

Supplementary Information

SI Text 1. Analysis of Biological material from mound M1 trenches

Here we use data from two excavation trenches of equal volume in mound M1 (5 cu. m each). Counts of specimens were averaged across arbitrary 10 cm-thick excavation levels in each trench, showing limited change between the two assemblages, with considerable overlap in the ranges of variation in specimen numbers for all five find categories (Fig. S5). Arid-adapted economic species of livestock and wood (sheep/goats and Negev species of wood and shrub) outnumber more water-dependent ones (pigs and imported Mediterranean wood) in both periods, as can be expected in the dry environment of the Negev. Over time, the ratios of arid- to humid-adapted species generally remain stable (Fig. S5a-b). Some decrease in the use of Arabian boxthorn (*Lycium shawii*) (25 vs. 10%)—a high-quality local fuel source—is indicated in comparison to tamarisk (25 vs. 70%)—a lower-quality one—from counts of individual wood species (Fig. S6). This may be a potential indicator of increasing anthropogenic pressure on local resources. Still, quantities of fish and mollusks from different terrestrial, freshwater or more distant marine sources remain almost the same between the two periods (Fig. S5c-e), and only a slight decrease is seen in drought-resistant barley in the middle Byzantine assemblage (Fig. S5e; Fig. S7).

Bioarchaeological Analysis Methods

Charcoal analysis. Taxonomic identification of charcoal samples was made on the basis of anatomical tissue structure (e.g. vessels and their arrangements, size and arrangement of rays, and abundance and nature of parenchyma) and aided by comparison to the wood and charcoal reference collection of the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University. Specimens were cut and examined along three observational axes (transverse, tangential longitudinal, and radial longitudinal) using a stereoscopic Carl Zeiss SteREO Discovery.V20 microscope with magnifications of up to 360x under oblique angled top-lighting. On occasion, samples were further examined with a Hitachi TM3030 Tabletop scanning electron microscope for more precise identification of micro-surface anatomical structures.

Seed analysis. Seeds were studied from sediment samples of each locus, which were processed either by dry-sifting through 5mm sieves, wet-sifting through 1mm mesh, or dry-sifting in stacked sieves of 4mm, 2mm, 1mm, 0.5mm and 0.3mm mesh. The data presented

in Table S9, which displays quantities of the major domestic plant types found, derive from 1mm wet-sieving and sorting in the field. This processing method provided reliable quantitative data for most of the major *domestic* plants, except for the fig, whose tiny nutlets were not retrieved by 1mm sifting. Identification was performed by comparison of morphological qualities typical to each family, genus and species with samples in the Israel National Collection of Seeds and Fruits (Bar-Ilan University). All specimens representing more than half a seed were counted; seed fragments were not counted.

Zooarchaeological analysis. Faunal remains (livestock, fish and mollusks) were identified to biological taxon and skeletal element using the comparative collection of the Laboratory of Archaeozoology at the University of Haifa. Caprines (sheep, *Ovis aries*, and goats, *Capra hircus*) were distinguished based on morphological and metric criteria. Estimates of species composition and of body-part spectra we employed through the identification of diagnostic zones.

SI Text 2: *Recent reconstructions of Byzantine settlement decline and continuity in the Negev*

We draw on additional supporting evidence for reconstructing a more connected history for the decline in Byzantine settlement through the Negev Desert. Intensive recent multidisciplinary excavation projects in four key sites: the city of Elusa, large village sites of Sobota and Nesanna and small village site of Sa'adon, reveal a more complex picture of the fate of Byzantine settlement in the Negev than was previously at hand (1–4). These projects uniquely combine urban and rural perspectives, on-site and off-site contexts of excavation (e.g., trash mounds, relict agricultural fields and farming installations), quantitative analysis of both artifacts and biological remains, and wide application of absolute dating methods (radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence) to test long-standing conceptions of Byzantine and early Islamic histories in the Negev.

More than 50 absolute chronological estimations obtained from agricultural terraces, water holes, systems of water harvesting and pigeon-raising installations used in fertilizer production in the hinterlands of Sobota and Sa'adon demonstrate their intensive use during the Roman and Byzantine periods (1st-5th cent. CE; 5–10). The settlement of Sobota reveals the signs of gradual abandonment evidenced in the sealing of the entrances of elite

households of the Byzantine period (2–3). Excavation of 20 trenches in residential and public structures, water reservoirs, drainage channels, street and trash deposits both inside and outside of the site boundary show that the settlement was at its peak in the Byzantine period (5th-6th c. CE) (3). Removal of trash to outside dump heaps appears to have continued as late as the mid-7 c. CE, whereas in the succeeding early Islamic period trash began to be deposited inside the site, within structures that in all likelihood were deserted at that time. This reduced intensity of human occupation of the site may have continued to as late as the 8th or 9th c. CE. Clearer signs of continuity in occupation between the Byzantine and early Islamic periods were uncovered at the site of Nesanna, where trash heaps on the outskirts of the site boundary show Islamic deposits overlying those of the preceding Byzantine period.

The findings from Sobota, Nesanna and Sa'adon together with those from the Elusa trash mounds suggest a gradual and piecemeal process of abandonment and population declines in the Negev: (1) beginning in the 6th c. CE with the collapse of urban infrastructure at Elusa and possibly partial abandonment at Sobota; (2) continuing after the 640 CE Islamic conquest in the presence of low-level settlement at Sobota and possibly Elusa, and unabated persistence of settlement at Nesanna; and (3) finally, 8th or 9th c. CE termination of occupation of these settlements. This regional reconstruction suggests to us that while the overall level of socio-political complexity in the Negev decreased with the urban collapse of Elusa in 6th c. CE, settlement continued within the rural areas of the Negev, though at a lower level of organization lacking an urban center and possibly also links to outside markets.

References

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Table S1. Mound characteristics obtained through GIS analysis.

	Area (m)	Mean Elevation Difference (m)	Volume (m ³)
North West (M1)	26,992	5.09	137,390
North East (M2)	39,665	3.21	127,325
South (M4)	34,433	2.45	84,360

Table S2. Results of mineralogical and microscopic analyses of bulk sediment samples.

Sample #	Color	Sample Description	Mineralogy (*)	Grain Mount Observations
HA-14	yellow-grey	yellow-grey sediment with large stones, flat-lying pottery, possible mudbrick material, mixed ashy sediment	Cl (ua) > Ca (ua) Q G SN P	Quartz: silt and fine sand; Calcite: micrite, sparite, coccoliths, ash pseudomorphs (?); Gypsum: druses; Charcoal: few fragments; Phytoliths: Few grass phytoliths, weathered
HA-13a	grey	Soft grey sediment with white nodules; also includes yellow brown "mudbrick material"	Cl (a) > Q > Ca (a) G SN P	Quartz: silt and fine sand; Calcite: micrite, sparite, very few foraminifera, few coccoliths, few dung spherulites, ash pseudomorphs; Gypsum: druses, lozenges; Charcoal; Phytoliths: few, weathered grass phytoliths
HA-13b	yellow	Yellow "mudbrick material" within HA-13	Cl (ua) > Ca (a) O? Q G SN	
HA-12	yellow	Soft yellow graded bedding	Cl (ua) > Q > Ca (a?) G SN P	
HA-11	grey	Soft grey sediment, includes charcoal and sooted pottery	Cl (a) > Q > Ca (a) G SN P	Quartz: silt and fine sand; Calcite: micrite, sparite, few coccoliths, very few dung spherulites, ash pseudomorphs; Gypsum: lozenges; Charcoal; Phytoliths: moderate amount of grass phytoliths, many weathered
HA-11b		Snail shells within ash	Ar	
HA-10a	Yellow	Yellow stoney layer, some charcoal flecks	Cl (ua) > Ca (ua) Q G SN	
HA-10b	yellow-white	Yellow-white fine "mudbrick" material within HA-10a; no charcoal	Cl (ua) > Ca (ua) Q G SN	Quartz: silt and medium sand; Calcite: micrite, sparite, few coccoliths

HA-09	yellow-brown	Mixed soft yellow-brown sediment, some charcoal pieces	Cl (ua) > Ca (a) Q G SN P	
HA-08	black	Black soft sediment, very rich in woody branch material	Ca (a) > Cl (ua) Q G SN P	
HA-07	grey-yellow	Soft, fine mixture of grey and yellow sediments; few charcoal flecks	Cl (a) > Ca (a), Q, G, SN, P	Quartz: silt-sand; Calcite: micrite, sparite, coccoliths, ash pseudomorphs (?); Gypsum: lozenge-shaped, druses; Charcoal
HA-06	yellow	Bioturbation (animal burrowing); soft yellow sediment with white nodules	Cl (ua) > Ca (ua), Q, SN, P	Quartz: silt-sand; Calcite: micrite, sparite, coccoliths, ash pseudomorphs (?); Pollen: (?)
HA-05	grey	Fine grey soft sediment with charcoal and white nodules	Cl (a) > G > Ca (ha) Q, SN, P	Quartz: silt and fine sand; Calcite: micrite, sparite, ash pseudomorphs (?); Gypsum: druses, lozenges; Charcoal; Phytoliths: few weathered grass phytoliths
HA-04	brown	Brown grey soft material + small white nodules	Cl (ua) > Q > Ca (a), SN, G (?), P	
HA-03a	white	White stoney layer (construction material?)	Ca (geogenic) > Q > Cl (ua), SN	Quartz: few subangular grains; Calcite: limestone
HA-03b		stone from white stoney layer	Ca (geogenic)	
HA-02	black	Black layer, full of charred material, white nodules	Cl (ua) > Ca (sa) Q SN P G	Quartz: silt-fine sand; Calcite: micrite, sparite, ash pseudomorphs, foraminifera, coccoliths; Gypsum: druses
HA-01	yellow	Mix of fine yellow orange sediment w/ charcoal flecks	Cl (ua) > Ca (a) Q SN P	

(b)

Survey quadrant no.	Hellenistic	Late Roman (Nabataean)	Early Byzantine	Middle Byzantine	Late Byzantine	Late Byzantine/ Early Islamic	Index: Bag-shaped/Gaza jars	Total no. of sherds (including non-diagnostic)
I				2	1		0.00	299
II			2	6			0.00	564
III		1		6			0.00	348
IV			1	7	3		0.00	667
V	1		2	1			0.00	488
VI			3	5	4		0.00	537
VII			3	4	20		0.08	428
VIII	6			1	37		0.45	223
IX				3	26	1	0.10	675
X	1	2	1	6			0.00	589
XI			4	8			0.01	1079
XII		14	5				0.00	826
XIII	1	5	5				0.00	561
XIV		4	10				0.01	1122
XV			9	4			0.00	431
XVI		1		3			0.00	951
XVII			4	6	2		0.00	1212
XVIII		2	1				0.00	640
XIX			4	3	1	1	0.00	697
XX				3	5	2	0.01	853
XXI		4	21	1	1		0.00	1342
XXII			9	6			0.00	442
Total	9	33	84	75	100	4		14974

Table S4. Abundance of coins in the survey quadrants. Only 27 of 150 collected coins could be identified due to extreme corrosive state. All of them show a general 4th-6th c. range (see also Fig. S3).

