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Additional New Radiocarbon Dates from East Texas Caddo Sites

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Additional New Radiocarbon Dates from East Texas Caddo Sites

Timothy K. Perttula and Robert Z. Selden, Jr.

INTRODUCTION

As a follow-up to the radiocarbon analyses reported by Perttula and Selden (2013), in this article, we report on five new radiocarbon dates obtained from Caddo sites in East Texas. The radiocarbon samples are charred organic remains scraped off of one surface of whole vessels or sherds. These samples are from the Ware Acres site (41GG31; Jones 1968; Perttula 2013a), the H. C. Slider site in Cherokee County (Perttula 2013b), an unknown site in the upper Neches River basin in Smith County (9-SC), and an unknown Titus phase site (11-BCJ) in the Big Cypress Creek basin. All of the dates are calibrated using OxCal v4.1.7 (Bronk Ramsey 2012), with atmospheric data from Reimer et al. (2009).

THE DATES

Two radiocarbon samples have been submitted on organic residue from Ripley Engraved sherds recovered by Jones (1968) in a large midden deposit in Area C at the Ware Acres site in the Sabine River basin. The first Ripley Engraved sherd has a 2-sigma (95.4%) calibrated age range of A.D. 1436-1618, with a median calibrated age of A.D. 1465 (Figure 1). The sherd is a rim from a Ripley Engraved, *var. Galt* carinated bowl with a scroll and circle motif (Figure 2c).

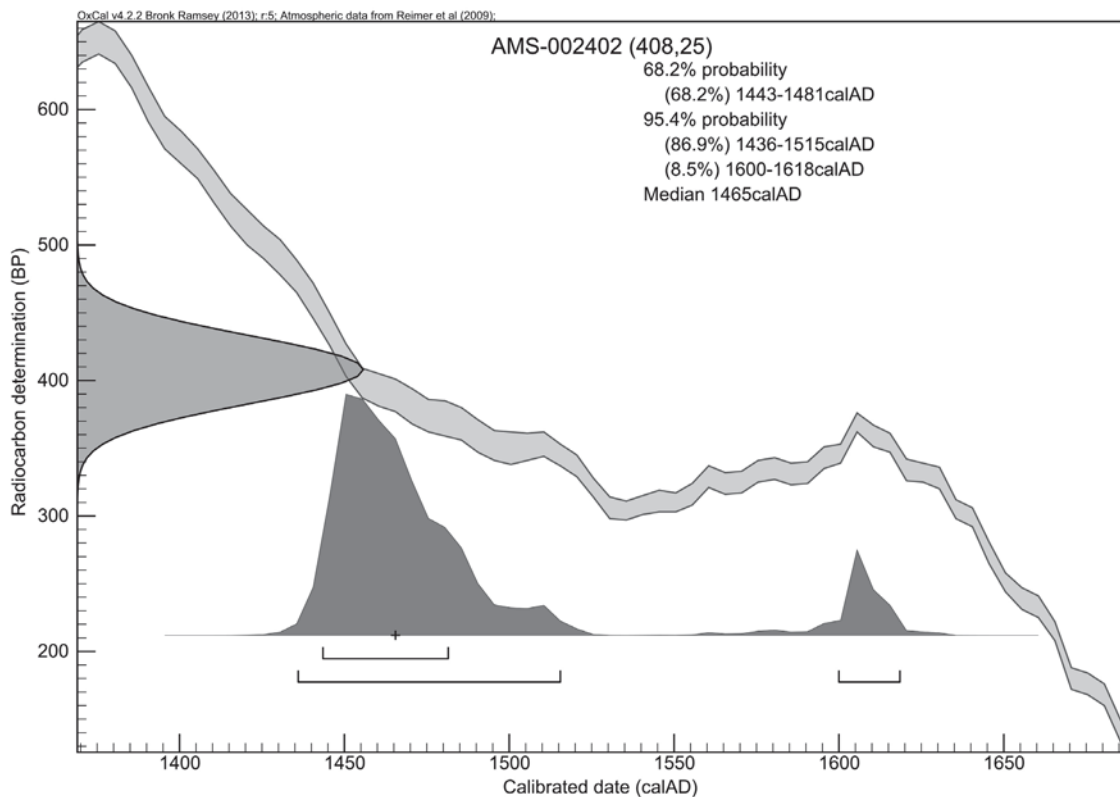


Figure 1. Calibrated age ranges of Ware Acres (41GG31) Ripley Engraved, *var. Galt* rim sherd (AMS-002402).

