CHAPTER 3

The Ceramic Assemblage

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The Shephelah region constitutes one of the most settled areas in the southern Levant. Extensive surveys and excavations at some of the region's sites over the past four decades have led to a reasonable understanding of its material culture. Although several major sites still await publication, the general typological sequence (especially for the Late Bronze Age) is well known. This chapter describes the pottery assemblage recovered from Area Bb. We compare the assemblage to those of nearby published sites and discuss Yesodot's relationship to these sites and to the regional hierarchy.

Methodology and Quantitative Analysis

The excavation yielded a rich pottery assemblage dating to the Middle and Late Bronze periods (henceforth MB and LB). All sherds were collected in excavation, then washed and subjected to initial sorting in the field. This sorting entailed keeping all sherds from loci with potential for restoration, and keeping all diagnostic sherds from the remaining loci. Diagnostic sherds (rims, bases, handles and decorated sherds) were registered by field number and an additional sequential number (for example, field no. 3240/3). All of the pottery baskets were tagged and bagged, and at the end of the excavation were taken to the restoration lab where further ceramic processing was conducted, along with illustration and photography, where deemed useful. Some 1757 sherds were retained initially, after the field sorting, and brought to the lab, among them one near-complete juglet and three other restorable vessels. The identifiable sherds (based on diagnostic features such as rims) were classified into vessel types and subtypes, following the nomenclature used in the following publications: Tel Dan (Ilan, forthcoming); Tel Aphek (Beck 2000a-b, Gadot 2009, Yadin 2009); Tel Batash (Panitz-Cohens 2006), and Lachish (Singer-Avitz- 2004a-b; Yannai 2004). After classification the sherds were counted in order to calculate a 'minimum number of individual items' (henceforth MNI) for each type or subtype of vessel. This resulted in quantitative estimates and typological frequencies.

The pottery assemblage is presented by period (and sub-period where possible) and according to type. This is because the site stratigraphy was not clear-cut and there were no positively sealed contexts. MB and LB sherds were frequently found in the same matrix and for some types it is hard to distinguish between the two periods. The following table presents the general distribution of vessel types:

*Table 3.1. Count of selected diagnostic MB and LB sherds. *Rims only*

Type	No.	%
Bowls*	212	24.5
Chalices	14	1.6
Kraters*	36	4.2
Vat*	2	0.2
Skillets?*	2	0.2
Cooking pots	177	20.5
Jugs	73	8.4
Juglets	13	1.5
Jugs/Jars	50	5.8
Storage jars	199	23.0
Pithoi	35	4.1
Local imitation of imported ware	6	0.7
Imported ware (including local imitations)	18	2.1
Stands	19	2.2
Lamps	5	0.6
Varia	3	0.4
Total diagnostics	864	100%
Jug/Jar handles	584	
Jug/Juglet handles	24	
	1472	

The typological frequencies were compared to those of the pottery assemblages of neighboring sites. In this regard it is important to emphasize that the MB material available for comparison is quite limited. Three major MB sites in the vicinity of Yesodot were excavated over the past 30 years: Gezer to the northeast, Tel Miqne-Eqron to the southwest and Tel Batash to the southeast. However, the amount of data available concerning the MB strata at these sites is very limited. A similar problem exists at more distant sites, such as Tel Beth-Shemesh to the southeast. This situation required us to seek comparisons with more distant sites in the southern Shephelah (Lachish), the central coastal plain (Aphek), and Samaria (Shiloh). By contrast, the LB strata at the above-mentioned sites are richer and more informative, exhibiting good comparisons and enabling a better understanding of the material culture that characterized the LB in the Yesodot vicinity and the Shephelah region in general.

The Middle Bronze Age Pottery Assemblage

Local Pottery

Bowls

The MB bowl assemblage can be categorized according to the following types:

1. Open (platter) bowls.
2. Hemispherical/globular bowls.
3. Deep bowls.
4. Carinated bowls.

Open (platter) Bowls

This is the dominant bowl type in both the MB and LB assemblages. In the MB these bowls are open and have curved walls. In most cases inclusions were not visible (with the exception of a few rims). Of the MB I bowl rims a wide variety of molded rims were recorded: simple (Fig. 3.1:4, 13), thickened (Fig. 3.1:5), squared (Fig. 3.1:10; Fig. 3.2:2) and hammer profile (inverted and everted, Fig. 3.2:1).

Fig. 3.1.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus	Notes
1.	Open bowl	3240/3	375	
2.	Open bowl	3341+1/2	415	Interior radial burnish
3.	Open bowl	3309/10	404	Red paint on the interior and exterior rim
4.	Open bowl	3301/2	404	Red paint on the interior and exterior rim; traces of cross motif; interior is burnished
5.	Open bowl	3254/2	375	Red paint on the rim
6.	Open bowl	3335/2	413	Red paint on the upper and exterior sides of the rim
7.	Open bowl	3171/1	339	Interior radial-burnished and red-slipped; traces of slip on the rim exterior
8.	Open bowl	3309/2	404	
9.	Open bowl	3109a/2	331	
10.	Open bowl	3094/1	331	
11.	Open bowl	3275/3	389	
12.	Open bowl	3322/1	386	
13.	Open bowl	3247/11	375	
14.	Open bowl	3224/6	375	Red paint on the upper rim and handle

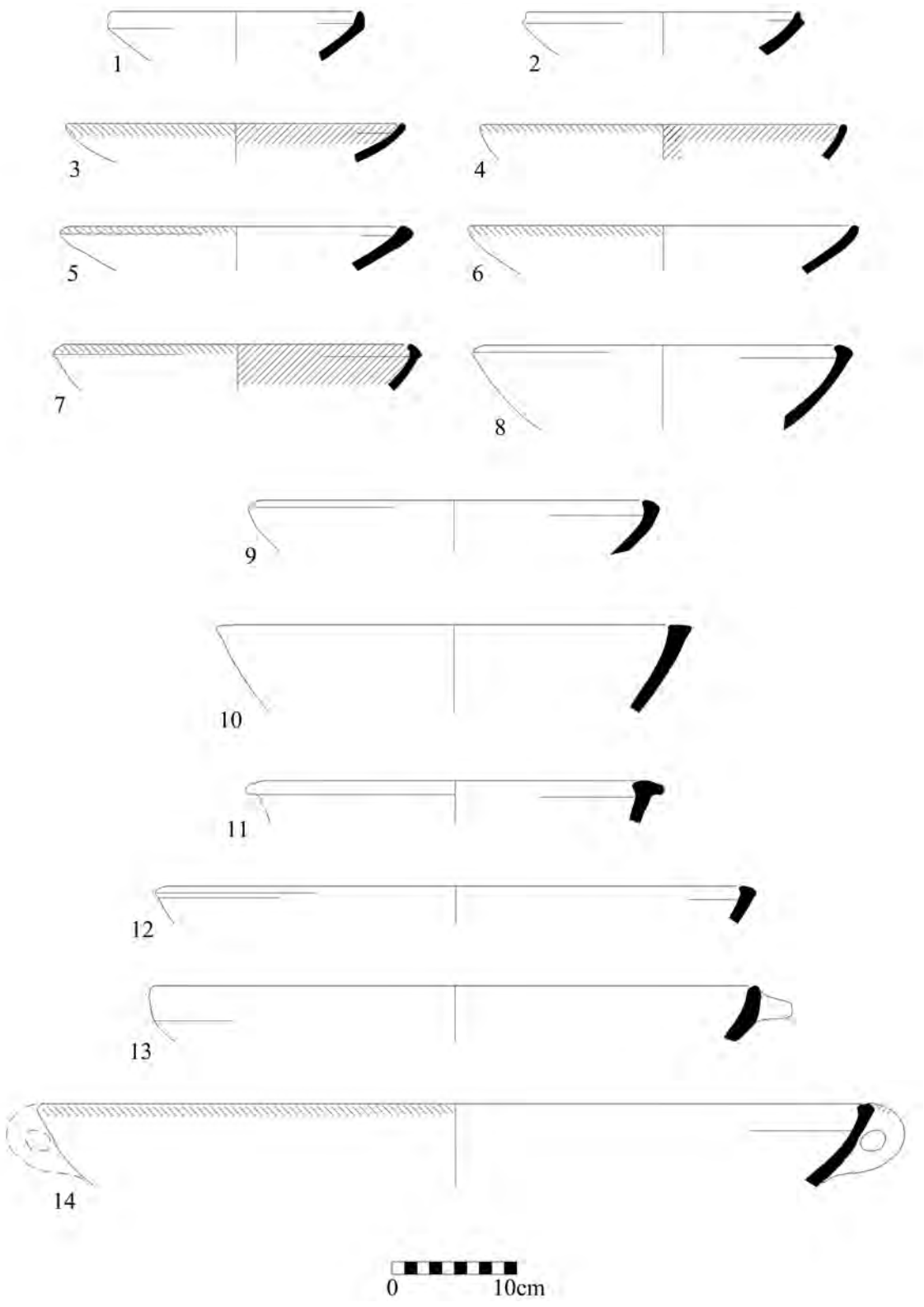

Fig. 3.1. MB open bowls.

Among the MB II bowls we also find a variety of molded rims, such as thickened (Fig. 3.1:14), inverted (Fig. 3.1:12), and ledge rims (Fig. 3.1:11). Other MB I/II bowl rim types included simple (Fig. 3.1:3, 6), tapered (Fig. 3.1:1), grooved (Fig. 3.1:2), hammer (Fig. 3.1:7), and inverted rims (Fig. 3.1:8, 9). While the bowls of the MB II–III at Yesodot rarely incorporated handles (Fig. 3.1:14), the MB I bowls showed a variety of these: strap, horizontal strap, horizontal bar, ledge and knobbed.

It seems that the surface treatment in both sub-periods was the same. Due to the weathered nature of the sherds only traces of slip or paint were visible on some of the bowls, usually on the upper rim or the upper (either internal or external) mid-body. The most common slip color was red, but at least in one case pale brown was applied. On a number of sherds radial burnish was visible (Fig. 3.1:2, 7), and in other cases traces of the cross band motif were observed (Fig. 3.1:4). This decorative tradition dates either to late MB I or to MB II (Ilan and Marcus, forthcoming: Pl. 7.28:3).

Two particularly impressive MB I bowls are worthy of mention. Figure 3.2:1 has knob and bar handles. The internal and upper rim and handles bore traces of red paint, possibly slip. Figure 3.2:2 incorporated a horizontal folded strap handle and two rounded knobs. Bowls incorporating two handle types are quite rare. Similar bowls were found at Tel Megadim, Tel Megiddo and Tel Kabri (Scheftelowitz 2002: Fig. 5.31:16; Arie 2006; Ilan and Marcus, forthcoming: Fig. 7.2:5). Another interesting vessel (Fig. 3.1:2) has a squared-off, grooved rim. The rim interior was treated with radial burnish. A similar bowl was found in Tomb 14 at Gesher (Garfinkel and Bonfil 1990: Fig. 5:5*).

