphorae are quite similar to examples from

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<sup>43</sup> GARLAN 2004c, p. 181-190; GARLAN 2006, p. 263-291.

<sup>44</sup> Munsell Soil Color 2.5 YR 5/8.

<sup>45</sup> Munsell Soil Color 10YR 7/4.

<sup>46</sup> TRAKOSOPOULOU-SALAKIDOU 2004a, p. 157-166.

<sup>47</sup> Munsell Soil Color 7.5YR 7 / 4 (pink)

Thasos<sup>48</sup>, supporting the view of the existence of a regional style, or *koine*, of amphora production, common between Mende and Thasos during the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC. On these jars stamps are relatively rare, while the few examples (only three amphorae) have mainly rectangular stamps with symbols such as the dolphin with letters  $\Phi$ -I or K-A and volute crater with letters A-P<sup>49</sup>. The study of this assemblage, along with the stamps from the workshop area is still in progress.

To summarize, the assemblage of amphorae presented demonstrates the vigorous imports of commercial amphorae from the East Aegean area in the early period of the foundation of the colony of Andros, primarily from Chios, and then from Lesbos, Klazomenai, Miletus and Samos<sup>50</sup>. These special relations with the Eastern Aegean area and Asia Minor coast have been also evident through the introduction of other ceramic products (such as cups, amphoriskoi, single-handled cups, feeding bottles, kanastra etc., which the local potters imitate), a phenomenon also observed not only throughout the Chalkidiki, but also in Thasos, Thasiaki Perea and the coast of Thrace, Abdera and Mesembria. This does not necessarily imply Acanthus' direct contact with these areas. More likely the commodities were imported through other traders (e.g. Rhodians)<sup>51</sup> who crossed the Aegean at this time.

The introduction of Corinthian amphorae, unlike other products of Corinthian pottery, that are common from mid-7<sup>th</sup> century, begins in the late 6<sup>th</sup> century (examples of Corinthian type A amphorae, though not conserved, also exist and belong to the late 6<sup>th</sup> century), while rare are the examples of Attic SOS amphorae from the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Few are also the examples of Laconian amphorae. The *à la brosse* amphorae, which were probably manufactured in Attic workshops, are common especially from the late 6<sup>th</sup> century and the early 5<sup>th</sup> century. Also, despite the hostile relations with Thasos, which date back to the old controversy of Paros and Andros for controlling the region, important is the presence of Thasian "double-banded rim" type amphorae from the late 6<sup>th</sup> century (although precise quantitative data do not exist)<sup>52</sup>. This leads us to stress once again that the trade of amphorae follows its own rules and their introduction to Akanthos is related to the needs, requests and the reputation of products from different centres of the ancient world. From the late 6<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, when the local workshop is active, imports of amphorae from other centres do not stop, but are reduced significantly (mainly the products of Chios and Samos/Miletus). At that time, the neighbouring Mende amphorae appear, along with other from unidentified northern Greece workshops. The

<sup>48</sup> MONACHOV 2003a, tab. 44.

<sup>49</sup> GARLAN 1989, 480, fig. 1m.

<sup>50</sup> Especially Samos is considered to have used the decline of the other Ionian cities to develop commercially, since it was left unpunished by the Persians after its withdrawal after the battle of Ladi. Moreover, in the 7<sup>th</sup> century Samos and Erythres acted as referees for giving Acanthos to Chalkis or Andros.

<sup>51</sup> TIVERIOS 1993, p. 1487-1493.

<sup>52</sup> The close relations to Thasos are also observed through the imports of other ceramic vessels, such as footless kylix and skyphoi with sub-geometric decoration, see PANTI 2008, p. 44 ff.

