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The Role of the River Pyramos in East Plain Cilicia in Shaping the Settlement Pattern

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Riverine and land transport play a vital role in the foundation and development of settlements. East Plain Cilicia, namely Yukarı Çukurova, is a convenient place for founding settlements, and plays a strategic role in the exchange of culture and goods, being the junction of major land routes and having a major waterway, the River Pyramos/Ceyhan. Two major land routes, one, proceeding from the northwest in the Central Anatolia Plain, climbs the Taurus mountain range, passing through the Cilician Gates, and advances to the plain. The second land route proceeds from the east, in the Euphrates region, climbs the Amanus Mountain range, passing through the Arslanlı Bell Pass, and merges with the former route at the junction in the East Plains of Cilicia. The merged land route proceeds to the south via Kısık Pass to reach the shores of the eastern Mediterranean Sea, then advances to North Syria, connecting Cilicia with the Levant. The River Pyramos runs down gorges of the east Taurus mountain range and meanders smoothly in the plain, both irrigating the land and carrying people and the goods to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. The present study aims to emphasize the significance of the River Pyramos and its many tributaries while irrigating the plain, also functions as a venue for riverine transport and supports the flourishment and development of the settlements in the East Plain/ Yukarı Çukurova.

Introduction

Osmaniye Archaeological Survey project covered both uplands and plains of the Osmaniye Province in East Plain Cilicia, employing extensive and intensive examination focused on all kinds of settlements without geographical and chronological separation; recovering more than 200 sites varying from prehistoric mounds to Classical settlements, towns, and villages, Late Antique farmsteads, as well as fortified and unfortified settlements. Almost all of these settlements were either situated by the River Pyramos /Prunna (today the Ceyhan River) or by its tributaries or along with the major military and trade land route that crossed the plain in an east-west direction, or on dirt tracks that crossed the rugged terrain in a north-south direction. The present study chose prehistoric mounds that yielded diagnostic pottery dating from the Neolithic period to the Iron Age representing the chronological sequence of the settlement history in Upper Plain Cilicia to focus on their proximity to water sources.[1] The diagnostic pottery demonstrates that sites by water sources were convenient to be inhabited for long terms and even with hiatus several times.

The natural setting

East Plain Cilicia, skirting the Taurus and Amanus Mountain ranges, would have been a remote and desolate corner of the large Aeolian Plain if it were not a major junction of military and trade land routes and waterways like the River Pyramos and its tributaries enabling riverine travel. The River Pyramos is the source of life in the East Plain, stimulating economy and connectivity but also beautifying the idyllic landscape with its picturesque scenery invoking poetic inspirations and myths, enriching cultural life since ancient times. Myths and personifications of the river are so deeply embedded in the social life of Cilicia that ancient cities of the Upper Plain like Anazarbos, Flaviapolis, İrenepolis-Neronias, and Hierapolis-Castabala struck coins bearing the image of Pyramos considered as a River God (Ziegler 1993: 118). The river becomes a resource for mythological rhetoric personification as *Pyramos* is an antagonist of a love story with *Thisbe.*

The River Pyramos, born from highlands of the Taurus mountain range as a creek, merges at the Plain with substantial creeks and streams of both the Taurus and Amanus mountain ranges like Sabun, Hamus, Yarpuz, Savrun, Kesik, Sumbas, and Karaçay to become a majestic River. The river merges with the Sabun Stream by the northeastern edges of the Amanus mountain range and flows southwards, encircling the ancient city of Hierapolis Castabala from northeast to south, then successively merges with the Hamus and Yarpuz streams becoming a huge body of water, from time to time flooding its banks. The river meanders again northwards making a deep sinus in a northwest direction delineating the chora (town) of the Hierapolis- Castabala and then crosses Upper Plain Cilicia westwards. Thus, the River divides the Upper Plain into northern and southern halves. The Sumbas stream which has already merged with the Kesik and

[1] A full evaluation coverage of the entire mounds regarding land use and chronology of the pottery is getting prepared, as well.

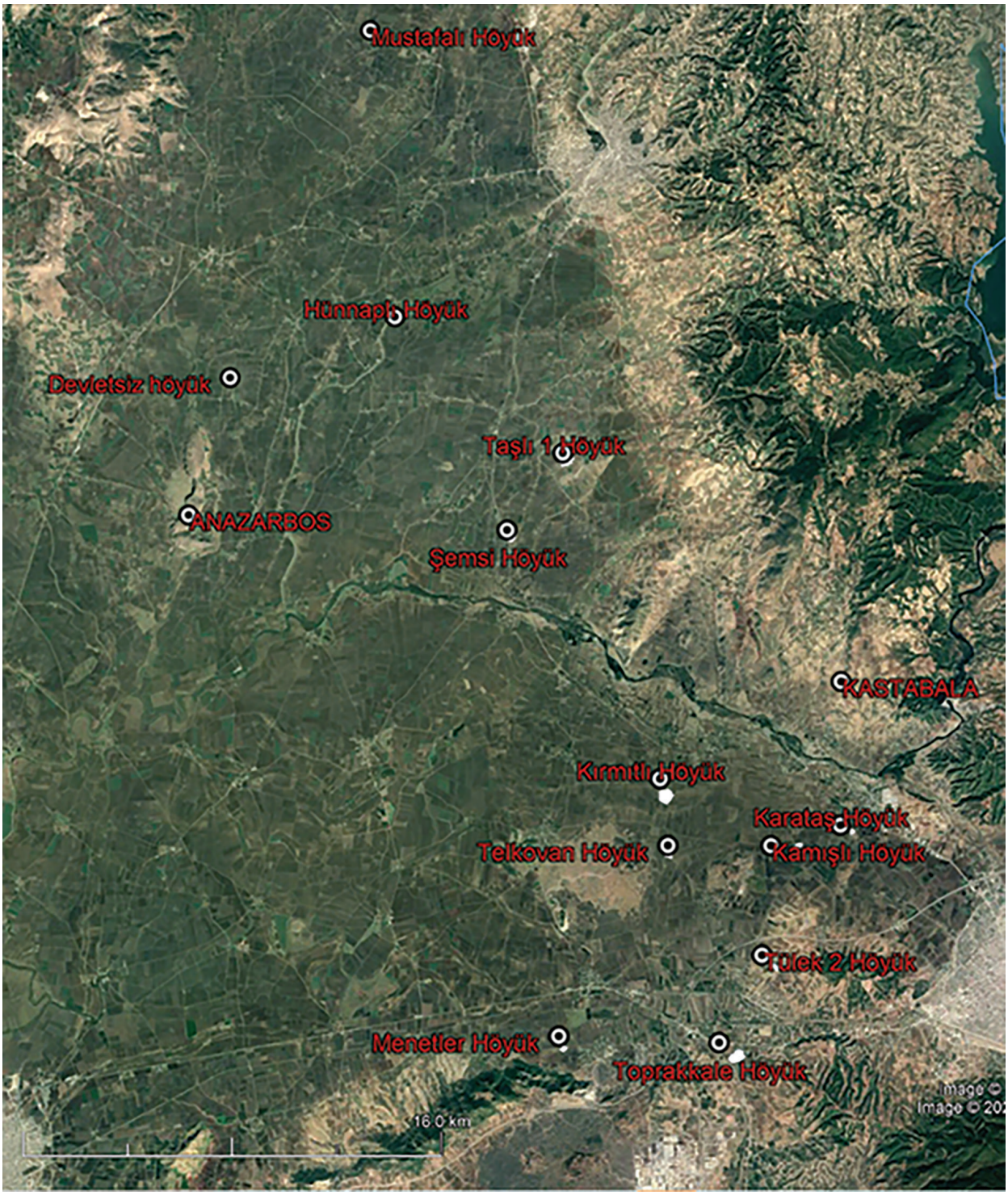


Figure 1. Osmaniye Archaeological Survey recorded mounds examined in the text.

Savrun streams merges with the river at the north of the Anazarbos Crag, and the river runs along the east side of the Crag southwards to merge with its final tributary, the Karaçay. The Karaçay Stream, born from the central peaks of the Amanus mountain range, Zorkun, and Yarpuz highlands, runs straight westward at the very southern edge of the plain, southeast of the modern town of Osmaniye, following the northern edge of Delil Halil Basalt Formation, and some limestone/caliche ridges. The Karaçay stream crossing the southern fringes of the plain westwards passes by north of Toprakkale and Menetler mounds, and eventually merges with the River Pyramos north of the modern town of Ceyhan, before it runs along the south side of

the Sirkeli mound to its final destination, embracing the Mediterranean Sea. Karaçay is the only tributary of the River Pyramos recorded in historical texts since its forking branch by north of the Toprakkale mound rapidly flows southwards through a narrow basalt canyon of the Kısık Pass to reach the Mediterranean Sea, where Gertrude Bell crossed the flooding Karaçay stream on Camelback (Bell 1906: 4).

The River Pyramos defines the present-day border between Osmaniye and Adana Provinces while running along the east side of the Anazarbos Crag as the west border of the Upper Plain. In the past, the River with its tributaries was not only a natural boundary but also was a venue of connectivity. Ancient settlements in the Plain were accessible via riverine sailing from the Mediterranean Sea (Strabo XII.4; Pseudo- Skylax 102). The River was not only a waterway for travel but also a venue to dispatch commodities produced in the well-irrigated fertile plain to the Mediterranean Sea. The River stimulated regional and interregional maritime trade of the commodities of its hinterland via riverine transport to the harbors along the Gulf of Issos and the Mediterranean shores.

Archaeological settlement patterns:

Since prehistoric times, people chose to settle at sites on arable land with a source of water, commutable, and defensible. The fertile plain of Cilicia, irrigated with numerous streams and navigable rivers, and secluded by mountains must have been a perfect place to settle. The recorded prehistoric mounds number over 50 in East Plain Cilicia (Osmaniye Province). In addition, fields containing settlement debris that yield Prehistoric and pre-Classical pottery are numerous such as the "Taşlı Höyük 3", "Kamışlı Höyük mevkii" and "field of Şeker Ali".[2] Significantly, those named "höyük mevkii" are sites of what were once proper mounds, which locals are now tilling as flat fields containing a plethora of potsherds on the surface. Otherwise, it would be inconceivable to have such a small list of prehistoric mounds in such a well-irrigated, and vast fertile plain compared to the neighboring plains where there are hundreds of them, for example, the western half of Plain Cilicia and the Amuq Plain. All of the recorded mounds, even those with gently rising slopes in a conical shape, are subject to heavy tilling and are gradually getting smaller and flatter.

[2] The field of Ali Şeker is probably the mound number 86, Eşkiler, and the Taşlı 3 probably is the mound number 142, Taşlı of the Seton-Williams (Seton-Williams 1951, 154, 170). Osmaniye Archaeological Survey Project, undertaken by the present author, documented the prehistoric settlements at Osmaniye Province conducting intensive and extensive archaeological surveys both on the Upper Plain and the highlands of the Amanus and Taurus Mountain Range since the year 2005. (Tülek 2007a, 51; Tülek 2007b, 64–66; Tülek 2009, 9; Tülek 2010, 44; Tülek 2012, 33- 37)

The prehistoric mounds of the Upper Plain are detected, usually by a water source. At least two or three of them are in various sizes together. Presumably, they are interconnected and form a community that shares a common culture. They tilled and irrigated the land, dispatched commodities, and received goods via riverine trade. Quantity and the scale of the mounds might represent a hierarchical order between them if inhabited at the same period. The scale might also be relevant to the period of the habitants.

The present examination covers only twelve mounds with significant pottery that provide dating from the Early Neolithic period to the Iron Age. These mounds are Devletsiz, Hünnaplı, Kamışlı, Karataşlı, Kırmıtlı, Menetler, Mustafalı, Şems, Taşlı 1, Telkovan, Toprakkale, and Tülek 2 (Figure 1). The distance between the mounds, water sources, and arable land is significant to reveal their accessibility to resources, possibly their interdependence, and hierarchy in relation to each other.

