

ḤORBAT DUVSHAN: A 'GOLAN' CHALCOLITHIC SITE IN EASTERN GALILEE

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INTRODUCTION

Ḥorbat Duvshan is located in the eastern Galilee, approximately 1 km east of Moshav Elifelet and the main road that leads southward from Qiryat Shemona through the Jordan Rift Valley (NIG 25260–270/76092–115; OIG 20260–270/26092–115; Fig. 1). The site lies in the center of the Korazim Plateau, which extends from the Ḥula Valley south toward the Sea of Galilee. It is bordered on the east by the Jordan Rift Valley. The most prominent feature to its west is Mt. Canaan, which rises several hundred meters above the plateau. The surface of the plateau is covered by an uneven, weathered crust of basalt flow and basalt rocks and boulders that originate from once-active volcanoes in the region. The Korazim

Plateau to the west, and the Golan Heights, 150–250 m higher in elevation to the east, essentially constitute a homogeneous landscape and environment that is interrupted by the intervening Rift Valley.¹

Over the course of thousands of years, the Korazim Plateau has been sparsely populated due to its inhospitable environment. However, surveys have revealed a sudden increase in sites dating to the Late Chalcolithic period. This discovery indicates that a sedentary population of appreciable size managed to attain a level of subsistence not seen in this region until the present day.² This parallels a similar growth in population that occurred in the Golan Heights during this period (Epstein 1998).

The extensive site of Ḥorbat Duvshan is partially covered by the now-ruined Ottoman-

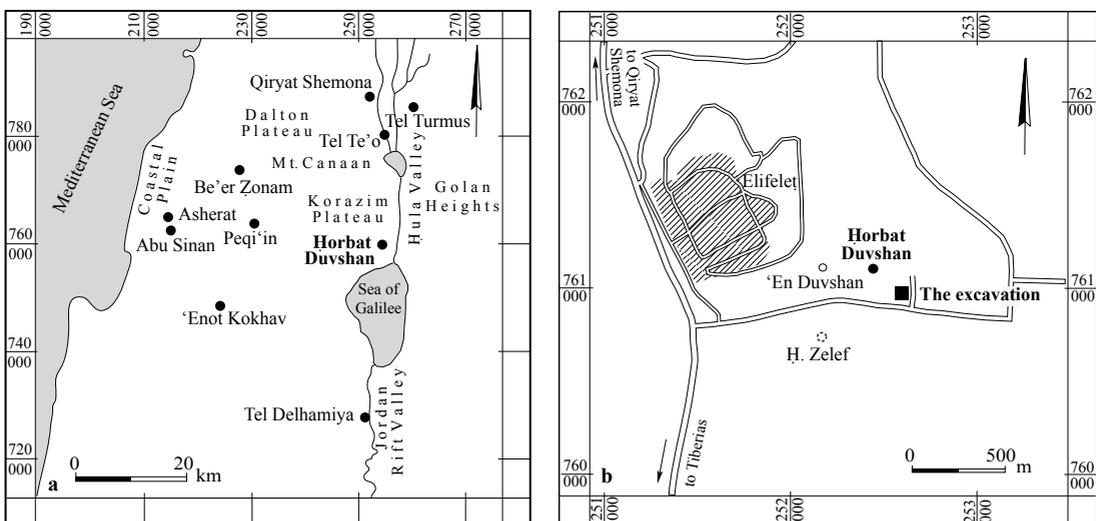


Fig. 1. Location map: (a) Ḥorbat Duvshan and other Chalcolithic sites in its vicinity; (b) location of the excavation.

period village of El-‘Assaliyeh. The village was visited by Guérin (1880:346) and Conder and Kitchener (1881:235) in the late nineteenth century, none of whom made any mention of ancient remains. It appears that part of the village already lay in ruins at that time, as Conder and Kitchener report seeing “heaps of basaltic stones and ruined Arab houses.” The Arabic name of the village, El-‘Assaliyeh, as well as its modern Hebrew translation, Ḥorbat Duvshan, retain a reference to some activity pertaining to honey or honey production. One water source, ‘En Duvshan, is located a short distance to the west.

Claire Epstein, who pioneered the study of the Chalcolithic period in the Golan Heights (Epstein 1998) and the eastern Galilee (Epstein 1992), conducted a survey in the area in the late 1970s in which she identified the site and recognized its importance within the Chalcolithic period (1992:4, n. 8).

Between the years 1990–1993, Yosef Stepansky carried out an intensive survey in this region on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Archaeological Survey of Israel. He documented basaltic, Golan-type pottery at 30 sites, 15 of which are presumed to be sedentary settlements. The remainder of the sites are difficult to categorize as the finds were few and no excavations have yet been undertaken; however, it is clear that they represent sites, where some type of activity took place during the Late Chalcolithic period. During his survey of Ḥorbat Duvshan, Stepansky also discerned pottery dating to the Early Bronze Age II–III, Mamluk and Ottoman periods.

Ḥorbat Duvshan extends over c. 250 dunams (Stepansky, n.d.). It is bisected by a narrow secondary road that divides it into two distinct parts. The major remains of the site are located south of the road in an eucalyptus grove situated on a relatively level parcel of land. Stepansky enumerated approximately fifty partially exposed, elongated houses built of basalt stones, comparable to the elongated houses common to the Late Chalcolithic culture in the Golan

Heights (Epstein 1998:8–11). To the north of the road is a low hill that revealed fewer and more fragmentary Late Chalcolithic remains on its surface. A large, unexcavated structure built of cut basalt stones, tentatively dated to the Mamluk or Ottoman period, occupies the top of the hill. The ruins of the Ottoman village are most evident on the southern slope of the hill, close to where the present excavation was conducted.

The ruins on the mostly barren and unprotected slopes of the hill have suffered extensive erosion from the hot, dry summers and frequent strong easterly winds, and the cold, wet, windy winters. Large swaths of the slope are nearly bare of soil. The finds, therefore, both material and architectural, are relatively meager and poorly preserved. Nevertheless, they can be clearly associated with the Late Chalcolithic culture that flourished in the Golan Heights and other related sites in eastern Galilee (Epstein 1992).

The difficult environment does not lend itself to the preservation of organic material and, in fact, none of the excavated areas yielded any organic finds.

THE EXCAVATION³

Prior to the paving of an agricultural service road ascending the hill, seven test trenches were excavated by mechanical equipment to verify that no antiquities were in danger of being destroyed.⁴ Three of the trenches, on three different levels of the slope, revealed evidence of ancient remains. It was subsequently decided to conduct an archaeological excavation adjacent to each trench within which ancient remains were exposed. One 5 × 5 m square was laid out in each of the three areas. All the squares were literally overflowing with basalt stones and boulders, which made the identification and exposure of walls a particularly difficult task. In two of the squares (Sqs 1, 3) remains of very poorly preserved structures dating to the Late Chalcolithic period were uncovered,

while in the central square on the middle tier of the slope (Sq 2), a portion of a structure or complex was unearthed, comparatively rich in ceramic finds.

