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EXCAVATIONS IN THE ROMAN FORUM OF *BUTHROTUM* (BUTRINT): FIRST TO THIRD CENTURY POTTERY ASSEMBLAGES AND TRADE

Under the auspices of the Albanian Institute of Archaeology and the Butrint Foundation, excavations undertaken in the civic center of the ancient city of Buthrotum (modern Butrint) conclusively identified the location of the Roman forum.¹ This paper presents some of the preliminary results of the ceramic research from the Roman Forum Excavations at Butrint.

Butrint is located in southern Albania, less than five kilometers from the island of Corfu (figs. 1–3). The ancient city is situated on a promontory that provided direct access to the Ionian and Adriatic Seas. This key geographical feature allowed the ancient city to develop over the centuries as a flourishing port-city along the east-west Roman maritime trade route.

Three seasons of excavations, from 2004–2006, have focused on a Hellenistic and Roman complex, adjacent to the Theatre and Sanctuary of Asclepius (figs. 4–5). At the heart of the Roman complex stands a tripartite building, the three chambers of which functioned as temples, perhaps as a *capitolium*, with temples to Jupiter, Juno, and Minerva.

The excavations revealed that the Tripartite Building stood at the head of the Roman forum, which was probably established after the Roman colonization of *Buthrotum* in the time of Augustus. The forum itself was revealed recently by the discovery of an *in situ* Roman monumental pavement (fig. 6).

The stratigraphic sequence of the area spans the third century BC to the sixteenth century AD. Preliminary stratigraphic and ceramic analyses indicate intense construction activity during the first and second centuries AD, followed by a substantial rearrangement in the third century. The latter included the systematic dismantling and destruction of statuary, the despoliation of the complex and the end of the forum as a public centre. The ceramic assemblages, pertaining to this first to third century activity, are the focus of the present paper.

1. Context 49: Late 1st (or early 2nd) century AD (fig. 7,7–22 and table 1)

Table wares (fig. 7,7–17)

This small deposit, forming the fill of a narrow drain construction trench, was very rich in the number of vessels it contained. It demonstrates both the high percentage of fine wares and relative luxury of high quality imports in the early Roman period. There are two dominant wares in this assemblage, Eastern Sigillata B and Pontic Ware (table 1). Though a date for the assemblage in the early 2nd century is quite possible, a date in the late 1st century (c. AD 80–100) is proposed.

The star piece in ESB is an example of the rarely exported carinated bowl form 79, attested at Paphos and Knossos and dated from the Flavian period to early 2nd century (HAYES 1985) (fig. 7,11). The thin-walled small bowl fig. 7,7 is probably Form 35 and relatively early (mid 1st century perhaps). The hemispherical cup fig. 7,8, also thin-walled, may be form 26 or 66 (in B1 fabric). The small dish form 80, absent at Pompeii, has been dated from c. 80 AD onwards (fig. 7,10) and thus provides a *post-quem* date for the group.

Pontic Sigillata has occurred solely in this deposit, where it comprises a major element of the assemblage (fig. 7,12–15). The ware here is thin-walled, with sharp, well-turned features, bearing a partial slip on the outside, typical for this ware. The grooving on the upper, inner wall is also characteristic. The vessels here, given the care of their manufacture would seem to be relatively early (1st century, rather than 2nd century in date, perhaps). The ware is also found at Knossos² and is particularly common at Benghazi.³

Italian *terra sigillata*, found in mid 1st century contexts in Butrint and Diaporit, is conspicuous by its absence and suggests the later date of this assemblage, a date supported

¹ For a comprehensive discussion of *Buthrotum* in the Roman Period, see I. L. HANSEN/R. HODGES (eds.), *Roman Butrint. An Assessment* (Oxford 2007).

² HAYES 1983; HAYES 1985, 92–96; SACKETT 1992; J.N. COLDSTREAM/L. J. EIRING/G. FORSTE, *Knossos pottery handbook: Greek and Roman*. British School Athens Stud. 7 (London 2001).

³ KENRICK 1985, 271–282: all the forms present at Butrint are paralleled there, being equivalent to Kenrick's forms B386, 390, 391 and 393.

Source	RBH	MNV	W	% RBH	% MNV
ESB	10	7	1	28.5	31.8
Pontic Ware	11	6		31.4	27.2
CAN 1	1	1		2.8	4.5
RG/CC	1	1		2.8	4.5
RG/CC 1 jug	1 neck	1	2	2.8	4.5
RG/CC 2 handled bowl	4	1		11.4	4.5
RG/CC 3 jug	3	3		8.5	13.6
RG/CC 2	1	1		2.8	4.5
Collarino beaker	1	1		2.8	4.5
Total	35	22		100	

a

Source	RBH	MNV	W
Tunisian?		1	(note: 1)
Italian?		1	
Apulian?	2	2	
Sandy Cretan	1	1	
Crete?: Corinth 243	1	1	
Crete?: Dr 2-4	1	1	
Dr 2-4 (buff, not Campanian; south Italian or E Med)	2	1	
P 65-66 (early LRA 3)		1	(note: 3)
Asia Minor?	1	1	
Ikaria?	1	1	
Unclassified	3	3	
Total	12	14	

b

Source	RBH	MNV
Local CP	3	3
Slipped CP (Phocean?)	21	2
Fine Phocean CP	1	1
Coarse Phocean Frying pan	2	2
Fine Phocean trilobate jug	2	1
(Total Phocean:	26	6)
Import (Aegean?)	1	1
Import: as Kapitan 2?	1	1
Total	31	11

c

Source	RBH	MNV
Apulian?	1	1
Buff	2	2
Total	3	3

d

Table 1. Forum Context 49: over 18 kg. Late 1st (or early 2nd) century (RBH = Rim, Base and Handle count; MNV = Minimum Number of Vessels). a. Fine wares; b. Amphorae (RBH); c. Cooking wares (Imported = 100% Aegean); d. Plain ware jugs.

by the majority of the fine wares. Whereas Corinth, Olympia and, to a lesser extent, Benghazi were supplied with Italian *terra sigillata* into the 2nd century,⁴ Butrint echoes Cyprus and Beirut in the rupture of these Italian imports from the end of Nero's reign.⁵

Equally distinctive for Butrint, and a mark of its stronger Aegean versus Levantine supply in the early Roman period is the rarity of Eastern Sigillata A. The absence of ESA in Deposit 49 could equally be due to its date to the late 1st or 2nd century when exports seem to have been more restricted (as noted in Beirut: REYNOLDS 1999).

Red colour-coated jugs in a fine buff to orange fabric are perhaps Durres products (fig. 7,16). They are certainly far more common in Durres, where local production of Megarian bowls and other fine wares is well-attested for the Hellenistic period (REYNOLDS 2003).

Note the orange-red colour-coated handled bowl with grooved outer rim (fig. 7,17). Second century examples of the form also occur on the Vrina Plain at Butrint and have

⁴ K.W. SLANE, East-West trade in fine wares and commodities: the view from Corinth. RCRF Acta 36, 1998, 299–312; A. MARTIN, Italian sigillata in the East. Olympia: a case study. In: J. Poblome/P. Talloen/R. Brulet/M. Waelkens (eds.), Early Italian Sigillata. The chronological framework and trade patterns. International ROCT Conference (Catholic University of Leuven, May 7th–8th 1999). Bull. Ant. Beschaving Suppl. 10 (Leuven 2004) 67–70; KENRICK 1985; see also J. POBLOME, Italian sigillata in the eastern Mediterranean. In: J. Poblome/P. Talloen/R. Brulet/M. Waelkens (eds.), Early Italian Sigillata. The chronological framework and trade patterns. International ROCT Conference (Catholic University of Leuven, May 7th–8th 1999). Bull. Ant. Beschaving Suppl. 10 (Leuven 2004) 17–30.

⁵ J.W. HAYES, Paphos (House of Dionysos) III. The Hellenistic and Roman pottery (Nicosia 1991); P. REYNOLDS, Pottery production and economic exchange in 2nd century Berytus: some preliminary observations of ceramic trends from quantified ceramic deposits from the Anglo-Lebanese excavations in Beirut. Berytus 43, 1997/98 (1999) 35–110; ID., Italian fine wares in 1st century AD Beirut: the assemblage from the cistern deposit BEY 006 12300/12237. In: J. Poblome/P. Talloen/R. Brulet/M. Waelkens (eds.), Early Italian Sigillata. The chronological framework and trade patterns. International ROCT Conference (Catholic University of Leuven, May 7th–8th 1999). Bull. Ant. Beschaving Suppl. 10 (Leuven 2004) 117–131.



Fig. 1. Butrint and its Landscape (with Corfu in the background).



Fig. 2. Aerial view of Butrint.

been found at Nicopolis (personal observation, with thanks to Prof. Konstantinos Zachos).

Kitchen Wares (fig. 7,18–22)

Phocean kitchen ware imports are common in Butrint from the 1st century onwards. Typical finds in the classic coarse fabric, often with internal red slip preserved, are the well-known baking dishes and frying pans (**fig. 7,18**). These were imported in Beirut from the early 2nd century BC, but may have travelled West in quantity only in the Roman period. They are rare in Hellenistic deposits in the Forum, so Butrint may follow the import patterns of Knossos in this respect, where these kitchen wares are common in the early Roman period (HAYES 1983; SACKETT 1992).

