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KYNOS' PACE TO THE EARLY IRON AGE

Obviously it is not necessary to refer to Kynos in detail since it was presented during the previous two Workshops to which the reader can refer to for any information. Meanwhile the elaboration of the archaeological material of the excavation of the site has been enhanced with financial support from the Institute of the Aegean Prehistory. However, the elaboration of this material is not yet completed, so that, if and when a fourth workshop takes place, we are sure that Kynos will have something new to contribute.

The observations concerning the successive occupation of the site as described during the first Workshop are still valid. Some of the results of the recent elaboration are presented today and they consist of the complete ground plans of two succeeding phases of the settlement, which followed the LH III C period at Kynos.

We avoid determining the phases by naming them with recognized formal terms such as Submycenaean, Dark Age, Early Iron Age and so on and we refer to them as Kynos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and so on, because we do not want to contribute to the confusion that occurs with an overall applied dating. In this paper we intend to describe the situation that prevails at Kynos at the beginning of the Early Iron Age.

Kynos 1 and 2 belong to the Early Byzantine and Roman periods respectively. It is ascertained that from the Roman period up to the Early Byzantine period, successive constructions were built upon the remains of buildings from the preceding eras, either using them as foundations or cutting them partly, when needed. The same practice has been applied throughout the entire lifespan of the settlement. The disturbance caused by each new building activity resulted in affecting the stratigraphy.

The Early Byzantine remains, as well as those of the Roman period, were dated by the pottery, coins and the general building techniques. The Romans carefully leveled the debris of all previous phases in order to settle the site and occasionally dug deep into the preceding occupation levels to construct their foundations into layers dating from the Protogeometric to the LH III C late periods, according to the pottery collected from these levels. The sherds found near and along the Roman foundations range from the Roman period to LH III C Late. However, in the space between the Roman walls the stratigraphy remained intact and provided useful elements, such as floors, destruction layers and so on.

Referring back to some disturbances and disorders in the stratigraphy, these can be justified taking into consideration that the excavated part of the hill lies at the NW end of the plateau, where the surface begins to lower to the slopes and previous intense cultivation of the area took place.

The architectural remains of Kynos 4,¹ located at the southernmost area of the excavation (Fig. 1) were discovered immediately beneath later levels. They consist of the poorly preserved

¹ Due to new elements derived from a small scale excavation at the south-eastern profile of the Kynos grid, which took place in September 2007, the present text is different from the paper presented during the Workshop of February 2007. The differences have to do with the enumeration of the habitation levels and the final ground plans of each structural phase. A new phase, distinguished 0.10 m higher among the Early Protogeometric remains, was named Kynos 3 and consequently the numbers of previous phases should be enumerated, i.e.

dry-stone foundations of five sections of walls² and two groups of flat stones, which could be the remains of support bases.

Only one room's ground plan can be outlined. This room (A) is possibly rectangular with an east-west orientation and measures 9.60 m × 4.80 m. At the middle of the room a base of a post consisting of four flat stones was discovered. At a distance of 1.90 m west of the room A, the north-western corner of a second room (B) was revealed. Another base of a post outside and westwards of room A, consisting of two flat stones axially located, indicates the existence of a third room (Γ). These three rooms display common characteristics such as orientation, structure and alignment so that we are permitted to conclude that all of them belong to the same complex.

The fragmentary condition of the preservation of room A, due to later building activities, does not allow us to determine the position of its entrance. Considering, however, the orientation of the building and the fact that the site is exposed to the northerly winds, especially during winter, one could expect the presence of an entrance to the south (WELLS 1983, 82). It could be an axial one on the SW short side of the building or a side entrance, although the second case is more frequently encountered in buildings of a sacred character (MAZARAKIS-AINIAN 1997, 257).

The foundations were constructed of some small flat stones and others, of medium size, roughly worked, embedded in earth fill. Some of the flattened stones were large, flat pebbles, smoothed by the action of the sea and presumably collected from the nearby coast. Gaps in the masonry were filled by wedging smaller stones or chips of stones. During the excavation, due to the successive disturbances, it was not possible to determine the extent and the technique for the construction of the upper structure of these walls. However, the discovery in related strata of burnt lumps of mud bricks suggests that the LH III C practice of mud-brick construction, a practice used during the Early Protoegeometric Period (WELLS 1983, 33), was applied at Kynos 4 too. The foundations were roughly parallel to the inclining ground level and they were preserved up to 0.50 m in height. Underneath them a medium-hard brown layer, containing fragments of burnt mud-bricks and pithoi extended, obviously the destruction layer of the previous period of habitation.

