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4 **Submerged and reused: an archaeometric approach to the Early Modern**  
5 **ceramics from Aveiro (Portugal)**

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20 Aveiro, a city located in northern Portugal that lies next to the Atlantic Ocean, has a  
21 long potting tradition. Indeed, during the 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries, this region played an  
22 important role in the maritime trade between the north of Europe, the Iberian  
23 Peninsula and the Atlantic. Historical records reflect regular trade contacts  
24 between ship-owners and masters of Aveiro with English, Irish, Flemish, Galician  
25 and Basque entrepreneurs, in Europe and overseas.

26 The archaeological research carried out on the Ria de Aveiro A (RAVA)  
27 shipwreck collection (16<sup>th</sup> - beginning 17<sup>th</sup> centuries), revealed a large amount of  
28 ceramics as cargo, tentatively produced in Aveiro Region. That was compared to a  
29 collection from *Santo António* church, in Aveiro, which includes ceramics used to fill  
30 the upper choir dome, with an exact chronology (1524), also manufactured in Aveiro.  
31 Such set of pottery enabled the establishment of a typology divided in three groups,  
32 used in everyday life at that time in Aveiro (tableware, long-distance storage and  
33 transportation and sugar moulds) and combining red and black pastes and shiny and  
34 matte black finished surfaces.

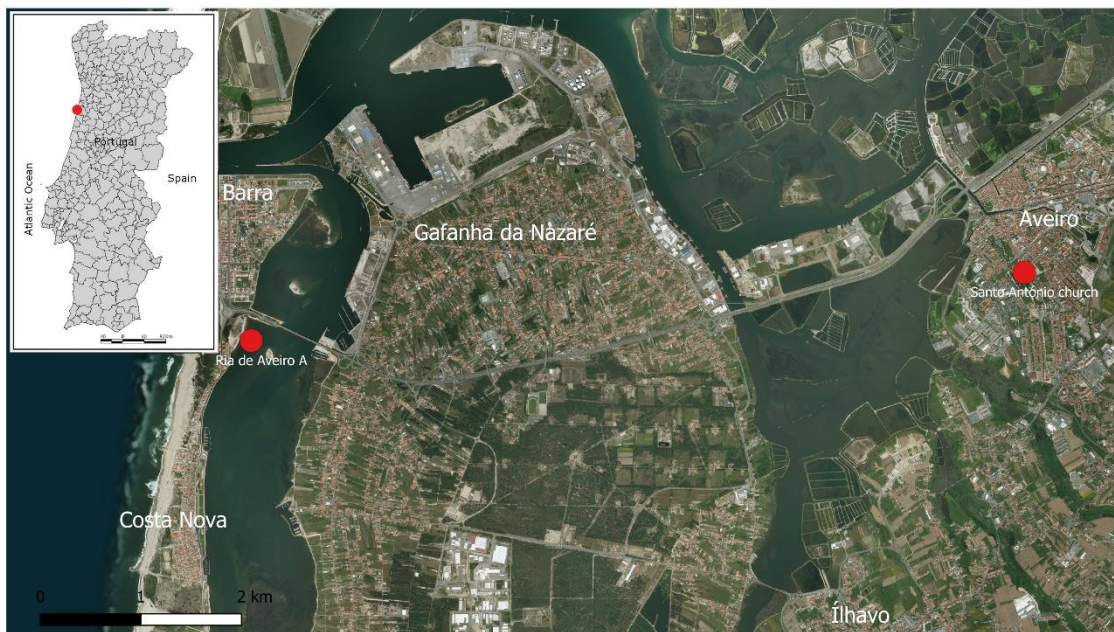
35 With a view to characterize and to assess the provenance of local or regional origin of  
36 this Post-Medieval pottery assemblage from the two sites, an archaeometric approach  
37 of 25 unglazed ceramics showing red and black pastes has been performed. In this way,  
38 chemical and mineralogical analyses have been carried out by Inductively Coupled  
39 Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) and X-Ray Diffraction (XRD), and microstructural  
40 analysis by Scanning Electron Microscopy-Energy Dispersive Spectrometry (SEM-EDS)  
41 analytical techniques. The results show that ceramics from RAVA have a compatible  
42 chemical fingerprint with those from the church, forming the A-1 local production

43 reference group. Moreover, the A-1 reference group has been further assessed by  
44 comparing against the main reference groups from the Iberian Peninsula.

45 Keywords: pottery; Aveiro; shipwreck; archaeometric; ICP-MS; DRX; SEM-EDS

## 46 1. Introduction

47 Aveiro, a city located in the west of the Iberian Peninsula, in Portugal, lies next to a  
48 large lagoon area called Ria de Aveiro (Figure 1). Separated from the Atlantic Ocean  
49 by a line of dunes more than 50 km long, the lagoon influenced the life of the  
50 inhabitants from Medieval times to the Early Modern age; and settlements, which  
51 were strongly related to maritime activities and trading, combined agriculture with salt  
52 production and fishing. As a consequence, it became an important maritime port.  
53 Moreover, these economic activities -often seasonal and complementary- marked  
54 the landscape of the lagoon (Alves et al., 2001; Amorim, 2011; Carvalho et al., 2014).



55

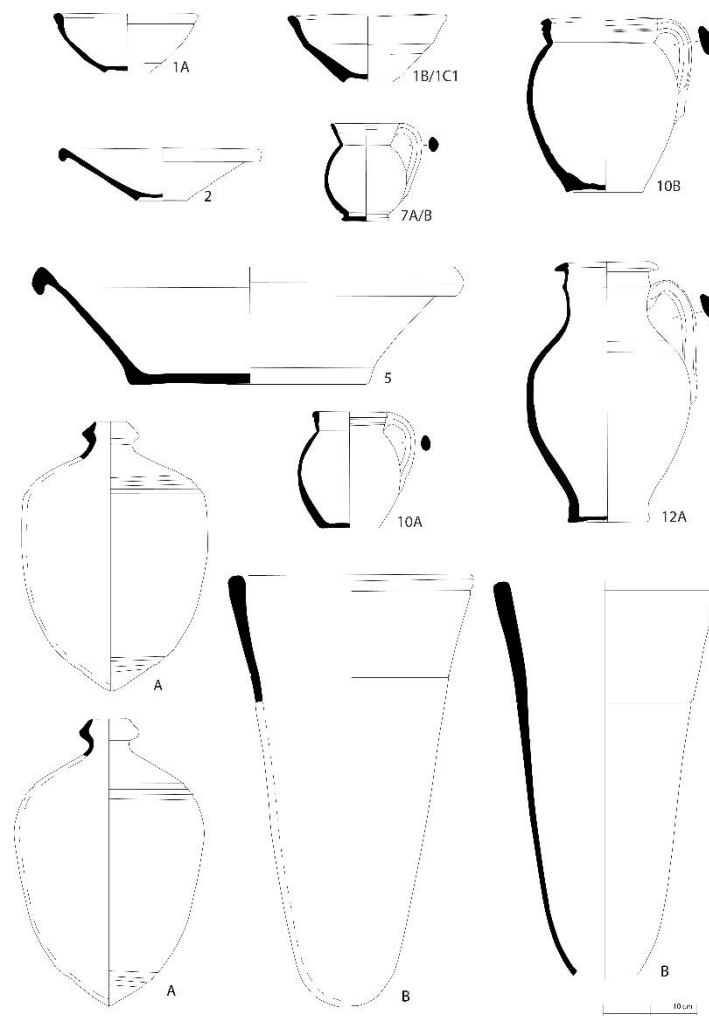
56 **Figure 1.** The location of Aveiro in the map of Portugal (red circle) and the location of Ria de  
57 Aveiro A (RAVA) and *Santo António* church in the principal map (red circles).

58 Nevertheless, Aveiro not only was famous because of its maritime activities and  
59 trading; the city was, and nowadays still is, a traditional ceramic production region,  
60 with high variety and availability of clay reserves. The chemical and mineralogical  
61 properties of these clays led to their use as a raw material for the ceramic  
62 manufacturing. Pottery production increased in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, due to the  
63 growth of the city and the maritime trade, which demanded pottery to supply ships  
64 and commerce (Barbosa et al., 2009; Bettencourt and Carvalho, 2007-2008;  
65 Carvalho and Bettencourt, 2012).

66 Aveiro featured both red and black coarsewares, showing similar paste features. The  
67 red ware assemblage, fired in an oxidising environment, is composed of pieces of an  
68 orangey to red colours, with darker grey surfaces. Many exemplars have different  
69 shades and even black stains on the outer surfaces as a result of variations in the  
70 firing environment and kiln temperature. A small percentage of the assemblage is  
71 represented by black vessels, fired in a reductive environment, with pastes of grey  
72 and black tones, sometimes with a visible metallic shine. The macro-visual

73 observation revealed a very fine and hard paste, and the two groups show the same  
74 inclusions: quartz and mica, fine to medium grained, well distributed throughout the  
75 matrix. Mica is more abundant, being very visible on the exterior surfaces. Most of  
76 the vessels may have received some surface treatments which consisted mainly on  
77 smoothing the surfaces, in some cases after the application of a slip of the same  
78 colour as the paste, but slightly darker (Bettencourt and Carvalho, 2007-2008;  
79 Carvalho and Bettencourt, 2012).

80 Those ceramics can be classified in different groups, such as for domestic use, like  
81 tableware (e.g. cups, bowls, jars), kitchenware (cooking pots) and personal hygiene  
82 (bacins); long-distance storage and transportation (e.g. olive jars); and sugar moulds  
83 (*formas de açúcar*) (Figure 2).



84

85 **Figure 2.** Main pottery forms: A – olive jars; B – sugar moulds; 1A/1B/1C – bowls; 2 – plate; 5 –  
86 basins; 7A/B – mugs; 10A/B – cooking pots; 12A – jar.

87 Sugar moulds were essential for the sugar production process. They are conical  
88 moulds, with a hole in their top. Nowadays, it is common to find discarded pieces as  
89 a constituent element of the wall of the old buildings in the old town of the city  
90 (Bettencourt and Carvalho, 2007-2008; Morgado et al., 2012). In recent years, sugar  
91 moulds, as well as pottery with different typologies from Aveiro, have been identified  
92 in international locations. According to Silva (2018), Aveiro was, probably, since the  
93 16<sup>th</sup> century, the main producer and supplier of sugar moulds in the sugar production  
94 areas of the Kingdom of Portugal, such as Madeira, Azores, Cape Verde and had a

95 strong impact in other markets like Canaries. Ceramics from Aveiro were also found  
96 in England and Newfoundland. All these facts are evidence of the Atlantic and  
97 transatlantic trade flows during the Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern Periods.  
98 Portugal was certainly a major consumer of English-caught Newfoundland cod  
99 (Bettencourt and Carvalho, 2007-2008; Carvalho and Bettencourt, 2012; Newstead,  
100 2014; Silva, 2018).

101 On the other hand, the traditional salt production in the region is well known since  
102 the 10<sup>th</sup> century and the production was increased after the 13<sup>th</sup> century, due to the  
103 constant salinity levels of the lagoon water as well as the favourable landscape and  
104 environmental conditions. In fact, several maps show the salt production locations in  
105 the lagoon, such as the map made by the Dutch cartographer Lucas Janszoon  
106 Waghenaer in 1584 (Figure 3). In this way, Aveiro also played an important role in  
107 the supply of salt since the Middle Ages, not only to North-western Europe (England,  
108 the Low Countries, Finland and Sweden), but also to the north of Spain, in particular  
109 Galicia and Asturias, as well as to the Dutch market, during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries  
110 (Amorim, 2019; Antunes, 2008a). Salt was used in manufacturing and preservation  
111 of food and hides. Fishing and other activities were heavily dependent on this by-  
112 product of the sea (Antunes, 2008b).