Other Aegean products, perhaps also Phocean, in a fine, well-fired version of the fabric, are jugs with a trilobate rim (**fig. 7,20**). These generally bear soot on the rim and body and were therefore used as kettles. They are one of the commoner imports during the 1st to 3rd centuries in Butrint and Knossos. A distinctive cooking pot, in a fine Phocean fabric, bears a pale red wash on the outside of the vessel (**fig. 7,19**).

Also present in Context 49 are local, coarse chert fabric cooking pots (**figs 7,21–22**). The vessel with an out-turned collar rim is more typical of the 1st century (**fig. 7,21**). These were common at the nearby villa of Diaporit, on Lake Butrint. We will discuss shortly the more commonly exported version of this ware with a grooved rim, of 2nd to 3rd century date. It is significant that a continuous development of these chert fabric cooking pots, as well as other forms, is documented in Butrint (**fig. 8,23**).

2. Second century pottery in Butrint

Though 2nd century deposits have been excavated in the Forum these have not yet been processed, and so a few indicators of the range of finds of this century will be presented from elsewhere: from Butrint's extra mural quarter in the Vrina Plain and from the villa of Diaporit (**fig. 3**).

Fine wares (fig. 9,24–29)

ESB is almost exclusively the table ware of the 2nd century (**fig. 9,24–26**). The bowl ESB 76b illustrated, from Diaporit (**fig. 9,24**), is one of only two examples found so far. The two dishes illustrated, forms 77 and 78 (**figs 9,25–26**) are not uncommon finds, but the ubiquitous dish form 60 is the most common form imported along with the dish ESB 80 and cups ESB 71 and ESB 75 (not illustrated). No Italian *terra sigillata* or ESA of 2nd century date has been found so far. Thin-walled 'collarino beakers' from Phocaea and perhaps Thrace, as well as local one-handed beakers (**fig. 9,29**) are a fairly regular feature. An unusual, well-fired, slipped example of the shape is also illustrated (**fig. 9,28a–b**). Perhaps from the same source, there are also early examples of the flanged bowl form in brown-red colour coat that is more typical in the 3rd century (from Nicopolis or Crete?) (**fig. 9,27a–b**).

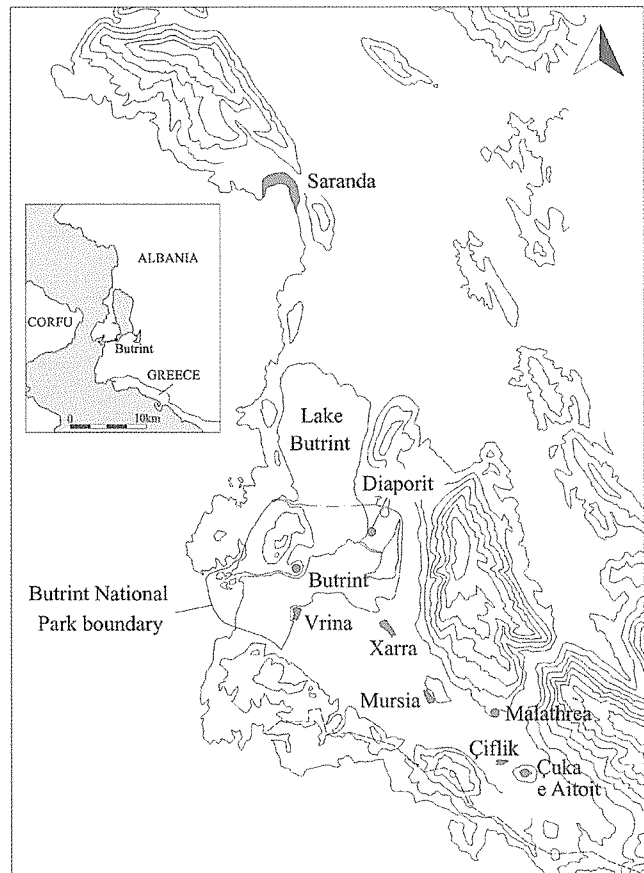


Fig. 3. Map with Butrint, Vrina Plain and Diaporit.

Kitchen wares and amphorae (fig. 10, 30–36)

Baking dishes from Phocaea continued to be supplied through the 2nd century, alongside the trilobate kettles. Apart from these products, local grooved-rim cooking pots were clearly the dominant cooking vessels (**fig. 10,31–32**). There is no local version of the Phocean baking dish. African cooking wares are relatively rare imports until the 3rd century. A second century ARS 182 lid is illustrated (**fig. 10,30**, from Diaporit). A few mid 1st century examples of casserole ARS 194 were found in Diaporit. This may indicate that the supply of Tunisian goods in the 1st century was connected with that of Italian table wares, perhaps being carried on Italian ships departing from Pozzuoli.

During the 2nd century, amphorae are typically table amphorae-flagon style, with ribbed, wide handles, in a poorly fired buff ware, perhaps Apulian, Corfiot or close-regional in origin (**fig. 10,33–35**). Spanish amphorae are rare indeed, comprising the occasional Dressel 20 Baetican oil amphora (**fig. 10,36**) or fish sauce amphora.

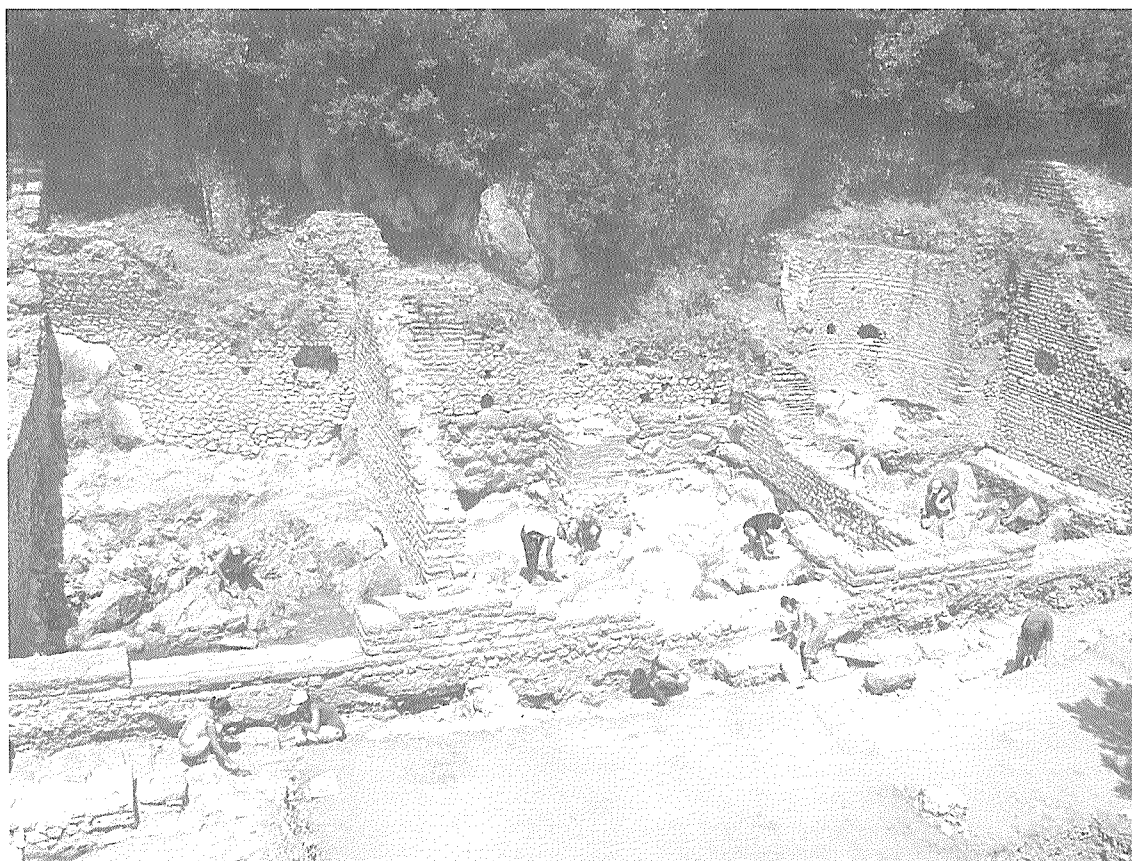


Fig. 4. Tripartite Building in the Roman Forum at Butrint.

3. Contexts 26 and 98: c. AD 230–250 (fig. 11–18; table 2)

Returning to the Forum, two large deposits represent part of the material that marks the end of the use of the Forum as a public building. One of these, Context 26, has been fully quantified and is clearly datable to the mid or second quarter of the 3rd century (table 2). The other, Context 98, immediately below, is much larger, perhaps over a tonne having been recovered. It filled an alley with its drain and covered a good quality, well-preserved statue of a togate male that has been independently dated to the later Antonine period (figs. 11–12).

Whereas Context 98 is ‘fresh’ and in good condition, the diagnostics of Context 26 are smaller and more abraded, with very few joining sherds. The presence of a few sherds of ARS C in both suggests their similar date, despite their distinct depositional history.

Table wares (fig. 13,39–46 and fig. 14,47–53)

Echoing the supply of Durres, African Red Slip Ware is now fairly well represented in this period (fig. 13,39–40; 14,47–50; REYNOLDS 2003). ARS A forms 8, 14, 15 and 27, as well as a single example of ARS A/C relief ware form 42 (fig. 14,50) are present, with ARS A/D dish forms 31 to 33 (fig. 13,39). The same range of ARS supply is common on

the settlement of the Vrina plain. As already noted, a few fragments of true ARS C dishes, including ARS 45 (fig. 13,40) push the dating of the deposition into the mid 3rd century.

