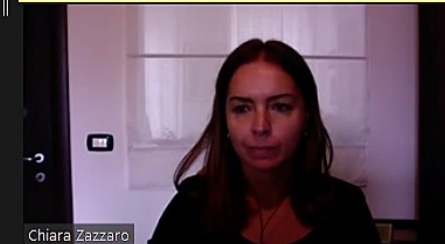




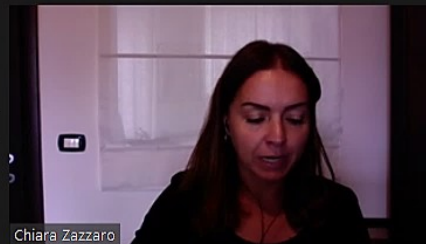
*Emplazamiento, infraestructura y organización de los puertos romanos*  
Irun (Gipuzkoa), 3-5 November 2021

# THE SITE AND THE PORT(S) OF ADULIS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN - INDIAN OCEAN TRADE

Chiara Zazzaro  
Università di Napoli "L'Orientale"



# Adulis in its regional context



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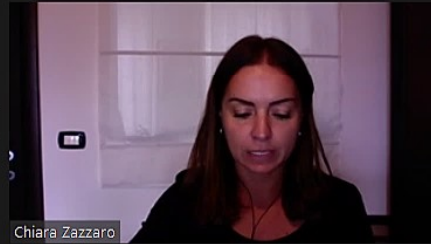
## Adulis in the written sources

“a legally limited port” ruled by King Zoscales “versed in Hellenic sciences” (PME)

“a fair sized village” some twenty stades (3.3 Km) from the sea (PME)

“a trading center used by the cave-dwellers (Troglodytes) and also by the Ethiopians” (Pliny, NH VI, 172)

.....the “harbour of the Adulitae”, 20 stades from Adulis and a journey of 12 days from Aksum, was the major port for journeys across the Red Sea (Procopius, *History of the War*, I, xix, 17-22)



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## Adulis in the written sources: the imported products

**Plinius the Elder**  
**1st c AD**

- Obsidian
- Ivory
- Rhinoceros horns
- Hippopotamus hides
- Tortoise shells
- Monkeys
- Slaves

**Periplus Maris Erythraei**  
**1st c AD**

- Obsidian
- Ivory
- Rhinoceros horns

**Cosmas Indicopleustes**  
**6th c AD**

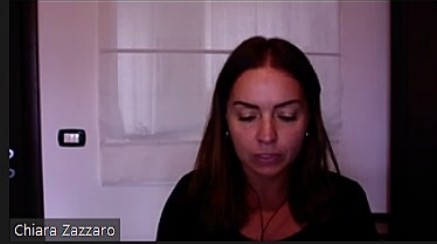
- Gold
- Ivory
- Animals
- Resins
- Emeralds
- Slaves

**Nonnosus and Philostorgius**  
**6th c AD**

- Gold
- Ivory
- Animals
- Resins



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## Adulis in the written sources: the exported products

***Periplus Maris Erythraei***  
**1st c AD**

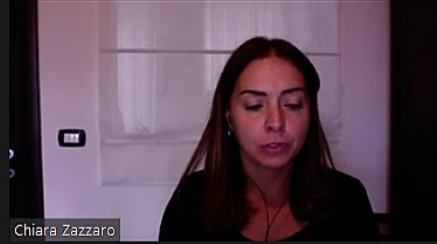
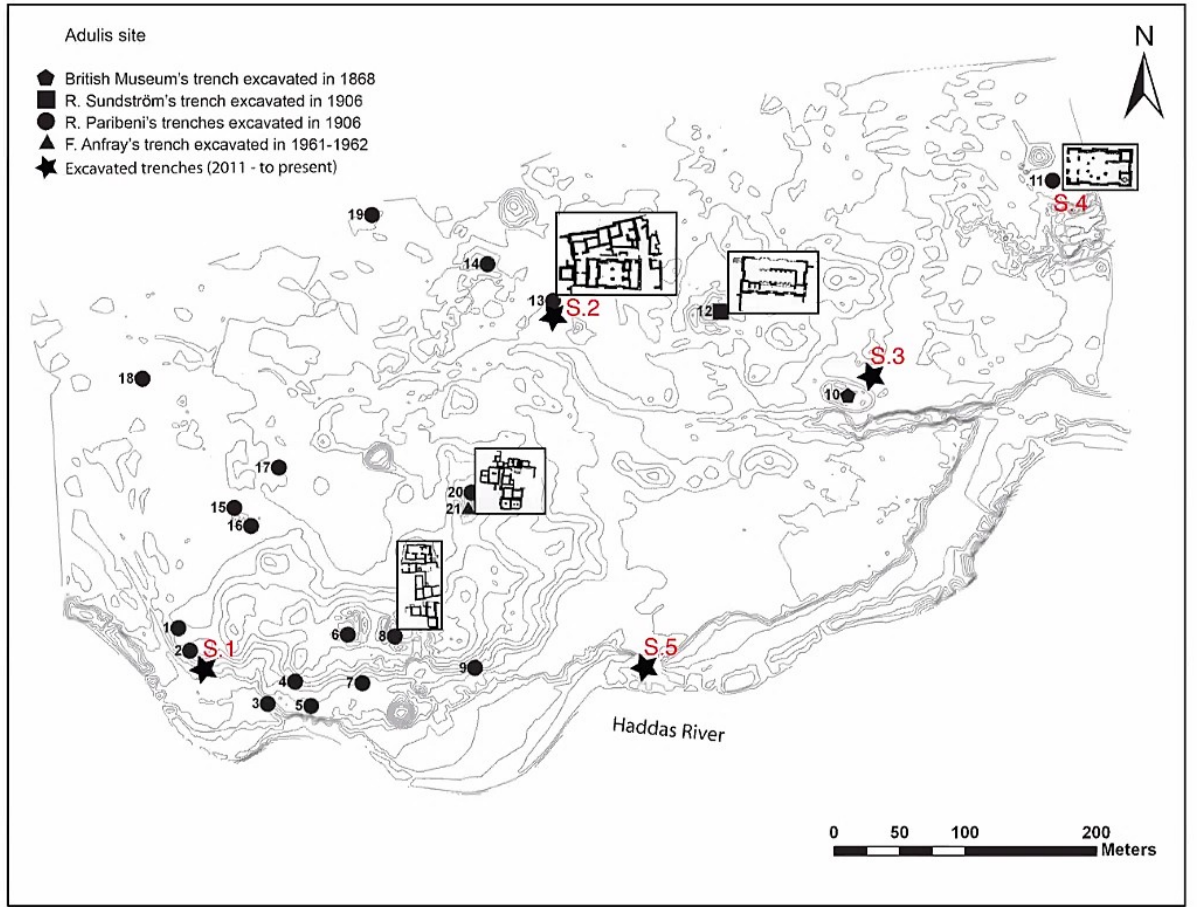
Egyptian textiles  
Glass  
Copper  
Metal vessels  
Iron  
Iron tools  
Roman coins  
Wine  
Olive oil

