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DI ATENE E DELLE MISSIONI

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SUPPLEMENTO 3

GLI ACHEI IN GRECIA E IN MAGNA GRECIA:

NUOVE SCOPERTE E NUOVE PROSPETTIVE

ΟΙ ΑΧΑΙΟΙ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΗ ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ:

ΝΕΑ ΕΥΡΗΜΑΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΕΣ ΠΡΟΟΠΤΙΚΕΣ

A CURA DI

EMANUELE GRECO - ATHANASIOS RIZAKIS

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# ARCHAIC POTTERY FROM SYBARIS, KROTON AND KAULONIA

MARIA ROSARIA LUBERTO

**Riassunto.** Si presenta di seguito una sintesi delle ricerche sulle ceramiche arcaiche di Sibari, Crotona e Caulonia. Lo studio si è basato sull'analisi dei rinvenimenti provenienti da scavi nei centri urbani, per la maggior parte editi in forma preliminare. Il *range* cronologico scelto va dalla metà dell'VIII sec. a.C. ca. (la data più antica desumibile sulla base dei rinvenimenti) fino alla fine del VI sec. a.C., ossia alla distruzione di Sibari da parte di Crotona.

**Περίληψη.** Παρουσιάζεται μια σύνθεση των ερευνών της αρχαϊκής κεραμικής στη Σύβαρη, τον Κρότωνα και την Καυλωνία. Η μελέτη βασίστηκε στην ανάλυση των ευρημάτων από τις ανασκαφές στα αστικά κέντρα, δημοσιευμένα, ως επί το πλείστον, σε προκαταρκτική μορφή. Το χρονολογικό *range* που έχει επιλεγεί αρχίζει από τα μέσα του 8<sup>ου</sup> αι. π.Χ. περίπου (η αρχαιότερη χρονολογία που προκύπτει από τα ευρήματα) μέχρι τα τέλη του 6<sup>ου</sup> αι. π.Χ., δηλαδή μέχρι την καταστροφή της Σύβαρης από τον Κρότωνα.

**Abstract.** It is here presented a synthesis of the researches conducted on Archaic pottery from the Achaian *apoikiai* of Sybaris, Kroton and Kaulonia. The study was based on the examination of finds recovered from excavations in the urban centres, which are, for the most part, already preliminarily published. The chronological range chosen for the analysis spans approximately from the middle of the VIII century BC, the most ancient date derived from the pottery, to the defeat of Sybaris by Kroton at the end of the VI century BC.

Archaic pottery from the Achaian *apoikiai* of Sybaris, Kroton and Kaulonia can be subdivided into two macro-classes: imported and colonial productions<sup>1</sup> (Figs. 1, 6). The imported pottery can be further subdivided into seven classes. An additional category was added for finds not definitively assignable to a specific series. The classes are each internally ordered in a different manner, determined by characteristics and quantity of the considered nuclei. The Eastern Greek pottery, for example, is grouped into several production series, subdivided on the basis of the location of manufacture, while Corinthian pottery is ordered on the well-established traditional classification based on chronologies.

All three centres yielded potsherds chronologically linked to the phase preceding colonization, that is to say around the middle of the VIII century BC or soon after, resulting in some important implications concerning the general problem of the frequentation of the Ionian coast and inland territory in this period. This evidence can be rightly understood only if it is interpreted in the light of the dynamics of a broad geographical area that can be identified within the Gulf of Taras, where local indigenous communities had strong relationships with Greek sailors<sup>2</sup>.

With regards to the colonization phase, which should be generically identified with the last decades of the VIII century BC, again in all the three centres the presence of imported pottery in Thapsos style

<sup>1</sup> The research was conducted during the XXIV Phd course in History and Civilization of the Ancient World at the University of Florence: for a wider description see LUBERTO 2017b. A book completely devoted to the topic will be published by the end of the year; accordingly, the following paper is a very brief synthesis of this study. The specific places of provenance of the finds are for Sybaris mainly Stombi and Parco del Cavallo (for the the Archaic period CARANDO 1999 and now D'ALESSIO *et alii* 2017; in general *Sibari* 1992); for Kroton several urban sites investigated by the local Soprintendenza through rescue excavations together with the necropolis on the Carrara hill, for published data (LUBERTO-BALZANELLI 2017; MARINO *et alii* 2010; synthetic overview in RACHELI 2014; VERBICARO 2014; SPADEA 1984 and 2014; SABBIONE 1982), the site so-called

Crugliano 1975 for the unpublished ones (see LUBERTO 2010a and 2017a); for Kaulonia the sanctuary of Punta Stilo (now PARRA 2017) and several urban sites (for a general overview MINNITI 2004), together with both published and unpublished potsherds from S. Marco NE (LUBERTO 2010b; 2013; 2015). The examined specimens are in total 1.380 ca., which for the most part, correspond to the same minimal number of individuals. At the present stage of the research, it has been decided not to re-classify with the same methods used for the other series not the Attic pottery, nor the transport amphora, but their total amount has been considered and discussed, in relation with the other data processed, in the final conclusions.