ESB 60 occurred in both contexts (fig. 14,51) and two Çandarlı ware bowls were found in Context 26 (fig. 13,41–42, forms 2 and 3, respectively). Corinthian relief bowls were not uncommon in these deposits (e.g. fig. 13,46).

Thinly slipped red colour-coated dishes similar in form to ARS 26 are not uncommon (fig. 13,44–45; 14,52). Similar products comprise an even greater percentage of a contemporary massive assemblage recovered from the Roman harbour of Brindisi (personal observation, with thanks to Carlo di Mitri), and are equally a feature of Knossos deposits (SACKETT 1992). Are these Cretan in origin?

Another distinctive product in a similar ware to these dishes is a flanged bowl with rouletting on the rim and matt red or dark brown colour coat (fig. 13,43; 14,53). The same products were found in a large contemporary dump excavated at Nicopolis (personal observation).

Amphorae (figs 15–17)

Context 98 provides some spectacular examples of the traded amphorae of the period. Notable is the presence of several Campanian black sand Dr 2–4 wine amphorae (fig. 15,54–56). Such late exports did not reach Beirut, but did arrive as

	RBH	W	MNV	% RBH	% MNV
Fine wares					
ARS		7	7		12.5
ARS	26		14	38.2	25.0
(Total ARS:					37.5)
Çandarlı	4		4	5.8	7.1
Corinthian Relief Ware	2	1	3	2.9	5.3
ESB	3		3	4.4	5.3
Pontic?	1		1	1.4	1.7
Apulian?/Regional RS?	2		1	2.9	1.7
RG/CC jugs	15	1	15	22.0	26.7
RG/CC dishes as ARS 26 (Cretan?; Nicopolis?)	4		3	5.8	5.3
RG/CC lid	1		1	1.4	1.7
Thracian TWW?	1		1	1.4	1.7
Local TWW	1		1	1.4	1.7
Slipped PL bowl	7		1	10.2	1.7
Slipped-barbotine PL jar	1		1	1.4	1.7
Total	68	9	56	100	100

a

	RBH	W	MNV
ARS A (ARS 14)		2	1
ARS A (ARS 147)	3		1
ARS A/C (ARS 32)	6		1
ARS A/C (ARS 32)	2		1
ARS A/C (31/33)	2		2
ARS A/C (ARS 42)	1		1
ARS A/C (ARS 45?)	1		1
ARS A/D (ARS 31)	3		2
ARS A/D (ARS 32/33)	1		1
ARS A/D (ARS 32)	4		2
ARS A/D (ARS 31/33)	1		1
ARS C (ARS 49?)	1		1
ARS C (cf ARS 50)		1	1
Total	25	3	16
(ARS/CW	11	3	8)

b

Source	RBH	% RBH
South Spanish	1 neck	0.3
Portuguese	2	0.7
Tunisian	7 (and 1 wall)	2.6
East Sicily/Calabria (as Keay 52)	1	0.3
MRA 1 (Sicilian?)	2	0.7
Apulia?	13	4.9
North Italian	18	6.8
Italian	37	10.3
Italian?	3	1.1
Apulian or Cretan	21	8.0
Dalmatia?	2	0.7
Local?	1	0.3
Kapitân 2	9 (and 8 sh/walls)	3.4 (min)
Knidian	2	0.7
P 65-66 (early LRA 3)	8	3.0
Asia Minor mica	3	1.1
Samos/Ephesus Dr 2-4	3	1.1
Asia Minor Dr 24	1	0.3
'FAM 93'/Knossos*	1	0.3
Knidian	2	0.7
Anamur/W Cilicia	1?	0.3
Cretan	112	42.9
Cretan?	5	1.9
Sparta?	1	0.3
Unclassified	3	1.1
Cypriot?	1	0.3
N Palestinian early Agora M 334	1	0.3
Total	261	100

c

	RBH	W	MNV	% RBH	% MNV
Local	31		29	44.9	49.1%
Campanian (2 lids; 1 Pomp Red dish)	3		3	4.3	5.0
Aegean/S Italian?	1		1	1.4	1.6
Phocean jugs	10		10	14.4	16.9
Phocean TWW	1		1	1.4	1.6
Phocean CP	2		1	2.8	1.6
Phocean slipped dishes	4		4	5.7	6.7
Phocean TWW	1		1	1.4	1.6
Phocean?	4			5.7	6.7
(Phocean total:	16-20			23.1 min	27.1 min)
Imported CP	1		1	1.4	1.6
ARS 182	7	2	3	10.1	5.0
ARS 26/181	3	1	4	4.3	6.7
ARS thin lid	1		1	1.4	1.6
(ARS/CW total:	11	3	8	15.9	13.5)
Total	69	3	59	100	100

d

Table 2. Forum Context 26: 92650g. Mid 3rd century AD. Fine wares, amphorae and cooking wares. (RBH = Rim, Base, Handle count; MNV = Minimum Number of Vessels). a. Fine wares; b. African Red Slip Ware; c. Amphorae (only distinctive imported walls were noted, but not buff/Cretan-Italian; none included in calculations except the south Spanish neck); d. Cooking wares. – * 'FAM 93'/ware as SACKET 1992 Pl. 198,133.

Roman Forum Excavations at Butrint
2004-2006

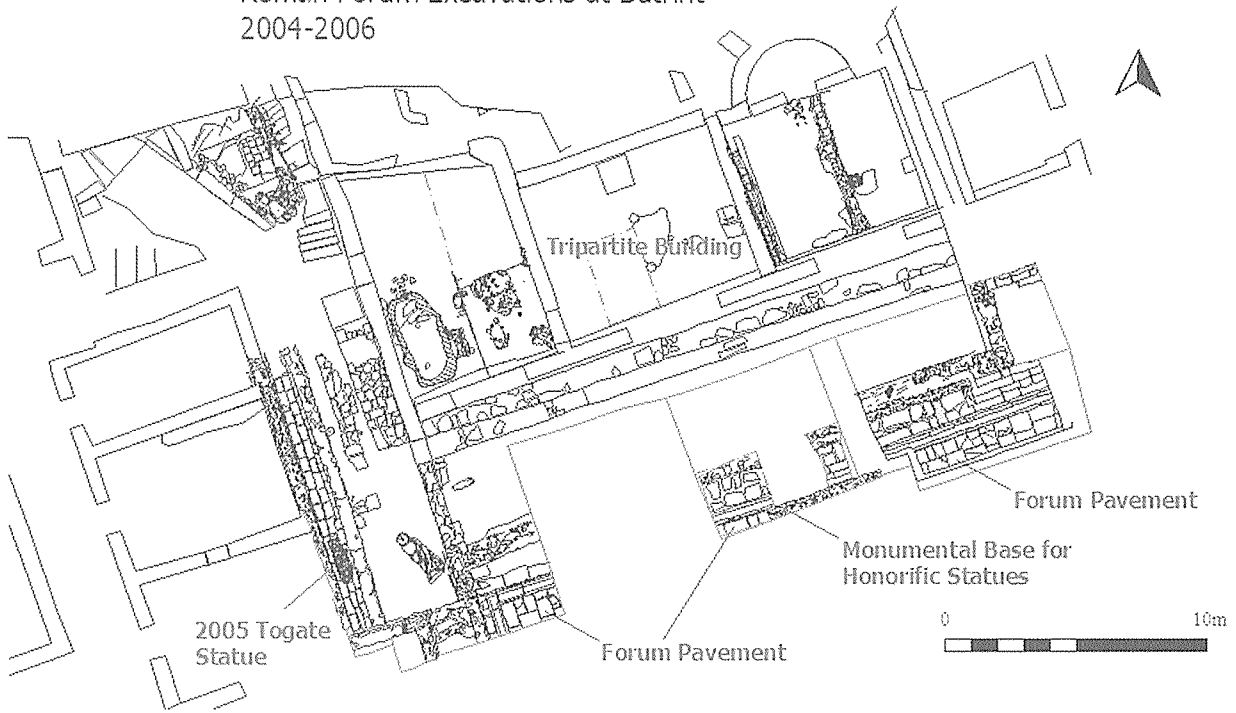


Fig. 5. Plan of the Roman Forum at Butrint.



Fig. 6. Forum Pavement at Butrint.

