CHAPTER VII

MEGALITHIC CERAMIC INDUSTRY
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A word may be said as to why the post-neolithic pottery is studied under this head without assigning it to specific periods like early historic and early medieval. First, all this pottery is wheel-turned. Secondly the entire collection comes from surface and in the absence of stratigraphical evidence chronological sub-divisions will have little validity.

The collection consists of a total of 203 potsherds from 13 sites. Only some of them yield shapes and designs. On the basis of external surface colour, six main wares can be distinguished: 1) Black ware, 2) Black-and-red ware, 3) Red-and-Black ware, 4) Red ware, 5) Chocolate-slipped ware and 6) Coarse grey ware.

Red ware constitutes the commonest ware as it accounts for a little less than half the total (101 sherds; 49.75%) of the collection. Black ware and red and black ware, each consisting of 35 (17.24%) sherds are the next common wares in the collection. The remaining 32 sherds include black-and-red ware (17 sherds; 8.38%), chocolate-slipped ware (12 sherds; 5.91%) and coarse grey ware (3 sherds; 1.43%).

The largest bulk of pottery comes from Mudigal (63 sherds; 31.03%) while the smallest number of sherds ranging from one to ten have been found at seven sites, namely, Idikal, Fillalapalli, Uravakonda, Kundurip, Navaligi, Gulapalyam and Andepalli. The remaining five sites, namely, Nagaladinne, Bastipadu, Chetnepalli, Katamadevudu Hill, and Rayachoti yield between 13 and 30 sherds. However, no site yielded all the wares.

I. BLACK WARE: (Fig. 17).

This ware is characterised by black colour on both external
and internal surfaces. Burnishing on the external surfaces of the vessels of this ware is a common feature while in open bowls and dishes the burnishing is extended to the internal surfaces as well. The ware is made on a slow wheel. The clay is gritty occasionally mixed with quartz and sand grains over which a thin wash of ochreous slip seems to have applied. The sherds are not well finished. They are fired under a reducing temperature. The thickness of the fabric varies from 0.5 to 1 cm. This ware was found at six sites.

The common shapes in it are wide shallow dishes, rimless bowls, basins, vessels with concave neck and wide mouth, carinated vessels with short concave neck, narrow-necked carinated pots and a ring-stand.

**TYPES:**

T.1 Rim-fragment of a shallow dish with rounded edge and sides getting thinner towards the concave base (KDH.4). Variant 1a has sides of uniform thickness (MGL.6).

T.2 Fragment of a shallow bowl with external carination below bulging sides, probably with a flat base (MGL.4).

T.3 Fragment of a basin with beaded-out rim, an externally undercut at the neck and slightly outgoing sides (CHP.1).

T.4 Rim-fragment of a wide-mouthed vessel with concave neck, beaded-out excurved rim (KDH.2).

T.5 Part of a small shallow short concave necked vessel with carination, wide mouth and slightly everted rim. Both internal and external surfaces burnished (MGL.1). Variant 5a is smaller in size (KDH.1).

T.6 Fragment of a narrow necked pot with carination on the
shoulder and beaded-in rim cut internally. Both sides burnished (MGL.2).

1.7 Part of a ring-stand possibly of circular plan, overhanging surface of the edge, externally double-grooved with a flat-ridge in between. Both sides burnished (AFL.1).

II. BLACK-AND-RED WARE: (Figs. 17-18)

This ware is distinguished by black colour on the interior and black-and-red on the exterior. The red colour is found all over the base and to nearly half the length of the sides. This was achieved by inverted firing. There are only 17 (8.38%) sherds in the collection from four sites. Thirteen of these came from Mudigal. The ware is wheel-turned, brightly coloured and consists of fine clay mixed with quartz and sand particles. The pots are well baked. The technique of inverted firing has effected in reducing the inside and the upper portions of the rim while the lower parts of the external surface got oxidised. Reduced parts turned black while oxidised parts turned to a typical red, or sometimes to orange or buff colours even. The surfaces are burnished and shining. The thickness of the fabric ranges from 0.4 to 0.8 cm.

The common shapes are a shallow dish, rimless bowls consisting of shallow and deep varieties and a miniature pot. On the external surface of a deep bowl and another formless sherd are seen graffiti marks, the significance of which is discussed somewhere else.