Square 1

Square 1 was excavated on the lowest tier of the southeastern slope, about 30 m above the base of the hill, exposing meager remnants of a wall running in a north–south direction. It was built of large, poorly engaged basalt stones that were carelessly placed on bedrock, and surrounded by an extensive collection of stones. A large concentration of pottery fragments identical to the ceramics of the Late Chalcolithic Golan culture, was retrieved in close proximity to the barely perceptible structure. A similar situation was encountered in excavations in the Golan, where the existence of House 7 at Site 18, for example, was surmised on the basis of scant architectural remains among characteristic Late Chalcolithic ceramic finds (Epstein 1998:114).

Square 2 (Figs. 2, 3; Plans 1, 2)

Square 2 is 70 m further up the slope from Square 1 and approximately 18.5 m higher than Square 1 in absolute height. The original square of 25 sq m was enlarged to an area of c. 44.5 sq m. Three phases of occupation were discerned in this square; at least two, possibly all three, dating to the Late Chalcolithic period and providing conclusive evidence of sedentary habitation. The excavation did not reveal a sufficient structural plan that would enable characterization of the structure and comparison to the rectangular houses uncovered in the Golan Heights.

Phase I (Plan 1). The remains of the earliest occupation in Sq 2 comprise two partially excavated, parallel units, Rooms 208 and 216, both filled with stones. Room 208 is enclosed by W207 and W219, constructed of two rows of basalt stones with a fill of small stones. The inner faces are well-constructed, while

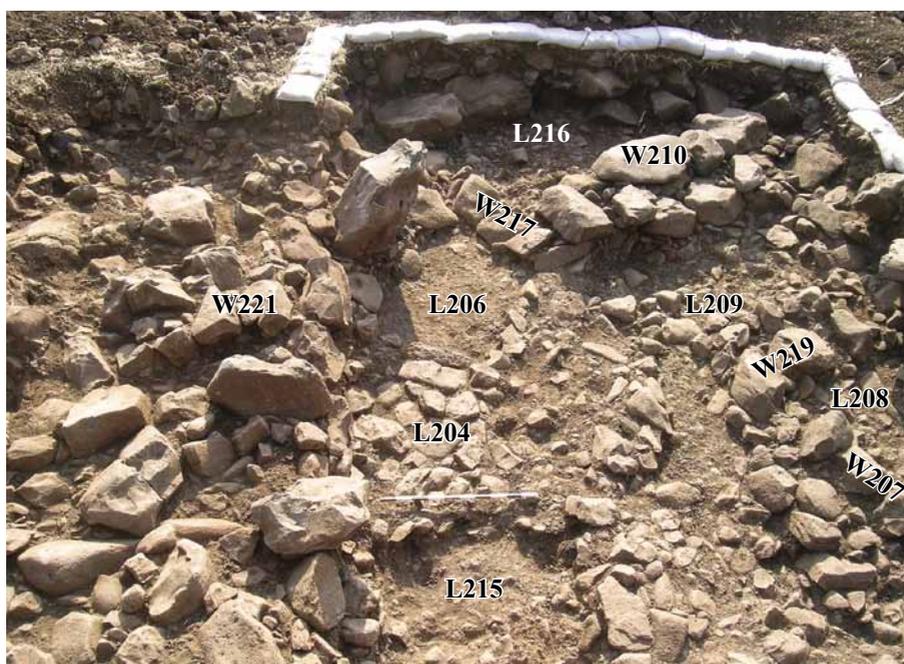
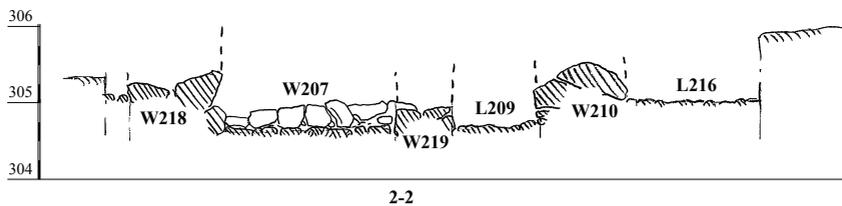
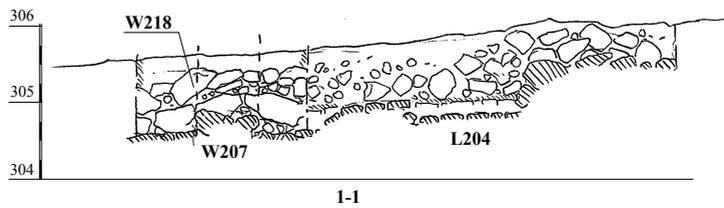
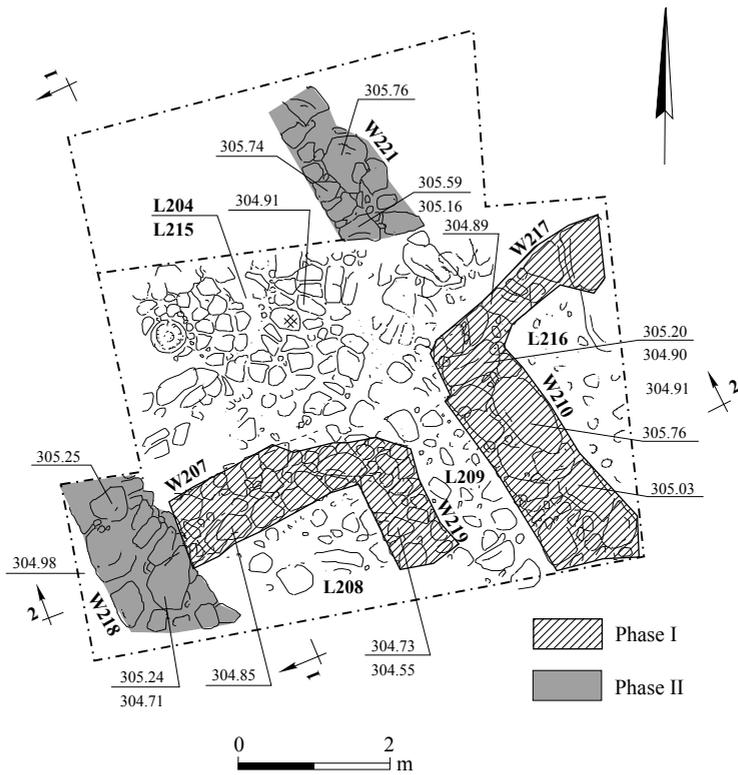


Fig. 2. Square 2, looking east.



