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Nomads in the Prut-Dniester area from the second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD (based on funerary discoveries)

ROZPRAWA DOKTORSKA

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0. Introduction

This study analyzes the mortuary practices and ceremonial customs of the Sarmatian population to understand their social life and relationships with their environment. The Prut-Dniester interfluve was chosen as the study area because it was a densely populated Sarmatian region and a key, though often overlooked, zone within European Sarmatia. The region's geographical boundaries are historically important, having served as natural borders for various entities, most recently the Bessarabia guberniya of the former Tsarist Empire, now divided between Moldova and Ukraine. The research focuses on the period from the latter half of the 2nd century to the early 3rd century AD. This timeframe is marked by two important events: the end of the Marcomannic Wars (166-180 AD), which led to a Sarmatian retreat into this area, evidenced by the Bădragii Vechi necropolis, and the emergence of the Sântana de Mureș-Chernyakhov culture at the end of the period. Written sources confirm the presence of various Sarmatian groups who expanded into this region. This work is the first synthesis of all archaeological data from the area, compiling findings from excavations conducted between the late 1940s and 2024.

Archaeological findings confirm the presence of Sarmatian groups across a wide geographical area. Originating east of the Volga River, tribes like the Iazyges, Roxolani, Siraces, Aorsi, and Alani moved westward into new territories. This migration significantly impacted the history of both Asia and Europe. Consequently, Sarmatian cultural evolution was not linear but was a long-term, multifaceted process involving various cultures over a millennium.

0.1. Central theme, research scope and problem statement

This research focuses on the archaeological landscape of the Prut-Dniester interfluve from the late 2nd to the early 3rd century AD. The period was shaped by two key factors: Roman expansion north of the Danube and the continued movement of nomadic groups from the East. Situated at the frontiers of the Roman Empire, the Eastern Carpathian region was directly affected by these dynamics, making it a crucial area for studying cultural interaction and human mobility. This analysis aims to understand the patterns of change and the processes that unfolded within this timeframe. Artifacts from this region offer crucial insights into phenomena such as migration, cultural continuity, discontinuity, and acculturation. However, interpretations of these artifacts have yielded differing and sometimes contradictory viewpoints, making it imperative to untangle the underlying complexities.

The archaeological record reveals a diverse cultural and historical environment in the Carpathian-Dniester region during this period. The Poienești-Vârteșcoiu culture, associated with the so-called "Free Dacians," was a significant presence west of the Prut River. Concurrently, burials linked to nomadic populations are found across the territory east of the Prut. Additionally, in the southern and central parts of the Prut-Dniester space, a distinct cultural entity known as the Etulia culture has been documented.

While research focused on the Poienești-Vârteșcoiu and Etulia cultures has made significant progress in recent decades (Popa 2015; Spânu 2019; Matveev, Vornic, Corobcean 2023), the study of artifacts associated with nomadic populations remains comparatively underexplored. This thesis aims to fill this scientific gap by providing a comprehensive synthesis based on a meticulous analysis of these archaeological discoveries.

This PhD thesis aims to achieve several key objectives. Firstly, it seeks to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the excavated archaeological remains. Through a meticulous examination of necropolises attributed to nomadic groups, the study will identify their distinct topographical characteristics, funerary rites, and ritual practices, as well as analyze the associated burial goods. This approach will contribute to a more precise understanding of their chronological framework and cultural origins. Additionally, the research acknowledges the complex interactions between various archaeological cultures and aims to clarify their interconnections, thereby providing a broader contextualization of the studied phenomena.

The research landscape of the Eastern Carpathian region within the specified chronological framework presents a series of complex and unresolved challenges. Despite numerous archaeological excavations, scholarly discourse lacks a coherent synthesis that integrates these scattered discoveries. This gap hinders a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic interactions between nomadic and sedentary societies, as well as their complex relationships within the expanding sphere of Roman influence.

This research holds academic significance. By systematically analyzing the archaeological evidence, this study offers new insights into cross-cultural interactions, socio-economic dynamics, and human mobility. Furthermore, it seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the interactions between indigenous communities, Roman expansion, and nomadic migrations. The findings of this research have the potential to enrich historical narratives and contribute to a more comprehensive perspective on this transformative period.

This doctoral thesis aims to bridge the gap between fragmented data and a coherent narrative, clarifying the historical processes within the Eastern Carpathian region. By critically examining the material record, this study seeks to illuminate patterns of human experience, offering insights that extend beyond academic discourse and contribute to a deeper understanding of our shared past. This research is empirically grounded in the analysis of 111 archaeological sites, encompassing over 454 graves, which provide the foundation for its chronological assessments and broader interpretative frameworks.

The primary sources used in this study are predominantly archaeological, including both published and unpublished materials. Additionally, the research incorporates the limited written sources that reference the Sarmatians during this period.

0.2. Geographical limits and landscape description

The geographical boundaries of this study encompass the area between the basins of the Prut River to the west, the Dniester River to the east, the Danube River to the southwest, and the Black Sea to the southeast. To the north, the study area is bordered by the periphery of the Outer Eastern Carpathians. This territory corresponds to the region that was occupied by the Bessarabia guberniya during the Tsarist period (Fig. 1), covering an area:

- Republic of Moldova (current area): 33,846 km²
- Bessarabia Governorate (historical area): 45,600 km²
- Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester (or Transnistria) (current area): 4,163 km²
- Total area of Bessarabia including Transnistria: 49,763 km².[1]

The study area's landscape is shaped by its position on the western edge of the **East European Plain**. The northern and central parts consist of the **Moldavian Plateau**, a hilly region with elevations that are part of the larger Volhynian-Podolian Upland. In contrast, the southern region, including **Transnistria**, is a flatter, gently undulating plain that belongs to the **Black Sea Lowland**. This southern plain, with elevations between 50 and 100 meters, is marked by wide river terraces and shallow valleys. Geomorphological activity, such as ravines and

[1] Considering that this study would be incomplete without data from the eastern bank of the Republic of Moldova, I have included in the analysis the Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester. Many excavations reports are stored in the museum's archive and have been analyzed alongside those prepared for the Prut-Dniester interfluve.

landslides, is infrequent. The entire region has a **temperate-continental climate**, characterized by warm summers (averaging 20°C) and cold winters. Precipitation generally decreases from north to south, creating two distinct biomes that were critical to the area's historical settlement patterns: the forest-steppe and the steppe. The northern and central parts of the region are a **forest-steppe**, where forested areas mix with open grasslands. This zone receives higher annual precipitation, typically 550–600 mm. The climate and geology support a variety of fertile soils, including gray and brown forest soils and leached chernozems **(Boboc 2009, 161-169; Danilescu 1999, manuscript)**.

To the south, the landscape transitions into the **open steppe**, a vast grassland with fewer trees, primarily found along river floodplains. With lower precipitation (under 450 mm), this biome is defined by its highly fertile **chernozem soils** ("black earth"). This environment, rich in grazing lands, was ideally suited for the mobile pastoralist economy of nomadic groups like the Sarmatians.

The forest-steppe and steppe zones of the study area contain several distinct geographical regions, whose environmental characteristics directly influenced Sarmatian settlement patterns.

The Forest-Steppe Zone

This zone covers the northern and central parts of the region and can be divided into three main types of landscape.

Northern Plateaus and Plains: Northern Moldova consists of moderately hilly plateaus and plains, with altitudes from 200 to 350 meters. The climate is temperate, with cold winters (-4.5°C) and warm summers (20°C), and annual precipitation between 500-650 mm. While much of this area is agricultural land today, its open plains, such as the Lower Cubolta Steppe Plain, were historically suitable for nomads and show evidence of Sarmatian presence. Central Forested Uplands (Bâc Plateau/Codrii): In contrast, the central region of the Bâc Plateau, known for the Codrii Forest, is rugged and heavily forested, with deep valleys and maximum altitudes of 429 m. Archaeological data indicates this area has the lowest concentration of Sarmatian finds. The dense forest and difficult terrain were likely unsuitable for a pastoralist economy. This region also remains the least explored for kurgans.

Southern Plains and Hills: South of the Bâc Plateau, the landscape transitions back to more open forest-steppe plains and hills with altitudes of 200–300 m. This area, with its mix of gray forest soils and chernozems, served as a transitional zone leading to the open steppe.

The Steppe Zone

The steppe zone in the south and southeast was the primary area of Sarmatian habitation. It is characterized by milder winters (-3°C), warm summers (22°C), and lower precipitation (460-500 mm), leading to arid conditions and frequent droughts (Boboc 2009, 161-169; Danilescu 1999, manuscript). Two main plains define this zone:

The Bugeac Steppe Plain is a low-lying landscape (under 150 m) with a sparse network of small rivers. It is a known concentration area for Sarmatian archaeological sites.

The Dniester Steppe Plain, with its flat river terraces, was also attractive to nomads. Its fertile chernozem soils supported both Scythian and Sarmatian groups, and it was a core territory for the Late Scythians.

Interpretation of settlement patterns. The geographical data suggests a clear settlement preference. Sarmatian groups predominantly inhabited the open steppe, which was ideal for their pastoralist lifestyle. When they moved into the forest-steppe zone, they avoided the densely wooded highlands and settled in open, grass-rich areas like the Middle Prut Plain and the Bălți Steppe. The selection of these river valleys and plains was driven by their suitability for grazing and animal husbandry, a pattern consistent with the archaeological distribution of their tumulus necropolises.

0.3. A brief examination of the periodization of Sarmatian Culture: Emphasis on the Prut–Dniester region

A central issue in Sarmatian archaeology is the inconsistent use of the terms "culture," "stage," and "period." Scholars often designate distinct historical periods as separate "cultures," even while viewing them as part of a single Sarmatian ethnohistorical continuum. Following the work of researchers like M. G. Moshkova, A. S. Skripkin, and O. V. Symonenko, it is generally accepted that each major period is marked by the arrival of new populations that give the material culture and burial practices distinct features (Moshkova 1983, 19; Skripkin 1990, 187; Symonenko 1999, 53; Bârcă 2006, 31-32).

This conceptual difficulty is reflected in the terminology. In the 1960s, names based on type-sites like Prokhorov (Early Sarmatian), Suslov (Middle Sarmatian), and Shipov (Late Sarmatian) were common. However, research by I. P. Zaseckaya showed that the Shipov monuments were dated later than most Late Sarmatian assemblages, making the term confusing

(1968, 52–62). As a result, "Late Sarmatian culture" became the standard term for the final period. It has been argued that, for consistency, the first two periods should also be referred to simply as Early and Middle Sarmatian cultures (Skripkin 1990, 188).

The archaeological record itself highlights the problem with using single sites to define entire periods.

- The Prokhorovka kurgans, which gave their name to the Early Sarmatian culture (4th–3rd centuries BCE), show a mix of traits and lack some key features of the fully developed culture, suggesting they represent a transitional phase (Moshkova, 1963, 18).
- Similarly, the Suslov cemetery, the type-site for the Middle Sarmatian period, contains burials from different periods and its assemblages do not represent the full range of Middle Sarmatian cultural traits (Skripkin 1990, 188).

This review shows the challenge of establishing clear criteria for Sarmatian chronology. It underscores the need for methodological precision when analyzing the evolution of these multifaceted cultural phenomena.

The situation in the Prut–Dniester interfluve differs from other Sarmatian territories. Early Sarmatian complexes are rare here, typically appearing as isolated finds or hoards rather than coherent burial sites. Acknowledging these regional specifics, the following section will outline the chronological periodization used for the Sarmatian culture in the study area. The periodization of Sarmatian culture in the North Pontic region has been the subject of scholarly debate. For the Prut-Dniester area, this study adopts a framework based on regional archaeological findings, divided into three main periods:

- Early Sarmatian Period: late 1st century BC – first half of the 1st century AD
- Middle Sarmatian Period: second half of the 1st century – first half of the 2nd century AD
- Late Sarmatian Period: second half of the 2nd century – 4th century AD

The Late Sarmatian Period, which is the focus of this research, is further subdivided into early and late sub-phases.This periodization correlates with frameworks proposed by other researchers for the region, including Grosu (1990), Dzigovskij (1993, 2013), and Symonenko (2004). While the number of subdivisions may differ, the broader chronological boundaries are consistent (Fig. 2). For instance:

- The Early Sarmatian Period in this study corresponds to the first two periods in Grosu's system and overlaps with Symonenko's phases A2 and A3.
- The Middle Sarmatian Period aligns with Grosu's third period and Symonenko's phase B.
- The Late Sarmatian Period corresponds to Grosu's fourth and fifth periods and Symonenko's phase C (sub-phases C2a and C2b).

The provided figure (Fig. 2) synthesizes these systems and situates them within the broader East European framework developed by Shchukin (2005).

While chronological questions about the earliest Sarmatian presence remain, there is a scholarly consensus that the main period of interest for this thesis - the Late Sarmatian period - begins in the second half of the 2nd century AD.

0.4. Research methodology

This section details the methodologies and analytical tools employed to examine the Sarmatian nomadic presence within the Prut-Dniester interfluve. By using these approaches, this study seeks to gain a more refined understanding of the material culture, spatial dynamics, and chronology of the Late Nomads of Antiquity. The subsequent sections provide a detailed discussion of each method and its anticipated results.

Comparative-Topographic Method. The landscape archaeological analysis employs a comparative-topographic method, which involves a spatial examination of sites associated with a specific cultural group. This analysis is conducted using the open-source Geographic Information System (GIS) software, QGIS. The primary objective of this approach is to evaluate the topographical characteristics of these sites and to identify spatial relationships between them. The results of this assessment will contribute to a clearer understanding of the distinctions between the two study areas under investigation.

Expected Results: This method will address fundamental inquiries regarding the sites' topographical positions, their shared characteristics, and potential anomalies. By deciphering the factors influencing the selection of these locations, I aim to discern discrepancies in topographic parameters and spatial relationships between the two regions.

Typological Method. The typological method involves the systematic classification of the discovered material, resulting in a typology of all categories of artifacts unearthed from the Late

Sarmatian culture necropolises. This process will provide a structured framework for organizing and analyzing the grave goods.

Expected Results: The typological table compiled will serve as the foundation for subsequent statistical and combinatorial analyses. It will serve as a reference point for assessing the relative chronology, facilitating the identification of key burial groups and phases.

Analogy Method. The analogy method aims to identify similarities between the grave goods of Sarmatian culture in the study area and its surrounding regions. Analogies will be drawn not only within the Sarmatian culture itself but also with contemporaneous cultures from both Western and Eastern Europe.

Expected Results: This method will yield a clear demarcation of regions displaying analogies, particularly for the most distinctive elements of the material culture. Such findings will be pivotal in elucidating the circulation of artifacts and analyzing intercultural interactions between the "Sarmatians" and neighboring communities.

Insertion and Statistical Combinatorial Method. This method involves the application of statistical and combinatorial techniques to materials retrieved from the most representative graves. Through serialization and correspondence analysis, I aim to construct a relative chronological framework and to define the internal phases of the late Sarmatian culture.

Expected Results. The insertion and correspondence tables are expected to establish a relative chronology for different categories of grave goods, which will help to delineate distinct phases. This method will contribute to a more precise understanding of the temporal evolution of the culture.

C14 Analysis. Radiocarbon (C14) dating will be performed on samples from various necropolises to acquire crucial, independent data on the temporal presence of the Sarmatian culture in the Prut-Dniester interfluve. This analytical method, which has been applied for the first time to this culture on such a scale, is expected to help define the internal phases of the late Sarmatian culture.

Expected Results. The C14 analyses are expected to yield definitive chronological data that will help pinpoint the operational periods and internal phases of the late Sarmatian culture. This additional dataset will complement the traditional typological-comparative method, allowing for a more accurate reconstruction of the overall chronology of this time.

Incorporating these methodologies, this research endeavors to contribute a multifaceted perspective on the Sarmatian nomadic population presence within the Prut-Dniester interfluve, enriching our comprehension of their material culture, spatial interactions, and historical timeline.

I. Ancient written sources and the history of research (archaeological sources)

The Late Sarmatian period in the North Pontic Barbaricum, particularly in the Prut-Dniester interfluve, is a key phase in Sarmatian history. This era, from the second half of the 2nd century to the first half of the 3rd century AD, was marked by significant cultural transformations resulting from both internal developments and external influences.

This chapter examines the two main categories of evidence for this period. First, it reviews the relevant ancient written sources that describe the Sarmatians in this frontier zone. Second, it outlines the history of archaeological research, from early discoveries to modern methodologies, that has shaped the current understanding of the Sarmatian presence in the region.

1.1. Sources. The Sarmatians in the Ancient World: Second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century (Historical overview, Relation with sedentary population and Roman Empire)

Based on cultural practices, the Late Sarmatian period is divided into two phases, a distinction noted by researchers like Grosu (1990), Symonenko (2004, 2011), and Dzigovskij (2013):

- The second half of the 2nd century – the first half of the 3rd century AD (the primary focus of this study).
- The second half of the 3rd century – the 4th century AD.

Although this era saw numerous Sarmatian incursions westward, contemporary literary sources provide little information about the Late Sarmatians. In contrast, the archaeological record of their presence is abundant.

Archaeological evidence suggests that Late Sarmatian groups first appeared west of the Don River around the mid-2nd century AD. Their subsequent migration into the Prut-Dniester interfluve is marked by the appearance of new features in the material culture, particularly in ritual practices and funerary traditions.

Cultural fusion and regional divergence

During the initial phase of the Late Sarmatian culture (mid-2nd to early 3rd c. AD), several traditions from the Middle Sarmatian period continued, such as northward burial orientation

and the reuse of older kurgans. However, these were combined with new influences from the east.

A notable divergence appears in the archaeological record. Monuments in the eastern North Pontic region (e.g., the Shevchenko necropolis) closely resemble those east of the Don River. In contrast, sites in the western North Pontic, including the Prut-Dniester interfluve, show more distinct local characteristics. This suggests that in the west, the newly arrived groups (likely Alans) did not form a majority but instead mixed with existing Sarmatian populations. This interaction, or symbiosis, led to the formation of a distinct Late Sarmatian cultural identity in the region. The general absence of rich, aristocratic tombs in the west further supports the interpretation that the main settlement territory of the Alanic newcomers remained in the steppes east of the Don and Volga.

The Marcomannic Wars (166–180 AD) and their impact

Reconstructing the political history is challenging due to sparse written sources. One of the first potential mentions of Late Sarmatians is a reference in the Historia Augusta to an attack on Olbia by "Tauroscythians," who some scholars identify as Sarmatians (Antoninus Pius, 9, 2). The same source notes that Emperor Antoninus Pius took measures to restrain the Alans (Antoninus Pius, 5).

The most significant event of this era was the Marcomannic Wars, a series of conflicts along the Roman Empire's northern border involving numerous groups, including the Marcomanni, Quadi, Iazyges Sarmatians, Roxolani, Alans, and Costoboci (Historia Augusta, Marcus Antoninus, 22, 1). During the first phase of the war (166–175 AD), Germanic tribes attacked Italy while the Iazyges were active in Pannonia. By 172 AD, Roman counteroffensives had pushed the invaders back across the Danube.

In the second phase (177–180 AD), conflict flared again in Pannonia. Emperor Marcus Aurelius led the campaigns personally, defeating the Sarmatians and Buri by 179 AD. After the defeat, the Iazyges negotiated a concession allowing them to trade with the Roxolani through Roman Dacia, highlighting the desire of these geographically separated Sarmatian groups to maintain contact (Cassius Dio, Roman History, LXXI, 19, 2). After Marcus Aurelius's death, his successor Commodus negotiated peace treaties with the tribes. These wars marked a turning point for Rome, foreshadowing the larger crises of the 3rd century.

Archaeological discoveries from the latter half of the 2nd century AD reflect the consequences of these wars. The region of Wallachia saw a marked increase in finds associated with Sarmatian culture, suggesting intensified activity. Similarly, the area between the Prut and Siret rivers, especially the Moldovan Plain, shows a significant rise in Sarmatian presence during this period. Despite these movements, the Sarmatians in these regions largely maintained their nomadic lifestyle, with burial sites remaining the primary archaeological evidence of their presence (Bichir 1993, 1996; Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 370).

The 3rd Century: Shifting alliances and new powers

Conflicts continued into the 3rd century. In 236/237 AD, Emperor Maximinus Thrax, himself of Gothic and Alanic descent, defeated a coalition of Sarmatians and Free Dacians (Historia Augusta, The Two Maximini, 1:4). His noted friendly relations with the Getae and Alans suggest a complex network of shifting alliances among the various groups in the region.

During this time, Germanic tribes, primarily Goths, began to settle in areas adjacent to Sarmatian-held lands. Evidence of cultural and economic exchange appears in Sarmatian burials from the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries, which contain artifacts from the Central European barbarian milieu. These interactions soon escalated, as Gothic-led raids - often with Sarmatian, Alanic, and Carpi allies - began to pose a serious threat to Roman provincial security. The coordinated nature of these attacks repeatedly challenged the Roman military, culminating in the death of Emperor Decius at the Battle of Abruttus in 251 AD.

The rise of the Sântana de Mureș-Chernyakhov Cultural Complex

These dynamic interactions contributed to the formation of the Sântana de Mureș-Chernyakhov culture, a new cultural horizon formed from the fusion of Germanic (Gothic), Iranian (Sarmatian and Scythian), and Thracian (local) elements. The integration of Sarmatians into the Gothic confederation is visible in the funerary rite, which shows clear Sarmatian influences. The most distinct of these is the adoption of inhumation as the primary rite, often in rectangular graves with lateral steps - a characteristic feature of Late Sarmatian burials west of the Dniester. The proximity of some Sântana de Mureș-Chernyakhov necropolises to Sarmatian ones further suggests a process of direct cultural exchange (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 374-375).

The Hunnic invasions and the end of the Sarmatian Era

A period of relative stability followed the conclusion of a treaty (foedus) between the Romans and Goths in 332 AD. This equilibrium was shattered by the arrival of the Huns from the east in the late 4th century. The Hunnic invasion irreversibly altered the geopolitical landscape. Ammianus Marcellinus describes how the Huns, after subjugating the Alans, attacked the Gothic Greuthungi:

"...invaded the regions of the Alans... killed and plundered many of them and made an alliance with those who remained... they attacked unexpectedly the extensive and rich districts of Ermanaric, a very warlike king..." (Res Gestae, XXXI, 3, 1).

Like the Alans, a significant portion of the eastern Goths (Ostrogoths) was forced to integrate into the Hunnic military structure, while the western Goths (Thervingi) sought refuge inside the Roman Empire. The arrival of the Huns marked a decisive turning point for all populations in their path. The Sarmatians, caught between these powerful forces, ceased to exist as a distinct political and ethnic entity in the North Pontic region. By the late 4th and early 5th centuries, the Hunnic period had brought the history of the Sarmatians in the Pontic steppe to a close.

1.2. History of research in the Prut-Dniester interfluve (archaeological sources)

The study of Sarmatian culture has a long history, with the first accidental discoveries occurring in the early 19th century within the Tsarist Empire. By the latter half of the century, research began to take on an archaeological character, exemplified by the famous tumulus discovered in 1864, which contained an elite burial (Zasetskaya 2011).

Several periodizations of Sarmatian culture research in the North Pontic region have been proposed in the scholarly literature. One of the earliest was advanced by V. I. Kostenko (1983), who divided the research process into two major phases: 1st until the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and 2nd from 1917 to 1983. The second phase is further subdivided into two subperiods: a. the 1920s to the early 1940s and b. from 1945 onwards. A similar periodization was suggested by V. I. Grosu (1990) and A. N. Dzigovskij (1993), who divided the study of North-West Pontic Sarmatians into two broad periods: 1st before the Bolshevik Revolution and 2nd after it, with the latter further divided into two subperiods: a. until 1941 and b. from 1945 onwards. According to Grosu, the first period and the initial subperiod of the second phase were primarily characterized by the accumulation of archaeological material, whereas its systematic scientific analysis began predominantly in the latter period.

A. N. Dzigovskij, whose classification largely aligns with Grosu's, argued that the organization and investigation of broader historical issues concerning the Sarmatians of the North-West Pontic region only became feasible from the late 1950s to the early 1970s. Similarly, other researchers (Berestnev 2017; Derevyanko 2018, 16-22) emphasize the influence of the country's political and ideological context, the level of scholarly training of researchers, and the development of academic schools in shaping the study of Sarmatian culture.

Based on these considerations, I propose the following periodization for research on Sarmatian culture in this reference area, structured into two major phases:

First Phase (Late 19th Century - Mid-20th Century): Characterized by exploratory excavations and artifact collection, often with minimal descriptions, a limited database, and difficulties in precise chronological attribution. This phase can be further divided into three subperiods:

- Tsarist Period (Late 19th Century - Beginning of World War I);
- Greater Romania Period or Interwar Period;
- Soviet Union Period or Post-World War II to 1953/1956.

Second Phase (1953/1956 - Present): Marked by significant discoveries that initiated systematic research on Sarmatian culture in the region. This phase can be divided into three subperiods:

Fydorov-Bichir-Rikman Period (1953-1975/1976): Initiated by the discovery of the Bocani necropolis (Fydorov 1954, 1956, 1960), followed by a synthesis of Sarmatian culture in the Lower Danube region (Bichir 1972), culminating in the publication of comprehensive works on Sarmatian culture (Rikman 1975a, 1975b).

Dergachev-Fokeev-Gudkova Period (1975/1976-1984): Defined by the publication of large necropolises, including Cuconeștii Vechi I and II (Dergachev 1982) and the Holmskoe necropolis (Fokeev, Gudkova 1984).

Grosu-Dzigovskij-Bârcă-Symonenko Period (1980s - Present): Marked by a boom in excavations, particularly of tumuli in the 1970s-1980s, followed by major syntheses (1990s-2013) and, from 2014 onwards, more specialized thematic studies and new discoveries. Notable contributions include the systematization of sites in the Prut-Dniester region (Grosu 1990, 1995), a synthesis of Sarmatian culture in the northern Black Sea region (Dzigovskij 1993, 2013), studies by Bichir (1993) on Sarmatian penetration into the Getic space, Bârcă's (2006)

analysis of early and middle Sarmatian culture, and a comprehensive synthesis of all Sarmatian periods in the northern Black Sea region by Bârcă and Symonenko (2009).

During the first subperiod „Tsarist period" of the first phase, several important milestones in archaeological research can be noted:

In 1843, T. Olofson, a member of a scientific society, was commissioned by Governor P.I. Fyodorov to document and record ancient burial mounds in the Bender district of Bessarabia Governorate (guberniya). Olofson described 14 of the most significant mounds located near the villages of Bulboaca, Gădinești, Varnița, Chircăiești, Copanca, and the city of Bender. These investigations represent an important starting point for archaeological research in Basarabia (Olofson 1848, 550-554).

Between 1888 and 1891, several tumuli were excavated in the Bugeac steppe near the villages of Sarata (6 tumuli) and Pavlovka (two tumuli or one double). These excavations were conducted by F.I. Knauer, a professor at the University of Kyiv. In 1899, Knauer excavated three additional tumuli near Friedensfeld (now Mirnopolie). In total, approximately 75-77 graves were studied, dating from the Eneolithic to the medieval period. Among these, the Pavlovka T2G3 mound is presumed to belong to the Roman period. Unfortunately, the inadequate documentation of these contexts makes it impossible to determine with certainty how many of the graves may be attributed to the Roman period (Sapozhnykov 2019, 398–412).

In 1895, a tumulus in the village of Bugaz (also known as Zatoka, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast) was excavated by Ion Casian Surucean, the first prominent archaeologist-collector of Basarabian origin. Surucean was highly regarded by the intellectual circles of Saint Petersburg and Bucharest. His collection enabled the creation of the Museum of Antiquities of Scythian Pontus in Chișinău, which could rival the Odessa Museum in significance, boasting over 90,000 artifacts from various pre-historical and historical periods. Regrettably, this invaluable collection was dispersed and partially „lost" following Surucean's untimely death, with some items now housed in the Kherson Museum (Kostenko 2016, 313-319).

Between 1896 and 1911, 412 barrows were surveyed by the Stempkovski couple near Tiraspol and the villages of Hlinaia, Mălăiești, Slobozia, Sucleea, Parcani, and others. These barrows contained Sarmatian burials. However, their findings were published only briefly and many years later, and regrettably the documentation was inadequate done during the initial research (Yarovoy 2013, 59-63).

In 1906, D. Ja. Samokvasov conducted research on a group of 20 barrows located in the Șabolat and Catarji areas along the shores of the Dniester Liman. These included Sarmatian graves, though, like others from various eras, the results were only partially published (Samokvasov 1908, 130-132).

A discovery from the late 19th century is the flat grave at Mihajlovka, initially misattributed to the Scythian period (Catalog… 1899, 152). M.A. Tihanova later identified its Sarmatian origin, dating it to no earlier than the 2nd century AD (Tihanova 1953, 18-19).

Among the earliest Sarmatian finds is the grave at Trojany, accidentally uncovered in 1914 during clay excavation in a quarry. Additionally, the catacomb grave at Sucleia was investigated by M. Shkadyshekom in 1909 (Grosu 1990, 19).

The second subperiod of the first phase: "Greater Romania Period or Interwar Period" – is minimally significant for Sarmatian culture, but the following discoveries stand out:

In 1934, at Tețcani, the Bessarabian archaeologist, N. N. Moroșan, discovered a funerary stele bearing a tamga-like symbol[2], which he attributed to the Scytho-Sarmatian period. In 1937, at Chițcani/Copanca, he discovered and studied a Sarmatian burial (Moroșan 1939, 247-270).

The third subperiod of the first phase: "Soviet Union Period or Post-World War II to 1953/1956" – is also minimally significant for Sarmatian culture, but I note the following discoveries:

In 1946, Bessarabian researchers collaborated with colleagues from Kyiv on an expedition led by T. G. Oboldueva and I. T. Berezovec. They investigated two Sarmatian graves (9 and 21) within a Bronze Age barrow near the village of Grădiște (Berezovec, Oboldueva 1946, 36).

In 1951, in the region between the Upper Prut and Upper Dniester, specifically near the village of Lenkovcy (Cernăuți region), A. I. Melyukova explored a Scythian barrow containing seven Sarmatian burials (Melyukova 1953, 65).

The initial phase was characterized by preliminary exploratory excavations and artifact collection, often with limited documentation and minimal descriptive detail. As a result, the available data remained fragmented, posing considerable challenges for accurate chronological attribution. While this phase provided a foundational basis for subsequent research, the absence

[2] The "tamga-like symbol" is a type of mark historically associated with clan or ownership identity, significant in nomadic cultures.

of systematic methodologies and comprehensive records ultimately constrained its long-term scientific impact.

The second phase of research is marked by various archaeologists who have contributed significantly to the study of this culture, leading to subperiods named after key authors.

The Fydorov-Bichir-Rikman Period, as the name suggests, is defined by the contributions of these scholars:

The systematic study of Sarmatian culture in the Prut-Dniester interfluve began after 1953, following the accidental discovery of a flat necropolis with 20 graves in Bocani village, Fălești district, investigated by G. B. Fydorov (1954, 1956, 1960). This discovery marked the start of comprehensive research into this ancient culture.

In 1958-1959, M. Ju. Smișko investigated two flat Sarmatian culture necropolises in the Prut-Upper Dniester region, attributing them to the Iazyges Sarmatians of the first half of the 1st century AD, considering that these sites were left by the first Sarmatians to reach the Prut-Dniester interfluve (Smishko 1962, 67-69).

In 1960, one of the most significant Sarmatian discoveries in the interfluve was made—the elite burial at Olănești, discovered by A. I. Melyukova. Initially dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD (Melyukova 1962, 195-208), a later reanalysis revised its dating to the early 2nd century AD (Kurchatov, Bubulici 2003, 285-312). Although not included in this study, this burial, along with the elite grave at Mocra (Kashuba, Kurchatov, Shcherbakova 2001-2002, 180–252), likely belonged to the high-ranking individuals of a new migration wave in the early 2nd century AD and appears to be contemporary with one another.

Between the 1950s and 1970s, the collection of Sarmatian artifacts continued across numerous locations, including Kiselev (Vinokur, Vakulenko 1967, 126-131), Bolhrad (Passek 1963, 2), Burjakovka (Maleev, Pioro 1973, 73-76), Corpaci (Rikman 1975a, 13-31; Grosu 1979, 250; Yarovoy 1984a, p. 38-39, 72), Cișmea (Fyodorov 1956, 58; Rikman 1975, 18; Fyodorov 1960, 277); Beljaevka (Alexeeva 1971, 32-41), Carabetovca (Рикман 1975, 31; Grosu 1983, 39; Matveev et al 2023, 68), Butești (Grosu 1983, 37-38), Butor (Meliukova 1974, 67-70), Zîrnești, Tocmagiu (Chetraru, Rikman 1960, 8-10, 12; Rikman 1966, 68, 77; Rikman 1975, 13-31), Cioropcani (Grosu, Savva 1987, 71-74), Duruitoarea Nouă (Markevich 1983; 1984), Glubokoe, Borisovka (Shmagliy, Chernyakov 1970, 33-54), Cuconeștii Vechi (Dergachev 1982, 27-28, 85; Grosu 1982, 10-11, 16-19), Mărcăuți (Rikman 1975, 13-31), Cobusca Veche (Grosu 1983,

31, 37, 46-47), Taraclia (Dergachev 1979; Agulnikov 1980; Savva 1982; Grosu, Agulnikov, Haheu 1983; Savva, Agulnikov, Manzura 1984), Selişte (Lăpuşnean 1973; Rafalovich, Lăpuşnean 1974; 1974a), Bezeni (Rikman 1966, 71-72), Bursuceni (Postică 1978, 79-81; Grosu 1983, 45-46), Hrușca (Grosu 1986), Comrat (Chetraru, Rikman 1960, 10-11; Fyodorov 1960, 273; Rikman 1966, 77; Rikman 1975, 13-31), Viișoara (Rikman 1966, 68; Rikman 1975, 13-31), Cazaclia (Savva, Agulnikov, Manzura 1984; Beylekchi, Agulnikov, Chirkov 1985; Agulnikov 1985; Grosu 1990, 48, 74-75, 92-93), Anenii Noi (Grosu 1983, 42, 47), Costești (Dergachev 1982, 20; Grosu 1982, 12-13; Agulnikov, Kurchatov 2013, 175-178; Sava et al 2019, 107-108), Dubăsarii Vechi (Borziac, Leviţkii 1983, 9-10, 16), Hancăuți (Dergachev 1982, 46-49), Pervomajsk (Rikman 1975, 13-31), Șcerbaca (Grosu 1988, 79-91), Cârnățeni (Levțkii, Demchenko 1986, 12-14; Grosu, Demchenko 1990, 132-140), Negureni (Rikman 1966, 68; Rikman 1975, 13-31), Sărata Veche (Rikman 1975, 13-31), Dumeni (Markevici 1983; Grosu 1988, 79-91), Izvoare (Grosu 1976, 8-9), Brânzeni (Grosu 1985, 129-142), Risipeni (Rikman 1966, 68; Rikman 1975, 13-31), Nerușaj (Shmagliy, Chernjakov 1970, 33-54), Pașcani (Grosu 1983, p. 31, 37, 46-47), Cimișlia (Chetraru, Rikman 1960, 10; Rikman 1966, 68; Rikman 1975, 31; Grosu 1990, 80-81; Matveev et al 2023, 69), Nadlimanskoe III (Melyukova 1984, 188-191), Opaci (Levțkii, Demchenko 1986, 12-14; Grosu, Demchenko 1990, 132-140), Ogorodnoe (Subbotin, Zaginajlo, Shmagliy 1970, 133-155), Semenovka (Dzigovskij 1981, 116-125), Kislica (Dzigovskij 1980, 86-92), Primorsk (Dzigovskij 1980, 86-92), Majaki (Patokova, Dzigovskij, Zinkovskij 1982, 131-136), and Beșalma (Grosu 1983, 39, 47), Balabanu (Chebotarenko 1972, 19-28; Chebotarenko 1973, 121-125; Chebotarenko, Yarovoi, Telnov 1989, 37-39, 45-47); Cișmichioi (Borziac 1980, 2-4) among others.

Notably, the Sarmatian necropolis at Krinicinoe, investigated between 1957 and 1970 by G. B. Fydorov, contained 10 graves and was dated to the 2nd-3rd century AD (1969, 248-253).

Another significant work is the synthesis of Sarmatian culture in the Lower Danube region by Romanian archaeologist Gh. Bichir (1972, 137–176).

However, it is worth noting that the field documentation for the mounds excavated by V. A. Safronov in 1974-1975 along the Middle Prut, near the villages of Costești, Șcerbaca, Duruitoarea Nouă, and Dumeni, has been irretrievably lost (Topal, Vornic, Popovici 2019).

This subperiod culminated in the publication of comprehensive works on Sarmatian culture by E. Rikman (1966, 1975a, 1975b). In these studies, he was the first to discuss the Western

Sarmatians and their material culture, highlighting their role in the region, their interactions with neighboring peoples and the Roman Empire, and their contribution to the Sântana de Mureș-Chernyakhov cultural complex. He also explored their involvement in the Great Migration and the fall of the Roman Empire. Additionally, E. Rikman mapped all known Sarmatian cultural sites at the time, refining and expanding upon the cartographic work previously conducted by Fydorov (1960) and Chetraru, Rikman (1960). However, as V. Grosu (1990, 23) and V. Bârcă (2006, 26) marked his studies presents certain limitations, including the absence of a clear chronological framework and a relatively superficial analysis of ancient sources.

The beginning of the next subperiod, the Dergachev-Fokeev-Gudkova Period, is marked by the following authors:

In 1975-1976, V. Dergachev `revolutionized` the study of Sarmatian culture through a then-novel method, identifying the largest number of Sarmatian burials (82 graves and 6 funeral ditches) within a single area. His groundbreaking work provided more accurate dating and field-based hypotheses, including the suggestion that the necropolis was originally tumular but had been leveled over time. By carefully analyzing lighter-colored soil spots from an elevated vantage point, he inferred the presence of leveled tumuli. This led to the publication of large necropolises, Cuconeștii Vechi I and II (Dergachev 1982).

Another significant Sarmatian necropolis, Holmskoe, was also published during this period, dated to the same timeframe as the previous two—the late 2nd to early 3rd century AD, along Holmskoe there were explored in the late 1970s and early 1980s, as well as the graves at Glavany, Dzinilor, Nagornoe, Mirnoe, Kalanciak, and Plavni (Fokeev, Gudkova 1984, 6-58).

In 1984, the archaeological expedition of the Institute of Archaeology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences investigated the tumulus necropolis at Turlaki (Chernyakov et al 1985; Grosu 1990, 39-40; Dzigovskij 1995, 23-24), and between 1977-1988, the tumulus necropolises at Divizia**,** Beloles'e, Vasil'evsk, and Kubej, as well as those at Hadžider and Alkalija, were also examined (Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990a-c; Subbotin et al 1998, 115).

This phase also saw the beginning of an excavation boom focusing on tumular burial sites, marking a turning point in the systematic investigation of Sarmatian funerary practices.

The final subperiod of the second phase, the Grosu-Dzigovskij-Bârcă-Symonenko Period, is marked by:

The continuation of the tumular excavation boom.

The inclusion of new sites, such as Bălăbănești (Beylekchi, Agulnikov 1981, 19-20; Agulnikov, Beilekci, 1987, 77-79), Tătărăuca Nouă (Sava et al 1995, 296), Brăviceni (Larina, Manzura 1987; Larina, Haheu, Todorova 1988), Mărculești (Tentiuc, Levinschi, Beylekchi 1986), Cuzmin (Haheu 1989; Bubulici, Haheu 2002, 121-122, 146), Filipeni (Agulnikov, Ciobanu 2016, 79-88), Podoima (Haheu 1989; Bubulici, Haheu 2002, 121-122, 146), Petrești (Yarovoy 1987; Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023), Kotlovyna (Symonenko et al 2020, 168-180; Fokeev 2008, 160-166), Mălcăuți (Vornic, Matveev 2016, 89-94), Festelița (Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990, 58-59; Agulnikov, Popovich 2022, 49; Grosu, Agulnikov 1997, 108), Călmățui (Ciobanu, Vornic 2015, 77-80), Orlovka-Kartal (Brujako et al 2009, 140; Brujako, Nosova 2021, 62), Bădragii Noi (Yarovoy, Chirkov 1987; Yarovoy, Chirkov 1988; Yarovoy, Chirkov 1989; Yarovoy, Chirkov, Bubulici 1990; Kurchatov, Symonenko, Chirkov 1995, 112-123; Kurchatov, Bubulici 1997, 220-233), Șalvirii Noi/Palanca (Kurchatov 1991), Drochia (Grosu 1990, 81-82; Cereteu 2007, 9, 12), Fîrlădeni (Popovici, Mistreanu, Noroc 2015, 73-76), Chirileni (Klochko, Subbotin 1991; Abyzova, Klochko 2000, 516-525; Abyzova, Klochko 2005, 266-268), Hlinaia (Symonenko 2019, 173-178; Telinov et al 2016, 263; Synyka et al 2016, 131), Bădragii Vechi (Yarovoy, Chirkov 1987; Yarovoy, Chirkov 1988; Yarovoy, Chirkov 1989; Yarovoy, Chirkov, Bubulici 1990; Kurchatov, Symonenko, Chirkov 1995, 112-123; Kurchatov, Bubulici 1997, 220-233), Corjeuți (Demchenko 1990, 35-36; Leviţkii, Demchenko 1994, 226), Ciobruciu (Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990, 4-5; Agulnikov, Popovici 2022, 14; Agulnikov 1997, 281-282; Bârcă 2000, 412; 2006, 196; Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 279), Burlănești (Demchenko 1987; 1988, 23; Demchenko, Leviţkii 2006, 306, 311-312), Tălmaza (Agulnikov 1989), Florițoaia Nouă (Levinschi 1990, 48-52; Kurchatov, Levinschi 2007), Vadul lui Isac (Agulnikov 1990), Palanca (Kurchatov 1990), Mocra (Sherbakova, Kashuba 1993; Kashuba, Kurchatov, Sherbakova 2001-2002, 180–252), Medeleni (Vornic, Bubulici, Popovici 2015, 59-72; 2016, 20-48; 2017, 64-92), Alcedar (Kurchatov 1989, 163-167), Bălțata (Bubulici, Matveev 2014, 133-144), Mereni (Ciobanu, Vornic 2024, 62-64), Blijnii Hutor (Synyka et al 2015, 164-171), Cioburciu (Fidelskiy 2004, 272-277), and many others.

In 1990, V. I. Grosu conducted a comprehensive monographic study on the Sarmatians in the northwestern Pontic region, compiling and analyzing all known burial sites up to that point. A few years later, in 1993, A. N. Dzigovskij published a synthesis building on similar discoveries. However, while Dzigovskij expanded the scope of his study to include materials from the area

between the Dniester and Bug rivers, his work notably excluded findings from the forest-steppe territory of the Prut-Dniester region, as well as certain Sarmatian graves from the Danube Delta.