Fig. 3.2.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus	Notes
1.	Open bowl	3287/1	393	Knob and bar handles; red slip on the interior and top of the rim and handles
2.	Open bowl	3224/2	375	Knob and horizontal looped handles
3.	Carinated bowl	3163/19	345	
4.	Carinated bowl	3364/5	410	
5.	Carinated bowl	3336/4	399	
6.	Carinated bowl	3107/4	330	Traces of red slip on the exterior
7.	Carinated bowl	3308/1	403	Exterior is red-slipped and burnished; red slip on the interior part of the rim
8.	Carinated bowl	3338a/7	410	Exterior is red-slipped and burnished; red slip on the rim interior
9.	Hemispherical bowl	3341+1/3	415	Interior burnish (including the upper part of the rim); fine horizontal striations on the exterior beneath the rim
10.	Hemispherical bowl	3241/4	375	
11.	Globular bowl	3319/1	405	Red paint on the upper part of the rim (interior and exterior)
12.	Globular bowl	3333/5	415	
13.	Globular bowl	3061/1	320	Knob handle

Hemispherical and globular bowls

These bowls were not common at the site. Only 14 sherds were recorded. The MB I globular bowls had incurving thin walls with inverted rims (Fig. 3.2:11-13). No inclusions were visible and in most cases the bowls were plain and without any surface treatment. Figure 3.2:12 had a small knob beneath the rim. Similar knobs on globular bowls

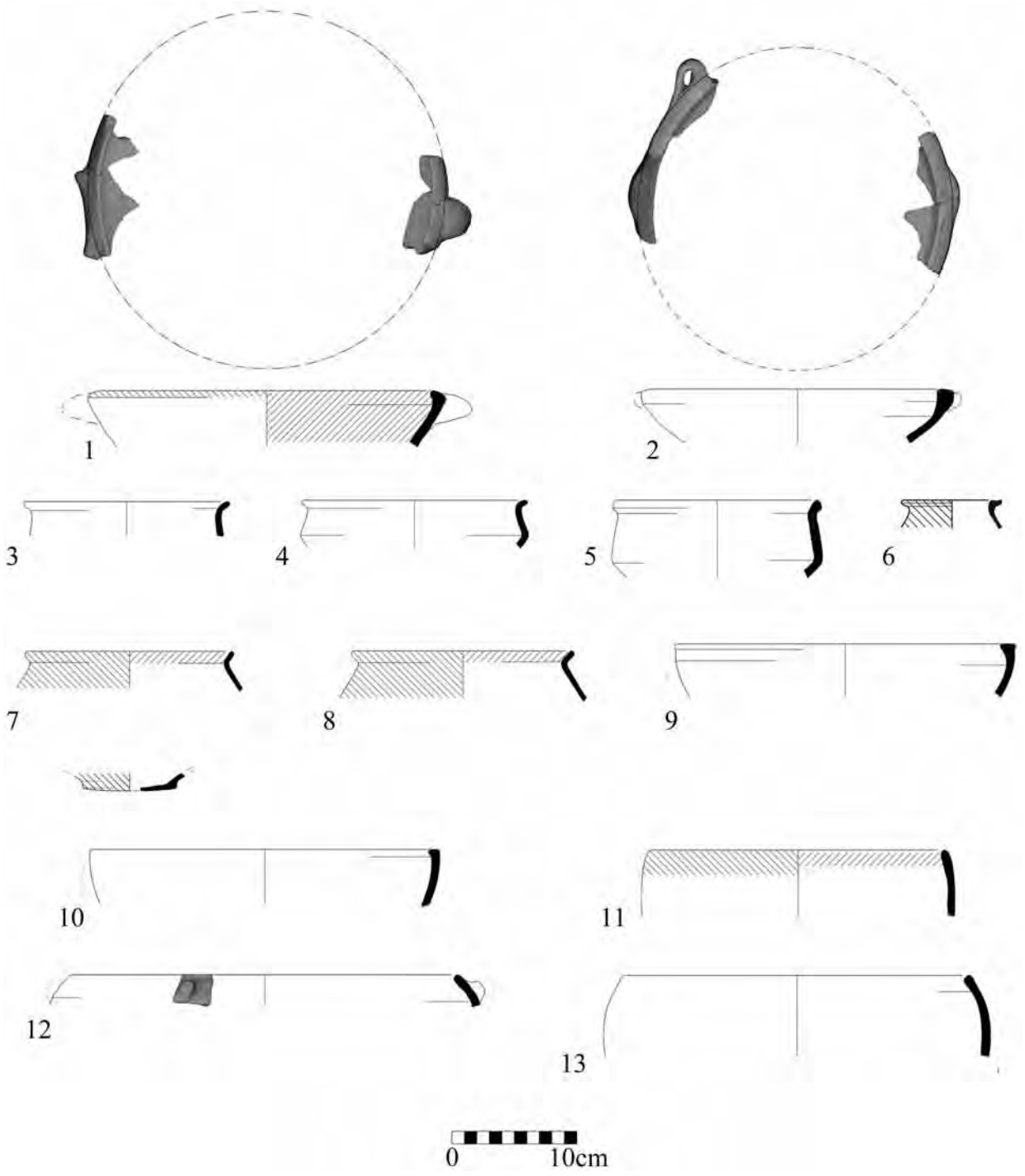

Fig. 3.2. MB open, carinated, hemispherical and globular bowls.

were found at Aphek Palace II and Post-Palace II phases (Beck 2000a: Fig. 10.14:1, 4; 10.20:14). The Aphek bowls were deep and rounded vessels. They had everted rims, slip and burnish, and some of their knob handles were decorated with incised crosses. The Yesodot globular bowl was probably a deep-rounded subtype belonging to the same class as the Aphek vessels. The Yesodot subtype is different in that it has an inverted rim and lacks surface treatment.

The MB II hemispherical bowls are slightly different again (Fig. 3.2:9-10). Their walls are either thin or thick, less curving and shallower. The rims are either inverted only, or inverted and everted (hammer profile). Hemispherical bowl Figure 3.2:8 is an example of an MB II deep bowl with a hammer-profile rim. Burnish was applied to the interior, and the upper rim was probably treated with dark slip and burnishing.

Carinated bowls

The MB carinated bowl is represented mainly by one type: a small- to medium-sized bowl with thin walls, a simple everted rim and probably less angular carination (Fig. 3.2:3-8), although it is possible that some incorporated a more acute carination. Some of the bowls bore reddish slip on the exterior and some were burnished. One small bowl had a simple everted rim with a gutter (Fig. 3.2:6). This rim type is one of the hallmarks of the MB I period (Beck 2000a: Fig. 10.31; Singer-Avitz 2004a: Figs. 16.2:5, 16.4:10, 16.9:8-9; Yadin 2009: Fig. 7.13). The bowls illustrated in Figure 4.2: 4-5 have parallels from Stratum X16 at Aphek, dating to the MB II (Yadin 2009: Fig. 7. 15:1-2). Carinated bowl Figure 3.2:5 was a bit larger than other bowls in the assemblage and had a triangular everted rim. Similar bowls have been found in the Jezreel Valley and date to the MB I-II transition and to the MB II (Ben Tor and Bonfil 2003: 200-201, 206; Figs. 80:2, 81:5, 83:3). It seems that the carinated bowls of Yesodot should be dated either to the MB I or early MB II. It should be noted that the common MB II–III carinated bowls (with acute carination and wide mouth) are absent from the Yesodot pottery assemblage.

Bowl bases

We could not definitively match bases and bowl types, but it is probable that the latter were characterized either by disk or flat bases, as implied by the large number of disk bases—apparently belonging to bowls (N=87, ca. 24% of all presumed bowl bases)—recorded during the excavation (Table 3.2, p. x). However, it is possible that some of the concave and ring bases belong to bowls of this period.

Kraters

These large vessels can be divided into several types. Only one restorable vessel was found (Fig. 3.4). The predominant form was most likely globular or slightly S-shaped with a short neck or no neck at all. The MB I kraters had a more closed shape and were characterized by straighter walls, while those of MB II–III (especially MB III) date usually had an open shape and their walls tended to be more curving (Bonfil, forthcoming). Some kraters incorporated numerous small white (probably calcite) inclusions, others only a few. In one case a number of red inclusions were noticed (probably crushed pottery).

Most of the recorded krater rims could not be securely dated to either the MB I or MB II-III. Two general classes with several subtypes were distinguished:

1. Everted (sometimes flat-topped); these were simple, rounded, tapered, squared or had a hammer profile (Fig. 3.3:2-4, 9, 11, 13-14).
2. Holemouth; horizontally inverted (Fig. 3.3:1), everted and folded out (Fig. 3.3:10), or thickened and squared (Fig. 3.3:6-8).

Although these rims could date to either the MB I or MB II, some were more common in one of the two periods. For example, certain kraters in Figure 4.3 (Nos. 1-3) are more typical of the MB II, while Figure 3.3:6-7 are more common in the MB I. Figure 3.3:3 and 7 incorporate a broken spout beneath the rims. Figure 3.3:12 is slightly different from the others in that it had a distinctive neck, a thickened, everted rim, and a strap handle reaching from rim to shoulder. This vessel probably dates to the MB II or III, or perhaps even to the early LB

I (Dever 1986 Fig. 31:3; Negbi 1989: Fig. 5.2: 28; Killebrew 1996: Fig. 2:12; Singer-Avitz 2004a: Fig. 18.1: 7; Gadot *et al*. 2006: Fig. 12.5:5-7).

Figure 3.4 is an unusual form, with a soft carination beneath the shoulder, a short neck, a somewhat elongated body and a low ring base. This vessel should be dated to the MB III, or perhaps to the LB I. The shape of the body is common in the LB I repertoire, although its roots are imbedded in the MB III, especially the rim and base (cf. Bonfil, forthcoming). Close parallels were found at Tel Yoqne'am XXI (MBIII, Ben-Ami and Livneh 2005: Fig. IV.7:8) and Tel Batash IX (LB IB Panitz-Cohen and Mazar 2006: Pl. 17:13).

Most of the MB kraters were plain and devoid of surface treatment. Only a few bore red slip. However, it is also possible that some of the sherds bearing incised relief decoration (Fig. 3.8: 11-13) belonged to MB kraters.

Although we could not confirm many krater bases, it is probable that either disk or flat bases were most common, as in the case of the bowls (above). Again, however, some of the concave and ring bases may be attributed to kraters.

Vat

Only one vat was retrieved. This was a large, massive and crude vessel with straight, thick walls and a simple squared rim (Fig. 3.3:5). Very few small inclusions were visible. On the vat interior were horizontal striations, suggesting that the vessel was probably hand-made and finished on a slow wheel (cf. Uziel *et al*. 2010: 154-158). No parallels were found in the published reports of the Aphek, Gezer, Tel Batash and Lachish excavations. However, a similar vessel was found at Tel Dan in northern Israel (Ilan, forthcoming).

Skillets

Two open vessels made of cooking pot ware were recorded. Figure 3.6:1 has an open bowl shape and its convex side is covered with soot stains. Figure 3.6:2 has an open shape with a thickened, everted rim. This vessel is crude and large and was made with numerous inclusions.

Cooking pots

Two types of MB cooking pot were found at Yesodot:

Straight-walled, hand-made cooking pots

These are open vessels with straight walls and flat bases (Fig. 3.5). Both high and low walls are evinced in the assemblage. This type often incorporates numerous inclusions (most probably calcite and quartzite). Their rims were either square (Fig. 3.5:1-2) or beveled and tapered (Fig. 3.5:3-4). This type of cooking pot was decorated with a plastic band or strip with thumb indentations (in some cases just plain bands), usually placed beneath the rim. Most of these vessels had perforations between the plastic band decoration and the rim. These perforations were either partially (Fig. 3.5:1, 4) or fully pierced through the wall (Fig. 3.5:2); some of the vessels had both pierced and un-pierced perforations (Fig. 1:3). A similar phenomenon was observed at Aphek (Beck 2000b: 176). The straight-walled, hand-made cooking pot is more common in the MB I, although it continued to be used in the MB II–III, particularly in the southern region and highlands of Israel. At northern and coastal plain sites this type disappeared after the MB I (Bonfil, forthcoming; Yadin 2009: 160).

Globular, wheel-made cooking pots

These vessels presumably incorporated rounded bases. They were made of coarse wares. The most common rim type was the rolled-out holemouth rim (Fig. 3.6:7-10); some exhibited a pronounced gutter (Fig. 3.6:5, 10). Another common rim type was the thickened, everted and guttered rim (Fig. 3.6:3, 5-6). Others were simple everted (Fig. 3.6:4), thickened, everted and tapered (Fig. 3.6:11), and short (Fig. 3.6:12). Some of the everted rims exhibited the beginnings of the triangular profile which characterizes LB cooking pots (Fig. 3.6:13).

The wheel-made globular cooking pot appears in all sub-periods of the MB and continues into the LB. Figure 3.6:3-6 are typologically dated to the MB I period, although Figure 3.6:5-6 are more

characteristic of the early MB II, while Figure 3.6:7-12 are more typical of the MB II-III. Figure 3.6:13 is typologically dated to the MB III or to an early phase of the LB I period.

Storage Jars

These are represented by a great variety of molded rims. The vast majority were thickened, profiled and everted, and usually created by folding the rim out and down to form a collar. Of these, by far the dominant rim type is the folded out and down type, which is slightly rounded, adhering to the neck and forming a ridge or concavity on the bottom of the fold (Fig. 3.7:1-2, 5). Some storage jars had a groove on the upper rim (Fig. 3.7:2) and others had tapered rims which were dominated by an internal and external gutter, giving them an arrowhead or mushroom profile shape (Fig. 3.7:5). Additional rim types included thickened, everted rims, either flattened or tapered (Fig. 3.7:3-4), and everted rims with inner thickening, which was created by folding the rim in (Fig. 3.7:6).