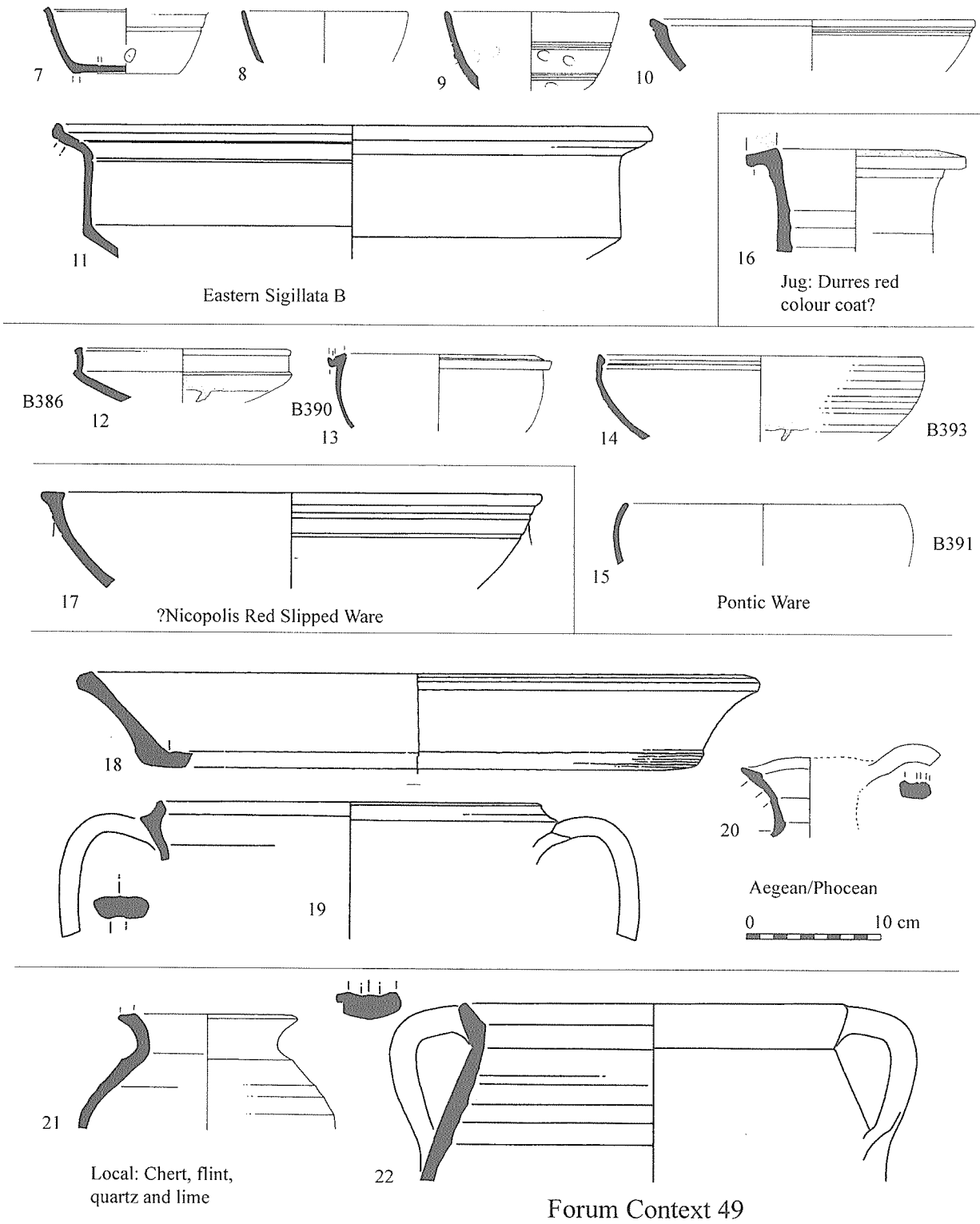


Fig. 7. Forum, Context 49 (late 1st [or early 2nd] century). Fine wares and kitchen wares.

far East as Zeugma-on-the-Euphrates, where they are attested even later in the sack deposits of AD 253.⁶ As at Zeugma, the amphorae would have arrived with the late examples of Pompeian Red Ware that are not uncommon in the deposit;⁷ **fig. 18,80–81**).

A single Lusitanian *garum* amphorae is present (**fig. 15,58**), as well as a few coastal Central Tunisian fish sauce amphorae (**fig. 16,59; 17,65–66**). Another smaller Portuguese fish amphora was recovered from Context 26 (**fig. 17,64**). Beirut received considerably more fish imports of both Lusitanian and Baetican origin than did Butrint during the first half of the 3rd century, but did not import Campanian wine.

Cretan amphorae are by far the most easily recognisable and common imports in both context 26 and 98, with their convex band rims, tronco-conical necks and arched strap handles (known as Zemer's type 57)⁸ (**fig. 16,60**). These comprise at least 42.9% of the amphorae in Context 26. The wide range of fabrics and variants of this type found abundantly in Butrint illustrate the possible range of Cretan fabrics beyond the well-fired pale salmon fabric more well known for the exported Cretoise 2 (**fig. 17,71–72**; cf. **fig. 19** from the Albanian excavations in the forum area during the 1970s). Brindisi was another major market for Cretan amphorae in this period (AURIEMMA/QUIRI 2004). Note that though Beirut regularly imported North Italian amphorae in the first half of the third century, Cretan amphorae are very rare. Cretan amphorae are notably rarer in Durres than in Butrint (REYNOLDS 2003).

In Butrint second in importance as imports is a wide range of 'table amphorae' probably from south-eastern Italy. In contrast to Durres and Beirut, where north Italian Forlimpopoli and Empoli amphorae are the most common Italian imports, these are perhaps rarer in Butrint (REYNOLDS 2003). More typical are forms with tronco-conical necks, everted rims and ribbed handles (**fig. 16,61–62; 17,67–70**). These were supplied equally to the settlement on the Vrina Plain. There are indeed a bewildering number of forms and fabrics, some of which must surely be Apulian. These, as the Cretan amphorae, would have contained wine (examples found at the villa of Diaporit were lined with pitch). It is worth noting here that local amphorae are only a rare feature of Butrint's economy in the Republican period and in the late 5th to 6th centuries (**fig. 20**).

An elegant Dr 2–4 in a micaceous Samian fabric is a rare precursor to the much more common trading links with the island and environs in the 5th and 6th centuries (**fig. 16,63**). A Dressel 24 in a similar micaceous fabric (**fig. 17,73**) is from a similar regional source (but is not Samian). The Aegean (or perhaps Black Sea?) Kapitän 2 is common in both deposits (**fig. 17,74**) (at least 3.4% of the amphorae of Context 26).

Cooking wares (**fig. 18,75–83**)

Local grooved rim chert fabric cooking pots abound in both 3rd century deposits (49.1% of the Minimum Number of Vessels [MNV] of the kitchen wares in Context 26) (**fig. 18,75**). Phoecea, as in the early Imperial period, supplied a

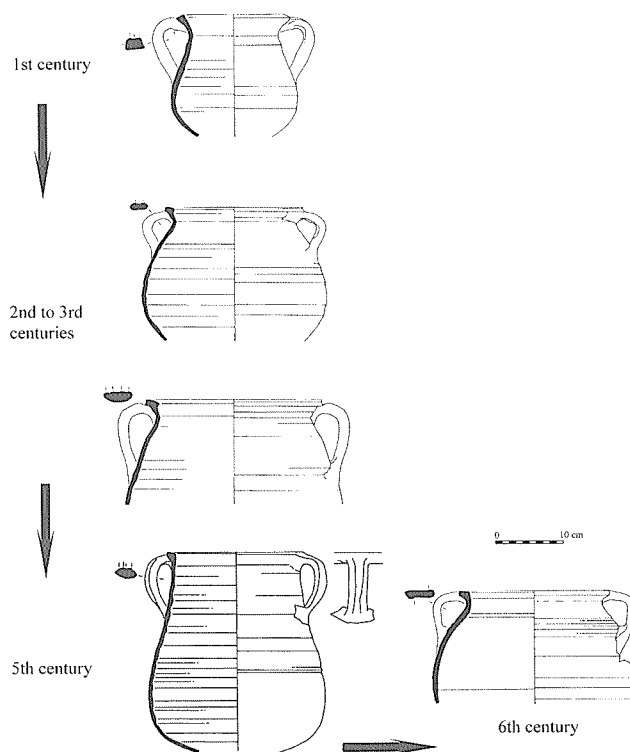


Fig. 8. 'Linear' development of a local cooking shape, 1st to 6th centuries.

significant share of the kitchen ware imports (at least 27.1% of the MNV of total kitchen wares in Context 26), comprising the usual baking dishes and related forms (**fig. 18,78–79**). The widely-traded, thin-walled, brittle cooking pots of Aegean manufacture, perhaps also Phocian, are not uncommon, but are perhaps more common in Durres, where another classic form was additionally imported (**fig. 18,76–77**; Reynolds 2003 fig. 62). Occasional finds of late examples of Pompeian Red Ware dishes and lids would have accompanied the Campanian amphorae (**fig. 18,80–81**: 5% of the MNV of total kitchen wares in Context 26). Similarly, a few Tunisian ARS cooking pots and baking dishes accompanied the Tunisian amphorae (**fig. 18,82–83**: over 13% of the total MNV kitchen wares in Context 26). A single example of a Tunisian *mortarium*, in this case bearing painted decoration on its wide convex rim, occurred in Context 98 (not illustrated). The rarity of Tunisian *mortaria* in Butrint assemblages is a constant feature through the early to late Roman periods.⁹

⁶ P. REYNOLDS, Transport amphorae of the 1st to 7th centuries: early Roman to Byzantine periods. In: W. Aylward (ed.), *Zeugma 2000: Rescue Excavations* (Los Altos, forthcoming).

⁷ P.M. KENRICK, Pottery other than transport amphorae. In: *Ibid.*

⁸ A. ZEMER, Storage jars in ancient sea trade (Haifa 1977).

⁹ P. REYNOLDS, The Roman pottery from the Triconch Palace; The Medieval amphorae; Appendix 1. Catalogue of Roman ceramics and selected medieval pottery from Butrint 1994–99. In: R. Hodges/W. Bowden/K. Lako, *Byzantine Butrint. Excavations and Surveys 1994–99* (Oxford 2004) 224–277, 327–395.