Quadrant #	1st-mid3rd cent. CE	Late 3rd-Early 4th cent. CE	4th-5th cent. CE	5th-mid 6th cent. CE	6th cent. CE	7th cent. CE	Total
I							-
II							-
III			1		1		2
IV			4				4
V			5				5
VI			2				2
VII				1			1
VIII			1				1
IX							-
X			3				3
XI			1				1
XII							-
XIII							-
XIV			1				1
XV		1					1
XVI							-
XVII			2				2
XVIII		1					1
XIX							-
XX			1				1
XXI		1	1				2
XXII							
Total	0	3	22	1	1	0	27
	0	11%	81%	4%	4%	0	100%

Table S5. Glass finds from the (a) survey and (b) excavations.**(a)**

Quadrant #	1 st BC - 2 nd c. CE	3 rd -4 th c. CE	4 th -5 th c. CE	6 th -7 th c. CE	Total (inc. non-diag. pieces)	Comments
II			3		4	Jar with hollow fold below the rim
III		2	1		30	Conical beaker with cobalt blobs; Tesserae
IV				1	3	Bowl with outfolded rim, "artificial green"
V			39		198	Conical beaker with cobalt blobs; Beaker or flask with applied coil base; Bottles or jugs with applied cobalt trails; Bowl with triangular thick rim; Bnical beaker with knocked off rim; Barious bowls; Beakers with tooled hollow ring base Ribbed mold blown vessels
V-VI			3			Oil lamp with wick tube
VI		25	2		166	Jug with funnel mouth and infolded rim; Bowl with hollow wing base; Double kohl vessels; Beakers with cobalt blobs; Jug, large; Suspended oil lamps; Bottle with infolded rim (Egyptian type: North Sinai/Negev area)
IX		17			74	
X		26			113	Bowl with outfolded rim; Jug with an outfolded rim; Beakers with knocked off rim; Conical beakers with cobalt blobs; Egyptian and North Sinai fabric
XI		19			75	Beakers with cobalt blobs; Beaker with knocked off rim; Bowl (?) with coil base
XII	3	22	1?		36	Bracelets, D-section; Tesserae; Vessel with coil base; Bowl with pinched toes; Vessel with petal facated engraved pattern; Vessels with vertical ribs, mold blown
XIII		2			4	Vessel with a pad base (Egyptian type: North Sinai/Negev areas)
XIV	10	9			35	Bracelet triangular section; Beaker with cobalt blobs; Vessel with pad base; Vessel with engraved petal and grooves pattern; Vessel with coil base Bowl with applied trail ring base (Egyptian type: North Sinai/Negev areas)
XIV-XV		16			19	Bracelet, D-section; Goblet/beaker; Beakers or jugs with applied coil base; Beakers or bottles with tubular ring

						bases; Jug or bowl with tubular ring base; Jug/pitcher with funnel mouth
XV		10		1?	44	Bracelet, D-section with diagonal ribs; Bracelets, D-section; Vessels with knocked off rim; Bowl with flaring rounded triangular section rim (Egyptian type: North Sinai/Negev area)
XVII		11	1		39	Bottle with trefoil mouth; Suspended oil lamp; Bracelet, D-section
XVIII		3	1		22	Bracelet, D-section; Bottle/jug with tubular base ring; Suspended oil lamp
XIX		4			7	
XX	Not substantial				74	Bottle with applied trails of the same color
XXI		32			126	Conical beakers; Bowl with a coil base; Bowl with a pad base; Vessels with applied coil base; Bottles with slightly conical bases; Various bottles; Jug bichrome with a funnel mouth; Honeycomb beakers; Conical beakers with knocked off rim; Conical beakers with applied cobalt blobs/trails; Bottle with knocked off rim; Bowl with thickening rim with a triangular section; Bowl with a double fold below rim; Some material typical to North Sinai/Negev area
XXII		20	2		74	Jug/bottle, Vessel, mold blown; Bracelet, D-section; Vessel with rhomboid honeycomb pattern, mold blown; Beaker or bottle with knocked off rim

(b)

AREA A:

Sq./Spit/Sub Sq. (basket)	Dating	Comment	Plate
1/00/c	Late Roman	North Sinai, Egypt	
1/01/	Late Roman		
1/01/d (b.23)	Byzantine		
1/01/e (b.100)	Late Roman	Thick base of a bowl	
1/02/b	Late Roman	North Sinai, Egypt	
1/02/d (b.30)	Late Roman-Early Byzantine		
1/03/c	Late Roman	Bf with petal facets	
1/03/d (b.36)	Late Roman-Early Byzantine	Head Flask	
1/04/b (b.21)	Late Roman		
1/04/d (b.44)	Late Roman-Byzantine		
1/05/a	Late Roman		
1/05/b (b.32)	Byzantine		
1/05/d (b.52)	Late Roman-Byzantine		
1/06/a (b.33)	Late Roman-Byzantine	Trail wound base; funnel mouth with attached handle	Fig. S4h; Fig. S4i
1/06/b (b.34)	Late Roman-Byzantine	Thumb rest handle	Fig. S4k
1/06/c (b.43)	Byzantine		
1/06/d (b.55)	Byzantine		
1/07/b (b.42)	Byzantine		
1/08/a (b.49)	Byzantine		
1/08/b (b.50)	Byzantine	Handle	
1/09/a (b.58)	Byzantine		
1/09/c (b.59)	Byzantine	-	
1/09/b (b.53)	Late Roman-Byzantine		
1/10/a (b.64)	Byzantine	Handle (jug)	
1/10/c (b.66)	Byzantine		
1/11/b (b.65)	Late Roman-Byzantine		
4/01/a	Late Roman		
4/01/c	Late Roman-Byzantine		
4/02/a	Late Roman-Early Byzantine		
4/02/b (b.17)	Late Roman		
4/02/d (b.19)	Late Roman		
4/02/c (b.18)	Roman	Short flat ring base	Fig. S4j
4/03/a	Late Roman	Base (bowl)	
4/03/b (b.26)	Late Roman	Bf with mould blown blobs	
4/03/d (b.42)	Late Roman		
4/04/a (b.37)	Late Roman-Early Byzantine		
4/04/b (b.38)	Late Roman	Knocked off rim	Fig. S4a
4/04/c (b.39)	Late Roman	Applied coil base	Fig. S4g

4/04/d (b.40)	Late-Roma-Byzantine		
4/05/a (b.45)	Late Roman	Bf with grooves; cylindrical beaker	Fig. S4f; Fig. S4l
4/05/b (b.46)	Late Roman-Byzantine	Handle (suspended oil lamp)	Fig. S4n
4/05/c (b.47)	Late Roman		
4/05/d (b.48)	Late Roman	Knocked off rim with incised grooves; head flask	Fig. S4c; Fig. S4d
4/06/b (b.61)	Late Roman?	Head flask?	
4/06/c (b.62)	Late Roman		
4/06/d (b.63)	Late Roman		
4/07/b (b.70)	Late Roman	Bf with a double fold, rim with twisted trail below the rim	
4/07/c (b.42)	Late Roman-Mamluk	Bf with tubular fold below rim	Fig. S4e
4/07/d (b.72)	Late Roman	Bf with facets and grooves	
1/07/c	Late Roman-Byzantine	Oil lamp/beaker	

AREA B:

Sq./Spit/Sub Sq. (basket)	Dating	Comment	Plate
6/01/b (b.75)	Late Roman-Byzantine		
7/04/d (b.95)	Late Roman		
7/04/c (b.98)	Roman-Byzantine	Head flask	
7/01/a (b.92)	Late Roman		
7/01/c (B.84)	Late Roman		
6/02/b (b.79)	Byzantine		
7/01/a (b.82)	Late Roman		

Table S6. List of carbon 14 determinations from Mound A1 with identification of dated materials and stratigraphic context.

