

BURIAL CUSTOMS IN THE NECROPOLIS OF KYME/İDÇ

KYME/İDÇ NEKROPOLİSİ ÖLÜ GÖMME GELENEKLERİ

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Abstract

The İDÇ necropolis, one of the southern necropoleis of Kyme, constitutes the subject of this study. Between 2008 and 2011, a total of 618 graves comprising both cremation/urn burials and inhumations were unearthed in the necropolis. Among the inhumation burials, various grave types were identified, such as Carved Cist, Roof Tile, Simple Earth, Stone Cist, Sarcophagus, Amphora and Pithos graves. The studies indicate that the necropolis was in use over an extended period, from the 7th century BC to the end of the 2nd century BC. The grave types have been analysed by period, evaluating which types remained in use, which ones disappeared, and which ones emerged as new types during each respective period. On the other hand, a comparative analysis of the grave types with other necropoleis of Kyme and other necropoleis in different regions has been made. As a result, it has been determined that carved cist graves are not found outside Aiolis and represent a grave type unique to the region. In addition, the contrast between the simple architecture of these graves and their finds has led to diverse social and economic conclusions. The study demonstrates that a direct correlation between grave architecture and grave finds does not always exist, and that graves with simple construction can also yield rich finds. In conclusion, the İDÇ Necropolis is among the important necropoleis of Kyme not only for its variety of grave types but also for the richness of its finds. In this regard, the introduction of the Necropolis to the broader archaeological community is expected to contribute to the ongoing studies in this field.

Keywords: Grave, Necropolis, Burial Customs, Kyme, Aiolis

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Özet

Kyme'nin güney nekropollerinden biri olan İDÇ nekropolis'i bu çalışmanın konusunu oluşturmaktadır. Nekropolde 2008-2011 yılları arasında kremasyon/urnea ve inhumasyon tarzında toplam 618 mezar ortaya çıkarılmıştır. İnhumasyon gömüler arasında Oyma Sanduka, Kiremit Çatı, Basit Toprak, Taş Sanduka, Lahit, Amphora ve Pithos mezarlar gibi farklı tipler görülmektedir. Yapılan çalışmalar sonucunda nekropolis'in MÖ 7. yüzyıldan MÖ 2. yüzyılın sonuna kadar uzun bir süre kullanıldığı anlaşılmıştır. Mezar tipleri dönemlere göre analiz edilmiş, her bir dönemde hangi tiplerin kullanımda kaldığı, hangilerinin kaybolduğu ve hangilerinin yeni tipler olarak ortaya çıktığı değerlendirilmiştir. Öte yandan, mezar tiplerinin Kyme'nin diğer nekropoller ve farklı bölgelerdeki diğer nekropollerle karşılaştırmalı bir analizi yapılmıştır. Buna göre oyma sanduka mezarların Aiolis dışında bulunmadığı ve bölgeye özgü bir mezar tipi olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Ayrıca bu mezarların basit mimarisi ile buluntuları arasındaki farklılıklar göz önüne alındığında sosyal ve ekonomik açıdan farklı sonuçlar elde edilmiştir. Mezar mimarisi ile buluntular arasında her zaman doğru bir orantı olmadığı ve basit mimariye sahip mezarların da zengin buluntular verebileceği gösterilmiştir. Sonuç olarak İDÇ Nekropolü, farklı mezar tiplerinin yanı sıra zengin buluntularıyla da Kyme'nin önemli nekropoller arasında yer almaktadır. Bu bağlamda Nekropolün arkeoloji dünyasına tanıtılmasının çalışmalara katkı sağlayacağı düşünülmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Mezar, Nekropolis, Ölüm Gömme Gelenekleri, Kyme, Aiolis

Kyme was one of the most important cities in the Aiolis region during the Ancient Period. Today, Kyme is located in the Aliağa district of İzmir Province, surrounded by numerous companies, and has undergone significant industrialization. Due to the presence of these facilities, several rescue excavations have been carried out around Kyme since 2000. As a result of these excavations, several necropoleis have been identified in the east and south of Kyme. The necropoleis known as Habaş (Atila et al., 2015; Korkmaz & Gürman, 2012), Samurlu (Atıcı & Karakaş, 2013; Ürkmez, 2014; Ürkmez, 2016) and Dört Yıldız (La Marca, 2010) are located to the east of the city. To the south of the city, Aytemiz (İren, 2008a), Batı Liman (Konak Tarakçı & Selçuk, 2012), Gümruk Binası (Ünlü & Özsaygı, 2007) and the İDÇ Necropolis (Çırak & Kaya, 2011; Küçüküney & Altun, 2009; Lebe, 2024), which is the subject of this study, have been uncovered (Fig. 1). The İDÇ Necropolis (İzmir Demir Çelik Liman İşletmeleri), located 1,200 meters southwest of Kyme and named after the company on whose land it is located, lies within parcel no 68 in Çakmaklı Village, in the Aliağa District of İzmir Province (Fig. 2). Initial studies in this area were initiated by the İzmir Archaeological Museum in 2007 and research continued until the end of 2011.

Figure 1

General View of Kyme Necropoleis / Kyme Nekropolisleri Genel Görünüm (Google Earth)

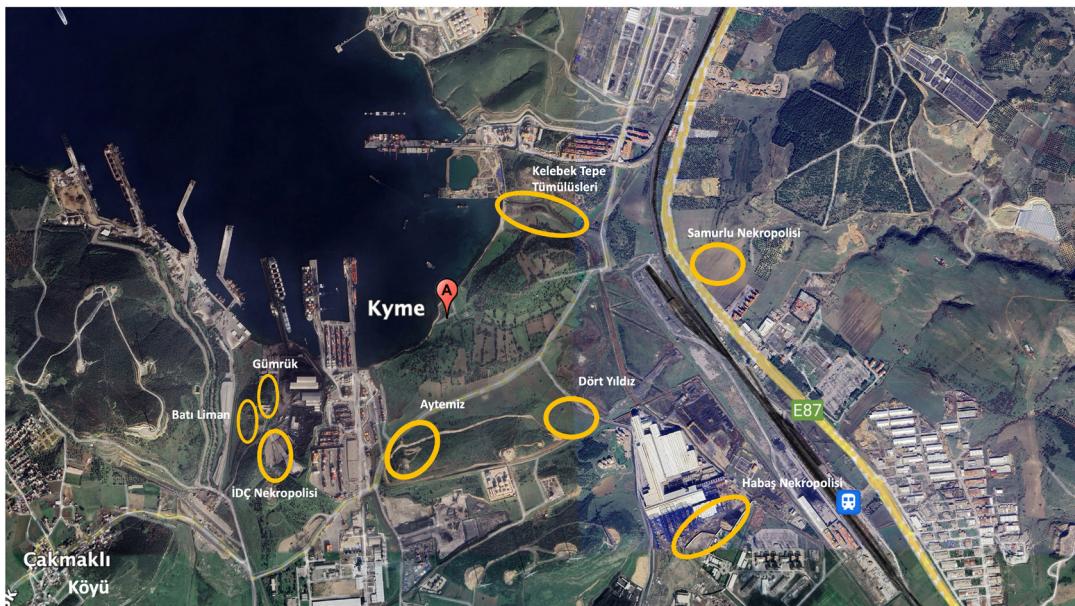


Figure 2

General View of Kyme and İDÇ Necropolis / Kyme ve İDÇ Nekropolis Genel Görünümü (Google Earth)



The İDÇ Necropolis is topographically oriented along a north–south axis and is located at the foot of a small hill to the west of the site. The area is characterized by hard and tuffaceous bedrock, which played a significant role in the construction of the graves (Fig. 3/1). When excavations began in 2007, a total of 48 burials were identified (Küçükgüney & Altun, 2009). However, systematic excavations carried out between 2008 and 2011 uncovered a total of 618 graves (Fig. 3/2). These include both inhumation and secondary cremation burials, representing a wide range of types. The inhumation graves consist of carved cists, roof tile graves, simple earth graves, stone cists, sarcophagi, amphorai and pithos burials.

