



LRCW VIII
RAVENNA 2026



Funded by
the European Union



Histoire et archéologie de la Méditerranée et de l'Afrique du Nord
de la Protohistoire à la fin de l'Antiquité

amU
Aix Marseille Université



A Byzantine settlement at Durruei (southern Sicily, Agrigento): The ceramic evidence

Fabrizio Ducati, Tomoo Mukai and Maria Serena Rizzo

Session III: Mediterranean Islands in the Stream

Wednesday, 22 April

10:40-10:55 am

MAR – Museo d'Arte della Città di Ravenna

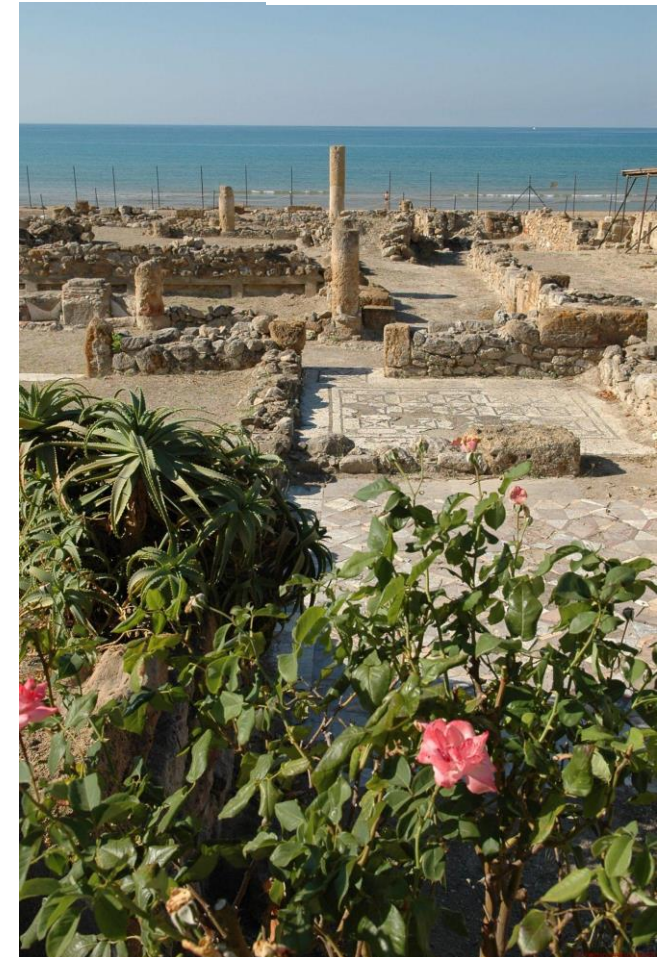
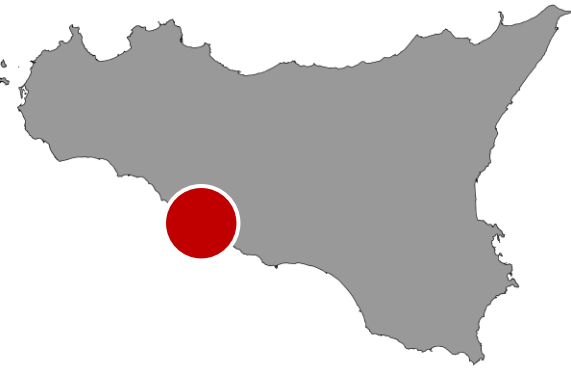
A Roman villa at Durrueli



Bottom left: Location of the villa (Google Earth, March 2024).

Bottom right: View on the peristyle from the North.

Top right: Scan the QR code to access the villa's official website!



Year	Institution	Principal Investigator	Investigated features
1907			Accidental discovery
1908	Direzione Generale per le Antichità e Belle Arti	Antonino Salinas	Seven rooms in the eastern sector
<i>Restoration</i>			
1979	University of Tsukuba	Masanori Aoyagi	Area around the peristyle, including late structures above it.
1981	University of Tsukuba	Masanori Aoyagi	Central and western area of the villa
1983	University of Tsukuba	Masanori Aoyagi	Central and western area of the villa
1985	University of Tsukuba	Masanori Aoyagi	Western area of the villa
<i>Restoration</i>			
1992	Superintendency of Agrigento	Ernesto De Miro	Discovery of a new sector north of the modern road.
<i>Restoration</i>			
<i>Restoration (2004-2005 and 2008)</i>			
2017	University of South Florida	Davide Tanasi	Western sector (?) and 3D model
2024	University of Catania	Daniele Malfitana	All the villa
2025	University of Catania	Daniele Malfitana	All the villa

の2点である。この他、テッラ・シジラータ（現在まで7つの断片が出土）のように、その器形分析からある程度の年代幅を決定できる考古史料、平箱に約180箱収集しているアンフォラ断片の整理によるその統計的分析から年代を考察しうる史料などがある。第三次調査の本件に関する成果は、紀元三世紀になってもこの別荘が頻繁に使用されていたことが確認された点である。創建時から連続した活用状況が何時終るのかを明らかにすることが今後の課題である。

“In addition, as in the case of Terra Sigillata (so far, seven fragments have been excavated), archaeological materials exist whose vessel-form analysis makes it possible to determine the date to some degree. Also, from the statistical analysis of the amphora fragments — stored in about 180 wooden boxes — it is possible to estimate the chronology. The results concerning the main issue of the third investigation confirm that this settlement continued to be used even into the 3rd century. The task for the future is to clarify until when the pattern of use, which had continued since its foundation, came to an end.”