Lab #	Location (height)	Type	Eff %	C%	¹⁴ C age (BP)	Calibrated Range (CE)	
						±1σ (68.2%)	±2σ (95.4%)
RTD-8689.2	Area A 221.11- 201.11	<i>Rosacea</i> (5 mm branch)	54.1	53.0	1574 ± 26	430 (33.9%) 475 485 (9.5%) 500 505 (24.8%) 535	420 (95.4%) 550
RTD-8688	Area A 189.11- 183.11	<i>Tamarix</i> (1 ring, 10 mm)	43.7	44.6	1581 ± 27	425 (8.8%) 435 445 (20.4%) 475 485 (39.0%) 535	415 (95.4%) 545
RTD-8687	Area A 171.11- 166.11	<i>Tamarix</i> (1 ring 10 mm)	70.0	50.7	1571 ± 27	430 (49.7%) 495 510 (10.8%) 520 530 (7.7%) 535	420 (95.4%) 550
RTD-8686	Area A 146.11- 139.11	<i>Lycium</i> No visible rings, 5 mm	24.2	43.0	1584 ± 27	425 (8.7%) 435 450 (18.2%) 470 490 (41.3%) 535	415 (95.4%) 540
RTD-8685	Area A 133.11- 129.11	<i>Zygophyllum</i>	24.2	62.3	1584 ± 27	425 (8.7%) 435 450 (18.2%) 470 490 (41.3%) 535	415 (95.4%) 540
RTD-9062	Probe 13 surface	cereal seed	19.3	59.0	1779 ±24	225 (33.1%) 260 280 (35.1%) 325	140 (11.0%) 195 210 (84.4%) 335
RTD-9063	Probe 16 surface	legume seed	59.2	53.6	1614 ±24	400 (36.1%) 430 490 (32.1%) 530	392 (56.7%) 475 485 (38.7%) 535
RTD-9091	Probe 22 surface	<i>Zygophyllum</i>	54.6	73.0	1539 ±26	430 (41.5%) 490 530 (26.7%) 565	425 (95.4%) 580

Table S7. Zooarchaeological observations: **(a)** Taxonomic composition of large mammal remains; **(b)** Age-at-death data for livestock species, based on tooth wear. Age classes represent years of life; **(c)** Relative abundance of bony fish, Chondrichthyes and Scaridae; **(d)** Abundance of mollusc taxa.

(a)	N	%
Sheep/goat	264	88
Sheep	65	
Goat	50	
Cattle	11	4
Pig	20	7
Gazelle	1	*
Dog	1	*
Equid	1	*
Camel	1	*
Total	299	

*=present, less than 1%.

(b) Age	Pig	Sheep	Goat	Sh/G
Age 1	2	7	2	9
Age 2		2		2
Age 3		2	6	2
Age 4		8	2	18
Age 5				4

(c) Period	Bony fish		Shark/Ray		Parrotfish		Total
	NISP	%	NISP	%	NISP	%	
Middle Byzantine	717	97%	20	3%	22	3%	737
Early Byzantine	461	100%	0	0%	14	3%	461

(d) Origin	Species	Early Byzantine	Middle Byzantine
Mediterranean	<i>Pirenella conica</i>	1	1
	<i>Cerithium vulgatum</i>	1	
	<i>Erosaria spurca</i>	1	
	<i>Bolinus brandaris</i>	1	
	<i>Nassarius circumcinctus</i>	3	1
	<i>Nassarius gibbosulus</i>		1
	<i>Glycymeris nummaria</i>	3	1
	<i>Mytilus galloprovincialis</i>		2
	<i>Ostrea</i> sp.		1
	<i>Lucinoma borealis</i>		2
	<i>Cerastoderma glaucum</i>	2	3
	<i>Donax trunculus</i>	5	141
Red Sea	<i>Monetaria annulus</i>	1	
	<i>Cyprea</i> sp.	1	
	<i>Engina mendicaria</i>	1	
Land snail	<i>Sphincterochila zonata</i>	3	4
	<i>Sphincterochila</i> sp.	7	1
	<i>Xerocrassa simulata</i>	5	7
	<i>Helix engaddensis</i>	5	2
Freshwater	<i>Melanopsis buccinoidea</i>	1	
Nile	<i>Chambardia rubens</i>		2
Total		41	169

Table S8. Composition of charcoal remains in absolute numbers from early and middle Byzantine deposits in Mound M1, organized by depth from the surface.

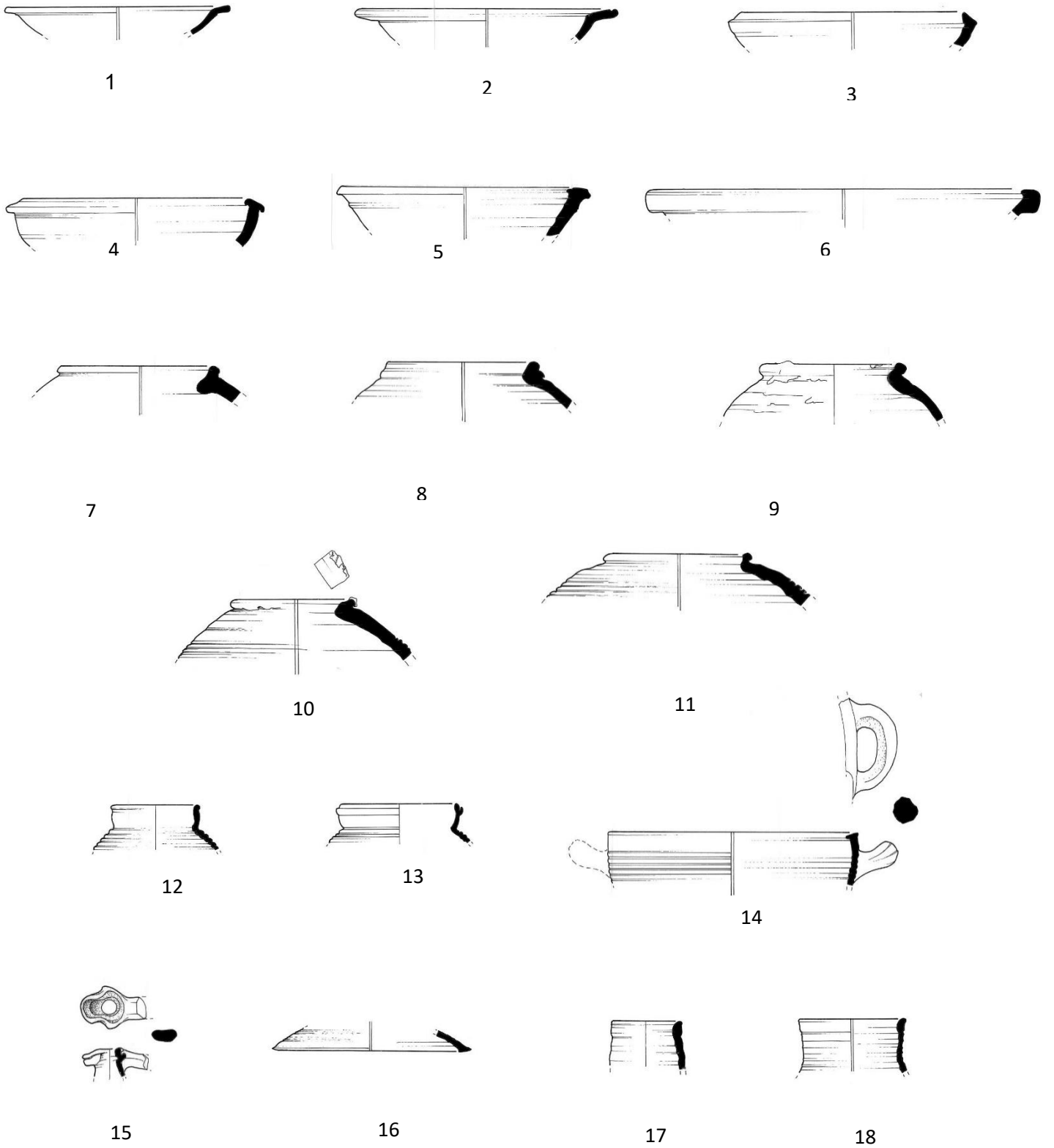
	Desert elements				Mediterranean elements									
	<i>Tamarix</i> sp.	<i>Lycium shawii</i>	<i>Retama raetam</i>	<i>Zygophyllum dumosum</i>	<i>Pinus halep.</i>	<i>Olea europaea</i>	<i>Pistacia palestina</i>	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>	<i>Ficus carica</i>	<i>Quercus calliprinos</i>	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	<i>Crataegus aronia</i>	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>
1.01a [230.50]	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.01d [230.25]	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.02b [230.41]	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.02c [229.98]	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.02d [229.88]	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.03a [230.27]	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.03b [230.80]	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.03d [229.78]	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.04a [230.23]	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.04b [229.84]	5	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sq1 top	37	5	0	0	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1.08c [229.40]	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1.09a [229.62]	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.09b [229.23]	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.09c [229.23]	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.10b [229.13]	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
1.10c [229.10]	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sq1 bot	19	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
4.02a [224.29]	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.02c [224.29]	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

4.02d [224.29]	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4.03a [224.15]	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
4.03b [224.15]	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
4.03c [224.15]	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.03d [224.15]	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.05a [223.69]	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
4.05b [223.69]	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.05c [223.69]	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
4.05d [223.69]	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.07a [223.16]	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4.07b [223.16]	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.07c [223.16]	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.07d [223.16]	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sq 4	13	13	2	2	1	0	3	0	0	2	1	2	1	6
Overall total	69	25	2	2	3	2	6	1	1	2	1	2	1	8

Table S9. Composition of identified domestic plant taxa in the seed assemblage.

