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Journal of Roman Pottery Studies

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The Study Group for Roman Pottery

Dedication

The Study Group Committee dedicate this volume to Ted Connell who has given so much to the Group over many years. Ted joined the Group over 25 years ago; he has served as Group Treasurer (1994–2003) and developed the Group's Website from 2001.

Thank you Ted!

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New data concerning pottery production in the south-western part of *Gallia Belgica*, in light of the A29 motorway excavations

Cyrille Chaidron

1. Introduction

The locally produced pottery and its sources from south-west of Amiens and north-west from Beauvais was for a long time rather unfamiliar to us. The first data originate from several fieldwalking prospection campaigns during the nineties undertaken by the University of Picardy (G.A.E.A.). The only published studies available relate to a few sites, mostly situated on the periphery of the region, namely: Fesques, in Seine-Maritime (Dubois 1998), sites in the Oise department, namely Laversines (Dubois 1999), Vendeuil-Caply (Piton and Delebarre 1993), Villers-Vicomte (Pissot 1994), Rainvillers (Faupin 2009) and Saint-Just-en-Chaussée (Chaidron 2008b) or Amiens (Bayard 1980; 1994; 2001; Dubois and Binet 1996; 2000; Dubois 2002; Chaidron and Binet 2006). For a long time the common wares known as PBQ (“pâte blanche à quartz”, meaning white fabric containing quartz), perfectly synthesised in Dubois and Mille’s article (Dubois and Mille 1996), formed the region’s best known and typical pottery group. Several other local pottery productions have only been characterised since the publication of the sanctuary of Fesques (Dubois 1998).

In recent years the construction of several motorways has led to the recovery of new data on the pottery of this buffer zone, situated between the antique cities of the *Ambiani* (Amiens) and the *Bellovaci* (Beauvais), on the frontier of the pagus of the *Catuslugii*. The data collected during the construction of the A29 Amiens-Aumale routeway, are further complemented by the pottery information from the survey of the loop line road west from Beauvais, and from the archaeological excavations at Beauvais at the rue Villebois-Mareuil (Chaidron 2008a).

The data presented in this article hence mainly come from the A29 project. In total eight excavations are taken into account, seven belonging to the A29 project:

(1) Morvilliers-Saint-Saturnin, La Mare aux Joncs and La Chaude Vallée, (2) Gauville, Le Bout de la Rue du Bois, (3) Hornoy-le-Bourg, L’Ancien Grand Bois, (4) Vraignes-les-Hornoy, Le Bois de Vraignes, (5) Pont-de-Metz, La Ferme aux Mouches II, (6) Revelles, Le Trélet, (7) Croixrault, La Dériole, and for the loop line of Beauvais: Rainvillers, Le Bois de Beaufays, and last but not least, the excavation in the centre of Beauvais, on the Rue Villebois Mareuil.

2. Technology and Typology of the Regional Fine Wares (Figs 2–4)

Regional fine wares from consumption sites on the A29 motorway mainly consist of white fabrics or grey fabrics with often a fumed surface treatment, originating from the Pays de Bray (Bayard 1980; 2001; Dubois and Mille 1996; Dubois 1998) and the Beauvais region (the Rainvillers kiln site). I will now describe the principal fabric groups.

A) The Beauvais Products: the grey or brown sandy wares

This first group combines several important productions, whose physical characteristics are similar and which permits them to be attributed to a common origin, in the Beauvais area, taking the Rainvillers kiln site as reference. The group presents the same typological characteristics. It mostly has a grey or sometimes brown silty fabric often containing micas (Dubois and Binet 1996; 2000; Dubois and Bourson 2002; Dubois 2002). The presence of white mica is systematically noticed for the main group, but proportions are very variable, going from rare to abundant mica. This goes as well for the quartz inclusions, which are always present but in variable proportions, the iron oxide inclusions and sometimes rare micro-fossils. The surface can have a rough aspect

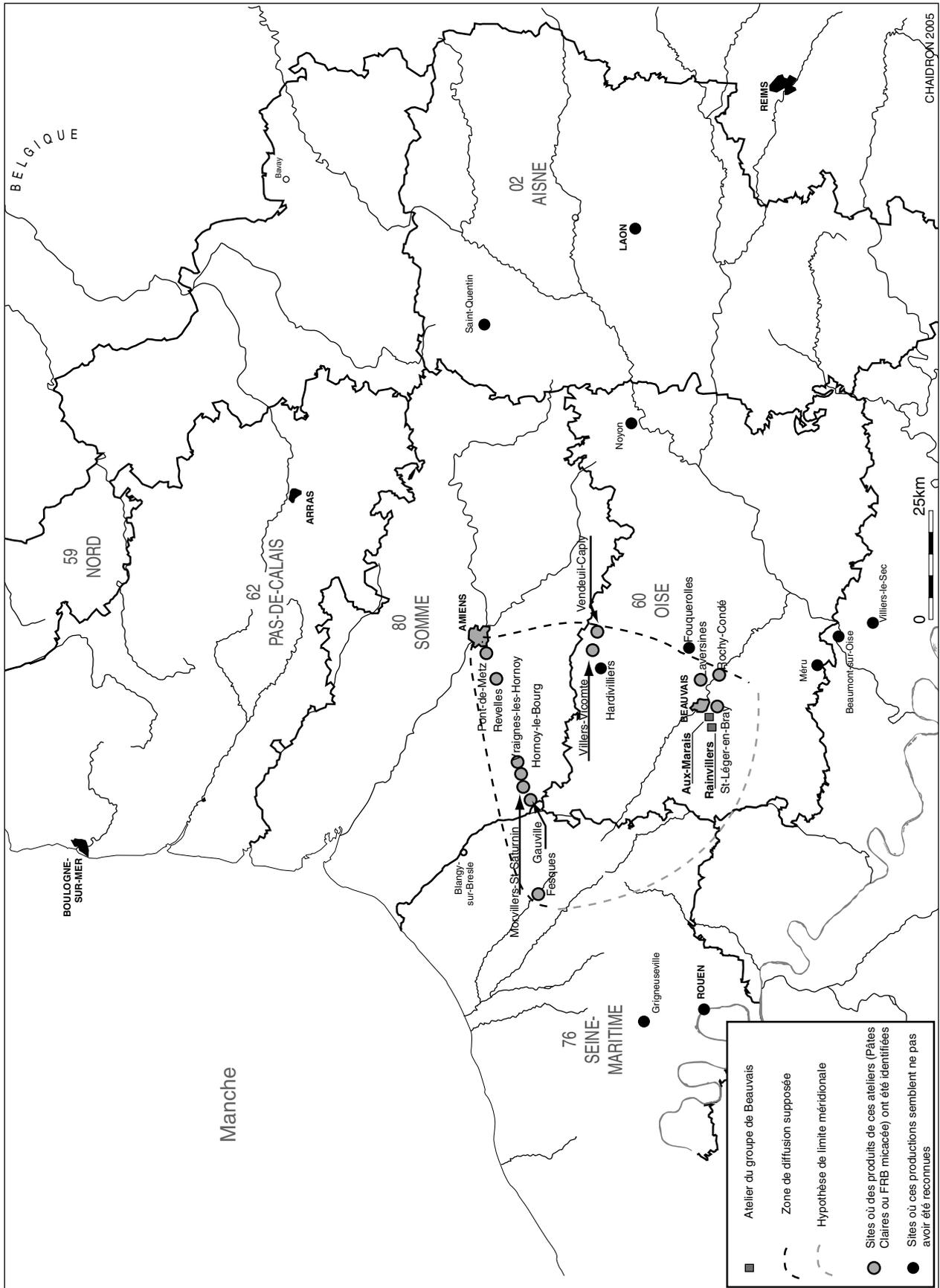


Fig. 1. Plan showing the distribution of the ceramics from the workshops of Beauvais/Pays de Bray (workshops of Aux-Marais and Rainvillers) in the middle of the first century to the end of the third century. Common oxidised wares and fumigated fine wares with micaceous grey fabric. (Carte de diffusion des céramiques des ateliers du groupe de Beauvais/Pays de Bray (ateliers d'Aux-Marais et de Rainvillers) du milieu du I^{er} s à le fin du III^e. Communes oxydantes du céramiques fines, fumigées à pâte grise micacée (gobelets barbotinés, TN ou FRB)

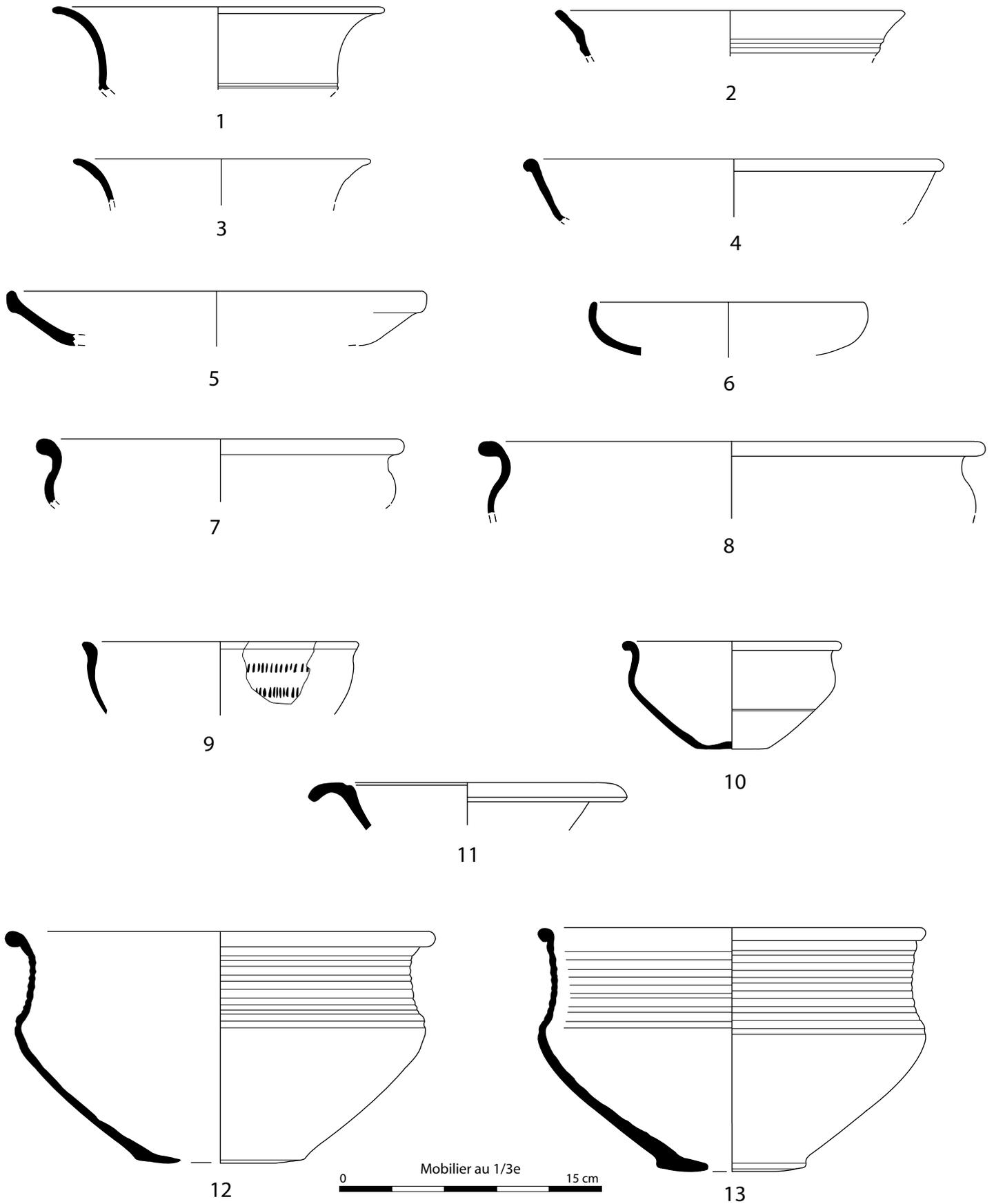


Fig 2. Regional reduced fine wares/terra nigra. (Fines régionales (mode B)/Terra nigra)

(probably related to preservation/weathering conditions in the soil), and sometimes a polished or a fumed finishing. The presence of mica is a characteristic for products of the Beauvais region (where potters were using mica-rich sands). Another fabric without micas has been identified for the production of architectural elements.