Trans. TM

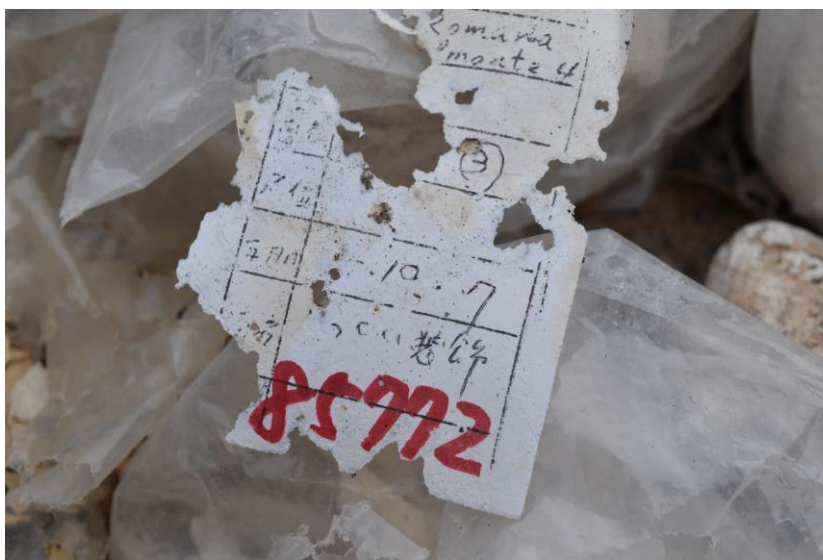


Above left: Excerpt from the Aoyagi 1985 report (p. 33), noting the presence of amphora fragments stored in 180 boxes.

Above right: The amphorae mentioned above (Africana IA type from Salakta), recovered in 2024.

Retrieving contextual information preserved inside and outside the boxes

V. Romana 遺跡	
区画	E-11
遺構	N4
層位	覆土下層(-75)
年月日	8/09/17
摘要	陶器片
No.	241



Far left: Well-preserved paper tag providing complete information about the discovery context. Notably:

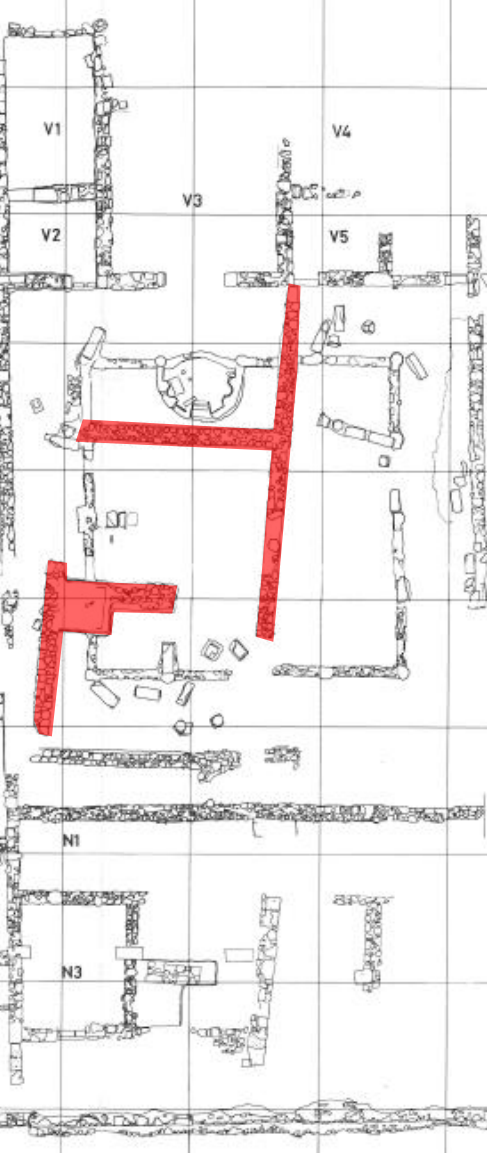
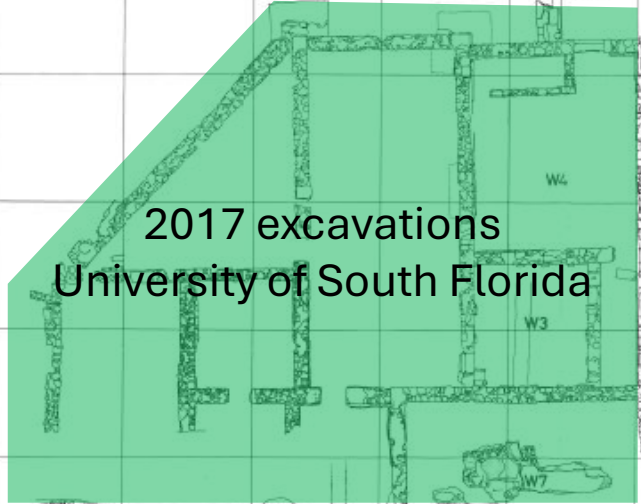
- *Grid E-11*
- *Room N4*
- *Depth of discovery: -75 cm*
- *Date of discovery: 17 September 1981*
- *Other information on the finds*
- *Inventory number: 241*

Left, above: Plastic bags stored inside a wooden box.

Left, below: Poorly preserved paper tag with only partially legible information.



