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## New Prehistoric Finds from Costa dei Grani, Noto (Syracuse Province), Sicily

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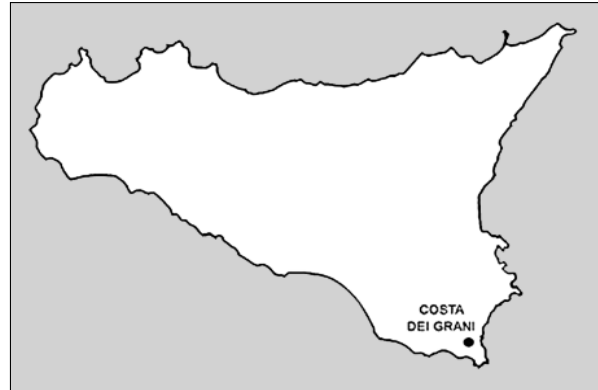
MARTA FITUŁA

## NEW PREHISTORIC FINDS FROM COSTA DEI GRANI, NOTO (SYRACUSE PROVINCE), SICILY

**Keywords:** Castelluccio Culture, Costa dei Grani, flint tools, *fruttiere*, prehistory of Sicily

The aim of this paper is a preliminary presentation of a group of artefacts, collected during a field survey in 2011 as part of a PhD thesis research.<sup>1</sup> The activities carried out including non-invasive methods, were an attempt at verifying the environmental context of prehistoric sites of Eastern Sicily. Discussed finds come from Costa dei Grani Hill, close to the town of Rosolini, in the municipality of Noto (Syracuse Province).<sup>2</sup>

The hill largely dominates the plains below and is part of a series of gentle undulations surrounding the tableland called Piana di Noto. To the north-east of Costa dei Grani develops the Saia Raudeci, a tributary of the River



Tellaro. The agricultural landscape of this area is comprised of corn fields and vineyards, orchards and tree crops: almonds, olives, citrus fruits, and carob (**Fig. 1**).



Fig. 1. Costa dei Grani, view to the eastern slope of the hill (Photo M. Fituła).

Ryc. 1. Costa dei Grani, widok na wschodnie zbocze.

<sup>1</sup> My PhD thesis “The Neolithisation of Eastern Sicily” is written under the supervision of Professor Karol Szymczak, Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw, to whom I would like to express my thanks for his help. This article is a developed version of the poster “Nuovi ritrovamenti preistorici presso Costa dei Grani (Noto),” presented during the conference “Prima di Thapsos. La Sicilia orientale tra l’Eneolitico finale e l’Età del Bronzo Antico,”

in the Museum of Paolo Orsi in Syracuse, 16–17 December 2011. I take this opportunity to thank Dr Rosa Lanteri (Soprintendenza dei Beni Culturali e Ambientali di Siracusa), Dr Rokszana Chowanec (University of Warsaw), Dr Davide Tanasi (Arcadia University) for their kind assistance in my research.

<sup>2</sup> Costa dei Grani is a name of both: the hill and the district (It. *contrada*).

In the Costa dei Grani territory no archaeological excavations have ever been conducted. Nonetheless, the site was already known in the literature thanks to some discoveries especially in the northern part of the district, where materials related to the Eneolithic, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age were found (GUZZARDI 2001: 103; GUZZARDI, BASILE 1996: 215). Among them, some finds of Maltese pottery of the Tarxien Cemetery Culture (2500–1500 BC) point to certain contacts with Malta during the Early and Middle Bronze Age (GUZZARDI 1992; 2008: 40). However, besides short reports of these explorations, no detailed publications focusing on the artefacts have been ever published. An important aspect of this paper is that it contains not only the presentation of the materials but also an

indication of a precise location of each find spot, thanks to using handheld GPS devices. The survey covered the whole territory of the hill.

Costa dei Grani is 15 km away in a straight line from the eponymous site of the Castelluccio Culture.<sup>3</sup> Nearby, other sites of this culture have been discovered: Case Lantieri, Sbriula, Case Granieri, Cava Lazzaro, Cava d'Ispica, Cozzo delle Giummare, Cugni di Calafarina, Grotta Calafarina, Contrada Paolina (TUSA 1999: 328). A few kilometres from the hill, there are also prehistoric sites attributed to different archaeological cultures: Contrada Stafenna (LIBRA 2005), Cava dei Servi (PICCOLO 2007: 28) and Granati Vecchi (PROCELLI 2001: 35; GUZZARDI 2008: 43; TERRANOVA 2008: 58; GIORDANO forthcoming).

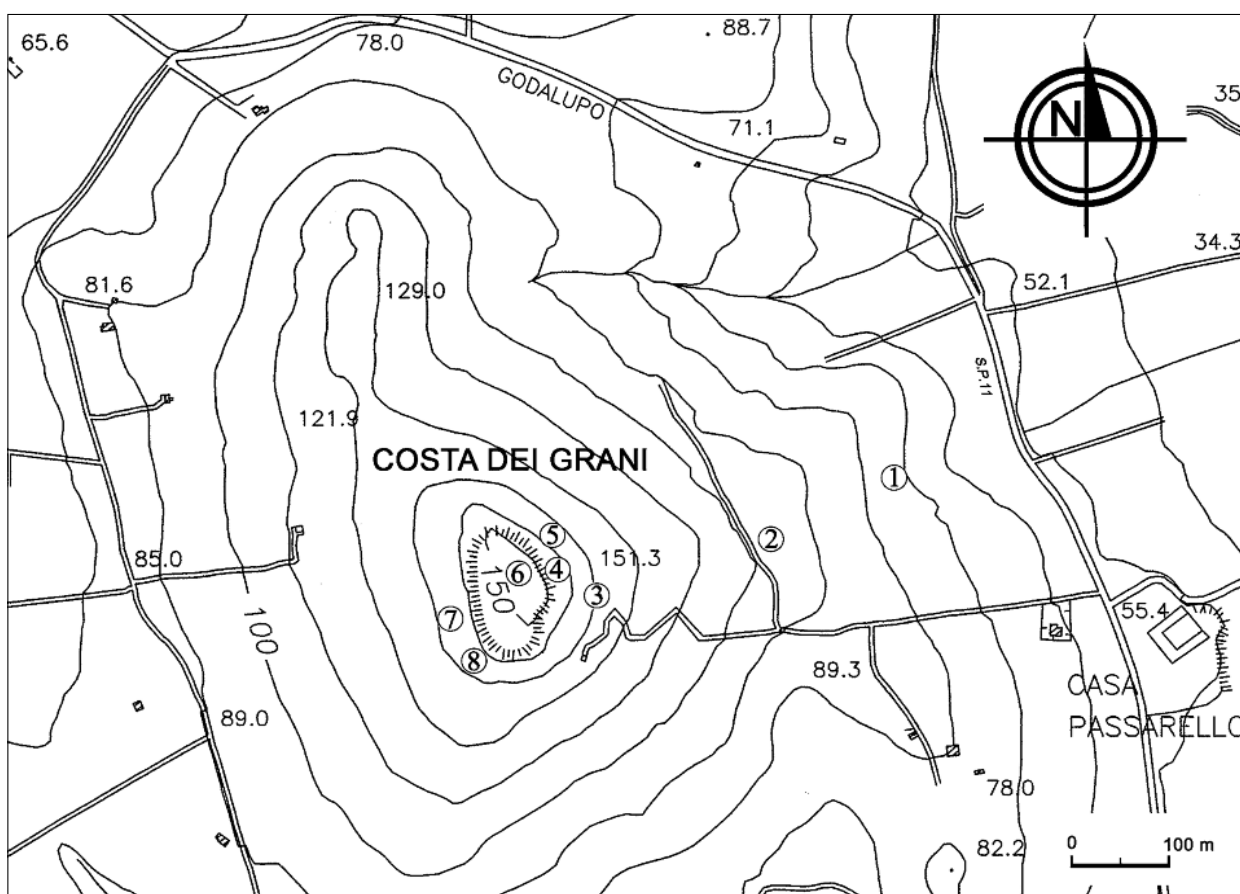


Fig. 2. Costa dei Grani. Find spots CG1 (1) – CG8 (8) (Drawing M. Fituła).

