

THE IRON AGE OF THE MAKAPAN VALLEY AREA, CENTRAL TRANSVAAL

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Declaration

I hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work unless otherwise acknowledged, and has not been submitted for the degree of Master at any other University.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.P.J. Moore', with a stylized, cursive script.

M.P.J. Moore

ABSTRACT

A culture-history research project was initiated for the relatively unresearched Makapan Valley area of the central Transvaal. The valley was surveyed intensively and fifty sites recorded. Three, 2429AA4 (Ficus), 2429AA24 (Kekane) and 2429AA36 were excavated. Ficus was a multicomponent site with four phases of occupation; an initial fifth to sixth century A.D. Lydenburg phase, a ninth to tenth century Eiland phase, an ambiguous fifteenth century entity and a superficial early twentieth century Ndebele occupation. This site sequence provided the framework for the research area's culture-history. Site 2429AA24 provided a larger sample of twentieth century Ndebele pottery. 2429AA36 proved sterile. The sample of excavated Eiland phase pottery has been significantly increased by the Ficus material.

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Professor M.A. Raath of the Bernard Price Institute of Palaeontology made available research facilities within the Makapan Valley, and photographic facilities within his Institute. Mr R. Handfield made prints from my photographs and Mr B. Maguire provided data on local rainfall and introduced me to the area. Mr G. Peppercorn allowed me to excavate on his farm, while both he and Messrs A. Dieprink and K. Schultz were sources of useful information and kind hospitality throughout the fieldwork. Fellow students C. Berrington, J. Chatterton, P. Christie, B. Fordyce, J. Loubser, R. Lemonsky and J. Sealey assisted with the survey and excavations. Local labourers led by J. Ngabeni provided essential skill and energy.

The following members of the staff of the University of the Witwatersrand analysed finds from Ficus: Professor H. de Villiers analysed a human burial, Mrs J. Munday examined some seeds, Dr T. McCarthy conducted an X-ray fluorescence scan of a metal ring, and Professor B. Verhagen dated the charcoal samples.

Mrs Ina Plug of the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria analysed the faunal remains, and Mr Keane of the Johannesburg War Museum identified several military items from the Kekane site. Dr T. Partridge kindly provided information about the Makapan Valley's pedological characteristics.

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My wife Moira has stoically endured the inconveniences of the last three years and provided the support necessary for the project's continuation and relatively early conclusion. I am extremely grateful for her forbearance and understanding.

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INTRODUCTION

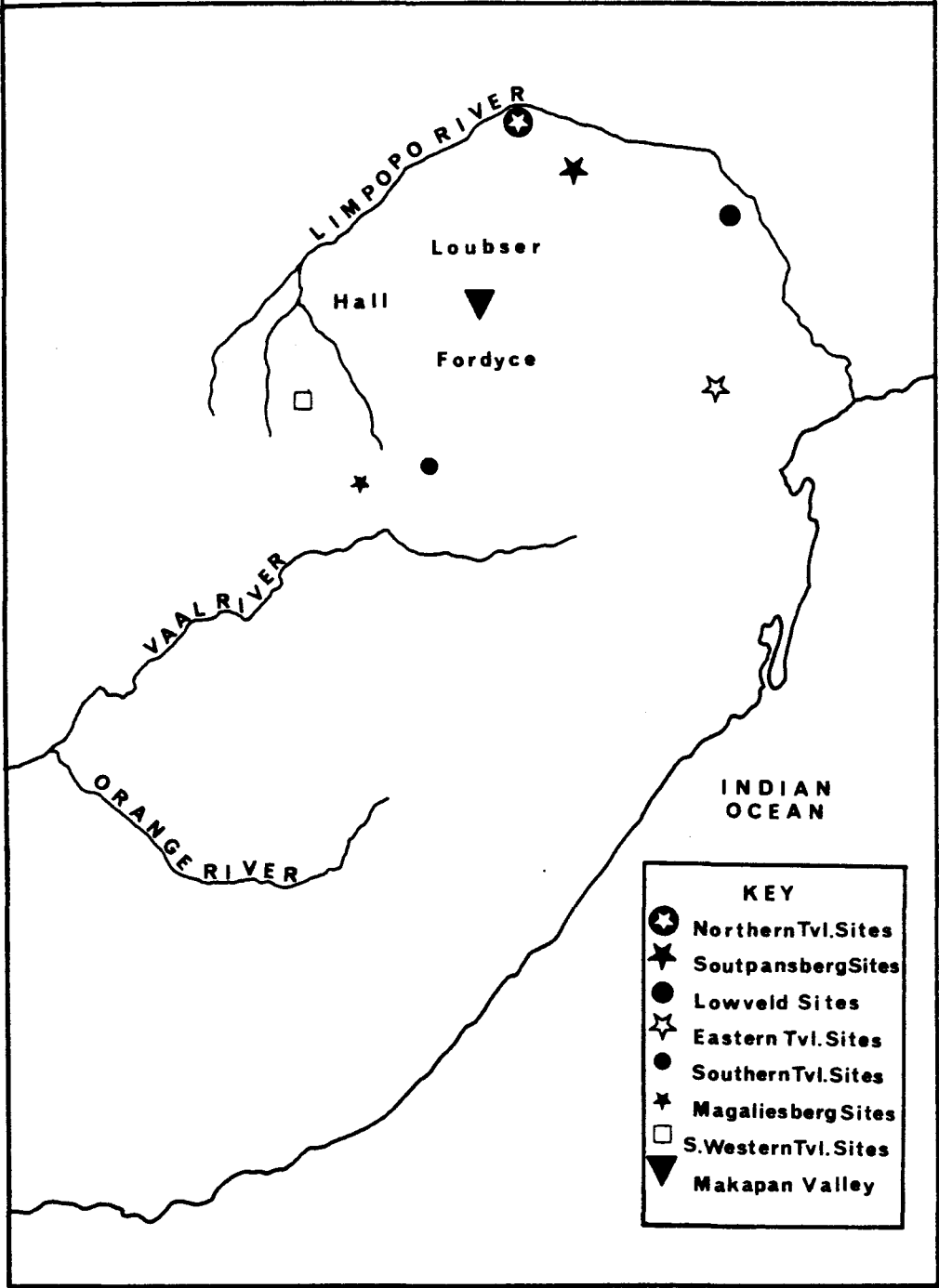
GENERAL

There are three aspects of research in current South African Iron Age archaeology. The first, culture-history, concentrates on the identification and ordering of archaeological ethnic units in space and time, while the second, culture-systems, is concerned with the description of how Iron Age cultures functioned. The third aspect attempts to explain the reasons for change in the archaeological record.

Some archaeologists (e.g. Rouse 1972) see these aspects as levels, with culture-history basic to the others. The identification of groups of archaeological people is often the first step necessary before Iron Age events can be explained. Since South African Iron Age research is relatively new, culture-history sequences have not yet been established, or completed in detail, for several areas. This project was therefore intended as a contribution to local culture-history.

I chose the Makapan Valley to research for several reasons: (i) its Iron Age sites had not previously been subject to systematic, detailed examination; (ii) it occupies a central position within the Transvaal therefore my research could be linked with the recent and current work of Mr S. Hall in the Rooiberg area, Mr J. Loubser in the Pietersburg area, and Mr B. Fordyce at Nylsvley (Map 1); and (iii) the University of the Witwatersrand has a long-standing interest in the Makapan Valley, so there were research facilities available to me.

MAP 1. TRANSVAAL IRON AGE SITES



The most effective criteria for the construction of culture-historical sequences are the stylistic elements of pottery (Huffman 1980) from clearly stratified and well dated assemblages. The backbone of this research therefore consisted of the construction of a dated pottery sequence. It was my original intention to establish a complete sequence, but it later became obvious that more would be gained by concentrating on the middle centuries of the Christian era.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH AREA

The Makapan Valley ($24^{\circ}9'S29^{\circ}9'E$) is situated 15 km north of the central Transvaal highveld town of Potgietersrus at a mean elevation of 4,450' (Map 2). It is a relatively broad, shallow valley bounded on the east and south-east by the dolomitic Maribashoekberge, Buffelshoekberge and Highlands Mountains ranges. East of the Highlands Mountains the land drops away to the Pietersburg plateau. A continuation of these dolomitic ranges executes a sharp westward turn to form the Makapan Valley's northern slopes.

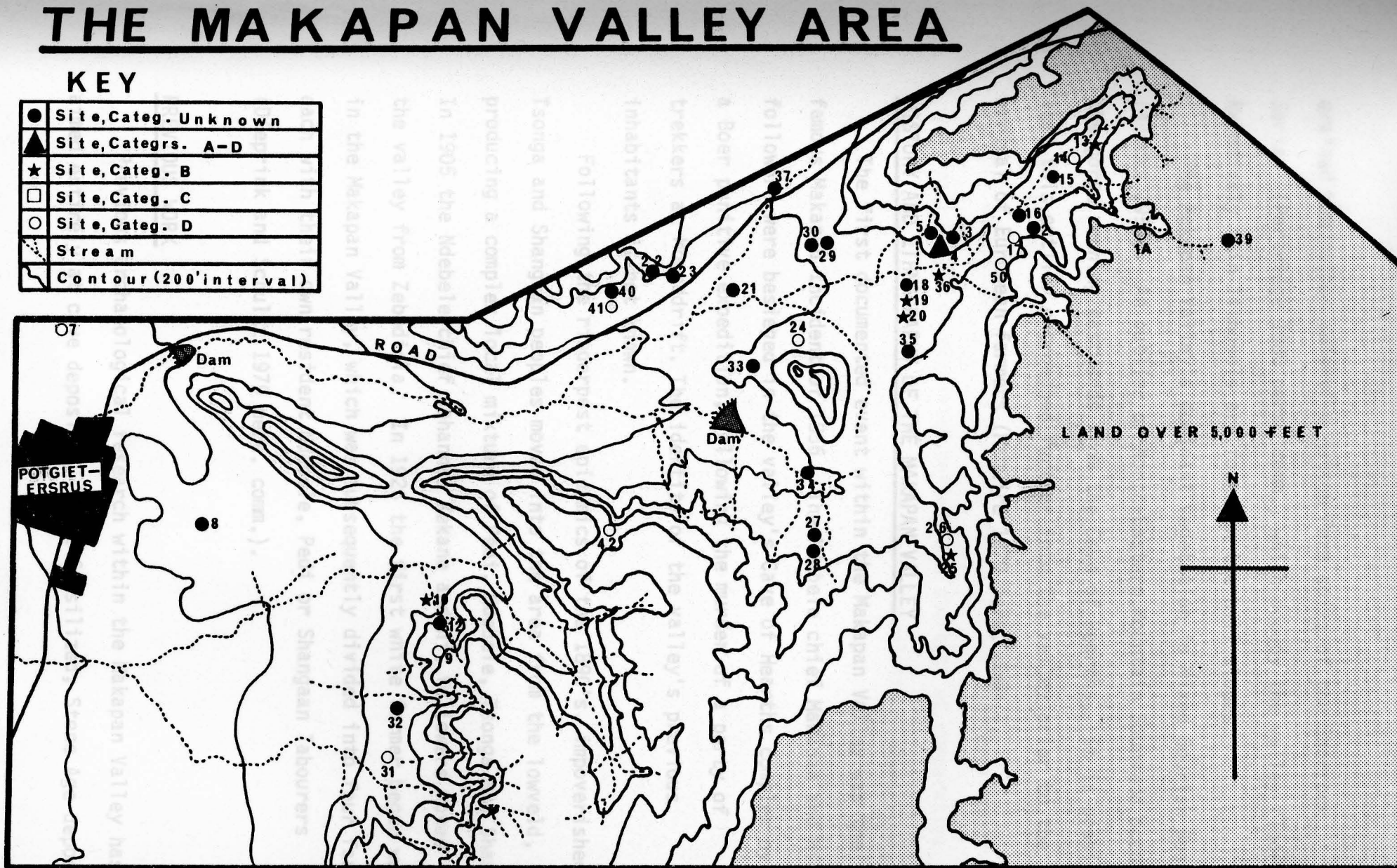
The Dorps river rises in the Highlands Mountain range to the east and then flows through the valley. The Potgietersrus area falls within the temperate eastern plateau climatic zone (Earle 1979) and experiences summer rainfall. Mean annual rainfall from 1921 to 1968 on Weenen farm in the Makapan Valley, was 600 mm, some 48% less than the Highlands Mountains a few kilometres to the east (B. Maguire 1979 pers. comm.). Temperatures are often above 20° celcius in summer, but seldom below 15° celcius in winter, thus frost is rare within the valley.

Geologically, the Makapan Valley and its borders are part of the sedimentary Dolomite and Black Reef Series of the Transvaal System. Their dominant parent material is quartzite, which decomposes to well

THE MAKAPAN VALLEY AREA

KEY

●	Site, Categ. Unknown
▲	Site, Categs. A-D
★	Site, Categ. B
□	Site, Categ. C
○	Site, Categ. D
---	Stream
—	Contour (200' interval)



drained but rather infertile Hutton Form soils of the Shorrock Series (Partridge 1980 pers. comm.) which occupy the valley floor. Relatively thin lithosols are found on the hill slopes.

The Makapan Valley's dominant vegetation is Mixed Sourish Bushveld (Acocks 1952). An outlier of North-Eastern Mountain Sourveld occupies the gorge running eastwards from the Cave of Hearths. It is possible that this outlier encroached further into the valley prior to the arrival of European farmers (Maguire 1979 pers. comm.).

HISTORY AND ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE MAKAPAN VALLEY

The first documented event within the Makapan Valley was the famous Makapan Incident of 1856. The Ndebele chief Makapan and his followers were besieged in the valley's Cave of Hearths complex by a Boer punitive expedition, following the murder of a party of trekkers at Moorddrift. The identity of the valley's previous inhabitants is not known.

Following the rinderpest epidemics of the 1890's, impoverished Tsonga and Shangaan peoples moved into the area from the lowveld, producing a complex local mixture of Pedi, Ndebele, Tsonga and Shangaan. In 1905 the Ndebele chief Johannes Kekane and his followers moved into the valley from Zebediela. In 1926 the first white farmer began work in the Makapan Valley, which was subsequently divided into four farms, each with their own resident Ndebele, Pedi or Shangaan labourers (Dieprink and Schultz 1979 pers. comm.).

PREVIOUS WORK

Previous archaeological research within the Makapan Valley has been aimed entirely at cave deposits. These fossilized, Stone Age deposits

have been the subject of research since the late 1940's. In 1948 Professor R.J. Mason excavated historic and Iron Age material from the top of the Cave of Hearths deposits. Pottery from this excavation was described as "decorated with an incised herringbone motif unknown in the Uitkomst and Buispoort Cultures" (Mason 1962).

In 1963 Dr T.C. Partridge and party excavated part of Ficus Cave. Their data was interpreted as consistent with a single, nineteenth century occupation by Iron Age peoples during the Makapan Incident. The small sample of decorated pottery and shortage of comparative Transvaal material precluded any regional correlations (Partridge 1966).

SURVEY

The first stage of this project was a survey of the research area intended to find Iron Age sites suitable for culture-history orientated excavations. Because the research area was relatively small it was possible to walk over the entire valley, and a sampling strategy was not necessary. Sites known to local informants outside the Makapan Valley were also visited. Sites were recognized by surface scatters of pottery and the remains of features such as terraces and platforms. All sites were recorded according to the 1:50,000 map system used in the Department of Archaeology at the University of the Witwatersrand (Map 2). Ceramics and some other portable artifacts were collected.

Fifty sites were recorded and eighteen could be divided into three categories based on gross ceramic style (Table 1):

- A. Coarse herringbone and punctated pottery without colour;
- B. Fine herringbone pottery with colour;
- (C. Largely plain pottery found only during excavations after the survey);
- D. Banded polychrome pottery.

Site 2429AA4 Categories A to D: A terraced open site on the northern side ($24^{\circ}9'S29^{\circ}10'E$) of the valley below Ficus Cave. Iron Age artifacts covered much of the site's surface and the pottery demonstrated that more than one component was present.

TABLE 1 : THE MAKAPAN VALLEY AREA'S SURVEY SITES

SITE	CATEGORY			LOCATION	REMARKS
	A	B	D		
2429AA1(A)			X	Cave	In context. Known date and Transvaal Ndebele affinities.
2429AA4	X	X	X	Hillslope	In context. Excavated.
2429AA7			X	Donga	In context but being eroded.
2429AA9			X	Hilltop	In context. Reputed Transvaal Ndebele affinities.
2429AA10		X		Hillslope	Context uncertain.
2429AA13		X		Valley Floor	Context uncertain.
2429AA14			X	Valley Floor	Context uncertain.
2429AA17			X	Valley Floor	Context uncertain.
2429AA19		X		Valley Floor	Context uncertain.
2429AA20		X		Valley Floor	Context uncertain.
2429AA24			X	Hillslope	In context. Known date and Transvaal Ndebele affinities.
2429AA25		X		Cave	In context, function unknown.
2429AA26			X	Cave	In context.
2429AA31			X	Valley Floor	In context. Known date and Transvaal Ndebele affinities.
2429AA36		X		Valley Floor	Context uncertain. Excavated.
2429AA41			X	Hillslope	In context. Known date and Shangaan affinities.
2429AA42			X	Hilltop	In context.
2429AA50			X	Valley Floor	Context uncertain but modern Sotho affinities.

Site 2429AA10 Category B: An open site consisting of a surface scatter of pottery on the farm Planknek east of Potgietersrus ($24^{\circ}13'S29^{\circ}5'E$).

Site 2429AA13 Category B: An isolated sherd and slag scatter on a valley floor field of the farm Zwartkraans ($24^{\circ}7'S29^{\circ}12'E$).

Site 2429AA19 Category B: An isolated sherd scatter within a valley floor field on the farm Makapansgat ($24^{\circ}10'S29^{\circ}9'E$).

Site 2429AA20 Category B: This site was an isolated sherd scatter within a valley floor field on the farm Makapansgat ($24^{\circ}10'S29^{\circ}9'-10'E$).

Site 2429AA25 Category B: A cave site on the farm De Hoop ($24^{\circ}12'S29^{\circ}11'E$). It was originally investigated by Mr. Fleming, who discovered a skeleton with a bead head-dress within the first of three subterranean chambers. Stones had been piled inside the cave's entrance, presumably for defence.

Site 2429AA36 Category B: ($24^{\circ}9'S29^{\circ}10'E$) An open site on the floor of the valley. This area has been cultivated by farm labourers for some years. Surface finds included querns, a whetstone and a good sample of fine herringbone pottery.

Site 2429AA1A Category D: The Cave of Hearths and Makapansgat limestone system ($24^{\circ}8'S29^{\circ}12'E$) in which chief Makapan and his followers were besieged. Several stone fortifications bear witness to the conflict, but most artifacts have been removed as relics by previous visitors.

Site 2429AA7 Category D: An eroded open site on the farm Uitloop north of Potgietersrus (25°6'S29°4'E). Iron Age pottery and Stone Age tools were lying upon an exposed pebble horizon.

Site 2429AA9 Category D: A hilltop site on the farm Vier-En-Twintig Rivier south-east of Potgietersrus (24°13'S29°5'E). Surface features were stone walled kraals and three shallow stopes. Local tradition maintains that the site was a lookout post for chief Makapan's nearby settlement.

Site 2429AA14 Category D: An isolated sherd and slag scatter on a valley floor field of the farm Zwartkraans (24°7'S29°12'E).

Site 2429AA17 Category D: An open site in native fields on the farm Makapansgat (24°9'S29°12'E). Modern huts were interspersed around the fields.

Site 2429AA24 Category D: An extensive open site at the northern base of the "Four Sisters" complex (24°10'S29°9'E). The site was occupied by the Ndebele chief Kekane from c1905 to 1926.

Site 2429AA26 Category D: A second cave site (24°12'S29°11'E) on the farm De Hoop lying within the same dolomite outcrop as 2429AA25. Local informants claimed that it had been used as a stock pen within living memory.

Site 2429AA32 Category D: The remains of chief Makapan's settlement on the farm Vier-En-Twintig Rivier south-east of Potgietersrus (24°14'S29°5'E). Most of the site has now been ploughed, but the surviving area contained numerous hut floors, querns and low stone walls, as well as chief Makapan's grave within the remains of his cattle kraal.

Site 2429AA41 Category D: An open site on the farm Weenen (24°10'S29°7'E) occupied by a Shangaan headman until 1936.

Site 2429AA42 Category D: A hilltop site on the farm Planknek (24°12'S29°7'E). A small plateau contained a stone walled kraal and the remains of two stone and daga homesteads. Local tradition maintains that one of the homesteads was occupied by an Ndebele witchdoctor within living memory.

Site 2429AA50 Category D: A site in part of a native field in close proximity to modern huts, on the farm Makapansgat (24°9'S29°11'E).

On the basis of this survey three sites were chosen for further investigation:

2429AA4 because it had the only category A pottery and was multicomponent;

2429AA36 because it had category B pottery and was on the valley floor rather than the hill slopes; and

2429AA24 because it had category D and a known date.

EXCAVATION

METHODS

Each site was excavated by conventional techniques. Trenches were located over surface features and artifact scatters or on level ground suitable for dwelling areas. Several trenches were placed next to stone walls and terraces in order to determine their stratigraphic relationships. At sites 2429AA4 and 2429AA36 trenches were scattered irregularly to cover as wide an area as possible. Test pits were dug in arbitrary 20 cm levels to sterile ground at each site to determine the natural stratigraphy. Then later trenches were dug in natural levels. Material from all trenches was sieved, and samples of ash, daga and dung were collected.

The sites were mapped in various ways. Enlarged aerial photographs of 2429AA4 and 2429AA36 could be traced, but 2429AA24 was drawn by eye. Metric measurements were used throughout. Centrelines or stone features were used as datum references for trenches and surface features, and offset measurements were used to plot artifacts and features within trenches.

The analytical technique for the pottery was based on Huffman's (1980) formalized typological procedure for Iron Age ceramics. The stylistic dimensions of decoration and profile were divided into modes and affiliate sets. Decoration modes were determined on the basis of different decorative layouts (Fig. 14), and their affiliate sets were distinguished by the different geometric patterns of decorative motifs (Fig. 15). Profile modes were determined by the

numbers of inflection points, and their affiliate sets by the variations in form (Fig. 16). Classes were formed by the intersection of decoration and profile modes, sub-classes by the intersection of decoration and profile affiliate sets (Fig. 17).

SITE 2429AA4 (FICUS)

Description

Ficus is situated on the farm Makapansgat some four kilometres East of the junction of the Makapan Valley and Pietersburg roads. It stretches around a rocky outcrop at the front of a U-shaped dolomite exposure and extends down slope to the bank of a stream (Map 3, Plate 1). Two deep caves with permanent water, Ficus and Peppercorn, are situated at the base of the dolomite cliff. The slope which runs west from the site's 'saddle' is heavily terraced, while sherds, querns, slag and tuyere fragments were scattered all over the surface of the site.

These terraces and artifacts were noted by members of the Bernard Price Institute of Paleontology and reported to the Department of Archaeology in 1978. Shortly afterwards students and staff members of the Archaeology Department made a collection of pottery and slag from the site. This was augmented by myself in 1979 during the foot survey.

Excavation

Stratigraphy

Nine trenches and four test pits, ranging in size from one to thirty square metres, were excavated (Table 2). Roots and stones were diffused through all of the deposits, but eleven stratigraphic units could still be distinguished. Their occurrences within the trenches are as detailed below:

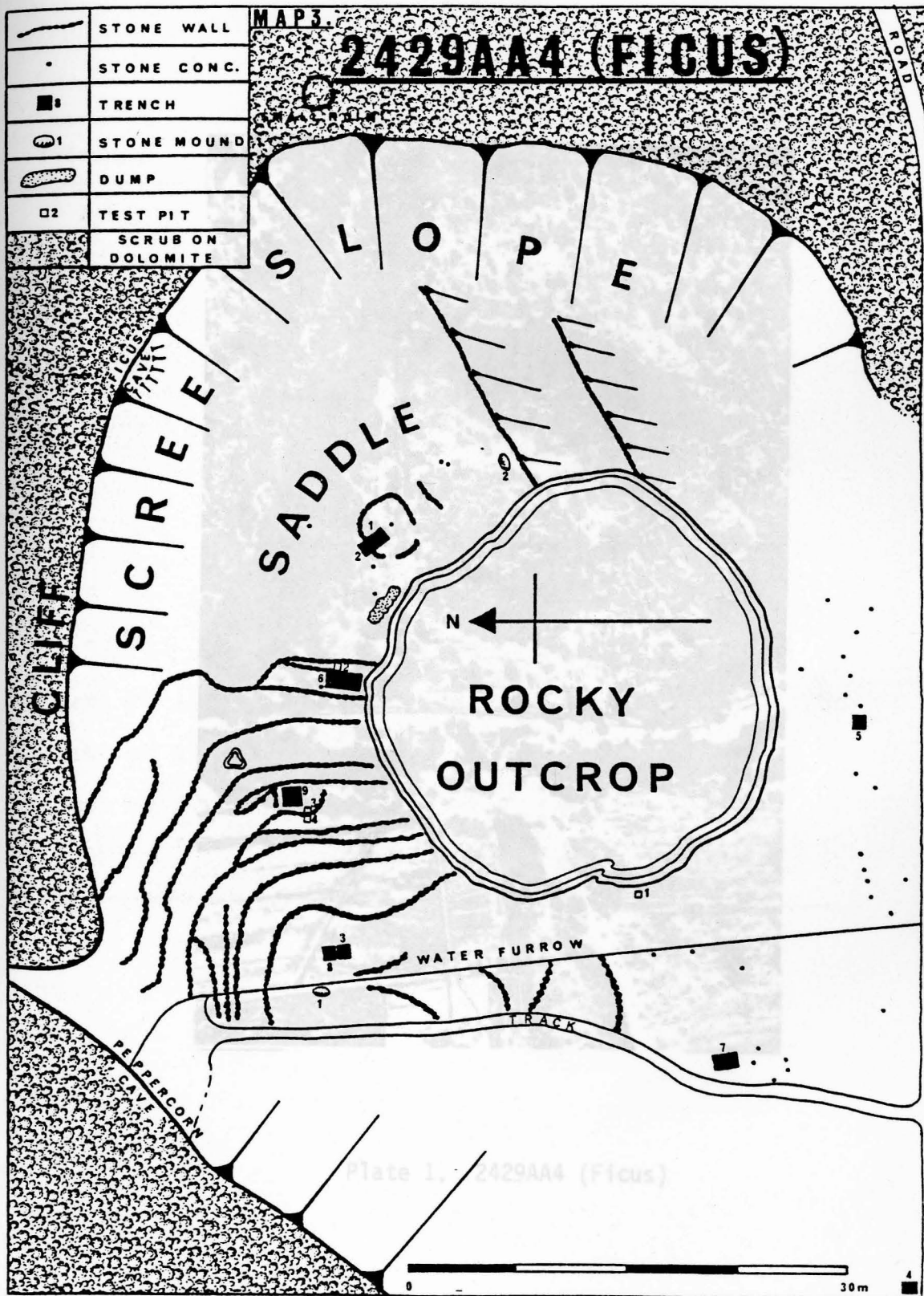


TABLE 2: FICUS TRENCH DIMENSIONS

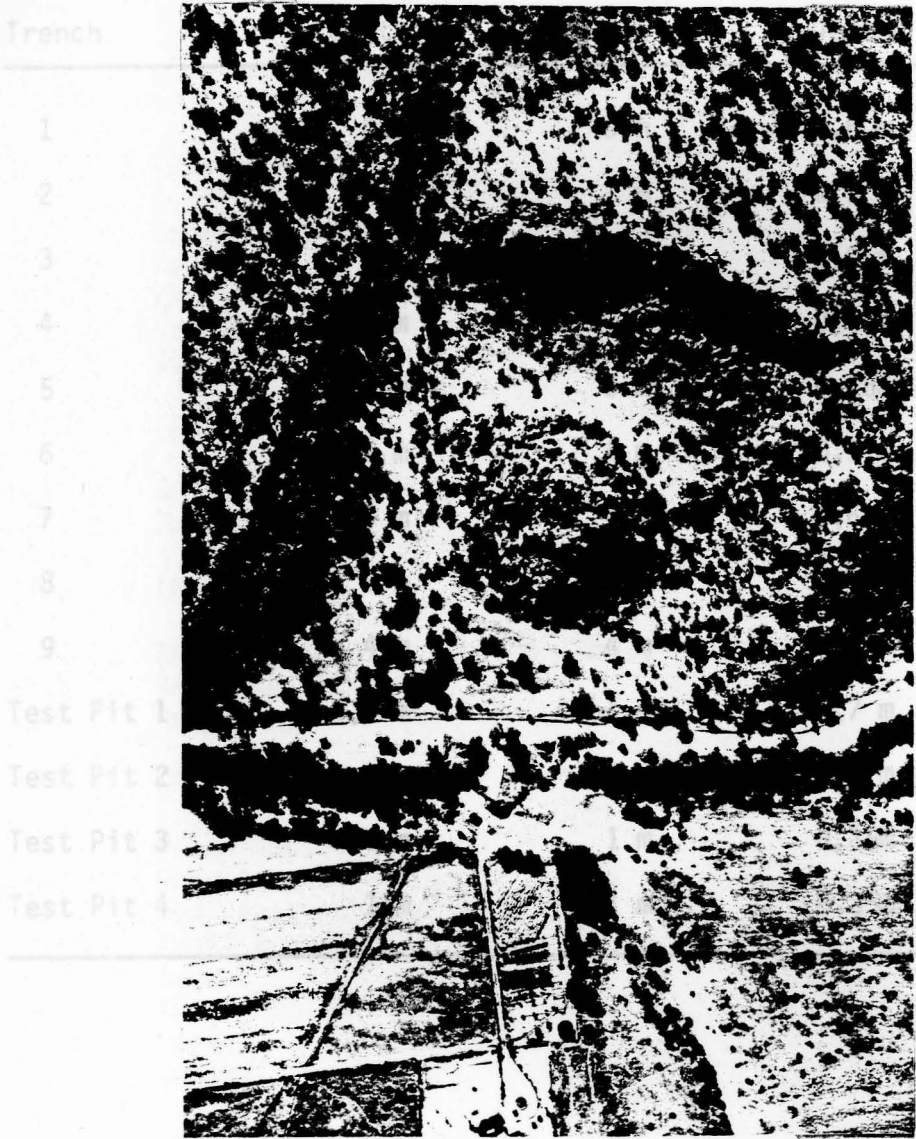


Plate 1. 2429AA4 (Ficus)

TABLE 2: FICUS TRENCH DIMENSIONS

Trench	Length	Width	Depth
1	4 m	3 m	0,6 m
2	3 m	1 m	0,9 m
3	3 m	3 m	0,9 m
4	2 m	2 m	0,2 m
5	3 m	3 m	0,75m
6	7,5 m	4 m	0,9 m
7	6 m	4 m	0,6 m
8	3 m	3 m	0,65m
9	4 m	4 m	1,20m
Test Pit 1	1,5 m	1 m	0,7 m
Test Pit 2	1 m	1 m	0,3 m
Test Pit 3	1 m	1 m	0,35m
Test Pit 4	1 m	1 m	0,25m

Trench 1 (Fig. 1)

Spit 1: Brown Topsoil, Grey Ash.
 Spit 2: Brown Topsoil, Grey Ash, Khaki Ash.
 Spit 3: Grey Ash, Khaki Ash, Subsoil.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

'Above Ash': Brown Topsoil.
 'Below Ash': Grey Ash, Dung, Subsoil.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Spit 1: Brown Topsoil, Grey Ash, Red Lense 1.
 Spit 2: Red Lense 1, Khaki Ash.
 Spit 3: Khaki Ash, Dung, Red Lense 2.
 Spit 4: Orange Ash, Red Lense 3.
 Spit 5: Subsoil.

Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

Spit 1: Brown Topsoil, Dung.
 Spit 2: Dung, Subsoil.

Trench 5 (Fig. 5)

Spit 1: Brown Topsoil, Hard Brown Soil.
 Spit 2: Grey Ash, Subsoil.
 Spit 3: Grey Ash, Subsoil.

Trench 6 (Fig. 6)

Level 1: Brown Topsoil.
 Level 2: Grey Ash.
 Level 3: Red Lense
 Level 4: Khaki Ash I.
 Level 5: Daga 1.
 Level 6: Khaki Ash II.
 Level 7: Daga 2.
 Level 8: Subsoil.

Trench 7 (Fig. 7)

Spit 1: Brown Topsoil, Grey Ash.
 Spit 2: Grey Ash, Red Lense.
 Spit 3: Subsoil.

Key to Stratigraphic Plans and Sections

Code Stratigraphic Unit Abbreviation



Brown Topsoil

T.S.



Compacted Topsoil

—



Grey Ash

G.A.



Red Lense

R.L.



Khaki Ash

K.A.



Dung

Du.



Compacted Dung Layer

C.L.



Orange Ash

O.A.



Daga

D.



Subsoil

S.S.



Rocks and Bedrock

—



Radiocarbon Sample with Lab. No.

—

Fig. 1. Sections trench 1 Ficus

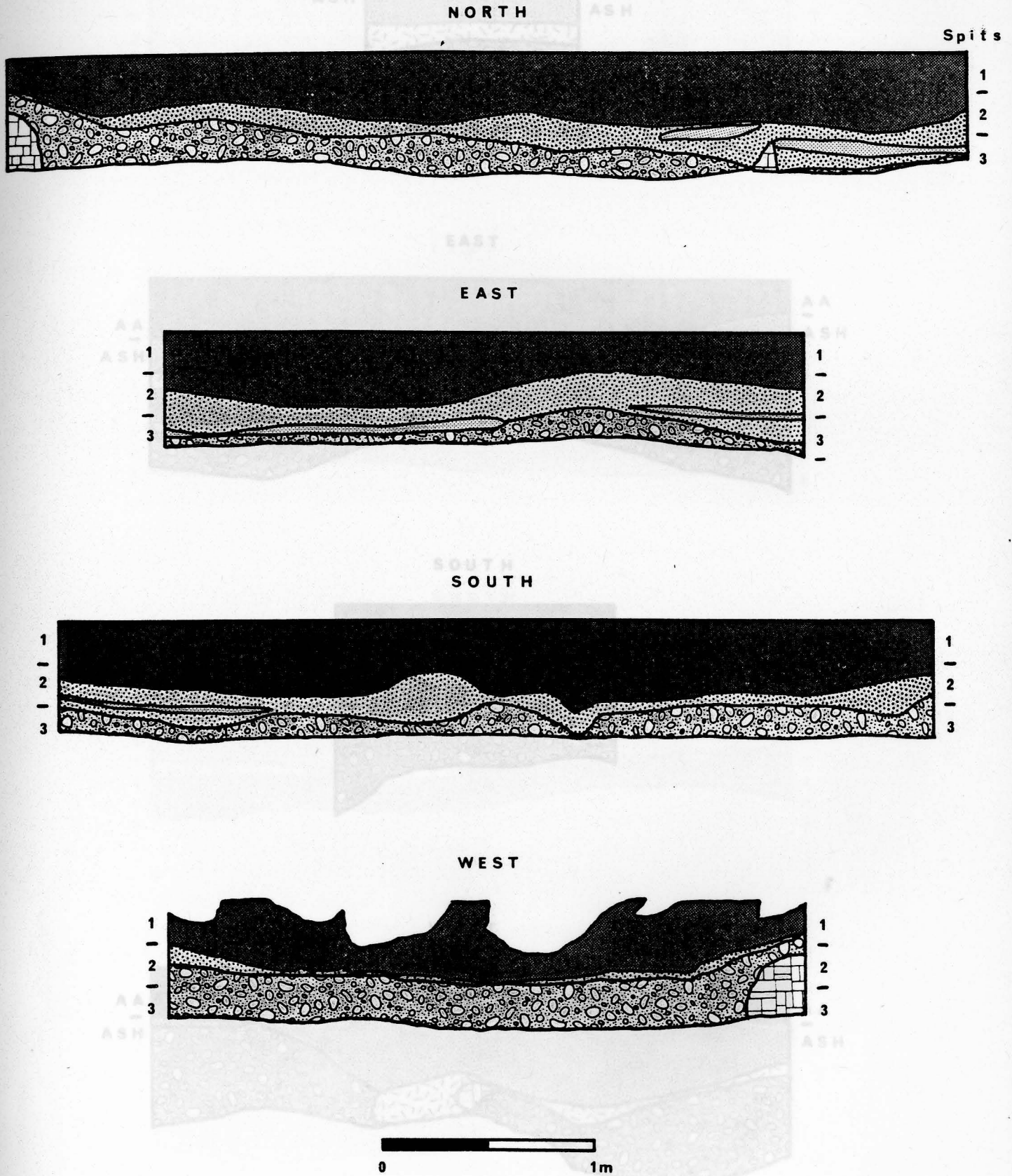
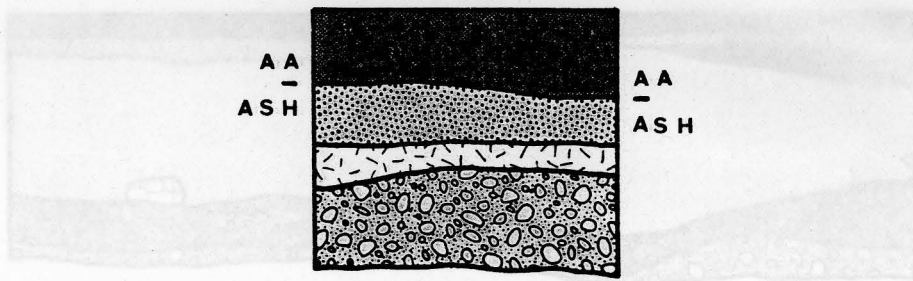
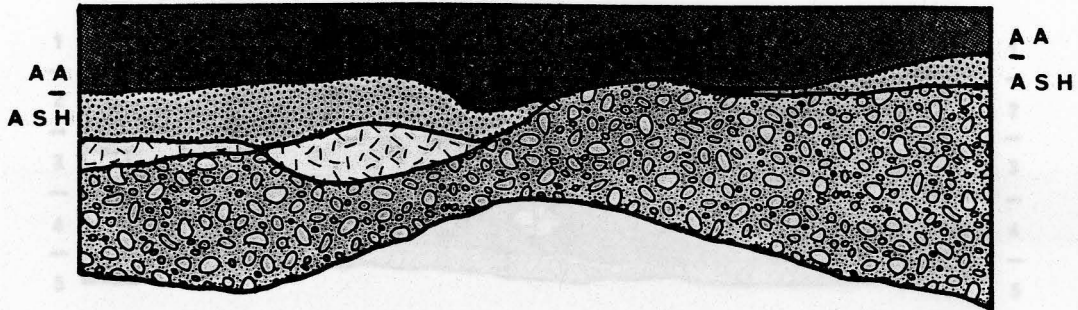


Fig. 1. Sections trench 1 Ficus

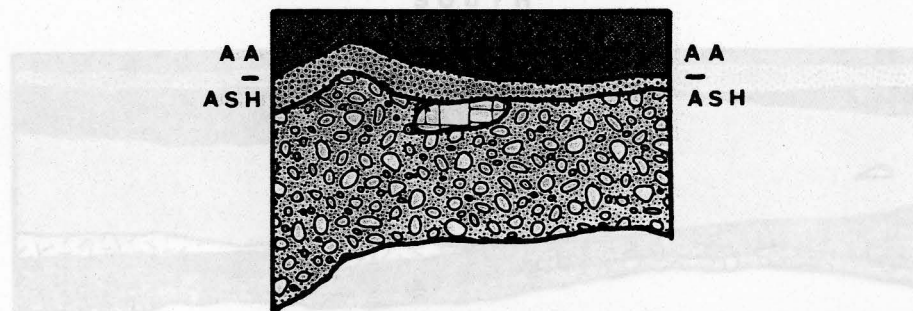
Fig. 2. Sections trench 2 Ficus



EAST



SOUTH



WEST

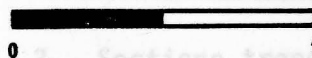
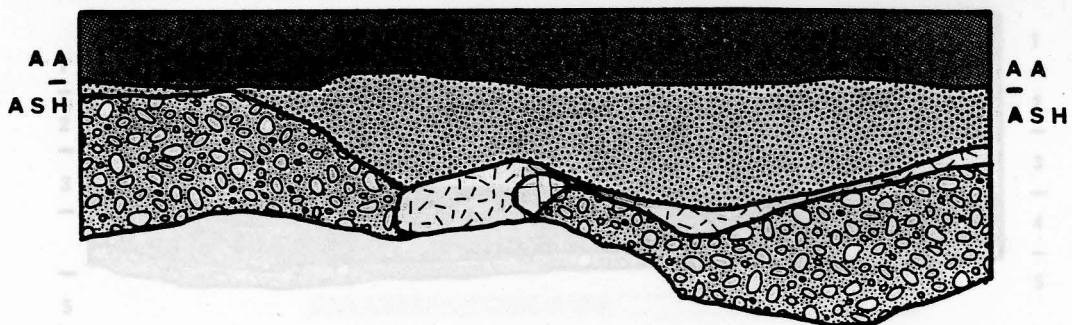
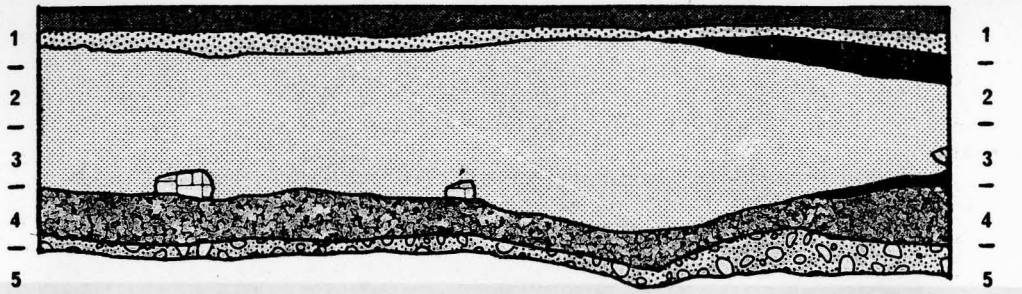
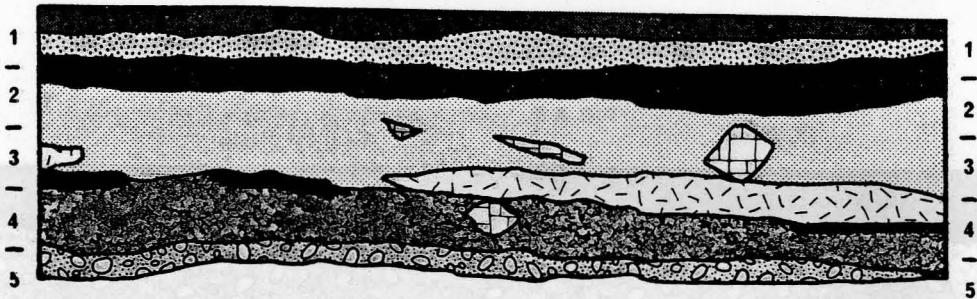


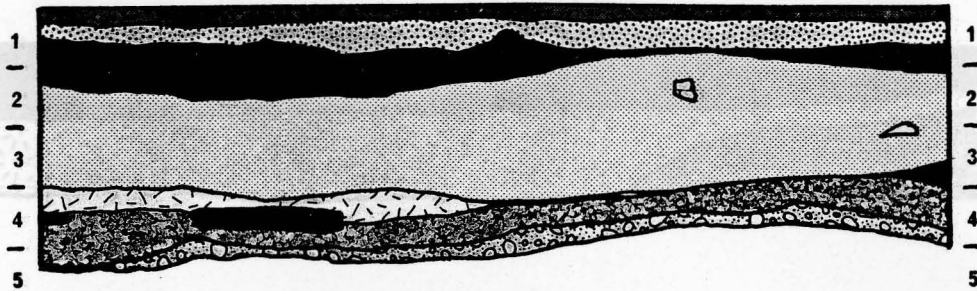
Fig. 2. Sections trench 2 Ficus



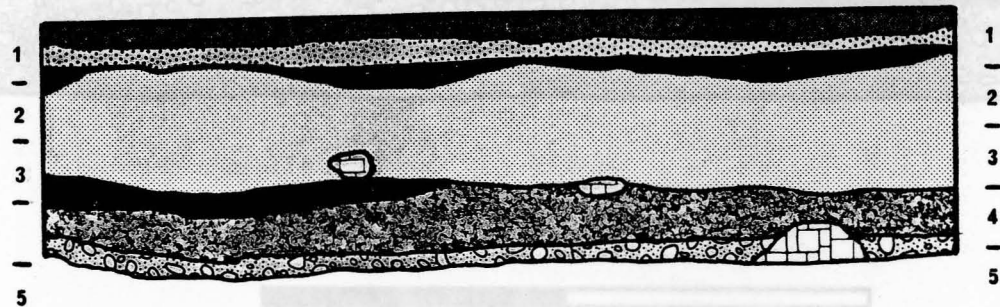
EAST



SOUTH



WEST



0 1 m

Fig. 3. Sections trench 3 Ficus

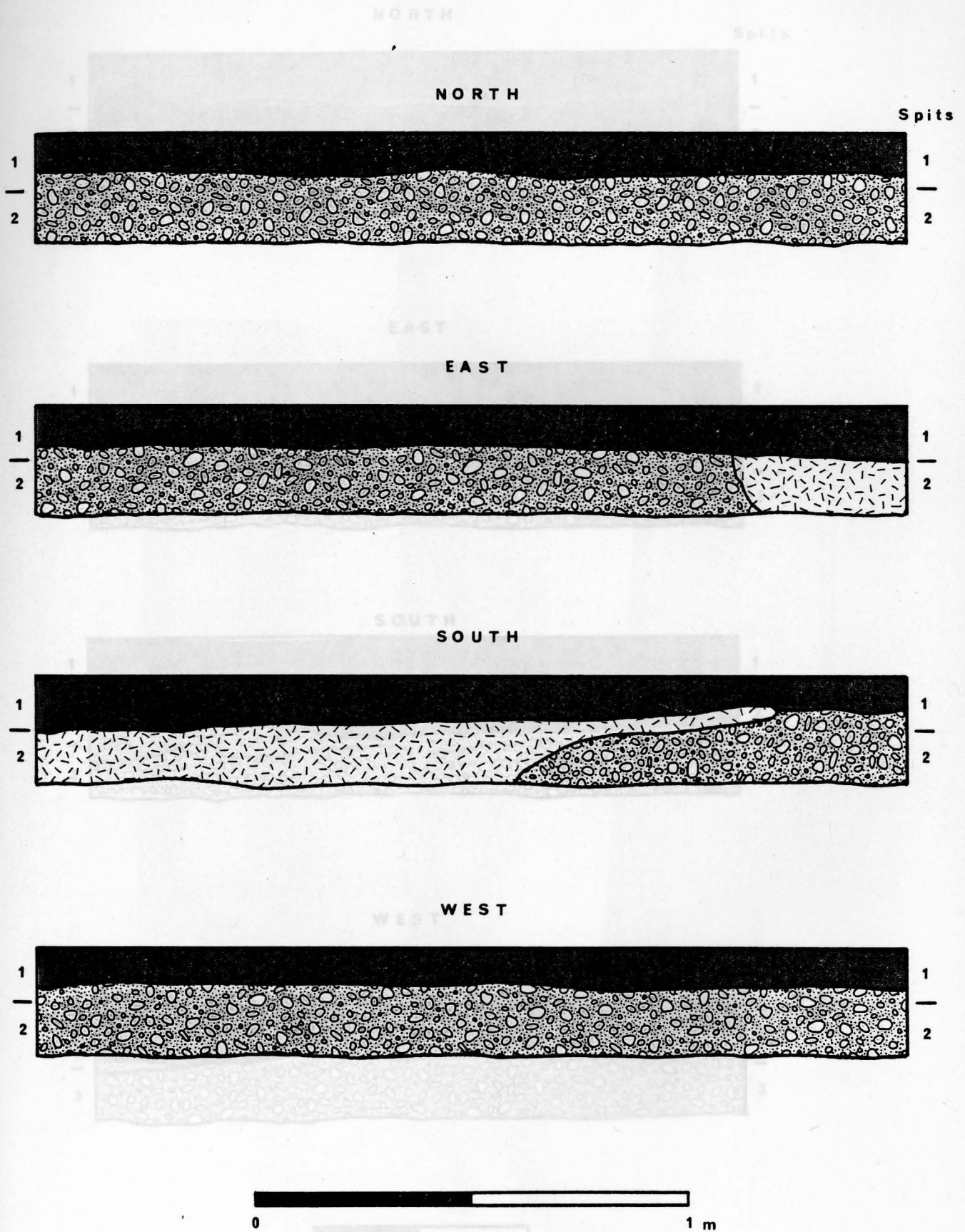


Fig. 4. Sections trench 4 Ficus

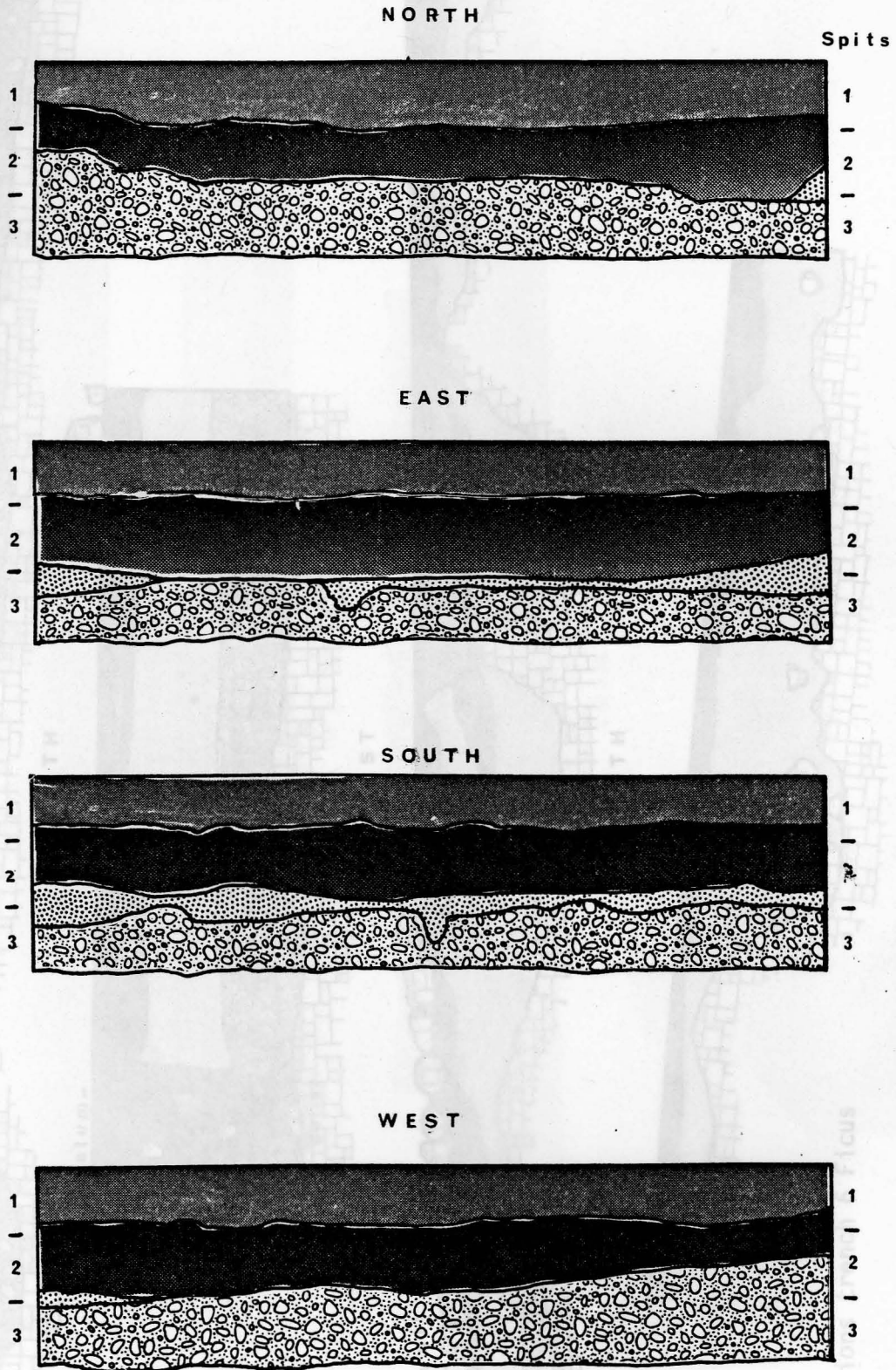


Fig. 5. Sections trench 5 Ficus

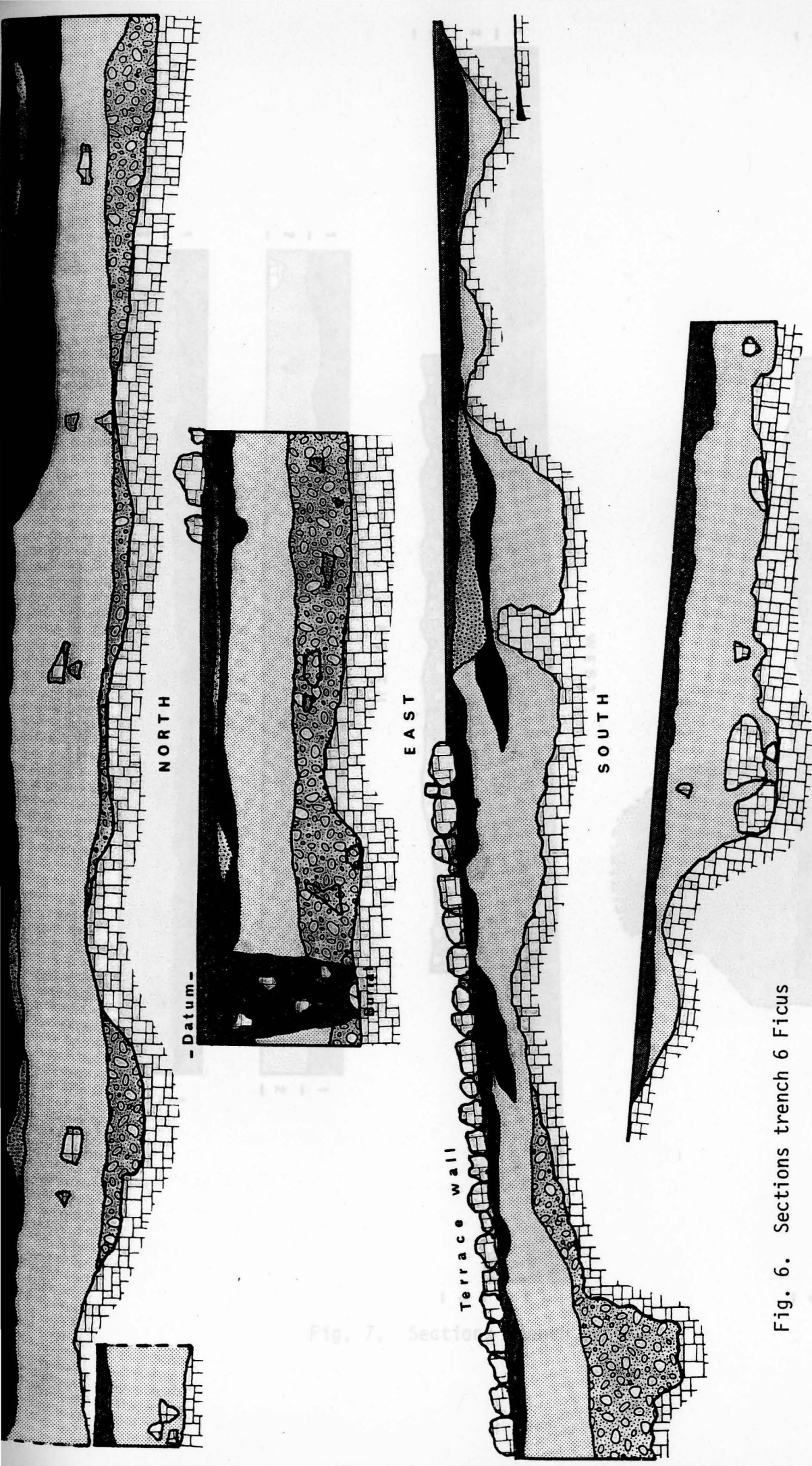


Fig. 6. Sections trench 6 Ficus

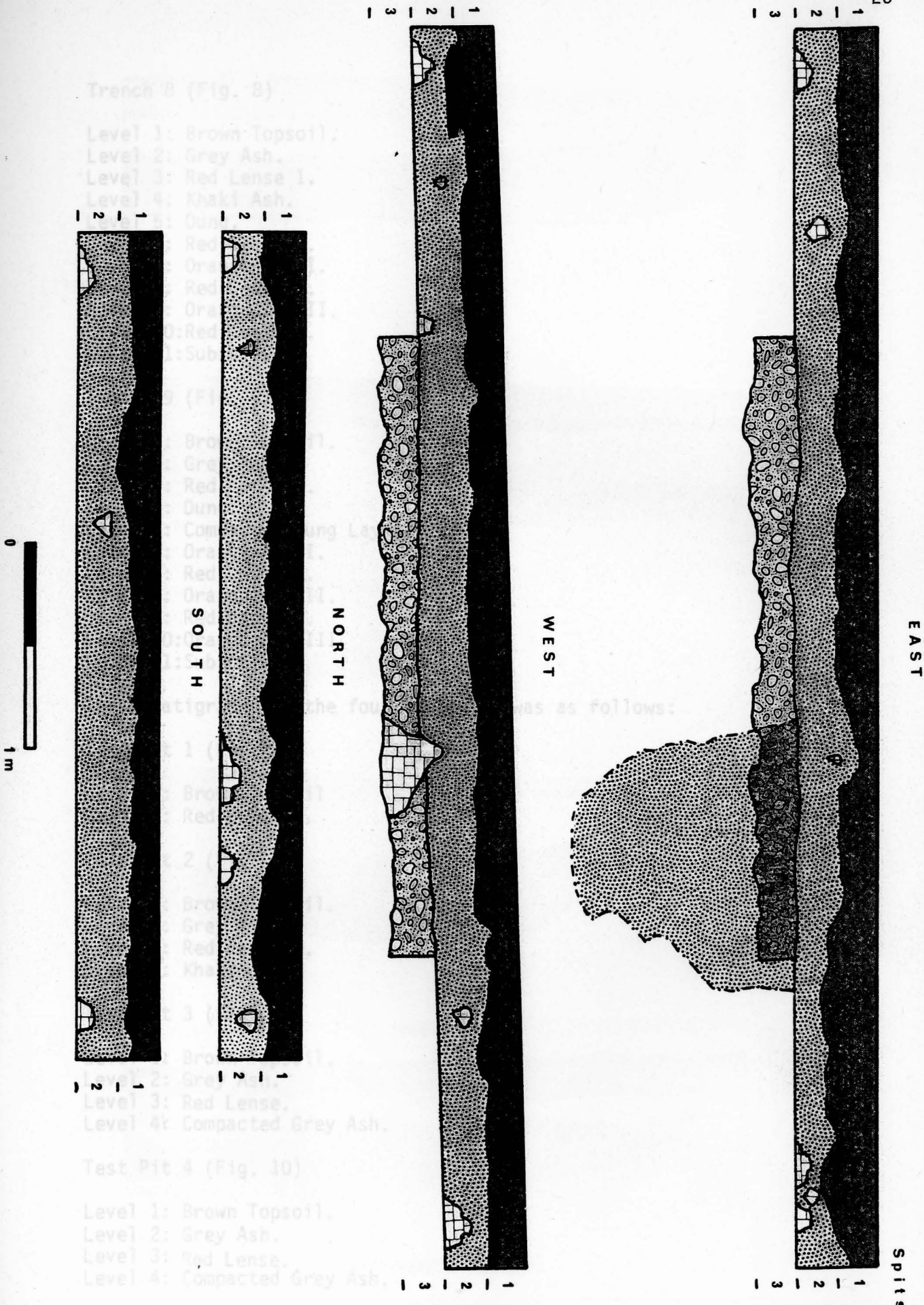


Fig. 7. Sections trench 7 Ficus

Trench 8 (Fig. 8)

Level 1: Brown Topsoil.
 Level 2: Grey Ash.
 Level 3: Red Lense 1.
 Level 4: Khaki Ash.
 Level 5: Dung.
 Level 6: Red Lense 2.
 Level 7: Orange Ash I.
 Level 8: Red Lense 3.
 Level 9: Orange Ash II.
 Level 10: Red Lense 4.
 Level 11: Subsoil.

