



SOME ADDITIONAL SHELLS FROM HORVAT SHALLALE

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INTRODUCTION

The archaeologist Prof. Shimon Dar (Bar Ilan University) carried out a follow up excavation of Horvat Shallale in November 2012 and July 2013. During these excavations a building dated to the Early and Middle Roman period (2nd-3rd Century C.E.) was partially excavated. This resulted also in the preservation of respectively 5 and 20 samples of shells for further investigation. For the report on the molluscs from previous excavations of Horvat Shallale, Ancient City of Carmel, I refer to Mienis (2009).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Most of the archaeomalacological material had been collected either at eye-sight or with the help of a wide meshed sieve because all the shells except two were over 1 cm in size. The two smaller specimens were found stuck in the plaster present in larger shells.

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The material could be identified on the spot or in the case of the two smaller shells after comparing them with material in the National Mollusc Collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

RESULTS

The 25 samples contained only six different species.

GASTROPODA

Family Pomatiidae

Pomatias olivieri (de Charpentier, 1847)

Area 31B; Locus 546; Basket 2221: one shell;

Area 31B; Locus 546; Basket 2224: one shell;

Area 31B; Locus 548; Basket 2233: three shells.

Family Littorinidae

Echinolittorina punctata (Gmelin, 1791)

Area 31B; Locus 541; Basket 2202: one shell found in the white plaster present in a valve of *Glycymeris nummaria*.

Family Nassariidae

Nassarius pygmaeus (Lamarck, 1822)

Area 31B; Locus 544; Basket 2209: one shell found in the white plaster present in a valve of *Glycymeris nummaria*.

Family Helicidae

Helix engaddensis Bourguignat, 1852

Area 31AB; Locus 545; Basket 2234: one shell missing the apical whorls;

Area 31B; Locus 541; Basket 2202: one shell lacking part of the body whorl;

Area 31B; Locus 546; Basket 2221: one shell.

BIVALVIA

Family Glycymerididae

Glycymeris nummaria (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym: *Glycymeris insubrica* (Brocchi, 1814)

Area 31A; Locus 526; Basket 2156: two valves;

Area 31AB; Locus 540; Basket 2208: two valves partly filled with white plaster;

Area 31AB; Locus 545; Basket 2225: five valves;

Area 31AB; Locus 545; Basket 2228: two valves;

Area 31AB; Locus 545; Basket 2234: two umbonal fragments;

Area 31B; Locus 528; Basket 2164: one valve;

Area 31B; Locus 529; Basket 2172: five valves partly filled with white plaster;

Area 31B; Locus 529; Basket 2195: six valves partly covered with white plaster;

Area 31B; Locus 530; Basket 2173: two valves partly filled with white plaster;

Area 31B; Locus 541; Basket 2202: four valves partly filled with white plaster;

Area 31B; Locus 542; Basket 2203: 12 valves;

Area 31B; Locus 544; Basket 2205: seven valves partly filled with white plaster containing several tiny specimens of the same bivalve species;

Area 31B; Locus 544; Basket 2209: 12 valves and two broken valves partly filled with white plaster;

Area 31B; Locus 544; Basket 2211: two valves;

Area 31B; Locus 544; Basket 2222: five valves, two damaged valves and one fragment of a ventral margin, most of all partly covered with white plaster;

Area 31B; Locus 544; Basket 2229: four valves, two umbonal fragments and two fragments of ventral margins;

Area 31B; Locus 544; Basket 2230: six valves and one umbonal fragment;

Area 31B; Locus 544; Basket 2235: two valves;

Area 31B; Locus 544; Basket 2241: two valve;

Area 31B; Locus 546; Basket 2221: four complete and one damaged valves;

Area 31B; Locus 546; Basket 2224: four valves;

Area 31B; Locus 548; Basket 2226: two valves;

Area 31B; Locus 548; Basket 2233: two valves and two umbonal fragments;

Area 31B; Locus 549; Basket 2227: four valves;

Area 31B; Locus 549; Basket 2236: six valves partly filled with plaster.

Family Cardiidae

Acanthocardia tuberculata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Area 31B; Locus 544; Basket 2235: one fragment.

DISCUSSION

Origin

The studied material consisted of shells which originated from two different areas. The land snails among them (*Pomatias olivieri* and *Helix engaddensis*) are still living in the immediate surroundings of the excavated building, while the marine gastropods (*Echinolittorina punctata* and *Nassarius pygmaeus*) and bivalves (*Glycymeris nummaria* and *Acanthocardia tuberculata*) are commonly found on the nearby beaches of the Mediterranean Sea.

Utilization

All the marine shells without any exception had probably been used as building material. A large proportion of the *Glycymeris* valves were still filled with a whitish plaster containing large sand grains, two small marine gastropods (*Echinolittorina punctata* and *Nassarius pygmaeus*) and a few tiny specimens of *Glycymeris nummaria*.

CONCLUSION

According to the preserved archaeomalacological material marine shells and sand collected from the Mediterranean beach had been exploited as building material at Shallale during the Early and Middle Roman period. The few land snails found during the excavation are probably natural intruders, most probably from more recent times.

REFERENCES

Mienis, H.K., 2009. A report concerning the shells from the excavation of H. Shallale. In S. Dar (Ed.): Shallale; Ancient City of Carmel. BAR International Series, 1897: 421-426.
