

Ointment or Medicine Vessels from Patara*: An Overview of a simple Hellenistic Form in the Ancient Mediterranean World

Beginning with the first campaign of the Patara excavations, ointment vessels have been revealed systematically and even by chance during surveys¹. Up to the present more than 100 examples, in more or less complete form, have come to light. Except for one finding from the »Harbor Bath«, and three other coincidental examples, which were found during surveys, the rest of the material was found in excavations at the »Tepecik Necropolis« area², but not primarily in a burial context. The only example from the burial context was discovered in one of the underground chamber tombs, numbered as O 47, at the foot of the Dogucasari Hill³. The ointment vessels were mostly obtained from the hill of the »Tepecik Necropolis«. As a result of hundreds of years of erosion to the surface of the hill, obtaining stratigraphical evidence from the Tepecik Necropolis excavations, particularly for the upper layer seems somewhat doubtful; in the filling for example, late Roman and classical black glazed pottery fragments can be found together. At the lower layers, however the homogeneity of the fragments increase and the collection of pots offer some better evidence to obtain a date. The exact dating on the basis of stratigraphical analysis does not seem possible for the whole of the material from the »Tepecik« zone. It is nevertheless possible, at least for the lower layer findings to date this strata to the period from the middle Hellenistic to the early Roman period. This is the layer where the most of the vessels, which form the subject of this article, were unearthed. The other main problem with dating is that only the minority of the examples found can be compared, and the conservative practice of using more or less same angular, biconic body shape at Patara.

Contrary to the richness of the typological variety of the known types, the fewer numbers of finds of Hellenistic and Roman ointment vessels from the excavations bring difficulties to the typological analysis. The distinctive studies of E. Sjöqvist⁴ with the material of Morgantina, and M. Hershkovitz⁵ with the Israelite findings are very useful, particularly for their uses and the containers however, they basically analyze the local types and do not give any general overview of the Hellenistic world for this type of vessels. Recently, V. Mitsopoulos-Leon⁶ and S.I. Rotroff⁷ on the other hand produced, in their catalogues, some few new pieces from Ephesus and Athens. In this paper on the basis of the Patara vessels, I shall try to offer a general overview of the miniature ointment vessels and to make some suggestions about the medicine called lykion.

Although the history of ointment vessels dates back to the 3rd millennium B.C. in the Egyptian culture, they first came into common use in the Greek world and in Lydia during the 6th century B.C. Unguentarium, kothon (exaleiptron, plemochae), aryballos, alabastron and lydion were the types and

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1 As the title of this paper clearly shows, the vessel group at Patara is the subject »ointment containers« of this paper. According to J. W. Hayes, *Handbook of Mediterranean Roman Pottery* (1997) fig. 12.2., on the other hand, this same type of material was used as a flagon stopper. Although there are some examples, where the function can be discussed in concurring with Hayes view, as those with the very elongated and unstable forms, but both examples that have already been given by Hayes and the others that I present, in the light of the inscribed ones should be examined as ointment or medicine vessels.

2 F. Işık, *Patara 1989, Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* 12,2 (1990) 31 f.; eadem, *Patara 1992, Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* 15,2 (1993) 283–285; H. İskan–N. Cevik, *Patara 1998, Kazı Sonuçları Toplantısı* 21,2 (1999) 91–93.

3 *Excavation Report of Patara 2000.*

4 Sjöqvist 78–83.

5 Hershkovitz 45–51 pl. 9. 10.

6 Mitsopoulos-Leon 148 n. 788.

7 Rotroff 198–200. 221.

named of vessels to preserve perfume, ointment or oil, which were very popular in the Greek world; in the Latin world some other types were preferred such as: *ampulla*, *concha*, *guttus*, *lenticula*, *murex*, etc.⁸. However, the *lydion* is probably the most meaningful antecedent for the shape of the Patara vessels. The name »lydion« is derived from the Lydians; the producers of this type of vessel form, and the shape itself may have been of Egyptian origin⁹. The balm that the *lydions* contained was called βακκαριον which smelled of slightly cinnamon¹⁰. The form of the *lydion* is very well known, from the Sardis¹¹ and the İkiztepe¹² excavations. However the continuity of these very well modeled vessels can not be followed after the fifth century B.C.¹³. On the other hand during that period some other new forms and types were preferred, for more or less the same purposes. In the 5th – 4th century B.C., while the forerunners of the simple Athenian Hellenistic ointment/medicine bottles or possibly hemlock bottles were preferred in the secular area¹⁴, the more remarkable figured vases, which were very popular from the beginning of the last decades of the 7th century B.C., continued to be used in 5th and 4th century B.C. especially in sacred areas¹⁵.

During the Hellenistic period, together with the figured vases, rather simpler new types begin to proliferate. The reason of this accelerated increase in the various typologies of the containers was due to the 'scientific' development of new methods and techniques of obtaining the aromatic oils and perfumes and the growing popularity of this luxury trade¹⁶. Besides distinguished types on the basis of their body shapes, using the stamps or the inscriptions as a label on the body of the vessels seems to be another innovation made in this period¹⁷. These inscriptions signify the kind of the substance the vessel contains¹⁸, sometimes even the name of the druggist, as a personal guarantee of quality appears as well¹⁹.

8 W. Hilgers, *Lateinische Gefäßnamen* (1969) 16 ff. n. 695. Under the topic of »Toilettengefäße« Hilgers mentions different kind of vessels, among these *lenticula* seems familiar to us. He describes *lenticula* as a »linsenförmiges Gefäß« and informs that they are very similar in function to *ampulla*. These are, however only the evidence from the ancient sources and he can not give any samples of *lenticula*. As the shape of the Patara vessels are all biconic, this »linsenförmige« description reminds of the ointment vessels of Patara.

9 I. Özgen – J. Öztürk, *The Lydian Treasure* (1996) 133; an example from Theban proves this relationship, see E. Poszthory, *Salben, Schminken und Parfume in Altertum* (1992) 37 fig. 53.

10 *Ibidem* 42.

