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A Study on the Harappan Painted Pottery from the Ghaggar Plains

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Significance of the Harappan painted pottery

The painted Harappan pottery of the Harappan civilization is distinguished by its unique style of painting motifs and compositions and is an important component of the Harappan ceramics. This is distributed over a wide area from Sutkagen Dor in the west to Alamgirpur in the east, and from Shortughai in the north to Nageshwar in the south (Fig. 1). Its distribution pattern also plays an important role in demarcating the spread of the interregional relationships during the Harappan period or the urban phase but unfortunately this aspect along with the study of percentage of painted pottery have not drawn the attention of the scholars so far. In this study only the Ghaggar plain is taken up for the study.

The study by G. Quivron (2000) shows that the Harappan painted pottery has temporal changes throughout its existence and can be a key to understand the temporal change of the interregional relationships during the Harappan period. He proposes a sequence and

chronology of the Harappan painted pottery based on the materials from excavations at Nausharo in Pakistan and its typological comparison with the Harappan painted pottery from other sites. He divides the sequence of the Harappan painted pottery into three phases and scrutinizes its origin and spread. The present authors have based their study on the Quivron's arguments which shows the changes in the painting style of the Harappan painted pottery (Fig. 3).

Harappan painted pottery in the Ghaggar Plains

In the Ghaggar plain, there are a number of archaeological sites of the Harappan period that have been excavated, but the publication of their results are very limited resulting in a difficulty to understand the spatial and temporal distributions of the Harappan painted pottery in the region. In these circumstances, the material from the explorations can contribute to our understanding of the Harappan painted pottery in this region, although they lack information like their stratigraphic context due to its nature as surface collections.

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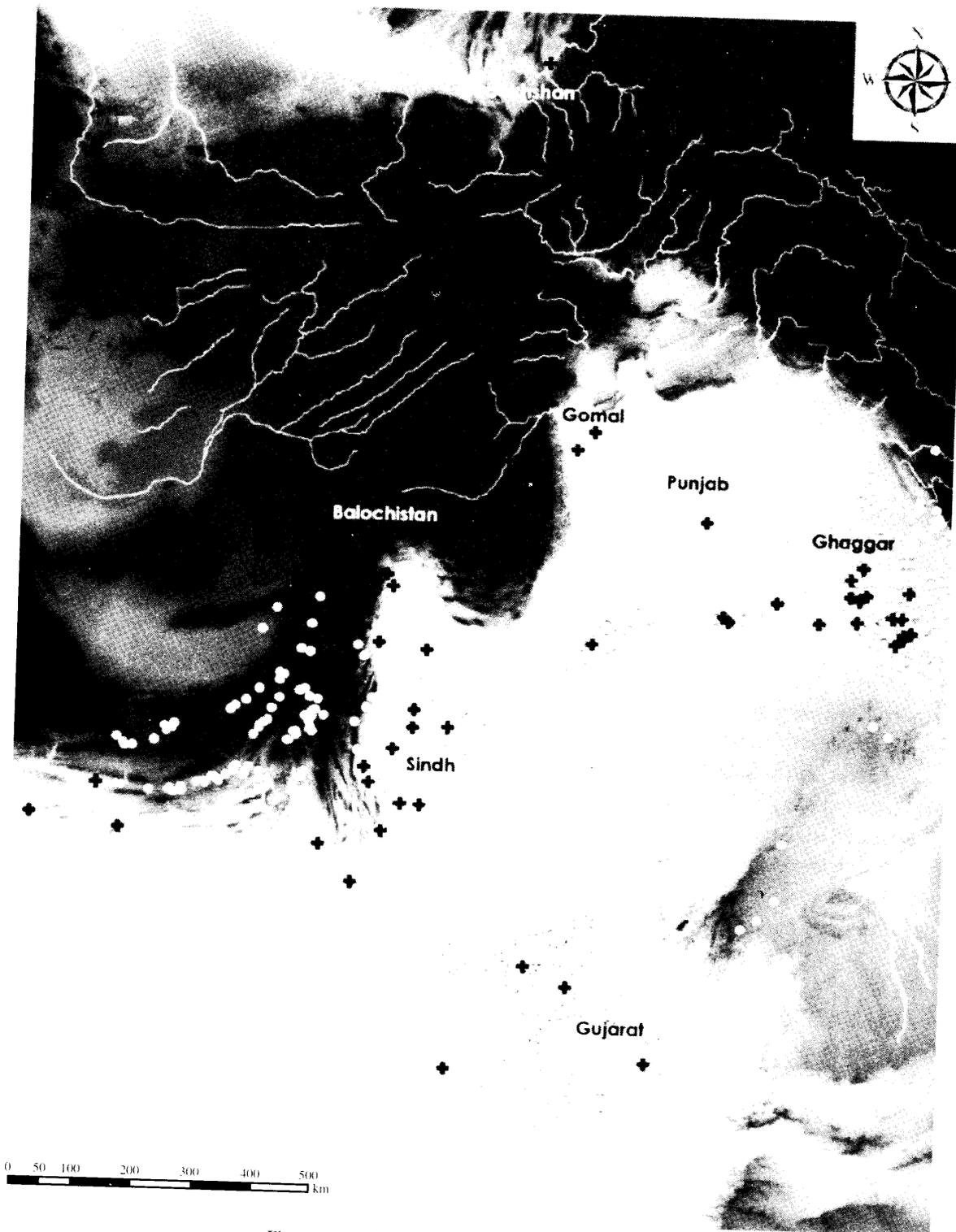


