

Iasos, the Carian Chalcolithic and its Relations with Northern Central Anatolia

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Abstract: Research in prehistoric Caria (in the Latmos Mountains and in the Carian Chersonesos) led me to take a closer look at the prehistory of Iasos. The outset was the discovery of a marble vessel fragment almost identical with the examples of the necropolis of Iasos found on the Carian Chersonesos in a presumably Chalcolithic context. The prehistoric necropolis of Iasos was excavated in the 1960s and its pottery comparisons were published in great detail by the excavator D. Levi and in a 1984 monograph by P. E. Pecorella. The dating from Late Chalcolithic to the beginning of the EBA occurred in a time, when the settlement of central and western Anatolia seemed impossible before the beginning of the EBA. The ‘Chalcolithic’ in central Anatolia was termed ‘EB Ia’ by W. Orthmann in 1963 and placed at the very end of the 4th millennium BC. Likewise the ‘Chalcolithic–EBA’ terminology still used by Levi was classified as ‘EBA 1–2’ by Pecorella. Half a century later this scenario has changed fundamentally. The settlement of the Aegean eastern coast can be traced back to the Neolithic and in northern central Anatolia to the Early Chalcolithic. Earlier dates have to be reevaluated. Neolithic and (middle) Chalcolithic pottery are both present in Iasos, therefore, the evidence used to date the prehistoric necropolis to the Late Chalcolithic will be the main focus of this paper. Specifically, the dates of the beginning of the Cycladic culture and the gap between the Late Chalcolithic and the EBA levels at Beycesultan will be addressed. To a large extent, the material culture of Iasos belongs to the one known from the Cycladic Islands and to a lesser extent to that of Anatolia. The Carian Coast and the offshore Aegean Islands belong in the (middle) Chalcolithic to a very homogeneous culture (Latmos, Samos, Chios) that shows surprising links to northern central Anatolia (Alaca Höyük, Büyük Güllücek, İkiztepe). The most important of these will be presented and the dating of the references cited by Levi reevaluated. The contribution will close with a position on the implications of this interregional connection of the Carian Chalcolithic during the 5th and 4th millennia BC.

Keywords: Iasos, Chalcolithic period, settlement history, pottery assemblage, connections to Black Sea littoral

The excavations at Limantepe, west of Izmir, display the first evidence of important prehistoric settlements in the coastal region south of Troy and the Troas. However, it was only recently that several Neolithic and Chalcolithic sites in the vicinity of Izmir were excavated.² They illustrate that western coastal Anatolia was settled by at least the Late Neolithic/Early Chalcolithic.³ Dedeçik-Heybelitepe and Çukuriçi Höyük are two important sites located further to the south.⁴ Dedeçik-Heybelitepe was one the first Neolithic sites excavated in the region, while Çukuriçi is currently being excavated. All the mentioned sites have redefined our knowledge concerning the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods in westernmost Anatolia – and are located north of ancient Caria.

The early settlement of Caria is still poorly understood. Researchers at Miletus and its hinterland were among the earliest to confirm the presence of settlement remains long before Greek occupation.⁵ The first prehistoric excavation in Caria was conducted in Iasos by an Italian team

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² Ulucak, Yeşilova Höyük, Ege Gübre: see reports in Özdoğan et al. 2012.

³ Terminology: the former ‘Late Neolithic’ is recently seen as ‘Early Chalcolithic’ along the Aegean coast, cf. Pecorella 1984 figs. 16.4, 30–31; 17.46, 50; Schoop 2011, 150–152.

⁴ See the corresponding reports in Özdoğan et al. 2012; for Limantepe (and Baklatepe) see Şahoğlu 2008, 483–501.

⁵ Voigtländer, 1982, 30.



Fig. 1 Map of Caria with Chalcolithic sites (after Barrington, Atlas of the Greek and Roman World, Princeton 2000, pl. 61 – taken from A. Peschlow-Bindokat 2003).

under the direction of D. Levi in the 1960s.⁶ Survey finds from Killiktepe in the vicinity of Miletus and Saphradası were published by W. Voigtländer.⁷ The discovery of the Latmian prehistoric rock paintings by A. Peschlow in 1994 led to new insights into the Carian Chalcolithic.⁸ When I joined her team in the spring campaign of the year 2000, it became evident quite soon that there were not only isolated, single objects, but also early settlements. The discovery of the Malkayası Cave and the subsequent salvage excavation was pivotal for dating and understanding the early settlement of the Latmos range.⁹ Malkayası yielded a shallow stratigraphy consisting of two levels related to the same period. The finds show that the main use of the cave should have occurred in a short period of occupation sometime during the middle Chalcolithic.¹⁰ Nearly all of the surface finds from the Latmos range have very close counterparts with the material of Malkayası, indicating that this region must have been intensively settled during this period of the Chalcolithic. The closest comparison material is that of Kastro Tigani on Samos and Emporio on Chios.¹¹ Surprisingly no remnants were found from the Neolithic/Early Chalcolithic nor the Early Bronze Age.

W. Held surveyed the Hellenistic sites of Loryma (1995–2002) and Bybassos (since 2005) in the Carian Chersonesos at the very southern edge of Caria (Fig. 1). Prehistoric finds were recovered at both sites at the escarpments of rocky hills. The Acropolis of Loryma is situated at the easternmost end of a ridge where pottery sherds and obsidian fragments indicative of a settlement were found.¹² At Bybassos, the easternmost of the three rocky hills known as Oyuklu Tepe show traces of a Chalcolithic settlement.¹³ Archaeological finds spilled down from its top included a fragment of a marble beaker with pierced lug-handles (Fig. 2A). A similar beaker was excavated in the prehistoric cemetery of Iasos (Fig. 2B). Taking into consideration the new excavation results mentioned above a reassessment of the date of the necropolis of Iasos and also of its prehistoric settlement seems appropriate.¹⁴

Iasos and the Carian Chalcolithic

The two beakers¹⁵ – now in the Izmir Museum of Art and History – stay in a long tradition which shows a development from Chalcolithic slender pointed vessels to broad conical beakers in the Early Bronze Age (Pl. 1).¹⁶ The exact chronology of this development is not settled so far, and the existence of ‘intermediary’ forms has to be proven. The fragment from Oyuklu Tepe seems to have an intermediary form: not pointed, but also not as broad as the examples dated to the EBA. This led to a reconsideration of the prehistoric necropolis of Iasos. P. Pecorella published it as ‘prehistoric’ and his Early Bronze Age date¹⁷ was not contested and is still accepted.¹⁸ The pottery from the necropolis may be divided into the following groups according to their quantity

⁶ Momigliano 2012, 6–12.

⁷ Voigtländer 1986, 613–667.

⁸ Peschlow-Bindokat 2003.

⁹ Peschlow 2006, 269–278.

¹⁰ Peschlow – Gerber 2012, 74–75.

¹¹ Samos: Felsch 1988; Chios: Hood 1981.

¹² Held 2003, 289–300.

¹³ Held et al. 2008, 365–380.

¹⁴ All the more, as very recently the volume on the Bronze Age of Iasos was published: Iasos IV Bronze Age Carian Iasos (Momigliano 2012), which was not available to me before the lecture given in Vienna. Consequently, this paper is an addition to this volume in respect to the Chalcolithic settlement of Iasos.

¹⁵ P. Pecorella 1984, fig. 10.65–66.

¹⁶ See Getz-Gentle 1996, figs. 23, 29.

¹⁷ Pecorella 1986, 19–27.

¹⁸ See Momigliano 2012, 154 passim, but Momigliano generally refers to the early period as Late Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age (10, 34, 37, 44, 143 passim).

