

The Early Iron Age IIA Ceramic Assemblage from Khirbet al-Ra'i

ZACHARY THOMAS¹, KYLE H. KEIMER²,
AND YOSEF GARFINKEL³

¹ Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia · Zachary.thomas@hdr.mq.edu.au

² Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia · kyle.keimer@mq.edu.au

³ Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel · garfinkel@mail.huji.ac.il

Abstract

The early 10th-century BCE pottery assemblage from Khirbet al-Ra'i is presented. The assemblage, which came from a few rooms that were suddenly destroyed, offers a large number of complete profiles. This is the second largest pottery assemblage, after that of Khirbet Qeiyafa, of this poorly known ceramic phase.

KEYWORDS: Khirbet al-Ra'i, Khirbet Qeiyafa, 10th century BCE, Iron Age pottery, Judean Shephelah

1. Introduction

Khirbet al-Ra'i is a relatively small site, 1.7 hectares in area, located 4 km west of Tel Lachish at the western edge of the Judean Shephelah on a hill above the south bank of Nahal Lachish. Steep slopes surround the site on the east, north, and west, while on the south a gentle slope connects the site with a nearby hill.¹ At an elevation of 212 m above sea level, the site is in a relatively prominent location

1. The name of the site appears in three different forms, depending on which 19th- or 20th-century source is consulted: Khirbet er-Ra'i, Khirbet al-Ra'i, and Khirbet Arai.



overlooking the narrow valley created by Nahal Lachish and has good views toward the coastal plain to the west, the Hebron Hills to the east, and a large part of the Judean Shephelah to the north. From at least as early as the Early Bronze Age, a road connecting the coastal plain with the Shephelah passed through the valley just below Khirbet al-Ra'i. Even today a road runs along the valley and a police checkpoint is located just below the site, an indication of the importance of this location in a regional perspective (Figs. 1–2).



Fig. 1. Map of southern Israel with location of Khirbet al-Ra'i (by J. Rosenberg).



Fig. 2. Aerial view of Khirbet al-Ra'i (photograph by Emil Aladjem).

Four excavation areas (A–D) were opened at Khirbet al-Ra'i in the years 2015 to 2020. Area A, at the southern edge of the site, was selected in order to uncover the massive stone wall that was exposed on the surface before excavation and to clarify its nature and date. Area B, on the eastern side of the site, was also chosen because of large stones visible on the surface. The remains of the early 10th century BCE described in this article were uncovered in this area. Area C was opened to evaluate the northern extent of the site and to see if any fortification line could be identified. Area D was opened to investigate a steep rise in the topography of the center of the site, which suggested that there might be an elevated acropolis in this area; remains of large monumental Iron Age I buildings were unearthed here.

Excavations between 2015 and 2018 revealed an early Iron Age IIA occupational phase (local Phase 8) in Area B on the eastern side of the site (Figs. 3–4; Garfinkel and Ganor 2017; 2018; Garfinkel et al. 2019b). This phase, which at present is best represented in Area B (with fragmentary remains in Area A), was destroyed in a conflagration, preserving a number of either fully or partially complete or restorable vessels, as well as some diagnostic sherds. These ceramics were found in destruction debris on surfaces in a series of rooms (Rooms 1–5) within one structure (Building B1) (Figs. 5–6). Radiometric dating places this phase in the



Fig. 3. Aerial view of the early 10th-century BCE level in Area B (photograph by Emil Aladjem).



Fig. 4. Plan of the early 10th-century BCE level in Area B (by J. Rosenberg).

early 10th century BCE, parallel to the fortified city of Khirbet Qeiyafa (Garfinkel et al. 2019a). The presence of inverted vessels found on top of upright vessels in these rooms indicates that some likely came from an upper story that collapsed



Fig. 5. Vessels in situ in Room 3 (photograph by Kyle Keimer).



Fig. 6. Selection of restored vessels from Area B (photograph by Tal Rogovski).

amidst the fire. Building B1 was cut by a road constructed in the 1950s, which destroyed its eastern extent. This article presents a detailed analysis of the early Iron Age IIA ceramic assemblage from Area B.

2. The Early Iron Age IIA Ceramic Assemblage²

In comparison to other Iron Age IIA assemblages in Israel, the assemblage from Area B is weighted much more toward vessels with a complete or largely complete profile than toward diagnostic sherd material. The assemblage is fairly small in terms of the number of individual diagnostic items (vessels and diagnostic sherds combined; $n=224$), and the representation of any one particular type of vessel is quite limited, with the exception of the storage jars and, to some degree, the bowls. This is a caveat to the statistical comparison of the al-Ra'i assemblage with other published Iron Age IIA assemblages that are dominated by many sherds with few complete profiles, such as that of Levels V–IV at nearby Lachish, or even to that from Khirbet Qeiyafa, the most comparable in terms of the dominance of complete and restorable vessels.

2. The pottery plates are located at the end of the article.

Conversely, the dominance of complete or largely complete profiles is an advantage for typological, comparative, and chronological purposes. Most of the common classes of early Iron Age vessels are represented at least minimally, though some (such as amphoriskoi and flasks) are absent. Although some vessels have typological connections beyond the site's immediate geographic context of the Judean Shephelah and the Philistine coastal plain, no vessels that can definitively be considered "imports" are present.

2.1. Quantitative Analysis

The assemblage includes 186 vessels, some with complete profiles and some in a more fragmentary state of preservation. The assemblage has been divided into 12 classes (Table 1). The series of tables below give quantitative data for each class and type of vessel. For each type, individual pottery items are assigned to one of three descriptions for quantitative purposes: Complete Profile, Part Profile, or Diagnostic. Items assigned to Complete Profile show the complete profile of the vessel even if the vessel is not 100% preserved. Items assigned to Part Profile are well enough preserved to have more than one diagnostic element of the vessel but not all of them, for instance only the base is missing. Items assigned to Diagnostic are sherds, usually rims, with one diagnostic element. For the storage jars, counts of the different types of bases that were not reconstructed with a vessel are also given. For classes that include items with red slip (RS) or both red slip and hand burnish (RSHB), this is also noted. Items with a brown slip are included under red slip for quantitative purposes. There are no items with burnish as the only decoration. Note also that some percentages are rounded and therefore do not add up to exactly one hundred percent.

Table 1. Statistics for the pottery types of the Khirbet al-Ra'í assemblage.

Class	No.	%
Bowl	29	15.6
Chalice	13	7.0
Krater	20	10.7
Cooking Pot	3	1.6
Baking Tray	1	0.5
Juglet	7	3.8
Jug	31	16.7
Storage Jar	72	38.7
Pithos	5	2.7
Pyxis	1	0.5
Lamp	2	1.1
Stand	2	1.1
Total	186	100.0

2.2. Typological and Comparative Discussion

The pottery assemblage was classified into 12 major types: bowl, chalice, krater, cooking pot, baking tray, storage jar, pithos, jug, juglet, pyxis, lamp, and stand. Additional subdivision was carried out for most of the types, as indicated in the text and relevant tables.

1. BOWLS

The assemblage includes 29 bowls, divided into four types. The quantitative information on the bowls is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Statistics for the bowls of the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage.

Bowls								
	BL 1	BL 2	BL 3	BL 4	BL (base)	BL (handle)	BL (unassigned)	BL All
Complete profile	0	3	0	1	N/A	N/A	0	4
Part profile	6	0	1	0	N/A	N/A	0	7
Diagnostic sherds	0	6	0	4	N/A	N/A	3 ³	13
Total	6	9	1	5	2	3	3	29
% BL	21	31	3	17	7	10	10	100
RS	6	8 ⁴	0	1	0	0	0	15
RSHB	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	5
% RS	100	89	0	20	0	0	0	52
% RSHB	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	17

CARINATED BOWLS: BL 1, 2

BL 1: Large, shallow bowls with a gently curved lower body, sharp carination about two thirds of the way up the body, and a slightly concave wall above the carination (Figs. 7–8). Rims are slightly everted or straight in stance and molded. The shape of the base is unknown, as there are no complete profiles. All bowls of this type are red-slipped.

This is a common early Iron Age bowl type in southern Israel, already occurring to some extent in the Iron Age I and certainly in IIA, though parallel examples show more variety in rim and stance than is represented at Khirbet al-Ra'i.

3. Three rims of bowls that were too small to assign to a type or to scan are included, as they are decorated with red slip and hand burnish. They are included here for the purpose of full representation of the decoration on bowls.

4. This excludes one bowl whose decoration is hard to discern on its burnt surface.

Parallels: **Shephelah**: Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: esp. Figs. 16:11, 46:6); Lachish IV (Zimhoni 2004: Figs. 25.26:1, 25.31:4) and fills of IV (Zimhoni 2004: Figs. 25.19:24–25, 27–29, 25.21:15); Tel Batash V (Panitz-Cohen 2006: Pl. 77:8) and IV (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: Pls. 10:4–5, 85:5); Beth-Shemesh 3⁵ (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016: Figs. 9.74:1, 9.82:5, 9.91:1);⁶ Gezer XII–XI (Dever 1986: Pls. 34:6, 41:20–21), X–IX (with an unusual round base: Pl. 42:12); Tel 'Eton Tomb C₃ (Katz and Faust 2014: Fig. 6:6–7); **Philistia**: Ashdod X (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Fig. 1:1–2), X–IX (M. Dothan and Ben-Shlomo 2005: Fig. 3.82:16, 19), and IX (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Fig. 10:8); Tel Migne VB (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Fig. 5.69:11?), IVB (Figs. 5.89:17, 5.91:8), and IVA (Fig. 5.102:8); Tell es-Safi A5–4 (Zukerman 2012: 276–277, Fig. 13.1) and A3 (Shai and Maeir 2012: Fig. 14.4); Tell Qasile XII–X (Mazar 1985: Fig. 34:15); **Negev**: Beer-Sheba VI (Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2016: Figs. 11.6:5, 11.8:11); Tel Masos II (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 160:1, 161:1; II and III have more cyma-shaped examples, e.g., Taf. 133:19, 134:10); Nahal Zin (Cohen and Cohen-Amin 2004: Fig. 51:2);⁷ Horvat Ritma (Meshel 1977: Fig. 6.2); **North**: Hazor X (Ben-Tor et al. 2012: Figs. 2.1:9, 2.6:12–13?); Dan VI (Ilan 1999: Pl. 51:3).

BL 2: Large, shallow red-slipped bowls with a low ring base, upright and gently curved lower body to a carination three quarters of the way up the body, and an inverted, straight upper wall (Fig. 9). The rim is rounded or slightly bulbous toward the exterior. This bowl form appears in the Iron Age I, increasing in quantity in the Iron Age IIA.

Parallels: **Shephelah**: Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: esp. Figs. 16:26, 28:7, 52:2); Khirbet el-'Alya near Khirbet Qeiyafa (Dagan 2010: Fig. 247.3:12), where a similar bowl with a more rounded carination was found in an early Iron Age tomb; Lachish V "Sanctuary" (Y. Aharoni 1975: Pl. 41:4–5); Tel Batash IV (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: Fig. 85:2); Gezer XII–XI (Dever 1986: Pl. 35:13); **Philistia**: Tel Migne VA–IVB (T. Dothan et al. 2016: 137, esp. Figs. 5.79:15–16, 5.91:17); Tell es-Safi A5–4 (Zukerman 2012: Pl. 13.13:7); Tell Qasile XI (Mazar 1985: Figs. 24:3, 28:14); **Negev**: Arad XII (M. Aharoni 1981: Fig. 1:14);

5. Pottery from both the old (Grant and Wright 1938) and the new (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016) excavations is presented here according to the strata numbering system of the new expedition. New excavation Strata 6 and 5 = old excavation Stratum III; new excavation Stratum 4 = old excavation Stratum IIa; new excavation Stratum 3 = old excavation Stratum IIb.

6. The only illustrated example appears in the type plate (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016: Fig. 6.40).

7. It is referred to there as a krater but can just as easily be considered a large bowl.

North: Yoqne'am Pre-XIV (Ben-Tor et al. 2005, Fig. II.7:1), a bowl with handles and Phoenician Bichrome decoration but otherwise very similar in shape; Akhziv eastern cemetery (Dayagi-Mendels 2002: 103, Fig. 4.28:2); Horbat Rosh Zayit III (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Fig. III.I:7?).

BL 3: The incomplete profile of a small, deep bowl or perhaps a cup with a mid-body carination and a plain rim (Fig. 10:1). Parallels for this shape could not be found; it may be a purely local form.

ROUNDED BOWLS: BL 4

BL 4: This type includes one largely complete shallow rounded bowl with a ring base, a small protruding ridge below the rounded rim, and red slip on part of the preserved exterior (Fig. 10:2).

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pls. 12:5, 57:10); **Philistia:** Ashdod X (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Fig. 7:4); Tell-es Safi A5-4 (Zukerman 2012: Pl. 13.7:4); Tell Qasile XII (Mazar 1985: Fig. 12:7).

Fragments of the rim and upper body of two other rounded bowls are also included in BL 4; they likewise have rounded (Fig. 10:3) or thickened and rounded (Fig. 10:4) rims. The ridgeless form of this bowl is known across both the Iron Age I and IIA (Zukerman 2012: 273). One base with red slip and patterned hand burnish on the interior and exterior may belong to a rounded bowl (Fig. 10:5). Another base not sufficiently preserved to indicate to what type of bowl it belongs has red slip on the interior and red slip with hand burnish on the exterior.

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pl. 12:1, 4); Lachish IV (Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25.32:14); **Philistia:** Tell es-Safi A5 (Zukerman 2012: Pl. 13.6:2, 5).

VARIOUS BOWLS

BL varia: Three small bowl rims with handles are preserved, one each of the rounded knob (Fig. 10:6), flat horizontal strap (Fig. 10:7), and elongated knob (Fig. 10:8) types. None of the other types of bowls had handles, and so these fragments indicate the existence of bowls with handles. The former two examples are well known in the early Iron Age (Mazar 2015: 10; Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2015: 215). The latter is vestigial, being fused to the body, and may be related to vestigial Aegean-type handles on Philistine bowls (compare especially one example from Tel Miqne VC (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Fig. 5.59:7).

2. CHALICES

The assemblage includes 13 chalices, divided into four types. The quantitative information on the chalices is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Statistics for the chalices of the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage.

Chalices						
	CH 1	CH 2	CH 3	CH 4	CH (unassigned)	CH All
Complete profile	1	0	2	0	0	3
Part profile	0	1	0	1	0	2
Diagnostic sherds	5	0	2	0	1	8
Total	6	1	4	1	1	13
% CH	46	8	30	8	8	100
Red decoration rim	2	0	2	0	0	4
RS exterior	0	0	0	1	0	1

CHALICES WITH DEEP BOWLS: CH 1, 2

CH 1: This type of chalice has a deep bowl with a rounded lower wall, a low carination, and a straight upper body. The rim is flat and horizontally everted. There are multiple rim sherds that appear to belong to this type but are more elongated than the rim in the complete vessel illustrated (Figs. 11–12:1). Though burnt, the rim of this latter chalice appears to have a red decoration, as does one of the rim sherds. This type of chalice occurs in southern Israel in the early Iron Age, often with variations in the height of the walls and the orientation of the everted rim.

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 29, esp. Pl. 46:12); Beth-Shemesh 6–4 and 3 (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016: Figs. 6.40, 9.91:5–6); Tel 'Eton Tomb C3 (Katz and Faust 2014: Fig. 6:13); **Philistia:** Ashdod X (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Fig. 8:7, 10); Tel Miqne IVB–A (T. Dothan et al. 2016: 146); Tell es-Safi A5–4 (Zukerman 2012: Pls. 13.7:18, 13.16:13); Tell Qasile XI–X (Mazar 1985: Fig. 32:4–5).

CH 2: The bowl of this chalice too is deep but there is a sharp carination above a slightly concave lower wall and a short, straight upper wall curving out to a long, diagonally everted, plain rim (Fig. 12:2). The stem and base are not preserved. Good parallels are few.

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pls. 39:2, 40:14, 70:7, 92:1); Beth-Shemesh III (Grant and Wright 1938: Pl. LXI:45);⁸ Tel

8. A more rounded example comes from the Haverford excavations at Beth-Shemesh but is marked only as "Stratum II" without further qualification (Grant and Wright 1938: Pl. LXIV:34).

‘Eton Tomb C₃ (Katz and Faust 2014: Fig. 6:12); Tell es-Safi A5–4 (Zukerman 2012: Pl. 13.17:24).

CHALICES WITH SHALLOW BOWL: CH 3

CH 3: Shallow chalices with a rounded lower wall below a slight carination and flaring upper walls and an everted rim flattened on the outer edge (Fig. 13:1–2). The rims of the two complete examples have a red decoration. These chalices have a trumpet base with a ridge. Though some broadly similar chalices are known in the early Iron Age, they again vary in form.

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Beth-Shemesh 4 (Grant and Wright 1938: Pl. LXII:50); Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pl. 92:2), where the rim of a deeper carinated chalice is evocative of the rim of this type.

Similar chalice bowls lacking the slight carination and exact rim profile come from Ashdod X (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Fig. 5:1) and X–IX (M. Dothan and Ben-Shlomo 2005: Fig. 3.83:7); Tell Qasile X (Mazar 1985: Fig. 43:22); and Beer-Sheba V (Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2016: Fig. 11.20:4). Somewhat better but still morphologically varying parallels to the bowl and rim profiles are found in Tel Masos I, II, and III (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 131:2, 137:5–6, 139:15, 154:8) and in a late Iron Age IIA context in the Giv’ati Parking Lot excavations in the City of David (Ben-Ami 2013: Fig. 3.2:9–10). Some of the best parallels come from the late Iron Age IIA favissa on the “Temple Hill” at Yavneh (Panitz-Cohen 2015: Figs. 7.3:3, 7.4:2, 7.7:3).

CHALICE WITH ROUNDED BOWL AND KNOB HANDLE: CH 4

CH 4: A chalice with a deep rounded bowl and an everted, elongated, and rounded rim (Fig. 12:3). The stem and base are not preserved. The exterior of the bowl is red-slipped and has a pointed knob handle with small vertical incisions on one side. Comparable examples from other sites are rare and none occur with a handle, so this may be an early but uncommon type. A red-slipped chalice bowl from Beer-Sheba VIII (Brandfon 1984: Fig. 20:5) is quite similar, as are slightly more shallow examples from Tell Qasile X (Mazar 1985: Figs. 40:8, 47:9). At Tell es-Safi, CH 301.3, a single complete bell-shaped chalice with white slip and paint and a more upright rim stance may be related to this type as well, but this is proposed with caution (Zukerman 2012: 281).

3. KRATERS

The assemblage includes 20 kraters, divided into seven types. The quantitative information on the kraters is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Statistics for the kraters of the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage.

	Kraters								
	KR 1	KR 2	KR 3	KR 4	KR 5	KR 6	KR 7	KR (base)	KR All
Complete profile	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	N/A	1
Part profile	1	1	0	1	1	4	2	N/A	10
Diagnostic sherds	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	N/A	4
Total	1	1	1	1	1	8	2	5	20
% KR	5	5	5	5	5	40	10	25	100
RS	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
RSHB	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
% RS	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	20	15
% RSHB	0	0	100	0	0	12	0	20	15

VERY LARGE CARINATED KRATER, KR 1

KR 1: A very large and quite deep krater with a sharp carination high up the body and a hammerhead rim (Fig. 14:1). The lower body tapers in toward the base, which is not preserved. Three handles from the rim to the carination are preserved (there may originally have been four overall). Such large and deep kraters are present but uncommon in the early Iron Age, for example the more barrel-shaped B-XVII of Beer-Sheba VI and V (Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2016: 487–488), but the only good parallels for the particular shape of KR 1 are from Tel Masos Stratum III and House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 132:7, 143:8).

