

Gerwulf Schneider &amp; Malgorzata Daszkiewicz

## LATE HELLENISTIC AND ROMAN TABLEWARE IN THE AEGEAN AND THE BLACK SEA REGION – WHY WE NEED CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

*We need chemical analysis to unambiguously assign ceramic finds to archaeological wares. This is demonstrated using two examples: Eastern Sigillata C from Pergamon or Çandarlı (Pitane) and Pontic sigillata from the Crimea, analysed using WD-XRF. The analyses have to provide representative information about the raw materials used in the clay body from which the pottery was made. At least fifteen elements have to be determined with great precision and accuracy. This needs samples of about 1.5 grams to be taken, and generally rules out non-destructive chemical analysis. Homogeneous chemical reference groups enable the reliable definition of archaeological ceramic wares. Pottery provenance can be determined in those cases where analysed local material is available for comparison. The examples of ceramic finds suspected to be Pergamene sigillata found in Delos and Histria demonstrate the significance of chemical analysis. Reference groups for tablewares found in NW- and SE-Crimea include four groups of Pontic sigillata and Bosphoran sigillata which are shown to be different to reference groups of Moesian sigillata.*

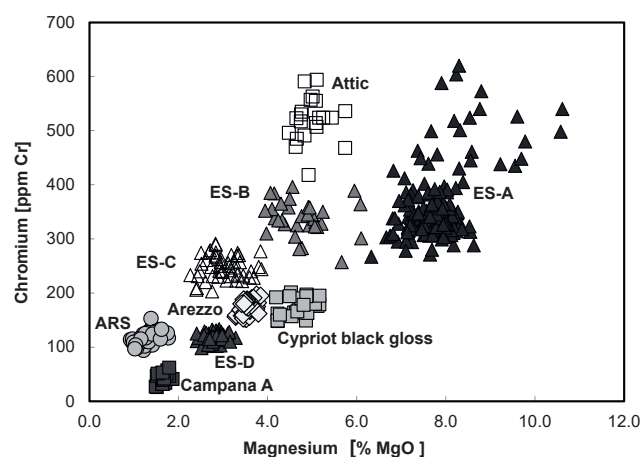
Wavelength-dispersive X-ray fluorescence (WD-XRF) – Pergamon – Candarli – Eastern *Sigillata* C (ESC) – Pontic *Sigillata*

### Chemical analysis for the definition of ceramic wares

The definition of a ware must be based on its chemical composition (including major and trace elements) determined by precise and accurate analysis using WD-XRF (not pXRF), ICP-MS, or NAA. For sherds to be attributed to the same ware they must have the same chemical composition. Differences within a group must be significantly smaller than between groups. MGR-Analysis (Daszkiewicz 2017) should be carried out to verify whether the matrix of the samples is identical (indicating use of the same clay). Similar fabrics should be checked macroscopically and in thin-section. Finally, when weighing up archaeological hypotheses it must be borne in mind that vessel shape alone is not always a reliable indicator of ware type nor can a vessel shape always be determined from small body sherds. By combining archaeological and laboratory analyses we can reliably attribute sherds to specific wares. The next step in determining geographical provenances is usually based solely on relatively secure archaeological hypotheses about the provenances of ceramic wares. A really secure attribution requires analysed reference groups of workshop finds, but these are rarely available. Limitations in the size of available samples as well as the capacities and costs of laboratory analysis mean that the best approach is to precisely analyse a fine powder obtained by drilling or pulverising small fragments of about 1.5 grams after having first removed any gloss or slip and other probably contaminated surface layers. Non-destructive analysis by pXRF or very small samples (e.g. taken by laser ablation) even for fine wares, may not be representative of the clay body of a sherd, and the sampling error should be known for each element.