***Nonnosus and Philostorgius***  
**6th c AD**

Sandal wood  
  
Silk



# History of the studies at Adulis



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# The 2004 survey of SOTON

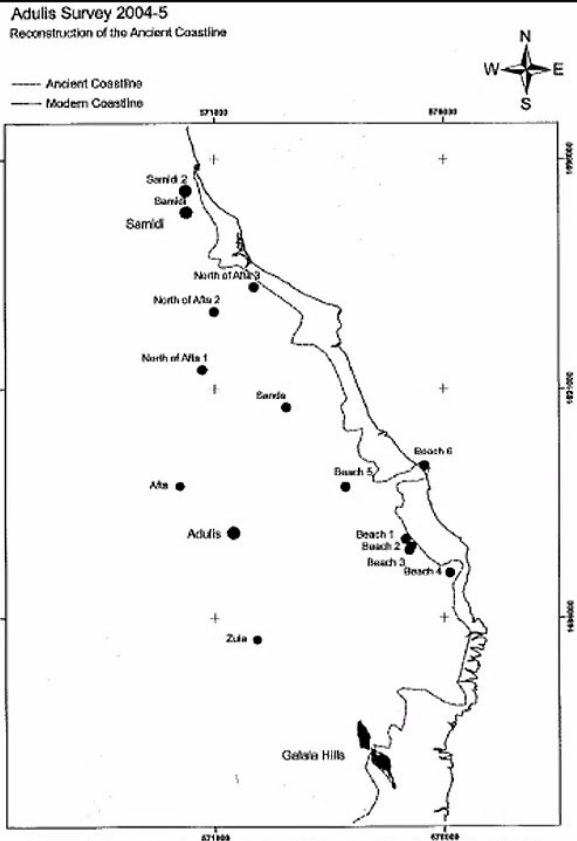


Figure 5.2 The ancient shoreline showing the location of beach and other deposits

