

THE IRON AGE IN EAST PLAIN CILICIA – A FIRST ASSESSMENT OF THE IRON AGE POTTERY FROM THE OSMANIYE SURVEY

DOĞU OVALIK KİLİKYA'DA DEMİR ÇAĞ - OSMANIYE ARAŞTIRMASI DEMİR ÇAĞ SERAMİKLERİ ÖN DEĞERLENDİRMESİ

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Keywords: Plain Cilicia, Osmaniye, Iron Age, Pottery, Mound

Anahtar Sözcükler: Ovalık Kilikya, Osmaniye, Demir Çağı, Seramik, Höyük

ABSTRACT

New investigations in the region of the East Plain Cilicia offer remarkable insights into the Iron Age history of this region. The Osmaniye Archaeological Survey, being conducted since 2005, comprises more than 40 archaeological mounds that have yielded a large variety of material culture, from the Neolithic period to medieval times. In this article, the Iron Age pottery of the survey will be analyzed and compared with other sources from Osmaniye, as well as from the surrounding areas. Even though the influences of the neighboring areas were continuous and strong, the results of this analysis emphasize the existence of different traditions, mostly independent of the influences of foreign cultures, such as the Assyrian, Greek, Phoenician, Cypriot, and Persian cultures that dominated the area politically or commercially and, unlike the local population, left a large quantity of written sources. Although the pottery survey should be handled with care regarding definite chronological statements, it provides highly valuable information through comparative analysis with stratified material.

ÖZET

Doğu Ovalık Kilikya Bölgesi'nde yapılan son araştırmalar bölgenin Demir Çağ tarihine ilişkin yeni bilgiler sunmaktadır. 2005 yılından beri yürütülen Osmaniye Arkeolojik Yüzey Araştırması Neolitik dönemden Ortaçağ'a kadar dönemlere ait değişik kültür malzemeleri taşıyan 40 höyük yerleşimini belgelemiştir. Bu çalışmada, araştırmannın tespiti Demir Çağ seramikleri incelenerek Osmaniye ve bölge dışında tespit edilmiş olanlar ile kıyaslanacaktır. Her ne kadar, komşu bölgelerden etki sürekli ve güçlü olsa da, bu incelemenin sonuçları, siyasi ve ekonomik olarak bölgede hüküm sürmüş ve yerel halka tezat çok fazla yazılı kaynak bırakmış Asur, Grek, Fenike, Kıbrıs ve Pers gibi yabancı kültürlerinin etkileri altında olmayan farklı geleneklerin varlığını vurgulamaktadır. Çalışma, Yüzeyden derlenmiş seramik örneklerin kesin zaman dizinsel tanımlanmasında çok dikkatli olmak gerekse de, güvenli kültür tabakalarından edinilmiş malzemeler ile karşılaştırmalı bir inceleme yaparak çok değerli bilgi sağlamaktadır.

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Introduction and Chronological Frame

Due to the relatively numerous written sources, the chronological setting gathered from the finds of systematic archaeological investigations is essential, and offers an enormous advantage by contrast with most parts of the Near East. Therefore, the excavations in Tarsus¹, Mersin², Porsuk³ and Al Mina⁴, which were fixed on the base of comparison with reliable non-local material from Anatolia, Syria, Greece, Cyprus and the Levant, comprise the foundation of the chronological frame that is generally used for the East Plain Cilicia region⁵.

The aim of our research is to present tendencies based on comparisons with stratified material, since non-stratified material from archaeological surveys cannot be dated for certain. For convenience, we have decided to use a simplified division of the Iron Age in three periods, in accordance with the classification of Arslan⁶. We assume a time period for the Early Iron Age from the end of the Hittite Empire, ca. 1200 BC, to the destruction levels in Porsuk dated to 850 BC. According to this model, the Middle Iron Age lasts from around 850 until 700 BC, when destruction levels in Tarsus are detected⁷. The Late Iron Age can be divided in an earlier phase of Assyrian control, from ca. 700 to 600 BC, and from 600 to 300 BC when Hellenization began in the Near East.

Plain Cilicia – Geographical Settings and Brief Archaeological Research History

The area of Plain Cilicia known in Roman period as Cilicia Pedias, now comprising the southeast coast of Anatolia, was an important crossing point for commercial and military enterprises throughout all periods of historical time and up to the present day, due to its location between the Amanus and Taurus Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea, which is of genuine strategic importance. Mountain passes and harbors offer connections for trade routes, and in the case of the latter, the possibility of controlling access for friends or foes. This strategic advantage is strengthened by the very fertile land of the coastal plain, which ensures efficient agricultural production due to the fertile soil and the rivers: Ceyhan/Pyramus, Seyhan/Sarus, and Tarsus Çay/Cydnus.

Human activity in Plain Cilicia has been known from Neolithic times onwards. Despite the evidence from

surveys confirming a high density of settlements in Plain Cilicia, only a few archaeological excavations have been conducted, especially compared with neighboring regions⁸. Until recent decades, excavations had been limited to a handful of sites, mainly Gözlü Kule/Tarsus⁹, Yumuktepe¹⁰, Karatepe¹¹, and Domuztepe mounds¹². However, the number of new investigations at already known and newly discovered sites is increasing, such as in Soli Höyük¹³, Yumuktepe¹⁴, Tarsus¹⁵, Sirkeli Höyük¹⁶, Tatarlı Höyük¹⁷, and Kinet Höyük¹⁸.

Plain Cilicia in the 2nd Millennium BC

The first known written reference to Plain Cilicia can be dated to the first half of the 2nd Millennium BC, mentioning a Land of Kawa¹⁹ that was most probably controlled by local rulers²⁰. During the Middle Bronze Age this region belonged to the kingdom of Kizzuwatna and, after temporarily coming under the power of Mitanni, it became a part of the Hittite Empire around 1350 BC²¹.

The foreign impact on the material culture of the 2nd millennium BC is evidenced by Mycenaean ceramics, which were broadly spread over this region during the Late Bronze Age²². However, local traditions often show connections to Northern Syria, that is, Syro-Cilician wares show influences from or themselves influenced the regions south-east of Cilicia. In the transition between the Late Bronze and the Early Iron Age, this influence even reached areas in the northwest of Cilicia, for example in Porsuk²³, where a preference for Anatolian ware was replaced by a great attraction to ware from Plain Cilicia and North Syria²⁴.

Plain Cilicia during the 1st Millennium BC

After the fall of the Late Bronze Age powers, two new kingdoms emerged in the former land of Kizzuwatna: Hilakku in the north and Que in the south²⁵. From the neighboring city state of Sam'al/Zincirli comes the Phoenician inscription

¹ Goldman 1963; Hanfmann 1963.

² Garstang 1953.

³ Dupré 1983.

⁴ Gjerstad 1974.

⁵ Arslan 2011: 20, Fig. 7.

⁶ Arslan 2011.

⁷ Hanfman 1963: 110-117.

⁸ Seton-Williams 1954; Gates/Özgen 1993; Hrouda 1997; Salmeri/O'Agata/Falesi/Buxton 2001.

⁹ Goldman 1950; Goldman 1953; Goldman 1963.

¹⁰ Garstang 1953.

¹¹ Çambel/Özyar 2003.

¹² Çambel 1985.

¹³ Yağcı 2003.

¹⁴ Caneva/Sevin 2004.

¹⁵ Özyar 2005.

¹⁶ Hrouda 1997; Ehringhaus 1999; Ahrens/Kozal/Kümmel/Novak 2008.

¹⁷ Girginer/Özdemir 2008.

¹⁸ Gates 2001.

¹⁹ Novák 2010: 402, 410.

²⁰ Salmeri/O'Agata/Falesi/Buxton 2001: 37-46.

²¹ Novák 2010: 400-406.

²² Jasink/Bombardieri 2008: 28; French 1975: 61-62.

²³ Dupré 1983.

²⁴ Jasink/Bombardieri 2008: 33).

²⁵ Starke 1999: 529-230; Hawkins 2000: 38-45; Jasink 1995: 117-124.

of Kulamuwa (KAI 24) dating to ca. 830 BC, which mentions a king of the Danunians. The etymologically related Adana was the capital of Que, against which Kulamuwa claims to have “hired” the Assyrian king²⁶. This is confirmed by the Assyrian sources that report details about the campaigns of Shalmanassar III (858-824 BC) against the kingdoms in this area²⁷. However, the Assyrians were never able to get total control of Que in this period, as is shown by the fact that Shalmanassar III crossed the Amanus at least four times in order to consolidate his rule. In the inscriptions from Azatiwataya from the beginning of the 8th century BC, King Awarik (Urikki in Assyrian sources) of the house of Mopsos is called king of the Danunians²⁸. The same king is mentioned in the Çineköy Land of Hiyawa inscription²⁹.

In the second half of the 8th century BC, Assyrian pressure under Tiglath-Pileser III (747-724 BC) increased, until Que became an Assyrian province under Shalmaneser V (726-722 BC)³⁰. After the rise of the Neo-Babylonians it was subject to their Empire called Hume as well. Unified with the region of Hilakku and the region of modern Silifke, it became a province in the Achaemenid Empire³¹.

By comparison with the written sources, the material culture shows a different picture of foreign influences during the Iron Age. A good example is provided by the iconography, since it can be described as a local form of the Syro-Hittite tradition. In contrast