Ryc. 2. Costa dei Grani. Skupiska materiału: CG1 (1) – CG8 (8).

<sup>3</sup> The necropolis of Castelluccio, located in the Syracuse Province, between Noto and Palazzolo Acreide was discovered by the famous Italian archaeologist Paolo Orsi (1859–1935), who excavated this prehistoric site at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. (ORSI 1892; 1893; 1897). The culture is characterised by small settlements, very often fortified, and necropolises with graves cut into rocky walls and stylised doors. The spiral motifs engraved on the entrances are identified by M. Gimbutas as snake coils and ram

horns (GIMBUTAS 2006: 59). The most representative examples of monumental funeral architecture with pseudo-pillars or with pilasters are so-called “tombs of the prince.” Another characteristic element and a proof of the close connection with the Eastern Mediterranean Basin, are bone bossed plaques (*ossa a globuli*), examples of Sicilian handicraft and important evidence of commercial contacts.

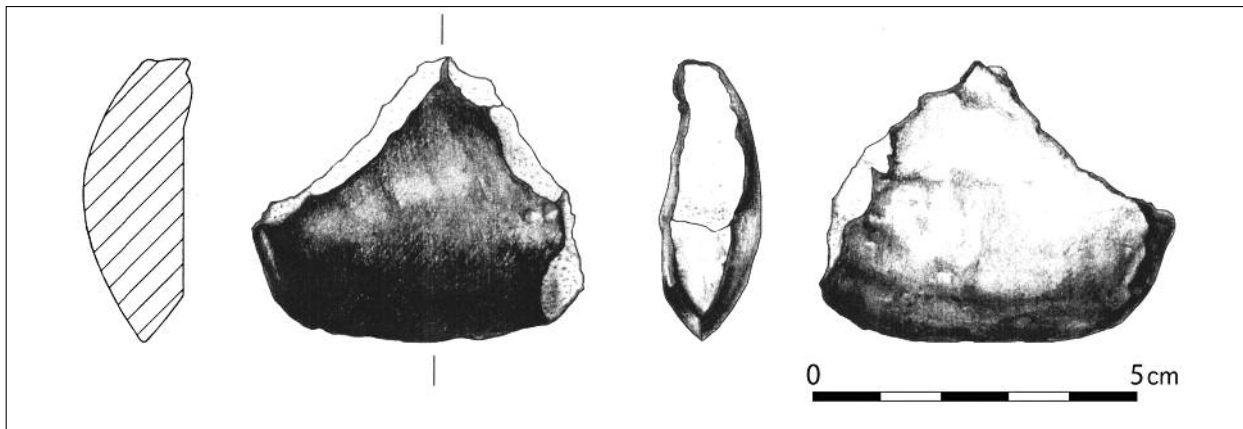


Fig. 3. Fragment of the basalt polished axe from Costa dei Grani – CG1 (Inv. No CG1.1) (Drawing M. Fitula).

Ryc. 3. Fragment gładzonej siekierki z bazaltu z Costa dei Grani – CG1 (nr inw. CG1.1).

### Find spots

The materials: 54 fragments of pottery and 9 lithic artefacts, come from 8 locations denominated respectively CG1–CG8 (Fig. 2).<sup>4</sup> Every find spot point was identified due to the density of the materials on the surface. A notable concentration of finds was encountered on the top of the hill at an altitude of about 150 meters above sea level, and on the south-western side. The collected artefacts have been deposited in the Superintendence's office in Syracuse. The first artefact: the lower part of a dark grey basalt axe

(cutting edge) with a plano-convex section of the body was found on the eastern slope of the hill. Although it was an isolated and singular find, it was denominated the first find spot CG1 (Fig. 3).

From the second point (CG2) come (Fig. 4): a fragment of the rim of a *fruttiera* with painted decoration (1), a fragment of coarse pottery: a vessel wall with an attachment point for a handle (2), and a perforated lithic tool, probably a weight made from a light beige pebble of compact limestone (3).

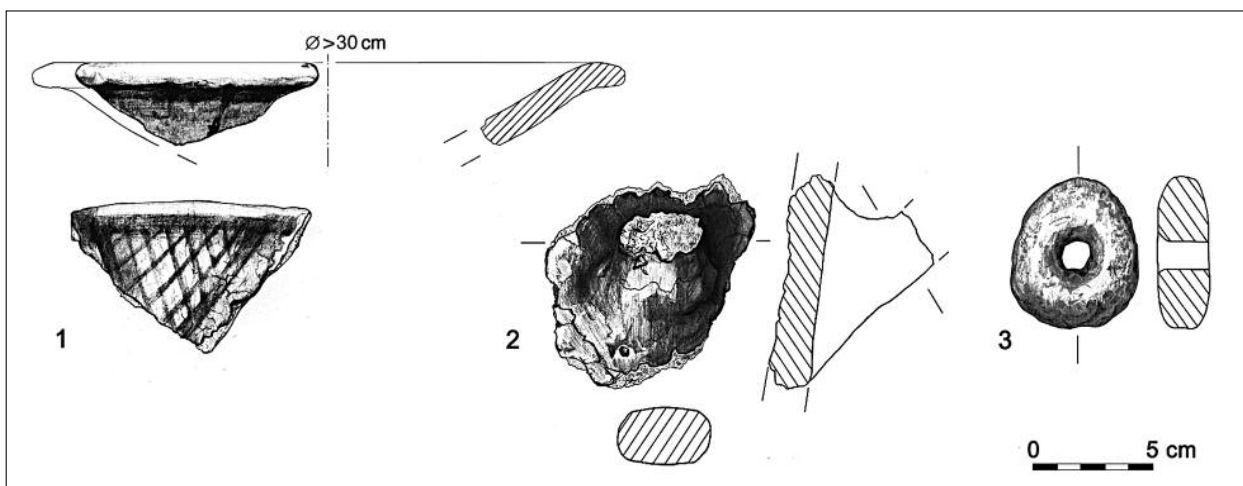


Fig. 4. Artefacts from Costa dei Grani – CG2 (Drawing M. Fitula). 1 – fragment of a *fruttiera* (Inv. No. CG2.1); 2 – fragment of coarse pottery (Inv. No. CG2.2); 3 – lithic tool (Inv. No. CG2.3).

Ryc. 4. Zabytki z Costa dei Grani – CG2. 1 – fragment *fruttiera* (nr inw. CG2.1); 2 – fragment ceramiki gruboziarnistej (nr inw. CG2.2); 3 – narzędzie kamienne (nr inw. CG2.3).

<sup>4</sup> CG (Costa dei Grani). with the following coordinates: CG1 (36°48'58 N, 14°59'56 E), CG2 (36°48'56 N, 14°59'51 E), CG3 (36°48'54 N, 14°59'44 E), CG4 (36°48'55 N, 14°59'43 E),

CG5 (36°48'56 N, 14°59'42 E), CG6 (36°48'54–56 N, 14°59'39–42 E), CG7 (36°48'54 N, 14°59'38 E), CG8 (36°48'51 N, 14°59'39 E).

