

## MIDDLE BRONZE AGE II AND LATE BRONZE AGE II BURIALS AT TEL AFEQ (TELL QURDANA) IN THE 'AKKO PLAIN

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Tel Afeq (Tell Qurdana), situated in the south of the 'Akko Plain (map ref. NIG 21083/75025, OIG 16083/25025; Fig. 1), is approximately 12 hectares in size (Ezra Marcus, pers. comm.). The site lies at the junction of several ancient roads (Mazar 1975), in close proximity to the largest spring in the plain, the source of the Na'aman River.

In the 1930s two MB IIA burial caves, apparently part of a larger MB II cemetery, were revealed in the northeastern part of the tell (Mazar 1975). In the present excavation, conducted at the northeastern fringe of the tell,<sup>1</sup> a number of burial caves and a large pit of unknown size were partially revealed by mechanical equipment. The poorly preserved caves, hewn into the chalk-like bedrock during MB IIA, were reused during LB II, while the pit contained finds of the Persian period.

### THE EXCAVATION

The excavated area, measuring  $2.5 \times 10.0$  m (Plan 1),<sup>2</sup> was divided into two areas, labeled A and B, both of which had freshly bulldozed surfaces.

#### Area A

Marking the surface were the contours of a black-gray earth deposit, which proved to be a fill of a large pit (L10) containing pottery of the Persian period and stones. Below that deposit was an accumulation of brown soil (L19) containing many smallish fieldstones (5–15 cm in length) and pottery from the Early Bronze Age and the Persian period. This layer covered two rounded cavities (Loci 21 and 22; Plan 1; Fig. 2), both partially revealed. Excavation of the larger of these hollows (L22) yielded only a few scattered potsherds and fragments of a skull of a child, approximately five years old, which were not found *in situ*, but probably originated within the cavity where it was found.

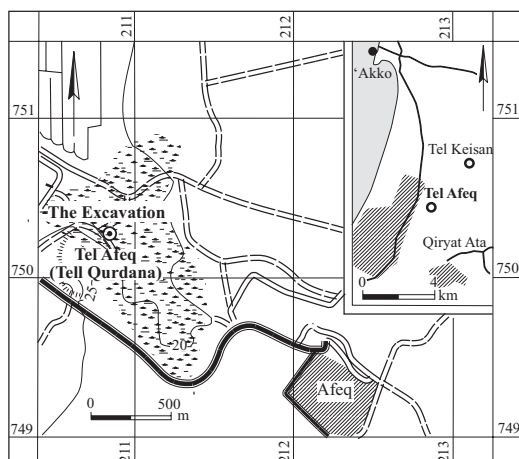


Fig. 1. Location map.

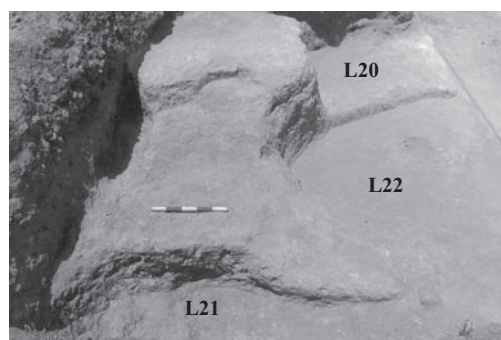
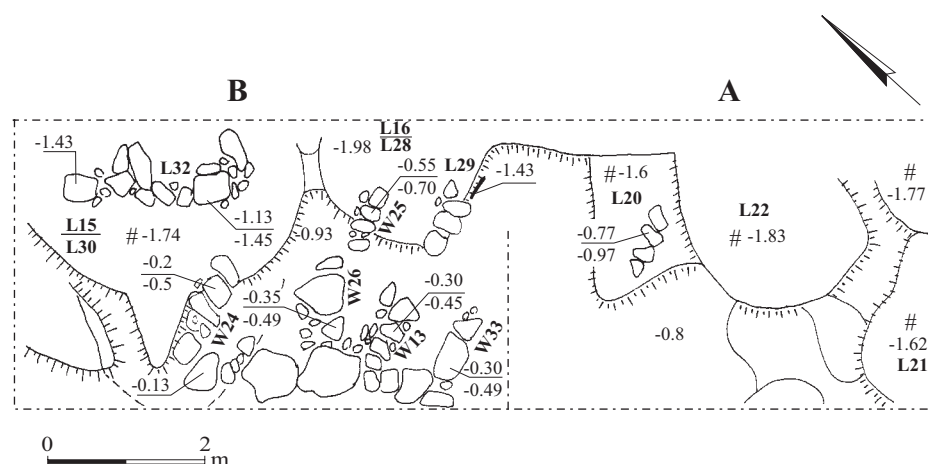


Fig. 2. Area A, looking northwest.



Plan 1. The excavation.

This same cavity also had a shelf hewn into bedrock (L20), on which burials and objects were found *in situ* (Plan 2; Fig. 3).

Since excavation was limited to the confines of these relatively small cavities, all finds were collected as localized concentrations of artifacts and/or bones, designated 'baskets' and given arbitrary numbers (Plan 2; Fig. 3). Osteological finds from L20 comprise the remains of five adults, at least two of which are males and one a female (Skulls B245 and B207). Some fragmentary human remains, including the skull fragments in B207, suggest they were part of a skeleton originally buried in a flexed position on its left side, above a bowl (B208). Other pottery vessels found within this cavity include bowls, jugs, juglets and rims of a krater and jars (see Fig. 9).

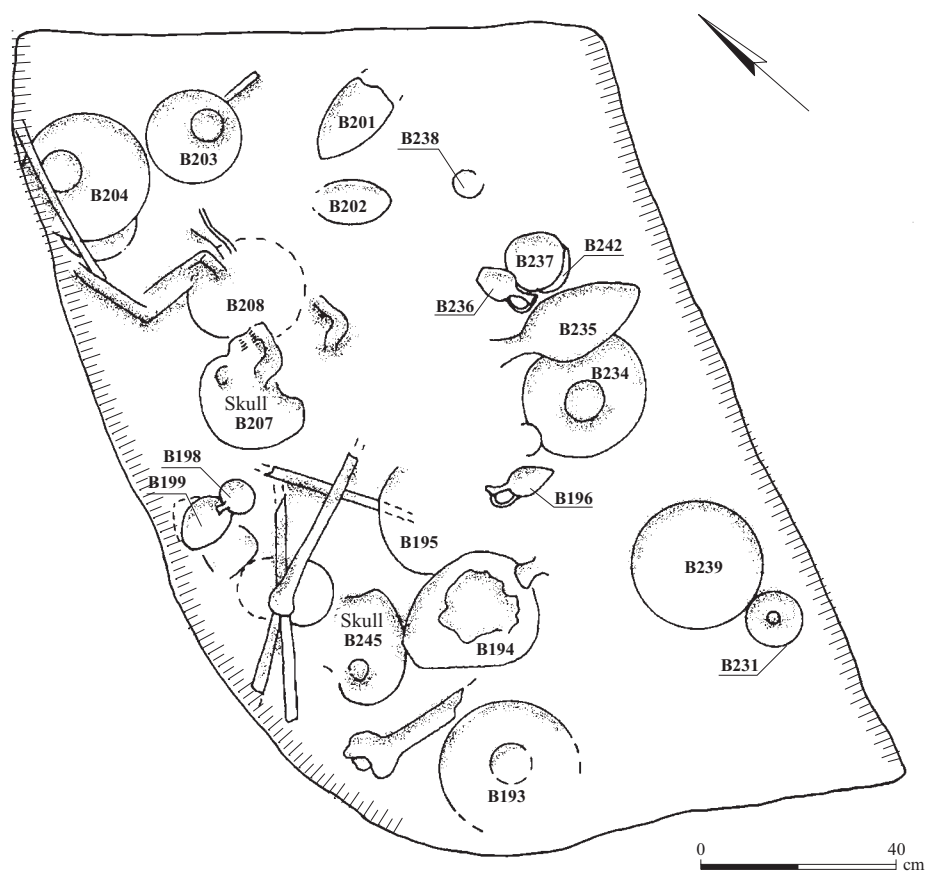
Locus 21, separated from L22 by a narrow strip of bedrock, may have been another lobe of the same cave. However, no evidence of a possible connection to this cave was found in the higher portions of bedrock removed prior to excavation; thus, the association remains tenuous. The excavation of L21 yielded only a few potsherds. North of L21 was surface evidence of an additional, small cavity, which could not be excavated, and may have been part of a larger feature.

#### Area B (Plan 1; Fig. 4)

The surface soil (L11) in this area was a continuation of that found in Area A and included sherds dated to the Early Bronze Age, the Middle Bronze Age and the Persian period. Below it were found fragmentary wall segments (W13, W24–26 and W33), which could not be dated. These walls were built above the remains of collapsed caves, used for burial in earlier periods; thus, they postdate the burials by an unknown span of time.

In the northeastern part of the area, a continuation of the pit (L16) containing Persian period material was found. Below it was a cavity hewn out of bedrock (L28) on the floor of which (L29), close to the eastern wall, were fragmentary remains of a human skeleton covered by three stones. This adult individual appears to have been lying supine, its head facing southwest and legs fully extended. In addition, only a bowl, a juglet and a few sherds, all dated to MB IIB, were found in L28 (see Fig. 10:1, 2). It is assumed this cavity is an integral part of the MB IIA complex of caves in Area A.

Northwest of this cave, below a layer of surface soil, was another large, hewn cavity, possibly part of one lobe of a tomb hewn in the Middle Bronze Age and reused for burial in LB II. It contained more than 65 pottery vessels



Plan 2. Locus 20 with location of finds.