Due to the fragmentary nature of the storage jar assemblage, it is difficult to arrive at definite conclusions about the vessel shapes and surface treatments. It is possible that some of the sherds bearing incised relief decoration (e.g. Fig. 3.8:11-13) might belong to MB storage jars. By comparing this assemblage with those of Lachish, Tel Batash and Aphek we may assume that the dominant Yesodot storage jar shape was either ovoid or amygdaloidal and had two handles. The excavation yielded 584 storage jar handles. Of the numerous bases recorded (N=298), those identified as coming from storage jars comprise ca. 13.5% (Both MB and LB periods). Of these the flat or convex bases should probably be attributed to the MB storage jars. This is supported by comparison with similar MB storage jars from Aphek and Lachish.

Pithoi

These are represented by two types:

1. Short-necked pithoi, with an everted rim, either simple or thickened (Fig. 3.7:10-11).

Fig. 3.3.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus	Notes
1.	Krater	3340/2	410	
2.	Krater	3241/9	375	
3.	Krater	3343/5	403	
4.	Krater	3332/2	410	Red-slipped exterior and upper part of the rim
5.	Vat	3364/7	410	
6.	Krater	3240/4	375	
7.	Krater	3229/12	375	
8.	Krater	3232/17	375	
9.	Krater	3088/2	331	
10.	Krater	3199/4	339	Cooking pot material
11.	Krater	3319/8	405	
12.	Krater	3364/4	410	
13.	Krater	3109a/8	331	
14.	Krater	3120/18	339	

2. Necked pithoi, characterized by a long neck and one of three main rim types:
   a. Everted, thickened rims, often created by rolling the rim out (Fig. 3.7:12).
   b. Inverted and everted rim – hammer profile (often with an internal concavity, Fig. 3.7:13). Both of the above subtypes belong either to Type 5 or 6 of Bonfil's typology

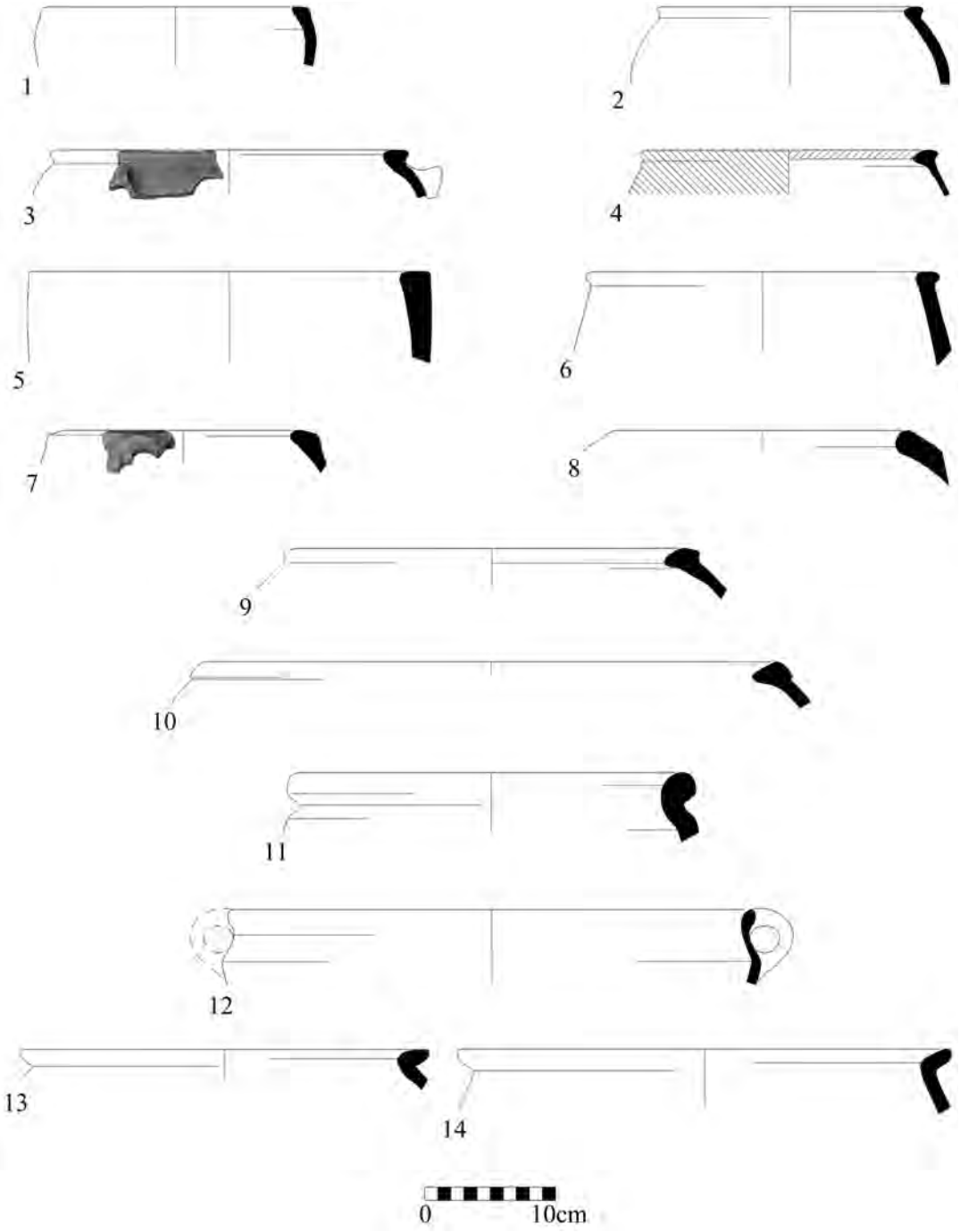

Fig. 3.3. Kraters.

and probably date to the MB II/III (Bonfil 1992: 29-31);

c. Molded rims, usually squared and flattened, made by folding the rim out and down to form a collar adhering to the neck, which often created a ridge or concavity at the bottom of the fold (Fig. 3.7:7-9); some of these show a prominent internal gutter (Fig. 3.76:7-8).

While pithoi occur throughout the MB period, they are more a feature of the MB II–III (Bonfil, forthcoming; Ilan and Marcus, forthcoming). Judging by pithoi from different sites across southern Israel it is most likely that some had handles while others did not (Bonfil 1992; Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Figs. 6.16-6.19; Singer-Avitz 2004a: Figs. 16.14, 16.18). It is possible that some of the flat or convex bases found at Yesodot originally belonged to these vessels. It is also possible that some of the sherds bearing incised relief decoration were associated with pithoi (Figs. 3.8:11-13).

Fig. 3.4. Near-complete MB III/LB I krater (L372, field no. 3216/1).

Jugs

Most of the jug sherds could not be associated with a specific period. Only a few body sherds and rims had clear MB associations. Except for one restorable squat jug body (without a rim, not illustrated), jug shapes from Yesodot are not known except by analogy with other sites. The dominant MB jug rim type was simple, thickened and everted, and could be either flattened or tapered (similar to storage jar rims in Figure 3.7:3-4).[1] Some had an internal concavity (Fig. 3.8:5-6). To these we can add one simple pinched rim (Fig. 3.8:4). Several of the jugs had disk bases (Fig. 3.8:2) and others had ring bases with incisions (Fig. 3.8:3). Additionally, some of the flat, convex or concave bases could also be associated with jugs. Some of the jugs were characterized by double or triple handles (Fig. 3.8:4, 7). Similar handles were found at Lachish, Aphek and Tel Michal (Negbi 1989: Fig. 5.3:20-21; Singer-Avitz 2004a: Fig. 16.21:2, 16.26:3; Yadin 2009: Fig. 7.13) to mention but a few. The recorded rims did not bear any traces of surface treatment, but some of the bases were treated with a red slip and burnish, suggesting that in many vessels much of the burnish and slip may have worn off.

Juglets

These are quite rare in the Yesodot pottery assemblage. The dominant type was the dipper juglet. One juglet rim with part of a handle could be dated to the MB period. This was simple, rounded and slightly everted (not illustrated). The rest of the sherds recorded are either body sherds or broken bases—among them one pointed base (Fig. 3.8:1)—and handles. Some of the body sherds bore traces of red paint, while others were burnished and red slipped. Due to the small size and fragmentary nature of the juglet assemblage, further conclusions could not be drawn.

Jugs/Jars

This designation is used for rims that could be from either jugs or jars (N=28, ca.1.5% of the entire MB and LB assemblage). This situation reflects the fragmentary nature of the Yesodot pottery assemblage. The rims are mostly simple, thickened and everted, and are similar to those displayed in Figures 3.7:3-4 and 3.8:5-6.

[1] In contrast, the dominant storage jar rim was the molded rim, usually created by folding it out and down (see above).

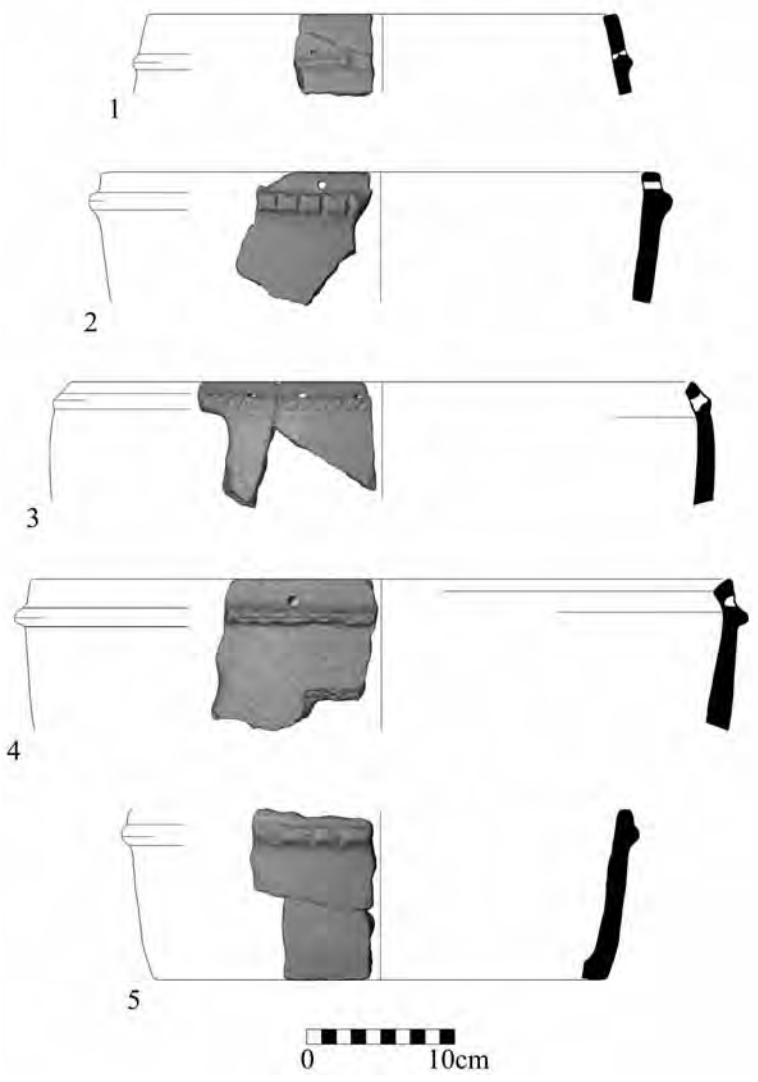

Fig. 3.5. MB holemouth cooking pots.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus	Notes
1.	Straight-walled cooking pot	3165/2	331	Unpierced perforation; plastic band decoration beneath the rim
2.	Straight-walled cooking pot	3232/12	375	Pierced perforation; plastic band decoration beneath the rim
3.	Straight-walled cooking pot	3232/8	375	Pierced and Unpierced perforations; plastic band decoration below the rim
4.	Straight-walled cooking pot	3340/4	410	Unpierced perforations; plastic band decoration beneath the rim
5.	Straight-walled cooking pot	3150/4	344	plastic band decoration beneath the rim