113



114

115 **Figure 3.** Sea map of Portugal made by the Dutch cartographer Lucas Janszoon  
116 Waghenaer in 1584. The salt production centers of Aveiro could be seen in the fourth  
117 river starting to the left. [Title: *Gedaente en vodoeninge vant Landt van Portugal*; from: *Mariner's*  
118 *Mirror (T'eerste deel vande Spieghel der zeevaerdt, van de navigatie der Westersche zee,*  
119 *innehoudende alle de custen van Vranckrijk, Spaingen ende 't principaelste deel van Engelandt,*  
120 *in diversche zee caerten begrepen*", Leiden, Christoffel Plantijn, 1584). Source: University of Texas  
121 at Arlington Libraries].

122 The Atlantic distribution of the Aveiro ceramics is documented, in addition to the  
123 discovery of Aveiro wares in other localities, thanks to a diverse underwater  
124 archaeological record, with nearly a dozen archaeological sites (Carvalho et al.,  
125 2014). Some of the examples belong to the archaeological sites called Ria de Aveiro

126 A, B and C. In the two latter places, a large assemblage of Aveiro ceramics as well  
127 as several artefacts related to maritime activities were discovered, suggesting that  
128 Aveiro was connected to the routes with the North and the South of Europe since the  
129 Middle Ages (Bettencourt, 2009; Carvalho et al., 2014). Moreover, the former case,  
130 in which this work will focus on, corresponds to a shipwreck. Ria de Aveiro A (RAVA)  
131 was discovered in the Aveiro lagoon (Ílhavo) in 1992. The site preserved the aft end  
132 of a small wooden vessel, ca. 18-meter-long ship of Ibero-Atlantic tradition, which  
133 transported a coarseware cargo. The cargo was located in the hold of the ship, and  
134 the ceramics were protected by a dunnage “mattress” about 200 mm thick, made of  
135 interwoven sticks, undergrowth, straw, mats and pine needles (Alves et al., 2001).  
136 Carbon-14 analysis conducted at an initial research stage, attributed the context to a  
137 chronology from mid-15<sup>th</sup> century (Alves et al., 2001), but the excavation and study  
138 of the ceramic cargo indicates a more recent date, from early modern period, 16<sup>th</sup> or  
139 beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries (Carvalho and Bettencourt, 2012). RAVA was  
140 interpreted as containing a local ceramics cargo destined to be sold in markets  
141 outside the lagoon, but the final destination could not been defined. The size of the  
142 cargo and the archaeological context suggest, however, a port located in Portugal as  
143 the most probable destination (Bettencourt and Carvalho, 2007-2008).

144 The large number of recovered ceramic pieces allowed the establishment of a  
145 typology with the shapes used in everyday life at that time. Some big ceramics, such  
146 as large pots, were carrying smaller pots inside them. Similar ceramics were found  
147 in Portugal, particularly in the North (Viana do Castelo, Porto, Coimbra), but also in  
148 the Atlantic, in places like Azores, Madeira, Newfoundland, in sites related to  
149 seasonal fishing settlement, or on England contexts (Alves et al., 2001; Bettencourt  
150 and Carvalho, 2007-2008; Carvalho and Bettencourt, 2012). It should also be noted  
151 that several pieces of evidence indicative of a fire on board were documented. These  
152 are visible in a set of ceramics, which are burnt, deformed and vitrified (Carvalho and  
153 Bettencourt, 2012). Since the ceramics were located in the hold of the ship and they  
154 were protected, the firing environment produced around the ceramics could have  
155 been a reducing environment.

156 The present work also focuses on the ceramics recovered in a terrestrial  
157 environment, specifically in the filling of the upper choir dome of *Santo António*  
158 church in Aveiro. It is estimated to have around 90 pieces of different typologies. The  
159 primitive Franciscan convent of *Santo António*, of which only the church and part of  
160 the cloister remains, was founded in 1524. It was classified as a National Monument.  
161 The use of ceramics in the construction of domes is a peculiar technique of remote  
162 origin, probably Roman, which was developed in the Christian Medieval Era. After  
163 cleaning the surface remains, it was discovered that the ceramics were methodically  
164 placed and surrounded by very fine and loose clay soil. The conditions and context  
165 of finding, allowed to assign this lot to a precise chronology (1524). As many of them  
166 had manufacturing defects, it is generally assumed that ceramics reused in these  
167 contexts were of local production. There was a predominance of red and unglazed  
168 earthenware, although some big black cooking pots were also recovered. In addition  
169 to the assemblage of household ceramics and sugar moulds already well known in  
170 Aveiro, the finding of a group of several olive jars (*anforetas/botijas*) was remarkable  
171 because they constituted the main part of the retrieved collection in the church. One  
172 of the most characteristic aspects of the olive jars is the distinctive exterior surface  
173 treatment by the white slip. This slip is not uniform and does not cover the entire  
174 pieces (Silva, 2018).

175 Regarding the archaeometric analyses of the ceramic materials from Aveiro and  
176 surroundings, few studies have been carried out. Among them, the archaeometric  
177 investigation by Alves and collaborators (1998), concerning the ceramics recovered  
178 in the ship of Ria de Aveiro A, should be noted. In their research, Alves and  
179 colleagues catalogued those ceramics as local products after comparing them with  
180 the ceramics recovered in *Bairro das Olarias* (Aveiro) and *Casa do Infante* (Porto) by  
181 means of X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF). The authors additionally have identified, by  
182 XRD, the iron oxide as the common colouring agent, giving different colours (red,  
183 brown, grey and black) depending on the oxidation state of the iron. Other relevant  
184 study includes the one carried out by Sousa and collaborators (2005). Sousa and  
185 colleagues characterized sugar moulds exhumed in Machico (Madeira Island)  
186 concluding that these ceramics could have been produced in Aveiro. Additionally,  
187 Vieira and collaborators (2013) compared the spectroscopic data obtained by  
188 different techniques, such as micro-Raman, from Portuguese faience production  
189 from *Mata da Machada* (South of Lisbon) and tin-lead glazed shards found in a  
190 medieval house in Aveiro. The obtained results indicate a similarity in the micro-  
191 Raman spectrum in their glaze and clays (Vieira et. al., 2013). Recently, Iñáñez and  
192 collaborators (2020) suggested a probable Aveiro provenance for two unglazed red  
193 pots recovered in the shipwreck Angra D (Terceira Island, Azores archipelago), after  
194 their archaeometric study.

195 With a view to characterize and to assess the provenance of local or regional origin  
196 of the Post-Medieval pottery assemblage, an archaeometric approach of 25 unglazed  
197 ceramics from RAVA and the church showing red or black pastes has been  
198 performed. In this way, chemical, mineralogical and microstructural analysis by  
199 Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS), X-Ray Diffraction (XRD)  
200 and Scanning Electron Microscopy coupled to an energy dispersive X-ray analyzer  
201 (SEM-EDS) have been carried out. Moreover, their provenance has been further  
202 assessed by comparing them with well-known archaeometric reference groups from  
203 the main production centres of the Iberian Peninsula (Buxeda i Garrigós et al., 2015;  
204 Calparsoro et al., 2019; Iñáñez et al., 2008; Iñáñez et al., 2009; Sanchez-Garmendia  
205 et al., 2020) shedding light on the local consumption patterns and Atlantic and  
206 transatlantic trade during the Medieval, Post-Medieval and Modern Periods.

207

## 208 2. Materials and methods

209

### 210 2.1. The ceramic wares

211

212 The group of household ceramics (AVR001, AVR002, AVR003, AVR004,  
213 AVR005, AVR006, AVR007, AVR008, AVR009, AVR010, AVR011, AVR012,  
214 AVR013, AVR014, AVR015, AVR016, AVR022, AVR023, AVR024, AVR025 and  
215 AVR026) corresponds to red and black unglazed pottery production, and all  
216 ceramics are wheel-made evidenced by concentric marks and lines in their  
217 surfaces (Figure 4). There is a predominance of red earthenware, with variations  
218 in the colour of the pastes between red-orange and beige. The pastes of this red  
219 earthenware are compact, medium hard and with laminar aspect, either purified  
220 or with the inclusion of small and medium non-plastic elements (essentially  
221 quartz, calcite and mica), well distributed throughout the matrix. The black pastes  
222 are similar to the previous ones, distinguished only by the reducing cooking

223 environment. Among these ceramics, AVR003 and AVR005 are the most  
224 uncommon ceramics. The former shows a two-coloured surface and a black  
225 paste, whereas the latter is composed by two ceramic shards stuck together  
226 (Figure 4). Additionally, there are three pieces of sugar moulds (AVR018,  
227 AVR019 and AVR020) (Figure 4). These are distinguished by compact pastes, a  
228 sandy texture, light orange colour and little purification, with poorly distributed  
229 abundant small-medium non-plastic elements (like quartz grains, mica and small,  
230 dark-coloured ferruginous particles) and their surfaces are black matte. Finally,  
231 the specific group of containers intended for long-distance storage and  
232 transportation is formed by an olive jar (AVR017) (Figure 4). The orange, fine and  
233 purified paste differentiates the manufacture of the olive jars. Its surface is not  
234 glazed; however, it shows the distinctive exterior surface treatment by the white  
235 slip.

236 The finish of some black ceramics of this assemblage is also worthy of note: four  
237 ceramics show a black shiny metallic surface (AVR003, AVR005, AVR015 and  
238 AVR016), whereas eight show a black matte one (AVR001, AVR002, AVR012,  
239 AVR018, AVR019, AVR020, AVR022 and AVR025) (Figure 4). Regarding the  
240 evidence of the firing produced in the ship, AVR005 seems to be totally burnt,  
241 showing black pastes and vitrified surfaces. Another shard showing evidence of  
242 fire on its surfaces is AVR013. This information is summarized in Table 1.

243



244

245

246

**Figure 4.** 25 unglazed red and black pieces unearthed in Ria de Aveiro A and in *Santo António* church, showing red and black pastes and surfaces.

ANID	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	FORM	PASTE	SURFACE
AVR001	RAVA	Basin ( <i>alguidar</i> )	Beige	Black matte
AVR002	RAVA	Basin ( <i>alguidar</i> )	Black	Black matte
AVR003	RAVA	Plate ( <i>prato</i> )	Black	Shiny black and beige
AVR004	RAVA	Mug ( <i>púcaro</i> )	Beige	Beige
AVR005	RAVA	Storage jar ( <i>talha</i> )	Black	Shiny black
AVR006	RAVA	Bowl ( <i>tigela</i> )	Red	Red
AVR007	RAVA	Bowl ( <i>tigela</i> )	Red	Red
AVR008	RAVA	Basin ( <i>alguidar</i> )	Beige	Beige
AVR009	RAVA	Bowl ( <i>tigela</i> )	Beige	Beige
AVR010	RAVA	Mug ( <i>púcaro</i> )	Red	Red



AVR011	RAVA	Mug ( <i>púcaro</i> )	Red	Red
AVR012	RAVA	Jar ( <i>cântaro</i> )	Red	Black matte
AVR013	RAVA	Basin ( <i>alguidar</i> )	Red	Red and black matte
AVR014	RAVA	Basin ( <i>alguidar</i> )	Red	Red
AVR015	RAVA	Plate ( <i>prato</i> )	Black	Shiny black
AVR016	RAVA	Plate ( <i>prato</i> )	Dark red	Shiny black
AVR017	Church	Olive jar ( <i>anforeta/botija</i> )	Red	White
AVR018	Church	Sugar mould ( <i>forma de açúcar</i> )	Red	Black matte
AVR019	Church	Sugar mould ( <i>forma de açúcar</i> )	Red	Black matte
AVR020	Church	Sugar mould ( <i>forma de açúcar</i> )	Red	Black matte
AVR022	Church	Cooking pot ( <i>panela</i> )	Red	Black matte
AVR023	Church	Bowl ( <i>tigela</i> )	Red	Red
AVR024	Church	Jar ( <i>cântaro</i> )	Red	Red
AVR025	Church	Jar ( <i>cântaro</i> )	Red	Black matte
AVR026	Church	Mug ( <i>púcaro</i> )	Red	Red

247 **Table 1.** Analytical Identification (ANID), archaeological site, form and the colour of the pastes  
248 and surfaces of the 25 ceramics from RAVA and *Santo António* church.