11 C.H.Jr. Greenewalt, *Lydian Pottery of the Sixth Century B.C. The Lydion and Marbled Ware*, Microfilm Ann Arbor University (1967); *idem*, *Lydian Elements in the Material Culture of Sardis*, in: E. Akurgal, *Proceedings of the Xth International Congress of Classical Archaeology*, Ankara–Izmir 1973 (1978) 37–45; A. Rumpf, *AM* 45, 1920, 163–170 pl. 5.

12 B. Tezcan, *Ikiztepe Kazısı*, VIII.

Türk Tarih Kongresi Raporları. Ankara (1976) 391–397.

13 A fragmentary piece from the Agora excavations should be emphasized here as it is thought to be an Egyptian import from the early 6th century B.C. context. It reminds, as a prototype of the ointment vessels of the Hellenistic period, in our typology type II, see for the Agora piece B.A. Sparkes – L. Talcott, *Black and plain pottery of the 6th, 5th and 4th centuries B.C.*, *Agora 12* (1970) 157 pl. 39 no. 1164 (580–560 B.C.); another early example (from the 6th century context?) was also found in Selinunte see Ch. Dehl-von Kaenel, *Die archaische Keramik aus dem Malophoros-Heiligtum in Selinunte* (1995) Inv. 3607.

14 C.G. Boulter, *Hesperia* 32, 1963, 133–134 pl. 47. 28; Sparkes – Talcott op. cit. 376 pl. 96 Inv. 2000–2003; E. Vanderpool, *The State Prison of Ancient Athens*, in: K. DeVries (ed.), *From Athens to Gordion* (1980) 20 fig. 10. For the hemlock of the sort *Conium* see D.B. Thompson, *Garden Iore of Ancient Athens*, *Excavation of the Athenian Agora*, *Picture Book* 8 (1963) fig. 45 »... Only one poison has been planted in the Agora the so-called

hemlock (*conium maculatum*), which is a member of the parsley family and quite unrelated to the American evergreen that carries its name. The juice extracted from its root gives a swift and easy death; it was the potion drunk by Socrates (Plato/Phaedo)«.

15 Traditionally the use of the figured ointment vessels stretches back to the 2nd millennium B.C., however their widespread use in Greek cities are first seen at the beginning of the 7th century B.C. See F.W. Hamdorf, *Figürliche Gefäße*, in: *idem* (ed.), *Hauch des Prometheus. Meisterwerke in Ton*, exhibition cat. Munich (1996) 185.

16 E. Valtz, *Münsterische Beiträge zur antiken Handelsgeschichte* 19, 2000, 59 f.; Plinius, *Naturalis Historia* XII 84.

17 The labels not only in ointment jars but also on some different kind of vessels are also observed. See V. Gassner, *Das Südtor der Tetragonos-Agora. Keramik und Kleinfunde*, *FiE* 13, 1, 1 (1997) 56–59 pl. 81 »kleine Kännchen mit Artemis-stempeln«.

18 About the using of the labels see Smith 163–167.

19 *Ἡρακλειον, Νιττας, Ιασον, Κοσμος, Διονυσος* see: Sjöqvist 81–82

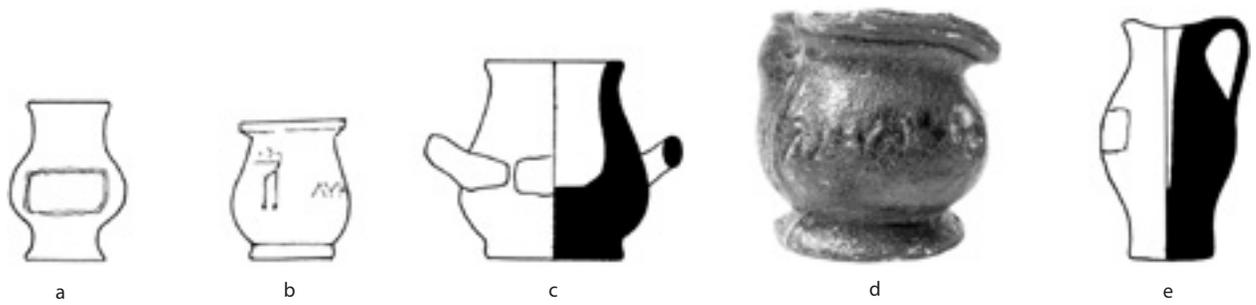


Fig. 1. Different Types of λύκιον inscribed vessels. – a. Type I, ἡρακλείου λύκιον. – b. Type I, λύκιον παρὰ μουσαίου. – c. Type II, ἡρακλείου λύκιον. – d. Type IV, Σμαξα[ω]ν]ς λύκιον. – e. Type V, Ίάσονος λύκιον.

(n. 16); E. Espérandieu, RA 24, 1894, 58; A. Krug, Heilkunst und Heilkult (1984) 109 ff. (νυφηθορος λυκιον).

20 Smith 164.

21 Galen, De simplicum medicamentorum temperamentis, 9.20 (ed. Kühn, vol. 12, 63–64). Besides the variety of *rhamnus catharticus* and *rhamnus royle* in the modern literature, this thorn may also be seen in the name of *rhamnus alaternus*, which is known as the «Mediterranean Buckthorn». For *Rhamnus Lycioidies* see: M. Blamey, C. Grey-Wilson, Mediterranean Wild Flowers (1993) 130–131; N. Tanker – M. Koyuncu – M. Coskun, Farmasötik Botanik (1998) 303–304.

22 Plinius, Naturalis Historia XII 15.

23 Krug op. cit. 109.

24 Plinius, Naturalis Historia XII 15. Chiron is the most famous and wisest of all the Centaurs, besides his many specialties he was a famous doctor and actually practiced surgery see P. Grumble, The Dictionary of Classical Mythology (1996) 100.

25 J. A. Y. Simpson, Notes in some ancient Greek medical vases for containing Lykion, and the modern use of the same drug in India, Monthly Journal of Medical Science 16, 1853, 24–30 pl. 1.