Among the twelve mounds, Mustafalı is at the north, and Menetler is at the south of the Plain ±41 km straight distance, and Devletsiz is some 600 meters east of Sumbas stream, slightly at the northeast of the Anazarbos Crag. The River Pyramos meanders drawing a sinus from south to north then to the west, which also defines the present-day official boundaries of Osmaniye and Adana Provinces separating the southwest part of the Plain and leaving east and northeast of the Plain to the Osmaniye Province, namely the Upper Plain of East Cilicia. Thus, the archaeologically surveyed area is divided by the River Pyramos into north and south halves (Figure 2). Devletsiz, Hünnaplı, Mustafalı, Şems, and Taşlı 1 mounds are at the northern half of the Upper Plain, and Kamışlı, Karataşlı, Kırmıtlı, Menetler, Telkovan, Toprakkale, and Tülek 2 are at the southern half (Figure 3).

Mustafalı mound is flanked on the east and west sides by Kesik stream and Taşlıhöyük creek which are born at northern highlands of Taurus mountain range and run down by one of the northernmost prehistoric mounds of the region, the Taşlı 2. The Mustafalı mound is ±8 m high covering 70 ha, and two smaller mounds are at its east and southeast in ±1 and ±1.5 distance. The closest mound equivalent in size to the Mustafalı is the Kızılömerli mound, 2.5 km to the east and on the Kesik stream. Pottery of Chalcolithic, Early Bronze Age, local painted pottery of the 2nd millennium BC, Hittite, Middle, and Late Iron Age are among the finds. Hittite and Local Painted pottery examples of the Mustafalı are examined in the present study.

Hünnaplı mound is ± 11 km south of the Mustafalı mound and situated on the east bank of the Savrun stream. Similar to the shape of the Mustafalı mound, Hünnaplı

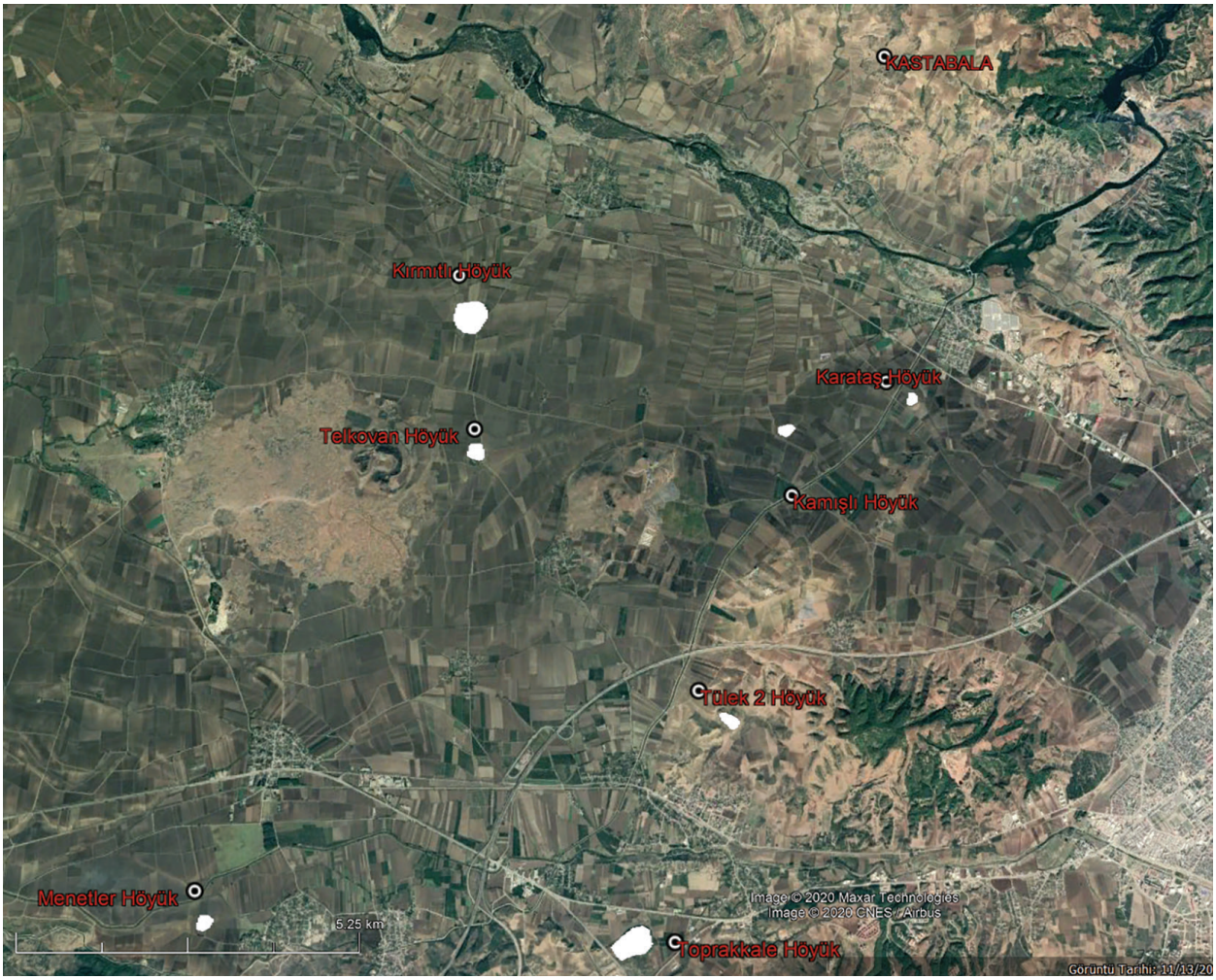


Figure 2. Mounds at north of the Upper Plain.

rises gently in a conical shape, 6 m high but smaller in area, measuring ± 41 ha. Pottery of Late Chalcolithic, Early Bronze Age and 2nd millennium BC, Hittite, Late Iron Age, and Hellenistic are among the finds. A neighboring mound Karahöyük is low and small on the east bank of the Savrun stream and is ±1.8 km northeast of the Hünnaplı, where pottery of 3rd and 2nd millennium BC as well as fine black glazed early Hellenistic, Roman, and Medieval periods are found on the surface.

Devletsiz mound is ±7 km south-southwest of the Hünnaplı mound and ±2 km north northeast of the Anazarbos Crag. It is ±1.4 km from the east bank of the Sumbas stream/ River Pyramos and ±3km west of the other major tributary of the River Pyramos, the Savrun stream. It is a low mound, not more than ±3 m in height, and measures ±37 ha. There are at least two more mounds at its south and southwest, smaller in area, at ±1.7 and ±3 km distant. Pottery of the Neolithic, 3rd and 2nd millennium BC and late Iron Age periods are among the finds.

Taşlı 1 mound is ±8km southeast of the Hünnaplı mound and ±2.5 km east of the Osmaniye- Kadirli road. It is one of the large mounds of Upper Plain Cilicia, ±158 ha in area, and ±10 m high. The mound is ±5.5 km northeast of the bank of the River Pyramos but is also irrigated by Karpuz and Yarımortak creeks at its southeast side. It is ±3 km north of the Şems mound, and ± 4km west of it is the mound Çatal. Pottery of the Chalcolithic, Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, the Neo-Assyrian, and Eastern Sigillata A of the Roman Imperial, and Medieval periods are among the finds.

Şemsi mound, on the east bank of the Osmaniye- Kadirli road, is a large but low mound, ±5 m high and ±83 ha. in area. It is 2.5 km from the north bank of the River Pyramos, and its arable land is irrigated both by the Karpuz and Yarımortak creeks at the north and Taşlık creek at the south. Pottery of Neolithic, Chalcolithic, Early Bronze Age, painted Iron Age, East Sigillata A, Late Roman Red Slipped, and Medieval periods, and obsidian tools and flint scraps are among the finds.



Figure 3. Mounds at southeast of the Upper Plain.

Mounds of the southern half of the Plain are close to the south bank of the River Pyramos, such as Kamışlı, Karataşlı, Kırmıtlı, and Telkovan, whereas some are along the Karaçay Stream such as Toprakkale, and Tülek 2.

Kamışlı mound, in the shape of a saddle, is a large mound, ±40 ha in area and rising ±4 m high in heavy alluvial silt. The River Pyramos is 3 km to the north, and two slim water channels encircle the mound. Material culture and pottery of earlier prehistoric periods such as obsidian tools and flint scraps of the Neolithic period similar to Şems and Devletsiz mounds, and fine pottery of early Bronze Age, Iron Age, fine black glazed potsherds of the Hellenistic period, Eastern Sigillata A of the Roman Imperial period, oil lamps and fine green glazed pottery of the Medieval period are among the finds.

Karataşlı mound is ±1.5 km closer to the River Pyramos, rising high in a half-moon crescent shape. It is ±10 m high and ±52 ha in area. The mound is on a basalt outcrop as the extension of the Deli Halil basalt Formation and is accompanied at the south by a second high basalt outcrop almost identical in shape but yielding no ancient material culture. Pottery of Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, Khabur painted, and after a long hiatus, Hellenistic pottery, such as Megara bowls, oil lamps, and East Sigillata A of the Roman Imperial periods are among the finds.

Kırmıtlı mound is ±3 km distant from the River Pyramos in a heavily silted alluvial plain rising 12 m high and 236 ha in area. The river floods in the Kırmıtlı village forming a wide riverbed containing small ponds and a marshland full of reeds suitable ecosystem for aviators such as species little and big white Egrets, to reside all year long, to breed and to rest on the way migrating. It is close to the lime Crag where a Hittite Relief of the Prince Tarhunta was carved on in the middle of the 13th century BC (Bossert 1950: 122- 125). Pottery of Early Bronze Age to the Late Bronze Age and very fine Hellenistic, Roman, and late Roman periods are among finds, though the anticipation of Hittite potsherds is still valid.

Telkovan mound is ±1.5 km south of the Kırmıtlı mound; it is at the same height as Kırmıtlı, measures ±202 ha.