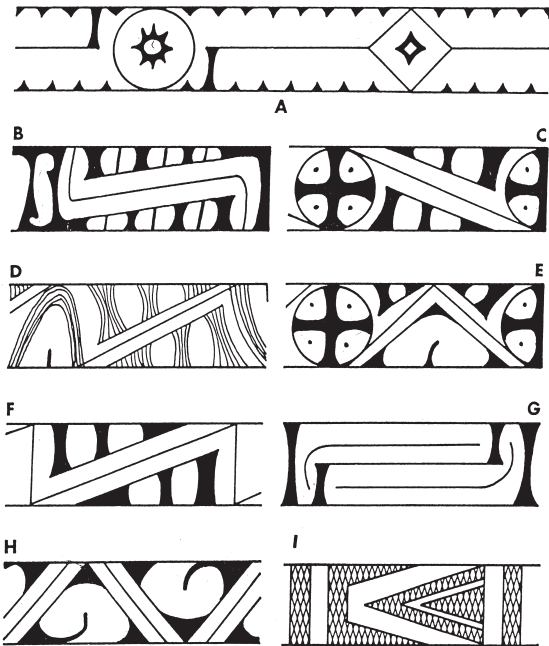


Figure 2. Ripley Engraved carinated bowl motifs.

The second radiocarbon sample from the Ware Acres site is on a carinated bowl rim with a Ripley Engraved, *var. Carpenter* or continuous scroll motif (see Figure 2f). The organic residue on this sherd has a 2-sigma calibrated age range of A.D. 1428-1487, and a median calibrated age range of A.D. 1450 (Figure 3). The median calibrated ages of both dated Ripley Engraved rim sherds range from A.D. 1450-1465, suggesting these sherds are from an early Titus phase occupation on this part of the site (Perttula 2013a). Much of the deposits in Area C at the site date after ca. A.D. 1600 (Perttula 2013a), however, based on the preponderance of sherds with pendant triangle motifs (Ripley Engraved, *var. McKinney*, see Figure 2a) in the decorated ceramic sherd assemblage.

The H. C. Slider site is a Late Caddo period, Frankston phase (ca. A.D. 1400-1650) settlement and cemetery in the Neches River valley in western Cherokee County (Perttula 2013b) that was investigated by Buddy Jones in the 1960s. There were midden deposits on three knolls, and Knoll A had four burials. The organic residue sample came