Plan 1. Square 2, Phases I and II: plan and sections.

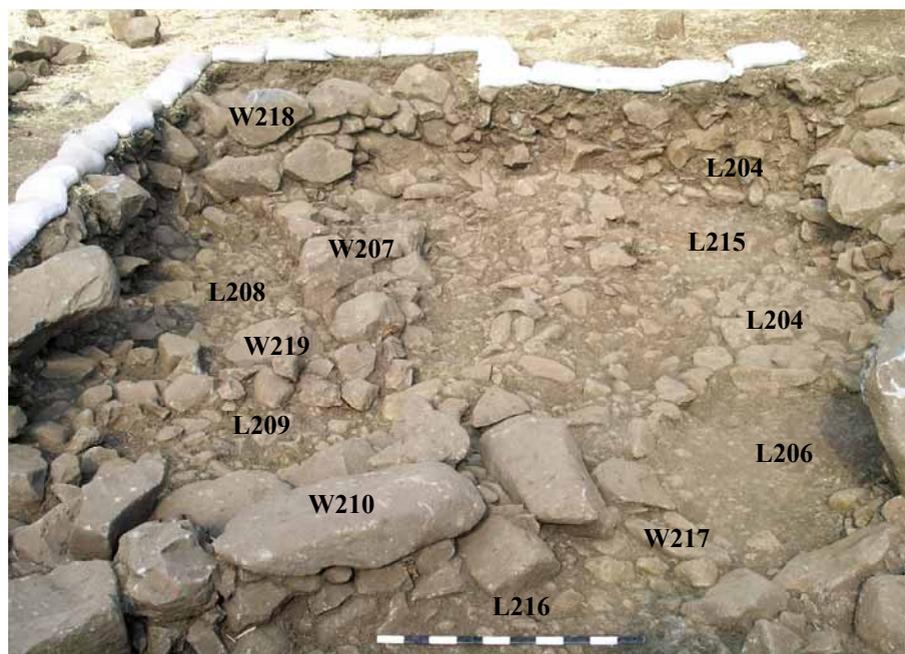


Fig. 3. Square 2, looking west.

the outer face consists of smaller stones more haphazardly placed. Two basalt bowls, one complete (Fig. 11:3), were recovered below the large accumulation of stones.

Room 216, located in the eastern part of the square, is bordered on the west by well-built W210 (1.0–1.2 m wide). Wall 210 was constructed of two parallel rows of basalt boulders with a stone fill on a foundation of small basalt stones and chips that leveled the irregular bedrock and stabilized the wall. Perpendicular to W210 is the narrower W217, built of a single row of stones. The floor of Room 216 was of packed earth on a base of small stones. A large amount of small fragments of Late Chalcolithic pottery was found on the floor and embedded within its makeup.

A stone-paved corridor (L209), which separated the two rooms (Figs. 3, 4), led into an area paved with flat, well-fitted basalt stones upon a packed-earth fill (L204), with numerous small sherds of Late Chalcolithic basaltic

ware lying within the earth fill and in areas of exposed, uneven bedrock. In the northwestern quadrant of the square, a large basalt mortar measuring 32–33 cm in diameter and 20 cm in depth (Fig. 11:6), was embedded in the pavement and supported by a ring of small stones (Fig. 5). The dimensions of this paved unit could not be determined, as it continued beneath the northern and western balks. A mortar was discovered in a similar position in the floor of House 11 at Rasm Ḥarbush in the Golan Heights (Epstein 1998: Fig. 75).

Phase II (Plan 1). In the northern, partially excavated extension of Sq 2, a single course of a 2 m long section of W221 was exposed. The wall was not excavated to any consequential depth. It is somewhat similar to W210 in construction and roughly continues the course of that wall. It appears to have been a later addition or a reconstruction of W210, although it is higher by an average of 0.5 m and cannot

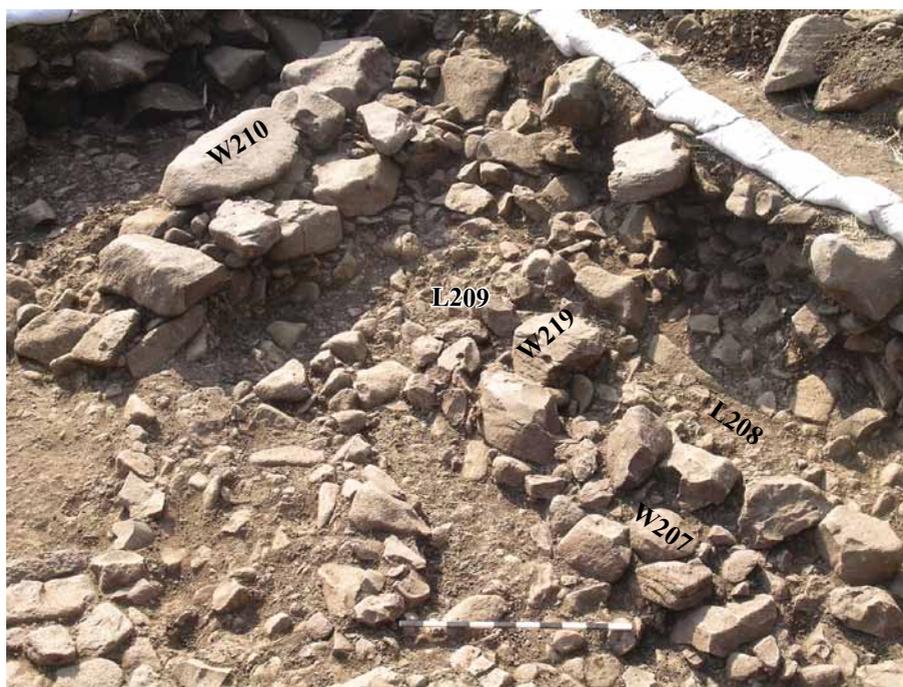


Fig. 4. The corridor between W210 to the left, and W219, looking southeast.



Fig. 5. Stone paving (L204) with embedded mortar (see Fig. 11:6); looking east.

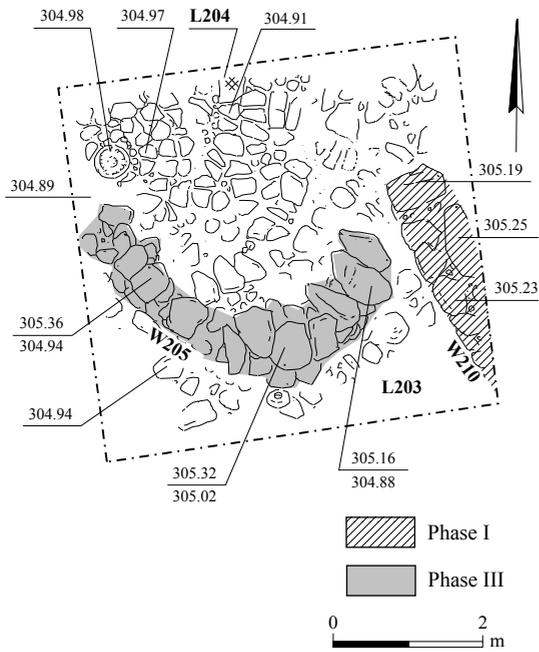
be directly connected to it. The area separating the two wall sections was found empty of any remnant of a wall or of Pavement 204, which would have been expected here. Thus, the discrepancy between the absolute height of W221 and that of the lower W210 cannot be conclusively explained.

