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## LH III C LATE: AN EAST MAINLAND – AEGEAN KOINE

When writing *RMDP* I isolated a possible East Mainland – Aegean pottery Koine from the appearance of particular shapes, often in White Ware, decorated with particular motifs (*RMDP*, 53–54). This material is found at a range of east Mainland sites, but is best stratified in settlement contexts in the Argolid at Mycenae and Asine and on Euboea at Lefkandi (Fig. 1). It is equivalent at Mycenae to Lion Gate Strata X and XI, the Bath Grave and the Granary East Basement Upper Level (WACE 1921–23, 20–61; *RMDP*, 61–62), at Asine to the House G Room 32 deposit (FRÖDIN – PERSSON 1938, 74–76) and at Lefkandi to Phases 2b–3 (POPHAM – SCHOFIELD – SHERRATT 2006, 166–180). In *RMDP*, 38–40 I reassigned the Lefkandi phases because stylistic reassessment of the material suggested that Lefkandi Phase 2b might begin in LH III C Middle Advanced, but should belong almost entirely to LH III C Late, not to LH III C Middle Advanced, as stated in *MDP*, 133 Table II, 155. The LH III C Late Phase 3 is a continuation of Phase 2b. This reassignment seems to have met with general acceptance.

The movement of the Lefkandi phases also effects the phases at Kalapodi. As a result Kalapodi Schicht 9–10, equated by M. Jacob-Felsch to Lefkandi Phase 2b, should now be LH III C Late not LH III C Middle (JACOB-FELSCH 1996, 97); Schicht 11–12, equated to Lefkandi Phase 3, remain as LH III C Late (JACOB-FELSCH 1996, 97). Jacob-Felsch notes that White Ware is most prominent in Schicht 10, albeit in small quantity, which also matches Lefkandi Phase 2b (JACOB-FELSCH 1996, 97). The White Ware at Kalapodi was identified by E. Schofield (JACOB-FELSCH 1996, 97).

### THE GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT OF THE KOINE

The pottery of this koine appears on the Mainland in the Argolid, in the Demeter Sanctuary at Ancient Corinth, in Attica at Perati (Phase III), in Phthiotis at Kalapodi and in Thessaly in sherd material at Velestino; it may also be present in Phthiotis at Kynos in Level 4, where White Ware is mentioned (DAKORONIA 2003, 45–46). On Euboea it is found at Lefkandi.

The koine extended across the Cyclades. On Kea the pottery from the LH III C re-use of the Temple at Ay. Irini forms part of this ceramic koine. The Temple re-use has been divided into three stages (CASKEY 1984, 241–253). The first LH III C floor level in Stage 1 has White Ware (CASKEY 1984, 246 fig. 4a, 248 fig. 6c), which appears in small quantity in Lefkandi Phase 2a and becomes popular in Phase 2b (POPHAM – SCHOFIELD – SHERRATT 2006, 167. – SCHOFIELD 2007); the latest floor level, Stage 2, also had a White Ware krater on the floor (CASKEY 1984, 246 fig. 4c–d). The pottery from both Stage 1 and Stage 2 is homogeneous and dates to LH III C Late. The two kylikes illustrated from the latest architectural Phase, Stage 3, also date to LH III C Late (CASKEY 1984, 241–243). Even though more than one architectural phase is represented, it seems that all the re-use of the Temple occurred within the LH III C Late phase, at a time equivalent to Lefkandi Phases 2b, 3.

There is similar pottery from settlements on Paros at Koukounaries, on Siphnos at Ay. Andreas and on Chios at Emporio. Occupation was resumed at Koukounaries at some point after a destruction early in LH III C Middle Advanced, but remains are few suggesting to the excavator a squatter occupation; the pottery dates to LH III C Late and apparently includes vases in a

ware akin to White Ware (SCHILARDI 1984, 203–204). The LH III C Late pottery suggests there is occupation at Ay. Andreas on Siphnos. Little pottery is published, so it is not possible to know if habitation was continuous through LH III C Middle or if there was a break. The pottery is not LH III B2 as published (PHILIPPAKI 1981, 226. – For a synopsis of the LH III C Late pottery see *RMDP*, 887–888. – See also TELEVANTOU 2001). At Emporio Area F Stage 7 and Area D Stages I and II can be assigned to LH III C Late (*RMDP*, 1147–1148).

On Naxos at Grotta the Minoan influenced LH III C Middle style of Town II continues in LH III C Late, but alongside it there are also vases in the East Mainland Koine Style. Apart from two LH III C Late stirrup jars from Aplomata (Fig. 2) which may be Attic or Argive imports, in *RMDP* I did not assign pottery from the Aplomata and Kamini tombs to LH III C Late, as there is no stratigraphy in the Aplomata tombs and the Kamini tombs are unpublished (*RMDP*, 939), but some assignation is now possible as a result of Vlachopoulos' work on the settlement material; he dates Aplomata to LH III C Middle and Kamini to LH III C Middle Advanced and LH III C Late (VLACHOPOULOS 2003, 221). However, the presence of the two stirrup jars suggests Aplomata may also continue into LH III C Late. In the Aegean this koine thus covers Kea, Siphnos, Paros, Naxos and Chios, but deposits from Kea, Paros, Siphnos and Chios are very limited. To these places can now be added Bademgedği Tepe close to the west coast of Turkey (MERİÇ 2003). The LH III C pottery at this site comes from Level II; it consists of wash from further up the slope caught by the fortification wall. All the LH III C phases seem to be represented, but there is no stratigraphy, so assignation can only be stylistic.

#### THE SHAPES AND MOTIFS OF THE KOINE

Where possible I have used stratified material, but pottery of this class is also present in mixed Phase II and III tombs at Perati (IAKOVIDIS 1969/70), in tombs at Asine (FRÖDIN – PERSSON 1938, 151–192, 354–421), at Epidauros Limera in Laconia (DEMAKOPOULOU 1968), and as cremation urns in the tumulus in the Kanzavelou plot in Argos (PITEROS 2001), to mention the chief examples.

There are five main shapes and all are large: the amphora FS 69-70, large jug FS 106, hydria FS 128, straight-sided krater FS 282 and large basin FS 294, 302. To these I would now add two small shapes, the one-handled conical bowl FS 242 and the deep bowl FS 285, the latter in a monochrome version with reserved lower body and interior rim band and in a version with multiple wavy lines.

The main motifs used in the koine are illustrated Fig. 3. Some motifs differ from the LH III C Middle forms. The scroll now has larger coils which may be slightly spiraliform; stemless spirals may have more coils; tassel may be thinner and stringy rather than fat droplets and necklace pattern may also be long and stringy. On closed shapes decoration may run over the edge of the decorative zone into the shoulder bands (Fig. 3:5). Vertical handles may slant inwards at the base and have large hooks below, often antithetic and often with multiple coils; horizontal handles are decorated in the long-splash system, that is one long splash along the handle and one round each stub, all with long tails reaching down the belly. Apart from the monochrome deep bowls, the decoration is open ground. White Ware is used for the vessels from Euboea, Phthiotis, Attica and Kea.

The amphora, jug and hydria are often neck-handled and have long hollow rims. The amphorae (Figs. 4, 8:1) are all neck-handled. Figs. 4:2, 8:1 have a very large scroll running into the shoulder bands and Fig. 4:2 a large hook below the handle. Fig. 4:1,3 have a cross on the handle. This feature may start in Lefkandi Phase 2a (POPHAM – MILBURN 1971, 352 fig. 14; – POPHAM – SCHOFIELD – SHERRATT 2006, 163); it becomes more popular in Phase 2b (POPHAM – SCHOFIELD – SHERRATT 2006, 173). The handles of Figs. 4:1–3, 8:1 are in-slanting at the base, especially Figs. 4:1, 8:1. Neck-handled amphorae with cross down the handle and elaborate scroll are also mentioned from Koukounaries (SCHILARDI 1984, 204). Although

Aplomata is assigned to LH III C Middle an amphora (Fig. 4:4) with scroll, cross down the handle and a large hook below it might be LH III C Late. It has a heavy rolled rim instead of the usual hollow rim and the handles are not in-slanting, but the cross on the handle suggests a LH III C Late (Lefkandi Phase 2b) date is possible.

The examples of the large jug (Fig. 5) all have a long hollow rim. The shape can be neck-handled or rim-handled. The handles (Fig. 5:1–3) are in-slanting at the base; the necklace and stemless spirals in combination on the Perati vase is a common combination; the necklace is the stringy type. A neck-handled jug from Aplomata (Fig. 5:4) also with long hollow rim, stringy necklace, stemless spirals and a large handle hook might be LH III C Late. As in the case of Fig. 4:4, it does not have an in-slanting handle.

The hydriae (Fig. 6:1–2) have a large hook below the handle, Fig. 6:1 with the long splash system on the horizontal handles. In contrast to other shapes, the hydria may have decoration on the belly as well as the shoulder. The hydria from Velestino (Fig. 6:3) has scroll and the edge of antithetic hooks round the handle; the scroll now has an inner coil. The vase from Ay. Andreas (Fig. 6:4) has multiple coiled antithetic hooks; they are probably below a vertical handle, but the handle is not extant and it is just possible that stemless spirals are represented. A complete hydria from Ay. Andreas with in-slanting handle is illustrated in TELEVANTOU 2001, 207 fig. 10. Fig. 7:1 from Bademgediği Tepe with long slightly hollowed rim could belong to any of the three shapes just discussed, as also Fig. 7:2 from Troy found in House 761 in VIIb2 context. It has a large scroll and on the left is the tip of what would be a hook below the handle. The Athens pieces (Fig. 7:3–4) are from the fill of the Fountain House. The fill is LH III C Middle Advanced, but I wonder if these sherds could be LH III C Late, since multiple coils are more a feature of this phase than LH III C Middle. Indeed, the multiple coils below the handles are extremely similar to those on the Siphnos hydria (Fig. 6:4), supporting the idea that handle coils are represented on the Siphnos piece. A vertical handle from the Fountain House, which might belong to this phase, has a probable cross down it (*RMDP*, Attica no. 430). There is also a vertical handle in White Ware with cross down it from the Demeter Sanctuary at Korinth (RUTTER 1979, 365 cat. no. 21 pl. 91).