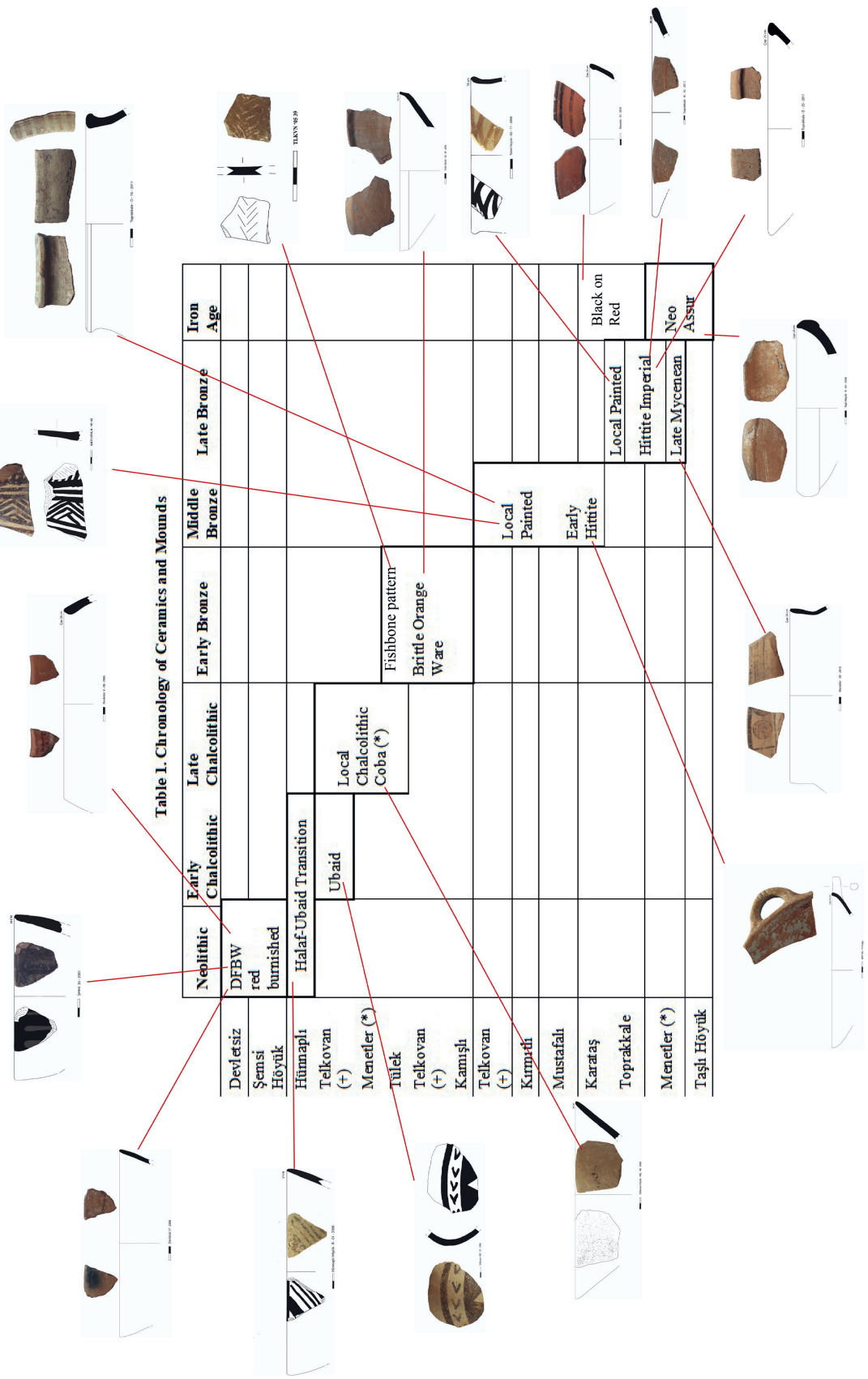


Table 1. Chronology of mounds ceramics table.

The mound is situated between the two high rising basalt crops Üçtepe and Büyükser Tepe and stands on basalt bedrock. Telkovan mound is in equal distance ±5km to the River Pyramos at the north, and Karaçay Stream ±5 km at the south. Pottery of Chalcolithic, late Chalcolithic, and Early Bronze ages, the local painted ware of the 2nd millennium BC, Hittite, Middle, and Late Iron ages, Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods are among finds. Trenches of illegal looters yielded even terracotta figurines of the Hellenistic, and Roman periods.

Tülek 2 mound crowns a lime hill, caliche, at an altitude of 110 m 20 m high and 136 ha in area. It is ±1 km north of the Karaçay Stream, and ±3km north of the Toprakkale mound. There is a spring with pure water at the southeast edge of the mound. A fresh fault line crosses near to the southeast edge of the mounded hill, thus past existence of the spring is questionable. Pottery of Late Chalcolithic, Bronze Age, Middle, and Late Iron Age, Hellenistic, Roman, Late Roman, and Byzantine are among the finds. The mound is enclosed by two limestone ridges at its east and southeast where two separate necropoleis are, also denoting a long time and lively residence. Tülek 2 is one of the rare unlooted mounds – the looters were busy opening the graves at the necropoleis – in the Osmaniye Province, and an olive orchard has just been planted over it.

Toprakkale mound also crowns a hill, of caliche, the Toprak, and is partially covered by a lava flow of the Deli Halil volcano solidified as a thick basalt cap over it. The Toprak hill is at an altitude of 65 m and rises 60 m, with the castle on top, the total height is ±130 m. The mound covers over ±200 ha. The Karaçay Stream flows by ±800 m to the north, and its Kısık branch is ±200 m to the west of the Toprakkale mound. The Toprak hill was subject to building activities in the 2nd millennium BC and probably stationed during the early Hittite Period as a perfect location to guard the north entrance of the Kısık Pass which is ±5 km distant to the Mediterranean Sea. The west slope of the Toprakkale mound yielded a considerable quantity of Hittite Imperial potsherds. Pottery of Hittite, Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, late Iron Age, middle Hellenistic, Roman Imperial, and after a hiatus Byzantine and Islamic ceramics of the Medieval periods are among the finds.

Menetler mound is at the very southern fringes of the Plain at the north edges of a lime-caliche hill, which extends to the west, together forming the Misis Lime Massif. The mound is on heavy alluvial silt just on the south bank of the Karaçay Stream at an altitude of 52 m. It is ±6 m high and covers ±45 ha. Pottery finds are of Late Chalcolithic, Late Bronze Age, Hittite, Middle, and Late Iron Age, Neo-Assyrian, Hellenistic, and Roman periods.

The data obtained from the excavations in Gözlükule (Tarsus), Yumuktepe (Mersin), Kinet, Tatarlı, and Sirkeli mounds defines the prehistoric periods of Cilicia (Table 1). This culture reflects the characteristics of the adjacent regions, including the İslahiye Plain, the Amuq Plain, the Queiq valley, the Middle Euphrates, and the Balikh regions.

Neolithic Age

Devletsiz and Şemsi mounds yielded handmade rim sherds with dark grey or dark buff burnished slip (OAS N-1-4, Figures 4–7), and dark red burnished slip (Tülek and Öğüt 2014: 772) (OAS N-5-8, Figures 8–11). The vessels of the collected sherds seem to have been fired in low temperatures in a reduced atmosphere. One of the rim sherds found in the Şemsi mound is decorated with pattern burnishing (OAS N-9, Figure 12). These sherds resemble the diagnostic *Dark Faced Burnished Ware* produced throughout Northern Mesopotamia and Northern Levant since the 7th millennium BC. This pottery is primarily defined in Tell el-Judaidah *Amuq A-B* phases (Braidwood and Braidwood 1960: 50–53 (Phase A), 73–76 (Phase B); Özbal *et al.* 2004: fig. 6–7). This assemblage is evident in Yumuktepe (Garstang 1953: fig. 11; Caneva 2011) XXXII-XXVI and in the Middle Euphrates and Balikh regions (Miyake 2003, Tell el-Kerkh 2; Faura and Le Mière 1999: 295–296,



Figure 4. OAS N-1 OAS recorded Neolithic sherd on mound Devletsiz: Devletsiz_K_11_2006.



Figure 5. OAS N-2 OAS recorded Neolithic sherd on mound Devletsiz: Devletsiz_11_2006.

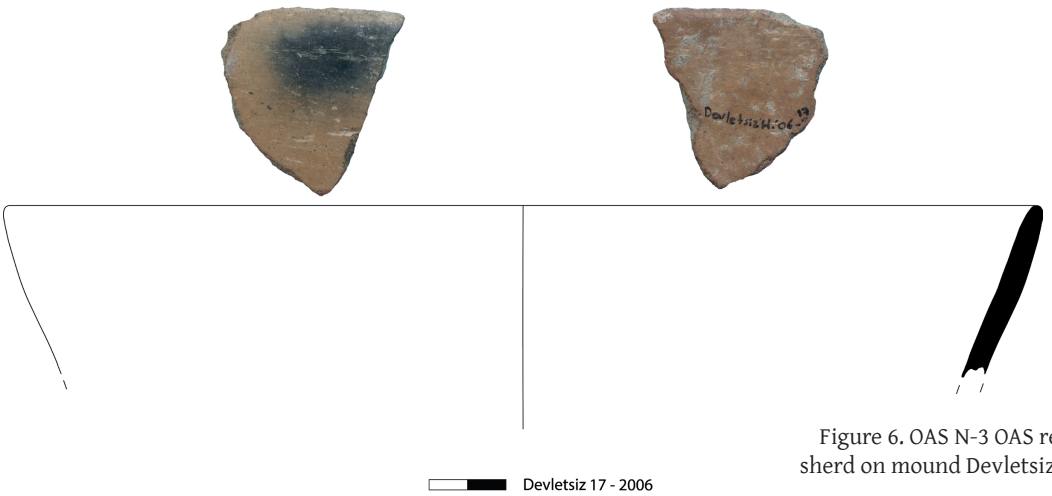


Figure 6. OAS N-3 OAS recorded Neolithic sherd on mound Devletsiz: Devletsiz 17_2006.

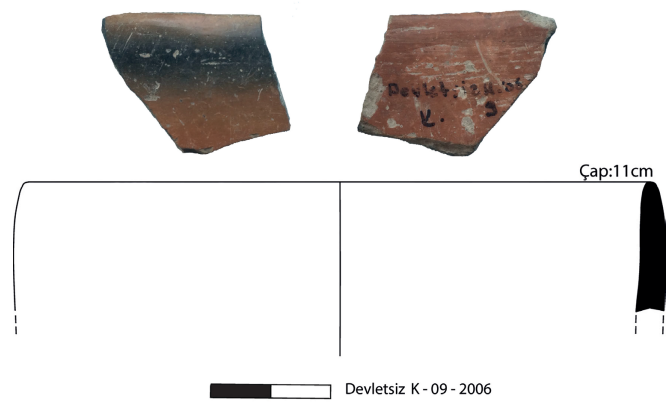


Figure 7. OAS N-4 OAS recorded Neolithic sherd on mound Devletsiz: Devletsiz 9_ 2006.



Figure 8. OAS N-5 OAS recorded Neolithic sherd on mound Devletsiz: Devletsiz 08_2006.



Figure 9. OAS N-6 OAS recorded Neolithic sherd on mound Devletsiz: Devletsiz_B_03_2006.

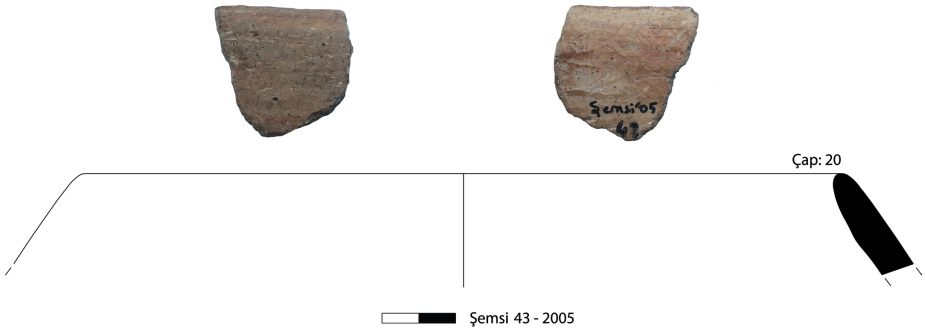


Figure 10. OAS N-7 OAS recorded Neolithic sherd on mound Şemsi: Şemsi_43_2005.

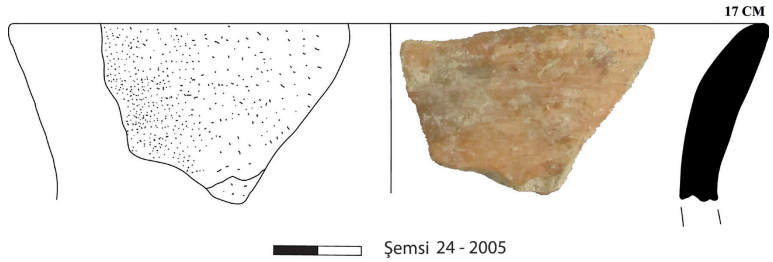


Figure 11. OAS N-8 OAS recorded Neolithic sherd on mound Şemsi: Şemsi 24_ 2005.

