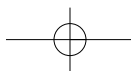
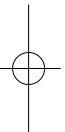
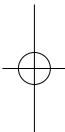


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EARLY JEZIRAH 3B POTTERY
FROM TELL BEYDAR, SYRIA.
SELECTED INVENTORIES
FROM THE LATEST SEASONS OF EXCAVATION

KATIA GAVAGNIN¹
AND JULIETTE MAS²

ABSTRACT

Since 1992, excavations at Tell Beydar have offered the opportunity to explore an urban centre of the Upper Khabur region. The extensive exploration of the EJZ 3b levels gave us access to the urbanism and the architecture of the city as well as its material culture, especially the pottery. The assemblages presented in this paper were exclusively found directly on the floors of various buildings (of a public, domestic, religious, official nature) and inside a grave. Most of these inventories consist of complete vessels discovered either intact or smashed but restorable. The aim of this paper is to investigate if, or to what extent, the intra-site distribution of the morphological repertoire of Beydar IIIb ceramic is related to its context of use.

INTRODUCTION

Tell Beydar is located in the Upper Khabur region, about 35 km north of the modern city of Hassake, on the right bank of the Wadi 'Awaïdj. The main occupation of the site is represented by a large third-millennium *Kranzhügel*. Nearly 20 areas have been excavated so far in the course of 17 campaigns. Although some Hellenistic, Akkadian and earlier third-millennium levels have been explored, the main part of the excavated remains is dated to the EJZ 3b period.³ Several different types of architecture were found: palaces, temples, houses, storage facilities, economic and administrative buildings etc. (Fig. 1).

With regard to the pottery, some third-millennium assemblages have been previously published,⁴ as well as the detailed morphological typology established by E. Rova (Rova 2003) and the technological classification developed by T. Broekmans (Broekmans 2003). Our own study on Beydar pottery focuses on three main goals:

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3 This corresponds to the Beydar IIIb period in the site's periodization. For an overview of the complete periodization of Tell Beydar, see Quenet 2011: table 2.

4 Among others, see Quenet 1997, Lebeau 1997, Broekmans 2003 and Pruss 2011b.

- Examining all sherds within all kinds of contexts, in order to establish statistical series, in particular regarding morphological types and fabrics;⁵
- Setting up a catalogue of all complete shapes and profiles discovered since the beginning of the 1992 excavation;⁶
- Studying inventories from selected contexts provided with a high degree of stratigraphical reliability, following the ARCANE project guidelines.⁷

The well stratified inventories offered the possibility to examine the intra-site distribution of the Tell Beydar third-millennium pottery repertoire, in particular concerning the EJZ 3b period. During twenty years of excavations, different types of buildings dated to this period have been explored. In fact, we compared the ceramic material they provided to see if there were shapes appearing only in specific contexts (for instance, if some vessels were used only in domestic or public contexts or solely for funerary purposes). From this perspective, we present here some selected inventories from recently excavated floor assemblages belonging to different types of units: domestic and official, from Area B; religious, from Area M; official, from Areas S and P; and funerary, from Area I.

FIRST INVENTORY: AREA B, BUILDING B1, ROOM 54266, FLOOR 54267

The first selected inventory comes from Area B, Building B1, Room 54266, Floor 54267, excavated in 2008 (Fig. 2.a-b). Area B is located to the north of the 'Official Complex', in the northern part of the Upper City, and revealed a domestic quarter of houses organized along a system of radial streets equipped with stone drains. Two 'official' buildings were also discovered in this area: the 'U-shaped complex', interpreted as a possible sheepfold, and Building B1, whose function is not clear, although it seems to have had an economic character. It could have been a prestigious residence, maybe of a responsible member of the local administration, an '*ugula*'. Room 54266 was probably used as storage. The excavation results clearly show that this material did not come from any upper collapsed floor. Large vessels were stored against the wall, where a collection of gypsum stoppers ready-to-be-used was also found (Van der Stede

5 Eleven fabrics have been distinguished within the Tell Beydar third-millennium pottery corpus: Standard compact Ware (Sc), Standard Ware with carbonates and quartz inclusions (Scq), Standard lime tempered Ware (Sl), Standard organic tempered Ware (So), Fine Ware (Sf), Coarse Ware (Cr), Metallic compact Ware without visible inclusions (Mc), Metallic compact Ware with inclusions (Mi), Cooking calcite tempered Ware (Cc), Cooking basalt tempered Ware (Cb) and Cooking intermediate Ware with both calcite and basalt inclusions (Ci).

6 This is a work in progress of the authors which will be published in the Subartu Series.

7 See Lebeau 2011: 2-3. In this perspective, the Beydar excavation team set up its own stratigraphical reliability system in order to distinguish the high stratigraphical valued loci from the lowest value ones: the highest value loci corresponding, for instance, to floors sealed by their collapsed covering with *in situ* material and the lowest value loci ascribed to the tell surface.

and Devillers 2011: 15-20). A large amount of broken vessels compose this inventory, which amounts to sixty-four pottery items, forty-seven of which are complete or could be restored.

The main shapes of the EJZ 3b Tell Beydar repertoire are represented here. We can first of all note the presence of different Standard Ware bowl and cup types, both organic and lime tempered: standard cups with straight or slightly curved walls, flat bases and simple, pointed or inside bevelled rims (Fig. 5.1-3),⁸ a bell-shaped bowl (Fig. 5.13),⁹ a low hemispherical open bowl (Fig. 5.12, 6.18),¹⁰ larger and deeper hemispherical (Fig. 5.10)¹¹ or S-shaped wall bowls (Fig. 5.11). In addition to the miniature bowls (Fig. 5.4-9, 6.19),¹² we can also observe the presence of two Metallic Ware small jars (Fig. 5.20-21, 6.16)¹³ and a Standard Ware funnel (Fig. 5.18). Within the closed shapes, elongated bottles with restricted necks, everted rims and rounded bases in Standard Ware (Fig. 5.28), and ovoid wide necked jars are predominant (Fig. 5.31-33, 5.36, 6.14),¹⁴ even though a wide-mouthed globular jar with a flat base (Fig. 5.19) and a Metallic Ware globular jar with a pedestal base are also attested (Fig. 5.29, 6.13).¹⁵ An unusual find is a complete Standard Ware globular jar with combed-wash decoration consisting in wavy and parallel lines obtained through removing the black slip on the upper and central parts of the body with a comb (Fig. 6.12).¹⁶ Eleven ovoid and globular large and medium jars, mainly with concave grooved outer side rims and rounded bases, were also discovered on this floor (Fig. 6.1-11, 6.15). All these large vessels

8 Compare: Tell Chuera, Steinbau 1 – Kühne 1976: abb. 123; Orthmann 1995: abb. 23.10-12; Tell al Raqa'i, Pit burial excavation unit 42/90 – Curvers and Schwartz 1990: fig. 16.20.

9 Compare: Rova 2011: type 50, pl. 7.15, EJZ 3b; Tell Chuera, Steinbau 1 – Orthmann 1995: abb. 23.15; Tell Abu Hujeira, Chantier B Phase D – Suleiman and Quenet 2006: type PO-2C n°22-23.

10 Compare: Tell Abu Hujeira, Sondage 3 Phase III d – Suleiman and Quenet 2006: type PO-5-B1, n°67.

11 Compare: Tell Chuera, Palast F – Orthmann and Pruss 1995: abb. 86.124-128; Tell Abu Hafur, Area A, Subsurface – Koliński and Lawecka 1992: fig. 5.6; Tell Abu Hujeira, Chantier B, Phase C-1 – Suleiman and Quenet 2006: type PO1-A2, n°98, 100.

12 Compare: Tell Melebiya, Niveau 2 – Lebeau 1993: pl. 157.2; Tell al-Raqa'i, Pit burial excavation unit 42/90 – Curvers and Schwartz 1990: fig. 16.16; Tell Brak, Area CH, level 6/7 – Oates 2001: fig. 392.10.