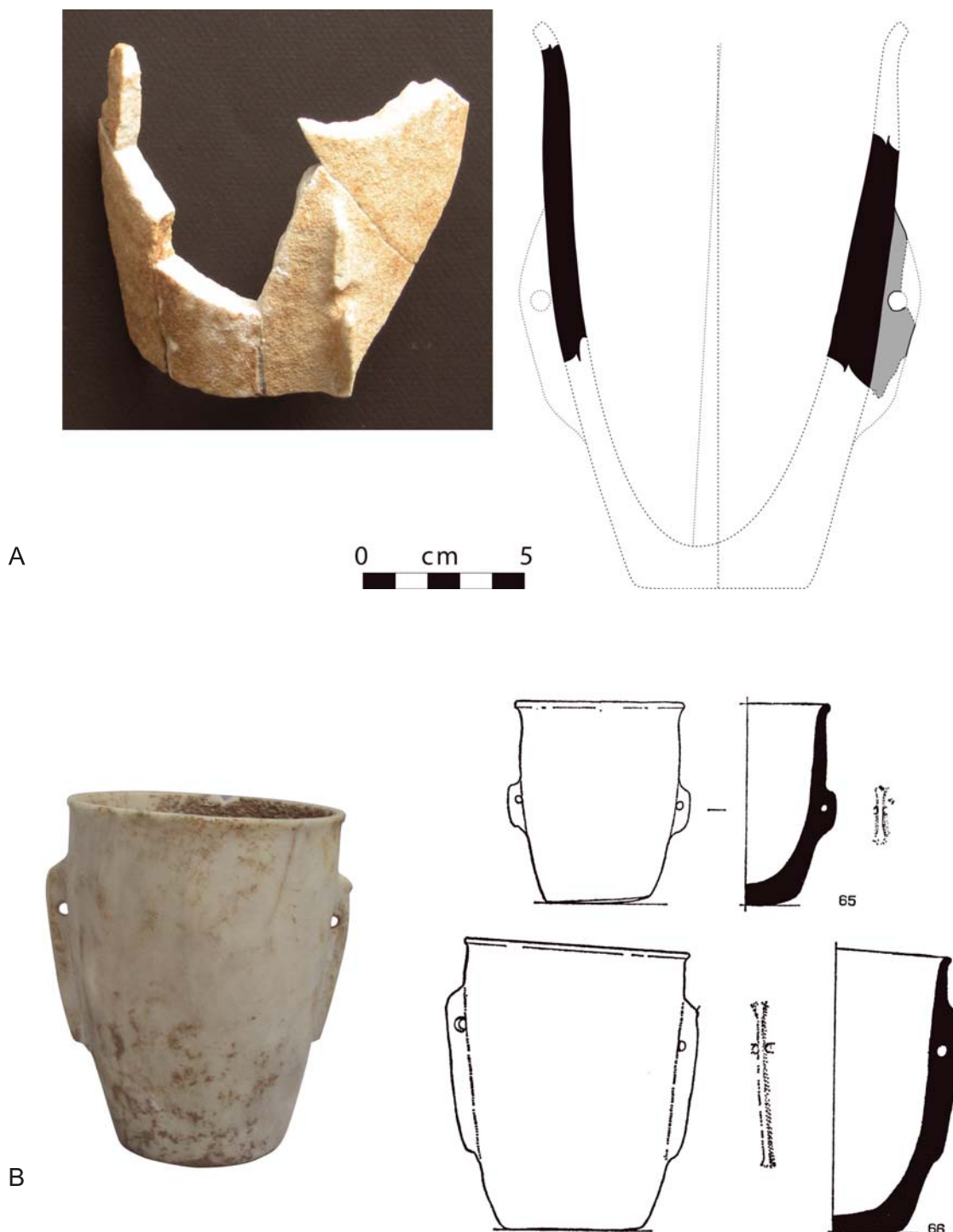


Fig. 2 Marble beakers; A Fragment from Bybassos – Oyuklu Tepe; B. from Iasos Necropolis, Tombs 19 and 81 (after Pecorella 1984, fig. 10) (photo: C. Gerber, in the Izmir Museum of Art and History).

(Pl. 2). Well represented forms are four-lugged jars with a globular body, a narrow neck and out-flaring opening (Pl. 2.1A); four-lugged jars with a squatted body, a high neck and relief decoration (Pl. 2/1B); long-spouted jugs with painted white decoration (Pl. 2.2); pots with one handle (Pl. 2.3); and cups (Pl. 2/4). Only in few examples are present (Pls. 3–4) bowls with a horizontal handle (Pl. 3.5); small globular *amphorae* (Pl. 3.6); three unique double-handled vessels (Pl. 3.7)

and two tall beakers that resemble the marble beakers and are obviously pottery copies of them (Pl. 3.8).

D. Levi published the preliminary reports in the 'Annuario della Scuola Archeologica di Atene e delle Missioni Italiane in Oriente' between 1963–1972.¹⁹ In the first report, he lists many comparisons which range from the Aegean and Cretan 'Neolithic' to Troy II without subdividing them into periods. The closest links for the four-lugged jars are from Samos, Chios and the Dodecanese. According to western Anatolian terminology, these sites date to the Chalcolithic. Coastal sites such as Kumtepe and Beşiktepe, but also central Anatolian settlements, e.g. Alaca Höyük and Büyük Güllücek are now known to date to the Chalcolithic Period. Levi refers to the latter site as 'earliest Early Bronze Age'. This very point will be discussed later. Thus, Levi lists comparisons from the Aegean 'Neolithic' to the Anatolian Early Bronze Age II without going into detailed dating of the assemblage. Pecorella in his summary of the chronology, on the other hand, refers almost exclusively to the 'Early Bronze Age', and in a separate contribution he addresses only the 'Third Millennium'.²⁰ Of course, typical Late Chalcolithic manifestations like the white painting are known to last until at least the middle of the Early Bronze Age. However, this should not be invoked for a dating of the whole assemblage just to the EBA.

Most of the comparisons made by Pecorella point to the Aegean, this is not surprising because, in the 1960s when the necropolis was excavated, virtually no prehistoric sites in southwestern Turkey were known. Since the publication of Pecorella in 1984, new excavations and research have significantly changed our knowledge of the early periods in western Anatolia. Although a complete stratigraphic sequence for this region for the Chalcolithic period is still missing, we can observe different phases with their own stratigraphy: 1. the 'Late Chalcolithic' (LC1–4) from Beycesultan;²¹ 2. the 'Late Chalcolithic' (LC1–4) from Aphrodisias – Pekmez;²² 3. the 'Late Chalcolithic' (levels 6–3) from Kuruçay;²³ and 4. different Chalcolithic phases at Emporio on Chios (X–VI) and – without stratigraphy – Tigani on Samos (IV–I).²⁴

How the main sequences from Beycesultan and Aphrodisias-Pekmez should be correlated, is still a matter of discussion. The four phases LC 1–4 from Beycesultan are often equated with LC 1–4 from Pekmez.²⁵ A diagram (Fig. 3) shows how the phases at both sites are represented by levels. Compare the short phases of Aphrodisias LC2 and LC3 with one rebuilding level and the single level of phase LC4 – all of which seem to be in architectural continuity as expressed in the assignment to period VII – with the much longer 'duration' represented in several burnt levels and many reconstructions in each phase at Beycesultan. This should be a caveat to correlate both stratigraphies one-to-one. Additionally, we do not know what happened between this 'Late Chalcolithic' and the 'Early Bronze Age'. In Beycesultan, there is evidently a larger settlement gap in the stratigraphy (Fig. 4) until the terracing of the mound at the beginning of the 'Early Bronze Age'. Level 20 is assigned to the Late Chalcolithic by the excavators,²⁶ but it should correspond to the Early Bronze Age levelling of the mound prior to the construction of level 19.²⁷ At levels 21 and 22 just underneath this terracing, are several slope deposits identified as burials. This example demonstrates just how incomplete our stratigraphies are in spite of the apparent continuity suggested by the terminology of 'Late Chalcolithic' and the following 'Early Bronze Age'. Accordingly, it should not be surprising that the Late Chalcolithic sequence of Kuruçay is dated by

¹⁹ Levi (1963; 1967, 529–546; 1972, 530–532). Indicated are the pages of the section referring to the prehistoric period.

²⁰ Pecorella 1986.

²¹ Lloyd – Mellaart 1962.

²² Joukowsky 1986.

²³ Duru 1996.

²⁴ Hood 1981; Felsch 1988.

²⁵ Cf. Joukowsky 1986, 476, tab. 139.

²⁶ Lloyd – Mellaart 1962, 26.

²⁷ Cf. Schoop 2005, 150, note 162: citing Seeher 1987, 59.