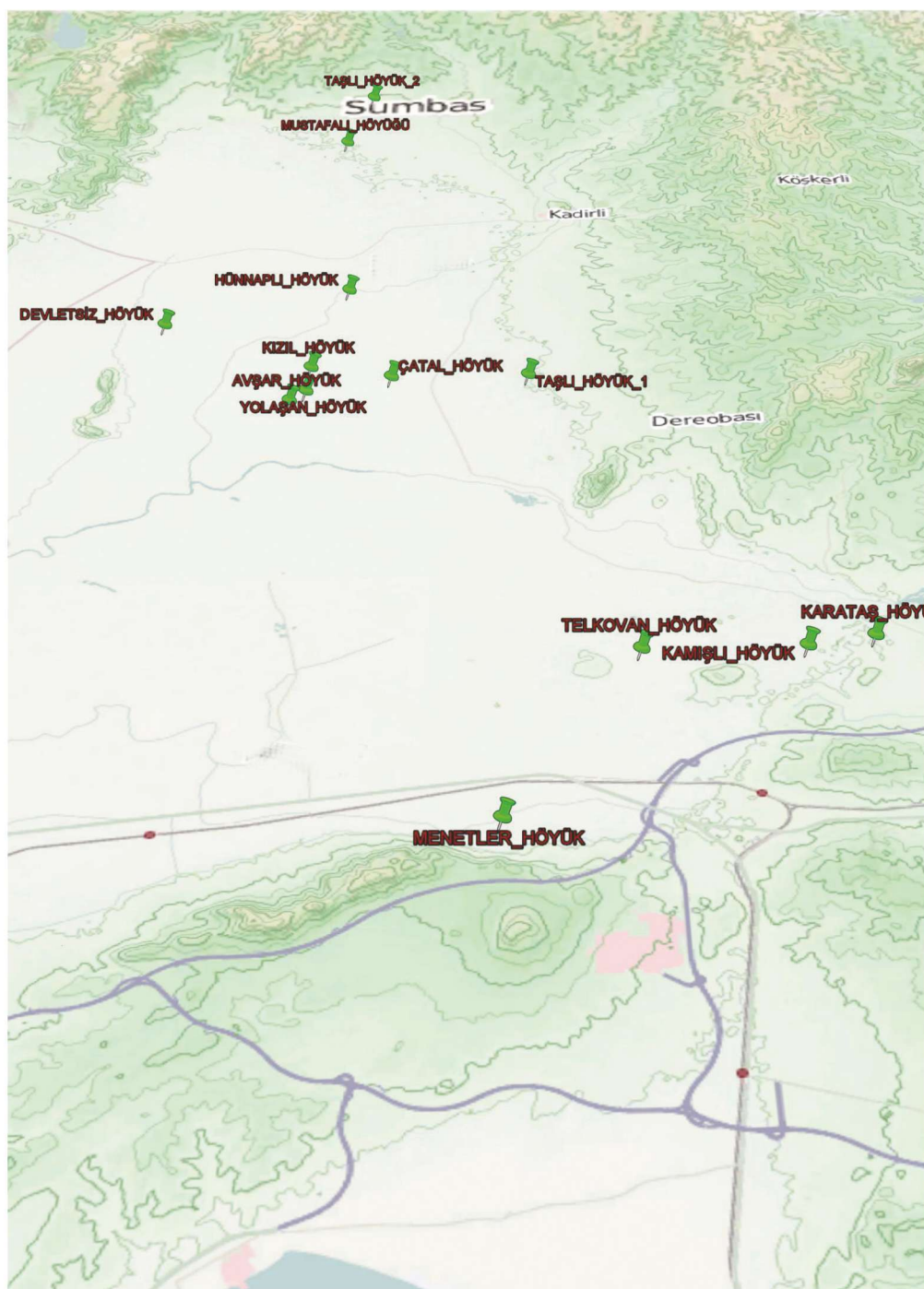


Figure 1a: Topographic Map of Iron Age Mounds of East Plain Cilicia - Osmaniye Province / *Topografik Haritada Osmaniye Bölgesi Demir Çağı Höyükleri Konumları*

to this, the pottery shows a large contingent of imported wares from Cyprus and, later in the 7th century BC, from Greece (e.g. Rhodian and East-Ionian)³². In addition, a large number of local imitations have come to light³³. However, genuine local pottery without any influence is elusive. Presumably, the imitations have to be regarded as “local” ware.

²⁶ Novák 2010: 406-407.

²⁷ Grayson 1996: 55, 58, 60, 68, 78, 80; in: RIMA - The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia Assyrian Periods 3, A.0.102.10-12, 14, 16; Yamada 2000: 198; Fuchs 2008: 47.

²⁸ Çambel 1999: 51; Novák 2010: 407.

²⁹ Tekoğlu/Lemaire 2000.

³⁰ Fuchs 1994: 455; Lanfranchi 2005.

³¹ Casabonne 2004.

³² Lehmann 1996; Kozal 2006; Meyer/Pohl/Sayar/Ehling 2004: 11.

³³ “Ausgehend von der Keramik könnte man fast von einer koiné zwischen dem Ebenen Kilikien und Zypern sprechen”, (Novák 2010: 408).

OSMANİYE HÖYÜKLER

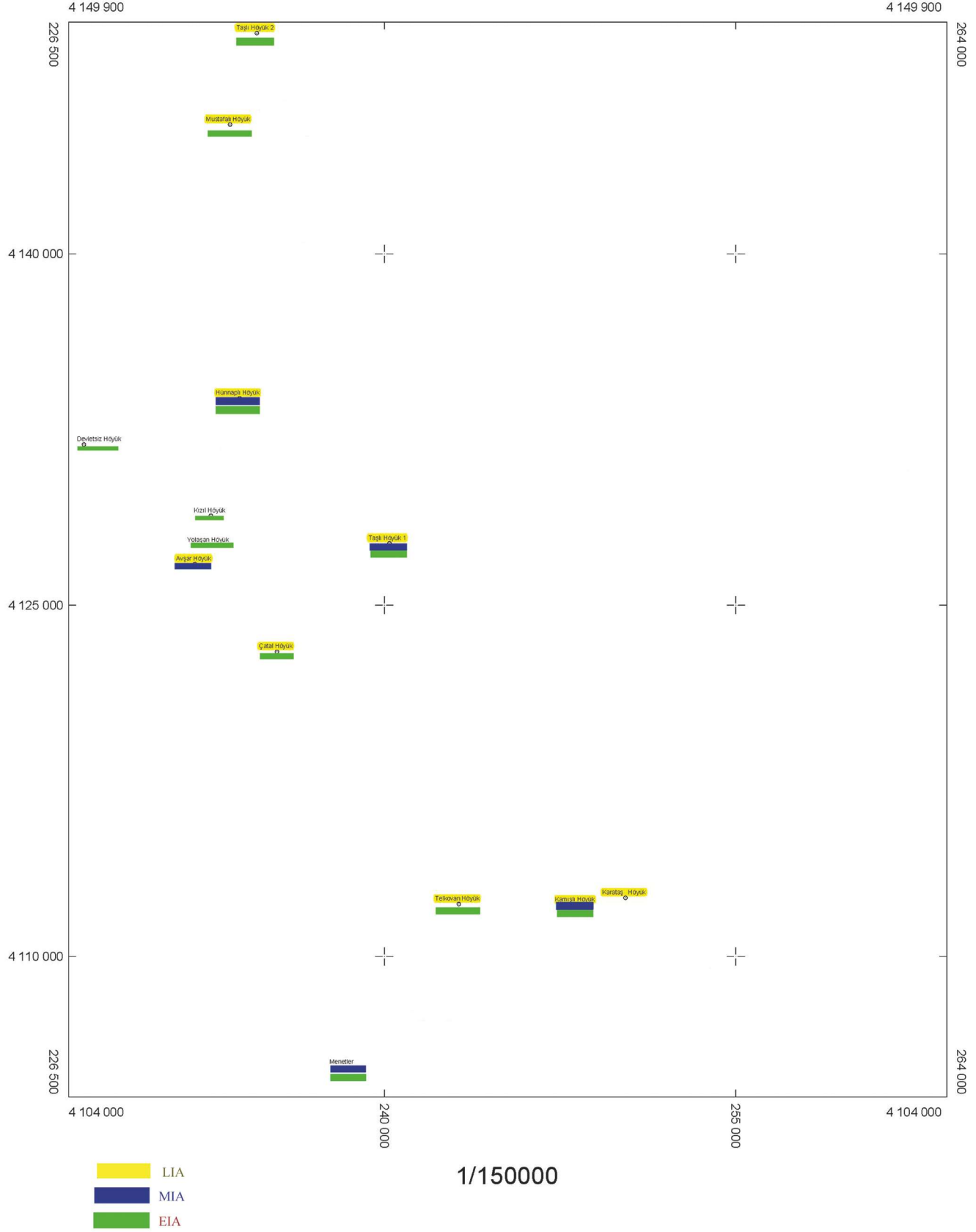


Figure 1b: Map of Distribution of the Osmaniye Iron Age Mounds Illustrating EIA- MIA- LIA Layers Contained / EDÇ- ODÇ- GDC Tabakalarını Kapsayan Osmaniye Demir Çağ Höyükleri Gösterimi

The Osmaniye Archaeological Survey

The archaeological survey encompasses the entire area of Osmaniye Province, which constitutes the easternmost part of the Plain Cilicia region. The Cilicia region, both west and east parts, Rough and Plain Cilicia, stretches along the Mediterranean. However, to the far east of the region, a volcanic formation, the Deli Halil Basalts, extends eastwards along a west-east axis from the northeastern tip of the Iskenderun Gulf, blocking access from the Plain to the sea. The Amanus and Taurus mountain ranges, which converge and enclose the Plain at the northeast, create an isolated and well-secluded land, namely East Plain Cilicia. Streams flow from the creeks and gorges of the mountains to form branches of the Ceyhan River, which runs in meanders, irrigating the plain, and heads to the western part of the Plain to reach the sea. Two major branches of the Ceyhan River, the Kesik and Savrun, running along a north-south axis to merge with the riverbed before the river leaves East Plain Cilicia, form a natural boundary between the western and eastern parts of Plain Cilicia. Thus, the land of Osmaniye Province is composed of both highlands and flat land in the eastern and northeastern half of Plain Cilicia.

The land of Osmaniye Province, which constitutes East Plain Cilicia, with a well-irrigated plain and numerous secluded valleys full of streams among the highlands, is a fertile and a pleasant place to establish settlements, which have mostly been aligned along the numerous land and river routes, both in the past and in modern times.

To date, the Osmaniye Archaeological Survey has focused on more than 40 archaeological mounds, 27 of which contain an astonishing high number and variety of pottery from the Neolithic/Chalcolithic period to the Late Iron Age³⁴. In this first stage of our research, 13 of these settlements have been found to contain Iron Age material. Geographically, the settlements are in three groups.

The first group consists of Karataş (KRTS), Kamışlı (KMSL), Telkovan (TLKV) and Menetler (MNTL), and the mounds are both along the meandering riverbed of the Ceyhan (Pyramus) River, and along the major military and trade route entering the Plain from the east, passing the Arslanlı Bel in the Amanus mountains and heading west to the Tarsus- Gözlükule mound. These first group mounds are also open to close interaction with travelers coming from the Mediterranean Sea via the Erzin-Iskenderun Plain.

The second group of mounds: Hünnaplı (HNPL), Devletsiz, Kızıl, Yolaşan (YLS), Avşar (AVS), Taşlı 1

and Çatal (CTL), shown in the center of the map (Fig. 1) at the western borders of Osmaniye Province, are also more or less gathered in north-south direction along the riverbed of one of the major branches of Ceyhan River, the Savrun River.

Similarly, at the very northwest of Osmaniye Province the two mounds that constitute the third group of settlements, Taşlı 2 and Mustafalı (MST), are situated along the Kesik River, which meanders in a north-south direction.