In the southwestern corner of the square and running parallel to W210 is a second wall (W218), also built of a double row of basalt boulders, although it is wider and its stones are much larger than those in the other walls. It was built perpendicular to and directly upon W207 (Fig. 6). There is a 0.3–0.4 m difference in height between the upper course of the two Phase II walls.

Phase III (Plan 2). In the final phase, a semicircular wall or arrangement of large basalt stones stood in the southern half of the square (W205; Figs. 7, 8). Its internal diameter was 2.5 m and its maximum preserved height was



Fig. 6. Wall 218 running above W207, looking northwest.



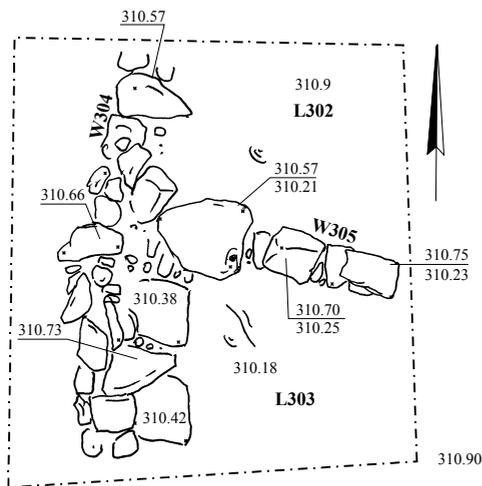
Plan 2. Square 2, Phase III.



Fig. 7. Contour of W205, looking west.



Fig. 8. Southeastern face of W205 (after excavation of paving L204, in background); looking north.



Plan 3. Square 3.

approximately 0.5 m. Wall 205 was constructed above W207 and W219, thereby completely obscuring their existence, as well as disturbing both W218 and W210. It clearly postdates these walls, although its function is unclear. Perhaps it represents a clearing of the area that was undertaken at a later time. Although most of the ceramic evidence points to a Chalcolithic date, there is a possibility that it is related to Roman activity, as some extremely worn Roman sherds were retrieved in close proximity to the wall. Their poor state of preservation and the common nature of similar ‘field sherds’ in innumerable excavations, prevent conclusive dating of W205 to the Roman period.

Square 3 (Plan 3)

Square 3 is situated near the top of the hill, approximately 45 m north of Sq 2, and 5 m

higher in elevation. This square had been severely disturbed by a previous clearing of much of the surface of stones, which were found piled-up nearby. The existence of a structure here during the Late Chalcolithic period was suggested by a careless, but apparently intentional line of small to boulder-sized stones that ran in a north–south direction (W304), and a row of boulders perpendicular to it (W305). Within the southeastern space partially enclosed by these lines of stones, L303, was a flat, basalt-bedrock surface with pockets of hard-packed dark earth. A small area was covered by intentionally placed, flat basalt stones that were probably the remnants of a paved floor. A large amount of Late Chalcolithic sherds and a nearly complete, three-legged basalt bowl (Fig. 11:1) were uncovered in the ruins of Sq 3, lending further support to the conjecture of a structure having been located here.

THE FINDS

Pottery

The ceramic repertoire is small, and the majority of the retrieved material is extremely weathered as a result of the environmental conditions. No vessels were repairable to any appreciable degree.

All the ceramic material is made of dark, reddish brown ware, containing numerous basaltic inclusions that is characteristic of the Late Chalcolithic culture of the Golan Heights. Nearly all the vessels have parallels within the Golan ceramic repertoire.

Bowls (Fig. 9:1–7).— Bowls were the most numerous vessel type. Most of the bowls have a thin wall and are relatively shallow, seemingly more so on average than those from the Golan Heights. One of the bowls (Fig. 9:1) is uncommonly small. The bowls possess a number of rim variations: plain, slightly everted, rolled and beveled. Two of the bowls (Fig. 9:6, 7) have a row of short incisions below the rim and are similar to bowls found in the

Golan Heights (Epstein 1998: Pl. XVI:1–15) and at Tel Te'o (Eisenberg 2001: Fig. 6.3:6).

Krater (Fig. 9:8).— This krater features typical Golan Late Chalcolithic elements: the dark red ware, the rope decoration and the angled, beveled rim. The inward slope of the vessel wall below the rope decoration indicates that this is a fragment of a krater (Epstein 1998: Pl. XII:2), although its shape shows certain affinities to wide-mouthed pithoi (Epstein 1998: Pl. IV:1).

Holemouth Jars (Fig. 9:9).— Fragments of only four holemouth jars were found, all with a plain, round rim and a small opening. Their fragmentary nature did not enable any determination of their having been utilized as cooking or storage vessels.

Storage Jars (Fig. 9:9–13).— A number of vessels with a high, unadorned, everted rim were uncovered (Fig. 9:10, 11). Although they are not decorated, their closest parallels among the published material from the Golan Heights may be found in the narrow-necked variation of Epstein's Type 3 pithoi (Epstein 1998: Pl. VIII:11, 13). A nearly identical jar was recovered at Tel Te'o (Eisenberg 2001: Fig. 6.4:3). The wide-mouth jar, with an upright rim and a thin wall (Fig. 9:12), is comparable to Epstein's Type 4 pithoi (Epstein 1998: Pl. IX:3). The illustrated base (Fig. 9:13) is a common, flat, thin-walled base, probably belonging to a holemouth or storage jar.

Pithoi (Fig. 10:1–3).— The second-most common vessel type uncovered in the excavation was the pithos, which appears in a number of variations, all characteristic of the Golan Late Chalcolithic culture. Similar vessels are included in Epstein's Types 1 and 2 pithoi. The fragmentary finds from these large vessels make it impossible to apply Epstein's exacting typology.