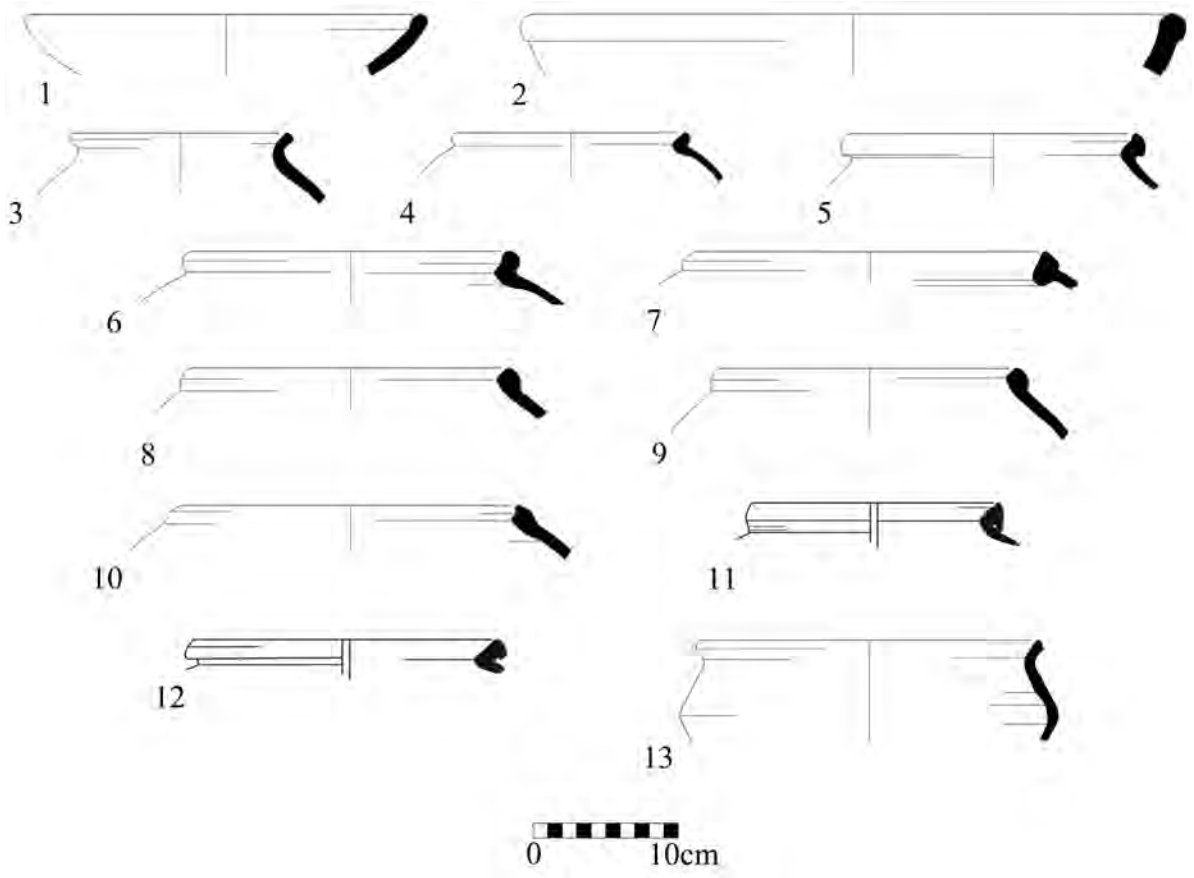

Fig. 3.6. Skillets and wheel-made globular cooking pots.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus
1.	Skillet?	3224/5	375
2.	Skillet?	3183/7	350
3.	Globular cooking pot	3304/3	406
4.	Globular cooking pot	3224/8	375
5.	Globular cooking pot	3171/7	339
6.	Globular cooking pot	3333/8	415
7.	Globular cooking pot	3333/22	415
8.	Globular cooking pot	3229/13	375
9.	Globular cooking pot	3224/7	375
10.	Globular cooking pot	3224/10	375
11.	Globular cooking pot	3088/3	331
12.	Globular cooking pot	1030/4	117
13.	Globular cooking pot	3147	355

Incised relief decoration

Three body sherds were found which bore a plastic band into which decoration was incised. The motifs used were oblique lines (Fig. 3.8:11), net patterns (Fig. 3.8:12) and herringbone patterns (Fig. 3.8:13). These sherds were probably parts of kraters, storage jars, or pithoi (Amiran 1969: Photo 101; Negbi 1989: Fig. 5.3:18; Singer-Avitz 2004a: 919, Fig. 16.35:8; Yadin 2009: 113-114, Figs. 7.1:18, 21-22, 7.2:17).

Imported Ware

Cypriot White-Painted Ware IV-VI

This type is represented by three jug and juglet sherds. Of these, a simple everted rim and a typical Cypriot handle were presumably part of the same vessel (Fig. 3.8:10). A third sherd was from a funnel-shaped rim (Fig. 3.8:9). This group is characterized by a light-colored (buff) fabric and thick black horizontal bands. Since we do not have any body sherds, it is difficult to affiliate these sherds with a specific group (cf. Johnson 1982). However, the softness of the paste and the fact that the paint is not glossy implies that these sherds belong to Group V rather than Group VI vessels, though the latter cannot be ruled out. According to Åström's typology, Cypriot vessels with similar decoration could be either globular jugs or juglets, and were characterized by either simple, sloping or pinched rims; the handles of these vessels either stretched from rim to shoulder or from neck to shoulder (Åström 1972: 27-28, Group III-IV – Type IA2a, Fig. IX: 4-5; 63-64, Group IV-VI – Type IB1a, Fig. IX: 13; 69, 71, Group V – Types Vb1b, VG1a, Fig. XVI: 15, 17). Additionally, a small spout fragment (Fig. 3.8:8) could be part of a spouted Cypriot vessel (Johnson 1982: Fig. 1: H8, H15; Fig. 3: N20, N21). Similar Cypriot vessels have been found at Lachish (White-Painted V; Singer-Avitz 2004a: 16.34:11, 16.36:3-4) and Tel Michal (White-Painted V; Negbi 1989: 5.4:5-16), among other sites.

Merrilees (2002) has shown that White-Painted Ware characterized the Middle Cypriot III–Late Cypriot IA, which corresponds to the MB II–III period in the southern Levant. This group has a wide distribution beyond Cyprus, in the Aegean, Anatolia, southern Levant and Egypt. According to Merrilees (2002: 6), outside Cyprus this style begins before 1675 BCE and does not post-date 1550 BCE.

The Late Bronze Age Pottery Assemblage

Local Ware

Bowls

These can be categorized into four distinct groups:

1. Open (platter) bowls
2. Carinated bowls
3. Egyptian-type bowls
4. Local imitations of imported ware

Open (platter) bowls: These are characterized by curving walls of differing diameters, and more open and flaring profiles than those which characterized the MB. In most cases inclusions were not visible, except for a few sherds in which large inclusions were noticeable. Compared with the open bowls of the MB, the variety of rims is more limited in its scope. There are two main types:

1. Plain rims; either rounded (Fig. 3.9:1, 10), tapered (Fig. 3.9:2), or squared (Fig. 3.9:8, 11);
2. Thickened, everted rims, which can be further subdivided into internally thickened rims (rounded or tapered: Fig. 3.9:3, 6-7, 11) and squared-off rims (Fig. 3.9:4). To this latter type we have assigned Fig. 3.9:5, with a thickened, rounded rim, a pronounced gutter beneath, and no traces of surface treatment.

The bases of all the above types were most probably either concave disk or ring bases (Fig. 3.15).

The weathered nature of the sherds makes it hard to be sure about the extent of surface treatment. A few of the bowls bore a red band on the upper rim (Fig. 3.9:3, 6). In one case traces of pale brown slip were noticed. It seems that many of the open bowls made in a careless manner.

Carinated bowls: These are represented by one type—a flaring carinated bowl, which can be subdivided into three subtypes:

1. Bowl with degenerate carination (Fig. 3.9:13). Only two sherds of this subtype were retrieved.

The rims were simple and everted. No traces of surface treatment were evident. This subtype is similar to Yannai's B30a type (Yannai 2004).

2. Bowl with pronounced carination (Fig. 3.9:12). Seven sherds of this subtype were retrieved. At least one (Fig. 3.9:12) had a simple rim and a low ring base (not illustrated). Other carinated bowls probably had concave disk bases. No traces of surface treatment were evident.
3. Bowl with low carination (Fig. 3.9:14). This subtype is characterized by a simple everted rim and slight or low carination. It was made from a more delicate ware than the usual ware of the LB bowls from Yesodot. It was also wheel-made, as indicated by wheel marks on the walls, and did not bear any traces of surface treatment. According to our petrographic analysis this bowl originated in the central coastal plain (Golding-Meir, this volume).
4. Egyptianized bowl: These are represented by a large collar-rim bowl type (Fig. 3.14:1). The collar was created either by folding the rim out or by shaping a ridge. According to Martin (2007: 139) these bowls usually had a ring base, although examples with flat or disc bases were found as well. According to our petrographic analysis this bowl also originated in the central coastal plain (Golding-Meir, this volume).

This type was common in Egypt in the 18th and 19th dynasties and probably had gone out of use by the 20th dynasty. In the southern Levant these bowls were most popular in mid-late 18th dynasty contexts (*ibid*.). Similar bowls were found at sites such as: Aphek X14 (Martin *et al*. 2009: Fig. 10.1:9), Tel Mor (Martin and Barako 2007: Fig. 3.7), Gezer 7/6C (Dever 1986: Pl. 18:21) and Tel Batash IX (Panitz-Cohen and Mazar 2006: Fig 17:1, 3), to mention but a few.

Local imitations of imported ware

Local imitation of a Cypriot White-Slip hemispherical bowl (Fig. 3.14:2): One near-complete hemispherical bowl was retrieved. The rim was simple and incorporated a wishbone handle. The exterior surface of the bowl was severely deteriorated. Nevertheless, this vessel seems to be somewhat

Fig. 3.7.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus	Notes
1.	Storage jar	3241/11	375	
2.	Storage jar	3338/10	410	Groove on top of the rim
3.	Storage jar	3363/15	415	
4.	Jug/jar	3224/27	375	
5.	Storage jar	3341+2/5	415	
6.	Storage jar	3327/3	411	
7.	Large storage jar/pithos	3364/23	410	
8.	Large storage jar/pithos	Sur	Sur	
9.	Large storage jar/pithos	3330/4	399	
10.	Large storage jar/pithos	3011/6	306	
11.	Large storage jar/pithos	3011/8	306	
12.	Large storage jar/pithos	3199/7	339	
13.	Large storage jar/pithos	3346/5	410	

different from the other Cypriot White-Slip bowls. It appears that the quality of this bowl was poorer and surface treatment was careless, which might explain its state of preservation. A similar bowl was found at Aphek (Gadot 2009: Fig. 8.58:15; see also Amiran 1969: Pl. 56:4).

A possible local imitation of Base Ring ware: One rim fragment of a bowl and a ring base were recorded (Fig. 3.14:6-7). The rim was rounded and everted and below it there was a slight carination. Both the rim and the base were different in their fabric from the other bowls of the pottery assemblage, and might have been imitations of Cypriot Base Ring ware.

Kraters

This group was comprised of four distinctive types:

1. Upright everted rim (Fig. 3.10:1-2); no surface treatment was evident on vessels of this type. One parallel was found at Lachish (Yannai 2004: 19.47:5).
2. Everted, thickened rim (Fig. 3.10:3-4); created by folding the rim out, leaving a concavity under

