

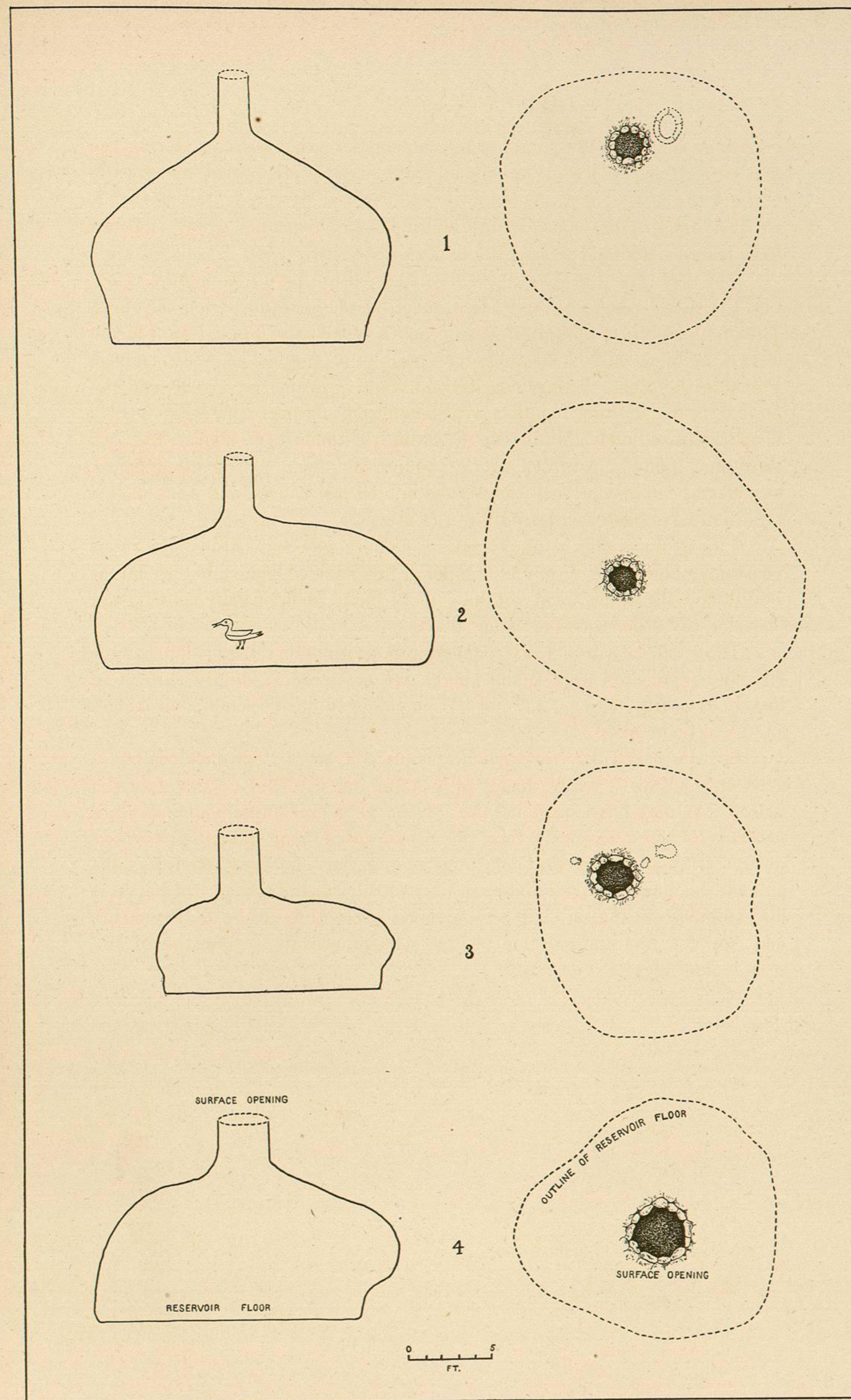
chance of success. We found many new ones unknown to us during our first expedition; and while others undoubtedly still lie buried many yards beneath the masses of the fallen walls and covered by the dense vegetation, we feel certain that most of the chultunes in this ruined group of Labná have been located and thoroughly explored.

The results of this investigation would seem to prove, among other facts, that the sealed reservoirs were used as ultimate depositories for the dead. The greater number contained human bones or traces of them. In the case of two skeletons only could the actual position of the bodies be ascertained. Probably the others were removed from some previous receptacle and deposited in the chultun, together with the burial offerings, the earth heaped upon them, and the chultun converted into a tomb and sealed. The two skeletons, found apparently as the bodies had been placed after death, may have been exceptionally preserved by natural causes, and thus in this condition have been re-interred like the others.