V. Bârcă (2006, 28) has pointed out a key methodological limitation in both studies: they primarily rely on statistical compilations of burial types, grave structures, and body orientations, yet they lack a strong chronological framework to contextualize these elements. As a result, the analyses tend to be more descriptive than interpretative, offering limited insights into the dynamic evolution of funerary practices. Additionally, Grosu's study has been critiqued for its insufficient focus on material culture and the historical development of Sarmatian communities - an issue that, while less pronounced, is also present in Dzigovskij's work (Bârcă and Symonenko 2009, 32).

In 1993, Gh. Bichir published a new work presenting the first Sarmatian penetration into the Getic space.

A significant advancement came in 2006 when archaeologist V. Bârcă defended his doctoral thesis on the early and middle Sarmatian period (1st century BC to the first half of the 2nd century AD). His work was widely regarded for its depth and analytical rigor, as it quickly established important connections within the broader East Carpathian Sarmatian context. Building on this foundation, Bârcă collaborated with Professor O. Symonenko, a leading Ukrainian archaeologist, to produce a large-scale synthesis in 2009. However, while this later study contributed valuable perspectives, some scholars have noted certain limitations, particularly its relatively cursory treatment of specific artifact categories, such as beads.

In 2013, A. N. Dzigovskij published an article dedicated to the study of the Sarmatians.

In recent years, both O. Symonenko and V. Bârcă have published multiple articles on specific aspects of Sarmatian research.

In the field of Roman-period archaeology, A. A. Vasiliev has emerged as a notable scholar in recent years, contributing several studies focused on the southeastern region of Odesa Oblast.

A significant recent development is the publication of the Petrești necropolis in 2023 by S. Kurchatov and V. Bubulich.

Among the most recent contributions to this topic is the 2023 volume Meandrele istoriei. Patrimoniul arheologic din epoca fierului și perioada romană în bazinul râului Cogâlnic

(Republica Moldova), which includes a dedicated chapter on the Sarmatians, authored by S. Matveev, V. Vornic, and A. Corobcean.

Furthermore, the later phase of Sarmatian presence in the region remains insufficiently understood. Many of the larger necropolises have either been studied in isolation or have yet to be systematically excavated. This gap highlights the need for a more cohesive research framework to refine our understanding of this chronological segment.

II. Funerary rites and rituals

This chapter examines the funerary rites and rituals practiced by nomadic communities in the Prut-Dniester region between the latter half of the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century AD. Based on evidence from 111 archaeological sites and 454 graves, the analysis investigates how these communities honored their deceased and, in doing so, articulated their cultural identity. The study begins by exploring the spatial distribution of burial sites, demonstrating how environmental factors, social relationships, and cultural traditions influenced the selection and organization of these locations.

By comparing different types of burials, the chapter identifies variations in construction techniques and associated material culture, which point to differences in social status or cultural affiliations among the nomadic groups. A closer examination of grave arrangements, both within individual sites and across wider landscapes, reveals patterns that suggest shared cultural practices in burial traditions. Furthermore, the orientation and positioning of the deceased offer significant insights into the ritualistic and cosmological beliefs of these communities.

Features such as funerary ditches and grave offerings further enhance our understanding, indicating that burial practices were embedded within a complex ceremonial framework. These elements not only emphasize the ritualistic nature of mortuary customs but also highlight a profound connection between the living and the dead.

In summary, this chapter synthesizes diverse archaeological evidence to provide a nuanced perspective on how these nomadic groups conceptualized life, death, and identity. By doing so, it not only illuminates their mortuary practices but also contributes to a broader understanding of cultural and social dynamics during a pivotal historical period.

2.1. Burial location and layout

The analysis of Sarmatian funerary discoveries reveals a geographical distribution concentrated in three main regions (see Fig. 3). Out of the 454 graves studied, the distribution is as follows:

I. Middle Prut Plain and its Periphery – 205 graves (45.2%)

This region includes several significant sites, such as:

- Cuconeștii Vechi I and II – 82 graves
- Petrești – 41 graves

- Bădragii Noi, encompassing the "military necropolis" and the La Stâncă site (along with other nearby sites) – over 20 graves
- Bocani – 20 graves
- Brînzeni – 7 graves
- Etc.

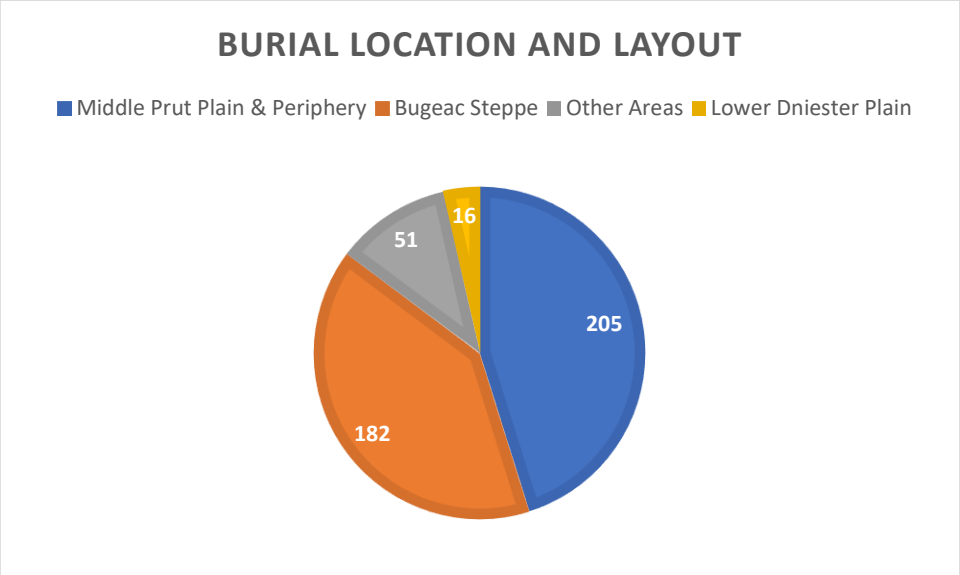
II. Bugeac Steppe – 182 graves (40.1%)

This area comprises sites such as:

- Vasilivca – 23 graves
- Holmskoe – 23 graves
- Alcalia – 18 graves
- Divizia – 11 graves
- Krinicinoe – 10 graves
- Etc.

III. Lower Dniester Plain – 16 graves (≈3.5%)

Additionally, 53 graves were discovered in other areas, representing approximately 11.4% of the total (Graph no. 1). This distribution highlights the significant concentration of discoveries in the Middle Prut Plain and the Bugeac Steppe, underscoring the importance of these regions in understanding the Sarmatian funerary landscape.



Graph no 1.

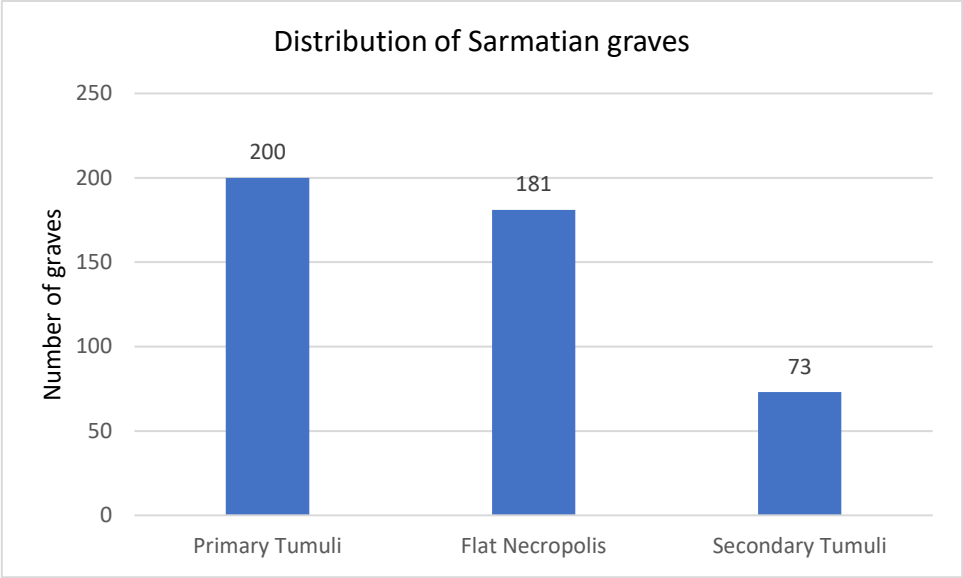
This phase of the late Sarmatian culture is characterized by a notable increase in funerary discoveries within the Prut-Dniester region. Researchers have identified two principal burial contexts: (a) flat necropoleis[3] and (b) tumuli (Fig. 4). The tumuli are further subdivided into primary and secondary types. Primary tumuli were constructed during the Sarmatian period, while secondary tumuli date to earlier populations.

A significant trend is the growing prevalence of primary tumulus graves. Examples include Cazaclia T1G3, Cîrnățeni T3G1, and Divizia T2G1, among others. At the same time, the practice of reusing older tumuli for burials continues, as seen in sites like Chirileni T3G11, Ocnița T6G12 and T6G15, Mîndrești T1G7, Novoselițe/Vișnevoe T19G25, and Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G7. Flat necropoleis are also becoming more common, with examples such as Selișteе, Bădragii Vechi "necropola militară", Brînzeni, Petrești[4], and Taraclia Gaidabul.

Statistical data reveals 200 Sarmatian graves in primary tumuli, 181 in flat necropoleis, and 73 in secondary tumuli (Graph no. 2). This pattern marks a significant shift compared to the middle Sarmatian period, when most graves were located in older tumuli (Symonenko 2004, 149; Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 205). A similar trend is observed in the Volga region, where 78% of Sarmatian graves are in primary tumuli and 22% in older tumuli, for this period of time, though flat necropoleis are represented by only a single grave (Berestnev 2017, 165-166).

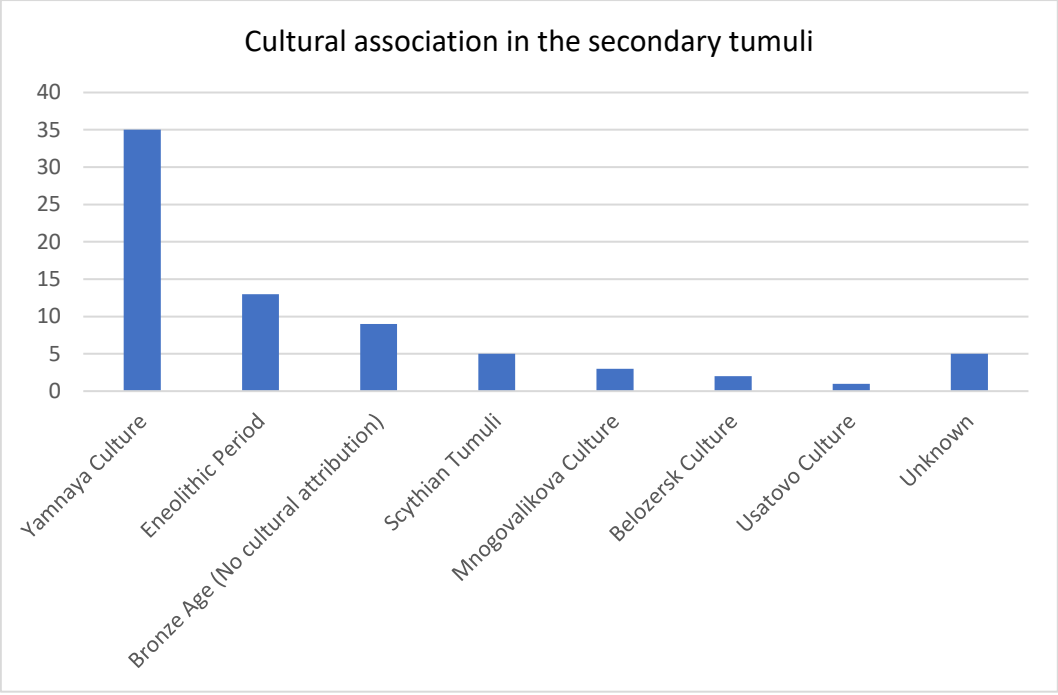
[3] The term 'flat necropolises' will henceforth be referred to as 'grounded necropolises or non-tumulus necropolises.'

[4] While Bârcă and Symonenko (2009, 205) identify Petrești, Holmskoe, and other flat necropolises as tumular, an analysis of the original reports did not corroborate these claims. In contrast to Cuconeștii Vechi I and II, where tumulus presence is clearly documented through the mention of spots and other indicators, no such references are found for the aforementioned necropolises. Furthermore, the recent publication dedicated to the Petrești necropolis (Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, 113) explicitly describes it as a flat necropolis, thus contradicting the initial assertions.



Graph no 2.

An analysis of 73 secondary tumuli revealed a diverse array of burial cultures. The most prevalent were Sarmatian interments, numbering 35, often found within tumuli originally associated with the Yamnaya culture. Earlier periods were also represented: 13 graves from the Eneolithic and 9 from the Bronze Age (without specific cultural attribution). Additionally, 5 graves were identified within Scythian tumuli, and 5 with uncertain cultural affiliation. The Belozersk and Mnogovalikova cultures were represented by 2 and 3 graves, respectively, and the Usatovo culture by a single grave (Graph no. 3).

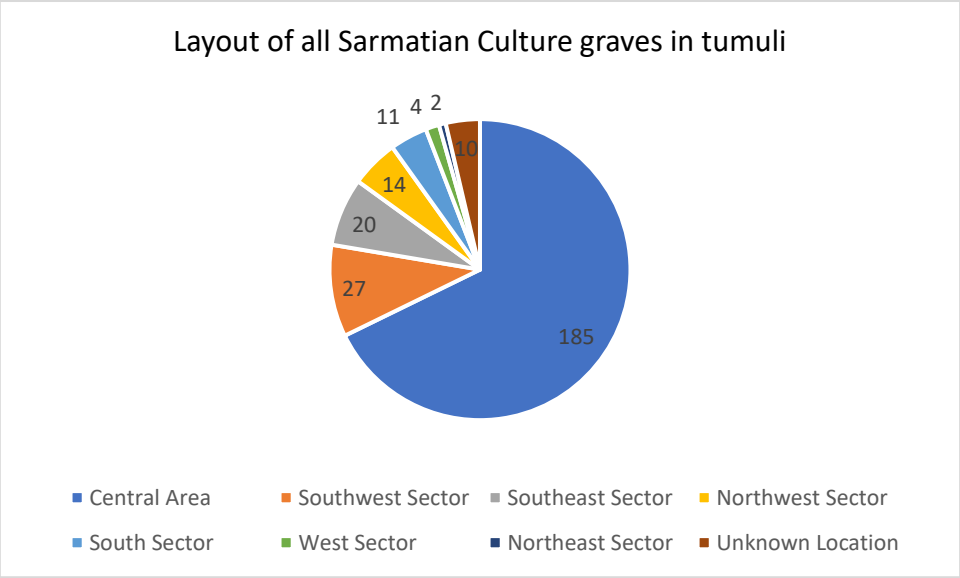


Graph no 3.

Sarmatian burials typically appear as single interments within older tumuli, although multiple interments (2-3 graves per tumulus) were also observed. The highest concentration of Sarmatian graves, four, was recorded in Tumulus 2 at Chirileni. Notably, the number of documented early period tumulus burials has significantly increased from 21 in 2009 (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 205) to 75 in the present study.

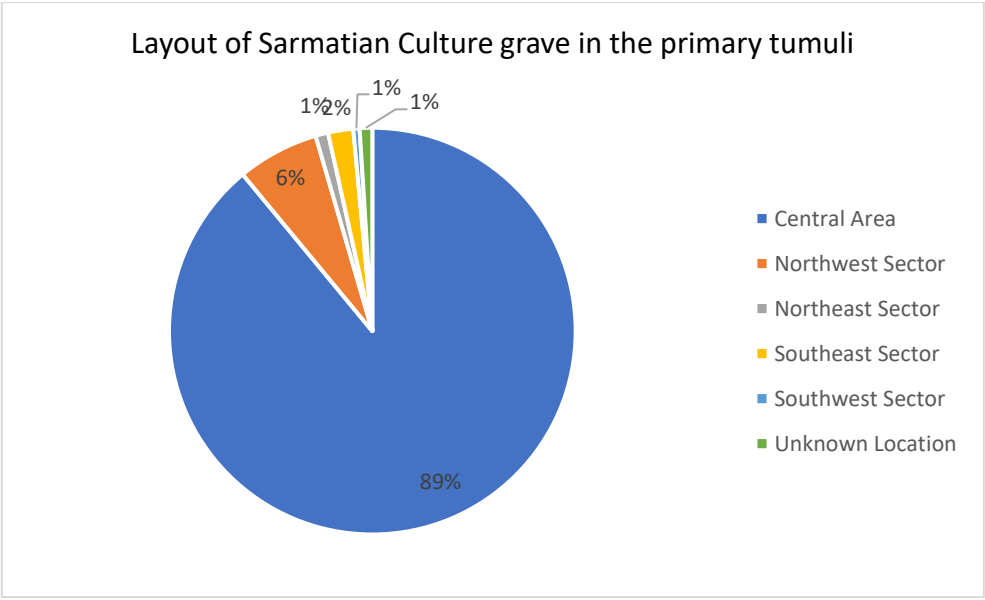
A clear preference for Yamnaya culture tumuli by the Sarmatians is evident, as indicated by the disproportionately high number of Sarmatian burials within these structures. However, while some scholars have suggested that Sarmatians avoided Scythian tumuli (e.g., Alcalia T19G2, Hlinaia T12G1), the significant difference in the number of investigated Bronze Age versus Scythian tumuli must be acknowledged. This imbalance may distort the perceived preference for Yamnaya tumuli. As noted in recent research (Topal, Vornic, Popovici 2019, 14), the greater overall prevalence of Bronze Age tumuli in the region likely influences the observed burial distribution.

V. Bârcă and O. Symonenko (2009, 205) proposed that Sarmatian graves within tumuli lack a discernible pattern of placement. To evaluate this assertion, the distribution of grave locations was analyzed. The observation of only 16 graves (6%) situated in the northern sector (Graph no. 4) suggests a potential oversimplification and a shallow analysis in the existing literature. Indeed, V. Dergachev (1982, pp. 132–133) and V. Grosu (1995, pp. 27–28) noted the prevalence of southern placements, second only to central locations. Central placement within the tumulus might have been favored for its perceived prestige, while alternative positions could have been selected to mitigate the risk of grave disturbance.

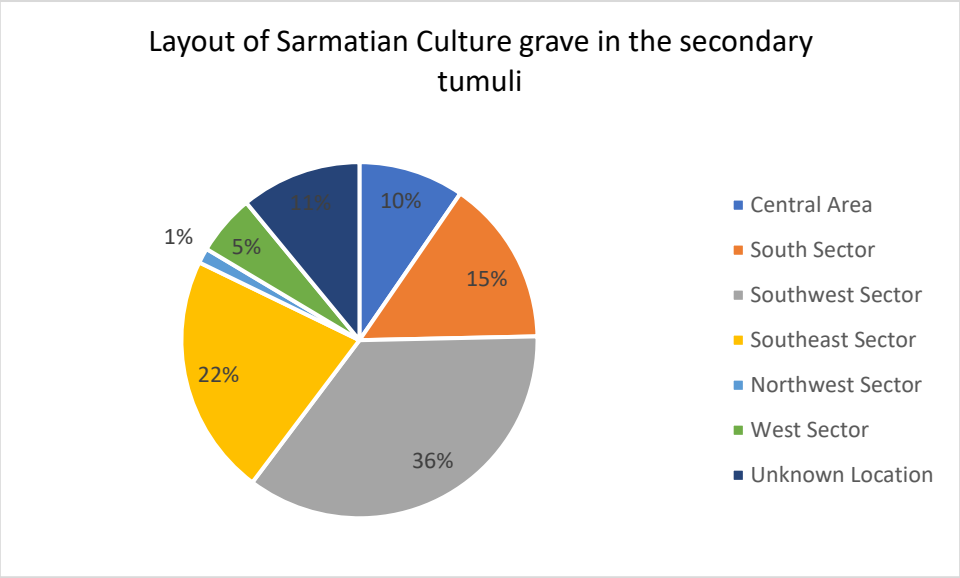


Graph no 4.

Further analysis, separating Sarmatian tumuli from older tumuli, was conducted to discern potential differences in grave placement (Graph no. 5 & 6). Older tumuli exhibit a dominant southern sector placement (with east-west variations), while central (10%) and northern (1%) sectors show minimal representation. In Sarmatian culture barrows, central placement is typical (e.g., Cazaclia T1G3). However, exceptions such as Mirnoe, Kalanceak, and Turlaki (Vîpasne) T14G1, where graves are distributed across various sectors, imply a possible intentional avoidance of desecration, a point also raised by Gudkova and Fokeev (1984, p. 50).



Graph no 5.



Graph no 6.

A comprehensive analysis of 273 Sarmatian tumular burials, encompassing both primary and secondary interments, reveals a more nuanced pattern. While central placement remains the most common (185 burials, approximately 67%), the significance of the south and southwest sectors becomes evident, particularly in secondary tumuli. The overall distribution is as follows:

- Central Sector: 185 burials
- Northeast Sector: 2 burials
- Northwest Sector: 14 burials
- South Sector: 11 burials
- Southwest Sector: 27 burials
- Southeast Sector: 20 burials
- West Sector: 4 burials
- Unknown Location: 10 burials

The observed preference for the southern sector (with east-west variations) in secondary burials within pre-existing tumuli suggests a possible evolution or adaptation of burial practices when utilizing existing mounds. This southern preference in secondary contexts may be linked to ancient Iranian symbolic meanings.

A pronounced preference for central placement in primary tumuli is evident within Sarmatian burial practices. An analysis of 200 Sarmatian burials confirms this trend, with a substantial

majority (178 burials, 89%) located in the central sector. The remaining burials exhibit the following distribution:

- Northwest Sector: 13 burials (6.5%)
- Northeast Sector: 2 burials (1%)
- Southeast Sector: 4 burials (2%)
- Southwest Sector: 1 burial (0.5%)
- Unknown Location: 2 burials (1%)

This significant concentration within the central area strongly suggests its particular symbolic importance in Sarmatian funerary customs.

However, the burial distribution within secondary tumuli (73) presents a contrasting picture. While a small fraction of these burials (7 burials, 10%) are centrally located, the majority are dispersed as follows:

- South Sector: 11 burials (15%)
- Southwest Sector: 26 burials (36%)
- Southeast Sector: 16 burials (22%)
- Northwest Sector: 1 burial (1%)
- West Sector: 4 burials (5%)
- Unknown Location: 8 burials (11%)

This shift suggests that centrality, while fundamental in primary tumuli, did not dictate burial placement within secondary tumuli. The motivations behind this change are multifaceted, potentially encompassing the avoidance of desecration, practical considerations, and locational symbolism. The avoidance of desecration, a plausible hypothesis, proposes that peripheral placements reduced the risk of disturbance, as the tumulus center was likely deemed the most significant and, consequently, the most susceptible to investigation. Practical considerations, such as the tumulus's state of preservation or the desire to prevent disruption of prior interments, could have also influenced location choices. Locational symbolism is equally significant. The southern sector's prominence in secondary tumuli may hold symbolic connotations tied to ancient Iranian beliefs, particularly Zoroastrian solar worship, where the sun, embodying Ahura Mazda, held paramount importance (Boyce 1975; 1984). Beliefs regarding the afterlife, including soul judgment and its journey, could have further shaped burial location decisions. Archaeological research supports the notion of Sarmatian funerary practice adaptation to the

specific context of pre-existing tumuli, with changes stemming from the interplay of local traditions and external influences.

Before transitioning to flat necropoleis, I would like to briefly address the dimensions and shapes of tumuli belonging to the Sarmatian culture. These are typically circular in plan, with a few exceptions, such as Mirnoe T1 and Nagornoe T2, where they were oval. Diameters range from 10-15 to 35-40 meters. When only the spots of the tumulus remain, preserved after plowing and leveling, it appears approximately 6-7 to 15 meters in diameter - not excluding the fact that some burial mounds were even considerably smaller. Regarding height, it is more complex, as most have been leveled, but on average, from the current ground level, it would be between 1-2 meters, and for smaller ones up to one meter.

The funerary inventory of flat necropoleis is generally similar to that of tumulus graves when they belong to the same social group. However, primary tumulus graves are more frequently associated with elite status, a distinction less common among flat burials. Moreover, flat necropoleis often exhibit a more regular organization, as observed at Bocani (Fyodorov 1956, 49; 1960), Brînzeni (Grosu 1985, 129), and Krinicinoe (Fyodorov 1969, 248). In other necropoleis, such as those at Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" (Kurchatov, Bubulici 1997), Holmskoe (Godkova, Fokeev 1984), Petrești, Șalvirii Noi/Palanca (Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023), etc. the burials are arranged in a relatively chaotic manner but are notably concentrated on the southern side of a larger tumulus - often these barrows are from an earlier period – I observe the same patern as with the burials discovered in the southern sectors of the secondary tumuli.

A further remarkable example is the Military Necropolis at Bădragii Noi, where so-called “commemorative constructions”, also called ditches - formed by square, pit-like features were arranged in two rows (of four and two) from the WN toward the ES direction; additionally, on the western side of these constructions, a single grave containing a deceased with a sword was noted. Another flat necropolis discovered solely through magnetometric surveys, featuring square ditches, was located at the village of Chiurt (Edineț District), where five ditches, three in one row and two in another, were identified (Vasilache et al. 2022). A relatively recent case is that of Cășunca (Florești District), where magnetometric surveys conducted by Gh. Sîrbu Moldovan and J. Peska, T. Tencer - colleagues from the Czech Republic (Sîrbu et al. 2024, 53-60) revealed 21 earth structures arranged in a row, with some appearing in clusters, possibly indicating that different members undertook their diggings or that they are from a later or earlier phase. In 2023, S. Kurchatov and V. Bubulich published a work presenting a map of numerous

earth ditches (2023, 152), from which I can observe their relatively frequent occurrence throughout the analyzed area[5]. Returning to necropoleis without ditches, unfortunately, there is insufficient information to determine whether the Taraclia Gaidabul cemetery follows a similar arrangement; however, it is noted that all three excavated graves are oriented in the same direction, with two aligned in a row (Sava et al. 2020).

The specialized literature also engages in discussions regarding whether certain necropoleis are genuinely "flat." For example, the Cuconești Vechi I and II sites, excavated in 1975–1976 by V. Dergachev, exhibited traces in the form of yellowish spots on cultivated land, which were interpreted as the remains of tumuli that had been leveled over time (Dergachev 1982). This interpretation has subsequently been supported by other researchers, including V. Grosu (1995, 140), A. Gudkova and M. Fokeev (1984, 89-90), O. Symonenko (2004, 149), and others. V. Bârcă and O. Symonenko propose that, if these necropoleis were indeed flat, by analogy with what there is observed in the Pannonian Plain, they could discuss the process of sedentarization (2009, 206). However, I do not readily perceive this connection in such a straightforward manner. The construction of both tumular and flat necropoleis are processes that occur quite frequently in the Prut-Dniester interfluve. Furthermore, the presence of seasonal settlements is indicated by both G. Fydorov (1956, 1960) and E. Rikman (1975), and increasingly corroborated by recent discoveries in this region (Matveev et al., 2023). In this regard, to affirm or refute the existence of seasonal settlements, it is imperative to conduct research that would verify Sarmatian habitation layers in specific areas. The case of Orlovka-Kartal represents an exceptional situation, to which I will return later. There, the authors encounter a rather heterogeneous context, a mixture of indigenous and nomadic populations (Bruyako et al. 2009; Bruyako et al. 2018).

2.2. Burial types

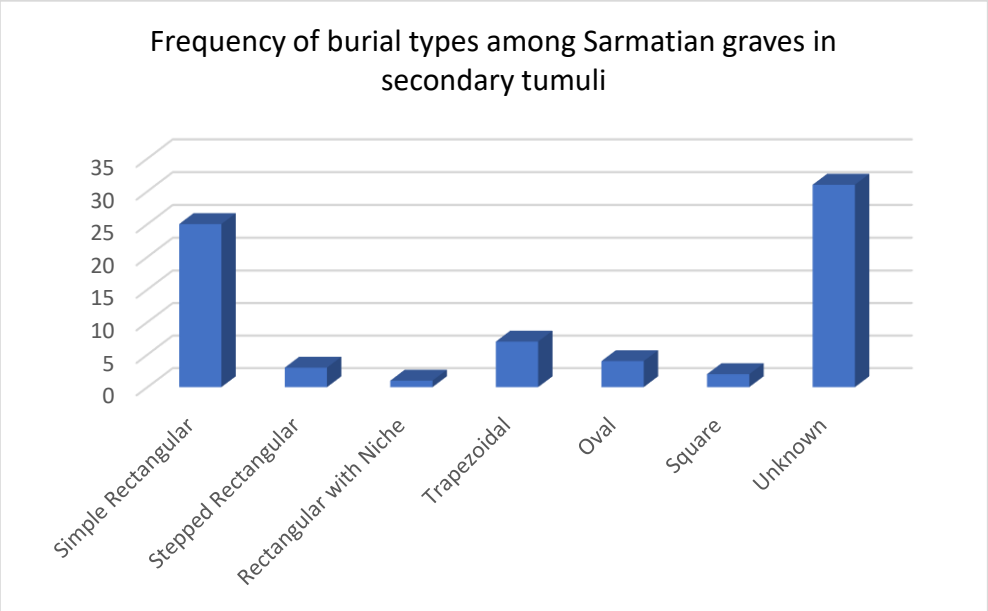
The defining funerary practice of the Sarmatian culture was exclusively **inhumation**. The typology of Sarmatian burial pits, as established in the specialized literature (Grosu 1990; Symonenko 2004; Bârcă, Symonenko 2009), includes several primary forms: oval, rectangular (with variations such as stepped or with rounded corners), trapezoidal, and square. More

[5] Another discovery made with the aid of geomagnetometry, revealed in 2023, comes from near the Ordășei site. It is a square-shaped commemorative structure, which is to be published by colleagues from the National Archaeological Agency (ANA).

complex structures like pits with niches and catacombs also occur. It is important to note, however, that many burial pits were damaged, preventing their original form from being recorded.

The following analysis presents the frequency of these types found within secondary tumulus necropoleis:

- Unknown/Damaged: 31 burials
- Simple Rectangular (including elongated and with rounded corners): 25 burials
- Trapezoidal: 7 burials
- Oval: 4 burials
- Stepped Rectangular: 3 burials
- Square: 2 burials
- Rectangular with Niche: 1 burial (Graph no 7)



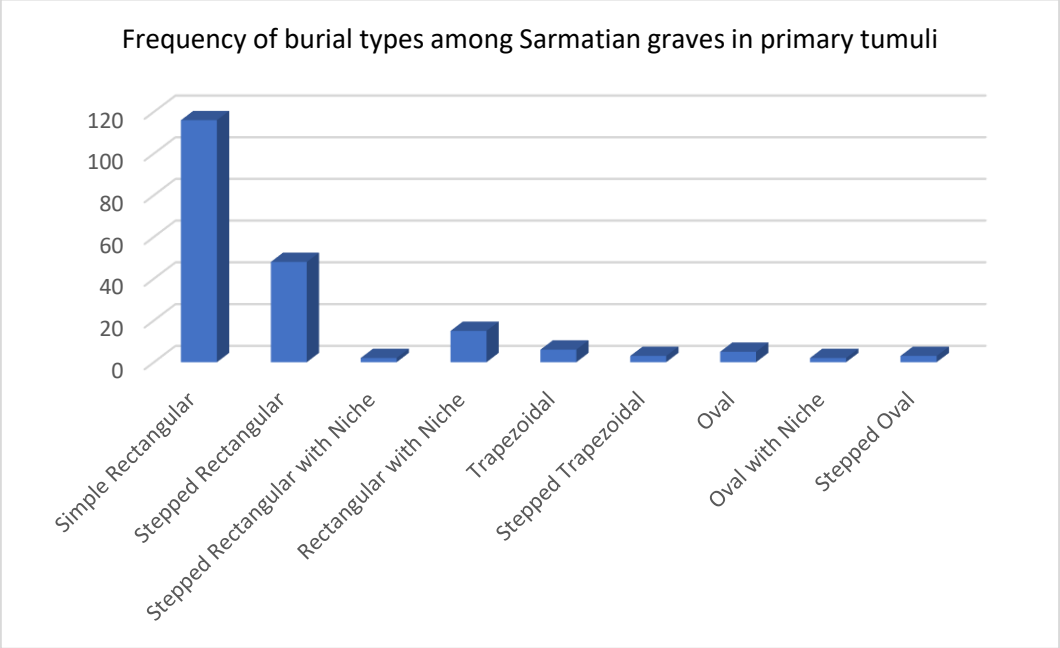
Graph no 7.

The high number of unknown or damaged burials (31) underscores the challenges inherent in archaeological investigations, particularly in regions subject to agricultural activity and erosion. Notably, the simple rectangular form, including variations with rounded corners, constitutes the most prevalent identifiable type, suggesting a potential preference or practical adaptation. The presence of more complex forms, such as stepped rectangular and niche-containing pits, while less frequent, indicates a degree of variability in funerary practices. The limited occurrence of

trapezoidal, square and oval forms may reflect either regional variations or specific chronological trends within the Sarmatian culture or the cultural traditions of other Sarmatian tribes.

Moving on to the primary tumulus group, I will examine the prevalent burial pit forms:

- Simple Rectangular, Elongated, and with Rounded Corners: 116 burials
- Stepped Rectangular: 48 burials
- Stepped Rectangular with Niche: 2 burials
- Rectangular with Niche: 15 burials
- Trapezoidal: 6 burials
- Stepped Trapezoidal: 3 burials
- Oval: 5 burials
- Oval with Niche: 2 burials
- Stepped Oval: 3 burials (Graph no 8)



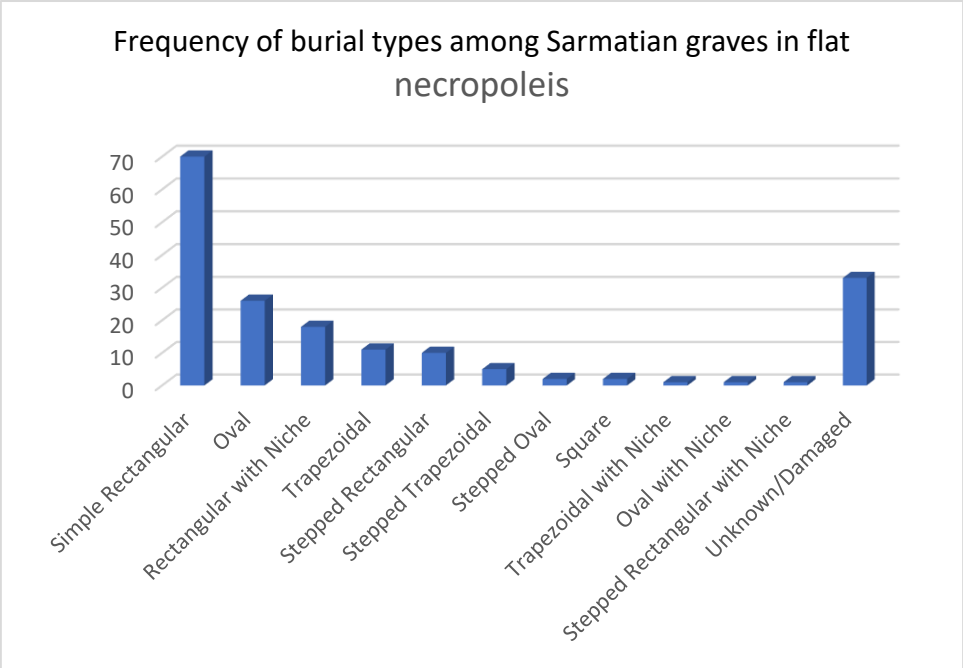
Graph no 8.

The data reveals a clear preference for rectangular forms within primary tumuli, with the simple rectangular (or elongated, or with rounded corners) type being the most dominant. Notably, the stepped rectangular form also appears frequently, suggesting a significant cultural or practical consideration in its construction. The presence of niches, both with and without steps, indicates a deliberate complexity in some burials, potentially signifying social status or ritualistic

significance. The relatively low occurrence of trapezoidal and oval forms, including those with niches and steps, suggests they may represent less common or regionally specific practices. The substantial difference in frequency between simple rectangular and stepped rectangular pits may reflect a chronological evolution or a differentiation based on the status of the deceased. These observations emphasize the need for a more detailed analysis to explore the cultural and social implications of these variations in burial pit forms within Sarmatian primary tumuli.

Continuing with the analysis of flat necropoleis, I observe the following distribution of burial pit forms:

- Unknown/Damaged: 33 burials
- Simple Rectangular, Elongated, and with Rounded Corners: 70 burials
- Stepped Rectangular: 10 burials
- Stepped Rectangular with Niche: 1 burial
- Rectangular with Niche: 18 burials
- Trapezoidal: 11 burials
- Stepped Trapezoidal: 5 burials
- Trapezoidal with Niche: 1 burial
- Oval: 26 burials
- Oval with Niche: 1 burial
- Stepped Oval: 2 burials
- Square: 2 burials (Graph no. 9)



Graph no 9.

The prevalence of unknown or damaged burials (33) in flat necropoleis mirrors the challenges encountered in secondary tumulus sites. The simple rectangular form remains the most frequent identifiable type, which is consistent with the trend observed in tumulus burials, suggesting a common underlying cultural practice. However, flat necropoleis exhibit a notable increase in oval-shaped pits, indicating a potential divergence in funerary traditions compared to tumulus burials. The relatively high number of rectangular pits with niches, compared to stepped rectangular pits, may indicate a functional or symbolic preference within flat necropoleis.

The analysis of Sarmatian burial pits reveals a significant variability in dimensions and morphology, potentially reflecting differences in social status, chronology, and ritual practices. The length of adult burial pits ranges from 1.5 to 2.5 meters, while for children, it varies from 0.65 to 1.5 meters. The width of the pits oscillates between 0.45-1 meters for adults and 0.3-0.8 meters for children.

Exceptionally large burial pits, exceeding 3 meters, are exclusively associated with primary tumuli, suggesting a correlation with high-ranking individuals. Among the 33 large burial pits analyzed, the following morphological types are distinguished: 16 rectangular with steps (Cioburciu T1G1, Olănești T1G1, Semionovca T3G1, Turlaki T8G1, etc.), 13 simple rectangular (Feștelița T3G1, Kotlovyna T2G2, Kalanceak T1G3, Opaci T9G3, Alcalia T32G1,

etc.), 1 rectangular with a niche (Mirnoe T1G1), 1 simple trapezoidal (Nagornoe T12G2), 1 trapezoidal with steps (Ursoaia T4G1), and 1 oval (Polevoe T6G1).

Regrettably, approximately 80% of these burial pits have been affected by looting, limiting the detailed analysis of the funerary inventory. Nevertheless, the recovered artifacts suggest that these large burial pits belonged to Sarmatian social elites.

Rectangular burial pits are predominant, but in the case of large pits, those with steps are more frequent. This morphological difference may indicate that pits with steps, due to their size and complexity, were intended for social elites. The steps facilitated the deposition of offerings and covering with beams, creating a structure similar to a crypt, a common practice in Sarmatian culture. The remains of beams found on the steps (Balananu I T10G1, Cioburciu T1G1, etc.) confirm this hypothesis. The necropolis of Turlaki, where all burial pits have steps, has been interpreted as an elite necropolis (Grosu, 1990). This phenomenon is concentrated in the western Pontic region, suggesting a specific regional variant (Bârcă, Symonenko, 2009, 209).

The funerary inventory of stepped burial pits does not differ significantly from that of simple rectangular pits, but the diversity and quantity of artifacts are often greater. The high degree of looting (80%) of these pits underscores their initial wealth.

The oval shape of burial pits is more frequent in Sarmatian flat necropolises, ranking second in frequency. The frequency of rectangular pits with steps can reach 66% in some necropolises (Holmskoe and Vasilivca), indicating a regional or chronological preference.

The significant presence of oval pits in flat necropolises may indicate chronological or regional differences. Other forms of burial pits are rarer in flat necropolises.

Burial pits with niches represent a notable aspect. They rank third in frequency in flat necropolises and primary tumuli. In the second phase of the Late Sarmatian culture, these pits represent 50% or more in some sites (Kubej and Kurci, Bârcă, Symonenko, 2009, 209). The entrance pits are usually narrow (1.9 × 0.5 meters), elongated oval or rectangular. The niches have similar shapes and low vaults (0.4-0.8 meters). The length of the niches is equal to or greater than that of the pits. The niches are usually located in the western wall of the pit. Notable exceptions are grave 10 from Holmskoe (niche in the eastern wall) and grave 3 from Alijaga (two niches).

The deviation from the western niche placement at Holmskoe G10 and the presence of two niches at Alijaga G3 suggest regional variations, specific ritual practices, or the influence of other cultural traditions. Multiple niches may indicate the high status of the deceased or complex funerary rituals.

Burial pits with niches have also been observed in the east, but are rarer in earlier periods. Their presence may be attributed to newcomers from the east, and their coexistence with other forms may reflect the relationships between old and new arrivals.

Catacomb burials are characteristic of the second phase of the Late Sarmatian culture, but absent in the first phase. This difference has generated discussions regarding the possible ethnic significance of catacombs, suggesting an association with the Alans (Bârcă, Symonenko, 2009, 211).

In conclusion, the predominance of rectangular burial pits in the first phase of the Late Sarmatian period, similar to the previous period, indicates the continuity of traditions and ideological similarities between the two periods.

2.3. Burial arrangement

Scholarly literature presents limited information regarding the preparation of burial pits for inhumation in Sarmatian contexts. This dearth of detail is largely attributed to the superficial recording of funerary features, compounded by instances of looting and subsequent disturbances that have obscured traces of ritualistic actions. Additional factors contributing to this situation include the pedological properties of the soil and the degradation level of utilized vegetal materials. Nevertheless, in select cases, pertinent insights into the arrangement of burial pits have been gleaned. The following analysis will present, categorized by necropolis type, identified information pertaining to rituals involving the burning of burial pits, the deposition of white substances, and other relevant elements, commencing with burial pits from secondary tumuli.