As mentioned, the successive occupations of the site and the building activities had resulted in previous structures either being disturbed or destroyed. This is the reason why no sign of a plastered or paved floor has been detected belonging to the buildings described here. For the same reason, no clear indication of how the building was roofed over has been ascertained. However, some indirect evidence of the level of the floor and the kind of roof has been discovered during the excavation, in the form of the remains of two possible bases for wooden posts described above (Fig. 2). One of these bases was found at a distance of 1.80 m south of the conceivable extension of the north wall of the room A. The evidence permits us to deduce that this room was roofed. However, the evidence available is not sufficient to conclude whether it had a flat or pitched roof (MAZARAKIS-AINIAN 1997, 258). The presence of a second base, west and outside of room A permits us to suspect the existence of a third adjacent room (Γ) as has already been referred to.

Just to the East of the base of room A, attached to it, a broken handmade amphora was discovered lying on its belly. Among its sherds and the soil two burnt bones and sherds of a skyphos were found, suggesting the amphora had been possibly used as a burial urn (DAKORONIA 2003, 41). The amphora is made of fairly pure hard clay and has decoration of incised circles

Kynos 4, Kynos 5 and so on. After the new finds we had to reevaluate the elements available and as a result new ground plans were executed slightly different to the ones shown during the Workshop. The new phase is named Kynos 3 and the excavational data as well as the pottery collected show that this habitation phase succeeded the earlier phase 4 immediately after its destruction and that the latter did not last long.

² Nos. T6, T7, T12, T13α, T64.

with a cross drawn by a pointed tool on its shoulders (Fig. 3). Handmade vases with incised decoration have been found at many Protogeometric sites and they are related to burial practices (BOUZEK 1974, 12–13. – BOUZEK 1985, 189–194).³ The custom of burying children within the settlements during the Protogeometric period is not unknown (MAZARAKIS-AINIAN 1997, 250. – WELLS 1983, 34) and does not necessarily imply a sacred character of the building (MAZARAKIS-AINIAN 1997, 282).

The evidence available does not allow us to obtain a clear picture of the type of building described and of its function. One can deduce that perhaps we have part of a rectangular structure divided into several rooms, a plan known among buildings of this date (DRERUP 1969, 78. – WELLS 1983, 33, fig. 7. – HÄNSEL 1989, 171–208. – MAZARAKIS-AINIAN 1997, 234–235, 249–251. – WARDLE 1983, 301–303. – WARDLE 1987, 318–321), although not abundant. According to other relevant examples it is also not unlikely that the described Protogeometric foundations of Kynos belong to a group of dwellings in a settlement (DRERUP 1969, 31–36).

Architectural remains of the phase Kynos 4 and the area they occupy, allow us to conclude that we are dealing with a building of fairly large dimensions, which had at least three rooms placed on the same axis. If so, the architectural type of the building represents a rare one, belonging to a settlement with an organised plan.

With regards to the date and the function of this building, we have been aided by artefacts and the pottery collected from the relevant strata.

The artefacts found in the horizon of Kynos 4 are the following: clay spindles, conical or biconical, steatite spindles, conical and biconical (Fig. 4), and spools of badly fired coarse clay (Fig. 5). Perforated sherds from vases of various size and quality can be interpreted by their shape, either as spinning and weaving implements or as fishing weights (Fig. 6). The latter mentioned artefacts that are sherds in second use, could be counted as a sign of an early recycling effort.

Artefacts, such as whet-stones, grinders, hammers, and mortars, are also collected from this layer (Fig. 7). Bone tools are also present. No metal artefacts have been discovered apart from two lead net sinkers. The character of the artefacts described speaks for a small scale handicraft.

The pottery collected from the same horizon consists mainly of sherds, some of which are mended to vases or parts of vases (Fig. 8). The majority of recognizable sherds belong to open shapes with the prevailing shape being that of skyphos followed by the cup. Kylix and crater are represented too, as well as some kalathoi and trays, though only by a handful of indicative sherds.

Close vases are represented by large amphorae and pithoid vases obviously used for storage purposes. Jugs, hydriae and collar-necked jars are present but hardly represented. Another large category of the pottery is the coarse ware, obviously for domestic (cooking) purposes. The majority of the coarse ware is represented by handmade burnished wide-mouthed jugs and amphoras, certainly cooking pots of dark gray coarse clay. Handmade burnished amphoras are less usual than the wide-mouthed jugs. Among the coarse ware a fairly good number of domestic wheel-made undecorated vases of hard clay exist.

Some questions arise when dating the pottery of this horizon. Old and new trends coexist causing difficulties in identifying not only the date but also the origin of inspiration for each type. An example of the above conclusion is the cup, the old and new version of which coexists in the same level (Fig. 9).