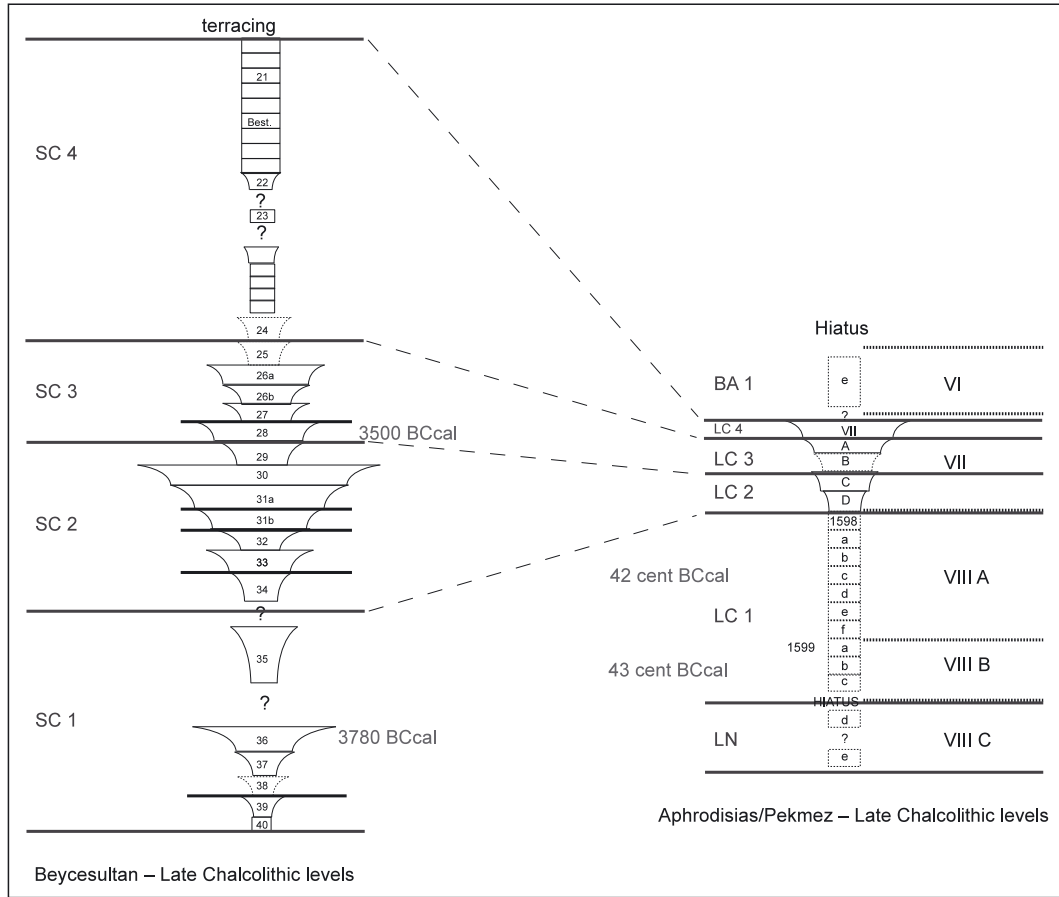


Fig. 3 Late Chalcolithic stratigraphies compared: Beycesultan (left) and Aphrodisias/Pekmez (right).

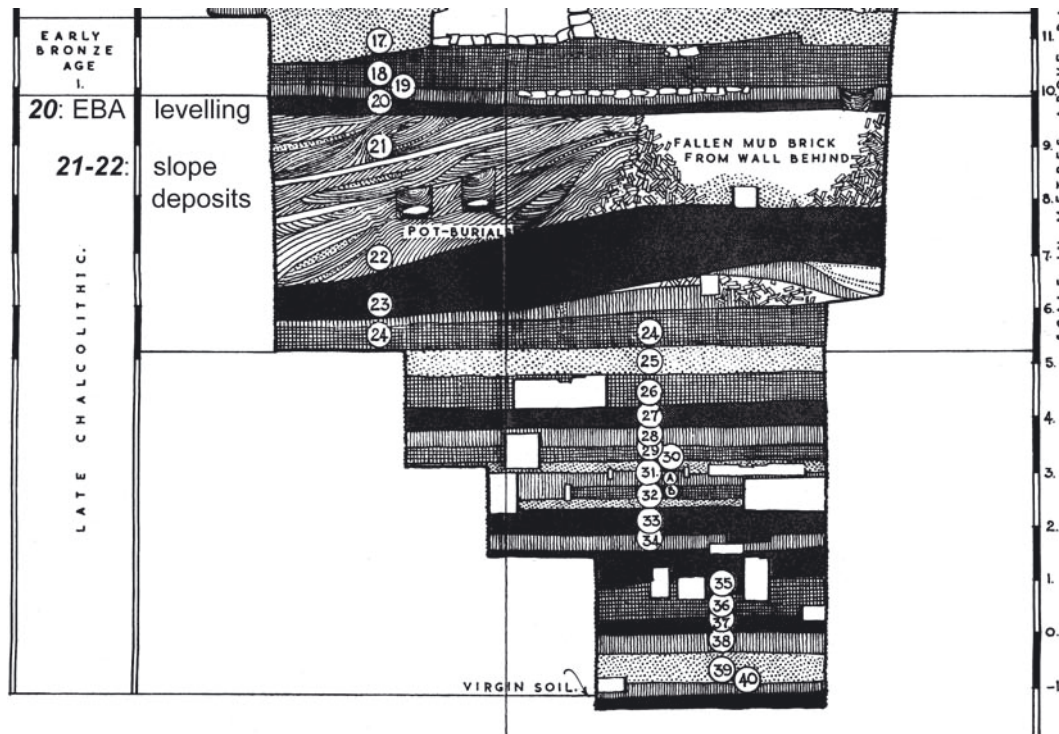


Fig. 4 Stratigraphy of the Chalcolithic levels at Beycesultan (section from Lloyd – Mellaart 1962 fig. 3, cropped, with additions).

the excavator Refik Duru before the Beycesultan sequence, but by U.-D. Schoop thereafter.²⁸ Thus there may be space for a ‘late’ Late Chalcolithic in this region.²⁹ When the Early Bronze Age commences at this site is still an open question, perhaps with the end of Late Chalcolithic Beycesultan or the beginning of the Early Bronze Age.

Pecorella compares the most conspicuous pottery form in the cemetery – the four lugged jar – with the Cycladic stone vessels (Pl. 5A). The jars from Iasos were decorated with white painting, but in most cases it has decomposed and is only discernible as faint traces on the otherwise lustrous surface. This decoration has a long tradition and is known from the ‘Late Chalcolithic’ through the ‘Early Bronze Age’ in Anatolian chronology. Thus, only the formal aspects of the vessels may give hints to their date. In Anatolia, however, the form of these jars is rather Chalcolithic than Early Bronze Age and also has a long tradition as can be evidenced from the examples from Ulucak and Mersin (Pl. 5B).³⁰ Other common vessels in the necropolis, particularly spouted jugs with high rising spouts and cups, are of course well known forms from the Anatolian Early Bronze Age. However, they may have earlier predecessors since we should keep in mind that the transition from Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age is almost unknown, leaving space for intermediary assemblages. The remaining forms are either too common for a closer dating or too specific, and only single comparisons may be found.

In summary, this pottery assemblage has no close comparisons with neighbouring regions. A satisfactory solution, for the time being, would be to place it after the Beycesultan/Pekmez ‘Late Chalcolithic’ and before the ‘Early Bronze Age’, perhaps somewhere during the Late Chalcolithic sequence of Kuruçay or shortly after it.

The Late Chalcolithic is not the earliest period documented in Iasos. The oldest pottery find was assigned to the Neolithic by Pecorella (and Levi). It is a very typical vessel with red slip, vertical tubular lugs (in German *Tunnelösen*) and a disc base (Pl. 6A.1).³¹ A closer inspection of the sherds retrieved at the findspot of this vessel shows that there were more examples: the straight rims, either open or closed, the disc base, and another lug (Pl. 6)³² came from that findspot in Insula II, Room 17. We may assume a small Neolithic settlement was present at this area (Fig. 5), even if the only remains are some sherds wedged into a cleft of the rock underneath the Hellenistic buildings.³³ From Fenditura B came two additional tubular lugs, but these are associated with another group of rims.³⁴ This group may date to a following phase. Just as remarkable is a small group of incised sherds from the slope of the acropolis (Taglio 1 and Taglio 2) (Pl. 6B.19–21).³⁵ They belong to the largest prehistoric pottery collection from the settlement at Iasos. After removing all the simple profile forms which cannot be dated more precisely, a small group of three sherds remained: one handle fragment with a knob, another mushroom-like handle and a handle that was plugged through the body of the vessel (Pl. 6B).³⁶ The incised decoration has close affinities to the pieces from Malkayası, where the other pieces mentioned and also the remaining common sherds – handle fragments, simple bowl rims and flat bases – are present. This sherd collection may belong to a ‘middle’ Chalcolithic phase. The sherds from Fenditura H may belong

²⁸ Duru 1996, 144; Schoop 2005, 184–185.

²⁹ The pottery in the levels above the Late Chalcolithic levels in Aphrodisias is difficult to date by comparison; thus, the excavator divided it into ‘Bronze Age 1–4’ and then adapted it to Mellink’s Anatolian Scheme EBA I, II, IIIA and IIIB (Joukowsky 1986, 161). Further, a stratigraphic discontinuity may be documented between the strata of level VII (Neolithic/Late Chalcolithic) and level VI (Bronze Age), as mentioned by Kadish 1971, cited after Schoop 2005, 158 with note 164.

