

ON THE EARLY DATE OF THE SANCTUARY OF DEMETER IN APOLLONIA: SOME EAST GREEK POTTERY

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Abstract: *The paper presents the East Greek pottery from the first half of the 6th c. BC, discovered at a site in ancient Apollonia Pontica, identified as a sanctuary of Demeter. Although fragmentary, the materials – Ionian cups, rosette bowls, etc. – indicate it emerged in the late first or the second quarter of the 6th c. BC, which fact makes it one of the earliest positively identified sanctuaries not only in Apollonia, but in the West Pontic region as a whole.*

The sanctuary of Demeter on Skamni Promontory in the northeasternmost end of present-day Sozopol (ancient Apollonia Pontica) was discovered in 2011. The early layers are badly disturbed by later structures and the sanctuary was identified mostly based on the assemblage of votive gifts – terracotta figurines of females and miniature vessels of closed shapes¹. The site yielded a large quantity of Archaic materials that indicate it emerged already within the first generations of colonists. The present article aims to shed more light on the early date of the sanctuary by means of analysis of the East Greek pottery from before the middle of the 6th c. BC.

As a rule, these are modest vases, most of all of various open shapes for serving and consumption of wine and food. Most numerous are the so-called „Ionian cups“ (*Knickrandschalen*), traditionally attributed to South Ionian centers. However, archaeometric analyses of specimens from Histria have revealed rather diverse origins². The excavations on Skamni Promontory have yielded several examples, relatively small and with simple decoration.

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¹ PANAJOTOVA 2013; DAMYANOV 2016, p. 119-121.

² See DUPONT 2014.

One cup (**Figs. 1/5, 2/2**) could be attributed to Villard and Vallet's Type B2³, Type VIII from Tocra⁴, and Type 9.1.C–9.2.C from the materials from Miletus⁵, where they are dated to 580–540 BC. Such cups are widespread on the early Greek sites in the Black Sea – for example in Histria⁶, Orgame⁷, and Berezan⁸. In Olbia, they are dated to the second quarter and the middle of the 6th c. BC.⁹

A similar cup, but with a deeper body and entirely glazed interior (**Figs. 1/2, 2/5**), belongs to Type IX from Tocra¹⁰ and Type 9.1.B from Miletus¹¹, dated broadly to the first half of the 6th c. BC. A very similar vase from Assos is dated to 600–575 BC¹², and examples from Samos are given date down to the middle of the century¹³. The type is very well known from the Black Sea, e.g. in Histria¹⁴, on the island of Berezan¹⁵, and in Yagorlitskoe settlement¹⁶, with dates in the first half of the 6th c. BC.

One fragment (**Figs. 1/4, 2/1**) has the decoration of Type B3¹⁷, Type X from Tocra¹⁸, and Types V/1 and especially V/2 from Gravisca¹⁹, dated to the second quarter and the middle of the 6th c. BC. Among the materials from Miletus, such vases are classified as Type 9.2.C, with dates in the second and the third quarter of the 6th c. BC.²⁰ In Samos, similar cups are dated down to the middle of the century²¹. In the Black Sea, such were found in Histria²² and Orgame²³, on the island of Berezan²⁴ and in Olbia²⁵, with chronology in the late first and the entire second quarter of the 6th c. BC.

Another fragment, with the rim missing, belongs to the same type (**Figs. 1/4, 2/3**). In this variant, the thin lines of diluted glaze cover not the interior of the rim, but the wall below. A similar cup from Miletus is dated to the second–third quarter of the 6th c. BC.²⁶

³ VILLARD & VALLET 1955, p. 23–27; cf. COOK & DUPONT 1998, p. 130, fig. 18.1/d.

⁴ BOARDMAN & HAYES 1966, p. 113, fig. 56.

⁵ SCHLOTZHAUER 2001, nos. 182–189, pl. 32–33.

⁶ ALEXANDRESCU 1978, no. 761.

⁷ MĂNUCU-ADAMEȘTEANU 2008, no. 93.

⁸ BUJSKICH 2016, p. 33–35, fig. 3.

⁹ BUJSKICH 2013, nos. 5.9–22.

¹⁰ BOARDMAN & HAYES 1966, p. 113–114, nos. 1228–1255, fig. 56.

¹¹ SCHLOTZHAUER 2001, nos. 171–174.

¹² UTILI 1999, no. 67, fig. 5.

¹³ LÖWE 1996, p. 46, no. 36/7.