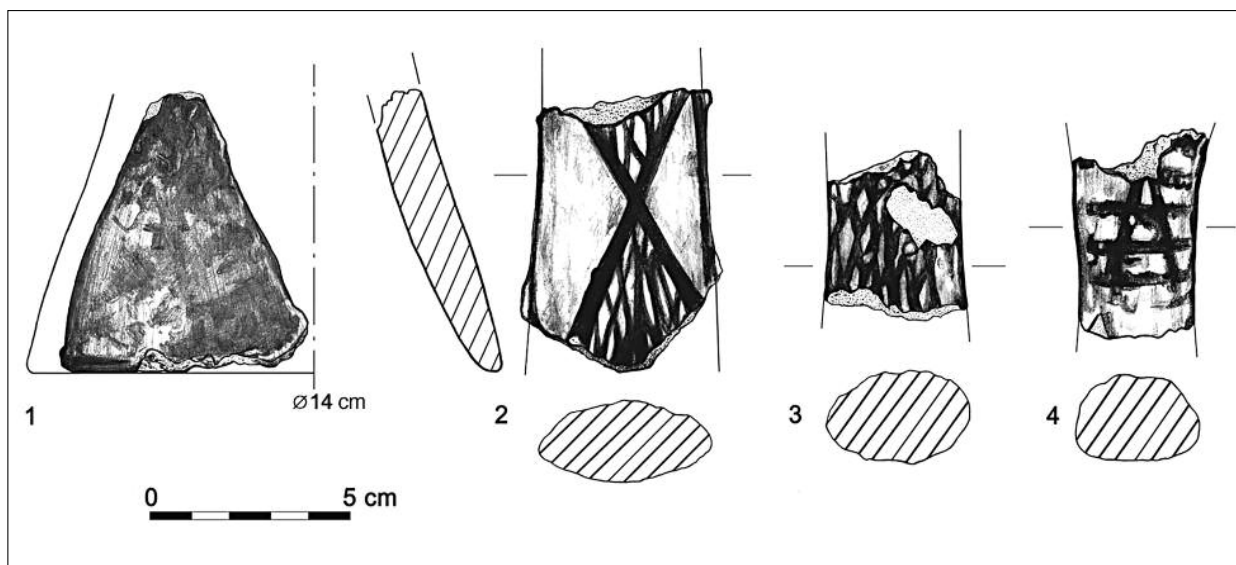


Fig. 5. Fragments of pottery from Costa dei Grani – CG3 (Drawing M. Fituła). 1 – lower part of the footed beaker (Inv. No. CG3.1); 2 – 4: handles (Inv. Nos. CG3.2–4).

Ryc. 5. Fragmenty ceramiki z Costa dei Grani – CG3. 1 – dolna część pucharu na nóżce (nr inw. CG3.1); 2–4 – imadła (nr inw. CG3.2–4).

From point CG3 come 4 fragments of pottery (Fig. 5): one lower part of a container (fragment of a footed beaker) with smoothed and varnished red outer surface (1), and three vertical handles painted in black on red (2–4).

Two other fragments of handles were found at CG4 (Fig. 6): one painted in black on red (1) and a vertical one, painted in black on a pale grey background (2).

Two lithic tools and 7 fragments of ceramic vessels were found at the location denominated CG5 (Fig. 7):

a fragment of a volcanic pebble axe or a pestle preserved in its butt part, weight 468 g (1); a median fragment of a flint blade with irregular trapezoidal section, weight 12 g (2); two fragments of rims: one of red slip pottery (3) and another of pottery painted in black on red (4); two vertical handles painted in brown/black on a light background (5, 6), three fragments of vessels painted in black on a light background (7, 9) and on red (8).

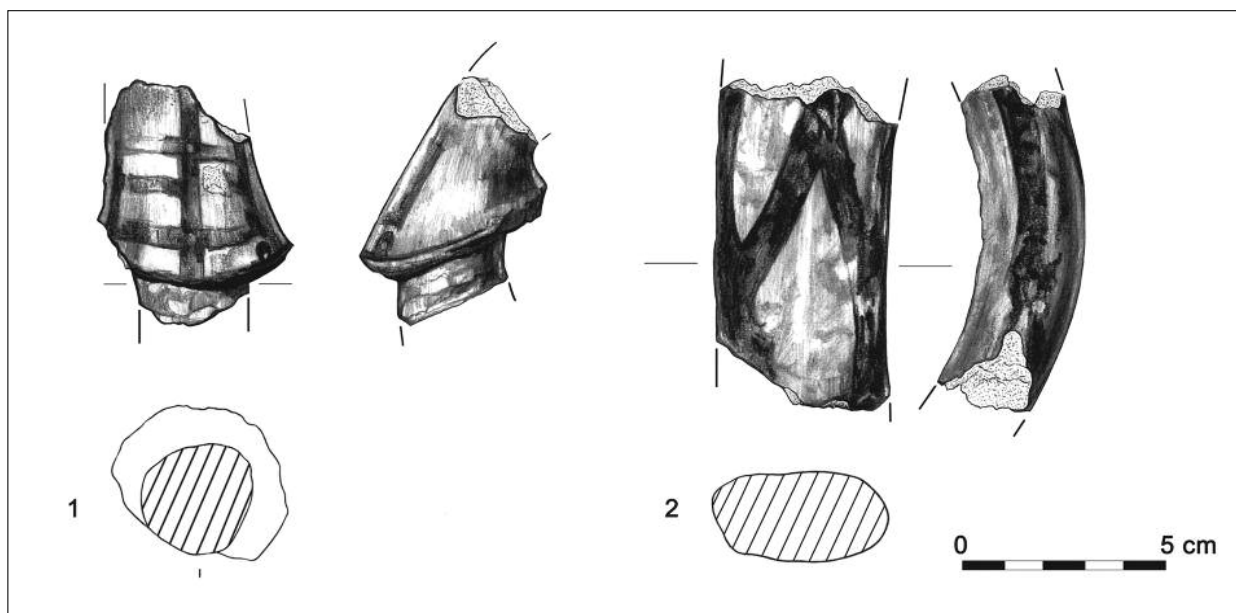


Fig. 6. Two fragments of handles from Costa dei Grani – CG4 (Inv. Nos. CG.4.1–2) (Drawing M. Fituła).

Ryc. 6. Dwa fragmenty imadła z Costa dei Grani – CG4 (nr inw. CG4.1–2).