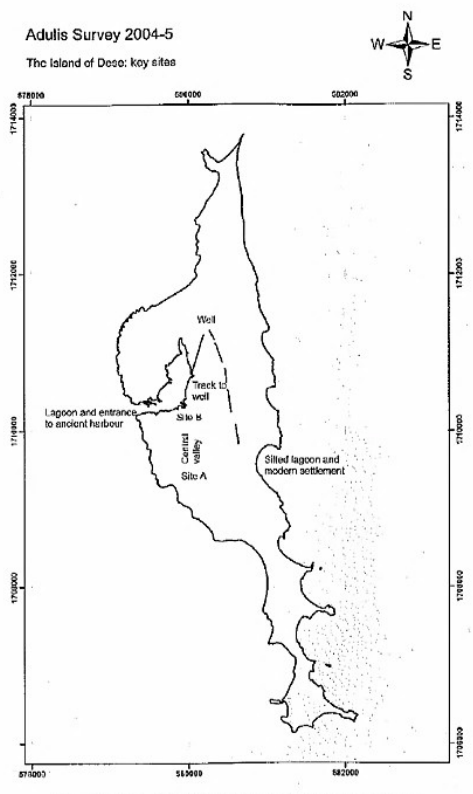


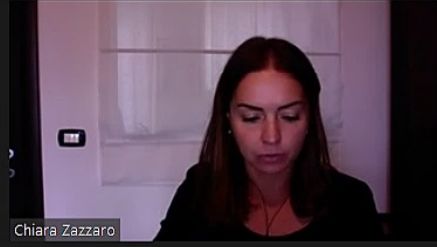
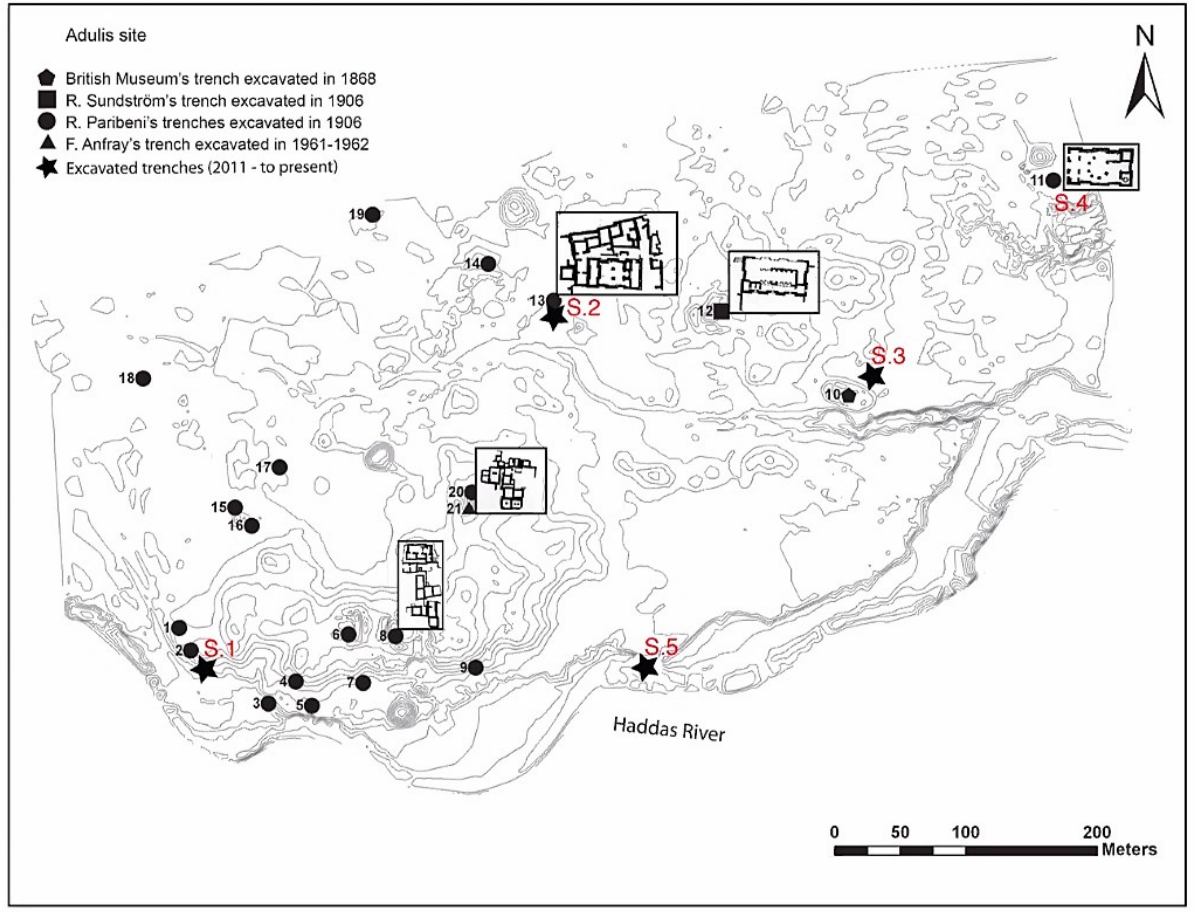
Figure 6.3 Map of Deso showing localities mentioned in the text