<sup>2</sup> LUBERTO 2015.



is documented, mainly associated with vases of the Early Protocorinthian. In this case, the differences recorded in terms of both quantity and quality of the finds is significant (Fig. 2). As the graphic and the table in Fig. 2 show, Kroton has yielded the most ancient and varied examples of the class, while in Sybaris and Kaulonia evidence is later in date and represented only by cups<sup>3</sup>. This point is important for two different reasons. Firstly, keeping in mind the partiality of the documentation and the possibility that new excavations could radically change this picture, the decrease and subsequent disappearance of this type of pottery in the later phases of its production in Kroton should be read in parallel with the beginning of local production, documented by pottery waste and misfired potsherds from the site of Cooperativa Proletaria Pertusola<sup>4</sup>. Secondly, the chronological subdivision of the morphologies and typologies of the pottery in these three centres seems to indicate an earlier Greek presence at the site of Kroton than at Sybaris and Kaulonia. These data could be paralleled with the information from the historical sources concerning the chronology of foundation of the *apoikiai*, which seems to indicate the primacy of Kroton over Sybaris, and a strong historical Greek presence in Kaulonia, as well as the other two cities<sup>5</sup>.

The rest of the imported pottery, for the most part, consists of Corinthian productions, predominant during both the VII and VI centuries BC, while Eastern Greek and Laconian pottery, together with Etruscan bucchero, are almost exclusively concentrated in Sybaris (Fig. 3) where the quantity increases during the VI century BC. The peak in the trend of the imported Corinthian pottery reaches its pinnacle in all of the cities during the transition from the Protocorinthian to Corinthian phase (Fig. 4). In this case, the apparent almost total absence of finds in Kroton must be connected to the very scarce quantity of published data from urban excavations. Therefore, large quantities of imported Corinthian pottery, still unpublished, are documented in the sanctuary of Capo Colonna<sup>6</sup>. For the necropolis on the Carrara hill, F. Giudice and others have noticed the strong presence of Attic pottery<sup>7</sup>, again well attested in sanctuaries and documented very little in residential areas<sup>8</sup>. It is possible to assert, on this basis, that the data we have recorded for the city in the Archaic period reflects, in negative, a realistic situation in which imported pottery in Kroton was expressly and intentionally used in sacred and funerary contexts and rarely in daily life. This situation could be explained in light of the mechanisms and modalities of supply and consumption of the local community.

Very rare indigenous imports were recovered from Sybaris and among them, some fragments have been recently analysed and reconstructed by A. Vanzetti. The scholar identified them as belonging to an Iapygian *olla* dated to around 720 BC<sup>9</sup> (Fig. 5). According to his interpretation, this presence, together with other elements, should be reconnected to the explicit willingness of the new inhabitants of the city to forge commercial relationships with distant indigenous communities (the Iapygians) rather than with the closest ones, the Oinoatrians. Indeed, Oinoatrian pottery is attested in Sybaris: two fragments come from the area of Parco del Cavallo<sup>10</sup>, that is to say from a central part of the city probably devoted to public functions as is known for later periods<sup>11</sup>. Hard<sup>9</sup> occupation of the territory, support for which was opportunely enhanced by A. Vanzetti, can be better seen in the lack of indigenous evidence in the phases subsequent to the foundation of the *polis* than in the presence of Iapygian pottery and the absence of the Oinoatrian one (which, moreover, is present in Parco del Cavallo, as we have seen). Concerning the material culture, from the beginning of the VII century BC Sybaris, Kroton and Kaulonia are totally Greek communities in every aspect.

Moving on to the colonial production pottery, Fig. 6 shows the schema and the criteria adopted for its classification. The various classes have been determined on the basis of the area of manufacture (actually recognized in only one case, Incoronata: Fig. 6.XIV), on theoretical models which inspired decorative systems and morphologies (Corinthian and East Greek type Pottery: Fig. 6.XI-XII) or, finally, on the

<sup>3</sup> *Ead.* 2017b, 193-196.

<sup>4</sup> LUBERTO-BALZANELLI 2017 and in this volume.

<sup>5</sup> As is known, just to summarize an open debate, in the historical sources we have contradictory information on the chronological relationships between the foundations of Sybaris and Kroton, while Kaulonia, at the same time, is somewhere considered to be a later filiation of Kroton: MELE 1984, 9-60 on the Archaic period; for Sybaris: AMPOLO 1993; for Kaulonia, usually less considered in the amplest debate on the Achaean colonial world: LOMBARDO 2010, 8-11. For epigraphic and numismatic sources, see *BTCGI* XVIII, 764-765 [*s.v.* Sybaris]; V, 472-488 [*s.v.* Kroton]; X, 192-194 [*s.v.*

Monasterace Marina]. More recently HANSEN-NIELSEN 2004, 295-297, No. 70 [Sybaris]; *ibid.*, 266-270, No. 51 [Kroton]; *ibid.*, 265-266, No. 55 [Kaulonia].