Fig. 1: General distribution of Harappan painted pottery

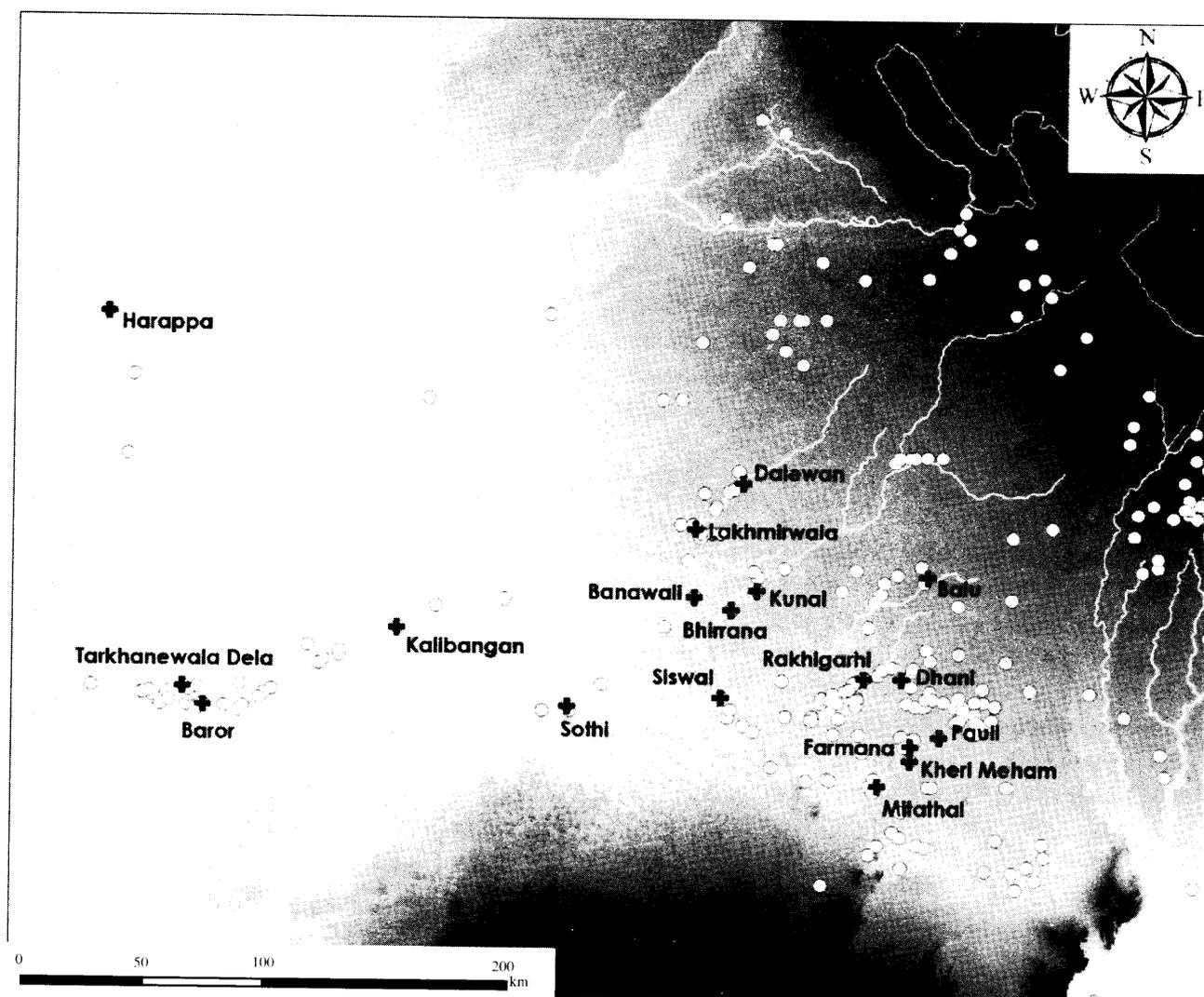


Fig. 2: Distribution of Harappan painted pottery in Ghaggar Plains

There are a number of sites in the Ghaggar plains which yielded painted pottery. Figure 2 exhibits the distribution of sites where the Harppan painted pottery were collected by V. Dangi (2010), one of the authors, as a part of his doctoral thesis. The number of sites is distinguishably larger in Haryana as he did an intensive survey in this region, while in Rajasthan only stray explorations were conducted, hence only a handful sites have yielded painted pottery. The southern part of Punjab was also surveyed, especially in the region along the Sirhind cho. The distribution pattern emerged

shows that in Haryana and Punjab, there are two clusters of sites, viz., the one along the Sirhind cho and Rangoi *nala* and the other to the south of the Chautang river. In the latter area, Rakhigarhi, the largest urban centre in the Ghaggar Plains, may have been epicenter of distribution of the Harappan painted pottery.

Sites in Rajasthan

Numerous Harappan sites have been located along the Ghaggar River in Rajasthan. Among them,

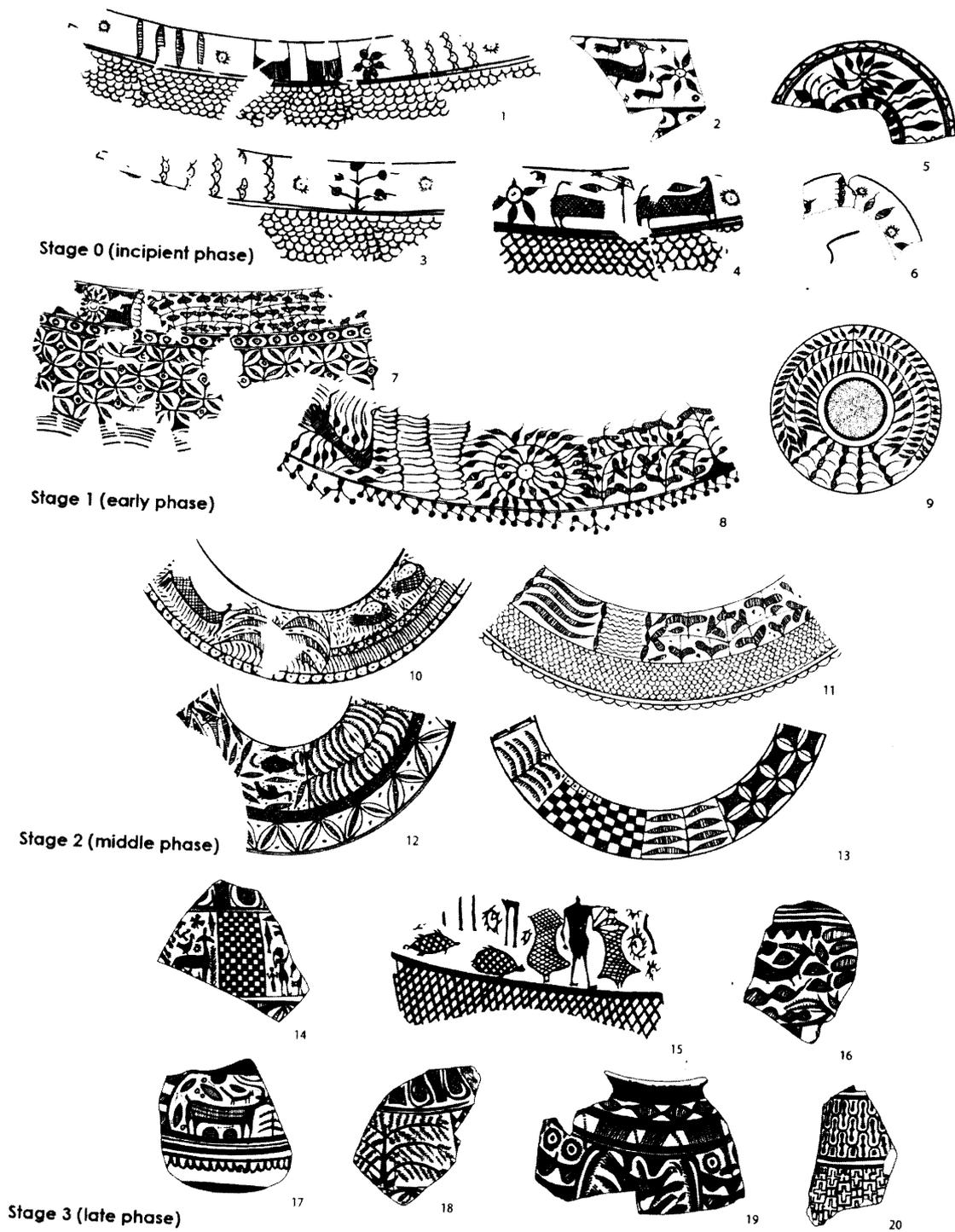


Fig. 3: Sequence and Chronology of Harappan painted pottery (produced based on Quivron 2000)

Tarkhanewala Dera, Baror, sites around Binjor and Kalibangan have been excavated in various scales. The report of only Tarkhanewala Dera excavations has been published in a full form (Trivedi 2009), while others have been preliminarily reported. In the present study only the sherds of the Harappan painted pottery from Tarkhanewala Dera, Baror, Sothi and Kalibangan are included which have been collected by first author.

In the following pages the detailed description of sites yielded the Harappan painted pottery is discussed.

Tarkhanewala Dera

This site is located about 300 m west of Chak 86 in the Anupgarh thesil of the Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan. It spreads over an area of about 1 hectare and is almost reduced to the surrounding level in height. This site was chosen as a protected site and was excavated by Archaeological Survey of India (Trivedi 2009). In the excavation report, some Harappan painted sherds were reported along with Harappan painted pottery. Three 14°C dates were presented, ranging from the end of the second millennium BC to the early first millennium BC.

In the course of explorations the site yielded the remains of the Mature Harappan period. Main shapes include perforated jar, dish-on-stand with broad stem, button-base goblets. Some fragments of painted pottery were also collected.

One specimen of the Harappan painted pottery (Fig. 4: 1) represents a neck sherd of small S-shaped jar with a comb-like motif and leaves. The comb-like motif has a shape that becomes wider towards its lower end.