¹⁴ DIMITRIU 1966, no. 289, pls. 16, 64; ALEXANDRESCU 1978, no. 764, fig. 31.

¹⁵ SOLOV'EV 2005, p. 36, no. 24; CHISTOV *et al.* 2012, pl. 38/1; BUJSKICH 2016, p. 30–33, fig. 2/6.

¹⁶ BUJSKICH & BUJSKICH 2013, fig. 17, 13.

¹⁷ VILLARD & VALLET 1955, p. 27–29; cf. COOK & DUPONT 1998, p. 130, fig. 18.1/f.

¹⁸ BOARDMAN & HAYES 1966, p. 114.

¹⁹ BOLDRINI 1994, p. 170–174, pl. 13–17, especially no. 391.

²⁰ SCHLOTZHAUER 2001, No. 200–201, fig. 34.

²¹ ISLER 1978, p. 95, No. 135, fig. 49, no. 2; p. 151, No. 534, no. 14.

²² LAMBRINO 1938, p. 85, figs. 54–55; DIMITRIU 1966, nos. 419–422, pl. 27.

²³ MĂNUCU-ADAMEȘTEANU 2008, no. 98.

²⁴ SOLOV'EV 2005, p. 35, no. 23; BUJSKICH 2016, fig. 4.1–4.

²⁵ BUJSKICH 2013, p. 97–98, nos. 5.6–8.

²⁶ SCHLOTZHAUER 2001, No. 210, pl. 35.

Another cup, the best preserved from the site²⁷, resembles Villard and Vallet's Type B2, Type VIII from Tocra, etc., but the organization of the decoration is unusual (**Figs. 1/1, 2/4**). The most important difference is that the rim is entirely glazed on the outside, down to the transition to the shoulders, and its interior is reserved, with two bands. A date before the middle of the 6th c. BC could be presumed.

The overview of the Ionian cups from the site indicate that the sanctuary emerged at latest in the second quarter of the 6th c. BC, while a slightly earlier date in the late first quarter cannot be excluded.

Several fragments from the site illustrate bowls with dotted rosettes and related vases, usually attributed to North Ionian workshops (**Fig. 3**)²⁸. They are widespread on Archaic sites in the Pontic region, with a chronology that covers the entire 6th c. BC²⁹; they are well known from Apollonia as well³⁰. The fragments from Skamni Promontory are small and poorly preserved, therefore cannot provide a good idea of the decoration, which is crucial for the dating. While they do not belong to the earliest variants, nothing contradicts a date in the second quarter or the middle of the 6th c. BC, when most of the finds from Olbia are dated³¹.

Two fragments from the site belong to the popular bowls and plates (or „fruit-stands“) with broken meander on the rim³². Both shapes are illustrated – with broad horizontal rim and with incurving lip (**Fig. 4/4–5, 8–9**). Archaeometric analyses have confirmed their North Ionian origin³³, from Teos more precisely³⁴, although similar vases were produced also in Aeolis³⁵. They are dated to the first half of the 6th c. BC, to the first and the early second quarter. The examples from Assos are given dates in 580–560 BC³⁶, and the same chronology is proposed for the numerous examples from Tocra³⁷.

Such vases have been found in all early Greek settlements in the Black Sea. Examples have been published from Apollonia³⁸, and a plate is known from Odessos³⁹. They are numerous in Istros, where they are found mainly in the second Archaic level of the residential area, dated down to c. 560 BC⁴⁰, and are

²⁷ The foot on **Figs. 1/6** and **2/6** might belong to this cup, but it was discovered in a different year in a neighbouring grid-square.

²⁸ COOK & DUPONT 1998, p. 26-27.

²⁹ See BUJSKICH 2013, p. 107-108.

³⁰ NEDEV 2016, p. 46, fig. 2/9-10.

³¹ BUJSKICH 2013, nos. 8.1-51.

³² COOK & DUPONT 1998, p. 53, fig. 8.18.

³³ DUPONT 1983, p. 33.

³⁴ POSAMENTIR & SOLOVYOV 2007, p. 20-21, fig. 1.

³⁵ POSAMENTIR & SOLOVYOV 2006, p. 109-110, fig. 5.

³⁶ UTILI 1999, p. 22-23, No. 130-199.

³⁷ BOARDMAN & IIAYES 1966, p. 43-44, nos. 632-671; BOARDMAN & IIAYES 1973, nos. 1979-1985, 2056.

