

Roman Pottery Finds from Ilok – Castle of the Dukes of Ilok site Excavations (2001-2004)

Kristina Jelinčić

Institute of archaeology, Ljudevita Gaja 32, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia



Excavations in Ilok (NE Croatia), conducted by the Institute of archaeology lasted for eight years (2001-2008). The archaeological site comprises a very large area and it should be pointed out that these excavations were conducted in the place where the medieval Castle of Dukes of Ilok had been erected. Many remains from Roman period have been found. From the first four campaigns, Roman finds came from disturbed layers from medieval and later periods. A small selection of the pottery from these excavations is presented in this poster.



Fig. 1

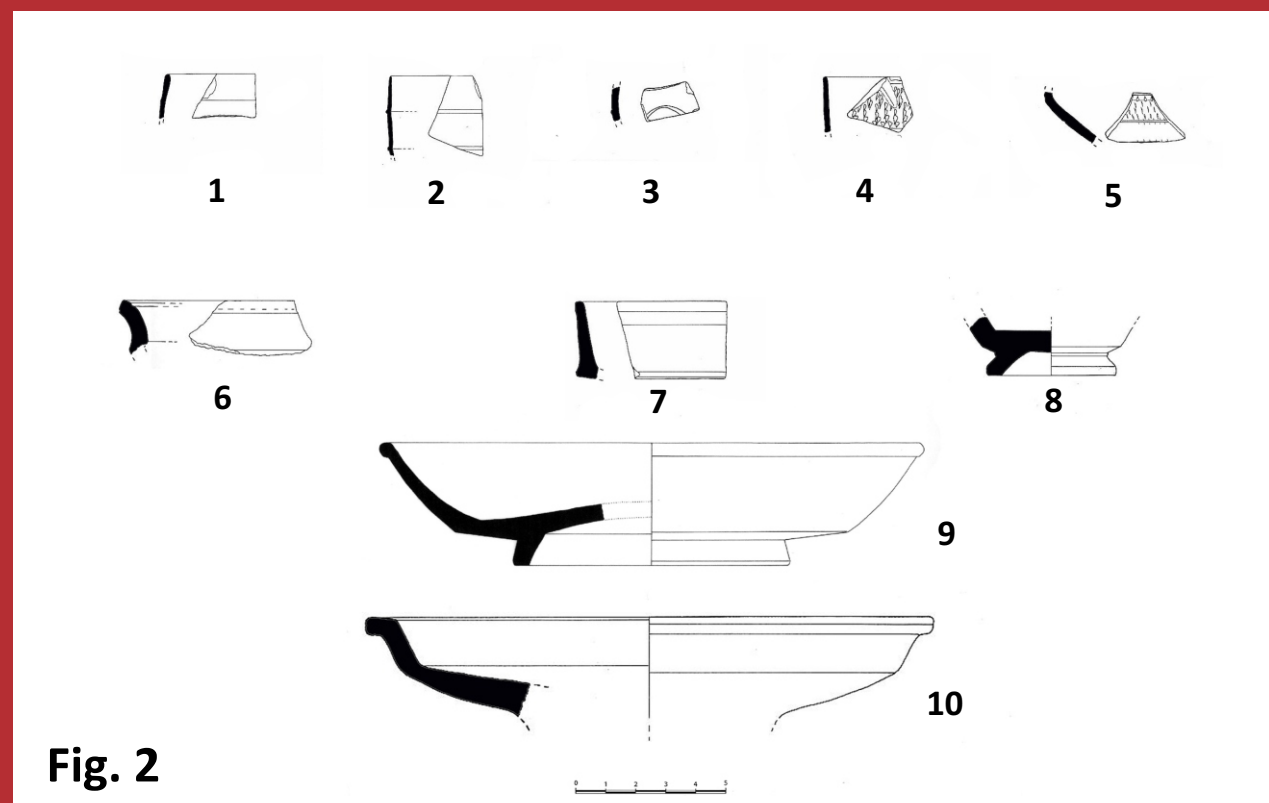


Fig. 2

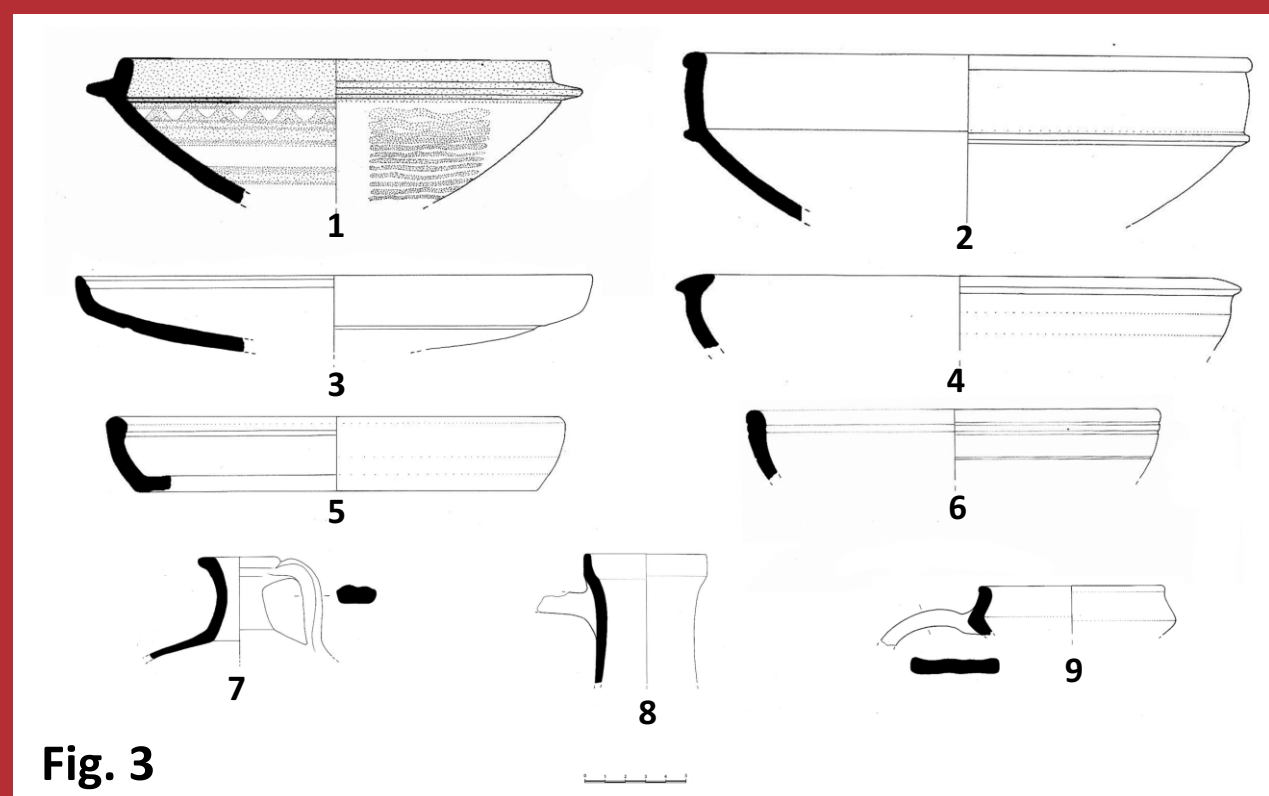


Fig. 3

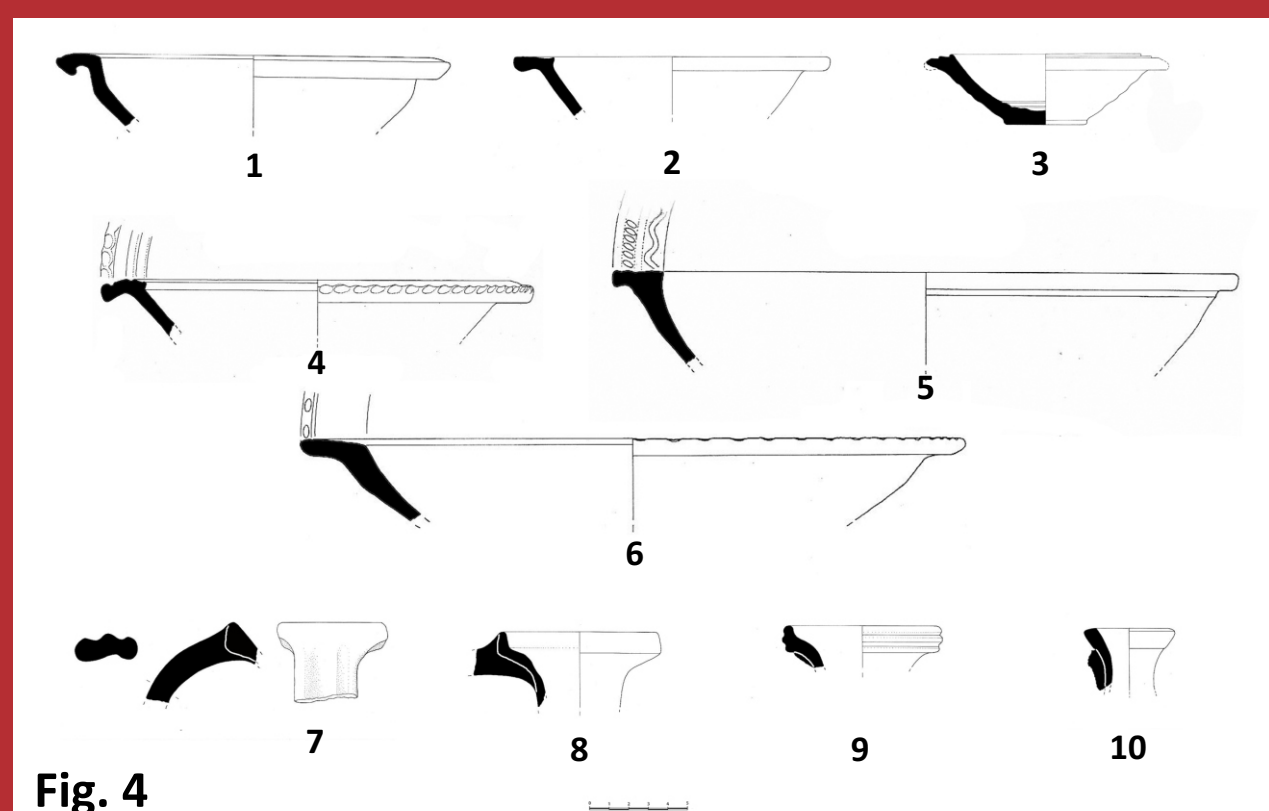


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

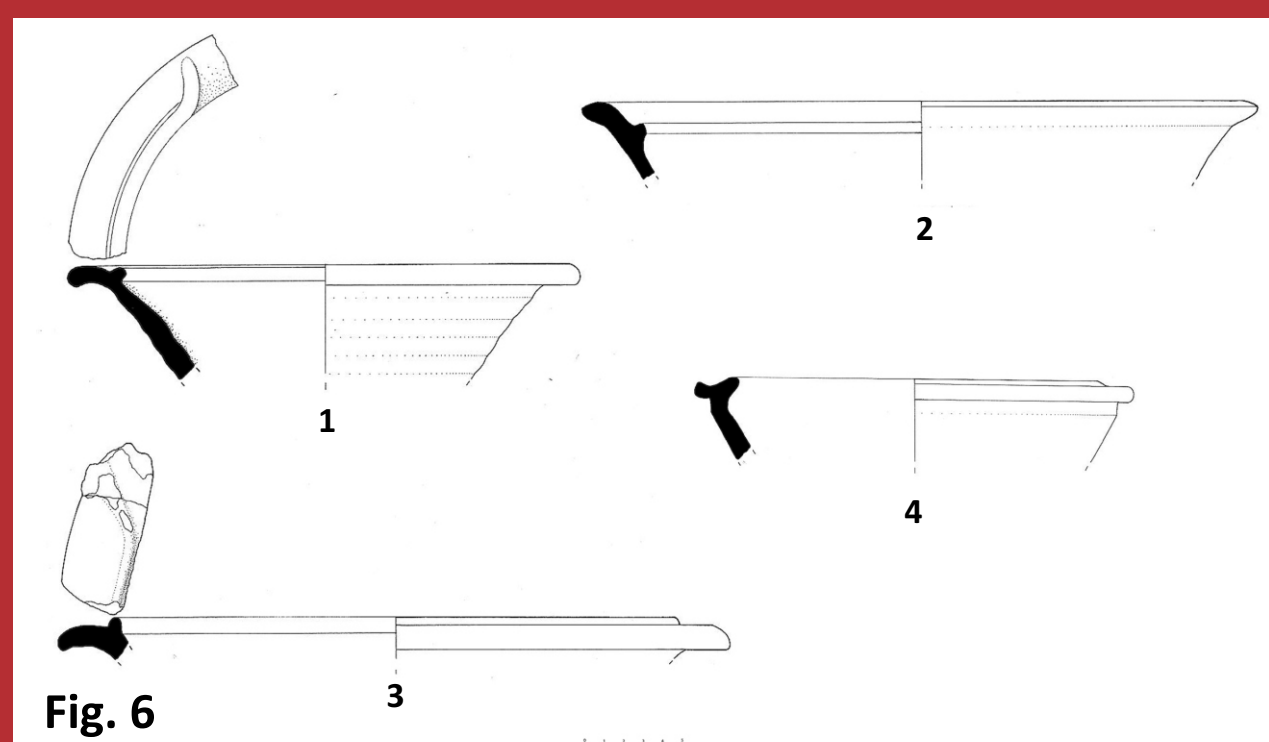


Fig. 6

A very small number of shreds belong to the thin walled and *terra sigillata* pottery (Fig. 1-2). Imported thin walled pottery is also present (Fig. 2: 2-3). Local thin walled pottery which was probably produced in *Sirmium* workshop (Fig. 2: 1, 4-5) has also been found. It can be dated to the 2nd half of the 1st century. Horizontal ribs, barbotine and rouletting are present and there are also