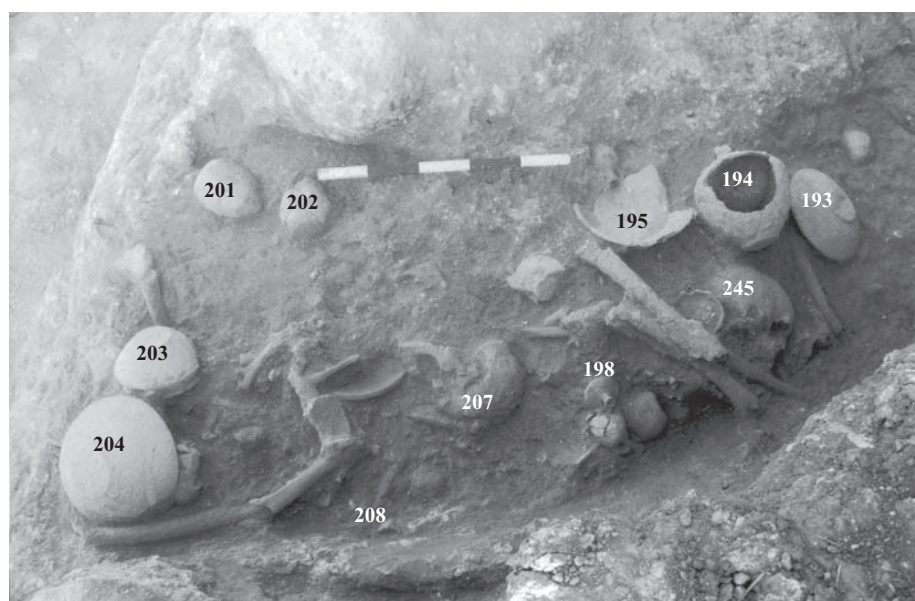


Fig. 3. Locus 20, looking southeast (showing only part of the burial).

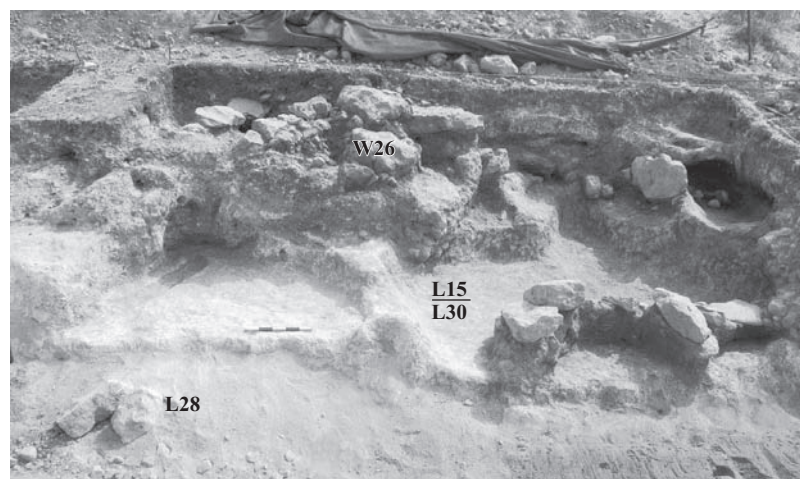


Fig. 4. Area B, looking southwest.

(Figs. 5–7; see also Figs. 11–18), including bowls, chalices, juglets and oil lamps, all found in a 0.3 m thick layer of soil, apparently a fill within a pit (L15) with a wide aperture that tapered as it deepened.

Although these vessels were removed in five successive superimposed operations, nothing in the fill of this pit or in the disposition of the vessels within it, indicated any stratigraphic significance to their relative positions. When excavated, they appeared as a large pile in no particular order or arrangement. Thus, it seems that these pots were carelessly placed within the pit. A small quantity of human bones comprising remains of at least five individuals, aged respectively 1, 8–9, 15–20, 20–30 and 30–40 years, was found associated with this pottery.

Below L15 was a fill (L30) containing many fieldstones. The few pottery sherds and a juglet found within the fill (see Fig. 19) indicate the cavity was cut into bedrock, and was intentionally filled in the Late Bronze Age, probably in preparation for reuse for later burials in L15. A line of stones (L32) found on the floor was perhaps built to support this fill. The area to the south of this cavity (L23; between L28 and L15; Plan 2; Fig. 4) was also excavated. It revealed additional evidence of collapse of the bedrock in which the tombs were quarried.



Fig. 5. Locus 15 (first layer), looking east.

#### THE FINDS

The pottery assemblage mainly consists of vessels and sherds of well known types, discussed below by period and loci. All recognizable pottery types encountered in the excavation, including almost all the vessels retrieved from the Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age burials, are illustrated and described below.

#### *The Early Bronze Age*

Only a small quantity of Early Bronze Age sherds was found, all examples of which were



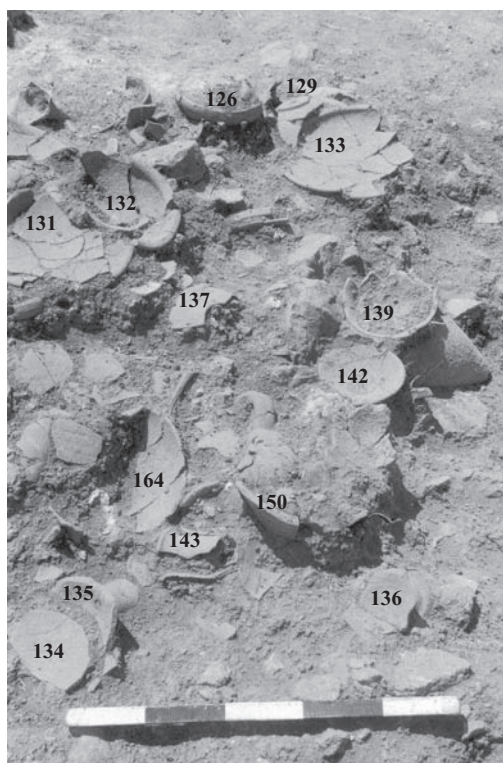


Fig. 6. Locus 15, detail of Fig. 5, looking west.

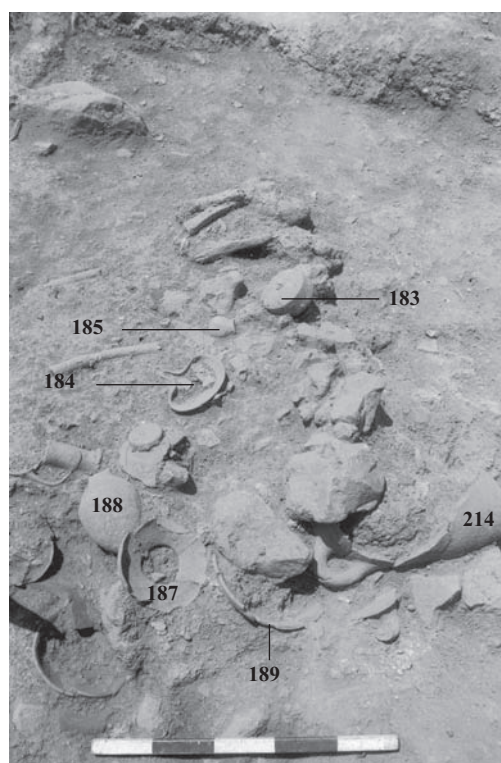


Fig. 7. Locus 15 (third layer), looking northwest.

without stratigraphic context. They represent a range of activity between late EB I and EB II, and include few vessel types.

#### *Pottery*

The holmouth jars in Fig. 8:1–5 are similar to those found in Strata III–II at Qiryat Ata, dated by Golani (2003: Figs. 4.5:7; 4.6:4; 4.7:3, 12) to EB IB. The platter (Fig. 8:6) and jars (Fig. 8:7–9) from this assemblage should be dated to EB II on the basis of parallels from Stratum I at Qiryat Ata (Golani 2003: Figs. 4.25:1–3; 4.30:5, 7, 13–16). A goblet fragment (Fig. 8:10) lacks a rim, but appears to be similar to goblets from Asherat dated to EB II (Smithline 2001: Fig. 25:1, 2).

#### *The Middle Bronze Age*

##### *Pottery from Locus 20*

A number of vessel types found in L20 (Figs. 9, 10) represent this period.

*Open Bowls* (Fig. 9:1–9).— Bowls of this type are usually red-slipped and burnished with different types of simple rims; some rims taper, while others are thickened or slightly incurved. The bases of these vessels are flat, disks or low rings.

*Carinated Bowls* (Fig. 9:10–12).— Three carinated bowls have splayed, tapering rims and concave and discoid bases. Two (Nos. 10, 11) are red-slipped and burnished.

*Jar* (Fig. 9:13).— A single, flaring, folded-rim fragment is the sole evidence for jars in this assemblage.

*Jugs* (Fig. 9:14–16).— Three jugs are illustrated. One (Fig. 9:14) is represented by only a rim and neck fragment. A second (Fig. 9:15) is a complete form with a thick, flaring rim, a double cylindrical strand handle attached to the

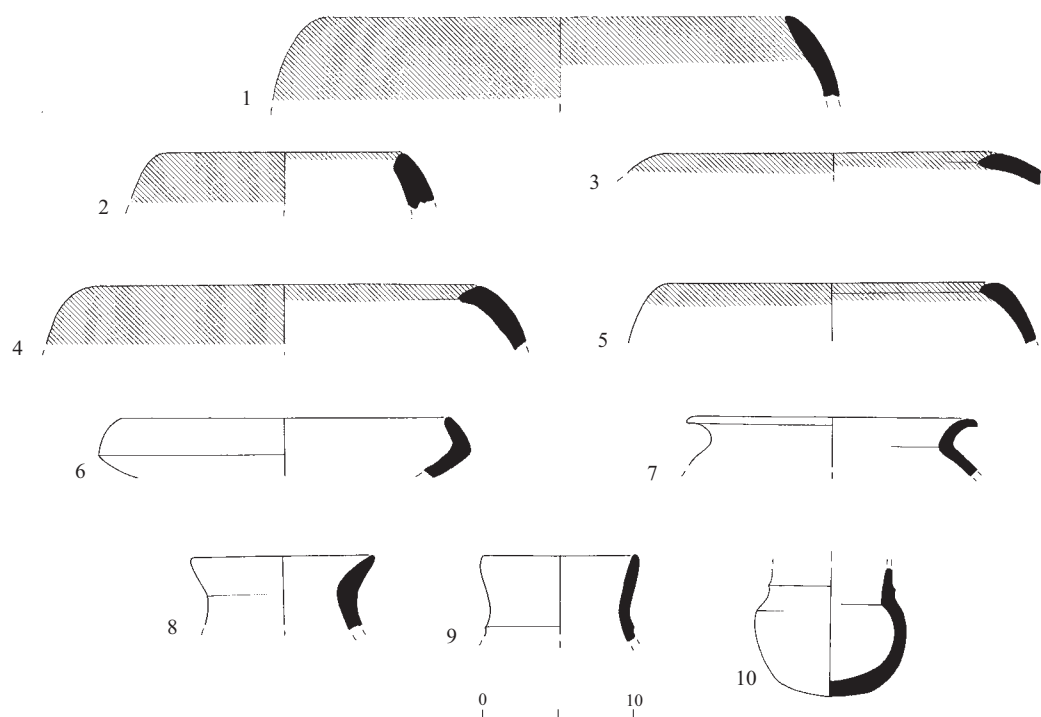


Fig. 8. Early Bronze Age pottery.