The Iron Age Pottery from Osmaniye

“Surface pottery, often the most accessible evidence of past archaeological landscapes, constitutes an awkward analytical dataset. Rather than resulting from any single

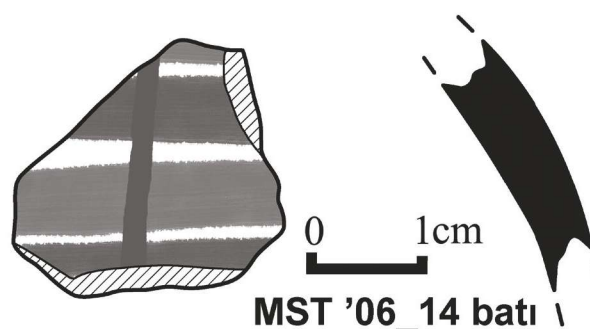


Figure 2: Osmaniye, Sumbas Town, Mustafalı Mound, potshard no MST West '06_14 / *Osmaniye, Sumbas İlçesi, Mustafalı Höyük, seramik no MST Batı '06_14*

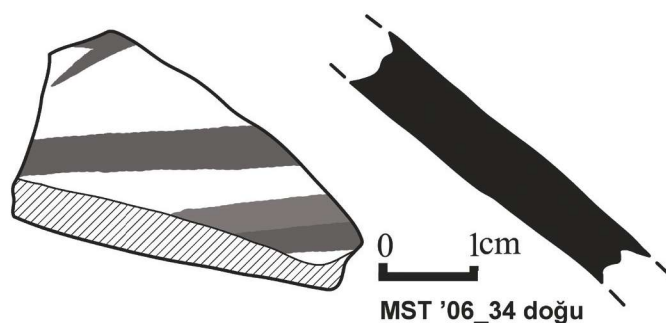


Figure 3: Osmaniye, Sumbas Town, Mustafalı Mound Fragment no MST East '06_34 / *Osmaniye, Sumbas İlçesi, Mustafalı Höyük, seramik no MST Doğu '06_34*

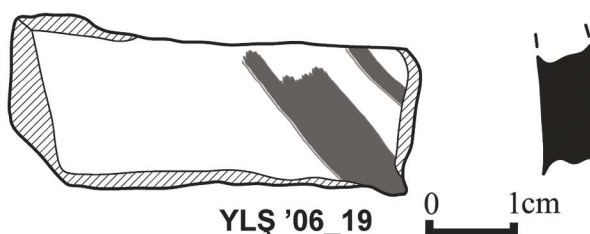


Figure 4: Osmaniye, Kadirli Town, Yolaşan Mound, potshard no YLS '06_19 / *Osmaniye, Kadirli İlçesi, Yolaşan Höyük, seramik no YLS '06_19*

³⁴ Initial results for these early periods were already presented in 2008, see Tülek/Büyükulusoy/Büyükulusoy 2010.

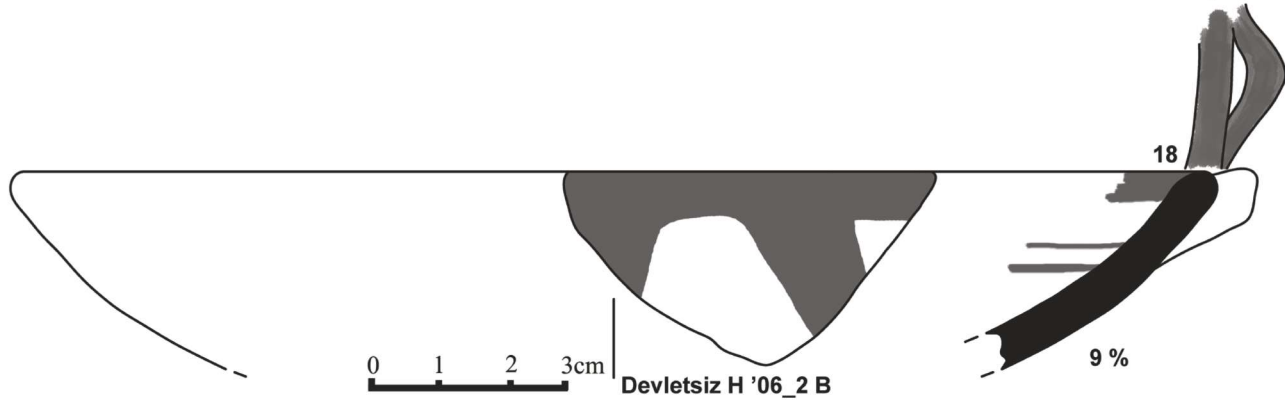


Figure 5: Osmaniye, Kadirli Town, Devletsiz Mound, potshard no Devletsiz '06_2 B / *Osmaniye, Kadirli İlçesi, Devletsiz Höyük, seramik no Devletsiz '06_2 B*

archaeological or post-depositional process, surface material typically represents a palimpsest, the spatially and temporally averaged material residue of a range of processes³⁵.

Iron Age pottery from the Osmaniye Archaeological Survey is examined in detail and collected in a catalogue, presenting results of macroscopic analysis in the appendix. In the catalogue, settlements yielding Iron Age pottery are given in alphabetical order, and the Iron Age ceramic shards are given as number, part of the vessel (e.g. rim, body), diameter (of rim or bottom), percentage (of the complete rim or bottom preserved), surface treatment, paste or biscuit, and the suggested date³⁶.

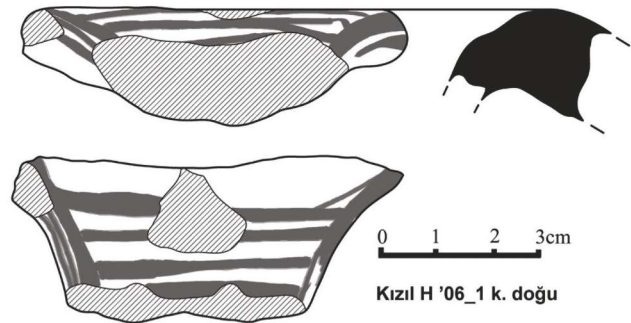


Figure 6: Osmaniye, Kadirli Town, Kızıl Mound, potshard no Kızıl Northeast '06_1 / *Osmaniye, Kadirli İlçesi, Kızıl Höyük, seramik no Kızıl Kuzeydoğu '06_1*



Figure 7: Osmaniye, Toprakkale Town, Menetler Mound, potshard no MNTL '10_01 / *Osmaniye, Toprakkale İlçesi, Menetler Höyük, seramik no MNTL '10_01*



Figure 8: Osmaniye, Kadirli Town, Avşar Mound, potshard no AVŞ North '06_29 / *Osmaniye, Kadirli İlçesi, Avşar Höyük, seramik no AVŞ Kuzey '06_29*

³⁵ Markofsky/Bevan 2012: 428.

³⁶ The collected ceramics were drawn and photographed, and the paste was macroscopically analyzed.

A FIRST ASSESSMENT OF THE IRON AGE POTTERY FROM THE OSMANIYE SURVEY

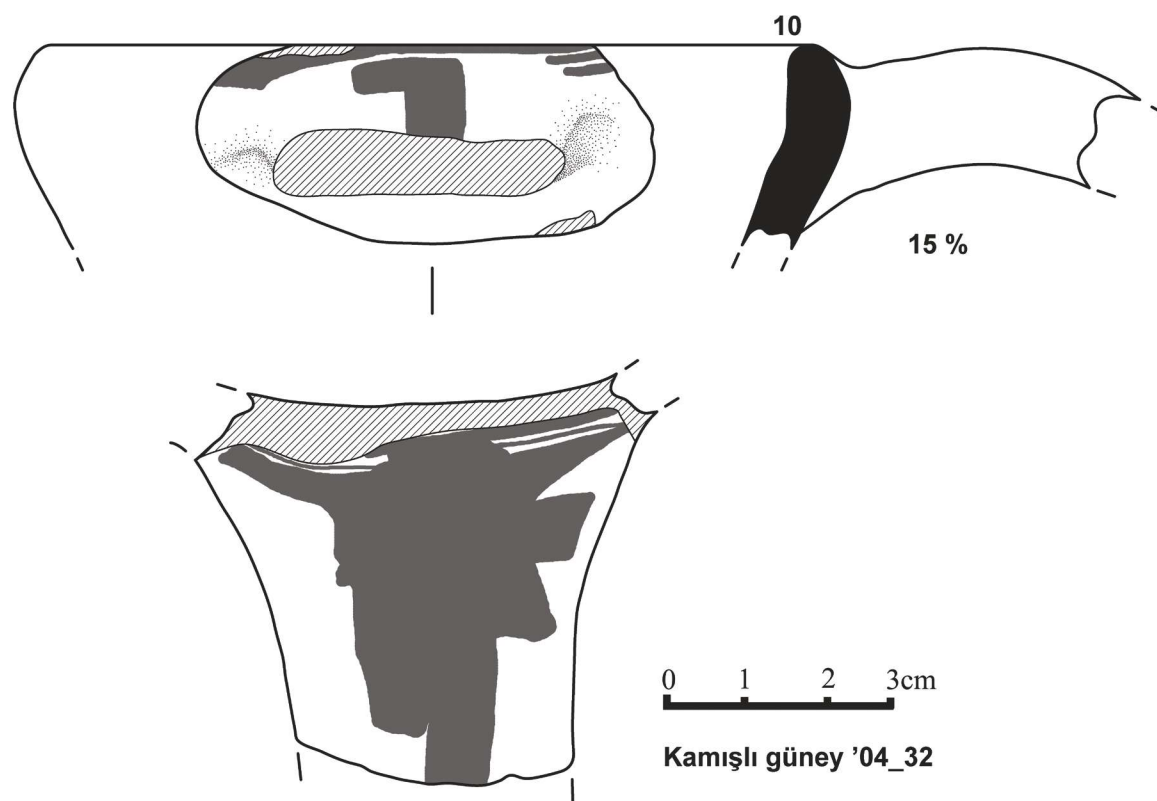


Figure 9: Osmaniye, Merkez Town, Kamışlı Mound, potshard no KMSL South 2005_32 / *Osmaniye, Merkez İlçe, Kamışlı Höyük, seramik no KMSL Güney 2005_32*

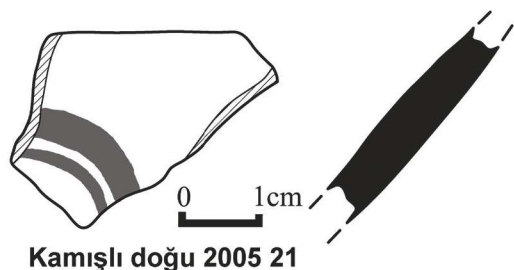


Figure 10: Osmaniye, Merkez Town, Kamışlı Mound, potshard no KMSL South 2005_32 / *Osmaniye, Merkez İlçe, Kamışlı Höyük, seramik no KMSL Güney 2005_32*

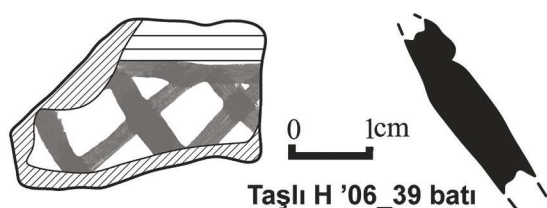


Figure 11: Osmaniye, Kadirli Town, Taşlı 1 Mound, potshard no Taşlı 1 West '06_39 / *Osmaniye, Kadirli İlçesi, Taşlı 1 Höyük, seramik no Taşlı 1 Batı '06_39*

During the survey, no complete vessel was found. Most of the pieces are very small and, due to exposure on the surface, often very calcified and weathered. Determination of the dating has to be based on comparative analysis with published pottery from surveys and excavations from the already mentioned sites. Since some of these

excavations have not yet been completely published, we decided to use the closest settlement as a basis for the following general assessment, which is Tarsus³⁷.

Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age Pottery (LBA- EIA)

Various Cilician wares described in Tarsus provide a basis for analysis of the Early Iron Age pottery from Osmaniye³⁸. Even if we were not able to define each sub-ware in our repertoire, most sites dated to the Early Iron Age have Cilician painted wares³⁹, which can often be identified by the painting. In this category, the Bichrome ware was the most often-collected ware (see MST'06-14 B, MST'06-34 Doğu, YLS'06-19), and was usually in brown, black, and red colors (Figs. 2-4)⁴⁰. Among the easily distinguishable Cilician wares is Black-On-Red ware. In this group, we can identify the Cilician Black-On-Red ware (see Devletsiz H'06-2, Kızıllı H'06-1 K.Doğu and MNTL 2010-01) as in Tarsus (Figs.5-7), whereas not enough pottery was found to define imported Cypriot or Cilician versions of this ware⁴¹.

³⁷ However, it was not possible to establish an exact correlation. Therefore, we only present tendencies, often without direct parallels from the published material.

³⁸ Goldman 1963: 48-92.

³⁹ Goldman 1963: 45.

⁴⁰ Goldman 1963: 51-55.

⁴¹ Hanfmann 1963: 50, Fig. 61, 194. The distinction is even more complicated since the Cypriot Black-on-Red ware "is not completely homogenous" (Goldman 1963: 50).

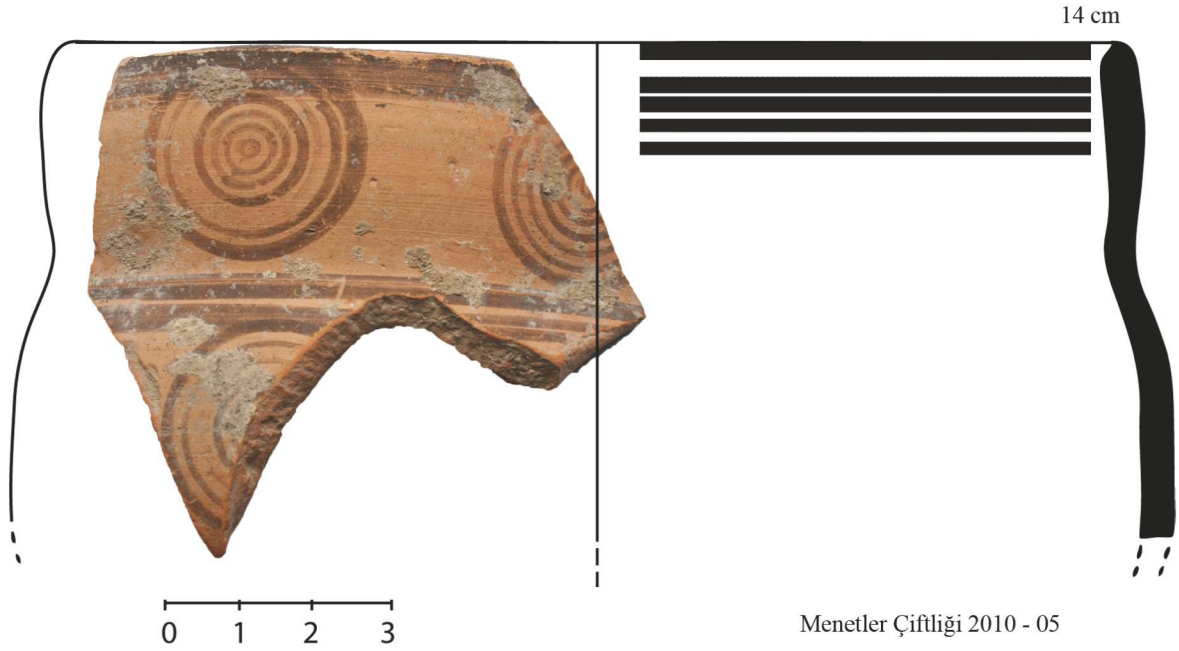


Figure 12: Osmaniye, Toprakkale Town, Menetler Mound, potshard no MNTL 2010_05 / *Osmaniye, Toprakkale İlçesi, Menetler Höyük, seramik no MNTL '010_05*

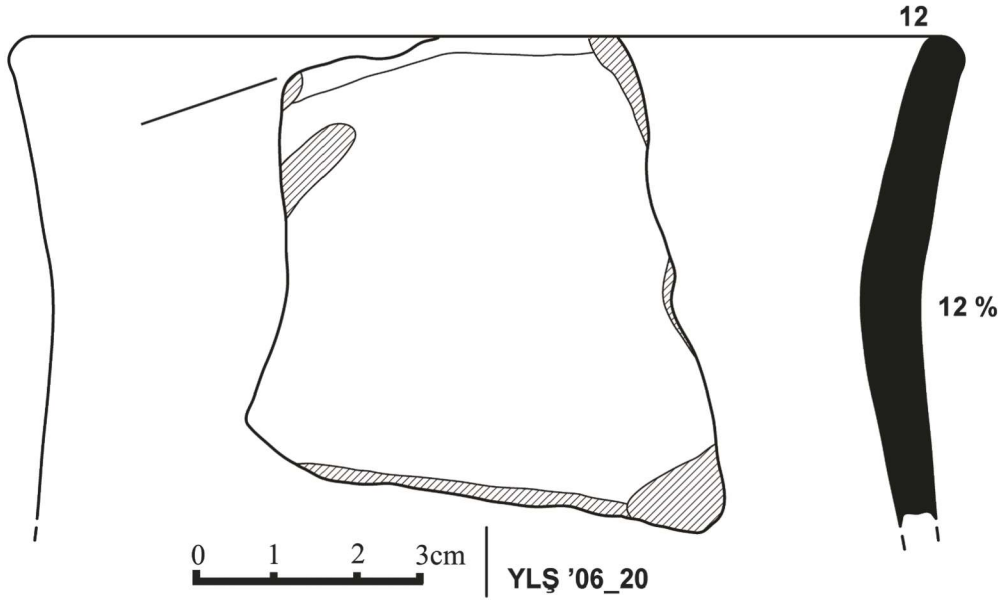


Figure 13: Osmaniye, Kadirli Town, Yolaşan Mound, potshard no YLS '06_20 / *Osmaniye, Kadirli İlçesi, Yolaşan Höyük, seramik no YLS '06_20*

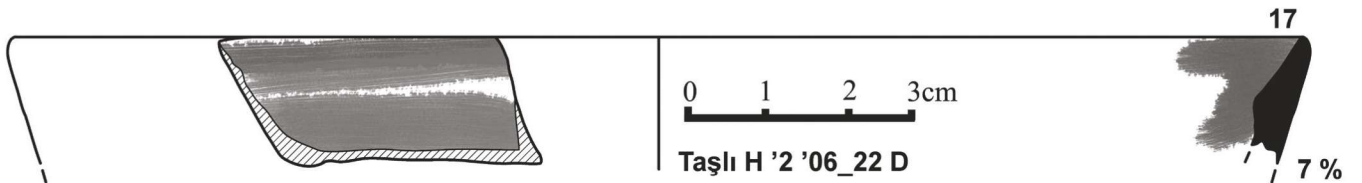


Figure 14: Osmaniye, Sumbas Town, Taşlı 2 Mound, potshard no Taşlı 2 '06_22 / *Osmaniye, Sumbas İlçesi, Taşlı 2 Höyük, seramik no Taşlı 2 '06_22*

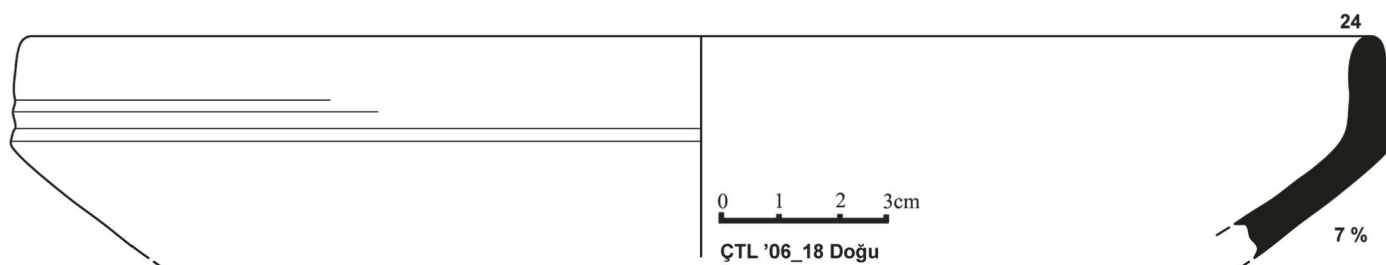


Figure 15: Osmaniye, Kadirli Town, Çatal Mound, potshard no ÇTL East '06_18 / *Osmaniye, Kadirli İlçesi, Çatal Höyük, seramik no Doğu ÇTL '06_18*

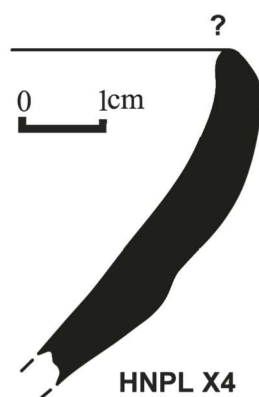


Figure 16: Osmaniye, Kadirli Town, Hünnaplı Mound, potshard no HNPL X- 4 / *Osmaniye, Kadirli İlçesi, Hünnaplı Höyük, seramik no HNPL X- 4*

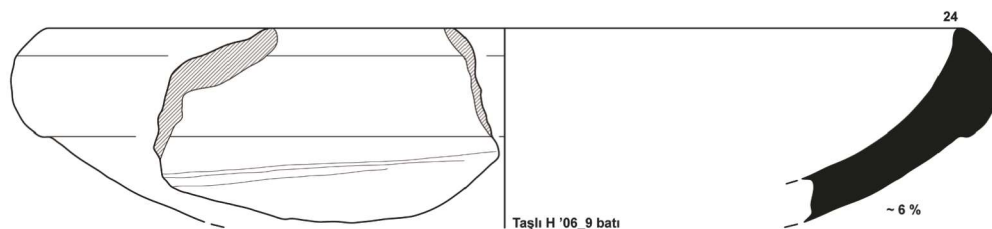


Figure 17: Osmaniye, Kadirli Town, Taşlı 1 Mound, potshard no Taşlı 1 West '06_9 / *Osmaniye, Kadirli İlçesi, Taşlı 1 Höyük, seramik no Taşlı 1 Batı '06_9*

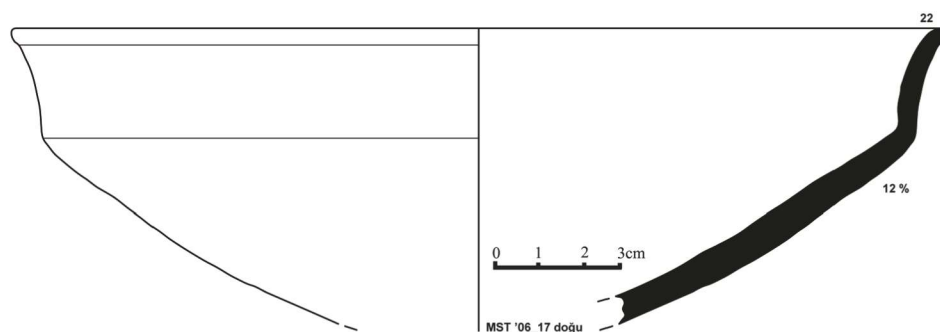


Figure 18: Osmaniye, Sumbas Town, Mustafalı Mound, potshard no MST East '06_17 / *Osmaniye, Sumbas İlçesi, Mustafalı Höyük, seramik no MST Doğu '06_17*

Pottery with a buff slip (see AVS 06-29 Kuzey) and forms like in KMSL 05-32 (Figs.8, 9) appear in Porsuk in the Middle Iron Age, the latest one probably datable to the transition from the Middle to the Late Iron Age⁴². Presumably dating to the same period is KMSL 05-21 (Fig.10), with parallels from Tarsus⁴³. Wheel made, burnished, self-slipped pottery with a hatch motif, like in Taşlı 1 '06- 39 Batı (Fig.11), is comparable to finds from Gözlükule dating to the transition from the Late Bronze to the Early Iron Age⁴⁴.