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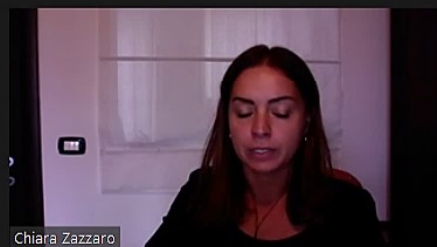
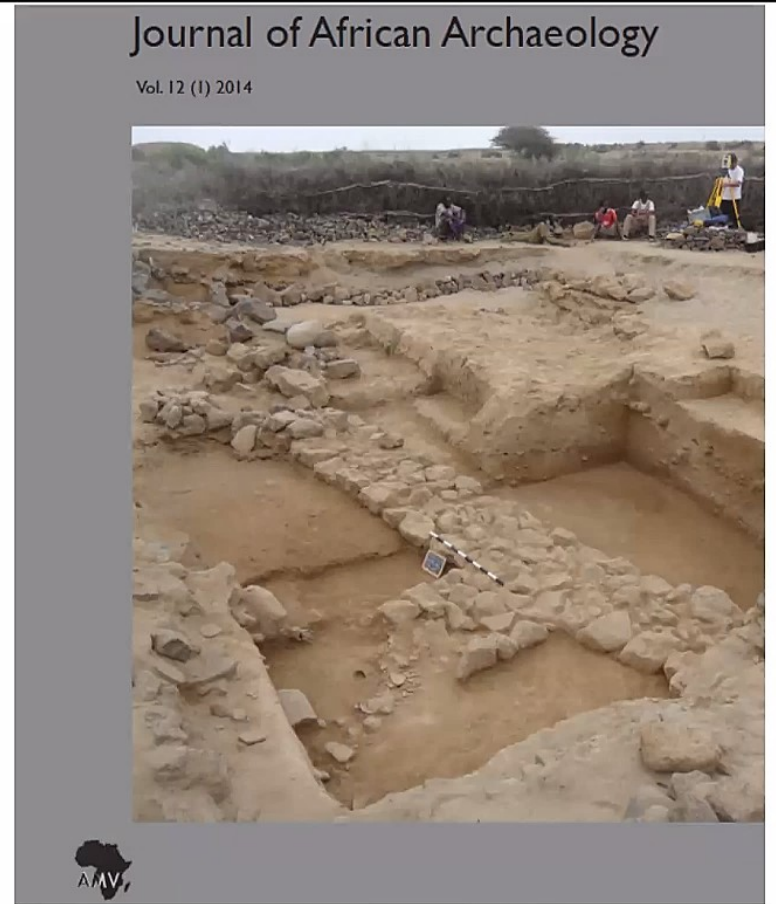
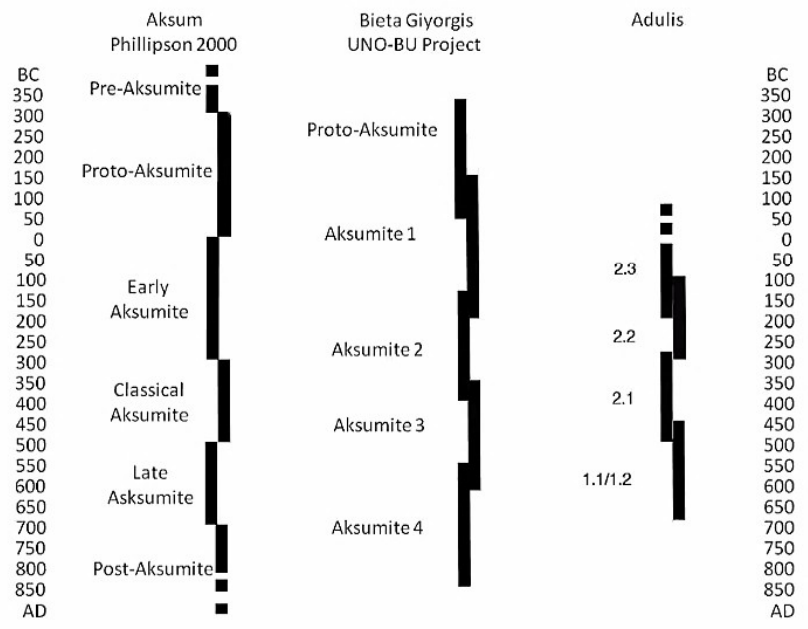
# Recent investigations at Adulis



