BAKÜ-TİFLİS-CEYHAN HAM PETROL BORU HATTI PROJESİ
ARKEOLOJİK KURTARMA KAZILARI PROJE DOKÜMANLARI: 4

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AKMEZAR

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A HELLENISTIC AND MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT IN ÇAYIRLI

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PREFACE

In the 1990s, the idea was born to tap into the rich natural gas and oil reserves of the Caspian Sea and transport them to the international energy markets. The idea was closely followed by the public throughout the decade which followed. This historic project is aiming to transport 50 million tons of crude oil in a year, mainly Azerbaijani, along a pipeline 1774 km in length. The pipeline starts in Baku and ends at the newly-constructed sea terminal in Ceyhan, from which it will be delivered to the world markets by tankers. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Crude Oil Pipeline Project will consolidate Turkey's geopolitical power in the region, and provide a strong and safe "East-West Energy Corridor" which will connect the southern Caucasus and Central Asia to Turkey and the Mediterranean Sea. The project falls within the scope of an Inter-Governmental Agreement, signed by the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. The agreement was signed at the last OSCE summit held in İstanbul on 18 November 1999, and witnessed by the President of the USA. This was followed up by the "Turn-Key Contracting Agreement" with BOTAŞ on 19 October 2000, which allowed for construction of the BTC Crude Oil Pipeline to begin.

The 1076 km-long section of the pipeline in Turkey passes through the provinces of Ardahan, Kars, Erzurum, Erzincan, Sivas, Kayseri, Kahramanmaraş and Adana. The pipeline enters Turkey from Posof, and passes over the Erzurum-Kars Plateau before entering the tectonic depressions near Horasan. The pipeline continues over the Erzurum Plain, through Tercan, Çayırlı, Erzincan. From the mountainous areas and plateaus north of Refahiye, the pipeline crosses the North Anatolian Fault and reaches Central Anatolia from south of Kızıldağ (Kızıl Mountain) (3025 m), the source of the Kızılırmak River. From here, the pipeline extends southwest, drawing a large arc from north of the Tecer Mountains range (southeast of the Sivas Basin) and entering Uzunyayla Plateau from Ulaş Basin and Altınyayla. Continuing past Zamantı Brook, the pipeline climbs over the Tahtalı Mountains at the northeast corner of the Middle Taurus Mountains from east of Pınarbaşı and follows the Sarız Brook Valley. Turning south from the valley, the pipeline passes through the high threshold between the Dibek Mountains (2230 m) and the Binboğa Mountains (2957 m) and reaches the Göksun Brook Valley. Passing through the mountain and high plateaus between Göksun and Andırın, it descends south of Kadirli to the east of the Çukurova Plain (in the Ceylan Plain section) and reaches the Mediterranean Sea.

The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Crude Oil Pipeline Project is an exemplary project in that it applied advanced technological standards, gave priority to health and safety, and was sensitive to natural, social and historical assets in the pipeline's path. In these aspects, this project was a "first" in Turkey. The project undertook many measures to protect flora and fauna and to restore the land once construction was complete. The project has also applied the most sophisticated mitigation techniques in salvaging and protecting historical assets. Within the framework of the Cultural Heritage Management Plan, all historical assets, both under and

above ground, have been identified using survey techniques which conform to nationally- and internationally-recognized standards and preserved through re-routing or archaeological excavation. Assimilating the data and placing salvaged artefacts in appropriate regional museums have made an enormous contribution to Turkey's and the world's cultural and natural heritages. By publishing the results of each excavation, the project has made a large contribution to Anatolian archaeology in particular.

BOTAŞ, the main contractor for the Turkish section of the pipeline, signed a protocol with the Turkish Ministry of Culture on 12 March 2002, aimed at protecting historical assets in the pipeline corridor. Furthermore, the United Nations conventions, particularly the UNESCO Convention for Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Valetta convention, IFA-Archaeological Observation, Site Evaluation, Excavation Work Standard and Guiding Provisions, and the World Bank standards and other recognized international standards were taken into consideration in the protocol, created as Law no. 2863 on the Protection of Cultural and Natural Assets. The Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) included in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report prepared in accordance with all of the above, formed the framework for the Archaeological Salvage Excavations under the BTC Crude Oil Pipeline Project.

Archaeological salvage excavations were carried out between 15 March 2003 and 20 November 2003 in ten sites where re-routing was not possible for various reasons. During that time, 125 archaeologists, art historians, antique age historians, anthropologists, geomorphology experts, geophysicists, surveyors, restorers and approximately 800 workers were employed. They operated under the supervision and consultancy of 25 academicians attached to the Gazi University Research Centre for Archaeology. A total of 17 separate excavations were carried out, including seven sites that emerged in 2004 as "random finds."

The integrated execution of the archaeological survey and salvage works along the pipeline was of course the result of broad cooperation. The most important cooperation was with the Turkish Ministry of Culture (later the Ministry of Culture and Tourism), the BOTAŞ BTC Crude Oil Pipeline Project Directorate and the Gazi University Rectorate.

Prof. Dr. Rıza AYHAN, former Rector of Gazi University, made important contributions for the achieving and execution of the project. Prof. Dr. Kadri YAMAÇ, Rector of Gazi University, contributed immensely during the publication stage. Prof. Dr. Ahmet AKSOY and Prof. Dr. Metin AKTAŞ, former vice-rectors of Gazi University, Prof. Dr. Cemil YILDIZ, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, Prof. Dr. E. Semih YALÇIN, former Head of the History Department and the pipeline's Archaeological Salvage Excavations Project Assistant Director, have made significant contributions and provided selfless supports to the execution of the project.

Mr. Orhan DÜZGÜN, Cultural Assets and Museums General Director of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Mr. Nadir AVCI, former Cultural Assets and Museums General

Director of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Mr. İlhan KAYMAZ, Deputy General Director, have made enormous contributions.

Mr. Gökhan BİLDACI, former General Manager of BOTAŞ, who helped to bring the pipeline project to Turkey, and provided the infrastructure required for managing the archaeological assets of the project, Mr. M. Takiyüddin BİLGİÇ, former General Manager of BOTAŞ, Mr. Salih PAŞAOĞLU, former General Manager of BOTAŞ and BOTAŞ Genaral Manager Rıza ÇİFTÇİ, who were generous with their supports at the later stages. Former BTC Crude Oil Pipeline Project Directors Mr. Hüseyin ERSOY, Mr. H. Doğan ŞİRİKÇİ and Mr. Osman Zühtü GÖKSEL, BTC Crude Oil Pipeline Project Director, and Gökmen ÇÖLOĞLU, Deputy Director, and the pipeline Project Site Maneger Mr. Burçin YANDIMATA have contributed greatly to execution of the project. Furthermore, Mr. Özgür ARARAT, Manager of the Environmental Department of the pipeline Project Directorate and Miss. Ebru DEMİREKLER, former Manager of the Environmental Department of the pipeline Project Directorate, and all employees of the Cultural Heritage Management Unit, Mr. Gökhan MUSTAFAOĞLU, Mr. H. Uğur DAĞ, Mr. Kılıçhan SEVMEN, Mr. Murat YAZGI, Miss. Özgür GÖKDEMİR and GIS expert Mrs. Çiğdem GÜVERCİN ORHAN, have worked selflessly in executing this project.

BTC Co., the owner of the BTC Crude Oil Pipeline Project, has made big contributions to both Anatolian and the world cultural heritage. Becoming the protector of archaeological assets in the pipeline corridor in Turkey and extending financial support to this end, BTC Co. has of course made the largest contribution. The BTC Co. Turkish Section Environmental Department Manager Mr. Paul SUTHERLAND has been instrumental in the realization of the goal. Dr. Hugh ELTON, Director of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara and the archaeological consultant of BTC Co., has always been encouraging and supportive.

On this occasion, we cordially thank all entities and individuals who were involved in and contributed to the field and publication activities of the BTC Crude Oil Pipeline Project Archaeological Salvage Excavations Project executed by the Gazi University Research Centre for Archaeology.

Asst. Prof. Dr. S.Yücel ŞENYURT
Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Crude Oil Pipeline
Archaeological Salvage Excavations Project Director

INTRODUCTION

This study contains the scientific results of rescue excavation works in the frame of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Crude Oil Pipe Line Archeological Rescue Excavations Project conducted by the Gazi University Research Center for Archaeology (GÜ-ARÇED) in the Akmezar site around the Başköy village, Çayırlı town in the Erzincan city.

Akmezar was first discovered in 2002 by the Gazi University – Archeological Heritage Management and Administration Unit with the surface investigations conducted in the concept of BTC Crude Oil Pipe Line Project Basic and Detailed Engineering Stage Works. The Akmezar rescue excavation in the concept of BTC Crude Oil Pipe Line Archeological Rescue Excavations Project which was started on 10 July 2003 and finished on 14 September 2003, was performed by an excavation team from the Gazi University Research Center for Archaeology with the permission of the General Directorate of Cultural Assets and Museums of the Cultural and Tourism Ministry and financial aid of BTC Crude Oil Pipe Line Project Directorate.

The Akmezar rescue excavation, guided by Mustafa Erkmen, director of the Erzurum Museum, was conducted with the scientific responsibility of Prof. Dr. Halit Çal from the Gazi University – Faculty of Science. In the excavation, archeologist İzzet Esen of the Ankara Ethnography Museum and Tolga Çelik of the Konya Karatay Medresseh – Çini and Ceramic Assets Museum were representatives of the Cultural and Tourism Ministry.

Instructor Gülşah Beyazoğlu from the Gazi University – Title Deed and Cadastral Proficiency School, archeologists Belgin Savaş, Resul İbiş, Atakan Akçay Arş. Gör. Candaş Keskin, Özgür Öztürkler, H. Osman Alkan, Yunus Muluk, Yunus Ayata, H. Bayhan Topçu, Gökhan Yıldız and Hüsnü Genç from the Gazi University – Archeological Environment Assets Research Center were participated into the excavation works. Geophysical works were conducted by assistant M. Özgü Arısoy.[1] Technical features and forms of all pottery pieces and other findings obtained from the excavation were evaluated by Yunus Ekim, Hamza Ekmen and Z. Filiz Bilir. Hamza Ekmen, Yunus Ekim, Resul İbiş and Emsal Koçerdin were responsible for architectural and small findings drawings, Emrah Karakurum for photographing and computed adjustments and Yunus Ekim, Hamza Ekmen and Z. Filiz Bilir for archiving and cataloging works.

The excavation works were conducted in area of 28-m corridor as A (10 x 10 m), B (10 x 10 m), C (7 x 10 m) trenchs and walking road (1 m). Among these trenchs, A trenchs

[1]We thank all the team members for their self-denying work during the Akmezar excavation.

were used as soil piling and the soil piled was stored separately as agriculture and cultural soils. B trenchs had priority for excavations since they are located in the area of pipeline.

Results obtained from rescue excavations performed in a limited area in the Akmezar site will contribute to the Hellenistic Period and Medieval Age archeology in the Eastern Anatolia and its vicinity.

In the Akmezar rescue excavation, particularly ceramics of the Hellenistic Period are very important since they indicate that ceramics of that period are also common in the Erzincan (Çayırlı) region. In addition to the Hellenistic Period, architecture, ceramic, metal and glass findings of the Medieval Age have the characteristics of the 11-14th centuries.

PART I

HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL ENVIRONMENT OF ÇAYIRLI AND ITS VICINITY

A. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND CHARACTERISTICS

Çayırlı District is located between 39° 47’ 27” Northern latitude and 40° 00’ 10” Eastern longitude, on the northeast of Erzincan, within the borders of Erzincan Province, at the Upper Firat Section of East Anatolia Region. On its east are Tercan and Aşkale districts, on its west are Erzincan Merkez District, on its north are Bayburt Province and Otlukbeli District, and on its south are Erzincan Merkez district and Tercan district. (Figure: 1).

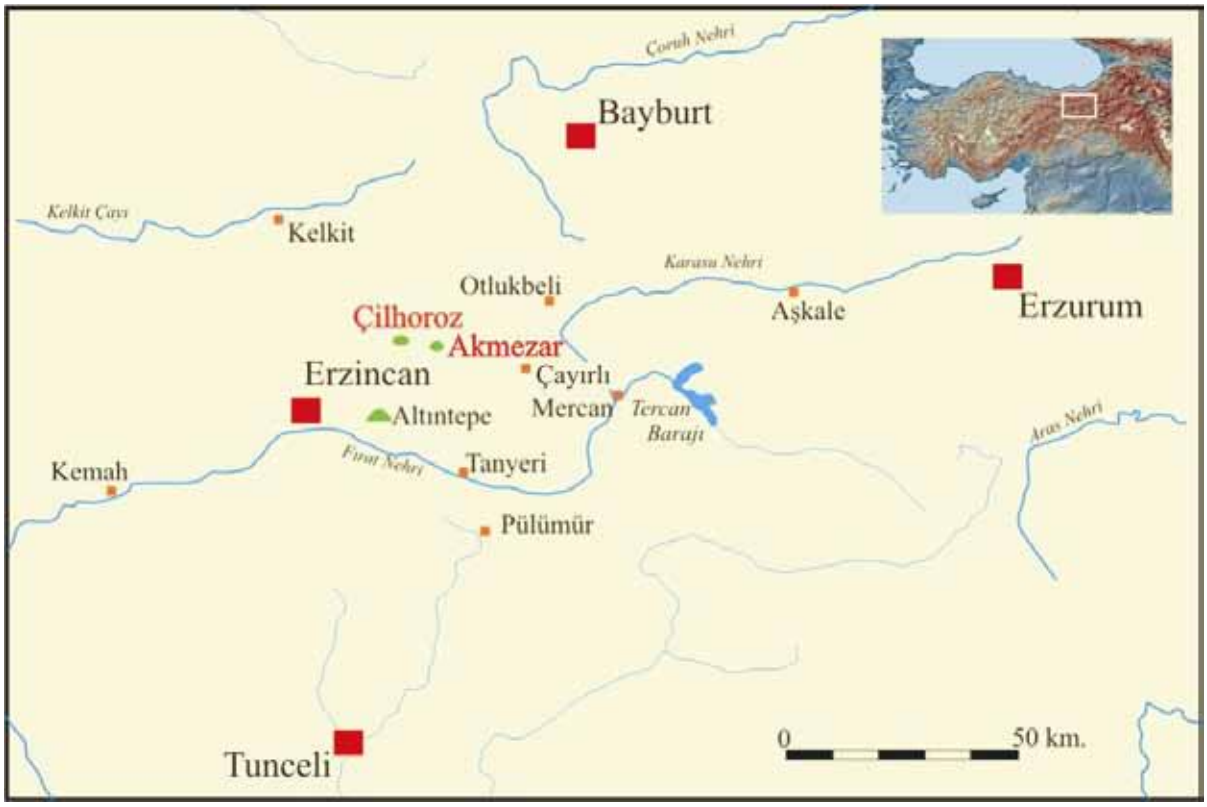

Figure 1: Çayırlı and its vicinity.

It is surrounded on the north by Otlukbeli Mountains (2260 m), on the west by Esence (Kesi) Mountains (3549 m) (Figure 2), on the south by Bağırpaşa (3292 m) and Serçelik Mountains (3078 m), on the east by Dumanlı (2710 m) and Kılıckaya Mountains (2669 m).[2]

The administrative borders of Erzincan Province are determined by Çayırlı, Tercan and Otlukbeli districts. On the north of the site are Merkez and Demirözü districts of Bayburt, on the north are Aşkale and Çat (Erzurum), and the south are Pülümür (Tunceli) and Kığı (Bingol) and on the west is Üzümlü (Erzincan) districts. The surface area of this field, surrounded with high mountains and plateau is 3072 km^2. A high portion of this field comprise of mountainous and hill lands. The altitude of the plain from sea level varies between 1370-1500 m. Thus there are height differences which sometimes exceed 2000 m between the plain base and the mountains surrounding it.[3]

When one moves from the plain fields occupying the central portion of the field to the mountainous areas, some hill and ridges due to lack of corrosion can be seen. This morphological appearance is eye-catching particularly through Başköy – Çayırlı depression and Büklümdere – Başbudak line. The hilly areas that can be observed within the vicinity of Çilhoroz and Akmezar confirms this situation (Figure 2). There exists considerably widened alluvial flatness between this hill and the ridges, height of which vary between 1750-2000 m.

Figure 2: Başköy and Laçyo's Stone.

On the east of Tercan (in the vicinity of Yaylacık Village) and in the surrounding of Kalecik, Oğulveren, Başbudak and Güzbudak villages witness the widespread hills composed of

[2] Yazıcı 1998: 266.
[3] Erinç 1953: 113.

rather volcanic components (such as Karatas Hill 1716 m, Kocababa Hill 2015 m, Yıldız Hill 1776 m, Karapınar Hill 1639 m and Akçaviran Hill 1900 m). The most important of the volcanic masses is the Höbek Mountain (2339 m) which is almost composed of basaltic lavas.[4]

Hills such as Kızıltepe (1565 m), Karayatak Hill (1536 m), Hosirik Hill (1845 m), Harman Hill (1560 m) Kırlar Hill (1750 m), Sarıgüney Hill (1997m) Kösetepe (1760 m) and Karaağac Hill (1855 m) located on the north and west of the field have been formed as a result of the corrosion of Upper Miocene land formations (conglomerated, sandstone, limestone).[5]

The environment of Çayırlı and Tercan plains are surrounded with high mountains. Among these mountains, Esence Mountains (Keşiş) which limit the plain from west and partially from south-west (Figure 3), constitute the highest and most continuous unit of the field. Esence Mountain chain is composed of various mountainous masses named Keşiş Mountain (3549 m), Soğanli Mountain (3065 m) Çiçekli Mountain (3105 m), Kapılıdağ (1905 m) and Mirpet Mountain (3115 m) from west to east. Esence Mountains are in the form of a huge anticline with axis passing through high plains.[6] However, the height of anticline axis decrease as one move from the central section to east and west.

Figure 3: Esence Mountains on the South of Çilhoroz.

The west section of Otlukbeli, which covers the north of the district almost as a set and

[4] Yazıcı 1998: 270-271.
[5] Ketin 1969: 1-28.
[6] Akkan 1964: 45-50.

lyes for about 80 km on southwest – northeast direction, is called the Çimen Mountains and its east section is called the Kop Mountains. The southern sides of Otlukbeli Mountains facing Tecan Plain are split by the branches of Karasu River to crease hills and ridges.[7]

When one moves further to the east of East Anatolia Region, which demonstrates a severe terrestrial climate, this characteristic increases its influence. The winter season in the region passes very long, harsh and snowy. On the contrary, the summer season is quire short, but hot. For this reason, the differences in temperature throughout the year is usually more than 25°C. Effects of severe terrestrial characteristic demonstrate themselves significantly on the temperature, pressure and raining regimes of the region, with the period of the snow coating, continuous snow and forest cover, even at the heights of the region.[8] When we exclude the depressions, the total annual amount of rain in East Anatolia is over 500 mm.[9]

In summer season, East Anatolia Region is usually under the air masses with tropical origin which do not lead to high temperature and low humidity conditions. However, different from this general condition, there appears short-termed air periods (1 – 2 days) hosting frontage rainfalls from time to time.[10] Though there are some differentiations at various sections of the region, most of the rain falls in spring, and the lowest amount falls in summer. The climate characteristics explained for the overall of East Anatolia are also valid for Çayırlı and its environment to a high extent, though there are some minor differences.[11]

The average temperatures throughout the year demonstrate a parallel tendency in Çayırlı, Tercan and Erzincan. However, some local differences are apparent due to the differences in height and side front. This situation demonstrates its effects during months when the average temperature is below 0°C.[12] The difference in annual average temperatures between short distances in these plains, which can be said to follow one another, is mainly related to the altitude.[13]

In Çayırlı, the temperature during the 9-month period between October – June is below zero. In Tercan, with the addition of September month, this period reaches to 10 months. The length of the period in which there is the possibility of frost throughout the year makes it difficult for many culture plants to be cultivated in the site.

