

AN EARLY BYZANTINE AMPHORAE DEPOSIT FROM CAPIDAVA*

Abstract: The subject of this paper is a thorough analysis of an amphorae deposit excavated during several campaigns in Building C1 at Capidava. The context of the discovery is dated at the end of the 6th c. A.D., representing the final occupational level for the Byzantine rule, at Capidava, in the province of Scythia Minor. Our intention is to publish the artefacts and their unique context in this preliminary study; subsequently, they are to be published in a monographic volume later this year. Although some of the artefacts have been published before, this is the first time that they are presented as a group, in a catalogue and with complete illustration.

Keywords: Late Roman Amphorae, Capidava, Lower Danube *limes*, Romano-Byzantine Pottery

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INTRODUCTION

Building C1², situated in the proximity of the main gate of the fort and near the Gate Tower no. 7 from Capidava, was investigated during several archaeological campaigns (1993-1996; 2007-2011), revealing a large portfolio of artefacts and a very particular historical context. This building is one of medium size, neighbouring a large basilica-plan edifice, with three naves preceded by a portico, called the *Horreum* (granary)³. In the current state of the archaeological research one can observe that the southern quarter of the Capidava fort, which harbours the Building C1, is the quarter containing most of the official buildings. More recently intensive investigations have begun at a second large building from this quarter, besides the *Horreum*, the largest building known so far at Capidava. This second edifice is situated in Sector VII - *intra muros*, on the terrace overlooking the Danube, presents an apse on its south-eastern side and has, most likely, several interior partitions. We believe that this building could have served as a Late Roman *Principia*⁴.

* First part of this text (i.e. Introduction, Description and context, Chronology and the general discussion about the Inventory of finds is already published, in an almost identical form, in OPRIS/RAȚIU 2016. What we are proposing specifically in this contribution is the consolidated presentation of the amphorae, whole or that could be restored, that were discovered at a rate sufficiently significant to permit the typological assignment and plan distribution for one of the three rooms of the Building C1.

² OPRIS 1994; OPRIS 2007; OPRIS *et alii* 2008; OPRIS *et alii* 2009; OPRIS/RAȚIU 2010; OPRIS *et alii* 2011; OPRIS *et alii* 2012; OPRIS/RAȚIU/DUCA 2014.

³ The *Horreum* from Capidava is also referred in other publications as *The Guardhouse*, due to the uncertainty/ plurality of the building's destinations. For a more complete reading see OPRIS 2003, 26-33.

⁴ This building will not represent the subject of the current article as the excavations are still at the beginning. See OPRIS/RAȚIU/DUCA 2014, 35-36, 273-275 (= Fig. 9-14); OPRIS/RAȚIU/DUCA 2015, 48-49, 341, 343 (Fig. 1, 4-6).

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The subject of this paper is represented by Building C1 and the amphorae deposit found inside its precinct. Despite the fact that, during early excavations, the building did not seem to present an extraordinary scientific interest and importance, once the research was completed, along with several archaeological and topographical surveys, this edifice assumed a clear paradigmatic value. First of all, because, despite the modest dimensions of the edifice, it allows a monographic⁵ publication through the substantial volume of architectural and planimetric aspects of the building itself⁶ along with the extremely interesting archaeological contexts. Of great significance are also the artefacts found here⁷, among which we can distinguish a numismatic hoard consisting of 46.5 *folles*, published in the same year when the last pieces were discovered (2009)⁸. Secondly, because the building sheds light on the archaeological documentation of the last two occupational levels of the Roman fort itself (N2-3 stage IV), which covers a dating sequence starting from the 6th century and through the beginning of the 7th century AD⁹. Last but not least, the archaeological research of this edifice reveals, through the analysis of all of the above, an integrating radiography of an urban settlement from the Danube frontier of Scythia, bearing a two folded significance, both civil and military, and thus exemplary illustrating the concept of *limitanei*.

DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT

The dimensions of Building C1 are approximately 10 by 11 m; precise outer measurements indicate 9.93 m on the side parallel with the *Horreum* (Z3) while the side parallel with Tower no. 7 (Z2) measures 11.06 m. Quadrangular in shape, the edifice seems aligned with the large building (*Horreum*) raised sometime during the 4th century AD, with the Tower no. 7, and with the axes of the main gate and the main street of the fort – *via principalis* – to which it is directly adjoined. Hence, one can make the logical deduction that the moment of its construction was subsequent to the building of the largest edifice from *Capidava*, the *Horreum*. The latter, along with its *portico* covers an area of 750 m². By comparison, Building C1 has a total area of only 109.5 m².

Since its construction, Building C1 has been divided by a wall (Z6), raised parallel to the main street, which divides the edifice in two, almost equal sections. Furthermore, for practical reasons which nowadays elude us, the front half, next to *via principalis*, was yet again divided by the construction of another wall (Z5). Starting from the entrance, the chambers were conventionally named: Room I (22.55 m²), Room II (14.60 m²) and Room III (33.50 m²) (**Fig. 16**). On the front side of the building, the walls (Z2, Z4 and Z5) are interrupted by the late Roman *castellum's fossa*,

going from a width of approx. 1.2 – 1.3 m at the level of the 6th century floor to double that size at the upper part of the walls¹⁰.

The main entrance of the building is situated in Room I, offering direct access towards the street, and the width of its doorstep, identified during the excavations from the 1990s, measures 1.9 m. Between Room I and Room II, there was a separating wall 4.8 m long (Z5), from which we could identify only the endings, its median part being destroyed by the *fossa*.

Between Room I and II and the largest room of the edifice, Room III, there were two independent access points, each of the two initial chambers having direct connections with the latter one. The width of the doorstep between Room I and III is of approx. 1.25 m and respectively of 1.3 m between Rooms II and III which is also worse preserved.

As previously established, Room III is the largest of the edifice, measuring an area of 33.5 m² from a total of 87.5 m², representing the entire inner area of the building. In this room another *dolium* was found, in the corner adjacent to Room II. Dismantled as some point, its existence can be deduced from the implantation pit visible at the floor level.

CHRONOLOGY

It is difficult to determine the exact moment when the building was raised based only on the existing findings. Under the 6th century floor, we found a few coins dating to the period of Constantine¹¹ which could only represent a vague *terminus post quem*. The active function of the edifice carried on until the last decades of the 6th century AD, when the edifice seems to have been destroyed during one of the Slavic raids which affected the whole Balkan Peninsula (AD 581-585)¹². This interpretation is supported by the discovery of a bronze-coins hoard (see *infra*) on the doorsteps of Rooms I and III. The destruction of the building could have taken place at the beginning of Mauricius Tiberius' reign (AD 582-602) after which followed the fast construction of the last fortification in the southern quarter of the fort (N III from the IV phase¹³). This dating, based on the above mentioned *folles* hoard, is the most accurate one for the entire destruction horizon/period at *Capidava*. Previously, these dramatic events, visible in the Eastern Sector of *Capidava*, have been dated vaguely after 571/572 based on a Justin II bronze coin found in the destruction of the Building C5 on the Curtain Wall F; a similar situation could be observed inside Building C1 on the Curtain Wall G¹⁴. Latest *intra muros* investigations along the south-eastern Curtain Wall G (i.e. Building C16), in the absence of any numismatic evidence, pointed to a roughly AD 550-600 dating, taking into consideration only the African Red Slip

⁵ The publishing of the edifice C1/1994, in a monographic form, is scheduled for the second half of 2016, by the authors of the present article, Ioan C. Opris and Alexandru Rațiu.

⁶ The architectural surveying and the successive plans throughout the archaeological research were provided by arch. Anișoara Sion, whom we would like thank on this occasion also.

⁷ The artefacts discovered during the excavations from 1993-1996 have been already published in OPRIS 2003 and earlier in: OPRIS 1997, 207-218; OPRIS 1999-2000, 427-469. For this particular epigraphic piece, see OPRIS/POPESCU 1997, 177-181.

⁸ GÂNDILĂ 2009, 87-105.

⁹ OPRIS 2003, 22-26.

¹⁰ OPRIS/RAȚIU/DUCA 2014, 35, no. 21; 272, Fig. 6-7; 273, Fig. 8, for the latest comparable recording of the *fossa* in trench S 1/2004.

¹¹ For the preliminary analysis of the numismatic material we give special thanks to our colleague A. Gândilă.