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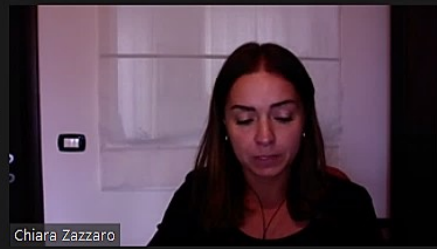
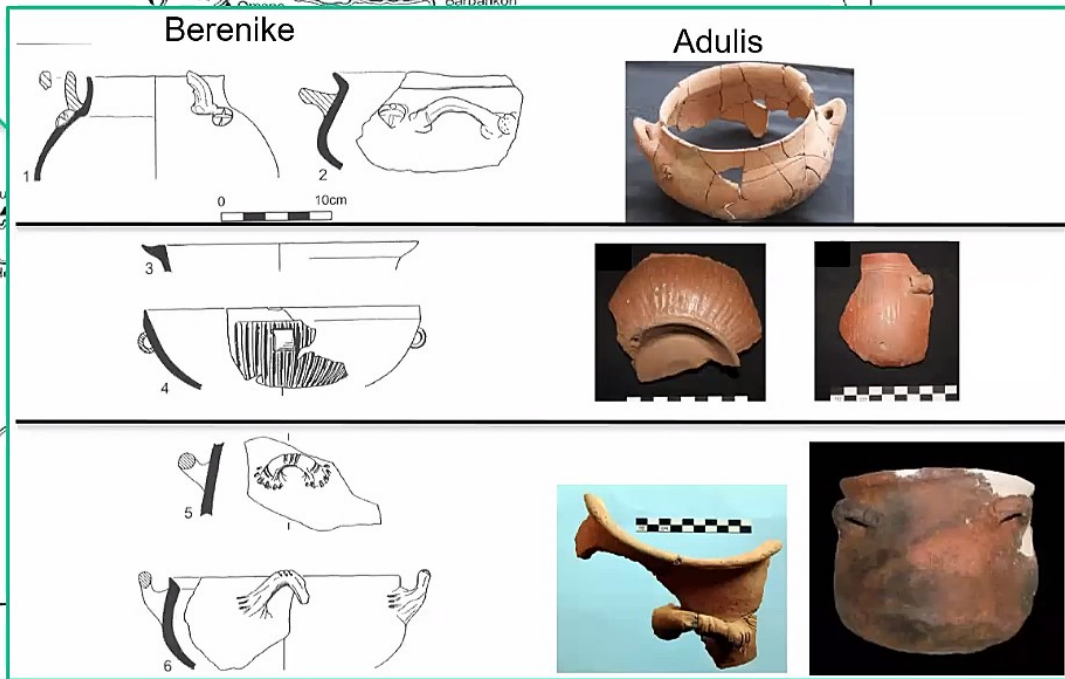
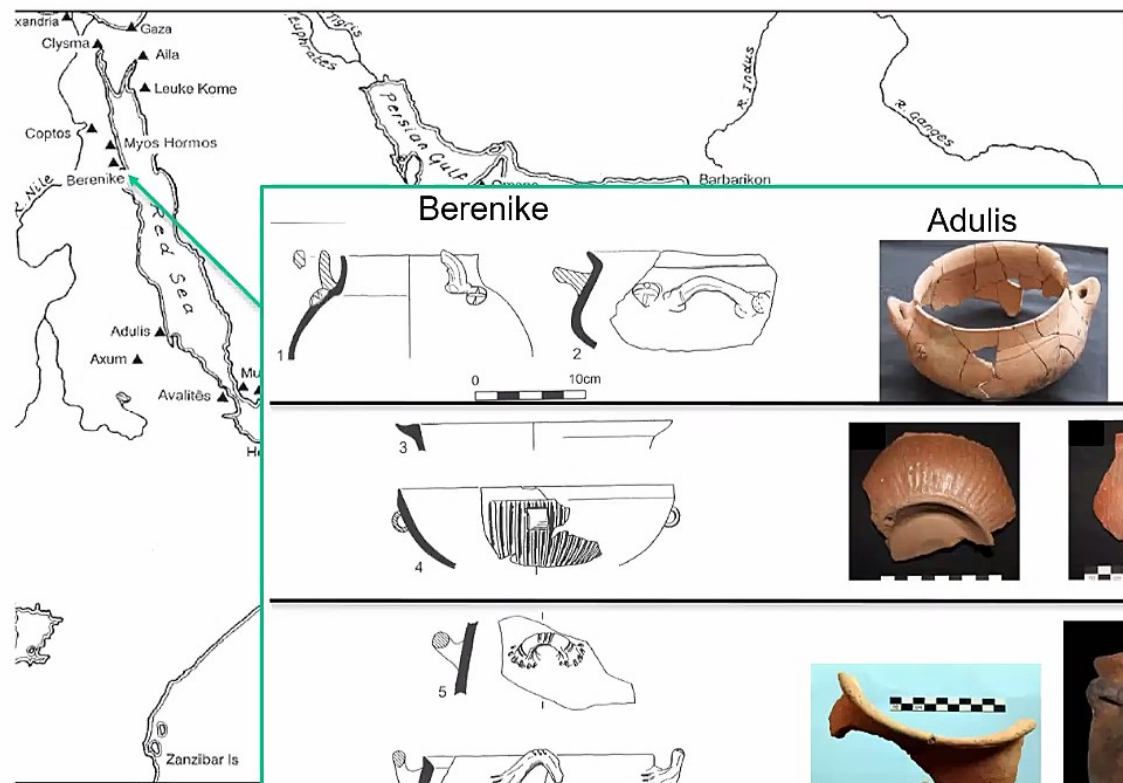