⁴² Dupré 1983: Pl. 88, 230, Pl. 81-153.

⁴³ Hanfmann 1963: Fig. 73, 615.

⁴⁴ Ünlü 2005: 160-161, Fig. 4a.

Middle Iron Age – Late Iron Age

Conspicuous and easy to identify are the painted pottery shards with concentric circles, as in MNTL 2010-05 (Fig.12). They resemble the Greek Geometric pottery that is distributed all over the Eastern Mediterranean, and can be regarded as a local imitation⁴⁵. The so-called Cilician Geometric pottery, dated to the 8th to 7th century BC Potshard MNTL 2010-05 in particular, has a very close parallel in Sirkeli⁴⁶.

Within the collected pottery, some burnished pieces (see YLS '06-20, YLS '06-19, MST '06-28 Doğu; Fig. 13) may be connected to the Burnished wares from Tarsus⁴⁷. The

⁴⁵ Coldstream 1977: 231-232.

⁴⁶ Arslan 2011: 127, Lev. 39, nr. 116.

⁴⁷ Goldman 1963: 60.

EIA	MIA	LIA
-	Avşar A	Avşar PH/P
Çatal CY	?	Çatal PH/P
Devletsiz L	-	-
Hünnaplı L	Hünnaplı PH/G	Hünnaplı PH/G
Kamışlı L	Kamışlı L/A	Kamışlı G
-	-	Karataş PH/G
Kızıl L/CY	-	-
Mustafalı L/CY	?	Mustafalı? P
Taşlı 1 L	Taşlı 1 CY?	Taşlı 1 G
Taşlı 2? L?	-	Taşlı 2? G
Telkovan L?	?	Telkovan? G
Yolaşan L?	-	-
Menetler L/CY	Menetler CY/PH	-

Table 1: Chronological Distribution of the Settlements with Iron Age Material (influence tendencies: L= Local; CY= Cyprus; A= Anatolia; PH= Phoenicia; G= Greek; P= Persian) / *Demir Çağ Malzemesi Bulunan Yerleşimlerin Zaman Dizinsel Dağılımı (Etki Eğilimleri: L= Yerel; CY= Kıbrıs; A= Anadolu; PH= Fenike; G= Grek; P= Pers)*

same holds true for the Red Slip wares, while this category was not very common in Osmaniye. Compared to other sites in the Mediterranean basin where it occurs very frequently, this lack of large amounts of Red Slip ware is noticeable⁴⁸.

The most common pottery shape in Osmaniye Iron Age pottery repertoire is the open shaped bowl. In particular, hemispheric, carinated, or bowls with S-shaped profiles can be distinguished within the bowl repertoire. Bowls with small vertical handles may be imports from Cyprus. Persian pottery was found in only a few cases. The S-shaped, very thin and fine bowls had an orange or brown burnish treatment (see Taşlı 2^{06-22 D}; Fig.14). This type is exemplified by ÇTL 06-18 Doğu (Fig.15) which can be compared to finds from Çimin Tepe⁴⁹, or HNPL X 4 (Fig.16) with Susa⁵⁰, and Taşlı 1^{06- 9 Batı} (Fig. 17) to Akarçay Höyük⁵¹ or Tille Höyük⁵². Whether the rim MST 06-17 Doğu (Fig.18) is comparable to Achaemenid pottery found in Nimrud is not clear, but it certainly has some affinities with it⁵³.

Although a large quantity of painted pieces in small fragments has been collected, there are hardly any fragments bearing features comparable to representative shards. Some shards with a larger preserved profile are linked to some examples mainly from the Levantine area. Among them are the beaker-like carinated bowls (ÇTL 06-35) from Al-Mina⁵⁴ dated to 580-440 BC, flat carinated bowls (HNPL

06 Batı 8) from Sarafand dated to 720-700 BC, and a so-called “mortar” (KRTS 05-19) from Zincirli dateable to 540-360 BC⁵⁵.

Influences and Affinities in the Material Culture from Osmaniye

At first glance, the material from Osmaniye is comparable to the general trends from Tarsus⁵⁶. Pottery from the Early Iron Age has mostly local or Cypriot parallels, and shows a tendency to a continuation of the material from the Late Bronze Age. By contrast, the Middle Bronze Age pottery seems like a transition to a phase increasingly influenced by foreign traditions, which is obvious in the Late Iron Age. During this period, an increase in imported or imitated pottery from Greek or Phoenician repertoires can be recognized.

Incorporation into the Assyrian empire left no traces in the ceramic assemblages, and the same holds true for the Neo-Babylonian and Achaemenid expansion. The increasing number of Greek and Phoenician pottery finds in the region, on the other hand, may be evidence of the economic relations of Cilicia. In particular, the finds from the Osmaniye hinterland point to the assumption that products from the Phoenician harbor cities were the common pottery.

Chronological Distribution of the Finds

The results of the present analysis show a chronological distribution of settlements in Osmaniye as follows: (see Fig. 1)

⁵⁵ Lehmann 1996: Taf. 16, 84c/1; Taf. 29, 177/3. This object was found without a stratified context in Lehmann 1996: 394.

⁵⁶ Goldman 1963: 154-160.

⁴⁸ Goldman 1963: 117.

⁴⁹ Lyonnet 2005: 139, Fig.4-4.

⁵⁰ Lyonnet 2005: 139, Fig.3-2.

⁵¹ Mergen/Deveci 1999: 23, Fig. 3.3.

⁵² Blaylock 1999: Fig 14.

⁵³ Curtis 2005: Fig 4.

⁵⁴ Lehmann 1996: Taf. 21, 123/2.

Early Iron Age

Çatal Höyük, Kızıl, Mustafalı, Menetler Çiftlik, Devletsiz, Hünnaplı, Kamışlı, Taşlı 1, Taşlı 2, Telkovan, and Yolaşan are mounds where Early Iron Age settlements were presumably present.

Menetler, Telkovan and Kamışlı, in the south of the research area, were probably linked to each other in some way. In the northernmost part, it seems that Mustafalı and Taşlı 2 mounds define another closely connected group of settlements. However, for the most part the settlements are concentrated in the western part of Osmaniye, with the Çatal, Kızıl, Devletsiz, Hünnaplı and Yolaşan mounds⁵⁷. It is not surprising that the northern area of Osmaniye, close to the mountains, has a low density of settlements. In the Early Iron Age the harbor cities or the main trade routes were likely to have been the most important bases for the local economy, and the need for protection was presumably best covered by a dense community of small villages like in the western area of Osmaniye.

Middle Iron Age

Avşar, Hünnaplı, Kamışlı, Taşlı 1, and Menetler Çiftlik are mounds where Middle Iron Age settlements were presumably present.

The present results indicate a dramatic decrease of 50 % during the Middle Iron Age, to only 5 settlements. Of course, this could be due to the unidentified Middle Iron Age material in general⁵⁸. It seems that the northern settlements of the Osmaniye Plain were abandoned, while in the western part only three mounds: Avşar, Hünnaplı, and Taşlı 1, survived. Compared to the other areas, the southern part of the Plain, with Kamışlı and Menetler Çiftlik mounds, presents a consistent settlement pattern. Thereafter in this period, a decrease in the number of settlements can be surmised in the northern and western parts of the province.

Late Iron Age

Avşar, Çatal Höyük, Hünnaplı, Karataş, Mustafalı, Taşlı 1, Taşlı 2, Kamışlı, and Telkovan are mounds where it is presumed that Late Iron Age settlements were present.

In the Late Iron Age, a slight increase in the number of settlements by comparison with the Middle Iron Age can be recognized. Çatal, Karataş, Mustafalı, Taşlı 2, and Telkovan mounds seem to have been resettled. This can probably be attributed to political changes or shifts in the trade routes of Osmaniye.

Final Observation and Conclusions

As the present study is a preliminary examination and a first assessment of the Iron Age material from the Osmaniye Archaeological Survey, it is likely that the ongoing survey may produce new examples to be added to the analysis, and could change the present picture.

Currently, the Iron Age pottery from Osmaniye shows a high level of human activity in the Iron Age in Plain Cilicia. The Osmaniye Survey material highlights the density of settlements in this area. Following a comparative analysis of the collected material, we are able to emphasize that this region consisted of a tight network of settlements between the mountains in the north and the Mediterranean Sea in the south.

Geographically, the Iron Age settlements are not gathered in the south of Osmaniye Province. They might have been expected to have lined the major land route along an east-west axis instead, they are mostly concentrated to the west of Osmaniye Plain, along the meanders of the Ceyhan River and its branches. Presumably river travel and transport was still the most convenient trade route throughout the Iron Age in East Plain Cilicia.

The pottery wares we found exhibit a high affinity with the pottery from Tarsus, while some links to the Levantine and Mediterranean basin are visible. In spite of the domination of the Assyrian or the Persian Empire, they left hardly any traces in the material culture. Only a few pottery shards show links to the respective pottery. Therefore, it seems that at least some parts of daily life were unaffected by the political upheavals of the Late Iron Age.

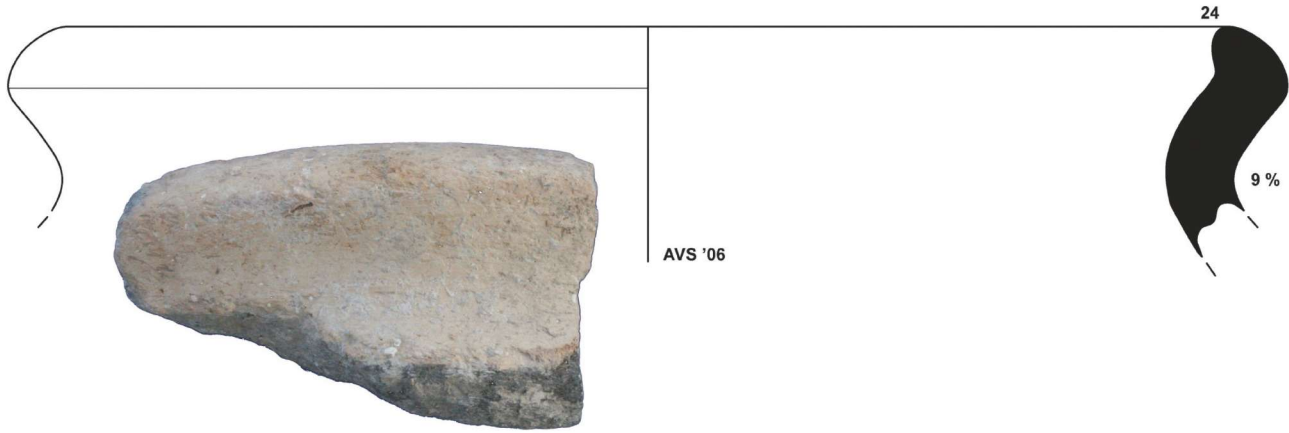
⁵⁷ It should be borne in mind that Karatepe lies in the eastern part and Tatarlı Hoyuk near the southern border of this area. Karatepe may have been the major political center of this area in the Iron Age, with these settlements forming part of its sphere of influence.