26 Smith.

27 See for example the preparations of cucumber, peptones, garlic etc.: Plinius, Naturalis Historia XX 10, 11, 54.

28 Sjöqvist pl. 20 fig. 13 (Private Coll. Paris, Louvre). 14 (Private Coll. Paris, Louvre). 15 (London, British Museum).

29 They are unpublished. Hershkovitz, 50, mentions them as an oriental variation of the lykions jars and she emphasizes that these have a different shape from the group.

Among these inscriptions λύκιον (as a nostrum), νάρδινον (nard), ιρινον (iris perfume), πτυγη (rue, a medical extract), and οπωπας ανθος (bloom of youth) were the well known names²⁰, and as a medicament the most popular was lykion. This name, as in the case of «lydion», is derived from the land of Lycians. However, contrary to «lydion», the name «lykion» does not explain the form of the vessel, but explains the substance in it. Actually, lykion is a plant (*rhamnus cathartica*, *rhamnus petiolaris*, *rhamnus infectoria*) that grows wild in Mediterranean especially in Lycia and Cappadocia²¹, it also grows on Mount Pelion in Greece as well²². The most effective lykion as a medicament however grows in India, which is a rather different plant (*Berberis Lycum Royle*)²³. The Indian variety was imported from India in leather bottles made from camel skin or rhinoceros hide. The shrub itself is sometimes known in Greece under the name of Chiron's buckthorn (*pyxaconthum Chironis*)²⁴. Dioscorides recommends regular lykion as an astringent suitable to cure various complaints such as: psoriasis, pruritus of the eyelid, purulent ears and tonsils, ulcers of the gums, chapped lips, fissure of the anus, in coeliac and dysenteric affections, both in droughts and clysters; in haemoptysis, and coughs in female fluxes, hydrophobia and so forth²⁵.

Whether these substances above mentioned like lykion were used as a remedy or were used as a beauty-cream like «bloom of youth»²⁶, the consistency of the preparation was mostly balsam-like and not very liquid. In Pliny's *Historia Naturalis*, it is frequently observed that in the prescriptions of the various kinds of home made medicines mostly honey or some different kinds of animal grease is recommended²⁷. These additional substances were both very useful for the health, and to make the medicine, palatable easy to swallow or apply as a medium to keep the medicine in. With the use of such a kind of a concentrated preparation is taken into consideration, the form of our vessels seems very suitable.

Based on the published finds from several sites, the number of λύκιον inscribed vessels is only fourteen. One of them is made of lead, another one is made of copper, the other ten are made of pottery. Six pieces are from Morgantina, two from the Athenian Agora, one from Ephesos (but on its label instead of Lykion it is written Lykios, ΝΙΚΑC ΛΥΚΙΟC in genitive case in the meaning of Nikas of Lykia), and three are of unknown provenance²⁸, the other two were found at Tell Dor²⁹. These λύκιον inscribed examples however do not present homogeneity in shape, and on the bases of our typology they can be grouped into basically four different types (I, II, IV, V; Fig. 1).

It is already known that these labelled or unlabelled vessels can be found from west to east in many different places. Contrary to the wideness of their distribution, the quantity of that were found to the present, even including the Morgantina group, are no more than the group that Patara yielded. With the help of typological comparisons, the group from Patara can be placed in

the class of ointment/medicine or unguent vessels³⁰. Although the vessels of Patara are all unlabelled, the substance in them should be clear to the purchaser given their distinctive shapes, especially if each type contained its own local product³¹. In the light of ancient literary sources, supposing the substance that they contain, as Lycian originated *λύκιον* may be acceptable. The known inscribed *λύκιον* vessels, however do not present a form of our Type III (Patara), on the other hand an inked label *ωρας ανθος* (flower of youth) pot, the provenance of, which is doubtfully mentioned as Syria-Palestinian, is quite similar to Type III³². As mentioned above, among the inscribed *λύκιον* examples there are already four known different types, and this shows us a reality that a unique shape, like the »lydion«, has never been preferred for the lykion preparat. From this point of view, although offering a new type (Type III) for lykion medicine, seems reasonable, but it won't be fully acceptable without a label or any chemical analysis.

The sites where these miniature ointment vessels were known, from west to east are Morgantina³³, Gaulie³⁴, Athens³⁵, Peireius³⁶, Corinth³⁷, Pentaplatonos (Bottié) ³⁸, Barbouna³⁹, Delos⁴⁰, Samos⁴¹, Ephesus⁴², Priene⁴³, Limyra⁴⁴, Perge⁴⁵, Tarsus⁴⁶, Seleucia on the Tigris⁴⁷, Jerusalem⁴⁸, Dor⁴⁹, Masada⁵⁰, Paphos⁵¹ and Samaria⁵². Although some suggestions have already been offered about classifying these types⁵³, I prefer to offer a new and general one on the basis of the findings from Patara.

30 Beside these small vessel types some other kind of marble or limestone plates which were used by preparing medications or cosmetics have been found in Patara, especially in the Tepecik Area where the small ointment vessels were found, see T. Korkut, AA 2002.

31 Some chemical analyses should help to examine the nature of these and the substance inside, the Patara vessels however were all found without any contents. As an almost satisfactory explanation for these unlabelled vessels, we can in any case keep in our mind what Mitsopoulos-Leon, 148 n. 788, reminds us: »Vielleicht werden nur für den Export bestimmte Stücke gestempelt? So finden sich unter den Ephesos-Lampen aus der Basilika weniger gestempelte Exemplare als unter den Beispielen aus Delos«.

32 Though this piece is the only inscribed example of our Type III, it cannot prove or present any certainty of the quality of the substance, which the Patara vessels contain by itself. (The label had been written in carbon black on the body, immediately below the carination.) See Smith 163–167 pl. 4c.

33 Sjöqvist 78–83 pl. 19–20 (54 pieces).

34 M. Tuffreau-Libre, in: C. Bémont, Les Potiers Gaulois et la vaisselle gallo-

romaine, DossAParis 215, 1996, 94–102.