13 This type of vessels also occurs during the EJZ 4 period (Rova 2011: 72). Compare: Rova 2011: type 59, Pl. 9.4, EJZ 3b; Tell Melebiya, Niveau 2 – Lebeau 1993: pl. 173.10; Tell Chuera, Kl. Antent., Schicht 2/3 – Kühne 1976: abb. 32 and Steinbau 2 – Klein and Orthmann 1995: abb. 40.32; Tell Brak, Area CH, level 6 – Oates 2001: fig. 396.121; Tell Abu Hujeira, Chantier B, Phase des tombes – Suleiman and Quenet 2006: type PF5-B6b; Tell Barri, Area G, Phase Q – Orsi 2008: fig. 1.7-9.

14 Compare: Tell Melebiya, Niveau 2 – Lebeau 1993: pl. 163.4; Tell Hamoukar, Area H – Colantoni and Ur 2011: fig. 20.80; Tell Abu Hujeira, Chantier B, Phase D – Suleiman and Quenet 2006: type PF12 n°340; Tell Brak, Area FS, level 5 – Oates 2001: fig. 449.1350; Tell Chuera, Kl. Antent., Schicht 2/3 – Kühne 1976: abb. 272; Tell Barri, Area G, Phase Q – Orsi 2008: fig. 1.24.

15 Compare: Rova 2011: type 60, pl. 9.8, EJZ 3b; Tell Brak, Area FS, level 3b – Oates 2001: fig. 398.191; Tell Chuera, Steinbau 1 – Kühne 1976: abb. 34.

16 Other examples of this kind of treatment are attested in the Khabor Region, for instance at Tell Brak (Oates 2001: fig. 185d, 193, 402.280-282), Tell Chuera (Kühne 1976: abb. 345-346, taf. 34.1-6, 35.1-4, 36.1-5) and Tell Melebiya (Lebeau 1993: pl. 175.6-8) but also in the Middle Euphrates region (Sconzo *in press*: 37, pl. 20.7, EME4). The Combed Wash Ware should be distinguished from the Smeared Wash Ware, identified in the Amuq Region and in Inner Syria, whose slip was smeared directly with fingers (Oates 2001: 162-163). On this topic, see Rova 1989 and Rova 2011: 74-75, type 80 pl. 12.16-17.

belong to the Standard Ware organic tempered fabric. Their capacity varies between 50 and 130 litres. They were obviously used for storage purposes.¹⁷ The presence of four cooking pots is unusual in this kind of non-domestic context (Fig. 5.42-45, 6.17). They all belong to the same type: globular pots with horizontal triangular lugs, which consist in the thickening of the rim. Their fabric shows either calcite or basalt inclusions, and their surface is well-smoothed or even polished.¹⁸ Finally, we have also found three Standard Ware pot stands (Fig. 5.46-47, 6.20).

The diversity of the types, which correspond to several functional categories (common domestic daily use or ostentatious, storage, etc.), allows us to think that this room was used to store the pottery for itself, as a deposit of probably locally produced vessels before they were distributed to the local households in the EJZ 3b period.¹⁹

SECOND INVENTORY: AREA B, HOUSE 10, ROOM 54011, FLOOR 54010

The second inventory comes from a domestic context. It is represented by material found during the 2006 excavation campaign in Area B, House 10, Room 54011, Floor 54010 (Fig. 2c-d). This room probably had a diversified function: as a workshop and storage room (Van der Stede and Devillers 2011: 25-26). The recovered material consists of a usual set of vessels for daily domestic use.

In fact, we can find a number of common drinking vessels: Standard Ware cups with curved walls and flat or slightly concave base, high cups and bell-shaped bowls (Fig. 7.5-8, 7.26-28).²⁰ They are mainly organic tempered. We can also distinguish two other open shapes: a deep hemispherical bowl and a large bowl with straight walls,

17 Compare: Rova 2012: types 69-70, pl. 10.15 and 11.11, EJZ 3b; Tell Chuera, Palast F – Orthmann and Pruss 1995: abb. 82.1287; Steinbau 1 – Kühne 1976: abb. 229; Tell Brak, Area SS, level 3 – Oates 2001: fig. 445.1287; Tell Abu Hujeira, Chantier B, Phases C-1/D – Suleiman and Quenet: types M5-A and B, GF4-A, GF5-A, MF2-B2-D, GF2: n°222, 225, 157, 161, 211 and 143; Tell Abu Hafur, Area A, layers 1-2 – Koliński and Ławecka 1992: fig. 16.4, 16.17 and 17.6.

18 This type of cooking pot, identified by H. Kühne as *mit dreieckigen Lappengriffen* (Kühne 1976: 99-103), is well attested during the EJ 3 and 4 in the Western Jezirah as well as in the Middle-Euphrates region and in Eastern Anatolia (Rova 1996: 26; Lebeau 1997: 68; Rova 2011: type 73, pl. 12.3, EJZ 3b; Sconzo *in press*: 32, type 75, pl. 14.12-13, 21.11, EME 3-5). Compare: Tell al-Raqa'i, level 2 – Curvers and Schwartz 1990: fig. 4.3 and 5.1; Tell Melebiya, Niveau 2 – Lebeau 1993: pl. 178.1; Tell Chuera, Steinbau 1, Steinbau 3, Häuser, Außenbau, Kl. Antent. – Kühne 1976: abb. 383-398 and Orthmann 1995: abb. 27.73-74; Tell Abu Hujeira, Chantier B, Phase C-1/2 – Suleiman and Quenet 2006: type MF8, n°254-256.

19 We can therefore suppose that this assemblage, stored in a public building, had been produced by a specialized workshop. If this kind of production could have been expected for the most standardized vessels (Rova 2003: 44), on the other hand, the handmade cooking pots are usually considered as a domestic production.

20 Compare: Rova 2011: types 50 and 55, pl. 7.11 and 8.6, EJZ 3b; Tell Chuera, Kl. Antent., Schicht 2/3 – Kühne 1976: abb. 104 and 176; Tell Melebiya, Niveau 2 – Lebeau 1993: pl. 157.10 and 158.2; Tell Brak, Area SS, level 3 – Oates 2001: fig. 393.35; Tell Abu Hujeira, Chantier B, Phase C-1 – Suleiman and Quenet 2006: type PO1-C; Tell Barri, Area G, Phase Q – Orsi 2008: fig. 1.19.

a bevelled inside rim and horizontal lugs (Fig. 7.1-2).²¹ Closed shapes are more frequent within this assemblage: they include two small globular jars with straight elongated necks and thickened, club headed or outside grooved rims (Fig. 7.10-11).²² One of them is produced in Metallic Ware (Fig. 7.11).²³ Medium jars are represented by ovoid vessels, nearly always with thickened rims (Fig. 7.3-4, 7.31);²⁴ large jars also have ovoid bodies, with banded rims (Fig. 7.22, 7.24-25). Two fragmentary decantation vessels are also attested (Fig. 7.21-23, 7.32).²⁵ This particular type seems to be only attested at Tell Beydar – so far no comparison could be found with other contemporary sites.²⁶ At Tell Beydar, these vessels have been discovered only in EJZ 3b contexts and represent a typical shape of the ceramic assemblages of this period. Their function is not exactly defined. It has been supposed that they were used for the decantation of some liquids.²⁷ At any rate, their use seems to have been quite common, because they were found widespread all around the site.²⁸