The beginning of these productions must be situated after Augustus' reign, and maybe even after Tiberius. The clearest evidence for the Claudian-Neronian period comes from Gauville, where the known repertoire is completed by vases in a fine sandy fabric, with a porous and sometimes micaceous aspect and a fumed surface. This seems to be the local *terra nigra*: used to produce beakers with *roulette* decoration and bottles of Amiens type 48b, also known at Beauvais in a local micaceous ware. They belong to a larger corpus, defined by the discovery of the Fesques sanctuary (Seine-Maritime), where this pottery appears from the middle of the first century onwards and with an origin localised in the "Pays de Bray" region by Stéphane Dubois (Dubois 1998).

The repertoire of the second part of the first century and the beginning of the second century AD (Figs 1–2) consists of S-shaped bowls, plates imitating the *terra nigra* type A20/21 (Fig 2 no 5: Deru 1996), 'plates' (or perhaps dishes) of Amiens type 11/ TN A43 (Fig 2 no 6: Ben Redjeb 1985; Deru 1996), bowls of Amiens type 22 (Fig 2 nos 7–8), carinated bowls with horizontal grooving on their necks (Fig 2 nos 12–13), samian imitations of plate type Drag. 18 (Fig 2 no 4), ovoid beakers resembling Amiens type 40a and 40b (Fig 3 nos 1–4), vessels of Amiens type 46, bottles of Amiens type 48C (Fig 3 no 5), carinated bowls with rounded rim (Fig 2 no 10), and in contexts up to the middle of the second century at Gauville, a bowl with out-curved rim (Fig 2 no 11) type TN B1 similar to those from the kiln site at Avenay-Val-d'Or, Marne (Lurol *et al* 2000, 58, fig 5)

At Beauvais, a group of *terra nigra* (Fig 4 nos 1–8) in a very micaceous grey fabric showing a dark grey to black polished surface, identified as a Beauvais region production (Villers-Vicomte, fabric 6, Pissot 1988), completes the repertoire: pots with fine rims of type P51/54 (Fig 4 no 6), Amiens type 42 (Fig 4 no 8), collared (flanged) bowls type B1 (Fig 4 no 2), Amiens beaker types 46 (Fig 4 no 3) and 47 (Fig 4 no 4) and a hemispherical bowl with combed decoration (Fig 4 no 1), close to examples from Vendeuil-Caply (Oise) from the last quarter of the first century AD (Piton and Delebarre 1993) and residual examples from Revelles (Fig 2 no 9).

The production of regional reduced fine wares (FRB) persists into at least the beginning of the late Roman period (Fig 5). They are regularly noticed at the kiln site of Rainvillers, dated to c AD 250/290–5, more precisely the beaker forms of type G3 (Fig 5 nos 6–8; Chaidron 2009) imitating the Argonne sigillata beaker Chenet 341. At Revelles these grey fine wares are associated

with regional white fumed fine wares showing the same repertoire: beakers of Bayard type 2b (Fig 4 nos 9–10), the beakers Bayard 9 to 12 (Fig 5 nos 9–15), hemispherical bowls (Fig 5 nos 1–3), probably imitating Drag. 37 bowls (*cf* Barat *et al* 1994), beakers with semi-floral incised decoration patterns of similar form type to Déchelette 72 (Fig 5 no 5), and short open truncated beakers of type Brulet B4.3 (Fig 5 no 16; Brulet 1990).

B) The Beauvais Products: the kaoline fabrics

The pottery of the second group has a white kaolinitic fabric and a fumed surface treatment. It appears during the Julio-Claudian period or around the middle of the first century AD and is eminently present during the entire second century at Beauvais, as specifically seen at the Rue Villebois Mareuil site. These products do not arrive before the end of the second century in the Amiens region but are present from that date forth, as at Pont-de-Metz (as seen with Bayard types 2b and 11) and at Amiens itself during Bayard-horizon 3 (c AD 180/190–220/230; Bayard 2001). They are especially characteristic of horizon 4 (c AD 230/240–250/260; Bayard 2001). At Revelles they account for more than 80% of the fine wares. This high percentage as well as their typological repertoire, similar to that of the grey micaceous wares (for instance, collared (flanged) bowls, Fig 5 no 4) renders them a crucial guiding tool for the third century AD.

C) Unidentified Regional or Extra-regional Productions

Next to these two major groups, a wide and diverse range of productions completes the picture. At this instant, we are not yet able to link them to specific kilns. This is the case, for example, for a specific group of vases solely found in certain early contexts, showing a sandy rather fine fabric with polished surface, fired in a reduced atmosphere and belonging to the proto-*terra nigra* wares. One of them presents a red slip covering on the neck (Fig 3 no 3).

With this heterogenic group, we can associate a collared cup type C13.1 (Horizons IV–VI: Deru 1996) presenting a red sandy fabric and a black fumed surface. This fabric could turn out to be a hitherto unidentified local ware, or indeed be a non-local component of groups, more precisely of an Île de France origin, where black pottery with a red fabric is known to have been produced (NPR: Jobelot and Vermeersch 1994).

Finally, more securely characterized is the carinated bowl with a thinned rim, concave body and fine sandy fabric, which occurs with a sandwich appearance at the break, with grey core and brown fringes. The fabric contains abundant milky quartz and sub-rounded shiny quartz inclusions together with some red grog. This form seems to be locally well represented, most clearly so in the Vraignes-les-Hornoy sector. Its surface is brown and smooth, with polished bands. It is inspired by the Amiens

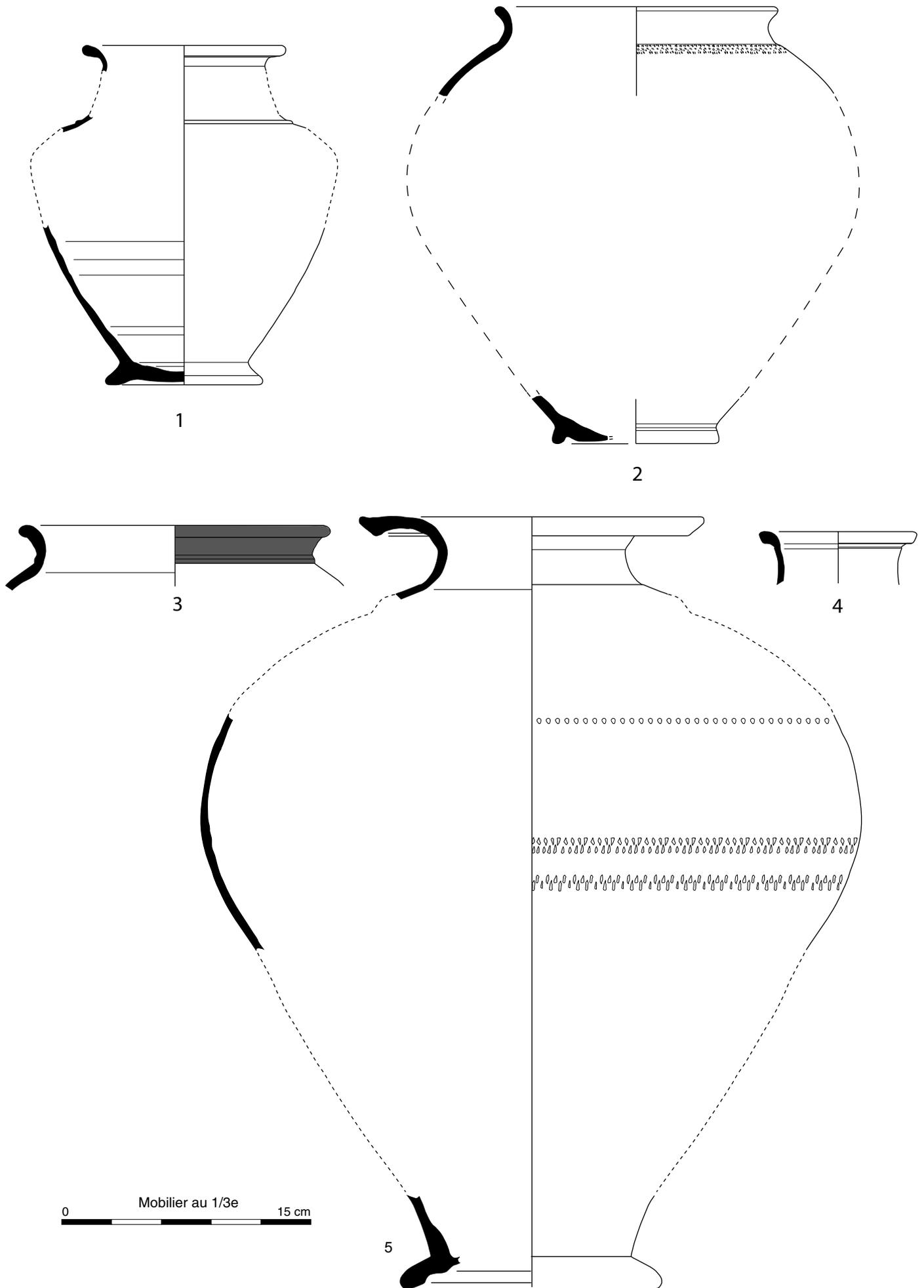


Fig 3. Regional reduced fine wares with sandy fabric. (*Terra nigra à pâte sableuse*)

