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## Study and Typology of Neolithic Pottery Discovered from the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe, Malayer Plain

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### Abstract

One of the results of the considerable archaeological studies of Malayer plain is the excavation of the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe, this area is known as the nomadic area from the Neolithic period, that independent of permanent settlement centers, it offers a wide range of types of pottery of regional traditions, the study and analysis of which will provide archaeological information appropriate to the mentioned period in the Central Zagros region. Pottery is one of the most important cultural materials in terms of quantity and quality among the findings of archaeological excavations on the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe Malayer. The pottery of this area can be divided into two main groups: buff ware and red. Each group can be divided into sub-branches: painted and simple, and in terms of construction quality, those can be divided into two groups: medium and hard. The pottery mix is mainly herbal and different, so that on the surface and theme of some pottery, especially hard specimens, can be seen due to the presence of straw temper. The purpose of this research is primarily the typology and study of Late Neolithic pottery on the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe, and secondly, the identification and manner of cultural practices and proximity common pottery species in neighboring cultures. The method of the present study is based on comparative studies and with a descriptive-analytical approach seeks to answer these questions: what are the pottery found on the back Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe? Are the types of pottery Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe indigenous-local or traditional- imports from neighboring cultures? And which of the Neolithic sites of the Central Zagros is

culturally related to the pottery species of Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe? Due to the monogamy and sloping nature of the Tepe communities Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe and due to the variety of pottery in the type of materials, quality of construction and appearance, while some of the pottery in this area is local, its quality can be seen in order areas of the period. Traced the Neolithic of the Zagros, also according to the characteristics of the pottery, the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe is dated to the late seventh millennium to the early sixth millennium BC. The result of the research indicates the close relationship between the pottery traditions of different cultures of the lowland of the Zagros in the Neolithic period such as Sarab, Goran and Qalagah Tepe.

**Keywords:** Central Zagros, Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe, Typology, Pottery.

### Introduction

Malayer plain in the eastern shores of the Central Zagros is one of the mountainous areas on the southern slopes of the Alvand mountain range, which with its low slopes and in some cases rugged and mountainous with rich pastures has caused in the context of history and especially early rural communities as a pasture. A nomadic summer should be considered. Therefore, during the archeological studies of various European and Iranian delegations, this region has always been considered and discussed. (for example: Howell, 1979, Rural and Freedom, 1396). What is clear is that this plain has long been considered as the axis and communication corridor of different areas of the prehistoric period in the warm seasons of the year has welcomed nomads living in the surrounding low plains, which has continued to this day. (Beik Mohammadi et al, 1397: 63-82). One of the results of considerable archaeological studies in this area is the excavation of the Posheh Forodgah Tepe in Malayer, where the main cultural materials discovered in this area are pottery (for more information on the geographical situation and findings of this area refer to Beik Mohammadi et al 1397, 69-74 and 1399: 7-26). This area is known as an area related to nomadic communities from the Neolithic period and independent of permanent settlement centers, offers a wide range of types of pottery of regional traditions, the study and analysis of which is archaeological information relevant to the period. Will provide the Central Zagros region. What can be deduced from the field studies is that no findings have been obtained that indicate that production and baking of pottery in the area and it seems that the process of forming and decorating the pottery has been done in another place.

**Necessity of Research:** The main purpose of this research will be to study the common Neolithic pottery traditions of Central Zagros with the focus on Malayer plain due to different type of pottery discovered from the Tepe-Poshte Forodgah. One of the important goals pursued in this research is in the first place the typology and analysis of Neolithic pottery on the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe. In the second place, the identification and manner of cultural activities and proximity of common pottery species with the same cultural horizons in neighboring areas will be. Considering the diversity of different types of pottery in the Late Neolithic compared to the previous stage (Middle Neolithic) and in a way the beginning of the first steps of pottery specialization from this period, and with the aristocracy of scattered studies of Neolithic pottery targeted study of pottery discoveries from the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe seem necessary with such an approach. Introducing and important area with Neolithic pottery in the study area (mountainous areas on the southern slopes of the Alvand mountain range) will clarify a step towards better understanding and explaining the position and role of pottery.

**Research Questions and Hypotheses:** The present study seeks to answer these three questions. What are the types of pottery found on the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe? Common types of pottery Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe are local or traditionally imported from neighboring cultures? And which of the Neolithic sites of the Central Zagros is culturally related to the pottery Species of the Tepe Poshted – Forodgah? It is assumed that due to the semi-monogamous type and the nomadic nature of the communities the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe and considering the variety of pottery in the type of materials, the quality of construction and the form and appearance of the local time of some pottery in this area can be similar in other areas. Traced the Late Neolithic period of the Zagros – Also, due to the characteristics of the pottery, the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe is on the horizon of dating from the late seventh millennium to the early sixth millennium BC.

**Research Method:** This research is based on comparative studies and with a descriptive – analytical approach based on the field finding of the archaeological excavation of the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe. Has come to study the Neolithic pottery of the eastern shores of the Central Zagros and to discuss how this region is culturally related to other common cultures of the first rural communities. In this research, first the typology of Late Neolithic pottery discovered from the Poshte Forodgah Tepe in two parts typology in the quality

of materials used in construction and restoration then typology in appearance and applications of pottery.

### Research Background

Due to the abundance, nature and characteristics of pottery and its applicability in prehistoric archaeological analyzes, various studies have been conducted (with the subject and focus of Neolithic pottery) on this cultural material; these studies can be categorized in to three sections: Books, Dissertations and Article.

So far, various books have been published about pottery; but from the comprehensive books of pottery prehistoric of Iran, we can mention the book of eight thousand years of Iranian pottery, which focuses on the typology and comprehensive analysis of pottery in different parts of Iran from the first examples of pottery to the Iron Age (Talaie, 1390). Examples of published dissertations on Neolithic pottery include: pottery of Dehloran and Chaghmish prehistoric collections (Akbari, 1990) classification of pottery motifs from the beginning to the Chalcolithic Age in the central plateau of Iran (Mirza Aghajani, 2001), Classification and typology of Neolithic pottery of Gorgan Pokordval Tepe (Zeighami, 2009) and... pointed out that while studying and analyzing Neolithic pottery, pottery traditions and various decorations have also been discussed. In the last decade, several articles have been written on the subject and focus of cultural traditions of early pottery in how it originated and evolved (especially Neolithic), examples of which can be referred to the following research; In different parts of the Central Zagros and west of Iran, including Kermanshah, Ali Beigi (2011) in traduces frog baby pottery of the mirage type discovered form the surface of Sarab Yavari Tepe. Mohammadi Qasrian (1391: 34-46) in the Werger and Nazlian areas refers to the presence of Nelithic pottery in the Bistoon plain. Razmpoosh et al. (2017) by studying the Zibari plain, while examining Late Neolithic sites, the presence of Neolithic pottery of this period in Islamabad west. Heidarini (2013) has mentioned the presence of Neolithic pottery in the Songor plain.