clay particles in the slip on some vessels (Fig. 2: 1, 4). Pannonian products are red/orange baked with orange/brown slip and imported ones are gray baked with black slip.

Terra sigillata from different workshops and of different types is found (Fig. 1; Fig. 2: 6-10; Fig. 12): North Italic, South and Central Gaulish and Westerndorf.

Different kinds of bowls, plates and jugs are also present (Fig. 3). There is a marble decoration (Fig. 3:1) or slip on bowls and plates (Fig. 3: 1-6). Both are red burned with orange/red slip on inner and outer surface (Fig. 3:1-5) except one bowl (Fig. 3:6) which is made of gray burned clay with high quality black glossy slip (Pannonian gray ceramics). All these bowls and plates are assumed to be of Pannonian production. Fine pottery jugs are without any slip. One of them belongs to the 1st to 2nd centuries and was imported from the west (Fig. 3:7) whereas the others are well attested in other Pannonian sites and were probably produced in some of the Pannonian workshops (Fig. 3:8-9). They belong to 1st to 2nd centuries (Fig. 3: 8) and 2nd century (Fig. 3: 9).

Most of the bowls are dated in 2nd and 3rd centuries (Fig. 3: 1-4), while Pannonian gray ware bowl form lasts longer (1st to 4th century)(Fig. 3: 6) as well as red baked plates with red slip (Fig. 3: 5).

There are not many fragments of fine ware. Each of fragments observed macroscopically is different.