³⁸ NEDEV 2016, p. 49, fig. 4/1-6, 12-13.

³⁹ CULLIN-MINGAUD *et al.* 2006, no. 118.

⁴⁰ DIMITRIU 1966, nos. 91-107; ALEXANDRESCU 1978, nos. 118-126.

known from Orgame⁴¹. They are found on Berezan⁴² and are numerous in Olbia, where they are found in complexes down to the 560s–550s BC⁴³; the settlements in the Olbian territory have also yielded such finds⁴⁴.

Three more fragments from larger vases illustrate the North Ionian LWG style. In two cases, these are probably fragments from rims of kraters – for one of them, a diameter of c. 25–26 cm could be reconstructed (Fig. 4/2–3, 6). The connected, more carefully drawn meander also indicates a krater, although it probably appears on plates as well⁴⁵.

Such North Ionian kraters are well known from the Black Sea and are dated to the first and the early second quarter of the 6th c. BC. There are published examples from Apollonia⁴⁶, as well as from Histria⁴⁷, Orgame⁴⁸, Berezan⁴⁹, and Olbia⁵⁰.

Another fragment most probably belongs to a wall of such a vase (Fig. 4/1, 7). It is decorated with a partially preserved animal figure and filling ornaments. The reconstructed maximum diameter of c. 38 cm indicates a krater, and not an amphora. What is preserved from the decoration is one or two hooved legs of a goat (?) and two (or three) large round blobs (rosettes) with incised crosses. It is impossible to reconstruct the posture of the animal, but there were probably one or two large figures that decorated the upper part of the vase. In some cases, the filling ornaments on such kraters consist only of blobby rosettes with incised crosses⁵¹. The chronology of the vase in the first half of the 6th c. BC is beyond doubt.

A poorly preserved fragment from a large plate illustrates Clazomenian (and related) black-figure pottery (Fig. 5). On the upper surface (without traces of slip), the figure of an animal, most probably a (female) panther, is painted with black glaze pacing to the left. It was part of circular frieze of animal figures with an outer diameter of c. 22 cm, while the size of the plate itself should have been considerably larger.

Despite the bad state of preservation, a long incised line is clearly visible along the lower part of the animal's belly. Above it, and along the upper part of the left front leg (and possibly up along the breast), there is a row of white dots. They are the main element that point to the Clazomenian and related black-figure pottery, where lines of dots in added white are very popular⁵².

⁴¹ MĂNUCU-ADAMEȘTEANU 2008, nos. 19-20.

⁴² SOLOV'EV 2005, nos. 61-63; CHISTOV *et al.* 2012, pl. 41/1-3; pl. 67/7, 11-12.

⁴³ BUJSKICH 2013, p. 65, nos. 3.240-274.

⁴⁴ BUJSKICH & BUJSKICH 2013, fig. 4/2-3; fig. 7/6, 8.

⁴⁵ Cf. BUJSKICH 2013, no. 3.256.

⁴⁶ NEDEV 2016, p. 47-48, fig. 3/11-15.

⁴⁷ ALEXANDRESCU 1978, nos. 60-61.

⁴⁸ MĂNUCU-ADAMEȘTEANU 2008, no. 14a.

⁴⁹ SOLOV'EV 2005, nos. 34, 37, 50; POSAMENTIR & SOLOVYOV 2007, fig. 16-17; CHISTOV *et al.* 2012, pl. 41/4; pl. 70/2.

⁵⁰ BUJSKICH 2013, nos. 3.14-16.

⁵¹ Cf. SOLOV'EV 2005, nos. 34, 38.

⁵² COOK 1952, p. 146.

The shape is poorly presented in the published Clazomenian pottery. One example from Old Smyrna from c. 560 BC is referred to in publications as a link between the East Greek Late Orientalizing style and the black-figure style⁵³. Although similar in terms of size, shape, and decoration – a frieze of animals on the same part of the vase, it is much more ornate, with white slip and filling ornaments.

More recent publications mention plates as one of the preferred shapes in Clazomenae in the second quarter of the 6th c. BC – the transitional period towards the Clazomenian black-figure; then, the parts with black-figure decoration happen to be without white slip⁵⁴. B. Özer defines as Clazomenian a large plate with two animal friezes from Naukratis⁵⁵. A LWG plate of similar dimensions, also from Clazomenae, is dated somewhat later, to c. 520 BC; however, it is covered entirely with floral and geometric decoration⁵⁶.