- 21 Compare: Rova 2011: type 49, pl. 7.5, EJZ 3a; Tell Melebiya, Niveau 2 – Lebeau 1993: pl. 153.4; Tell Chuera, Außenbau, Steinbau 1 and Palast F – Kühne 1976: abb. 136, Orthmann 1995: abb. 24.31, Orthmann and Orthmann 1995: abb. 125; Tell Abu Hujeira, Chantier B, Phase C – Suleiman and Quenet 2006: type GO7, n°134.
- 22 Compare Fig. 7.10 with: Rova 2011: type 59, pl. 9.3, EJZ 3b; Tell Melebiya, Niveau 2 – Lebeau 1993: pl. 161.2; Tell Chuera, Häuser – Kühne 1976: abb. 218; Tell Hamoukar, Area H – Colantoni and Ur 2011: fig. 29.179.
- 23 Compare: Tell Brak, Area ER, level 5 – Oates 2001: fig. 396.120; Tell Chuera, Kl. Antent. – Kühne 1976: abb. 56.
- 24 Compare: Tell Chuera, Steinbau 1 – Kühne 1976: abb. 229; Tell Abu Hujeira, Chantier B, Phase C-1 – Suleiman and Quenet 2006: type PF1-D, n°284-286; Tell Hamoukar, Area H – Colantoni and Ur 2011: fig. 26.138.
- 25 The examples of decantation jars documented here are incomplete. To have a view of the complete shape, which is generally always more or less the same, see notably Lebeau 1997: pl. IV.7. In fact, these vessels are composed of a wide-mouthed globular jar with a restricted neck, an everted, banded or outside grooved rim, a globular body with a spout on the lower part of the body linked to a high pedestal base. This kind of vessel usually belongs to the Standard organic tempered fabric and is self-washed.
- 26 In fact, no pertinent *comparanda* has ever been identified (Rova 2011: 73-74). Since the pottery from the Western Khabur Area is well documented, these particular vessels from Tell Beydar should be linked to a special use or practice of the city inhabitants and maybe be entitled with particular symbolic value (Pruss 2012: 473). We could nevertheless note the existence of a large jar with a strainer in its lower part at Tell Brak. This vessel is later, dated to the Akkadian period. The absence of the high base and its discovery position (sunk into a floor), suggest some main functional differences (Oates 2001: 180, fig. 210, 460.1562).
- 27 Even if a clear functional interpretation cannot be assumed, Tell Beydar decantation jars were likely used to store and draft beer (Pruss 2012: 473).
- 28 According to M. Lebeau, each house was equipped with a vessel of this type (Lebeau 1997: 68). In fact, these vessels have been generally discovered in domestic contexts, mainly in Area B. We could point out that the EJZ 3b levels generally offered only one exemplary per inventory. Recent excavations offered some other examples coming from other types of context. In fact, three miniature handmade decantation vessels have been discovered in the ‘banquet hall’ of the Area P ‘Eastern Palace’. It is likely that these miniature items were a representation of this characteristic shape of Tell Beydar IIIb pottery production, which were then entitled with some kind of ritual or cultic value and maybe involved in a libation ritual (Pruss 2012: 473).

THIRD INVENTORY: AREA M, TEMPLE E,
ROOMS 13254 AND 13329, FLOORS 13332 AND 13499

The third inventory comes from Area M, Temple E, Rooms 13254 and 13329, Floors 13332 and 13499, excavated during the 2009 campaign (Fig. 3a-c). Area M is located in the Upper City, in the south-western part of the Acropolis, to the south of temples B and C. Recent excavations resulted in the discovery of the fifth temple uncovered so far at Tell Beydar, and of some workshops apparently connected to the temple. The inventory we are presenting is a composite one (see Lebeau 2011: 3), represented by the floors of two adjacent rooms situated on the western side of Temple E, where a lot of seal impressions were also found (Suleiman 2011: 77-79).

We can observe that the ceramic material is characterized by usual Standard Ware bell-shaped or low hemispherical bowls (Fig. 8.1-4, 8.7-13, 8.17-20);²⁹ some of them are bichrome as these kinds of bowls were piled one into the other during firing (Fig. 8.20). Such types of bowls are the most common pottery class at Tell Beydar, and are found all over the site.³⁰ A coarse bowl with a pierced base (pierced after firing), perhaps to be used as a funnel (Fig. 8.5), and a bevelled concave outer side small jar rim (Fig. 8.6) were also discovered on floor 13332. In the second room, in addition to the small bowls, a large bowl with a squarish rim (Fig. 8.14)³¹ and banded medium jar rims (Fig. 8.15-16) were also discovered.³² We can observe that the material belongs to a common EJZ 3b repertoire, both regarding fabrics and shapes. As in other cases, this temple inventory shows that the material discovered in temples at Tell Beydar is not significantly different from the one coming from unofficial or other public contexts.

FOURTH INVENTORY: AREA S, ROOM 19119, FLOOR 19120

The fourth inventory comes from Area S, Room 19119, Floor 19120, excavated during the 2009 season (Fig. 3d-e). Area S is located south of the Acropolis, on a lower terrace of the Upper city, south of 'Main Street'. The Area is composed of a monumental court, paved with baked bricks, surrounded by several rooms on two sides (Dezzi Bardeschi and Stenuit 2011) and temples D and E on the other two sides. This inventory comes from a storage room.

29 Compare: Rova 2011: type 50, pl. 7.10 and 12, EJZ 3a-b; Tell Brak, Area CH, level 5 – Oates 2001: fig. 393.45; Tell Hamoukar, Area H – Colantoni and Ur: 2011 fig. 19.57-58; Tell Abu Hujaira, Chantier B, Phase C-1 – Suleiman and Quenec 2006: type PO1B and PO5-B2, n^o9 and 70; Tell Chuera, Kl. Antent., Schicht 4 and Steinbau 1 – Kühne 1976: abb. 133 and Orthmann 1995: abb. 23.20; Tell Melebiya, Niveaux 2 and 3 – Lebeau 1993: pl. 149.3, 155.9, 156.9 and 157.10; Tell al-Raqa'i, level 2 – Curvers and Schwartz 1990: fig. 5.11.

30 They were also present in the previous inventories and were still in use during the EJZ 4 period.

31 Compare: Tell Abu Hafur, Area A, layer 3 – Koliński and Lawecka 1992: fig. 17.21.

32 Compare: Tell Melebiya, Niveau 2 – Lebeau 1993: pl. 142.11; Tell Abu Hafur, Trench A, Subsurface – Koliński and Lawecka 1992: fig. 17.21; Tell al-Raqa'i, Level 2 – Curvers and Schwartz 1990: fig. 6.6.

The inventory shows different types of vessels. The usual Standard Ware small bowls, both organic and lime tempered, are well attested. Here, we can distinguish low open bowls with curved walls, flat bases and pointed, rounded, inside thickened or angle in-turned rims (Fig. 9.1-3);³³ standard cups with straight walls, flat bases and pointed rims (Fig. 9.4) and low open hemispherical bowls (Fig. 9.5 and 9.7).³⁴ A large deeper hemispherical bowl with horizontal lugs was also found (Fig. 9.6),³⁵ as well as two Standard Ware pot stands (Fig. 9.8-9). Large storage vessels are also attested in this inventory: we have six large jars, mainly in organic tempered Standard Ware with ovoid bodies and banded or outer-grooved rims, the capacity of which varies between 45 and 85 litres (Fig. 9.11-16).³⁶ Other unusually large vessels, rarely attested at Beydar, were discovered on this floor. They consist of large wide-mouthed jars with almost straight walls, flaring rims and flat bases (Fig. 17-18).³⁷ We can suppose that these vessels were used to keep a water supply.

FIFTH INVENTORY: AREA P, 'EASTERN PALACE',
'BANQUET HALL' (ROOM 16473), FLOOR 16631

The fifth inventory comes from Area P, 'Eastern Palace', 'banquet hall' (Room 16473), Floor 16631, of the metal workshop, level 5a-b, excavated during the 2006 campaign (Fig. 4a-b). Area P is located in the eastern part of the Upper City, adjacent to the Acropolis. The EJZ 3b occupation of this area is characterized by a domestic quarter (level 6), which was replaced by the so-called 'Eastern Palace' in level 5c.³⁸ The building was transformed into a metal workshop at the end of the EJZ 3b period (level 5a-b). According to the excavator, it was under the control of central authorities. The former 'banquet hall' was then equipped with several installations as kilns (Pruss 2012: 471).