¹² GÂNDILĂ 2009, 87-105. For the discussion concerning the dating of the coins and the historical context of the collapse of the building and the raising of the late *castellum* see 92-93. On the devastating raids of Slavs and Avars that reached Thrace, Macedonia and Greece the most important historical source remains John of Ephesus (*Miracles of St Demetrius*), see CURTA 2001, 90-99 and *passim*.

¹³ OPRIS 2003, 22-26.

¹⁴ COVACEF 1988-1989, 191, 195.

Ware pottery¹⁵. The same violent destruction seems to have additionally affected the Romano-Byzantine church in the northern corner of the fortification¹⁶.

As an evidence for the last and desperate constructive effort of the Roman garrison from *Capidava* after these events, we could identify the *fossa* (defence ditch), in front of the North-Eastern precinct of the late *castellum*, perpendicular to the Curtain H of the fort (**Fig. 2**) and overlapping partially the short side of the *Horreum*¹⁷. The defence wall is characterized by a poor quality masonry and was hastily built superposing the remnants of the *Horreum*'s short side next to the gate tower no. 7; no facing of the wall could be observed so far, besides the mortar and rubble core, thrown directly on previous walls and levelled debris and without any known substructure.

INVENTORY OF FINDS

The two archaeological contexts that contain almost exclusively the inventory displayed in the present study, are contexts no. 4 and 5, among which the latter is the most prolific in terms of findings¹⁸. Context no. 4 corresponds to the roof debris layer therefore it contains numerous *tegulae* and *imbrices*. The collapsed roof, discovered *in situ*, constituted a preserving agent for context no. 5, which made possible the discovery of many artefacts in good preservation state. In many ways, context no. 5, sheltered by the collapsed roof and the 7th century *vallum*, had the benefits and characteristics of an enclosed complex. This situation is entirely true for Room III, unaltered until the excavations from 2007, and only partially for the other two rooms where the 7th century ditch cut through the contexts.

Following the removal of the structural wood and tiles debris of the collapsed roof (context no. 4), the burning level was reached, between the roof and the floor. This level is characterised by an important quantity of carbonized wood¹⁹, partially from the beams and rafters of the roof, but also from shelves and other interior furniture as we shall see onwards. In this context, there have been discovered numerous amphorae, some of them displayed in a carbonized and collapsed shelf (clearly recorded in Room III), lamps, several dispersed coins, a hoard containing 51 copper coins, a felting mill and a few rotary querns.

The pottery collected from this level is diverse and is comprised of several lamps, some *dolia* and *dolium* lids, a unique exceptional fragment of African Red Slip Ware from the *vasa escaria* category, relatively rare finds of drinking vessels, equally rare finds of kitchen ware; however, what predominates in quantity and in typological variety are

¹⁵ COVACEF/POTÂRNICHE 2010, 43-44.

¹⁶ Latest coin found in the excavations of Alexandru Simion Ștefan in 1970 inside the church is a Justin II, ½ follis, CON, 570/1, BAS S II. All above mentioned facts match the situation already recorded for the last habitation level inside the *Horreum*, see OPRİȘ 2003, 22, 25, 33.

¹⁷ OPRİȘ/RAȚIU 2016, Pl. 2/2; 3/1-3; 4; 6/1-2; 8/5-6.

¹⁸ For the archaeological contexts and stratigraphy, see *in extenso* OPRİȘ/RAȚIU 2016, 195-196, 206, Pl. 4.

¹⁹ In the excavation process were collected samples of large fragments of charred wood beams, which, after the analysis and uploading in the comparative data base, have generated the following result: the beams were made of oak that was brought from the northern Black Sea area. The analyses were made by Dr. Tomasz Waszny, at that time senior researcher at Cornell Tree-Ring Laboratory (Cornell University – New York).

the transport amphorae and their corresponding stoppers (*opercula*)²⁰.

One of the most interesting discoveries is represented by a group of five amphorae found *in situ* on a charred plank, adjacent to Z4 wall in Room III, three of them fragmentary and other two, smaller in size, were found whole (**Fig. 3, 16**). The vessels were leaning against each other while the fire followed by the collapse of the roof ultimately sealed the entire room. They belong to LRA 1 and LRA 2 types, but also to Antonova V/Kuzmanov XVI/Opaiț B Id type, quite common at *Capidava*²¹. Cat. no. 30 represent a very special case, and, in spite the missing upper part, might point to North Pontic territories (Chersonesos)²². A similar situation appeared on the opposite wall of Room III, namely Z2 wall, where other two Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaiț B Id amphorae were found leaning against the inner wall (**Fig. 6-7**). Next to the Pontic amphorae (cat. no. 25-26) stood 3 Levantine ones of LRA 4 type and another LRA 1 Aegean one (cat. no. 1, 11, 14, 16). In the centre of Room III was discovered one more group of Levantine wares, *i.e.* 3 fragmentary LRA 4 amphorae (cat. no. 13, 15, 18) and a remarkably preserved LRA 3 amphora (cat. no. 10). To the same group belongs the upper part (neck without handles) of a LRA 1 amphora (cat. no. 5).

Another group of amphorae was unearthed in the context of the hoard mentioned earlier on the threshold between Room I and III, namely the base of a Carthage LRA 4 type amphora and a possible version of a Pontic Kuzmanov XIII/ à pâte claire type (**Fig. 14-15**). The fact that they were arranged in compact groups can indicate a particular usage of space; they were usually situated near the walls or displayed on shelves along other ceramic vessels.

As to the positioning of the amphorae in the first two rooms of the building (*i.e.* Room I and II), one can observe the compact clustering in Room 1, more precisely in the corner between walls Z 6 and Z 5, of 10 amphorae: 2 of LRA 1 type, three more of LRA 2, 1 LRA 4, but also less common ones as Zeest 99/Sazanov 22/Opaiț E IX (3 amphorae), and finally a Pontic type amphora, kindred either to Antonova V/Kuzmanov XVI/Opaiț B Id Type or to Opaiț B V Type (cat. no. 3-4, 7-9, 12, 19-22). Both rooms have their central space severely disturbed (along with the entire inventory) by the *fossa* of the late fortlet, the defensive ditch being dug throughout the building.

TYOLOGY

1. Carthage LRA 1 Type²³ was attested in this building during the 1995 campaign when three such amphorae were discovered (**cat. no. 3, 4 and 6**) in Room I²⁴. Other three amphorae from this type were unearthed during the 2007-2010 campaigns in Room III (**cat. no. 1, 2 and 6**). One of the vessels (**cat. no. 2**) seems to belong to the subtype Carthage

²⁰ For an overview of the entire pottery, see OPRİȘ/RAȚIU 2016, 198-200, Pl. 9-14.

²¹ OPRİȘ 2003, 74-70, Pl. XXV-XXVII.

²² ROMANCHUK/SAZANOV/SEDIKOVA 1995, class 14, 34-35, Pl. 11.66. This closest analogy has been dated in the first quarter of the 7th c. AD. If the typology is correct, the amphora in *Capidava* represents the first known piece of its type. For the above mentioned literature regarding this amphora we give special thanks to Dr. Andrei Opaiț.

²³ RILEY 1976, 114.

²⁴ OPRİȘ 2003, 58, cat. no. 55-57 (Carthage LR 1 Type), Pl. VII.

LRA I E²⁵; close parallels for this type can be found in Scythia at Halmyris, where it occurs in the levels dated in the second half of the 6th c. AD. With the exception of a fragmentary vessel (cat. no. 5), one should observe that the amphorae of this type have been discovered in compact groups with other vessels of Carthage LRA 2 type or with provincial amphorae of Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaït B Id Type in Rooms I and III. As a pattern, they are grouped next to the precinct walls (Z1 and Z 6 for Room I, Z 4 and Z 2 for Room III) (**Fig. 3, 5, 6, 8, 16 and 17**).

This type of vessel, quite popular across the Empire, represents without question the most common type of oriental amphora used in the province of Scythia during the 5th – 7th c. A.D. The great variety of subtypes identified so far corresponds to an impressive production area, which comprises the Western Mediterranean basin, the Aegean Sea and, probably, the Pontic basin (e.g. Sinope²⁶). At Capidava this type of vessel represents approx. 31% of the discoveries of oriental amphorae in Romano-Byzantine contexts²⁷.