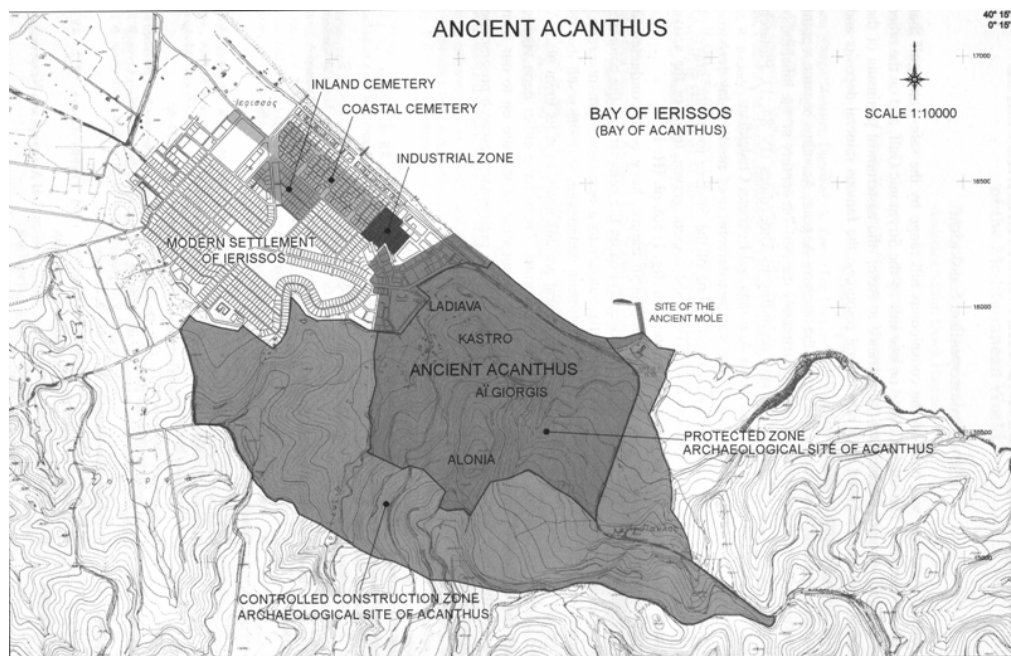


presence of early Akanthian amphorae (dated to the 5<sup>th</sup> century) in foreign markets is not very frequent, but by the mid 4<sup>th</sup> century «wheel» stamped amphorae are a key export product of the region and they are commonly found in the markets of the North Aegean and the Black Sea.

Hopefully, the completion of the study of the larger amount of the numerous amphorae, both from the cemetery and the workshop area, will enable to answer questions regarding not only the extent and density of the known or less known types of imported amphorae in Akanthos from the middle of the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> century, but also the more precise classification, typological development and chronology of the local products.



**Fig. 1 – Akanthos: site of the ancient city (Tiverios 2008).**



**Fig. 2 – General topographic plan of the ancient city (Trakosopoulou-Salakidou 2006-2007).**



Fig. 3 – Silver coins of Akanthos (Kaltsas 1998).