No.	Type	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Holemouth jar	116	14	Brown clay, gray core, many grits, ext. brown slip, int. red slip on rim
2	Holemouth jar	210/1	20	Light brown clay, brown core, white grits
3	Holemouth jar	232/2	23	Brown-orange clay, many grits, red paint on rim
4	Holemouth jar	122/2	19	Light brown clay, many white grits, brownish slip on ext. and int. rim
5	Holemouth jar	261/3	28	Brown-red clay, many grits, red slip on ext. and int. rim
6	Platter	121	19	Brown-gray clay, dark gray core
7	Jar	261/2	28	Brown clay, many grits
8	Jar	261/1	28	Brown-red clay, brown core, black grits
9	Jar	178/3	20	Brown-reddish clay, grits
10	Goblet	108	15	Light brown-orange clay, brown core, large grits

lower neck and shoulder of the globular body, and a flat base. The third jug, also complete, has a tapering rim, an elongated, stream-lined body similar to that of smaller, dipper juglets (see below), but differs from them in its narrow, flattened base.

*Juglets* (Figs. 9:17–26).—Almost all the juglets are red- or brown-slipped and burnished. They have oval (Fig. 9:17–20) or slightly piriform (Fig. 9:23–25) bodies with flat or button-like bases, and double, cylindrical stranded

handles. One vessel (Fig. 9:18) has three incised horizontal lines closely placed together on its upper body just below the juncture with the neck. Two juglets have tapered, cut-away rims (Fig. 9:21, 22), reminiscent of ‘Anatolian’ shapes and double, cylindrical stranded handles. One juglet (Fig. 9:25) has a single, cylindrical strand for its handle attached to two ends of its shoulder. A small, squat juglet with a biconically shaped body (Fig. 9:26) is brown-slipped and burnished.

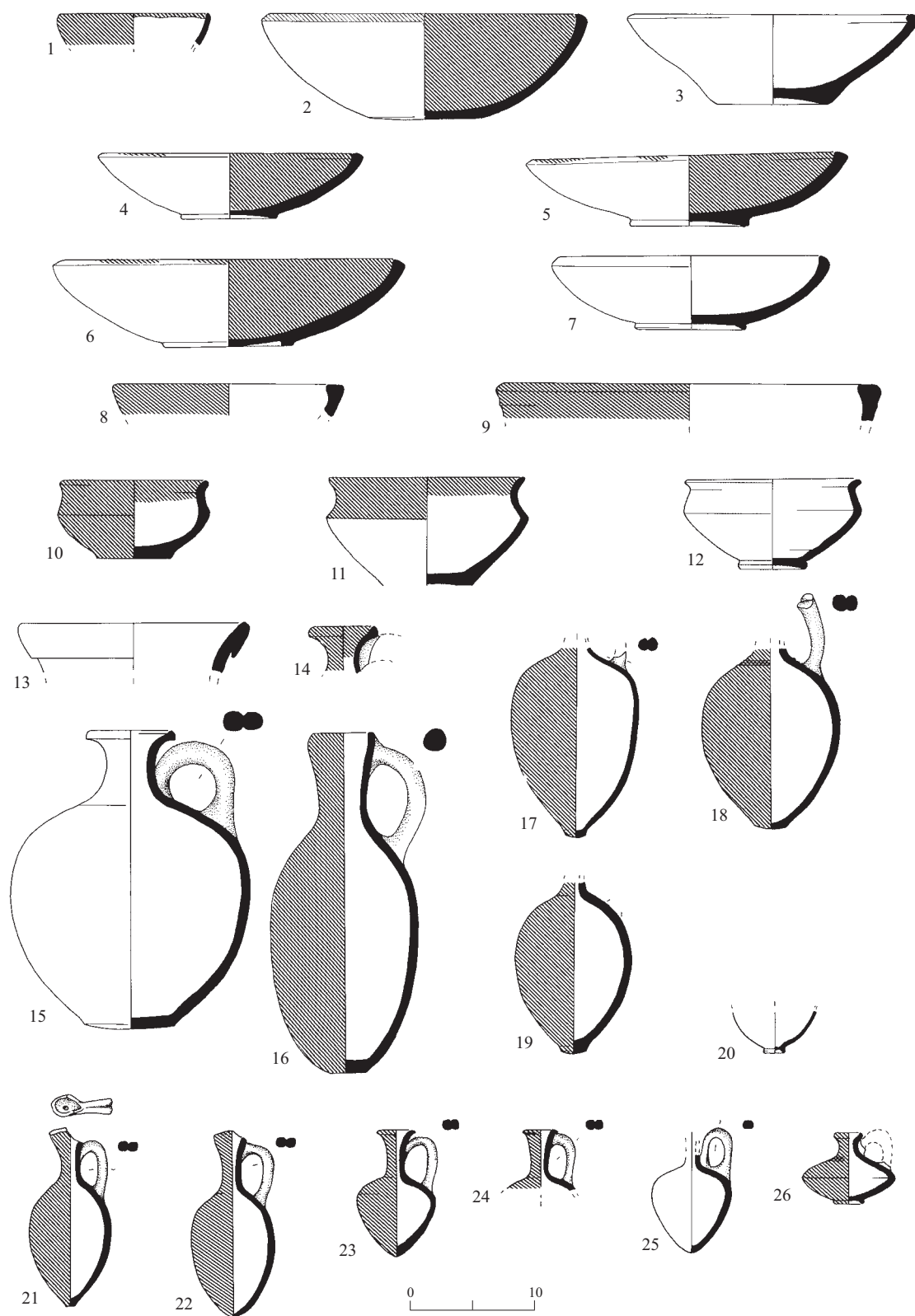


Fig. 9. Locus 20, MB IIA Pottery.

◀ Fig. 9

No.	Type	Basket	Description
1	Open bowl	210/2	Brown clay, red slip on ext. and int. rim, burnished
2	Open bowl	204	Brown clay, gray core, grits, red slip on int. and ext. rim
3	Open bowl	195	Brown clay, grits
4	Open bowl	193	Light brown clay, small grits, red slip on int. and ext. rim, burnished
5	Open bowl	239	Brown-orange clay, grits, red slip on int. and ext. rim, burnished
6	Open bowl	208	Brown clay, grits, red slip on int. and ext. rim
7	Open bowl	234	Brown-orange clay, grits
8	Open bowl	210/3	Brown-orange clay, light core, grits, brown slip on ext., burnished
9	Open bowl	210/4	Brown-orange clay, gray core, calcite grits, brown-reddish slip on ext.
10	Carinated bowl	231	Brown-orange clay, grits, red slip on int. and ext. rim, burnished
11	Carinated bowl	203	Brown-orange clay, brown core, grits, red slip on ext. to carination and int. rim, burnished.
12	Carinated bowl	237	Orange clay, grits
13	Jar	178/2	Brown-reddish clay, grits
14	Jug	178/1	Brown clay, grits, red slip on ext. and int. rim, burnished
15	Jug	194	Brown clay, grits
16	Jug	235	Light brown-orange clay, grits, red slip ext., burnished
17	Juglet	201	Brown-reddish clay, red slip ext., burnished
18	Juglet	220	Grayish clay, grits, brown slip ext., burnished
19	Juglet	202	Light brown clay, traces of red slip ext.
20	Juglet	238	Gray clay
21	Juglet	196	Light brown clay, red slip ext., burnished
22	Juglet	236	Brown slip ext., burnished
23	Juglet	241	Light brown clay, brown and red slip ext., burnished
24	Juglet	242	Gray clay, brown slip ext., burnished
25	Juglet	199	Grayish clay
26	Juglet	198	Brown-gray clay, brown slip ext., burnished

The pottery assemblage recovered from L20 is characteristic of MB IIA in the northern region. Similar types are found at such sites as Kabri Stratum 4 and Tombs 498 and 503 in their first and second phases of utilization (Kempinsky 1989;<sup>3</sup> Kempinski, Gershuny and Scheftelowitz 2002), and at tombs at Jatt and Kefar Veradim (Getzov 2002). The dominance of slipping and burnishing techniques, as well as incisions on a juglet (Fig. 9:18) and cut-away rims (Fig. 9:21, 22) are features often found in northern ceramic assemblages of the period (e.g., Kempinsky 1989:31, Fig. 16:6, 7, 9; Kempinski, Gershuny and Scheftelowitz 2002: Fig. 5.21:7, 13).

Open bowls are a type associated with the entire MB II period, while carinated bowls

(Fig. 9:10–12) are characteristic only of MB IIA assemblages (Kempinski 1989: Fig. 16:4; Beck 2000:175; Kempinski, Gershuny and Scheftelowitz 2002: Fig. 5.21:1). The handle of one jug (Fig. 9:15), attached to its shoulder, is of a not common, but known type; a juglet of similar style was found at Kefar Veradim (Getzov 2002: Fig. 17:3). Low ring bases (Fig. 9:6, 7, 20, 26), as well as nearly flat disk bases on juglets (Fig. 9:17–19), occur at Tel Afeq-Antipatris in the final MB IA Palace level and in Tomb 2121 (Beck 2000:193,195). Simple flaring rims (Fig. 9:15, 24, 25, 26) and piriform bodies (Fig. 9:23, 25) are usually associated with the later MB IIA (Kempinski 1989:32, Fig. 17:6,9). Thus, it appears the assemblage



from Tel Afeq (Tell Qurdana) should be dated to the second half of MB IIA.