Trench 9 (Fig. 9)

Level 1: Brown Topsoil.
 Level 2: Grey Ash.
 Level 3: Red Lense 1.
 Level 4: Dung.
 Level 5: Compacted Dung Layer.
 Level 6: Orange Ash I.
 Level 7: Red Lense 2.
 Level 8: Orange Ash II.
 Level 9: Red Lense 3.
 Level 10: Orange Ash III.
 Level 11: Subsoil.

The stratigraphy of the four test pits was as follows:

Test Pit 1 (Fig. 10)

Level 1: Brown Topsoil
 Level 2: Red Subsoil.

Test Pit 2 (Fig. 10)

Level 1: Brown Topsoil.
 Level 2: Grey Ash.
 Level 3: Red Lense 1.
 Level 4: Khaki Ash.

Test Pit 3 (Fig. 10)

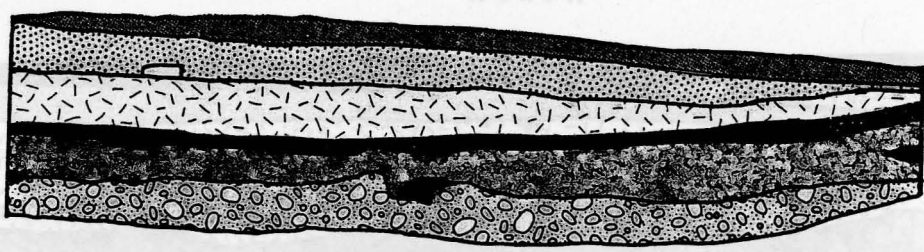
Level 1: Brown Topsoil.
 Level 2: Grey Ash.
 Level 3: Red Lense.
 Level 4: Compacted Grey Ash.

Test Pit 4 (Fig. 10)

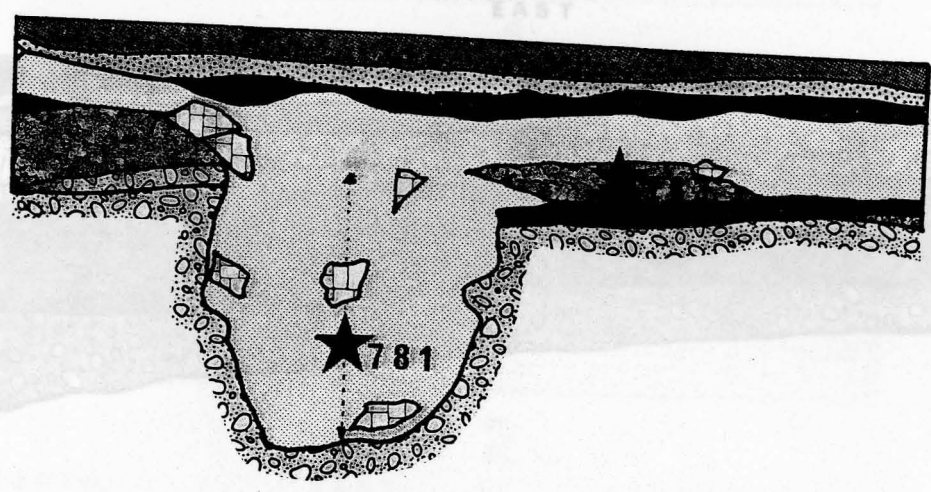
Level 1: Brown Topsoil.
 Level 2: Grey Ash.
 Level 3: Red Lense.
 Level 4: Compacted Grey Ash.

Fig. 8. Sections trench 8 Ficus

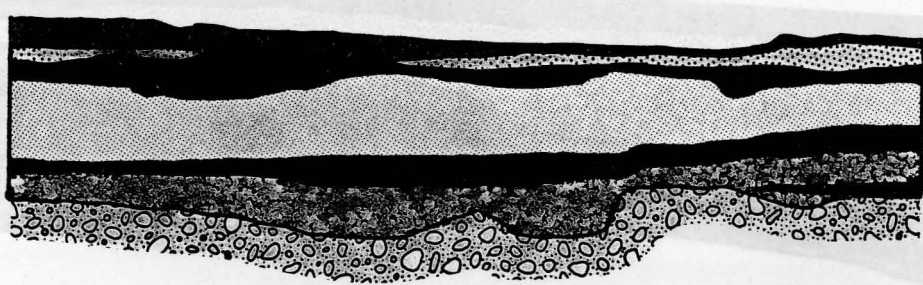
NORTH



EAST



SOUTH



WEST

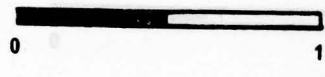
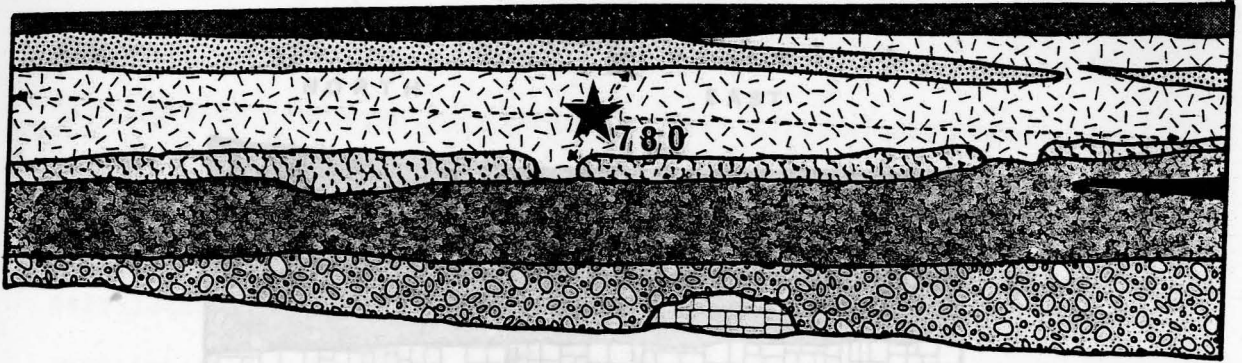
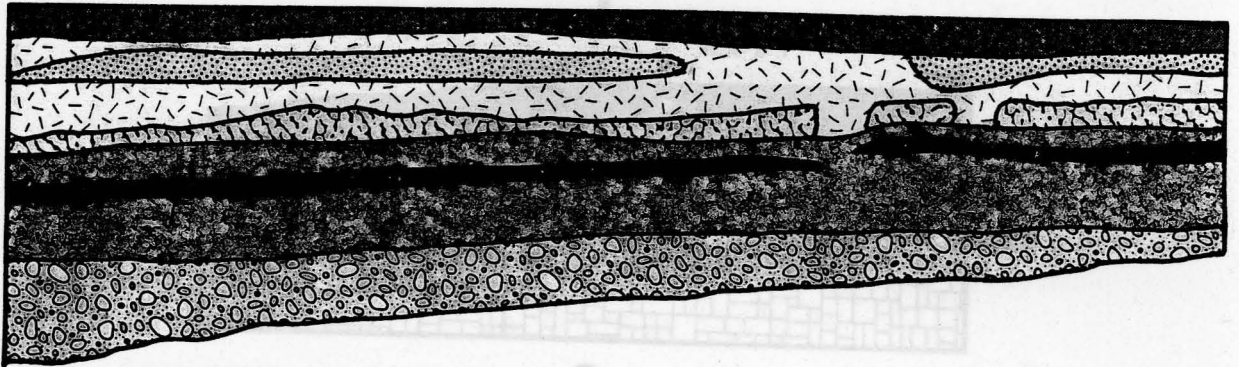


Fig. 8. Sections trench 8 Ficus

NORTH



EAST



2

NORTH

EAST

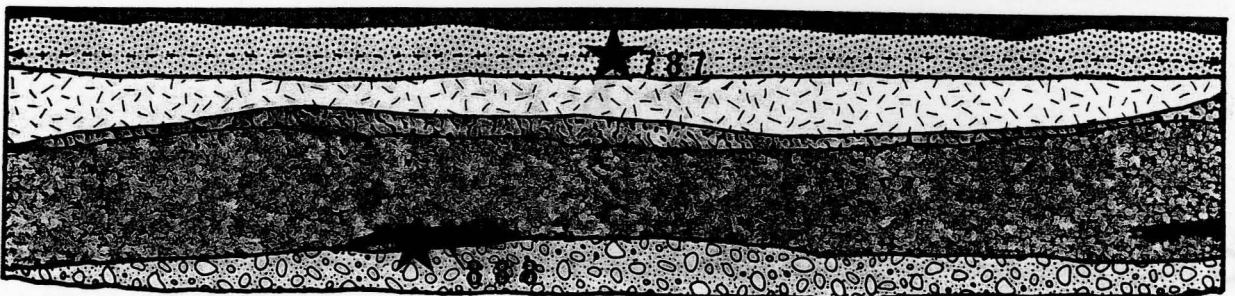
SOUTH

SOUTH

WEST



WEST



0 1 m

Fig. 9. Sections trench 9 Ficus

Fig. 10. Sections test pits 1 to 4 Ficus

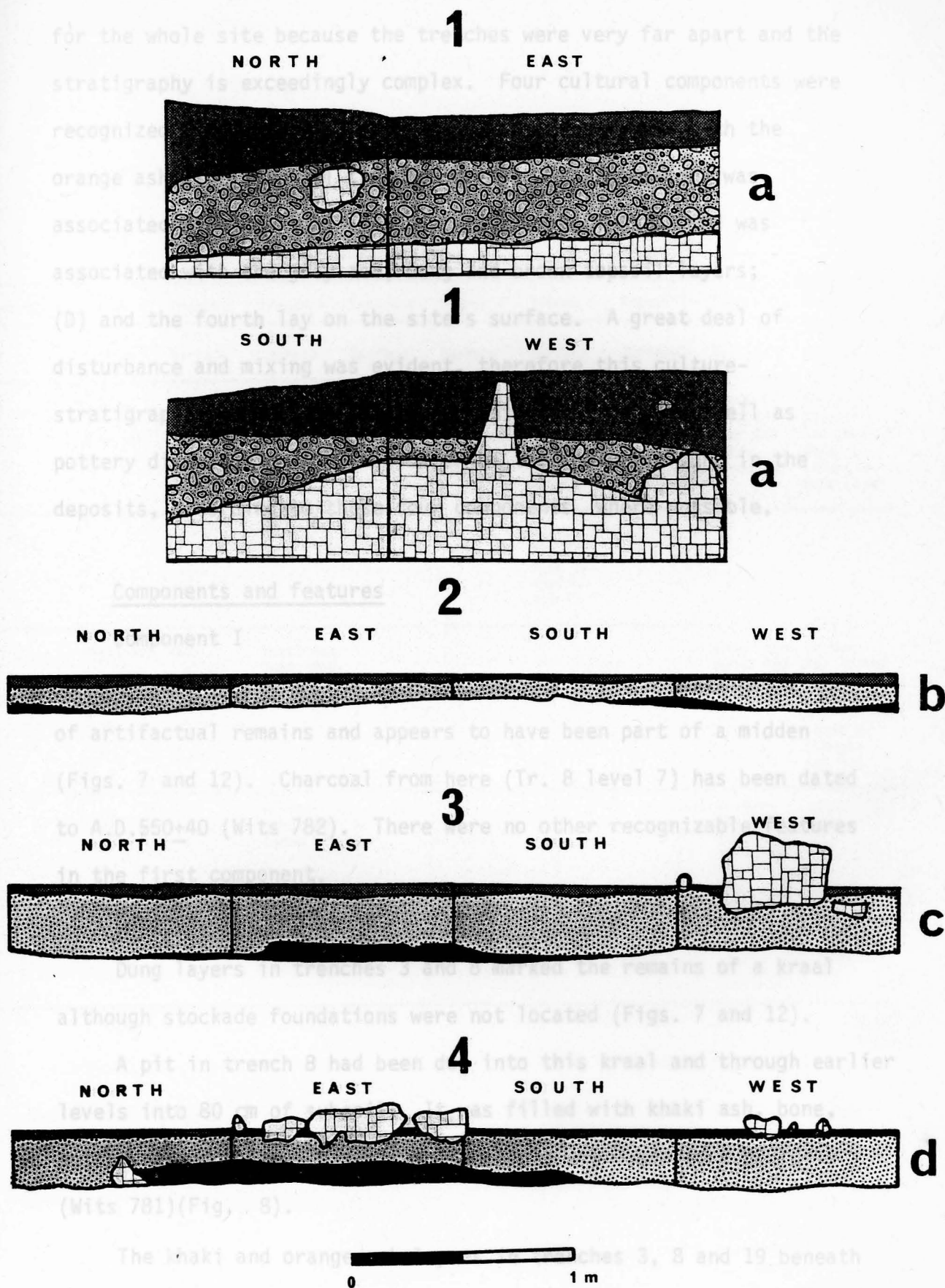


Fig. 10. Sections test pits 1 to 4 Ficus

It is not possible to compile a general stratigraphic sequence for the whole site because the trenches were very far apart and the stratigraphy is exceedingly complex. Four cultural components were recognized (Table 3): (A) the earliest was associated with the orange ash layers in all trenches but 9; (B) the second was associated with khaki ash and dung layers; (C) the third was associated with the grey ash, dung and brown topsoil layers; (D) and the fourth lay on the site's surface. A great deal of disturbance and mixing was evident, therefore this culture-stratigraphic correlation rests on radiocarbon dates as well as pottery distributions. I now describe the features found in the deposits, according to these four components where possible.

Components and features

Component I

The orange ash at the base of trenches 3 and 8 contained a lot of artifactual remains and appears to have been part of a midden (Figs. 7 and 12). Charcoal from here (Tr. 8 level 7) has been dated to A.D.550 $\pm$ 40 (Wits 782). There were no other recognizable features in the first component.

Component II

Dung layers in trenches 3 and 8 marked the remains of a kraal although stockade foundations were not located (Figs. 7 and 12).

A pit in trench 8 had been dug into this kraal and through earlier levels into 80 cm of subsoil. It was filled with khaki ash, bone, pottery and rubble. Charcoal from the pit was dated to A.D.870 $\pm$ 40 (Wits 781)(Fig. 8).

The khaki and orange ash layers in trenches 3, 8 and 19 beneath the kraal contained midden refuse and red lenses. It is not clear

TABLE 3 : THE FICUS COMPONENTS

Components	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4	Trench 5	Trench 6	Trench 7	Trench 8	Trench 9
IV	Surface	Surface	Surface	Surface	Surface	Surface	Surface	Surface	Surface
III	Brown- Topsoil Grey Ash	Brown- Topsoil Grey Ash	Brown- Topsoil Grey Ash Red- Lense 1	Brown- Topsoil Dung	Brown- Topsoil Hard Brown Soil Grey Ash	Brown- Topsoil Grey Ash Red Lense	Brown- Topsoil Grey Ash Red- Lense	Brown- Topsoil Grey Ash Red- Lense 1	Brown- Topsoil Red Lense 1 Dung Compacted- Dung Layer
II or III						Khaki- Ash I Daga 1 Khaki- Ash II			
II	Khaki Ash	Dung	Khaki Ash Dung, Red- Lense 2				Khaki Ash Dung, Red- Lense 2	Orange Ash I, Red- Lense 2 Orange- Ash II, Red- Lense 3 Orange- Ash III	
I			Orange- Ash, Red Lense 3				Orange- Ash I Red Lense- 3, Orange- Ash II Red- Lense 4		
I II or III						Daga 2			

whether these deposits represent separate features from the kraal or middens associated with the kraal. In trench 9 charcoal from orange ash in level 10 has been dated to A.D.835 $\pm$ 50 (Wits. 888) (Fig. 9).

Component III

The remains of a third component kraal were located in levels 4 and 5 of trench 9. It comprised a white dung layer 10 to 30 cm thick on top of a hard brown layer of compacted dung (Fig. 9). Charcoal from the white dung layer has been dated to A.D.1560 $\pm$ 50 (Wits 780). Five narrow, curved trenches cut through the compacted layer into the orange ash below. In plan they form arcs of concentric circles and were most likely the foundation trenches of several stockades (Fig. 11, Plate 2). Both the white and compacted dung layers contained bone and pottery.

The shaft of a grave (burial 1) had been dug through the compacted layer from the white dung above. The grave was a shallow, oval pit devoid of any grave goods. This skeleton was flexed, lying on its right side with the cranium pillowed on its left hand; the body faced approximately east (Plate 3). The skeleton has been identified by Professor H. de Villiers as that of a negroid female aged twenty to twenty-five years at time of death (Appendix 1).

A midden-like deposit on top of the dung in trench 9 (Fig. 9) has been radiocarbon dated to A.D.1490 $\pm$ 50 (Wits 787). As with the Component II case, it is not clear whether this grey ash level is separate from or part of the kraal complex.

Another kraal deposit and burial were uncovered in trench 4 (Fig. 12). The left foot and lower fibula of this burial were exposed, but the skeleton was not removed. A fragment of ivory bracelet from the dung matrix may have been associated with the burial.



Plate 2. Kraal and burial in trench 9, Ficus

(Pegboard incorrect 'Daga 2' = Compacted Dung Layer)

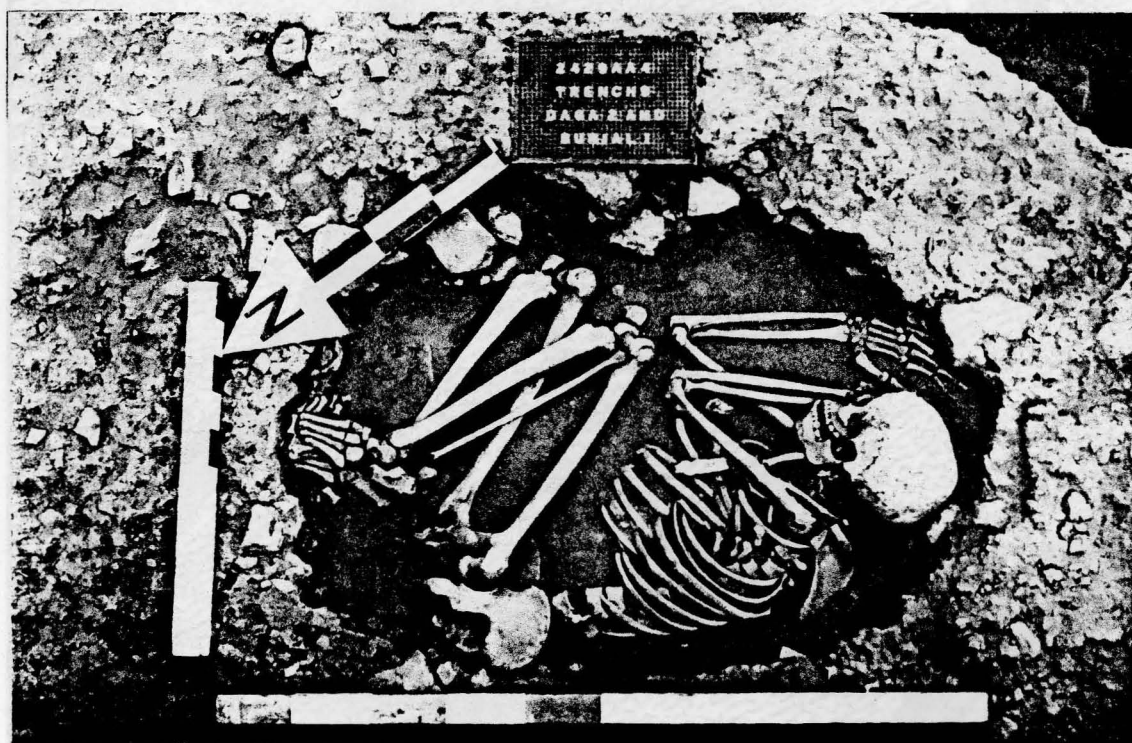


Plate 3. Burial in trench 9, Ficus

(Pegboard incorrect 'Daga 2' = Compacted Dung Layer)

Fig. 11. Kraal and burial in trench 9 Ficus

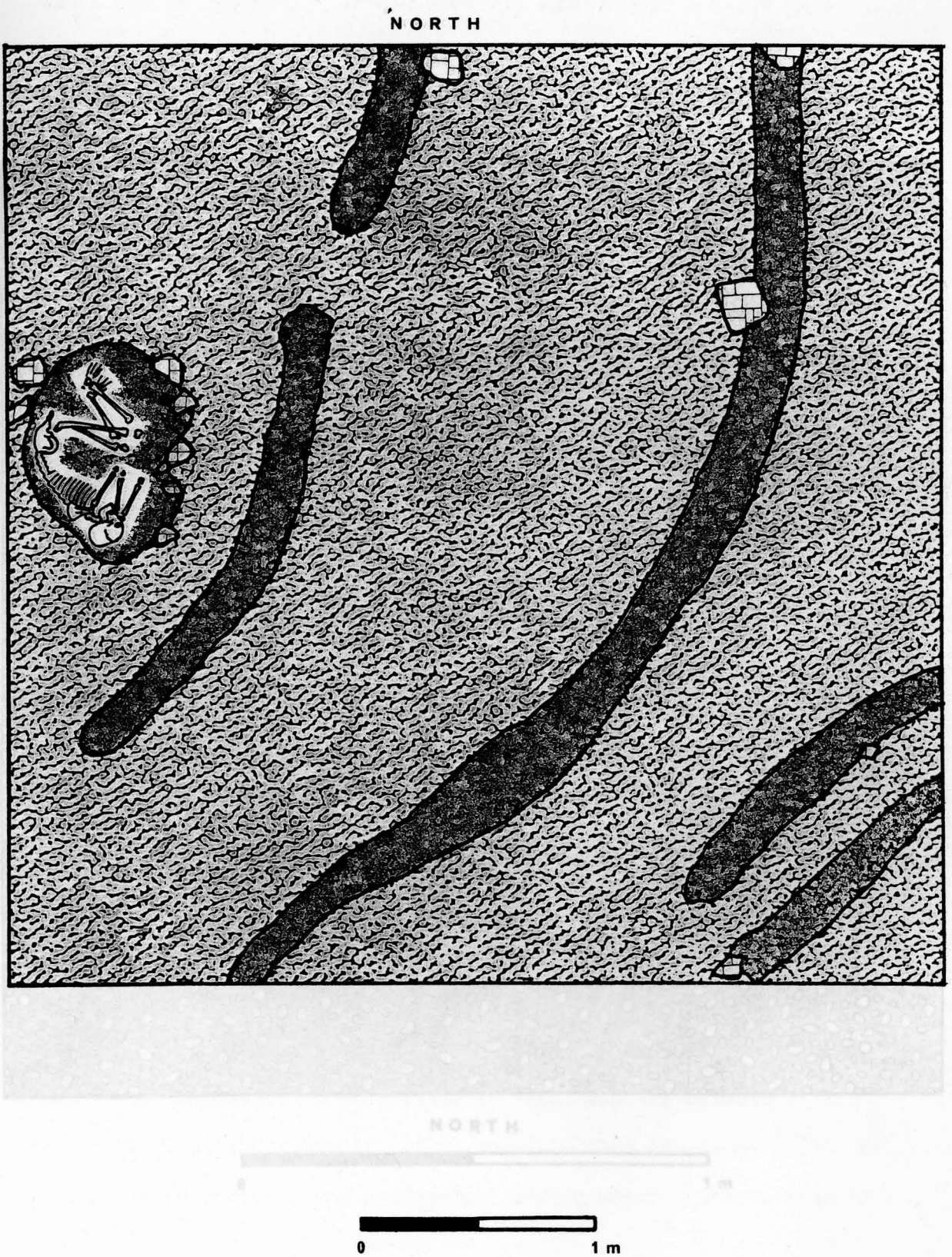
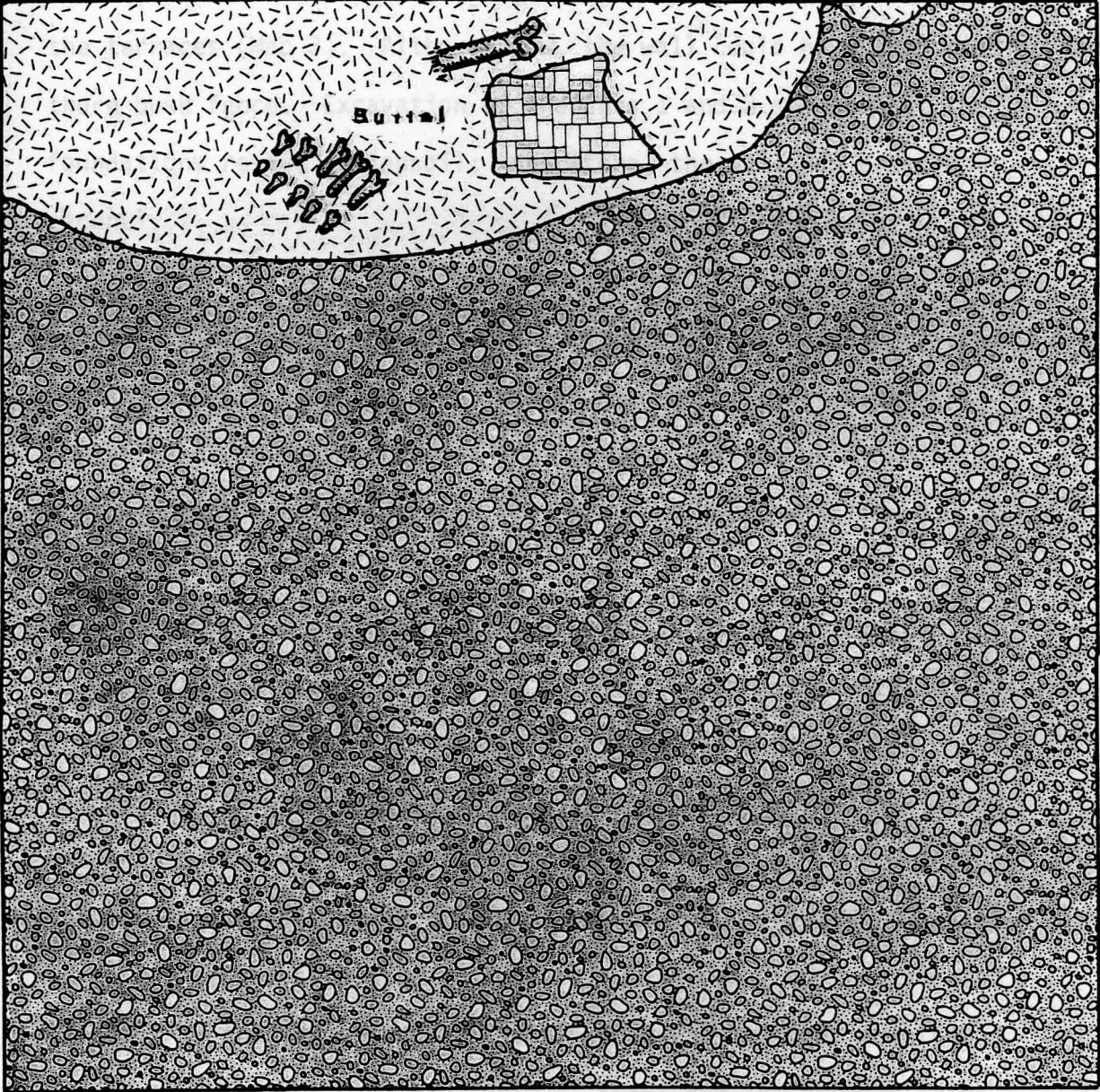


Fig. 11. Kraal and burial in trench 9 Ficus

The only other feature which could be assigned to this component was a pit in trench 7. It had been dug approximately 1.3 m into subsoil and contained a fine grey ash, bone and pottery (Fig. 11).

Component IV

A circular wall was located on the site's levelled slope.



NORTH

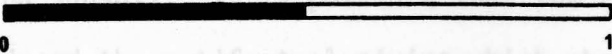


Fig. 12. Kraal and burial in trench 4 Ficus

The only other feature which could be assigned to this component was a pit in trench 7. It had been dug approximately 1,3 m into subsoil and contained a fine grey ash, bone and pottery (Fig. 11).

Component IV

A circular stone wall was located on the site's 'saddle', above the terraces (Map 3). Although low, the wall could have supported a thorn bush fence. Excavation of trenches 1 and 2 showed that the foundations rested in topsoil; therefore, the wall was erected recently.

A very well preserved fourth component burial was located in the north-west corner of trench 6. A well defined, narrow burial-shaft of ashy topsoil extended down into the subsoil. The cranium was upright and facing northwards, indicating a sitting or standing burial position (Fig. 13 Plate 4). No grave goods were found.

Component Uncertain

Pottery from all components was heavily mixed in trench 6, and no charcoal was dated. Therefore only the uppermost strata and the intrusive burial can be confidently assigned to a particular component. Two possible hut floors at the trench's southern end, can only be assigned to an indifferent pre-Component IV time (Fig.13). The lower example, Daga 2 (Plate 5), was a hard, yellowish material which had been plastered onto subsoil. A second floor was located slightly to the south-east. It was orange and had been smoothed and fired (Plate 6). A thin lense of khaki ash lay between this floor (Daga 1) and subsoil. It is possible that the construction of these floors produced the artifactual mixing which characterised this trench.

Ficus is heavily terraced on all but its steepest slope (Map 3). Terraces varied from a single row of stones to distinct walls of 30 cm

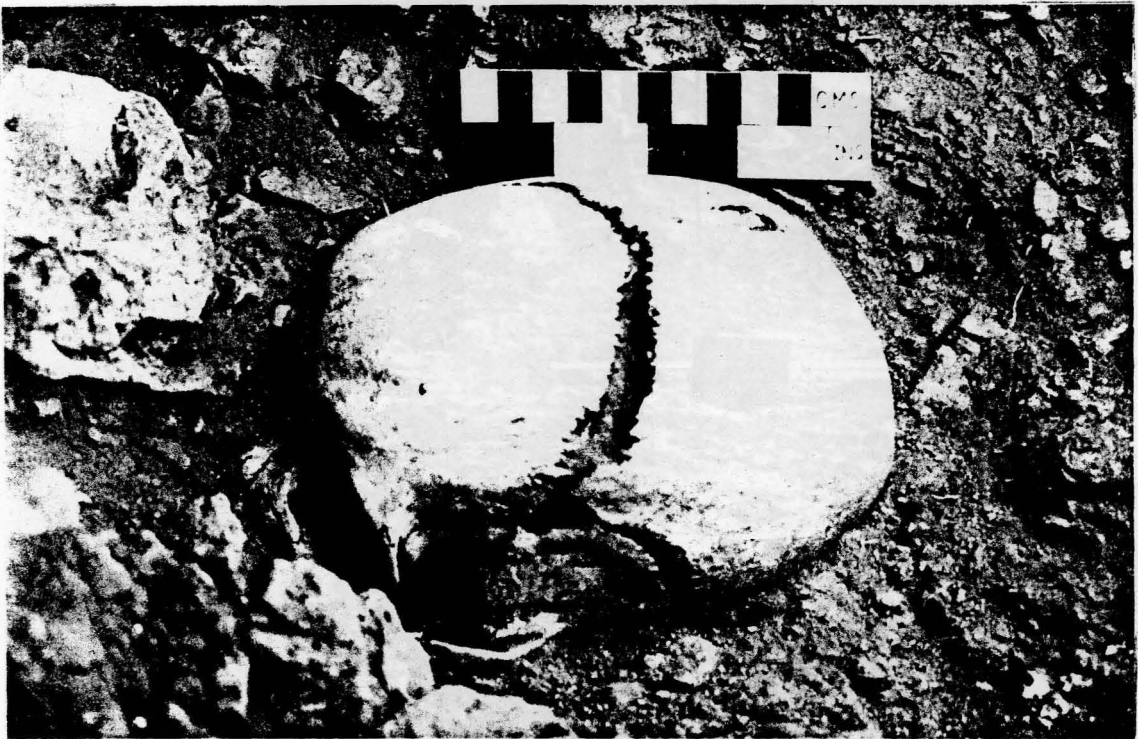


Plate 4. Burial in trench 6, Ficus

(Pegboard incorrect 'Daga' layers 3, 2 and 1' = Daga 2)

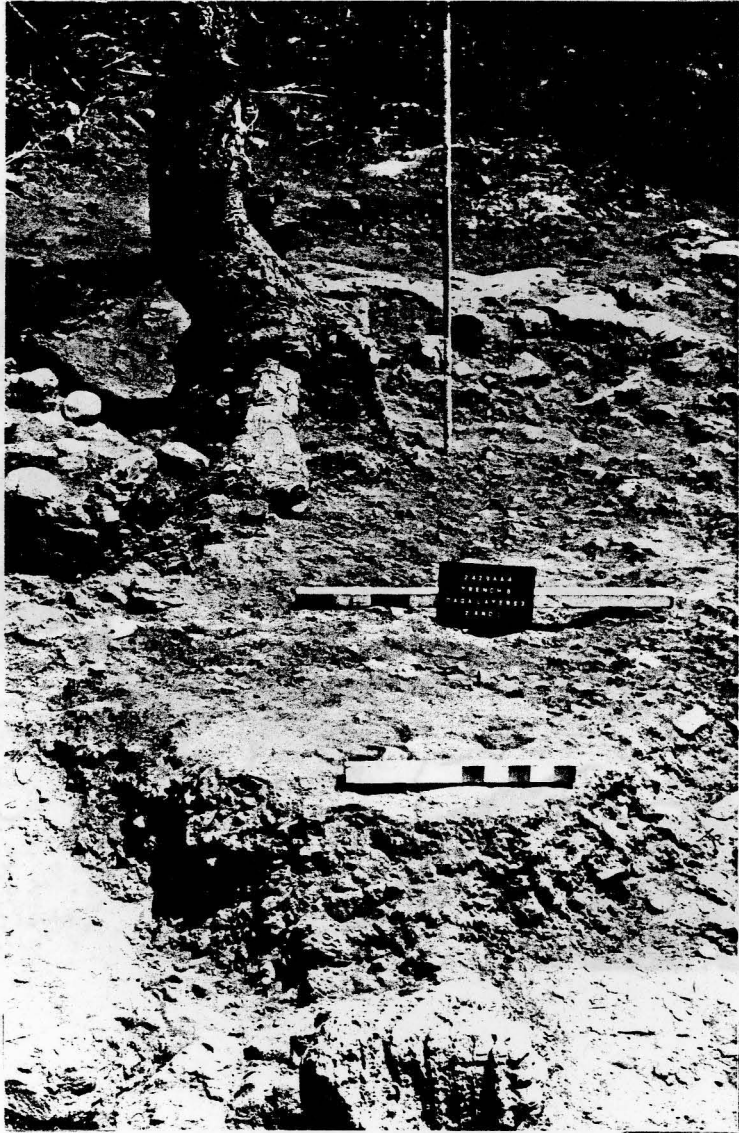


Plate 5. Daga 2 in trench 6, Ficus

(Pegboard incorrect 'Daga layers 3, 2 and 1' = Daga 2)

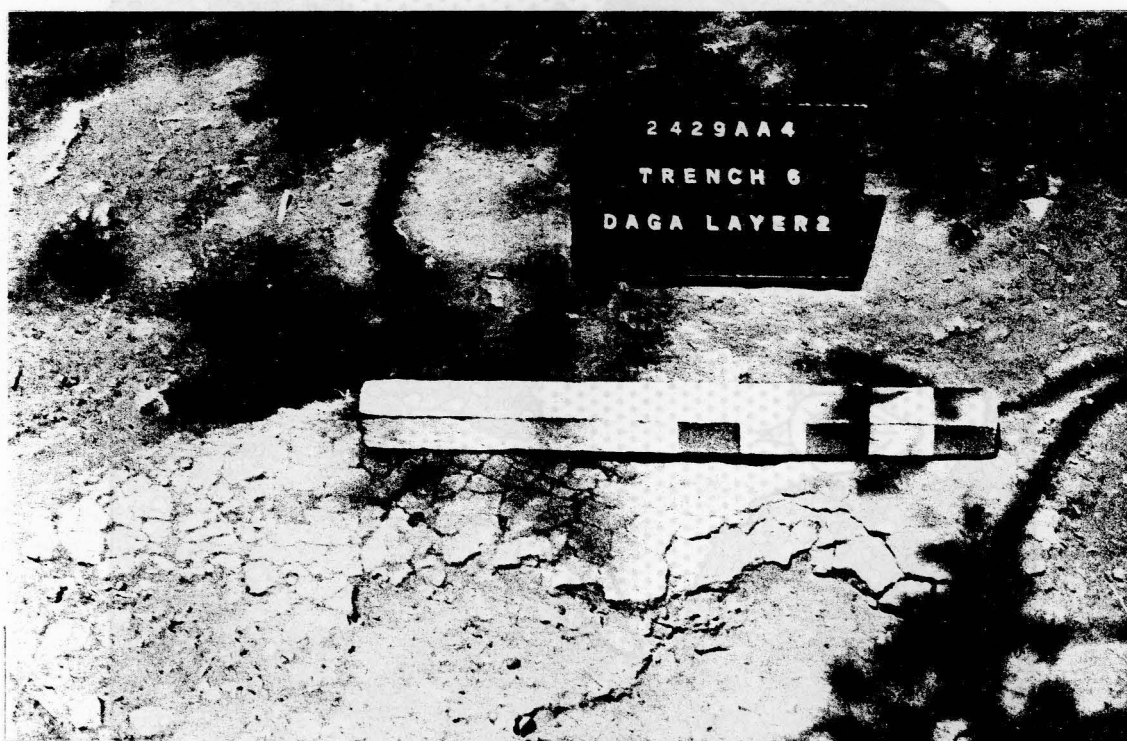


Plate 6. Daga 1 in trench 6, Ficus

(Pegboard incorrect 'Daga layer 2' = Daga 1)

Fig. 13. Daga and burial in trench 6, Ficus

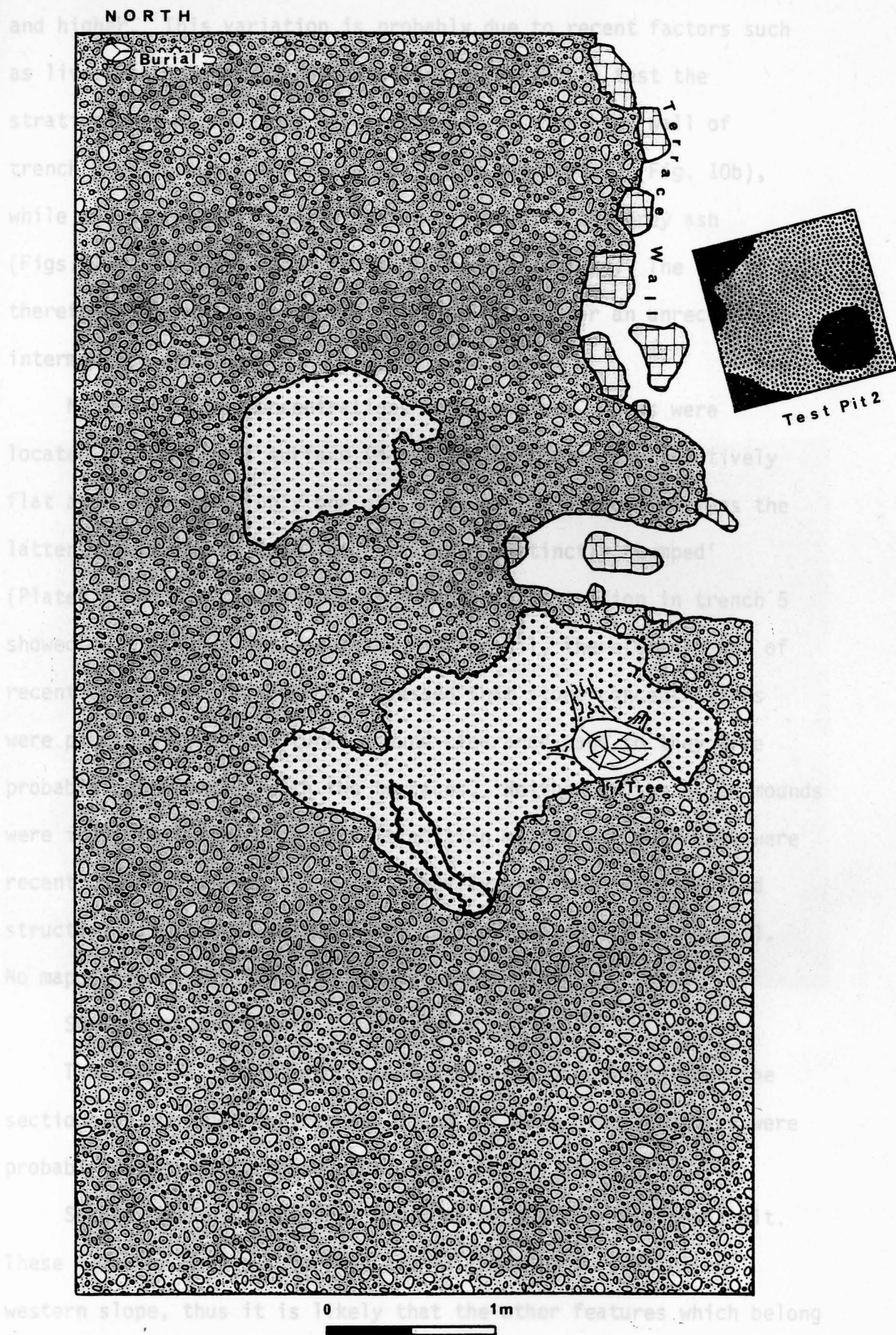


Fig. 13. Daga and burial in trench 6 Ficus

and higher. This variation is probably due to recent factors such as livestock damage. Three pits were excavated to test the stratigraphic connections of terrace walls. The back wall of trench 6 rested on a red lense (1) below the topsoil (Fig. 10b), while the terrace wall below trench 9 rested in the grey ash (Figs. 10c and 10d) dated to the fifteenth century. The terraces therefore belong either to the third or fourth or an unrecognized intermediate component.

Numerous stone concentrations and two stone mounds were located on the site's surface (Map 3). The former are relatively flat and composed of only one or two layers of stones, whereas the latter have three or more layers and are distinctly 'humped' (Plates 7 and 8). Excavation of a stone concentration in trench 5 showed that its foundations rested in topsoil, therefore it was of recent date. Local informants guessed that stone concentrations were produced by agricultural ground clearance, and so they were probably contemporary with the terraces. Neither of the stone mounds were investigated because local tradition maintained that they were recent Shangaan graves. A small, heavily overgrown stone walled structure was located on the slope east of the main site (Map 3). No mapping or excavations were undertaken.

Summary of Components

The only in situ first component remains discovered were the sections of a midden in trenches 3 and 8. Many other features were probably destroyed by subsequent ones.

Second component features included middens, kraals and a pit. These features were all located within the site's 'saddle' and western slope, thus it is likely that the other features which belong



Plate 7. Stone concentration, Ficus

to the second component would be found near or within this area.

All trenches yielded third component deposits; features included kraals, burials and a pit. The two opposed sets of foundation trenches in trench 9's kraal complex indicate either that there was more than one stockade, or that occupation and rebuilding occurred over a considerable time span. The number and extent of the other features do not contradict either of these possibilities. The relative thinness of third component deposits in trenches 4 and 5 indicate that they were on the periphery of



rim fragments large enough to distinguish profiles and complete decorations were used to determine modes and affiliate sets. Fragments large enough to distinguish complete profiles only, were counted as fragmentary modes and affiliate sets (Fig. 18).

Five profile modes were recognized, which produced a total of eleven affiliate sets. Plate 8.¹⁴ Stone mound, Ficus decoration modes were detected, which produced ten affiliate sets (Fig. 15). The intersection of these modes produced twenty-one classes with thirty-two sub-classes (Figs. 17 and 18):

to the second component would be found near or within this area.

All trenches yielded third component deposits; features included kraals, burials and a pit. The two opposed sets of foundation trenches in trench 9's kraal complex indicate either that there was more than one stockade, or that occupation and rebuilding occurred over a considerable time span. The number and extent of the other features do not contradict either of these possibilities. The relative thinness of third component deposits in trenches 4 and 5 indicate that they were on the periphery of the occupation. Overall this was the most cohesive and visible occupation. It was unfortunate that living floors were not found. Consequently, the layout of the settlement could not be reconstructed.

The only fourth component remains were the stone circle on the site's 'saddle'. Thus this occupation was almost certainly brief and small-scale.

Finds

Pottery

The Ficus assemblage comprised a minimum of 676 vessels. Few complete or reconstructable examples were found; therefore decorated rim fragments large enough to distinguish profiles and complete decorations were used to determine modes and affiliate sets. Fragments large enough to distinguish complete profiles only, were counted as fragmentary modes and affiliate sets (Fig. 18).

