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***TERRA SIGILLATA* FROM ŽUTA LOKVA (DALMATIA, CROATIA)**

In this paper, we are studying terra sigillata from the roadside station Žuta Lokva. The site was positioned in the hinterland of the province of Dalmatia. In Roman times, this site was set by a road mentioned in Itinerarium Antonini Augusti Ad Aquileia per Liburniam Sisciam. Today, it is stationed a few meters from a crossroad, Senj-Otočac-Brinje. The presence of the terra sigillata liscia forms seems consistent with Po Valley decorated production already analysed and published. One 126 terra sigillata Italica liscia shards have been found: 117 Po Valley production and five Arezzo production. The most common forms are cups Consp. 26, 27 and plates Consp. 20.4.

Four stamps have been identified, but the only integral stamp is MACER in pl. pedis (Macer, OCK 1079) on a dish bottom of an undetermined shape.

Žuta Lokva – terra sigillata italica – terra sigillata padana – stamps –

Introduction

In Roman times, the site Žuta Lokva was positioned in the hinterland of the province of Dalmatia. Today, it is stationed a few meters from a crossroad, Senj-Otočac-Brinje. The presence of the site was known from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century (Brunšmid 1898: 188, 189). It was excavated for the first time during the building of the road in 1996 (Vekić 1996; Kolak 2012; Ožanić Roguljić 2016).

In Roman times, this site was set by a road mentioned in *Itinerarium Antonini Augusti Ad Aquileia per Liburniam Sisciam* (Senia – Avendon – Arrupio – Bibium – Romula – Quadrata - Siscia. The section of the road from Senia (Senj) to Žuta Lokva goes over the Vratnik pass, the shortest natural path from the sea in the continent's interior (Glavaš 2010). Today the distance from Žuta Lokva to Senj is about 15 km (fig. 1). In Roman times, in the second half of the 2nd century, publicum portorium Illyrici was stationed in Senia. The imperial customs office Senia controlled the passage and distribution of goods to the hinterland (Glavičić 1994: 54; Glavaš 2010).

By the beginning of the 20th century, a supposedly Roman road near Žuta Lokva was still visible, which is not the case today (Patch 1990: 87; Glavaš 2010: 12). Before the Roman times, this part of the land was occupied by the Illyrian tribe Iapodians.

The site revealed a building with two phases (fig. 2). The walls of the building are preserved in their foundation, and the layers of soil above it were very thin. The site is situated on a slope with hill-wash, so the stratigraphy of the site is disturbed. Most of the material found during the archaeological excavations was in mixed stratigraphic units on the western part of the excavated area. Two building phases from the excavation are difficult to date since the layers are filled



Fig. 1. Map of Žuta Lokva's position in Roman Dalmatia's hinterland (made by J. Drpić).

with finds from the beginning of the 1st century CE to the middle of the 2nd century CE. The building of the 1st phase (dimensions 23 x 16 m) was built around the beginning of the 1st century CE and probably lasted until the third quarter of the 1st century CE. The building of a second phase was bigger (dimensions 30 x 20 m), and according to the findings, it was in function until the middle of the 2nd century CE. The building of the first phase is not preserved as a whole, but it might have had four rooms at the front and the courtyard. The second phase had two main rooms at the front and a large courtyard at the back. Rooms of both phases were divided by a small, roofed hall. The rear part of the buildings was a courtyard that might have worked as a half-opened courtyard or stable (dimensions 13x14 m first phase; 17 x 18 m second phase). In the hall, two layers of a gravelled surface were discovered, most probably connected to the second phase.

Terra sigillata

One hundred and twenty-six shards of *terra sigillata Italica* have been found (117 Po Valley production and 5 Arezzo production) (fig. 3).