2. The large Carthage LRA 2 Type²⁸ amphorae were discovered in Building C1 during the archaeological campaigns from the 1990's²⁹. Compared to several vessels already published, two new amphorae - destroyed by the collapsed roof - appeared in a cluster of amphorae next to the Z4 wall, in Room III, unfortunately too damaged to be restored and further included in this catalogue (**Fig. 3; 16**).

With the same Aegean origin but with greater volume than the latter type, the amphorae from Carthage LRA 2 Type are almost as popular representing 23% of the oriental amphorae discoveries. The analysis of the petrography indicates several possible sources for the clay such as the island of Chios, Kounoupi (in Argolid), the north-western part of Asia Minor, the Bodrum area, as well as Cnidos (Datça Peninsula)³⁰. On the other hand, a Pontic production is to be taken seriously into consideration³¹. The Carthage LRA 2 amphorae published so far at Capidava are located mainly around and inside the *Horreum*³², close to Building C1.

3. A typological novelty for Building C1 consists in the discovery, during the 2008 campaign of a nearly intact Carthage LR 3 Type amphora³³ (**cat. no. 10**) in the middle of Room III. It lacks about 4 cm from the base and the entire surface was strongly exfoliated during the fire in which the entire building was destroyed. At least two such amphorae produced in the Eastern Mediterranean (Western Asia Minor is indicated, *i.e.* Hermos Valley – Aphrodisias and the region between Ephesus and Sardis)³⁴ have been discovered at Capidava so far³⁵.

²⁵ OPAIȚ 2004, 10, dated in the second half of the 6th c.

²⁶ OPAIȚ 2004, 8-10, with 6 different subtypes; PARASCHIV 2006, 89-92; OPRIȘ 2003, 53-59; TOPOLEANU 2000, 134-136.

²⁷ OPRIȘ 2003, 177-178.

²⁸ RILEY 1976, 116.

²⁹ OPRIȘ 2003, 61, 64, cat. no. 69-70, 100 (Carthage LR 2 Type), Pl. VIII, XXI-XXII. First two – found in Room I, near to the doorstep to Room III – had *dipinti* painted with red paint on the neck.

³⁰ TOPOLEANU 2000, 132-134; OPRIȘ 2003, 59-64; OPAIȚ 2004, 10-12; PARASCHIV 2006, 92-95.

³¹ PARASCHIV 2006, 95.

³² OPRIȘ 2003, Pl. VIII.

³³ RILEY 1976, 117; OPAIȚ 2004, 13-14: closest parallels in the province of Scythia are the early dated amphorae from Topraichioi at Pl. VII/5-6.

³⁴ OPAIȚ 2004, 14.

³⁵ OPRIȘ 2003, 64-65, cat. no. 101-102, Pl. VIII, XXII; for a third fragment

4. When compared to the insignificant presence of LRA 3 within the precinct of the building, one should stress, for instance, the concentration of Levantine amphorae of Carthage LR 4 Type³⁶ (**cat. no. 11 – 18**). This type of vessels is known mainly in the area of the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins and was most likely produced in ancient Palestine and also in the Nile Delta and Middle Egypt³⁷. It was probably used for transporting the famous Ghaza wine. In the province of Scythia this type of amphorae was discovered almost exclusively in urban contexts³⁸. Excepting cat. no. 12 (Room I), all other upper and lower parts of such amphorae come from Room III. Cat. no. 12 (Fig. 16, 18.12), well preserved only in its lower part, was found during the 1993 campaign³⁹, and another, entirely restored, was uncovered during the 2010 campaign in Room III (Fig. 9, 11, 16, 18.11). From a third known LR 4 amphora was recovered, at the time of the excavation, only about 10 cm from the conical shaped base, broken *in situ* on the doorstep between Rooms III and I (Fig. 14-16, 18.17). One should also notice two compact groups in the centre of Room III (cat. nos. 13, 15, 18) and at the end of the same room between walls Z3, Z2 and Z 6 (cat. nos. 11, 14, 16). Cat. no. 18 (Fig. 10, 12, 16, 18.18) might indicate a thicker and shorter subtype possibly presenting an angle at the transition between shoulder and body⁴⁰.

This is the highest concentration of LRA 4 amphorae at Capidava so far; until now five other such amphorae have been published from the interior of the *Horreum* and the storage rooms in the portico⁴¹.

5. A new series of amphorae, which appears to originate from the same Levantine geographical area, belongs to Zeest 99/ Sazanov 22/ Opaït E IX Type⁴² already thoroughly documented at Capidava, including in Building C1⁴³ (**Fig. 16, 19.1**). As for the Zeest 99/ Sazanov 22/ Opaït E IX Type, rather frequent in the Northern Black Sea archaeological contexts until the third quarter of the 8th c. (!), their content seem to have been Cretan wine and the production sites were situated in southern Crete, near Gortyn⁴⁴. One should stress that our finds match the same dating sequence as the other Scythia analogies from Halmyris, Istros, Argamum, Ibida or Tomis, *i.e.* the last quarter of the 6th c.⁴⁵

One of the amphorae attributed in past publications to this type⁴⁶ may in fact belong (due to its morphology) either to Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaït B Id or to Opaït B V Type⁴⁷ or to a kindred new type. The confusion belonging to LRA 3 type, see also PARASCHIV 2004, 401 (= OPRIȘ 2003, 72, unassigned cat. no. 122).

³⁶ RILEY 1976, 117.

³⁷ OPRIȘ 2003, 65-68; PARASCHIV 2006, 99-101.

³⁸ OPAIȚ 2004, 20-22.

³⁹ OPRIȘ 2003, 67, cat. no. 103, Pl. VIII, XXII.

⁴⁰ See OPAIȚ 2004, 20-21 (Palestine Zemer 52-53), with best analogy in Scythia from *Tomis*, Pl. 7.11.

⁴¹ OPRIȘ 2003, 65-68, Pl. VIII.

⁴² ZEEST 1960, 120, Pl. XXXIX; OPAIȚ 1991, 150, no. 127-128, SAZANOV 1995 (1997), 91-92, type 22. This type is also known under the acronym of TRC 4, see SAZANOV 2007, 807-808 and 815 = fig. 7; newest contribution on Cretan amphorae in Northern Black Sea region is SAZANOV 2014.

⁴³ OPRIȘ 2003, 70-71, Type VIII, cat. no. 113, 117, 19, Pl. IX, XXIV.

⁴⁴ OPAIȚ 2004, 24, Pl. 15.4-7; PARASCHIV 2006, 102-103.

⁴⁵ OPAIȚ 2004, 24.

⁴⁶ OPRIȘ 2003, cat. no. 118 (in our present contribution equivalent with cat. no. 22).

⁴⁷ OPAIȚ 2004, 29, Pl. XVIII; TOPOLEANU 2000, 153-154, cat. no. 403-405, Pl. LI.

is sustained by certain details of the shape, the grooved decorum, the size of the vessel but mostly by the colour and aspect of the fabric. For these reasons this amphora (**Fig. 19.22**) containing pine tar is better to be unassigned to any of the Pontic types, leaving other clarifications for future research.

6. To the next Opaït B V Type⁴⁸, already known at Capidava⁴⁹, a new amphora was assigned, found in an upright position against the Z6 wall in Room III during the 2009 campaign (**Fig. 13, 16, 19.23**). This Pontic type was dated in the second half of the 6th and the beginning of the 7th c. and could have been produced in several centres of Scythia, for short range transport purposes⁵⁰.

7. An equally reduced presence at Capidava could be noticed until now for Kuzmanov XIII/ à pâte claire Type⁵¹. Another amphora of this type has been found in 2009 on the threshold between Room III and I, badly damaged in the fire that destroyed the Building C1 (**Fig. 14-16, 19.24**). It has the same Pontic origin and belongs to the type, or to a version with a shorter neck. The production centres that have been identified so far are Heraclea Pontica and Sinope⁵².