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[7] Yazıcı 1998:272.
[8] Yazıcı 1998: 274.
[9] Cölasan 1970: 11.
[10] Nişancı 1979: 19.
[11] Yazıcı 1998: 74.
[12] Whereas the number is hardly two in Erzincan (December, January), it increases to three months due to the increase in height in Çayırlı and Tercan (December, January, February).
[13] The height up to 1020 m in Erzincan Plain reaches to 1450 m in Tercan Plain. In Erzurum Plain, it reaches 1850 m. Yazıcı 1998: 276.

In Çayırlı, the distribution of annual average rain amount to months is quire irregular. Rain values which increase in May suddenly decrease in the following months, reaching to the lowest amount in August. The rain values starting to increase again after September, find their peek again in October, and demonstrate a continuous decrease until February. When the distribution of the rain over seasons is examined, it is seen that the rain increases in spring and decrease to the lowest level in summer season.[14]

It is apparent at the first site that the climate has an indispensable impact on the distribution and characteristics of the fauna with various species in Çayırlı - Tercan Plain and its environment. For this reason, there are "natural steppes" in Çayırlı Plain and its vicinity, "wooded steppes" at high sections, and "forest groups" at certain places.[15] The cultural activities taking place in Çayırlı and its environment since the early periods have changed the natural fauna of the region to a high extent, and as a consequence of this the plain base and its environment have mostly become an agricultural field.[16]

Outside the steppe sites, especially on the sides facing north of such mountainous areas as Esence, Bagirpasa, Dumanli and Kilickaya are the oak forests. Inside these forests, there are juniper, Scotch pine and poplar tree species. A high portion of the forests in the region comprise of Scotch pine forests, and the remain part comprise of oak forests. Since the forests in the region are of coppice character, almost all are used for supplying fuel.[17]

Plants comprising of Alpine and Sub-alpine meadows become widespread from the upper limit of the forest. Since the capacity of these to feed animals is high, there is a significant potential of transhumance. That is why, thousands of cattle are brought every year to the region for transhumance purposes from Tunceli, Elazığ and Diyarbakır (Figure: 4).[18]

[14] Yazıcı 1998: 74-Figure 5.
[15] Yazıcı 1998:279-Figure: 7.
[16] Yazıcı 1998:280-Figure: 8.
[17] Yazıcı 1998:280-81-Figure: 9-10.
[18] Yazıcı 1998: 281.

Figure 4: Stockbreeding activities in Çayırlı.

About 37 km portion of Karasu River, which is one of the most significant rivers of East Anatolia Region, passes through Tercan Plain. Karasu River is observed to have an irregular regime. Flow rate of Karasu River decreases depending on the rain regime, and gradually decreases after autumn. [19] This situation demonstrates that Karasu is characterized as "rainy – snowy irregular regime type", however, that the snow effects play a stronger role compared to the rain effects in terms of leading to this regime.[20]

Other rivers flowing in the region are mainly the "branch rivers" which take their springs from various mountainous areas in the region and flowing into Karasu. These rivers with south – north direction merge with one another by changing their directions on west – east in line with the general slope of the site where they reach to the base of the plain. As a result of this, Balıklı Brook, which is one of the most important branches of Karasu River, is formed.[21]

Lakes located in Çayırlı and its environment are mainly small and insignificant. However, when they are considered in terms of their formations, it can be seen that there are various lakes such as tectonic lake, cirque lake, karstik lake, flood lake and artificial lake. Limestone formations belonging to various geological ages (Mesozoic – Cretase, Tarsier – Miocene) are located in the

[19] Yazıcı 1998:282-83-Figure:6.
[20] Erinç 1953: 93-119.
[21] Yazıcı 1998:284-Table 5.

region at various limestone formations (partially in layers or blocks) Some of the melting cavities on these formations formed lakes as a result of water accumulation. The most significant of these is located on the metamorphic limestone on the south of Çaykent Village and known as “Acigol”, which is fed by the springs coming from the base. Waters of the lake merge with Karasu River. There are four lakes at various sizes, small and big, on the lower Miocene limestone in the environment of Göller Village. Among these, the lake located at a height of 1870 m and demonstrating the feature of a ponnor is called the “Dipsiz (Bottomless) Lake”. The cavity area surrounded with 2200 mm izohips on the northeast of Tunaçayırı Village has been formed as a result of gypsum melting and is filled with water in rainy periods. This temporary lake is known as “Muminaga Lake”.

he cirque lakes located on the peek sections of Esence Mountains which limit the west of Tercan plain as the traces of Pleistosen glaciations constitute another lake group. Since these types of lakes become intense particularly between Keşiş Hill (3549 m) and Urlagediği Hill (3518 m), this section is known as “Yedigöller (Seven Lakes)”.[22] The outlets of these lakes flow towards the Çayırlı – Başköy depression within sink valley, creating the branches of Büyük Çay (Big Brook). The lake located on the northwest up to 6 km of Otlukbeli and called with the same name (Otlukbeli Lake), forms a lake type which is occasionally encountered in terms of its formation.[23] This lake, with a surface area of 6.5 km^2, has been formed behind the travertine dike with the accumulation of mineral waters. Its area is being narrowed over time as a result of rapid sedimentation.[24]

[22] Akkan and Tuncel 1993: 225-241.
[23] Akkan and Tuncel 1993: 99-113.
[24] Yazıcı 1998:286.

B. HISTORICAL SETTING

Whilst there are no accurate information relating to the prehistoric ages of Çayırlı, some researches conducted in the neighboring provinces such as Erzurum in the vicinity of the region demonstrate that the history of the region trace back to the Paleolithic Age.[25]

Data relating to the period following the Paleolithic Age of Çayırlı becomes further clarified due to the homogenous culture dated as Late Calcolithic Age and Early Bronze Age I interval which is widely seen in East Anatolia Region and is also known as the Karaz culture. [26] Researches conduced in the region demonstrate that Erzincan – Çayırlı is also within this culture frame.[27]

There are significant information about Erzincan and its vicinity in historical ages in the written sources of Hittite and Assyrian civilizations. Following the immigrations of Hurri and relative tribes to Anatolia in 3rd thousand BC, it is seen that small Beyliks have been established by these tribes in East Anatolia Region in 2nd thousand BC. Among these, the Hayasa Beylik mentioned in Hittite resources is localized in between Erzurum and Erzincan. [28] Upon the strength gained by Assyria state at early 1st thousand BC and disappearance of Hurri – Mittani state after a period of weakening and the increased Assyrian attacks on East Anatolia Region, Urartu tribes in the region have united against Assyrians in the presence of such dangers. Thus, they have established a political power constituting the roots of Urartu state, centered in Van (Tuspa).[29]

Erzincan and its environment, which passed to the rule of Schitian shortly after the collapse of Urartu, then because subject to the sovereignty of Meds and Persian. The state system constructed in the realm of I. Dareios, the Persian king, the region was added to "Armina/ Arminia Governance" (13. Governance).[30] The region, included within the borders of Hellenistic kings during the eastern campaign of Alexander, has fallen in the middle of struggles between Part, Rome and Armenians from 334 BC to 1st century BC. Following the advance of Islamic conquers to Caucasus, the region passes to the ruling of Arabs.[31] However, as a result of the campaigns by Byzantines to the region in 754-755 BC, Kemah and its environment has again become subject to the ruling of Byzantines. Following the Byzantium governance in the region, the Northeast Anatolia Region has been the scene for the struggle between Arabs and Byzantium. Loosing its vigor following the campaigns by Turks to East Anatolia from the middle of 11th

[25] Kosay 1974: 42.
[26] Kosay 1974: 44.; Arsebük 1979: 82.; Ekmen 2005: 185.
[27] Burney 1959: 167.
[28] Garstang and Gurney 1959: 36 v.d.; Burney and Lang 1971: 1979.; Kinal 1962: 42.
[29] Erzen 1992: 27.
[30] Lloyd 1997: 121.
[31] Grousset 2005: 285-286.

century, the region passed to the sovereignty of Seljukians after the defeat of Byzantium in Malazgirt War in 1071.

After a short period following 1071 Malazgirt War, Erzincan and its environment was left to Emir Mengücek by Alp-Arslan, the Seljukian Sultan. After his campaigns to Erzincan, Kemah, Sarki-Karahista, Emir Mengücek has established the Megücek Beylik in this region, with Kemah its center.[32] Following the death of Mengücek Gazi, his son, Ishak, took the rule. Due to the conflict between Mengüceks and Artuklus, established in Mardin Region in the same period with the former, in the realm of Ishak, Belek, the Artuklu Bey, has attached Mengüceks. Against this attack, Ishak has allied with Constantine Gabras, the Trabzon duke. Belek, against this alliance, has collaborated with Danismends. Upon the defeat of Ishak and Gabras in the war that took place in the vicinity of Siran Castle, both were captured as prisoners of war. While Gabras was relieved by paying ransom, Ishak could be freed since he was the son-in-law of Danismend Gazi, the Bey of Danismendli Beylik.

Following the death of Ishak (1142), Mengücek Beylik, which has gradually weakened, has been divided between his sons. Whereas Melik Mahmud promulgated his sovereignty in Kemah and its environment, Davud Şah established his ruling in Erzincan, and Süleyman- Şah in Divriği region. After the death of Melik Mahmut, Kemah, and after the death of Davud Şah (1151) Erzincan and Kemah have passed to the authority of Süleyman Şah. However, Fahreddin Behram – Şah, son of Davud Şah, has recaptured the territories that have been lost after the death of his father in 1165.[33]

During the rule of Fahreddin Behram – Şah, Erzincan has become a center of culture and trade. Public works were improved during this period and numerous new structures were built in the city. Moreover, it is known that Fahreddin Behram Şah has printed money on his name. On one side of these moneys is the printed name of Fahderrin Behram Şah, and on the other side the names of Seljukian sultans. This situation not only demonstrates the economic status of Menguceks during the ruling of Fahreddin Behram Şah, but also their loyalty to Seljukians. Besides, marriage of the daughter of Fahreddin Behram Şah with I. Izzettin Keykavus, the Seljukian sultan, has further increased the relation between Seljukians and Mengüceks.[34]

After the abate of Danismentliler in the rule of II. Kılıç Arslan, the Seljukian sultan, Mengüceks sustained their existence under the rule of Seljukians. I. Alaeddin Keykubat, who desired to secure the Eastern borders due to the commencement of Mongol attacks to Anatolia

[32] Turan 2001: 55-56.
[33] Turan 2001: 61.
[34] Turan 2001: 63-64.

from the early years of 12th century, has abated Mengücek Beylik by conquering Erzincan, Çayırlı and Kemah in 1228.[35]

Pursuant to the treaty concluded after the Kösedağ War (1243) was lost by Seljukians, Erzincan and its environment were left to the administration of Seljukians. However, following the death of Ebu Said Bahadir Khan, the Ilhanli governor, in 1335, Eretna Beylik was established on Kemah, Erzincan, Sivas, Ankara, Kayseri and Şarki-Karahisar territories which were conquered during the rule of Alaedin Eretna and his son Giyaseddin Mehmer, the Mongol beys. Following this date, Erzincan and its environment has passed to the sovereignity of Mutahharten, who is among the sons of Eretna. In Mutahharten ruling, Erzincan and its environment was exposed to the attacks of Kara Yuluk Osman Bey, the Akkoyunlu ruler, and Kadi Burhaneddin, one of Eretna Beys, who established their governance in Sivas.

The Ottoman Sultan, Yıldırım Bayezit, who captured Sivas following the murder of Kadi Burhaneddin by Kara Yuluk Osman (1398), ordered Erzincan governor, Mutahharten to subordinate him. However, this order was rejected by Erzincan governor, who then allied with Timur. Attacking Sivas for this reason, Timur has burnt down and destroyed the whole Sivas. (1400). Upon this, progressing towards Erzincan and Kemah, Yıldırım Bayezit has recaptured these regions from Mutahharten and caught him as the prisoner of war. However, his ally, Timur, has recaptured Kemah and Erzincan and delivered Mutahharten.

During the period which elapsed until the defeat by Uzun Hasan, the Akkoyunlu ruler, of Karakoyunlu state in 1467 and taking over the this region under his rule, the powers governing the region covering Kemah and Erzincan frequently changed between these two Turkmen groups that are rival to one another. Due to the struggle between these two groups, many cities, villages, towns in East Anatolia, including Erzurum, Erzincan, Tercan and Bayburt were heavily destroyed.[36]

Finding the peace following the conquer of the region by Akkoyunlular, Erzincan – Kemah region has again become the scene of conflicts as Erzincan and Kemah castle were captured by Safevids in 1503 as a result of the weakened Akkoyunlular after the death of Uzun Hasan (1453-1478). Yavuz, the Ottoman Sultan, has commenced the Safevid campaign with a huge army as he witnessed the increasing spread of Safevids in Eat Anatolia region and in Iran.[37] Sinop Bey, Karaca Pasha, was sent to Erzincan region with an army of 500 soldiers.[38] Promulgating their submission to the Sultan, the governors of the groups around Erzincan accepted Ottoman ruling as they received the news of Yavuz Sultan Selim.

[35] Turan 2001: 65-66.
[36] Sümer 1967: 83-102.
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[38] Tekindag 1968: 61.

Following the easy conquer of the region by Ottomans (1514), the “Erzincan – Bayburt State” covering Tercan, Bayburt, Şebinkarahisar and Canik (Trabzon) sanjaks was established. Bıyıklı Mehmed Pasha was assigned as the governer of Erzincan and its environment by Yavuz Sultan Selim since he has was the conqueror.[39]

After 1514, the region has remained under the rule of Ottomans till 1916, when it was occupied by Russia, and recaptured on 22 February 1918.

Affiliated to Erzurun since the early years of the Republic of Turkey till 1936, Tercan has become a part of Erzincan with an administrative amendment ruled in the same year. As a result of a new administrative regulation executed in 1954, the Çayırlı Town in the region has received the statue of “county”.

[39] Miroglu 1975: 23-28.

PART I
HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL ENVIRONMENT OF ÇAYIRLI AND ITS VICINITY

A. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND CHARACTERISTICS

Çayirli District is located between 39° 47' 27" Northern latitude and 40° 00' 10" Eastern longitude, on the northeast of Erzincan, within the borders of Erzincan Province, at the Upper Firat Section of East Anatolia Region. On its east are Tercan and Askale districts, on its west are Erzincan Merkez District, on its north are Bayburt Province and Otlukbeli District, and on its south are Erzincan Merkez district and Tercan district. (Figure: 1).

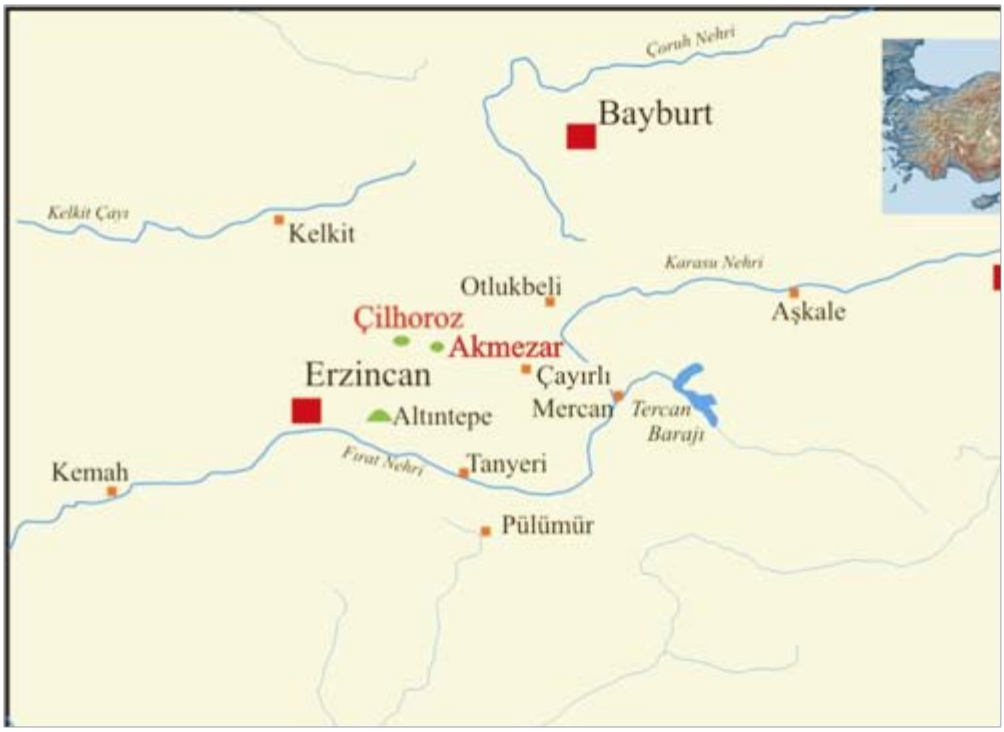

Figure 1: Çayirli and its vicinity.

It is surrounded on the north by Otlukbeli Mountains (2260 m), on the west by Esence (Kesi) Mountains (3549 m) (Figure 2), on the south by Bagirpasa (3292 m) and Serçelik Mountains (3078 m), on the east by Dumanli (2710 m) and Kilickaya Mountains (2669 m).[2]

The administrative borders of Erzincan Province are determined by Çayirli, Tercan and Otlukbeli districts. On the north of the site are Merkez and Demirözü districts of Bayburt, on the north are Askale and Çat (Erzurum), and the south are Pülümür (Tunceli) and Kigi (Bingol) and on the west is Üzümlü (Erzincan) districts. The surface area of this field, surrounded with high mountains and plateau is 3072 km^2. A high portion of this field comprise of mountainous and hill lands. The altitude of the plain from sea level varies between 1370-1500 m. Thus there are height differences which sometimes exceed 2000 m between the plain base and the mountains surrounding it.[3]

When one moves from the plain fields occupying the central portion of the field to the mountainous areas, some hill and ridges due to lack of corrosion can be seen. This morphological appearance is eye-catching particularly through Basköy – Çayirli depression and Büklümdere – Basbudak line. The hilly areas that can be observed within the vicinity of Çilhoroz and Akmezar confirms this situation (Figure 2). There exists considerably widened alluvial flatness between this hill and the ridges, height of which vary between 1750-2000 m.

Figure 2: Basköy and Laçyo's Stone.