⁵⁸ An important point is that Early and Late Iron Age material from Çatal, Mustafalı, Taşlı 2, and Telkovan mounds is attested, but no material from Middle Iron Age was found. It is not out of question that these settlements were populated during the Middle Iron Age.

Catalogue

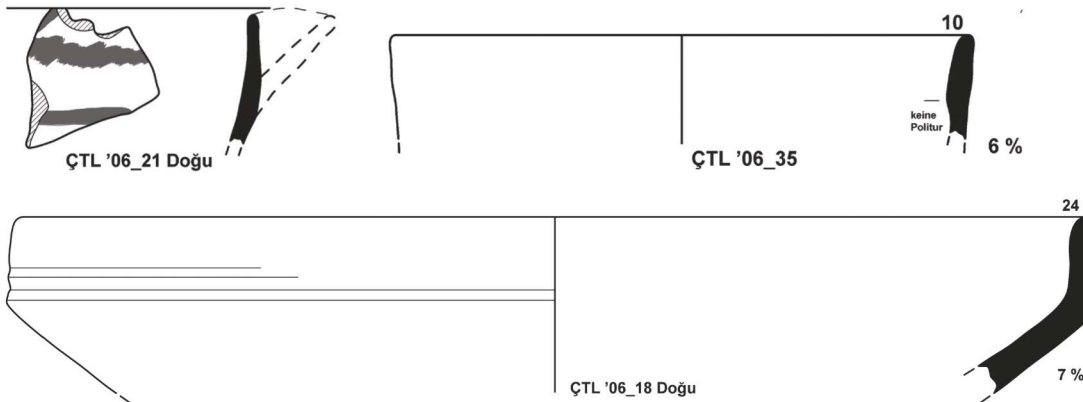
1. Avşar Höyük

Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	painting	Date
AVS '06-29 Kuzey	Rim	9	24	slip	soft, very porous, with much organic material tempered	10 YR 8/4	like O	black		MIA



2. Çatal Höyük

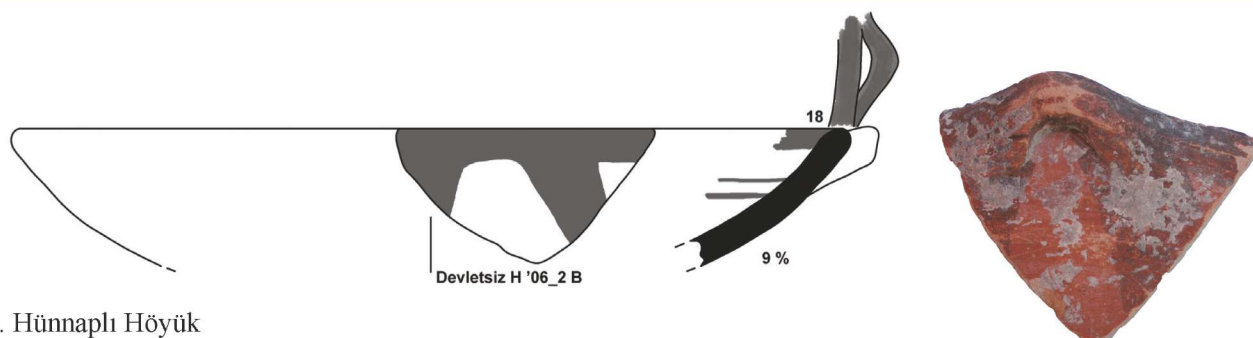
Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	painting	Date
CTL '06-21 Doğu	rim/pouring lip	-	not determinable	Reddish paint on orange, smoothed ground	dense no temper	orange	like O	like O	2,5 YR 5/8	EIA
CTL '06-35	Rim	6	10	orangebrown burnished with horizontal burnished strips	hard, very dense, some glimmer	orange	orange	orange		580-440 B.C.
CTL '06-18 Doğu	Rim	7	24	Lightbrown burnished	hard, dense, some chalk	7,5 YR 5/4	like O	Grey		IA/Pers.?



A FIRST ASSESSMENT OF THE IRON AGE POTTERY FROM THE OSMANIYE SURVEY

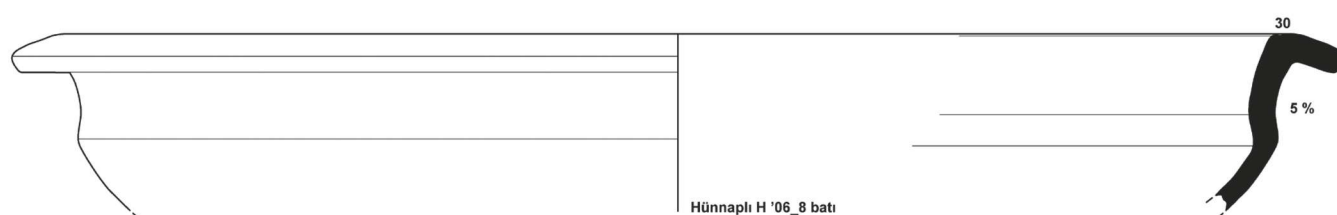
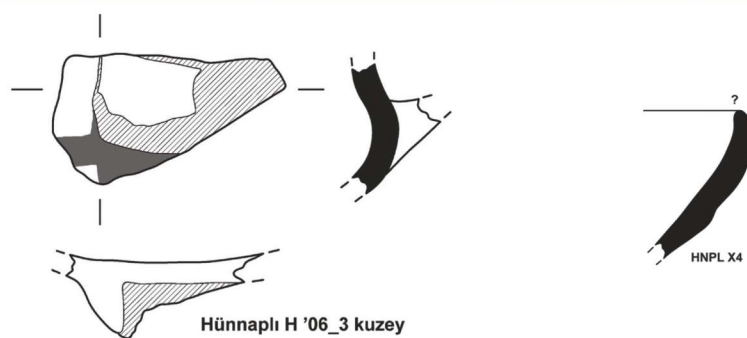
3. Devletsiz Höyük

Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	Painting	Date
Devletsiz '06-2	Rim	39	18	dark paint on orange slip	very hard, very dense, no temper	orange	orange	light	dark	EIA



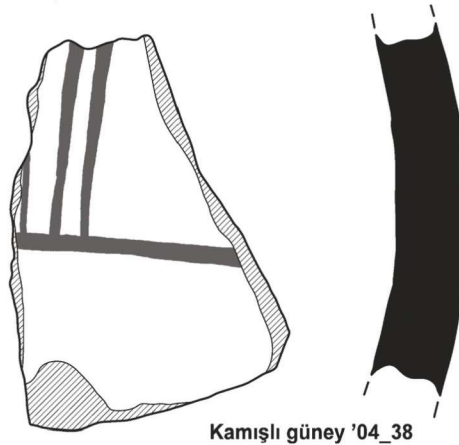
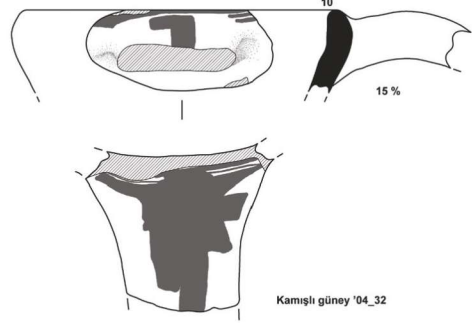
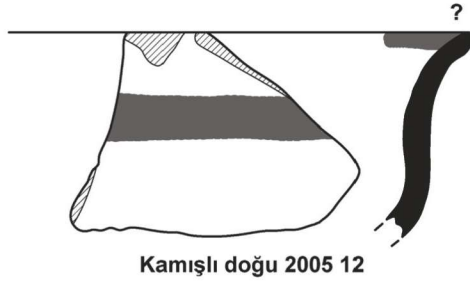
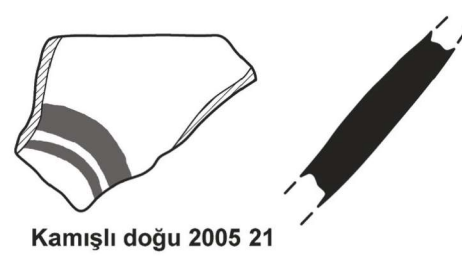
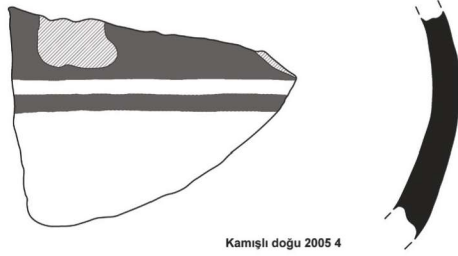
4. Hünnaplı Höyük

Number	Area	D m.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	Painting	Date
HNPL '06-3 Kuzey	rim/handle	-	-	Lightred paint on Selfslip	hard, very dense, barely temper	10 YR 8/2	like O	like O	10 YR 4(3)	EIA?
HNPL '06 Batı 8	Rim	5	30	Smoothed	middle hard, dense, very few reddish little stones	5 YR 6/8	like O	like O		720-700 B.C.
HNPL X 4	Rim	-	not determinable	inside burnished in horizontal strips, outside smoothed	very dense, very few chalk (very fine)	7,5 YR 6/4	like O	dark grey		pers?
HNPL '06 Batı 26	Rim	7	8	darkbrown paint on Selfslip	hard, dense, some mineral tempered	10 YR 8/2	like O	rötlich	10 YR 3/2	LI/hellen.?
HNPL '06 Batı 38	Rim	11	10	Smoothed	hard, dense, with grit (reddish), very fine chalk	7,5 YR 7/4	like O	red orange		hellen.?
HNPL X 5	Rim	-	not determinable	wash, burnished	hard, some porous, some mineral. Tempered	10 YR 4/6	like O	7,5 YR 7/4		hellen.?