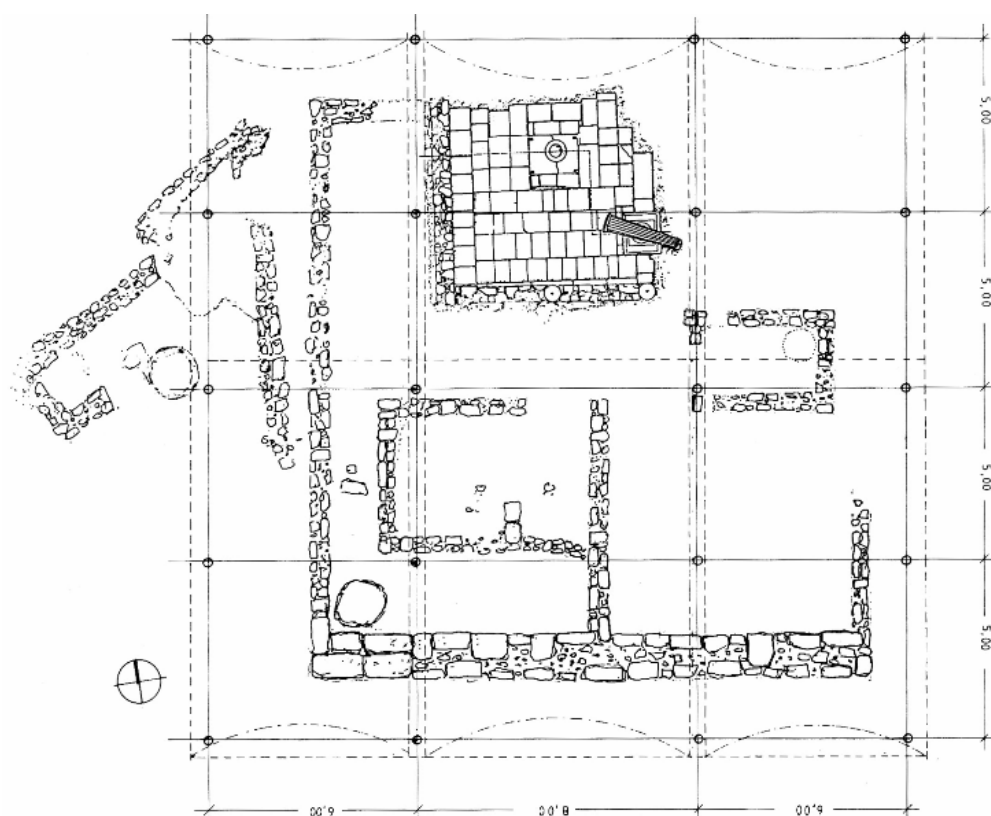


Fig. 4 – Public building (Trakosopoulou – Salakidou 1996).

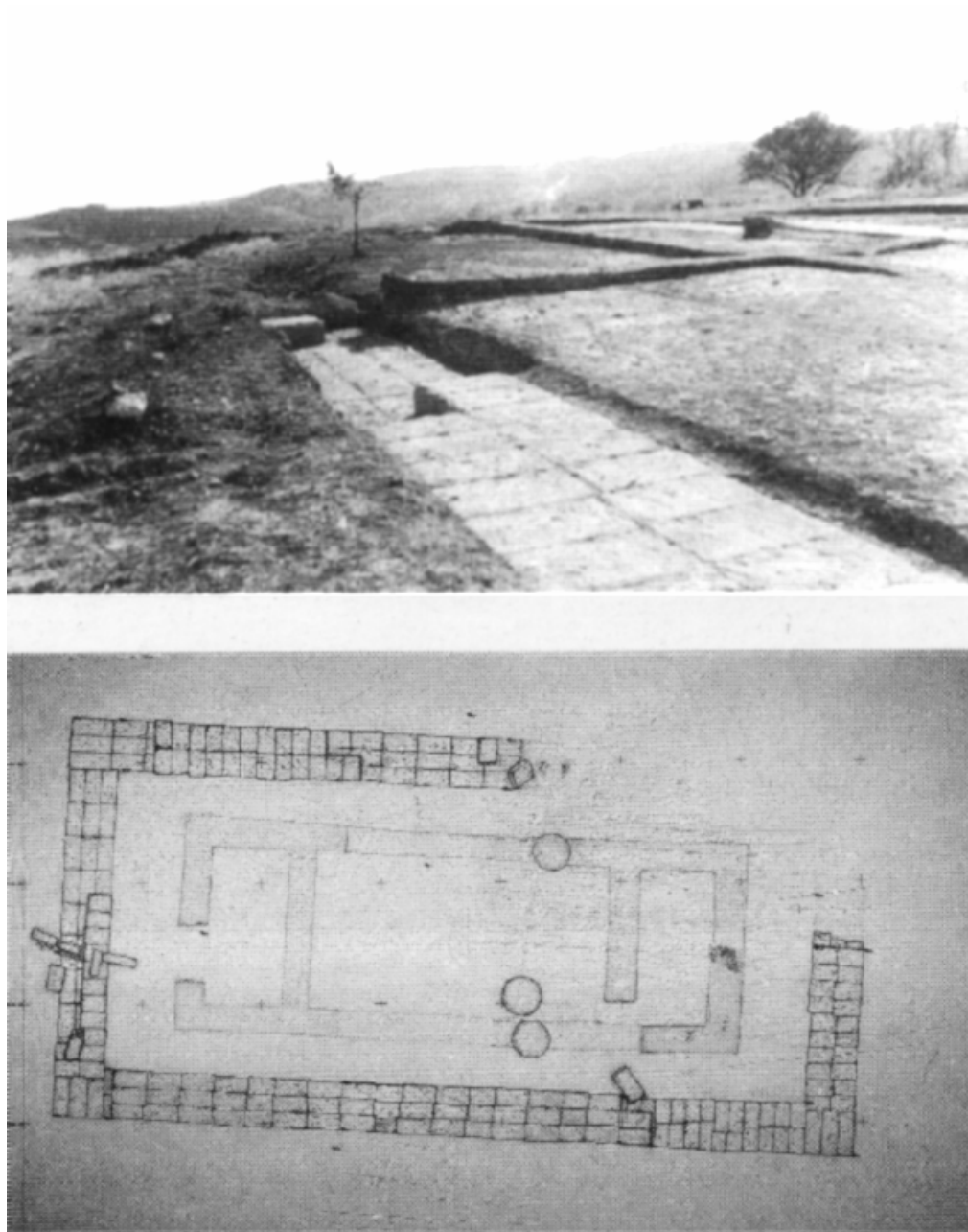


Fig. 5 – The “ekatompedos” temple (Trakosopoulou - Salakidou 1996).