Chemical reference groups for tablewares from the Eastern Mediterranean were established long ago in

cooperation with numerous archaeologists. This was done, for example, for black gloss wares (Attic wares, Campana A, and a Cypriot black gloss group), for *sigillata* (ESA, ESB, ESC, ESD), for Late Roman Red Slip wares (e.g. ARS, LRC) and others. Schneider and Daszkiewicz gave a short overview in 2014 (for a table of mean compositions see Schneider 2000). **Fig. 1** shows that values of two significant chemical elements plotted in a diagram may be sufficient to demonstrate the differences between chemical groups. Here, two geochemically significant elements (magnesium and chromium, determined by WD-XRF) were used, but it should be pointed out that magnesium cannot be accurately analysed using pXRF or NAA. On the other hand, the attribution of an analysed ceramic object to a given group



**Fig. 1.** Distinction of Hellenistic and Roman far-traded tablewares in the Eastern Mediterranean using a bivariate plot of chromium content vs. magnesium content.

needs all elements from a series of fifteen to twenty analysed elements to fall within the range of variation of a single production centre, which should be known or estimated from relevant experience. Elements probably influenced by chemical alteration, very often indicated by elevated contents of phosphorus and often also of barium and/or strontium, should not be included (Schneider 2017). Helpful tools for the interpretation of analysis results are series of bivariate diagrams or multivariate methods (cluster analysis, principal component analysis, discriminant analysis). Notwithstanding, the tables of the original analysis results are the only true basis for interpretation (e.g. Daszkiewicz et al. 2018) and, therefore, these data should be published (we try to put all our data in an open access databank).

### Pergamon as a production centre of tablewares in the Hellenistic and Roman periods

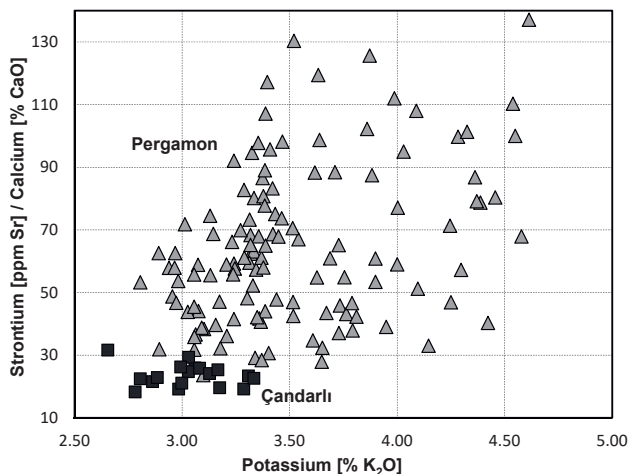
To date a series of nearly 300 sherds of tablewares from Pergamon and Çandarlı sampled by O. Bounegru and for the most part by S. Japp have been analysed resulting in various distinctive groups (Schneider and Japp 2009; Japp 2014). WD-XRF and NAA analyses have revealed that Eastern *sigillata* C (ESC) was produced both in Pergamon and Çandarlı (Schneider and Mommsen 2009). The group of Pergamene ESC matches a clay sample from the Ketios valley, which is also where most of the analysed sherds come from. The products of the two centres can only definitively be distinguished using laboratory analysis. **Fig. 2** demonstrates that the geochemically significant ratios of calcium and strontium separate the more calcareous products of Çandarlı from those of Pergamon. The latter, in spite of lower calcium levels, generally have a higher strontium content.

An example of finds of hypothesized Pergamene *sigillata* from Delos shows how chemical analysis can change an archaeological interpretation (Meyza et al. 2009;