Five profile modes were recognized, which produced a total of eleven affiliate sets (Figs. 14 and 16). Six decoration modes were detected, which produced ten affiliate sets (Fig. 15). The intersection of these modes produced twenty-one classes with thirty-two sub-classes (Figs. 17 and 18):

Fig. 14. Ficus decoration layouts

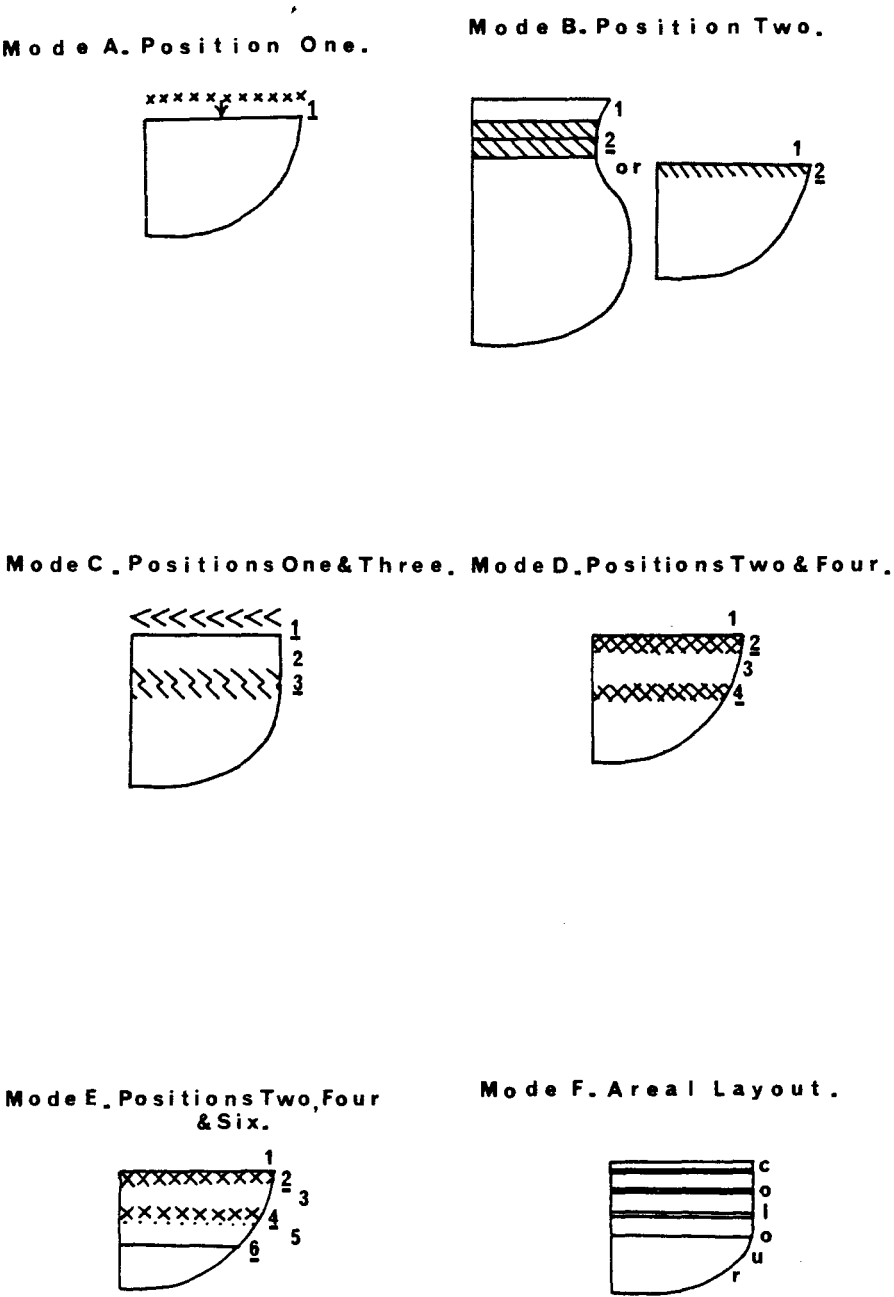


Fig. 15. Ficus decoration modes and affiliate sets

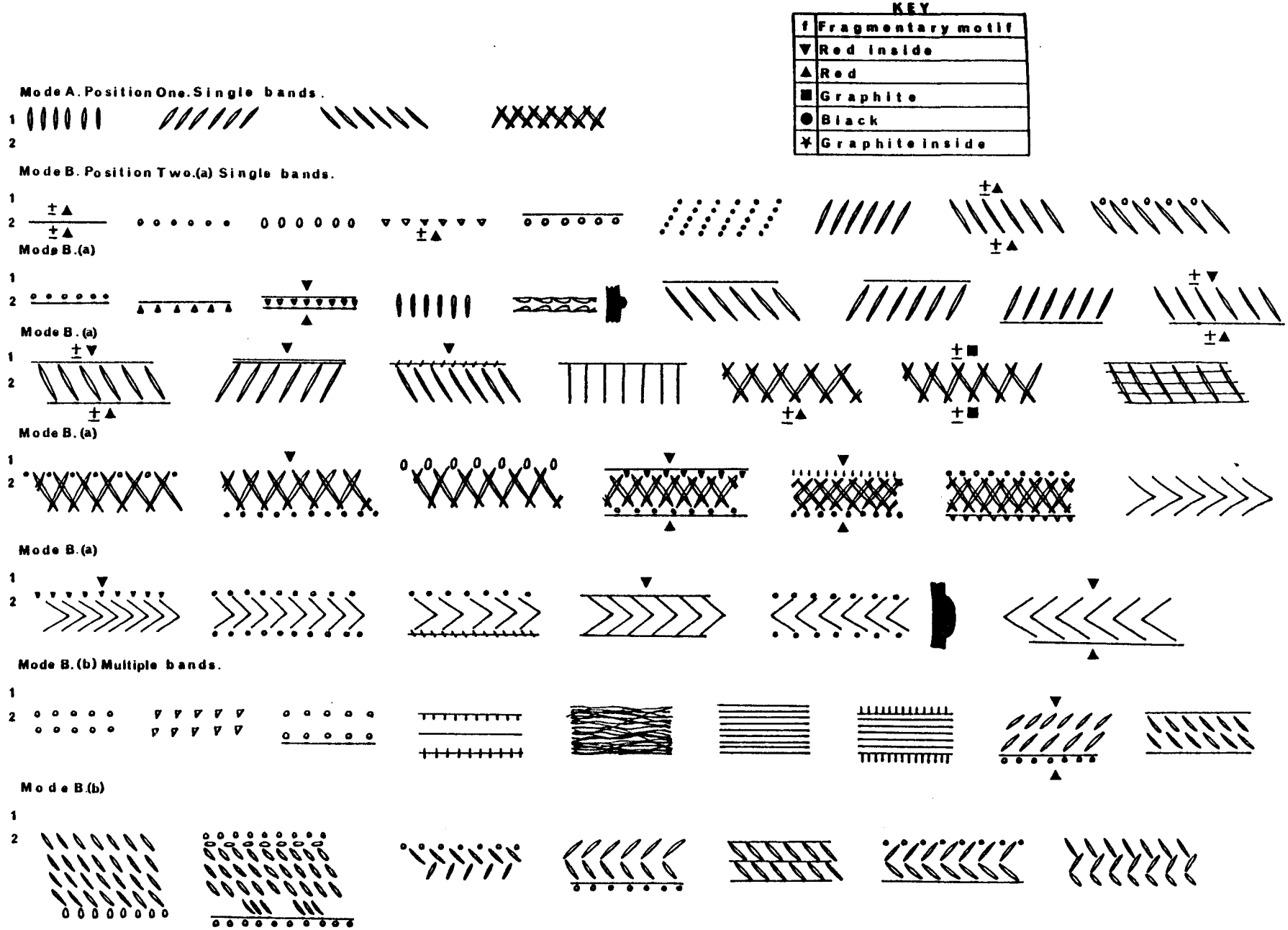
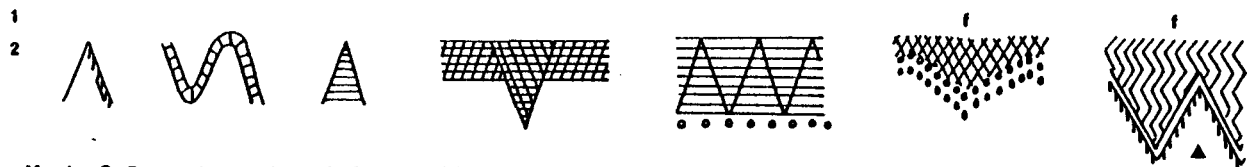


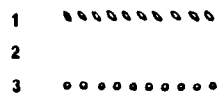
Fig. 15. Ficus decoration modes and affiliate sets (cont.)



Mode B. (c) Triangles & Meanders.



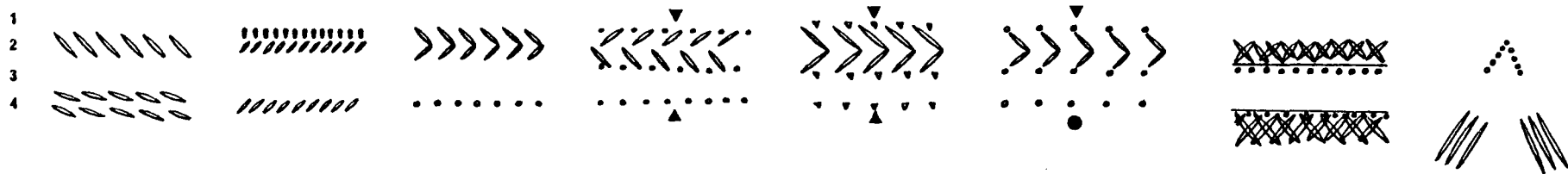
Mode C. Positions One & Three. (d) Single bands.



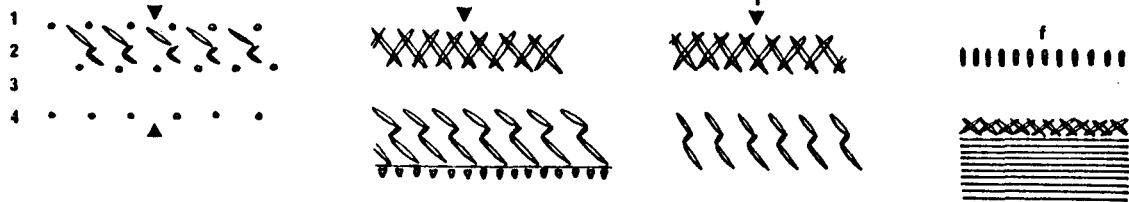
Mode C. (e) Multiple bands.



Mode D. Positions Two & Four. (f) Single bands.



Mode D. (g) Multiple bands.



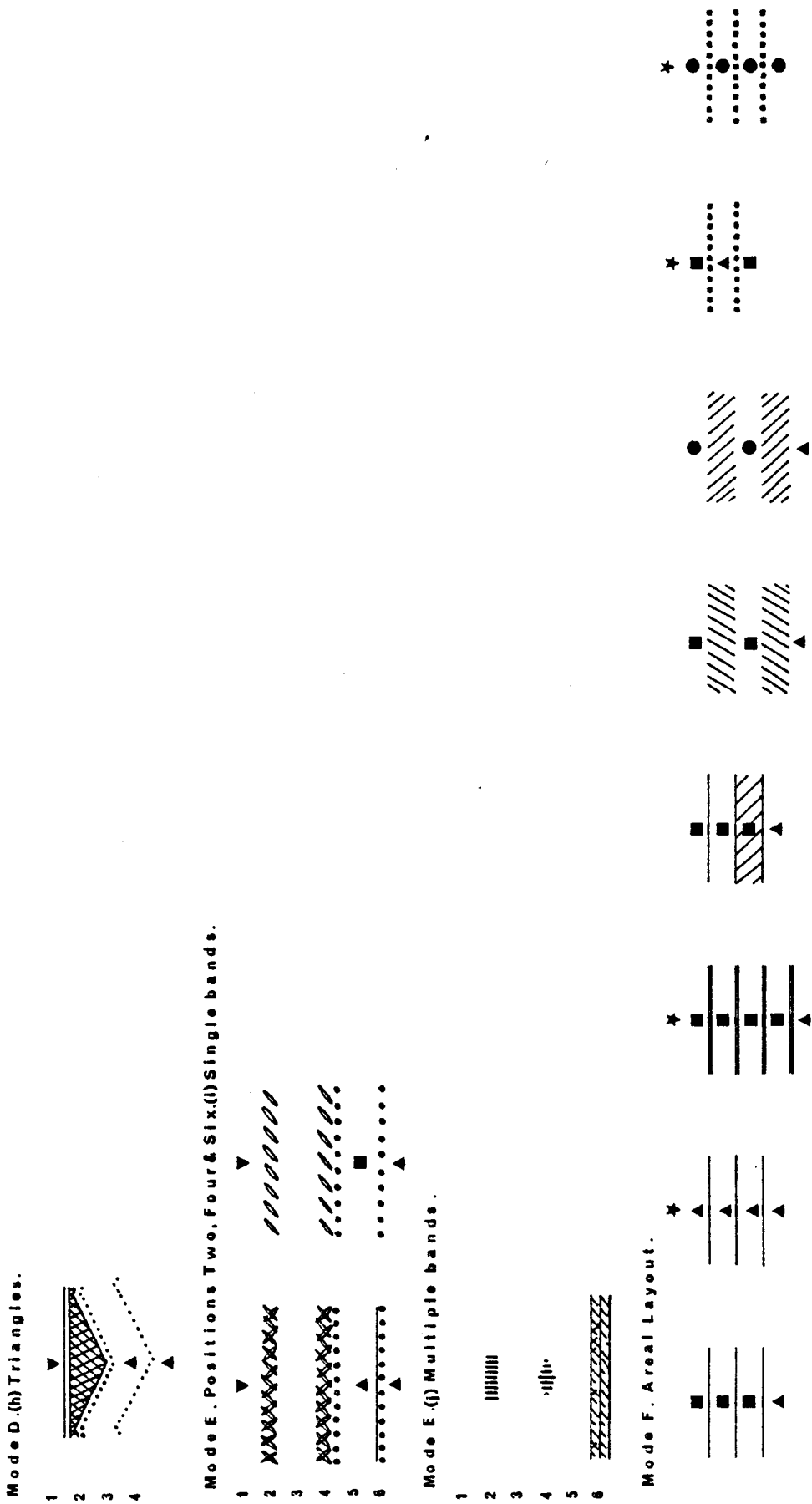
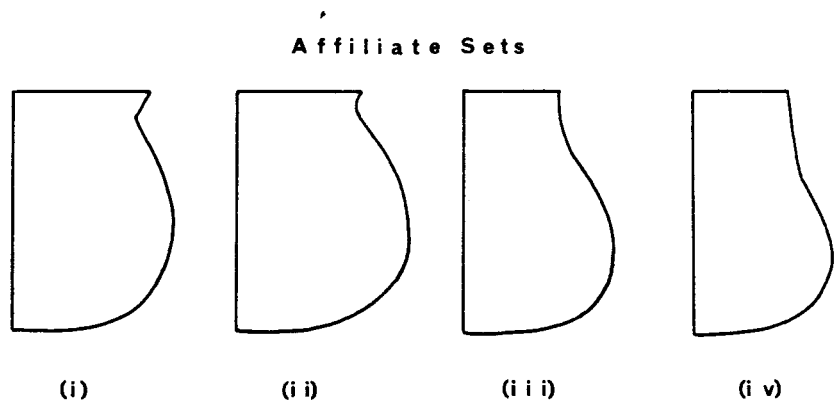


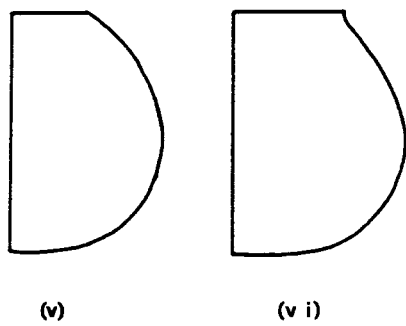
Fig. 15. Ficus decoration modes and affiliate sets (cont.)

Fig. 16. Ficus profile modes and affiliate sets

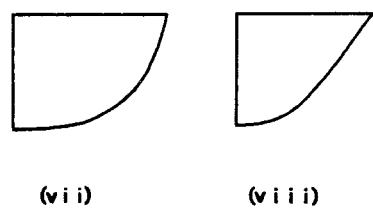
Mode One. Necked Jars.



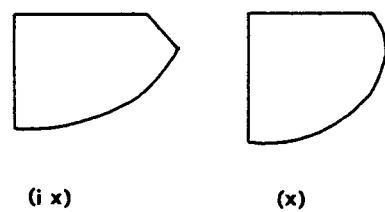
Mode Two. Spherical Jars.



Mode Three. Open Bowls.



Mode Four. Constricted Bowls.



Mode Five. Beakers.

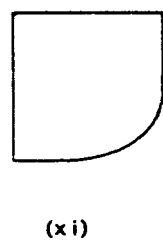
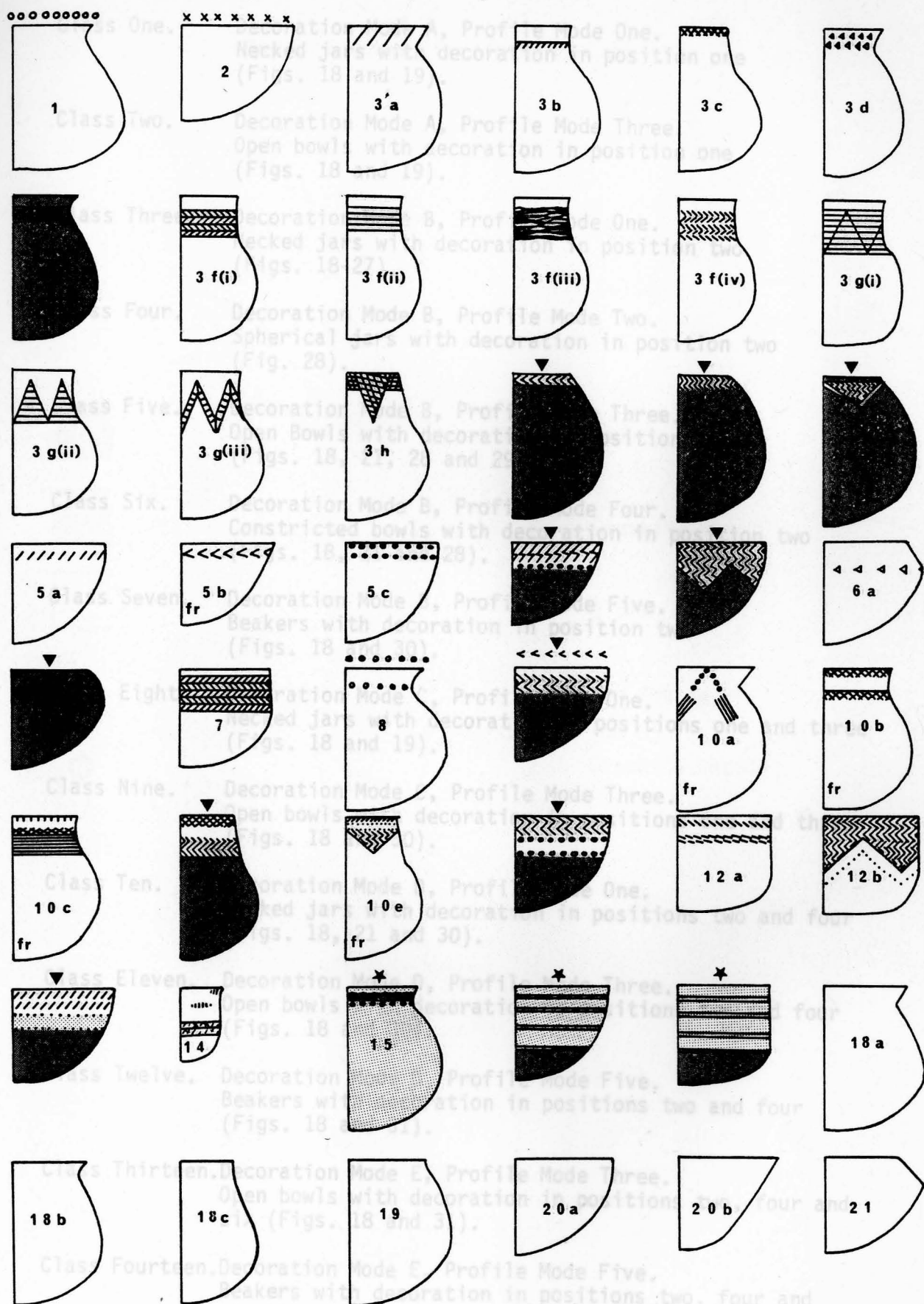


Fig. 17: Ficus pottery classes and sub-classes

Profile Modes and Affiliate Sets

		1		2		3		4		5			
		(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(ix)	(x)	(xi)	
Decoration Modes and Affiliate Sets	A	1					2						
	a	3a		3b	3c	4a		5a	5b	6a			
	B b	3d	3e	3f		4b		5c	5d		6b	7	
	c			3g	3h	4c		5e					
	C d	8											
	e	9											
	f	10a		10b								12a	
	D g			10c	10d			11					
	h				10e							12b	
	E i	13											
j	14												
F	15					16					17		
PLAIN	18a	18b	18c				19	20a	20b	21			

Fig. 18. Ficus pottery classes



KEY

fr	Fragmentary motif
▼	Red inside
■	Red
▨	Graphite
★	Graphite inside

- Class One. Decoration Mode A, Profile Mode One.
Necked jars with decoration in position one
(Figs. 18 and 19).
- Class Two. Decoration Mode A, Profile Mode Three.
Open bowls with decoration in position one
(Figs. 18 and 19).
- Class Three. Decoration Mode B, Profile Mode One.
Necked jars with decoration in position two
(Figs. 18-27).
- Class Four. Decoration Mode B, Profile Mode Two.
Spherical jars with decoration in position two
(Fig. 28).
- Class Five. Decoration Mode B, Profile Mode Three.
Open Bowls with decoration in position two
(Figs. 18, 21, 28 and 29).
- Class Six. Decoration Mode B, Profile Mode Four.
Constricted bowls with decoration in position two
(Figs. 18, 21 and 28).
- Class Seven. Decoration Mode B, Profile Mode Five.
Beakers with decoration in position two
(Figs. 18 and 30).
- Class Eight. Decoration Mode C, Profile Mode One.
Necked jars with decoration in positions one and three
(Figs. 18 and 19).
- Class Nine. Decoration Mode C, Profile Mode Three.
Open bowls with decoration in positions one and three
(Figs. 18 and 30).
- Class Ten. Decoration Mode D, Profile Mode One.
Necked jars with decoration in positions two and four
(Figs. 18, 21 and 30).
- Class Eleven. Decoration Mode D, Profile Mode Three.
Open bowls with decoration in positions two and four
(Figs. 18 and 30).
- Class Twelve. Decoration Mode D, Profile Mode Five.
Beakers with decoration in positions two and four
(Figs. 18 and 31).
- Class Thirteen. Decoration Mode E, Profile Mode Three.
Open bowls with decoration in positions two, four and
six (Figs. 18 and 31).
- Class Fourteen. Decoration Mode E, Profile Mode Five.
Beakers with decoration in positions two, four and
six (Figs. 18 and 31).

Key to Colours of Pottery Figures

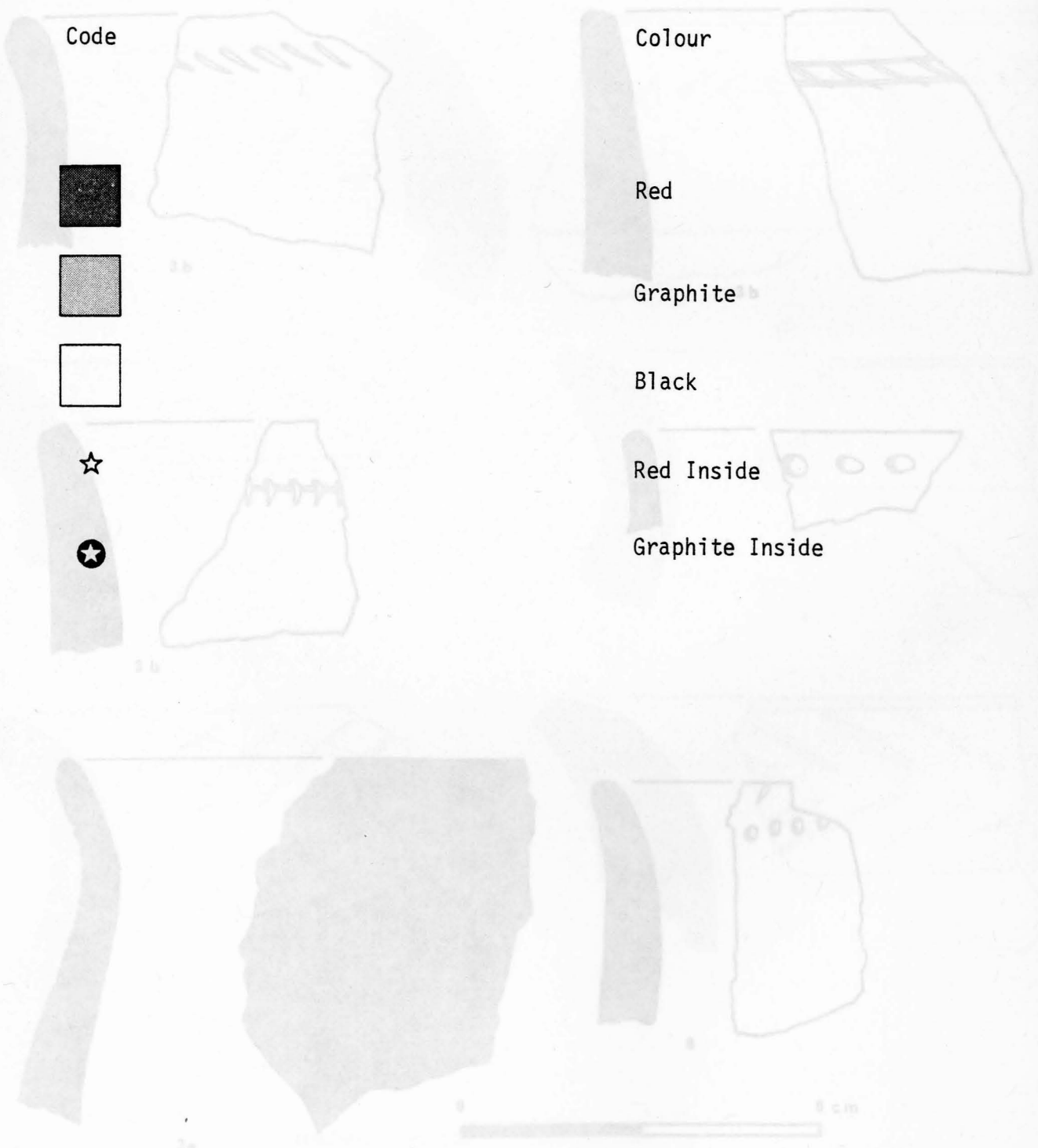


Fig. 19. Ficus pottery classes 1, 2, 3, and 8

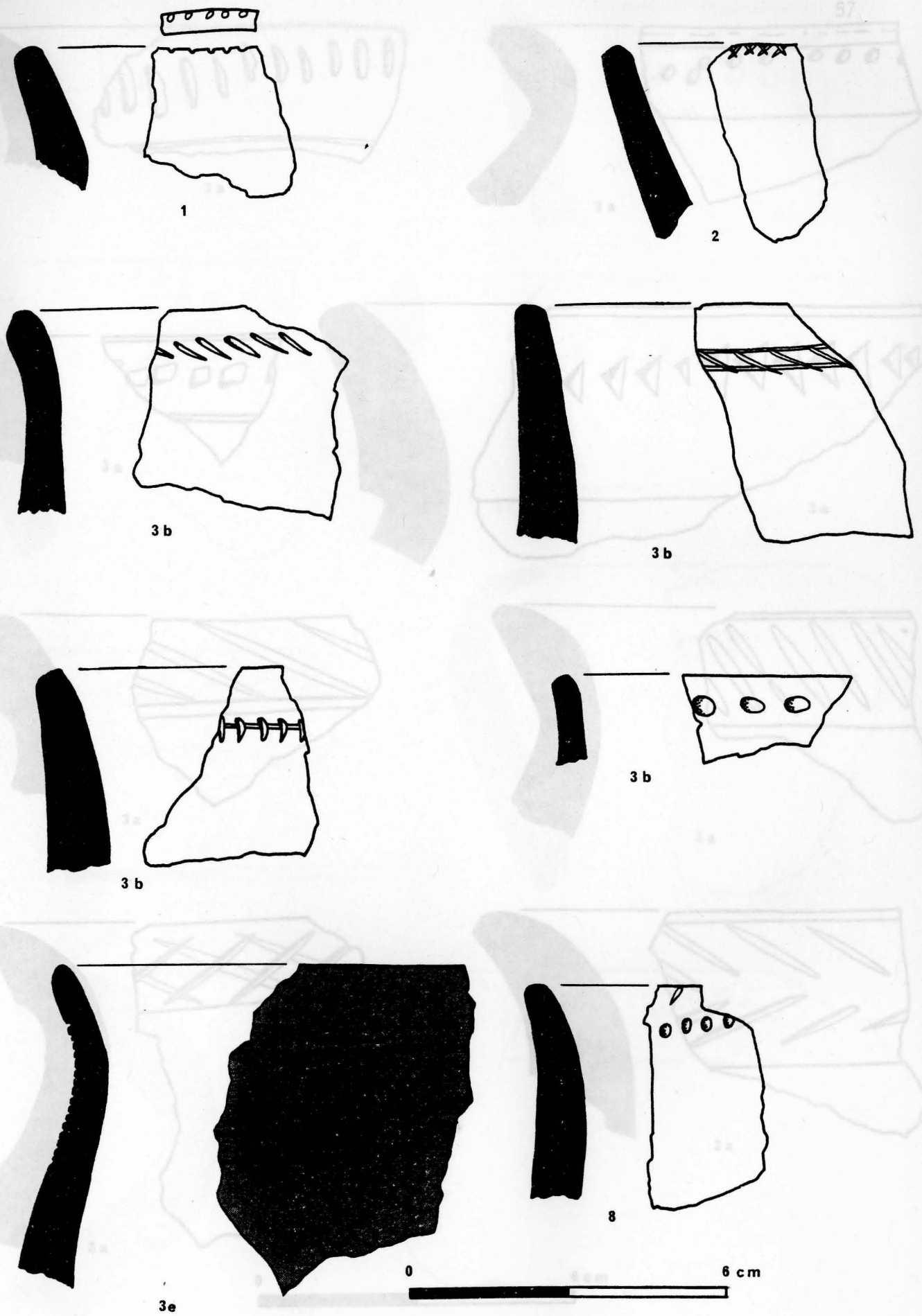


Fig. 19. Ficus pottery classes 1, 2, 3, and 8

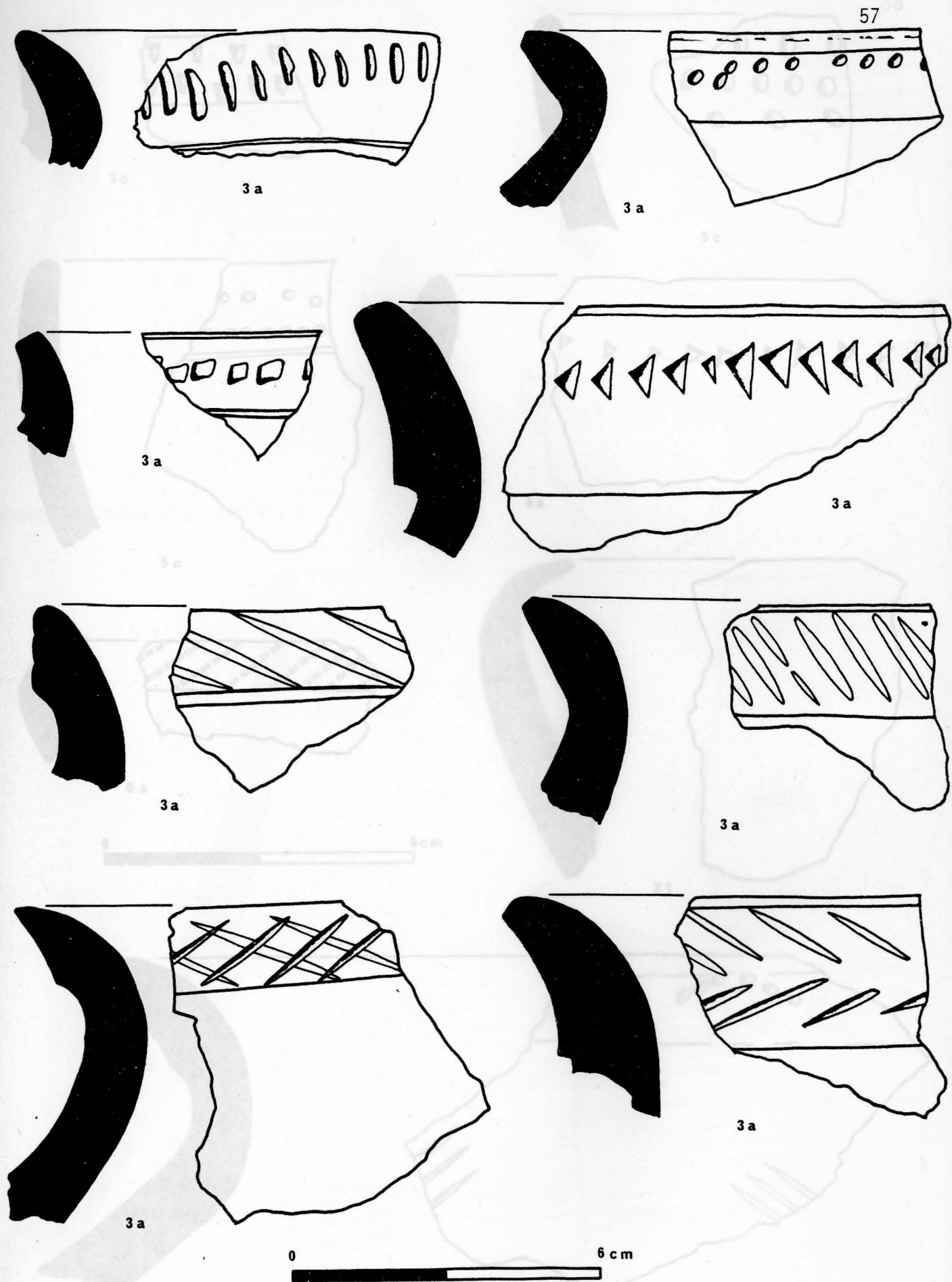


Fig. 20. Ficus pottery class 3

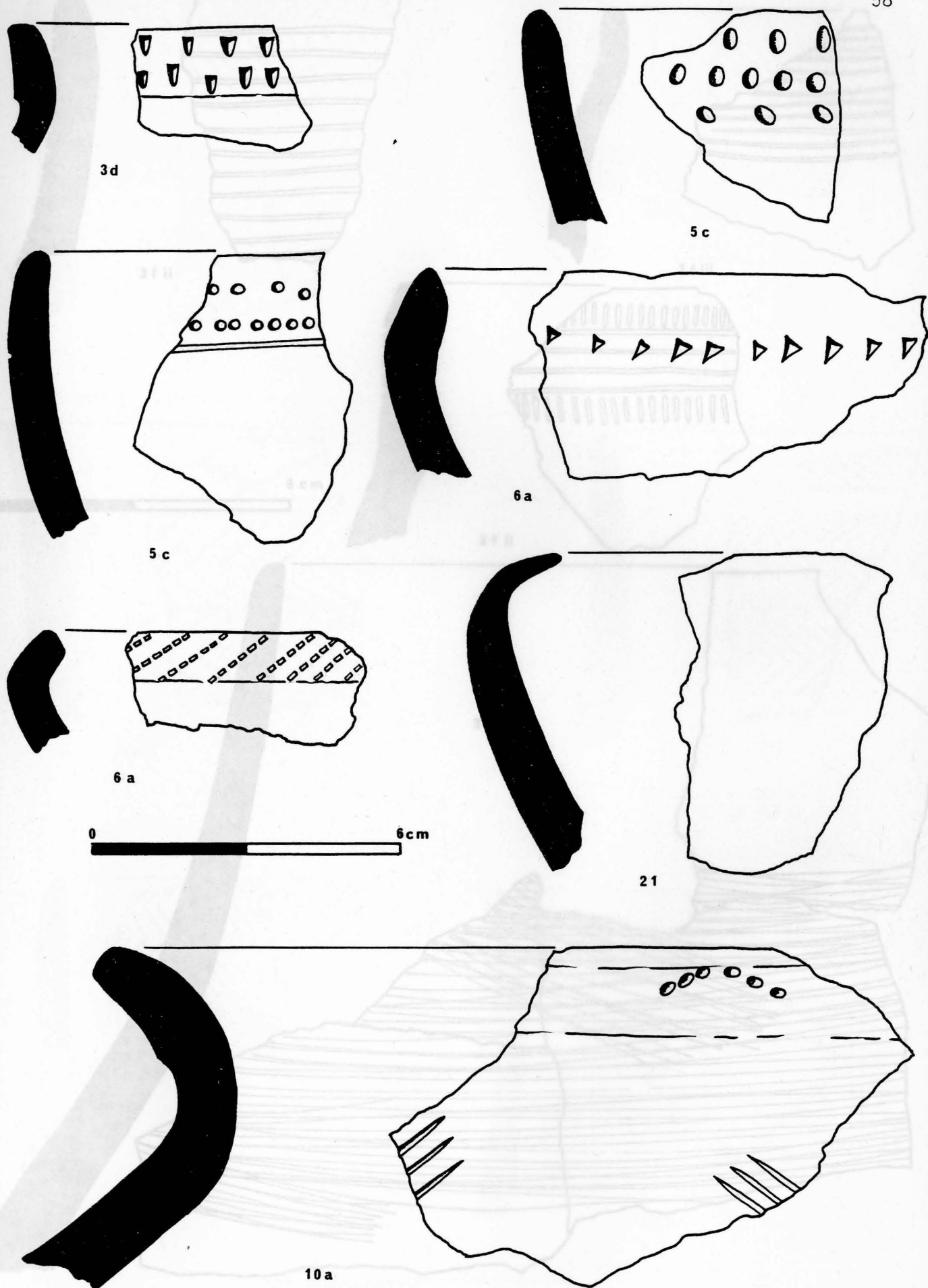


Fig. 21. Ficus pottery classes 3, 5, 6, 10 and 21

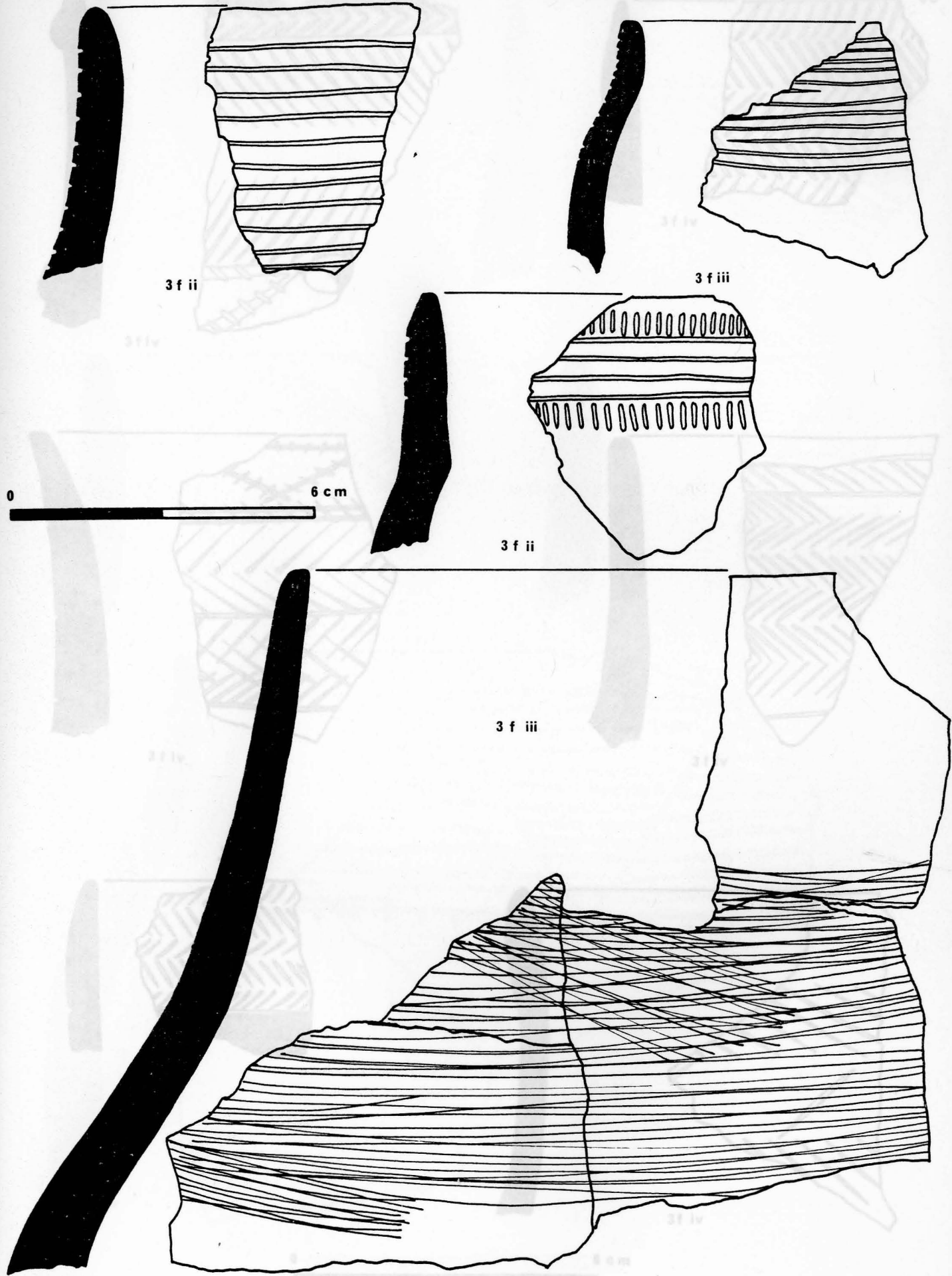
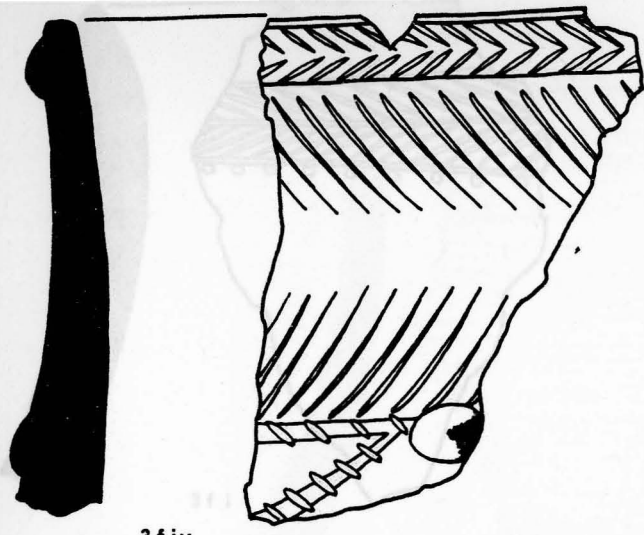
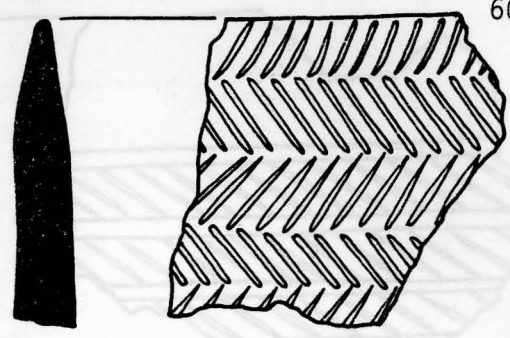


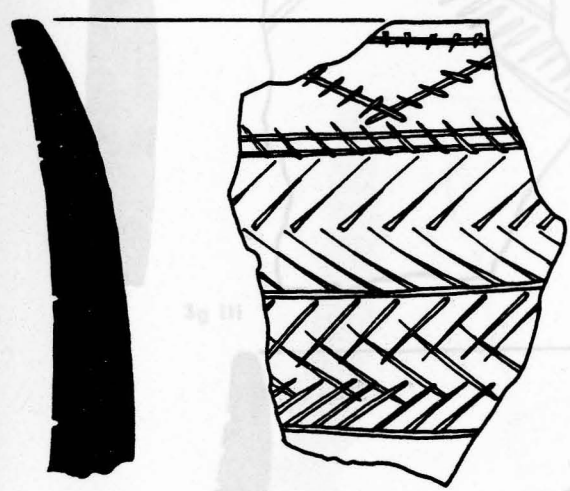
Fig. 22. Ficus pottery class 3



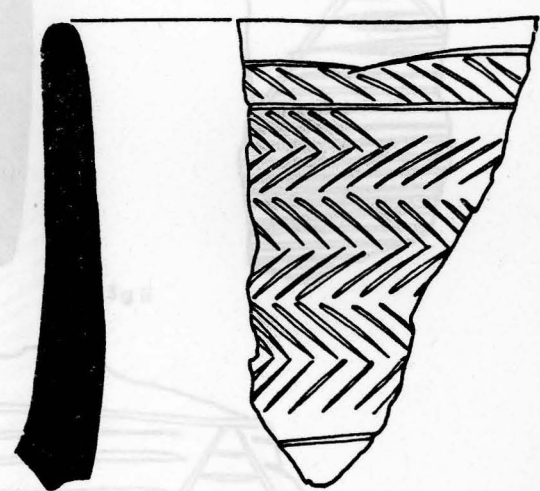
3 fiv



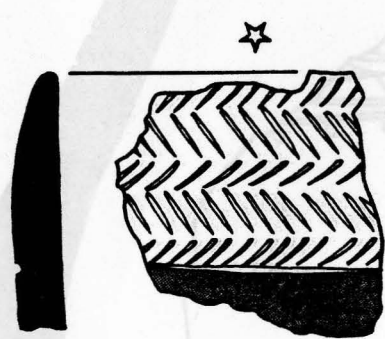
3 fiv



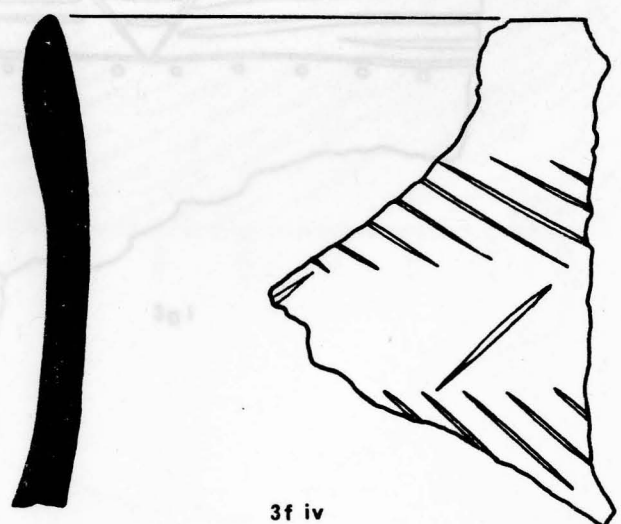
3 fiv



3 fiv



3 fiv



3 fiv



Fig. 23. Ficus pottery class 3

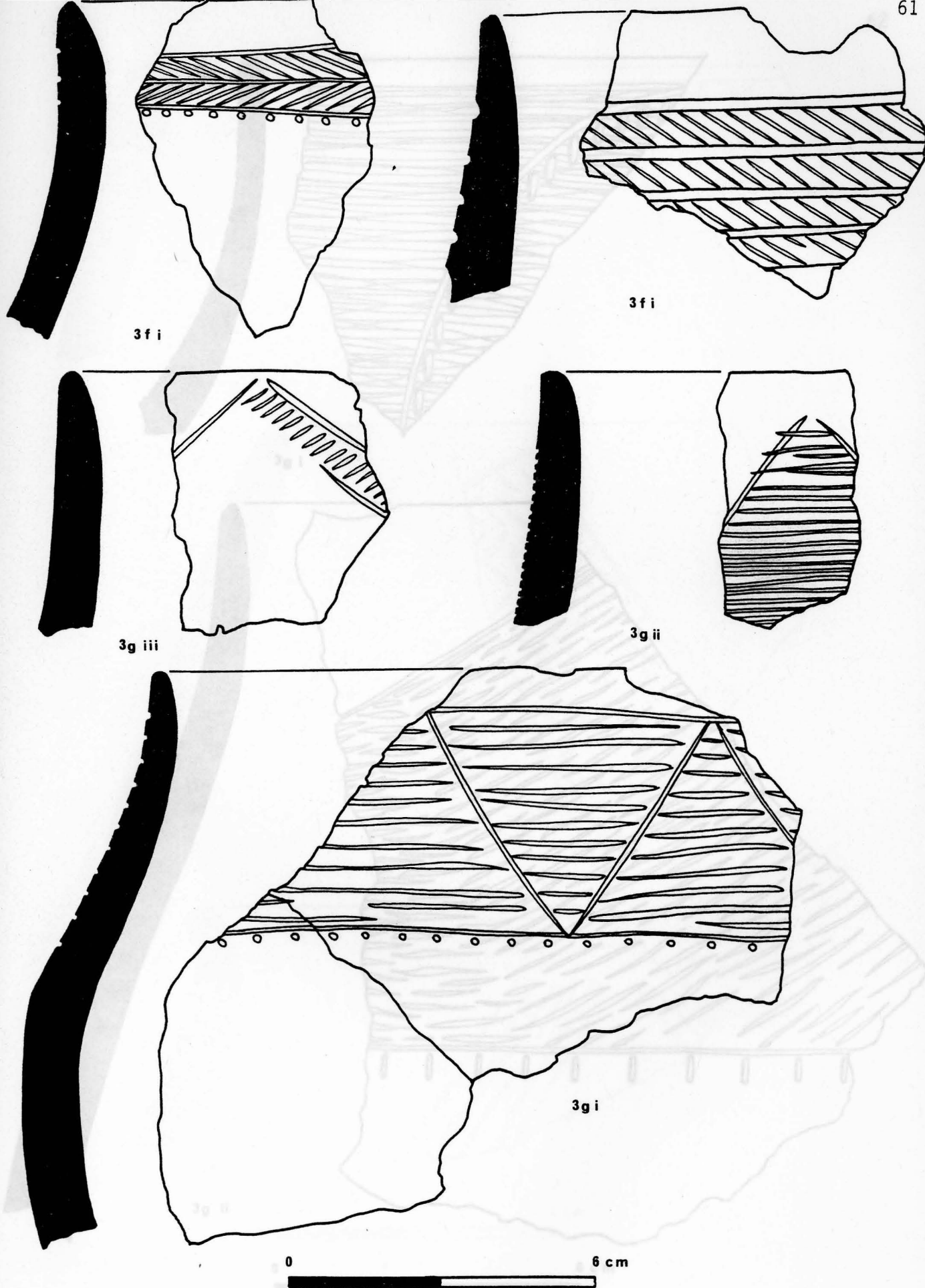


Fig. 24. Ficus pottery class 3

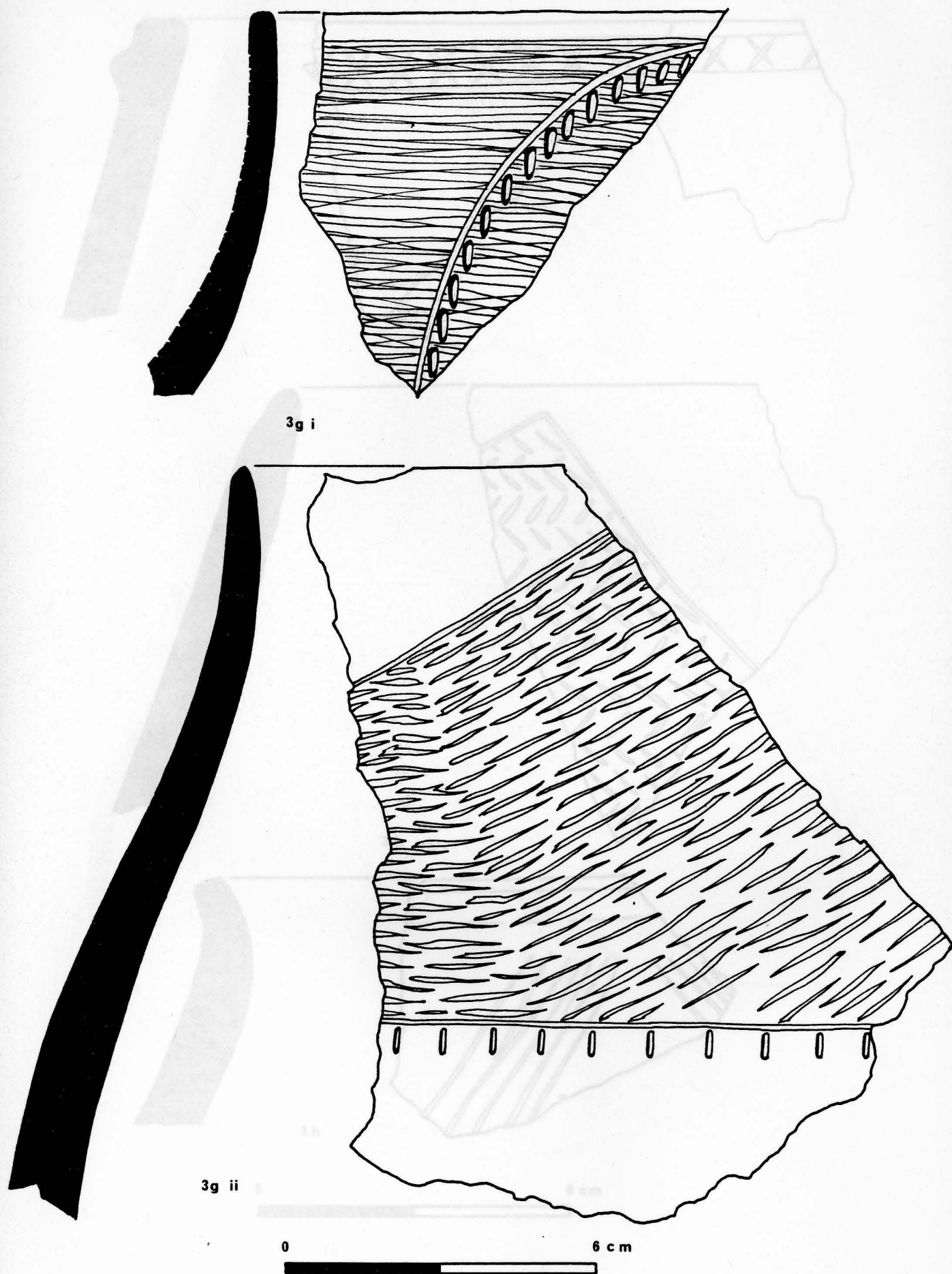


Fig. 25. Ficus pottery class 3

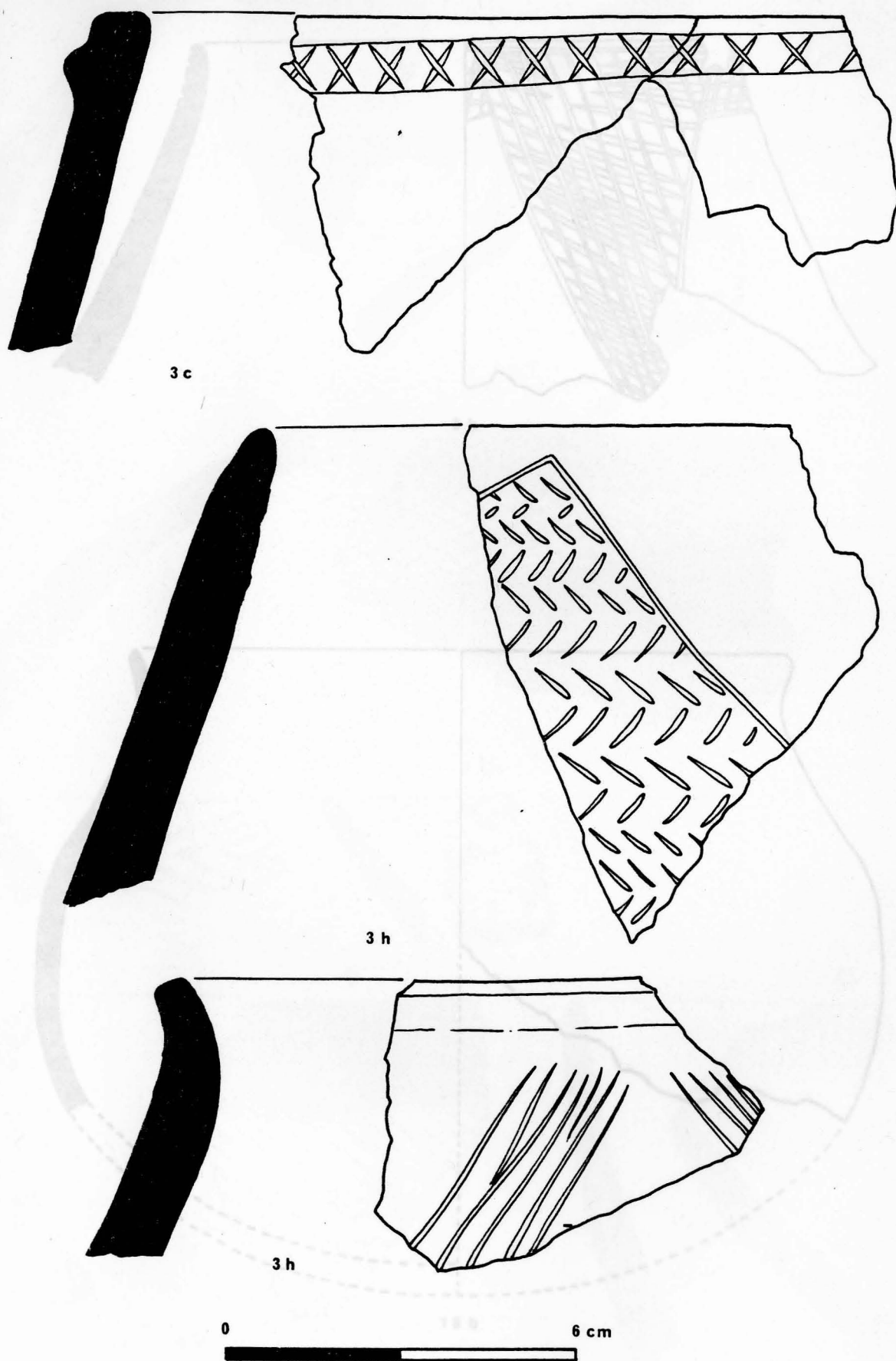
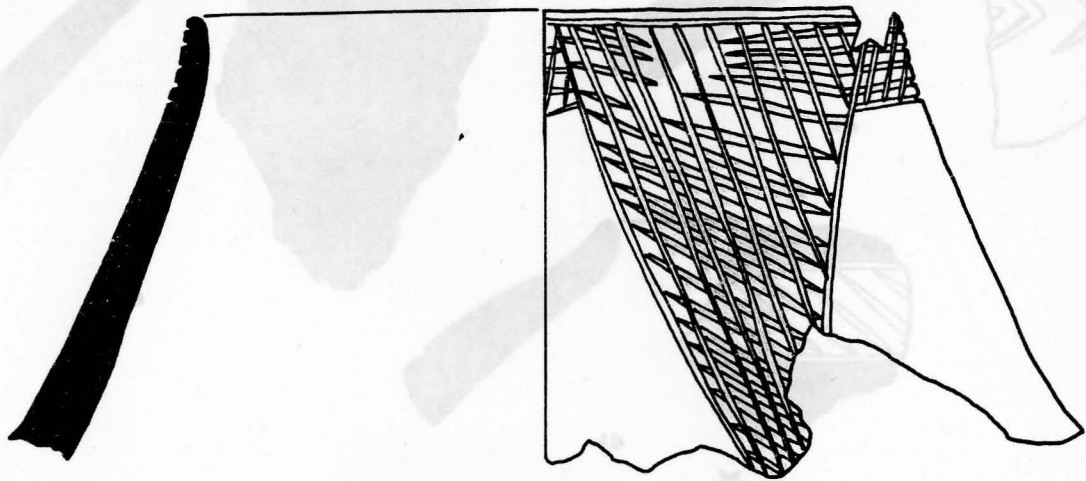
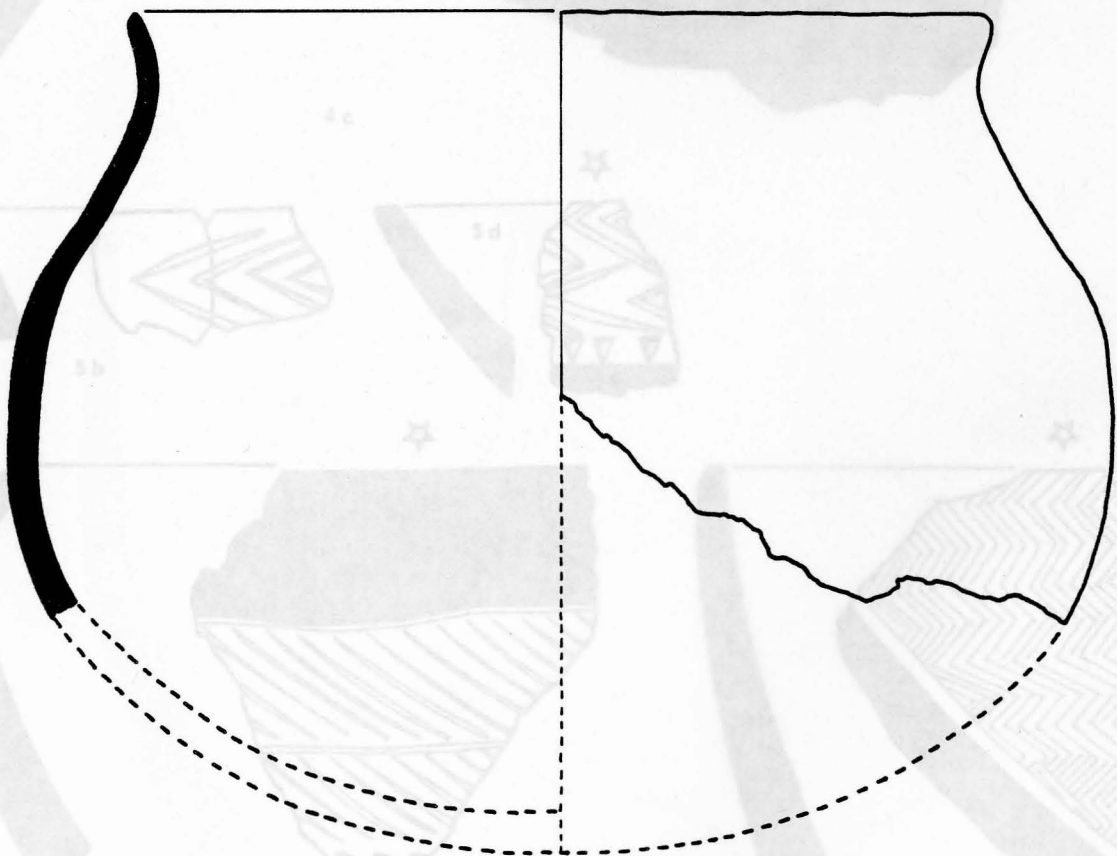