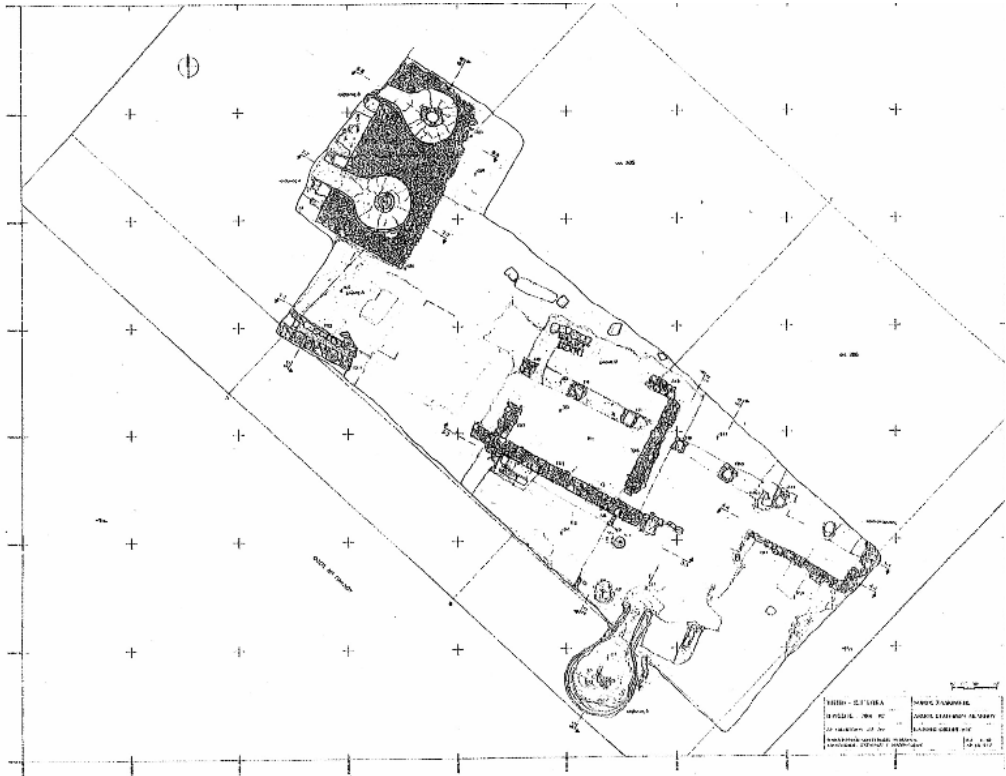


Fig. 6 – Plan of the kilns complex (Trakosopoulou- Salakidou 2004).



Fig. 7 – Ceramic Kilns (Trakosopoulou- Salakidou 2004).



Fig. 8 – The amphorae kiln (Trakosopoulou- Salakidou 2004).



Fig. 9 – View of the stoa building in the ceramic workshop area.



Fig. 10 – View of the ancient cemetery with the “enchytrismoi” (Kaltsas 1998).