A wide variety of glazed pottery types (Fig. 4-6) is present in Ilok as well as on other sites in *Pannonia Inferior* and neighboring *Moesia Superior*. Large number of pottery workshops where glazed pottery was produced existed in this area. That explains the variety of types present in Ilok and other sites. Glazed bowls of different dimensions and decoration are the most common glazed pottery form in Ilok. There are some jug fragments (Fig. 4: 13) and *mortaria* (Fig. 6) too. They all belong to the 3rd and/or 4th century, although some of the types are present in *Moesia Superior* in the 5th century. *Mortaria* (Fig. 6:1-3) are dated to the 4th century and have many analogies. The 4th century example (Fig. 6: 4) is less common form in this area; it is dated to the 4th and the beginning of 5th centuries. Four fabrics of glazed pottery have been identified (Fig. 13: 1-4).

Among Roman pottery finds from Ilok gray coarse pottery is the most common one. Although rarely, red baked coarse pottery is found in Ilok too. La Tène traditions are present in some forms, especially bowls and pots, mainly in the 1st century but in later periods too.

The pottery that follows La Tène tradition from the 1st century is represented with small number of pots (Fig. 7; 8: 1-2). Some types of the pots were produced and used during the 2nd to 4th centuries (Fig. 8: 2-4), while others (Fig. 8: 5-11) were characteristic only of the 4th century. The 4th century pots found in Ilok present a very common form in *Pannonia Inferior*. La Tène tradition pots are made of fabric (Fig. 14: 1) that is very different from the fabric of later pots (Fig. 14: 2).

Characteristics of the prehistoric traditions can also be seen in the 1st bowls (Fig. 9:1) and in later ones which have a S profile (Fig. 9: 3-8). Bowls with S profile dated in the 4th century have more distinguished profile. These bowls with S profile are present in many Pannonian and Moesian sites, and it is assumed that they were produced in many small workshops with similar fabric characteristics and technological traditions.

Repertoire of bowls made of coarse pottery in Ilok, as said, does not differ from the general picture in *Pannonia Inferior*. It is the case also with bowl with more or less horizontal rim from the 1st and 2nd centuries (Fig. 9:2).

Simple lids from the 1st century (Fig. 9: 9) can be found in many sites in *Pannonia Inferior*. There is only one example that is dated to the 2nd and 3rd cent. (Fig.9:10). All other lids from Ilok can be dated from the 2nd - 4th century and belong to very well known types (Fig. 9: 11-17) which have many variants attested throughout *Pannonia* and *Moesia*.

Only few fragments of *dolia* have been found: first one has many analogies in *Pannonia* and neighboring *Moesia* (Fig. 10:1) and it is dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries, the second one (Fig. 10: 2) is dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries and it is not so spread as the first type.

The strainer found in Ilok (fig. 10:4) belongs to a common type produced in Pannonia in the 2nd and 3rd centuries.

The fact that the amount of *Terra sigillata* and thin walled pottery finds from Ilok is so small makes it difficult to talk about the trade between Ilok and Western provinces at this point, especially in the beginning of the 1st century. It could be assumed that these finds were somebody's personal items. Other wares however indicate that there was a well developed production within Danube provinces, especially in the 3rd and 4th century.

Macroscopic analyses showed that coarse pottery is made of large number of different fabrics. The same conclusion can be drawn for glazed and fine pottery found in Ilok. The same pottery types, which belong to the same tradition of shaping and technological knowledge within not so large area, are also produced of different fabrics. All these facts suggest the existence of numerous workshops that covered different needs of population.

At the moment it is not possible to determinate with certainty which vessel came from which workshop. However there is sufficient evidence that many small workshops did exist. Future examination of these pottery fabrics and workshops is necessary in order to clarify these issues.