The krater (Figs. 8:3–5, 9) is the most characteristic vase of the koine. It is straight-sided with square rim and corresponding banding on exterior and interior at rim and belly, the belly generally with three bands out and two bands in; the rim may have three and three bands, three and two, or two and two. The Perati vase (Fig. 9:3) is unstratified, but its shape and decoration suggest it belongs to the koine type. The Kalapodi vase (Fig. 9:7) is uncanonical with slightly rounded rim and a monochrome interior, but it obviously belongs to this group; it comes from Schicht 11, a LH III C Late Schicht (JACOB-FELSCH 1996, 150 no. 264). Main decoration on these kraters usually consists of wavy line or running spiral, the latter often with open centre which may have cross fill. Antithetic loops and triglyph also appear. The Granary vase (Fig. 9:1) has quadruple wavy lines and the long-splash system on the handle, but the rim banding is not typical; the rim is also slightly rounded. Fig. 9:11 from Bademgediği Tepe has the edge of an unidentifiable motif and a local version of the rim; indeed, the rim of the spiral krater Fig. 9:10 is also not quite square. Other pieces belonging to this shape from Lefkandi include POPHAM – SCHOFIELD – SHERRATT 2006, fig. 2.11:7 (with uncanonical rim banding) and fig. 2.13:8,9. Pieces which may belong to this shape (unfortunately they are illustrated with photos only, so the interior banding is unknown) include POPHAM – SCHOFIELD – SHERRATT 2006, pls. 44B; 45B:4; 51:4,6,7. Variations of the decoration are shown by pl. 51:4 with antithetic loops flanking a lozenge and pl. 51:6 with widely spaced triple wavy lines. Two White Ware krater rims from the Demeter Sanctuary at Korinth with square lip may also belong to this type of krater, but too little is extant to be sure (RUTTER 1979, 366 cat. nos. 29–30 fig. 2). This krater type is also present at Kynos (I thank F. Dakoronia for this information). There are also rim sherds from at least 20 of these kraters from Grotta; they have main decoration of spiral, wavy line or triglyphs (I thank A. Vlachopoulos for this information). The rim diameter

of these kraters is generally 30–36 cms, but those from Bademgediği Tepe are much larger, ca. 46 cms. Those from Perati, Kea and Euboea are of White Ware, as also the possible fragments from Ancient Corinth.

The spouted basin Fig. 8:7 also has a square rim with similar corresponding banding. It is in White Ware. A squared-rim fragment in White Ware from the Demeter Sanctuary at Corinth has a monochrome interior and a normal rim band. It could belong to FS 294 without a spout or to FS 302 (RUTTER 1979, 368 cat. no. 62 fig. 2).

The one-handled conical bowl (Figs. 10–12) has a wide distribution. I have previously suggested (MOUNTJOY 2007, 587–589) that the shape might have moved across the Aegean to the Mainland and perhaps originated in Cyprus, since there are LH III C Early examples there and at nearby Tarsus. This idea was based on the fact that there were no examples in good LH III C Early contexts from the Mainland. Sherds had been illustrated from Tiryns, but with two handles and it was unclear if they were wrongly restored on paper or if they really had two handles and belonged to another shape. Now in a recent publication Podzuweit has stated that the sherds were wrongly restored on paper and has illustrated a few other examples from Tiryns in LH III C Early context (PODZUWEIT 2007, 82 n. 366, pl. 45:7–15). He further notes that the shape does not seem to be common in the Argolid (PODZUWEIT 2007, 83). The shape is very rare at Mycenae. One example in LH III C Early context is now published, but it is described as a round-based version not a conical one and it is suggested that it resembles the shape of a Cypriot Milk Bowl, but with a round horizontal handle instead of a wishbone handle (FRENCH – TAYLOUR 2007, 25). Thus, a Cypriot origin for the shape might indeed be possible. However, it is clear that it is present in LH III C Early on the Mainland, rather than appearing there in LH III C Middle. In Cyprus, the shape is already present at Maa in both Period I and Period II at this site (MOUNTJOY 2007, 588–589), equivalent to LH III C Early Phase 2 (Fig. 10:2–3). A possible prototype comes from Kition Tomb 9 Upper Burial with two strap handles instead of one round handle (Fig. 10:1). This would be LH III C Early Phase 1 (MOUNTJOY 2007, 588–589). The shape is common in the unstratified LH III C pottery at Tarsus (Fig. 10:4–10) on the south coast of Turkey, a short sail from Cyprus. The bulk of the LH III C pottery from Tarsus is LH III C Early suggesting that the bowls should also be this date (MOUNTJOY 2005, 83–134). There are a few monochrome interiors, but usually the interior is linear with concentric circles or spiral in the base, the latter perhaps derived from Cyprus, where the spiral is common on the interior base of deep bowls. Then the shape is found in the Aegean in LH III C Middle Advanced contexts (Fig. 11) at Emporio, Aplomata, Kamini and Grotta (VLACHOPOULOS 2003, 225 fig. 8), at Phylakopi on Melos, at Lefkandi, at Kalapodi where it appears in Schicht 6 (JACOB-FELSCH 1996, 96), in the Athens Fountain House and at Perati. Interiors usually seem to be monochrome. The bowl is then found in LH III C Late (Fig. 12) at Lefkandi in Phases 2b, 3 and on Kea (Fig. 8:2). The unstratified examples from Bademgediği Tepe have a low ring base (Fig. 12: 3<sup>rd</sup> row) or a high conical base (Fig. 12: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> rows); on analogy with bowls from other sites, the low ring bases might belong to Early and Middle LH III C and the high conical to LH III C Late. The Kea vase also has a high conical base, but oddly the Lefkandi Phase 2b and 3 vases have a low ring base. LH III C Late interior decoration seems to be monochrome at Lefkandi; the Kea bowl also has a monochrome interior with reserved centre base; bowls from Bademgediği Tepe may have concentric circles or a spiral on the interior base; those with monochrome interior seem to belong to the type with low ring base. The Grotta examples have a low ring base not a high one (I thank A. Vlachopoulos for this information).

The monochrome deep bowl (Fig. 13) with reserved base or lower body, narrow reserved line on the lower belly and on the interior lip may also belong to this koine. The examples from Bademgediği Tepe (Fig. 13:6–7) have a deep oval body moving towards that of Protogeometric shapes; one also has a relatively high conical foot. The bowl from Lefkandi Phase 3 (Fig. 13:5) also has a deeper body. The deep bowl with flowing wavy lines (Fig. 14) appears at Mycenae,

Asine, Kea (Fig. 8:6) and Bademgediği Tepe. It has a monochrome interior with reserved band below the rim, except the Bademgediği Tepe vase (Fig. 14:3), which has the multiple bands local to this site. A rim sherd from Lefkandi with double wavy lines (POPHAM – SCHOFIELD – SHERRATT 2006, pl. 45A:4) looks from the photo as though it may belong to a deep bowl. Other possible motifs which might be used in the koine (Fig. 15) are antithetic loops (Fig. 15:1), narrow wavy line (Fig. 15:2), panelled pattern (Fig. 15:3) and tassel (Fig. 15:4). The Bademgediği Tepe bowl (Fig. 15:2) has the long splash system on the handles. Further excavation/publication may produce bowls with these motifs at other koine sites.

Other possible candidates for inclusion in the koine are the trefoil-mouthed jug FS 137 and the tray FS 322. The trefoil-mouthed jug (Fig. 16) is not limited to the koine, but examples found in the koine have the koine decoration of stemless spirals with open centre (Fig. 16:1) and necklace (Fig. 16:2). Unstratified examples have running spiral (*RMDP*, Attica no. 549, 555) or wavy line (*RMDP*, Argolid no. 393). Examples from Lefkandi have necklace and necklace with wavy line (POPHAM – SCHOFIELD – SHERRATT 2006, pl. 43:5,6). There are several rim sherds from Bademgediği Tepe (Fig. 16:3–4). The unstratified jug from Laconia (Fig. 16:5) lacks the rim and might not have a trefoil mouth, but, even if not, its decoration suggests it should still belong to the koine.

The tray (Fig. 17) may be a candidate. It first appears at Lefkandi in Phase 2a, but may have been more popular in Phase 2b (POPHAM – SCHOFIELD – SHERRATT 2006, 195). It is not a common vessel, perhaps because of specialised use. However, the fact that it is present in Phases 2b–3 at Lefkandi with similar examples across the Aegean at Bademgediği Tepe permits its inclusion. There are several bases at Bademgediği Tepe with multiple concentric circles (Fig. 17:5) similar to those of the Lefkandi example (Fig. 17:3). Trays are also found at Kalapodi especially in Schicht 8–12 (JACOB-FELSCH 1996, 41–42).