Handles (Fig. 10:4, 5).— The two illustrated vertical handles, with a slightly rounded

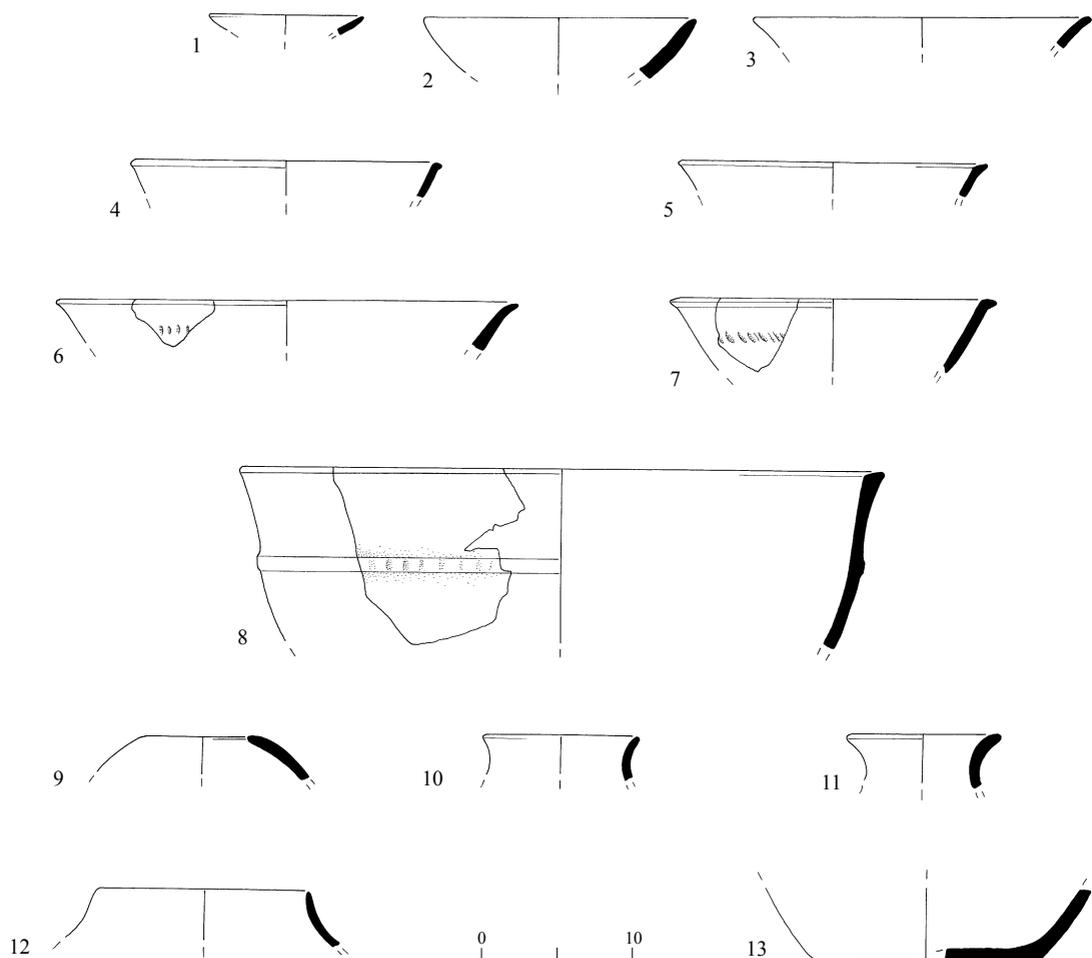


Fig. 9. Chalcolithic pottery.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket
1	Bowl	216	2049/2
2	Bowl	216	2046/2
3	Bowl	215	2045/1
4	Bowl	216	2046/1
5	Bowl	209	2029/3
6	Bowl	303	3009
7	Bowl	202 (surface)	2010

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket
8	Krater	301 (surface)	3004
9	Holemouth jar	303	3007
10	Storage jar	202 (surface)	2009
11	Storage jar	216	2049/1
12	Storage jar	211 (surface)	2037/1
13	Base	204	2031

triangular profile, are characteristic of the period. On one of the handles (Fig. 10:4) are the remains of five rope-like bands that decorated

the pithos. The second handle (Fig. 10:5) belongs to Epstein's 'eye and nose' handle category (Epstein 1998: Pl. XXVI).