Fig. 7

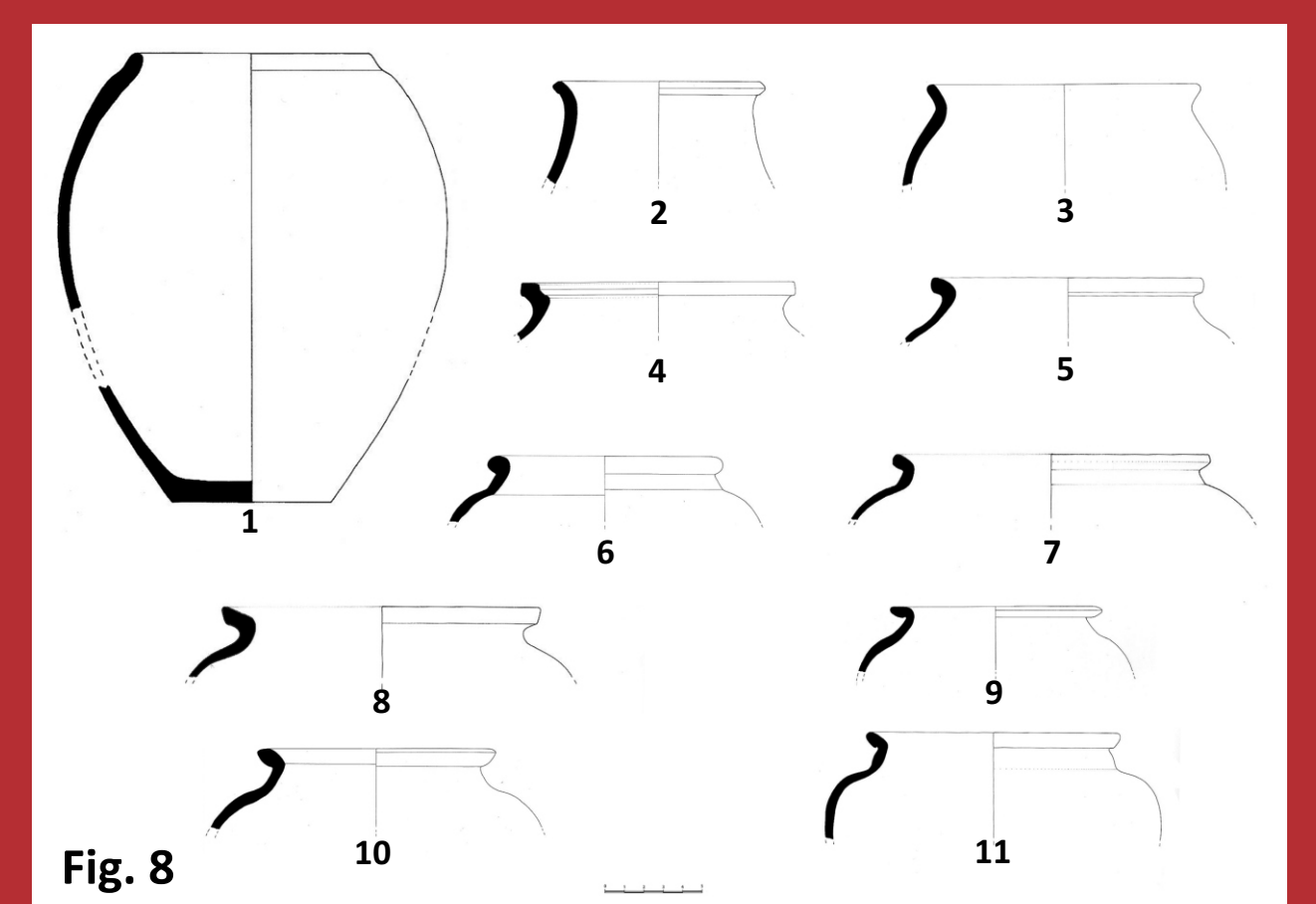


Fig. 8

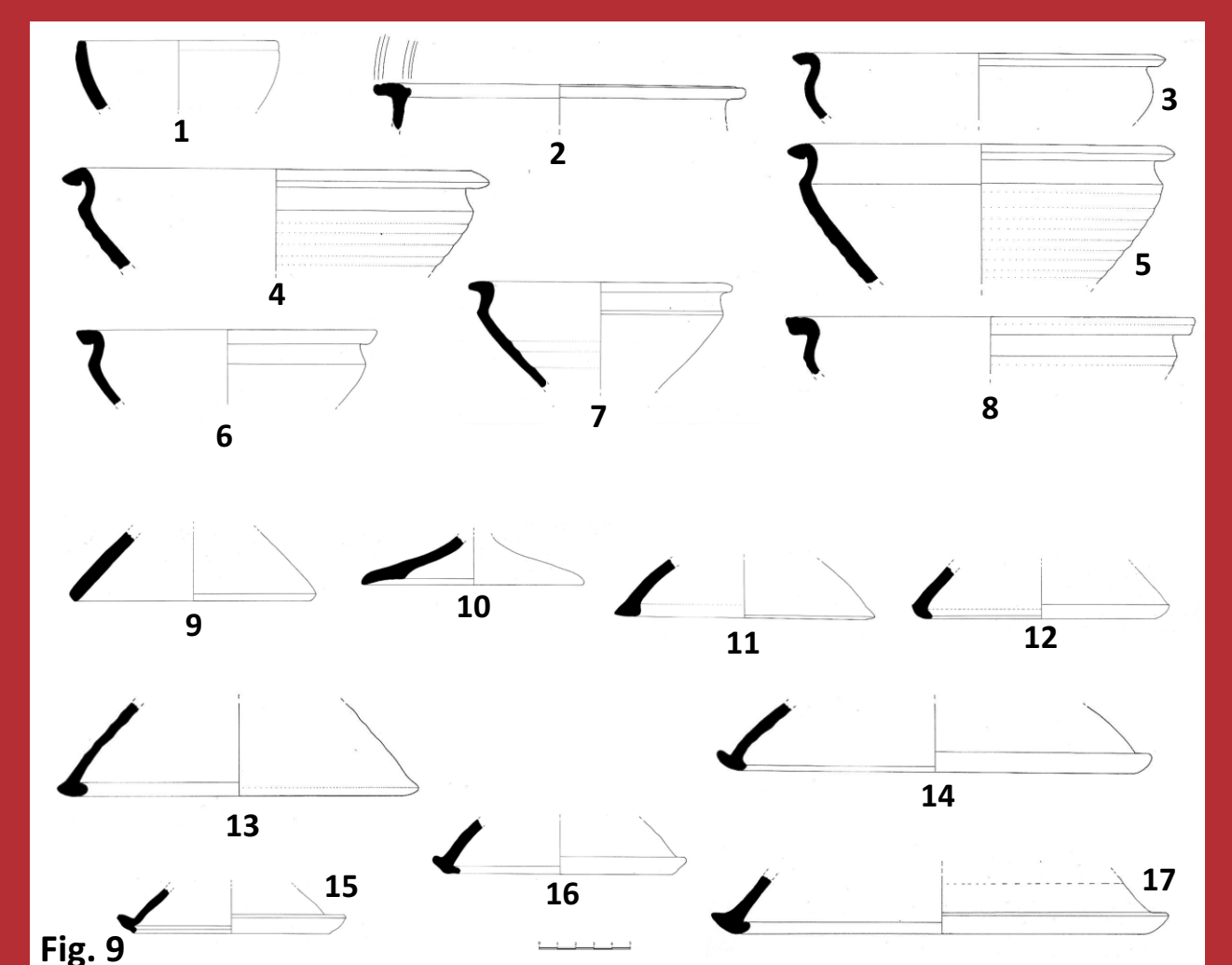


Fig. 9