The shapes and motifs belonging to the koine are a continuation of the LH III C Middle Advanced Granary Style; but there are some differences. The two large open shapes, the krater and basin, with distinctive square rim and reduplicated banding on exterior and interior, are a new addition in this phase (but see STOCKHAMMER this volume). This examination is based on stratified material; there are a number of similar vases from less well stratified contexts, especially tombs. The koine does not seem to appear further north than Thessaly.

It is possible that on the Mainland the koine is not limited only to the east, in which case it is a pan-Helladic style and not a koine. However, as far as I know, with one exception the vessels of the Eastern Koine with their particular shapes and motifs do not appear in the west Mainland. The exception is a conical bowl FS 242 from Tragana in Messenia with a monochrome interior and a very high conical base (KOUROUNOTIS 1914, 104 fig. 6:5). As far as I know it is the only example of this shape from the west Mainland. I have not had access to this vessel to know if it is imported or locally made. A neck-handled hydria from Ramovouni: Lakkathela in Messenia (*RMDP*, Messenia no. 133) is decorated with tassel, but has the wide base found on vases in this area; it seems to be a local copy. More settlement deposits from western Greece might show these vases with their particular decoration were all present, but this seems unlikely, since there are none among the hundreds of vases extant from tombs in Achaea and Kephallonia.

The koine range of shapes and motifs is very small and only makes up a part of the corpus at each site. However, the vessels seem to be locally made at each site, as far as I can tell (I have not seen the Paros and Siphnos material), and the shapes and motifs have little variation, suggesting that it is indeed a koine. Whether it is a koine or not, the presence of this idiosyncratic material in stratified contexts, especially the kraters, could be a useful dating criterion for LH III C Late at sites with little or no stratigraphy.

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Fig. 1 The East Mainland and the Aegean

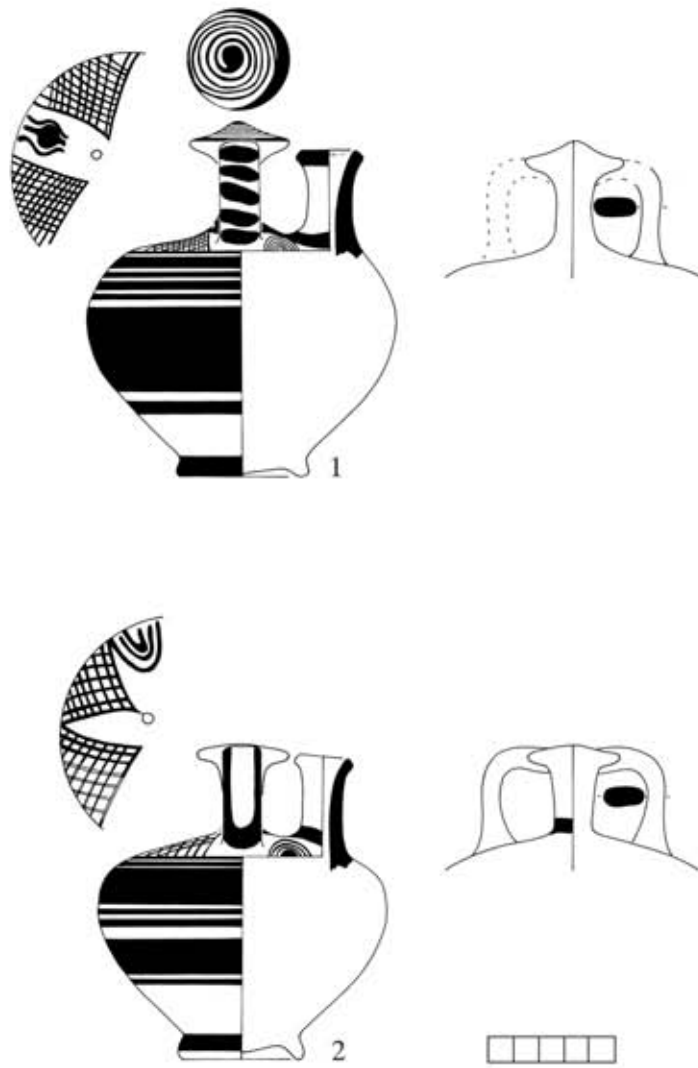
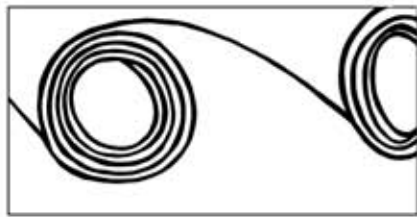


