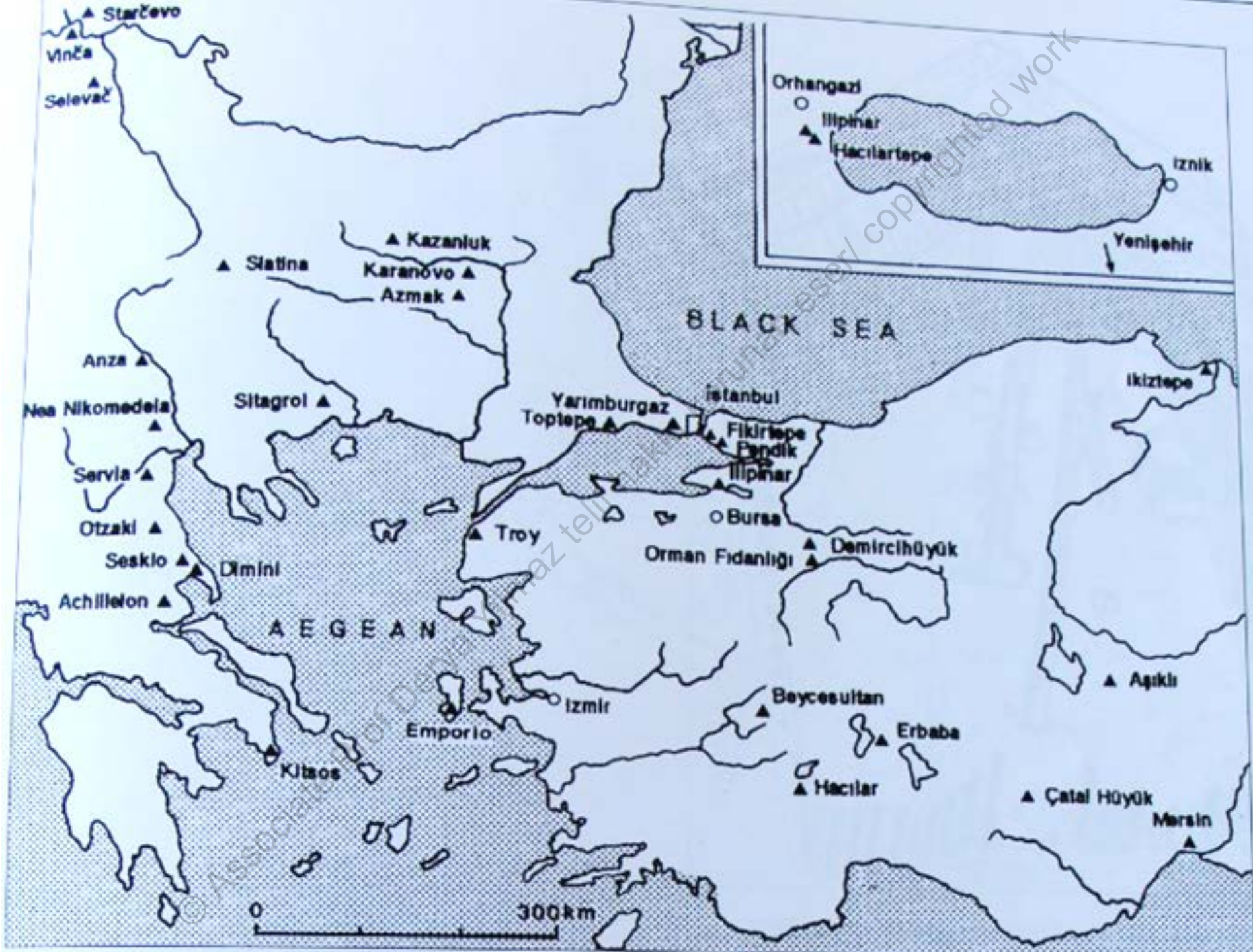


# Ilipinar

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- Ilıpınar Höyük, situated West of the lake near the modern town of Orhangazi, is one of the oldest settlements in NW Anatolia, and has an occupation record which dates back about eight thousand calendar years.





# History of research

- A series of excavations at this settlement, carried out since 1987 under the auspices of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East in Leiden/ Holland and its branch, the Netherlands Historical Archaeological Institute in Istanbul, have given insight into the relation of prehistoric men to their habitat. Data discovered in the up to 7 m thick archaeological deposit demonstrate how the inhabitants of prehistoric Ilipınar adapted to this specific environment and acquired its resources.

# Stratigraphy

- Ilipinar chronology is based on more than 50 radiocarbon dates

- Neolithic&Chalcolithic Age

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Date</u>
• VB	5400-5500 BC
• VA	5500-5600 BC
• VI	5600-5700 BC
• VII-VIII	5700-5800 BC
• IX	5800-5900 BC
• X	5900-6000 BC

**Ilipinar I-II** Early Roman&Byzantine Period

**Ilipinar IIIB** EBA III-MBA transitional Period

**Ilipinar IIIA** EBA I-II cemetery

Hiatus .....

**Ilipinar IV** Late Chalcolithic-EBA transition period

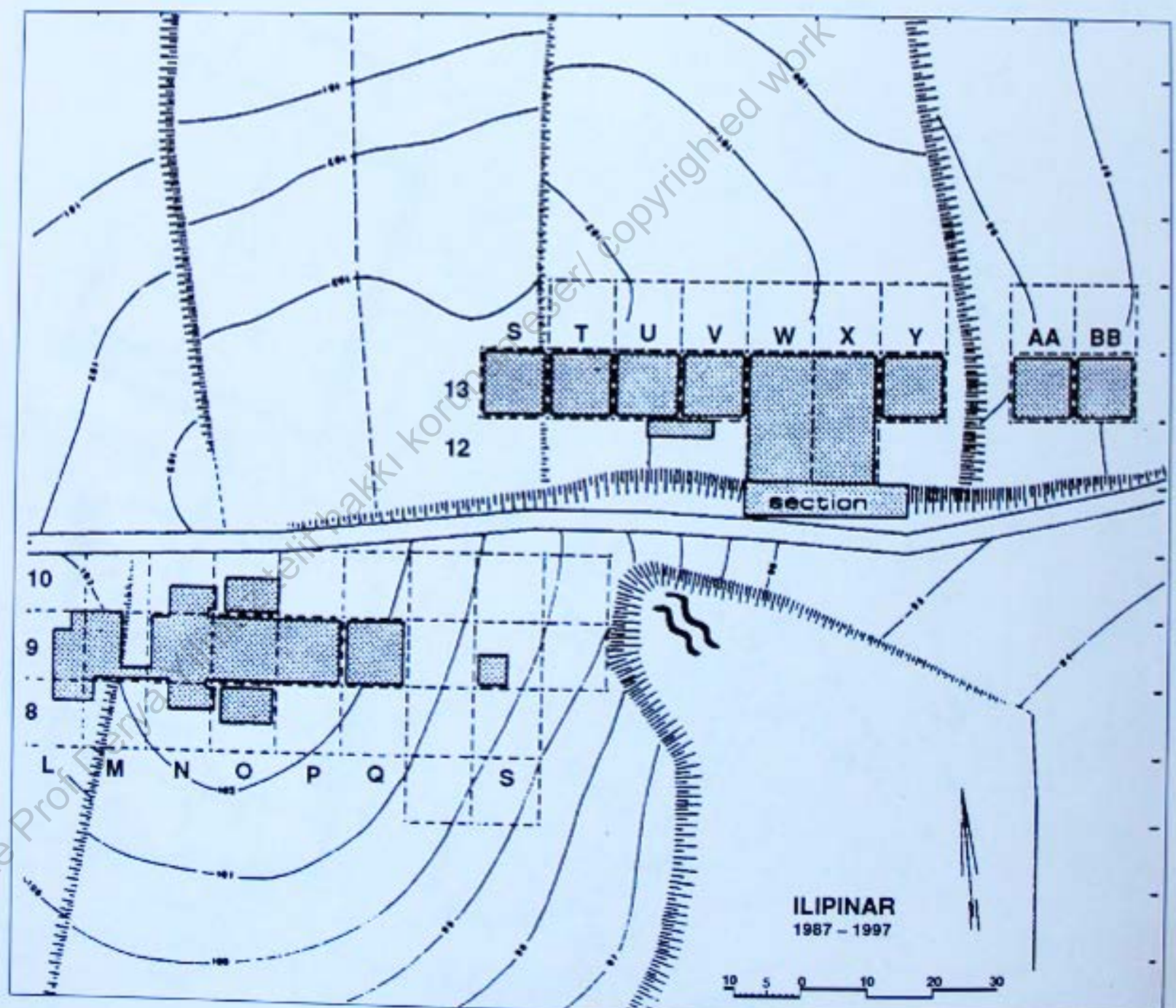
Hiatus.....