Fig. 26. Ficus pottery class 3

Fig. 27. Ficus pottery classes 3 and 18



3 h



18 b



Fig. 27. Ficus pottery classes 3 and 18

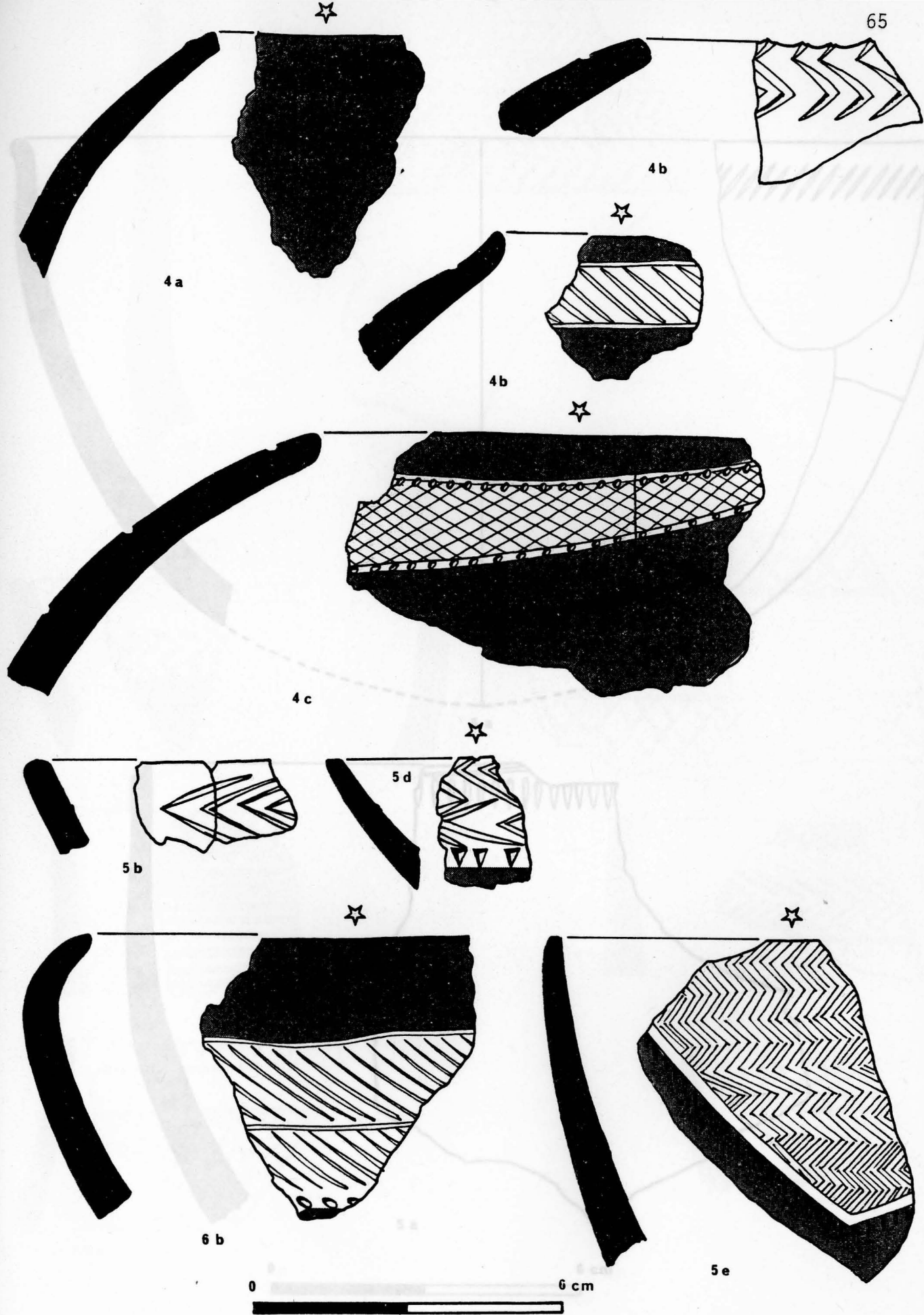


Fig. 28. Ficus pottery classes 4, 5 and 6

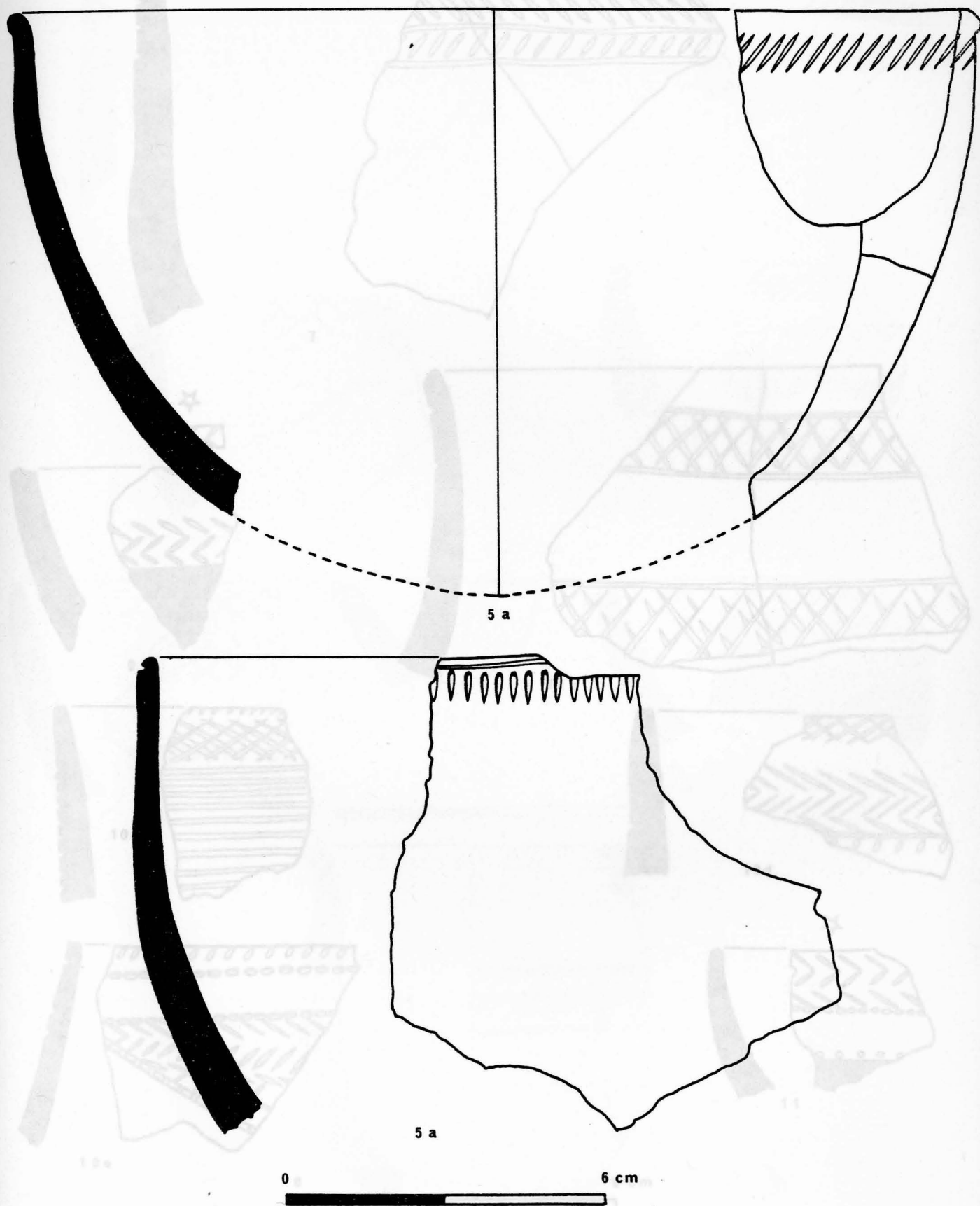


Fig. 29. Ficus pottery class 5

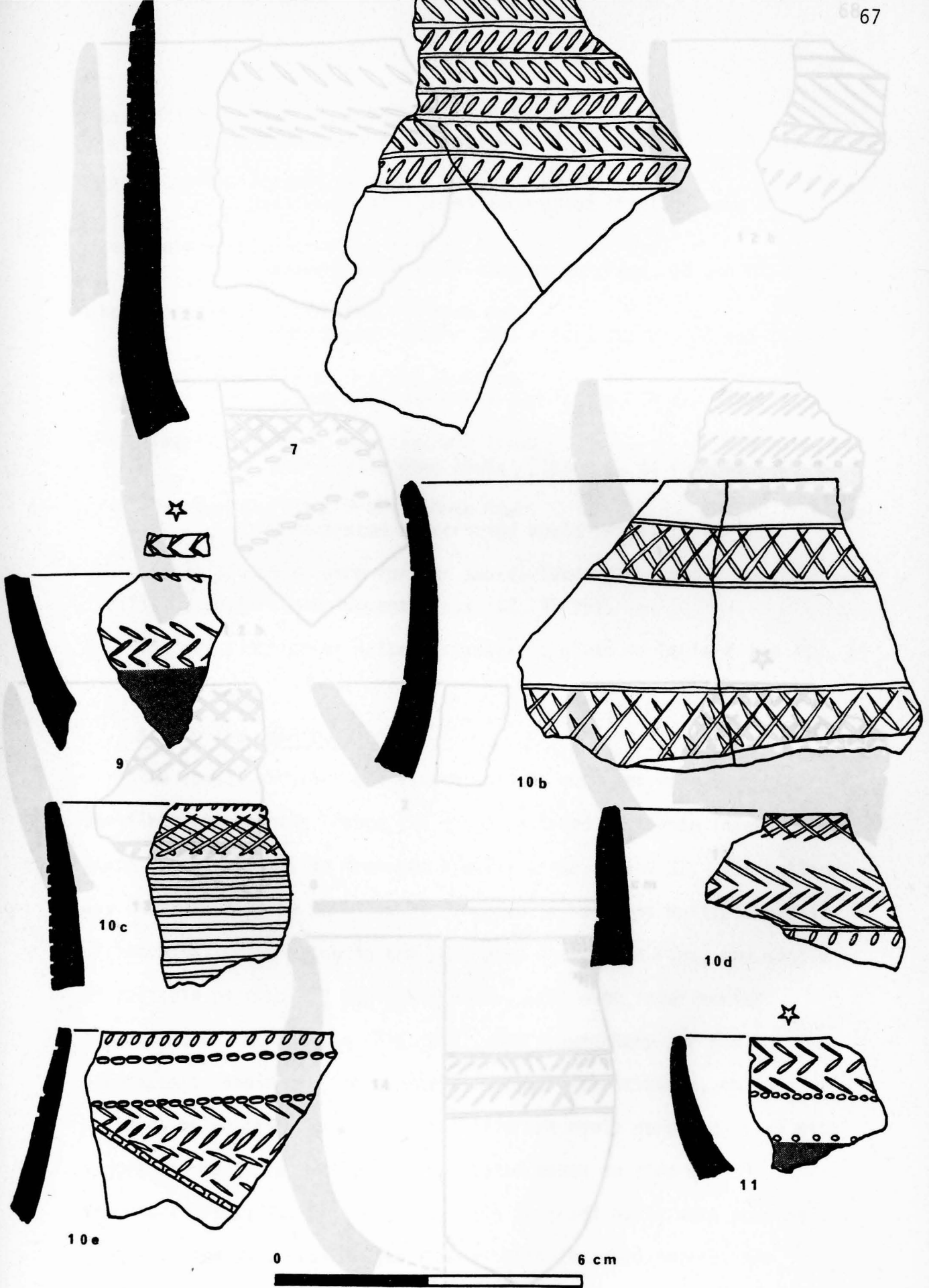


Fig. 30. Ficus pottery classes 7, 9, 10 and 11

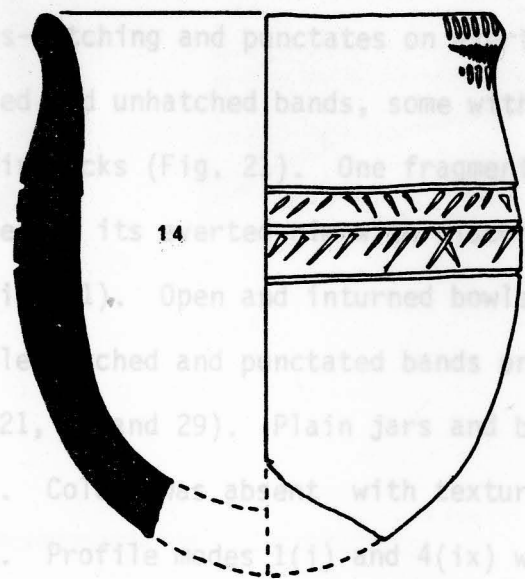
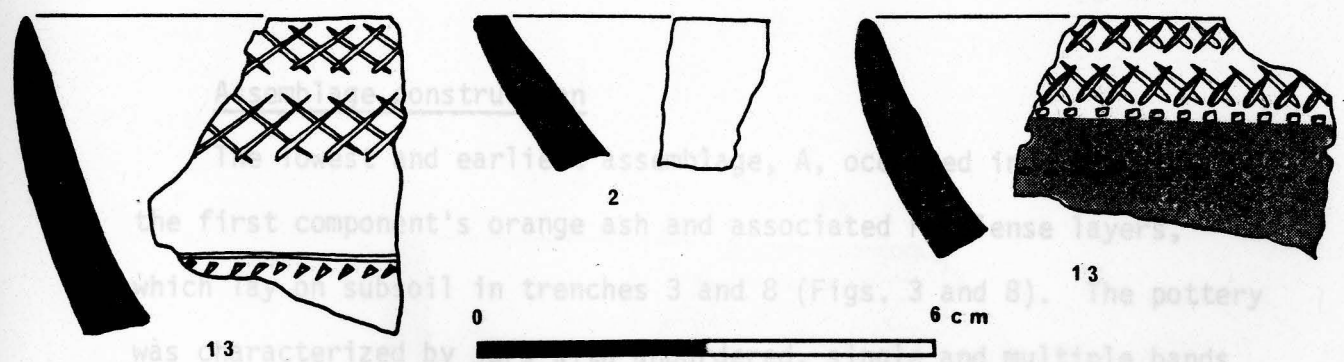
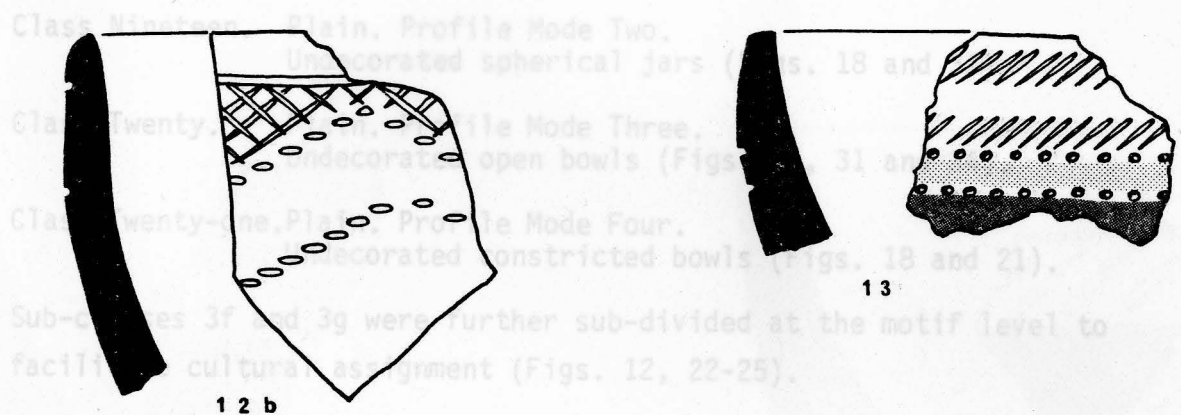
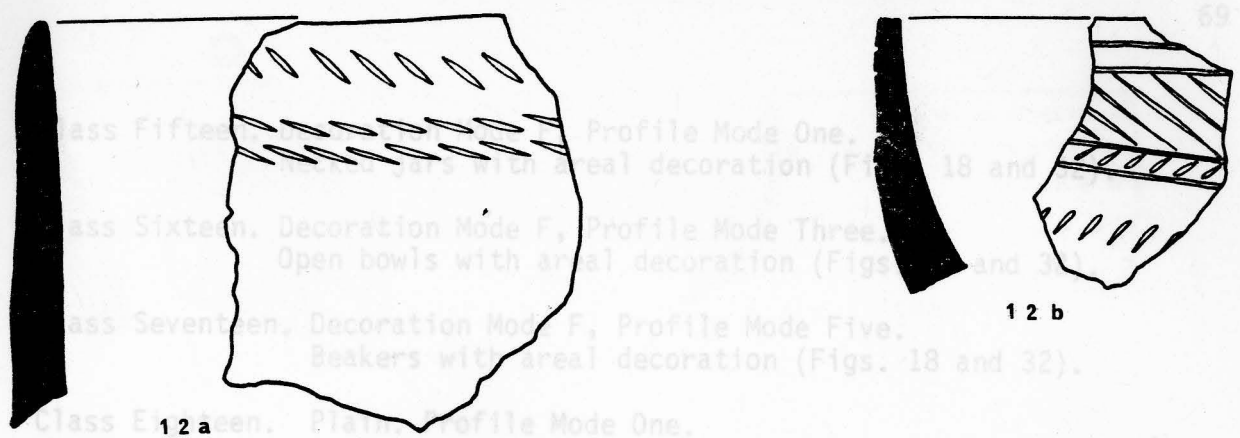


Fig. 31. Ficus pottery classes 12, 13, 14, and 20

- Class Fifteen. Decoration Mode F, Profile Mode One.
Necked jars with areal decoration (Figs. 18 and 32).
- Class Sixteen. Decoration Mode F, Profile Mode Three.
Open bowls with areal decoration (Figs. 18 and 32).
- Class Seventeen. Decoration Mode F, Profile Mode Five.
Beakers with areal decoration (Figs. 18 and 32).
- Class Eighteen. Plain. Profile Mode One.
Undecorated necked jars (Figs. 18, 27, 33 and 34).
- Class Nineteen. Plain. Profile Mode Two.
Undecorated spherical jars (Figs. 18 and 33).
- Class Twenty. Plain. Profile Mode Three.
Undecorated open bowls (Figs. 18, 31 and 34).
- Class Twenty-one. Plain. Profile Mode Four.
Undecorated constricted bowls (Figs. 18 and 21).

Sub-classes 3f and 3g were further sub-divided at the motif level to facilitate cultural assignment (Figs. 12, 22-25).

The distribution of pottery classes is given in Table 4 and Fig. 35 .

Assemblage construction

The lowest and earliest assemblage, A, occurred in context within the first component's orange ash and associated red lense layers, which lay on subsoil in trenches 3 and 8 (Figs. 3 and 8). The pottery was characterized by jars with unbordered, single and multiple bands of hatching, cross-hatching and punctates on everted rims, and single or multiple hatched and unhatched bands, some with interlocking triangles, on their necks (Fig. 21). One fragmentary jar had punctated triangles on its everted rim with discontinuous, oblique hatching below (Fig. 21). Open and inturned bowls were decorated with single and multiple hatched and punctated bands on rims and shoulders (Figs. 21, 28 and 29). Plain jars and bowls were present (Figs. 33 and 34). Colour was absent with textured decorations relatively coarse. Profile modes 1(i) and 4(ix) were peculiar to this assemblage.

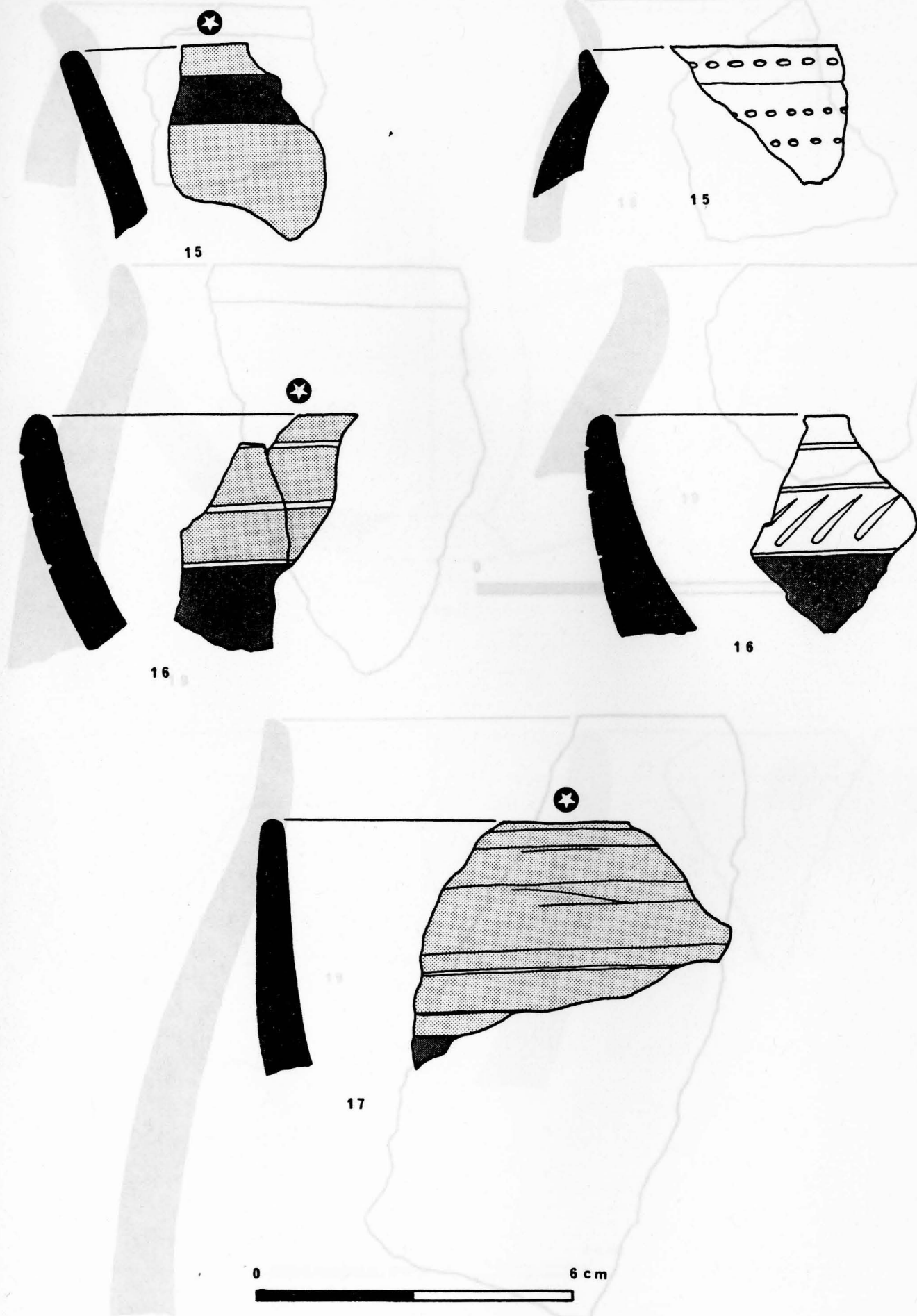


Fig. 32. Ficus pottery classes 15, 16 and 17

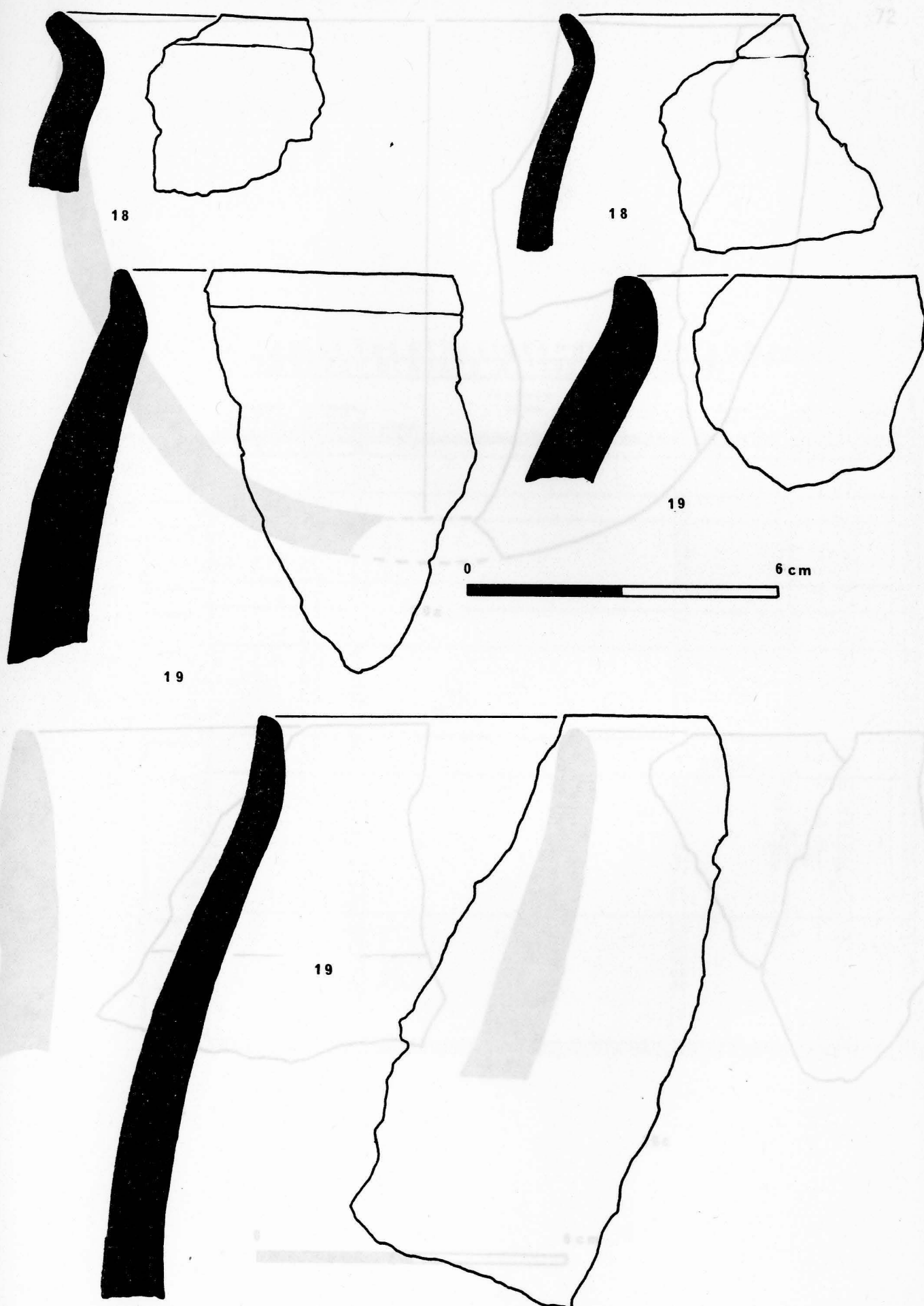


Fig. 33. Ficus pottery classes 18 and 19

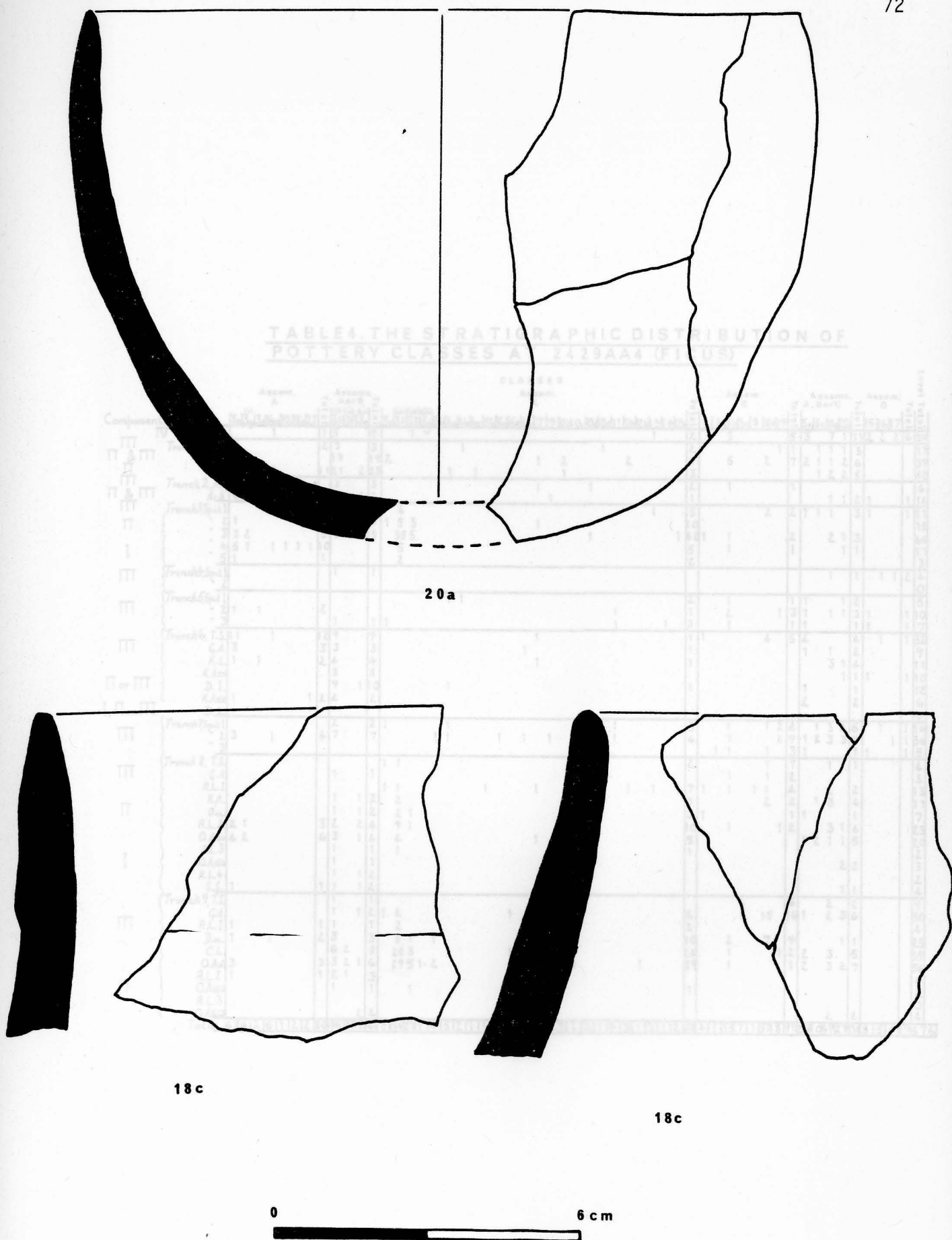


Fig. 34. Ficus pottery classes 18 and 20

Fig. 35: 2429AA4 (Ficus) frequencies of classes and sub-classes as percentages of component totals

Trenches 3 and 8																													
Assem. A.						Assems. A or B.						Assem. B.						Assem. C.						Assems. A, B or C.					
3a	3g(i)	6a	10a	18a	21	3f	3f(i)	3f(ii)	3g	3c	3f(iii)	3f(iv)	3g(ii)	5b	7	10c	10d	12a	13	20b	1	3b	8	18b	19	5a	5c	18c	20a
Comp. IV																													
Comp. III																													
Comp. II																													
Comp. I																													

Trench 9	Assem. Assem. A or B.						Assem. B.						Assem. C.				Assem. A, B or C.				
	3a ^A	6a	3f	3f(i)	3f(ii)	3g	3c	3f(iii)	3f(iv)	3g(ii)	3h	5e	10c	12b	3b	3e	18b	19	5a	18c	20a
Comp. IV																					
Comp. III	3	1	11	2	2	1	1	40	3	1	1	2			3	5	9	1	3	6	5
Comp. II	8		5	3	5	5		48	2	5	3		1	1	1				3	6	4

The intermediate assemblage B occurred in context within the second component's khaki ash, dung and red lense strata in trenches 3 and 8 (Figs. 3 and 8). Within trench 9 the second component consisted of an orange ash with red mud lenses (Fig. 9). The pottery was characterized by necked jars with multiple hatched and unhatched bands and triangles in the neck, and bowls and beakers with single or multiple hatched bands and triangles in position two (Figs. 20-28 and 30). Open bowls had single and multiple hatched bands in positions one and three (Fig. 30). Positions two and four on necked jars, open bowls and beakers were decorated with single and multiple punctated, hatched, cross-hatched and open bands, or hatched, pendant triangles (Figs. 30 and 31). Open bowls and beakers had single and multiple hatched and cross-hatched bands in positions two, four and six (Fig. 31). Plain necked jars and open bowls were present (Fig. 34). Textured decoration was relatively coarse on uncoloured vessels, but fine on coloured examples (Figs. 36 and 37). Exterior and interior ochre burnish were common. Decoration mode E, profile modes 1(iv), 3(viii) and 4(x) and the hatched pendant triangle and ladder-stamped border motifs were unique to this assemblage.

The late assemblage C occurred in context within the third component's grey ash below topsoil in most trenches and, additionally, in the loose and compacted dung layers in trench 9 (Fig. 9). The pottery was characterized by necked and recurved jars, and open bowls with single bands of fine hatching, cross-hatching and punctates in positions one and/or two (Fig. 19). One recurved jar had multiple incised bands in position two (Fig. 19), while an open

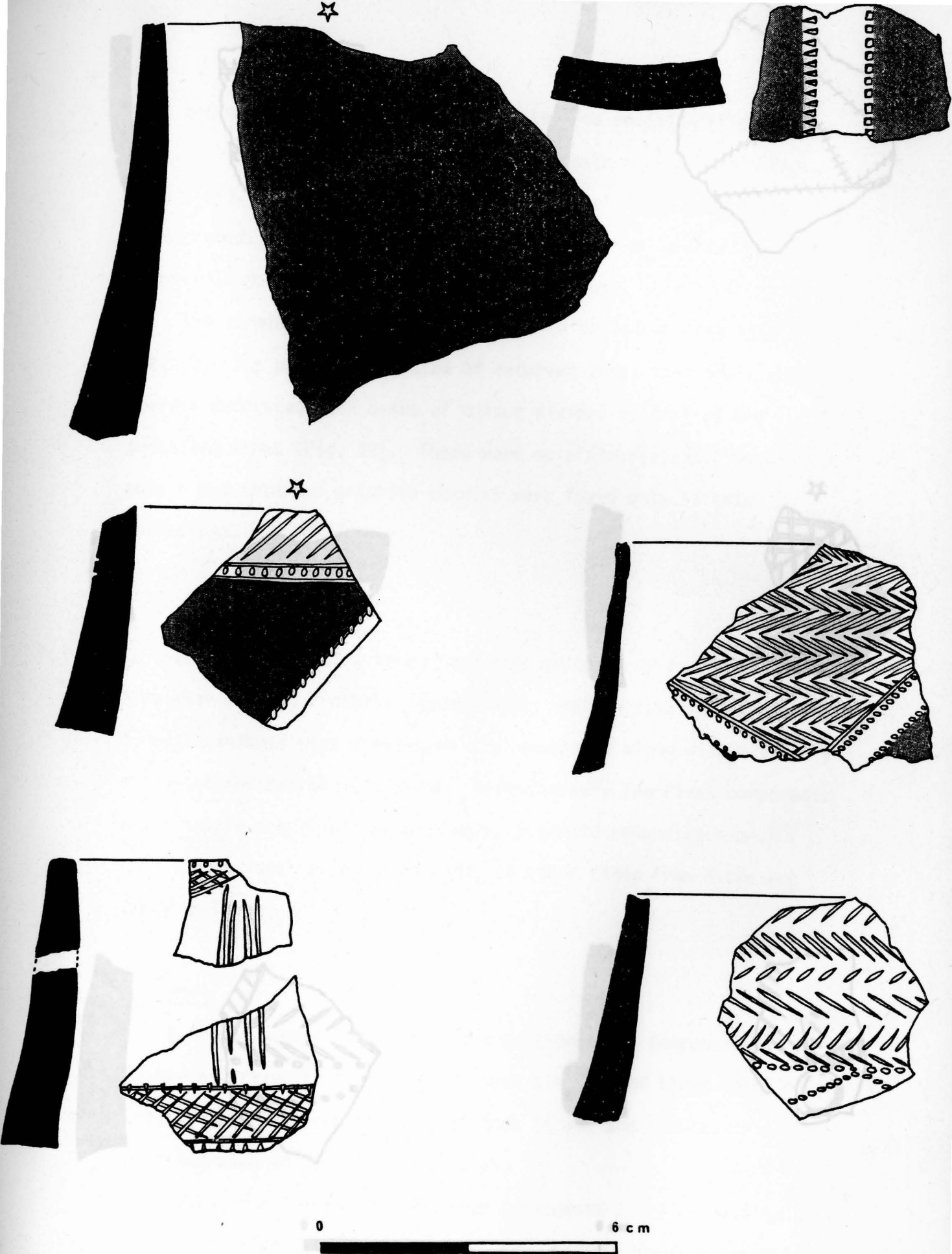
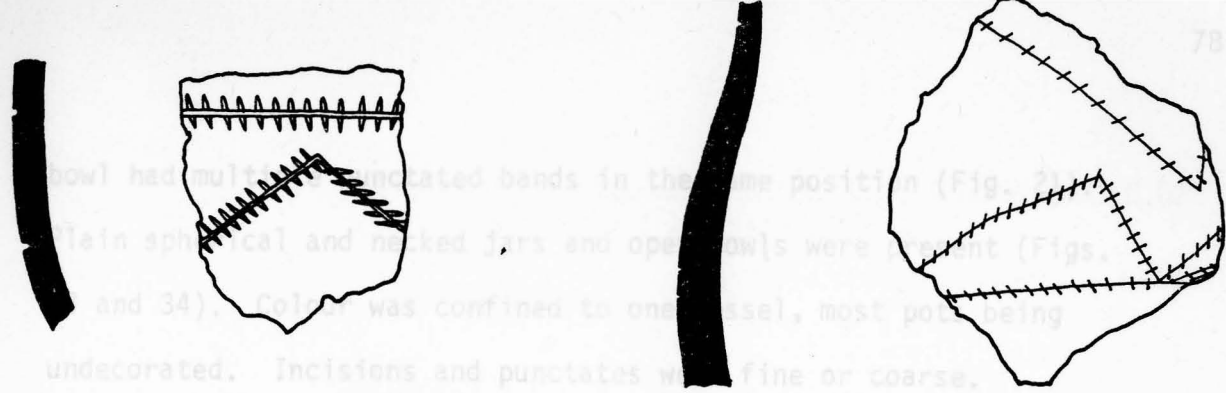


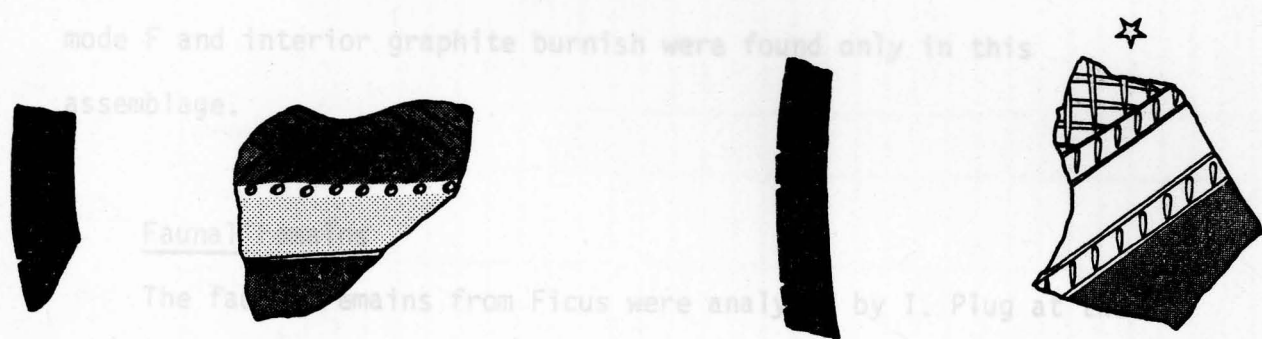
Fig. 36. Finely decorated Ficus sherds

Fig. 37. Finely decorated Ficus sherds



...owl had multiple decorated bands in the same position (Fig. 32).
...plain spherical and necked jars and open bowls were present (Figs.
...and 34). Colour was confined to one vessel, most pots being
undecorated. Incisions and punctates were fine or coarse.
Decoration mode A was unique to this assemblage.

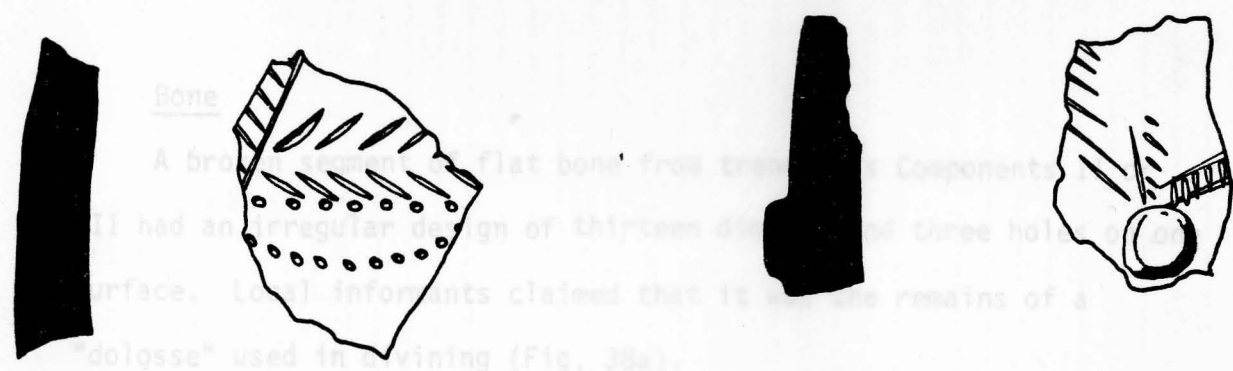
The terminal assemblage D occurred in context on the site's
surface. Its pottery consisted of recurved jars, open bowls and
beakers decorated with bands of colour divided by incised and
punctated lines (Fig. 32). There were no plain vessels. Decoration
mode F and interior graphite burnish were found only in this
assemblage.



Fauna

The faunal remains from Ficus were analysed by I. Plug at
Transvaal Museum, Pretoria (Appendix 2). Her results indicate that
domestic animals were present in all components along with a variety
of hunted and snared wild fauna. Unfortunately the first component's
small sample precluded any meaningful economic reconstruction.

The provenances and components of other finds from Ficus are
shown in Table 5.



Bone

A broad, flat bone from trench 9's Component I
had an irregular design of thirteen dots and three holes on its
surface. Local informants claimed that it was the remains of a
"dolosse" used in divining (Fig. 38a).

Seven bone linkshafts came from Components I, II and III in
trenches 6, 7 and 8. Two linkshafts from trench 9's

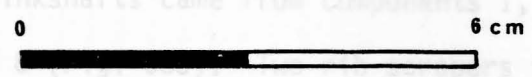


Fig. 37. Finely decorated Ficus sherds

bowl had multiple punctated bands in the same position (Fig. 21). Plain spherical and necked jars and open bowls were present (Figs. 33 and 34). Colour was confined to one vessel, most pots being undecorated. Incisions and punctates were fine or coarse. Decoration mode A was unique to this assemblage.

The terminal assemblage D occurred in context on the site's surface. Its pottery consisted of recurved jars, open bowls and beakers decorated with bands of colour divided by incised and punctated lines (Fig. 32). There were no plain vessels. Decoration mode F and interior graphite burnish were found only in this assemblage.

Faunal remains

The faunal remains from Ficus were analyzed by I. Plug at the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria (Appendix 2). Her results indicate that domestic animals were present in all components along with a variety of hunted and snared wild fauna. Unfortunately the first component's small sample precluded any meaningful economic reconstruction.

The provenances and components of other finds from Ficus are shown in Table 5.

Bone

A broken segment of flat bone from trench 9's Components II or III had an irregular design of thirteen dimples and three holes on one surface. Local informants claimed that it was the remains of a "dolosse" used in divining (Fig. 38a).

Seven bone linkshafts came from Components I, II and III in trenches 6, 7 and 8 (Fig. 38b). Two rib scrapers from trench 9's

**TABLE 5. THE STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF
SMALL FINDS AT 2429AA4 (FICUS)**

		Cu.		Bone	Clay		Iron				Glass		Stone		TV		Vegetable															
		Bead	Bracelet	Linkshaft	Screw	Disc	Pendant	Tuyere	Whorl	Arrowhead	Bead	Fragment	Bracelet	Knife	Pot	Shrapnel	Wire	Bracelet	Bead	Bead	Bored Stone	Daga Smooth	Flake	Hammers	Ochre	Ore	Palette	Quern	Slag	Ring	Seeds	
Components																																
IV	Surface																			1	1											
Π	Trench 1, Spit 1								1			1		4					3	7										27		
Π & Π	" 2																		7											6		
Π	" 3					1				1									11											2		
Π	Trench 2, A.A.																													3		
Π & Π	Ash																		4													
Π	Trench 3, Spit 1									1							1		2	4										2		
Π	" 2							1											4											2		
I	" 3																		12											1		
I	" 4																		2		1									2		
I	" 5																													1		
Π	Trench 4, Spit 1																	1														
Π	" 2																															
Π	Trench 5, Spit 1																															
Π	" 2																															
Π	" 3																															
Π	Trench 6, T.S.										1	1		1	2				4	3										4		
Π or Π	G.A.											2							9			1										
Π or Π	R.L. 1																		1													
Π or Π	K.A. 1				2														1													
Π or Π	D. 1																															
Π or Π	K.A. 2																		20													
Π or Π	D. 2																															
Π	Trench 7, Spit 1																1					1								1		
Π	" 2	1			1														7													
Π	" 3																															
Π	Trench 8, T.S.												1						1						1					1		
Π	G.A.																								1							
Π	R.L. 1																															
Π	K.A.				1																											
Π	D. 1											1																				
Π	R.L. 2																		9													
Π	O.A. 1				3														6	1										4		
Π	R.L. 3																															
Π	O.A. 2																															
Π	R.L. 4																															
Π	S.S.																															
Π	Trench 9, T.S.								1										6			1						1	1	36	1	
Π	G.A.	1	1		2	1		1			1	1	2			1																
Π	R.L. 1																															
Π	D. 1																															
Π	C.L.																															
Π	O.A. 1												2																		1	
Π	R.L. 2																															5
Π	O.A. 2																		2													6
Π	R.L. 3																															
Π	O.A. 3																		1													4
Total		1	1	1	7	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	4	7	1	4	4	1	1	115	3	1	3	3	1	1	8	1	3	77	1	15

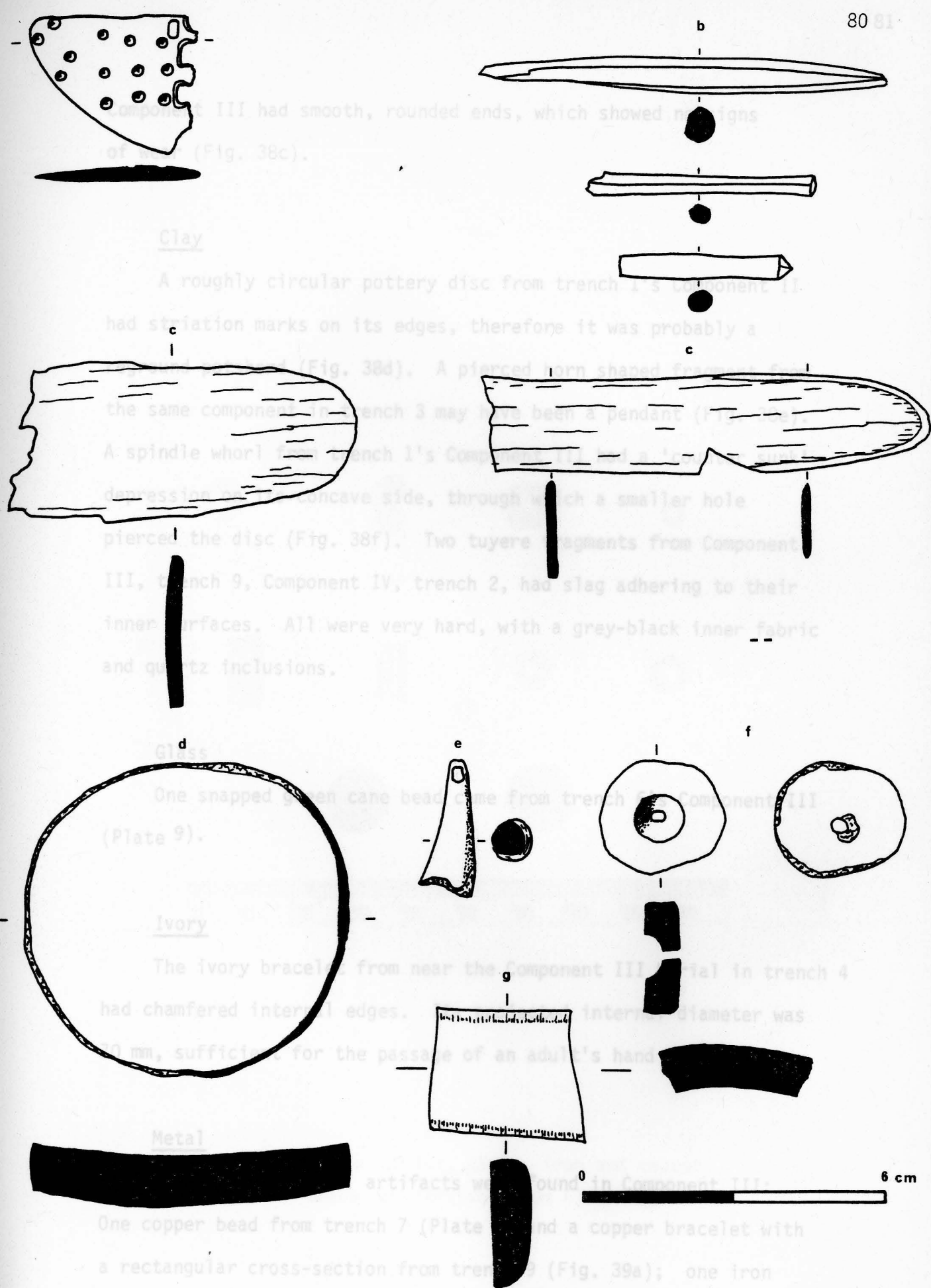


Fig. 38. Ficus bone, clay and ivory finds

Component III had smooth, rounded ends, which showed no signs of wear (Fig. 38c).