Aoyagi 1985



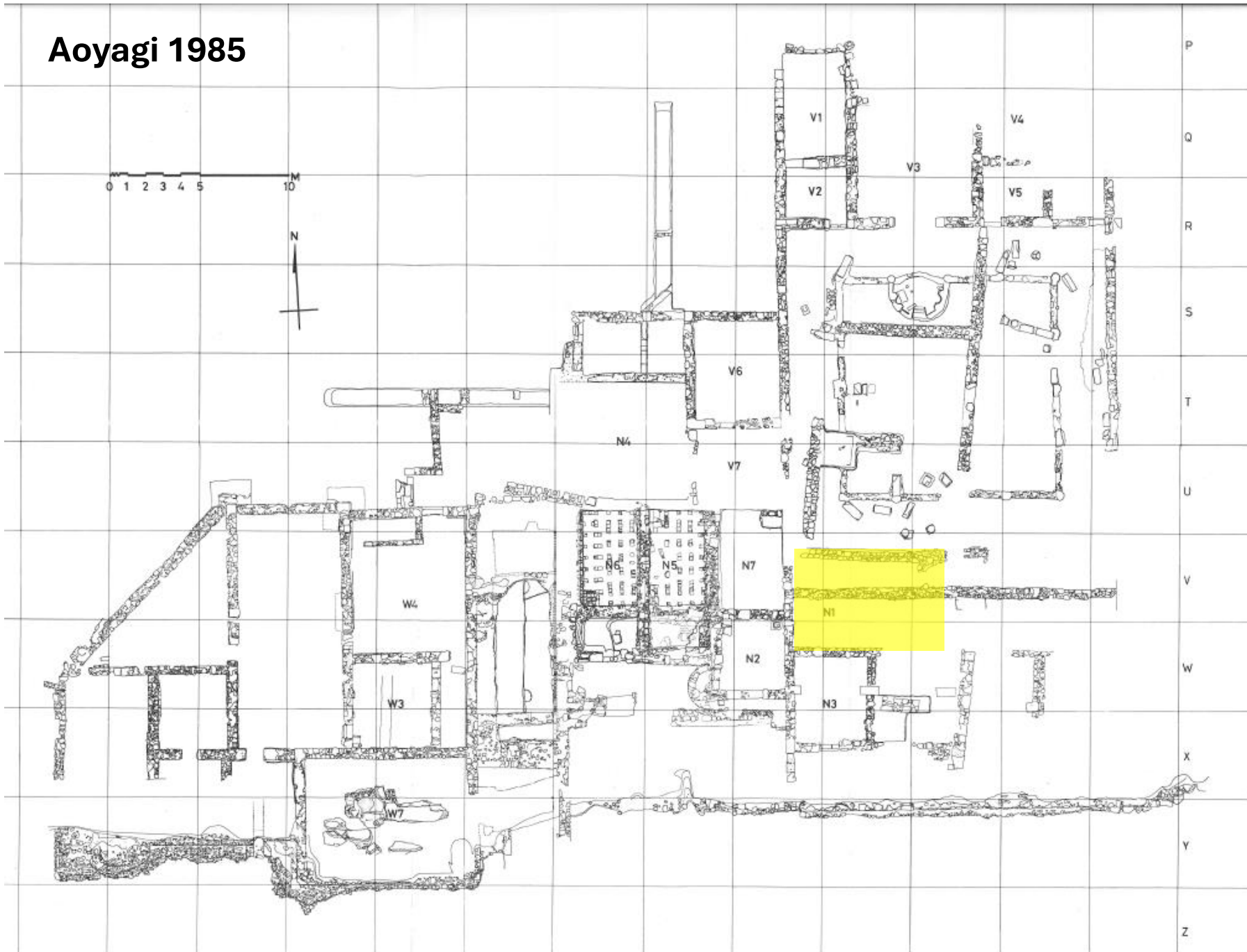
Left: Supposed fourth-century features above the peristyle (highlighted in red).

Analysis of the box contents revealed an almost complete absence of fourth-century ceramics.

Below: The USF team excavating the western wing in 2017 (green on the plan).



Aoyagi 1985



Left: 1979 trench (5.50 × 7.50 m) in the southern part of Room N1 (highlighted in yellow).

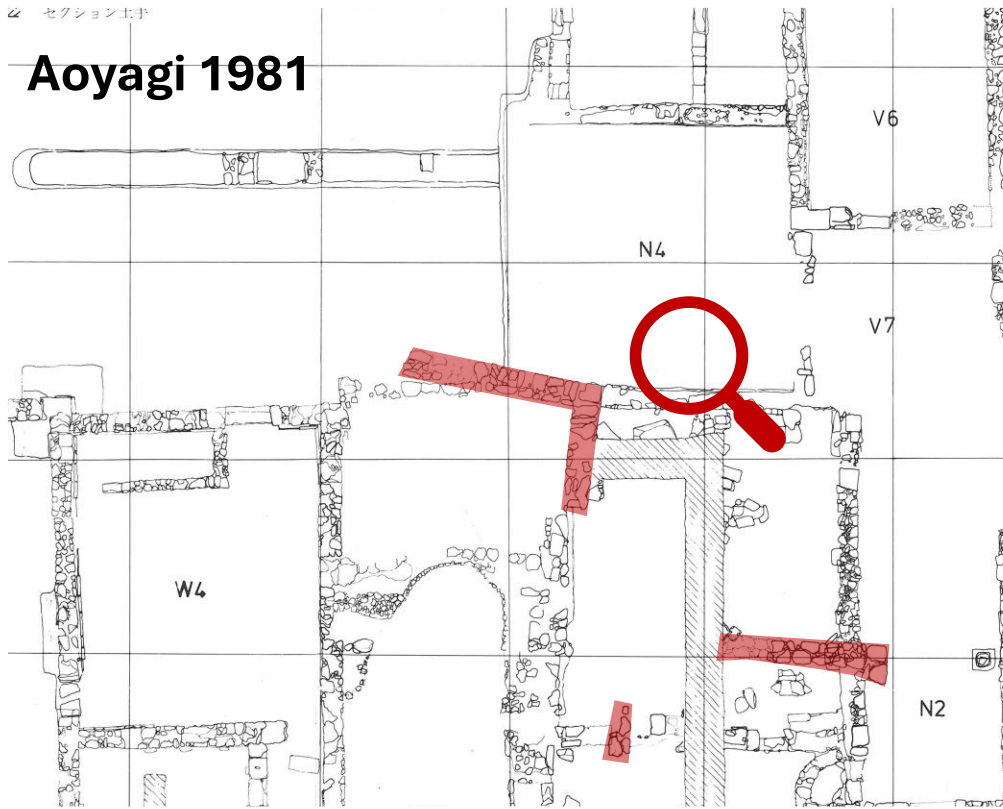
Below: Fragment of a mid-fifth-century ARS C/D dish (Hayes 61B3), found at floor level.



Aoyagi 1981



Aoyagi 1981

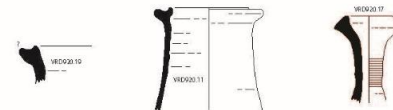
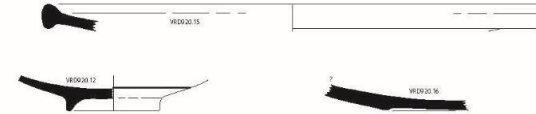
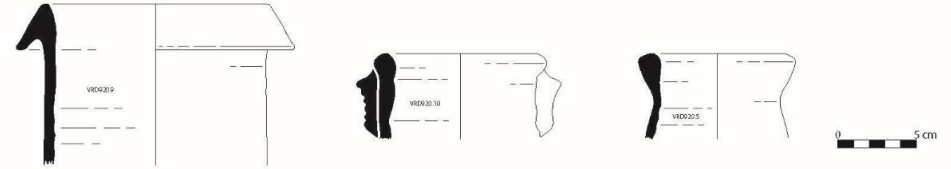


Left: Late finds from the southern part of Room N4, notably African and eastern Mediterranean amphorae (**Keay 34**, **LRA 1B** and **LRA 2**), together with late ARS forms (**Hayes 105B** and **108**), Pantellerian cooking pots, probable eastern Mediterranean cooking vessels, and other plain wares.