Similar phenomena can be traced by other shapes too, as for example skyphos whose variation is remarkable. Almost all types of the LH III C Late and Submycenaean specimens, as

³ Handmade vases with incised decoration of Protogeometric period are not necessarily a sign of northern influences or invasions of any kind (ANDRONIKOS 1969, 191–193. – HOCHSTETTER 1984, 345).

known from the relative bibliography, are represented in this phase. The fact that all kind of skyphos bases coexist in the same horizon is indicative: ring-base, ring-base low conical, conical base of medium height and high conical (Fig. 10). Another common feature of the LH III C skyphoi and cups is the reserved circle on the interior base, which also appears frequently on skyphoi of the Kynos 4 horizon.

With regards to the decoration of the vases this could be characterized as dull and monotonous since it is mostly linear or monochrome. In a few cases we have concentric circles mainly on closed vases (Figs. 11, 12) and zig-zag or wavy lines usually on open vases (Fig. 13). A couple of degenerated tassel motifs on closed vases represent a last reflection of the late Mycenaean repertoire (Fig. 14).

Wide bands between thinner ones are a common way of decoration around the belly of big amphoras during this period (Fig. 15), a motif not acquainted during the LH III C period at Kynos.

At a level 0.10 to 0.40 m deeper than the foundation level of Kynos 4, architectural remains began appearing belonging to the Kynos 5 structures, which occupy the whole excavated area and consist of whole or parts of foundations and floors of hard soil fashioned on a layer of mud bricks, this being the destruction layer of the previous LH III C Late phase (Fig. 16).

The most interesting features of these structures seem to be: a) The similarity in alignment of the buildings with that of Kynos 4. b) The fact that at least two of the foundations of Kynos 4⁴ were based immediately on Kynos 5 ones. c) The existence of infant graves in the floors of the various rooms (NIKOLAOU 1999, 154).

Through the aforementioned foundations eight rooms are partly outlined extending over the whole excavated area. None of these displays a completed ground-plan. The rooms, large and small, are arranged around a central one (IA) whose character is uncertain. It could be a central court or a roofed space. The preserved part of a floor, however, which belonged to this room, opposes the first interpretation.

The floor of this room, as well as the floors of the other three rooms (Δ , E and ΣT), consist of clay spread over the destruction layer of mud-bricks of the previous habitation phase (Kynos 6), which coincides with the LH III C Late period (DAKORONIA 2003, 47). The building's ground plan cannot be decidedly recovered since it extended outside the limits of the trench. Nor can we decide whether the rooms belong to one or more buildings. The picture the remains show is that of a multi-axial house type (HIESEL 1990, 69–70, 77–79, fig. 58).

The fragmentary preservation of the foundations of this complex, which to some extent was caused by later building activities, does not permit us to distinguish with some certainty, where the entrances were nor where the openings were through which the rooms could communicate. It is probable that, as during the Kynos 4 habitation phase, the same principles of positioning the entrances according to the orientation of the buildings were used, which in this case are protected by the prevailing north-easterly winds (MAZARAKIS-AINIAN 1997, fig. 461: Karphi, plan of the settlement). The fact that the alignment of both phases is the same can support the above suggestion.

The foundations were preserved to an average height of 0.50 m and they were 0.40 to 0.50 m wide. They were built with large and medium sized flat stones, roughly worked, embedded in earth fill and chip stones. On some of these foundations parts of mud-bricks are preserved, a sign that the upper structure of the walls was constructed of mud-bricks.

In these clay floors small children were buried in small cists or shafts. These graves contained poor skeletal remains of babies and no significant burial gifts (NIKOLAOU 1999, 154). Roughly worked slabs covered the graves and after the burial mud was spread above the floor and the graves (Fig. 17). These floors are the *terminus post quem* of the phase Kynos 5.

⁴ Nos. T13a, T64a.

The destruction of the settlement phases Kynos 4 and Kynos 5 was probably caused by earthquakes, whose natural consequence was fire as we can assume from the indicative dislocation of the foundations and the abundant traces of fire maintained within the rooms. Pieces of burnt wood indicate that timber was an important building material.

The fact that floors were discovered in some of the rooms, supports the conclusion that at least these rooms were roofed, although we possess no relevant evidence.

On the floor of room Δ, at its eastern part, the bottom of a clay bin or a hearth full of ashes and burnt soil was excavated (Fig. 18). Close to it, at the same level, broken vases were found such as a belly handled amphora, half of a skyphos with a high conical foot and handmade cooking pots with a burnished surface. We can not argue with certainty that these finds belong to phase Kynos 5 since the whole complex of the vases and the clay bin/hearth were covered by a thick layer of clear yellowish soil different from the surrounding layer of lumps of mud-bricks. It seems as if later settlers dug the debris of phase Kynos 5 to put in these vases and for some reason they covered them carefully (DAKORONIA 2003, 43).