*Pottery from Locus 28* (Fig. 10:1, 2)

This carinated bowl with a ring base (Fig. 10:1) and the barrel-shaped, flat-bottomed juglet (Fig. 10:2) are dated to MB IIB on the basis of parallels. They are reminiscent of a bowl and a juglet found in Phase 3 in Tomb 498 at Kabri dated MB IIB, but do not date to the end of the period (Kempinski 1989:33, Fig. 18:3, 5). Two additional carinated bowls were found in Cave 17, Phase 3 at Naḥal Yehi'am (Getzov 2002: Fig. 34:2, 3).

*Pottery of Uncertain Provenience* (Fig. 10:3, 4)

After the destruction of the upper portions of the tombs, and prior to excavation, construction

workers recovered two vessels from the rubble, which were given to the excavator. They are two large juglet fragments. One (Fig. 10:4) has a cylindrical body and can be dated generally to MB II. The other (Fig. 10:3), with its oval body and flat disk base, is very similar to a juglet from L20 (Fig. 9:19), dating to MB IIA.

*Additional Finds*

*A Faience Vessel* (Fig. 10:5).—A small faience bottle was found in the large pit in Area B (L16), together with material of the Persian period. It has a typical drop-shaped body with a flaring, flattened rim and tapering, flattened base, similar to other faience vessels dated to MB II, although it is not typically decorated. Rather unusually, its (white) surface with light blue-green decoration is divided into only two

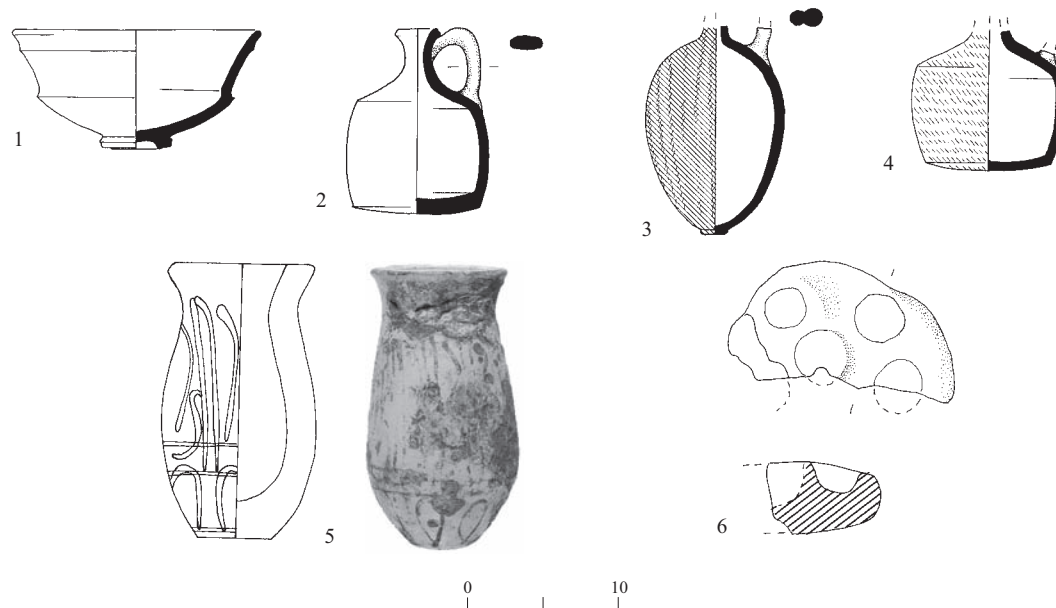


Fig. 10. MB II pottery, faience vessel and an offering bowl.

No.	Type	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	288	28	Brown-orange clay, thin light brown core, grits
2	Juglet	115	28	Brown-orange clay
3	Juglet	504	Unknown	Red slip ext., burnished
4	Juglet	503	Unknown	Burnished
5	Bottle	114	16	Faience; white surface, light blue-green decoration
6	Offering bowl	510	Surface	Dark clay, some grits

registers; the standard is three (Sagona 1980). The common drop motive is placed on its lower register, while the area remaining below is adorned with almost carelessly placed, slightly wavy, vertical lines.

*Offering Bowl(?)* (Fig. 10:6).— A fragment of a ceramic vessel was found out of context, with four preserved depressions; it originally probably had three additional depressions. This fragment may be interpreted as the base of a vessel type found at the Middle Bronze Age temple at Nahariyya Stratum C, dated MB IIB (Dothan 1992:1091). Ben-Dor (1950:20, Pl. VIII:32) suggested the type is an offering bowl used for cultic purposes.

### *The Late Bronze Age II*

#### *Pottery from Locus 15*

Included in this assemblage are both local types and imports.

*Open Bowls* (Fig. 11).— The open bowls, which continue MB II traditions, are very common in the Late Bronze Age (Hamilton 1935: Nos. 289, 290; Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977). The bowls from L15 usually have disk, flat or concave bases, but a few have ring bases (e.g., Fig. 11:10, 11, 18). Their rims are usually rounded or inwardly beveled (e.g., Fig. 11:13–18). A somewhat similar, beveled rim was found at Tell Abu Hawam Stratum V (Hamilton 1935: No. 220). One bowl (Fig. 11:18) has a bar handle, similar to another found in a tomb near 'Akko (Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977: Fig. 8:10).

*Carinated Bowls and a Krater* (Fig. 12).— Four open, carinated bowls, with tapering or rounded rims and disk bases, were recovered (Fig. 12:1–4). A red-slipped krater (Fig. 12:5) is the largest of this group. Its almost vertical walls end in a broad, flattened rim; apparently it had a pair of opposing handles, although only one was recovered. Carinated bowls continue MB II ceramic traditions and are often found

in LB II assemblages as at Tell Abu Hawam Stratum V (Hamilton 1935: Nos. 291, 292).

*Chalices* (Fig. 12:6–10).— One example of this vessel type (Fig. 12:6) is red slipped and has a broad, protruding, slightly drooping rim painted with a continuous row of exes. Another chalice (Fig. 12:7) has a protruding, slightly concave rim. Other examples (Fig. 12:8–10) have rounded or tapered rims. Similar vessels are known from the Stratum V assemblage of Tell Abu Hawam (Hamilton 1935: No. 263) and from tombs at 'Akko (Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977: Fig. 8:16–18).

*Jars* (Fig. 13:1, 2).— The rims of two jars, which are thickened and slightly flaring, belong

**Fig. 11 ▶**

No.	Basket	Description
1	124	Brown-orange clay, light gray core, large white grits
2	182	Brown-orange clay, light gray core, grits
3	220	Brown-orange clay, many large white grits
4	142	Brown-orange clay, grits
5	221	Brown-orange clay, large dark gray core, white grits
6	129	Brown-orange clay, grits
7	273	Light brown clay, many white grits
8	186	Brown-orange clay, many white grits
9	165	Brown-orange clay, grits
10	170	Brown-reddish clay, grits
11	130	Brown-reddish clay, brown core
12	265	Reddish clay, grits
13	280	Orange clay, light brown core, grits
14	172	Brown-orange clay, dark gray core, large white grits
15	285	Light orange clay, grits
16	128	Brown-orange clay, brown core, many small and large white grits
17	132	Brown-orange clay, large gray core, white grits
18	133	Brown-orange clay, dark gray large core, grits

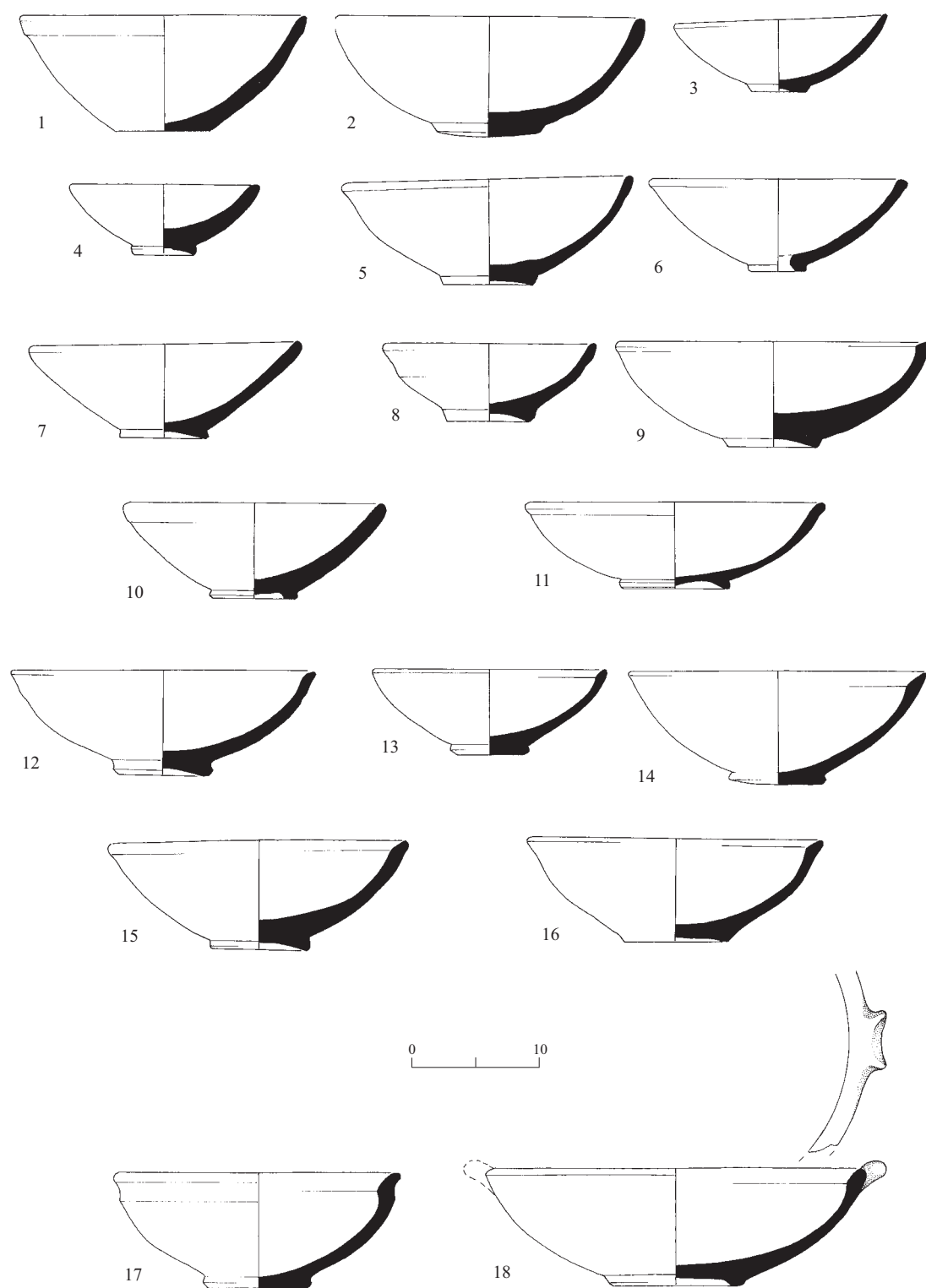


Fig. 11. Locus 15, LB II open bowls.