Fig. 2 Stirrup jars from Aplomata



1

FM 46 Running spiral open centre



2

FM 46 Running spiral cross centre



3

FM 48 Scroll



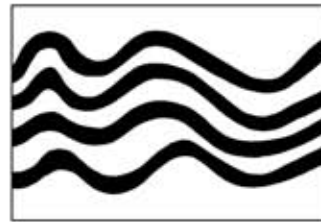
4

FM 50 Antithetic loops



5

FM 51 Stemless spirals



6

FM 53 Multiple wavy line



7

FM 72 Tassel



8

FM 72 Necklace



9

Handle hooks

Fig. 3 LH III C Late: East Mainland – Aegean Koine Motifs

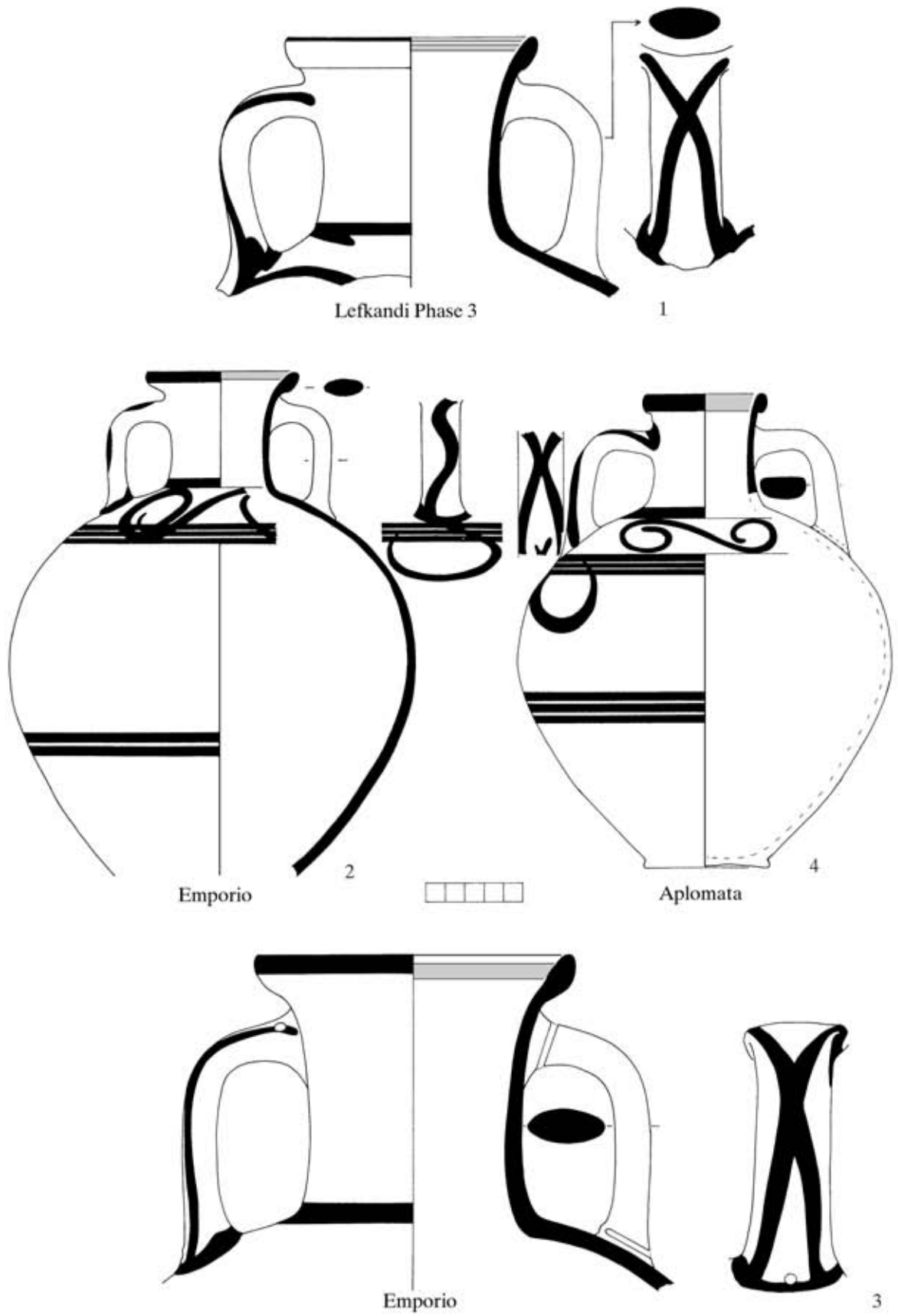