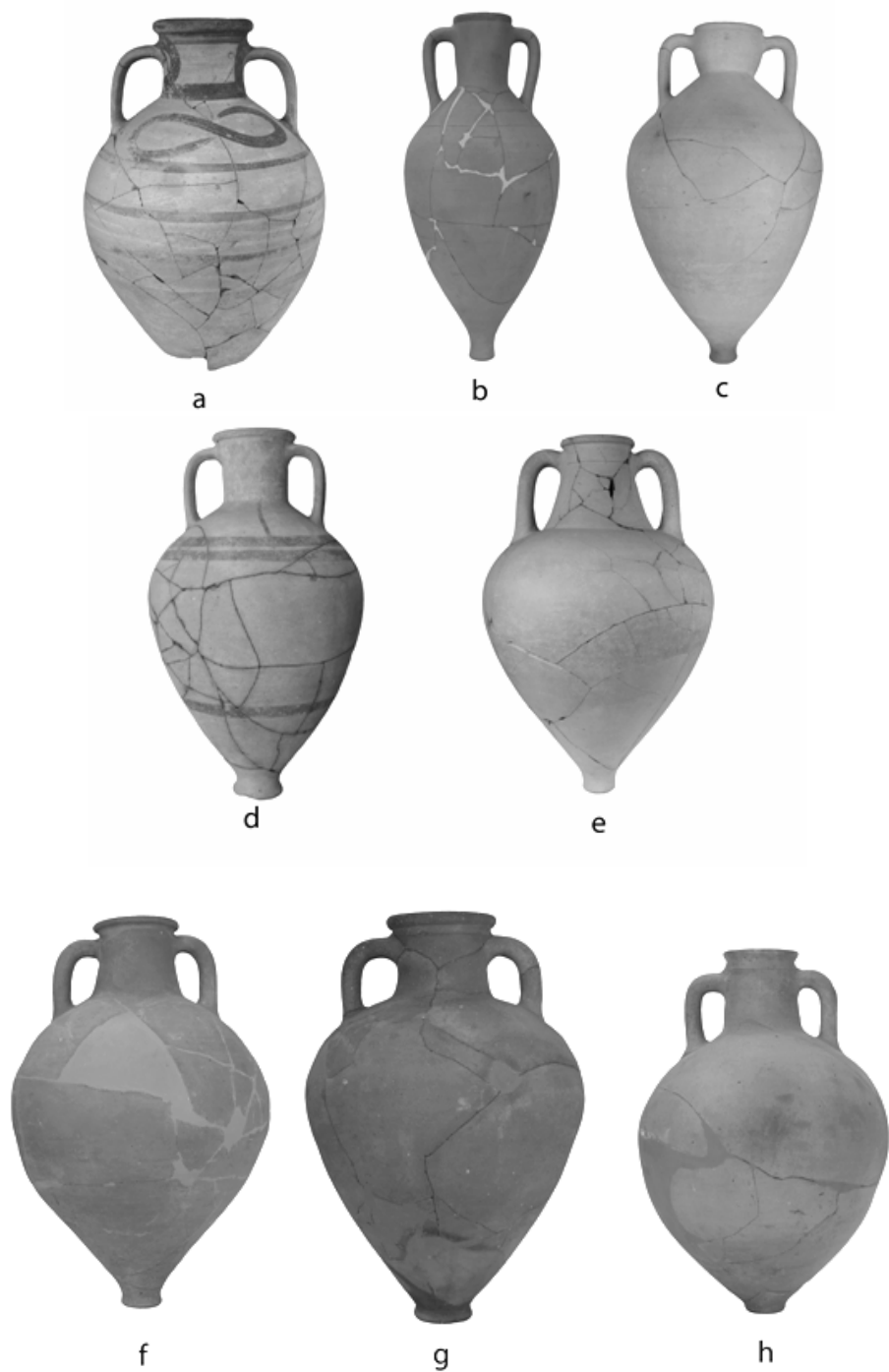


Fig. 11 – Chian, Klazomenian, Lesbian and “Lesbian” type amphorae.