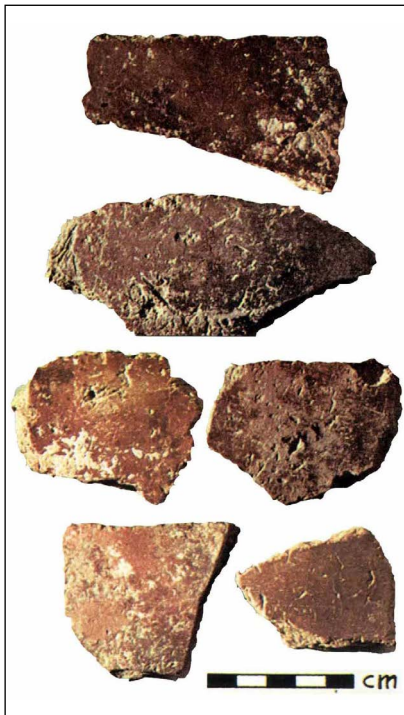
▲ Fig 1. Oxidized and darkened pieces of Late Neolithic pottery (Beil Mohammadi, 1396).

In Hamedan province, Bakhtiari et al. (2014) have dealt with surface pottery discovered from new settlements of Malayer plain resulting from archaeological study (Bakhtiari, 2008; 156: Howell, 1979) Malayer plain. In lorestan province, Bahrami et al. (2012 and 2016) undertook the presence of Late Neolithic pottery species from the surface artifacts of Rawahol (2012: 39-40; Bahrami and Fazeli, 2016, 31-35). And Abdollahi et al (Abdollahi and Sardari, 1390 and 1392: 117-138; Abdollahi et al, 1393: 67-83) while presenting the

findings of Qalagap Tepe excavation have introduced and analyzed different type of Late Neolithic pottery. Asadiojaei et al. (2009) have analyzed the pottery technology of the Central Plateau, which is one of the most comprehensive and thought – provoking studies in the study of Neolithic pottery developments in different areas of the Central Plateau of Iran. Khosravi et al. (2012) have mentioned the presence of Neolithic pottery in Khaleseh Tepe of Zanjan. In Fars region, Khanipour et al, (1397 and 1398) while studying the Neolithic area of Hormangan and Bovanat river basin point to the Neolithic pottery traditions of Fars plain. In the northwest area, “Abedi” has introduced Late Neolithic pottery and the transition period to Chalcolithic, following the study of archaeological findings in the Davagoos area (Abedi, 2017), also, Bakhtiari et al. (1397 and 1398) in the study of cultural developments in Horand city, it deals with the developments of Neolithic settlements and pottery in the northwest of Iran (Azerbaijan region). In the northeast region, Zeighami et al. (2017), while studying the development of Neolithic communities in the Gorgan cultural region, also referred to different type of pottery in this cultural region.

### **Theoretical Foundations**

Neolithic, pottery of different regions of Iran is mainly a home – made product and despite the similarities in the method of making the type of composition, the amount of heat and how it is shaped and decorated, these mainly show local characteristics (Asadi et al., 1398: 25). It is worth mentioning that due to the importance and nature of pottery from the late Neolithic, the existing evidence indicates the existence of the early stages of pottery and the first steps towards specialized production of pottery have been taken, and finally, this specialization of pottery, which marks the beginning of the social and economic complexities of the Neolithic period and beyond. Most Late Neolithic pottery has common features in a simple way with a mixture of coarse straw particles and sand grains. Mostly all pottery has turned black and dark due to improper heat (Fig. 1). Also, most of the pottery has a thick clay coating that includes a range of dark and light red, buff ware and cream. In these types of pottery, the clay cover forms a thick layer all over the outer surface and in some cases inside the pottery, which is not easily visible inside the pottery theme and sometimes separates from the pottery surface in the form of scales. Excessive use of coarse straw temper in the paste as a binder in these pottery has caused in some cases the effect of straw used in the outer body of the pottery to be



▲ Fig 2. Sample of pottery with red clay coating, stage II, Neolithic, Bakhtiari region (Zagarel, 2008: 203, Pic 1).



▲ Fig 3. Samples of Late Neolithic straw pottery/ transition period to copper and stone of Khoy Dogoz area (Abedi, 2017: 75, Fig. 10).

determined in a hollow. The history of red and buff ware pottery of the Zagros dates back to the Neolithic period, which continued in the last period and reached its evolution in quality and manufacturing techniques. Prominent examples are the red pottery of Sarab and Goneil Tepes in Kermanshah; the red pottery of Goneil Tepe is dated to the Neolithic cultural horizon based on the theory of Mortensen and Smith (Mortensen & Smith, 1977: 6).

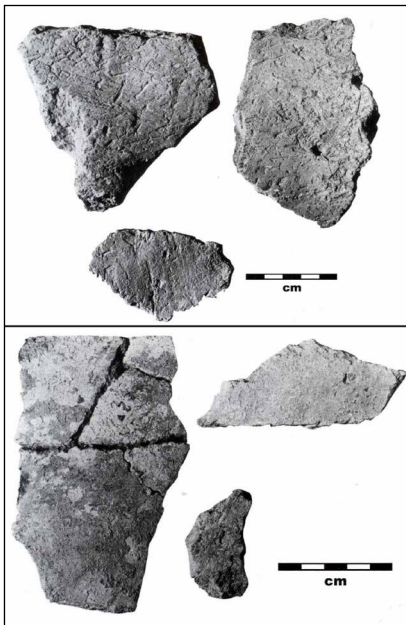
This type of pottery has also been obtained in the areas of Hollilan valley (Mortensen, 1974: 203) and Bakhtiari region (Zagarel, 1387, 203), (Fig. 2). Due to the heating conditions of Neolithic pottery has insufficient heat and improper firing, which seems to receive non – uniform heat with the open firing method and sometimes the color of the pottery corresponds to the temperatures it is exposed to and changes, the color is also evident in their body, which should be considered due to the lack of temperature control of the furnace and direct fire. Accordingly the pottery of this period is porous and hard and the core of the pottery is gray and dark in color, and based on the archeological studies, such pottery has been baked and heated at a temperature of less than 900 degrees Celsius due to the use of animal and plant fertilizers in melting primary kilns (for more in formation refer to: Moradgholi et al., 1398: 99-100). In the prehistoric chronology of the Central Zagros and west of Iran for the first time, four types of pottery are reported from Sarab Tepe, which later provides a suitable framework for dating the Neolithic sites of the mentioned cultural area. These four types of pottery are: Sarab Tadpole, Sarab Geometric, Sarab Linear and WOB, (Levin & McDonald, 1977). In a general division, this collection is divided into two periods: Old Sarab (Middle Neolithic) and new Sarab (Late Neolithic); the old stage with buffware pottery with a temper of straw and standard designs includes standard patterned dishes including the role of a Tadpole and geometric.