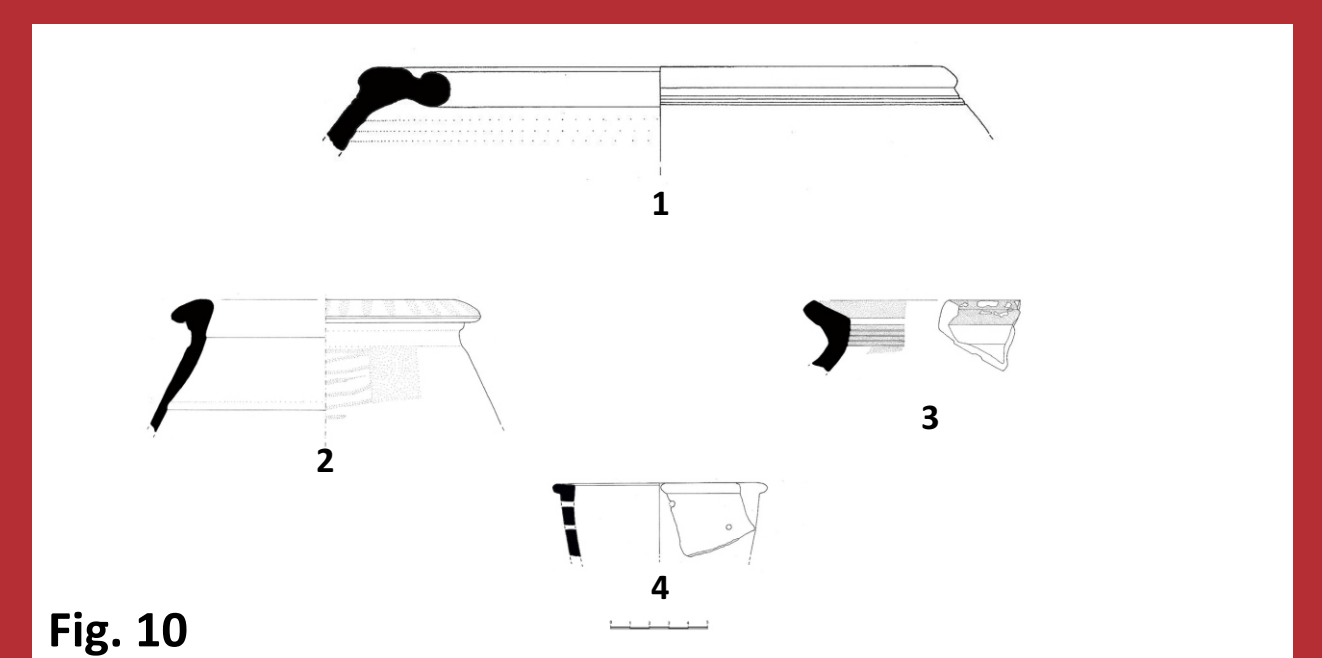


Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12: 1-4 (*terra sigillata*)