## 249 2.1. Methodology

250

251 The set of ceramics (n= 25) was characterized by a multi-analytical approach.  
252 Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) and X-Ray Diffraction  
253 (XRD) have been carried out for the chemical and mineralogical analyses. In  
254 addition, microstructural characterization, and assessment of the extent of  
255 vitrification, alterations and contaminations of a subsample out of the shards (n=  
256 16) have been also studied by Scanning Electron Microscopy-Energy Dispersive  
257 Spectrometry (SEM-EDS).

258

### 259 2.1.1. Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS)

260 These analyses were performed with a Nexion 300 ICP-MS (Perkin Elmer),  
261 provided with an Oneneb pneumatic concentric nebulizer, cyclonic spray  
262 chamber and standard nickel cones. Prior to the analyses, the ceramic shards  
263 followed a fusion sample treatment as in Sanchez-Garmendia and collaborators  
264 (2020), based on the method optimized by García de Madinabeitia and  
265 collaborators (2008).

266 The solutions obtained from the fusion of each ceramic were then treated inside  
267 a class 100 clean room, following the methodology described in detail in the study  
268 carried out by Sanchez-Garmendia and collaborators (2020). The difference of  
269 the present method with the method followed by those authors is that different  
270 weights of the Certified Reference Materials used as standards were treated to  
271 get solutions of different concentrations in order to obtain external calibrations  
272 with wider concentration ranges. First, the solutions were diluted gravimetrically  
273 200 times in a 1 % HNO<sub>3</sub> solution. 10 g of dilution were prepared for each primary  
274 solution. The internal standards solution (In) was prepared from 1000 µg/ml stock  
275 solutions of Alfa Aesar using Milli-Q quality water for their dilution. Argon was

276 used as carrier gas in the ICP-MS measurements. In total, 42 elements and  
277 compounds were measured: Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Ba, CaO, Ce, Co, Cr, Cs, Cu, Dy, Er, Eu,  
278 Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Gd, Hf, Ho, K<sub>2</sub>O, La, Lu, MgO, MnO, Na<sub>2</sub>O, Nb, Nd, Ni, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, Pb, Pr, Rb,  
279 SiO<sub>2</sub>, Sm, Sn, Sr, Ta, Tb, Th, TiO<sub>2</sub>, Tm, U, V, Yb, Zn and Zr. The experimental  
280 conditions and sample introduction of the ICP-MS are collected in the study  
281 carried out by Sanchez-Garmendia and collaborators (2020).

#### 282 2.1.1.1. Data interpretation

283 The chemical results have been treated by a chemometric procedure in  
284 order to test the similarity of ceramics and subsequently their hypothetical  
285 provenance in accordance with the provenance postulate (Weigand et al.,  
286 1977). This treatment has followed a statistical procedure following  
287 observations on compositional data by Aitchison (1982; 2008), Buxeda  
288 (1999) and Buxeda and Kilikoglou (2003). The software employed for all  
289 the transformations, statistical analyses and data visualization was R  
290 (Core Team 2019). The routines employed are published in a reproducible  
291 manner elsewhere (Calparsoro, 2018).

292 On the one hand, a logarithmic transformation was applied and the  
293 comparisons between individuals were performed after dividing all the  
294 chemical components by a selected component. In the present work, as  
295 a Hierarchical Clustering Analysis (HCA) has been represented, the  
296 divisor used was the geometric mean (centered log ratio transformation  
297 or clr) and the squared Euclidean distance was graphically represented  
298 using the centroid agglomerative algorithm. Therefore, this approach  
299 overcomes the problem of the compositional data called “close to unit  
300 sum”, when data necessarily sums 100 %. It is important to highlight that  
301 the use of logarithms not only compensates the differences in magnitudes  
302 between major elements (e.g. Si or Al) and trace elements (e.g. the  
303 lanthanides or rare earth elements), but also it serves to make the  
304 distributions of geochemical data more nearly normal. In addition to that,  
305 the log-ratio transformation also detects possible perturbations in the  
306 chemical data because of contamination, diagenesis or other alteration  
307 processes (Buxeda i Garrigós and Kilikoglou, 2003; see Martin-  
308 Fernandez et al., 2015 for a thorough discussion on the use of log-ratio  
309 principles).

310 On the other hand, in order to test the variability that each chemical  
311 element and compound introduced into the dataset, the compositional  
312 heterogeneity was evaluated calculating the compositional variation  
313 matrix (MCV). Thus, when the variability is high (indicated by a large value  
314 of the total variation, vt), it suggests that the dataset is polygenic (i.e.  
315 presence of several compositional groups). On the contrary, a small vt  
316 value indicates a possible monogenic nature of the dataset (Buxeda i  
317 Garrigós and Kilikoglou, 2003).

318

319

320 2.1.2. X-Ray Diffraction (XRD)

321 A PANalytical X'pert PRO powder diffractometer was used for these analyses.  
322 For this, powdered ceramic pastes obtained following the procedure carried out  
323 by Sanchez-Garmendia and collaborators (2020) were used but calcination was  
324 not performed.

325 The instrument was equipped with a copper tube ( $\lambda_{CuK\alpha mean} = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$ ),  
326 programmable divergence aperture, vertical goniometer (Bragg-Brentano  
327 geometry), automatic sample changer, PixCel detector and secondary graphite  
328 monochromator. The operating conditions for the Cu tube were 40 mA and 40  
329 kV. The angular range ( $2\theta$ ) was scanned between  $5^\circ$  and  $70^\circ$ . The treatment of  
330 the diffractogram data was carried out using X'pert HighScore (PANalytical)  
331 software in combination with the powder diffraction file database PDF2  
332 (International Centre for Diffraction Data – ICDD, Pennsylvania, USA).

333

334 2.1.3. Scanning Electron Microscopy-Energy Dispersive Spectrometry (SEM-  
335 EDS)

336 The microstructural characterization and examination of the extent of vitrification,  
337 alterations and contaminations of the ceramics were analyzed using the EVO 40  
338 Carl-Zeiss Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) coupled to an Energy  
339 Dispersive X-ray analyzer (EDS) X-Max. This study was conducted on 11 ceramic  
340 pieces after being transversally cut, embedded in epoxy resin, polished and gold  
341 coated, as well as in 5 freshly fractured surfaces that were cut perpendicularly to  
342 the outer/inner surfaces. The working conditions for SEM were the following: 20  
343 kV, 100 mA, full vacuum conditions and 7.5-10.5 mm working distance. Then, for  
344 EDS the intensity is increased to 500 mA to improve the signal. The elemental  
345 composition of the ceramics was determined by an Energy Dispersive  
346 Spectrometry (EDS) analysis; the EDS spectra were acquired and treated using  
347 the INCA software.

348

349 3. Results and discussion

350

351 3.1. Identification of the compositional groups by the ICP-MS

352 The mean, minimum and maximum concentrations of each element and their  
353 average expanded uncertainties (U) as well as the relative standard deviation  
354 (RSD) for the 25 ceramics obtained by ICP-MS, are presented in Table 2. The  
355 expanded uncertainty of the results has been calculated following the Guide to  
356 the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM) (Possolo, 2015) with  $k =$   
357  $2$ , which is equivalent to a 95 % confidence level, as in Calparsoro (2019) and  
358 Sanchez-Garmendia and collaborators (2020), considering the whole analytical  
359 procedure. Average values were calculated with the expanded uncertainty of the  
360 concentrations corresponding to all ceramics. It should be highlighted that  
361 although 42 elements and compounds have been analysed, only the components  
362 shown in the following table were retained for next operations, and the rest were

363 removed due to their high uncertainty values ( $U > 38 \%$ , in the case of Ni, Pb and  
 364 Sn) and to that  $P_2O_5$  and Zn showed values below to the detection limit. Although  
 365 CaO shows an uncertainty value of 84 %, it was retained because it is an  
 366 important component for the distinction of the ceramics, since the clays contained  
 367 calcium in a greater or lesser degree (e.g. calcareous or low-calcareous  
 368 ceramics), depending on their source and the function that the ceramics were  
 369 going to have (Fabbri et al., 2014). The whole data set of the concentrations for  
 370 each element and ceramic and the standard deviations is presented in Table A.1  
 371 in the Appendix.

	Mean	Min	Max	RSD	$\bar{U}$ (%)
<b>Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub></b>	17.9	15.0	21.5	10	6.0
<b>Ba</b>	407	364	475	7	5.0
<b>CaO</b>	4.15	3.08	5.66	16	84
<b>Ce</b>	97.6	71.5	121	14	6.0
<b>Co</b>	29.4	16.0	88.6	51	26
<b>Cr</b>	44.5	22.9	74.8	27	38
<b>Cs</b>	26.3	20.7	32.5	11	4.0
<b>Cu</b>	12.2	3.00	37.1	74	24
<b>Dy</b>	5.25	3.84	6.70	14	13
<b>Er</b>	2.64	2.06	3.18	11	22
<b>Eu</b>	1.28	0.999	1.83	16	11
<b>Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub></b>	5.01	3.68	7.62	19	8.0
<b>Gd</b>	6.35	4.90	8.06	14	10
<b>Hf</b>	6.23	5.05	8.18	11	6.0
<b>Ho</b>	0.751	0.577	0.946	13	20
<b>K<sub>2</sub>O</b>	4.56	3.99	5.72	8	4.0
<b>La</b>	48.3	36.4	60.2	13	5.0
<b>Lu</b>	0.437	0.312	0.584	15	17
<b>MgO</b>	1.76	1.35	2.22	11	18
<b>MnO</b>	0.0208	0.0142	0.0348	24	28
<b>Na<sub>2</sub>O</b>	0.606	0.365	1.11	28	34
<b>Nb</b>	20.5	15.4	25.4	13	4.0
<b>Nd</b>	41.6	30.8	52.7	15	6.0
<b>Pr</b>	11.0	8.32	13.6	15	5.0
<b>Rb</b>	302	252	362	8	3.0
<b>SiO<sub>2</sub></b>	73.7	66.8	83.5	5	5.0
<b>Sm</b>	7.53	5.40	10.1	17	6.0
<b>Sr</b>	89.9	74.6	125	11	19
<b>Ta</b>	3.03	2.33	3.70	13	8.0
<b>Tb</b>	0.855	0.614	1.12	15	8.0
<b>Th</b>	17.3	13.3	21.0	12	13
<b>TiO<sub>2</sub></b>	0.735	0.593	0.941	12	9.0
<b>Tm</b>	0.423	0.322	0.516	13	22
<b>U</b>	5.19	3.47	8.96	25	17
<b>V</b>	59.9	40.1	96.7	27	16
<b>Yb</b>	2.60	2.04	3.10	12	19

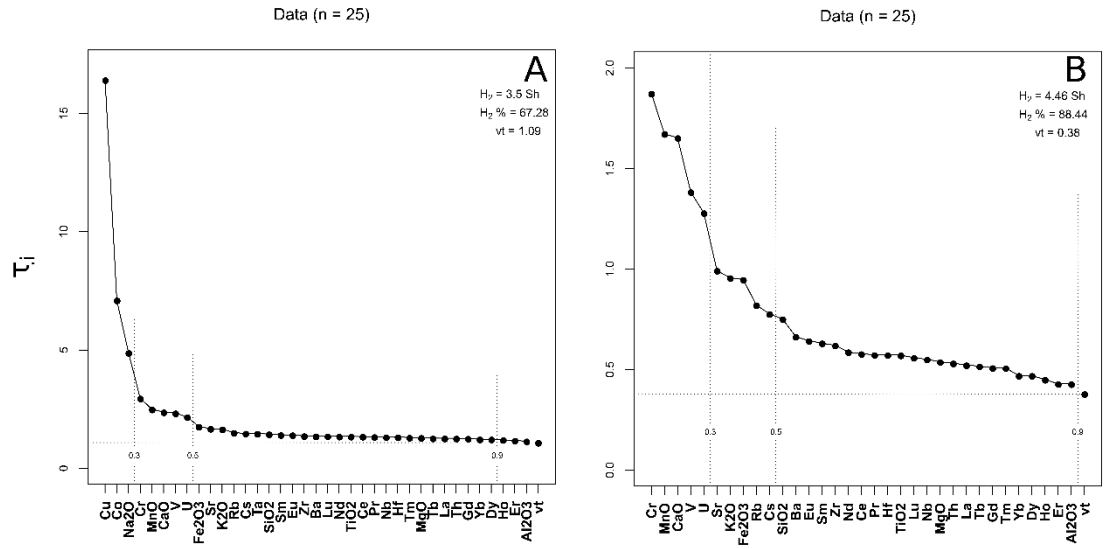
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Zr	230	180	316	13	6.0
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**Table 2.** Elemental concentrations, minimum and maximum values and their average expanded uncertainty (U) as well as the relative standard deviation (RSD) for the 25 ceramics obtained by ICP-MS. The RSD has been calculated using all the values of the same component in the 25 ceramics. The concentrations of the elements are expressed in ng/g, whereas for oxides in wt %.