Baror

The village Baror is located about 12 km east of Anupgarh (Sri Ganganagar district, Rajasthan). There is an archaeological site in the revenue area of the

village. The mound is located about one km south of the Suratgarh-Anupgarh road. Potsherds were found over an area of about 4 hectares. The mound rises about 7 m above the ground level. This site was excavated by Archaeological Survey of India (Sant *et al.* 2005: 50-59) yielding three fold cultural sequence viz. pre-Harappan, Early Harappan and Mature Harappan.

In the course of recent explorations, potsherds of the Early Harappan and Mature Harappan periods were found, along with some beads of carnelian and agate, and chert blades.

Two sherds of the Harappan painted pottery were collected from this site (Fig. 4: 2-3). No. 2 is distinguished by its carinated body and a unique painting that consists of two horizontal register frilled by dot-in-circle motifs and hatches. No. 3 is a body sherd of a pot. Horizontal bands are delineated and painting motifs are depicted in the upper two registers. In the upper register, two compartments are defined and wavy bands and inverted triangles with dots fill them respectively. Sun-like motifs are arranged in the lower register.

Kalibangan

The village Kalibangan is located about 5 km southeast of Pilibangan (Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan). There is an archaeological site in the revenue area of the village. It is situated adjacent to the village towards northwest.

This site was excavated by Archaeological Survey of India (Lal *et al.* 2003). There are two mounds situated close to each other, named KLB-I and KLB-II. The excavations revealed a well-planned township and two-fold cultural sequence which belongs to the Early Harappan and Mature Harappan.

During the recent explorations, potsherds of the Early Harappan and Mature Harappan were found. The

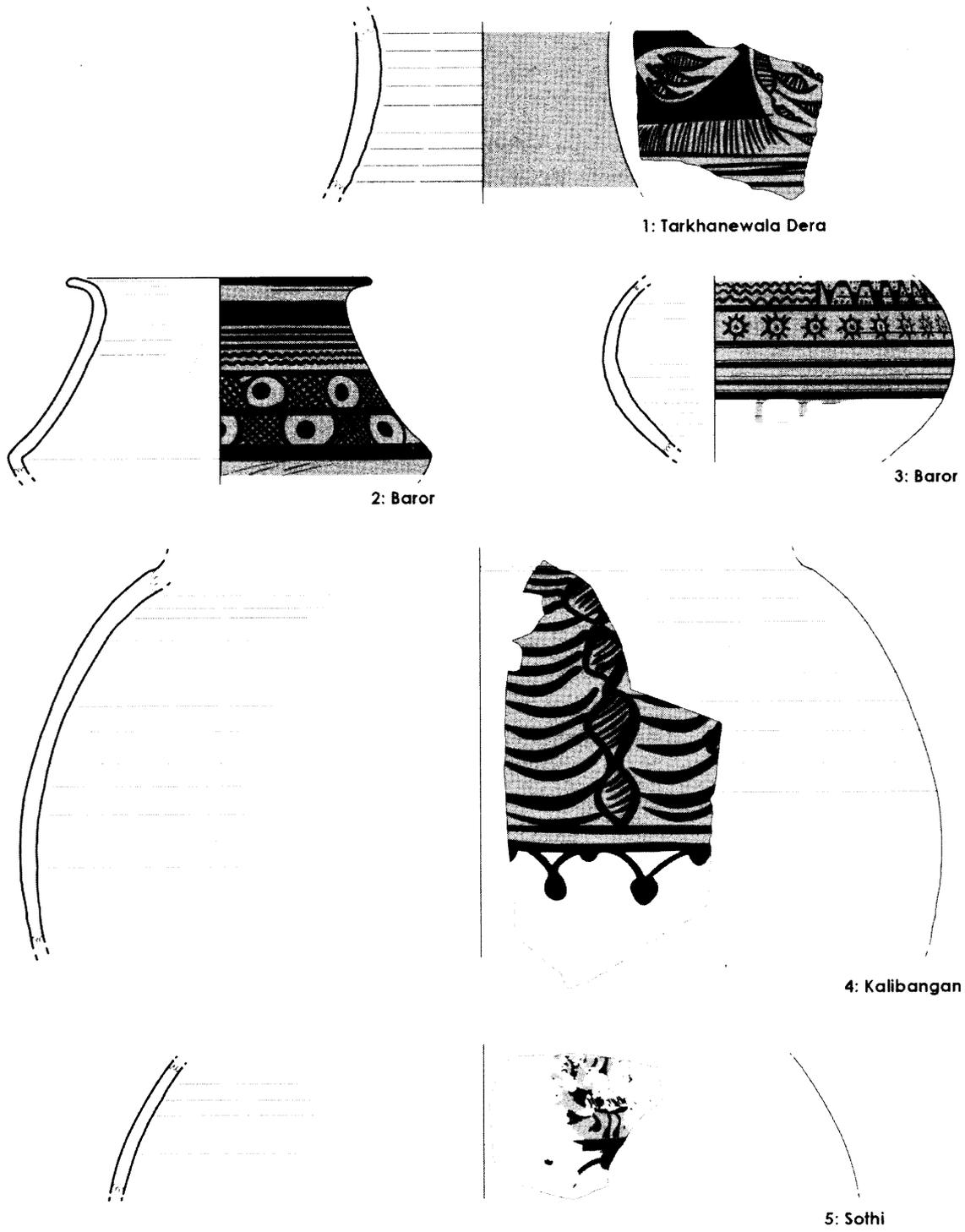


Fig. 4: Harappan painted pottery from Ghaggar Plains (scale =1:4)

Mature Harappan pottery included some painted sherds. The antiquities collected from the site include terracotta and faience bangle pieces, and chert blades.

One body sherd of a large pot is described here (Fig. 4: 4). Its upper part that is demarcated by horizontal bands on its lower end is red slipped and painted in black with water weed-like motif. Beneath the horizontal bands are painted loops-and-dots.

Sothi

The village Sothi is located about 8 km south of Nohar (Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan). There is an archaeological site in the revenue limits of the village, which is located about 2 km north of the village, on the right side of a road. It is located on the sand dunes and spreads over an area of about 2 hectare.

The site was discovered and excavated by A. Ghosh (1952: 37-42), and later in 1978 K.N. Dikshit put a trial trench to know the stratigraphic position of the Sothi ware (Dikshit 1984: 531-537). It yielded the remains of Early Harappan and Mature Harappan times. A painted sherd of Harappan times was found during the explorations.

One body sherd of a large pot from this site (Fig. 4: 5) is divided into two parts by horizontal bands. In the upper part a peacock is depicted while loops-and-dots are painted in the lower part.

Sites along the Sirhind cho

Lakhmirwala

The village Lakhmirwala is situated about 14 km southwest of Bhikki (Mansa district of Punjab). There is an archaeological site in the revenue jurisdiction of the village which is located about 400 south of the village on the Kawali-Chachur road.

The site was initially discovered by J.P. Joshi who reported that it spread over an area of about 232 hectares and yielded remains of the Early Harappan and Mature Harappan period (Joshi 1993: 235). But actually the site spreads over an area of about 5 hectares and is located on a sand dune that is more than 8 meters in height.

The site yielded the remains of the pre-Harappan (i.e. so-called Hakra pottery), Early Harappan and Mature Harappan periods. The pre-Harappan pottery includes incised and handled pots, black burnished ware. Fabrics A, D and F are common in the Early Harappan pottery, whereas in Mature Harappan pottery, goblets, perforated jars, button-based vases and sherds painted with intersecting circles and *pipal* leaves were collected. Some kilns were also noticed on the surface of the mound. Apart from the pottery, faience and terracotta bangles and some semi-precious stone beads were collected.

One body sherd of a S-shaped jar from this site (Fig. 5: 6) is painted with intersecting circles associated with leaf motifs and sun-like motifs.