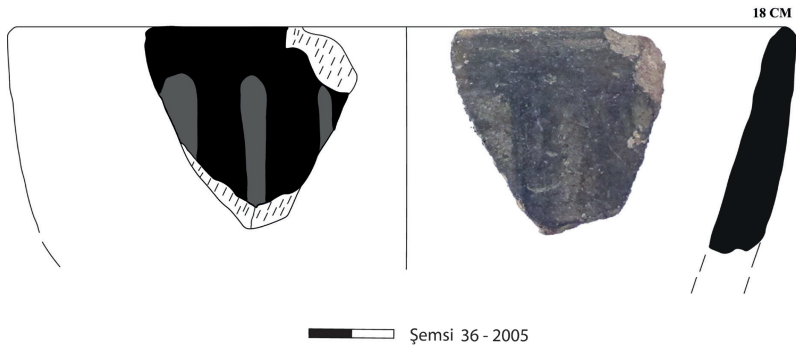


Figure 12. OAS N-9 OAS recorded Neolithic sherd on mound Şemsi: Şemsi 36_2005.

fig. 3–4, Tell Halula; Nieuwenhuyse 2007: 129–131, Tell Sabi Abyad 1). The pattern burnishing observed on the exterior surface of a sherd consists of vertical and horizontal bands; these vessels are spread from *Amuq B* towards the Upper Tigris basin (Braidwood and Braidwood 1960: 78; Tekin 2007: 163–165, fig. 3–6). A "Red-Slipped Pottery" also appears in the Middle Euphrates and Balikh regions (Özdoğan 2011: 240–241, 253, fig. 55, Mezraa Teleilat IIB-C; Özbaşaran and Duru 2011: 198, fig. 34, Akarçay Tepe; Nieuwenhuyse 2007: Pl. 125, Tell Sabi Abyad 1).

Chalcolithic Age

In Telkovan (OAS EC-10, Figure 13) one body sherd belonging to a handmade spherical vessel bears painted decoration with a range of angle motifs bordered with thick horizontal bands from both sides and another body sherd (OAS EC-11, Figure 14) with the vertical zigzag motif with thin bands on each side have been collected (Tülek *et al.* 2010: 727, fig. 2a). Another rim sherd found in Hünnaplı (OAS EC-12, Figure 15) bears painted decoration with diagonal hatching and a thick



Figure 13. OAS C-10 OAS recorded Early Chalcolithic sherd on mound Telkovan: Telkovan KKÇ 01_2006.



Figure 14. OAS C-11 OAS recorded Early Chalcolithic sherd on mound Telkovan: Telkovan G 22_2005.

band on the simple rim. These vessels resemble the Ubaid painted pottery of Northern Mesopotamia.

The Halaf-Ubaid-Transitional Period is roughly dated to the last two centuries of the 6th, and the Ubaid Period to the 5th millennia BC (Akkermans *et al.* 2006: Tab. 1.1). Ubaid pottery is evident in Yumuktepe (Garstang 1953: fig. 34: 13, 52: 18, Yumuktepe XXIII, 131–180, fig. 103 XVI-XIIB, in Amuq D (Braidwood and Braidwood 1960: 511, Tell Kurdu), and Oylum mound (Özgen *ve diğ.* 1997: 63–64) and beyond.

The "Northern Ubaid" painted pottery is characterized with intensively and elaborately applied decoration. In the Late Phase painted thick bands and wavy lines characterize pottery produced in lesser aesthetic and rapidly in large amounts by the first half of the 5th millennium BC, the southern Mesopotamian Ubaid 3 phase (Akkermans 1988b: 128; Henrickson and Thuesen 1989: 457; Akkermans and Schwartz 2003: 170; Özbal 2011: 183–186). Ubaid pottery is found in the İslahiye Plain (Alkım 1962; Alkım and Alkım 1966: fig. 18–19; du Plat Taylor *et al.* 1950, Coba, Gedikli, and Tilmen mounds), in Amuq E settlements[3], in Oylum mound (Özgen *et al.* 1997: Abb. 24: 1–5, 25: 4), and the Middle Euphrates[4] and Balikh[5] regions.

Menetler mound yielded one rim sherd (OAS LC-13, Figure 16) belong to the grit tempered group, and another rim to the chaff faced group with traces of flint scraping (OAS LC-14, Figure 17). Both sherds belong to deep bowls. Grit tempered ware is represented in Telkovan with one rim sherd of a bowl (OAS LC-15, Figure 18), and in Tülek 2 mound with a cylindrical jar rim (Tülek and Öğüt 2014: 774), (OAS LC-16, Figure 19). These handmade and moderately fired sherds present the local production of the Late Chalcolithic pottery with parallels in diverse regions of Northern Mesopotamia, composed of chaff-tempered and *chaff-faced wares* and *grit tempered wares.*

The Post-Ubaid period is dated to the last three centuries of the 5th millennium BC. Besides the Ubaid pottery, the *chaff-faced ware* emerges in the last phase of the North Mesopotamian Ubaid culture (Ubaid 4), the "Terminal Ubaid" (*ca.* 4400–4200 BC), identical with the "Late Chalcolithic 1" of the SAR Chronology (Rothman 2001: 9; Rothman and Blackman 2003: 5). In Late Chalcolithic 2–3 (*ca.* 4200/4100–3900/3800 and 3900/3800–3600 BC), plain vessels produced with more

[3] The *Ubaid-like Monochrome Painted Ware* in Tell Kurdu, Tell el-Judaidah, Tell esh-Sheikh, Tabara el-Akrad, and Karaca Khirbet Ali (Braidwood and Braidwood 1960, 181–200; Özbal *et al.* 2004, fig. 9: 5, 9, 11; Özbal 2010).

[4] The Early phase in Tell Kosak Shamali Sector A (Nishiaki 1999, 71), Tell Abuda L.I (Jasim 1985, fig. 132, 163); Carchemish (Woolley 1934, fig. 17); Tell Kashkashok (Koizumi 1993, 48–49, fig. 12; the Late Phase in Kurban (Wilkinson 1990, 90, 205, 208, fig. B.4); Tilbeş (Jesus and Charvar 2002, 124, 125, fig. 5, 6).

[5] In Tell Hammam et-Turkman IVA on the Balikh valley, the "Northern Ubaid" and "Ubaid-related" pottery is dated to *ca.* 4500/4400–4200 BC (Akkermans 1988a, fig. 3–6; 1988b, 112–113), and the late phase (IVB-C) to *ca.* 4200–3700/3600 BC (Akkermans 1988a, 202, 223, 226, Pl. 77–80; 1988b, 128–131, fig. 2–6).

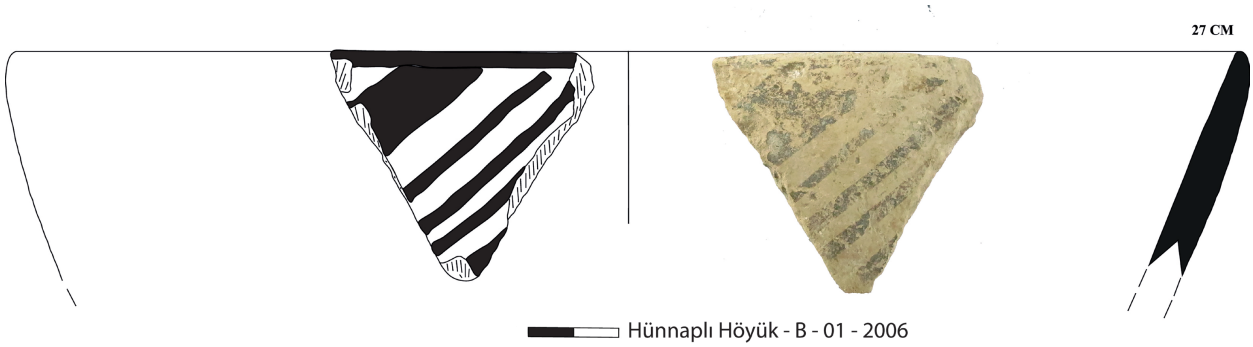


Figure 15. OAS C-12 OAS recorded Early Chalcolithic sherd on mound Hünnaplı: Hünnaplı B 01_2006.

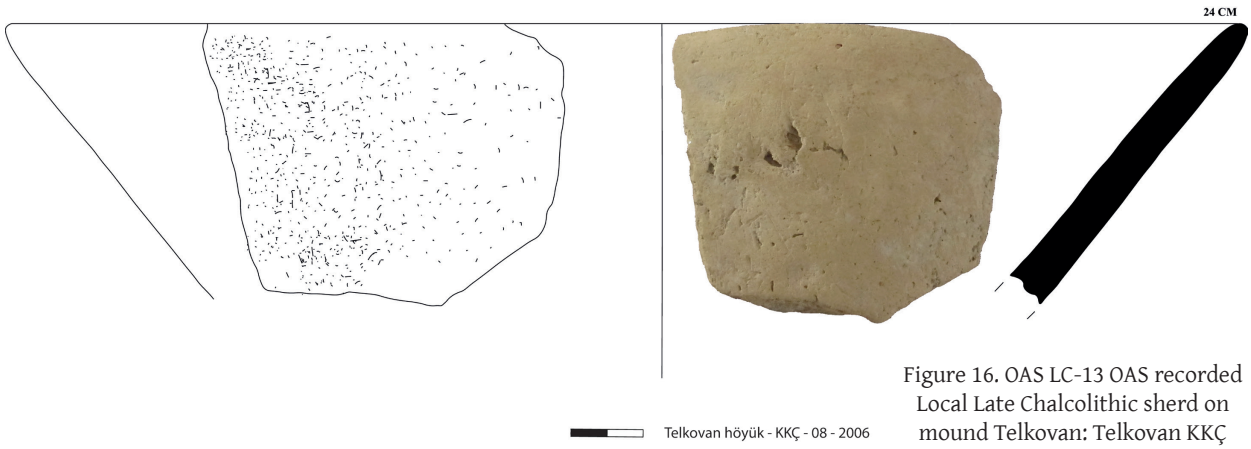


Figure 16. OAS LC-13 OAS recorded Local Late Chalcolithic sherd on mound Telkovan: Telkovan KKÇ 08_2006.

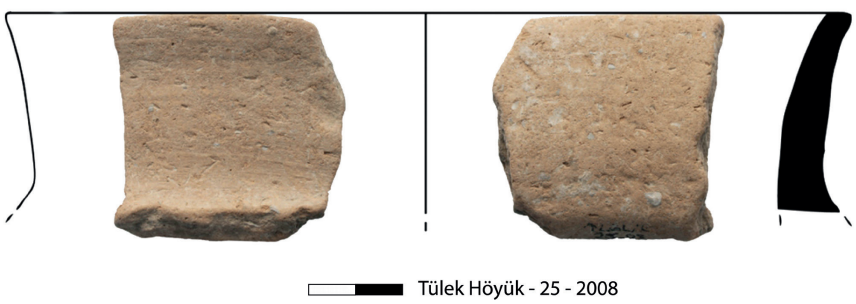


Figure 17. OAS LC-14 OAS recorded Local Late Chalcolithic sherd on mound Tülek: Tülek 2_25 2008.

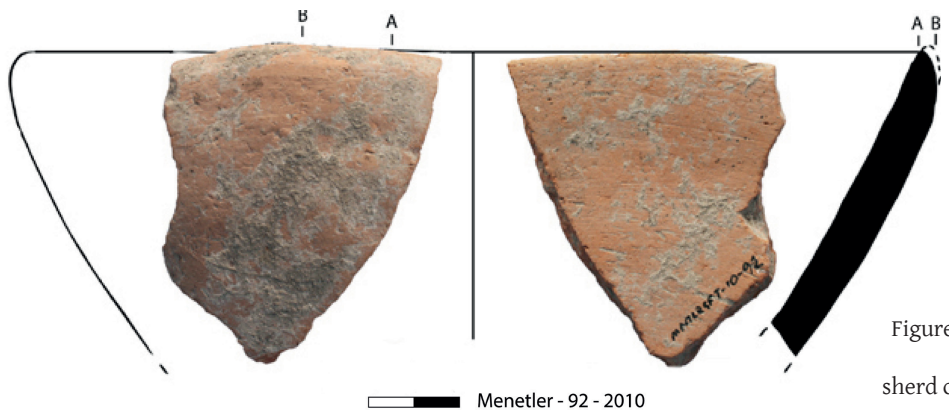


Figure 18. OAS LC-15 OAS recorded Local Late Chalcolithic sherd on mound Menetler: Menetler 92_2010.