TYPES:

T.8 Nearly half of a shallow dish, 17.6 cm in diameter; slightly curved sides make carination with an almost flat base. Edge rounded, thickness uniform throughout. Both inside and outside burnished (MGL.9).

T.9 Fragment of a bowl, 8.6 cm in diameter, with round edge
and concave-curved outgoing sides. Uniformly thick all over, on sides 0.5 cm below edge in one centimeter width four horizontal grooves visible. Both sides burnished (Fig. 5). Variant 9a has slightly convex outgoing sides and is without grooves (Fig. 1). Variant 9b has a diameter of 15.0 cm at the mouth which is convex out-turned, and outgoing sides; probably with a round base (Fig. 1).

T.10 Nearly half of a deep bowl, 12.5 cm in diameter at the mouth and 9.2 cm deep, with a somewhat sharp edge and almost vertical sides - convex in the middle of the vertical length - and making carination with the roughly flat base. Externally 1.5 cm below the edge is a thin ridge. The sides are marked with a graffito of rectangular shape. Inside black, and base and more than half of the length of the vertical sides red outside. Uniformly thick and both sides burnished (Fig. 1).

T.11 Rim-fragment of a miniature pot with a slightly out-turned rim, concave neck and a rounded profile. Its diameter at the mouth is 9.4 cm. (Fig. 11).

T.12 A sherd, probably belonging to the belly of a pot, the external red surface of which is marked with a graffito of three slanting lines making angle with one another at one end (Fig. 6).

III. RED-AND-BLACK WARE: (Fig. 18).

Unlike the black-and-red ware, this ware is characterised by red colour inside and black outside. The external surfaces are usually slipped and burnished. There are 35 (17.24%) sherds in the collection and majority of them are fragmentary. All the sherds are known from nine sites. The clay is fine sometimes mixed with
sand particles. Its thickness measures between 0.4 and 0.9 cm.

The shapes in this ware are limited. They comprise a globular pot, a basin, a miniature pot with concave neck and rimless bowls.

**TYPES:**

T.13 Fragment of a bowl with tapering edge and slightly convex sides (UKD.1). Variant 13a has a slightly flaring mouth and sharp edge (GKN.1).

T.14 Rim-fragment of a wide-mouthed miniature pot with concave neck and convex flaring rims having a sharp edge. Both sides burnished (RCH.1).

T.15 Rim-fragment of a globular pot with concave neck and out-turned clubbed rim. Burnished (MGL.1).

T.16 Rim-fragment of a big basin with an incurved clubbed rim and outgoing sides. Both sides burnished (GKN.2).

**IV. RED WARE:** (Figs. 18-20).

This ware occurs at ten sites and includes 101 (49.75%) sherds, being the highest proportion of the collection. The ware is distinguished by red colour both inside and outside the pots. It can be divided into two sub-wares on the basis of surface treatment. They are 1) Coarse red ware and 2) Slipped red ware.

1. **COARSE RED WARE:** (Figs. 18).

This ware is easily distinguishable by the coarseness of the core and dull red to brown surface colour. The fabric has a thickness of 0.3 to 1.7 cm. The core, which is also red, is full of sand particles and occasional quartz pieces. The surfaces do not bear any slip or wash. Only eight sherds (3.94%) all burnished,
are known; these came from four sites. One sherd from Andepalli bears an incised chevron design. All the sherds are fragmentary save for a solitary piece which belongs to the rim of a basin.

**TYPE:**

T.17 Fragment of a big-sized basin with incurved clubbed rim (CHP.1).

**DECORATION:**

INCISED DESIGN (Fig. 20)

D.1 Fragment, probably belonging to the shoulder of a globular pot, the external surface of which has two rows of incised chevrons opening to the right on either side of the horizontal ridge. This decoration might have been executed by a pointed instrument. (APL.7).

2. **SLIPPED RED WARE:** (Figs. 18-19).

This ware bears a red slip on its external surface and slipped. The colour of the slip varies from pale red to bright red; sometimes it is even crimson, while the interior is dull red showing wheel striations and at times scratched marks. The core is mostly smoky grey to black, and rarely red. The general thickness varies from 0.5 to 1.2 cm. The clay is gritty mixed with lots of quartz and sand grains and sometimes even husk is added.