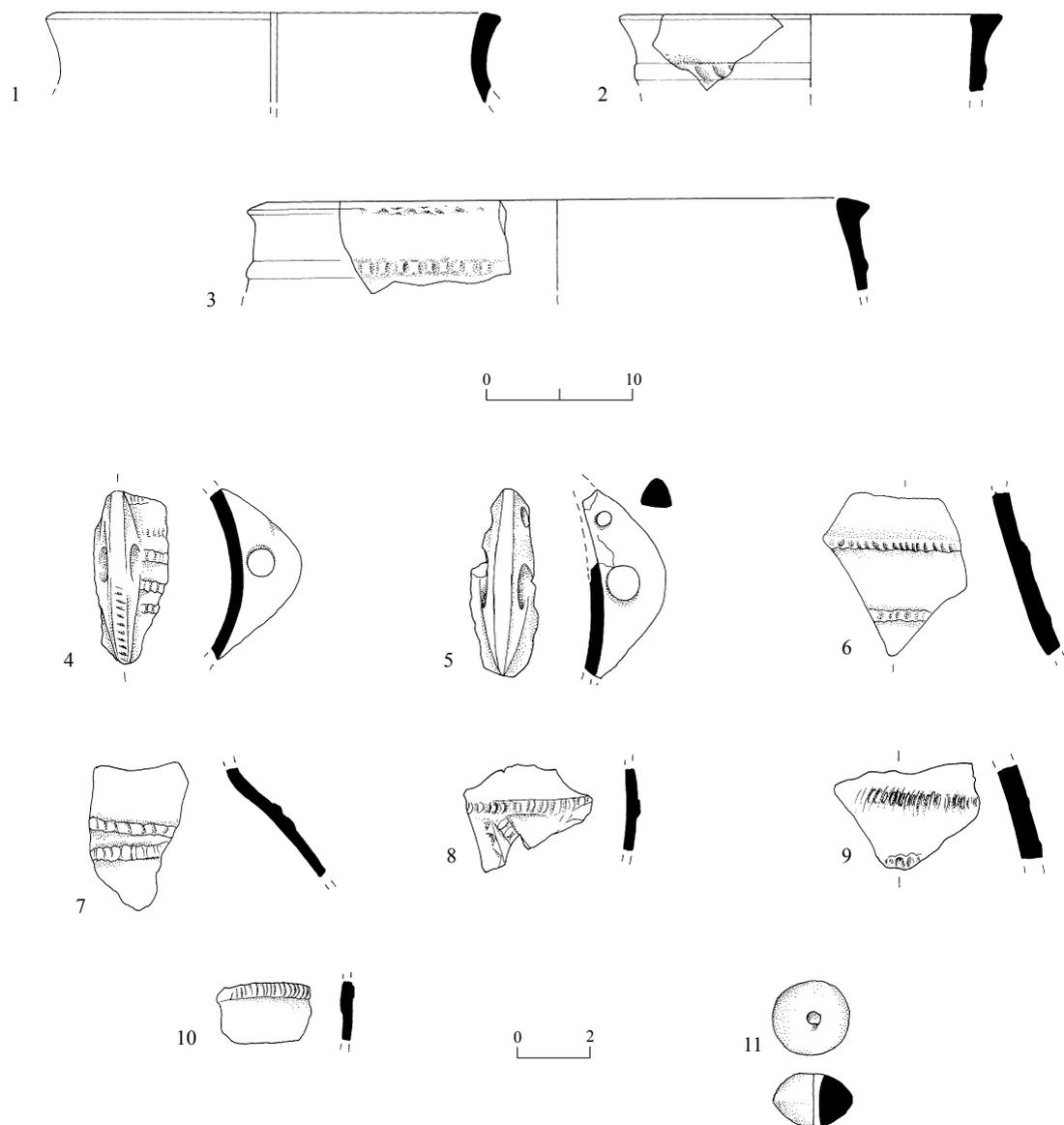


Fig. 10. Chalcolithic pottery.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket
1	Pithos	201	2007
2	Pithos	301 (surface)	3008
3	Pithos	209	2029/1
4	Handle	209	2029/2
5	Handle	303	3005
6	Body sherd	211 (surface)	2037/2

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket
7	Body sherd	302	3007/1
8	Body sherd	302	3007/2
9	Body sherd	215	2045/2
10	Body sherd	216	2047
11	Spindle whorl	204	2026

Decorative Elements (Fig. 10:6–10).— The outstanding feature of the Ḥorbat Duvshan ceramic repertoire, aside from its characteristic ware, is the ubiquitous use of rope decoration, which adorned hundreds of body sherds. This is one of the defining features of the Golan Late Chalcolithic assemblage. The bands of rope-like decoration were created by combing or incising directly on the vessel body or on an applied ceramic strip. The final result is a coarse, bulging, rope-like addition to the vessel or thin, closely grouped incisions. The types and techniques of this decoration have been extensively discussed by Epstein (1998:161). No evidence of the use of wash or slip was discerned on any of the ceramic finds.

Spindle Whorl (Fig. 10:11).— A single, biconical ceramic spindle whorl was uncovered on the paved floor in Sq 2 (L204). It was made of the same basaltic ware as the pottery vessels.

Basalt Items

Considering the ready availability of basalt and the specialization of Chalcolithic craftsmen in the working of basalt, a surprisingly small number of basalt artifacts was found. This may simply be a result of the limited nature of the excavation and its specific location, as it seems unlikely that the inhabitants would have removed such heavy basalt items.

The finest basalt vessel retrieved at the site is an almost-complete, three-legged bowl (Fig. 11:1). Both its outer and inner surfaces were ground to a fine, uniform smoothness, creating a thin wall, 1 cm thick. Originally, the bowl was probably equipped with a fenestrated stand that had broken off, necessitating the grinding down of the broken legs to enable the continued use of a valuable basalt bowl. A leg fragment from a fenestrated stand (Fig. 11:2) was found near the bowl.

A complete, plain, flat-based, V-shaped or flower-pot bowl with a squared rim was retrieved from the stone fill of Room 208 (Fig. 11:3). It has a very coarse inner surface suggesting that it was either too new to exhibit signs of wear or perhaps, it did not serve in a grinding capacity. In the Golan sites, V-shaped or flower-pot bowls were the most common basalt bowl type (Epstein 1998:234, Pls. XXXIV, XXXV).

The interior of the base in Fig. 11:4 is smoother than its walls, suggesting that it is a remnant of a large mortar.

The fragment of a round mortar base, illustrated in Fig. 11:5, has a slightly perceptible smoothing of the inner surface. This stands in sharp contrast to the finely ground surface of the mortar in Fig. 11:6, which was found embedded in Pavement 204 (see Fig. 5). The latter's uniformly ground interior, from the rim down to the floor, appears to have been intentionally smoothed as a prerequisite for its function, rather than merely the result of intensive use. This vessel is unusual in the deep depression in its interior base, suggesting a long period of use. The depression could also have been utilized to further grind the material to a finer consistency.

An elongated, weathered, basalt stone, 28 cm long, which exhibits signs of use on its two extremities, is interpreted as a bipolar pounder (Fig. 12:1). Another finely ground bipolar tool, 14 cm in length, was also recovered (Fig. 12:2).

Only a single quern was unearthed in the excavation (Fig. 12:3). It has a slightly concave, coarse-grain surface, while its base was ground to a nearly even roundness.

Flint

The flint assemblage is characteristic of the northern Late Chalcolithic culture, showing affinities with other northern assemblages, such as those of Tel Te'o and the Golan Heights (see Khalaily, this volume).

