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The Finds from the Ḥorbat Za'aq Burial Ground

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Introduction

The burial ground at Ḥorbat Za'aq has been excavated twice (see Yezerski, this volume).[1] The bulk of the finds comprise Iron Age pottery, with MB IIB–C artifacts originating in a single tomb (Tomb 13) and Roman finds from a number of others, some of them earlier tombs that were reused in this period. The following discussion is typological, according to periods; however, the figures are arranged according to tomb numbers, as they are discussed in the excavation report (see Yezerski, this volume). In the figure tables, the artifacts are identified by either their IAA registration number (from D. Alon's excavation, marked with an asterisk), or by the registration number assigned in the field during the renewed excavation directed by the author (Tomb No./Reg. No.). The finds from Tombs 1, 8 and 14 of Alon's excavation, which were not relocated in the second excavation, are presented in Fig. 20.

Middle Bronze Age IIB–C

Tomb 13 is the only MB II burial found in the Ḥ. Za'aq cemetery. The ceramic assemblage is domestic in nature, comparable to the assemblages from occupation sites. The bowl types comprise medium-sized, slightly rounded bowls with a low disc or ring base (Fig. 1:1–3); small- and medium-sized carinated bowls with a flat or low disc or ring base (Fig. 1:4–9); and the lower parts of two bowls, one with a low disc base (Fig. 1:10), the other with a ring base (Fig. 1:11). Closed vessels include an oval-shaped storage jar (Fig. 2:1), a 'piriform' juglet (Fig. 2:2), a thick, high disc base of a juglet (Fig. 2:3), a flat base of a storage jar (Fig. 2:4) and an oval-shaped storage jar with two handles (Fig. 2:5).

Parallels for the Tomb 13 assemblage are found at MB IIB–C sites throughout the Land of Israel, such as Shekhem Strata XX–XVII, dated to c. 1750–1650 BCE (Cole 1984), Shillo Strata VIII–VII, dated to c. 1750/1700–1550 BCE (Finkelstein, Bunimovitz and Lederman 1993: Figs. 6.5:1–5, 11, 12; 6.8:1, 3–6, 9, 10; 6.12:6–9, 13; 6.13:11; 6.22:1, 2), Tell Beit Mirsim Strata D–E (Albright 1932: Pl. 41:3, 5, 8, 9, 12; 1933: Pls. 7, 8, 10, 12, 13), and Jericho assemblages from several loci on the tell (Kenyon and Holland 1982:268–384; Kenyon 1983:174–179, 243–246, 395–460). The large storage jar (Fig. 2:5) has no parallels and cannot be assigned to any of the types defined by Bonfil (1992).

Parallels from tomb assemblages are found, for example, in the Giv'on cemetery (e.g., Pritchard 1963: Figs. 7:2, 7, 16; 9:6, 7, 9–12, 17; 16:5, 6; 19:1–3; 20; 21; 50; 61), in Bethany Graves 3–4 (Loffreda 1974; 1984), the cemetery at Jericho, Groups I–II, III, IV–V, dated to 1650–1550 BCE (Kenyon 1960:263–520; 1965:167–478; Kenyon and Holland 1982:384–454), Lakhish Stratum VIII, dated to 1750–1600 BCE (Tufnell 1958:60–61, Graves 119, 153, 157, 173, 1502; 178–180, 187–188, 189–190, Pls. 68, 69, 74, 75), Lakhish Cemetery 9000 (Tufnell 1958; Singer-Avitz 2004) and Tell Beit Mirsim Caves 7, 24 and 33 (Ben-Arieh 2004a).[2]

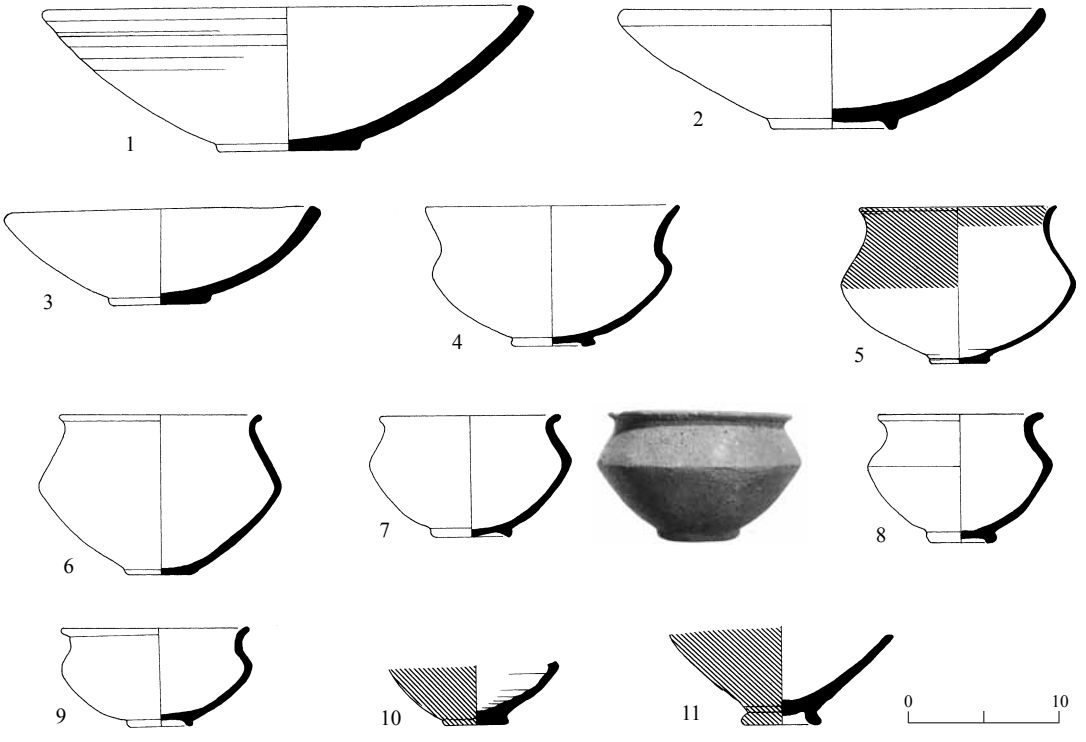

Fig. 1. Tomb 13: Middle Bronze Age II bowls.

No.	Reg. No.	Description
1	76-436*	Yellow–brown ware
2	76-435*	Yellow–brown ware
3	76-433*	Yellow–brown ware, burnish inside and outside
4	76-438*	Yellow–brown ware
5	-*	Yellow–brown ware
6	76-437*	Yellow–brown ware, horizontal burnish
7	76-339*	Yellow–brown ware, remains of dark red slip outside
8	76-346*	Yellow–brown ware
9	76-338*	Yellow–brown ware
10	-*	Yellow–brown ware, red slip outside
11	-*	Yellow–brown ware, red slip outside

Fig. 2 ▸

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description
1	Storage jar	76-326*	
2	Juglet	76-413*	Yellow–brown ware
3	Juglet	-*	
4	Storage jar	-*	
5	Storage jar	76-661*	Gray–brown ware, green surface

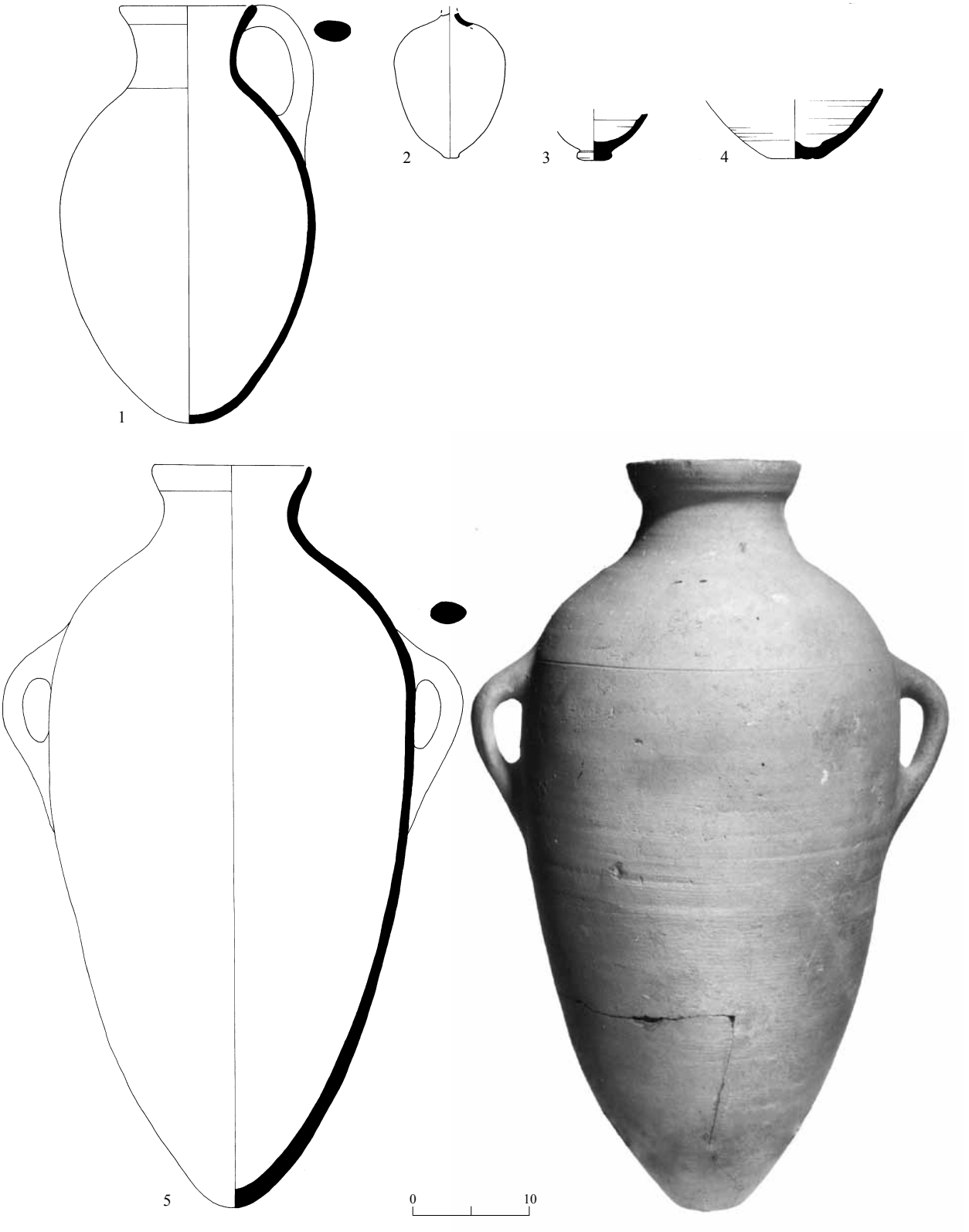

Fig. 2. Tomb 13: Middle Bronze Age II pottery.

IRON AGE IIB–III

Since the rock-cut tombs were looted in the past, the assemblages presented below are incomplete. The grave goods, including pottery, metal artifacts and beads, resemble similar domestic items and are comparable to assemblages from settlement and burial sites.

The finds consist mainly of small vessels such as lamps, bowls, jugs and juglets. Large storage vessels and cooking pots are rare, as in other Judahite tombs (see Zimhoni 1997:173). The wares are characteristic of Iron Age II–III Judahite pottery, containing predominantly white grits of various sizes, and sometimes, gray, dark brown or black inclusions.

POTTERY

The Iron IIB–III ceramic finds from Ḥ. Zaʿaq are dated based on comparanda from assemblages originating in settlement strata at major Judahite sites. Only in a few cases are references made to tombs.

Tel Lakhish is the key site for comprehending the typology and chronology of Iron II pottery, despite certain limitations due to the extent of the excavations there (Zimhoni 2004a; 2004b). Stratum IV began in the ninth century BCE and apparently continued until the end of that century, or the first third of the eighth century. Locus 4421 yielded pottery of a transitional phase between Strata IV and III, and has been tentatively dated to the early eighth century BCE (see Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:159), while Stratum III is dated mainly to the second half of the eighth century, ending in 701 BCE (Zimhoni 2004a:1707). After a period of abandonment, Stratum II was built sometime in the seventh–early sixth centuries BCE (Aharoni 1975; Zimhoni 2004b:1805). The relevant parallels from the Lakhish tombs that are mentioned here are dated according to the strata.

Apart from Lakhish, parallels for the Iron Age II vessels from Ḥ. Zaʿaq were found at the following sites:

Gezer: Stratum VIA: mid-eighth century–733 BCE; Stratum VA: c. 630–c. 587/6 BCE (Gitin 1990).

Tell el-Ful: Period IIIA: mid-seventh century–587/6 BCE (Lapp 1981; 1993).

Jerusalem: the Shiloh excavations in the City of David, Stratum 12: eighth century BCE; Stratum 10: early sixth century BCE (De Groot and Ariel 2000:94–97); Jewish Quarter Areas A, W and X-2 (De Groot, Geva and Yezerski 2003).

Tel Baṭash: Stratum III: eighth century BCE; Stratum II: seventh century BCE (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001).

Tel ʿEṭun: Strata II–I: 850–750 BCE (Zimhoni 1997:179–210).

ʿEn Gedi: Stratum V: 630–582 BCE (Stern 2001:136; Yezerski 2007).

Tel ʿArad: Stratum X: mid-eighth century BCE; Stratum IX: second half of eighth century BCE; Stratum VIII: late eighth century BCE; Stratum VII: seventh century BCE; Stratum VI: late seventh and early sixth centuries BCE (Herzog 2002).

Tel ʿIra: Stratum VII: c. end of eighth and first half of seventh centuries BCE; Stratum VI: 650–586 BCE (Beit-Arieh 1999).

Tel ʿAroʿer : Strata II–I: 650–587/6 BCE (Biran and Cohen 1981).

Tel Be'er Sheva': Stratum V: tenth century BCE; Stratum II: end of eighth century BCE (Aharoni 1973; Singer-Avitz 1999).

Ḥorbat ʿUza: Stratum III: second half of seventh century BCE (Freud 2007).

Qiṭmit: end of seventh and beginning of sixth centuries BCE (Freud and Beit-Arieh 1995).

Kuntillet ʿAjrud: end of ninth and beginning of eighth centuries BCE, according to Ayalon (1995). Here, the re-evaluation of the date to the days of Lakhish Level III (Singer-Avitz 2002:163, 167; 2006; 2009), is accepted (contra Freud 2008).

Bowls

Bowl 1 (Figs. 8:1; 9:1, 2).— Large, shallow, open bowls with a plain rim, a disc base or a slightly curved base, usually red-slipped

and burnished inside. This type is common at Judahite sites of the eighth century BCE. Parallels are found in Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Singer-Avitz 1999:13, Fig. 2:1; 2006:198, Fig. 1:2a).

Bowl 2 (Fig. 8:2).— A large, straight-walled bowl with a thick, grooved rim. This bowl was made of typical light brown ware, red-slipped and densely burnished inside and on the exterior rim. Parallels are found in ‘Arad Strata X–IX (Singer-Avitz 2002:128, Type B2).

Bowl 3 (Fig. 3:1).— A straight-walled bowl with a splayed, down-turned rim. Bowls of this type usually have ring bases. Parallels are found in ‘Arad Strata VII–VI (Singer-Avitz 2002:129, Type B6).

Bowl 4 (Fig. 12:15).— A large, straight-walled bowl with a thick, straight-cut rim and a ring base. Parallels are found in Tel ‘Eṭun Stratum II (Zimhoni 1997: Fig. 4.3:7).

Bowl 5 (Figs. 3:2; 6:1; 8:4; 12:1, 2; 19:1–3).— Small, straight-sided, thin-walled bowls with a carinated body above a small disc base. The plain rim is usually thinner than the wall. This type of bowl is sometimes slipped inside. It is common at Judahite sites during the eighth century BCE. Parallels are found at ‘Arad in all strata except Stratum VI (Singer-Avitz 2002:130, Type B16) and in Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Singer-Avitz 1999:13, Fig. 2:3).

Bowl 6 (Fig. 12:10).— A medium-sized bowl with a rounded-carinated body, a slightly plain, everted rim and a rounded base. This type is rare at Judahite sites, but common at Edomite sites. Parallels are found in Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Singer-Avitz 1999:36, Fig. 9:13, 14, 19).

Bowl 7 (Figs. 7:1; 12:14, 16; 18:6).— Small, hemispherical bowls with thin walls and a rounded base. The plain rim is sometimes thinner than the wall. These bowls are not common in Judah. Parallels are found at ‘Arad in the temple of Stratum X (Singer-Avitz 2002:131, Type B21). Singer-Avitz remarks that the shape reflects Assyrian influence; however, the temple dates prior to the arrival of the Assyrians in the Land of Israel.

Bowl 8 (Figs. 4:1; 7:2, 3; 8:5–7; 9:3, 4; 12:5, 6, 11).— Small, carinated bowls with a plain rim that is sometimes thinner than the wall, and a rounded base. The bowl in Fig. 8:7 has an unusually sharp carination above the thick, rounded base. Parallels to this type are found in Lakhish L4421 (Zimhoni 2004a:1691, Group G; Tufnell 1953:272–273, Class B6). In burial caves, they are found, for example, at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:210–211, Nos. 1, 3, 5; Pl. 1:1, 3, 5–10, with further references therein).

Bowl 9 (Fig. 6:2–4, 6).— Small bowls with a deep, rounded body, a plain, incurving rim and a small, low ring base. Parallels are found in Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Aharoni 1973: Pl. 72:5) and probably in Tel Baṭash Strata V–III (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:34, Type BL 25, with further references therein).

Bowl 10 (Figs. 3:3, 6; 4:2, 3; 6:7–9, 11, 12; 7:4–8; 8:10, 11; 9:5, 6; 10:2; 11:2, 3; 12:17–25; 13:1–9; 18:1, 2, 5; 19:4, 5, 9, 10).— Medium-sized bowls with a carinated or rounded-carinated body, an everted or ledged rim, and a flat disc or ring base. These bowls first appeared as early as Lakhish L4421 (Zimhoni 2004a:1693, Group L), and continued in small quantities in Level III (Zimhoni 2004b:1793, Fig. 26.3:14, 15). This type is the most common bowl in the Ḥ. Za‘aq tombs.