A total of 938 grave goods—rich and diverse in both form and function—have been recovered from these contexts. In addition, 19 isolated finds, and 8 grave stelae not associated with any specific burial were uncovered in the necropolis. The graves have been classified under subcategories based on burial practices, architectural features, and chronological phases. These findings are of considerable importance for understanding the funerary traditions of Kyme, one of the most prominent cities of the ancient world.

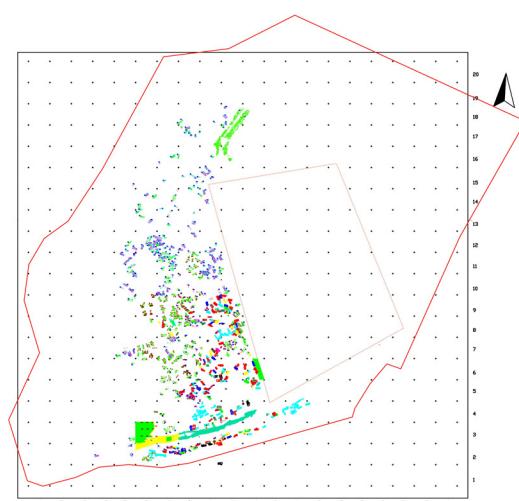
This study aims to evaluate the chronological development of tomb typologies, the relationship between funerary architecture and the richness of associated artefacts, the application of cremation and inhumation traditions, and the comparative context of the necropoleis of Kyme from a holistic perspective. The findings are expected to contribute significantly not only to an understanding of the funerary traditions of Kyme, but also the wider funerary culture of Aiolis, marked by a diversity of burial practices, prolonged phases of use, rich material culture and distinct regional characteristics.¹

Figure 3

General View and Plot Plan of the İDÇ Necropolis / İDÇ Nekropolis Genel Görünümü ve Parsel Planı



1



2

Cremation

Cremation, which involves exposing the body to fire until the skeletal structure is altered, is a burial practice that dates back to antiquity (Bones with distinct burn marks were found in the Aceramic Neolithic Period at Çayönü, see Özbek, 1990, p. 163-165; examples from Gedikli-Karahöyük are mentioned in the Early Bronze Period, see Alkım & Alkım, 1966, p. 14-15; 13 cremation burials are mentioned in the building layer of Troy VI. see Akyurt, 1998, p. 9; for the cremation burials encountered in the graves at Panaztepe Necropolis between 1425-1200 BC, see Erkanal, 1987, p. 257-258). This method is generally divided into two types: primary cremation, in which the individual is buried at the site of cremation, and secondary cremation, in which the cremated remains consisting of ashes and bone fragments - are collected and buried in a container or urn at a separate location. In the İDÇ Necropolis, a total of seven cremation graves were found, all of which are secondary cremation burials, four of these graves were unearthed in 2007 while three of them were excavated between 2008-2011. However, no designated cremation area has been found within the necropolis. Various vessels such as amphorai, khytrai and stamnoi were used for this type of burial.

1 The present study is derived from my PhD thesis titled 'Kyme Ancient City İDÇ Necropolis and Finds', submitted in 2024.

Most of these vessels were placed vertically in the ground, while some were laid on their sides. According to the data analyzed in detail below, this burial practice started in the late 7th or early 6th century BC and continued until the 4th century BC.

Cremation has been practiced in different necropoleis of Kyme since the Protogeometric Period (İren, 2008b, pp. 31, 35, Fig. 2.3, no: 1, Fig. 2.5, no: 1). In the Archaic Period, cremation burials became somewhat widespread in Western Anatolian cities such as Kyme (For the necropolis of Antandros Melis in Western Anatolia, see Polat & Polat, 2007, p. 2, Fig. 6; Yağız, 2005, pp. 22-36; Yağız, 2008, pp. 83-105; Yağız, 2015, pp. 708-710; for the Akpınar Necropolis of Klazomenai, see. Bakır et al. 2000, pp.48-49 Hürmüzlü, 2003, pp. 241-245; Hürmüzlü, 2004, p. 79, Fig.4; for the cremation graves unearthed in the Western Necropolis of Assos, see Buruldağ, 2009, pp. 17-32; for the Teos, see. Foça, 2019, p. 65, Cat. No. 49; for the Phokaia, see. Özyigit, 2003, p.337). The presence of urns is noted in the Aytemiz Necropolis, one of the southern necropoleis of Kyme (İren, 2008a, p. 614). In the Habaş Necropolis, one of the eastern necropoleis of Kyme, eight cremation graves were found (Korkmaz & Gürman, 2012, p. 74) and a khytra was even used as an urn in a cremation grave dated to the last quarter of the 7th century BC (Atila et al., 2015, p. 14, Fig. 2). In the İDÇ Necropolis, two stamnoi and two amphorai were used for this type of burial, dated to the 7th and early 6th centuries BC (Küçükgüney & Altun, 2009, p. 58, Fig. 4A/d-e-f-g).

Figure 4
Grave No 501 / 501 No.lu Mezar



By the Classical period, the number of cremation graves at Kyme appears to have decreased significantly. During this period, a remarkable grave was discovered in the Samurlu Necropolis. In this grave, a bronze hydria was used as an urn, dated to around 350 BC (Ürkmez, 2016, pp. 158-161, Fig. 2). In the İDÇ Necropolis two examples stand out from this period. One of them is grave no 501 (Fig. 4). This grave was covered with a well-worked limestone slab measuring 75x75x12 cm (Fig.4/1). Burn marks are visible on the underside of the limestone slab (Fig.4/2), beneath which a khytra was placed in an upright position (Fig. 4/3). The khytra shows charring from the mouth to halfway down its body (Fig. 4/4). It is likely that after the cremation process was completed, a ceremonial fire was lit over the urn and the limestone slab was placed before the fire had fully extinguished. Apart from the burnt bone fragments from within the khytra, no other finds were recovered. A similar khytra found in Athens dates to 460-440 BC (Sparks & Talcott, 1970, p.

371, Fig. 18, Pl. 93, No. 1928), while a comparable example found in Eridanos dates to the last quarter of the 5th century BC (Schlörb-Vierneisel, 1966, p. 27, Beil. 24, No. 3). Based on parallel examples, grave no 501 is dated to the second half of the 5th century BC.

Another example of secondary cremation in the Classical Period is grave no 20 (Fig. 5/1). An amphora with a lid and a neck handle was used as a container. A few burnt bone fragments were recovered from the amphora which was found lying on its side. The form of the amphora could not be identified, nor could it be dated. However, a squat lekythos associated with the grave was found 30 cm to the southeast. Although the mouth of this lekythos is missing, it features vertical lines extending from the neck to the shoulder, along with a web-like decoration on the body (Fig. 5/2). This type of lekythos, often classified as part of the Bulas group (Bulas, 1932, pp. 388-398; Lebe, 2025, p. 78, Group.1, Fig. 12), has numerous parallels dated to the 4th century BC in various regions (Robinson, 1933, pp. 182-185, Pl. 146-147, Nos. 474-504; Robinson, 1950, pp. 162-165, Pl. 107, Nos. 164-171, Pl. 108, No. 172-179; Almagro, 1953, p. 36, Lam. IV. Nos. 1-4; Bouzek, 1990, p. 154, Pl. 10, No. 4; Knigge, 1991, p. 41, Fig. 39; Atila et al., 2015, p. 24, Fig. 2; Görkay, 2020, pp. 361, 393, Att: 135; Öz & Abay, 2022, p. 73, Fig. 2, No. 4, Cat. No. 8). Based on parallels of this lekythos, grave no 20 can be dated to the same period.

Figure 5

Grave No 20 / 20 No.lu Mezar



1



2

The number of cremation graves at Kyme decreased further during the Hellenistic Period. In particular, the few cremation graves found in Samurlu, the eastern necropolis of Kyme, are thought to date to the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods (Ürkmez, 2014, pp. 352-354, Fig. 19). Moreover, the discovery of 150 graves, some of which are pithos graves, in the Northern Necropolis of the city (Reinach, 1886, pp. 493-494; İdil, 1989, p. 506) suggests that the cremation tradition persisted in certain areas. In the İDÇ Necropolis, cremation graves are absent during the Hellenistic period, with inhumation practices continuing to dominate.