The remaining small finds found in this building are of the same character as of the previous phase Kynos 4 with only small differences in numbers. For example at Kynos 5 we have now almost double the number of spools and fewer spindles among which none are of steatite. Fishing weights and net sinkers are equally represented as well as stone tools such as hammers and grinders.

The artefacts collected from both phases 4 and 5 show that the lifestyle and economical activities of the inhabitants did not differ dramatically from period to period.

The pottery collected from horizon Kynos 5 also consists mainly of sherds, some of which amount to repair vases (Fig. 19). Again the majority of the recognizable sherds come from open shapes with the prevailing shape being that of skyphos. The next most numerous shape is the cup. The difference in the shapes of pottery between phases Kynos 4 and 5 lie purely in the numbers discovered. Closed shapes of Kynos 5 are much more limited in comparison to Kynos 4. For the first time the amphoriskos is represented at the phase Kynos 5. Kylix and craters are more abundant and, for the first time, the basin, the lid, the kalathos and the tray make an appearance. It is impressive that the number of handmade burnished vases is much more limited than during phase Kynos 4 (Fig. 20). Taking into consideration that no sign of handmade burnished pottery has been discovered in deeper levels of the excavation, phase 5 represents a *terminus post quem* for the appearance of this pottery at Kynos.

Comparing the pottery of these two phases we can see that Kynos 5 displays more Mycenaean characteristics than Kynos 4, not only on pottery shapes but also on decoration. In phase Kynos 5 the repertoire of decorative motifs is richer, displaying concentric circles as mentioned, wavy line, zig-zag, tassel, triangle, cross-hatched triangle and scroll motifs. Although the motif syntax on the pottery already obeys to some rules of geometry, nevertheless the motifs have more free space around them and the general impression the vases give us is a bright one.

Linear decoration appears on closed shapes. Skyphoi are mainly monochrome appearing in all variations known from the LH III C and Submycenaean periods (Fig. 21). It is interesting that in phase Kynos 5 we have not yet found any skyphos with a high conical foot. Skyphoi display ring bases and a few examples of a very low conical foot showing the transition from ring base to conical foot (Fig. 22). Cups are still of Mycenaean inspiration, monochrome inside and unpainted outside with a band around the lip. They have a reserved disk on the inside bottom. An interesting example is a handmade burnished cup on the profile of which one can trace the Mycenaean reflections of the potter (Fig. 23).

Both phases Kynos 4 and Kynos 5 have provided vases, mainly closed ones, decorated with concentric circles. However, this motif shows a different concept at each period. At phase Kynos 5 compass drawn concentric circles are combined with other motifs such as tassel and wavy lines (Fig. 24). In Kynos 5 concentric circles display a Mycenaean flair as one can understand when seeing a running spiral motif drawn with a compass (Fig. 25). At the same time

concentric circles drawn by hand were applied on vases of Mycenaean form (Fig. 26). On the other hand concentric circles of Kynos 4 vases are isolated, strictly limited between dark bands or surfaces.

To summarise the evidence provided by Kynos, we can say that the two phases which followed the LH III C period were of short duration. Certainly these phases should not be counted as belonging to the Bronze Age, since both display innovations not previously known, one of which, the most striking, is the compass drawn concentric circle. The other novelty is the appearance of handmade burnished pottery. Accordingly both Kynos 4 and 5 can be assigned to the first stages of the Iron Age, the latter displaying more Mycenaean characteristics than the former and therefore deserving the characterisation as “post-Mycenaean”.

Apart from the introduction of the handmade pottery during phase Kynos 5 no other element alien to the Mycenaean material production can be detected. All products acquainted during Kynos 4 and 5 have their predecessors in the LH III C period, this being an argument against population changes or displacements. People who lived and worked at Kynos during these phases were aware of their past, their habits were similar to those of their predecessors, the production processes were the same as shown by the tools and perhaps they used the same sources for their survival.

