

LATE CHALCOLITHIC-PERIOD POTTERY FROM KAFR ‘ANA, OR YEHUDA

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In the excavations in the Neue Rabin neighborhood of Or Yehuda (see Arbel and Volynsky, this volume), accumulations of Late Chalcolithic-period pottery (Fig. 1) were found in Area B (Sqs 3, 4 [L204, L210]; Sqs 7, 8 [L218, L219]), on a layer of clayey soil that was covered by a layer of alluvium (c. 1 m thick). This pottery is pink or light yellow with a light gray core and white and gray inclusions, probably of lime and flint. The assemblage includes bowls (Fig. 1:1–4), basins (Fig. 1:5, 6), large thin-walled bowls (Fig. 1:7, 8), open pithoi (Fig. 1:9–13), thin-walled jars (Fig. 1:14–16), pedestalled bowls (probably incense burners; Fig. 1:17–20) and cornets (Fig. 1:21–24).

Typological comparisons appear in the descriptive table (Fig. 1), made with representative contemporaneous assemblages in the region of the Yarqon and Ayyalon basins. These include habitation sites at Kafr ‘Ana (Gophna, Taxel and Feldstein 2007), Shoham (North) (Commenge 2005) and Giv‘at Ha-Oranim (Scheftelowitz 2004; Yannai, forthcoming), as well as burial caves at Azor (Perrot 1961) and Giv‘atayim (Sussman and Ben-Arieh 1966). In addition, parallels were drawn from Bir eṣ-Ṣafadi, near Naḥal Be‘er Sheva‘ (Commenge-Pellerin 1990). Other similar assemblages from Naḥal Be‘er Sheva‘ sites, such as Abu Maṭar (Commenge-Pellerin 1987, 1990), Shiqmim (Levy 1987) and Ḥorbat Beter (Dothan 1957), are not presented here, given the limited framework of the report.

The Chalcolithic assemblage from Neue Rabin is typical of the late phase of this period, i.e., the last quarter of the fourth millennium BCE. Typologically and technologically, the Chalcolithic pottery from Neue Rabin is characteristic of the southern regions of Israel, from the Be‘er Sheva‘ Valley in the south (and possibly even farther south) as far as the Yarqon and Ayyalon basins in the north. Similar vessels were found as far north as Shefayim (Gophna 1992) on the coast, but not in more northern and inland sites, such as eṭ-Ṭaiyiba, Ma‘abarot, Sha‘ar Efrayim (van den Brink 1998) and ‘En Esur (‘Ein Asawir; Yannai 2006).

Earlier periods and cultures—the Pottery Neolithic and Wadi Rabah cultures (Gopher and Eyal 2017a; 2017b; 2017c; Yannai 2017)—which are common at sites in the Ayyalon and Yarqon basins, are not represented here, and neither is the Early Bronze Age I. Nonetheless, the present finds are an important addition to the body of Late Chalcolithic-period material previously discovered at the site and in its immediate environs, as well as at sites in the general region of the Yarqon and Ayyalon basins, the