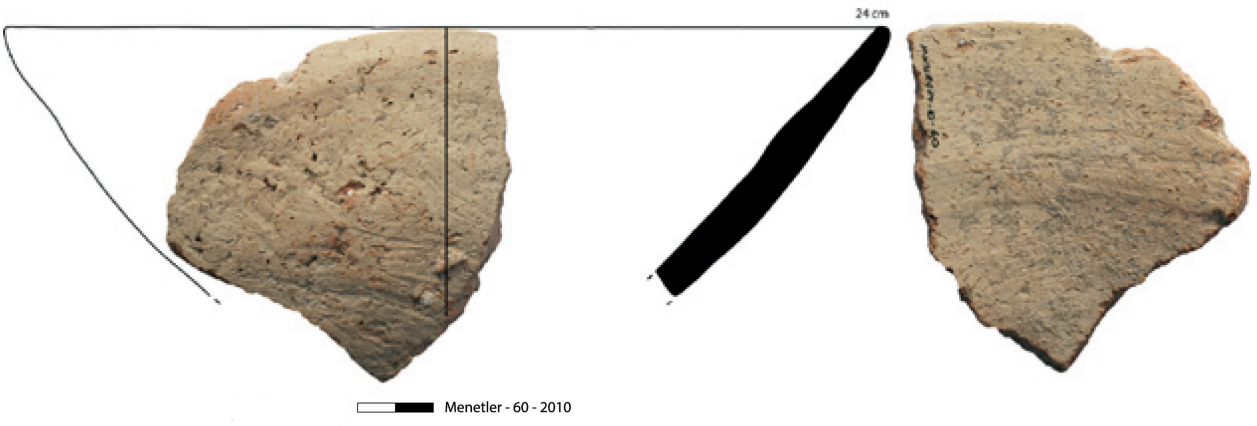


Figure 19. OAS LC-16 OAS recorded Local Late Chalcolithic sherd on mound Menetler: Menetler 60_2010.

"coarse" workmanship replaced the painted vessels gradually at the turn of the 5th/4th millennia BC (Tekin 2017: 358).

The chaff tempered monochrome pottery, the *chaff-faced ware*, is wide-spread in Northern Mesopotamia and adjacent regions. This pottery is attested in Coba mound IVC on the İslahiye Plain (Du Plat Taylor *et al.* 1950), in Oylum mound 6–2 (Özgen *et al.* 1999: 50, Abb. 17), and in phases D-E of the Amuq sequence (Braidwood and Braidwood 1960: 232–239; Mellink 1956: 85) as well as in the Middle Euphrates (Algaze *et al.* 1990: Pl. 30, Kurban VI; Hoh 1981: fig. 12, Hassek; Thissen 1985: 119, fig. 1, Haavaz 5–4; Fletcher 2007, Horum; Pollock and Coursey 1995: 137, fig. 4, Hacınebi), and Balikh (Akkermans 1988a: Pl. 103:71, Hammam et-Turkman VA-B) regions. The monochrome mass-produced *Coba bowls* taking part in this group are the ones scraped with flint tools (flint-scraped ware) on the lower outer surface. Primarily Coba mound yields this type of pottery, located in the İslahiye Plain (Du Plat Taylor *et al.* 1950: 95–96; Garrard *et al.* 1996: fig. 7: 3). These "standardized" vessels are found in Yumuktepe (Garstang 1953: fig. 113) XV-XIIA, in Amuq D-E contexts (Braidwood and Braidwood 1960: 157–168, 175–189, fig. 144–157; Akkermans and Schwartz 2003: 187–190, fig. 5.2; Sagona and Zimansky 2009: 150), and Late Chalcolithic levels of Oylum mound (Özgen *et al.* 1999: Abb. 17, 33:6; Helwing 2012). A large number of these types is also evident in the Upper (Trufelli 1994: 261. Arslantepe VII) and Middle Euphrates (Thissen 1985: 98, Hayaz Höyük; Egami 1959: 6, 54–55, fig. 20–24, 51–55, Telul eth-Thalathat XIII-XIV; Fukai *et al.* 1970: 32–40, 83–86, Pl. LXXI; Yamazaki 1999: 88, Tell al-'Abr 5 Stage II), and Balikh regions (Akkermans 1988a: 202, Pl. 81–86, Hammam et-Turkman IVC). The characteristic vessels of the *grit tempered ware* include large plates, conical and carinated bowls, funnel-necked jars, and short-necked jars. This pottery appears in Amuq F (Braidwood and Braidwood 1960: 234–238), in Oylum (Özgen *et al.* 1999: 50–51, 66, fig. 17), and in several Middle Euphrates sites (Algaze *et al.* 1990: Pl. 42–44, Kurban V-VI; Thissen 1985: 119, fig. 1, Hayaz; Hoh 1981: fig. 2, 12, Hassek; Marro *et al.* 1998: Pl. XI, Horum; Pollock and Coursey 1995: 136–137, fig. 3–4; Pearce 2000: 117, 121, fig. 2 f-i, 5 a-e, Hacınebi A (4200–3700 BC), and B1 (3600–3500 BC); Frangipane 2007: 127, fig. 8.5.1–3, Zeytinlibahçe LC 2; 2010: 190, fig. 5–8, and LC 3 (3700–3500 BC); Balossi Restelli 2006: 18–23, fig. 5 O-Q, 7–11, Yamazaki 1999: 89, fig. 2: 17–31, Tell al-'Abr 4–2 (Stage III); Nishiaki 1999: 73, Tell Kosak Shamali Sector B), as well as in the Upper Balikh (Akkermans 1988a: Pl. 99–107, Hammam et-Turkman VA-B, and IVD ending in 3700/3600 cal. BC Akkermans 1988a: 226, Pl. 91–96; 1988b, 126–127).

Bronze Age

Sherds of wheel-made and well-fired vessels slipped in orange-brown tones, and dark purplish-brown slip with smooth surfaces have been found on the Şemsi, Karataşlı and Kamışlı mounds (Tülek *et al.* 2010: 728, fig. 5). Incised designs appear occasionally on outer surfaces. The body sherds from Telkovan (OAS B-17, 18, Figure 20–21) and one deep bowl rim from Kamışlı (OAS B-19, Figure 22) are decorated with incised fishbone pattern. The rim sherds from Tülek 2 are not decorated (Tülek and Öğüt 2014: 774), (OAS B-20, 21, Figures 23, 24). Two sherds belong to necked jars without-turned rims, and one sherd to a carinated bowl with a simple rim (OAS B-22, Figure 25). Another rim sherd belongs to a high stemmed bowl with a sharp carination under the rim (OAS B-23, Figure 26). This pottery resembles the *Brittle Orange Ware* and its incised version (*brick-red incised ware*) found at Gözlükule (Goldman 1956: 109, figs. 278–283). Early Bronze Age IIIA. Similar bowls with horizontal loops (Goldman 1956: fig. 305 n. 991) and high stemmed bowls with carinated bodies (Goldman 1956: fig. 303 n. 974, fig. 377 n. 984) are known from Gözlükule. This pottery appears in the İslahiye plain in the Early Bronze Age II and continues throughout the

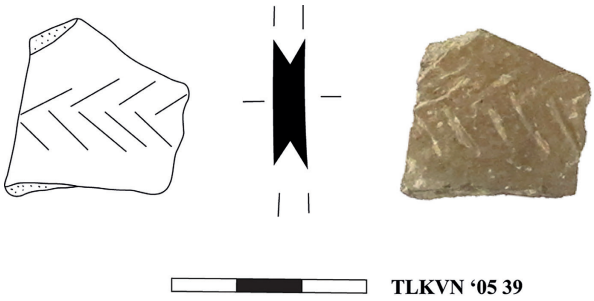


Figure 20. OAS B-17 OAS recorded Early Bronze sherd on mound Telkovan: Telkovan 39_2005.

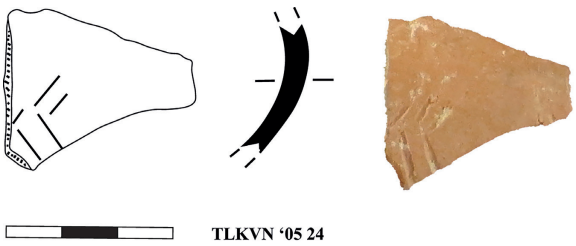


Figure 21. OAS B-18 OAS recorded Early Bronze sherd on mound Telkovan: Telkovan 24_2005.

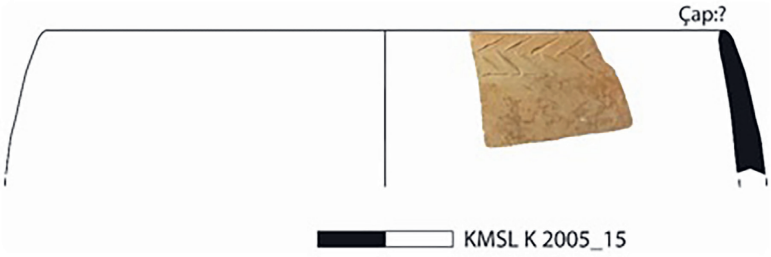


Figure 22. OAS B-19 OAS recorded Early Bronze sherd on mound Kamışlı: Kamışlı 15_2005.

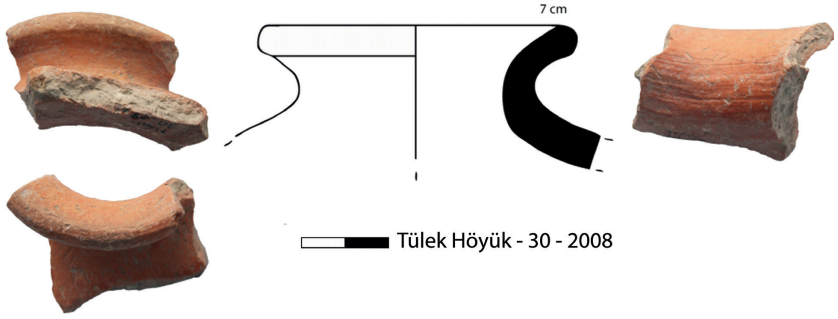


Figure 23. OAS B-20 OAS recorded Early Bronze sherd on mound Tülek 2: Tülek 2 30_2008.

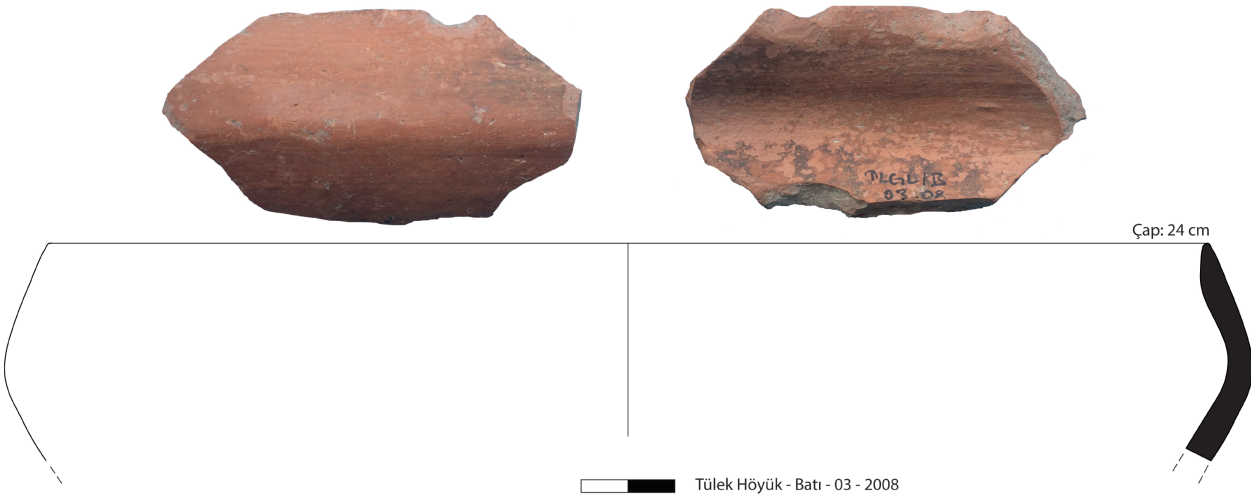


Figure 24. OAS B-21 OAS recorded Early Bronze sherd on mound Tülek 2: Tülek 2 B 03_2008.