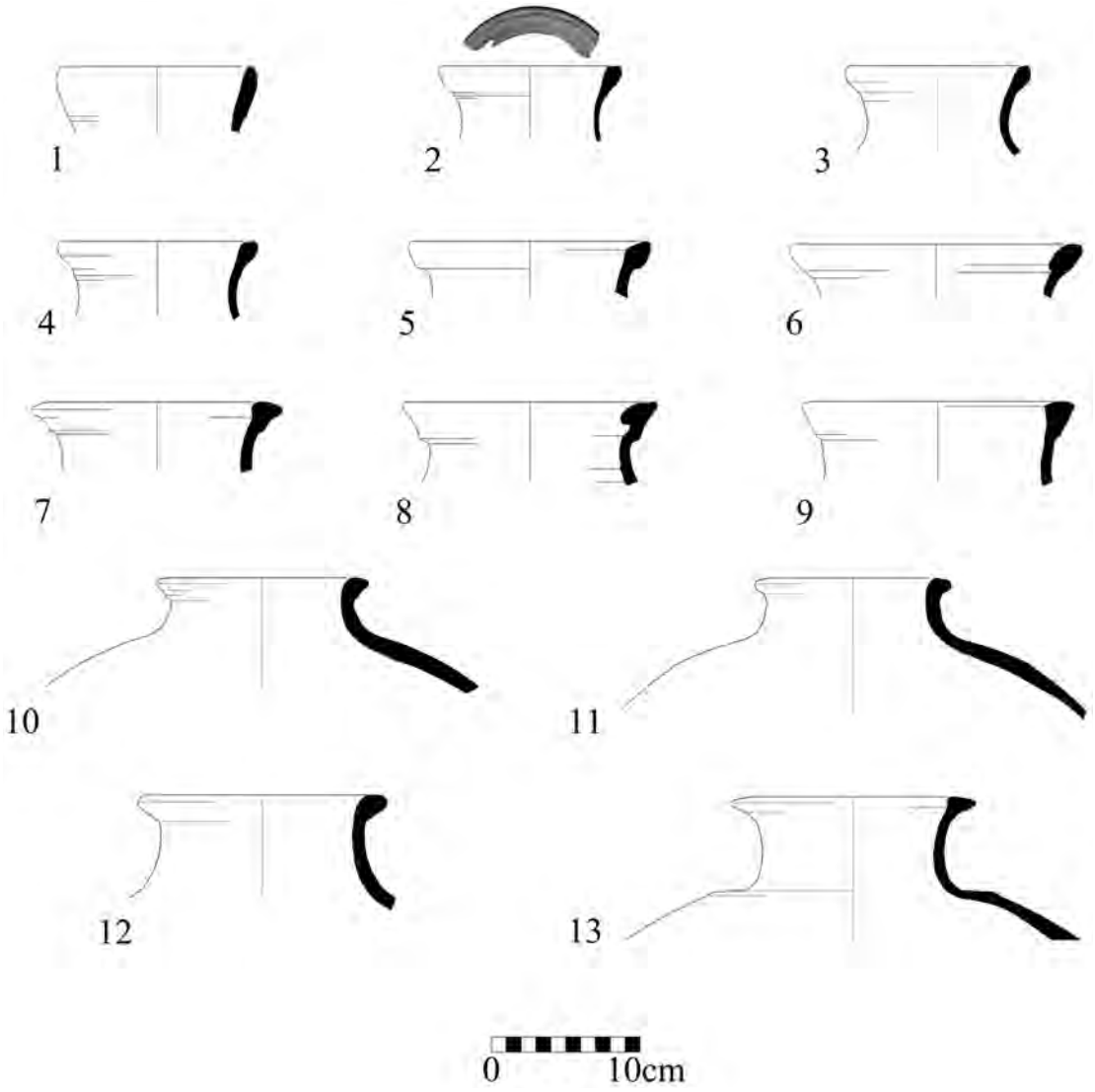

Fig. 3.7. Storage jars (1-6) and pithoi (7-13).

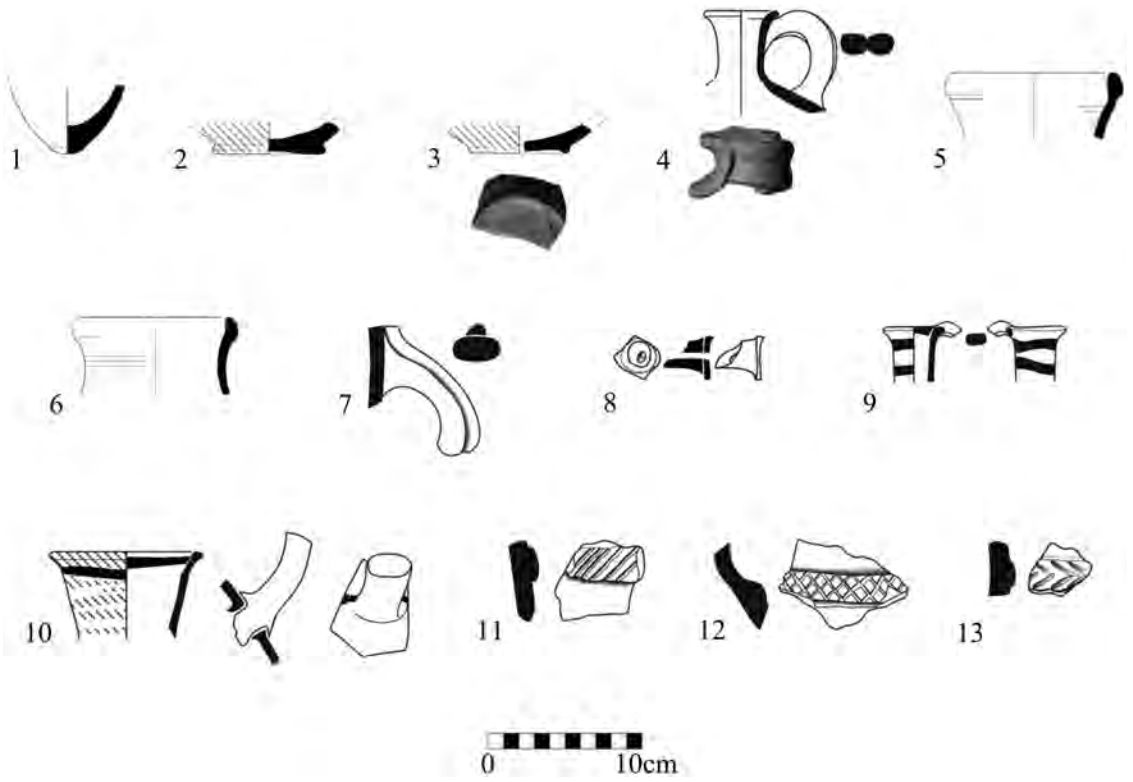

Fig. 3.8. Jugs (2-7), juglet (1), and imported pottery (8-9).

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus	Notes
1.	Jug/juglet	3100/5	310	
2.	Jug	3328/2	412	Red-slipped
3.	Jug	3333/17	415	Red-slipped; pierced ring base
4.	Jug	3195/2	313	Double handle
5.	Jug	1030/8	117	
6.	Jug	1030/3	117	
7.	Jug	3363/18	415	Triple handle
8.	Jug/juglet?	1040/1	141	Cypriot?
9.	Jug/juglet	3286a/3	386	Cypriot White Painted ware IV-VI
10.	Jug	3310/6	378	Cypriot White Painted ware IV-VI
11.	Incised relief decoration	3329/8	413	Oblique lines
12.	Incised relief decoration	3335/5	413	Net pattern
13.	Incised relief decoration	3293/1	403	Herringbone pattern

the fold. Some examples of this type had a triangular profile resembling the cooking pot rims (see below). Similar kraters were found in Lachish Level P-2 (Clamer 2004a: Figs. 20.4:6, 20.5:16).

3. Beveled (or hammer) rim; very occasional large inclusions were visible. No surface treatment was evident (Fig. 3.10:5). Kraters of this type are usually carinated (Gadot 2009: 209, Fig. 8.6:1).
4. Inner ledge/gutter rim (Fig. 3.10:6); this type was represented by one rim only, which was everted and beveled and beneath which (on the interior) there was a ledge-like projection which probably functioned in conjunction with a lid. Although the fabric of the rim clearly does not belong to a cooking pot, this rim type is usually associated with a certain class of LB I cooking pot (Tufnell *et al*. 1940: Pl. 55:360). Kraters with similar rims were found at Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: 131, Fig. 6.34:3, 5). As at Yesodot, LB I cooking pots with this rim type were not found at Shiloh.

Judging by other sites (such as Aphek and Tel Batash) the above krater types most likely had either wide disk or ring bases.

Cooking pots

This group was comprised of four distinctive types:

1. Everted, thickened, guttered rim (Fig. 3.11:1). This type is represented by one small sherd. A similar cooking pot, dated to the LB II period, was found in Gezer Stratum 8/7 (Dever 1986: Pl. 13:9).
2. Triangular everted rim (Fig. 3.11:2-3). This type has a carinated body and presumably a round base. Numerous and various inclusions are visible. This type is indicative of the LB period, and has been found at numerous sites (for their general distribution, see Gadot 2009: 213), among them: Aphek (Gadot 2009: Fig. 8.7, Type CP 1b); Gezer (Dever 1986: Pls. 14:8, 16:21); Tel Batash (Panitz-Cohen and Mazar 2006: Fig. 3: Type CP1), and Lachish (Singer-Avitz 2004b: Fig. 18.2: 5; Tufnell *et al*. 1940: Pl. 55: 352; Yannai 2004: 1038, Type CP2).
3. Thickened, triangular, everted rim (Fig. 3.11: 4). The point of carination in this type is somewhat higher, giving it an S-shaped profile. A close parallel with a rounded base was found in Stratum X14 at Aphek (Gadot 2009: Fig. 8.33:9).
4. Ridged, folded rim (Fig. 3.11:5). The one example of this type was large and massive, and carinated in the mid/lower body. The rim was plain and everted and bore two ridges below, one on the interior and one on the exterior. The external ridge was probably created by folding the rim out and down. Both ridges were applied at the same height. No close parallels were found.

Jugs

This group is comprised of three main types:

1. Biconical jugs (Fig. 3.12:2-4). Biconical-shaped body and everted, thickened rim. The rim is either everted and tapered or has a triangular section. One vessel (Fig. 3.12:3) has wheel marks on the interior. Based on parallels from other sites we can assume that the biconical jug type had one shoulder handle and a ring base. While in many sites these vessels were found with decoration, the Yesodot biconical jugs do not show any kind of decoration. These vessels are quite common in the LB period (for their general distribution see Gadot 2009: 224). In the Yesodot vicinity such vessels were found at Tel Miqne-Ekron (Killebrew 1996: Figs. 2:16; 3:1; 4:18), Tel Batash (Panitz-Cohen and Mazar 2006: Fig. 8) and Tel Gezer (Seger and Lance 1988: Pls. 10:9; 11:11, 14; 14:1).
2. Jugs/jars with thickened, everted, rounded rim (Fig. 3.12:5-7). As described above, this designation is used when we cannot securely attribute rims to either jugs or storage jars. The rims are mostly simple, thickened and everted. It seems that the more delicate rims could belong to jugs but no clear-cut separation can be made. Their surface appears to be crude, and no surface treatment has been observed. Jugs with similar rims were found at Tel Batash (Type JG 2) with a long narrow neck, piriform body, shoulder

handle, and flat or convex base (Panitz-Cohen 2006: 95-96, Fig. 7). We can presume that the Yesodot jug was probably of the same shape and characteristics.

3. Possible local imitation of Base-Ring ware—an unusual large jug rim with a handle below it (Fig. 3.14:8). The rim is everted and has a slight internal concavity. A small number of large white inclusions are visible to the naked eye. Similar jugs with a handle just below the rim were found in the Fosse Temple at Lachish (Tufnell *et al.* 1940: Pl. 51B:274, 278, 287). Another possible base-ring ware imitation vessel from Yesodot was a jug or juglet handle fragment which was different in its fabric from the other jugs and juglets of the pottery assemblage (not illustrated).

Juglets

One small, near-complete dipper juglet was found without its rim (Fig. 3.13). This could also date to the late MB II or MB III. In addition one more dipper juglet rim was found (Fig. 3.12:1). This also could be dated to the late MB II or MB III.

Storage Jars

The LB storage jars of the Yesodot pottery assemblage are quite limited in variety. By this period the elaborate molded and folded rims of the MB storage jars had disappeared. In the LB the most dominant types of rim of storage jars were the everted, thickened rim and the folded-out rim (giving it a rounded or squared profile; Fig. 3.12:8-12). The degree of thickening varied from delicate to crude and wide. Some had a shallow gutter on the interior. One differed in having a ridge below the rim (Fig. 3.12:10). According to petrographic analysis this vessel originated in the central coastal plain (Golding-Meir, this volume). A near-identical storage jar type with a ridge below the rim was found at Tel Batash (e.g. Panitz-Cohen and Mazar 2006: Fig. 31:2 [Type 2c]). This jar (which was completely restored) was described

Fig. 3.9.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus	Notes
1.	Open bowl	3310/2	378	Soot marks on the exterior and interior
2.	Open bowl	3277/1	393	
3.	Open bowl	3229/2	375	Traces of red paint on the upper interior of the rim
4.	Open bowl	3335/1	413	
5.	Open/carinated bowl	3048/3	322	
6.	Open bowl	3282/4	397	Traces of red paint on the upper part of the rim
7.	Open bowl	1035/1	115	
8.	Open bowl	3340/1	410	
9.	Open bowl	3319/3	405	
10.	Open bowl	3276/2	388	
11.	Open bowl	3171/3	339	
12.	Carinated bowl	3098/1	336	
13.	Carinated bowl	3288/5	388	
14.	Carinated bowl	Surface	Surface	

as a small/medium painted storage jar with two handles and a convex base. It is fair to assume that the Yesodot storage jar had similar traits and might have been painted.