³⁰ Ulucak: Çilingiroğlu et al. 2004, fig. 22/12; Mersin: Garstang 1953, fig. 91.1–3.

³¹ Pecorella 1984, fig. 15/1. See also Momigliano 2012, 154.

³² Pecorella 1984, figs. 16/4. 30–31; 17/46, 50.

³³ ‘Neolithic’ in fact means early Chalcolithic according to the latest development in terminology and is dated just after 6000 BC – see Schoop 2005, 270 and note 3.

³⁴ Pecorella 1984, figs. 16.24–29; 17.44–45.

³⁵ Pecorella 1984, fig. 16.19–22.

³⁶ Pecorella 1984, fig. 17.32–33, 47; also fig. 16.16.

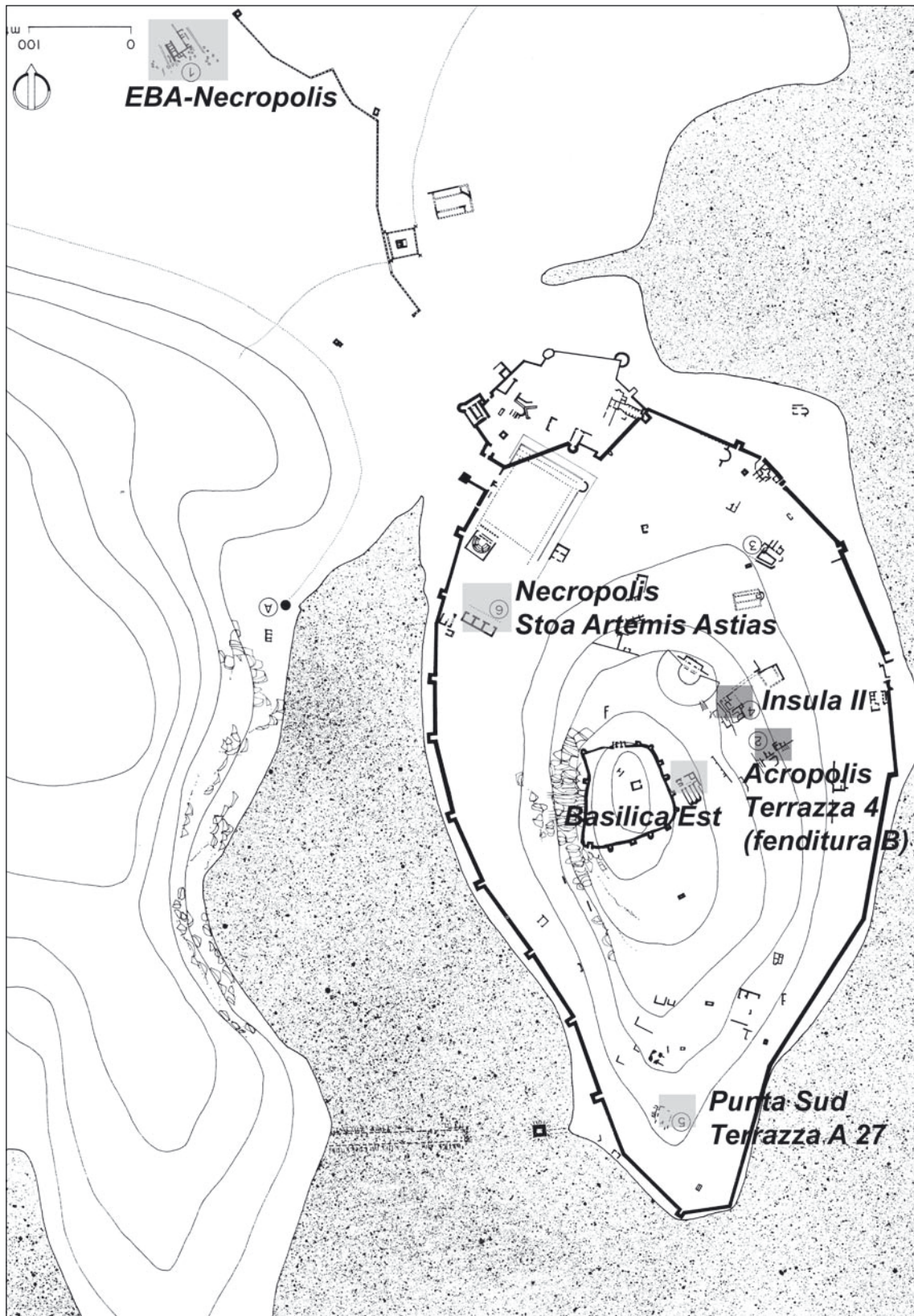


Fig. 5 Chalcolithic findspots at Iasos: Early Chalcolithic (dark grey), Middle and Late Chalcolithic (light grey) (map from Pecorella 1984, fig. A; with additions).

to the same period.³⁷ Then of course we have the large assemblage of the necropolis, which may be dated very 'late' in the Chalcolithic.

This demonstrates that even a seemingly non-datable collection of sherds can be split up into different groups when separated into single findspots and regional *comparanda* are available. Despite the tenuous prehistoric material recovered and published, it is conceivable to suggest a continuous settlement at Iasos from the 'Late Neolithic' into the Late Chalcolithic/Early Bronze Age,³⁸ and it gives us a hint on the settlement activity at this site during the 5th and 4th millennia BC.

The settlement on the acropolis, a rocky outcrop overseeing the sea, may be adopted as typical for the Carian coast in the Chalcolithic Period. At the Oyuklu Tepe at Bybassos, which was presumably used as a cult area in the Carian Period, we found prehistoric remains in rock clefts or displaced at the foot of the hill. A similar scenario was encountered in Loryma. We assume that during the Chalcolithic Period Oyuklu Tepe may have been at the end of a bay just like Iasos is still today.

Another local element of the assemblage is the presence of emery as an alternative to flint (respectively *silex*), which is not locally available. Emery is found as gravel stones in the area of Pinarcik just west of the Bafa plain at the east end of the Bafa Lake. Emery is a metamorphic bauxite (cf. *Metabauxit* in German) and has properties similarly to flint. It is used for the fabric of small adzes and other types of tools like hammers and pestles. However, it is not suitable for blade and arrow-head production, which were made of imported flintstone or obsidian.³⁹ Emery is present in Iasos, though it is not described as such in the literature and is generally described as 'black' or 'basaltic' (as Pecorella did in the publication of Iasos). An excellently preserved emery adze⁴⁰ was recovered together with the 'Neolithic' pottery in Insula II. Emery tools are not datable in and of themselves: they were produced and used in the 'Neolithic' at Killiktepe and Iasos, and in the ('middle') Chalcolithic in the Latmos mountains. It is not uncommon to also find them in Late Chalcolithic contexts, but it is currently not known if they survive into the Early Bronze Age.

In short, we have got an impression of the published find assemblage of early prehistoric Iasos – and these remains may be assigned to the whole Chalcolithic period.

Northern Central Anatolia and the Southern Caucasian Region

Levi – with Pecorella following him – showed some close comparisons with sites in central Anatolia. The chronology of this region was established by W. Orthmann in 1963, with his monograph 'Die Keramik der Frühbronzezeit in Zentralanatolien'. By the beginning of the 1960s K. Bittel, and subsequently followed by Orthmann, assumed that (northern) central Anatolia could not have been settled before the beginning of the Bronze Age, this is to say before 3000 BC. The levels labelled as 'Chalcolithic' found at sites like Alişar and Alaca Höyük were dated to the very late 4th millennium, but they were termed 'EB Ia', suggesting that the term 'Chalcolithic' designates just the very first phase of the Early Bronze Age in central Anatolia. This monograph was seminal and has not been replaced by any later study. Therefore, it was – and still is – influential despite the discoveries and the early radiocarbon dates retrieved in later years. Pecorella's report – published in 1984 – seems to take over the dating terminology of Orthmann. Büyük Güllücek in

³⁷ Pecorella 1984, figs. 16.5, 7, 11–12, 15, 17; 17.48, 51.

³⁸ Remarkably, no traces of the (later) EBA nor the early MBA (MBA I) are till now known from Iasos (Momigliano 2012, 155).

³⁹ See Peschlow – Gerber 2012, fig. 40.