The variability that each chemical element and compound introduced into the dataset was evaluated calculating the compositional variation matrix (MCV) (Figure 5). The y-axis ( $\tau_i$ ) represents the calculated value for the log-ratio variation for each element in the dataset. In this case, the set of 25 ceramics shows relatively medium-low vt (1.09) which reveals the high contribution of Cu, Co and Na<sub>2</sub>O (Figure 5-A).

The analytical variance should be originated by natural sources. In contrast, experimental errors and/or alterations arising from post-depositional processes might increase it. Therefore, several elements were not considered for the statistical analyses in this work. Thus, on the one hand, as the tungsten carbide cell used to mill the ceramics is a potential contaminator, Co and Ta were removed. The reason is that Co is a known binder of tungsten alloys and usually occurs along with Ta traces (Boulanger et al., 2013). On the other hand, Na<sub>2</sub>O was not considered because salt crystallization in porous materials, such as ceramics, is one of the primary causes of their deterioration, especially in marine environments (López-Arce et al., 2013). Likewise, Cu, the next most varying element, showed a high variability related to the post-depositional contaminations (Buxeda i Garrigós, 1999; Buxeda i Garrigós and Kilikoglou, 2003; Molera et al., 1993). For this reason, it was decided not to consider it for the statistical analyses. Finally, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and Zn were omitted since they showed values below the detection limit. Moreover, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> should also be discarded in statistical routines due to its high variability and potential as a key-role compound in alteration processes in underground and underwater environments, because it could be retained by the ceramic body (Freestone et al., 1985; Lemoine and Picon, 1982; Maritan and Mazzoli, 2004; Pradell et al., 1996). Given all these considerations, the vt drops down to 0.38 when those components are omitted from the statistical study (Figure 5-B). Along these lines, the low vt obtained for this combined dataset including ceramics recovered in the shipwreck and in the city, suggests that the dataset is monogenic, that is, there is no presence of several compositional groups (Figure 5-B). This is demonstrated in the Hierarchical Cluster Analysis (HCA) performed in order to compare ceramics recovered in the shipwreck and ceramics recovered in the church and produced in Aveiro, in which all of them define a single compositional group A-1 (Figure 6). Three ceramics (AVR004, AVR019 and AVR020) are slightly different from the rest due to some differences in their chemical composition, but these are not so significant to discriminate these three ceramics from the rest.



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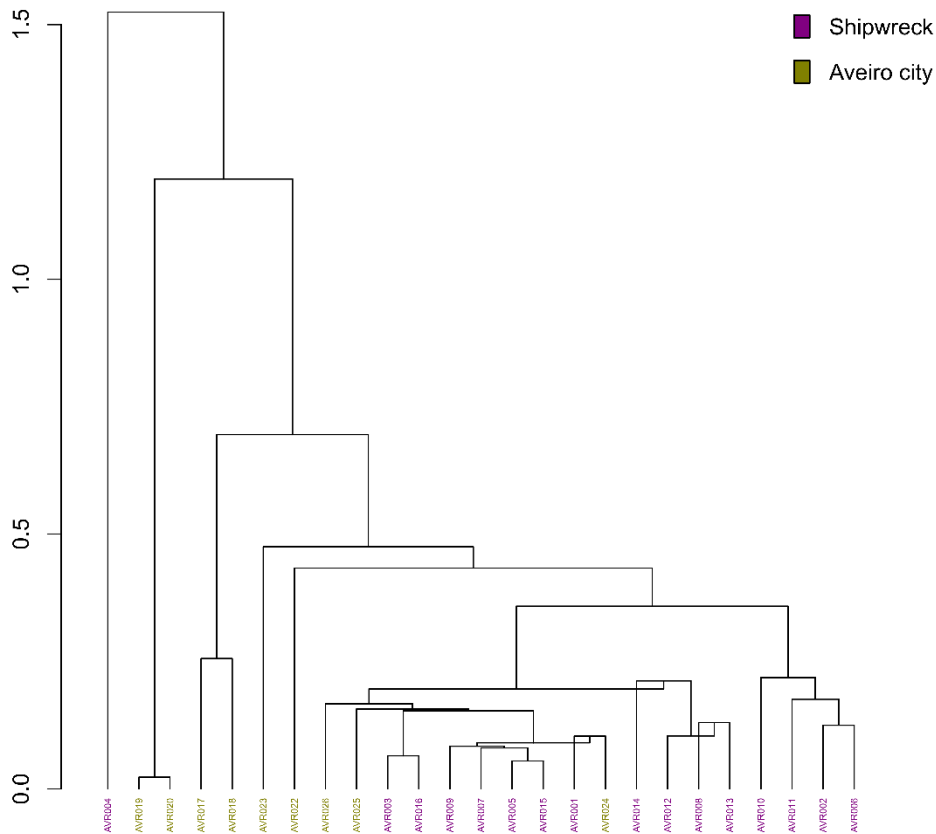
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**Figure 5. A:** Graphical representation of the evenness of the compositional variability of 25 analyzed ceramics by ICP-MS. P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and Zn were omitted since they showed values below the detection limit and Ni, Pb and Sn because their high uncertainty values. // **B:** Graphical representation of the evenness of the compositional variability of 25 analyzed samples by ICP-MS, after excluding Co, Ta, Na<sub>2</sub>O and Cu for the statistical analysis. (vt= Total variability. H<sub>2</sub>= information entropy, H<sub>2</sub>%= percentage of information entropy over the maximum possible, n= number of specimens (above)).

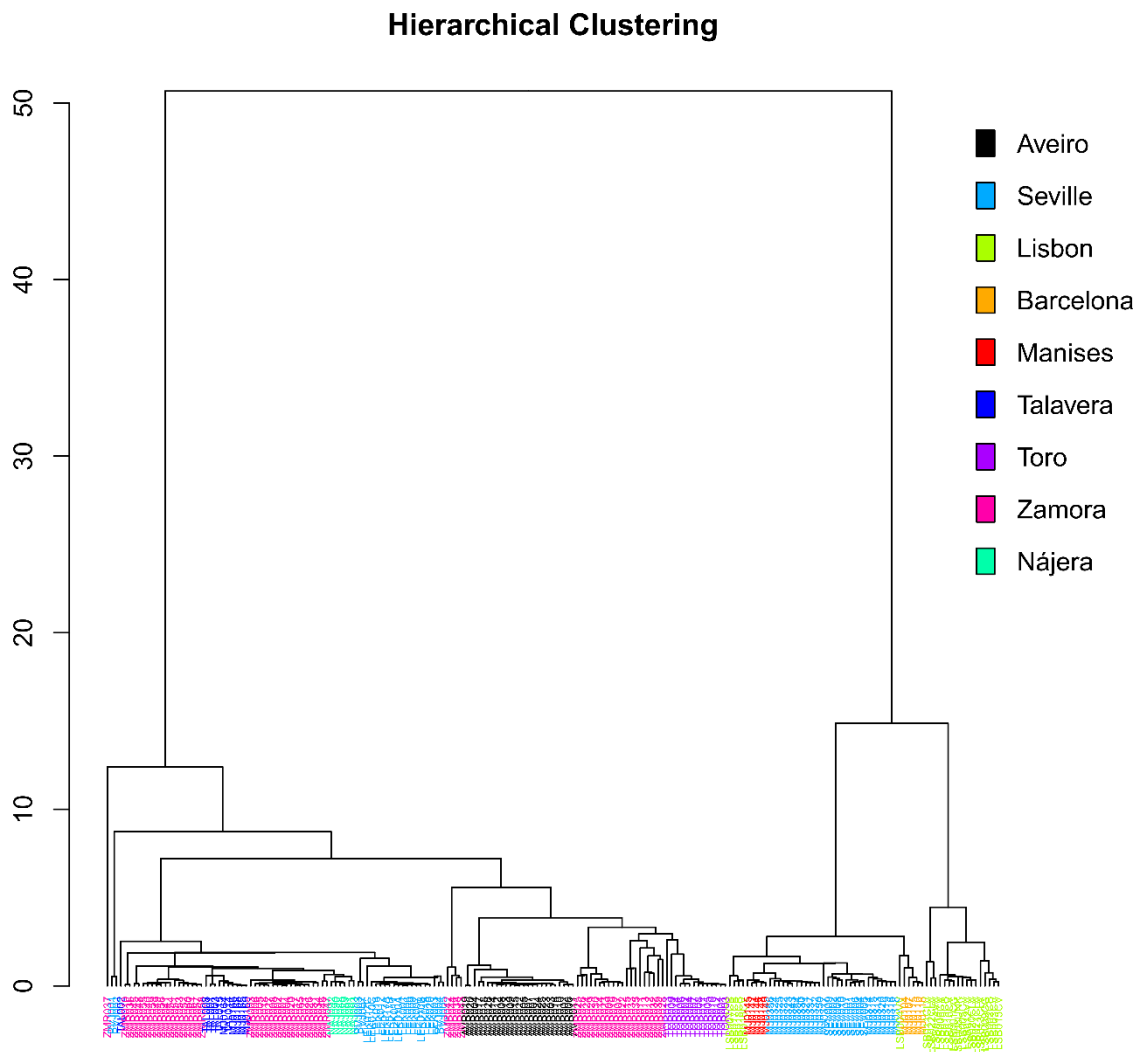
### Hierarchical Clustering



422

423 **Figure 6.** Dendrogram of Euclidean squared distances using centroid algorithm of 16  
 424 ceramics recovered in the shipwreck and 9 recovered in the church and produced in  
 425 Aveiro, on the sub-composition of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Ba, CaO, Ce, Cr, Cs, Dy, Er, Eu, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Gd, Hf,  
 426 Ho, K<sub>2</sub>O, La, Lu, MgO, MnO, Nb, Nd, Pr, Rb, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Sm, Sr, Tb, Th, TiO<sub>2</sub>, Tm, U, V, Yb,  
 427 Zr.