AMPHOROID-TYPE KRATERS: KR 2–3

KR 2–3: These two kraters are discussed together as they both belong to this rather distinct type, the amphoroid krater, which as its name suggests combines aspects of the amphora and krater shapes (Fig. 14:2–3). Both forms have a hammerhead or everted rim, a tall inward slanting neck, handles from rim to shoulder, and a rounded shoulder. The globular body narrows to a base whose diameter is smaller than both the body and the rim. This type of krater comes from the Aegean world of the Late Helladic/Late Minoan period and corresponds to Shapes 52–55 in Furumark's classification (Furumark 1941; Janeway 2017: 62). KR 3 has a low ring base. KR 2 is undecorated, but KR 3 is decorated with red slip and hand burnish, horizontal on the body and vertical on the neck (Fig. 15).

The Aegean amphoroid krater occurs in both LH and LM assemblages, where it is typically painted in fine and elaborate styles, including with chariot scenes

(for LH and LM see respectively Morris 1989; Crouwel and Morris 2015). The amphoroid krater was quite a popular import into Cyprus and the Levant during the Late Bronze Age, so much so that the “Chariot Krater” in particular may have been produced specifically for the active Aegean–Levantine trade at the time. Amphoroid kraters with different decorative schemes have been found throughout the Levant from Tell Atchana/Alalakh to Tell el-Ajjul (Janeway 2017: 62–63, with references; Leonard 1994: 22–33, with references). Indeed, both LH III and LM III amphoroid kraters were found in Level VI at Lachish (Hankey and Hankey 1985), so this shape was known in the neighborhood of Khirbet al-Ra'i in an earlier period.

KR 2 and KR 3 can be understood within the continuing production of the amphoroid krater form into the Iron Age in the eastern Mediterranean, as it was still produced on Cyprus during the Cypro-Geometric period (Lehmann 2013). In his useful survey, Janeway (2017: 64) notes that amphoroid kraters are also still found in the northern Levant in the early Iron Age, for instance in both Iron Age I and II strata and cemeteries at Hama (Periods F and E, Periods I and II respectively),⁹ and at Phoenician sites in Lebanon. One complete, undecorated example from Stratum XIV at Tyre (Bikai 1978: Pl. XLI:7) provides a good parallel to the shape of KR 2 at Khirbet al-Ra'i, though the former is noticeably smaller. Unpainted kraters similar to the example from Tyre also come from a series of tomb groups in the hills east of Tyre (Chapman 1972: Fig. 18:209–211).¹⁰

In Israel, amphoroid kraters continue into the Iron Age I, with examples in Dan V–IV (Ilan 1999: Pls. 14:6, 28:3) and in Megiddo VI (Loud 1948: Pl. 85:5). This shape is represented by KR 1 at Dor, which occurs, apparently always painted, in the Iron Age I levels and disappears thereafter (Gilboa et al. 2018: 109–110, Fig. 20.iv). The shape of one complete example (Pl. 20.21:19)¹¹ already approximates that of KR 3 at Khirbet al-Ra'i, including its low base, a marked change from the piriform vessel shape and high base of imported kraters in the Late Bronze Age.

Moving southward, Janeway notes the absence of amphoroid kraters among the Philistine assemblages of the Iron Age I. Unlike other Aegean krater shapes (i.e. the bell shape), amphoroid kraters were not part of the initial Philistine repertoire (Janeway 2017: 63–64). This shape does not appear until the end of

9. Janeway labels the vessel from Period E at Hama (Fugmann 1958: Fig. 310:7B17) as an amphoroid krater. While its body is biconical, the rim is practically identical to that of KR 4 at Khirbet al-Ra'i.

10. There referred to as amphoras, but as per Janeway they can be considered amphoroid kraters.

11. On the decorative schema see Gilboa 2006–2007.

the Iron Age I. At Ekron IKR 3 appears minimally and only in IVB (T. Dothan et al. 2016: 150, Fig. 4.8),¹² while in Ashdod X two vessels may be considered parallel to KR 3, though with a minimal shoulder. One has a bulbous, grooved rim and a low ring base, and is red-slipped, hand-burnished, and painted with black lines, while the other has an angled-in hammerhead rim and is red-slipped, hand-burnished, and painted with black and white lines (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Fig. 7:13–14). The decoration of the latter is that of “Ashdod Ware.” In the Negev highlands, a red-slipped and painted krater with a high neck from Horvat Haluqim can be associated with this type (Cohen and Cohen-Amin 2004: Fig. 89:9), while perhaps the best parallel to KR 3 at Khirbet al-Ra'i is an unpublished amphoroid krater with red slip and hand burnish from recent excavations at Har Eldad.¹³ The amphoroid krater shape in “Ashdod Ware” continues into the late Iron Age IIA and IIB: a single example of KR5 in Tell es-Safi A3 (Shai and Maeir 2012: 323, Fig. 14.17:8) and a vessel from the Iron Age IIB at Ashdod (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Fig. 14:14).

In summation, KR 2 and KR 3 at Khirbet al-Ra'i belong quite clearly to a phase in the history of the amphoroid krater that postdates its time as an elaborately decorated Aegean import to the Levant during the Late Bronze Age. In the early Iron Age, the amphoroid krater became more localized, with a shorter and more rounded profile and decoration, when present, of painted lines and/or red slip and hand burnish.

KRATERS WITH HAMMERHEAD RIM: KR 4, 5

KR 4: Krater 4 has an inward-sloping, slightly rounded upper wall and a hammerhead rim sloping toward the interior (Fig. 16:1). The few good parallels for this type appear to establish it as an Iron Age IIA krater type: Lachish V (Y. Aharoni 1975: Pl. 41:14) and fills of Lachish IV (Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25.21:11, 19),¹⁴ Beth-Shemesh 3 (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016: Fig. 9.71), and Ashdod VIII (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Fig. 14:12, 16:5). Because of the state of preservation, it is possible but uncertain that KR 4 is paralleled by more complete rounded kraters with hammerhead rims, for example from Ashdod X–IX (M. Dothan and Ben-Shlomo 2005: Fig. 3.70:1, 4).

12. It is there referred to as a jar-krater, but Zukerman and Gitin regard it as related to the amphoroid krater (Dothan et al. 2016: 150 n. 126)

13. Mentioned here with kind permission of the excavators, Tali Erickson-Gini and Saar Ganor.

14. The latter vessel is admittedly much larger but still evocative of KR 4 in shape.

KR 5: This krater has a wide upper body (over 40 cm in diameter) with a rounded carination below a slightly incurving upper wall and a hammerhead rim pinched on the outer edge (Fig. 16:2). Kraters of similar shape and width appear at several sites in the early Iron Age.

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pl. 87:10); Tel Batash IV (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: Pl. 3:10); Gezer X–IX (Dever 1986: Pl. 45:9); **Philistia:** Tell es-Safi A4 (Zukerman 2012: Pl. 13.16:16–17); Tel Miqne IVA (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Fig. 107:8); **Negev:** Beer-Sheba VII (Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2016: Fig. 11.3:7); Tel Masos I (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 139:1?); **Other:** Khirbet ed-Dawwara (Finkelstein 1990: Fig. 14:8). Further, smaller kraters of similar shape (ca. 20–30 cm in diameter) also occur in the early Iron Age and can be considered parallels, such as those from Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pl. 40:10); Lachish, fills of IV (Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25.17:24, 26); Tell es-Safi A4 (Zukerman 2012: Pl. 13.14:15); and Tel Masos II and House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 142:3, 157:2).

OTHER KRATER TYPES: KR 6, 7 AND BASES

KR 6: This type is marked out by its flat-topped, diagonally everted ledge rim. Not enough of the body is preserved to know much about the shape other than its straight, inverted upper wall. One example has a rounded carination located shortly below the rim, and is red-slipped and hand-burnished on the exterior and rim (Fig. 17:1). Some examples had a handle located on the upper part of the body and the rim (Fig. 17:2); a badly burnt rim-handle and base appears to belong to this type and may indicate that these kraters had a low ring base. This type of krater occurs quite frequently during the early Iron Age in the Shephelah and coastal plain and less so in the Negev.

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Khirbet el-Alya (Dagan 2010: Figs. 247.3:18, 247.4:4–5); Lachish, fills of IV (Zimhoni 2004: Figs. 25.18:5, 8, 25.20:4, 5, 25.21:22); Tel Batash V (Panitz-Cohen 2006: 57–60, Fig. 3) and IV (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: 63–64, Fig. 3); Gezer XII–XI, X–IX, and VII (Dever et al. 1970: Pl. 35:10; Gitin 1990: Pls. 6:22–24, 8:18, 11:6; Dever 1986: Pls. 37:2, 39:15, 44:2); **Philistia:** Ashdod XII (M. Dothan 1993: Fig. 33.15) and IX–VIII (M. Dothan and Ben-Shlomo 2005: Fig. 3.89:2); Tel Miqne (IKR₁), occurring from VC to IVA (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Figs. 5.60:2, 5.71:1–2, 5.81:1, 3, 4, 5.93:2–4, 5.107:6); Tell es-Safi A5–4 (Zukerman 2012: Figs. 13.10:19, 13.16:15, 13.17:3); Tell Qasile XI, X, and IX (Mazar 1985: Figs. 24:15–16, 27:7–8, 29:26, 40:4, 53:13–14); **Negev:** Beer-Sheba IX and VIII (Brandfon 1984:

Figs. 17:17, 20:8–9); Tel Masos I and House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 139:3, 147:3);¹⁵ **Other:** one example from an unnamed Negev highland site also provides a parallel (Cohen and Cohen-Amin 2004: Fig. 72:7), and similar but shorter and more horizontal rims appear at 'Izbet Šarṭah III and II (Finkelstein 1986: Figs. 10:1, 14:9); City of David 14 (Ariel 2000: Fig. 15.12).

KR 7: This is a carinated krater marked out by a ridge above the carination and a rounded, slightly out-turned rim (Figs. 17:3–4). One example (Fig. 17:3) indicates that this type has handles from the rim to the carination, and both examples have red slip on the interior surface. From the few parallels found, this seems to be an uncommon early Iron Age IIA type. It is generally parallel to KR5 at Khirbet Qeiyafa, which has smaller handles from the carination to the ridge, but only a few examples have a rim that is at all similar (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 31–32: Pls. 28:9, 57:16). Otherwise reasonable parallels were not found, though a krater among the Iron Age IIA, pre-Phase 6 sherds at Tel Achziv is comparable (Yasur-Landau et al. 2016, Fig. 4.1:6). A related type may be represented by similar kraters with a more upright, thickened rim from Tell Qasile X and the “Cultic Structure” at Taanach, the latter with red slip and burnish on the interior (Mazar 1985: Fig. 47:4; Rast 1978: Fig. 44:1–2). It can also be suggested that this type is related to kraters that are similar in body and rim shape, with red slip but lacking the distinctive ridge, such as those from Tel Batash IV (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: Pl. 11:15) and Tel Migne IVB (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Fig. 5.92:3).

Krater bases: The few ring bases of kraters found were undecorated (Fig. 17:5) or decorated with red slip or red slip and hand burnish on the interior and exterior; not enough of these is preserved to indicate much about the shape of the vessels.

4. COOKING POTS

The assemblage includes three cooking pots, divided into two types. The quantitative information on the cooking pots is presented in Table 5.

15. Two distinctive multi-handled kraters from House 314 (Taf. 150:6–7) are also parallel in the shape of the body and rim.

Table 5. Statistics for the cooking pots and baking tray of the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage.

Cooking pots, baking tray			
	CP	CP	BK
	1	2	
Complete profile	1	0	0
Part profile	0	2	1
Diagnostic sherds	0	0	2
Total	1	2	3

CP 1: This is an unusual cooking pot with a tall neck that slopes down and out to a soft carination above a slightly rounded wall and a rounded but roughly finished base (Figs. 18, 19:1). This form may be Egyptianizing, though it has not been possible to locate parallels from the broad ceramic phase of the late New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period, a phase that is not well known, particularly for cooking pots.¹⁶ In fact, reasonable parallels come only from the Ptolemaic period (Wodzińska 2010: 42).¹⁷ In Israel the only parallel comes from the Nahal Boqer site in the Negev highlands (Cohen and Cohen-Amin 2004: Fig. 86:1). It can be concluded at a minimum, then, that this type of cooking pot was known, if very rarely, in southern Israel during the Iron Age IIA.

CP 2: This form is an open, shallow cooking pot with a sharp carination, an incurving wall, and a slightly everted, vertical rim that is rounded at the top. The bottom exterior of the rim has a slight ridge. One example (Fig. 19:2) indicates that this type has handles from the carination to the rim, and likely has a rounded base. At Khirbet Qeiyafa this type is closest in shape to CP7, specifically to examples with similar rims (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pls. 60:8, 64:1, 79:9?, 87:5), though in all the examples from Khirbet Qeiyafa the diameter of the body is greater than the diameter of the rim, whereas these two measurements are essentially equal in the Khirbet al-Ra'i examples. Vessels similar to the specific forms from Khirbet Qeiyafa appear in the City of David (Ariel 2000: Fig. 13:10, 15 [Str. 15]; 15:17? [Str. 14]) and Beth Zur (Sellers 1968: Fig. 14:16) in the Judean highlands. Aside from one exception with a slightly more pronounced ridge from Lachish IV (Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25:25:12), good parallels are lacking at Shephelah sites. Nevertheless, this

16. The only possible exception being a vessel dated to the time of Seti II or later from Petrie's excavations at Gurob, see Aston 1996: Fig. 1:9

17. The author would like to thank Karin Sowada for providing her Egyptological expertise regarding this vessel.

type may be related to cooking pots with a very similar body shape and a rim that is vertical in stance but triangular in shape, like those from Gezer X–IX (Dever 1986: Pls. 35:15, 41:27, 46:1). On the coastal plain, parallels to the body shape and rim occur in Ashdod XII (M. Dothan and Ben-Shlomo 2005: Fig. 3.30:11) and Tel Miqne VIA (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Fig. 5.43:4), while in the Negev reasonable parallels appear at Tel Masos III, II, I–III, and I–II (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 133:16, 136:13, 138:13, 159:13?) and Tel Esdar II and III (Kochavi 1969: Figs. 5:7, 14:1).

Unlike CP 1, CP 2 belongs to the more standard cooking pot form of the early Iron Age. The straight, upright stance of this rim can be considered a mid-point in the transition from out-turned to in-turned cooking pot rims that took place in the progression from the Iron Age I to IIA. This carinated cooking pot shape with handles and a vertical, straight rim appears towards the end of the Iron Age IB and continues into the earliest phase of the Iron Age IIA, as evinced at Khirbet Qeiyafa (Mazar 2015: 12–13; Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 33). It is notable that in both the Lachish V (CP-4, 6) and Batash IV (CP 15) assemblages, types parallel in shape to the body of CP 2 at Khirbet al-Ra'i already have a much more pronounced ridge or convex interior, while types with a vertical, upright rim and handles (CP-1 at Lachish and CP 20 at Batash) have a rounded wall and a soft carination (Zimhoni 2004: 1682–1683, Fig. 25.8; Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: 81–83, Fig. 5). The significance of the lack of the more common early Iron Age convex, triangular, or flanged rim cooking pots at Khirbet al-Ra'i is unfortunately obscured by the small number of sherds. Nevertheless, the form of CP 2 seems to predate the forms apparent in Lachish V and Timnah IV.

5. BAKING TRAY

BK: The half-complete baking tray has a rounded body and rim and two concentric circles etched into the clay (Fig. 19:4). Puncturations fill the inner circle (Fig. 20). This baking tray is similar to BT2 at Khirbet Qeiyafa, specifically those examples with a rounded rim (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pls. 35:4, 38:8). It is also quite similar to baking trays from 'Izbet Şarṭah III (Finkelstein 1986: Fig. 12:11) and Megiddo VIA (Arie 2013a: Fig. 12.95:2), while examples with straighter walls occur in Tell Qasile VIII (Mazar 1985: Fig. 55:1) and in Phases 6a and 6b in Area G at Dor (Gilboa et al. 2018: Pls. 20.62:1–2, 20.67:15).

6. JUGLETS

The assemblage includes seven juglets, divided into three types. The quantitative information on the kraters is presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Statistics for the juglets of the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage.

	Juglets			
	JT 1	JT 1a	JT 2	JT All
Complete profile	2	1	1	4
Part profile	1	1	0	2
Diagnostic sherds	1	0	0	1
Total	4	2	1	7

DIPPER JUGLETS: JT 1, 1A

JT 1, 1a: JG 1 has a sack-shaped body with a slight carination at the shoulder and a relatively tall, slightly concave neck (Fig. 21:1–4). The rim is externally thickened and a handle connects the rim to the shoulder. Variant 1a has a slightly more cylindrical body and flatter base, and the complete example has a straight, flaring rim. There are no direct parallels from Khirbet Qeiyafa to JT 1a; the closest type there, JT 4, has a globular body and a straight neck (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 44). Elsewhere, juglets with a sack-shaped body typically lack the tall, slightly concave neck and have various rim shapes, such as those from Lachish V and IV (Y. Aharoni 1975: Fig. 42:10; Zimhoni 2004: Figs. 25.15:23, 25.43:22), Beth-Shemesh 3 (Grant and Wright 1938: Pl. LXVI:37), and Ashdod X (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Fig. 3:9). Parallels closer in shape to JT 1a come from Gezer XII–XI (Dever 1986: Pl. 35:8), Tel Mique VIB (Dothan et al. 2016: Fig. 5.29:1), and Tel Masos House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 143:1–2).

In other regions, this type has reasonable parallels in juglets from Megiddo VB and VA–IVB (Arie 2013b: Fig. 13.32:2, 13.43:6?), Horbat Rosh Zayit (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Figs. III.76:14, III.85:6, III.88:12, III.94:15), and Hazor Xb (Ben-Tor et al. 2012: Fig. 5.8:15). JT 1 and 1a at Khirbet al-Ra'i belong to a general form of dipper juglet known throughout the early Iron Age in Israel, with many variations in shape, and some with decoration of red slip and hand burnish. Parallels are found across both the Iron Age I and IIA.

HANDMADE JUGLET: JT 2

JT 2: This vessel is a handmade juglet with a cylindrical body, pinched neck, and

everted rough rim (Fig. 21:5). One handle connects to the body and rises higher than the rim before joining it. This is one of the more unusual vessels at Khirbet al-Ra'i. The ware itself appears to be local, though the shape resembles that of juglets of handmade "Negebite" ware from Ramat Matred (Cohen and Cohen-Amin 2004: Fig. 40:8) and Kadash Barnea (Cohen and Bernick-Greenberg 2007: Pl. 91:15).

7. JUGS

The assemblage includes 31 jugs, divided into eight types. The quantitative information on the jugs is presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Statistics for the jugs of the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage.