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Fig. 1



Fig. 2

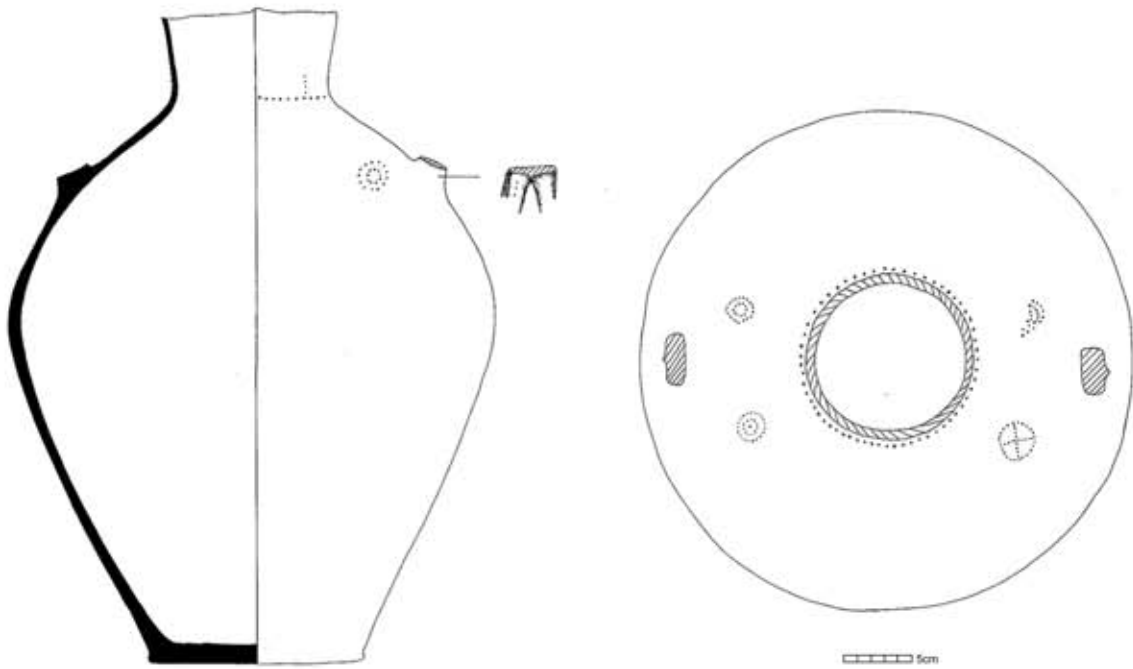


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

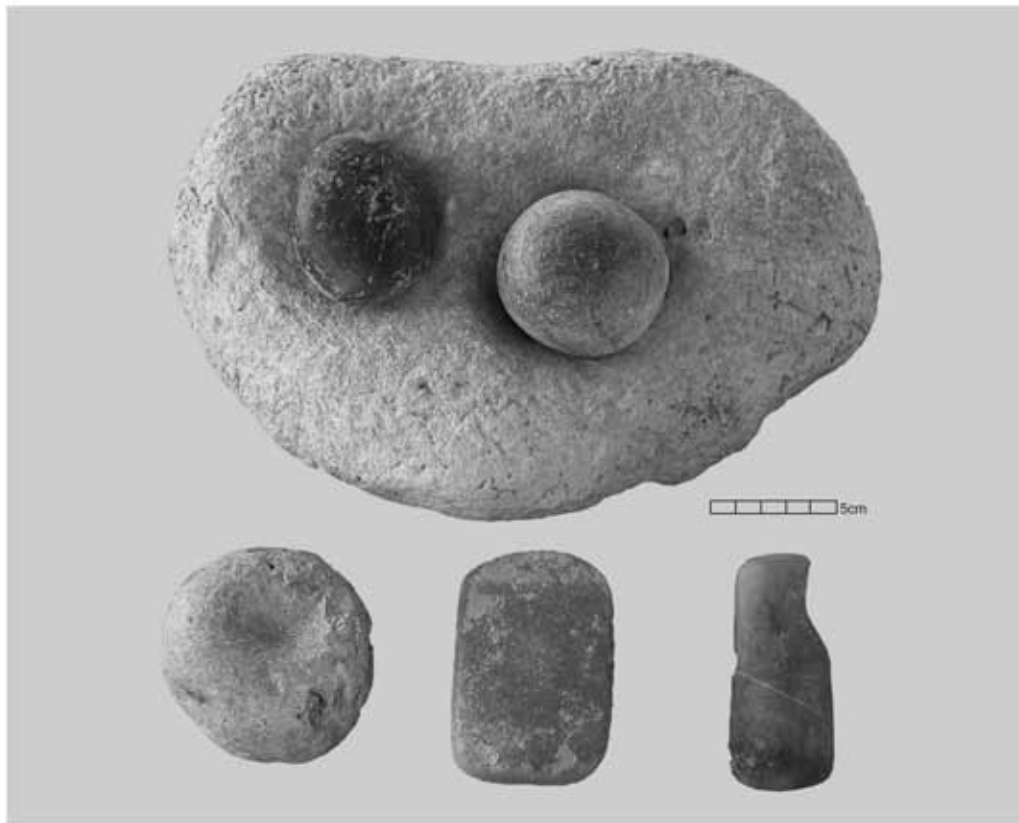