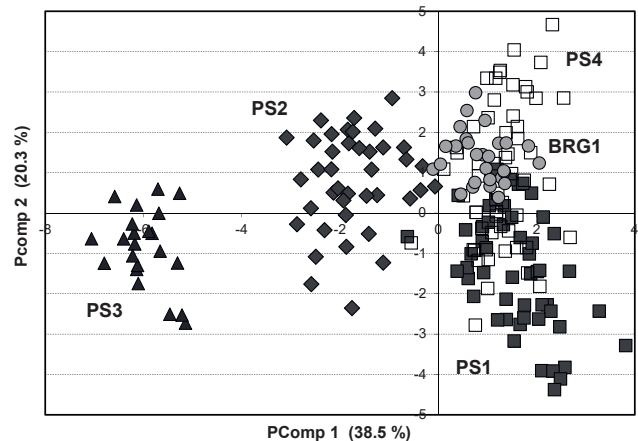
Meyza and Peignard-Giros 2011). In fact only six of twenty analysed samples were ESC: two from Pergamon and four from Çandarlı (Daszkiewicz and Schneider 2009). This was corroborated by MGR-analysis and by WD-XRF. Analyses of another twenty sherds from Delos confirmed this picture, with a large proportion of sherds not matching products either from Pergamon or from Çandarlı; however, the analyses did lead to the definition of two new reference groups of non-calcareous *sigillata* in the Aegean (Daszkiewicz and Schneider 2011; Meyza 2014). The results obtained by applying other methods used traditionally in a geological laboratory, such as thin-section studies, SEM-EDS microanalysis, and XRD (Trzcinski, Wrobel and Kieszczynski 2009; 2011), demonstrated very clearly why we need precise chemical analysis. **Table 1** presents the means of the last analysis results for ESC from Pergamon and Çandarlı (the small differences from the earlier means published in Schneider 2000 are due to the current larger number of analyses).

Imports of ESC at various sites can now securely be determined using the two reference groups. Consequently, finds of *sigillata* from Pergamon and Çandarlı have been attested at far distant sites such as Ptolemais/Libya, Chhim/Lebanon and Nymphaion/Crimea in a pilot project devised by H. Meyza and K. Domżałski. O. Bounegru selected eighteen sherds of probable Pergamene origin from Histria/Romania, of which, according to chemical analysis, only eight were made in Çandarlı and one in Pergamon. Another two sherds were identified as Pontic *sigillata*, whilst the remaining sherds could not be attributed.

Another example of the definition of a tableware is illustrated by five analysed sherds found at geographically diverse sites (Ptolemais/Libya, Chhim/Lebanon, Illychevka/NE-Crimea and Pergamon) and attributed to Late Roman Light-Coloured ware (LRLCW) (Domżałski 2002). Their place of production may be Pergamon, but the group does not match any of the various already existing chemical groups of pottery made at Pergamon and thus raises certain doubts.



**Fig. 2.** Distinction of ESC from Pergamon and from Çandarlı in a bivariate plot of the strontium/calcium-ratio vs. potassium content.



**Fig. 3.** Principal component analysis of chemical analysis results of Pontic *sigillata* (PS1, PS2, PS3, PS4) and Moesian *sigillata* from Butovo (BRG1); elements used are Si, Ti, Al, Fe, Mn, Mg, Ca, Na, K, Cr, Ni, Rb, Sr, Zr, Ba.