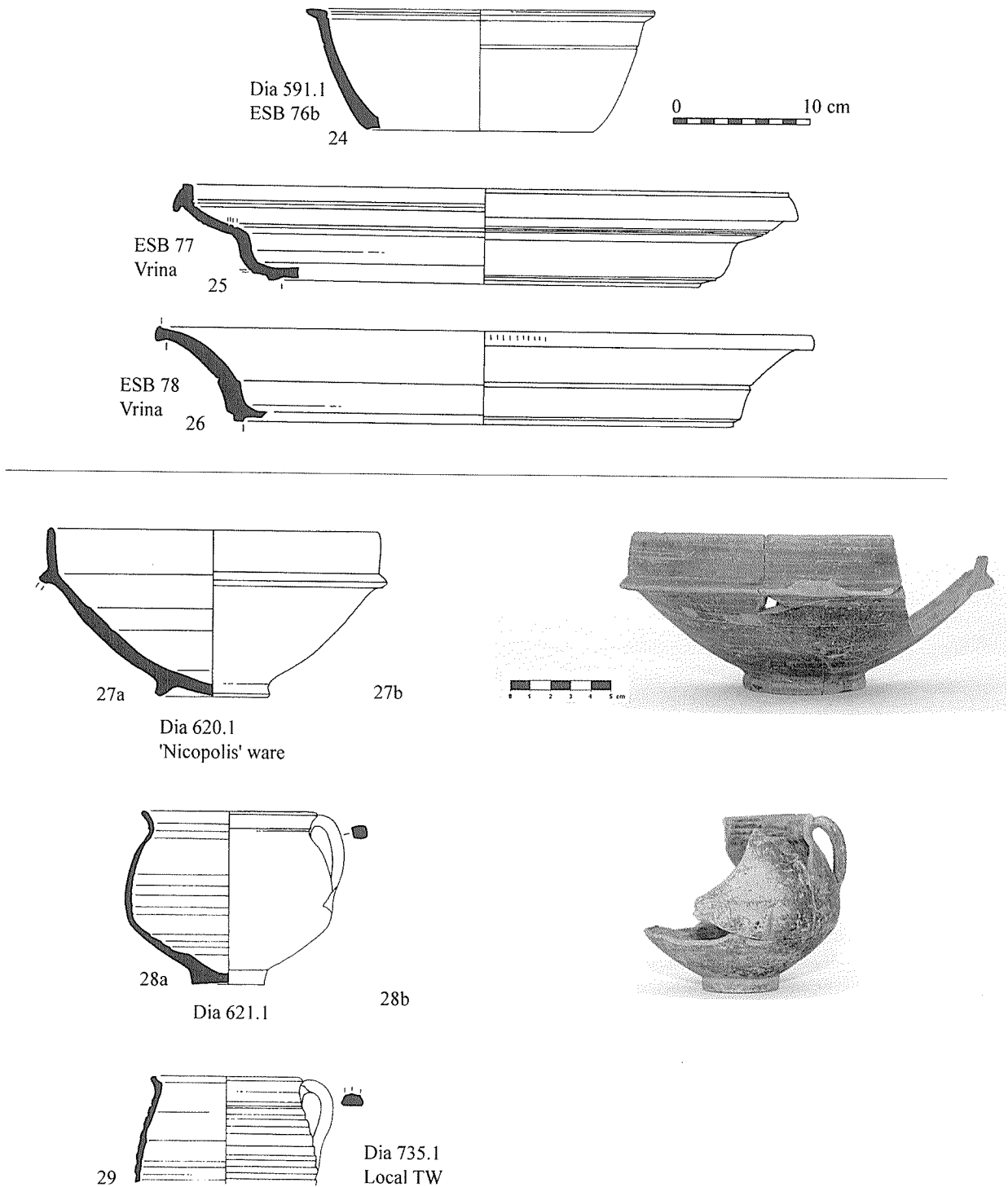


Fig. 9. Second century fine wares from Butrint (Vrina Plain and Diaporit).

Both Butrint and Durres were similarly supplied with a good number of the standard Tunisian ARS casseroles, deep cooking pots and dishes in this period (ARS 23, 26, 197 with their corresponding lids; REYNOLDS 2003). Whereas Beirut imported a similar range, though smaller number of Tunisian products, Aegean cooking wares were not sent that direction but, as indicated by Knossos, Butrint and Durres, headed for the two separate markets of the Adriatic and southern Italy, and, from thence, southern Gaul: a ship con-

taining these has been excavated in the harbour of Marseille (BONIFAY/CARRE/RIGOR 1998): they are not a feature of south-eastern Spain or, perhaps, Carthage or north-eastern Spain. They are common in Benghazi, perhaps being redistributed there through Crete.¹⁰

¹⁰ J.A. RILEY, The coarse pottery from Berenice. In: J.A. Lloyd (ed.), Excavations at Sidi Khrebish, Benghazi (Berenice) 2. *Libya Antiqua* 5 Suppl. (Tripoli 1979) 91–467.

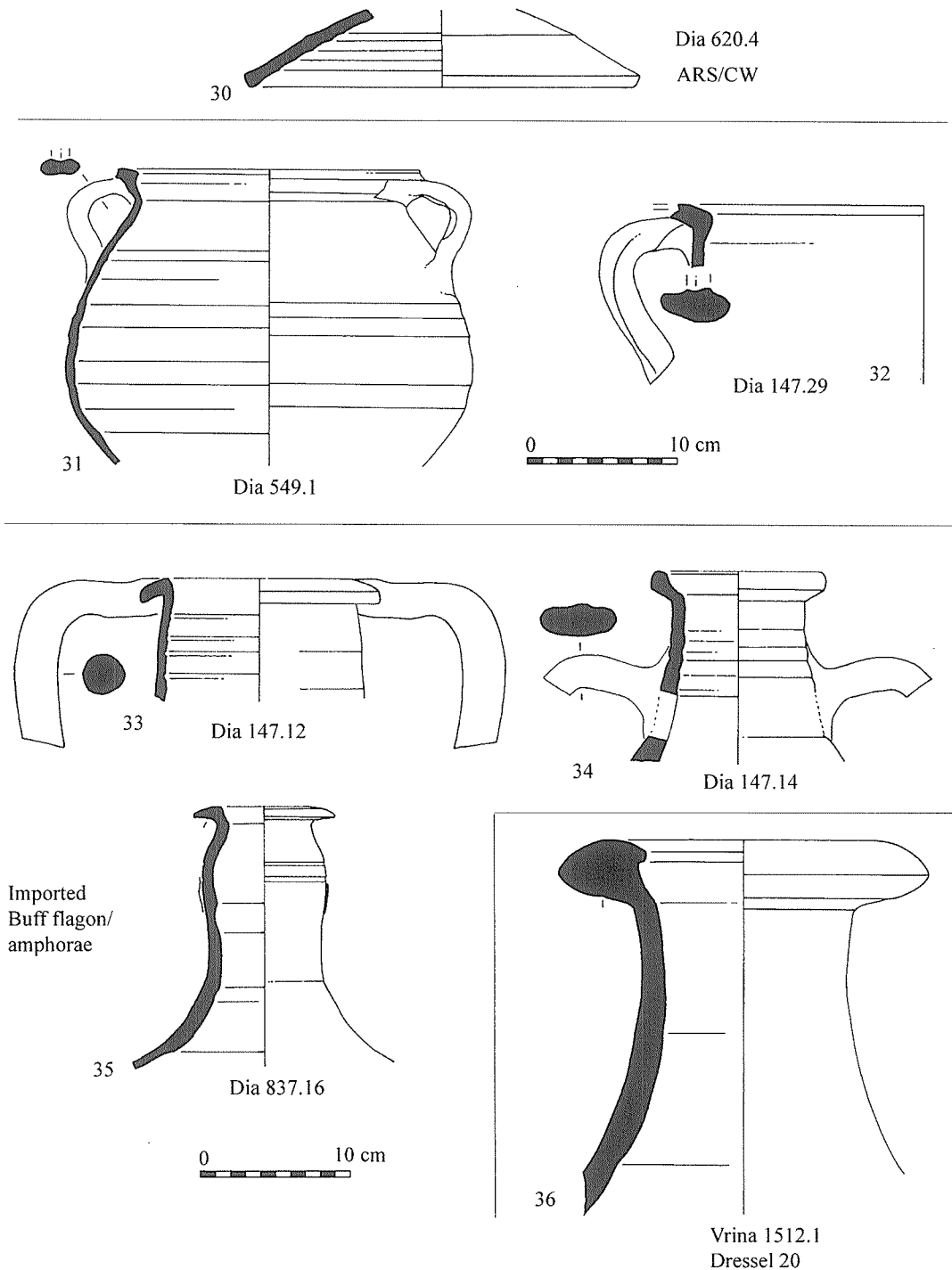


Fig. 10. Second century kitchen wares and amphorae from Butrint (Vrina Plain and Diaporit).

4. Conclusions

As can be gathered from this short overview, the range of imports found in Butrint during the first to third centuries attains greater significance once compared to those of specific western and eastern ports: Durres to the north, Brindisi, Marseille, Knossos, Corinth, Athens and Beirut.

Whereas Durres differs from Butrint in the range of its Italian amphorae, perhaps looking more northwards, and commands a greater proportion of Aegean cooking wares, the pattern of Tunisian exports is similar. Butrint in the 3rd

century not unexpectedly shares some of the repertoire of Brindisi, particularly the supply of Cretan products (amphorae; table wares?). The range and quantity of Aegean amphorae in this period, however, seems greater in Brindisi. Black Sea amphorae, perhaps containing fish products, are major imports at Brindisi and Beirut in the 3rd century, but are notably absent in both Butrint and Durres. Butrint and Durres missed out equally on the eastward trade of Spanish and Portuguese *garum* that passed through Crete en route for the Levant in the 1st to 3rd centuries. One may say tentatively at this stage, from the examples of 3rd century Keay



Fig. 11. Roman Togate Statue in situ (mid/late 2nd century), Roman Forum Excavations at Butrint.