The north-italic production of Padana B prevails, with 102 specimens (fig. 4): the most common forms are cups Consp. 26-27 (six pieces) (fig. 7, 25; fig 6, 26), Consp. 27 (16 pieces) (fig. 8, 27-31), Consp. 34 (seven pieces) (fig. 8, 32-36), cups Consp. 36 (two pieces) (fig. 8, 37) and plates Consp. 18 (five pieces) (fig. 7, 9-11), Consp. 20 (five pieces) and Consp. 21.3 (six pieces) (fig. 7, 20-23). The only integral stamp is MACER *in pl. pedis* (Macer, OCK 1079) on a dish bottom of undetermined shape (fig. 8, 43). In another plate, bottom Consp. B. 1.10 (fig. 8, 39), they are the last letters, perhaps [---]RI *in pl. pedis*, and at least five other illegible marks *in pl. pedis* on dish fragments of undeterminable shape are preserved (fig. 8, 44-46). Two non-determinable dish fragments represent Padana C production (fig. 8, 40-41) and Consp. 3 represents the Tardo Padana production (six pieces) (fig. 7, 1-3), together with Consp. 20.4 (three pieces) (fig. 7, 15-17) and Consp. 39 (one piece) (fig. 8, 38) (fig. 5).

The Aretine vessels are Consp. 20.4 forms (with very damaged dog applique) (Fig. 7, 14), Consp. 21.3 (fig. 7, 19), Consp. 26-27 and Consp. 6 (fig. 7, 5-6 and fig. 6).

There are also numerous closed forms (31 pieces), mainly jugs, of which we have rims (fig. 9, 47-49), bottoms (fig. 9, 50-55), a neck (fig. 9, 56) and several handles (fig. 9, 57-63).

Terra sigillata was mainly found in the SU that contained primarily discarded or waste material outside the building, on the slope; therefore, the slip is very worn: the vessels are very fragmented, and in some cases, they can be reconstructible, but the surfaces are always very bad and worn, even in the Padana B and Arezzo production. In fact, due to the appalling state of preservation, it is unclear whether some of the vessels can be identified as forms of North Italic production of the middle Imperial age. These are three hemispherical cups with a gently introflexed rim with very soft clay and an almost completely disappeared coating (fig. 9, 64-65). The shape and quality of the pieces exclude the possibility of Consp. 36, but instead suggest the Jorio 10 form (Jorio 2002: 325-326) of

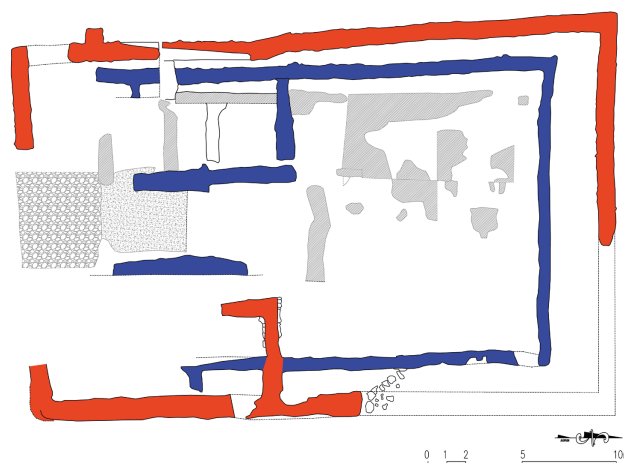


Fig. 2. Plan of Žuta Lokva (made by K. Turkalj).

cups produced in the Po Valley area between the 2nd and at least the 3rd century CE and widespread in the main sites of the Po Valley, from Milan to Aquileia (see the paper in this volume Stuni and Mantovani).

Final Remarks

Tableware pottery from Žuta Lokva gave us the most data for the site chronology. In the first phase of the site, the import of *terra sigillata* and thin-walled pottery from Italian workshops is present, and by its end, pottery from a Dalmatian workshop appears.

The second phase started at the end of the 1st century CE. Besides products of Italian origin, the arrival of pottery from different regions is present in African Red Slip A, Pannonian slipped ware) dated to the first half of the 2nd century CE.