Humus



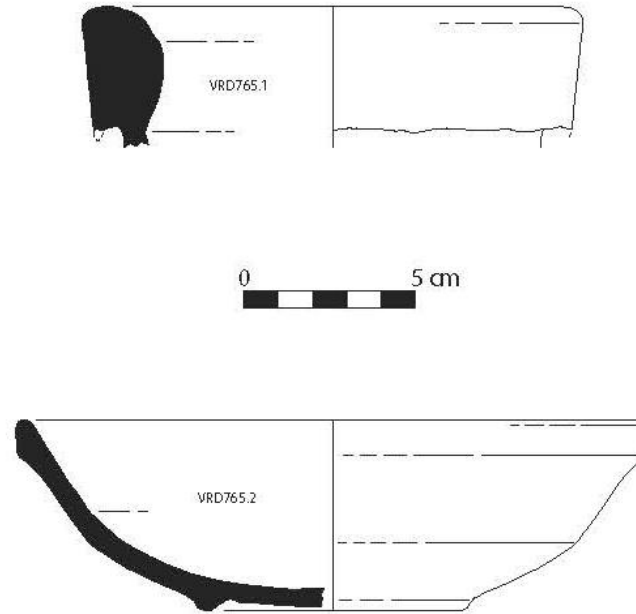
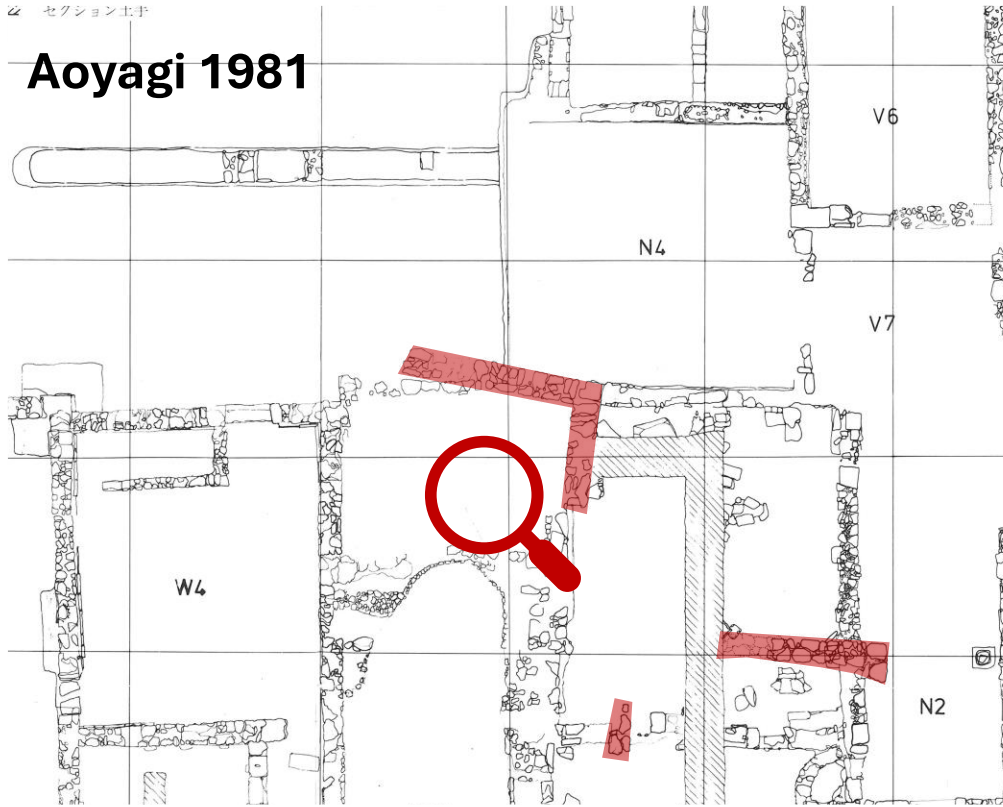
-40 cm