428 Then, a HCA was performed to compare A-1 ceramics against several reference  
 429 groups of productions of the Iberian Peninsula such as Seville, Zamora,  
 430 Barcelona, Manises, Talavera, Nájera and some from Lisbon and Toro based on  
 431 results obtained through ICP-MS, in order to test the possible exogenous  
 432 provenances (Buxeda i Garrigós et al., 2015; Calparsoro et al., 2019; Iñáñez et  
 433 al., 2008; Iñáñez et al., 2009; Sanchez-Garmendia et al., 2020) (Figure 7).



434 **Figure 7.** Dendrogram of Euclidean squared distances using centroid algorithm of 25  
 435 individuals from Aveiro (A-1 reference group) and different places from Iberian Peninsula,  
 436 on the sub-composition of Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Ba, CaO, Ce, Cr, Cs, Dy, Er, Eu, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Gd, Hf, Ho,  
 437 K<sub>2</sub>O, La, Lu, MgO, Nb, Nd, Pr, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Sm, Sr, Tb, Th, TiO<sub>2</sub>, Tm, V, Yb, Zr.

### 439 3.1.1. Provenance

440 Examination of the resulting dendrogram allows establishing a well-defined single  
 441 group, named as A-1, structure that corresponds to the production of Aveiro, only

442 formed by ceramics unearthed in Ria de Aveiro A and in the dome of *Santo*  
443 *António* church. This fact is in accordance with the article published by Alves and  
444 collaborators (1998), which was explained in section 1. Regarding the main  
445 chemical features of this reference group, it can be said that it is a low-calcareous  
446 group, averaging 4.15 wt % of CaO. The forms dominating in this group are all  
447 unglazed olive jars, pots, cups, sugar moulds, plates and bowls, developing  
448 reddish and, in some cases, black pastes to visual appearance. The difference  
449 between the two sample sets (shipwreck and church) are those which could be  
450 seen in a macroscale: while the ceramics retrieved in the church have only red  
451 pastes and do not show shiny black surface and vitrified material, ceramics from  
452 the shipwreck show also black pastes and a shiny finish as well as some  
453 concretions or alterations in the paste.

454

### 455 3.2. Technological assessment by XRD

456

457 After identifying the compositional groups, XRD was conducted to identify the  
458 mineral phases and different production fabrics. A fabric is the final result that  
459 reaches the paste, after completing the technological process of the fabrication  
460 of the ceramics (Buxeda i Garrigós and Cau, 1995; Buxeda i Garrigós and Madrid  
461 i Fernández, 2016), which can be observed by the array of mineralogical  
462 composition and paste textures. In addition, the Firing Temperature (FT) in which  
463 the fabrics were fired was also evaluated.

464 The ceramics from Aveiro form five different production fabrics (F-I, F-II, F-III, F-  
465 IV and F-V) (Table 3). The main mineral phases of these four fabrics are quartz,  
466 potassium feldspars (principally microcline, sanidine and orthoclase) and  
467 plagioclases (principally albite and anorthite). The main differences between the  
468 fabrics are the existence or not of illite, hematites and hercynite, all depending on  
469 the firing temperatures and oxidizing/reducing conditions (Broekmans et al.,  
470 2008; Cianchetta et al., 2015; Nodari et al., 2004).

471 As regards the F-I group, it is completed with beige paste ceramics from RAVA  
472 and is divided in three subgroups: F-I<sub>a</sub>, F-I<sub>b</sub> and F-I<sub>c</sub> (Table 3). The common  
473 phases are quartz, illite, potassium feldspars, hematite and plagioclases. On the  
474 other hand, the differences between these three groups are the amount of  
475 potassium feldspars, plagioclases, hematite and the appearance of secondary  
476 phases. It has to be highlighted that the ceramic that forms the F-I<sub>a</sub> subgroup, is  
477 the only one that has a black matte surface in F-I. F-I<sub>b</sub> seems to have more  
478 potassium feldspars and plagioclases than the rest, whereas the main difference  
479 between F-I<sub>a</sub>, F-I<sub>b</sub> and F-I<sub>c</sub> is the amount of hematite: F-I<sub>c</sub> has much more  
480 hematite than the others do. This fact could be related to the reduction of hematite  
481 in marine environments, suggesting that the iron of the hematite (Fe<sup>3+</sup>) of F-I<sub>a</sub> and  
482 F-I<sub>b</sub> is lower because it was reduced to the iron of pyrite and/or jarosite (Fe<sup>2+</sup>),  
483 whereas F-I<sub>c</sub> did not suffer any or not too much hematite reducing reactions (see  
484 section 3.3) (Secco et al., 2011). This fact could be proven by the appearance of  
485 pyrite in the F-I<sub>b</sub> fabric. Therefore, in the fabric F-I, the high presence of illite and  
486 the appearance of potassium feldspar allows establishing a Firing Temperature  
487 (FT) of 800 °C (Figure 8).



488 The fabric F-II is formed by red paste ceramics and divided in two subgroups: F-  
489 II<sub>a</sub> and F-II<sub>b</sub>, completed by ceramics from RAVA and the church. The common  
490 phases are quartz, illite, plagioclases, potassium feldspars and hematite and the  
491 differences between these two subgroups is that F-II<sub>a</sub> contains much more illite  
492 than F-II<sub>b</sub>. Moreover, inside the group of F-II<sub>a</sub>, ceramics from the church (AVR017  
493 and AVR025) show more hematite than ceramics from RAVA (AVR013). This  
494 could be in accordance with the fact that in marine environment hematite could  
495 be reduced (Secco et. al., 2011). As illite is present but is decreasing in the  
496 amount, the FT of the fabric F-II is in the range of 800-850 °C (Figure 8).

497 When it comes to the fabric F-III, formed by red ceramics from RAVA and the  
498 church, it presents quartz, potassium feldspars, plagioclase and hematite. As the  
499 no appearance of illite suggests its decomposition, the FT is of 900 °C (Figure 8).

500 The F-IV fabric is formed by one black matte ceramic (surface and paste) from  
501 RAVA and it presents quartz, little illite, plagioclases, potassium feldspars and  
502 hercynite. There is no hematite, and this fact could suggest that the hematite  
503 could have been reduced to hercynite, in addition to the reductions that could  
504 happen in the marine environment (Broekmans et al., 2008; Cianchetta et al.,  
505 2015; Nodari et al., 2004). The total reduction of hematite could be explained by  
506 the black colour of AVR002 ceramic shard. In this fabric, the presence of a little  
507 amount of illite, potassium feldspar and hercynite permits establishing an FT in  
508 the range of 850-900 °C (Figure 8).

509 Finally, F-V fabric, divided in two subgroups, is formed by four metallic shiny black  
510 surface ceramics from RAVA, showing quartz, potassium feldspars, plagioclases  
511 and hercynite. F-V<sub>a</sub> is formed by a ceramic which shows a dark red paste,  
512 whereas F-V<sub>b</sub> is formed by ceramics with black paste. The main difference  
513 between these two subfabrics is the appearance of hematite in F-V<sub>a</sub>, suggesting  
514 that the reduction conditions were not fully achieved in AVR016 ceramic (see  
515 section 3.3). Additionally, some secondary phases in some shards, as well, were  
516 identified, like potassian halite (AVR003). According to literature, sodium-  
517 potassium chloride (potassium halite) was also detected in an Italic amphora  
518 recovered in an underwater marine environment (López-Arce et al., 2013). Given  
519 these conditions, the FT of this fabric is of 950 °C. The amount of hercynite  
520 particularly draws the attention in F-V<sub>b</sub>, because it is the highest peak in  
521 comparison with the rest of the fabrics (Figure 8).

522 Additionally, the white slip of AVR017 ceramic (olive jar) has been analyzed. The  
523 phases that are clearly differentiated are quartz, calcite and clay minerals (Figure  
524 8). Thus, this slip was made mainly by a calcareous substrate likely mixed with  
525 clay to facilitate bonding to the ceramic surface while providing a white surface  
526 that covered the whole piece. However, the reason for applying such slip, beyond  
527 aesthetic features or for marking specific product containing the olive jar, remains  
528 unknown.

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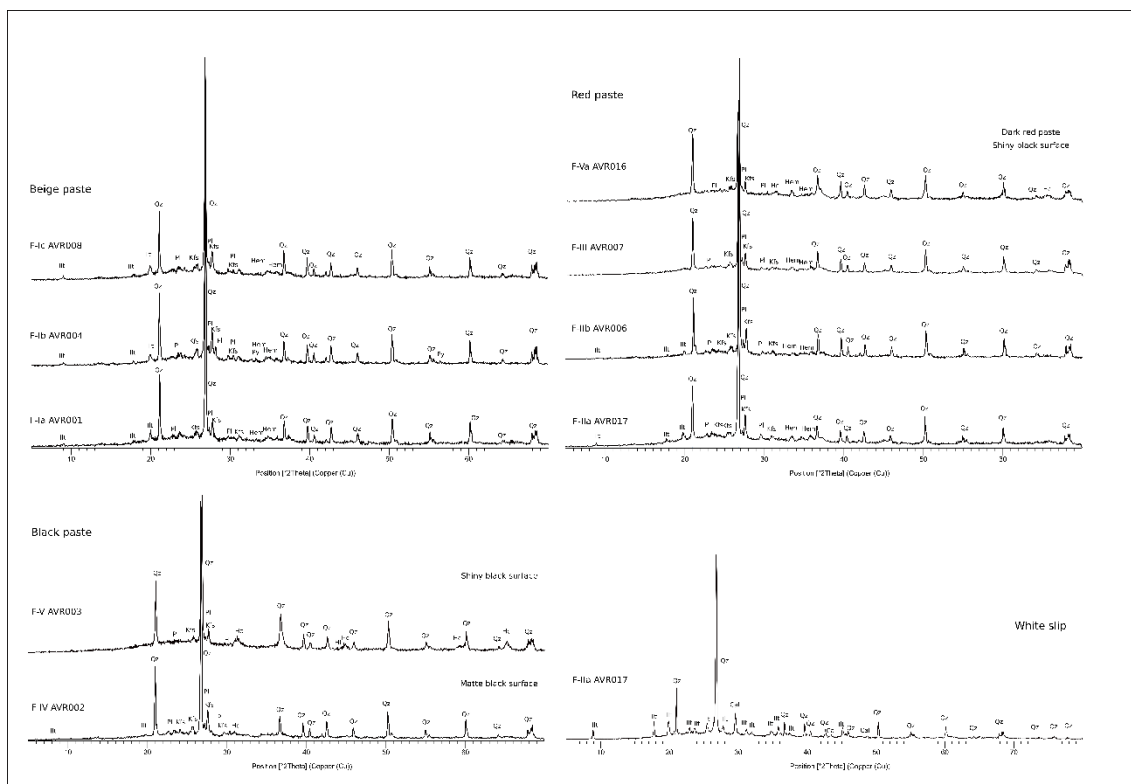
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FT (°C)	Fabrics	Ceramics	Subgroups	Typology	Qz	Ill	Kfs	Pl	Hem	Hc	Py	HI	Cal
800	F-I	AVR001	F-Ia	Beige paste	X	X	X	X	X				
		AVR004	F-Ib		X	X	X	X	X		X		
		AVR008, AVR009	F-Ic		X	X	X	X	X				
800 - 850	F-II	AVR013, AVR017, AVR025	F-IIa	Red paste	X	X	X	X	X				X (surface of AVR017)
		AVR006	F-IIb		x	x	x	x	x				
900	F-III	AVR007, AVR010, AVR011, AVR012, AVR014, AVR018, AVR019, AVR020, AVR022, AVR023, AVR024, AVR026	F-III	Red paste	X		X	X	X				
850 - 900	F-IV	AVR002	F-IV	Black paste and black matte surface	X	X	X	X		X			
950	F-V	AVR016	F-Va	Dark red paste and black shiny surface	X		X	X	X	X			
		AVR003, AVR005, AVR015	F-Vb	Black paste and black shiny surface	X		X	X		X		X (AVR003)	

532

533 **Table 3.** The composition of each fabric and Summary of the results obtained by XRD (the FT,  
534 subgroups, ceramics and typology and composition of each fabric). Qz= quartz; Ill= illite; Kfs=  
535 potassium feldspar; Pl= plagioclase; Hem= hematite; Hc= hercynite; Py= pyrite; HI= potassium  
536 halite; Cal= calcite, abbreviations according to Whitney and Evans (2010).