Location	Funerary Elements
Divizia T6G3	Ash
Divizia T6G1	Ash
Rumeantsev T1G7	Brown organic bedding
Salvirii Noi/Palanca T6G8	Brown organic bedding

Pererîta T2G13	Brown organic bedding, decomposed wood
Chirileni T3G11	Chalk, charcoal, fragments of wood
Taraclia II T9G2	Decomposed wood
Ecaterinovca T2G5	Decomposed wood
Primorsk T1G53	Decomposed wood
Talmaza T1G7	Decomposed wood
Petresti T3G12	Fragments of wood (coffin?)
Rumeantsev T1G8	Fragments of wood (coffin?)
Sarata Veche T1G7	Fragments of wood (coffin?)
Beloles'e T3G9	Fragments of wood (coffin?), chalk, charcoal
Chirileni T1G17	Fragments of wooden cover
Petresti T2G2	Fragments of wooden cover
Bădragii Noi T2G1	Fragments of wooden planks
Novoselițe T19G24	Fragments of wooden planks
Alcalia T19G2	Organic matter, chalk
Hancăuţi T2G2	Traces of logs

Among the 73 burial pits examined from secondary tumuli, 20 cases revealed diverse traces of preparatory ritual. These traces encompass remnants of wood (potentially representing coffins or covering elements), vegetal bedding beneath the deceased, residues of ash, and chalk.

Subsequently, data concerning Sarmatian burial pits from primary tumuli are presented:

Location	**Funerary Elements**
Suvorovo T3G2	Ash, charcoal, decomposed wood
Suvorovo T3G1	Burnt beams, chalk, charcoal
Semionovca T4G1	Burnt wooden planks, clay, charcoal
Alcalia T27G1	Chalk
Alcalia T28G1	Chalk
Alcalia T29G1	Chalk
Alcalia T30G1	Chalk
Alcalia T32G1	Chalk
Sergheevca T5G1	Chalk
Turlaki T12G1	Chalk
Turlaki T13G1	Chalk

Turlaki T14G1	Chalk
Turlaki T16G1	Chalk
Kotlovyna T2G2	Chalk, ash, burnt wood, traces of fire
Turlaki T10G1	Chalk, burnt wooden planks
Sergheevca T12G1	Chalk, charcoal
Turlaki T8G1	Chalk, fragments of wood
Filipeni T1G1	Charcoal
Vasilivca T6G6	Charcoal
Olănești T1G1	Compact layer of charcoal and burnt wood
Alcalia T12G1	Decomposed wood
Balabanu I T10G1	Decomposed wood
Cazaclia T22G1	Decomposed wood
Cazaclia T2G4	Decomposed wood
Feștelița T6G1	Decomposed wood
Alcalia T17G2	Decomposed wood, chalk
Alcalia T23G1	Decomposed wood, chalk
Alcalia T24G1	Decomposed wood, chalk
Ogorodnoe II T5G1	Decomposed wood, layer of vegetation
Balabanu I T7G2	Decomposed wood, tree bark, black ash
Ursoaia T4G1	Dense clay, wood ash, charcoal
Obileni T5G2	Fragments of charcoal
Feștelița T3G1	Fragments of wood
Feștelița T4G1	Fragments of wood
Dzinilor T5G1	Fragments of wood, chalk
Feștelița T1G3	Fragments of wood, limestone
Cocicovatoe T27G1	Fragments of wood, traces of chalk
Dzinilor T8G1	Fragments of wooden cover
Vasilivca T21G2	Fragments of wooden cover
Cioburciu T1G1	Fragments of wooden planks
Nagornoe T12G2	Fragments of wooden planks
Nagornoe T1G1	Fragments of wooden planks
Nagornoe T2G1	Fragments of wooden planks, shells, chalk
Cazaclia T1G3	Grayish organic matter, wood ash
Divizia T7G1	Layer of dark brown and white ash
Nagornoe T9G1	Layer of wood charcoal, traces of burning, vegetal ash

Olănești T16G1	Logs or wooden planks
Corpaci II T1G1	Stone accumulation, shala with tampa
Cișmichioi T1G1	Traces of burning
Alcalia T11G1	Whittish surface of steps
Turlaki T17G1	Wood, chalk
Kalanceak T1G3	Wooden surface or bark

Of the 200 primary tumulus burial pits, 52 (26%) exhibit distinct funerary elements, a proportion comparable to that observed in secondary tumuli. Finally, data pertaining to flat necropolises are presented:

Location	**Funerary Elements**
Petresti G15	Brown ash under the skeleton, burnt clay
Taraclia Gaidabul G1	Brown organic bedding
Cioropeani G1	Charcoal, ash
Badragii Noi "La stanca" G3	Clay, wood, charcoal
Holmskoe G6	Decomposed wood
Petresti G62	Decomposed wood
Holmskoe G16	Fragment of wood
Holmskoe G24	Fragment of wood
Baltata G1	Fragments of wood (coffin?)
Holmskoe G13	Fragments of wood, charcoal
Krinicinoe G10	Layer of organic matter (2.5-3 cm)
Badragii Noi "La stanca" G3	Traces of charcoal
Badragii Noi "La stanca" G4	Traces of charcoal
Badragii Noi "La stanca" G5	Traces of charcoal
Badragii Noi "La stanca" G6	Traces of charcoal
Badragii Noi "La stanca" G2	Traces of charcoal, possible traces of footwear
Holmskoe G7	Traces of wood and vegetal ash
Brinzeni G4	Wood
Brinzeni G1	Wood, ash
Brinzeni G2	Wood, ash

From the 181 burial pits documented in flat necropolises, a mere 20 (11,1%) display evidence of funerary rituals. This diminished figure suggests that burial pits within tumuli, whether secondary or primary, received heightened attention in terms of funerary rites. Alternatively, this discrepancy may be attributed to the accelerated degradation of burial pits in flat necropolises, which are typically situated closer to the surface, thereby expediting the decomposition of organic matter. Furthermore, the elevated number of disturbed/looted burial pits within flat necropolises must be considered.

Cumulatively, across all burial pit types, of the 454 pits analyzed, 92 (approximately 20%) exhibit funerary elements. This proportion is relatively significant, considering the inherent difficulty in identifying these elements. The following section will analyze each component of the funerary arrangement:

- Wood remnants and coffins: This represents the most prevalent arrangement method, identified as beams positioned on the steps of burial pits and as decomposed wood, particularly in disturbed pits. Wood remnants encircling the deceased suggest the presence of coffins. In certain instances, wood remnants were sufficiently preserved to allow for dimensional measurements (e.g., Nagornoe T9G1, T1G1, etc.).
- Coverings/Bedding beneath the deceased: These are represented by wooden coverings, identified as being crafted from tree bark (e.g., Bălăbănești T4G4, Kalanceak T1G3). In other cases, their presence is plausible, but the decomposition level of organic matter precludes confirmation. At Chirileni T3G11 and other burial pits, a layer of chernozem and clay was observed beneath the skeleton, with a small fragment of decomposed wood found in the northwest corner of the pit.
- Charcoal, ash, and burnt wood remnants: Charcoal remnants were observed in burial pits at Chirileni T3G11, Cazaclia T1G3, etc., interpreted by some scholars as part of a fire purification ritual, a practice characteristic of the Iranian cultural sphere (Smirnov 1964, 94-95; Grosu 1990, 34-35; 1995, 150; Bârcă 2006, 54; Nagimov 2012, 179). In some instances (e.g., Cazaclia T1G3, Selište G62, etc.), the presence of artifacts, charcoal, and ash suggests a ritual, whereas in others (Kotlovyna T2G2, Ursoaia T4G1, etc.), fire appears in the area of later disturbance. If a burial pit lacks artifacts or charcoal traces and bones are scattered at varying depths, desecration is probable.
- Chalk, shells, and bivalves: These constitute additional elements of funerary chamber arrangement. Although ritualistic details are scarce, chalk, shells, and bivalves,

primarily used in earlier periods, appear in multiple burial pits alongside charcoal remnants, likely related to body purification. White was considered a symbol of purity, often associated with ritual cleansing (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 45). In some cases, these elements are combined, as at Semionovca T3G1, where a pit covered with wood remnants also exhibits chalk sprinkling.

- Stone slabs and stelae: These represent a complex funerary arrangement element, likely associated with elite individuals. Multiple instances of stelae with markings exist (Tețcani, Blești, Taraclia, Corpaci, etc.). Stone slabs are used to cover burial pits or form crypts, more common in rocky regions like Crimea but rarer in the Prut-Dniester area. Another instance is the encirclement/ring of burial mounds with stones (Mirnoe T1G1, Nagornoe T1G1, Cașunca).
- Compacted clay layer: Burial pits at Olănești T16G1-2 are covered with a compacted clay layer, and at Semionovca T4G1, the clay layer was doubled. A similar phenomenon was observed at Corpaci II T1G1, where the clay layer exhibits fire traces, or at Opaci T8 and Kotlovyna T2G2, where burning traces were identified.

2.4. Orientation and position of the dead

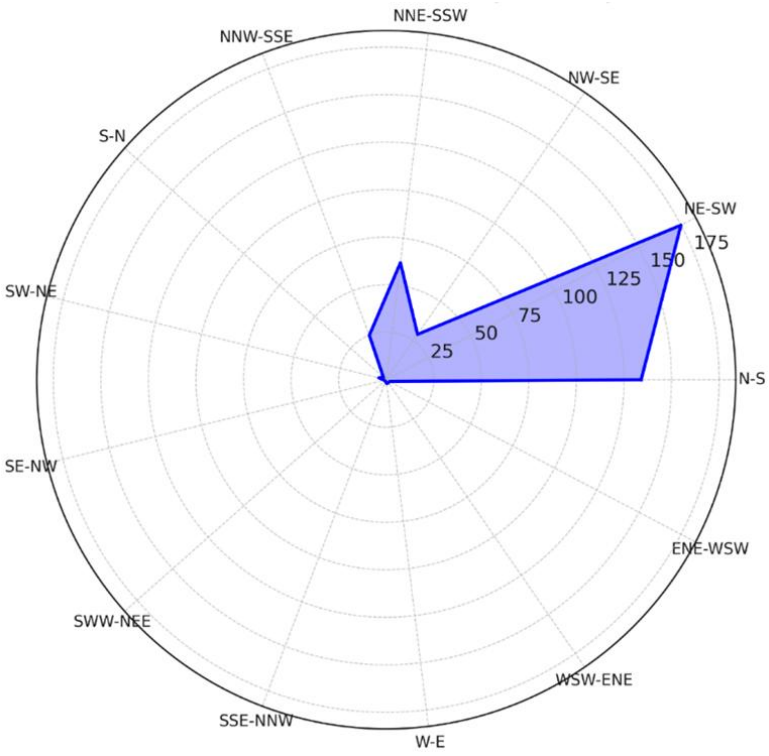
During this period, a predominantly northerly orientation of the deceased is observed within the Prut-Dniester interfluve. However, confirming this can be challenging due to the frequent disturbance or looting of graves. Consequently, it seems prudent to begin with an analysis of burial pit orientations, followed by an examination of the preserved deceased. Out of a total of 454 graves, the orientation of 23 pits remains undetermined. The distribution of pit orientations is as follows:

Direction	Quantity
Destroyed/Unknown	23
North[6]	128
Northeast	174
North-Northeast	59
Northwest	29
North-Northwest	25

[6] Statistical data indicates a very small percentage of burials in which the deceased is oriented with their head to the south. Considering this, I will classify burials with a predominantly northern orientation. Only in cases where the head's orientation to the south is confirmed, will the burial be noted as S-N.

South	2
South-Southeast	2
Southwest	5
South-Southwest	2
West	2
East-Northeast	3
Total	454

Excluding the 23 graves with unknown orientations, the remaining 431 graves reveal a clear trend (Graph no 10).



Graph no 10.

As observed, the predominant orientation of burial pits is northerly, with variations towards the east or west. To further refine this analysis, each necropolis type was examined individually, focusing on graves with preserved skeletal remains or identifiable fragments that could indicate head orientation.

In addition to the dominant orientations, the data also reveal a diversity of less common directions, particularly in the secondary tombs and flat necropolises categories. For example,

secondary tombs include orientations such as north-northwest (NNW), south-southwest (SSW), and west, albeit in smaller numbers. Similarly, flat necropolises feature tombs oriented toward east-northeast (ENE) and west-northwest (WNW). While these orientations are less prevalent, their presence indicates a degree of variability in burial practices, which may reflect sub-traditions, external cultural influences, or individual preferences. This diversity underscores the complexity of the communities' funerary practices and suggests that while certain orientations were favored, there was also room for flexibility or adaptation.

A notable aspect of the data is the significant number of graves categorized as destroyed or unknown in terms of orientation. The high number of destroyed or unknown tombs in the primary and flat necropolis categories raises important questions about the factors contributing to their deterioration. Possible explanations include human activities like looting or ritual destruction, or in some cases, simply the passage of time. The relatively low number of such cases among secondary tombs may indicate that these were located in less vulnerable areas or that were less interesting for being looted.

Another interesting feature of the data is the presence of cenotaphs exclusively in the primary tombs category, with 9 recorded instances. Cenotaphs, which are symbolic graves without human remains, often serve as memorials for individuals of high status or significance. Their presence in the primary tombs category suggests that these tombs were reserved for elite members of the community or individuals who held special importance. This distinction highlights the social stratification and ritual complexity of the communities that constructed these tombs, as well as the role of funerary practices in commemorating and honoring the deceased.

The data also invite further exploration of the cultural and historical contexts underlying these burial practices. For instance, the strong preference for northern and northeastern orientations could be linked to cosmological beliefs, celestial bodies, or spiritual concepts. Alternatively, environmental factors, such as the position of the sun, may have influenced the orientation of tombs.

The northerly pattern is consistent with that observed in the Prut-Dniester interfluve during the Middle Sarmatian period, suggesting a continuity in cultural and spiritual traditions. However, in Banat, a territory also inhabited by the Sarmatian culture, only 29% of discovered graves exhibit a northerly orientation, with a dominant southerly orientation of 65% (Grumeza 2014,

48, 50). This discrepancy can be attributed to the widespread southerly orientation among bearers of the Prokhorovka culture, or the Early Sarmatian period culture. Several factors must be considered in the comparative analysis between Prut-Dniester and Banat. In the latter, the analysis and data pertain to the late 1st to early 5th centuries AD, and the author notes their appearance from the second half of the 2nd to the first half of the 3rd centuries AD, which is explained by their arrival from the North Pontic region after the Marcomannic Wars. O. Symonenko suggests that the newly arrived Sarmatians were Roxolani (2001, 122).

Following the comparison with western data, I examined the orientation of the deceased in the Khopyor-Volga interfluve, an eastern region where R.S. Berestnev analyzes funerary rituals for each period separately. He observed a shift from southerly to northerly orientation from the Middle to Late Sarmatian periods. In the Middle Sarmatian period, southerly orientations (with variations) accounted for 80%, while northerly orientations (with variations) accounted for 3%. In the Late Sarmatian period, southerly orientations (with variations) accounted for 24%, while northerly orientations (with variations) accounted for 63%, indicating a significant change (Berestnev 2017, 173).

To sum up, my data and those from the mentioned authors from the west and east reveal a fascinating interplay between shared traditions and unique characteristics in the distribution and orientation of tombs. The consistent preference for northern and northeastern orientations points to a common cultural thread, while the diversity in less common directions and the presence of cenotaphs highlight the complexity and variability of burial practices. The significant number of destroyed or unknown tombs, particularly in the primary tombs and flat necropolises categories, underscores the challenges of preservation and the need for continued archaeological research. By examining these patterns and their potential meanings, I can gain a deeper understanding of the cultural, social, and historical contexts that shaped these communities and their funerary practices.

Regarding the position of the deceased in graves, it is noteworthy that throughout the Sarmatian world, the dominant practice was supine deposition with extended arms and legs. However, during the Late Sarmatian period, there are instances of diverse arm positions (slightly bent or right-angled) and leg positions (bent with minor variations), as well as extremely rare cases of contracted positions (Ogorodnoe II T4G1, Hlinaia T38G2).

In addition to single burials, double burials were recorded:

For primary tumulus necropolises, there are 5 double burials and zero for secondary tumuli: Divizia T2G1 (child and adult), Filipeni T1G1 (male 40-45 years and child 12-18 months), Vasilivca T1G2 (two individuals - destroyed), Vasilivca T1G1 (child and adult), Suvorovo T3G2 (adolescent and adult - destroyed).

For flat necropolises, there are 4 double burials: Selișteа G72 (woman and newborn child); Tocmagiu, Destroyed G1 (adult and child); Tocmagiu, Destroyed G2 (destroyed); Tocmagiu G3 (adult and young person).

It is certain that, overall, in the analyzed region and period, the position of the deceased in graves does not differ from that of those in the rest of the Sarmatian-inhabited area.

Another innovation of the early Late Sarmatian period is the practice of artificial cranial deformation. This custom, a distinctive and frequent feature in Late Sarmatian burials from the southern Ural region and the Volga-Don area, appears—though less commonly—in the Prut-Dniester region. Examples include graves from flat necropolises: Crasnogorca G1, Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G8, Florițoaia Nouă G1, Izvoare G1, Fîrlădeni G1, Novoselskoe II G1, Taraclia Gaidabul G2-3, Krinicinoe G10, Selișteа G69, Tocmagiu distrus G2, Orlovka-Kartal (at least 11 known graves), and Bocani (10 graves, representing 50% of the necropolis).

Cranial deformation is also observed in primary tumulus burials: Corpaci II T3G4, Dzinilor T5G1, and Nagornoe T9G1, as well as in secondary tumulus burials: Sărata Veche T1G7; Glubokoe T1G1; and Tîrnauca T1G2.

This phenomenon, previously considered rare and superficially documented (Symonenko 2004, 151), is now recognized as more prevalent, based on the analysis of preserved skeletal remains. Artificial cranial deformation is characteristic of the Late Sarmatian period, both in the Prut-Dniester region and in other areas such as the Pannonian Plain and the Volga region, where it constitutes 16% of the total burials (Berestnev 2017, 173).

Another notable feature of Sarmatian funerary rituals is the disturbance of skeletons, observed in numerous graves. This phenomenon, as previously suggested, may represent a ritualistic practice linked to revisiting the grave after a period, potentially for the purpose of purifying the deceased through fire—a custom rooted in the Iranian cultural sphere (Smirnov 1964, 96–100; Grosu 1995, 150; Bârcă 2006, 54; Nagimov 2012, 179). Alternatively, it may indicate grave robbery (Grosu 1995, 150; Grumeza, Ursuțiu 2016, 285).

As highlighted in the literature, this topic remains widely debated, with compelling arguments supporting both interpretations. In this analysis, these two scenarios are not mutually exclusive. Specifically, if the disturbance of the skeleton is accompanied by dislocated grave goods and traces of charcoal, I may support the hypothesis of a purification ritual. Conversely, if neither grave goods nor traces of charcoal are present, and the bones are scattered at varying depths, grave robbery appears more likely.

2.5. Elements of funerary ritual (funerary ditches, offerings)

A prominent feature in Sarmatian funerary rites during this period is the presence of funerary ditches encircling or adjacent to graves. These constructions exhibit a variety of shapes, including square, circular, rectangular, and trapezoidal forms.

These are primarily concentrated in three regions:

I. The Prut-Dniester interfluve;
II. The Lower and Middle Don region;
III. The Pannonian Plain.

O. Symonenko (1991, 212-213) and V. Grosu (1995, 136) proposed a classification of these, which remains largely valid to this day (Bârcă 2020, 226):

- Square-shaped, with access on one of the sides and devoid of internal graves;
- Rectangular-shaped, lacking both access and internal graves;
- Rectangular-shaped, featuring both with and without access, but containing internal graves;
- Trapezoidal-shaped, with access and internal graves;
- Circular-shaped, featuring both with and without an entrance, but with graves predominantly situated in the central area.

Square-Shaped Funerary Commemorative Constructions

In the northern and northwestern Pontic area, these constructions typically feature an access area located on the southern, southeastern, or southwestern sides. Their corners or sides are aligned with the cardinal directions and, with few exceptions, they lack internal graves. Funerary constructions of this type may be arranged in rows or chessboard patterns, though irregular arrangements within the necropolis are also observed.

In the Prut-Dniester region, such ditches have been identified at Alcalia, Bădragii Noi, Cioropcani, Cuconeștii Vechi II, Florițoaia Nouă, Holmskoe, Kotlovyna, Nagornoe, Șalvirii Noi/Palanca, Petrești, Vasilivca, (see the list below and Fig. 5), and several other sites (for a comprehensive distribution, see Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, 152). Magnetometric surveys have revealed square ditches at the village of Chiurt (Edineț District), where five ditches, three in a row and two in another, were identified (Vasilache et al. 2022). A recent case is that of Cășunca (Florești District), where magnetometric surveys conducted by Gh. Sîrbu Moldovean and J. Peska, T. Tencer (Sîrbu et al. 2024, 53-60) revealed 21 earth structures arranged in a row, with some appearing in clusters, possibly indicating varied digging efforts or chronological phases. In 2023, S. Kurchatov and V. Bubulich published a work detailing numerous earthworks (2023, 152), from which their prevalence across the analyzed area is evident.

Location	**Shape of the trench/ditch**	**No. of the trenches/ditches**
Bălăbănești	Circular	1
Balabanu I	Circular	1
Butor I	Circular	1
Cazaclia	Circular	1
Cișmichioi	Circular	1
Divizia	Circular	3
Hagider II	Circular	1
Kotlovyna	Circular	1
Nagornoe	Circular	1
Obileni	Circular	1
Orlovka-Kartal	Circular	1
Petrești	Circular	15
Suvorove	Circular	2
Vasilivca	Circular	3
Balabanu I	Oval	1
Suvorove	Oval	1
Suvorovo	Oval	1
Alijaga	Rectangular	1
Cazaclia	Rectangular	1
Divizia	Rectangular	1
Holmskoe	Rectangular	8

Kalanceak	Rectangular	2
Nagornoe	Rectangular	2
Orlovka-Kartal	Rectangular	4
Petrești	Rectangular	3
Sergheevca	Rectangular	3
Vasilivca	Rectangular	2
Petrești	Rectangular (?)	1?
Alcalia	Square	2
Alijaga	Square	1
Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis"	Square	6
Cioropcani	Square	1
Cuconeștii Vechi II	Square	6
Florițoaia Nouă	Square	2
Holmskoe	Square	5
Kotlovyna	Square	1
Nagornoe	Square	1
Petrești	Square	16
Vasilivca	Square	4
Corpaci II	Trapezoidal	1
Mirnoe	Trapezoidal	1
Vasilivca	Trapezoidal	1

Prior to analyzing the archaeological finds, attention is drawn to the artificially deformed skulls of the deceased in the graves of Orlovka-Kartal and Florițoaia Nouă. This tradition is exclusive to the Late Sarmatian period, illustrating the convergence of distinct elements within the same site.

Most of these constructions lack a direct association with the deceased, with exceptions at sites such as Petrești, and Bădragii Noi.

Sizes range from 7x7 meters to 25x26 meters. Entrances vary from 0.5 meters to 2.2 meters, with a depth of approximately 1 meter. The size and complexity of the ditches, could indicate the status of the deceased.

Within the ditch fill and on the surface of some square-ditched enclosures, archaeologists have discovered complete and fragmented amphorae (Petrești, Bădragii Noi, Vasilivca), complete

and fragmented ceramic pots (Cuconeştii Vechi II, Holmskoe, Chertovitski II, Kobyakova), burnt wood charcoal, ash (Chertovitski II), astragali (Cioropcani), and animal bones (Cuconeştii Vechi II, Șalvirii Noi/ Palanca).

The most unusual find within a ditch was a fragment of a human calvarium, discovered in the ditch along the eastern side of the enclosure at Medeleni. This bone fragment was identified, with a high degree of probability, as belonging to a mature male individual, aged between 30 and 60 years (Vornic et al., 2016, 24).

The amphorae from Bădragii Noi, Petrești, and others align with D. Shelov's type C typological classification, dated between the second quarter of the 2nd century AD and the end of the 2nd century AD.

Rectangular Funerary Constructions without Internal Graves

This type is less common, discovered at Kalanceak, Stumok, and other sites. The Kalanceak ditch fill contained fragments of Shelov C type amphorae, dating to the late 2nd century AD.

Rectangular Funerary Constructions with Internal Graves

Such ditches have been found within tumulus and flat necropolises at Cazaclia, Dzinilor, Vasilivca, Petrești, Holmskoe, or beneath isolated Sarmatian barrows, such as those at Kalanceak and Nagornoe.

Sizes range from 4x5 meters to 13x27 meters. Entrances vary from 0.4 meters to 1 meter, with a depth predominantly between 0.5 and 0.65 meters. The Cazaclia and Vasilivca ditch fills contained fragments of Shelov C type amphorae, dating to the late 2nd century AD.

Trapezoidal Funerary Constructions

This type is exclusive to barrows, featuring an access area and internal graves. Such enclosures were discovered at Mirnoe, Corpaci, and Vasilivca (in the Prut-Dniester interfluve).

Sizes are variable. The Corpaci enclosure ditch fill contained four horse skulls and numerous fragmented amphorae (Shelov C type). Horse skulls were also found in square constructions at Petrești. Other ditch fills contained animal bones, including horse, fragments of amphorae (Shelov B-C type), and ceramic pots, dating slightly earlier to the first half of the 2nd century AD.

Funerary Constructions with Circular Ditches

Circular ditch enclosures invariably contain internal graves and, when equipped with an entrance, it is primarily situated on the southern, southwestern, or southeastern sides. In the Prut-Dniester interfluve, such enclosures have been discovered at Bălăbăneşti, Cazaclia, Divizia, Kotlovyna, Nagornoe, Obileni, Vasilivca, Petreşti, etc. Circular ditch enclosure diameters vary from 7m to 29m. Entrances range from 0.3 to 4 meters, with depth characteristics ranging from 0.3 to 1.4 meters. The size and complexity of the ditches, could indicate the status of the deceased.

Fill objects are similar to those of other construction forms (horse skulls, other animal bones, pottery fragments), including Shelov C and D type amphorae.

Rectangular and Square Funerary Constructions

Some necropolises feature both circular and square or rectangular enclosures (e.g., Cazaclia, Holmskoe, Kotlovyna, Nagornoe, Petreşti, Vasilivca, etc.).

Rectangular ditched enclosures, typically characterized by an entrance and the absence of internal graves, and situated outside barrows, have also been observed without entrances (Chertovitski II) or with entrances and internal graves (Petrești). Graves are also found several meters from the sides of funerary constructions (e.g., Aljiaga, Alcalia, Chertovitski II, Cuconeştii Vechi II, Holmskoe, etc.). Furthermore, clear patterns in the placement of square or rectangular ditched enclosures within necropolises are generally absent, with the exception of Bădragi Noi, where enclosures are arranged in rows, each associated with a single grave. A similar situation was observed at Petreşti, where some ditched enclosures had a grave in their proximity.

Despite most square ditched enclosures being associated with Sarmatian necropolises dated to the second half of the 2nd to middle 3rd century AD, ritual constructions from the 1st century AD have been discovered at Certovitsky II, Pisarevka (Middle Don), Medeleni, and Palanca/Șalvirii Vechi (Prut-Dniester interfluve).

Funerary Constructions with Circular Ditches

Current research indicates that many circular ditched enclosures date to the first stage of the Late Sarmatian Period (second half of the 2nd to first half of the 3rd century), while also occurring since the Middle Sarmatian Period (1st to first half of the 2nd century AD). These

constructions are dated from the 1st to the first half of the 4th century AD in the Don region and Prut-Dniester interfluve (Bârcă 2020, 337).

It is worth noting that some authors (Gudkova, Bîrca, and others) suggest that ditched constructions of all shapes, with and without internal graves, were closely associated with barrows, even when their shape was independent of the tumulus. These constructions were primarily an attribute of burial mound funerary rituals, although they were also present in necropoles interpreted as flat necropolises—Petrești, Orlovka-Kartal, etc. As a further argument, I would add that this form is widely found in Pannonia in flat necropolises alongside other forms, e.g., Abony 39; Site BP 002-003, M 0 Budapest ring road (Bârcă 2020, 373).

Rectangular, square, and trapezoidal ditches serve as chronological markers of the early phase of the Late Sarmatian culture, dating to the latter half of the 2nd and the beginning of the 3rd century AD, while circular ditches persist until the early 4th century (Symonenko 2003, 151; 2004, 158; 2011, 171; Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 217; Bârcă 2020, 341). For example, the grave at Cazaclia T1G3, surrounded by a rectangular ditch, suggests its creation during the early phase of the Late Sarmatian period—a conclusion corroborated by radiocarbon dating.

The genesis of these structures has been a subject of extensive debate, with a general consensus pointing to an eastern origin. Some of the earliest documented examples of their use by Sarmatian tribes have been identified at the Chertovitski II and Pisarevka necropolises (situated to the left of the Middle Don), and the number of such discoveries continues to grow (Medvedev 1990, 71-72, 95-96; Symonenko 2003, 154; Bârcă 2020, 341).

Fragments of Roman amphorae have been found within these ditches, such as at Cazaclia T1G3 (Agulnikov, Kurchatov 2013, 175-184), Petrești (Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, 139), Bădragii Noi (Kurchatov et al. 1995, 113), and Corpaci (Grosu 1979, 250-255). According to V. Grosu and others, these findings may represent remnants of funerary banquets.

Ritual pits containing offerings, including those associated with fire, are found in the vicinity of Sarmatian burial sites. These pits exhibit a diverse range of contents, from remnants of funerary banquets—such as amphorae and ceramic fragments—to animal offerings. Notably, there is a consistent decline in the frequency of animal offerings compared to earlier periods. While O. Symonenko noted only one such instance for this period (2004, 149; 2011, 171), my analysis has revealed several additional cases. At Petrești, for example, horse skulls were discovered: pit 14 contained two horse skulls, and pit 13 one. At Corpaci, remains of goat or

hare were found. Despite these findings, the practice of animal offerings is indeed less common. Specifically, animal offerings are rarely encountered in rectangular or stepped burial pits of the Late Sarmatian period. However, exceptions exist: at Obileni, Trench 1; Petrești, Trench 23; and Orlovka-Kartal, Trench 1, single horse skulls were found. At Petrești, Trench 6, a horse and a bovine skull were discovered, and at Petrești, Trench 14, two horse skulls were recovered.

At Alcalia, tumuli T6G1 and T7G1 each featured four ritual pits alongside the burial pits, a pattern observed in other tumuli as well. Additionally, tumulus T20G1 at the same site contained a ritual pit. At Balabanu I, tumulus T7G2, deer or horse bones were found within the tumulus mound. At Opaci, near tumulus T9G1, tumulus T8 was interpreted as a tryzna or cenotaph, resembling those found at Liman (Ivanova, Vetchinnikova, Petrenko 2005).

Thus, it is evident that while animal offerings become less frequent, other funerary elements gain prominence. Alongside the examples mentioned, numerous less conspicuous instances—pits or graves containing one to five bones from various animals—must also be considered. Furthermore, many discoveries originate from ditches associated with Sarmatian necropolises or graves, often yielding remnants of funerary banquets and offerings. For instance, at Vasilivca, tumulus T20G1, a dog skeleton was found. A dog skeleton was also discovered in the burial chamber of grave 8 at Orlovka-Kartal, deposited as an offering. At Cuconeștii Vechi, graves contained bones from various animals, including dogs, caprines/ovines, horses, and hares. Bovine and horse bones were also found at Filipeni, tumulus T1G1.

In concluding this chapter, it is important to acknowledge that prior to this study, the funerary rites and rituals of the Late Sarmatian culture in the Prut-Dniester region were relatively under-researched. The number of discovered graves was often underestimated by leading Sarmatian scholars in the northwestern Pontic region. Therefore, the extensive number of graves analyzed in this study has allowed me to significantly expand our understanding of various aspects related to the treatment of the deceased and the organization of burial spaces.

Specifically, this research has provided detailed insights into:

- The nuanced practices of funerary rituals: By examining a larger dataset, I have been able to document a wider range of burial customs, including variations in grave construction, the deposition of offerings, and the treatment of skeletal remains.

- The spatial organization of necropolises: The analysis of burial locations and layouts has revealed patterns that suggest a deliberate structuring of funerary spaces, reflecting social hierarchies and cultural beliefs.
- The evolution of funerary traditions: Comparative analysis with other Sarmatian regions has highlighted both similarities and differences in burial practices, shedding light on the dynamic nature of cultural exchange and adaptation.
- The complexity of ritualistic behaviors: the presence of for example the funerary ditches, or the cranial deformation, highlight a complex ritualistic behavior.

By synthesizing diverse archaeological evidence, this chapter has contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of Sarmatian funerary practices in the Prut-Dniester region. This research not only enhances our knowledge of the Late Sarmatian culture but also provides a valuable framework for future investigations into the mortuary practices of nomadic communities in this region.

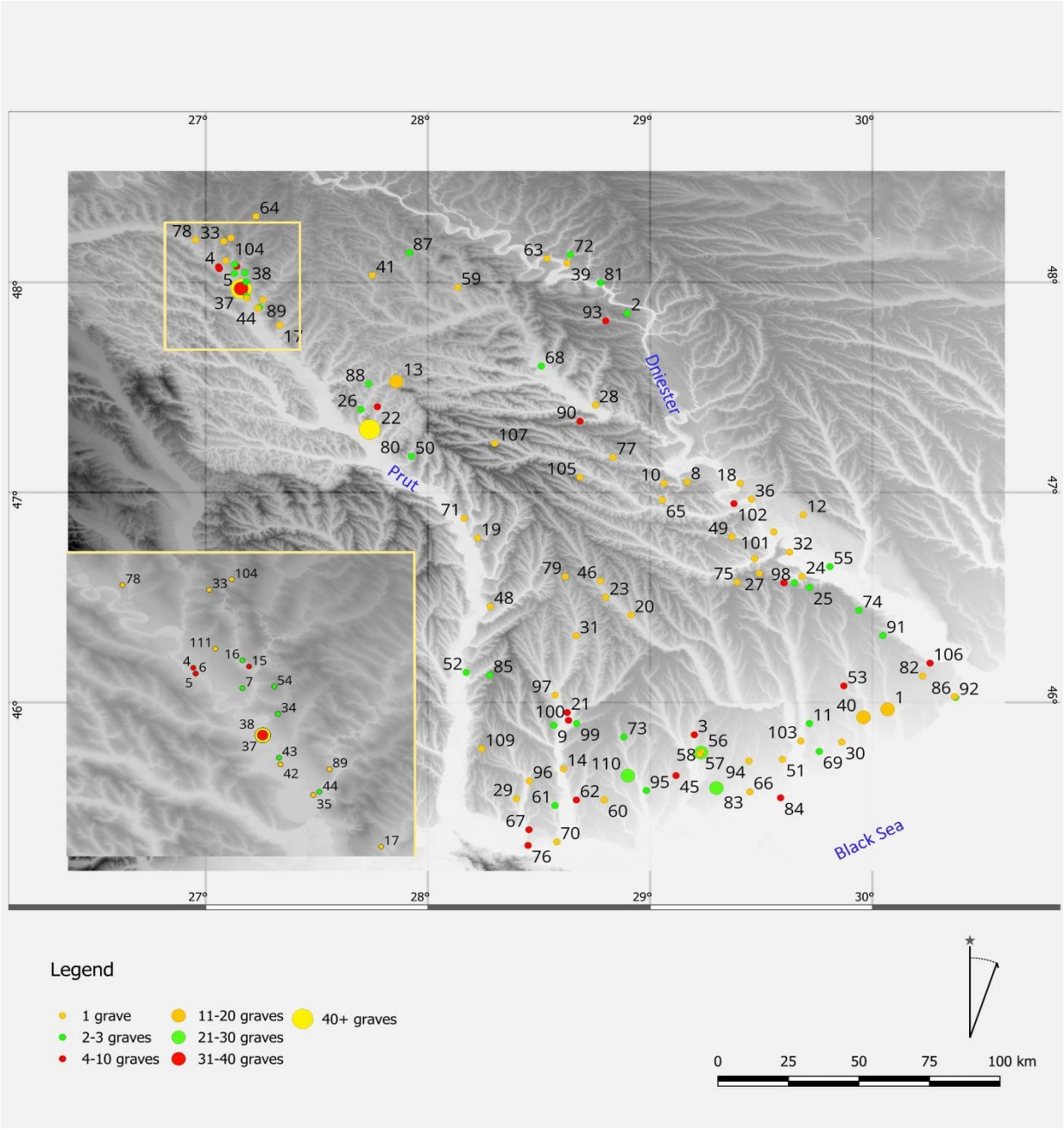


Fig. 1. Map of all sites and the corresponding number of graves[78].

[7] Figures for the first two chapters are presented jointly. Beginning with Chapter 3, each chapter will be accompanied by its own set of figures, and this structure will continue accordingly.
[8] Each number on the map corresponds to its respective entry in the catalog.

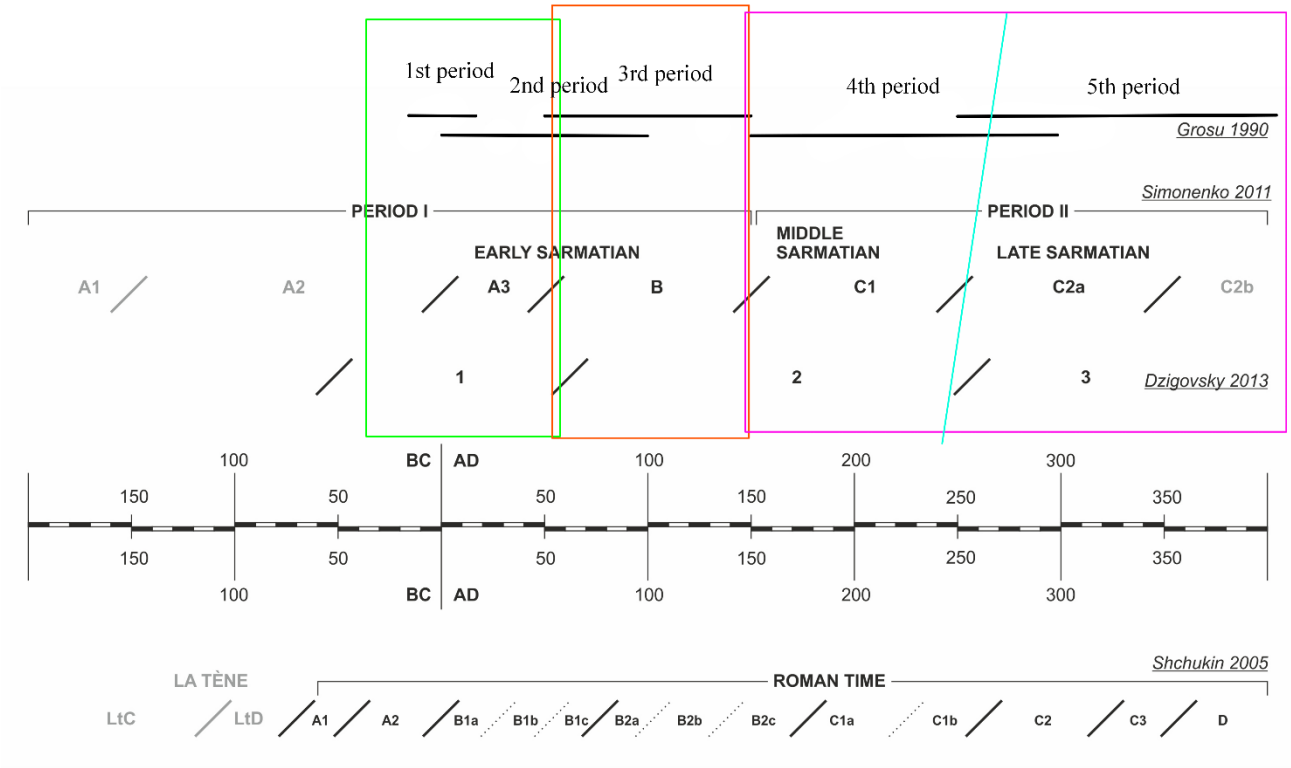


Fig. 2. Periodization of the Sarmatian Culture in the Pontic Region and Its Alignment with the Roman Period in the European Chronological System for Central and Eastern Europe (after Topal, modifications by Batog)

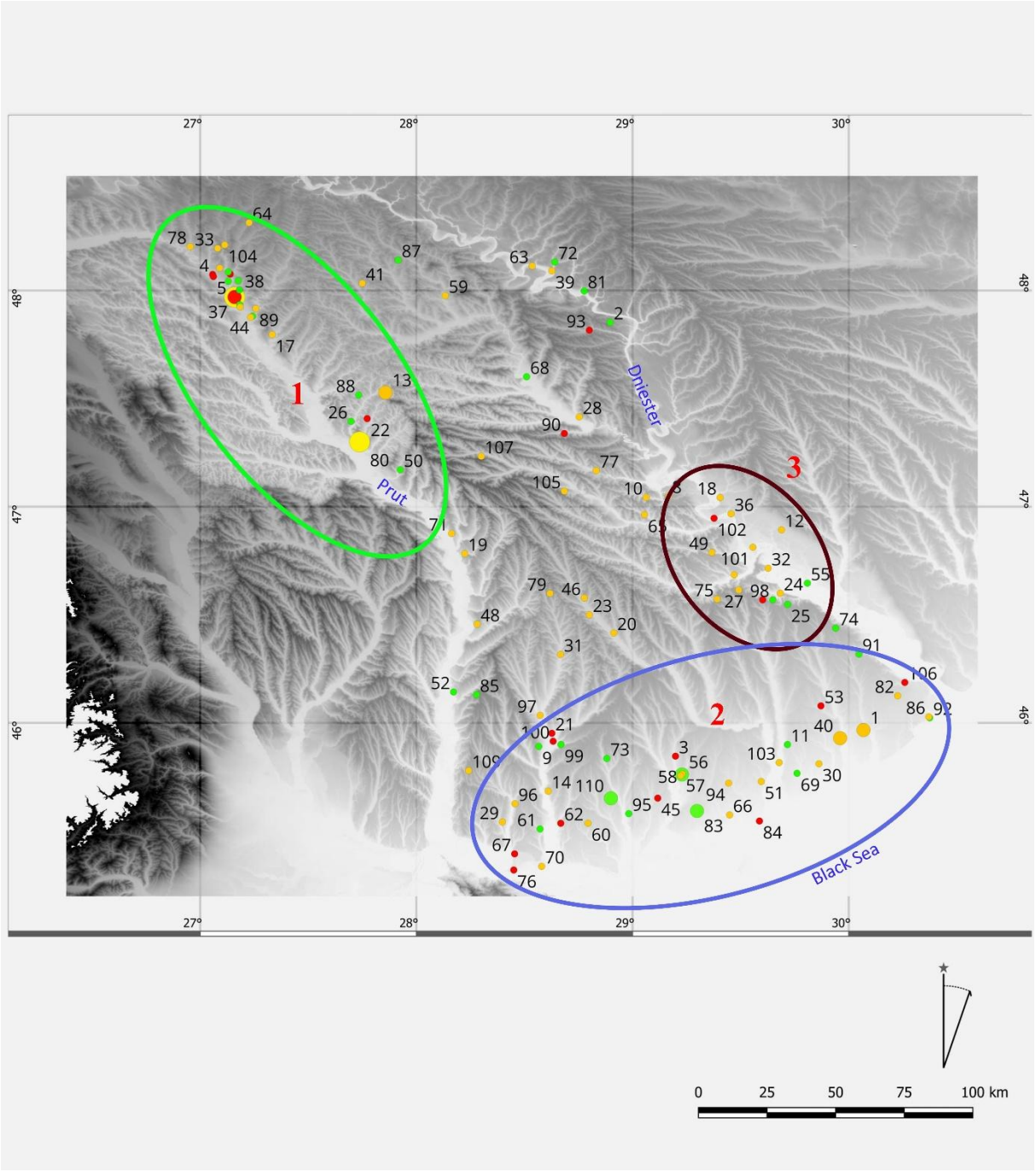


Fig. 3. The map of the three geographically concentrated groups.