<sup>6</sup> Few examples in LA ROCCA 1996, 278-279.

<sup>7</sup> GIUDICE *et alii* 2005.

<sup>8</sup> SPADEA-BELLI PASQUA 2009.

<sup>9</sup> VANZETTI 2009, 186-188.

<sup>10</sup> Inv. PdC 14741: saggio 4-strato F2; *Sibari* II, 192, No. 411; PdC (3316) 106325: quadrante SW-XIII taglio; *Sibari* V, 121, No. 167.

<sup>11</sup> D'ALESSIO *et alii* 2017 with previous literature.

absence of an unique, recognizable model, as in the case of the series with Geometric, Linear and Figural decoration (Fig. 6.X). Each class is internally ordered on the basis of the various morphologies, chronologically ordered. For the series IX to XII (Thapsos style; Geometric, Linear and Figural decoration; Protocorinthian/Corinthian and East Greek types; Fig. 6) a further subdivision has been proposed according to morphological and decorative typologies and variants<sup>12</sup>.

Among the most ancient productions Thapsos style pottery should be mentioned, which is almost entirely constituted by cups. A local manufacture, little discussed until now, can be supposed for Kroton. Protocorinthian and Corinthian pottery is, for the most part, constituted by cups and *kotylai* with linear decoration, however, what is significant is the relationship and the parallel between the specific situations of the different *apoikiai*. Sybaris and Kaulonia are indeed linked together by the same trend: a prevalence of imported ceramics of Corinthian origin and fewer local products inspired by the Corinthian originals. At Kroton the situation is exactly the opposite: local vases of Corinthian type are much more frequently attested than the imported ones. Figural production is concentrated in Sybaris, but there is evidence of similar manufactures, still to be further investigated, even in Kroton<sup>13</sup>.

The production of ceramics of the Eastern Greek type again shows a significant concentration in Sybaris, both for pieces with linear decoration, as well as for those with figural decoration (the quantity especially of the cups is noteworthy in comparison to what is attested in Kroton and also in Kaulonia). The early debut of Eastern Greek type pottery with figural decoration in Sybaris is fully evidenced by the presence of two fragments, one from Parco del Cavallo, the other from Stombi, belonging to different morphologies (frr. of *oinochoe* and of closed shape<sup>14</sup>). Both of them are definitively related to analogous imported examples yielded from the urban centre and, more conspicuously, from Francavilla Marittima<sup>15</sup> which represent products from the Rhodian *Bird Kotyle Workshop*<sup>16</sup>. While imported pottery alludes to the role of privileged referents from Eastern Greek markets that Sybaris would have had access to, especially during the VI century BCE, colonial productions, with their perfect adherence to the reference models, could indicate a presence *in loco* of immigrated Eastern Greek artisans. The characteristics of the figure pottery inspired by the Eastern Greek productions have been discussed by P.G. Guzzo and, more recently, by L. Tomay and M. Martelli<sup>17</sup>. In each of these publications the tight link between Sybarite productions and those of Rhodes has been rightly underlined. Furthermore, it is possible to find more liberal elaborations together with other imitations, such as those deriving from Chian productions and consisting of a few fragments of chalices<sup>18</sup>.

The series of the colonial Achaean pottery with Geometric, Linear and Figural decoration collect all the products that cannot be attributed to the classes derived from Corinth or from the Eastern Greek area. Even with the knowledge that parameters attributed to this class are all to be further refined, the primary justification for this grouping is due to the need to overcome the reductive circumscription, often found in previous studies, of Achaean colonial productions to one single shape, the *kantharoi* with fillets on the lip<sup>19</sup>. Among the group in discussion, one of the most ancient vases is an entirely painted *kantharos*, which belongs to second variant of the "tall" type individuated by L. Tomay<sup>20</sup>: in this version the shape is attested also in Francavilla Marittima, both in the finds from regular excavations conducted on Timpone della Motta, as well as in the group coming from the museums of Berna, Malibu and Copenhagen<sup>21</sup>. All these *kantharoi* have similar technological features: they are made from orange-pink clay and red-brown paint, as it is also documented for some examples from Incoronata<sup>22</sup>. The *kantharoi* with fillets on lip, the so called Achaean *kantharoi*, are attested in Sybaris by four fragments<sup>23</sup>. Among those, one, published as a cup, shows a peculiar decorative system with surfaces entirely painted in black and irregular vertical traits superimposed in white: parallels for the same decoration can be found beyond Francavilla Marittima, in Lokroi and Megara Hyblea. Some other few pieces of the shape come from Kroton (a complete vase and

<sup>12</sup> For much more specific information about all these classes see now LUBERTO 2017b.

<sup>13</sup> Lip of an *aryballos* and bottom of a *kotyle*, unpublished.

<sup>14</sup> Inv. PdC 106301 (4122): *Sibari* V, 122, No. 173 (*oinochoe*); Inv. St 2598: *Sibari* IV, 57, No. 45.