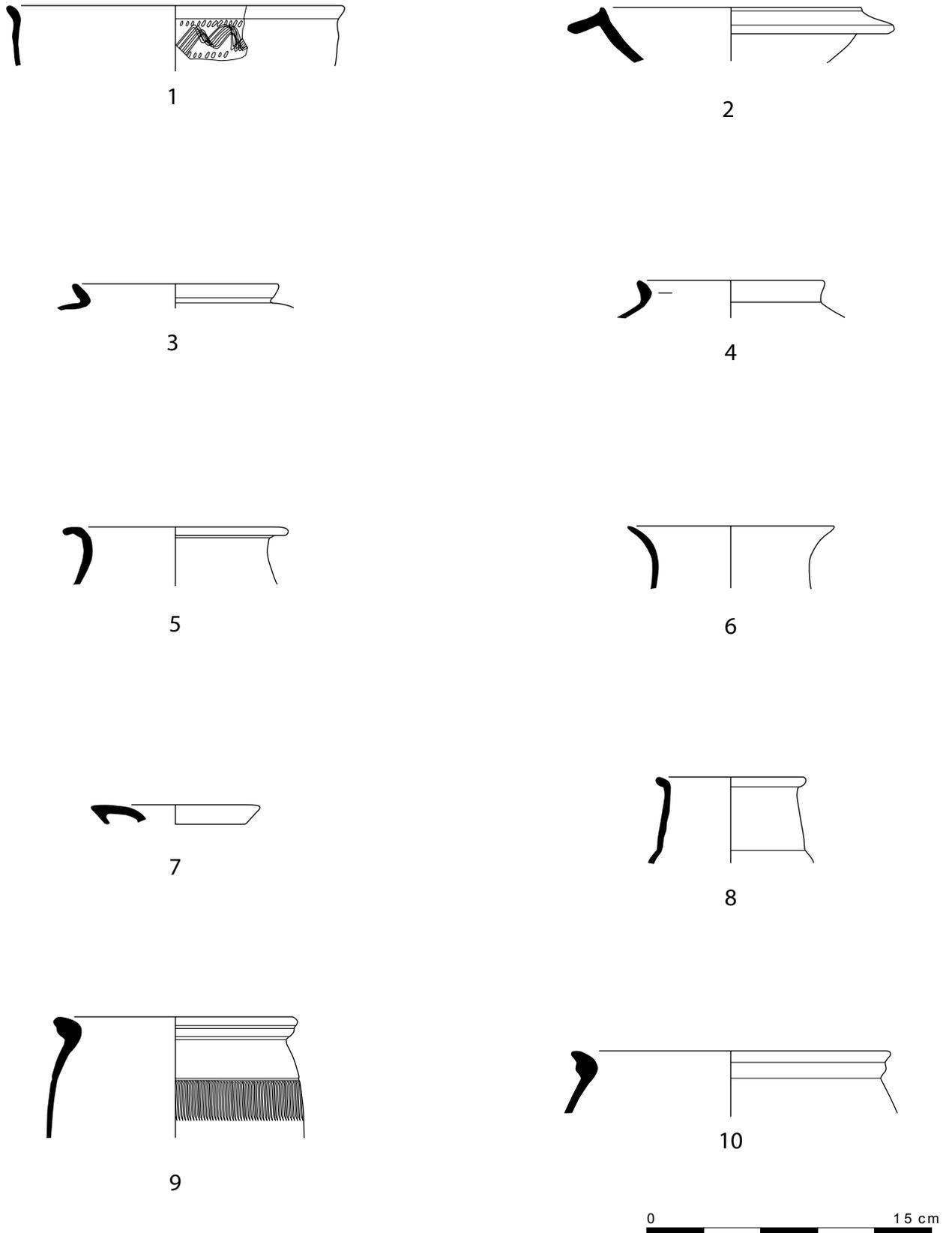


Fig. 4. The pottery from Beauvais, rue Villebois Mareuil. Nos 1 to 8, terra nigra (second half of the first century – beginning of the second century); 9–10, regional reduced fine wares of the third century. (Céramiques du site de Beauvais “rue Villebois Mareuil”: 1–8 Terra nigra (2e moitié 1er–début 2e); 9–10: fines régionale en mode B (IIIe))

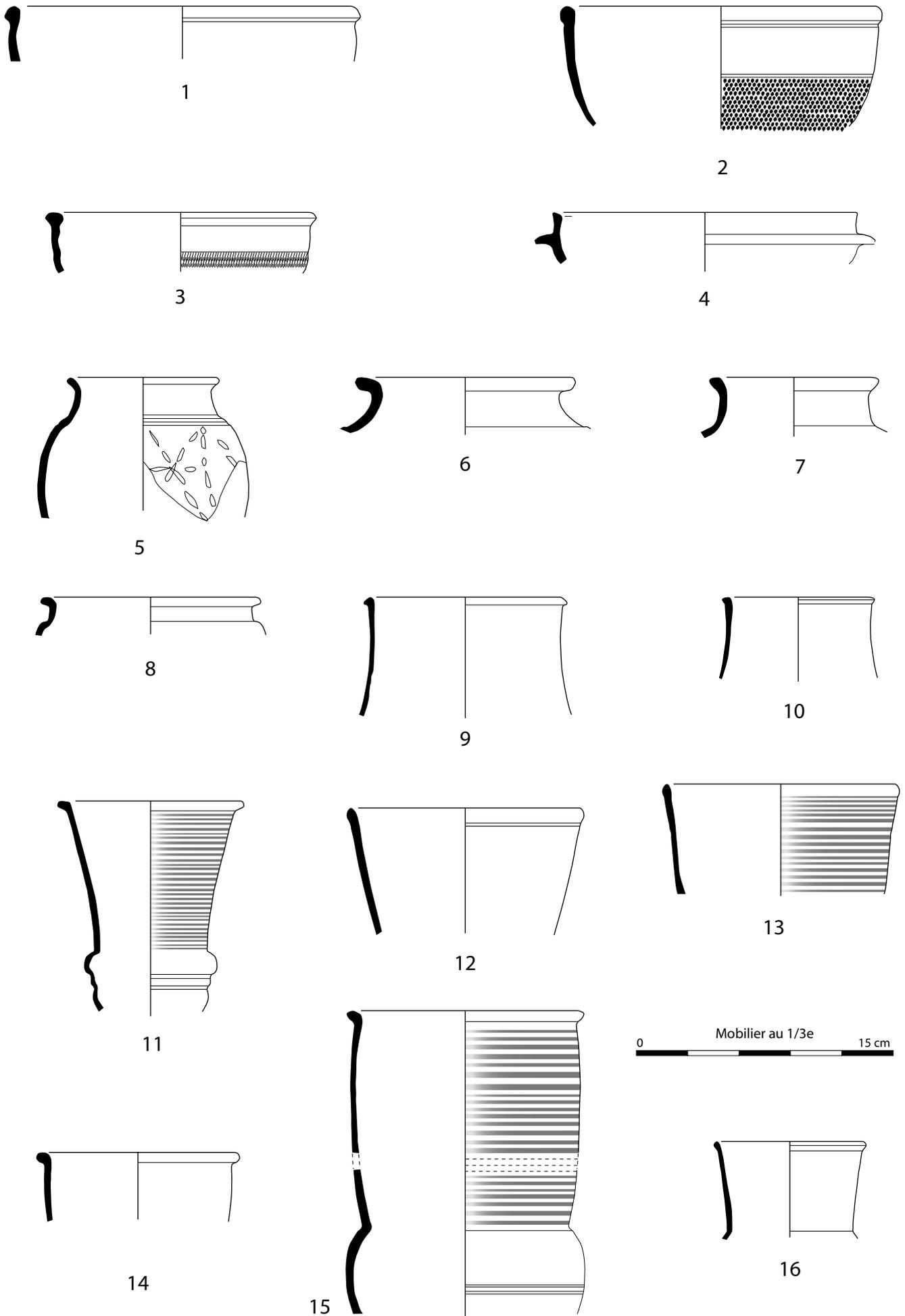


Fig 5. Regional reduced fine wares/terra nigra: later second to early third century. (*Fines régionales (mode B): fin Haut-Empire/Bas-Empire*)

type 18b (Fig 2 nos 1–3), which is typically Flavian, but which has a finer rim and no decorative bands (Ben Redjeb 1985).

D) Gallo-Belgic Butt Beakers of Type 21/22

The beige butt beakers of type P21/22 (Deru 1996) are emphatic guiding indicators of the Julio-Claudian period (Fig 6). These beakers do not seem to appear before the end of the Augustan period, and are largely dated from the Augusto-Tiberian period onwards (*cf* the assemblage from Croixrault, ‘La Dériole’).

With the P20 prototype (Deru 1996, 222) the lack of early assemblages available for study to date impedes clarification that the start of the production lay at the beginning of the Augustan period or even the pre-Augustan period. Their presence was indeed noticed at the military site of Arras-Actirparc, Pas-de-Calais (Chaidron and Dubois 2004).

The high number of these butt beakers of type P21/22 with internal reeding within this geographical zone, renders them a defining element of the local pottery ensemble. Some of these pots show a fabric containing small rose quartz inclusions, which are also found in certain common white sandy wares that were produced in the Bray region (Dubois and Mille 1996). They seem to disappear at the end of the first century AD, as is the case, for example, at Vraignes-les-Hornoy (St 5).

Finds from Amiens provide useful pointers to dating. Considering the exact typology, the disappearance date for the internal reeding is situated between AD 60 and 80 at Amiens (Dubois and Binet 1996) and could as well signal the end of their production, being replaced by butt beakers without internal reeding in a beige sandy fabric (Amiens types 31–33: Ben Redjeb 1985). These beakers still endure during the third century (Bayard type 3: Bayard 1980), an important proportion of them being produced in the Beuvraignes kilns (Ben Redjeb 1989).

3. *Techno-typology of Common Reduced Wares (Figs 7–16)*

In addition to pottery following proto-historic traditions, that is wheel-turned or not (*cf* Fig. 7), the reduced common wares can be divided into four large categories: white sandy fabrics and their by-products (PBQ, “pâte blanche à quartz”), grey sandy wares, grey silty wares and the fossil shell-rich (bioclastic) wares.

A) Sandy Fabrics with large quartz inclusions

White sandy fabrics (PBQ) and their by-products follow a techno-typo-chronological scheme, created for the first and second centuries by Stéphane Dubois (Dubois 1998). For the following third and fourth centuries, its evolution has been described by Didier Bayard at Amiens (Bayard 1980) and above all Stéphane Dubois and Benoit Mille (Dubois and Mille 1996), to which we

refer for a precise description of this production. The first group can be divided into two sub-categories, namely the micaceous and the non-micaceous fabrics, presenting the same physical characteristics: a clayish porous matrix containing large quartz, sometimes flint and rare red iron oxides. The grey non-fumed wares are sometimes well fired, but also sometimes of bad firing quality, giving it a ‘sandy’ aspect.