Fig. 12. Roman Togate Statue (mid/late 2nd century), Roman Forum Excavations at Butrint.

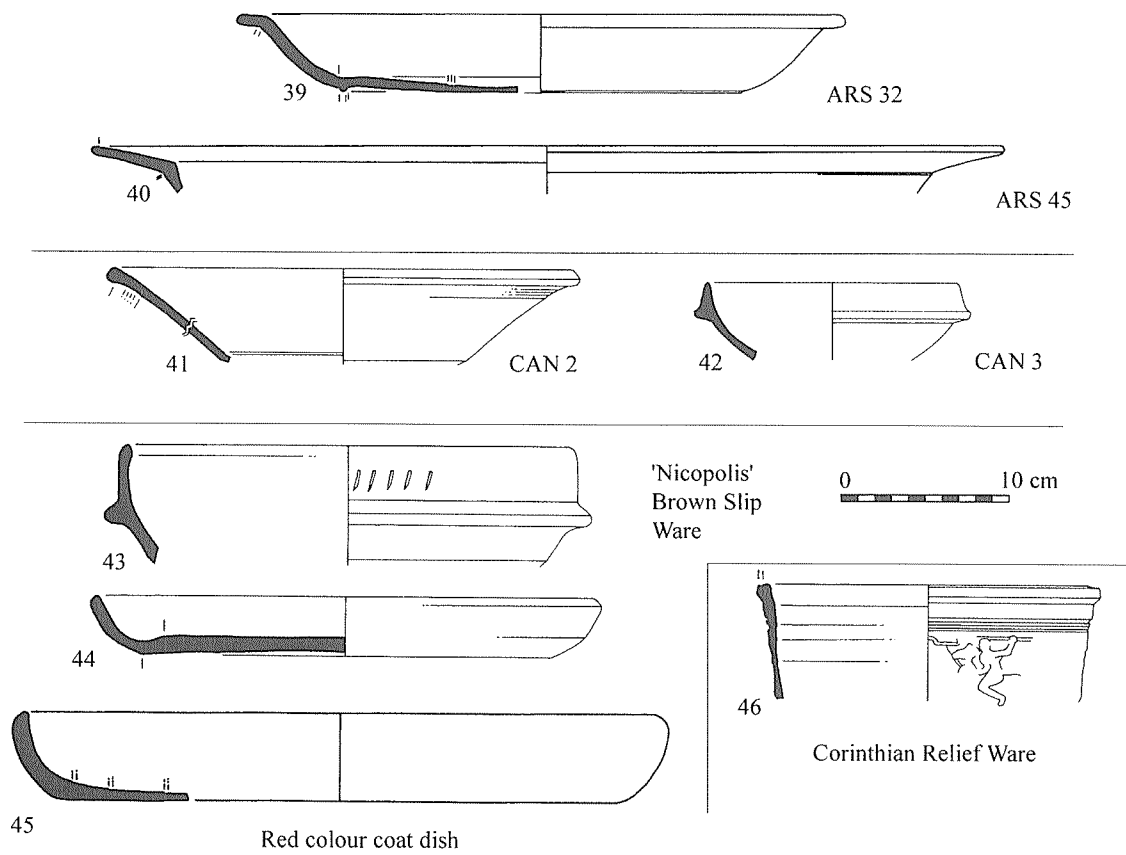


Fig. 13. Forum, Context 26 (mid 3rd century). Fine wares.

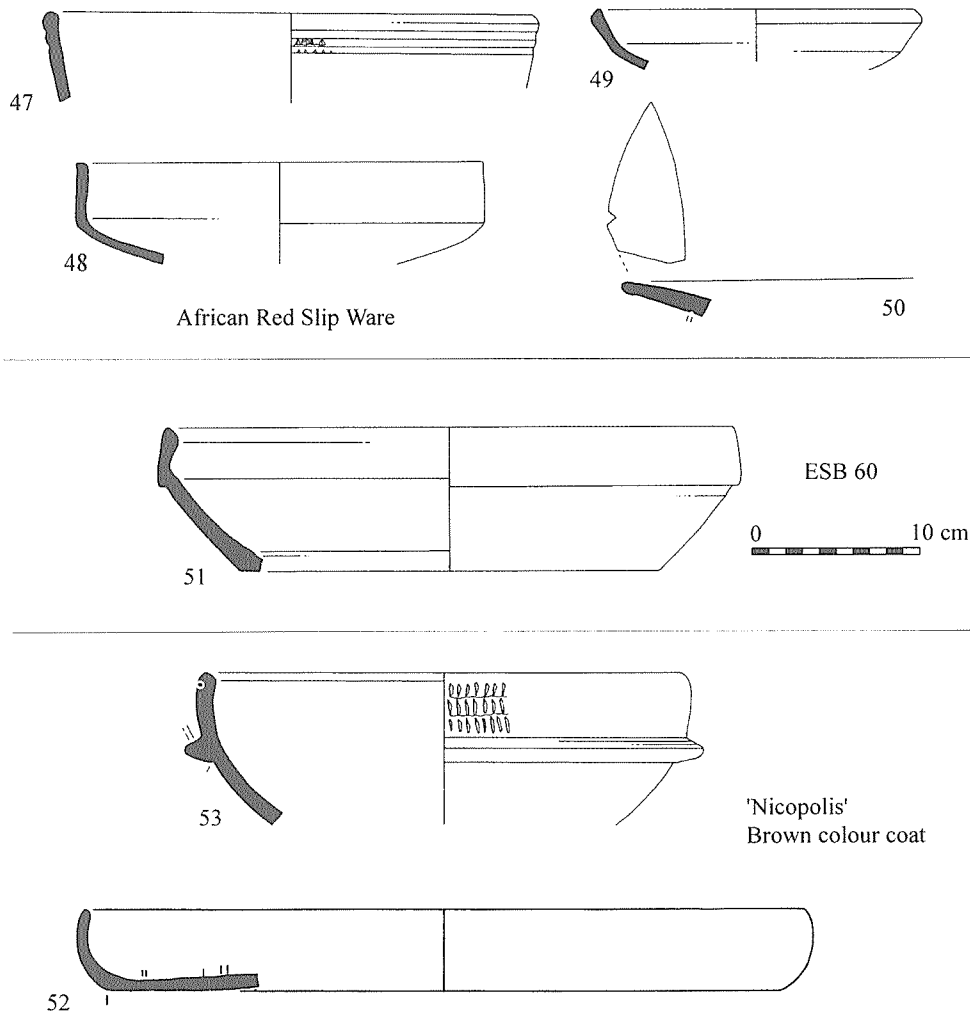


Fig. 14. Forum, Context 98 (mid 3rd century). Fine wares.

16 amphorae on display in the Agora stores, that Athens did manage to capture part of that Spanish market.

The trade in east Cilician wine carried in the Pompeii 5 and Dressel 2–4 (probably equivalent to Knossos Type A 53: Hayes 1983), as well as fruit in the east Cilician Agora G 198 and M 54 amphorae is a major feature in Athens during the 1st to 3rd centuries, some of this trade travelling further west to Pozzuoli-Pompeii, via Brindisi (AURIEMMA/QUIRI 2005, 47–48), with another supply travelling to Cyprus, Beirut and on to Egypt (Alexandria and Berenike).¹¹ Butrint and Durres, in contrast are scarcely touched by this traffic in Cilician goods.

The rarity of Spanish amphorae can be contrasted with their abundance at Verona and Aquileia, in the latter case a mark of its status as central port for the military *annona* to the northern Adriatic and Danube.¹² Spanish fish sauce amphorae (not Dressel 20s) seem not uncommon in Knossos, and distant Beirut, further to the East, was a major market for Spanish and Portuguese fish sauce during the 1st and 2nd centuries. Butrint, in contrast, did not foster the same commercial ties with *Hispania*, or was too far off the eastern trajectory of this commerce.¹³ The presence of even occasional Dressel 20 amphorae at Butrint, given the paucity of

Spanish imports, however, may reflect its ability to occasionally tap the flow of Baetican oil exports to the northern Adriatic. Details of the supply of Spanish amphorae to Brindisi, perhaps key in this respect, are so far unavailable (the rich range and large quantity of imperial period eastern Mediterranean amphorae, on the other hand, have been recently summarized by AURIEMMA/QUIRI 2004).

Butrint, Durres and Beirut share the supply of slipped Phocian baking dishes, but the kettles are absent in Beirut, and Aegean cooking pots are generally rare.

¹¹ P. REYNOLDS, Levantine amphorae from Cilicia to Gaza: a typology and analysis of regional production trends from the 1st to 7th centuries. In: J.M. Gurt i Esparraguerra/J. Buxeda i Garrigós/M.A. Cau Ontiveros (eds.), LRCW I. Late Roman Coarse Wares, Cooking Wares and Amphorae in the Mediterranean: Archaeology and Archaeometry (Conference papers held at Barcelona, 14–16th March 2002). BAR Internat. Ser. 1340 (Oxford 2005) 563–611.

¹² C. GONZÁLEZ ET AL, L'importazione del garum ibérico a Verona. In: Congreso Internacional «Ex Baetica Amphorae», Sevilla-Écija, December 1998 (Écija 2000) 837–852.