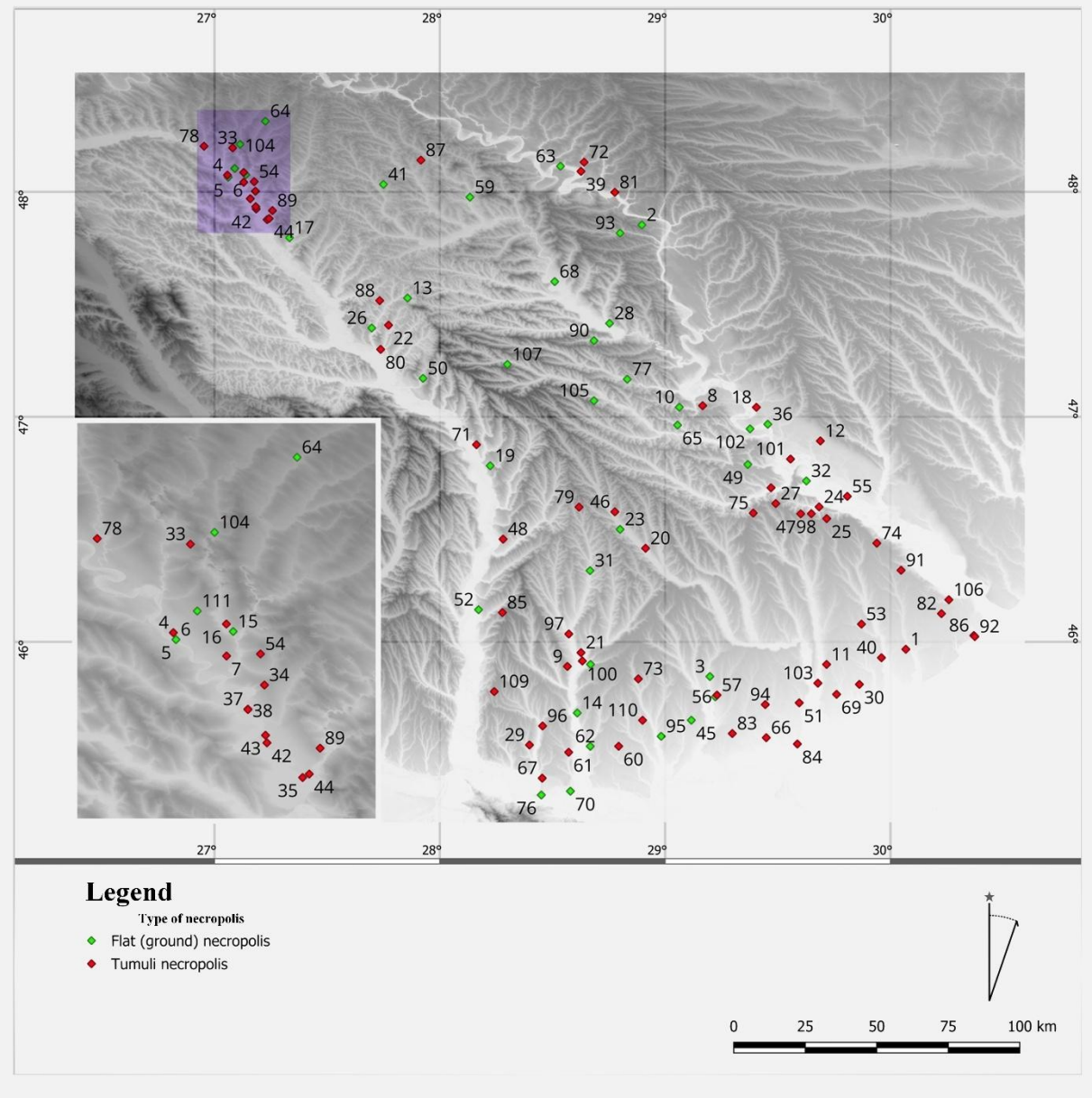


Fig. 4. Types of necropolis

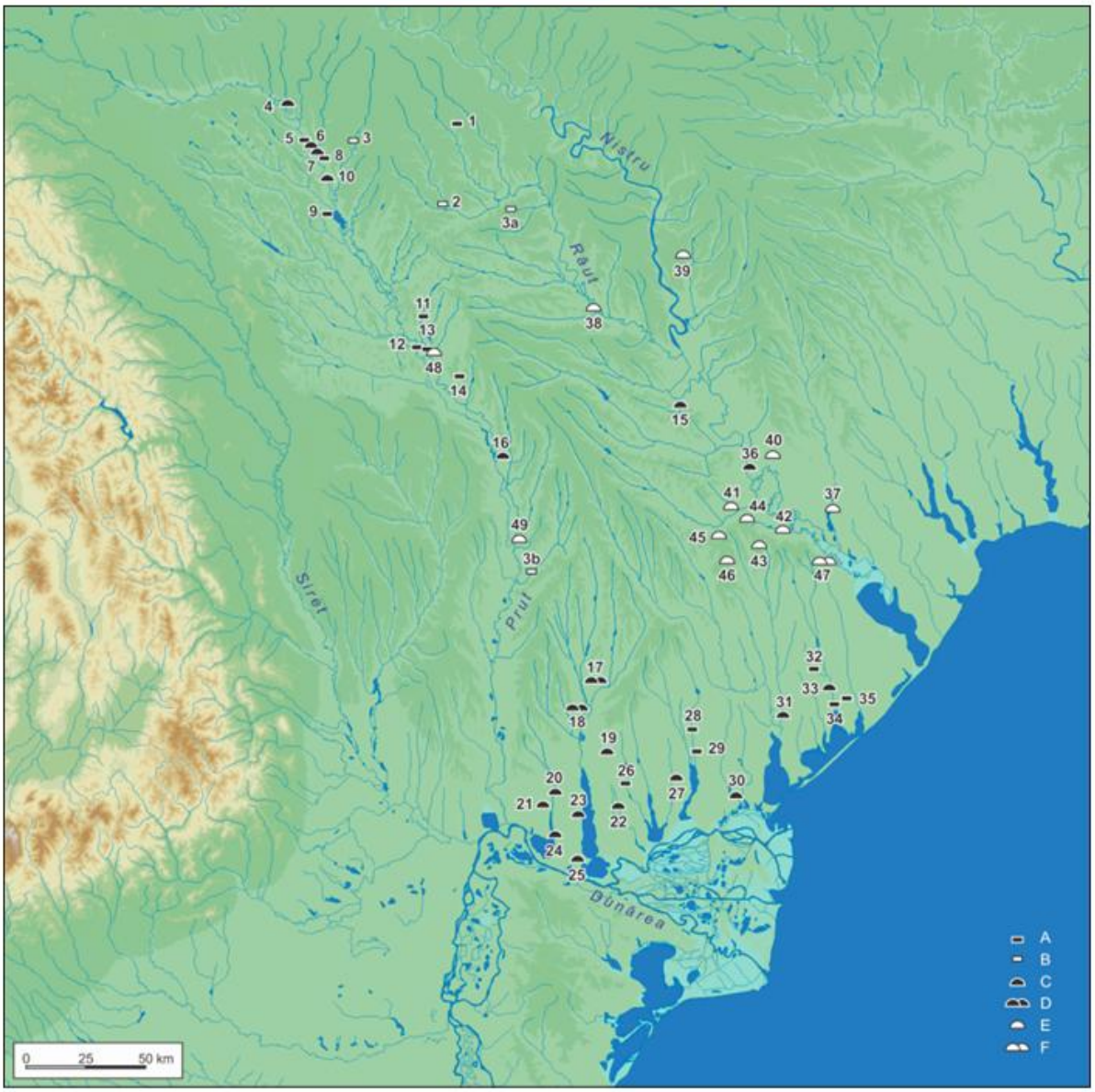


Fig. 5. Distribution of Sarmatian culture ditches in the Prut-Dniester interfluve (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023):

- A – excavated Sarmatian ground necropolises with ditches;
- B – ground necropolises identified through aerial photography and geomagnetic survey;
- C – tumuli with ritual platforms and ditches;
- D – groups of tumuli with ditches;
- E – tumuli with primary and intrusive Sarmatian burials in the secondary mound, without ditches;
- F – groups of tumuli without ditches

III. Funerary furniture and its typology

This chapter aims to shed light on the complexity and significance of Sarmatian funerary furniture from the Prut- Dniester region, interpreting it as a material expression of the social, economic, and cultural identity of Sarmatian communities. Within the context of this study, the term funerary furniture refers to the assemblage of objects and artifacts found in burial contexts. These items - ranging from hand-formed or wheel-thrown ceramic vessels to bronze, silver, and glassware, as well as domestic tools, personal adornments, garments, weapons, and harness fittings - offer valuable insights into the everyday life, craftsmanship, and trade networks of these communities.

Adopting a typological approach, this chapter applies clear criteria for classification, including manufacturing material, production techniques, functionality, ornamentation, and the archaeological context in which the objects were discovered. The analysis will focus on identifying correlations between various categories of artifacts and examining the stylistic and functional developments they underwent, closely linked to the historical and cultural background of the region.

To ensure a holistic understanding, the comparative study incorporates both archaeological data from the studied area and relevant ancient sources. This integrated perspective will help illuminate the funerary practices and associated symbolism, highlighting how sociopolitical and economic shifts during the late second century to the first half of the third century CE influenced the typology and meaning of funerary objects.

The chapter will include case studies of selected artifact categories, aimed at illustrating and supporting the comparative typological analysis at both regional and broader Sarmatian cultural levels.

Through this introduction, a methodological and theoretical framework is established for a comprehensive analysis of Sarmatian funerary furniture, emphasizing its essential role in reconstructing the material and spiritual landscape of a civilization that, while often labeled as "barbarian," reveals a high degree of cultural and economic sophistication.

3.1 Clothing and adornments items

3.1.1. Fibulae[9]

Fibulae from Late Sarmatian contexts in the Prut-Dniester region are largely typologically consistent with those found across the North Pontic area and Central Europe. Their presence reflects complex networks of interaction, originating from both commercial trade with established economic centers and direct contact with neighboring groups. Key among these were the local Dacian populations (bearers of the Poienești-Vârtișcoiu culture), Pontic Greek cities, Germanic tribes, and the Roman Empire. Throughout the Late Sarmatian period (late 2nd–early 3rd centuries AD), fibulae were a fundamental component of Sarmatian attire, serving not only a practical function but also acting as a key chronological marker. The significance of this artifact category is reflected in numerous dedicated studies, most notably the recent comprehensive works by Kropotov (2010) and Hellström (2018).

This study begins with an analysis of fibulae, a distinctive category of ornament. The corpus under investigation comprises 39 specimens: 37 from funerary contexts and two stray finds from Tocmagiu, discovered near the analyzed necropoleis. From this total, six items were excluded from the main typological analysis due to unreliable provenance or fragmentary condition, which prevented definitive identification. These excluded pieces originate from Primorsk (T1G52), Alcalia (T28G1), Bocani (G6), and Vasilivca (T26G2, T20G1, T14G5).

To structure the analysis, this chapter employs a harmonized typology that reconciles the major classification systems developed by Ambroz (1966), Kropotov (2010), and Hellström (2018). Based on this synthesis, eleven distinct morphological types have been identified within the regional corpus (Fig. 1 and Chart 1):

Type	Morphological description	Ambroz Typology	Kropotov Typology	Hellström Typology	Dating	Notes
Type 1	Bow-shaped, one-piece	Gr. 15, Var. 4/5	Gr. 4, Ser. I, Var. 4	Variant IB.1e.1	Late 2nd–early 3rd c. AD	Dominant in S. Eastern Europe

[9] A decorative yet functional item used in Antiquity to fasten garments, similar to a clasp or brooch.

Type 2	Bow-shaped, two-piece	Gr. 15, Ser. III	Gr. 4, Ser. III	Variant III.1b	Mid-3rd c. AD	Volga/N. Caucasus finds
Type 3	Curved bow, two-piece	Group 16, Subgr. 2, Ser. 1	–	Variant III.1b	Early 3rd c. AD	-
Type 4	Spiral-end catch plate	Gr. 13, Types 7–8	Gr. 8, Ser. II, Form 1	Variant IC.1b/IC.2b.1a	Late 2nd–early 3rd c. AD	-
Type 5	Profiled w/ knots (Danubian)	Gr. 11, Ser. I/II	Gr. 10, Ser. I, Var. 2	Variant IIA.2a.1a/IIA.2a.2	2nd–early 3rd c. AD	-
Type 6	Profiled w/ knots (Lower Dnieper)	Gr. 11, Ser. II, Var. 1	Gr. 10, Ser. III	Variant ID.1	Early 3rd c. AD	Lower Dnieper/Bug concentration
Type 7	Widened head	Gr. 10, Subgr. 2	Gr. 12, Form 5	Variant III.2f	Late 2nd–early 3rd c. AD	Almgren Type 84
Type 8	Hinged bow	Gr. 5	Gr. 13, Form 30	Variant VA.3	Late 2nd–mid 3rd c. AD	"Late Alesia" type
Type 9	Bilateral spring (Sarmatian)	–	–	Variant III.3b	Late 2nd–early 3rd c. AD	Almgren Form 193
Type 10	Omega	–	–	Variant VIII.2b	Late 2nd–early 3rd c. AD	Rustoiu Gr. VI, type 32
Type 11	Ringfibeln (enamel)	–	–	–	Late 2nd–early 3rd c. AD	Gorokhovski Types 2-3

Table 1 Comparative typology of fibulae types

Type 1 – Bow-shaped fibulae (basic - one-piece):

This category includes two bronze fibulae:

Dzinilor T5G1	Bronze	Length: 5.5 cm
Alcalia T22G1	Bronze	Length: 6 cm

In V. Kropotov's system, they correspond to Variant 4, Series I of Group 4 - recognized as the dominant fibula type within the Late Sarmatian cultural horizon and is typical of the southern part of Eastern Europe. The dimensions range are between 5 and 8 cm (Kropotov 2010, pp. 77–80).

Type 2 – Bow-shaped fibulae (two-piece):

This category includes two bronze fibulae:

Divizia T2G1	Bronze	Length: 8.7 cm
Divizia T7G1	Bronze	Length: 6.8 cm

Romanian archaeologist Gh. Diaconu significantly narrowed the chronological framework proposed by A. K. Ambroz. Based on a typological analysis of Lower Danube finds, Diaconu attributed the ornaments discovered on Romanian territory to the first half of the 3rd century AD. He dated similar specimens from the Northern Black Sea region and more eastern areas to the mid-3rd century and the second half of that century. According to Diaconu, these items belong to the so-called "Sarmatian-type" fibulae (Diaconu 1971, pp. 249–251).

Typically large in size, these items are composed of two parts and made exclusively of silver or bronze (Kropotov 2010, pp. 150–154).

Type 3 – Curved-shaped fibulae (two-piece):

There are two fibulae of this type:

Holmskoe G23	Bronze and iron	Length: 4.9 cm
Tocmagiu II, Fortuitous discoveries	Bronze and iron	Length: 5 cm

This type differs from the previous one in several key aspects. Firstly, the two parts are not made exclusively of bronze or silver – I also find examples made of iron. Secondly, their dimensions tend to be smaller. Lastly, the body of the fibula displays a distinct curvature. Given these differences, I cannot agree with K. Hellström's view that this type and the previous one should be classified as the same variant.

Type 4 – Fibulae with a spiral at the end of the catch plate:

There are two fibulae of this type:

Bocani G9	Bronze	Length: 6.6 cm
Cuconestii Vechi II G47	Bronze and iron	Length: cca 4.2 cm

According to K. Hellström's classification, the fibula from Bocani G9 corresponds to Variant IC.1b, dated from the end of the 1st century BC to the mid-1st century AD (Hellström 2018, pp. 61–62), while the fibula from Cuconeștii Vechi II G47 corresponds to Variant IC.2b.1a, which is generally dated to the 1st century to the early 3rd century AD (Hellström 2018, pp. 64–67).

However, Hellström's proposed chronology for the Bocani G9 specimen (Variant IC.1b, late 1st c. BC–mid-1st c. AD) appears problematic. This dating is inconsistent with the broader archaeological context of the grave, which aligns more closely with the Late Sarmatian period. In contrast, the fibula from Cuconeștii Vechi II G47, found alongside a Khazanov Type 9 mirror, can be confidently dated to the late 2nd–early 3rd centuries AD, fitting Hellström's Variant IC.2b.1a.

Type 5 – Strongly profiled fibulae with knots on the bow (Danubian type):

There are five fibulae of this type:

Badragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G7	Bronze	Length: 6.5 cm
Butesti DG1	Bronze	Length: 6.3 cm
Cirnateni T3G1	Iron	Length: 3 cm
Vasilivca T1G1	Iron	Length: 3.1 cm
Bocani G5	Bronze	Length: 3.2 cm

These are among the most numerous Central European ornaments from the first centuries AD. The five fibulae in question can be divided into two size-based variants: the first two, measuring over 6 cm, belong to Type 5a, while the other three, approximately 3 cm in length, fall under Type 5b.

Regarding the fibula from Bocani G5, it can be dated based on the mirror found with it - decorated in relief on the outer surface with a tamga-like symbol. This mirror, classified as Type 9 by A. Khazanov, is dated to the second half of the 2nd century – the first half of the 3rd century AD (Khazanov 1963, pp. 58–71). The same dating applies to the burial from Cîrnățeni, which also contained a fragmentary unguentarium and an amphora of Shelov Type C, dated to the same period (Shelov 1978, p. 18).

O. Almgren identified a general developmental trend among these fibulae - from samples with short wire backs to more elongated, plate-like specimens - and pinpointed areas of their highest concentration: the Danubian provinces of the Roman Empire and the South Russian regions (Almgren 1897, p. 44).

These fibulae have been extensively classified, with major contributions from Ambroz (Group 11), Cociș (Types 6-7), Kropotov (Group 10), and Hellström (Variant IIA.2). While typological details vary, these systems collectively confirm a primary chronological range from the 2nd to the early 3rd century AD. The presence of these "Danubian" fibulae in Sarmatian contexts east of the Carpathians highlights the intense cultural and commercial exchanges with the Roman provincial world. The smaller iron variants (Type 5b), noted by Cociș as more specific to the "barbarian" zone, may suggest local adaptations or preferences within Sarmatian and Carpic communities.

Type 6 – Strongly Profiled Fibulae with Knots on the Bow (Lower Dnieper type):

There is a single specimen of this type:

Olanesti T16G1	Bronze	Length: 5.5 cm

The closest parallels for this type are found at Bădragii Vechi T27G1, which is dated to the late 1st century – early 2nd century AD based on the presence of an Eggers type 142 bowl (Bârcă 2006, p. 132). At Mologa II, four such specimens were identified in three graves: G1 (two specimens), G4, and T4G8 (one each) (Gudkova, Fokeev 1982, pp. 70, 82). The specimen under discussion is primarily dated based on the presence of a Shelov C-type amphora (Shelov 1978, p. 18; Grosu 1990, pp. 85–86; Popa 2015), placing it in the first half - middle of the 3rd century AD.

In V. Kropotov's typology, these correspond to Series III of Group 10 - the "Lower Dnieper" type - characterized by single-piece wire fibulae measuring 3–7 cm in length, with a gently curved bow and a short, 4–6-coil spring with a returned chord. These are primarily distributed in the western part of the North Pontic region, with the highest concentration (around 50% of all finds) in the lower Dnieper and Southern Bug areas. This type is associated with the formation phase of the Late Sarmatian culture, mostly dated to the 2nd century AD (Kropotov 2010, pp. 224, 248–249).

Type 7 – Strongly profiled fibulae with a widened head:

There are five fibulae of this type:

Bocani G10	Bronze	Length: 4.6 cm
Sabolat T4G1	Bronze	Length: 5 cm
Taraclia Gaidabul G1	Bronze	Length: 4.4 cm
Taraclia Gaidabul G2	Bronze	Length: 4 cm
Taraclia Gaidabul G3	Bronze	Length: 3.5 cm

The fibulae from Taraclia Gaidabul G1 and G2 each have a ring inside, which is a rather specific feature.

This category corresponds to type 84 in O. Almgren's typology (Almgren 1923, pp. 34–47).

In the province of Roman Dacia, S. Cociș classifies these as type 8b2a2, with a chronological range extending up to the third quarter of the 2nd century AD (Cociș 2004, pp. 65-66).

According to V. Kropotov's system, this type corresponds to form 5 of group 12 - which are widely distributed across the Danubian provinces of the Roman Empire and frequently encountered over a vast area to their north in so-called "Free Europe." This variant is dated to the end of the 2nd century - beginning of the 3rd century AD (Kropotov 2010, pp. 257, 260).

Type 8 – Hinged bow fibulae:

Seven fibulae of this type have been identified, of which two are made of bronze and five of iron:

Nagornoe T9G1	Bronze	Length: 5.2 cm
Krincinoe G10	Bronze	Length: 5.8 cm
Dzinilor T8G1	Iron	Length: 6.5 cm
Bocani G10	Iron	Length: 5 cm
Cuconestii Vechi II G24	Iron	Length: 6 cm
Cuconestii Vechi II G39	Iron	Length: cca 5 cm
Seliste DG1	Iron	Length: cca 6 cm

Seven fibulae of this type were identified, made of both bronze and iron. Classified by Cociș as "Late Alesia" type and by Kropotov as a distinct form (Gr. 13, Form 30), these fibulae are prevalent in the Danubian provinces and the *Barbaricum* during the 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD. The secure dating of several contexts - such as Nagornoe T9G1 (early 3rd c. AD) and Krinicinoe G10 (containing a Khazanov Type 9 mirror) - confirms their use in the Prut-Dniester region during the peak of the Late Sarmatian period. The presence of both bronze and iron

variants suggests different levels of accessibility or value, potentially reflecting social stratification within the communities using them.

Type 9 – Bilateral spring fibulae with arched bow and high footplate (Sarmatian type):

There are three fibulae of this type, all made of bronze:

Hlinaia T38G2	Bronze	Length: 4.3 cm
Holmskoe G19	Bronze	Length: 4.5 cm
Holmskoe G19	Bronze	Length: 4.5 cm

Bilateral spring fibulae - of the arched bow type with a high footplate - were first discussed by O. Almgren, who included them in Group VII of his typology. The fibulae from Holmskoe correspond to Form 193 of Series I, Group VII in Almgren's classification (Almgren 1923, pp. 91–93).

Within this category, two subtypes can be distinguished: at Hlinaia, type 9a, and at Holmskoe, type 9b. Both variants are dated to the same chronological range - the second half of the 2nd century to the first half of the 3rd century AD.

Type 10 – Omega fibulae:

There are two fibulae of this type - one made of iron and the other of bronze:

Holmskoe G8	Iron	Diameter: 6.8 cm
Tocmagiu II, Fortuitous discoveries	Bronze	Diameter: 3 cm

These fibulae are primarily characterized by the shape of their ends. They belong to the type with rolled endings.

According to A. Rustoiu, these belong to Group VI, type 32 - omega-type fibulae. They are widely distributed across the western and central European provinces. This category of fibulae has a broad chronological span, ranging from the beginning of the 1st century to the 4th century AD (Rustoiu 1997, pp. 62–63).

In 2004, S. Cociș classified this type as type 28 - omega-type fibulae, more precisely as variants 28a4 and 28b2. He noted that, so far, no examples with securely datable archaeological contexts earlier than the mid-2nd century AD have been found in Dacia. These fibulae were likely in use until around the mid-3rd century AD. The distribution of this type covers the entire Roman Empire, from Britannia to North Africa (Cociș 2004, pp. 130–131).

According to S. Petković's typology, this type corresponds to type 29 - initially appearing in Spain and Gaul and disseminated through the Roman army to the Rhine and Danube frontiers. These fibulae were generally made of bronze (approximately 75%), though iron examples are also known (around 25%). Some bronze examples feature an iron pin. The diameter of these fibulae ranges between 2.5 and 5.9 cm. Fibulae made of both bronze and iron are commonly found in frontier provinces of the Empire and are dated to the second half of the 3rd century – 4th century AD (Petković 2010, pp. 224–225, 339).

K. Hellström classifies these fibulae as variant VIII.2b - ringfibel. These fibulae enjoyed a very long usage, from the Iron Age through to the medieval period, with only minor morphological changes. The examples discovered in the North Pontic area appear to have been imported, as there is no evidence of local production (Hellström 2018, pp. 126–127).

Type 11 – Ringfibeln:

There are two specimens, both made of bronze:

Badragii Noi "La stanca" G5	Bronze	Diameter: 5.5 cm
Divisia T2G1	Bronze	Diameter: 5.5 cm

These fibulae are mainly characterized by flat, spherical ends that were likely inlaid with enamel.

Type 11, characterized by their circular terminals adorned with enamel, have a long history of scholarly research. The classification and chronology of these objects were developed by E.L. Gorokhovski. They belong to the group of barbarian cloisonné enamel jewelry, with their main areas of distribution located in the Middle Dnieper region and the Baltic area (Gorokhovski 1982, pp. 16-36).

The fibula from Bădragii Vechi, according to Gorokhovski's system, belongs to type 3 of the Trostianets-Cherniakhiv I series. The second fibula, discovered at Divizia, is classified based on the similar depiction of a "Maltese cross" in the central shield. The second represents variant A of type 2 from the Dnieper-Nemunas-Mazurian series. Both pieces are diagnostic of phase B, covering the period from the end of the 2nd century to the first half of the 3rd century AD.

The typology of these fibulae, proposed by A. Jabłońska, places them in group II of her classification system, being dated similarly (Jabłońska 1992, p. 126).

The fibula from Divizia was discovered in association with a Type 2 fibula — a bow-shaped, two-piece fibula. Such fibulae are predominantly dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD, though they occasionally occur in the early 3rd century AD. The grave assemblage also included a mirror decorated in relief on the exterior, which belongs to Type 9 according to A. Khazanov and is dated to the second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD (Khazanov 1963, pp. 58–71). A similar mirror was also present in the grave assemblage from Holmskoe.

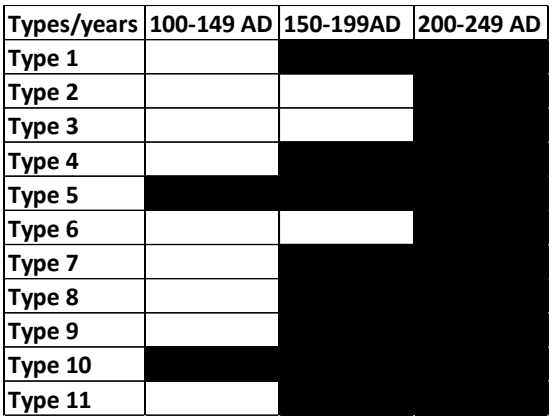


Chart 1. Timeline of Fibula Types

3.1.2. Earrings

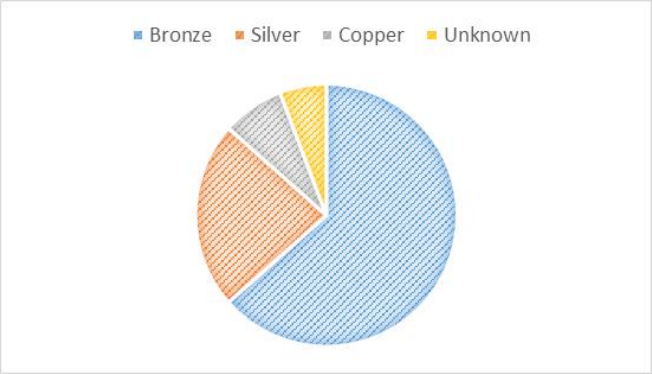
During the Late Sarmatian period, earrings were a significant category of personal adornment in the Prut-Dniester region. However, their functional identification can be challenging. Due to their placement near the skull in funerary contexts, distinguishing between earrings and temple rings is often difficult, a methodological issue also highlighted by B. Polit for Sarmatian assemblages in Crimea (Polit 2022, 25). Consequently, typological classifications can be subjective and are not always definitive.

Despite this ambiguity, the morphological characteristics of the artifacts from the Prut-Dniester region - specifically their dimensions and terminal shapes - suggest that the use of temple rings was limited during this period, which minimizes the risk of widespread misidentification. For cases where uncertainty remains, a dual classification ("earring/temple ring") has been noted.

Between the second half of the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century AD, earrings continued to be a fundamental component of Sarmatian material culture. However, the typology of these artifacts underwent only minimal changes throughout this time span. As a result,

earrings generally serve as chronological indicators only when found in association with artifacts of more securely dated contexts.

The corpus for this study consists of 52 earrings (complete and fragmentary). Of these, 12 pairs were recovered from single graves, while 28 were individual finds. Bronze is the predominant material (33 specimens), followed by silver (12), and copper (4); the composition of three pieces is undetermined (see the graph below)[10].



After excluding six items due to poor preservation or insufficient documentation, and setting aside three highly fragmented pieces of uncertain typology, the core analysis is based on a total of 43 classifiable earrings, which are divided into four main types (Fig. 2).

Type	Morphological Description	Bârcă Typology	Grumeza Typology	Polit Typology	Dating Range	Notes
1a	Hook + loop closure, wire construction	Type Ia	Type IIIa	V/2/A	1st-4th c. AD	Most common type
1b	Hook + decorative loop closure	–	Type IIIc	V/4/A	2nd-3rd c. AD	Frequent in Prut-Dniester
1c	Hook + loop + central decoration	–	–	–	1st-4th c. AD	Includes uncertain specimens
1d	Hook + loop + pendant	–	Type IIIe	–	Mid-Late Sarmatian	Single bronze example

[10] It should be mentioned, however, that material analysis was not systematically performed; thus, I rely on the descriptions provided by the excavation reports.

Type	Morphological Description	Bârcă Typology	Grumeza Typology	Polit Typology	Dating Range	Notes
1e	Hook + loop + spiral disks	–	–	V/5	1st-3rd c. AD	"Ram's horn" design
2a	Circular, pointed open ends	–	–	Type I	2nd-3rd c. AD	Single bronze example
2b	Circular, sharply pointed ends	–	–	Type I	2nd BC-4th c. AD	Silver specimens
2c	Circular, regular open ends	–	–	Type II	1st-4th c. AD	Most numerous subtype
3a	Circular + flattened terminal	Type II	–	–	2nd-3rd c. AD	Silver, Geto-Dacian links
3b	Circular + zoomorphic terminal	–	–	IV/1	1st-3rd c. AD	Snake-head design
3c	Semicircular + beaded terminal	–	–	–	2nd-3rd c. AD	Unique copper specimen
4	Twisted wire + gemstone setting	–	–	X/2/B	Late 2nd-early 3rd c. AD	Cornelian stone

Table 2 Comparative typology of earring types

Type 1 - Earrings with a closing system consisting of a hook and a loop-bent extremity:

This type is the most frequently encountered across all Sarmatian periods and throughout the entire territory they inhabited. It can be further divided into several variants: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, and 1e.

Type 1a - Earrings with a closing system composed of a hook and a loop, made from a metal wire. These earrings feature one end bent into a hook and the other into a loop, which is wrapped around the body of the earring. This category includes nine earrings:

Bocani G4	Copper
Bocani G6	Bronze
Bocani G8	Copper

Cuconestii Vechi II G27	Bronze
Hlinaia T12G1	Silver
Negureni G1	Bronze
Ogorodnoe II T4G1	Bronze
Petresti G15	Bronze
Trinca G1	Bronze

This subtype, represented by nine specimens, is the most common form. It is widely recognized as the quintessential "Sarmatian type" earring, although its origins likely lie in the Greco-Roman world (Bârcă 2006, 106). Its ubiquity is confirmed by its presence in various regional typologies, such as Bârcă's Type Ia, Grumeza's Type IIIa for Pannonia, and Polit's Type V/2/A for Crimea. The broad chronological span attributed to this type (1st–4th centuries AD) underscores its enduring popularity, though it limits its utility as a precise dating tool without associated artifacts.

Type 1b consists of earrings with a closing system based on a hook, where one extremity is bent into a loop that, when coiled around the body of the earring, forms an additional decorative loop. This category includes twelve earrings:

Brinzeni G4	Bronze	
Cuconestii Vechi I G29	Bronze	
Cuconestii Vechi I G31	-	
Cuconestii Vechi II G11	Bronze	
Cuconestii Vechi II G33	Bronze	2 pieces
Krinicinoe G6	Bronze	2 pieces
Ocnita T6G12	Silver	2 pieces
Petresti T3G12	Bronze	
Vadul lui Isac T1G3	Bronze	

In the Pannonian Plain, these earrings are classified as Type IIIc and dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD, according to L. Grumeza (2014, 57). The earrings of Type 1b correspond to Type V/4/A in B. Polit's typology for Crimean barbarians during the Sarmatian period. They are generally dated between the 1st and 4th centuries AD, although they are most commonly encountered in the 2nd–3rd centuries AD (Polit 2022, 39–40, 150, 178). In the Prut-Dniester region, earrings of this type are frequently found in 2nd–3rd century AD burials.

Type 1c features, in addition to the basic hook and loop, a central decorative loop or a decoration on the wire of the earring, as in the case of the earring from Corjeuți. This category includes five earrings (of which two specimens are considered uncertain):

Chirileni T2G16	Bronze	
Corjeuti T9G1 (?)	Bronze	
Malcauti G1 (?)	Bronze	
Pererita T2G13	Silver	2 pieces

Type 1d - In addition to the basic loop and hook structure, this type also features an attached pendant. Only one example of this type has been identified, discovered at Petrești T3G12, and it is made of bronze. In the Pannonian Plain, earrings with pendants are classified as type IIIe and are dated to the second half of the Middle-Late Sarmatian period, according to L. Grumeza (2014, 57).

Type 1e – Hook-and-loop with spiral disks ("ram's horns"): A single fragmentary piece from Podoima T3G5 is attributed to this type. These distinctive ornaments, featuring spiral disks, are strongly associated with a Geto-Dacian cultural milieu, as noted by Rustoiu (1996) and Polit (2022). Their presence in a Sarmatian context, though rare, is a clear indicator of cultural interaction and the adoption of specific symbolic motifs from neighboring populations. While primarily dated to the 1st century AD, silver examples are known from later contexts (2nd–3rd centuries AD), which is consistent with the chronology of the Podoima find.

Type 2 - Earrings with an almost circular shape and open endings:

This type is often confused with temple rings, making the distinction between them challenging. It is the second most widespread form across all Sarmatian periods and within this case as well. Type 2 is further divided into three subtypes: 2a, 2b, and 2c.

Type 2a - Characterized by an almost circular shape and pointed open ends. Only one specimen of this type was found at Novoselskoe II G1, made of bronze.

Type 2b - Characterized by an almost circular shape with sharply pointed open ends. Two examples were found at Holmskoe G8, both made of silver. According to B. Polit’s typology, earrings of this form correspond to type I for the Crimean Sarmatians, with a general dating from the end of the 2nd century BC to the first half of the 4th century AD (Polit 2022, 26, 150, 178).

Type 2c – Characterized by an almost circular shape and regularly shaped open ends.

This category includes seven earrings:

Cuconestii Vechi II G35	Bronze	
Firladeni G1	Bronze	
Holmskoe G11	Bronze	
Taraclia Gaibadul G2	Bronze	2 pieces
Vasilivca T1G1	Silver	2 pieces

In Polit's system, this type corresponds to type II for the Crimean Sarmatians, with a dating from the 1st to the 4th century AD (Polit 2022, 27, 150, 178).

Type 3 - Earrings with a distinct terminal:

This type is characterized by having one specific end, often shaped like an animal's head (e.g., a snake head), a bead, or another distinctive feature that makes the item larger and more specific - on one ending. These earrings are relatively rare. Type 3 can be divided into three subtypes: 3a, 3b, and 3c.

Type 3a - Characterized by an almost circular shape, with one regular end and the other flattened and narrow - representing the basic form. Two examples of this type were found at Holmskoe G22, both made of silver.

In the Prut-Dniester region, V. Bârcă classifies these earrings as Type II and notes their occurrence in the Geto-Dacian cultural milieu, dating them to the Middle Sarmatian period (Bârcă 2006, 107).

Type 3b – Terminal with zoomorphic shape (snake-head): This variant is represented by a single bronze specimen from Holmskoe G19. The snake-head motif is a powerful symbol with deep roots in the artistic traditions of nomadic peoples, persisting from Scythian times into the Roman period. While parallels in Crimea are dated to the 1st century AD (Polit 2022), examples from the Lower Danube basin appear in later, 2nd–3rd century AD contexts (Bichir 1996). The Holmskoe earring thus fits within a long-standing symbolic tradition, likely adopted and reinterpreted by Sarmatian groups to signify power or apotropaic protection. Furthermore, in Romania, a turquoise earring with a snake-head terminal has been documented, also dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD (Stînga 1998).The zoomorphic style has deep roots among nomadic

populations and remained in use through the Roman period, as also evidenced by finds in SM-C Culture (Magomedov 1979).

Type 3c - Characterized by a semi-circular shape, with one regular end and the other decorated with a bead. Only one example of this type was recorded, from Sărata Veche T1G7, made of copper. No close analogies for this variant have been identified so far.

Type 4 - Earrings with twisted wire and a tear-shaped setting:

This category includes a single earring discovered at Krinicinoe G10. The piece is made of silver, with diameters of 3.8 cm and 3 cm. One end features a thin plate measuring 2 cm in length and 1 cm in width, terminating in a hook hole designed to connect with the opposite end of the ring. Mounted on this plate or shield is a reddish cornelian gemstone cut into a tear shape.

In Crimea, according to B. Polit's typology, this example corresponds to Type X/2/B, dated to the second half of the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century AD. Analogies for this type are known from the Sovhoz No. 10 cemetery, specifically G23 (Polit 2022, p. 51).

Similar earrings have been discovered on the territory of Romania in the following contexts: Târgșor G198 (Diaconu 1965), Căscioarele G1 (Morintz 1959), and Probota (Bichir 1972)—all made of silver and dated to the first half of the 3rd century AD.

3.1.3. Rings

Rings are a less frequent category of adornment in the analyzed corpus, with a total of 13 specimens identified. Of these, nine could be typologically classified based on available illustrative or descriptive material. Bronze is the predominant material, though examples in silver, iron, and copper were also recorded. The rings are grouped into three main types based on their construction and design. As I can observe, bronze rings predominate, as is the case with most types of jewelry. Regarding the piece from Olănești, I have the following data: a small bronze ring with open ends, made from flat wire. Based on its characteristics, it can be classified as a Type II/B ring, according to B. Polit's typology, which is broadly dated from the end of the 2nd century BC to the 4th century AD (Polit 2022, pp. 125–126, 152, 181).

Below, I present the remaining nine rings. The ones from Taraclia Gaidabul (G1 and G2) are shown in the image with the fibulae.

Carabetovca T1G3	Bronze

Divizia T12G1	Bronze and Iron
Krinicinoe G6	Bronze
Nagornoe T9G1	Bronze
Orlovka-Kartal G298	Silver
Sarata Veche T1G7	Iron
Polevoe T6G1	Copper
Taraclia Gaidabul G1	Bronze
Taraclia Gaidabul G2	Bronze

From the perspective of the materials used, bronze predominates, as mentioned earlier; however, I also have one silver ring, as well as another made from copper and one made from a combination of iron and bronze. I have decided to classify them typologically as follows (Fig. 3):

Type 1 – Simple Wire Rings: This type includes rings made from a single metal wire, subdivided by construction. **Subtype 1a (Closed Shank):** Includes specimens from Sărata Veche, Nagornoe, and Taraclia Gaidabul (G1). **Subtype 1b (Open Shank):** Includes specimens from Orlovka-Kartal, Polevoe, and Taraclia Gaidabul (G2). As noted by Polit, these simple forms are methodologically challenging, as they are difficult to date precisely and can be confused with hoop earrings or temple rings (Polit 2022, 126). Their presence primarily confirms the use of basic adornments without offering significant chronological or cultural data. **Type 2 – Rings with a Bezel or Flat Section:** This category includes rings with a distinct decorative plate. The specimen from Krinicinoe G6 is a notable example of a direct Roman import: a bronze ring featuring a rectangular bezel with the profile of a woman. This piece, corresponding to Polit's Type VIII/2 (late 2nd–4th c. AD), demonstrates the flow of Roman manufactured goods into the *Barbaricum* and their adoption as prestige items by the Sarmatian elite. The poorly preserved ring from Divizia T12G1 may also belong to this type. **Type 3 – Rings with overlapping coiled ends and a spiral disc.** Represented by the specimen from Carabetovca T1G3, this ring, according to B. Polit's typology, belongs to Type VII/4/A, dated from the end of the 2nd century to the 4th century AD (Polit 2022, pp. 134–135, 152, 181).

3.1.4. Metal bracelets

Bracelets constitute a significant category within the corpus of Sarmatian metal adornments from the Prut–Dniester region, with 19 specimens recorded, classified into seven types (Fig. 3).

Location	Material	Dimension
Bădragii Noi T2G1	Bronze	Ø 6.5 × 7 cm, section Ø 0.3 cm
Balabanu I T7G2	Copper	-
Bocani G10	Bronze	Ø 8 cm
Bocani G10	Bronze	Ø 8 cm
Chirileni T2G16	Iron	Ø approx. 5.5 cm, section 0.2 × 0.3 cm
Cuconeștii Vechi I G5	Bronze	-
Cuconeștii Vechi II G36	Bronze	Ø 6.5 cm, section 0.3 cm
Cuconeștii Vechi II G36	Bronze	Ø 6.3 cm
Divizia T6G3	Bronze	-
Krinicinoe G10	Bronze	Ø approx. 7 cm; section 0.5 × 0.3 cm
Nagornoe T1G1	Iron and bronze	-
Nagornoe T9G1	Bronze	Ø 7 cm
Olănești T1G1	Bronze	-
Podoima T3G3	Bronze	Ø 7.2 cm; section 0.4 x 0.2 cm
Șcerbaca T2G5	Bronze	-
Selișteе G67	Iron	Ø 6.8–8.2 cm; section 0.4 x 0.7 cm
Taraclia Gaidabul G1	Bronze	Ø 7 cm; section 0.4 cm
Taraclia Gaidabul G1	Iron	Ø 7–8 cm; section 0.6 x 0.8 cm
Vasilivca T27G1	Bronze	oval Ø 6.5 × 4.7 cm; section 0.6 × 0.4 cm

The assemblage is dominated by bronze artifacts (14 specimens), supplemented by examples in iron, copper, and a bronze-iron composite. This analysis organizes the finds into a seven-part typology based on the form of the bracelet's body and terminals, allowing for a clearer understanding of their stylistic diversity and cultural affinities.