Fig. 4 Amphora FS 70

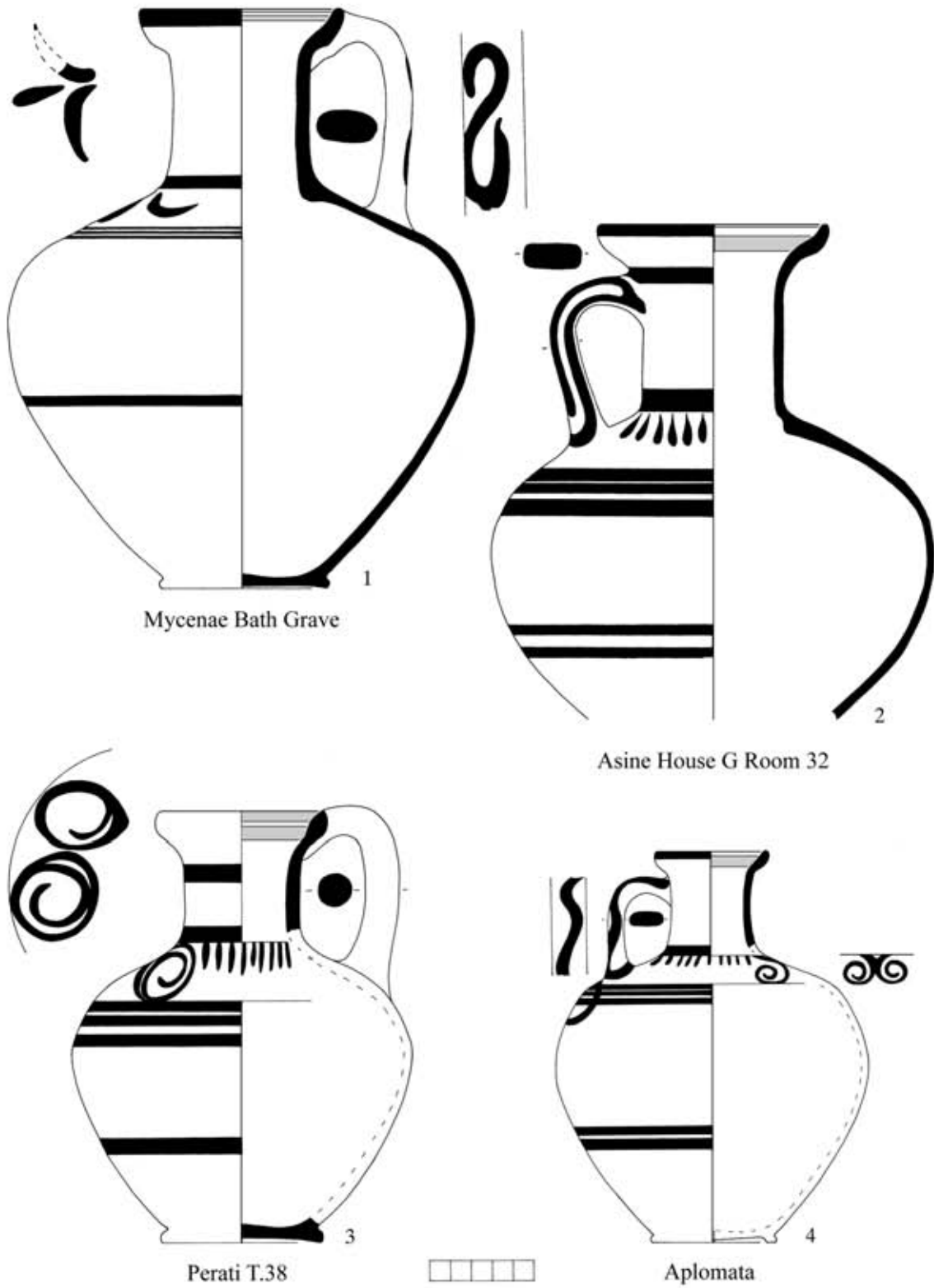


Fig. 5 Jug FS 106

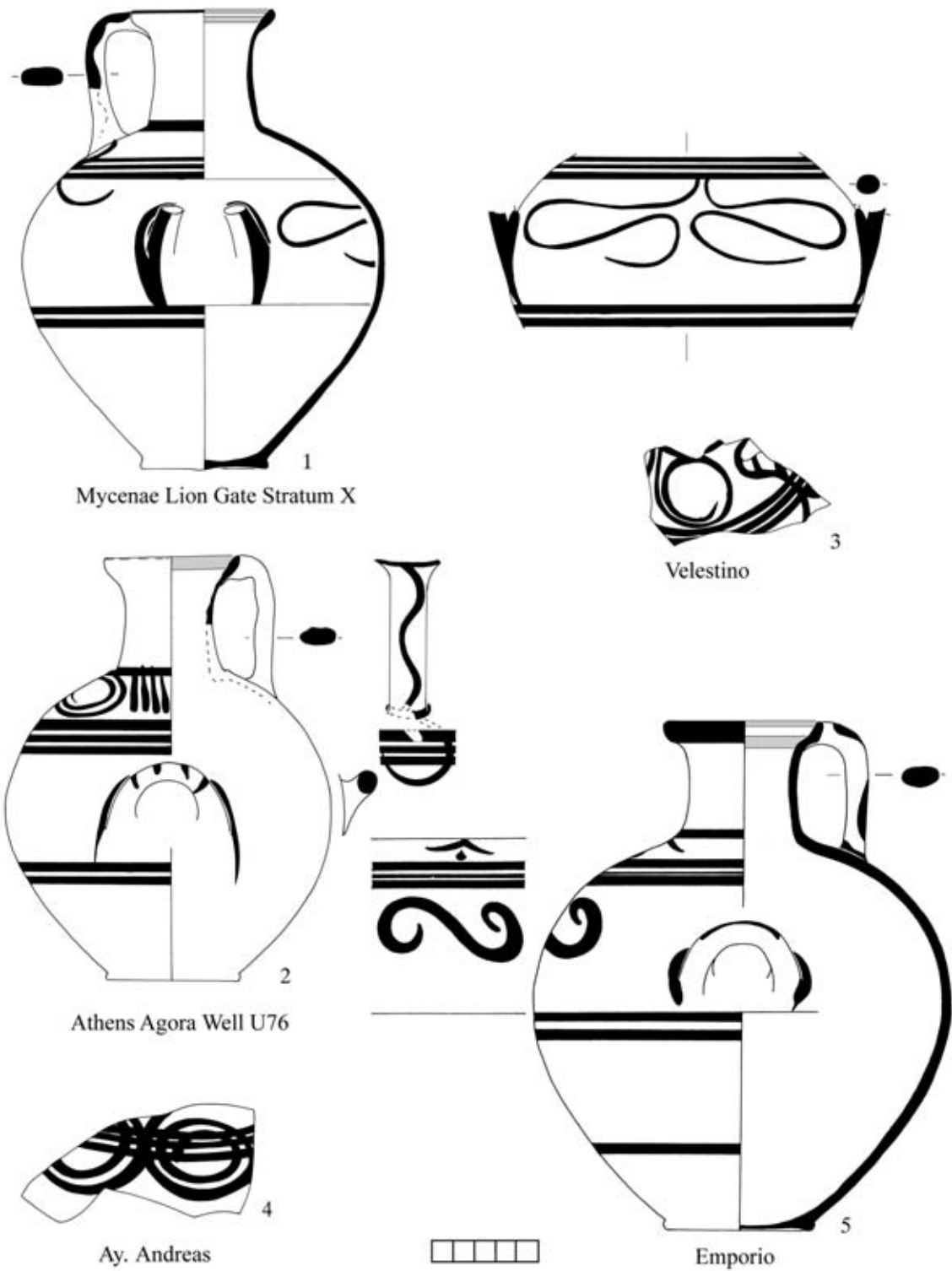


Fig. 6 Hydria FS 128

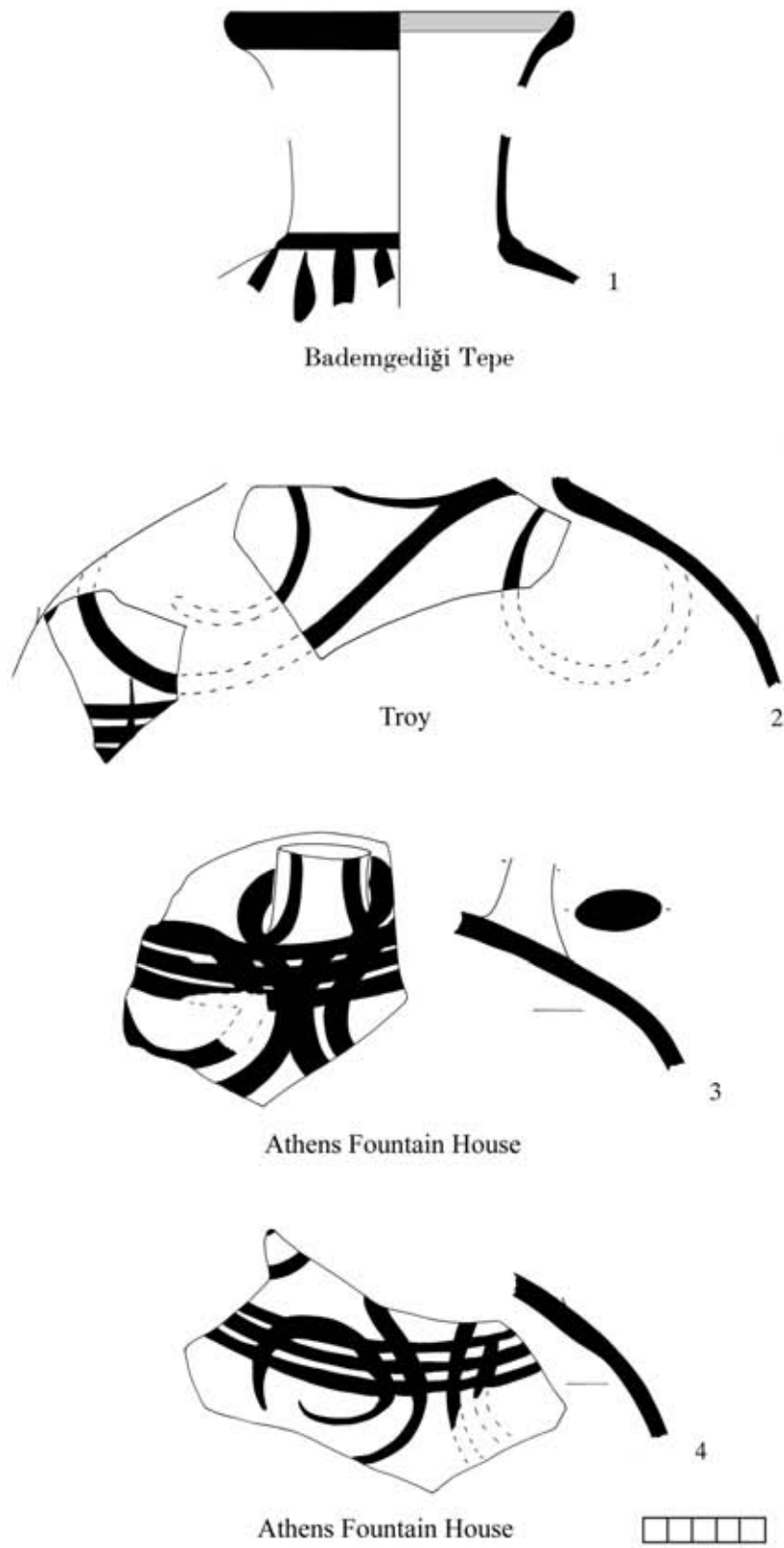


Fig. 7 Amphora FS 69-70/ jug FS 106/ hydria FS 128



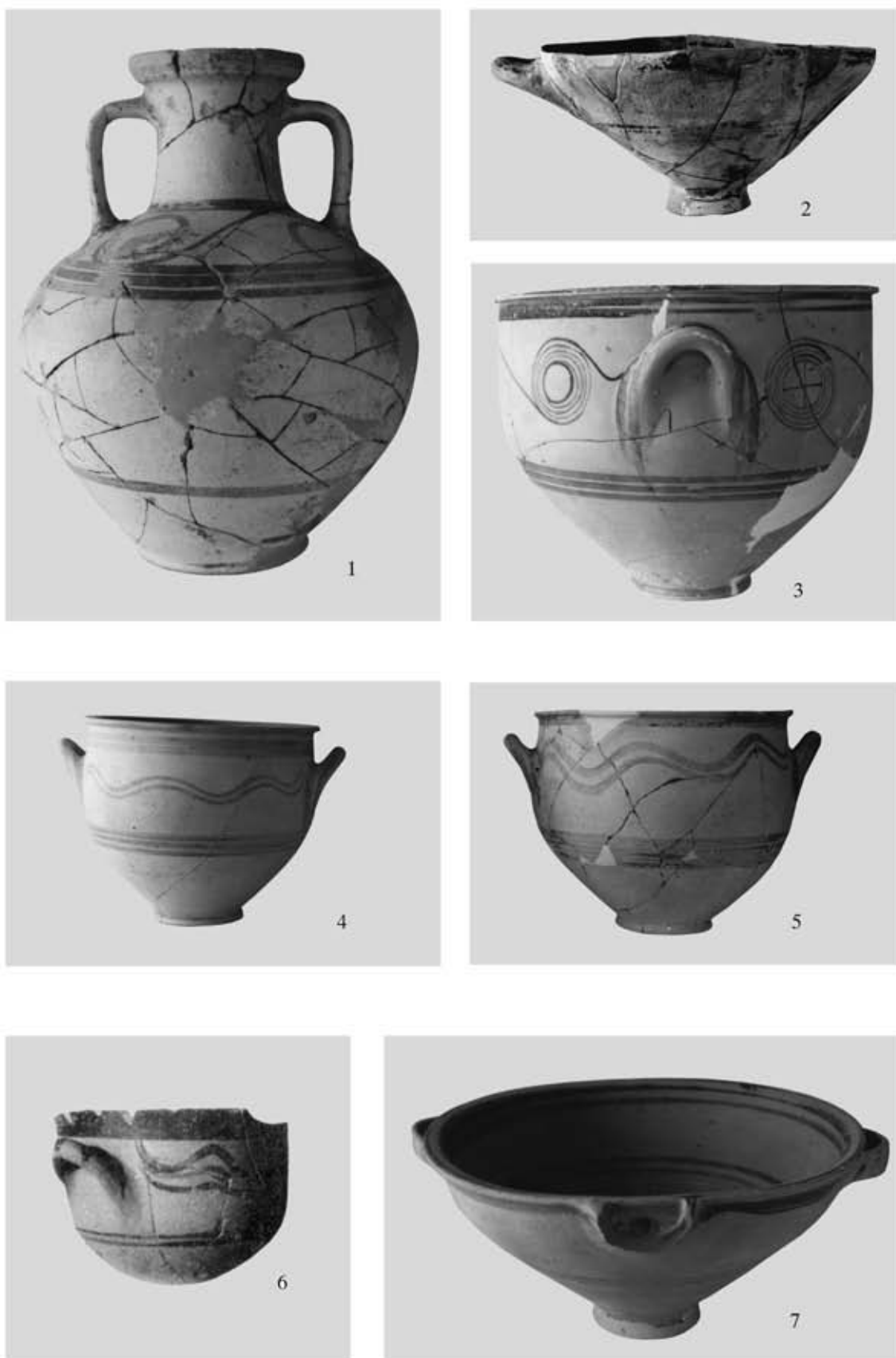


Fig. 8 Ay. Irini



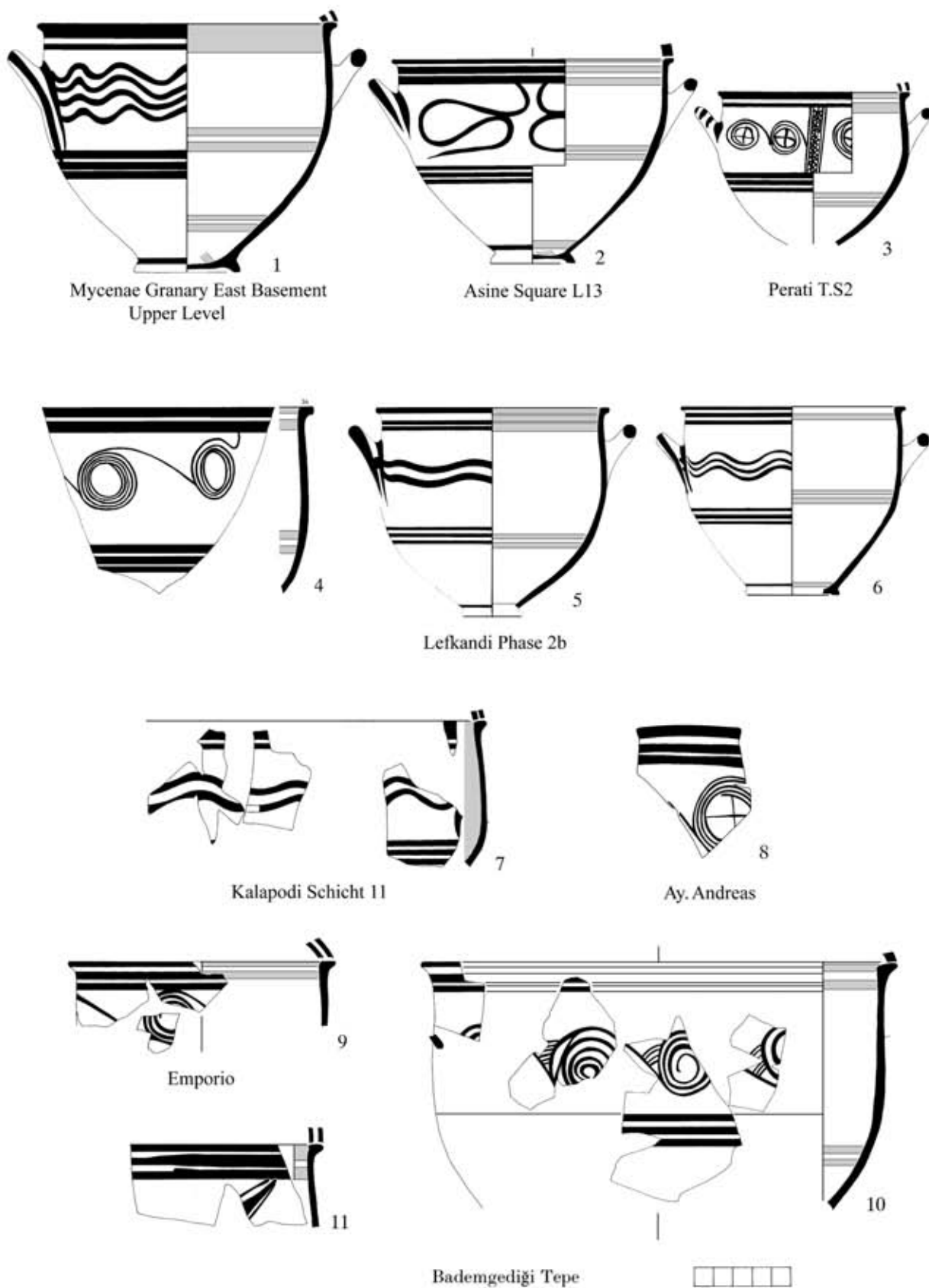


Fig. 9 Krater FS 282 (not to scale)