This ware includes the maximum number of sherds (93 or 45.81%) all burnished, from ten sites. This pottery occurred in larger numbers at Rayachoti, Mudigal, Chatnepalli and Bastipadu, but was scarce at the remaining sites.

Of these, 85 (41.87%) are undecorated while only eight (3.94%) bear incised and impressed decorations. This ware includes dishes,
rimless bowls; globular pots with high or short concave necks, or constricted necks; various types of basins and a wide trough.

**Types:**

T.18 Fragment of a shallow dish with convex sides of uniform thickness, inturned rounded edge. Both internal and external surfaces are highly burnished and polished (GFL.1). Variant 18a is the belly portion of a dish, sides tapering towards the mouth as well as base making an angle at the externally grooved carination. Core black and gritty. Only outer surface slipped and burnished (GFL.1).

T.19 Fragment of a shallow bowl with a sharp edge and convex outgoing sides of uniform thickness. Both inside and outside burnished (GFL.1). Variant 19a with edge sloping to the interior. Fabric thicker (GFL.1).

T.20 Almost a complete piece of the rim and shoulder of a high concave necked globular pot with a diameter of 12.0 cm at the mouth. Flat edge and convex outgoing sides of uniform thickness. The external surface below neck is marked by a graffito of three slanting lines converging at the base of the neck. Outside completely burnished, and rim and neck portions internally (GFL.1).

T.21 Rim-fragment of a globular pot with short concave neck, externally out rounded edge and slightly convex flaring mouth (GFL.2). Variant 21a with a beaded-out rim (GFL.3). Variant 21b with a clubbed rim (GFL.1).

T.22 Rim-fragment of a globular pot with constricted neck, convex flaring mouth and rounded edge. Diverging sides getting
thinner below neck (RCR.4). Variant 22a with a beaded, bevelled -
in rim and bulging-out sides (BPU.1).

T.23 Fragment of a wide basin with concave neck, beaded-out
rim and thick sides. Both sides burnished (RCR.3) Variant 23a has
an externally grooved clubbed rim (CHR.1). Variant 23b has bevel-
ed-out rim and convex sides. Black gritty core (MGL.2).

T.24 Fragment of a wide through with a beaded out lugged
handle externally, thick convex sides, externally slipped and bur-
nished while interior is pale red, gritty core grey (BPU.1).

DECORATION (Fig. 20).

Eight sherds from four sites bear decoration. Two types of
decoration - incised and impressed - are known in this ware. But
sometimes they occur in combination. So three types of designs
- 1) incised, 2) impressed and 3) incised and impressed - can be
seen. The decoration is confined to rim, shoulder, but sometimes
extends to even belly. They mainly belong to big globular pots
with constricted or concave neck.

1) INCISED DESIGNS:

D.2 On the shoulder of a pot below its constricted neck at
the base of the multiple grooves, there is a horizontal row of
incised zig-zag Y-designs (BPU.2).

D.3 Overhanging rim and shoulder of a constricted necked
pot decorated with triangular incisions (BPU.1).

D.4 Fragment of the grooved shoulder of a globular pot de-
corated with oblique incisions probably with a finger-nail when
the pot was green-hard (MGL.1).

D.5 On either side of the groove of a sherd there are in-
cised chevrons opening to the left in an oblique fashion (GPM.1).

2. IMPRESSED DESIGN:

D.6 Impressed rope design on one of the raised ridges between a pair of grooves of the rim of constricted necked pot (KDF.1).

3. INCISED AND IMPRESSED DESIGNS:

D.7 There are three sherds, probably, all belonging to the body of a globular pot, depicting this design. The design consists of a plant with stem, branches, buds and fully bloomed flowers. The stem and branches have been incised while the buds and petals of flowers are impressed (EFU 1 to 3).

V. CHOCOLATE SLIPPED WARE: (Figs. 19-20).

This ware, distinguished by chocolate slipped and burnished outer surface, and dull brown to red coloured inner surface, includes a dozen (5.91%) sherds found at Andepalli and Mudigal. One sherd from Andepalli is decorated with pressed chevron designs. The core is black and the clay is gritty mixed with sand particles and quartz pieces. The thickness among these sherds ranges between 0.5 and 0.9 cm.