-60 cm

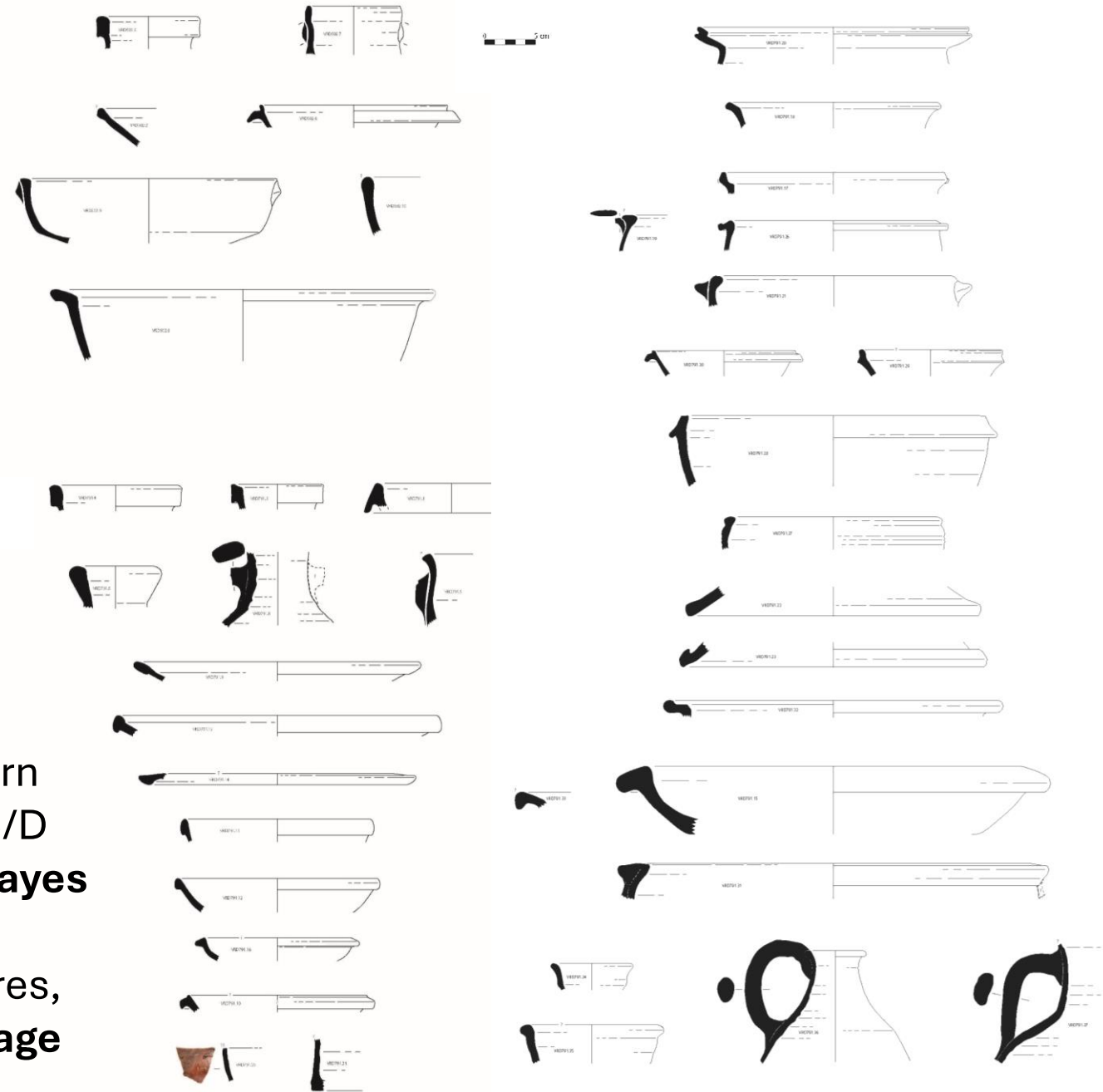
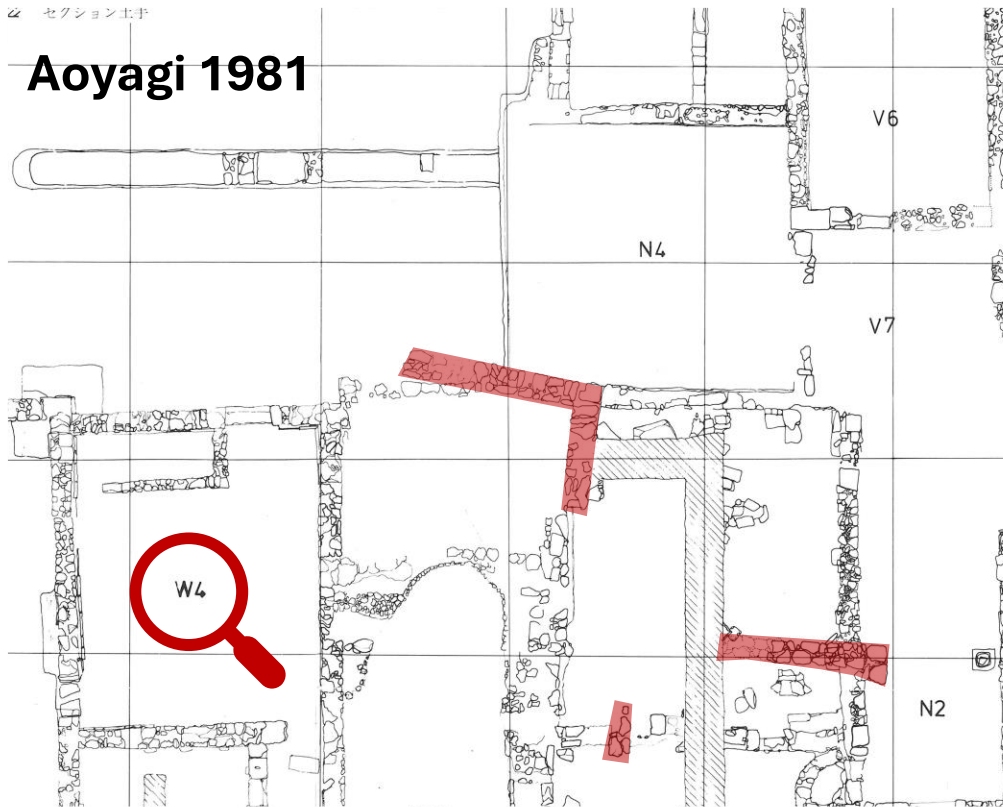


Aoyagi 1981



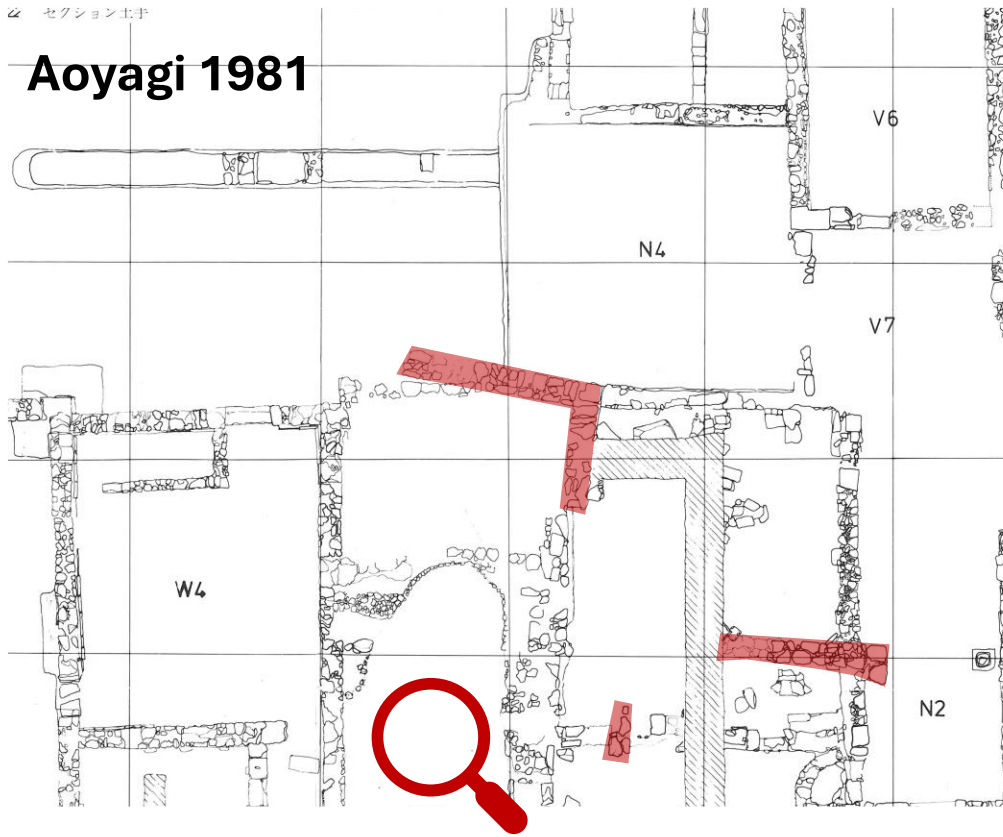
Right: Late finds recovered between Room N4 and the cistern, probably originating from the late features highlighted in red. These include an African amphora (**Keay 61A**) and a late ARS bowl, likely corresponding to a late variant of **Hayes form 99** (?). In the plan published in the 1985 report, the corner and the north-east–south-west feature were no longer visible.