On the east of Tercan (in the vicinity of Yaylacik Village) and in the surrounding of Kalecik, Ogulveren, Basbudak and Güzbudak villages witness the widespread hills composed of rather volcanic components (such as Karatas Hill 1716 m, Kocababa Hill 2015 m, Yildiz Hill 1776 m, Karapinar Hill 1639 m and Akçaviran Hill 1900 m). The most important of the volcanic masses is the Höbek Mountain (2339 m) which is almost composed of basaltic lavas.[4]

Hills such as Kiziltepe (1565 m), Karayatak Hill (1536 m), Hosirik Hill (1845 m), Harman Hill (1560 m) Kirlar Hill (1750 m), Sarigüney Hill (1997m) Kösetepe (1760 m) and Karaagac Hill (1855 m) located on the north and west of the field have been formed as a result of the corrosion of Upper Miocene land formations (conglomerated, sandstone, limestone).[5]

The environment of Çayirli and Tercan plains are surrounded with high mountains. Among these mountains, Esence Mountains (Kesis) which limit the plain from west and partially from south-west (Figure 3), constitute the highest and most continuous unit of the field. Esence Mountain chain is composed of various mountainous masses named Kesis Mountain (3549 m), Soganli Mountain (3065 m) Çiçekli Mountain (3105 m), Kapilidag (1905 m) and Mirpet Mountain (3115 m) from west to east. Esence Mountains are in the form of a huge anticline with axis passing through high plains.[6] However, the height of anticline axis decrease as one move from the central section to east and west.

Figure 3: Esence Mountains on the South of Çilhoroz.

The west section of Otlukbeli, which covers the north of the district almost as a set and lyes for about 80 km on southwest – northeast direction, is called the Çimen Mountains and its east section is called the Kop Mountains. The southern sides of Otlukbeli Mountains facing Tecan Plain are split by the branches of Karasu River to crease hills and ridges.[7]

When one moves further to the east of East Anatolia Region, which demonstrates a severe terrestrial climate, this characteristic increases its influence. The winter season in the region passes very long, harsh and snowy. On the contrary, the summer season is quire short, but hot. For this reason, the differences in temperature throughout the year is usually more than 25°C. Effects of severe terrestrial characteristic demonstrate themselves significantly on the temperature, pressure and raining regimes of the region, with the period of the snow coating, continuous snow and forest cover, even at the heights of the region.[8] When we exclude the depressions, the total annual amount of rain in East Anatolia is over 500 mm.[9]

In summer season, East Anatolia Region is usually under the air masses with tropical origin which do not lead to high temperature and low humidity conditions. However, different from this general condition, there appears short-termed air periods (1 – 2 days) hosting frontage rainfalls from time to time.[10] Though there are some differentiations at various sections of the region, most of the rain falls in spring, and the lowest amount falls in summer. The climate characteristics explained for the overall of East Anatolia are also valid for Çayirli and its environment to a high extent, though there are some minor differences.[11]

The average temperatures throughout the year demonstrate a parallel tendency in Çayirli, Tercan and Erzincan. However, some local differences are apparent due to the differences in height and side front. This situation demonstrates its effects during months when the average temperature is below 0°C.[12] The difference in annual average temperatures between short distances in these plains, which can be said to follow one another, is mainly related to the altitude.[13]

In Çayirli, the temperature during the 9-month period between October – June is below zero. In Tercan, with the addition of September month, this period reaches to 10 months. The length of the period in which there is the possibility of frost throughout the year makes it difficult for many culture plants to be cultivated in the site.

In Çayirli, the distribution of annual average rain amount to months is quire irregular. Rain values which increase in May suddenly decrease in the following months, reaching to the lowest amount in August. The rain values starting to increase again after September, find their peek again in October, and demonstrate a continuous decrease until February. When the distribution of the rain over seasons is examined, it is seen that the rain increases in spring

and decrease to the lowest level in summer season.[14]

It is apparent at the first site that the climate has an indispensable impact on the distribution and characteristics of the fauna with various species in Çayirli - Tercan Plain and its environment. For this reason, there are “natural steppes” in Çayirli Plain and its vicinity, “wooded steppes” at high sections, and “forest groups” at certain places.[15] The cultural activities taking place in Çayirli and its environment since the early periods have changed the natural fauna of the region to a high extent, and as a consequence of this the plain base and its environment have mostly become an agricultural field.[16]

Outside the steppe sites, especially on the sides facing north of such mountainous areas as Esence, Bagirpasa, Dumanli and Kilickaya are the oak forests. Inside these forests, there are juniper, Scotch pine and poplar tree species. A high portion of the forests in the region comprise of Scotch pine forests, and the remain part comprise of oak forests. Since the forests in the region are of coppice character, almost all are used for supplying fuel.[17]

Plants comprising of Alpine and Sub-alpine meadows become widespread from the upper limit of the forest. Since the capacity of these to feed animals is high, there is a significant potential of transhumance. That is why, thousands of cattle are brought every year to the region for transhumance purposes from Tunceli, Elazig and Diyarbakir (Figure: 4).[18]

Figure 4: Stockbreeding activities in Çayirli.

About 37 km portion of Karasu River, which is one of the most significant rivers of East Anatolia Region, passes through Tercan Plain. Karasu River is observed to have an irregular regime. Flow rate of Karasu River decreases depending on the rain regime, and gradually decreases after autumn.[19] This situation demonstrates that Karasu is characterized as “rainy – snowy irregular regime type”, however, that the snow effects play a stronger role compared to the rain effects in terms of leading to this regime.[20]

Other rivers flowing in the region are mainly the “branch rivers” which take their springs from various mountainous areas in the region and flowing into Karasu. These rivers with south – north direction merge with one another by changing their directions on west – east in line with the general slope of the site where they reach to the base of the plain. As a result of this, Balikli Brook, which is one of the most important branches of Karasu River, is formed.[21]

Lakes located in Çayirli and its environment are mainly small and insignificant. However, when they are considered in terms of their formations, it can be seen that there are various lakes such as tectonic lake, cirque lake, karstik lake, flood lake and artificial lake. Limestone formations belonging to various geological ages (Mesozoic – Cretase, Tarsier – Miocene) are located in the region at various limestone formations (partially in layers or blocks) Some of the melting cavities on these formations formed lakes as a result of water accumulation. The most significant of these is located on the metamorphic limestone on the south of Çaykent Village and known as "Acigol", which is fed by the springs coming from the base. Waters of the lake merge with Karasu River. There are four lakes at various sizes, small and big, on the lower Miocene limestone in the environment of Göller Village. Among these, the lake located at a height of 1870 m and demonstrating the feature of a ponnor is called the "Dipsiz (Bottomless) Lake". The cavity area surrounded with 2200 mm izohips on the northeast of Tunaçayiri Village has been formed as a result of gypsum melting and is filled with water in rainy periods. This temporary lake is known as "Muminaga Lake".

he cirque lakes located on the peek sections of Esence Mountains which limit the west of Tercan plain as the traces of Pleistosen glaciations constitute another lake group. Since these types of lakes become intense particularly between Kesis Hill (3549 m) and Urlagedigi Hill (3518 m), this section is known as "Yedigöller (Seven Lakes)".[22] The outlets of these lakes flow towards the Çayirli – Basköy depression within sink valley, creating the branches of Büyük Çay (Big Brook). The lake located on the northwest up to 6 km of Otlukbeli and called with the same name (Otlukbeli Lake), forms a lake type which is occasionally encountered in terms of its formation.[23] This lake, with a surface area of 6.5 km^2, has been formed behind the travertine dike with the accumulation of mineral waters. Its area is being narrowed over time as a result of rapid sedimentation.[24]

B. HISTORICAL SETTING

Whilst there are no accurate information relating to the prehistoric ages of Çayirli, some researches conducted in the neighboring provinces such as Erzurum in the vicinity of the region demonstrate that the history of the region trace back to the Paleolithic Age.[25]

Data relating to the period following the Paleolithic Age of Çayirli becomes further clarified due to the homogenous culture dated as Late Calcolithic Age and Early Bronze Age I interval which is widely seen in East Anatolia Region and is also known as the Karaz culture. [26] Researches conduced in the region demonstrate that Erzincan – Çayirli is also within this culture frame.[27]

There are significant information about Erzincan and its vicinity in historical ages in the written sources of Hittite and Assyrian civilizations. Following the immigrations of Hurri and relative tribes to Anatolia in 3rd thousand BC, it is seen that small Beyliks have been established by these tribes in East Anatolia Region in 2nd thousand BC. Among these, the Hayasa Beylik mentioned in Hittite resources is localized in between Erzurum and Erzincan.[28] Upon the strength gained by Assyria state at early 1st thousand BC and disappearance of Hurri – Mittani state after a period of weakening and the increased Assyrian attacks on East Anatolia Region, Urartu tribes in the region have united against Assyrians in the presence of such dangers. Thus, they have established a political power constituting the roots of Urartu state, centered in Van (Tuspa).[29]

Erzincan and its environment, which passed to the rule of Schitian shortly after the collapse of Urartu, then because subject to the sovereignty of Meds and Persian. The state system constructed in the realm of I. Dareios, the

Persian king, the region was added to "Armina/ Arminia Governance" (13. Governance).[30] The region, included within the borders of Hellenistic kings during the eastern campaign of Alexander, has fallen in the middle of struggles between Part, Rome and Armenians from 334 BC to 1st century BC. Following the advance of Islamic conquers to Caucasus, the region passes to the ruling of Arabs.[31] However, as a result of the campaigns by Byzantines to the region in 754-755 BC, Kemah and its environment has again become subject to the ruling of Byzantines. Following the Byzantium governance in the region, the Northeast Anatolia Region has been the scene for the struggle between Arabs and Byzantium. Loosing its vigor following the campaigns by Turks to East Anatolia from the middle of 11th century, the region passed to the sovereignty of Seljukians after the defeat of Byzantium in Malazgirt War in 1071.

After a short period following 1071 Malazgirt War, Erzincan and its environment was left to Emir Mengücek by Alp-Arslan, the Seljukian Sultan. After his campaigns to Erzincan, Kemah, Sarki-Karahista, Emir Mengücek has established the Megücek Beylik in this region, with Kemah its center.[32] Following the death of Mengücek Gazi, his son, Ishak, took the rule. Due to the conflict between Mengüceks and Artuklus, established in Mardin Region in the same period with the former, in the realm of Ishak, Belek, the Artuklu Bey, has attached Mengüceks. Against this attack, Ishak has allied with Constantine Gabras, the Trabzon duke. Belek, against this alliance, has collaborated with Danismends. Upon the defeat of Ishak and Gabras in the war that took place in the vicinity of Siran Castle, both were captured as prisoners of war. While Gabras was relieved by paying ransom, Ishak could be freed since he was the son-in-law of Danismend Gazi, the Bey of Danismendli Beylik.

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[2] Yazici 1998: 266.

[3] Erinç 1953: 113.

[4] Yazici 1998: 270-271.

[5] Ketin 1969: 1-28.

[6] Akkan 1964: 45-50.

[7] Yazici 1998:272.

[8] Yazici 1998: 274.

[9] Cölasan 1970: 11.

[10] Nisanci 1979: 19.

[11] Yazici 1998: 74.

[12] Whereas the number is hardly two in Erzincan (December, January), it increases to three months due to the increase in height in Çayirli and Tercan (December, January, February).

[13] The height up to 1020 m in Erzincan Plain reaches to 1450 m in Tercan Plain. In Erzurum Plain, it reaches 1850 m. Yazici 1998: 276.

[14] Yazici 1998: 74-Figure 5.

[15] Yazici 1998:279-Figure: 7.

[16] Yazici 1998:280-Figure: 8.

[17] Yazici 1998:280-81-Figure: 9-10.

[18] Yazici 1998: 281.

[19] Yazici 1998:282-83-Figure:6.

[20] Erinç 1953: 93-119.

[21] Yazici 1998:284-Table 5.

[22] Akkan and Tuncel 1993: 225-241.

[23] Akkan and Tuncel 1993: 99-113.

[24] Yazici 1998:286.
[25] Kosay 1974: 42.
[26] Kosay 1974: 44.; Arsebük 1979: 82.; Ekmen 2005: 185.
[27] Burney 1959: 167.
[28] Garstang and Gurney 1959: 36 v.d.; Burney and Lang 1971: 1979.; Kinal 1962: 42.
[29] Erzen 1992: 27.
[30] Lloyd 1997: 121.
[31] Grousset 2005: 285-286.
[32] Turan 2001: 55-56.
[33] Turan 2001: 61.
[34] Turan 2001: 63-64.
[35] Turan 2001: 65-66.
[36] Sümer 1967: 83-102.
[37] Tekindag 1968: 57.
[38] Tekindag 1968: 61.
[39] Miroglu 1975: 23-28.

Part II
EXCAVATION WORKS

The Akmezar excavation works were conducted in 28-m corridor of BTC Crude Oil Pipe Line. An excavation planning was made on the basis of distribution of ceramics collected from the surface and considering that 220 x 28 m part of this corridor has an archeological sensitivity. In the excavation works, B corridor where pipes were mantled had a priority. In this direction, 28-m corridor was divided into three sections as A (10 x 10 m), B (10 x 10 m) and C (7 x 10 m). Excavation works were started following the completion of grid works on the 220-m long area **(Figure: 5)**.

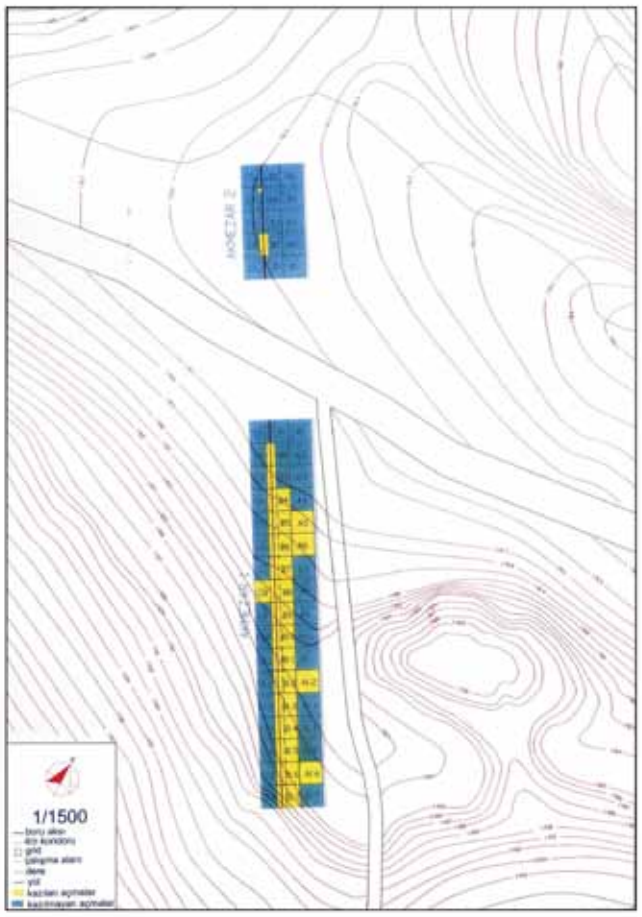


Figure 5: Topographic plan of the Akmezar excavation area.

Since the excavation area is divided into two parts by the Çayırlı-Erzincan road, the parts on south and north of the road were named as Akmezar 1 and Akmezar 2, respectively. Totally 19 trenchs were studied in the Akmezar 1 area. Among these trenchs, foundation

remnants of architectural sense were not encountered in B 4-10 and B 17 and A 5, 6 and A 16 trenchs. As a result of smoothing works carried out in C2 (4 x 10 m) and C4 (2 x 2 m) drills at north of the road, no architectural data were observed.

As a result of smoothing works carried out in B 4, B 5 and A 5 trenchs, stones with no plan were explored. However, in B 6 and B 7 trenchs, architectural foundation remnants and flooring were determined. In B 6 trench, N-S extending a wall ruin was found which was filled with small debris material while inner and outer parts are composed of moderate size stones **(Figure 6)**. Numerous numbers of ceramic pieces and little amount of metal finding were determined in B 6 and B 7 trenchs.

Figure 6: Architectural foundation remnant in the B 6 trench.

Figure 7: Tendours in B 6 and A 6 trenchs.

There is a tendour at 1.5 m east of wall cornering at the east of N-S extending structure **(Figure 7)** and one part of tendour is in B 6 trench and another part in A 6 trench. 1 m NE of

this tendour, another tendour was also found which is largely damaged by flooring stones placed in later periods within the A 6 trench (**Figure 8).**

Figure 8: Tendour in A 6 trench.

It was noticed that flooring stones found in southeast of B 6 trench also continue 2.5 m in B 7 trench **(Figure 6)**. In B 8 trench which was opened to check the continuity of architectural remnants observed in B 6 and B 7, another E-W extending wall was determined **(Figure 9)** but only 1.5 m was preserved. The wall of which only small part is shown in B 8 trench also continues in C 8 trench.

Figure 9: A wall ruin in B 8 trench.

In B 9 trench, flooring stones were found at west of cornering walls of 1 m length in N-S direction and only 4-m part is preserved in E-W direction **(Figure 10)**. In deepening

works conducted in these areas, several ceramic pieces, metal objects and bone pieces were found. In works carried out in B 10 trench, debris stones and a tendour were found. Just next to the tendour, an in-situ pot was explored **(Figure 11)**.

Figure 10: A wall ruin and flooring in B 9 trench.

Figure 11: Tendour and pot in-situ found in B 10 trench.

In works carried out in B 11-16 trenchs, no architectural remnant of archeological importance was encountered. However, in works in B 17 and A 16 trenchs, debris stones were found which do not belong to a specific architecture. In 6-8/a plan squares of A 16 trench, a smooth, processed stone was found but its function could not be determined. Ceramic and metal findings were also observed in works conducted in these sites.

PART III

ARCHITECTURAL FINDINGS

As a result of works conducted in totally 19 trenches in the Akmezar 1 area, architectural foundation remnants and wall and flooring stones were found in B 4-10 and B 17 trenches and A 5, 6 and A 16 trenches. Since the architectural remnants obtained are extremely damaged, it is hard to determine the place and structure they belong to.

In B 6 trench, moderate-size, properly cut stones were used as the lattice material on both outer and inner surfaces of 110-120 cm thickened N-S extending wall while smaller rubble stones and soil were used as the fill material for inside of the wall **(Figure 12)**. In B 6 trench, 4 m distant from this wall probably forming the outer wall of the structure, there is another E-W extending wall of 2.6 m long and 60 cm thickness at the best preserved part. Outer surface of this second wall are capped with moderate-size stones while inner part is filled with rubble stones and soil **(Figure 12)**.

