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**EVALUATION OF THE RED-SLIPPED WARE OF THE THOLOS BUILDING IN KNIDOS
IN TERMS OF BEING LOCALLY PRODUCED OR IMPORTED PRODUCTS**

The Tholos is situated on the western section of Knidos (IInd Terrace). This study will present the analysis of the red-slipped ware unearthed as a result of the diggings and research on one of the main arteries – the IInd Terrace – and the building of Tholos, located on it. Among the red slip category, the local and imported ware from Phocaia, Cyprus, and Africa will be emphasized, and their clay and slip properties will be detailed. The aim is to establish a relationship between the local pottery and the imported wares through the red-slipped ware of Late Antiquity and to reveal detailed typology and stratigraphic interpretations. While finding answers to the questions sought with the Tholos building pottery, the aim is to clarify the relationship between the original clay used for pottery production and ceramic culture techniques and the use of natural resources.

Knidos – Tholos – red-slipped pottery – local production – imported products

Introduction¹

The Tholos² is located in the western part of the IInd Terrace of Knidos. It was first discovered during the 2015 archaeological season, and the first excavations took place in 2017 and finished in 2022. The core of the building made of mortar and rubble stones has survived to a great extent (fig. 1). The Tholos has a five-step podium with a diameter of 13.2 m. In the center of the stepped podium, there is another interior *cella*-like arrangement surrounded by eight columns with a diameter of about 5 m (Doksanaltı et al. 2019a: 54-55). The use of rubble stones and mortar, seen in the construction of the Tholos, is also found in a number of different buildings in Knidos built in the 2nd century AD, such as the Harbor Street Heroon and the Corinthian Monument (Mert 2005: 235-236; Doksanaltı and Gider-Büyükozer 2019: 126). The western part of the IInd Terrace, where the Tholos is located, is covered with travertine paving. The Tholos was included in the construction program carried out in the 2nd century,

with the Dionysos Stoa in the south, the Symmachos Heroon in the west (Bruns-Özgan 2013: 134-135), and the Harbor Street Heroon westward (Doksanaltı 2020: 381). The Tholos lost its function in the 4th century AD. With the new houses built in the 5th-6th centuries AD using the architectural blocks that belong to the portico that surrounded the Tholos and its vicinity, the western part of the IInd Terrace was used until the mid-7th century AD (Doksanaltı et al. 2022: 146). The grave attached to the building on the southeast side of the Tholos is thought to be from the 7th century AD, when Knidos was abandoned (Doksanaltı et al. 2019a: 55, fig. 15). In this sense, the tomb structure is similar to the graves found in the Harbor Chapel (Doksanaltı et al. 2019b: 142-143, fig. 10-11) and the late-period grave seen in the Harbor Street Heroon (fig. 2 and 3).

The forms evaluated in terms of the production of the red-slipped ware recovered during the excavations in the Tholos, Knidos consist of three different typologies: African Red Slip (ARS) ware, Late Roman C/ Phocaean Red Slip ware (LRC), and Late Roman D (LRD)/ Cypriot Red Slip ware (fig. 4 and 5).

African Red-Slipped Ware

Nos. 1: Bowl. Hayes Form 80B (Hayes 1972: 126, Form 80B, 2), locally produced, rounded with a slightly outwards rim. It has a slightly flattened body form with clay and slip-colored red. It contains fine sand and lime. Based on the other red-slipped ware, this bowl dates to the 6th century AD.

Nos. 2: Bowl. Hayes form 80B/99 (Hayes 1972: 155, Form 80B/99, 28), being a sub-type of Knidos Form 99, the bowl is an imported product, with its rim rounded downturned with an upright body. The bowl, with a shallow ring base, has

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² As a result of the studies carried out in 2023, it was understood that the structure, previously named Tholos, was a macellum. In later publications, this structure was called macellum (fig. 3).



Fig. 1. Location of Tholos. Before excavations.



Fig. 2. Tholos and grave. After 2017 excavation season.



Fig. 3. Tholos/Macellum. After 2023 excavation season.

grooves on the outer surface. Its body-clay is in red tones, and the slip is light red. It contains fine sand, lime, and silver mica. Based on the other red-slipped ware, this bowl dates to the 6th century AD.