Aoyagi 1981

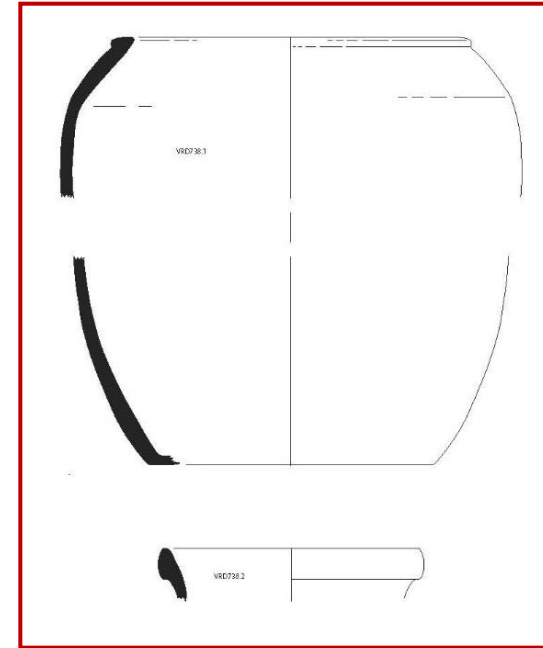
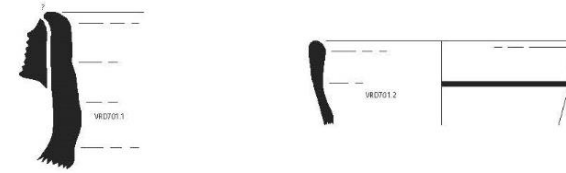


Right: Late finds recovered from Room W4, notably African amphorae (**Spatheion 2** and **Keay 34**), eastern amphorae (**Samos Cistern types** and **LRA 2**), ARS C/D (**Hayes 88**), ARS D2 (**Hayes 99B**), and later forms (**Hayes 105B, 99C/D** and **108**). These were associated with Pantellerian and eastern Mediterranean cooking wares, fragments of glazed cooking vessels, African (**Carthage Class 1B**) and local plain wares.

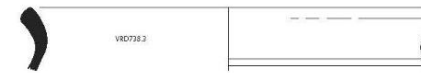
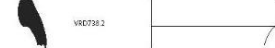
Aoyagi 1981



Right: Late finds from the cistern. In addition to imported amphorae (**Keay 62, 61, 34** and **LRA 1B**), these include **glazed cooking wares**, part of a **cooking pot** and an **amphora rim** (**highlighted in red**), datable to a chronological horizon from the seventh–eighth centuries onwards.



(-3/-4.2m)



Aoyagi 1985



Left: Supposed location of the graves in the central-eastern area of the settlement.

Below: Jug reportedly found near the skeletons, according to the associated paper tag.



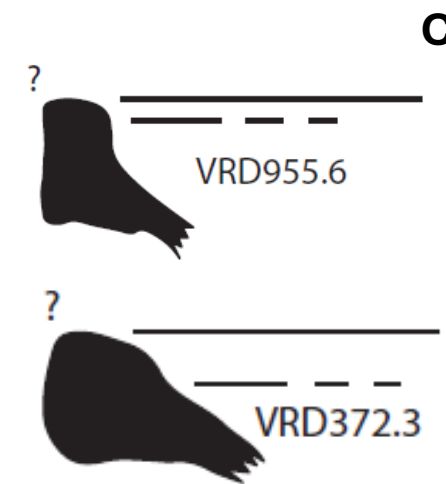


Selection of sixth–seventh-century finds, including mended African amphorae (**A: Keay 61; B: Keay 8A**), an African Red Slip Ware mortarium (**C: Hayes 91D**), and a large dish (**D: Hayes 105**).






Selection of sixth–seventh-century finds, including eastern Mediterranean amphorae from Cilicia (**A: Late Roman Amphora 1B**), and Samos (**B: Samos Cistern type**), LRC forms **Hayes 3** and **10** (**C**), a **Pantellerian cooking pot** (**D**), and **Sicilian ‘calcitic’ cooking ware** (**E**).