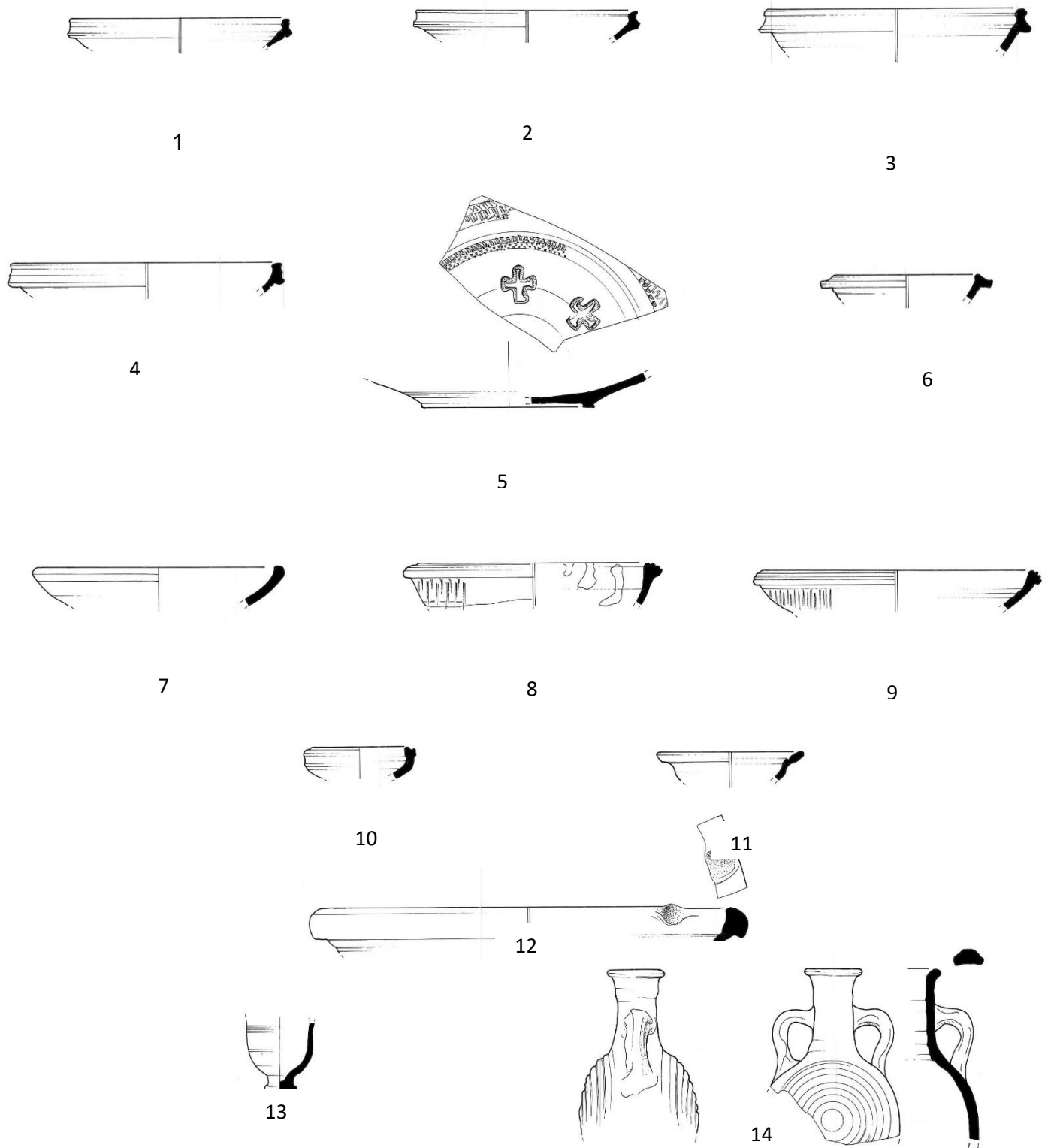
Lab #	Area	Locus	Basket	Barley %	Wheat %	Barley/Wheat	Barley/Wheat %	Grape %	Grape %	Legume %	Legume %	Date %	Date %	Olive %	Olive %	Total		
HLZ-0	A	1/01a	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
HLZ-4	A	1/02a	12	3	0	0	0%	1	25%	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	4		
HLZ-6	A	1/03a	13	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	33%	0	0%	1	33%	3		
HLZ-8	A	1/04a	20	59	0	2	3%	7	10%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	68		
HLZ-19	A	1/05a	29	3	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3		
HLZ-20	A	1/06a	33	12	1	6	12%	31	60%	2	4%	0	0%	0	0%	52		
HLZ-21	A	1/07a	41	13	0	3	10%	9	30%	4	13%	0	0%	1	3%	30		
HLZ-23	A	1/08a	49	20	0	13	25%	11	21%	8	15%	0	0%	0	0%	52		
HLZ-10	A	1/09a	54	19	0	4	13%	4	13%	5	16%	0	0%	0	0%	32		
HLZ-24	A	1/10a	64	17	2	1	3%	6	19%	6	19%	0	0%	0	0%	32		
Trench 1 - Total - Middle Byzantine				147	53%	3	1%	29	11%	69	25%	26	9%	0	0%	2	1%	276
HLZ-12	A	4/01a	8	4	0	0	0%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%	1	17%	6		
HLZ-14	A	4/02a	16	21	0	2	9%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	23		
HLZ-2	A	4/04a	37	45	0	8	12%	9	13%	4	6%	0	0%	1	1%	67		
HLZ-16-18	A	4/05a	45	327	25	9	2%	105	20%	45	9%	10	2%	4	1%	525		
HLZ-30	A	4/06a	60	492	42	42	6%	82	12%	45	6%	0	0%	0	0%	703		
HLZ-31	A	4/07a	69	200	24	13	4%	28	10%	25	9%	1	0%	3	1%	294		
Trench 4 - Early Byzantine				1089	67%	91	6%	74	5%	224	14%	120	7%	11	1%	9	1%	1618
HLZ-34	B	6/02a	78	1	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1		
HLZ-38	B	7/02d	87	36	2	6	8%	25	32%	6	8%	4	5%	0	0%	79		
HLZ-40	B	7/03d	91	50	2	21	17%	21	17%	26	21%	5	4%	1	1%	126		
HLZ-42	B	7/04d	95	15	2	9	13%	35	50%	9	13%	0	0%	0	0%	70		
HLZ-43	B	7/05d	99	13	0	7	7%	44	46%	30	31%	2	2%	0	0%	96		
Trench 7 - Middle Byzantine				117	32%	6	2%	40	11%	125	34%	71	19%	11	3%	1	0%	371

Fig. S1a. Early Byzantine Vessels (ca. 350-450 CE), (nos. 1-18)



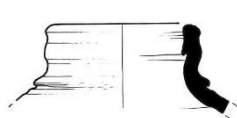
1. ARS Bowl. Locus 4/05a. Basket 45/1. Red 10R5/8. Comparisons: Hayes 1972. *Late Roman Pottery*: 96-100, ARS Form 78, no. 2. Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, Fig. 6:2). Dated 5th c. early 5th c.
2. ARS Bowl. Locus 4/06d. Basket 63/1. Red 2.5YR5/8. Comparisons: Hayes 1972. *Late Roman Pottery*: 96-100, ARS Form 59B, no. 17. Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, Fig. 6:7). Dated 320-420 CE.
3. ARS Bowl. Locus 4/06d. Basket 63/3. Brown 7.5YR4/3; matte gloss. Comparisons: Hayes 1972: 100-107, ARS Form 61B no. 27. Dated 400-450 CE.
4. Bowl. Locus 7/03d. Basket 95/6. Yellowish brown 10YR5/6; core: yellowish red 5YR5/6. Comparisons: Lejjun (Parker 1987. *The Roman Frontier in Central Jordan*, BAR International Series: Fig. 104: 114); Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, Fig. 6:17).
5. Bowl. Locus 7/04c. Basket 98/1. Brown 7.5YR5/4. Comparisons: Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, Fig. 6:18).
6. Mortarium. Locus 7/03d. Basket 95/2. Reddish brown 5YR4/4; small to large white inclusions. Comparisons: Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, Fig.6:27).
7. Gaza wine jar. Locus 4/05d. Basket. Reddish yellow 5YR6/6; dark brown core; numerous white inclusions. Comparisons: Ref 28: Pl. 5 Form 2. Yotvata (Magness 2015. In *The 2003-2007 Excavations in the Late Roman Fort at Yotvata*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Fig. 2.7:3). Dated 300-450 CE.
8. Gaza wine jar. Locus 4/02b. Basket 17/3. Reddish brown 5YR5/8; numerous small white inclusions. Comparisons: Ref 28: Pl. 5 Form 2. Dated 300-450 CE.
9. Gaza wine jar. Locus 4/05a. Basket 45/3. Yellowish red 5YR5/3; numerous white inclusions. Comparisons: Ref 28: Pl. 5 Form 2. Dated 300-450 CE.
10. Faza wine jar. Locus 4/04d. Basket 40/1. Yellowish red 5YR5/6; small white inclusions; exterior: very pale brown 10YR7/4. Comparisons: Ref. 28: Pl. 5 Form 2. Dated 300-450 CE.
11. Gaza wine jar. Locus 4/06d. Basket 63/2. Reddish yellow 5YR6/6; charred on both sides. Comparisons: Ref. 28: Pl. 5 Form 2. Dated 300-450 CE.
12. Cooking pot. Locus 4/05d. Basket 48/1. Yellowish red 5YR5/8; charred exterior. Comparisons: Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, 165-166, Fig. 6:50); Yotvata (Magness 2015. In *The 2003-2007 Excavations in the Late Roman Fort at Yotvata*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Fig. 2.13:4).
13. Cooking pot. Locus 4/05b. Basket 46/2. Red 2.5YR4/8; numerous white inclusions. Comparisons: Yotvata (Magness 2015. In *The 2003-2007 Excavations in the Late Roman Fort at Yotvata*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Fig. 2.15:2); Qasr Bshir (Parker 1987. *The Roman Frontier in Central Jordan*, BAR International Series: 559, no. 33). Dated 284-363 CE.
14. Casserole. Locus 6/02d. Basket 81/3. Red 2.5YR5/6; charred exterior. Comparisons: Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, 166, Fig. 6:52).
15. Cooking ware jug. Locus 4/07a. Basket 69/1. Yellowish red 5YR4/6; charred exterior. Comparisons: Mezar Hazeva (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, Fig. 4:36).
16. Cooking ware lid. Locus 4/02c. Basket 18/1. Reddish brown 5YR4/4; numerous small white inclusions. Comparisons: Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, 166, Fig. 6: 55) Qasr Bshir (Parker 1987. *The Roman Frontier in Central Jordan*, BAR International Series: Fig. 95: 40).
17. Aqaba ware ration jar. Locus 4/05c. Basket 47/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/4; gold flecked biotite inclusions. Comparisons: 'En Hazeva (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, 131, Fig. 4:39); Aqaba (Meloy 1991. Results of archaeological reconnaissance in west Aqaba. *ADAJ XXXV*: 397-414, Fig. 3:X); Khirbet el-Fityan (Parker 1987. *The Roman Frontier in Central Jordan*, BAR International Series: Fig. 98:72); Yotvata (Magness 2015. In *The 2003-2007 Excavations in the Late Roman Fort at Yotvata*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Fig. 2.21:1).
18. Aqaba ware jar. Locus 4/05b. Basket 46/1. Yellowish red 5YR5/6; gold flecked biotite inclusions.