In the new stage, painted vessels with black or red motifs are, decorated with chin, zigzag and hasher patterns. Another type of, Sarab style pottery is pottery with a white pattern on a black background. The range of distribution of these two types of pottery in the Zagros of Iran and Iraq is very wide and includes from Jarmo Tepe in the north to Goran Tepe (Lorestan) in the south (Levin & Young, 1987). Sarab pottery has been reported in the Bistoon area from Goneil Tepe. In the studies carried out in this area from the two areas of Vargar and Nazlian Tepes, there are also indications of the presence of works from the Late Neolithic period that have Sarab – type pottery (Mohammadi Ghasrian, 1391: 34-46). Also, the

significant presence of Late Neolithic artifacts during the surveys of Mahidasht from 10 sites (Levine & McDonald, 1977) and Islamabad plain from 18 sites has been identified (Abdi, 2003). The Neolithic period in the Northwest is well represented by British and American archaeologists; in the meantime, Haji Firooz and Yaniq Tappeh are located on the sides of Lake Urmia as the main and important ancient sites of this period (Ajourloo, 1392: 27). Horand region is one of the other regions in the northwest, which as a result of its archeological study, 3 sites from the Neolithic period (sites: Yarghi Horidagh, Ganji: Noo and Kanddn Noo) with Late Neolithic pottery traditions have been indentified. The pottery of this region has hand made features with a temper (mixture) of straw or a temper of straw-sand and the color of the outhur surface in the range of red and brownish red.

### **Different Types of Neolithic Pottery on the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe**

The pottery of this area can be divided into two main groups: buff ware and red. Each group can be divided into two – sub – branches: painted (motifs) and simple, and in term of construction and typology. The main feature of the pottery temper is mainly plant and in different sizes; Neolithic pottery the Poshte-Forodgah Tepe has all the characteristics of common Neolithic pottery of the Central Zagros; Despite the similarities in the method of construction, the type of temper (mixture), the amount of heat, and how it is shaped and decorated; at the same time, these pottery show local features – As with other Neolithic sites, a common feature of the pottery on the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe is insufficient heat and improper cooking with a temper of straw and handmade, which can be seen in all types of Neolithic 3 phase, generally, pottery receives non-uniform heat by baking in kilns and open ovens, and sometimes the color of the pottery corresponds to the temperatures it is exposed to, and the color change is evident in their body, which must be due to lack of known furnace temperature control and direct heat. Accordingly, the pottery of this period is porous and rough and the core of the pottery is gray and dark in color (Fig. 1). Three different types of pottery, such as plain red pottery, buff ware motifs, bagel, and decaying geometric pottery, include the shapes and compositions of the pottery on Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe, in total, from two workshops (I and II) 6 settlement phases have been indentified, which have been obtained through different types of pottery, three Late Neolithic settlement phases (A, B and C) of this



▲ Fig 4. Samples of stage III Neolithic straw pottery in areas 4 and S2 of Bakhtiari region (Zagarel, 2008: 206, Pictures 7 & 8).



▲ Fig 5. Types of geometrically motifs pottery of phase A the Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396)

Tepe, from the upper to lower layers, were identified, as follows: 1. Late Neolithic phases A with pottery in geometric motifs similar to the new Sarab of phase A, (Fig. 5); 2. Late Neolithic phase B: with pottery species with red clay coating and red – painted buff ware with ocher (Fig. 9); 3. Late Neolithic phase: plain, without motifs pottery with a very brittle and rough plant temper (mixture). Soft type pottery (Fig. 19).

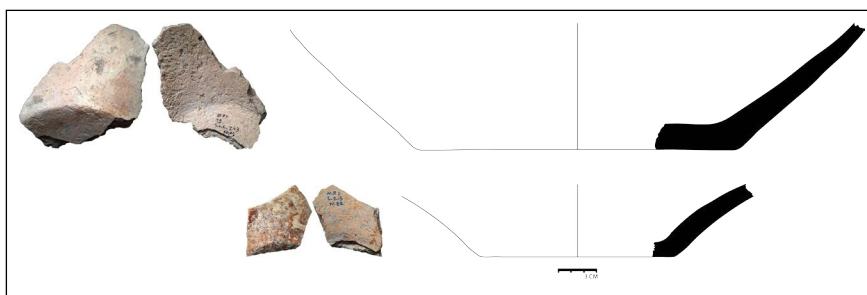
**1. Phase A pottery (step IV settlement):** From this phase, two type of painted and simple pottery have been obtained, (pictures 5-7); phase A Late Neolithic painted pottery on the Posteh – Forodgah Tepe is delicate trapezoidal pottery or hatched squares that cover the entire outer surface of the dish motifs in red and black are created on a buff ware and black background, which is comparable to Sarab A Tepe pottery (Fig. 5), (Levin & McDonald, 1977: Pp 45, Pl.). Despite the technical similarities of the Late Neolithic period pottery of Malayer plain with similar samples of Mahidasht and Kermanshah, there are differences in the type of motifs and the type of covering of dishes. This difference can indicate the localization of this type of pottery with a different culture but related to other areas of Kermanshah in Malayer plain. Other types of pottery in this are simple, angled and convex open – mouthed bowls, sometimes with a thick clay cover with a flat bottom. (Fig. 6 and 7); it should be noted that this phase of pottery with red clay covering of phase B was not obtained.

**2. Phase B Pottery, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (step V settlement):** From this settlement phase, two types of buff ware pottery with red clay cover and painted (motif) have been identified (Fig. 5 and 9) the designs of most of these dishes are lattice – like and wicker – like. Other pottery of this settlement stage is polished red pottery with dark and smoky kernels (Fig. 8), buff ware and reddish pink pottery with buff ware coating pottery with red paste without polished coating, rough vessels (dishes) with plant temper (mixture) and covering it is a polished reddish brown with mostly faded or opaque motifs (Fig. 9) that close resemblance to Sarab linear motifs (Levine & Mc Donald, 1977). This method of decoration is one of the other pottery motifs that continued until the end of the Neolithic period in areas of the Central Zagros, which are called “New Garden” (Mc Donald, 1979) and comparable to the samples of the second stage of “Qalagap” (Abdullahi and Sardari Zarchi, 1392: 123, Pic 7). Container forms of this phase from the Late Neolithic Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe are a variety of shallow trays, bowls with at convex body and open mouth and jars with a vertical body and a smooth





◀ Fig 6. Types of open-mouth bowls belonging to phase A of the Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).



◀ Fig 7. Types of open-mouth containers belonging to phase A of the Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).

edge with the mentioned motifs and a miniature cup of the S – wing. Have taken their own form (Fig. 10-18).