**Ilipinar V-X** Chalcolithic& Neolithic periods

# Architecture

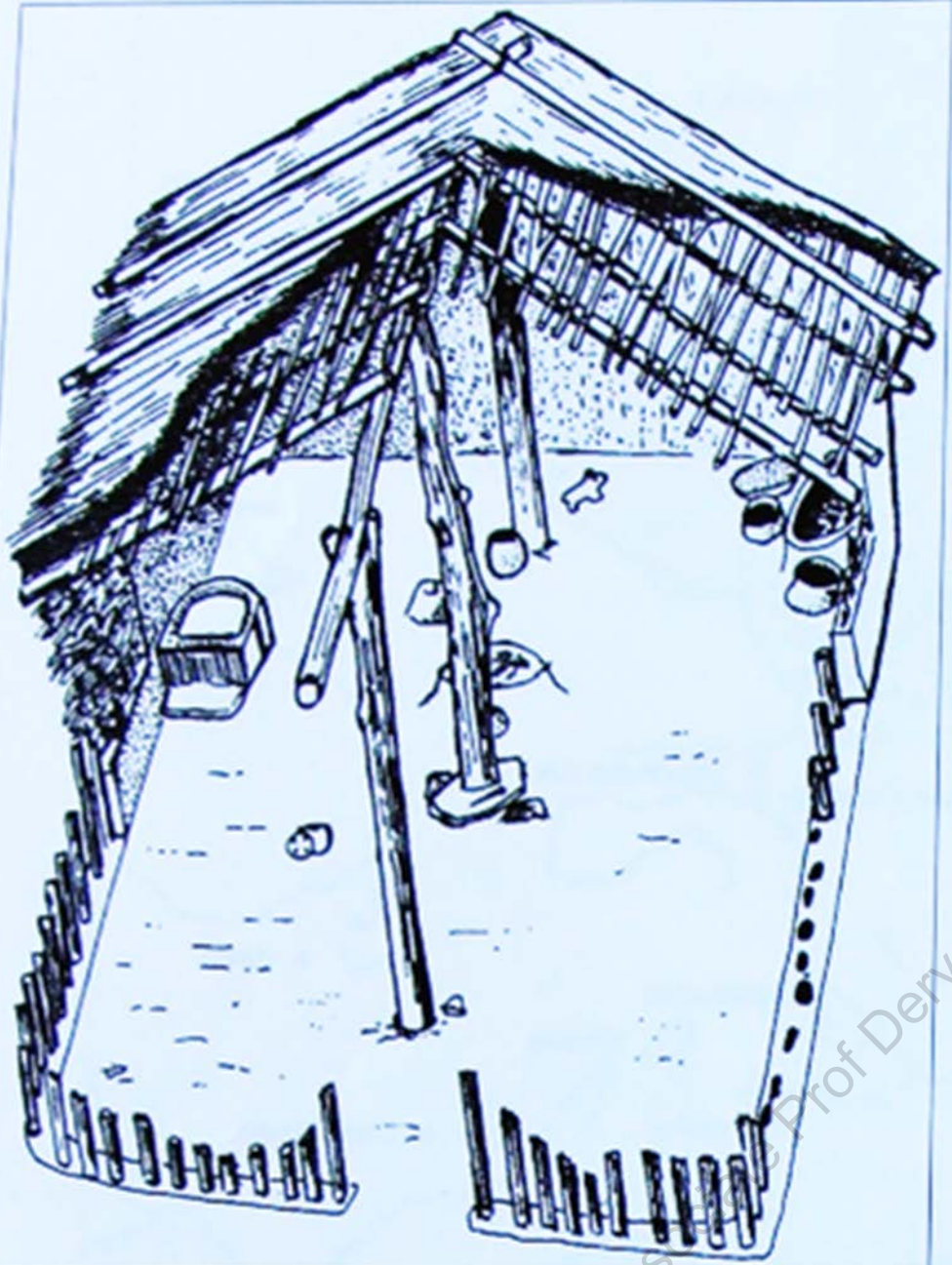
The Neolithic village, which was inhabited during six centuries from 6000 to 5400 cal.BC, first consisted of single-room post-Wall houses and buildings made of sods cut in natural clay deposits. Thereafter, when mudbrick became the building material, the single-room dwellings were replaced by buildings with various ground plans. A special feature of the burial ground, which belonging to the earliest settlement, where more than 50 villagers were buried. Shortly after the early farming village was abandoned, the mound was occasionally resettled (Phase VB). These newcomers reused the arable land and lived in semi-subterranean shelters during the harvest seasons. Their material culture shows strong affinities with the Neolithic cultures from the Balkans.

Ilipinar excavated area until 1997. Wavy lines indicate the spring.

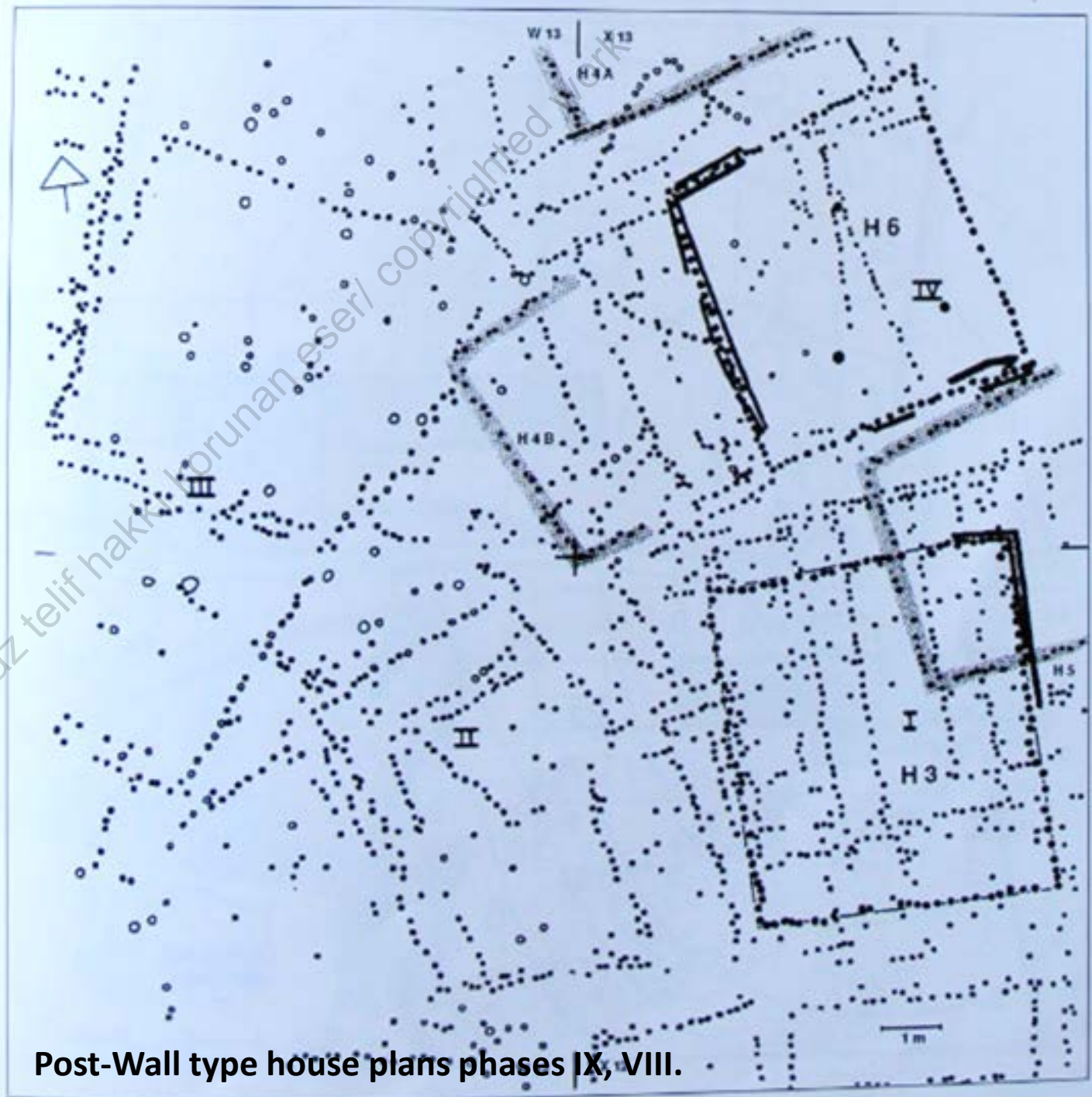


- A curious thing is that three different construction modes were applied in the early farming village of Ilipınar.
- **Post-Wall buildings:** in outline it can be said that the post-Wall buildings of Ilipınar were representative from the earliest village stage which lasted three centuries. As they were free-standing single-room houses with a standard-size living space of some 30 square meters, they were probably used as single-family dwellings. Such houses were constructed with rows of timber posts (set in 50 cm deep or deeper ditches) which served as a frame for the external walls and as a roof support. The Wall-posts were subsequently incorporated in 25-30 cm wide pisé walls.





Reconstruction of a house from phase X.



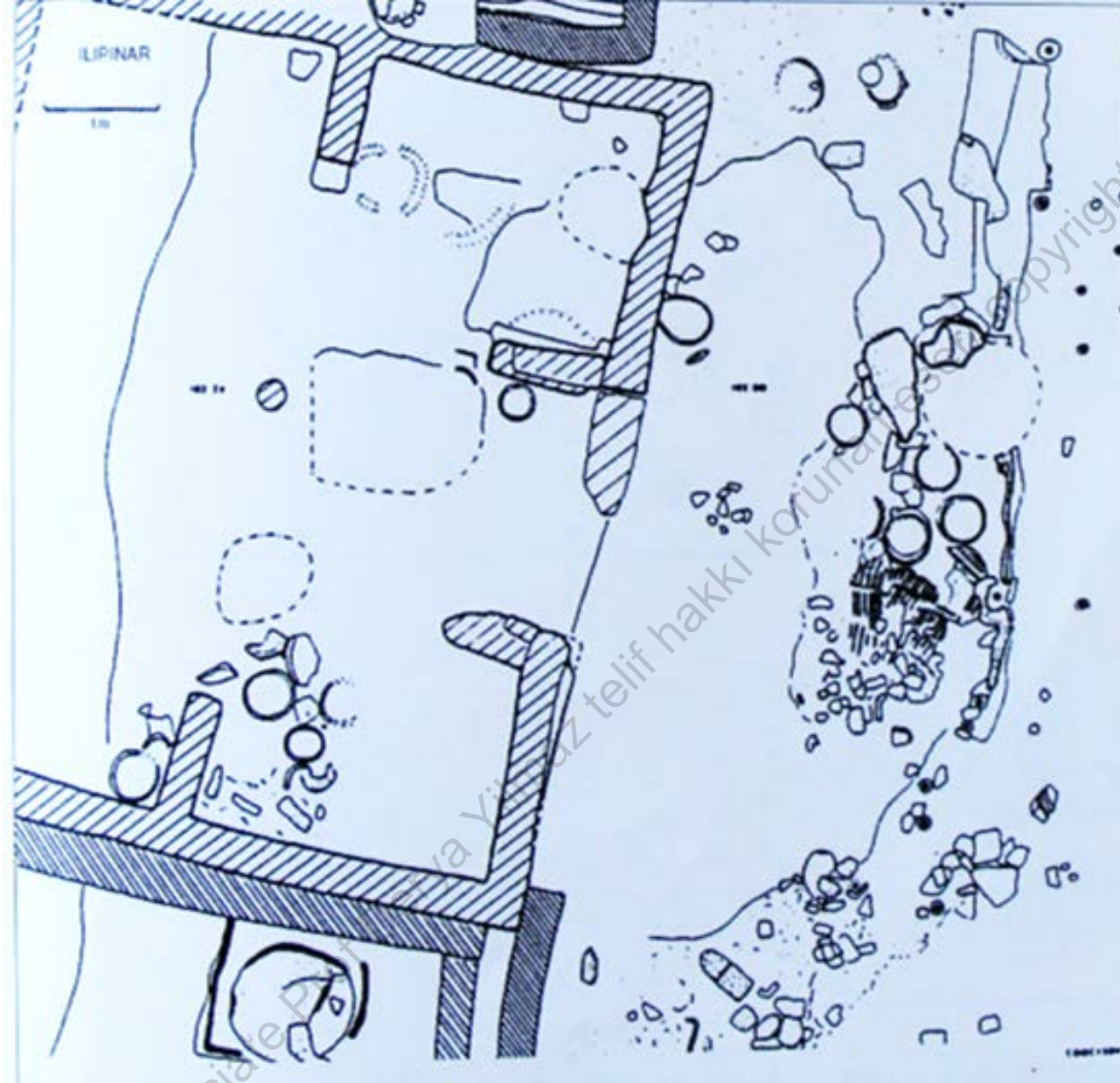
Post-Wall type house plans phases IX, VIII.