Type 1 – Single-coil bracelets with slightly narrowed ends

This simple and widespread type, represented by three specimens (e.g., Bădragii Noi T2G1), is one of the most basic bracelet forms in the Sarmatian world. Its ubiquity is reflected in its broad chronological range (2nd c. BC–4th c. AD) across various typologies, such as Bârcă's Type II and Polit's Type A/VI. Although this long-lived form is not a precise chronological marker on its own, its association in the Prut-Dniester region with classic Late Sarmatian artifacts—such as the dagger from Bădragii Noi T2G1 and the Almgren 84 fibula from Taraclia Gaidabul G1—securely places its use within the 2nd–3rd centuries AD. Type 2 – Single-coil bracelets with overlapping ends

This is the most numerous type in the corpus (eight specimens) and features two main variants: smooth wire (2a) and twisted wire (2b). Like Type 1, this form was widely distributed across Geto-Dacian, Sarmatian, and Pannonian cultural spheres, as confirmed by its inclusion in the typologies of Bârcă (Type V), Grumeza (Type II), and Polit (Type A/XI). Its prevalence

suggests it was a common, functional adornment rather than a specific cultural or status marker. The twisted wire variant (2b), seen at Nagornoe T1G1, represents a simple decorative enhancement of this basic form. Type 3 – Bracelets with ends terminating in oval thickenings

This type is represented by a single specimen from Balabanu I T7G2.

According to B. Polit's typology, it corresponds to Type A/X/2, dated from the 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD, with peak popularity in the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD (Polit 2022, pp. 79–81, 151, 179).

Type 4 – Bracelets with widened ends

Two specimens belong to this type: one from Șcerbaca T2G5 and the other from Vasilivca T27G1.

In the East Carpathian region, this form is classified as Type IV by V. Bârcă. Chronologically, these bracelets appeared in the early centuries AD. Bronze bracelets with thickened ends are encountered across various cultural environments (Bârcă 2006, pp. 103–104).

In the Banat region, L. Grumeza assigns this form to Type III, dated throughout the 2nd to 4th centuries AD (Grumeza 2014, p. 79).

According to B. Polit's typology, these examples correspond to Type A/IX, dated from the second half of the 1st century to the 4th century AD, with peak distribution during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. This type is widely spread throughout Central Europe (Polit 2022, pp. 73–79, 151, 179).

Type 5 – Knotenring-type bracelets

The single, solid bronze specimen from Nagornoe T9G1 is a significant find. This type, known as *Knotenring*, has deep chronological roots stretching back to the First Iron Age and is found in both Geto-Dacian and Scythian-Sarmatian contexts. While earlier forms exist, the Nagornoe example aligns with the Late Sarmatian chronology (2nd–3rd c. AD) proposed by Polit (Type A/XVI). Often interpreted as having ritual or apotropaic significance, such bracelets likely functioned as powerful symbols of status or social affiliation, distinguishing their wearers from those with simpler adornments.

Type 6 – Bracelets with flattened open ends or snake-head terminals

This type includes two variations on a common theme: a geometric, rectangular stylization (6a, from Cuconeștii Vechi II G36) and a more explicit, flared snake-head shape with incised details (6b, from Taraclia Gaidabul G1). The snake motif is a quintessential element of the Eurasian steppe **"animal style,"** carrying profound symbolic weight in nomadic cosmology. These bracelets demonstrate how this powerful zoomorphic symbol was adapted and stylized within the Late Sarmatian artistic repertoire, serving as a marker of cultural identity rooted in a broader steppe heritage. Type 6a: As noted by V. Bârcă and O. Symonenko, this design may represent a stylized snake's head, and the burial is associated with the Late Sarmatian cultural context (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, p. 234).According to B. Polit's typology, this bracelet corresponds to Type A/XV, dated from the end of the 2nd century BC to the 4th century AD (Polit 2022, pp. 107, 151, 179).

Type 6b: This specimen fits well within Type A/XV/5, dated broadly from the 1st to 4th centuries AD, with peak popularity in the 2nd century AD, especially in the Crimean Peninsula (Polit 2022, pp. 98–100, 151, 179).

Type 7 – Bracelets with one wide end (diamond-shaped or snake's head) and a thin, pointed tail-like end

The unique bronze bracelet from Krinicinoe G10 represents the most sophisticated design in the corpus. It embodies the snake motif in its complete form, with a distinct stylized head and a tapering tail. Crucially, evidence of a wire suggests a **complex mechanical fastening system**, where the tail likely looped into the head. This level of craftsmanship, combined with the powerful symbolism, marks the object as a high-status item. Its secure dating to the early 3rd century AD, based on associated grave goods (fibula and mirror), highlights the presence of elite individuals with access to specialized craft production during the Late Sarmatian period. The funerary assemblage reveals a diverse typology of 19 metal bracelets, classified into seven distinct types based on morphology, manufacturing techniques, and typological parallels:

Type	**Morphology**	**Subtypes**	**Key features**	**Dating range**
1	Single-coil, slightly narrowed ends	–	Round section; bronze/iron	2nd c. BC – 4th c. AD
2	Single-coil, overlapping ends	2a: Smooth wire 2b: Twisted wire	–	2nd c. BC – 4th c. AD

3	Ends with oval thickenings	–	Bronze	Late 2nd – early 3rd c. AD
4	Widened ends	–	–	1st–4th c. AD (peak: 2nd–3rd c. AD)
5	Knotenring-type	–	Projection decorations; ritual use	Late Iron Age – 4th c. AD (peak: 3rd–4th c. AD)
6	Flattened open ends	6a: Geometric 6b: Zoomorphic	"Snake head" terminals	2nd c. BC – 4th c. AD
7	Asymmetrical zoomorphic ends	–	Fastening mechanism	Early 3rd c. AD

Table 3 Consolidated chronology and features

The typological range of bracelets from Late Sarmatian contexts in the Prut-Dniester region reveals a society with diverse adornment practices. The assemblage is dominated by simple, functional forms (Types 1 and 2) that reflect common, cross-cultural traditions with deep chronological roots. Alongside these, however, are rare and elaborate artifacts that function as clear markers of social distinction. The *Knotenring* from Nagornoe (Type 5) points to ritual practices or status, while the zoomorphic bracelets (Types 6 and 7) connect their wearers to the powerful symbolic heritage of the Eurasian steppes. The unique, mechanically complex bracelet from Krinicinoe (Type 7), in particular, attests to the presence of a social elite with access to high-quality, specialized craftsmanship. Overall, the bracelet corpus illustrates a blend of widespread, utilitarian traditions and exclusive symbols of power and cultural identity.

3.1.5. Metal collars/necklaces and pendants

Solid metal collars or torcs are a notably rare feature in the Late Sarmatian funerary assemblages of the Prut-Dniester region. Their near-absence is significant, with only a single potential discovery at Brînzeni G1, inferred from bronze oxidation traces. This scarcity contrasts with other adornment categories and suggests that torcs were not a common element of the local funerary costume during this period, a pattern consistent with broader observations across the North Pontic region where such items remain exceptional finds (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 233).

In contrast to collars, pendants and amulets made from a wide range of materials were a vital component of Sarmatian personal adornment. These objects likely served decorative, symbolic,

and apotropaic functions. They can be grouped into several distinct categories based on material and form, each carrying specific cultural connotations. **Shell Pendants:** Perforated shells, primarily of the *Cypraea* and *Unio pictorum* species, functioned as powerful apotropaic amulets. Though relatively rare in Late Sarmatian contexts, specimens have been documented at sites like:

Chirileni T2G5	4 shells (3 whole, 1 fragment) (Cypraea)	Perforated
Cocicovatoe T27G1	shell (Unio pictorum)	Perforated
Petresti G1	shell (Unio pictorum)	-
Petresti G24	3 shells (Unio pictorum)	-

Their placement around the neck of the deceased and ethnographic parallels from Central Asia strongly suggest they were worn for protection against illness or the "evil eye" (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 165). **Animal Tooth, Bone, and Horn Pendants:** Amulets crafted from animal remains represent a primal and enduring tradition. Discoveries such as the perforated wolf/dog tooth from Cuconeștii Vechi G27 and the boar tusk from Orlovka-Kartal G537 likely served to invoke the strength, ferocity, or protective qualities of the animal from which they came. These objects connected the wearer to the natural and spiritual world, acting as personal talismans.

Cuconestii Vechi G27	Pendant (wolf/dog tooth)	Tooth (wolf/dog) -perforated
Duruitoarea Noua II T1G1	Horn/bone amulet (conical)	Horn/bone - perforated
Duruitoarea Noua II T1G1	Bone amulet (pseudo-trapezoidal)	Bone – perforated
Orlovka-Kartal G537	Boar tusk fragment with hole	Boar tusk - perforated

Astragali (Knucklebones): Astragali are one of the most significant and complex categories of funerary finds, appearing in at least 15 of the analyzed complexes. These objects occupy a unique space between the sacred and the profane, functioning interchangeably as **gaming pieces, divinatory tools, and amulets**. Their interpretation depends heavily on contextual evidence. The list of these follows:

Location	**Number of pieces**
Badragii Noi „La stanca” G3	1
Bocani G15	8
Butor I T10G1	Several
Cuconestii Vechi II G38	1
Divizia T6G3	6

Floritoaia Noua G1	4
Floritoaia Noua G2	6
Olanesti T16G1	2
Olanesti T16G2	1
Opaci T9G3	4
Petresti G27	3
Seminovca T3G1	2
Sergheevca T5G1	6
Soldanesti G7	16
Vasilivca T26G2	28

Function indicated by placement and number: Their location within the grave offers crucial clues. When deposited in large caches (up to 28 pieces at Vasilivca T26G2) or placed near the feet, they likely represent sets for games or ritual play. Conversely, single specimens found near the upper body probably served as personal amulets. Their frequent association with the graves of children and adolescents suggests a particular role in age-specific rituals or pastimes.

Function indicated by modification: Physical alterations provide direct evidence of their use. Heavy polishing, as seen at Olănești, points to prolonged handling in games. Deliberate modifications, such as lead inserts at Sergheevca T5G1 (to balance them for play) or perforations for suspension (Opaci T9G3), clearly distinguish their intended function.

Ultimately, astragali transcend simple categorization. They represent a tangible link to Sarmatian beliefs about fate, chance, and the afterlife, possibly used in divinatory practices to communicate with supernatural forces (Grumeza 2024, 165). The ritual deposition of a set within a ceramic vessel at Divizia T6G3 further underscores their deep symbolic importance.

Diverse metal pendants and amulets:

The corpus includes a remarkable variety of metal pendants, most of which are considered Roman imports or local interpretations of widespread forms. These items reflect a personalization of belief and adornment.

Bells: Bronze bells, often pyramidal or hemispherical with iron clappers, were common sound-producing amulets used to ward off evil spirits. The following is a list of such finds from late Sarmatian graves:

Alcalia T6G1	Three bronze bells with iron tongue

Bocani G10	Bronze pyramidal bell
Chirileni T2G20	Bronze bells (2 pieces)
Chirileni T2G5	Copper bells (4 pieces)
Glubokoe T1G1	Bronze bell
Holmskoe G24	Bronze pyrimidal bell with iron tongue
Negureni G1	Bronze bell
Pascani G1	Bronze pyrimidal bell with iron tongue
Petresti G26	Bronze bell
Taraclia Gaidabul G2	Bronze bell

Bells were typically worn on the chest, suspended from belts, or attached to the wrist, as indicated by their find locations. Most examples are made of bronze, with iron clappers. Among the types of bells dated to this period, the pyramidal-shaped specimens stand out alongside the more common hemispherical forms. Bells have been documented at numerous sites across the western Sarmatian Barbaricum and are, in most cases, Roman imports (Grumeza 2014, 83). Their prevalence points to a shared belief in the protective power of sound.

Another category of pendants is represented by perforated coins. One such example comes from Cîrnățeni T3G1; in addition, there is a notable case involving five coins discovered at Orlovka - but I will touch these findings later.

What follows is a list of pendant-amulets - highly diverse in form and type. As can be observed, they are not numerous, but they exhibit remarkable variability:

Podoima T3G3	Pendant shaped like a small bucket	Bronze
Tirnauca T1G2	Ball-shaped pendant	Bronze
Vasilivca T1G3	Possibly- bucket-shaped objects (2)	Bronze
Vasilivca T14G4	Moon pendant	Bronze
Pascani G1	Circular pendant amulet with beads	Bronze
Petresti G28	Axe-shaped amulet	Bronze
Bocani G5	Bronze pendant (bear paw shape)	Bronze
Glubokoe T1G1	Gold ring pendant	Gold
Hagider II T9G1	Bronze „shovel” fragments (petal-shaped)	Bronze
Semionovca T4G1	An oval leaf	Copper

Axe-shaped pendants are represented by a single example from Petrești G28. Similar items are known from other cultural environments, such as the Geto-Dacian context, although they appear much earlier - during the second half of the 1st century AD. In the Banat region, such

pendants appear among the Sarmatians at the beginning of the 2nd century AD and are associated with richly furnished funerary inventories (Grumeza 2014, 84). **Axe-shaped amulet** likely invoked concepts of power or protection.

"Cauldron" or bucket-shaped pendants, made of bronze or iron sheet, are cylindrical in form, with two lateral lugs, a flat base, and a suspension loop. One such pendant has been found at Podoima, two at Vasilivca, and a probable example at Holmskoe G22. These types are much more common in the eastern Sarmatian, Late Scythian, Geto-Dacian, and Carpic environments, as well as in the Przeworsk cultural area, being used throughout the first centuries AD. East of the Carpathians, they are typically found in the neck or wrist area of graves, suggesting they were worn together with other pendants, amulets, or beads (Bârcă 2006, 133). In the Banat region, such items are dated to earlier periods: the 2nd–3rd centuries AD (Grumeza 2014, 85).

Lunula or crescent-shaped pendants are represented by an example from Vasilivca. Analogies are found in the Banat region, where they appear starting in the 2nd century AD and continue into the Late Sarmatian period (Grumeza 2014, 85), as well as in the Przeworsk culture and the Sântana de Mureș–Chernyakhiv culture.

Geometric pendants, such as the ball-shaped one from Tîrnautca or the ring-shaped example from Glubokoe, are a product with numerous analogies in various cultural contexts over extended chronological periods. Due to their broad distribution and functional ambiguity, these artifacts are difficult to date precisely and must be analyzed in correlation with other grave goods - an approach that will be undertaken in the following chapter.

This eclectic collection demonstrates that beyond shared traditions (bells, shells), Sarmatian individuals curated personal assemblages of amulets that drew upon Roman, local, and pan-European symbolic languages to navigate their spiritual world.

3.1.6. Belt fittings (buckles, belt rigs and strap ends)

During the Late Sarmatian period, belt fittings emerge as a dominant category of material culture in the Prut-Dniester interfluve. Their importance is underscored by their sheer quantity: **93 buckles and numerous accessories** have been recorded in 75 funerary complexes, a number far exceeding that found in adjacent regions like the Banat or the Great Hungarian Plain during the same period (Grumeza 2014, 86).

The functional versatility of these items is demonstrated by graves containing multiple buckles, such as Holmskoe G16, Olănești T16G1, and Nagornoe T9G1 (with up to six specimens), where they were used not only for belts but also for fastening footwear, bags, and weapon suspension systems. However, their role transcended mere utility. As key components of both military and civilian attire, belts functioned as powerful indicators of social rank, military affiliation, and cultural identity. This symbolic dimension is particularly evident in richly furnished warrior graves (e.g., Bădragii Noi G7, Nagornoe T9G1), where complex belt sets, often including Roman-style weapon hangers, marked the deceased's elite status. The remarkable diversity of forms—from simple iron rings to elaborate silver fittings—and the mix of influences from the Roman, Germanic, and steppe worlds, point to the Prut-Dniester region as a dynamic zone of cultural production and exchange. The following typology aims to systematize this rich corpus and explore the social significance embedded in these artifacts (Fig. 4).

Type 1 - Oval-round frame continuing into a rectangular loop - also known as the *"Sarmatian buckle"*

A total of 7 items of this type have been recorded:

Taraclia II T17G10	Bronze
Badragii Noi G7 (2 pieces)	Bronze
Blijni Hutor T1G1	Bronze
Holmskoe G17 (2 pieces)	Iron
Orlovka-Kartal G298	Silver

This distinctive type, represented by seven specimens in bronze, iron, and silver, is often considered a hallmark of Sarmatian identity. Scholars like Bârcă, Symonenko, and Grumeza consistently date it to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD and associate it with individuals of high social standing, possibly warriors. Its presence in graves like Bădragii Noi G7, alongside weapons, reinforces its connection to a military elite. A variant with a triangular clasp (Type 1a) from Orlovka-Kartal G274 demonstrates minor morphological diversification within this key cultural marker.

Type 2 - Oval-round frame and oval-round loop

This common form (over 15 examples, predominantly in bronze) is characteristic of the Late Sarmatian period:

Badragii Noi ‚La stanca' G4	Bronze

Badragii Noi ‚La stanca' G5	Bronze
Hagider II T7G1	Bronze
Holmskoe G14	Bronze
Holmskoe I T1G17	Bronze
Holmskoe I T1G17	Bronze
Krinicinoe G2	Bronze
Olanesti T16G1	Bronze
Orlovka-Kartal G298 (3 pieces)	Bronze
Cuconestii Vechi II G22 (2 pieces – 1 frgm.)	Bronze
Turlaki T16G1	Bronze
Cioburciu T2G1	Silver

According to O. Symonenko, in his study on North Pontic chronology related to Sarmatian culture, these buckles are classified within Group II (*Two-part buckles*), specifically Type 3a - *With rounded shield and rounded frame*. Faceted examples are known, and the type is dated to the Late Sarmatian period (Symonenko 2004, 153).

In the East Carpathian region, according to V. Bârcă and O. Symonenko, these items belong to Group I, Type III - buckles with an oval or circular loop and a movable, approximately round plate. Chronologically, they are dated to the 3rd–4th centuries AD. Numerous analogies exist in other cultural environments, suggesting they are provincial Roman products or local imitations thereof (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 238).

A subvariant of this type is Type 2b, discovered at Sărata Veche G7, which features an oval-round loop and a triangular clasp. It is dated to the second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD, based on the presence of an artificially deformed skull. Another example of a subvariant of this type is Type 2a - found at Nagornoe T9G1, featuring a loop with a serrated edge.

Type 3 - Oval-round frame and rectangular loop

A total of 12 items of this type have been recorded. Most of the finds are made of bronze:

Holmskoe G16	Bronze
Nagornoe T9G1 (3 pieces)	Bronze
Petresti G25	Bronze
Soldanesti G10 (2 pieces)	Bronze
Olanesti T16G1	Bronze

Cuconestii Vechi II G22	Bronze
Alcalia T28G1	Bronze
Alcalia T28G1	Bronze
Vasilivca T20G1	Bronze
Turlaki T8G1	Copper

According to O. Symonenko, in his study on North Pontic chronology related to Sarmatian culture, these buckles are classified in Group II (Two-part buckles), specifically Type 1a - With rectangular loop and rounded frame. In oval examples, the front part is slightly thickened, while round ones maintain a uniform thickness - an observation noted by several scholars in reference to buckles from this period. This type is dated to the Late Sarmatian period (Symonenko 2004, 153).

In the East Carpathian area, V. Bârcă and O. Symonenko classify these buckles within Group I, similar to Type 1 (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 237). They are dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD. Supporting evidence for this chronological attribution comes from fibulae found among the grave goods in some of these burials (e.g., Nagornoe T9G1, Olănești T16G1).

Type 2/3 – Oval-round frame without loop

Constituting the largest group with **44 specimens**, this type represents the simplest and most utilitarian form of buckle. The overwhelming predominance of **iron** (34 examples) contrasts sharply with the bronze-heavy composition of other types:

Fîrlădeni G1	Bronze
Copanca G1	Bronze
Selište G72 (2 pieces)	Bronze
Bălțata G1	Bronze
Beloles'e T3G9	Bronze
Cocicovatoe T27G1	Bronze
Orlovka-Kartal G27	Bronze
Petrești G27 (2 pieces)	Bronze
Corpaci II T3G2	Iron
Holmskoe G16	Iron
Holmskoe G6	Iron
Holmskoe G7	Iron
Nagornoe T9G1 (2 pieces)	Iron

Pervomaisc T1G1 (2 pieces)	Iron
Turlaki T10G1 (2 pieses)	Iron
Turlaki T8G1	Iron
Cocicovatoe T27G1 (3 pieces)	Iron
Hagider II T7G1 (3 pieces)	Iron
Hagider II T7G1	Iron
Nagornoe G1	Iron
Olănești T16G1 (2 pieces)	Iron
Olănești T16G2	Iron
Orlovka-Kartal G298	Iron
Pervomaisc T1G1	Iron
Selișteе G63	Iron
Semionovca T4G1	Iron
Turlaki T10G1	Iron
Cuconeștii Vechi I G9 (2 pieces)	Iron
Cuconeștii Vechi II G25	Iron
Cuconeștii Vechi II G9	Iron
Krinicinoe G6	Iron
Pomazani T2G1	Iron
Truşeni G1	Iron

According to O. Symonenko, in his study on North Pontic chronology related to the Sarmatian culture, these buckles are classified in Group I (One-part buckles), Type 1 - With circular or oval frame. In this phase, the frames often exhibit a thickened front part - an aspect noted by several scholars regarding buckles from this period. These are dated to the Late Sarmatian period (Symonenko 2004, 152–153).

In the East Carpathian region, V. Bârcă and O. Symonenko classify these within Group I as well - simple buckles of circular, rectangular, or square form (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 236–237).

These simple, functional rings were likely the everyday equipment for a broad segment of the population. Their frequent association with the Sântana de Mureș–Chernyakhov culture (Grumeza 2014) highlights shared material traditions across the *Barbaricum*. While some may be incomplete two-part buckles, their sheer number points to a distinct and widely used one-part form.

Type 4 - Rectangular frame and oval-round loop

This type is rarely encountered. I'm not sure about the one from the Mirnoe.

Alcalia T22G1	Bronze
Cioropcani DG1	Bronze
Mirnoe G1	Bronze

According to O. Symonenko, in his study on North Pontic chronology related to the Sarmatian culture, these buckles are classified within Group II (Two-part buckles), Type 4 - With oval shield and rectangular frame (Symonenko 2004, 153). This buckle is reliably dated to the second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD, based on its association with Type 1 bow-shaped fibulae - from Alcalia T22G1.

Type 5 - Rectangular frame and rectangular loop

This type is rarely encountered.

Orlovka-Kartal G298	Copper
Holmskoe G16	Bronze
Nagornoe T12G2	Silver

According to O. Symonenko, in his study on North Pontic chronology related to the Sarmatian culture, these buckles are classified in Group II (Two-part buckles), specifically Type 2 - With rectangular shield and rectangular frame. This type of accessory is relatively uncommon and is dated to the Late Sarmatian period (Symonenko 2004, 153).

This form is consistently linked by scholars to external influences, particularly from the Przeworsk culture of Poland and, more broadly, the Roman military sphere. Their presence in Sarmatian contexts is clear evidence of cultural importation and interaction at the frontier. They function as chronological markers for the late 2nd–early 3rd centuries AD and demonstrate the adoption of foreign military fashions by Sarmatian groups. Their presence in the Sarmatian environment is attributed to cultural imports (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 237).

According to L. Grumeza, they correspond to Type II - Rectangular buckles. These are known both in the Roman provinces and in the Barbaricum (particularly the bronze and iron variants), from which numerous analogies are known. They are generally dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD (Grumeza 2014, 90–91).

Type 6 – Rectangular frame integrated with a loop

Only one buckle of this type has been identified at Suvorove G3 - bronze.

According to L. Grumeza, it falls under Type II – Rectangular buckles (Grumeza 2014, 90–91).

Types 4/5/6 – Rectangular frame without a loop

This type is rarely encountered. I'm not sure about the last four pieces.

Seliste G63	Iron
Holmskoe G14	Iron
Obileni T5G2	Iron
Festelita T1G3	Iron
Petresti G31	Iron
Badragii Noi G2	Bronze

According to O. Symonenko, in his study on North Pontic chronology related to the Sarmatian culture, these buckles are classified in Group I (One-part buckles), specifically Type 2 – With rectangular frame, and are dated to the Late Sarmatian period (Symonenko 2004, 152–153).

In the East Carpathian region, V. Bârcă and O. Symonenko categorize them in Group I – simple buckles of circular, rectangular, or square shape (Bârcă, Symonenko 2009, 236–237).

L. Grumeza also includes them in Type II - Rectangular buckles (Grumeza 2014, 90–91).

In addition to the buckles included in the proposed typology, there is a series of associated belt fittings that warrant attention. Among these, I distinguish two main categories of belt mounts:

1. Simple mounts, made from a single piece of metal, such as the specimen from Nagornoe - flat rectangular plates fastened to the belt. These were in use throughout the entire Late Sarmatian period.
2. Complex mounts, composed of two rectangular plates - a front and a back plate - joined by three rivets (e.g., Homskoe). Their average dimensions are 7–9 × 0.5–1 cm. They are made of silver or bronze. A bimetallic example is documented at Nagornoe T9G1, where the front plate is made of silver and the back plate of bronze.

Another category is represented by belt tips. These were mostly manufactured from bronze or silver. The basic shape is that of a narrow rectangular plate with a pointed lower end.

This category, too, can be subdivided into two types:

1. Simple type, consisting of a single rectangular plate with a pointed tip. It was attached to the belt via a short back plate, fixed with one or two rivets on the reverse side. In the case of silver specimens, the back plate is often made of bronze. Their usual dimensions are 7–9 × 1 cm. Some pieces are decorated with faceting along the edges. The faceted ones would be later - from the 3rd century AD (Symonenko 2004, 155).
2. Complex or bipartite type, consisting of a rectangular sheath to which the actual tip was movably attached. The sheath was made either from a folded metal plate or from two separate plates.

In the Banat these accessories (belt mounts and tips) are dated from the beginning of the second half of the 2nd century AD (Grumeza 2014, 88-89).

In conclusion, the analysis of complete belt sets from the Prut-Dniester region demonstrates a clear social hierarchy. While simple iron buckles may have been widespread, the elite distinguished themselves through complex, multi-component belts made of precious or decorative materials. These garniture were not just functional items, but curated assemblages of symbols that communicated rank, power, and cultural connections across the dynamic landscape of the Roman frontier.

3.1.7. Beads

Beads represent the most numerous and diverse category of artifacts recorded in Sarmatian-period graves within the Prut-Dniester region. The corpus, numbering in the tens of thousands, including both regular and seed beads, while polychrome glass beads are far less common, with approximately 20 pieces identified. These are followed by beads made of limestone (5 pieces), chalcedony (8 pieces), carnelian (over 62 pieces), coral (around 50 pieces), amber (over 160 beads), and pearl (both shell and mother-of-pearl, over 37 beads). Additionally, there are more than 24 agate beads, over 8 bone beads, more than 51 metal beads, and about 18 chalk beads. Quartz, crystal, and jasper beads total over 10 pieces.

Egyptian faience beads fall into two main types: cylindrical chopped (over 450 pieces) and rounded with ribs, the latter being less frequent (over 10 pieces). Jet (gagat) beads are rare, with around 14 pieces recorded, as are chalk beads (approximately 18 pieces), and three beads made of pyrite have also been identified.

The high number of beads can primarily be explained by their multifunctional role. Beads were used in bracelets and necklaces, but more commonly they were sewn onto garments, and occasionally onto sword handles, hair braids, pouches, footwear, or other accessories - elements typically associated with female attire.

Glass beads are classified into monochrome and polychrome categories, with monochrome beads being by far the most numerous, while polychrome examples are rare. Over 10,000 monochrome glass beads have been documented, including both standard and seed beads.

The analysis of this material followed a specific methodology: a typology (Fig. 5) was developed exclusively for monochrome glass and Egyptian faience beads, excluding other materials. As a result, ten typological groups were established based on shape. Variants were defined within each group, and for monochrome spherical beads, sub-variants were created based solely on size.

Type I1A beads (Group I, Variant 1, Subvariant A)[11] This type consists of small, spherical glass beads, commonly known as "seed beads," with diameters ranging from 0.2 to 0.5 cm. Their frequent discovery in ordered rows along the limbs of the deceased indicates their primary function was for sewn-on decoration of garments, particularly sleeves, hems, or footwear. While a wide variety of colors are attested, blue, white, and orange are the most common. Chronologically, these beads align with several of E. Alekseeva's types (1978, 62–66), primarily spanning the 1st to 3rd centuries AD**.**

Type I1B beads. Morphologically identical to seed beads but larger (diameter >0.6 cm), these beads were typically used as components in strung jewelry like necklaces and bracelets. They appear in a comprehensive range of colors and are found in both Middle and Late Sarmatian contexts. Their broad chronological usage is confirmed by parallels with numerous types in Alekseeva's system, again pointing to a consistent presence from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD (1978, 62–66).

Type I2 beads This distinctive type consists of ribbed, spherical beads made of Egyptian faience, typically greenish in color. There specimens were discovered in:

[11] For the sake of clarity and brevity, a simplified notation system will be employed throughout the text, using Roman numerals to designate the group, Arabic numerals for the variant, and capital Latin letters for the sub-variant.

Location	Form	Material	No.
Bădragii Noi Military Necropolis G7	Rounded with ribs	Egyptian faience	1
Bocani G15	Rounded with ribs	Egyptian faience	1
Bocani G6	Rounded with ribs	Egyptian faience	?
Bocani G9	Rounded with ribs	Egyptian faience	?
Cuconeștii Vechi I G14	Rounded with ribs	Egyptian faience	1
Dumeni T8G6	Rounded with ribs	Egyptian faience	1
Șcerbaca T2G5	Rounded with ribs	Egyptian faience	1
Șoldănești G10	Rounded with ribs	Egyptian faience	1
Turlaki T10G1	Rounded with ribs	Egyptian faience	1

Occurring in both Middle and Late Sarmatian periods, they correspond to Alekseeva's Type 16, which is concentrated in the late 1st–2nd centuries AD (1975, 33–34). Their unique material and foreign origin mark them as items of special value.

Type I3 beads are round with raised edges and occur in yellow and white. Their chronological range is broad, overlapping with Types I1A–B.

Type II beads Large hemispherical beads (approx. 2.5 cm in diameter) represent another distinct type. While their use spans a broad period, they are most characteristic of the Middle Sarmatian period. V. Grosu (1990, 154) classifies them as his Type B22, with a core chronology in the **late 1st to 2nd centuries AD**, a dating supported by numerous parallels from sites across the region, including:

- Lencăuți/Lenkovtsy T1G9 (Grosu 1990, 54; late 1st–early 2nd century CE),
- Șalvirii Noi T6G4 (Kurchatov 1991)
- Chirileni T2G20 (Abyzova, Klochko 2000, 282),
- Dumeni T8G11 (Grosu 1988),
- Hancăuți T2G3 (Dergachev 1982),
- Bădragii Noi T3G3 (Yarovoy, Chirkov 1987, 16–17), all dated by Grosu to the late 1st–2nd centuries CE (1995, 160).

Type III beads or "Sandwich" type Segmented beads, composed of two or more sections joined together, appear in various configurations (double, triple, etc.) and shapes. These complex beads are found in a wide range of colors. Across its sub-variants, this type

corresponds to several of Alekseeva's classifications (e.g., Type 1b, 2b, 31-32), which consistently place them within the **early centuries AD** (Alekseeva 1978, 29-33, 63-65).

Type IV Bead This category is represented by a single glass bead shaped like a canine tooth. Functioning as an amulet, it is a rare, specialized object. It corresponds to Alekseeva's Type 165, securely dating it to the **late 1st–mid-2nd century AD** (Alekseeva 1978, 72).

Type V Beads Cylindrical beads were a common form produced in a wide variety of materials and sub-types.

Glass Variants (V1-V4): These include simple cylinders, rectangular-sectioned forms, pear-shapes, and other variations. Their extensive parallels in Alekseeva's typology confirm their widespread use throughout the **1st–4th centuries AD (**Alekseeva, 1978, 30-32, 66-73**)**. **Egyptian Faience (V5):** The short, cylindrical "chopped" faience beads are particularly noteworthy. They represent a major import category, with **over 450 specimens** recorded from numerous sites:

Location	**Form**	**Material**	**No.**
Bădragii Noi T4G3	-	Egyptian faience	12
Vadul lui Isac T1G3	-	Egyptian faience	Several
Cuconeștii Vechi II G33	?	Egyptian faience	2
Holmskoe G11	?	Egyptian faience	?
Taraclia II T17G9	?	Egyptian faience	54 (53+1 fragment)
Petrești T3G3	Cylindrical	Egyptian faience	16
Taraclia II T17G3	Cylindrical	Egyptian faience	8 fragments
Bădragii Noi T3G6	Cylindrical chopped	Egyptian faience	20+
Pererîta T2G13	Cylindrical chopped	Egyptian faience	114
Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G8	Cylindrical chopped	Egyptian faience	21
Taraclia II T9G2	Cylindrical chopped	Egyptian faience	?
Bocani G6	Cylindrical chopped	Egyptian faience	200
Bocani G9	Cylindrical chopped	Egyptian faience	65

According to E. Alekseeva assigns them to Type 9, with a broad chronological range from the 4th century BCE to the 4th century CE (Alekseeva 1975, 30).

Several less common cylindrical variants are also present. These include green beads with a **triangular cross-section (V6)**, dated to the late 1st century AD; cylindrical beads with a **pitted surface (V7)**, characteristic of the 2nd century AD; and beads with **distinct applied rims (V8)**,

which were used over a longer period (1st century BC–3rd century AD). These minor variations demonstrate the stylistic diversity available from Roman workshops **(**Alekseeva, 1978, 30-32, 66-73**)**.

Type VI Beads (Barrel-shaped)

Barrel-shaped beads are another common category, appearing in both elongated **(VI1)** and more rounded **(VI2)** forms. They are found in a wide array of colors. Their chronological range is extensive, with parallels in Alekseeva's typology suggesting continuous use from the Hellenistic period through the 2nd century AD. A more distinct sub-variant, the gold-colored bead with pronounced rims **(VI3)**, appears later and is characteristic of the 2nd–3rd centuries AD (Alekseeva, 1978, 65-67).

Type VII Beads Polygonal beads, which required more complex manufacturing than simple spherical types, appear in several forms. These include standard hexagonal **(VII1)**, flattened hexagonal **(VII2)**, and flattened pentagonal **(VII3)** shapes. As a group, they are consistently dated within the Roman Imperial period, with a broad range from the **1st to the 4th centuries AD**, though some forms peak in popularity during the 2nd–3rd centuries AD (Alekseeva, 1978, 69-71). Their complexity suggests they may have been more valuable than simpler monochrome beads.

Type VIII Bead (14-faceted)

The 14-faceted bead is a highly distinctive and labor-intensive form. Appearing in various colors, this type corresponds to Alekseeva's Type 128 and is a strong chronological marker for the **late 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD**. Such a complex cut suggests these were high-value items, likely functioning as prestige goods (Alekseeva, 1978, 70).

Type IX Beads Biconical **(IX1)** and conical **(IX2)** beads are simple geometric forms found in a wide variety of colors. The biconical shape, in particular, has an exceptionally long history of use, with parallels spanning from the 4th century BC to the 4th century AD. This wide chronological range makes them less useful as precise dating indicators when found in isolation, though they are a consistent feature of Sarmatian assemblages (Alekseeva, 1978, 68-70).

Type X Beads (Discoid)

Discoid beads are another simple, common form found in a full spectrum of colors. They have been documented at numerous sites in the region, including Taraclia Gaidabul G1, Bălțața G1,

and Trușeni G1. According to Alekseeva's typology (Types 72-76), they were in continuous use from the **1st to the 4th centuries AD**, representing a staple product of Roman glass workshops. (Alekseeva 1978, 68).

Polychrome glass beads - there are approximately 20 pieces.

Location	Form	Material	No.	Colors
Selișteni G72	Rosette design (8 petals)	Glass	1	Light yellow/dark green
Bocani DGB	?	Glass	Several	Polychrome
Comrat II DG1	?	Glass	?	Polychrome
Cuconeștii Vechi I G8	-	Glass	12	Polychrome
Brînzeni G5	?	Glass	1	Polychrome bead has alternating oblique multicolored stripes
Bocani G5	?	Glass	?	Polychrome (blue-white)
Vasilivca T11G1	Irregular rectangular	Glass	1	Polychrome
Vasilivca T11G1	Short cylindrical	Glass	1	Polychrome
Primorsk T1G52	Barrel-shaped	Glass	1	With eye motifs
Selișteni G72	Barrel-shaped	Glass	1	With eye motifs (green/blue)
Bocani G11	?	Glass	1	With eye motifs (yellow/light green)
Cazaclia T2G4	Round-flattened	Glass	1 (half)	With eye motifs (blue with yellow)

Beads with special characteristics

Beyond the common monochrome glass beads, the Sarmatian assemblage includes several other categories of beads whose distinctive materials or complex designs mark them as items of special significance.

Polychrome glass beads

Polychrome glass beads, including those with "eye" or rosette motifs, are present in the corpus but are extremely rare. Unfortunately, the majority of these specimens are poorly preserved or

lack sufficient documentation (e.g., clear illustrations, color data), which severely limits their analytical potential. Attributing such beads to a specific type without complete information is methodologically unsound. For instance, while the bead from Primorsk T1G52 might resemble Alekseeva's Type 77, any such classification without knowing its color would be purely speculative. Therefore, this study refrains from detailed typological analysis of this category pending the discovery of better-preserved examples.

Agate beads

These beads have been discovered in limited numbers - over 24 specimens in total, see where:

Location	Form	Material	No.
Chirileni T2G20	?	Agate	?
Cimișlia DG1	?	Agate	Several
Fîrlădeni G1	Polyhedral 14-facet	Agate	1
Pererîta T2G13-1a	Barrel-shaped	Agate	16
Pererîta T2G13-1b	Flattened (unilateral)	Agate	1
Pererîta T2G13-1c	Round	Agate	1
Petrești G167	Polyhedral 14-facet	Agate	1
Taraclia Gaidabul G1	Barrel-shaped	Agate	4
Vasilivca T1G1	Prismatic hexagonal	Agate	Several

Over 24 agate beads have been recorded, marking them as a significant, high-value category. Discoveries from sites such as **Pererîta** (with 18 beads in one complex) and **Taraclia Gaidabul** reveal a variety of sophisticated shapes, including barrel-forms, 14-faceted polyhedrons, and hexagonal prisms. As a semi-precious variety of chalcedony imported from sources in the ancient world like India or Egypt, agate was a clear marker of status. According to Alekseeva's analysis of agate beads, the simpler round and barrel-shaped forms can be dated to the **1st–2nd centuries AD**, with some use extending into the 3rd century. (Alekseeva 1982, pp. 19-20).

More than 160 amber beads were discovered in the following graves:

Location	Material	No.
Alcalia T6G1	Amber	1
Bădragii Noi T3G2	Amber	2
Bălțata G1	Amber	1
Blijnii Hutor T1G1	Amber	1
Chirileni T2G16	Amber	11

Location	Material	No.
Cîrnățeni T3G1	Amber	5
Cuconeștii Vechi I G16	Amber	Several
Cuconeștii Vechi I G22	Amber	3
Cuconeștii Vechi I G28	Amber	Several
Cuconeștii Vechi I G29	Amber	4
Cuconeștii Vechi I G31	Amber	7
Cuconeștii Vechi I G5	Amber	Several
Cuconeștii Vechi II G1	Amber	Several
Cuconeștii Vechi II G27	Amber	2
Cuconeștii Vechi II G30	Amber	1
Cuconeștii Vechi II G33	Amber	2
Cuconeștii Vechi II G36	Amber	2
Cuconeștii Vechi II G46	Amber	3
Cuconeștii Vechi II G47	Amber	6
Feștelița T1G3	Amber	1
Feștelița T6G1	Amber	1
Holmskoe G22	Amber	5
Holmskoe G8	Amber	3
Negureni G1	Amber	Several
Ocnița T6G12	Amber	Several
Pașcani G1	Amber	30
Pererîta T2G13	Amber	1
Petrești G10	Amber	1
Petrești G11	Amber	1
Petrești G167	Amber	1
Petrești T3G12	Amber	Several
Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G8	Amber	5
Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G8	Amber	13
Sărata Veche T1G7	Amber	2
Seliște G62	Amber	7
Seliște G72	Amber	24
Taraclia Gaidabul G1	Amber	10
Vasilivca T1G1	Amber	2

The provenance of this amber is a key scholarly question. *"The authors note that amber beads with reddish or purplish hues—typically associated with the Baltic region—appear to be absent. Instead, the assemblage is dominated by East European amber, likely originating from the Dniester region, which is characterized by deep red or burgundy shades. This contrasts sharply with findings from Roman settlements, where translucent yellow Baltic amber beads are significantly more prevalent"* (see Rafalovich, Lapușnean, 1974(b), pp. 121–123).

However, this hypothesis warrants critical re-evaluation. The observed textural and color differences may simply represent natural variations within Baltic amber rather than a separate geological source. Ultimately, this question cannot be resolved through visual inspection alone. Scientific provenance studies (e.g., Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy) are required to definitively determine the origin of the amber used by the Prut-Dniester Sarmatians.Typologically, the beads are simple forms (irregular ellipsoids, spheroids) with a broad chronological range, corresponding to Alekseeva's Type 44 (1st–4th centuries AD) - (1978, p. 25) and Grumeza's Type 4 (2nd–5th centuries AD) - (2014, p. 103).