Nos. 3-5: Bowls. Hayes form 91 C (Hayes 1972: 43, Form 91C, 23), the body is semi-spherical and the flange at the edge of the rim is hook-shaped and curved. Its body-clay is in reddish brown tones, and the slip is light red. It contains fine sand, lime, and gold, and silver mica. **Nos. 3-4** are imported products. **Nos. 5:** Influenced by the imported forms, was produced in Knidos. Bowls similar to these ones are found in the Athenian Agora (Hayes 2008: 231, fig. 35: 1142), Knossos (Hayes 2001: 438, 439, fig. 4: A20.), Corinth (Hayes 1972: 142, fig. 26: 23) and dates to the first quarter to mid-6th century AD.

Nos. 6: Plate. Hayes form 109 – Bonifay Type 60 (2004), imported³ plate, rounded rim downturned, and flat inside. The plates have a body profile sloping from the rim to the base, and the base has a low ring. The slip was applied in reddish yellow and tones over the entire surface. It is hard-textured, densely porous, and well-fired. It contains small amounts of fine sand and silver mica. Bowls similar to these are found in Albenga (Gandolfi 1998: 262, fig. 8, 8, 9.) and Marseille (Bien 2005: 286, 293, fig. 4, 1, 2). This plate dates to the first half of the 7th century AD.

Phocaeen Red-Slipped Ware

Nos. 7: Plate. The plate/bowl is paralleled by Hayes Form 3B, Hayes form 3 (Hayes 1972: 331, form H3F) (Doksanaltı, 2020: 385, nr.7). This locally produced⁴ plate is in one of the most common forms of the Phocaeen red-slipped ware (Hayes 1972: 329-331). Classified according to the examples from Athenian Agora and Antiocheia (Hayes 2008: 240, fig. 39, 1266-1273), which date back to the 5th – 6th centuries.

Nos. 8-9: Plates. The plate/bowl attributed to Hayes form 3C (Mitsopoulos-Leon 1991: 192, taf. 198: m5, 6; Gassner 1977: 141: 141, taf. 46: 556; Doksanaltı 2020: 385, No.7). No. 8-9, which are imported products, have rims that are vertical, inwardly inclined and concave, hanging down. The rims are decorated with incised roulette decoration. The pots are hard-textured and well-fired. They have light red-red clay with lime, sand, and mica content. Bowls similar to these ones have been found in Ephesus (Mitsopoulos-Leon 1991: 192, taf. 198, m5, 6; Gassner 1997: 141, taf. 46, 556.), Miletus (Berndt 2003: 170-173, taf. 24-26, TS 292-321), Labraunda (Hellström 1965: 74, pl. 37, 333), Kelenderis (Tekocak 2006: 104, pl. 11, 71), Athenian Agora (Waagé 1933: pl. 8, 206, 207; Hayes 1972: fig. 67, 7; Hayes 2008: fig. 39, 1267, 1270, 1271), Corinth (Slane and Sanders 2005: 259, fig. 5, 2-11.). They date to the 5th century AD.

Nos. 10: Plate. The sample, attributed to Hayes form 3E (Hayes 1972: 333, fig. 68, 14-16), was imported. The rim is widened to the side and drooped downwards. The rim has a triangular shape with roulette decoration. Bowls similar to these ones have been found in Saraçhane (Hayes 1992: 93, fig. 33, 14/ 9, fig. 34: 15/2.), Ephesus (Mitsopoulos-Leon 1991: 42, taf. 198, m8, 9; Gassner 1997: 141, taf. 46, 558.), Miletus (Berndt 2003: 174, taf. 27, TS 331-336), and Kelenderis (Tekocak, 2006: 105, lev. 12, 77, 79), and are dated to the late 6th-early 7th century.

Nos. 11-14: Plates. Hayes form 3F, imported. The thickened lips have band-shaped protrusions and a splayed form narrowing from the rim to the bodies. The sand, lime, and mica-containing plates are in a well-fired clay with dense pores and hard texture. This widely used plate form is close to the bowl recovered from the Late Roman House of Kap Krio at Knidos (Doksanaltı 2010: 772, Type PW-III, fig.22). Bowls similar to these ones have been found in Saraçhane (Hayes 1992: 94, fig. 34 14/ 10 10, 11), Ephesus (Mitsopoulos-Leon 1991: 143, taf. 200, 201, m12- 17; Gassner 1997: 144, taf. 46, 562), Miletus (Berndt 2003: 176-180, taf. 29-32, TS 354-400), Athenian Agora (Hayes 1972: 335, fig. 69, 17, 69, 17, 19; Hayes 2008: 241, 242, fig. 39, 40, 1280-1291), Corinth (Sanders 1999: 465, 466, fig. 1, 2), and Thasos (Abadie-Reynal and Sodini 1992: 21-23, fig. 5-73, CF 82-103). These plates date to the first half of the 6th century AD.