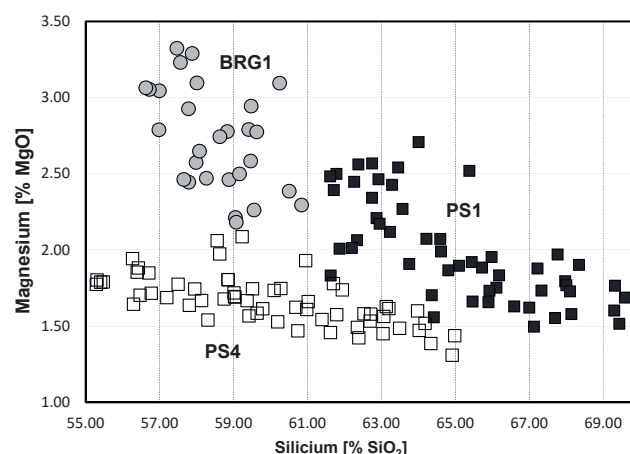
Ware (chem. group)	SiO <sub>2</sub>	TiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	K <sub>2</sub> O	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	V	Cr	Ni (Cu)	Zn	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	(Nb	Ba	(Ce)(Pb)	I.o.i. %		
	% by weight										ppm													
ESC-P (n=125) std ±	59.84 2.11	1.023 0.075	19.18 1.52	7.40 0.52	0.108 0.017	3.01 0.44	5.00 1.87	0.67 0.27	3.52 0.43	0.241 0.102	139 29	243 28	148 19	57 10	93 11	153 15	288 72	27 4	194 22	17 3	746 169	80 13	33 12	2.45 1.58
ESC-C (n=18) std ±	55.91 1.91	0.895 0.055	17.03 1.14	7.14 0.56	0.108 0.020	3.49 0.48	11.30 2.02	0.86 0.22	3.05 0.19	0.217 0.059	121 23	239 33	157 27	51 14	90 23	142 9	263 47	25 3	170 18	16 8	715 225	73 13	23 4	3.38 1.90
LRLCW (n=5) std ±	58.80 0.88	0.637 0.101	25.89 0.69	4.90 0.34	0.079 0.005	2.13 0.22	3.37 0.89	0.37 0.20	3.55 0.07	0.260 0.018	117 5	81 57	47 30	20 4	67 3	151 12	171 11	17 1	140 6	15 2	858 131	79 3	33 9	2.24 0.38
BS (n= 10) std ±	69.42 1.97	0.838 0.060	14.42 1.08	6.19 0.69	0.096 0.018	1.91 0.23	2.80 0.40	1.56 0.19	2.57 0.24	0.203 0.034	111 17	123 14	47 7	28 9	76 12	86 7	231 37	27 3	253 36	14 4	455 71	68 9	19 4	2.05 1.12
PS 1 (n=52) std ±	65.13 2.38	0.860 0.050	16.79 1.27	6.27 0.62	0.078 0.027	1.99 0.33	4.76 1.45	1.05 0.16	2.90 0.23	0.173 0.055	120 13	110 12	58 8	45 14	103 13	130 12	234 58	28 3	186 20	16 3	508 104	67 12	21 6	1.92 0.77
PS2 (n=39) std ±	57.16 2.57	0.839 0.047	18.00 1.38	7.35 0.46	0.100 0.034	3.01 0.30	9.15 2.72	1.24 0.15	2.94 0.22	0.210 0.180	138 17	147 15	85 10	50 14	96 16	124 70	364 26	148 14	14 3	419 76	68 12	20 10	2.40 1.30	
PS3 (n=22) std ±	54.83 1.90	0.824 0.036	14.58 0.62	6.95 0.36	0.101 0.012	4.10 0.42	14.42 2.02	1.33 0.15	2.67 0.24	0.177 0.040	127 16	279 22	153 14	48 14	85 11	99 8	550 86	23 2	155 15	14 3	332 71	56 5	13 6	4.94 2.11
PS4 (n=60) std ±	60.00 2.71	0.789 0.061	18.99 1.79	6.78 0.58	0.067 0.018	1.67 0.16	7.50 1.83	0.68 0.22	3.36 0.32	0.149 0.040	141 17	119 11	71 10	64 23	114 23	147 17	338 147	27 3	166 16	16 2	429 88	72 10	24 8	3.23 2.19
BRG 1 (n=37) std ±	59.15 1.57	0.875 0.019	19.60 0.77	6.71 0.40	0.090 0.004	2.62 0.33	6.34 1.12	0.96 0.12	3.40 0.20	0.218 0.074	145 13	117 6	63 6	42 13	108 8	157 10	276 37	27 4	189 17	15 1	436 56	81 9	24 6	1.54 0.74
PRG 1 (n=13) std ±	62.66 0.76	0.805 0.015	16.51 0.37	6.22 0.15	0.098 0.009	1.94 0.09	7.75 1.10	0.94 0.15	2.84 0.12	0.213 0.070	120 10	99 4	53 6	33 10	94 6	128 8	268 17	26 4	214 14	14 2	385 50	76 10	23 6	2.28 1.17
PRG 2 (n=4) std ±	55.64 0.37	0.878 0.017	20.35 0.33	7.04 0.10	0.087 0.006	2.86 0.34	8.68 0.34	1.01 0.09	3.19 0.24	0.173 0.004	149 4	122 5	61 4	37 2	113 5	144 14	323 30	30 2	171 7	15 1	419 18	92 4	27 2	1.34 0.31
PRG 3 (n=12) std ±	59.17 1.17	0.769 0.034	16.58 0.98	5.90 0.31	0.088 0.015	2.12 0.22	11.29 1.23	0.73 0.09	3.05 0.12	0.292 0.078	121 11	97 5	56 7	39 10	95 5	138 9	427 41	22 4	202 13	14 1	424 62	68 10	22 5	4.26 1.44
Novae (n=23) std ±	62.31 1.05	0.788 0.019	15.97 0.56	5.50 0.17	0.050 0.004	2.04 0.09	8.79 1.46	0.94 0.09	3.27 0.24	0.335 0.107	126 10	99 8	47 5	31 9	111 15	131 6	306 42	25 2	190 7	14 2	372 24	71 9	32 20	2.92 1.23