Dhalewan

The village Dhalewan is situated about 8 km east of Bhikki in Mansa District of Punjab. There is an archaeological site in the revenue jurisdiction of the village, which is located about 300 m east of the village and on the left bank of the Sirhind cho. It spreads over an area of about 12 hectares and about 8 m from the surrounding ground level.

The site was excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India and yielded the remains of the Early Harappan, Mature Harappan, Historical and Medieval periods (Bala and Kant 2000: 42-44). During the recent explorations, remains of all the above mentioned periods were encountered along with some painted sherds.

One body sherd from this site (Fig. 5: 7) belongs to a

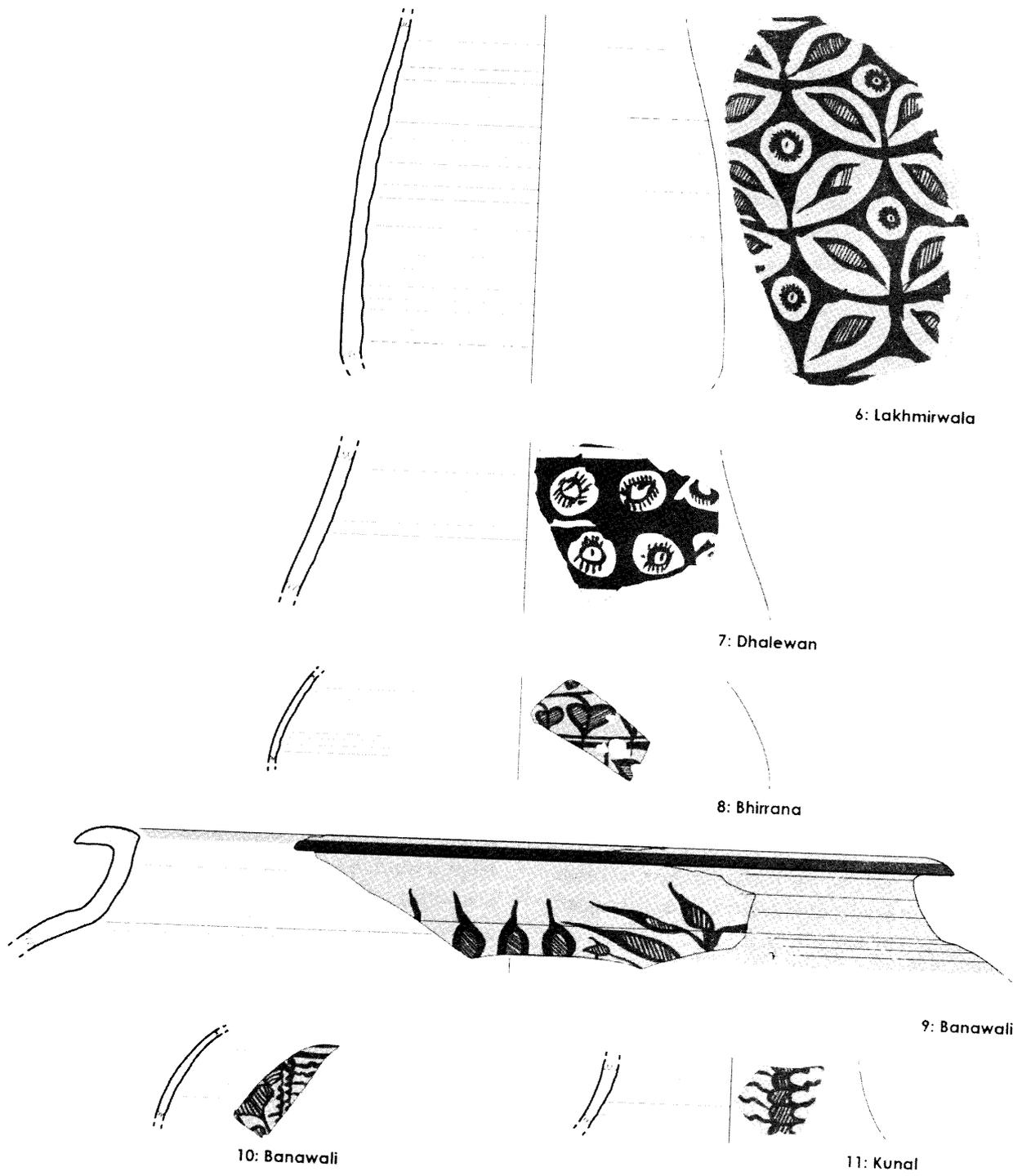


Fig. 5: Harappan painted pottery from Ghaggar Plains (scale =1:4)

large pot or a S-shaped jar. Two black bands are painted with sun-like motifs in unpainted circles.

Sites along the Rangoi *nala*

Bhirrana

The village Bhirrana or Birdhana is located 14 km northwest of Fatehabad (Haryana state). A road bifurcating at a distance of 8 km from the Fatehabad-Bhuna road, leads directly to the village. The archaeological site is a further 200 m north of the village. It measures 2 hectares in size and is about 5.50 m high (*IAR* 1985-86: 25). The excavations at this site were conducted by L.S. Rao (Rao *et. al.* 2004, 2005, 2006). Here a continuous sequence starting from the pre-Harappan (the Hakra ware culture) to the Mature Harappan periods was revealed.

During this exploration, a good number of antiquities were collected by the author. They include beads of semi-precious stone, terracotta, steatite and faience, and bangles of terracotta and faience. A few painted sherds of the Mature Harappan period were also collected.

One body sherd of a pot from this site (Fig. 5: 8) is painted with multi-branched *pipal*-leaves.

Banawali

The village Banawali is located about 15 km west of Fatehabad, in Haryana state. The famous archaeological site is situated about 500 m south of the village. It was excavated by R.S. Bisht and the site yielded the remains of Early Harappan, Mature Harappan and Late Harappan periods (Bisht 1982). It spreads over an area of about 7 hectares and rises about 7 m high above the surrounding plain.

During the present explorations, Early Harappan, Mature Harappan and Late Harappan pottery was

collected. The Mature Harappan pottery includes some painted sherds of storage jar.

Two sherds were collected from this site (Fig. 5: 9-10). No. 9 is a body sherd of a pot with multi-branched *pipal* leaves and vertical and horizontal wavy bands. No. 8 is a rim sherd of a large pot with multi-branched leaves.

Kunal

The village Kunal is located about 14 km southeast of Ratia in the Fatehabad district of the Haryana state. A road, bifurcating from the Ratia-Bhuna road near the 11 km mile-stone, leads to the village. The archaeological site is located about 400 m south of the village, on the left bank of the Rangoi *nala*. It spreads over an area of about 1.2 hectares and is about 3 m high.

This site was excavated by Department of Archaeology and Museums Haryana and was reported having remains of Hakra ware, Early Harappan and early phase of Mature Harappan period (Khatri and Acharya 1995). The excavations yielded remains of pre-Harappan (Hakra pottery), Early Harappan and Mature Harappan and PGW periods.

In the course of exploration by the present researcher, a good number of steatite and carnelian beads; terracotta bangles, beads, toy cart hubbed wheel, toy-cart frame, humped bull figurine and cakes were found.

One neck sherd of a pot from this site (Fig. 5: 11) is painted with water weed-like motif.