The bowl in Fig. 7:7, with its high ring base, may have been inspired by Northern Kingdom Israelite pottery (Singer-Avitz 2006:207, Fig. 8:1, with further references therein; Yezerski 2012). While such high ring bases are also seen in Edomite pottery (Oakeshott 1978: Pls. 5; 9, 10; 12; Na’aman and Thareani-Sussely 2006: Fig. 3:10), the ledged-rim profile is typical Judahite.

Parallels are found in the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem (De Groot, Geva and Yezerski 2003:6), Gezer Stratum VIA (Gitin 1990:191–192, Type 67, Pl. 20:12, 16, 17, 19) and ‘Arad Strata X–VIII (Singer-Avitz 2002:129, Types B8, B9). In rock-cut tombs, this type was found, for example, at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:211, No. 6, Pl. 1:11–18; with further references therein).

Bowl 11 (Fig. 18:4).— Small- to medium-sized bowls, very similar to Bowl 10, but differentiated by the knob handles. Parallels are found in Lakhish L4421 (Zimhoni 2004a:1693, Group L, Fig. 25.52:14) and ‘Arad Stratum IX (Singer-Avitz 2002: Fig. 33:11).

Bowl 12 (Fig. 9:7).— A medium-sized bowl with a rounded body bearing pronounced wheel-marks on the walls, a pointed, overhanging rim, and a small, low ring base. This bowl is a Judahite type, and several parallels are also found in coastal sites (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:48–49, Type 14; with further references therein). Most of the parallels date to the seventh century BCE.

Bowl 13 (Fig. 12:9).— A small, globular bowl with a plain, flaring rim and two deep grooves that create a shallow ridge on the upper part of the body. The bowl is red-slipped. This type may reflect Transjordanian influence (Singer-Avitz 1999:33, with futher references therein; 2002:132, Type B28). Parallels are found in Tel ‘Eṭun Stratum I (Zimhoni 1997:183, Fig. 4.6:5), ‘Arad Strata X and VIII (Singer-Avitz 2002:132, Type B28) and Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Singer-Avitz 1999:33, Fig. 9:1–4).

Bowl 14 (Figs. 4:4, 5; 6:5; 8:9; 9:8; 12:3, 4, 12, 13; 18:7; 20:5).— Medium-sized bowls, both shallow and deep, with a rounded-carinated body, a plain rim and a low ring base. Some examples are red-slipped, others have only smoothed surfaces. Parallels are found at Tel Baṭash in various strata (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:34, Type BL 25) and in Lakhish L4421 (Zimhoni 2004a:1692, Groups I–J). In rock-cut tombs, this type was found, for example, at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:211, No. 7, Pl. 2:1–8; with futher references therein).

Bowl 15 (Figs. 8:8; 9:9; 12:8).— Small- and medium-sized bowls, sharply carinated in the upper third of the body, with a plain, tapering, flaring rim and a ring or disc base. The bowl in Fig. 8:8 presents a unique hand burnish on the interior bottom, while the walls are wheel burnished. Bowl 15 has a typical ‘coastal’ form, and parallels are found at Tel Baṭash, mainly in Stratum III (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:41–42, Type BL 27, with references therein), and in Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Singer-Avitz 1999:26, Fig. 7:14).

Bowl 16.— Medium-sized bowls with a thickened, folded rim. Some examples are red-slipped, others are plain and/or burnished, in most cases inside and on the exterior rim.

Bowl 16 is the dominant bowl type at Judahite sites during the second half of the eighth century BCE. In the final reports of the Jewish Quarter excavations in Jerusalem (De Groot, Geva and Yezerski 2003:5–6; Yezerski 2006:85; 2010:100–101; 2012:269–270), an attempt was made to divide this large group of folded-rim bowls into three subtypes based on size, surface treatment and chronological considerations. Here, the bowls correspond to Subtypes 16a and 16b: Bowl 16a (Figs. 4:7; 9:10; 10:1; 18:9)—bowls with a rounded body; Bowl 16b (Figs. 4:6; 6:10; 8:12–14; 13:10–12; 18:8, 10, 11; 19:6, 7; 20:6, 7)—bowls with a sharply carinated body.

Parallels are found, for example, in Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Singer-Avitz 1999:13, Fig. 2:4) and Tel Baṭash Strata IV–II (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:38–40, Type BL 13, with further references therein). This bowl type is common in rock-cut tombs, for example at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:211, No. 8, Pl. 2:9–13, with further references therein).

Bowl 17 (Figs. 11:1; 12:7; 18:3).— Small, sharply carinated bowls with a slightly flaring stance above the carination, a plain everted rim and a ring base. These bowls are red-slipped, inside and/or outside, and burnished. They display a marked Assyrian influence, and appear at many sites throughout the Land of Israel as early as the later part of the eighth century BCE.[3] Parallels are found in ‘Arad Strata IX–VI (Singer-Avitz 2002:130, Types B13, B15), Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Singer-Avitz 1999:34, Fig. 9:10) and Tel Baṭash Strata III–II (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:42–44, 52 Types BL 17, BL 21, BL 22, with further references therein).

Bowl 18 (Fig. 13:14).— A bowl with a globular body, a relatively wide mouth, a short neck ending in a plain everted rim, and a flat base. The ware is light colored, which is not common at Ḥ. Za‘aq. Only one bowl of this type was found at Ḥ. Za‘aq, and it displays Edomite influence (Oakeshott 1978: Pl. 15:7–35) in its morphology. Parallels are found in ‘Arad Stratum VI (Singer-Avitz 2002:133, Type B30, Fig. 48:3),[4] Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Singer-Avitz 1999:36, Fig. 9:4–9, 13–18) and ‘Aro‘er (Na’aman and Thareani-Sussely 2006: Fig. 3:2). In Transjordan, this type is found, for example, at Tawilan, where it is sometimes decorated with painted bands (Hart 1995:54, 57, Figs. 6.8:1–8; 6.10, Types N, J).

Large Bowls

Large Bowl 1 (Figs. 13:15; 18:13).— Bowls with a very thick, horizontal rim, sometimes grooved. This type appears to be a somewhat later development of Type B-25 from Lakhish Strata V–IV (Zimhoni 2004a:1672).

Large Bowl 2 (Figs. 3:4, 7; 19:8).— Bowls with an internally thickened rim. Parallels are found in Lakhish L4421 (Zimhoni 2004a:1693, Fig. 25.53:6) and Tel ‘Eṭun Stratum II (Zimhoni 1997:183, Fig. 4.3:3).

Large Bowl 3 (Fig. 18:12).— A rounded-carinated bowl with a ribbed wall and a flat-topped rim. This type usually has a disc base or a shallow ring base. Parallels are found in Tel Baṭash Strata IV–III (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:36–37, Type BL 26, with further references therein) and Lakhish L4421 (Zimhoni 2004a:1693, Group L).

Large Bowl 4 (Figs. 13:13, 16; 17:2; 20:9).— Bowls with a rounded, carinated or rounded-carinated body, a thickened or folded rim, and sometimes two to four handles. Parallels are found in Tel Baṭash Strata IV–III (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:38–39, Type BL 28), Lakhish Level III (Zimhoni 2004b:1794, Fig. 26.3:23–25), Tel ‘Eṭun Strata I–II (Zimhoni 1997:183, Figs. 4.3:8; 4.7:1) and Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Singer-Avitz 1999:14, Fig. 2:5).

Kraters (Figs. 8:15; 20:8)

These are large vessels with a short, wide, flaring neck and a ledged-rim, red-slipped outside and inside the neck. Kraters are rare in the rock-cut tomb assemblages, one item originating in Tomb 18 (Fig. 8:15), another in Tomb 8 (Fig. 20:8), the location of which is unknown. Parallels are found from the later days of the Judahite monarchy in the ‘House of Bullae’ in the City of David, with a high trumpet base (Shiloh 1986: Fig. 6:2, 3), in ‘En Gedi Stratum V, with a ring base and no handles (Yezerski 2007:91, Type K), Tell el-Ful Period IIIA–B, with four handles and horizontal incisions (Lapp 1981: Pl. 65), Ḥ. ‘Uza, with a washed surface and dense burnish (Freud 2007:80, with further references therein), and Qiṭmit (Freud and Beit-Arieh 1995:217–218, Fig. 4.3:14).

Flask (Fig. 15:5)

A single flask was found in the Ḥ. Za‘aq Iron Age cemetery. It is a small globular vessel, decorated with four black concentric circles inspired by the ‘coastal’ tradition of the late Iron I and early Iron II (Tufnell 1953:193–196,

Pl. 92:430; Dothan and Porath 1993: Figs. 32: 11–15; 41:8; 43:10; 46:5; Ayalon 1995:176–178).

Cooking Pots

Cooking Pot 1 (Fig. 14:1).— An open cooking pot with a rounded-carinated body, a thickened rim, grooved around its exterior, a rounded base and a pair of loop handles extending from the rim to the body. Parallels are found in Tel ‘Eṭun Stratum I (Zimhoni 1997: Fig. 4.5:12), ‘Arad, where it is characteristic of Strata X–VIII (Singer-Avitz 2002:139, Type CP3) and Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Singer-Avitz 1999:14, Fig. 2:6).

Cooking Pot 2 (Fig. 18:14).— An open cooking pot with a wide mouth, a short, ridged neck, a rounded-carinated body and a pair of loop handles extending from the rim to the body. Close parallels are found in Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Aharoni 1973: Pls. 61:90; 67:7), with other parallels in Lakhish Level III (Zimhoni 2004b:1794, Fig. 26.4:5) and ‘Arad Stratum X (Singer-Avitz 2002: Fig. 25:7).

Cooking Pot 3 (Figs. 8:17; 9:11, 12; 18:15; 20:10).— Closed cooking pots with a straight or slightly everted, multi-ridged neck, a globular body and a pair of loop handles extending from the rim to the body. They are generally thin-walled. The cooking pot in Fig. 20:10 is unusually red-slipped. This type is a variant of the multi-ridged cooking pots that appeared in Judah during the eighth century BCE (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:84–85, Type CP 8).

Cooking Pot 4 (Fig. 8:16).— A closed cooking pot with an everted rim, a straight, wide, single-ridged neck, a globular body and a pair of loop handles extending from the rim to the body. This type is dated to the seventh century BCE, although its appearance in Tomb 18, dated to the eighth century BCE, raises the possibility that the tomb was reused in the seventh century BCE. Parallels are found in Lakhish Level II (Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 26.53:5, Type II:CP-1) and Ḥ. ‘Uza (Freud 2007:81).

Juglets

Juglet 1 (Figs. 9:13; 14:2; 18:18; 19:12).— Elongated juglets with an almost-cylindrical body, a slightly flaring neck and a plain rim, a handle extending from the rim to the body, and a rounded or rounded-pointed base. This type is sometimes termed ‘dipper juglet’. Earlier juglets of this type have a trefoil neck; however, the juglets from Ḥ. Za‘aq are too fragmentary to enable any chronological conclusions (see Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:124–125, Type JT 7a for further references).

Juglet 2 (Figs. 4:8; 9:15, 16; 18:16).— Small juglets with a globular body, an outcurving neck, a thickened rim and a handle extending from the rim to the shoulder. The base is usually rounded or slightly pointed. This type of juglet is similar in morphology to the black juglets (Juglet 3). They are found in small quantities at Judahite sites, mainly in rock-cut tombs, such as that on the slope of Mount Zion, dating to the seventh century BCE (Kloner and Davis 2000: Photograph on p. 109, bottom left), Tombs 5 and 7 at Mamilla, dating to the eighth–early seventh centuries BCE and seventh–early sixth centuries BCE respectively (Reich 2000: Photograph on p. 115, bottom left; see Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:127, Type JT 9 for further references).

Juglet 3.— ‘Black juglets’ have swollen bodies of various shapes, and the ware is black or dark gray, sometimes black-slipped with widely spaced, vertical hand burnish. This type can be divided into two main subtypes, based on morphological and chronological considerations. The earlier subtype (Juglet 3a) was apparently replaced by the later subtype (Juglet 3b) as early as the mid-eighth century BCE (Tappy 2001:333–337). Black juglets are found in Iron II–III Judahite domestic contexts and in abundance in rock-cut tombs (for further discussion of distribution and references, see Yezerski 1997:29–30; 2004:212, Pl. 3:11–21; Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:127, Type JT 9; Tappy 2001:333–337; Yezerski and Lender 2002:67–68*). Juglet 3a (Figs. 7:9, 10; 8:20)

is the earlier subtype, with a handle extending from the mid-neck to the body; Juglet 3b (Figs. 6:17, 18 7:11–14; 8:21) is the later subtype, with a handle extending from the rim to the body; Subtype Juglet 3c (Figs. 8:18, 19; 15:7; 18:17) includes Black juglets that could not be further classified as their upper parts are broken.

Juglet 4 (Fig. 9:14).— A small, thick-walled juglet of undetermined type. The globular body is red-slipped and bears some pronounced wheel-marks below the handle. No parallels were found.

Juglet 5 (Fig. 15:6).— A small, thick-walled juglet of undetermined type with a flattened base. No parallels were found.

Jugs

During the eighth century BCE, jugs appear in a variety of types throughout Judah, especially in tombs. Here, we attempt to classify the rich collection of jugs in the Ḥ. Za‘aq assemblage into types, most of which date to the second half of the eighth century BCE.

Jug 1 (Figs. 3:10; 4:9; 6:16; 7:15, 17; 9:17; 11:4, 5; 14:4; 18:20, 27).— Jugs with a tall, flaring, ridged neck ending in a thickened, flattened rim, a bag-shaped or globular body and a flat or ring base. The transition from the body to the neck is pronounced. A handle extends from the ridged neck to the shoulder, although in Fig. 3:8, the handle extends from the rim to the body. Some of the jugs are red-slipped, others are plain or decorated with black bands on the body and neck. This type of jug is typical of Judah (see also Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:121, Type JG 38), and parallels are found in Lakhish Stratum III (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 87:268, 271), ‘Arad Strata X and VIII (Singer-Avitz 2002:150, Type J2, Figs. 28:7; 38:6), Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Aharoni 1973: Pl. 66:2) and Tel ‘Ira Stratum VII (Freud 1999: Fig. 6.74:17, 18). This type was found in rock-cut tombs, such as at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:214, No. 4, Pl. 5:7).

Jug 2 (Figs. 3:11; 8:22; 14:5; 15:1, 2; 20:11).— Jugs with an almost globular body, a narrow, outcurving neck ending in a plain rim, a handle extending from the neck to the shoulder, and a low disc base. It seems that this type is usually decorated with black and white bands on the body and the neck, but there is also an undecorated example (Fig. 15:2). In shape, this jug resembles an example from Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II, which is described as falling within “the Edomite range of influence” (Singer-Avitz 1999:36, Fig. 10:25).

Jug 3 (Figs. 18:19, 21; 19:13).— Jugs with an almost globular body, thick walls and a very wide, flaring neck. They are covered with red slip. No parallels were found.

Jug 4.— This typical Judahite jug can be divided into two subtypes based on chronological and morphological considerations:

Jug 4a (Figs. 9:18; 10:3; 14:13, 14): The early subtype has a high, straight neck flaring slightly toward a plain rim, a globular body, a handle extending from the rim to the shoulder and a slightly concave base. They are red-slipped outside and sometimes inside the necks. Parallels are found in the City of David Stratum 12 (De Groot and Ariel 2000: Fig. 16:25, 26), ‘Arad Strata X–VIII, dating to the second half of the eighth century BCE (Singer-Avitz 2002:150, Fig. 19:1) and Be’er Sheva‘ Stratum II (Aharoni 1973: Pl. 64:12, 13).

Jug 4b (Fig. 4:12; 9:19): The later subtype is smaller than Jug 4a, although the neck, rim and base remain the same. This subtype is characteristically covered with a thick red slip, also inside the neck. It appears at Judahite sites of the late eighth–seventh centuries BCE, as in Lakhish Tomb 1010, dating to the end of Stratum III (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 84:193, 194, 198, 199), Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:214, No. 9, Pl. 6:9), in a cave at Ma‘on, the location of which is unknown (Yezerski 1997: Fig. 6:27), and in the tomb at Lower Ḥorbat ‘Anim (Yezerski and Lender 2002:69*, Figs. 4:12–16; 6:8).

Jug 5 (Fig. 14:3).— A small jug with a globular body and a tall, wide neck that is wider than the body and curves out toward a plain rim. Close parallels are found in Lakhish Tomb 521, dating to the tenth century BCE (Tufnell 1953:222, Pl. 72:7) and Tel Baṭash Locus E619, dating to an intermediate phase between Strata IV and III, i.e., the end of the ninth century BCE (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:123, Pl. 29:3, Photograph 69, with further references therein). Other close parallels in Tomb 6 at Tell Beit Mirsim have a flattened or ring base, a handle extending from the rim to the shoulder and a red slip (Ben-Arieh 2004a:32, Fig. 2.83:30–32).

Jug 6 (Figs. 4:10, 11; 18:23, 24).— Decanters were the most popular jugs in the Land of Israel during late Iron II and Iron III. They appeared in Judah as early as the late eighth century BCE, reaching their apex in the seventh century BCE (see Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:118–119, Type JG 14; Yezerski 2007:96–99, Type J 9). Decanters are especially common in seventh-century BCE rock-cut tombs, for example at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:214, No. 8, Pl. 6:8) and in Lakhish Tombs 106, 109 and 114, which are contemporaneous with Level II (Tufnell 1953:179–190, 292–293).

Jug 7 (Fig. 6:14).— A small jug with a nearly globular body, a short, erect neck, a plain rim, and a handle extending from the rim to the body. Such jugs have a rounded base (not preserved in the example from Ḥ. Zaʿaq). This type of jug is sometimes called a 'cooking jug' (Zimhoni 2004a:1684), despite the fact that only some of them were made of coarse cooking-pot ware, while others are red-slipped and made of better-levigated clay (see below, Jug 10). This type was apparently not very common in Judah and only a few parallels are found in sites and tombs of the ninth–eighth centuries BCE, as in Be'er sheva' Stratum II (Aharoni 1973: Pl. 62:112) and the rock-cut tomb at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:212–213, Pls. 3:25; 4:1, 2).

Jug 8 (Figs. 6:13; 11:7; 18:22).— The upper parts of three jugs with a short, broad, out-curving neck and a plain rim, incurving (Fig. 18:22) or cut (Fig. 6:13). One jug is red-slipped, and two have deep incisions on the necks and bodies. No parallels were found.

Jug 9 (Fig. 3:8).— The upper part of a jug neck that broadens toward the rim, with deep horizontal incisions below the rim. No parallels were found.