Among the recovered material, we can distinguish a standard cup with curved walls, a slightly bevelled inside rim and flat string-cut base (Fig. 10.2).³⁹ This vessel was covered with bitumen and then probably used in some activity related to the metal

33 Compare: Tell Chuera, Steinbau 1 and Kl. Antent. – Orthmann 1995: abb. 24.21-24 and Kühne 1976: abb. 183; Tell Abu Hafur, Trench A2 – Koliński and Ławecka 1992: fig. 9.17; Tell Brak, Area SS, level 5 – Oates 2001: fig. 393.46; Tell Hamoukar, Area H – Colantoni and Ur 2011: fig. 19.60-62; Tell Barri, Area G, Phase Q – Orsi 2008: fig. 1.16.

34 Compare: Tell Melebiya, Niveau 2 – Lebeau 1993: pl. 153.12; Tell Chuera, Kl. Antent., Schicht 4 – Kühne 1976: abb. 137.

35 Compare: Rova 2011: type 58, pl. 8.18, EJZ 3b.

36 Compare: Tell Abu Hujaira, Chantier B, Phase C/D – Suleiman and Quenet 2006: types MF7-B and GF1A, n°239 and 139; Tell Abu Hafur, Area A, layers 1-3 – Koliński and Ławecka 1992: fig. 16.6 and 9; Tell Chuera, Palast F – Orthmann and Pruss 1995: abb. 82.75.

37 Rova 2011: type 70, pl. 11.4, EJZ 3b. Similar vessels were found, for instance, at Tell Brak (Area CH, Oates 2001: fig. 460.1564) and at Tell Hamoukar (Area H, Colantoni and Ur 2011: fig. 27), but they are of smaller dimensions.

38 For a detailed description of the Area P 'Eastern Palace' and of its metal workshop phase, see notably Pruss 2011a: 113-118.

39 Compare: Tell Brak, Area SS, level 3 – Oates 2001: fig. 431.912.

workshop (Fig. 10.10). We also found a miniature S-shaped walls bowl (Fig. 10.1, 10.11) and a fragmentary conical cup with thin walls in pale grey Metallic Ware, very clinky and without any visible inclusion (Fig. 10.3, 10.12). This kind of vessel belongs to the so-called 'sila bowls' category, which were discovered in large quantities at Tell Leilan in the Akkadian levels. They have been identified by the excavators as used for the distribution of food rations by the Akkadian authority.⁴⁰ It seems that this kind of cup was already in use at Tell Beydar during the late EJZ 3b period.⁴¹ Some diagnostics sherds were also discovered on this floor: one rounded large bowl and medium jar rims (Fig. 10.4-7),⁴² as well as a globular organic tempered Standard Ware medium jar with rounded base and rim (Fig. 10.8).⁴³ An unusual find is the small jar with incised naturalistic decoration, different pieces of which were discovered in rooms 16473, 16659 and courtyard 16424 (Fig. 10.9). The decoration was incised before firing and it develops in three parallel bands: the first, under the rim, is decorated with incised triangles; the second one shows a row of 'herring-bone' patterns, probably representing stylized trees, and finally a row of animals, all facing to the right where predators, equid, deer and gazelles can be recognized. With one exception, the animals are ordered according to their size, from the largest to the smallest.⁴⁴ This kind of incised naturalistic patterns is well known in the region during EJZ 3b, 4 and 5⁴⁵ and attested in other Tell Beydar areas.⁴⁶

SIXTH INVENTORY: AREA I, ROOM 113510, GRAVE 113538

The last selected inventory comes from Area I, Room 113510, Grave 113538 excavated during the 2010 campaign (Fig. 4c-d). Area I is located in the northern part of

40 They were in fact discovered in large quantities in Operation 3 and 5 of the lower Tell Leilan town (Senior and Weiss 1992). This type of vessels has also been identified at Tell Hamoukar (Area H, Colantoni and Ur 2011: fig. 18.45), at Tell Brak in the Phase M dated to the Akkadian period (Area CH, level 5, Oates 2001: fig. 393.26) but also in the 'ED III destruction level' (see Rova 2011: type 56, pl. 8.10-12, EJZ 3b; Oates 2001: fig. 393.27, 454.1454, 392.21) and at Tell Barri (Area G, Phase Q, Orsi 2008: fig. 4.2-3).

41 See Rova 2011: 72, type 56.

42 Fig. 10.4, compare: Sconzo *in press*: types 63 and 73, EME 3, pl. 14.6-7; Tell Abu Hafur, Trench A, layer 1 – Koliński and Ławecka 1992: fig. 10.15.

43 Compare: Tell Brak, Area SS, level 4/3 – Oates 2001: fig. 444.1268; Tell Chuera, Steinbau 1 and 2 – Orthmann 1995: abb. 27.69, Klein and Orthmann 1995: abb. 40.30.

44 The identification of the animals has been conducted by A. Pruss (see Pruss 2011b: 207; Pruss 2012: 476). According to the excavator, the presence and the scattering of this jar was linked to a closure ritual of the building, comparable to those identified at Tell Brak (Pruss 2012).

45 For EJZ 4 examples, see Oates 2001: fig. 408.368-374 (Tell Brak, Areas FS and SS, levels 3-5, Phase M); Orthmann 1995: abb. 28.84, 31.111-118 (Tell Chuera, Steinbau 1); Klein and Orthmann 1995: abb. 41.43-44 (Tell Chuera, Steinbau 2); Orthmann and Pruss 1995: fig. 83.82, 83.88 (Tell Chuera, Palast F); Hempelmann 2005: taf. 56-61 (Halawa, FBIV levels). Concerning late EJZ attestations, see McMahon and Quenet 2007: pl. 3.28 (Chagar Bazar, Stratigraphic Unit 82.2.1, Phase IIb).

46 A small jar (inventory no.: 13312C65), discovered in the temple zone (Area M, locus 13312) shows the same kind of naturalistic incised decoration. However, some important differences could be pointed out: the general shape of the vessel, the fabric and the stylization of the pattern.

the Tell. This area yielded an EJZ 3a ‘official building’, the so-called ‘Northern Building’ and ‘Northern Gate’, dated to the EJZ 2/EJZ 3a periods. Concerning Beydar IIIb levels, Area I provided us with some houses and workshops (see Milano and Rova 2008). Grave 113538, discovered in Room 113510, belonged to a *c.* ten-year-old child, who had been buried in a rectangular brick structure covered by standing bricks. It was equipped with four pottery vessels, a metal hair-ring, and a number of beads. A broken pottery jar had been placed on top of the brick structure. The body was lying in a crouching position with bent arms and legs, oriented NW-SE.

A small Standard Ware bowl with curved walls, a rounded rim and flat base, and a low cup with curved walls, slightly bevelled inside rim and flat base were found inside the grave (Fig. 10.14-15, 10.19).⁴⁷ The funerary material also includes a wide-mouthed globular pot with an everted external grooved rim (Fig. 10.18, 10.19),⁴⁸ a miniature hole mouthed globular vessel (Fig. 10.17, 10.19) and a Grey Ware Syrian bottle (Fig. 10.16 and 10.19).⁴⁹

Like the majority of the EJZ 3b graves discovered at Tell Beydar, this tomb offered a quite simple set of offering goods without any conspicuous pieces. With the exception of the Syrian bottle, the other vessels are of daily common use, and were also found in different contexts on the site.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the selected inventories are representative of Tell Beydar’s EJZ 3b ceramic corpus. We can observe that the production is very standardized:⁵⁰ in fact, we could call it mass production. This is particularly observable for the smaller vessels, like small bowls and cups, and small and medium ovoid jars, which represent the most common morphological classes. They were wheel-thrown or at least wheel-finished (see Van As and Jacobs 2000).⁵¹ The majority of the EJZ 3b pottery is organic-tempered self-washed Standard Ware, even though lime temper is also largely used. Its colour usually varies between yellowish and buff-beige.