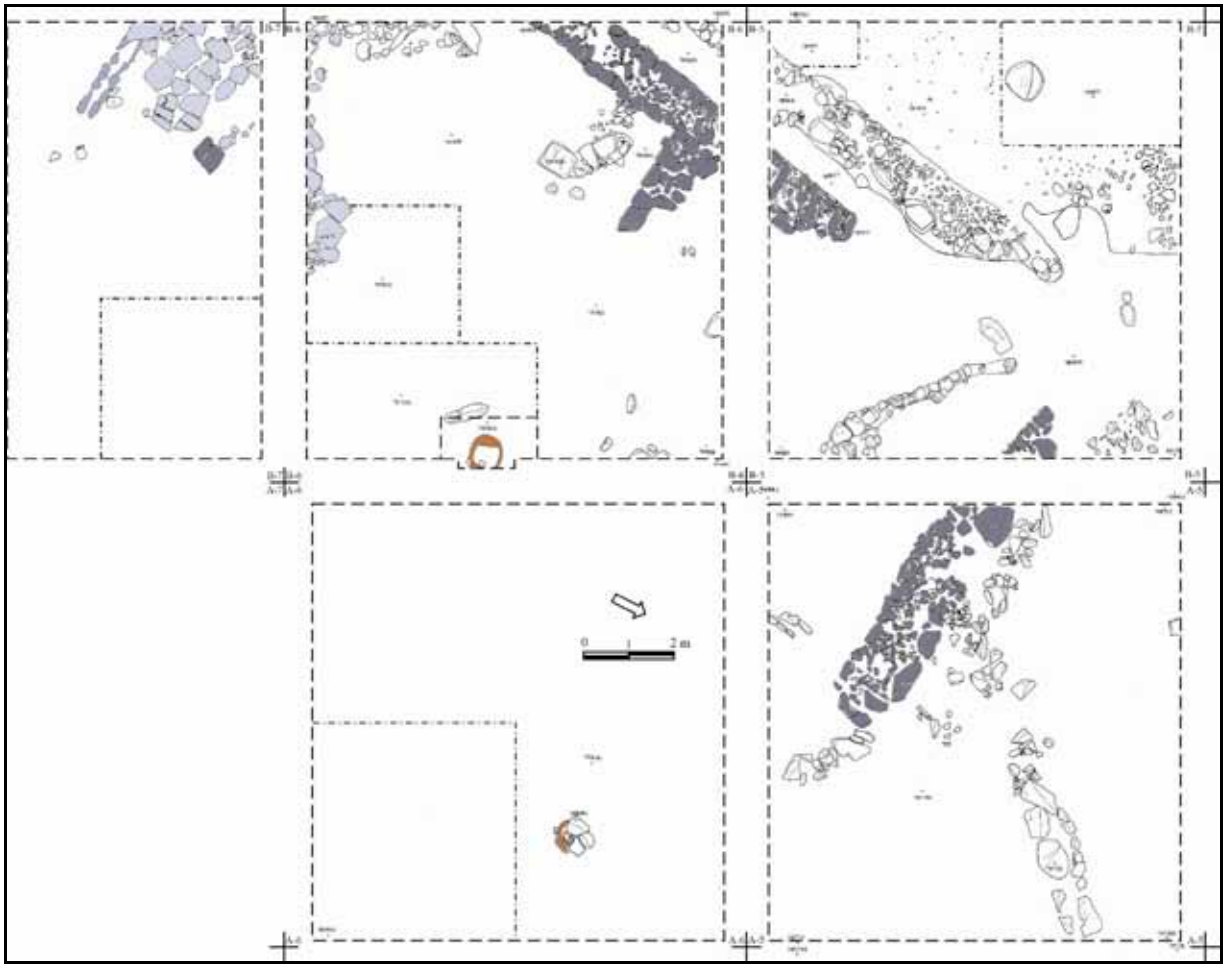


Figure 12: Architectural remains from B 6 and A 5 trenches.

At the south of walls and trench, there is a flooring formed by the placement of flat, large and small stones **(Figure 12, 13)**. The flooring starts with B 6 trench and continues about 2.5 m in the B 7 trench. At the south of flooring, with a preserved length of 2.4 m, a water canal appears that is covered with flat stones **(Figure 12, 13)**. 1.5 m east of N-S extending second wall, a tendour of 80 cm diameter composing of cooked soil takes place in both B 6 and A 6 trenches **(Figure 12)**. At 1 m northeast of this tendour in A 6 trench, another tendour of 80 cm diameter is shown that is damaged with flat stones probably thrown in the following period (**Figure 12).** It is noticeable that this structure, whose only northern part of west wall and western corner of north wall are preserved, has a floored basement. In rural settlements of the Eastern Anatolia, stone lattice at basement of settlements is found at two places. The first is the yard which is an open place, and the second is stable. [40]

Figure 13: Stone payment and chanel in B 7 trench..

On the basis of available data, it is not possible to say if the floored part found in Akmezar is the yard or stable of a house. Due to limited area of investigation and all the architectural data are not entirely exposed[41], these extremely damaged wall and places could not be completely understood. Considering the stone hand mill found at the east of floored site and also ceramic pieces probably belonging to cooking containers (burnt and sooty), the part of tendour could be the kitchen of a house. The E-W extending wall found in A 5 trench was latticed with the same technique seen in walls of B 6-7 trenches. This wall that has no

[40] Peters 1972: Levha 130-138.
[41] Since architectural remnants continue outside of the excavation area, it is difficult to put forward an idea for all the structures.

connection to other walls might have comprised the northern wall of the structure that extends in N-S in B 6-7 trenches.

In B 8 trench, which was opened owing the idea that architectural remnants found in B 6 and B 7 trenches are continued, another E-W extending wall was found whose 1-m part is partly preserved **(Figure 14, 15)**.

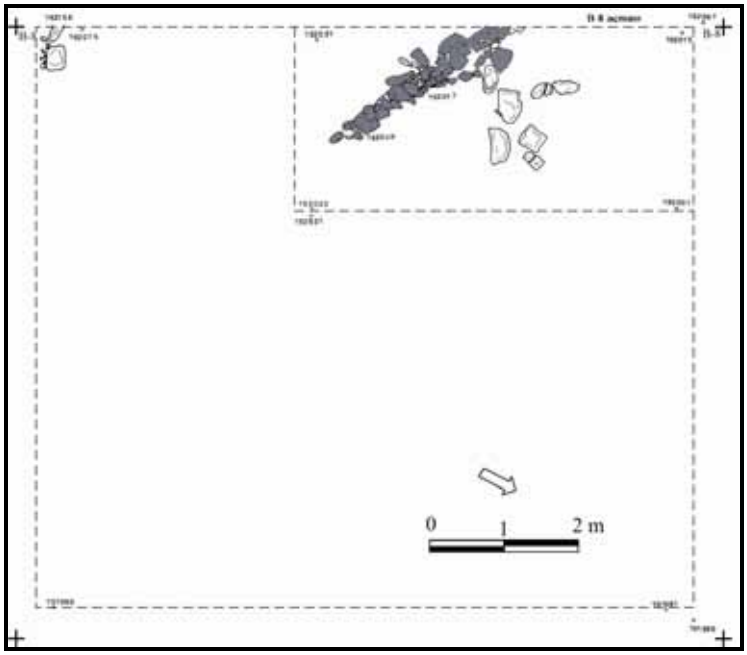


Figure 14: Wall remains from B 8 trench.

Figure 15: Wall remains from B 8 trench.

On the basis of wall thickness and the size of stones used, the wall with a limited exposure in B 8 trench shows different characteristics with respect to sites and walls in B 6-7

trenches. Therefore, it can be said that this wall might belong to another structure or a part of simple function that is added in a later time.

In B 9 trench, single series and different-size of stones were used on cornering walls that continue 1 m in E-W direction and 4 m part is preserved in E-W direction. These walls have a thickness of 80 cm. At west of cornered structure, there is flooring composing of smooth flat stones in various sizes **(Figure 16, 17)**.

Since walls are smoothed and the inner part of the site is floored, it is hard to say if this place is a yard or stable. Metal findings found in the course of works in this site (horseshoe, nail, knife, etc.) may indicate that this area is probably is a stable. However, due to scare data, it seems impossible to determine the exact position of this site.

Figure 16: Stone payment from B 9 trench.

In B 10 trench, there is a tendour of 80 cm diameter which is surrounded with rubble stones. Just next to the tendour, an in-situ pot was found **(Figure 18)**. On the basis of these findings, this place might be a kitchen.

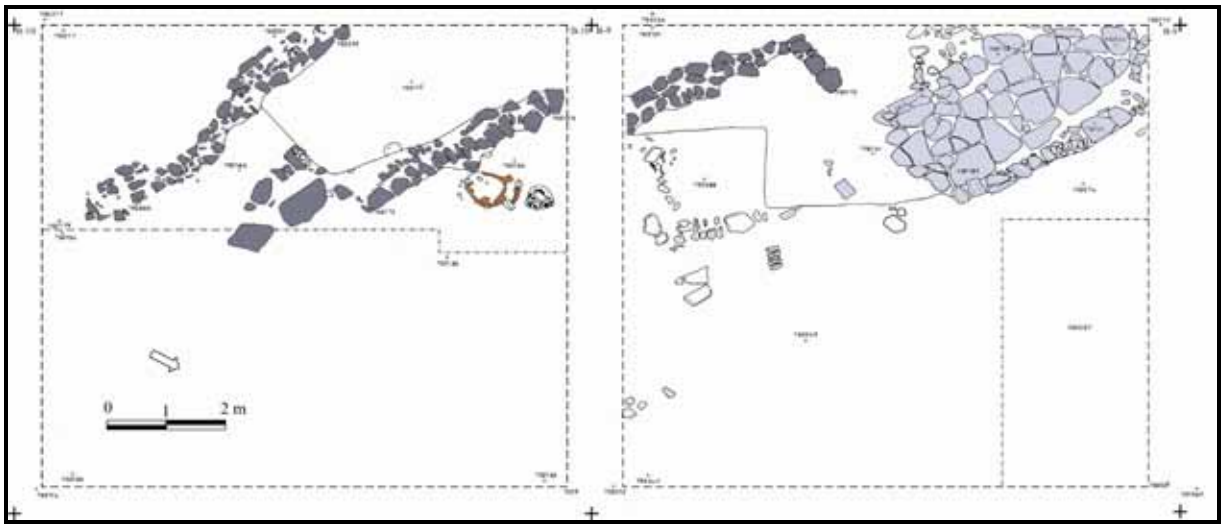


Figure 17: Architectural remains from B 9 and B 10 trenhes.

Figure 18: A oven and a pot from B 10 trench.

In 6-8/a plan squares of the A 16 trench, smoothly scrapped a rectangular block was found. The function of this stone of 0.2 m could not be determined. Most part of the stone is broken. The broken piece could not be determined during the works. No object or data were found in the vicinity of stone to explain its function **(Figure 19)**.

On the basis of the architectural remnants (wall and flooring) found in the Akmezar excavation, it is difficult to determine architectural and settlement type of the area. However, considering the number of tendours, thickness of walls and flooring stones and the fact that most of the ceramics belong to cooking and service containers, the site is a hillside settlement and the findings obtained are the houses of residents living in lower parts of the area. It could

be stated that this site is composed of at least stone floored yard, stable and kitchen like places. Considering the ceramics and other findings, the area has witnessed a settlement from the Hellenistic period to the end of Middle Era. In a later time, due to unknown reasons, the settlement was abandoned or moved to another place such as the old place of today's Başköy.

Figure 19: A worked stone.

PART IV
SMALL FINDINGS

The limited number of small findings found in the Akmezar excavation were evaluated under five items on the basis of their functions: bracelets, knifes, meerschaum, arrow tip and hand mill.

A. BRACELETS

Two bracelets obtained from the Akmezar excavation are made of glass and bone. 1/7 part of the glass bracelet is preserved and it is made with massive cut technique. It is circular and black colored **(Figure 20)**. 1/5 part of the bone bracelet is preserved and it is also made with massive cut technique. It is ivory colored and has a triangular section **(Figure 21).** Similar examples of glass bracelet were found in Medieval layers of the Mersin Yumuktepe[42], Mezra Tumulus[43], Gritille[44] and Tille Tumulus.[45]

Figure 20: Glass bracelet piece.

Figure 21: Bone bracelet piece.

[42] Köroğlu 2002: 360-361, lev. 3: 48-65, 72-73.
[43] Yalçıklı and Tekinalp 2002: 170, Şek. 6: 9-12.
[44] Redford 1998: Fig. 4:7. A-H.
[45] Moore 1993: Fig. 54: 1-4, 9.

B. KNIVES

A total of three knifes were found in the Akmezar excavation. All of them are made of iron. The knife obtained from the B-14 trench **(Figure 22)** is made with casting-molding technique and it is extremely corroded. Only tip and handle parts are broken and its rim is quite sharp and back part has a thickness of 4 mm. It resembles the iron knife[46] found in 2nd layer of Middle Era of the Aşvan Castle whish is dated as 12-13th centuries A.D.

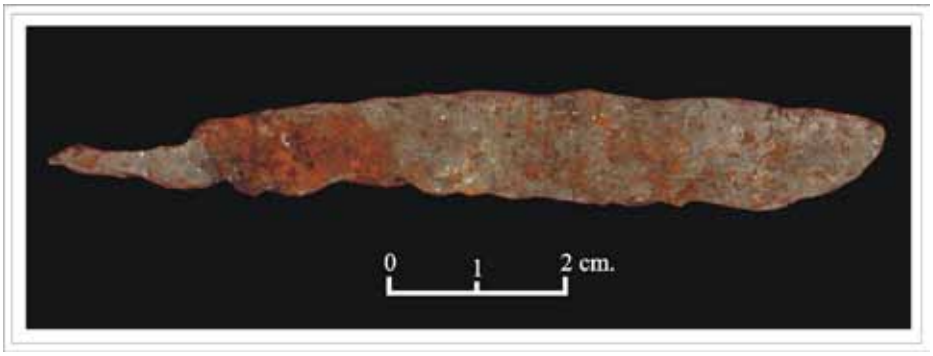


Figure 22: Iron knife.

The knife obtained from the B-9 trench **(Figure 23)** is also made with casting-molding technique. The rim of extremely corroded knife is entirely damaged. There is a 1.3 cm bump in the area where handle joins to rim. Of the knife **(Figure 24)** found from the B-14 trench, only the tip section was obtained. This slightly concave knife piece is extremely corroded and is made with casting-molding technique.

Figure 23: Iron knife

[46] Mitchell 1980: Fig.118:37.

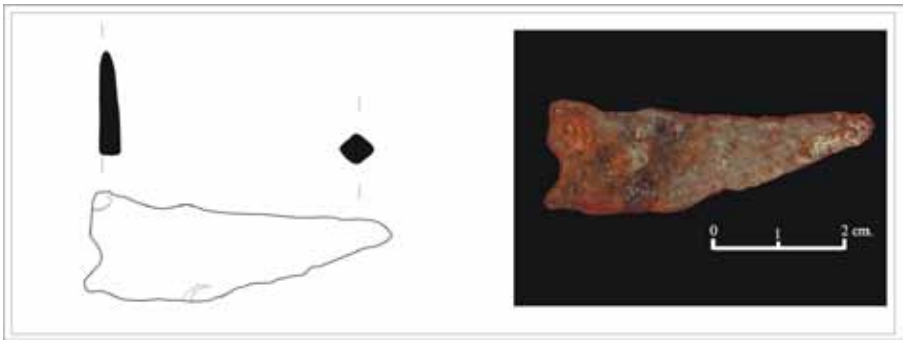


Figure 24: Iron knife tip.

C. CIGARETTE HOLDER (MEERSCHAUM)

The cigarette holder **(Figure 25)** is made of meerschaum and its only opper part is broken. There is a crescent-shaped small handle on its body. There are two series of chamfer decorations on the neck of holder and horizontal wavy motifs take place on the body. At the bottom, a single series of print decoration is placed into a horizontal band. At the bottom, there is a quite smoothed hole of 8 mm diameter.

Figure 25: Cigarette holder (meerschaum).

C. ARROW HEAD

The iron arrow tip **(Figure 26)** is made with casting technique and its tip is broken and extremely corroded. They are short handled, thin-long triangular, square sectioned arrow tips. This type of arrow tips is also found in Middle Era layers of the Kinet Tumulus[47], Aşvan Castle[48], Taşkun Castle[49], Zeytinlibahçe[50], Tille Tumulus[51] Gritille[52].

[47] Redford et al. 2001: Fig. 45: 1-2.
[48] Mitchell 1980: Fig. 119: 48.
[49] McNicoll 1983 : Fig. 90: 25-26.
[50] Frangipane and Bucak 2001: Şek. 13: a.

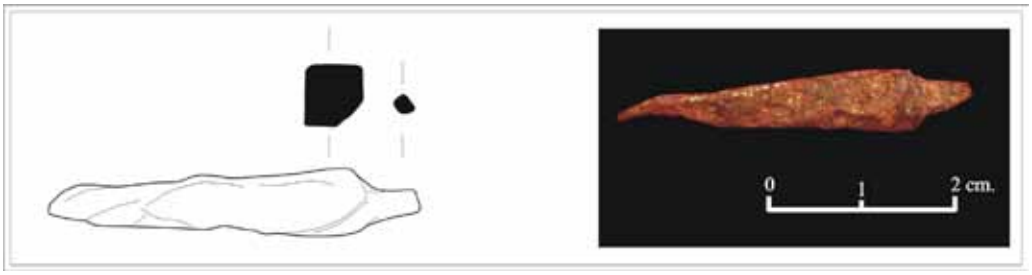


Figure 26: Arrow head.

C. HAND MILL

The circular hand mill **(Figure 27)** is made of basalt and, at the center of upper part there is a hole of 10.3 cm diameter. There are also two 2.4 cm diameter holes next to central hole that are opened for placement of iron or wooden handle for the rotation of upper part. Lower part of the hand mill has a diameter of 42 cm. The hole at the center is 3.5 cm diameter. Abrasion traces resulting from friction are shown in the lower part. This type of hand mills are also observed in the Tille Tumulus[53].

Figure 27: Hand mill.

[51] Moore 1993: Fig. 70: 106-111.
[52] Redford 1998: Fig. 4:2.B.
[53] Moore 1993: fig. 80 no. 191, fig. 81 no. 192- 193, fig. 82 no. 194

PART V
POTTERY FINDINGS

A- CERAMICS OF THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD

As a result of evaluations on ceramic obtained from the Akmezar excavation, only a small ceramic group was found to belong to the Hellenistic period. The Hellenistic period ceramics were examined with respect to form and inclusion characteristics and were dated on the basis of their analogues.

As a result of examinations on ceramics on the Hellenistic period ceramics, it was observed that all the ceramics were shaped under the wheel. All of the Akmezar Hellenistic ceramics are composed of well cooked pieces. Most part of Hellenistic period ceramics are yellowish red (7.5 YR 6/6 and 5 YR 6/6) cemented. The cement color of other small amount of remaining pieces is various tones of brown. Mica and chalk are the main admixtures although ceramic powder was also used in a limited number of pieces. Inner and outer surfaces of the all Akmezar Hellenistic period ceramics are coated. Coating colors are generally red (2.5YR 4/6), reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6) and brown (7.5 YR 5/6). There is a yellowish red paint band decoration under the lip of a piece **(Figure 2: 5)** that is evaluated in the concept of Hellenistic period ceramics. The Akmezar Hellenistic ceramics show similar features with those determined in the Bayburt surface investigations[54] and those found in the Hellenistic layer of the Aşvan Castle.[55]

The Akmezar Hellenistic ceramics are composed of plate **(Figure 28: 1-6)**, bowl **(Figure 29: 1-3)**, container **(Figure 29: 4-6)**, bottle **(Figure 30: 1)** and water jug **(Figure 31: 1)**. The similar wide and slightly inward facing plates **(Figure 28: 3, 4)** are observed in Bayburt/Ali Meydanı[56] and Han Deresi Site.[57] Similar types of outward-thickening rimmed wide bowls **(Figure 29: 2, 3)** with one series flumed under the lip were found in surface

[54] Sagona et. al. 2004: 209-210 (Ware 7: 1.1).
[55] Sagona et. al. 2004: 209-210 (Ware 7: 1.1).
[56] Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 166-2.
[57] Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 164-11.