- **Type Red Clay Cover Pottery:** This type of pottery which, due to the red clay coating with smoky and unadorned kernels, has an apparent hard, especially on the outer surface, a plant – based additive with brittleness due to insufficient exercise. It is very handmade (Fig. 8). The forms obtained from this type of pottery often include relatively deep and sometimes shallow bowls and simple kitchen utensils.

- **Type of Buff Ware and Motifs Pottery with a Thick Clay Coating:** Another type of pottery that production has started in this settlement stage and in the next stages (phase A) will be used in a different way; There are a variety of unpainted and painted buff ware pottery, all of which, without exception, are handmade and have a thick clay coating, and except in a few cases, their outer surface is

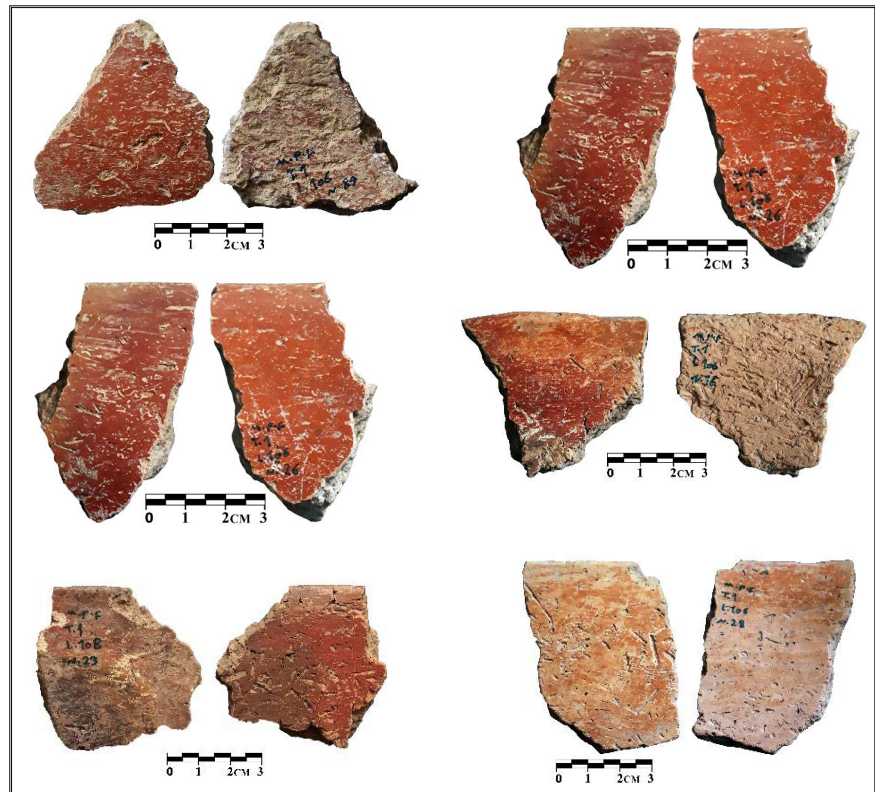


Fig 8. Samples of Late Neolithic, phase B thick clay pottery, Tepe Poshteh-Fordgah (Beik Mohammadi, 1396). ▶

completely polished. These types of pottery include the plant paste (straw) used (Fig. 9).

**3. Phase C Pottery, Tepe Poshte-Fordgah (Stage VI Settlement):** The lowest phase of the settlement Poshte-Fordgah Tepe (Late Neolithic pottery, phase C) belongs to the type of simple coarse and rough pottery in the form of jars, pots and pans and bowls with the buff ware and brick (color) paste with extensive use of straw

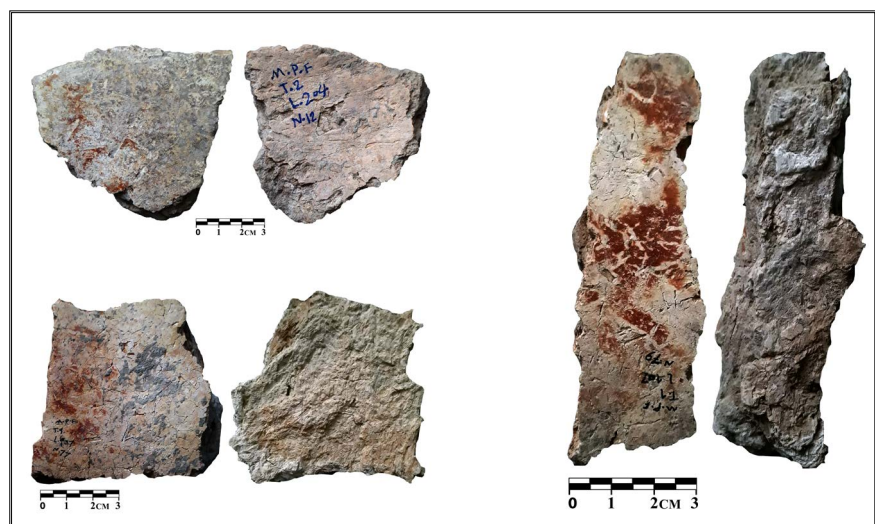
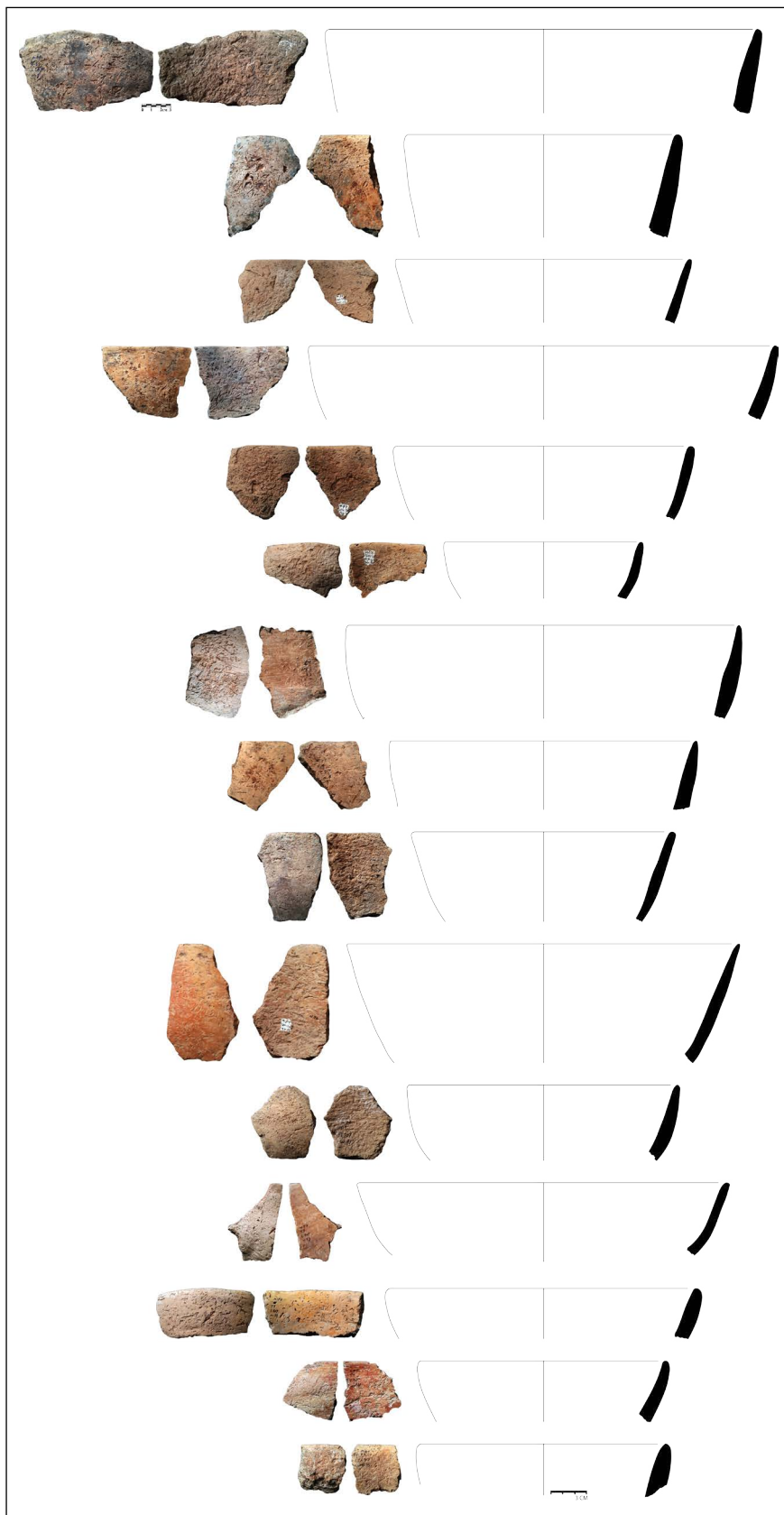