- **Mud-slab buildings:** Next to the post-Wall buildings, so-called mud-slab buildings were unearthed in the deposit of the earliest village. Big mud-slabs of various sizes, probably cut from natural clay deposits, were used as building material for the outer walls. The walls often set on a foundation of wooden boards, which sometimes covered the total surface of the inner building space. The building had rectangular in plan.

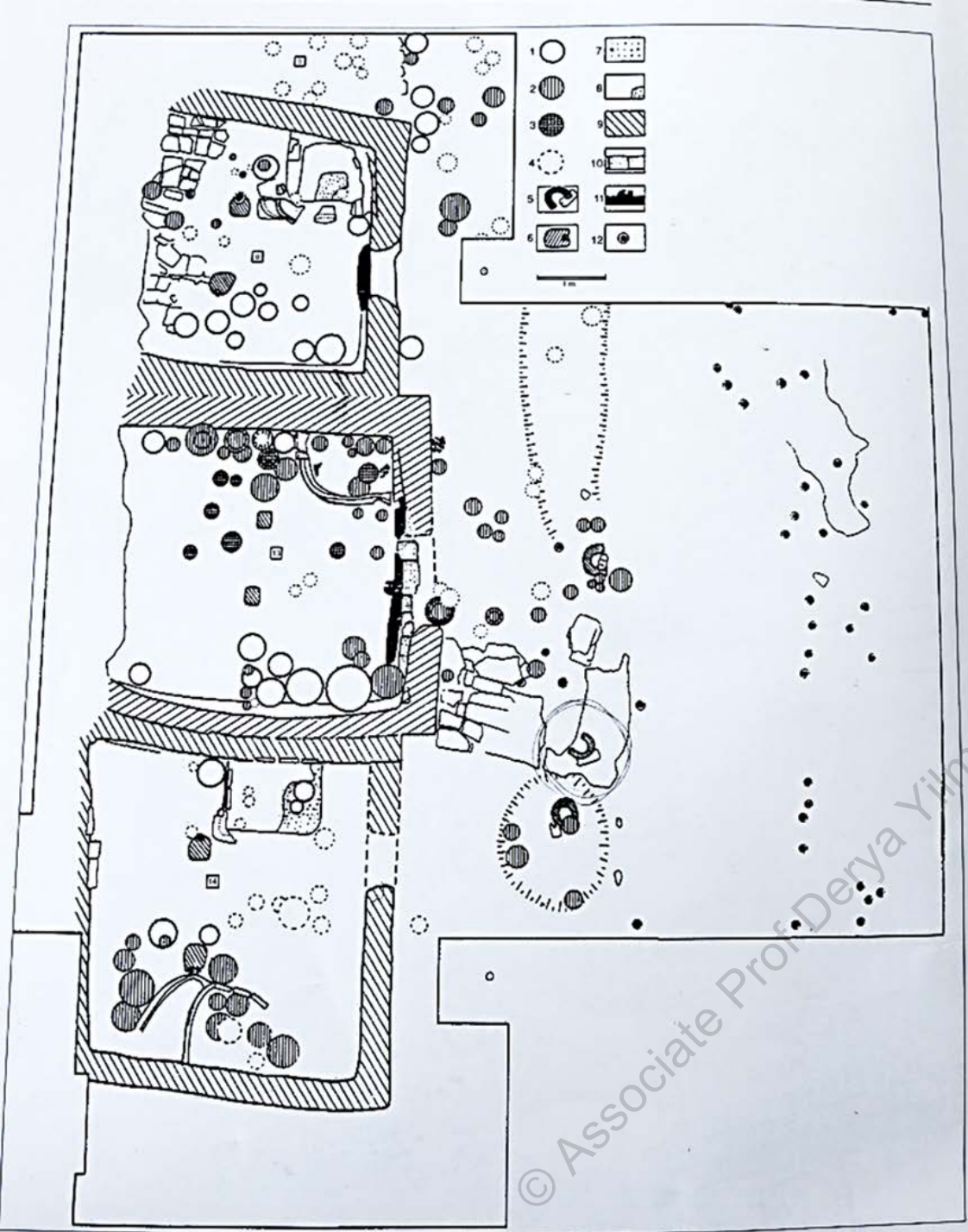


Mud-slab building with wooden floor.

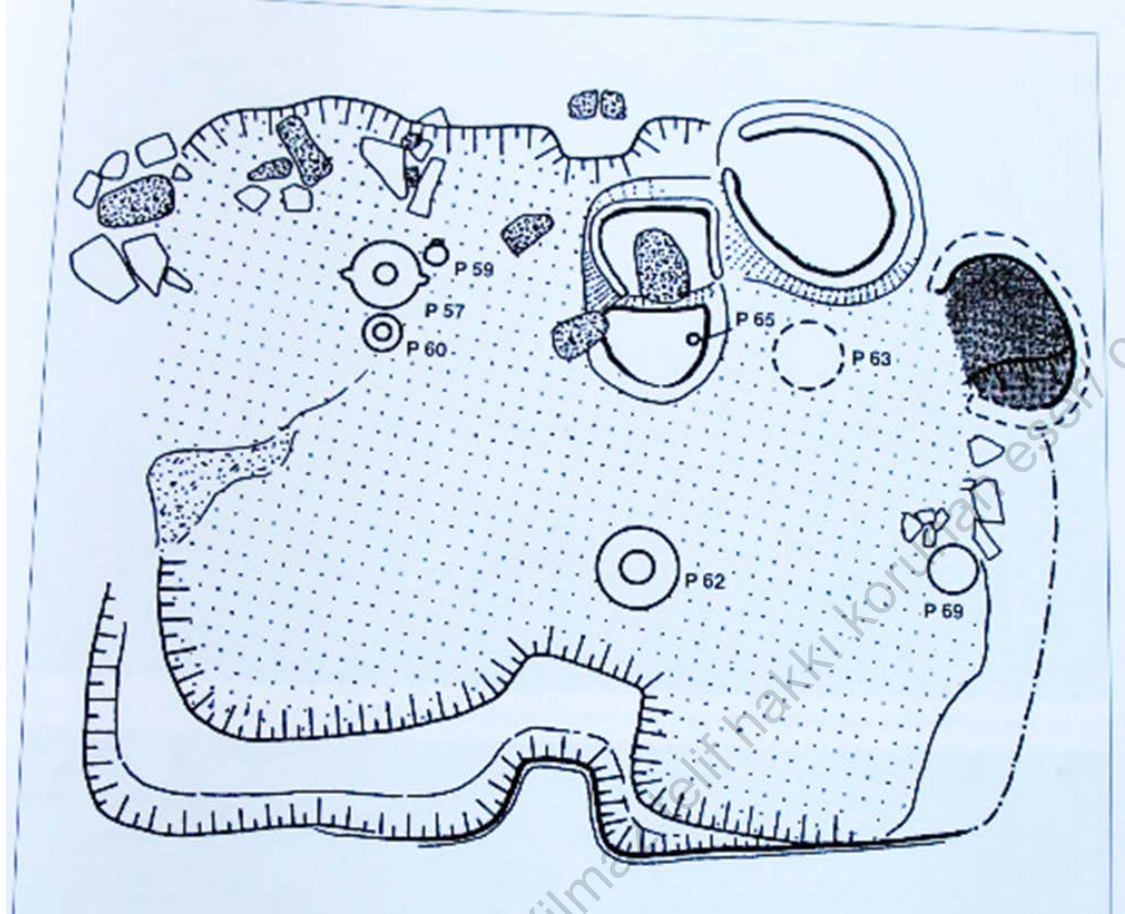
- **Mud-brick buildings:** From the ca 5700 BC mud-brick became the primary building material. While the first mud-brick houses were true copies of the previous post-Wall houses, soon buildings having a different lay-out and size appeared.
- The shift to mud-brick houses half-way through the Neolithic village of Ilipinar rather surprising within a cultural context where ties with the Anatolian plateau obviously had diminished and similarities with the Balkans had grown. The introduction of mud-brick as a construction material had led to experimentation and changes in the architecture.



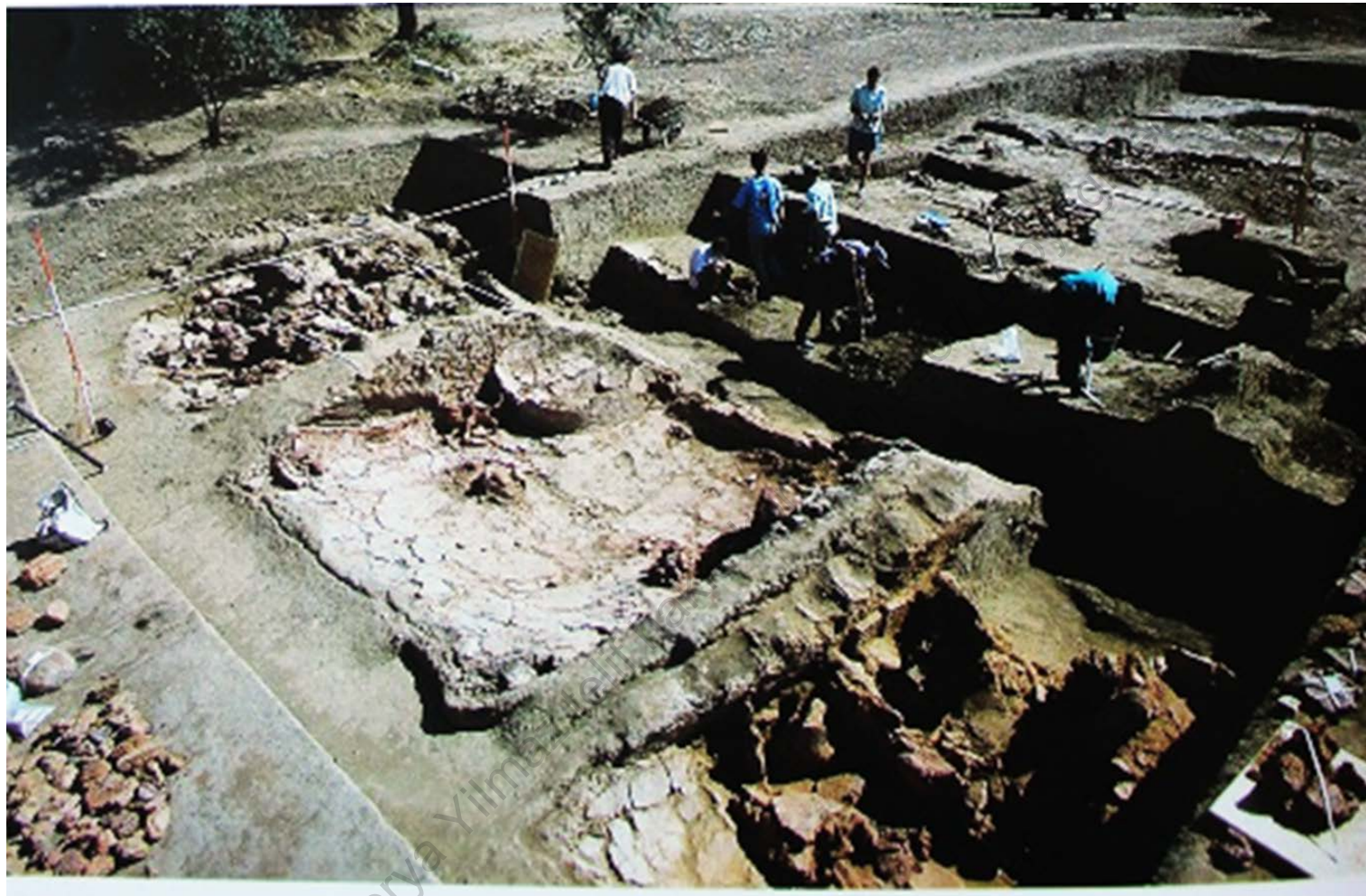
Mud-brick house plan and courtyard from phase VA.