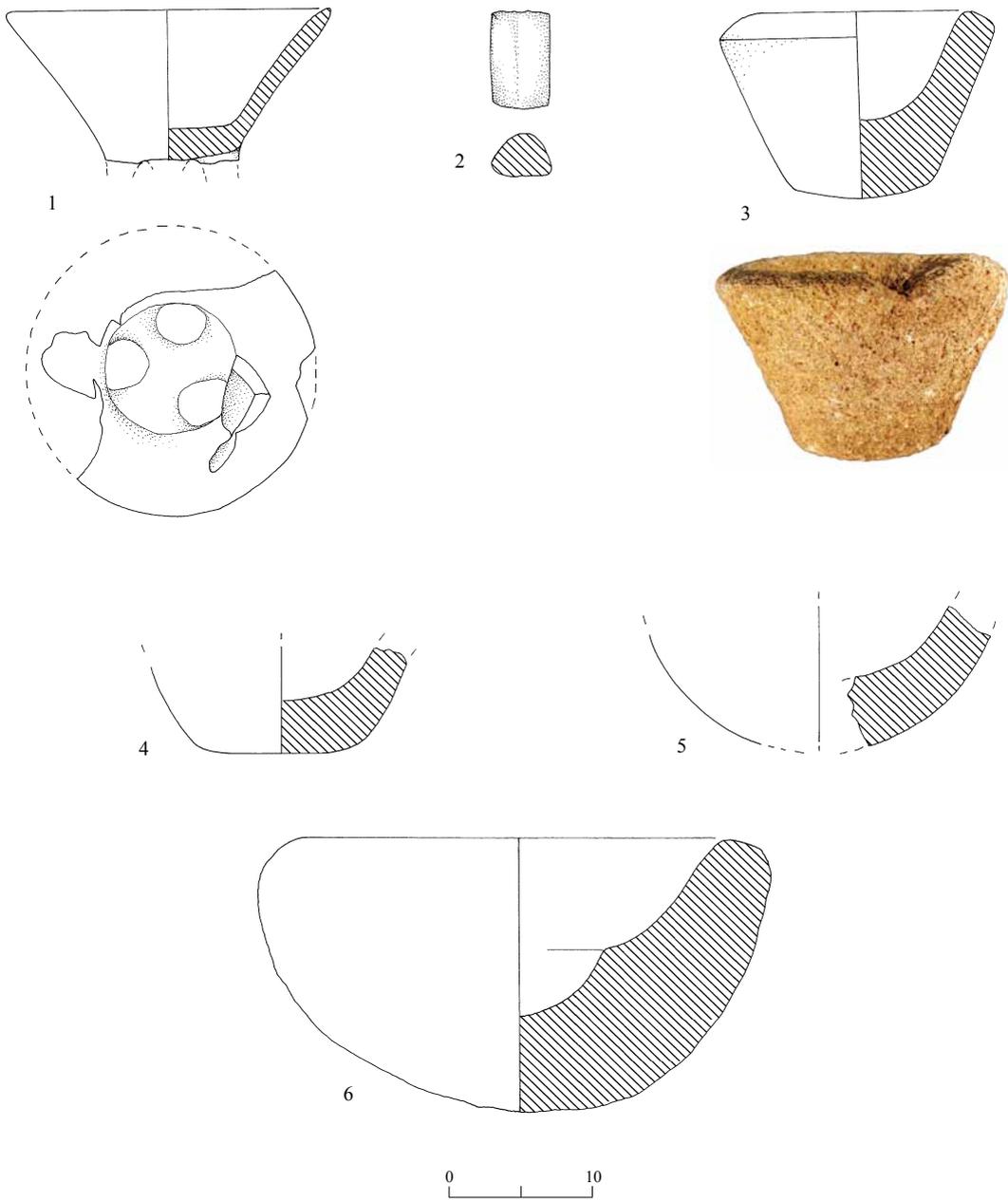


Fig. 11. Basalt vessels.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket
1	Three-legged bowl	301	3002/1
2	Leg of fenestrated stand	301	3002/2
3	Bowl	208	2028
4	Bowl base	203	2012
5	Mortar base	211	2037/3
6	Mortar	204	2021

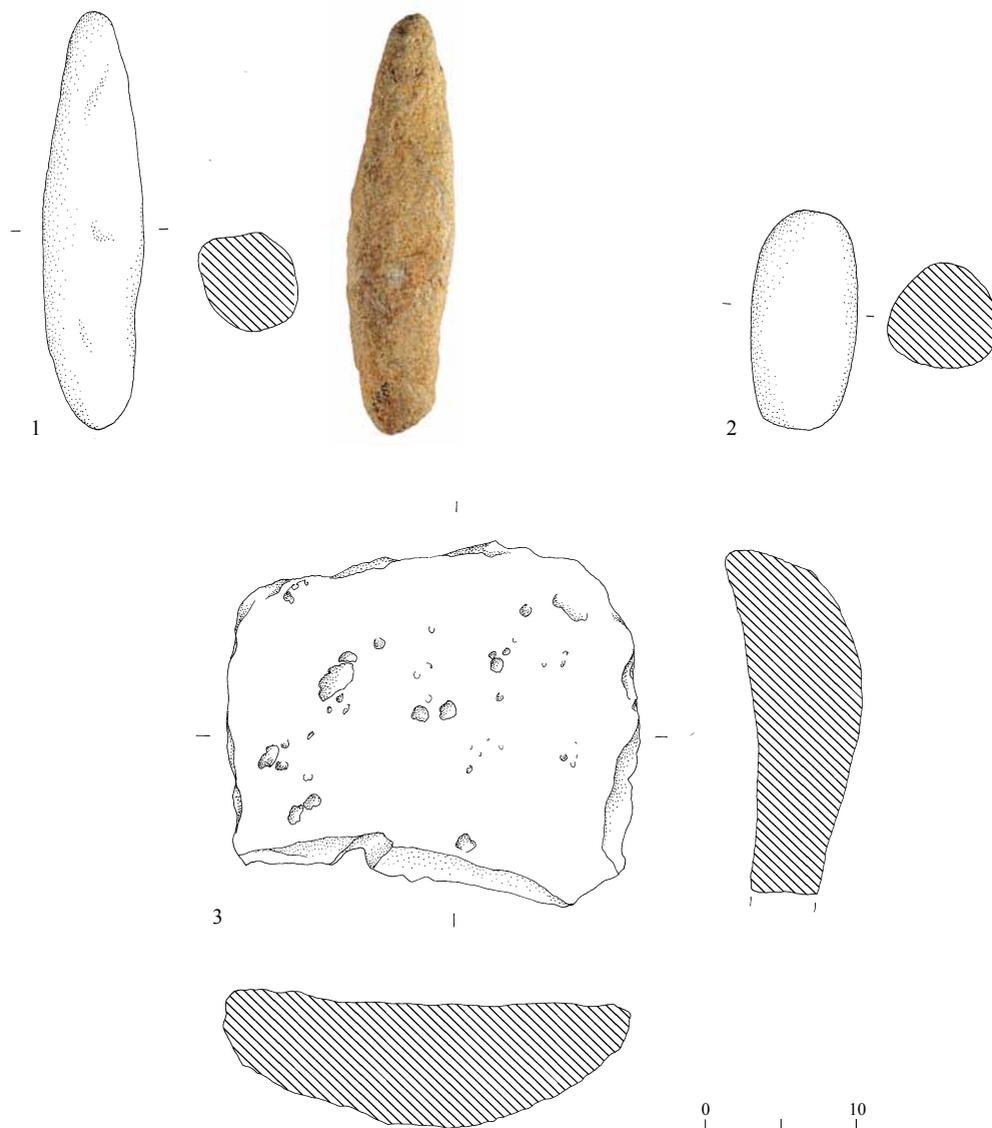


Fig. 12. Basalt finds.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket
1	Large pounder	216	2049/3
2	Pestle	216	2046/3
3	Quern	208	2042

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The Late Chalcolithic culture of the Golan, with its affinity for basaltic environments, has become well-known since its original discovery

and subsequent groundbreaking study by Claire Epstein. Little, however, concerning the identical culture that existed contemporaneously in the basaltic environments of the eastern Galilee has been published or discussed.