5. Kamışlı Höyük

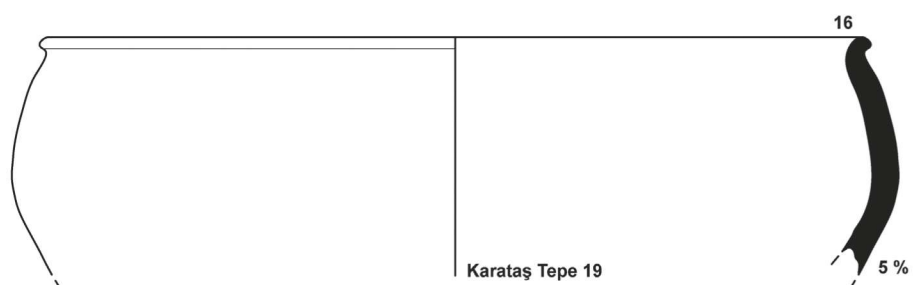
Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	painting	Date
KMSL Doğu '05 4	Body	-	-	darkbrown paint on Selfslip	hard, dense, some mineral. Material	10 YR 8/4	10 YR 7/4	Like I	2,5 YR 3/1	EIA
KMSL 12	Rim	-	not deter minable	orange strip O, browne I	hard, dense, some mineral. Material	7,5 YR 7/3	10 YR 7/4	Like I	2,5 YR 5/6 (A), 2,5 YR 2,1 (I)	EIA?
KMSL 21	Body	-	-	Darkbrown paint	hard, dense, some mineral. Material	pink	10 YR 7/4	Like I	2,5 YR 3/1	MIA
KMSL 32	handle	-	-	darkbrown paint	hard, dense, some chalk	10 Yr 7/4	like O	orange	10 YR 4/1	MIA-LIA
KMSL Güney '05-38	Body	-	-	darkrede paint	hard, dense, some chalk	5 YR 7/4	10 YR 7/2	Grey	5 YR 2,5/2	Hellen.?



A FIRST ASSESSMENT OF THE IRON AGE POTTERY FROM THE OSMANIYE SURVEY

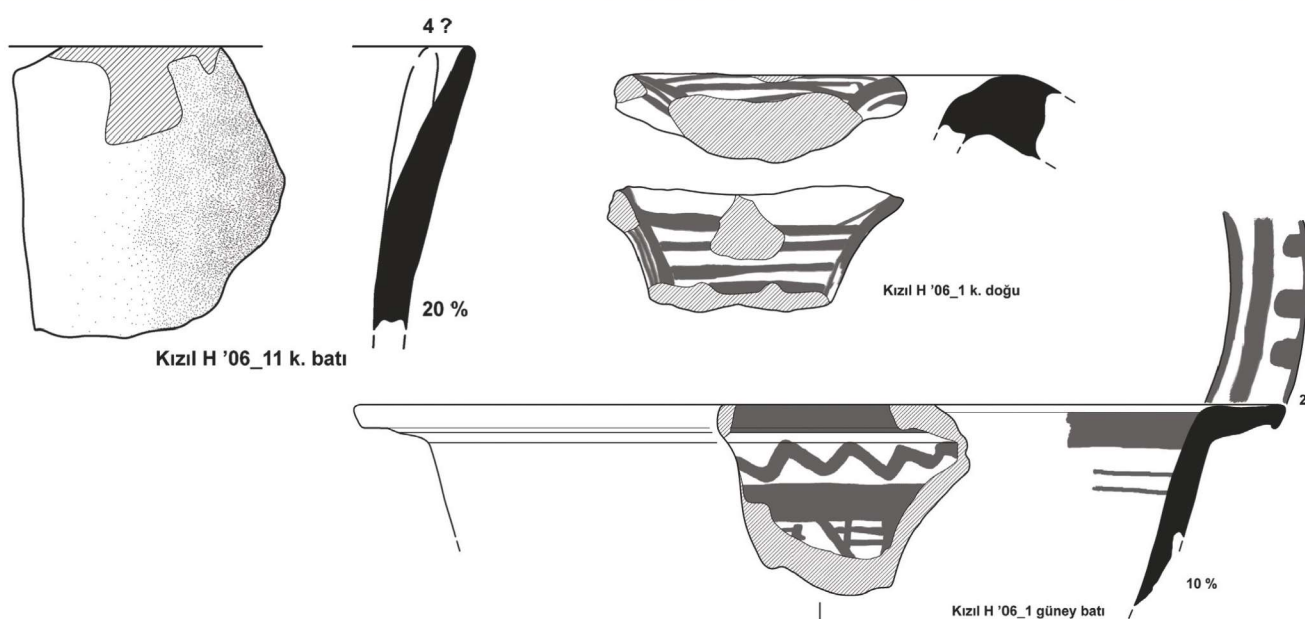
6. Karataş Höyük

Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	Painting	Date
KRTS 19	Rim	?	33	smoothed	hard, dense, with some chalk	lightbrown	Like O	pink		LIA 540-360 BC



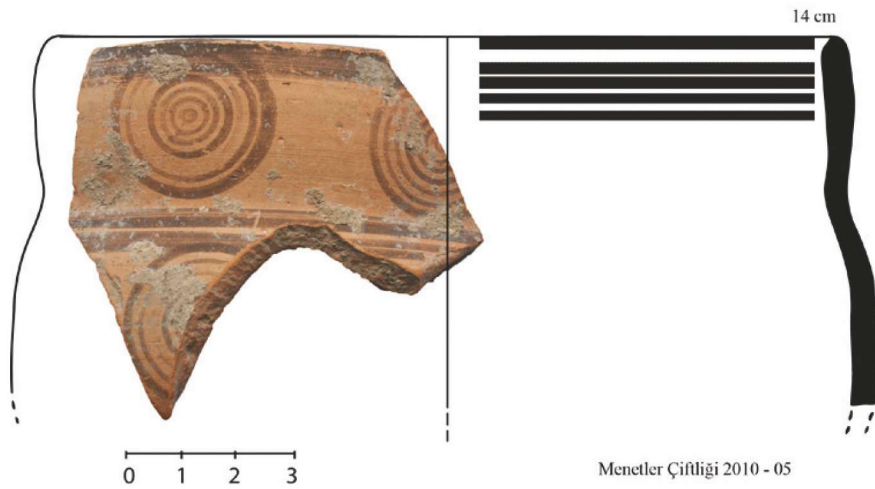
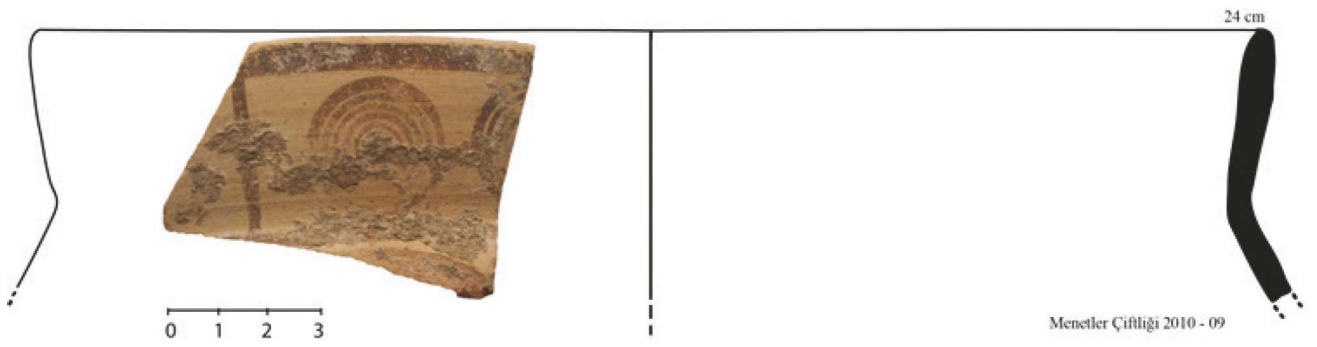
7 Kızıl Höyük

Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	Painting	Date
Kızıl '06-11 K.Batı	Rim	20	4?	Smoothed	very hard, dense barely temper	10 YR 7/4	like O	grey		EIA?
Kızıl '06-1 K.Dogu	rim/handle	-	not determinable	Darkbrown paint on smoothed ground	some porous, with much chalk	10 YR 7/4	Wie O	Wie O	2,5 YR 2,5/2	EIA
Kızıl '06_1 G.Batı	Rim	10	20	strip and Muster on slip	middle hard, porous, coarse, with some mineral. material, some chalk	2,5 Y 8/3	like O	like O	10 YR 4/2	EIA



8 Menetler Höyük

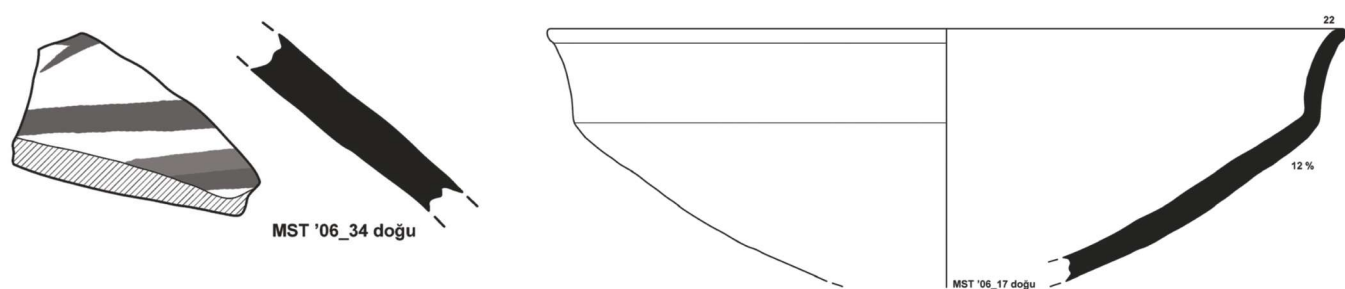
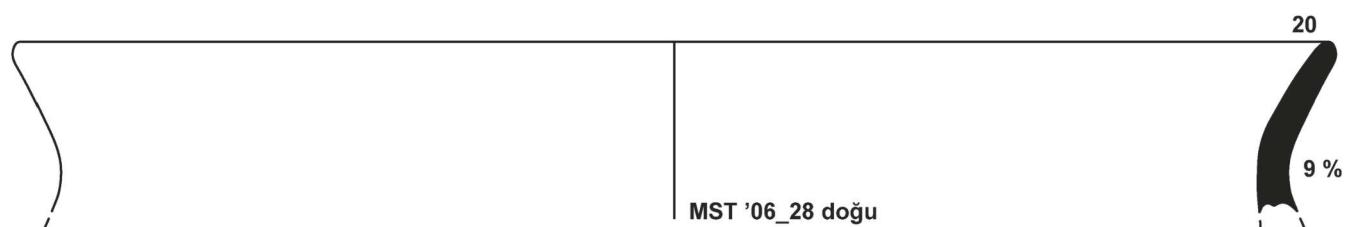
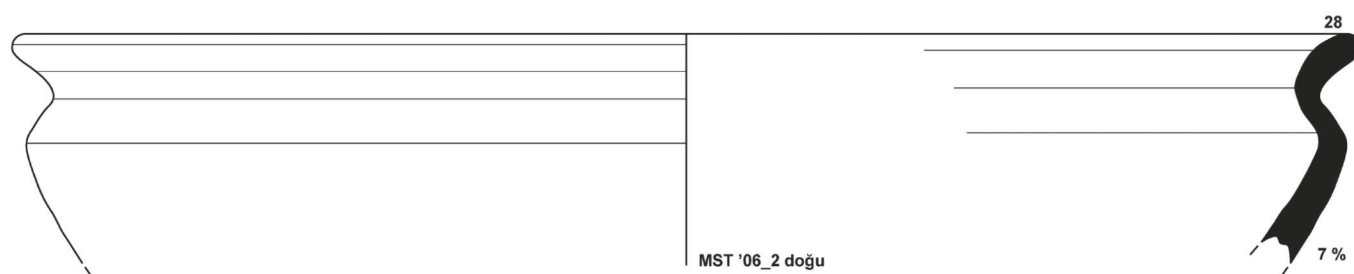
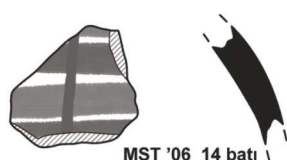
Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	Painting	Date
MNTL 2010-01	Rim	24	10	Red slip	Mineral temper, very few little stones	I	5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow	5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow	5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow	EIA
MNTL 2010-09	Rim	24	15	Selfslip	Mineral temper, very few little stones	10 YR 8/3 very pale brown	10 YR 8/3 very pale brown	10 YR 6/4 light yellowish brown	10 YR 4/3 brown	
MNTL 2010-05	Rim	14	30	Selfslip	Mineral temper, very few little stones	7,5 YR 8/4 pink	7,5 YR 8/4 pink	7,5 YR 6/4 light brown	10 YR 4/3 brown	