Jug 10.— A large group of 'cooking jugs' (see also Jug 7), so termed by Zimhoni (2004a:1684), despite the fact that they were made of finely levigated ware and some are red-slipped. Similar jugs (to Subtype 10a), from the Tel 'Eṭun tombs, show traces of soot (Ussishkin 1974:122, Fig. 8:13–16). This type is divided into two subtypes based on morphological considerations:

Jug 10a (Figs. 3:9; 4:13–15; 5:1–3; 7:16; 9:20, 21; 11:6, 8; 14:8–12; 18:25; 19:11): Medium- to large-sized jugs with a nearly globular body, a high, broad, curving neck, a plain or thickened rim, and a handle extending from the rim to the body. The earliest vessels of this type are found in Lakhish Level V; they become most numerous in Level IV, then almost disappear in Level III (Zimhoni 2004a:1684). Jugs of this type are also present in Jerusalem, in the Shiloh excavations in the City of David Strata 10 and 12 (De Groot and Ariel 2000: Figs. 7:15, 18; 10:6), and in the Jewish Quarter (De Groot, Geva and Yezerski 2003:10, Jug Type A), and in Be'er Sheva' Strata V–III (Aharoni 1973: Pls. 54:12–18; 56:8; see also Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:109, 111, Type JG 30, with further references therein). These jugs are also found in burial caves, such as at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:212–213, Pl. 4:3, 5, 6), and in the dwelling-burial cave at Kh. Abu-Musarrah (Peleg and Yezerski 2004:119, Type Ju–6a, Pl. 7:11–13).

Jug 10b (Figs. 6:15; 14:6, 7): Jugs with an oblate, globular body, a wide, flaring neck ending in

a plain rim, a handle extending from the rim to the body and a rounded base. The earliest appearances of this type at Judahite sites are in the eighth century BCE, apparently continuing until the end of the seventh century BCE (Yezerski 1997:31). It should be noted that this type is absent at Tel Baṭash. Parallels are found in Lakhish Level III and the contemporaneous tombs, particularly Tomb 1002, dating to the end of Level IV or the beginning of Level III (Tufnell 1953: Pls. 74:8; 84:170; Zimhoni 2004a:1700; 2004b:1794), and in the burial caves at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:212–213, Pl. 4:11–15) and Tell Ez-Zahiriyye (Baramki 1935: Pl. LXIII).

Jug 11.— Three jug bases were assigned to two subtypes based on morphological considerations:
Jug 11a (Figs. 15:4; 18:28): A low ring base.
Jug 11b (Fig. 15:3): A low disc base.

Storage Jars
Storage jars are rare in burial-cave assemblages. The examples from Ḥ. Za‘aq were recovered in Tomb 18 (Fig. 8:18) and Tomb 14 (Fig. 20:12), the location of which is unknown (see Yezerski, this volume). They are divided into three types.

Storage Jar 1 (Fig. 20:12).— The upper part of a holemouth storage jar with a thickened, inverted, channeled rim. This storage-jar type apparently had a rounded or ring base, as at Tel ‘Ira, where this type has a rounded base in Stratum VII (Freud 1999: Fig. 6.75:2), and a ring or disc base in Stratum VI (Freud 1999:210). Parallels are also found at Qiṭmit (Freud and Beit-Arieh 1995: Fig. 4.10:6) and in ‘Aro‘er Stratum II (Biran and Cohen 1981: Fig. 6:5).

Storage Jar 2 (Fig. 8:23).— It is impossible to date this vessel on the basis of the rim shape; however, it may be similar to Type SJ 6 from ‘Arad Strata X–VIII (Singer-Avitz 2002:145, Fig. 16:SJ 6).

Lamps
The lamps are divided into three types based on morphological and chronological considerations.

Lamp 1 (Figs. 3:12; 5:4–6; 6:19–21; 7:18–21; 8:24; 15:8–10).— Lamps with rounded bases of various sizes, very common at Iron IIA–B Judahite sites (see, e.g., Singer-Avitz 2002: Fig. 5:6) until about the end of the eighth century BCE. Parallels are found, for example, in Tel ‘Ira Stratum VII (Freud 1999: Fig. 6.80:15, 17) and in Tomb 15 (Beit-Arieh, Freud and Baron 1999:153ff., Fig. 4.33:20–22), Kuntillet ‘Ajrud (Ayalon 1995:178, Fig. 22:2–4; Singer-Avitz 2006:201–202), the tombs at Giv‘on, Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:214–215, Lamps a, Pl. 7:1–12) and Tell Ez-Zahiriyye (Baramki 1935: Pl. LXI:2; Dajani 1953: Fig. 20:38–52; see also Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:134–135, Type LP 4).

Lamp 2 (Figs. 5:7, 8; 8:26).— The rounded base of Lamp Type 1 developed into a low, disc base, which appeared in Judah as early as the late eighth century BCE and the beginning of the seventh century BCE. Parallels are found, for example, in Jerusalem, the City of David Stratum 12 (De Groot and Ariel 2000: Fig. 19:2), and in ‘Arad Strata X–VIII (Singer-Avitz 2002:158, Type L1; see also Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:134, Type LP3a, with futher references therein). In tombs, this type of lamp was found, e.g., at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:215, Lamps b, Pl. 7:13) and Lower Ḥorbat ‘Anim (Yezerski and Lender 2002:69*, Fig. 5:10).

Lamp 3 (Figs. 5:9; 8:25; 17:3–5; 19:14, 15).— Heavy lamps with a high, thick, string-cut base, shaped by finger pressure. This type developed from Lamp Type 2 (above) and was widespread throughout Judah during the seventh century BCE. Parallels are found, e.g., in Lakhish Level II (Tufnell 1953:285, 326), ‘En Gedi (Yezerski 2007:104, Type L2) and ‘Arad Strata

VII–VI (Singer-Avitz 2002:158, Type L2). They are present in abundance in tombs, such as Tomb 106 at Lakhish, where 90 lamps of this type were revealed (Tufnell 1953:326), in the tombs at Ras eṭ-Ṭawil (Yezerski 2004:215, Lamps c, Pl. 7:14–16) and at Lower Ḥorbat ʻAnim (Yezerski and Lender 2002:69*, Figs. 3:13–15; 4:19, 20; 6:11).

Rattle

Figure 8:27 is a small cylindrical vessel, wheel-made and closed at both ends. Small stones were enclosed inside it prior to firing, creating a rattling noise when shaken. The suggested functions of such artifacts range from cult objects to playthings. Rattles are common in Judah as early as the eighth century BCE (see De Groot, Geva and Yezerski 2003:15 for further references).

Varia

A closed vessel with a globular body and a thickened, incurving rim (Fig. 18:26). Parallels are found at Tell el-Ful, in a chronological context vaguely designated as ʻPre-IIIAʼ, prior to the mid-seventh century BCE (Lapp 1965: Pl. 66:1, 2), and probably also in Be'er Sheva' Stratum IV, in a late ninth-century BCE context (Aharoni 1973: Pl. 65:16).

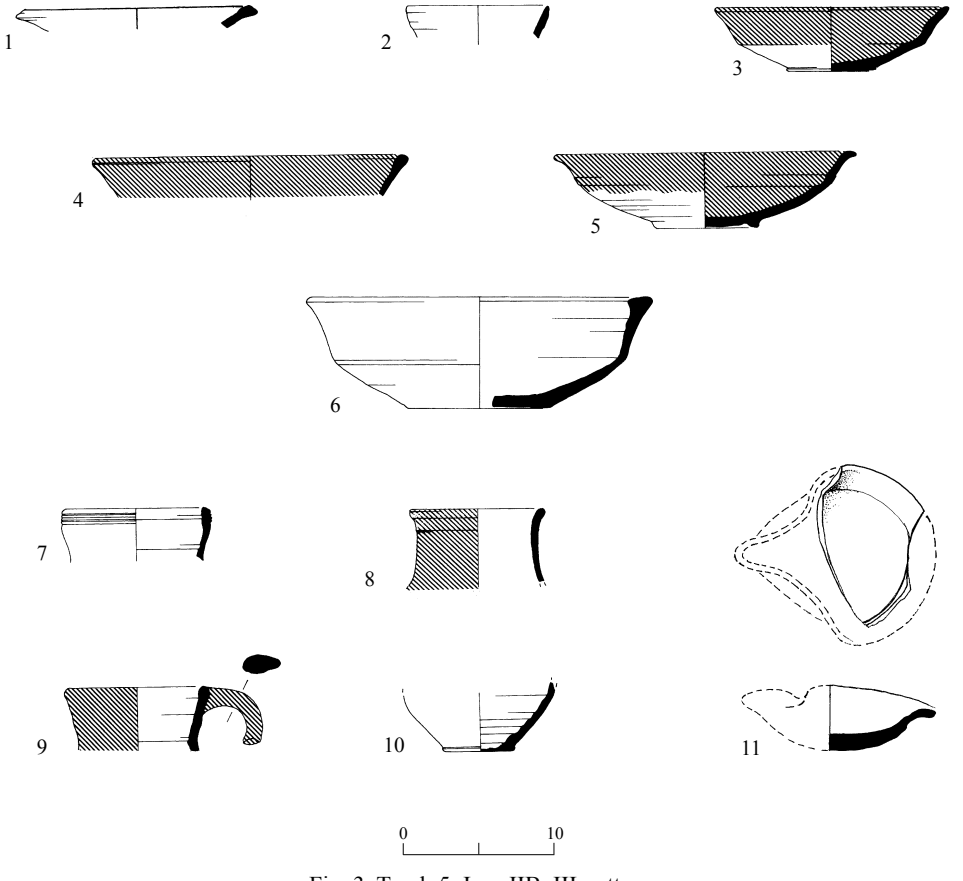

Fig. 3. Tomb 5: Iron IIB–III pottery.

◂ Fig. 3

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl 3	5/6	Orange–brown ware, dense burnish inside	
2	Bowl 5	5/9	Light brown ware	
3	Bowl 10	5/1	Brown ware, red slip and remains of burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination	5/17
4	Large Bowl 2	5/2	Brown ware, red slip and widely-spaced burnish inside and outside	5/4; 5/5
5	Bowl 11	76-350*	Brown ware, red slip inside and on outer rim down to carination, burnish inside	
6	Bowl 10	5/7	Brown ware, red slip inside and on outer rim down to carination	5/3; 5/8
7	Large Bowl 2	5/12	Orange–brown ware	
8	Jug 9	5/16	Red–brown ware	
9	Jug 10a	5/13	Orange–brown ware, red slip	
10	Jug 1	5/15	Red–brown ware, red slip	5/17
11	Jug 2	5/10	Orange–brown ware	
12	Lamp 1	5/11	Light brown ware	

Fig. 4 ▸

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description
1	Bowl 8	76-431*	Pink–brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside and on outer rim, mending holes
2	Bowl 10	76-404*	Red–brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination
3	Bowl 10	76-345*	Light brown ware, red wash inside and on outer rim down to carination
4	Bowl 14	76-432*	Brown ware, red slip inside and outside on upper part, dense burnish inside
5	Bowl 14	76-410*	Brown ware, red slip inside and outside on upper part, burnish inside
6	Bowl 16b	76-409*	Gray–brown ware, smoothed
7	Bowl 16a	76-411*	Brown ware, burnish inside
8	Juglet 2	76-329*	Pink–brown ware, vertical hand burnish
9	Jug 1	76-330*	Red–brown ware, remains of red slip outside and inside on neck, pronounced wheel marks on the neck
10	Jug 6	76-386*	Orange–brown ware
11	Jug 6	76-389*	Light brown ware, remains of horizontal burnish
12	Jug 4b	76-394*	Pink–brown ware, thick, dark red slip outside
13	Jug 10a	76-394*	
14	Jug 10a	76-390*	Red–brown ware
15	Jug 10a	76-388*	Red–brown ware

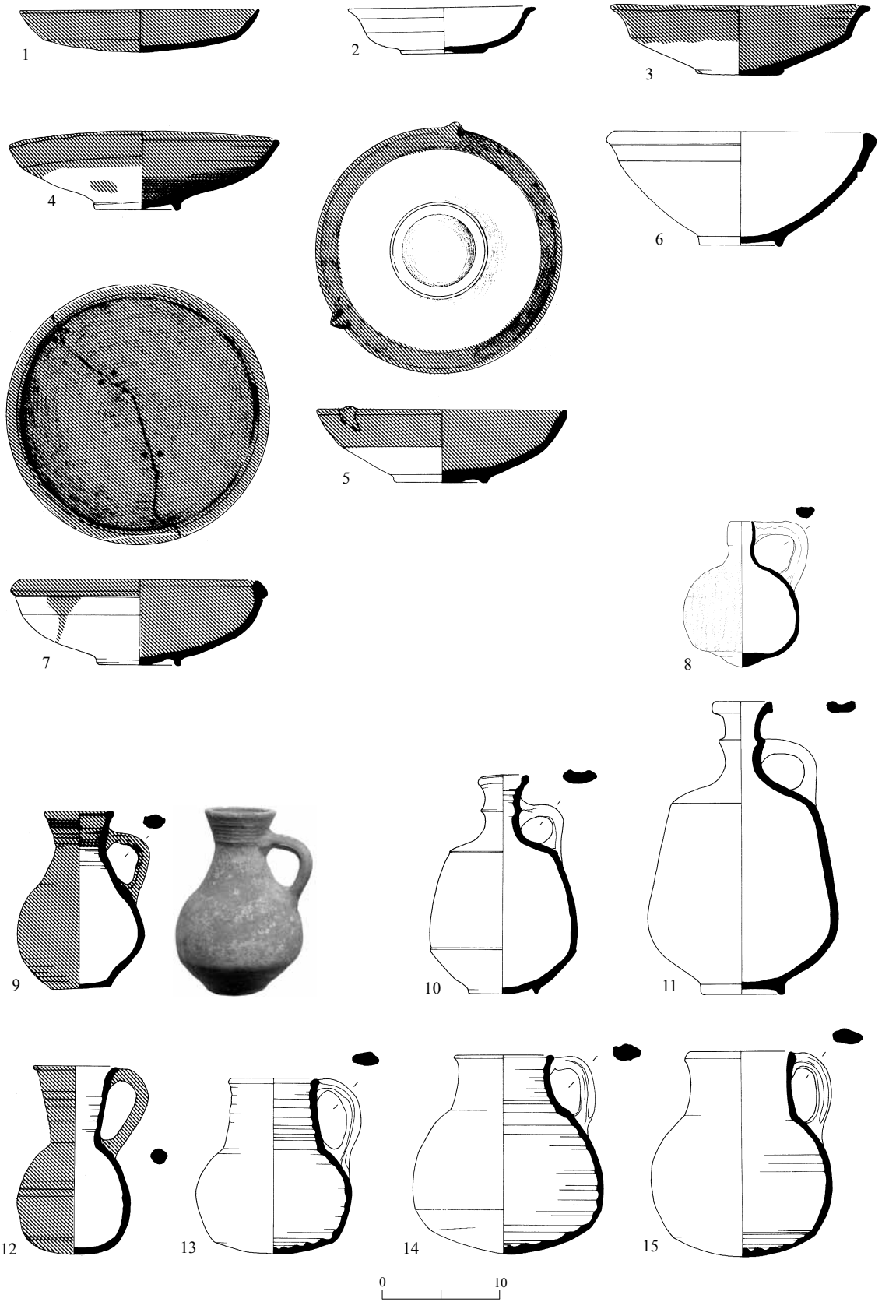

Fig. 4. Tomb 6: Iron IIB–III pottery.

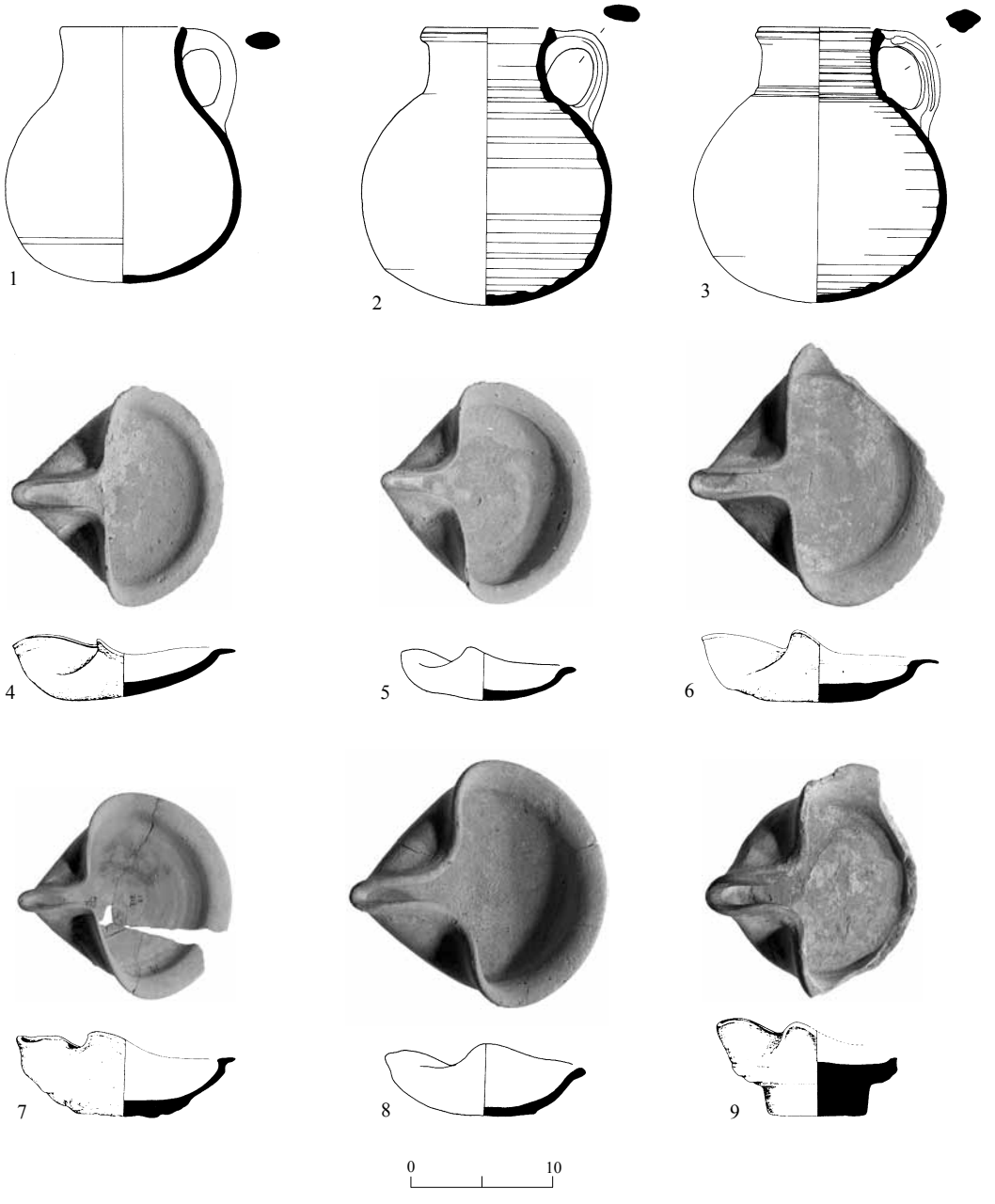

Fig. 5. Tomb 6: Iron IIB–III pottery.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description
1	Jug 10a	76-316*	
2	Jug 10a	76-310*	Red–brown ware
3	Jug 10a	76-313*	Red–brown ware
4	Lamp 1	76-397*	Brown ware, remains of soot
5	Lamp 1	76-417*	
6	Lamp 2	76-322*	Brown ware, remains of soot
7	Lamp 2	76-325*	Red–brown ware
8	Lamp 2	76-399*	
9	Lamp 3	76-416*	Brown ware, remains of soot