Clay

A roughly circular pottery disc from trench 1's Component II had striation marks on its edges, therefore it was probably a reground potsherd (Fig. 38d). A pierced horn shaped fragment from the same component in trench 3 may have been a pendant (Fig. 38e). A spindle whorl from trench 1's Component III had a 'counter sunk' depression on its concave side, through which a smaller hole pierced the disc (Fig. 38f). Two tuyere fragments from Component III, trench 9, Component IV, trench 2, had slag adhering to their inner surfaces. All were very hard, with a grey-black inner fabric and quartz inclusions.

Glass

One snapped green cane bead came from trench 6's Component III (Plate 9).

Ivory

The ivory bracelet from near the Component III burial in trench 4 had chamfered internal edges. Its projected internal diameter was 70 mm, sufficient for the passage of an adult's hand (Fig. 38g).

Metal

The following metal artifacts were found in Component III: One copper bead from trench 7 (Plate 9) and a copper bracelet with a rectangular cross-section from trench 9 (Fig. 39a); one iron arrowhead with an ogive midrib from trench 3 (Fig. 39b), two iron beads from trenches 6 and 9 (Plate 9), four iron bracelets from

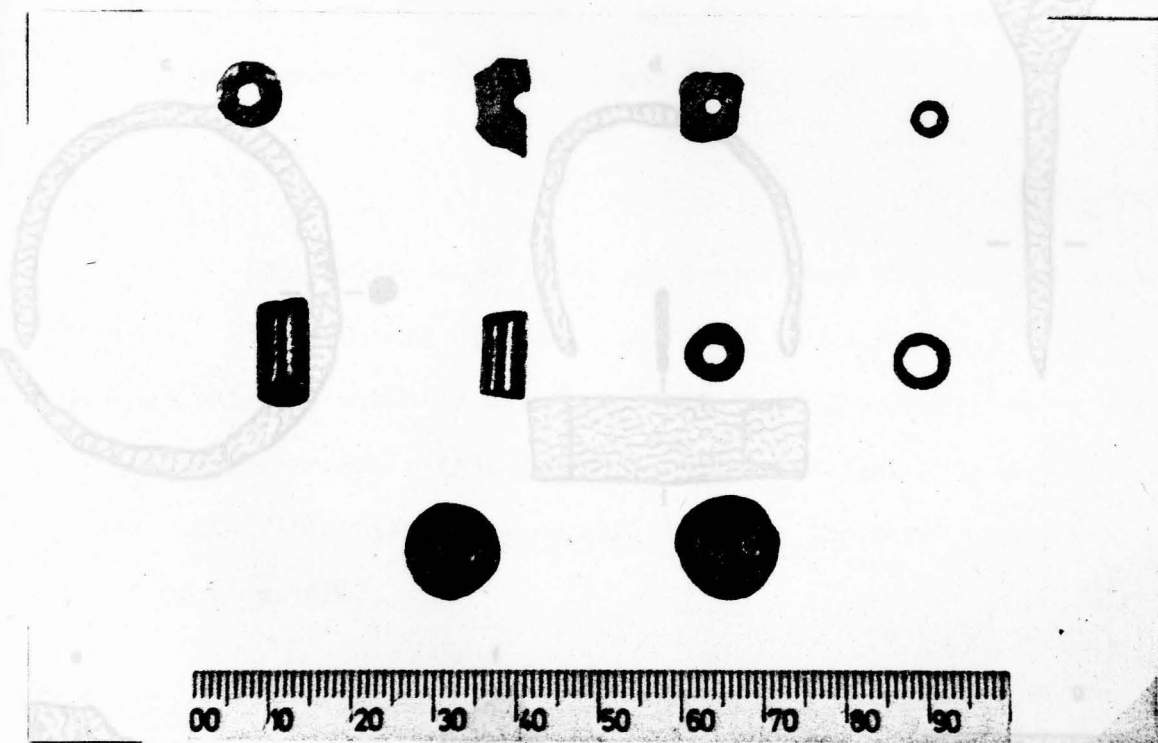


Plate 9. Shell, schist, glass, iron and copper beads, and shrapnel from Ficus

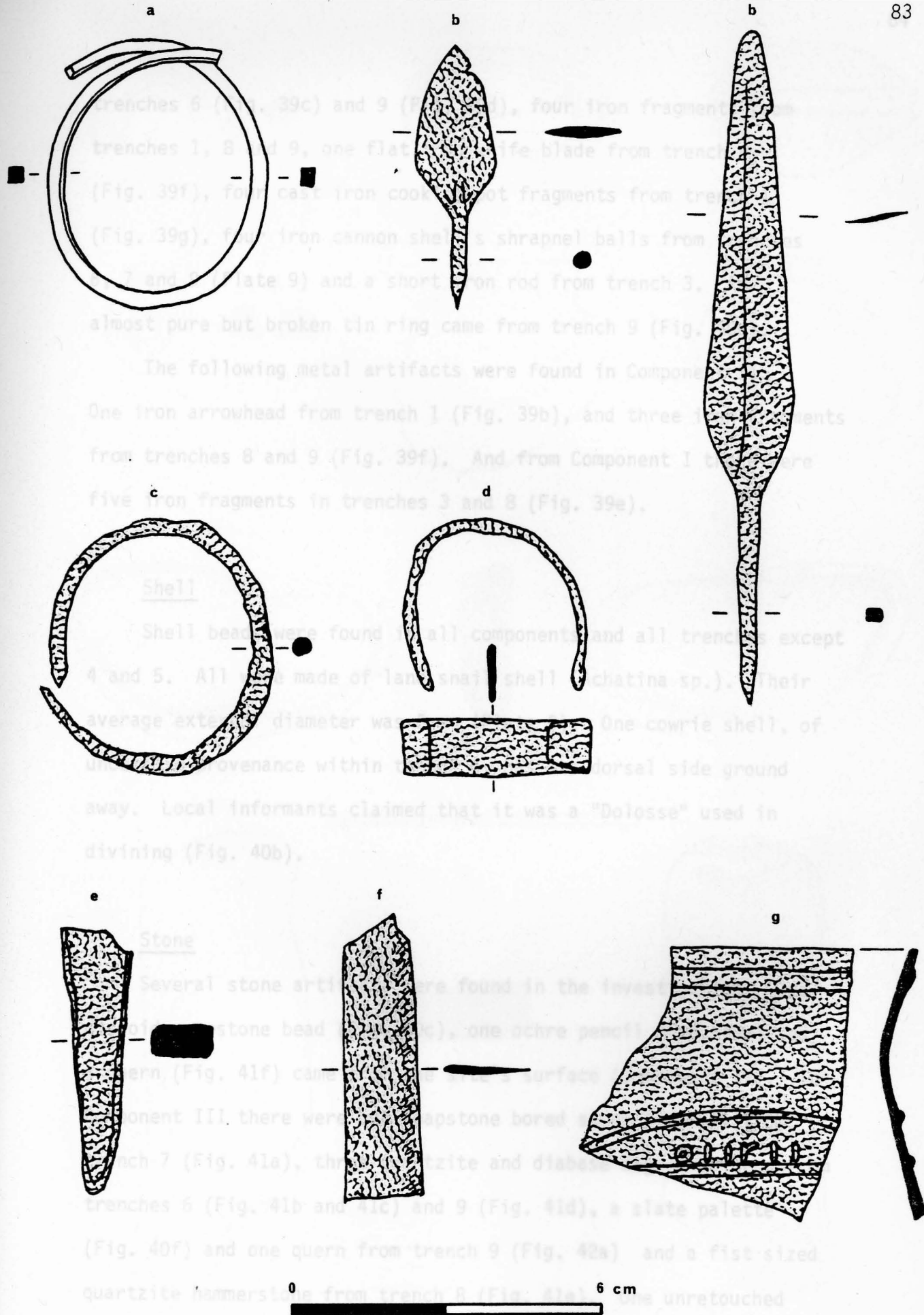


Fig. 39. Ficus metal finds

trenches 6 (Fig. 39c) and 9 (Fig. 39d), four iron fragments from trenches 1, 8 and 9, one flat iron knife blade from trench 6 (Fig. 39f), four cast iron cooking-pot fragments from trench 1 (Fig. 39g), four iron cannon shell's shrapnel balls from trenches 6, 7 and 9 (Plate 9) and a short iron rod from trench 3. An almost pure but broken tin ring came from trench 9 (Fig. 40a).

The following metal artifacts were found in Component II: One iron arrowhead from trench 1 (Fig. 39b), and three iron fragments from trenches 8 and 9 (Fig. 39f). And from Component I there were five iron fragments in trenches 3 and 8 (Fig. 39e).

Shell

Shell beads were found in all components and all trenches except 4 and 5. All were made of land snail shell (*Achatina* sp.). Their average external diameter was 5 mm (Plate 9). One cowrie shell, of uncertain provenance within trench 6, has its dorsal side ground away. Local informants claimed that it was a "Dolosse" used in divining (Fig. 40b).

Stone

Several stone artifacts were found in the investigation. One discoid soapstone bead (Fig. 40c), one ochre pencil (Fig. 40e) and a quern (Fig. 41f) came from the site's surface (Component IV). In Component III there were one soapstone bored stone fragment from trench 7 (Fig. 41a), three quartzite and diabase daga smoothers from trenches 6 (Fig. 41b and 41c) and 9 (Fig. 41d), a slate palette (Fig. 40f) and one quern from trench 9 (Fig. 42a) and a fist sized quartzite hammerstone from trench 8 (Fig. 41e). One unretouched

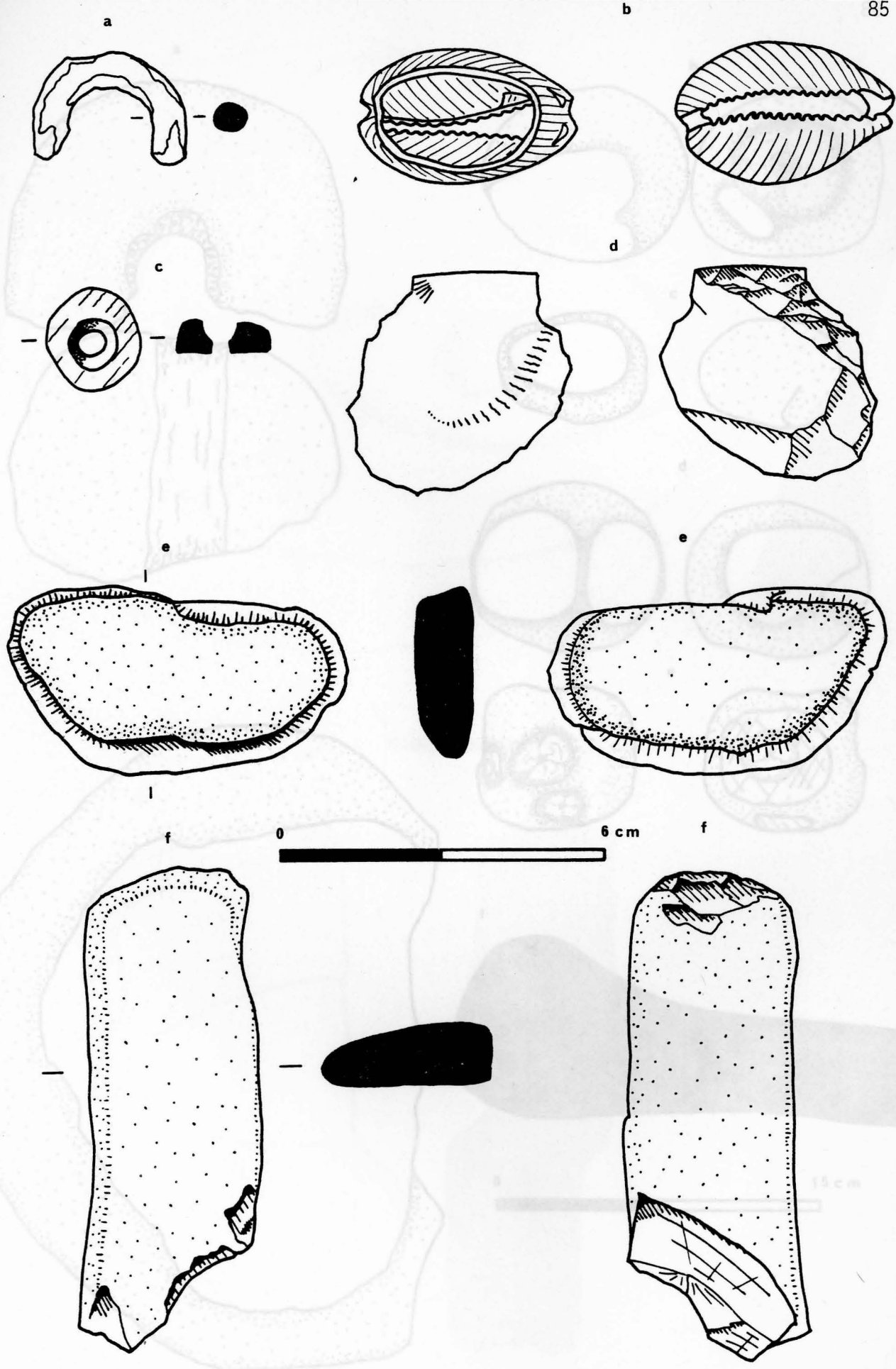


Fig. 40. Ficus tin, shell and stone finds

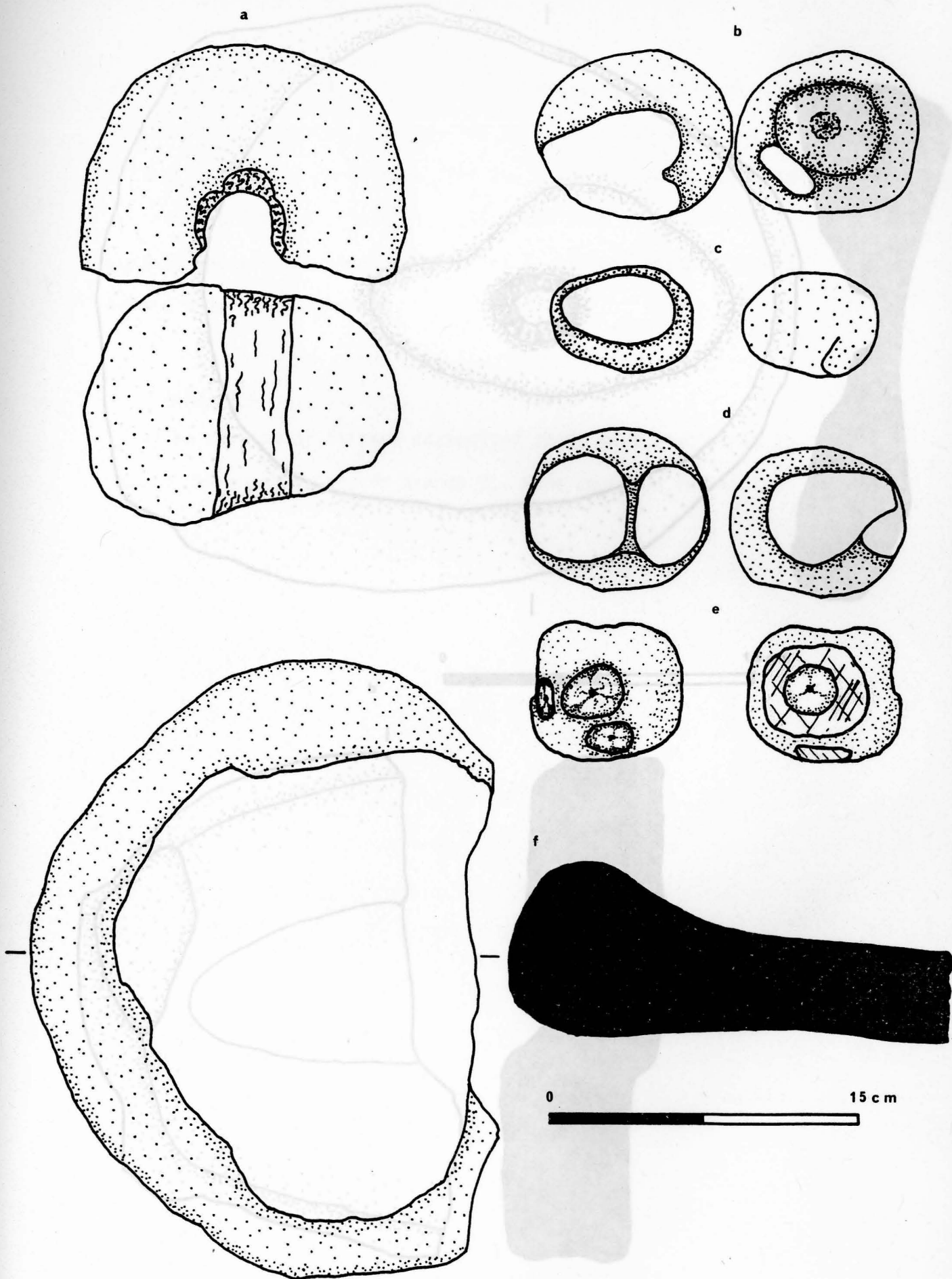


Fig. 41. Ficus stone finds

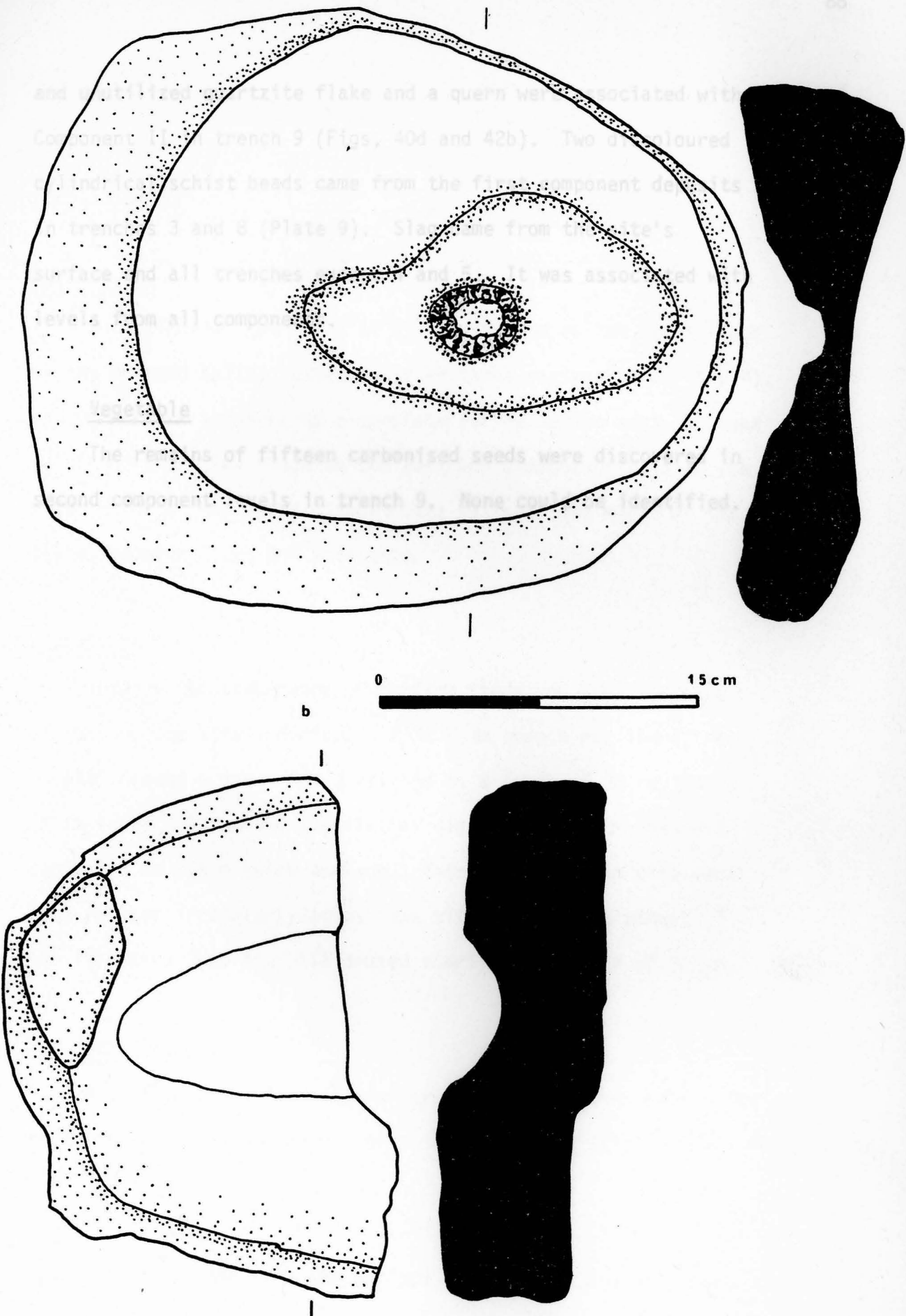


Fig. 42. Ficus stone finds

and unutilized quartzite flake and a quern were associated with Component II in trench 9 (Figs. 40d and 42b). Two discoloured cylindrical schist beads came from the first component deposits in trenches 3 and 8 (Plate 9). Slag came from the site's surface and all trenches except 4 and 5. It was associated with levels from all components.

Vegetable

The remains of fifteen carbonised seeds were discovered in second component levels in trench 9. None could be identified.

SITE 2429AA36

Description

Site 2429AA36 (24°9'S29°10'E) is situated on the level floor of the Makapan Valley, extending over three native fields (Map 4). The fields are bordered by a concrete furrow to the west, a house to the north, a low ridge to the east and ploughed fields to the south. The stream which bisects the valley flows north of the house, between Ficus and this site.

Excavation

Despite the occurrence of surface finds, no features were visible on the site's surface. A 3m x 3m trench was therefore located around a quern and excavated to a depth of 80 cm, in 20 cm spits. It proved sterile, as did the 1m x 1,5m test pit excavated to 1,5 m below surface. Thirty six 1m x 1m pits were then located irregularly across the site to test the widest possible area (Map 4). All proved sterile to a depth of 30 cm.

Stratigraphy

A shallow brown topsoil overlay a red, sandy soil with a few rocky inclusions and extended to a depth of 1,5 m (Figs. 43 and 44).

Finds

All finds came from the surface of the site, and only one component appeared to be represented.

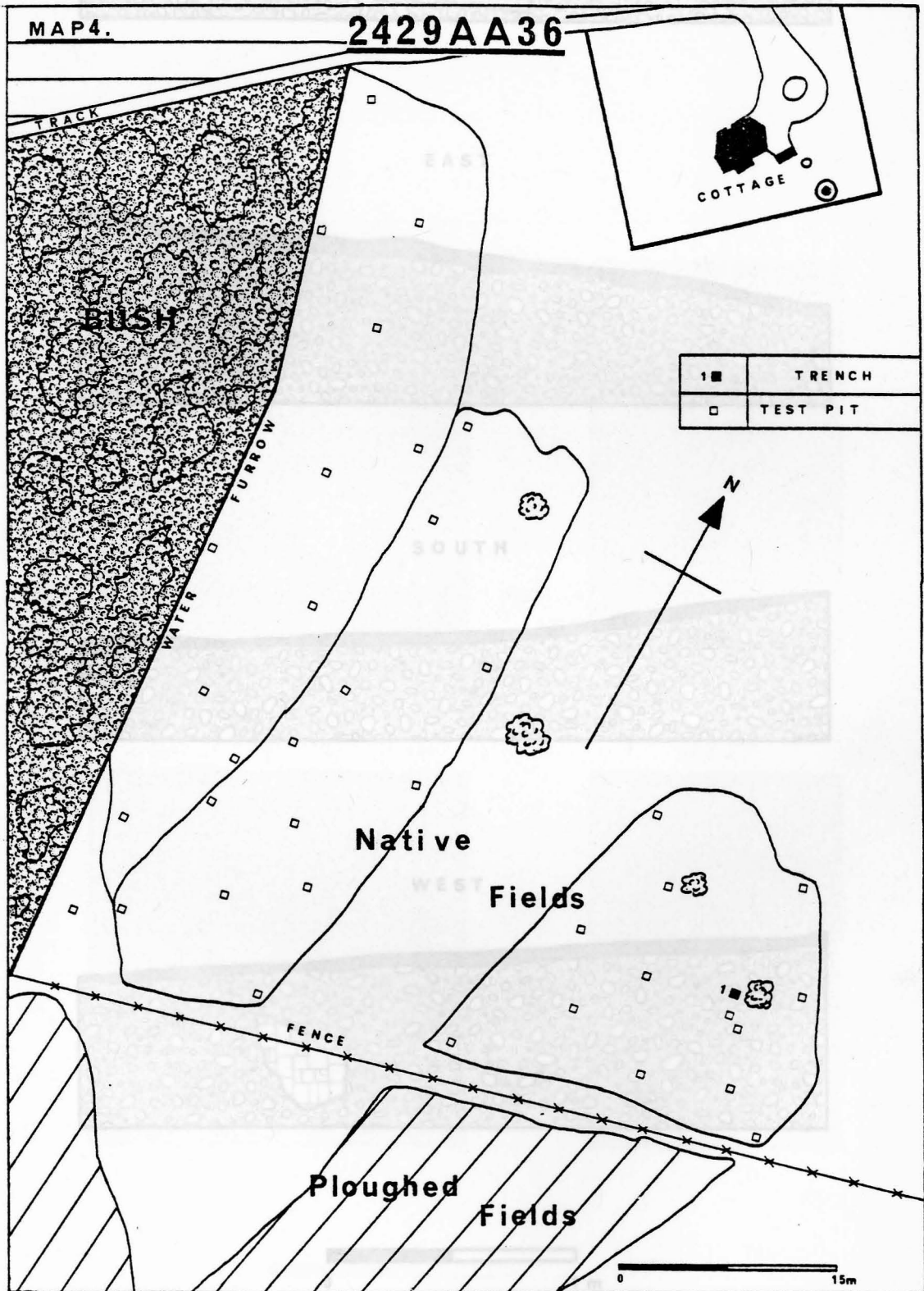
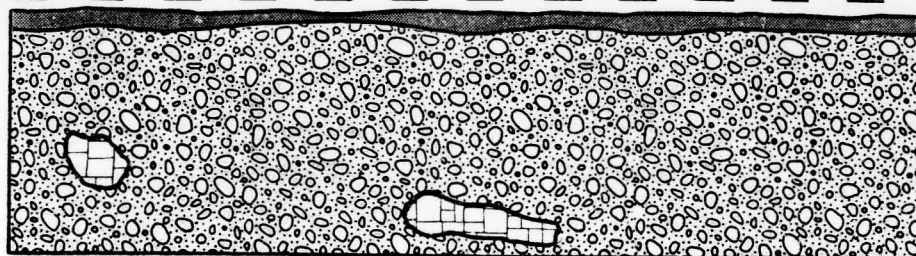
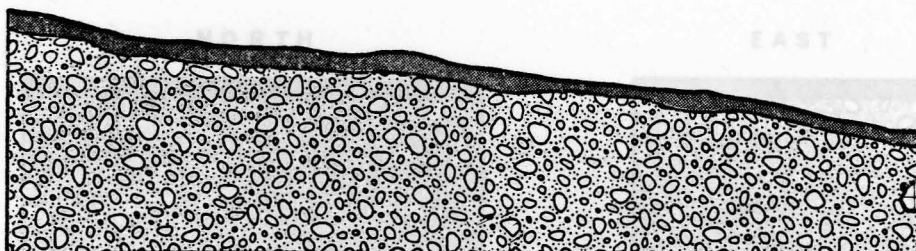


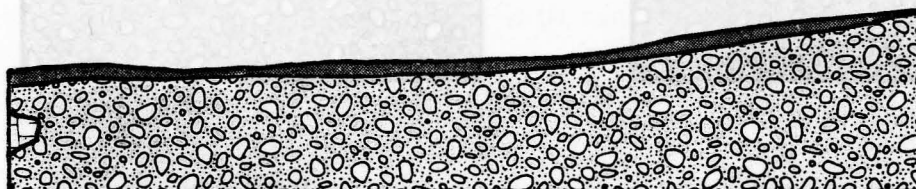
Fig. 43. Sections trench 1 2429AA36



EAST



SOUTH



WEST

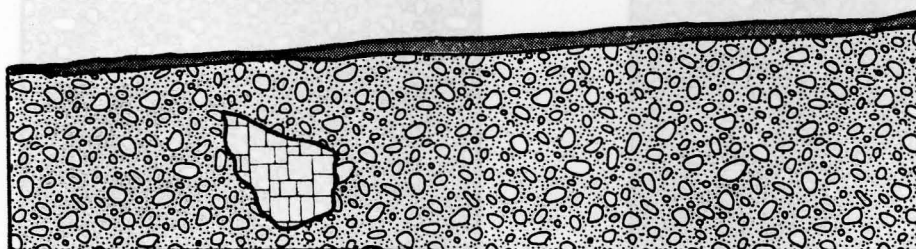


Fig. 43. Sections trench 1 2429AA36

Fig. 44. Sections test pit 2429AA36

Pottery

The pottery sample comprised twenty-two weathered sherds, including four rim sherds (Fig. 45). No formal analysis was undertaken on so small a sample, but the presence of finely incised ladder-stamped borders, bands of hatching or cross-hatching and internal ochre burnish indicate that this assemblage corresponds to Ficus' assemblage.

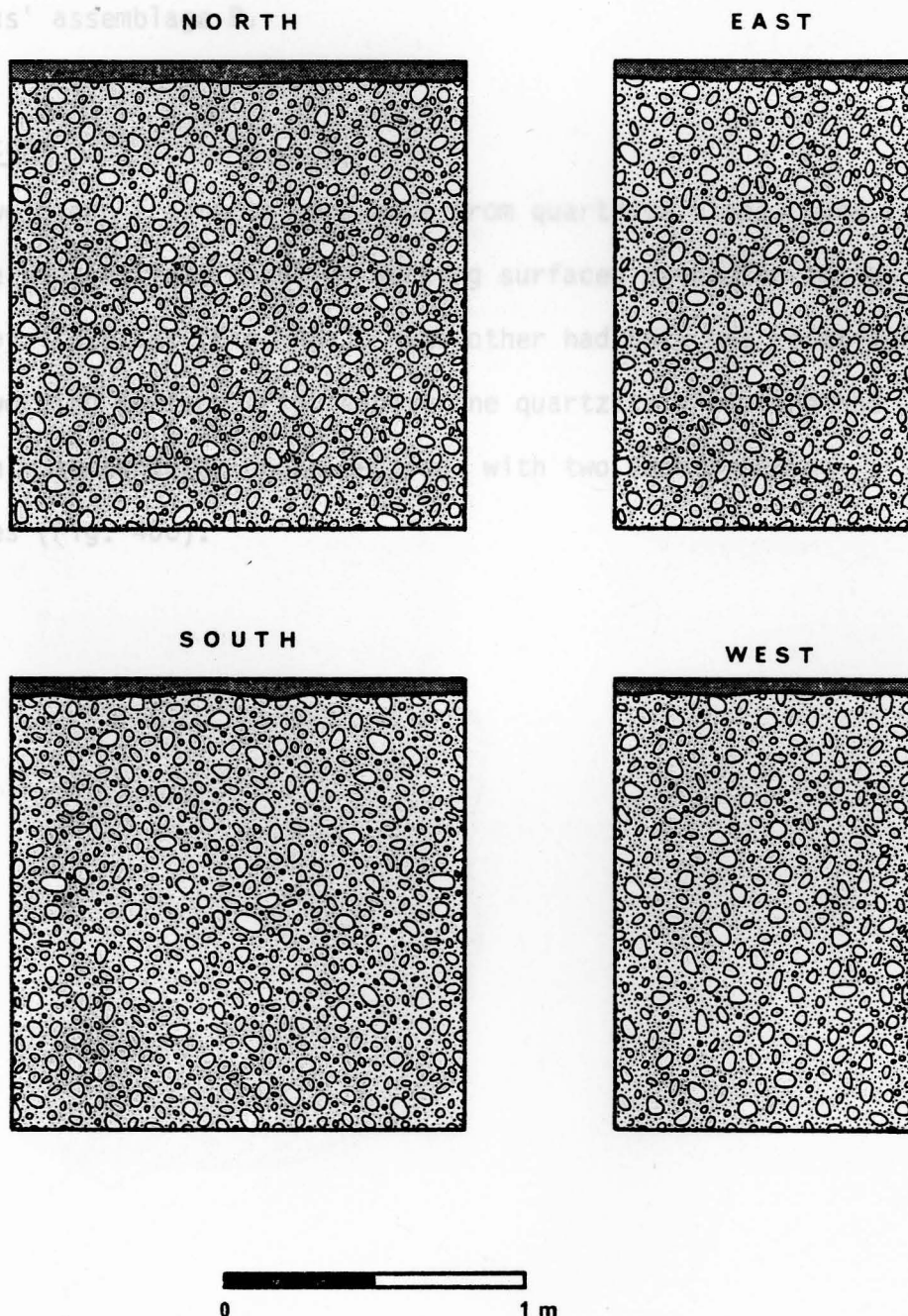


Fig. 44. Sections test pit 2429AA36

Pottery

The pottery sample comprised twenty-two weathered sherds, including four rim sherds (Fig. 45). No formal analysis was undertaken on so small a sample, but the presence of finely incised ladder-stamped borders, bands of hatching or cross-hatching and internal ochre burnish indicate that this assemblage corresponds to Ficus' assemblage B.

Stone

Two quern fragments were made from quartzite slabs. One example had shallow, dishlike working surfaces extending to the edges of its sides (Fig. 46a). The other had only one relatively small working surface (Fig. 46b). One quartzite whetstone had a roughly rectangular cross-section with two smooth honing surfaces (Fig. 46c).



Fig. 45. 2429AA36 sherds

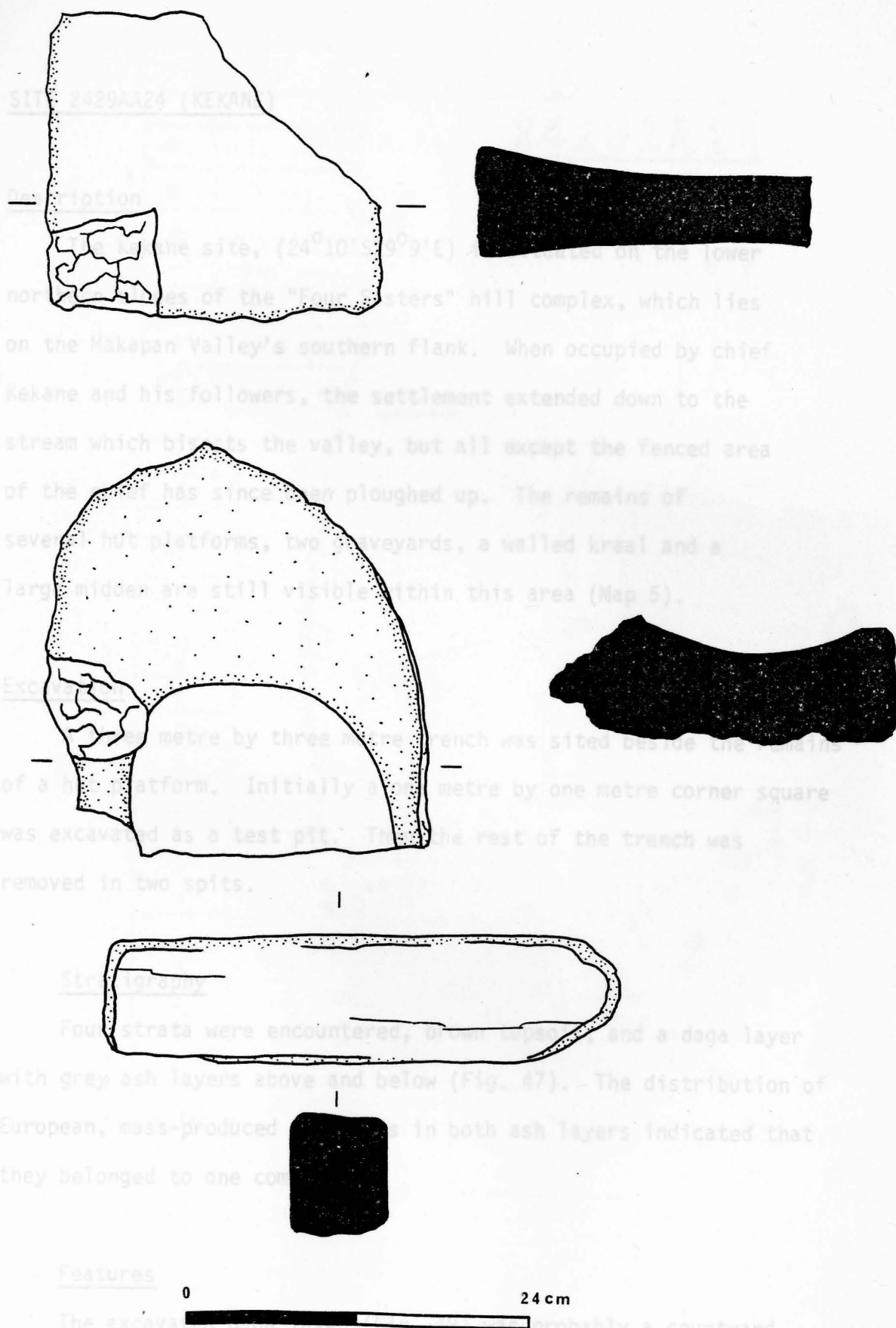


Fig. 46. 2429AA36 finds

SITE 2429AA24 (KEKANE)

Description

The Kekane site, ($24^{\circ}10'S29^{\circ}9'E$) is situated on the lower northern slopes of the "Four Sisters" hill complex, which lies on the Makapan Valley's southern flank. When occupied by chief Kekane and his followers, the settlement extended down to the stream which bisects the valley, but all except the fenced area of the chief has since been ploughed up. The remains of several hut platforms, two graveyards, a walled kraal and a large midden are still visible within this area (Map 5).

Excavation

A three metre by three metre trench was sited beside the remains of a hut platform. Initially a one metre by one metre corner square was excavated as a test pit. Then the rest of the trench was removed in two spits.

Stratigraphy

Four strata were encountered, brown topsoil, and a daga layer with grey ash layers above and below (Fig. 47). The distribution of European, mass-produced artifacts in both ash layers indicated that they belonged to one component.

Features

The excavated daga layer (Fig. 48) was probably a courtyard floor, since it contained no foundations and yet lay next to the

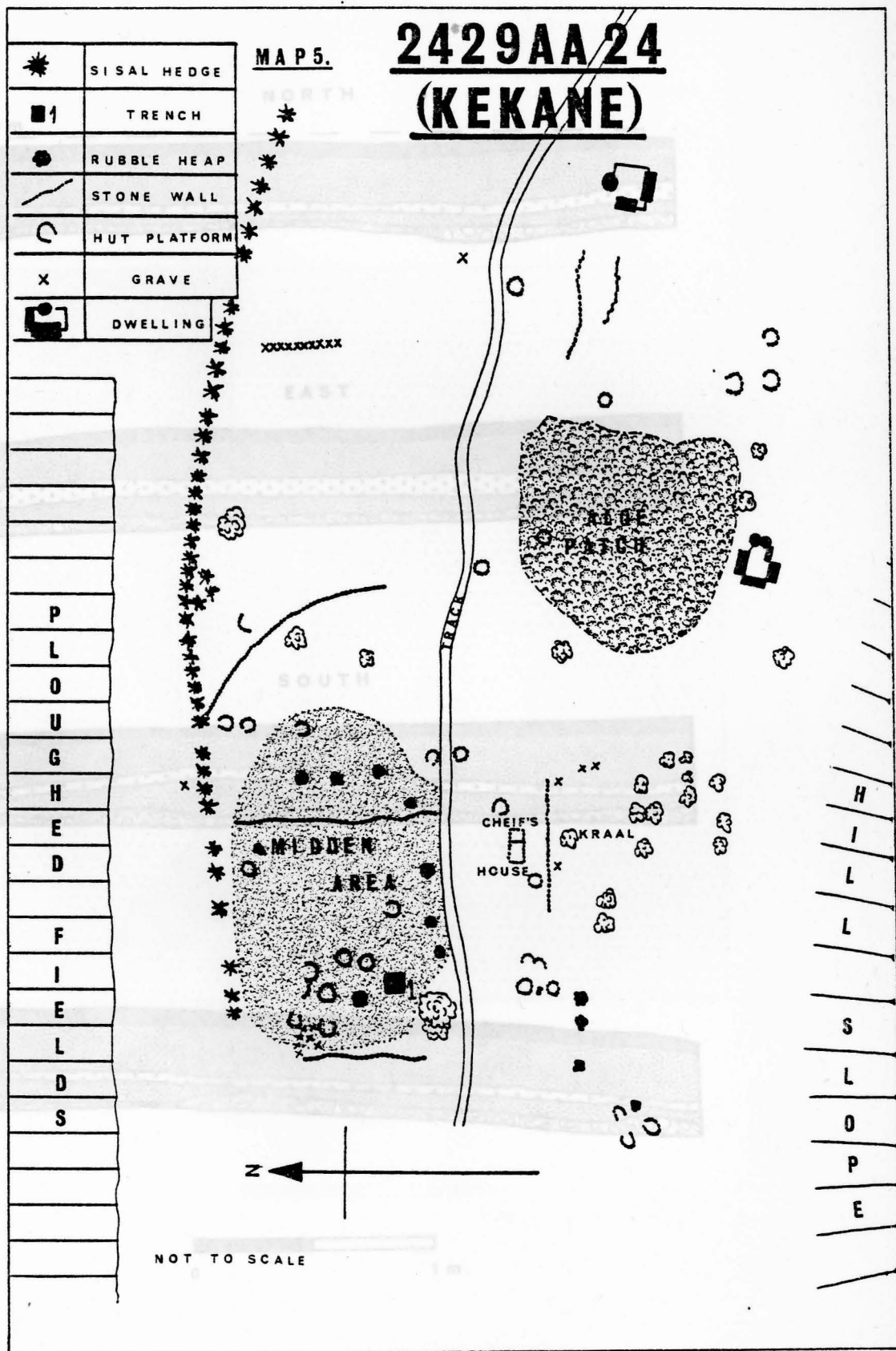


Fig. 47. Sections trench I Askane

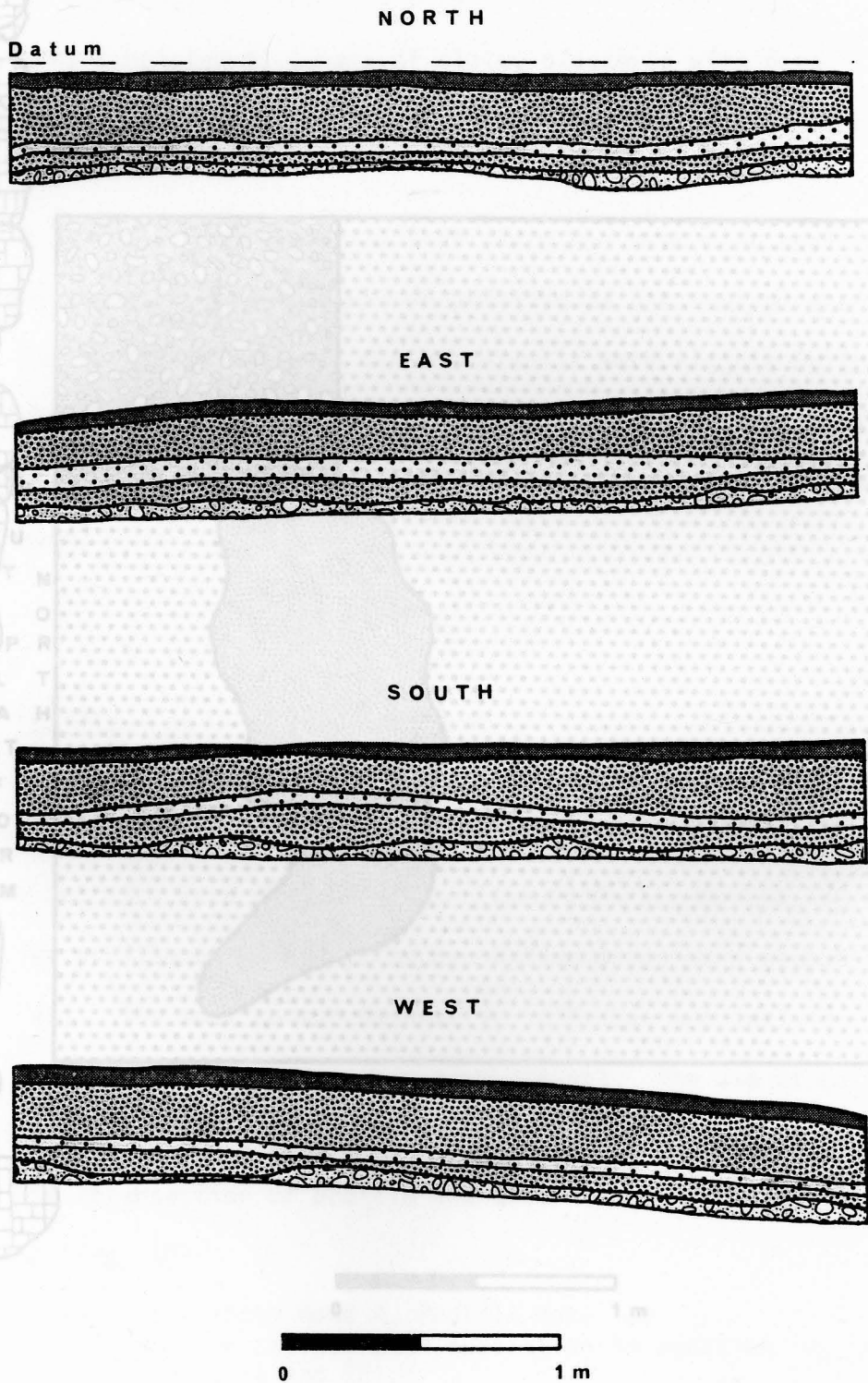
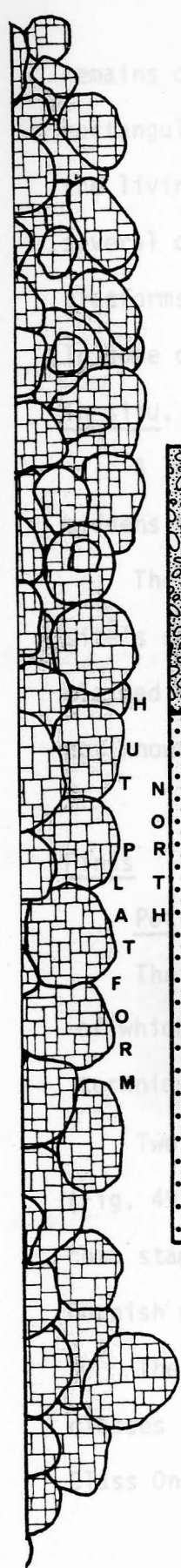


Fig. 47. Sections trench 1 Kekane



...ains of a hut platform. Local informants claimed that a
...ngular platform and two circular ones nearby constituted
...iving quarters of chief Kekane and his wives. There were
... other hut platforms in other areas. All of these
...ms consisted of layers of slate, plastered with daga.
...e cases the lowest level of stones from their walls remained

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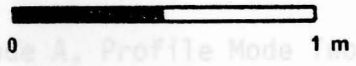
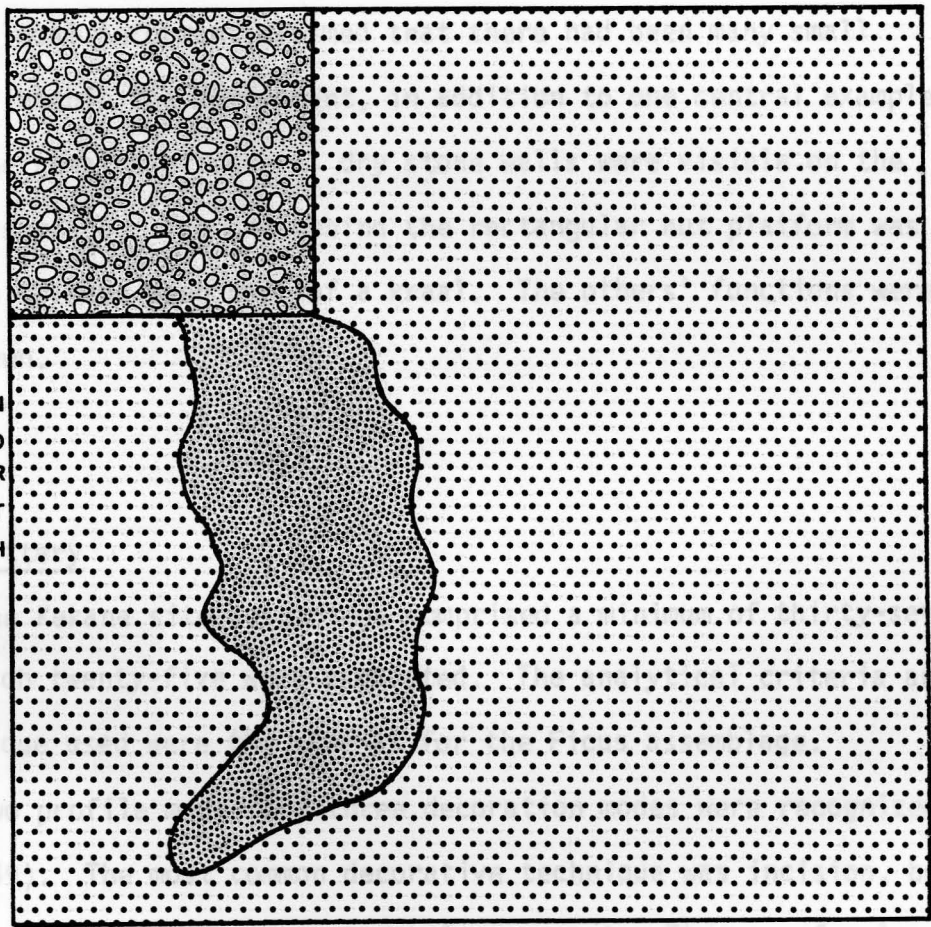


Fig. 48. Daga floor in trench 1 Kekane

remains of a hut platform. Local informants claimed that a rectangular platform and two circular ones nearby constituted the living quarters of chief Kekane and his wives. There were several other hut platforms in other areas. All of these platforms consisted of layers of slate, plastered with daga. In some cases the lowest level of stones from their walls remained in situ.

A local informant claimed that there had been many small middens within the settlement, in addition to one central example.

The remains of several dry stone walls were visible on the site's surface. The one behind the rectangular hut platform was claimed to have been part of a kraal. The others' functions were not known.

Finds

Pottery

The Kekane site assemblage comprised a minimum of thirty-seven vessels, of which twenty-five were excavated. The analytical criteria and technique used were the same as for the Ficus assemblage.

Two profile modes and three decoration modes were recognized (Fig. 49). The most common decorative technique was incision, but comb stamping and punctates were also present. The use of colour on burnish was common.

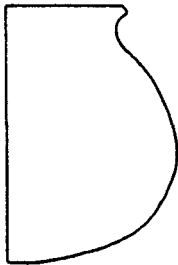
The intersection of profile and decoration modes produced three classes (Fig. 50):

Class One. Decoration Mode A, Profile Mode Two.
 A spherical jar with decoration in position two
 (Figs. 51 and 52).

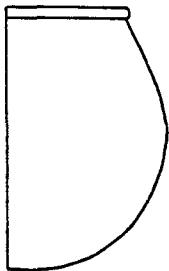
Fig. 49. Kekane profile and decoration modes, and classes

Profile modes

Mode One. Necked Jars.

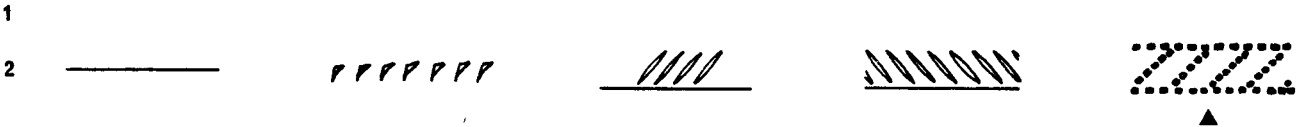


Mode Two. Spherical Jars.

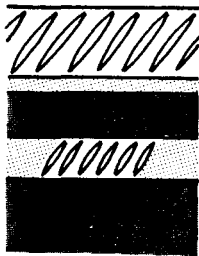


Decoration modes

Mode A. Position Two. Single bands.



Mode B. Areal Layout.



Mode C. Plain.