Decorations are not common, but a few examples of painted and incised patterns can be distinguished within the corpus. The scarcity of decorations could be easily explained by the standardization of the pottery production and the development of

47 Compare: Tell Chuera, Steinbau 3 – Kühne 1976: abb. 126; Tell Brak, Area SS, level 3 – Oates 2001: fig. 431.922.

48 Compare: Tell Chuera, Steinbau 2 – Klein and Orthmann 1995: abb. 39.20 and 39.22; Tell Brak, Area FS, level 3 – Oates 2001: fig. 412.449.

49 Then corresponding to Tell Beydar Mi fabric. Compare: Tell Brak, Area SS, level 3 – Oates 2001: fig. 412.449; Sconzo *in press*: 36, type 99, pl. 19.4, EME 4.

50 This feature could have already been observed in the main urban centers of the period in Upper Mesopotamia (Rova 2003: 444; Rova 2011: 57).

51 We can think that they were produced in specialized workshops. On the other hand, the coarse items of larger size, which show a more important variability of their morphological features, should mostly constitute a household domestic production (Rova 2003: 444).

Metallic Ware, which replaces the previous decorated vessels in their function – as ‘luxury’ pottery (Rova 2003: 444).⁵² On the other hand, incised potter’s marks are widely represented, but have probably nothing to do with a decorative function, but rather with functional purposes (Rova 2003: 444).

The analysis of intra-site types distribution is a still in progress work but, at this stage of the study, the general overview of the material and the detailed analysis of some specific contexts, like the inventories presented here, show that the main part of the common types have been found in every kind of context, although we could have expected that the material discovered in domestic contexts would be different from the ones found in palaces, graves or temples. Tell Beydar’s EJZ 3b material fits perfectly into the Western Khabur ceramic province, and more generally into the so-called ‘Metallic Ware’ province (Kühne 1976; Rova 1996: 24). The morphological repertoire has correspondences to all the main neighbouring sites, the western limit of the *comparanda* corresponding to the Balikh region and the southern boundary to the Middle Khabur area.

The morphological repertoire of the Akkadian period, inherited from the earlier phases,⁵³ shows a development of ringed, flat and concave bases. Small drinking vessels are mainly represented by higher beakers and goblets, while the small bottles demonstrate an elongation of their necks. From a technological point of view, we can observe that the paste of the vessels is more dense and mainly mineral tempered. The period is also marked by the arrival of the ‘Akkadian fine Ware’ and of new decoration styles like the combed, roped and corrugated ones (Rova 2003: 444-445).

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52 The scarcity of decorations in the assemblages is a trend observable in the region during the EJZ 3b period (Rova 2011: 57).

53 This trend has already been observed in other sites of the region (see notably: Rova 2011 and Orsi 2008: 701).

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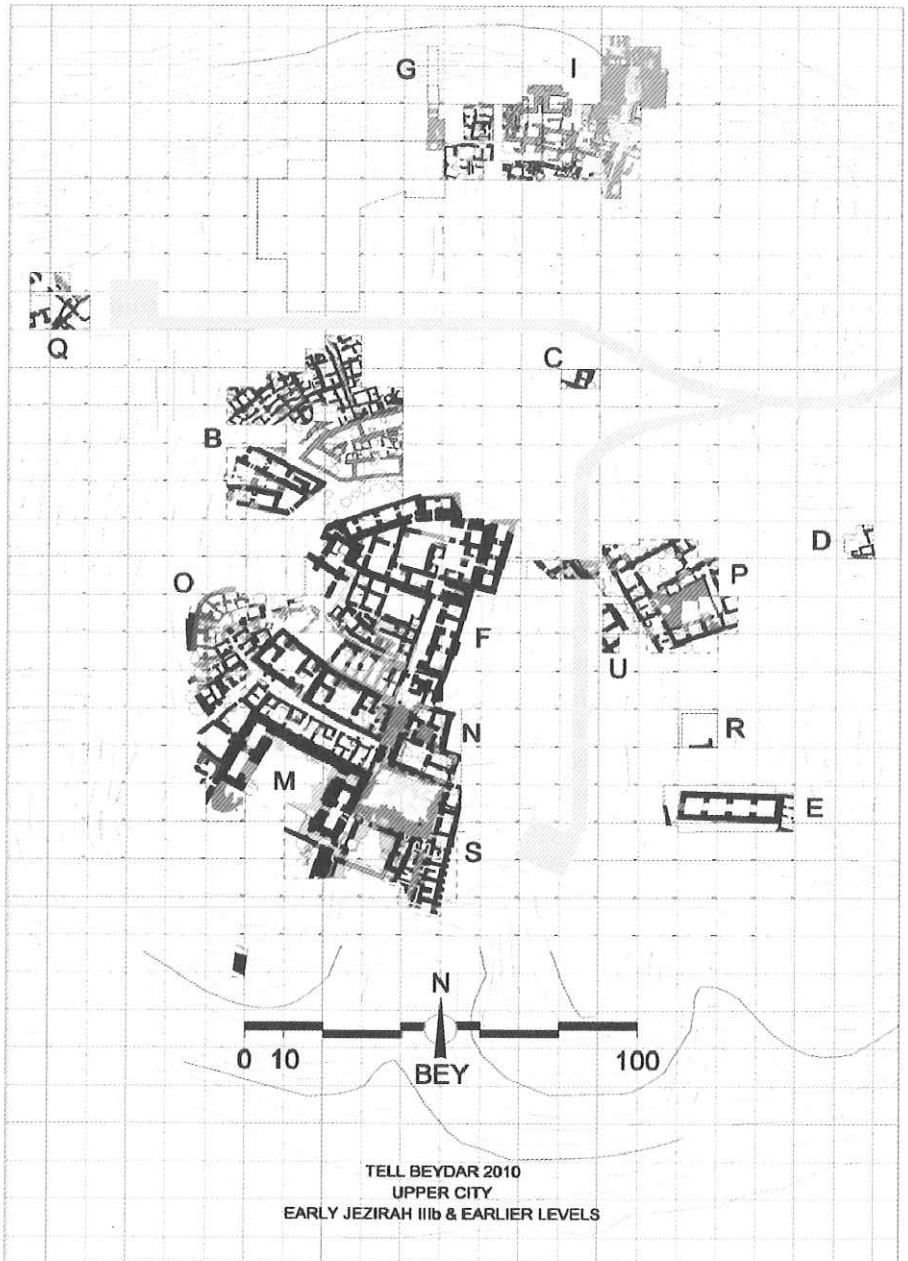


Fig. 1: Tell Beydar topographic map with excavated areas and buildings at the end of the 2010 campaign.