Mudbrick building with three compartments. The here illustrated ground floor was used for storage of food supplies. The circles indicate different kind of containers.



Semi-Subterranean cabin with bench and buttress (/pillar). The circles represent pots on the floor. This cabin consisted of an oval pit of 3x5 m and half a meter deep. On one side there was an earthen bench, on the other a grinding socle, as well as an oven and pottery vessels full of charred grains.



Mud-brick building with 3 compartments.

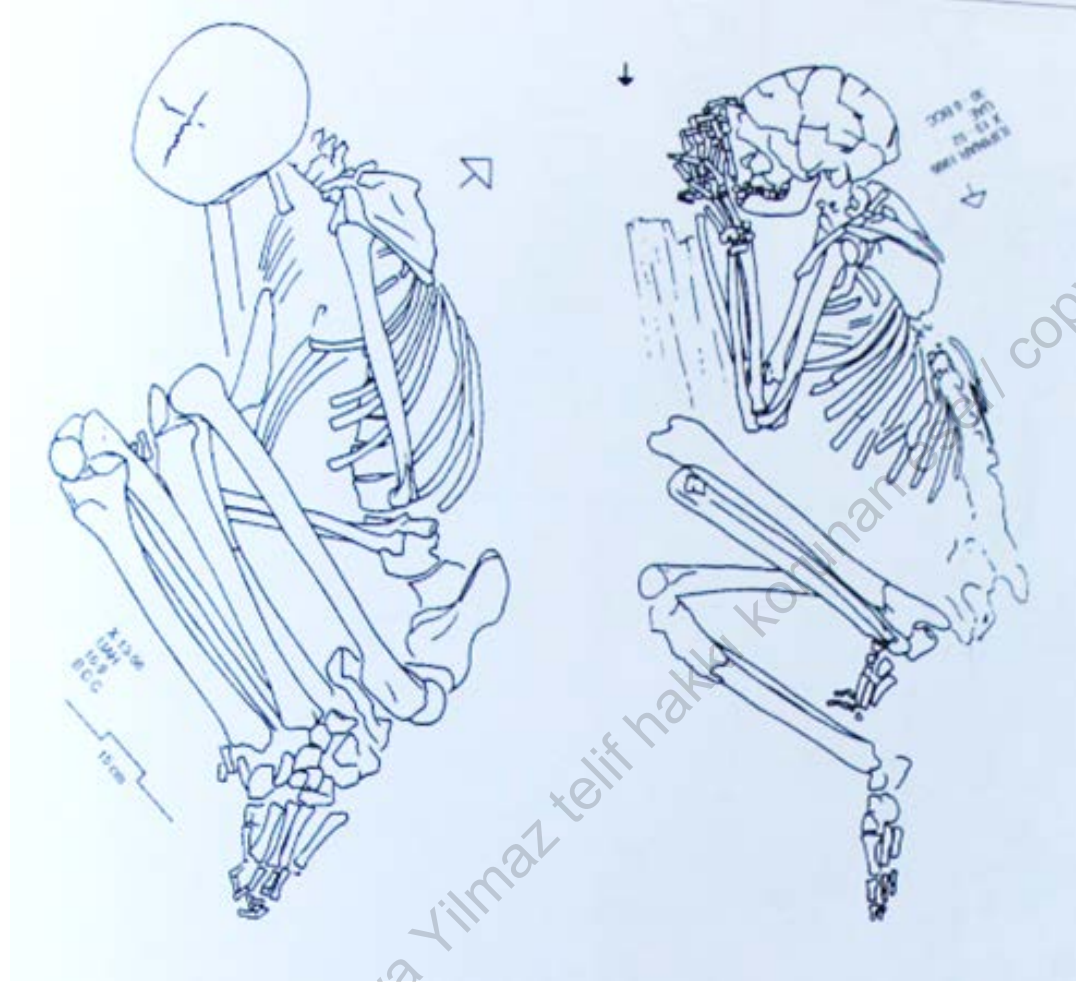




Area with ovens, hearts, grinding stones, and various kinds of vessels containing charred grains, Phase VB.

# Burials

- A common way of burying the dead during the Neolithic of the Near East, including Anatolia was to leave the body for decomposition or excarnation is shown for instance by the frequently encountered burials of disarticulated or incomplete skeletons, or even of mere skulls.
- In contrast, excarnation or secondary burial was not practised in the village of Ilıpınar. Here the dead had been laid in Hocker position and were resting on their left or right side.
- The burials were not found under floors but outside, in a non-constructed area behind the houses.