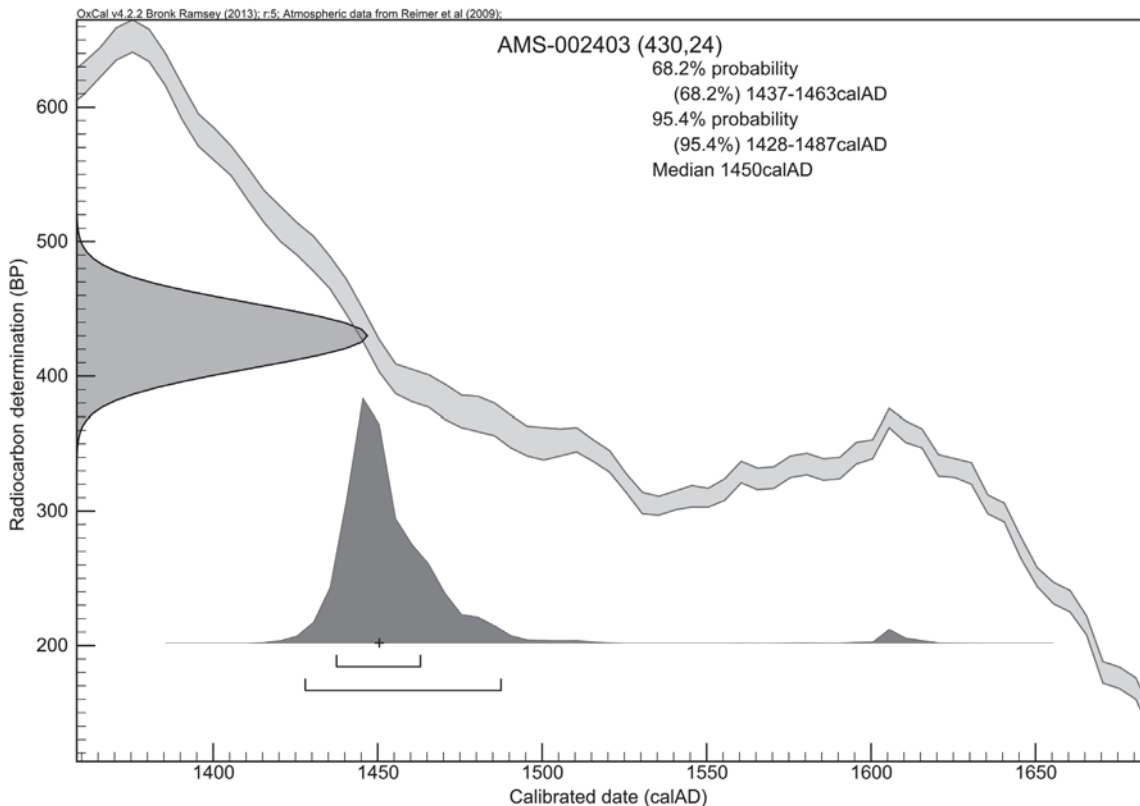


Figure 3. Calibrated age ranges of Ware Acres (41GG31) Ripley Engraved, *var. Carpenter* rim sherd (AMS-002403).

from a Bullard Brushed vessel (No. 7) in Burial 2. The burial had several funerary offerings, including two Killough Pinched jars, one with a pedestal base, a Poynor Engraved bottle, a Poynor Engraved carinated bowl, a plain carinated bowl, and a Bullard Brushed jar. The calibrated 2-sigma age range of the residue on the jar is A.D. 1453-1635, with a median calibrated age of A.D. 1547 (Figure 4).

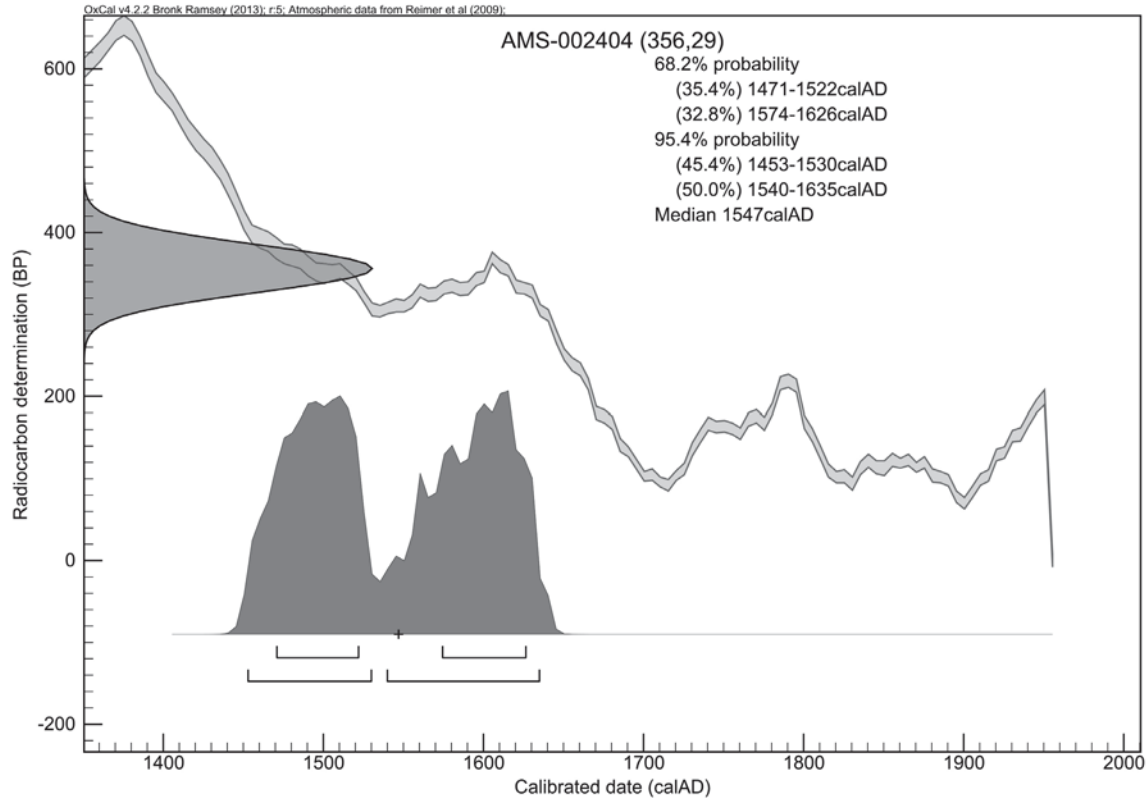


Figure 4. Calibrated age ranges of H. C. Slider site Bullard Brushed jar (AMS-002404).