From the middle of the 2nd century CE, material from eastern Adriatic pottery workshops appeared, like thin-walled pottery from the workshop of Sextus Metilius Maximus in Crikvenica and thin-walled cups of probable eastern Adriatic origin (unknown workshop).

The overview of *terra sigillata liscia* forms is consistent with Po Valley decorated production already studied and published (Ožanić and Mantovani 2020).

The forms most attested at Žuta Lokva are also common at all other imperial sites, which confirms the site's economic and commercial situation.

The latest *sigillata*, both Tardo Padana productions and productions of probable mid-imperial age (e.g. the Jorio 10), can be attributed to the second phase of the site and are well in line with other contemporary ceramic imports, such as the African Red Slip Ware, as was the case in the Adriatic region during that historical time.

Despite the abundance of Roman pottery found in other regions of Dalmatia, there has been limited exploration and documentation of pottery in general and especially in the mountainous areas. Analysing pottery from Žuta Lokva in the future holds immense potential for generating new data

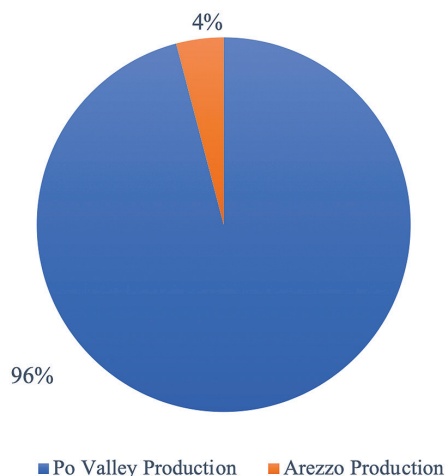


Fig. 3. Proportion of Po Valley and Arezzo production.

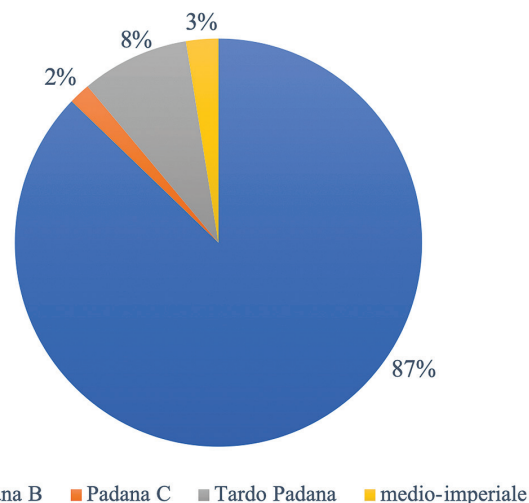


Fig. 4. The proportion of Po Valley production: Padana B, Padana C, Tardo Padana, and Medio Imperiale.

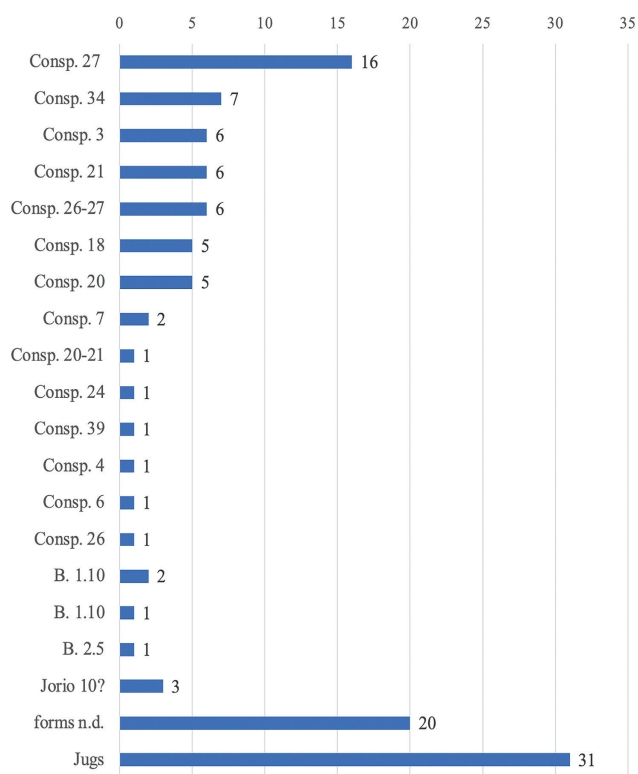


Fig. 5. North Italic production - Forms.