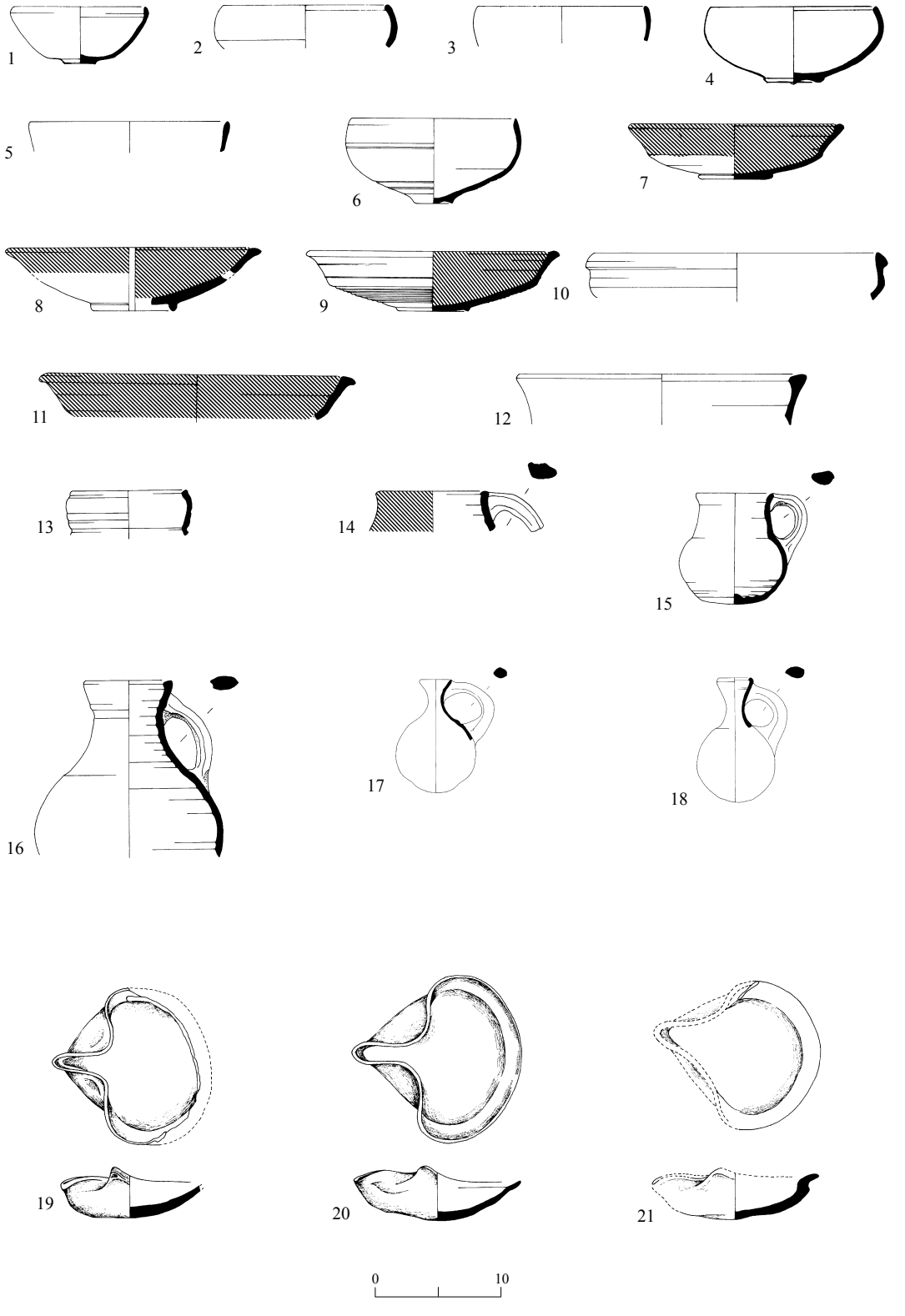

Fig. 6. Tomb 9: Iron IIB–III pottery.

◂ **Fig. 6**

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl 5	9/5/ Collecting pit	Red–brown ware, pink slip inside and outside	
2	Bowl 9	9/8/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware	
3	Bowl 9	9/14/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware	
4	Bowl 9	9/4/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware	
5	Bowl 14	9/14	Brown ware	
6	Bowl 9	9/6/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware	
7	Bowl 10	9/2	Brown ware, thick red slip and widely spaced burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination	
8	Bowl 10	9/5	Brown ware, thick red slip and widely spaced burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination	
9	Bowl 10	9/18	Brown ware, red slip and widely spaced burnish inside	
10	Bowl 16b	9/9	Orange–brown ware	
11	Bowl 10	9/7/ Collecting pit	Brown ware, thick red slip and widely spaced burnish inside and outside	
12	Bowl 10	9/11	Brown ware, pink slip inside and on rim	
13	Jug 8	9/13	Red–brown ware, remains of soot	
14	Jug 7	9/15	Orange–brown ware, red slip	
15	Jug 10b	9/1/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware	
16	Jug 1	9/19	Orange–brown ware	
17	Juglet 3b	9/17	Black ware	
18	Juglet 3b	9/16	Black ware, remains of vertical hand burnish	9/20
19	Lamp 1	9/3/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware, remains of soot	
20	Lamp 1	9/2/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware, remains of soot	
21	Lamp 1	9/1	Orange–brown ware	

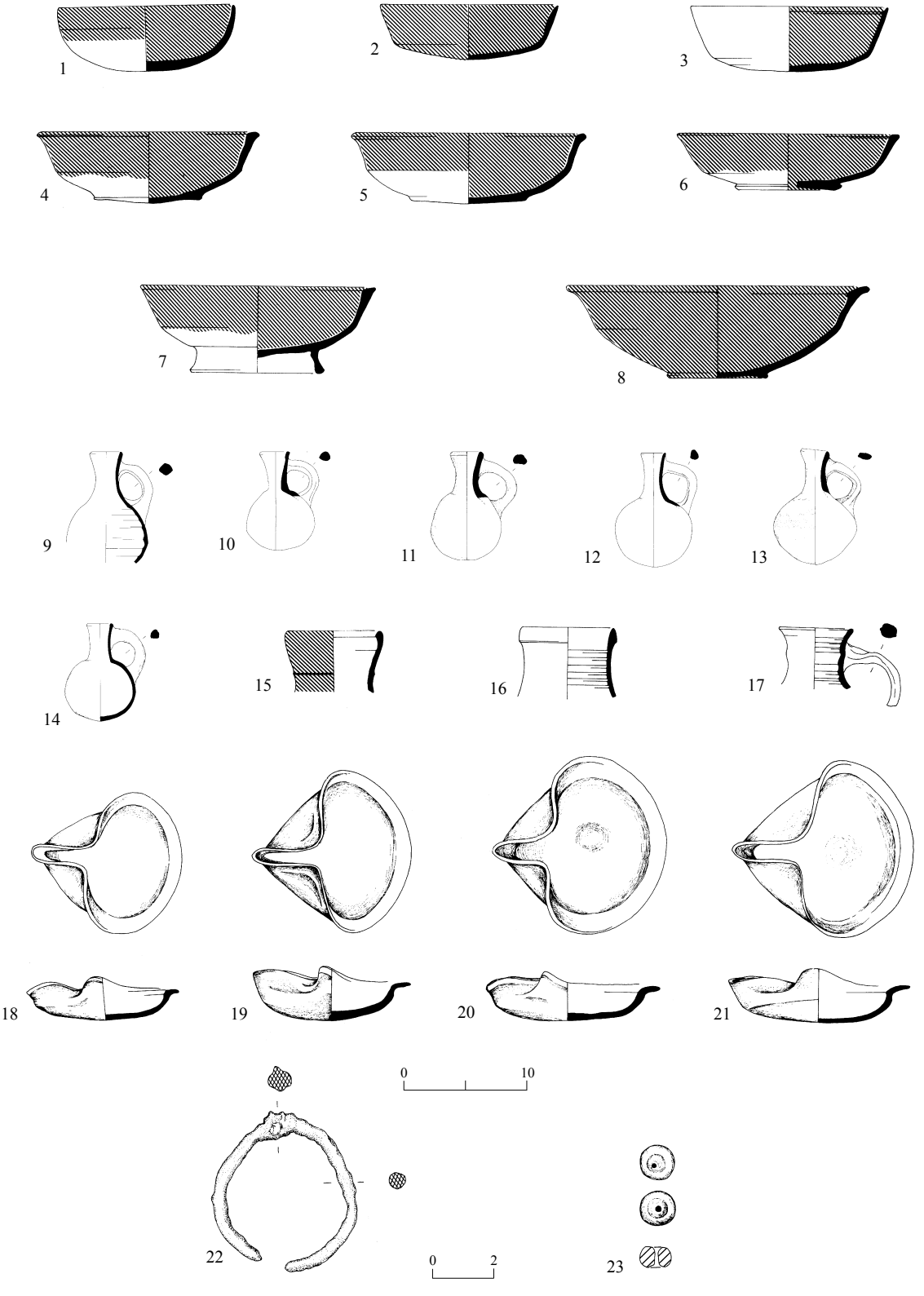

Fig. 7. Tomb 17: Iron IIB–III pottery.

◂ **Fig. 7**

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl 7	17/7/Collecting pit	Yellow–brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and outside upper body	17/3/Collecting pit 17/3/Shelf
2	Bowl 8	17/4/Collecting pit	Yellow–brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and outside upper body	
3	Bowl 8	17/2/Shelf	Red–brown ware, red slip and burnish inside	17/12/Shelf 17/13/Shelf
4	Bowl 10	17/10/Shelf	Orange–brown ware, thick red slip and burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination	17/11/Shelf
5	Bowl 10	17/1/Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware, thick red slip and burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination	
6	Bowl 10	17/2/Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware, thick red slip inside and on outer rim down to carination	
7	Bowl 10	17/5/Collecting pit	Yellow–brown ware, thick red slip inside and on outer rim down to carination	
8	Bowl 10	17/1/Shelf	Light brown ware, red slip inside and outside	17/6/Collecting pit
9	Juglet 3a	17/4/Collecting pit	Black ware, remains of dense vertical hand-burnish on neck and body	17/20/Collecting pit
10	Juglet 3a	17/21/Collecting pit	Black ware	17/3/Shelf 17/11/Collecting pit
11	Juglet 3b	17/19/Collecting pit	Black ware, remains of vertical hand-burnish on neck and body	17/6/Shelf 17/22/Collecting pit
12	Juglet 3b	17/20/Shelf	Black ware	
13	Juglet 3b	17/17/Collecting pit	Black ware, vertical hand-burnish on neck, horizontal burnish on body	
14	Juglet 3b	17/5/Shelf	Black ware, remains of vertical hand-burnish on neck and body	
15	Jug 1	17/2	Red–brown ware, red slip	
16	Jug 10a	17/18/Shelf	Orange–brown ware	17/21/Shelf
17	Jug 1	17/19/Shelf	Orange–brown ware	
18	Lamp1	17/8/Shelf	Brown ware, remains of soot	17/7/Shelf
19	Lamp 1	17/9/Collecting pit	Brown ware, remains of soot	17/7/Shelf 17/8/Collecting pit 17/13/Collecting pit
20	Lamp 1	17/12/Collecting pit	Red–brown ware	17/10/Collecting pit 17/10/Collecting pit 17/17/Shelf 17/23/Collecting pit
21	Lamp 1	17/11/Collecting pit	Red–brown ware, remains of soot	
22	Bracelet	17/1	Bronze	
23	Bead	17/3	Carnelian	

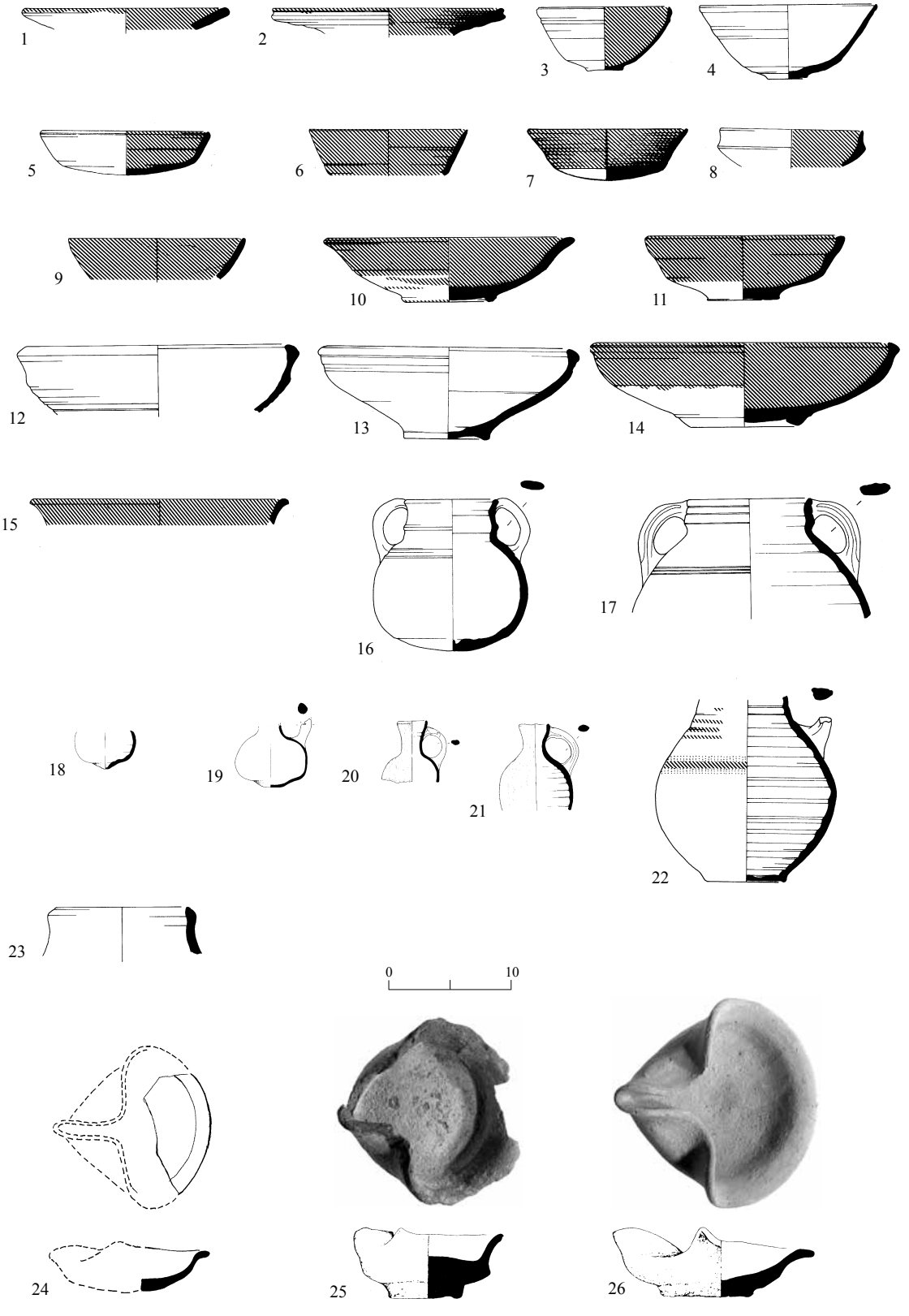

Fig. 8. Tomb 18: Iron IIB–III pottery.

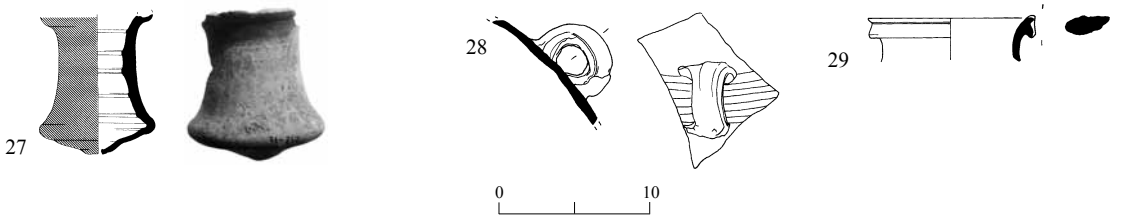

Fig. 8. (cont.)