Fig 9. Samples of red motifs and buff ware pottery with decaying mud, Late Neolithic, Phase B. Poshteh-Fordgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396). ▶



◀ Fig 10. Types of open-mouthed bowls and containers, Phase B, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).

Fig 11. Types of open-mouthed bowls, convex body, phase B, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396). ▶

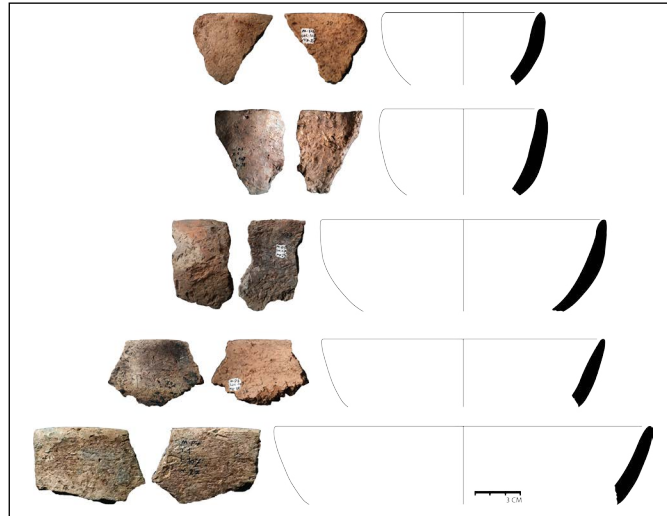
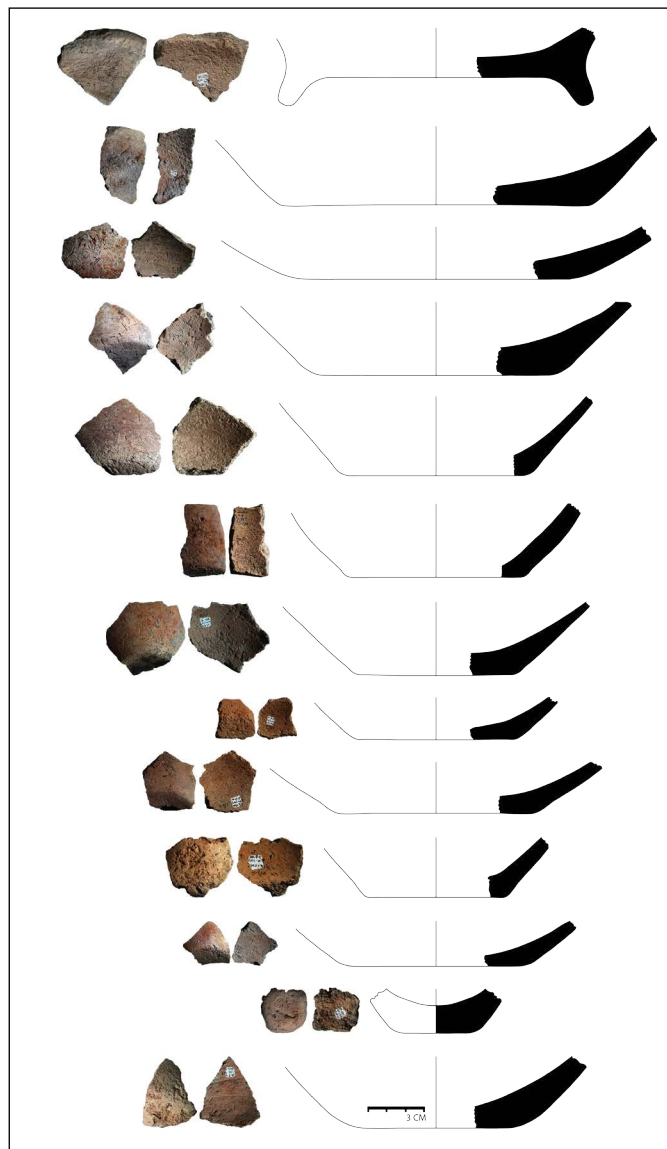


Fig 12. Types of the bottom of open-mouthed bowls, phase B, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe(Beik Mohammadi, 1396). ▶



temper (mixture) which is completely handmade and the heat is not enough to bake them (Fig. 19), which is comparable to the first stage of Neolithic (in the lower layers) of Qalagap Tepe (Abdollahi and Sardari Zarchi, 1392, 122), (Fig. 6) and the Late Neolithic of Goran (Meldguard et al., 1963: 115; fig. 16). The core of most of these pottery are smoky, which means little or no escape in the open kiln.