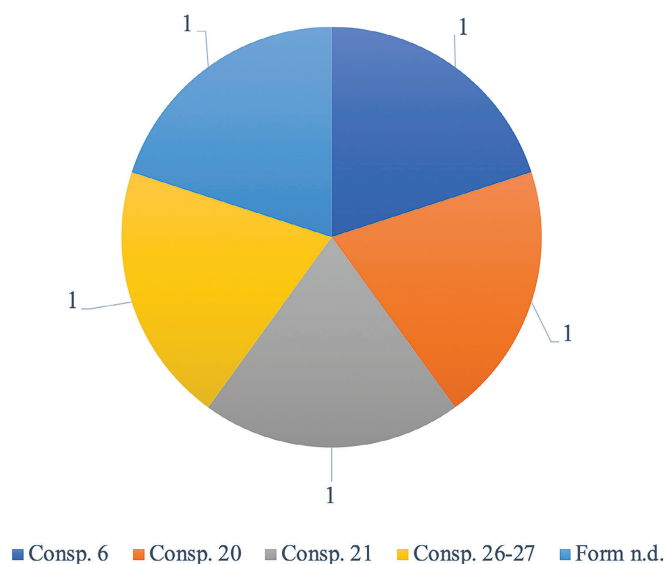


Fig. 6. Arezzo - Forms.

and advancing our knowledge of the region's trade network on the road that connected two provinces, Dalmatia and Pannonia. This connection facilitated the movement of goods, people, and information, enabling efficient trade and communication between urban centres and rural areas that are entirely neglected in the studies.