Some bases that were found at the site can be attributed to LB jars, among them stump (Fig. 3.12:13), narrow and convex bases (Fig. 3.12:14-15). Looking at parallels from Aphek, Gezer, Tel Miqne-Eqron and Tel Batash we can assume that most of the jars had ovoid bodies and 2–4 handles.

The Yesodot LB jars described above are typical of the period and are commonly known as 'Canaanite jars'. These were key vessels in international trade and were found across the Levant, Egypt and the Aegean, among other regions. In the Yesodot vicinity these jars were found at Gezer (Dever 1986), Tel Miqne-Eqron (Killebrew 1996), Tel Batash (Panitz-Cohen and Mazar 2006) and Lachish (Clamer 2004a; Yannai 2004).

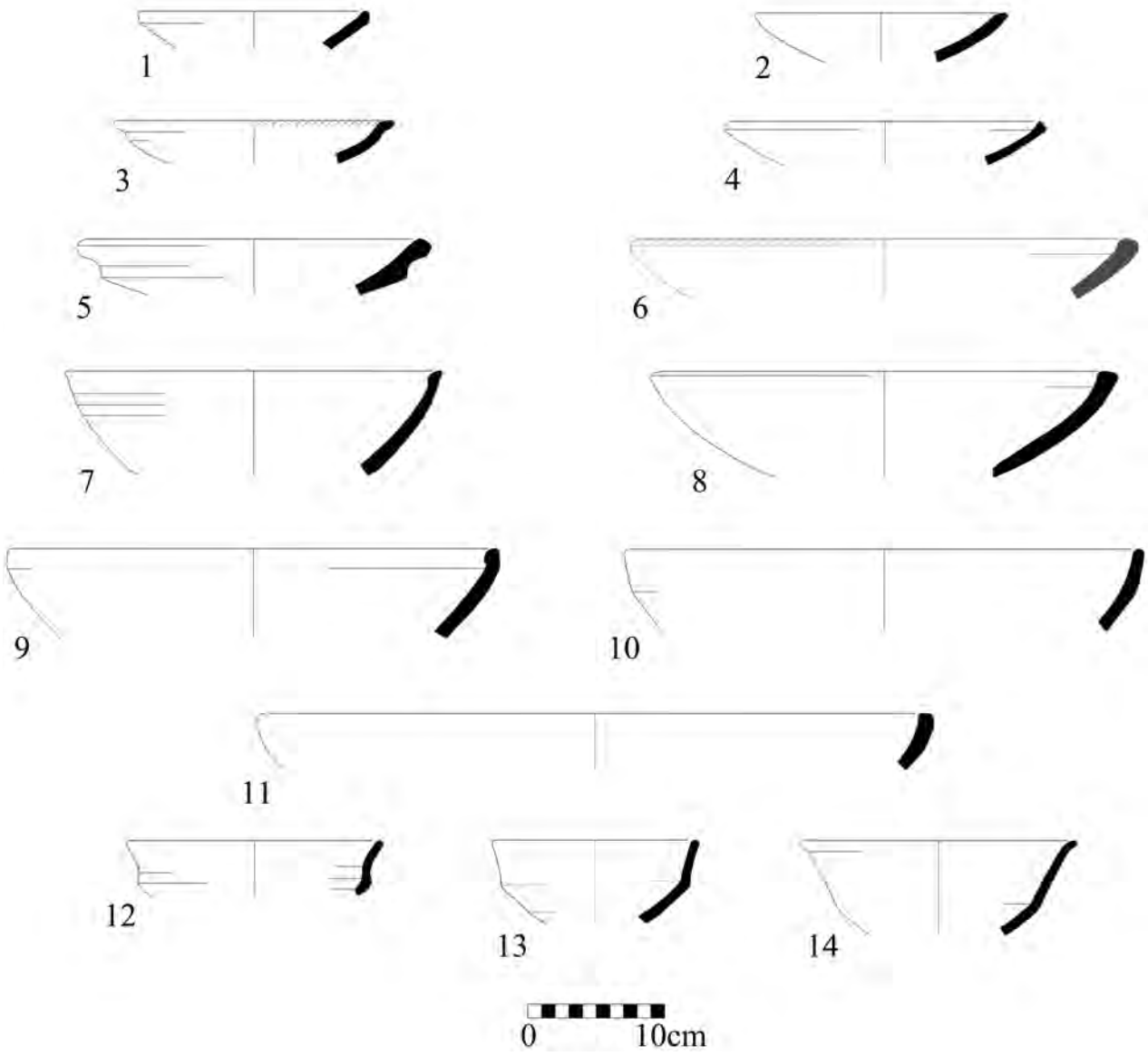

Fig. 3.9. LB open and carinated bowls.

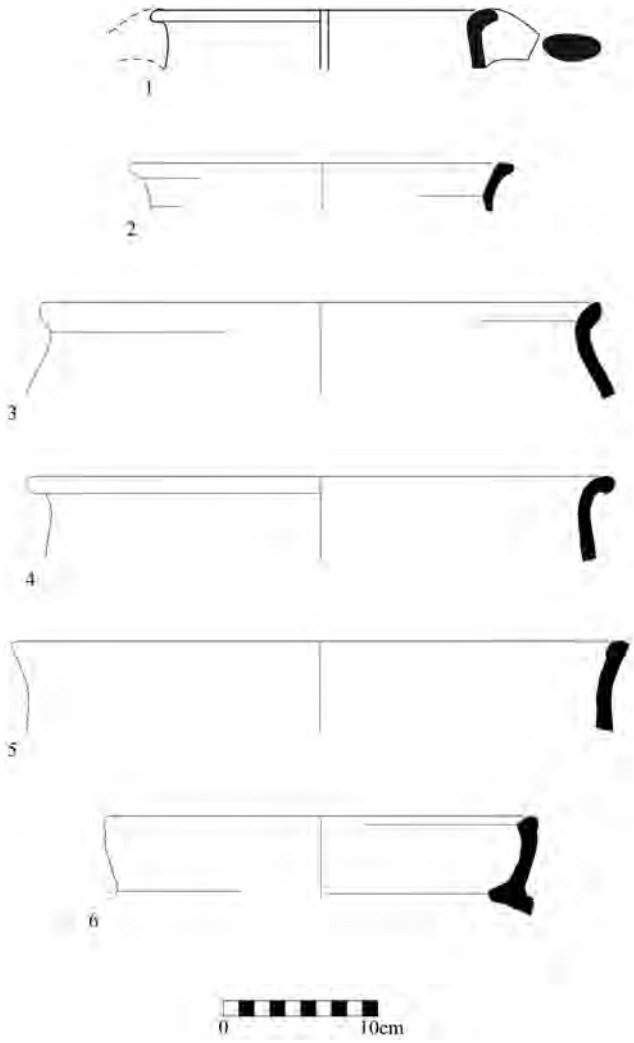

Fig. 3.10. LB kraters.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus
1.	Krater	3278/1	386
2.	Krater	3314/3	399
3.	Krater	3213/3	369
4.	Krater	3251/2	383
5.	Krater	Surface	Surface
6.	Krater	3364/17	410

Imported Ware

Cypriot and Cypriot imitation pottery

White Slip I–II: The White Slip Ware examples at Yesodot include four rims, one body sherd (Fig. 3.14:3-5) and two handles (not illustrated), all of which are decorated. These were part of hemispherical bowls which are commonly known as 'milk bowls'. The rims were simple and the handles were of a wishbone handle type. They were decorated with horizontal and vertical bands filled with ladder patterns. These vessels are common in the southern Levant and were imported from Cyprus. Due to the fragmentary nature of the sherds it is hard to determine if they belonged to White Slip I or II. In the vicinity of Yesodot they were found at Gezer (Dever 1986: Pl. 9:24), Tel Miqne-Ekron (Killebrew 1996: Pl. 5:8), Tel Batash (Panitz-Cohen and Mazar 2006: Pls. 19:10-14; 21:1-4; 33:8-9; 45:5-6) and Lachish (Bunimovitz 2004: 1264-1265).

Imported Pithos? (Fig. 3.14:9-10)
One thick rim with a ridge below was found at the site. This seems to have been part of a massive storage jar, probably a pithos. By its fabric and shape it is also unique within the pottery assemblage. Pithoi were not common in this region

Fig. 3.11.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus
1.	Globular cooking pot	3232/14	375
2.	Globular cooking pot	3192/9	345
3.	Globular cooking pot	3141/2	322
4.	Globular cooking pot	3237/8	382
5.	Globular cooking pot	Surface	Surface

during the LB period, and no parallels to this rim have been found in the Yesodot vicinity. The best parallel was found outside the southern Levant, at Enkomi in Cyprus (Pilides 2000: Cat. No. 204). On the mainland, generally similar types have been identified in LB contexts at sites such as Ugarit, Sarepta, Tyre, Akko, Hazor, Ashdod and Beth-Shemesh (Gilboa 2001: 164-165). According to petrographic analysis this pithos originated in the central coastal plain (Golding-Meir, this volume). We suggest that this vessel was either a local imitation or made by a Cypriot potter residing in the central coastal plain.

A small number of other pithos body sherds from Yesodot bore plastic relief band decoration. This phenomenon should probably be associated with the pithos rim type discussed above; i.e., it would appear to have Cypriot or northern coastal inspirations. Pithoi with relief bands were found at Athienou, Enkomi, Myrtou-Pigades, Apliki and other sites. These date from the Late Cypriot II-III (13th–12th centuries BCE; Dothan and Ben-Tor 1983: 113; Pilides 2000).

According to petrographic analysis these pithoi were manufactured locally (Golding-Meir, this volume). We can assume that these sherds also come from vessels that were either local imitations of Cypriot pithoi or Cypriot pithoi manufactured locally by a Cypriot potter.

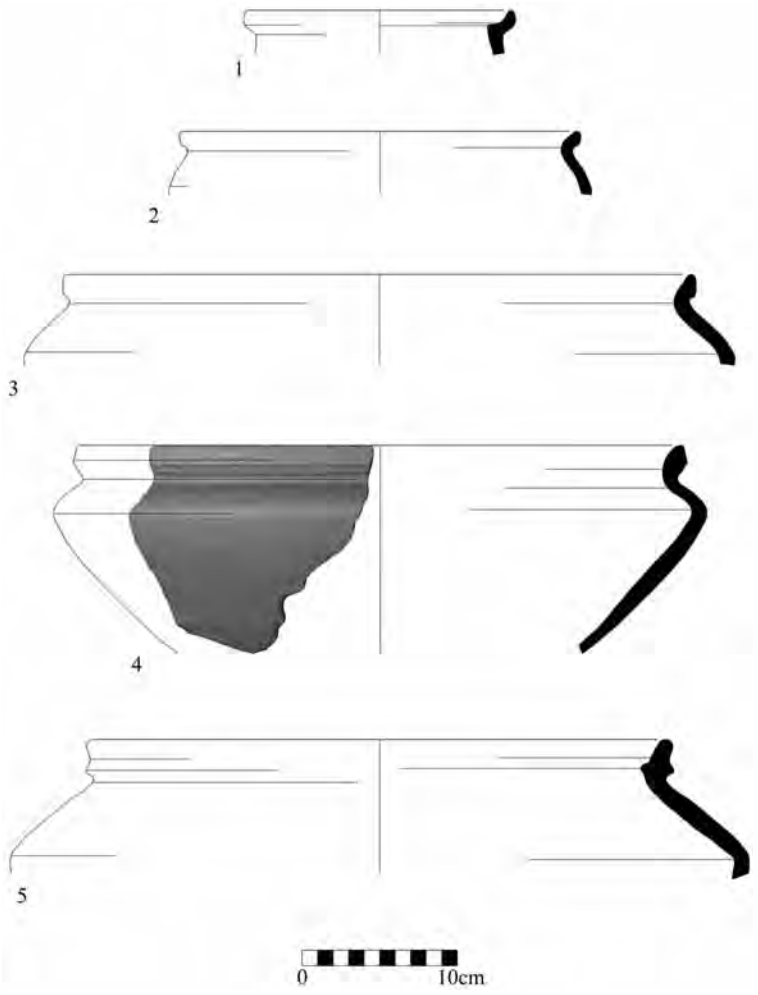

Fig. 3.11. LB cooking pots.

