Organic Residues Preserved in Archaeological Ceramic Vessels
A Case Study: Ceramics from the Early Bronze Age Site of
Khirbet Al-Batrawy, Al-Zarqa Province, Jordan

Abstract

This paper presents an outline review about organic residues (O.R.) preserved in archaeological ceramic vessels, their occurrence, sources and degradation during vessel use and burial, methods used for the analysis of residues, types of data obtained from this analysis and examples from the archaeological record. In addition the paper shows preliminary results obtained from the analysis of O.R. preserved in ceramics from the Early Bronze Age site of Khirbet Al-Batrawy, Al-Zarqa Province, Jordan. In the light of these results recommendations were set out to be considered by excavators and researchers during excavation, packing and storing ceramic vessels/fragments and soil in order to enhance and facilitate the analysis of ceramic contents and avoid confusion and loss of any cultural data that could have been preserved in archaeological ceramics and soil.

Keywords: Organic residues, archaeological ceramic, vessel, Khirbet Al-Batrawy