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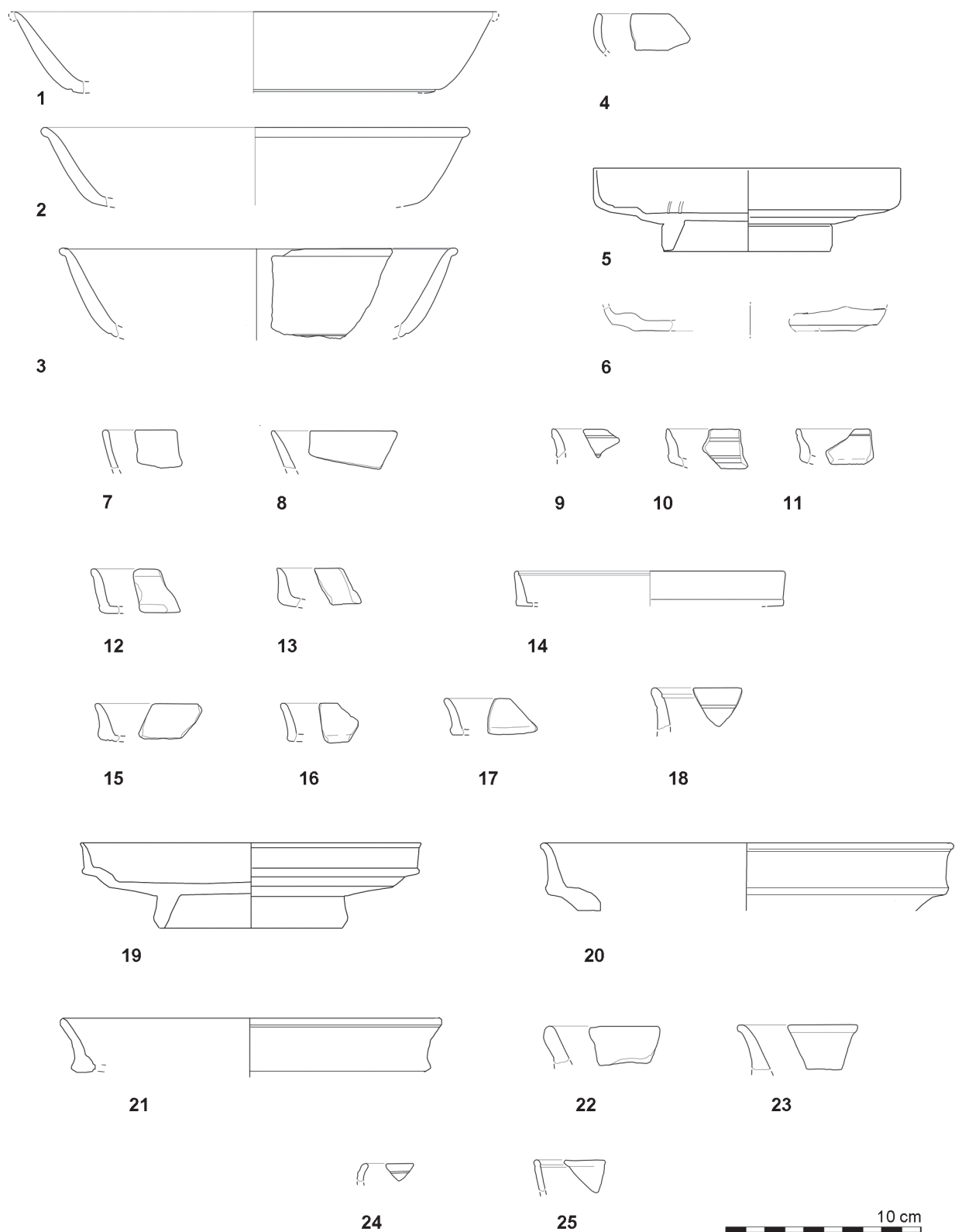


Fig. 7. 1.-3. Consp. 3 in Tardo Padana; 4. Consp. 4 Padana production; 5. Consp. 6 Arezzo production with unlegible stamp; 6. Consp. 6 Padana production; 7. Consp. 7.1 Padana production; 8. Consp. 7.2 Padana production; 9.-11. Consp. 18.1 Padana production; 12. Consp. 20 Padana production; 13. Consp. 20.1 Padana production; 14. Consp. 20.4 Arezzo production; 15.-17. Consp. 20.4 in Tardo Padana; 18. Consp. 20 or 21 Padana production; 19. Consp. 21.3 Arezzo production; 20.-23 Consp. 21.3 Padana production; 24. Consp. 24 Padana production; 25. Consp. 26 Padana production. (drawings by Martina Korić)

