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Coarse Ware Fabrics of Iaitas[1]

Fabric description

IAIT-C-1 (M 194/1. 2; M 195/3. 5. 6)

The main characteristics of fabric IAIT-C-1 consist of a fine and compact matrix with a very-fine to fine sand temper, mainly composed of very small-sized calcium carbonate particles and *micritic clots*, as well as a low quantity of small-sized quartz grains. Large-sized inclusions (up to 2.2 mm) appear in lower quantities. Due to these characteristics, some samples of IAIT-C-1 are similar to PAN-C-1.[2]
The colour of the matrix is light red or grey (especially at the core), the edges of the breaks might be light to pale brown or yellowish-brown. Especially fragments of thick walled vessels might show a grey core. The clay is riddled with white to yellowish, very small to few larger calcium carbonate particles and micritic clots (<0.04–0.4 mm).[3] When well preserved, foraminifera can be distinguished (M 194/1. 2). Tiny grains of quartz (<0.04–0.4 mm) appear to be highly characteristic. It was impossible to identify grain sizes <0.04 under the available microscope. The predominant colours of the quartz grains are crystal-clear and grey.
Very small and less frequently large red particles (<0.04–1.5 mm) are common, whereas black inclusions occur only in small quantities (<0.04–0.9 mm). Almost all of the samples show medium to large-sized grog fragments of pale brown, whitish or grey colour (0.4–2.0 mm). White mica appears to be infrequent (<0.04). The packing varies between 15% and 20% and the generally low porosity (<10%) is between 3% and 5 %. Fabric IAIT-C-1 has been used for plain wares and painted wares (closed and open forms, basins and mortars).[4]

IAIT-C-2 (M 194/3; M 195/1. 2)

Fabric IAIT-C-2 is similar to IAIT-C-1, even if the temper seems to be somewhat finer (max. 1.1 mm). The main difference consists of a higher quantity of medium-sized quartz grains (<0.04-0.6 mm, mainly grey, clear and yellowish). Very small calcium carbonate particles and *micritic clots* are present (<0.04 mm), but they are hardly distinguishable due to the pale clay colour (pale brown or pale red and pink). IAIT-C-2 seems to contain more foraminifera. None of the samples shows grog fragments and mica is less frequent. Packing is about 15%, the porosity varies between 1.5% and 5%.Fabric IAIT-C-2 has also been used for plain wares and painted wares (open and closed forms).[5]

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[2] Bechtold and Schmidt 2015.
[3] In earlier papers published by the present author in FACEM the term 'carbonate pseudomophoses' has been used instead of 'micritic clots', following here the description of Gassner and Trapichler 2011. A detailed discussion on the phenomenon of micritic clots and fringes of micrite as common variants of secondary calcite in calcareous pottery can be found in Cau Ontiveros et al. 2002, 9–18, esp. 11–13.
[4] In this regard, see Russenberger and Polito 2016, figg. 4-5, M 194/1. 2; M 195/3. 5. 6.
[5] In this regard, see Russenberger and Polito 2016, figg. 4-5, M 194/3; M 195/1. 2.

Fig. 1 Fabric IAIT-C-1, M 194/1

Fig. 2 Fabric IAIT-C-2, M 194/3

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