The manner of decoration of animal figures with a row of white dots is well attested in Clazomenian and related black figure pottery. Fragments with such decoration from the island of Berezan are dated to the third quarter of the 6th c. BC.⁵⁷ The fragment from Skamni Promontory could be dated tentatively to the middle or the third quarter of the same century.

East Greek vases of closed shapes are considerably less numerous in this early period. An early olpe with the maximum diameter in the upper part of the body and three bands of red paint (**Fig. 6/1**) could be dated to the first half of the 6th c. BC. The shape is early⁵⁸ and is well attested in the Black Sea⁵⁹, including in Apollonia⁶⁰. The small olpai were the main votive shape in the sanctuary in the second half of the 6th and the early 5th c. BC.⁶¹

Among the latter, there are also numerous examples with white slip, traditionally attributed to Chios. Only one Chian fragment could be dated earlier – a rim of a black-figure „small pot” with two handles or amphoriskos (**Fig. 6/2**)⁶². In the Black Sea, the shape is well attested in Olbia and Berezan⁶³. The reconstructed diameter of the rim indicates it was a relatively large example, c. 10 cm high. The closest parallels are two intact specimens from Olbia⁶⁴. In our case, there is no meander on the upper part of the vase, which is however not an exception.

⁵³ COOK 1965, p. 120, no. 32, fig. 4, pl. 26; COOK & DUPONT 1998, p. 95-96, fig. 12.1.

⁵⁴ ÖZER 2004, p. 200, note 12.

⁵⁵ See WALTER-KARYDI 1973, no. 731, pl. 97.

⁵⁶ COOK 1952, p. 152, pl. 33/3.

⁵⁷ IL'INA 2010, nos. 20, 22.

⁵⁸ SCHATNER 2007, p. 265-266, fig. 73; KALAITZOGLOU 2008, p. 178-184, Taf. 93, 467-471.

⁵⁹ ALEXANDRESCU 2005, C 147-C 148; BUJSKICH 2013, p. 39, no. 1.257; CHISTOV *et al.* 2012, pl. 32/6.

⁶⁰ GALABOV 1952, p. 102, fig. 63.

⁶¹ DAMYANOV 2016, p. 129-131, fig. 11.

⁶² See LEMOS 1991, p. 178, 334, nos. 1641-1647, pl. 217.

⁶³ BUJSKICH 2013, p. 165-166, nos. 10.66-97; SKUDNOVA 1988, cat. no. 222; CHISTOV *et al.* 2012, p. 68, fig. 72/10.

⁶⁴ BUJSKICH 2013, nos. 10.66-67.

Unfortunately, the decoration in the zone between the handles, possibly animal figures in metopes, remains unknown.

Lemos dates the shape to soon after the middle of the 6th c. BC⁶⁵, but the finds from the North Pontic region could justify earlier chronology – Bujskikh dates similar specimens to the second quarter and the middle of the century, although there are also later examples⁶⁶. Having in mind the context in Apollonia, it is worth noting the presence of such vases in the sanctuary of Demeter and Kore in Cyrene⁶⁷.

The only larger East Greek vase – a fragmentary table amphora with cream slip and painted decoration (**Fig. 7**) – marks the transition to the second half of the 6th c. BC. The decoration consists of a frieze of upturned lotus buds and flowers on the shoulders and wider or narrower bands below. The floral motifs have good parallels on amphorae of the Fikellura style⁶⁸, but the overall decoration is rather simple. Also, the handles are of simple oval cross-section, not double or triple as it is usual for Fikellura amphorae. The vase could be dated tentatively to the middle or the early third quarter of the 6th c. BC.

The materials discussed here unequivocally indicate that the sanctuary existed in the second quarter of the 6th c. BC, while a date in the late first quarter cannot be excluded. On the other hand, the absence of certain groups, for example „bird bowls“ that are well attested in Apollonia⁶⁹ and in the central temenos of Apollonia on the offshore island of St. Kirik⁷⁰ in particular, hint at a delay of several decades compared to the earliest period of Apollonia.

More finds from Skamni Promontory support such a chronology, among them two fragments from Attic black-figure plates of the *Polos Painter*. The materials from the second half of the century are visibly more numerous, with a sharp increase of Attic products.

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⁶⁵ LEMOS 1991, p. 178.

⁶⁶ BUJSKICII 2013, p. 165.

⁶⁷ SCHAUS 1985, nos. 476-478.