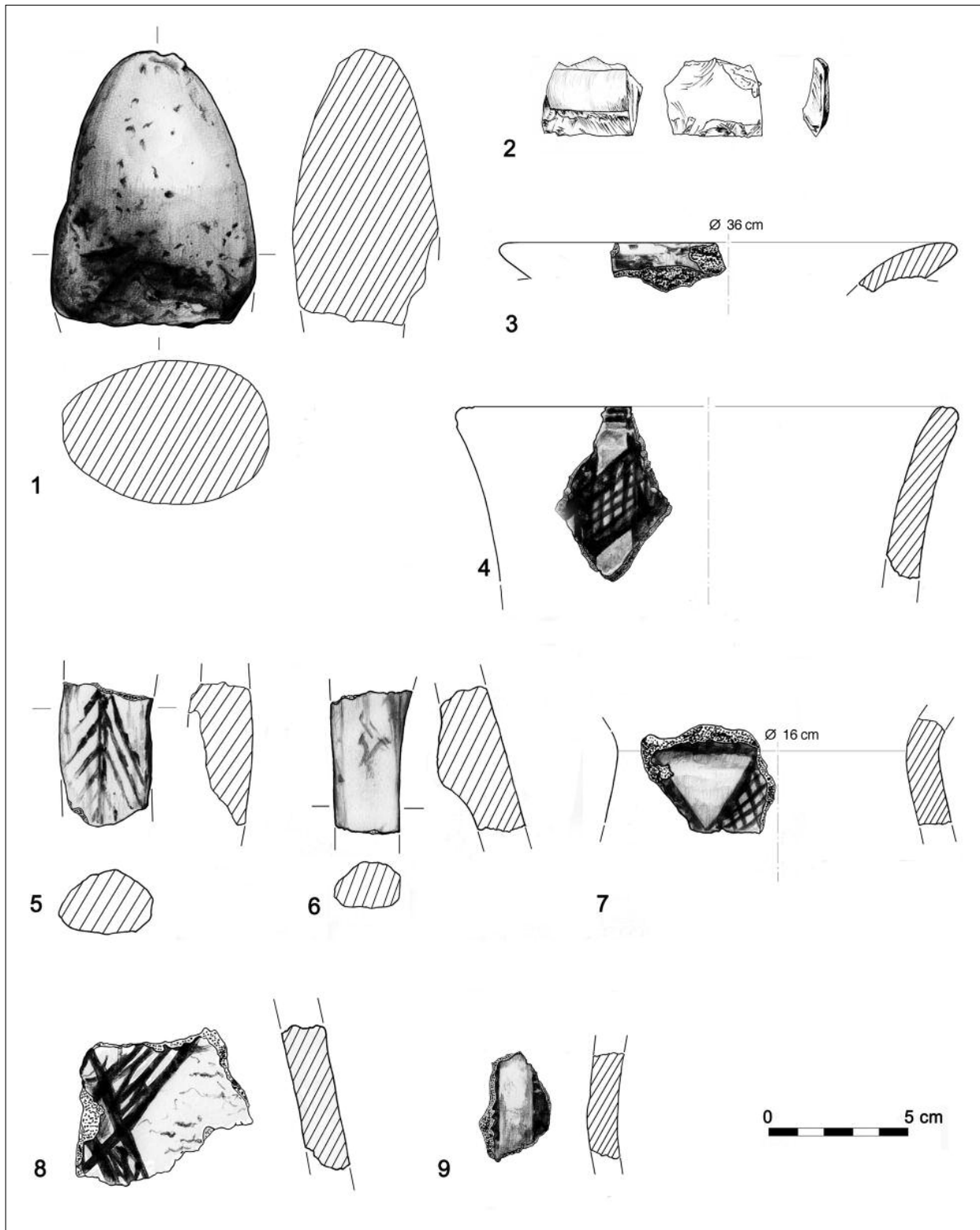


Fig. 7. Finds from Costa dei Grani – CG5 (Drawing M. Fituła). 1 – pestle or axe (fragment) from a volcanic rock pebble (Inv. No. CG5.1); 2 – flint tool/median fragment of a blade (Inv. No. CG5.2); 3 – fragment of red slipped vessel's rim (Inv. No. CG5.3); 4 – fragment of painted vessel's rim (Inv. No. CG5.4); 5, 6 – two vertical handles (Inv. Nos. CG5.5, 6); 7–9 – three fragments of painted vessels (Inv. Nos. CG5.7–9).

Ryc. 7. Znaleziska z Costa dei Grani – CG5. 1 – tłuczek/rozcieracz lub siekierka (fragment) ze skały wulkanicznej (nr inw. CG5.1); 2 – narzędzie krzemienne/środkowy fragment wióra (nr inw. CG5.2); 3 – fragment wylewu naczynia z pokostem czerwonym (nr inw. CG5.3); 4 – fragment naczynia z dekoracją malowaną (nr inw. CG5.4); 5, 6 – dwa imadła pionowe (nr inw. CG5.5, 6); 7–9 – trzy fragmenty naczyń malowanych (nr inw. CG5.7–9).

A major concentration of the archaeological material was noticed on the top of the hill. At the highest identified location (CG6) were discovered (Fig. 8): a fragment of a quern of *sella* type in brown porous volcanic rock with an oval biconvex section of the original shape, weight 7350 g (1); a hand stone (pestle) made of massive, elongated reddish pebble (2); a hand stone tool made of dark gray porous volcanic rock, weight 244 g (3); a retouched flint point; dark brown flint with whitish areas, weight 12g (4); a biface in pale grey quartzite, weight 88 g (5); a base fragment of a pithos (6); a fragment of rim of a *fruttiera* painted in black on red (7); a fragment of rim of a vessel of *classidra*

(“hour-glass”) type painted in black on red (8); a fragment of rim of a vessel painted in black on a light background (9); a fragment of a pithos – slightly curved and flatted cordon handle (10); a fragment of vertical handle (11); a fragment of vertical handle with traces of the attachment point (12); a fragment of handle of a small vessel/beaker (13); a fragment of a vessel painted in black on red with attachment point of the handle (14); a fragment of a vessel’s wall painted black on a red slip (15); a body fragment of a vessel painted in black on red; the sinusoid profile of the fragment indicates that it probably comes from an ovoid jug (16).

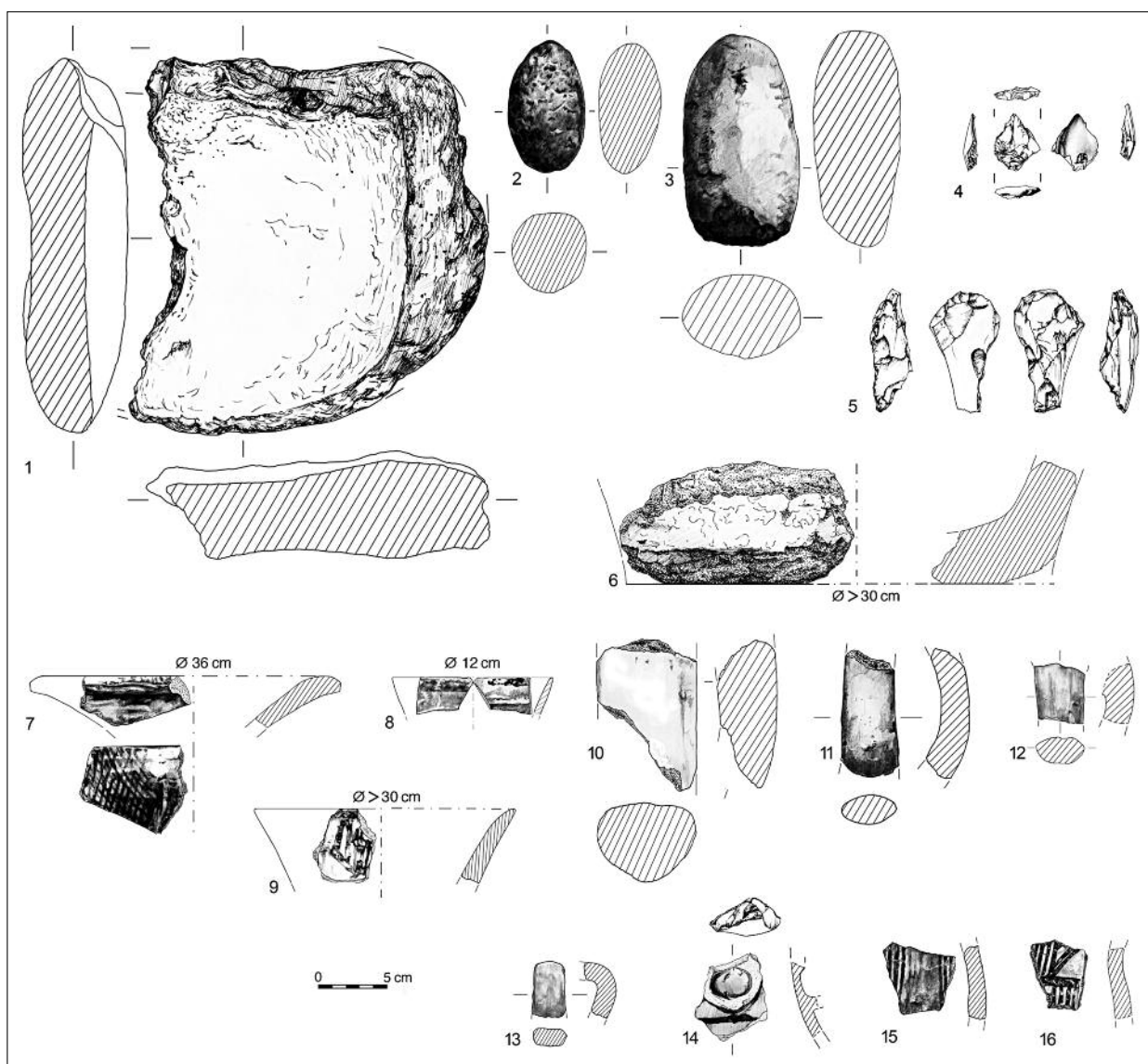


Fig. 8. Artefacts from Costa dei Grani – CG6 (Drawing M. Fituła). 1 – quern (Inv. No. CG6.1); 2 – pestle (Inv. No. CG6.2); 3 – hand stone tool (Inv. No. CG6.3); 4 – flint point (Inv. No. CG6.4); 5 – biface (Inv. No. CG6.5); 6 – fragment of a pithos (Inv. No. CG6.6); 7–9 – fragments of painted vessels, rims (Inv. Nos. CG6.7–9); 10–13 – handles (Inv. Nos. CG6.10–13); 14–16 – fragments of painted vessels (Inv. Nos. CG6.14–16).