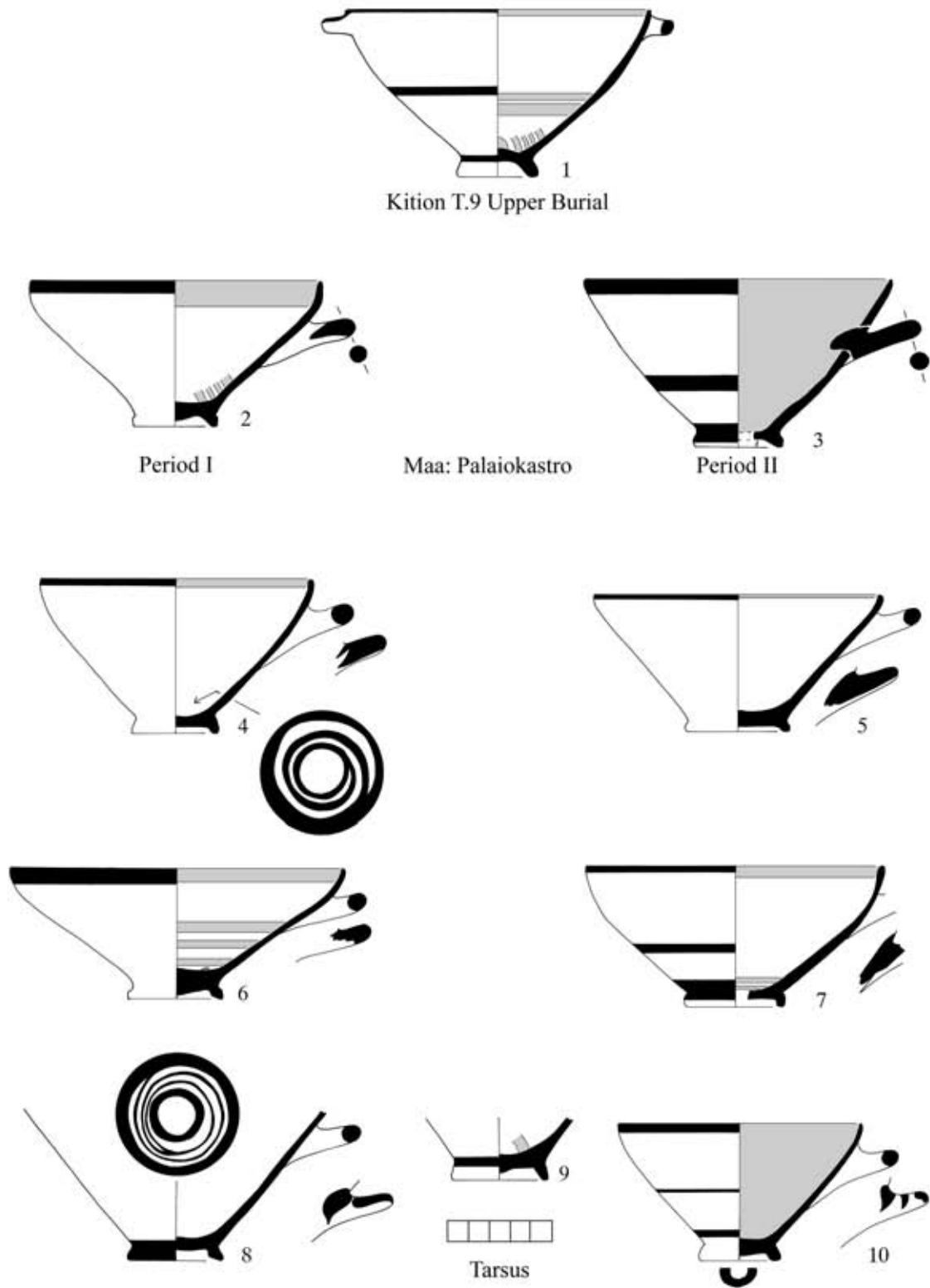


Fig. 10 One-handed conical bowl FS 242: LH III C Early

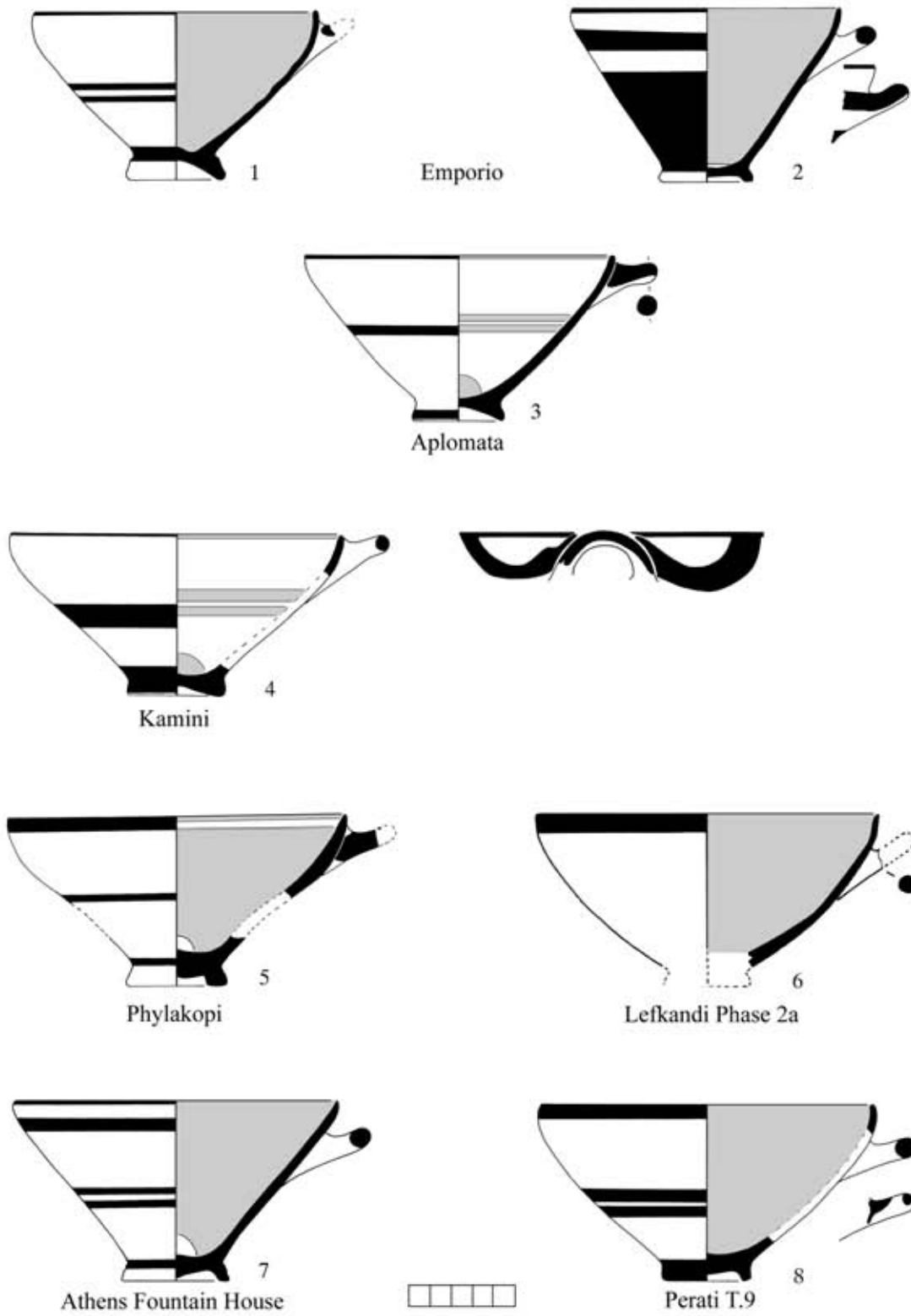


Fig. 11 One-handed conical bowl FS 242: LH III C Middle (Advanced)