Classes

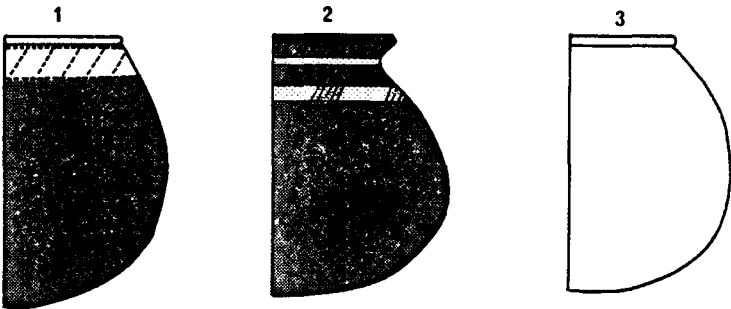


Fig. 50: 2429AA24 (Kekane) pottery classes

	Profile		Modes	
	1	2	1	2
D e c o r a t i o n	A		1	
	B	2		
	C		3	

TABLE 6: 2429AA24 (KEKANE) THE STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF POTTERY CLASSES

		Classes					
		1	2	3	F"B"	Level	Total
S t r a t i g r a p h y	Surface	3	1	8	2	1	4
	Spit 1	9	3	10	12	3	4
	Spit 2			1	4	5	
	Total	12	4	19	18	5	3

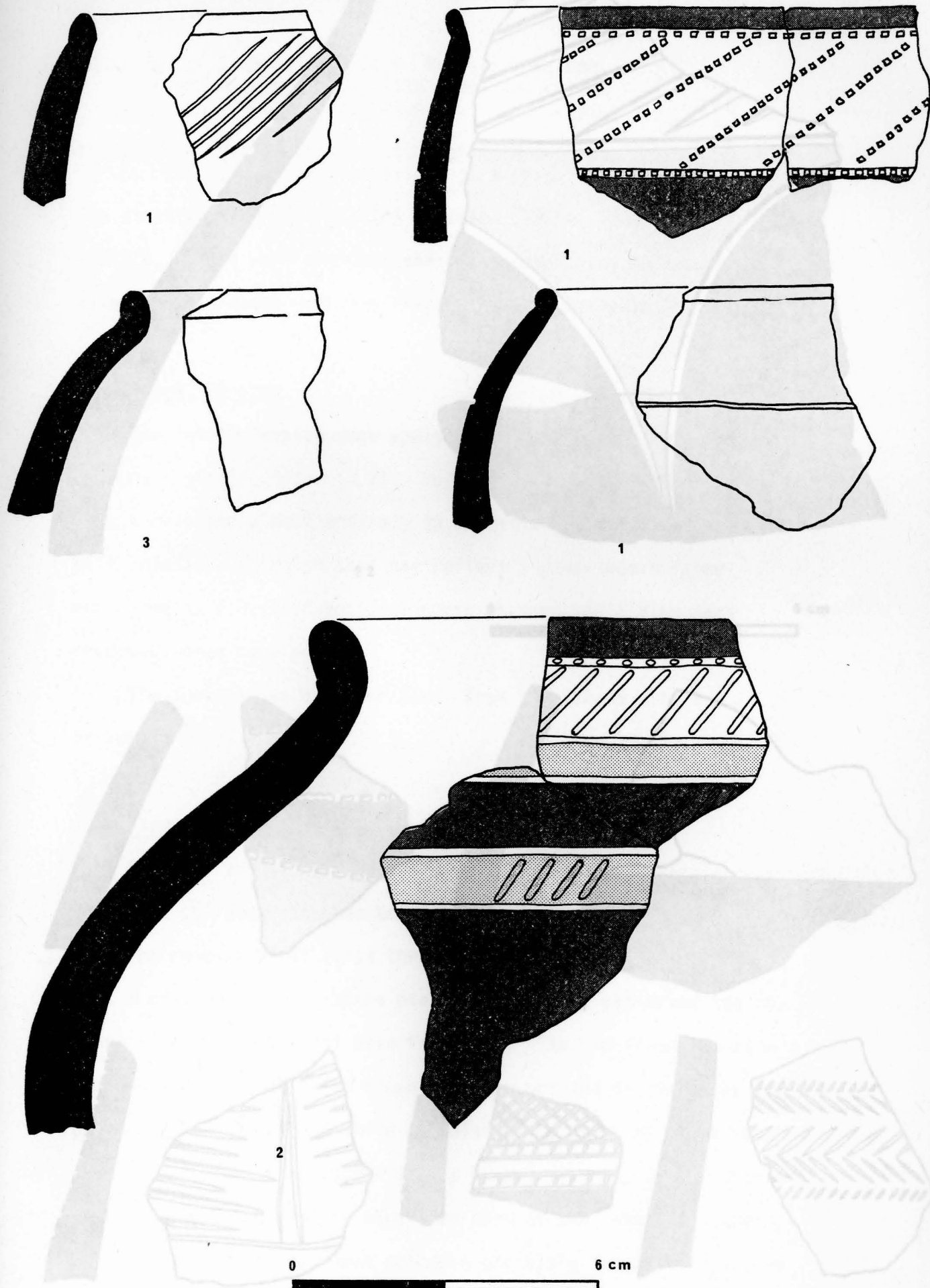


Fig. 51. Kekane pottery classes 1, 2 and 3

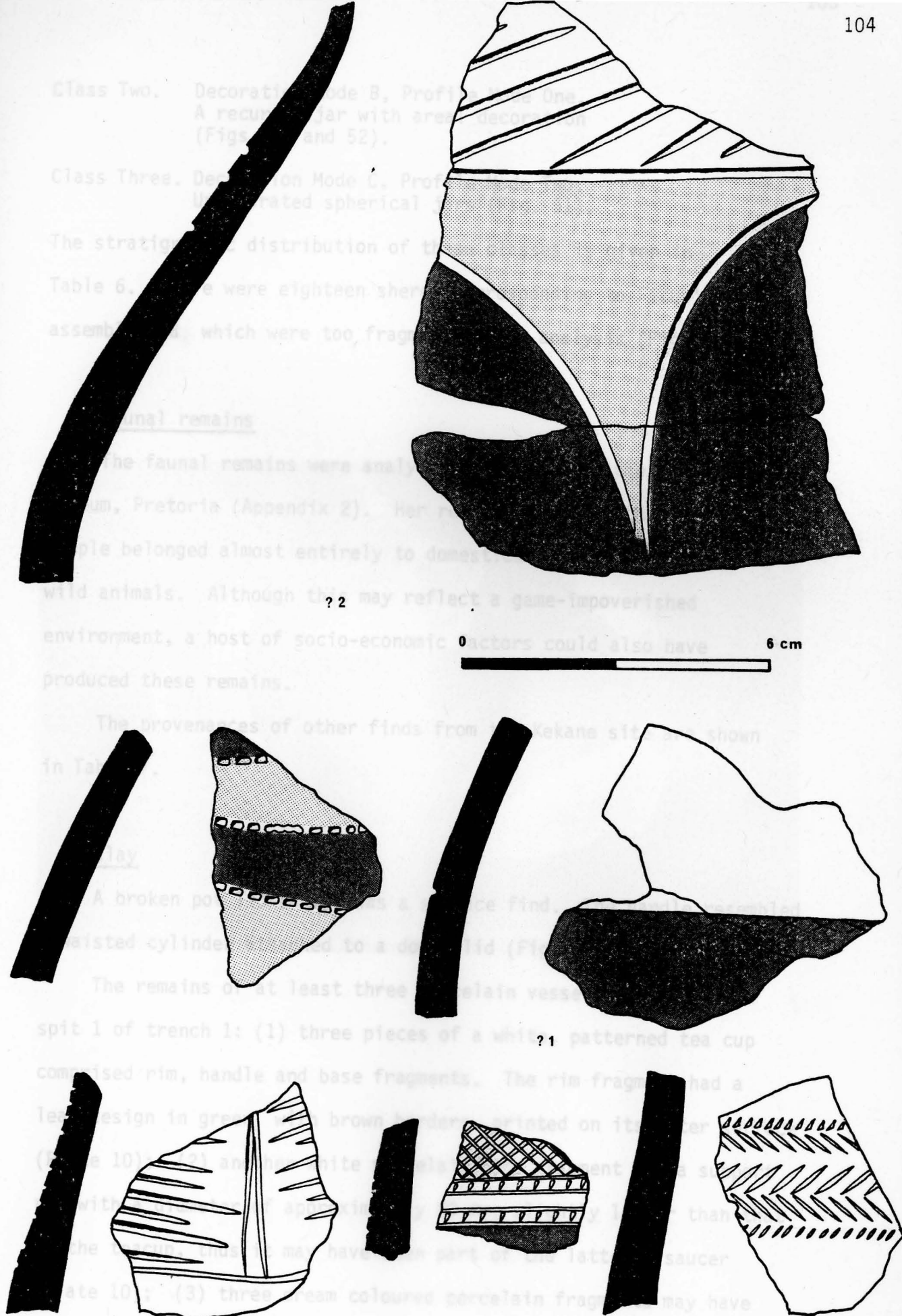


Fig. 52. Kekane pottery fragments

Class Two. Decoration Mode B, Profile Mode One.
A recurved jar with areal decoration
(Figs. 51 and 52).

Class Three. Decoration Mode C, Profile Mode Two.
Undecorated spherical jars (Fig. 51).

The stratigraphic distribution of these classes is given in Table 6. There were eighteen sherds corresponding to Ficus' assemblage B which were too fragmentary for analysis (Fig. 52).

Faunal remains

The faunal remains were analysed by I. Plug at the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria (Appendix 2). Her results indicate that the sample belonged almost entirely to domesticates and a few small wild animals. Although this may reflect a game-impooverished environment, a host of socio-economic factors could also have produced these remains.

The provenances of other finds from the Kekane site are shown in Table 7.

Clay

A broken pot lid handle was a surface find. The handle resembled a waisted cylinder attached to a domed lid (Fig. 53a).

The remains of at least three porcelain vessels were found in spit 1 of trench 1: (1) three pieces of a white, patterned tea cup comprised rim, handle and base fragments. The rim fragment had a leaf design in green with brown borders printed on its outer surface (Plate 10); (2) another white porcelain base fragment had a support rim with a diameter of approximately 80 mm, slightly larger than that of the teacup, thus it may have been part of the latter's saucer (Plate 10); (3) three cream coloured porcelain fragments may have

TABLE THE STRATIGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF
SMALL FINDS AT 2429AA24 (KEKANE)

Clay Glass		Brass		Iron		Tin	
Pyrex	Pyrex	Pyrex	Pyrex	Pyrex	Pyrex	Pyrex	Pyrex
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
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35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37
38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
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41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
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44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
46	46	46	46	46	46	46	46
47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
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49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
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51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52
53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53
54	54	54	54	54	54	54	54
55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57
58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58
59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59
60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
62	62	62	62	62	62	62	62
63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
64	64	64	64	64	64	64	64
65	65	65	65	65	65	65	65
66	66	66	66	66	66	66	66
67	67	67	67	67	67	67	67
68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69
70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
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74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
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78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78
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91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91
92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
94	94	94	94	94	94	94	94
95	95	95	95	95	95	95	95
96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96
97	97	97	97	97	97	97	97
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99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

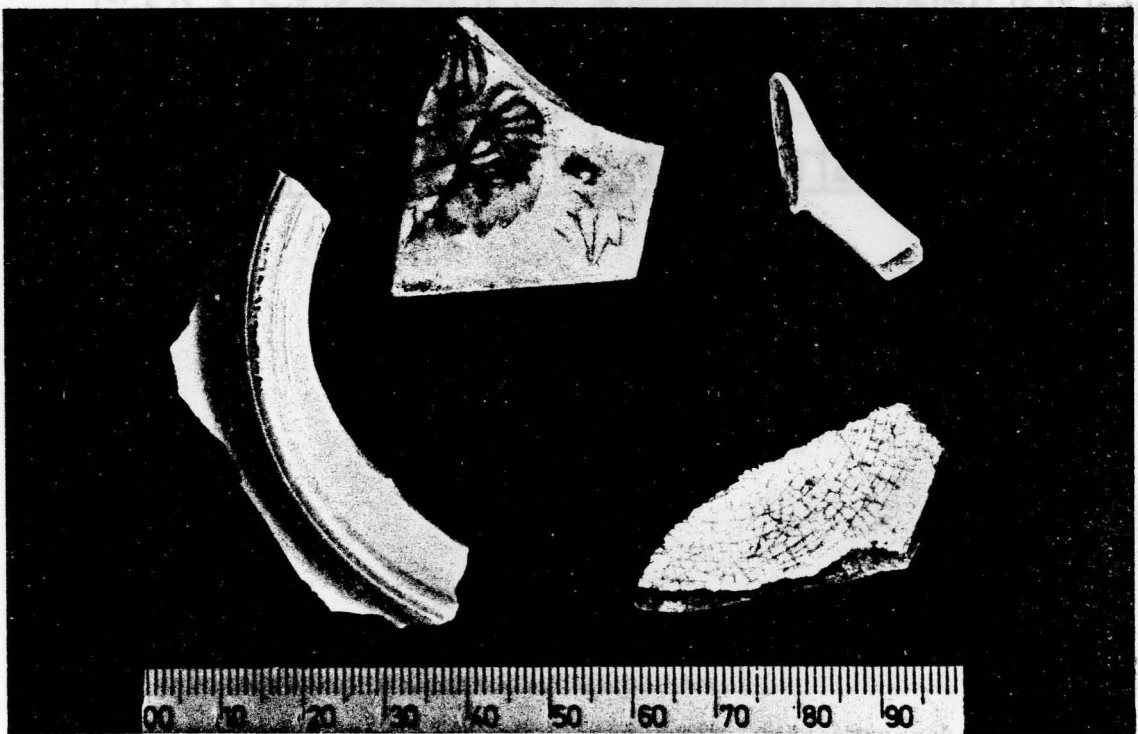
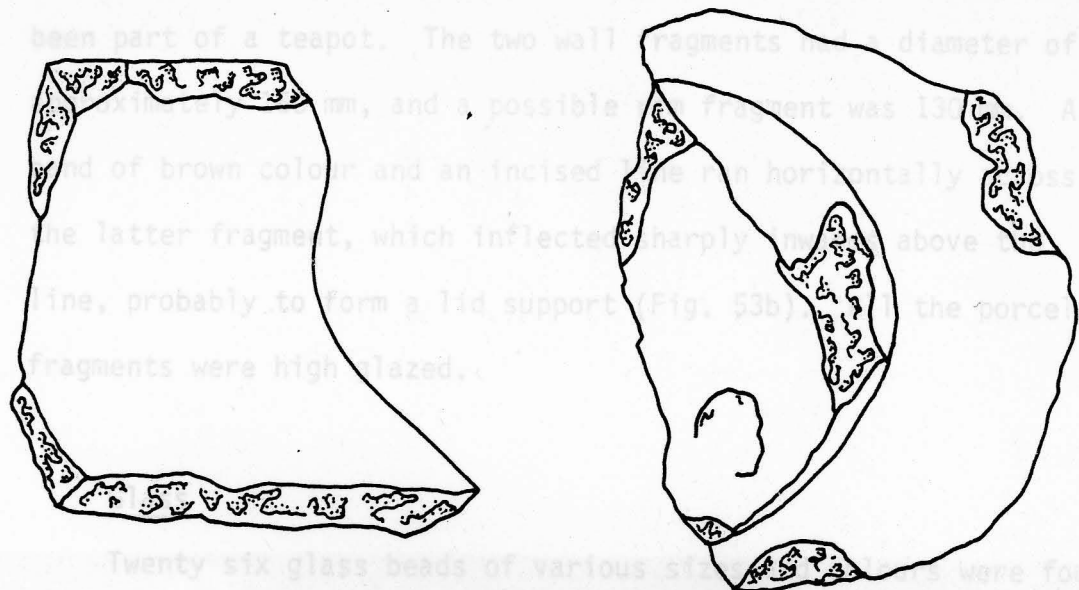
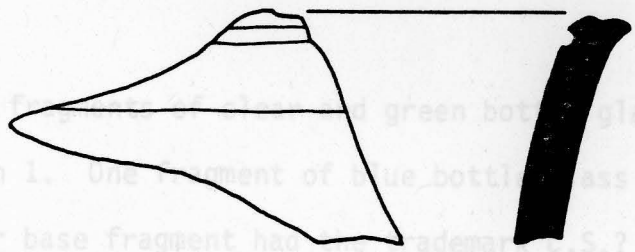


Plate 10. Porcelain fragments from Kekane

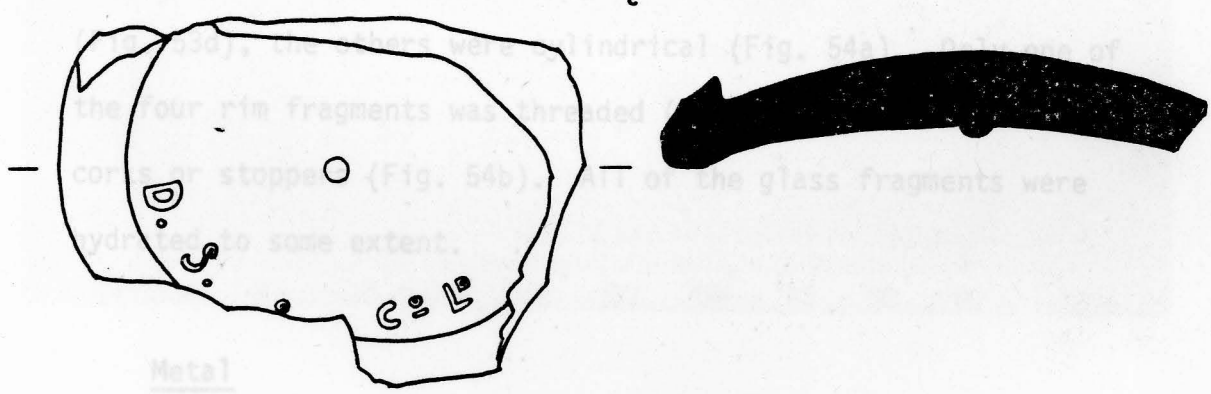
a



b

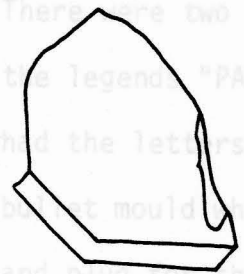


c



Metal

d



e

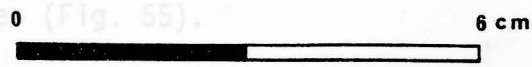
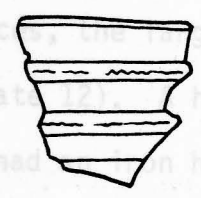
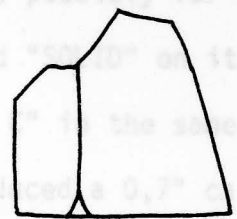


Fig. 53. Kekane clay and glass finds

been part of a teapot. The two wall fragments had a diameter of approximately 160 mm, and a possible rim fragment was 130 mm. A band of brown colour and an incised line ran horizontally across the latter fragment, which inflected sharply inwards above the line, probably to form a lid support (Fig. 53b). All the porcelain fragments were high glazed.

Glass

Twenty six glass beads of various sizes and colours were found at the Kekane site (Plate 11). Their provenances are given in Table 7.

Ten fragments of clear and green bottle glass came from spit 1 of trench 1. One fragment of blue bottle glass was a surface find. One clear base fragment had the trademark C.S.? C^oL^d in raised letters (Fig. 53c). Three fragments had square or bevelled forms (Fig. 53d), the others were cylindrical (Fig. 54a). Only one of the four rim fragments was threaded (Fig. 53c), the rest having corks or stoppers (Fig. 54b). All of the glass fragments were hydrated to some extent.

Metal

Several brass artifacts were found in trench 1. There were two buckles, possibly for braces. The smaller example had the legends "PARIS" and "SOLID" on its outer surfaces, the larger had the letters "R P & C" in the same position (Plate 12). A hinged bullet mould which produced a 0,7" calibre bullet had an iron hinge, and plug for the lead receptacle. The handles incorporated wire cutting surfaces (Fig. 55).

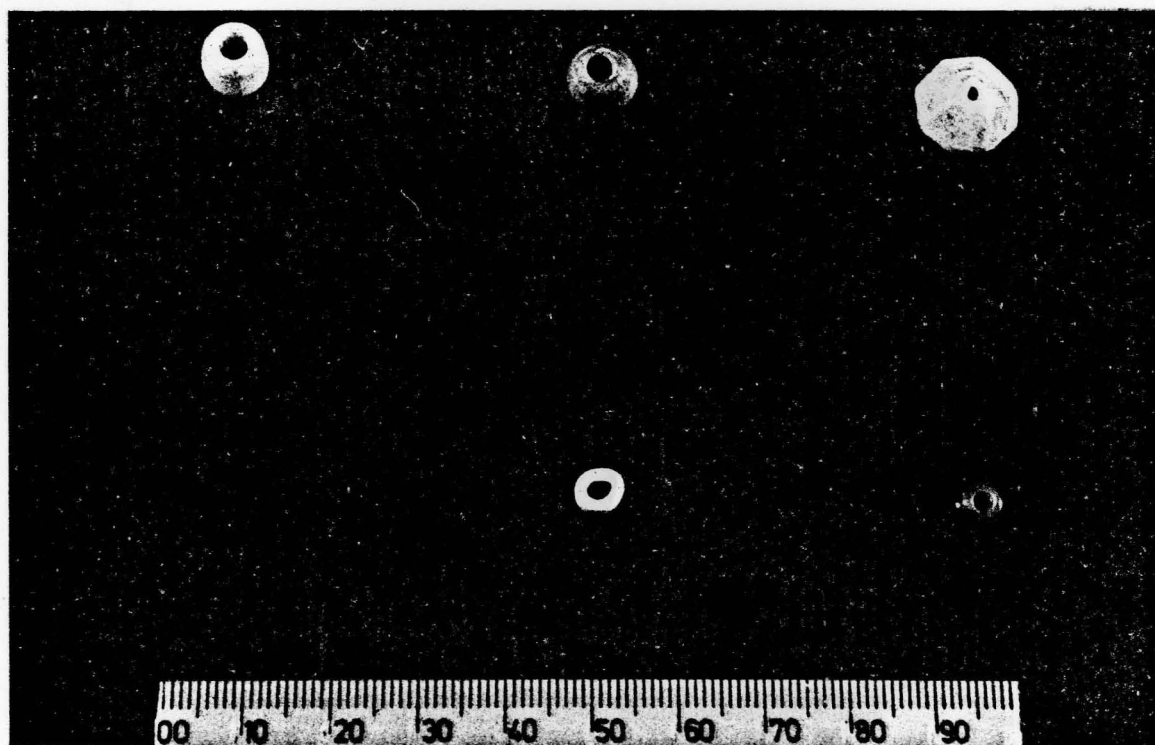


Plate 12. Small metal artifacts from Kekane

Plate 11. Glass beads from Kekane

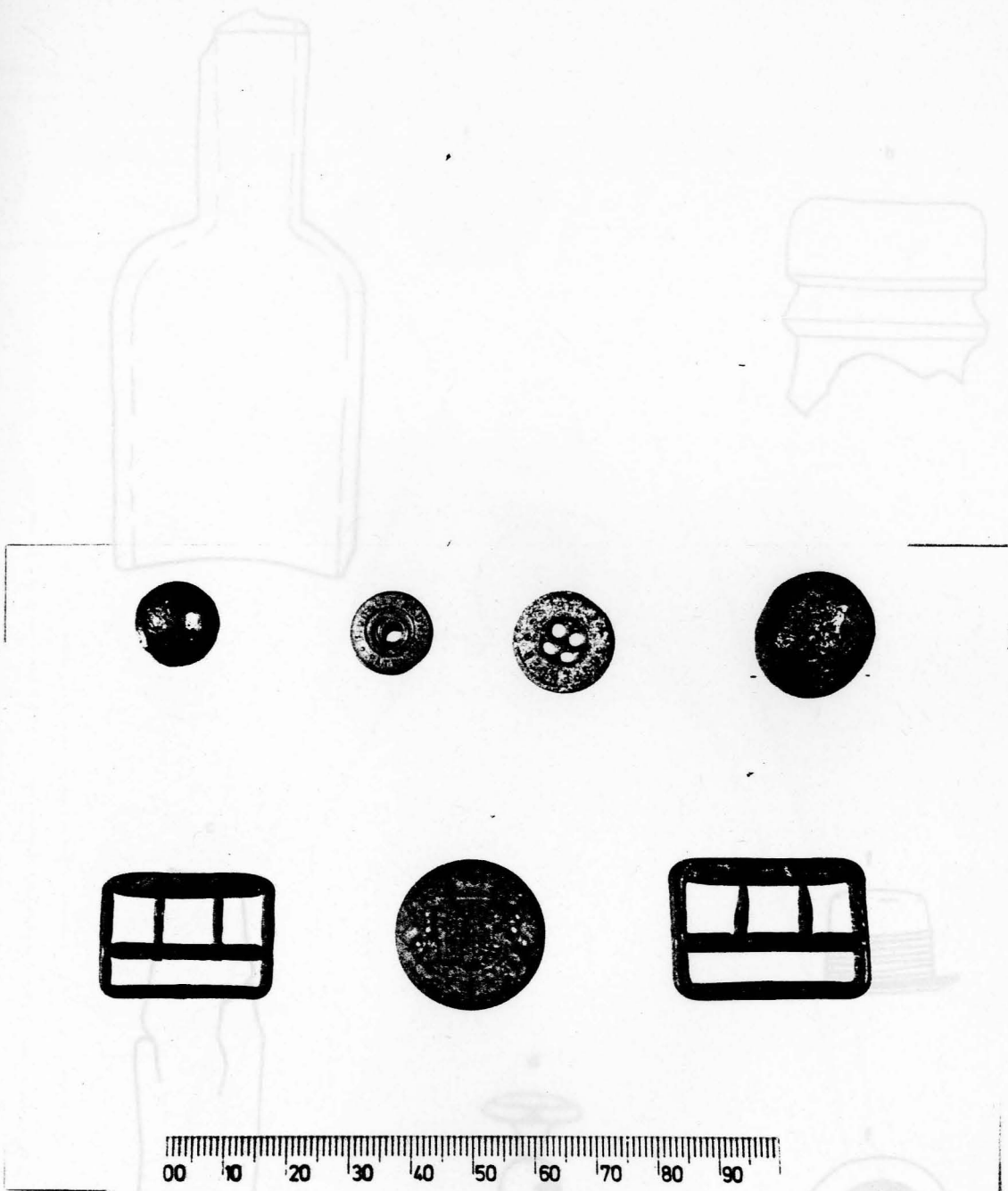


Plate 12. Small metal artifacts from Kekane

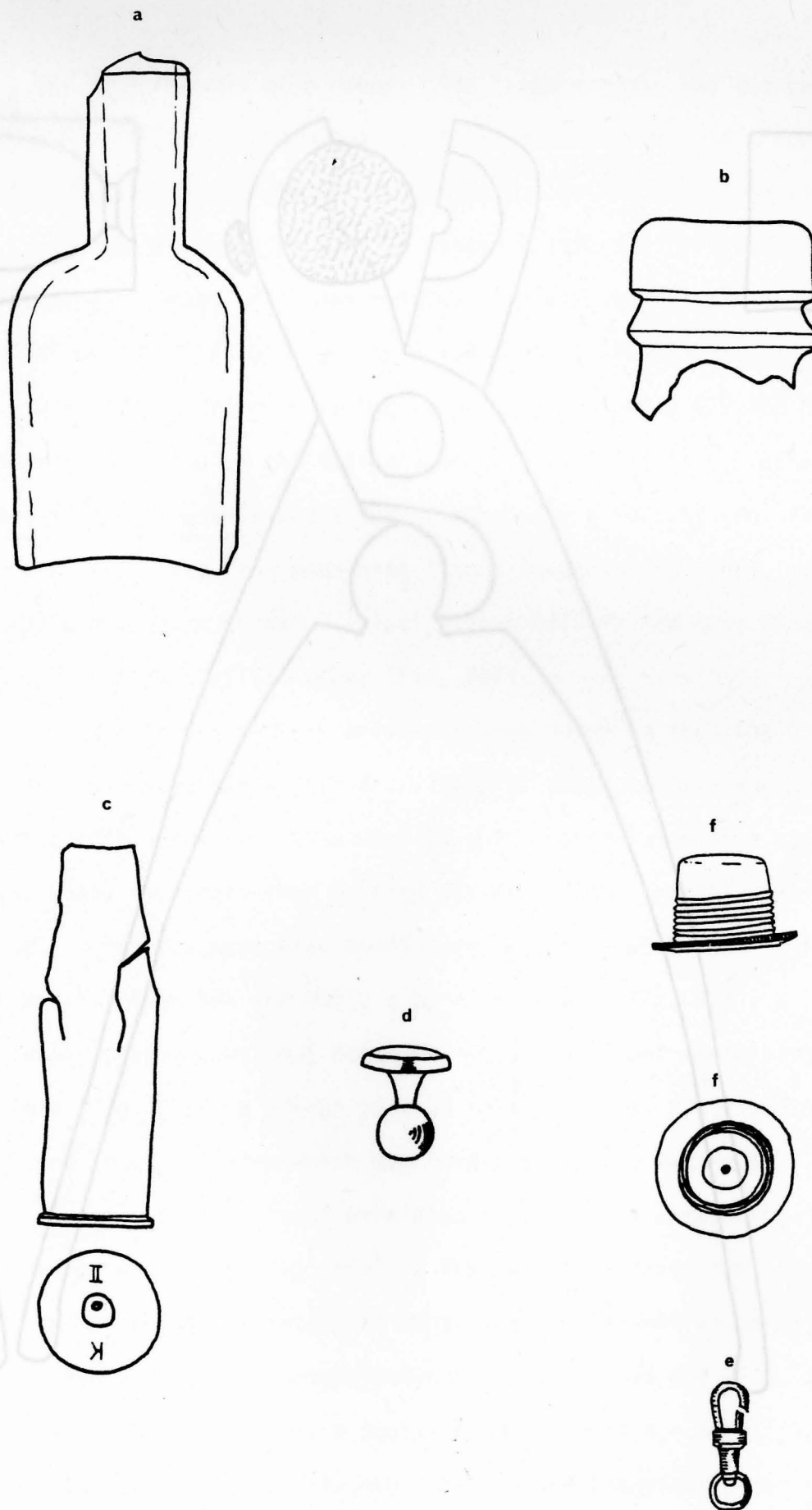


Fig. 54. Kekane glass and brass finds

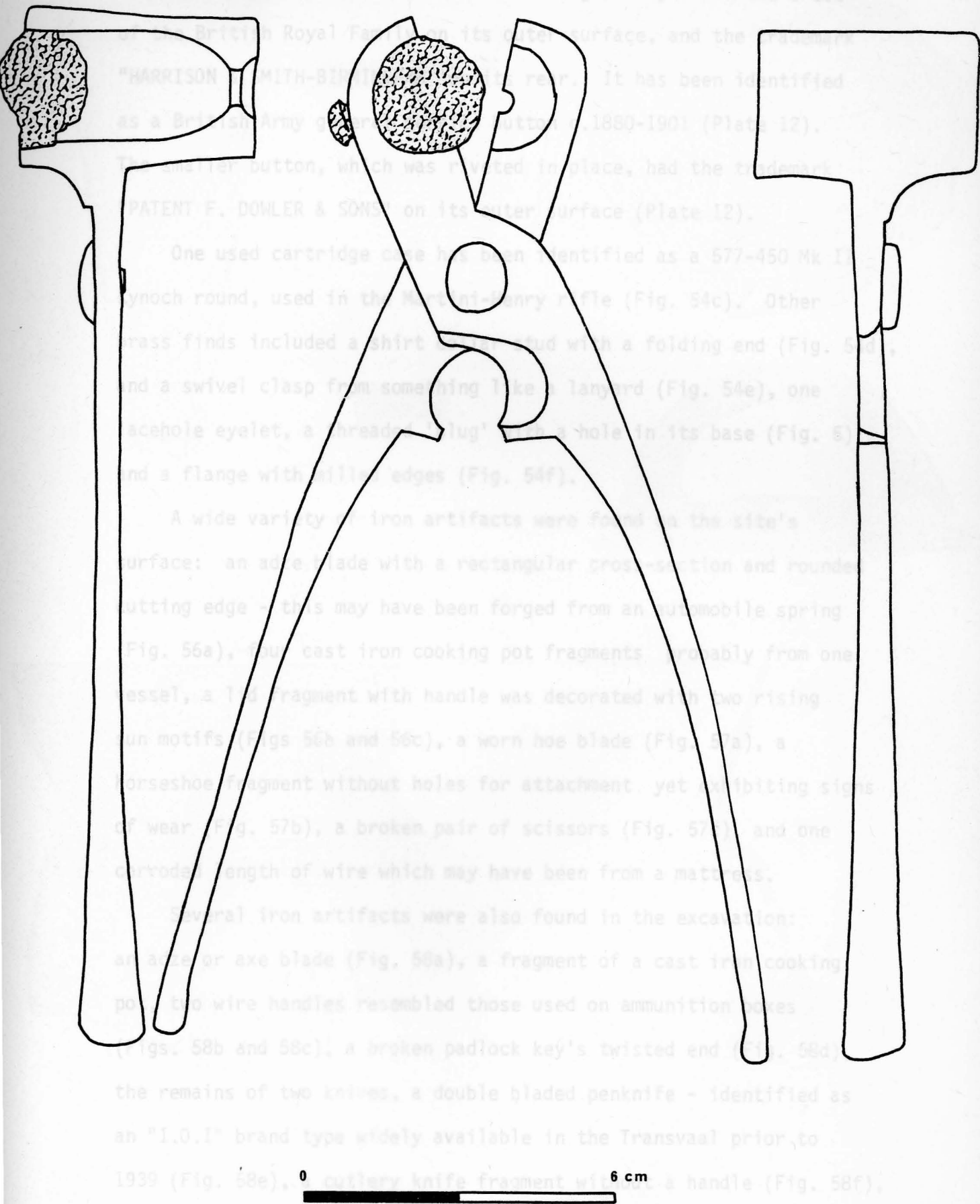


Fig. 55. Kekane bullet mould

Two buttons were also found. The large example had the crest of the British Royal Family on its outer surface, and the trademark "HARRISON & SMITH-BIRMINGHAM" on its rear. It has been identified as a British Army general service button c.1880-1901 (Plate 12). The smaller button, which was riveted in place, had the trademark "PATENT F. DOWLER & SONS" on its outer surface (Plate 12).

One used cartridge case has been identified as a 577-450 Mk II Kynoch round, used in the Martini-Henry rifle (Fig. 54c). Other brass finds included a shirt collar stud with a folding end (Fig. 54d), and a swivel clasp from something like a lanyard (Fig. 54e), one lacehole eyelet, a threaded 'plug' with a hole in its base (Fig. 5) and a flange with milled edges (Fig. 54f).

A wide variety of iron artifacts were found on the site's surface: an adze blade with a rectangular cross-section and rounded cutting edge - this may have been forged from an automobile spring (Fig. 56a), four cast iron cooking pot fragments probably from one vessel, a lid fragment with handle was decorated with two rising sun motifs (Figs 56b and 56c), a worn hoe blade (Fig. 57a), a horseshoe fragment without holes for attachment yet exhibiting signs of wear (Fig. 57b), a broken pair of scissors (Fig. 57c), and one corroded length of wire which may have been from a mattress.

Several iron artifacts were also found in the excavation: an adze or axe blade (Fig. 58a), a fragment of a cast iron cooking pot, two wire handles resembled those used on ammunition boxes (Figs. 58b and 58c), a broken padlock key's twisted end (Fig. 58d), the remains of two knives, a double bladed penknife - identified as an "I.O.I" brand type widely available in the Transvaal prior to 1939 (Fig. 58e), a cutlery knife fragment without a handle (Fig. 58f),

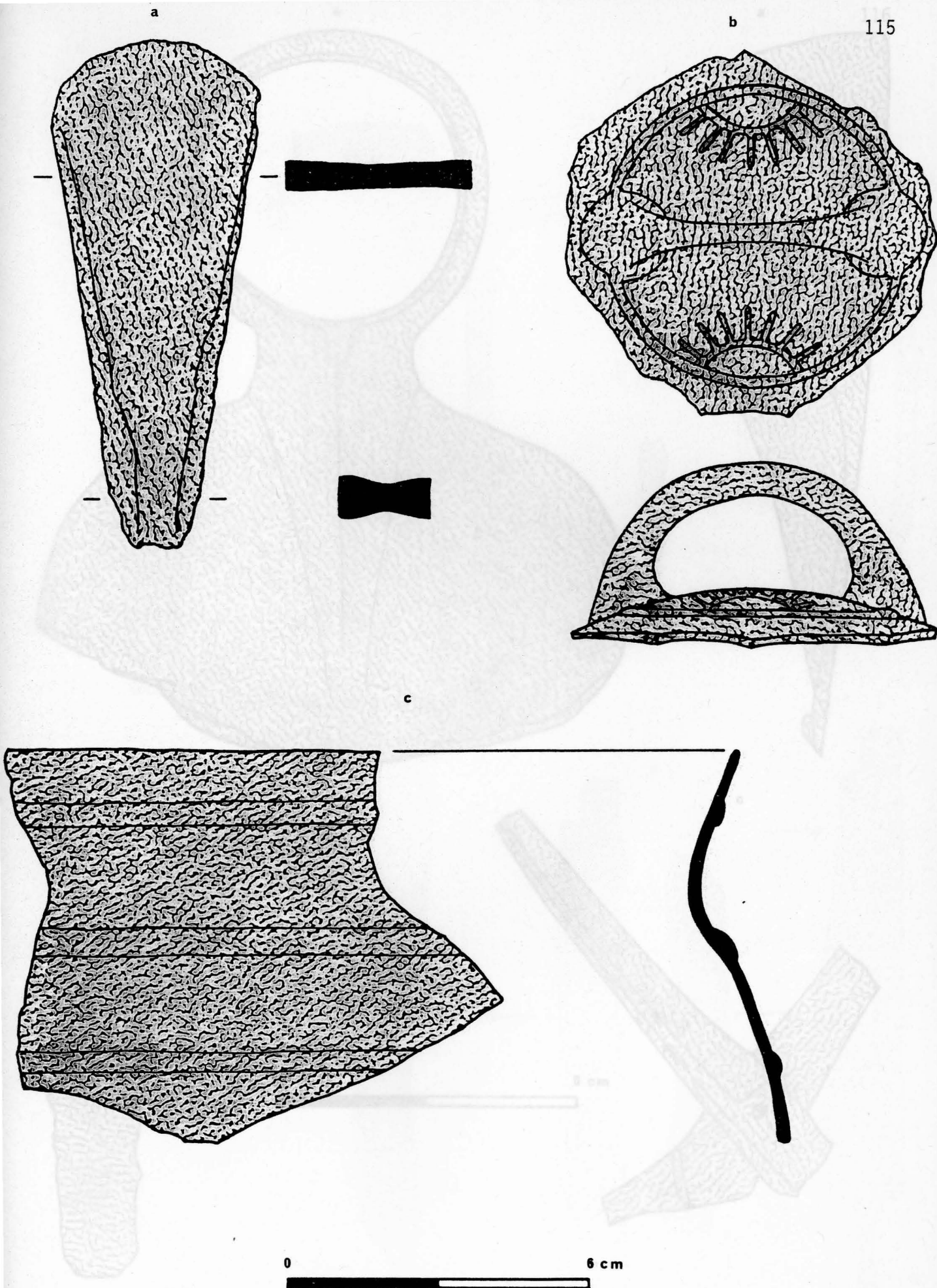


Fig. 56. Kekane iron finds

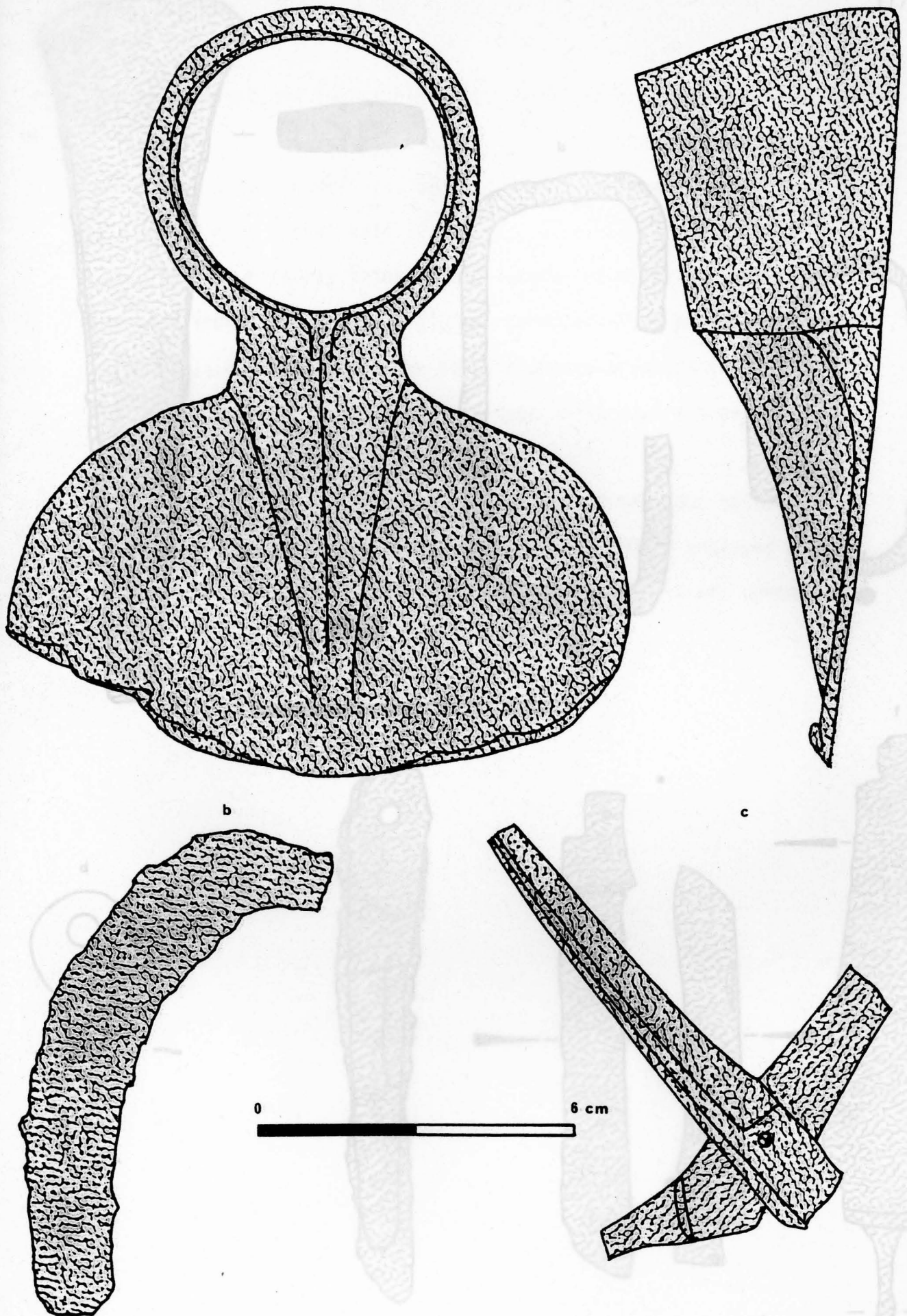


Fig. 57. Kekane iron finds

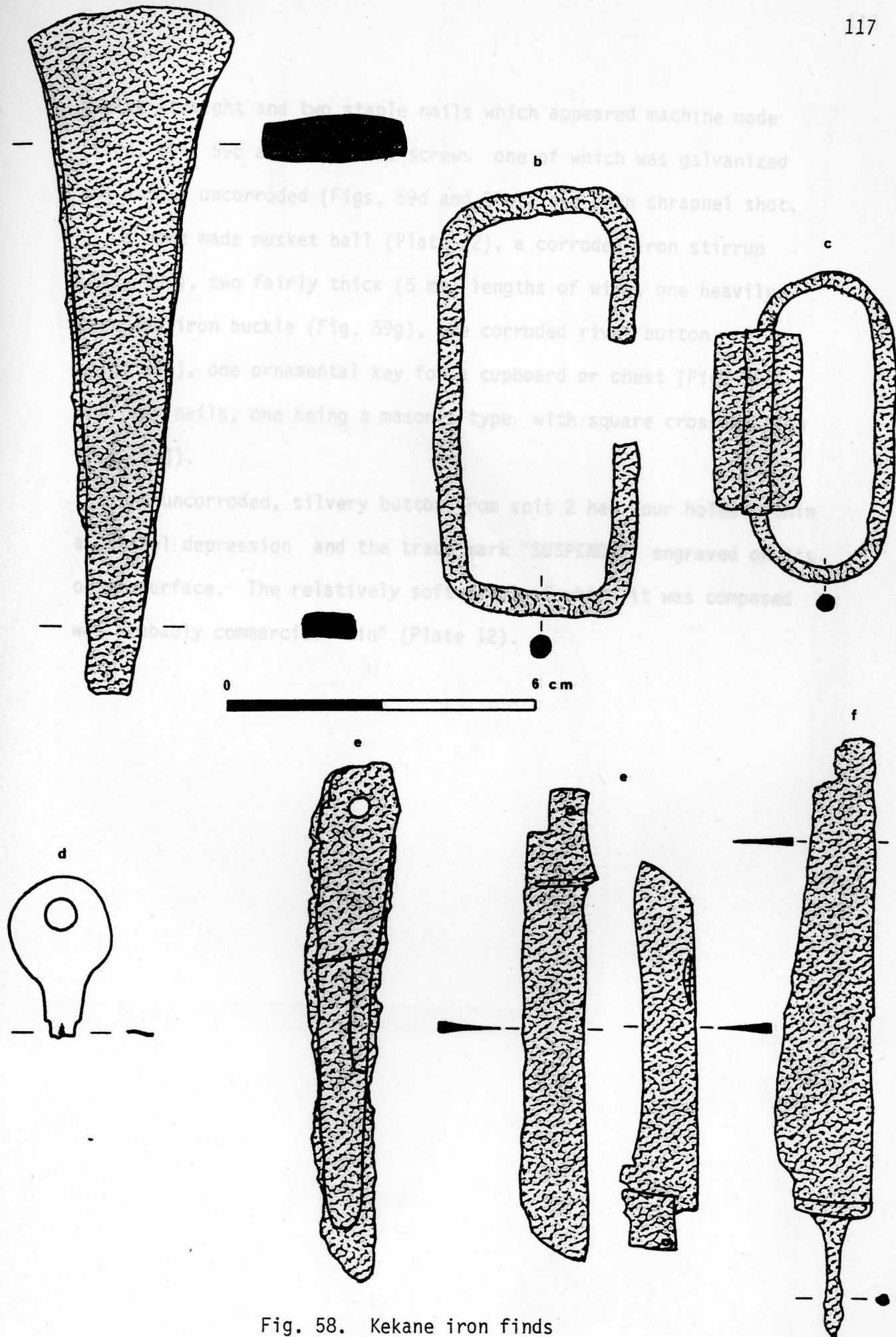


Fig. 58. Kekane iron finds

twelve straight and two staple nails which appeared machine made (Figs. 59a, 59b and 59c), two screws one of which was galvanized and almost uncorroded (Figs. 59d and 59e), one iron shrapnel shot, a home made musket ball (Plate 12), a corroded iron stirrup (Fig. 59f), two fairly thick (5 mm) lengths of wire, one heavily corroded iron buckle (Fig. 59g), one corroded rivet button (Fig. 59h), one ornamental key for a cupboard or chest (Fig. 59c) and four nails, one being a mason's type with square cross-section (Fig. 59j).

An uncorroded, silvery button from spit 2 had four holes within a central depression and the trade mark "SUSPENDER" engraved on its outer surface. The relatively soft metal of which it was composed was probably commercial "tin" (Plate 12).



Fig. 59. Kekane iron and 'tin' finds

5 cm

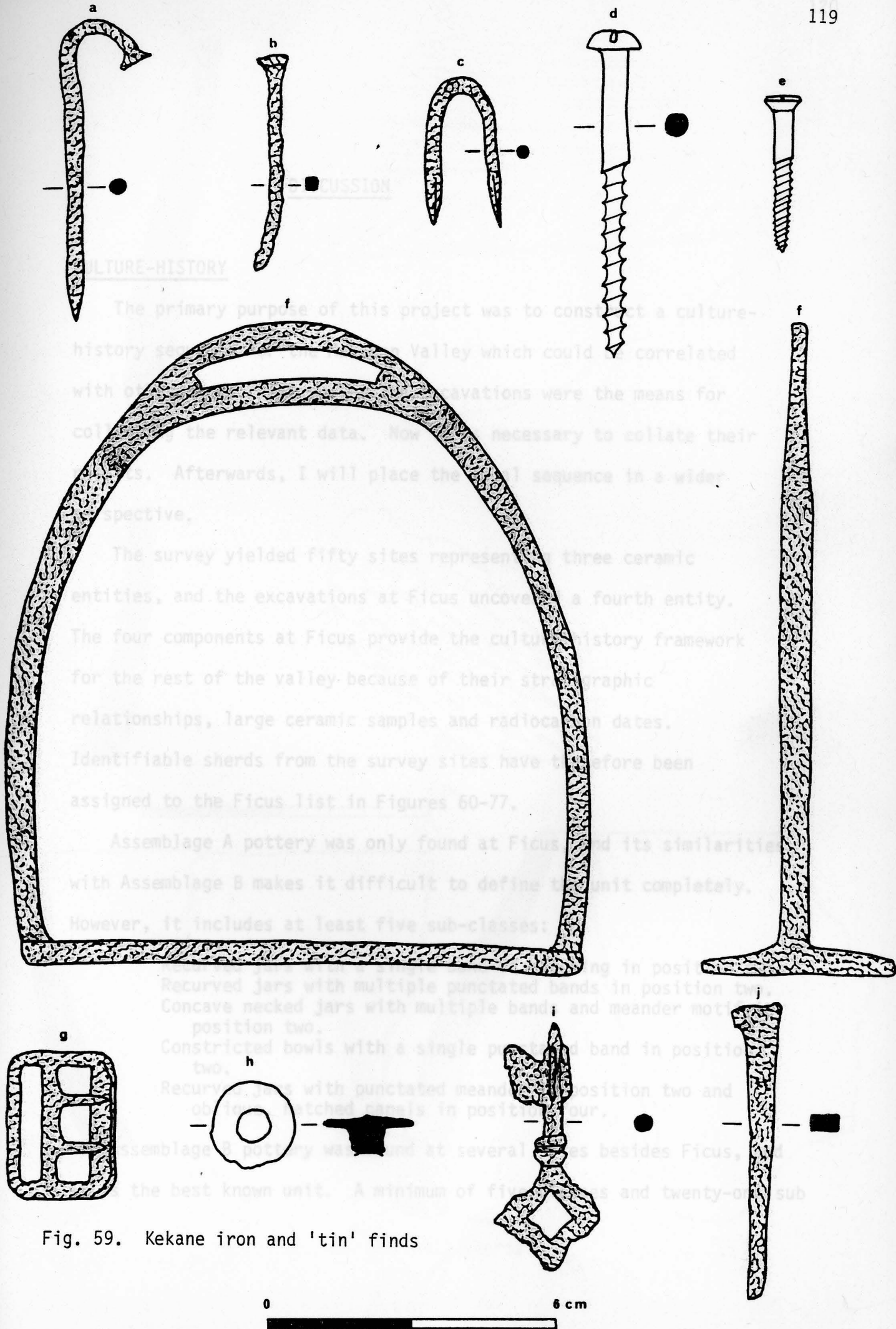


Fig. 59. Kekane iron and 'tin' finds

DISCUSSION

CULTURE-HISTORY

The primary purpose of this project was to construct a culture-history sequence for the Makapan Valley which could be correlated with other areas. The survey and excavations were the means for collecting the relevant data. Now it is necessary to collate their results. Afterwards, I will place the local sequence in a wider perspective.

The survey yielded fifty sites representing three ceramic entities, and the excavations at Ficus uncovered a fourth entity. The four components at Ficus provide the culture-history framework for the rest of the valley because of their stratigraphic relationships, large ceramic samples and radiocarbon dates. Identifiable sherds from the survey sites have therefore been assigned to the Ficus list in Figures 60-77.

Assemblage A pottery was only found at Ficus, and its similarities with Assemblage B makes it difficult to define the unit completely. However, it includes at least five sub-classes:

- Recurved jars with a single band of hatching in position two.
- Recurved jars with multiple punctated bands in position two.
- Concave necked jars with multiple bands and meander motif in position two.
- Constricted bowls with a single punctated band in position two.
- Recurved jars with punctated meander in position two and oblique, hatched panels in position four.