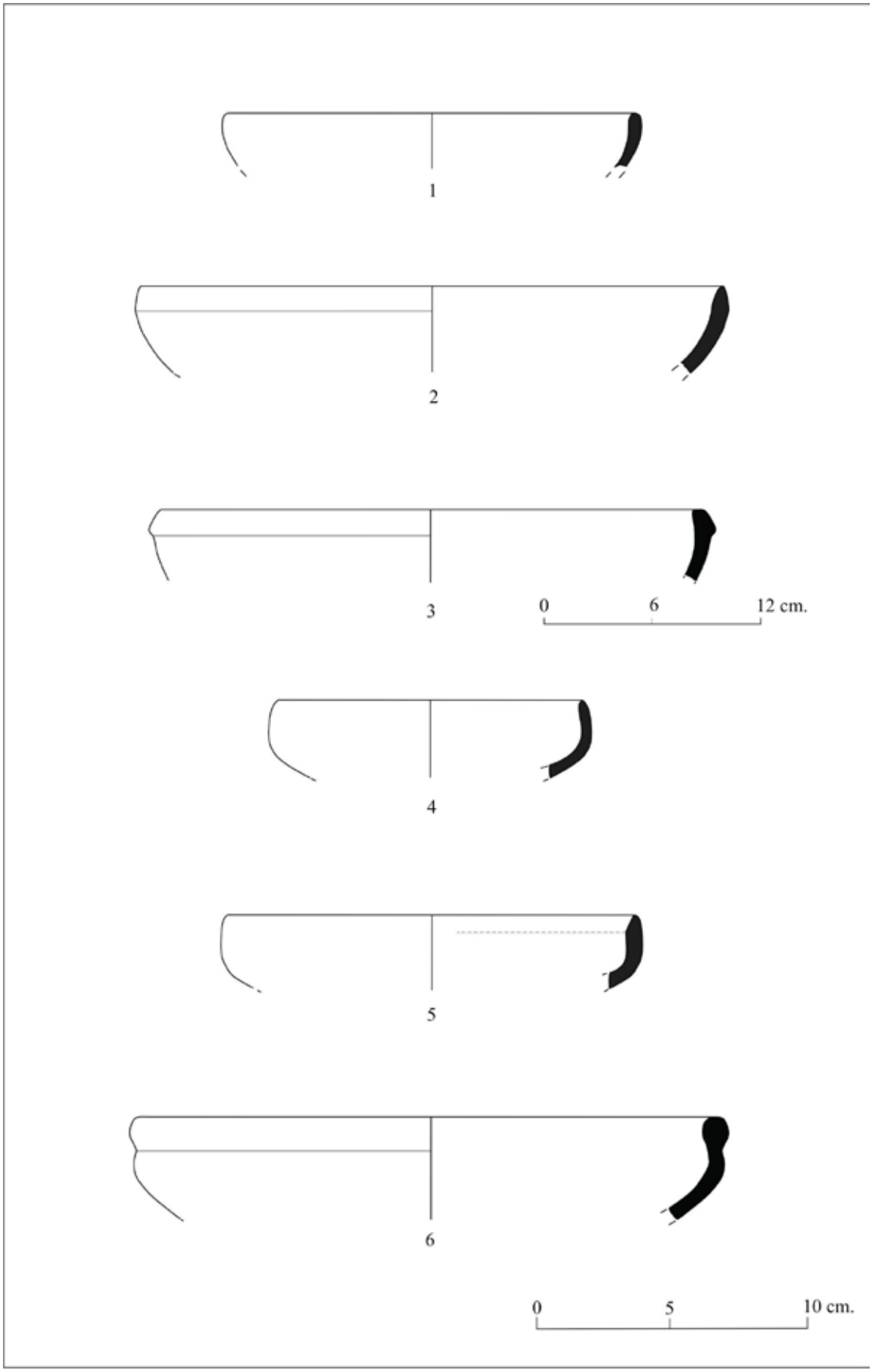
investigations and excavations carried out in Bayburt/Han Deresi Site[58], Ali Meydanı[59] and Aşvan Castle[60].

The slightly inward facing, simple rimmed and sharp body container **(Figure 29: 4)** resembles the piece found in Bayburt/Söğütlü'de[61]. The similar of outward-thickening rimmed, steep and short necked bottle piece **(Figure 30: 1)** was found in the Hellenistic layer of the Aşvan Castle[62]. Similar types of single handled, outward-thickening rimmed, concave, narrow necked, oval and double series flume-decorated water jug **(Figure 31: 1)** were found in Aşvan Castle[63] and Büyüktepe[64]. All the dips **(Figure 30: 2-6)** comprising a small group in the Akmezar Hellenistic period ceramics are made of ring dips. Similar dips were found in surface investigation conducted in Bayburt/Han Deresi Site.[65]

[58] Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 163-13.
[59] Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 165-2.
[60] Mitchell 1980: fig. 33-353.
[61] Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 120-6.
[62] Mitchell 1980: fig. 36-410.
[63] Mitchell 1980: fig. 36-408.
[64] Sagona et. al. 1993: fig. 5-3.
[65] Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 169-18.

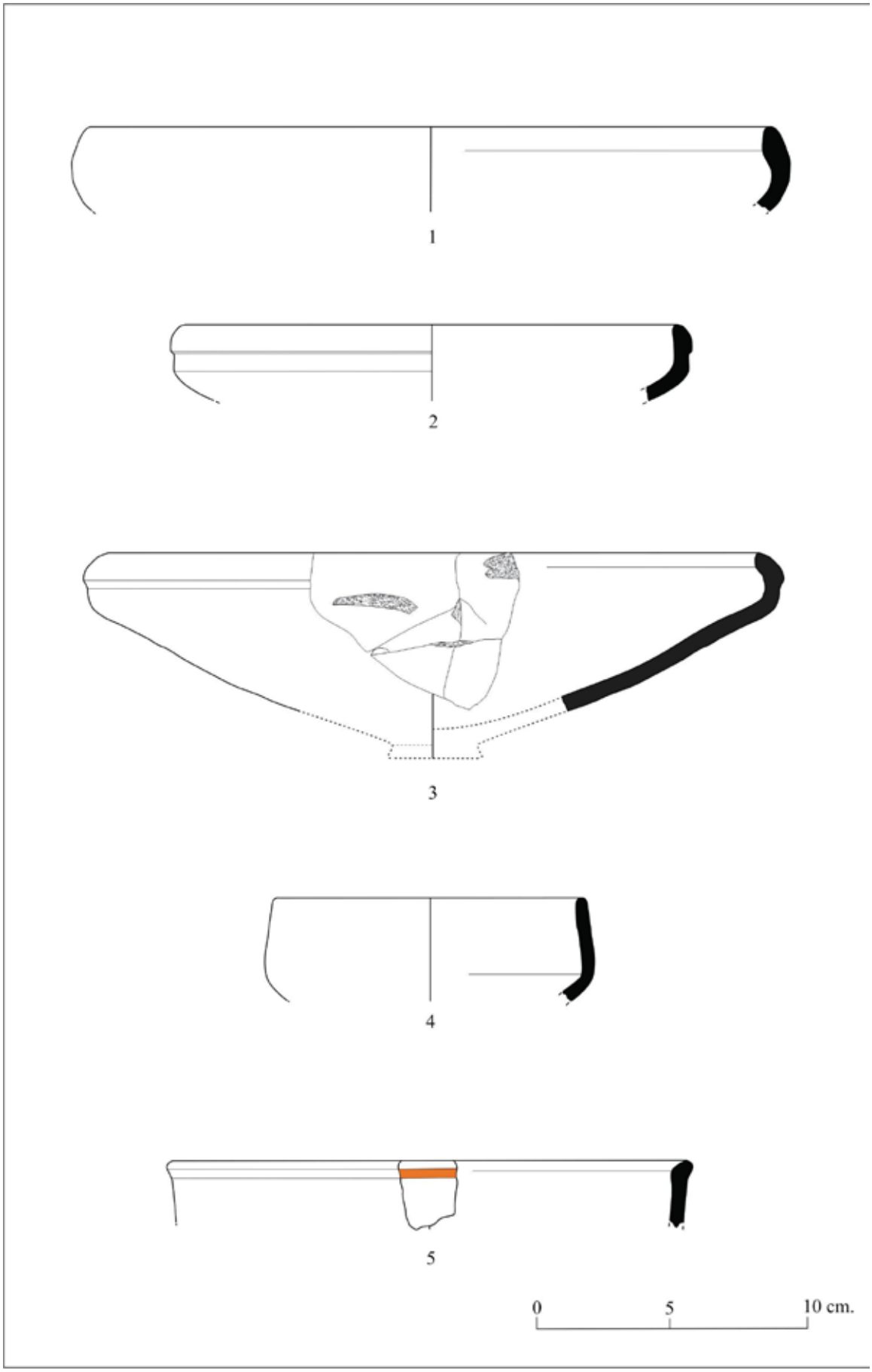
CATALOGUE OF THE HELLENISTIC POTTERY

Fig. 28	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	A 5004-20	Outer and inner parts are red (2.5 YR 4/6), cement is reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6). Little amount of mica. Made by wheel. Well cooked, smooth surface process, outer and inner parts are thick coated and polished.	
2	B 10020-6	Outer part is red (2.5 YR 5/8) inner part is red (5 YR 5/8). Cement is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6). Little chalk and mica. Made by wheel. Well cooked. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished.	
3	B 8012-2	Outer and inner parts are dark brown (7.5 YR 5/6), cement is reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6). Little mica. Shaped under wheel, well cooked, smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished.	
4	B 10017-6	Outer part is red (2.5 YR 4/6) inner part is red (5 YR 4/4). Cement is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6). Predominantly chalk and mica. Made by wheel. Well cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are painted and polished.	Bayburt/Ali Meydanı (Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 166-2)
5	A 5004-10	Outer part is reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6), inner part is brown (7.5 YR 5/3), cement is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6). Little chalk and mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Surface is smoothly processed. Outer and inner parts are thinly coated and polished.	Han Deresi Site (Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 164-11)
6	A 6011-2	Outer part is light red (2.5 Y 5/8), inner part is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6), cement is light brown (7.5 YR 6/4). Little mica. Shaped under wheel, well cooked. Outer and inner parts are thick coated and polished.	



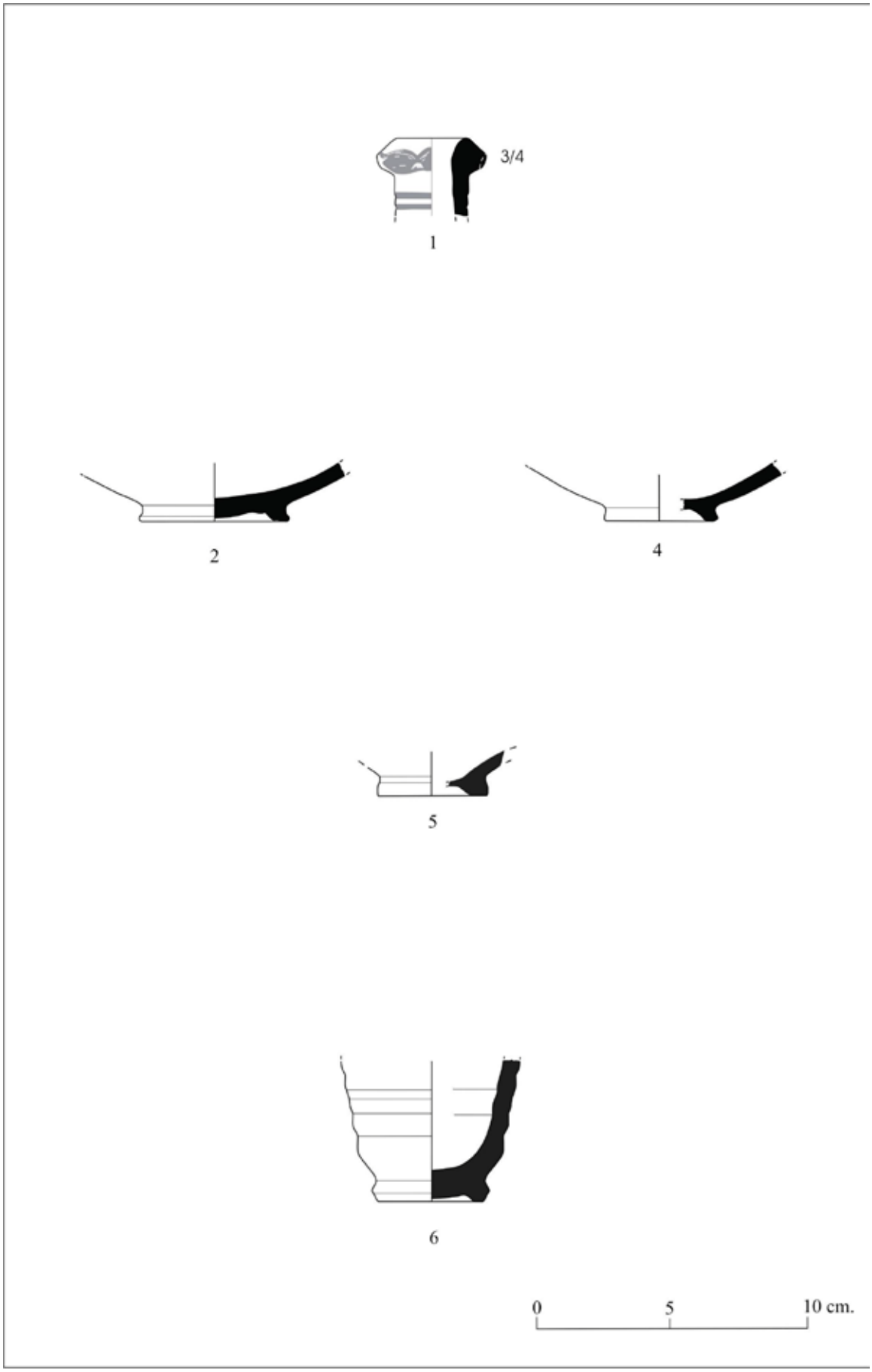
Res./Fig.28

Fig. 29	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 9030-1	Outer and inner parts are light brown (7.5 YR 6/4), cement is reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6). Little ceramic powder, predominantly mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished.	
2	B 9018-3	Outer and inner parts are reddish brown (5 YR 4/3), cement is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6). Little ceramic powder, predominantly chalk and mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished. Dark grey (7.5 YR 3/1) band decoration on outer surface color.	Bayburt/Han Deresi Site (Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 163-13); Bayburt/Ali Meydanı (Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 165-2)
3	B 9038-13	Outer part is reddish brown (2.5 YR 4/4), body is grayish brown (10 YR 4/1), light brown to the bottom (10 YR 6/3); inner part grayish brown (10 YR 4/1); cement is brown (7.5 YR 5/4). Predominantly mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished.	Aşvan Castle (Mitchell 1980: fig. 33-353); Han Deresi Site (Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 163-12; 169:6); Bayburt/Ali Meydanı (Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 165-3); Büyüktepe (Sagona et. al. 1991: fig. 7-3)
4	B 12015-1	Outer and inner parts are reddish yellow (5 YR 7/6), cement is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6). Little chalk; predominantly mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished.	Bayburt/Söğütlü (Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 120-6)
5	B 9053-1	Outer part is pink (7.5 YR 7/4), inner part is red (2.5 YR 5/6), cement is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6). Little sea shell, moderately sand; predominantly chalk, mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished. A yellowish red paint band is in lower part of the lip.	



Res./Fig.29

Fig. 30	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 9009-2	Outer and inner parts are red (10 R 4/6), cement is dark brown (7.5 YR 5/6). Little mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Outer and inner parts are paint, wet coated and polished. A print decoration on the lip and two series of chamfer on the neck.	Aşvan Castle (Mitchell 1980: fig. 36-410)
2	B 8003-1	Outer part is brown (10 YR 5/3), inner part is light brown (10 YR 7/4), cement is yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4). Little sand; dominantly mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished.	Bayburt/Han Deresi Site (Sagona et. al. 2004 fig. 169-18)
3	A 6011-4	Outer part is grey (2.5 Y 5/1), inner part is light yellowish brown (2.5 Y 6/3), cement is dark gray (Gley 1 4/N). Little chalk, ceramic powder; dominantly mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are thinly coated and polished.	
4	A 5004-8	Outer and inner cement is reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6). Little chalk, moderately mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are uncoated and polished	
5	B 10020-9	Outer part is red (2.5 YR 5/8), bottom is grey (Gley 1 4/10Y); inner cement is reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6). Little chalk; moderately mica. Hand made, well cooked. Smooth surface process. Inner part is uncoated while outer part is normal coated polished.	



Res./Fig.30

Fig. 31	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 10014-1	Outer part is light brown (10 YR 8/4), inner part is pink (5 YR 7/4), cement is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6). Little amount of quartz; moderately mica, ceramic powder; predominantly stone, sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Inner part is uncoated while out is normal coated, outer and inner parts are unpolished. Two series of shallow chamfer on the body. Simple rimmed, canalled under the lip, in and outer parts. Narrow, tall, oval shaped, handled water pitcher, service container.	Aşvan Castle (Mitchell 1980: fig. 36-408); Büyüktepe (Sagona et. al. 1993: fig. 5-3)

1

0 5 10 cm.

Res./Fig.31

B- MEDIEVAL AGE POTTERY

In addition to those of Hellenistic period, some of the ceramics obtained from the Akmezar excavation are composed of Medieval Age pieces. The Medieval Age ceramics were examined with respect to their form and cement characteristics and were dated on the basis of their analogues.

As a result of examinations on ceramics on the Hellenistic period ceramics, it was observed that most of the ceramics (83%) were shaped under the wheel while remaining part is hand made. Most of pieces (73%) of this group were moderately cooked and only a little part is of well cooked. Most part of the Akmezar Medieval Age ceramics are of various brown tones such as light (10 YR 6/3), dark (7,5YR 4/6), yellowish (10YR 5/4), reddish (2,5YR 5/3), dark grayish (10 YR 4/2) colors. Yellowish red (5 YR 5/8), reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6) and black (N 2,5) tones were observed in very little cement. Mica and chalk are the main admixtures within the cement. Stone, limestone and ceramic powder are also detected in cements of some pieces. Except for unglazed pieces, inner and outer surfaces of most of coarse ceramics (63%) are coated and inner and outer surfaces of cooking containers are generally uncoated (26%) and rough surfaces are smoothed. Only a little part of pieces (11%) is surface-coated and their inner surfaces are uncoated.