Fig. S1b. Middle Byzantine Vessels (ca. 450-550 CE), (nos. 1-14)

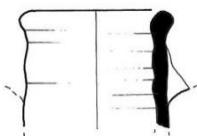


1. LRC bowl. Locus 1/07d. Basket 67/1. Reddish brown 2.5YR5/4; brown on rim 7.5YR5/2. Comparisons: Hayes 1972. *Late Roman Pottery*: 329-338, Form 3C, no. 10. Dated second half of the 5th c. CE.
2. LRC bowl. Locus 6/01b. Basket 75/2. Red 10R5/8; reddish gray on rim 5YR5/2. Comparisons: Hayes 1972. *Late Roman Pottery*: 329-338, Form 3C, no. 10. Dated second half of the 5th c. CE.
3. LRC bowl. Locus 1/03b. Basket 15/1. Red 2.5YR5/8. Comparisons: Hayes 1972: 329-338, Form 3C, no. 10. Dated second half of the 5th c. CE.
4. LRC bowl. Locus 1/04d. Basket 23/1. Red 2.5YR5/8; very dark brown on rim 5YR3/1. Comparisons: Hayes 1972. *Late Roman Pottery*: 329-338, Form 3C, no. 10. Dated second half of the 5th c. CE.
5. LRC bowl w/impressed deco. Locus 1/05c. Basket 35/1. Red 10YR5/8; occasional tiny white inclusions; matte finish. Comparisons: Hayes 1972. *Late Roman Pottery*: 329-338, Form 3B, Fig. 67:4; impressed deco, Hayes 1972: Fig. 72, F. Dated second half of the 5th c. CE.
6. LRC Bowl. Locus 1/09b. Basket 53/2. Brown 10YR5/3; small white inclusions; charred exterior. Comparisons: Hayes 1972. *Late Roman Pottery*: 340, Fig. 70. Ma'on (Nahshoni and Seriy 2014: Fig. 12:1). Dated to the second half of the 5th c. CE.
7. LRC Bowl. Locus 4/05d. Basket 48/3. Red 10R4/6; weak red 10 4/4 on exterior rim; high gloss on interior and exterior. Comparisons: Hayes 1972: 325-327, Late Roman C, Form 1D. Dated mid-5th c. to third quarter.
8. Rouletted bowl. Locus 7/01a. Basket 82/1. Red 2.5YR4/8; core: 5YR6/4; drippy red paint on interior. Comparisons: (Magness 1993. *Jerusalem Ceramic Chronology Circa 200–800 CE*. Sheffield: 188-189, Form 2B, no. 1). Dated before mid-6th c. CE.
9. Rouletted bowl. Locus 1/04d. Basket 44/1. Red 2.5YR5/8; worn on rim. Comparisons: Jerusalem (Magness 1993. *Jerusalem Ceramic Chronology Circa 200–800 CE*. Sheffield, 188-189, Form 2B, no. 1). Dated before mid-6th c. CE.
10. Bowl. Locus 1/07d. Basket 67/2. Semi-fine ware, strong brown 7.5YR4/4. Comparisons: Ramot Nof (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994. Excavations in Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva. *'Atiqot* 25:157–177: Fig. 3:1).
11. Bowl. Locus 1/02d. Basket 30/2. Semi-fine ware, pink 7.5YR7/4; core strong brown 7.5YR5/6.
12. Arched-rim basin w/thumb impression on rim. Locus 1/04b Basket 21/1. Reddish brown 5YR4/3; thumb impression on rim (spout?); heavy, coarse ware; numerous tiny to medium white and dark gray inclusions. Comparisons: Jerusalem. Magness' Arched-rim Basin Form 1 (Magness 1993. *Jerusalem Ceramic Chronology Circa 200–800 CE*. Sheffield Magness 1993. *Jerusalem Ceramic Chronology Circa 200–800 CE*. Sheffield: 204-205, no. 6). Dated before mid-6th c.).
13. Beaker. Locus 6/02c. Basket 79/1. Reddish yellow 7.5YR6/6; minute white inclusions; traces of finger prints. Comparisons: Maon-Nirim (Magness 1980. The Pottery from the 1980 Excavations in Ma'on. *EI* 19: Fig. 1: 5).
14. Aqaba Ware Flask. Locus 1/07b. Basket 42/1. Red 2.5YR5/6; small white inclusions and gold flecked biotite inclusions; exterior pale yellow 2.5Y8/3. Comparisons: Yotvata (Magness 2015. In *The 2003-2007 Excavations in the Late Roman Fort at Yotvata*. Winona Lake, Indiana: Figs. 2.9:1-2).

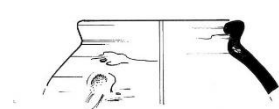
Fig. S1c. Middle and Late Byzantine Vessels (ca. 450-650 CE), (nos. 15-30)



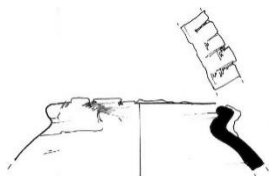
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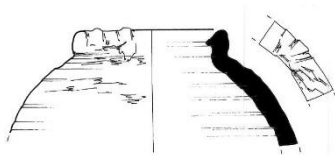
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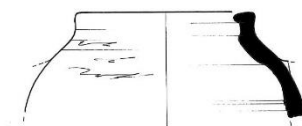
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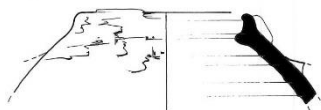
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19



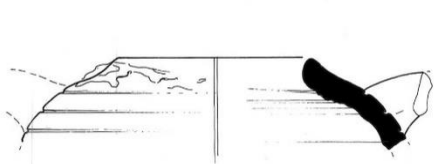
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21



22



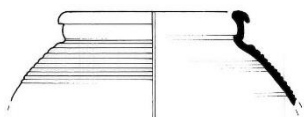
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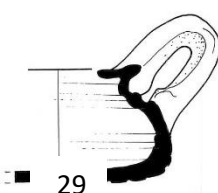
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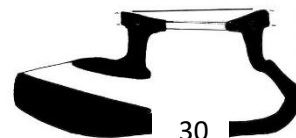
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28