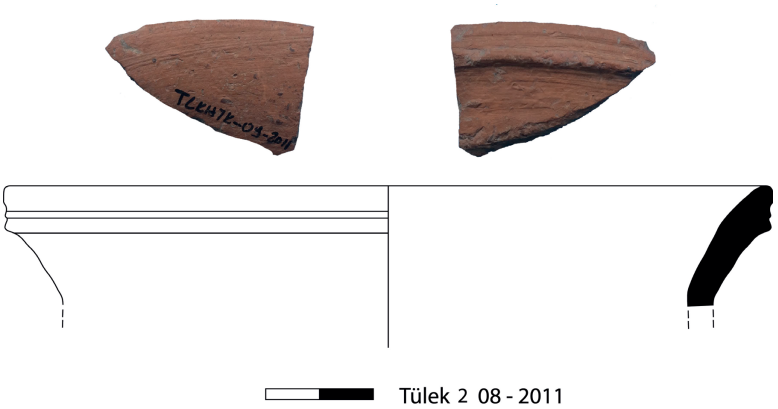


Figure 25. OAS B-22 OAS recorded Early Bronze sherd on mound Tülek 2: Tülek 2 09_2011.

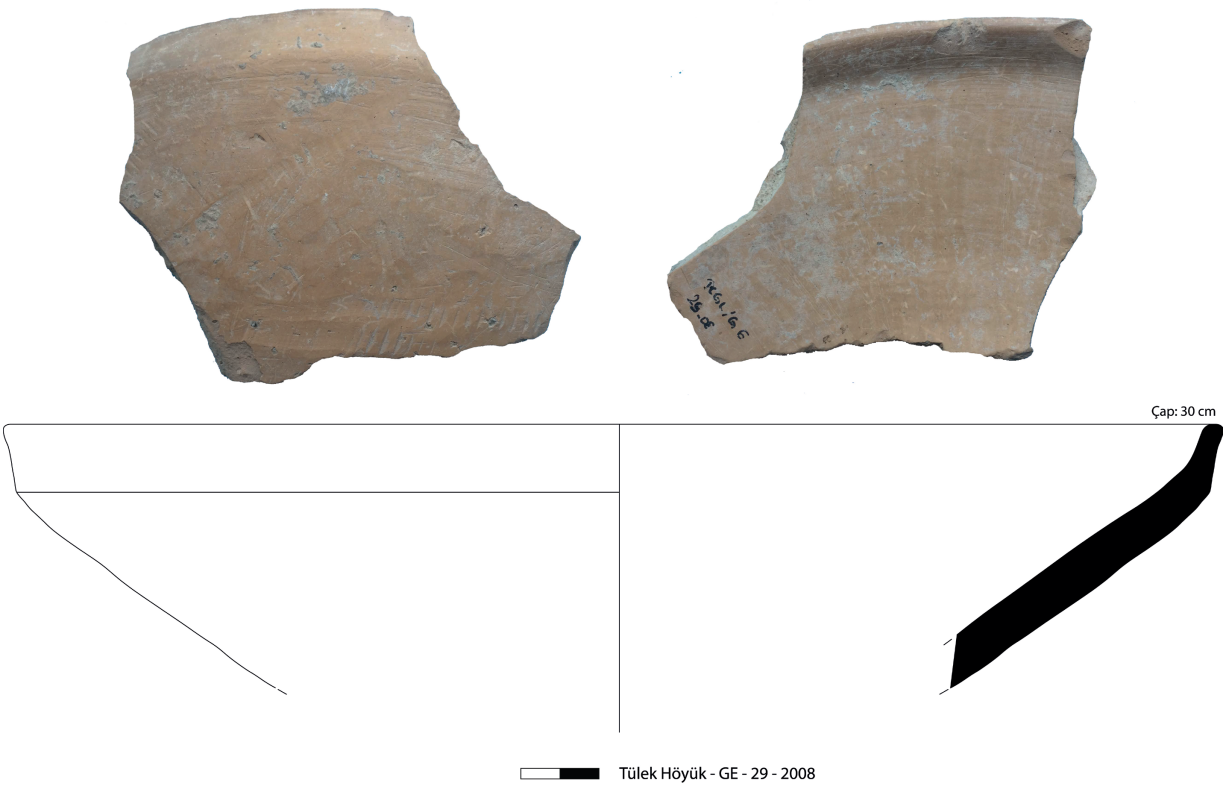


Figure 26. OAS B-23 OAS recorded Early Bronze sherd on mound Tülek 2: Tülek 2 GE 29_2008.



Figure 27. OAS EHittite-24 OAS recorded Early Hittite sherd on mound Mustafalı: Mustafalı 11_2006.



Figure 28. OAS EHittite-25 OAS recorded Early Hittite sherd on mound Mustafalı: Mustafalı K 03_2006.

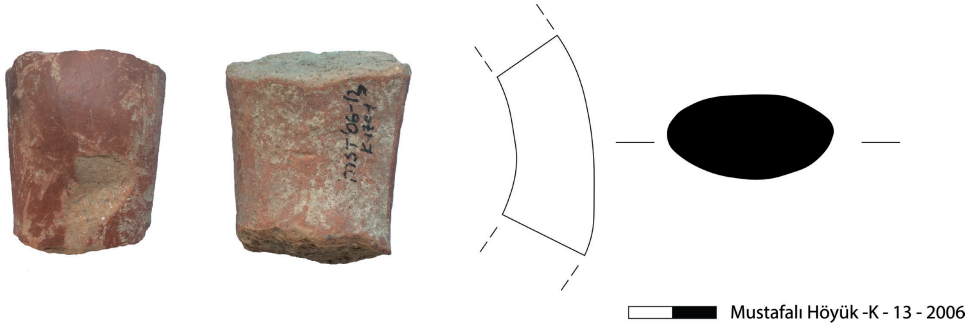


Figure 29. OAS EHittite-26 OAS recorded Early Hittite sherd on mound Mustafalı: Mustafalı K 13_2006.

Early Bronze Age III. This pottery is well defined in the İslahiye Plain (Alkım 1979: 139; Bell 2007; Welton 2014: 353–355, fig. 133, in Tilmen Höyük and in the cremation burials of Gedikli IIIk-h and II, Alkım and Alkım 1966: 40–42, fig. 13, 17, 42, 44), parallel to the *Red Gritty Ware* of the Amuq H-J sequences in Tell el-Judaidah, Chatal Hüyük, Tell Ta'yinat, and Dhahab (Braidwood and Braidwood 1960: 264, 368–370 (Phase H), 406–407 (Phase I), 432–435 (Phase J).

Three sherds from Mustafalı mound include one plate rim with horizontal loop handle (OAS EHittite-24, Figure 27) and pieces of two handles (OAS EHittite-25, 26, Figures 28–29). Bowls with horizontal loops are also found in Yumuktepe (Garstang 1953: fig. 146: 10–11) XIB-IX. These belong to wheel-made vessels with red burnished slip, resembling the *Early Hittite* pottery. The region was 0ontrolled by the Old Hittite kings Hattušili I and Muršili I; a land grant deed is found in Tarsus, and Telipinu made a treaty of alliance with Išputahšu (Yoshida and Kammenhuber 1995; Genz 2011: 310).

Two wheel-made sherds found on Toprakkale (Tülek and Öğüt 2014: 773) show the characteristics of the *Khabur Painted Ware* widespread in Northern Mesopotamia (Oates *et al.* 1997: 63–77, fig. 190–193, 195, 200; 2001: 63, 145; Hrouda 1989) and Northern Syria (Oguchi 1997; Nigro 1998: fig. 4, 11; Bagh 2003: 234), dating to 1900/1950–1600 BC. One potsherd with thickened-out rim, decorated with vertical strokes in brown on the rim (OAS Khabur P.-27, Figure 30), show a characteristic of the Habur Ware from Chagar Bazar and the Syro-Cilician pottery from Gözlükule (Bieniada 2009: 178, fig. 6: 21, 7: 22) and Tell Atchana (Heinz 1992: Taf. 20–22, 41, 44, 59, 70–72, 88–89, 91) VIII-XVIII. Decoration with wavy lines between horizontal bands is known from Yumuktepe (Garstang 1953: fig. 143: 7) XI. One body sherd from Karataşlı mound (OAS Khabur P.-28, Figure 31) decorated with wavy lines and stripes between thick horizontal bands applied with black paint resembles the painted sherds found in Gözlükule, dated to the Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age transition (Ünlü 2014, fig. 4); similar decorations had been applied to the Early Bronze Age IVB vessels in Northern Syria (Bieniada 2009: fig. 5: 5–6) and the Syro-Cilician pottery (Heinz 1992: Taf. 28, 50, 65, 86, Tell Atchana VIII-X; Akar and Kara 2018: fig. 15:14–15, Toprakhisar Building 2). On one body sherd from Karataşlı mound, nested angles and cross-hatching organized between vertical double bands had been applied in brown paint on a buff slip (OAS Khabur P.-29, Figure 32). These sherds find also parallels in Chagar Bazar (Bieniada 2009: fig. 8: 10) and Tell Atchana (Heinz 1992: Taf. 49, 65, 76, 81, 89) IX-XVI.

In Mustafalı (OAS Local P.-30, Figure 33), Telkovan (OAS Local P.-31, Figure 34), and Kırmıtlı (OAS Local P.-32,

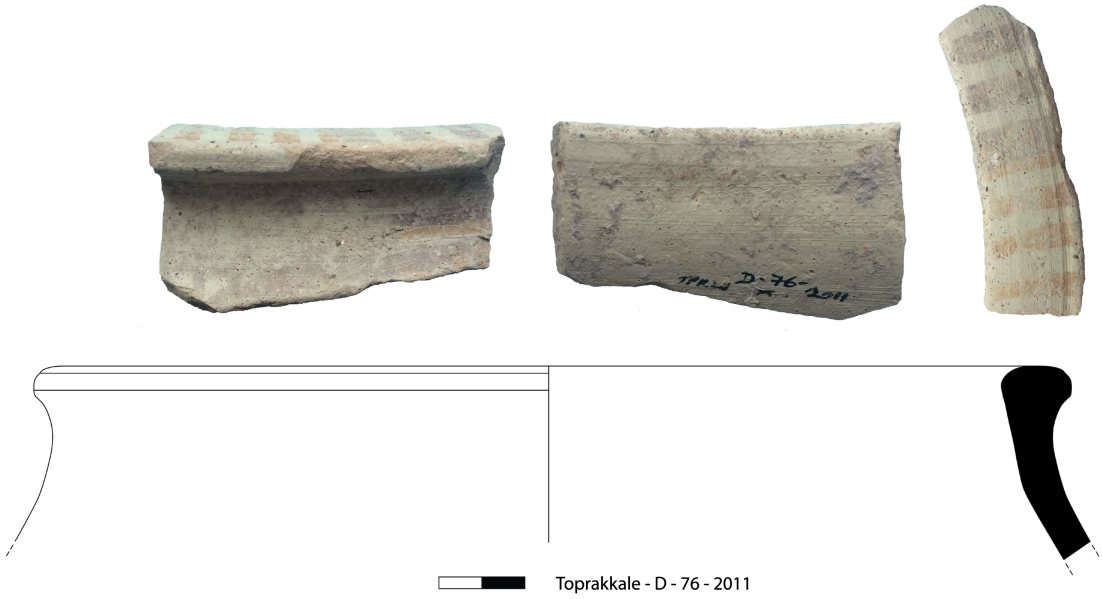


Figure 30. OAS Khabur P.-27 OAS recorded Khabur Painted sherd on mound Toprakkale: Toprakkale D 76_2011.