No.	Reg. No.	Type	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	18/9	Bowl 1	Brown ware, red slip and widely spaced burnish inside and on outer rim	
2	18/8	Bowl 2	Light brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside	
3	76-342*	Bowl 5	Light brown ware, red slip inside	
4	76-343*	Bowl 5	Gray to orange–brown ware, smoothed	
5	76-334*	Bowl 8	Red–brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside	
6	18/5	Bowl 8	Brown ware, red slip and widely spaced burnish inside and outside	
7	76-403*	Bowl 8	Brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination	
8	18/6	Bowl 15	Brown ware, red slip and burnish inside	
9	18/7	Bowl 14	Yellow–brown ware, thick red slip and dense burnish inside and outside	
10	76-363*	Bowl 10	Pink–brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside and outer upper part	
11	76-406*	Bowl 10	Brown ware, red slip inside and on outer upper part	
12	18/12	Bowl 16b	Brown ware	
13	76-336*	Bowl 16b	Pink–brown ware, red slip inside and outer rim,	
14	76-426*	Bowl 16b	Brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and outer upper part	
15	18/3	Krater	Brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside and outside	18/4
16	-*	Cooking Pot 4		
17	-*	Cooking Pot 3		
18	18/13	Juglet 3c	Black ware	
19	76-662*	Juglet 3c	Dark gray–brown ware, remains of vertical burnish	
20	-*	Juglet 3a	Black ware, vertical hand burnish on neck, handle and body	
21	-*	Juglet 3b	Black ware, vertical hand burnish on neck handle and body	
22	76-315*	Jug 2		
23	18/1	Storage Jar 2	Brown ware	
24	18/10	Lamp 1	Light brown ware	
25	76-414*	Lamp 3	Brown ware, remains of soot	
26	76-401*	Lamp 2	Red–brown ware, base is shaped by finger pressure	
27	76-347*	Rattle	Red–brown ware, red wash	
28	-*	Storage Jar		
29	-*	Jug		

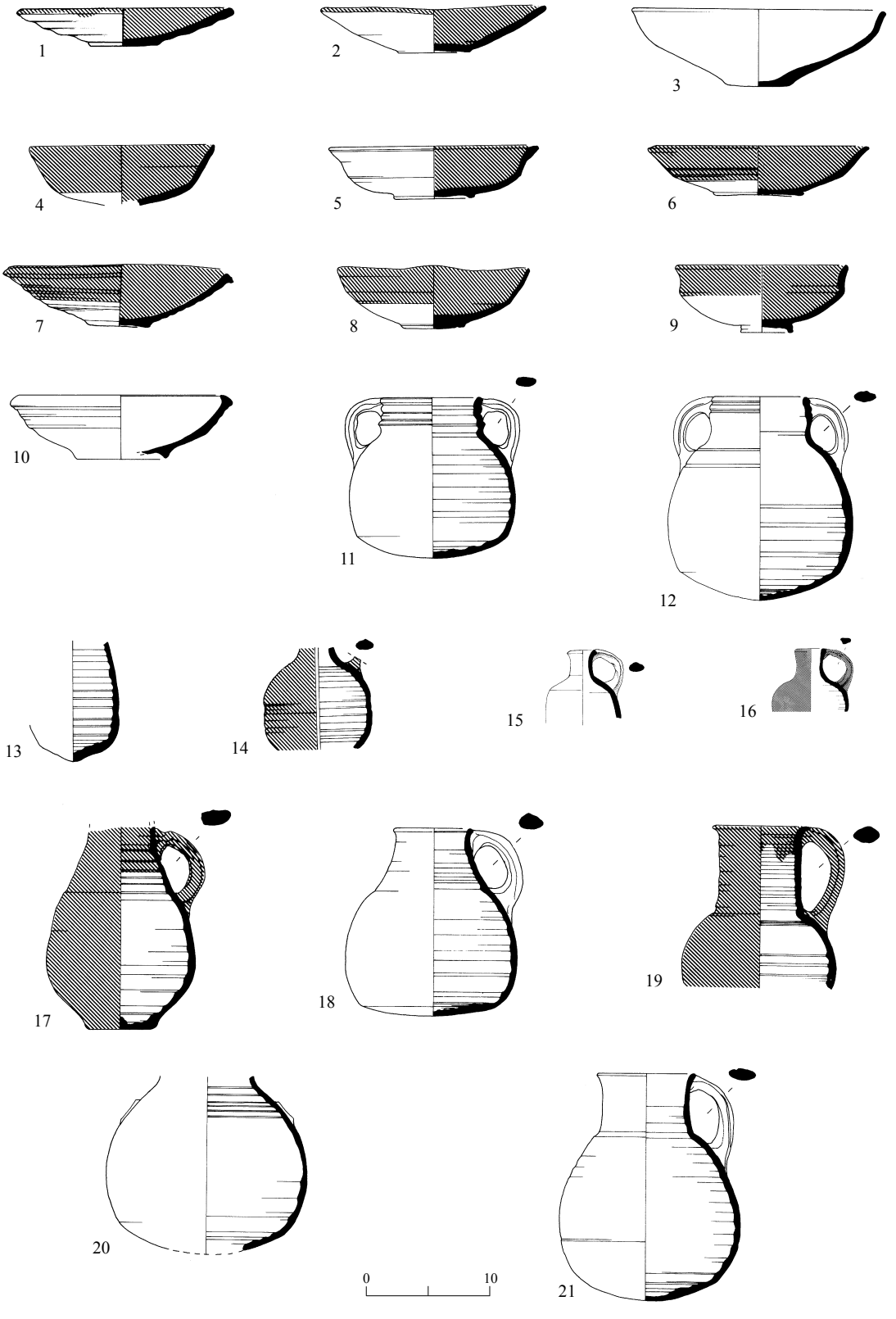

Fig. 9. Tomb 19: Iron IIB–III pottery.

◂ **Fig. 9**

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description
1	Bowl 1	76-383*	Orange–brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside
2	Bowl 1	76-370*	Red–brown ware, red slip inside and on outside rim, remains of burnish inside
3	Bowl 14	76-427*	
4	Bowl 8	-*	Brown ware, red slip inside and on outer rim down to carination
5	Bowl 10	76-430*	Brown ware, red slip and burnish inside
6	Bowl 10	76-377*	Brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and outer upper part
7	Bowl 12	76-428*	Red–brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and outer upper part
8	Bowl 14	-*	Brown ware, red slip inside and outer rim down to carination
9	Bowl 15	-*	Brown ware, red slip inside and outer rim down to carination
10	Bowl 16a	76-358*	Pink–brown ware, burnished inside
11	Cooking Pot 3	76-419*	Dark red–brown ware
12	Cooking Pot 3	76-420*	Brown ware
13	Juglet 1	-*	Orange–brown ware
14	Juglet 4	-*	Brown ware, remains of red slip
15	Juglet 2	-*	Pink–brown ware, self slip
16	Juglet 2	-*	Brown ware, red slip outside
17	Jug 1	76-385*	Brown ware, thick red slip outside and inside on upper part of neck
18	Jug 4a	76-421*	Brown ware
19	Jug 4b	-*	Red–brown ware, red slip outside and inside on upper part of neck
20	Jug 10a	76-328*	Dark red–brown ware
21	Jug 10a	76-312*	Brown ware

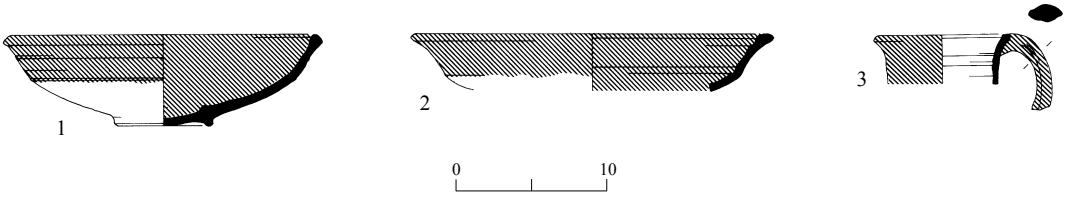

Fig. 10. Tomb 20: Iron IIB–III pottery.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl 16a	20/1/Collecting pit in Room 2	Brown ware, red slip and remains of burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination	20/2/Collecting pit
2	Bowl 10	20/3 Room 1	Brown ware, red slip and remains of burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination; burnt	
3	Jug 4a	20/4 Room 1		

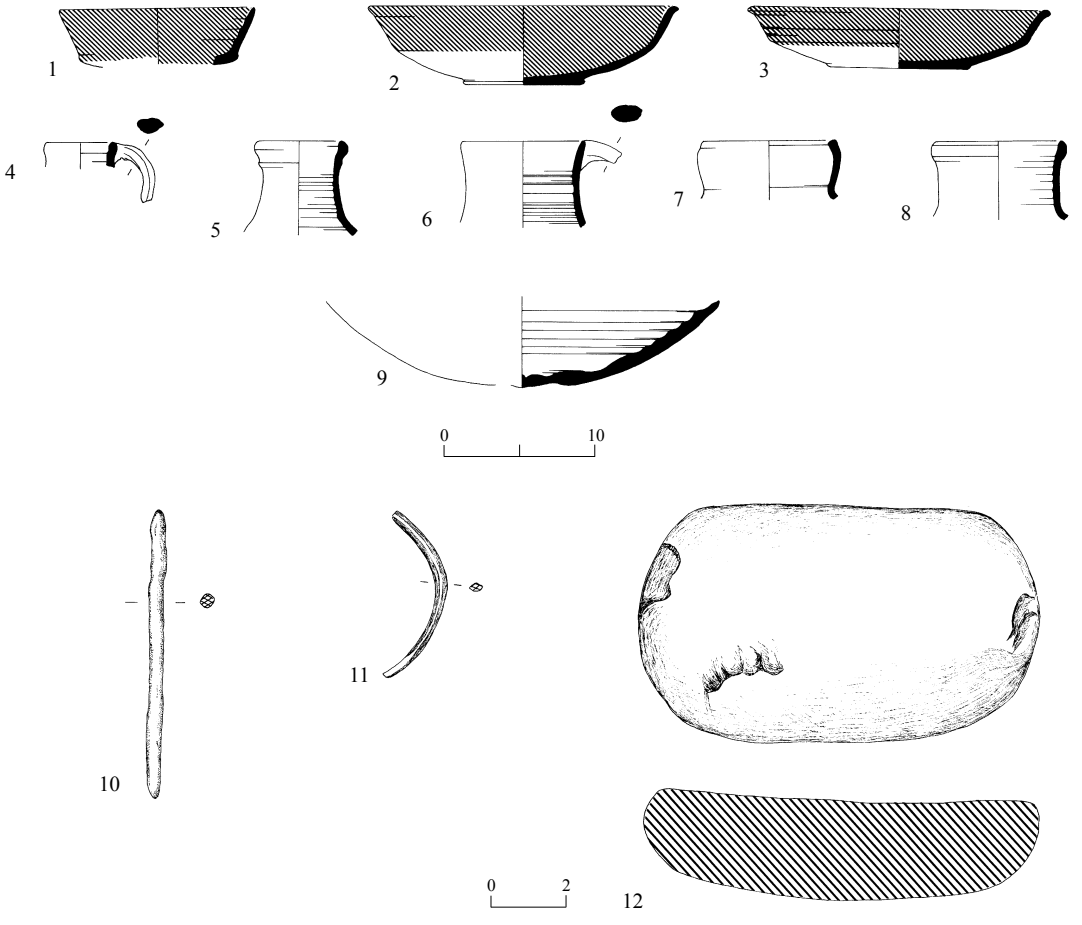

Fig. 11. Tomb 21: Iron IIB–III pottery (1–8); Roman pottery (9), bronze items (10, 11) and grinding stone (12).

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl 17	21/21	Brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and outer rim down to carination	
2	Bowl 10	21/10	Brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and outer rim down to carination	
3	Bowl 10	21/12	Brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and outer rim down to carination	21/9
4	Jug 1	21/30	Red–brown ware	
5	Jug 1	21/15	Red–brown ware	
6	Jug 10a	21/5	Light brown ware	
7	Jug 8	21/4	Orange–brown ware, worn	
8	Jug 10a	21/19	Orange–brown ware	
9	Storage jar	21/2	Light brown to gray ware	
10		21/6	Bronze	
11		21/3	Bronze	
12	Grinding stone	21/7		

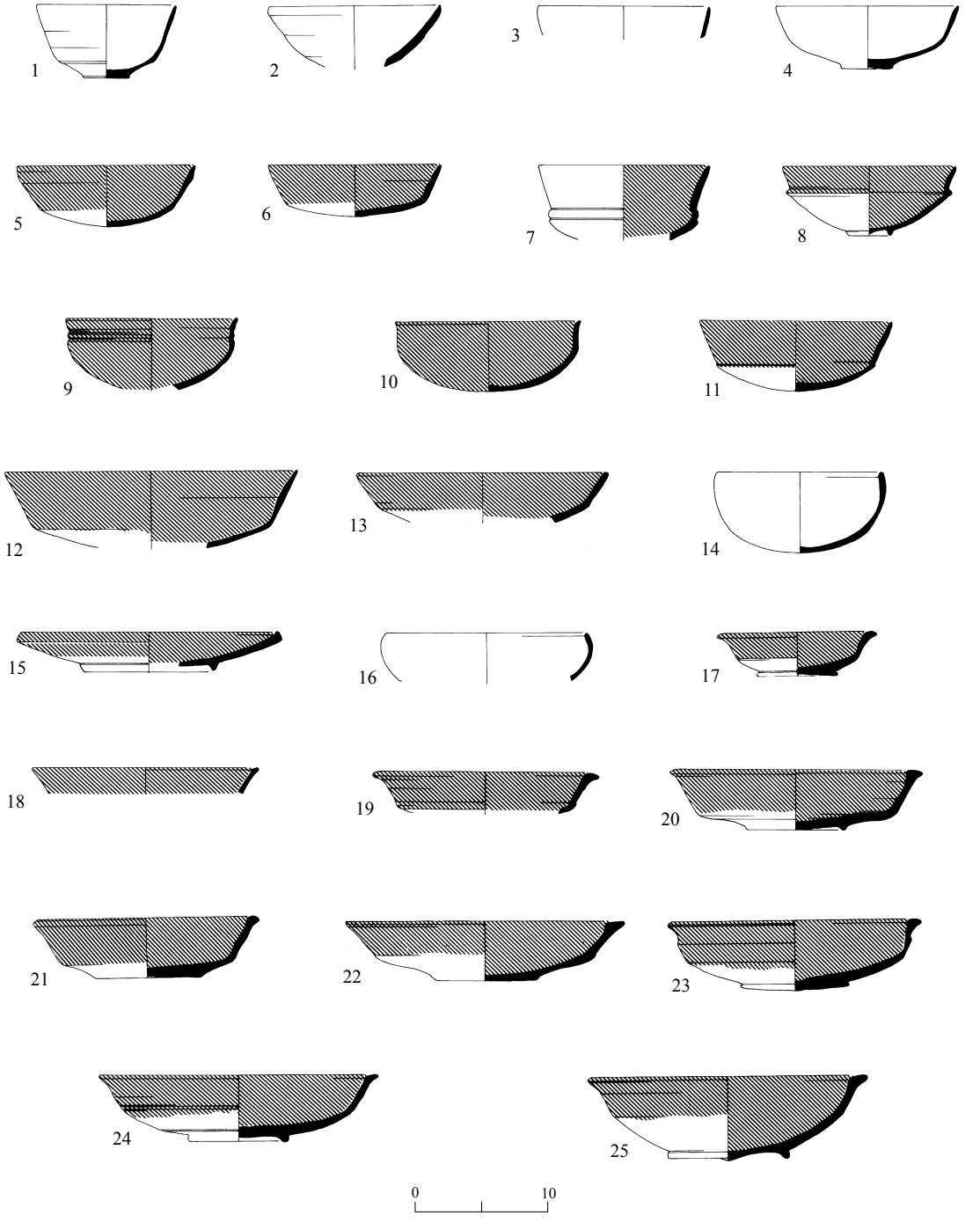

Fig. 12. Tomb 22: Iron IIB–III pottery.

◂ **Fig. 12**

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl 5	22/64	Light brown ware	
2	Bowl 5	22/18/ Collecting pit	Light brown ware	
3	Bowl 14	22/82	Brown ware	
4	Bowl 14	22/407	Orange–brown ware	
5	Bowl 8	22/36/ Collecting pit	Light brown ware, red slip inside and on outer rim down to carination	22/87; 22/119; 22/183; 22/195; 22/216; 22/312; 22/350;
6	Bowl 8	22/191	Brown ware, red slip inside and on outer rim down to carination	22/279
7	Bowl 17	22/330	Red–brown ware, red slip and burnish inside	
8	Bowl 15	22/217	Light brown ware, red slip inside and on outer rim down to carination, hand burnish inside on bottom and wheel-burnish inside on rim	
9	Bowl 13	22/420	Light brown ware, red slip inside and outside	
10	Bowl 6	22/10/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and outside	
11	Bowl 8	22/38	Red-brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination	22/39/Collecting pit; 22/192
12	Bowl 14	22/4/ Collecting pit	Red-brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and on outer rim down to carination	22/327
13	Bowl 14	22/318	Light brown, red slip inside and outer rim down to carination	
14	Bowl 7	22/344	Red–brown ware, widely spaced wheel burnish inside, 2 black circles painted inside on the bottom	
15	Bowl 4	22/341/ Collecting pit	Brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and on outer rim	
16	Bowl 7	22/8/ Collecting pit	Light brown ware	
17	Bowl 10	22/6/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination	22/305
18	Bowl 10	22/311	Red–brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and outside	
19	Bowl 10	22/284	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and outside	22/320
20	Bowl 10	22/347	Red–brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination	
21	Bowl 10	22/222/ Collecting pit	Light brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination	
22	Bowl 10	22/17/ Collecting pit	Brown ware, red slip inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination	
23	Bowl 10	22/30/ Collecting pit	Orange brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination	22/417/Collecting pit
24	Bowl 10	22/214	Orange–brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination	22/32/Collecting pit; 22/33/Collecting pit; 22/178; 22/242; 22/326; 22/353; 22/370
25	Bowl 10	22/302/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and on outer upper part of body	22/285