## Discussion

According to Frank Hole's theory, nomadic life arose after the expansion of agriculture and the consequent increase in human population because over time, the human population has increased and fertile land has been used for agriculture and inevitably different groups of people have raised animals to benefit from non-arable land (Hole, 1352: 15-16). The widespread and sudden emergence of Late Neolithic sites in the valleys and different parts of the mid-mountain ranges of the Central Zagros and the abandonment of the flat plains and the in fluey of semi-monolithic communities in the highlands indicate an increase in population. Forced farming forced them to leave the low and fertile areas and turn to the high slope and plains where it was easy to provide food on the untouched slopes and no more effort was needed than the low lands. This population growth can be clearly seen in the increase in the number of residential areas in the Neolithic period from the northwest to the Central Zagros and the southern Zagros, this increase was limited to the same valleys that were first occupied in the Neolithic period (Shiroei, 1376: 107-113); Malayer plain is also one of the areas that is located in the high southern slopes of Alvand mountain range with an altitude of 1826 meters above sea level and before this period due to climatic conditions has not been considered by Middle Neolithic communities and before that; therefore, the formation of the area Poshteh-Forodgah with the semi-monogamous herding community in this high plain should be considered as the result of the described environmental action. Among the archaeological evidence that helps to analyze the various Neolithic cultural traditions is the type of pottery.

Late Neolithic pottery is characterized by cover red and sometimes hand-painted pottery with temper (mixture) and at the end of this period, there are bowls with red clay coating, trays and spherical vessels, in which there is less straw used. Such pottery has been observed in the Late Neolithic settlements in Sarab Tepe and several other areas in Mahidasht along with pottery with a thick black clay coating, which in some cases has white motifs. (Levin & McDonald, 1977: 40-77). It was at this time that the first buff ware pottery with

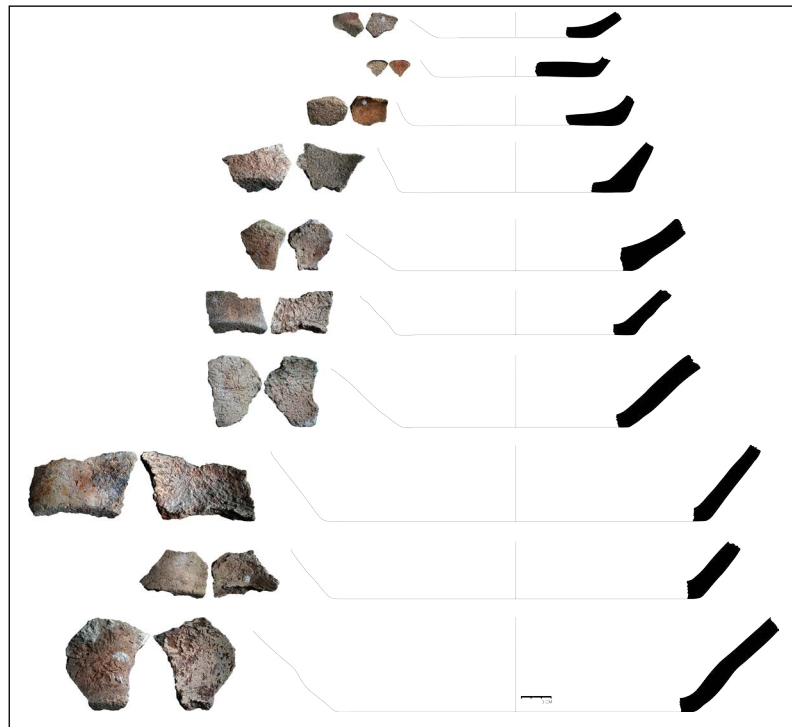


Fig 13. Types of the bottom trays and open-containers, phaseB, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Fordgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396). ▶



▲ Fig 14. Miniature cup with S-shaped edge, phase B, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Fordgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).

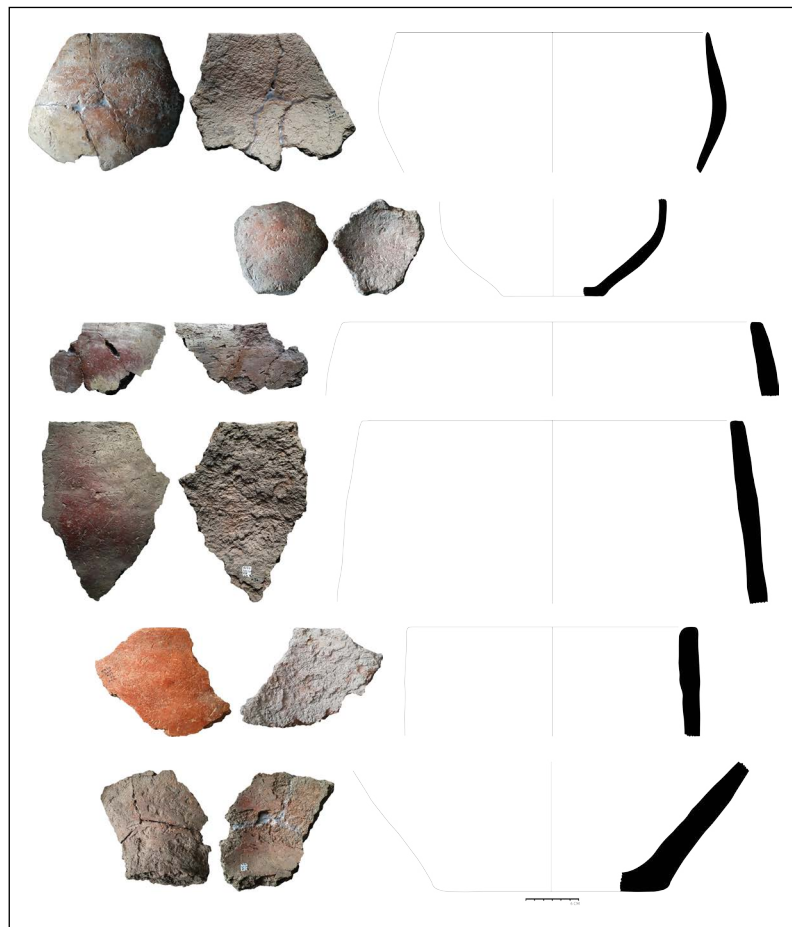
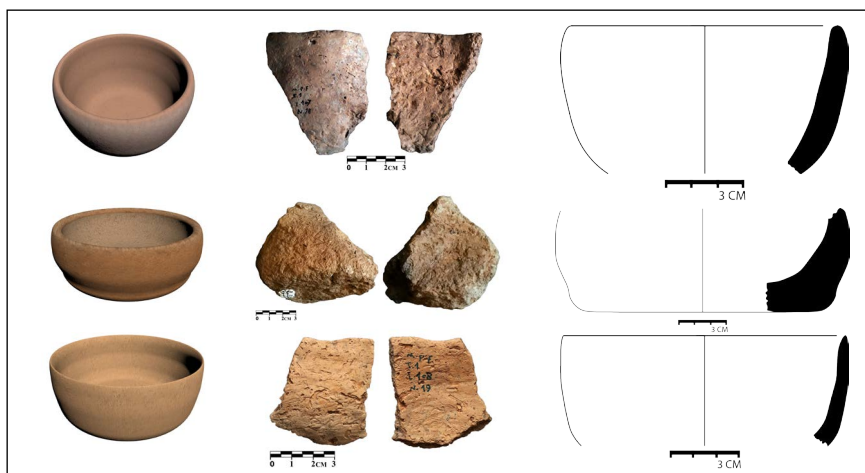
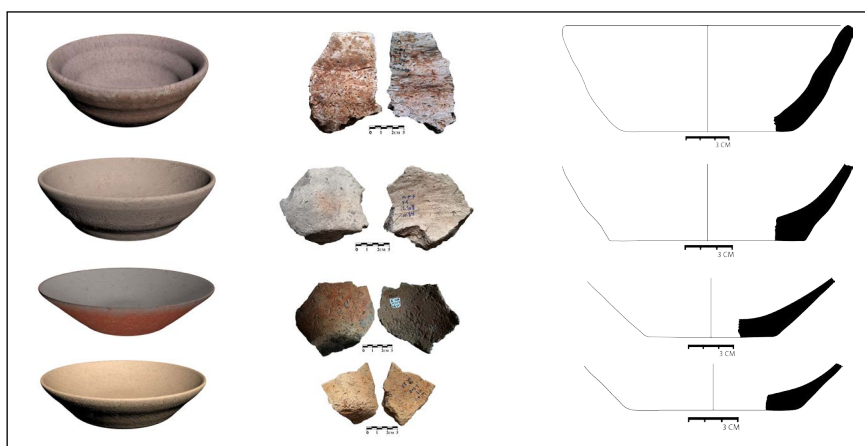