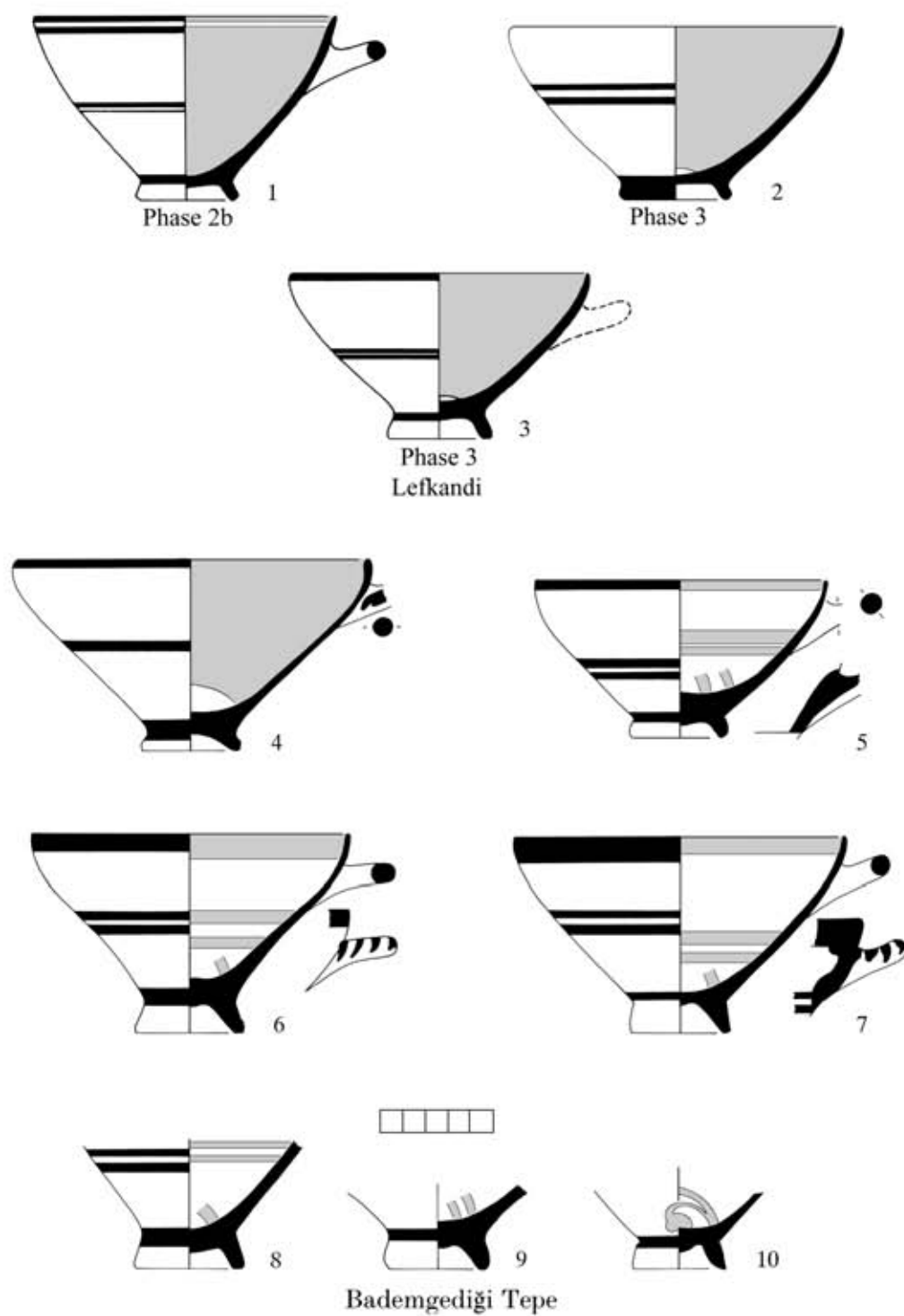


Fig. 12 One-handed conical bowls FS 242: LH III C Late

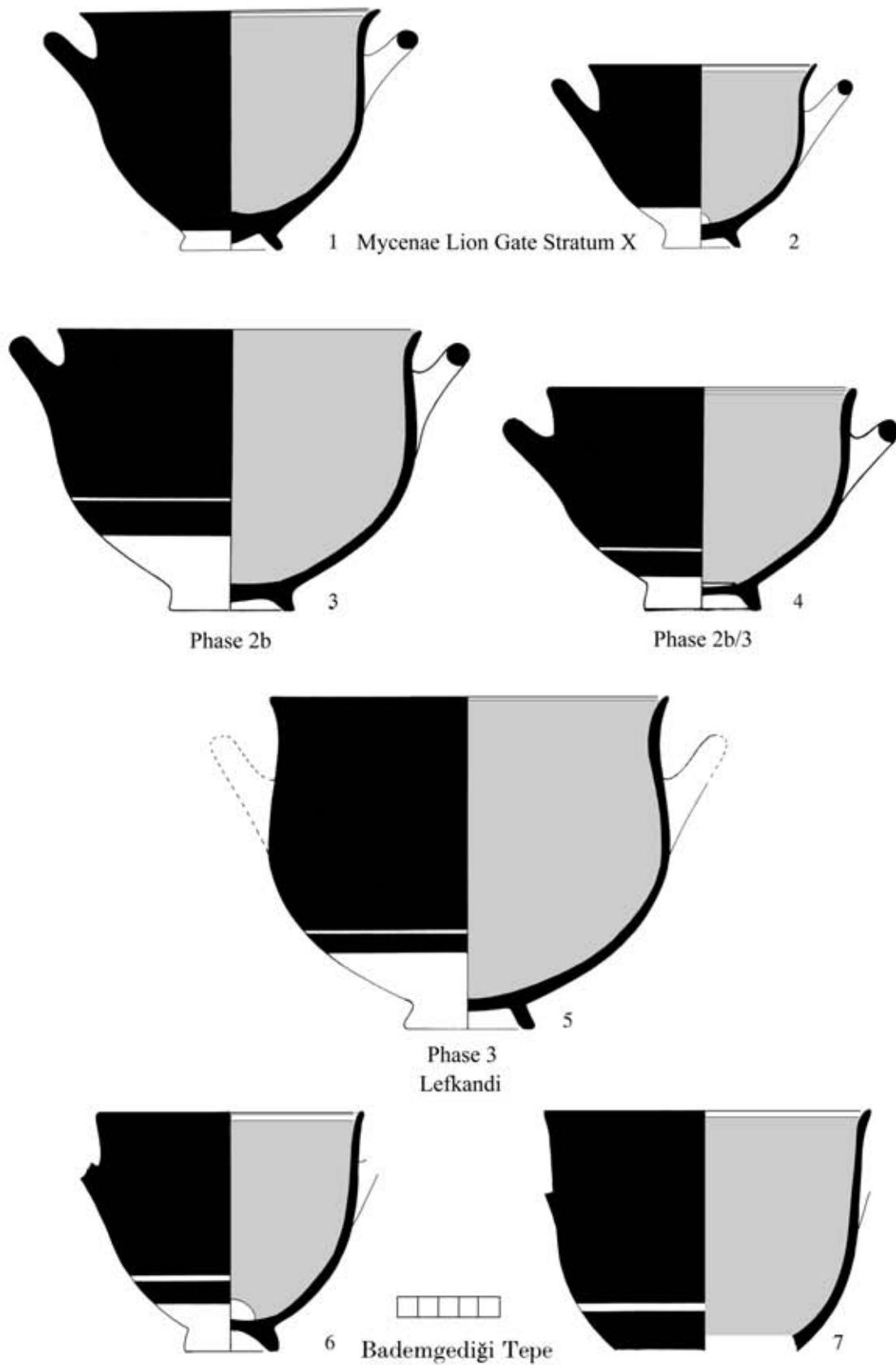


Fig. 13 Deep bowls FS 285 monochrome with reserved lines/lower body

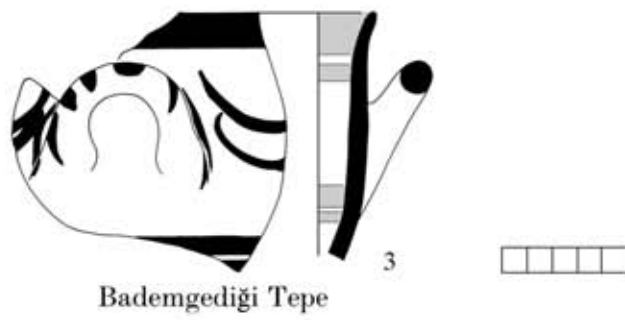
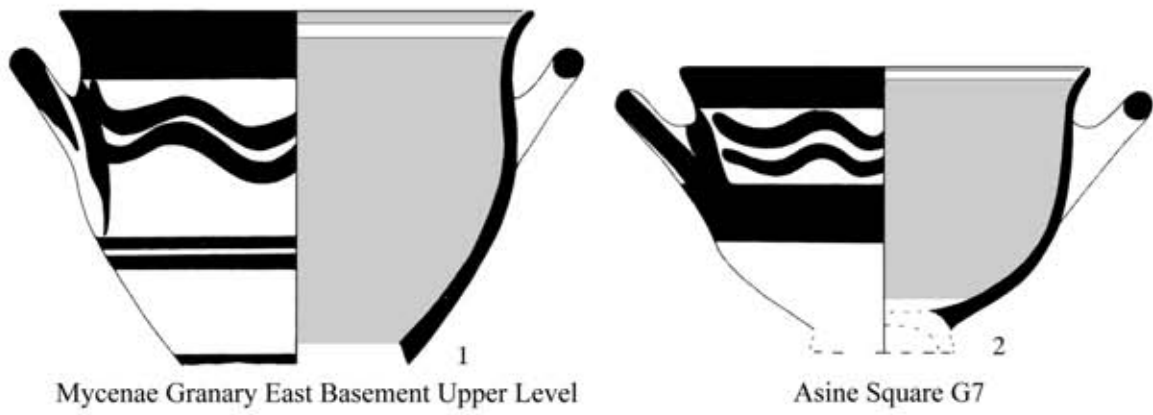