<sup>15</sup> LUBERTO 2017b, 198, footnotes 24-25 with previous literature.

<sup>16</sup> COLDSTREAM 1968, 277-287; more recently COULIÉ 2013, 172-175.

<sup>17</sup> GUZZO 1978; TOMAY 2005; MARTELLI 2012.

<sup>18</sup> LUBERTO 2017b, 208.

<sup>19</sup> COLDSTREAM 1998.

<sup>20</sup> LUBERTO 2017b, 196, fnn. 17-18.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 202, fn. 38.

<sup>22</sup> See previous fn. for bibliographical references.

<sup>23</sup> Inv. PdC 55109 (8038): *Sibari* I, 95, No. 216a; inv. PdC 10951: *Sibari* II, 192, No. 410bis; inv. St 11269: *Sibari* II, 76, No. 3; inv. PdC 36978: *Sibari* III, 427, No. 431. See also TOMAY 2002, 333, fn. 5.

one fragment<sup>24</sup>) and from Kaulonia (one almost complete example plus five fragments<sup>25</sup>). As is evident, the presence of this morphology in the Achaean colonial contexts is very limited. The map of its distribution proposed by L. Tomay can be disassembled on the basis of the typologies of the sites of provenance of the finds (Fig. 7): a close look to them shows a large presence of the shape in indigenous or non colonial *strictu sensu* contexts such as Incoronata, pre-Greek Metapontion, and Satyrion. For the *kantharoi* from Sala Consilina, manufacture in Poseidonia has been hypothesized, however, this has been excluded after review of the Archaic finds from the centre<sup>26</sup>. The idea of a production of these *kantharoi* in the urban centres of the Achaean colonies is strongly contradicted by the data collected here. More in general, the sporadic recurrence of these vases in the examined centres, their contemporary large presence in cities of non-Achaean origin, and overall the conspicuous documentation returned from sites such as Francavilla Marittima and S. Stefano di Grotteria<sup>27</sup> all show, in our opinion, that the ethnic connotation attributed to the shape by using the adjective “Achaean” is not appropriate. Referring to the examples coming from Southern Italy, the relationship between the shape and its context of provenance must be better investigated. In the specific case of Francavilla, it can be presumed that the conspicuous quantities of the finds should be read in relationship with precise cultic functions or rituals<sup>28</sup>. To conclude, large containers for liquids are very popular in this class, especially craters. They have been subdivided into two types, of which type B presents four morphological variants that can be paralleled to series from Samos, Chios, Corinth and Argo, and also with Southern Italian and Sicilian finds from Naxos, Syracuse, Taras, dopo Incoronata Policoro and Pithekoussai<sup>29</sup>. The *stamnoi* are documented above all in Sybaris in variants that correspond both in terms of morphology and decoration to analogous productions from Incoronata and Metapontion. The Sybarite examples, and one fragment from Kaulonia, are not identical to the products mentioned from the sites of Basilicata: they are overall similar in terms of the shape and use the same decorative motifs, although arranged in a different way<sup>30</sup>. This clearly testifies that they all together originated in a similar cultural and artisanal *milieu*.

Finally, figural production is here exemplified by fragments coming from Kroton and belonging to craters, again comparable to Incoronata's productions, especially for the decoration. This is the case, for example, for a motif on a crater from Kroton which resembles the decoration of a *lyra* on one of the famous *stamnos* from Incoronata<sup>31</sup>. Even the well-known fragment of a crater, again from Kroton, decorated with a tripod, can be paralleled with the famous *deinoi* decorated with horses, originating from the area between Siris and Metapontion<sup>32</sup>.

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<sup>24</sup> TOMAY 2002, 344; one unpublished fragment from Crugliano 1975 excavations (LUBERTO 2010a; 2017a).

<sup>25</sup> The entire one is unpublished and exhibited in the local Museum; for the others see LUBERTO 2010b, 921, fn. 23 plus one unpublished fragment (inv. 150198) from the excavations in the area of S. Marco NE (LUBERTO 2015); GAGLIARDI 2004, 72, No. 51.

<sup>26</sup> TOMAY 2002, 343.

<sup>27</sup> For Francavilla TOMAY 2002; for S. Stefano QUONDAM 2017.

<sup>28</sup> LUBERTO 2017b, 201-201, but see TOMAY 2002, 333, where

it is explained that *kantharoi* have been found the Timpone together with *hydriskai*. More widely on the topic GRANESE 2012, 435-436.

<sup>29</sup> LUBERTO 2017b, 198-200, fig. 6.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, 201, fig. 7.

<sup>31</sup> SABBIONE 1982, 271, fn. 61, No. 43, comparable to ORLANDINI 1991, 2-4, Pl. 1 and fig. 4 and *Incoronata 2*, 71, No. 1.

<sup>32</sup> SABBIONE 1982, 271, fn. 62, No. 43 comparable to ORLANDINI 1991, 4-7, pl. II, fig. 11.