Fig. 7

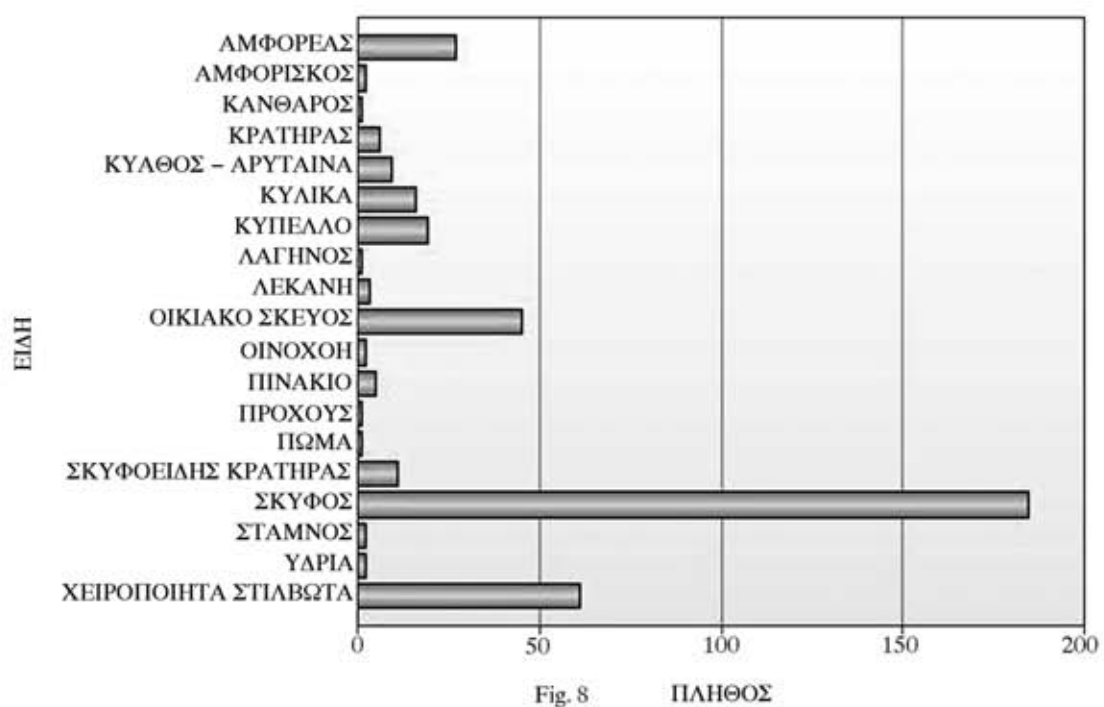


Fig. 8

ΠΛΗΘΟΣ



Fig. 9



Fig. 11

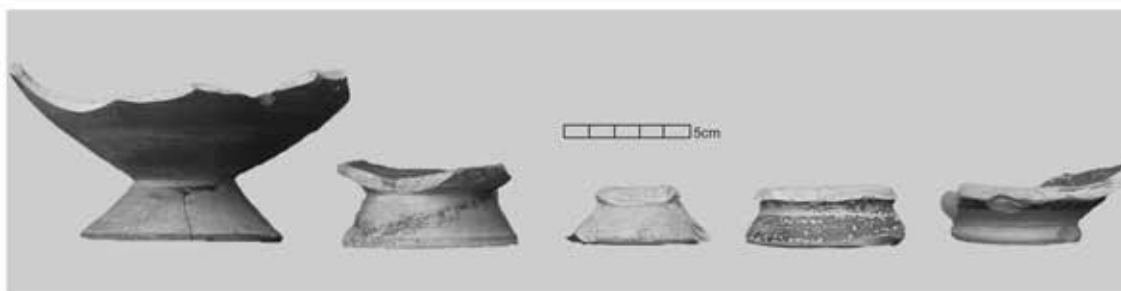


Fig. 10



Fig. 12

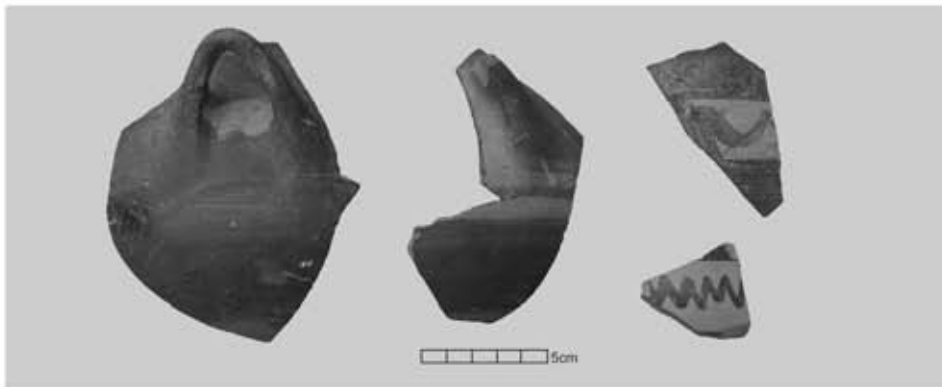


Fig. 13