	Jugs												
	JG 1	JG 2	JG 3	JG 4	JG 5	JG 6	JG 7	JG 8	JG Var. a	JG Var. b	JG Var. c	JG (base)	JG All
Complete profile	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	N/A	12
Part profile	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	N/A	4
Diagnostic sherds	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	N/A	6
Total	2	4	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	8	31
% JG	6	13	6	6	10	10	6	6	3	3	3	26	100
RS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
RSHB	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1 ¹⁸	1	0	0	1	5
% RS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	3
% RSHB	0	50	0	100	0	0	0	50	100	0	0	13	16

GLOBULAR JUGS: JG 1, 2

JG 1: Jugs with a globular body and a tall, slender neck with a prominent ridge (Fig. 22:1–2). The complete example of this type has a slightly flared rim, while the incomplete example (Fig. 22:2) has a straight, slightly thickened rim. The base of the complete example is a low ring base. The handle is attached at the ridge and the shoulder. Jugs with ridged necks begin to appear in the early Iron Age, specifically within the Phoenician Bichrome repertoire. Neither of the examples from Khirbet al-Ra'i, however, is decorated.

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pls. 63:9,

18. Note that the complete example of JG 8 features only a minimal amount of hand burnish visible on the surface (see below).

86:9); Lachish IV (Zimhoni 2004: Figs. 25.20:21, 25.33:9?); Tel Batash IV (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: Pls. 12:8, 79:4); **Philistia**: Ashdod X and IX (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Figs. 8:4, 11:2 [red-slipped]); Ekron IVB (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Fig. 5.96:14, with red slip and paint); **Negev**: Tel Masos House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 143:4;¹⁹ 153:2); Beer-Sheba VI, V, and IV (undecorated and red-slipped, with shorter necks; Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2016: Figs. 11.5:1, 28:3, 39:2, 47:1, 49:4); Arad XII (M. Aharoni 1981: Fig. 3:3, 6, both red-slipped); **North**: Dor (Gilboa et al. 2018: 127, Pl. 20.xxiii); Tyre X and XII (Bikai 1978: Pls. XXV:7, XXXI:15); Megiddo VB and VA–IVB (Arie 2013b: 700).

JG 2: These jugs are practically identical in shape to JG 1 but lack the ridge on the neck (Fig. 22:3–4). One is decorated with vertical red slip and hand burnish, while the other is undecorated with a higher and narrower base (Fig. 23).

Parallels: Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pl. 8); Tel Mique IVA (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Fig. 5.110:4?); Tell Qasile X (Mazar 1985: Figs. 41:8, 49:5, 7); Horbat Rahba (Cohen and Cohen-Amin 2004: Fig. 5:1); Dor (Gilboa et al. 2018: 128: Pl. 20.xxiii); Megiddo VIA (Harrison 2004: Pls. 15:15, 16:7–10); Tyre XIII-2 (Bikai 1978: Pl. XXXVII:2).

JUGS WITH A TALL, WIDE NECK: JG 3, 4

Jugs 3 and 4 have a slightly piriform body, a tall, wide neck that is either cylindrical or slightly concave, and an externally thickened rim (Figs. 22:5–6, 24:1–2, 25 left side). One jug (Fig. 22:5) has a shallow groove in the rim. The base is a low ring base and the handle runs from the rim to the shoulder. The only difference between JG 3 and JG 4 is that the latter is a smaller version. None of the examples of JG 3 is decorated, while all of the examples of JG 4 are red-slipped and burnished.

JG 3: Parallels: **Shephelah**: This type is not directly paralleled at Khirbet Qeiyafa or in Lachish V–IV, where somewhat similar jugs occur but with a distinctly shorter neck (i.e. Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pl. 21:12, 14; Y. Aharoni 1975: Fig. 42:1; Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25.25:14). A better parallel may be provided at Tel Batash IV (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: 112–113), though no examples are complete enough to judge. Otherwise there are few parallels in the Shephelah; **Philistia**: Ashdod XI (M. Dothan and Ben-Shlomo 2005: Fig. 3.56:2, 3); Tell Qasile XI and X (Mazar 1985: Figs. 30:10, 49:2–3); **Negev**: Tel Masos II and I (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf.

19. Published in Fritz and Kempinski 1983 as a juglet but classified by Mazar (2015: Pl. 1.1.23:13) as a jug.

137:8, 139:8); **North:** Megiddo VIA (Arie 2013a: 504, Fig. 12.13), VB and VA–IVB (Arie 2013b: 697, 700, Fig. 13.14); Horbat Rosh Zayit II (Gal and Alexandre 2000: Fig. III.86:4).

JG 4: Parallels for JG 4 have been selected with consideration to its smaller size, though no complete parallels were found. Like JG 3, this type is not clearly paralleled at Khirbet Qeiyafa. Neck and rim fragments that may belong to jugs similar to this type are found at Lachish in fills of Level IV (Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25.40:13), Beth-Shemesh 6–5 and 3 (Grant and Wright 1938: Pl. LXI:38; Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016: Fig. 9.72:15), Tel Miqne VIB, VIA, VC, and IVB (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Figs. 5.28:5, 5.45:11, 5.62:8, 5.96:4), Beer-Sheba IX (Brandfon 1984: Fig. 19:5), Tel Masos III, II, and House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 137:10?, 135:9, 142:7), and Hazor IX (Ben-Tor et al. 2012: Fig. 2.14:19). The one example of JG 506 in the Iron Age IIB at Tell-es-Safi (Maeir and Shai 2012: Pl. 15.8:13) is a good but incomplete parallel.

NECKLESS JUG: JG 5

JG 5: This type includes two neckless jugs with a round body, gently sloping shoulder, and externally thickened rim (Fig. 24:3–4). Both have a handle from the shoulder to the rim and the complete example has a low ring base.

Parallels: Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 49); Tel Masos House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 141:3, 144:8); Nahal Ela (Cohen and Cohen-Amin 2004: Fig. 64:6); Tel Esdar II (Kochavi 1969: Fig. 5:12?).

Although the incomplete example (Fig. 24:4) is quite badly burnt, its ware contains many inclusions, indicating that it may in fact be a cooking jug. If this is the case, then it is paralleled by similar cooking jugs including CJG1 at Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 50, Pl. 8.9) and an incomplete cooking jug in Lachish V (Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25.15.15).

JUGS WITH A SHORT NECK: JG 6, 7

JG 6: A jug with a rounded body, short, slightly curved neck, and thickened, rounded rim that sits offset from the neck (Fig. 24:5). The base is a low ring base and the handle (not preserved) runs from the shoulder to either the neck or, more likely, the rim. This jug can be compared to a number of jugs from the late Iron Age IB and early Iron Age IIA, though parallels usually have somewhat different rim profiles.

Parallels: Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 49: Pls. 21:8, 48:4,

84:9); Tel Batash IV (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: 109); Tel Migne IV (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Figs. 5.96:1?, 5.110:1?); Tell es-Safi Str. A5 (Zukerman 2012: Pl. 13.6:10); Arad XII (Singer-Avitz 2002: Fig. 3.4, 11); Tel Masos II and I (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 135:10, 139:7); Tel Esdar II and III (Kochavi 1969: Figs. 5.:9, 14:3, 5); 'Izbet Şarṭah I (Finkelstein 1986: Fig. 22:8); Khirbet ed-Dawwara (Finkelstein 1990: Fig. 18:5–6, 8).

JG 7: Jugs with a rounded (Fig. 26:1) or piriform (Fig. 26:2) body, a short, wide neck and an upright, thickened rim. Both jugs have a ring base and a handle from the rim to the shoulder. JG 7 resembles a form of Philistine cooking jug that is characteristic of Tell es-Safi A3 (though known as early as A4) and Ashdod X–IX (Ben-Shlomo et al. 2008: 227–229, Fig. 3; Zukerman 2012: Figs. 13.11:8, 13.18:7–8; M. Dothan and Ben-Shlomo 2005: Pl. 3.85:2–3). JG 7 has not been classified as a cooking jug, however, because the ware of neither example suggests a cooking function. Ben-Shlomo and co-authors note that soot marks, not seen on JG 7 at Khirbet al-Ra'i, are common on cooking jugs and hence that jugs of this form without such marks were not necessarily used for cooking (Ben-Shlomo et al. 2008: 229). Some jugs of this form (with differing rim profiles) that are also classified simply as jugs are known, for example, in Lachish IV (Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25.29:17), Beth-Shemesh 4 and 3 (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016: Figs. 6.74:1; 9.81:8), Tel Batash (JG 11, which occurs throughout the Iron Age II; Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001: 111–112), and Tel Masos House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 152:6).

STRAINER JUG: JG 8

JG 8: A strainer jug with a rounded body, a tall narrow neck, and an upright, thickened and rounded rim (Figs. 26:3, 27). The base is a very low ring base, the handle extends from the rim to the shoulder, and the long semicircular spout extends perpendicular to the handle. This jug is red-slipped, and faint burnish lines appear in some places on the body. This strainer jug belongs to a general form of such jugs with a handle from the rim or neck to the shoulder, in distinction to the other form, which has a basket handle over the mouth (Mazar 2015: 16).²⁰ Strainer jugs in general appear in a wide variety of forms and decorations in Israel

20. The latter is the only form of strainer jug that appears at Khirbet Qeiyafa (JG8, Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 50), also with red slip.

during the Iron Age I and IIA (including with carinated bodies, red slip, burnish, and/or paint).

Strainer jugs with a handle from the rim to the shoulder are known in Philistine assemblages as early as the Philistine 1 or “Monochrome” phase down to the late Iron Age IB/early IIA Stratum A4 at Tell es-Safi (T. Dothan and Zukerman 2015: 76; Zukerman 2012: Pl. 13.15:4). Parallels to JG 8 occur at a number of sites, although no example with a similar handle has as long a spout and surface treatments vary, including Masos II (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 161:9), Tell Qasile X (Mazar 1985: Fig. 50:1), and Beth-Shemesh 4 (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016: Fig. 6.73:7). The decoration of JG 8 is part of the trend of red slip and burnish appearing on both forms of the strainer jug in the late Iron Age IB/early Iron Age IIA; see in particular a red-slipped and burnished example from the early Tomb 521 at Lachish (Stern 2015: Pl. 4.1.21:11; Zimhoni 2004: 1697–1698).

JUGS VARIA

JG varia a: A jug with a rounded body and a narrow, ribbed neck (Fig. 26:4). The jug has a thick, low ring base and a handle that is attached to the shoulder, and is decorated with patchy red slip and hand burnish. No parallels are known.

JG varia b: A rounded jug with a thick ring base (Fig. 26:5). The neck of this vessel is wide where it is attached to the body and a single handle is preserved, though it is possible that this is a two-handled jug or amphora. Based on the preserved elements, a jug from Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pl. 11c:11) is a possible parallel, but if it was a two-handled jug or amphora, then an incomplete vessel from Gezer XII–XI may be a parallel (Dever 1986: Pl. 38:7).

JG varia c: An everted, thickened, and triangular rim of a vessel with a narrow neck (Fig. 26:6). Based on the shape, this may in fact be the rim of a flask. No clear parallels were found, but this rim is generally paralleled by the rim of a flask from Beth-Shemesh 4 (Grant and Wright 1938: Pl. 60:20).

8. STORAGE JARS

This is the most numerous class in this assemblage, in terms of both the number of complete or near-complete vessels and the total number of diagnostic items when rims and bases are included (Table 8). The 72 jars have been differentiated into types based on the rim morphology, with the exception of the single example of SJ 6 (Table 8). The overall shape of the jars otherwise adheres to much the

same formula throughout: a sloping, straight, or somewhat rounded shoulder to a sharp carination and a body tapering in toward the base (Fig. 28). Handles are attached at or just below the carination. Bases are rounded, flat, or have a rounded stump shape, though the latter shape was observed only on sherds of jar bases rather than whole vessels.²¹

Table 8. Statistics for the storage jars of the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage.

Storage jars										
	SJ 1	SJ 2	SJ 2a	SJ 3	SJ 4	SJ 5	SJ 6	SJ 7	SJ 8	SJ All
Complete profile	4	3	2	2	3	1	0	0	0	15
Part profile	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	4
Diagnostic sherds	28	13	0	8	2	0	0	1	1	50
Total	33	16	2	11	6	1	1	1	1	72
% SR	46	22	3	15	8	1	1	1	1	100
SJ (body, unassigned)	SJ (rounded base)			SJ (flat base)		SJ (rounded stump base)				
1	12			20		3				

The Khirbet al-Ra'i storage jars are of a typical early Iron Age form that is well represented among the numerous storage jars at Khirbet Qeiyafa. Missing at Khirbet al-Ra'i, however, are the jars with a bullet-shaped body (JR₂) and the type of rim defined as "spade-shaped" from Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 52–53). The general form of the storage jars from both Khirbet Qeiyafa and Khirbet al-Ra'i is not paralleled in Lachish V–IV (see Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25.10).

SJ 1: These jars have an upright neck and a straight rim that is rounded at the top (Figs. 29–30).

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pls. 49:4–5, 69:13, 75:13, 86:16, 20, 102:1–2); Beth-Shemesh 4 (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016: Fig. 6.74:3–4); **Philistia:** Tel Migne VA and IVA (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Figs. 5.82:3–5, 5.109:7); Tell Qasile X (Mazar 1985: Fig. 48:1, 11); **Negev:** Beer-Sheba IX (Brandfon 1984: Fig. 19:1); Tel Masos House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 151:10–11); Horvat Rahba (Cohen and Cohen-Amin 2004: Fig. 5:6); Tel Esdar III (Kochavi 1969: Fig. 13:2, 5, 7); **North:** Dor (Gilboa et al. 2018: Pl. 20.23:1); Megiddo

21. The latter base shape seems to be a late form of the stump or button base common in Late Bronze Age jars (Mullins and Yannai 2019: 161–162).

(Arie 2013a: Fig. 12.83:7; 2013b: Fig. 13.45:10); Tell Keisan (Briend and Humbert 1980: Pl. 59:3, 5).

SJ 2, 2a: SJ 2 has an upright neck and an externally thickened rim (Figs. 31–32). One such jar (Fig. 31:1) is noticeably smaller than all other jars. Two jars are classified as type SJ 2a on account of their shorter necks and more prominently thickened rims (Fig. 32).

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pls. 38:12?, 42:27?, 44:17?); Gezer X–IX and VIII (Gitin 1990: Pls. 5:1–3, 7:1); **Philistia:** Tel Migne IVB (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Fig. 5.95:17); **Negev:** Tel Masos III, II, and I (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 131:12, 135:14, 158:14); Tel Esdar III (Kochavi 1969: Fig. 13:1); **Other:** Tell Keisan 9 (Briend and Humbert 1980: Pls. 59:1, 60:1); 'Izbet Şarṭah III (Finkelstein 1986: Fig. 10:10).

For SJ 2a more specifically, jars with the same body and rim form can be cited from Tell Qasile X (Mazar 1985: Fig. 48:10), Beer-Sheba IX (Brandfon 1984: Fig. 19:3), and Tel Esdar III (Kochavi 1969: Fig. 13:6).

SJ 3: This type is marked out by its distinctive tall, upright neck and rim that is externally thickened, rounded on top and shaped to a point on the outer edge (Fig. 33:1–3).

Parallels: **Shephelah:** Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pls. 34:2, 38:15–16, 74:6, 81:6, 86:19); **Philistia:** Tel Migne VIB, IVB, and IVA (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Figs. 5.27:3, 5.95:7, 5.109:3); **Negev:** Mezudat Nahal Sirpad (Cohen and Cohen-Amin 2004: Fig. 58:23).

SJ 4: Jars with an upright neck and a rim that is thickened toward the interior (Figs. 34–35). As with SJ 3 above, only a few of the preserved necks and rims of jars from Khirbet Qeiyafa can be cited as parallels for this type (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pls. 29:15, 36:7, 74:4, 87:13, 92:14). Similar rims and necks, but not complete jars, can be cited as parallels from Ashdod X (M. Dothan and Porath 1982: Fig. 3:17; M. Dothan and Ben-Shlomo 2005: Fig. 3.71:1), Tell Qasile XI (Mazar 1985: Fig. 23:23), and 'Izbet Şarṭah I (Finkelstein 1986: Fig. 20:10).

SJ 5: This jar has a slightly lower shoulder and larger handles than other jar types (Fig. 36:1). It has a very short neck and a bulbous, slightly molded rim. A very similar jar was found in Tell Qasile X (Mazar 1985: Fig. 48:4), while the upper bodies and rims of similar jars were also found in 'Izbet Şarṭah I (Finkelstein 1986: Figs. 21:4, 22:12). This type is likely related to jars with a similar overall form but with an externally thickened rather than bulbous rim, such as those

from Beer-Sheba VI (Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2016: Fig. 11.6:14), Tel Esdar III (Kochavi 1969: Fig. 13:3), and Yoqne'am XVII (Ben-Tor et al. 2005: Fig. I.10:5).

SJ 6: This jar is distinct from all other jar types in the assemblage in having a higher rounded shoulder, a soft carination, and a body that widens below the handles (Fig. 36:2). The rim is rounded and slightly everted with a shallow groove, and large handles are attached below the carination. The lower body and base are not preserved. The form of this jar appears to be generally Egyptianizing, and can be considered as belonging to the ovoid Egyptian amphora form of the late New Kingdom–early Third Intermediate Period known in Israel during the early Iron Age, well exemplified by complete Iron Age I examples from Dor (Ben-Dor Evian 2011: 107, Fig. 6:1–2). Those particular jars differ from SJ 6 in their high neck, but jar rims closer in shape to that of SJ 6 were also found in early Iron Age contexts at Dor (Waiman-Barak et al. 2014: Pls. 1:8, 9:20?).²²

SJ 7: This short neck and plain rim (Fig. 36:3) appears to belong to the “pre-LMLK” jar type (see Shai and Maeir 2003). This type has been shown to extend as far back as the beginning of the Iron Age IIA in the form of JR4 at Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 54, esp. Pls. 24:9, 89:12). Though the neck of this type is typically taller at other sites, parallels to SJ 7 can be seen on complete jars from Tel Masos House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 148:7, “pre-LMLK” type?) and Beth-Shemesh 3 (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016: Fig. 9.71, SJ-lmlk like, jar on right).

SJ 8: This incomplete jar is marked out by its slightly bulging neck and inverted rim (Fig. 36:4). A similar shape is seen on some jar rims from Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pls. 29:15, 35:11, 38:12, 44:15, 55:5, 56:6, 74:4), Masos II (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 135:12), Ashdod XI (M. Dothan and Ben-Shlomo 2005: Fig. 3.59.1?), and Tell Qasile XI (Mazar 1985: Fig. 23:23).

Two special features were observed on jar handles from the site: finger impressions and horizontal incisions. The finger impressions are usually located on the upper part of the handle (Fig. 37). These impressed handles are very common in the pottery assemblage of Khirbet Qeiyafa, where 693 examples were counted (Kang and Garfinkel 2015; 2018: 79–84), and hence we nicknamed them “Qeiyafa handles.” Finger-impressed jar handles are also reported from the contemporary

22. For further discussions of typological comparisons with Egypt see Ben-Dor Evian 2011 and Waiman-Barak et al. 2014.

Stratum 4 at Beth-Shemesh (Bunimovitz et al. 2019), at Tel Moza, where they were defined as “smooth seal impressions” (Greenhut and De Groot 2009: 136–137, Nos. 55–56), and in the Ophel excavations in Jerusalem (E. Mazar 2011: 132, Nos. 26–27). The marking of jar handles was a well-known administrative practice in the Kingdom of Judah that extended into the Persian and Hellenistic periods (Kang and Garfinkel 2015). A relatively small number of such handles was found at Khirbet al- Ra’i; among the 6931 handles uncovered so far at the site, 64 “Qeiyafa handles” were counted. Only five of these were found in clean Iron Age IIA contexts.