⁶⁸ Cf. BUJSKICH 2013, nos. 1.149-151, 1.154-155, 1.183-186.

⁶⁹ NEDEV 2016, p. 45-46, fig. 2/1-3.

⁷⁰ BOZKOVA 2017, p. 31-33, fig. 4.

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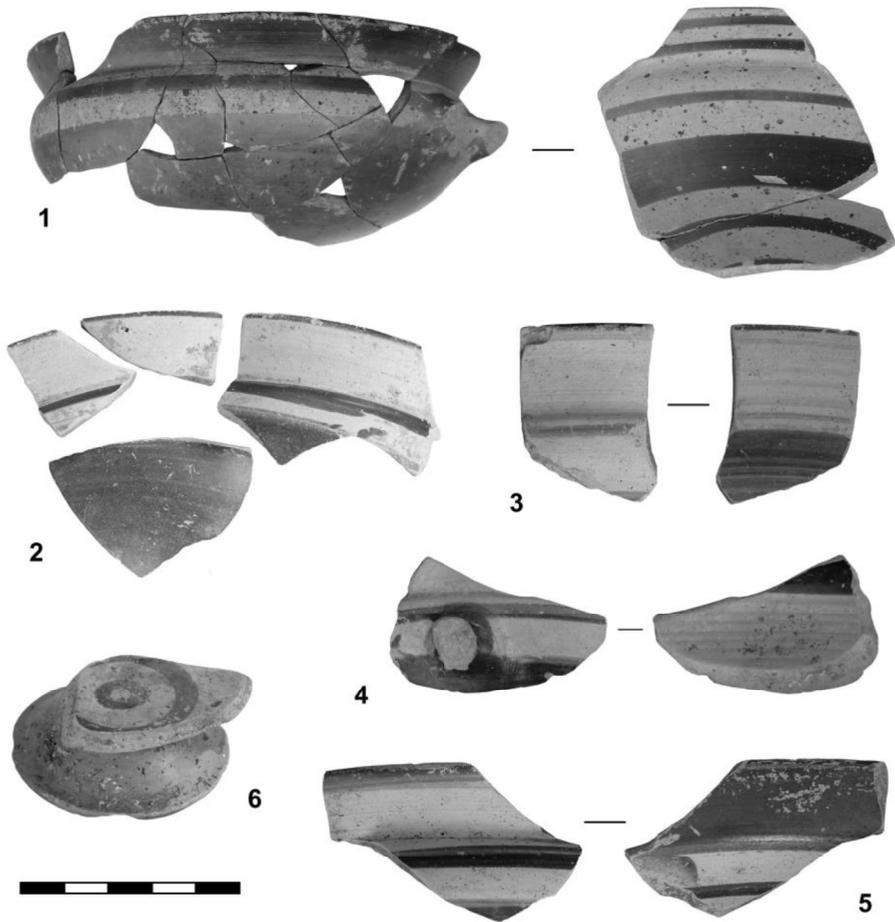


Fig. 1. Ionian cups from Skamni Promontory, Apollonia Pontica.