I found no evidences of cremation. There was charcoal in these reservoir-tombs and ashes also, and I found a few charred bones, but so far as ascertained the bones were not human. I found no artificially split human bones or any other traces of cannibalism.

The numerous beads and pendants of gypsum, crystals, jade, chalcedony, and terra-cotta were found singly and scattered, evidently thrown in loosely as death offerings, and not left on the dead or deposited as necklaces or corded pendants.

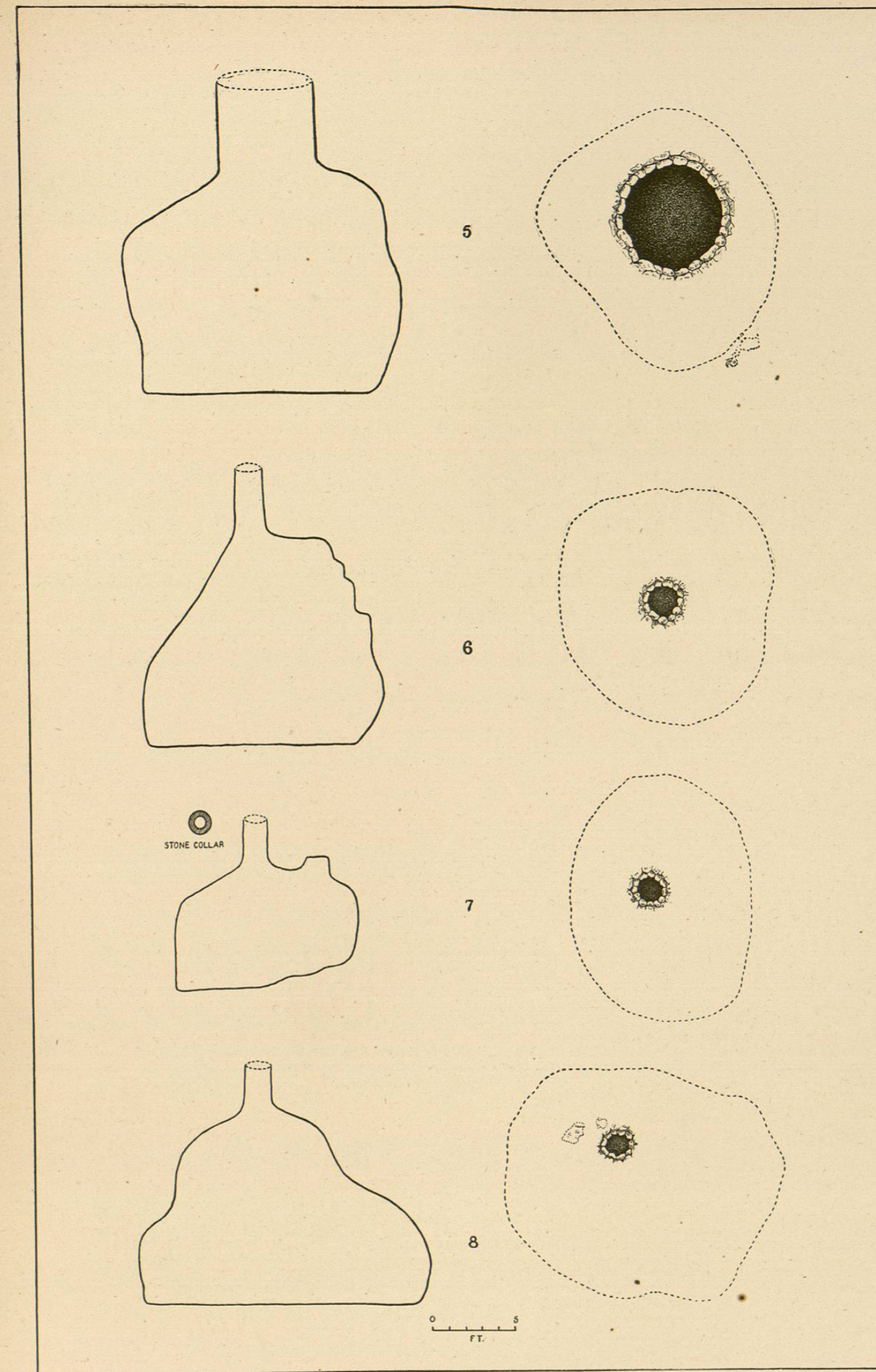
If I am asked why this ancient people converted their precious reservoirs into ultimate tombs, I can only state the fact and cannot give the reason. It may have been because of the very preciousness and absolute necessity of these reservoirs that the people gave them up to their revered dead. In some lands the mourning one gashes his body, sacrifices his animals, his human slaves, and even his own life, to the memory of his dead lord and master. In this almost universal prompting of the human heart may we not find the solution of this strange problem,—the use of the sealed chultunes of Yucatan?