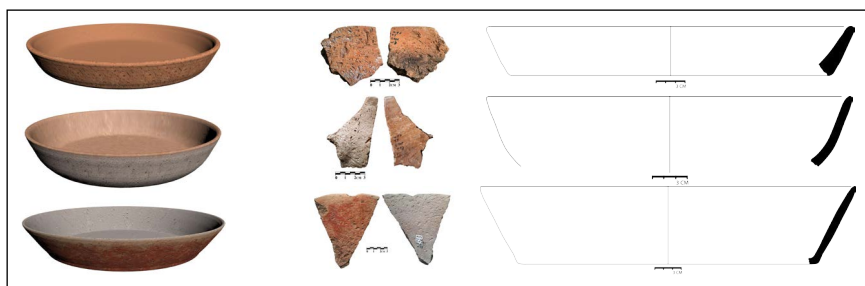
Fig 15. Types of kitchen utensils and storage, phaseB, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Fordgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396). ▶



◀ Fig 16. Deep bowls with convex body, phase B, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).

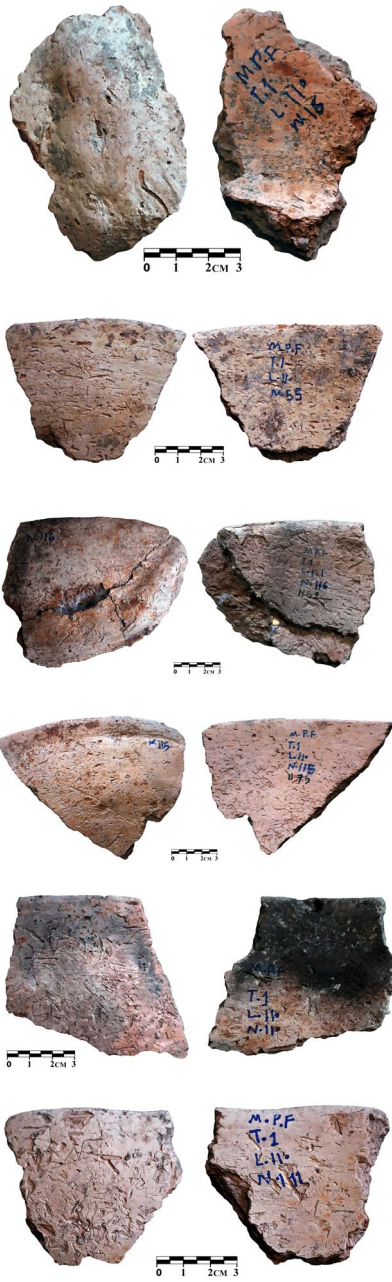


▼ Fig 17. Open-mouthed bowls covered with buffware and red clay, phase B, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).



◀ Fig 18. The tray belong to phase B, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).

black motifs and with temper of sand, such as Sareasiyaban and Layer A of Chenar Tepe appeared (Mortensen, 1974: Figs. 24, 29&35) But with the studies done in areas such as Edier Tepe (Hesari, 1398), Khaleseh Tepe (Alibeigi and Khosravi, 1386) Yarghi Horidagh, Gantinoo and Havarand (Bakhtiri et al, 1397 and 1398) Qalagap (Abodlahi & Sardari, 1390 and 1392) Qeshlagh Tepe (Sharifi and Motarjem, 1397) etc, new examples of Neolithic pottery and the evolution and development of this type of pottery (sequins) are well presented in these areas and then introduced and has been studied, the surface of a number of buff ware bowls, which have a straw temper



▲ Fig 19. Sample of simple, hard, soft and straw pottery, phase C, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Fordgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).

