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Mammiform Tetrapods



**Ceramics with four female
breast-shaped supports**

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FLAAR Reports

FLAAR (USA) and FLAAR Mesoamerica (Guatemala)

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There are several standard sizes and shapes; tall thin containers are one such size and shape.

The present FLAAR Reports is on mammiform tetrapods (and one mammiform tripod) from Disk series, PD series; none in DVD series. These were files that were found on 1990's disks and were saved by Chris Trotter over a several month period and put on a year 2024 hard drive.

I do not put captions under the photos since this is a photo essay, to make all these images available to ceramicists and archaeologists so they can do their own research and their own comments.



Mid-sized vessel with large mammiform supports with nipples.



Traditional size and shape of the container and the mammiform supports; they are globular usually.





Over time (a century) the mammiform supports evolve into peccary head supports; then most tetrapod supports are no longer and the containers are basal flange bowls (with no tetrapods or tripod supports).





Typical traditional mammiform supports with nipples.



Nicely decorated and totally authentic (no repainting by a forger).



Since there are hundreds of Classic Maya sites in Peten, Belize and Campeche (plus potentially Chiapas and Tabasco) producing mammiform tetrapods, you get a diversity of size and shape



No nipple.



Mammiform tripod; 99% are tetrapods. The holes suggest that the supports are hollow.



It helps to see the mammiform tetrapod supports upside down, so I photographed several in this manner. 1990's, FLAAR Photo Archive.





This may be a late variation when the peccary heads will be replacing the breast-shape.



There is a decade or more when the mammiform evolves into peccary head; but here it's still mammiform but not focused on the nipple.



Put peccary eyes and now you have the new size and shape. Notice the end of the snout is flattened to make it look all the more like a peccary head.

Definitely needs a MA thesis or PhD dissertation on tetrapods.

At the end of local evolution, the supports turn into peccary heads, with the nose of the peccary head evolved from the nipple area of the earlier style. So the tetrapod supports of final epoch (of tetrapods) are peccary heads.



Photographed at Calakmul, courtesy of William Folan decades ago. This is a peccary head tetrapod support broken off centuries ago. No nipple; no breast; this is a peccary head in every aspect (stucco painted with facial features).