Nos. 15: Plate. Hayes form 10A, imported. The body has a pronounced but gentle slope towards the base and is terminated by a not-very-high base. There are grooves on the outer surface. The light red clay is densely tempered with lime and, in some cases, with mica, sand, and grit. The light red slip was applied over the entire surface. Bowls similar to these have been found in Saraçhane (Hayes 1992: 98, fig. 35, 22, 2, 99, fig. 36, 25, 1, 100, fig. 37, 26, 3, 27, 5), Ephesus (Gassner 1997: 147, taf. 48, 582-584), Miletus (Berndt 2003: 194-198, taf. 42-45, TS 555-605), Athenian Agora (Hayes 2008: 245, fig. 42, 1329), Corinth (Sanders 1999: 465, 466, fig. 7, 3; Slane and Sanders 2005: 270, fig. 8, 3-15). This form date back to the late 6th century-early 7th century AD.

Nos. 16-17: Plates. The plates/bowls evaluated in Hayes form 10, and Hayes form 10C (Hayes 1972: 343-346, fig. 71) are imported products. The ones broadly flattened on the inside are evaluated in Hayes form 10C (Hayes 1972: 343-345, fig. 71, 11-15). The inner part of the rounded outer rim is flattened into a wide flat band. The plates, similar ones can be seen in Corinth and Kenchreai (Slane and Sanders 2005: 273.), date to the first half of the 7th century AD.

Late Roman D/Cypriot Red-Slipped Ware

Nos. 18: Bowl. Hayes form 2, imported⁵. The bowl has a rounded rim with a deep groove on the rim and lozenge decoration on the body. Similar ones have been found in the

³ It is among the imported plate samples and its paste clay structure is quite different from domestically produced products. It is similar to the structures of plates of African origin.

⁴ Fabric and clay structures differ from real Phocaeen samples. The clay structure of Knidian samples is more friable and their texture is flexible.

⁵ Since this example is very close to form 2, it was evaluated in this form. It is not exactly the same, but it is thought to be a close form. It is reminiscent of the example of number 14 in Hayes form 2.