⁴⁰ Pecorella 1984, pl. 57.228.

northern central Anatolia and Ikiztepe on the Black Sea shore were, therefore, dated to the EBA.⁴¹ Both, Büyük Güllücek and Ikiztepe 'BB' show several similarities in the pottery assemblage with that from the East Aegean-Carian area (Fig. 12). Knobbed handles and white painting are the two salient features connecting the pottery of both regions. This was recognized in the late 1950s, but the chronological ties could not be established until the publication of Samos-Tigani by Felsch in 1988. Laurens Thissen⁴² proposed a correlation of Büyük Güllücek with Tigani II/III. The links include bowls with in-turned rims and horned handles that were very popular and long-lasting in the Aegean; bowls with long necks are present only in Tigani III; jars with tapered necks are present from Emporio VIII until Tigani III; rim lugs with horns (*randständige Röhrenösen mit Hornaufsatz*) are replaced in Tigani II/III by the so-called *samische Stabhenkel*, which constitutes a vertical rod which begins on a pierced lug on the vessel body and ends above the rim in a mushroom; low incised pedestals are also present in Tigani III.

The most conspicuous parallel is found in the incised decoration of Tigani III. They consist of horizontal triangles filled with hatching or fields of points (*Stichverzierung*). Schoop points to the difference between the motifs in central Anatolia and the Aegean. In both areas, we find white painting on the interior of bowls just below the rim, but there are no formal correlations in the shapes of the vessels. Schoop concludes that most similarities between Büyük Güllücek and the Aegean occur in the period dated to the second quarter of the 5th millennium.⁴³

L. Thissen proposes that the most conspicuous Aegean parallels that are all remarkably similar in detail include technique, location and structure of motifs of white-painted decoration, several vessel shapes, tab handles raised above the rim of hemispherical bowls, and horned handles with rounded or animal endings. He also argues⁴⁴ for a strong contact during the end of the 5th millennium BC between north and central Anatolia, the islands in the eastern Aegean, northern Greece (Thrace and Macedonia), Bulgaria and the region around Anza. The degree of contact was variable in between these areas. Remarkable, however, are the strong correspondences between Samos Tigani II–III and Büyük Güllücek, in view of the geographical distance and the lack of similar material in Western Anatolia. It is not impossible that these contacts occurred through seafaring.

In fact, the parallels between Büyük Güllücek in central Anatolia and Samos-Chios in the Aegean are also observed at Ikiztepe and in the Karanovo IV Culture on the Balkan side. I want to emphasize that we are only dealing with some aspects of pottery assemblages; there are some close parallels in both regions, but whole assemblages are too distinct to postulate a tight connection between the two (or the three) regions. Nevertheless, many of the *comparanda* cited by Pecorella currently date to the Late Chalcolithic and not to the Early Bronze Age. The exact chronological assignation of the necropolis of Iasos in the Late Chalcolithic, however, remains open to discussion, as do the nature of relations between the southeast Aegean and north central Anatolia.

One unexpected fact may be added to this issue; far away from the Black Sea, on the plains leading to the Caspian Sea in Azerbaijan, the local pottery shows two amazing features that are common in the east Aegean, vessels of the so-called 'cheese pot' type with a characteristic row of holes below the rim, and the notched rims. Both traits are common in the Malkayası Cave, but the latter is less well represented in the Aegean. The similarity of both of these features is remarkable. Vessels with holes are generally deep bowls, but one of the examples – from Boyuk

⁴¹ There is nothing wrong in doing so because it was the state of the art in those times. However, we should be careful and not perpetuate out-of-date views of earlier research. S. Dönmez (2006, 94) termed the Late Chalcolithic of Ikiztepe as 'EB Ia' in consensus with Orthmann, shifting the end of the 'Late Chalcolithic' and the beginning of the 'Early Bronze Age' into the 5th millennium (!). U.-D. Schoop does not use these terms and groups the finds from the different mounds and levels into 'Complexes' AA to DD. He labelled the presumed middle Chalcolithic levels as 'Complex BB' (Schoop 2005, 312–314).

⁴² Thissen 1993, 207–237.

⁴³ Schoop 2005, 326–327.

⁴⁴ Thissen 1993, 220.

Kesik⁴⁵ – shows characteristics of the Aegean parallels. It is low and seems to be open on one side, similar to examples from Tigani and Malkayası⁴⁶ (Fig. 13). The notched rims are characteristic and particular to the Sioni Culture – a Late Chalcolithic culture which eventually evolves into the so-called Early Transcaucasian Culture. The Sioni Culture is dated to either the late 5th or the early 4th millennium. While the notched rims seem to be ubiquitous in the Transcaucasian region and therefore may represent a local development, the presence of ‘cheese pot’ related features is striking. They may be alien elements because of their variation from site to site.

Southeast Aegean – northern Anatolia – Transcaucasia – and 5th–4th millennia: What ties them together? One interpretation may be seen in the shifting metallurgy of that period. The Carpatho-Balkan metallurgical province represents the climax of metal production in the Balkans at the end of the 5th millennium. It is followed in the middle of the 4th millennium by the Circumpontic Metallurgical Province,⁴⁷ and characterised by the spread of arsenical copper both in the Near East and Middle Europe.⁴⁸ Several reasons for this shift were proposed, but the most convincing relates to the climatic change as suggested by H. Todorova.⁴⁹ While a number of reasons may account for this shift from west to east in the copper sources: the shared similarities in the pottery aspects between the east Aegean, north central Anatolia and the Transcaucasian Area may be relics related to the search for new copper sources in the mountain ranges of Pontos and Caucasus – and perhaps in western Anatolia. The later legendary Argonauts may have had predecessors in much earlier times. Of course, there is no direct relation between the pottery traits presented in this paper and the search for copper sources. However, future research may tell us if such a hypothesis can be correlated.

In summary, the main aim of this paper is the reassessment of the early settlement history of Iasos. It can be shown that it may range from the early to the very late Late Chalcolithic. One group of pottery with affinities to that of the Latmos Range may date to the middle Chalcolithic. In this period some close parallels to north central Anatolia and north Anatolia are evident, and also (but less apparent) to the south Caucasian region. The nature of relationship between these areas remains to be established, nevertheless, a plausible explanation may lie in the search for new copper ore resources. The prehistoric settlement of Iasos represented in the ‘prehistoric necropolis’ may end rather in the Late Chalcolithic than in the Early Bronze Age.

During the whole Chalcolithic Period Iasos may have been an important Carian site, perhaps linked to the interregional exchange at the fringes of the Black Sea. The importance of Iasos in the Chalcolithic period seems to have ended at the transition from Late Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age, since almost no remains from the EBA were detected during the excavations.

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⁴⁵ Akhundov, 2007, 118, fig. 18:4. For bowls see the contribution of Palumbi 2007, 71, fig. 3.1–3.

⁴⁶ Felsch 1988, pl. 35.8; Peschlow – Gerber 2012, fig. 47.

⁴⁷ Chernykh 1978, cited by Todorova 1998, 42–45.

⁴⁸ Begemann et al. 1994, 203; Todorova 1998.

⁴⁹ Cf. Todorova 1998.