**Table 1.** WD-XRF means and standard deviations of significant tablewares: Eastern *sigillata* C from Pergamon (ESC-P) and from Çandarlı (ESC-C), Late Roman Light-Coloured ware (LRLCW), Bosphoran *sigillata* (BS), Pontic *sigillata* (PS1, PS2, PS3, PS4) and Moesian *sigillata* (Butovo BRG1, Pavlikeni PRG1, PRG2, PRG3, and Novae). Samples with obvious alteration effects (e.g. in phosphorus levels) have been omitted, the mean of ESC from Pergamon includes two subgroups with somewhat different silicon, aluminium and potassium concentrations.

### Pontic *sigillata* and other tablewares from the Crimea

A large series of samples archaeologically identified as Pontic *sigillata* were analysed from various sites, mainly in the Crimea. Sherds were collected by E. Kühnelt, who wrote a thesis on the ceramics from Alma Kermen, SW-Crimea (Kühnelt 2008). Other samples were provided by K. Domzalski from Nymphaion, NE-Crimea. Four chemical groups of Pontic *sigillata* (PS) were distinguished. **Table 1** shows that, with the exception of group PS3, the means are not very different and are very similar to the Moesian *sigillata* from Butovo both in major and trace elements. This can also be seen from a principal component analysis (PCA) in **Fig. 3**, where PS2 and PS3 are clearly separated, whereas PS1 and PS4 overlap one another and also overlap Moesian *sigillata* from Butovo (BRG1) and Pavlikeni (PRG1, PRG2, PRG3). Regarding the contents of magnesium and silicon in a bivariate diagram (**fig. 4**), BRG1 is clearly distinguished from PS1, and groups PS1 and PS4 do not overlap (this is also shown by PCA when only these groups are included in the calculation). Thus, the attribution of a sample may differ depending on which calculation (selection of elements/groups) or element combinations are used. Therefore, to securely attribute analysis results of a sample to a given chemical group, all individual data must be considered and

interpreted taking into account mineralogical and geochemical rules and possible alteration effects. The individual analysis results for Pontic and Bosphoran *sigillata* are given in **Table 2** (for Moesian *sigillata* part of the data are presented in Baranowski, Daszkiewicz and Schneider forthcoming).



**Fig. 4.** Bivariate plot of magnesium content vs. silicon content of Moesian *sigillata* from Butovo (BRG1) and Pontic *sigillata* PS1 and PS4.