Inhumation

Among the inhumation burials in the necropolis, a variety of grave types were uncovered, such as Carved Cist Graves, Roof Tile Graves, Simple Earth Graves, Stone Cist Graves, Sarcophagus Graves, Amphora Graves and Pithos Graves.

Carved Cist Graves

A total of 313 carved cist graves were unearthed, making them the most common grave type in the necropolis. The formation of these graves is closely related to the topographical features of the region. The hard, tuffaceous bedrock of the terrain where the İDÇ Necropolis is located plays a key role in the formation of the graves. Depending on the slope of the terrain, such graves were usually cut directly into the bedrock, sometimes built in fill soil or in areas containing both. The first step in the construction of the graves is the opening of a rectangular pit for the individual. The depth of the pit, which is shaped like a cist, varies between 50-120 cm. The lower part of the cist is wide and tapers slightly upwards, leaving a recess for the grave lids to fit. The individual is usually placed in the pit in a supine position. However, individuals laid in the hocker position have also been identified (Lebe, 2024, p. 14, Cat. Nos. 83, 164, Lev. 48, 105). At this stage, the body was not covered with soil, but the grave was sealed with smoothly worked limestone slabs and finally covered again with soil (Fig. 6/1). Carved cist graves were intentionally spread across the necropolis to avoid damaging each other. However, some graves were constructed in multiple layers, one above the other (Lebe, 2024, p. 14, Art. 3/e-f). In these graves, the stones used to cover the lower grave served as the floor of the upper grave (Fig. 7/1-2).

The lengths and widths of the carved cist graves range between 1.90-2.40 m and 0.50-1.10 m respectively, depending on the size of the individual. The number of covering stones used also varies according to the size of the individual, ranging from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 6 stones. The dimensions of the slab stones range between 30 cm and 80 cm in length, with a thickness of 10 to 15 cm. There is no standard orientation for this type of grave; while most graves are oriented east-west, some are aligned southeast-northwest, and a few northeast-southwest.

Figure 6

Models of Carved Cist Grave Found in the İDÇ Necropolis and at Myrina / İDÇ Nekropolis ve Myrina'da Bulunan Oyma Sanduka Mezar Modellemeleri

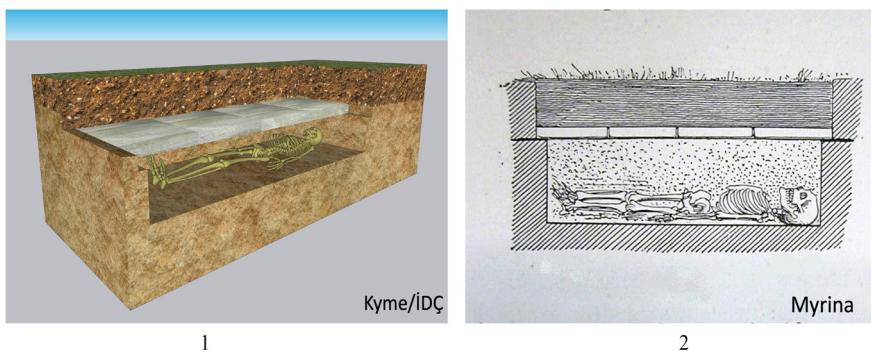


Figure 7

Above: The Multi-Layered Carved Cist Graves Discovered in the İDÇ Necropolis. Below: Drawings of Similar Graves Found in Sciatbi and Myrina / Üstte: İDÇ Nekropolisinde Ortaya Çıkarılan Katlı Oyma Sanduka Mezarlar. Altta: Sciatbi ve Myrina'da Ortaya Çıkan Benzer Mezar Çizimleri



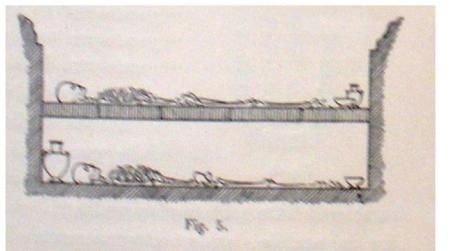
Graves 461 and 486

1



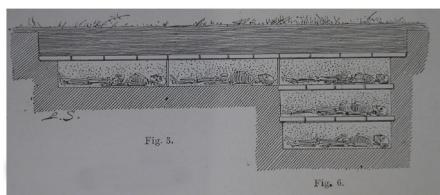
Graves 535 and 539

2



Sciatbi Necropolis

3



Myrina Necropolis

4

The carved cist graves, frequently encountered in the necropolis, generally display a characteristic structure typical of the Aiolis region. The closest examples come from rescue excavations around Kyme. In the southern necropolis of Kyme, the graves unearthed in the Customs Building are described as simple cist graves (Ünlü & Özsayı, 2007, p. 16; Yağız, 2012, pp. 305-306), while the examples in the Batı Liman Necropolis are classified as stone slab-covered graves (Konak Tarakçı & Selçuk, 2012, p. 187). In the eastern necropolis of Kyme, these type of graves uncovered in the Habas Necropolis are referred to as stone slab-covered earth burials (Korkmaz & Gürman, 2012, p. 74) or simple earth burials with stone covers (Atila et al, 2015, p. 17, Fig. 8), whereas in the Samurlu Necropolis they are called stone covered graves (Ürkmez, 2014, pp. 341-345) or limestone slab-covered graves (Atıcı & Karataş, 2013, pp. 231, 235). For the examples from the Dört Yıldız Necropolis, terms such as burials covered with stone slabs were preferred (La Marca, 2010, p. 405).

Such graves are well attested in Myrina, located in the Aiolis region (Fig. 6/2). These graves are identified as rectangular pit graves and display the same characteristics as those found in Kyme (Pottier et al., 1887, pp. 60-61, Figs. 4-7). Moreover, multi-layered graves are also present in Myrina, as is the case in the İDÇ Necropolis (Pottier et al., 1887, p. 61, Figs. 5-6) (Fig. 7/4). Limestone slab-covered graves are mentioned in Larissa as well (Mayer-Plath, 1940, p. 110). Outside the Aiolis region, a comparable example can be found at the Cevizcioglu Çiftliği Necropolis, where graves are referred to as “simple cist” graves (Özkan & Atukeren, 1999, p. 44, Fig. 45). Beyond Anatolia, multi-layered graves have also been identified in the Sciatbi necropolis in Egypt (Breccia, 1912, XVIII, Fig. 5) (Fig. 7/3).

As mentioned above, different terminologies have been used in various studies to describe these types of graves. In general, these terms are associated with the covering stones of the graves. Among these names, the term “simple cist” appears to be the most accurate. However, “simple cist” is a general term that also includes other graves where rubble stones, tiles, or paving stones were used as covering stones (Özkan & Atukeren, 1999, p. 44). The primary reason for using the term “carved cist” for these types of graves in the İDÇ Necropolis is the region’s hard and tuffaceous bedrock. Since digging the bedrock is difficult, most graves in the necropolis were carved as cists. Hence, this term has been preferred.

Between 2008 and 2011, a total of 313 carved cist graves were unearthed in the İDÇ Necropolis. Grave goods were recovered from 189 of these graves, amounting to a total of 586 items. These finds include a wide range of materials such as terracotta objects (ceramics, figurines, beads, spindle whorls), metal finds (gold and bronze jewellery such as bracelets, diadems, earrings, necklaces, rings, composite wreaths, medical and cosmetic tools such as mirrors, probes, medicine tubes; strigiles; and coins), glass items (jewellery, vessels, objects), bone artefacts (astragals, jewellery, objects) and stone items (scarabaeus, jewellery, beads). Considering their position within the graves, only the coins were consistently found in the region of the mouth, jaw, or skull. Other than this, the placement of the remaining finds within the graves shows no consistent pattern. This situation likely reflects the personal preferences of the deceased’s family or relatives. Moreover, some graves did not yield any offerings at all. However, some of them yielded a considerable amount of finds (For further information see Lebe, 2022, pp. 143-163). The finds recovered from the carved cist graves indicate that this grave group first appeared in the 5th century BC, was intensively used in the 4th and 3rd centuries BC, and continued to be in use until the 2nd century BC.