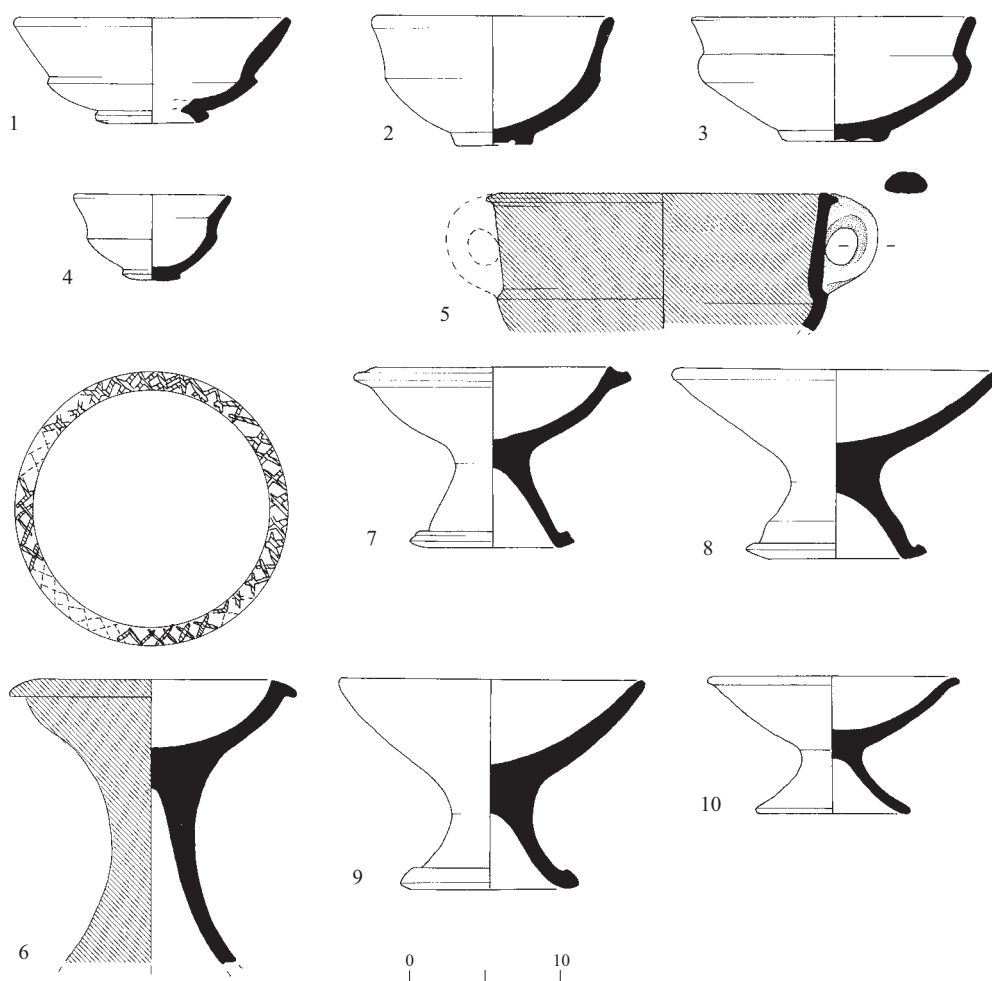


Fig. 12. Locus 15, LB II carinated bowls, krater and chalices.

No.	Basket	Description
1	117	Brown-orange clay, thin light gray core
2	139	Light brown clay, white grits
3	144	Brown-orange clay
4	268/1	Brown-orange clay
5	215	Brown-yellowish clay, ext. and int. red slipped
6	167	Light brown clay, dark gray core, ext. red slipped, brown paint on rim
7	272	Red clay, many white grits
8	230	Orange clay, large light brown core, grits
9	169	Light orange clay, grits
10	119	Red clay, dark gray core, large grits



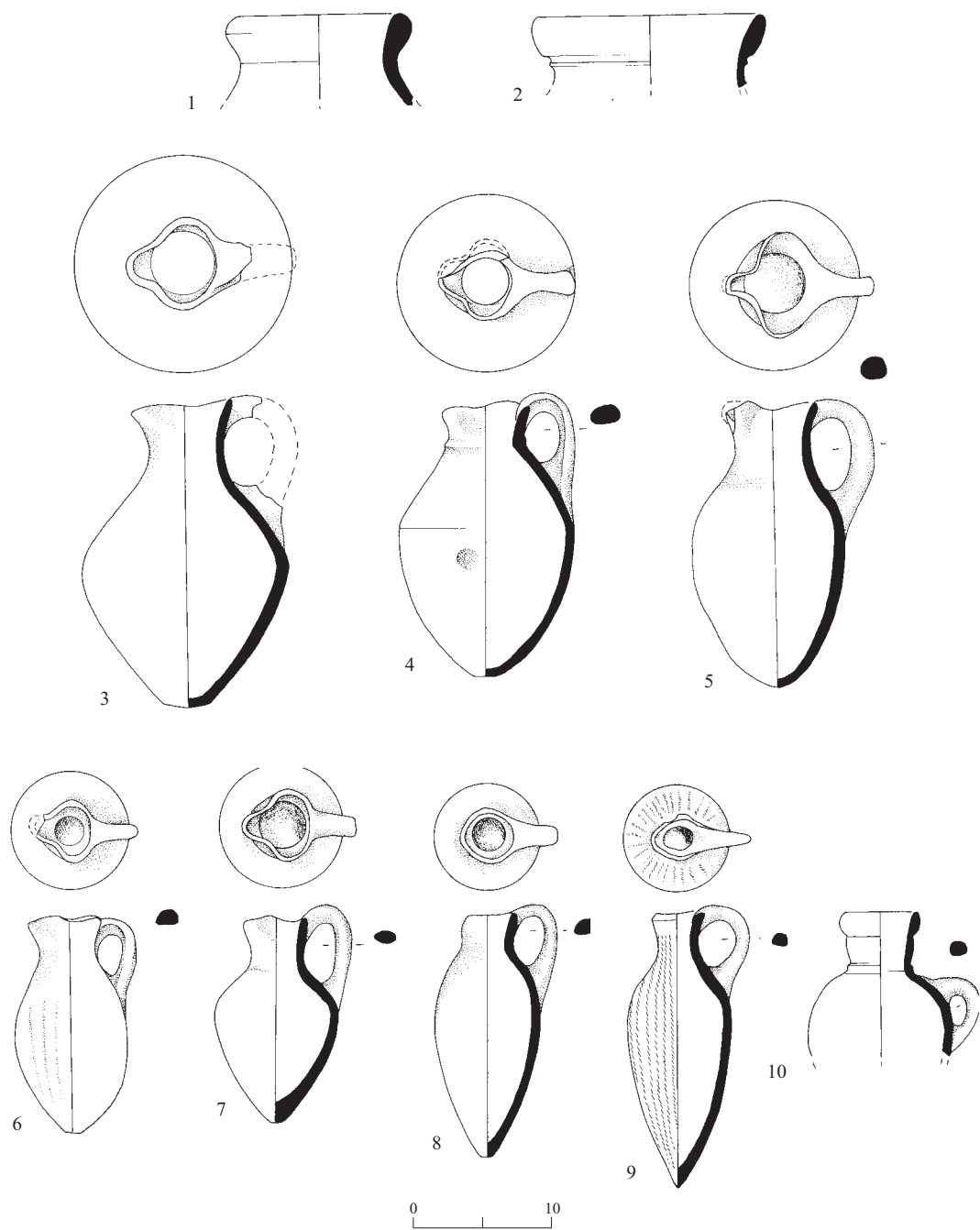


Fig. 13. Locus 15, LB II jars and juglets.

No.	Basket	Description	No.	Basket	Description
1	283	Brown clay, gray core, grits	6	226	Brown-orange clay, shaved surface
2	268/2	Brown-red clay, dark gray core	7	127	Brown-red clay, large grits
3	171	Brown-orange clay, gray core, white grits	8	225	Buff clay, shaved
4	188	Brown-reddish clay	9	145	Orange and yellowish clay, shaved
5	224	Light brown clay, grits	10	263	Brown-red clay, grits

to types found at many sites, such as in tombs at ‘Akko (Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977: Fig. 10:5–7), where they are dated LB II.

*Jugs and Juglets* (Fig. 13:3–10).— Several jugs and juglets have trefoil rims (Fig. 13:3–7). One (Fig. 13:3) has an almost biconical body and a slightly convex base. Others (Fig. 13:4–7) have almost oval-shaped bodies and tapered, slightly rounded bases. One juglet (Fig. 13:6) has a shaved exterior. Similar jugs with trefoil rims were found at Tell Abu Hawam (Hamilton 1935: No. 260) and at ‘Akko (Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977: Fig. 9:1–4).

Two juglets (Fig. 13:8, 9) are of a type known as Cypriot White-Shaved (shaving marks are

indicated in the drawing) and are notable for the way their handles were inserted into the walls of the vessels. This type of juglet is often found in LB II assemblages, such as in tombs at ‘Akko (Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977: Fig. 9:10–12) and at Tell Abu Hawam Stratum V (Hamilton 1935: Nos. 287, 288). One juglet (Fig. 13:10) has a globular body, thickened rim and one handle attached to the body. No parallel for it could be found.

*Cooking Pot* (Fig. 14:1).— One cooking pot has a rim with a triangular section typical of LB II.