Ryc. 8. Zabytki z Costa dei Grani – CG6. 1 – żarno (nr inw. CG6.1); 2 – tłuczek (nr inw. CG6.2); 3 – narzędzie kamienne (nr inw. CG6.3); 4 – krzemienny grot (nr inw. CG6.4); 5 – pięściak (nr inw. CG6.5); 6 – fragment pitosu (nr inw. CG6.6); 7–9 – fragmenty naczyń malowanych, wylewy (nr inw. CG6.7–9); 10–13 – imadła (nr inw. CG6.10–13); 14–16 – fragmenty naczyń malowanych (nr inw. CG6.14–16).

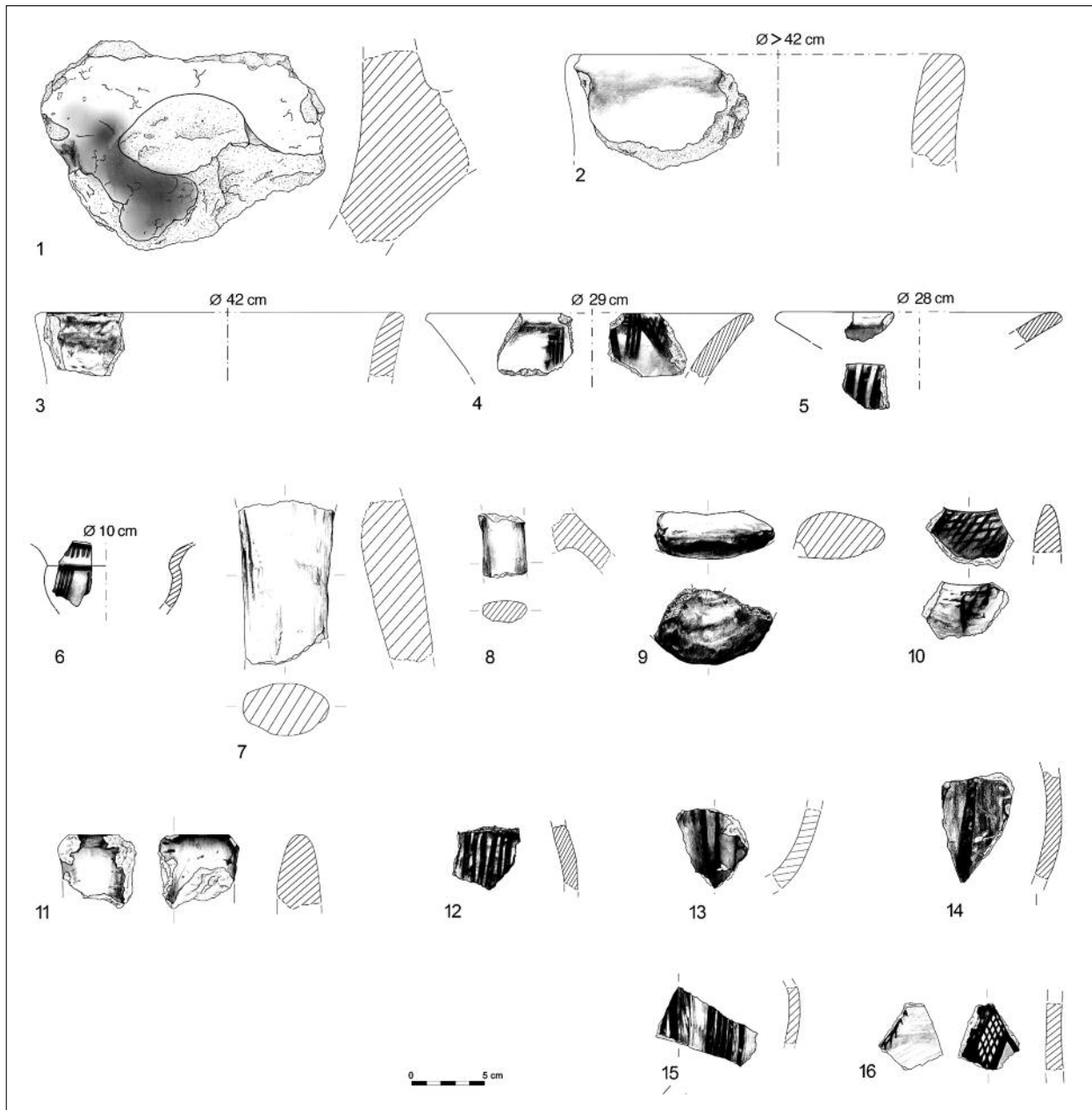


Fig. 9. Costa dei Grani. Artefacts from the western slope of the hill (CG7) (Drawing M. Fituła). 1 – fragment of a pithos (Inv. No. CG7.1); 2 – fragment of a basin (Inv. No. CG7.2); 3 – fragment of a vase (Inv. No. CG7.3); 4–6 – fragments of painted vessels, rims (Inv. Nos. CG7.4–6); 7–11 – handles (Inv. Nos. CG7.7–11); 12–16 – fragments of painted vessels (Inv. Nos. CG7.12–16).

Ryc. 9. Costa dei Grani; zabytki z zachodniego stoku wzgórza (CG7). 1 – fragment pitosu (nr inw. CG7.1); 2 – fragment miski (nr inw. CG7.2); 3 – fragment naczynia (nr inw. CG7.3); 4–6 – fragmenty naczyń malowanych, wylewy (nr inw. CG7.4–6); 7–11 – imadła (nr inw. CG7.7–11); 12–16 – fragmenty naczyń malowanych (nr inw. CG7.12–16).

Another concentration (denominated CG7) of archaeological materials was identified on the western slope. Other pottery fragments were found there (Fig. 9): of a pithos – body fragment with the attachment point of the handle (1); a rim of a large vessel (a basin?) (2); a vase rim with red paint (3); a rim fragment of a “basin on foot” vessel painted black on red (4); a rim of a vase (“basin on foot”) painted black on red/reddish brown (5); a small vessel (beaker) painted in black on a light background (6);

a handle of a large ceramic container (7); a vertical handle (8); a horizontal, semicircular handle (9); a horned handle painted in black on a red slip (10); a prong rising from handle, almost rectangular, thinned at the edge, slightly flattened (11); a body fragment, painted black on red (12); of a globular vessel, painted black on red (13); of a globular vessel, painted black on a red slip (14); of a globular vessel, painted black on a light background (15); of a vessel painted black on a light background (16).