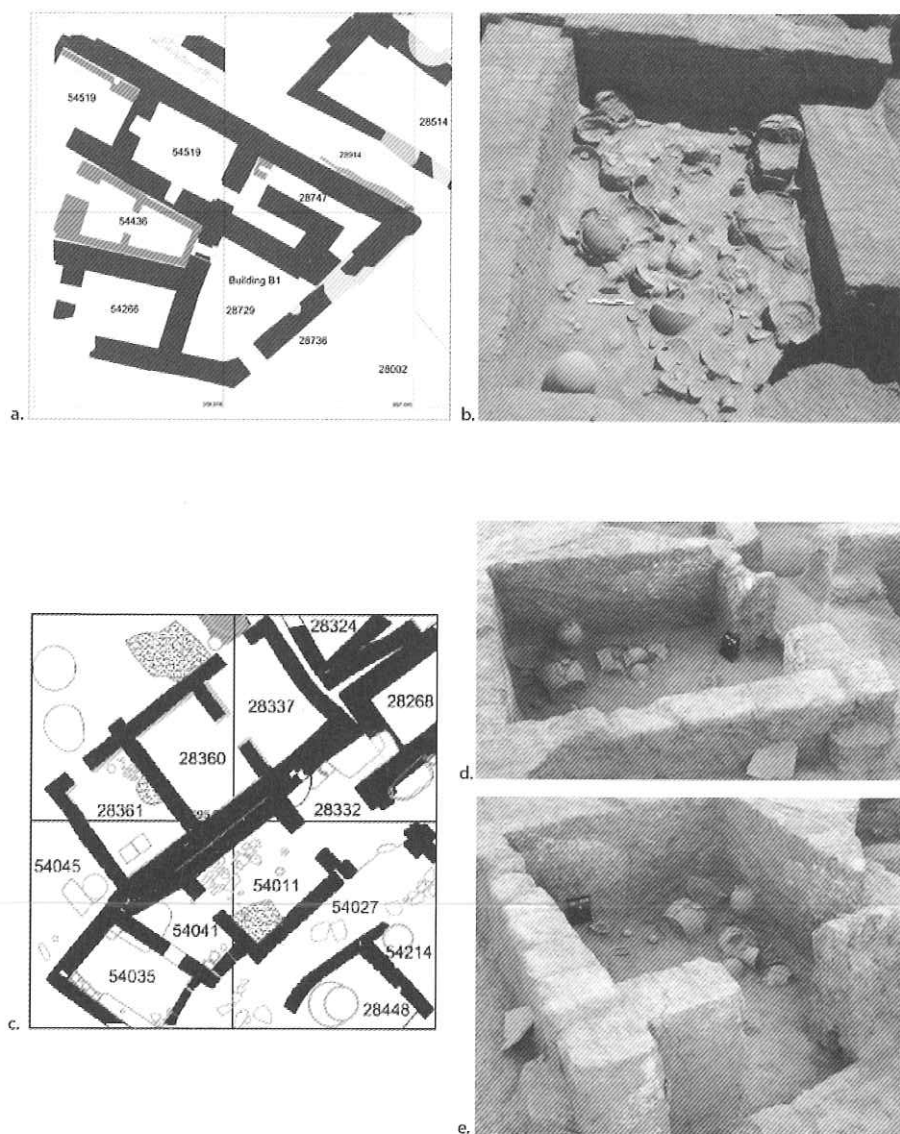


Fig. 2: Inventory n°1, Area B, Building B1, Room 54266, Floor 54267.

a – Schematic plan;

b – Material in situ.

Inventory n°2, Area B, House 10, Room 54011, Floor 54010.

c – Schematic plan;

d-e – Material in situ.

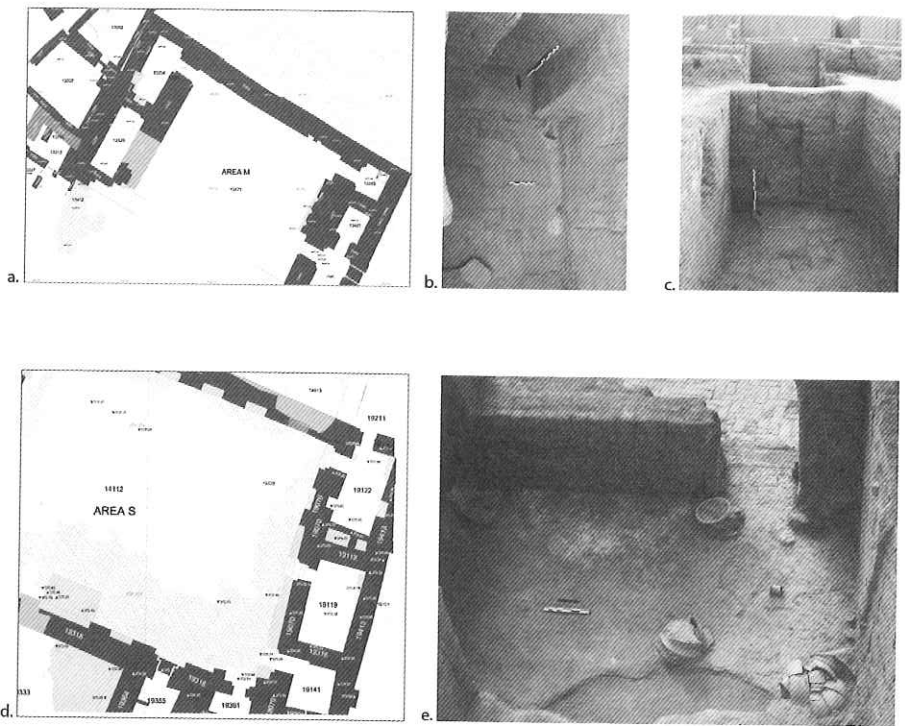


Fig. 3: Inventory n°3, Area M, Temple E, Rooms 13254 and 13329, Floors 1332 and 13499.

a – Schematic plan;

b – Room 13254;

c – Room 13329.

Inventory n°4, Area S, Room 19119, Floor 19120.

d – Schematic plan;

e – Material in situ.

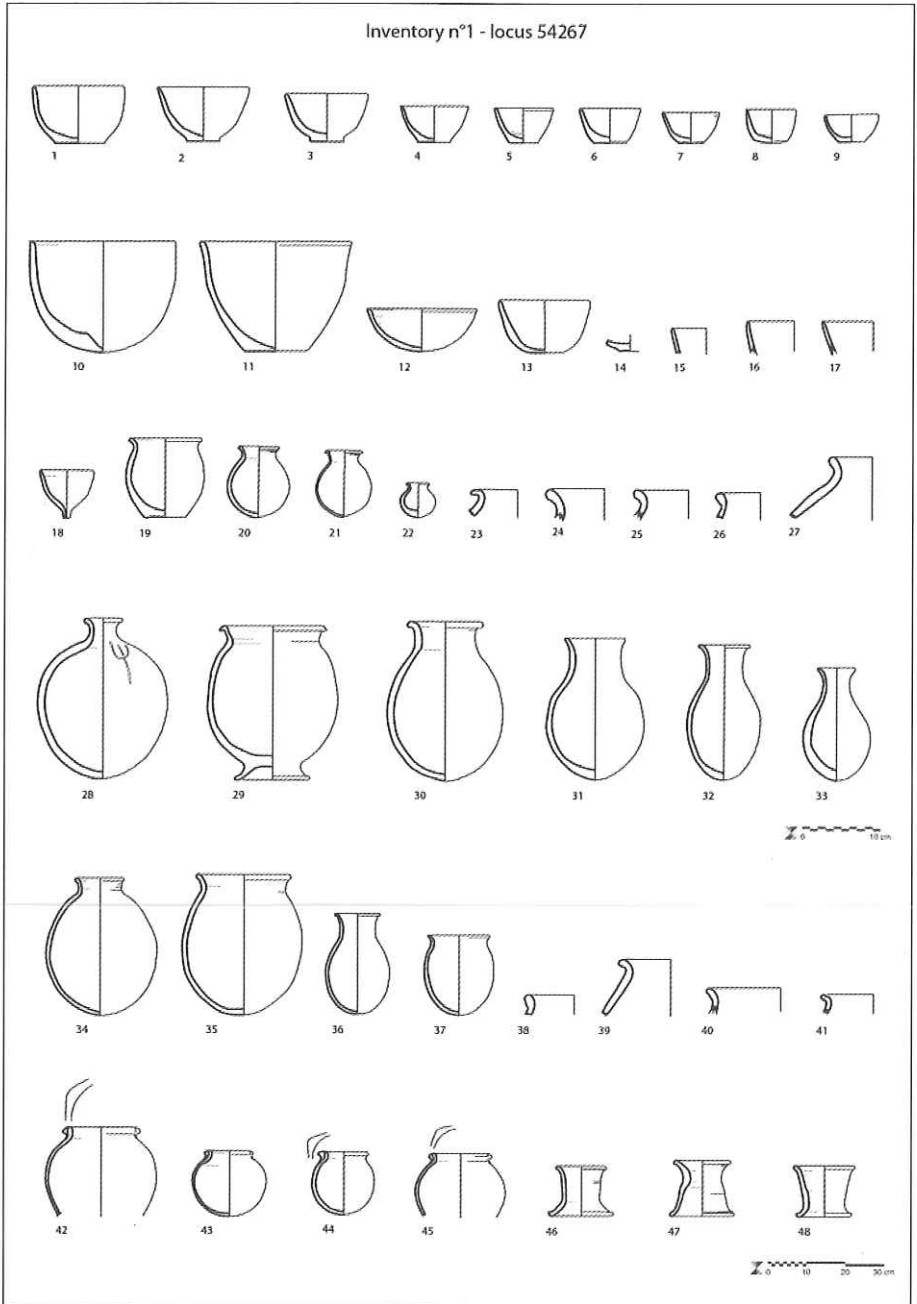


Fig. 5: Pottery from inventory n°1.