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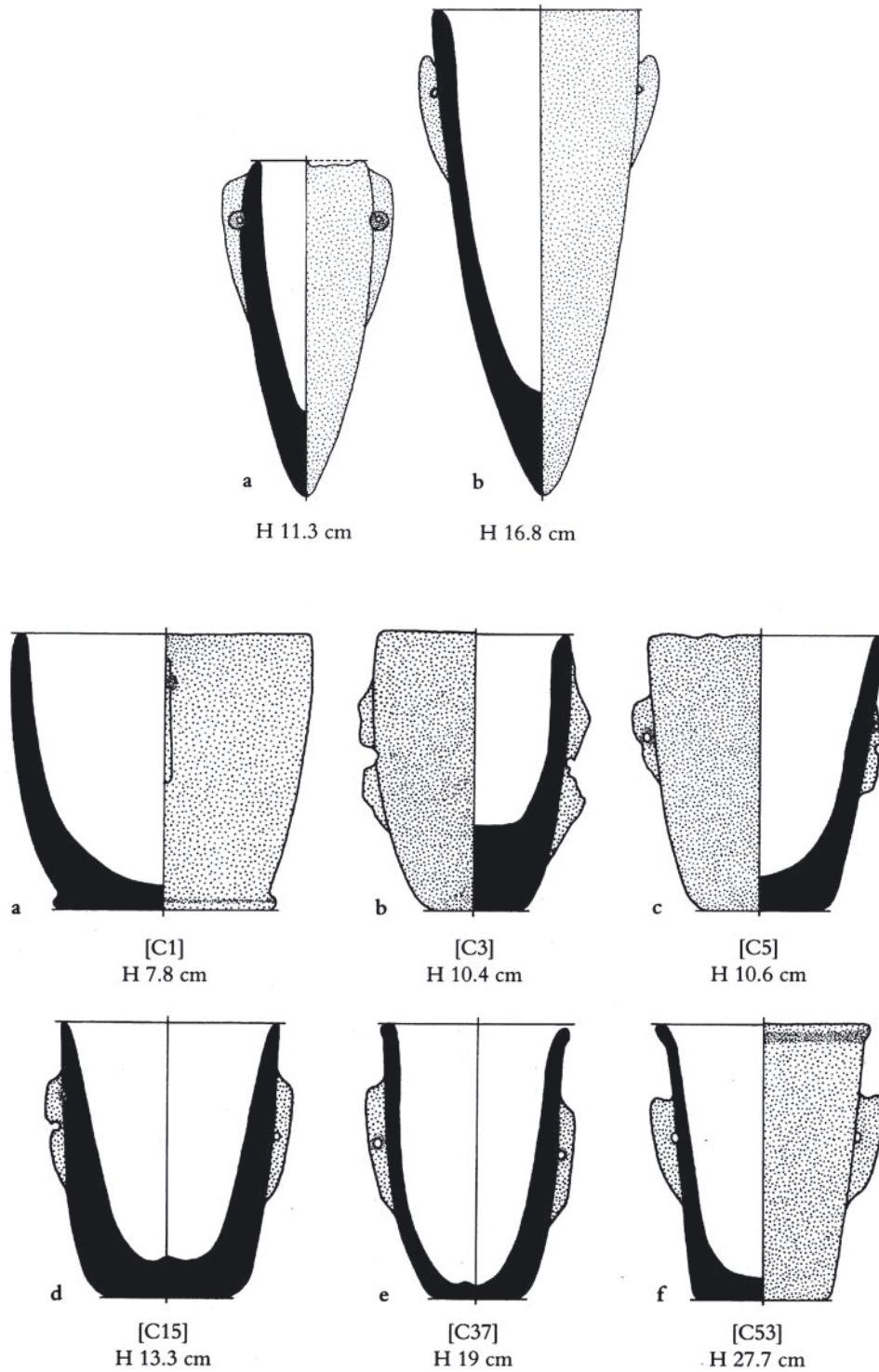
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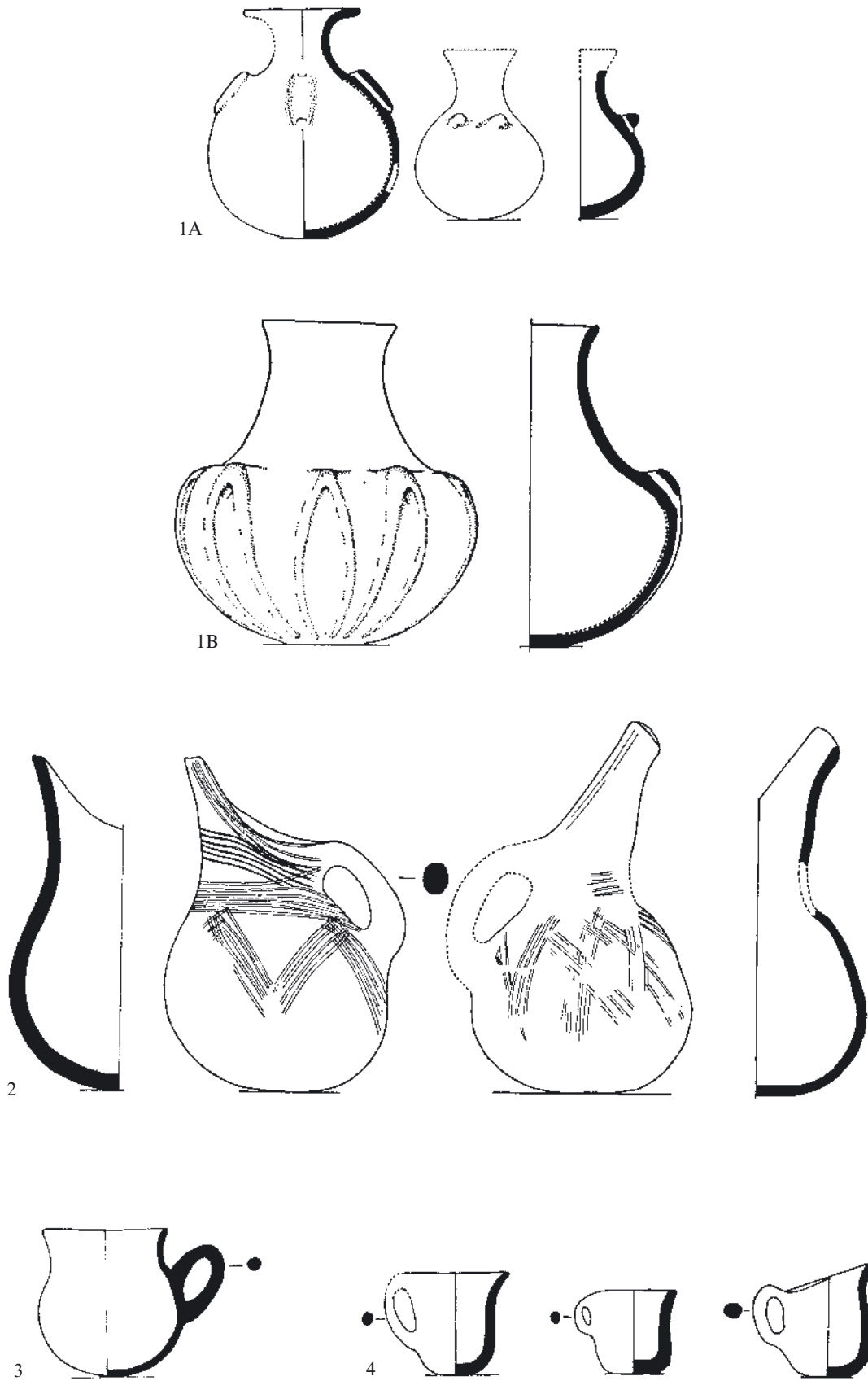
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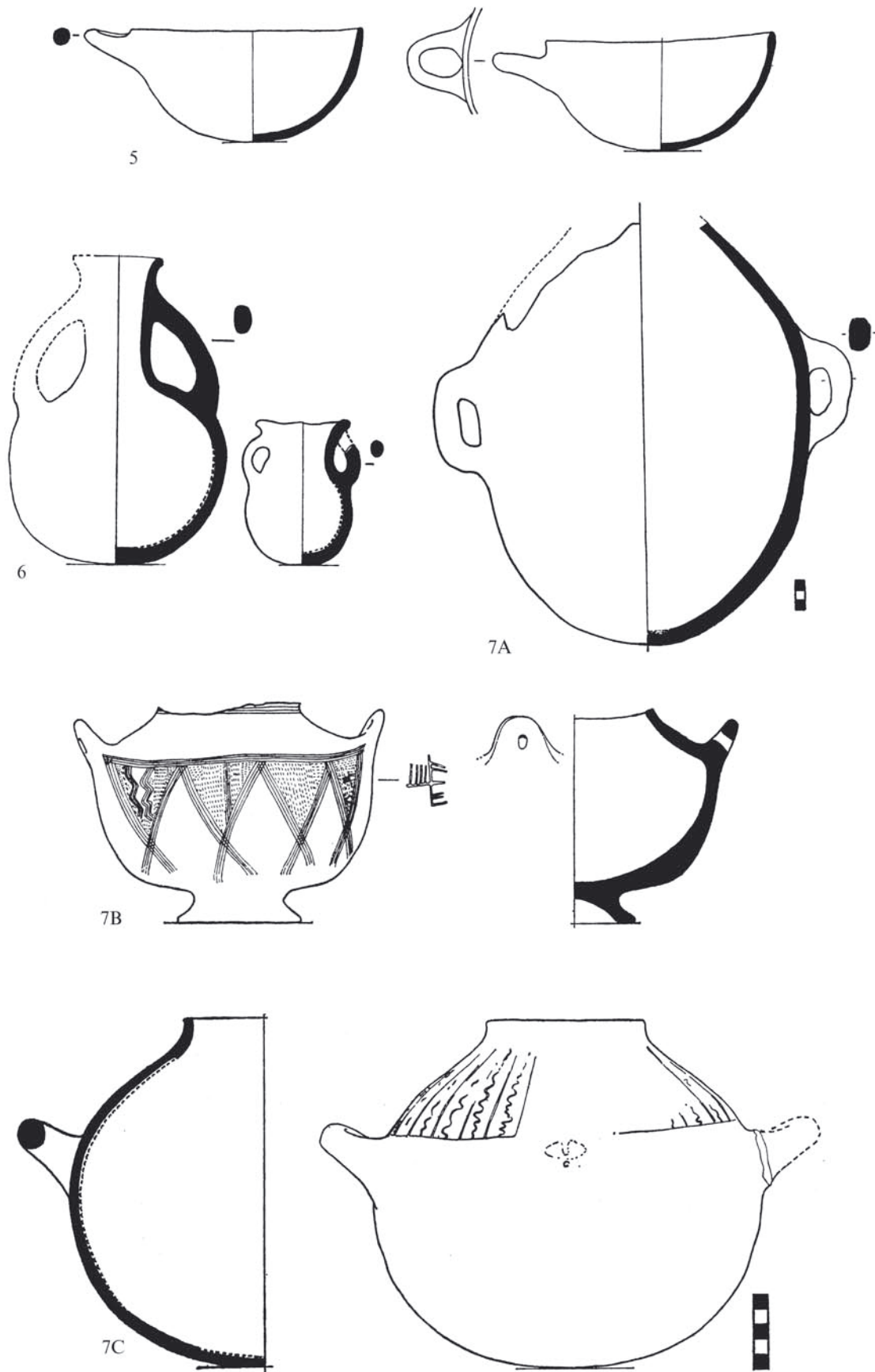
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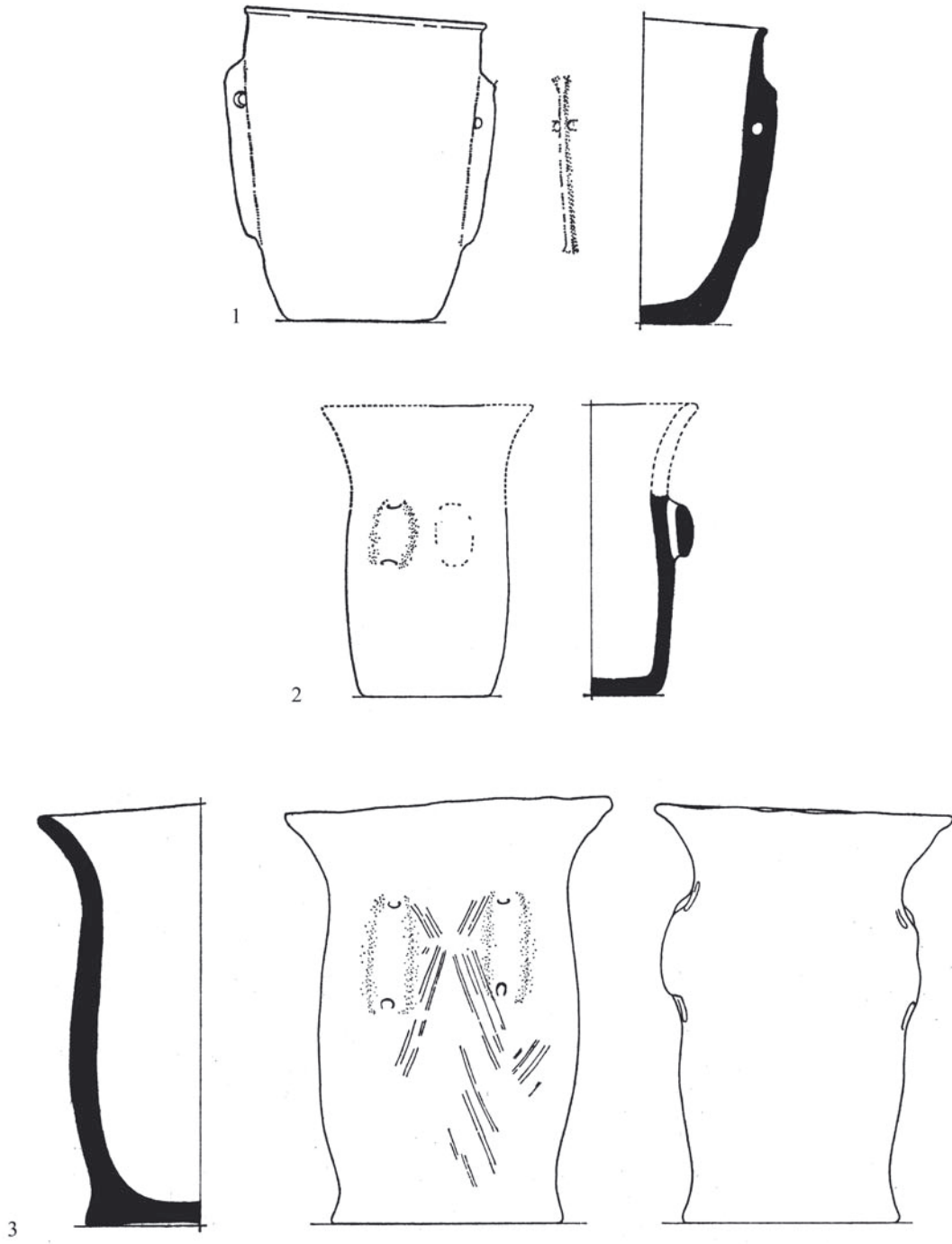
Pl. 1 Formal development of Aegean marble beakers: Chalcolithic (upper: a–b) and Early Bronze Age (lower: a–f) (after Getz-Gentle 1996, figs. 23. 29).