Epstein (1998:2–3) recorded 24 sites in the Golan that contained solely the typical basaltic ceramic ware that is commonly referred to as 'Golan' Chalcolithic pottery (Epstein 1992). Sites containing this pottery family are not, however, restricted to the Golan Heights. Golan Chalcolithic pottery has turned up in Chalcolithic assemblages outside the borders of the Golan Heights, alongside the typical, Late Chalcolithic 'Ghassulian' pottery. Amiran recorded its presence at Tel Delhamiya in the central Jordan Valley (Amiran 1977:51–52, Fig. 4:5, Pl. 10:1, 2), examples were found in the western Galilee in caves at Abu Sinan (Frankel and Gophna 1980: Pl. 23:12) and nearby Asherat (Smithline 2001: Fig. 11:11), a number of jars, some of them complete, were recorded in the Late Chalcolithic burial cave at Peqi'in in Upper Galilee (Gal, Smithline and Shalem 1997:149, Fig. 5), while a large amount of Golan-type vessels was retrieved at Tel Te'o on the western edge of the Hula Valley, in close proximity to the Golan Heights (Eisenberg 2001: Figs. 6.3:1–6; 6.4:7–17), and at Tel Turmus, situated in the northeastern corner of the Hula Valley directly below the Golan Heights, where this distinctive class of pottery was first described (Dayan 1969).

However, at sites identified in surveys conducted by Epstein and Stepansky in the basaltic regions of the eastern Galilee, the Golan-type pottery is often the only ware present, as at Horbat Duvshan. Epstein (1992) published identical material from six unexcavated sites dispersed throughout the eastern and Upper Galilee, one of them being Horbat Duvshan.

The number of identified sites in Galilee containing identical Golan-type pottery greatly increased as a result of Stepansky's survey. He recorded the appearance of Golan Chalcolithic pottery at 30 sites, although on the basis of the quantity of finds at each site, he estimated that only 15 were actually settlements. All of these Galilean sites are located in the same basaltic niche that is so similar to that of the Golan Heights. Thus, the discovery of

these sites greatly extends the sphere of the Late Chalcolithic Golan culture, which was previously believed to be a very localized aspect of the Chalcolithic period.

The small excavation at Horbat Duvshan is the first at a Late Chalcolithic settlement in eastern Galilee to reveal definitive Golan affinities. The most outstanding similarities are in the physical conditions of the settlement, which clings to the uninviting basalt plateau, and its ceramic repertoire that is identical to that of the Golan in its distinctive basaltic ware and its typology. Aside from a negligible number of sherds of an unidentified coarse ware, the entire pottery assemblage uncovered at Horbat Duvshan consists of dark, reddish brown, basaltic-ware vessels.⁵ Thus, the findings from Epstein's work in the Golan Heights, where none of the sites contained wares other than the basaltic ware,⁶ appear to repeat themselves on the Korazim Plateau in the eastern Galilee, and probably also on the Dalton Plateau in the high mountains of Upper Galilee,⁷ where basaltic flows cover an extensive area and surface sherds are characterized by the distinctive basaltic ware.

Petrographic study of the Horbat Duvshan ceramic finds (see Shapiro, this volume) indicates that the vessels were manufactured in close proximity to the site and were not imported from either the Golan or the Dalton Plateau. While the basalt-ware vessels were apparently a tradable commodity outside their original environment, the further one ranges from the basalt deposits of Galilee and Golan, the fewer the vessels made of Golan-like basaltic ware. This may be seen in the study conducted by Shalem (2003), in which finds from two Late Chalcolithic excavations are compared. At Be'er Zonam in the Upper Galilee,⁸ not far from basalt flows and outcroppings, the occurrence of Golan-like pottery comprised 18% of the indicative sherds. At 'Enot Kokhav in Lower Galilee,⁹ more distant from basaltic raw material, the same material comprised only 1.2%. Further still, at Asherat and Abu Sinan, mentioned earlier, the percentage of Golan-like

basaltic ware was negligible. It is interesting that little evidence of reciprocal trade in typical Late Chalcolithic ‘Ghassulian’ vessels has been unearthed in the Golan or eastern Galilee.

At present, the northern Late Chalcolithic culture characterized by dark-reddish basaltic ware appears in three blocs: the well-established and familiar groups of settlements on the Golan Heights; sites on the basalt-laden Korazim Plateau facing the Golan; and on the basalt outcroppings of the Upper Galilee, such as the Dalton Plateau. The first two groups may be considered parts of the same physical and geographic landscape. They face one another, extending parallel along either side of the Rift Valley. The appearance of this culture in the mountains of Upper Galilee, physically separated from eastern Galilee and the Golan Heights by the Mt. Canaan massif, demonstrates the homogeneity and uniqueness of this culture in its persistence in settling the uninviting basalt landscapes.

With the realization that a contemporaneous northern culture identical to that of the Golan Late Chalcolithic existed in the Galilee, it may be suggested that retaining the terminology ‘Golan Late Chalcolithic culture’ for this period in the Golan and Galilee may be considered too confining and geographically limited. Stepansky (pers. comm.), in his attempt at addressing this issue, has suggested that the culture should be called ‘basaltic’ to render it more inclusive. Nevertheless, the ‘Golan Late Chalcolithic culture’ is already an entrenched and easily understandable concept and its use in defining sites outside the Golan should not lead to any misunderstanding, just as the continued utilization of ‘Ghassulian’ refers to specific definable aspects of the Late Chalcolithic period. The changing of well-accepted nomenclature is often a confusing and controversial process, which at times requires more time and energy than the results justify.

NOTES

¹ For an in-depth discussion of the environment of the Korazim Plateau, see Stepansky 2005:40 and n.d.

² I am indebted to Yosef Stepansky for his assistance and his permission to peruse his then unpublished regional survey (Map of Rosh Pina, see Stepansky, n.d.).

³ The excavation (Permit No. A-4525) was directed and photographed by the author on behalf of the IAA in July–August 2005, assisted by Vadim Essman and Viacheslav Pirsky (surveying), Natalya Zak (final plans), Nimrod Getzov (map preparation), Leea Porat (pottery restoration), Hagit Tahan (pottery and basalt vessels drawing), Hamoudi Khalaily (flint study), Michael Smilanski (flint drawing) and Anastasia Shapiro (GPS and petrography).

⁴ The test trenches were supervised by Micha Cohen of the IAA.

⁵ The relatively hard nature of the basalt-ware pottery made it more resistant to the harsh environment. These sherds would thus be the

predominant ceramic find in a surface survey where the finds are exposed to the elements and finer, more brittle wares would be more likely to erode. The percentage of less-resistant wares, if they were present, should increase in an excavation that exposes material from a more-protected, sub-surface context. Such was not the case at Horbat Duvshan. It can, therefore, be concluded that other wares were negligible.

⁶ With the exception of Khirbat el-Hutiyye, located in the southern Golan “in an area of calcareous rocks”, rather than basalt (Epstein 1998:155–157).

⁷ This can be seen, for example, at a site on the basaltic plateau immediately above Gush Ḥalav, where only Golan-type sherds are present (personal observation; see also Epstein 1992:2, Site 6, Fig. 7).

⁸ The excavation at Be’er Zonam was directed by Dina Shalem.

⁹ The excavation at ‘Enot Kokhav was directed by Nimrod Getzov.

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