Sites to the south of the Chautang

Siswal

The village Siswal is located about 10 km southeast of Adampur in the Hissar district, Haryana. The archaeological site is further located about 700 m

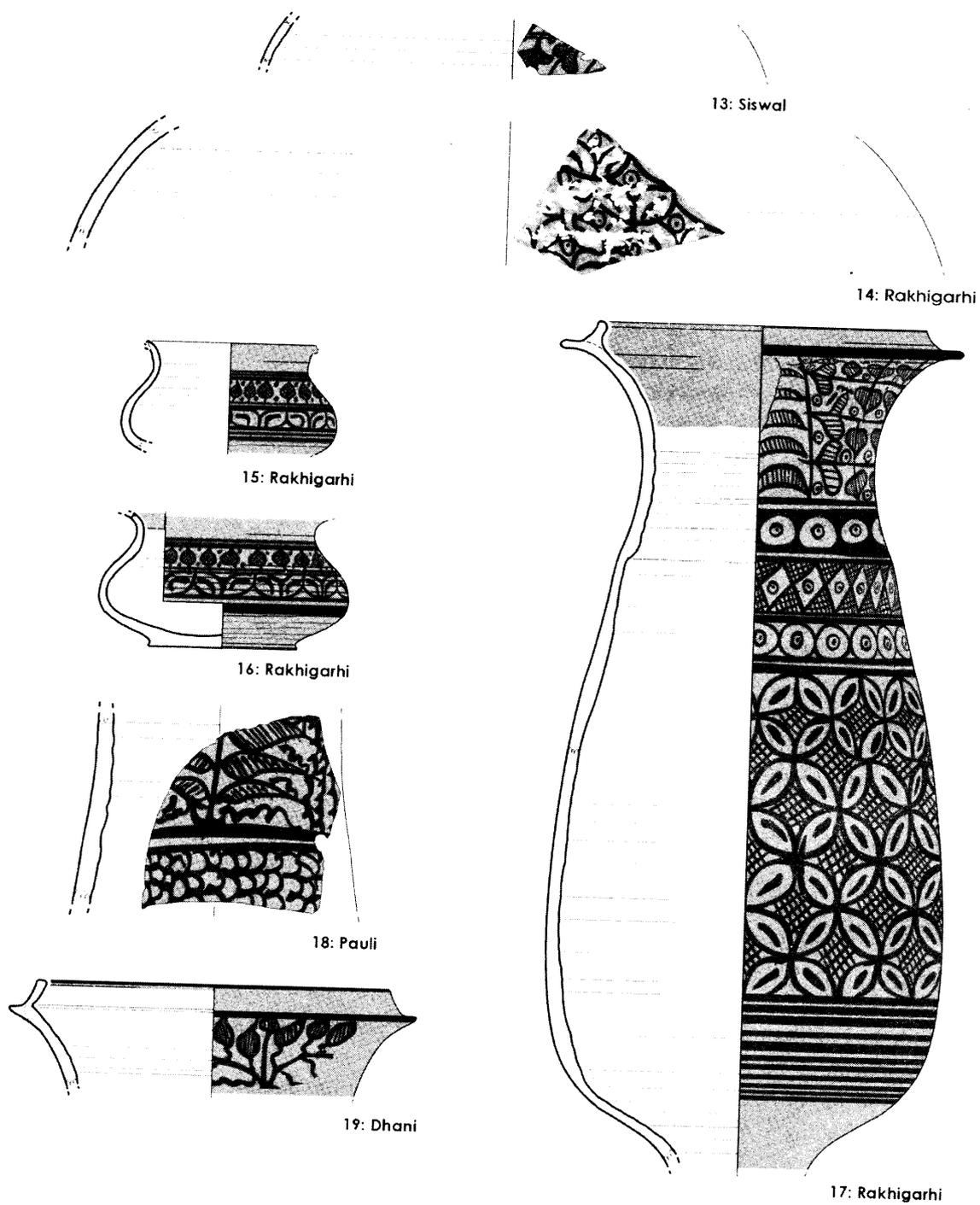


Fig. 6: Harappan painted pottery from Ghaggar Plains (scale =1:4)

north of the village on the left bank of the dried river Chautang. The site was discovered and excavated by Late Professor Suraj Bhan (Bhan 1972). In the 2 x 2 m excavated area, the excavator revealed remains of Early and Late Siswal phases, i.e. of the Early and Mature Harappan periods.

In the explorations the present researcher collected Early and Mature Harappan pottery along with a few painted sherds. One painted sherd from this site (Fig. 6: 13) is a body fragment of a medium-sized pot with multi-branched *pipal* leaves.

Rakhigarhi

The village Rakhigarhi is located about 10 km northwest of Narnaund (Hissar district, Haryana). the biggest Harappan site in India is located in the revenue limits of the village. The major portion of the site is presently occupied by the village.

There are seven mounds, which have been designated Rakhigarhi-1 to Rakhigarhi-7. The site was discovered by Suraj Bhan (1975: 124). Later in 1997 the site was taken up for the excavation by Archaeological Survey of India, under the direction of Amarendra Nath. The habitation area calculated by the excavator is about 120 hectares (Nath 1998: 39). A fragmentary 'S' shaped jar was also found here. Mr. Wazir Chand, a local villager, also owns some Harappan painted pots (Fig. 6:15-15) and kindly permitted us to document them.

Four examples of the Harappan painted pottery are described here (Fig. 6: 14-17). No. 17 is a well-preserved specimen of a S-shaped jar showing an entire painting design. The external surface is divided into five registers, each of which is filled by *pipal* leaves, sun-like motif in circles, lozenges with dots-in-circles, the spaces between which are filled with hatches, dots-in-circles and intersecting circles with curvilinear bands and hatches, in turn. Multiple bands are delineated on

the lower part of the body. No. 14 is a body sherd of a pot with intersecting circles associated with curvilinear bands and dots-in-circles. They are identical in shape and painting pattern having a squat body. Two horizontal registers are demarcated on the body, the upper one of which is painted with simplified *pipal* motifs and the lower one is filled with intersecting semi-circles.

Dhani

The village Dhani lies about 4 km west of Jind (Haryana state). The ancient site is situated about 400 m northeast of the village. It measures about 2 hectares and is about 1.5 m high from the surrounding field level.

The site yielded the remains of the pre-Harappan, Early Harappan, Mature Harappan and Historical periods (Dangi 2009: 94-97). The pre-Harappan pottery includes the incised ware and black burnished ware. The Early Harappan pottery includes dish, vases decorated with incised decoration, bowls, vases without slip, bichrome pottery. Some sherds have graffiti marks also. The Mature Harappan pottery includes the fragments of perforated jars, 'S' shaped jars, goblets, button-based vases. The antiquities recovered from this site include a complete arrowhead of copper, beads of agate, lapis lazuli, carnelian, faience, steatite and terracotta, chert blades, terracotta hubbed wheel, fragments of toy cart-frame, a terracotta bull figurine, terracotta triangular, '8'-shaped and *idli* shaped cakes, and faience and terracotta bangle pieces.

One rim sherd of a S-shaped jar was collected from this site (Fig. 6: 19). It is painted with multi-branched *pipal* leaves.

Pauli

The village Pauli is situated about 7 km south of Julana town on the Jind-Rohtak road (Jind district, Haryana). An Early Harappan site was reported from the revenue

area of the village before (*IAR* 1966-67: 125), but the present authors was unable to locate this site. Another site was found located about 2 km west of the village on the Pauli-Jafargarh border and was further located about 500 m north of the Pauli-Bansi road. The site spreads over an area of about 2 hectares in size and has been totally removed to the ground level for cultivation. The site yielded remains of the Mature Harappan period (*Dangi* 2009: 141). The main shapes in the pottery are collared-rim jars, dish-on-stands, vases, basins, etc. Besides pottery, the antiquities recovered from this site are beads of agate, lapis lazuli, carnelian, faience, steatite and terracotta, chert blades, copper roads, terracotta hubbed wheel, fragments of terracotta toy cart frame, bull figurine, triangular, '8'-shaped, *idli*-shaped cakes, and faience and terracotta bangles.

One body sherd of a S-shaped jar from this site (*Fig. 6: 18*) has paintings in two registers. In the upper register, *pipal* leaves (?) and vertical wavy bands are depicted and the lower register is filled with vertical wavy bands.

