

PAL K4

2.22 m a.s.l.

# Ports, bones, pollen and pottery. Harbours of the Byzantine world as sources of environmental history and global connectivity



Johannes Preiser-Kapeller,

Institute for Medieval Research, OEAW / RGZM Mainz



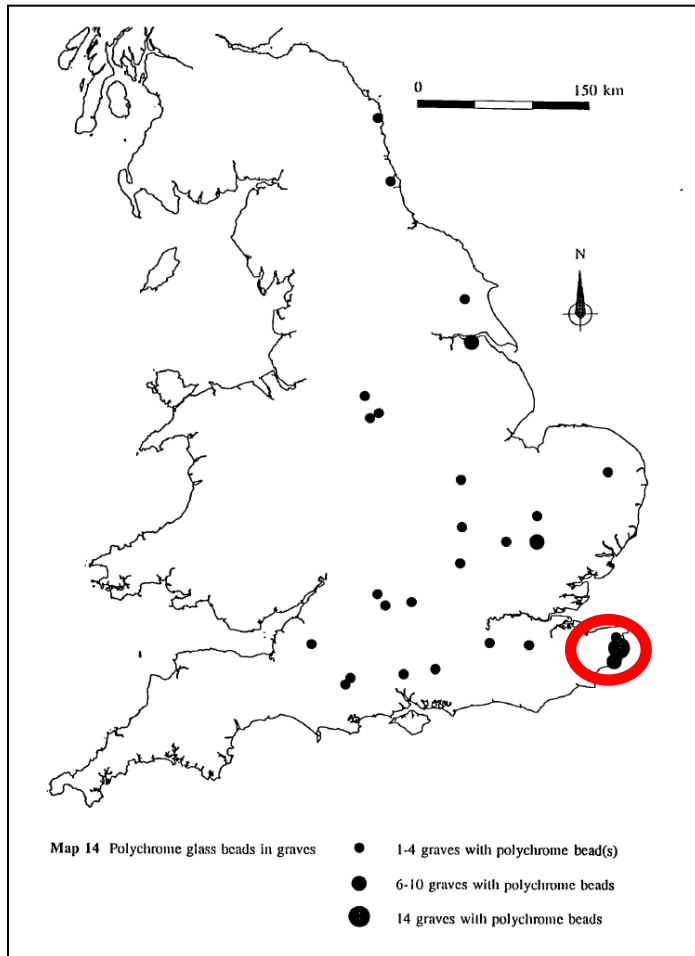


# The blue glass beads of the 6th cent. AD in Mkukutu in the Rufiji Delta (Tanzania)



M. Wood, *Interconnections. Glass beads and trade in southern and eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean – 7th to 16th centuries AD*. Uppsala 2011.

# The blue glass beads at the Canal coast in 6th cent. AD Anglo-Saxon England



H. Geake, PhD-Thesis 1995



# The blue glass in the 6th cent. AD royal tombs of Silla (Korea)



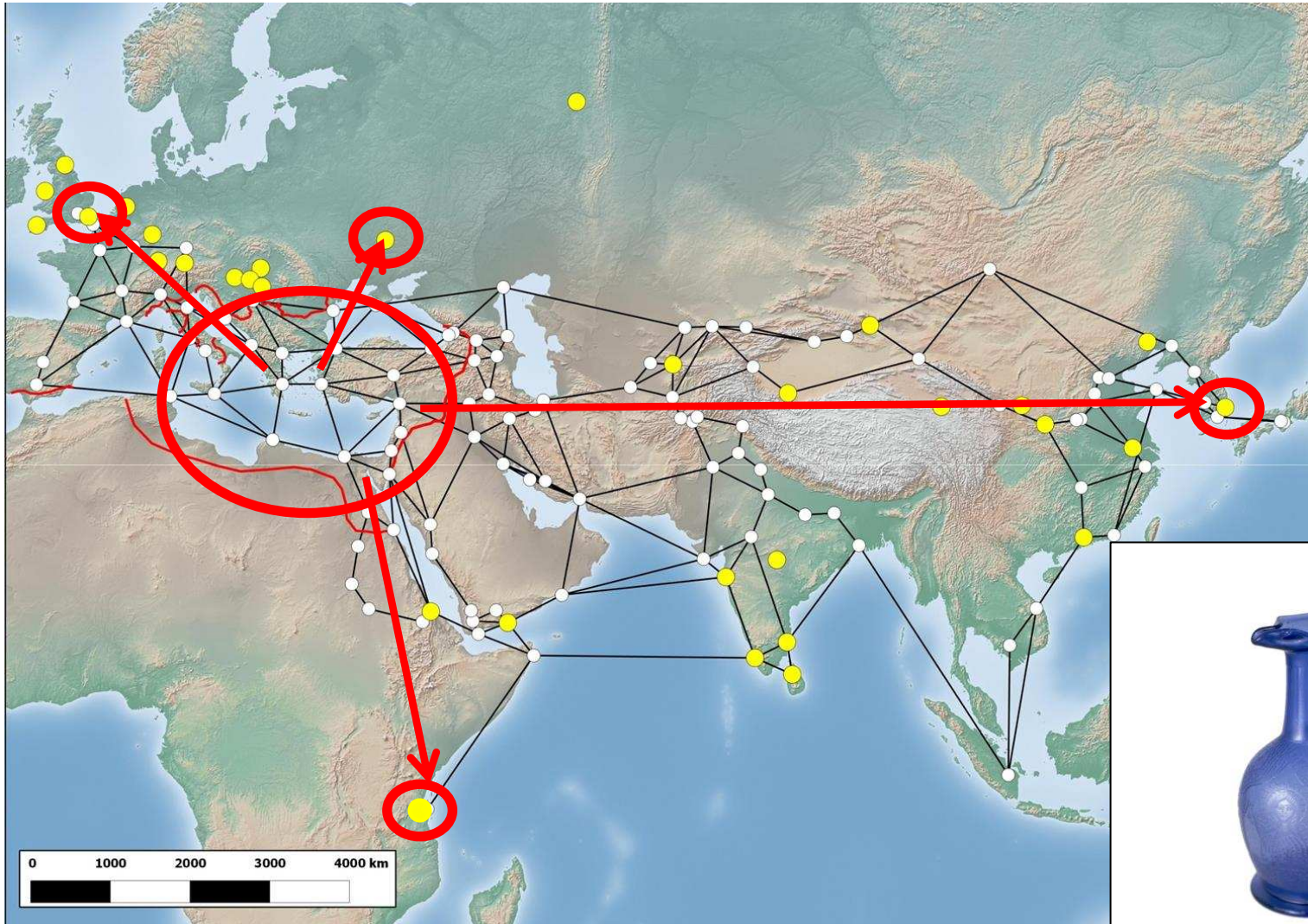
Silla, Metropolitan Museum  
New York 2013



<http://www.caitlingreen.org/2017/03/a-very-long-way-from-home.html>



# The „*People of the Blue Glass*“ (a thought experiment)





# Ports, bones, pollen, pottery



<http://climatechangeandhistory.princeton.edu/>

<http://rapp.univie.ac.at/>



**Moving Byzantium**

**FWF**  
Der Wissenschaftsfonds.

**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft



**R | G | Z | M**

**SPP1630 HÄFEN**



**DPP** *Digitising  
Patterns of  
Power*

<http://dpp.oew.ac.at/>

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[evolution-institute.org/seshat](http://evolution-institute.org/seshat)

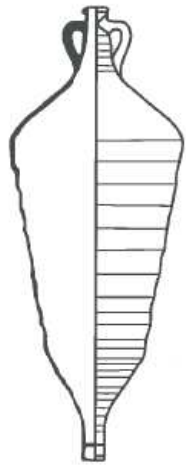


**Complexities and networks in the Medieval  
Mediterranean and Near East (COMMED)**

<http://oew.academia.edu/TopographiesofEntanglements>



# The Mediterranean core of the *„People of the Blue Glass“*



LR 3B  
4th-7th c. AD

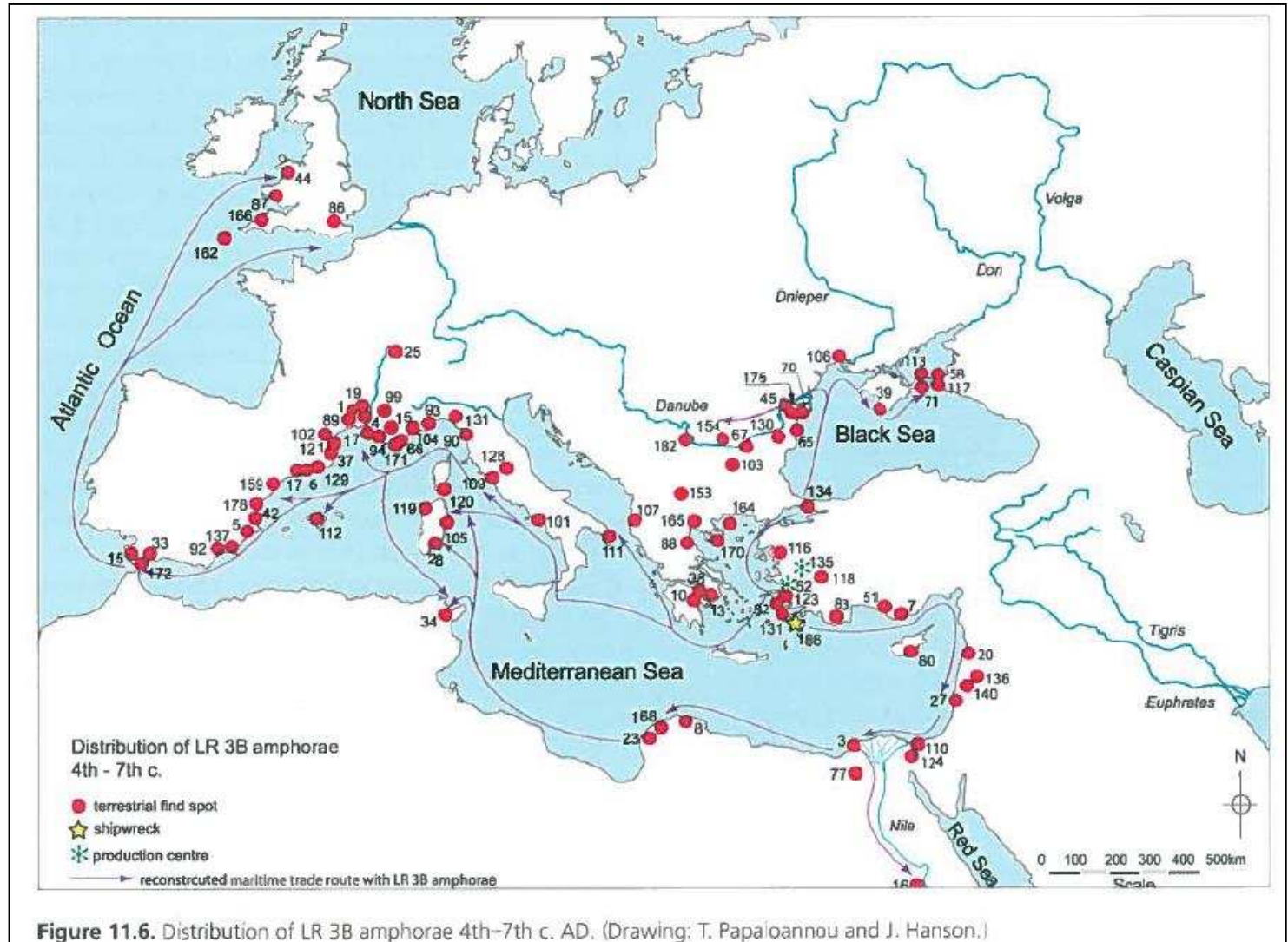


Figure 11.6. Distribution of LR 3B amphorae 4th-7th c. AD. (Drawing: T. Papaioannou and J. Hanson.)



# 37 shipwrecks of Yenikapı in Istanbul, 5th-11th century

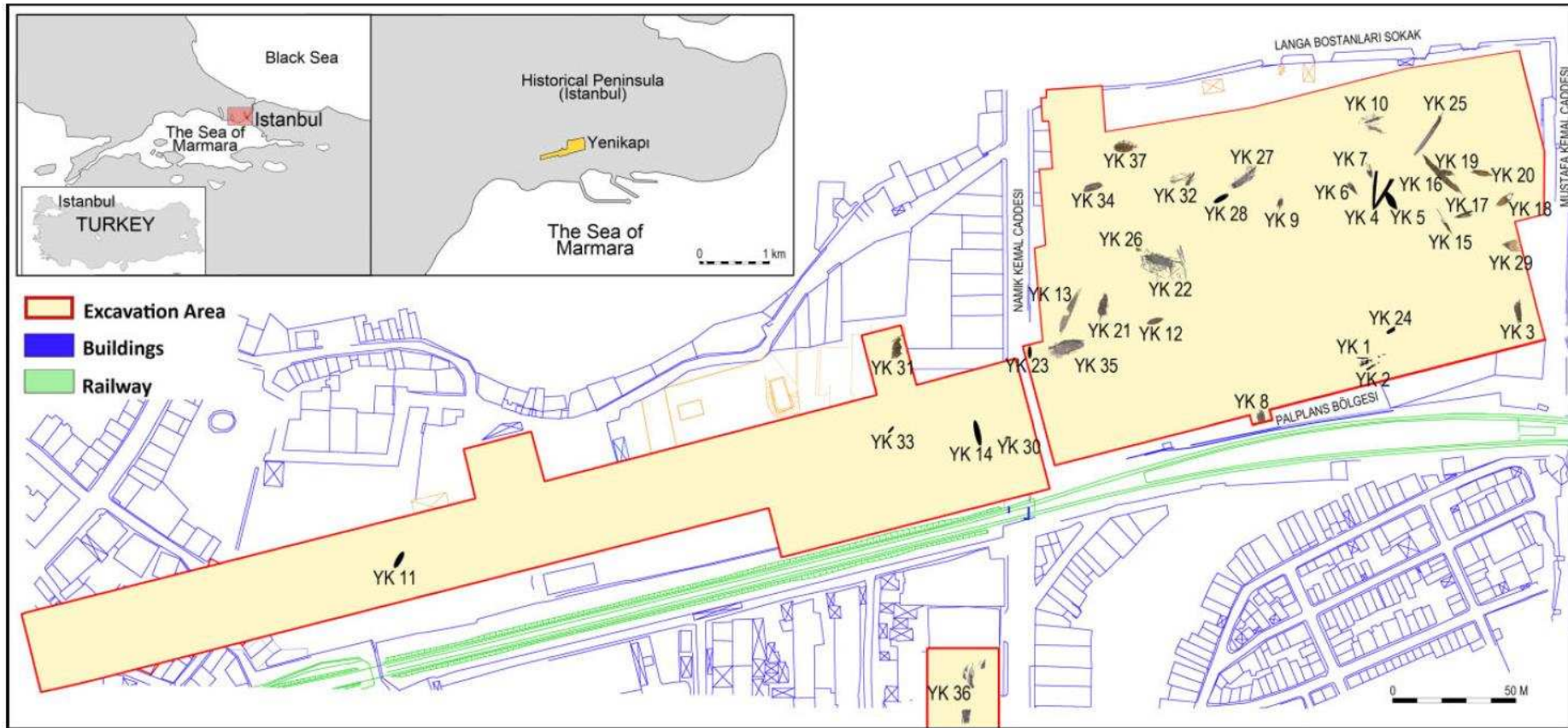


Figure 5. Distribution of wrecks across the excavation site at Yenikapı. (IU Yenikapı Shipwrecks Project Archive)

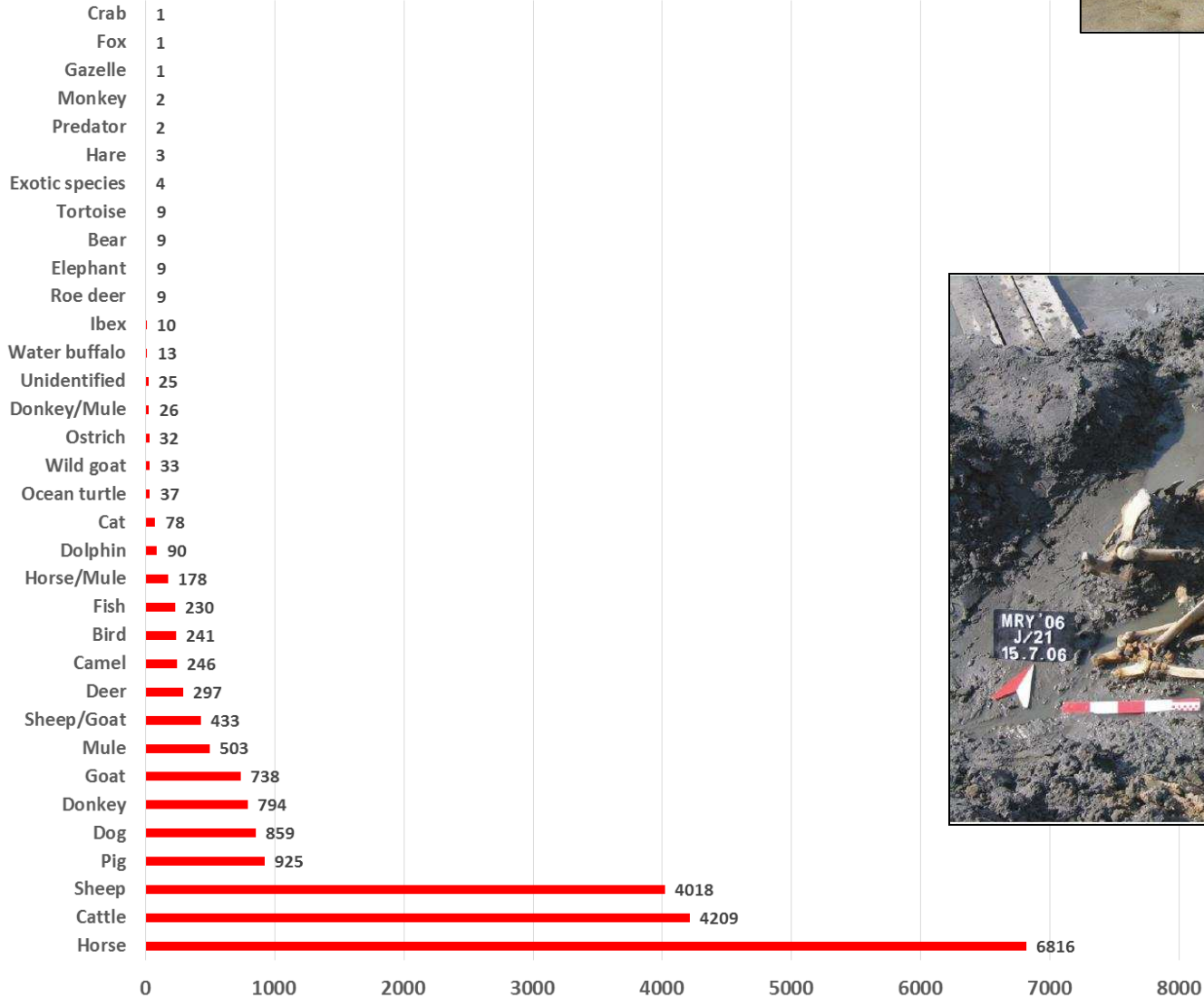


# Reconstruction of the harbour at Yenikapı – a centre of the „*People of the Blue Glass*“



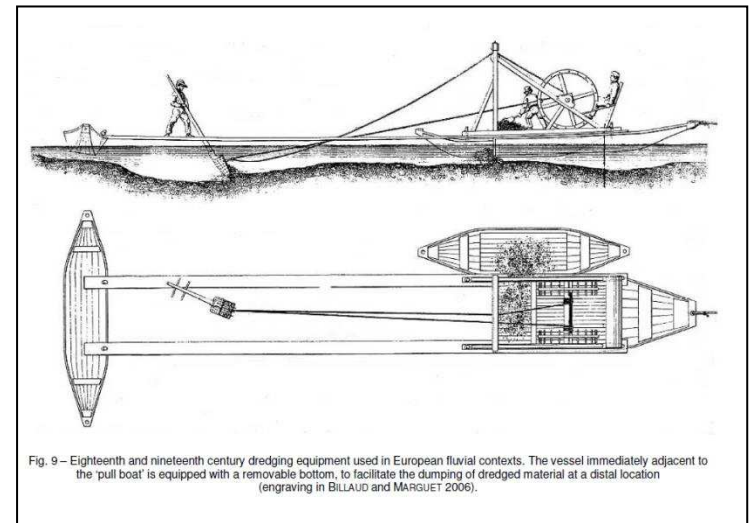
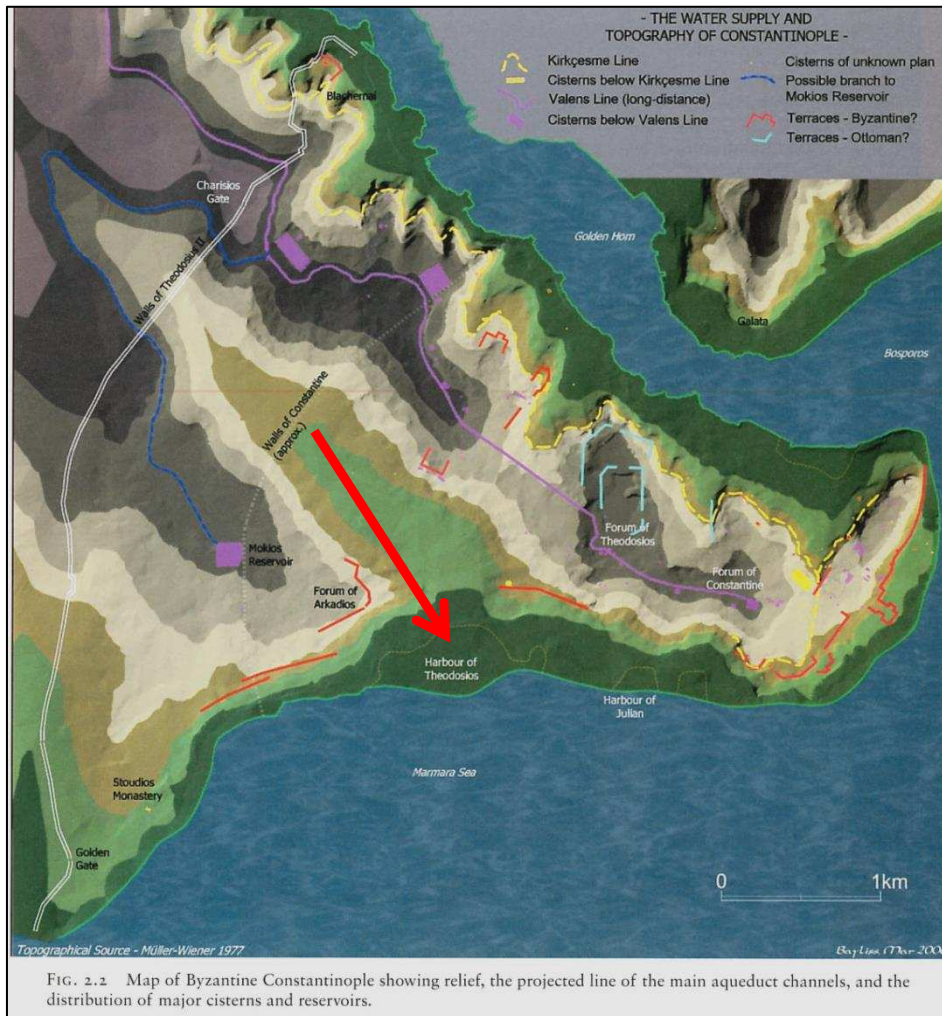
# Findings of remains of animals in Yenikapi

Estimate of the number of individuals of various animal species found in Yenikapi (Number of Identified Specimens; after Vedat Öner et al. 2013)





# Pollution and siltation of the Harbour basin up to the 11th century AD (1-2 > 10-20 mm/year)





# The ceramic assemblage at Burgaz, South-west Asia minor (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> cent. AD): four harbours, local production and regional trade

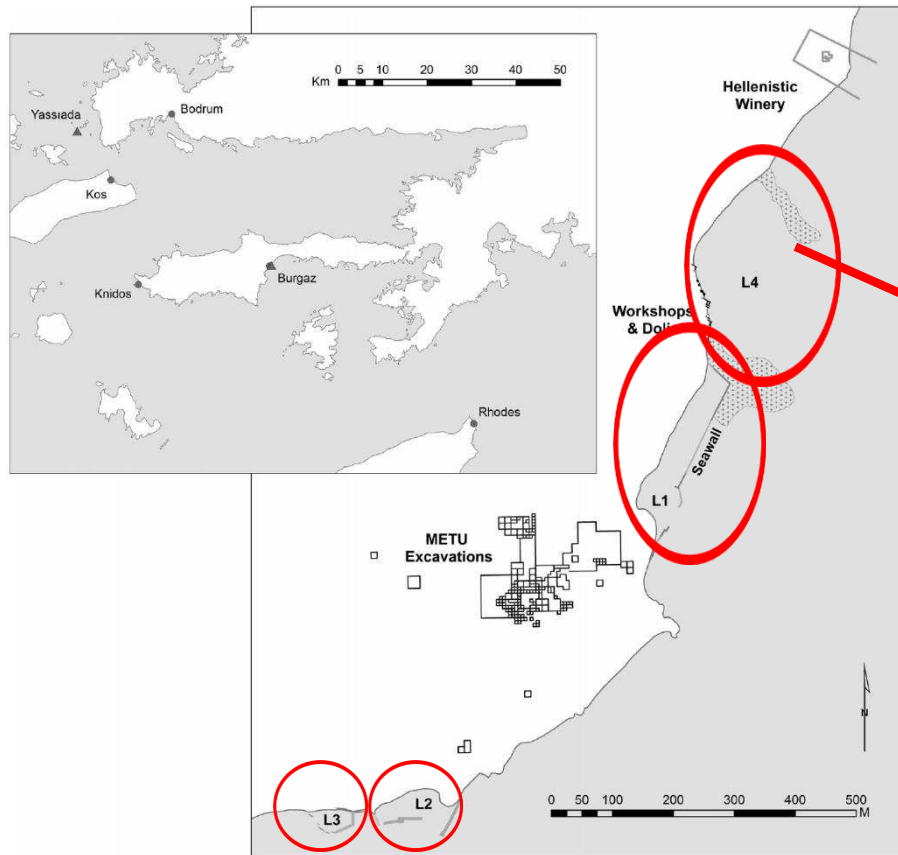


Figure 1. Inset, map of the south-east Aegean region showing Burgaz and other sites of interest (J. Leidwanger); Plan of the Burgaz area showing Harbour 4 (L4); the submerged rubble breakwaters are illustrated with hatching, while the ceramic assemblage is located just inside the northern breakwater. (N. Riddick and J. Leidwanger)