The Bullard Brushed jar is a medium-sized vessel (16.7 cm in height) tempered with bone, grog, and hematite. There is vertical brushing on the rim and the body, extending to within 5 cm of the vessel base (Figure 5).

The SC designation on vessels in the Buddy Jones Collection at the Gregg County Historical Museum is for Smith County. Although the site provenience of Vessel 9-SC is not known with certainty, Jones excavations in Smith County were confined to several sites in the upper Neches River basin, in the area of present-day Lake Palestine (Perttula et al. 2013). The organic residue scraped from Vessel 9-SC has a 2-sigma calibrated age range of A.D. 1276-1394, with a median calibrated age of A.D. 1333 (Figure 6).

The dated vessel is brushed on the rim and body, with four vertical sets of applied nodes on the body itself (Figure 7). The lip is notched, which is an unusual and rare East Texas Caddo rim treatment.

Vessel 11-BCJ is from an unknown Titus phase site in the Big Cypress Creek basin. Buddy Jones excavated a number of Titus phase cemeteries on both Big Cypress Creek and Little Cypress Creek in the 1950s and 1960s, but due to lack of records, the site provenience of this vessel is not known at present. The 2-sigma calibrated age range of the organic residue on the Cass Applied jar (Figure 8) is A.D. 1455-1635, with a median calibrated age of A.D. 1553 (Figure 9). This date indicates that the vessel is likely from a late (post-A.D. 1550) Titus phase burial in the region.



Figure 5. Bullard Brushed jar from the H. C. Slider site, Burial 2, Vessel 7.

Cass Appliqued jars are not common in Titus phase sites, based on a compilation of more than 2030 vessels from burials in 17 different cemeteries (Perttula and Sherman 2009:Table 17-4). It was best represented at the Tuck Carpenter (41CP5) and H. S. Taylor (41HS3) sites on tributaries in the Big Cypress Creek basin. Cass Appliqued jars are also present in late 17th century Nasoni Caddo cemeteries on Black Bayou, a tributary to the Red River, in East Texas (Perttula et al. 2010).

SUMMARY

The five new radiocarbon dates from these Caddo sites in East Texas add to the ever increasing corpus of radiocarbon dates obtained from Caddo sites in the region (Perttula and Selden 2013; Selden and Perttula 2013). Three dates from sherds and a Cass Appliqued vessel attest to a Titus phase age for these ceramics and the sites they come from: the median calibrated ages of these samples are A.D. 1450, A.D. 1465, and A.D. 1553. The other two new radiocarbon dates are from vessels from Caddo sites in the upper Neches