Balu

The village Balu is situated about 20 km south of Kaithal in the Haryana state and the archaeological site is further located about 1.5 km northwest of the village (*Suraj Bhan and Shaffer* 1978: 59-68). This site was excavated by Kurukshetra University and yielded three-fold cultural sequence, viz. Early Harappan, Mature Harappan and Late Harappan periods (*IAR* 1978-79, 1979-80, 1992-92).

In the course of the explorations, the artefacts of the Early Harappan, Mature Harappan and Late Harappan periods including some painted Harappan pottery were found. Apart from pottery, some beads of agate, carnelian and terracotta, chert blades, terracotta cakes of various shapes, copper objects and terracotta and faience bangles fragments were collected.

Two specimens were collected from this site (*Fig. 9: 40-41*). No. 40 is a body sherd of a pot with a squat body having intersecting semi-circles with leaves in a register that is demarcated by horizontal bands. Its composition is similar to the examples from Rakhigarhi mentioned above. No. 2 may be a sherd of a S-shaped jar with intersecting circles associated with lenticular bands and dots-in-circles.

Kheri Meham

The village Kheri Meham is located about 1 km north of Meham (Rohtak district of Haryana). This site is located about 200 m north of the village. It occupies an area of about 2.7 hectares and it is now 1 m high and is under cultivation. It yielded remains of the pre-Harappan (Hakra culture), Early Harappan, Mature Harappan, Late Harappan, Historical and Medieval periods (*Dangi* 2006: 21-22). Faience bangles, beads and faience slag were found in a large quantity. This gives an idea that this site may have been a faience production centre. Other antiquities include terracotta cakes of different shapes, i.e. triangular, circular, *idli* shape, and *mustikas*, bangle pieces, bi-conical beads and hubbed wheel, etc. Apart of these, agate, carnelian and steatite beads were also found.

A neck sherd of a pot was collected from this site (*Fig. 9: 42*). Multi-branched *pipal* leaves are painted.

Farmana-1

The village Farmana is located about 12 km north of Meham in the Rohtak district of Haryana state. The archaeological site is about 4 km west of the village on the left side of the Farmana-Seman road. This site is locally known as *Daksha Khera*. This site falls in the revenue jurisdiction of three villages, viz. Farmana, Seman and Bhaini Chanderpal. The major portion of this site falls in the village of Farmana.

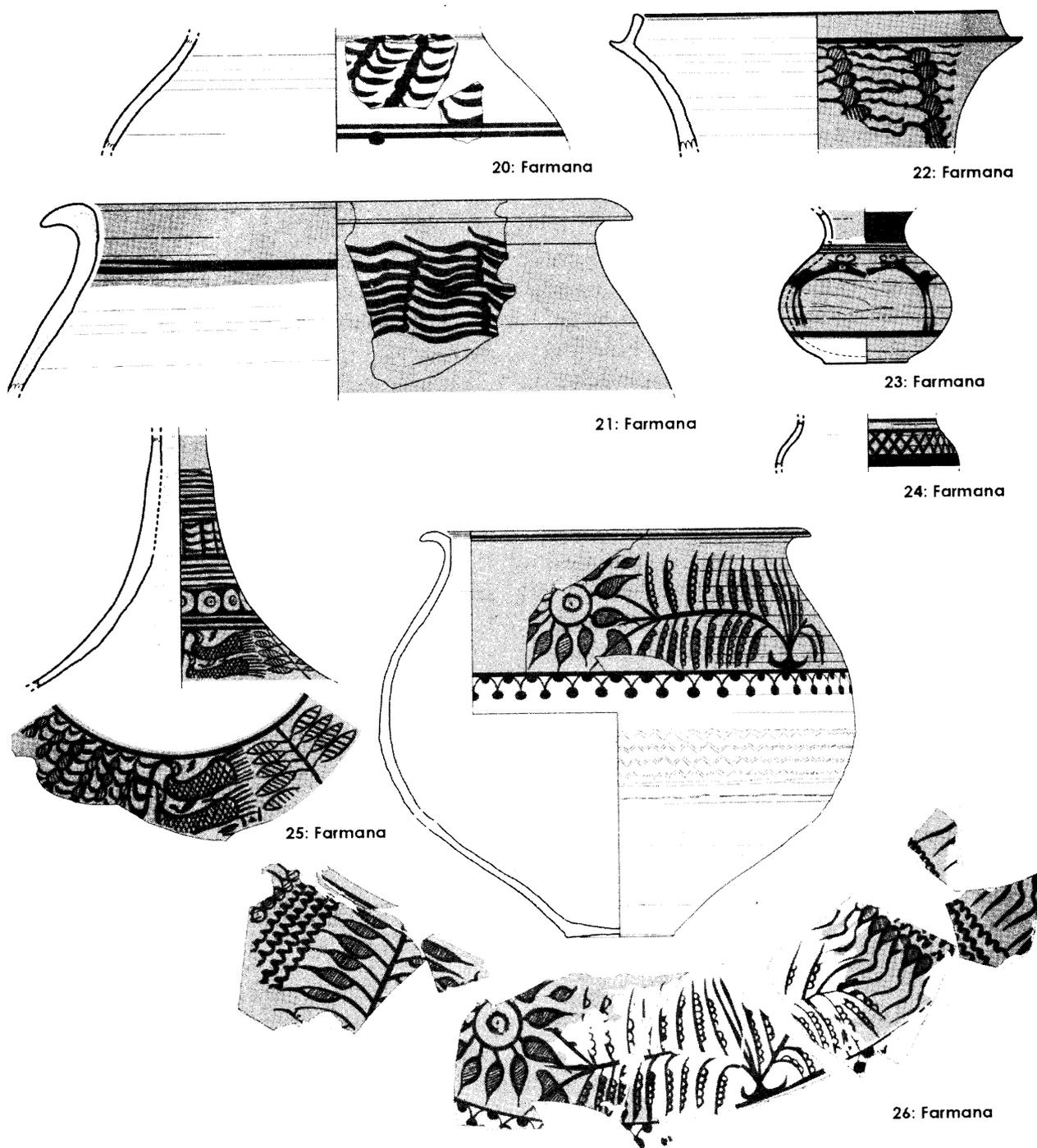


Fig. 7: Harappan painted pottery from Ghaggar Plains (sherds from excavations at settlement area of Farmana-1. After Uesugi 2011) (scale =1:4)

This site was originally known as belonging to the Early-Siswal (Early Harappan) cultures (Suraj Bhan 1974: 125). Later, Surender Singh gave details about the size of the site approximately 250 m × 250 m and reported Early Harappan, Mature Harappan, Late Harappan including OCP and Early Historic remains (Surender Singh 1989: 17).

The present author, during his survey, collected bi-chrome pottery and chocolate slip ware, some sherds with graffiti marks of Early Harappan period, Harappan pottery, Late Harappan pottery, PGW and Early Historical pottery. The Mature Harappan pottery includes some painted sherds. Besides pottery, the antiquities from this site are a complete spearhead of copper, beads of agate, lapis lazuli, carnelian, faience, steatite and terracotta (Dangi 2006:17).

At this site, excavations were conducted for three seasons from 2006-07 to 2008-09 and revealed a settlement area and a cemetery of the Harappan period. Harappan painted pottery was found in both sites (Shinde *et al.* 2011).