Pearl beads (shell and mother-of-pearl)

Considered luxury items in the Roman world, shell and mother-of-pearl beads are represented by over 37 pieces in the regional corpus:

Location	Form	Material	No.	Details
Pașcani G1	Cross-shaped	River shell	2+ frag-ts	
Vasilivca T14G1	Cross-shaped	Shell	1	Pendant
Vasilivca T14G1	Serrated	Shell	1	Pendant
Krinicinoe G6	Cross-shaped	Pearl		Diadem fragments, attached to band
Divizia T11G1	-	Mother-of-pearl	1	
Fîrlădeni G1	Pill-shaped	Mother-of-pearl	1	
Holmskoe G8	Pill-shaped	Mother-of-pearl	4	
Tuzara I G1	Cross-shaped	Mother-of-pearl	2	
Vasilivca T14G5	Pill-shaped	Mother-of-pearl	1	Pendant
Vasilivca T14G5	Cross-shaped	Mother-of-pearl	3	Pendants
Vasilivca T24G1	Pill-shaped	Mother-of-pearl	2	
Vasilivca T24G1	Cross-shaped	Mother-of-pearl	3	

Location	Form	Material	No.	Details
Alcalia T6G1	Flattened-figurative	Pearl	?	
Blijnii Hutor T1G1	Cylindrical	Pearl	?	
Cuconeștii Vechi II G43	Cross-shaped	Pearl	11	
Nagornoe T1G1	Cross-shaped	Pearl	Several	
Cuconeștii Vechi II G11	Cross-shaped	Pearl	3	
Cuconeștii Vechi II G36	Cross-shaped	Pearl	1	
Cuconeștii Vechi I G5	?	Pearl	1	
Divizia T2G1	?	Mother-of-pearl	?	

These high-status ornaments were worked into distinctive shapes, most commonly cross-shaped pendants and appliqués, but also pill-shaped and serrated forms. Their value is underscored by their context and use: at Krinicinoe G6, they were identified as fragments of a **diadem**, while at sites like Vasilivca and Cuconeștii Vechi, they functioned as pendants or were sewn onto clothing. The prevalence of the cross-shaped form, in particular, points to a specific stylistic preference within the Prut-Dniester region. Typologically, these shapes correspond to Alekseeva's Types 4 and 5, confirming a primary use during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (Alekseeva 1982, p. 30).

Bone beads

Bone beads are a minor but consistent category, with over eight specimens recorded:

Location	Form	Material	No.
Chirileni T2G20	Oval pendant-bead	Bone	1
Holmskoe G23	Rectangular-flattened	Bone	1
Petrești G10	Elongated	Bone	1
Vasilivca T23G1	Cylindrical	Bone	1
Blijnii Hutor T1G1	Cylindrical	Bone/horn (?)	4
Petrești G11	Flat-shaped	Bone	-
Bocani G9	Flat-shaped	Bone	-

They were crafted into simple, functional forms such as cylindrical, rectangular, and oval shapes. According to Alekseeva, these forms have an exceptionally long period of use, spanning from the 6th century BC to the 3rd century AD. This broad chronology suggests that bone beads represent a long-standing, local craft tradition using readily available materials, rather than being imported prestige goods or sensitive chronological markers (Alekseeva 1982, p. 31).

Coral beads

Represented by approximately 50 specimens, coral was a significant imported material, valued for its exotic origin (the Mediterranean) and presumed apotropaic properties. For detailed find contexts, see the section below:

Location	Form	Material	No.
Alcalia T6G1	?	Coral	1
Bălțata G1	Cylindrical	Coral	3
Cuconeștii Vechi I G16	?	Coral	?
Cuconeștii Vechi II G33	?	Coral	2
Cuconeștii Vechi II G36	Cylindrical	Coral	6
Holmskoe G22	Cylindrical	Coral	3
Holmskoe G24	Branch type	Coral	1
Holmskoe G3	?	Coral	1
Holmskoe G8	?	Coral	10
Ocnița T6G12	Cylindrical	Coral	1
Ocnița T6G12	Branch type	Coral	1
Ocnița T6G14	Cylindrical	Coral	6
Petrești T3G12	Cylindrical	Coral	4
Seliște G62	Cylindrical	Coral	3
Trinca G1	Branch type	Coral	1
Vasilivca T14G6	Cylindrical	Coral	2
Vasilivca T1G1	Cylindrical	Coral	3

The beads appear in two main forms: simple, unworked "branch" segments and more finished cylindrical shapes, found at numerous sites including Holmskoe and Cuconeștii Vechi. The chronological distribution of coral appears to show regional variation. In the North Pontic region, Alekseeva dates its peak use to the late 1st to the first half of the 3rd century AD (Alekseeva 1982, p. 30). In contrast, Grumeza notes that in the Banat region to the west, coral is rare during this period and becomes more common later (late 3rd–4th centuries AD). This discrepancy may reflect differing trade dynamics or evolving cultural preferences across the Sarmatian world (2014, p. 102-103).

Chalcedony beads

This category includes eight beads identified as chalcedony, a type of quartz mineral:

Location	Form	Material	No.	Details
Bădragii Noi Military Necropolis G5	Round	Chalcedony	1	From the sword
Bălțata G1	Elliptical	Chalcedony	1	
Florițoaia Nouă DG1	-	Chalcedony	1	
Rumeantsev T1G8	Round	Chalcedony	1	
Taraclia II T17G3	Barrel-shaped	Chalcedony	1	
Vasilivca T23G1	Round	Chalcedony	1	
Vasilivca T24G1	Prismatic	Chalcedony	1	
Vasilivca T24G1	14-facets	Chalcedony	1	

They were worked into complex shapes, including 14-faceted and prismatic forms, underscoring their value. However, the visual identification of quartz-based minerals presents a significant methodological challenge, as noted by Grumeza (2014). As she notes:

"*These beads of quartz mineral appear under the name of chalcedony (light-coloured specimens, yellowish-white), carnelian, almandine (for red or brownish-red specimens), or agate. It is difficult to differentiate red glass beads from these quartzites; therefore, in many cases, interpreting chalcedony beads may be erroneous*" (Grumeza 2014, p. 101).

Distinguishing between chalcedony, carnelian, agate, and even some forms of glass can be difficult without mineralogical analysis.

In this study, classification relies on the original excavators' descriptions, supplemented by contextual clues. For example, the large, whitish chalcedony bead found on a sword hilt in the Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" (G5) is distinct in both form and function from small, red carnelian beads used in necklaces. This contextual approach helps refine classification, but definitive identification would require scientific analysis. Typologically, these beads are generally dated by both Alekseeva and Grumeza to the 1st–3rd centuries AD (Alekseeva 1982, p. 11; Grumeza 2014, p. 101).

Jet (Gagat) beads

Approximately 14 jet beads have been recorded, marking it as a rare but recurring material:

Location	Form	Material	No.
Blijnii Hutor T1G1	Pill-shaped	Jet	6
Chirileni T2G20	?	Jet	?
Cuconeștii Vechi II G33	?	Jet	3

Location	Form	Material	No.
Ocnița T6G12-1	Prismatic	Jet	1
Ocnița T6G12-2	Parallelepiped	Jet	1
Ocnița T6G12-3	Unfinished	Jet	1
Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G8	Cylindrical	Jet	2

The finds, from sites such as Blijnii Hutor and Ocnița, display a variety of worked shapes, including pill-forms, prisms, and cylinders. While jet has a long history of use in the North Pontic region, its peak popularity as a bead material was during the Roman period. The forms found in the Prut-Dniester assemblage align well with Grumeza's classification, suggesting a primary chronological range of the 2nd–3rd centuries AD **(**Grumeza 2014, p. 98**)**

Metal beads

Over 50 metal beads have been identified, the vast majority of which are bronze, with only a few examples in iron or copper:

Location	Form	Material	No.	Details
Bocani G5	Cylindrical	Bronze	1	
Bocani G6	Cylindrical	Bronze	2	
Bocani G8	Cylindrical	Bronze	2	
Brînzeni G1	Rounded with ribs	Bronze	1	Surface has three rows of bead-like protrusions
Cuconeștii Vechi II G34	Cylindrical	-	13	
Cuconeștii Vechi II G44	-	Bronze	1	
Divizia T8G1	Oval	Bronze	1	
Feștelița T6G1	Cylindrical	Bronze	2	
Krinicinoe G4	-	Bronze	1	
Petrești T2G2	Oval	Bronze	2	
Rumeantsev T1G7	Open oval	Bronze	9+2 fragments	
Rumeantsev T1G8	Open oval	Bronze	6	
Șabolat T4G1	-	-	-	Relief bronze beads
Taraclia Gaidabul G1	-	Bronze	2 fragments	

Location	Form	Material	No.	Details
Taraclia Gaidabul G2	Small barrel	Bronze	1	
Vasilivca T23G1	Cylindrical	Bronze	1	
Vasilivca T27G1	Cylindrical	Bronze	1	
Dumeni T8G6	?	Copper	1	
Filipeni T1G1	Round	Iron	1	Corroded, likely harness decoration
Petrești G31	?	Iron	2	
Burlăneşti T3G13	Hexagonal pendant-bead (barrel shape)	White metal	1	

They were produced in simple forms - primarily cylindrical and oval - often by bending small metal plates into shape. While most are plain, some unique examples, like the ribbed bead from Brînzeni or the hexagonal pendant-bead from Burlăneşti, show greater decorative complexity. As noted by Alekseeva, these simple metal beads have a very broad chronological distribution and are not sensitive dating indicators on their own (Alekseeva 1982, pp. 21-23).

Carnelian beads

Carnelian was a key semi-precious stone in Sarmatian adornment, with over 62 specimens recorded:

Location	Form	Material	No.
Alcalia T6G1	Slightly flattened round	Carnelian	2
Bădragii Noi T3G6	Round	Carnelian	4
Bădragii Noi T4G3	Round	Carnelian	1
Chirileni T2G5	Round, transversely compressed	Carnelian	1
Cîrnățeni T3G1	Multifacets	Carnelian	Several
Corjeuți T9G1	Multifacets	Carnelian	1
Cuconeștii Vechi I G20	Multifacets	Carnelian	2
Cuconeștii Vechi I G28	?	Carnelian	Several
Cuconeștii Vechi I G31	?	Carnelian	3
Cuconeștii Vechi I G5	Multifacets	Carnelian	2
Cuconeștii Vechi I G7	Multifacets	Carnelian	1
Cuconeștii Vechi II G46	Multifacets	Carnelian	1
Cuconeștii Vechi II G47	Multifacets	Carnelian	7

Location	Form	Material	No.
Cuconeștii Vechi II G8	Multifacets	Carnelian	1
Holmskoe G22	14-facets	Carnelian	4
Holmskoe G24	8-facets	Carnelian	7
Holmskoe G8	Prismatic hexagonal	Carnelian	1
Krinicinoe G6	Multifacets (14 & 6)	Carnelian	?
Pererîta T2G13-a	Round	Carnelian	21
Pererîta T2G13-b	Truncated cone	Carnelian	1
Podoima T3G3	Flattened cylindrical	Carnelian	2
Șabolat T4G1	?	Carnelian	?
Vasilivca T1G1	Prismatic hexagonal	Carnelian	1

As an imported red chalcedony, its presence signifies access to long-distance trade. While simple round beads are found (e.g., at Pererîta), the assemblage is dominated by sophisticated, high-value forms. Multifaceted beads (with 8, 14, or more facets) and hexagonal prisms are particularly common, with significant deposits found at elite sites like Holmskoe and Cuconeștii Vechi. Both Alekseeva and Grumeza agree that these complex, faceted carnelian beads are a strong chronological marker for the 2nd–3rd centuries AD, functioning as clear indicators of status (Alekseeva 1982, pp. 14–15; Grumeza 2014, p. 101).

Chalk beads

Approximately 18 chalk beads have been recorded in a variety of shapes, including barrel-forms, cylinders, and notably, four **astragal-shaped** beads from Opaci T9G3:

Location	Form	Material	No.
Brînzeni G1	Barrel-shaped	Chalk	1
Brînzeni G2	Elongated with multiple edges	Chalk	5
Cimișlia DG1	?	Chalk	?
Ocnița T6G12	Spherical-irregular	Chalk	2
Opaci T9G3	Astragal-shaped	Chalk	4
Pașcani G1	Cylindrical	Chalk	1
Selișteе DG1	Cylindrical	Chalk	1
Vasilivca T14G6	Round pair	Chalk	1
Vasilivca T1G1	?	Chalk	3

Given the simple, locally available material and the very broad chronological range of use (4th c. BC–4th c. AD), chalk beads likely represent a minor local craft tradition with limited diagnostic value (Alekseeva 1982, pp. 29–30).

Other Stone Beads (Crystal, Jasper, Limestone, Pyrite)

This group includes over 10 beads, though their exact material classification is not always certain, see the locations:

Location	Form	Material	No.
Chirileni T2G20	Truncated-conical	Crystal	1
Holmskoe G22	14-facets	Crystal	2
Vasilivca T24G1	14-facets	Rock crystal	2
Krinicinoe G6	Cylindrical, discoid, spherical, polyhedral	Jasper	?
Pererîta T2G13	Round	Jasper (?)	1
Chirileni T2G16	?	Quartz	?
Cimișlia DG1	?	Quartz	?
Cuconeștii Vechi I G26	(possibly beads)	Quartz	Fragments
Cuconeștii Vechi I G31	?	Quartz	3
Cuconeștii Vechi I G5	?	Quartz	1

The bead assemblage is completed by a small number of rare stone types. These include high-value **rock crystal** beads, often worked into complex **14-faceted** forms (e.g., at Holmskoe and Vasilivca), and a few examples of **jasper**. The final items are several beads of **limestone** and three cubic beads of **pyrite** from Holmskoe.

There are five beads made of **limestone** and three made of **pyrite**.

Location	Form	Material	No.
Holmskoe G22	Cubic	Pyrite	3
Mălcăuți DG1-1	Hexagonal prism	Limestone	2
Mălcăuți DG1-2	Spheroidal	Limestone	3

The classification of all these lithic materials, particularly the quartz-based varieties, must be approached with caution. As this study adopts the terminology of the original excavators, the potential for misidentification between crystal, quartz, and even certain types of glass is acknowledged. Definitive classification would require specialized mineralogical analysis.

Chronologically, the presence of rock crystal and jasper is consistent with a Roman period dating, primarily the 1st–3rd centuries AD (Alekseeva 1982, pp. 6-7, 21).

3.1.8. Appliques

Sewn-on appliqués, particularly those crafted from gold foil, are a key category of adornment that signifies high status in Late Sarmatian funerary contexts. Primarily produced using stamping and repoussé techniques, these items were sewn onto garments and accessories, continuing a tradition from earlier periods, although they appear to be found less frequently in the Late Sarmatian era. Their presence almost exclusively in richly furnished graves highlights their role in elite display. This analysis will examine the corpus by dividing it into two main groups: gold ornaments and those made from other materials.

Starting with the examples made of gold:

Location	**Type**	**Material**
Alcalia T7G1	Pieces of gold (oval and circular shape)	Gold
Blijnii Hutor T1G1	Gold foil strips (26 specimens)	Gold
Blijnii Hutor T1G1	Two semicircular gold plates	Gold
Cioburciu T2G1	Gold threads from clothing	Gold
Feștelița T3G1	Gold appliqués: Oval stamped appliqué	Gold
Feștelița T3G1	Gold appliqués: Oval stamped appliqué	Gold
Feștelița T3G1	Gold appliqués: Round appliqué with dotted decoration	Gold
Filipeni T1G1	Rectangular gold appliqué fragment	Gold
Holmskoe G22	Gold appliqués (petal/circular shapes)	Gold
Kotlovyna T2G2	Round gold plates (2)	Gold
Nagornoe T12G2	Gold foil fragment	Gold
Nagornoe T1G1	Gold appliqués/hooks (2)	Gold
Nagornoe T1G1	Gold foil strip	Gold
Opaci T9G3	Gold foil fragments (6) and an applique	Gold
Polevoe T6G1	Foil fragment	Gold
Semionovca T4G1	Foil fragments	Gold
Turlaki T8G1	Foil fragments	Gold
Cazaclia T1G3	Curved gold foil fragment	Gold (758 purity)

Location	Type	Material
Cîrnățeni T3G1	Gold foil fragments (8) + glass insert	Gold, (blue glass?)
Nagornoe T1G1	Wooden animal figures + gold foil	Wood, gold

Gold was the primary material for high-status appliqués, which ranged from simple foil pieces to complex decorative elements. Geometric foil ornaments**:** The most common finds are simple geometric shapes cut from gold foil. These include numerous foil strips (e.g., 26 specimens from Blijnii Hutor), circular plates (Kotlovyna), and semicircular plates. The semicircular type is a recurring find in 2nd–3rd century AD contexts at sites like Dzinilor, Nagornoe, and Bădragii Noi.

Repoussé-Decorated Appliqués: More elaborate are the stamped appliqués decorated in the repoussé technique. Both **oval** and **circular** forms with raised central bosses and granulated edges are documented in elite graves at Holmskoe G22, Nagornoe T1G1, and Feștelița T3G1. These pieces demonstrate a higher level of craftsmanship.

Unique and figural ornaments: Several unique finds underscore the luxury of these assemblages. At Cioburciu T2G1, gold threads provide direct evidence of gold-embroidered textiles. The most remarkable discovery comes from Nagornoe T1G1, where carved wooden animal figures were covered in gold foil, representing a rare example of zoomorphic art used for personal adornment.

In addition to the gold items, I also note a series of similar pieces made from other metals:

Location	Type	Material
Drochia	Appliqués	(Unspecified)
Alcalia T17G2	Bronze disc-shaped applique (umbo)	Bronze
Alcalia T22G1	Two bronze appliqués (umbo)	Bronze
Cazaclia T1G3	Semi-spherical bronze plaque	Bronze
Holmskoe G8	Jewelry piece (interconnected bronze rings)	Bronze
Semionovca T4G1	Oval appliqués	Glass
Kalanceak T1G3	Silver semispherical appliqués (2 pieces)	Silver
Polevoe T6G1	Small rivet	Silver
Dzinilor T5G1	Pyramidal/spherical silver plaques	Silver, bronze rivets
Chirileni T2G5	White metal appliqué	White metal (?)

Appliques made of other metals

While gold dominates, appliqués were also crafted from silver, bronze, and occasionally other materials, likely serving different functions or belonging to individuals of varying status.

Silver appliqués: Silver was used for more substantial, three-dimensional plaques. Examples include semispherical appliqués from Kalanceak and pyramidal plaques with bronze rivets from Dzinilor, suggesting use on belts or harnesses where durability was required.

Bronze appliqués: The most common bronze form is the disc-shaped appliqué with a central umbo, found at multiple sites including Alcalia and Bădragii Noi. Their robust form suggests they may have been used as decorative bosses on shields, belts, or horse harnesses rather than as simple clothing decoration.

Other Materials: Rare examples include oval appliqués made of glass (Semionovca) and an appliqué of an unspecified "white metal" (Chirileni), highlighting the occasional use of alternative decorative materials.

The distribution of appliqués is overwhelmingly concentrated in richly furnished burials, confirming their role as indicators of wealth and social standing, a point also emphasized by Bârcă and Symonenko (2009, 63, 162). The variety of motifs is primarily geometric, with the zoomorphic figures from Nagornoe being a notable exception. The prevalence of these elite goods in the Prut-Dniester region contrasts sharply with their rarity in other Sarmatian territories, such as the Banat, where Grumeza (2014, 93) notes only a single gold leaf find. This pattern further reinforces the conclusion that the Late Sarmatian population in the study area had significant access to luxury materials and used them prominently in their funerary displays of power and identity.

3.2 Toiletries

Toiletry items are a significant category of grave goods that provide intimate insights into Sarmatian personal care, social identity, and cross-cultural connections. Found predominantly, though not exclusively, in female burials, the assemblage includes objects such as **mirrors, pyxides** (small cosmetic boxes), and **flabella** (fans).

The vast majority of these items are **imports from the Roman world**. While they exhibit less typological diversity than their counterparts found within the Empire, their presence in Sarmatian graves is a key indicator of cultural exchange and the selective adoption of Roman

grooming practices and notions of beautification. Beyond what they reveal about daily life and identity, these artifacts - particularly mirrors and flabella - serve as **crucial chronological markers**. Their well-established dating plays a vital role in anchoring the chronology of the funerary contexts in which they are found, making them essential for reconstructing the broader cultural developments of the period.

3.2.1. Fan-shaped items - "Tubular clasps"

A distinctive category of toiletry item is the *flabellum*, or ceremonial fan. These objects consist of two semi-cylindrical metal plates, one inserted into the other, held by a ring at the top and often fitted with small chains at the bottom.

In a dedicated study, Al. Popa emphasizes that these items are specific to Pontic zones near the Roman frontier, as well as to regions situated along major river valleys such as the Siret, Dniester, and Călmățui. This observation also applies more broadly to provincial Roman products found in the Barbaricum, particularly along major European corridors like the Elbe, Oder, Vistula, and Don rivers. Importantly, Popa highlights that such items are typically found in female graves. He dates these objects to the mid-3rd century AD and interprets their function as ceremonial fans (flabella) (Popa 2009, 83–89).

Most of the finds are associated with well-dated grave goods, and the aforementioned study provides a comprehensive analysis of all known examples. Based on this, I support the chronological and functional interpretation proposed by Al. Popa.

Below is a list of the examples identified:

Holmskoe G8	Bronze
Holmskoe G19	Bronze and iron (rod)
Holmskoe G23	Bronze
Pascani G1	Bronze
Divizia T2G1	Bronze

3.2.2. Mirrors

In the late Sarmatian period, the number of mirrors discovered is relatively high, however, their typological diversity is significantly reduced compared to earlier phases. For the Middle

Sarmatian period, more than six distinct mirror types are attested in the North Pontic area. In contrast, only two types have been identified in the late period.

One of these types continues from the previous period, and is attested in only two burials: Holmskoe G22 and Chirileni T2G5. This mirror type remained in use in some instances until the 2nd century AD. According to O. Symonenko, it corresponds to Type 1 in his typological system (Symonenko 2004, 152).

Therefore, for the period in question, I can essentially speak of a single dominant mirror type, represented by a substantial number of finds - 47 specimens. These mirrors are typically made of bronze or silver. Another notable feature is the high incidence of breakage observed among them.

What follows is the inventory of these mirrors, including details regarding their material composition:

Location	**Material**
Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G7	Silver
Bocani G5	Bronze
Bocani G6	Bronze
Bocani G7	Bronze
Bocani G9	Bronze
Bocani G10	Bronze
Bocani G13	Bronze
Brînzeni G4	Bronze
Cimișlia DG1	Bronze
Cișmea G1	Bronze
Comrat II DG1	Bronze
Corjeuți T9G1	Bronze/Silver
Cuconeștii Vechi I G20	Bronze
Cuconeștii Vechi I G29	Silver
Cuconeștii Vechi II G24	Silver
Cuconeștii Vechi II G43	Silver
Cuconeștii Vechi II G46	Bronze (possibly mirror)
Cuconeștii Vechi II G47	Silver
Divizia T2G1	Bronze

Location	Material
Holmskoe G8	Bronze
Holmskoe G23	Bronze
Holmskoe G24	Bronze
Krinicinoe G6	Bronze
Krinicinoe G10	Silver
Mălcăuți DG1	Silver?
Mărcăuți DG1 (2 pieces)	Bronze, Silver
Negureni G1	Bronze
Ocnița T6G12	Bronze
Ogorodnoe II T4G1	Silver
Pașcani DG1 (3 pieces)	Bronze
Pererîta T2G13	Bronze
Petrești G15	Silver
Podoima T3G5	Bronze
Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G8	Bronze
Taraclia Gaidabul G1	Bronze
Taraclia Gaidabul G2	Bronze/Silver
Taraclia Gaidabul G3	Bronze
Tocmagiu DG1	Bronze
Trinca DG1	Bronze/Silver
Trușeni G1	Bronze/Silver
Vasilivca T23G1	Silver
Vasilivca T24G1	Bronze
Vasilivca T27G1	Bronze
Viișoara DG1	Bronze

At Krinicinoe G10, alongside the mirror, a special protective case was found, consisting of two bronze plates - likely covered with leather or wood - making this a unique find.

The dominant form is the **disc mirror with a thickened rim and a pierced side handle**, often decorated in relief on the reverse. This corresponds to **type IX in Khazanov's typology**. The origins of this type are debated: while Khazanov traced its prototypes to Siberia, other scholars like Marchenko have argued for a developmental synthesis within the North Caucasus Sarmatian environment.

Regardless of its ultimate origin, there is a broad scholarly consensus on its chronology. Researchers including Khazanov, Skripkin, Abramova, and Trufanov agree that while early forms appear in the late 1st century AD, this specific decorated type becomes widespread and characteristic of the **second half of the 2nd and the first half of the 3rd centuries AD**. It is therefore a crucial chronological marker for the Late Sarmatian period.

This mirror type is found across the entire Sarmatian world, from the Volga to the Lower Danube. Its broad cultural appeal is demonstrated by its presence among neighboring groups like the **Carpi** (Poienești-Vârteșcoiu culture) and the **Free Dacians**. Evidence of local production, such as casting moulds, has been found in these non-Sarmatian contexts. As noted by Bârcă (2022), these local imitations are often thinner and less elaborate, pointing to a process of regional adaptation of a popular, high-status object. The diverse decorative motifs on the reverse—ranging from geometric patterns and solar symbols to tamgas—represent a rich field for future multidisciplinary study into Sarmatian symbolism and identity.

3.2.3 Other

Red ceramic "pixida"

A notable toiletry item is a red ceramic pyxis, recovered from the grave at **Blijnii Hutor T1G1**. The find consists of the vessel's lid and a body fragment, both covered in a terracotta-colored slip. The conical lid (9.5 cm in diameter) features a cylindrical knob handle and a hollow inner flange designed for a precise fit with the vessel's mouth (Fig. 29/5)[12]. The vessel is a clear import from the Carpic cultural environment. Direct parallels for the distinctive lid are well-documented at Carpic and Free Dacian sites in Romanian Moldova, such as the Văleni necropolis and the settlement at Pruteni. These analogous finds securely date the pyxis to the second half of the 2nd to the first half of the 3rd centuries AD (Ignat 1999, pp. 130–131; Bichir 1976; Vornic et al. 2008, pp. 107, 116).

While the vessel's exact function remains uncertain due to its fragmentary state, its small size suggests it was used for cosmetics or other toiletries. Its presence in a Sarmatian grave is significant, serving as a tangible marker of cultural interaction and exchange between the Sarmatians and their settled Carpic neighbors to the west.

[12] From here - figures illustrating grave goods are included in the section on catalogue figures.

Wooden artifacts and fittings

While organic materials rarely survive in the archaeological record, fragmentary evidence of wooden objects and their metal fittings provides crucial insight into a significant, but often invisible, part of Sarmatian material culture.

The most compelling evidence comes from Blijnii Hutor T1G1, where a series of bronze fittings allows for the reconstruction of a small wooden box. The finds include L-shaped corner brackets and a decorated rectangular plate, all with their original bronze nails intact (Fig. 29/8-10). The meticulous construction suggests it was a valued personal item, likely a jewelry or toiletry box. Further evidence points to a range of wooden items. Finds include traces of small containers with copper wire fittings (Bădragii Noi T2G1) or bronze bands (Burlăneşti T3G13). At Nagornoe T9G1, fragments show pegged joinery, while wood painted red was noted at Dzinilor T8G1. Though these finds are fragmentary and interpretations are often tentative, they are collectively significant. They demonstrate the routine use of wood for containers and other decorated objects within Sarmatian funerary practices and serve as a vital reminder of the perishable material culture that is largely lost to archaeology.

3.3. Weaponry and Harness items

In Late Sarmatian funerary rites of the Prut-Dniester region, the martial assemblage is conspicuously dominated by swords and daggers. While other weapons like the bow and spear were certainly part of daily life, their inclusion in graves declined significantly during this period, making the long blade the preeminent symbol of the warrior in death. This chapter aims to systematize and analyze the regional corpus - comprising over 110 weapons from approximately 80 graves - to better understand the martial identity and cultural connections of these communities.

The study of Sarmatian weaponry has a rich scholarly history, beginning with the foundational hilt-based typology developed by A. M. Khazanov (1971). Subsequent research by scholars such as Symonenko, Skripkin, Sadowski, and Nikolaev has refined this approach, introducing more detailed typological parameters like blade cross-sections and the dimensions of ring pommels. However, the field has faced methodological challenges, including a reliance on materials from unprovenanced collections, which can limit interpretive possibilities.

The significance of these weapons extends far beyond the steppe. They are part of a vast phenomenon, with over 750 known examples distributed across three major zones: the Sarmatian-influenced Eurasian steppes, the Roman Empire and Germanic *Barbaricum*, and the Parthian Near East. Recent studies by Khrapunov et al. (2020) have also emphasized the importance of context, stressing that these swords and daggers were not isolated artefacts but components of a broader equipment set, carried in wooden or leather scabbards and suspended from the complex belt systems discussed above. Building on this body of scholarship, the following analysis will detail the specific types found within the Prut-Dniester region and explore their social significance.

3.3.1. Swords and daggers with ring-pommel hilts

The ring-pommel sword is a quintessential Sarmatian weapon, with a long history of use across a vast territory from the Urals to the Pannonian Plain. Its key morphological features are highly consistent:

- **Blade:** Typically, double-edged and lenticular in cross-section. Dagger blades generally measure 20–30 cm in length, while swords range from 35–50 cm. The blade profile is often an elongated triangle, tapering from the guard towards the tip.
- **Guard:** A straight, welded iron bar, typically 5–7 cm long.
- **Hilt and Pommel:** The grip is straight or slightly tapered, terminating in the weapon's defining feature: a circular or oval iron ring, typically 3.5–5 cm in diameter.

This weapon type has a long lifespan, appearing in the North Pontic region from the 2nd century BC through the first half of the 3rd century AD. Its development follows a clear trajectory: evolving from earlier "antenna-hilted" forms, it reached its maximum distribution during the Middle Sarmatian period, becoming more sporadic in the Late Sarmatian period under study. Evidence from Hungary suggests its use may have persisted even longer in the western parts of the Sarmatian world, into the 4th century AD.

The regional assemblage includes 12 securely identified ring-pommel swords and daggers. However, poor preservation frequently complicates analysis, resulting in a number of finds that can only be tentatively classified. These analytical challenges include: Several pieces from sites like **Bădragii Noi** and **Cuconeștii Vechi II** are too incomplete to distinguish between a sword and a dagger. A weapon from **Ocnița (T6G15)** has a guard but lacks a ring, placing it

morphologically between the ring-pommel and plain-hilted types. In other cases, such as at **Petrești (G18, G29)**, detached hilts were found, and the ring's original presence is only inferred from circular fragments found nearby. These ambiguous cases, alongside finds from destroyed graves at **Mărcăuți** and **Izvoare**, suggest that the type was in use until the late 2nd–early 3rd century AD, but also highlight the difficulties in creating a definitive catalogue from poorly preserved funerary contexts.

The ring-pommel sword was a pan-Sarmatian phenomenon, with approximately 500 specimens known from across the Eurasian steppe. While its use was declining during the Late Sarmatian period, the evidence from the Prut-Dniester interfluve is particularly important. The frequent co-occurrence of ring-pommel and the newer plain-hilted swords in the same contexts indicates a period of **technological and stylistic transition**, where older traditions persisted alongside emerging forms.

3.3.2. Swords and daggers with plain hilts

The defining feature of this weapon class is the absence of a distinct pommel, though the hilt was sometimes ornamented with inlays of stone or other precious materials. Generally, longer than earlier Sarmatian weapons, plain-hilted swords and daggers are characteristic of the Late Sarmatian period, with approximately 157 examples known from the North Pontic region. They can be broadly divided into daggers (21–28 cm blade length) and longswords (60–90 cm blade length), both featuring a straight, double-edged blade with a lenticular cross-section.

While Khazanov's comprehensive typology identifies five variants, only two are significant for the Late Sarmatian assemblage in the study area. The other variants are either geographically peripheral (e.g., associated with Alanic groups in Crimea) or chronologically later (4th–7th centuries AD). The relevant forms are:

The Dominant Variant (Without Guard): This is the predominant type in the Prut-Dniester region. It is defined by a smooth, guardless transition from the blade to the hilt. While it appears earlier in Asia, its arrival in this region is a key marker of the late 2nd to early 3rd century AD.

The Rare Variant (With Guard): This form, distinguished by a simple guard, has much earlier origins in Asia. It is only found sporadically in the Late Sarmatian west, represented in this corpus by a single find.

Applying these criteria, the local corpus includes 27 plain-hilted swords and daggers. The vast majority of these, found at sites such as Dumeni (T8M6) and Bădragii Noi ("military necropolis" G7), belong to the dominant guardless variant. The dagger from Bocani (G1) is a notable exception, representing a rare local example of the variant with a guard.

3.3.3. Other relevant observations

Several general observations complete the analysis of the sword and dagger assemblage. First, a significant number of finds (approx. 40 specimens) consist only of blade fragments, which, due to the morphological similarity between types, cannot be securely classified. Second, a consistent depositional practice is evident: both ring-pommel and plain-hilted weapons are almost always placed along the deceased's right femur. Finally, traces of wooden scabbards are frequently preserved, particularly in undisturbed graves at sites like Chirileni, Bădragii Noi, and Petrești. The complexity of these scabbards is highlighted by the find from Cuconeștii Vechi G22, which featured a specially designed space to accommodate the weapon's guard.

3.3.4. Spears

Although the spear was a primary weapon for Sarmatian cavalry and infantry, spearheads are remarkably rare in funerary contexts across the entire Sarmatian world. This pattern, first noted by Khazanov, holds true for the Prut–Dniester region, where only three examples have been documented (from Tîrnauca, Divizia, and Hagider). These few finds belong to a distinct early type with a massive, leaf-shaped blade and short socket, identified by Khazanov as being of Caucasian origin and dating broadly from the final centuries BC to the first centuries AD. The pronounced scarcity of spears in Late Sarmatian graves, which stands in stark contrast to the prevalence of swords, suggests a deliberate **cultural selection** in funerary ritual. It appears that the sword, not the spear, was chosen as the preeminent symbol of the warrior's status and identity in death.

3.3.5. Bows and arrows

Literary and iconographic sources, such as Trajan's Column, confirm that the composite reflex bow of "Scythian" type was a primary Sarmatian weapon into the 3rd century AD. Despite its importance in life, however, complete bows are almost entirely absent from the funerary record

due to their organic construction. The primary archaeological evidence for these powerful weapons comes from their durable components: bone or horn reinforcement plates.

While rare, finds of such bone plates are highly significant. In the Prut-Dniester region, graves at **Ciobruciu (T2G1)** and **Olănești (T16G1)** have yielded sets of these fittings for the bow's tips and central grip. The typological traits of these plates suggest connections to eastern areas, and their appearance is often interpreted as evidence for the arrival of new nomadic groups skilled in the use of these specific bow types. Their general rarity in graves, especially when compared to the prevalence of swords, suggests that either simpler wooden bows were deposited (and have since decayed) or that the composite bow was a high-value item reserved for elites and not typically interred.

The study of arrowheads reveals a crucial shift in funerary ritual. While early Sarmatian graves often contained hundreds of arrowheads, Late Sarmatian burials feature them in dramatically reduced numbers. In the study area, graves typically contain only a handful of specimens, with a maximum of ten recorded at Beloles'e T3G9 (fig. 27/5) and for other: Petrești T2G2 (fig. 155/2), Taraclia II T17G3 (fig. 181/3), Taraclia II T17G10 (fig. 182/14), Alijaga (Glăvani) G1, Dumeni II T1G2 (fig. 79/5), Olănești T16G2 (one specimen), Olănești T16G1 (fig. 120/5 – four specimens, including the ones made of bone), Filipeni T1G1 (fig. 80/9–10 – five specimens). This marked decrease points to a deliberate change in practice, where the deposition of a full quiver was no longer a standard part of the funerary rite. Most of the iron and bone arrowheads found are of long-lived, three-bladed types that are not precise chronological markers and must be dated by their associated context.

3.3.6. Defensive armament

A significant paradox exists in the study of Sarmatian warfare: while Roman literary sources frequently describe heavily armored cavalry units (*cataphracts*), archaeological evidence for such body armor is exceptionally rare in the North Pontic region. This makes finds of defensive equipment particularly important.

The finds from Ursoaia (T4G) provide crucial, tangible evidence that helps resolve this paradox. The assemblage includes:

- **Lamellar Armor:** Fragments of iron-steel scales (approx. 45–50 mm long) with attachment holes, characteristic of the flexible lamellar armor used by cataphracts.

Traces of carbonized leather or textile on the inner surfaces attest to their original backing.

- **Shield Bosses:** Two hemispherical iron shield bosses (*umbones*), approx. 60–70 mm in diameter, with perforations for attachment to a wooden shield board.

These artifacts from Ursoaia fit perfectly within the known patterns of Pontic steppe military technology. They have direct parallels in the elite cataphract burials at sites like Răcătău and Pâncești. The Ursoaia find is therefore a vital discovery, providing rare archaeological confirmation of the heavily armed warriors described in the historical texts (Khazanov 1971; Croitoru 2011; Kurchatov 2015).

3.3.7. Harness components

Equestrian equipment was indispensable to Sarmatian society, yet its components are rare in the archaeological record of the Prut-Dniester region. The evidence is limited almost exclusively to metal fittings, as the organic elements of saddles and harnesses (wood, leather) have not survived. The assemblage is dominated by functional iron pieces, with bronze and silver reserved for decorative elements like appliqués. Reconstructing the full harness system therefore depends on analyzing these scattered metal finds.

The fragmentary finds can be grouped into several functional categories:

- **Horse Bits:** Direct evidence for horse bits is scarce but significant. The find from Ursoaia (T4G1) includes fragments of the standard Sarmatian iron bit type, with a curved mouthpiece and mobile rings for rein attachment. Possible cheekpiece fragments from Cioburciu (T2G1) provide further, albeit less certain, evidence.
- **Rings and Loops:** Rings of various sizes are the most common harness component found. These versatile items, made of both iron and bronze, likely served multiple purposes, including rein guides, strap junctions, and saddle anchors. Examples range from small bronze decorative rings (e.g., Obileni T5G2), to medium-sized iron rings (e.g., Nagornoe T12G2), and large iron rings up to 9 cm in diameter (Dzinilor T5G1).
- **Buckles and Fasteners:** A variety of clamps, buckles, and mounting plates attest to the complex strap systems of Sarmatian harnesses. The finds from Alcalia (T6G1), which include rectangular bronze clamps and oval buckles, are clear components of a fastening

system, with parallels in parade harnesses from the Pontic area. An iron hook from Divizia (T7G1) likely served a similar function.

- **Saddle Fittings:** Several finds provide direct evidence for wooden-framed saddles. At Olănești (T16G1), iron rings with interior wood traces and an "L"-shaped hook are interpreted as fittings riveted directly onto a saddle frame. A miniature bronze plate with a rivet fastening a piece of leather from the same site may be part of the saddle's strapping system.

Despite the fragmentary nature of the evidence, the collection of bits, rings, fasteners, and saddle fittings confirms the use of sophisticated, multi-component harnesses and wooden-framed saddles by the Sarmatians of the Prut-Dniester region. The assemblage is overwhelmingly utilitarian, with a clear distinction between functional iron hardware and rarer decorative elements. These finds align closely with the broader patterns of Late Sarmatian equestrian technology known from across the North Pontic steppe, as detailed by Bârcă and Symonenko (2009).

3.4 Household objects

The investigation documented a diverse assemblage of domestic artifacts that provide insights into the daily activities, craft production, and technological practices of the studied communities.

3.4.1. Spindle Whorls

Spindle whorls, essential tools for spinning textile fibers, are a key category of ceramic artifacts that offer insights into local economic activities and craft traditions. The corpus includes **52 specimens**, which have been classified into four main morphological types based on their shape, proportions, and decoration. **Type I – Biconical Whorls:** This is by far the most dominant category, comprising **38 specimens**. The classic form **(Subtype IA)** is a well-defined biconical shape where the maximum diameter is roughly equal to the height. Numerous variations exist, defined by the position of the maximum diameter - ranging from near the middle **(Subtypes IF, IH)** to very low on the body **(Subtypes IC, ID)** - or by features like a pointed tip with indentations **(Subtype IB)**. Decoration is rare, but a single example **(Subtype IE)** features incised parallel lines.

Type II – Conical Whorls: The second most common category includes **9 specimens** with a simple conical profile. These are further distinguished by having a smooth surface **(Subtype IIA)** or, in one case, pronounced indentations **(Subtype IIB)**.

Types III & IV – Rare Forms: The assemblage is completed by a few uncommon shapes. These include three **flattened, circular whorls (Type III)** and a unique **vase-like whorl (Type IV)** from Alcalia, which is notable for its flared rim and biconical body, resembling a miniature vessel.

The clear predominance of functional biconical and conical forms suggests a standardized approach to textile tool production. The rare decorated or uniquely shaped examples may, in turn, reflect individual stylistic preferences or specialized functions.

3.4.2. Others

Beyond spindle whorls, the assemblage includes a variety of other objects that shed light on domestic activities, craft production, and daily life.

Textile Production and Maintenance: Evidence for weaving is provided by conical and globular ceramic **loom weights** from Hlinaia, used to maintain tension on a vertical loom. The subsequent stages of textile work are represented by a bronze **needle case** from Șalvirii Noi, along with several bone, bronze, and iron **sewing needles and awls**. A pair of iron **scissors** from Petrești is particularly noteworthy, as it has direct typological parallels in Roman and Germanic contexts (e.g., the Osiek necropolis), indicating the adoption of foreign tool types.

Agricultural and Food Processing Tools: Cereal harvesting is indicated by the presence of **sickles**. The recovery of approximately 45 knives, though mostly fragmentary, points to their widespread use in food preparation and other daily tasks; complete examples show they were fitted with riveted wooden handles. **Stone grinders and polishers** were likely used for tool sharpening and other processing activities.

Domestic and Household Items: A bronze **key** from Cuconești Vechi, with parallels in Roman contexts, points to the use of lockable chests or boxes. Four **lamps** provide evidence for illumination: they include simple, hand-modeled ceramic types (Cîrnățeni), as well as a sophisticated imported Roman lamp featuring a molded dove motif (Cuconești Vechi) and boat-shaped iron lamps (Kotlovyna).

Fire-Making and Other Crafts: The presence of **stone fire-strikers** attests to basic fire management. Evidence for other craft activities includes repurposed ceramic fragments, such as amphora handles used as burnishers and sherds with small depressions from Șalvirii Noi and Petrești, interpreted as palettes for mixing pigments.

Rare Organic Remains: Finally, exceptional preservation conditions at two sites have provided a rare glimpse into perishable material culture. These finds include a fragment of **woven textile** from Chirileni and several pieces of **mineralized leather**, likely from clothing or accessories.

3.5 Pottery

Ceramic vessels were documented in the majority of the funerary contexts analysed. However, it is likely that their original number was higher, many having been removed due to post-burial disturbances. This phenomenon has long been noted by specialists such as V. Kulcsár for the Carpathian Basin (Kulcsár 1998, 114), by V. Bârcă who identified pottery as the most numerous categories across the entire Sarmatian area (Bârcă 2006, 65), and by L. Grumeza for the Banat region (Grumeza 2014, 127). In my case, this translates to approximately 70% of graves containing ceramic vessels - meaning that one in three burials lacks any pottery.