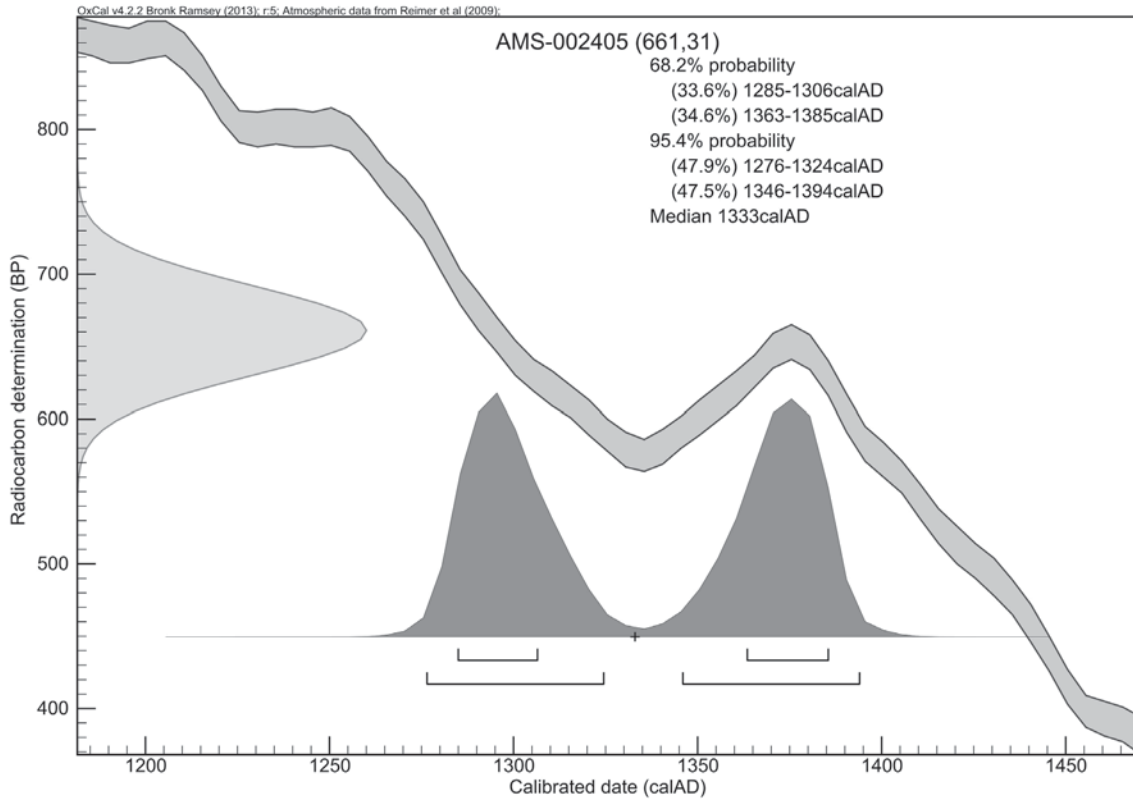


Figure 6. Calibrated age ranges of 9-SC Brushed-Applied jar, Smith County (AMS-002405).



Figure 7. Brushed-Applied jar from unknown upper Neches River basin site in Smith County, Texas.



Figure 8. Cass Applied jar (11-BCJ).

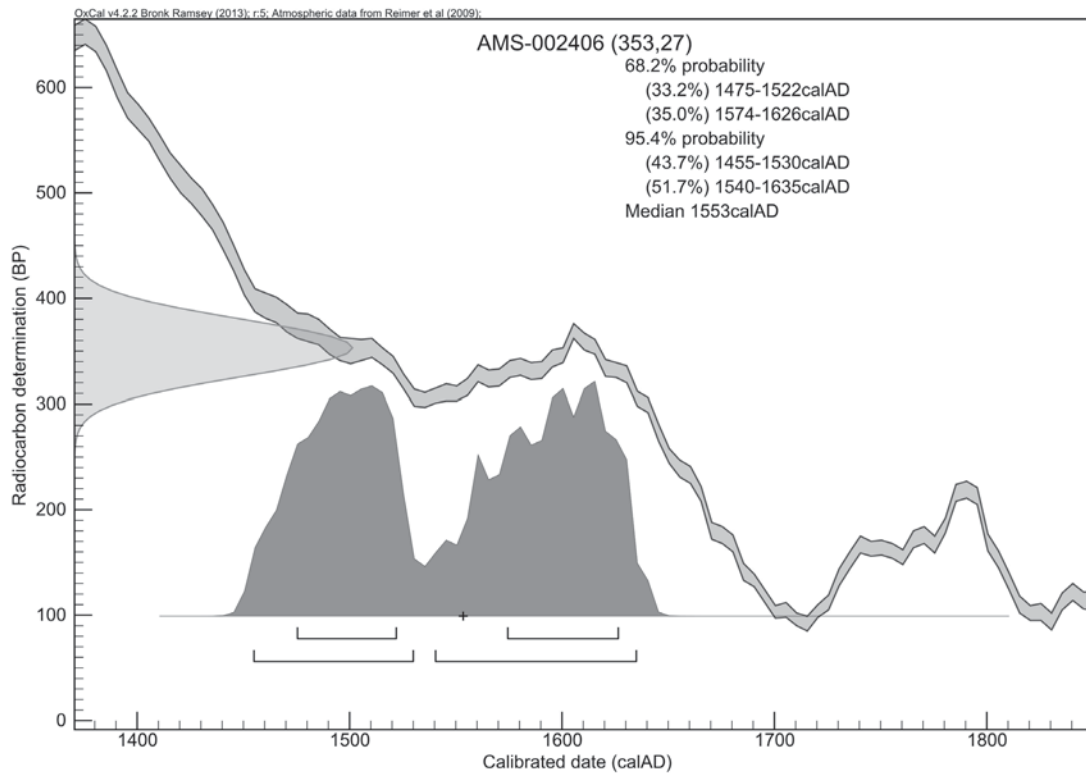


Figure 9. Calibrated age ranges of 11-BCJ Cass Applied jar from an unknown Titus phase site in the Big Cypress Creek basin.

River basin, one date from a clear Frankston phase context at the H. C. Slider site. The median calibrated age of organic residues on a Bullard Brushed jar from this site is A.D. 1547. The last dated vessel is a brushed-applied jar from an uncertain context. The 2-sigma calibrated age range of the organic residue on this vessel is A.D. 1276-1394, indicating that this vessel was in use by Caddo peoples in the Middle Caddo period.

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