The three rim fragments belong to concave necked globular pots and basins.

TYPES:

T.25 Fragment of a globular pot with concave neck and clubbed rim (MGL.1). Variant 25a has convex flaring rounded rims (MGL.2).

T.26 Fragment of a wide basin with concave neck, beaded rim, externally grooved and ridged above convex outgoing sides. Thickness uniform (APL.1).
DECORATION: (Fig. 20).

1) IMPRESSED DESIGN:

D.8 External surface of a sherd of possibly a globular pot pressed with a row of pressed with a row of irregular chevrons opening to the left (APL.2).

VI. COARSE GREY WARE: (Fig. 19).

This is a de-luxe, sturdy ware well fired and emits a fine metallic sound. The black core is gritty. The fabric has a thickness of 0.4 to 0.7 cm. The collection includes only three (1.48%) sherds, one each, from Bastipadu, Katamedavudu Hill and Mudigal. All the sherds are burnished and belong to concave necked globular pots.

TYPES:

T.27 Fragment of a globular pot with short concave neck internally carinated and straight flaring mouth, edge with a curved slope towards inside. Externally ridges above neck (BPU.1). Variant 27a with a collared rim and multiple grooves on the shoulder externally (BDU.10). Variant 27b with a concavo-convex rim having a pair of ridges and grooves on the exterior while interior is flat (NGL.1).

GRAFFITI ON THE MEegalithic POTTERY:

The graffiti on the south Indian megalithic pottery have long attracted the attention of a number of scholars. They were incised on the surface of the pots usually after firing, which shows that they were marked by the users of the pots. These markings have been variously called 'potters' marks', 'owners' marks' and 'tribal marks' (Hunt 1916: 180-224; 1924: 140-156; Richards...
1924: 299-314/. Hunt attached symbolic significance to these while Yazdani (1915-16: 9-10; 1916-7: 5-8) thought that the graffiti are the representations of a kind of script indicative of ideas. Yazdani further compared these with the Egyptian Hieroglyphs. Lal (1960: 4-24) who made a systematic study of these in the light of those on the Harappan and post-Harappan chalcolithic pottery thinks that these markings had a definite purpose in the mind of maker.

No typological or regional classification of the graffiti is available after that of Yazdani (1917: 64-9). Nineteen graffiti with different structure were found on the black-and-red ware, black ware and red ware sherds recovered in the excavations at Messki (Thapar 1957: 86-8, Fig. 29) and thirty from Brahmapuri (Wheeler 1947-48: 244-5, Fig. 31).

As our pottery came from surface the graffiti on them cannot be assigned to any type of megalithic monuments. Only three graffiti occur on the external surfaces of a deep bowl and a sherd both of black-and-red ware, and a concave necked globular vessel of red ware (Fig. 18, types 10, 12 and 20). All the three symbols are illustrated below.

1) A mark of two vertical parallel lines between which there is a width of 4.6 cm covered by a straight horizontal line on the exterior of a deep vertical sided openmouthed bowl of black-and-red ware (Fig. 18, 1.10). No analogues available.

2) A mark of an 'arrow-head' on the exterior of a black-and-red ware sherd (Fig. 18, T.12). A variant of Yazdani No.16 and Thapar No.10 (1957: 88).
3) A mark of 'arrow head' on the shoulder, externally, of a high-necked globular pot of red ware (Fig. 18, T.20). Resembles No.16 of Yazdani and Wheeler (1947-48: 245, Fig. 31) respectively.

The evidence of megalithic pottery is summarised in the following lines.

The site of Mudigal yielded the largest quantity of pottery. All the main wares excepting the coarse red ware are present here. But only one decorated sherd was found here. The site is extremely rich in red-slipped ware, black ware and black-and-red ware. Also, chocolate-slipped ware which is the most rare ware is well represented at this site.

Other significant sites are Raysachoti, Katamadevudu Hill, Chetnepalli and Bastipadu. The last mentioned is richer in decorated sherds than any other site. Raysachoti is the richest site in red-slipped ware and next to this come Chetnepalli and Bastipadu, while Katamadevudu Hill is the most extensive in black ware.