*Oil Lamps* (Fig. 14:2–5).— The lamps have almost completely pinched rims. The lamp in

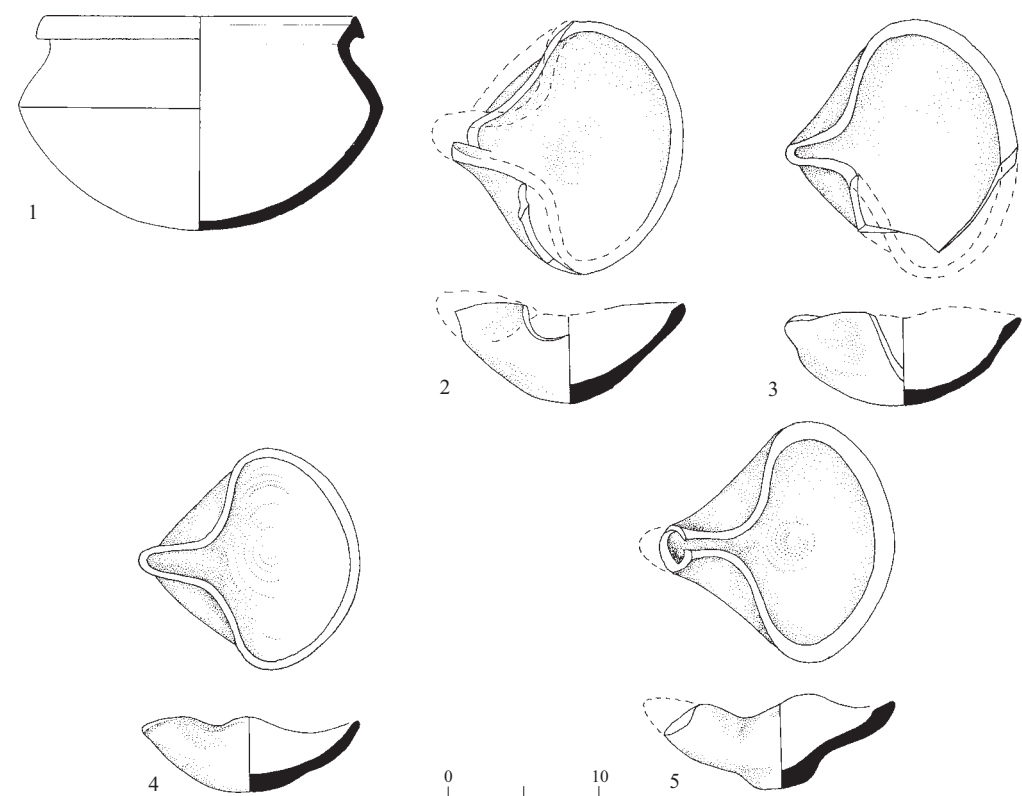


Fig. 14. Locus 15, LB II cooking pot and oil lamps.

No.	Basket	Description	No.	Basket	Description
1	117	Red-brown clay, many small white grits	4	184	Orange clay, many large white grits
2	119	Brown clay, grits	5	283	Buff clay
3	285	Red-orange clay, grits			

Fig. 14:5 has a thickened base similar to lamps found at Tell Abu Hawam Stratum V (Hamilton 1935: Nos. 279, 299).

*'Milk Bowls'* (Fig. 15).—These Cypriot imports, 'milk bowls' with wishbone-shaped handles, are typically painted with bands decorated in net-like patterns (e.g., Fig. 15:1), sometimes combined with rows of dots (e.g., Fig. 15:2–4) and rhombuses (e.g., Fig. 15:5). 'Milk bowls' are frequently found at Late Bronze Age sites (Hamilton 1935: Nos. 221, 222, 243; Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977: Fig. 12:10–15).

*Base-Ring Ware Bowls* (Fig. 16).—Two bowls (Fig. 16:1, 2) are of a common type of this imported Cypriot pottery known for its slightly convex or ring base (Hamilton 1935: Nos. 298, 257; Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977: Fig. 12:1, 3–6). Another (Fig. 16:3) is decorated with narrow, straight bands in low relief and is similar to Gittlen's (1977:47, Pl. 1) Type IBb:1, dated LB IIA and rarely LB IIB.

*'Bilbils'* (Fig. 17).—These imported Cypriot Base-Ring II types of jugs and juglets are easily identified by white paint on a dark surface and incisions on their handles. These examples are paralleled at Tell Abu Hawam and in tombs near 'Akko (Hamilton 1935: Nos. 258, 262, 268; Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977: Fig. 13; Gittlen 1977:48–51, Pl. 9:IXBld:103), where they were found in some quantity.

*Mycenaean Vessels* (Fig. 18).—Three vessels of Mycenaean origin were found. Their fine fabric and shiny finish made them easy to distinguish. One appears to be a cup that probably had a single handle (Fig. 18:1). The small, biconical shaped vessel (Fig. 18:2) has a tapered rim, one handle and a flattened, narrow base. Both these vessels are painted orange-brown on buff surfaces and burnished to a lustrous finish. Similar vessels were found in Stratum V at Tell Abu Hawam, where they are dated LB II (Late Helladic III; Hamilton 1935: Nos. 230, 235). The third vessel, a pyxis (Fig. 18:3), is

a typical Mycenaean form with a cylindrical body, flat base and sloping shoulders joined to a short, wide neck with widely splayed, slightly drooping rim. Two small opposing loop handles are almost vertically attached to the juncture of the body wall and the neck. This vessel has a good parallel at Tell Abu Hawam Stratum V (Hamilton 1935: No. 283). A similar vessel has been dated by Mountjoy (1999: Fig. 68:103) to Late Helladic IIIA2.

#### *Pottery from Locus 30* (Fig. 19)

This locus contained LB II vessel-types, such as the open bowl and the carinated bowl (Fig. 9:1, 2), similar to bowls found in L15. Figure 19:3 is a cooking-pot rim. The diminutive *'bilbil'* (Fig. 19:4) is very similar to one from L15 (Fig. 17:9), but this example is painted brown. A parallel published by Gittlen (1977: Pl. 8:5, Type IX) is identified as Base Ring II.

#### *Pottery from Additional Loci* (Fig. 20)

The open bowl with a pierced bar handle (Fig. 20:1), the carinated bowl (Fig. 20:2), the Base Ring bowl (Fig. 20:3) and the oil lamp (Fig. 20:4) are almost identical to the finds recovered from L15 (Figs. 11:18; 12:5; 16:2; 14:4 respectively). Figure 20:5 is a rendering of a lentoid flask of Base Ring II Ware, which has parallels in Cyprus (Åström 1972:189–190, Fig. LIII:14).

#### *A Calcite Bottle* (Fig. 20:6)

Unfortunately, the rim of this small, drop-shaped bottle with rounded base is lacking. It is fashioned of locally available calcite,<sup>4</sup> reminiscent of Egyptian alabaster vessels. A similar vessel, but with a disk base, was found in a tomb near 'Akko (Clamer 1977). This type of vessel is usually dated to the later phases of MB II, but it could continue into LB I and even LB II (Clamer 1977: Fig. 14:26). As this bottle was found on the surface, and thus remains without context, it is impossible to determine when precisely within the range of MB IIB and LB II, periods represented in the excavation, it should be dated.

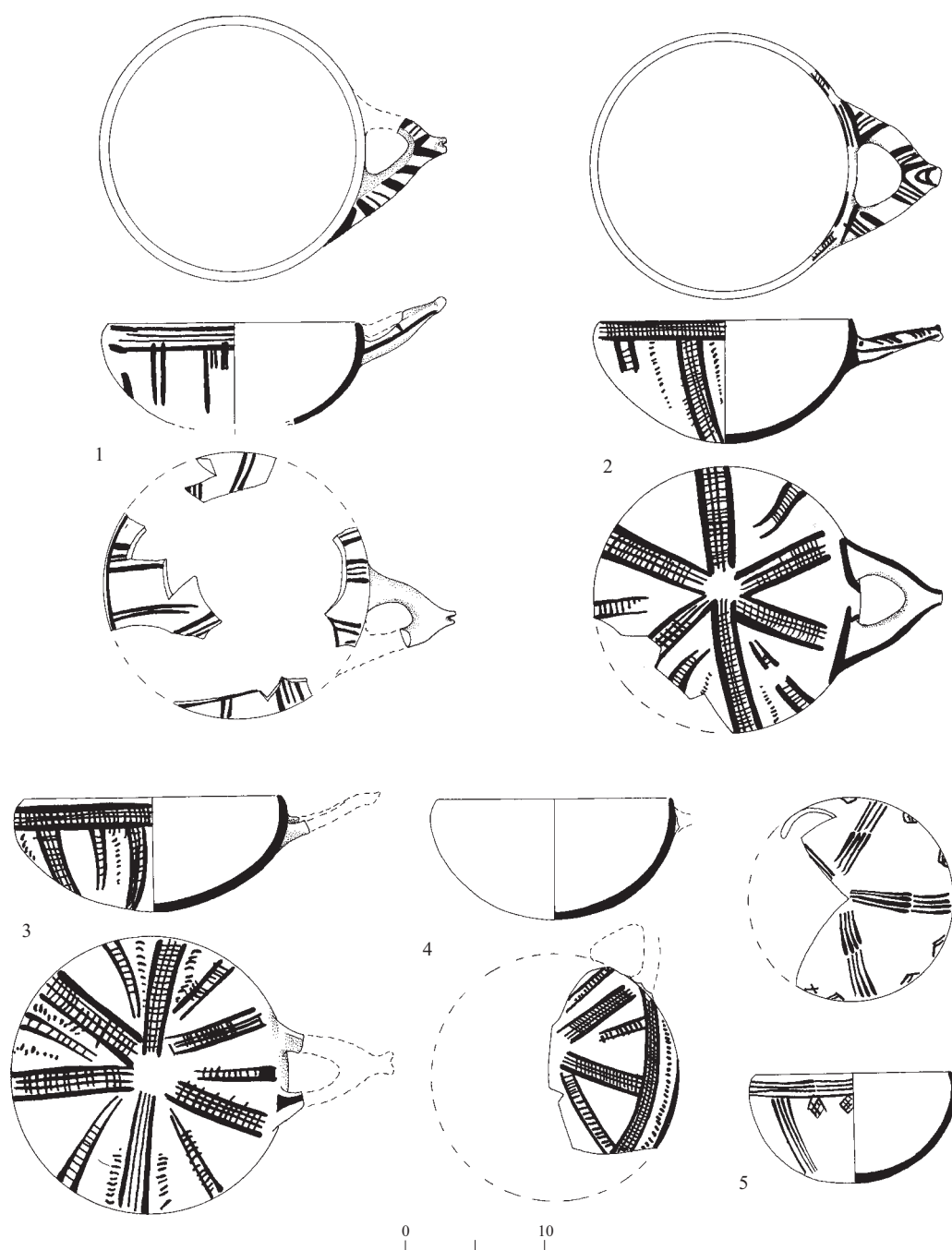


Fig. 15. Locus 15, LB II 'milk bowls'.