The second special feature of handles is a horizontal incision, or sometimes two, on the handle’s lower part (Fig. 38). Since this is a less visible location, the incisions were probably not intended to mark the jar per se but reflect a technological aspect of the manufacturing process. We suggest that after attaching the handle to the body of the jar the potter strengthened the attachment by pressing a thin device into the lower part of the handle. We nicknamed this type of handle the “al-Ra’i handle.” Among 6931 handles uncovered so far at the site we counted 99 such handles, 13 of them in clean Iron Age IIA contexts.

9. PITHOI

The assemblage includes five complete pithoi, divided into three types. The quantitative information on the pithoi is presented in Table 9.

Table 9. Statistics for the pithoi of the Khirbet al-Ra’i assemblage.

	Pithoi			
	PT 1	PT 1a	PT 2	PT All
Complete profile	3	0	0	3
Part profile	0	1	1	2
Diagnostic sherds	5	0	0	5
Total	8	1	1	10

PT 1, 1a: These pithoi have a sloping shoulder to a carination, with walls that taper in towards a somewhat pointed or flattened base (Figs. 39, 40, 41:1–2). One (Fig. 40:1) has a more cylindrical body. Handles are attached below the carination. These pithoi have a very short neck and each has a somewhat different rim profile, though all are slanted inward and externally thickened and shaped into a ridge. PT 1a, preserved only from rim to shoulder, is distinguished both by the lack of a neck and by its inverted, rolled-out rim.

Parallels: Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: Pl. 38:17); Tel Miqne IVB (T. Dothan et al. 2016: Fig. 5.95:13–14); Tell es-Safi A5–4 (Zukerman 2012: Pls. 13.8:10, 13.13:9); City of David 15–14 (De Groot and Bernick-Greenberg 2012: Fig. 5.19:15); Khirbet ed-Dawwara (Finkelstein 1990, Fig. 16:7–8).

PT 1 and the parallels just cited can clearly be distinguished from pithoi dating from later in the Iron Age IIA, which are neckless and essentially hole-mouthed, for example those from Lachish IV and Beer-Sheba V–IV (Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25.23:21; Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2016: 497 [SJ-XII]).

PT 2: A neckless pithos with a sloping shoulder and a thickened rim with a ridge below. The body is not preserved (Fig. 41:3).

Parallels: Tell es-Safi A5–4 (Zukerman 2012: Pl. 13.19:17); Tel Masos II, I, and House 314 (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 137:13, 151:8, 158:3, 160:13). Since the shapes of the rims in these parallels vary from each other and from PT 2, their relationship is not clear.

10. PYXIS

PX: One fragmentary pyxis was found (Table 10, Fig. 21:6). Its body is tall with a double carination, a sloping shoulder and wall, and a ring base. The handles are of a debased Aegean type, indented rather than pierced-through. The rim is not preserved. The vessel is covered in a brown-red, hand-burnished slip that has worn off in many places. Pyxides are well known in the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I and become rare after the beginning of the Iron Age II (Mazar 2015: 17). This is another vessel type that varies in shape quite markedly between different sites.

The Khirbet al-Ra'i pyxis differs from those at Khirbet Qeiyafa, which have a more biconical shape and usually have "Ashdod Ware" decoration (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 51), even though it may be a related type. Except for its rounded base, a decorated pyxis from Beth-Shemesh III (Level 6–5 in Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016) (Grant and Wright 1938: Pl. LIX:21) is a good parallel. Parallels also appear at Tel Miqne VB and IVA (T. Dothan et al. 2016: 178); Tell Qasile XI (Mazar 1985: Fig. 30:20) and X (Fig. 42:17);²³ Beer-Sheba VIII (Brandfon 1984: Fig. 20:16); and Tel Masos III (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 132:6).

23. Cf. the drawing of the same vessel in Mazar 2015: Pl. 1.1.25:6

Table 10. Statistics for the pyxis, lamp, and stand of the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage.

Pyxis, Lamp, Stand			
	Pyxis (PX)	Lamp (LP)	Stand (ST)
Complete profile	0	0	0
Part profile	1	1	2
Diagnostic sherds	0	1	0
RSHB	1	0	0
Total	1	2	2

11. LAMP

LP: Only part of the bowl and rim of one lamp was preserved well enough for analysis (Table 10, Fig. 21:7). Part of one spout was also found. The preserved lamp has a rounded bowl and elongated, diagonally everted plain rim. The rim of the lamp is quite distinctive but otherwise belongs to a general Iron Age IIA form.

Parallels: Khirbet Qeiyafa IV (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 37, Pl. 20:12); Lachish IV (Zimhoni 2004: Fig. 25.33:15); Beth-Shemesh 3 (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016: Fig. 9.81:5–6); Tell es-Safi A3 (Shai and Maeir 2012: Pl. 14.18:4); Tell Qasile XI and X (Mazar 1985: Figs. 20:15, 36:7); Beer-Sheba VI and V (Herzog and Singer-Avitz 2016: Figs. 11.9:13, 11.23:11); Arad XII (M. Aharoni 1981: Fig. 5:12).

12. STAND

ST: Two sherds of either the base or the top of a stand were found (Table 10, Fig. 21:8–9). Both are practically identical, with two ridges below the rim(?). The two sherds likely came from the same vessel. At the point where they are broken, the beginnings of fenestrations can be seen. Ceramic stands, often discussed as “cult stands,” are quite varied in their shape and details during the early Iron Age (Gilmour 1995: 226–236), and so few other vessels can be cited as parallels. Generally, cylindrical fenestrated stands have been found at a number of sites in the Iron Age, including part of one at Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 40–42; see there for references) and two complete stands from the Stratum V “Sanctuary” at Lachish (Y. Aharoni 1975: Pl. 43:3, 5). The most direct parallel, though, comes from what appears to be the top or base of a stand from Tel Masos II, which has two ridges on the upper body and the beginning of a fenestration (Fritz and Kempinski 1983: Taf. 140:8). The base of a cylindrical fenestrated stand from the Stratum X temple at Tell Qasile is also somewhat similar

(Mazar 1980: Fig. 23), as are the base and top of two stands from the Iron Age IB “Southern Temple” at Beth-Shean (Mullins 2012: Fig. 17:1, 3).

3. The Assemblage in its Regional Context

The first factor that must be taken into account when considering the regionality of the Iron Age IIA assemblage at Khirbet al-Ra'i is the site's geographical location (Table 11). It is located at the nexus of the northern Negev, the eastern coastal/Philistine plain, and the far western edge of the Judean Shephelah. The site sits astride one of the main east-west routes linking the coastal plain with the Shephelah and the Judean highlands via Nahal Lachish. It is also located near a north-south route connecting the Beersheba basin and western Negev with Gath and then Ekron (Dorsey 1991: 68–69, Map 1). Khirbet al-Ra'i is ideally situated for broad regional contacts, something that is clearly expressed in the early Iron Age IIA ceramic assemblage. Connections with the coastal plain, Shephelah, Judean highlands, and Negev are evident. The strongest connection is with the Shephelah, primarily on the basis of the many typological parallels with the Iron Age IIA assemblage at Khirbet Qeiyafa. Typological connections with Lachish, Tel Batash, Beth-Shemesh, and Gezer are fewer, though for these sites the numbers of complete vessels and the amount of pottery published should be kept in mind, as should the relative chronology of relevant strata vis-à-vis Khirbet al-Ra'i and Khirbet Qeiyafa, a point addressed below.

Table 11. The occupational sequence at Khirbet al-Ra'i, Khirbet Qeiyafa, and Tel Lachish. Empty cells represent a gap in occupation.

Date/Period	Lachish	al-Ra'i	Qeiyafa
Persian-Hellenistic	I	IV	III
Iron Age IIC (up to 586 BCE)	II	V	Area W
Iron Age IIB (up to 701 BCE)	III	VI	
Iron Age IIA (late)	IV		
Iron Age IIA (middle)	V		
Iron Age IIA (early)		VII	IV
11th century BCE		VIII	
12th century BCE (late)		IX	
12th century BCE (early)	VI		
13th century BCE	VII	X	

While the highest number of parallels is found in the early Iron Age IIA assemblage at Khirbet Qeiyafa, there are some interesting divergences from this

assemblage. In particular, “Ashdod Ware,” which is well known at Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2009; 2018: 57–65), is lacking at Khirbet al-Ra'i. Some types of kraters (KR 1, 2, 4), cooking pots (CP 1), and jugs (JG 7, 8) occur at Khirbet al-Ra'i but are not known at Khirbet Qeiyafa.

Typological connections with Philistine assemblages are also numerous. Those of Tel Mique/Ekron can be highlighted, but parallels are also known from Ashdod, Tell es-Safi/Gath, and the more distant Tell Qasile. As with the case of Khirbet Qeiyafa just noted, the predominance of parallels from Tel Mique over those from Ashdod and Tell es-Safi may again be a product of the amount and completeness of published pottery. This connection with the coastal plain presumably lies behind the presence of types that point toward the Philistine and Phoenician ceramic cultures, specifically the amphoroid kraters (KR 2, 4) and JG 1. When considering these links with the coastal plain it is interesting that, as noted above, no Late Philistine Decorated Ware was found at Khirbet al-Ra'i.

Finally, typological connections with the Negev are also quite well represented, with Tel Masos providing a high number of parallels, alongside parallels from the Iron Age I–early IIA strata at Beer-Sheba (IX–VI). While some parallels are known from Negev highland sites, parallels from Arad are few. The most interesting cases of connection are certainly KR 1 and CP 1, as these two types are paralleled only in limited instances in Negev sites.

A few parallels come from sites in the central hill country, but as early Iron Age assemblages, and especially whole vessels, are not well known from that region, the connections between sites there and Khirbet al-Ra'i must await further data. Nevertheless, the number of pithoi in the Iron Age IIA assemblage of Khirbet al-Ra'i suggests connections with the hill country, where this class of vessel was in much more extensive use than in Philistia.

Overall, the similarity to assemblages from the Negev and the Shephelah point to a generally Judahite character for the assemblage, supplemented by several connections with the coast and with Philistine or Phoenician assemblages. Parallels from assemblages further north are present but more scattered, in keeping with the strong regionalism of early Iron Age ceramic assemblages.

4. Relative and Absolute Chronology

The first task of this section is to establish the relative position of this assemblage within the Iron Age IIA in southern Israel, before commenting on its absolute dating. This task is aided by the useful seriation of Iron Age IIA assemblages from

this part of the country into three different phases, as summarized in Table 12 (Garfinkel 2011; Katz and Faust 2014; Garfinkel et al. 2016, Table 8). The Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage should be placed in the earliest relative phase within this schema.

Table 12. The Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage within the phasing of the Iron Age IIA in southern Israel (based on Garfinkel 2011; Katz and Faust 2014; Garfinkel et al. 2016, Table 8; Garfinkel et al. 2019a).

Phase	Absolute Date	Sites and Strata
Beginning of phase: ca. 1000 BCE		
Early Iron Age IIA	Infrequent red slip and irregular hand burnish; archaic (Canaanite) script; import of Cypriot White Painted vessels; early Ashdod Ware	Khirbet Qeiyafa, Khirbet al-Ra'i , Beth-Shemesh 4, Gezer X-IX(?), Tell es-Safi A4, Ashdod X(?) Tel Miqne IV(A), Tel Masos II(?), Arad XII, Beersheba VII
End of phase: ca. 930 BCE (ca. 980 at Khirbet Qeiyafa and Khirbet al-Ra'i)		
Middle Iron Age IIA	Irregular hand burnish on bowls, sometimes in geometric patterns; early Phoenician-Hebrew script; import of Cypriot Black-on-Red vessels	Lachish V (+Tomb 521), Timna IV, Beth-Shemesh 3, Gezer VIII, Beersheba VI, Arad XI, Negev highlands sites
End of phase: ca. 850 BCE		
Late Iron Age IIA	Very common red slip and irregular hand burnish; late Ashdod Ware	Lachish IV, Tel 'Eton Tomb C3, Gezer VII(?), Tell es-Safi A3, Beersheba V-IV, Arad X(?)
End of phase: ca. 830 for Tell es-Safi A3, perhaps later at other sites		

This relative dating has been established on the basis of comparisons between the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage and those of other sites in terms of both typology and the statistics for decoration of red slip and hand burnish. The analysis conducted here has shown that the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage is very comparable to that of Khirbet Qeiyafa, which may be considered the "type-site" for the earliest phase of the Iron Age IIA. The relative dating of the assemblage to this phase is backed up by typological connections with other early assemblages, particularly those of Tel Miqne/Ekron IV and Tel Masos II.

Here the proximity of Khirbet al-Ra'i to Lachish is very useful. Khirbet al-Ra'i's assemblage is clearly distinguished from, and earlier than, that of Lachish V-IV, with which it shares limited typological parallels. Indeed, the parallels cited

above indicate that in several aspects the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage continues the traditions of the Iron Age I as much as it prefigures the Iron Age IIA.²⁴

This transitional status is further borne out when red slip and hand burnish are considered. It should be noted that the significance of the statistics for the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage is somewhat limited in this regard, because the assemblage is quite different in makeup from classic Iron Age IIA assemblages like Lachish V and IV or Tel Batash IV. These assemblages are typically much larger in terms of the number of examples of any one particular vessel type, and have a much larger quantity of diagnostic sherds compared to complete or restorable vessels. At the same time, the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage is similar to that of Khirbet Qeiyafa in that it is characterized by a much larger share of complete or restorable vessels, even though the assemblage from Qeiyafa is much larger.

That said, some relevant observations can be made. It is notable that among the bowls, red slip alone is much more prominent than red slip with hand burnish, which occurs on only two bases. At Lachish, Zimhoni recorded that in Level V, 66% of bowls are red-slipped and 74% of bowls are hand-burnished, with both numbers declining somewhat in Level IV (Zimhoni 2004: 1675–1678). The predominance of red slip and hand burnish is also evident in the (as yet unpublished) pottery from Levels V and IV of the recent excavations at Lachish (Sang-Yuep Chang, personal communication). At Khirbet Qeiyafa, by contrast, at most 11.26% of bowls have red slip and only 3.46% have hand burnish (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 87, Table 6). A notable aspect of the bowl assemblages of Lachish V and IV is the appearance of a patterned hand burnish on red slip (Zimhoni 2004: 1675), a fact noted in nearby Tel Zayit local Layer III as well (Tappy et al. 2006: Fig. 4:7, 10). This decoration occurs only in single examples at Khirbet Qeiyafa (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 86) and Khirbet al-Ra'i. Further, at Khirbet Qeiyafa the amount of red slip on kraters is miniscule, and hand burnish is completely absent. At Khirbet al-Ra'i, red slip with or without hand burnish appears on only a limited number of vessels or

24. It should be acknowledged that a debate has taken place over how to characterize the Khirbet Qeiyafa assemblage, as L. Singer-Avitz has argued, against the opinion of the excavators, to date it to the late Iron Age IB (Singer-Avitz 2010; 2012; 2016; Garfinkel and Kang 2011; Kang 2015). However, Singer-Avitz presents no objective argument for dating this assemblage to the Iron Age I, highlighting the lack of well-defined and established criteria for distinguishing the late Iron Age IB from the early Iron Age IIA. The fact that no Philistine 2 pottery or collared-rim jars appears at Khirbet Qeiyafa is as strong a reason as any to place this assemblage in the Iron Age IIA (Katz and Faust 2014: 114–115). Khirbet al-Ra'i has an advantage that Khirbet Qeiyafa lacks in that it has stratified remains clearly belonging to the late Iron Age IB and preceding the Iron Age IIA stratum, including Philistine 3 or “debased” pottery.

sherds; the large majority of kraters are still undecorated, and red slip and hand burnish is limited among the jugs as well. The assemblages of Khirbet Qeiyafa and Khirbet al-Ra'i show that red slip and hand burnish decoration, which had begun to appear during the Iron Age I, had not yet become popular at the very beginning of the Iron Age IIA (Kang and Garfinkel 2018: 87–89).

Two groups of decorated juglets are relevant to the discussion. At Khirbet Qeiyafa three black juglets, imported to the site from Transjordan, were found (Cohen-Weinberger and Panitz-Cohen 2014), as well as two barrel-shaped juglets of Cypriot Black-on-White ware (Gilboa 2012; Gilboa and Waiman-Barak 2014). These vessels characterize the Iron Age IIA, and have not been reported from late Iron Age I sites. It should be noted that Cypriot vessels of the Black-on-Red family, which is characteristic of the late 10th and 9th centuries BCE (Schreiber 2003; Kleiman et al. 2019), were not found at Khirbet Qeiyafa.

In terms of absolute chronology, ^{14}C dates derived from short-lived samples in Area B indicate that the Khirbet al-Ra'i assemblage fits firmly within the earliest phase of the Iron Age IIA, in the early decades of the 10th century BCE (and potentially starting at the end of the 11th century at the earliest) (Garfinkel et al. 2019b). These dates match those established for Khirbet Qeiyafa based on ^{14}C samples run from that site (Garfinkel et al. 2012; 2015). The study by Garfinkel et al. (2019a) built a Bayesian model that included short-lived samples from good contexts from Lachish V and IV, along with samples from Khirbet Qeiyafa and from both the late Iron Age IB and Iron Age IIA occupations at Khirbet al-Ra'i. This model strongly backs up the proposed phasing of the Iron Age IIA, including the absolute dates (Table 12). While a decade ago the early 10th century BCE was poorly known, today we have well-documented pottery assemblages from Khirbet Qeiyafa and Khirbet al-Ra'i, both filling the gap in our knowledge.

5. Appendix: Comments on the “Origin” of Red Slip and Hand Burnish Decoration (Zachary Thomas)

Research on the Iron Age IIA ceramics from Khirbet al-Ra'i has prompted a new consideration of the early history of red slip and hand burnish decoration on pottery in the Land of Israel, specifically in the region of the Judean Shephelah, the coastal plain (Philistia and the Sharon), and the northern Negev. Southern Israel saw the most active use of these decoration techniques in the Iron Age I and the beginning of the Iron Age IIA, and may have been the point from which their popularity spread to other regions of the country, particularly the north, during

the 10th and 9th centuries BCE. With regard to the origin of these techniques, the most pertinent discussion has been concerned with the class of pottery known as “Ashdod Ware,” more recently rechristened “Late Philistine Decorated Ware” (Ben-Shlomo et al. 2004, with references), which typically features (usually vertically) burnished red slip with black and white painted lines.²⁵

Establishing the origin or inspiration of Ashdod Ware decoration does not necessarily indicate the same for red slip and hand burnish decoration on non-Ashdod ware vessels in the early Iron Age, but it would seem to be key for two reasons. First, though red slip and hand burnish are widely understood to be characteristic of the Iron Age IIA, they are actually not very common in its earliest stage (as in the late Iron Age I), except in the case of Ashdod Ware, as attested clearly at Khirbet Qeiyafa. Second, and with the first reason in mind, it seems incongruous that the origin or inspiration for Ashdod Ware and other red-slipped and burnished pottery should be unrelated.

Faust has recently recapitulated the view, expressed previously by others, that the characteristics of Ashdod Ware decoration derive from the Phoenician ceramic tradition, and more specifically from the pottery known as either “Cypro-Phoenician” or “Black-on-Red” (Faust 2015, with earlier references).²⁶ In defining Late Philistine Decorated Ware, Ben Shlomo et al. (2004; Ben-Shlomo 2006) had also accepted this as a possibility but noted a few problems, including whether red slip and hand burnish were actually commonly used by Phoenician potters, whether they clearly appear in Phoenician assemblages before they appear in Philistine ones, and whether the dense, fine burnish and precisely painted black lines of Black-on-Red make it very comparable to the execution of the Late Philistine decoration. There is no more that can really be added on this last problem, but the others can be briefly examined, as can another one not discussed by either Faust or Ben-Shlomo et al.; that is, the chronology of the appearance of Black-on-Red in the Levant, especially in relation to the appearance of Ashdod Ware.