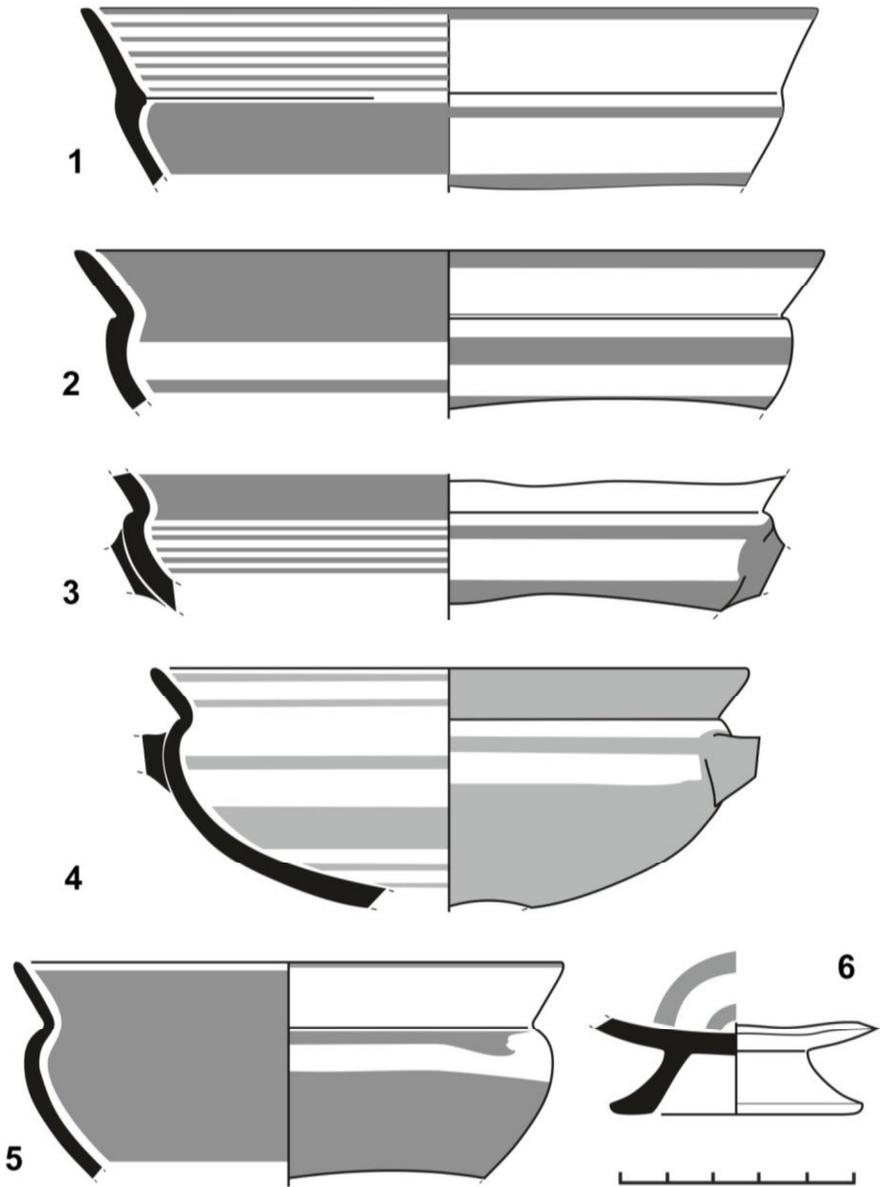


Fig. 2. Ionian cups from Skamni Promontory, Apollonia Pontica.