35 Rotroff no. 1309–1313, 1769–1773.

36 O. Alexandri, ADelt 29, 1973/74, Chron 149 pl. 110 c.

37 G. Edwards, Corinthian Hellenistic Pottery, Corinth 7, 3 (1975) 99–100 no. 587–603 (6 pieces, 1 of them in Type III).

38 A. Panayotou – P. Chrysostomou, BCH 117, 1993, 381–382 fig. 17–18 (inscribed copper piece -σμμα[vo] λυκιον).

39 I. Hägg – J. M. Fossey, The Hellenistic Necropolis and latter Structures on the Middle Slopes, 1973–77, Excavations in the Barbouna Area at Asine IV (1980) 67–69, 76–77 fig. 72. 74 cat. 12 (psimythion container).

40 P. Bruneau, L'Îlot de la maison des comédiens, Delos 27 (1970) pl. 49 no. D233 (it is placed by mistake as D223, it should be D233). D237; P. Zapeiropoulou – P. Hatzidakis, Δελος Κεραμικε απο τον δρομο Βορεια του Ανδρου του Λεοντων, in: Γ Συναντησε (1994) 245 f. pl. 196. 201β.

41 W. Technau, AM 54, 1929, 47 pl. 36/5.

42 Mitsopoulos-Leon pl. 213 no. O 27. O 28. O 29. O 30 (10 pieces, 4 of them in Type III).

43 Wiegand, – Schraeder 424 f. no. 88–92 (5 pieces).

44 There isn't any publication on Limyra examples but about the existence of such vessels in Limyra see Mitsopoulos-Leon n. 787.

45 Atik no. 46.

46 Goldman 195. 217 no. 93 pl. 123.

47 Although the shapes and glazing are very different from the other sites, some pieces from the globular group can be comparable to our Type I, see N. Toll, The Green Glazed Pottery, The Excavations at Dura-Europos Final Report IV 1, 1 (1943) 54–62; C. Debevoise, Parthian pottery from Seleucia on Tigris (1934) figs. 38–56. 58. 59. 63–71. 75. 76. 239. 241–245. 251–253. 264. 265. 273. 307–316. 319–322. 324. 326. 328. 330. 377.

48 Hershkovitz 45–51 pl. 9.

49 E. Stern, Qadmoniat 14, 1981, 103–110.

50 Hershkovitz 48.

51 J. W. Hayes, Paphos III. The Hellenistic and Roman Pottery (1991) fig. 53 no. 44; 58 no. 16; p. 164 fig. 62 no. 50.

52 Reisner – Fisher – Lyon 302 inv. 1558. 1960. 4807. 4114 fig. 181 (17a. b. g. f).

53 Sjöqvist; Hershkovitz.

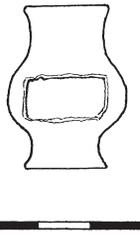


Fig. 2. Type I. Attic Bottle

Type I (Athenian Agora)

Attic bottles are handleless and mostly plump pear shaped, a raised base with a flaring or vertical profile, or sometimes with a flat bottom slightly concave underside (Fig. 2). String marks are usually visible on their undersides and most are glazed both inside and outside. The shape may have come into use in the third quarter of the 4th century⁵⁴. Although this shape can be dated as the earliest of the lykion bottles with an inscribed example, the unlabelled and black glazed types, which were found in a context dating to the 3rd century B.C., have been suggested as hemlock bottles as well⁵⁵. This Athenian type has been also found in Morgantina and is classified as Type 4 by Sjöqvist⁵⁶, and it has taken its place in Hershkovitz classification in Type A on the base of the findings from Anafa, Masada, Jerusalem etc.⁵⁷.

Type II (Morgantina)

According to Sjöqvist, Morgantina vases are classified in 4 different groups, and there are some sub-groups as well. In a general outlook they have mostly a raised flat base, are heavy pear shaped with a concave neck and somewhat flaring rim, two handles like amphoriskos, the handles could be placed vertically or horizontally (Fig. 3), rarely handleless (Fig. 4). The handleless pieces

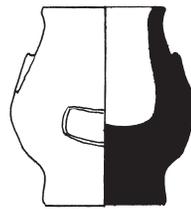


Fig. 3. Type II. Vase from Morgantina

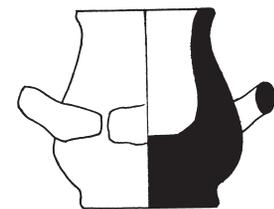


Fig. 4. Type II. Vase from Morgantina

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can easily be compared with the Athenian Agora Type I examples, with its almost pear shaped body. Pink rather coarse clay covered by a thin buff slip, which flakes easily (Morgantina) and a small interior cavity⁵⁸.

Type III (Eastern Type; Patara)

Although some few examples are known from Greece the main distribution area of this type is in Asia Minor and especially Patara, which seems to be a main center, with the amount of this material comparing to the other sites. This type distinguishes itself with its biconic body (Figs. 5 and 6). It has an irregular or a regular profile, a wide mouth, and rim ranging from vertical to everted. Flaring or vertical, sometimes slightly sometimes highly raised base usually with string marks at the bottom. Sometimes the upper body and the interior of the mouth are covered with reddish or black paint by the dipping technique⁵⁹. The height is between 4–5 cm.

According to Hershkovitz's classification it is Type B or Type C (a variant of Type B) of the Israeli pottery⁶⁰. However she separates it from the local wares

54 Rotroff 198.

55 E. Vanderpool in: K. DeVries (ed.), *From Athens to Gordion* (1980) 20 fig. 10.

56 Sjöqvist 79f. pl. 20 fig. 13.

57 Hershkovitz 47.

58 Sjöqvist no. 46.

59 The application of glaze by dipping was common for plates and bowls towards the end of the 2nd century, see Rotroff 11f.