As a result of functional evaluation on Akmezar Medieval Age containers, it was found that containers were used for cooking and service. Since cooking containers are exposed to fire, soot traces are shown and their cements are deformed. Service containers are very tightly cemented, thinly coated and generally contain wheel-made pieces. All the cooking containers are composed of earthenware pots while service containers are composed of plate, bowl and pots. The Akmezar Medieval Age ceramics are composed of plate **(Figure 32: 1, 2)**, bowl **(Figure 32: 3, 4; 2: 1-3)**, container **(Figure 33: 4, 5)**, pot **(Figure 34: 1-4; 4: 1, 2; 5: 1-3; 6: 1-3; 7: 1)**, big pot **(Figure 35: 3)** and lid **(Figure 39: 1-4).** Similar inward-closed, simple rimmed, flat bowl **(Figure 32: 3)** is found in Sīrjān[66], Aşvan Castle[67] and Sazpegler'de[68]. Similar of these slightly outward thickening rimmed, single series wide flumed, glazed bowls **(Figure 33: 2, 3)** are found in Medieval Age layer of the

[66] Morgan and Leatherby, 1987, fig. 30/14; fig. 32/20.
[67] Mitchell 1980: fig.44 no.590.
[68] Tekinalp and Ekim 2005: Env No. B 11058-1b.

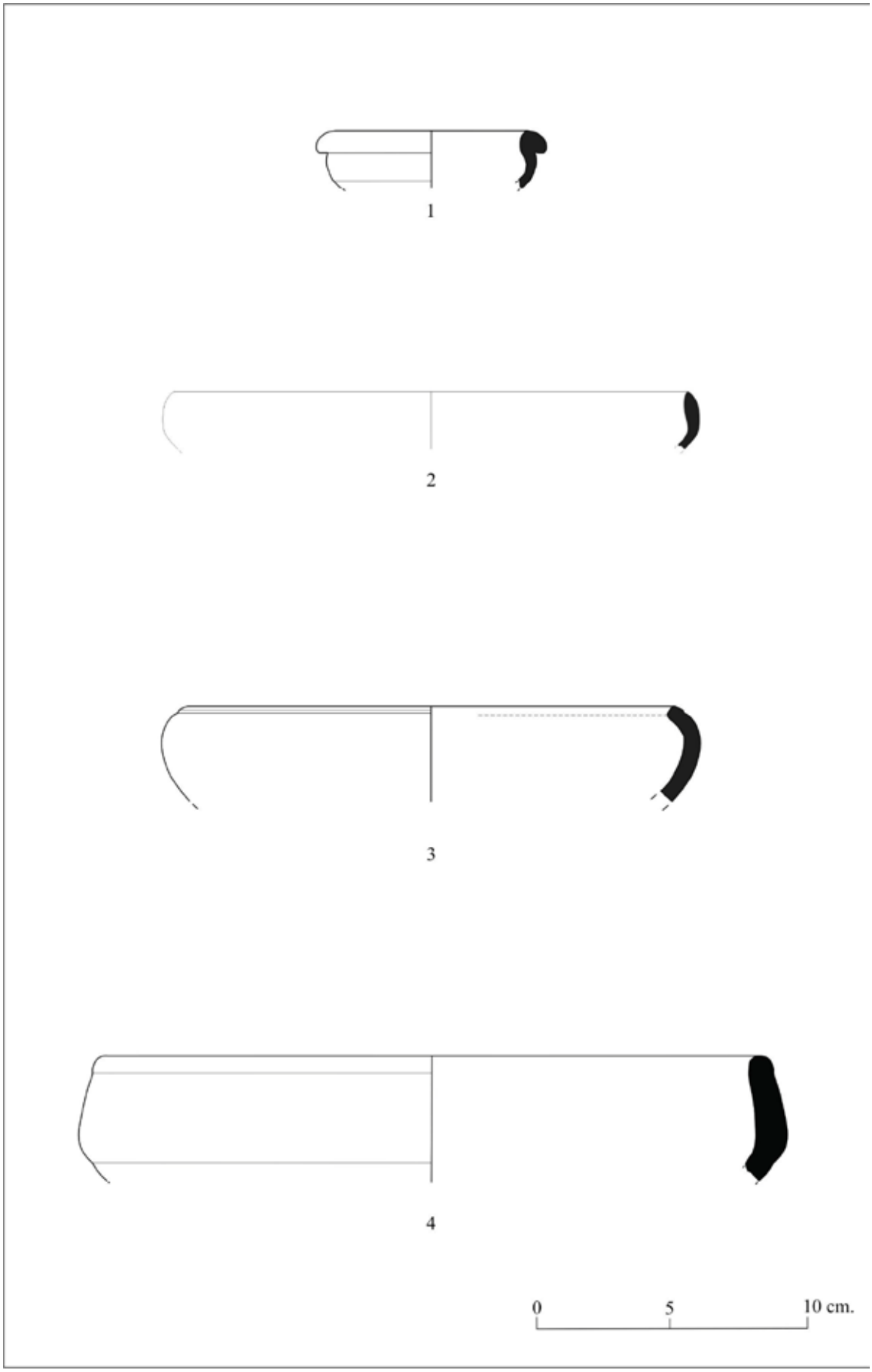
Taşkunkale'nin[69]. Pots similar to outward-turned, simple rimmed, short, narrow necked, spherical pots **(Figure 34: 1, 2)** were obtained in Sīrjān[70] and Gritille[71]. Pot similar to simple rimmed, spherical pot **(Figure 35: 1, 2)** without neck was found in surface investigation in Bayburt/Şehitlik[72]. Pots similar to simple rounded rimmed, oval, handled pots **(Figure 36: 3)** with double parallel series of line decorated are found in Medieval Age layers of Gritille[73], Sīrjān[74], Han İbrahim Şah[75], Tille Tumulus[76] and Sazpegler[77]. Simple rimmed, steep necked and large, oval pots **(Figure 35: 3)** are also found in surface investigations in Bayburt/Değirmentepe[78] and Medieval Age layers of the Aşvan Kale[79], Gürcistan/Galskom[80] ve Sazpegler[81]. The similar of notched decorated lid **(Figure 39: 1)** with raised rims is found in Medieval Age layers of Gritille[82], Sīrjān[83] ve Taşkunkale[84]. The similar of lid **(Figure 39: 2)** with thickened rims and finger-print decorated was observed in Taşkunkale'de[85]. The similar of centrally indented, flumed and finger-print decorated lid **(Figure 39: 4)** was found in Gritille[86], Tel Minis[87] and Aşvan Castle[88]. Limited number of dips obtained from the Akmezar Medieval Age ceramics are composed of flat dips **(Figure 40: 1, 2)**, rimmed flat dips **(Figure 40: 3)** and ring dips **(Figure 40: 4)**. Similar of the glazed ring dip was found in Taşkunkale[89]. All the glazed pieces were made with sigraffito (Figure 41: 1-4) technique.

As a result of investigations and comparative evaluations on the Akmezar Medieval Age containers, it was determined that this group ceramic repertory has the characteristics of late Medieval Age (11-14th century).

[69] McNicholl 1983: Fig. 30-27; 30-29.
[70] Morgan and Leatherby: 1987, Fig. 34/9; 55/15.
[71] Redford 1998: fig.3:10 C.
[72] Sagona et. al. 2004: fig.146 no.9.
[73] Redford 1998, fig. 3:5/N.
[74] Morgan and Leatherby, 1987, fig. 34/67.
[75] Ertem 1982: s. 44/8; s.46/48, 55.
[76] Moore 1993: fig. 37-38.
[77] Tekinalp and Ekim 20005: Env. No. KA 1002-6.
[78] Sagona et. al 2004: fig.147 no.15.
[79] Mitchell 1980: fig.97 no.1132.
[80] Baramidzei et. al. 1997: fig. 31 no.10.
[81] Mitchell 1980: fig.97 no.1132.
[82] Redford 1998, fig. 3:13/A.
[83] Morgan and Leatherby, 1987, Fig. 57/14.
[84] McNicholl 1983: Fig. 71-188, 189.
[85] McNicholl 1983: Fig. 71-187.
[86] Redford 1998: fig 3:15/Q.
[87] Porter and Watson 1987: Plate 7c.
[88] Mitchell 1980: fig. 81-937.
[89] McNicholl 1983: Fig. 36-92.

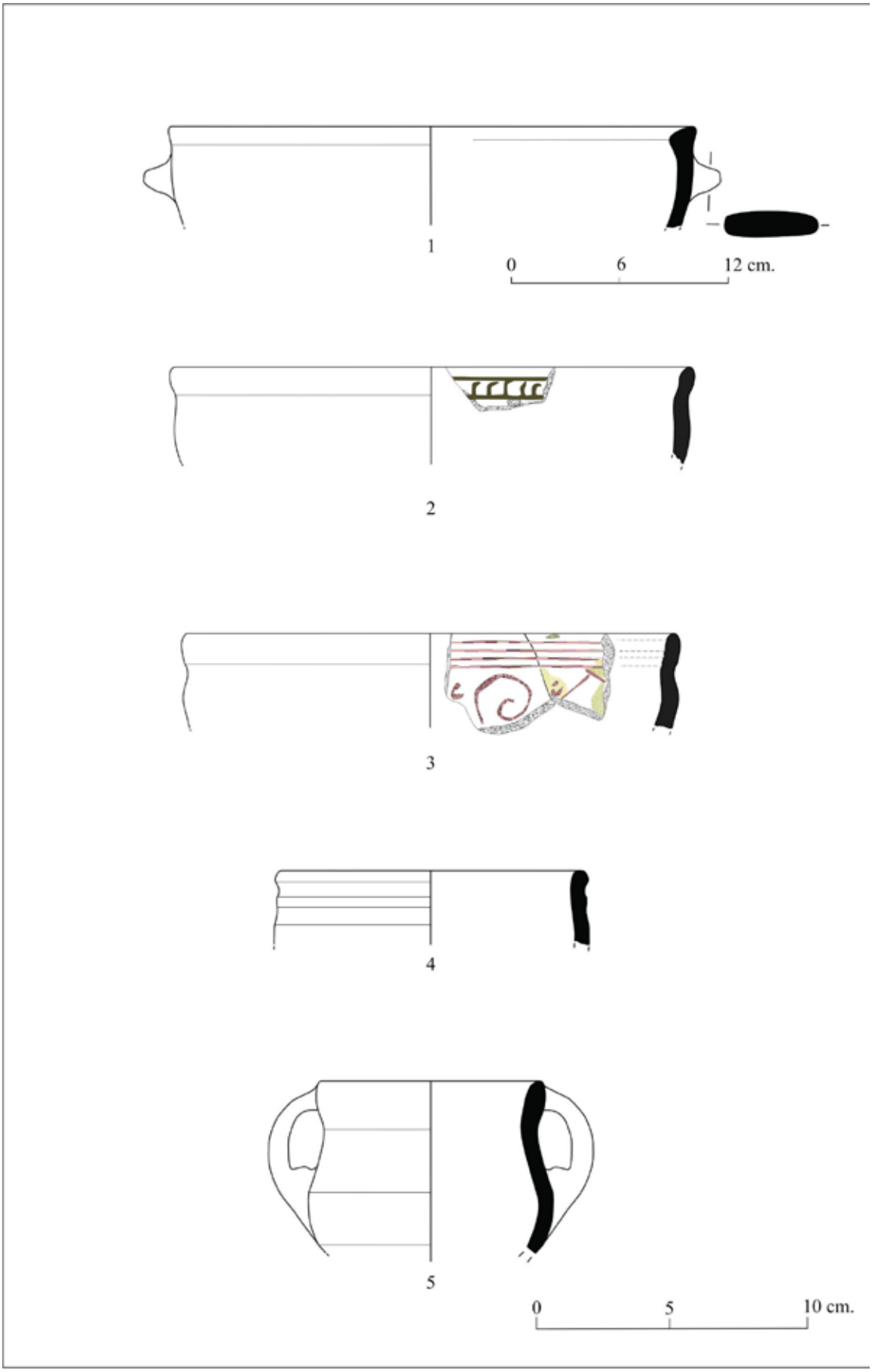
CATALOGUE OF THE MEDIEVAL POTTERY

Fig. 32	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 14006-7	Outer and inner parts are light (7.5 YR 7/1); cement is brown (10 YR 6/3). Moderately mica and ceramic powder. Made by wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished. Inward closed, outward thickening rimmed, shallow plate, service container.	
2	B 12008-9	Outer part is brownish gray (2.5 Y 7/2), lower part is dark brownish gray (2.5 Y 5/2), inner section is brownish gray (2.5 Y 6/2), cement is gray (2.5 Y 5/3). Moderately mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are thinly coated and polished. Sharp rimmed, inward closed plate, service container.	
3	B 5008-8	Out and inner parts (7.5 YR 4/2) and cement is brown (7.5 YR 4/4). Little stone, dominantly chalk, quartz, mica and ceramic powder. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are coated and polished. There is a single series thin chamfer decoration on outer section of lip. Bowl of simple rounded rimmed, closed inwards, single series of shallow chamfered under the lip. Service container.	Sīrjān (Morgan and Leatherby, 1987, fig. 30/14; fig. 32/20); Aşvan Kale (Mitchell 1980: fig.44 no.590); Sazpegler (Tekinalp and Ekim 2005: Env No. B 11058-1b).
4	B 14043-13	Outer part is gray (7.5 YR 5/1), inner is brownish gray (10 YR 6/2), cement is dark brown (7.5 YR 4/6). Moderately mica, dominantly stone, chalk, sand, ceramic powder, Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished. Outward thickening rimmed, sharp bellied, keeled bowl. Service container.	



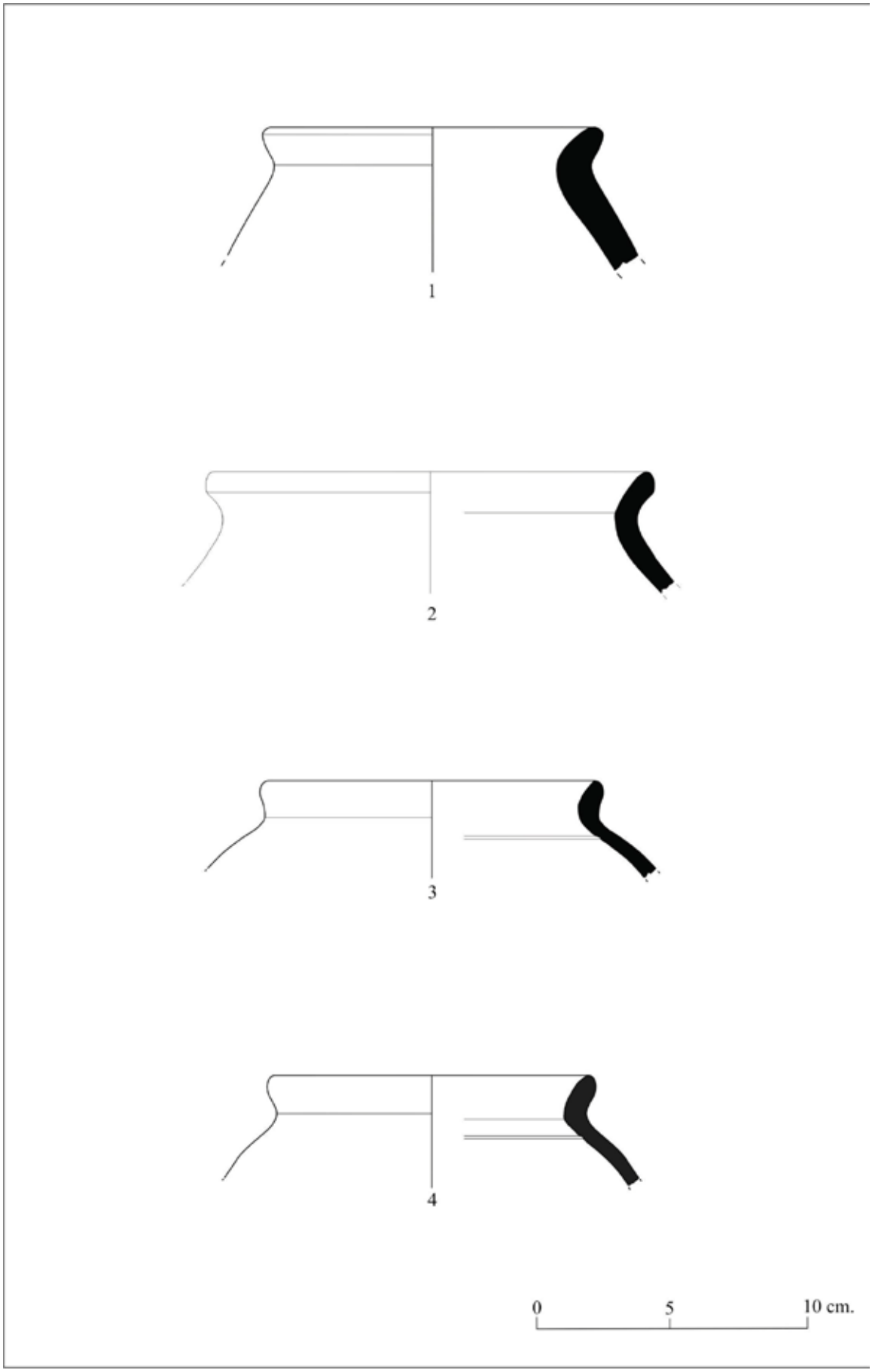
Res./Fig.32

Res. 33	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	A 5010-4	Outer part is light brown (7.5 YR 6/4), inner side is pink (7.5 YR 7/4), cement is yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4). Little mica; dominantly stone, chalk, sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and unpolished. Outward thickened, inward cut and thickening rimmed, handled bowl. Service container.	
2	B 12008-2	In and outer parts are grass green glazed, cement is reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6). Little stone, chalk, mica, sand. Made by wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process. In the inner part, there are dark brownish green glazed geometric decorations on a green base. Inward and outward slightly thickening rimmed, keeled bowl. Service container.	Taşkunkale (McNicholl 1983: Fig. 30-27)
3	B 14032-8	In and outer parts are light green glazed, cement is light brownish (7.5 YR 6/4). Little chalk, mica. Made by wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process. In the inner part, there are four shallow chamfers and below that, greenish brown colored geometric decorations on a pale green base. Outward thickening rimmed keeled bowl with a series of wide, shallow, chamfered under the lip. Service container.	Taşkunkale (McNicholl 1983: Fig. 30-29)
4	B 14009-1	Outer part is reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6), inner part is (7.5 YR 6/4) light brown; cement is yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4). Little chalk, dominantly sand; moderately stone and mica. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and unpolished. There are two shallow canals in the connection between body and lower lip. Outward thickening rimmed keeled bowl with a neck of double lines of canals. Service container.	
5	B 9042-8	In and outer parts are light red (2.5 YR 5/6), cement is reddish brown (2.5 YR 5/3). Little chalk, dominantly stone, mica, sand, ceramic powder. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Smooth surface process. In and outer parts are thinly coated, unpolished. Simply rounded rimmed, “S” profiled, handled container. Service container.	