Pl. 2 Iasos pottery groups: abundant forms (1-4).



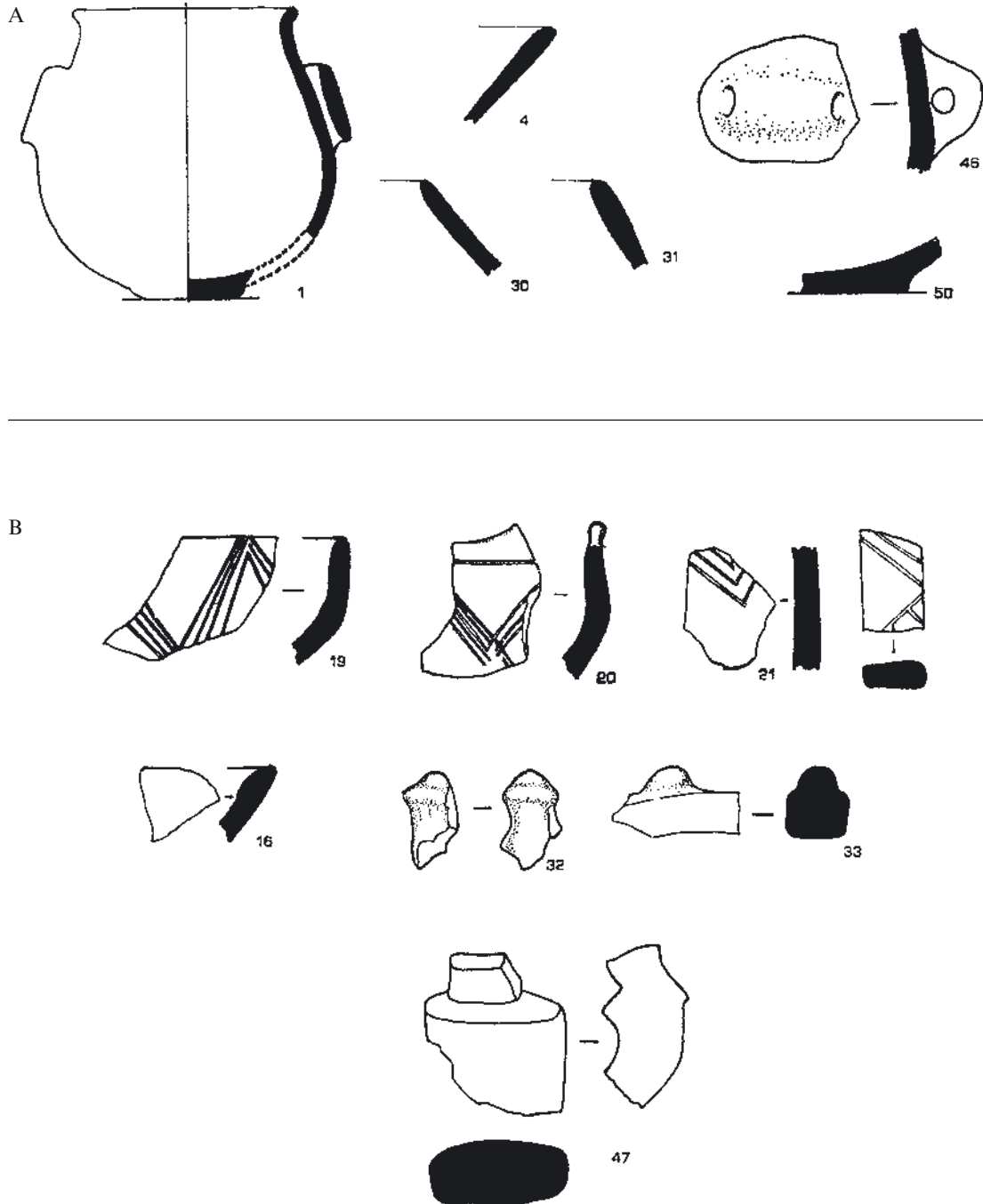
Pl. 3 Iasos pottery groups: exceptional/infrequent forms (5-7).