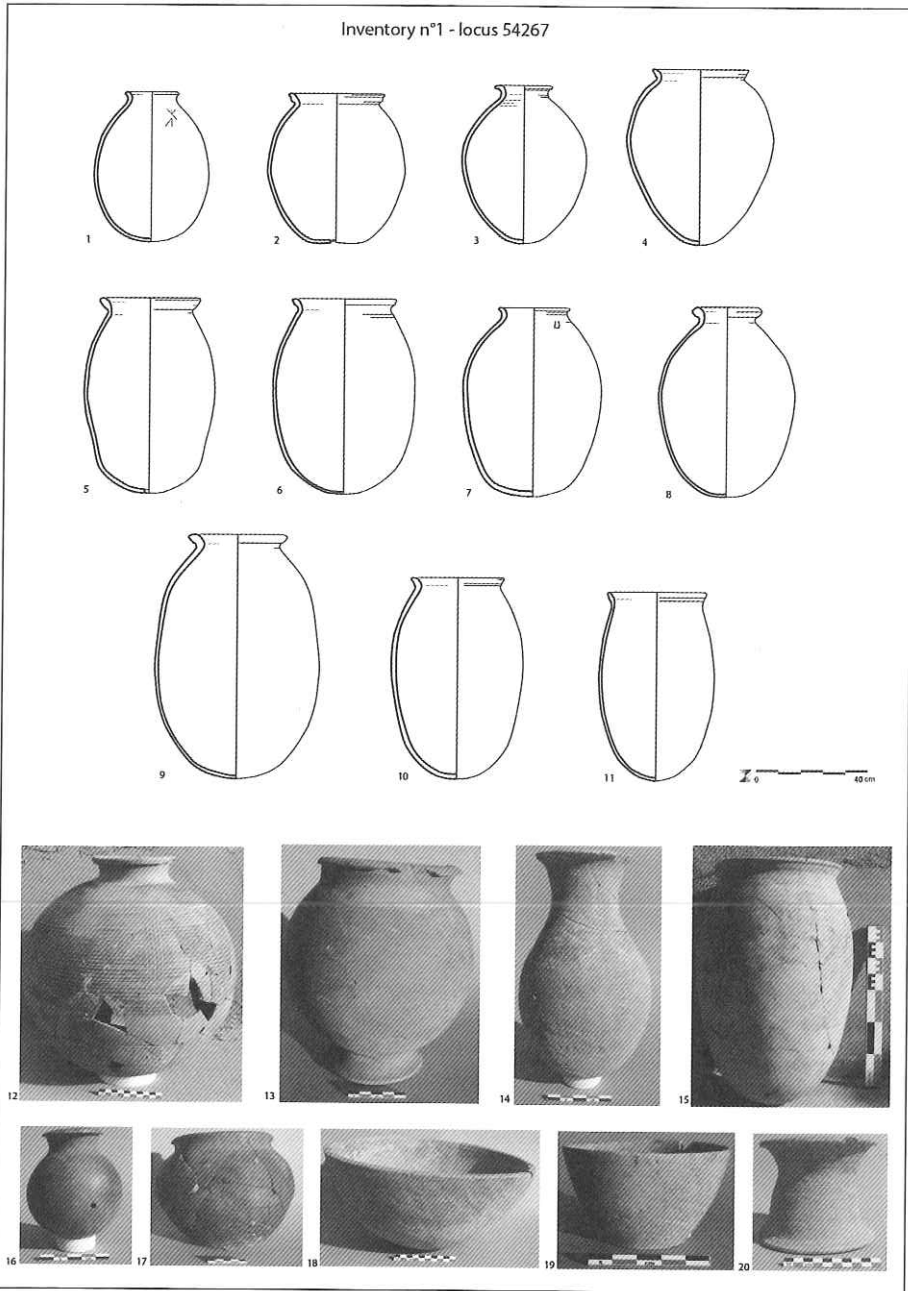


Fig. 6: Pottery from inventory n°1.

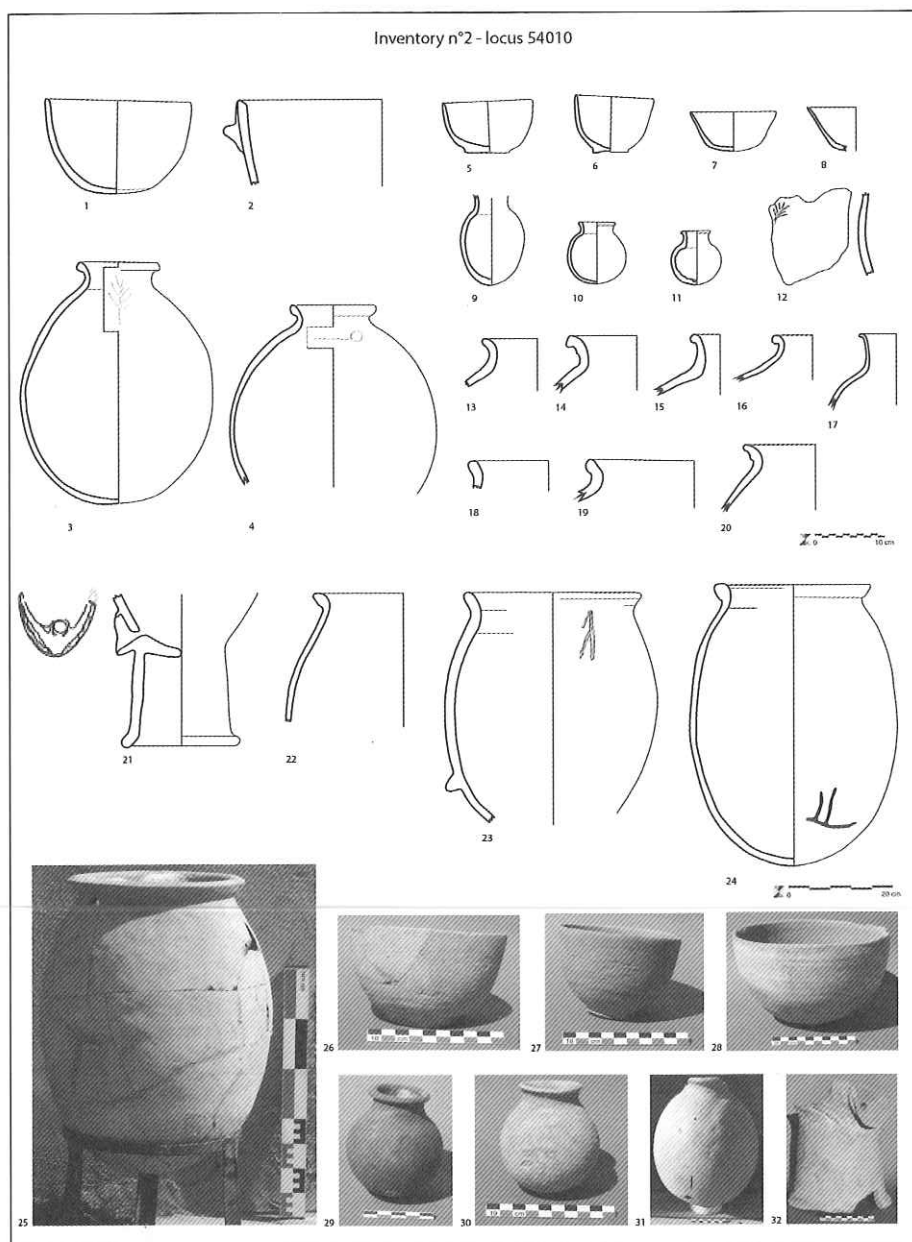


Fig. 7: Pottery from inventory n°2.