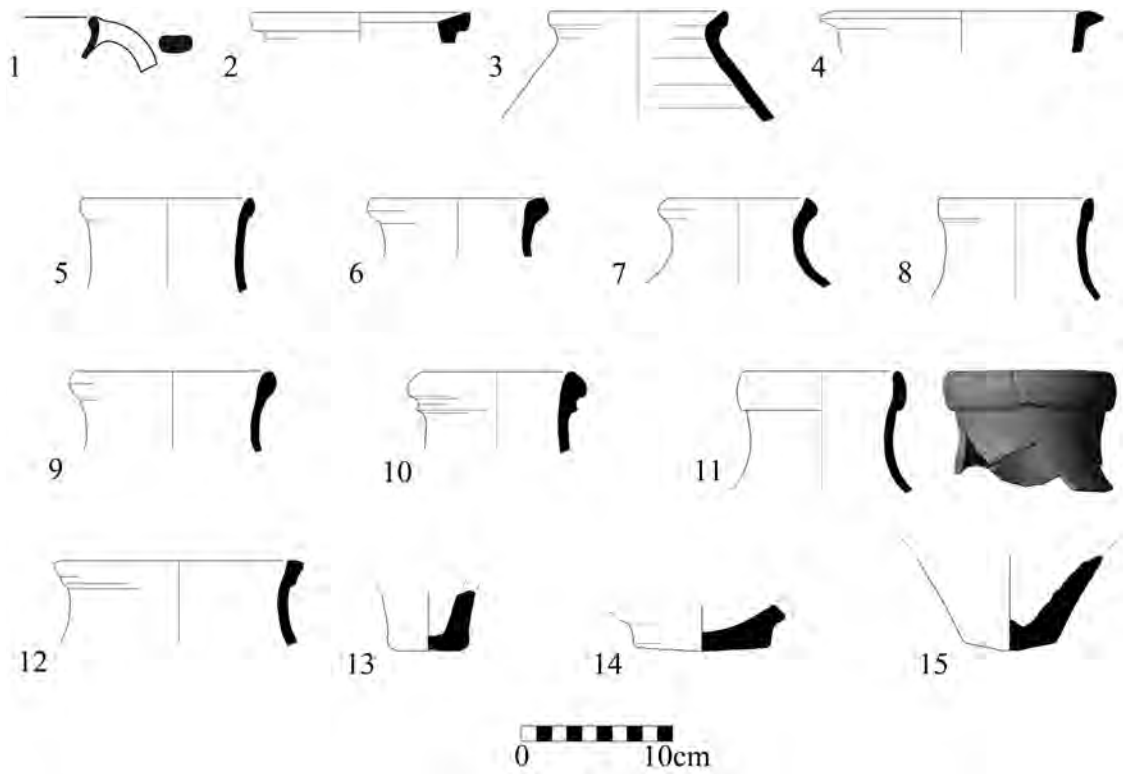

Fig. 3.12. Jugs and jars.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus
1.	Juglet	3249/5	390
2.	Biconical jug	3137/2	323
3.	Biconical jug	3298/12	398
4.	Biconical jug	3198/3	350
5.	Jug/jar	3224/26	375
6.	Jug/jar	1021/2	115
7.	Jug/jar	3336/10	399
8.	Storage jar	3289/1	398
9.	Storage jar	3364/31	410
10.	Storage jar	3361/8	310
11.	Storage jar	3363/14	415
12.	Storage jar	3287/5	393
13.	Storage jar	3318/4	387
14.	Storage jar	1060/1	133
15.	Storage jar	3275/2	389

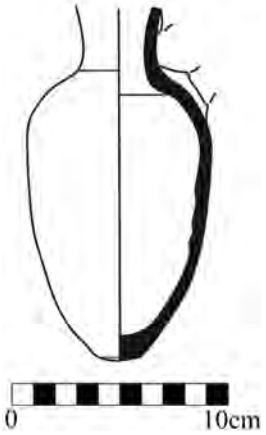

Fig. 3.13. LB dipper juglet (L391, field. no. 3295/1).

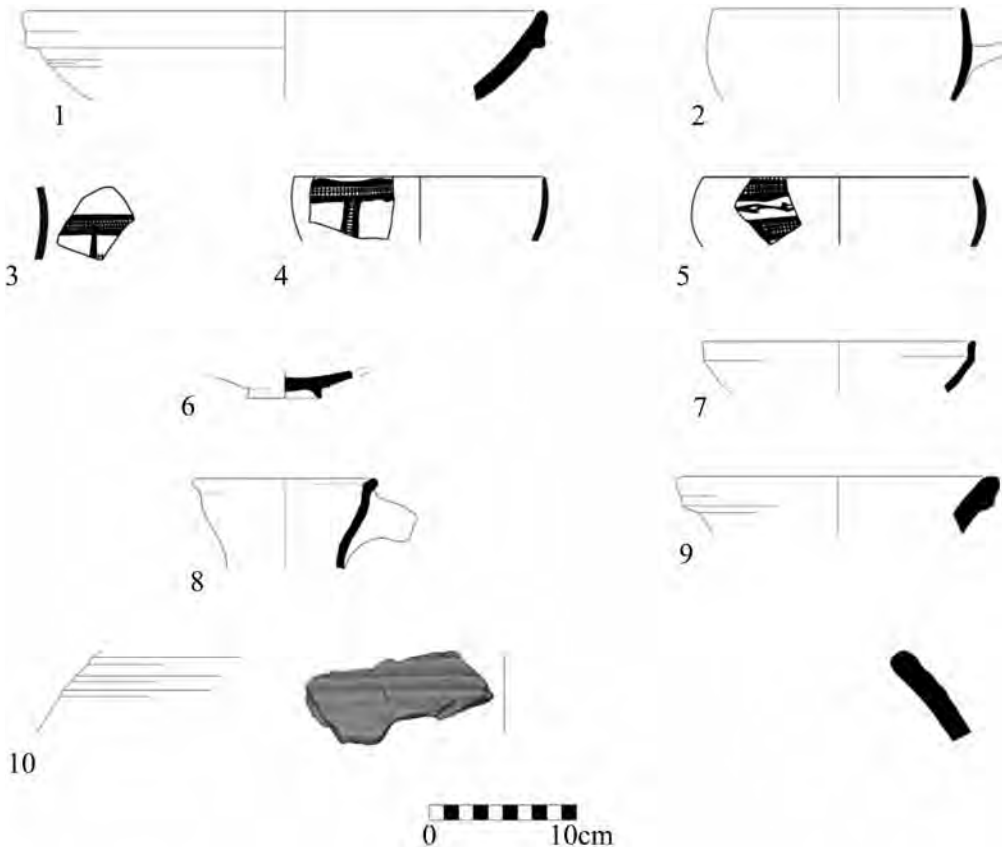

Fig. 3.14. LB imported pottery and its imitations.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus	Notes
1.	Bowl	3275/4	389	Egyptian(ized)
2.	Bowl	1072/1	133	Local imitation of white slip
3.	Bowl	3235/1	379	Cypriot White Slip ware
4.	Bowl	3236/1	380	Cypriot White Slip ware
5.	Bowl	3128/4	339	Cypriot White Slip ware
6.	Bowl	3229/1	375	Local imitation of Base Ring ware
7.	Bowl	3175/1	355	Local imitation of Base Ring ware
8.	Jug	3362	Surface	Local imitation of Base Ring ware?
9.	Pithos	3251/1	383	Cypriot?
10.	Pithos	1050/1	111	Cypriot?

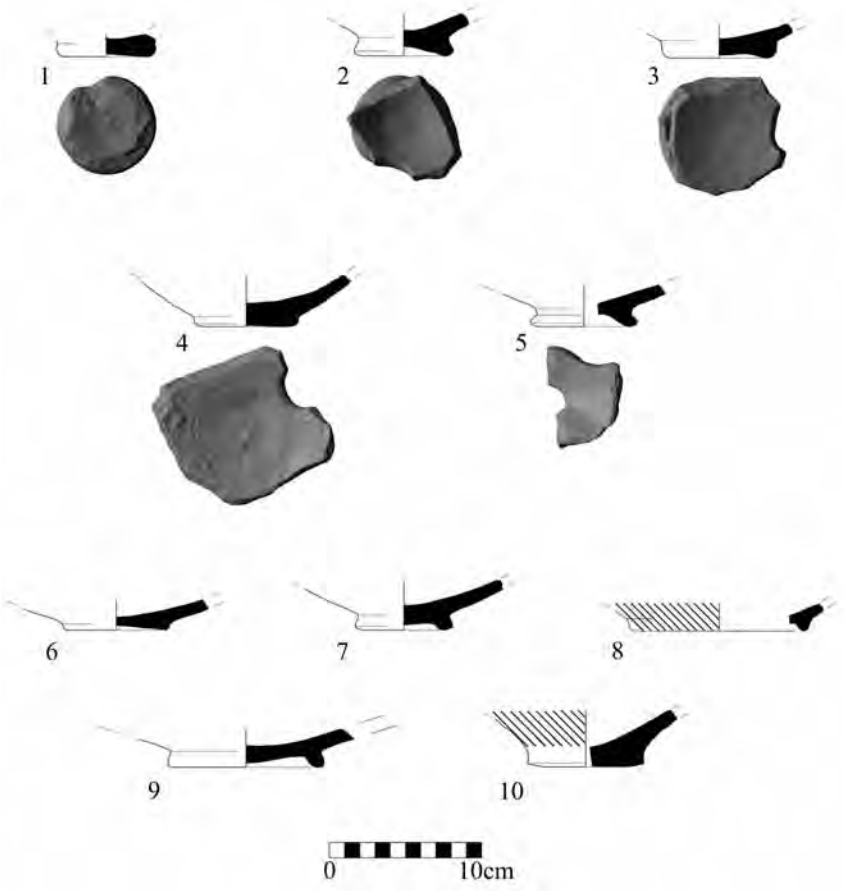

Fig. 3.15. Stoppers, lids and bases.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus	Notes
1.	Stopper/lid	3061/1	317	Base of a bowl
2.	Stopper/lid	3120/15	339	Base of a bowl
3.	Stopper/lid	3237/9	382	Base of a bowl
4.	Stopper/lid	3347/15	415	Base of a bowl
5.	Stopper/lid	3318/3	387	Pierced base of a bowl
6.	Stopper/lid	3249/4	380	Base of a bowl
7.	Bowl	3235/13	379	Ring base
8.	Bowl	3227/2	345	Ring base decorated with non-diagonal incisions; traces of pale brown slip
9.	Bowl	3278/5	386	Ring base
10.	Jug	3286b/3	386	Disk base; traces of dark slip

The following section deals with pottery vessels and ceramic objects that could not be attributed to a particular period, being arguably either MB or LB in date.

Lids and Stoppers (Figs. 3.15:1-7, 3.16)

Dozens of ceramic vessel bases were recorded during the excavation (N=356). Of these, at least 35 were polished and shaped into rounded objects, which most probably were used as lids or stoppers for storage vessels. In addition, two near-complete stoppers (and a fragment of a third) made of unbaked clay were recorded (Fig. 3.16). These may have functioned as stoppers for large storage vessels, or for kiln pipes which were uncovered in the pottery workshop area (cf. Chapter 2). Similar stoppers were found at Shiloh (Brandle 1993: 229, Fig. 9.5:1) and Tel Batash (Panitz-Cohen and Mazar 2006: Pl. 20:2).

Baking Tray (Fig. 3.17:1)

A single near-complete vessel of this type was found (Fig. 14:1). In form it was rounded with a simple flat top, and was made of cooking pot ware with large inclusions. These vessels are quite rare in the MB and LB; they are more common in the Iron Age I. Two similar parallels were found at Aphek, in Strata X16 and 14, dating to the MB II and LB II respectively (Gadot 2009: Fig. 8.31:12; Yadin 2009: Fig. 7.16:12).

Lamps (Fig. 3.17:2)

Only a few lamp sherds were found (N=5). These vessels had a pinched rim and the shape of their body was probably rounded and shallow (Fig. 3.17:1; Amiran 1969: 190; Pl. 59).

Votive Bowls (Fig. 3.17:3-6)

Three small, shallow and coarse bowls were recovered during the excavation. Figure 3.17:4 was a very shallow bowl. It had a thick base, thin walls, and a simple rim. The color of the vessel was dark—almost black—with no inclusions visible. It seems that this bowl was burned during the firing process. Figure 3.17:5 was also a very shallow vessel and severely deteriorated and weathered, and was covered with a thick layer of patina. Figure 3.17:3 was presumably another shallow bowl, but due to its sherd size and poor state of preservation no further conclusions about it could be drawn. In addition a small carinated bowl was recorded. This bowl might have been part of the upper section of a votive chalice/goblet (Fig. 3.17:6). This vessel had an everted, flat-top rim and was made of a crude ware with dark inclusions on the exterior and white and dark inclusions in the interior. The interior side was also blackened, probably as a result of poor firing. No parallels for this small bowl were found, but it seems to belong to the LB repertoire.