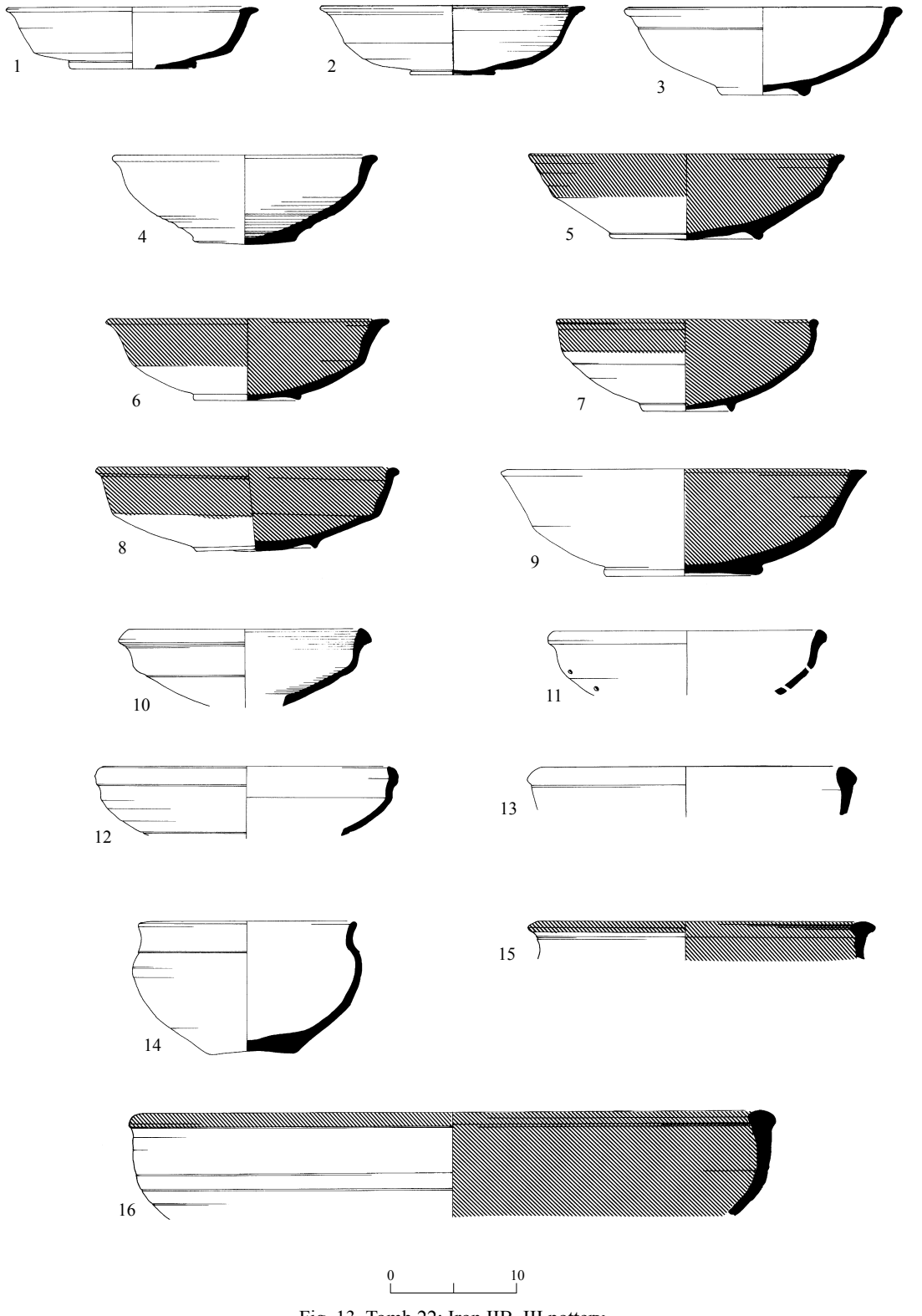

Fig. 13. Tomb 22: Iron IIB–III pottery.

◂ **Fig. 13**

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl 10	22/345/R	Orange–brown ware, burnished inside	22/13/Collecting pit 22/26/Collecting pit 22/29/Collecting pit 22/194
2	Bowl 10	22/408	Red–brown ware	
3	Bowl 10	22/28/ Collecting pit	Light brown ware	
4	Bowl 10	22/20/ Collecting-pit	Orange–brown ware, burnished inside	22/21/Collecting pit; 22/196; 22/201
5	Bowl 10	22/124	Orange–brown ware, red slip and burnish inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination	22/34/Collecting pit; 22/186
6	Bowl 10	22/19/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination	22/15/Collecting pit; 22/418
7	Bowl 10	22/35/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination, burnish inside	22/70; 22/304
8	Bowl 10	22/414	Light brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination	
9	Bowl 10	22/309	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside	22/367/Collecting pit
10	Bowl 16b	22/53	Orange–brown ware, white grits, light pink slip inside	22/176
11	Bowl 16b	22/24	Orange–brown ware, mending holes	
12	Bowl 16b	22/41	Orange–brown ware	22/316
13	Large Bowl 4	22/177	Red–brown ware, light brown slip inside	
14	Bowl 18	22/5/ Collecting pit	Light brown ware	
15	Large Bowl 1	22/210	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and on outer rim	
16	Large Bowl 4	22/23/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and on outer rim	

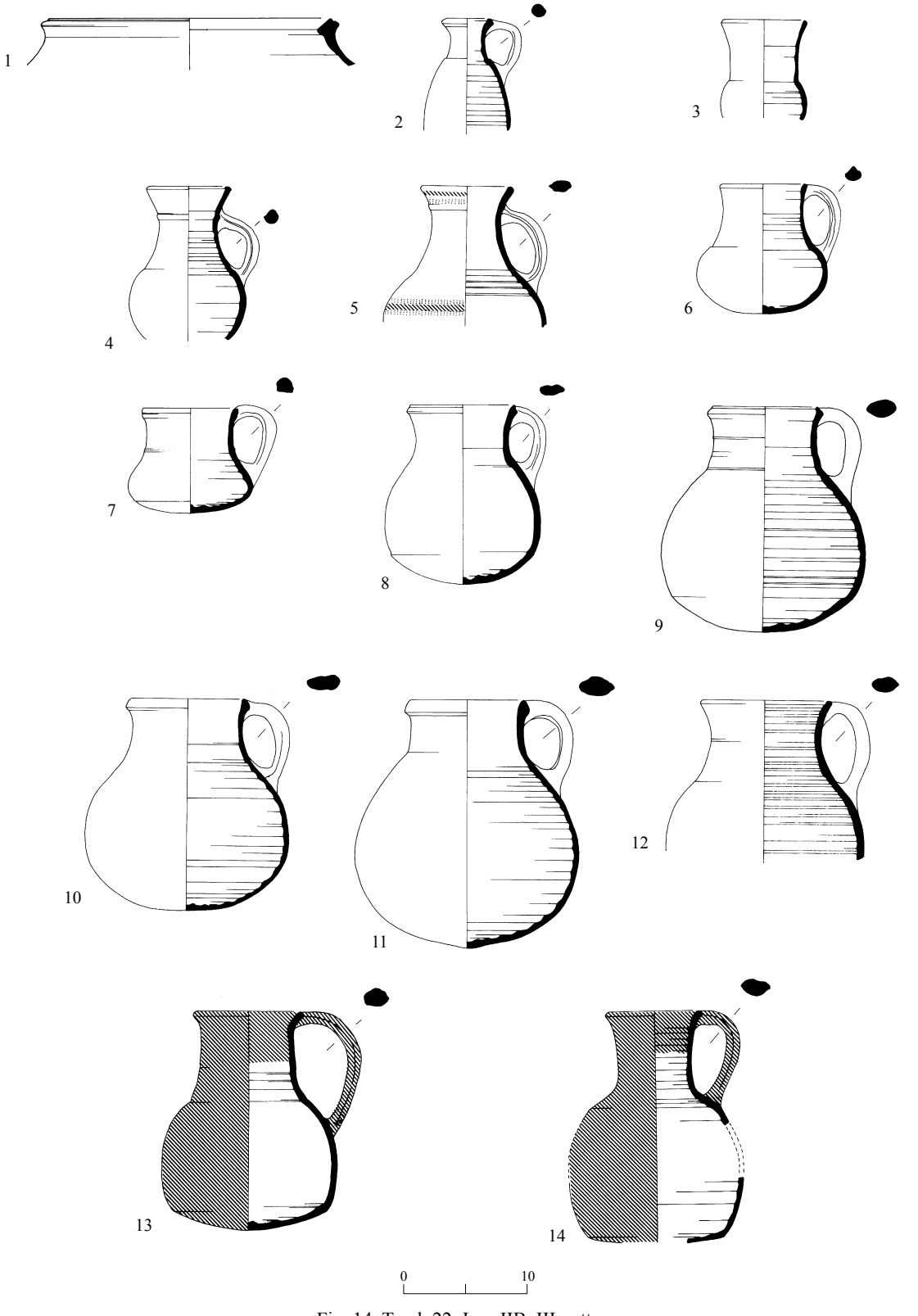

Fig. 14. Tomb 22: Iron IIB–III pottery.

◂ **Fig. 14**

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Cooking Pot 1	22/44	Orange–brown ware	
2	Juglet 1	22/300	Orange–brown ware	
3	Jug 5	22/278	Red–brown ware, remains of soot	
4	Jug 1	22/152	Brown ware	
5	Jug 2	22/351	Red–brown ware, 3 painted bands on body (white-black-white)	
6	Jug 10b	22/227/ Collecting pit	Orange-brown ware, remains of soot	22/509
7	Jug 10b	22/336	Red–brown ware	22/508
8	Jug 10a	22/382	Light brown ware	22/250; 22/253
9	Jug 10a	22/354	Red–brown ware	22/412; 22/501/Collecting pit
10	Jug 10a	22/400	Orange–brown ware	
11	Jug 10a	22/500/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware	22/168; 22/321; 22/505/ Collecting pit
12	Jug 10a	22/404	Red–brown ware	22/349
13	Jug 4a	22/330	Yellow–brown ware, thick red slip layer outside and inside neck	22/342
14	Jug 4a	22/313	Orange–brown ware, thick red slip layer outside and inside neck	

Fig. 15 ▸

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Jug 2	22/415	Red–brown ware, 2 black bands painted on body and 1 black band painted beneath rim	
2	Jug 2	22/506/ Collecting pit	Orange–brown ware	
3	Jug 11b	22/504/ Collecting pit	Red–brown ware, thick red slip	
4	Jug 11a	22/263	Pink to gray ware	
5	Flask	22/502/ Collecting pit	Red–brown ware, painted black circles	
6	Juglet 5	22/507		
7	Juglet 3c	22/11/ Collecting pit	Black ware, remains of vertical hand burnish on body	
8	Lamp 1	22/137	Orange–brown ware	
9	Lamp 1	22/1/ Collecting pit	Light brown ware, remains of soot	22/139; 22/324; 22/510
10	Lamp 1	22/185	Light brown ware, remains of soot	

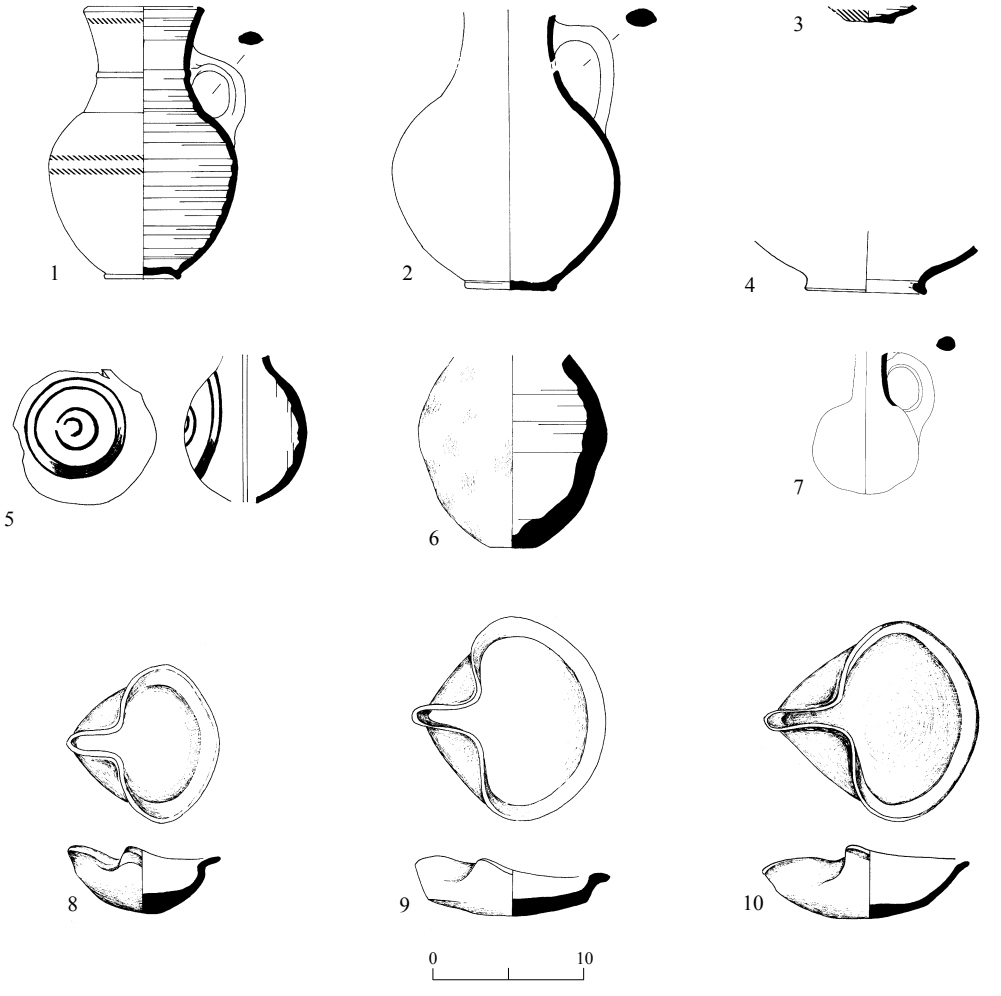

Fig. 15. Tomb 22: Iron IIB–III pottery.

Fig. 16 ▸

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl	22/51	Light yellow–brown ware	
2	Bowl	22/70	Orange–brown ware	
3	Cooking pot	22/511	Orange–brown ware	22/156
4	Jug	22/166	Light yellow–brown ware	
5	Jug	22/130	Light yellow–brown ware	22/161
6	Storage jar	22/71	Light yellow–brown ware	
7	Mirror	22/5	Bronze	
8	Bowl	22/50	Bronze	
9	Knife	22/1	Iron	
10	Knife	22/R/Collecting pit	Iron	22/1(?)
11		22/4	Bronze	
12		22/2	Bronze	
13	Ossuary		Limestone	

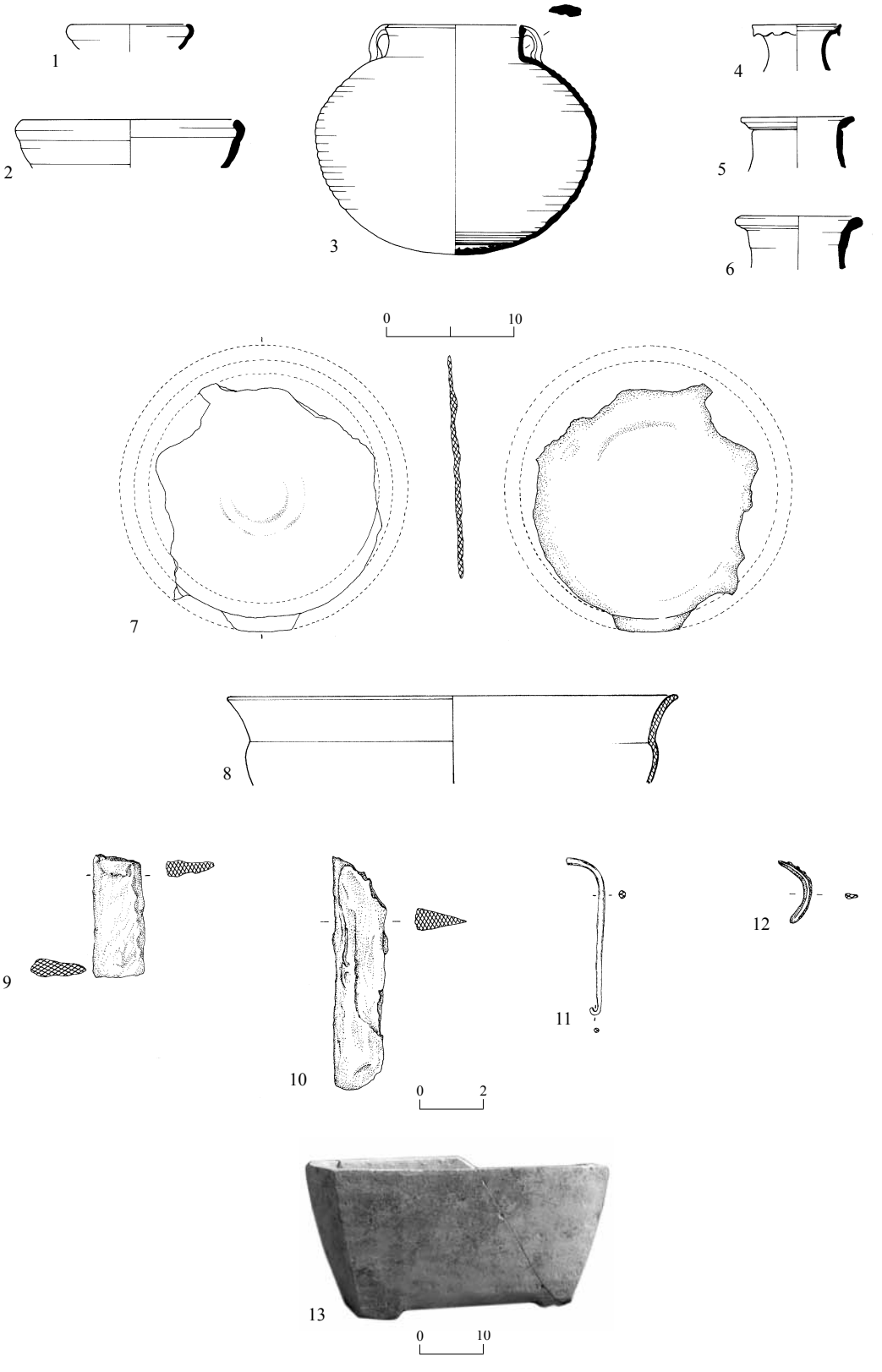

Fig. 16. Tomb 22: Roman pottery (1–6), metal finds (7–12) and limestone ossuary (13).