To take the first point, it does not in fact appear that red slip or hand burnish

25. Here the author agrees with Faust (2015: 170, n. 3) that the name “Late Philistine Decorated Ware” is misleading, as there is nothing particularly Philistine about this pottery, especially when contrasted to previous stages in Philistine ceramics. Hence the term “Ashdod Ware” has been preferred in this article.

26. Of these two common terms, “Black-on-Red” has often been preferred over “Cypro-Phoenician,” with its ethnic connotations. Here it is treated within Phoenician pottery only because, *Pace* Faust (2015: 183, n. 16), it was likely transported by Phoenicians from Cyprus to the Levantine mainland.

were very popular in the Phoenician ceramic tradition of the early Iron Age, at least as far as can be seen from the few stratified Phoenician assemblages from this period, from Tyre down to Dor and sites in between. In Early Iron Age strata at both of these sites, red slip and hand burnish were very rare overall, causing A. Gilboa to remark that “contrary perhaps to prevalent notions, red slip in Phoenicia is of little consequence during most of the duration of Ir2a and becomes important only afterwards, significantly later than in Philistia, for example” (Gilboa et al. 2018: 161, with references).

Gilboa’s observation leads into the second point, for it is clear that at least in parts of Philistia red slip and hand burnish had already become prominent during the Iron Age I. This was first demonstrated clearly by Mazar from his excavations at Tell Qasile, where red slip occurs on 7.9% of vessels already in Stratum XII before rising to 23.7% in Stratum XI and 24.4% in Stratum X, while a small amount of hand burnish occurs already in Stratum XI before becoming more common in Stratum X (Mazar 1985: 83, 1998). Although Tell Qasile has long been seen as unusual in this regard, a similar emergence of red slip accompanied by a small amount of hand burnish is also now seen at Tel Migne/Ekron across the phases of Stratum V and into Stratum IV. And yet, in both of these strata Phoenician and even Cypriot influences are quite uncommon (Dothan et al. 2016: 431–436). Certainly, it is evident from the undecorated JG 1 at Khirbet al-Ra’i and Phoenician Bichrome vessels found at other sites that red slip and hand burnish were far from being the standard decorative modes on vessels exported out of the Phoenician littoral.

It remains only to comment on the chronology of the appearance of Black-on-Red. The chronology of Black-on-Red on Cyprus and in the Levant are both complex issues, only the latter of which is of concern here (Schreiber 2003; cf. Iacovou 2004; Kleiman et al. 2019). Of central significance are the facts that Ashdod Ware certainly already occurs in the earliest phase of the Iron Age IIA and even the end of the Iron Age I, while there is no secure evidence that Black-on-Red appeared as early as this in southern Israel. Examples of Black-on-Red that have been claimed to date as early as the 11th century come from dubious or unclear contexts from older excavations (Schreiber 2003: 5–8), while Black-on-Red fragments found in Field IV Lower at Tel Migne come only from unstratified post-Stratum IV contexts (T. Dothan et al. 2016: 435). The only possible indications that Black-on-Red appears in the Levant as early as the start of the Iron Age IIA come from Megiddo and Tel Rehov, in Strata VB and VI at those sites respectively, but in both cases either there are stratigraphic problems or the amount of Black-on-Red excavated

is quite minimal (Arie 2013b: 736; Kleiman et al. 2019; Smith forthcoming). Either way, these sites are outside the core territory for the production and distribution of Ashdod Ware.

In the author's view, then, none of the arguments that have been advanced (especially in the case of Ashdod Ware) for a Phoenician influence or origin for the use of both red slip and hand burnish in southern Israel, and therefore for other parts of the southern Levant, stands up to scrutiny.

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Fig. 7. A group of bowls (photograph by Tal Rogovski).

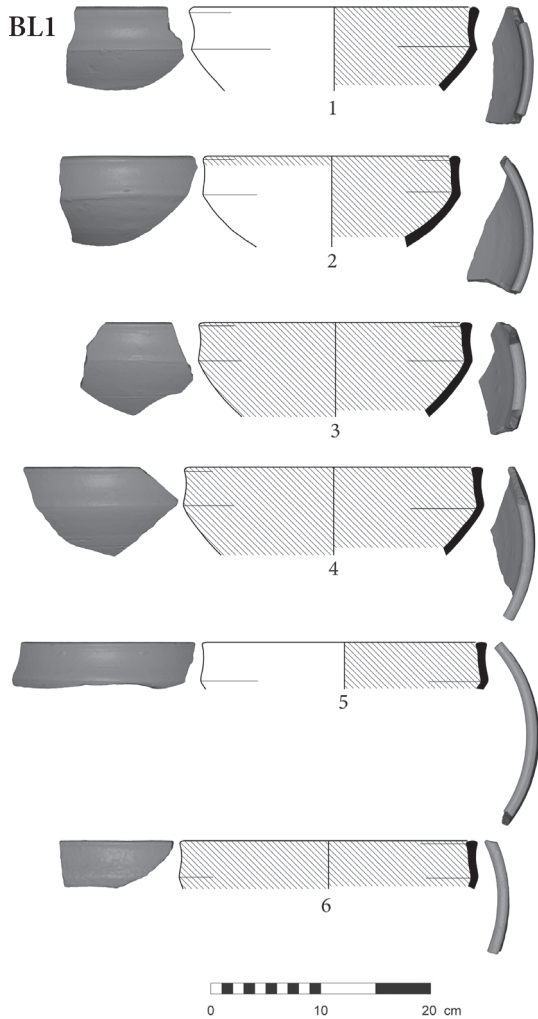


Fig. 8. Bowls of Type 1.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-26-2016-L322-B3035	B322	Orange-red ware, red slip interior
2	G-31-2017-L378-B3319	B378	Brown-gray ware, red slip top of exterior and all of interior
3	G-90-2015-L250-B2100	B250	Orange-gray ware, red slip interior and exterior
4	G-90-2015-L251-B2102	B251	Orange-gray ware, red slip interior and exterior
5	G-90-2015-L254-B2119-01	B254	Orange-brown ware, red slip interior
6	G-26-2016-L331-3079	B331	Orange-brown ware, red slip interior and exterior

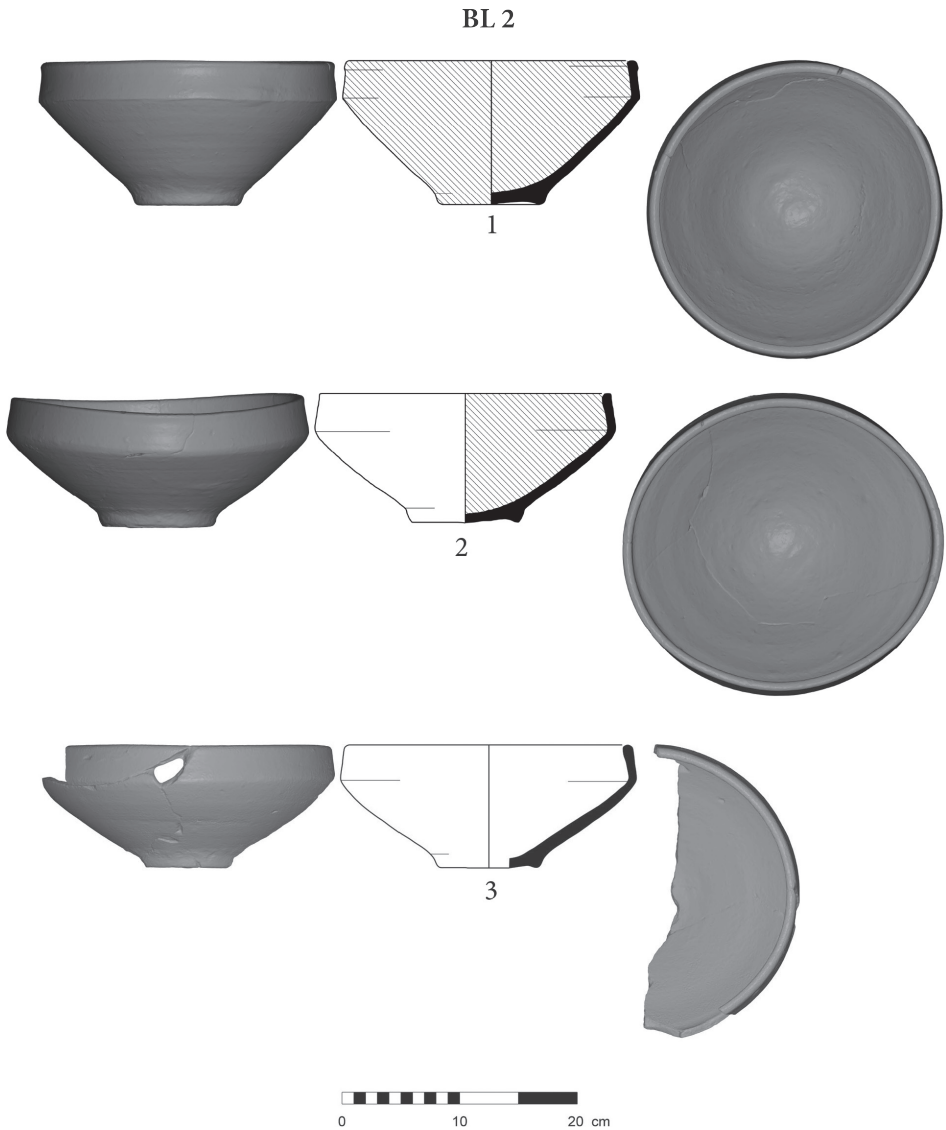


Fig. 9. Bowls of Type 2.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L381-B3392	B381	Orange-brown ware, red slip interior and exterior
2	G-31-2017-L381-B3377	B381	Orange-brown ware, red slip interior
3	G-9-2018-L426-B3588	B426	Orange-brown ware, burnt, possibly red slip on upper body

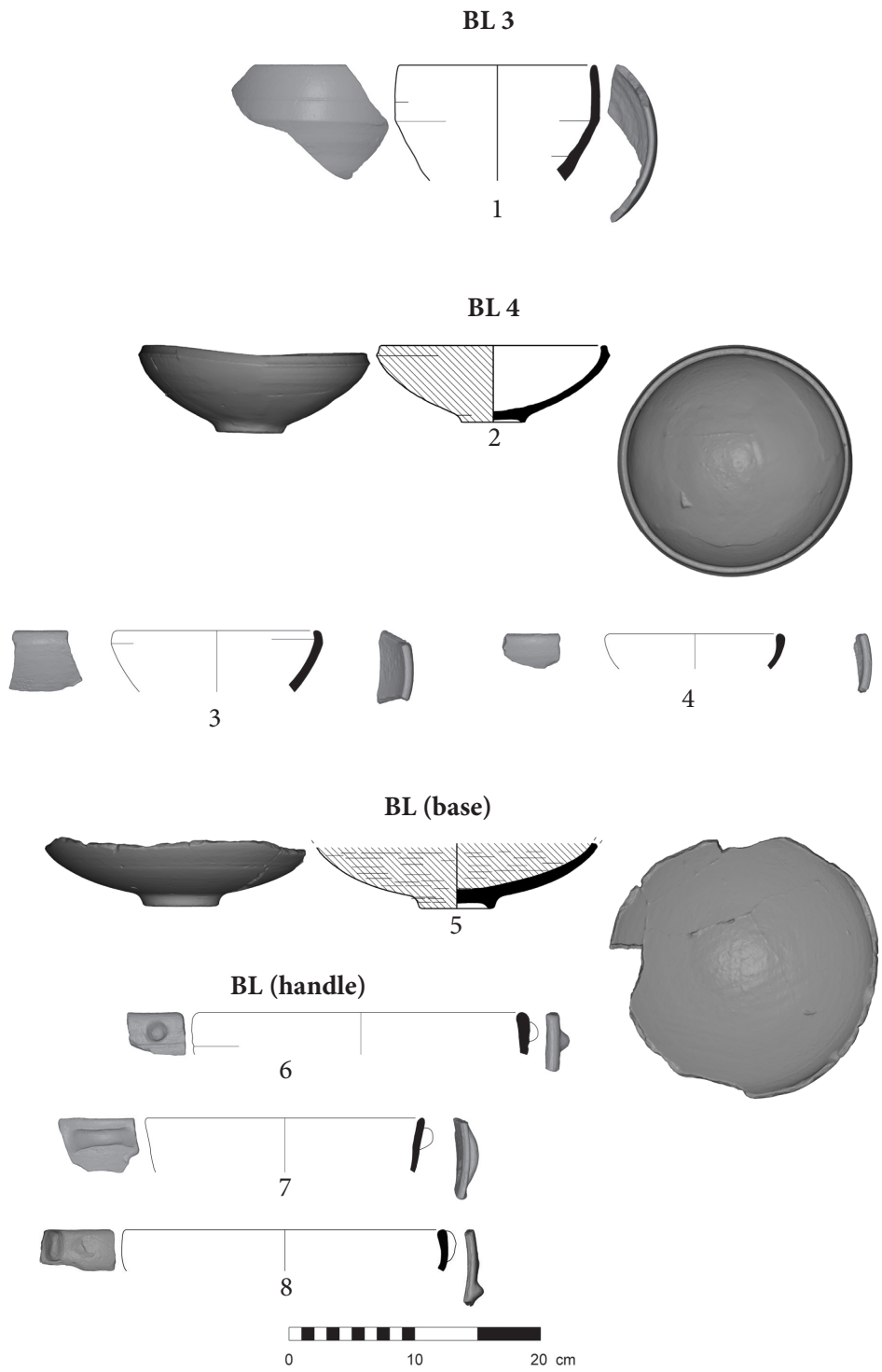


Fig. 10. Bowls of Types 3 and 4, bases, and handles.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-9-2018-L413-B3516	B 413	Orange ware
2	G-9-2018-L430-B3589	B 430	Orange-brown ware, partly burnt, partial red slip exterior
3	G-9-2018-L413-B3529	B 413	Orange ware
4	G-9-2018-L413-B3464	B 413	Pale orange ware
5	G-31-2017-L381-B3411	B 381	Brown-orange ware, red slip, pattern hand burnish interior and exterior
6	G-31-2017-L381-B3352	B 381	Brown ware
7	G-31-2017-L381-B3364	B 381	Orange ware
8	G-26-2016-L331-3101	B 331	Orange ware, red decoration on rim



Fig. 11. A group of chalices (photograph by Tal Rogovski).

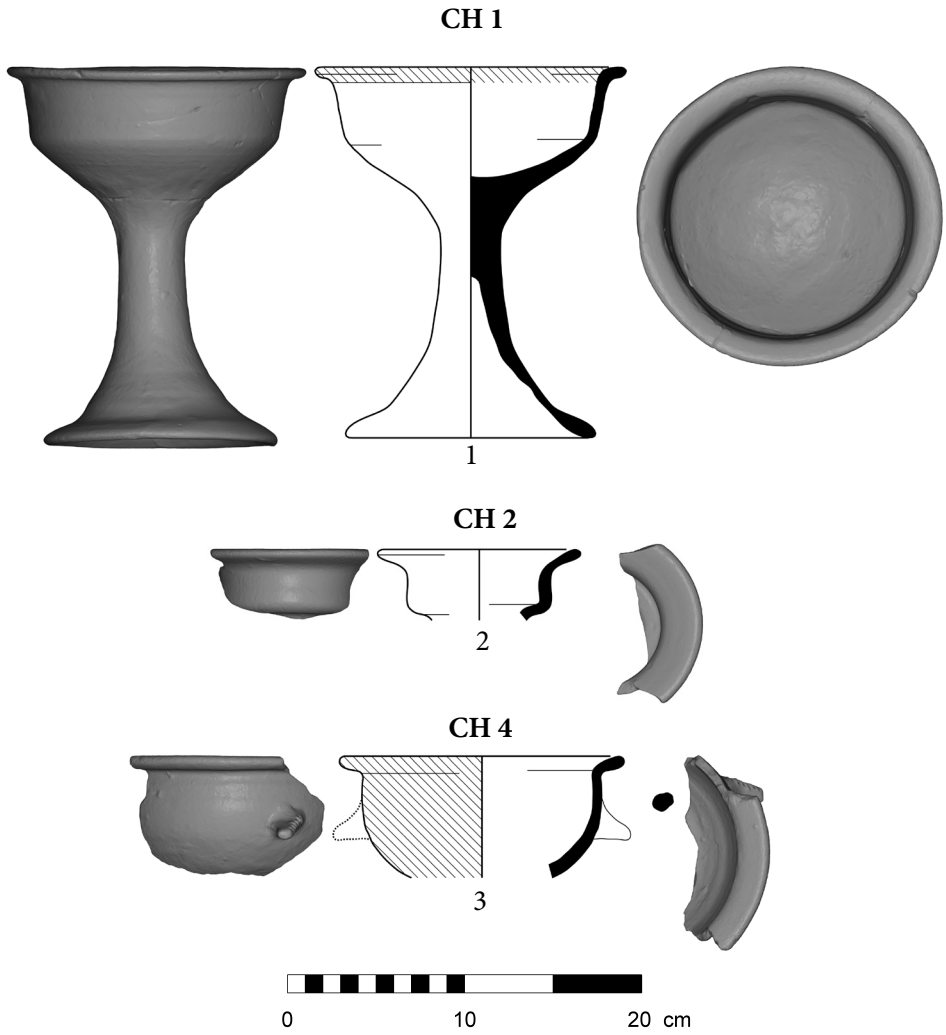


Fig. 12. Chalices of Types 1–2, 4.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-90-2015-L251-B3051	B 251	Orange ware, red decoration on rim
2	G-90-2015-L254-B2119	B 254	Light orange ware
3	G-31-2017-L381-B3415	B 381	Brown ware, red slip exterior



Fig. 13. Chalices of Type 3.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L381-B3403	B381	Brown-buff ware, red decoration on rim
2	G-31-2017-L381-B3405	B381	Buff ware, red decoration on rim

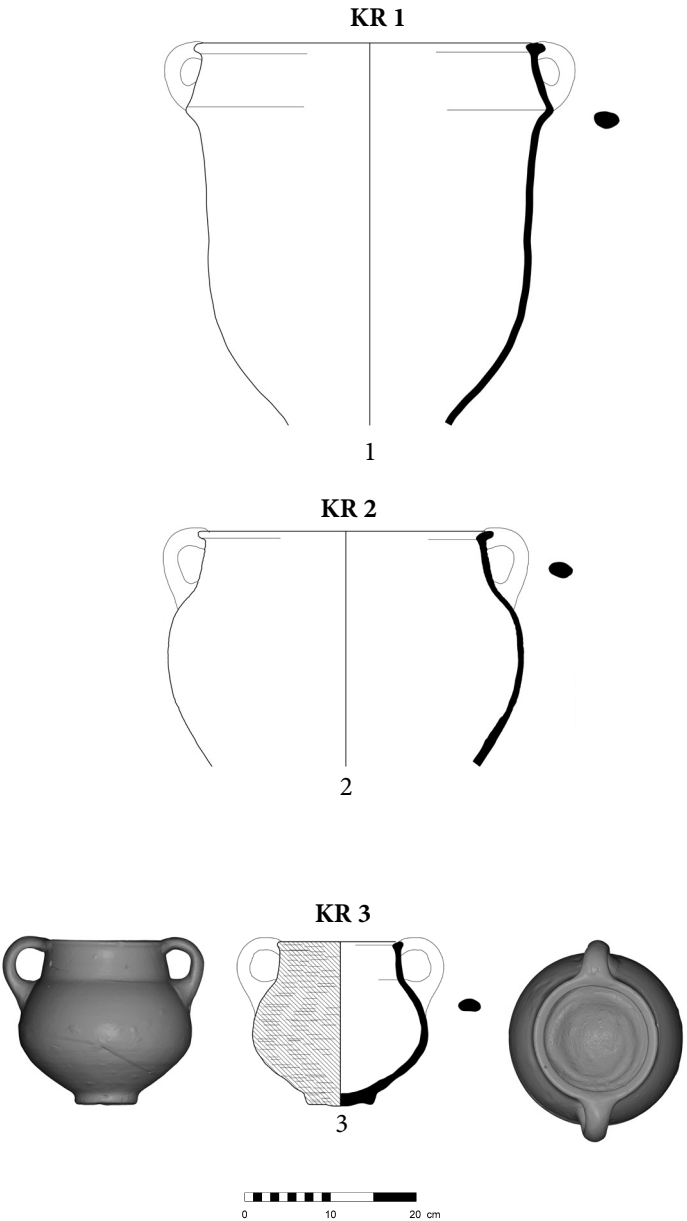


Fig. 14. Kraters of Types 1–3.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L381-B3372	B 381	Orange-buff ware
2	G-9-2018-L418-B3504	B 418	Orange-buff ware, burnt in places
3	G-31-2017-L381-B3376	B 381	Orange-buff ware, red slip, hand burnish exterior



Fig. 15. Krater of Type 3 decorated with red slip and vertical burnish (photograph by Tal Rogovski).