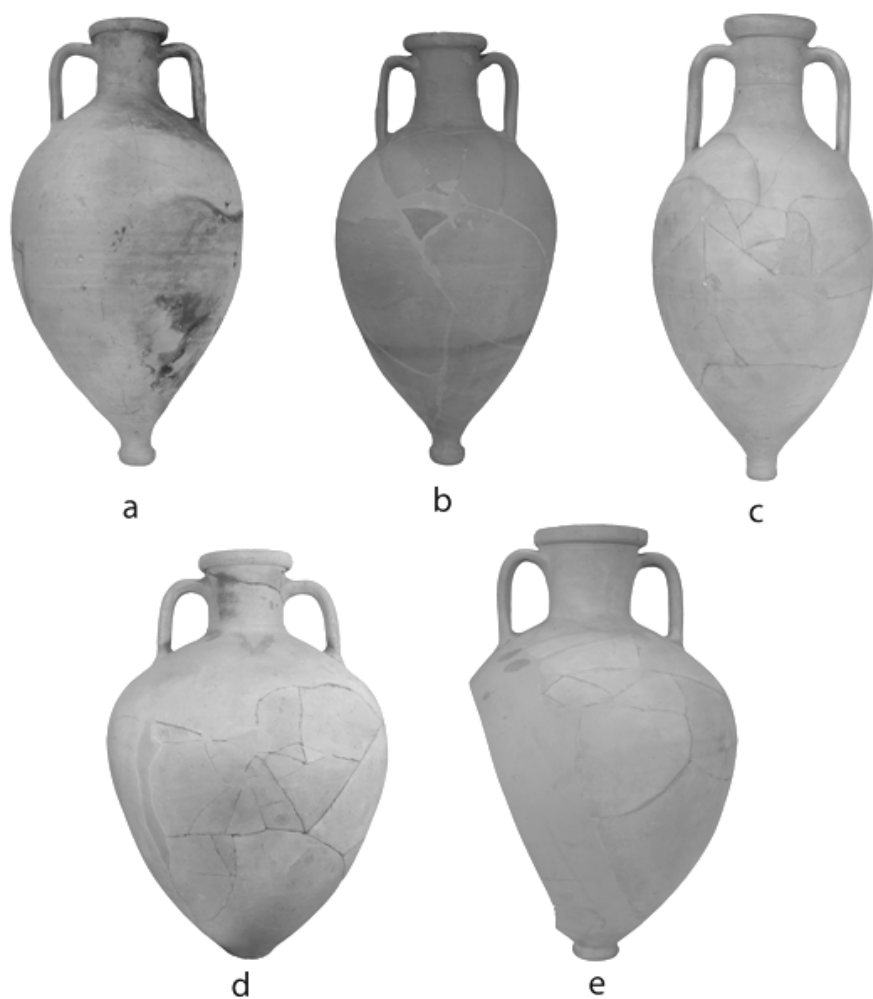
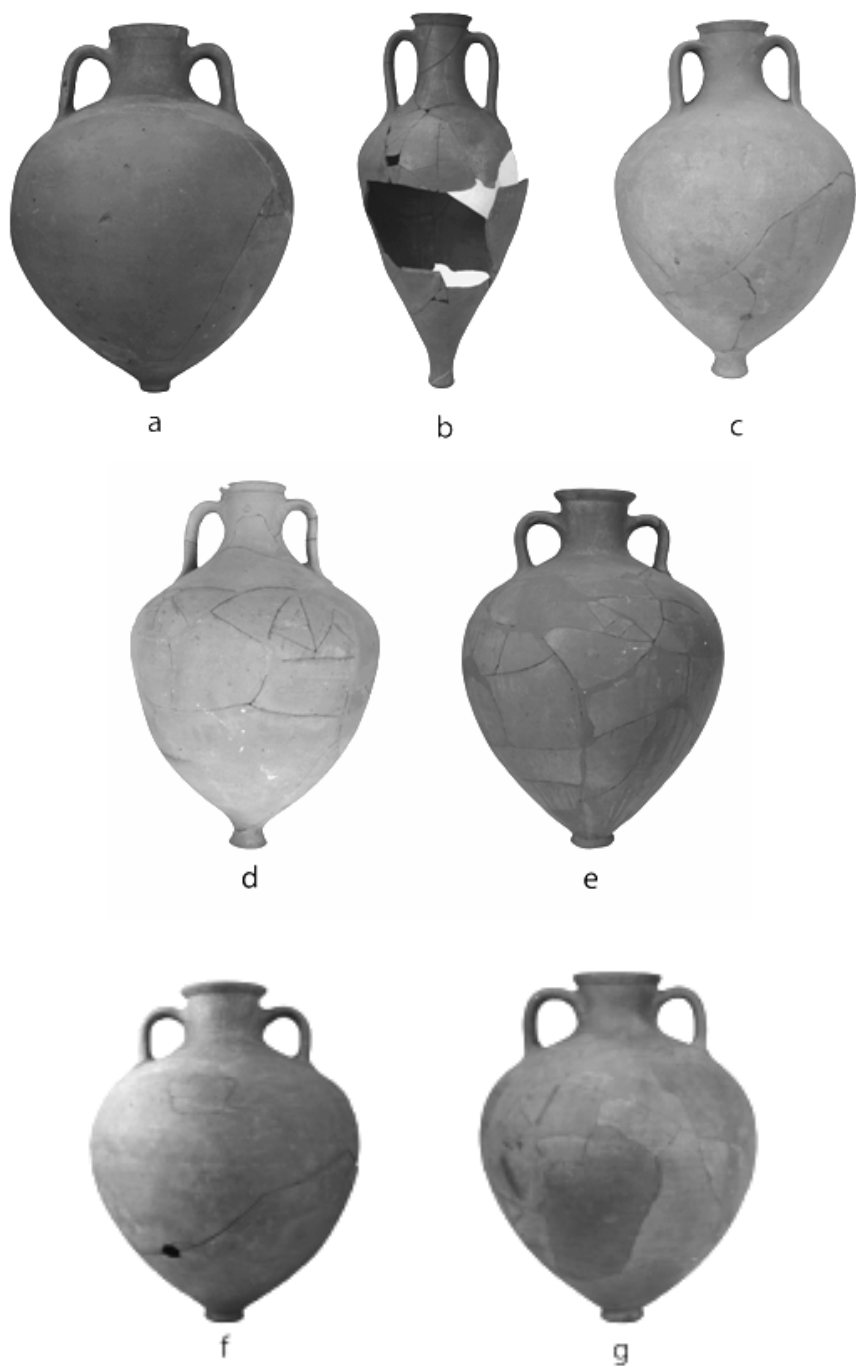