60 Hershkovitz 47.

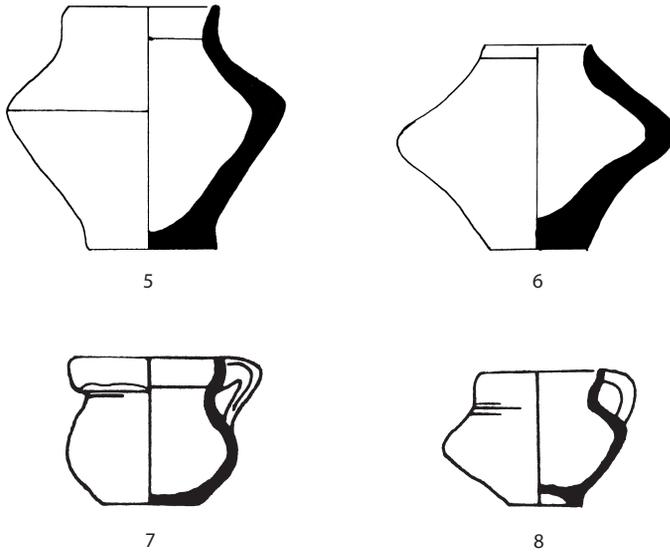


Fig. 5. Type III. Biconic Vase from Patara

Fig. 6. Type III. Biconic Vase from Patara

Fig. 7. Type IV. Cup from Israel

Fig. 8. Type IV. Cup from Israel

in both shape and fabric and she offers for the origin of this type to the eastern Mediterranean region. This type is known also from Athens⁶¹, Piraeus⁶², Corinth⁶³, Delos⁶⁴, Samos⁶⁵, Ephesus⁶⁶, Patara, Perge⁶⁷, Tarsus⁶⁸, Jerusalem⁶⁹, Masada⁷⁰, Dor⁷¹, Paphos⁷², Samaria⁷³.

The earliest dated examples, from the context of 350–270 B.C. are known from the Agora excavations and they are represented as imported pottery most probably from Asia Minor⁷⁴.

Type IV (Jerusalem-Masada-Samaria, Tell Anafa, and Jaffa; Syrio-Palestina)

Like the classification of Sjöqvist in Morgantina, Hershkovitz also divides the material into four main groups, which were found in the Israel Explorations. Her first Type A, which is very similar to Type 4 of Sjöqvist, can easily be considered to be the form of the Athenian Agora type in our classification. And Type B, with its biconical body is very similar to the Patara Type. Type C is with its buff and fairly course fabric and wide and rounded biconical body, probably a local manufacture, but not as common as type D.

The main local type that was mentioned by Hershkovitz is Type D (Figs. 7 and 8). It is a miniature cup with flaring rim, squat globular body, high flat base and thin vertical handle from rim to mid-point of the body. The fabric is buff to pink and most have brownish red paint around the rim and shoulder. The height is between 3–5 cm⁷⁵.

Type V (Athenian Agora, Louvre)

Mixture of Type I and Type IV, pear shaped body with one handle; the handle reminds one of the miniature types of an olpe. This type is well represented by an inscribed (αασονος λύκιον) example from Louvre⁷⁶ (Fig. 9) and in the finding from the Athenian Agora excavations⁷⁷. Before became popular in the Hellenistic period, this type first came into use in the 5th century B.C.⁷⁸.

61 Rotroff inv. 1769–1773.

62 O. Alexandri, *ADelt* 29, 1973/74, Chron 149 pl. 110 c.

63 G. Edwards, *Corinth* 7, 3 (1975) inv. 587 (225 B.C.).

64 P. Bruneau, *Delos* 27 (1970) no. D223 pl. 49; Zapeiropoulou – Hatzidakis op. cit. (n. 40) 245–247 pl. 196 (107–88 B.C.).

65 W. Technau, *AM* 54, 1929, fig. 36/5.

66 Mitsopoulos-Leon pl. 213 inv. O 28. O 29. O 30 (?).

67 Atik, from Augustan Layer.

68 Goldman 227 pl. 123–93 inv. 37–416 (early 1st century B.C.).

69 Hershkovitz 47 f. pl. 9 E. F (1st century B.C. – 70 A.D.).

70 Hershkovitz 47 f. pl. 9 (Zealot Period).

71 E. Stern, *Qadmoniat* 14, 1981, 103–110.

72 J. W. Hayes, *Paphos III* (1991) fig. 53 no. 44 (rooms E and Λ.) p. 152f.; fig. 58 no. 16 (well 21, 6–7 m, late second century B.C. c. 120–100) p. 164; fig. 62 no. 50 (well 18, c. A.D. 1–15/20) p. 184.

73 Reisner–Fisher–Lyon 302 fig. 181 pl. 67g2. 68g1. 73 k4 (8 pieces, 3 of them similar to Type III).

74 Rotroff inv. 1769–1773 (350 B.C. – Early Roman Period).

75 Hershkovitz 49.

76 Sjöqvist fig. 14 (after Simpson).

77 Rotroff inv. 1774–1777.

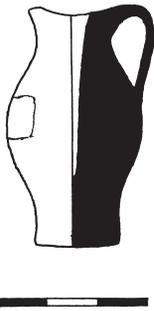


Fig. 9. Type V. Vase in the Louvre



Fig. 10. Type VI. Vase from Priene

Type VI (Priene)

Among the others, this Priene type is the largest one in shape. The height is around 10 cm, with a slightly raised ring base, a cylindrical body, getting narrower through to the lip. This type is only known from Priene, with five examples, and they all bear a stamp with the name of the druggist⁷⁹ (Fig. 10).

Sub-types of Type III (Patara) and the Dating of the Patara Vessels

Although the group of vessel from Patara basically take their place in Type III, because of their principal biconical and handleless character, there are however some small differences in shape between them. On the other hand, the quality of the fabric and the paint are mostly very homogenous in character. With the aim of more detailed analyzes, I prefer to make 3 sub-groups when presenting the Patara vessels.

On dating the vessels of Patara, essentially their find spot and context was taken into consideration. However, as the group does not mainly come from the stratigraphical context comparing examples were chosen from outside Patara, where the securely dated ones exist, from Masada, Jerusalem, Samaria, Perge and the Athenian Agora. Moreover the developing tendencies in general form contemporary wares like East Sigillata is accounted for as well.

Outlining the dating principals can be summarized: 1. The tendency towards increasing angularity just as has already been observed in the other Hellenistic pottery groups⁸⁰. – 2. As the time passes, the forms change from simplicity to complexity. – 3. In this manner irregular and sharp profiles, high bases and mouths can be added. – 4. May be because of the increasing popularity of the substance in it, or the increasing difficulties finding out the raw material for the preparation, the cavity of the jars get smaller. The period of these vessels in Patara can be dated from mid 2nd century B.C. to the 1st century A.D. Nevertheless our present knowledge is not sufficient to answer questions such as these vessels went out of production.