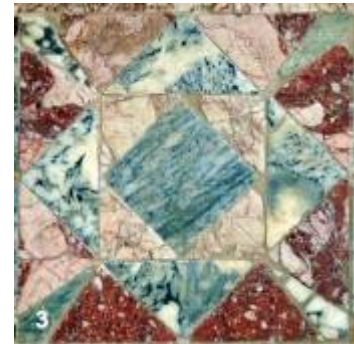
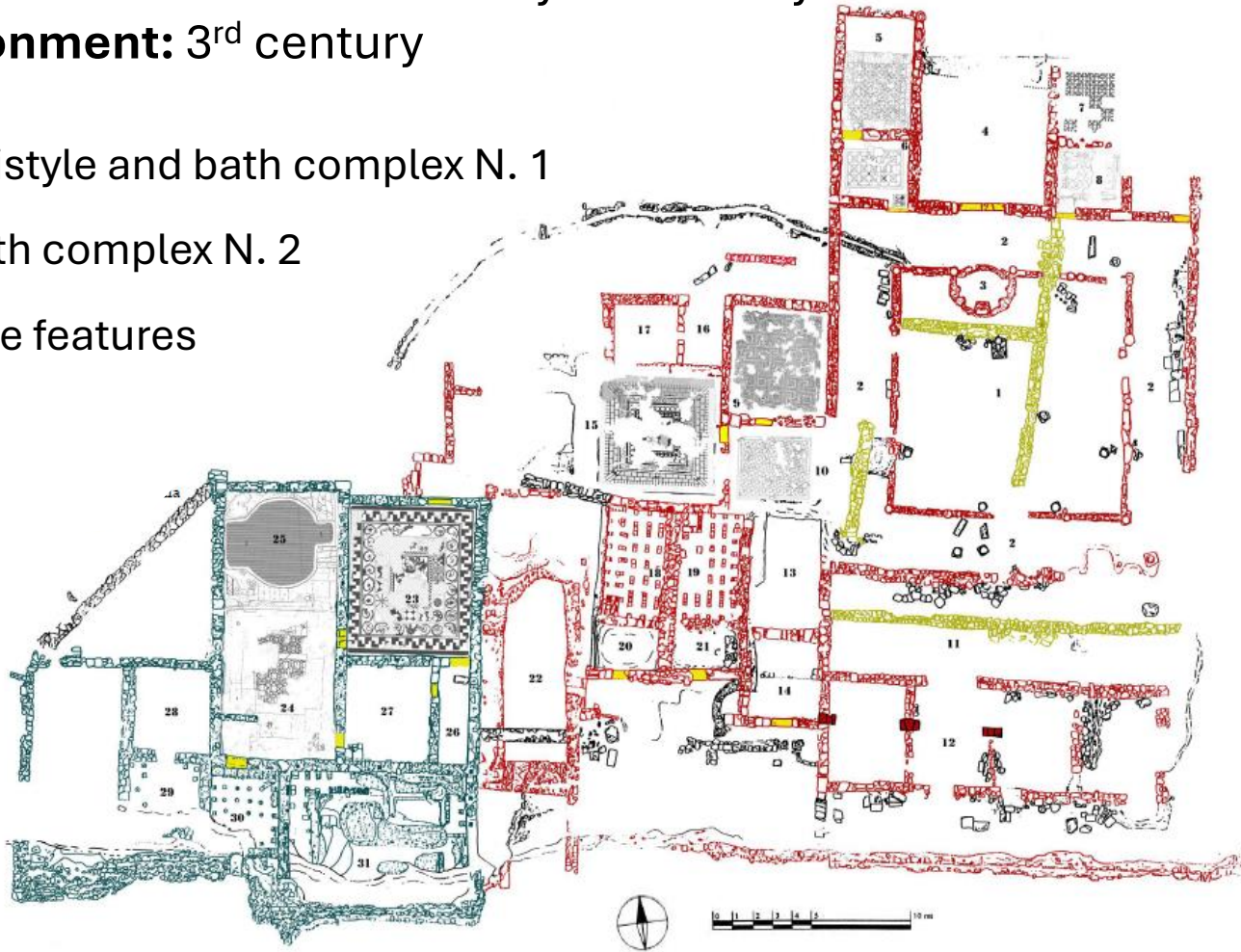
Construction date: late 1st–early 2nd century

Abandonment: 3rd century

 Peristyle and bath complex N. 1

 Bath complex N. 2

 Late features







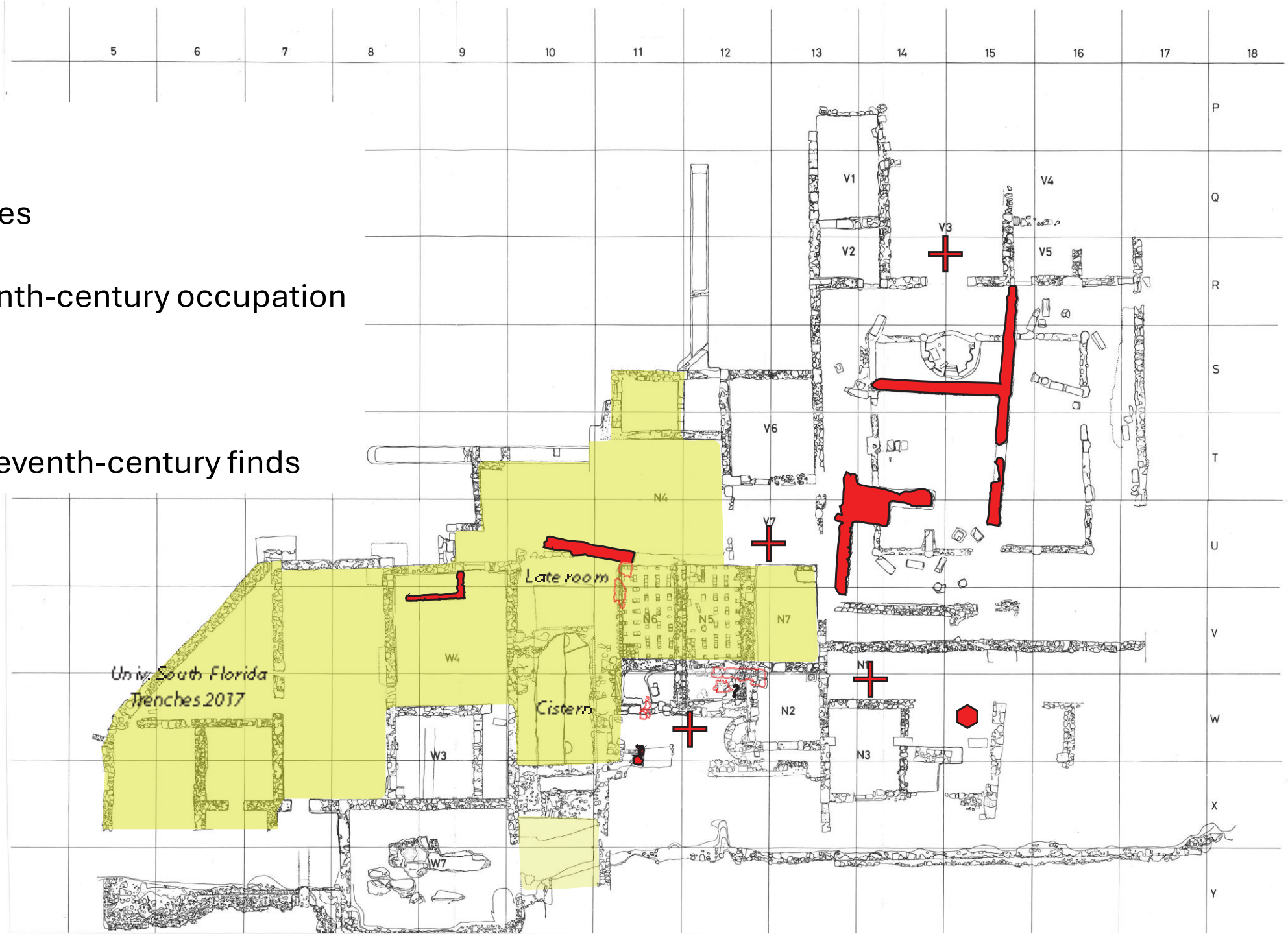
Top left: Updated plan of the villa (2018).