Lab.-no.	find spot	SiO <sub>2</sub> wt.%	TiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	K <sub>2</sub> O	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	V ppm	Cr	Ni	Zn	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Ba	Ce	Pb	Lo.i. %
MD3491	Alma Kermen	62.70	0.765	19.06	6.71	0.054	1.53	5.38	0.45	3.17	0.180	133	122	75	113	132	861	24	193	13	416	65	23	5.56
MD3493	Alma Kermen	61.02	0.817	19.64	7.72	0.247	1.66	4.83	0.81	3.08	0.177	153	135	88	122	130	374	28	185	15	693	62	69	5.07
MD3494	Alma Kermen	60.10	0.742	16.84	6.06	0.059	1.73	10.29	0.80	3.24	0.141	111	122	59	93	130	320	27	192	16	451	78	27	2.18
MD3496	Alma Kermen	62.71	0.699	17.48	6.13	0.047	1.58	6.77	0.91	3.51	0.172	135	113	67	106	142	342	24	162	15	334	61	20	3.03
MD3498	Alma Kermen	61.62	0.783	17.74	6.43	0.065	1.46	7.91	0.76	3.09	0.144	128	115	76	106	128	550	27	194	16	388	63	27	6.64
MD3500	Alma Kermen	62.39	0.707	17.19	6.20	0.054	1.42	8.73	0.33	2.89	0.088	128	110	68	108	121	794	23	179	14	761	70	21	8.43
MD3501	Alma Kermen	64.03	0.860	18.64	6.79	0.066	1.47	4.15	0.39	3.41	0.197	147	123	79	117	145	282	28	179	18	376	71	237	4.68
MD3508	Alma Kermen	58.56	0.727	18.38	6.54	0.057	2.06	9.40	0.74	3.41	0.126	138	121	69	107	142	422	27	169	14	343	72	25	3.73
MD3510	Alma Kermen	59.64	0.839	19.33	6.67	0.074	1.59	7.27	0.76	3.69	0.150	145	124	72	103	144	276	30	162	17	403	79	25	1.85
MD3511	Alma Kermen	60.98	0.732	17.82	6.31	0.058	1.61	8.33	0.78	3.24	0.133	144	121	65	90	134	318	28	174	15	361	71	21	2.30
MD3514	Alma Kermen	56.77	0.826	20.69	7.11	0.092	1.72	8.88	0.53	3.28	0.107	157	137	73	122	159	258	25	152	17	463	90	34	1.58
MD3515	Alma Kermen	63.05	0.715	17.73	6.31	0.051	1.45	7.07	0.60	2.91	0.129	121	115	74	123	126	670	23	146	14	664	66	21	7.24
MD3517	Alma Kermen	61.39	0.882	20.46	6.96	0.074	1.54	3.70	0.42	4.43	0.142	152	125	78	130	142	309	29	162	17	437	93	97	5.20
MD3584	Alma Kermen	61.70	0.783	18.98	7.04	0.069	1.78	5.02	0.79	3.70	0.150	142	118	89	170	153	388				407			7.20
MD3585	Alma Kermen	56.47	0.829	20.92	7.45	0.076	1.70	8.32	0.63	3.49	0.098	151	113	71	129	170	165				418			1.47
MD3591	Alma Kermen	55.29	0.826	22.16	7.89	0.053	1.77	7.98	0.60	3.30	0.123	163	124	82	187	195	204				407			0.53
MD3604	Alma Kermen	64.18	0.759	16.90	6.27	0.049	1.52	6.32	0.57	3.34	0.049	128	102	61	107	158	229				195			2.71
MD3609	Alma Kermen	60.20	0.827	18.21	6.80	0.074	1.53	8.11	0.72	3.39	0.153	120	114	67	94	156	261				171			2.26
MD3610	Alma Kermen	56.27	0.733	18.69	6.87	0.073	1.94	11.51	0.58	3.21	0.116	112	91	71	124	159	369				138			0.31
MD3611	Alma Kermen	63.49	0.688	16.70	6.24	0.066	1.49	7.32	0.70	3.18	0.113	125	104	64	78	144	284				158			2.94
MD3613	Alma Kermen	59.42	0.848	19.64	6.77	0.075	1.57	7.63	0.62	3.27	0.165	141	115	93	134	172	198				156			3.38