On studying the classification of about 100 ointment vessels from Patara, I preferred to take the very obvious specialties and the basic features into account. There are however countless different variations in each group. Here I put into the first group, which is already known from outside Patara. In respect to the find situation and comparing the examples of the first and second groups from Patara, they should have been produced contemporaneously from the early 2nd to the middle of the first century B.C. However for the third group, again on the basis of to the comparable objects and general criteria of the Hellenistic pottery tradition, a late dating, from mid 1st century B.C. towards the Augustan Period is preferable.

Type 1

This is the most well-known and widespread type, which was mentioned above in type III. The simplest form of this group, as in Fig. 1 a and b. The characteristic of this type is a shorter upper body with raised shoulders and a biconic body with angular profile. Flat or slightly raised bottom with a vertical or sometimes a flaring profile and a wide mouth with a flaring rim slightly offset from the body. Although the interior cavity ranges from 10 to 30 gram, the simple examples have generally a capacity of 30 gram. Some variations can be

78 C. G. Boulter, *Hesperia* 32, 1963, pl. 47, 28; Sparkes–Talcott op. cit. (n. 13) 376 inv. 2000–2003 pl. 96.

79 Wiegand – Schrader 424–425.

80 This obvious tendency to increasing angularity, especially throughout the 2nd and 1st century B.C. can be best exemplified with the pottery forms such as: lamps, juglets (Rotroff 133f. compare inv. 536. 540 with 546. 547), guttus (Rotroff compare inv. 1141 with 1151), Knidian cups (Rotroff compare inv. 395 with 404); and in the Eastern Terra Sigillata, see G.M. Crowfoot, *Terra Sigillata General List, Samaria Sebaste III. The Objects* (1957) cf. fig. 38. 48. 49. 53. 55 with fig. 66. 68. 73. 77. 79.

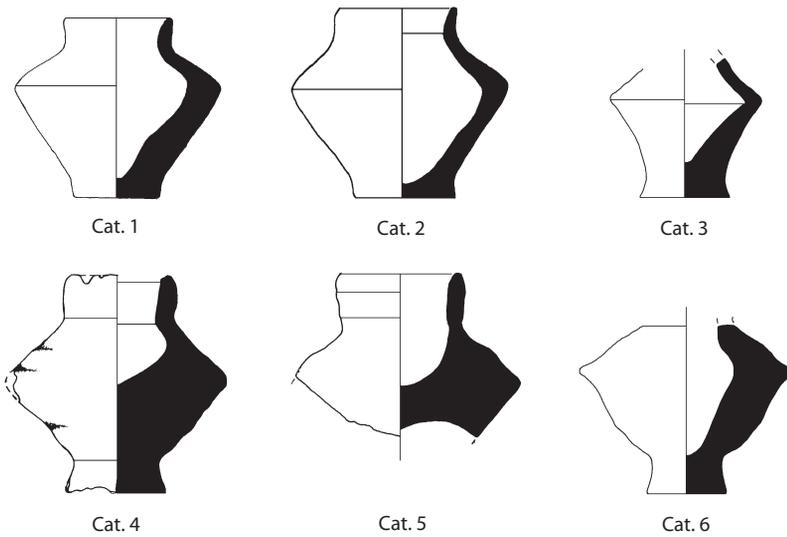


Fig. 11. Type III 1-1 – 1-6

observed, especially on the intersection points; for example instead of simple modulations, projecting carinations as in Fig. 11 cat. 6 can be seen as well ⁸¹.

Type 2

The main difference from the 1st group is the equal height of the upper and lower parts of the body. The biconic body can be formed with irregular or regular profile. Most have a slightly raised base with a flaring profile and a wide mouth with an out-turned or a vertical rim offset from the body. The interior cavity is very little, from 10 to 30 gram. As in the case of the 1st group, some close examples from outside Patara are known from Delos and Samaria⁸². Although the earliest dated example is known from the Agora within the group of »imported pottery« from the late 4th early 3rd century context⁸³, however to date the Patara vessels that much earlier seems questionable. On the basis of the stratigraphical evidences, it is better to date the Patara examples to between the late 2nd B.C. and the early 1st century A.D. (Fig. 12).

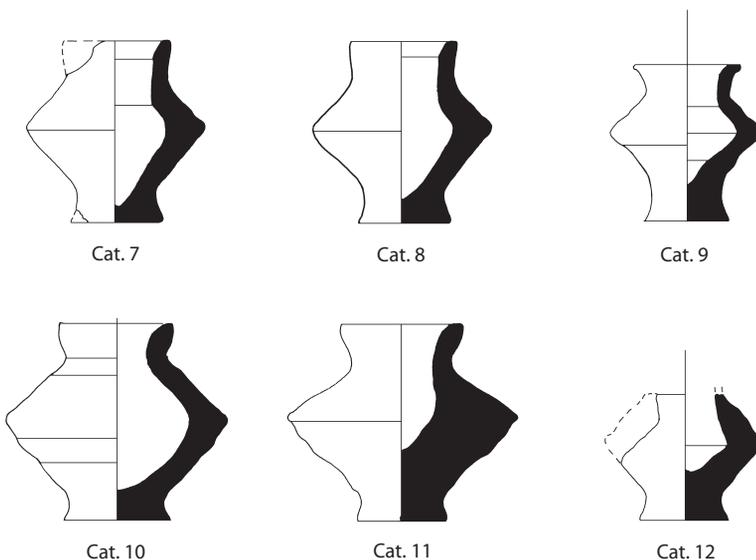


Fig. 12. Type III 2-1 – 2-6

⁸¹ Comparing the examples from outside Patara see the notes above (18. 66. 68. 69. 73); Tarsus (37–416), Ephesus (O 28. O 29), Athens Agora (1769. 1770), Jerusalem and Samaria (4807–17 g).