By the middle of the first century AD, the pottery corpus contains exclusively pots of different modules with a concave neck and bowls with “nail head” inverted rims. Their fabric is grey with quartz inclusions, well fired or of mediocre firing quality, containing mica or no mica (fabric C, C1 and C2 of Morvilliers-Saint-Saturnin), which resembles variants A and C at Fesques (Dubois 1998). The oldest examples, from an Augusto-Tiberian context at the Croixrault site, are all produced in a micaceous porous grey fabric, containing large quartz, although a finer version exists for an identical form repertoire (Fig 8: bowls with inverted rim imitating the *patella* COM-IT6b: Py *et al* 2001). This production, micaceous or not, endures during the second century (for example a vessel of rounded carinated bowl form with a truncated neck and pseudo-double rim, from Gauville), and also during the third century with a limited repertoire of only one form (!), being a bowl with inverted rim like the PBQ bowl B1, at Hornoy-le-Bourg (Fig 9). Their sandy aspect and the presence of quartz and white mica, are characteristics of part of the better fired late Roman production at the kiln site of Rainvillers. It is therefore likely that their origin can be situated at the periphery of Beauvais, just like the finer variant (*cf supra*), in the region of the micaceous sands found at Rainvillers. The absence of white mica however, does not exclude these fabrics from an origin in the Beauvais region, but indicates rather a difference in technique, as could be observed in the wasters from the Rainvillers kiln site.

From the second century AD onwards, a generally white kaoline fabric, containing abundant quartz, with a fumed surface, is well represented on the discussed sites. This corresponds to variant B (Fig 10) defined by Stéphane Dubois (Dubois 1998). It is chronologically contemporary with variant C (Fig 12) which is more discretely defined (grey fabric, non-fumed, with large grains of quartz) and foreshadows the classical PBQ variant D, progressively taking over from the grey sandy wares and from the early variants (A, B and C) during the third century. In certain urban contexts this classic PBQ variant accounts for an important part of the pottery and sometimes even forms the majority of groups, from the third quarter of the third century onwards at Amiens (Dubois 2000; Bayard 2001) and from the last third of the third century onwards at Revelles. The repertoire does not contain a large number of new forms, but we note the ovoid pot with short neck and rolled rim, the carinated plate and the ring-neck flagons, imitating the flagon type

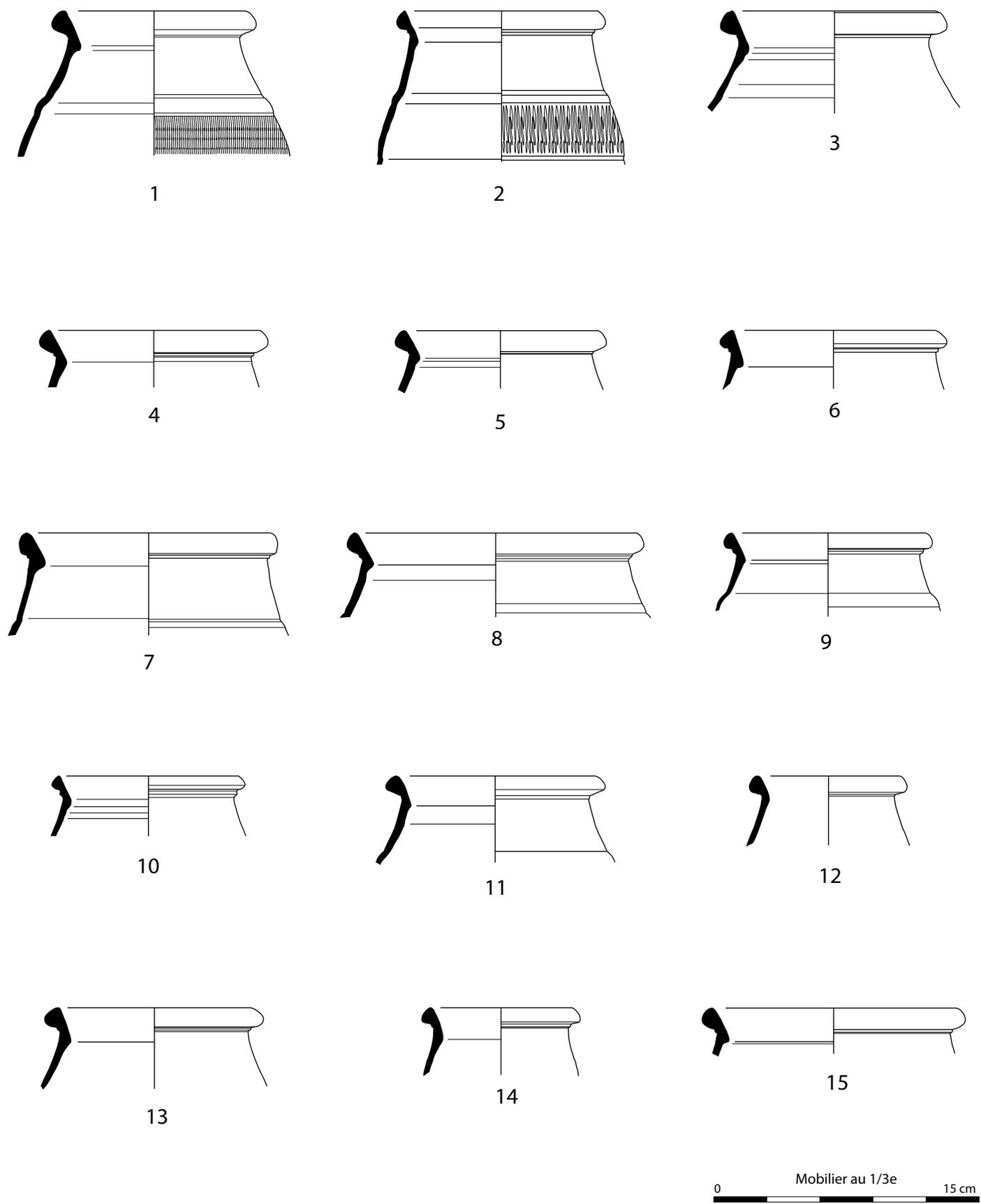


Fig 6. The beige butt beakers. (Tonnelets à pâte beige)

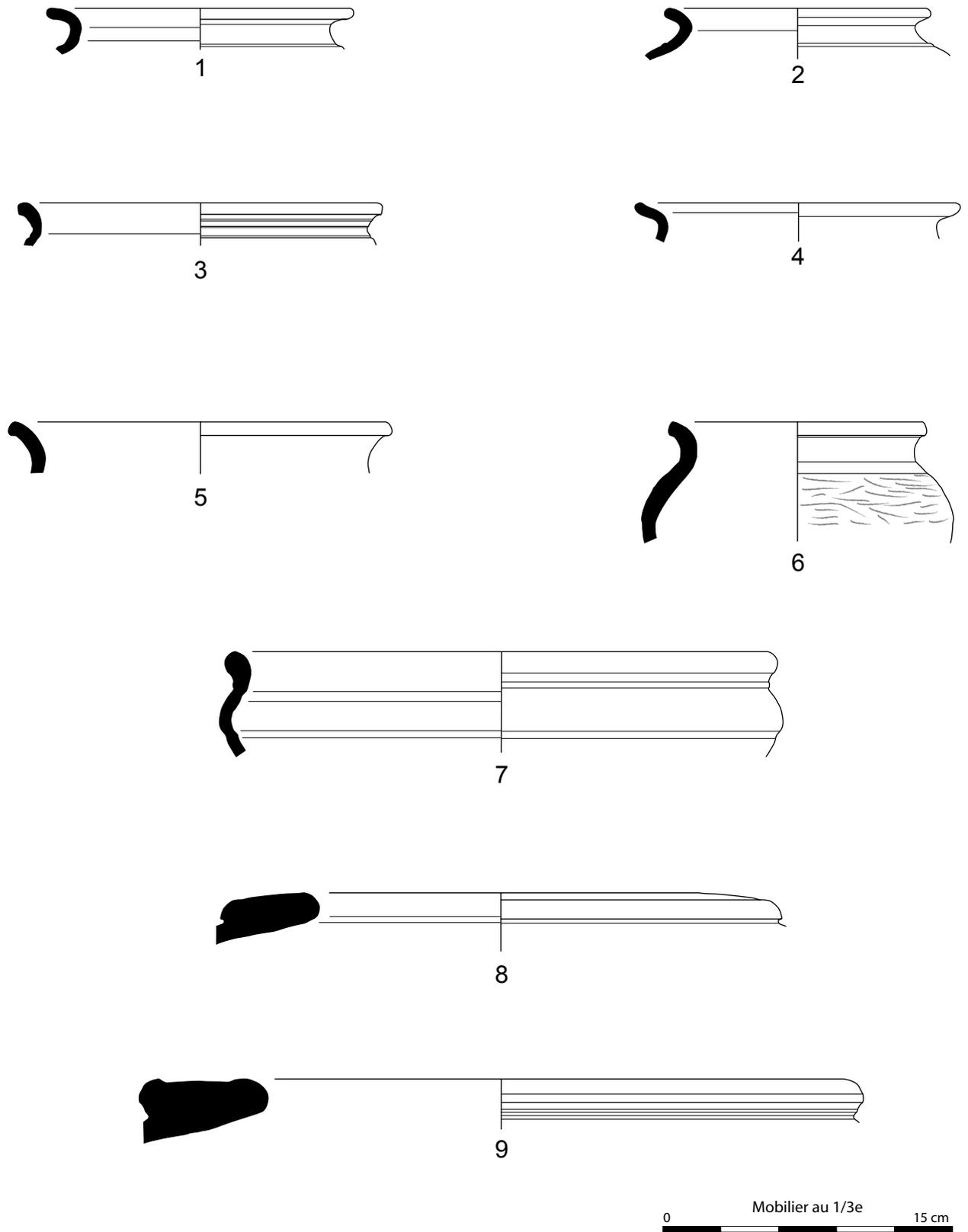


Fig 7. Various common reduced wares. Nos 1 and 5, sandy grey fabric with grit; 2, sandy grey fabric with crushed flint; 3 and 4, sandy grey fabric; 6 and 7, protohistoric tradition grog fabric; 8 and 9, dolia with coarse fabric (from Artois?). (Communes sombres diverses. 1 et 5: pâte grise sableuse à dégraissant de gravier; 2: pâte grise sableuse à dégraissant de silex pilé; 3-4 pâte grise sableuse; 6-7 pâte chamottée de tradition protohistorique; 8-9 dolia à pâte grossière (Artois?))