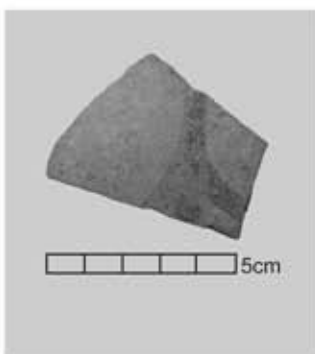


Fig. 14



Fig. 15

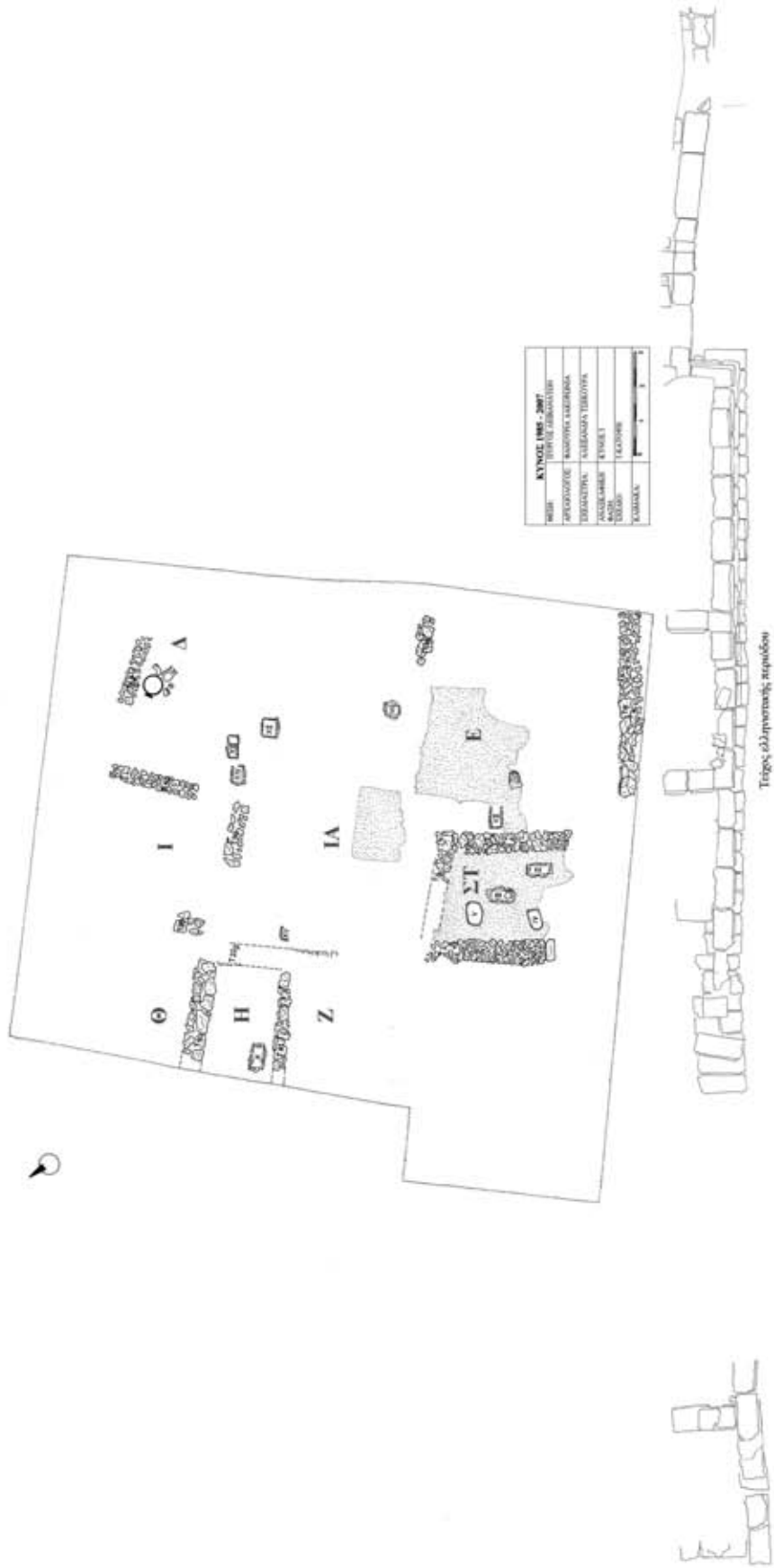


Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

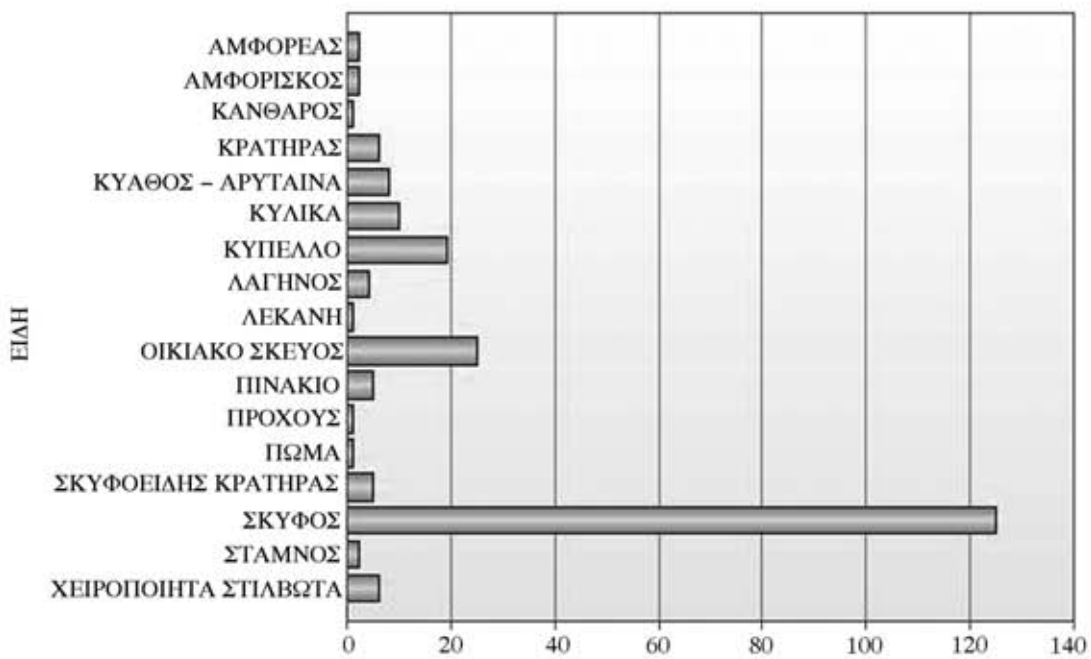