Fig. 14 Deep bowl FS 285, wavy lines

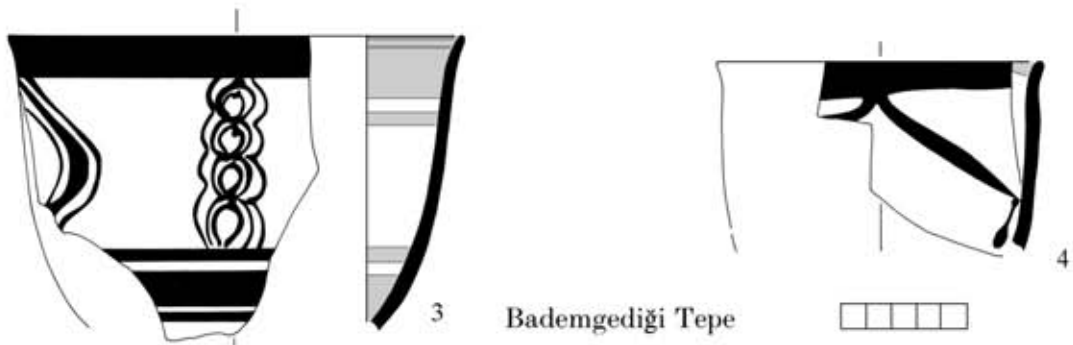
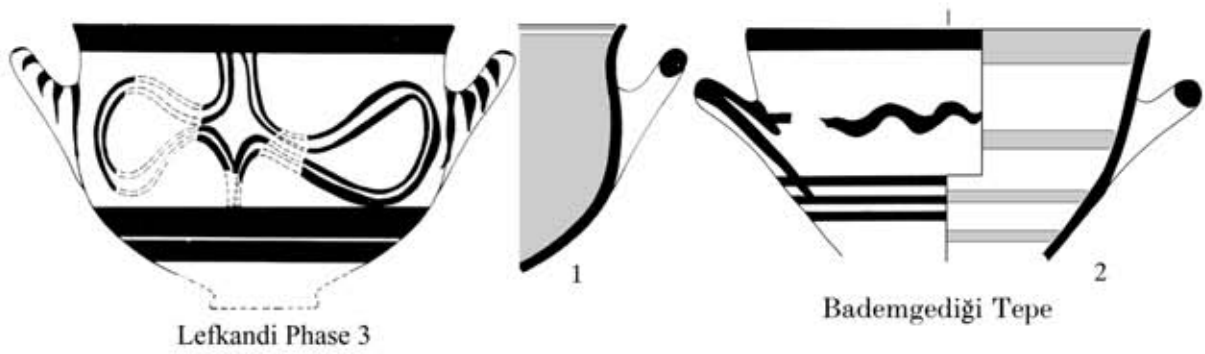


Fig. 15 Deep bowl FS 285

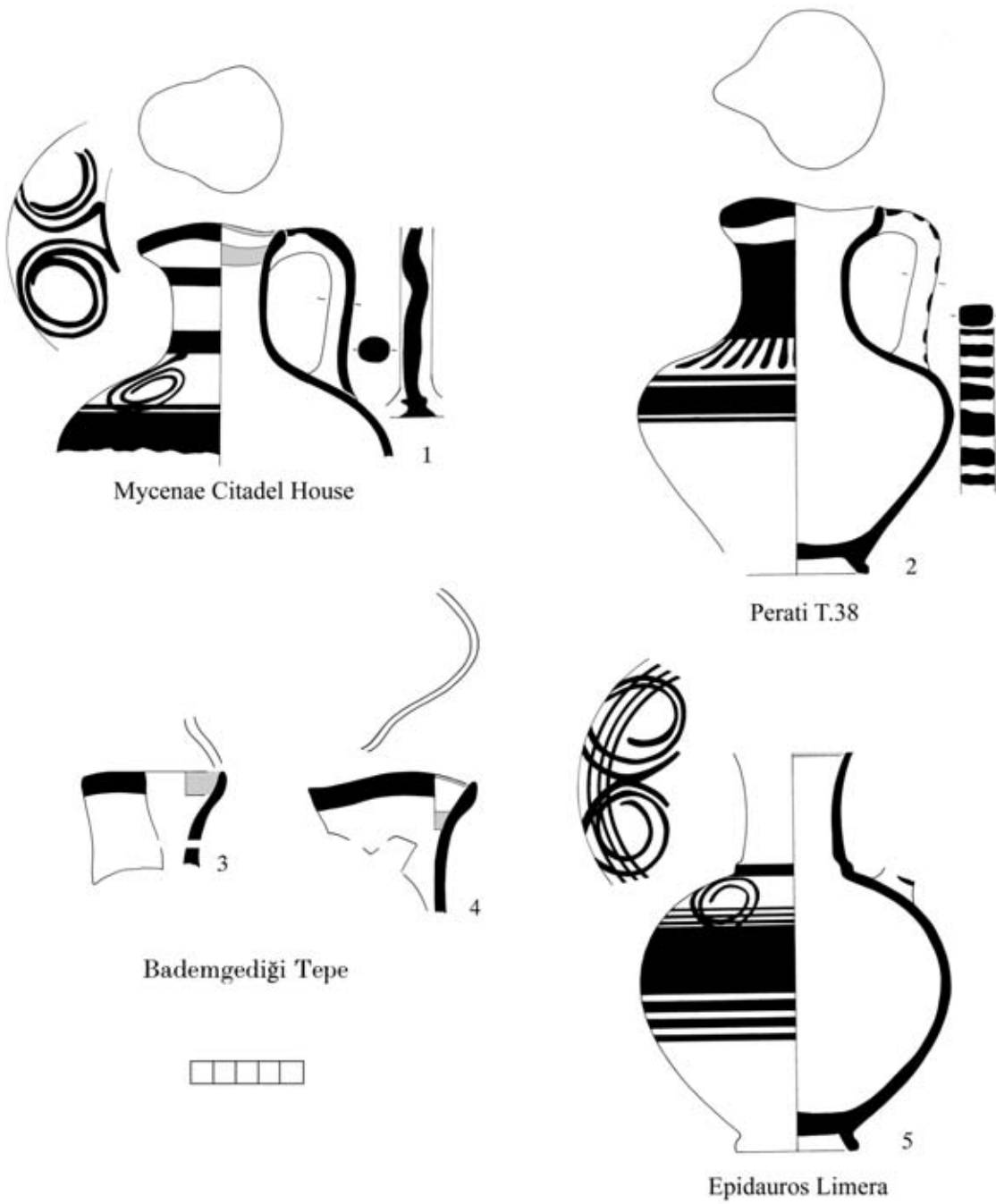


Fig. 16 Jug, trefoil-mouthed FS 137

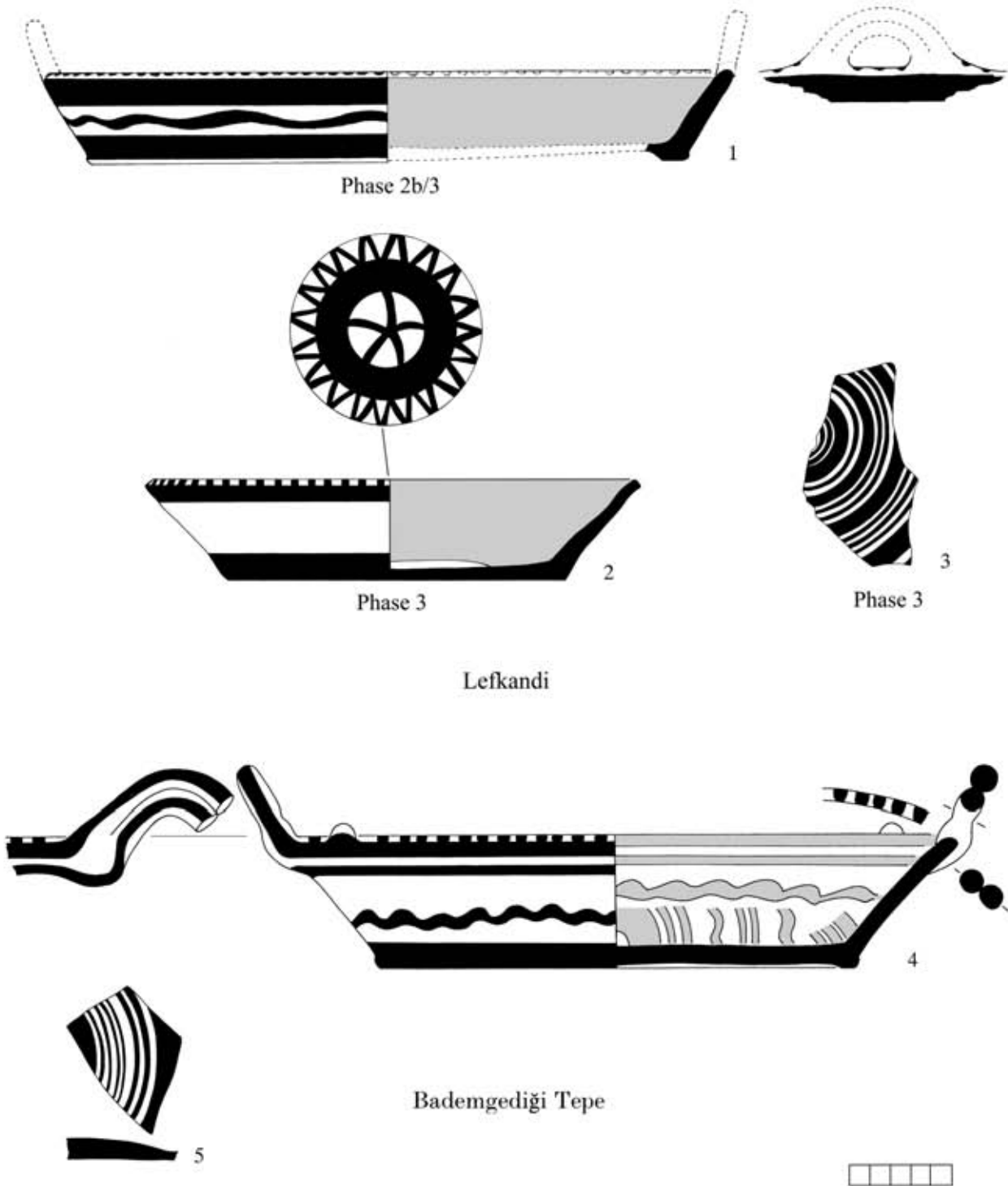


Fig. 17 Tray FS 322