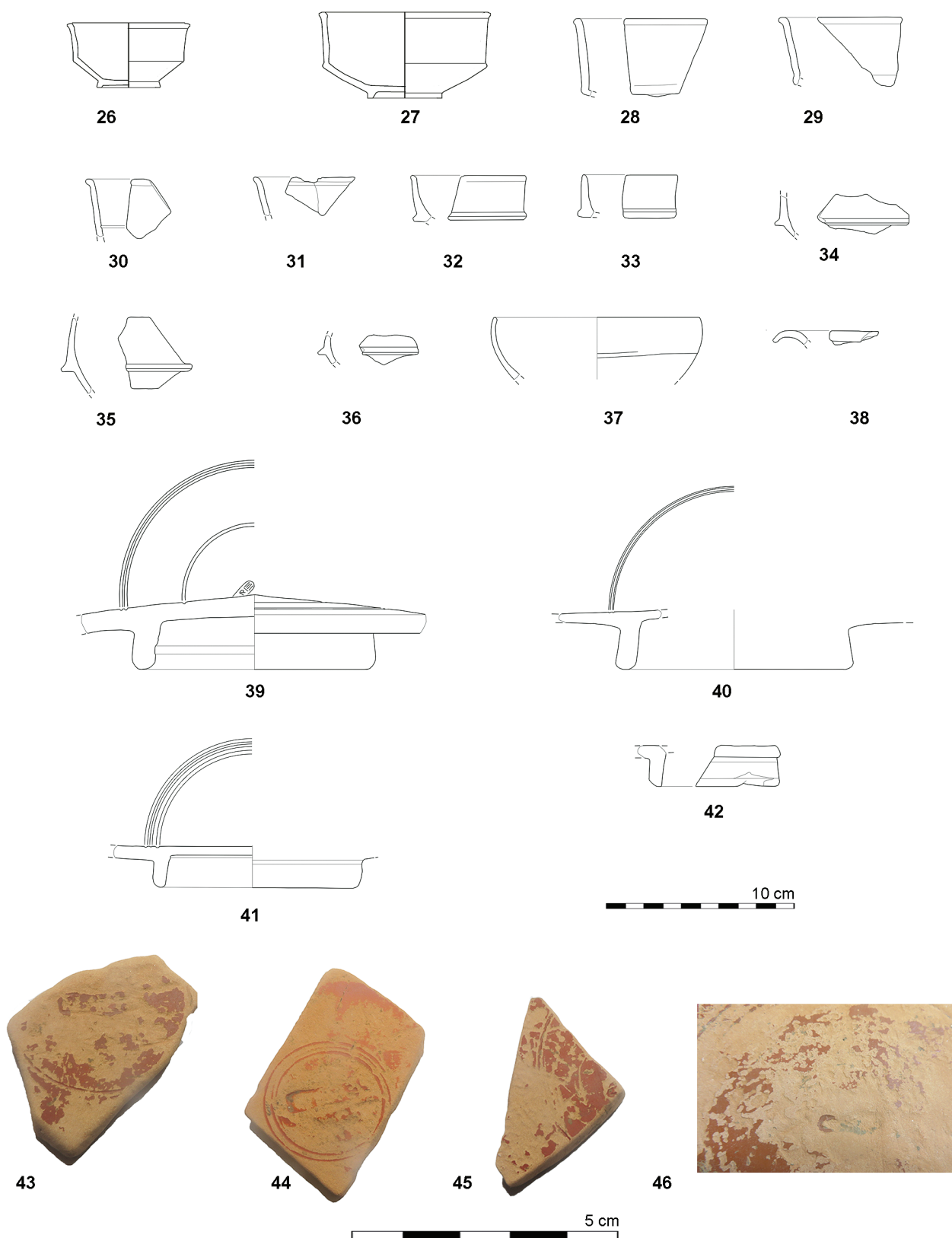


Fig. 8. 26. Consp. 27 Padana production with illegible stamp; 27.-31. Consp. 27.1. Padana production; 32- 36 Consp. 34 Padana production; 37. Consp. 36 Padana production; 38. Consp. 39 in Tardo Padana; 39. B 1.10 Padana production; 40.-41. B 1.11 Padana production; 42. B 2.5; 43. stamp MACER *in pl. pedis* (Macer, OCK 1079) Padana production; 44. illegible marks *in pl. pedis*, Padana production; 45. illegible marks in *pl. Pedis*, Padana production; 46. illegible marks *in pl. pedis*, Padana production. (drawings by Martina Korić; photo Ivana Ožanić Roguljić)