Figure 3. Facilities for production and storage of wine along the south-west edge of Harbour 4 (L4), including large built dolia eroding out of the scarp and a fragmentary wine press visible in the water. (E. S. Greene)

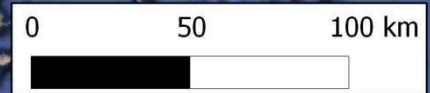


# 89 harbours and landing sites

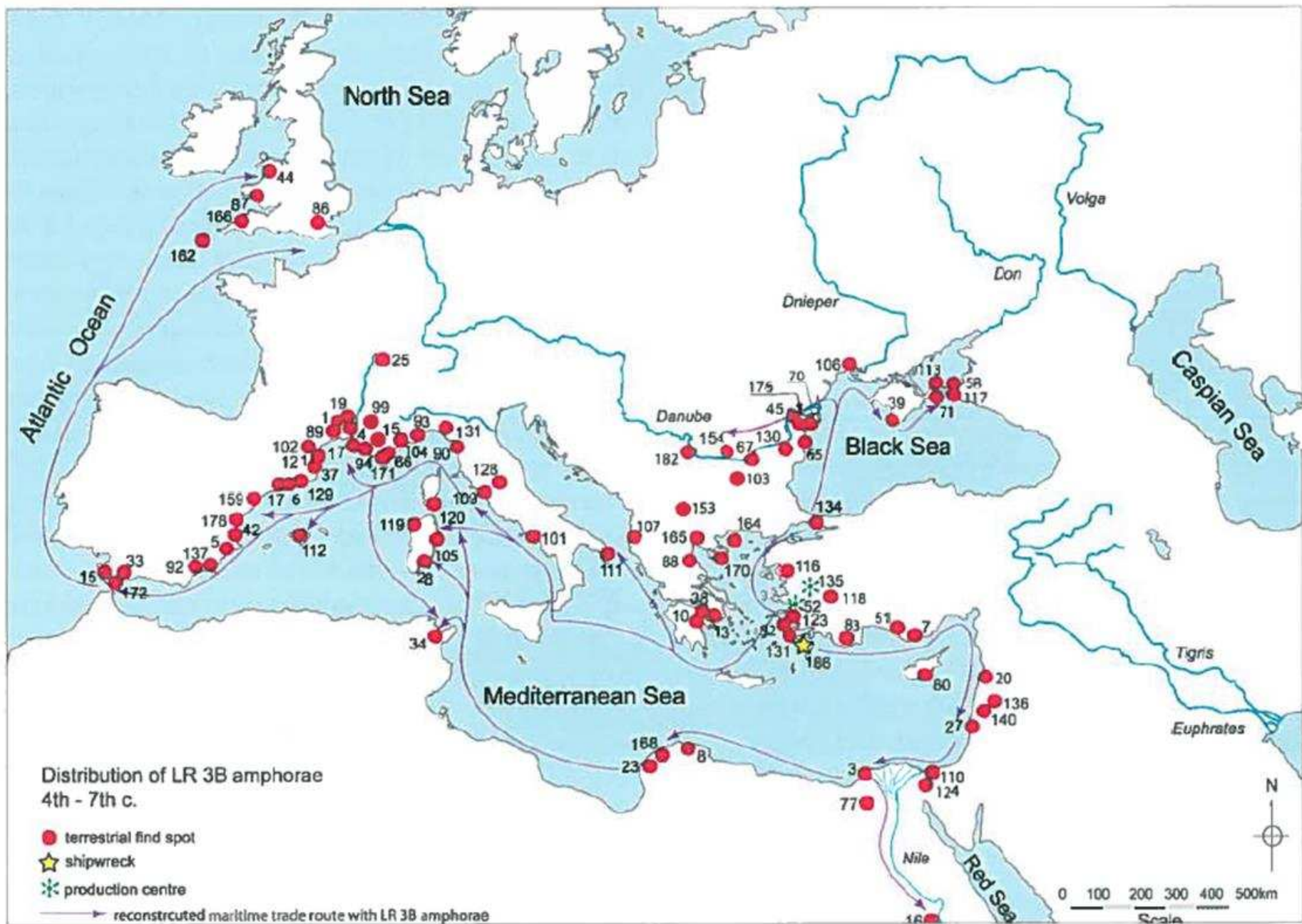
Harbours and landing sites documented for Central and Western Greece, 6th cent. CE (map: J. Preiser-Kapeller, 2014)

Harbours and landing sites

- use documented
- ▲ use assumed



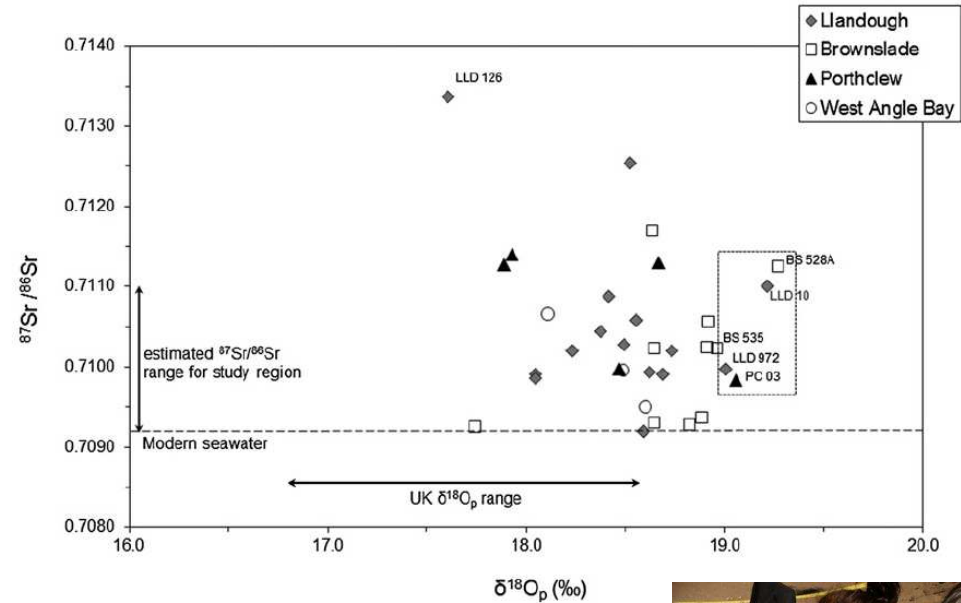
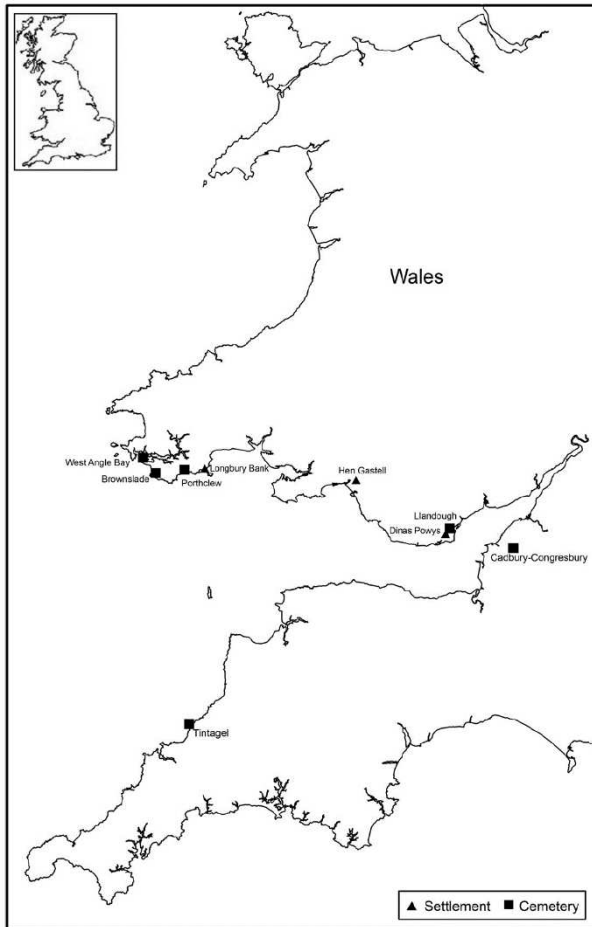




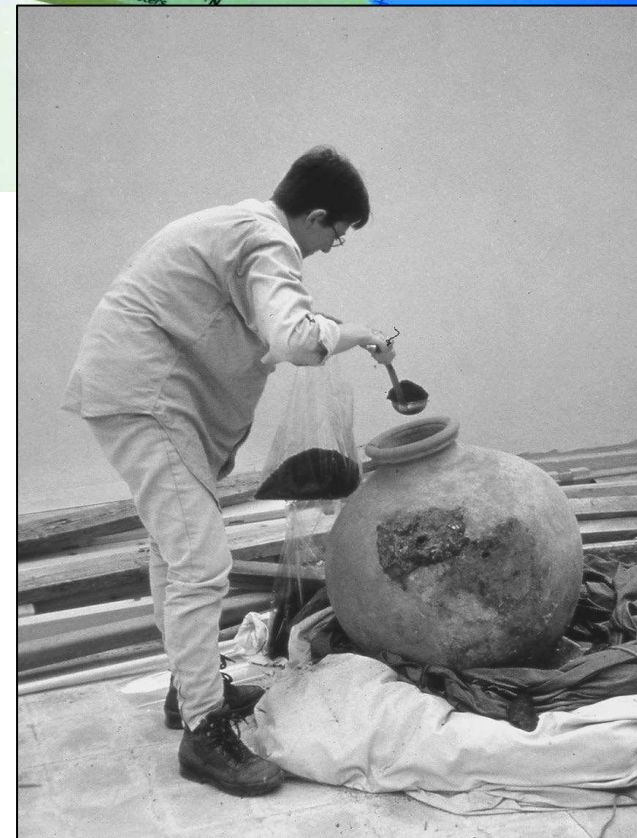
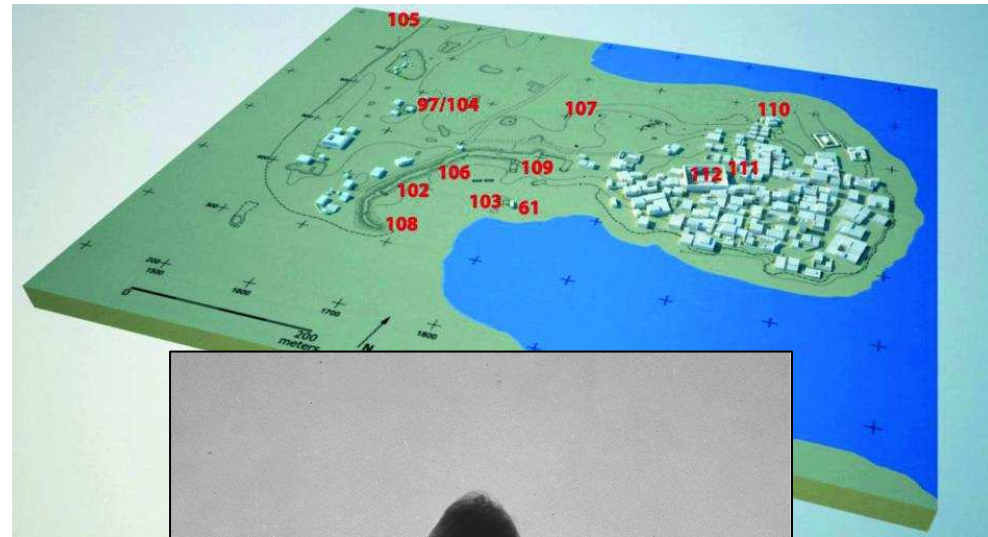
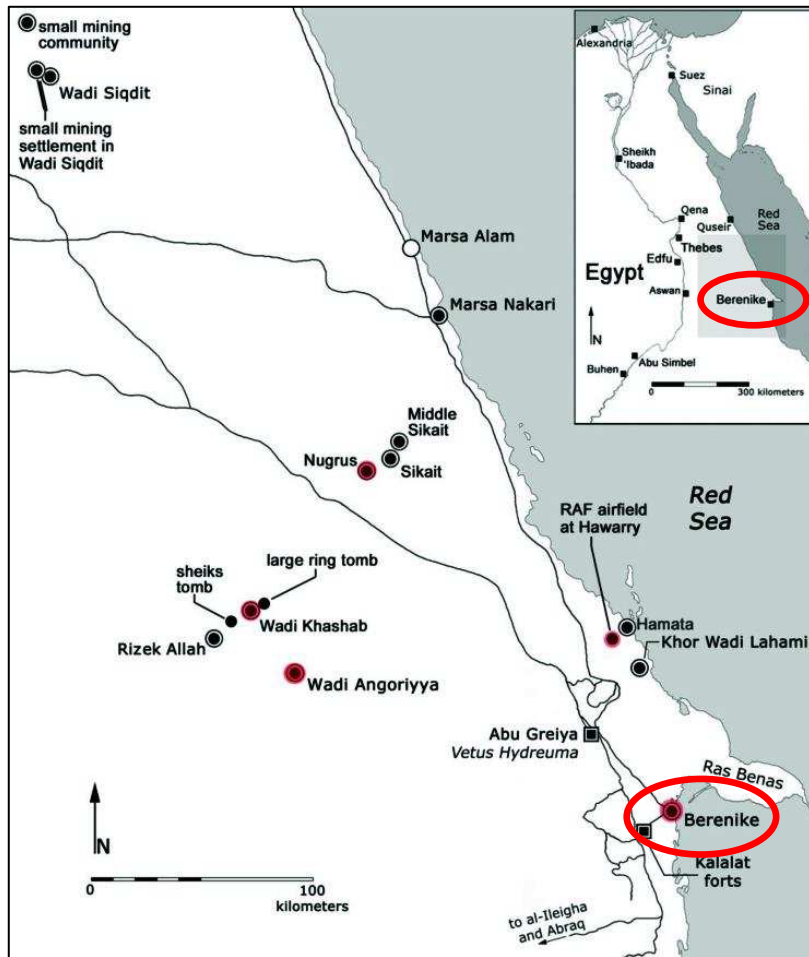
**Figure 11.6.** Distribution of LR 3B amphorae 4th–7th c. AD. (Drawing: T. Papaioannou and J. Hanson. From: Robinson – Wilson 2011)



# Mediterranean mobility towards Wales, 5th-7th cent. AD: ceramics, bones and isotopes



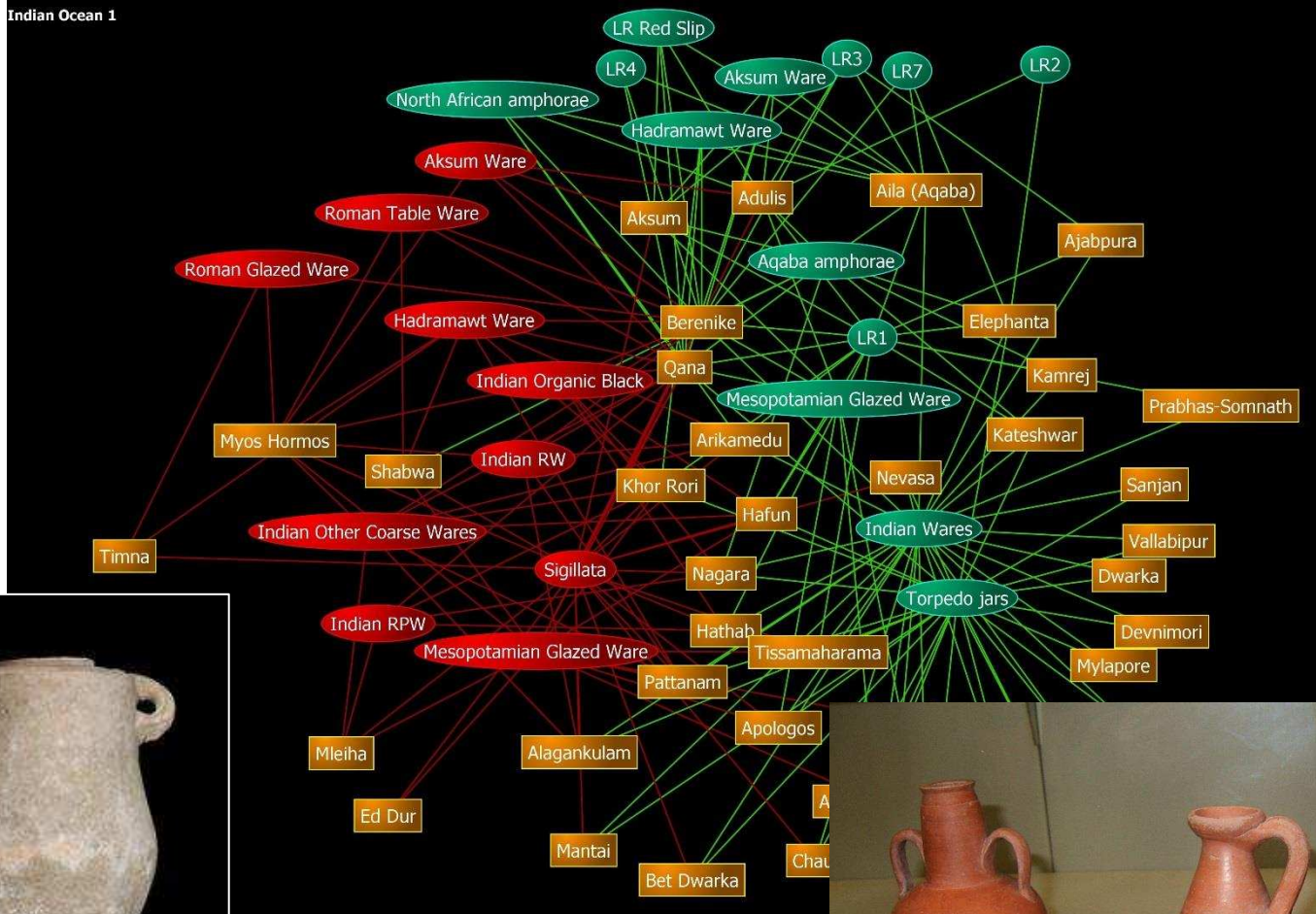
# The harbour of Berenike in Egypt



R. T. J. Cappers, Roman Foodprints at Berenike. Archaeobotanical Evidence of Subsistence and Trade in the Eastern Desert of Egypt. Los Angeles 2006.



# 50 shapes of clay: networks of ceramics in the western Indian Ocean, 4th-6th cent. AD





# Networks of ceramics in the western Indian Ocean, 4th-6th cent. AD

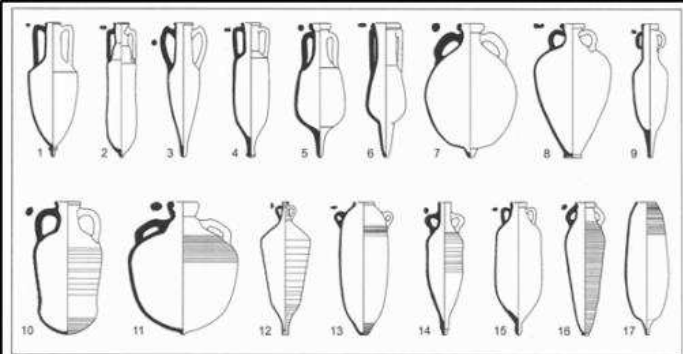
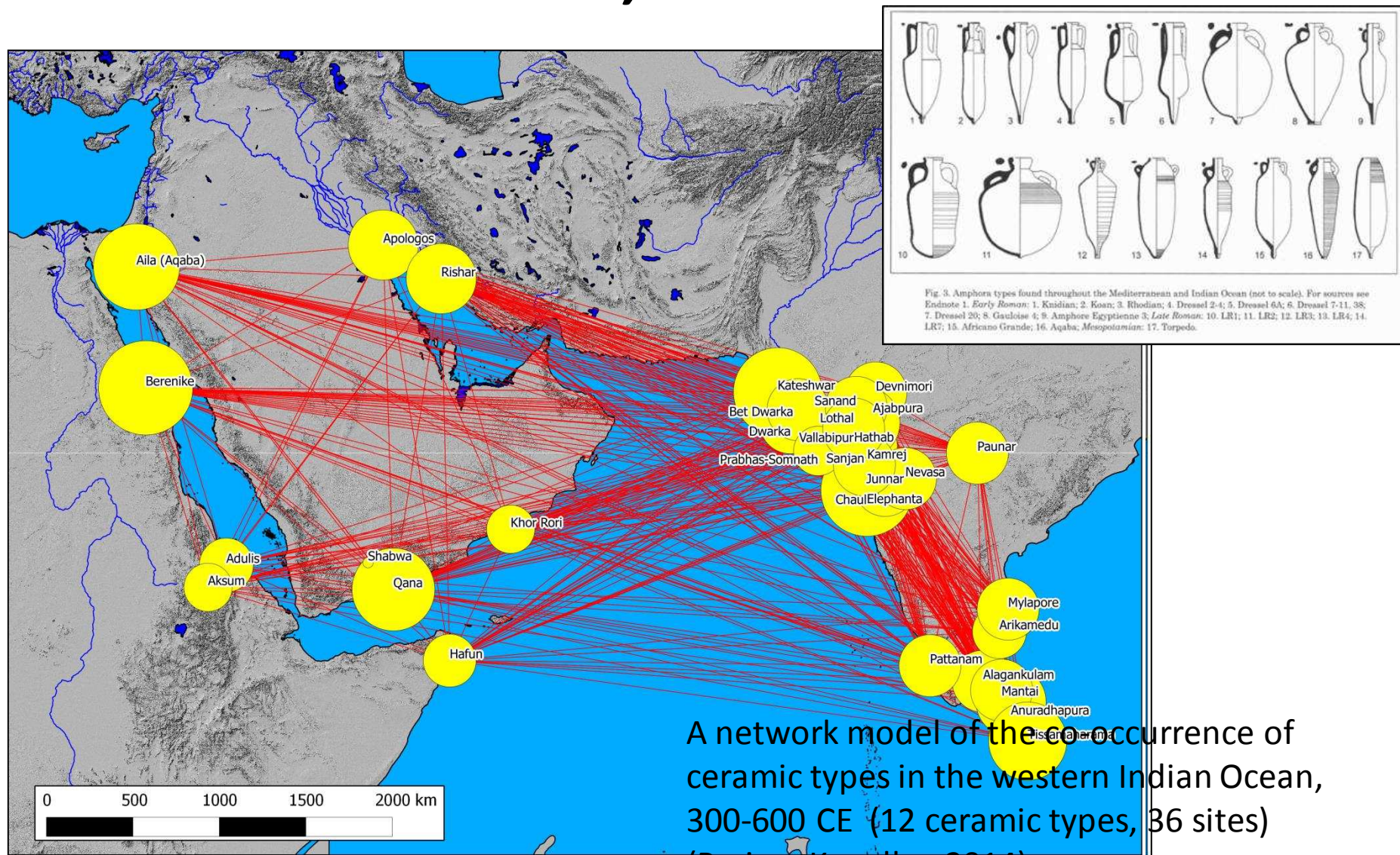
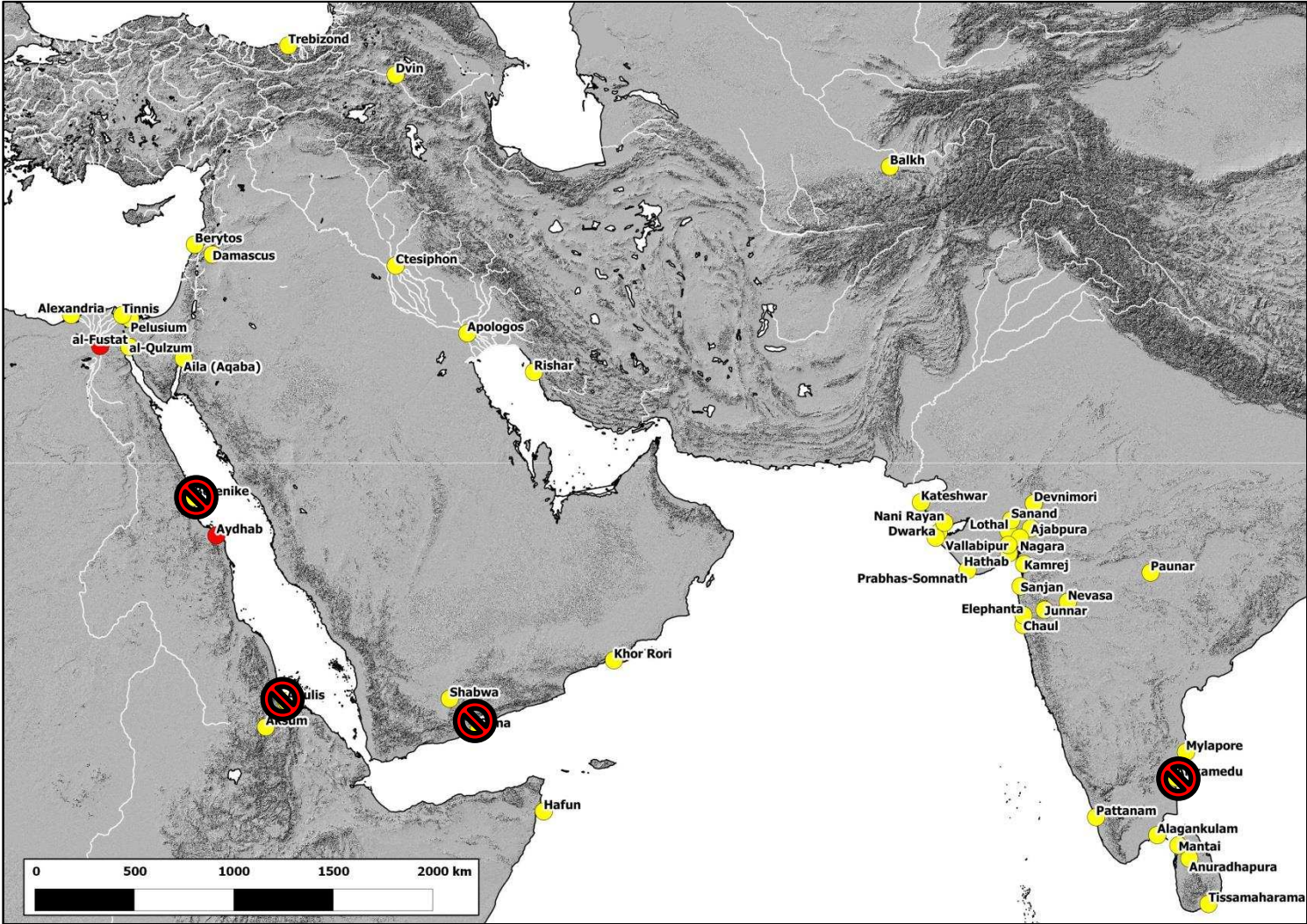


Fig. 3. Amphora types found throughout the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean (not to scale). For sources see Endnote 1. *Early Roman*: 1. Knidian; 2. Koan; 3. Rhodian; 4. Dressel 2-4; 5. Dressel 6A; 6. Dressel 7-11, 38; 7. Dressel 20; 8. Gauloise 4; 9. Amphore Egyptienne 3; *Late Roman*: 10. LR1; 11. LR2; 12. LR3; 13. LR4; 14. LR7; 15. Africano Grande; 16. Aqaba; *Mesopotamian*: 17. Torpedo.