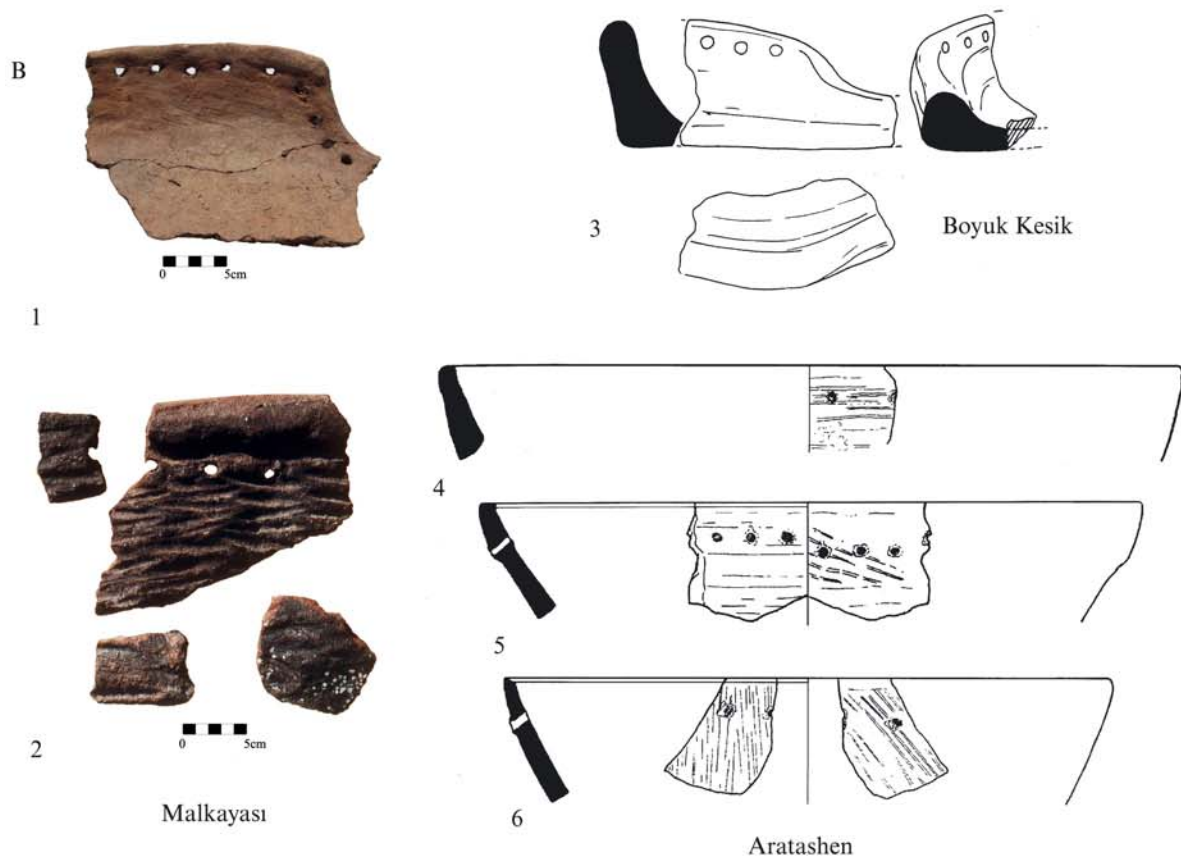
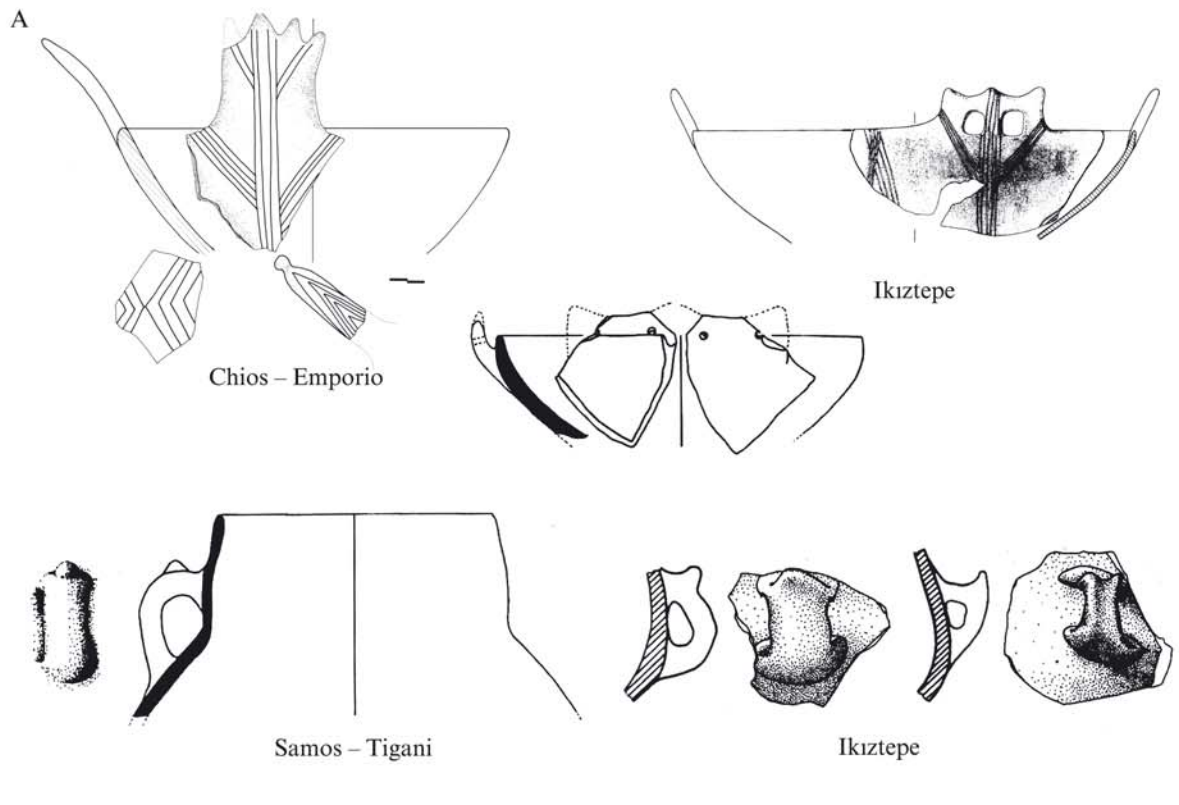
Pl. 4 Imitation of marble beakers in clay (2-3), marble beaker (1).



Pl. 5 A 1–4. Pottery vessels from Iasos and Cycladic stone vessels (after Zervos 1957, pls. 62, 68, 70, 71);
 B. Vessels from Chalcolithic Anatolia: Ulucak (1: Neolithic) (after Çilingiroğlu 2004, fig. 22,12) and Mersin (2–4:
 Chalcolithic) (after Garstang 1953, fig. 91,1–3).



Pl. 6 Pottery from Iasos: A. Early Chalcolithic ('Late Neolithic') Pottery from Insula II, vano 17 (after Pecorella 1984, figs. 15–17); B. Middle Chalcolithic Pottery from Taglio 1 and Taglio 2 (after Pecorella 1984, figs. 16–17).



Pl. 7 A. Links between and the Aegean (Tigani and Chios) and north/central Anatolia (Ikiztepe) (after L. Thissen 1993, 209); Chios-Emporio (after Sampson 1987, fig. 55); Samos-Tigani (after U.-D. Schoop 2005 pl. 150.2, 10); Ikiztepe (after U.-D. Schoop 2005 pls. 182.17; 183.24–25);

B. 1–2. Links between Aegean (Malkayasi) and 3–6. Southern Caucasus (Boyuk Kesik and Aratashen) (after Akhundov 2007, 118 fig. 18.4 and Palumbi 2007, fig. 2.1–3).