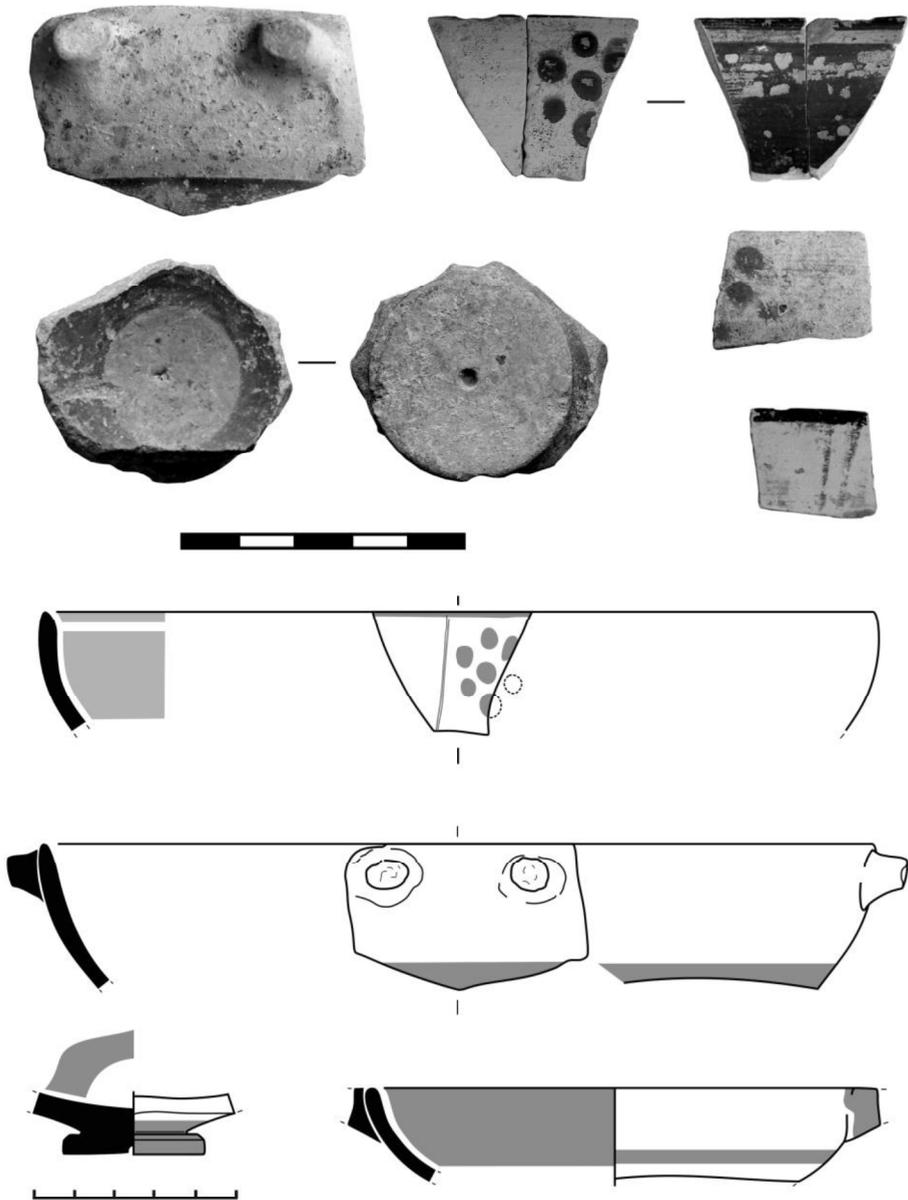


Fig. 3. Rosette bowls and related from Skamni Promontory, Apollonia Pontica.