537



**Figure 8.** Reference diffractograms of the fabrics divided by the colour of the pastes (beige paste, red paste and black paste). Qz= quartz; Ill= illite; Kfs= potassium feldspar; Pl= plagioclase; Hem= hematite; Hc= hercynite; Py= pyrite; Hl= potassium halite; Cal= calcite, abbreviations according to Whitney and Evans (2010).

### 3.2.1. Black ceramic production

The ICP-MS analyses allowed to know that the source of clay used for the manufacture of these 25 ceramics was the same. Additionally, as it could be noticed by XRD analyses, the pastes are not the same, so the only reason for this fact that one can think about, is the different technology (e.g. different atmosphere conditions during firing, different finishing) applied with a view to obtaining red and black pastes. According to literature, the black coloration of ancient ceramics was obtained mainly in three ways: using carbon, adding manganese oxides to the clays and reducing iron oxides in a reducing atmosphere, during firing (Edwards and Chalmers, 2005; Gillies and Urch, 1983). The first case (the use of carbon) is based on using clays naturally rich in organic material or to which carbonaceous material has been added. Then, they are fired in reducing conditions and carbon is formed. This gives the black colour to the ceramic (Gillies and Urch, 1983). The third case (firing in reducing conditions) is probably the oldest of all ceramic-decoration processes (Noll et al., 1975). When iron oxides are fired, their colour is affected by temperature, duration of heating and atmosphere (Shepard, 1976). In an oxidizing atmosphere, iron oxides are mainly in the form of hematite. However, in a reducing atmosphere, iron oxides form spinel phases, like hercynite ( $\text{FeO} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) and magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ), which are predominantly black (Longworth and Tite, 1979; Maggetti et al., 1981; Noll et al., 1975). One of the hypotheses of the black ceramics that form F-IV and F-V, is that they were fired in reducing conditions in order to get the black colour. This black colour could have been obtained due to the reduction of hematite ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ )

566 to hercynite, indicating strong reducing firing conditions (Ibarra, 2006; Nodari et  
567 al., 2004).

568 According to archaeological evidence, it was common in Aveiro to produce these  
569 black ceramics for the forms related to kitchen wares, like cooking pots (Carvalho  
570 and Bettencourt, 2012; Fernandes and Castro, 2012; Ibarra, 2006). The reason  
571 for doing this could have been the good qualities that the ceramics obtain in these  
572 reducing firing conditions: the carbon element that is caught in the ceramic paste  
573 during the process decreases the permeability of the paste, so that these shards  
574 are suitable for retaining liquids. The same circumstances provide also better and  
575 more hygienic food preservation because the dirt and bacteria are not able to  
576 pierce in the pores, preventing the ceramic pastes, in this way, from the  
577 reproduction of these microorganisms (Sempere, 1982). On the other hand, the  
578 reduced wares are harder than the common wares, so that they are more  
579 resistant in the use (Sempere, 1982).

580

### 581 3.3. SEM-EDS assessment

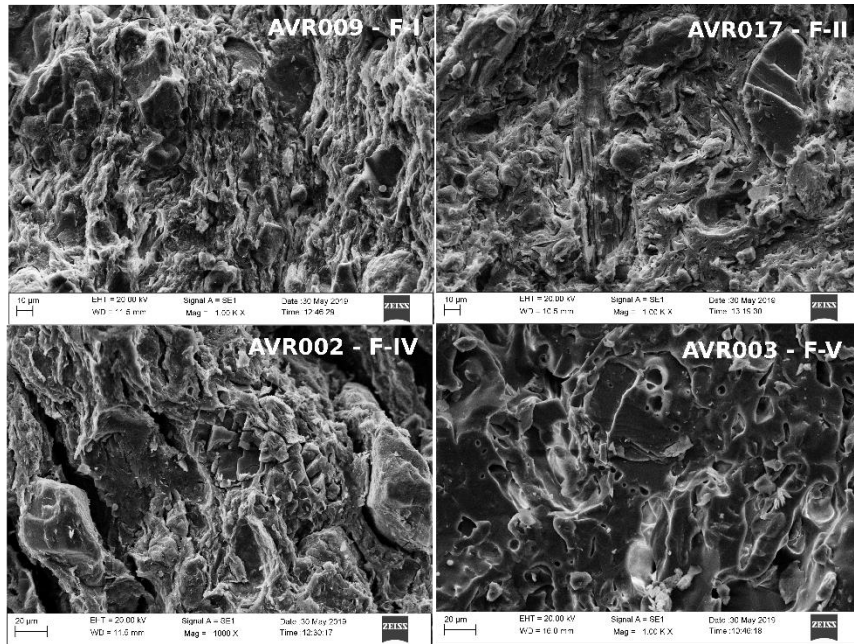
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583 Finally, ceramics of each fabric were selected to study them by SEM and SEM-  
584 EDS in order to analyze the microstructure, the extent of vitrification, alterations  
585 and contaminations.

586

#### 587 3.3.1. Extent of vitrification

588 Five freshly fractured surface ceramics were selected for SEM analysis, because  
589 their SEM examination provides information about the internal morphology  
590 developed during the original firing, the extent of vitrification and pore structure  
591 (Maniatis and Tite, 1978). Among the selected ceramics, two are from F-I  
592 (AVR008, AVR009), one from F-II (AVR017), one from F-IV (AVR002), and one  
593 from F-V (AVR003) (Table 4). In this way, the results of SEM demonstrate that  
594 the F-I and F-II fabrics show an early initial vitrification due to the appearance of  
595 isolated smooth-surfaced areas, whereas the F-IV shows a medium vitrification  
596 (Maniatis and Tite, 1978). Finally, the F-V shows a continuous vitrification,  
597 because a continuous smooth vitrified layer is formed over the whole fracture  
598 surface (Figure 9) (Maniatis and Tite, 1978). All these results are in accordance  
599 with their FTs.



600

601 **Figure 9.** The grade of vitrification of **A)** F-I (ceramic AVR009), **B)** F-II (ceramic AVR017),  
 602 **C)** F-IV (ceramic AVR002) and **D)** the grade of vitrification of F-V (AVR003).

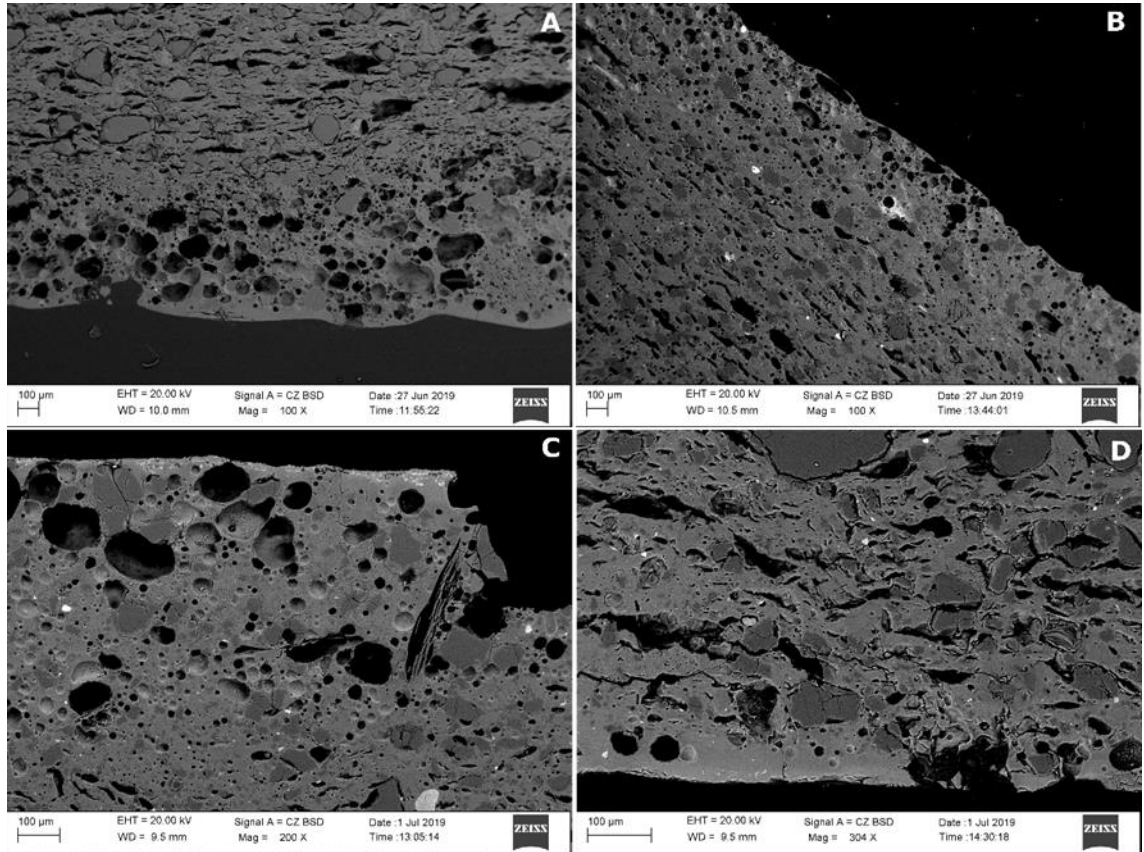
603 Additionally, 11 transversally cut and polished pieces were selected for SEM-  
 604 EDS analyses: 2 from F-I (AVR004, AVR008), 1 from F-II (AVR017), 4 from F-III  
 605 (AVR007, AVR014, AVR016, AVR018) and 4 from F-V (AVR003, AVR005,  
 606 AVR015, AVR016).

607 3.3.2. The glassy-layer

608 According to SEM-EDS results, none of the ceramics has any alkaline or tin-lead  
 609 glaze, although a glassy-layer is observed in the shiny black ceramics from F-V  
 610 (Figure 10). For the ceramics of F-V<sub>b</sub> a glassy-layer that contains vacuoles could  
 611 be observed, whereas for F-V<sub>a</sub> (AVR016), the vacuoles are less abundant. The  
 612 reason for the appearance of the glassy-layer could be that, at high temperatures,  
 613 iron compounds may act as a flux when they are exposed to a reducing  
 614 atmosphere, resulting in the change of the colour of the shard (from red to black)  
 615 and also the formation of a glassy-layer in the surface (Rice, 2015). Additionally,  
 616 Noll and colleagues (1975) explain that, for example, Cretan wares black painting  
 617 was obtained reducing (by the iron reduction technique) iron-rich clays, which  
 618 were added as a slip. The authors explain that in Cretan wares a high content of  
 619 vacuoles were formed in the black paint layer. These vacuoles could have been  
 620 formed due to the fact that during firing, some gases were formed in the form of  
 621 bubbles (e.g. carbon dioxide) that attempt to escape through the layer. At higher  
 622 temperatures, more of this glassy-layer is formed and the large number of  
 623 bubbles/vacuoles could indicate a relatively high firing temperature (Noll et al.,  
 624 1975). Thus, the existence of the vacuoles in the ceramics from Aveiro could be  
 625 explained by the fact that Noll and collaborators report in their study. In these  
 626 lines, a hypothesis is thought for AVR016 ceramic; it is from F-V<sub>a</sub> subgroup, which  
 627 shows a dark red paste and fewer vacuoles in the glassy-layer. Thus, this ceramic  
 628 probably was red in origin but it was refired during the firing produced in the ship.  
 629 As the firing environment around the ceramic cargo was probably a reducing  
 630 environment (because they were covered), the hematite of the paste was reduced  
 631 partially to hercynite, as it has been reported in section 3.2. Thus, the fewer

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vacuoles of the glassy-layer and the partial reduction of hematite to hercynite could suggest that the interaction between the ceramic and the fire was not very strong when time exposed and temperature reached are considered. On the contrary, a strong interaction case could be the case of AVR005; this ceramic was probably red in origin, as well, but the reduction of hematite in this case was a total reduction. Moreover, the reason for thinking that AVR005 was red in origin, is that there is no archaeological evidence for black storage jars in Aveiro A excavation context. All storage jars recovered are red.