Red ware is the dominant ware at all the sites excepting Haveligi, Idukal and Uravakonda. Other important wares include black ware and red-and-black ware. Black ware is more common at Katamadevudu Hill and Mudigal while red-and-black ware is irregularly distributed.

Shallow dishes occur in black ware, black-and-red ware and slipped red ware. Aimless bowls occur in these three wares and red-and-black ware. Basins are known in all wares save for black-and-red ware and coarse grey ware. Globular pots with concave or constricted necks and beaded-out, clubbed or bevelled rims, etc.
occur in all excepting black-and-red ware. Carinated pots with everted or beaded-in rims and a ring stand are restricted to the black ware while a deep vertical sided flat-based bowl is confined to only black-and-red ware. Miniature pots are the characteristic feature of black-and-red ware and red-and-black ware only, while a big trough with lugged handle occurs in red-slipped ware.

In tables 47-49 on pages 252-254 are given the lists of wares, types and designs at various sites.

MEGALITHIC POTTERY DISCS: (Fig. 42, Nos. B-G).

Only six discs, all unperforated, were picked up in the exploration. Three of these came from Kunduripi and the remaining three — one each — from Gulapallyam, Mudigal and Idukal. These are pieces of waste potsherds rounded by grinding. None of them bears any attempt of perforation to convert them into spindle whorls.

Of these, five specimens — two each — belong to dull red ware and red-slipped and burnished ware respectively, while the sixth one from Mudigal is of red-and-black ware.

Their maximum, minimum and average thicknesses are 2 cm., 0.8 cm. and 1.1 cm. respectively, while the diameter measures from 2 to 5.4 cm, the average diameter being 3.5 cm.

All the six are illustrated.
### TABLE 47: WARE- AND SITE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF MEgalithic POTTERY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WARES</th>
<th>APL</th>
<th>BPU</th>
<th>CHP</th>
<th>GPM</th>
<th>HAD</th>
<th>IKL</th>
<th>KDH</th>
<th>KDP</th>
<th>MGL</th>
<th>NDN</th>
<th>PPL</th>
<th>RCH</th>
<th>UKD</th>
<th>TOTAL %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. BLACK WARE (B)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>17.24</td>
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<td>II. BLACK-AND-RED WARE (B)</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>III. RED-AND-BLACK WARE (B)</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>17.24</td>
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<td>IV. RED WARE:</td>
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<td>1. Coarse (UB):</td>
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<td>i) Undecorated</td>
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<td>ii) Incised</td>
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<td>Total of coarse red ware sherds</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>i) Undecorated</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>iv) Impressed and Incised</td>
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<td>Total of slipped red ware sherds</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total of all red ware sherds</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>i) Undecorated</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>ii) Impressed</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0.49</td>
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<td>Total of chocolate slipped ware sherds</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>5.91</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>VI. COARSE GREY WARE (UB)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SHERDS OF ALL WARES</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The underlined figures represent percentage.

Note: The capital letters B and UB in the brackets indicate whether a particular ware is burnished or unburnished.
TABLE 48. WARE- AND SITE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF DECORATIVE PATTERNS IN MEgalithic POTTERY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WARES</th>
<th>SITES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>APL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. RED WARE:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Coarse red ware:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incised</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Slipped red ware:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incised</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impressed</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incised and impressed</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. CHOCOLATE SLIPPED WARE:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impressed</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 49. Wares- and Site-Wide Distribution of Types in Megalithic Pottery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wares</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4, 5a</th>
<th>5, 6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8, 9, 10, 12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Black Ware</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2, 1a</td>
<td>2, 1b</td>
<td>4, 5a</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Black-and-Red Ware</td>
<td>9a</td>
<td>9b</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8, 9,</td>
<td>10, 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Red-and-Black Ware</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Red Ware:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Coarse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Slipped</td>
<td>21a, 23, 18</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18a, 19</td>
<td>19a, 21a, 20, 21a, 21c, 22, 21a, 23b, 23, 23a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22a, 23a</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22b,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Chocolate-25 Slipped Ware</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25, 25a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Coarse Grey Wane</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27a</td>
<td>27b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>