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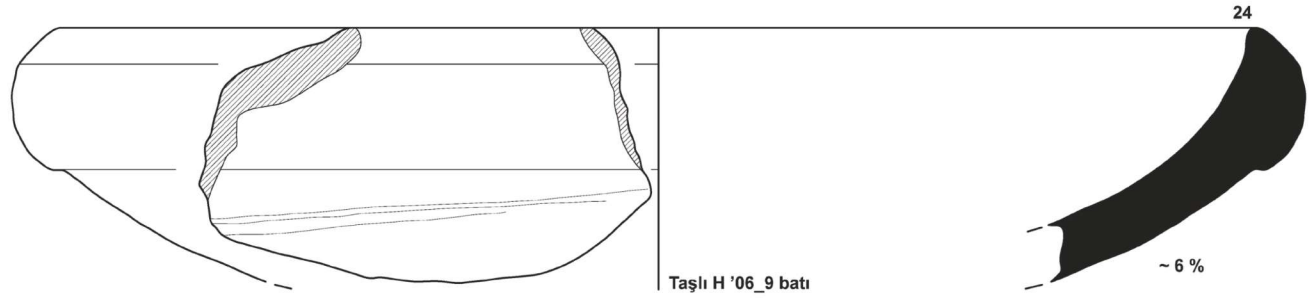
9 Mustafalı Höyük

Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	Painting	Date
MST '06-14 B	Body	-	-	brown and buff paint	dense, with very few mineral.r temper, chalk	7,5 YR 8/4	Wie O	like O	7,5 YR 3/1 and 6/4	EIA
MST '06-2 Doğu	Rim	7	28	inside light burnished	hard, dense, barely tempered, some chalk	10 YR 6/4	7,5 YR 7/6	dark		1. Jt.?
MST '06-28 Doğu	Rim	9	20	outside and inside light burnish	hard, dense, barely tempered, some chalk	5 YR 6/6	like O	dark		1. Jt?
MST '06-16 Doğu	Body	-	-	smoothed	middle hard, dense, some chalk	10 YR 7/4	like O	pink		1. Jt?
MST '06-34 Doğu	Body	-	-	dark paint on burnished ground	hard, very dense, no temper	7,5 YR 7/3	7,5 YR 5/1	grey	7,5 YR 7/3	IA
MST '06-17 Doğu	Rim	12	22	smoothed	hard, dense, barely temper	5 YR 7/6	like O	like O		Possible Pers.



10 Taşlı Höyük 1

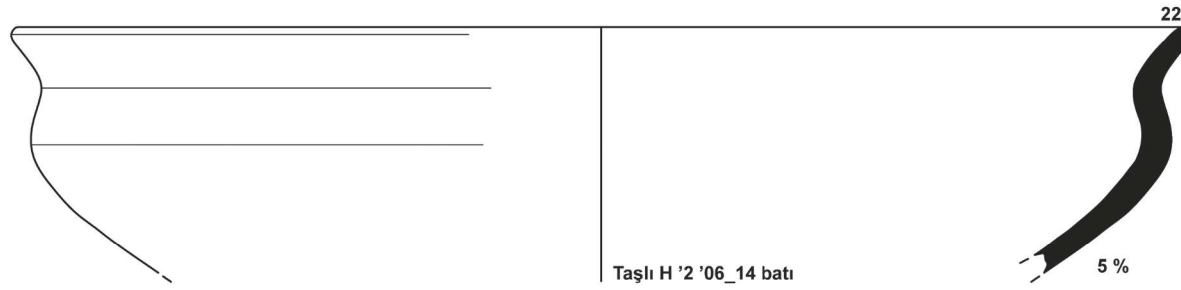
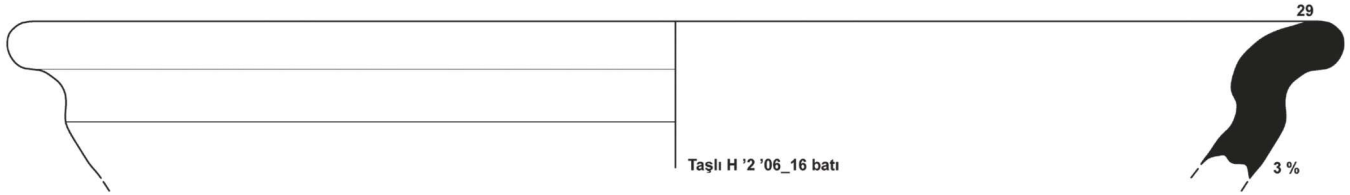
Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	painting	Date
Taşlı 1 '06-39 Batı	Body	-	-	paint on smoothed ground	hard, very dense, barely tempered	5YR 6/6	7,5 YR 7/4	5 Yr 7/4	5 YR 6/4-5/4	LBA/EIA
Taşlı 1 '06-43 Batı	Rim	3	20	Selfslip outside and rim	hard, dense, barely temper, grit and chalk very fine	7,5 YR 7/4	7,5 YR 8/3	7,5 YR 6/4		720-700 BC
Taşlı 1 '06-9 Batı	Rim	6	24	Smoothed	hard, very dense, barely tempered	10 YR 7 /4	like O	5 YR 7/6		LIA/Pers?



A FIRST ASSESSMENT OF THE IRON AGE POTTERY FROM THE OSMANIYE SURVEY

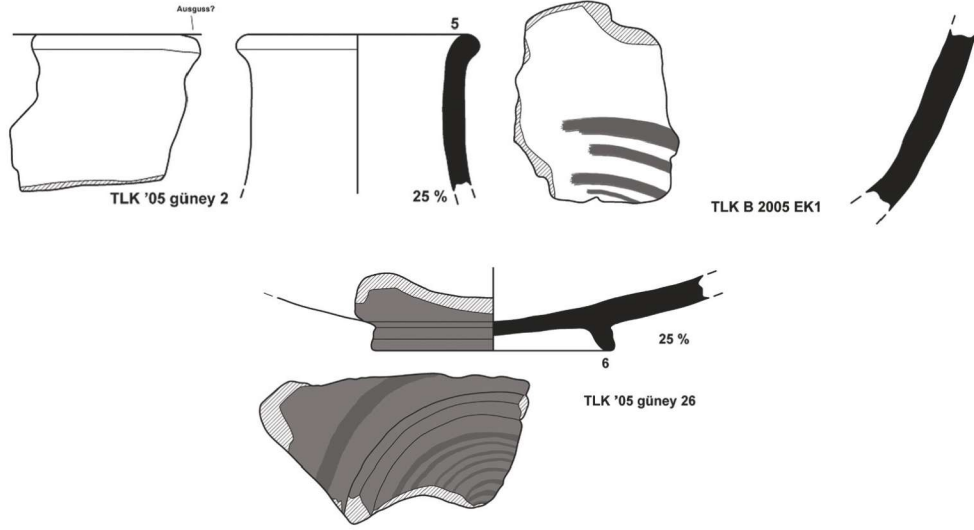
11 Taşlı Höyük 2

Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	Painting	Date
Taşlı 2 '06-16 B	Rim	3	29	paint in outsider der rim	hard, some porous with much chalk and some grit, some organic material	beige	like O	like O	Red	EIA?
Taşlı 2 '06-14 B	Rim	5	22	smoothed	hard, some porous with much chalk and some grit, some organic material	Orange-red	like O	like O		EIA?
Taşlı 2 '06-22 D	Rim	7	17	Red orange paint on ground	hard, dense, no temper	10 YR 7/4	like O	like O	5 YR 5/3, 5 YR 7/8	pers?



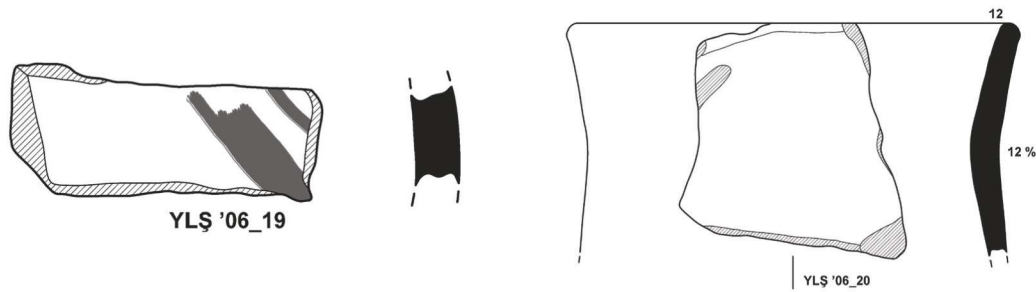
12 Telkovan Höyük

Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	painting	Date
TLKV Güney 2-2005	Rim	25	5		hard, dense, some with chalk and hellen. little stones tempered	7,5 8/4	like O	like O		EIA
TLKV '05 Güney 27	Body	-	-	paint on smoothed ground	hard, dense, some with chalk tempered	7,5 YR 8/3	like O	Pink	7,5 YR 3/2	EIA?
TLKV 2005 Ek 1	Body	-	-	paint on burnished ground	hard, dense, with grit tempered.	5,YR 6/6			2,5 YR 4/4	EIA?
TLKV '05 Güney 26	Rim									



13 Yolaşan Höyük

Number	Area	Dm.	%	Surface	Paste	Munsell Outside (O)	Inside (I)	Fracture	painting	Date
YLS '06-19	body	-	-	dark paint on smoothed ground	very hard, very dense, no temper	very light	like O	like O	10 YR 4/2	EIA
YLS '06-20	Rim	12	12	orangebrown burnished I and O	hard, dense, very few organic material, very few mineral. Material	7,5 YR 7/4	like O	Grey		EIA



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