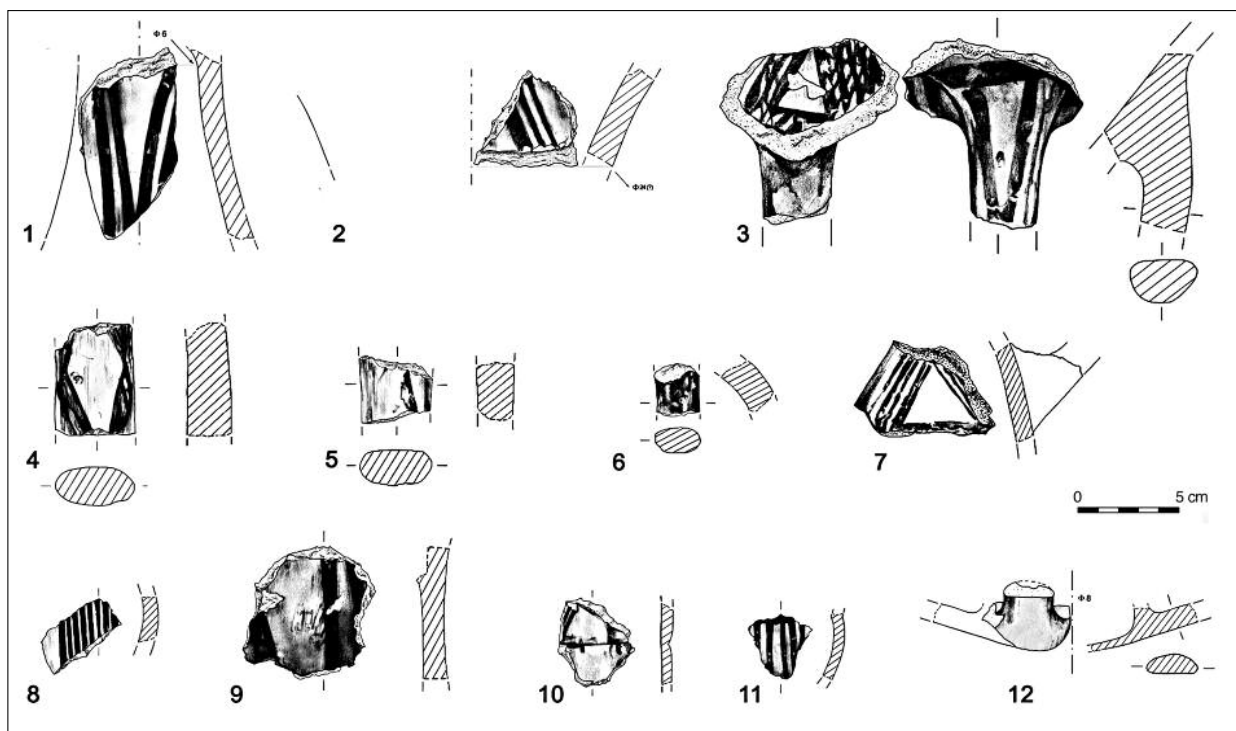


Fig. 10. Fragments of pottery from the south-western part of Costa dei Grani (CG8) (Drawing M. Fituła). 1–3 – *fruttiera* fragments (Inv. Nos. CG8.1–3); 4–7 – handles (Inv. Nos. CG8.4–7); 8–11 – painted vessels (Inv. Nos. CG8.8–11); 12 – handle of a cup (Inv. No. CG8.12).  
Ryc. 10. Fragmenty naczyń z południowo-zachodniej części Costa dei Grani (CG8). 1–3 – *fruttiera* (nr inw. CG8.1-3); 4–7 – imadła (nr inw. CG8.4–7); 8–11 – fragmenty naczyń malowanych (nr inw. CG8.8–11); 12 – imadło kubka (nr inw. CG8.12).

On the south-western slope yet another concentration (labelled CG8) of – smaller this time – fragments of pottery was encountered (Fig. 10): several *fruttiera* fragments – foot/pedestal, painted black on a light background (1), of the body, painted black on red (2), of the body, with a handle, painted black on red (3); a vertical ribbon handle painted red on black (4); a vertical ribbon handle painted black on red (5); a handle of a small painted vessel (a cup?) (6); body sherd, with a handle, painted black on red (7); body sherd, painted black on a light background (8); foot/stand fragment of a *fruttiera*, painted black on a light background (9); neck/body sherd of a small vessel, painted black on red (10); body sherd of a small vessel – *brocchetta*, painted black on red (11); vertical ribbon handle of a carinated cup, with burnished gray surface (12).

## The materials

### Pottery

Most of the artefacts from Costa dei Grani belonged to vessels of small and medium size: beakers, jugs, cups,

mugs, footed jars/basins (*fruttiera*), but there are also sherds of larger pots and pithoi. Among the numerous fragments of handles, as well as vertical loops (often flattened), were found fragments of horizontal semicircular handles (Fig. 9:9), the vertical horned handle (Fig. 9:10) and a fragment of a prong rising from the handle (Fig. 9:11).

The vast majority of ceramic fragments represent pottery made of somewhat impure clay of gray, beige and light brown colour. A very common fabric is characterised by grey clay with numerous calcareous, micaceous, sand, and lava inclusions. Fragments representing the coarse ware, especially of the large jars, contain also *chamotte* and organic tempers: plant fibres, seeds, and fragments of shells. Most of the vessels with globular bodies are finer and the pottery is more compact, while the carefully decorated *fruttiere*<sup>5</sup> are made of coarse clay. The surfaces of most of the vessels are covered with slip ranging from light beige to dark red. In some cases there is evidence of traces of brush strokes from the application of paint with diluted colour (Fig. 9:15,16). The painted decoration, applied with the use of various brushes, made with dark colour (from brown to black), relates to the tectonics of the vessel. Despite the

<sup>5</sup> For the type of the vessel called *fruttiera* (fruit dish/bowl), also the term *bacino su alto piede* (pedestal bowl) is in use.

fragmentary character of the finds from Costa dei Grani, not permitting to reconstruct more elaborated patterns, we can observe the use of main elements of the essentially geometric decoration, widely used in the Castelluccio Culture pottery (PICCIONE, COPAT, COSTA 2008). There appear: triangles, lozenges, diamonds, rhomboids, corner elements, “fishbone” motifs, leaving empty areas or filled with oblique reticules. The fragments with simple linear patterns (vertical, horizontal, and diagonal), combinations (St Andrew’s cross) and multiple sets (series or parallel lines) predominated. Among the ceramic repertoire of Costa dei Grani one fragment is distinguished by its type. A body sherd with a fragment of a ribbon handle belonged to a carinated cup characterised by very compact grey pottery. It can be attributed to the Rodi-Tindari-Vallelunga facies (Fig. 10:12).<sup>6</sup> Almost all of the pottery fragments from Costa dei Grani are attributed to the Castelluccio Culture, which – considering pottery shapes and decoration – proves that it had close connections with the Copper Age cultures, especially Sant’Ippolito (Caltagirone) and Serrafelicchio (Agrigento Province). However, some fragments of vessels with walls covered with red slip and without any painted decoration may reveal Malpasso style influences (CASTELLANA 2002: 28).

### Lithics

The lithic industry of Costa dei Grani is characterised by a variety of raw materials (e.g. volcanic rocks, flint, quartzite, pebbles) and production techniques (e.g. chipped and polished stone artefacts). Regarding the stone hand tools, porous volcanic stone axes and perforated limestone pebble, we can assume a local origin of these implements, due to abundance of raw material on the whole hill’s surface. The fact that the site in question is located in a short distance from the Hyblaean Mountains (the main source of hard rocks in the prehistory of south-eastern Sicily) might suggest the origin of some raw material as coming from this area, given that some of the objects found were made of flint and quartzite. It is very probable that a volcanic rock outcropping of the southern coast of Pachino (Portopalo di Capo Passero) provided the stone for the quern found at CG6 (Fig. 8:1). The specimen from Costa dei Grani has a biconvex shape due to repeated grinding for a long period; such implements were widely used on Sicily, since the Neolithic. Also the basalt axe (Fig. 3:1) as well as

the median fragment of a flint blade (Fig. 7:2) could be attributed to the Neolithic Period, while the fragment of the porous volcanic stone axe (Fig. 7:1), the hand tool in pebble (Fig. 8:3), the perforated pebble tool probably used as a weight (Fig. 4:3), are to be connected with the Castelluccio Culture. Finds similar to the bifaces in quartzite are known from other Early Bronze Age sites (Fig. 8:5; BERNABÒ BREA 1982: 108; NICOLETTI 1998: 360).

### Conclusions

Most of the artefacts from Costa dei Grani are attributed to the Castelluccio Culture of the Early Bronze Age (2200–1450 BC), widespread in southern and south-eastern Sicily. Recently, through the typological analysis of the ceramic assemblages undertaken by Massimo Cultraro, six territorial groups of the Castelluccio Culture in Sicily can be identified (Fig. 11).