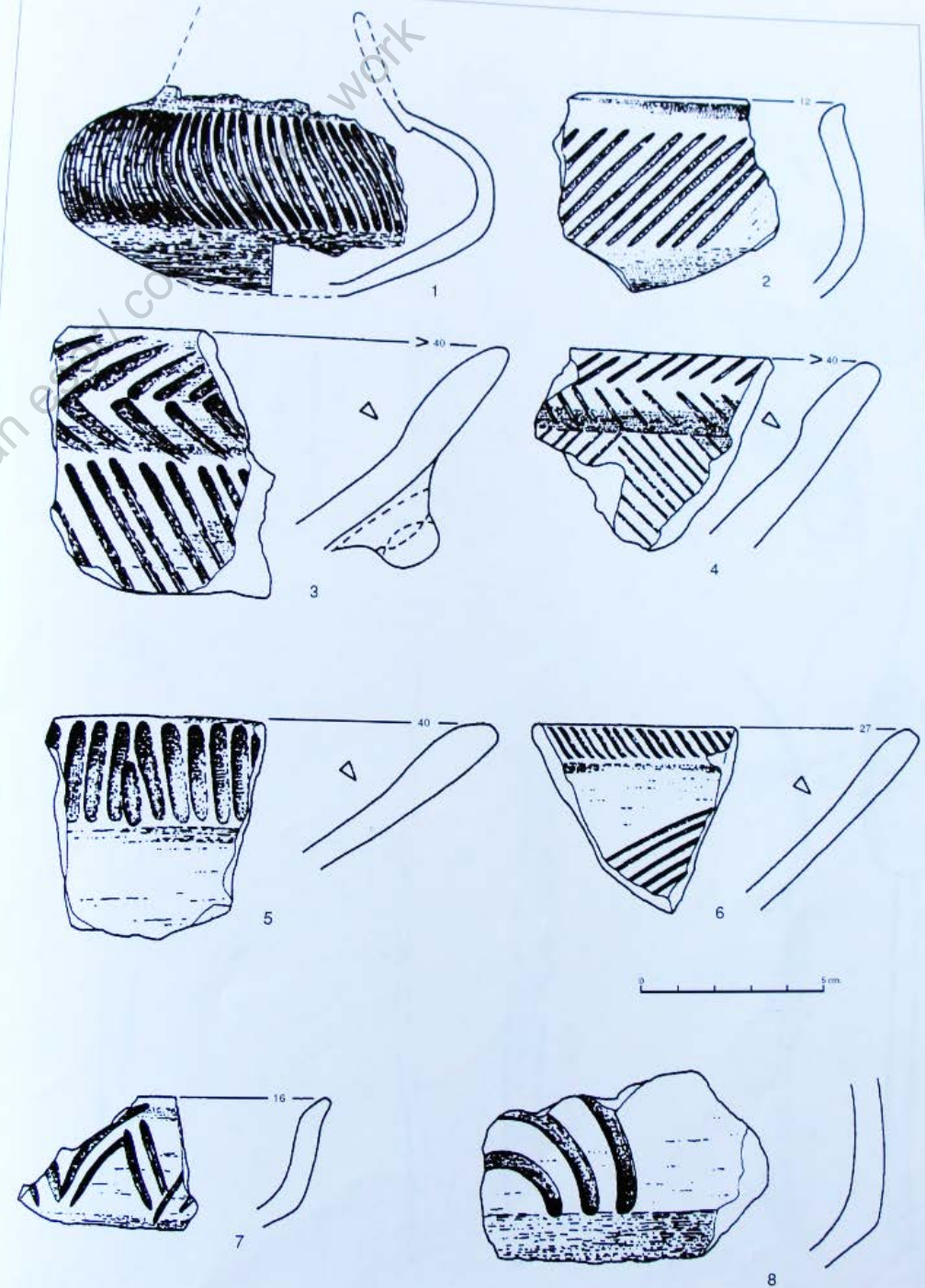


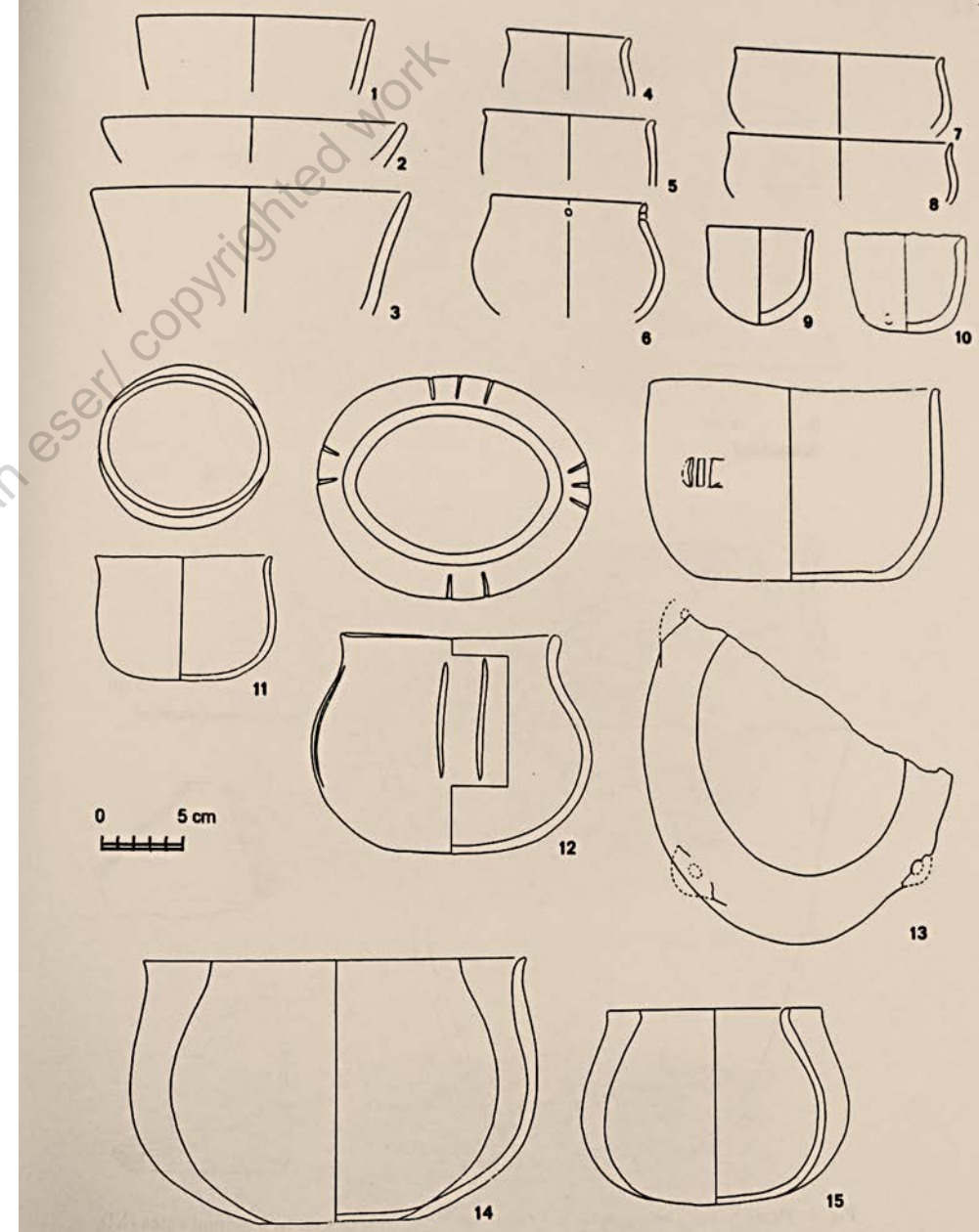
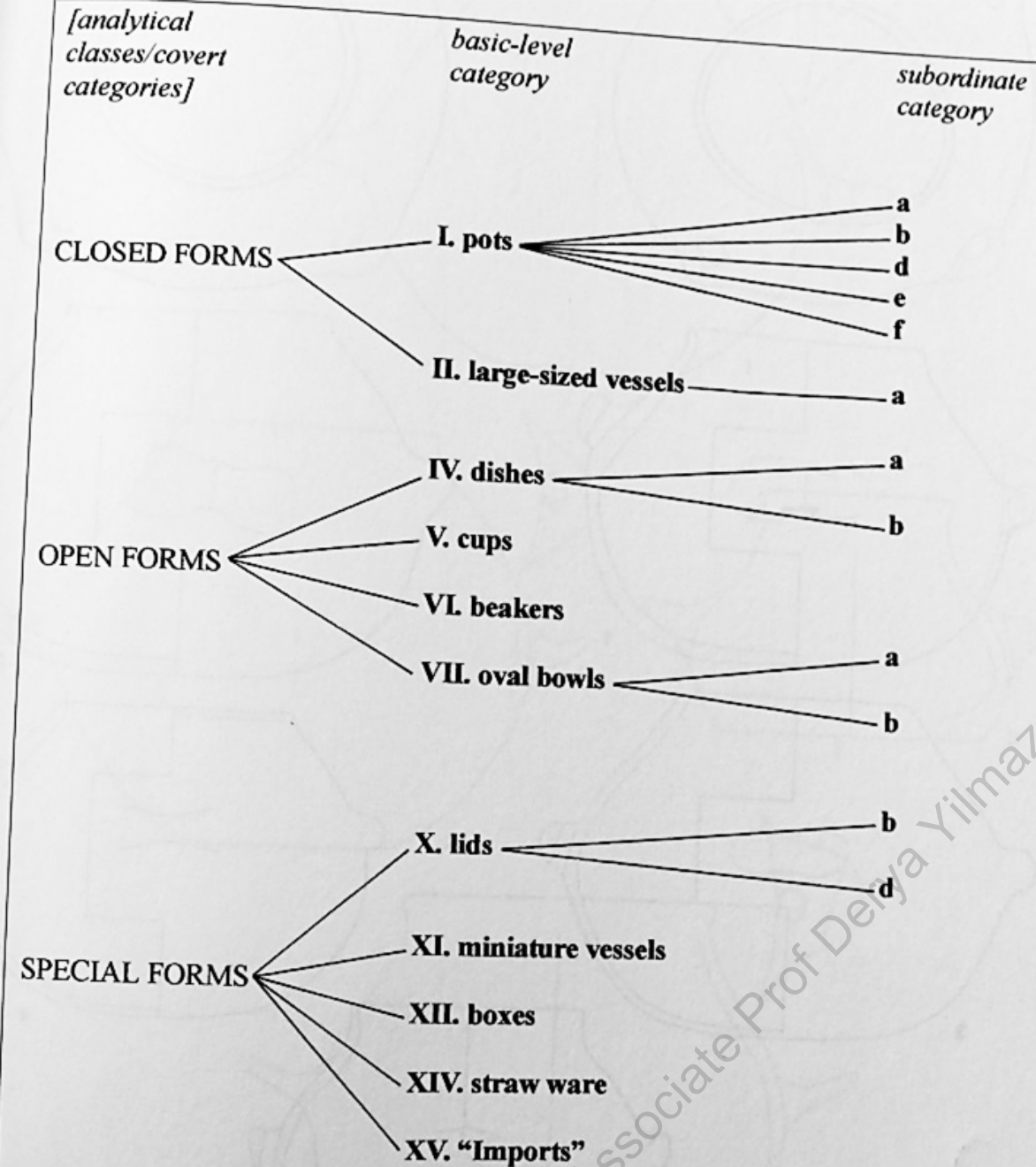
Neolithic skeletons, an adult lying on a wooden board, arrow indicates best visible wooden boards.

# Pottery

- The pottery was hand made moderately fired in tones from light- or grey-Brown to dark-Brown, and as a rule well burnished.

Numbers 1 to 6 black burnished potsherds with incised decoration Phase VB, 5400-5500 BC; 7 -8 carinated bowls phase VA 5500-5600BC.





Phase X, 1. small-sized dish , IVa, 2-3 medium-sized dishes , IVb, 4-8 cups, V, 9-10 beakers, VI, 11 small-sized oval bowl VIIa, 12-15 medium-sized oval bowls VIIb.

Category structure of Ilipinar ceramic assemblages from Phase X



Phase X, pot with vertically pierced knob handles



Phase X, pot with vertically pierced knob handles



Phase X, small-sized oval bowl



Phase X, medium-sized oval bowl, decorated with shallow grooves.



Phase X, appliqué pots fragments, top has human face



Phase X, box fragment, incised decoration possibly White-filled originally (incrustation)

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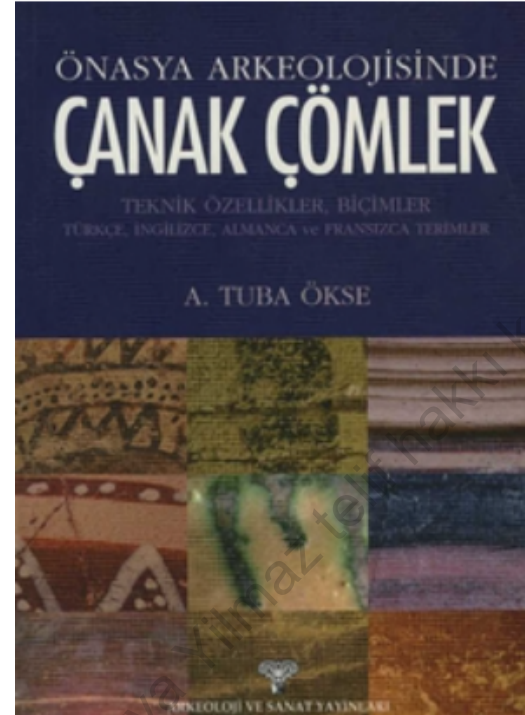
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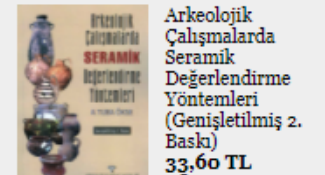
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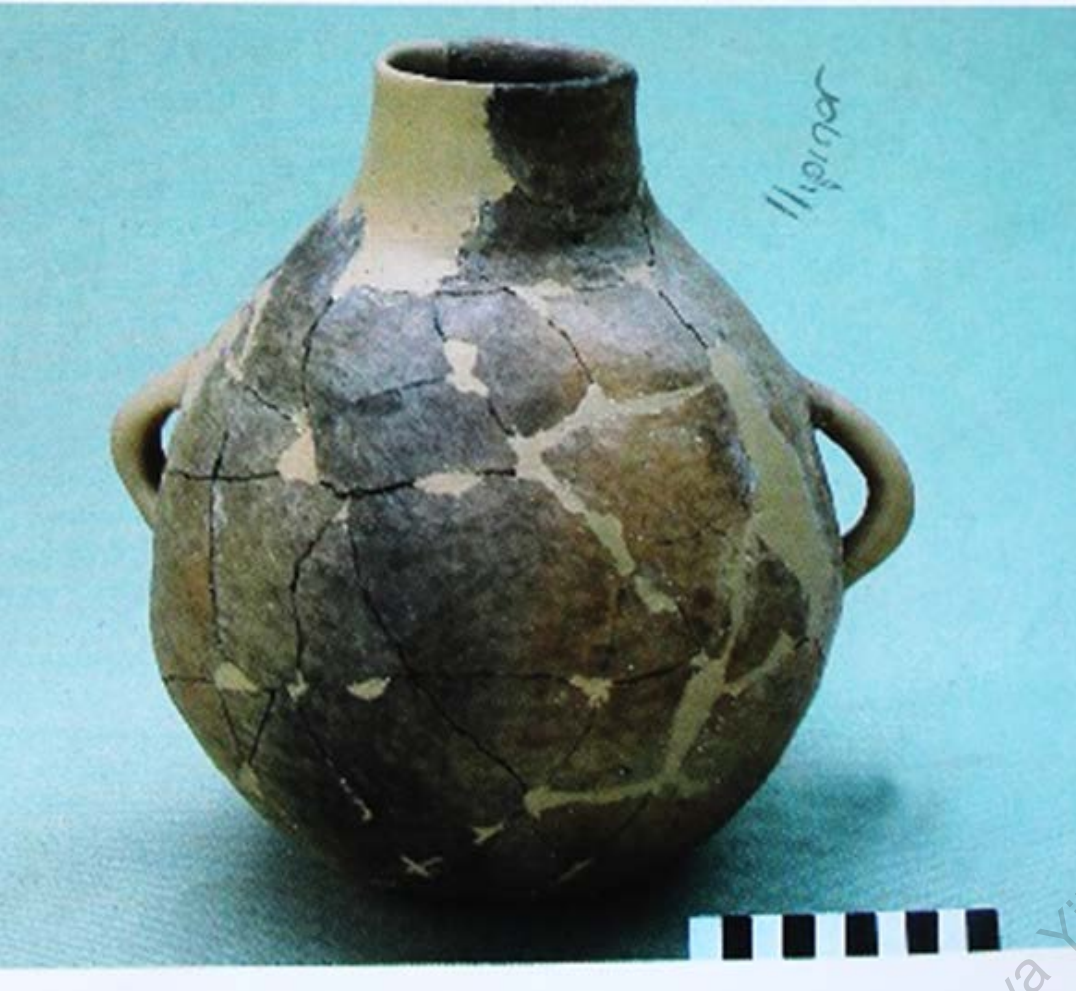
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**Incrustation:** (Genellikle beyaz macun ile yapılan) Dolgu bezek