MD3614	Alma Kermen	57.50	0.860	21.08	7.59	0.079	1.78	6.10	1.14	3.77	0.107	140	123	89	144	168	281				149			3.85
MD3617	Alma Kermen	58.14	0.817	20.23	7.02	0.056	1.67	7.90	0.71	3.32	0.141	138	114	75	123	174	273				156			3.08
MD3621	Alma Kermen	61.94	0.842	18.80	6.65	0.068	1.74	6.44	0.37	2.98	0.171	139	128	74	122	139	519	30	184	15	427	77	24	7.92
MD3624	Alma Kermen	60.74	0.802	17.42	6.50	0.075	1.47	9.03	0.75	3.07	0.139	124	102	72	97	150	424	35	181	22	574	65	13	2.59
MD3626	Alma Kermen	63.13	0.729	18.64	6.60	0.047	1.63	5.18	0.68	3.25	0.125	125	120	71	110	126	754	25	158	15	1202	58	24	6.06
MD3627	Alma Kermen	59.01	0.712	17.40	6.10	0.062	1.72	11.00	0.72	3.15	0.122	132	119	62	94	132	337	27	176	15	604	72	22	2.52
MD3628	Alma Kermen	56.29	0.718	18.89	6.51	0.051	1.64	11.81	0.48	3.41	0.195	140	118	67	100	143	374	25	151	15	482	86	21	2.96
MD3629	Alma Kermen	59.79	0.836	20.06	7.26	0.080	1.61	5.18	0.58	4.47	0.126	148	123	94	127	145	311	29	166	18	404	82	28	6.49
MD5102	Balaklava	58.40	0.777	18.94	6.62	0.097	1.54	9.47	0.40	3.57	0.194	153	117	67	91	161	210	21	178	12	474	67	18	2.00
MD5091	Balaklava	56.67	0.816	21.61	7.48	0.058	1.68	7.45	0.38	3.71	0.159	161	127	81	115	189	178	23	173	15	457	76	19	0.83
MD5094	Balaklava	56.63	0.814	21.51	7.43	0.090	1.68	7.61	0.38	3.70	0.156	167	125	82	118	189	182	22	170	14	473	73	18	0.84
MD5085	Balaklava	55.45	0.775	21.67	7.41	0.108	2.11	7.98	0.56	3.81	0.116	159	127	84	133	197	245	21	166	12	458	75	21	0.79
<b>Bosporan Ware</b>																								
C457	Nymphaion	69.86	0.874	14.09	6.40	0.096	2.07	2.20	1.71	2.52	0.180	105	120	40	85	85	246	28	247	8	636	56	24	1.30
C459	Nymphaion	67.43	0.842	15.33	6.84	0.050	1.77	2.80	1.56	3.15	0.235	119	133	36	85	97	251	31	333	13	429	70	17	3.10
C460	Nymphaion	70.66	0.794	13.55	5.57	0.113	1.58	3.36	1.87	2.35	0.166	85	101	39	72	82	197	28	269	12	490	72	21	1.50
C461	Nymphaion	71.09	0.847	13.61	6.01	0.095	1.84	2.38	1.61	2.35	0.183	108	124	41	79	84	209	28	276	10	414	68	19	0.70
F223	Nymphaion	69.95	0.768	14.17	5.56	0.096	1.89	3.44	1.44	2.41	0.283	108	116	49	61	89	193	22	227	17	474	59	14	1.16
F225	Nymphaion	69.39	0.878	14.35	6.36	0.106	2.12	2.59	1.55	2.48	0.183	113	130	53	61	83	229	25	257	20	460	80	16	1.24
F226	Nymphaion	71.62	0.724	13.77	5.23	0.111	1.62	2.77	1.36	2.58	0.215	100	100	52	77	78	190	21	215	16	441	53	18	4.00
F228	Nymphaion	70.59	0.845	13.53	5.95	0.091	1.87	2.81	1.55	2.57	0.199	111	132	52	59	77	217	24	242	17	405	74	18	2.47
G798	Nymphaion	68.61	0.897	14.73	6.37	0.101	2.09	2.54	1.74	2.73	0.188	104	134	52	83	84	293	27	252	11	404	75	13	2.00
M643	Nymphaion	65.02	0.914	17.02	7.59	0.102	2.29	3.13	1.21	2.54	0.197	153	140	57	94	98	286	31	207	11	393	74	25	2.94