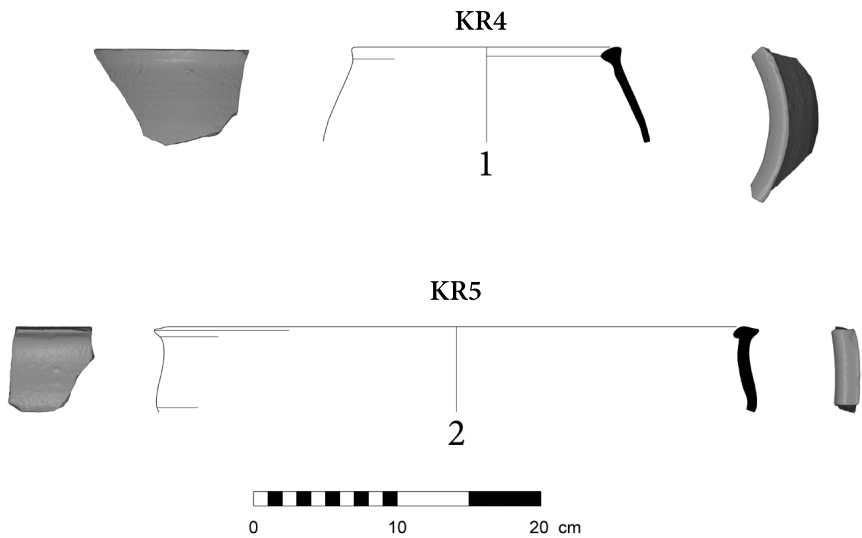


Fig. 16. Kraters of Types 4 and 5.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L378-3319	B378	Orange ware
2	G-31-2017-L381-3355	B381	Orange ware

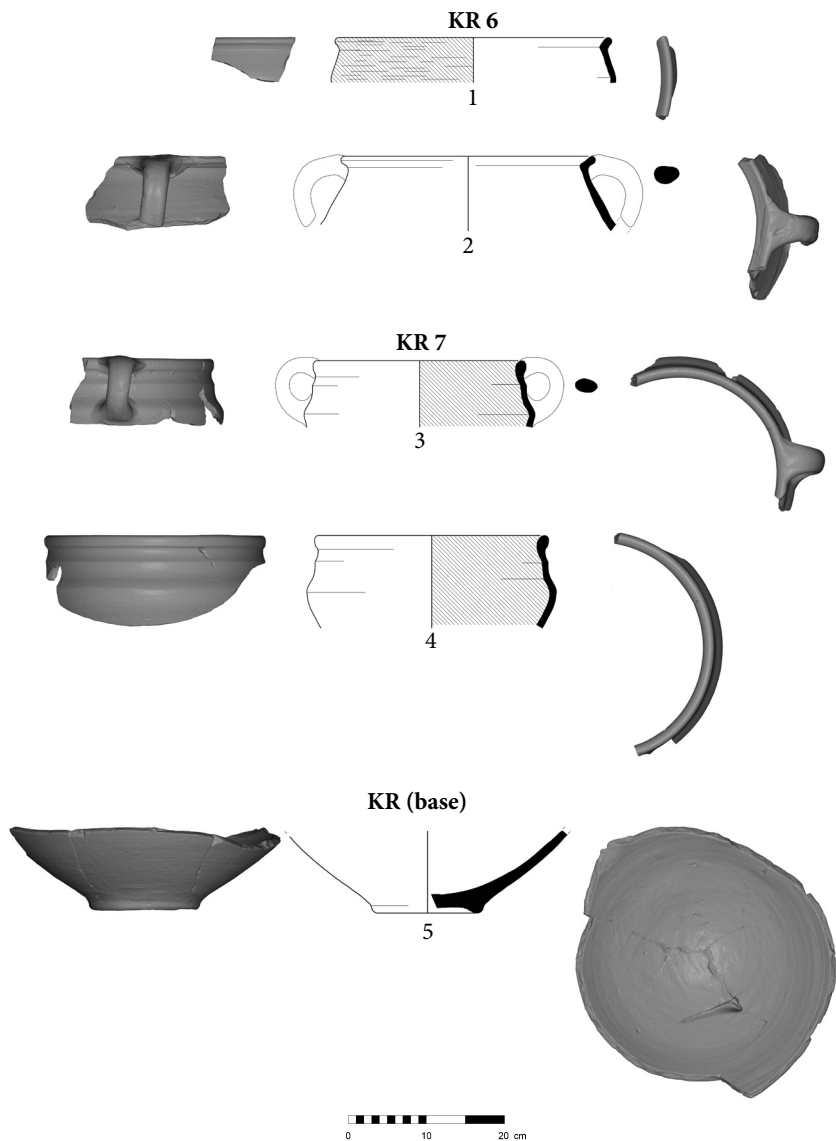


Fig. 17. Kraters of Types 6 and 7, and a krater base.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L381-B3393-01	B 381	Orange ware, red slip, hand burnish exterior
2	G-9-2018-L426-B3551	B 426	Dark buff ware
3	G-9-2018-L413-B3494	B 413	Orange ware, burnt on exterior, red slip interior
4	G-9-2018-L426-B3576	B 426	Brown-orange ware, red slip interior
5	G-9-2018-L418-B3502	B 418	Brown ware, burnt



Fig. 18. Cooking pot of Type 1 (photograph by Tal Rogovski).

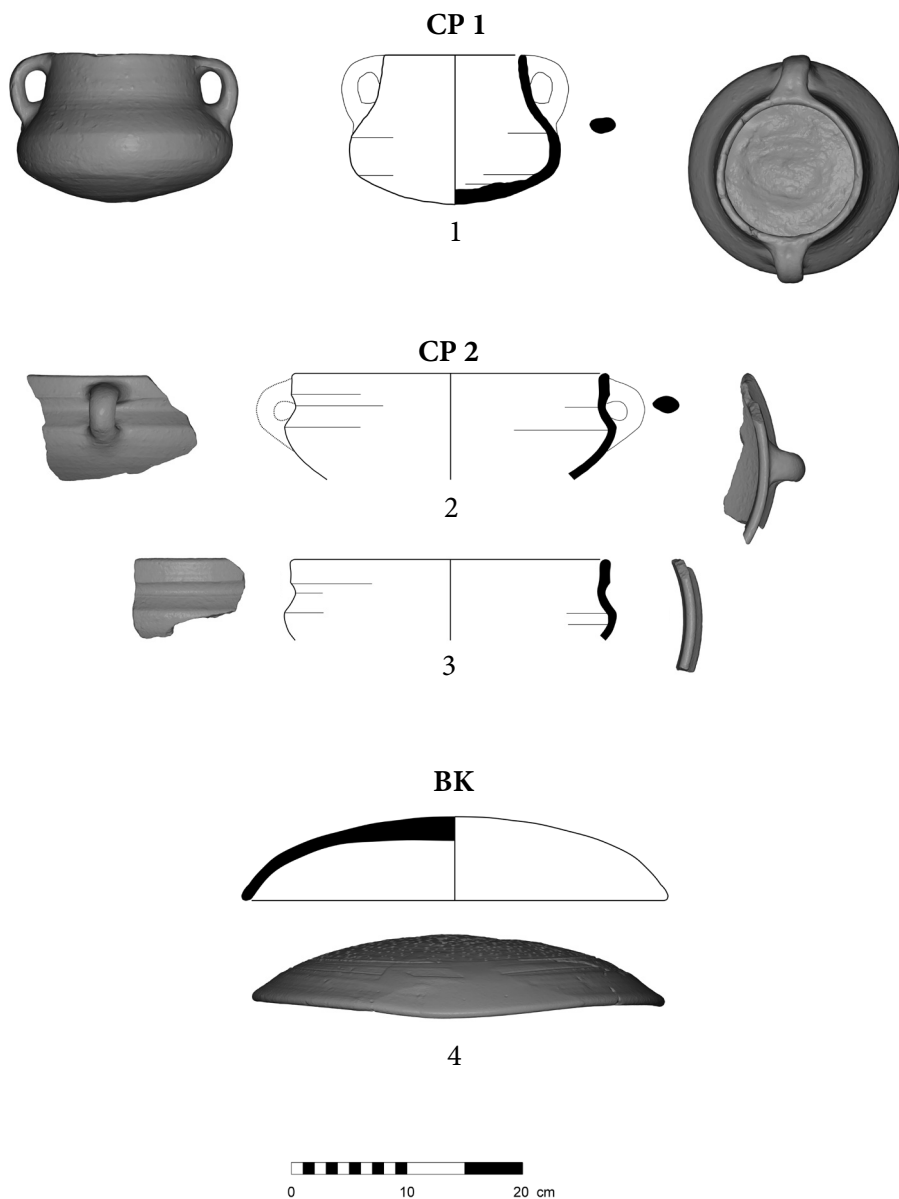


Fig. 19. Cooking pots of Types 1 and 2, and baking tray.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-9-2018-L418-B3600	B418	Dark orange cooking pot ware
2	G-90-2015-L252-B2104	B252	Brown cooking pot ware
3	G-26-2016-L331-B3074-01	B331	Dark orange cooking pot ware
4	G-31-2017-L381-B3417	B381	Light brown cooking pot ware



Fig. 20. Two views of a baking tray (photograph by Tal Rogovski).

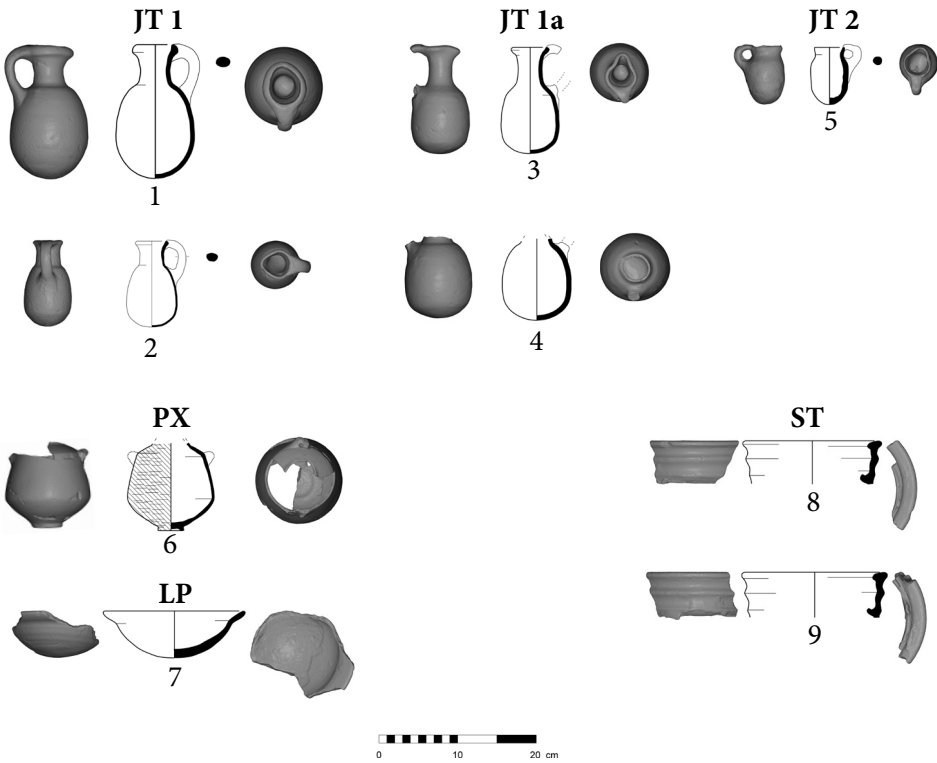


Fig. 21. Juglets (1–5), pyxis (6), lamp (7), and stands (8–9).

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-9-2018-L418-B3597	B418	Orange-gray ware
2	G-9-2018-L418-B3596	B418	Orange-gray ware
3	G-9-2018-L426-B3609	B426	Dark orange ware
4	G-9-2018-L426-B3557	B426	Buff-gray ware
5	G-26-2016-L310-B3022	B310	Orange-gray ware with many inclusions, handmade
6	G-31-2017-L381-B3419	B381	Buff ware, brown slip, hand burnish exterior
7	G-90-2015-L254-B2121	B254	Buff ware
8	G-31-2017-L378-B3328-01	B378	Badly burnt
9	G-31-2017-L373-B3312	B373	Light brown ware

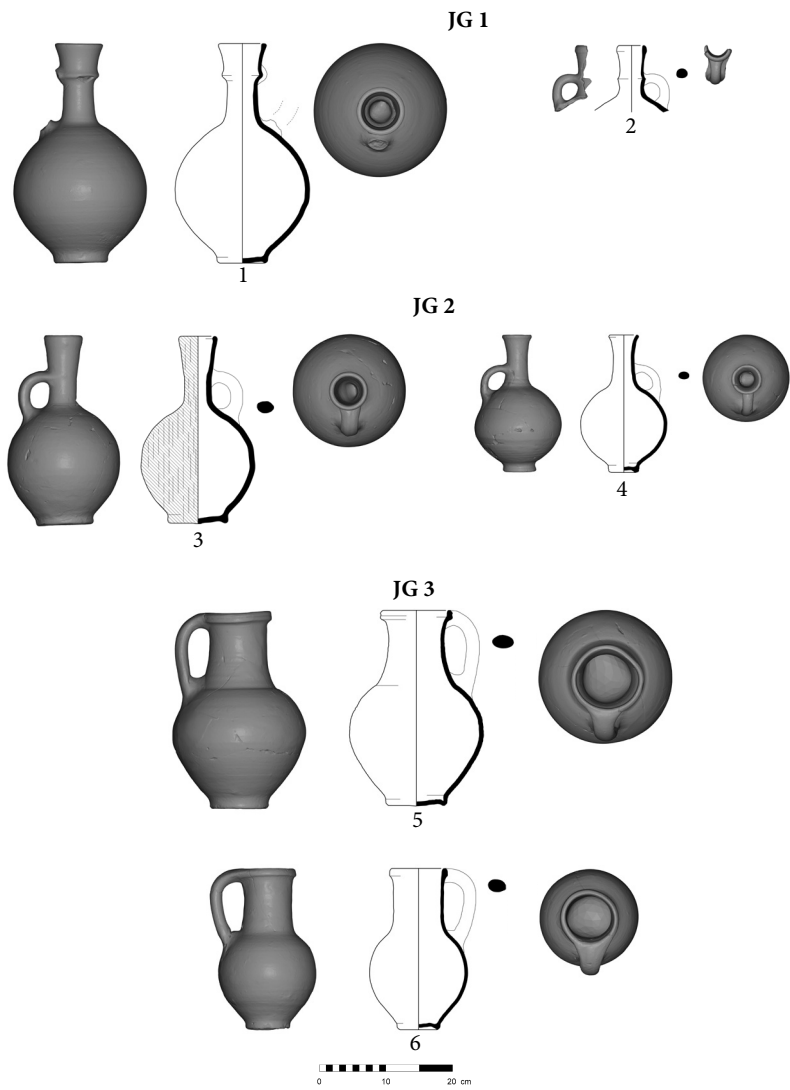


Fig. 22. Jugs of Types 1, 2, and 3.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L378-B3342	B 378	Orange-buff ware
2	G-9-2018-L426-B3582	B 426	Red ware
3	G-31-2017-L381-B3393	B 381	Orange ware, red slip, vertical hand burnish exterior
4	G-31-2017-L381-B3608	B 381	Buff-brown ware
5	G-9-2018-L426-B3571	B 426	Orange-brown ware
6	G-9-2018-L426-B3561	B 426	Orange-red ware



Fig. 23. Jugs of Type 2 (photograph by Tal Rogovski).

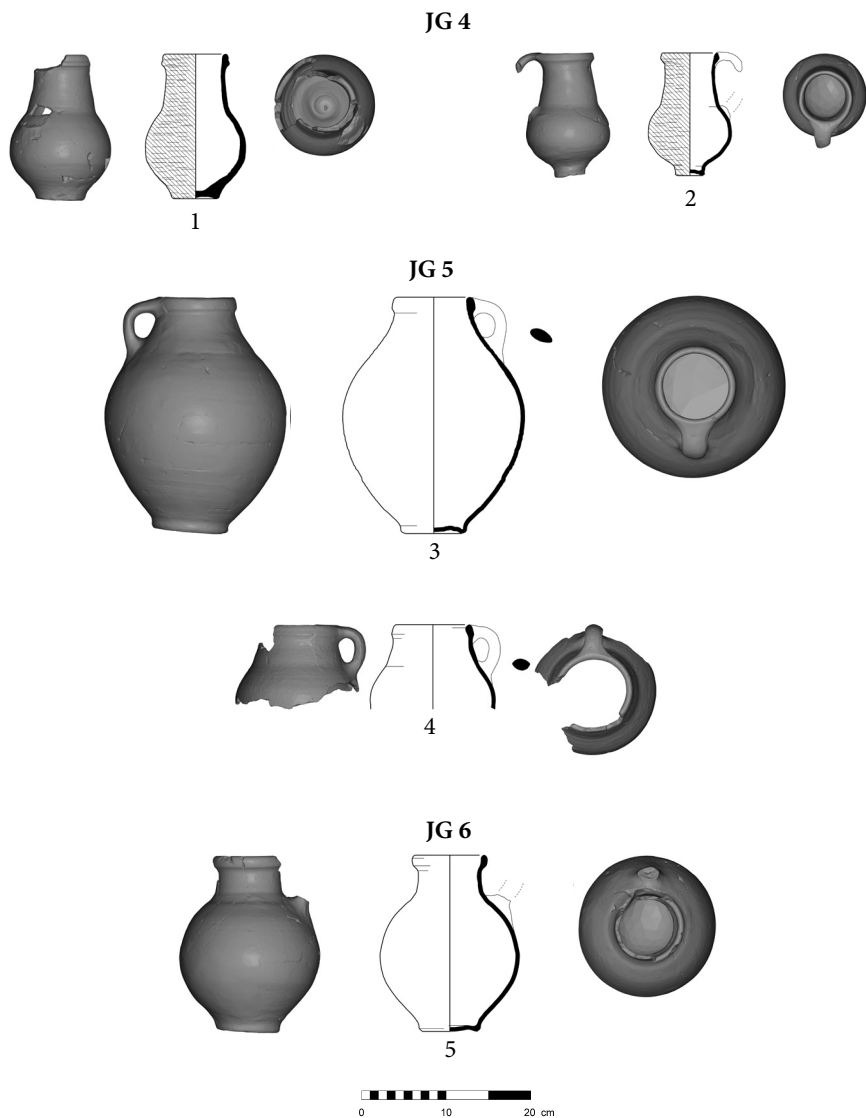


Fig. 24. Jugs of Types 4, 5, and 6.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L381-B3354	B 381	Orange ware, red slip, hand burnish upper exterior
2	G-9-2018-L418-B3505	B 418	Brown-gray ware, brown slip and hand burnish exterior
3	G-31-2017-L381-B3385	B 381	Orange-brown ware
4	G-9-2018-L413-B3492-01	B 413	Orange ware, badly burnt, many inclusions
5	G-9-2018-L426-B3555	B 426	Orange-buff ware



Fig. 25. A group of jugs (photograph by Tal Rogovski).