Grave no 340, one of the earliest examples of this grave group, was unearthed during the excavations carried out in 2010 (Fig. 8/1). The grave was covered with four well-cut rectangular limestone slabs of similar dimensions. The grave measures 210x77 cm, with its upper level at 22.50 meters. The level where the skeleton was unearthed lies at 21.79 meters, indicating a depth of 71 cm between the covering stones and the base of the burial pit. The deceased was laid in a supine position along the east-west axis, with the skeleton structure largely preserved. The dimensions of the preserved skeleton are 140x27 cm. Based on the grave goods, the individual was likely an adult woman. A terracotta bowl (For similar examples of fig. 8/2, see: Robinson, 1933, pp. 235-236, Pl. 179, Nos. 904-917; Dusenbery, 1998, p. 742, Nos. XS-162, S78-2), nails (For the seven bronze nails of fig. 8/3, see: Robinson, 1941, p. 319-321, Pl. XCIV, Nos. 1439-1441, 1454-1457; Karageorghis, 1978, p. 37, Pl. XXV, Loculus E, No. 5; Dusenbery, 1998, p. 1039, No. S189-3; Şahin, 2018, p. 86, Lev. 21.36, Cat. No. L1-L12), a silver coin (For fig. 8/4, see: SNG, 1959, Taf. 51, No. 1623; Sear, 1979, p. 384, No. 4174; SNG, 1982, Pl. 1, Nos. 31-33; Caltabiano et al., 2014, p. 144, Fig. 9), a gold diadem (Fig. 8/5)², a bronze mirror (For fig. 8/6, see: Richter, 1915, p. 255, No. 747; Davidson, 1952, p. 182, Pl. 81, No. 1307), three gold necklaces (For fig. 8/7, see: Akyay-Meriçboyu, 2001, p. 120-121, Fig. 2; Williams & Ogden, 1994, p. 102-103, No. 55; For fig. 8/8, see: Akyay-Meriçboyu, 2001, p. 88-89, Fig. 4; For fig. 8/9, see: Marshall, 1911, p. 215, Pl. XXXIII, No. 1955.), a pair of gold earrings (For fig. 8/10, see: Hoffmann & Davidson, 1965, p. 95-99, Fig. 19-20-21a; Deppert-Lippitz, 1985, p. 186, Fig. 131; Williams & Ogden, 1994, p. 96-97, Nos. 49-50) and an oyster shell were recovered from the grave. Based on the grave goods, the grave was dated to the last quarter of the 5th century BC.

Figure 8

Grave No 340 and its Finds / 340 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntuları



2 The diadem depicts a dance scene described as “Oklasma” which appears in Dionysian iconography. For this uniquely featured diadem see Lebe, 2024, pp. 144-15, Cat. No. 184/5.

Figure 9

Grave No 281 and its Finds / 281 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntuları



Grave no 281 represents one of the later examples of this type of grave within the necropolis (Fig. 9/1). It was covered with two flat limestone slabs and a rubble stone measuring approximately 40x25 cm. The upper level of the grave lies at 25.73 meters. Due to soil pressure, the covering stones have slightly collapsed inward. The grave measures 121x45 cm. No skeletal remains were found inside; however, a terracotta pan figurine (For a similar example of fig. 9/2, see Higgins, 1954, p. 239, Pl. 129, No. 891), a terracotta mask figurine (For fig. 9/3, see: Bernabò-Brea, 1992/93, p. 45, Fig. 24-25; Burr, 1934, p. 78, Pl. XL, No. 116; Lebe, 2013, pp. 47-48, 112, Lev. 12, Cat. No. 74; Leyenear-Plaisier, 1979, p. 89, Pl. 30, No. 180), a terracotta herme (For fig. 9/4, see: Dereboylu, 2012, pp. 107,349, Lev. 21, K. 28; Lang-Auinger, 2007, pp. 163-164, Taf. 53, Nos. TK 102-104; Mollard-Besques, 1954, p. 107, Pl. LXXVII, No. C-139; Schmidt, 1994, p. 110, Taf. 31, No. 16) and a terracotta figurine head (For fig. 9/5, see: Dereboylu, 2012, pp. 352-353, Lev. 23, K. 41; Lebe, 2013, pp. 12, 74-75, Lev. 2, Cat. Nos. 2-3-4; Lang -Auinger, 2007, pp. 154-155, Taf. 50, No. TK 71; Leyenear-Plaisier, 1979, pp. 354-356, Pl. 126-127) were recovered at the 25,32 m level. Based on the grave's dimensions and associated finds, it is likely that the grave belonged to a small child. Through comparison with similar grave goods, the grave is dated to the 2nd century BC.

Roof Tile Graves

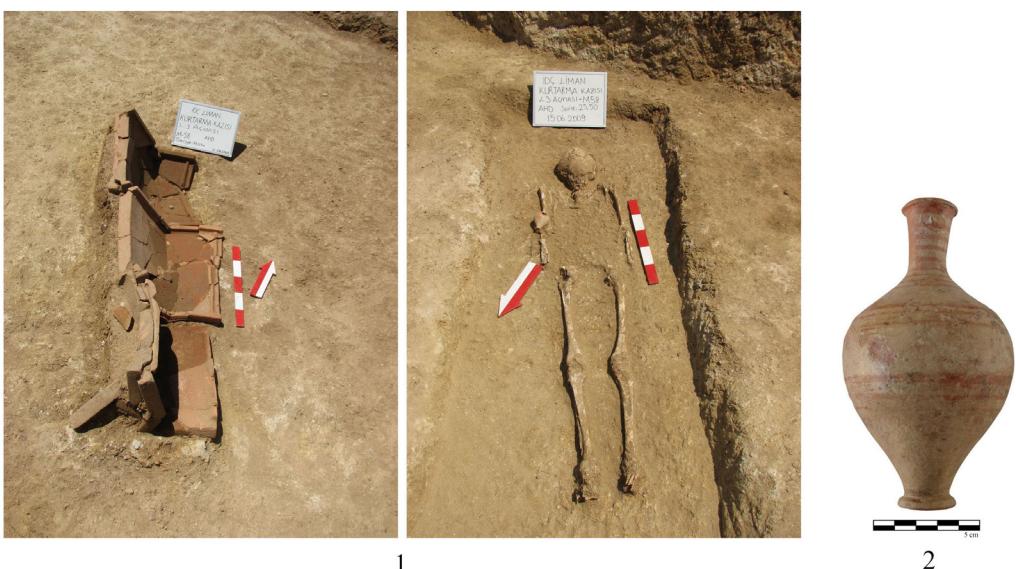
A total of 160 graves of this type were unearthed in the necropolis between 2008 and 2011. The construction of these graves can be described in three main phases. First, a rectangular pit was dug according to the dimensions of the individual. After the body was laid in this pit, in some graves, three roof tiles were used to cover the long sides, and one tile was used at each of the short ends corresponding to the head and foot. In the İDÇ Necropolis, there are also examples of this type of grave where six, four or sometimes two roof tiles overlapped to create a roof which covered only the long sides. In some cases, the roof tiles were not interlocked but were placed directly on top of the grave. Finally, the grave was covered with soil. It is not possible to speak of any unity of direction in the roof tile graves in the necropolis. A total of 188 grave offerings were recovered from 79 of these graves. The grave offerings consist of finds made of different materials such as terracotta (ceramics, figurines), metal (jewellery, medical and cosmetic tools, coins, strigiles)

and bone (objects). As in the carved cist graves, the placement of these gifts within the graves does not follow a consistent pattern, except for those with coin contexts. Based on the finds, this type of grave appears to have become widespread in the 4th century BC and remained in use until the 2nd century BC.