Table 2 (cont.)

At Alma Kermen the most frequent group of Pontic *sigillata* is PS4 (Chersonesian *sigillata*?), while only one sample of PS4 was detected among the Pontic *sigillata* analysed from NE-Crimea. Very probably PS4 was produced within SE-Crimea. Compared to the other reference groups the variation of strontium content in PS4, given as standard deviation in Table 1, is extraordinarily high. There is, however, no correlation with the also largely varying calcium content. In some cases elevated strontium is connected with elevated barium. An explanation may be that the sherds in Alma Kermen underwent a secondary alteration effect from soil surrounding the buried sherd. Ten samples of PS4 found in Chersonesos (provided by D. Zhuravlev) and Balaklava (provided by R. Szczypiorski-Karasiewicz) have lower strontium levels, possibly indicating different burial conditions. The latter samples are also distinguished by their higher aluminium and lower silica contents as a second group of PS4, probably representing the true Chersonesian *sigillata*.

Pontic *sigillata* PS4, local bricks, pottery, wasters from various sites in SW-Crimea (Alma Kermen, Chersonesos, Kazackaja, Balaklava, Charax) and clay samples, for

example, from Sevastopol, represent a typical composition of SW-Crimea which differs from that of similar material in NE-Crimea, including Bosporan *sigillata* (BS) and local ceramics from Nymphaion (Daszkiewicz and Schneider 2005; 2006; Schneider 1996; Schneider, Daszkiewicz and Langner 2006).

Pontic *sigillata* groups PS1 and PS2 correspond to Pontic *sigillata* A (Domžalski 1996; 1999; Zhuravlev 2000). The only three analysed samples of Pontic *sigillata* B could not be securely attributed to any group. Pontic *sigillata* C is chemically correlated to PS3. The latter group, because of the geochemical relation to ophiolitic rocks, certainly was not produced in the northern Pontus (which cannot be excluded for PS1 and PS2) but more probably on the southern or eastern coast of the Black Sea. There is also no reliable clue to the places of production of analysed Late Roman tablewares such as Pontic Red Slip ware and Late Roman Pontic Burnished ware. From finds outside the Crimea, samples of Pontic *sigillata* were analysed from Olbia (PS1, PS2, PS3), Histria (PS2) and Carthage (PS2). No Moesian *sigillata* was detected among sherds from Crimea within our series of analyses.

In conclusion, it has to be said that many questions remain unresolved and can only be answered based on reliable chemical data from further samples collected in the future, as this would enable the secure definition of far-traded archaeological wares. For the geographical attribution of chemical groups we need to analyse reliably identified local ceramics from workshop finds, as we have done, for example, in the case of Moesian *sigillata*.

Gerwulf Schneider  
Arbeitsgruppe Archäometrie,  
Institut für Prähistorische Archäologie, Freie Universität Berlin  
*schnarch3@gmail.com*

Malgorzata Daszkiewicz  
Institut für Prähistorische Archäologie, Freie Universität Berlin  
and ARCHEA Warsaw  
*m.dasz@wp.pl*

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