Fig. 12 – Samos–Miletos type and Zeest's «Samian» type amphorae.



**Fig. 13 – Thasian, Mendeian and North Aegean amphorae.**

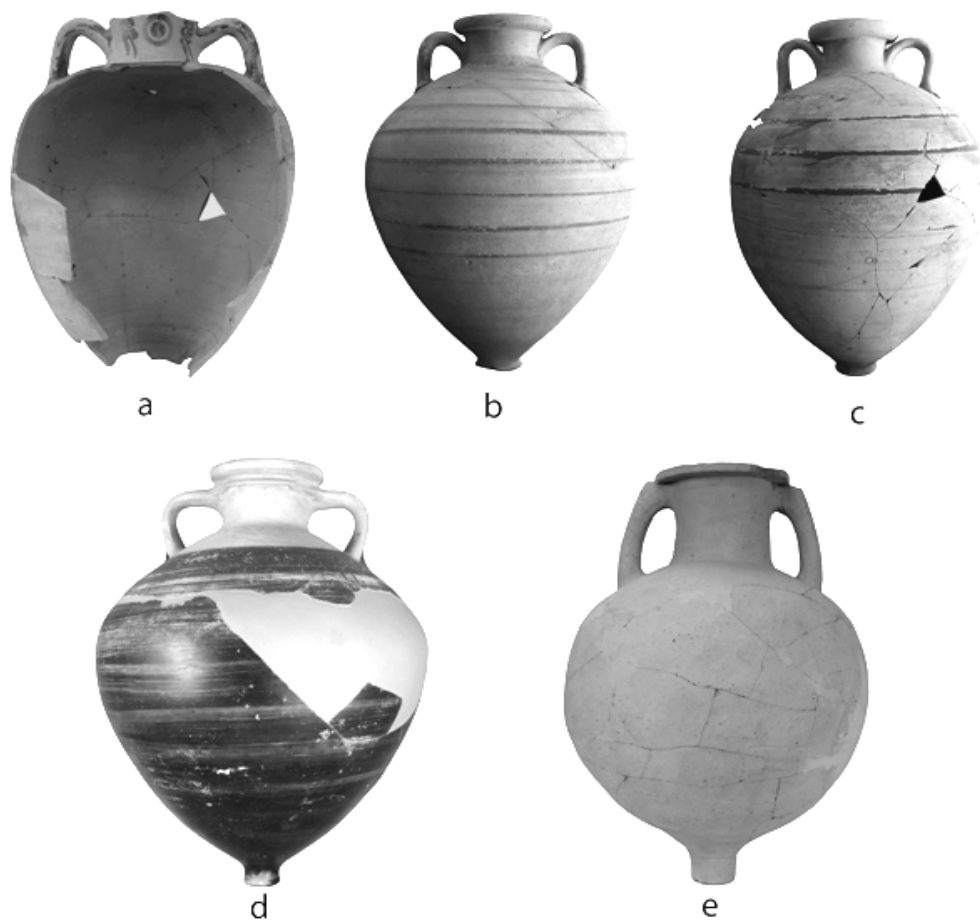


Fig. 14 – Attic, Laconian and Corinthian amphorae.