¹³ For an overview of Iberian exports in the Mediterranean, see P. REYNOLDS, Hispania in the late Roman Mediterranean: ceramics and trade. In: K. Bowes/M. Kulikowski (eds.), Hispania in Late Antiquity. Current perspectives (Leiden, Boston 2005) 369–486.

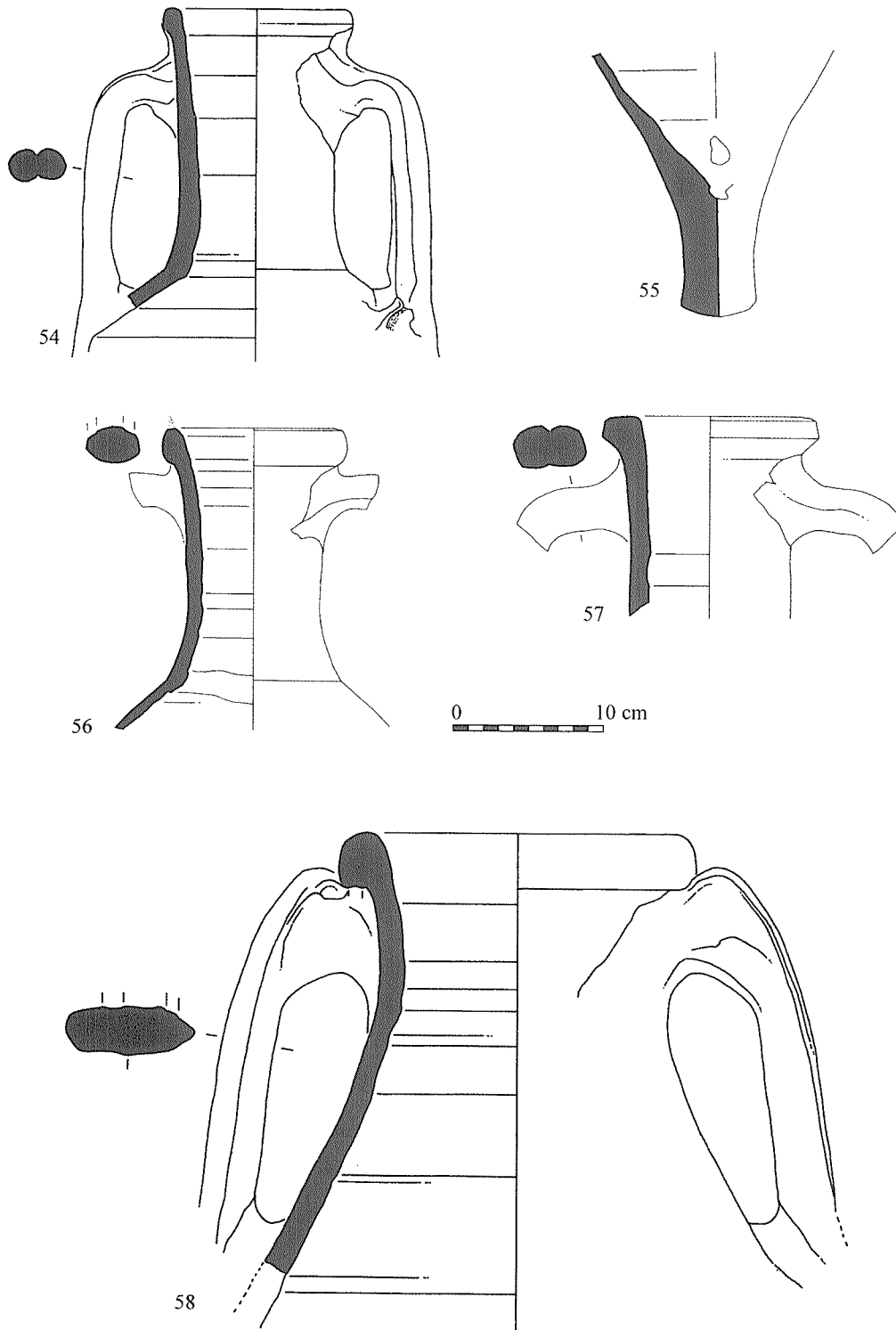


Fig. 15. Forum, Context 98 (mid 3rd century). Imported amphorae.

The chert fabric cooking pots and other products that demonstrate a wide range of forms and continuity of development in Butrint are less common in Durres, where the forms are restricted to the ‘classic’ grooved rim cooking pot that was more generally traded (to Corfu and Apulia). Equally significant is that chert wares are not evident in Butrint until the 1st century AD. They are absent in the re-

cently excavated Hellenistic 2nd to 1st century BC sequences excavated in the Forum. This may be taken as further evidence for the Epirote-Butrint and not Corfiot origin of these products: one may hypothesize that they were a local response to the Roman foundation and expanse of settlement in Butrint.

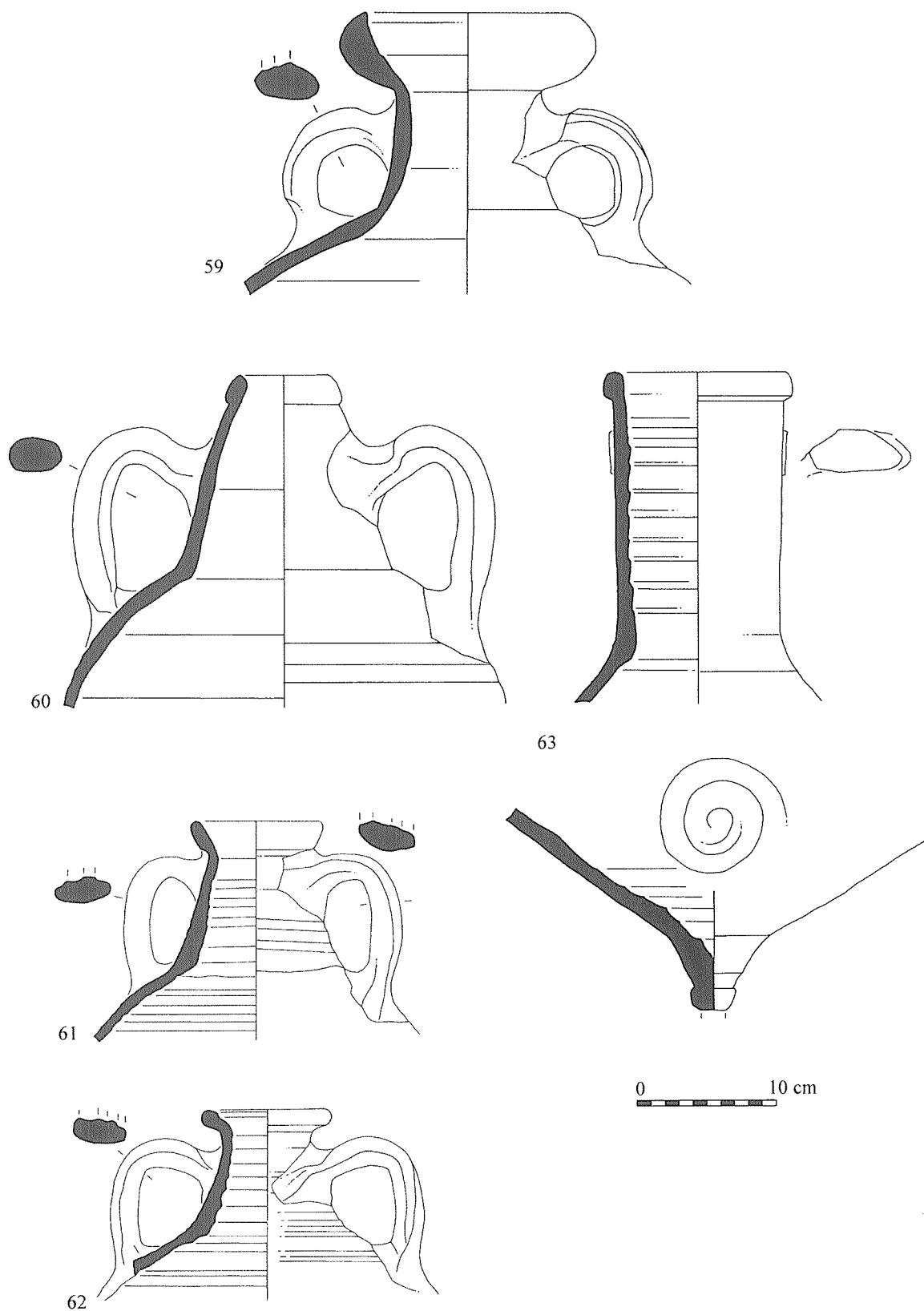


Fig. 16. Forum, Context 98 (mid 3rd century). Imported amphorae.