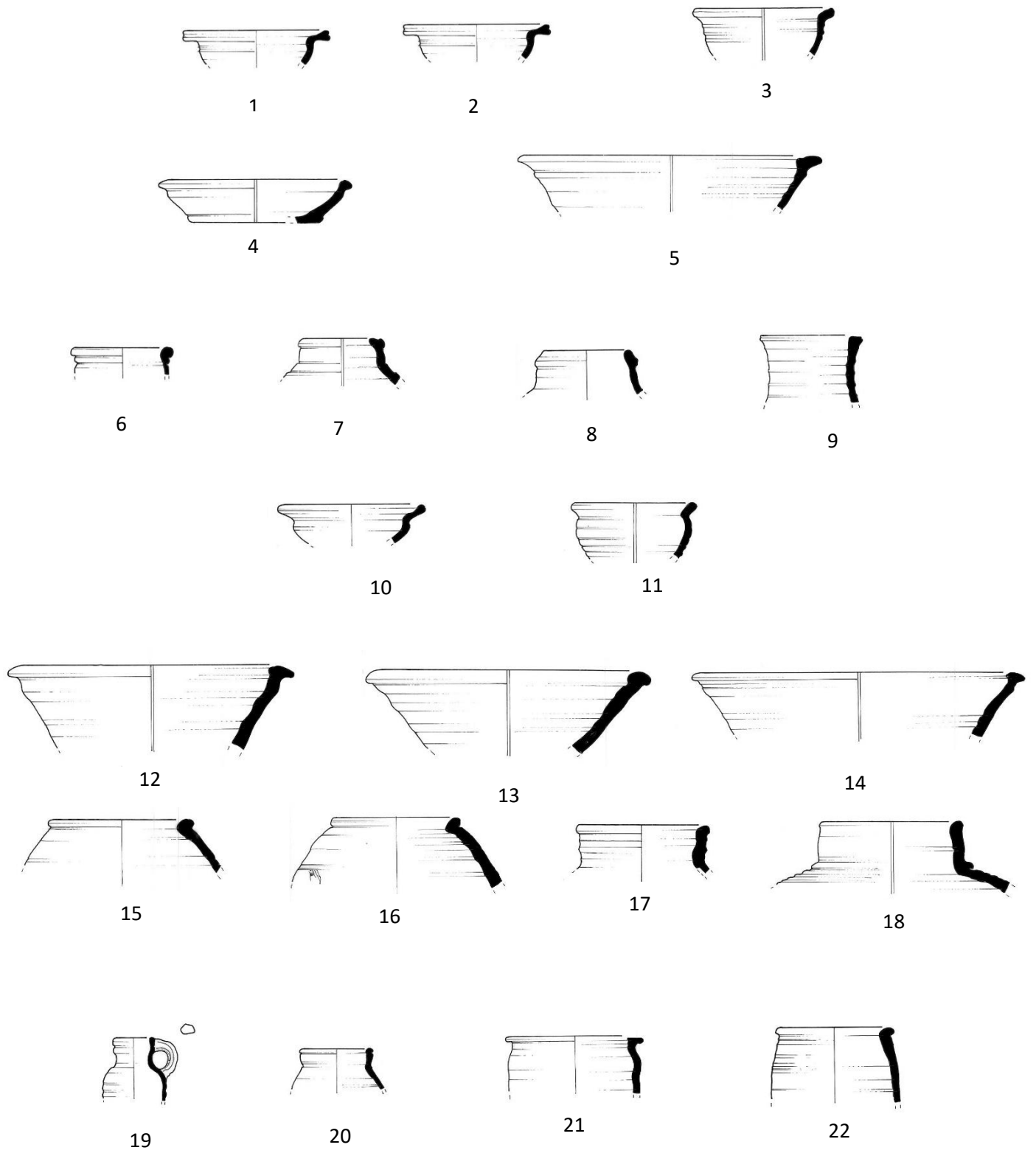
29



30

15. Jar. Locus 1/10b. Basket 57/1. Yellowish red 5YR5/8; minute white inclusions; brown core 7.5YR5/4. Comparisons: Ramot Nof (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994. Excavations in Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva. *'Atiqot* 25:157–177; Fig. 4:1).
16. Storage jar. Locus 1/07a. Basket: 41/2. Light brown 7.5YR6/5; numerous small white and dark gray inclusions; exterior: pale yellow 2.5Y7/4. Comparisons: Caesarea (Riley 1979. Pottery from first sessions of in Caesarea Hippodrome. *BASOR*: 218: 31-32, 212-214, Type 5); Tubb's Amphora Type 2 (Tubb 1986: The Pottery from a Byzantine Well near Tell Fara. *PEQ* 118:51-65, Fig. 2:4-5). Dated early 6th c.
17. Gaza wine jar. Locus 1/10a. Basket 64/3. Reddish brown 5YR5/4; exterior: light brown 7.5YR6/3. Comparisons: Ref. 28: Pl. 6, nos. 2, 5. Dated mid-5th through mid-6th c. CE.
18. Gaza wine jar. Locus 1/10b. Basket 57/2. Yellowish red 5YR5/6; irregularly shaped mouth. Comparisons: Ref. 28: Pl. 6, nos. 2, 5. Dated mid-5th through mid-6th c. CE.
19. Gaza wine jar. Locus 1/11b. Basket 65/2. Yellowish red 5YR5/6; occasional large white inclusions; exterior: light yellowish brown 10YR6/4. Comparisons: Ref. 28: Pl. 6, nos. 2, 5. Dated mid-5th through mid-6th c. CE.
20. Gaza wine jar. Locus 7/02a. Basket 87/1. Yellowish red 5YR5/6; minute white inclusions; charred exterior. Comparisons: Ref. 28: Pl. 6, nos. 2, 5. Dated mid-5th through mid-6th c. CE.
21. Gaza wine jar. Locus 7/01d. Basket 85/1. Brown 7.5YR5/4. Comparisons: Ref. 28: Pl. 6, no. 3. Dated mid-5th through mid-6th c. CE.
22. Gaza wine jar. Locus 7/03d. Basket 97/10. Yellowish red 5YR5/6; pink exterior 7.5YR7/3; occasional minute white inclusions. Comparisons: Ref. 28: Pl. 6, no. 6. Dated mid-5th through mid-6th c. CE.
23. Gaza wine jar. Locus 1/02d. Basket 30/1. Yellowish red 5YR5/6; small white inclusions. Comparisons: Ref. 28: Pl. 7, no. 2, Form 4. Dated 6th-early 7th c. CE.
24. Cooking pot. Locus 7/01d. Basket 85/8. Yellowish red 5YR4/6. Comparisons: Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, 165-166, Fig. 6:50); Ma'on (Nahshoni and Seriy 2014. A Byzantine monastery and Islamic-period settlement at Horbat Ma'on. *'Atiqot* 78: 13-62, Fig. 15:3).
25. Cooking pot. Locus 1/11b. Basket 65/3. Yellowish red 5YR5/6; charred exterior. Comparisons: Rehovot-in-the-Negev (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1988. *Excavations at Rehovot-in-the-Negev: The Northern Church*. Pp. 78–96: Pl. IV:197); Maon-Nirim (Magnes 1980. The Pottery from the 1980 Excavations in Ma'on. *EI* 19:216-224; Fig. 2:20); En Boqeq (Gichon 1993. *En Boqeq: Ausgrabungen in Einer Oase am Toten Meer*: Taf. 40:17).
26. Cooking pot. Locus 6/02d. Basket 81/2. Red 2.5YR4/8; minute white inclusions. Comparisons: En Boqeq (Gichon 1993. *En Boqeq: Ausgrabungen in Einer Oase am Toten Meer*: Taf. 39:8).
27. Casserole. Locus 1/06d. Basket 55/2. Red 2.5YR5/6. Comparisons: Rehovot-in-the-Negev (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1988. *Excavations at Rehovot-in-the-Negev: The Northern Church*. Pp. 78–96: Pl. V:200).
28. Lamp. Locus 7/01b. Basket 83/1. Yellowish red 5YR5/6; minute white inclusions. Comparisons: Rosenthal and Sivan 1978. *Ancient Lamps in the Schloessinger Collection*: 122-123, nos. 506-507, Variant A.
29. Lamp. Locus 1/08a. Basket 49/1. Yellowish red 5YR5/6; minute white inclusions. Comparisons: Rosenthal and Sivan 1978. *Ancient Lamps in the Schloessinger Collection*: 122-123, Variant B, nos. 508-509.
30. Lamp. Surface Area A. Red 2.5YR4/8; minute white inclusions; core: dark grayish brown 10YR4/2. Comparisons: Rosenthal and Sivan 1978. *Ancient Lamps in the Schloessinger Collection*: 122-123, Variant B, nos. 508-509.

Fig. S1d. Elusa Ware vessels of the Early Byzantine period (ca. 350-450 CE) (nos. 1-9) and Middle Byzantine period (ca. 450-550 CE) (nos. 10-22)



1. Bowl. Locus 4/02b. Basket 17/2. Reddish yellow 5YR6/8; exterior: pale yellow 2.5Y7/3 to reddish yellow 5YR6/8.
2. Bowl. Locus 7/03d. Basket 95/7. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3.
3. Bowl. Locus 4/02b. Basket 17/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3.
4. Bowl. Locus 4/05a. Basket 45/2. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3; occasional small and medium white inclusions; brown discolorations on interior and exterior. Comparisons: Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, 164, Fig. 6:12).
5. Bowl. Locus 7/03b. Basket 93/2. Reddish yellow 7.5YR7/6.
6. Jar. Locus 4/03b. Basket 26/2. Light yellow brown 2.5Y6/3; semi-coarse ware.
7. Jar. Locus 4/07b. Basket 70/1. Light yellowish brown 2.5YR6/3; exterior: pale yellow 2.5Y7/3. Comparisons: Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, 165, 6:35).
8. Jar. Locus 4/07c. Basket 71/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3.
9. Jar. Locus 7/04c. Basket 97/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3.
10. Bowl. Locus 7/03c. Basket 94/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3; semi-fine ware.
11. Bowl. Locus 7/02d. Basket 91/2. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3.
12. Bowl. Locus 1/07b. Basket 42/2. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3.
13. Bowl. Locus 6/02d. Basket 81/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3; core: light reddish brown 5YR6/4.
14. Bowl. Locus 1/10a. Basket 64/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3.
15. Wine Jar. Locus 7/01d. Basket 85/2. Light yellowish brown 10YR6/4; tiny white inclusions. Comparisons: Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, 165, Fig. 6:46); Elusa (Buckling and Goldfus. 2012. Elusa 2: Another enigmatic ostrakon from the pottery workshop at Elusa. *PEQ* 144: 47-66, Fig. 5).
16. Wine Jar. Locus 1/08a. Basket 49/2. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3. Comparisons: Oboda (Erickson-Gini 2010. *Nabataean settlement and self-organized economy in The Central Negev: crisis and renewal*. Archaeopress, 165, Fig. 6:46); Elusa (Buckling and Goldfus. 2012. Elusa 2: Another enigmatic ostrakon from the pottery workshop at Elusa. *PEQ* 144: 47-66, Fig. 5).
17. Jar. Locus 6/02a. Basket 78/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3.
18. Jar. Locus 7/02d. Basket 91/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3.
19. Juglet. Locus 1/05d. Basket 52/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3; brown discolorations on both sides.
20. Serving pot. Locus 1/05a. Basket 29/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3; minute white inclusions.
21. Tubulus. Locus 1/04d. Basket 45/2. Pale yellow 2.5YR7/3; core: yellowish brown; white plaster accretions on exterior, charred interior.
22. Tubulus. Locus 1/08b. Basket 50/1. Pale yellow 2.5Y7/3; light yellowish brown core 2.5Y6/3; brown discolorations.

Fig. S2. Sample of coins from the Elusa survey. Photographs are not to original scale.