# The chronology of Adulis



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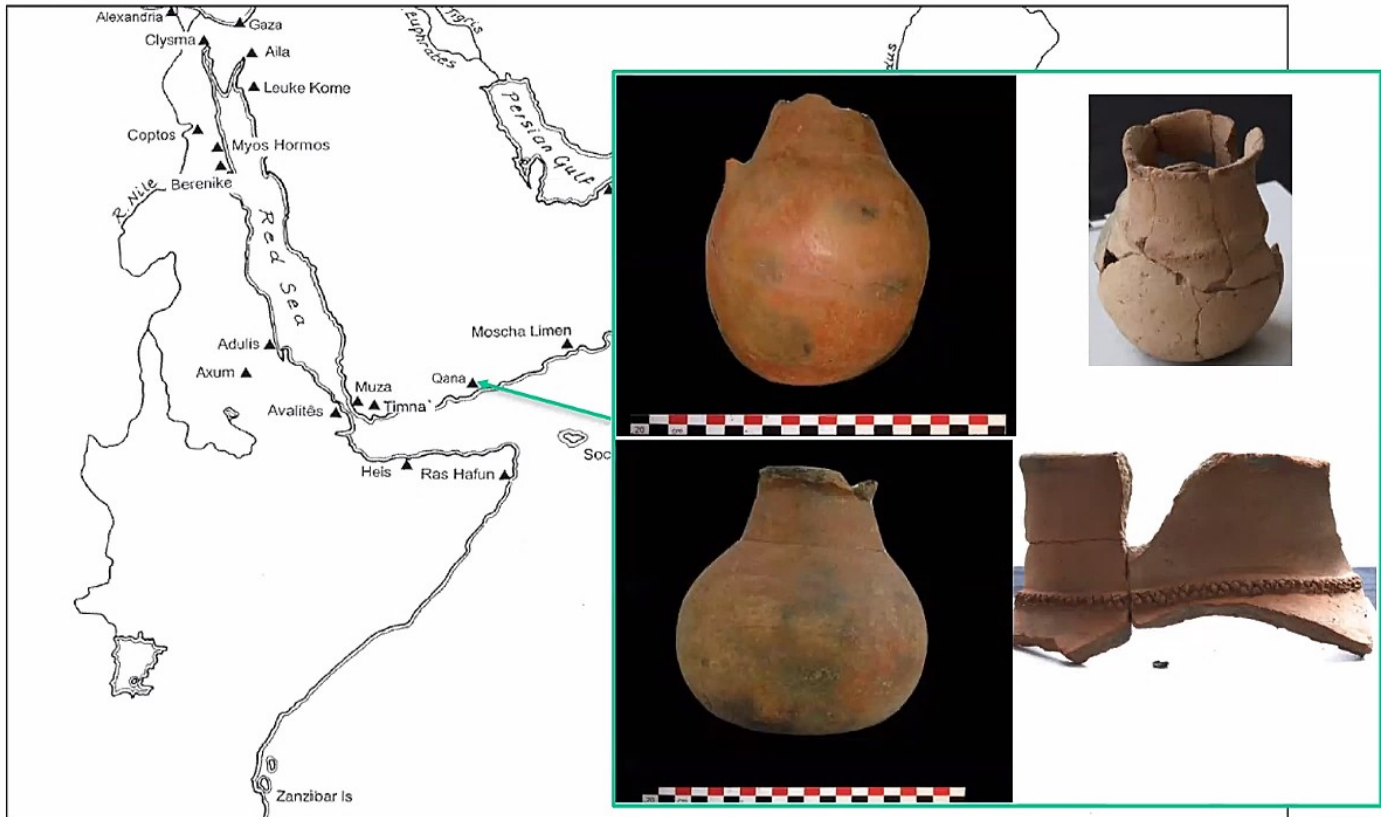
# Local pottery



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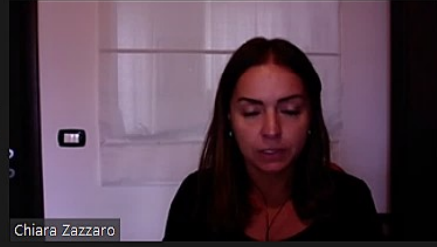
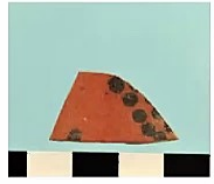
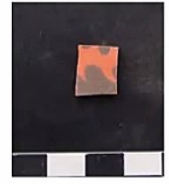
# Local pottery



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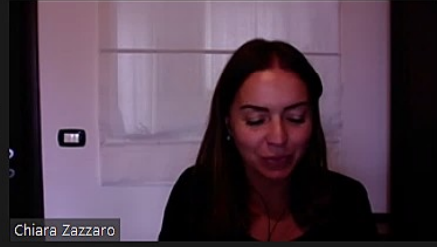
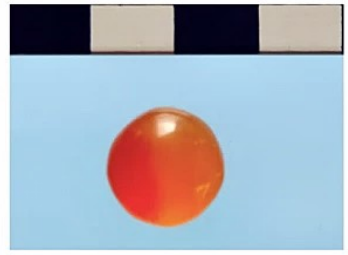
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# Imported pottery