8. Quite the opposite is the situation of the 6th c. popular Pontic Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaït B Id Type⁵³, which is well documented at Capidava⁵⁴ also in Building C1⁵⁵. In fact, it is undoubtedly the most popular type of its kind, representing approx. 66 % of all Pontic amphorae. We agree with our colleague dr. Dorel Paraschiv, when proposing Capidava or the surrounding area as possible production sites, though further petrographic analysis might be highly important in this respect. To the previously (1995) discovered amphora in Room II (cat. no. 29), four new finds from the 2007-2009 excavations adjoin the already published collection from Capidava. All four have been discovered in the same Room III (cat. no. 25-28; fig. 3-4, 6, 7, 16, 19.25-27). Two of them (cat. no. 27-28) have been found next to the Z 4 wall (see fig. 3-4, 16, 19.27) and the other two in vertical position, at the opposite end of the same room (next to Z 2, fig. 6-7, 16, 19.25-26). The general dating in the second half of the 6th c. and the beginning of the 7th c. in Scythia perfectly matches the one in the particular context of Building C1.

9. A highly interesting, yet exotic amphora is the one from cat. no. 30 (**Fig. 3, 16**). Although its entire upper part is missing, creating further difficulties in correctly assigning it; its large body and the groovy decoration of the bottom part and the shoulder area have a possible analogy at Chersonesos, where two such Pontic amphorae have been found and subsequently dated in the first quarter of the 7th

c. AD. If the analogy is functional, this dating makes the Capidava amphora the earliest known discovery of its kind⁵⁶.

10. The only table amphora in Building C1 (cat. no. 31; **Fig. 16, 19.31**) was discovered in 1995. It was found in Room I, next to the main entrance from *via principalis*. It was assigned to a second type of such table amphorae⁵⁷, with *umbo* shaped base; a local production for this type was also suggested⁵⁸.

CONCLUSIONS

The typology of the amphorae discovered in Building C1 is homogenous; the majority of the vessels are included in the large family of late Roman oriental amphorae. Other part of the catalogue is populated with local Pontic type amphorae, like the Antonova V type. The significant proportion of Antonova V type among the discoveries, both in Building C1 and the *Horreum*, reinforces the hypothesis, formulated by D. Paraschiv and supported by the authors of the present paper, that Capidava is probably a production centre for this type of amphorae. In addition, recent research undertaken in the late Roman Principia⁵⁹ has revealed even more Antonova V amphorae adding to the overall weight of this type within the Capidava amphorae corpus.

Given all above mentioned assemblage of amphorae (31 in this catalogue), and primarily the corroborated dating for the cat. no. 2 amphora LR 1 E (second half of the 6th c.), the late 6th c. dating in the whole province for the Zeest 99/ Sazanov 22/ Opaït E IX Type (cat. no. 19-21), the dating in the second half of the 6th c. and the beginning of the 7th c. for Pontic amphorae of Types Opaït B V (cat. no. 23) and Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaït B Id (cat. no. 25-29), or the late 6th – early 7th c. one for the Romanchuk/Sazanov/ Sedikova 1995, class 14 amphora (cat. 30, if so) match and complete the existing numismatic evidence.

CATALOGUE⁶⁰

Cat. No. 1

a. Form: Carthage LRA 1

b. Context: Room III, 2008

c. Dimensions⁶¹: H: 51cm; MD: 28.5cm

d. Fabric: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand brick-red colour with a reddish slip.

e. Decorum: A ribbed aspect, mainly in the mid-lower part of the vessel.

f. Conservation: The artefact is fragmentary part of the lower part is missing; traces of secondary burning.

g. Bibliography: Oprîş, Raţiu 2016, 211, Pl. 10/1

⁴⁸ OPAIŢ 1991, 144, nr. 92, Pl. 15.

⁴⁹ See OPRIŞ 2003, 79-81, cat. no. 159-167, Pl. XXVII-XXVIII (*Horreum* and its portico); OPAIŢ 2004, 29, Pl. 18.1.

⁵⁰ PARASCHIV 2006, 39-40.

⁵¹ KUZMANOV 1985, 18, type XIII, Pl. 7, A 68-69; OPRIŞ 2003, 83-84, cat. no. 171-172, Pl. XXIX

⁵² See OPRIŞ 2003, 83 and n. 146; PARASCHIV 2006, 402 (signalling another Kuzmanov XIII amphora from *Dinogetia*).

⁵³ KUZMANOV 1985, 22, type XVI, cat. no. A 114 - 127, Pl. 12/A 126, 13/A 127; OPAIŢ 1991, 141-142, nr. 71-76.

⁵⁴ OPRIŞ 2003, Type X, 74-79, cat. no. 127-158, Pl. X, XXV-XXVII. The highest concentration of this type has been attested in the portico of the *Horreum*.

⁵⁵ OPRIŞ 2003, cat. no. 150, from Room III, not illustrated.

⁵⁶ ROMANCHUK/SAZANOV/SEDIKOVA 1995, class 14, 34-35, Pl. 11.66.

⁵⁷ OPRIŞ 2003, 85-88, especially 87.

⁵⁸ OPRIŞ 2003, 86. Other different provincial table amphorae see at OPAIŢ 2004, 4-5.

⁵⁹ OPRIŞ/RĂŢIU/DUCA 2014, 35-36, 273-275 (= Fig. 9-14); OPRIŞ/RĂŢIU/DUCA 2015, 48-49, 341, 343 (Fig. 1, 4-6).

⁶⁰ The items from the catalogue are described in the following order: Catalogue number; Form (Type); Context of discovery (and year of disc.); Dimensions; Fabric; Decorum (special features); Conservation state of the item; Bibliography; Inventory number (temporary site inventory); Illustration (if any).

⁶¹ The abbreviations for the dimensions are as follows: H: height; PH: preserved height; EH: estimated height; MD: maximum diameter; RD: rim diameter; HD: handle diameter.

h. Inventory: CAP 13017

i. Illustration: Fig. 17/1

Cat. No. 2

a.: Carthage LRA 1 E

b.: Room III, 2007

c.: H: 54cm; MD: 32cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand brick-yellow (whitish) colour with a similar slip.

e.: A ribbed aspect, mainly in the mid-lower part of the vessel, except the median area.

f.: Good conservation state, the vessel is completely restored; traces of secondary burning.

g.: Opreş, Raţiu 2016, 211, Pl. 10/2

h.: CAP 13018

i.: Fig. 17/2

Cat. No. 3

a.: Carthage LRA 1

b.: Room I, 1995

c.: H: 51cm; MD: 24cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand brick-brown colour with a similar slip.

e.: A ribbed aspect, from the shoulder to the lower part of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, some elements from the lower part of the vessel are missing; traces of secondary burning.

g.: Opreş 2003, 58, no. 56, Pl. XIX/56

h.: CAP 6990

i.: Not illustrated

Cat. No. 4

a.: Carthage LRA 1

b.: Room I, 1995

c.: H: 50cm; MD: 25cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand light orange colour with a similar slip.

e.: A ribbed aspect, from the shoulder to the lower part of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, some elements from the shoulder of the vessel are missing; traces of secondary burning.

g.: Opreş 2003, 58, no. 57.

h.: CAP 5189

i.: Not illustrated

Cat. No. 5

a.: Carthage LRA 1

b.: Room III, 2008

c.: PH: 12cm; RD: 9cm; HD: 3cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and mica light orange colour.

f.: Fragmentary, only the rim, neck and part of the handles and shoulders remain.

g.: Unpublished

h.: CAP 13076

i.: Fig. 17/5

Cat. No. 6

a.: Carthage LRA 1

b.: Room I, 1995

c.: H: 41cm; MD: 18cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand brick-red colour with a similar slip.

e.: A ribbed aspect, mainly in the mid-lower part of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, but completely restored: traces of secondary burning.

g.: Opreş 2003, 58, no. 55; Opreş, Raţiu 2016, 211, Pl. 10/3

h.: CAP 5226

i.: Not illustrated

Cat. No. 7

a.: Carthage LRA 2 (variant)

b.: Room I, 1994

c.: H: 50cm; MD: 25cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite yellow-white colour with a cream coloured slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, some elements from the shoulder and the body of the vessel are missing.

g.: Opreş 2003, 64, no. 100

h.: CAP 5179

i.: Fig. 17/7

Cat. No. 8

a.: Carthage LRA 2

b.: Room I, 1995

c.: H: 63cm; MD: 49cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, containing fine particles of sand light orange colour with a cream coloured slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the median area of the vessel Christian *dipinti* (B Y † N E) painted with red paint just above the striated area, shoulders and neck.

f.: Fragmentary, but entirely restored; heavy traces of secondary burning, slightly deformed by fire.