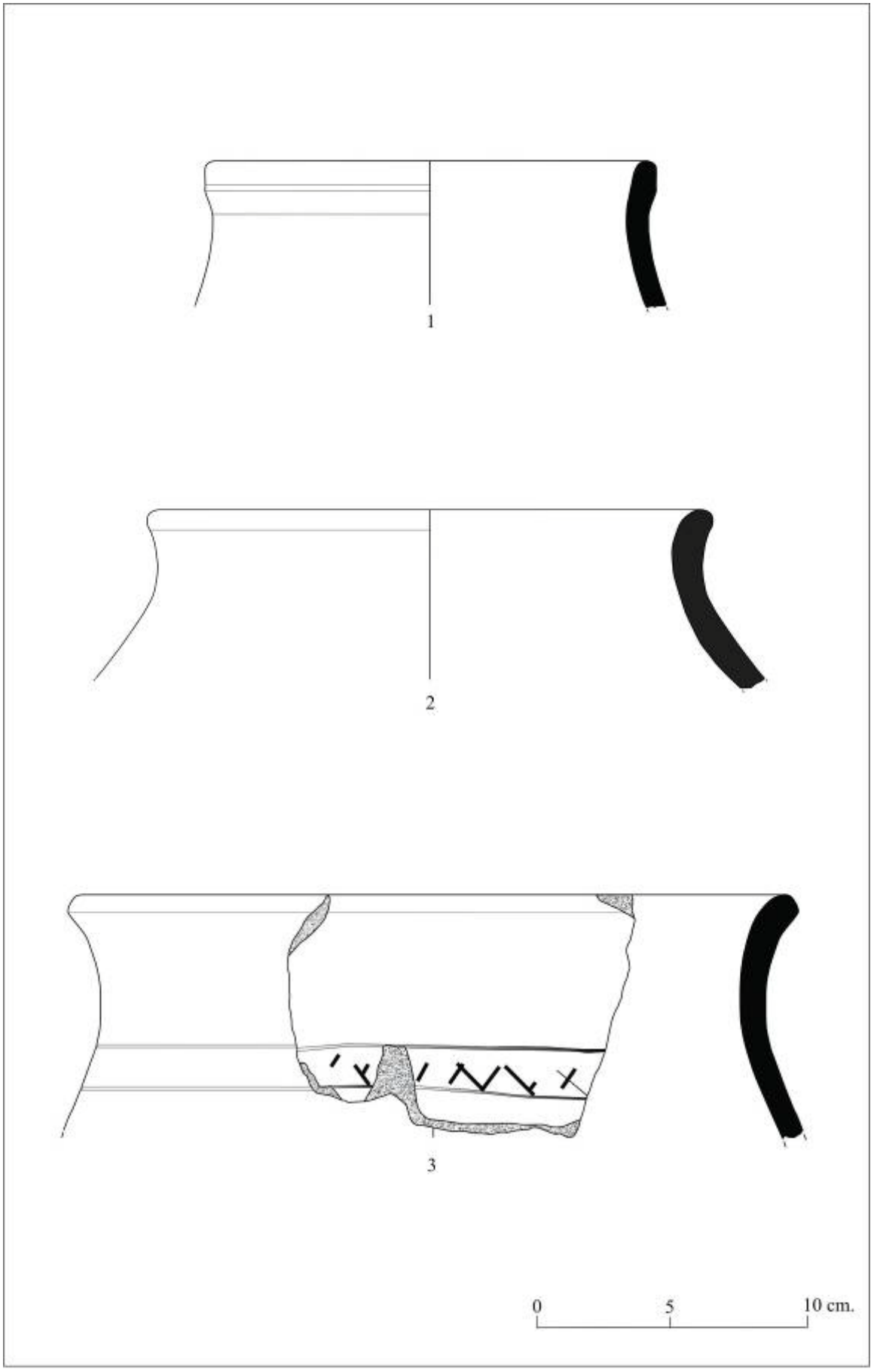
Res./Fig.33

Fig. 34	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 5030-7	Outer part is grayish brown (10 YR 4/1), inner part is brown (10 YR 5/3), cement is black (Gley 1 2.5/N). Little chalk; dominantly stone, mica, sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer and inner parts are normal coated and polished. Outward-turned, wide rimmed, short and narrow necked oval bowl. Cooking container.	Sīrjān (Morgan and Leatherby, 1987, Fig. 34/9);
2	B 6010-3	Outer part is brown (10 YR 5/3), inner part is light brown (7.5 YR 6/4), cement is dark grayish brown (10 YR 4/2). Little stone, chalk, moderately mica, ceramic powder; dominantly sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Outer and inner parts are thinly coated and polished. Slightly outward thickening rimmed, outward-turned, wide rimmed, short and narrow necked oval bowl. Cooking container.	Sīrjān (Morgan and Leatherby, 1987, Fig. 55/15); Gritille (Redford 1998: fig.3:10 C)
3	B 6010-1	Inner and outer parts (5 YR 7/6) and cement are reddish yellow (5 YR 6/8). Moderately ceramic powder; dominantly chalk, mica, sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Outer and inner parts are thinly coated and outer part is polished. Simple rounded rimmed, outward-turned, wide rimmed, short and narrow necked oval bowl. Cooking container.	
4	B 7001-11	Outer part is reddish brown (5 YR 6/4), inner part and cement are yellowish red (5 YR 5/8). Moderately sand; dominantly stone, chalk, mica, ceramic powder. Made by wheel, well cooked. Inner part is uncoated, outer part is thinly coated, outer and inner parts are polished. Simply rounded rimmed, outward-turned, wide rimmed, short and narrow necked oval bowl. Cooking container.	



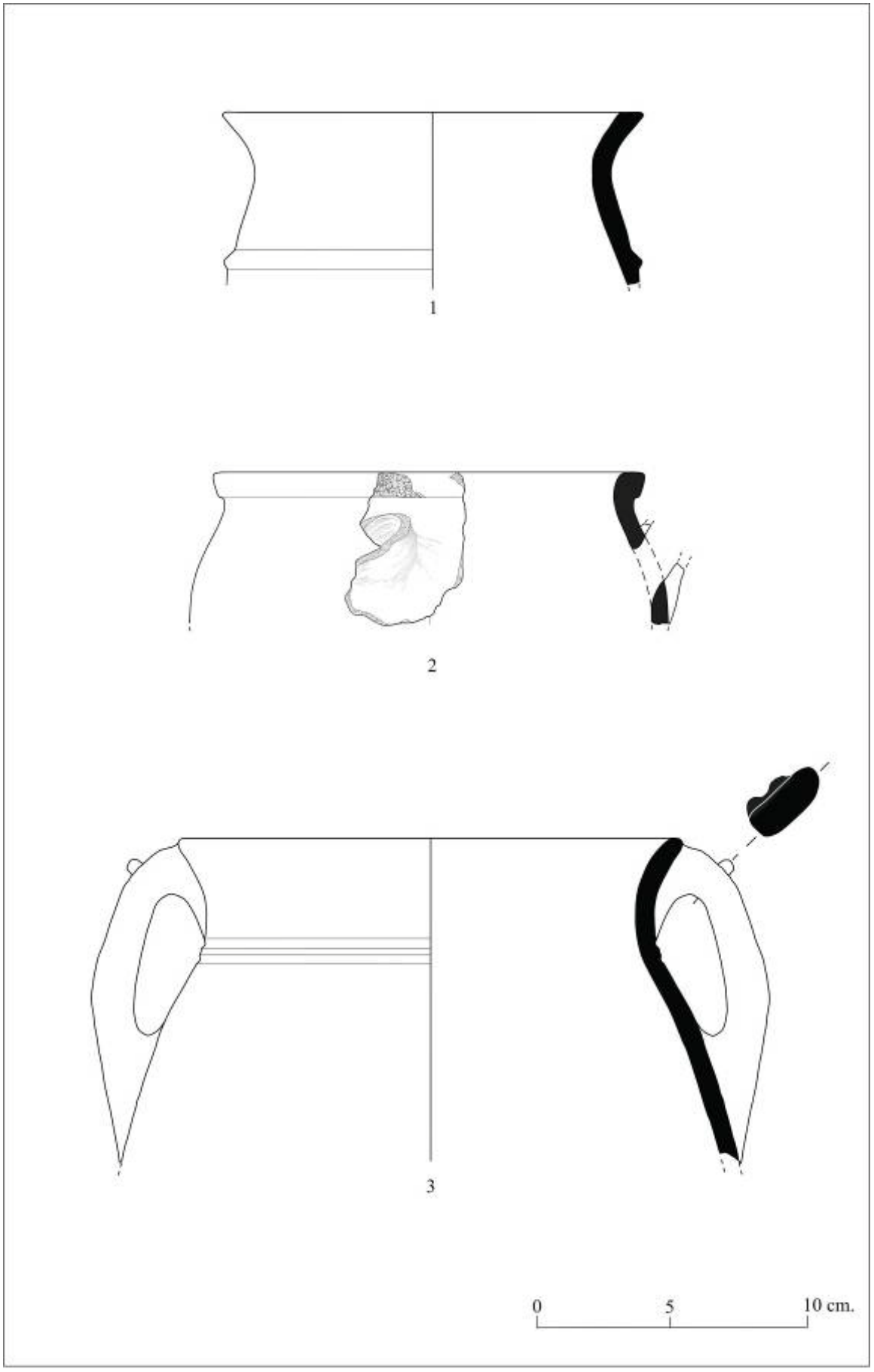
Res./Fig.34

Fig. 35	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 10012-5	Inner and outer parts are brown (10 YR 5/3), cement is dark grayish brown (10 YR 4/2). Little stone, chalk ceramic powder; dominantly mica, sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Inner and outer parts are uncoated, outer part is polished. Simply rimmed, banded embossing decorated under the lip, short necked, oval pot. Cooking container.	
2	A 5010-7	Outer part is light brown (7.5 YR 6/4), inner part is reddish brown (5 YR 5/4), cement is yellowish red (5 YR 4/6). Little chalk, ceramic powder; moderately stone, sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Inner part is uncoated, outer part is normal coated; Inner and outer parts are polished. Simply rimmed, spherical pot without neck. Cooking container.	Bayburt/Şehitlik (Sagona et. al. 2004: fig.146 no.9.)
3	B 9038-8	Outer part and cement are reddish brown (5 YR 5/4), inner part is reddish brown (5 YR 4/3). Little chalk; dominantly stone, mica, sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Inner and outer parts are uncoated and polished. There are two series of crossing drawn decorations among the chamfers on the body. Simply rimmed, steep, oval big pot with wide neck. Cooking container.	Bayburt/Değirmentepe (Sagona et. al. 2004: fig.147 no.15); Aşvan Castle (Mitchell 1980: fig.97 no.1132); Gürcistan/Galskom (Baramidzei et. al. 1997: fig. 31 no.10.); Sazpegler (Tekinalp and Ekim 2005: Env. No. A 10032-10)



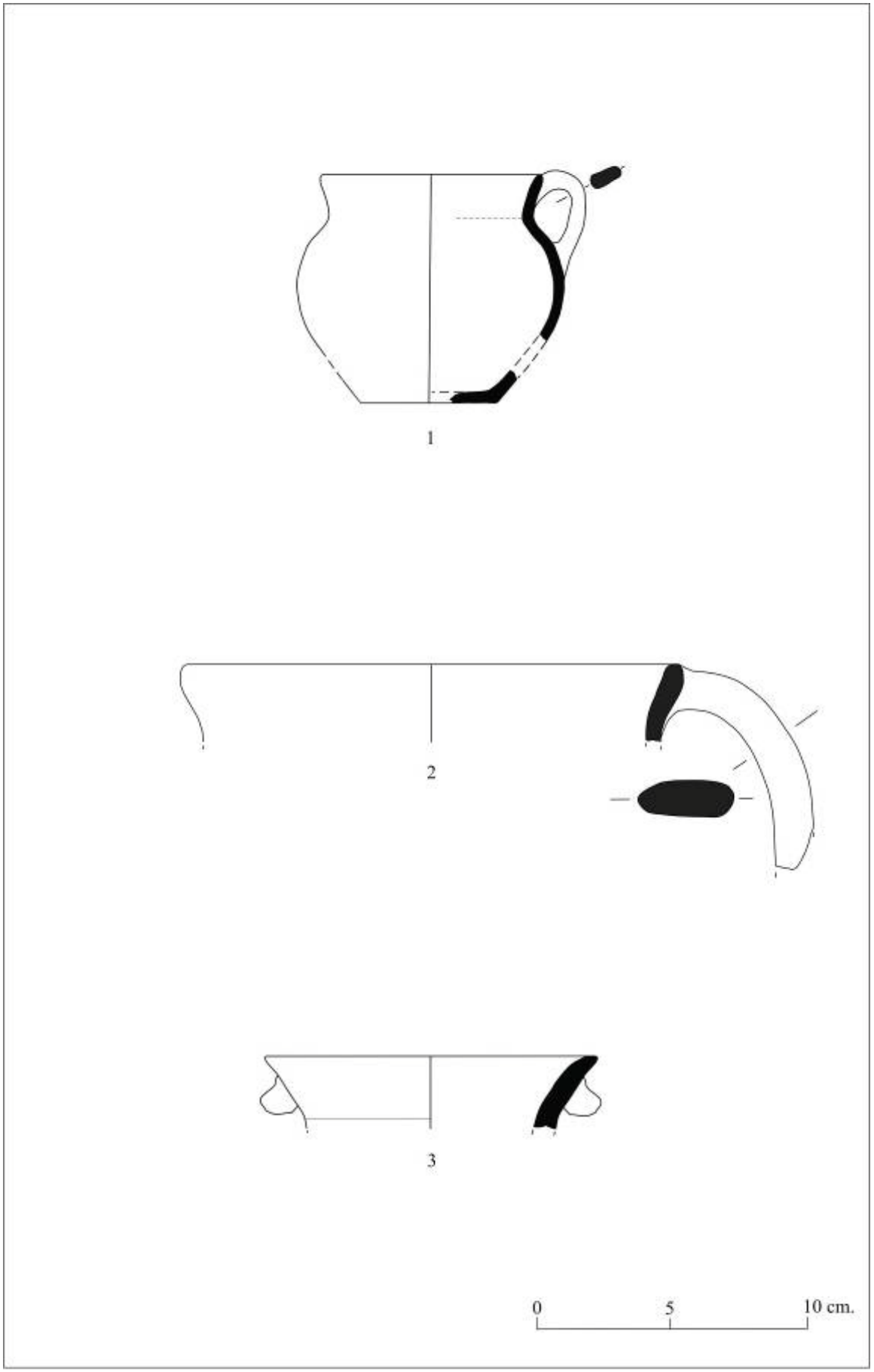
Res./Fig.35

Fig. 36	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 17006-1	Outer part is (7.5 YR 5/4), inner part is (7.5 YR 5/3), cement is (10 YR 4/3) brown. Little stone, sand; dominantly chalk, mica, ceramic powder. In and out are thinly coated, unpolished. Simply smoothed rim is slightly outward sharpened, short narrow necked, oval pot with single line of embossing decorated above the shoulder. Cooking container.	
2	A 10017-12	Out is light reddish brown (5 YR 6/4), inner part is yellowish red (5 YR 5/6), cement is yellowish red (5 YR 4/6). Little chalk; moderately stone; dominantly mica, sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Surface is broadly smoothed. Inner part is uncoated, outer part is thinly coated. Out and in are unpolished. Outward thickening rimmed, short narrow necked, spherical pot with rounded ewer. Service container.	Sīrjān (Morgan and Leatherby, 1987, fig. 34/13)
3	B 10022-2	Outer part is reddish brown (5 YR 5/3), inner part is light brown (7.5 YR 6/4), cement is brown (7.5 YR 4/3). Little quartz; moderately stone, chalk; dominantly mica, sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Outer and inner parts are thinly coated, unpolished. There are 2 series of canal on the body. Simply smoothed rimmed, necked, double parallel drawing decorated on the neck, oval handled pot. Cooking container.	Gritille (Redford 1998, fig. 3:5/N); Sīrjān (Morgan and Leatherby, 1987, fig. 34/67); Han İbrahim Şah (s. 44/8; s.46/48,55), Tille Tumulus (Moore 1993: fig. 37-38); Sazpegler (Tekinalp and Ekim 20005: Env. No. KA 1002-6)



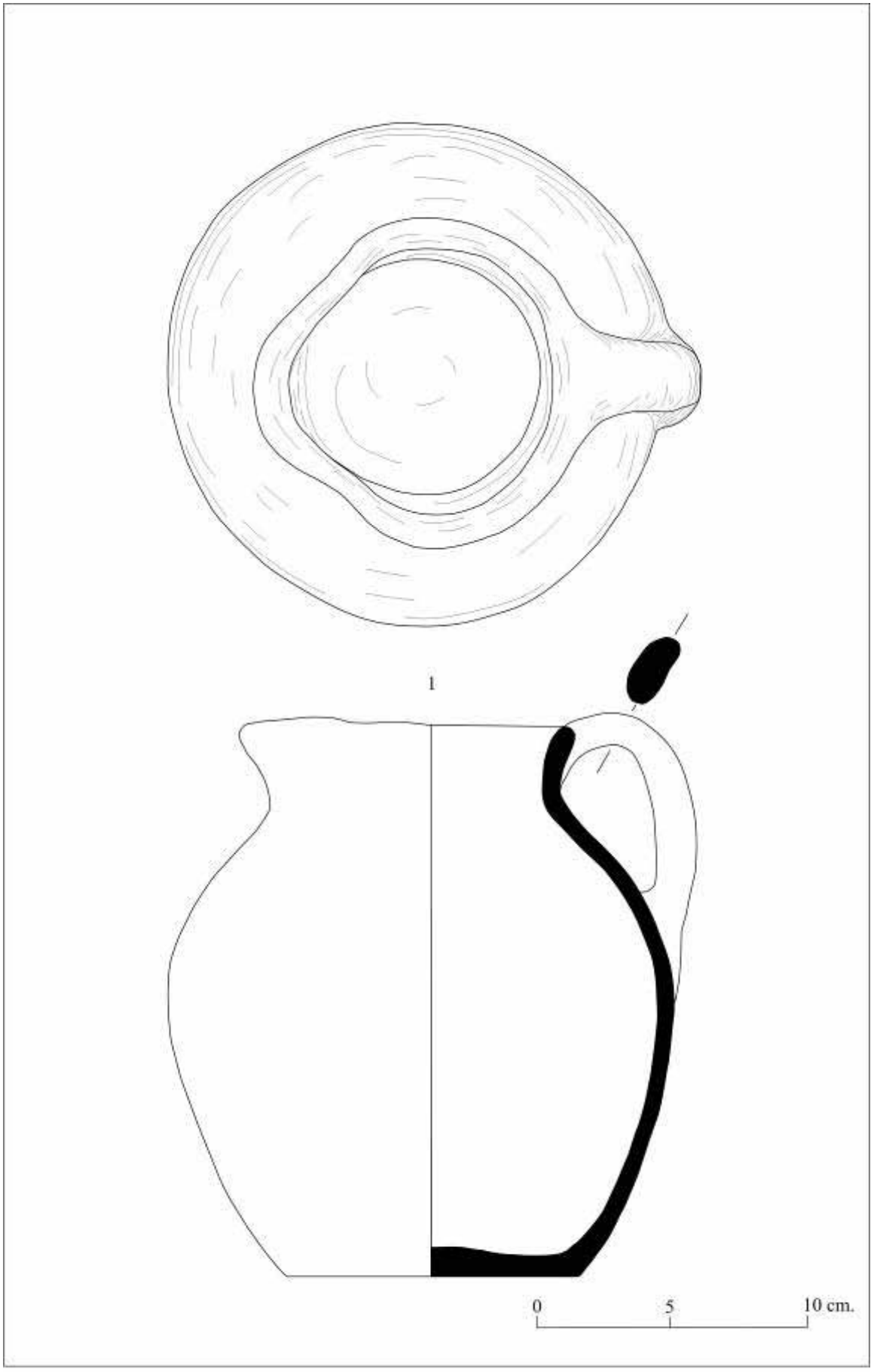
Res./Fig.36

Fig. 37	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 6018-1	Outer part is gray (2.5 Y 5/1), inner part is dark gray (2.5 Y 4/1), cement is black (Gley 1 2.5/N). Little chalk, quartz; moderately stone; dominantly mica, sand. Made by wheel, moderately cooked. Inner part is uncoated; outer part is thinly coated, polished. Wide, simply rounded rimmed, necked, wide bellied, narrowing body to the bottom, pot with a flat bottom. Cooking container.	
2	B 6010-2	Out and inner parts are light reddish brown (5 YR 6/4), cement is yellowish red (5 YR 5/6). Dominantly of chalk, mica, sand, ceramic powder. Made by wheel, moderately cooked, Out and inner parts are uncoated, unpolished. Outward thickening rimmed, short necked, pot with a handle. Cooking container.	
3	B 17007-4	Out and inner parts (10 YR 5/3), cement (10 YR 4/3) are brown. Little chalk, sand; moderately stone, ceramic powder; dominantly of mica. Smooth surface process. Out and inner parts are thinly uncoated, unpolished. Outward-turned, wide rimmed, sharpened rimmed, short, narrow necked, oval pot with a handle. Cooking container.	