A network model of the co-occurrence of ceramic types in the western Indian Ocean, 300-600 CE (12 ceramic types, 36 sites) (Preiser-Kapeller, 2014)



# The „decline“ of the Red Sea harbours in the late 6th and early 7th cent.





# A high-energy deposit in the harbour of Yenikapi, 557 CE?

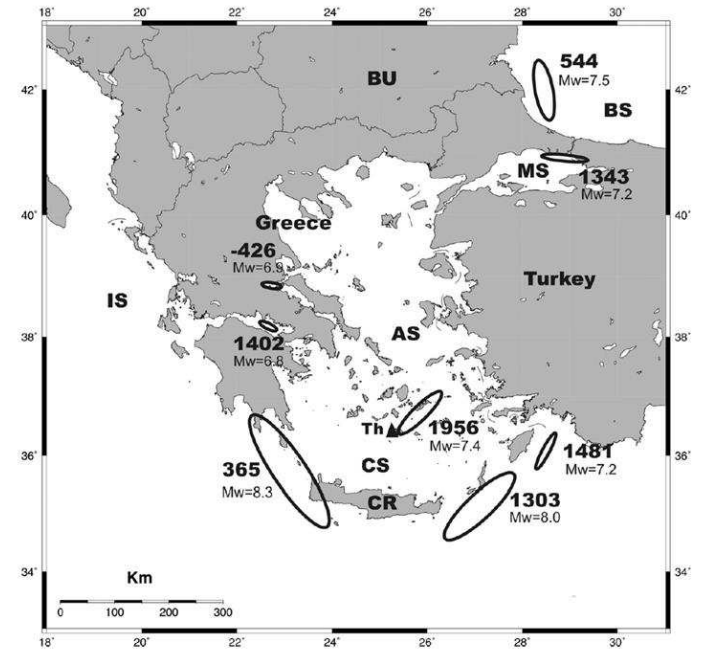
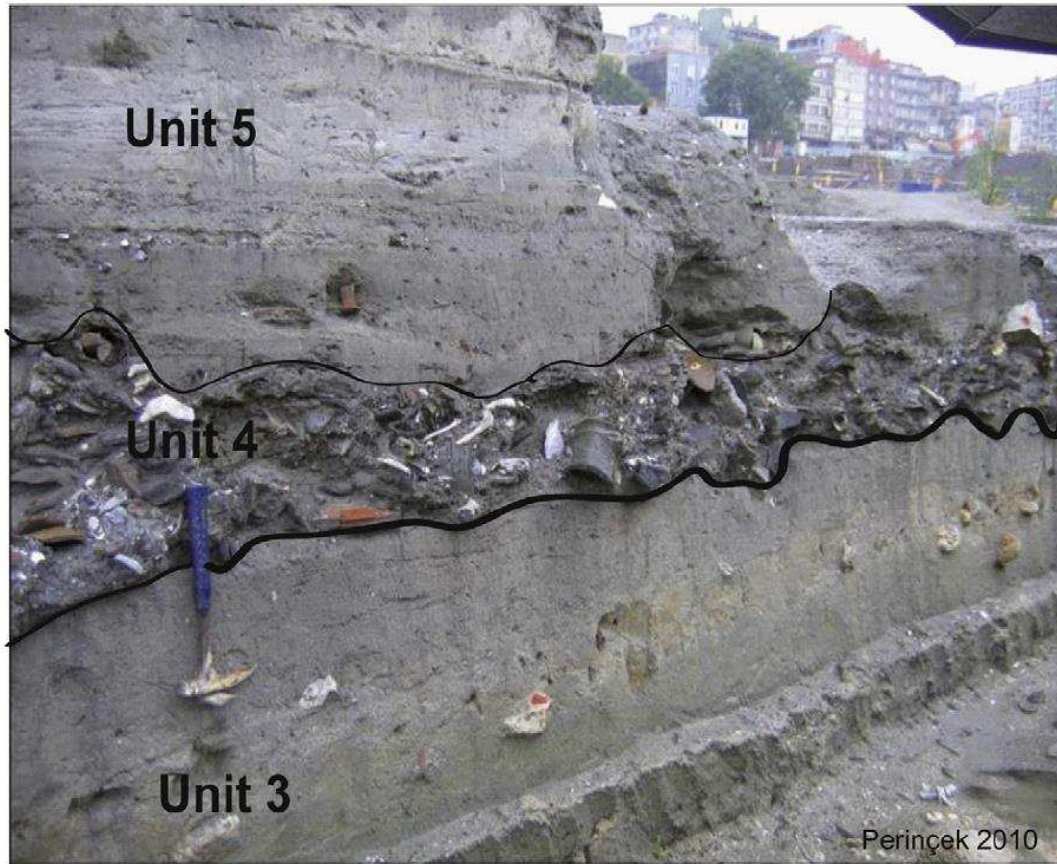
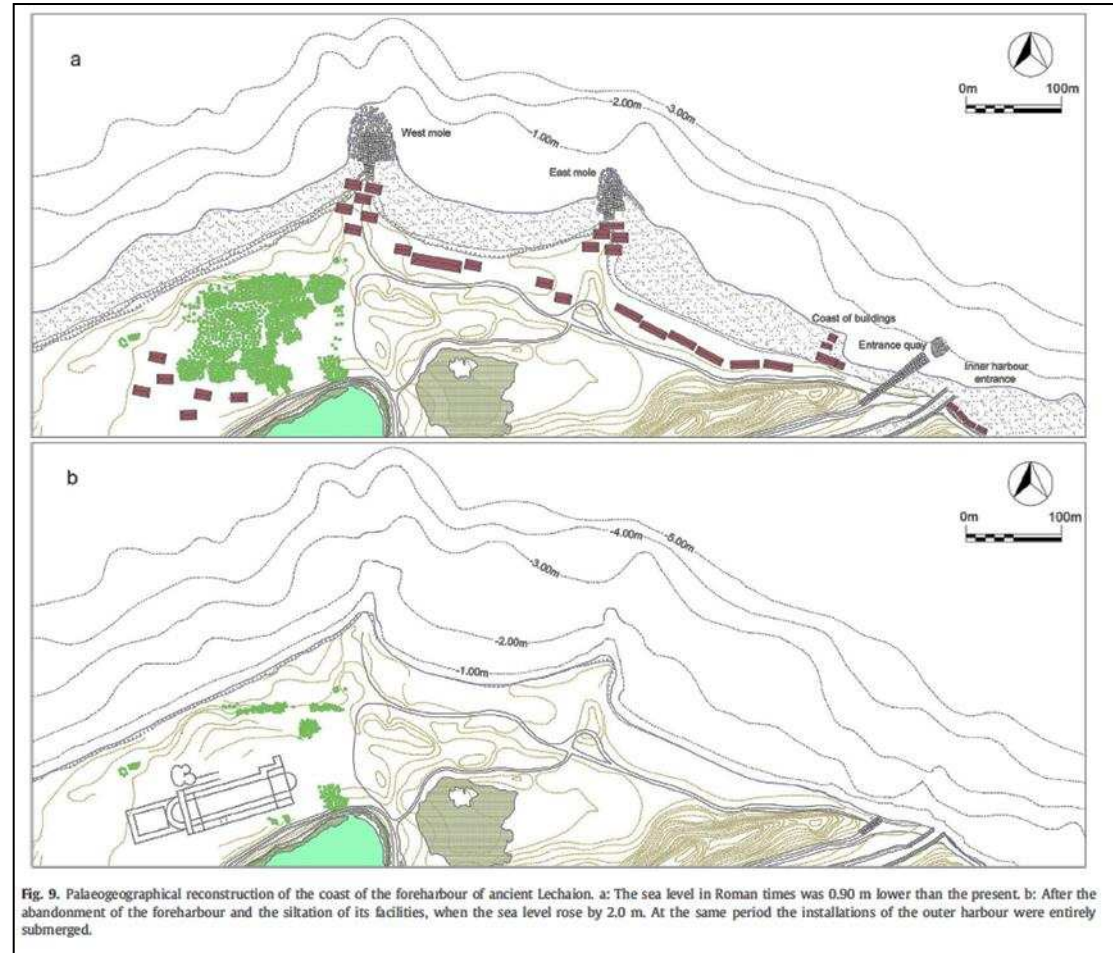
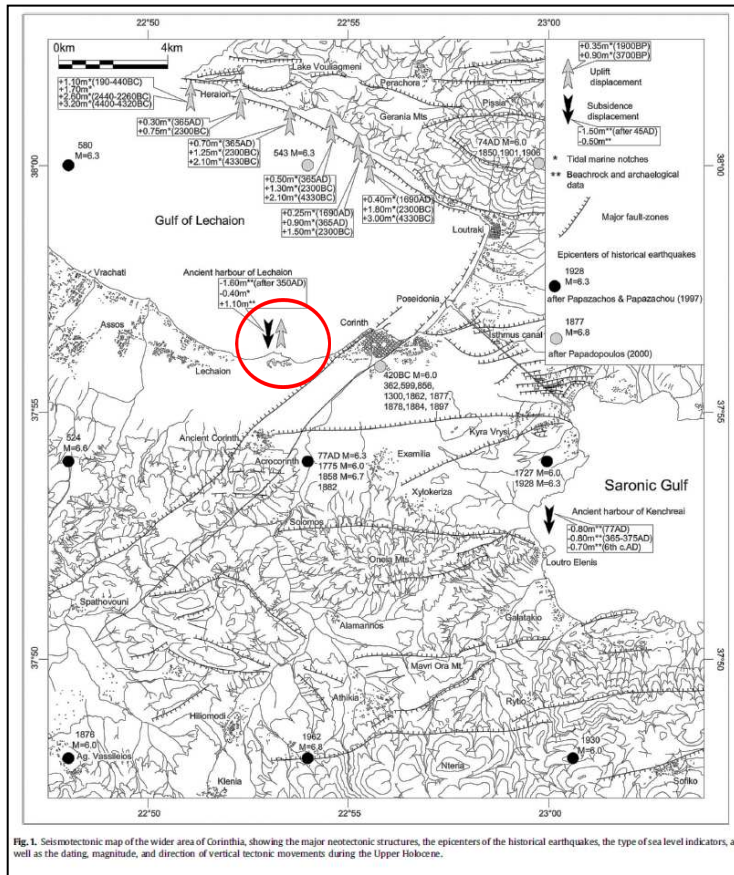


Fig. 4. Source areas of the largest tsunamigenic earthquakes historically known in Greece, Turkey and the surrounding regions. For calculation explanations see text and Table 1. Key: AS = Aegean Sea, BS = Black Sea, BU = Bulgaria, CR = Crete, CS = Cretan Sea, IS = Ionian Sea, MS = Marmara Sea. Symbol key: Figure near source area = year of earthquake occurrence (see Table 1), – means BC date, M<sub>w</sub> = earthquake moment-magnitude (slightly modified from Papadopoulos and Papageorgiou, 2014).

high-energy unit (unit 4). Chaotic deposit containing coarse marine and terrestrial material, characterised by an erosional basal contact (Perinçek, 2010).

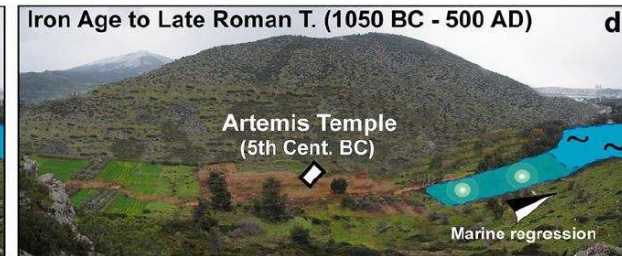
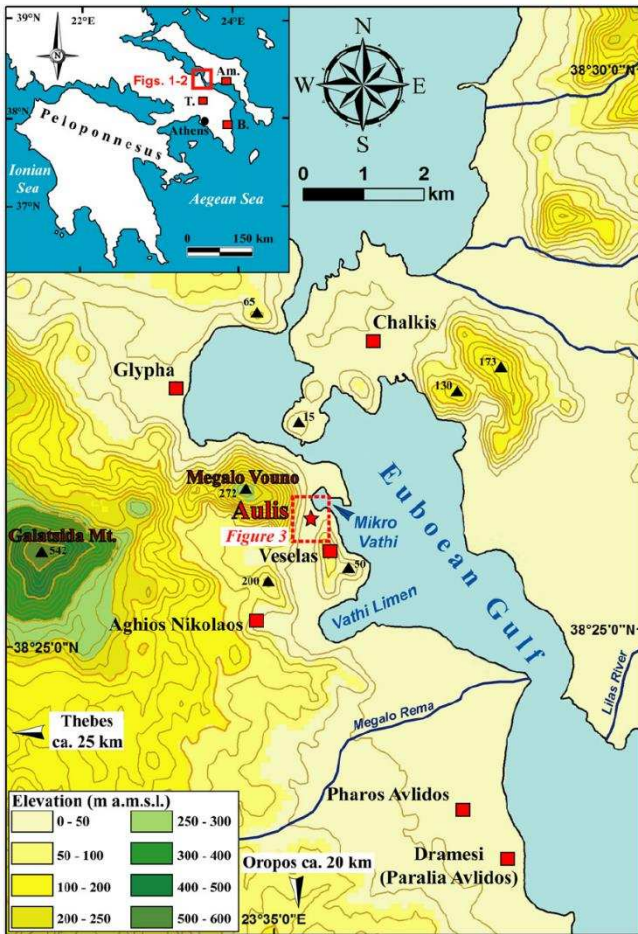


# The harbour of Lechaion, sea level change and the earthquake of 551/552 AD





# The harbour of Aulis and changes of landscape



 Colluvial fill (red soils)

 Shallow marine environment

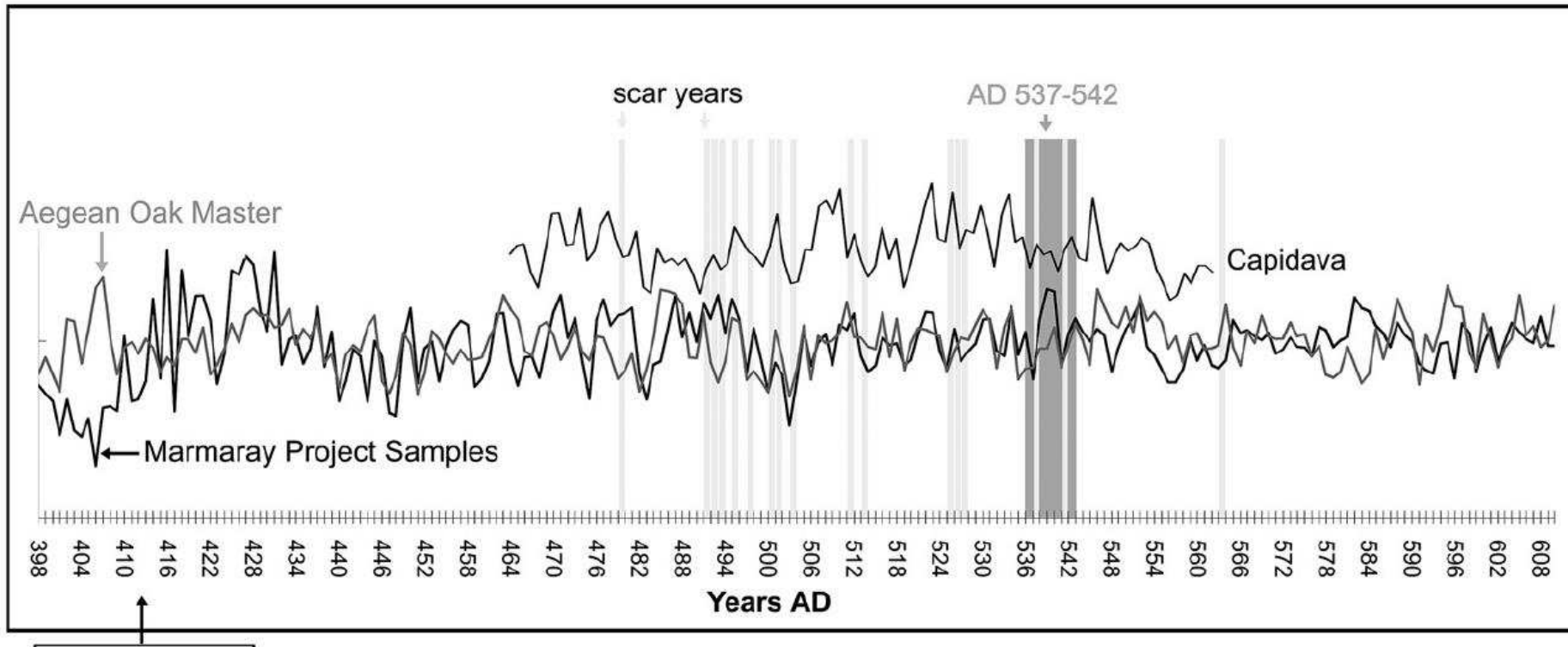
 Open lagoon

 Coastal swamps

Fig. 8. Holocene paleogeographic reconstruction of the Aulis coastal plain. a is mainly inferred from sedimentological results of core Artemis A. b–e are drawn based on data from both cores studied in this paper.