Unfortunately our artefacts are very fragmentary, so it is impossible to confirm the pertinence to one of the groups. Based on their location, the Costa dei Grani finds should belong to Group C (Hyblaean-Ragusa Group), but the materials presented here have many characteristics common to different Castelluccio sites, especially to these from the nearest vicinity, from the other side of the River Tellaro.<sup>7</sup> One of the most characteristic forms for this culture is the *fruttiera* – a bowl (or basin) on a tall conical stem<sup>8</sup> (Fig. 12).

The Castelluccio painted pottery is undoubtedly matt painted ware, closely related to the technique and decoration in the style that characterises the Middle Helladic on the Greek mainland, but the similarities are perhaps more evident to the so-called Cappadocian ceramics of central Anatolia, which is probably the common ancestor of both the Greek and Sicilian variants (BERNABÒ BREA 1982: 109).

The site is particularly suitable for prehistoric settlement. Even the name of the district is meaningful – “Costa dei Grani” means “Coast of the grains”, suggesting the fertility of the soil. Another advantage which is important not only for agriculture is the abundance of water (the Saia Raudeci and natural sources welling up from the hill’s slopes). The location for the settlement could have also been chosen for its topographical position: it is easily defensible

<sup>6</sup> Rodi-Tindari-Vallelunga facies occupied the northern part of the island, with the Castelluccio Culture neighbouring it on the south. Apart from grey colour pottery, the facies is distinguished by long prongs rising “*ad ascia*” and “donkey eared” handles (BERNABÒ BREA 1982: 114; BACCI SPIGO, MARTINELLI 1996: 177; TUSA 1999: 331).

<sup>7</sup> The River Tellaro on the map of M. Cultraro has been proposed as a border between the Hyblaean-Ragusa Group and the Caltagirone-Syracuse Group.

<sup>8</sup> Similar vessels from the territory of Mesopotamia are called fruit stands. This shape/type of vessels appears already in various Neolithic European cultures as well.

from its elevated location in respect to the surrounding hills. The presence of the findings related to daily activities, like grinding (quern) and fragments of large containers on top of the hill, speaks for – as far as stray surface material is being considered – some form of permanent stay.<sup>9</sup>

Visibility from the Hyblaean Plateau to the Ionian and Mediterranean Sea allowed control of the territory and the route of penetration represented by the River Tellaro, along which many Castelluccio sites are distributed. Recently a new village with circular plan huts in the Granati Vecchi District (GIORDANO forthcoming) was identified just a few kilometres from Costa dei Grani. The density of the prehistoric settlement of this area could be also explained by the exploitation of mineral outcrops at Costa del Gesso. Finds of the Castelluccio Culture have

recently been identified there: flint artefacts (tools, semi-finished products and cores, evidently worked on *in situ*) and pottery fragments similar to these from Costa dei Grani.

Exploitation of an old chalk mine, closed now for many years, but where one can still find numerous pieces of selenite (moonstone), caused a profound transformation of the natural environment and the landscape. It is practically impossible to identify where and what kinds of rocks were sought for during the Bronze Age in this area so rich in minerals. It could be a key stimulant for the establishment of the Costa dei Grani settlement, given that apart from farming and pastoralism (or grazing and agriculture), prosperity of the Castelluccio settlements derived from the exploitation of the nearby mines and mineral resources.<sup>10</sup>

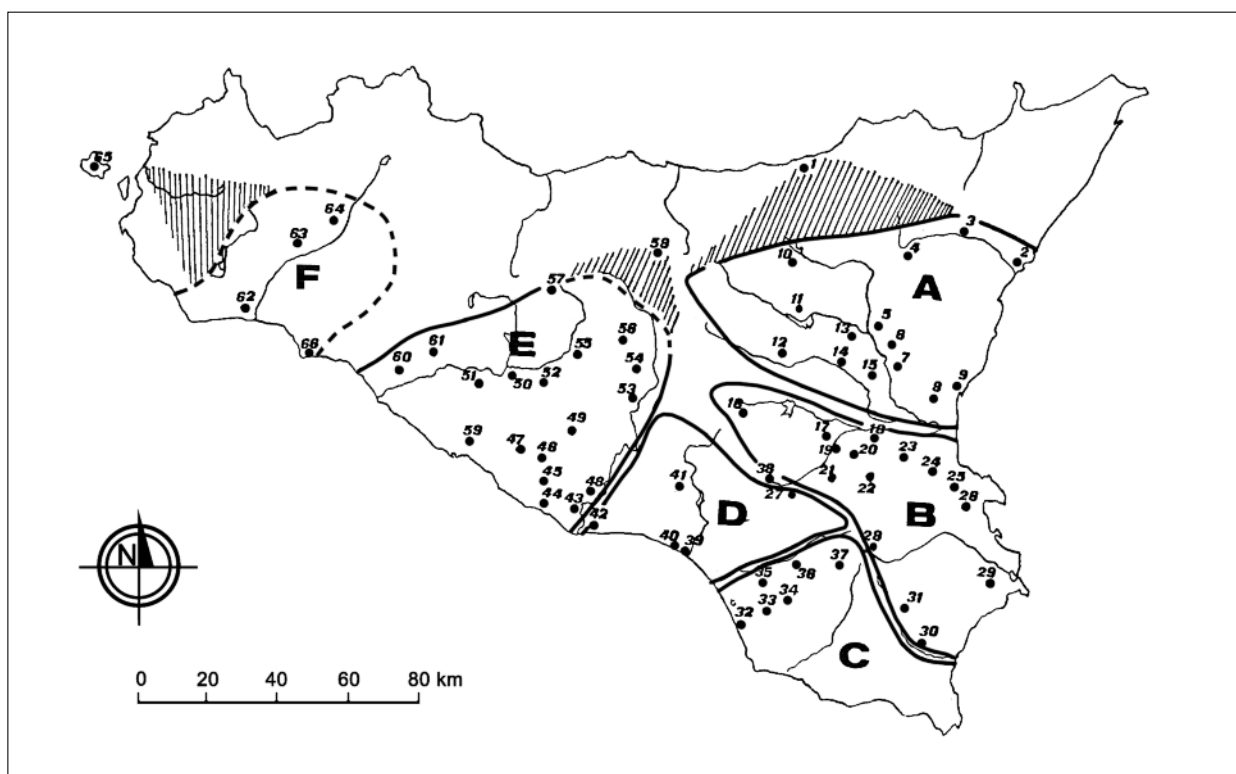


Fig. 11. Territorial groups of the Castelluccio Culture in Sicily according to M. Cultraro (1996: 169). Legend: — border between the groups; - - - hypothetical border; // // // // area of expansion; A – Etna Group; B – Caltagirone-Syracuse Group; C – Hyblaean-Ragusa Group; D – Gela Group; E – Caltanissetta-Agrigento Group; F – Belice Group.

Ryc. 11. Grupy terytorialne kultury Castelluccio na Sycylii według M. Cultraro (1996: 169). Legenda: — granica pomiędzy grupami terytorialnymi; - - - hipotetyczna granica; // // // // zasięg ekspansji terytorialnej; A – grupa Etna; B – grupa Caltagirone-Syrakuzy; C – grupa Hybla-Ragusa; D – grupa Gela; E – grupa Caltanissetta-Agrigent; F – grupa Belice.

<sup>9</sup> At the top of the hill and its surroundings are located fragmentary remains of the walls *a secco* (unbound) and heaps of stones, also intermingled with fragments of pottery. Due to the use of the same *a secco*-technique to this day, one should be extremely cautious when trying to date these structures; without an excavated context this cannot be the point of this paper.

<sup>10</sup> Dependence of the settlements' establishing on the extraction of mineral resources (then treated as a trading commodity) has been already observed in some cases: in the District of Monte Sallia, at Tabuto Mountain and Monte Racello – for flint (TUSA 1999: 389) or at Whisker Calcarone, Monte Grande – for sulphur (CASTELLANA 2002: 44).