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### Other imported finds



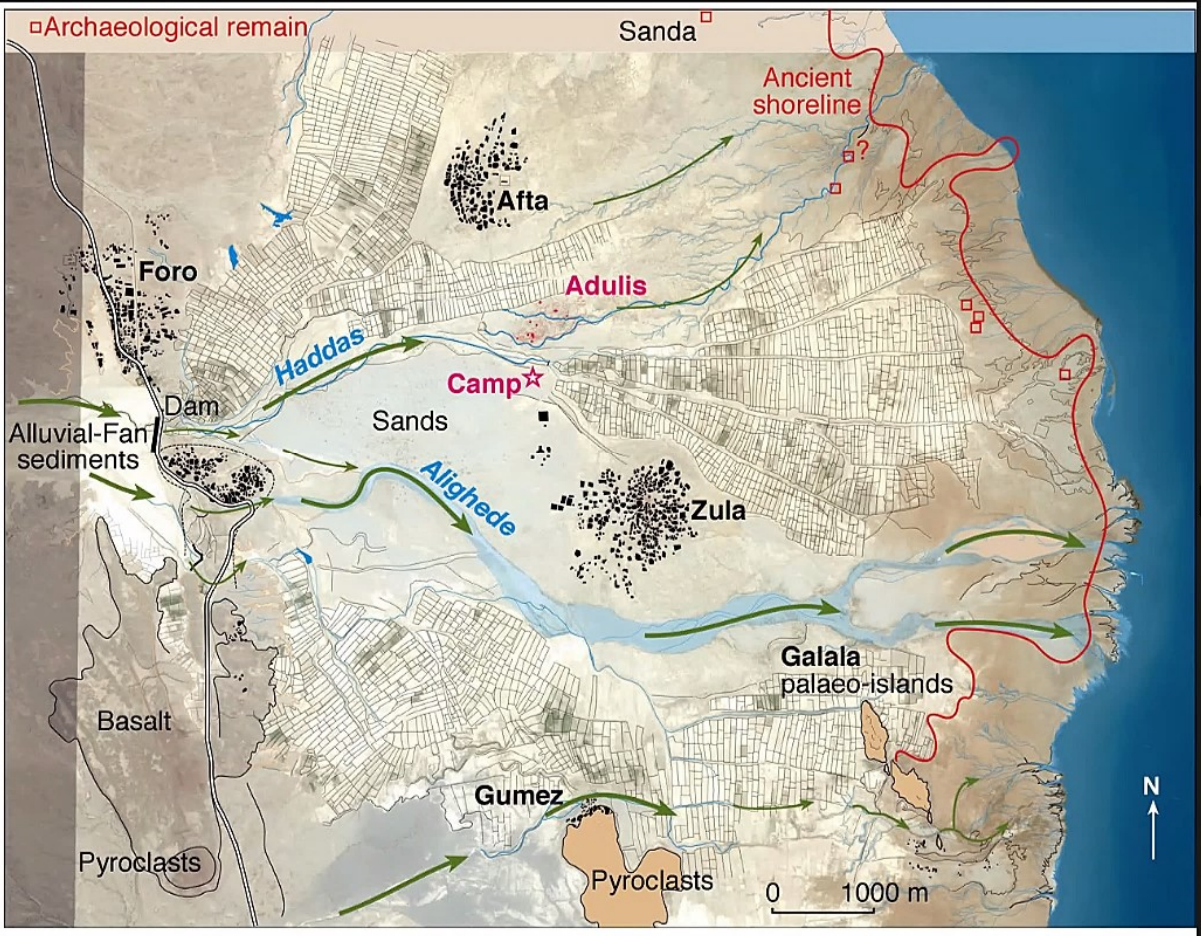
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### Other local products



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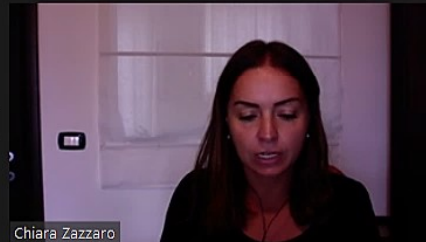
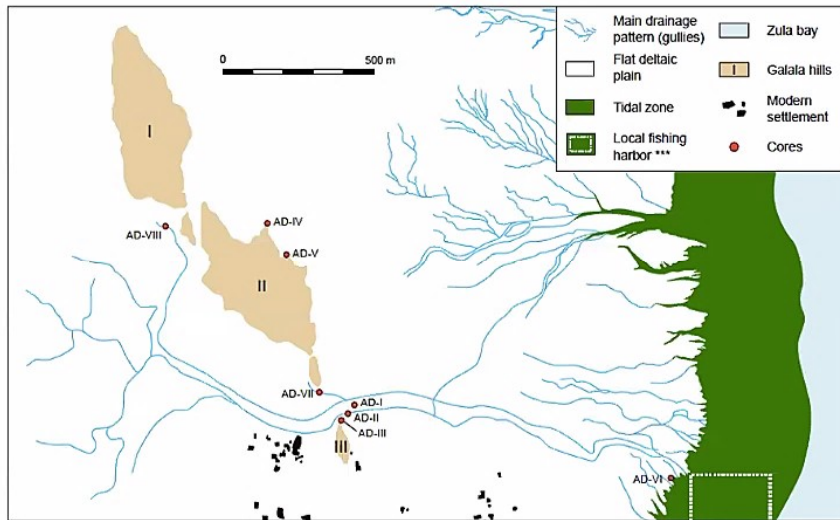
# The port(s) of Adulis



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[...] ships with cargo bound for Adulis had previously moored at “Diodorus Island”, connected to the mainland by a causeway, but that attacks on the port from local *barbaroi* had forced ships seek an alternative anchorage offshore at the island of “Oreiné” [...] (PME)