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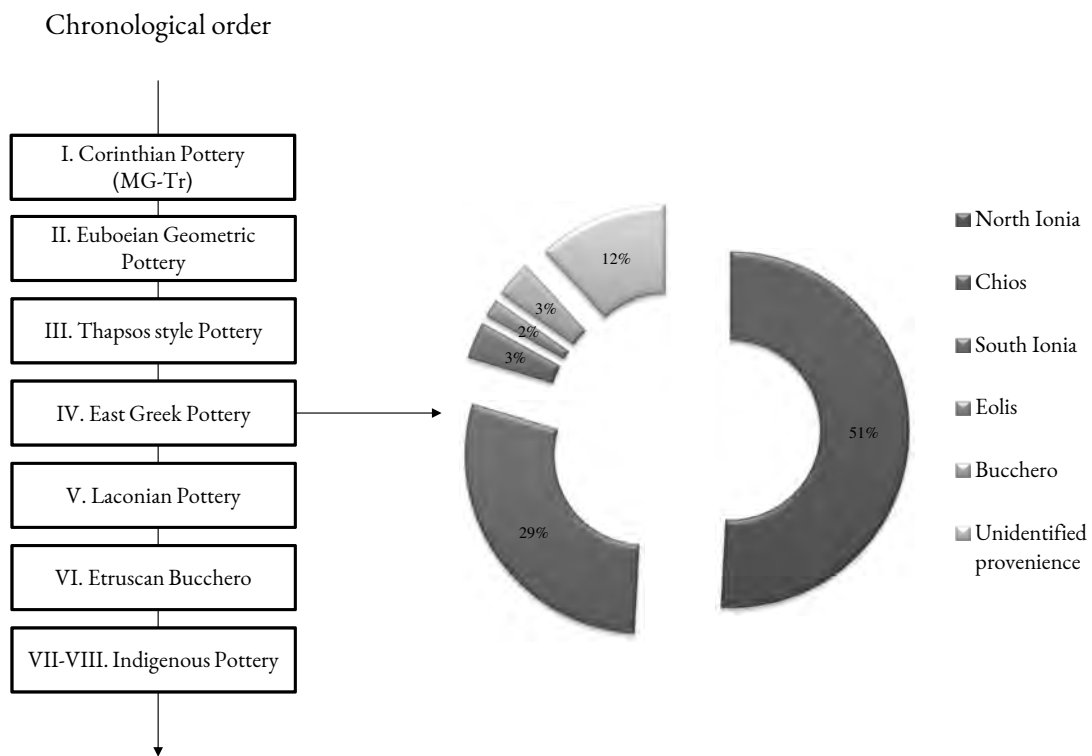
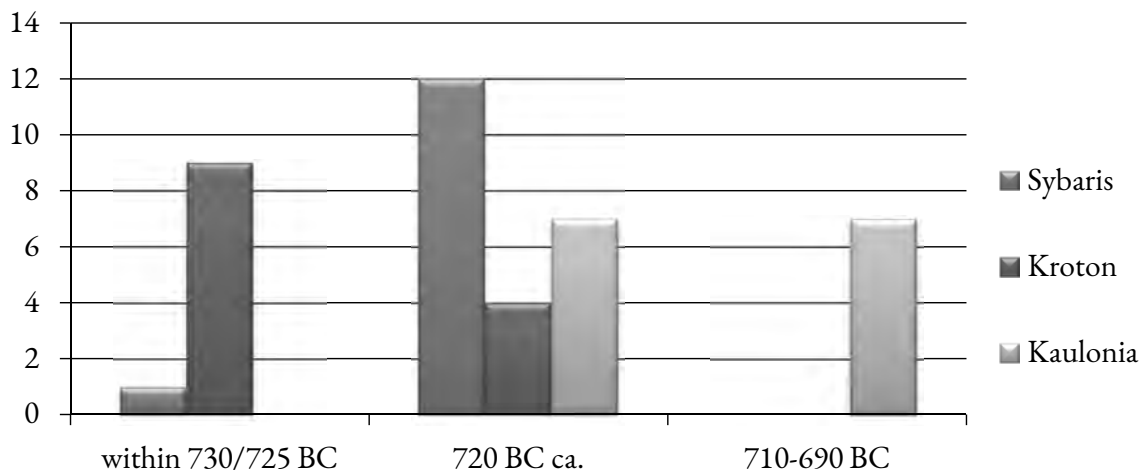


Fig. 1. Imported pottery, classes. On the right, subdivision of the East Greek imports (el. M.R. Luberto).



SHAPE	TYPE	DV	SYB	KR	KL
Kraters				4	
Kantharoi				3	
Cups	Thapsos Panel	1	5	3	
	Plain	2	6	2	6
		3	2	2	2
	Sub Thapsos				5
		<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>

Fig. 2. Distribution and chronology of the imported Thapsos style pottery (el. M.R. Luberto).