g.: Opreş 2003, 61, no. 69, Pl. XXI/69, 69a, 69b; Opreş, Raţiu 2016, 212, Pl. 10/4, 4a

h.: CAP 6286

i.: Fig. 17/8

Cat. No. 9

a.: Carthage LRA 2

b.: Room I, 1995

c.: H: 62cm; MD: 45cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, containing fine particles of sand light orange colour with a cream coloured slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the upper part of the body red paint inscription, *dipinti*, on the upper part of the shoulders (E A N or E A Y).

f.: Fragmentary, some elements from the rim, handles and body of the vessel are missing; heavy traces of secondary burning, slightly deformed by fire.

g.: Opreş 2003, 61, no. 70, Pl. XXII/70, 70a; Opreş, Raţiu 2016, 212, Pl. 10/5

h.: CAP 6283

i.: Fig. 17/9

Cat. No. 10

a.: Carthage LRA 3

b.: Room III, 2008

c.: PH: 36.6cm; MD: 15.2cm; RD: 4cm; HD: 0.8cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand light brown colour.

e.: A ribbed aspect, from the upper shoulder to the lower part of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, some elements (about 4cm from its original height) from the base of the vessel are missing; heavy traces of secondary burning and massive exfoliation.

g.: Opreş, Raţiu 2016, 212, Pl. 10/6

h.: CAP 13019

i.: Fig. 18/10

Cat. No. 11

a.: Carthage LRA 4

b.: Room III, 2008

c.: H: 73cm; MD: 20cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite brick-orange colour with a similar slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations incised on the base of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, some elements from the body of the vessel are missing, but they were replaced after restoration; heavy traces of secondary burning and massive exfoliation.

g.: Opreş, Raţiu 2016, 212, Pl. 10/7

h.: CAP 13020

i.: Fig. 18/11

Cat. No. 12

a.: Carthage LRA 4

b.: Room I, 1995

c.: PH: 55.2cm; EH: 70cm; MD: 26cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite brick-orange colour with a similar slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations incised from the base of the vessel all thru the upper part.

f.: Fragmentary, the entire upper body of the vessel, namely the shoulders, neck, rim or handles, is missing.

g.: Opreş 2003, 67, no. 103, Pl. XXII/103

h.: CAP 5301

i.: Fig. 18/12

Cat. No. 13

a.: Carthage LRA 4

b.: Room III, 2008

c.: PH: 16.5cm; MD: 25.5cm; RD: 11cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite brick-orange colour with a similar slip.

e.: No visible decorations on the remaining fragment.

f.: Fragmentary, only the upper part of the vessel remains.

g.: Unpublished

h.: CAP 13021

i.: Fig. 18/13

Cat. No. 14

a.: Carthage LRA 4

b.: Room III, 2008

c.: PH: 18cm; MD: 22.8cm; RD: 11 cm; HD: 2.5cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite brick-orange colour with a similar slip.

e.: No visible decorations on the remaining fragment.

f.: Fragmentary, only the upper part of the vessel remains.

g.: Unpublished

h.: CAP 13022

i.: Fig. 18/14

Cat. No. 15

a.: Carthage LRA 4

b.: Room III, 2008

c.: PH: 21cm; MD: 19.2cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite brick-orange colour with a similar slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations incised on the base of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, most of the upper part of the vessel is missing.

g.: Unpublished

h.: CAP 13023

i.: Fig. 18/15

Cat. No. 16

a.: Carthage LRA 4

b.: Room III, 2008

c.: PH: 34.2 cm; MD: 18.6 cm; BD: 2 cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite brick-orange colour with a similar slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations incised on the base of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, the upper half of the vessel is missing.

g.: Unpublished

h.: CAP 13024

i.: Fig. 18/16

Cat. No. 17

a.: Carthage LRA 4

b.: Room III, 2008

c.: PH: 34.2cm; MD: 18.6cm; BD: 2cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite brick-orange colour with a similar slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations incised on the base of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, most of the upper part of the vessel is missing.

g.: Unpublished

h.: CAP 13024

i.: Fig. 18/17

Cat. No. 18

a.: Carthage LRA 4

b.: Room III, 2008

c.: PH: 34.2cm; MD: 18.6cm; BD: 2cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite brick-orange colour with a similar slip.

e.: A ribbed aspect, from the lower part of the vessel up to the preserved area of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, the upper half of the vessel is missing.

g.: Unpublished

h.: CAP 13077

i.: Fig. 18/18

Cat. No. 19

a.: Zeest 99/ Sazanov 22/ Opaït E IX

b.: Room I, 1995

c.: H: 42cm; MD: 15cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand yellow-orange colour with a cream coloured slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel. It has the letter Ψ painted with red paint on the body.

f.: Some small elements from the body of the vessel are missing.

g.: Opriş 2003, 71, no. 113, Pl. XXIV/113; Opriş, Raţiu 2016, 213, Pl. 11/1

h.: CAP 5169

i.: Fig. 19/19

Cat. No. 20

a.: Zeest 99/ Sazanov 22/ Opaït E IX

b.: Room I, 1995

c.: H: 46.5cm; MD: 18.5cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite light pink-orange colour with a whitish slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: One of the handles is missing; heavy traces of secondary burning, deformed by fire.

g.: Opriş 2003, 71, no. 117

h.: CAP 5170

i.: Not illustrated

Cat. No. 21

a.: Zeest 99/ Sazanov 22/ Opaït E IX

b.: Room II, 1995

c.: H: 40.6cm; MD: 16cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite light pink-orange colour with a whitish slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel and again in the lower part.

f.: Both handles are missing; heavy traces of secondary burning, deformed by fire.

g.: Opriş 2003, 71, no. 119

h.: CAP 5300

i.: Not illustrated

Cat. No. 22

a.: unassigned type, related to Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaït B Id or to Opaït B V Type

b.: Room I, 1995

c.: H: 36.5cm; MD: 15cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand yellow-white colour with a whitish coloured slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, some small elements from the body of the vessel are missing; heavy traces of secondary burning, deformed by fire.

g.: Opriş 2003, 71, no. 118, Pl. XXIV/118; Opriş, Raţiu 2016, 213, Pl. 11/2

h.: CAP 5181

i.: Fig. 19/22

Cat. No. 23

a.: Opaït B V

b.: Room III, 2009

c.: MD: 17.5cm; RD: 6.5cm; HD: 2.3cm; PH: 43.7cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite orange colour.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, but restored completely; heavy traces of secondary burning.

g.: Opriş, Raţiu 2016, 213, Pl. 11/3

h.: CAP 13025

i.: Fig. 19/23

Cat. No. 24

a.: Kuzmanov XIII/ *à pâte claire*

b.: Room III, 2009

c.: MD: 13.5cm; RD: 5.9cm; HD: 1.7 cm; PH: 32.3cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and mica orange colour.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, both handles and part of the rim are missing heavy traces of secondary burning, and exfoliation as a result of fire.

g.: Opriş, Raţiu 2016, 213, Pl. 11/7

h.: CAP 13026

i.: Fig. 19/24

Cat. No. 25

a.: Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaït B I d

b.: Room III, 2008

c.: PH: 33.6cm; MD: 16cm; RD: 6.6cm; HD: 1.7cm

d.: Coarse fabric, homogenous, with inclusions of organic material orange colour.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: The amphora is preserved whole; heavy traces of secondary burning.

g.: Opriş, Raţiu 2016, 213, Pl. 11/4

h.: CAP 13027

i.: Fig. 19/25

Cat. No. 26

a.: Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaït B I d

b.: Room III, 2008;

c.: PH: 40cm; MD: 21cm; RD: 9cm; HD: 1.6cm

d.: Coarse fabric, homogenous, with inclusions of organic material orange colour.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: The amphora is preserved whole; traces of secondary burning.

g.: Opriş, Raţiu 2016, 213, Pl. 11/5

h.: CAP 13028

i.: Fig. 19/26

Cat. No. 27

a.: Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaïţ B I d

b.: Room III, 2007

c.: PH: 41.3cm; MD: 18cm; RD: 9.3cm; HD: 1.6cm;

d.: Coarse fabric, homogenous, with inclusions of organic material orange colour.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: The amphora is preserved whole; traces of secondary burning.

g.: Opriş, Raţiu 2016, 213, Pl. 11/6

h.: CAP 13029

i.: Fig. 19/27

Cat. No. 28

a.: Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaïţ B I d

b.: Room III, 2007

c.: H: 44cm; MD: 21m

d.: Coarse fabric, homogenous, with inclusions of sand and quartzite orange colour.

e.: The decorum consists of a ribbed aspect on the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: The amphora is preserved whole; traces of secondary burning.

g.: Unpublished

h.: CAP 13078

i.: Not illustrated.