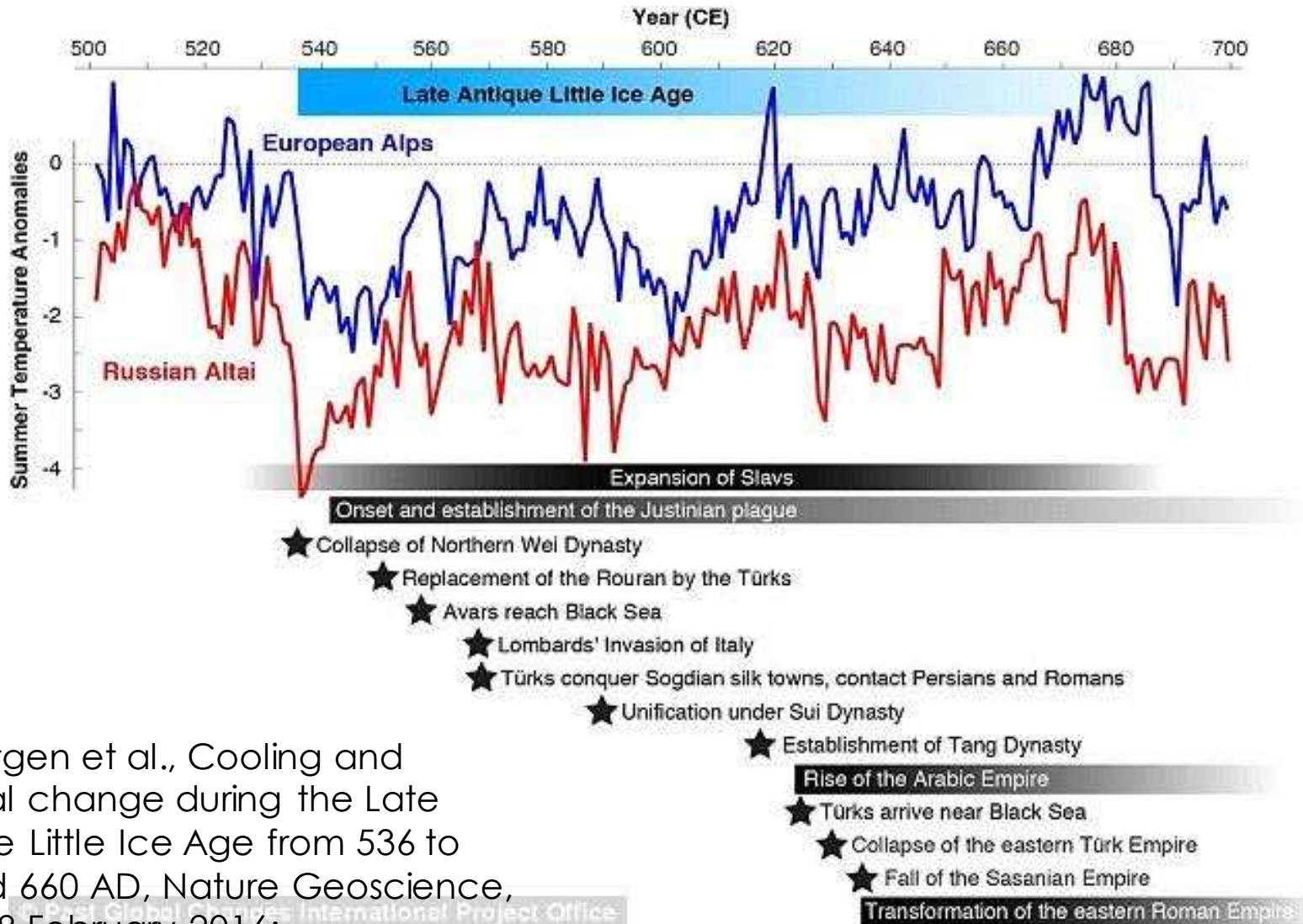


# Tree rings from Yenikapı and climate change in the mid-6th century AD



Pearson et al. / Journal of Archaeological Science 39 (2012) 3402-3414

# The „Late Antique Little Ice Age“ (LALIA, 536-660 AD)

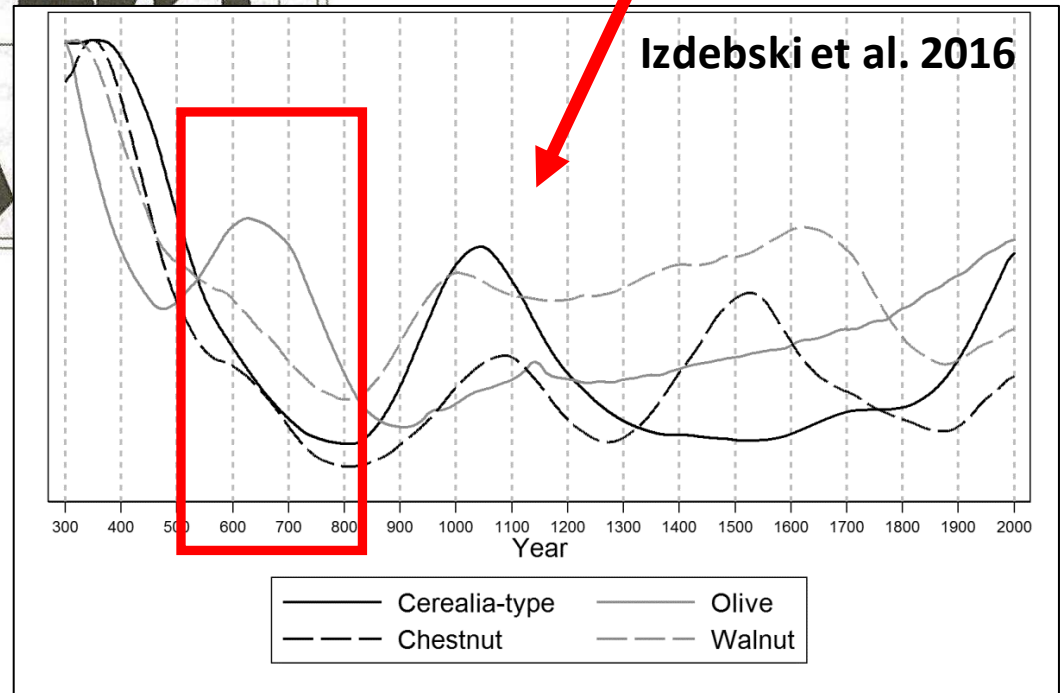
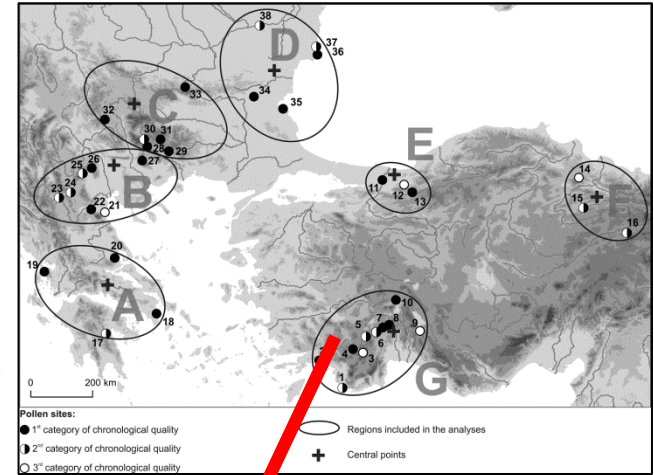
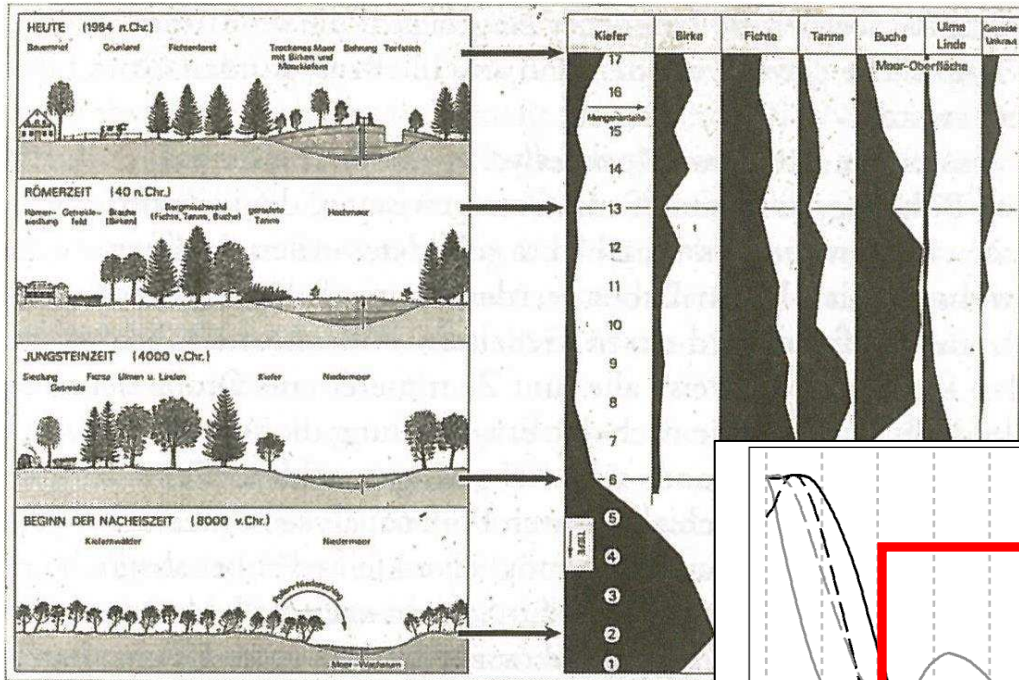


U. Büntgen et al., Cooling and societal change during the Late Antique Little Ice Age from 536 to around 660 AD, *Nature Geoscience*, online 8 February 2016:

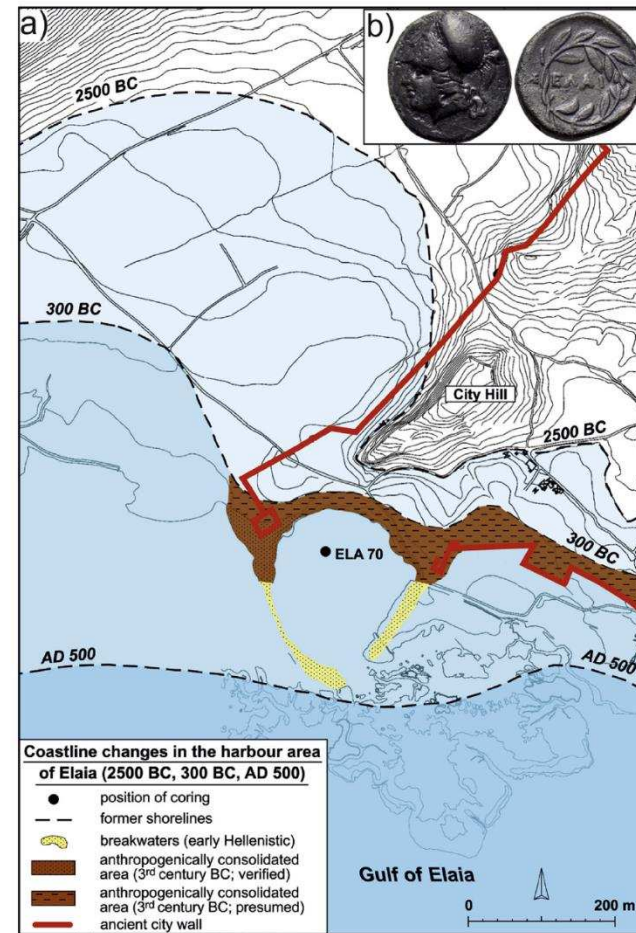
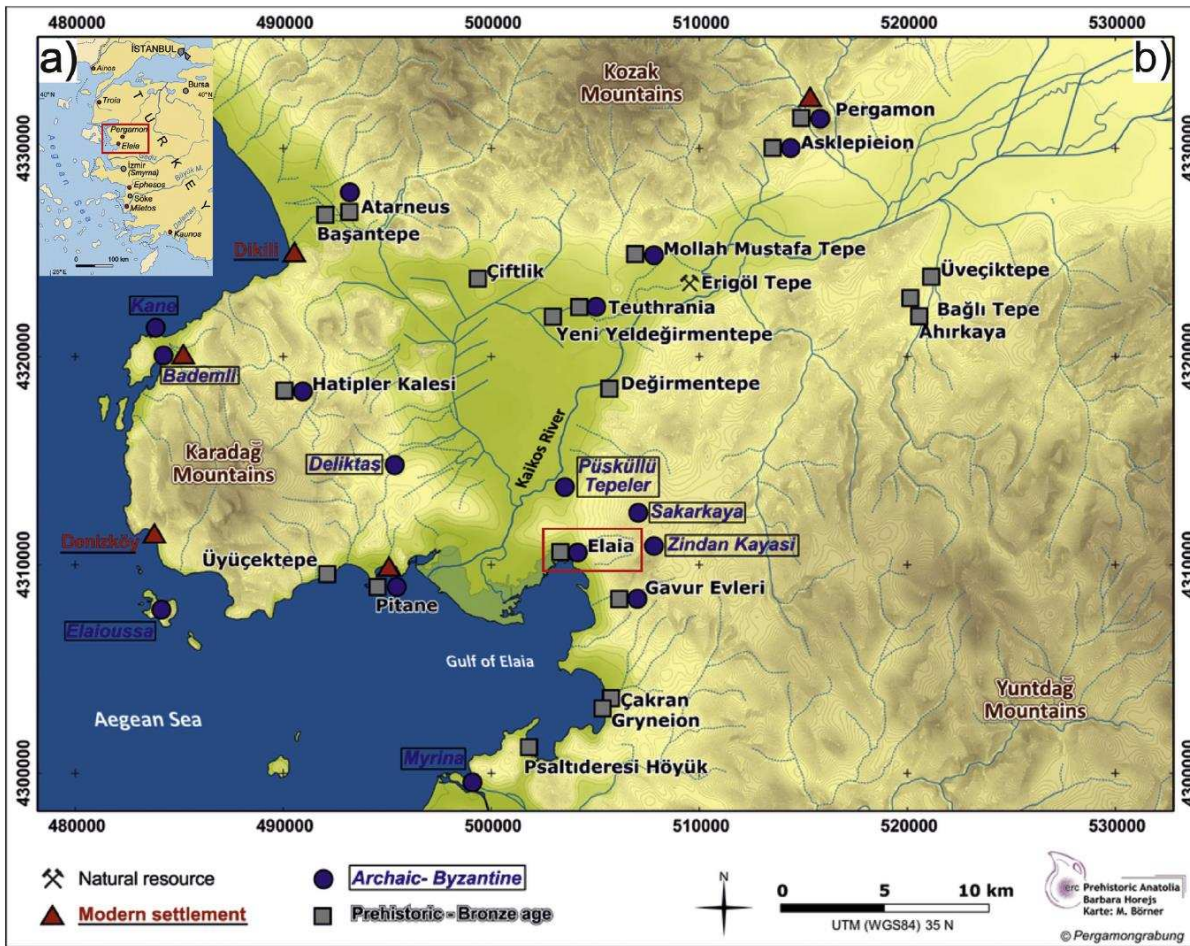
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/ngeo2652>



# Pollen and sediments as archives of climate change and human activity: SW-Asia Minor

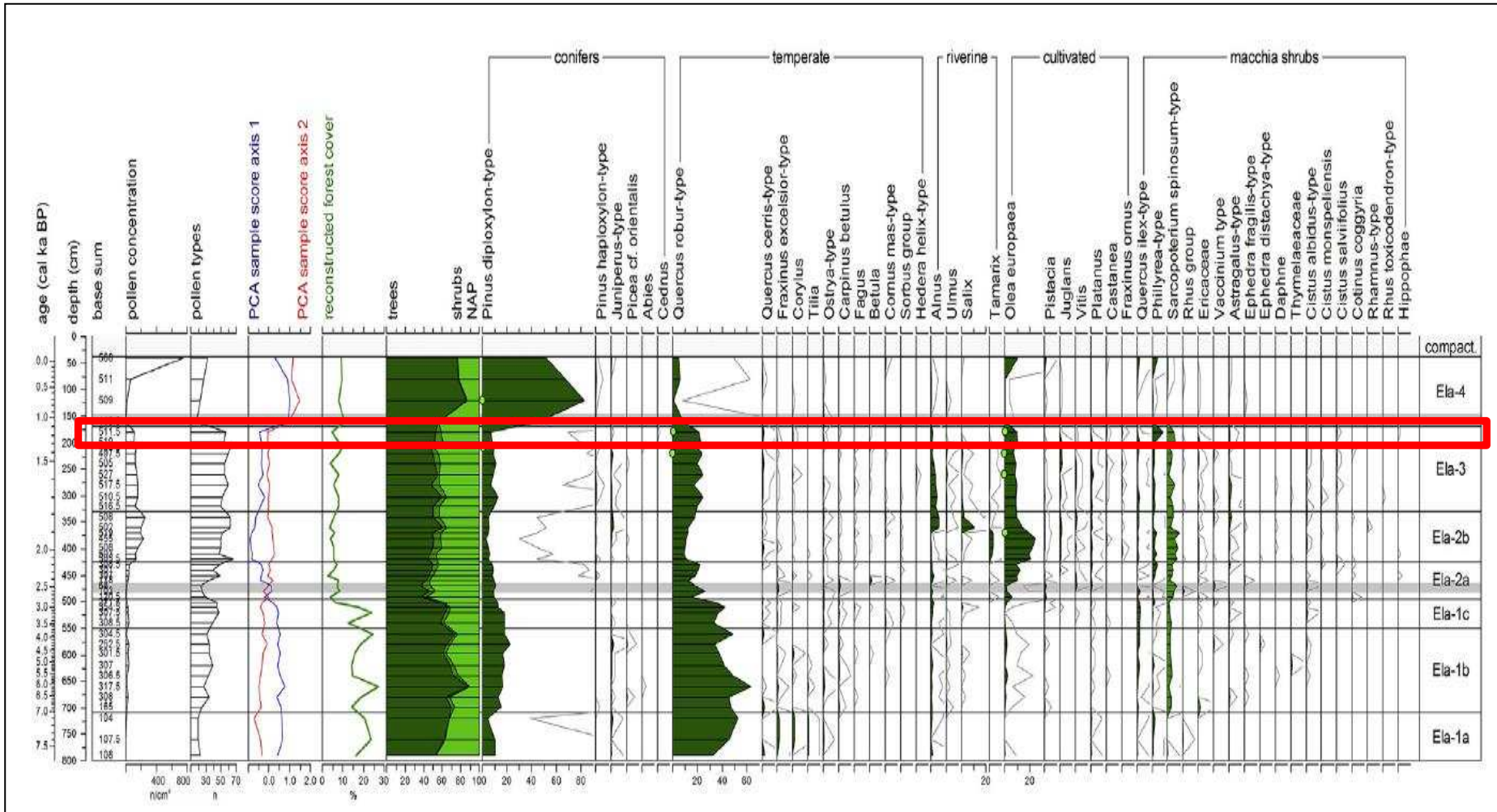


# The harbour of Elaia until the 8th cent. CE

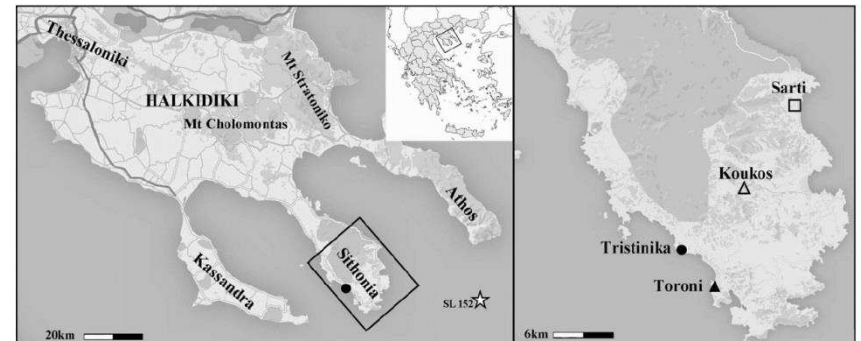
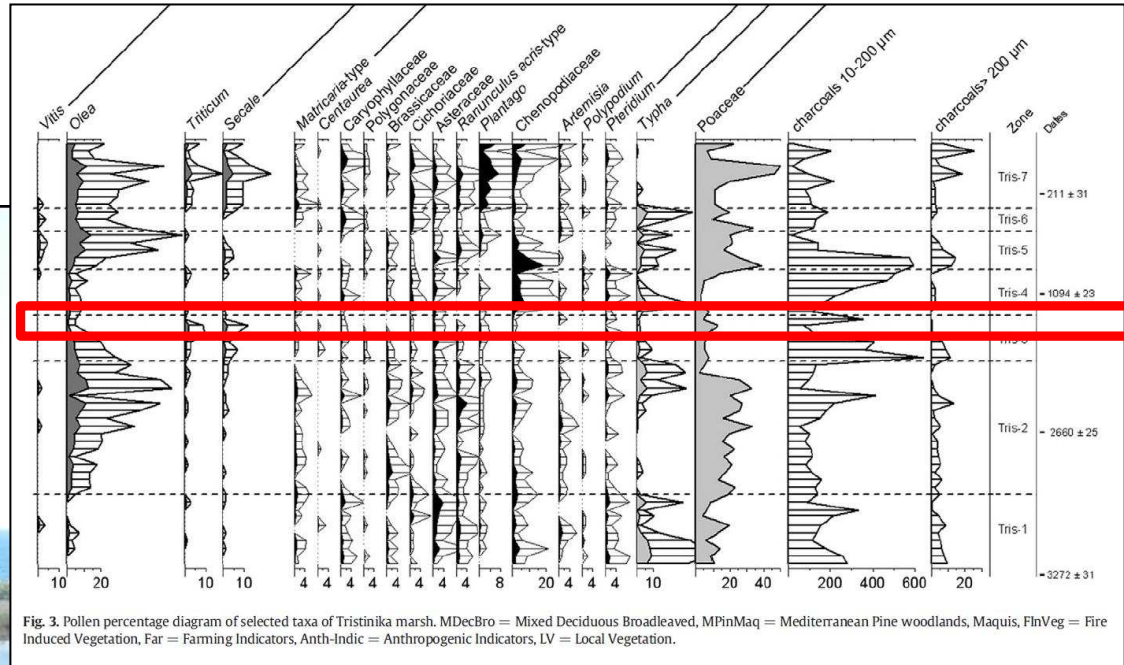




# The end of olive cultivation around Elaia in the 7th-8th cent. AD

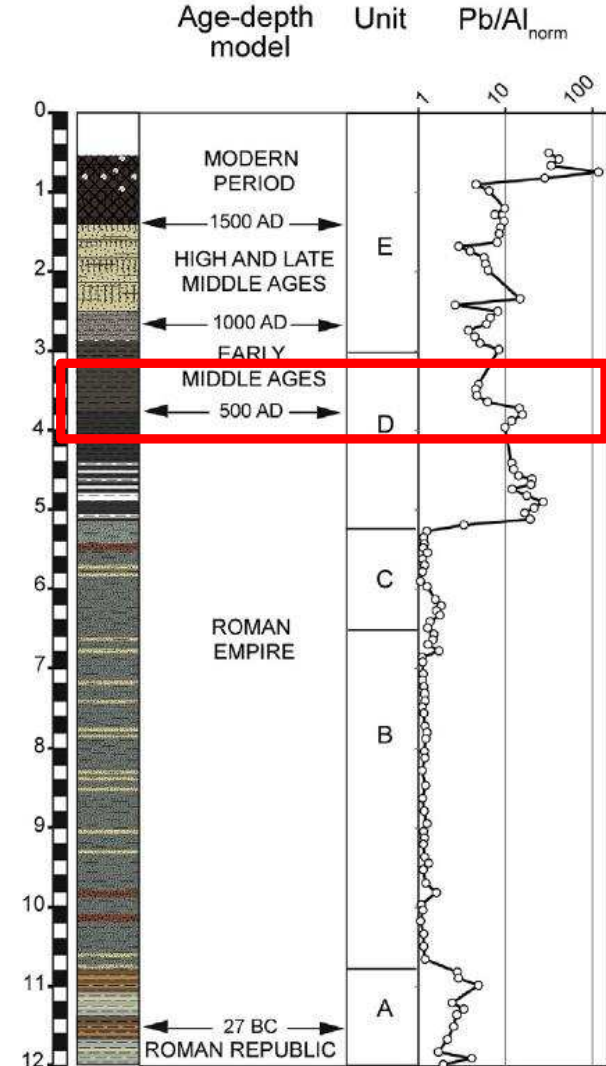
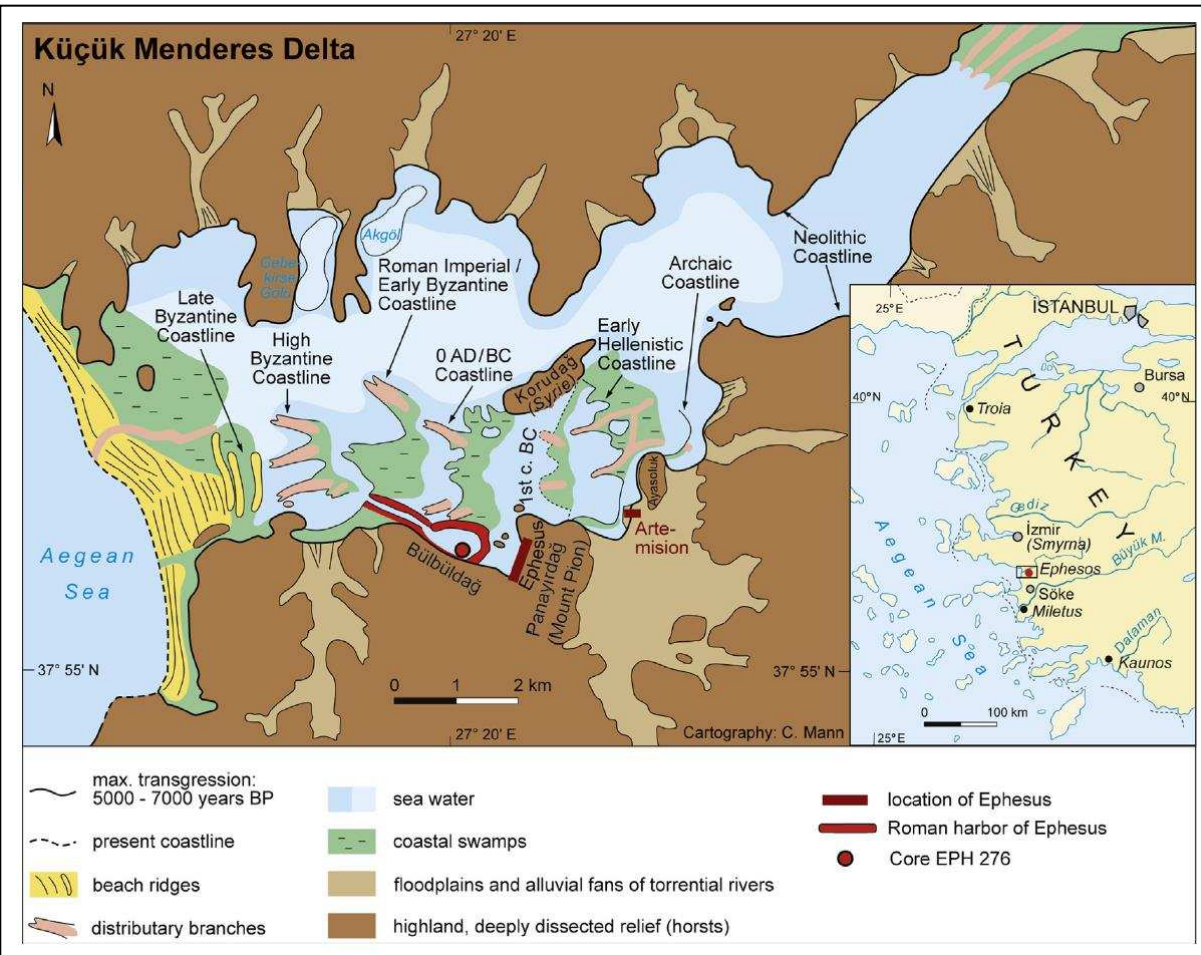


# Palynological investigations of sediments from the Tristinika coastal marsh near the harbour of Toroni: a „collapse“ in the 6th-8th cent. AD





# The decline of lead pollution in the harbour basin of Ephesus



# *Yersinia pestis* and the epidemics of the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> cent. AD: a genomic analysis in Aschheim (GER)