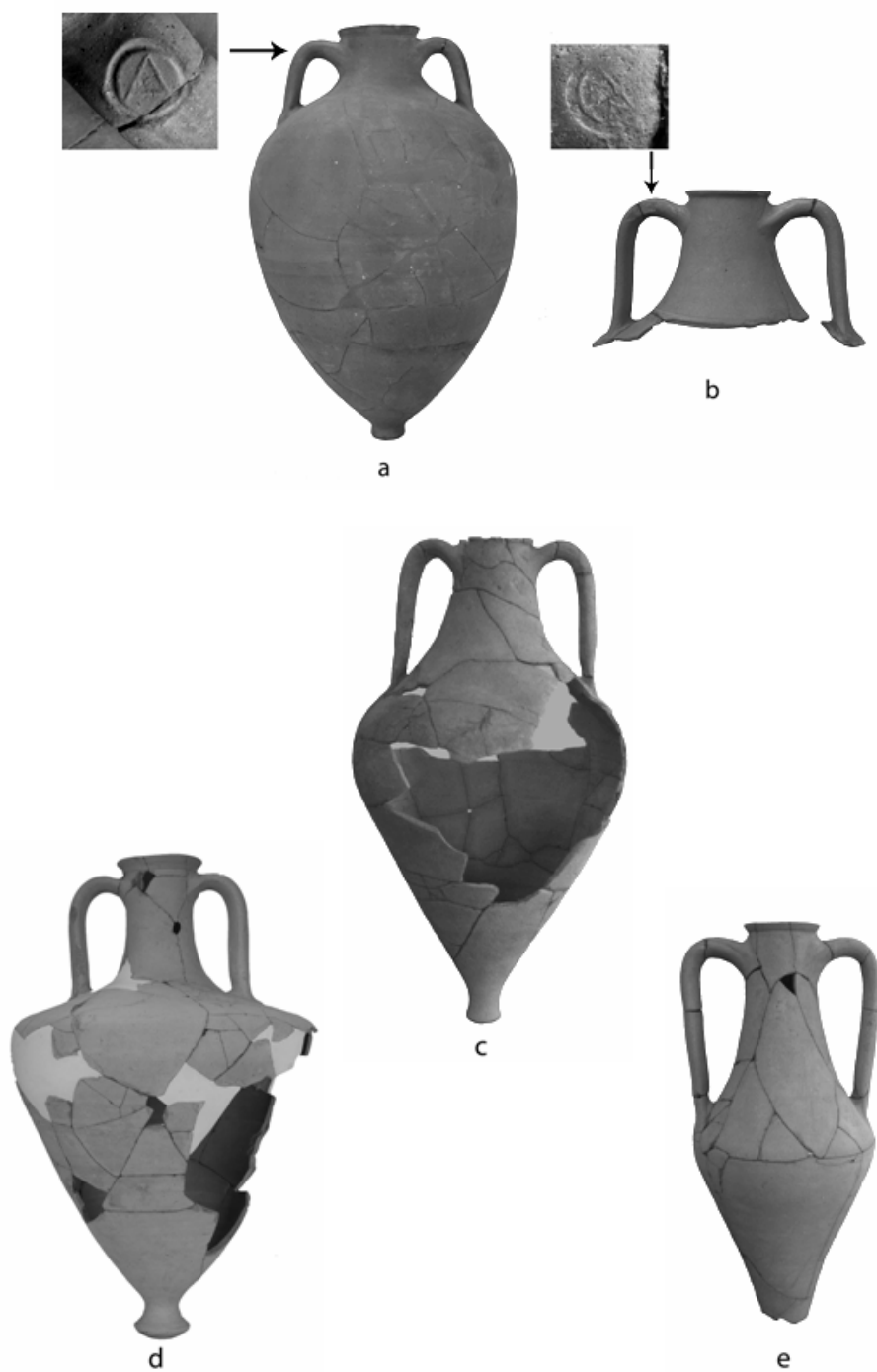


Fig. 15 – Akanthian amphorae.



Fig. 16 – Akanthian amphorae.