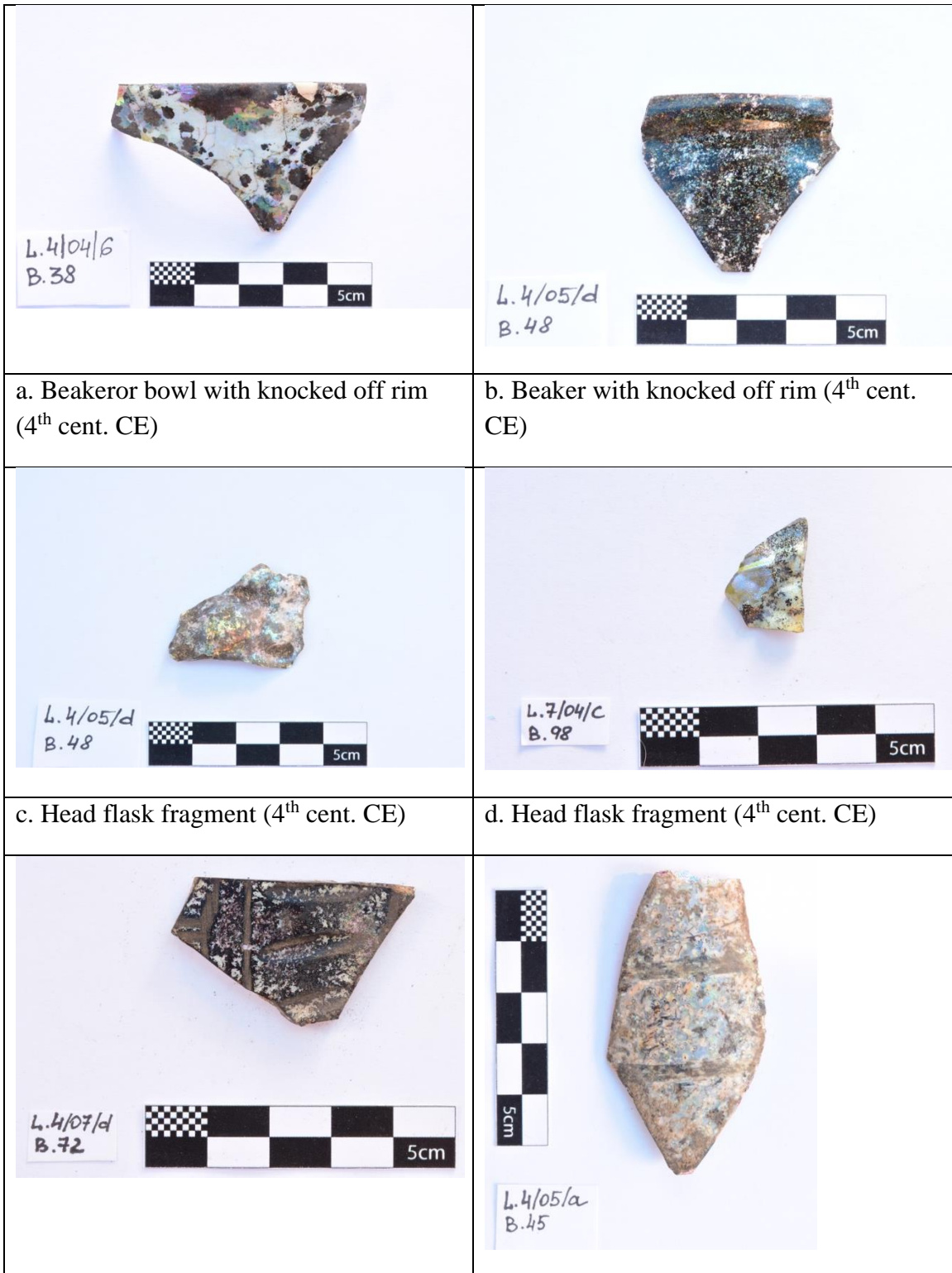
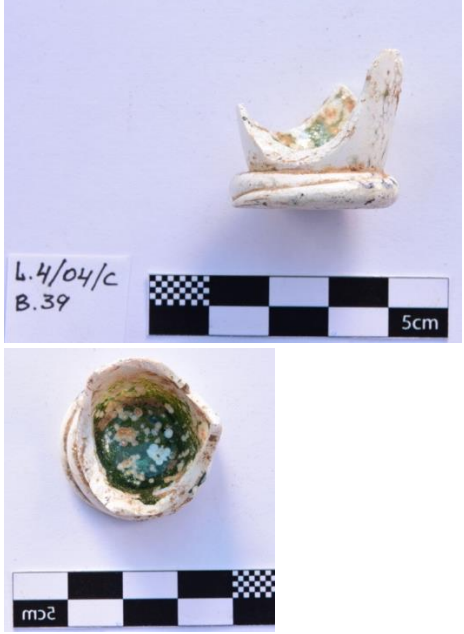
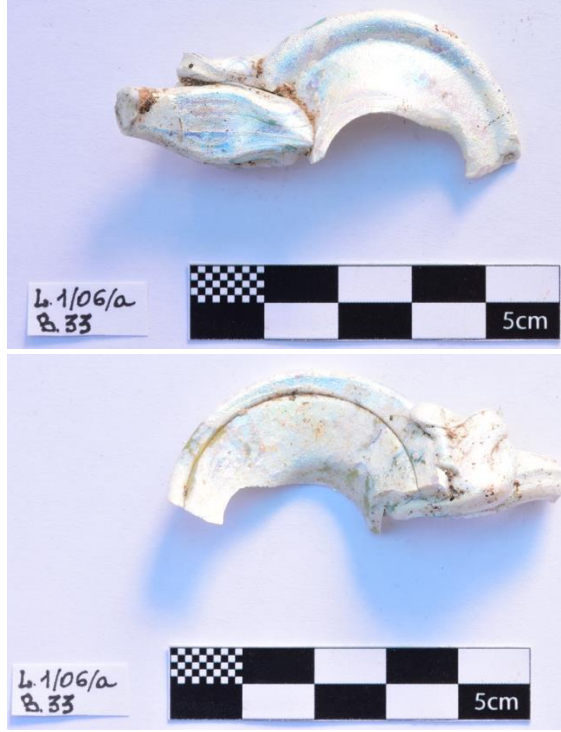

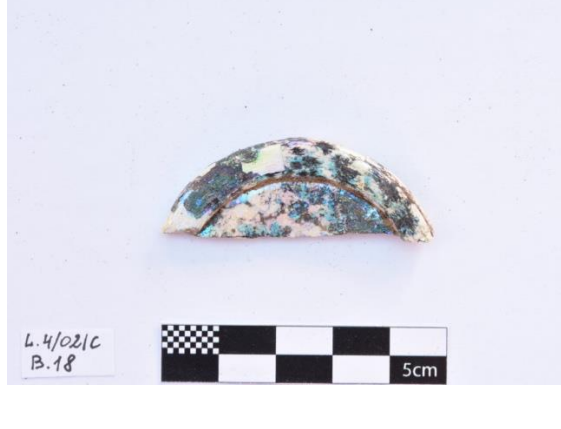
Square #	Obverse	Reverse	Ruler / Type	Date	Notes
III			Type: Byzantine (M) follis, bust right.	c. 498– 538 CE	
V				c. 450– 550 CE	Cast, blank flan.
VI			Type: Gloria Exercitvs	c. 335– 340 CE	
VI			Type: Victory advancing left	c. 455– 475 CE	Proto- Vandalic imitation
XI			Constantine I, Type: Sol Invictus	c. 312– 326 CE	Cut to half. Typical to 5 th c.
XIV			Antiochus III	c. 210– 187 BCE	Maybe used in 5 th c. Similar size to LR coins

Fig. S3. Plate with glass ware from the Elusa excavation.



<p>e. Fragment of a shallow bowl with facet (petal) cut decoration (4th cent. CE)</p>	<p>f. Fragment of a beaker with wheel cut decoration (4 cent. CE)</p>
	
<p>g. Applied coil base of a bottle or jug (4th cent CE)</p>	<p>h. Bottle or jug with funnel mouth and infolded rim (4th cent. CE)</p>
	
<p>i. Fragment of a trial-wound base (4th cent. CE)</p>	<p>j. Fragment of a flat ring base (4th cent CE)</p>









 <p>L.4/06/B B.34</p> 	 <p>L.4/05/a B.45</p> 
<p>k. Fragment of a thumb-rest handle (4th cent. CE)</p>	<p>l. Bowl, rim with applied thick trail below the rim (4th cent. CE)</p>
 <p>L.4/05/a B.45</p> 	 <p>L.4/05/a B.46</p> 
<p>m. Base of a conical beaker/oil lamp (4th - early 5th cent CE)</p>	<p>n. Handle of suspended lamp (early 5th cent. CE)</p>

Fig. S4. Wiggle-matching of carbon 14 dates: red, five dates in stratigraphic succession from Trench A in Mound M1 and green, additional dates from three 1 x 1 m excavation probes (see Fig. S1 for sampling location map).