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**Figure 10.** Four ceramic pieces from F-V showing a glassy-layer (**A:** AVR003, **B:** AVR005, **C:** AVR015 and **D:** AVR016).

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### 3.3.3. The shiny black surface

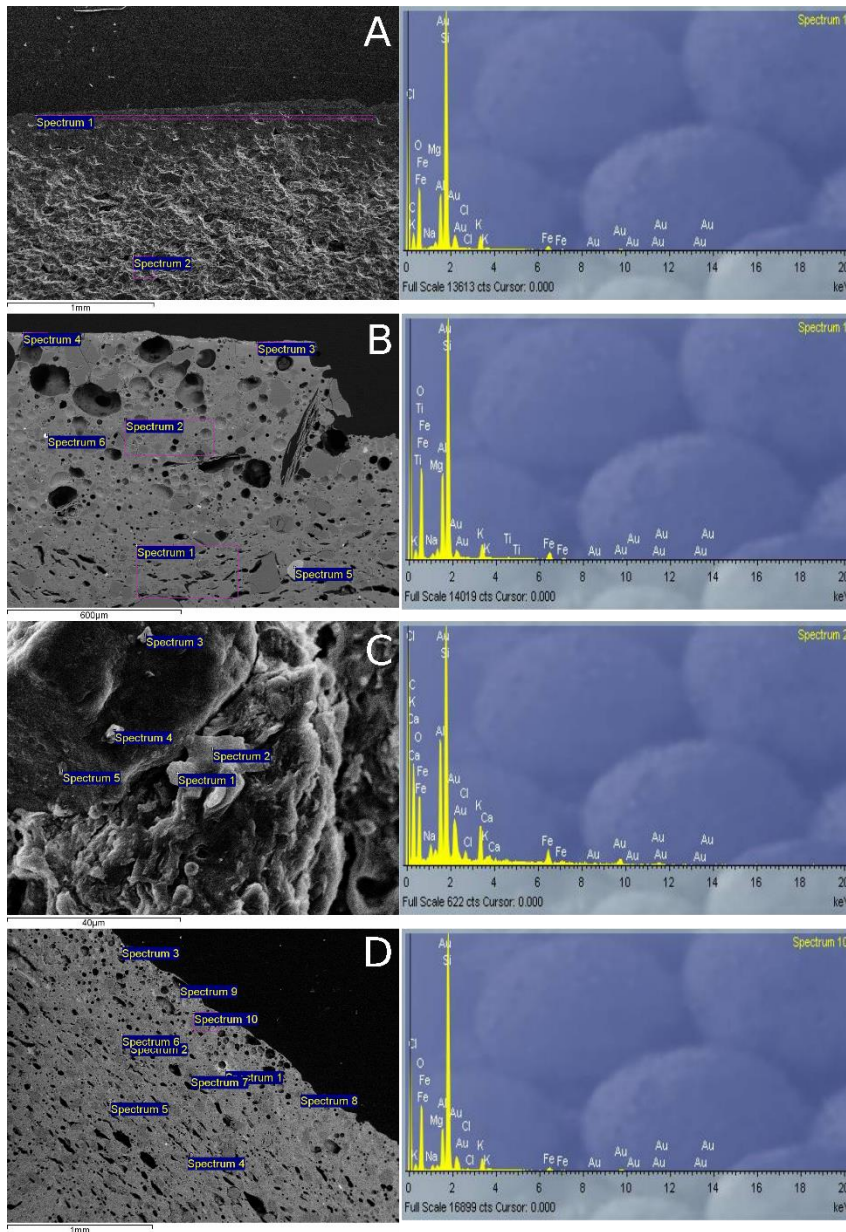
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The shiny black surface finishes found on ceramics studies here, have been applied in pottery from their earliest production. The reasons for applying them were both practical -because they provide more impermeable surface layer- and decorative (Tite et al., 1982). In some cases, the fine particle fraction of the body clay has been used to produce the black coating (in the case of Greek Attic black ceramics, for example) (Gillies and Urch, 1983). This is not the case of our ceramics, as no clay slip has been identified by SEM-EDS. In other cases, the metallic shiny black surface has been achieved by applying a burnished finishing in addition to the firing in high temperatures and reducing atmosphere. In this way, the shiny black surface is produced due to the alignment of the clay particles in the surface region on account of reducing firing conditions and burnishing (Gillies and Urch, 1983). According to Berg (2008), burnishing consists of the use of a hard, smooth object like wood, stone or bone, to rub the ceramic surface, often resulting in narrow parallel facets. By compressing the clay, burnishing

658 creates a characteristic luminous shine (Berg, 2008). Burnishing produces a  
659 uniform and compact surface, and it causes specular reflection, giving to the  
660 ceramics a “lustrous”, “shiny” or “glossy” surface like that obtained by different  
661 coatings (e.g. paints, slips, glazes). Contrariwise, smoothing makes ceramics  
662 appear “matte” or “dull” and this difference is because of different light reflections;  
663 the uniform surface allows for a large amount of light to be reflected directly back  
664 to the observer and thus the surface appears “lustrous” or “shiny” (Ionescu et al.,  
665 2014). This is the case for some black ceramics from Marginea (Romania)  
666 (Ionescu et al., 2014), Orsett (Essex, England) (Gillies and Urch, 1983), Indian  
667 “Northern Black Polished Ware” (Gillies and Urch, 1983) and Attic ceramics  
668 (Maniatis et al., 1993). Regarding the present case, burnished ceramics are well  
669 documented in Aveiro red and black ceramics, sometimes in vertical and crossed  
670 lines, creating geometric motifs in some of the closed forms (mugs, jugs/water  
671 jugs and storage jars) (Bettencourt and Carvalho, 2007-2008; Carvalho and  
672 Bettencourt, 2012). Additionally, Fernandes (2012) studies the black ceramic  
673 production from Portugal in her doctoral thesis and mentions that burnishing the  
674 surface of the pieces was, and still is, a technique widely used to decorate the  
675 surfaces of black or red pottery, leaving the surface shiny (Fernandes, 2012).  
676 Therefore, according to the literature presented, ceramics from F-V have been  
677 probably burnished because of the appearance of their shiny black surface.

#### 678 3.3.4. Salt-glaze hypothesis

679 Additionally, the elements Na and Cl have been identified in an aggregate of  
680 AVR009, in the surfaces of AVR004 and AVR005 and in the ceramic body of  
681 AVR015 (Figure 11). Moreover, Na has been identified in the surface and body  
682 of some ceramics (AVR003, AVR004, AVR005, AVR006, AVR007, AVR008,  
683 AVR014, AVR015, AVR016) (Figure 11). Potassium halite has been identified as  
684 described in the section 3.2, as well. Although the sodium could be related to the  
685 sodium feldspars, especially in the ceramics that do not have a glassy-layer, the  
686 NaCl or Na could be related to the salt of the water environment from RAVA.  
687 Moreover, it could be related to the salt production and trade of Aveiro because  
688 fragments of a wood piece belonging to the shipwreck were discovered in the  
689 archaeological site of Ria de Aveiro A. By comparison with materials from other  
690 underwater contexts, it was recognized as a part of a shovel made of a single  
691 piece of log. It seems that the shovels were destined to load, unload and move  
692 the salt, although another function on board is not excluded. A similar shovel was  
693 also recovered in Newfoundland, associated with the conservation treatment of  
694 fish caught by European fishers who move there annually (Bettencourt and  
695 Carvalho, 2007-2008). Therefore, it could be thought that the ship was carrying  
696 salt in a location next to the ceramics or above them.



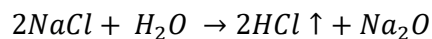
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698 **Figure 11.** A: Na and Cl in the Surface of AVR004. B: Na in the body of AVR015. C: Na and Cl in  
 699 an aggregate of AVR009. D: Na and Cl in the surface of AVR005.

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As has been reported in section 1, several indications of a fire on board have  
 701 been documented. In this context, it is possible to hypothesize about the  
 702 presence of the salt and the fire on board. As the fire started in the ship, the salt  
 703 could have reacted with the water in high temperatures (the temperatures of the  
 704 fire), giving hydrogen chloride and sodium oxide (alkaline flux) as a product,  
 705 according to the following reaction (Rice, 1987):

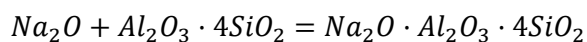
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The important role of the alkaline fluxes is to lower the very high melting point of  
 708 silica, which is normally 1710 °C (Rice, 1987). Therefore, this alkaline flux could  
 709 have reacted with the silica of the pot surface ( $Al_2O_3 \cdot 4SiO_2$ ), giving a glassy-layer  
 710 as a product ( $Na_2O \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 4SiO_2$ ):

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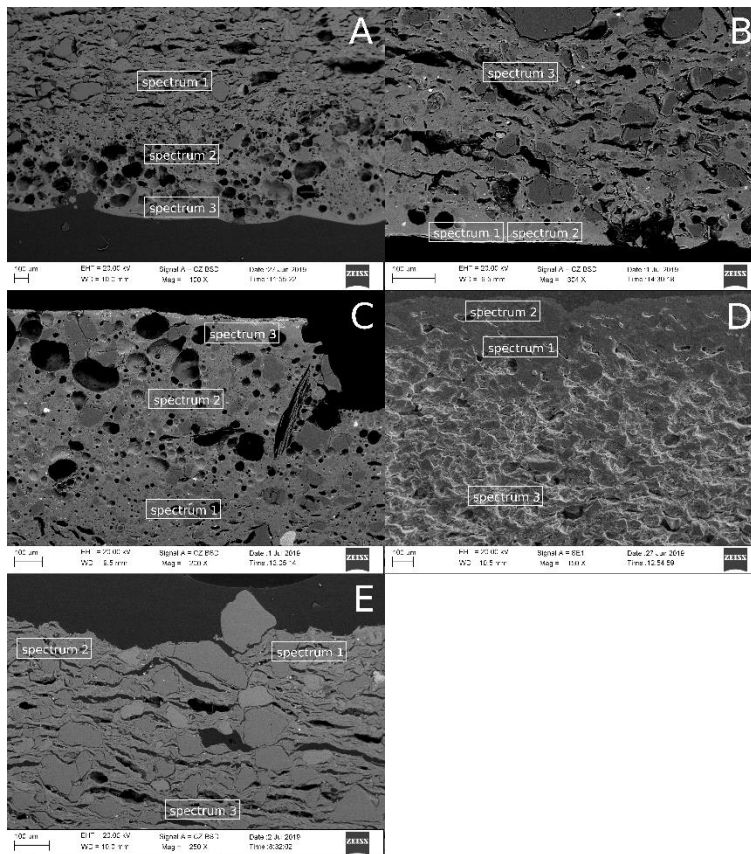
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These reactions can explain the presence of Na and not Cl in some ceramics and some concretions of some ceramics as well as the vacuolar aspect of the glassy-layers: the Cl was evaporated in the form of hydrogen chloride, leaving holes where before there were bubbles. This reaction and the formation of a glassy-layer also can be explained by the compositional difference of Na between the surface and the body of the ceramics that have the glassy-layer (Figure 12 and Table 4). These values demonstrate that the concentration of Na is higher in the surface than in the body, due to probably the formation of Na<sub>2</sub>O in the surface. The difference in the concentration of Na also occurs in a lesser degree, that is, not with big differences, in other ceramics that do not have a glassy-layer (e.g. AVR014), but not in all of them (e.g. AVR004) (Figure 12 and Table 4). Moreover, this hypothesis can also explain the case of AVR005: the two ceramics that were next to each other in the ship could have reacted with the salt following the reaction explained, so that finally they got stuck.