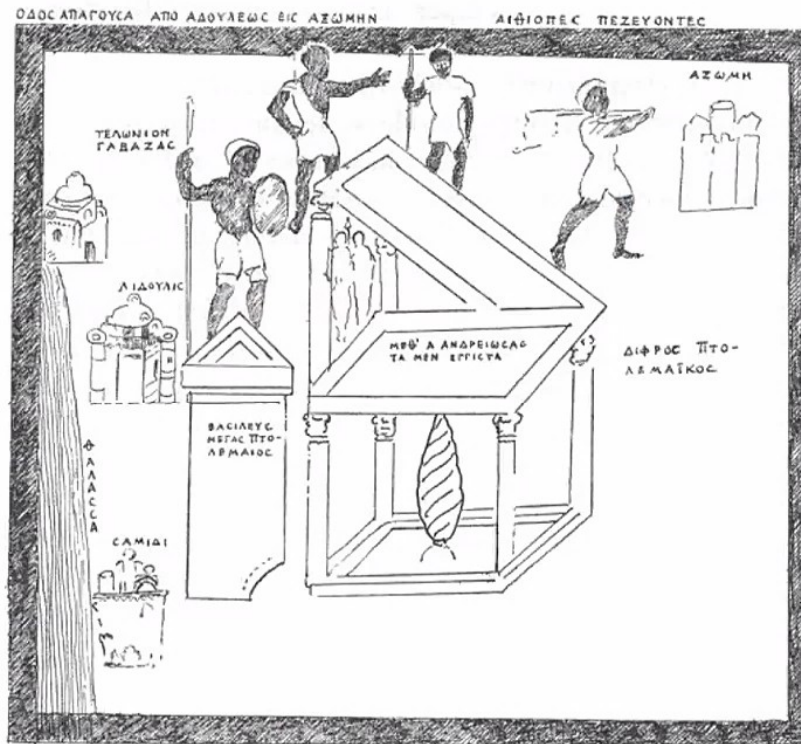


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The 6<sup>th</sup> century *Martyrdom of Saint Arethas* relates that King Kaleb of Aksum amassed a fleet of some sixty ships at Gabaza, ten of which were made locally.

Procopius mentions sewn boats, used by Indians and the Aethiopians (*History of the War*, I, xix, 17-22).



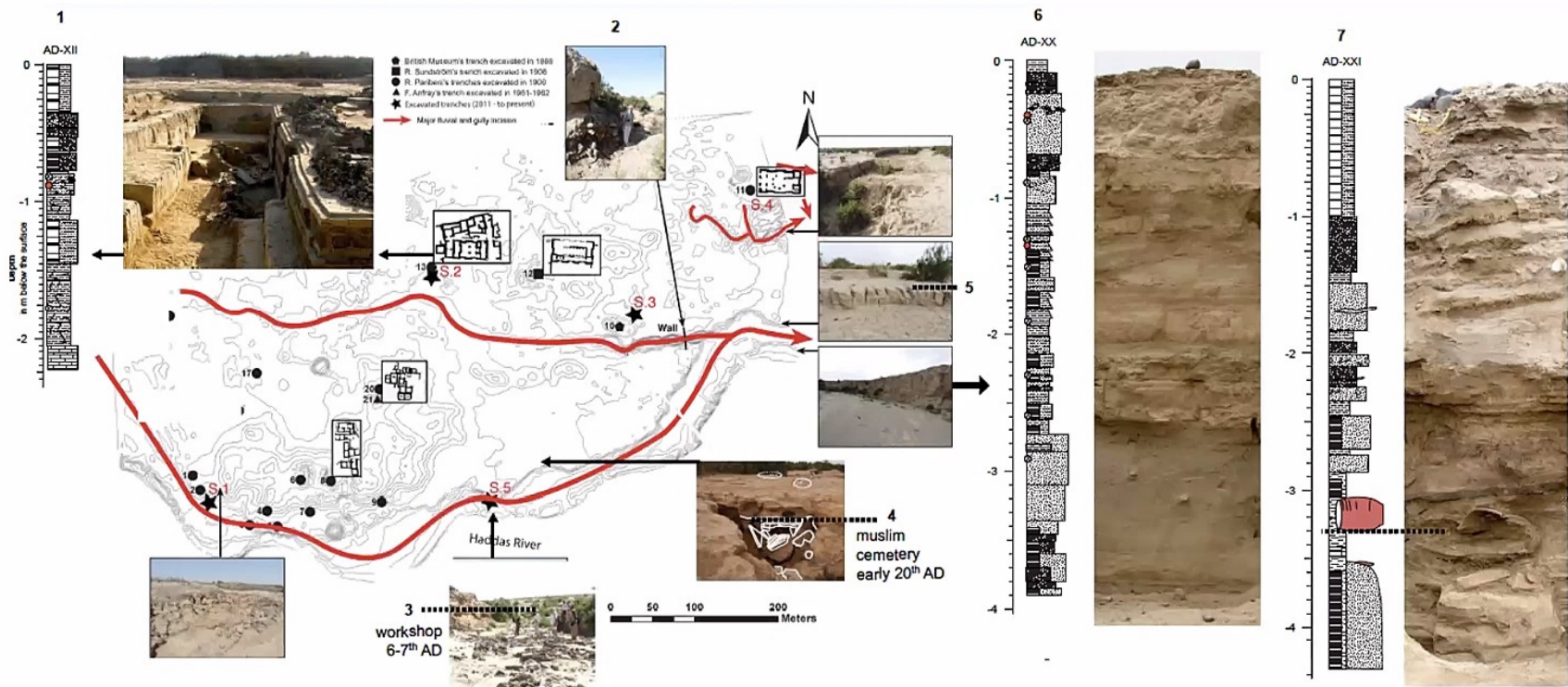
Cosmas Indicopleustes (inizio VI sec. d. C.)

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# The sedimentation of Adulis



## The Galala hills



# The Dahlak islands



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