Assemblage B pottery was found at several sites besides Ficus, and it is the best known unit. A minimum of five classes and twenty-one sub

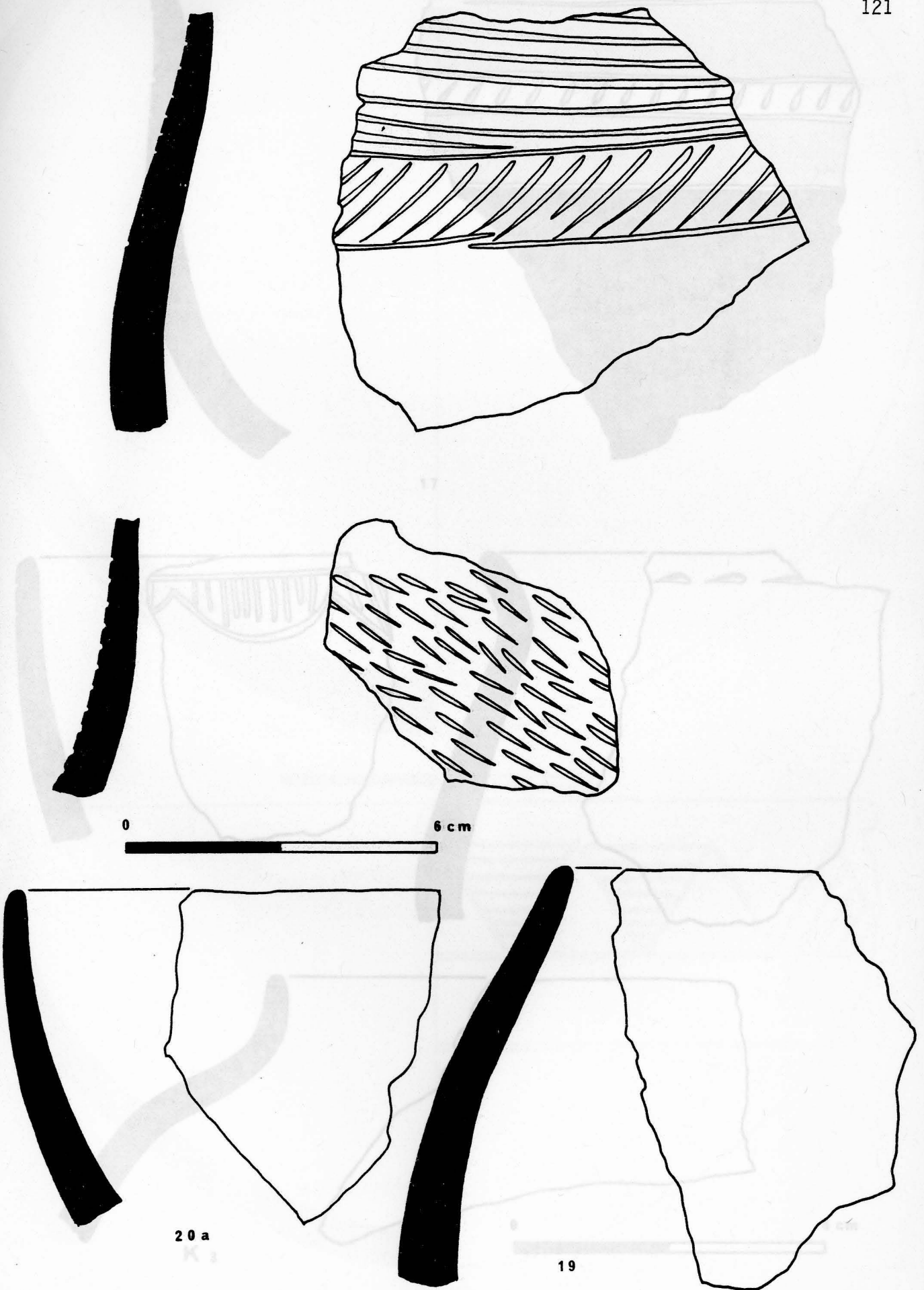


Fig. 60. 2429AA1A sherds

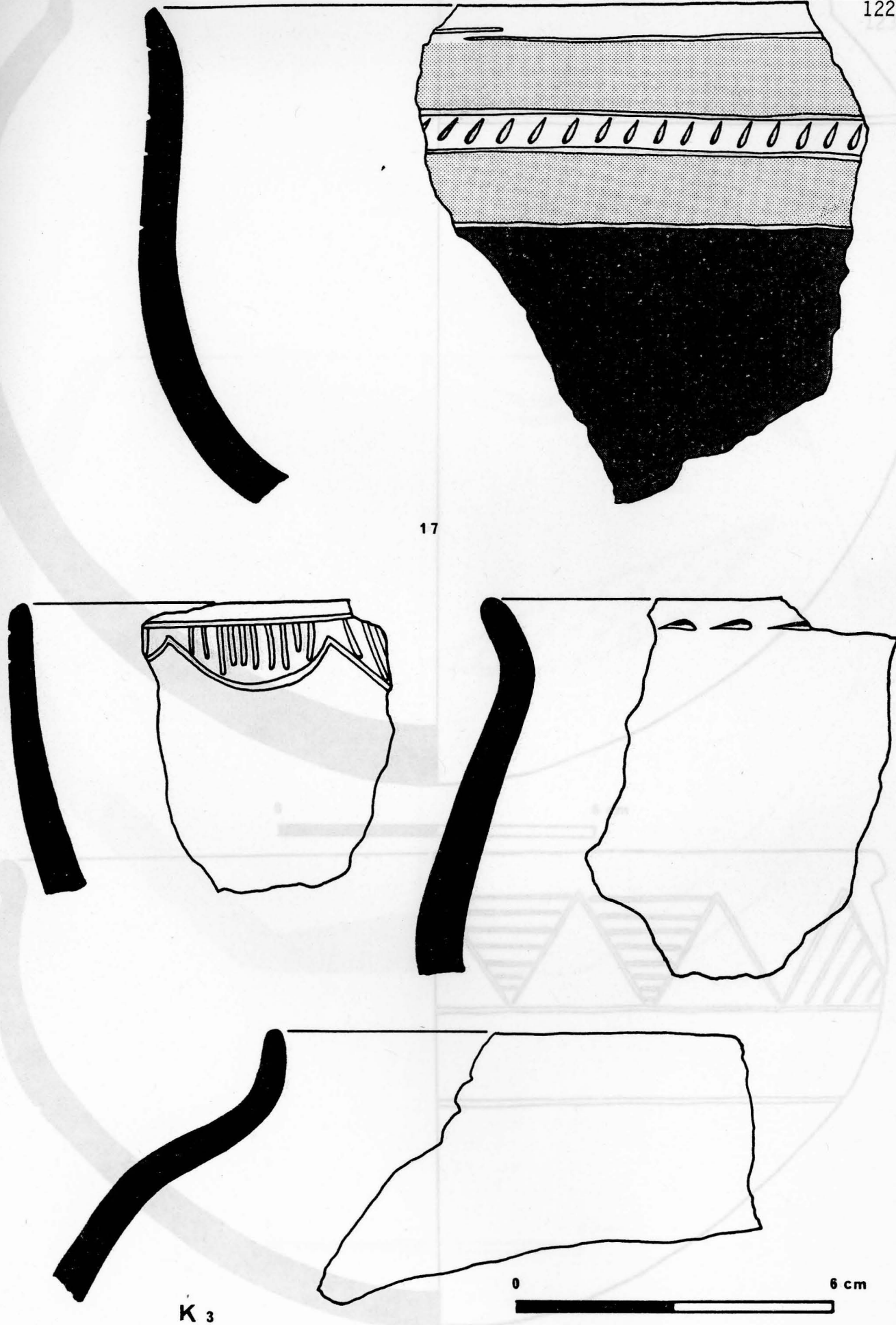


Fig. 61. 2429AA1A sherds

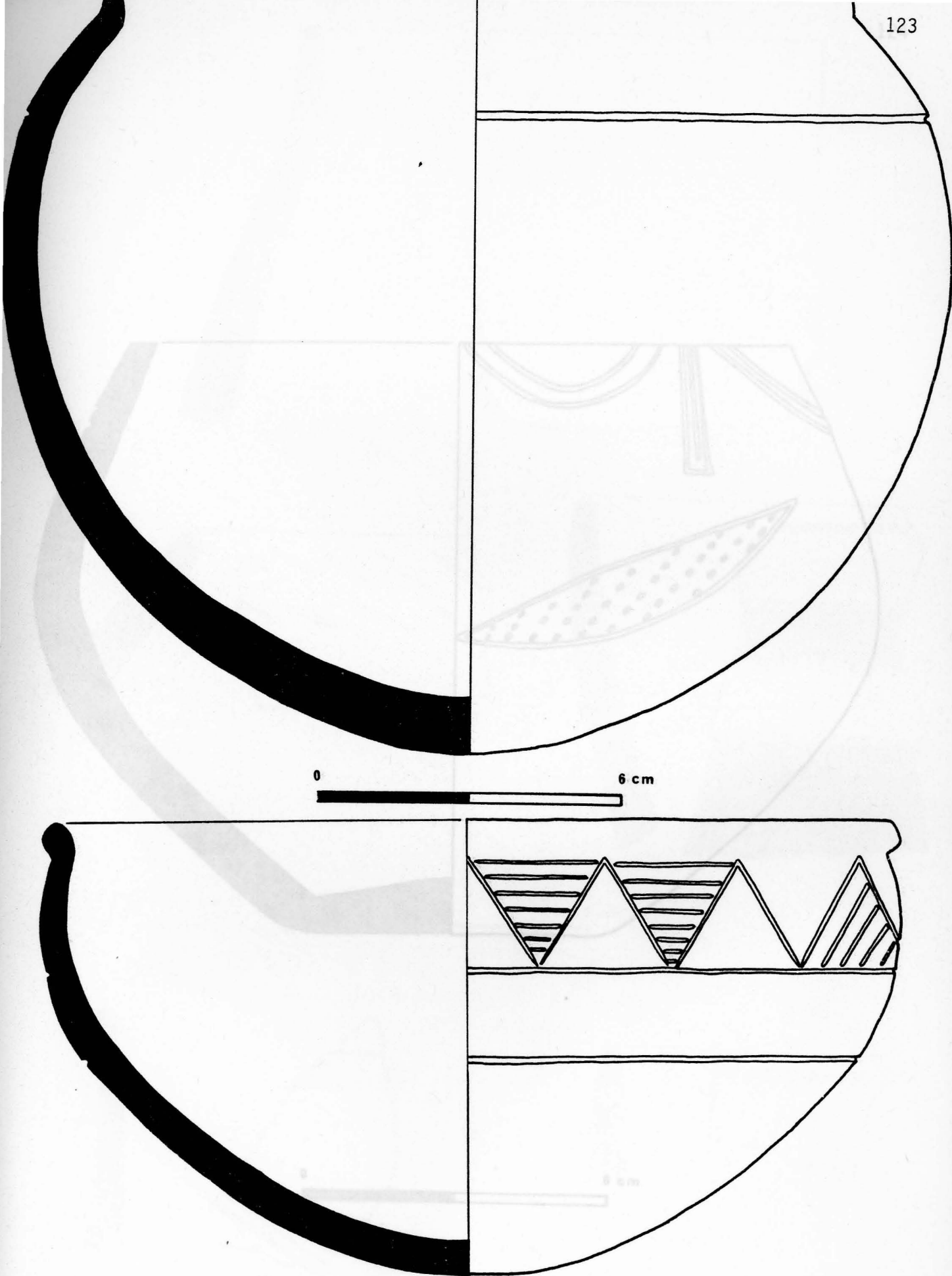
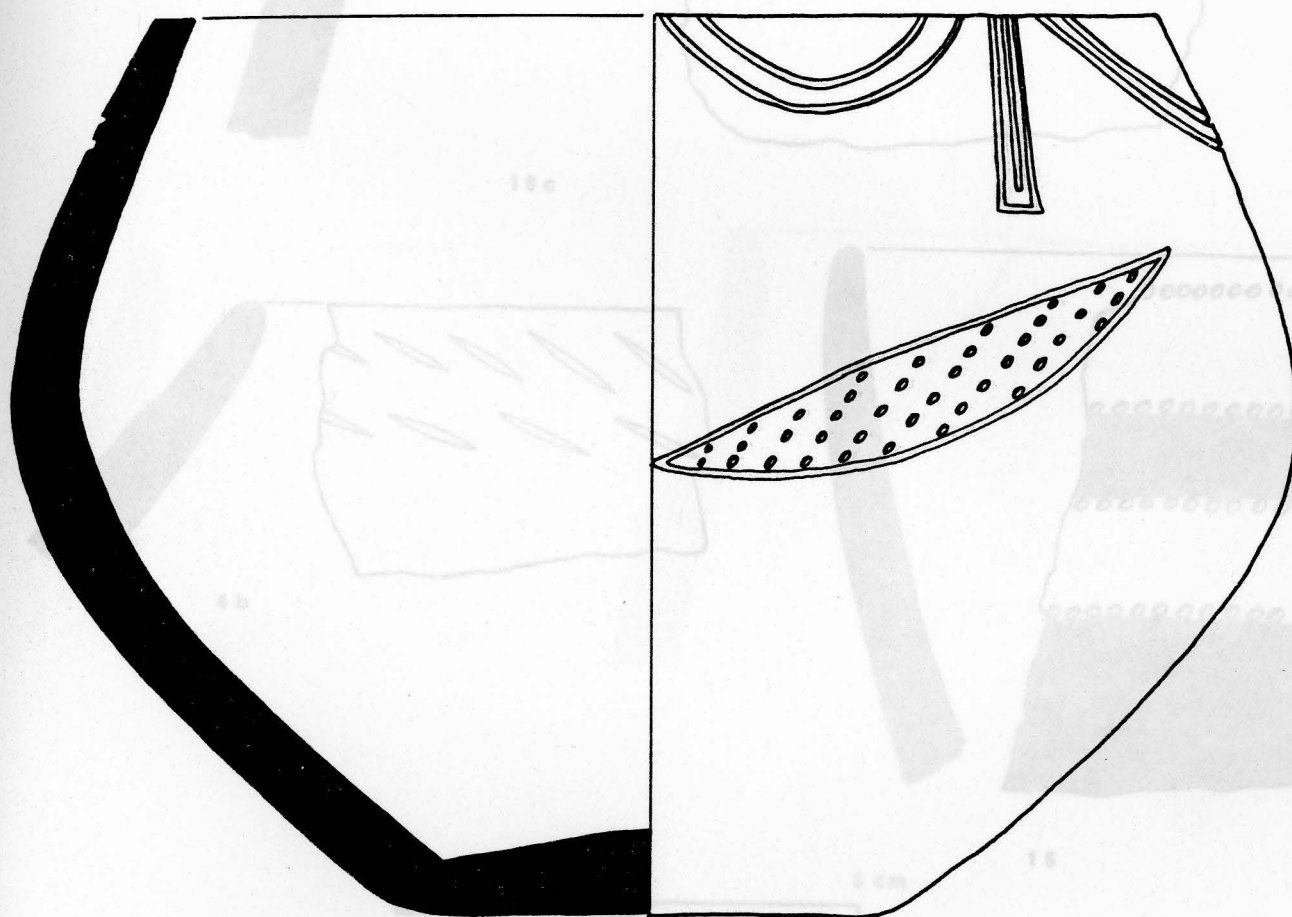


Fig. 62. 2429AA1A pottery



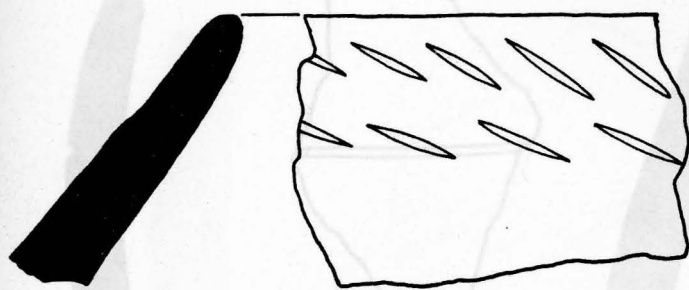
0

6 cm

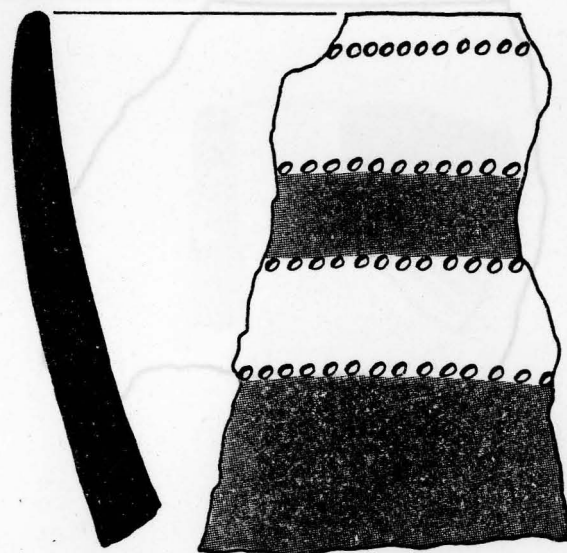
Fig. 63. 2429AA1A pot



18 c



4 b



16

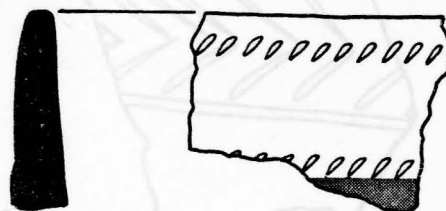
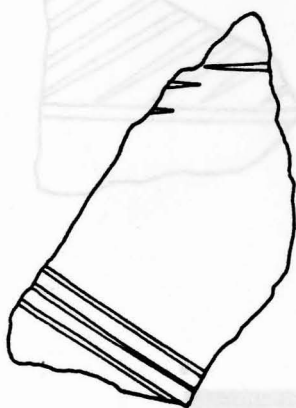


Fig. 64. 2429AA7 sherds

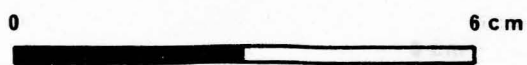
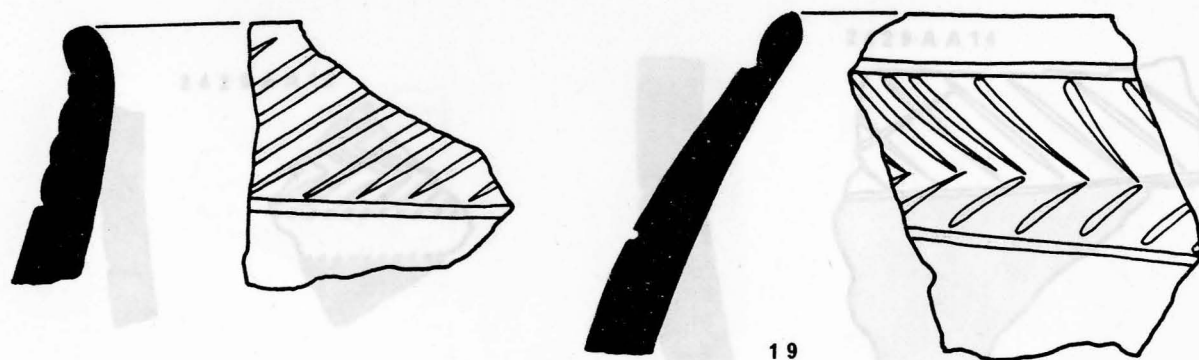
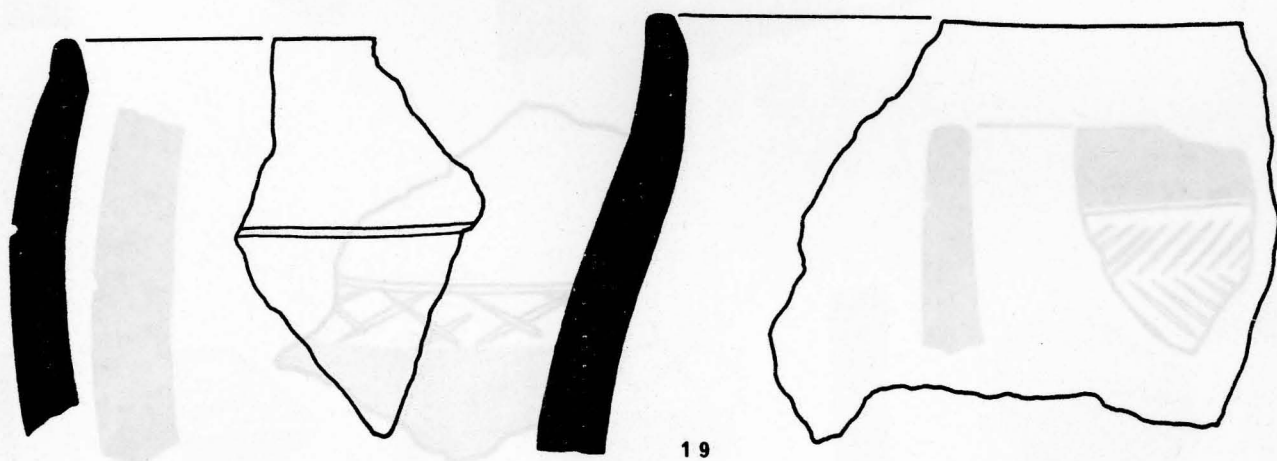
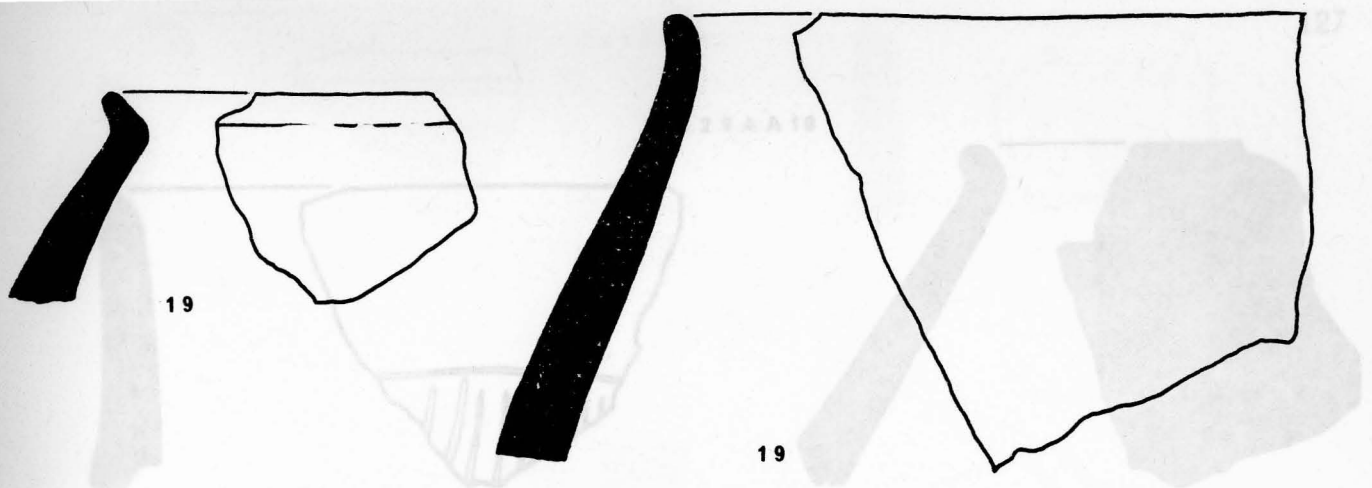
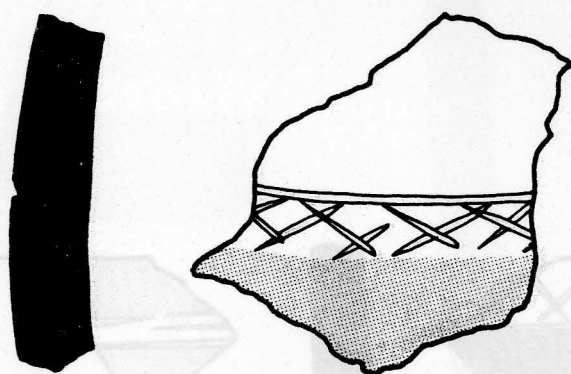
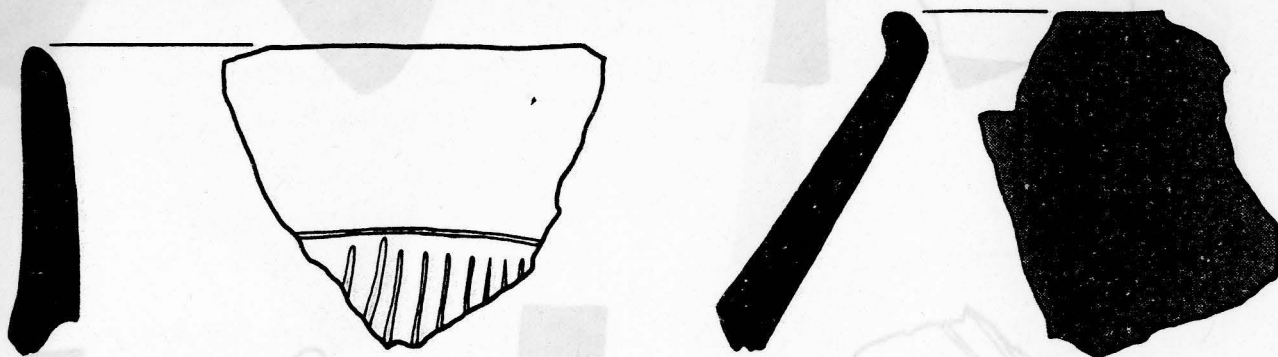


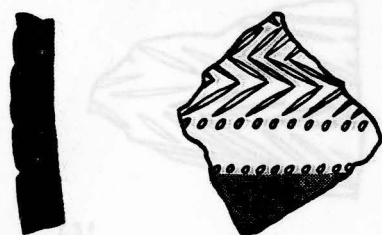
Fig. 65. 2429AA9 sherds

Fig. 66. 2429AA10, 13 and 14 sherds

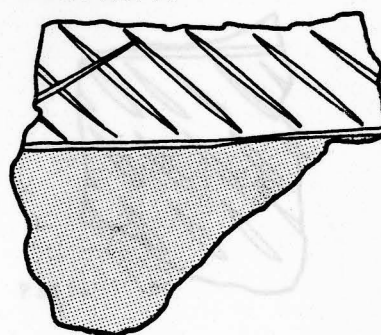
2429AA10



2429AA13



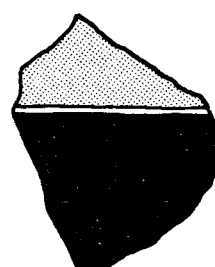
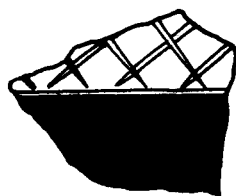
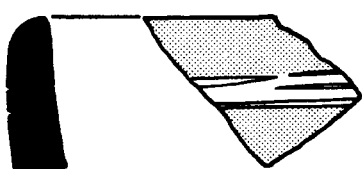
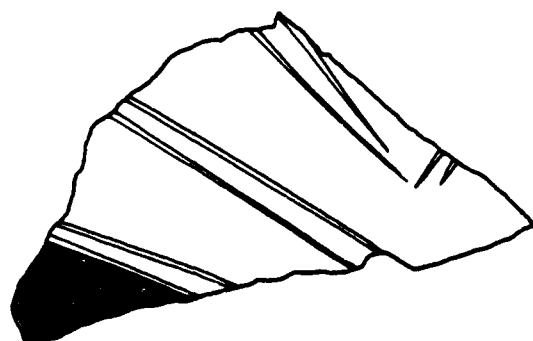
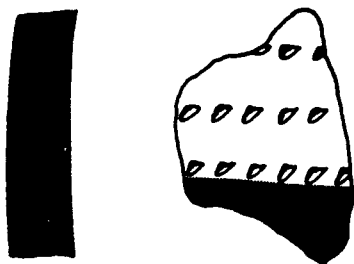
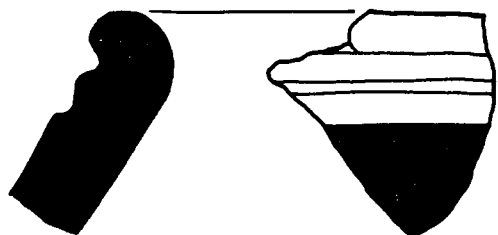
2429AA14



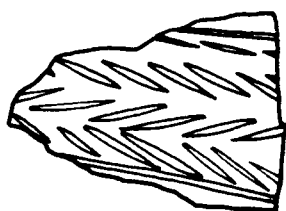
0 6 cm

Fig. 66. 2429AA10, 13 and 14 sherds

2429AA17

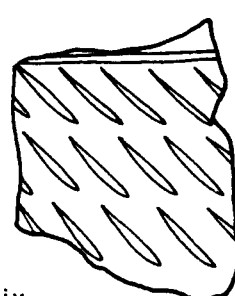


2429AA19



?3f

2429AA20



?3f iv



Fig. 67. 2429AA17, 19 and 20 sherds

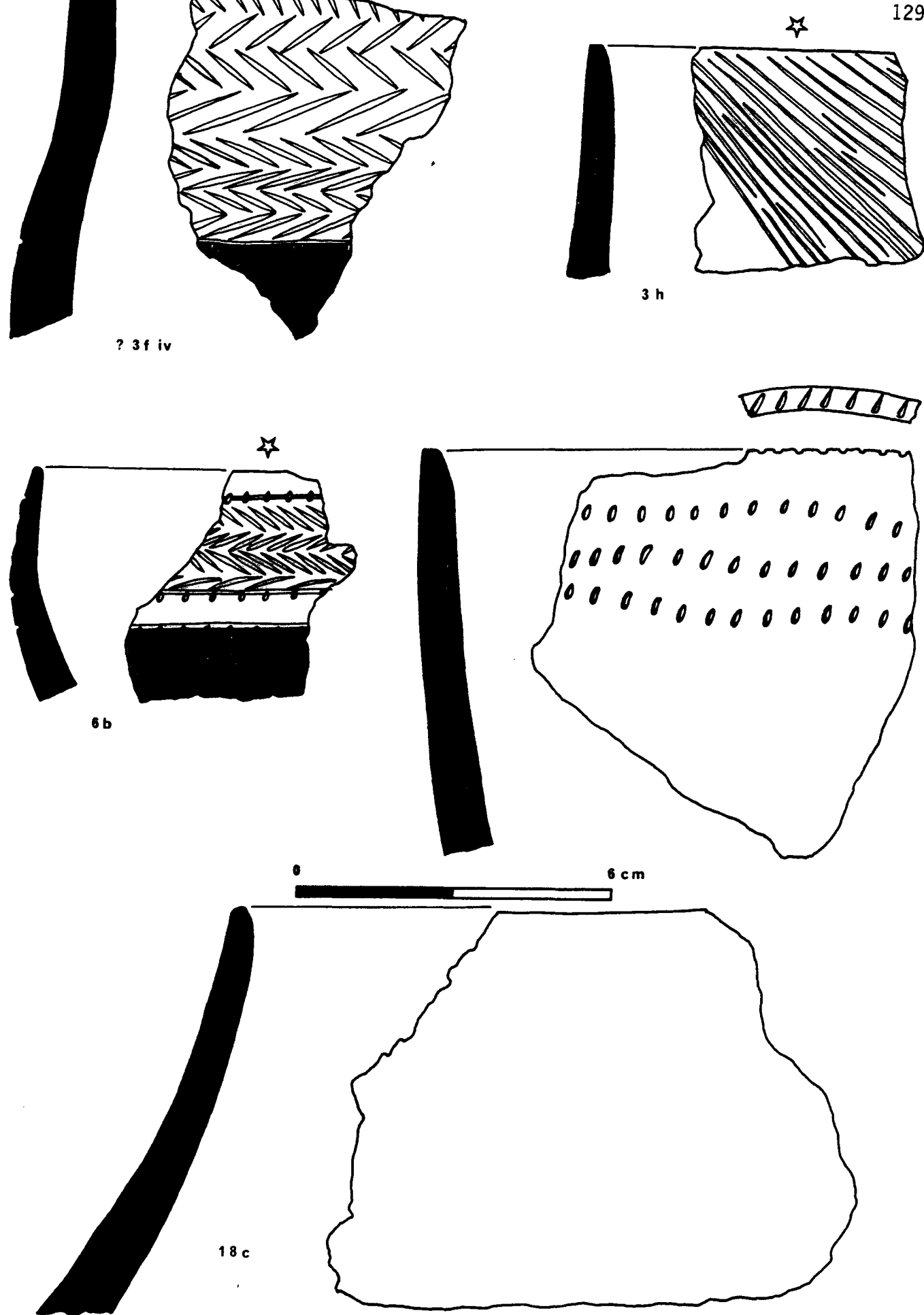
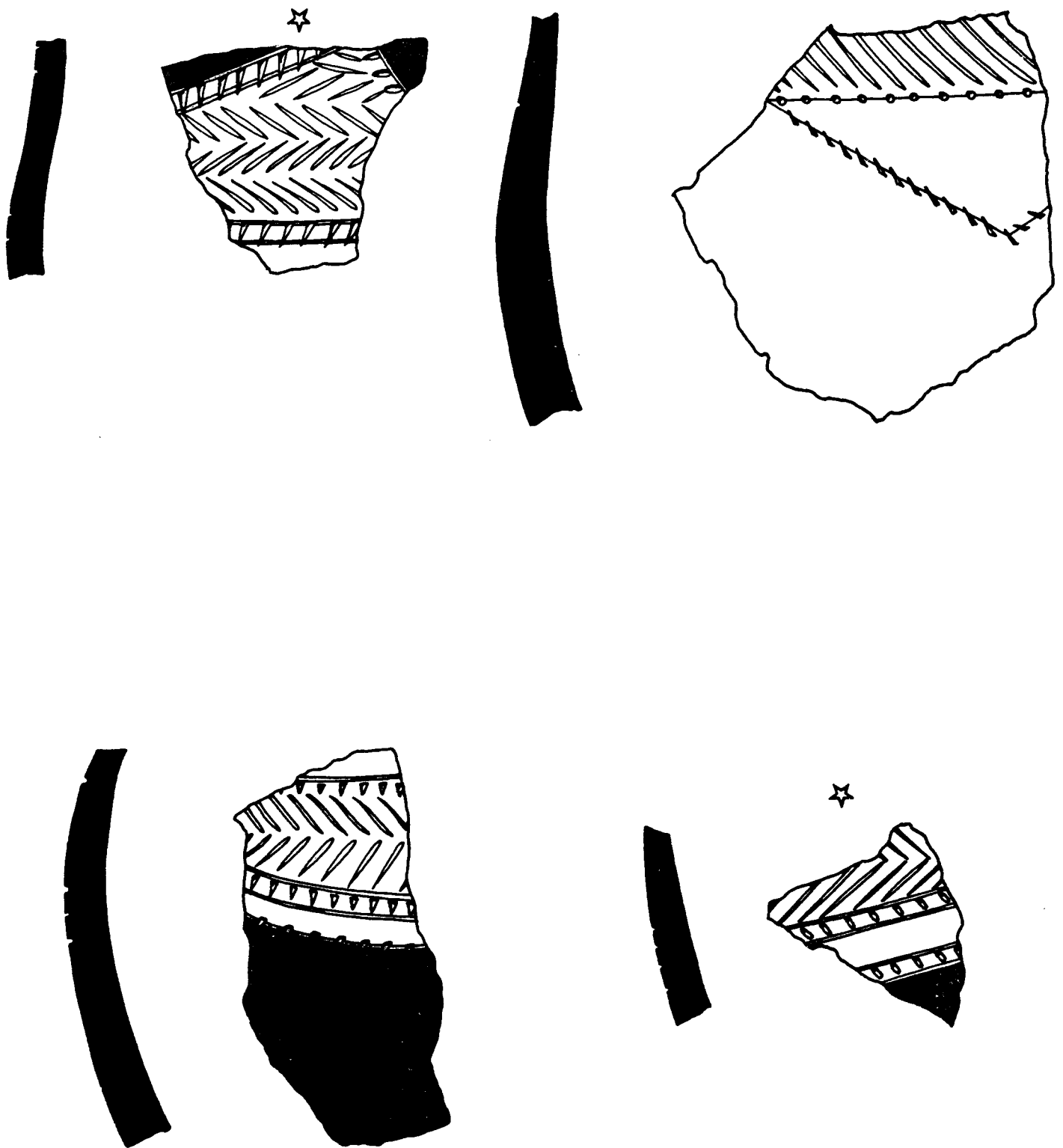
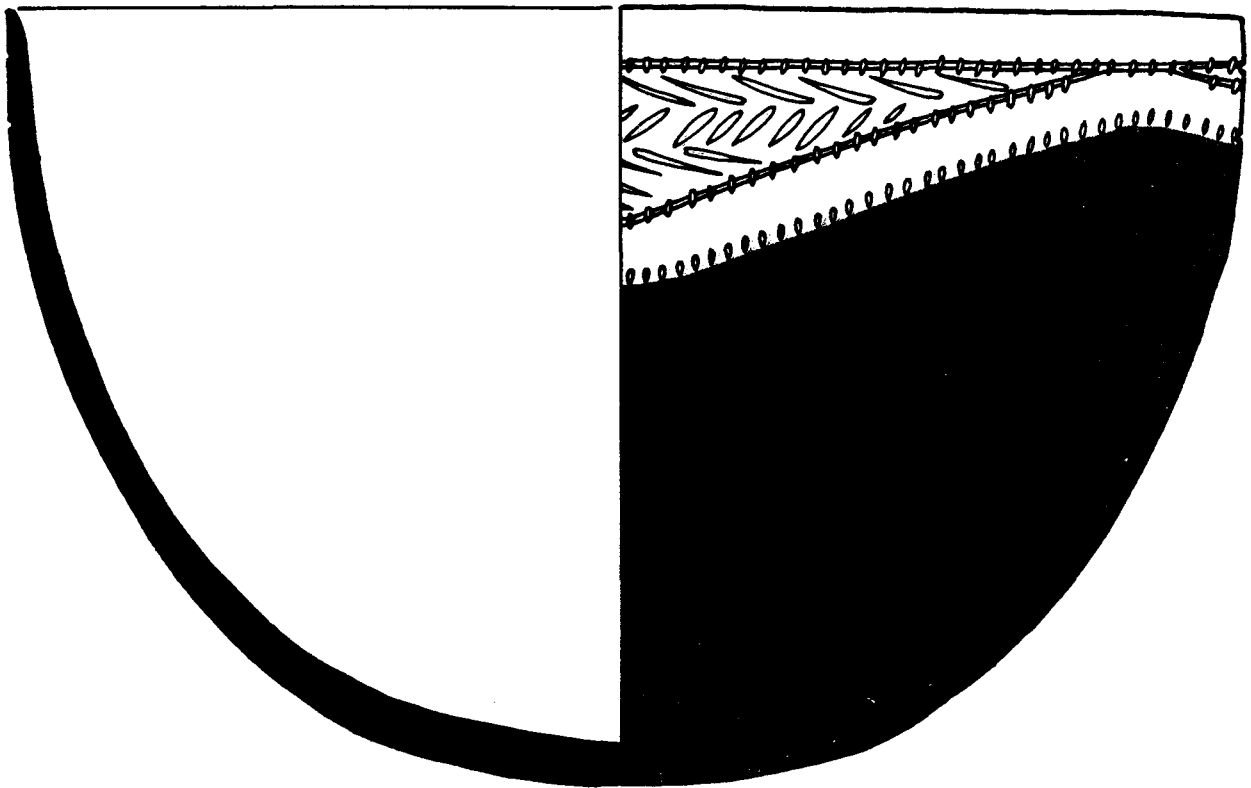
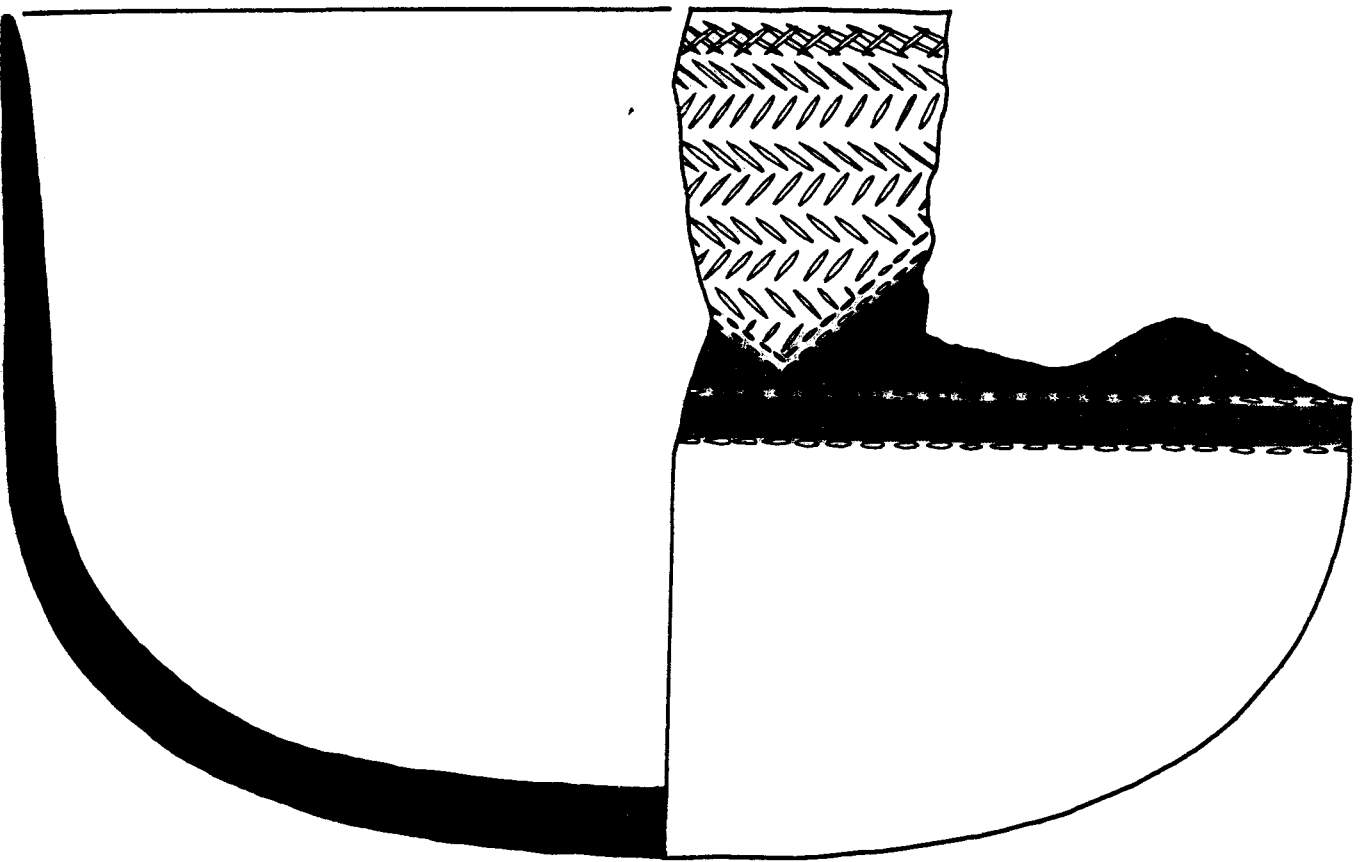


Fig. 68. 2429AA25 sherds



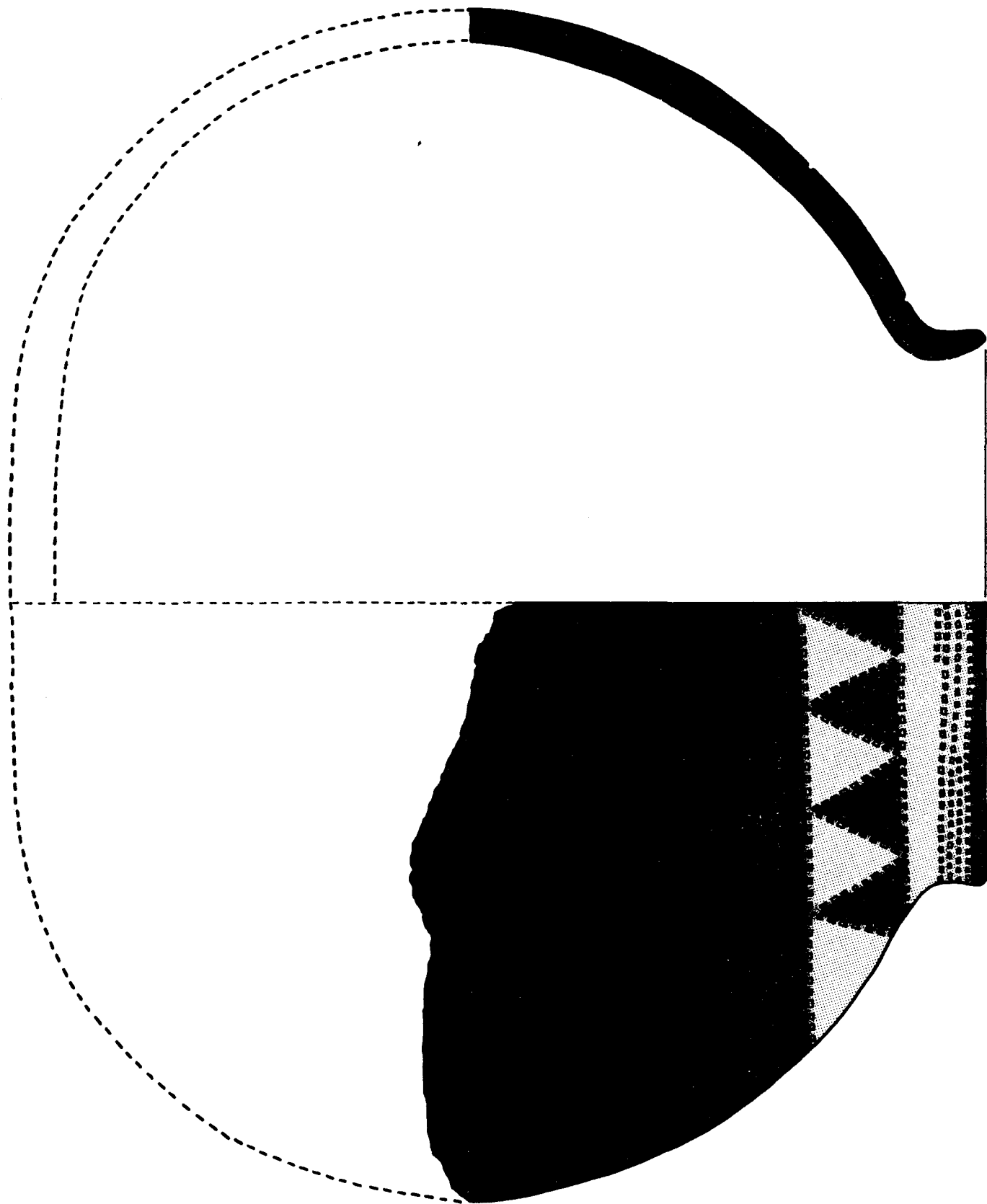
0 6 cm

Fig. 69. 2429AA25 sherds



0 8 cm

Fig. 70. 2429AA25 pottery



0 8 cm

Fig. 71. 2429AA25 pot

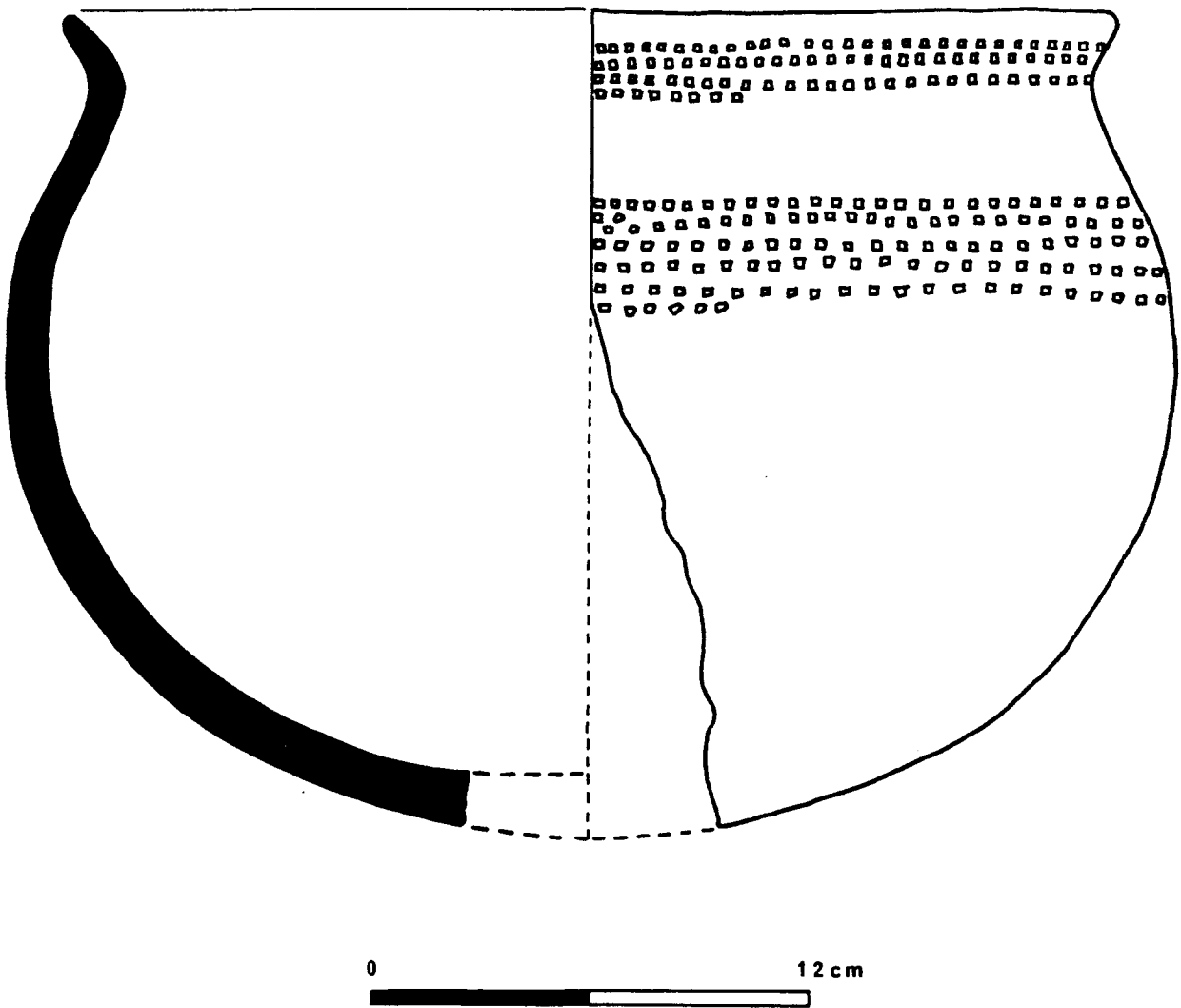


Fig. 72. 2429AA25 pot

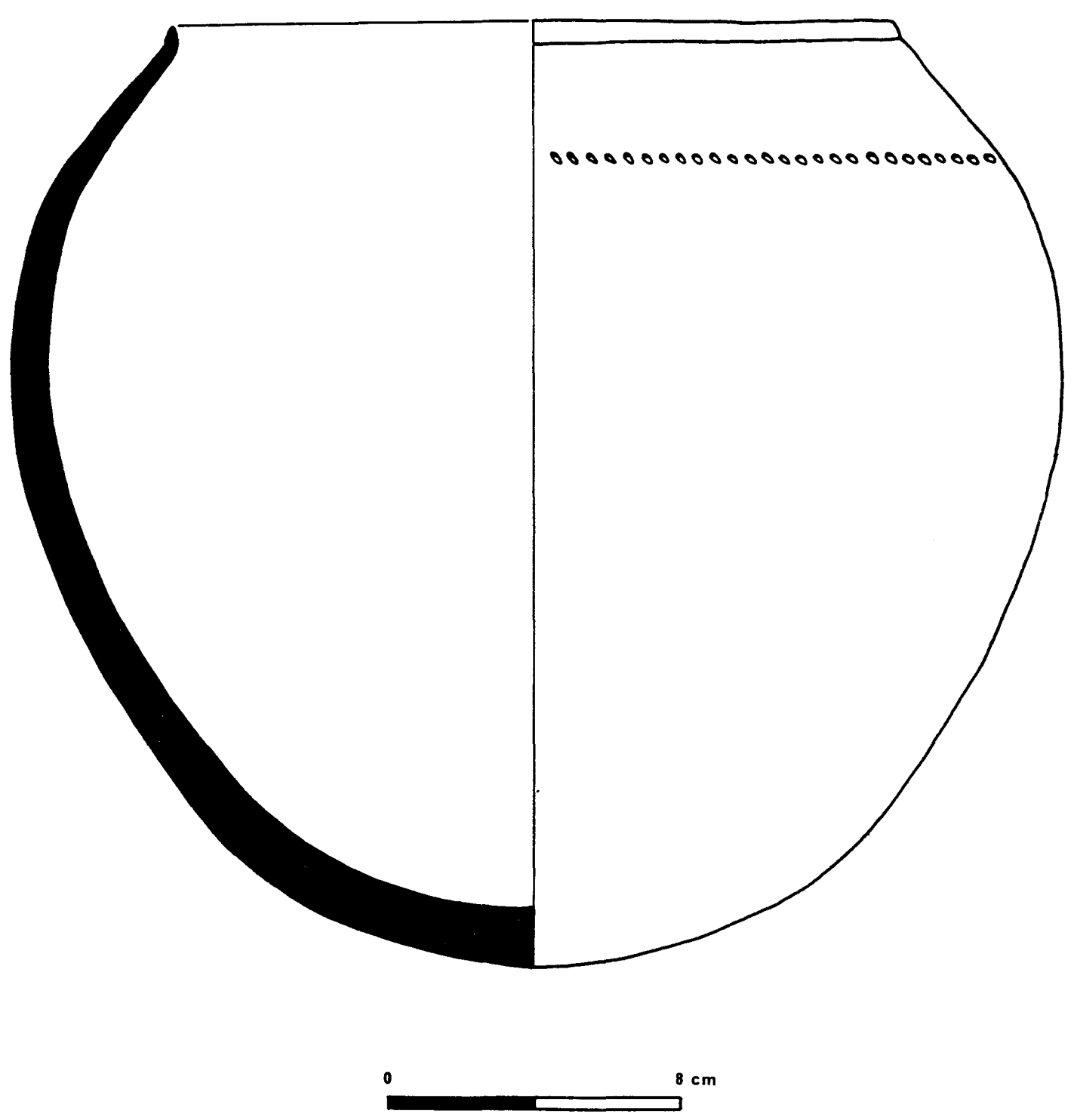


Fig. 73. 2429AA25 pot

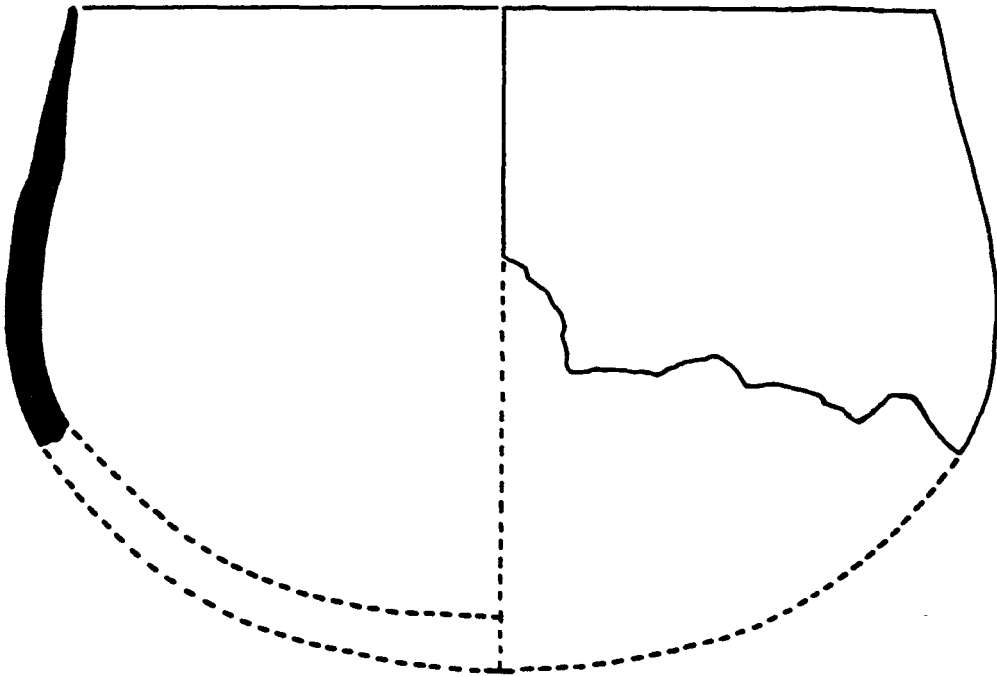
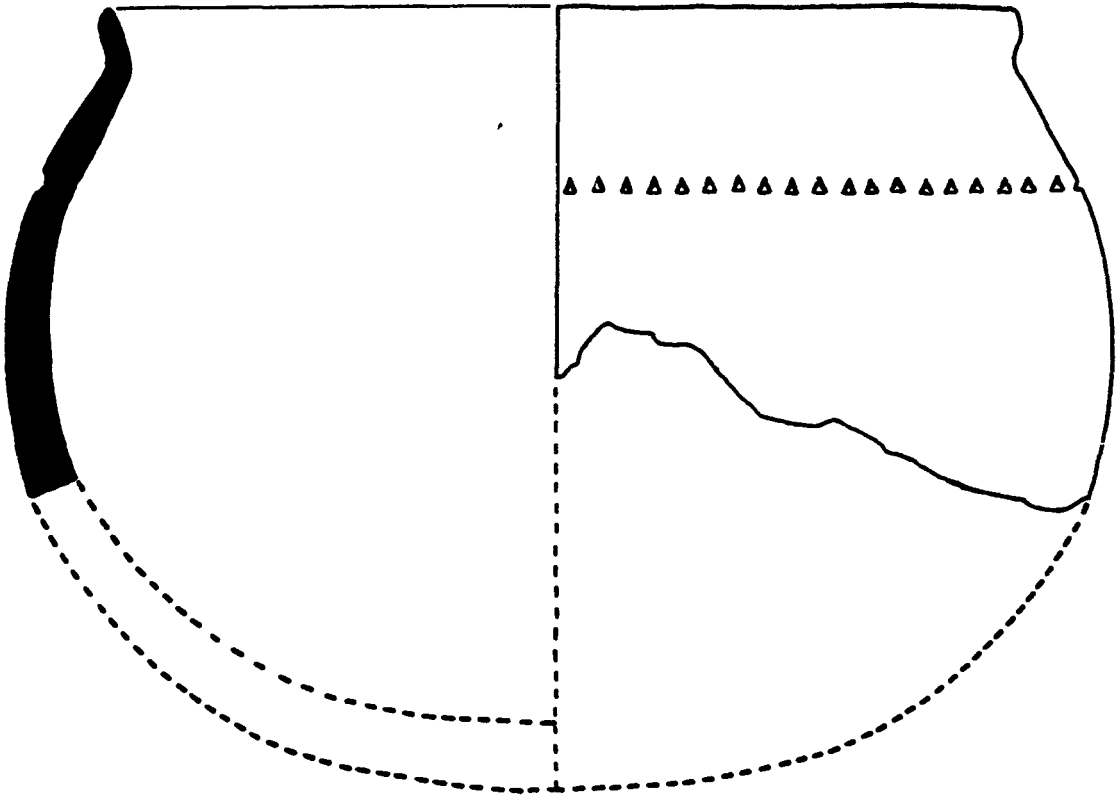