Top right: Selection of decorative elements from the villa, including the Poseidon and Scylla mosaics.

Source: Polito, A. and Tripodi, G. (2018), *La villa Marittima di Publius Annius alla foce del Cottone*, Palermo: Regione Siciliana. https://www.academia.edu/36567538/La_villa_marittima_di_Publius_Annius_alla_foce_del_Cottone

Site plan (1983)

-  Late features
-  Sixth–seventh-century occupation
-  Graves
-  Sporadic seventh-century finds

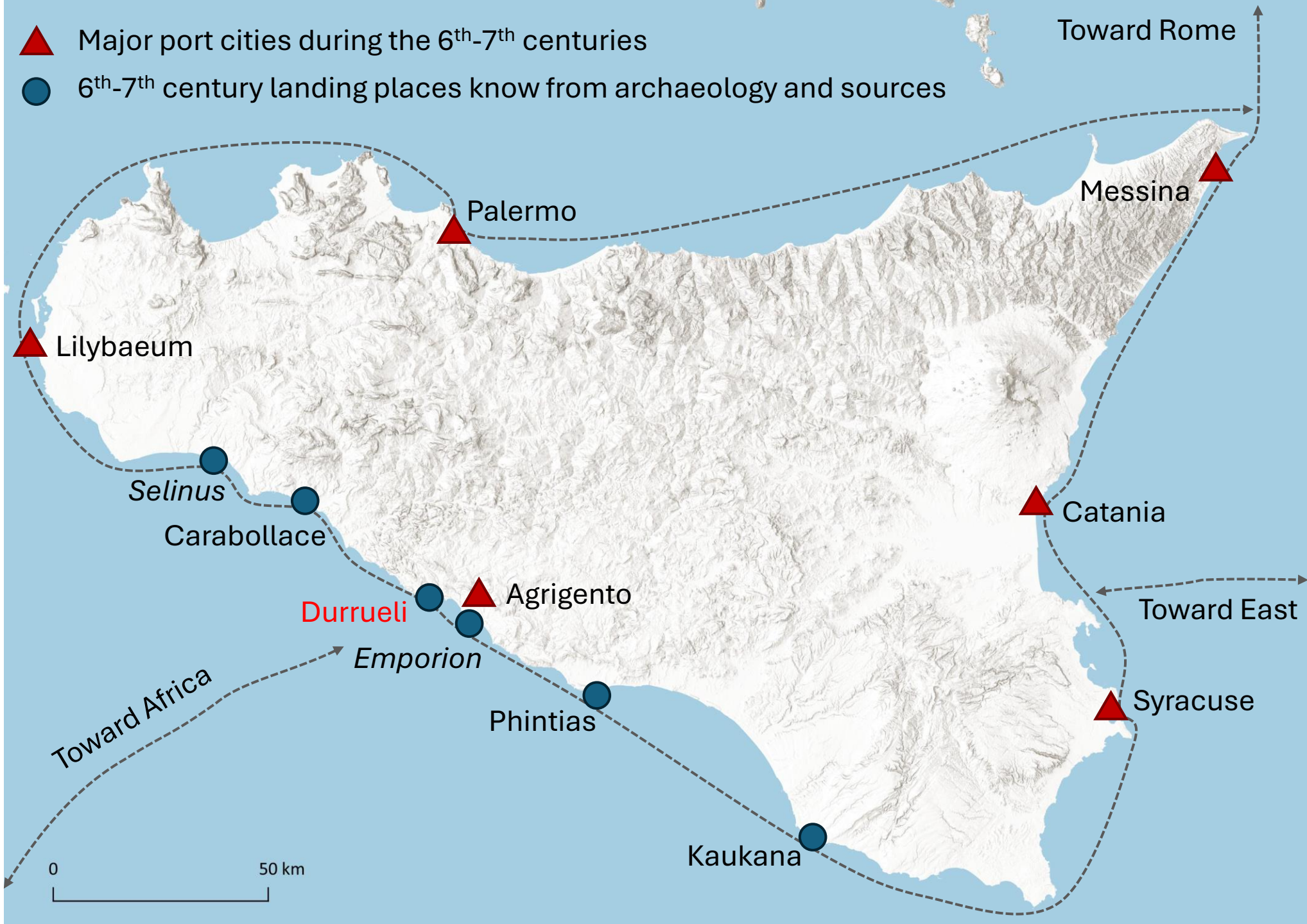


Is there evidence for direct routes, or rather for redistribution towards Mediterranean hubs?



▲ Major port cities during the 6th-7th centuries

● 6th-7th century landing places know from archaeology and sources



Thank you for your attention!

ご清聴ありがとうございました。

Fabrizio Ducati: Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, CCJ, Aix-en-Provence, France – fabrizio.ducati@univ-amu.fr

Tomoo Mukai: Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, CCJ, Aix-en-Provence, France – tomoo.mukai@univ-amu.fr

Maria Serena Rizzo: Parco Valle dei Templi, Agrigento, Italy – mariaserena.rizzo@regione.sicilia.it

青柳正規



Above left: Masanori Aoyagi's signature written on a paper tag