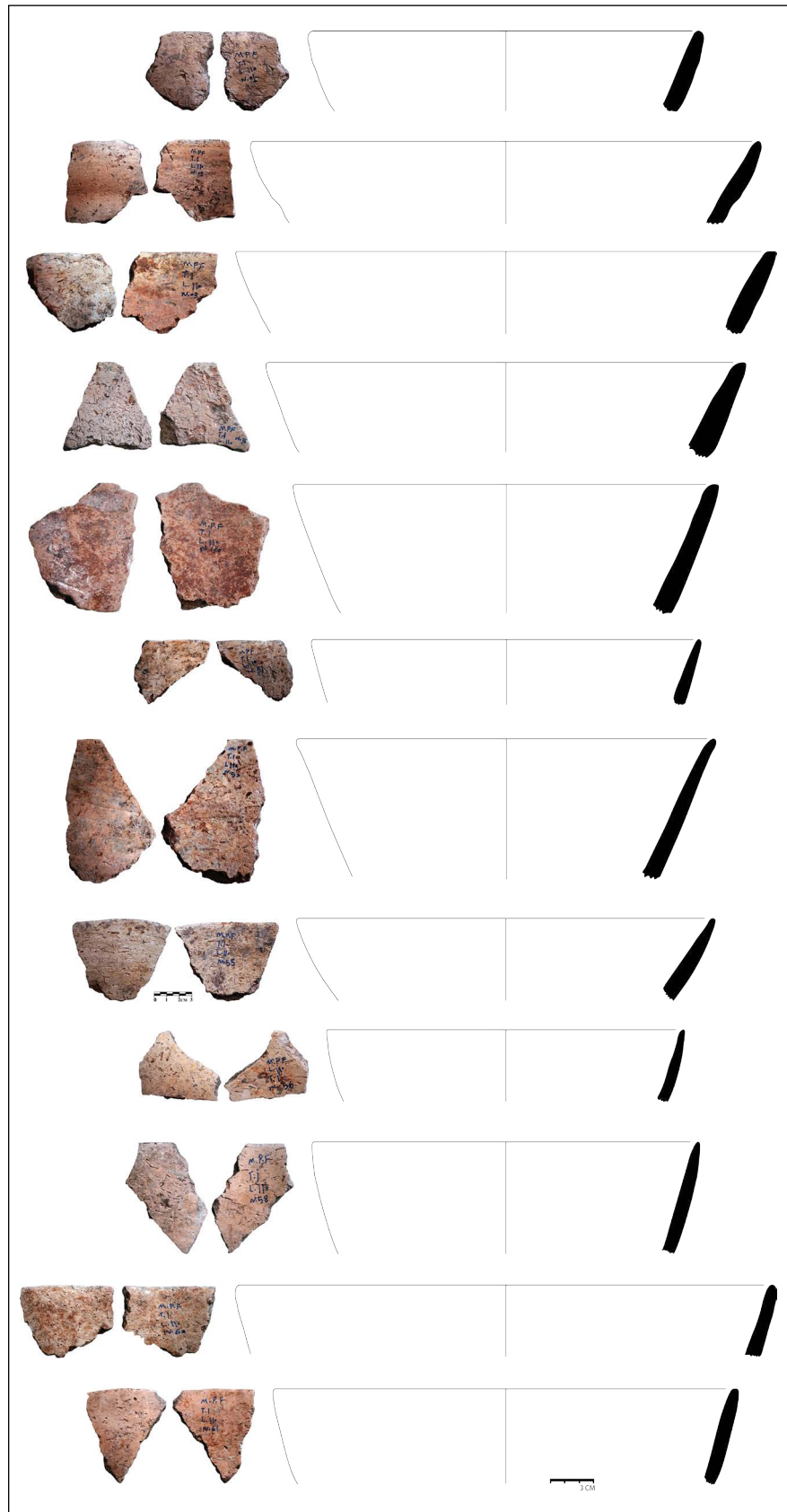


Fig 20. Open-mouthed bowls, phase C, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Fordgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396). ▶

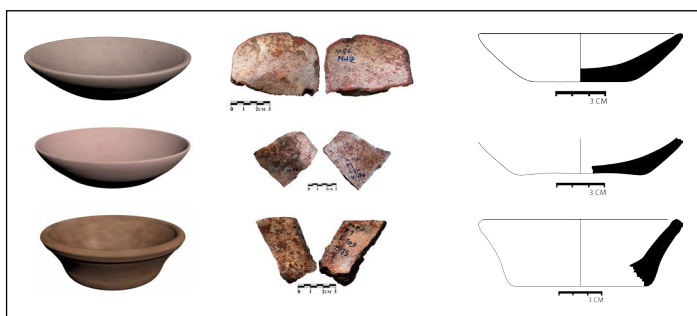




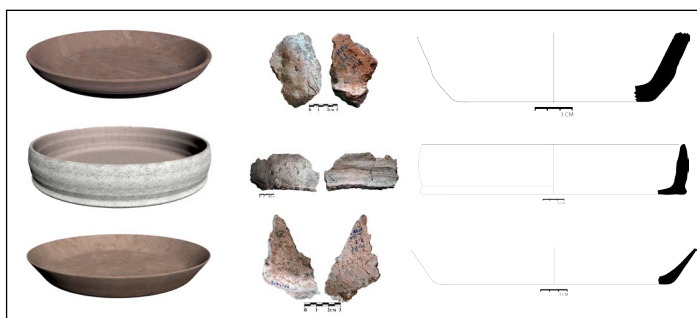
◀ Fig 21. Closed-mouth bowls with convex body, phase C, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).



◀ Fig 22. Parallel-mouth bowls / convex body belonging to phase C, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).



◀ Fig 23. Shallow bowl with open-mouth, belonging to phase C, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).



◀ Fig 24. Types of shallow trays, phase C, Late Neolithic, Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe (Beik Mohammadi, 1396).

(mixture), a thick clay coating and a polished surface, is painted red. The study of pottery in terms of form and method of construction showed that in terms of technology of making hard, handmade pottery with insufficient firing, it has a hollow texture and in simple shapes. According to a comparative study, recreational pottery of the Poshteh-Forodgah with its horizon areas shows cultural similarities in terms of form and method of construction. The basic technology of making pottery in these areas has a place in chronology on the horizon of the Late Neolithic period.

According to the descriptions, the development of Late Neolithic pottery in different parts of the Central Zagros in the samples of pottery identified from the Poshteh-Forodgah Tepe, can be seen and examined and a kind of pottery overlap and similarities between this area with common pottery traditions in Goran and Qalaghap in Lorestan and Siahbid Tepe, Sehghabi and Sarab in Kermanshah can be seen, finally, the typological study of the Poshte-Forodgah Tepe shows the closeness and similarities between the settlement stages of this area with the known Neolithic cultures of the northwest of the Central Zagros, the center of the plateau from Qazvin plan to Fars.

### Conclusion

The study of pottery discovered from the Posheh-Forodgah Tepe shows that this area belongs to the Neolithic period with three different phases (A, B, C). In response to research questions, it can be said that all Neolithic pottery in this area is handmade and has hollow and fragile texture. Most of the pottery in this area is made clay-covered pottery in the color range of reddish-brown and buff ware. But the most common colors are red and buff with a plant temper. The amount of plant temper (mixture) is such that it can be seen well inside and on the surface of the pottery and includes the nature and characteristics of the contaminated straw pottery. Inside all the pottery is dark, which is the result of improper cooking in stoves or open ovens. Most pottery has no decorative motifs and is simple in form; a variety of open and closed mouth bowls with flat and sometimes protruding floor, large shallow bowls with simple edges bowls with protrusions close to the bottom of miniature cups include a variety of shallow trays with vertical and convex bodies with flat bottoms. It can also be said that common types of pottery on the Posheh-Forodgah Tepe due to the semi-monocotyledonous and nomadic nature of the communities present on the Tepe and considering the variety of pottery in the type of materials, construction, quality and form and appearance of some pottery while local, this area and its

coordination can be traced in other Neolithic areas of Zagros such as Goran and Qalagap in Lorestan and Siahbid, Sehgabi and Sarab Tepes in Kermanshah province. The present study concludes that the presence of Neolithic pottery in Malayer plain is more of a local origin and endogenous production, most of the origin and result of the presence of semi-monogamous and nomadic communities from the lowlands of different parts of the Central Zagros to the plains and high slopes in Hamedan province.

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