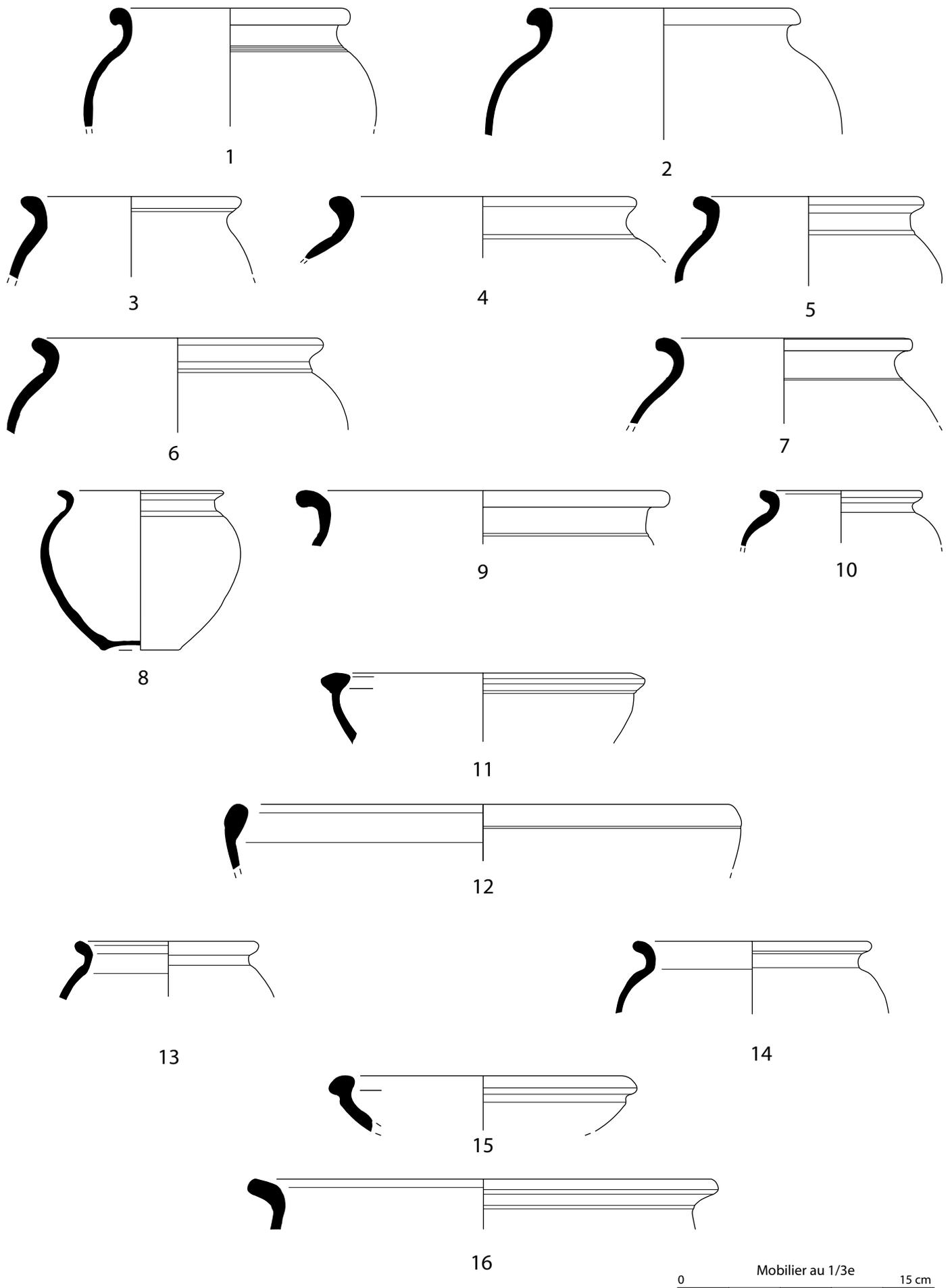


Fig 8. Common reduced wares. Local sandy grey fabrics (fabrics 'C-C1-C2'): Nos 1–12, porous grey fabric; 13–16, micaceous porous grey fabric; 15, COM-IT 6b imitation. (Production locale à pâte grise à quartz (pâtes C-C1-C2: 1–12 Pâte grise poreuse à quartz; 13–16 pâte grise poreuse à quartz et mica muscovite; 15 imitation de COM-IT 6b)

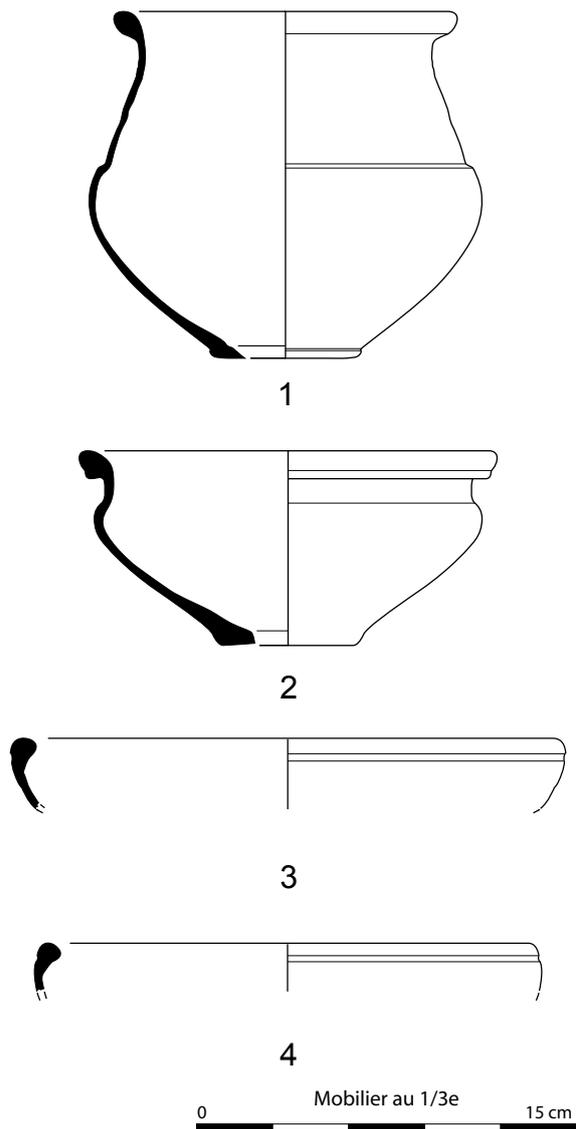


Fig 9. Common reduced wares. Local (fumed or unfumed) porous grey fabric. Nos 1 and 2, second century; 3 and 4, late second to third century. (Production régionale à pâte grise poreuse à quartz (sablonneuse) fumigée ou non: 1–2 IIe siècle après J.-C.; 3–4 Fin Ile-IIIe s. ap. J.C.)

CR.1 from Rainvillers (Fig 11 nos 6, 9 and 14). If for the high forms, the *Ambiani* repertoire still exists (pots with high truncated neck), we notice that for the low forms, for parallels, we should look at the Beauvais region and for certain elements (Fig 10 nos 1, 7–12 and Fig. 12 nos 1–3) at the *Caleti* productions of the kiln site of Lyons-la-Forêt, Seine-Maritime (Adrian 2002).

Half-way between the sandy fabrics and the PBQ white sandy fabrics, we can identify a fine sandy fabric containing larger quartz, which we have named “fabric with sandy basis”, belonging to the PBQ-group or to the group “fabric 1 of other pottery containing quartz

inclusions” at Villers-Vicomte (Pissot 1994, 177). At Revelles this group appears from the last third of the second and the beginning of the third century onwards and it is most of all typical of the last third of the third century. At Pont-de-Metz their presence is reported at the end of the second and the beginning of the third century. The only observed form is a jar with ledged rim, PBQ type C2a.

B) Granular Fabrics containing medium-sized quartz

The grey sandy products (Fig. 13) we came across at the A29 sites, belonged in majority to the group containing abundant medium-sized sand, defined as “granular” fabrics when compared to the early products from Amiens (Sandy fabric C: Dubois and Binet 2000), from which their form repertoire can be identified (Bayard types 14, 16–17, 21, 25, 35: Bayard 1980). However, to a non-quantifiable extent, a significant part could be a testimony to local production, differing clearly from what is known at Amiens to originate from the Artois region, from Beuvraignes and from the Vermand-region. The comparison was made with samples from the Artois kilns at Dainville and from Actiparc-Saint-Laurent-Blangy, which were functioning by the end of the first century AD. Other, albeit rare, products, like the black sandy granular fabric, are still unprovenanced: two bowls with inverted rim and one with short collared rim: Pont-de-Metz, Structures 389 and 710.

C) Silty Wares

The group of silty fabrics is most of all known at Beauvais (Fig 14). Parallels with *terra nigra* types, regional fine ware products and even oxidised common wares from the Rainvillers and Aux-Marais kiln sites permit us to identify them as typical Beauvais-region wares and even typical of the Beauvais kiln sites themselves. The fabric is grey with fine sand and abundant white fine mica plates (muscovite). A clearly distinctive group is set apart because of its abundant medium-sized quartz. This group was already described at Villers-Vicomte from the end of the first century/ beginning of the second onwards (Pissot 1994). Its typology shows influences from two geographical zones. The first but least important influence comes from the north, regrouping part of the *Ambiani* and *Atrebat* repertoire: the plate Bayard 14, the truncated jar Bayard 25 and the carinated bowl Bayard 17–18. A second influence points to typical Normandy and western part of Ile-de-France forms: flattened reeded rims identical to the ones noticed on carinated bowls from Saint-Martindes-Entrées, Calvados (Mortreau and Adrian 2002, 118), carinated bowls with hooked rims and pots with shoulder reeds and horizontal rims, typical of the Lyons-la-Fôret kiln site (Adrian 2002), pots derived from Pissot type v22A, pot types Pissot 13, Pissot 18, Pissot 10, typical of the Oise Valley (Pissot 1988) and dolia with a decorative