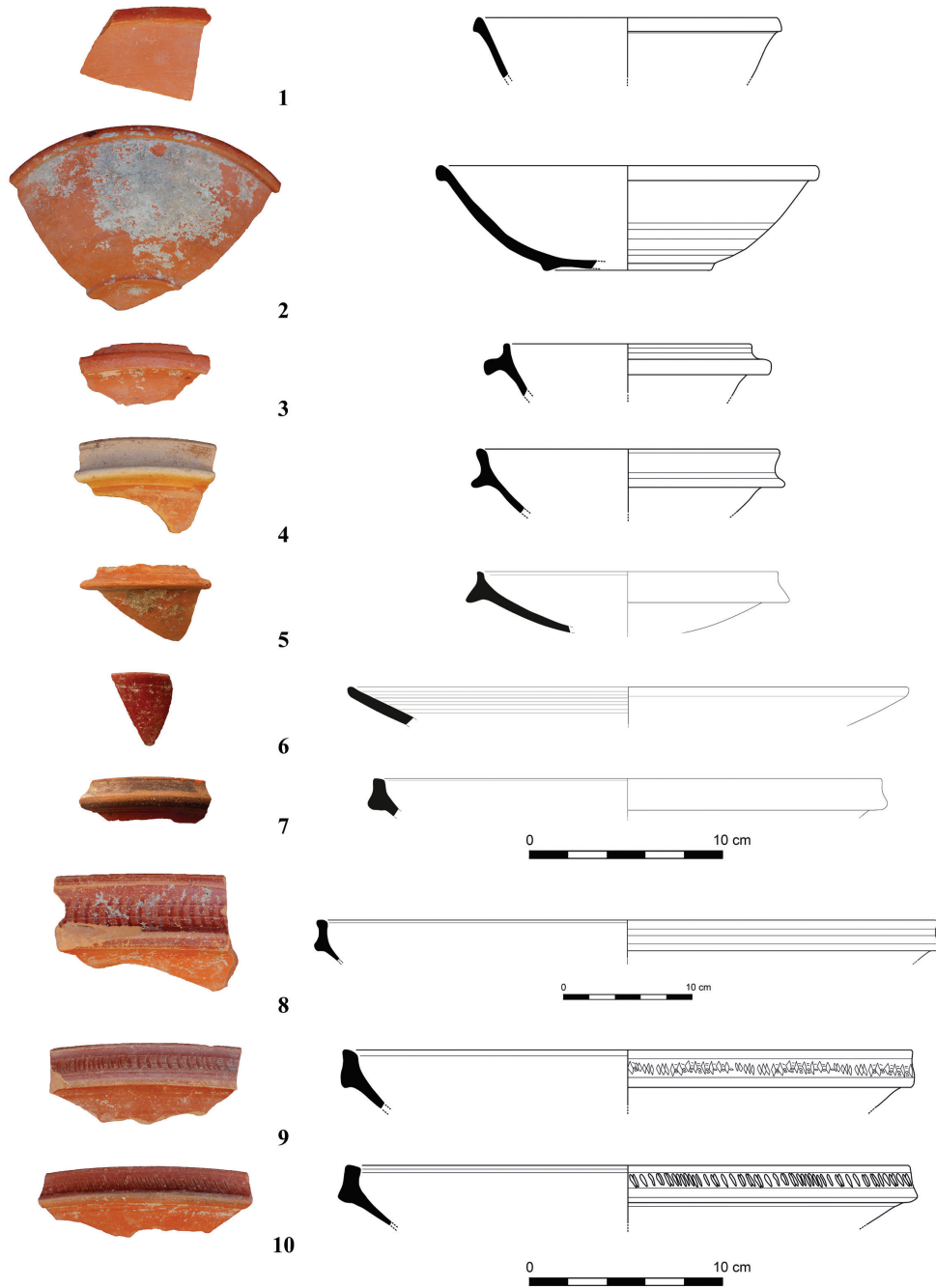


Fig. 4. African Red-Slipped Ware: 1-6; Phocaean Red-Slipped Ware: 7-16.

Athenian Agora, Xanthos (Hayes 1972: 372-375, fig. 80), Perge (Firat 1999: 41-42, lev. 48-52), Parion (Ergürer 2016: 140, fig. 6, 112), and Kelenderis (Tekocak 2006: 17-18, lev. 1, 9, and 10). The Knidos examples under form 2 date back to the end of the 5th century and the beginning of the 6th century AD.

Nos. 19: *Plate*. Similar to Hayes form 9C, locally produced. They have triangular vertical rims with hook-shaped exteriors and a pronounced transition to the body, which continues on an incline to the base. They contain lime, sand, and mica. They are red, brownish red, and reddish yellow in color. Pots similar to these have been found in Xanthos (Hayes 1972: 381, fig. 82, 13; Carandini and Tortorella 1981:

239, taf. CXXII, 1), Perge (Firat 1999: plate 91, 92, 395, 396), and Tarsus (Adak-Adıbelli 2006: 134, lev. 15, 406). They date to 580-660 AD.

Nos. 20: *Plate*. Form 10⁶, imported. The Knidos plate/bowl base transitions from the flat seating plane to the body with a widening and deep groove under the base. There are grooves on the outer surface of the body rising from the flat ring base. This bowl dates to the end of the 6th century, beginning of the 7th century AD, based on the other red-slipped ware.

⁶ Cypriot form 10 samples were evaluated here due to their proximity.