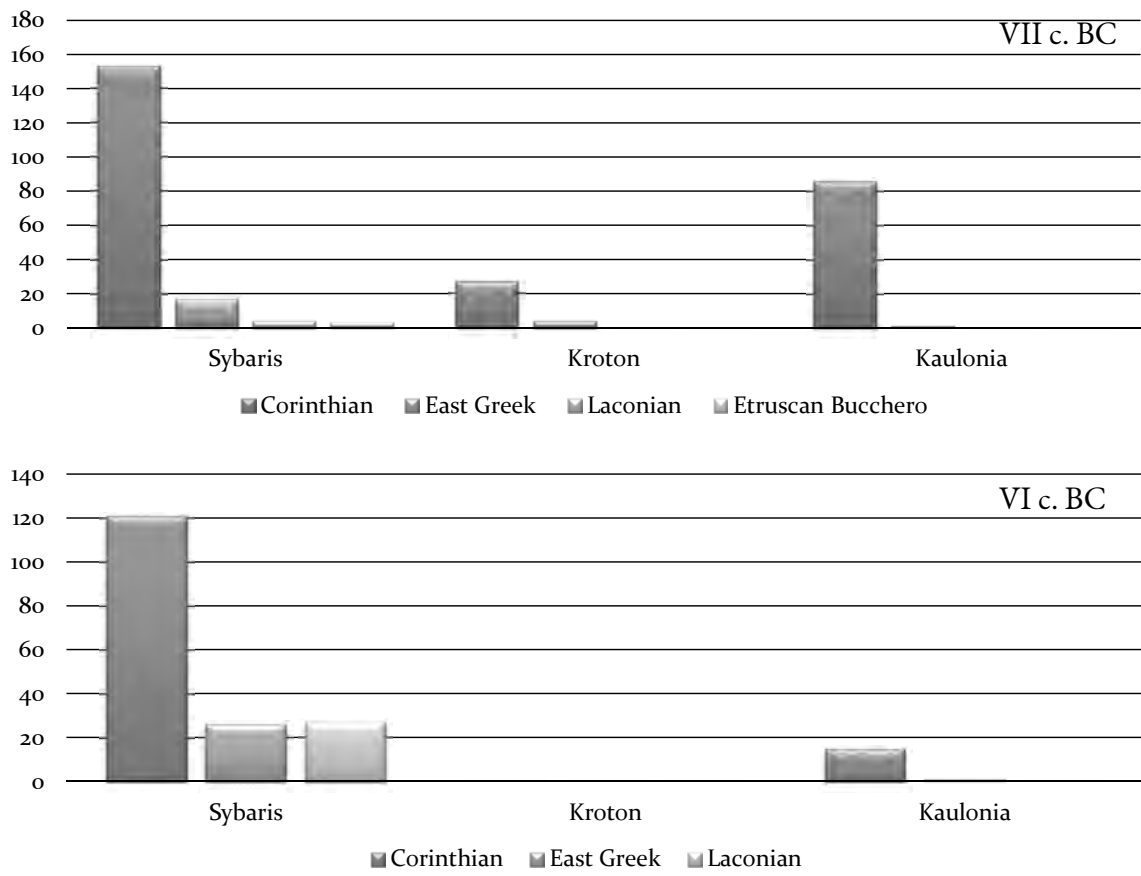


Fig. 3. Provenance and distribution of imported pottery between VII and VI century BC (el. M.R. Luberto).