Cat. No. 29

a.: Antonova V/ Kuzmanov XVI/ Opaïţ B I d

b.: Room II, 1995

c.: H: 34cm; MD: 15cm

d.: Coarse fabric, homogenous, with inclusions of sand and quartzite orange colour.

e.: A compact series of wide parallel striations (ribbed aspect) in the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: The amphora is preserved whole; traces of secondary burning.

g.: Opriş 2003, 78, no. 150

h.: CAP 5190

i.: Not illustrated.

Cat No. 30

a.: Romanchuk/Sazanov/Sedikova 1995, class 14 (?)

b.: Room III, 2007

c.: Hp: 55cm; MD: 44cm

d.: Coarse fabric, homogeneous, with numerous inclusions of quartzite and mica brown colour with a grey core.

e.: Decorated with grooves all around the lower half of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, the whole upper part is missing;

heavy traces of secondary burning.

g.: unpublished

h.: CAP 13079

i.: Not illustrated.

Cat. No. 31

a.: Table Amphora

b.: Room II, 1995

c.: H: 47cm; MD: 28.5cm

d.: Fine fabric, homogenous, with fine particles of sand and quartzite light orange colour with a whitish slip.

e.: A compact series of parallel striations in the shoulder area of the vessel.

f.: Fragmentary, a handle, part of the neck and rim are missing; heavy traces of secondary burning.

g.: Opriş 2003, 87, no. 184, Pl. XXX/184; Opriş, Raţiu 2016, 213, Pl. 11/8

h.: CAP 5201

i.: Fig. 19/31

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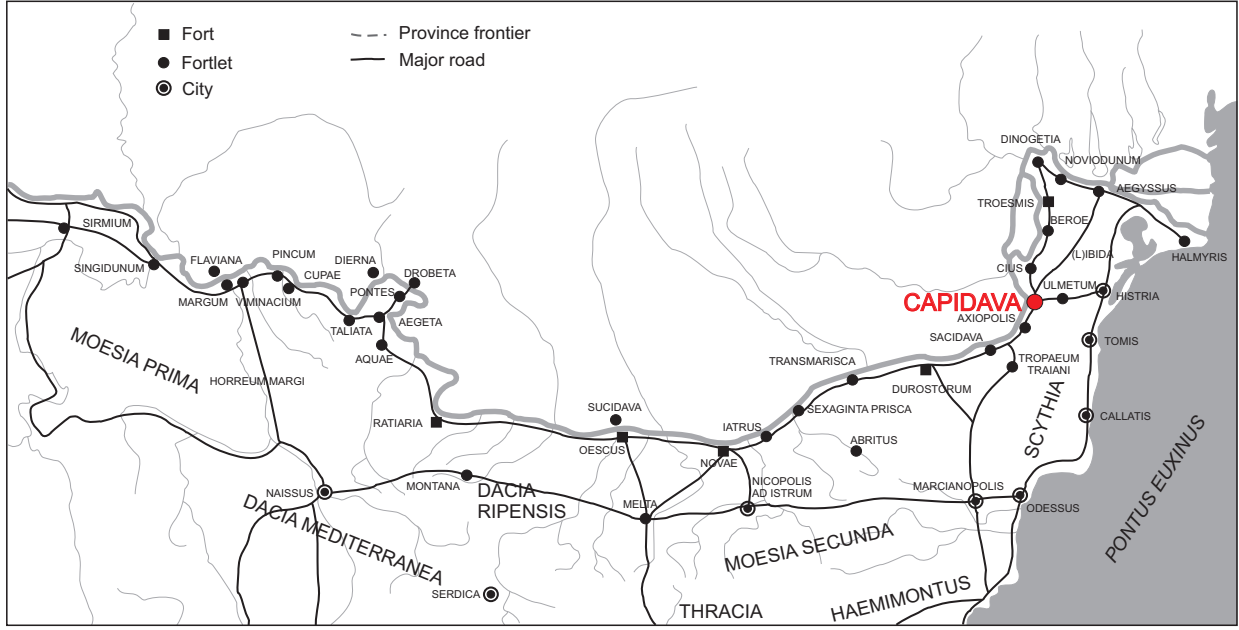


Fig 1. The Lower Danube and the Late Roman Frontier

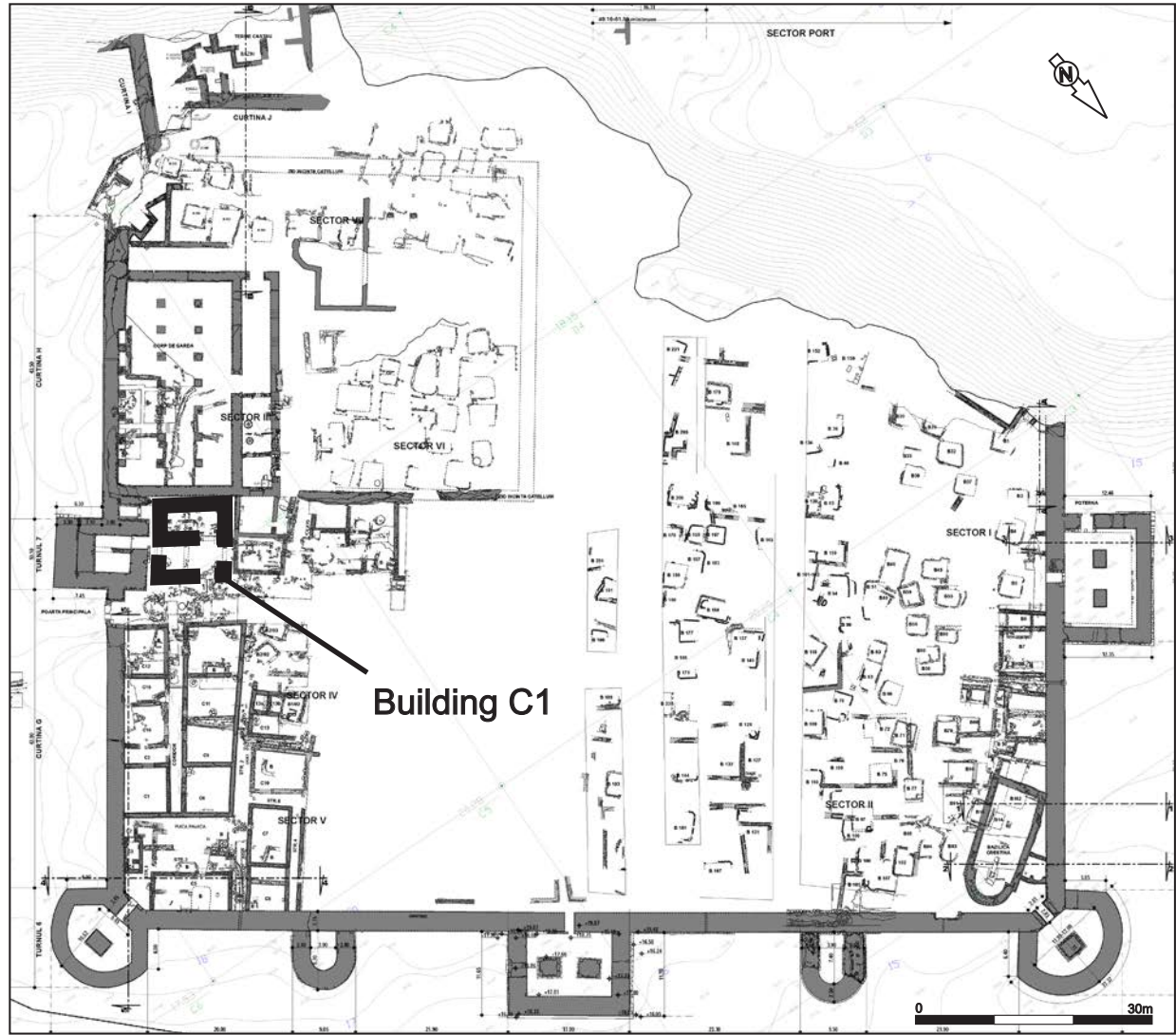


Fig 2. Plan of Capidava Roman fort (plan by A. Sion)



Fig. 3. First group of amphorae discovered in 2007 Campaign (from right to left cat. no. 2, 30, 28, 27 and unnumbered LRA 2). Underneath the vessels one can observe a charred wooden board.