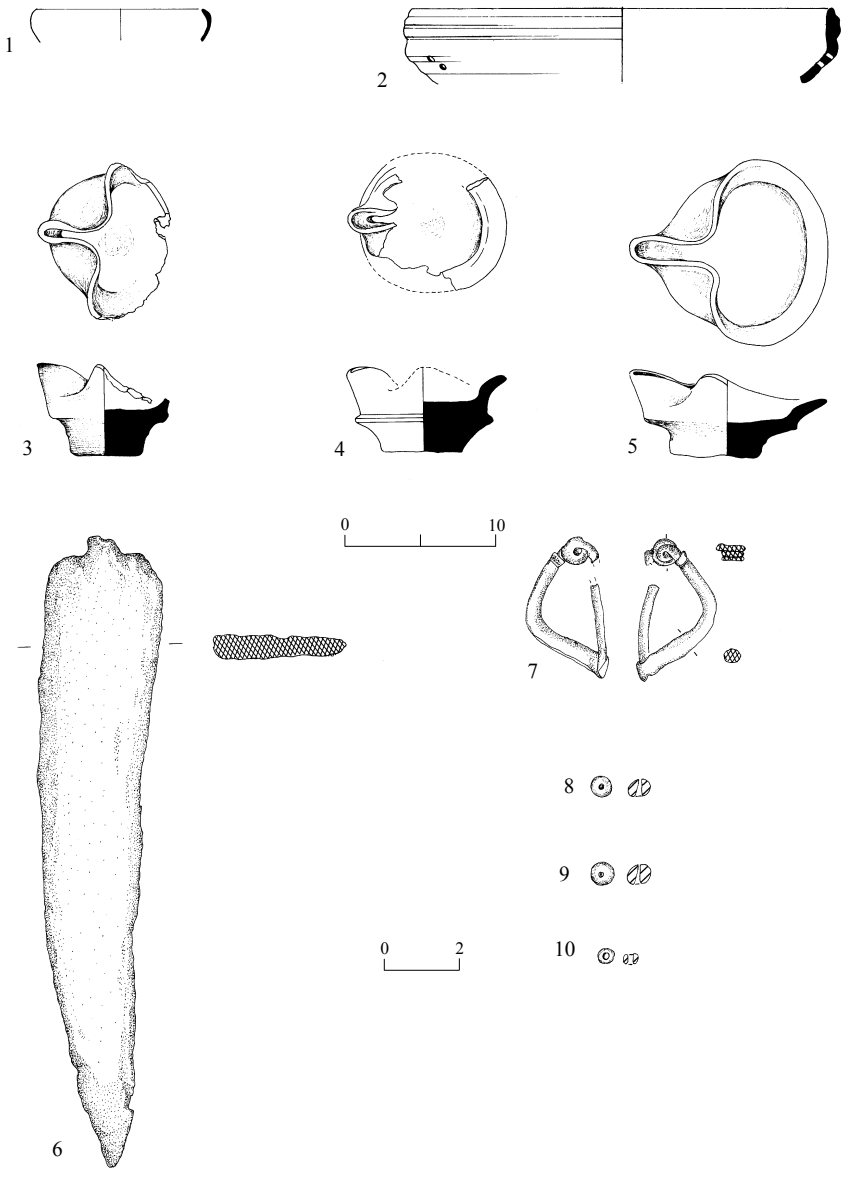

Fig. 17. Tomb 23: Roman pottery (1); Iron IIB–III pottery (2–5), metal and stone finds (6–10).

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl	23/9	Light yellow–brown ware	
2	Large Bowl 4	23/6	Orange–brown ware, widely spaced burnish inside, mending holes	
3	Lamp 3	23/5	Brown ware, remains of soot	23/1
4	Lamp 3	23/3	Brown ware, remains of soot	
5	Lamp 3	23/2	Brown ware, remains of soot	
6	Dagger	23/11	Iron	
7	Fibula	23/4	Bronze	
8	Bead	23/7	Green stone	
9	Bead	23/8	Blue stone	
10	Bead	23/10	Blue stone	

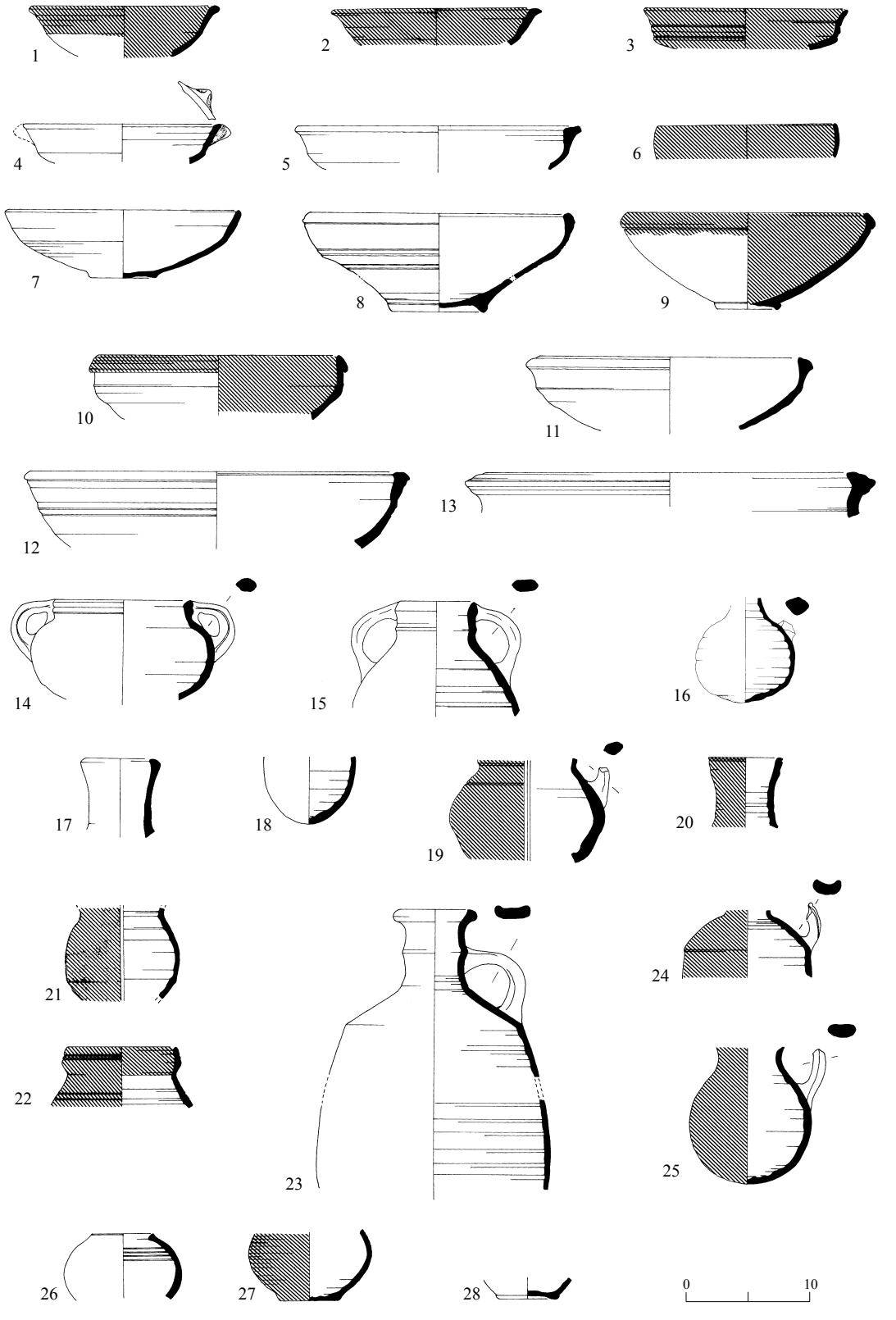

Fig. 18. Tomb 24: Iron IIB–III pottery.

◂ **Fig. 18**

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl 10	24/34	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and on outer upper part of body down to carination	24/22; 24/38
2	Bowl 10	24/33	Light brown ware, red slip inside and outside	24/23; 24/28
3	Bowl 17	24/8/Niche	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and outside	
4	Bowl 11	24/35	Brown ware, burnt	24/35
5	Bowl 10	24/26	Brown ware, pink slip inside	
6	Bowl 7	24/20/Niche	Brown ware, red slip inside and outside	
7	Bowl 14	24/5/Niche	Red–brown ware, thick buff slip inside and on outside, dense burnish inside	24/29; 24/41
8	Bowl 16b	24/2/Niche	Orange–brown ware	
9	Bowl 16a	24/17	Red–brown ware, thick red slip and dense burnish inside and outer rim	
10	Bowl 16b	24/13	Orange–brown ware, red slip inside and on outer rim	24/30; 24/31; 24/36
11	Bowl 16b	24/16	Orange–brown ware, pink slip inside	24/37
12	Large Bowl 3	24/6/Niche	Dark brown ware, thick buff slip inside and outside	24/44
13	Large Bowl 1	24/43	Light brown ware	
14	Cooking Pot 2	24/9/Niche	Brown ware, remains of soot	
15	Cooking Pot 3	24/4		
16	Juglet 2	24/8	Light brown ware	24/24
17	Juglet 3c	24/51	Black ware	24/50
18	Juglet 1	24/10	Brown ware	
19	Jug 3	24/5	Orange–brown ware, red slip	
20	Jug 1	24/52	Orange–brown ware, red slip	
21	Jug 3	24/6	Orange–brown ware, red slip	22/3/Niche
22	Jug 8	24/9	Brown ware, red slip outside and inside neck	
23	Jug 6	24/7	Brown ware, light buff slip	
24	Jug 6	24/40	Red–brown ware, red slip and horizontal burnish	
25	Jug 10a	24/1/Niche	Orange–brown ware, red slip	
26	Varia	24/21	Red–brown ware	
27	Jug 1	24/3	Orange–brown ware, red slip	
28	Jug 11a	24/25	Dark gray ware	

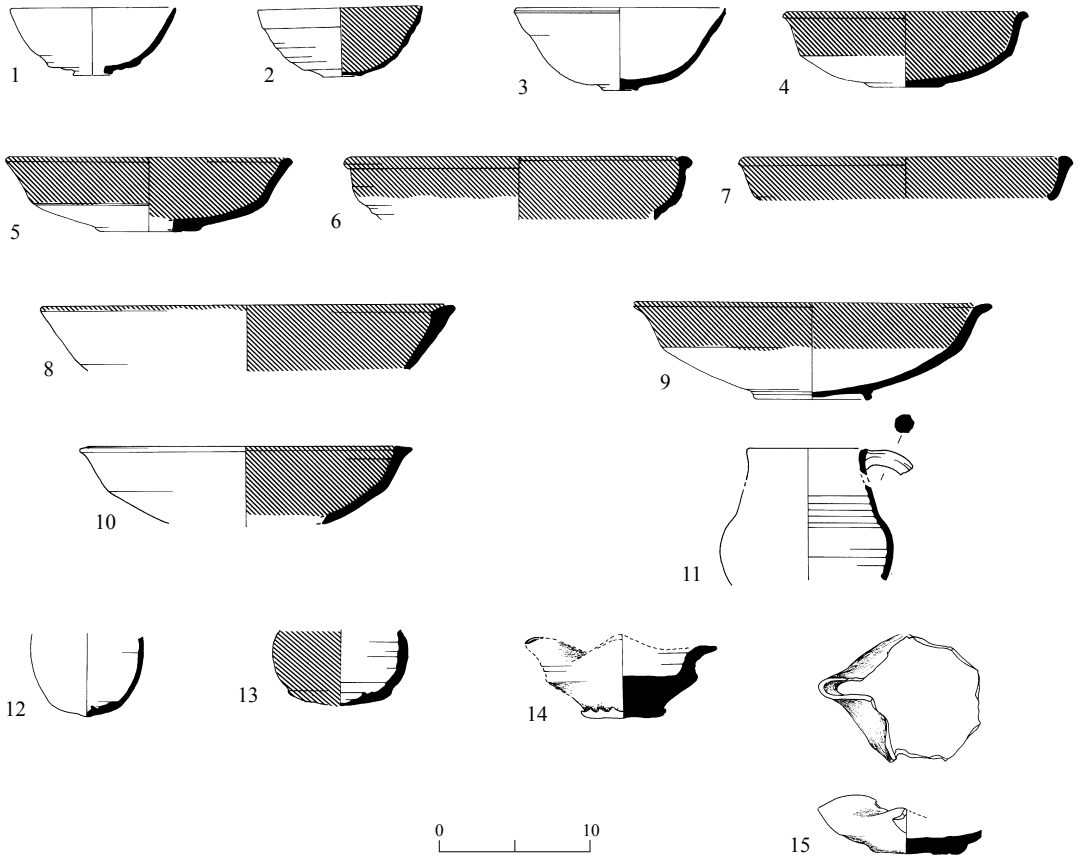

Fig. 19. Tomb 25: Iron IIB–III pottery.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Similar Vessels (Reg. No.)
1	Bowl 5	25/15	Gray to red–brown ware	25/14
2	Bowl 5	25/18	Light brown ware, red slip inside	
3	Bowl 5	25/3	Gray to red–brown ware	
4	Bowl 10	25/29	Orange–brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside and outside down to carination	25/23
5	Bowl 10	25/26	Orange–brown ware, red slip and remains of burnish inside and outside down to carination	
6	Bowl 16b	25/10	Brown ware, red slip inside and outside down to carination	25/7
7	Bowl 16b	25/9	Brown ware, red slip inside and outside	
8	Large Bowl 2	25/12	Brown ware, red slip inside and rim	25/6; 25/24; 25/28
9	Bowl 10	25/30	Brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside and outside down to carination	25/5; 25/8; 25/14; 25/29
10	Bowl 10	25/11	Brown ware, red slip and dense burnish inside and rim	25/4
11	Jug 10a	25/1	Red–brown ware, red slip	
12	Juglet 1	25/16	Light brown ware	
13	Jug 3	25/21	Brown ware, red slip	
14	Lamp 3	25/33	Brown ware, base shaped by finger pressure, remains of soot	
15	Lamp 2	25/34	Brown ware, remains of soot	

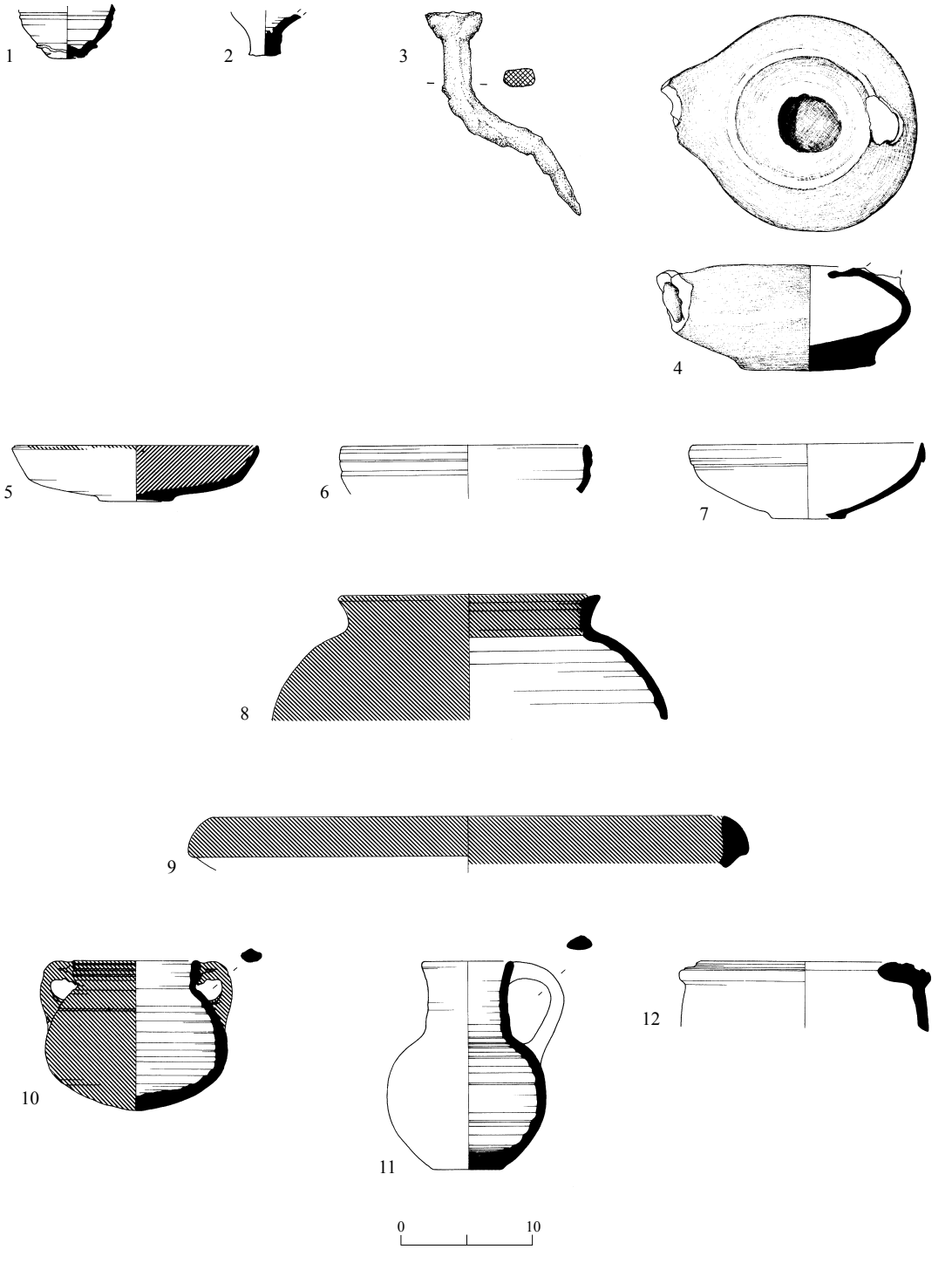

Fig. 20. Finds from Tombs 1, 8 and 14.