This type of grave generally displays a consistent construction across many necropoleis. However, in the literature, various terms such as “roof tile grave”, “tile grave” or “tile-roofed grave” are used to refer to this burial form. In the present study, the term “roof tile grave” is preferred. Among the other necropoleis of Kyme, such graves are frequently encountered in Batı Liman (Konak Tarakçı & Selçuk, 2012, p. 188, Fig. 6a-b, 7-8.), Dört Yıldız (La Marca, 2010, p. 405), Habaş (Korkmaz & Gürman, 2012, p. 74) and Samurlu (Atıcı & Karataş, 2013, pp. 231, 235; Ürkmez, 2014, p. 338-341; Ürkmez, 2016, pp. 178-180, Fig. 17). The earliest known example in the Aegean region has been identified in Samos, dated to the end of the 6th century BC (Tsakos, 1969, p. 388, Fig. 394). This type of grave, which became widespread in Anatolia from the 4th century BC onwards, is also attested in Myrina (Pottier et al., 1887, p. 70, Fig. 15), Larissa (Mayer-Plath, 1940, p. 111) and Eleia (Pirson, 2009, pp. 191-193) in the Aiolian Region. In Western Anatolia, the type is attested in a variety of centres such as Antandros (Polat, 2004, pp. 276-277; Polat & Polat 2006, p. 93; Polat et al., 2007, pp. 53, 55; Polat et al., 2008, pp. 464-465; Polat et al., 2009, p. 52), Klazomenai (Tzannes, 2004, p. 108, Fig. 18; Hürmüzlü, 2005, p. 83, Fig. 11), Ephesos (Evren & İçten, 1998, pp. 90-91, Fig. 16), Phokaia (Özyiğit, 2000, p. 45, Fig. 11), Miletos (Graeve, 1997, p. 537) and Teos (Foça, 2018, pp. 152-153, Fig. 11; Foça, 2019, pp. 55-58).

The roof tiles used for the graves in the İDÇ Necropolis are generally found dislocated from their original positions or highly fragmented due to soil pressure. However, grave no 58, which is presented as an example in this study, is among the better-preserved specimens (Fig. 10/1). The grave was constructed using six roof tiles, arranged in opposing pairs to cover only the long sides. The grave measures 180 x 59 cm, with the upper level recorded at 26.57 m. The level where the skeleton was found lies at 25.39 m. The skeletal remains suggest that the individual was an adult, who was placed in a supine position and oriented southeast to northwest within the grave. The preserved parts of the otherwise poorly preserved skeleton indicate a body length of 168 cm, and shoulder width of 40 cm. A terracotta unguentarium (For similar examples of fig. 10/2, see: Anderson-Stojanovic, 1987, p. 108, Fig. 2; Tuluk, 1999, p. 129, 143, Cat. Nr. 2, Abb. 2/a; Rotroff & Oliver, 2003, p. 69, Pl. 43, No. 253; Rotroff, 2006, p. 289, Fig. 62, Pl. 52. nos. 409-410; Ünlü & Özsayıgil, 2007, p. 22, Fig. 9; Dündar, 2008, p. 96-97, Cat. No. U9, Lev. 1, Fig. 9, 51; Küçükgüney & Altun, 2009, p. 71, Fig. 4C/h-i; Foça, 2020, p. 204, 208, Fig. 9.13; Doğan & Lebe, 2021, p. 376, Cat. No. 2, Fig. 3, 16; Doğan, 2022, Fig. 1, Cat. No. 1; Dumankaya & Lebe, 2025, p. 63, Fig. 1, Kat. No. 1-2) was found in the grave, next to the individual's right arm. Based on this find, the grave is dated to the end of the 4th century BC and the first half of the 3rd century BC.

Figure 10
Grave No 58 and its Find / 58 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntusu



Grave no 594, distinguished by its finds, is another example of this type of grave (Fig. 11/1). The roof tiles were found fragmented due to soil pressure, though some fragments were preserved. In its current state, the grave measures 183 x 72 cm. The individual was placed in a supine position, oriented southwest to northeast. Based on the skeletal remains and associated finds, the grave is interpreted as that of an adult woman. A gold ring (For similar examples of fig. 11/2, see: Williams & Ogden, 1994, p. 205, 211, Nos. 136, 143; Jackson, 2006, p. 230, Pl. 26F, Nos. 1-2; Spier, 1992, p. 41, Fig. 70) was found on the left hand, and a bronze bracelet (Fig. 11/3) was discovered near the right tibia. Grave no 594 is the only roof tile grave in the necropolis to contain gold artefacts. Additionally, the fine craftsmanship of the gold ring (Fig. 11/2) is noteworthy. The word 'ΔΩΡΟΝ,' meaning 'gift' in Greek, is inscribed on the lower part of the ring's bezel. Based on this gold ring, the grave has been dated to the end of the 4th century BC and the beginning of the 3rd century BC.

Figure 11

Grave No 594 and its Finds / 594 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntuları



One of the later-dated examples of this type of grave in the necropolis is grave no 343 (Fig. 12/1-2). Six roof tiles were used in its construction, though they were found interlocked and quite fragmented. The preserved dimensions of the grave measure 180x77 cm. The individual was placed in a supine position, oriented east to west within the grave. The skeleton is poorly preserved; however, based on the grave dimensions and the preserved bone structure, the individual is interpreted as an adult. A bronze nail (Fig. 12/3) is similar to fig. 8/3), three iron fasteners (For fig. 12/4, see: Dusenbery, 1998, p. 1040, No. S265-1; Şahin, 2018, p. 87, Lev. 21.37, Cat. No. L27-L33; Foça, 2019, p. 144, Cat. No. 345), and a terracotta unguentarium (For similar examples of fig. 12/5, see: Boehringer & Krauss, 1937, p. 119, Taf. 56.e-1; Dufková, 1974, p. 83, Pl. 19, U1; Gürler, 1994, pp. 186-187, Cat. No. 142-145, Lev. 30, Fig. 40; Tuluk, 1999, p. 147, Cat. Nr. 39-42, Abb. 6/a-c- Abb. 7/a- b, Taf. 4; Dündar, 2008, pp. 111-112, Cat. Nos. U78-U81, Lev. 8; Körşulu, 2011, pp. 75-76, 80, Cat. No. 20, Fig. 20-20.a; Doğan & Lebe, 2021, pp. 377-378, Cat. No. 5, Fig. 6; Dumankaya & Lebe, 2025, p.65, Fig.4, Kat. No.14) were recovered from the grave. Based on the unguentarium, the grave is dated to the second half of the 2nd century BC.

Figure 12

Grave No 343 and its Finds / 343 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntuları



Simple Earth Graves

The defining characteristic of this type of grave is the absence of structural elements, allowing direct access to the skeleton. The grave is created by digging a rectangular pit corresponding to the dimensions of the individual and covering it with soil. A total of 116 graves of this type have been identified, making it the third most common grave type in the necropolis. In most cases, individuals were placed in a supine position, with their heads oriented east or southeast. The grave offerings recovered from these graves are diverse, with a total of 89 different offerings found in 39 graves. These include terracotta objects (ceramics, figurines), metal items (jewellery, medical and cosmetic tools, coins, strigiles), bone artefacts (objects), glass items (jewellery and objects). Based on these finds, this grave type was in use from the 5th century BC until the end of the 2nd century BC.

These types of graves are frequently encountered in the necropoleis of Kyme. Notable examples have been documented in the necropoleis of Batı Liman (Konak Tarakçı & Selçuk, 2012, p. 193, Fig. 3), Aytemiz (Iren, 2008a, p. 614), Dört Yıldız (La Marca, 2010, p. 405), Habaş (Korkmaz & Gürman, 2012, p. 74, Fig. 2; Atila et al., 2015, p. 16), and Samurlu (Ürkmez, 2014, pp. 345-348; Ürkmez, 2016, pp. 163-165).