Fig. 19 ΠΛΗΘΟΣ



Fig. 20



Fig. 21

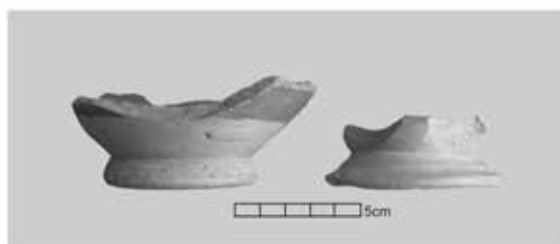


Fig. 22



Fig. 23

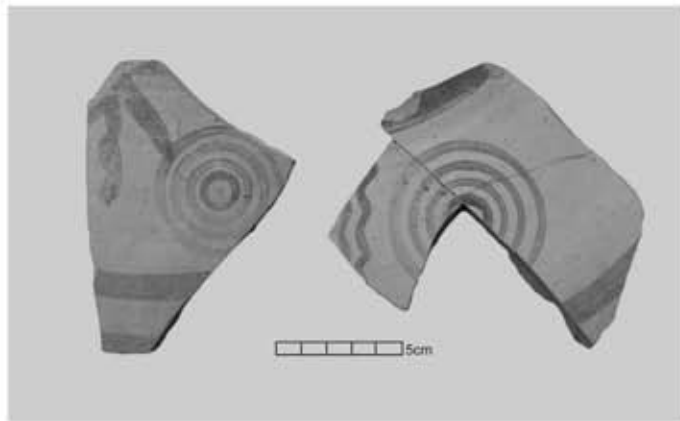


Fig. 24

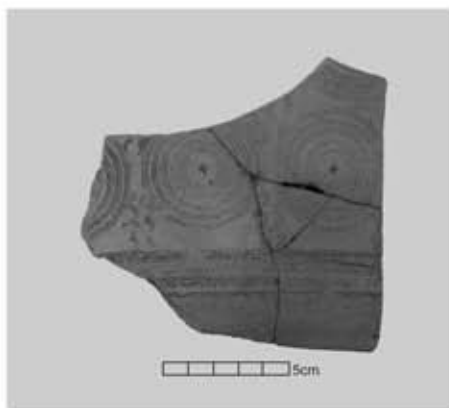


Fig. 25



Fig. 26