The inside of the groove decorations on the surface of the vessel is filled with a clay paste (also called putty), usually white, sometimes red, after the vessel has dried or baked. This type of decoration is called incrustation in archeology.

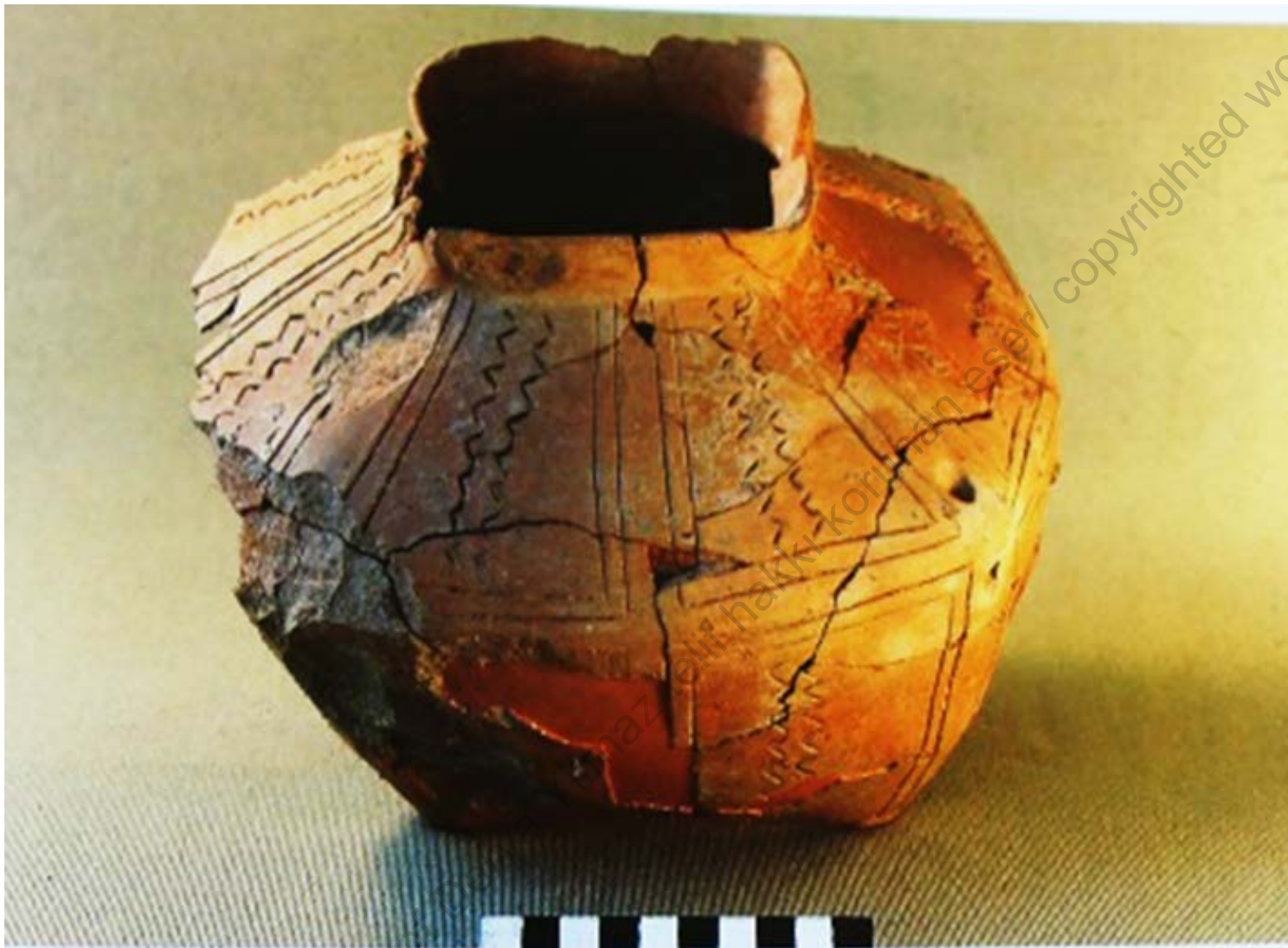


Jar containing charred seeds, phase VB

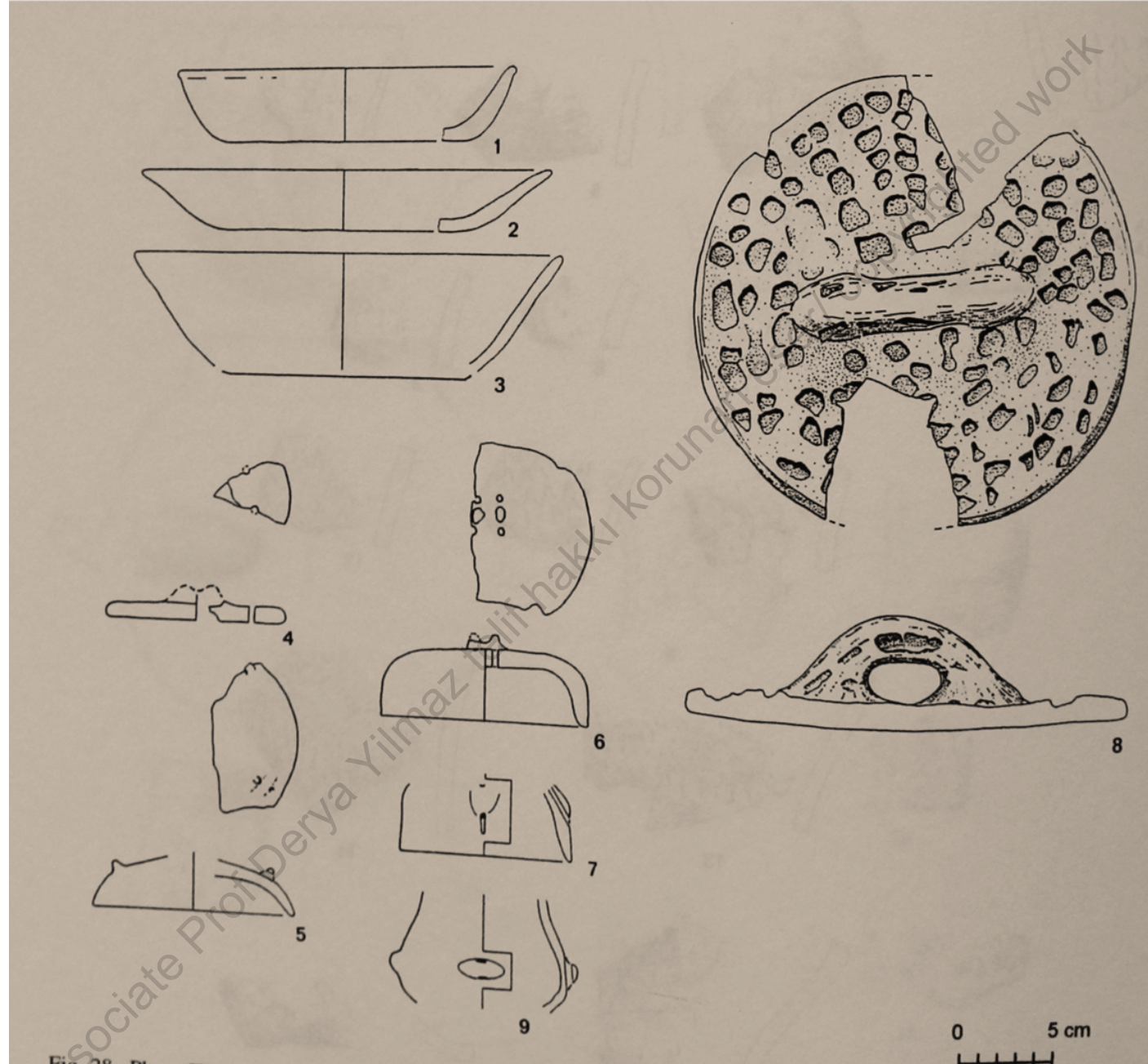


Deep bowl with oval mouth , phase X

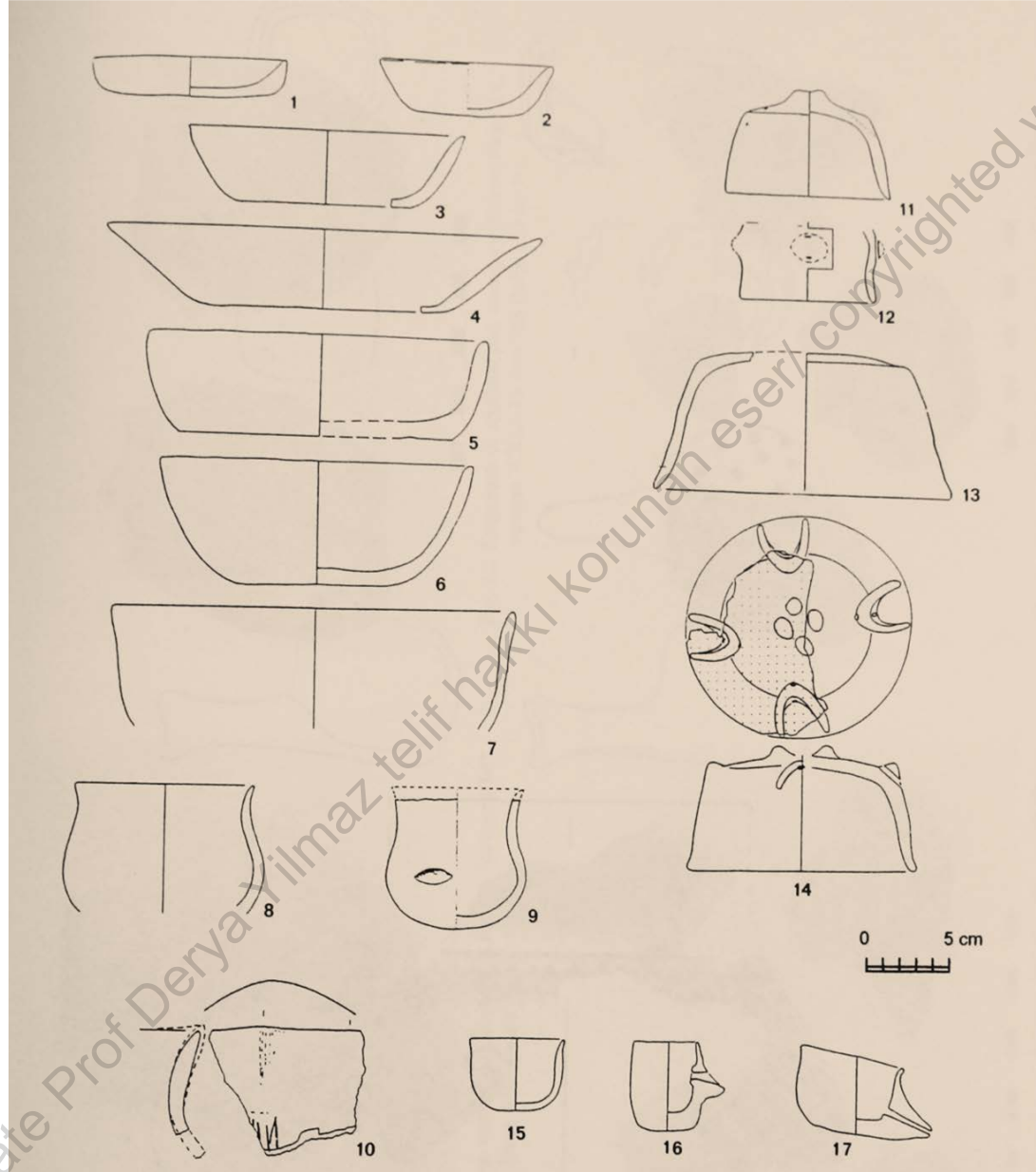




Squared pot with incised geometric patterns. Phase VA.



Phase IX, 1. small-sized dish, 2-3 medium-sized dishes, 4-8 lids, 9 miniature pot



Phase VIII, 1-3 small-sized dishes, 4-7 medium –sized dishes, 8. s-shaped cup, 9. beaker, 10. medium-sized oval bowl, 11-14. lids, 15-16. miniature vessels, 17. pipe



Pot with four vertically pierced knob handles, phase VIII.



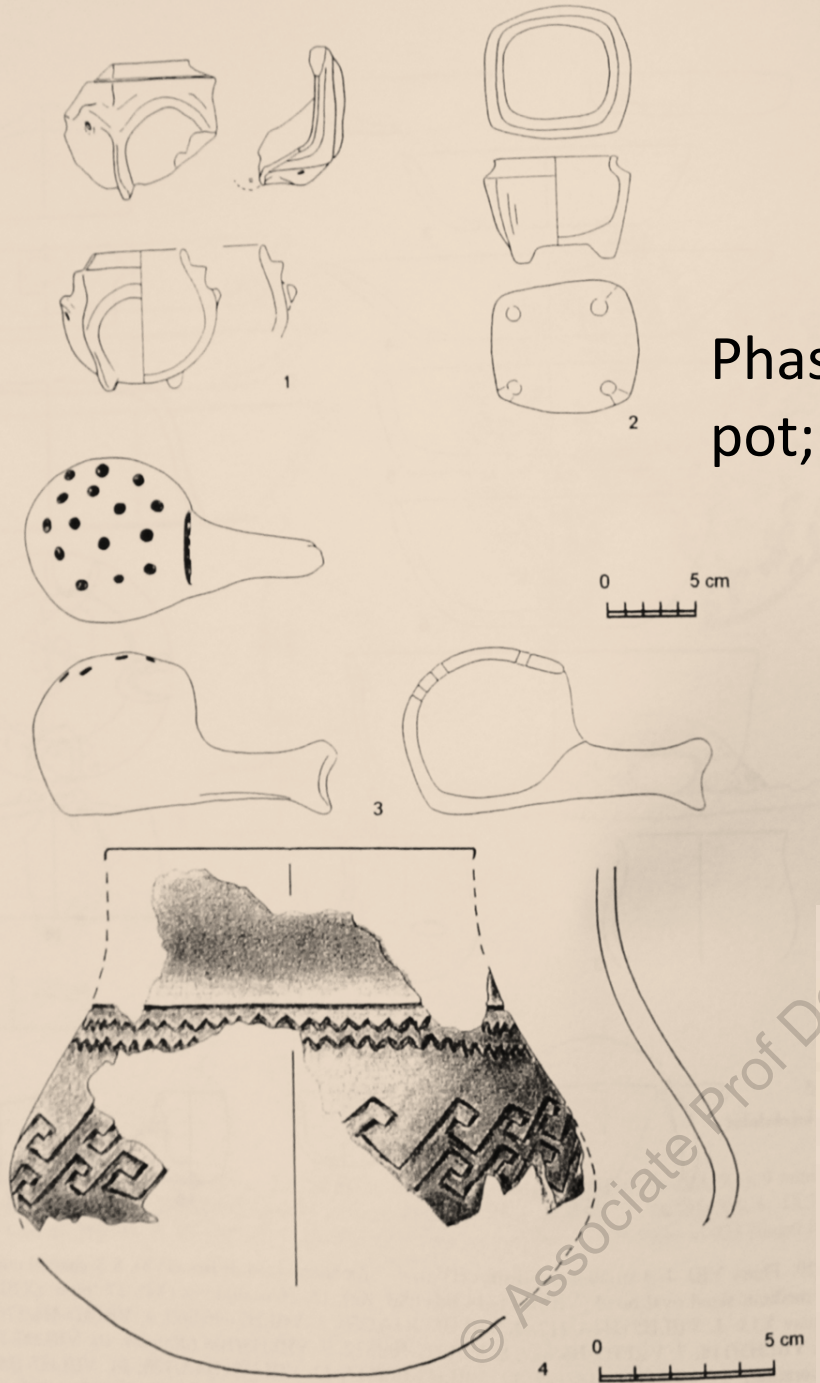
Fragments reliefs , phase IX.