Fig. 74. 2429AA26 pottery

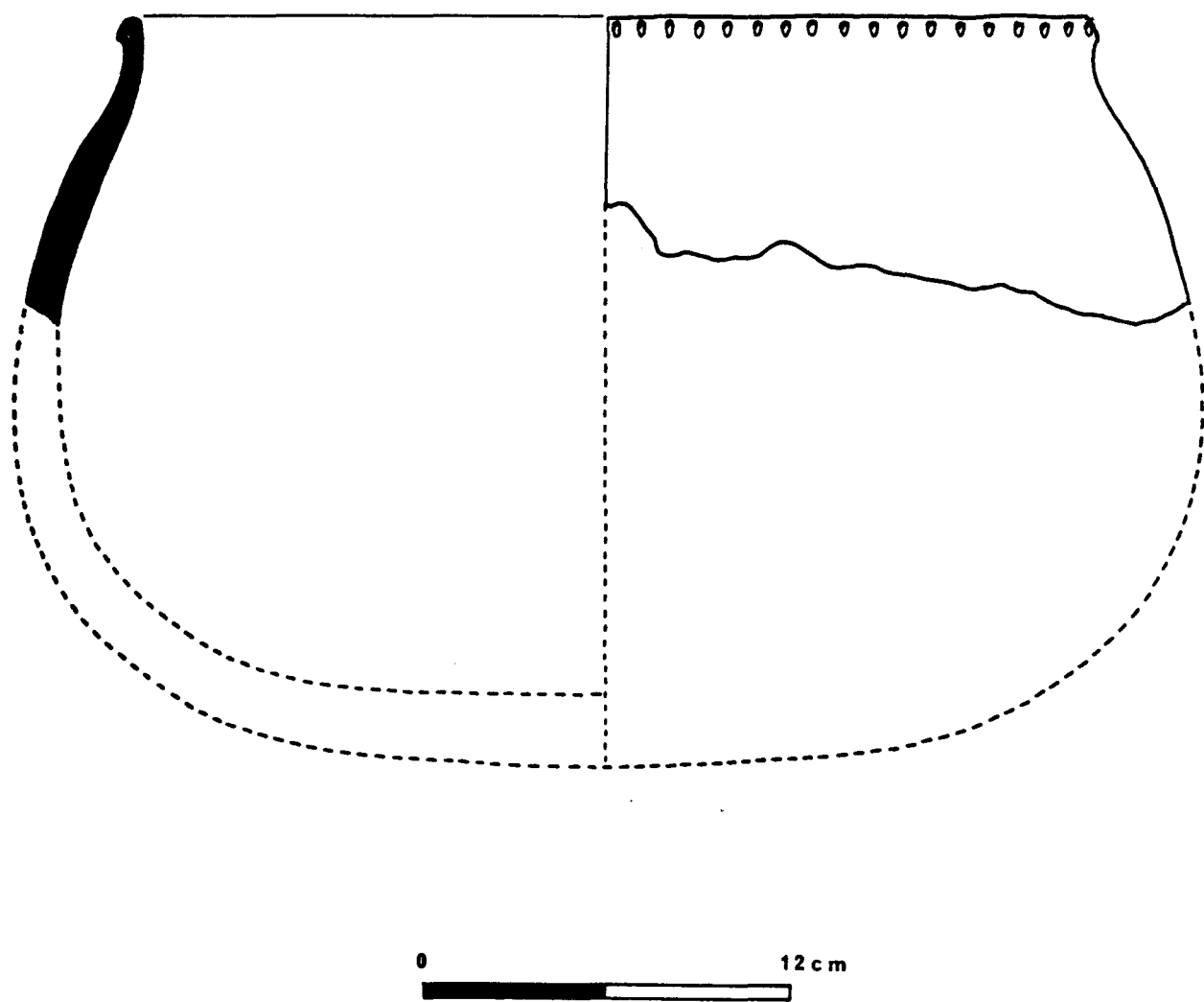
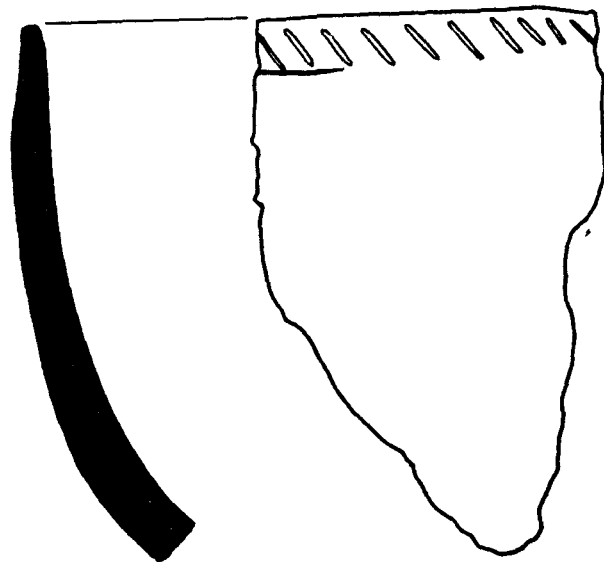


Fig. 75. 2429AA26 pot



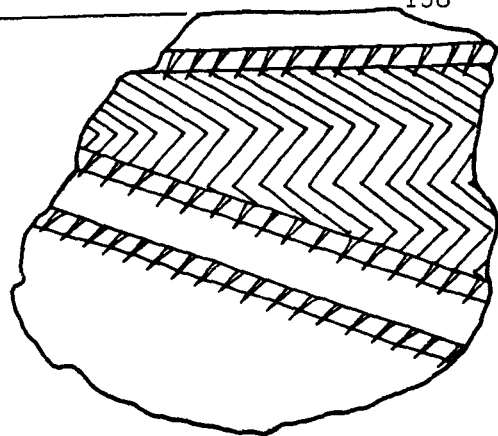
Fig. 76. 2429AA31 and 41 sherds



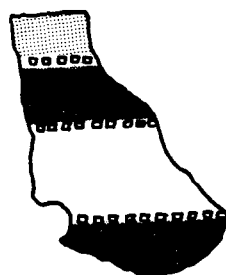
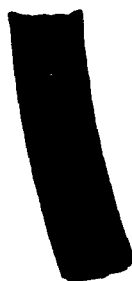
5a



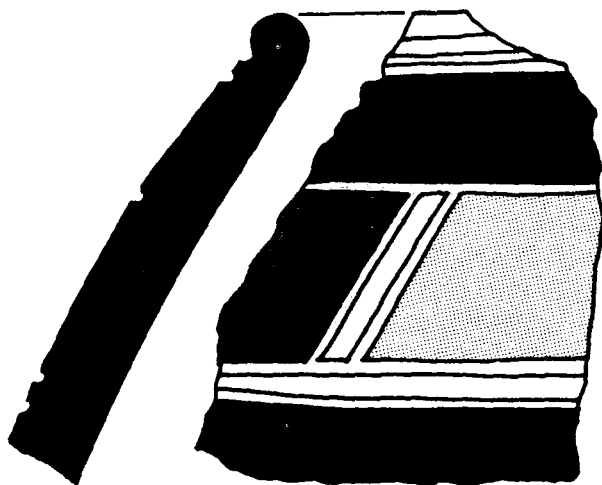
12b



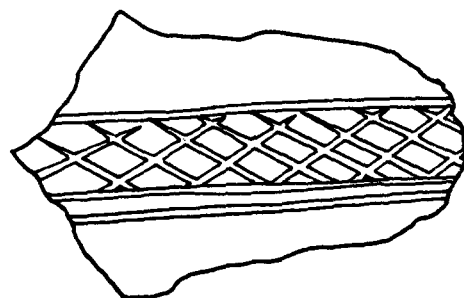
2429AA42



2429AA50



K1



0 6 cm

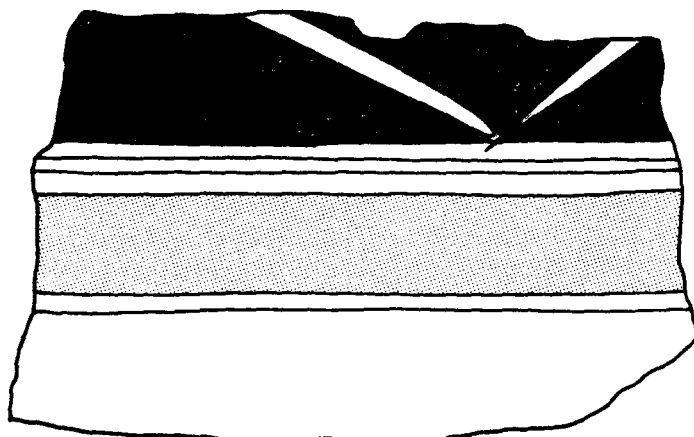


Fig. 77. 2429AA26, 42 and 50

classes are known from the research area, two of which were not found at Ficus:

- Inclined necked jars with a single band of cross-hatching in position two.
- Concave necked jars with multi-directional bands in position two.
- Concave necked jars with multiple, unbordered bands of chevrons in position two.
- Concave necked jars with multiple banded triangles in position two.
- Concave necked jars with a meander in position two.
- Inclined necked jars with multiple hatched bands and hatched pendant triangles in position two.
- Spherical jars with a single band of bordered chevrons in position two.
- Spherical jars with multiple, unbordered bands of chevron in position two.
- Spherical jars with filled pendant triangles in position two.
- Flared bowls with a single band of unbordered chevrons in position two.
- Open bowls with multiple bands of chevrons in position two.
- Open bowls with filled pendant triangles in position two.
- Constricted bowls with multiple hatched bands in position two.
- Beakers with multiple hatched bands in position two.
- Open bowls with a single band of chevrons in position one and multiple unbordered bands of chevrons in position three.
- Concave necked jars with single cross-hatched bands in positions two and four.
- Concave necked jars with a single hatched band in position two and multiple cross-hatched and empty bands in position four.
- Straight necked jars with a single cross-hatched band in position two and multiple bands of chevrons in position four.
- Inclined necked jars with a single hatched band in position two and a filled pendant triangle in position four.
- Open bowls with multiple bands of chevrons in position two and a single punctated band in position four.
- Open bowls with filled pendant triangles in position two and a single punctated band in position four (Fig. 70)
- Beakers with a single hatched band in position two and multiple hatched bands in position four.
- Beakers with filled pendant triangles in position two and a single punctated meander in position four.
- Open bowls with single hatched bands in positions two and four, and a single punctated line in position six.
- Beakers with hatched lines in positions two and four, and multiple hatched bands in position six.
- Beakers with filled pendant triangles in position two and single punctated lines in positions four and six (Fig. 70)

Assemblage C pottery was only recorded at Ficus, but, because of its simple decoration, it could have gone unrecognized in the survey. Excluding plain vessels, there are only three classes and two sub-classes:

Recurved jars with a single punctated band in position one.

Open bowls with a single band of cross-hatching in position one.

Concave necked jars with single hatched or punctated bands in position two.

Recurved jars with multiple bands in position two.

Recurved jars with single punctated bands in positions two and four.

The radiocarbon dates of these three assemblages are well separated, and from a chronological perspective each assemblage is associated with quite separate occupation episodes. Even when the radiocarbon dates are calibrated to calendar dates (Table 8) the distinctions remain equally clear. There is no doubt, then, about the order of these three units in the culture-history sequence: Assemblage A dates to the sixth and seventh century, Assemblage B to the ninth and tenth century, and Assemblage C to the fifteenth century.

The known dates for Kekane and Makapanstad shows that Assemblage D embraces what is commonly called the 'terminal Iron Age'. It is known that political communities on the highveld during this period comprised different ethnic groups; for example, Kekane and Makapan were both Ndebele chiefs in a Sotho area (Theal 1888). Consequently, Assemblage D is not equal to the other units in that it probably encompasses more than one stylistic Tradition. I decided not to define the ceramics of this period more closely for three reasons: first, because the Ficus excavations yielded better A, B and C than D samples; secondly, because J. Loubser is concentrating on this period in the Pietersburg area; and thirdly, because it would have become essentially a second

TABLE 8 : FICUS RADIOCARBON DATES

Lab. Number	Provenance	Uncalibrated Date	Calibrated Date *
Wits. 782	Trench 8, Orange Ash I.	A.D. 550 _± 40	A.D. 590 _± 50
Wits. 888	Trench 9, Orange Ash III.	A.D. 835 _± 50	A.D. 860-880 _± 60
Wits. 781	Trench 8, Khaki Ash.	A.D. 870 _± 40	A.D. 910 _± 50
Wits. 787	Trench 9, Grey Ash.	A.D. 1490 _± 50	A.D. 1420 _± 60
Wits. 780	Trench 9, Dung.	A.D. 1560 _± 50	A.D. 1450 _± 60

*Note: Dates from Ralph, Michael and Han 1973

project. Nevertheless, despite the small and dispersed nature of the sample, Assemblage D is still valid, and therefore serves a useful purpose in the culture-history sequence.

This local sequence can be placed in a wider perspective by comparing the ceramic entities to other sites in the subcontinent (Table 10). The earliest Iron Age sites here in South Africa are usually placed into Phillipson's (1977) Eastern Stream - for example, Silver Leaves, Eiland 1, Enkwazini and Mzonjani - or Western Stream - for example, Happy Rest, Klein Afrika, Doornkop and Lydenburg (i.e. Sterkspruit). Ficus Assemblage A shares most of its sub-classes with the Western Stream sites, and together they form a fairly tight stylistic cluster within the first phase of the Iron Age in the Transvaal. Therefore Assemblage A probably represents the widespread movement of one group of people.

Ficus Assemblage B is clearly part of the same entity as the ceramics from the middle levels at Eiland (Evers 1975, 1981). The Ficus sample provides five new classes and seven new sub-classes to those in the literature and, consequently, significantly refines our definition of this stylistic unit. This 'Eiland' unit has been commonly considered to be part of a third phase of the Western Stream (Evers 1981, Huffman pers. comm.). The fact that several of the new classes and sub-classes are identical to classes in the first phase assemblages strengthens the proposed continuity, and the radiocarbon dates for Ficus B indicate where Eiland probably originated. At Eiland this pottery dates from the tenth to the twelfth centuries (Evers 1981) and to the twelfth century at Silver Leaves (Klapwijk 1973). At Ficus, however, Eiland pottery is about 100 years earlier and contemporaneous with Klingbeil ceramics, the second phase in the Lydenburg area (Tables 9, 10 and 11). If the radiocarbon samples from Ficus second component and

TABLE 9: KLINGBEIL AND EILAND PHASE RADIOCARBON DATES

Calibrated A.D.	Ficus "B"	*Eiland ii	*Klingbeil
1250			
1200		I	
1150		I	
1100		I	+
1050			
1000			
950			
900	+		I
850	I		I
800			+
750			
700			
650			

*Note: Dates from Evers 1980 and 1981

TABLE 10. PRESENCE or ABSEN

C. A.D.	SITES	3a	3g(i)	3	6a	10a	3f(i)	3f(i)	3c	3f(ii)	3f(ii)	3g(i)	3g(i)	3h	4a	4b	4c	5b	5c
	Marateng																		
800	Wildebeesfontein																		
700	Ox1 Type Z																		
600	Oitkoms1/ Guisanort																		
500	Makwareng Type V									☆									
400	Nsuanalsat sh Type M																		
300	Isop																		
200																			
100	Youtswa																		
0	Eliland(i)									☆	☆	☆	☆	☆			☆		
	Moambanyor									☆				☆					
	K.K.Zhizo									☆									
	Blackburn Kinnabel		☆		☆		☆						☆		☆				
	Nishekane						☆			☆	☆								
	Doornkop	☆	☆	☆	☆		☆					☆					☆		
	Msluzi Cont Frasion	☆			☆		☆												
	Sterkspruit	☆	☆		☆	☆	☆	☆				☆							
	Spwazini	☆					☆												
	Klein Afrika	☆					☆												
	Msonjan	☆	☆		☆		☆												
	Eliland(i)																		
	Suberigaves																		

Based on: Berrington et al., 1978; Collett 1979; Davies 1971; Evers 1979

Klapwijk 1973, 1974; Lepionka 1979; Maggs 1976; Mason 1962;

US and KEKANE CLASSES ELSEWHERE

|--|

TABLE 11. ASSEMBLAGES FROM THREE PHASES OF THE TRANSVAAL EARLY IRON AGE

ASSEMBLAGES	
EILAND "MIDDLE" c.1000 A.D.	
FIGUS 'B' c. 850 A.D.	
KLINGBEIL c. 820 A.D.	
DOORKOP c. 800 A.D.	
FIGUS 'A' c. 800 A.D.	
STERKSPRUIT c.500 A.D.	

3rd

2nd

1st

Klingbeil are truly associated with the ceramics that they are purported to date, and are equally accurate, then Eiland could not have developed out of Klingbeil: there must be at least one other regional facies of the Western Stream during the second phase. Unfortunately, no phase two ceramics of any sort were recognized in the Makapan survey, and so my project cannot help resolve this issue. The culture history sequence that S. Hall is establishing in the Thabazimbi area west of Makapan may clarify this problem. Whatever the case, the large sample from Ficus will be of great value when the affinities between other facies and Eiland are assessed.

No sites can be linked to the Ficus Assemblage C. Only Buispoort pottery is somewhat similar, and it is possible that these two samples belong to the same Tradition. Local factors such as stress, however, may have produced an unusually plain assemblage at Ficus, so I cannot make a firm identification.

Assemblage D includes classes and affiliate sets found in ethnographic Sotho, Venda and Phalaborwa collections (Schofield 1948, Huffman 1980). This may reflect the known ethnic complexity of 'terminal' Iron Age political communities. J. Loubser's work in the Pietersburg district will have a direct bearing on this problem.

From a culture history perspective, the Makapan sequence parallels what is known in other areas: there is a continuity from the earliest Iron Age sites of the Western Stream through three phases and then a major stylistic break follows: the first half of the sequence in the Makapan Valley is better than the second half, but even so it is a contribution to our knowledge of the last two

thousand years. The Eiland sample in particular will be of use to culture historians.

CULTURE SYSTEMS

Although data of a culture systems nature is peripheral to this study, some of it may prove useful to other investigations and is thus worth mentioning.

Remains of domestic stock were found in each component, and all the assemblages had a wide range of shapes and sizes, indicating that the area had been inhabited by mixed farmers since the fifth or sixth centuries of the Christian era. Metal artifacts and slags were also present in all components, proving that a metal working technology arrived fully fledged with the first farmers.

The same economic information has been found at many other sites (see Phillipson 1977), and so this evidence from Ficus fits a well-known pattern.

Other evidence concerning settlement organization will be of interest to archaeologists because of Kuper's (1980) recent research on the orientation code in Southern Bantu homesteads. Kuper's work is based on the premise that a society organizes its settlements according to a system of beliefs and values that is an integral part of its total way of life. Kuper found that traditional Nguni and Sotho-Tswana speakers shared the same culture system and that, most importantly for the archaeologist, this culture system is reflected in the physical location of the cattle kraal, dwellings, grain bins, grain pits and human burials. In particular grain bins are placed in an arc around dwellings which in turn encircle the cattle kraal, and the kraal typically contains grain pits and the burials of certain people.

Although no complete settlement was uncovered at Ficus, there are significant fragments of this pattern in the third component kraals with burials in trenches 4 and 9, and the second component pit beneath the dung layer in trenches 3 and 8.

If Kuper's analysis is accurate, and if the perceived pattern at Ficus is not the outcome of physiographic constraints, then possibly the Eiland and certainly the fifteenth century occupants participated in the Southern Bantu Culture System, which is therefore not a recent development.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The primary purpose of this project has been realized, but there are still some culture history questions left unanswered that could form the goal of future projects. Three of these in particular are worth mentioning. The first concerns the composition of the ceramic phase between Ficus A and Eiland. It is important to know if this material is like Klingbeil in the Lydenburg area or a member of another but related facies. Secondly, it is unclear when Eiland originated. The early dates from Ficus are significant, if correct, and they need to be verified. The third question concerns the stylistic break after Eiland. If there was an 'Icon' phase in this area before the fifteenth century, Assemblage C at Ficus would be easier to interpret.

Clearly, culture history projects are still important to Iron Age research in southern Africa. Even though the explanation of change in the archaeological record is an important goal, more fundamental research must be accomplished first.

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APPENDIX I

REPORT ON HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS FROM IRON AGE SITE FICUS 2429 AA4 IN THE TRANSVAAL

In the present report the:

A. Estimation of the age at the time of death is based on:

- a) epiphyseal union (Stewart 1979)
- b) molar wear (Brothwell 1963)

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that even within a group of normal individuals considerable variation in maturation can occur. Further, mean differences occur between groups throughout the world, determined by genetic and environmental factors. The present estimation is based on standards for Caucasoid populations, since none is available for Southern African populations.

B. Assessment of sex is based on:

- a) humeral and femoral head diameters
- b) ischio-pubic index
- c) size of greater sciatic notch and subpubic angle
- d) extent of sacral auricular area
- e) presence of pre-auricular sulcus
- f) cranial and mandibular features (de Villiers 1968, Stewart 1979)

C. The estimation of stature is based on Trotter and Gleser's 1958 regression formula devised for American Negro females.

The most appropriate formula available at present, but Trotter and Gleser point out that it is possible that different equations may be needed even in the same population group in successive generations.

- D. The platymeric and platycnaemic indices have also been calculated. These indices reflect flattening of the femoral and tibial shafts respectively. In the past flattening of the shafts was associated with specific populations e.g. Bushman (San). However, Lisowski (1968) showed that flattening of the femoral / tibial shaft resulted from nutritional deficiencies which affect the structure of the bones and so influence the osseous resistance to the stresses of locomotion. The pilasteric index ($100 \text{ FeD}_3/\text{FeD}_4$) reflects the degree of development of the linea aspera on the posterior aspect of the shaft of the femur.

The human skeletal material comprises an almost complete skeleton, that is:

a complete skull and the following postcranial remains:

Axial

Vertebrae cervical 7

thoracic 12

lumbar 5 and a lumbarised first sacral segment

lumbarisation is complete on the right side.

sacrum 4 piece - the right side has been eroded

Ribs 16 and 18 rib fragments.

Sternum and manubrium, the sternum has, in part, been eroded.

Appendicular

Scapula left, the right is fragmentary

Clavicle right and left

Humerus, radius, ulna right and left

Os coxae right and left, the pubic symphyseal areas are damaged

Femur, tibia, fibula, patella right and left

Carpal bones 15, the left pisiform is missing

Tarsal bones 14 (complete)

Metacarpal, metatarsal bones complete (20)

Phalanges 45 (i.e. 11 missing)

Also included are 8 fragments of animal bone

The metrical and nonmetrical observations are presented in Tables 1 to 3.

The cranium is complete but slightly damaged, viz. the medial wall and floor of the left orbit and the floor of the right orbit are defective; the anterior wall of the right antrum and the right temporal squame have been punctured; the left zygomatic arch is defective; a hair-line fracture marks the left side of the frontal bone.

The mandible, likewise is complete but was fractured:

- 1) in the region of the symphysis menti, this fracture is oblique and runs through the socket of the right lateral incisor.
- 2) in the region of the second right molar. The mandible is slightly distorted. The socket of the first right molar shows evidence of peridontal disease and the distal half of the crown of this tooth has been eroded by caries. The left second premolar is also carious, and was apparently affected by an apical abscess. The damage to the skull appears to have occurred post mortem.

The complete permanent dentition is present. The maxillary and mandibular first molars show wear with dentine exposure (2+ to 3- according to Brothwell's 1963 grades of molar wear). The remaining molars with the exception of the mandibular right second molar show enamel wear only.

The remains are those of a lightly built fully adult individual between the ages of 20 to 25 years at the time of death.

The features of the skull and pelvis indicate that this skeleton is that of a female with an estimated maximum living stature of 157,7cm. The femoral shaft shows some degree of flattening (FeD_1/FeD_2 79,3%) but not the tibial shaft (TiD_2/TiD_1 77,5%).

The features of the skull viz. dolichocrany (100 B/L 74,7%), eurymetopy (100 B'/B 69,8%), avoid cranial contour, moderate occipital curvature (100 S'_3/S_3 83,3%), leptoprosopy (100 GH/J 95,6%), prognathism (100 GL/LB 107,7%), hypisconch orbits (100 O_2/O_1 88,8%), platyrrhine nose (100 NB/NH 52,3%), deep leptostaphyline palate (100 G'_2/G'_1 76,5%), deep symphysis menti (h_1 39,5mm) and an ascending ramus of moderate width (rb 32,5mm) and height (rl 55,0mm) are all indicative of a Negro individual. Chamaecrany (100 H'/L 65,3%, 100 OH/L 57,6%) is generally considered to be a feature of the Bushman (San) cranium but chamaecrany combined with dolichocrany has been recorded in 30,9% of South African Negro female crania (de Villiers 1968).

To consider further the assignment of the Ficus 2429 AA4 skeleton to the South African Negro population group Penrose's (1954) distance, utilising 11 measurements, primarily of the cranial vault and face, was applied to the data. The data obtained for the Ficus cranium and for five comparative series - Bushman (San),

Natal Nguni, Cape Nguni, Sotho, and Shangana Tonga are considered. Details of the comparative series, measurements employed and the statistical procedures are described elsewhere (de Villiers 1968).

The size and shape distances between the Ficus cranium and each of the comparative series is given in Table 4. The mean square distance is based on both the size and shape components. It gives a measure of total metrical distance between the individual and the groups, while the size distance gives the divergence in overall dimensions and the shape distance the divergence in relative magnitude of the measurements.

Inspection of the results shows that the Ficus cranium is indeed Negroid - it would be reasonable to assign this individual to the South African Negro population - the Sotho group in particular.

The main differences between the Ficus cranium and the South African Negro crania appear to lie in the cranial height measurement (H' and OH) which are low in the Ficus cranium and in the nasal breadth which likewise is smaller. In addition the comparative series are composed of male crania whereas the present specimen is apparently female.

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APPENDIX IITHE FAUNAL REMAINS FROM FICUS AND KEKANE
TWO IRON AGE SITES FROM THE MAKAPAN
VALLEY, TRANSVAALINTRODUCTION

Ficus and Kekane are two Iron Age sites situated in the Makapan Valley. Both sites were excavated by P. Moore in the course of his field work for his Master's degree at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Kekane is a single component site which was still inhabited at the beginning of this century. It is the younger of the two sites under consideration; a single trench was excavated.

Moore identified four components at Ficus, the dating of which are as follows:

First component: A.D. 550 $\pm$ 40

Second component: A.D. 870 $\pm$ 40

Third component: A.D.1490 $\pm$ 50 and A.D.1560 $\pm$ 50

Fourth component: Early twentieth century

Nine trenches were excavated of which trenches 3, 8 and 9 yielded most of the material. Dating was done on material retrieved from trenches 8 and 9 (Moore pers. comm.). All components except the superficial fourth yielded faunal remains.

The diagnostic bone was sorted out of the faunal remains from both sites and was sent to the Transvaal Museum for analysis. The waste bone was dealt with by the excavator.

Species identification, bovid size classes and ageing of domesticated bovids were done according to procedures suggested by Brain (1974) and Voigt (1978). Detailed tables are housed at the Transvaal Museum, while the faunal

remains are housed at the Archaeology Department, University of the Witwatersrand.

A. KEKANE

Species present

The sample from Kekane was small, with only 96 identifiable fragments (Table 1). These represented the remains of 25 individuals belonging to seven species including H. sapiens (Table 2). The species present reflect a modern community with mainly domesticated animals. The presence of domesticated pigs in the sample emphasize the modernity of the site as domesticated pigs have not yet been identified from pre- 1850 A.D. sites. The guineafowl sized bird may have been a domesticated fowl, but the remains were too fragmented for positive identification.

Economy and diet at Kekane

Economic activities employed to obtain meat and meat contributions to the diet are given in Table 3. Almost all activity (over 90% if the guineafowl sized bird is included), centred around animal husbandry. This activity provided a meat contribution of over 99,9%. The sample showed no evidence for hunting and snaring was probably practical to a limited extent as evidenced by the presence of a hare. Although the small size of the sample may have biased the results, small samples from other Iron Age sites such as Nanga and Namakala (Plug 1979a) and Wildebeestfontein (Plug 1979b) do show important and significant differences in economies and diets.

Domesticated animals

The sample yielded the remains of six cattle, one of which was a juvenile (Table 4). The sheep/goat group was represented by 14 individuals, one of which was a goat. These animals were represented by four young and ten older individuals of which seven were mature breeding animals (age class V). Although the sample is small it suggests a tendency toward the butchering

of older animals. Three pigs were present in the sample, two juveniles and one old individual.

Bone preservation

The total sample of 96 identifiable bones and 26 individuals provides a ratio of 3,7 bones per individual. This compares well with other sites such as Wildebeestfontein (5,5), Nanga and Namakala (both with 3,3) and Ficus (6,2). The various bovid skeletal parts were relatively well represented (Table 5).

B. FICUS

Table 6 presents the total sample of identifiable bone for all three Ficus components. The third component yielded a small sample of 71 identifiable remains; representing 17 individuals. The samples from the second and third components were larger with 592 and 331 identifiable bones respectively, each representing 71 individuals.

Some comments on the species present

The species present in each component of Ficus are listed in Tables 7, 8 and 9. All three components yielded the remains of domesticated as well as wild animals including giraffe and elephant. The remains of two humans were present in the third component. Carnivores were present in the third and second, but not in the first component. One cowrie shell was found in trench 6 but the provenance of this specimen is uncertain. The presence of an ivory bracelet in the third component is interesting and may indicate trade contacts.

Economy and diet at Ficus

Economic activities employed at Ficus to obtain animal protein are listed in Table 10. Certain trends can be observed from this table. Herding was more prominent in the third component than in both earlier components in which hunting played a more prominent role. As with many other Iron Age sites zebra were a favourite prey.

Meat contributions to the diet, based on the economic activities show some interesting results (Table II). The meat contribution to the diet by domesticated animals is appreciably higher in the third component (83,7%) than in the second and first components (56,8% and 59,4% respectively). Hunting which played a large role in the second and first components, contributed over 40% of the meat for each of these components whereas in the third component hunting only added 16,2% of meat to the diet. Snaring and gathering were practised in all three components, but did not add significantly to the diet.

Domesticated animals

Ages of domesticated bovids for all three components are presented in Table 12. There appears to have been a trend in all three components to slaughter older individuals of cattle as well as sheep/goat.

Neonate calves (Class I) were apparently not slaughtered. Reasonable numbers of young cattle belonging to age Classes II, III and IV were present in the sample but there is a drop in the number of animals present in Classes V and VI. Cattle in the VII, VIII and IX age classes were most frequently slaughtered.

Sheep/goats of all ages were butchered but Class V shows a particularly high number of individuals.

Bone preservation

The total identifiable bone sample for Ficus consisted of 994 bone fragments: 331 for the third, 592 for the second and 71 for the first component (Table 6). The average number of bones per individual was 4,7 for the third; 8,3 for the second and 4,2 for the first component. The relatively high value for the second component can be attributed to the high number of bovid skeletal parts present in that component. The site averages 6,2 bones per individual, an indication that bone fragmentation was not very high and compares well with other Iron Age sites. Bovid skeletal parts present at Ficus are listed on Tables 13, 14 and 15. Most skeletal parts were well represented and no unusual trends were observed.

DISCUSSION

The faunal remains from Kekane and the three Ficus components show noticeable differences in diet and economic activity patterns. The faunal remains from Kekane reflect a community that was for all practical purposes entirely dependent on their domesticated animals for meat. The complete absence of evidence for hunting may be an artefact of the smallness of the sample, but it also could reflect a game impoverished environment. The Ficus first component faunal sample is even smaller than that of Kekane, but does nevertheless reflect a society in which hunting played an important role.

Kekane was still inhabited by the beginning of this century. No faunal analyses have as yet been done for sites as late as Kekane in that part of the Transvaal; so that there is little information available for comparison. Late Iron Age sites such as Wildebeestfontein in the southern Transvaal (Plug 1979b) and Rooikrans and Rhenosterkloof in the central Transvaal (Plug 1980), are all at least 50 or more years older than Kekane. The Late Iron Age sites of the southern Highveld also reflect economies largely dependent on domesticated herds (Maggs 1975) but none appeared to have been as heavily dependant as Kekane.

The Ficus components are all considerably older than Kekane and therefore not really comparable. The third and second components of Ficus are roughly contemporaneous with some of the Northern Transvaal sites such as Icon (A.D. 1330 $\pm$ 50) and the Zhizo and Zhizo/Leopard's Kopje A (A.D. 800-1100) levels of Pont Drift, Schroda and Kommando Kop (Voigt 1980). The second component of Ficus is also contemporaneous with Ntshekane in Natal (Maggs and Michael 1976).

Considerable differences emerge between the Northern Transvaal sites and the third and second components of Ficus when diet and economy are compared. The third component of Ficus is slightly younger than Icon. At

Icon 33,7% of all individuals were domesticated animals, 18,1% were hunted and snaring, gathering and fishing accounted for 48,2% of all individuals (Voigt 1980). The figures for the third component of Ficus are markedly different. Domesticated animals constituted 63,4% of the sample, hunting played an important role with 22,5%, while snaring and gathering only contributed 7,0% to the sample. Although herding was an important activity at Ficus, third component, whereas hunting, snaring, gathering and fishing were important activities at Icon, calculations of meat contributions present interesting results. At Icon domesticated animals contributed 92,9% of the meat supply, hunted animals contributed 6,6% and snaring, gathering and fishing contributed only 0,6% (Voigt 1980). This differs from the third component of Ficus where domesticated animals contributed 83,2% of meat, hunting 16,2% and snaring and gathering less than 1%. Both sites demonstrate that the percentage contribution of economic activity and of diet are not the same and must be considered separately.

The second component of Ficus is roughly contemporaneous with the earlier levels of Pont Drift, Schroda and Kommando Kop (Voigt 1980). Again differences are apparent. Snaring was an important activity at all the above-mentioned northern Transvaal sites, averaging between 19% and 20%. Hunted animals constituted less than 13% of the samples and herding as an activity contributed only an average of 36% (Voigt 1980). The second component of Ficus presents the following figures for activities employed: snaring 2,8%, hunting 32,4% and herding 54,9%. Meat contribution figures also show great differences. Domesticated animals contributed between 79,5% and 87,5% of the meat supply on the Northern Transvaal sites, but at Ficus second component they contributed only 56,8%, while hunting provided the community with 43,1% of its meat as opposed to an average of about 10% for the Northern Transvaal sites.

The above comparisons show clearly that the Ficus community relied more heavily on wild animals for meat than the people from the northern Transvaal sites who utilised their domesticated stock extensively.

The faunal remains from the second component at Ficus have also been compared with the faunal remains at Ntshekane (+A.D. 800) as given in the species list of Klein (Mággs and Michael 1976). Economic activities at Ntshekane indicate that 52% centred on herding, 33% on hunting and 9% on snaring and gathering. These figures are almost identical to those of the second component at Ficus. Contribution to the diet however show less similarity, with herding at Ntshekane contributing almost 80% to the meat diet and hunting 20%. The lower figure for hunting as a source of meat at Ntshekane, can be attributed to the fact that most of the hunted animals were small bovids and suids, whereas the Ficus people hunted larger animals particularly zebras.

The faunal sample from the first component at Ficus is very small, but does indicate a subsistence pattern which could have been much the same as that of the second component.

It is of interest to note that at Ficus in general the numbers for cattle are higher than those for the sheep/goat group. At Kekane, Ntshekane and the Northern Transvaal sites the situation is reversed with sheep/goat being more numerous. This may point to cultural differences rather than environmental ones, as Kekane and Ficus are situated in the same Valley.

The tendency at Ficus to slaughter the older animals may point to the necessity of conserving the prime breeding animals. Such a tendency has also been observed at Rhenosterkloof (Plug 1980).

The pottery of the Ficus components relate to the Lydenburg (first component) and Eiland (second component) pottery Tradition, while the relationship of the third component pottery has not yet been established. The pottery traditions of the Northern Transvaal sites contemporaneous to Ficus, belong to the Zhizo and the Leopard's Kopje A phases. Differences between these sites and Ficus are probably not only the result of environmental differences but also of cultural differences.

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Table 1

Kekane Total sample of identifiable remains

Skeletal part	No.
Bovid teeth	48
Bovid skeletal parts	36
Other identified remains	12
TOTAL	96

Table 2

Kekane: Species list and basis of identification.

⁰ = juvenile.

<u>Species</u>	<u>M.Ind.</u>	<u>Identifying skeletal parts</u>
<i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i>	1	Right mandible fragment with M ² , heavy wear; lower M ³ , medium wear.
cf. <i>Sus domesticus</i>	3(²⁰)	Left mandible with dp ² -dp ⁴ , M ¹ alveolus for M ² . Light to medium wear on dp's. Right dp ⁴ , very heavy wear, left mandible fragment with M ¹ -M ² , heavy wear on M ¹ , alveolus for M ³ ; right maxilla fragment with i ² ; right lower canine, light wear; right M ² , light wear; 2nd phalanx.
<i>Bos taurus</i>	6(¹⁰)	Erupting left M ² , very light wear; Newly erupted left P ⁴ , very light wear, left M ¹ fragment, medium to heavy wear. Left M ³ , even medium wear; left P ³ , heavy wear; left M ³ , extreme wear, roots resorbing.
<i>Capra hircus</i>	1 ⁰	Left horncore.
<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	13(⁴⁰)	Two left i ² 's, medium wear; unerupted left P ⁴ ; left dp ⁴ , heavy wear; Seven right M ² 's with very heavy wear; Two right, one left M ³ , with extremely heavy wear.
Hare	1	Phalanx.
Guineafowl sized bird	1	Vertebra, distal tibio tarsus.

Table 3

Kekane: Economic activities and meat contribution to the diet by animals on the basis of minimum numbers of individuals.

Economic activity and species	M.Ind.	%M.Ind. per economic activity	Meat wt. 50% of live wt.kg.	Total meat wt. kg.	%of meat
<u>Domesticated</u>					
<i>Bos taurus</i> : Adult	5	19,2	249,0	1245,0	76,4
Juvenile	1	3,8	99,0	99,0	6,1
<i>Capra</i> : Adult	10	38,5	16,0	160,0	9,8
Juvenile	4	15,4	12,8	41,2	3,1
Goat: Adult	1	3,8	31,7	31,7	1,9
Juvenile	2	7,7	40,0	40,0	2,5
TOTAL DOMESTICATED	23	88,4		1626,9	99,9
<u>Non-domesticated</u>					
Snared: Hare	1	3,8	1,1	1,1	0,07
Guinea fowl sized bird	1	3,8	0,75	0,75	0,05
TOTAL SNARED	2	7,7		1,85	0,1
TOTAL FOOD ANIMALS	25	96,2			
Non-contributors	1	3,8			
Total Min. No Individuals and Total Meat contribution	26			1628,75	

This individual may have been a domesticated fowl, in which case snaring amounts to only 3,8%.

Table 4

Kekane: Domesticated bovids age classes: *B. taurus* and *Ovis/Capra*

<i>Bos taurus</i>		<i>Ovis/Capra</i>
Class	No.	No.
I	0	0
II	0	2
III	1	2
IV	0	0
V	0	7
VI	2	3
VII	1	-
VIII	1	-
IX	1	-
TOTAL	6	14

Table 5

Kekane: Bovid skeletal parts⁰ = juvenile

Skeletal part	Bov. II		Bov. III		Total
	No.	M.Ind.	No.	M.Ind.	
Horncore	1 ⁰	1 ⁰			1 ⁰
Scapula			1	1	1
Humerus	1	1			1
Radius	1	1			1
Pelvis	1	1	1	1	2
Femur	3(2 ⁰)	2(1 ⁰)			3(2 ⁰)
Tibia	1	1	3(2 ⁰)	2(1 ⁰)	4(2 ⁰)
Metapodial			4	1	4
Astragalus	2	2	1	1	3
Calcaneum			4(3 ⁰)	3(2 ⁰)	4(3 ⁰)
Carpal/tarsal	3	1	1	1	4
Phalanx 1	5	2	1	1	6
2			1	1	1
Terminal phalanx	1	1			1
TOTAL	19(3 ⁰)		17(5 ⁰)		36(8 ⁰)

Table 6

Ficus: Total sample of identifiable remains.

Skeletal part	Third Component	Second Component	<i>First</i> Component	Total
Bovid teeth	101	107	9	217
Bovid skeletal parts	180	359	51	590
Other identified remains	50	126	11	187
TOTAL	331	591	71	994

Table 7

Ficus: Third component.

Species list and basis of identification

<u>Species present</u>	<u>M.Ind.</u>	<u>Identifying skeletal parts</u>
<i>Homo sapiens sapiens</i>	2	Right mandible with alveolus for M $\bar{3}$. Alveoli for M $\bar{1}$ and M $\bar{3}$ are closed up due to loss of teeth during life. Proximal radius. Six phalanges (pes). Four metatarsals.
Medium sized carnivore	1	Metapodial.
Small carnivore	1	Distal metapodial.
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	1	Ivory bracelet.
<i>Equus burchelli</i>	6 (Two juveniles)	Unerrupted left P $\bar{2}$. Unerrupted M $\bar{1}$ or M $\bar{2}$. Left P $\bar{3}$, heavy wear. Left M $\bar{1}$, medium to heavy wear. Right M $\bar{2}$, medium wear. Right M $\bar{3}$, medium wear.
cf. <i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	1	Left intermediate carpal.
<i>Bos taurus</i>	35 (Four juveniles)	Right mandible with dp $\bar{2}$ -dp $\bar{4}$, M $\bar{1}$ with light wear, M $\bar{2}$ unerrupted. Central lobe of left M $\bar{3}$, no wear. Left M $\bar{2}$, very light wear on anterior lobe. Left M $\bar{2}$, posterior lobe only, light wear. Left M $\bar{3}$ very light wear on anterior lobe. Left M $\bar{3}$, very light wear on anterior lobe. Three left M $\bar{2}$'s with light wear. Left M $\bar{3}$, light wear. Dp $\bar{4}$ fragment, extremely heavy wear. Left M $\bar{3}$, light to medium wear. Right M $\bar{1}$, medium to heavy wear. Right

<u>Species present</u>	<u>M.Ind.</u>	<u>Identifiable skeletal parts</u>
		P$\bar{3}$, very light wear. Three right M$\bar{1}$'s one with medium to heavy, two with heavy wear. Two left M$\bar{1}$'s, heavy wear. Left P$\bar{4}$, medium wear. Left M$\bar{1}$, heavy wear. Posterior lobe of right M$\bar{1}$, heavy wear. Right maxilla with P$\bar{2}$-M$\bar{2}$, heavy wear. Right maxilla with M$\bar{1}$-M$\bar{3}$, heavy wear. Occluding left P$\bar{2}$, P$\bar{3}$, P$\bar{4}$, heavy wear. Left maxilla with M$\bar{1}$-M$\bar{2}$, heavy wear. Left M$\bar{2}$ heavy wear. Right M$\bar{2}$, heavy wear. Right I$\bar{1}$, heavy wear. Left I$\bar{2}$, heavy wear. Right P$\bar{3}$, heavy wear. Two left P$\bar{3}$'s very heavy wear. Left M$\bar{1}$ very heavy wear. Right M$\bar{3}$ worn down to gumline, roots resorbing.
<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	10 (Three juveniles)	Left mandible with dp$\bar{2}$-dp$\bar{4}$, very light wear, M$\bar{1}$ unerupted. Posterior lobe of unerupted right M$\bar{2}$. Right M$\bar{2}$, light wear on anterior lobe. Right M$\bar{2}$, medium wear. Occluding left M$\bar{1}$ and P$\bar{4}$, both with heavy wear. Right M$\bar{3}$ medium wear. Two left M$\bar{2}$'s medium to heavy wear. Two left I$\bar{3}$'s extremely heavy wear, down to gumlines.
<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	2	Right horncore with skull fragment, left mandible with P$\bar{3}$-P$\bar{4}$, fragments of M$\bar{1}$ and M$\bar{2}$, alveoli for P$\bar{2}$ and M$\bar{3}$. M$\bar{2}$ fragment. M$\bar{2}$ or M$\bar{3}$ fragment.

Third component continued.

<u>Species present</u>	<u>M.Ind.</u>	<u>Identifiable skeletal parts</u>
<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>	' 2	Right maxilla with P ₂ -P ₃ medium to heavy wear. Left P ₃ , light wear. Right M ₃ , medium wear.
<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	1	Left terminal phalanx. Left dp ₄ , posterior lobe broken.
Bov II (non-domesticated)	1	Distal metapodial fragment. 1st and 2nd phalanges.
Bov IV	1	Intermediate carpal fragment.
Hare	2	Left mandible fragment with alveoli for P ₂ , P ₃ , P ₄ . Three skull fragments. Right mandible with three teeth.
cf. <i>Pedetes capensis</i>	1	Astragalus.
Tortoise	2	Six carapace fragments of two individuals.
<i>Achatina</i> sp.	1	One columella.
<i>Epitonium macromphalus</i>	1	Complete shell.

Table 8

Ficus: Second componentSpecies list and basis of identification

<u>Species present</u>	<u>M.Ind.</u>	<u>Identifying skeletal parts</u>
Serval sized feline	1	Left and right distal humerus.
Large carnivore	1	Distal metapodial.
Medium sized carnivore	1	Ulna.
Small carnivore	1	Two humerus shafts.
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	1	Sesamoid.
<i>Procavia</i> sp.	1	Left tibia.
<i>Equus burchelli</i>	9 (one juvenile)	Right dp $\bar{3}$ fragment, heavy wear. Left mandible fragment with I $\bar{2}$, I $\bar{3}$ and Canine, medium wear. Fragment of proximal right metatarsal with 4th tarsal fused: old individual. Right M $\bar{3}$, light wear. Left M $\bar{3}$, heavy wear. Fragment of unerupted left M $\bar{3}$. Left maxilla fragment with un- erupted M $\bar{3}$. Left maxilla with M $\bar{1}$ -M $\bar{3}$; all worn down to gums. Left M $\bar{2}$, heavy wear.
<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	1	Right upper and right lower tusks.
<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	1	Two sesamoids. Right naviculo cuboid. Right M $\bar{3}$, medium wear. Axis fragment. Atlas fragment. Second phalanx. Distal metapodial fragment.
<i>Bos taurus</i>	23 (7 juveniles)	Buccal surface of left dp $\bar{3}$, light to medium wear. Two left dp $\bar{2}$'s,

Second Component continued

<u>Species present</u>	<u>M.Ind.</u>	<u>Identifying skeletal parts</u>
		light to medium wear. Right dp$\bar{2}$, medium to heavy wear. Left dp$\bar{3}$, heavy wear. Right dp$\bar{4}$ medium to heavy wear. Central and anterior lobes of left dp$\bar{4}$, heavy wear. Right M$\bar{2}$, light wear. Fragment of dp$\bar{4}$, heavy to very heavy wear. Left P$\bar{4}$, newly erupted, very light wear. Left I2 light wear. Right I2 light wear. Two left M$\bar{2}$'s medium to heavy wear. Left P$\bar{4}$ light to medium wear. Left M$\bar{3}$, even medium wear on all three lobes. Left and right M$\bar{3}$, both with medium wear of two different individuals. Left M$\bar{2}$ heavy wear. Right P$\bar{3}$, heavy wear. Right M$\bar{2}$, extremely heavy wear. Right P$\bar{3}$ or P$\bar{4}$, very heavy wear, islands disappearing. Right mandible fragment with roots for P$\bar{2}$ and P$\bar{3}$, alveolus for P$\bar{4}$, M$\bar{1}$ with extreme wear.
<i>Ovis aries</i>	1	Two skull fragments.
<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	15 (5 juveniles)	Unerrupted right M$\bar{2}$. Unerrupted right M$\bar{2}$. Right mandible with M$\bar{2}$, newly erupted, very light wear, M$\bar{3}$ in crypt. Right mandible fragment with dp$\bar{4}$, very heavy wear, alveoli for dp$\bar{2}$, dp$\bar{4}$. Right dp$\bar{4}$, heavy wear. Left M$\bar{3}$, newly erupted, light wear on anterior lobe no wear on central and posterior lobes. Left M$\bar{3}$ in

Second Component continued.

<u>Species present</u>	<u>M.Ind.</u>	<u>Identifying skeletal parts</u>
		mandible fragment, posterior lobe unerupted. Right M $\bar{3}$, medium wear on anterior, light on central lobe. Left M $\bar{2}$, medium to heavy wear. Left mandible with P $\bar{3}$, P $\bar{4}$, M $\bar{1}$ -M $\bar{3}$, islands have disappeared on M $\bar{1}$. Right M $\bar{3}$ medium to heavy wear. Left M $\bar{1}$, heavy wear. Left M $\bar{3}$, heavy wear, islands disappearing. M $\bar{1}$ fragment, extreme wear. Right mandible with M $\bar{1}$ -M $\bar{3}$, heavy wear on M $\bar{3}$, islands disappearing on M $\bar{3}$.
<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	4 (3 juveniles)	Two horncores. Right maxilla with dp $\bar{2}$ -dp $\bar{4}$, M $\bar{1}$, light wear. Left maxilla with P $\bar{2}$ -M $\bar{1}$, medium wear. Right dp $\bar{4}$, medium wear. Right maxilla with dp $\bar{3}$, dp $\bar{4}$, M $\bar{1}$, light to medium wear on M $\bar{1}$.
<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>	1	Left M $\bar{1}$, light to medium wear. Right P $\bar{4}$, medium wear.
<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	3	Occluding left M $\bar{1}$, M $\bar{2}$ and M $\bar{3}$, heavy wear on M $\bar{1}$, medium wear on M $\bar{3}$. Two left horncore fragments. Right M $\bar{2}$ heavy wear (large individual). Left M $\bar{2}$, fragment, medium wear (small individual). Left M $\bar{1}$, medium wear. M $\bar{1}$ fragment, crowns damaged.
<i>Sycerus cafer</i>	2	Right P $\bar{4}$ unerupted. Right M $\bar{1}$, heavy wear.
Hare	1	Left acetabulum. Ulna fragment.
Small rodent	1	Tibia.

Second Component continued

<u>Species present</u>	<u>M.Ind.</u>	<u>Identifying skeletal parts</u>
<i>Varanus</i> sp.	' 1	Vertebra fragment. Humerus Radius.
Tortoise	2	Six carapace fragments. Humerus. Acetabulum fragment. Shoulder girdle fragment. Longbone shaft.

Table 9

Ficus: First componentSpecies list and basis of identification

<u>Species present</u>	<u>M.Ind.</u>	<u>Identifying skeletal parts</u>
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	1	Sesamoid.
<i>Equus burchelli</i>	2 (one juvenile)	Left mandible with P $\bar{2}$ heavy wear. Unerupted tooth fragment. Deciduous premolar fragment. Nasal bone. Right distal radius fragment. Terminal phalanx. Fragment of II or IVth metacarpal.
<i>Bos taurus</i>	4 (one juvenile)	Occluding right M $\bar{2}$ and M $\bar{1}$. Anterior lobe fragment of right P $\bar{3}$, medium wear. Anterior lobe of left dp $\bar{4}$, extremely heavy wear.
<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	1	Right M $\bar{2}$ heavy wear. Left P $\bar{4}$, heavy wear.
<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	1 (one juvenile)	Left mandible with dp $\bar{2}$ -dp $\bar{4}$, M $\bar{1}$, heavy wear on dp's medium wear on M $\bar{1}$.
Bov II(b)	1	Proximal right metatarsal.
Bov II (probably <i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	4 (one juvenile)	Three distal left humer's fragments. Partly fused 1st phalanx. Unfused distal right radius. (One individual of these four is probably the <i>Ovis/Capra</i>).
Bov III (non-domesticated)	1	Left proximal tibia
Hare	1	Metapodial.
<i>Varanus</i> sp.	1	Vertebra.
Tortoise	1	Carapace fragment.

Ficus: Economic activities on the basis of minimum numbers of individuals.

Economic activity	Third component (±1490-1560 AD)				Second component (±870 AD)				First component (±550 AD)			
	Total	Juveniles	%Juveniles	%Total M.Ind.	Total	Juveniles	%Juveniles	%Total M.Ind.	Total	Juvenile	%Juvenile	%Total M.Ind.
A. Domesticated species												
<i>Bos taurus</i>	35	4	5,6	49,3	23	7	10,0	32,4	4	1	5,9	23,5
<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	10	3	4,2	14,1	16	5	7,0	22,5	4	1	5,9	23,5
TOTAL	45	7	9,8	63,4	39	12	16,9	54,9	8	2	11,8	47,1
B. Non domesticated species												
Hunted: Bovid	7	0		10,0	10	3	4,2	14,1	3	1	5,9	17,6
Non Bovids	9	2	2,8	12,6	13	0		18,3	3	1	5,9	17,6
TOTAL HUNTED	16	2	2,8	22,5	23	3	4,2	32,4	6	2	11,8	35,3
Snared	2	0		2,8	2	0		2,8	2	0		11,8
Gathered	3	0		4,2	2	0		2,8	1	0		5,9
TOTAL NON-DOMESTICATES	21	2	2,8	29,6	27	3	4,2	38,0	9	2	11,8	52,9
C. Non-contributors	5	0		7,0	5	0		7,0	0	0		
Total min. no. of individuals	71				71				17			