No.	Basket	Description
1	109	Red clay, gray core, well fired, white slip on ext. and int., brown paint
2	158	Red clay, white slip on ext. and int., brown paint
3	126	White slip on ext. and int., brown paint
4	182	Red clay, gray core, well fired, white slip on ext. and int., brown paint
5	119	Brown clay, gray core, well fired, white slip on ext. and int., brown paint



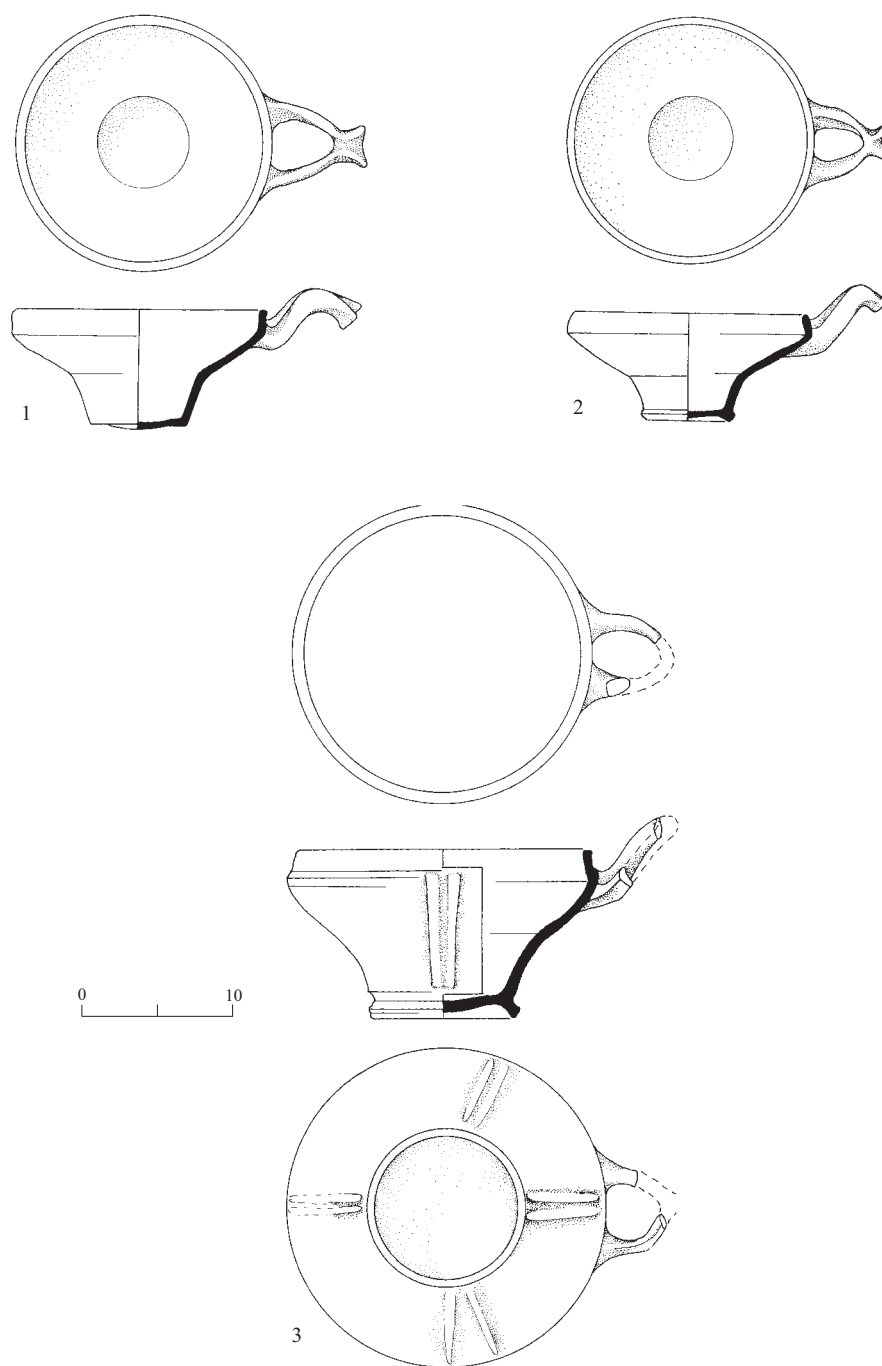
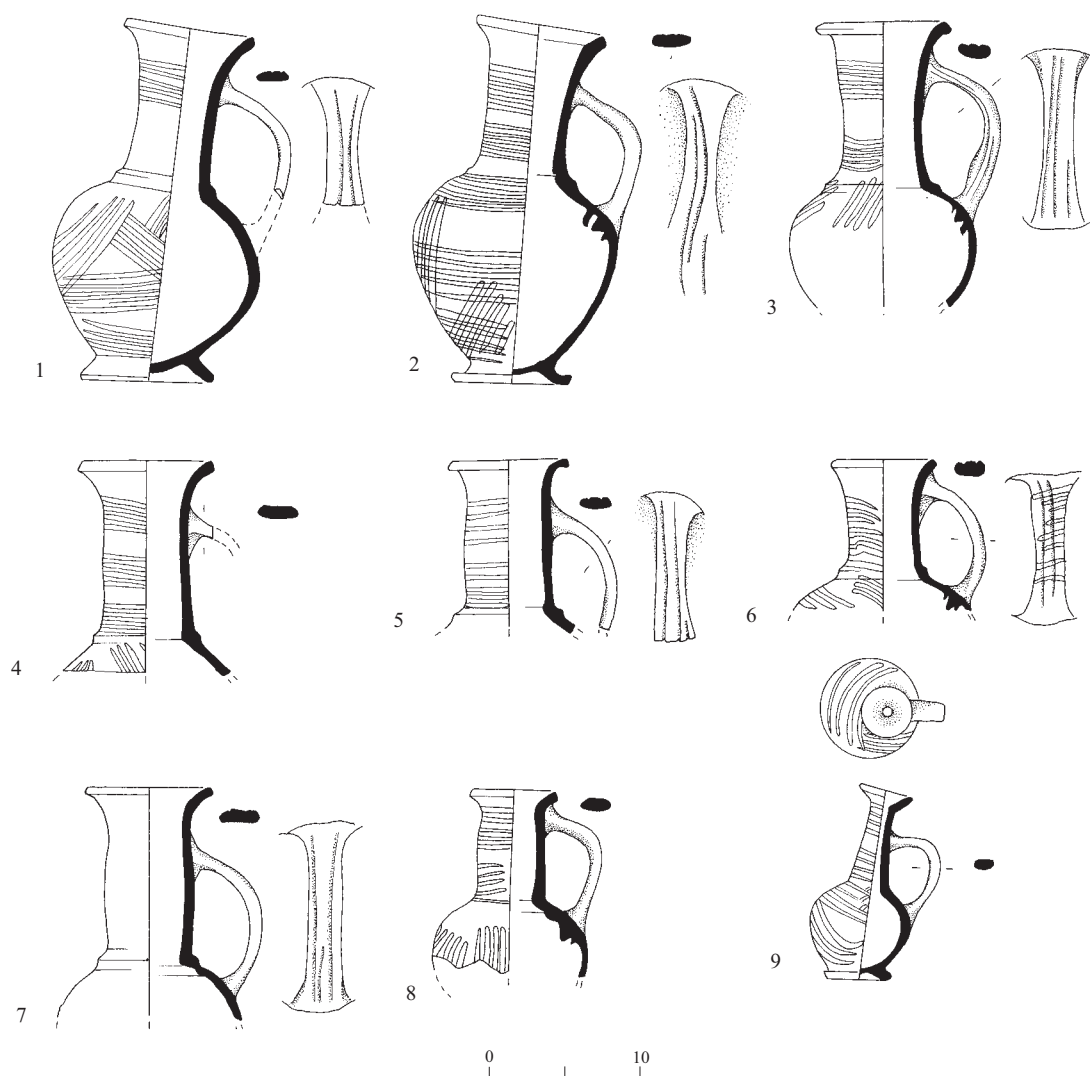


Fig. 16. Locus 15, LB II Base Ring bowls.

No.	Basket	Description
1	-	Red-orange clay, gray core, well fired
2	263	Red-brown clay, gray core, well fired
3	274	Dark brown clay

Fig. 17. Locus 15, LB II *bilbils*.