Fragments of impresso pots (Nail –impressed /pinched , phase VIII.



Fragments of impresso pots (Nail –impressed /pinched , phase VIII.



Phase VIII, 1. miniatures, 3. bee-smoker 4. import pot; phase IX, 2. miniature

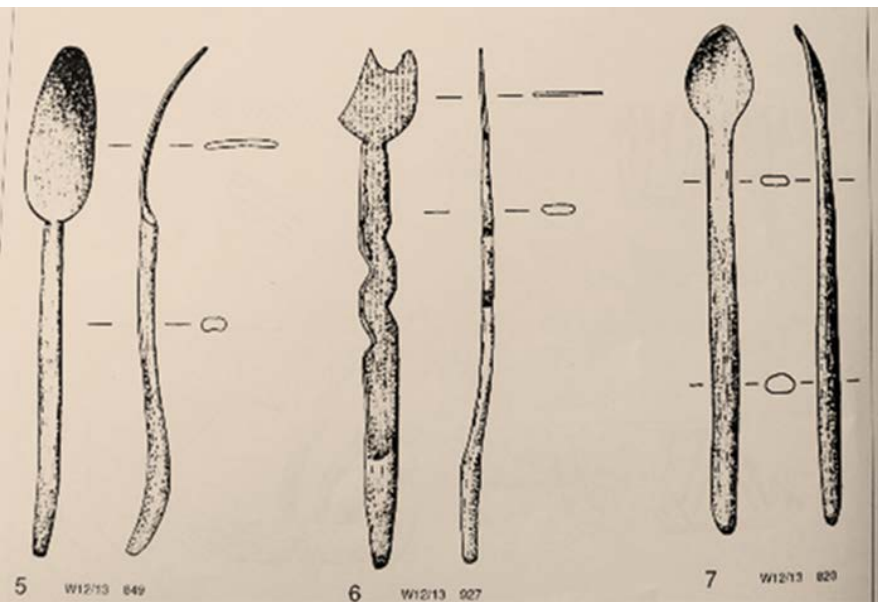
Import pots excised fragments phase VIII.



Excised 'import' vessels (category XV) from ... and VII.2.

# Other finds

- The bone and antler industry and the figurines: Among the abundant bone and antler implements comprising awls, needles, spatulae, chisels, axe sockets etc. two dozens of finely carved spoons (fragment included) were collected from post-Wall building horizons, whereas none were extracted from the mud-brick village.
- A comparable number of standing female figurines, a type of well known from Early Neolithic Bulgaria, derived without exception from the mud-brick village.



Bones spoons from post-Wall village.