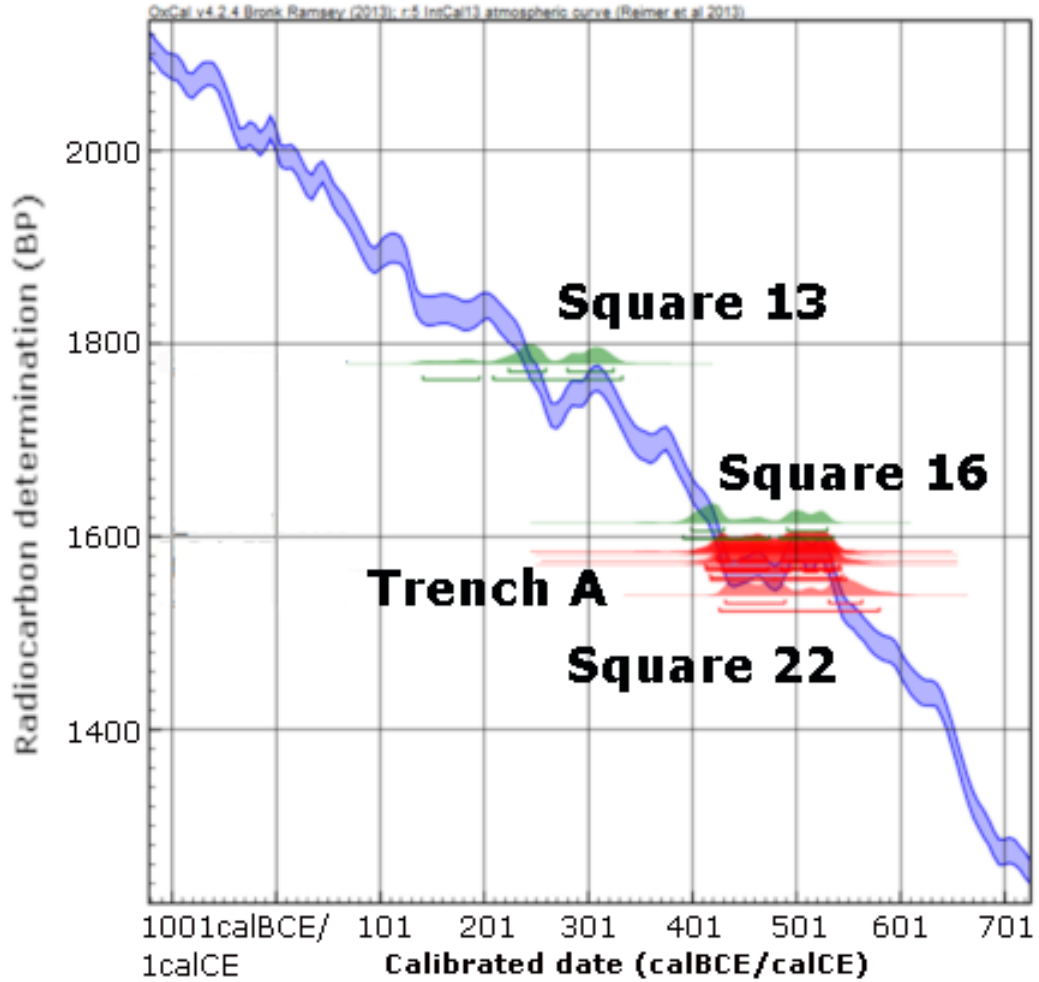


Fig. S5. Difference in the abundance of different types of excavated biological remains from archaeological deposits in Mound M1 of the early Byzantine (350-450 CE, Trench A) and middle Byzantine (450-550 CE, Trench B), shown in violin graphs. Averages and ranges of abundance data were calculated from the numbers of specimens of livestock, charcoal, fish and cultivar seed taxa across excavation spits of 10 cm thickness in each of the two trenches of equal volume.

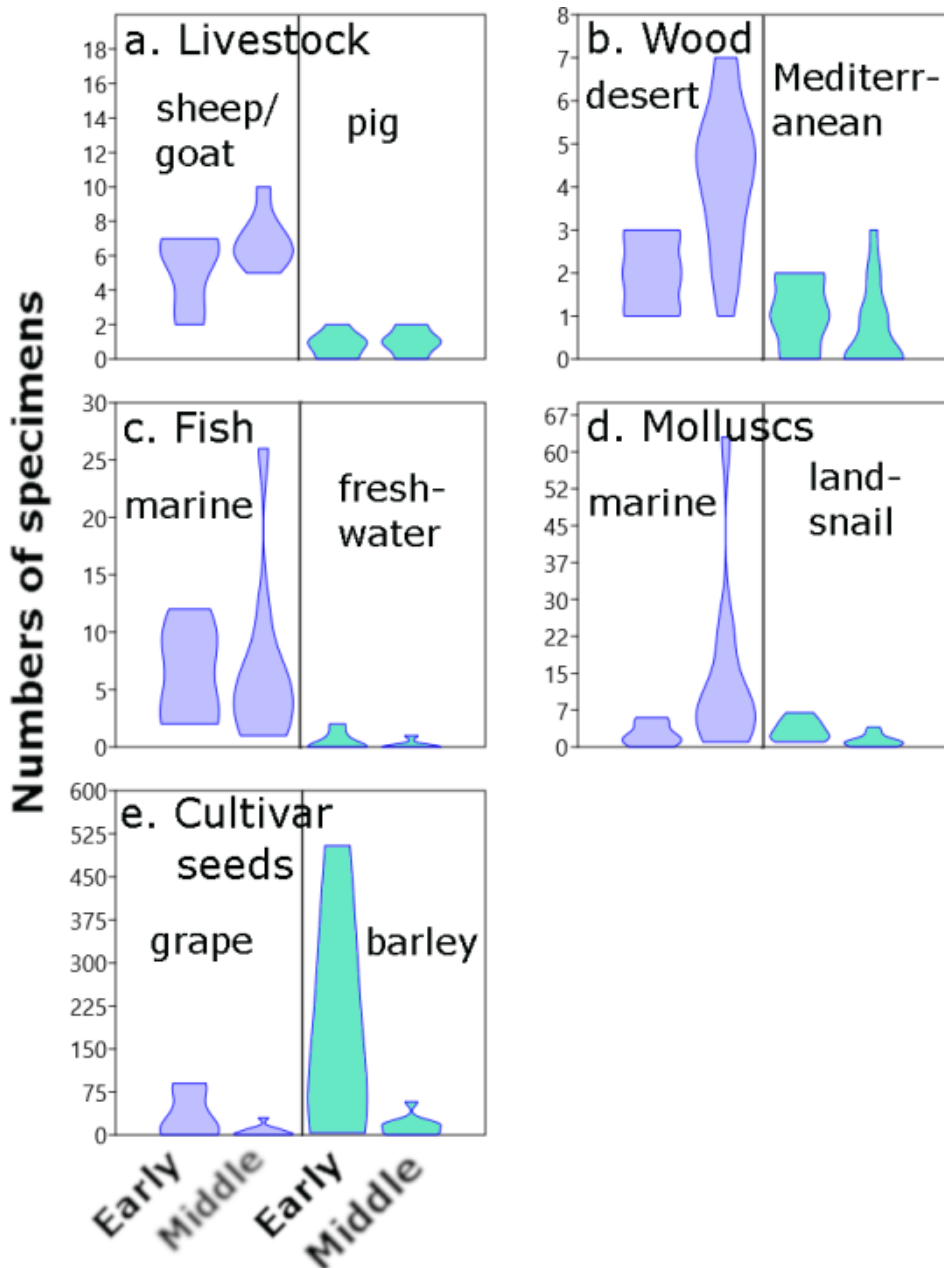


Fig. S6. Relative frequencies of identified taxa from charcoal remains in Early Byzantine (a) and Middle Byzantine (b) deposits.

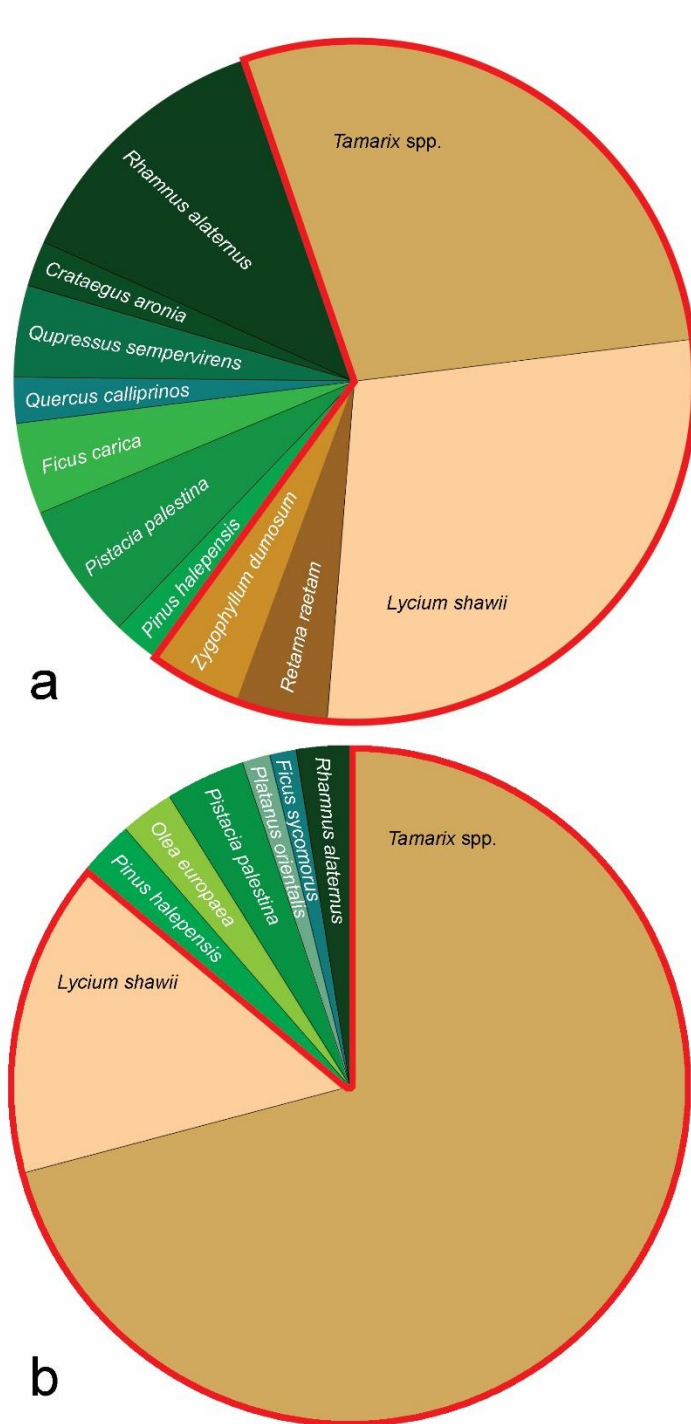


Fig. S7. Relative frequencies of seeds, including staple and fruit crops in deposits of early and middle phases of the Byzantine period.