The early example of this grave type in the İDÇ Necropolis is represented by grave no 269 (Fig. 13/1). Within the grave, the individual was placed in a supine position, in an east to west orientation. The poorly preserved skeleton belonging to an adult, measures 170x43 cm. A composite wreath (For similar examples of fig. 13/2, see: Aydın-Tavukçu, 2006, pp. 23, 190, 338, Cat. No. 2, Lev. 13, Fig. 27; Dusenbery, 1998, pp. 991, 993, No. R1-2, No. S124-6), an iron ring (For fig. 13/3, see: Dusenbery, 1998, p. 986, Nos. S21-2, S58-2), a silver coin of Kyme (Fig. 13/4 is similar to fig. 8/4) and an iron strigilis (For fig. 13/5, see: Richter, 1915, p. 295, No. 856; Davidson, 1952, p. 183, Fig. 28, No. 1316; Schlörb-Vierneisel, 1966, p. 86, Beil. 56, No. 1; Kotera-Feyer, 1993, pp. 103, 212, Abb. 28; Doğan, 2015, p. 157, 163, Cat. No. 18, Fig. 8 c-d; Ürkmez, 2016, p. 167, Fig. 8) were recovered from the grave. Based on the coin of Kyme and the strigilis, the grave is dated to the first half of the 5th century BC.

One of the later-dated examples of this type of grave in the necropolis is grave no 190 (Fig. 14/1). The individual was placed in a supine position, oriented east to west. Although the skeleton is poorly preserved, it can be observed that the individual is an adult. The preserved remains measure 130 cm in length and 43 cm in width. A terracotta unguentarium (Fig. 14/2 is similar to fig. 12/5) and a terracotta female figurine (For similar examples of fig. 14/3, see: Winter, 1903, p. 13, Fig. 1-3; Breitenstein, 1941, p. 72, Pl. 83, No. 684; Dereboylu, 2012, pp. 393-394, Lev. 45, K. 177; Lebe, 2013, pp. 33, 104, Lev. 9, Cat. No. 58) were recovered from the grave. Based on typological parallels of the unguentarium, the grave is dated to the 2nd century BC.

Figure 13

Grave No 269 and Its Finds / 269 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntuları



Figure 14

Grave No 190 and its Finds / 190 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntuları



Stone Cist Graves

A total of 15 stone cist graves have been uncovered in the İDÇ Necropolis. The graves were constructed with limestone slabs of various dimensions. The individuals were placed in a supine position on a compacted earth floor. The limestone slabs were placed vertically along the long and short sides of the grave. Although multiple slabs were typically set along the side walls, in a few cases a single large limestone slab was employed. To reinforce the intersections where the slabs meet, lead or iron clamps were used, although some examples lack any binding elements. The grave, shaped in this way like a cist, was then covered with smoothly worked limestone slabs. These graves are generally oriented east to west or northwest to southeast. The grave offerings are both rich and diverse, with a total of 41 offerings recovered from 10 graves. These include metal objects (gold jewellery, coins, strigiles, medical and cosmetic tools, objects), terracotta finds (ceramics, figurines), bone artefacts (hair pins), and other finds (seashells). Considering both the construction of these graves and the presence of gold jewellery, it can be inferred that individuals buried belonged to a higher economic status. The finds suggest that this type of grave was in use between the 4th and 3rd centuries BC.

Among the necropoleis of Kyme, similar graves have been identified at Aytemiz (İren, 2008a, p. 614), Batı Liman (Konak Tarakçı & Selçuk, 2012, p. 188, Fig. 8), Samurlu (Ürkmez, 2014, pp. 348-349; Ürkmez, 2016, pp. 166-167, Fig. 8) and Habaş (Atila et al., 2015, p. 18, Fig. 12). This type of tombs are also seen in other regions such as Neandria (Koldewey, 1981, p. 15, Abb. 21, 25), Tanagra (Higgins, 1986, p. 56, Fig. 54); Tenedos (Özkan, 1993; Arslan & Sevinç, 2003, p. 246, Abb.3), Teos (Foça, 2018, Fig. 10).

Grave no 51 is the first example of this grave type examined in the present study (Fig. 15/1). The grave, measuring 200x78 cm, was formed by digging a rectangular pit into the hard and tuffaceous bedrock. Smoothly worked limestone slabs were placed vertically, one on each long side and one on each short side, forming the head and foot ends. These slabs were joined at the intersections with lead clamps. The individual was placed in a supine position on the compacted floor, with the head facing northwest, while the grave is oriented northwest to southeast. The grave was covered with four rectangular limestone slabs. However, the two centrally placed slabs have collapsed into the grave due to soil pressure. A black-glazed bowl (For similar examples of fig.15/2, see: Sparkes & Talcott, 1970, p. 294, Pl. 32, No. 807; Edwards, 1975, p. 34, Pls. 3, 44, No. 76; Rotroff, 1997, p. 334, Pl. 73, Nos. 914-915, 919; Ürkmez, 2016, p. 162, Fig. 4), two bone hair pins (For fig.15/3, see: Davidson, 1952, p. 286, Pl. 119, 2353; Ersoy, 2017, p. 104, Lev. 1, Cat. No. 23; Karaca, 2017, pp. 295-296, 312, Fig.

2/a-e), a pair of gold diadems (For fig.15/4, see: Marshall, 1911, p. 237, Fig. 68, Nos. 2099-2100; Greifenhagen, 1975, p. 12, Taf. 2, No. 7; Williams & Ogden, 1994, p. 93, Fig. 45), a bronze ring (For fig.15/5, see: Robinson, 1941, pp. 231-241, Pl. LXII-LXIII, Nos. 833-946; Şahin, 2018, pp. 84-85, 170, Lev. 20.35, Cat. No. K33 a-c), a pair of gold earrings (For fig.15/6, see: Jackson, 2006, p. 181, Pl. 19 (cont.), Nos. 6-9), a gold ring (For fig.15/7, see: Marshall, 1968, pp. 11-13, Pl. II, Nos. 51, 54, 58-59, p. 15-16, Pl. III, Nos. 70-71, 73-74, 77, p. 148, Pl. XXIII, No. 912; Pierides, 1971, p. 40, Pl. XXVII, Nos. 15-16; Greifenhagen, 1975, pp. 72-73, Taf. 55, Nos. 1-15; Dusenbery, 1998, p. 999, No. S124-4; Akyay-Meriçboyu, 2001, p. 118, Fig. 2; Williams & Ogden, 1994, p. 105, no. 58; Jackson, 2006, p. 222, Pl. 26B, nos. 3-7), a gold necklace (For fig.15/8, see: Pierides, 1971, pp. 44-45, Pl. XXX, No. 3-4), and a composite wreath (Fig. 15/9 is similar to 13/2) were recovered from the grave. Based on the size of the grave and the associated finds, the individual is interpreted as an adult woman. Based on the finds, the grave is dated to the end of the 4th century and the beginning of the 3rd century BC.

Figure 15

Grave No 51 and Its Finds / 51 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntuları



Another example that stands out due to its finds is grave no 52 (Fig. 16/1). Measuring 125x30 cm the grave is smaller in size. Only a few bone fragments were recovered from within the grave. The grave also yielded two gold bracelets with lion heads (For similar examples of fig. 16/2-3, see: Marshall, 1911, pp. 217-218, Pl. XXXIX, Nos. 1991-1992; Hoffmann & Davidson, 1965, pp. 168-169, 171-172 Fig. 61b, Fig. 61c-62, Fig. 63), a pair of gold earrings (For fig. 16/4, see: Greifenhagen, 1975, p. 50, Taf. 41, No. 6; Deppert-Lippitz, 1985, p. 229, Fig. 165; Williams & Ogden, 1994, pp. 66-67, No. 20; Akyay Meriçboyu, 2001, p. 162, No. 1; Jackson, 2006, p. 133, Pl. 8 (Cont.), Nos. 4-5); a composite wreath (Fig.16/5, is similar to fig. 13/2 and fig.15/9), a gold necklace (For fig. 16/6, see: Hoffmann & Davidson, 1965, pp. 209-211, Fig. 83; Williams & Ogden, 1994, pp. 196-197, Fig. 131; Akyay Meriçboyu, 2001, pp. 165-167), nine gold beads (For fig. 16/7, see: Greifenhagen, 1975, p. 17, Taf. 7, No. 3), a gold bracelet with snake heads (For fig. 16/8, see: Hoffmann & Davidson, 1965, pp. 174-175, Fig. 65a-b), a gold ring (Fig.16/9 is similar to fig.15/7) and scattered gold beads (For fig. 16/10, see: Williams & Ogden, 1994, p. 114, No. 65). Both the size of the grave and the nature of the finds suggest that the grave belonged to a young girl. Based on the associated finds, the grave is dated to the 3rd century BC. In addition, several terracotta figurines, including clothed women and turtles, were recovered from graves no 51 and 52 (Fig.17)³. The proximity of the two graves, along with the similarity of the finds and the presence of rich grave goods indicating the same level of economic status, provides clear evidence of a first-degree familial relationship between the individuals buried here.