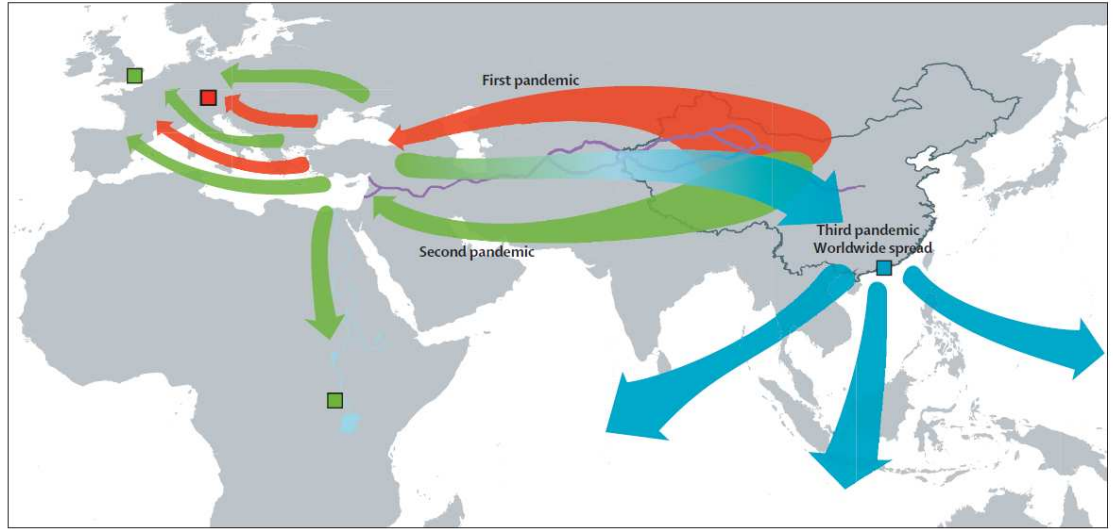
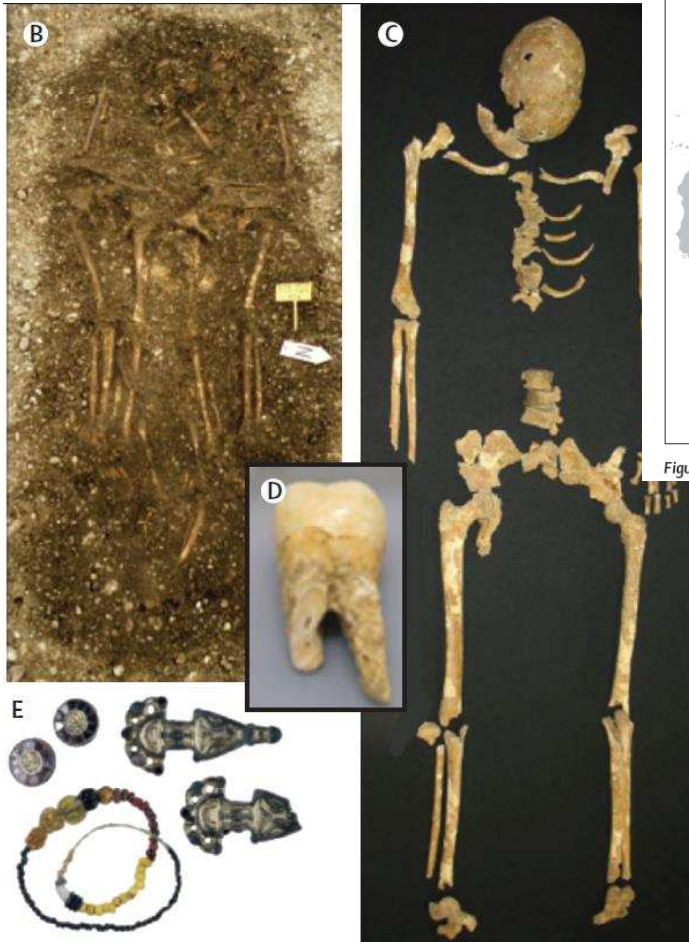
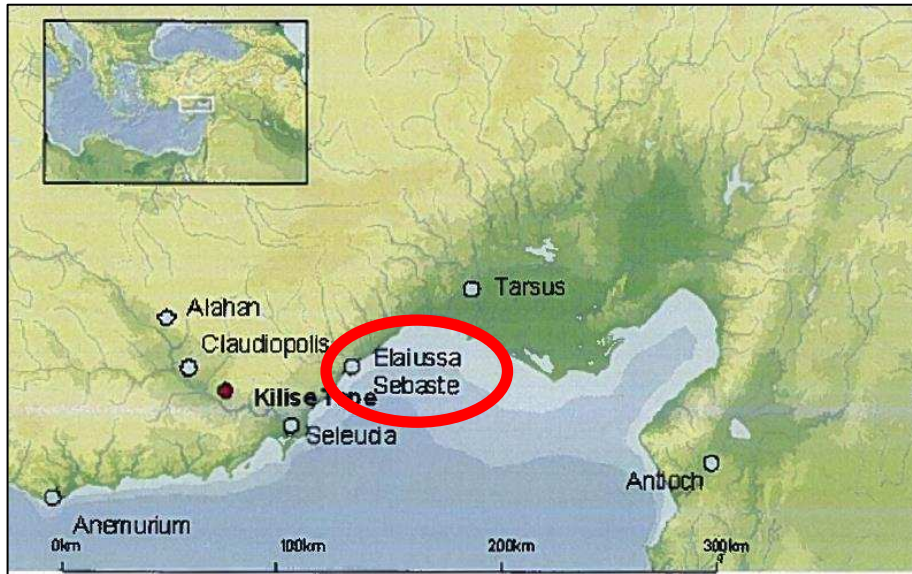


Figure 4: Hypothetical scenario for the geographic spread of *Yersinia pestis*



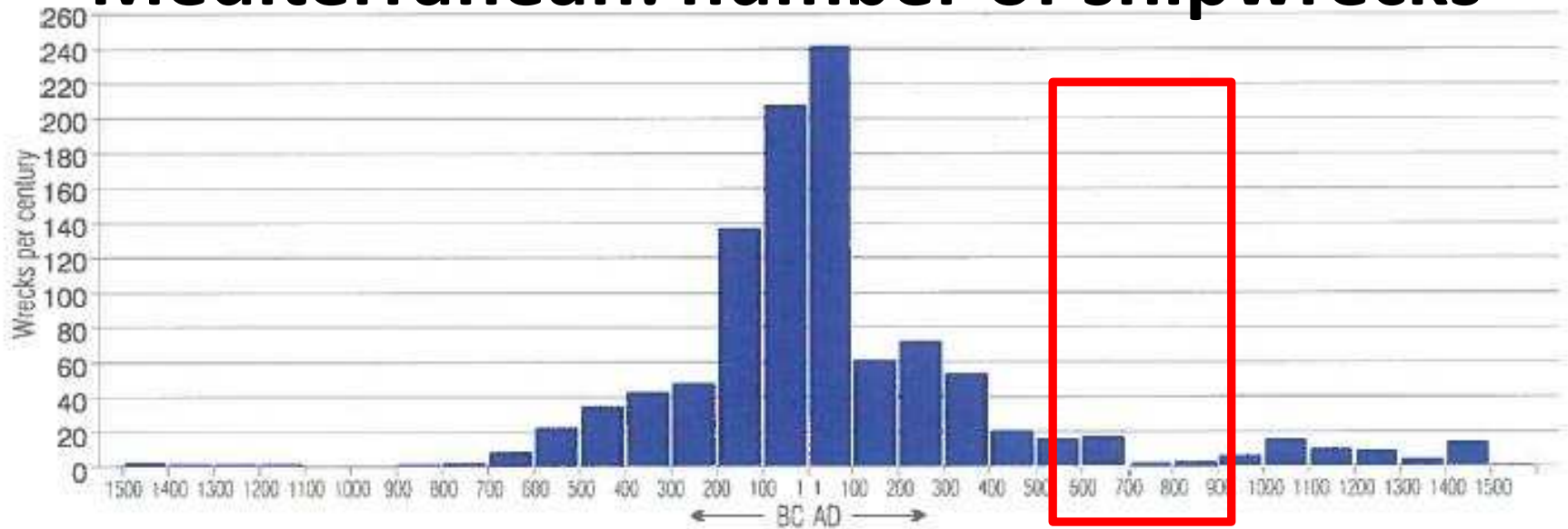


# The port of Elaiussa Sebaste, mid-6th to mid-7th cent. AD: local elites with health problems

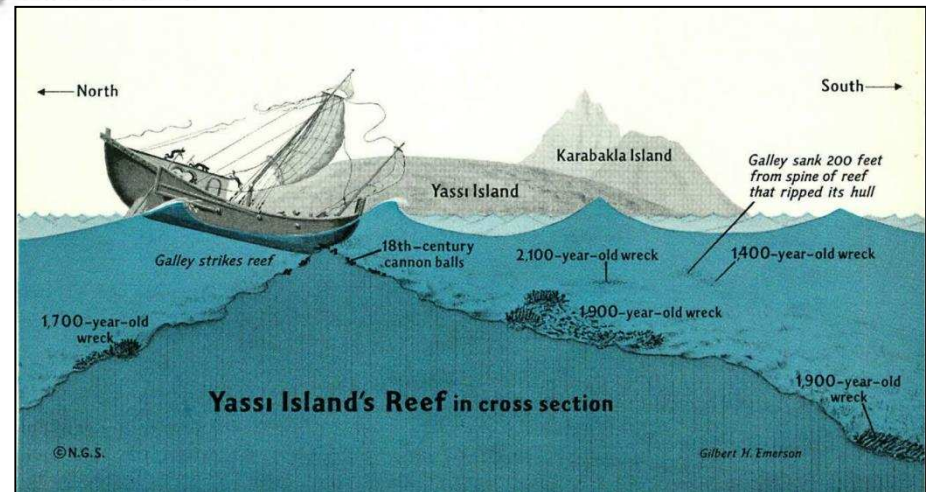


Journal of Comparative Human Biology 58  
(2007) 173–190

# The decline of maritime trade in the Mediterranean: number of shipwrecks



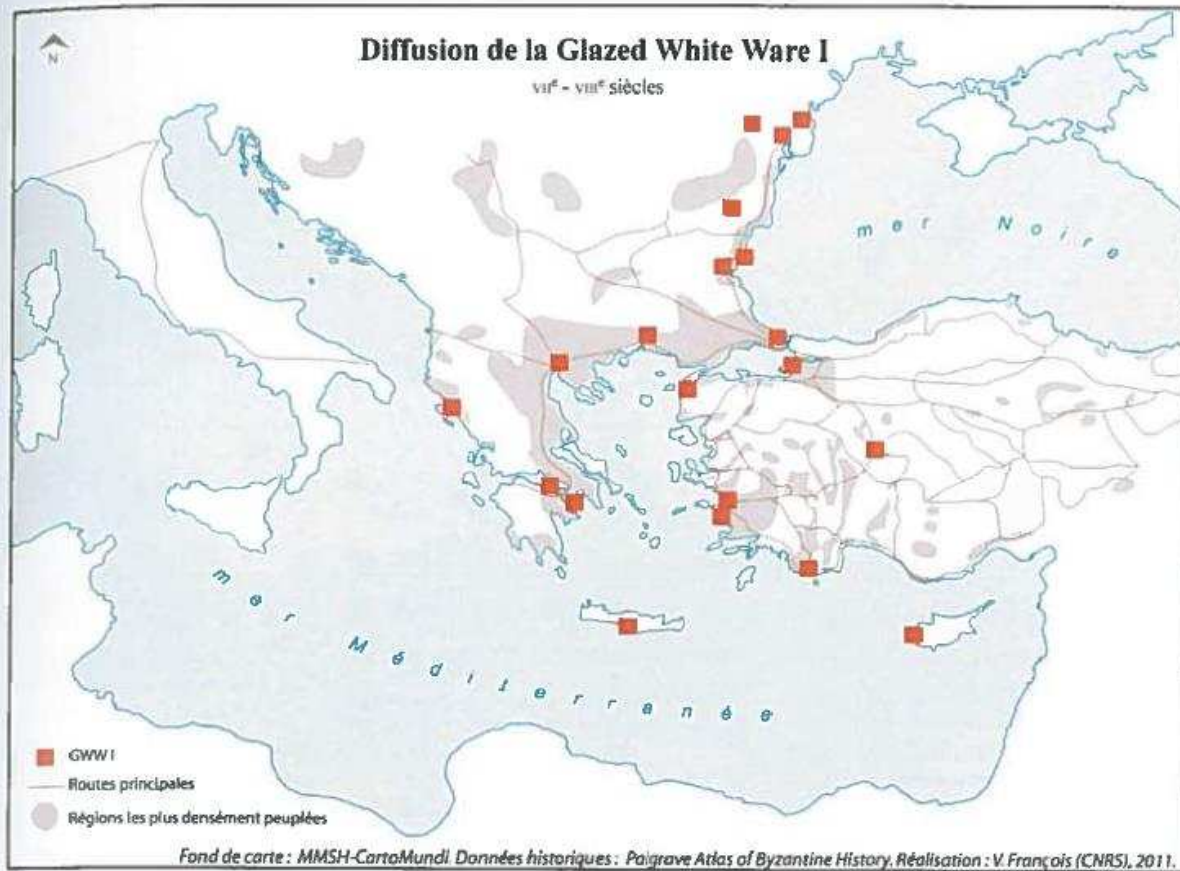
**Figure 2.4.** Mediterranean shipwrecks datable within 100-year ranges (n=1,062), graphed according to an equal probability of sinking in any year during the date range for each wreck. (Data collected by Julia Strauss.)



From: Robinson – Wilson (ed.), 2011



# The shrinking trade and empire of the „Blue Glass People“



Carte 5. Distribution côtière dans des zones densément peuplées



Véronique FRANÇOIS, 2012

<https://www.doaks.org/research/support-for-research/project-grants/reports/2011-2012/zanini>



# 21 harbours and landing sites

Harbours and landing sites documented for Central and Western Greece, 8th cent. CE (map: J. Preisler-Kapeller, 2014)

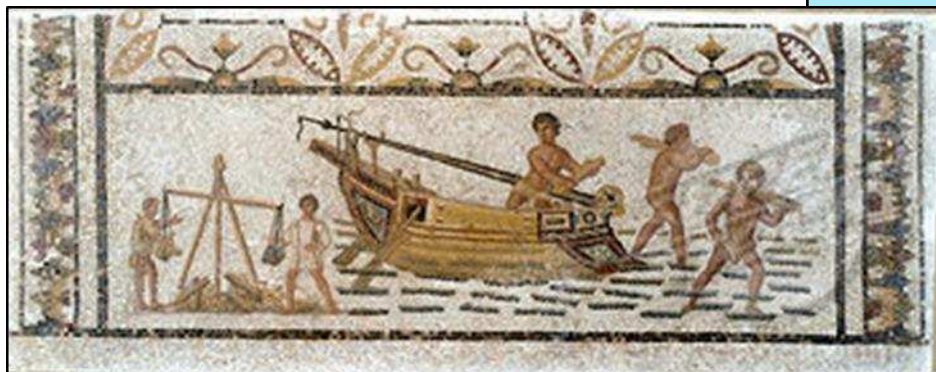
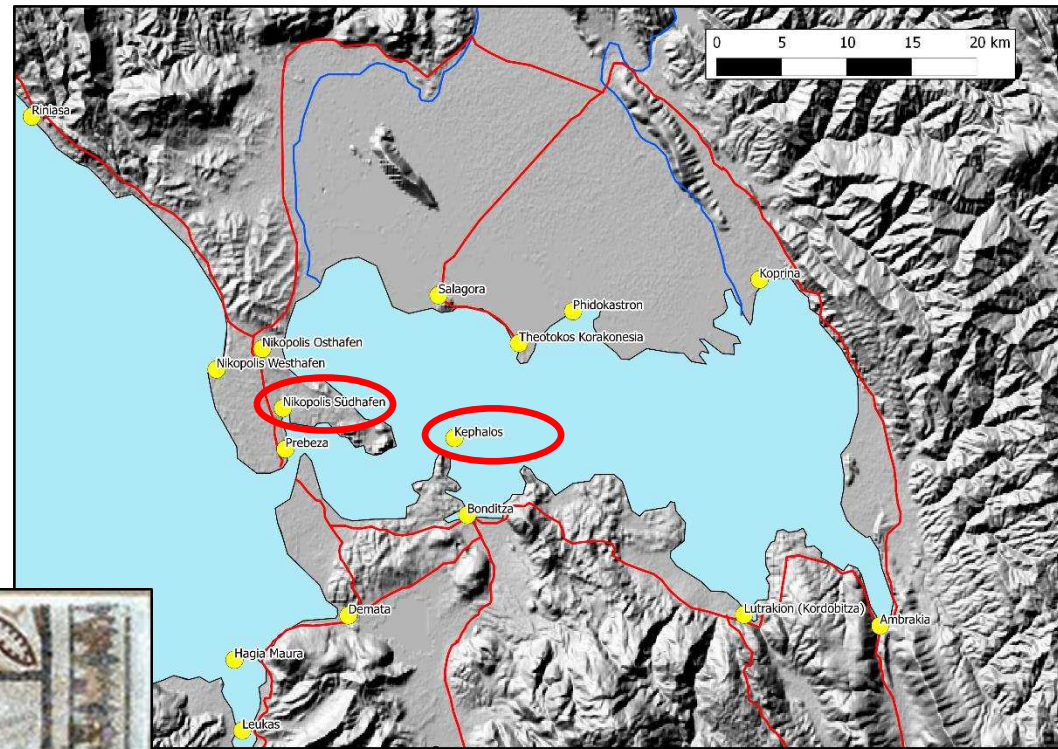
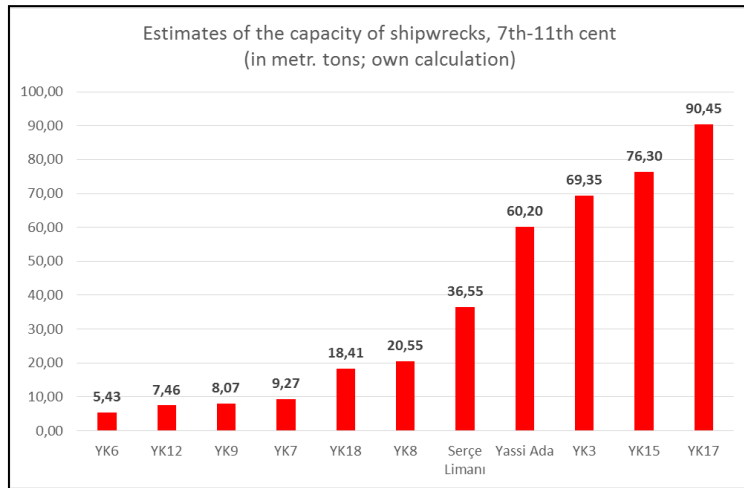
Harbours and landing sites

- use documented
- ▲ use assumed





# Smaller ships and harbours, the relocation of ports and settlements under security aspects



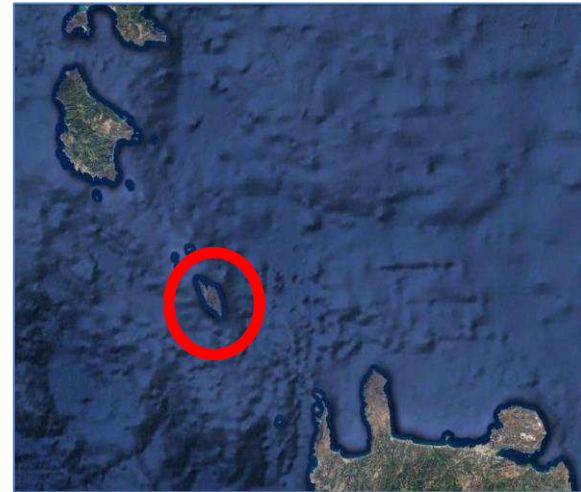
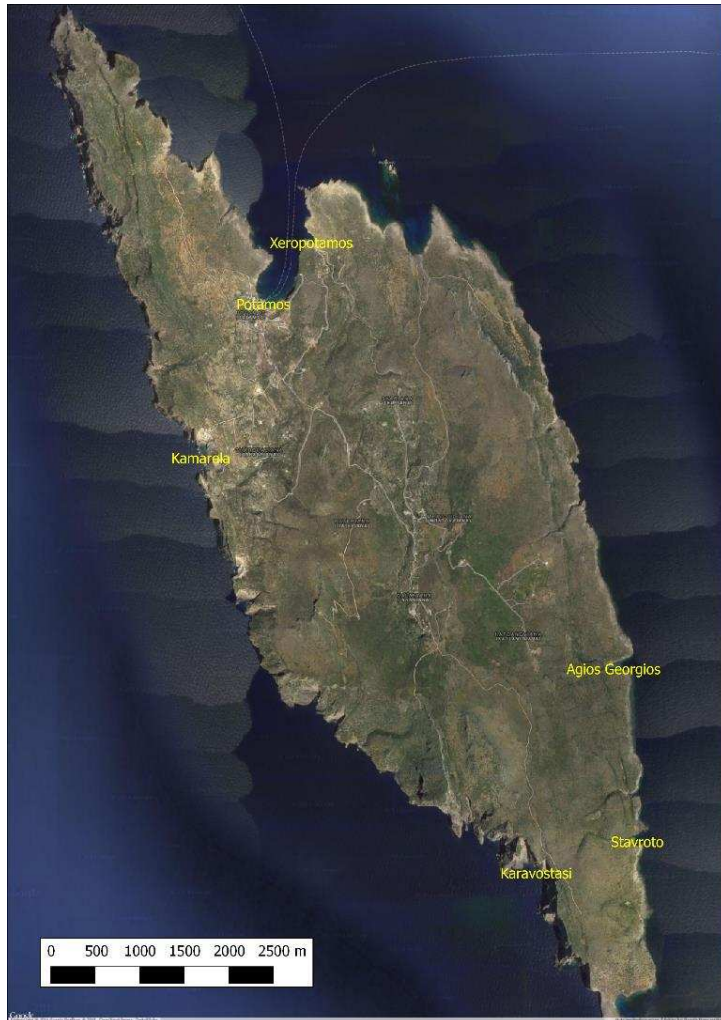


# „Why, for example, did some coastal settlements flourish as commercial towns without artificial ports?“ (Horden/Purcell 2000)



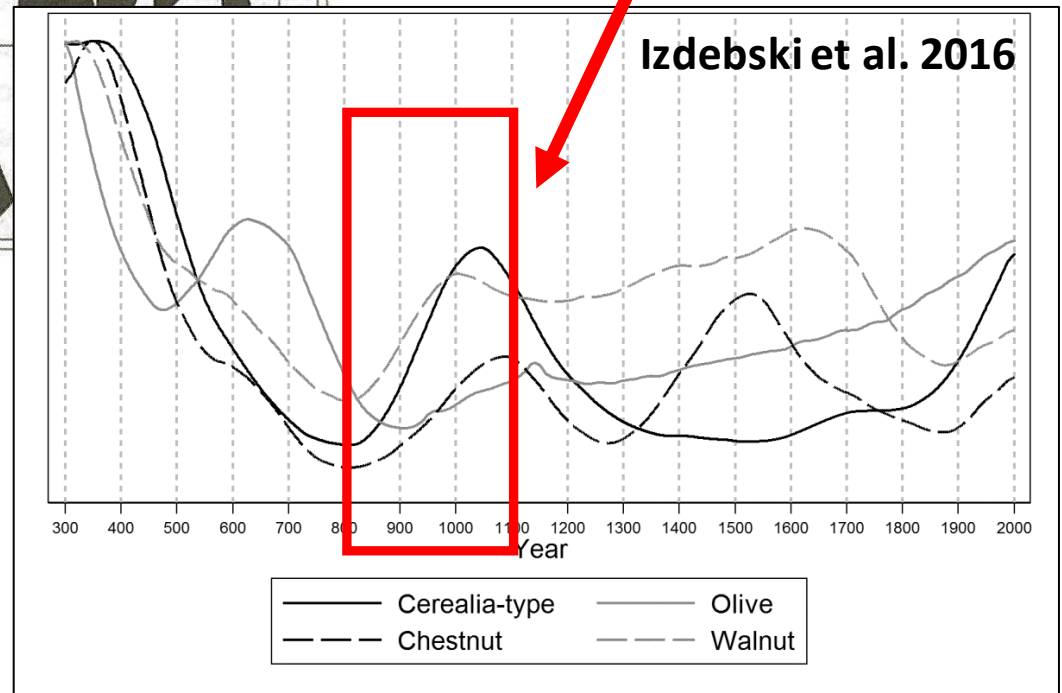
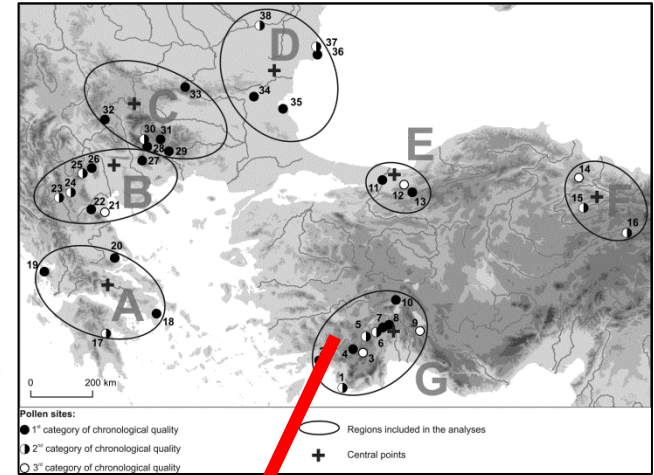
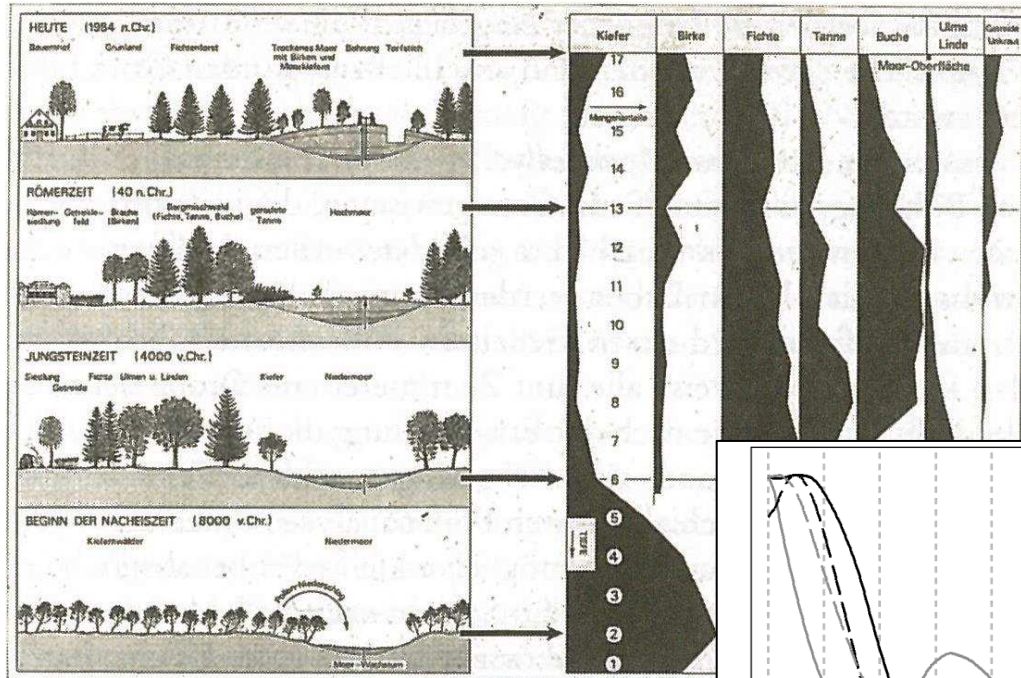