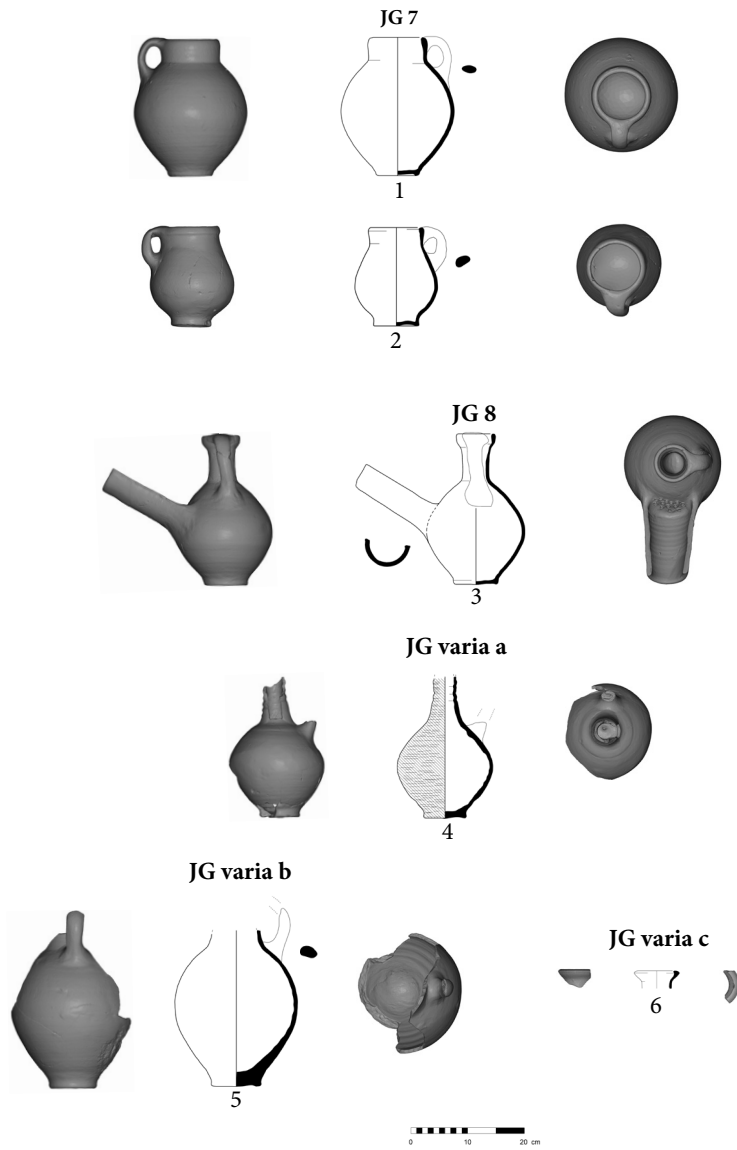


Fig. 26. Jugs of Types 7 and 8, and Varia a–c.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-90-2015-L251-B2105	B251	Orange-buff ware
2	G-9-2018-L418-B3606	B418	Orange ware
3	G-9-2018-L418-B3507	B418	Orange ware
4	G-9-2018-L413-B3484	B413	Brown ware, patchy red slip, hand burnish
5	G-31-2017-L381-B3001	B381	Orange ware
6	G-26-2016-L343-B3118	B343	Orange ware



Fig. 27. Two views of a strainer jug (photograph by Tal Rogovski).



Fig. 28. A group of storage jars (photograph by Tal Rogovski).

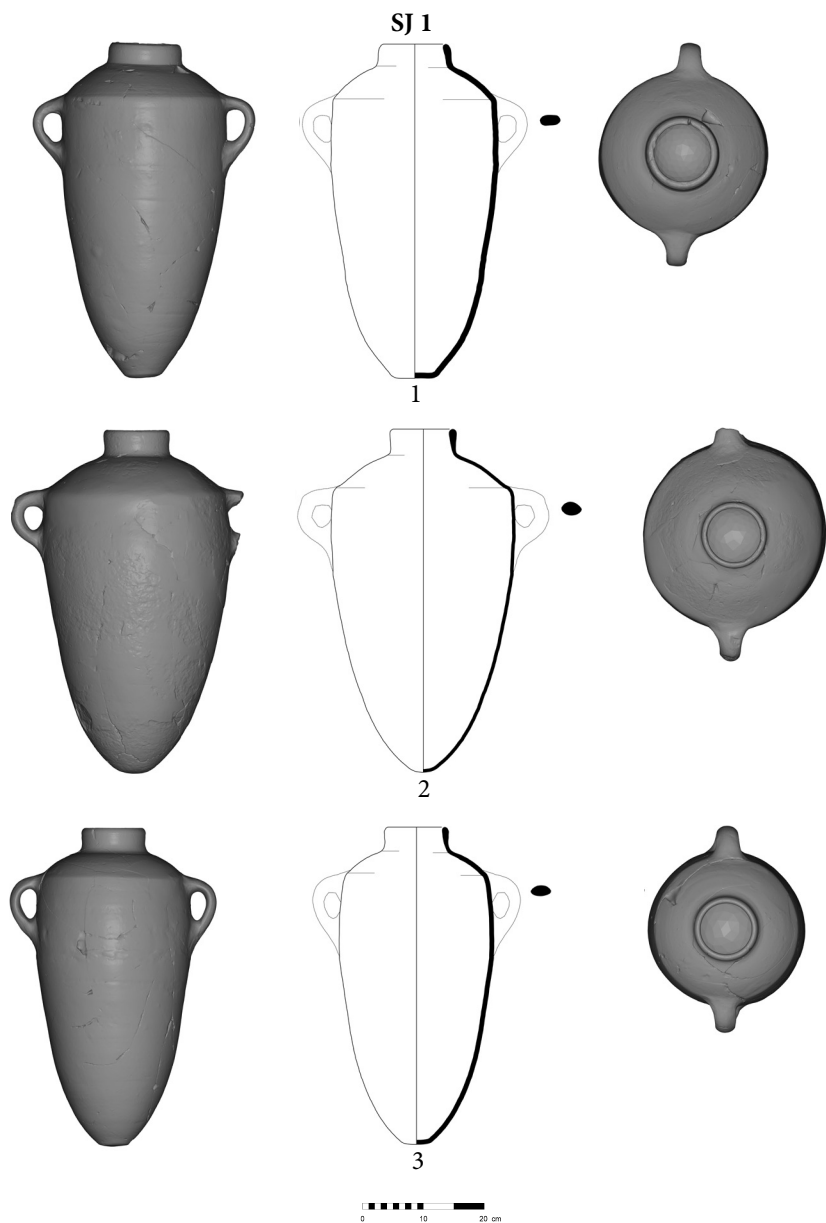


Fig. 29. Storage jars of Type 1.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-26-2016-L310-B3135	B 310	Orange ware
2	G-9-2018-L418-B3498	B 418	Orange ware
3	G-31-2017-L378-B3323	B 378	Orange ware

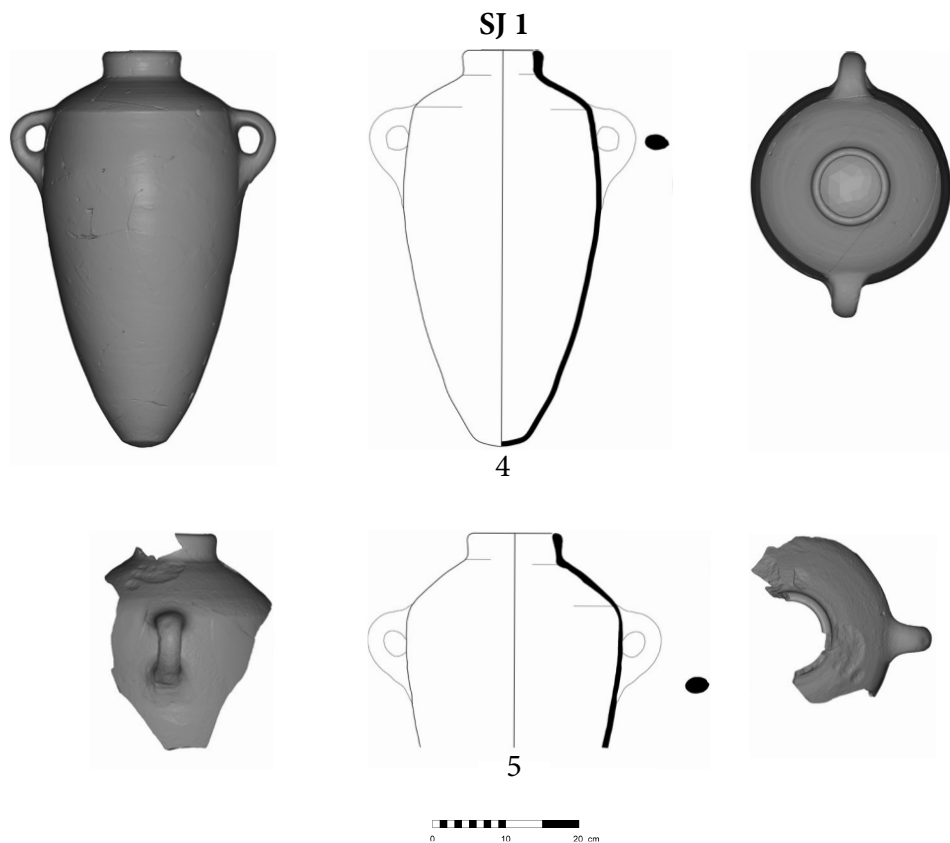


Fig. 30. Storage jars of Type 1.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L378-B3320	B378	Orange ware
2	G-9-2018-L413-B3519	B413	Orange ware

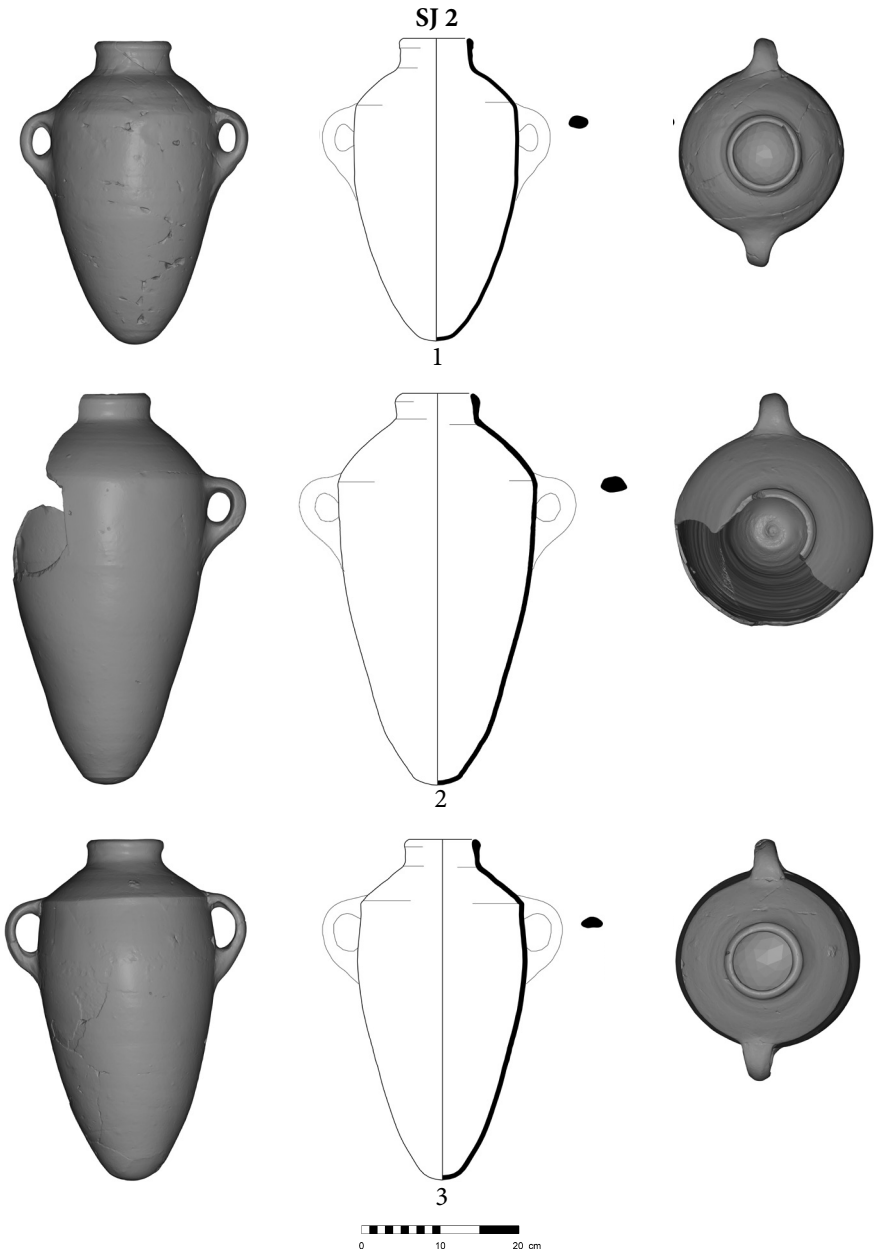


Fig. 31. Storage jars of Types 2 and 2a.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L381-B3407	B381	Orange ware
2	G-9-2018-L418-B3595	B418	Orange ware
3	G-31-2017-L381-B3379	B381	Orange ware

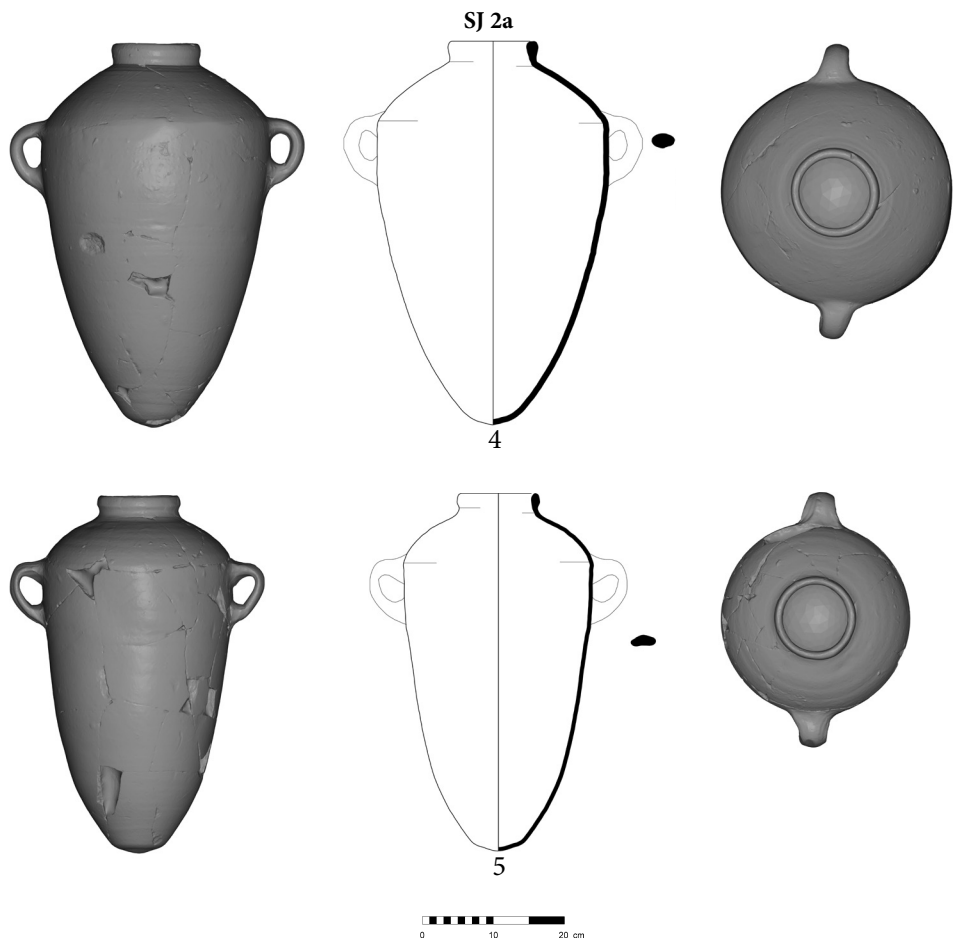


Fig. 32. Storage jars of Types 2 and 2a.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L378-B3333	B378	Orange ware
2	G-31-2017-L381-B3378	B381	Orange ware