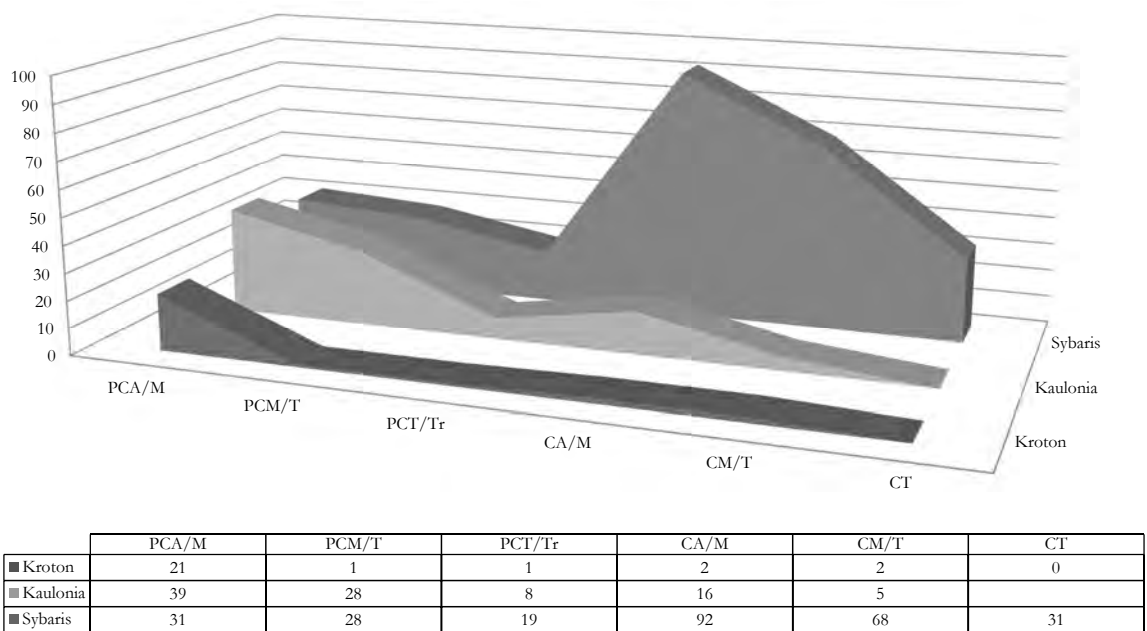


Fig. 4. Distribution of the Corinthian imports from the EPC to the LC (el. M.R. Luberto).

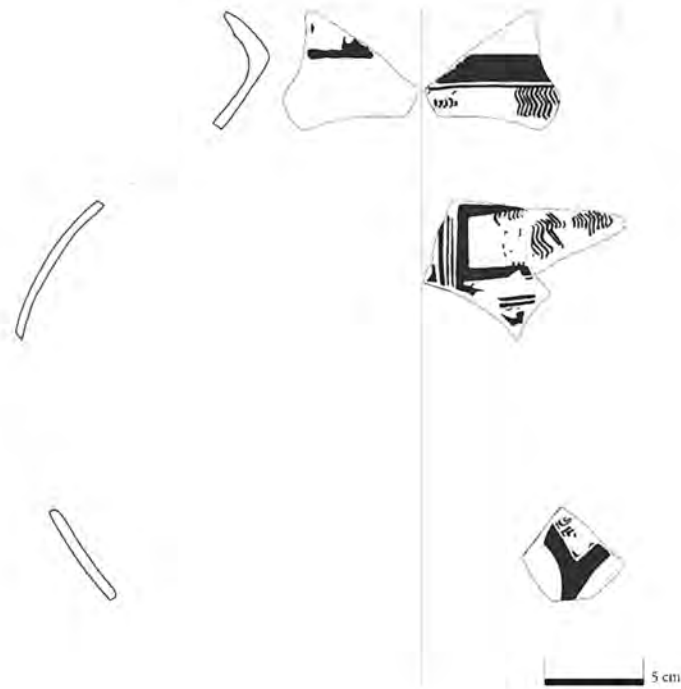


Fig. 5. 1. Reconstruction of a Iapygian *olla* from Stombi, LG II (after VANZETTI 2009; riel. M.R. Luberto).