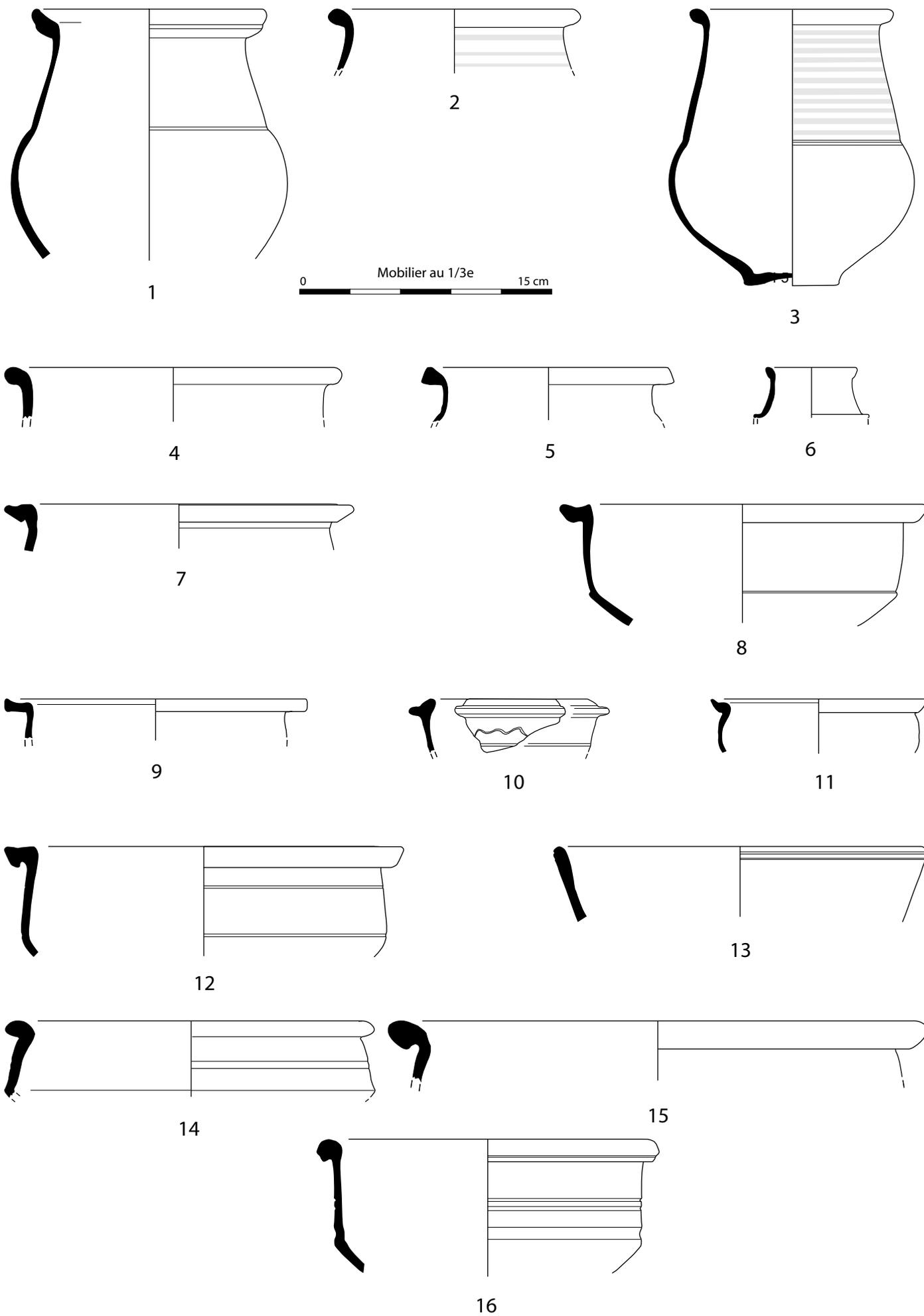


Fig 10. Common reduced wares. PBQ variant B. (PBQ variante B)

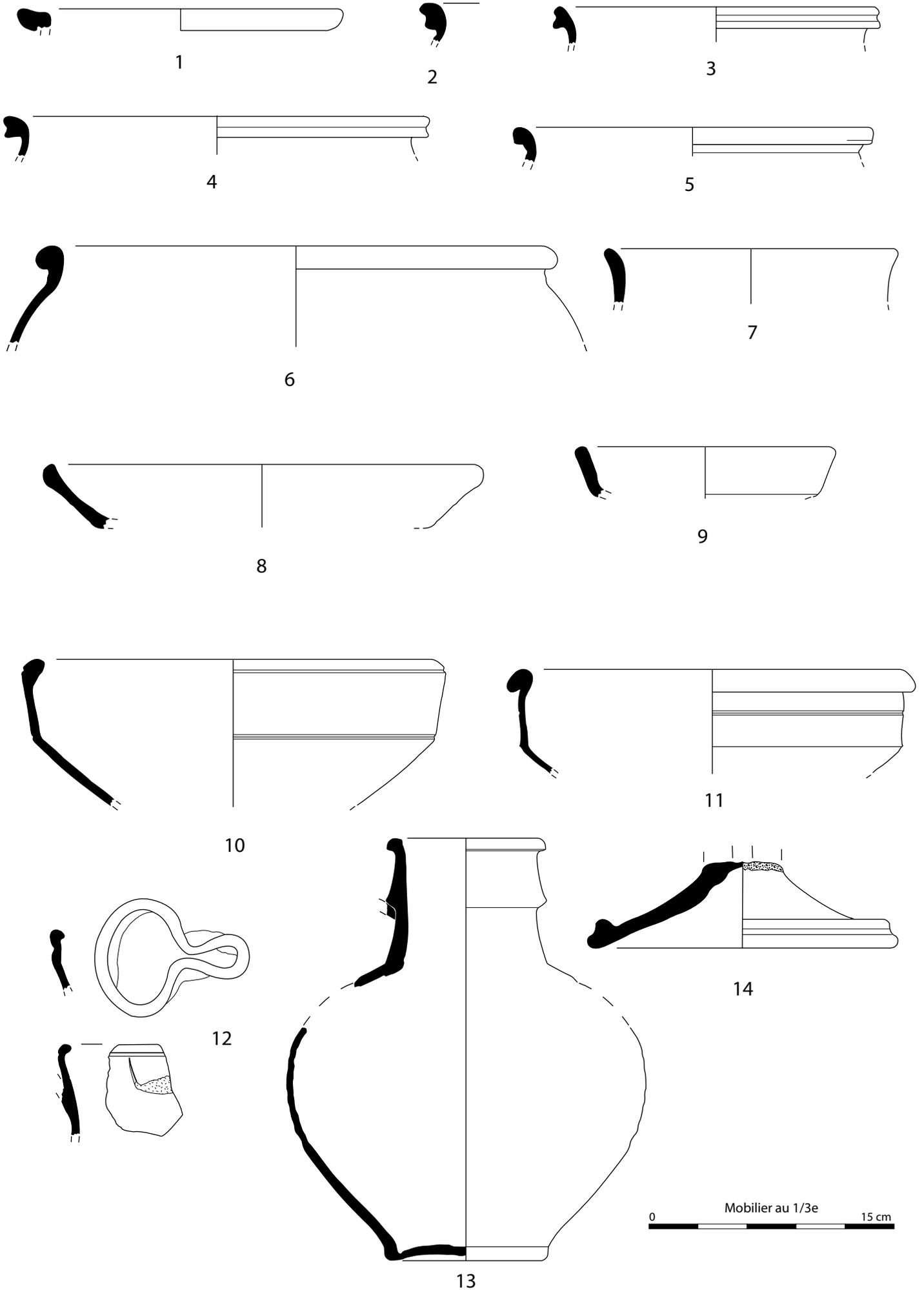


Fig 11. Common reduced wares. PBQ variant D. (PBQ variante D)

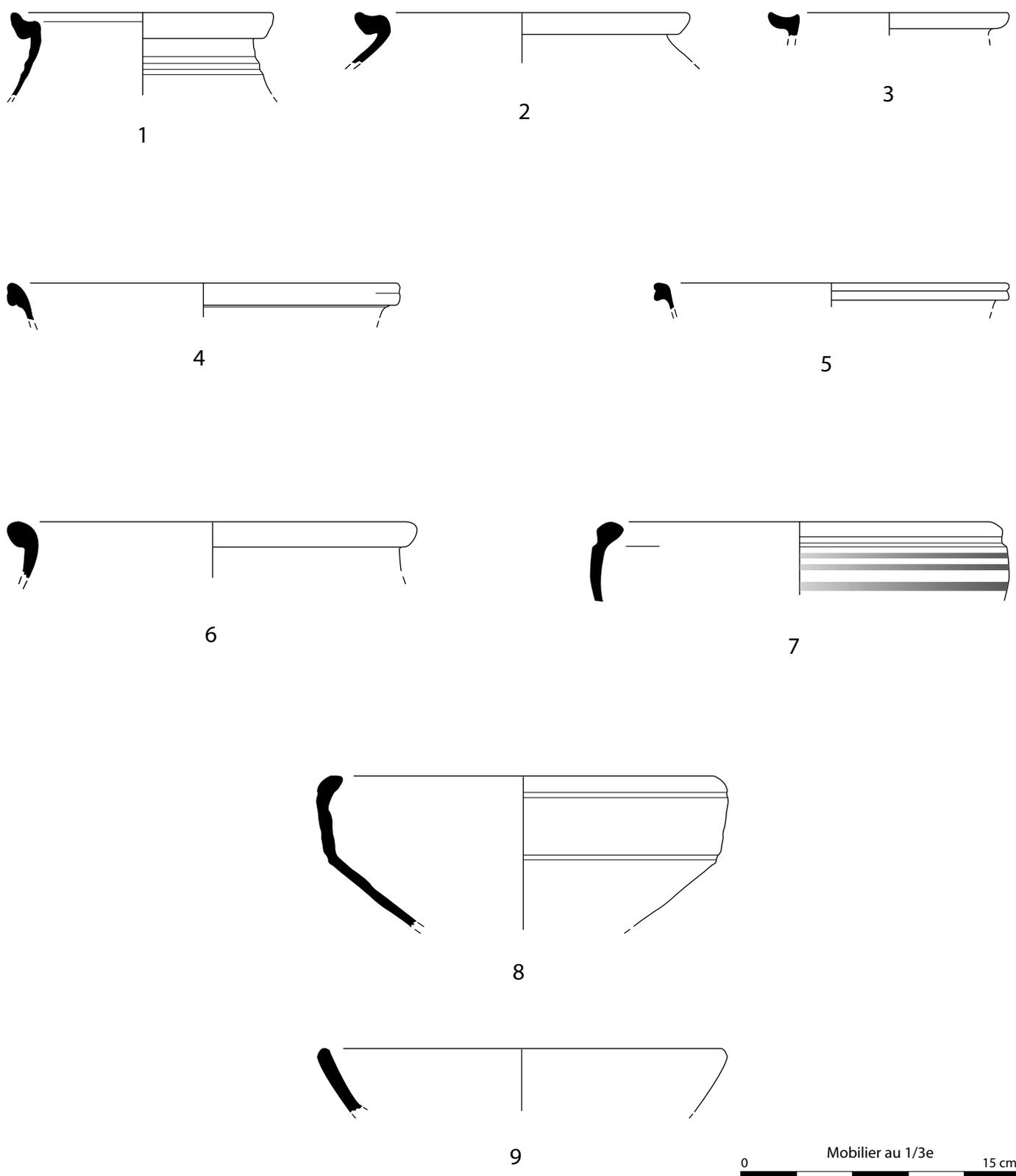


Fig 12. Common reduced wares. Grey or black sandy fabrics (No 9: black fabric). (Pâte grise ou noire à quartz (le vase 9 est à pâte noire))