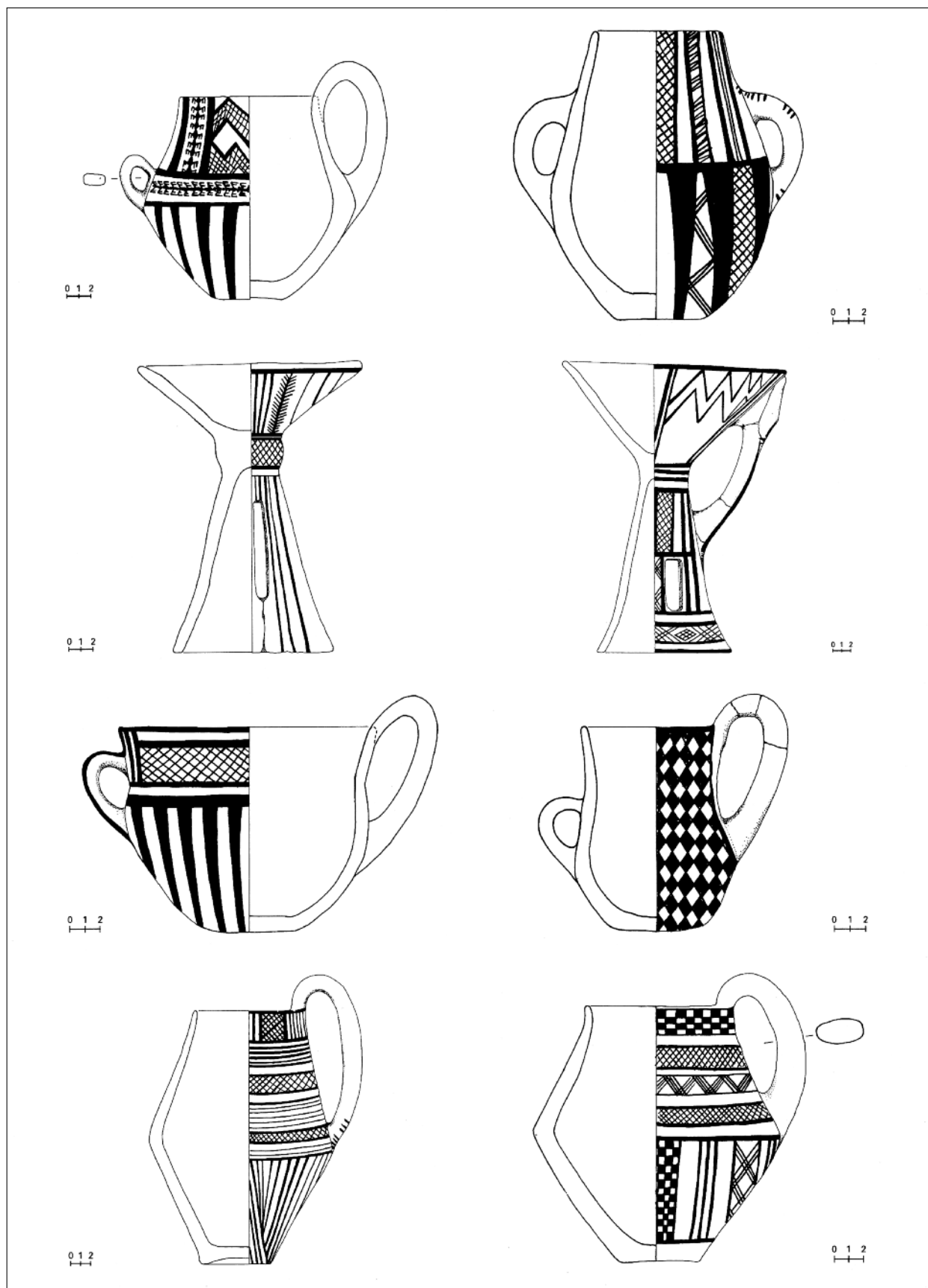


Fig. 12. Castelluccio Culture pottery from the cave of Ticchiara di Favara. Second row from the top: *fruttiere* (CASTELLANA 2002: 11).  
Ryc. 12. Ceramika kultury Castelluccio z jaskini Ticchiara di Favara. Drugi rząd od góry: *fruttiere*.

All artefacts indicate the habitation of the area of Costa dei Grani since Neolithic times, and testify to the growing importance of the site in the Copper and Early Bronze Ages. The current state of research does not permit establishing either a precise location and limits of the settlement, or a more nuanced insight into its role – these

can be verified only after an extensive archaeological dig throughout the area and by deep studies of the materials thus gained.

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MARTA FITUŁA

## NOWE ZNALEZISKA PREHISTORYCZNE Z COSTA DEI GRANI (GMINA NOTO, PROWINCJA SYRAKUZY), SYCYLIA

Na wzgórzu Costa dei Grani, w pobliżu miasta Rosolini (**Ryc. 1**) podczas badań terenowych prowadzonych przez autorkę w ramach rozprawy doktorskiej przygotowywanej pod kierunkiem prof. dr. hab. K. Szymczaka i mających na celu zweryfikowanie kontekstu środowiskowego neolitycznych stanowisk wschodniej Sycylii, pozyskano cenny materiał archeologiczny. Zabytki: 54 fragmenty ceramiki i 9 artefaktów kamiennych – pochodzą z 8 miejsc określonych odpowiednio CG1–CG8 (**Ryc. 2**), przy czym ich największe zagęszczenie zostało zidentyfikowane na szczycie wzgórza oraz na jego południowo-zachodnim zboczu. Większość materiału ceramicznego z Costa dei Grani stanowią fragmenty naczyń różnej wielkości i zastosowania, począwszy od dzbanków, kubków aż po duże pitosy, czy tzw. *fruttiere* („naczynia na owoce”), natomiast zbiór zabytków z kamienia obejmuje min. krzemienne narzędzia, bazaltowe siekiery i fragment żarna (**Ryc. 3–10**). Na podstawie analizy formalnej zabytków, zwłaszcza ceramiki, możliwe było ustalenie przynależności do kultury Castelluccio z epoki brązu (2200–1450 p.n.e.), której maksymalny zasięg występowania obejmował niemalże całą Sycylię (**Ryc. 11**). Charakterystyczne dla tej kultury naczynia malowane (czarna dekoracja na jasnym bądź czerwonym tle) należą do *mat painted ware*, typowej także dla

obszarów Grecji i centralnej Anatolii. Niektóre fragmenty ceramiki z Costa dei Grani należą do pucharów/mis na wysokiej nóżce (*fruttiere*), których powierzchnię wewnątrz, jak i na zewnątrz, pokrywały geometryczne wzory, znajdujące liczne analogie na innych stanowiskach kultury Castelluccio (**Ryc. 12**).

W obrębie badanego zespołu zostały ponadto wyróżnione elementy kultury Malpasso i horyzontu Rodi-Tindari-Vallelunga, natomiast pozostałe fragmenty pod względem formy i dekoracji wykazują ściśle związki z tradycją chalkolitu (kultury Sant’Ippolito i Serrafferlicchio) oraz neolitu (zabytki kamienne).

Ukształtowanie naturalne terenu, dostęp do wody słodkiej, żyzność gleby, dostęp do złóż mineralnych (kwarcyt, selenit, gips), strategiczne położenie – to niektóre z cech, które wspierają hipotezę o lokalizacji na wzgórzu osady kultury Castelluccio oraz zamieszkiwaniu tych terenów począwszy od neolitu. Przemawia za tym również repertuar zabytków oraz ich dystrybucja na omawianym terenie, ale weryfikacja będzie możliwa tylko podczas systematycznych badań wykopaliskowych. Prezentowany zespół zabytków jest dotąd jedynym publikowanym materiałem archeologicznym pochodzącym z Costa dei Grani.