◂ **Fig. 20**

No.	Reg. No.	Tomb	Type	Period	Description
1	-*	1	Juglet	Roman	
2	-*	1	Jug	Roman	
3	-*	1	Nail	Roman	Iron?
4	76-418	1	Lamp	Roman	Light yellow–brown ware, remains of soot
5	-*	8	Bowl 14	Iron IIB–III	Brown ware, red slip inside and on outer rim
6	-*	8	Bowl 16b	Iron IIB–III	
7	-*	8	Bowl 16b	Iron IIB–III	
8	-*	8	Krater	Iron IIB–III	Red–brown ware, red slip outside and on inside on neck
9	-*	14	Large Bowl 4	Iron IIB–III	
10	-*	14	Cooking Pot 3	Iron IIB–III	
11	-*	14	Jug 2	Iron IIB–III	
12	-*	14	Storage Jar 1	Iron IIB–III	
13	-*	14	Ring	Iron IIB–III	

IRON AGE IIB–III: DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The richest Iron Age ceramic assemblage was found in Tomb 22 (Table 1). The collecting pit was found intact, while the burial chamber had suffered disturbances and had been looted at least once, probably prior to the year 1967. As a result, finds were scattered throughout the room and in the collecting pit (Fig. 12:5, 6, 12, 16), and even outside the tomb. The major disturbance occurred in the Roman period, when alterations were made in the tomb plan and it was joined with Tomb 23 (see Yezerski, this volume: Plans 11, 14), and fragments of some vessels were found dispersed between Tombs 22 and 23, for example the bowl in Fig. 13:8.

The lamps in Tomb 23 (Fig. 17:3–5) were found on a sloping stone shelf against the eastern wall, below a pile of stones and earth from the second period of use during the Roman period. A bronze fibula (Fig. 17:7), an iron dagger (Fig. 17:6) and three beads (Fig. 17:8–10) were also revealed below the pile. The fibula is of the semicircular type with a plain bow (Stronach 1959:186), which was common during Iron Age II and until c. 500 BCE. The iron dagger cannot be attributed with certainty to either of the two burial periods in the tomb. In Tomb 17, a bronze bracelet and a reddish brown carnelian bead (Fig. 7:22, 23 respectively) were retrieved.

Table 1. Pottery Frequencies in Tomb 22 (Figs. 12–15)

	Repository	Chamber
Bowls	29	50
Jugs	7	22
Flasks	1	-
Juglets	2	3
Lamps	1	5
Cooking pots	-	1
Total	*40*	*81*

The pottery assemblage from the Ḥ. Zaʿaq burial ground, attributed to Iron IIB–III, displays a rich variety of forms typical of Judahite sites from the second quarter of the eighth and the seventh centuries BCE (Table 2; see also Zimhoni 2004a:1705–1706). Most of the vessel types are Judahite in morphology, while a few show Edomite/Assyrian characteristics, although they were no doubt locally made.

Table 2. Distribution of Ḥ. Za‘aq Pottery Types in Neighboring Southern Judahite Burial Grounds

Ḥ. Za‘aq Types	Tell Beit Mirsim Tomb (Fig.) (Ben-Arieh 2004a)	Tel ‘Ira Tomb (Fig.) (Beit-Arieh et al. 1999)	Tel ‘Eṭun Tomb (Pl.) (Ussishkin 1974)	Tel Ḥalif Tomb[i] (Fig.) (Borowski 1994)
Bowl 1				8 (1:1) 20 (4:3)
Bowl 2	5 (2.80:8)			
Bowl 3	4 (2.78:12)			
Bowl 4				
Bowl 5	4 (2.78:8–11) 6 (2.82:10, 11)	4 (4.10:6)	1 (8:2)	16 (2:1) 18 (3:2) 20 (4:1)
Bowl 6				
Bowl 7	101 (2.46:16, 17) 6 (2.82:13)	5 (4.13:3–5) 14 (4.29:3)		1 (3:4)
Bowl 8	101 (2.46:11–15) 5 (2.80:6) 6 (2.82:9,12)	9 (4.17:7, 12)	1 (8:8)	1 (3:6)
Bowl 9				
Bowl 10	101 (2.46:3) 4 (2.78:3–5) 5 (2.80:4) 6 (2.82:3–5)	9 (4.17:5, 6, 8, 10, 11) 14 (4.29:2) 15 (4.33:1)	2 (8:4, 6)	1 (3:1–3,5) 8 (1:2, 4) 18 (3:1, 4, 5) 20 (4:9)
Bowl 11	101 (2.46:5) 5 (2.80:5) 6 (2.82:6, 7)			1 (3:7) 8 (1:2)
Bowl 12		9 (4.17:9)		
Bowl 13				
Bowl 14	101 (2.46:1, 2) 4 (2.78:1, 2) 5 (2.80:1–3) 6 (2.82:8)	4 (4.10:5) 9 (4.17:2, 3)	4 (8:3)	1 (3:12) 18 (3:7) 20 (4:2)
Bowl 15				1 (6:8) 20 (4:5)
Bowl 16a	4 (2.78:6, 7); 5 (2.80:7)	4 (4.10:2–4) 5 (4.13:1, 2) 9 (4.17:1, 4) 15 (4.33:2)	2 (8:7, 9)	8 (1:5) 20 (4:7)
Bowl 16b		4 (4.10:1)		1 (3:9–11) 16 (2:2) 18 (3:6) 20 (4:6, 8)
Bowl 17				20 (4:4)
Bowl 18				
Large Bowl 1	4 (2.78:13)			
Large Bowl 2				

[i] The cave excavated by Biran and Gophna (1970) is designated here ‘Cave 1’. Cave 1, which was fortunately discovered intact, was dated by the excavators to the tenth–ninth centuries BCE (the repository), and the ninth–first half of the eighth centuries BCE (the burial chamber). Based on Zimhoni’s dating of the wheel burnish at Lakhish, there is reason to ‘lower’ the date of the burial cave, since all the bowls within it were wheel burnished. Thus, the date could be as early as 775 BCE. We wish to thank Debi Ben-Ami, curator of the Iron Age section of the IAA storehouse, for the information.

Table 2. (cont.)

Ḥ. Zaʿaq Types	Tell Beit Mirsim Tomb (Fig.) (Ben-Arieh 2004a)	Tel ʿIra Tomb (Fig.) (Beit-Arieh et al. 1999)	Tel ʿEṭun Tomb (Pl.) (Ussishkin 1974)	Tel Ḥalif Tomb[i] (Fig.) (Borowski 1994)
Large Bowl 3			1 (8:1)	8 (1:5, 7)[ii]
Large Bowl 4		14 (4.29:1)		
Large Bowl 5				
Krater				
Flask				
Cooking Pot 1				8 (1:10)
Cooking Pot 2				
Cooking Pot 3			1 (8:10–12)	1 (3:13; 6:11) 20 (4:13)
Cooking Pot 4				
Juglet 1	101 (2.47:23–25) 4 (2.78:16)		1 (9:6)	1 (5:12, 13, 20, 21)
Juglet 2	5 (2.80:10)			
Juglet 3a	6 (2.82:14–17)	15 (4.33:15)		1 (5:1–8, 10; 6:12) 18 (3:11)
Juglet 3b	101 (2.47:26–33) 4 (2.78:14) 6 (2.82:18, 19)	14 (4.29:5, 6) 15 (4.33:11–14)	3 (9:13)	1 (5:9, 18, 19) 8 (1:15, 16) 17 (2:13–15) 18 (3:10, 12)
Juglet 4				
Juglet 5				
Jug 1	101 (2.47:35–38) 4 (2.79:21) 6 (2.82:20; 2.83:24, 26, 27)		1 (9:2, 3)	1 (4:16; 6:10) 17 (2:12)
Jug 2	6 (2.83:25)		2 (9:1)	1 (4:5–6)[iii]
Jug 3	6 (2.83:30–32)	15 (4.33:17)		
Jug 4a	101 (2.47:41) 6 (2.83:34)			
Jug 4b	4 (2.79:22)			
Jug 5	6 (2.83:30–32)			
Jug 6	4 (2.79:24–26) 5 (2.81:16)			20 (4:14)
Jug 7	4 (2.79:20)			1 (4:10)
Jug 8	5 (2.81:14)			
Jug 9				

[ii] The bowls from Tel Ḥalif, Tomb 8, are smaller and the similarity is only in body and rim shapes.
[iii] The Tel Ḥalif examples are only close parallels to Ḥ. Zaʿaq Jug 2, as the jug in Fig. 4:5 has a wide, slightly ridged neck, and the one in Fig. 4:6 has a ridged neck and a rounded-flattened base.

Table 2. (cont.)

Ḥ. Za‘aq Types	Tell Beit Mirsim Tomb (Fig.) (Ben-Arieh 2004a)	Tel ‘Ira Tomb (Fig.) (Beit-Arieh et al. 1999)	Tel ‘Eṭun Tomb (Pl.) (Ussishkin 1974)	Tel Ḥalif Tomb[i] (Fig.) (Borowski 1994)
Jug 10a	101 (2.47:39, 40) 4 (2.79:17) 5 (2.81:12, 13) 6 (2.83:33, 35)	15 (4.33:5, 7)		1 (4:1–3, 15; 6:9) 16 (2:6, 7) 17 (10, 11) 18 (3:8, 9, 13, 14) 20 (4:10–12)
Jug 10b	4 (2.79:18, 19) 6 (2.83:37, 38)			
Storage Jar 1				
Storage Jar 2				
Storage Jar 3			1 (9:5)	
Lamp 1		5 (4.13:8–11) 15 (4.33:20–22)	1 (9:8) 3 (9:9)	1 (6:1–5) 8 (1:13, 14) 18 (3:17) 20 (4:15)
Lamp 2	101 (2.48:42–47) 4 (2.79:27, 28) 5 (2.81:17)	9 (4.17:17) 14 (4.29:7)	1 (9:11) 2 (9:10)	1 (6:6, 13) 8 (1:14) 17 (2:16) 18 (3:16, 17)
Lamp 3	4 (2.79:29) 5 (2.81:19, 20)	4 (4.10:9, 10)	3 (9:12)	1 (6:7) 20 (4:17)
Rattle				
Varia				

It is generally accepted that the vessels demonstrating Edomite/Assyrian influence reflect economic and political relationships that were maintained under the Assyrian imperial hegemony since the final third of the eighth century BCE (Singer-Avitz 2002:184, with references therein). The assemblage from Ḥ. Za‘aq also reveals contacts with the southern coast of Israel.

No hand-burnished bowls were recovered at Ḥ. Za‘aq, a type still common, for example, at Lakhish until Stratum IV, late in the ninth century BCE, eventually disappearing in the transitional L4421 (Zimhoni 2004a:1707). Based on eighth-century BCE parallels, especially those from Lakhish L4421, the beginning of the burial activity at Ḥ. Za‘aq can be dated as early as the second quarter of the eighth century BCE, or slightly earlier. Activity gradually intensified during the second half of the eighth century BCE, while in the beginning of the seventh century BCE (i.e., after 701), burials were restricted to Tombs 6, 17, 23–25. The small amount of seventh-century BCE finds suggests that the cemetery was in use for only a short period, presumably in the first half of the century. The chronological range, from the second quarter of the eighth to the beginning of the seventh centuries BCE, corresponds with that at Tell Beit Mirsim, Ḥ. Za‘aq’s neighbor to the north (Ben Arieh 2004b:210).

The vessel types can be grouped chronologically as follows:

1) The eighth-century BCE vessel types include: Bowls 1, 2, 4 11, 13, 15, 16; Large

Bowls 1 and 5; the flask; Cooking Pots 1 and 3; Juglet 3a; Jugs 1, 2, 4a, 5, 7, 10; Storage Jar J3; Lamps 1 and 2; and the rattle.

2) The eighth–seventh-centuries BCE vessel types include: Bowls 14, 17, 18; Juglets 1 and 2; Jugs 4b and 6; Storage Jars 1 and 2; and Varia.

3) The seventh-century BCE types include: Bowls 3 and 12; the krater; Juglet 3b; and Lamp 3.

4) Vessels that cannot be dated due to lack of parallels include: Juglets 4 and 5; Jugs 3, 8, 9, 11a–b.

Based on the date of Lakhish Level III, it can be determined that most of the rock-cut tombs at Ḥ. Zaʿaq date approximately to the second quarter of the eighth century–701 BCE (Tombs 5, 9, 10, 18–20, 22). Tomb 21 can be dated to the late part of the eighth century BCE. Some tombs continued in use for a short period in the first half of the seventh century BCE (Tombs 6, 17, 23–25).

It should be emphasized that all the southern Judahite burial sites discussed here, except Tel Ḥalif Cave 1, have been repeatedly looted and damaged in the past. Thus, the database presented in Table 2 should be treated with caution. However, the data appear to indicate a wide variety of pottery types in the Ḥ. Zaʿaq tombs as compared with the other four southern Judahite burial grounds: Tel ʿIra, Tell Beit Mirsim, Tel ʿEṭun and Tel Ḥalif Cave 1. Tel Ḥalif, Tell Beit Mirsim and Tel ʿEṭun are situated in proximity to Ḥ. Zaʿaq, several kilometers to the north or south. In spite of the disturbances and looting, which all of them suffered, they all demonstrate a peak of population during the second half of the eighth century BCE, which ceased abruptly at the end of the century. The historical reason for this settlement crisis was probably Sennacherib's campaign to Philistia and Judah in 701 BCE, which drastically reduced the population of the whole region, a fact that is also evident in the burial grounds. Tel ʿIra is the only site in southern Judah that did not share the same fate as the other sites under discussion, and continued to exist until the Babylonian conquest.

The following conclusions can be drawn from Table 2:

1) The low level of resemblance between the Ḥ. Zaʿaq and Tel ʿEṭun assemblages can be attributed to several possibilities: (a) the Tel ʿEṭun burial ground is slightly earlier, or (b) the Tel ʿEṭun tombs suffered more extensive looting than those at Ḥ. Zaʿaq.

2) Pottery types that seem to demonstrate foreign influence—Assyrian, Edomite or coastal (Bowls 6, 9, 13, 15, 17, 18, the flask and Jug 2), are completely absent at the other burial sites, except Bowl 17 and Jug 2, which were present in the nearby Tel Ḥalif tombs.

3) Flat, straight-walled bowls (Bowls 1 and 4) are absent in the Tel ʿIra and Tel ʿEṭun burial grounds, and at Tel Ḥalif only Bowl 1 is represented. Bowls 6, 9, 13 and 18, and Large Bowls 2 and 5, were present only at Ḥ. Zaʿaq. Cooking pots and storage jars, rarely found in tombs, are present in small numbers at Ḥ. Zaʿaq and the other burial grounds (Cooking Pots 1 and 3).

In view of the wide range of data from the four neighboring burial grounds, it cannot be determined if the differences between the assemblages reflect local preferences, as would appear to be the case in the tomb architecture, which clearly shows the existence of local southern architectural traditions (Yezerski 1999; 2009).

From the material culture aspect, the inhabitants who buried their dead in the Ḥ. Zaʿaq cemetery had close economic and cultural ties with sites in the Be'er Sheva' Valley (Be'er Sheva', 'Aroʿer, 'Ira) during the second half of the eighth century BCE. Ḥorbat Zaʿaq is the northernmost site that demonstrates characteristics of the Be'er Sheva' pottery repertoire.

It is noteworthy that no clay figurines were recovered from Ḥ. Zaʿaq, a phenomenon noted in other southern Judahite Iron II burial grounds, both looted and intact, such as Tel ʿEṭun, Tell Beit Mirsim, Bani-Dar (Zelinger,

Tal and Yezerski 2009), Tel Ḥalif, Tel 'Ira and the tomb at Lower Ḥorbat 'Anim.

THE EARLY ROMAN PERIOD

Finds from the Early Roman period were recovered from Tombs 1 (Fig. 20:1–4) and 18 (Fig. 8:28, 29) during Alon's excavation, and in Tombs 21–23 in the present excavation. They include pottery (Figs. 11:9; 16:1–6; 17:1), a limestone ossuary (Fig. 16:13) and miscellaneous metal artifacts, such as a bronze bowl, iron nails, bronze ornaments and jewelry, a bronze mirror, and two broken pieces of what appears to be an iron knife (Figs. 16:7–12; 20:3). These metal artifacts are dated to the latest period of use in the Early Roman period, as they were found near the entrances to the rock-cut Tombs 1, 8 and 14 that were excavated by Alon, and Tomb 22.

The pottery vessels belong to types common at Judean sites during the first century CE. It is noteworthy that some vessels resemble finds from the nearby refuge cave (Goren and Fabian 1988), although the latter is dated some decades later than the finds from the cemetery. The pottery includes deep bowls with an incurved rim (Fig. 16:1, 2; Bar-Nathan 2002:85–86, Pls. 14:199–219; 15:220–228, Type J-BL 3A3), a closed cooking pot with a vertical neck and a triangular grooved rim (Fig. 16:3; Hershkovitz 1992: Fig. 13:9; Bar-Nathan 2002:71–72, Pl. 12:140–145, Type J-CP2A), a broken base of an unguentarium (Fig. 20:2; Bar-Nathan 2002:57), a thumb-impressed jug rim (Fig. 16:4; Bar-Nathan 2002: Pls. 8:55, 56, 58; 25:423), the upper parts of two large jugs (Figs. 8:29; 16:5; 8:29; Hershkovitz 1992: Fig. 13:2–4), the upper part of a storage jar (Fig. 8:28; Hershkovitz 1992: Fig. 5:2), a lamp (Fig. 20:4; Biran and Cohen 1981: Fig. 17:8; Hershkovitz 1992: Fig. 5:7; Borowski 1994: Fig. 4:21), a storage jar fragment (Fig. 8:28) and the body sherd of an unidentified juglet (Fig. 20:1).

The soft limestone ossuary found in Tomb 22 (and a piece in Tomb 23), stands on four short legs and measures 48.5 cm in length, 23 cm in width, with a total height, including the feet, of 25 cm, an inside height of 19.5 cm, and a wall width of 2.3 cm (Fig. 16:13). The walls curve slightly outward and the surface is finely polished, but lacks any ornamentation; however, tool marks are clearly visible. This ossuary may correspond with Rahmani's Groups B2 and B4 (1994:22–24), dated to 70–135 CE and typical of southern Judea (see also Kloner 1980:252–253). On the basis of pottery considerations, the ossuary is dated prior to 70 CE.

NOTES

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[2] We wish to thank Sara Ben-Arieh of the IAA for her kind cooperation prior to the publication of the final report of Tell Beit Mirsim (Ben-Arieh 2004a; 2004b), also excavated by David Alon.

[3] Na'aman and Thareani-Sussely (2006) believe that this type was inspired by Edomite pottery, a notion that we do not accept.

[4] Singer-Avitz (2002: Fig. 28:5) reports that this type appears in 'Arad Strata X–VI (mid-eighth century–596 BCE); however, a single small fragment was found in Stratum X, no additional examples were found in Strata IX–VII, and another example was recovered in Stratum VI. These data cast doubt on the long lifespan of this type, as suggested by Singer-Avitz.

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