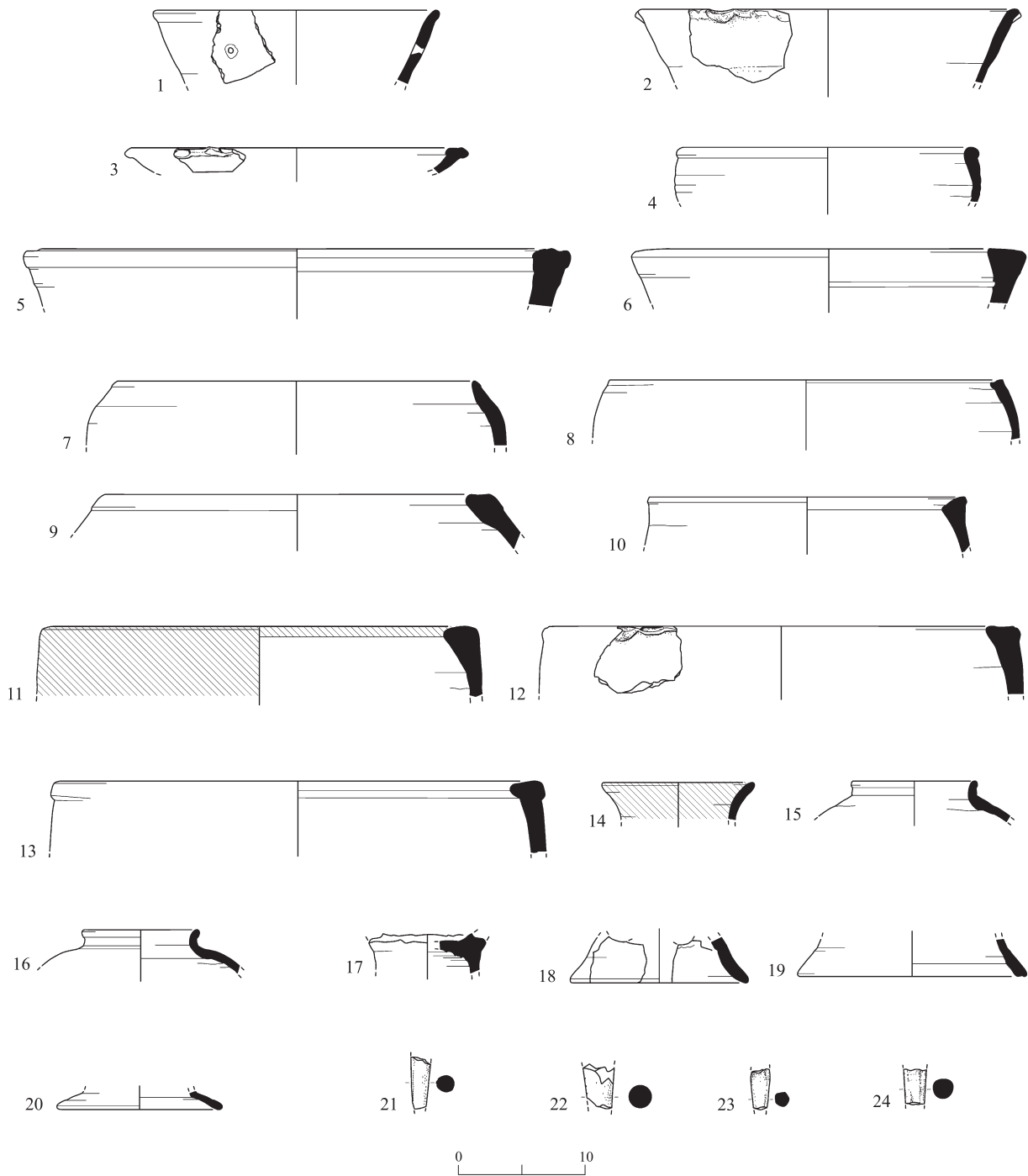


Fig. 1. Late Chalcolithic-period pottery.

◀ Fig. 1

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Parallels
1	Bowl	219	3020	Perrot 1961: Fig. 37:26 Commenge-Pellerin 1990: Fig. 18:1, 3 Scheftelowitz 2004: Figs. 3.3:3; 3.4:9 Yannai, forthcoming: Figs. 14:24–26; 48:3
2	Bowl	210	2001	Commenge-Pellerin 1990: Fig. 25:1 Commenge 2005: Fig. 6.12:7 Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 16:17
3	Bowl	210	3009	Bar 2014: Fig. 9.23:21
4	Bowl	218	3010	Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 16:7
5	Basin	210	2087	Smithline 2001: Fig. 8:1
6	Basin	218	3010	Commenge-Pellerin 1990: Fig. 27:10 Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 28:1, 2
7	Large bowl	210	2001	Commenge-Pellerin 1990: Fig. 30 Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 22:4
8	Large bowl	210	2047	Perrot 1961: Fig. 40:18, 19 Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 22:2
9	Pithos	210	3004	Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 25:3
10	Pithos	210	2047	Commenge-Pellerin 1990: Fig. 28:4
11	Pithos	210	3004	Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 28:5, 7
12	Pithos	210	2070	Commenge-Pellerin 1990: Fig. 32:10
13	Pithos	210	2047	Commenge-Pellerin 1990: Fig. 32:4
14	Jar	219	3020	Scheftelowitz 2004: Fig. 3.14:1, 3
15	Jar	218	3010	Commenge-Pellerin 1990: Fig. 42:2 Commenge 2005: Fig. 6.27:1, 2, 6 Yannai, forthcoming: Fig. 39:19–22
16	Jar	218	3010	As No. 15
17	Pedestalled bowl	210	2070	Sussman and Ben-Arieh 1966: Fig. 6:3 Commenge-Pellerin 1990: Fig. 3.8:1–3 Schftelowitz 2004: Fig. 3.8:1–3 Commenge 2005: Fig. 6.5:1–3
18	Pedestalled bowl	210	2047	Schftelowitz 2004: Fig. 3.8:7, 8 Commenge 2005: Fig. 6.5:7–12
19	Pedestalled bowl	219	3020	As No. 18
20	Pedestalled bowl	210	2070	As No. 18
21	Cornet	219	3020	Commenge 2005: Fig. 6.1:2
22	Cornet	210	2070	As No. 21
23	Cornet	210	2047	As No. 21
24	Cornet	210	2047	As No. 21

Lod Valley and the margins of the Samaria foothills. In addition to the sites mentioned above for comparison are Yehud (van den Brink, Golan and Shemueli 2001; Milevski 2008), Lod (Kaplan 1977), the Qiryah in Tel Aviv (Rauchberger 2014; Braun and van den Brink, forthcoming), Ḥorbat ‘Illit B (Milevski et al. 2013) and Qula (Milevski 2001a; 2001b; Milevski and Shevo 1999).

The discovery of the Late Chalcolithic stratum above a layer of clay and covered by a thick layer of alluvial soil may suggest that additional sites from this period are still buried along Naḥal Yarqon and Naḥal Ayyalon. Such settlements cannot be discerned on the present-day landscape and are only exposed when development and infrastructure works reach the bottom of the alluvial layer.

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