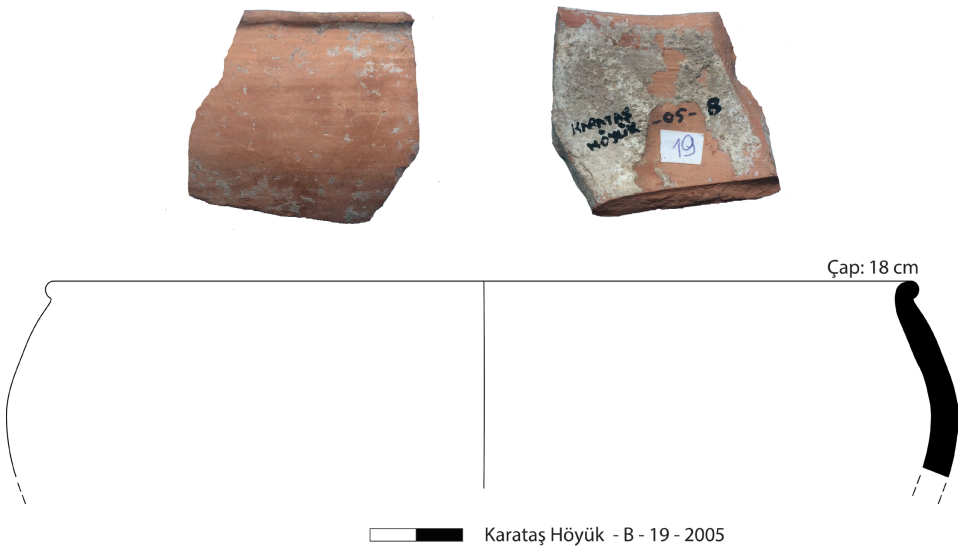


Figure 31. OAS Khabur P.-28 OAS recorded Khabur Painted sherd on mound Karataş: Karataş B 19_2005.



Figure 32. OAS Khabur P.-29 OAS recorded Khabur Painted sherd on mound Karataş: Karataş B 02_2005.



Figure 33. OAS Local P.-30 OAS recorded Local Painted sherd on mound Mustafalı: Mustafalı B 17_2006.



Figure 34. OAS Local P.-31 OAS recorded Local Painted sherd on mound Telkovan: Telkovan KKÇ 24_2006.

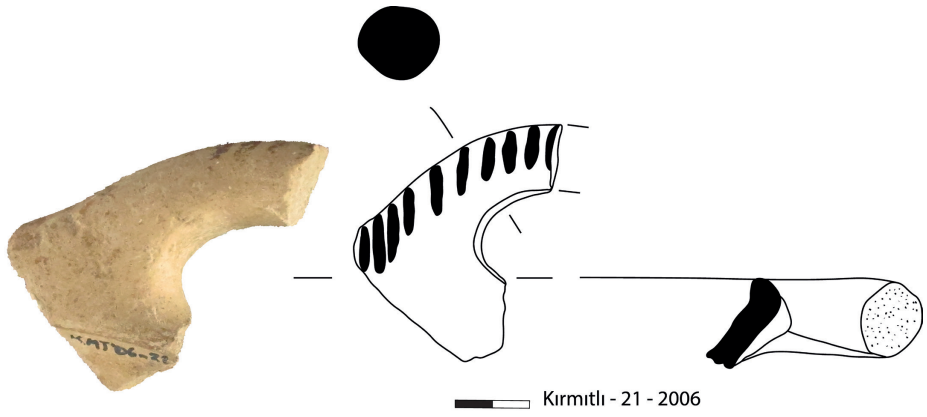


Figure 35. OAS Local P.-32 OAS recorded Local Painted sherd on mound Kırmıtlı: Kırmıtlı 21_2006.

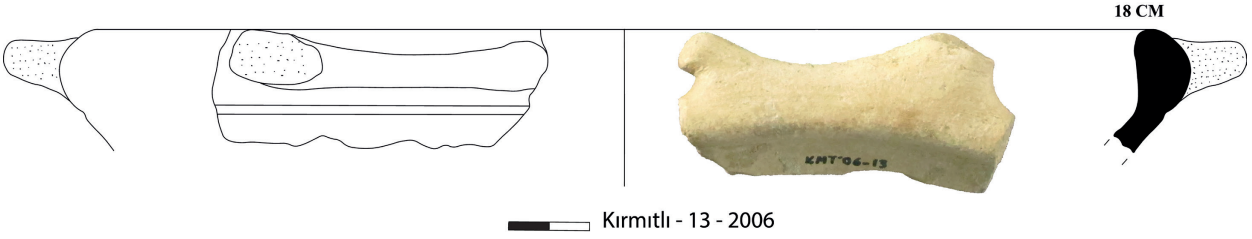


Figure 36. OAS Local P.-33 OAS recorded Local Painted sherd on mound Kırmıtlı: Kırmıtlı 13_2006.

33, Figure 35–36), three rim sherds with horizontal loop handles have been collected. These sherds are decorated with stripes in black (Tülek *et al.* 2010: 729, fig. 6). Similar decorations are also attested in Yumuktepe (Garstang 1953: fig. 156: 17) VII-VI.

In Toprakkale, six rim sherds with thickened-in rims, three with bead-rims, and three with longitude thickening belong to large shallow plates (Tülek and Öğüt 2014: 771, 773), (OAS Hittite Emp.-34–37, Figures 37–40). In Menetler, two sherds of bead-rim bowls have been collected (OAS Hittite Emp._38, 39, Figures 41–42). The vessels are formed on speed-wheel, with clear wheel marks on both surfaces. These sherds are pale brown in color, and their surfaces are plain, showing the characteristics of the *standard pottery* of the *Hittite*



Figure 37. OAS Hittite Emp._34 OAS recorded Hittite Imperial sherd on mound Toprakkale: Toprakkale 23_2011.

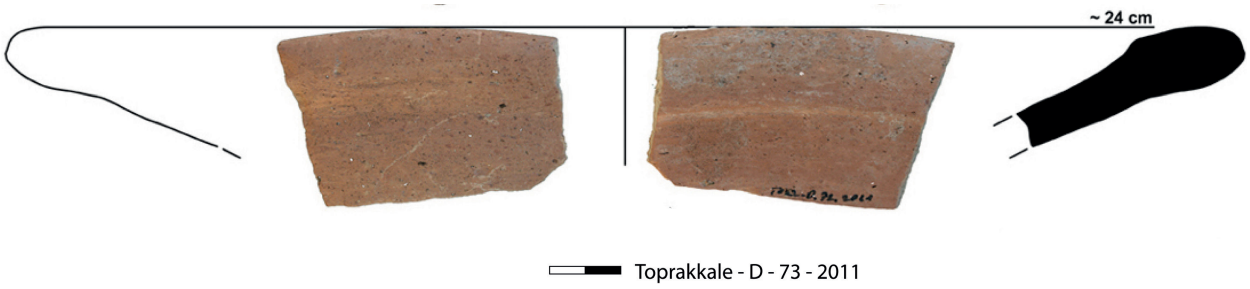


Figure 38. OAS Hittite Emp._35 OAS recorded Hittite Imperial sherd on mound Toprakkale: Toprakkale 73_2011.

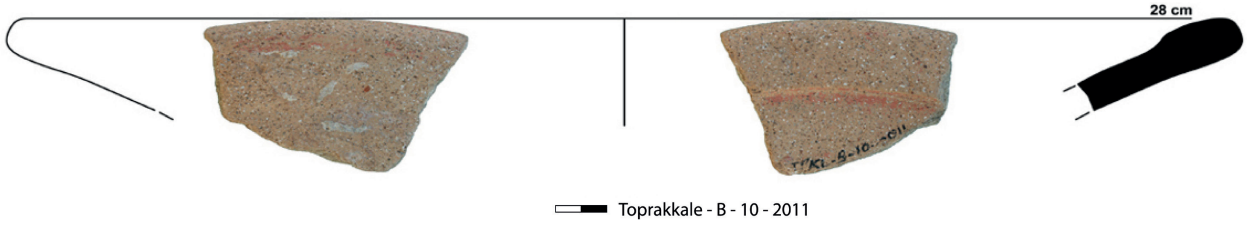


Figure 39. OAS Hittite Emp._36 OAS recorded Hittite Imperial sherd on mound Toprakkale: Toprakkale 10_2011.

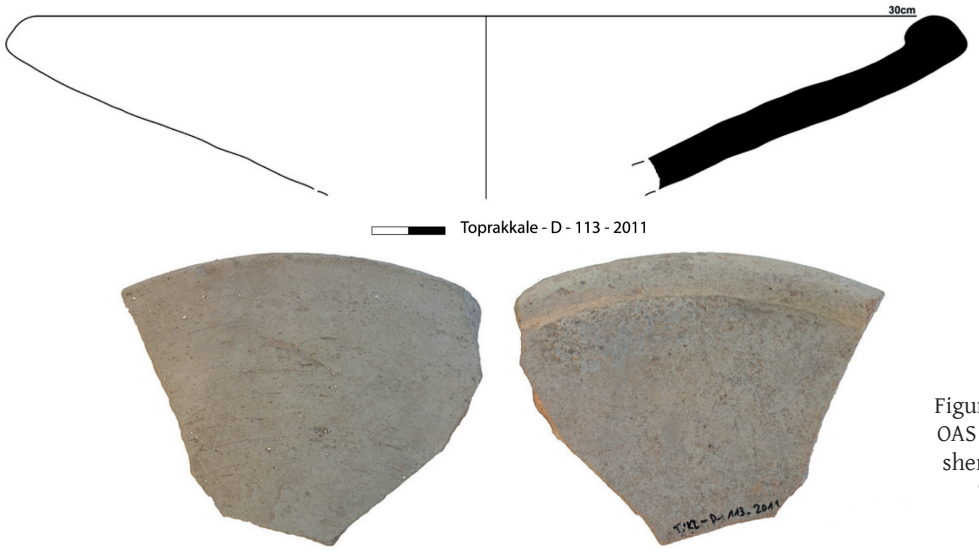


Figure 40. OAS Hittite Emp._37 OAS recorded Hittite Imperial sherd on mound Toprakkale: Toprakkale 113_2011.



Figure 41. OAS Hittite Emp._38 OAS recorded Hittite Imperial sherd on mound Menetler: Menetler 08_2010.

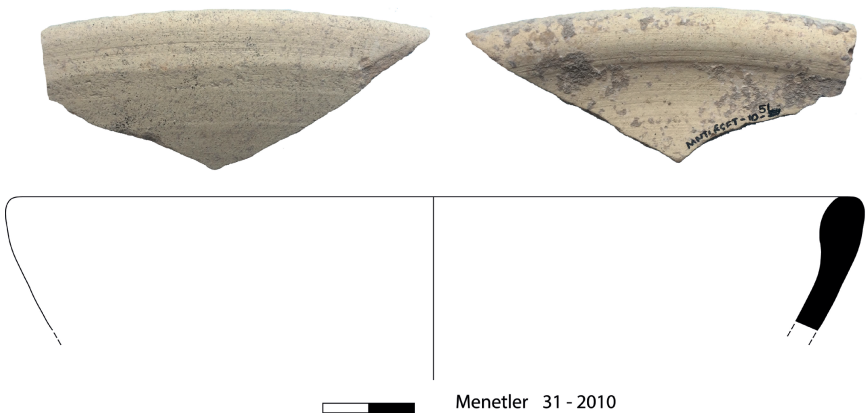


Figure 42. OAS Hittite Emp._39 OAS recorded Hittite Imperial sherd on mound Menetler: Menetler 31_ 2010.