The first scholar to address Sarmatian pottery in the region between the Prut and Dniester rivers was V. Grosu, who emphasized the complexity of this material from an archaeological standpoint: “From an archaeological perspective, Sarmatian pottery is quite complicated to study. It is important to underline the conditional character of the term ‘Sarmatian pottery’ itself, since the diversity of ceramic forms among the Sarmatians between the Dniester and the Prut is determined by the various routes through which the vessels entered this area” (Grosu 1995, 111). This idea is reiterated by V. Bârcă (2006, 65), who also underlines the complex nature of this category of artefacts.

This complexity stems primarily from the extremely diverse origin of the pottery: some vessels were imported from Greco-Roman centres, while others were produced in local or regional craft hubs, including those associated with the Carpic culture (Poienești–Vârtișcoiu), as well as pottery workshops in the Kuban and Lower Don regions (Grosu 1995, 111; Bârcă 2006, 66).

As a result, this material category has yet to benefit from a thorough typological analysis in the academic literature. Although a functional classification has been proposed by V. Bârcă in his monograph The Sarmatians in the East-Carpathian Area (1st century BC – early 2nd century

AD), this approach, while useful, presents certain limitations. Notably, it lacks biochemical analyses that could validate hypotheses regarding vessel usage (e.g., for food preparation or storage). Furthermore, Bârcă himself explicitly states that his goal was not to create a detailed typology: “In the following pages, we do not intend to compile a special study dedicated to the forms of ceramic vessels found in Sarmatian graves, nor to create a typology thereof” (Bârcă 2006, 66).

The primary challenge in classifying this material lies in the morphological variability - almost every vessel exhibits unique traits. To address this, I adopted a simplified morphological classification system, designed to avoid excessive fragmentation based on minor differences. I intentionally excluded criteria such as subtle undulations in the body, slight variations in wall thickness, rim shape (e.g., thickened, everted, straight, invaginated, profiled), base configuration (flat, low or high ring base), mouth diameter, the presence or absence of neck/shoulder articulation, and handle types (e.g., looped, flat, ribbon-like).

Instead, I focused on more general and relevant morphological features such as the vessel’s overall profile (globular, biconical, elongated, cylindrical), proportions between neck, shoulder and body, and the presence of any decorative elements (grooves, incisions, ridges, etc.).

The objective of this approach was to build a simplified but coherent and functional typological framework—one that reflects the actual diversity of the ceramic material while also being useful for comparative and regional analysis.

Before proceeding to the typological analysis of the vessels, a few key aspects from the literature must be highlighted:

Wheel-thrown pottery is a hallmark of more advanced pottery-making traditions and is not inherently associated with the Sarmatian nomadic milieu. Conversely, handmade vessels—based on both technological traits and archaeological context—can be more reliably attributed to Sarmatian groups. Therefore, the term "Sarmatian pottery" must be employed with caution, as it is essentially a conventional construct (Grosu 1995, 111; Bârcă 2006, 65–66).

Sarmatian funerary assemblages reveal two broad categories of ceramic vessels: handmade and wheel-thrown. Among the latter, one can distinguish between locally produced wares (often coarser and simpler) and imports from Roman provinces or border regions—most notably Terra Sigillata vessels and amphorae. Vessels made of glass, metal, and other materials are treated separately in this study.

The deposition of ceramic vessels appears to be independent of the deceased's age, gender, or social status (Grumeza 2014, 127).

Based on the data gathered, the funerary ceramic assemblage—alongside associated non-ceramic containers—can be quantified as follows:

Handmade pottery: Approximately 200 pieces, most of which are jars, lids, bowls, and small mugs. In many cases, only fragmented sherds were recovered, rendering full reconstructions impossible.

Wheel-thrown pottery: Approximately 100 items, mainly jugs and mugs, along with numerous sherds, but no complete vessels.

Imported ceramics: Roughly 40 vessels, primarily bowls, jugs, and fragments of Terra Sigillata ware.

A distinct subcategory includes amphorae, found in about 85 funerary contexts (graves or ritual ditches), discussed separately in this analysis.

Other materials:

- Metal vessels: 2 examples
- Terracotta items: 3 examples
- Glass vessels: approx. 35 items, mostly preserved in fragmentary condition

No.	Category	Estimated Quantity	Percentage of Total
1	Handmade pottery	≈ 200	**43.01%**
2	Wheel-thrown pottery	≈ 100	**21.51%**
3	Imported pottery (Terra Sigillata)	≈ 40	**8.60%**
4	Amphorae	≈ 85	**18.28%**
5	Glass vessel	≈ 35	**7.53%**
6	Terracotta items	3	**0.65%**
7	Metal vessel	2	**0.43%**
	Total (estimated)	**465**[13]	**100%**

[13] The total number of vessels exceeds the number of graves because in many cases, individual graves contained multiple ceramic items. There are numerous situations where both handmade and wheel-thrown vessels were deposited together, along with imported pottery or amphorae. This overlap between categories explains the higher object count relative to the number of funerary contexts.

3.5.1. Handmade pots

Hand-made pots are the most common ceramic form in the studied funerary assemblages. The extensive corpus has been classified into four main morphological groups based on body shape. Within these groups, vessels are further categorized by size: **small** (<14 cm in height), **medium** (14–22 cm), and **large** (>22 cm).

Group I – Biconical-bodied pots

These pots often feature a biconical body with shoulder-applied reliefs, tall necks (conical to cylindrical, sometimes sharply delimited), flared or slightly flared rims, and small flat bases—occasionally with slight protrusions. Their average height ranges from 15 to 20 cm, classifying them as medium-sized vessels. Thirteen such examples have been identified.

Type IA: Characterized by a clear neck-to-body transition without marked shoulders, a conical neck, and a flared or indistinctly cut rim. One specimen shows four vertical relief strips applied to the shoulders. Examples include: Taraclia II T9G2 (Fig. 174/8), Cuconeștii Vechi I G32 (Fig. 60/3), Divizia T8G1 (Figs. 75/3 and 75/6), Corjeuți T9G1 (Fig. 52/10), Bădragii Noi T4G3 (Fig. 25/11).

Type IB: Defined by a distinct shoulder, a conical to semi-cylindrical neck, and a flared and/or cut rim. Noteworthy examples include the pot from Alcalia (Șirokoe) T6G1 (Fig. 2/4) with three clay nodules attached to the shoulders and oblique incised decoration on the rim; the vessel from Suvorove G2 (Fig. 172/3) with dense notching on the rim and four conical shoulder protrusions, and a base imitating a wheel-thrown ring. Additional examples include: Hagider II T9G1 (Fig. 89/7) with vertical shoulder protrusion; Vasilivca T26G2 (Fig. 198/7) with a relief band between the neck and body; and Bocani G5 (Fig. 32/5).

Type IC: Similar to Type I B, but with a neck shape transitioning between semi-cylindrical and conical. Identified in Holmskoe I T1G17 (Fig. 99/4) and Suvorove (Katlabuh) G1 (Fig. 172/2).

Comparable vessel forms are discussed by V. Bârcă under the category of "narrow-mouthed vessels," noted as rare in middle Sarmatian funerary contexts but existing since earlier phases (Bârcă 2006, 69). A similar morphology is also observed in the 2nd–3rd century AD Poienești necropolis, associated with the Poienești-Vârtișcoiu culture. There, they are categorized as Type I.2.1 – low pots with a sinuous profile and a conical neck marked by steps or ridges (Spânu 2019).

Group II – Globular-bodied pots

These are further subdivided by size, and 18 examples were recorded:

Type IIA. Large size: This includes two distinct vessels, both with globular bodies but differing in detail. One is slenderer, with nearly equal rim and base diameters, and a short cylindrical lower section and neck—Holmskoe G24 (Fig. 98/17), designated here as II-A1. The other, II-A2, comes from Rumeanțev (Fig. 161/8) and has a fully globular body with no visible neck and a prominent base; the rim is flared and thickened. Their heights range from 22.5 to 24.6 cm.

Type II B. Medium size: Three vessels belong here: Cocicovatoe (Buduri) T27G1 (Fig. 50/15), Petrești G41 (Fig. 154/4), and Florițoaia Nouă G1 (Fig. 86/6). All share a flared rim, short neck, globular body, and a short cylindrical transition to a flat base. The Petrești pot features a thickened rim, four vertical shoulder protrusions, and oblique brush-decoration. Their heights range from 16 to 17 cm.

Type IIC. Small and miniature size: Thirteen examples include vessels from Bocani G11 (Fig. 35/4), Divizia T7G1 (Fig. 74/5), Bădragii Noi T3G2 (Fig. 24/7), Ocnița T6G14 (Fig. 115/2, 2a), Divizia T6G3 (Fig. 72/22), Bădragii Vechi T29G10 (Fig. 26/8), Petrești Trench 6 (Fig. 136/3), Bocani G9 (Fig. 33/10), Șalvirii Noi T6G7 (Fig. 163/3), Hagider II T11G1 (Fig. 89/9), Bocani G4 (Fig. 31/15), Divizia T2G1 (Fig. 71/8), and Bocani G14 (Fig. 36/2). These vessels have straight or slightly flared rims, either cut or rounded; short cylindrical, sub-cylindrical or conical necks (rarely conical); spheroid bodies, generally undecorated; and flat bases. Their heights range from 7 to 14 cm.

Group III – "Tulip-shaped" pots

The designation of this group derives from the silhouette of the vessels, characterized by a flared rim, tall conical neck, globular body narrowing toward the base, and a flat bottom. The pots in this group are divided into types according to their size. A total of 50 vessels have been attributed to this group.

Type IIIA. Large vessels (17 examples). This category is divided into two subtypes: Subtype III-A1: Slender-bodied vessels. Examples: Divizia T7G1 (Fig. 74/9), Vasilivca T24G1 (Fig. 201/3), Vasilivca T26G2 (Fig. 198/5). These vessels are defined by their flared rims, with at least one example featuring oblique incised lines. The neck is tall and conical, sometimes decorated with vertical incisions. The body is globular, narrowing sharply toward the base,

forming a sub-cylindrical profile. All examples have flat bases. Heights range from 22.5 to 42 cm.

Subtype III-A2: More globular-bodied vessels. Examples include: Alcalia (Șirokoe) T19G2 (Fig. 5/2), T23G1 (Fig. 7/2), T28G1 (Fig. 8/4), Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G2 (Fig. 16/4), Divizia T2G1 (Fig. 72/1), Dzinilor (Zenelor) T5G1 (Fig. 12/5), Kotlovyna T1G1 (Fig. 100/4), Ogorodnoe II T5G1 (2 examples), Petrești Trench 1 (Fig. 133/4, 6), Petrești Trench 7 (Fig. 137/6), Șabolat T4G1, Petrești G4 (Fig. 135/3). These are defined by their flared, often thickened rims, sometimes decorated with oblique incised lines or digital impressions. The tall conical neck may take on a sub-cylindrical shape. Decorative elements may occur on the shoulders, including: clover-shaped finger indentations, three horizontal relief bands, vertical lines splitting at the center, or oblique incised lines. The body narrows either into a sub-cylindrical lower portion or directly into the base. Bases are flat, occasionally with slight protrusions. Heights range from 22.5 to 33 cm[14].

Type IIIB. Medium-sized vessels (17 examples). This type is likewise divided into two subtypes: Subtype IIIB1: Slender-bodied vessels. Examples: Alcalia (Șirokoe) T28G1 (Fig. 8/7), Petrești G32 (Fig. 149/6), Vasilivca T14G1 (Fig. 195/13), Divizia T10G1 (Fig. 76/13), Divizia T2G1 (Fig. 70/7). They exhibit flared and sometimes thickened rims, some decorated with oblique incisions or finger impressions. The neck is tall and conical. Shoulder decorations may include two horizontal bands of impressions and three vertical ridges that split in the middle, or vertical/oblique comb-pattern incisions. The globular body narrows into a sub-cylindrical shape; bases are flat. Heights range from 14.5 to 20 cm.

Subtype IIIB2: More globular-bodied vessels. Examples: Alcalia (Șirokoe) T29G1 (Fig. 7/7), Divizia T7G1 (Fig. 74/6), Hagider II T9G1 (Fig. 89/6), Ogorodnoe II (Gorodne) T4G1 (2 examples), Petrești G10 (Fig. 140/2), G17 (Fig. 142/4), G3 (Fig. 134/10, 11), Podoima T3G5

[14] The "tulip-shaped globular" type can be distinguished from the "tulip-shaped slender" variant by the proportional relationship between vessel height and maximum diameter. In globular forms, these dimensions are relatively close, with differences generally not exceeding:

- ~2 cm for small vessels (height ≤14 cm),
- ~3 cm for medium-sized vessels (14–22 cm),
- ~4.5 cm for large vessels (over 22 cm)

Alternatively, this proportion can be expressed as a height-to-maximum-diameter ratio. Globular vessels typically fall between 0.9 and 1.2, while those with a ratio above 1.25 are considered slender.

(Fig. 157/10), Tocmagiu G3, Vasilivca Trench No. 1 (Fig. 197/14). The vessels have flared, often cut or thickened rims, sometimes with oblique incised or digital impressions. The neck is conical or sub-cylindrical, and shoulders may carry decorations such as rows of indentations or comb-incised patterns. The body, sometimes asymmetrical, narrows toward a flat (rarely protruding) base. Heights range from 14.5 to 21 cm.

Type IIIC. Small Vessels (16 examples). This category is divided into two subtypes: Subtype III-C1: Slender-bodied vessels. Examples: Brînzeni G5 (Fig. 39/13), Dzinilor (Zenelor) T8G1 (Fig. 12/10), Vasilivca T23G1 (Fig. 200/15), Vasilivca T26G2 (Fig. 198/4). These vessels feature flared, sometimes thickened rims, with decorations that include oblique incised lines or oblique burnishing. The neck is conical or semi-conical. Shoulder decoration may include: two impression chains, intersecting lines, and four horizontal relief applications. The body narrows toward a flat or concave base. Heights range between 13 and 14 cm.

Subtype IIIC2: More globular-bodied vessels. Examples: Alcalia (Șirokoe) T26G1 (Fig. 7/10), Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G3 (Fig. 21/6), Corpaci II T1G1, Divizia T2G1 (Fig. 71/6), Hlinaia T12G1 (Fig. 91/4), Ogorodnoe II (Gorodne) T3G1, Pererîta T2G13 (Fig. 129/10), Petrești G26 (Fig. 147/5), G66 (38) (Fig. 153/4), Vasilivca T14G6 (Fig. 197/5), T1G1 (Fig. 193/16), T25G3 (Fig. 202/6). The rims are flared, cut, and sometimes thickened, decorated with oblique incised lines or digital impressions. The necks are conical or sub-cylindrical. Decorations on the shoulders include rows of indentations, vertical or oblique comb incisions, small knobs (resembling handles), symmetrical finger impressions, vertical relief applications, grooved decorations, and wavy or zigzag incised lines on the upper part of the body. The globular body narrows toward a flat or occasionally concave base. Heights range from 9.5 to 13.6 cm.

Group IV – Jar-type pots

This group consists of vessels whose base diameter is nearly equal to the rim diameter—typically differing by no more than 2 cm. Similarly, the maximum body diameter does not exceed the diameter of the other two components by more than 2 cm. A total of 32 vessels are included in this group, which is subdivided based on size.

Type IV-A – Medium-sized vessels (4 examples). Examples: Bocani G10 (Fig. 34/11), Bocani G12 (Fig. 35/7), Petrești G1 (Fig. 133/12), Hagider II T8G1 (Fig. 88/5).

These vessels are characterized by flared rims, sometimes decorated with digital impressions, as in the example from Hagider II. The neck is cylindrical, sub-cylindrical, or short conical

(rarely conical). The body is jar-shaped, occasionally featuring shoulder decorations—e.g., four vertical protrusions on the Hagider II vessel—and in the case of Petrești G1, a horizontal ridge on the shoulder. The body transitions into a sub-cylindrical lower portion. All examples have flat bases. Heights range from 15 to 16 cm.

Type IVB – Small and miniature vessels (28 examples). Examples: Holmskoe G21 (Fig. 96/8), Viișoara G1 (Fig. 191/2), Holmskoe G23 (Fig. 98/6), Vasilivca T14G4 (Fig. 196/5), T14G6 (Fig. 197/3), Feștelița T6G1 (Fig. 85/8), Kotlovyna T2G2 (2 examples) (Fig. 101/11), Pașcani (Fig. 128/10), Divizia T13G1 (Fig. 78/2), Vasilivca T1G3 (Fig. 194/3), Holmskoe G7 (Fig. 93/2), Vasilivca T24G1 (Fig. 201/4), Petrești T3G12 (Fig. 156/11), Bocani G3 (Fig. 31/7), Cuconeștii Vechi II G4 (Fig. 61/8), Holmskoe G23 (Fig. 98/4), Chirileni T2G20 (Fig. 47/8), Petrești Trench 29 (Fig. 151/2), Vasilivca T23G1 (Fig. 200/16), Holmskoe G10 (Fig. 93/20), Cuconeștii Vechi I G7 (Fig. 56/7), Ogorodnoe II (Gorodne) T4G1, Bocani G10 (Fig. 34/10), Negureni T1G1 (Fig. 111/5), Bocani G7 (Fig. 32/17), Cuconeștii Vechi II G2 (Fig. 61/3).

These vessels typically have flared or slightly flared rims, often thickened or cut straight; in some cases, the rim is decorated with digital impressions or oblique incised lines. Necks are cylindrical, sub-cylindrical, or short conical. The jar-shaped body sometimes displays shoulder decoration in the form of four vertical protrusions, or incised motifs - either all around the body or as oblique shoulder incisions. The lower body narrows sub-cylindrically toward the flat base; in some cases, the base features slight protrusions.

Due to a number of morphologically distinct examples within this group, a more refined subdivision is warranted. All vessels not described separately below are considered part of the standard Subtype IVB1.

Subtype IVB2 is distinguished by a thickened rim, semi-cylindrical neck, and a peculiar inward-curving upper portion that gives the impression of a vessel whose rim folds slightly inward - perhaps the result of a specific manufacturing technique. The rest of the body flows smoothly into the flat base. Example: Chirileni T2G20 (Fig. 47/8).

Subtype IVB3 is defined by a flared rim, a tall conical neck, and a body that otherwise adheres to the typical jar profile. Examples: Holmskoe G21 (Fig. 96/8) and Negureni T1G1 (Fig. 111/5). Heights within this type range from 6.5 to 14 cm.

Functional interpretation

The different sizes of these hand-made pots likely correspond to different functions. The large and medium vessels seem well-suited for the storage of food or liquids. The smaller, narrow-necked pots were probably intended for individual use, such as drinking vessels. The miniature pots are likely symbolic or votive replicas of larger forms, although a use as children's items cannot be excluded.

3.5.2. Hand-made lids

Hand-made ceramic lids are the second most frequent ceramic form found in the studied graves, outnumbered only by pots. Their prevalence is logical, as many funerary pots were originally lidded, with the current assemblage showing a recovery ratio of approximately one lid for every four pots (26 lids to 113 pots). Their diameters vary widely, corresponding to the vessels they covered, from a large example of 28 cm at **Dzinilor T5G1 (Fig. 12/2)** to a small one of 7.5 cm at **Alcalia T11G1 (Fig. 3/21)**. The 26 lids can be classified into two primary forms based on their height and profile.

Type 1 – Tall Conical Lids: This type is characterized by its significant height (over 8 cm) and truncated conical shape. The simplest form is the **undecorated conical lid with a cylindrical knob (Subtype 1.1)**, exemplified by finds from **Divizia T7G1 (Fig. 74/7)** and **Kotlovyna T1G1 (Fig. 100/2)**. A minor variation features a more **pronounced conical knob (Subtype 1.2)**, as seen at **Nagornoe T1G1 (Fig. 108/6)**. Decoration is rare but appears as **finger impressions on the rim (Subtype 1.3)** at **Alcalia T28G1 (Fig. 8/3)** or as **comb-pattern incisions (Subtype 1.4)** at **Petrești G32 (Fig. 149/4)**.

Type 2 – Low Conical Lids: The more numerous low conical lids are shorter (3–7 cm in height). The most common variant **(Subtype 2.1)** features a simple cylindrical-convex knob and is found at a large number of sites, including **Alcalia (T30G1, Fig. 6/10; T6G1, Fig. 2/1)**, **Divizia (T7G1, Fig. 74/4; T8G1, Fig. 75/2)**, **Șabolat T4G1 (Fig. 164/8)**, **Petrești (G1, Fig. 133/11)**, **Pașcani (DG1, Fig. 128/3)**, **Semionovca T3G1 (Fig. 166/5)**, and **Vasilivca (T24G1, Fig. 201/2)**. Rarer variations on this form include a lid with a **conical knob placed upright (Subtype 2.2)** from **Vasilivca T23G1 (Fig. 200/5)**; an example with a **decorated rim (Subtype 2.3)** from **Alcalia T29G1 (Fig. 7/9)**; and a unique piece from **Kotlovyna T2G2 (Fig. 101/7)** with an **interior flange (Subtype 2.4)**, likely designed to ensure a more secure fit.

Overall, the typology of hand-made lids reflects a functional and largely unadorned ceramic tradition. Form was primarily dictated by the vessel it was designed to cover, with stylistic variations in the knob and the infrequent addition of simple decoration being the main distinguishing features.

3.5.3. Hand-made jugs

Hand-made jugs are an exceptionally rare vessel form in Late Sarmatian funerary contexts, with only seven specimens recorded. These small to medium-sized vessels (10–18 cm in height) are defined by several consistent morphological features.

The body shape is typically **biconical-ovoid**, as seen in examples from **Copanca (G1, Fig. 52/7)**, **Duruitoarea Nouă II (T1G1, Fig. 79/11)**, and **Bădragii Vechi (T29G1, Fig. 25/17)**. A less common **spheroidal** body is documented at **Petrești (G62, Fig. 153/2)** and **Chirileni (T2G5, Fig. 45/3)**. In all cases, the vessels have a slightly flaring rim, a flat base, and a single handle that typically connects the neck or rim to the shoulder.

The fabric is generally a coarse or semi-coarse paste, fired to colors ranging from brown to grayish-brown or orange. The surfaces are well-smoothed and occasionally burnished. Morphologically, these vessels are essentially biconical or spheroidal pots, distinguished only by the addition of a handle.

3.5.4. Hand-made bowl

Hand-made bowls, also referred to as small cups, are a rare component of Late Sarmatian funerary assemblages, with only **16 specimens documented** from sites such as **Bocani (G17, Fig. 37/5)**, **Holmskoe (G3, Fig. 92/3)**, and **Vasilivca (T14G6, Fig. 197/1)**.

Their morphological characteristics are relatively consistent:

Form and Base: The vessels are typically **truncated-conical** or **hemispherical** in shape. The base is almost always flat, with a single concave example recorded from **Ogorodnoe II (T4G1, Fig. 117/3)**.

Rim: While most rims are simple and straight-cut, variations exist, including a flat everted rim at **Vasilivca (T25G3, Fig. 202/5)** and an inturned rim at **Vasilivca (T14G6, Fig. 197/1)**.

Fabric and Surface: The fabric is consistently a semi-coarse, unevenly fired grey paste. The exterior surface is typically burnished.

Dimensions: Most bowls are small, with a height under 6 cm. However, larger examples up to 12 cm tall are known, and mouth diameters can be substantial, sometimes reaching 20–30 cm.

This combination of simple, functional forms and basic fabric suggests a utilitarian role for these vessels within the funerary assemblage.

3.5.5. Hand-made ritualic vessels

A distinct category of cult vessel, commonly identified as an **incense burner**, is represented by approximately 15 hand-made specimens. These have been documented at sites across the region, including **Bădragii Vechi (Fig. 25)**, **Blijnii Hutor (Fig. 29, 30)**, and **Nagornoe (Fig. 107, 110)**. Compared to the Middle Sarmatian period, the typological range in the late period is narrower, and they are rarely found in pairs within a single grave. They are typically associated with **female burials** and are constructed from coarse, unevenly fired fabrics.

The vessels display significant morphological diversity and can be grouped into several forms:

Simple Bowl and Box Forms: The most common shapes are simple open vessels with perforated walls. These include **truncated-conical bowls**, as seen at **Blijnii Hutor (T1G1, Fig. 30/1)** and **Nagornoe (T1G1, Fig. 107/5-6)**, and smaller, **hemispherical bowls** from **Mălcăuți (Fig. 105/57-58)**. A related form is the rectangular or **truncated-pyramidal "box"** type, also found at **Blijnii Hutor (T1G1, Fig. 29/3)** and **Bădragii Vechi (T29G1, Fig. 25/21)**.

Elaborate and Pedestaled Forms: More complex vessels suggest specialized functions. A unique bowl from **Brînzeni (G5, Fig. 39/16)** features an interior divided into multiple compartments. Several examples are elevated on a foot, including an **hourglass-shaped pedestaled cup** from **Alcalia (T6G1, Fig. 2/8)** and so-called **"fruit bowl"** types with a high profiled foot from **Bădragii Vechi (T29G1, Fig. 25/22)** and **Opaci (T9G3, Fig. 121/1)**. A quadrangular vessel with concave walls and a hollow foot was found at **Nagornoe (T12G2, Fig. 110/15)**.

Miniature Form: A miniature incense burner with a square mouth from **Cîrnățeni (T3G1, Fig. 51/25)** may represent a symbolic, non-functional offering.

The tradition of using such incense burners is considered an eastern cultural import, introduced into the North Pontic region around the mid-1st century AD by newly arrived Sarmatian groups, likely the Aorsi or Alans. As scholars have noted, these functional cult objects did not undergo rapid stylistic evolution, maintaining relatively stable forms over long periods.

Wheel-thrown pottery

The wheel-thrown ceramic vessels found in late-period graves are, for the most part, imports from neighboring cultural environments. Based on their manufacturing technology, they are divided into vessels fired in an oxidizing atmosphere and those fired in a reducing atmosphere. From a functional point of view, wheel-thrown vessels served for food consumption (dishes, bowls), for storing and pouring liquids (jugs, pots), and for drinking (bowls, cups).

3.5.6. Pitchers/jugs

As the most numerous category of wheel-thrown vessels, pitchers share a number of common morphological traits. Most feature a **flaring rim**, a wide, **funnel-shaped neck** that merges smoothly into the body, a **biconical or ovoid body shape**, and a low, **ring-shaped base**. The **handle**, which is often ribbed, typically connects the rim area to the shoulder. Decoration is common and includes burnishing and incised horizontal lines.

Based on these shared features, the assemblage has been classified into five types, primarily differentiated by their size, proportions, and specific neck or body forms.

Type 1 and 2 **Standard Pitchers:** The most common forms are the standard-sized pitchers, which together comprise nearly **40 specimens**. These vessels represent the quintessential Late Sarmatian pitcher, ranging from 8 cm to 20.5 cm in height. Type 1 known examples come from Alcalia (Șirokoe) T5G13 (Fig. 1/1), Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G2 (Fig. 15/4), Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G5 (Fig. 19/9), Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G7 (Fig. 20/3), Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G7 (Fig. 20/2), Bocani G17 (Fig. 37/4), Bocani G-A (Fig. 31/2, 37/7), Copanca (Chițcani) G1 (Fig. 52/6), Cuconeștii Vechi I G4 (Fig. 54/10), Cuconeștii Vechi II G38 (Fig. 67/4), Cuconeștii Vechi II G47 (Fig. 68/12), Divizia T6G3 (Fig. 73/1), Hancăuți T2G2 (Fig. 90/9), Holmskoe G22 (Fig. 97/4), Petrești G10 (Fig. 140/1), Primorsk T1G17 (Fig. 160/6), Tocmagiu G2 (Fig. 183/6), Ocnița T6G15 (Fig. 116/5).

Type 2 examples: Bocani G1 (Fig. 31/3), Bocani G8 (Fig. 33/4), Bocani G8 (Fig. 33/5), Brînzeni G6 (Fig. 39/5), Burlănești T3G17 (Fig. 40/6), Cioropcani (Fig. 50/1), Costești T1G4

(Fig. 54/4), Cuzmin T2G3 (Fig. 69/9), Divizia T2G1 (Fig. 71/2), Mălcăuți (Fig. 105/61), Nagornoe T9G1 (Fig. 109/19), Petrești Trench 1 (Fig. 134/2), Petrești G12 (Fig. 140/6), Petrești G25 (Fig. 147/2), Primorsk T1G53 (Fig. 160/7), Primorsk T1G52 (Fig. 160/5), Selište G67 (Fig. 165/22), Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G8 (Fig. 164/6), Divizia T6G3 (Fig. 73/5), Divizia T6G1 (Fig. 72/20).

Type 3 – Small Pitcher-Cups: This group of **14 specimens** is distinguished primarily by its **small, cup-like dimensions**, with most examples measuring just 8–10 cm in height. The handle is often attached directly to the rim, and some examples feature unique decoration, such as the tree-shaped motif. Examples: Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G4 (Fig. 21/8), Bădragii Noi T5G7 (Fig. 25/15), Bocani G7 (Fig. 32/12), Chirileni T2G16 (Fig. 46/7), Cioropcani (Fig. 50/2), Fîrlădeni G1 (Fig. 84/4), Mărcăuți (Fig. 106/4), Petrești G12 (Fig. 140/5), Petrești G26 (Fig. 147/6), Șoldănești G1 (Fig. 169/2), Taraclia II T17G3 (Fig. 181/1,1a), Filipeni T1G1 (Fig. 80/18), Cuconeștii Vechi II G28 (Fig. 65/2), Dzinilor T5G1 (Fig. 12/6).

Type 4 – Slender Pitchers: The eight pitchers in this category are defined by their **slender, elongated biconical bodies** and more cylindrical necks. While most are 15–23 cm tall, this group also includes the largest vessel in the entire series: an elaborately decorated 53 cm pitcher from **Semionovca (T4G1, Fig. 167/2)**. Examples: Bocani G14 (Fig. 36/3), Cuconeștii Vechi II, Trench 1 (Fig. 69/4), Petrești G167 (Fig. 143/3), Petrești T3G12 (Fig. 156/10), Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G7 (Fig. 163/2), Semionovca (Seimeni) T4G1 (Fig. 167/2), Taraclia Gaidabul G1 (Fig. 177/1), Cocicovatoe (Buduri) T27G1 (Fig. 50/9).

Type 5 – High-Necked Pitchers: The seven pitchers of this type are characterized by a **high, narrow, and distinctly cylindrical neck**, which is often separated from the biconical or pear-shaped body by a pronounced ridge. Examples: Bădragii Vechi T29G1 (Fig. 25/19), Brînzeni G4 (Fig. 39/14), Hlinaia T12G1 (Fig. 91/5), Pererîta T2G13 (Fig. 129/9), Petrești G62(37) (Fig. 153/1), Rumeanțev T1G8 (Fig. 162/6), Trapovka T1G5 (Fig. 184/3).

The group comprises approximately seven specimens, measuring between 17 cm and 20 cm.

Type	Rim & Neck	Body Shape	Base	Handle Attachment & Shape	Decoration	Max. Diameter Position	Size Range (cm)
1	Low, slightly thickened rounded or flattened rim; short	Short biconical or globular	Ring-shaped	From rim to shoulder; simple oval section	Absent or faint burnishing	Middle of body	10–14

Type	Rim & Neck	Body Shape	Base	Handle Attachment & Shape	Decoration	Max. Diameter Position	Size Range (cm)
	neck, cylindrical or slightly conical		or flat (rare)				
2	Medium-height, everted rim; neck short to medium, cylindrical	Pear-shaped or ovoid	Ring-shaped or flat (rare)	From upper neck to shoulder; oval or slightly ribbed	Burnishing or shallow horizontal lines	Upper third of body	12–18
3	Thickened, rounded or lenticular rim; neck medium, slightly conical	Elongated ovoid	Ring-shaped or flat (rare)	From rim to upper shoulder; oval or rectangular	Horizontal grooves, sometimes combined with burnishing	Middle of body	15–22
4	Medium rim, rounded/flaring/straight/profiled; neck medium, cylindrical/semi-cylindrical, sometimes with ridge	Elongated biconical	Ring-shaped	Just below rim or at rim to body; ribbed, oval, or semi-rectangular	Burnishing, incised lines, one elaborate motif (Semionovca)	Middle of body, rarely toward base	6.5–53 (most 15–23)
5	High, narrow to medium neck; thin, rounded, flaring rim, sometimes lenticular thickening; one with spout-like hole	Biconical, sometimes pear-shaped	Ring-shaped or flat (rare)	Neck to shoulder; ribbed, oval, or semi-rectangular	Horizontal incised lines on neck	Lower third of body	17–20

Table 4 Typology of wheel-thrown pitchers from the Prut–Dniester Barbaricum

3.5.7. Wheel-thrown bowls

Wheel-thrown bowls, crafted from fine clay, represent a distinct and typologically diverse category. Representative examples have been found at numerous sites, including Cioburciu T2G1 (Fig. 49/11), Divizia T7G1 (Fig. 74/8), Florițoaia Nouă DG1 (Fig. 86/7), Petrești G34 (Fig. 150/9), Polevoe T6G1 (Fig. 158/6–7), Vasilivca T23G1 (Fig. 200/18, Fig. 200/17), Vasilivca T6G4 (Fig. 194/9), Alcalia T19G2 (Fig. 5/5), Bădragii Noi (Military Necropolis) G1 (Fig. 14/4), G3 (Fig. 16/5), G4 (Fig. 17/3), Bălăbănești T4G4 (Fig. 26/2) and Divizia T2G1 (Fig. 71/10). Large specimens over 12 cm in height are sometimes referred to as basins.

Their key morphological traits include:

- **Form: body and base:** The body is typically **truncated-conical** or **hemispherical**, resting on a low or high **ring-shaped base**.
- **Rim:** The rim shows high variability and can be straight, thickened and flaring, everted, or inwardly thickened.
- **Decoration:** When present, decoration is simple, consisting of incised lines or burnishing.
- **Dimensions:** Height ranges from 5.5 to 17.5 cm, with rim diameters from 15 to 32 cm.

This considerable morphological diversity suggests the vessels served a range of functions and reflect varied technological influences.

3.5.8. Wheel-thrown vessels

In addition to the main categories, the assemblage includes several unique or hybrid wheel-thrown forms. Most notable are two large, **three-handled bowls**, each pointing to distinct cultural connections.

The Nagornoe Bowl (SMC Connection): A large, reddish bowl from **Nagornoe (T9G1, Fig. 109/23)** has a conical silhouette that corresponds closely to vessels from the **Sântana de Mureș–Chernyakhov (SMC) culture**. This suggests interaction with communities to the north and west.

The Blijnii Hutor Bowl (Carpic Import): A highly decorated grey bowl from **Blijnii Hutor (T1G1, Fig. 29/6)** is a particularly significant find. Its biconical body, inward-bent rim, and distinctive incised **"spruce-tree-like" motifs** have no direct parallels in the Sarmatian ceramic repertoire. Instead, they find close analogies in vessels from the **Carpic cemetery at Poienești** and other sites in Romanian Moldova. This vessel is therefore identified as a major **Carpic import**, securely dated by its parallels to the **second half of the 2nd to the first half of the 3rd centuries AD**. The complex origins of the three-handled form itself, which may have Przeworsk or other influences, underscore the dynamic cultural interactions occurring in the region.

Other minor forms in the corpus include two vessels with a hybrid bowl/pot shape from **Divizia (T2G1, Fig. 71/7)** and **Orlovka-Kartal (G1, Fig. 121/8)**—the latter also featuring Carpic-style zigzag decoration.

Vessels of Roman and provincial import

The category of Roman and provincial import vessels encompasses a diverse range of artefacts that reached the Prut–Dniester region through commercial exchange, diplomatic contacts, and other forms of intercultural interaction during the Roman Imperial period. Predominantly, these imports include fine tableware such as Terra Sigillata, characterized by its high-quality clay and distinctive red slip, as well as transport containers - amphorae - used for the large-scale distribution of wine, oil, and other goods across the Empire and the glass vessels used in tableware (domestic use) and toiletry or cosmetic vessels. Alongside these more common imports, a small number of exceptional artefacts testify to the presence of luxury items and specialised crafts within local communities. Notable examples include the metal vessel from Kotlovyna and the alabaster piece from Krinicinoe, both of which reflect the integration of exotic materials and high-status objects into the local funerary and domestic assemblages. Collectively, these finds provide valuable insights into the mechanisms of cultural transfer, economic exchange, and the selective adoption of Roman material culture in the Barbaricum.

3.5.9. Bowls (cups) and dishes

Dishes

The assemblage of imported fine ware, primarily Terra Sigillata, displays considerable morphological diversity. The vessels can be classified into several main forms:

Dishes (Plates): This is a rare form, characterized by a very low profile (3–5 cm) and a wide mouth (c. 20 cm). Examples are known from **Alcalia (T6G1, Fig. 1/13)** and **Orlovka–Kartal (Fig. 127/10)**. The form corresponds to standard Roman Imperial types, such as Suceveanu's Type XIV and Popa's *Teller (*Suceveanu 2000, pls. 18–20; Popa 2015, pp. 85–86*)*.

Type 1: Terra Sigillata Bowls with Straight Rims

This category consists of high-quality Terra Sigillata bowls made from fine red clay with a characteristic brick-red, metallic slip. They are defined by a straight, slightly inclined rim and a conical body. Several variations exist: The most significant example is a bowl from Nagornoe (T12G2, Fig. 110/7) - type 1a - which bears a *planta pedis* (foot-shaped) stamp, a maker's mark frequently encountered in the 2nd–3rd centuries AD. Other examples with a simple conical body and ring base have been found at Alcalia (T26G1, Fig. 7/5) and Divizia (T8G1, Fig. 75/9) - type 1b; these correspond to Form 1 in Popa's *Schalen* classification (Popa 2015, pp. 85–86).

A more elaborate variant from Kotlovyna (T2G2, Fig. 101/14) - type 1c - features a tall neck and is decorated with a stamped vegetal motif, a style associated with Lower Danubian production centers of the 2nd century AD. A final variant with a bi-truncated conical body is seen at Feștelița (T3G1, Fig. 82/5) - type 1d - and corresponds to Type XXII in Suceveanu's typology (Suceveanu 2000).

Type 2: Bowls with a Strongly Incurved Rim

This is a numerous and highly characteristic category, defined by a rim that curves sharply inward over a spherical or conical body. The base is typically ring-shaped. It is a common form in the assemblage, documented at over ten sites: Alcalia (Shirokoe) T28G1 (Fig. 8/6), T29G1 (Fig. 7/8); Bădragii Noi (military necropolis) G7 (Fig. 20/6); Balabanu I T10G1 (Fig. 26/4); Feștelița T1G3 (Fig. 81/5), T6G1 (Fig. 85/4); Hagider II (Jaroslavka) T7G1 (Fig. 87/4), T11G1 (Fig. 89/10); Petrești G10 (Fig. 139/6), G25 (Fig. 147/1); Vasilivca T24G1 (Fig. 201/15, Fig. 201/5); Ogorodnoe II T4G1 (Fig. 118/3). This type corresponds to Forms 2 and 3 in Popa's *Schalen* classification, which are differentiated by rim thickness (Popa 2015, p. 86).

Type 3: Conical Bowls with a High Rim

Among the most common types of fine tableware are bowls with conical bodies and high rims, found at sites such as **Chirileni (T2G5, Fig. 45/4)** and **Petrești (G1, Fig. 133/10)**. These vessels derive from Italic prototypes and are well-represented in the Eastern Sigillata repertoire of the Early and Middle Imperial periods, dating to the first centuries AD ((Žuravlev 1997, Form 8). Variations in rim shape are noted, such as the examples from Chirileni T2G5 (Fig. 45/4), Duruitoarea Nouă II T5G2 (Fig. 80/2), Mălcăuți (Fig. 105/60), Obileni T5G2 (Fig. 113/2), Petrești G1 (Fig. 133/10). In Al. Popa's typology, the Opaci bowl belongs to Type 4, while in Suceveanu's classification it is Type XX.6 (Popa 2015, pp. 75–76; Suceveanu 2000). The Petrești specimen corresponds to Type XVII (Suceveanu 2000).

Type 4: Hemispherical Bowls

This category includes small hemispherical bowls, typically fitted with a ring base. The main variant has plain walls, as seen at **Olănești (T16G1, Fig. 120/1)**, while a rarer version features a decorative wall band, found at **Kalanceak (T1G3, Fig. 99/10)** - type 4a. These forms are characteristic of the **late 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD** in the North Pontic and Lower Danubian regions.

In Crimea, such bowls mainly originate from well-dated contexts of the late 2nd century AD (Trufanov 2010, pp. 154, 292–294, fig. 14,1,13). In the Lower Danube Plain, their use probably extends into the early 3rd century AD (Suceveanu 2000, pp. 62–69, pls. 23–26).

Other variations on the hemispherical form include a vessel with a short, outward-opening rim from **Dzinilor (T5G1, Fig. 12/1) -** type 4b, corresponding to Popilian's Type LXVII (Popilian 1976, p. 123), and a bowl with a plain, flaring rim from **Feștelița (T3G1, Fig. 82/4) -** type 4a, which matches Suceveanu's Type II (Suceveanu 2000, p. 12).

In addition, there are fragments from Balabanu I T7G2, Cîrnățeni T3G1, and Mereni.

3.5.10. Jugs, pitchers and other pots

Imported jugs are a diverse category of Roman and provincial pottery, classified here into five main types based on wall treatment, number of handles, and neck form.

Type 1: Single-handled jugs with smooth walls

This category comprises 13 small Terra Sigillata jugs. They are characterized by a single handle, a flaring rim, an indistinct neck, and a low ring base. Examples have been found at numerous sites, including Bocani G18 (Fig. 37/6), Pașcani (Fig. 128/8), Vasilivca T14G5 (Fig. 196/21), Vasilivca T20G1 (Fig. 199/8), Vasilivca T14G1 (Fig. 195/11), Holmskoe G13 (Fig. 94/9), Holmskoe G22 (Fig. 97/18), Cuconeștii Vechi II G33 (Fig. 65/12), Cuconeștii Vechi II G35 (Fig. 66/5), Bocani G10 (Fig. 34/6), Hagider II T8G1 (Fig. 88/4), Hagider II T9G1 (Fig. 89/5), Selište G77 (Fig. 165/21).

This form is a well-known North Pontic type of the 1st–3rd centuries AD, classified as Type 15M by Knipovich, Type XXXII by Suceveanu, and Form 1 (*Glattwandige Becher*) by Popa (Knipovich 1952, 301–305; Suceveanu 2000, 99; Popa 2016, 79–80). The example from Selište G77 is noted for its similarities to vessels from the "Free Dacian" environment.