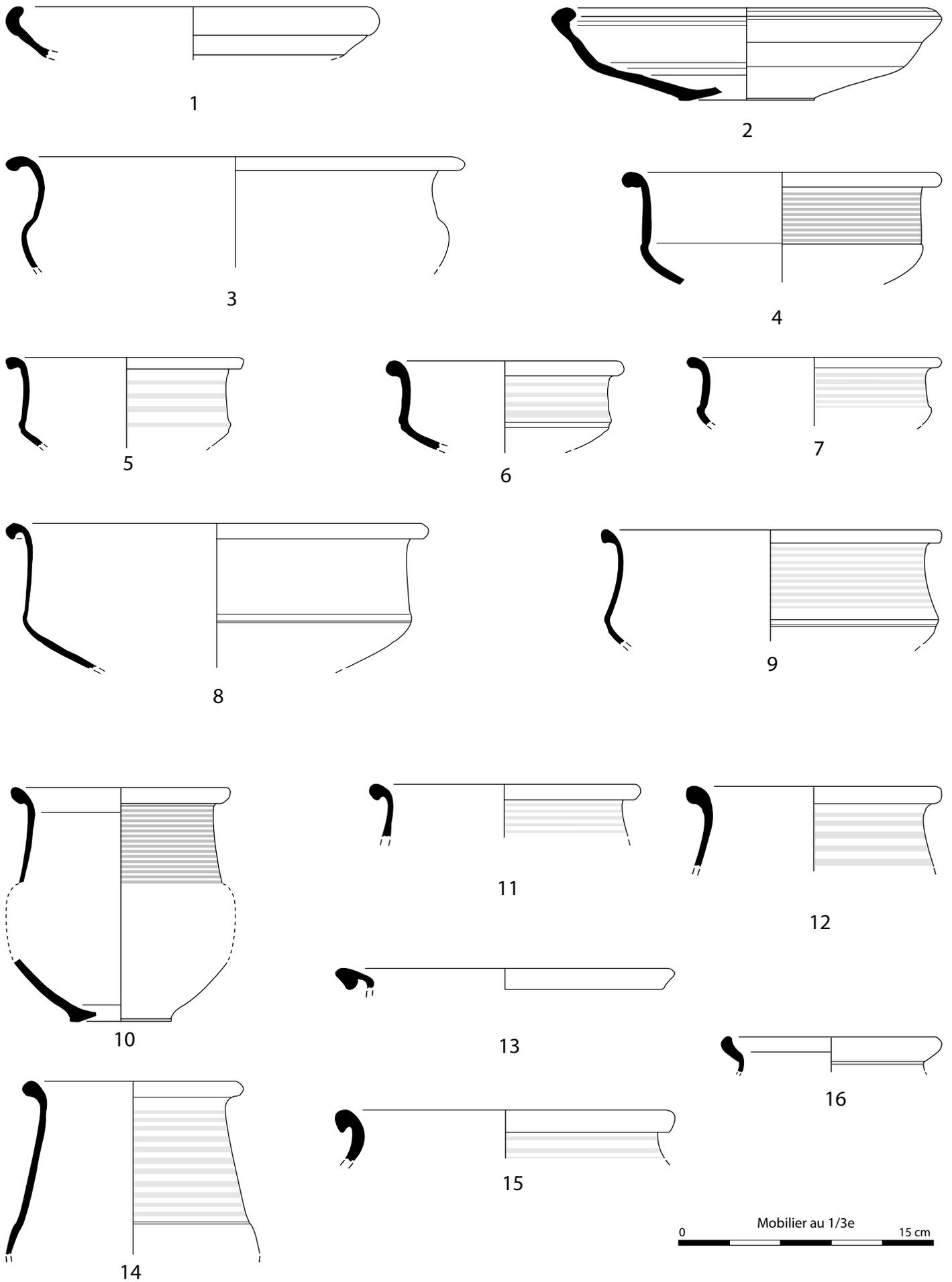


Fig 13. Common reduced wares. Local sandy grey ware. Nos 6, 8 and 14, fabric with sandy aspect; 10 and 11, sandy grey fabric with yellow quartz; 9, grey fabric with grog. (Pâte grise sableuse locale. Nos 6, 8 and 14, pâte grise sablonneuse; 10 and 11, pâte grise sableuse avec des quartz jaune; 9, pâte grise chamottée)

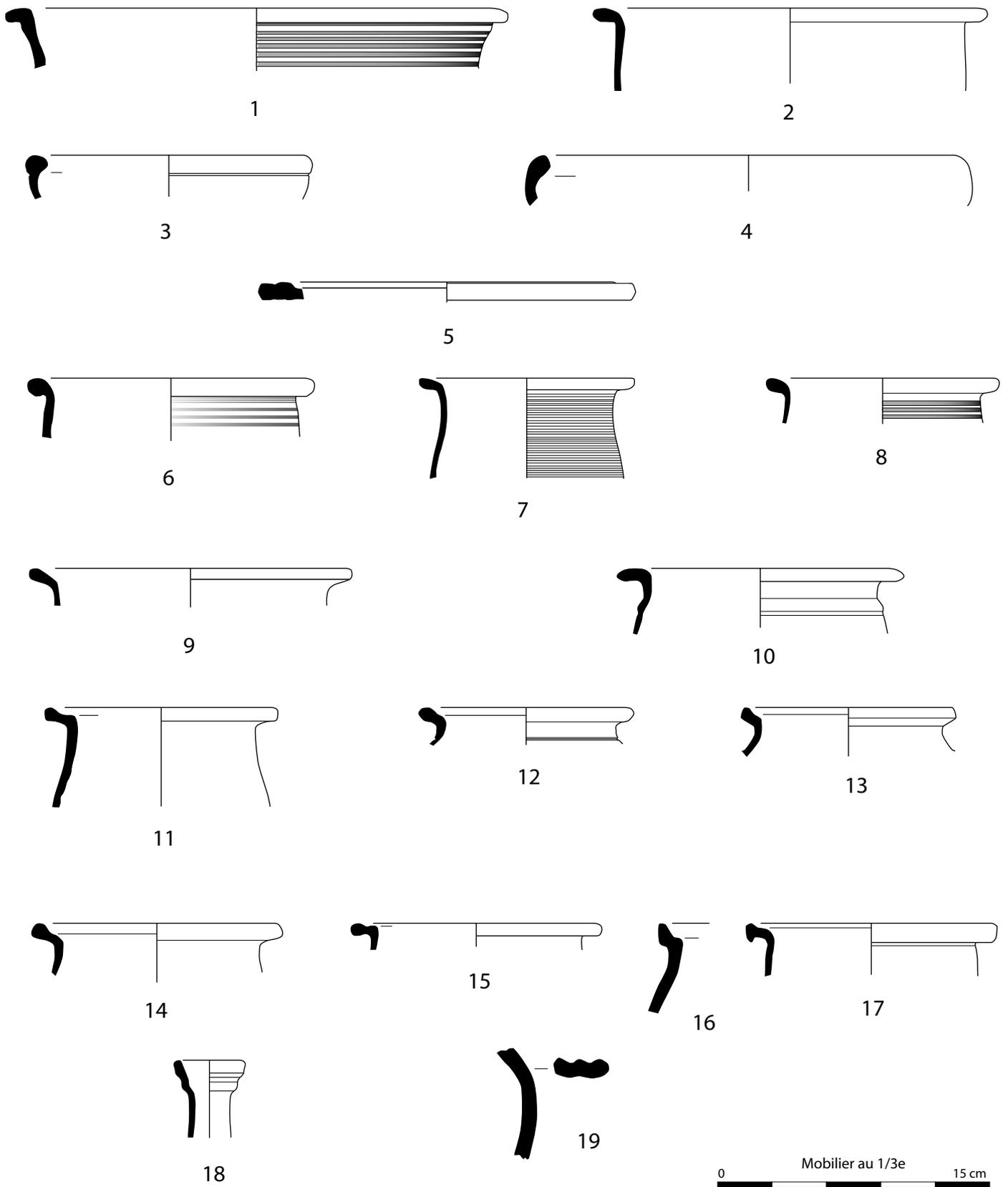


Fig 14. Common reduced wares. Micaceous grey silty fabric from Beauvaisis. (Pâte grise 'limoneuse' micaée de Beauvais)

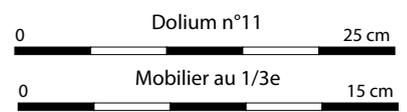
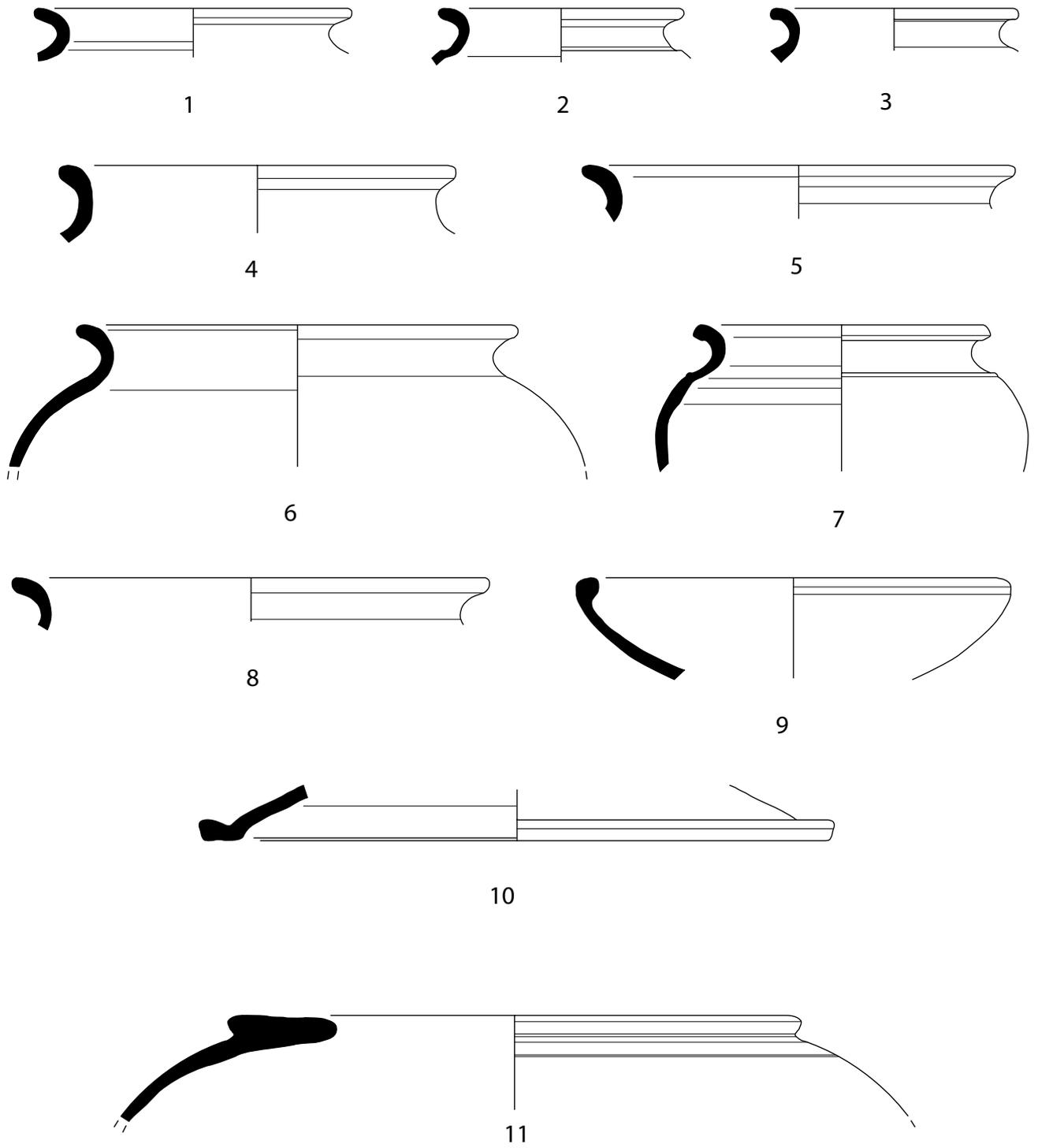