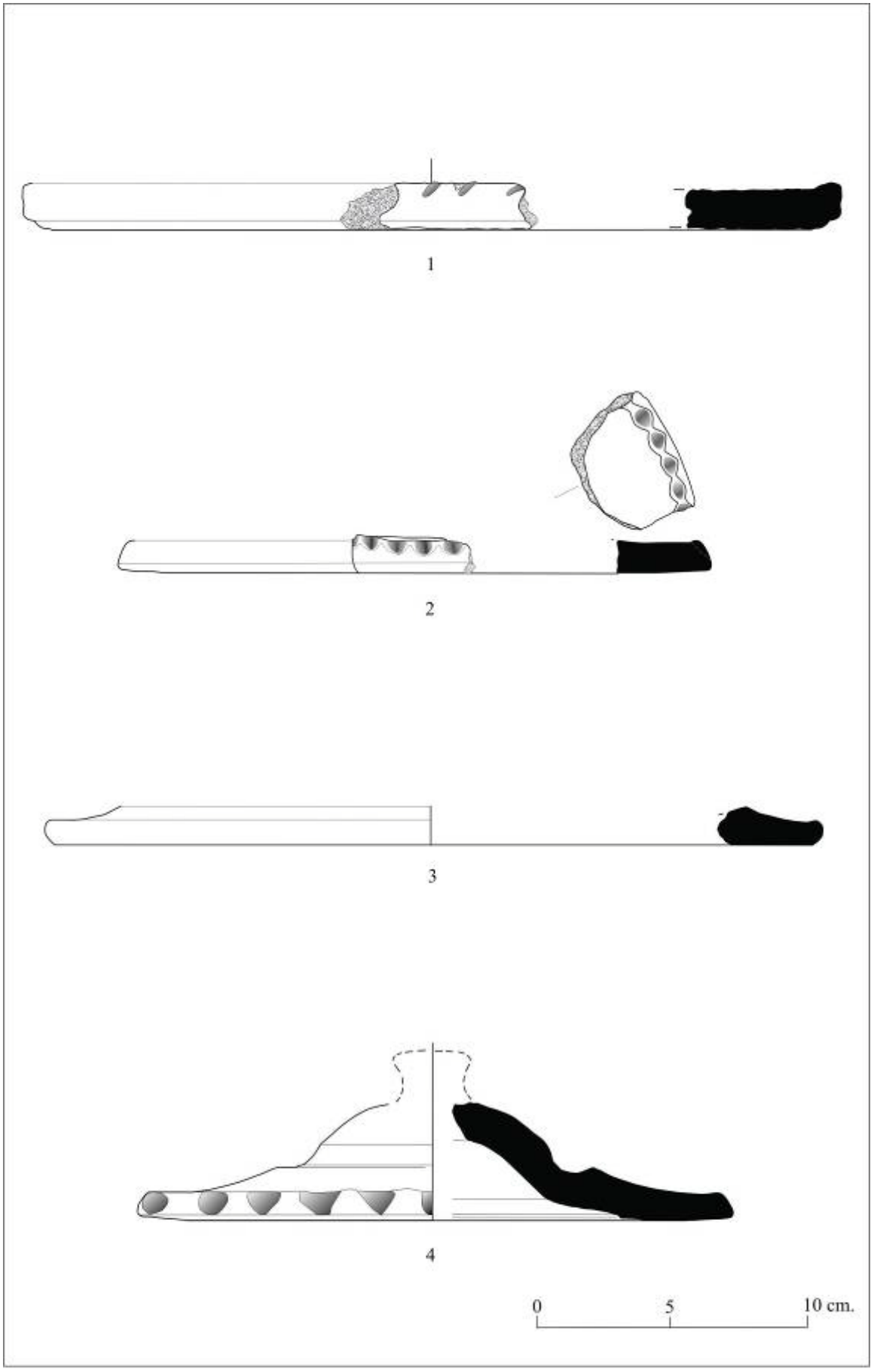
Res./Fig.37

Fig. 38	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 6027	Simply rounded rimmed, clover rimmed, short, narrow necked, oval, flat bottomed, and handled pot. Service container.	



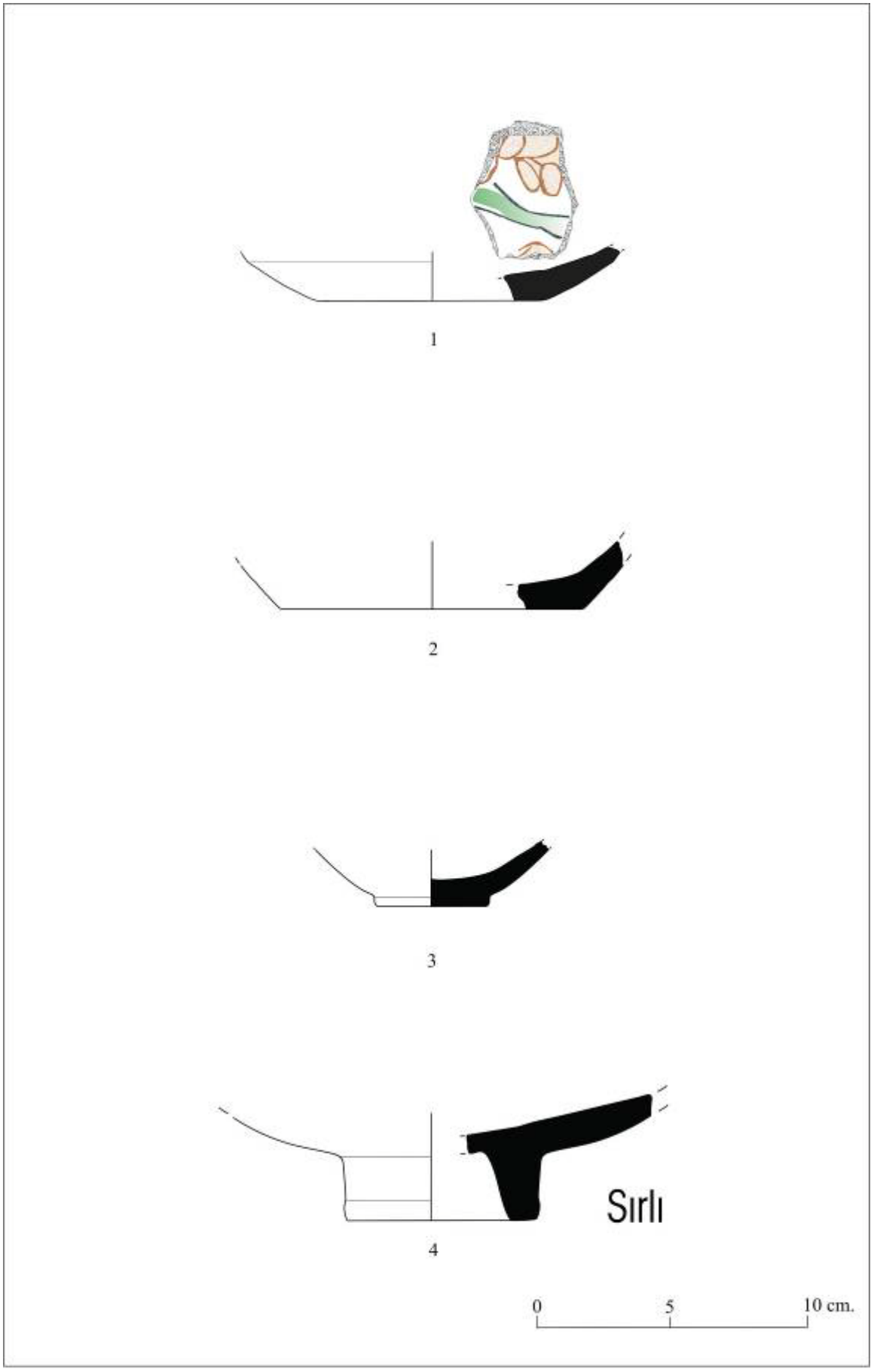
Res./Fig.38

Fig. 39	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	A 16013-3	Outer part is dark brown (7.5 YR 3/2), inner part is brown (7.5 YR 5/4), cement is dark brown (7.5 YR 3/3). Hand made, moderately cooked. Surface is roughly smoothed. Out and inner parts are thinly uncoated, unpolished. Print decoration in the lip.	Gritille (Redford 1998, fig. 3:13/A); Sīrjān (Morgan and Leatherby, 1987, Fig. 57/14); Taşkunkale (McNicholl 1983: Fig. 71-188, 189)
2	B 14006-4	Outer part is reddish brown (2.5 YR 5/4), inner part is light brown (7.5 YR 6/4), cement is dark brown (10 YR 4/3). Little stone, chalk, quartz, vegetable seed; dominantly of mica. Hand made, moderately cooked. Out and inner parts are thinly uncoated, unpolished. Print decoration in the lip.	Taşkunkale (McNicholl 1983: Fig. 71-187
3	B 14028-1	Outer part is brown (7.5 YR 5/4), inner part is light yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4), cement is dark brown (7.5 YR 5/6). Little stone, mica; moderately chalk, ceramic powder; dominantly sand. Made with wheel, moderately cooked. Out and inner parts are normal uncoated, polished.	Taşkunkale (McNicholl 1983: Fig. 82-293)
4	B 10022-4	Inner and outer parts are light brown (10 YR 7/4), cement is yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4). Little chalk; moderately mica; dominantly of stone, sand. Hand made, moderately cooked. Surface is roughly smoothed. Out and inner parts are uncoated, unpolished. Print decoration in the lip, a deep canal on the body.	Gritille (Redford 1998, fig 3:15/Q); Tel Minis (Porter and Watson 1987, Plate 7c); Aşvan Castle (Mitchell 1980: fig. 81-937)



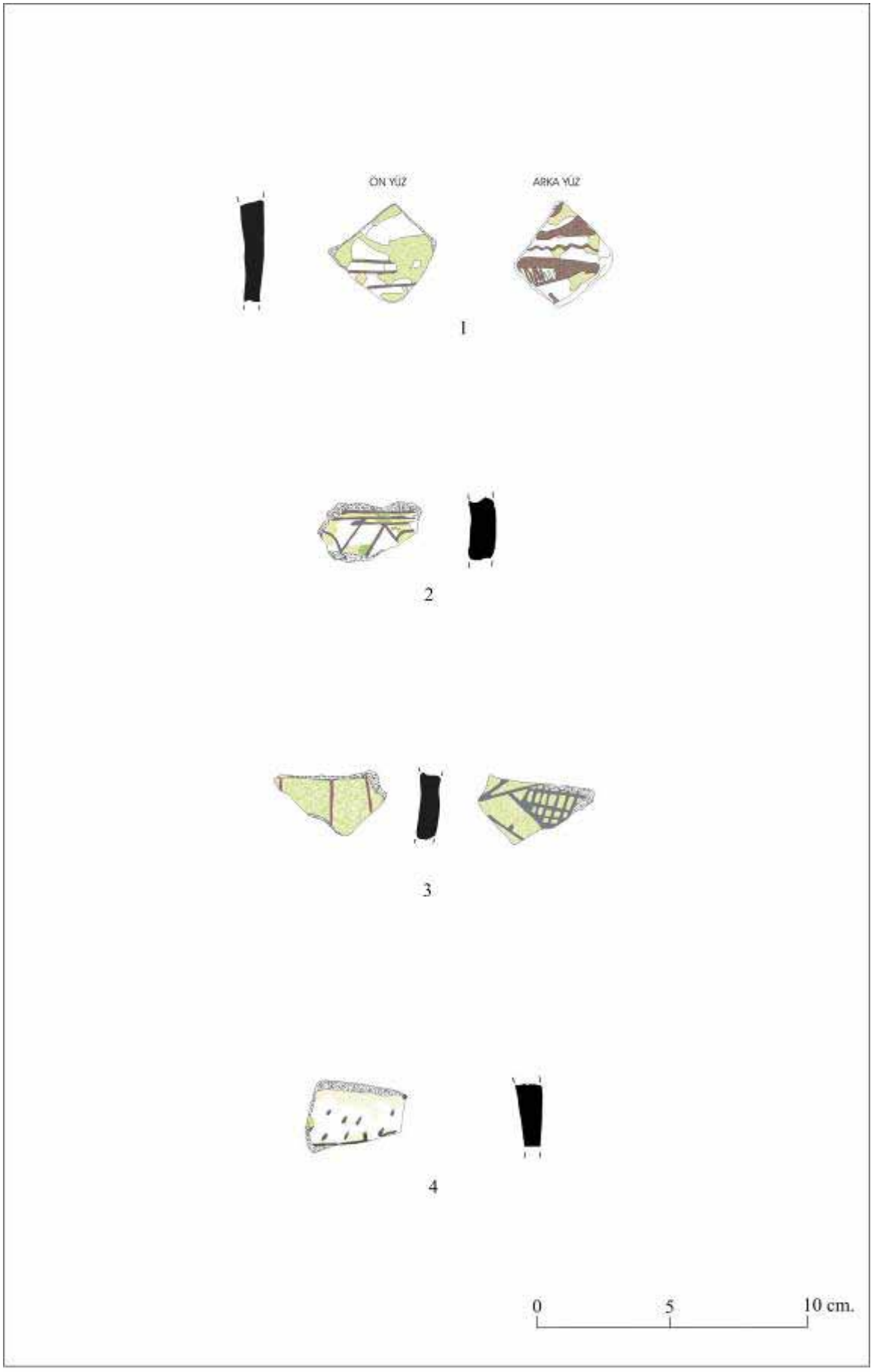
Res./Fig.39

Fig. 40	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 14043-24	Outer part and cement are light red (2.5 YR 6/6), inner part is green grazed. Little chalk; dominantly of stone, mica, sand. Made with wheel, moderately cooked. Smooth surface process. Outer part is uncoated, polished. A glazed green-brown drawing and leaf decoration in the inner part.	
2	B 5030-1	Outer part is reddish brown (7.5 YR 6/3), inner part is light yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4), cement is dark brown (7.5 YR 4/6). Little chalk, sand, ceramic powder; moderately mica. Made with wheel, moderately cooked. Outer and inner parts are uncoated, unpolished.	
3	B 10017-11	Outer and inner parts are pale pink (7.5 YR 7/4), cement is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6). Moderately mica, sand; dominantly of chalk. Made with wheel, well cooked. Outer and inner parts are uncoated, unpolished.	
4	B 5028-1	Brown glaze remnants in the outer part, grass-green colored glazed the inner part; cement is reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6). Little stone, chalk, mica, ceramic powder. Made with wheel, well cooked. Smooth surface process.	Taşkunkale (McNicholl 1983: Fig. 36-92)



Res./Fig.40

Fig. 41	Inventory No.	Explanation	Comparison
1	B 17007-8	Sgraffito glazed body piece	
2	A 5001-2	Sgraffito glazed body piece	
3	B 12017-4	Sgraffito glazed body piece	
4	B 15004-4	Sgraffito glazed body piece	



Res./Fig.41

PART VI
CONCLUSION

The Akmezar site was discovered in 2002 with the surface investigations conducted in the concept of BTC Crude Oil Pipeline Project Basic and Detailed Engineering Stage Works conducted by the Gazi University – Archeological Heritage Management and Administration Unit. The Akmezar rescue excavation in the concept of BTC Crude Oil Pipeline Archeological Rescue Excavations Project which was carried out between 10 July-14 Sepetember was performed by an excavation team from the Gazi University Research Center for Archaeology (GÜ-ARÇED) with the permission of the General Directorate of Cultural Assets and Museums of the Cultural and Tourism Ministry and financial aid of BTC Crude Oil Pipeline Project Directorate and the results obtained from this excavation work yielded valuable data on the Hellenistic Period and Middle Era archeology in the Eastern Anatolia and its vicinity.

The fertile lands of the Erzincan-Çayırlı region with suitable irrigation and transportation possibilities were witnessed various settlements in the history. Although traces of the Hittite and Urartu periods have not been encountered in limited archeological works conducted in the region, it is known that the region is one of the important settlement areas particularly during the Roman and following periods. The Hellenistic Period ceramics obtained from the rescue excavation in Akmezar show great similarities, with respect to cement and typical characteristics, particularly to those dated as Hellenistic Period in the Bayburt surface investigations conducted by A. Sagona and his team. The Hellenistic Period ceramics obtained from the Bayburt surface investigations and the Akmezar rescue excavation in the Erzincan-Çayırlı region are very important since they indicate the distribution of Hellenistic Period ceramic in northern Anatolia. However, on the basis of available data, it is quite difficult to determine import and local characteristics of the Hellenistic Period ceramics in the region. No production center relevant to the Hellenistic Period in the region has been discovered so far.

The Middle Era ceramics obtained from the Akmezar rescue excavation which comprise another group show the characteristics of 11-14th centuries. Among the ceramics of this period, especially container forms, limited number of sigraffito glazed ceramics and decoration techniques on the containers are indicative of the late Middle Era. In addition to ceramics, correlations on glass, metal and other findings also reveal the characteristics of 11-14th centuries.

Since architectural remnants found in the Akmezar excavation are extremely damaged, they cannot reveal the plan of the place or structure they belong to. It can be said that the Akmezar settlement was moved to Başköy due to an unknown reason. It is known that Turkish population during the Akkoyunlu and Karakoyunlu Periods was intensely settled in the Erzincan and Çayırlı regions. The ram sculptures **(Figure 42)** and other remnants particularly in Başköy and other villages also indicate the mobility in demographic structure of the region. Following the 1473 Otlukbeli war, Turkish population in the region had increased.

Figure 42: Başköy graveyard.

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