⁸² Comparing the examples from outside Patara see: Reisner–Fisher–Lyon inv. 1960 fig.17b; Zapeiropoulou–Hatzidakis op. cit. (n. 40) 107–88 B.C.; Bruneau op. cit. (n. 40) late 2nd/early 1st century B.C.

⁸³ Rotroff 423 cat. 1772.

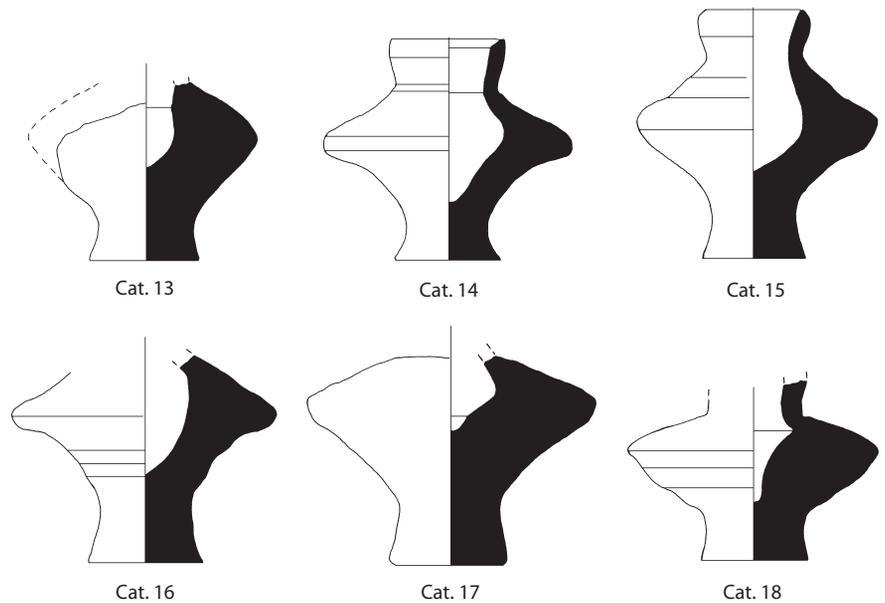


Fig. 13. Type III 3-1 – 3-6

Type 3

This group distinguishes itself through its biconic disc-like (linsenförmiges) and wider body with sharply projecting profile and a highly raised base and mouth, both with flaring profile (Fig. 13). The heights of the upper and lower parts are equal to each other. The interior cavity is generally very small it varies between 10 and 20 gram. Although this disc-like body form is not very widespread it is also known from Perge⁸⁴ and Masada⁸⁵.

84 Atik.

85 In the classification of Hershkovitz, 47, this form takes its place as type C.

Catalogue

1



Type III. 1-1; inv. PTR 98TN8; niveau: -180 cm.

H 4.8 cm; Dia 5.5 cm. – Intact.

Fabric: Fine, hard with small sand, calc and mica particles. 5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow.

Glaze: The upper portion of the body, exterior and the interior of the rim display remnants of a red 10 R 5/8 glaze. Flat underside with string marks, very low almost vertical foot. Angular biconic profile with high shoulder. Wide mouth,

(Fig. 11)

very slightly flaring upturned rim. Thick wall.

Parallels: Smith fig. 1-2 (2nd or 1st century B.C.); Rotroff fig. 105 inv. 1770 (context of 115-90); Goldman 217 pl. 123-93; Mitsopoulos-Leon pl. 213 cat. O 28 (context: Hellenistic and B2 Basilica).
Ca. 150-100 B.C.

Fabric: Hard sand, mica and calc particles. 7,5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow.

Glaze: The upper portion of the body, exterior and the interior of the rim display remnants of 10 R 5/8 glaze. Similar body form but somewhat thinner wall than cat. 1.
Ca. 150-100 B.C.

2



Type III. 1-2; inv. PTR 93 Nek 17/39; niveau: -150 cm.

H 5.1 cm; Dia 5.7 cm. – Small missing and chipped at the rim.

(Fig. 11)

3



Type III. 1-3; inv. PTR 98-TN9; niveau: -220/-240 cm.

H 4.6 cm; Dia 4.1 cm. – Small chips from rim and neck missing.

Fabric: Hard, very few amount of mica

(Fig. 11)

and sand particles. 5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow.

Flat underside, flaring high foot. Angular biconic profile with high and slightly carinated shoulder. Flaring rim makes very small projection at junction with body.

Parallel: Hershkovitz 47 Type B (fig. 3, Masada)

Ca. 120–100 B.C.

4 (Fig. 11)



Type III. 1–4; inv. PTR 98 TN 2b; niveau: -155 cm.

H 5.6 cm; Dia 6 cm. – Small chips from rim, shoulder and foot.

Fabric: Fine, hard, very small amount of micaceous; very pale brown 10 YR 8/2. No paint or glaze on it.

Flat base with string marks, flaring high foot. Irregular, angular profile with slightly high shoulder, wide and high mouth with flaring rim slightly offset from the body.

Ca. 100–50 B.C.

5 (Fig. 11)



Type III. 1–5; inv. PTR 98–11 TN 2b; niveau: -150/-170 cm.

Preserved H 4.3 cm; Estimated Dia 6.2 cm. – Fragment of a shoulder with mouth and rim. Lower body and foot missing.

Fabric: Hard, with sand and tiny stone particles. Very few mica; pink 7,5 YR 7/4.

Irregular, angular profile with high shoulder.

Ca. 100–50 B.C.

6 (Fig. 11)

Type III. 1–6; inv. PTR 89 Nek 20b; niveau: -205 cm.

Preserved H 4.4 cm; Dia 5.7 cm. – Broken from its neck. Neck and rim missing.



Fabric: Fine, micaceous and small sand particles; pink 7,5 YR 7/3.
Glaze: On the upper body very dark grey 7,5 YR 3/1 glaze.

Flaring high foot. Irregular, angular profile with high shoulder. Shoulder emphasized with the carination.

Late Hellenistic.

7 (Fig. 12)



Type III. 2–1; inv. PTR 99 TN 2; niveau: -170 cm.

H 4.8 cm; Dia 4.7 cm. – Half of rim missing, foot partly missing and chipped.