# Six landing sites on Antikythera



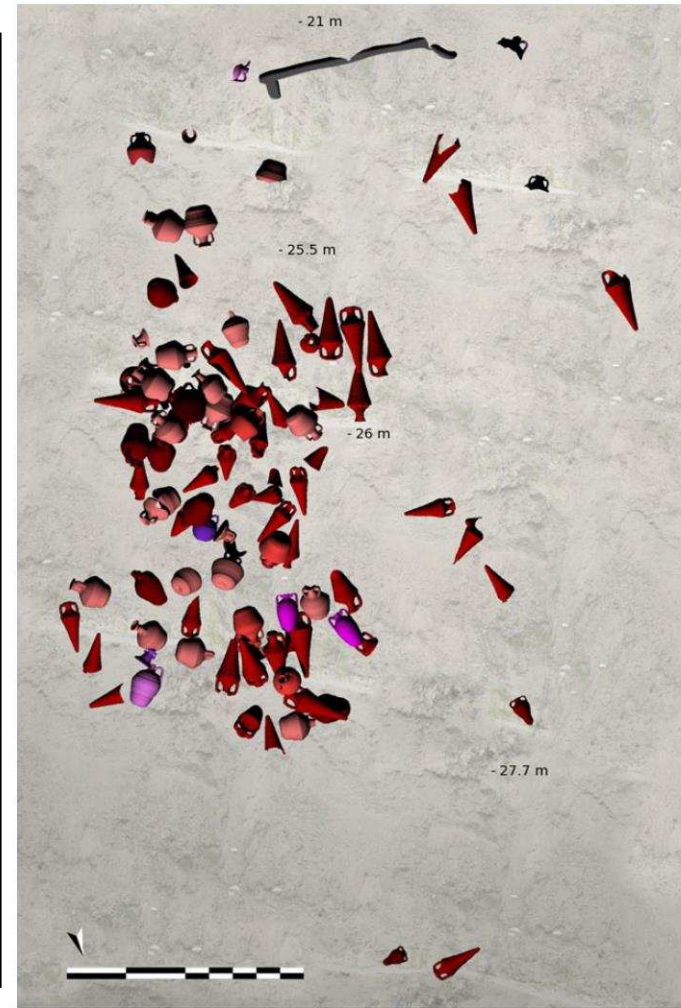
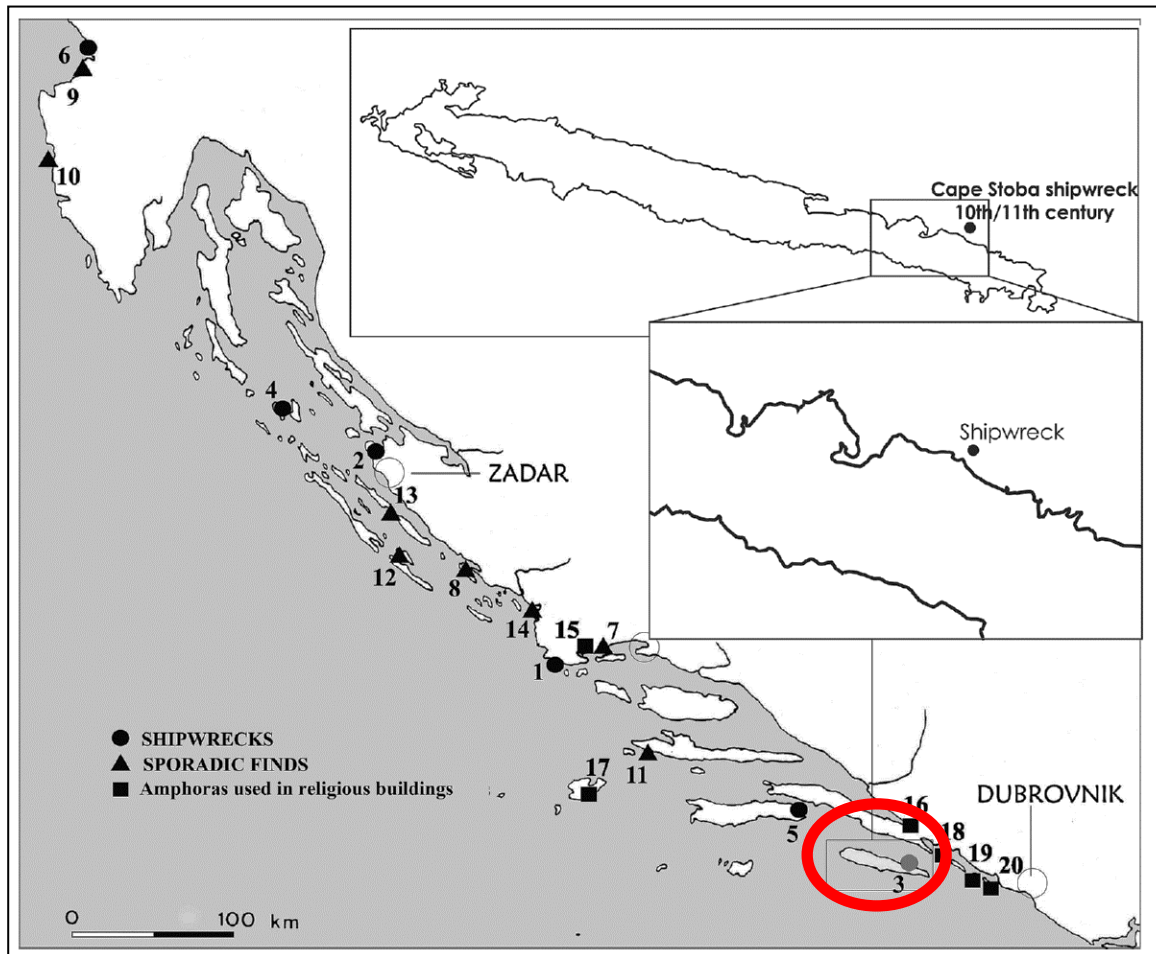
Cf. Bevan – Conolly 2013

# Re-expansion of agricultural activity in SW-Asia Minor in the 9th-11th cent. AD





# The shipwreck from Cape Stoba, Mljet, Croatia (10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> cent. AD)



The International Journal of Nautical  
Archaeology (2016) 45.1: 42–58

Figure 4. Plan of the wreck-site of Cape Stoba 2010–2014. Different amphora types are marked with different colours. (E. Costa)

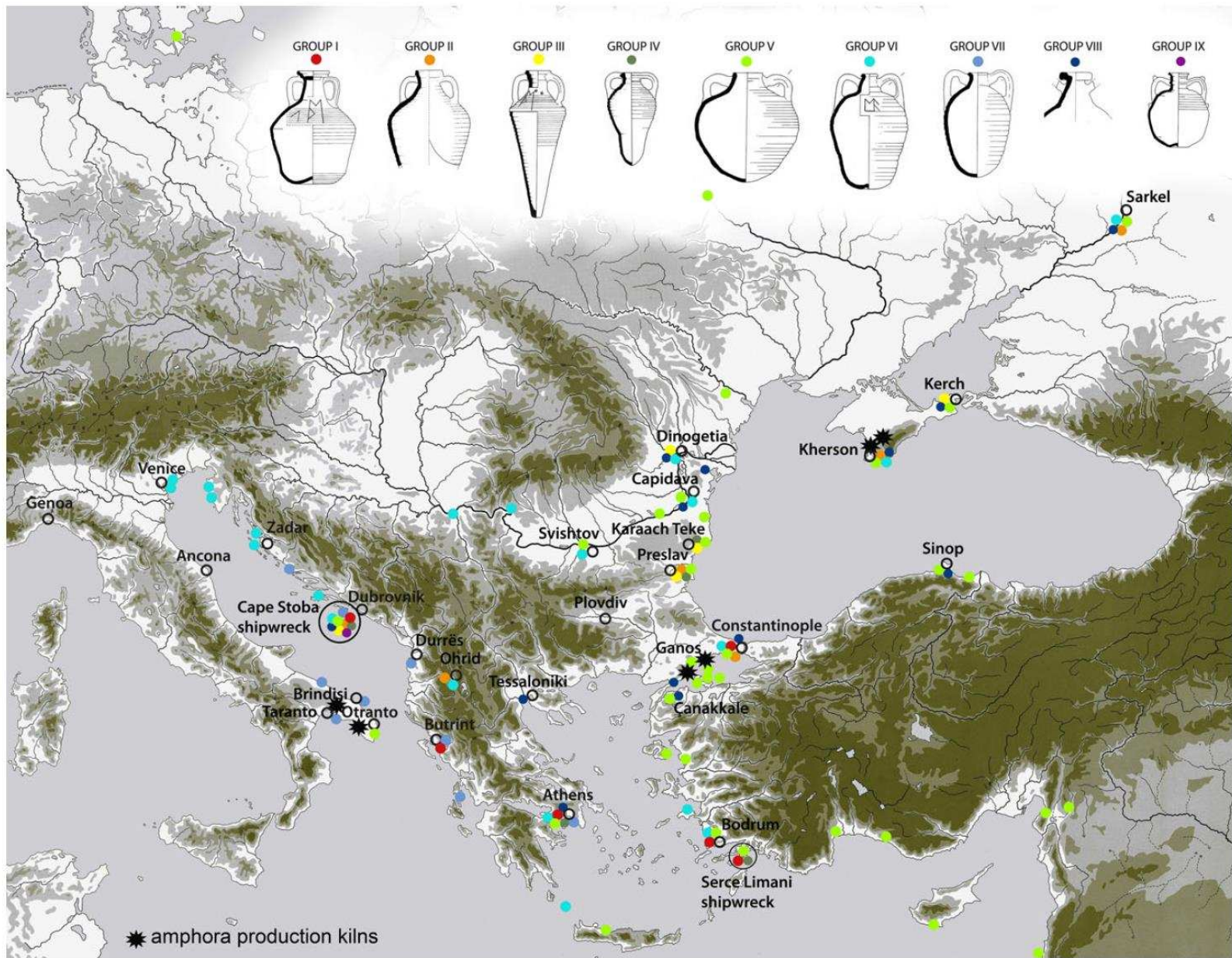
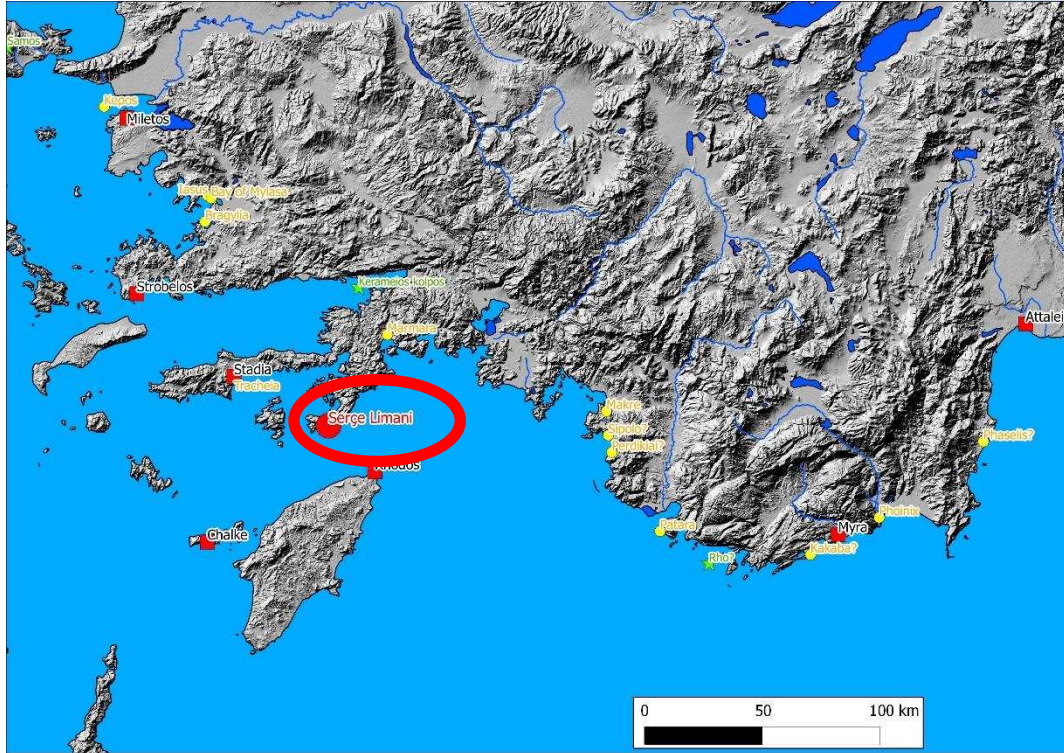


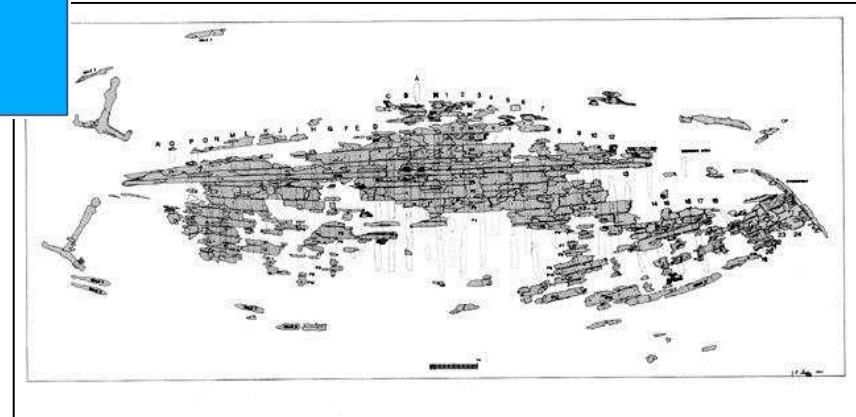
Figure 8. Distribution of Middle Byzantine amphora types found on the Cape Stoba wreck-site. (Drawing: V. Zmaić Kralj)



# The shipwreck of Serçe Limanı in SW Asia minor, 11th cent. AD

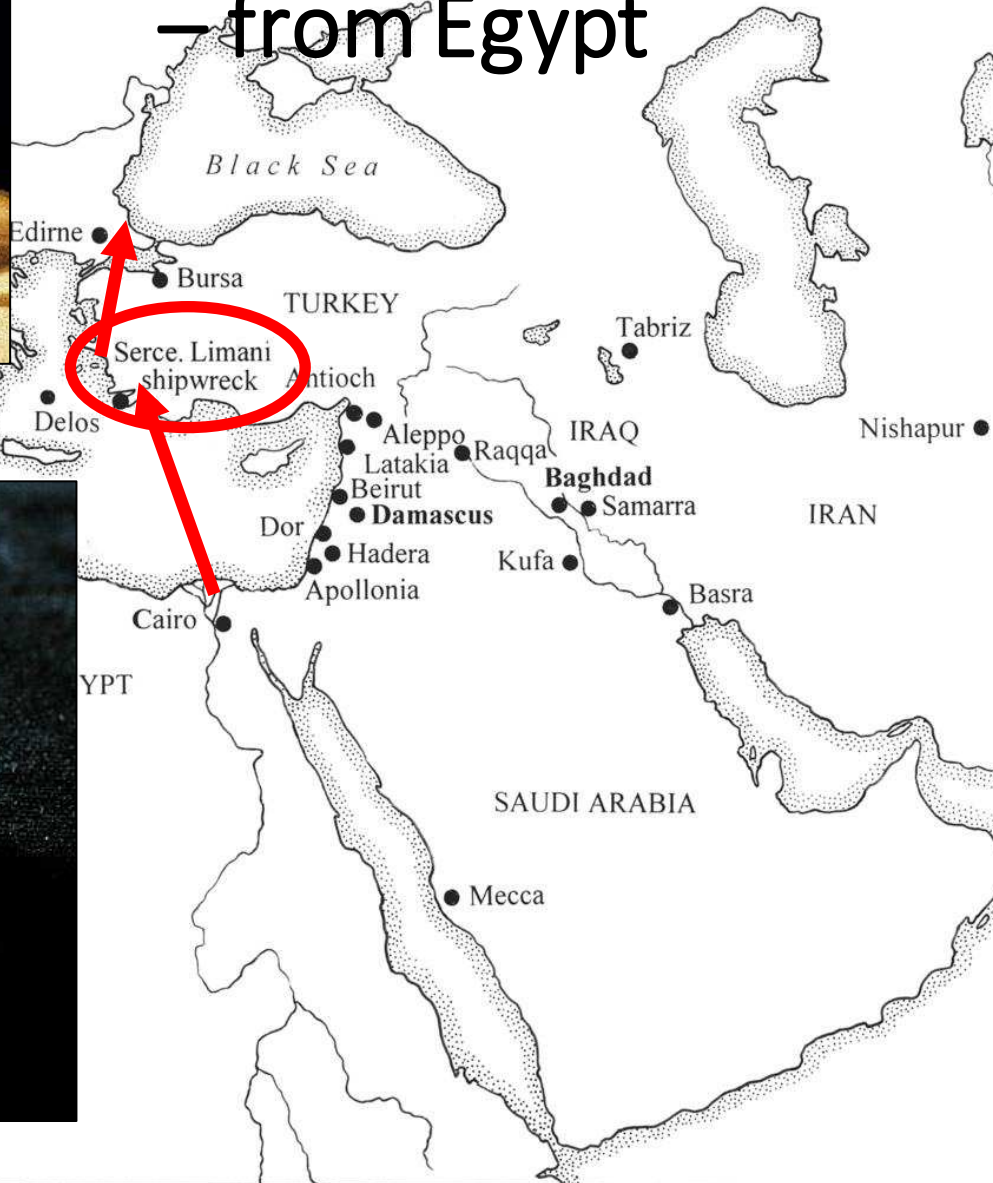


Serçe Limanı. An Eleventh-Century Shipwreck. Vol. 1, The Ship and Its Anchorage, Crew, and Passengers, by George F. Bass, Sheila Matthews, J. Richard Steffy, and Frederick H. van Doorninck, Jr. Texas A&M University Press, 2004.





# A freight of glass — from Egypt





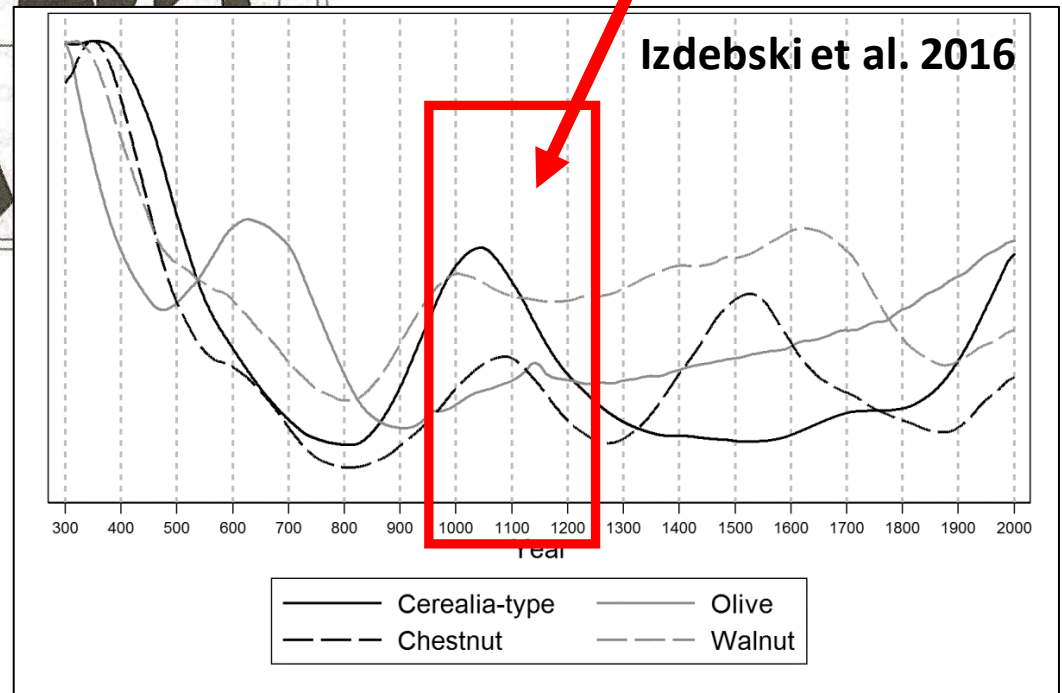
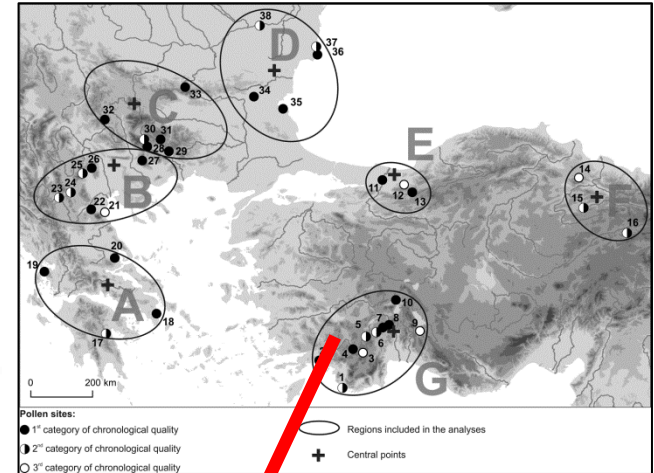
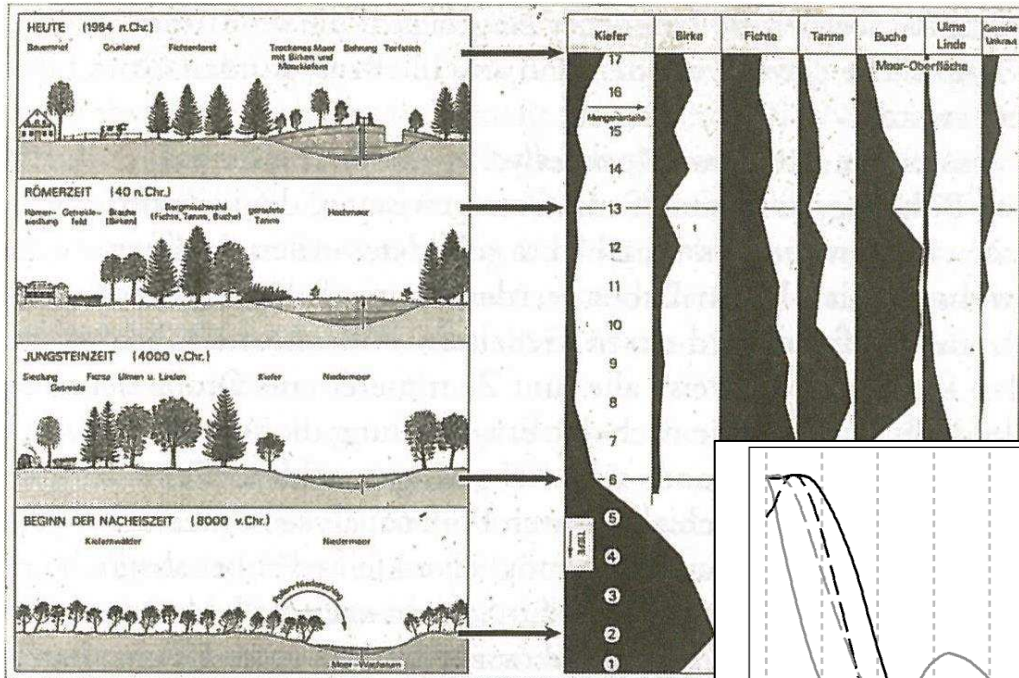
# Ivory in the Mediterranean, Walrus, Iceland, Greenland and isotopes



Hunting bag made from Walrus ivory, 11th-12th cent. Mainz Landesmuseum

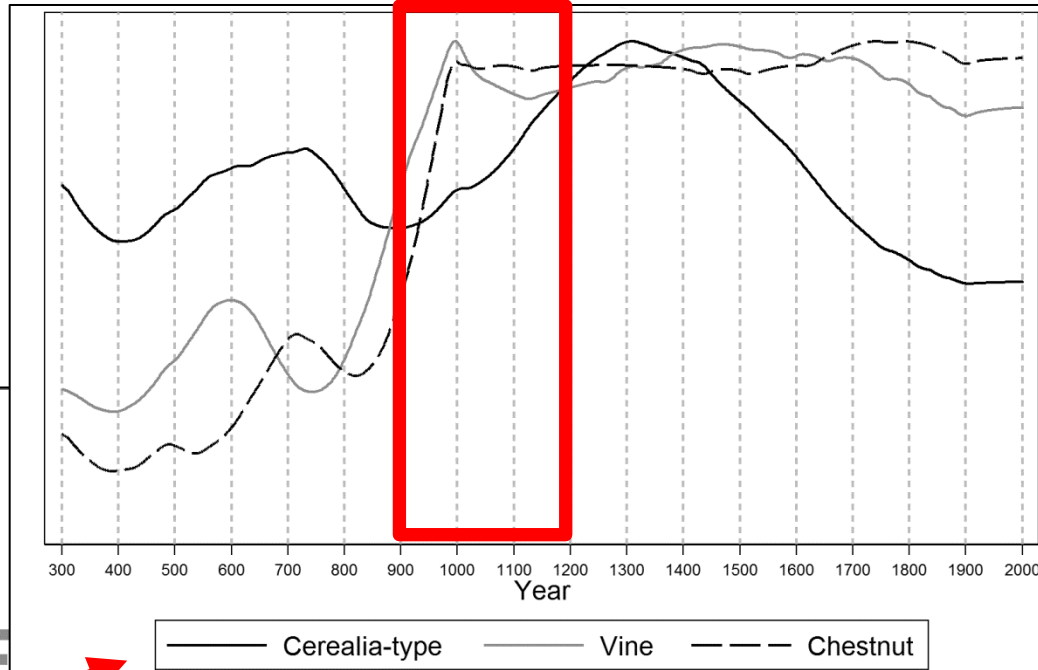
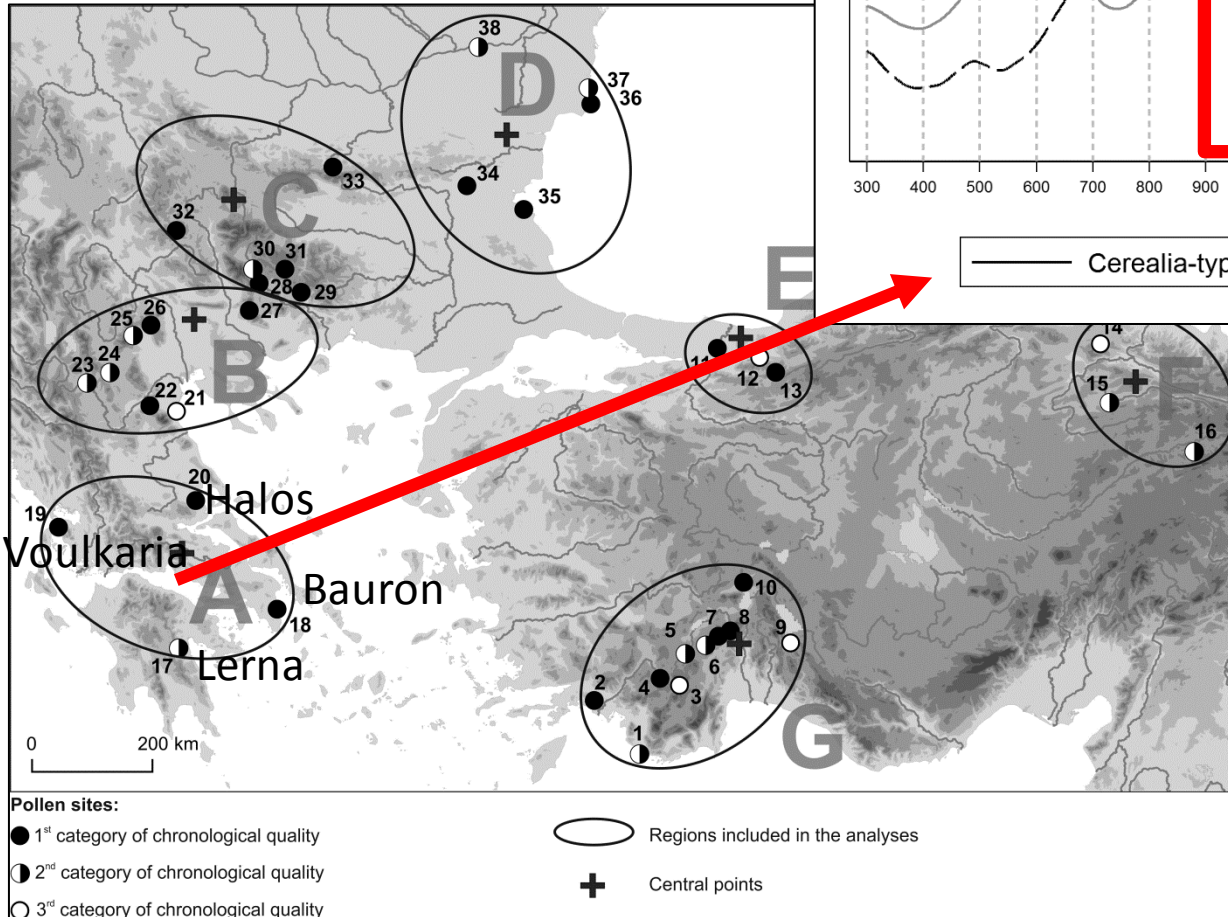
Figure 1 Location map of areas mentioned in the text (courtesy of Christian K Madsen).