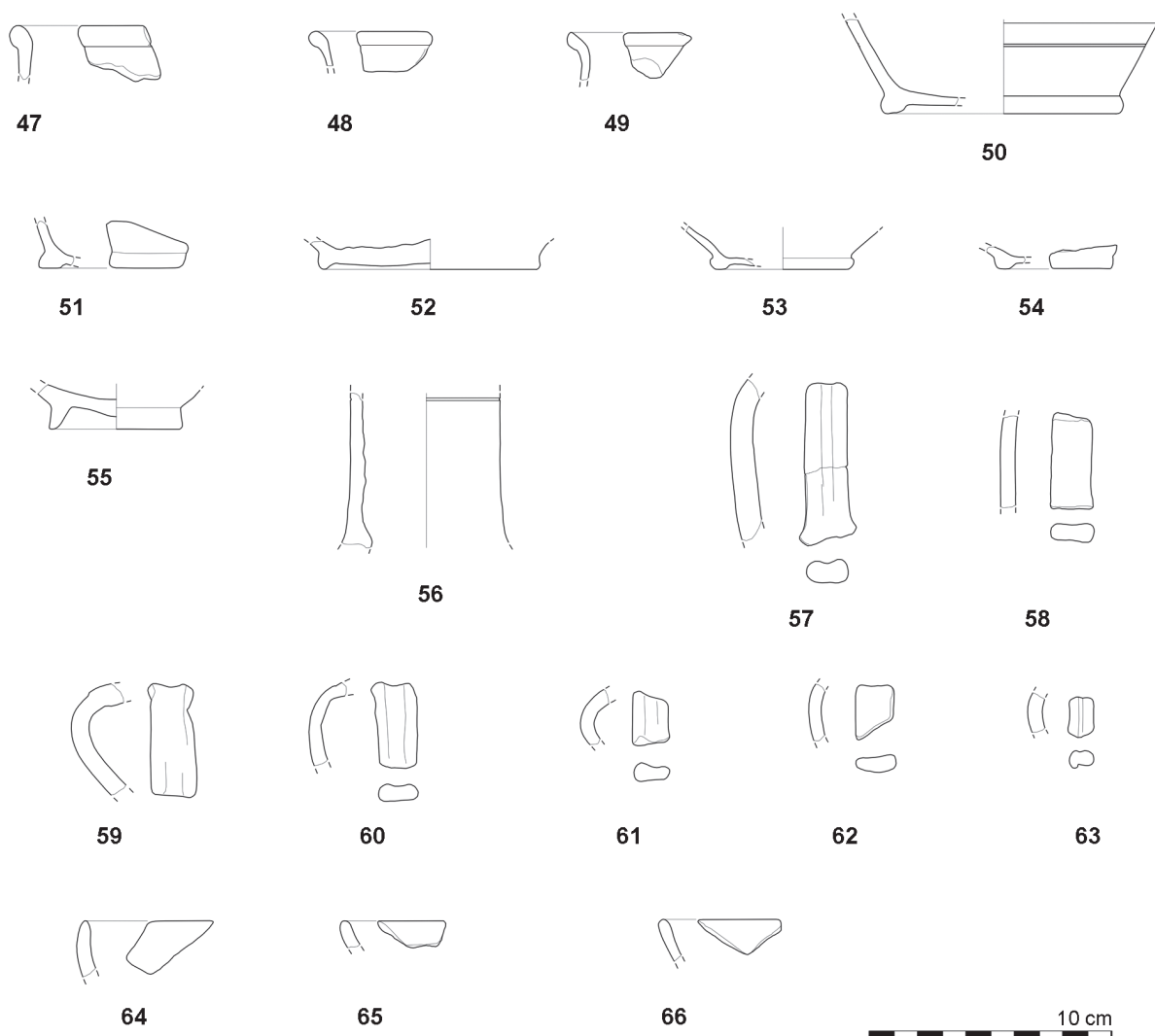


Fig. 9. Padana Production: rim K 9; 48-49 rim K 10; 50-52. bottom Ka; 53. bottom Kd; 54. Bottom Kf; 55. Bottom; 56. neck; 57-63. Handles; 64-66. Jorio 10. (drawings by Martina Korić)

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