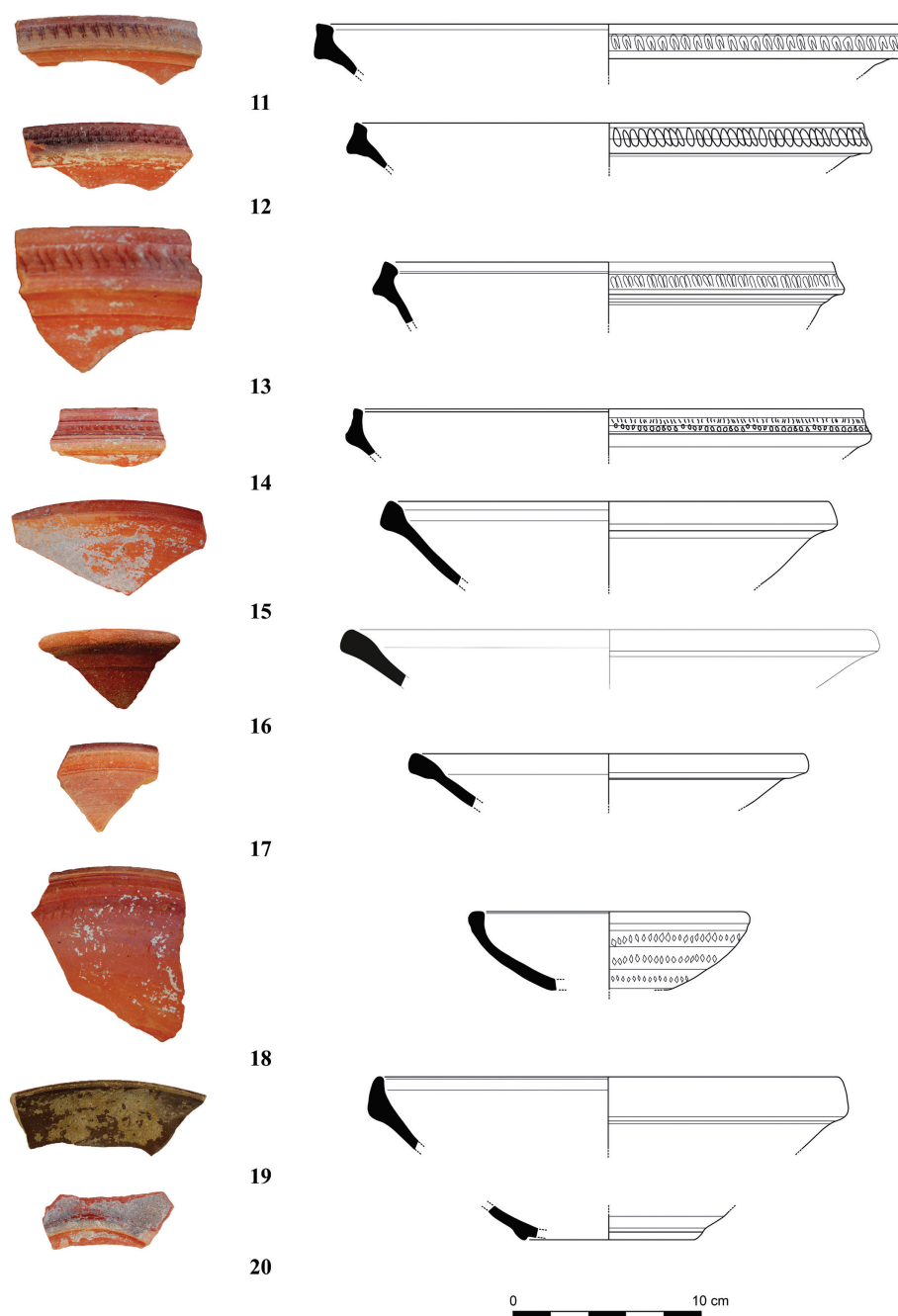


Fig. 5. Phocaean Red-Slipped Ware: 7-17; Cypriot Red-Slipped Ware: 18-20.

Conclusion

The data obtained as a result of the diggings carried out throughout Knidos show that the city lost its former size and splendor as of the 6th century AD. In the second half of the 6th century AD, traces of the city's population loss and contraction can be seen in the excavated buildings and churches. The Harbor Street Heroon and the complex there were turned into workshops and shops in the 5th century AD. As the treasure found in the Harbor Street complex shows us, the complex passed through a great destruction in the second half of the 6th century AD (Doksanaltı 2021: 404). From this date, the places within the complex were used until the