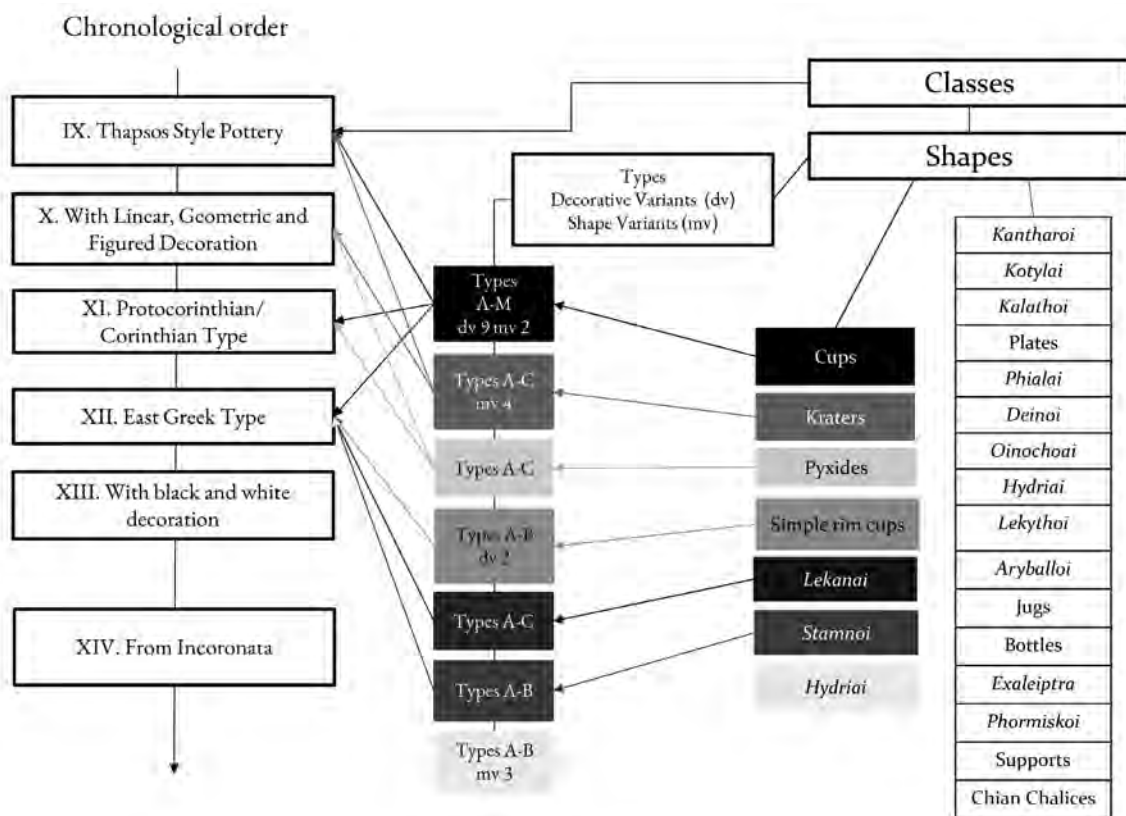


Fig. 6. Colonial pottery. Classes and scheme of the classification adopted (M.R. Luberto).



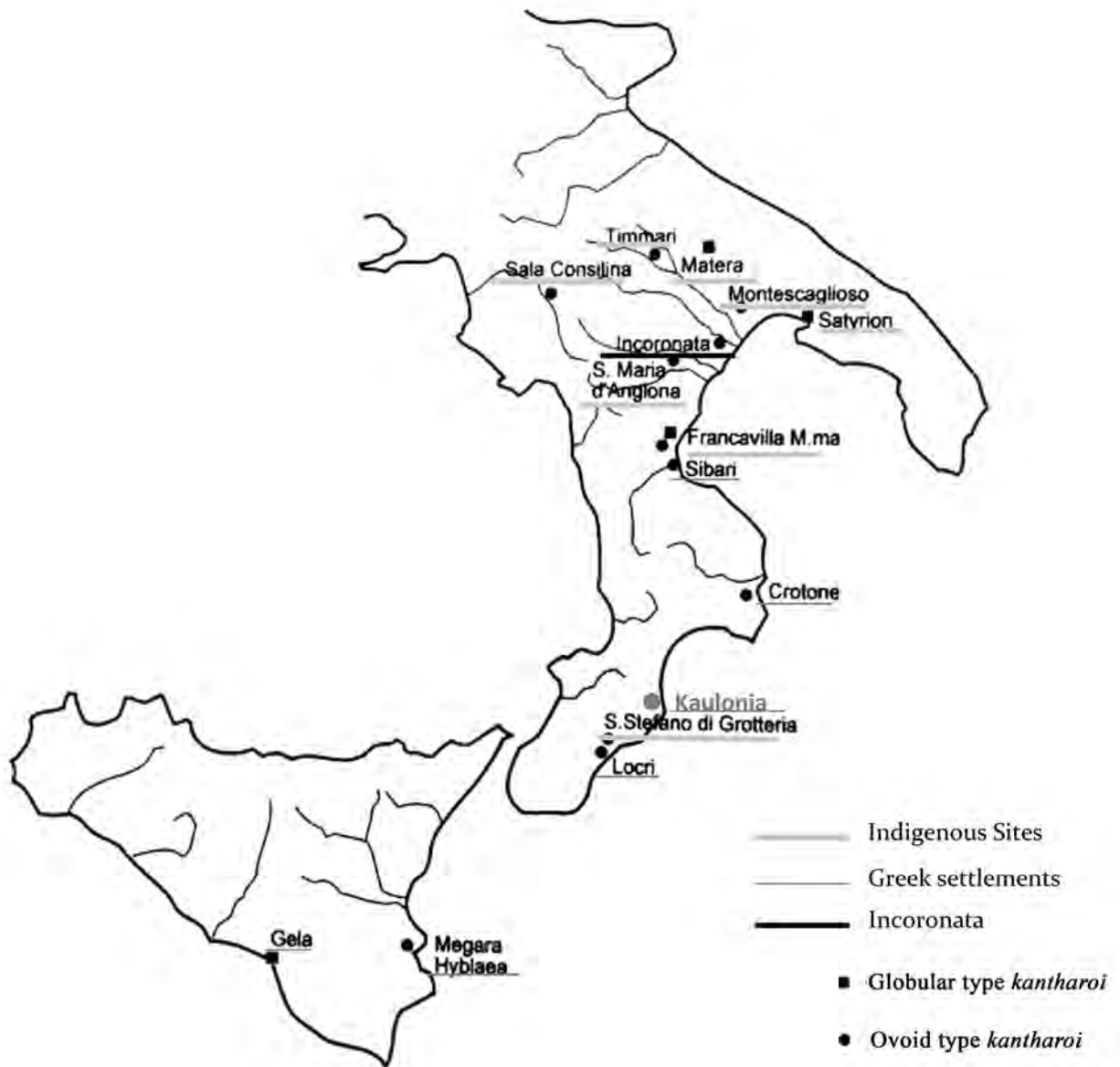


Fig. 7. Distribution of the so-called Achaean *kantharoi* (after TOMAY 2002; riel. M. R. Luberto).