

FIGURE LEGENDS

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335 Figure 1. a, Map showing the locations of the Iron Age pottery sites from the lower Kaveri
336 River Basin. b and c, showing the Urn burial site at Milalainattam.

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338 Figure 2. Representative pottery sherds from different megalithic sites in the lower Kaveri
339 River Basin. Photographs depicting pottery sherds from various sites, including a and e,
340 potsherd, and broken Urn from Avur-Saluvanpettai. b and f, Black-and-Red Ware Urn and
341 potsherd with Graffito Mark from Milalai Nattam. c, Habitation Mound from Tirubuvanam.
342 d, potsherd from Nallur. g, potsherds from Tiruvaymur. h, an image depicting the pottery
343 sherds from various sites such as Avur-Saluvanpettai and Tepperumalnallur.

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345 Figure 3. A detailed illustration explaining each step in the methodology (Created with
346 BioRender.com)

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348 Figure 4. Plate showing the dominant diatom taxa recorded from the pottery sherds across the
349 various sites of the lower Kaveri River Basin. a–f, h–i, k–n, *Nitzschia* sp., g, *Luticola* sp., j,
350 *Stauroneis* sp., o, *Tryblionella*/any Nitzschioid taxa, p, *Hantzschia* sp. (All images are
351 presented with scalebar corresponding to 1 μ m).

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