³ Like these figurines, a total of 101 terracotta figurines were recovered from outside the grave. For detailed information see Lebe, 2013, p. 1ff.

Figure 16

Grave No 52 and its Finds / 52 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntuları

**Figure 17**

Terracotta Figurines Recovered Between Graves No 51 and 52 / 51 ve 52 No.lu Mezarlar Arasında Ele Geçmiş Olan Pısmış Toprak Figürinler



Sarcophagi

In the necropolis, this type of grave appears in two distinct forms: monolithic stone sarcophagi and terracotta sarcophagi. Among these, there are five monolithic stone sarcophagi and only one terracotta sarcophagus. The tradition of stone sarcophagi became widespread, especially in Western Anatolia, from the Archaic Period onwards (For examples from Assos from the Archaic Period, see Clarke-Francis et al., 1902, pp. 290-291, Fig. 1-9; Utili, 1999, pp. 136-138; for Tenedos see, Özkan, 1993, pp. 198-199; for Parion examples see, Başaran et al., 2012, pp. 22-23, Fig. 3, 5; for Antandros see, Yağız, 2015, pp. 711-712). In the case of Kyme, this type of grave came into use in the necropolis of Habaş from the 5th century BC onwards (Atilla et al., 2015, pp. 18-19, Figs. 13-15). However, in the IDC Necropolis, such graves are attested between the 4th century BC and the first half of the 3rd century BC.

Figure 18

Grave No 57 and its Finds / 57 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntuları



Among the monolithic stone sarcophagi found in the necropolis, grave no 57 is notable for its rich and varied finds (Fig. 18/1). The monolithic limestone grave measures 228x78 cm, with a wall thickness of 10 cm and a depth of 61 cm. The grave lid, featuring a triangular pediment, is preserved in two pieces. The individual was placed in a supine position, oriented southeast to northwest within the grave. A black-glazed pyxis (For fig. 18/2, see: Robinson, 1950, pp. 388-389, Pl. 238, Nos. 928, 932; Schlörb-Vierneisel, 1966, p. 90, Beil. 56, No. 3; Sparkes & Talcott, 1970, p. 328, Fig. 11, Pl. 43, Nos. 1311-1312; Atilla et al., 2015, p. 18, Fig. 15), a black-glazed bowl (For fig. 18/3, see: Robinson, 1933, p. 232, Pl. 175, No. 876; Hellström, 1965, p. 58, Pl. 5, 33, No. 42; Sparkes & Talcott, 1970, pp. 302-303, Pl. 34, Fig. 9, Nos. 944, 946, 947, 949; Gürler, 1994, p. 134, Cat. No. 2, Drawing. 4, Lev. 1, No. 2; Foça, 2019, pp. 107-108, Cat. No. 109, 170; Rotroff & Oliver, 2003, p. 33, Pl. 15, No. 75; Küçükgüney & Altun, 2009, p. 74, Fig. 9-e), a bronze mirror (For fig. 18/4, see: Richter, 1915, p. 254, No. 740; Foça, 2019, p. 142, Cat. No. 304), a scarab-shaped gold ring (For fig. 18/5, see: Deppert-Lippitz, 1985, pp. 192-193, Fig. XVIII; Williams & Ogden, 1994, p. 194, No. 126; Jackson, 2006, Pl. 26E, No. 1), gold pendant beads (For fig. 18/6, see: Greifenhagen, 1975, pp. 18-19, Taf. 8, No. 8-9; Williams & Ogden, 1994, pp. 100-103, 118-119, Nos. 54-55, 69; Akyay-Meriçboyu, 2001, p. 120, Fig. 2), an iron dagger or knife (For fig. 18/7, see: Robinson, 1941, p. 337, Pl. CI, No. 1600; Davidson, 1952, p. 203, Pl. 93, Nos. 1569-1571; Waldbaum, 1983, p. 56, Pl. 14, No. 189-190; Oransay, 2006, p. 105, Fig. 13, Lev. XVII, Nos. E29, E33; Canlı, 2019, pp. 31, 181, Cat. No. Ks5), a bronze probe (For fig. 18/8, see: Robinson, 1941, pp. 349-352, Pl. CXI, Nos. 1668-1688; Künzl, 1982, pp. 50, 52, Abb. 20, Nr. 27; Uzel, 2000, p. 213, Lev. XLIX, No. 18; Baykan, 2009, pp. 45-46, 118, Cat. No. 103; Arslan et al., 2012, pp. 177, 187, Fig. 13; Canlı, 2019, pp. 18-19, Cat. No. So110-111; Baş, 2021, p. 15, Fig. 15, Cat. No. 17), four bronze rings (Fig. 18/9 is similar to fig. 15/5), and a terracotta spindle whorl fragment (For fig. 18/10, see: Ürkmez, 2016, pp. 162-163, Fig. 4) were recovered from the grave. Based on the size of the grave and associated finds, the grave likely belonged to an adult woman. Grave no 57 is dated to the 4th century BC, based on the recovered finds.

Another example that stands out due to its rich finds is grave no 137 (Fig. 19/1). Measuring 230x80 cm, the sarcophagus has a wall thickness of 15 cm and a depth of 103 cm. The grave has been damaged under soil pressure, particularly affecting its general features. Within the grave, the individual was placed in a supine position, with the head facing east. Five gold diadems (For similar examples of fig. 19/2-3-4-5, see: Marshall, 1911, pp. 171-172, Fig. 52/No. 1612, Fig. 53 No. 1614; Williams & Ogden, 1994, pp. 92-93, 108-109, Nos. 44, 62; Scatozza-Höricht, 2010, pp. 108-109, 113, Fig. 5-8, 14-15; Lagona, 2013, pp. 345, 351, Fig. 9), a bronze fibula fragment (For fig. 19/7, see: Davidson, 1952, p. 269, Pl. 113, No. 2165; Waldbaum, 1983, pp. 114-115, Pl. 43, No. 672-676; Dusenbery, 1998, pp. 972-973, Nos. XS-390, XS-394, XS-395) and a bronze coin (Fig. 19/8)⁴ were also recovered from the grave. Finally, based on the finds, the grave is dated to the end of the 4th century BC.

Figure 19

Grave No 137 and Finds / 137 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntular



The only example of a terracotta sarcophagus is grave no 401 (Fig. 20/1). The grave was covered with three smoothly worked, rectangular limestone slabs. The body of the grave has collapsed and has lost its original shape due to the pressure of the soil and the covering stones. The preserved section of the grave measures 187x74 cm, while the depth of the grave cannot be clearly determined due to the collapse of the limestone slabs. The skeletal remains have also been interlocked with the grave and have been damaged. The individual was placed in a supine position, with the head facing southeast. A bent iron ladle (For fig. 20/1, see: Robinson, 1941, pp. 196-197, Pl. L, Nos. 613-614; Knigge, 2005, p. 191, Taf. 114, No. 603) and two scattered iron strigiles (Fig. 20/3-4)⁵ were recovered as grave goods. Although the finds do not allow for a precise dating, the grave is thought to belong to the mid-4th century BC, based on its stratigraphic alignment with nearby datable graves.

