

Continued Analysis of Aboriginal Ceramic Sherds from the Jenkins Site (41AT287) in Atascosa County, South Texas

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This report concerns the analysis of an additional eight aboriginal ceramic vessel sherds from the Jenkins site (41AT287) in South Texas. The methods of ceramic vessel sherd analysis of this sherd sample follow the methods outlined in Perttula (2019:1-4).

The eight sherds include a plain bone-tempered rim sherd (Figure 1a) and seven body sherds tempered with bone (n=4), bone-sandy paste (n=1), bone-grog (n=1), and grog (n=1) (Table 1). The grog-tempered body sherd in this assemblage has parallel brushing marks (Figure 1b). This sherd may be from an ancestral Caddo ceramic vessel manufactured in East Texas (see Perttula 2019:9; Robinson 2019).

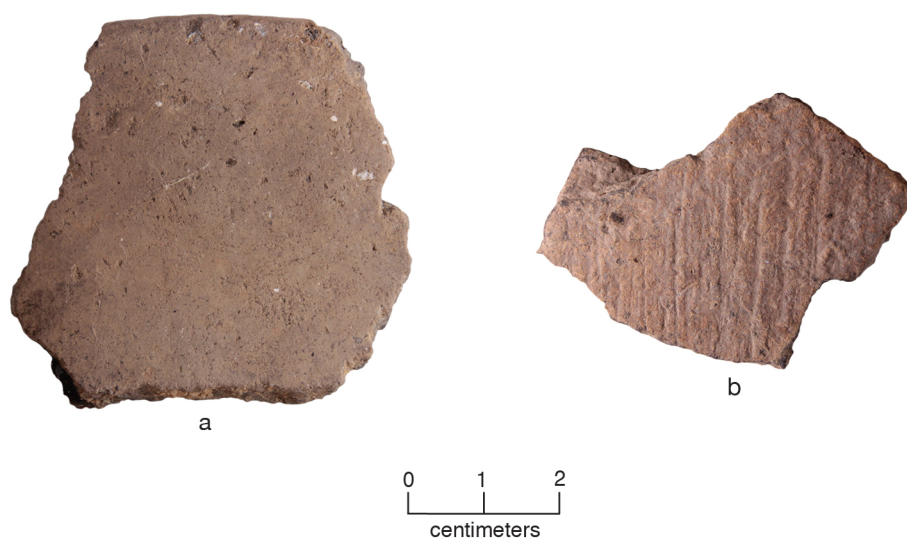


Figure 1. Sherds from the Jenkins site: a, plain bone-tempered rim (no. 363); b, parallel brushed grog-tempered body sherd (no. 363). Figure provided by Brian Wootan.

In the assemblage of 366 aboriginal sherds from the Jenkins site, more than 80 percent of the sherds are from bone-tempered vessels, either as the sole temper, or with hematite, grog, and grit inclusions (Table 2). The majority of these sherds have a silty clay paste, but 29.6 percent of the bone-tempered sherds have a sandy paste. These bone-tempered sherds are from Leon Plain vessels, or from various vessels decorated with incised, brushed, red washed, and trailed lines (see Perttula 2019). The sandy paste sherds (18.3 percent, including those with no temper) in the Jenkins site assemblage are likely from coastal Rockport ceramic wares (cf. Ricklis 2013), either plain or with incised, punctated, or sandy paste brushed surfaces. The remainder of the sherds (those with

either grog-temper or hematite temper) comprise only 1.4 percent of the overall assemblage.

Table 1. Detailed analysis of the latest sample of aboriginal ceramic sherds from the Jenkins site.

| Sherd No. | Sherd type | Temper | FC | ST | Th (mm) | Decoration | Rim-Lip Form |
|-----------|------------|------------------|----|--------|---------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 363 | rim | bone | F | E SM | 7.0 | Plain | Direct rim and rounded lip |
| 364 | body | grog | G | - | 6.7 | Parallel brushed | - |
| 365 | body | bone | H | I/E SM | 7.9 | Plain | - |
| 366* | body | bone | F | E SM | 5.7 | Plain | - |
| 367* | body | bone | F | - | 5.9 | Plain | - |
| 368 | body | bone-sandy paste | C | E SM | 6.6 | Plain | - |
| 369 | body | bone-grog | H | I/E SM | 6.4 | Plain | - |
| 370 | body | bone | F | I SM | 6.2 | Plain | - |

*sherds from the same vessel

FC=firing condition (see Perttula 2019:Figure 2); ST=surface treatment; Th=thickness; E SM=exterior smoothed; I SM=interior smoothed; I/E SM=interior/exterior smoothed

Table 2. Temper-paste groups in the Jenkins site aboriginal ceramic assemblage, all samples.

| Temper-paste group | No. | Percent |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Bone | 179 | 48.9 |
| Bone-sandy paste | 108 | 29.6 |
| Sandy paste | 63 | 17.2 |
| Bone-hematite | 5 | 1.4 |
| None (likely fine sandy paste) | 4 | 1.1 |
| Grog | 4 | 1.1 |
| Bone-grog | 1 | 0.3 |
| Bone-grit | 1 | 0.3 |
| Hematite | 1 | 0.3 |
| Totals | 366 | 100.0 |

There are 40 sherds with decorative elements in the Jenkins site ceramic assemblage (Table 3), principally incised lines (n=15, 37.5 percent), brushing marks (n=16, 40.0 percent), and a red wash (n=6, 15.0 percent) (Table 4). Vessel sherds with incised lines are most common in the sandy paste ware (60.0 percent of the decorated sandy paste sherds, Rockport Incised), brushed sherds are more commonly represented in the grog-tempered (n=2, 100 percent) and bone-tempered-sandy paste vessel sherds (57.1 percent), as are sherds from bone-tempered, bone-tempered-sandy paste, and bone-hematite-tempered sherds with a red wash (30.0 percent); these latter sherds are from Doss Red vessels, as is the one hematite-tempered red-slipped sherd in the Jenkins site assemblage.

Table 3. Decorative methods represented in the Jenkins site aboriginal ceramic assemblage, all samples.

| Temper-paste group | I | B | P | RW | RS | Tr | N |
|--------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|
| Bone | 3 | 4 | - | 4 | - | 1 | 12 |
| Bone-sandy paste | 2 | 4 | - | 1 | - | - | 7 |
| Sandy paste | 9 | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | 15 |
| Grog | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Bone-hematite | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| None | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Bone-grit | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Hematite | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| Totals | 15 | 16 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 40 |

I=incised; B=brushed; P=punctated; RW=red wash; RS=red slip; Tr=trailed

The various decorative methods and elements represented in the ceramic vessel sherd assemblage from the Jenkins site are consistent with a post-A.D. 1250 occupation, one likely affiliated with the Late Prehistoric Toyah phase and its bone-tempered ceramic tradition (Kenmotsu and Boyd 2012:12). Sherds with other tempers and pastes in the assemblage, as well as different incised and brushed decorative elements evidence contact and interaction of the Jenkins site aboriginal inhabitants with coastal Rockport-Karankawan groups and East Texas Caddo groups.

References Cited

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