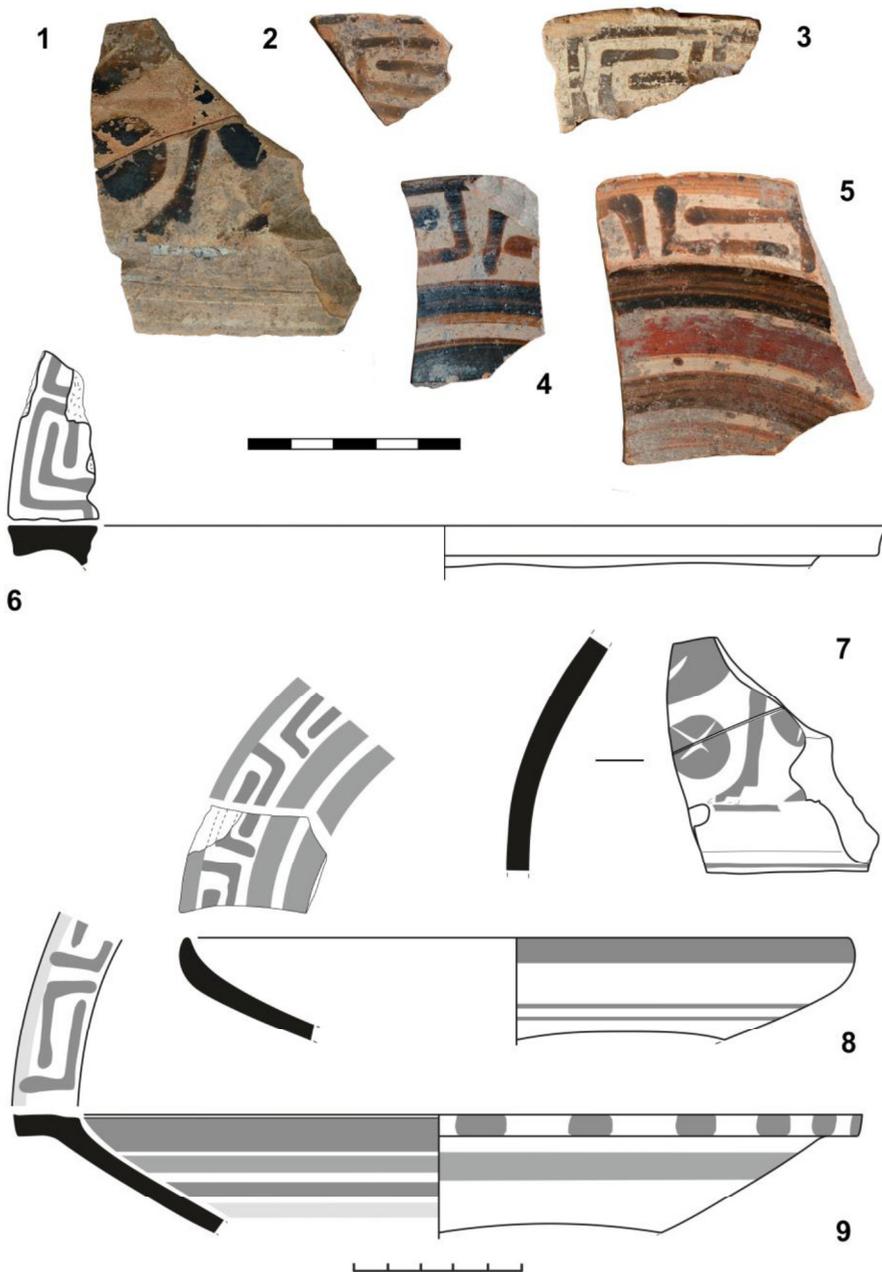


Fig. 4. Fragments of North Ionian kraters, plates, and bowls from Skamni Promontory, Apollonia Pontica.



Fig. 5. Fragment of Clazomenian (?) black-figure plate from Skamni Promontory, Apollonia Pontica.

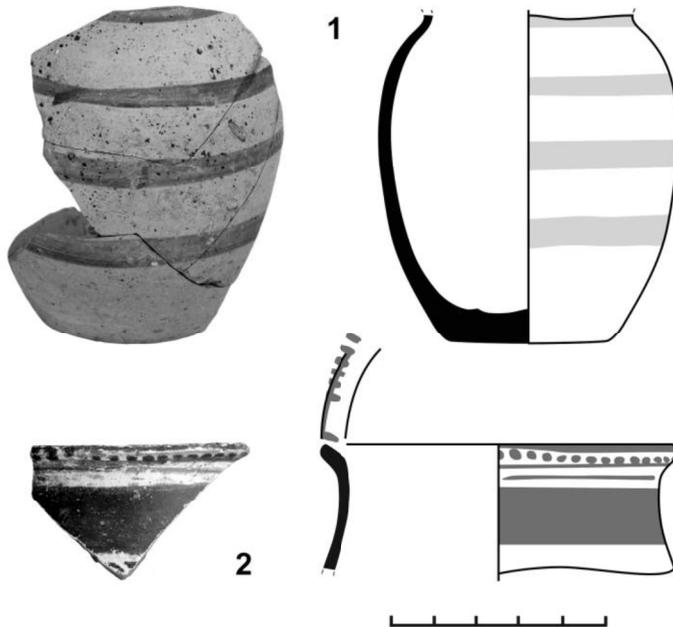


Fig. 6. An olpe and fragment of a Chian vase from Skamni Promontory, Apollonia Pontica.

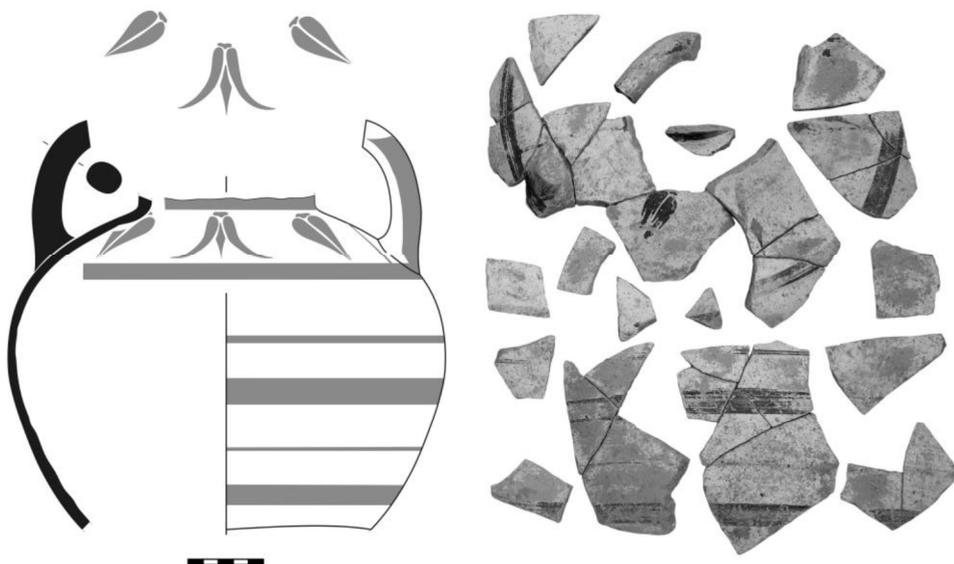


Fig. 7. A Fikellura amphora from Skamni Promontory, Apollonia Pontica.