Figure 20

Grave No 401 and Finds / 401 No.lu Mezar ve Buluntular



4 Due to the coin's corroded condition and the ongoing cleaning process, it has not been possible to identify comparable examples.

5 Since the strigiles were recovered in multiple fragments, their original form has been lost, and no parallels could be identified.

Amphora Graves

Three amphora graves were identified in the İDÇ Necropolis, typically used for foetuses or infants. The amphorai used in these burials were laid on their sides and have been found in a highly fragmented condition due to the pressure exerted by the soil. The amphorai from graves no. 119 and 350 are relatively well-preserved examples that were later restored. On the other hand, no other grave offerings have been found apart from the amphorai used in these graves. While amphora graves are found in cities such as Pitane (Greenewalt, 1966, p.184) and Aigai (Doğer et. al. 2008, p. 208) in Aeolis, it is seen that they were widely used in many necropolis areas such as Assos (Utili, pp. 128-131), Antandros (Candar, 2017), Smyrna (Öztürk, 2005, p. 33), Teos (Foça, 2018, p. 149; Foça, 2019, pp. 59-61) and Tenedos (Özkan, 1993, p. 199, Lev. 148) in different periods.

The first example of an amphora grave is grave no 119 (Fig. 21/1). The mouth of the amphora used for this grave was sealed with a round limestone, and a few bone fragments were found inside, suggesting it likely belonged to a baby. The amphora used for the grave is a commercial type made of grey clay, featuring a thin, ring base and a broad, rounded body. The shoulders are pronounced, the neck is cylindrical, and the mouth is flaring and rounded (Fig. 21/2). Its form closely resembles amphorai from Lesbos (Doğer, 1991, p. 100, R. 103). Comparable examples have been found in the Melis Necropolis of Antandros and are dated to the 7th-6th centuries BC (Candar, 2017, pp. 21-22, 67, Cat. No. 1-2; Yağız, 2008, pp. 86, 93, 98, Fig. 4, Cat. No. 4). The date proposed for these parallels is also considered appropriate for grave no 119. In this context, grave no 119 provides data on the early use of inhumation burials in the Necropolis.

Figure 21

Amphora Grave No 119 / 119 No.lu Amphora Mezar



1

2

Figure 22

Amphora Grave No 350 / 350 No.lu Amphora Mezar



1

2

Another example of an amphora grave in the present study is grave no 350 (Fig. 22/1). It contains very few small bone fragments, and the grave likely belonged to an infant. The amphora was laid on its side in the soil and has become heavily fragmented due to soil pressure. Although it has been restored, parts of the base, mouth rim and handles remain missing. The amphora has a cylindrical base, a conical body, angular shoulders, and a long, cylindrical neck (Fig. 22/2). This form resembles amphorai from Khios (Hood et al., 1954, p. 181, Fig. 19/a; Doğer, 1991, p. 86, R.78; Okan, 2003, pp. 20-21, 65-66, Cat. No. 9, Drawing. 9; Foley et al., 2009, p. 288, Fig. 12; Atilla et al., 2015, p. 16, Fig. 5). The grave is dated to the 4th century BC based on parallels with Khian amphorai.

Pithos Graves

Two pithos graves have been identified in the Necropolis. Compared to similar types of graves commonly found in the necropoleis of Kyme, such as those in Habaş (Atilla et al., 2015, pp. 19, 27, Fig. 19) and Samurlu (Ürkmez, 2014, pp. 351-352, Fig. 16-18; Ürkmez, 2016, p. 167), the examples from the İDÇ Necropolis are quite rare. The first of these examples is grave no 157, which has only been partially preserved. (Fig. 23/1). The surviving section of the pithos measures 82x58 cm and was positioned upright on the ground. No skeletal remains or grave goods were found within. No dating evidence is available for the grave, other than its discovery at the same level as Hellenistic burials. The other example is grave no 487, which demonstrates a different practice, in which pithos fragments were used as the grave cover (Fig. 23/2). This grave measures 97x42 cm and likely belonged to a small child. Apart from skull bones, no other finds were recovered from the grave.

Figure 23

Pithos Graves No. 157 and 487 / 157 ve 487 No.lu Pithos Mezarlar



Conclusion

The İDÇ Necropolis, located to the south of the ancient city of Kyme, constitutes one of the most archaeologically informative and diverse funerary areas of the region. Systematic excavations conducted between 2008 and 2011 revealed 618 graves, along with an exceptional repertoire of grave goods. The long chronological range—extending from the 7th to the 2nd century BC—enables a diachronic evaluation of burial traditions within the Aiolis region and beyond.

In the IDC Necropolis, graves appear in two different forms: cremation and inhumation. All cremation graves found in the IDC Necropolis are secondary and date from the late 7th century BC to the 4th century BC. Interestingly, although secondary cremation graves are found in the IDC Necropolis, unlike the necropoleis of Assos (Buruldağ, pp. 29-30, Figs. 10-11) and Parion (Tavukçu, p. 162, Pl. 80, Fig. 299), there is no central cremation area. The absence of a common area in the IDC Necropolis leads to the conclusion that these practices were carried out on an individual or family scale. On the other hand, cremation practices in Kyme continued from the Proto-Geometric period to the early Roman period. Chronologically, outside of Kyme, similar practices were observed in Klazomenai (Bakır et al. 2000; Hürmüzlü, 2003; Hürmüzlü, 2004), Assos

(Buruldağ, 2009), Teos (Foça, 2018; Foça, 2019), Phokaia (Özyiğit, 2003), and Antandros (Polat & Polat, 2007; Yağız, 2008). However, it has been understood that cremation practices were completely abandoned in the İDÇ Necropolis during the Hellenistic period. This situation shows that funeral traditions were shaped not only by personal preferences but also by changes in belief systems.

In the utilization phase of the necropolis, inhumation graves are the dominant form of burial, especially from the Classical Period onwards. These types of graves - carved cist graves, simple earth graves, roof tile graves, sarcophagi, stone cists, amphora burials and pithoi- show a significant variety of forms shaped by local geology, social traditions and period-specific rituals. In general, these types of tombs can be seen in different periods in the Western Anatolian Necropolises, as mentioned in the study. Among these, the carved cist graves, which are most commonly seen in the İDÇ Necropolis, appear particularly in Kyme, Myrina, and Larissa, exhibiting a characteristic structure specific to Aeolis. While some of these simply constructed tombs yield no finds, others contain rich and varied grave goods. This indicates that this type of tomb was preferred by all segments of society, regardless of income level.

A total of 965 rich finds, which can be classified as terracotta, metal, glass, bone, stone, and others, have been discovered inside and outside the graves in the cemetery. However, when looking at the distribution of rich and varied grave gifts, some graves contain no gifts at all, some contain a small number of finds, and some contain a large number of finds. It is not possible to speak of any unity in the location of the finds in the graves in context. However, when examining the locations of the finds inside the graves, the repeated presence of Charon's obols in specific cranial placements points to deeply rooted, locally interpreted eschatological beliefs.

When compared with other necropolises of Kyme such as Aytemiz, Bati Liman, Gümrük, Dört Yıldız, Habaş and Samurlu, similar and different results are obtained. It is possible to say that there are similarities with Bati Liman both chronologically and in terms of burial customs, but there is a significant difference in terms of grave finds. On the other hand, the İDÇ Necropolis stands out with the variety of architectural graves and the abundance of grave goods compared to other necropolises. This indicates a long-term and socially elite use of the region for the İDÇ Necropolis.

Ultimately, the İDÇ Necropolis emerges as an important archaeological location that epitomizes the complex interplay between tradition, innovation and cultural interaction in ancient funerary practices. The multi-layered burial record not only sheds light on the evolution of funerary customs at Kyme but is also likely to contribute significantly to a broader understanding of socio-cultural dynamics in western Anatolia. As future research continues to integrate bioarchaeological, material, and spatial analyses, the İDÇ Necropolis has great potential to deepen our knowledge of identity construction, ritual behaviour, and interregional connections across centuries.

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