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**Figure 12.** Elemental analyses in the different regions (surface, lower than the surface and body) of **A:** AVR003; **B:** AVR016; **C:** AVR015; **D:** AVR004 and **E:** AVR014, marked by the name of the spectrum.

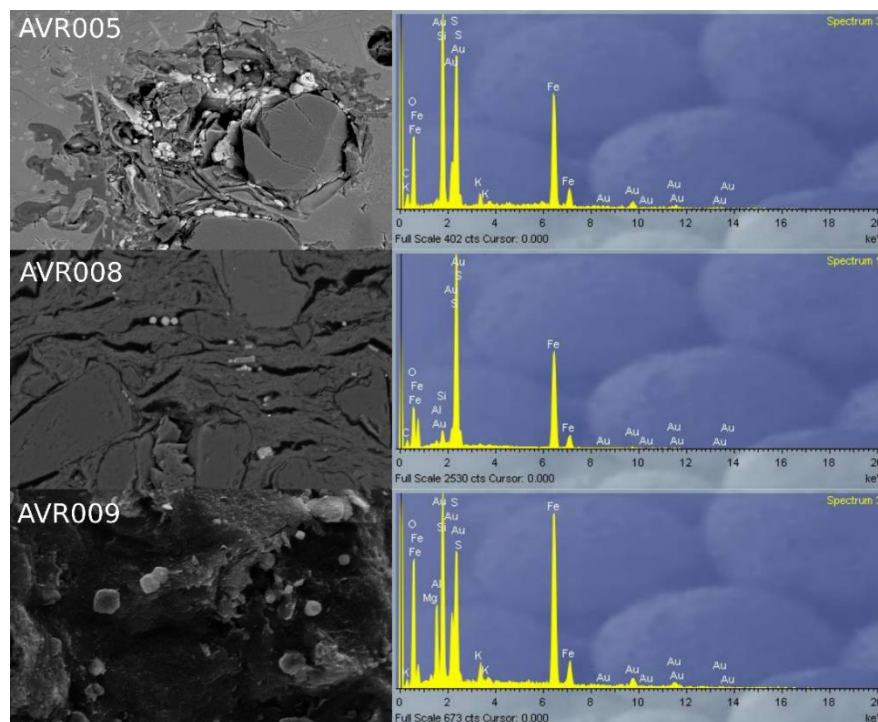
ANID	Glassy-layer	Spectrum	Position	Na
A. AVR003	Yes	Spectrum 3	Surface	9,99
		Spectrum 2	Lower than the surface	1,97
		Spectrum 1	Body	0,29
B. AVR016	Yes	Spectrum 1	Surface	5,37

		Spectrum 2	Surface	6,03
		Spectrum 3	Body	0,64
<b>C. AVR015</b>	Yes	Spectrum 3	Surface	5,87
		Spectrum 2	Lower than the surface	2,79
		Spectrum 1	Body	0,77
<b>D. AVR004</b>	No	Spectrum 4	Surface	0,41
		Spectrum 3	Body	0,43
<b>E. AVR014</b>	No	Spectrum 1	Surface	0,39
		Spectrum 2	Surface	0,26
		Spectrum 3	Body	0,17

731 **Table 4.** Elemental concentrations of Na (in wt %) in different regions obtained by SEM-EDS of  
732 the ceramics shown in Figure 12.

733 3.3.5. Marine environments

734 Some aggregates composed by Fe, S, and in some cases, K have also been  
735 identified in the cavities and cracks of the ceramics (Figure 13).



736

737 **Figure 13.** Aggregates in the cracks and cavities of AVR005, AVR008 and AVR009 composed  
738 mainly by Fe and S, and, sometimes, K.

739 According to the literature, these aggregates could be pyrite ( $\text{FeS}_2$ ) and/or  
740 jarosite ( $(\text{K}, \text{Na})\text{Fe}_3(\text{SO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_6$ ) (Secco et al., 2011). The presence of these two  
741 aggregates is a common alteration in marine environment ceramics, produced  
742 due to the decomposition of hematite ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ), from ferric ion ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ) to ferrous ion  
743 ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ), by the reduction and solubilization with hydrogen sulphide ( $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ) in water  
744 solution (Iñáñez et al., 2020; Secco et al., 2011). In saline water environments,  
745 the microorganisms can reduce sulphate ions ( $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) to sulphur (S) or hydrogen  
746 sulphide, in the presence of sulphate-reducing bacteria (*Desulfovibrio*  
747 *desulfuricans*) (Neal et al., 2001; Secco et al., 2011). Then, this  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  is the

748 responsible for hematite being reduced. Two main mechanisms could happen for  
749 this reduction, giving as a product framboidal aggregates or euhedral crystals of  
750 pyrite (Secco et al., 2011). On the one hand, hematite could hydroxylate to  
751 goethite (FeOOH), and subsequently, goethite could be reduced by H<sub>2</sub>S to Fe<sup>2+</sup>.  
752 On the other hand, hematite could be reduced directly to Fe<sup>2+</sup> in the presence of  
753 H<sub>2</sub>S. After these two reduction mechanisms, the ferrous ion reacts with additional  
754 hydrogen sulphide and forms pyrite as euhedral crystals or framboidal  
755 aggregates depending on the different sequences of reactions and the amount of  
756 organic matter and hydrogen sulphide (Neal et al., 2001; Schoonen, 2004; Secco  
757 et al., 2011). Then, jarosite could be formed due to the oxidation of pyrite and  
758 reaction with dissolved alkali (Secco et al., 2011).

759

#### 760 4. Conclusions

761

762 This study provides a deeper understanding of pottery production and trade in Aveiro  
763 during the Post-Medieval period after the archaeometric characterization performed  
764 on 25 unglazed red and black low-calcareous ceramics unearthed in the  
765 archaeological site Ria de Aveiro A and the *Santo António* church. Thus, chemical  
766 analysis allowed establishing their provenance as belonging to A-1 local reference  
767 group, which is related to the local pottery production of Aveiro during the 16<sup>th</sup> to the  
768 beginning of 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. These results are in accordance with the study carried  
769 out by Alves and collaborators (1998), which was explained in section 1.

770 As far as the manufacture technology is concerned, two main colours are  
771 distinguished among the pastes inside A-1 reference group: low-calcareous red and  
772 black, fired at temperatures ranging from 800 °C to 950 °C. Considering that all  
773 ceramics are formed with the same clays, the difference in the colour suggests that  
774 there is no specialization concerning the paste. Instead, in the first place, potters  
775 played with the temperature and the atmosphere of the kiln to obtain the colour of  
776 the paste they desired and, in the second place, they played with the different  
777 finishing of the ceramics. Thus, probably, they applied reducing conditions and high  
778 firing temperatures (850-950 °C) for AVR002, AVR003 and AVR015 ceramics and  
779 this fact would be explained by the appearance of hercynite -after the reduction of  
780 hematite- in all of these ceramics. Echallier (1984) states that black pastes should  
781 therefore not be considered a priori as an indubitable index of technological poverty,  
782 but, on the contrary, as a conscious mastery of a simple and effective technique.  
783 However, two ceramics, which form the F-V fabric (AVR005 and AVR016), present  
784 a different case of study; probably, they were red ceramics in origin, however, the  
785 reducing firing conditions of the fire of the ship turned their surfaces to black. On the  
786 other hand, with respect to the shiny finishing of the ceramics, the potters probably  
787 burnished the shiny black shards of F-V fabric (AVR003, AVR005, AVR015 and  
788 AVR016), evidencing the burnishing technique in ceramics with red and black pastes  
789 (Fernandes, 2012). However, AVR002 from F-IV draws the attention because of its  
790 black matte surface. In order to obtain the metallic black finishing the potters used  
791 the technique of burnishing, as it produces an even and compact surface, which  
792 causes specular reflection and gives to the ceramics a shiny surface (Ionescu et al.,  
793 2014). Therefore, the reasons for this difference could be that, maybe they did not

794 give this finishing to AVR002 or that, AVR002 could have been smoothed instead of  
795 burnished because, according to the literature, smoothing makes ceramics appear  
796 matte (Ionescu et al., 2014).

797 Besides, SEM-EDS analyses have also facilitated the identification of the nature of a  
798 glassy-layer mainly of vacuolar aspect. One of the reasons for the formation of that  
799 layer is that iron compounds may act as a flux when they are exposed to a reducing  
800 atmosphere at high temperatures (Rice, 2015). In this case, the vacuoles could have  
801 been formed because of the gases (such as the carbon dioxide) formed during the  
802 original firing of high temperature or due to the fire produced in the ship. Therefore,  
803 the thickness of the glassy-layer would depend on the contact between the fire and  
804 the shards. On the other hand, the glassy-layer could have also been produced  
805 because of the reaction between the salt (NaCl) and the water. If the salt that was  
806 transported in the ship reacted with seawater (thanks to the high temperature of the  
807 fire), HCl and sodium oxide were formed according to the reaction of Rice (1987).  
808 Then, sodium oxide could have reacted with the silica of the ceramics, lowering its  
809 melting point, and giving as a product a glassy-layer. The vacuoles could be the  
810 product of the evaporation of HCl. Therefore, in this case, the thickness of the glassy-  
811 layer would depend on the amount of salt that reacted with the ceramics. The clear  
812 example would be the AVR005 ceramic, which has two ceramics stuck together: they  
813 were fused and melted together during the process. Furthermore, it is probably that  
814 the layers of the rest of the ceramics from F-V were also formed due to this reaction,  
815 as the higher concentration of Na in the surface of F-V ceramics suggested, probably  
816 due to the formation of Na<sub>2</sub>O in the surface.

817 Moreover, the fire produced in the ship possibly did not act with the same intensity  
818 on all the shards, so some black spots may have appeared because the fire impacted  
819 directly on them (like in the case of AVR001, AVR012 or AVR013). Maybe, as with  
820 AVR005 and AVR016 happened, AVR002 was also burnt by the fire developed in  
821 the ship. Additionally, the beige surface of AVR003 could have been reoxidized  
822 during this process (Gillies and Urch, 1983).

823 In addition, XRD and SEM-EDS analyses have also shown the appearance of some  
824 secondary phases, such as pyrite or jarosite and evidences of potassium halite,  
825 related to alterations and contaminations of the ceramics in the post-depositional  
826 scenery. The presence of pyrite and jarosite aggregates is a common alteration in  
827 marine environment ceramics, produced due to the decomposition of hematite  
828 (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), from ferric ion (Fe<sup>3+</sup>) to ferrous ion (Fe<sup>2+</sup>), by the reduction and solubilization  
829 with hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) in water solution (Secco et al., 2011). On the other  
830 hand, halite can crystallize in porous materials, especially in marine environments  
831 (López-Arce et al., 2013).

832 Finally, the present work reinforces the idea that local production from Aveiro,  
833 included in A-1 compositional group, clearly predominates in the city production  
834 pattern and was also a valuable object in the Atlantic trade. The fact that the ceramics  
835 from RAVA show a chemical fingerprint compatible with ceramics from the church,  
836 reinforce the conclusion of the study carried out by Carvalho and Bettencourt (2012);  
837 that ceramics from RAVA were from a latter period than it was thought, despite the  
838 ship being dated to the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century (Alves et al., 2001).

839

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