No.	Basket	Description
1	182	Brown-orange clay, brown surface, white paint
2	222	Red-orange clay, brown surface, light gray core, white paint
3	228	Red-orange clay, gray core, well fired, white paint
4	269	Red clay, dark brown surface, gray core, well fired, white paint
5	112	Red-orange clay, dark brown surface, gray core, well fired, white paint
6	124	Gray clay, well fired, white paint
7	274	Red-orange clay, gray core
8	160	Gray clay, well fired, white paint
9	185	Brown-orange clay, brown surface, white paint

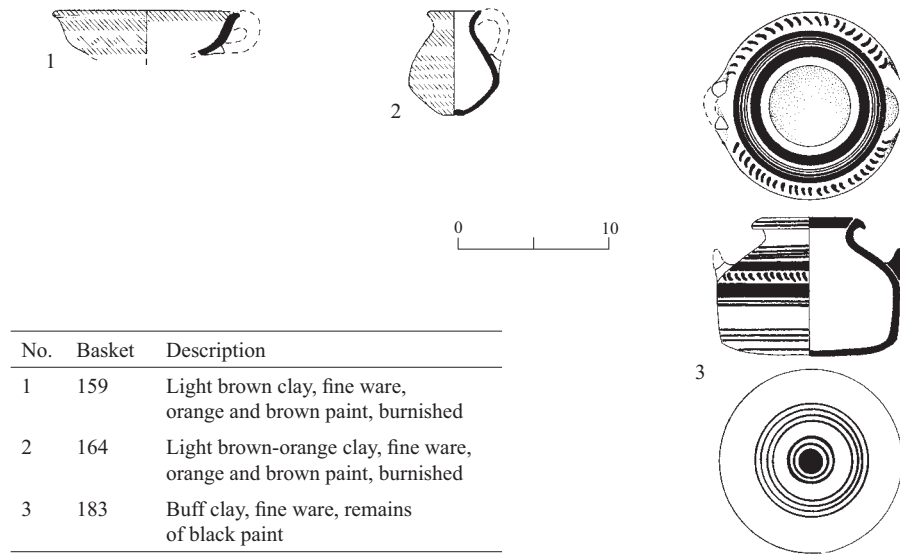


Fig. 18. Locus 15, LB II Mycenaean pottery.

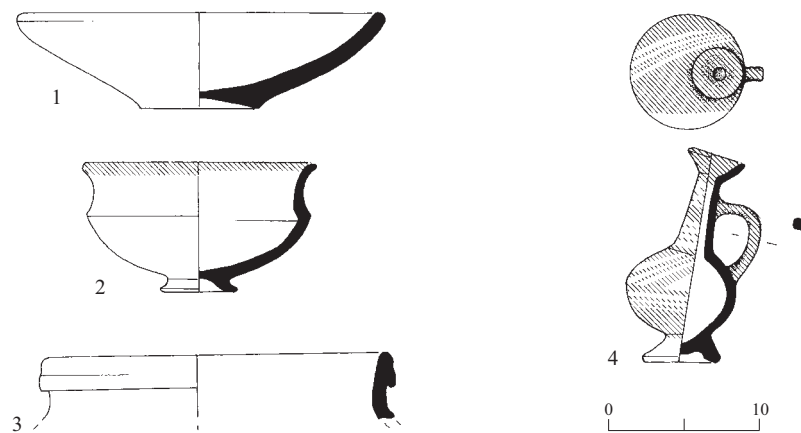


Fig. 19. Locus 30, LB II pottery.

No.	Basket	Type	Description
1	108	Open bowl	Light brown-orange clay, brown core, large grits
2	244	Carinated bowl	Brown-orange clay, light brown core, grits, red paint on ext. and int. rim
3	240	Cooking pot	Red clay, large brown core, many small white grits
4	242	Juglet	Brown-orange clay, brown paint

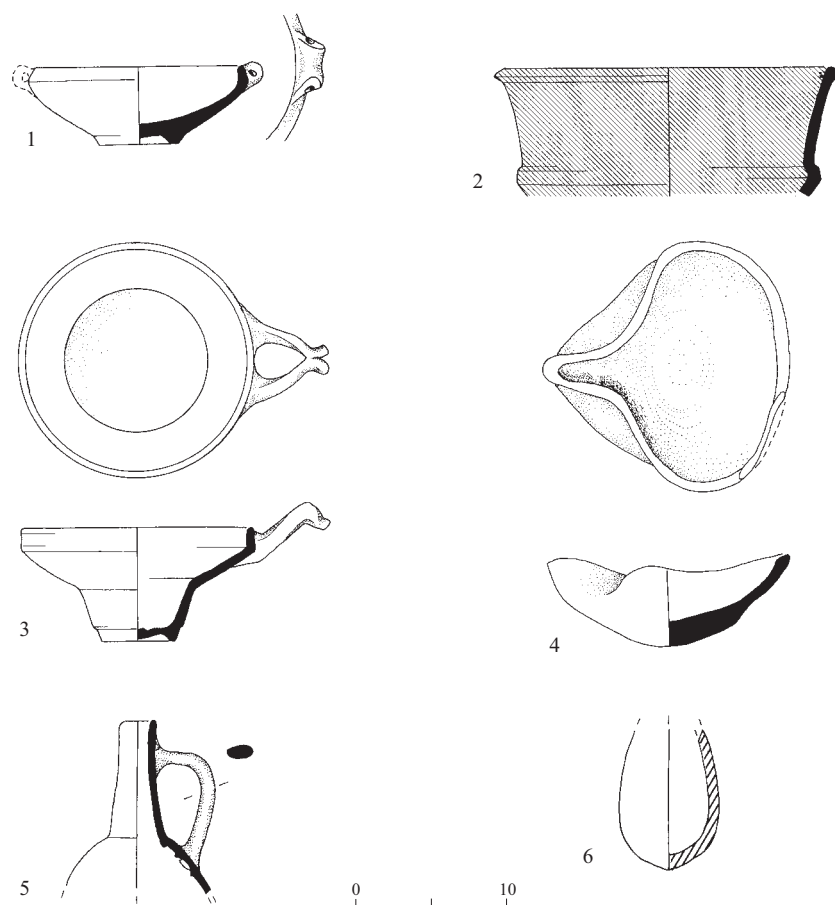


Fig. 20. LB II pottery and a stone vessel.

No.	Basket	Locus	Type	Description
1	232	23	Open bowl	Brown-red clay, grits
2	249	23	Carinated bowl	Brown-yellowish clay, grits, red slip on ext. and int.
3	501	Unknown	Base-Ring bowl	Brown-red clay
4	502	Unknown	Oil lamp	Reddish clay, large dark gray core, grits
5	104/2	11	Lentoid flask	Ext. red clay, int. gray clay, well fired
6	105	11	Bottle	Calcite

### *The Persian Period (Fig. 21)*

The mortaria and jars shown in Fig. 21 are well known vessel types of the Persian period found at many sites. They represent some utilization of the site in the period, probably when the pit was dug (L10).

### SUMMARY

The excavation revealed the remains of several burial caves hewn into bedrock at the north-eastern edge of Tel Afeq (Tell Qurdana), apparently during MB IIA. These caves should be understood as part of a cemetery of a settlement



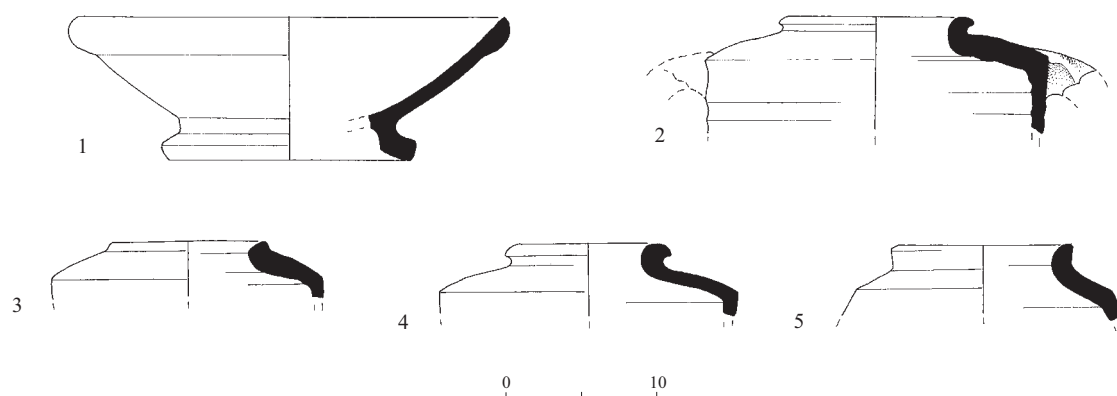


Fig. 21. Pottery of the Persian period.

No.	Basket	Locus	Type	Description
1	104	11	Mortaria	Buff clay
2	122	19	Jar	Brown-orange clay
3	156	19	Jar	Brown-orange clay
4	100	10	Jar	Brown-orange clay
5	120	10	Jar	Light brown clay

on the tell, yet to be excavated. The upper parts of these tombs were badly destroyed prior to excavation, but the contours of extant cavities cut into bedrock suggest, based on analogous cavities in shaft tombs, the likelihood they were accessed through vertical shafts. The proximity of several of these man-made, curvilinear cavities further suggests the possibility that one or more of these tombs had more than one chamber. Bilobate or even multilobate tombs were not uncommon during MB II.

The burials in L20 were associated with *in situ* vessels that yielded an assemblage similar to those found in tombs at Tel Kabri, Jatt and Kefar Veradim. According to Getzov (2002: 46–47), MB IIA dwellers in rural settlements buried their dead in caves outside their villages, while in towns the custom of burials within settlements was practiced. If this hypothesis

regarding Tel Afeq (Tell Qurdana) is correct, then the MB IIA settlement at the site was probably rural and relatively small. That would account for the location of the tombs at the edge of the tell.

There is evidence to suggest use and then reuse of the tombs in two periods, MB II and LB II. The skeleton covered with a row of stones in L29 may have been buried, according to the pottery in L28, during MB IIB. Later, in LB II one of the cavities (L30) appears to have been purposely filled with earth and small stones in order to accommodate additional burials.

The LBII pottery assemblage comprises locally made pottery vessels, as well as Cypriot and few Mycenaean vessels. The assemblage is similar to other LB II burial assemblages, such as in tombs found outside 'Akko and paralleled in Stratum V at Tell Abu Hawam.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The excavation, conducted on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority in 1998 (Permit No. A-2864), was directed by the author, who wishes to thank Mordechai Aviam and Yossi Nagar (physical anthropologist) for their help in the field. The author also wishes to thank Leea Porat who restored the pottery; Hagit Tahan, who drew it; and Howard Smithline, who photographed the finds. Thanks are also due to the staff of the National Parks Authority at Tel Afeq (Tell Qurdana) for assistance provided,

and to Prof. Michal Artzy (University of Haifa), for her valuable advice concerning the ceramic finds.

<sup>2</sup> Elevations are all below datum (= 0) at ground level between the squares, with no reference to sea level.

<sup>3</sup> The assemblage of Tomb 498 at Kabri, with its division into the different phases, was not presented in the final, English publication of excavations; therefore, the earlier, Hebrew publication (Kempinski 1989) is referred to when necessary.

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