Fig. 4. Detail with the small Antonova V amphora, as was discovered *in situ* (cat. no. 27).



Fig. 5. A big Carthage LR 1 E Amphora (cat. no. 2) being exhibited at the ASTRA Museum in Sibiu, after restoration.



Fig. 6. A group of amphorae discovered in the 2008 Campaign. The group was covered in a thick layer of burned debris and ashes (from left to right cat. no. 26, 25, 1, 11 and 16).



Fig. 7. Detail from Fig. 6 with two small size Antonova V amphorae, found leaning against the precinct wall of the building (from left to right cat. no. 26 and 25)



Fig. 8. Cat. no. 1, a LR 1 Type Amphora after restoration, displayed in an exhibition at ASTRA Museum in Sibiu.



(Above) Fig. 9. Two amphorae from the Gaza LRA 4 Type (cat. no. 11 and 16) discovered in Room III during the 2008 Campaign.



Fig. 10. Detail with a fragmentary Gaza amphora (Carthage LRA 4, cat. no. 18), discovered in the middle of Room III.



(Right) Fig. 11. A Gaza type Amphora (cat. no. 11), after restoration, in an exhibition at ASTRA Museum in Sibiu.



Fig. 12. In the middle of Room III a felting mill was found, and near it the half of the Carthage LR 4 Amphorae were discovered as well. In the back of the picture there is a rather well preserved example of such a vessel, better detailed in Fig. 10.

Fig. 13. Opaït B V Type Amphora (cat. no. 23) discovered in Room III during the 2009 Campaign. The vessel was covered in roof tiles debris and charred beams.



Fig. 14. The bronze coin hoard discovered on the threshold between Room II and Room I, along with the remains from two amphorae.



Fig. 15. Detail with the two amphorae from Fig. 14, first a Gaza LRA 4 Type (cat. no. 17) and a Kuzmanov XIII/ à pâte claire Type (cat. no. 24), displayed as they were discovered

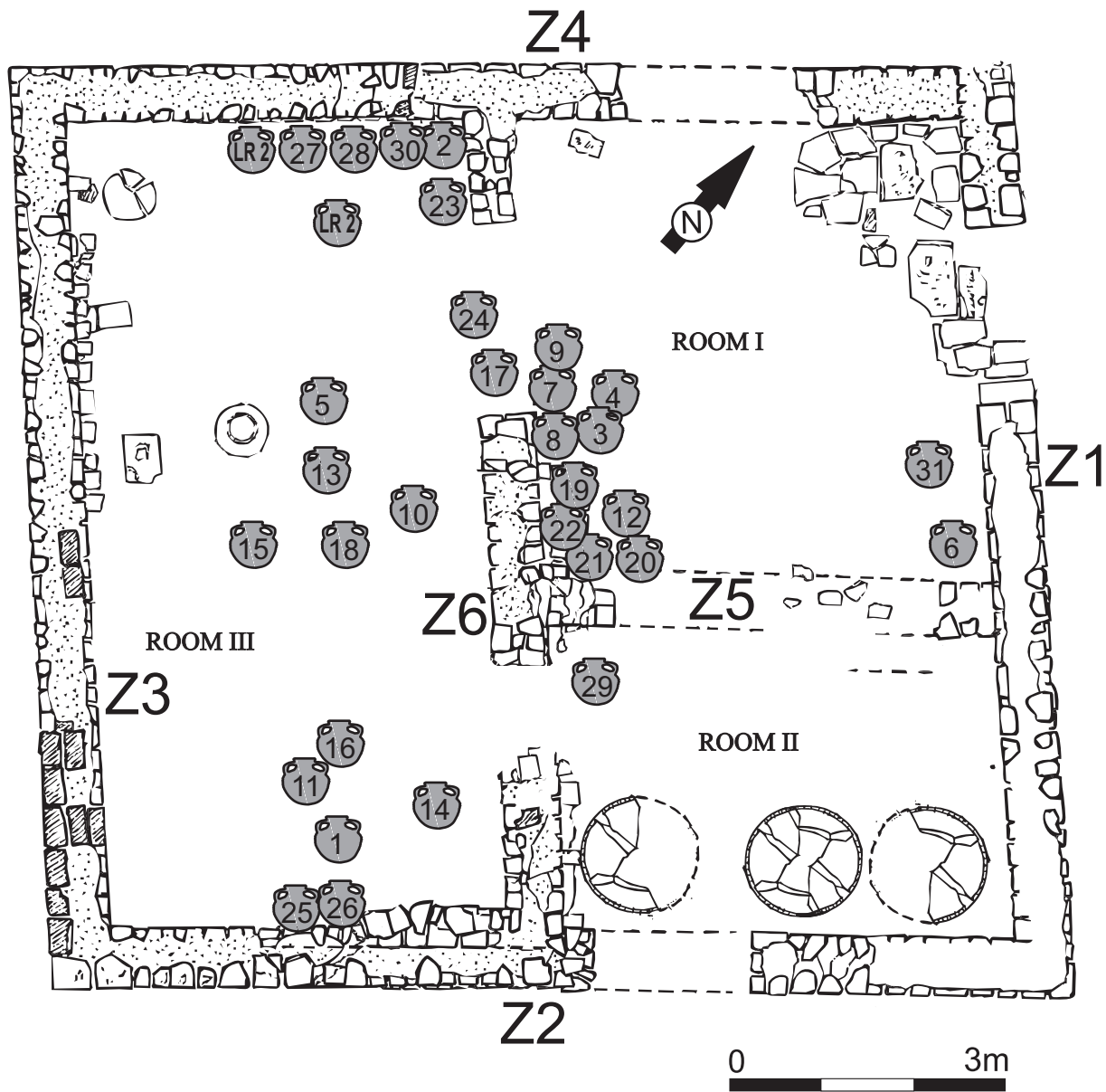


Fig. 16. The distribution of the amphorae inside Building C1. The numbers spreaded on the plan correspond to the numbers in the catalogue as well as with the illustration of the vessels.