Fig 15. Common reduced wares. Pottery with nummulite inclusions. (Céramiques à dégraissant nummulitique)

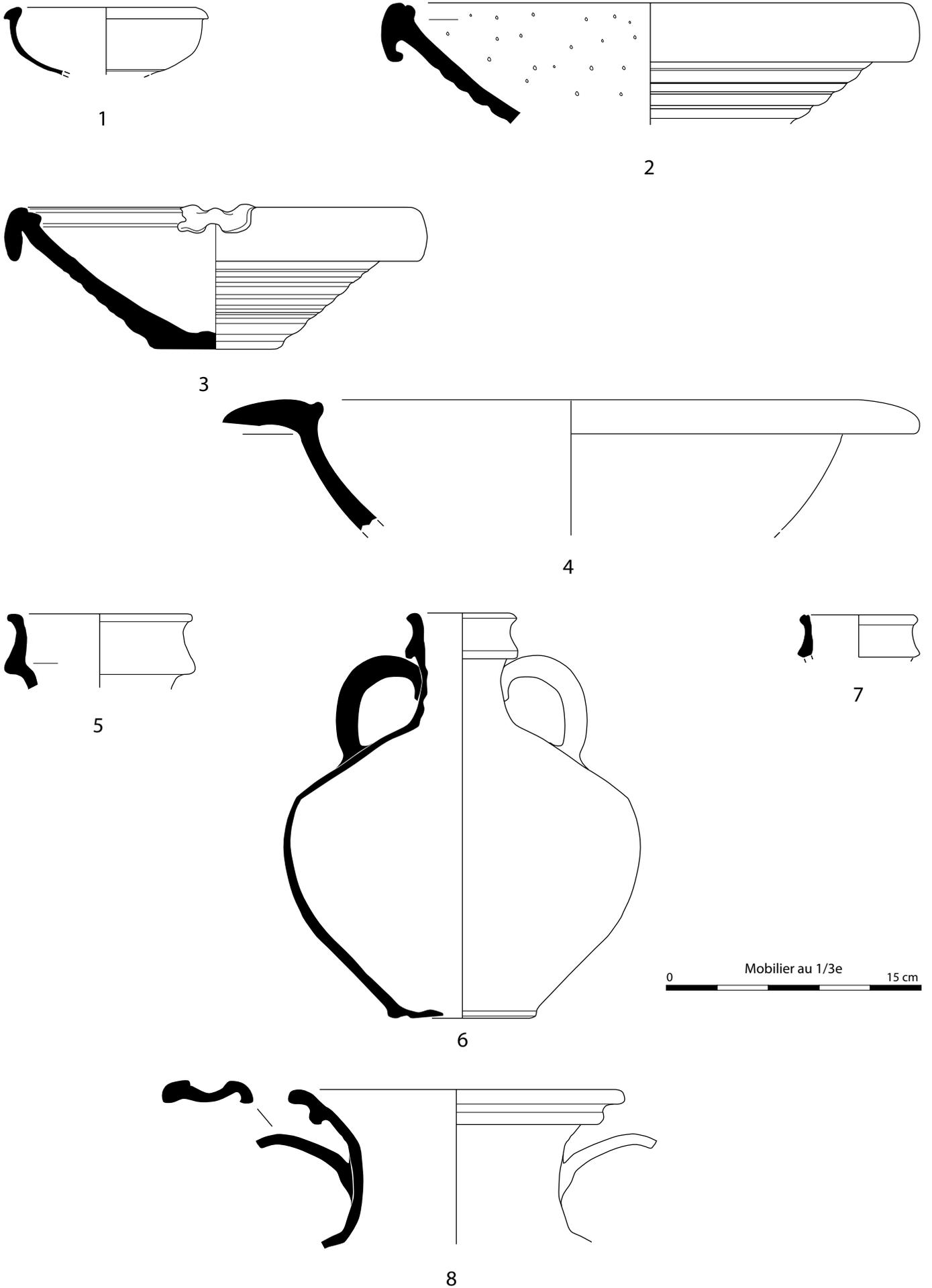


Fig 16. Common oxidised wares. Nos 3, 6 and 8: Rainvillers productions. (Communes Oxydantes: 3, 6 et 8: Productions de Rainvillers)

style similar to the one used at the Beaumont-sur-Oise kilns (Vermeersch 1993).

D) Bioclastic Wares: pottery with nummulite fossil shell inclusions

Finally, the bioclastic fabric turns up in all the contexts predating the end of the first century AD. The fabric contains exclusively nummulites (Fig 15) and on most sites it is rather well represented. Its repertoire was defined thanks to the excavations at Amiens (Dubois and Binet 2000). The presence of numerous dolia up to the middle of the second century at Pont-de-Metz, permits us to question the durability of this production, with a repertoire then seemingly restricted to the dolium form well after the end of its supposed mass production period. The production centres are currently suspected to occur in the Noyon or Soissons region (Dubois and Binet 2000), but the geological context (Oise valley and Thérain Valley) and the strong presence on the A29 and on the Beauvais sites, could suggest the presence of kiln sites closer-by, as is, moreover, implied by the difference in fabric between the kilns of Cuts and Soissons.

4. Common Oxidised Wares: the importance of local and regional kiln sites (Fig 16)

The common oxidised wares are far more diverse than the reduced wares. Indeed, besides simply noting that there are imported and local or regional produced oxidised wares, it is important to point out that according to their chronology the diversity of this category is understood only patchily. Most of the common oxidised wares during the Roman period can be attributed to regional production sites (Fig 16 nos 5 and 7), but also extra-regional kiln sites as for instance the Noyon region (Fig 16 no 4) and the Seine-Maritime region (Fig 16 no 1, Fesques type 167 (Dubois 1998)). The strong visual resemblance between the Noyon products on the one side and the Beauvais products on the other side (for instance, the Aux-Marais kilns) has not permitted a precise quantification of their respective place amongst the pottery assemblages of rural sites. (When studying the pottery from the A29 motorway sites, we were not in possession of samples from Aux-Marais and the Rainvillers kiln site was still unknown). This applies also for urban contexts at Beauvais, where the strong diversity of oxidised wares has once again obscured the importance of this Roman production site. Its distribution is not exclusively local, since the Beauvais products from Aux-Marais and Rainvillers are exported as far as Amiens, as is shown by some examples from Revelles and by the two-handled flagon from Hornoy-le-Bourg (Fig 16 no 6). Next to this group, some pots from the Beauvais or the Bray region should be linked to the PBQ production zone, because of the presence of abundant rounded quartz of a white milky or rose colour (oxidised fabric with sandy basis).

At the beginning of the third century AD a series of colour-coated wares occur at Revelles. They have a white fabric and an orange or salmon coloured coating, very probably produced in the Beauvais kilns (perhaps at the Rainvillers site). The form spectrum consists essentially, as far as we know, of flagons with concave rims (Fig 16 nos 5 and 7). Similar productions in a white fabric with orange coating are attested at Bavay (Loridant 1994), Tournai (Brulet 1994) and Arras in late contexts (Tuffreau-Libre and Jacques 1994). Yet again, a local origin cannot be excluded, as flagons with similar decorative coating and of similar type, imitating Chenet type 345a, were produced in the kilns of Rainvillers during the last third of the third century (type CR.1, Fig 16 no 6). The most pertinent information comes thus from Rainvillers, where next to fine wares and reduced common wares, the production of oxidised common wares was particularly buoyant. Most of the forms are linked to the conditioning of liquids including: one-handled or two-handled flagons and regional amphorae with everted double rims of type AMP.1 (Fig 16 no 8) with the typology installed for the kiln site).

The regional amphora AMP.1 is a very interesting guiding type-fossil for the start of the late Roman period. Without a doubt, Veronique Pissot's work has permitted the creation of a rather affined chronology for this form in the south of the Oise Valley and Ile-de-France (at Yvelines and Seine-Saint-Denis), covering the period between the years AD 250 and 320 (Blin *et al* 1997, 95). The fabric of the Rainvillers oxidised common wares is fine, cream-coloured, and sometimes slightly orange, with a soapy touch, always containing mica and some iron oxides, which are characteristics similar to the fine grey wares. The coating is observed on type CR.1 flagons (imitations of Chenet 345a?) but not on the regional amphorae of type AMP.1, nor on the other oxidised wares. Even if the flagons are exported to the north, the amphorae were, rather, used for the local markets, or they have been distributed towards the south, for we note their frequency in the Île-de-France region. The absence of significant late Roman ensembles on the A29 motorway line, with Revelles as an exception, obliges us to consider a distribution towards this sector.

5. Conclusion

The data yielded by the A29 excavations have certainly permitted us to complete the picture of the local pottery productions. Certain sites (Gauville, Vraignes-les-Hornoy, Hornoy-le-Bourg) have indicated the existence of a local or regional production of reduced sandy common wares, whose physical characteristics (a silty micaceous fabric) can be attached to the beginning of the late Roman pottery productions at Rainvillers. A specific form spectrum confirms its originality and its own identity for this part of *Gallia Belgica*, flavoured by *Ambiani*, *Bellovaci* and

Caleti/Veliocassi influences (in particular the strong resemblance to the kilns of Lyons-la-Forêt for certain reduced wares). On the other hand, however, we notice evident differences with the nature of the pottery from the capitals: Amiens, Beauvais and Rouen (for Rouen see Lecler and Lequoy 2003). This strongly supports, thereby, the hypothesis of a cultural micro-region, and indeed this seems confirmed by the difference with the *Ambiani* repertoire of the PBQ wares at Revelles. The distribution of these productions appears to indicate a rather northern connection, in terms of 'pull' or marketing, towards the south-west of Amiens. This is probably due to its location within the buttonhole of the Bray region, where these productions do not experience competition for the export towards Amiens, which is contrary to the export possibilities towards the south, where numerous kiln sites were established, more precisely towards Rouen (kilns at Evreux, Lyons-la-Forêt and Harfleur), towards Paris (kilns at Méru, Beaumont-sur-Oise, Connebot-Haravilliers and Laboissière-Ecole) or towards the east (kilns at Noyon, Soissons, Cuts, Béhéricourt and others). The distribution then reflects economical factors, facilitated by the geographic proximity of the production centres.

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