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Fabrics of Ceramic Building Materials of Pithekoussai/Ischia

The analysis of samples from Ischia, complemented by samples from the distribution area Velia, led to the distinction of four different fabrics (ISC-CBM-1-4) which are based on two variants of one petrographic–mineralogical group (RVZ 03), as established by R. Sauer. One fabric is only known from its distribution area (Velia, ISC-CBM-5), its petrographic–mineralogical type is known from clays of Ischia (RVZ 06).

Description of Observed Fabrics

Generally characteristic for all fabrics is a large amount of dark gray and black (volcanic) particles, some iron oxide concretions of usually rusty brown or black appearance. The greater part of the observed fabrics is characterized by a carbonatic matrix without visible carbonatic inclusions (ISC-CBM-1 to ISC-CBM-3), which differ in color and sorting of temper. In a second group (ISC-CBM-4 and 5) carbonatic particles within the matrix are either visible or the matrix is riddled with small carbonate-pseudomorphoses.

ISC-CBM-1 shows a reddish yellow fabric without visible carbonatic inclusions or carbonate–pseudomorphoses, the sorting of temper being bimodal. ISC-CBM-2 differs by its pale brown calcareous matrix; ISC-CBM-3 shows as well a pale brown calcareous matrix, but the contained particles are unsorted.

ISC-CBM-4 is characterized by a calcareous matrix with distinguishable white and yellowish white calcareous particles. This fabric is the result of laboratory controlled firing of an unfired brick found near a hellenistic kiln under S. Restituta in Lacco Ameno, Ischia.

ISC-CBM-5 belongs to another petrographical-mineralogical type (RVZ 06). It is characterized by a pale yellow calcareous matrix which is riddled with tiny carbonate-pseudomorphoses, further distinguishable particles are quartz, prominent black and dark gray volcanic inclusions and few rust colored particles.

Shapes: Roof tiles of the Campanian type (Gassner 2003, 141–6)

Chronology: ISC-CBM-1 to 3 and 5 are attested in Velia in Late Archaic and Classical contexts (Gassner 2003)

References


1 For the method and sampling strategy see also Gassner et al. 2003, 203–4, for the analysed samples see previously Gassner and Sauer 2002, 553.
2 Previously published as the very similar fabrics Z 5, Z 9, Z 11 and Z 12, see Gassner 2003, 142, table 359–60, color pl. 10. 11.
3 Previously published as fabrics Z 2, see Gassner 2003, 142. 143 table 359 color pl. 10.
4 Previously published as fabrics Z 1, see Gassner 2003, 142. 143 table 359 color pl. 10.
5 For the kiln and production area at S. Restituta see now Olcese 2010, 25–31. The samples come from the area Olcese 2010, fig. III 1 B.
6 Previously published as Z 13, see Gassner 2003, 142. 143 table 360 color pl. 11.


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