# Pollen and sediments: decline of agricultural activity SW-Asia Minor in the late 11th and 12th century AD





# Continued growth in Central Greece



A. IZDEBSKI –  
 G. KOLOCH –  
 T. SŁOCZYŃSKI, Exploring  
 Byzantine and Ottoman  
 economic history with the  
 use of palynological data:  
 a quantitative approach.  
 JÖB 65 (2015) 67–110.

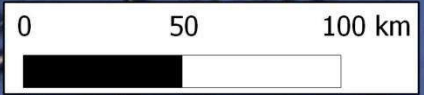


# 69 harbours and landing sites

Harbours and landing sites documented for Central and Western Greece, 12th cent. CE (map: J. Preisler-Kapeller, 2014)

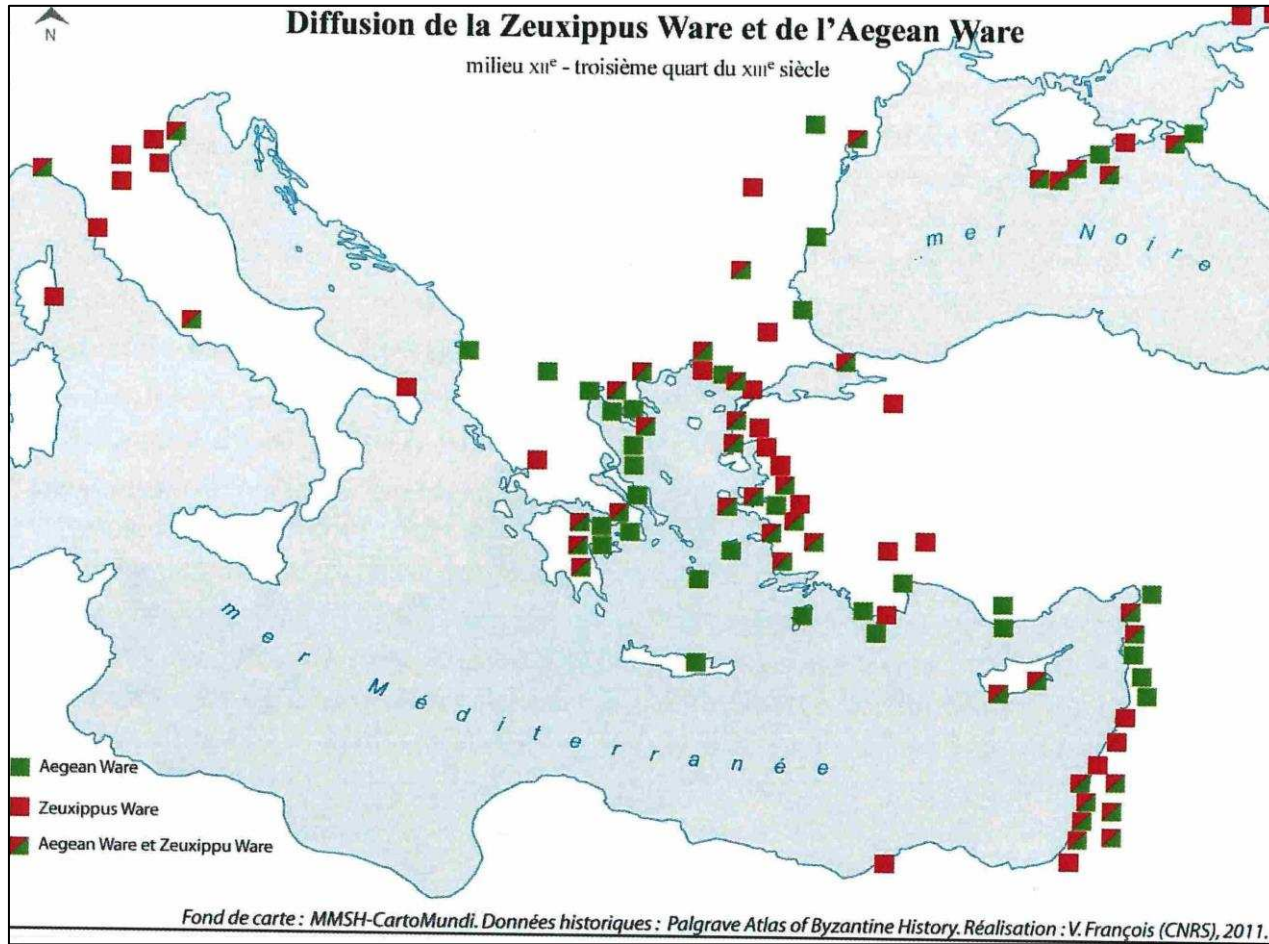
Harbours and landing sites

- use documented
- ▲ use assumed





# The flourishing Mediterranean maritime trade of the „People of the Blue Glass“ in the 12th and 13th cent. AD



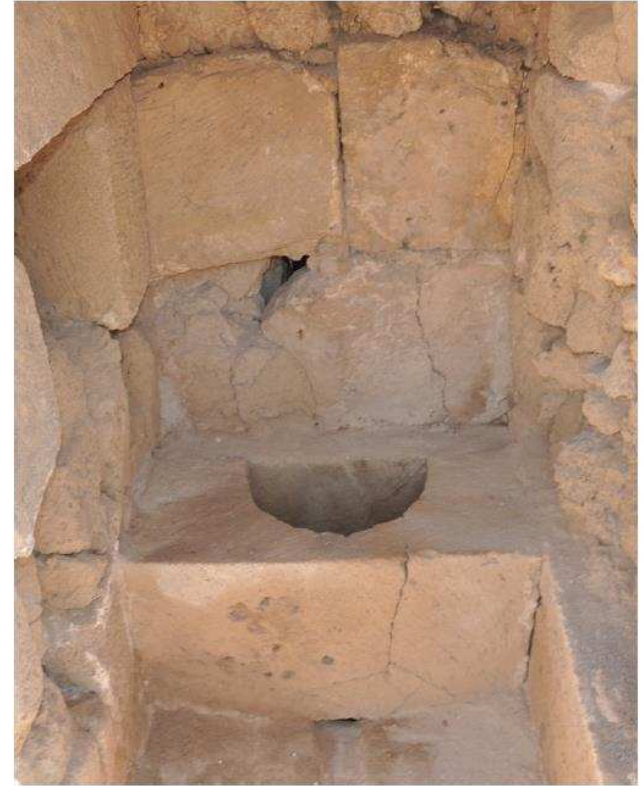
Véronique FRANÇOIS, 2012



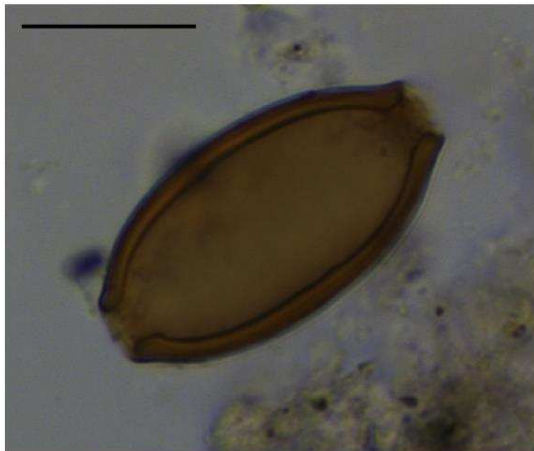
# Newcomers from Western Europe: human intestinal parasites from a latrine in the 12th century Frankish castle of Saranda Kolones in Paphos on Cyprus



**Fig. 1.** Map of Cyprus and aerial photograph of the castle of Saranda Kolones. The arrow indicates the geographic location of the castle in Paphos.



**Fig. 3.** The south latrine on the northwest pier of Saranda Kolones castle, from where samples were taken. Sediment from the cesspool was taken by reaching down through the hole in the latrine seat.



**Fig. 5.** *Trichuris trichiura* egg from Saranda Kolones castle. Measures  $46\ \mu\text{m} \times 22\ \mu\text{m}$ . Scale bar measures  $20\ \mu\text{m}$ .



# Changes in the production of glazed ceramics in the 13th cent. in Corinth

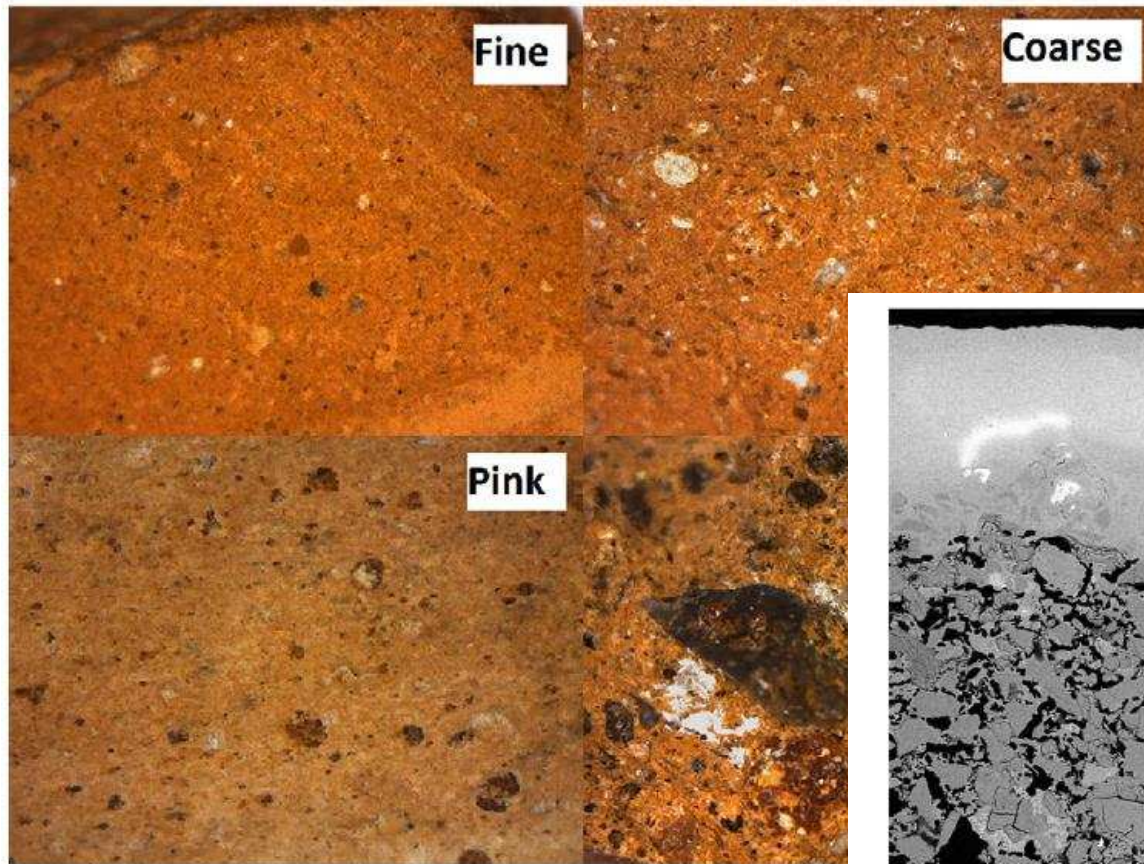


Fig. 2. Representative examples of redware fabrics (FOM images, mag

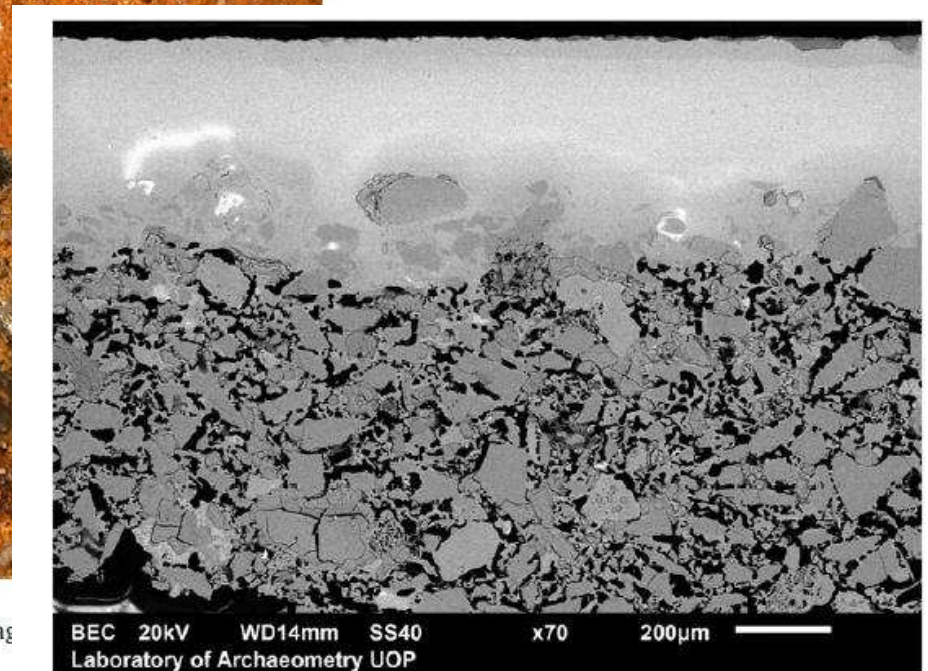


Fig. 4. Representative SEM image of a Group II sample. The quartz grains are bonded together by interparticle glass, suggesting a stonepaste body.

**Late medieval Peloponnese, 20 sites  
resp. survey areas, 9 types of locally  
produced ceramics and 14 types of  
imported ceramics  
(cf. Vroom, 2011, p. 414)**

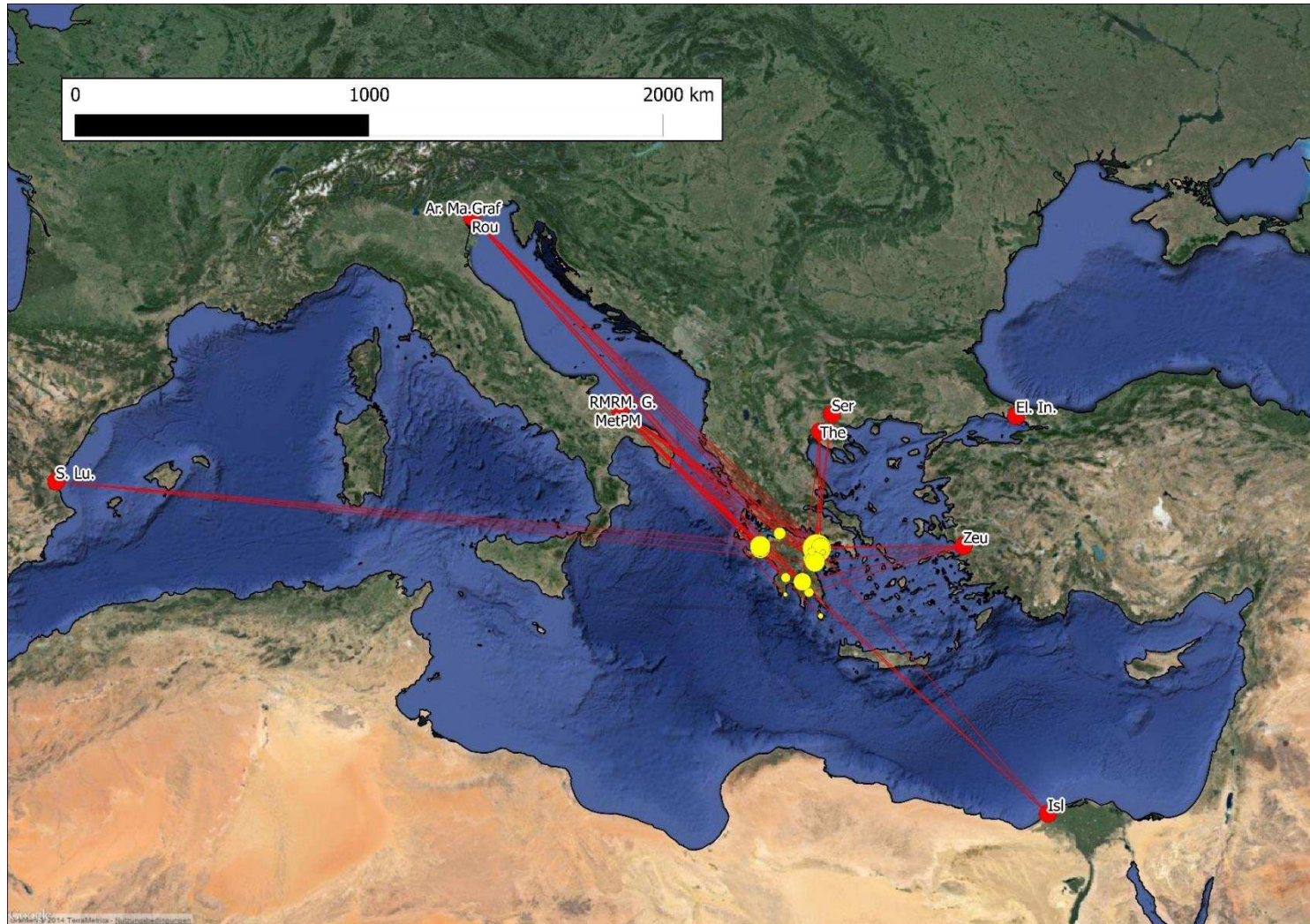
ID	Name	Type
1	Meas	Measles Ware
2	FineSg.	Fine Sgraffito Ware
3	Inc.Sg.	Incised Sgraffito Ware
4	Champ.	Champlevé Ware
5	L.Slip.	Late Slip-painted Ware
6	Mon.Gl.	Monochrome Glazed ware
7	Mon.Sg.	Monochrome Sgraffito Ware
8	Pol.Sg.	Polychrome Sgraffito Ware
9	Zeux.V.	Zeuxippus Ware Variants

ID	Name	Latitude	Longitude
1	Ay.Stephanos	36.818320	22.629877
2	Andravidia	37.905833	21.266667
3	Argos	37.637778	22.727222
4	Berbati-L.	37.713240	22.880162
5	Chlemoutsi	37.89	21.142083
6	Corinth	37.889167	22.869722
7	Isthmia	37.915278	22.9925
8	Glarentza	37.940762	21.138833
9	Kenchreai	37.885	22.9875
10	Kythera	36.24	22.986667
11	Lakonia	36.994427	22.533020
12	Messene	37.175501	21.920439
13	Mystras	37.066389	22.376389
14	Nauplion	37.562222	22.807222
15	Nemea	37.807944	22.711944
16	Nichoria	37.002222	21.914167
17	Patras	38.246389	21.735
18	Sparta	37.073333	22.429722
19	Tsalika	37.793184	23.053449
20	Vasilitsi	36.764454	21.908997

ID	Name	Type
1	Ser	Polychrome Sgraffito Ware from Serres
2	The	Monochrome and Polychrome Sgraffito wares from Thessaloniki
3	Zeu	Zeuxippus Ware from Western Asia Minor (?)
4	M. G.	Monochrome Glazed Ware from Southern Italy
5	El. In.	Elaborate Incised Ware from NW-Turkey/N-Greece
6	PM	Proto-Maiolica from Southern Italy
7	RMR	'RMR' Ware from Southern Italy
8	Pai	Polychrome Painted Ware from Southern Italy
9	Met	'Metallic Ware' from Southern Italy
10	Rou	'Roulette Ware' from Northern Italy
11	Ar. Ma.	Archaic Maiolica from Northern Italy
12	Graf	Polychrome Sgraffito Wares ('graffita') from Northern Italy
13	Isl	Islamic Wares
14	S. Lu.	Spanish Lustre Wares