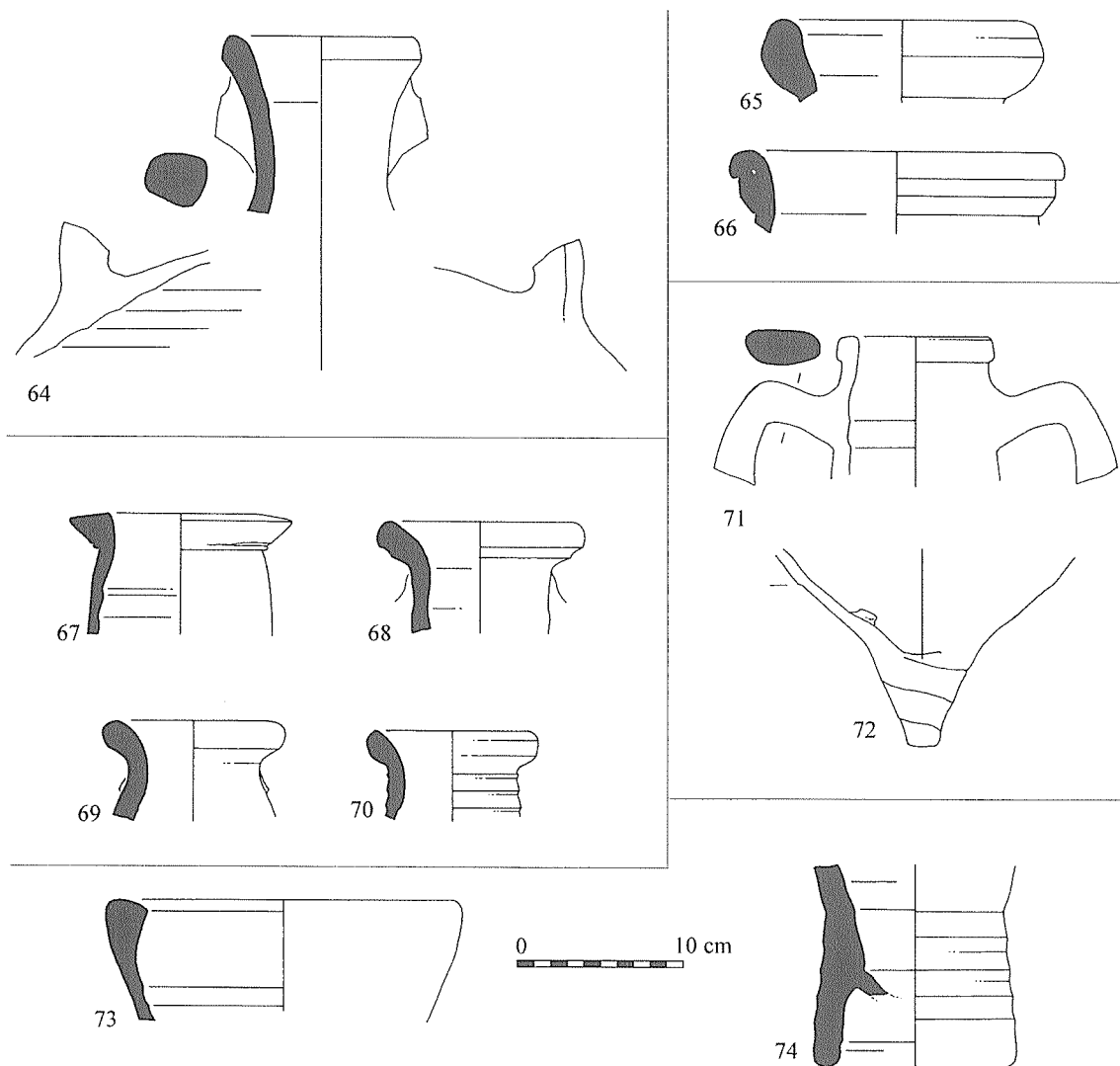


Fig. 17. Forum, Context 26 (mid 3rd century). Imported amphorae.

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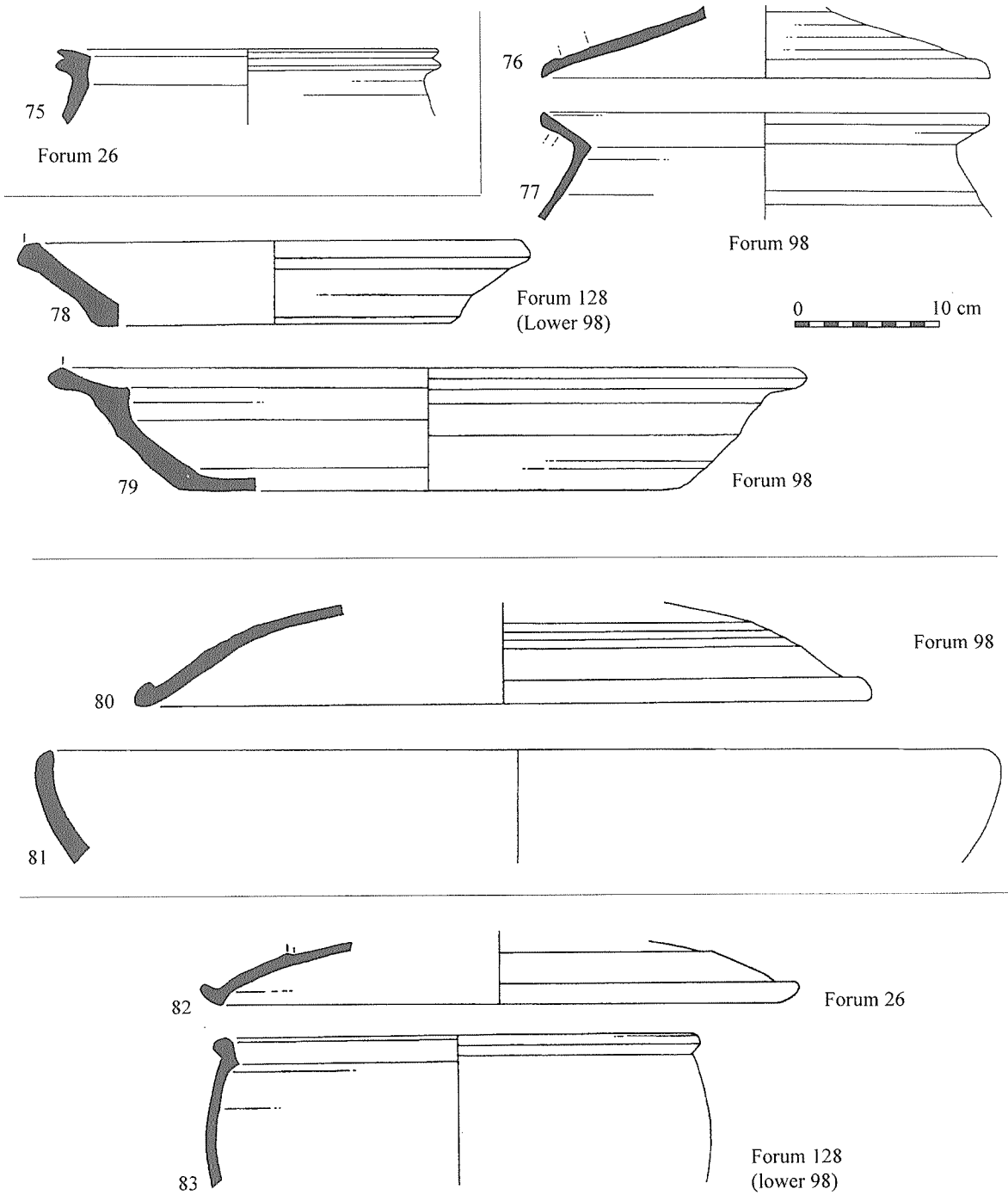


Fig. 18. Forum, Contexts 26, 98 and 128 (lower level of context 98). Kitchen wares.



Fig. 19. Third century Cretan and Italian amphorae from Albanian excavations of the 1970s in Butrint.

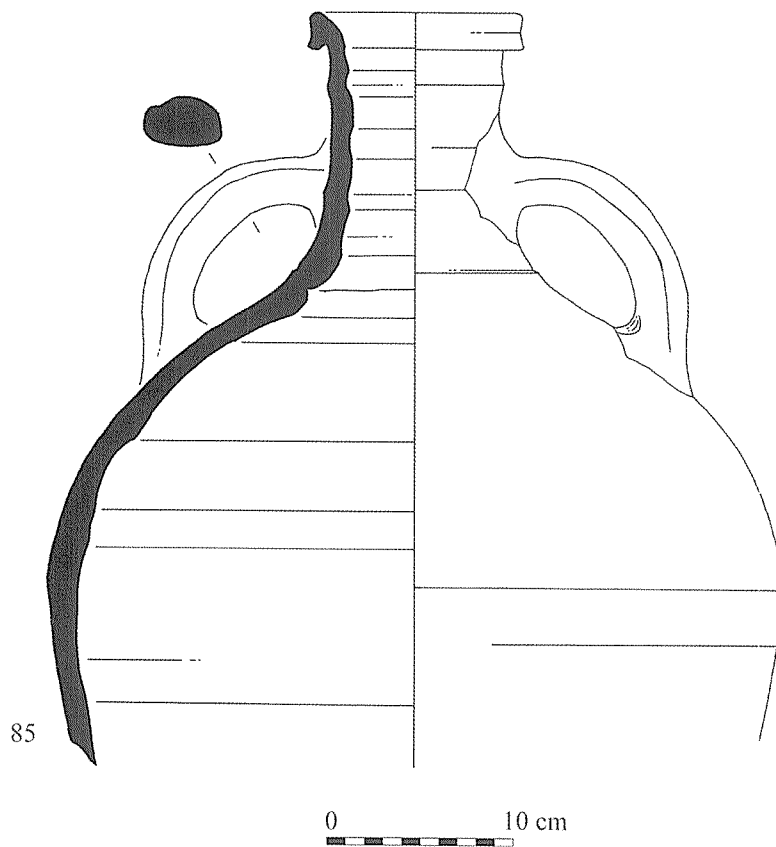


Fig. 20. Local (chert fabric) early 6th century amphora, from Diaporit.