VERTICAL SECTIONS EAST AND WEST THROUGH
SURFACE OPENING.

HORIZONTAL SECTIONS SHOWING OUTLINE OF FLOOR
AND SURFACE OPENING.

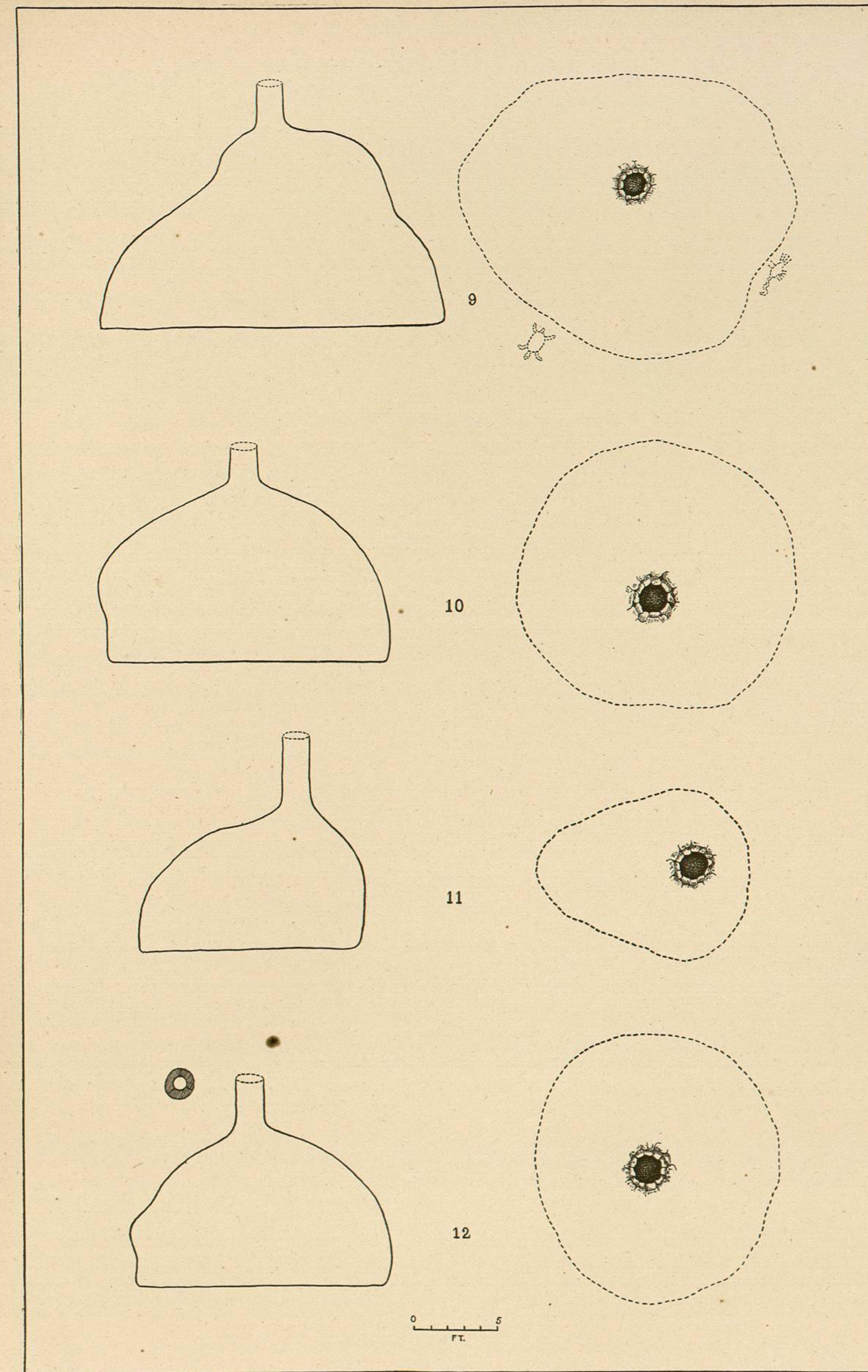
THE CHULTUNES OF LABNÁ, YUCATAN.



VERTICAL SECTIONS EAST AND WEST THROUGH
SURFACE OPENING.

HORIZONTAL SECTIONS SHOWING OUTLINE OF FLOOR
AND SURFACE OPENING.

THE CHULTUNES OF LABNÁ, YUCATAN.



VERTICAL SECTIONS EAST AND WEST THROUGH SURFACE OPENING.

HORIZONTAL SECTIONS SHOWING OUTLINE OF FLOOR AND SURFACE OPENING.

THE CHULTUNES OF LABNÁ, YUCATAN.