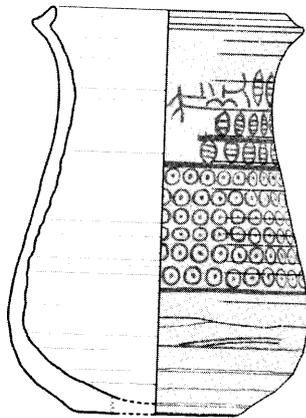
Among the Harappan painted pottery from the settlement area (Fig. 7) are included pots of small and large sizes (Nos. 20, 21, 23, 24 and 26), S-shaped jars (No. 22) and dish-on-stands (No. 25). In the small pots, there are examples painted with humped bulls facing each other (No. 23), hatched register (No. 24) and simplified *pipal* leaves in a register. No. 26 of the large pots is painted with a sun-like motif and multi-branched plant motif in its upper part. Nos. 20 and 21 are painted with water weed-like motifs. Loops and dots motif occur beneath horizontal bands which demarcate the register on the upper part of the body. One rim sherd of an S-shaped jar (No. 22) is painted with water weed-like motif.

Among the specimens from the cemetery (Fig. 8), there is a flanged pot (No. 30), three S-shaped jars (Nos. 27-29) and one dish-on-stands (No. 31). For S-shaped jars, No. 27 has two registers, each of which are painted with leaves and dots-in-circles respectively. No. 28 is painted with leaf-like motifs and vertical wavy bands. No. 29 may have been painted with dots-in-circles and hatches, though most of the paintings have been rubbed off. The flanged jar (No. 30) is painted with dots-in-circles and vertical wavy bands. For the dish-on-stand (No. 31), a part of leaf-like motifs is intact on the pedestal.

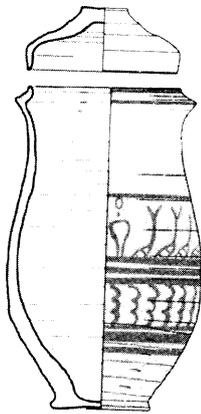
No. 32 is a flanged pot that was discovered by one of the author before excavation. It is complete and exquisitely painted with various motifs. In its upper part, a comb-like motif and leaves are depicted while the lower part is filled with wavy bands. These two registers are bordered by a narrow register in which dots-and-circles are filled.

In the surface collection (Fig. 9: 33-39), sherds of pots and S-shaped jars are included. One specimen of a pot (No. 34) is painted with wavy bands in a register demarcated on the upper part of the body. No. 35 is painted with intersecting circles associated with leaves and sun-like motifs. No. 33, a large pot, is painted with multi-branched *pipal* leaves. Among the specimens of S-shaped jars (Nos. 36-39), inverted arrowhead-like motifs, dots, inverted triangles, sun-like motifs in circles are identified.

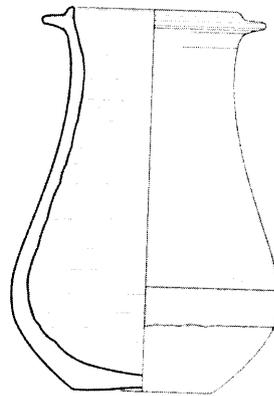
A series of AMS C-14 dates from the sites indicates that the occupations at the settlement area range approximately from 2500 cal BC to 2300 cal BC and that the Harappan painted pottery from the site is likely to be placed in this range.