Fabric: Hard, micaceous and small calc particles; pink 7,5 YR 8/4.

Glaze: Upper part of the body covered with dark reddish brown 5 YR 2 glaze. Flat underside with string marks, flaring high foot, angular biconic profile. Upper and lower portions of the body are in the same height. Wide mouth with almost vertical rim.

Parallels: Rotroff cat. 1772; Hershkovitz 47f. type B 1, 2 (Jerusalem Jewish Quarter, late 1st century B.C. to 70 A.D.); Reisner–Fisher–Lyon cat. 1960. Ca. late 1st century B.C.

8 (Fig. 12)



Type III. 2–2; inv. PTR 91 Nek L 19; niveau: -80/-100 cm.

H 4.1 cm; Dia 4.3 cm. – Foot and rim chipped.

Fabric: Hard, with very few sand and calc particles; reddish yellow 7,5 YR 7/6.

Glaze: Upper part of the body and the

interior of the rim covered with dark grey 7,5 YR 3/1 glaze.

Similar form with cat. 6. Parallels: See above cat. 6. Ca. 120–100.

9 (Fig. 12)



Type III. 2–3; inv. PTR 90 Nek 4; niveau: -165/-180 cm.

H 4.1 cm; Dia. 4 cm. – Intact.

Fabric: Hard, with very few amount of mica, sand and calc particles; reddish yellow 7,5 YR 7/6.

Glaze: Upper part of the body and the interior of the rim covered with red 7,5 R 4/6 glaze.

Flat underside, high flaring foot. Angular irregular biconic body. Wide mouth with flaring rim.

Ca. 120–100.

10 (Fig. 12)



Type III. 2–4; inv. PTR 93–39 Nek 17; niveau: -150/-170 cm.

H 5.2 cm; Dia 5.9 cm. – Intact.

Fabric: Fine, soft, with small amount of sand particles, mica; reddish yellow 7,5 YR 7/6.

Glaze: Upper part of the body, both the interior and the exterior of the rim covered with dark brown 7,5 YR 3/2 glaze. In some places even on the lower body hang down loosely.

Flat underside. Low foot with a flaring profile. Angular, irregular biconic body, wide mouth with flaring rim slightly offset from the body.

Late Hellenistic.

11 (Fig. 12)

Type III. 2–5; inv. PTR 98 TN 6; niveau: -293/-300 cm.

H 5.2 cm; Dia 6.1 cm. – Intact.

Fabric: Fine, hard, sand and calc particles. Very small amount of mica; pink 7,5



YR-8/4.

Glaze: No remnants of glaze or paint.
Flat underside, low foot with flaring profile, angular, irregular body, shoulder makes carination at junction with body. Wide mouth with outturned rim.
50 B.C.-50 A.D.

12

(Fig. 12)



Type III. 2-6; inv. PTR 91 Depot B3. Preserved H 3 cm; Approximate Dia 4.3 cm. - Broken from shoulder, half of shoulder, upper body and whole mouth missing.

Fabric: Hard, sand particles; mica; pink 7,5 YR 7/4.

Glaze: Upper part of the body covered with red 7,5 R 5/6 thin, dull glaze.
Flat underside, somewhat raised foot, angular biconic body and carination at shoulder.

50 B.C.-50 A.D.

13

(Fig. 13)



Type III. 3-1; inv. PTR 98 T; niveau: -155 cm.

H 5.4 cm; Dia 5.1 cm. - Broken from its neck. Neck and rim missing. Foot chipped.

Fabric: Hard, sand and small calc particles. Mica; 5 YR 6/6 reddish yellow.
Glaze: Upper part of the body covered with red 7,5 R 5/6 glaze.

Flat underside, raised foot, and angular disc-like biconic body.

Parallels: N. Atik, 40. suppl. IstMitt (1995) 46 cat. 46.

Late Hellenistic/early Roman.

14

(Fig. 13)



Type III. 3-2; inv. PTR 91 Nek K9; niveau: Surface.

H 5.8 cm; Dia 6.6 cm. - Foot and rim chipped.

Fabric: Hard, sand, calc and small stone particles. Mica; 7,5 YR 8/3 pink.

Glaze: Very thin and dull red paint 2,5 YR 4/8 at the upper portion of the body.
Flat underside. Highly raised foot, angular disc-like biconic body. Wide and raised mouth with vertical upturned rim.

50 B.C.-50 A.D.

15

(Fig. 13)



Type III. 3-3; inv. PTR 89 Nek L23a; niveau: -100 cm.

H 6.5 cm; Dia 6.4 cm.

Fabric: Hard. Plenty of calc and sand particles. Very few mica. Yellow 10 YR 8/6.

Glaze: Dull, red 2,5 YR 5/6 paint on the upper portion of the body.

Very similar to cat. 14.

Late Hellenistic/early Roman.

16

(Fig. 13)

Type III. 3-4; inv. PTR 90; niveau: -100 cm.

Preserved H 5.3 cm; Dia 7.1 cm



Fabric: Hard, sand particles, micaceous, yellowish red 5 YR 7/6.

Glaze: Upper part of the body covered with red 10 R 4/6 glaze.

Flat underside. Highly raised foot, angular disc-like biconic body

Late Hellenistic/early Roman.

17

(Fig. 13)



Type III. 3-5; inv. PTR 91 Nek K5; niveau: -70 cm.

Preserved H 5 cm; Dia 7.6 cm.

Fabric: Very hard with calc and sand particles, mica, yellowish red 5 YR 5/6.

Glaze: Upper part of the body covered with pink 7,5 YR 8/4 glaze.

Late Hellenistic/early Roman.

18

(Fig. 13)



Type III. 3-6; inv. PTR 99 TN 1b; niveau: Surface.

Preserved H 4.5 cm; Dia 6.6 cm.

Fabric: Fine, hard, very few amount of sand and calc particles; reddish yellow 7,5 YR 8/6.

Glaze: Thin and dull 10 R 4/6 red glaze on the upper portion of the body.

Flat underside, raised foot, disc-like irregular, angular biconic low body.

Early Roman.

Sources of illustrations

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Abbreviations

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