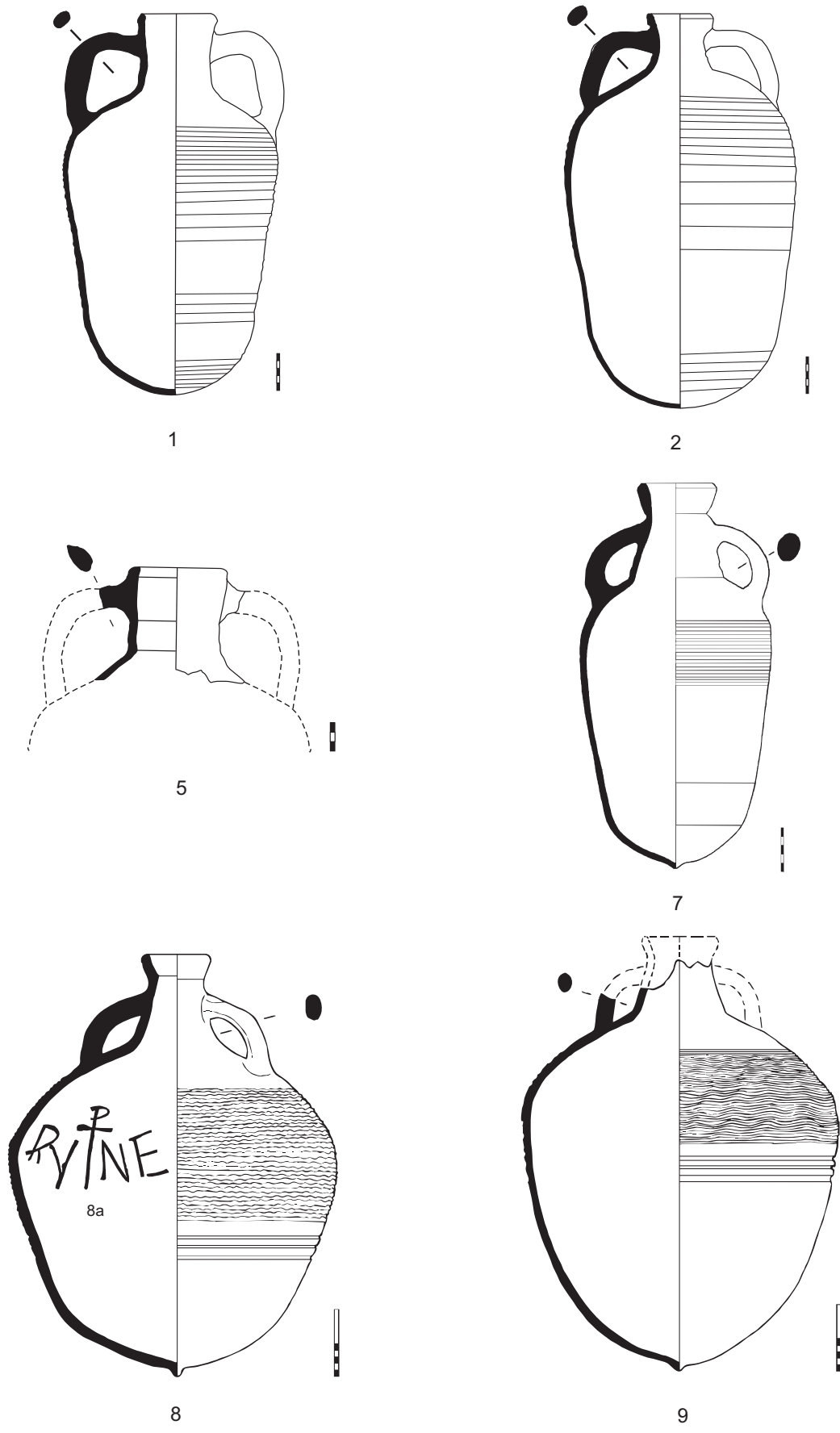


Fig. 17

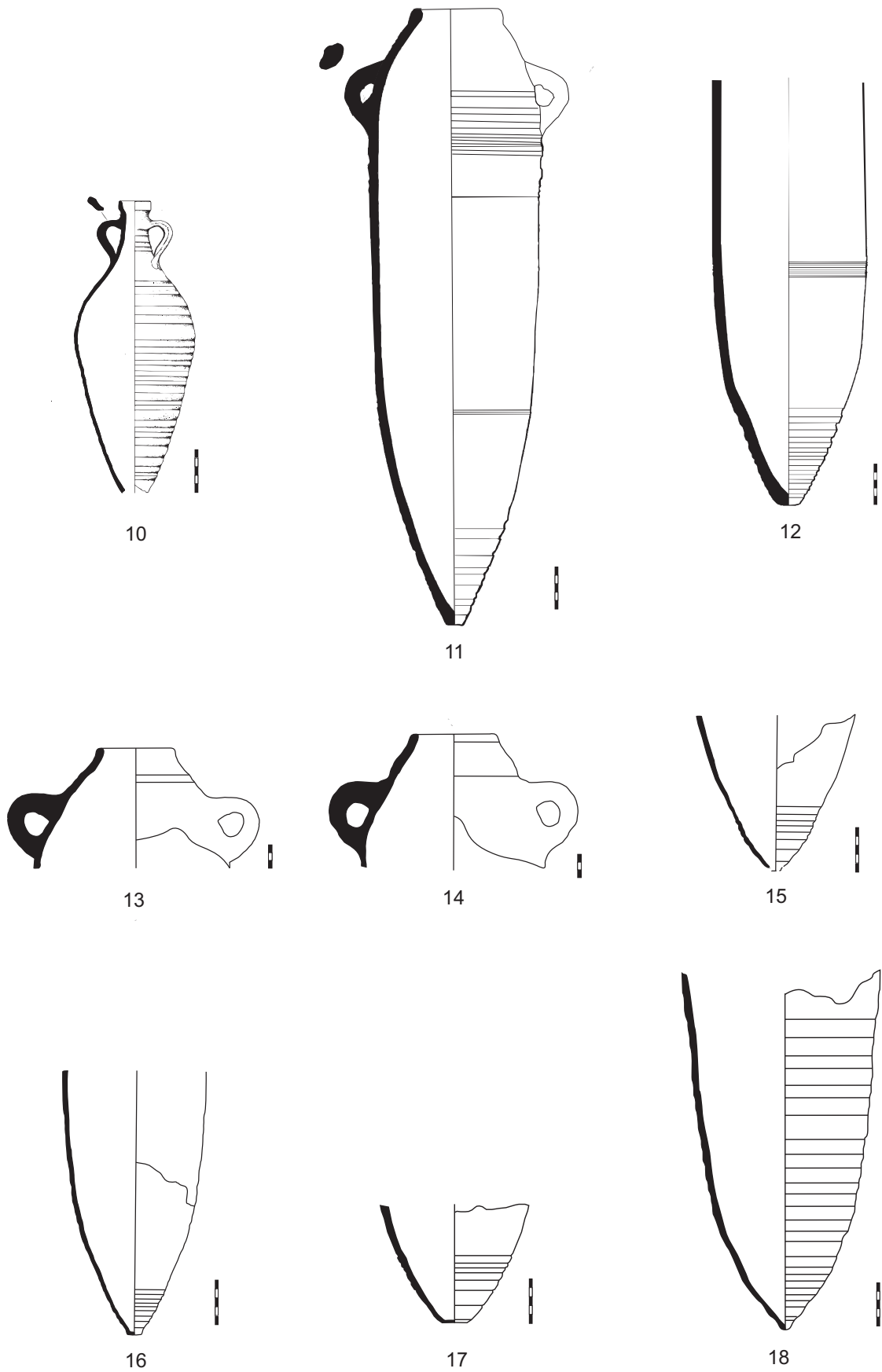
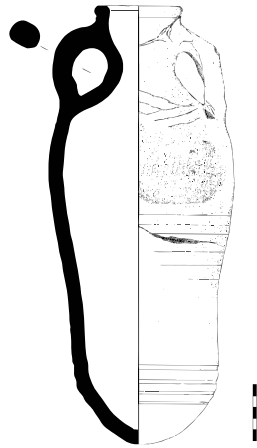


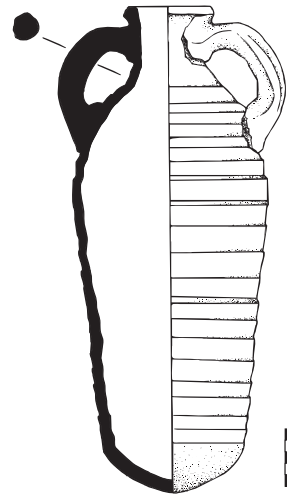
Fig. 18



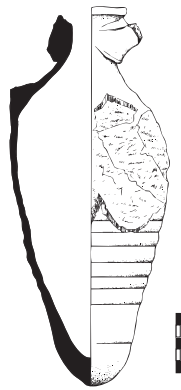
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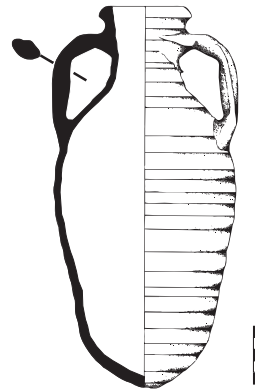
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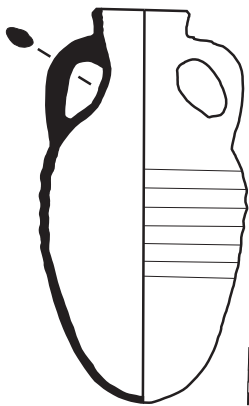
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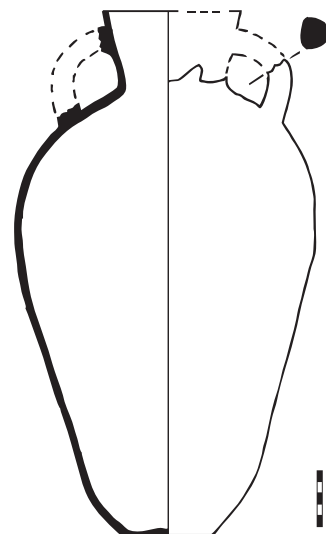
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Fig. 19