mid-7th century AD (Doksanaltı and Gider-Büyüközer 2019: 116; Doksanaltı 2020: 383). Church D, which is located in the north of the Military Port and used to have a basilica plan of three naves, was minimized to have a single nave (Doksanaltı et al. 2016: 65). The repair of the narthex mosaics and the reduction of the north and south naves of Church E built on the shore of the Trireme Harbor indicate a reduction in the mid-6th century AD (Doksanaltı 2021: 404). In 2021-2022, the excavations carried out in the IIIrd Terrace, where many important buildings such as the Doric Stoa, Corinthian Monument, Bouleuterion, and Church B were found, show us that there was a significant architectural change to the terrace in the 6th century AD. A tower added to the southwest of the

terrace walls and a thick wall line starting from the tower and continuing towards the north indicate that the city was significantly reduced in size. The armoury with a large number of arrowheads found on the northern axis of this wall line is closely related to the downsizing of the city and the new function of the IIIrd Terrace (Doksanalrı et al. 2017: 24-25, fig. 13). In the 7th century AD, Arab activity on the Mediterranean coast increased, and in 654 AD Arabs attacks Rhodes and captured the island of Kos (Ostrogorsky 2019: 108; Tok 2022: 179). The Arabic graffiti found in Church B indicate

the presence of Arabs in the region in 716-717 AD at the latest (Imbert 2013: 734). Although there are many buildings and churches close to the harbor in Knidos, the Arab troops' preference for Church B and its surroundings for deployment must be related to the contraction of Knidos after the 6th century AD and the fortifying of the IIIrd Terrace. Factors such as the repair and downsizing of many buildings in the city must be related to the great earthquake that occurred on the island of Kos in 554-558 AD, which affected many regions in western Anatolia (Guidoboni 1994: 338-399).

In line with the examples detailed above, as of the mid-6th century AD, Knidos, as an important producer of pottery, appears to have produced some forms locally and imported the rest. It was found that local production mainly included fine ware and kitchenware, whereas of the majority were imported as of the mid-6th century AD – factors such as the long production time and high cost required for the production of the red-slipped ware. The decrease in the city's population during that period indicates that production of this type of pottery had almost ended in the city. Among the red-slipped ware recovered in the Tholos, the locally produced ones are less in number than the imported ones.

The results obtained in the studies on red-slipped wares made both in the Tholos building and in the whole of the ancient city of Knidos are very similar (fig. 6). The result of this study is that the number of locally produced products is low when compared with the number of imported products, that much is high. The main reason for this is that in the Late Antique period, especially since the 6th century AD, the city was not at its former economic power and the cost of producing locally increased as presented in the data in fig. 6.

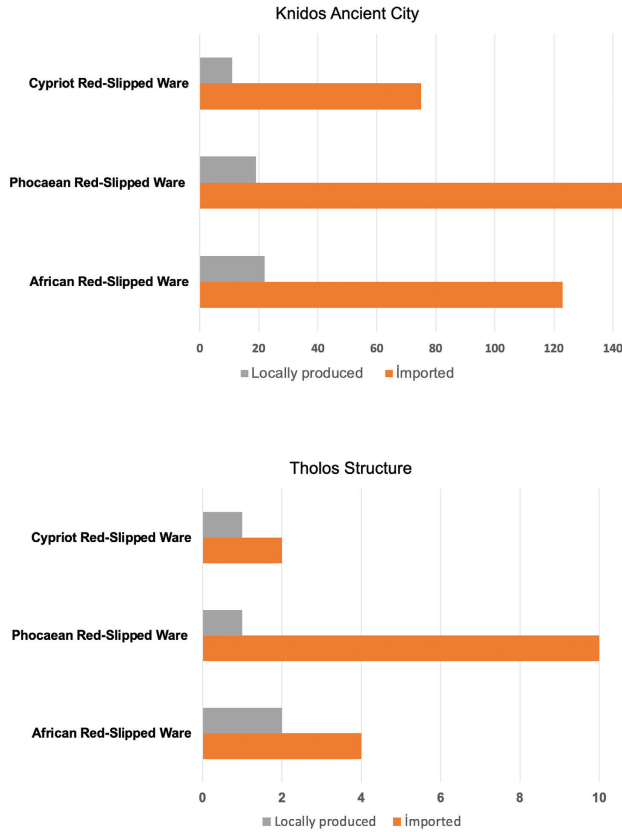


Fig. 6. Local and imported production distribution of red-slipped ware from Knidos Ancient City and Tholos Building.

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