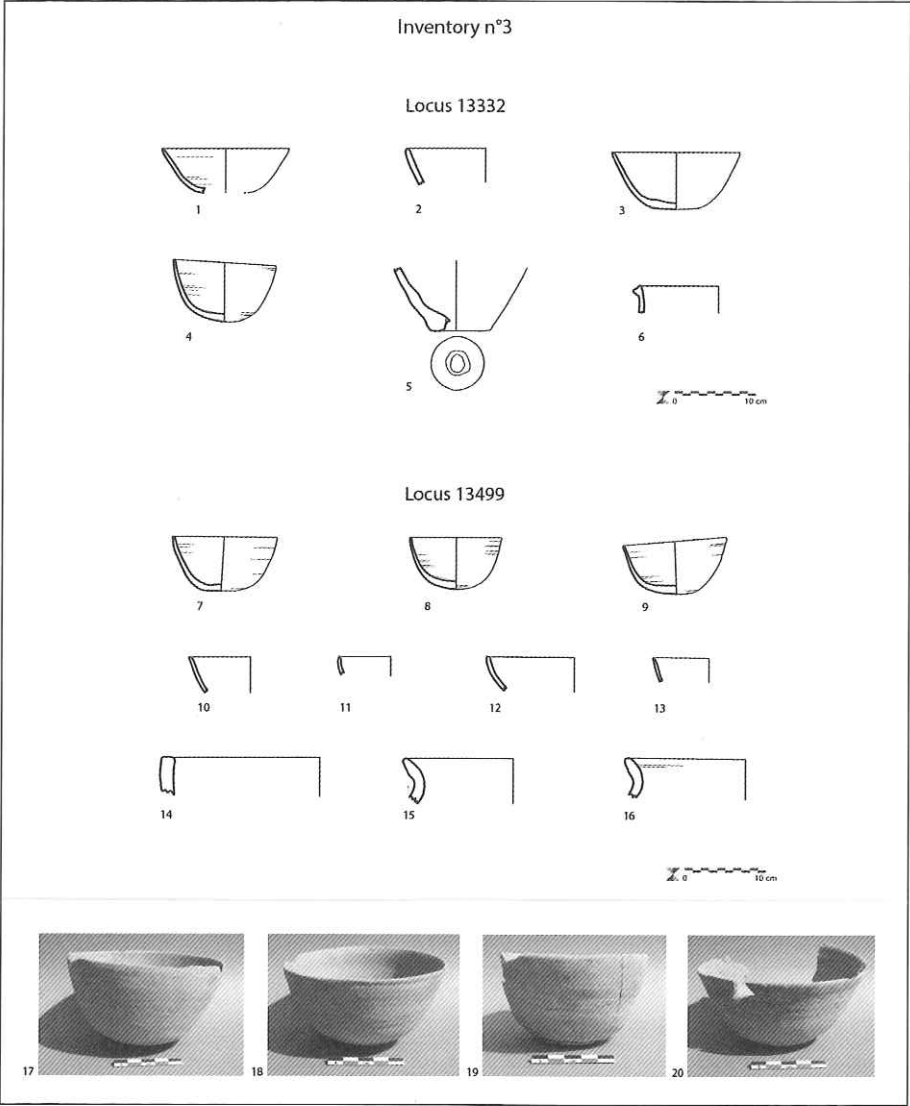


Fig. 8: Pottery from inventory n°3.

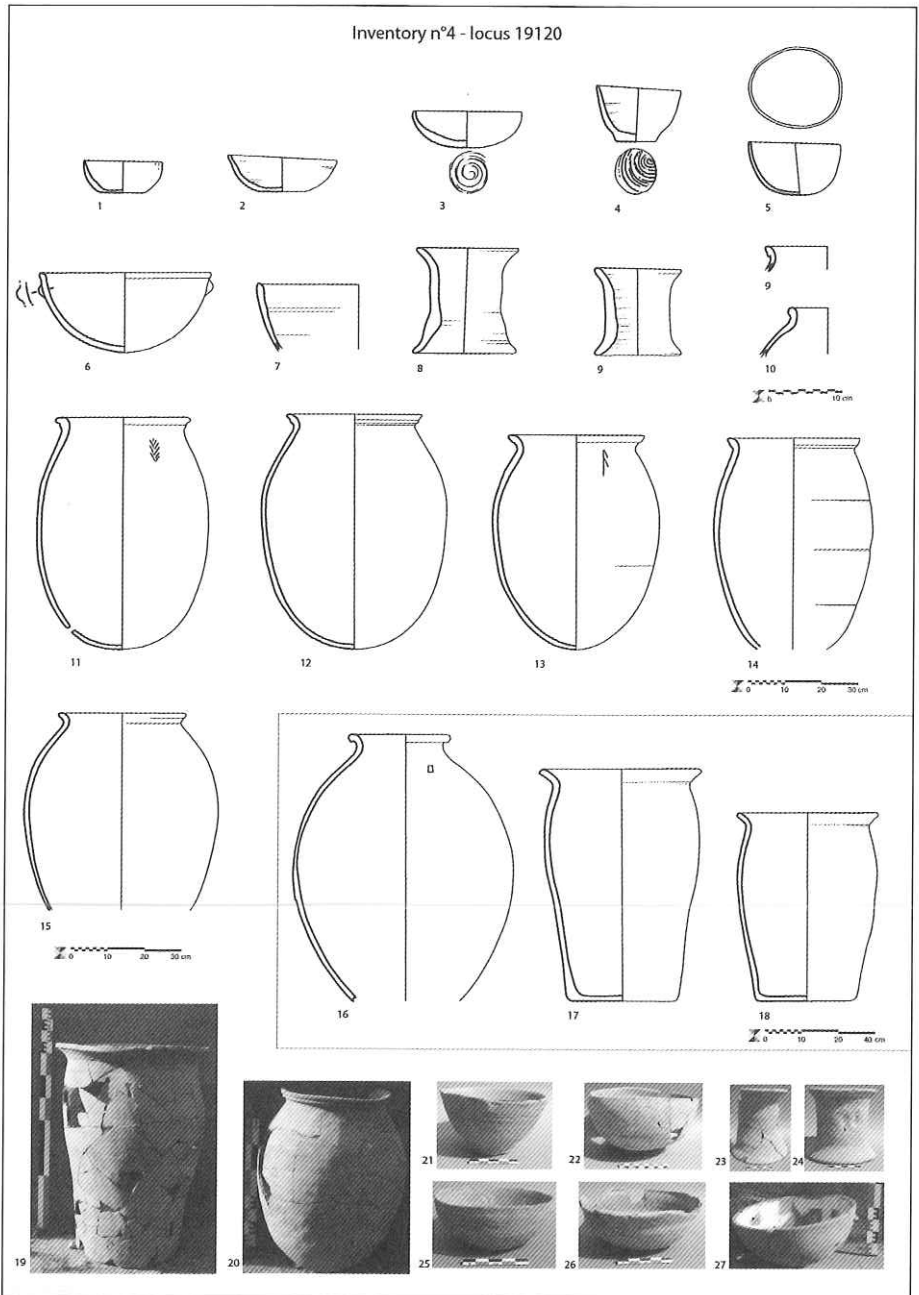


Fig. 9: Pottery from inventory n°4.