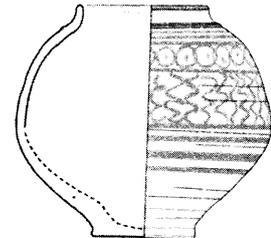
27: Farmana



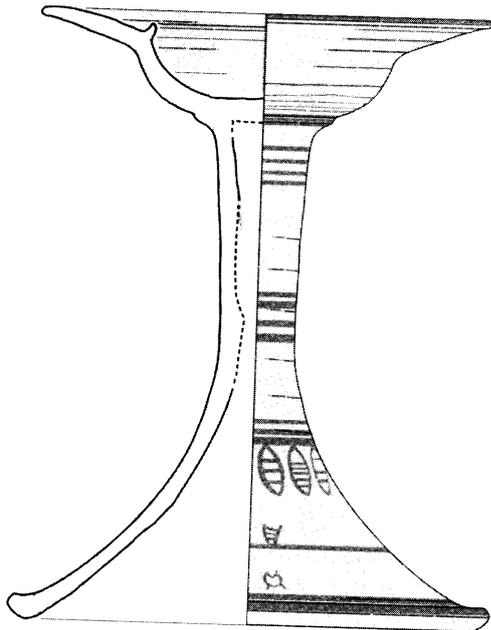
28: Farmana



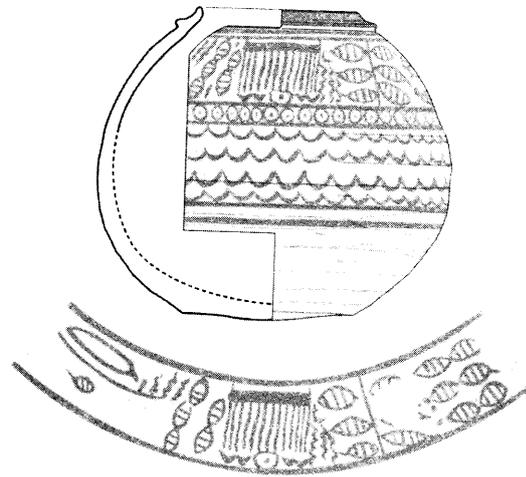
29: Farmana



30: Farmana



31: Farmana



32: Farmana

Fig. 8: Harappan painted pottery from Ghaggar Plains

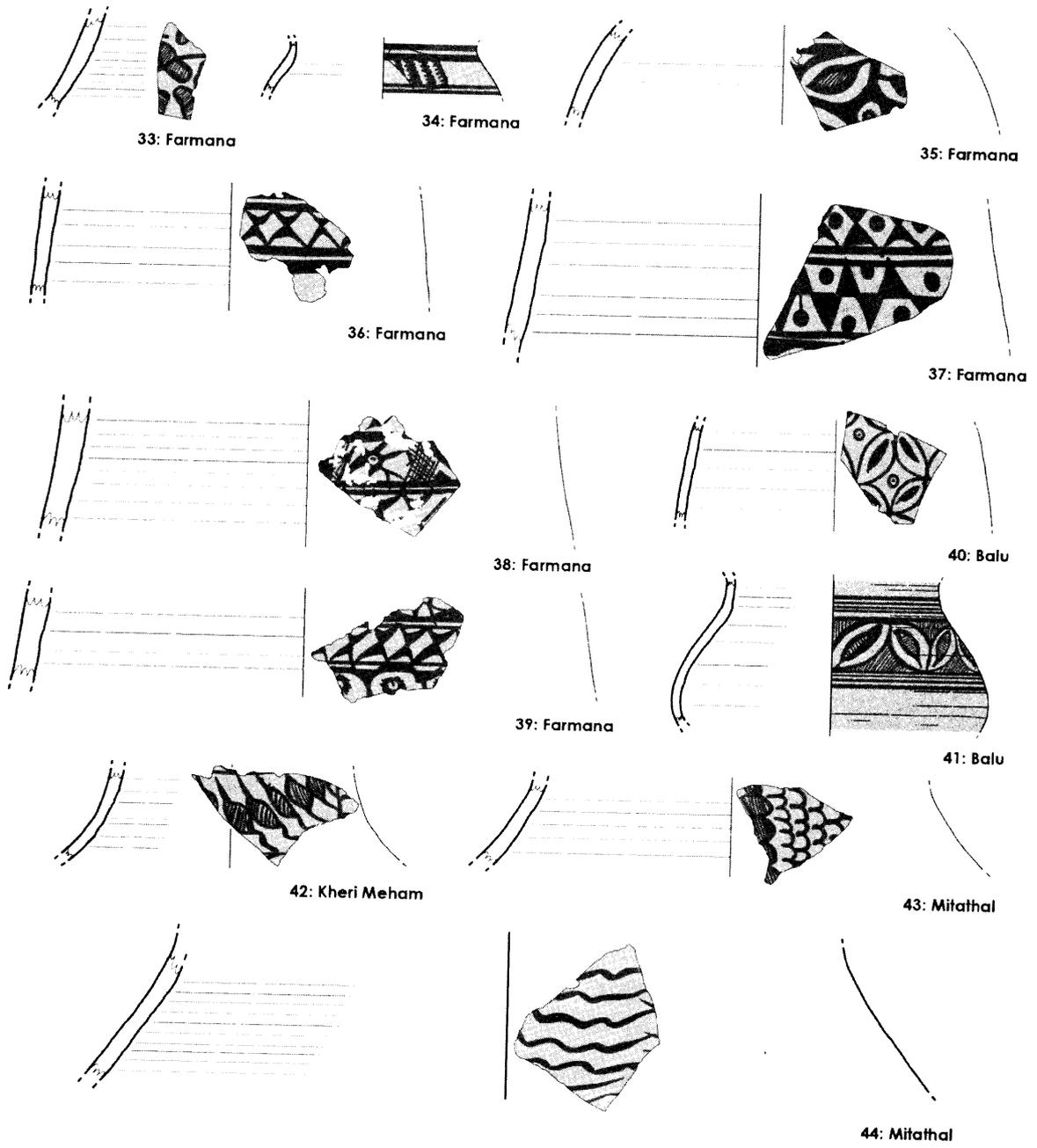


Fig. 9: Harappan painted pottery from Ghaggar Plains (scale =1:4)

Seman-6

The site Seman-6 is situated about one km east of the village. It was discovered by first author and later it was taken up for excavations (Shinde *et al.* 2011) and has yielded the evidences of about 70 Harappan burials. It spreads over an area of about 3 hectares and human bones and Harappan pottery are scattered all over the area. During the course of exploration 26 complete Harappan burial pots were collected. This cemetery site is about 900 m south-east of the Harappan site Farmana-1. On the basis of location and finding from the site it can be associated with the habitation site Farmana-1 as it is located about one km north-east of it.

Mitathal

The village Mitathal is located in the Bhiwani district of the Haryana state. The archaeological site is further located about 1.5 km north of the village on the left bank of a canal. The site was discovered and taken up for the vertical excavations (Suraj Bhan 1975). The site spreads over an area of about 18 hectares and has yielded the remains of Early Harappan, Mature Harappan, Late Harappan and Historical periods. During the explorations, some fragments of painted Harappan pottery were collected.

Two body sherds of large pots were collected from this site (Fig. 9: 43-44). No. 43 has parts of water

weed-like motif and vertical wavy bands intact. For No. 44, only parts of water weed-like motifs are intact. nos 27-31 from excavations and no. 32 from surface at the cemetery site of Farmana (Seman-6) (scale =1:4)

Spatial and temporal distribution of the Harappan Painted Pottery

So far the Harappan painted pottery has been found at 47 sites including these surveyed by V. Dangi (2010) and these are added to the list by G. Quivron. The number may increase when the recently excavated sites are added to the list (Table 1).

Among the total number of sites, four sites belong to Gujarat, 17 sites to Ghaggar (including Indian Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana), more than two sites to Punjab (Pakistani Punjab), 11 sites to Sindh and 12 sites to Balochistan (including Balochistan and Khyber-Pashtunkhwa in Pakistan).

In terms of vessel forms, pots are found in 32 sites, S-shaped jars in 22 sites, dish-on-stands in 12 sites, flanged pots in four sites and bowls in two sites. These numbers clearly tell that the pots and S-shaped jars are the dominant vessel forms in the Harappan painted pottery. Furthermore it may be noteworthy that large pots are found in 18 sites.

Site Name	Country	State	E	N	Pot	small-medium pot	large pot	S-shaped jar	Dish-on-stand	Flanged jar	Bowl	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Karchat	Pakistan	Sindh	67.73333	25.75000	?									
Kot Diji	Pakistan	Sindh	68.70456	27.34697	1	1	1		1			1		
Lohumjodaro	Pakistan	Sindh	67.81667	26.96667										
Mohenjodaro	Pakistan	Sindh	68.11667	27.30000	1	1	1	1				1	1	1
Pandi Wahi	Pakistan	Sindh	67.36667	26.66667										
Lal Daro	Pakistan	Sindh	?	?										
Balakot	Pakistan	Balochistan	66.72500	25.47500	?							1	1	1
Dabar Kot	Pakistan	Balochistan	68.68333	30.08333	1		?		1	?		1	1	
Judeirjo-daro	Pakistan	Balochistan	68.25000	28.46667	?									
Kirta	Pakistan	Balochistan	67.46667	29.53333	?							1	1	1
Miri Qalat	Pakistan	Balochistan	63.01250	26.03333	1		1					1		
Nausharo	Pakistan	Balochistan	67.58333	29.36667	1	1	1	1	1					
Pathani Damb One	Pakistan	Balochistan	67.43333	28.51667										
Periano Ghundai	Pakistan	Balochistan	69.38333	31.36667										
Sotka Koh	Pakistan	Balochistan	63.45417	25.42083	1		1	1	1			1	1	
Sutkagen-dor	Pakistan	Balochistan	62.00000	25.50000				1						
Gumla	Pakistan	Khyber-Pa shtunkhwa	70.83333	31.88333					1		1			
Maru-2	Pakistan	Khyber-Pa shtunkhwa	70.55111	31.60000										
Shortughai	Afghanistan	Badakhshan	69.50000	37.30000	?			1	1			1	1	

In the Ghaggar Plains, the Harappan painted pottery is distributed over quite a wide area. Although the distribution pattern in the Indian Punjab is uncertain due to the scarcity of reported sites, it exhibits two concentration areas, one in the Rangoi *nala* and Sirhind cho and the other to the south of the Chautang.

In this region, pots are found at 12 sites (among them seven sites yield large pot), S-shaped jars in 10 sites,

dish-on-stands from one site and flanged pots from two sites. Thus the tendency of the formal assemblage of the Harappan painted pottery in the region, the dominance of pots and S-shaped jars is the same as that of the entire region of the Harappan culture.

It is difficult to discuss the period-wise distribution pattern of the Harappan painted pottery because of the scarcity of reported sites where the materials were

found in stratigraphic contexts and even in the available reports the detailed stratigraphic context of pottery is not given. Furthermore, the cultural sequence, especially the ceramic sequence including the Harappan painted pottery, has not been well established in some regions making it difficult to place unstratified materials in a temporal framework. Thus the increase of the stratified data is essential in order to understand the spatio-temporal distribution of the Harappan pottery, but the unstratified sherds from the surface are also equally significant help us grasp out its distribution pattern.

Most of the sherds discussed here are small in size and the entire painting pattern of which cannot be determined. Therefore the correlation with the G. Quivron's sequence of the Harappan painted pottery is not easy, but it is noteworthy that most of the sherds discussed here belong to Quivron's first stage. It can be corroborated by the finds from Farmana in association with Harappan seals and AMS C14 dates that range from 2500 to 2300 cal BC.

As pointed out by G. Quivron, the Harappan painted pottery of his first stage spread over a wide

area indicating that the dispersal of the Harappan culture occurred not gradually but quite quickly during the early part of the Harappan period. The evidence from Farmana indicates that the Harappan culture evolved in the eastern part of the Ghaggar Plains in the same period. It is noteworthy to mention here that the Harappan painted pottery was buried in burials with Harappan plain pottery and local pottery, while similar pottery was used in the settlement area. This evidence is significant in understanding the nature of the dispersals of the Harappan culture as it suggests that the dispersal occurred with the movements of population.

Besides, it is also interesting that the Harappan pottery of Quivron's third stage have been found from very few sites in the Ghaggar Plains. Only the examples from Tarkhanewala Dera and Baror are comparable with this stage. The Harappan painted pottery of the third stage can be identified only in Sindh, Punjab and Gujarat. It may suggest a change in the distribution pattern of the Harappan painted pottery in this phase.

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