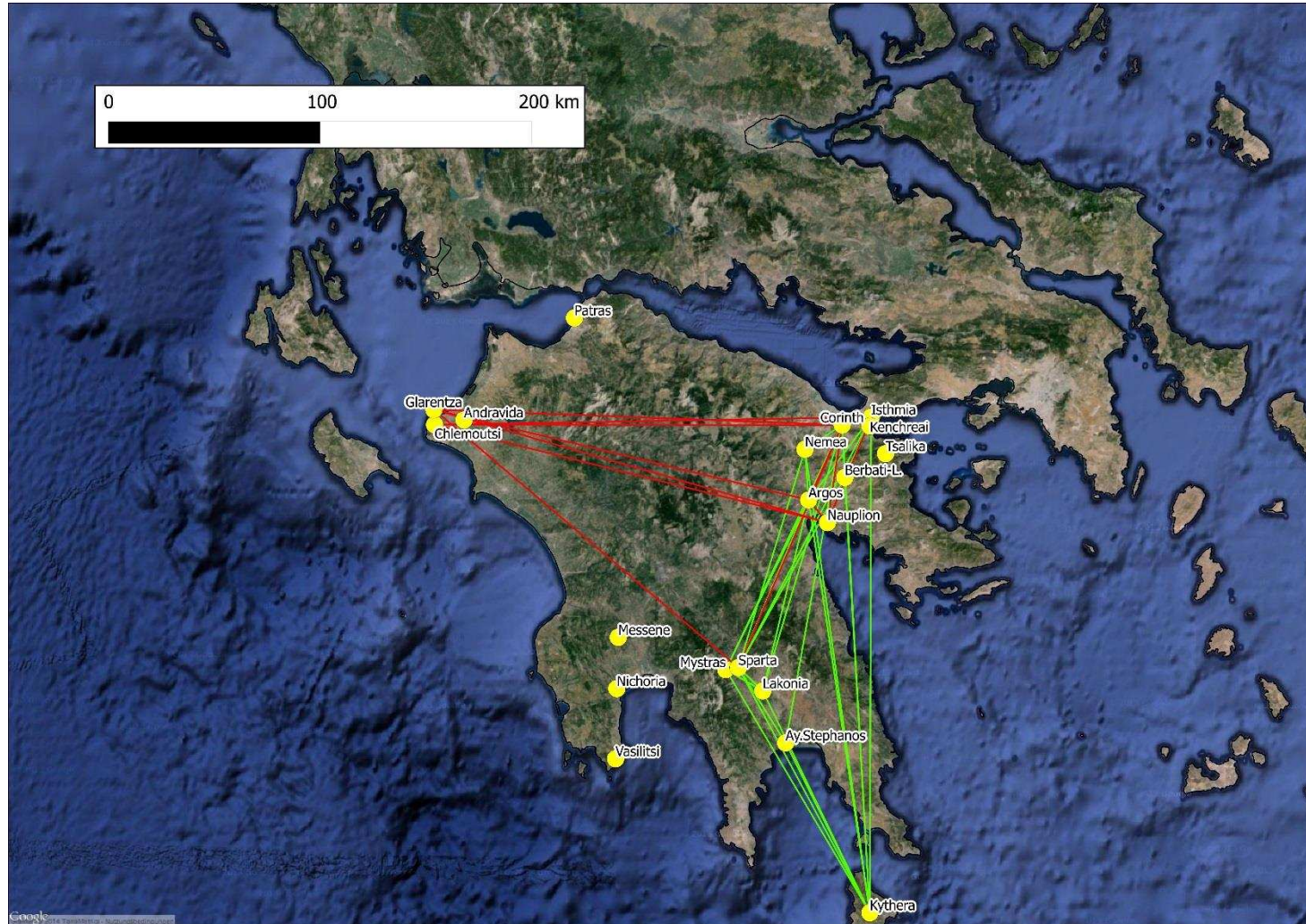


# Regions of origin of imported ceramic types on the Peloponnese, 13th-15th cent.



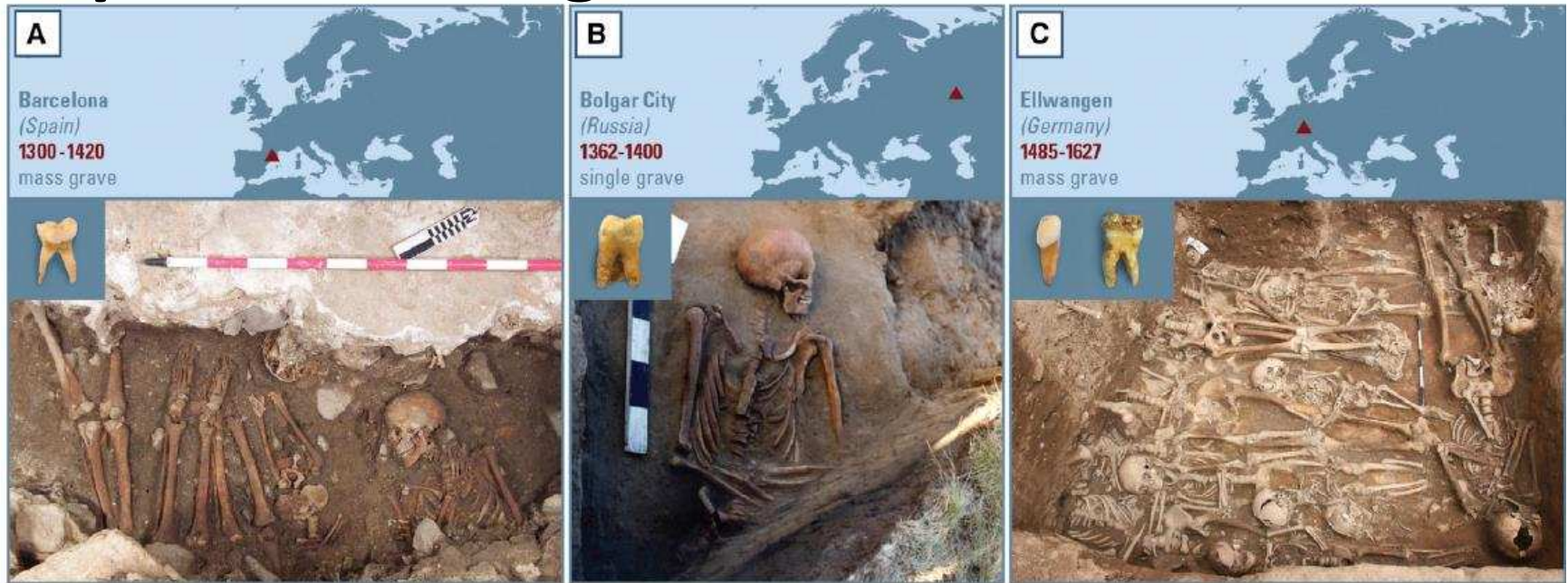


# Axes of distribution of for the **imported types** and for the **locally produced types** of ceramics





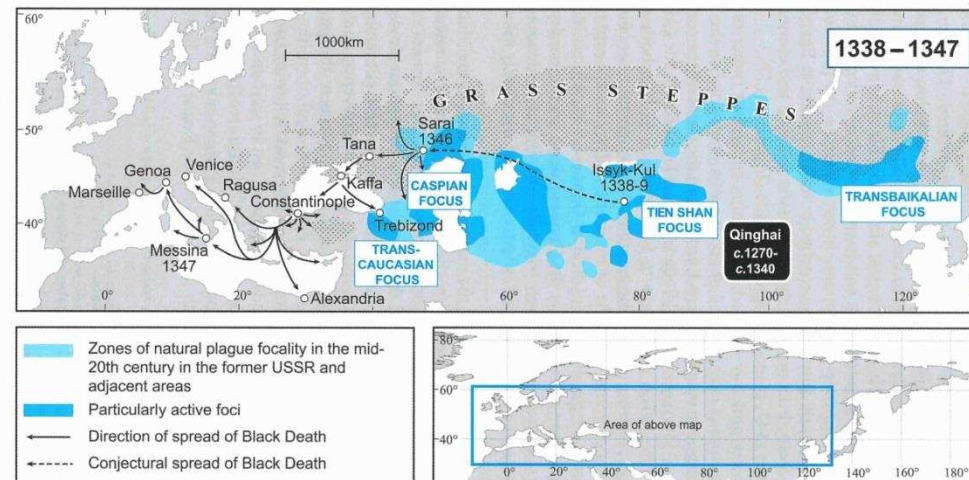
# Another wave of epidemics of *Yersinia pestis* starting in the mid-14th cent.



**Figure 1. Samples and Their Respective Locations**

- (A) Tooth sample that was positive for *Y. pestis* (3031) and mass grave
- (B) *Y. pestis*-positive tooth sample and picture of infected individual (2)
- (C) Picture of mass grave in Ellwangen, and two tooth samples from it

Spyrou et al., 2016, Cell Host & Microbe  
19, 874–881



**Figure 4.9** The spread of plague from Asia to Europe, 1338–47

Sources: Norris (1977), 12, 20; Benedictow (2004), map 1; Christakos and others (2005), 244–59

From: Campbell 2016



# The macro- and micro-dynamics of maritime trade and socio-economic parameters of the „People of the Blue Glass“

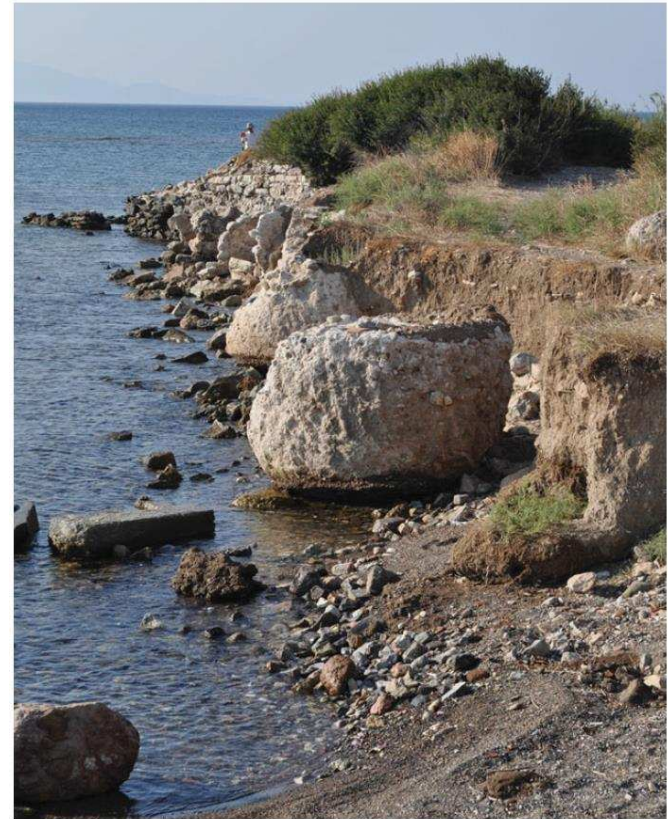
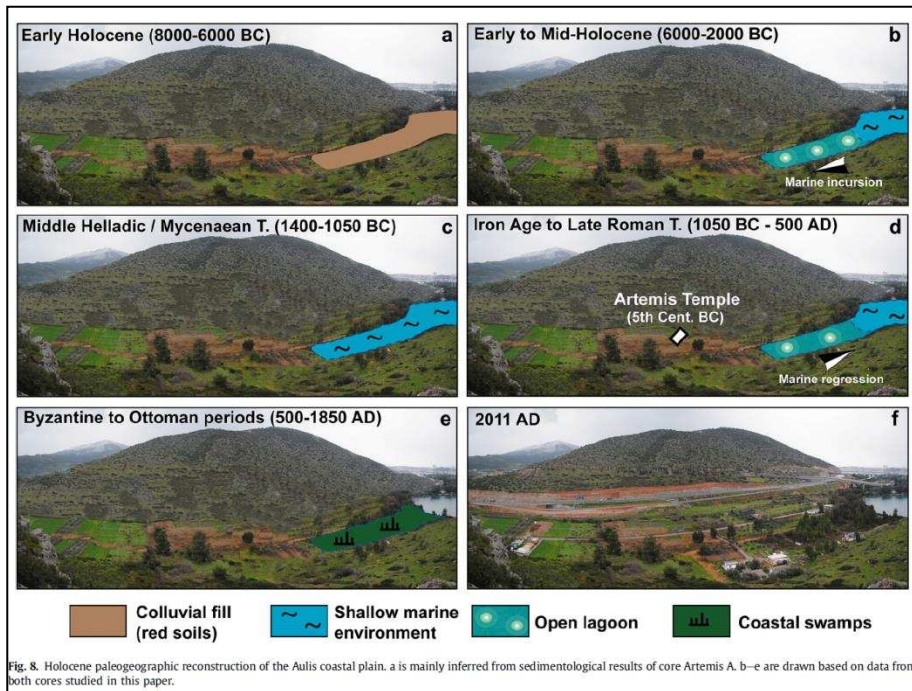
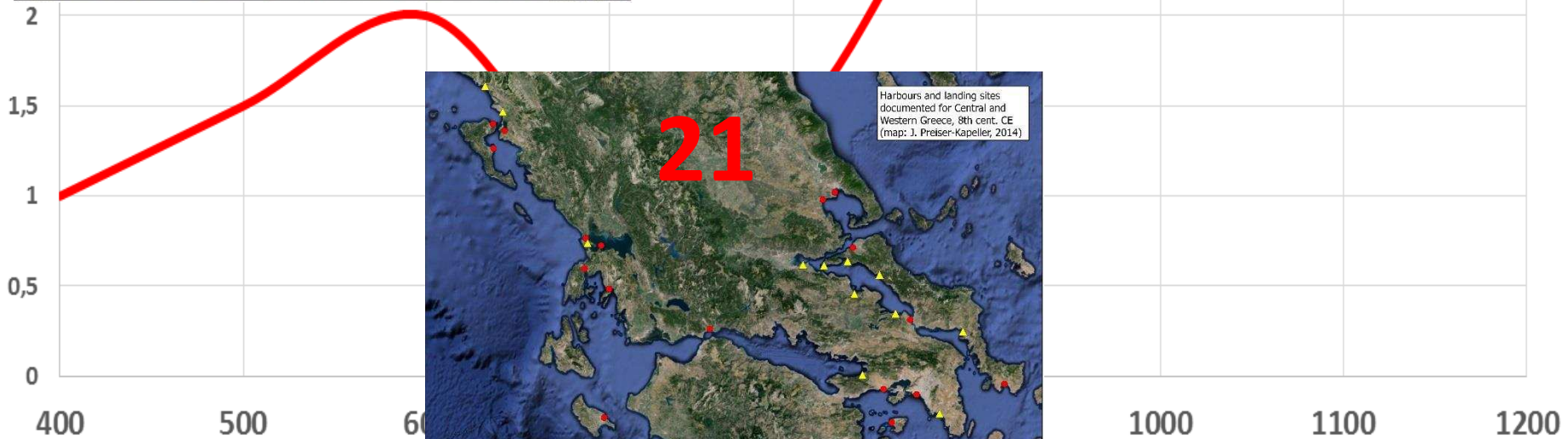
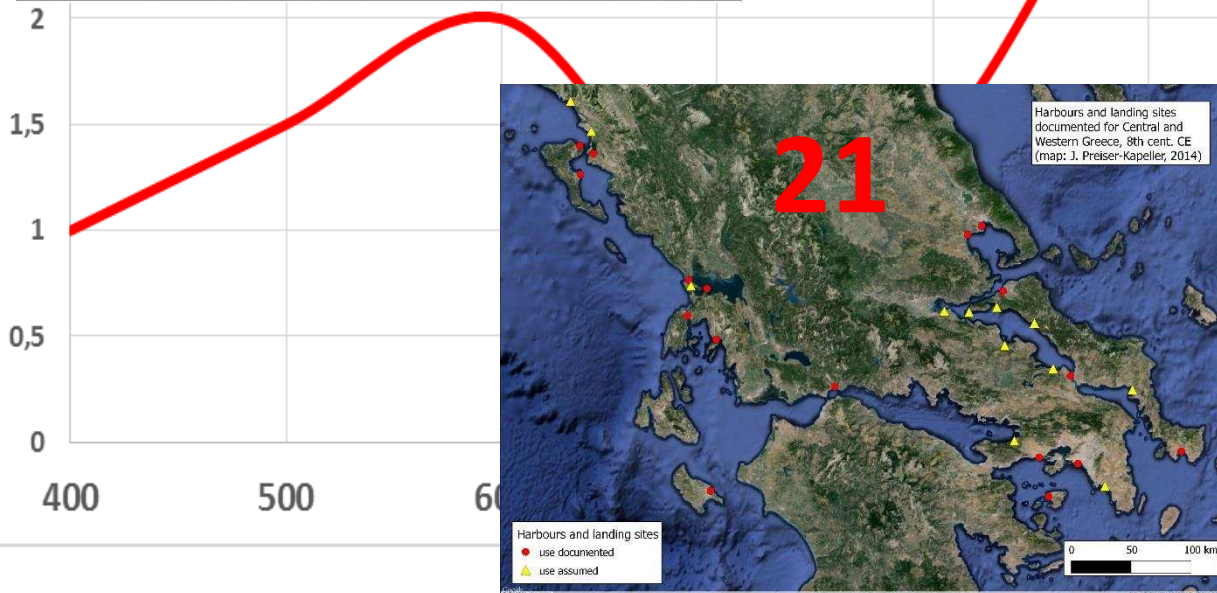
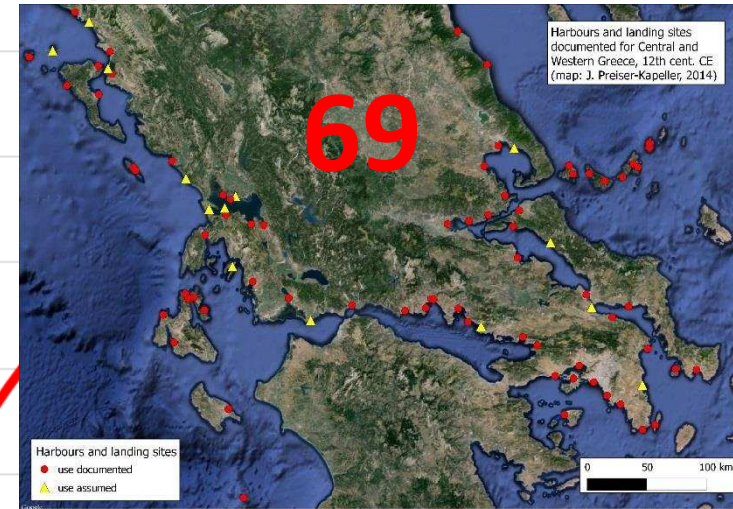
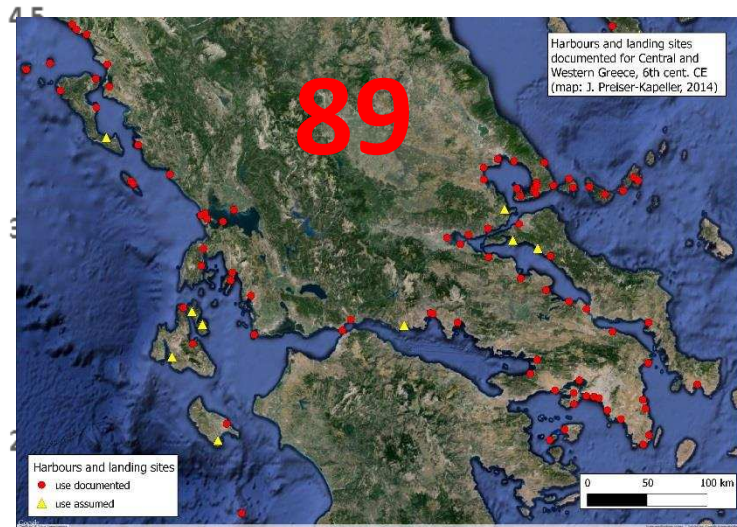


Figure 3. Facilities for production and storage of wine along the south-west edge of Harbour 4 (L4), including large built dolia eroding out of the scarp and a fragmentary wine press visible in the water. (E. S. Greene)

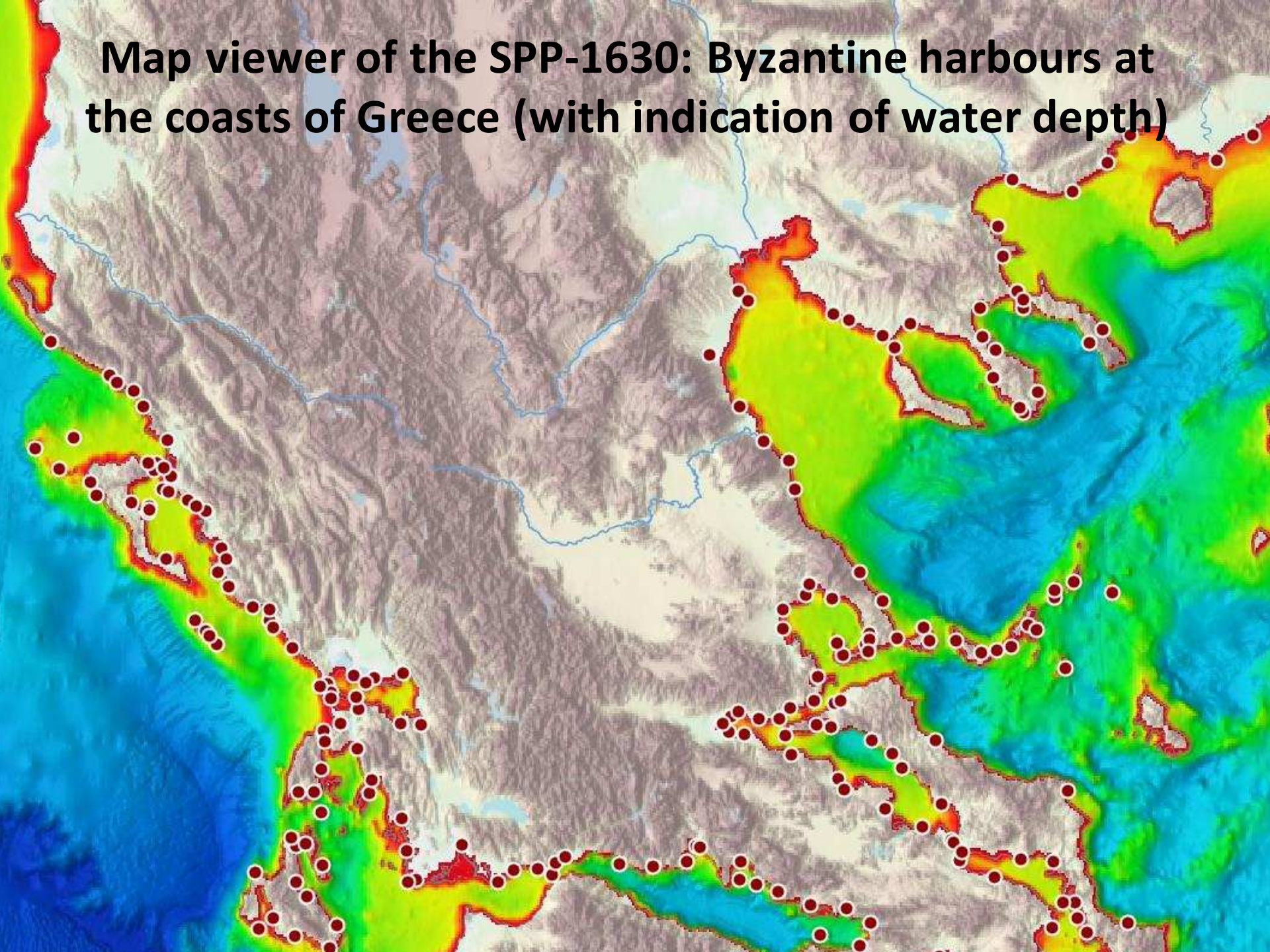


# Trendline of Vine pollen in Central Greece (after Izdebski et al. 2016)



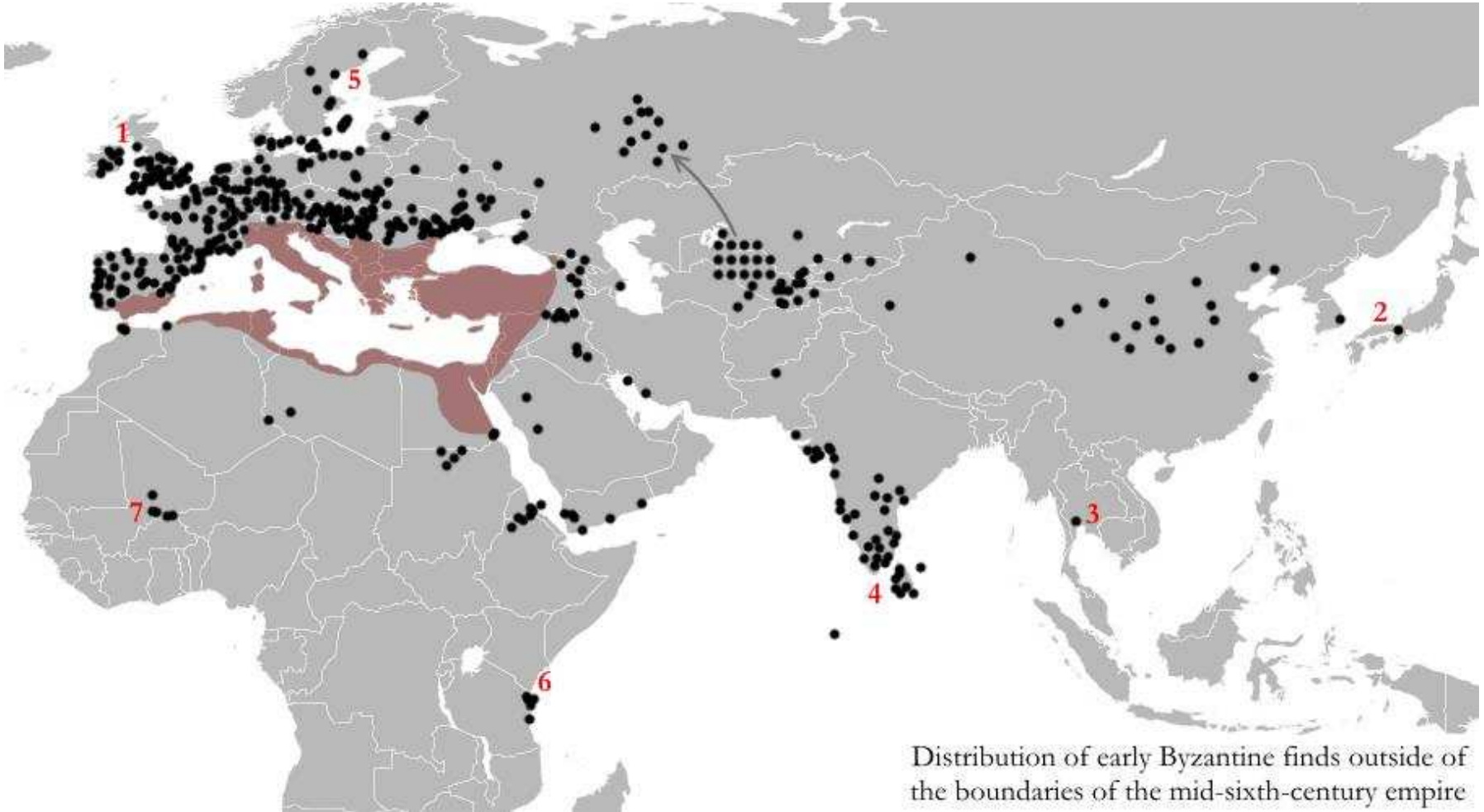


**Map viewer of the SPP-1630: Byzantine harbours at the coasts of Greece (with indication of water depth)**





# The global connectivity of the „People of the Blue Glass“



Distribution of early Byzantine finds outside of the boundaries of the mid-sixth-century empire

<http://www.caitlingreen.org/2017/03/a-very-long-way-from-home.html>

# Dates of publication of studies used for this presentation

Σας ευχαριστώ πολύ για την προσοχή σας!