The small size of the bowls suggests that they functioned as votive vessels and had a ritualistic function (offering bowls?). It is hard to date them to any specific period due to the mixed nature of the contexts in which they were found. However, similar votive bowls were found at Lachish in the fills of the Level IV palace fort, dated to the MB I period. Singer-Avitz notes that typologically these bowls belonged to the assemblages of a cultic place (Singer-Avitz 2004a: 904-905, Fig. 16.6:7-8).

Small Bowl/Jar (Fig. 3.17:11)

This was a small narrow bowl with slightly curving walls, and a thickened, everted rim. No parallels were found.

Fig. 3.16. Clay stoppers.

Miniature Vessels (Fig. 3.17:7-10)

Figure 3.17:7 was quite small and had a funnel-shaped rim. Part of the preserved shoulder suggests that it had a squat body. No parallels for this small juglet were found, but it seems to belong to the LB repertoire. Figure 3.17:8 is the base of a small/miniature juglet with a string-cut base. Figure 3.17:9 has a tall and narrow, somewhat squat body. Figure 3.17:10 has a tall and narrow body and a string-cut base. Similar vessels were found at Tel Haror (Katz 2000: Fig. 24).

Chalices/Goblets (Fig. 3.17:12-15)

These can be described as shallow bowls on a pedestal, which is usually shaped as a leg ending in a trumpet base (Fig. 3.17:12-15). These vessels

Fig. 3.17.

No.	Vessel	Field no.	Locus	Notes
1.	Baking tray	3227/7	345	
2.	Lamp	3227/4	345	
3.	Votive bowl	1030/6	117	
4.	Votive bowl	3282/3	399	
5.	Votive bowl	3363/7	415	
6.	Votive bowl	3362	Surface	
7.	Votive juglet?	3224/25	375	
8.	Votive juglet?	3329/6	375	String cut marks on the base
9.	Votive vessel?	3364/45	415	
10.	Votive vessel?	3362	Surface	String cut marks on the base
11.	Bowl/small jar	3363/8	415	Egyptianized?
12.	Chalice/goblet base?	3115/7	310	
13.	Chalice/goblet base	3249/6	380	
14.	Chalice/goblet base	3282/6	397	
15.	Chalice/goblet base	3224/14	375	
16.	Stand	3337/1	378	
17.	Stand	3224/23	375	
18.	Stand	3229/24	375	
19.	Stand	3224/22	375	
20	Stand	3047/9	323	
21.	Stand?	3361/6	310	
22.	Stand base	3107/6	330	
23.	Stand	3232/23	375	

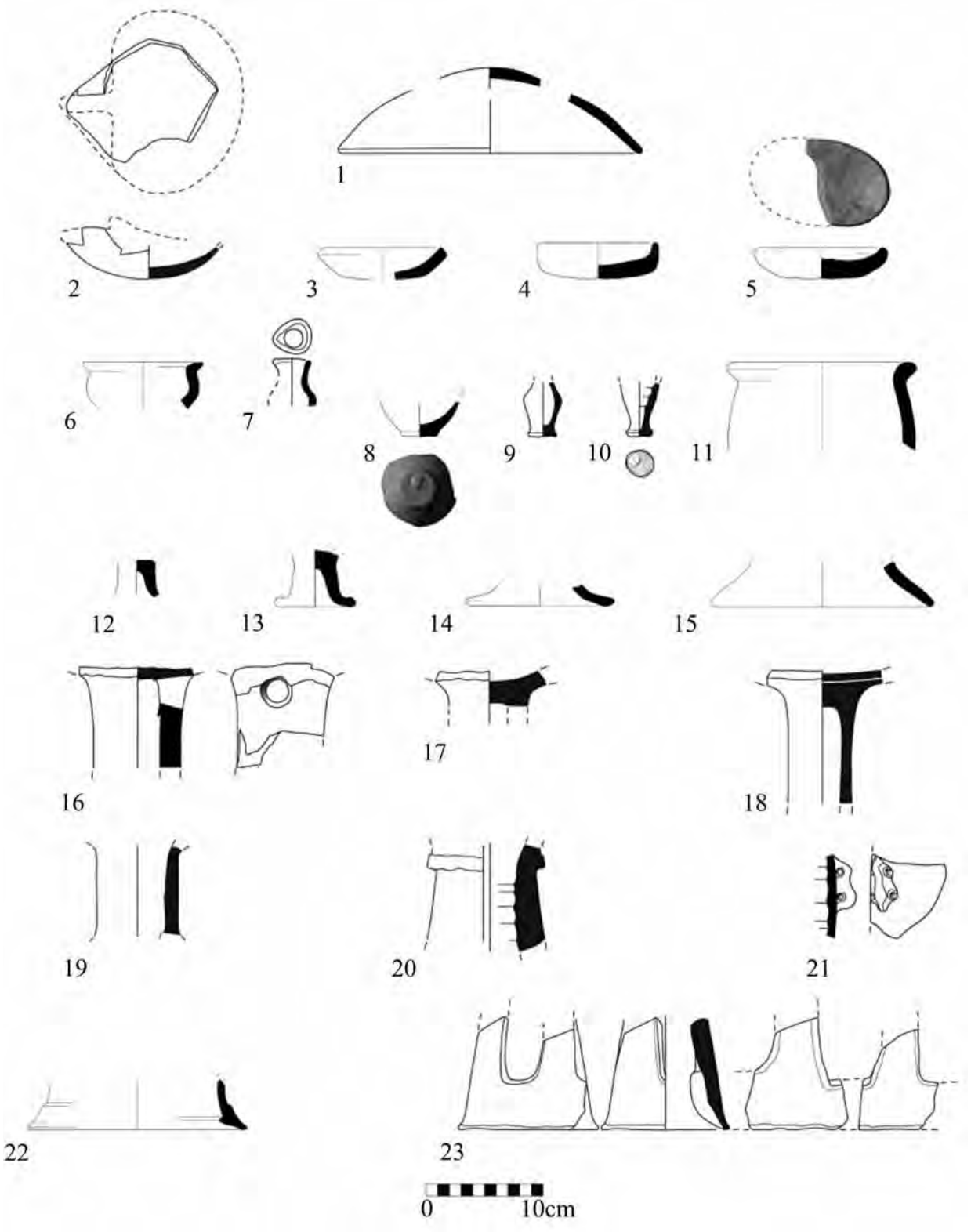

Fig. 3.17. Votive bowls, lamp, chalices, and stands.

are quite rare in the pottery assemblages of both periods at Yesodot. The total amounts to ca. 1.5% of the entire assemblage (N=14). Their remains are mostly comprised of bases, namely trumpet bases (N=12) (although some of these bases might have belonged to bowls).

These chalice/goblet trumpet bases have parallels from MB sites such as Shiloh and Lachish (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.5:22-23; Singer-Avitz 2004a: Fig. 16.3:7-9), and from LB strata at Lachish Fosse Temple II (Tufnell *et al*. 1940: Pls. 46B and 47B) and Area P's Local Stratum 2-1 (Clamer 2004a: Figs. 20.5:26, 20.30:3).

Stands (Fig. 3.17:16-23**)**

Eighteen stand sherds were recorded (bases and body sherds). These can be divided into two main types:

1. Simple stands (presumably of the cylindrical type).
2. Fenestrated stands.

Since no complete stands were recovered or could be restored it is impossible to date or compare them with stands from other sites, although it seems that some of the stand bases have parallels from Lachish Area P's Local Stratum 1 (Clamer 2004a: Fig. 20.17:19). Stands are not commonplace. They are often associated with what are interpreted as ritual contexts where they were presumably used for libations, burning incense, and as pedestals for votive vessels or other objects (Mazar 1980:87-96; Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: 92-93; Katz 2000: 66). Stands have been found at various MB ritual places, such as Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Figs. 6.21:4, 6; 6.22:6), and at several sites in the vicinity of Yesodot, such as Giv'at Sharet (Bahat 1975:66-67), Lachish (Singer-Avitz 2004a: Figs. 1:19; 16.5:4-5) and further to the south at Tel Haror (Oren *et al*.1991; Katz 2000). In the LB period cultic stands were found in smaller quantities at sites such as Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.37:14), Aphek (Gadot 2009: Fig. 8.36:12-13), Tel Miqne-Eqron (Killebrew 1996: Pl. 5:12), Lachish Fosse Temple II (Tufnell *et al*. 1940: Pl. LIII B) and the Level VI Temple (Clamer 2004b: Figs. 21.4:2, 6-8; 21.7:18).

Summary and Conclusions

The dearth of complete or full-profiled vessels is a methodological hindrance, limiting the resolution of typological nuance. The following summary is cognisant of this limitation. Therefore comparison with the complete vessels from neighboring, coeval assemblages is a key factor in our interpretations.

The Middle Bronze Age pottery assemblage

The MB pottery assemblage of Yesodot is comprised mainly of domestic vessels such as open bowls, cooking pots and—to a lesser extent—additional bowl types and kraters. However, the large number of storage vessels (as counted separately from both rims and handles) suggests large-scale commodity production and storage, beyond what would be required by purely domestic consumption. We should expect commercial transactions to accompany the large numbers of storage vessels, as indeed the petrographic analysis indicates; petrographic Group D, mainly associated with storage vessels, has coastal origins (Golding-Meir, this volume).

Comparing the Yesodot MB pottery assemblage with other sites in the region, we see a notable similarity to the following sites: Aphek Strata X19–X15, BVI–BIII and AXVII–AXI; Gezer Field I, Local Strata 8 and 7, and Field VI (acropolis) Local Strata 12–10; Tel Batash Strata XII–XI; and Lachish Area D (cult place) and Area P, Local Strata 6–3. This suggests that all three MB sub-phases are represented in the pottery assemblage of Yesodot, perhaps even continuing into the LB IA period. However, the main bulk of the MB material dates to the MB I and MB II periods and only a small fraction to the MB III/LB IA. This might suggest that towards the end of the MB II there was a decline in the wealth and prosperity of the site.

The Late Bronze Age pottery assemblage

The LB pottery assemblage of Yesodot is homogeneous and typical. A comparison of this assemblage with the MB pottery assemblage shows that the former was more limited in its scope. Like the MB material, it is comprised mainly of domestic vessels, as indicated by kitchen wares such

as open bowls, kraters, cooking pots and storage jars. Towards the end of the MB period the variety of storage jars and pithoi with elaborate molded rims almost completely disappeared, to be replaced by a more limited jar repertoire, consisting of the common Canaanite jars, with plain thickened rims. This transition can be observed at other sites in the region, such as Tel Gezer and Tel Batash. In addition to its probable domestic function, the widely distributed, standardized Canaanite jar is an expression of the wide-reaching international commercial network in this period (Amiran 1969: 140-142; Panitz-Cohen 2006: 79). As elsewhere, this impression of inter-regional exchange is supported by the imports and imitations of non-local vessel types.

Looking at the Yesodot LB pottery assemblage and at other sites in the region, we see comparisons with the following sites: Aphek Strata X14–X12; Gezer Field I, Local Strata 6 and 5, and Field VI (acropolis) Local Strata 9–7; Tel Miqne-Eqron Strata X–VIII; Tel Batash Strata X–VI; Lachish Area S's Local Strata 3–1, Area P, Local Strata 2–1, Fosse Temple I–II and general Strata VII (Area S) and VI (in all above areas). From a chronological point of view, it is difficult to date the pottery assemblage to a distinctive sub-phase. It seems that some of the MB III pottery could also be of LB I in date. It is our interpretation that after a decline in prosperity at Yesodot towards the end of the MB period or perhaps the early LB, there was some recovery, probably during the LB IB or LB II period. So far there is no evidence that occupation at Yesodot continued into the Iron Age.

Table 3.2. Count of base types.

Type	No.	%
Flat	43	14.4
Rounded	3	1.0
Concave	26	8.7
Convex	12	4.0
Disk	105	35.2
Ring	92	30.9
Button	1	0.3
Pointed	4	1.3
Trumpet	12	4.0
	298	100%

In conclusion, the pottery assemblages of both periods, along with the presence of the workshop and the adjacent pits, the cultic stands and the imported wares (admittedly in small quantities) suggest that this site was a fairly substantial rural settlement, with more intense activity in the MB I–II and LB II periods and less in the intervening years; only a few sherds could be safely dated to the MB III/LB I.

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