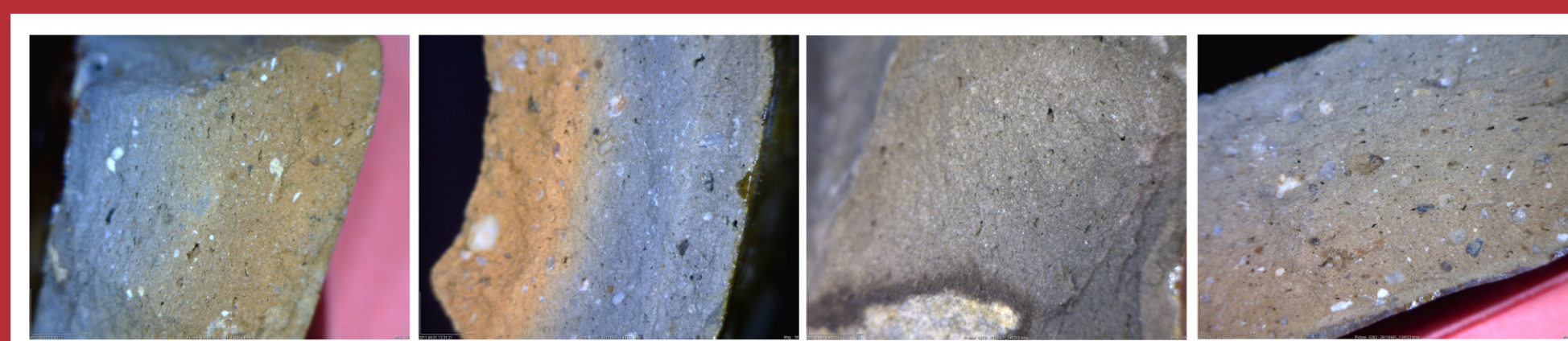


Fig. 13: 1-4 (glazed pottery)



Fig. 14: 1-2 (coarse pottery - pots)