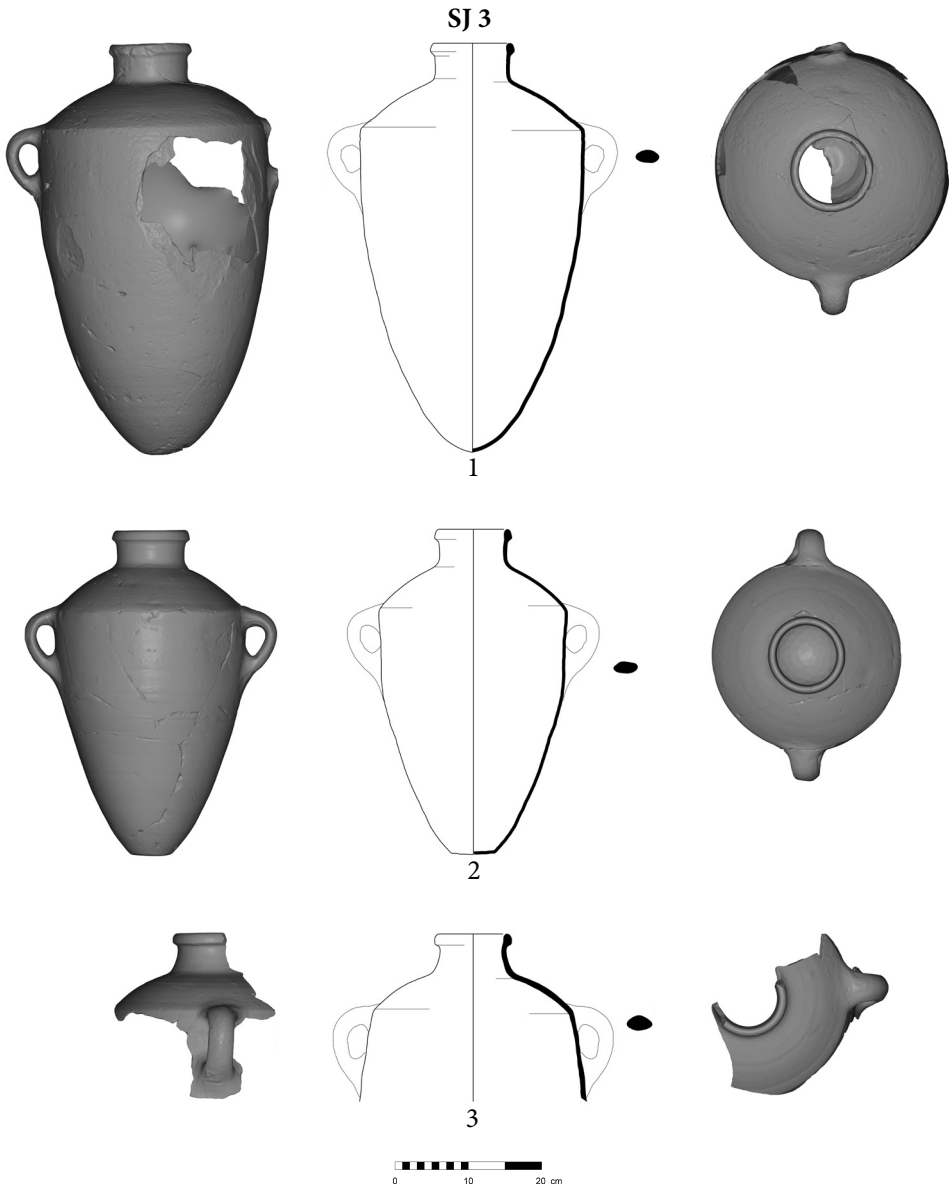


Fig. 33. Storage jars of Type 3.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L381-B3381	B381	Orange ware
2	G-31-2017-L381-B3374	B381	Orange ware
3	G-31-2017-L378-B3328	B378	Orange ware

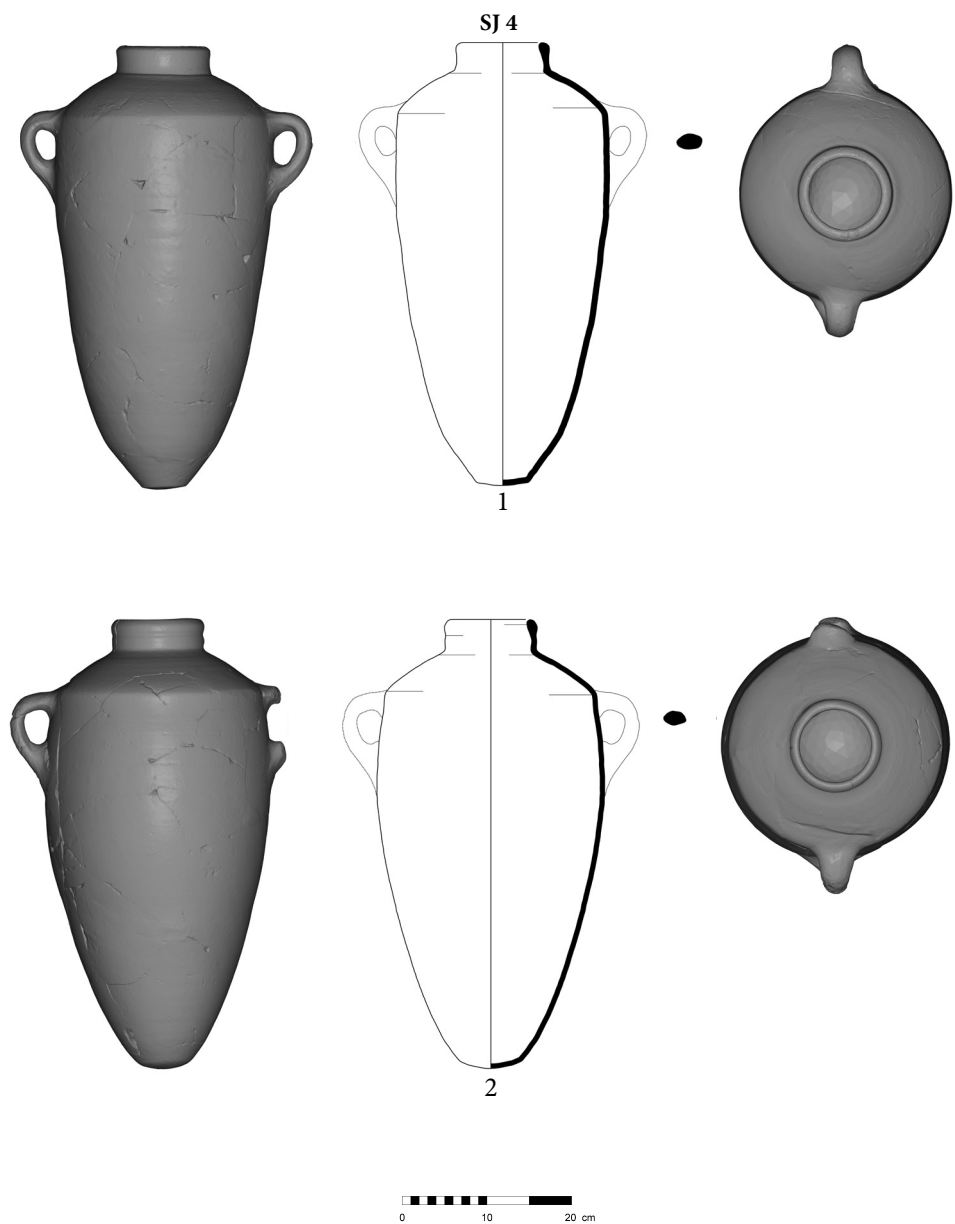


Fig. 34. Storage jars of Type 4.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L381-B3322	B381	Orange ware
2	G-9-2018-L418-B3509	B418	Orange ware

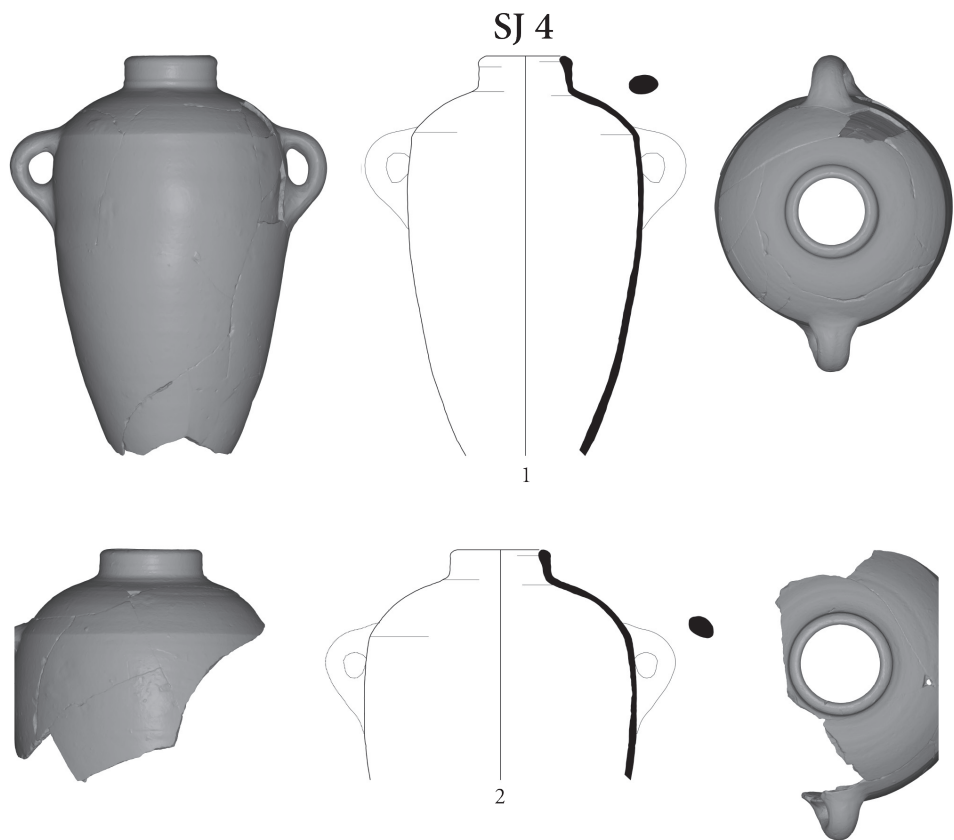


Fig. 35. Storage jars of Type 4.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-9-2018-L426-B3554	B 426	Orange ware
2	G-9-2018-L418-B3606-01	B 418	Orange ware

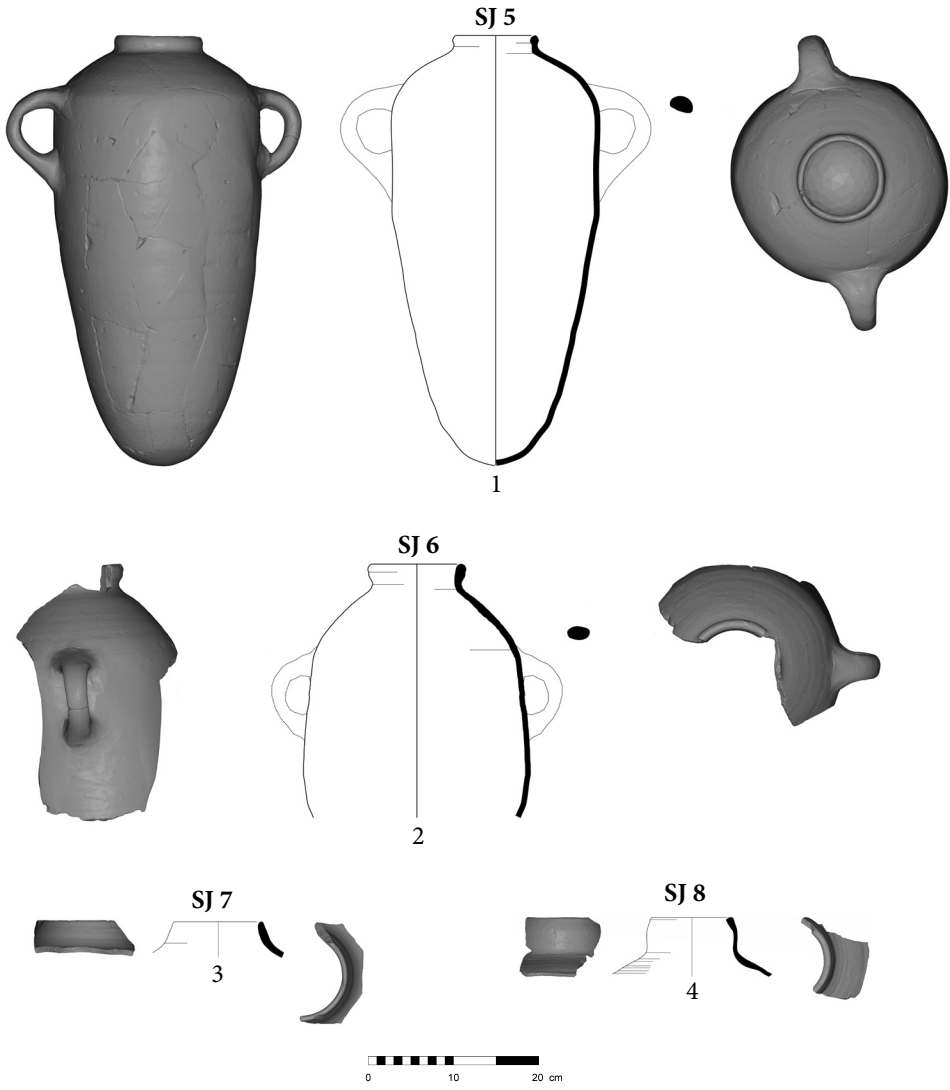


Fig. 36. Storage Jars of Types 5–8.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L381-B3380	B381	Orange ware
2	G-9-2018-L418-B3484-2	B418	Orange ware
3	G-26-2016-L343-B3118-1	B343	Orange ware
4	G-9-2018-L413-B3486	B413	Orange ware



Fig. 37. "Qeiyafa handles": finger-impressed jar handles from Khirbet al-Ra'i.



Fig. 38. An "al-Ra'i handle": a jar handle marked by horizontal incisions in its lower part.



Fig. 39. A group of pithoi (photograph by Tal Rogovski).

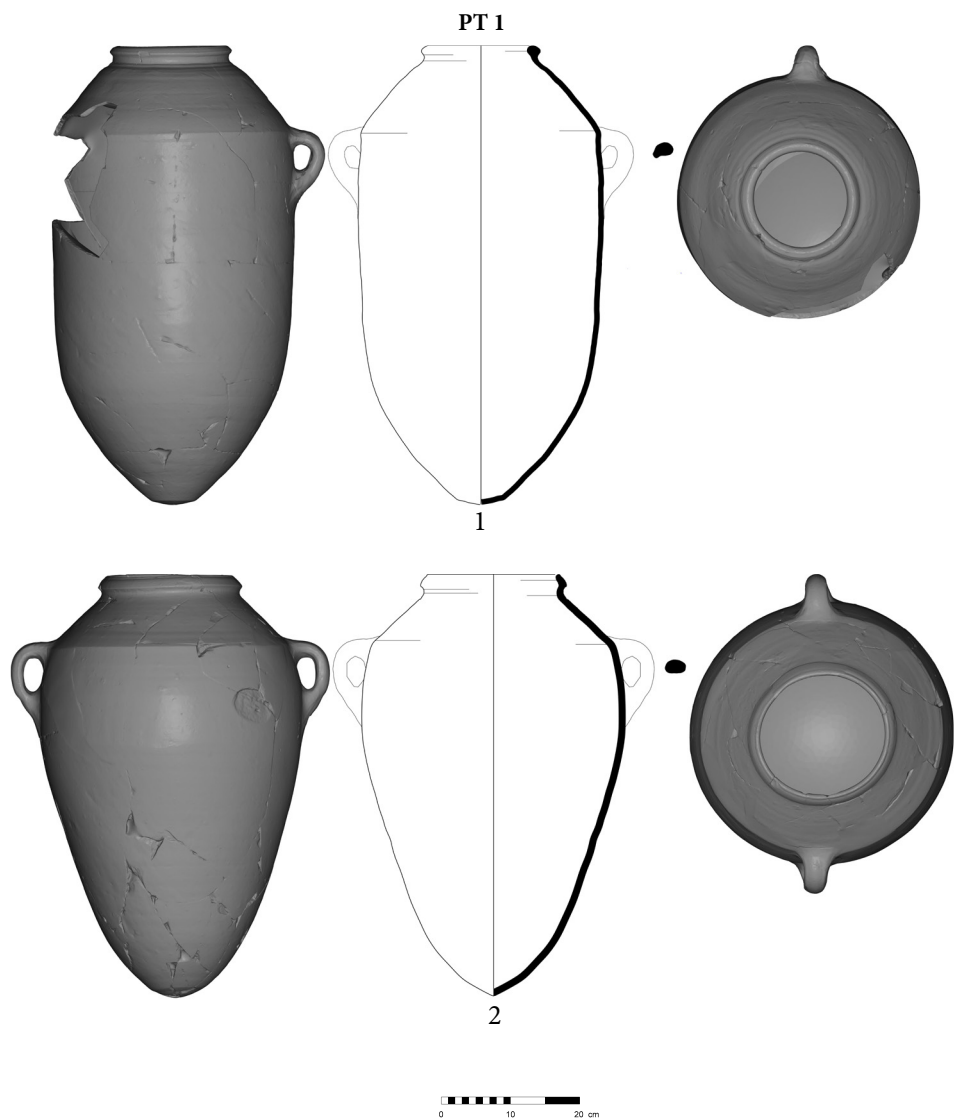


Fig. 40. Pithoi.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-31-2017-L381-B3404	B381	Orange ware
2	G-31-2017-L378-B3324	B378	Orange ware

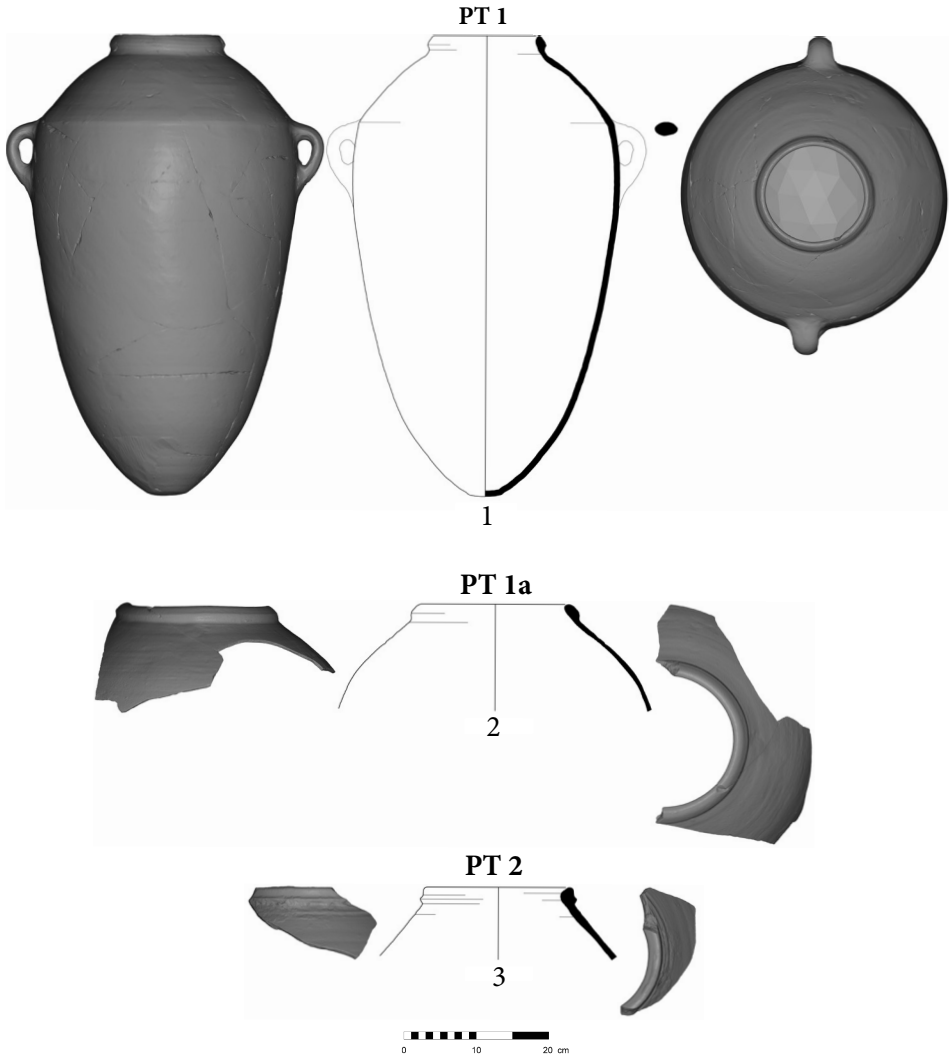


Fig. 41. Pithoi.

No.	Registration	Locus	Description and Notes
1	G-90-2015-L254-B2122	B254	Orange ware
2	G-9-2018-L426-B3556	B426	Orange ware
3	G-31-2017-L373-B3303	B373	Orange ware

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