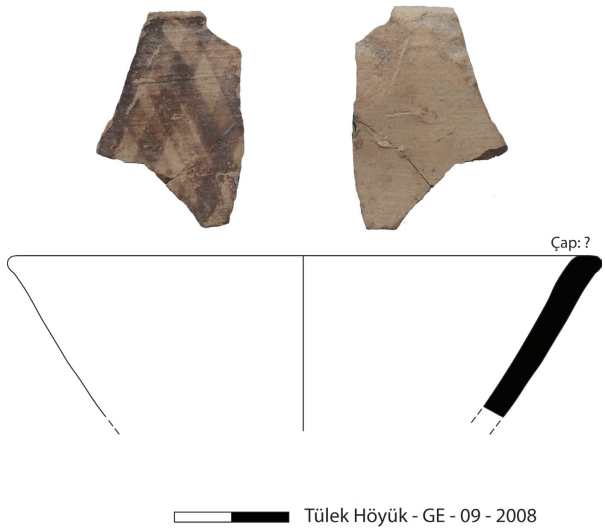


Figure 43. OAS MIA- Local P. 40 OAS recorded Late Bronze Age Local Painted sherd on mound Tülek 2: Tülek 2 GE 09_2008.

Empire attested at Yumuktepe Garstang (1953: fig. 146: 8–9, 157: 5–8) XIB-V. The *Drab Ware* at Late Bronze Age IIA at Gözlükule (Goldman 1956: 203–205; Karacic 2014; Ünlü 2016) and in Soli (Yağcı 2007: 809–810) are dated to the 14th-13th centuries BC. However, the *Drab Ware* at Kilise Tepe (Bouthillier *et al.* 2014: fig. 46: c-f, 47: a; Postgate and Thomas 2007: fig. 387, 389) IIIa-e and Kinet mound (Gates 2006; 2001; Postgate 2007) IV:2, Period 15C-A are dated to the 16th or early 15th century BC. Similar pottery assemblages are also attested in Sirkeli (Ahrens *et al.* 2008: Abb. 20) and Tatarlı (Dardeniz *et al.* 2018: fig. 6–7) mounds. The Hittite kings Tuthaliya I/II or Suppiluliuma I annexed the land, and the standard monochrome ware of the Hittite Empire spread throughout Cilicia. This ware is also attested in the late phase of the Amuq M (Late Bronze Age II) settlements (Pucci 2019: 175, fig. 2–3, Chatal Höyük, Ünlü 2017: fig. 3–4, Tell Ta'yinat).

In Tülek mound 2, rim sherds of a conical bowl and a necked jar, as well as a body sherd with cross-hatching applied in red paint, have been collected (OAS MIA-Local P. 40–42, Figures 43–45). Similar body sherds are also found in Karataşlı mound (Tülek *et al.* 2010: 727, fig. 3a-b). All sherds show the characteristics of the *local painted ware* of the Late Bronze Age IIA levels of Gözlükule (Karacic 2014: fig. 139; Ünlü 2014: fig. 3. Further sherds with similar decoration are also evident in the Early Iron Age contexts. (Goldman 1963: Pl. 55: 8) and Yumuktepe (Garstang 1953: fig. 155: 2–3) VIII-VII; similar decoration is attested in the Late Bronze Age levels at Kilisetepe II (Bouthillier *et al.* 2014: fig. 52n;

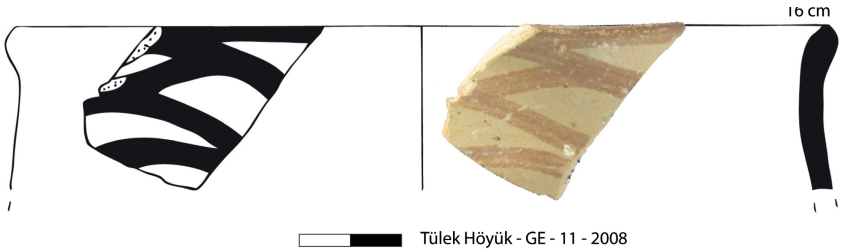


Figure 44. OAS MIA- Local P. 41 OAS recorded Late Bronze Age Local Painted sherd on mound Tülek 2: Tülek 2 GE 11_2008.



Figure 45. OAS MIA- Local P. 42 OAS recorded Late Bronze Age Local Painted sherd on mound Tülek 2: Tülek 2 GE 07_2008.

Hansen and Postgate 1999: 113, fig. 5–13; Postgate and Thomas 2007: fig.398–399, 402–403).

Iron Age

Rim sherds of necked jars decorated with concentric circles between thick horizontal bands on the outer surface have been found in Menetler (Tülek and Öğüt 2013: 64, 72, fig. 12; 2014, 771) (OAS MIA- Local P. 43, Figure 46). The finely tempered buff, wheel-made, strongly fired vessel is covered with buff slip. The inner surface is merely decorated with horizontal bands. A body sherd from the same site is decorated with painted arcs in brown (OAS MIA- Local P. 44, Figure 47). Both sherds show the characteristics of the *Cilician Ware* dating to the 8th-7th centuries BC. Closest parallels are found in the Iron Age levels at Sirkeli (Ahrens *et al.* 2008: Abb. 22–23; Arslan 2010: 127, 165–167), Yumuktepe (Garstang 1953: fig. 160: 4–5) VI-III, in the Early and Middle Iron Age contexts of Gözlükule (Goldman 1963: Pl. 56, 59: 124, 65: 345–354, 72: 583) and at Kilisetepe (Postgate and Thomas 2007: fig. 397, 401) as well as at Al Mina *bichrome* and *black-on-red ware* pottery (Du Plat Taylor 1959: fig. 5, Pl, XXa, XII).



Figure 46. OAS MIA- Local P. 43 OAS recorded Middle Iron Age Local Painted sherd on mound Menetler: Menetler 09_2010.



Figure 47. OAS MIA- Local P. 44 OAS recorded Middle Iron Age Local Painted sherd on mound Menetler: Menetler 75_2010.



Figure 48. OAS MIA- NAssur_45 OAS recorded Middle Iron Age Neo Assur sherd on mound Menetler: Menetler 2010_79.

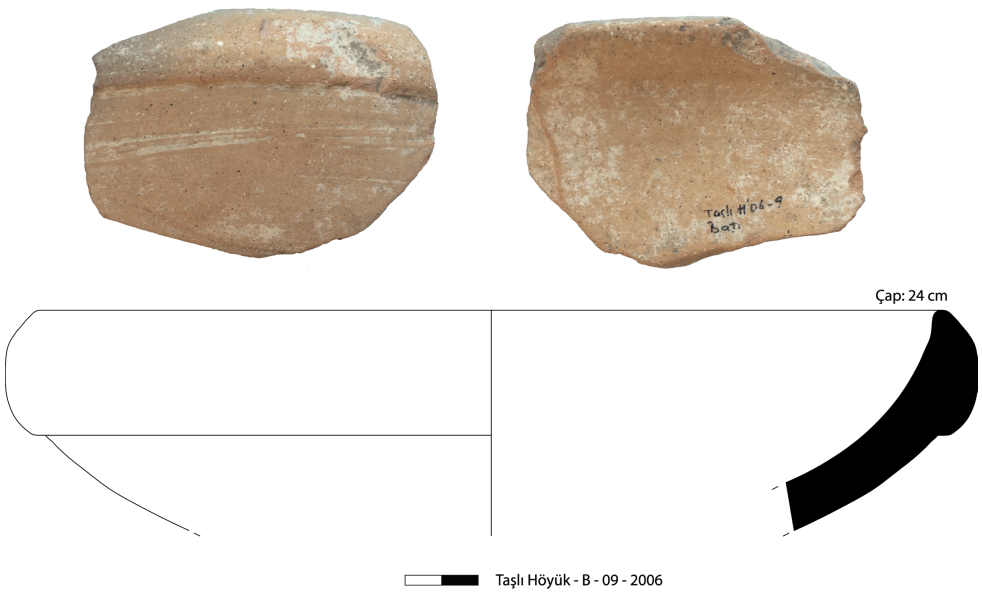


Figure 49. OAS MIA- NAssur_46 OAS recorded Middle Iron Age Neo Assur sherd on mound Taşlı 1: Taşlı 1 B 09_2006.



Figure 50. OAS LIA_47 OAS recorded Late Iron Age sherd on mound Menetler: Menetler 01_2010.



Figure 51. OAS LIA_48 OAS recorded Late Iron Age sherd on mound Devletsiz: Devletsiz B 02_2006.

One amphora base from Menetler (OAS MIA- NAssur_45, Figure 48), and one bowl with oval out-thickened rim from Taşlı 1 (OAS MIA- NAssur_46, Figure 49) belong to the standard pottery of the New Assyrian Period (Tülek and Öğüt 2014: 771). These forms are documented in several Iron Age contexts of Gözlükule (Early Iron Age (Goldman 1963: Pl. 86: 1154, 91: 1280), Middle Iron Age (Goldman 1963: Pl. 132: 928) and New Assyrian level (Goldman 1963: Pl. 120: 270) and New Assyrian Building XVI of Tell Ta'yinat (Harrison and Osborne 2012: fig. 7:10). Similar bases are also found in the Late Iron Age (600–580 BC) contexts of the Habur region and the Levant (580–540 BC), Tell Halaf and Tell Shaykh Hamad F2 in the Habur region (Lehmann 1998: fig. 7: 2, 5), and Athlit in the Levant (Lehmann 1998: fig. 8: 18).

The Late Iron Age *black-on-red ware* is attested in Menetler (OAS LIA-47, Figure 50) and Devletsiz (Tülek and Öğüt 2013: 62, fig. 5; 2014: 772, Devletsiz; Tülek and Öğüt 2013: 62, 72, fig. 7, Menetler) mounds (OAS LIA-48, Figure 51). These fine vessels are shaped on fast-wheel and are strongly fired. Both sherds belong to shallow plates with small horizontal handles. Similar pottery assemblages are also attested in Yumuktepe (Garstang 1953: fig. 2, 6–7) III, in the Middle Iron Age contexts of Gözlükule (Goldman 1963: Pl. 67, 88, 126: 700) and the Late Iron Age contexts (540–360 BC) of Northern Levant (Lehmann 1998: fig. 9: 2, 5, Tell Sukas F and Ras Shamra).

Conclusions

The identified mounds of the Upper Plain are by a water source or both by a water source and a land route. The present-day southern half of the Upper Plain is in deep alluvial silt carried by the river and its tributaries, from 6 to 10 meters in depth, where a few known low mounds surface the ground like Menetler, Yapılıpınar, and Taşlı 4. However, there might yet still exist undetected prehistoric mounds buried. Some of the prehistoric mounds examined in the present study are detected

situated on a basalt crop or a lime hill such as Telkovan, Toprakkale, Tülek 2, most probably Devletsiz, Şems, and Taşlı 1 as well.

Two or three prehistoric mounds, in various sizes, are located close. They look interconnected and formed a community. They shared the water source by tilling the land, dispatching and receiving commodities via riverine trade. Quantity and the scale of the mounds inhabited at the same period might represent a hierarchical order. The scale might also be relevant to the period of inhabiting, for example, the Devletsiz and Şemsi mounds that yielded Early Neolithic pottery are wide and low. Devletsiz and Mustafalı mounds are by a water source at the northern half of the upper Plain, and they neighbor a couple of smaller mounds implying interconnectivity. A couple of mounds neighbor the Menetler mound at the southeastern part of the Plain, as well. There seems to be a prehistoric settlement model in which almost all the mounds have two or more neighbors. It might not be intentional and pre-planned states, but the natural setting and access to water sources might have enforced the site of the settlement. Menetler mound is both by a water source and by the land route via Kısık Pass and yielded diagnostic pottery of the marine cultures not observed at the northern half of the Plain, which emphasizes facilitation of water sources and indicate participation in maritime trade.

Notes

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