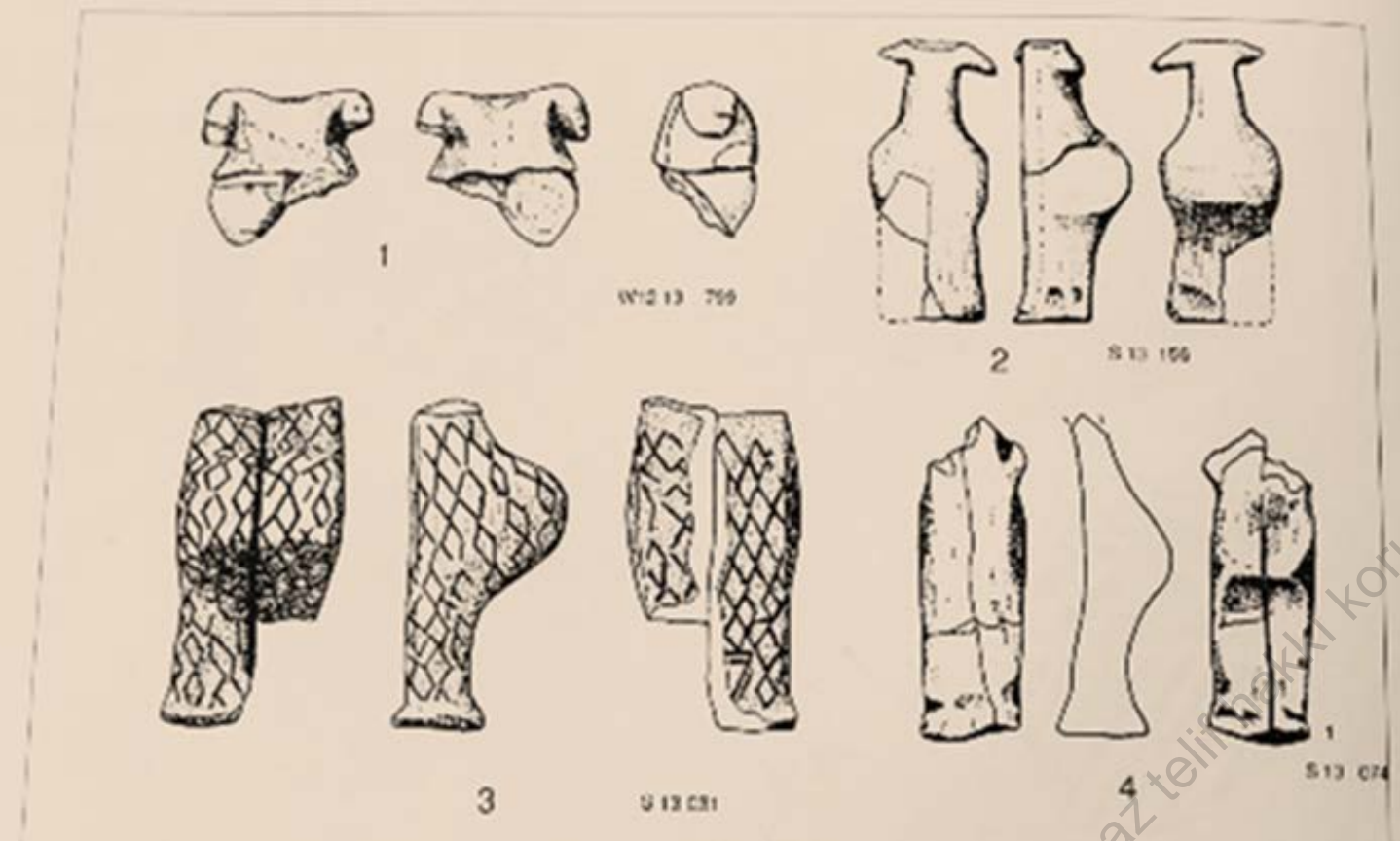


Antler hammer head with shaft hole, phase VB, a new element in the Ilipinar sequence.

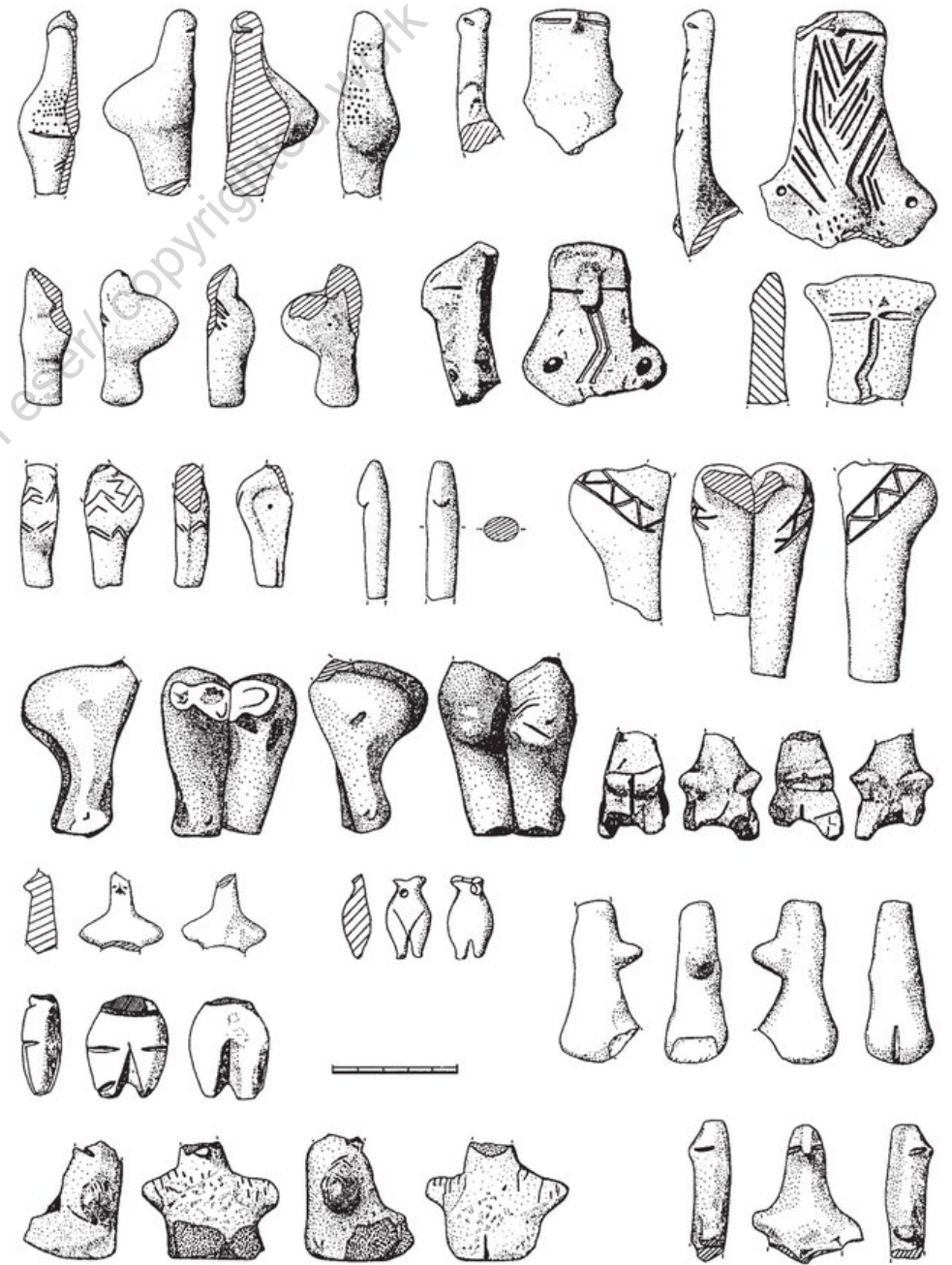


Antler socket with small stone axe, phase IX.

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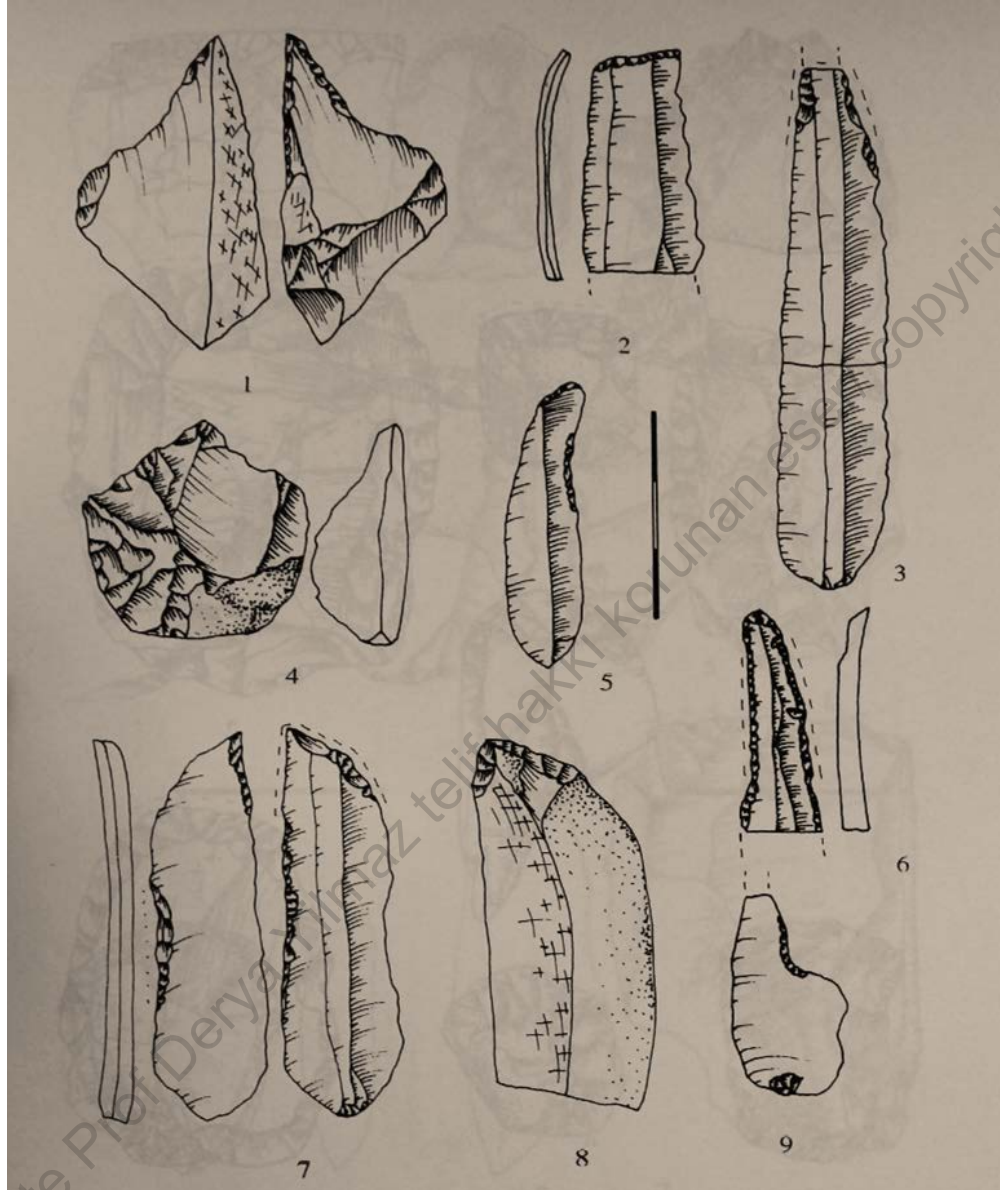


Ilipinar anthropomorphic figurines: 1. Sitting Anatolian type from post-Wall willage ; 2-4 Early Bulgarian standing type from mudbrick village.



Early Neolithic figurines from Kovachevo, southwest Bulgaria.





Tools from phase X (1-6) and IX (2-5;7-9) end- scraper, 4. perforators 1,3,6,8; alternated perforator 7, truncation-2; notched tool- 5, 9. Utilization: hide piercing-3; wood boring-7; bone scarping-6.

# Conclusion

- A decade of investigations at Ilipınar has given shape to the sketchy Picture of the Neolithic Period in the Marmara district. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that prehistoric cultures of the two macro-regions, the Anatolian peninsula and the Balkans, met in this border area.

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