Type 2: Single-handled jugs with ribbed wallsThis group consists of five small Terra Sigillata jugs, distinguished from Type 1 by their horizontally ribbed or corrugated walls. Key examples were found at Trinca G1 (Fig. 185/1), Cuconeștii Vechi I G5 (Fig. 54/9), Taraclia Gaidabul G2 (Fig. 178/3), Drochia (Fig. 79/2), Kotlovyna T2G2 (Fig. 101/12–12a).

This ribbed type has numerous parallels in Roman Dacia and the Eastern Mediterranean. It corresponds to Popilian's Type VII and Suceveanu's Type XXXIII, with a consistent dating to

the **2nd and first half of the 3rd centuries AD**. Popa classifies it as Form 2 (*Einhenkelbecher mit horizontal kannelierter Wandung*) (Popilian 1976, pp. 90, 106–107; pls. XXXVII, IV, LVI, LVII; Suceveanu 2000, pp. 107–113; Popa 2016, pp. 80–81).

Type 3: Two-handled hugs with smooth walls

This type includes small, globular jugs with two handles. The main group consists of five standard vessels found at sites like Bocani G4 (Fig. 31/14), Bocani G5 (Fig. 31/14), Bocani G13 (Fig. 35/11), Bocani G15 (Fig. 36/7), Nagornoe T9G1 (Fig. 109/20), with parallels from Tanais and Ilurata dating from the 1st to the early 3rd centuries AD (Kublanov 1972, p. 130, fig. 33/5; Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, pp. 44–48).

Three other morphologically distinct jugs from **Goteşti (G1, Fig. 86/14)**, **Alcalia (T32G1, Fig. 9/5)**, and **Negureni (T1G1, Fig. 111/4)** are also included in this category. These have parallels in Moesia Inferior and are considered local provincial products, likely derived from Hellenistic prototypes and dating to the first half of the 3rd century AD. Popa assigns them to Form 4 (*Doppelhenkelbecher*) (Popa 2015, pp. 81–82).

Type 4: **Narrow-necked jugs**

This form is defined by a long, tubular neck and a piriform or spherical body. The assemblage includes three specimens: Kotlovyna T2G2 (Fig. 101/9), Cuconeștii Vechi II G38 (Fig. 67/3), and Bălțata G1 (Fig. 28/11) and possibly Cuconeștii Vechi II G39. The jugs are grouped here based on this shared characteristic. This vessel type, classified under Popa's *Henkelkrüge* group, represents a synthesis of eastern and western Roman influences and is broadly dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD (Popa 2015, pp. 81–82).

Type 5: **Jugs with large neck**

This final category is a broader group of larger jugs or pitchers, characterized by a tall, wide, and often cylindrical neck. The forms within this group are varied, including examples from Alcalia T28G1 (Fig. 8/10), Izvoare (Fig. 99/7) (after Popa, Form 2), Bădragii Noi, T2G1 (Fig. 24/2) (after Popa, Form 3), Chirileni, T2G2 (Fig. 44/4) (after Popa, Form 5), Șcerbaca (Văratic), T2G5 (Fig. 165/2) (after Popa, Form 2), Floriţoaia Nouă (Fig. 86/8), and probably Cazaclia T1G3 (Fig. 41/7) – the upper part of a red-glazed jug - with a single handle.

Some specimens, like the one from **Floriţoaia Nouă (Fig. 86/8)**, have parallels in the Lower Don region dating to the 1st century AD, while others are classified by Popa into various types

within his *Henkelkrüge* group. Unclassifiable fragments from other sites confirm the presence of additional imported jugs (Popa 2015, pp. 81–85).

3.5.11. Other provincial roman imports

Beyond the more common ceramic forms, a number of unique or rare imported vessels highlight the diverse range of Roman goods reaching the region and their integration into Sarmatian funerary customs.

Toiletry vessels (Unguentaria): Vessels for holding perfumes and oils are represented by two finds. A ceramic unguentarium with a pear-shaped body from Bădragii Noi (T3G6, Fig. 25/7) is a typical form imported from the Lower Danubian provinces. A more distinct terracotta vessel with a ribbed surface from Krinicinoe (G10, Fig. 105/63), also likely an unguentarium, is dated by its manufacturing technique to the early 3rd century AD.

Drinking and Tableware: Several unique cups and serving vessels are also present. These include a red-slipped cup with a horizontal handle from Feștelița (T3G1, Fig. 82/8), for which no direct parallels are known, and a grey-clay tulip-shaped cup from Nagornoe (T9G1, Fig. 109/16), with parallels dating to the 3rd century AD. A ceramic oinochoe (wine jug) with horizontal ribbing from Kotlovyna (T2G2, Fig. 101/10) finds its closest analogies in vessels from Roman Dacia (Oltenia) dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

A high-status bronze jug (*Blechkanne*): The most significant find in this category is a bronze jug from Kotlovyna (T2G2, Fig. 101/13). This vessel belongs to the Blechkanne type, a form of metal jug produced in various Roman provinces. According to Raev's typology, the Kotlovyna vessel is part of the "Straldzha" group, which was manufactured in the Balkan provinces (Pannonia, Thrace, Moesia). These jugs are common prestige items in rich Sarmatian graves across Eastern Europe and are dated from the 1st to the 3rd centuries AD. The crudely attached iron handle on the Kotlovyna specimen is particularly telling, as it suggests the vessel was a valued object that saw prolonged use and was eventually repaired by its Sarmatian owners, confirming its high status.

3.5.12. Amphorae

Amphorae, the specialized ceramic containers for maritime and riverine trade, are a substantial component of the Late Sarmatian material culture in the East Carpathian region. Contrary to

earlier assessments suggesting their rarity, this study has documented at least **eighty distinct examples** (both complete vessels and fragments), indicating significant and sustained commercial contact with the Greco-Roman world. The classification of these vessels primarily follows the seminal typologies developed by **D. B. Shelov** and refined by **S. J. Vnukov**.

The most frequently encountered form is **Shelov Type C** (Vnukov C-IVC). This type is characterized by a light sandy paste, a tall narrow neck with a flaring rim, an ovoid body, and sharply angled strap handles. Chemical analyses point to a production center at Heraclea Pontica, and they are presumed to have transported wine. This type is a strong chronological marker for the period c. 125–250 AD. It is well-documented throughout the Prut and Dniester valleys, with key finds from sites such as Bădragii Noi (Fig. 13), Pervomaisc (with stamps, Fig. 130-131), Holmskoe (stamped, Fig. 97), and Olănești (Fig. 120/7), supporting the model of riverine trade routes from Pontic centers (Grosu 1995, Popa 2015).

A later form, **Shelov Type D** (Vnukov C-IVD), also appears in the region. These are smaller wine amphorae with a short ovoid body and horizontal grooves, dating to the mid-third century AD. Though less common, they are represented by important finds at Orlovka-Kartal G323, (Fig. 122/1) and Ursoaia T4G1, (Fig. 190/16–17), the latter bearing a stamp.

A distinct regional type is the **Opaiț "table pitcher",** a biconical, single-handled vessel of about 9 liters. While associated with "Free Dacian" sites along the Siret, it also appears in Sarmatian contexts, such as at Orlovka-Kartal G537, (Fig. 127/9) and Kotlovyna G1, (Fig. 100/3). Its Pontic manufacture and dating to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD highlight the complex interaction between different cultural groups in the region through the wine trade.

The assemblage is completed by several fewer common types and numerous unclassified fragments. These include funnel-necked amphorae with a white slip, found at sites like Alcalia ritual pit, (Fig. 4/9) and Orlovka-Kartal (Fig. 127/8–9). Furthermore, a great number of unillustrated fragments of light-paste amphorae, likely belonging to **Shelov Types C or D**, have been reported from a wide range of other sites, including Balabanu, and Cazaclia. The sheer quantity of these fragmentary finds reinforces the conclusion that Roman-style transport vessels were in widespread circulation. Another type of amphora – discovered at Orlovka-Kartal G298 (123/7) – is a **Late Roman Amphorae 2**, which was used for transporting olive oil (Grumeza, Honcu, Munteanu 2022, p. 44).

In sum, Shelov Type C amphorae are the dominant transport vessels in the Prut–Dniester interfluve during the second and third centuries A.D., especially among nomadic Sarmatian groups. Their likely Pontic origin and riverine distribution along the Siret, Prut and Dniester underscore the efficiency of waterborne trade. The significant presence of Shelov Type C and other forms (Shelov D, Opaiț table pitchers or Late Roman Amphorae 2) demonstrates the vibrant economic exchanges that existed between the Roman world and its "barbarian" periphery in the later imperial period.

Glass vessels

Within the funerary inventory of Late Sarmatian graves, glass vessels are significantly more frequently encountered than in the preceding, Middle Sarmatian period. These items, originating primarily from regions under Roman influence, reflect not only commercial exchange and cultural contact but also possibly a degree of social prestige. The discovered glass objects can be classified into two major functional categories: tableware (domestic use) and toiletry or cosmetic vessels. The first category includes drinking glasses, cups, flasks, and similar items, while the second is represented by unguentaria and aryballoi. In total, approximately 25 funerary complexes containing glass vessels have been documented so far.

3.5.13. Drinking vessels: glasses, cups, and phialae

The majority of imported glass vessels were intended for drinking and ritual use. They can be classified into several distinct forms:

- **Cylindrical and biconical glasses:** Simple drinking glasses are represented by a cylindrical vessel with an engraved band from Semionovka T3G1, (Fig. 166/6) and a biconical cup from Feștelița T3G1, (Fig. 82/6). These are common Roman types, broadly dated to the 1st–3rd centuries AD and classified under systems like Sorokina's Type 2 (Sorokina 1965, 204–205).
- **Hemispherical cups:** A more elegant form is the hemispherical cup of colorless glass with a flaring rim and ring base, found in 3rd-century AD contexts at Nagornoe T1G2, T9G1, (Fig. 108/9-109) and Hagider II T7G1, (Fig. 87/8). This popular and widely distributed vessel corresponds to Isings' Form 44 and Sorokina's Types G9-11, with a long history of use from the mid-1st to the 3rd centuries AD (Isings 1957, 59; Sorokina 1965, 226).

- **Phialae (ritual bowls):** Shallow ritual bowls are represented by the "Cologne-type phiale" from Semionovka T3G1, (Fig. 166/7), a form corresponding to Eggers' Type 216 and dated to the 2nd–4th centuries AD. Though produced in the western Roman provinces, these vessels are frequently found in the North Pontic region. Another nearly spherical phiale from Turlaki T16G1, (Fig. 189/8) corresponds to Eggers' Types 212-213 and is dated to c. 170–290 AD (Eggers 1951, 178).
- **Decorated luxury cups:** Several finds stand out as high-status luxury items due to their complex decoration. **Applied relief decoration:** A cup fragment from Nagornoe T12G2, (Fig. 110/11) features applied relief decoration. This vessel belongs to a series (Eggers 188b, Isings 33) produced in northern Italy from the Claudian period to the early 2nd century AD, though its use may have extended into the 3rd century. **Spiral relief decoration:** A spheroidal vessel from Suvorovo T3G2, (Fig. 173/4) is decorated with spiral relief bands (Eggers Type 189). This type, also found in Wielbark culture contexts, is characteristic of the 2nd–3rd centuries AD. **Engraved decoration:** Fragments of a cup and a phiale from Cioburciu T1G1, (Fig. 40/11) are made of high-quality transparent glass with complex engraved bands and ground circles. Chemical analysis confirms their status as luxury imports of the second half of the 2nd century AD.

3.5.14. **Flasks for storage and transport**

Two large glass flasks were recovered from a single grave at Pervomaisc T1G1. The first is a tall (26.7 cm) rectangular, mold-blown flask with a handle and decorated base (Fig. 130/3). This common Roman form (Isings 50b, Eggers 244) was widely used for transporting liquids during the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. The second is a smaller, globular flask with a cylindrical neck (Fig. 130/4). It corresponds to Isings' Type 14 and is characteristic of the second half of the 1st and the 2nd centuries AD. The presence of a Shelov Type C amphora in the same grave securely dates the context to the second half of the 2nd century AD.

3.5.15. Unidentified glass fragments

Finally, a significant number of finds consist of small, unidentifiable fragments of high-quality colorless glass, often decorated with colored trails. These have been recovered from over a dozen sites, including Petrești T2G2 (Fig. 155/10), Cioburciu T1G1 (2000) (Fig. 40/11) and T2G1, Cîrnățeni T3G1 (Fig. 51/24), Nagornoe T1G1, Olănești T1G1, Polevoe T6G1 (Fig.

158/17), Cazaclia T1G3, Feștelița T4G1 (Fig. 83/6–11) and T3G1, Obileni T5G2 (Fig. 113/12), Turlaki T10G1 (Fig. 188/4, 9, 10, 13) and T17G1 (Fig. 189/9–10), and Bădragii Noi T3G2 (Fig. 24/11). While their original shapes cannot be reconstructed, the sheer quantity and wide distribution of these fragments confirm that imported Roman glass was a common and valued component of Late Sarmatian material culture, accessible to a broader range of communities than the complete luxury vessels might suggest.

3.5.16. Cosmetic and ritual glass vessels

A distinct category of glass vessels, used for storing ointments, perfumes, and oils, is attested in several Late Sarmatian graves. These containers likely held substances that played a role in funerary rituals, explaining their inclusion as grave goods. The assemblage consists of two main functional types: **unguentaria** (perfume bottles) and **aryballoi** (oil flasks).

Unguentaria (Perfume Bottles) The most complete example is the unguentarium from Primorsk T1G53 (Fig. 160/8), a greenish glass vessel with a conical body and flared rim. This form (Isings 82b2) was produced in the eastern Roman provinces and is characteristic of the 2nd–3rd centuries AD. Another significant find is a fragment from Alcalia T6G1 (Fig. 2/3), which belongs to a bell-shaped type with a possible Pannonian origin.

Other fragmentary unguentaria are dated by their rich grave contexts. The finds from Cîrnățeni T3G1 (Fig. 51/24) and Negureni G1 (Fig. 111/7) are placed in the second half of the 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD based on associated amphorae, fibulae, and mirrors, while the Chirileni T2G16 (Fig. 46/8) fragment is tentatively dated to the 2nd century AD.

Aryballoi (Oil Flasks) Two aryballoi, flasks used for storing perfumed oils, have also been recovered. A particularly noteworthy vessel is the one from Bocani G10 (Fig. 34/5). Often called a *Delphiniumflasche* due to its dolphin-shaped handles, this type was produced from the late 1st to the 4th century AD. The Bocani grave is securely dated by an associated fibula to the second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD.

A second aryballos was recovered from Petrești (G25, Fig. 146/13). It is made of clear glass with a rounded body and triangular handles. The grave context, which included a buckle, dates the vessel to the mid- or late 2nd century AD.

3.6 Coinage

Numismatic finds are rare in Sarmatian graves and are generally considered a practice adopted under Roman influence, appearing from the late 2nd century AD onwards. It is important to distinguish between coins repurposed as decoration - such as the perforated denarius-pendant from Cîrnățeni - and those deposited as currency or ritual objects. This section focuses on a significant hoard of five unperforated Roman denarii discovered in grave G537 at Orlovka-Kartal.

The hoard from Orlovka-Kartal G537 consists of five silver denarii that span a period of over two centuries. The coins provide a secure *terminus post quem* of 192 AD for the burial. The issues are as follows:

Orlovka-Kartal G537	Roman denarius (Antoninus Pius, post-146 AD)	Silver (900^{O})
Orlovka-Kartal G537	Roman denarius (Commodus, 192 AD)	Silver (600^{O})
Orlovka-Kartal G537	Roman denarius (Commodus, 192 AD)	Silver (900^{O})
Orlovka-Kartal G537	Roman denarius (Nerva, 97 AD)	Silver (900^{O})
Orlovka-Kartal G537	Roman denarius (Vespasian, 70-71 AD)	Silver (900^{O})

- **Roman Republic. Mark Antony. Denarius, 32–31 BC.** Silver (900‰), 3.24 g, 17.8 mm. *Obverse:* ANT•AVG• above a galley; [III•VIR•R•P•C] below. *Reverse:* LEG•III - a legionary eagle between two standards.
- **Roman Empire. Vespasian (AD 69–79). Denarius, AD 70–71.** Silver (900‰), 3.15 g, 15.3 × 18.1 mm. *Obverse:* [IMP C]AES VES - P AVG R M. *Reverse:* TRI – POT – Vesta seated, holding a simpulum.
- **Roman Empire. Nerva (AD 96–98). Denarius, AD 97.** Silver (900‰), 3.12 g, 18.0 mm. *Obverse:* IMP NERVA CAES AVG – R M TR P COS III P P. *Reverse:* AEQVITAS AVGVST – Aequitas standing, holding scales and a cornucopia.
- **Roman Empire. Antoninus Pius. Denarius, post AD 146–161.** Silver (900‰), 2.97 g, 18.0 mm. *Obverse:* DIVA FAVSTINA. *Reverse:* AETERNITAS – Aeternitas (or Providentia), with a veil billowing around her head, holding a globe.
- **Roman Empire. Commodus. Denarius, AD 192.** Silver (600‰), 2.37 g, 17.3 mm. *Obverse:* L AEL AVREL COMM AVG P FEL. *Reverse:* P M TR P XVII IMP VIII COS VII P P – Winged Victory advancing left, holding a palm branch and a wreath.

The deposition of coins in Sarmatian graves, while rare, is a symbolically charged act. Parallels from Crimean cemeteries show a similar practice, where coins are found in a minority of graves but with men, women, and children alike. Two main interpretations explain their presence:

- **Ritual Function ("Charon's Obol"):** The primary interpretation for unperforated coins in graves is their function as a symbolic payment for passage into the afterlife, an adaptation of the Greco-Roman "Charon's obol." The adoption of this custom by some Sarmatian groups during the 2nd–3rd centuries AD reflects deep cultural interaction with the Roman world.
- **Social Function and Origins:** Beyond ritual, these coins also likely functioned as indicators of **social status**, as they are often found in rich burials in analogous regions like Crimea and Banat. The coins themselves could have entered the *Barbaricum* through various means - military stipends, diplomatic gifts, or raiding—although the absence of weapons in the Orlovka-Kartal grave makes a direct military connection less likely in this specific case.

Ultimately, the inclusion of Roman coinage in the funerary inventory demonstrates that certain Sarmatian communities were not only integrated into the Roman economic sphere but were also actively adopting and reinterpreting Roman ritual practices to express their own beliefs about the afterlife and social hierarchy.

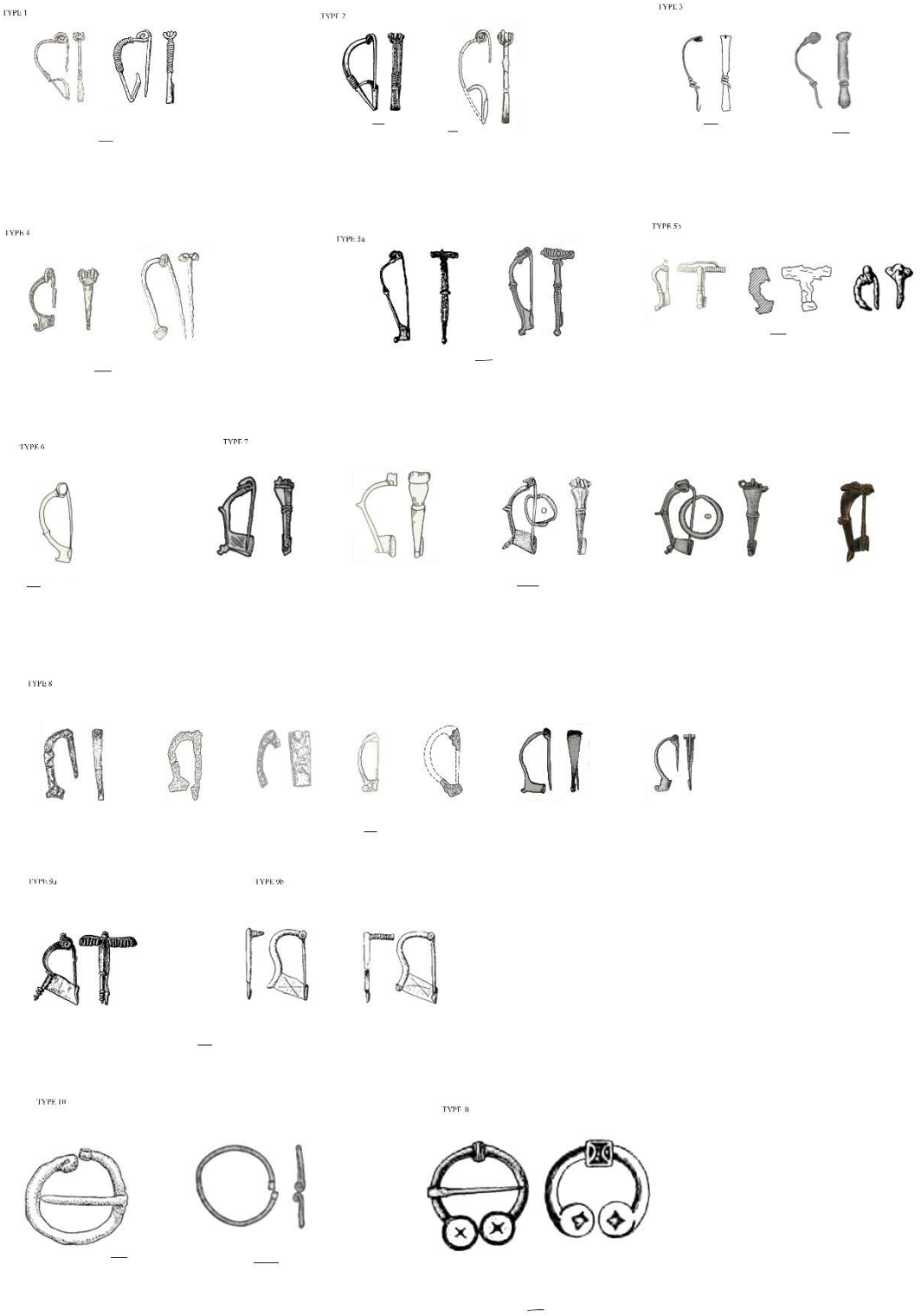


Fig. 1. Typology of Fibulae

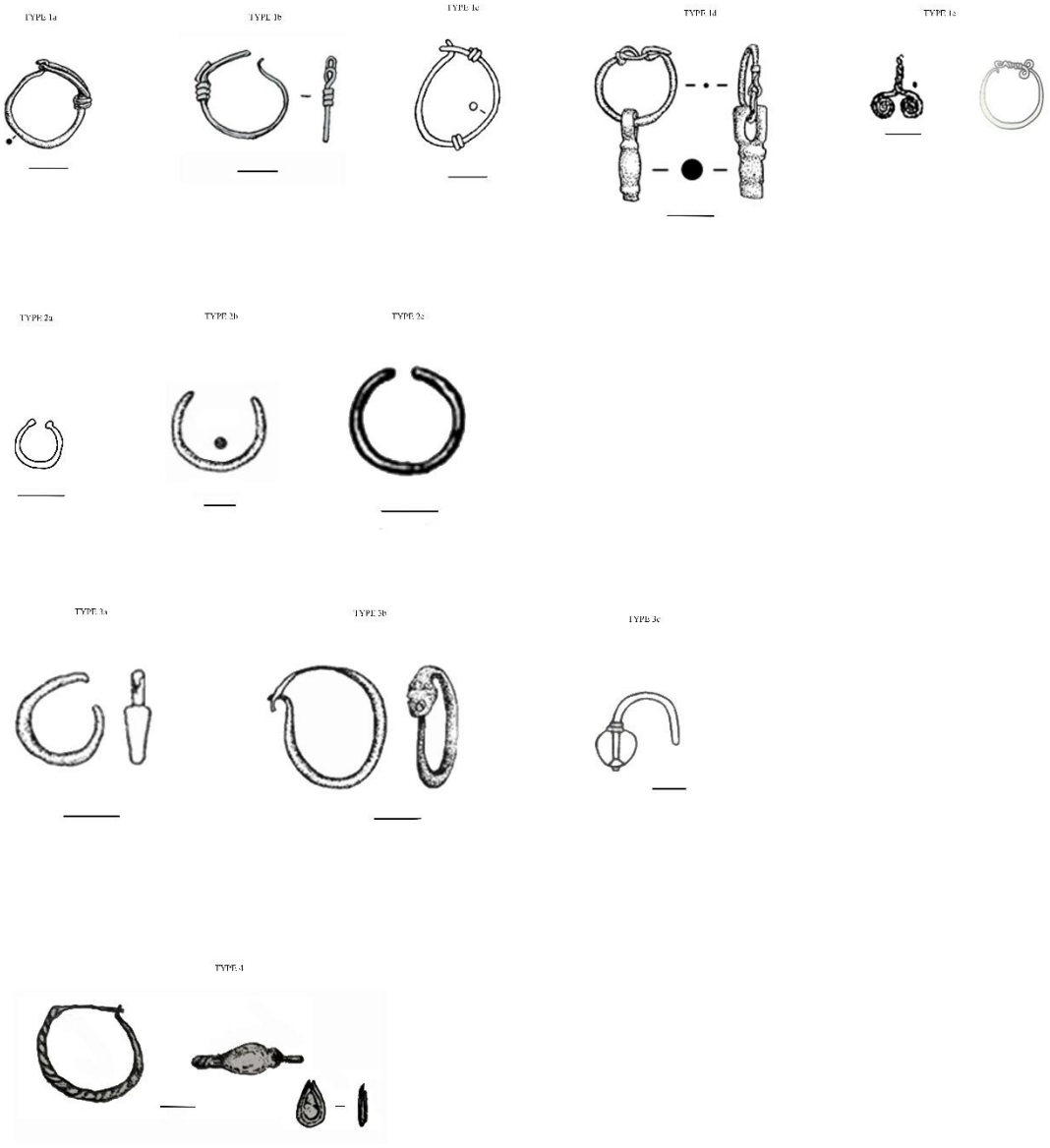


Fig. 2. Typology of Earrings

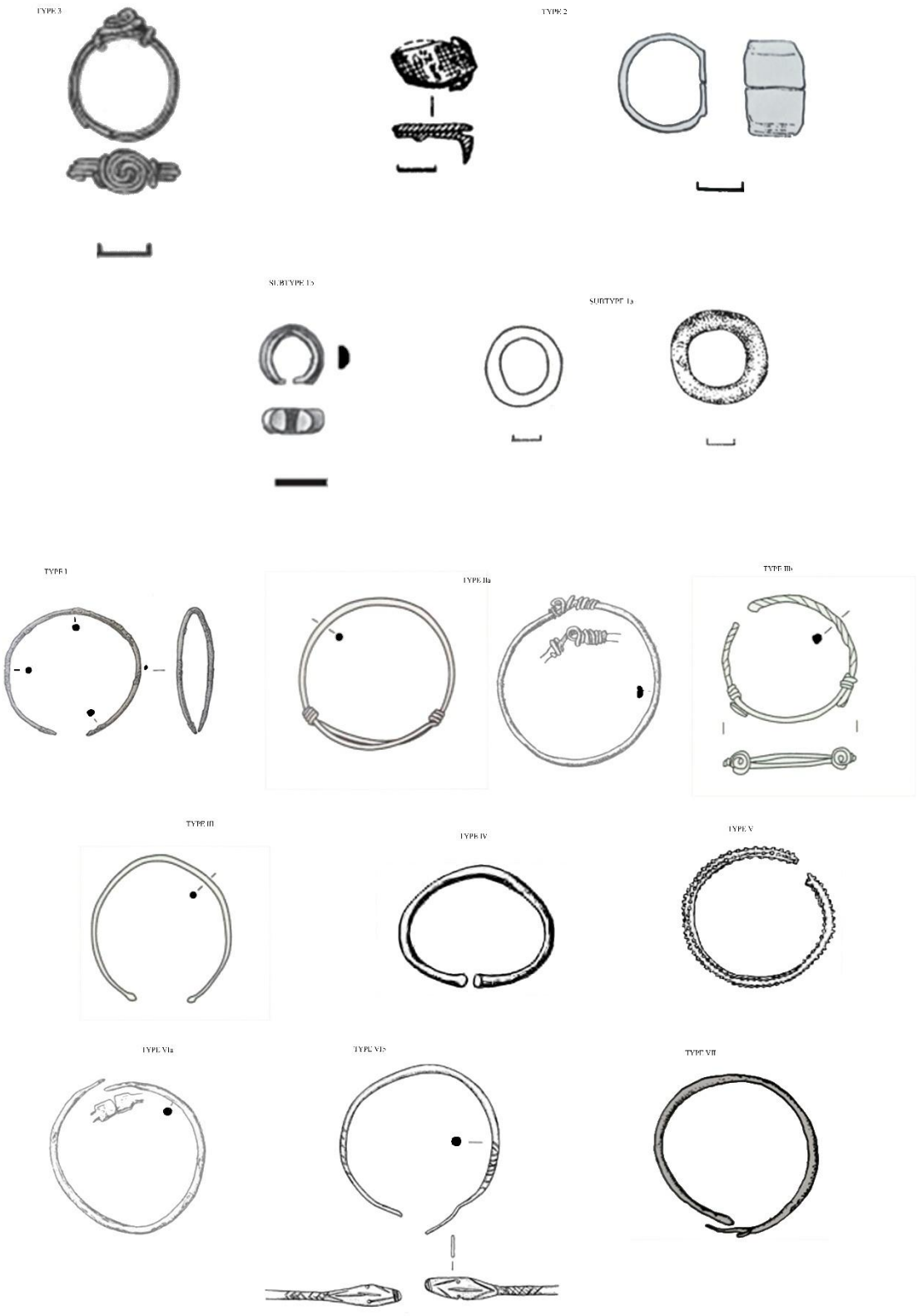


Fig. 3. Typology of Rings and Bracelets

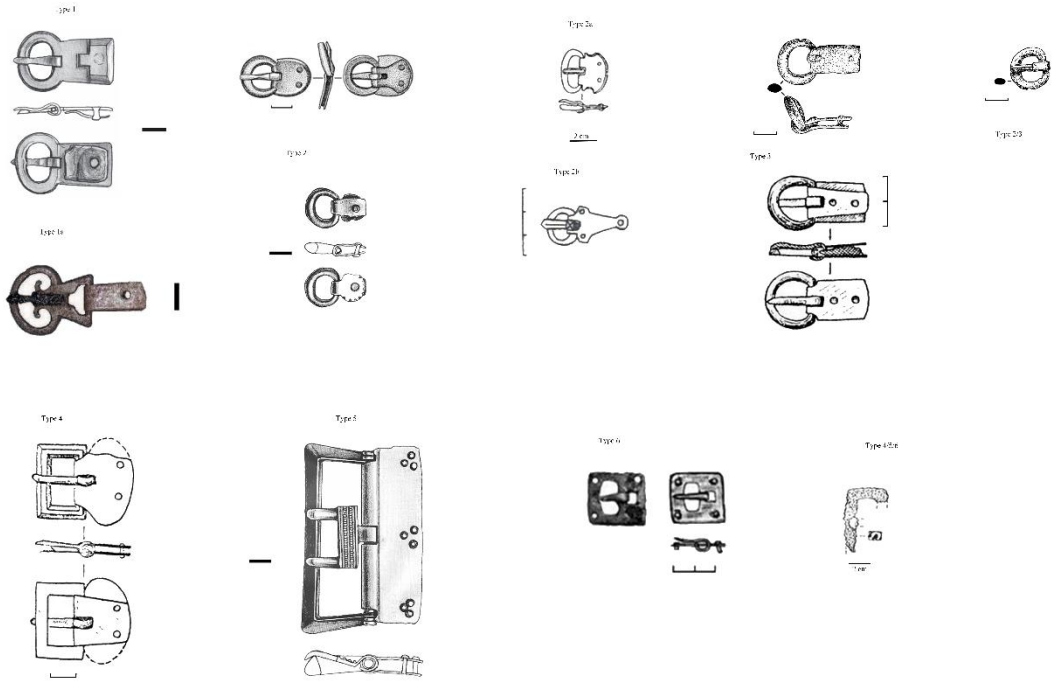
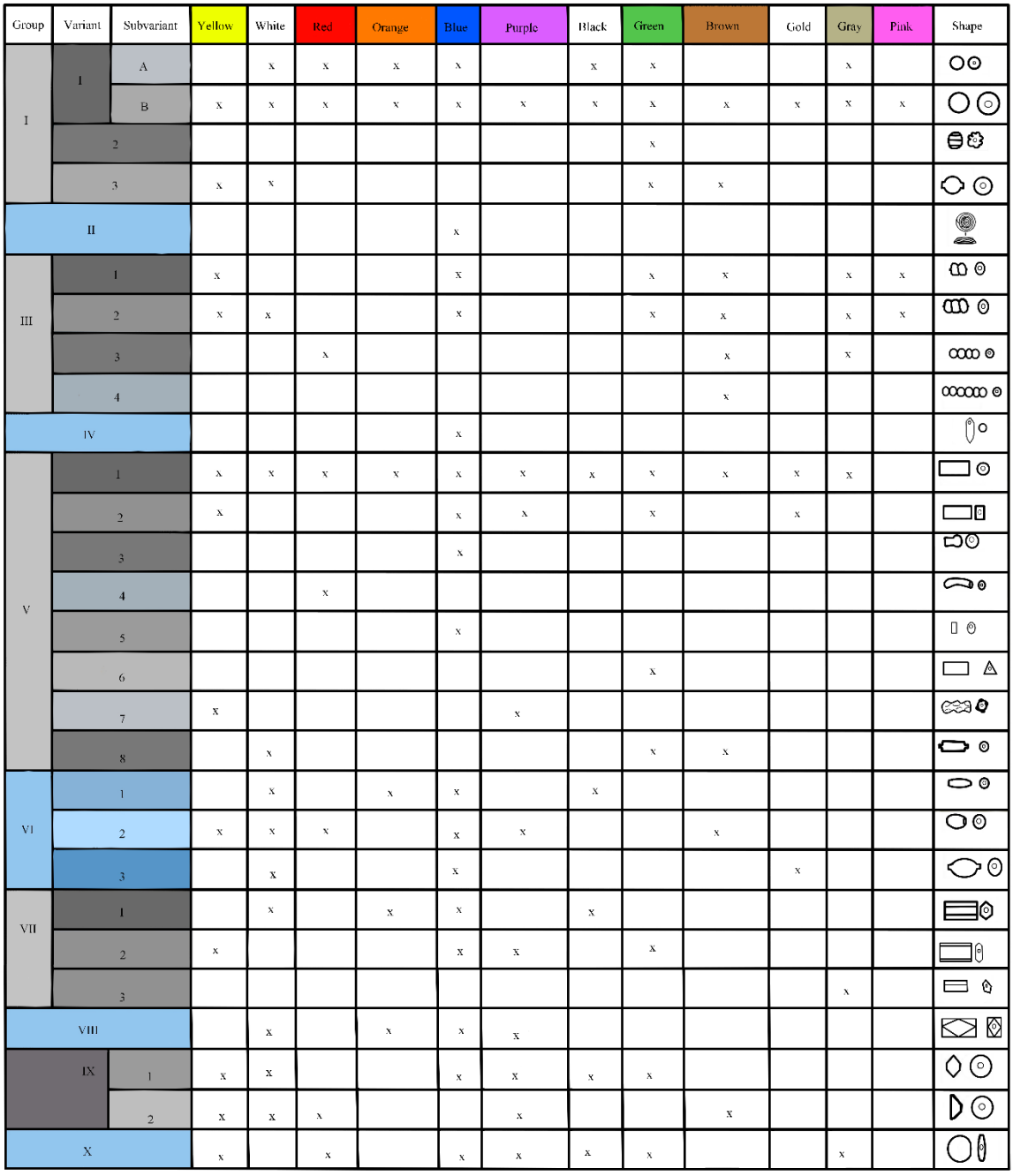


Fig. 4. Typology of Buckets



Group	Variant	Subvariant	Yellow	White	Red	Orange	Blue	Purple	Black	Green	Brown	Gold	Gray	Pink	Shape
I	I	A		x	x	x	x		x	x			x		
		B	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	2									x					
	3		x	x						x	x				
II							x								
III	1		x				x			x	x		x	x	
	2		x	x			x			x	x		x	x	
	3				x						x		x		
	4										x				
IV							x								
V	1		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	2		x				x	x		x		x			
	3						x								
	4				x										
	5						x								
	6									x					
	7		x					x							
	8			x						x	x				
VI	1			x		x	x		x						
	2		x	x	x		x	x			x				
	3			x			x					x			
VII	1			x		x	x		x						
	2		x				x	x		x					
	3												x		
VIII				x		x	x	x							
IX	1		x	x			x	x	x	x					
	2		x	x	x			x			x				
X			x		x		x	x	x	x			x		

Fig. 5. Typology of Glass and Egyptian Faience Beads

IV. Chronology of Sarmatian Culture

This section highlights a significant issue in Sarmatian archaeology: the frequent conflation of the **terms** 'culture', 'stage', and 'period' in the literature. Scholars note that, despite the complexities of defining an archaeological culture, researchers often designate distinct chronological phases as separate 'cultures' within the Sarmatian framework. This problem, as mentioned in the introduction, underscores the need for a clear chronological framework.

The chronological development of Sarmatian culture in the Prut-Dniester interfluve differs markedly from other regions. At first, only a few early assemblages were documented, often as isolated finds or treasure hoards. Periodization of Sarmatian culture in the North Pontic has been debated (Grosu 1990; Dzigovskij 1993, 2013; Symonenko 2004). In this study, I adopt a framework reflecting local chronology in the Prut-Dniester. That is divided into three main phases: **Early Sarmatian** (late 1st cent. BC – mid-1st cent. AD), **Middle Sarmatian** (mid-1st - mid-2nd cent. AD), and **Late Sarmatian** (mid-2nd – 4th cent. AD). The Late Sarmatian phase is further subdivided into early and late sub-phases to refine the chronology. This thesis specifically focuses on the earliest sub-phase of the Late Sarmatian.

This early Late Sarmatian sub-phase is characterized by several converging indicators. There is a notable shift in burial practices: flat cemeteries (e.g. Petrești, Alijaga, Floriţoaia Nouă etc.) become much more common, representing a large proportion of burials. In contrast, the preceding Middle Sarmatian phase had fewer graves and smaller necropolises (e.g. Medeleni, Ostrovec, Șalvirii Noi–Palanca). The number of primary burial mounds (tumuli) also increases, as seen at Cuconeștii Vechi I–II, Vasilivca, Holmskoe etc. Ritual ditches of various shapes, while present earlier, become dominant features in this phase. Finally, the practice of artificial cranial deformation first appears in the region during this time (see the Rites and rituals chapter). In summary, these features converge to define the phase and must be examined to understand the Sarmatian Barbaricum in the Roman era.

4.1 Chronology and periodization of graves

Our goal is to refine the chronology of the early Late Sarmatian phase (150–250 AD). Previous studies (Grosu 1995; Bârcă, Symonenko 2009; Symonenko 2011) addressed this period in broad strokes without resolving its internal subdivisions**.** I aim to identify these finer chronological phases within the period. I used the Past software (v.4.17) for seriation analysis

of the assemblages. Each artifact type was included only if it appeared in at least two graves and co-occurred with at least one other type, ensuring meaningful combinatorial relationships.

Of 454 examined graves, only 114 (≈25%) had sufficient artifact diversity to be included in the seriation. I used 69 typological categories for these 114 graves (Diagram 1); the other graves were excluded for having too few items. I then applied Past to these 114 graves, producing the combinatorial diagram shown in Diagram 1.

The artifact categories spanned:

- Belt fittings: type 1 (fig. 1/61), type 2 (fig. 1/40), type 2a (fig. 1/65), type 2/3 (fig. 1/35), type 3 (fig. 1/37), type 4 (fig. 1/47), type 4/5/6 (fig. 1/34), type 5 (fig. 1/62); Belt tip (fig. 1/66), Belt plates (fig. 1/71);
- Fibulae: type 1 (fig. 1/50), type 2 (fig. 1/53), type 3 (fig. 1/38), type 4 (fig. 1/22), type 5 (fig. 1/14), type 7 (fig. 1/15), type 8 (fig. 1/19), type 9 (fig. 1/41), type 10 (fig. 1/30), type 11 (fig. 1/44);
- Bracelets: type 1 (fig. 1/25), type 2a (fig. 1/10), type 2b (fig. 1/5), type 4 (fig. 1/45), type 6 (fig. 1/42), type 7 (fig. 1/63);
- Earrings: type 1a (fig. 1/13), type 1b (fig. 1/3), type 1c (fig. 1/12), type 2 (fig. 1/23, 9), type 3a (fig. 1/7), type 3b (fig. 1/32), type 4 (fig. 1/58).
- Terra Sigillata (TS) vessels:
    1. TS bowls: type 1a (fig. 1/67), type 1b (fig. 1/57a), type 1c (fig. 1/69), type 1d (fig. 1/48), type 2 (fig. 1/29), type 3 (fig. 1/2), type 4a (fig. 1/24, 64), type 4b (fig. 1/39), type 4c (fig. 1/31);
    2. TS jugs: type 1 (fig. 1/16), type 2 (fig. 1/12a), type 3 (fig. 1/18), type 4 (fig. 1/26), type 5 (fig. 1/28);
    3. Other TS: TS dish (fig. 1/27), TS cup (fig. 1/51), TS lamp (fig. 1/11);
- Amphorae: Red amphora (fig. 1/55), Shelov amphorae: type C (fig. 1/8), type D (fig. 1/72);
- Glassware: flask (fig. 1/20-21), cup (fig. 1/36, 60), glass (fig. 1/52, 68), Unguentaria (fig. 1/4);
- Other ceramic/metal vessels: Oenochoe (fig. 1/70), Bronze jug (fig. 1/56), Bowl with three handles (fig. 1/33), Arribal (fig. 1/54);

- Other findings: Pearl beads (fig. 1/59), Disc-shaped appliqué (fig. 1/49), Sword/Dagger (S/D) with simple handle (fig. 1/46), S/D with a ring-shaped handle (fig. 1/1), Flabella (fig. 1/57), Coin pendant (fig. 1/43), Mirrors: type 1 (fig. 1/6) and type 9 (fig. 1/17).

The seriation yielded three grave assemblage groups, interpreted as two main chronological phases with an intermediate transitional phase. The first phase includes 42 graves, the transitional phase 31 graves, and the second phase 41 graves (Diagram 1). The transitional graves contain a mix of artifacts from both main phases, suggesting they date to the end of phase one and beginning of phase two. Each phase has its characteristic artifact assemblage:

- **First phase:** Imported ceramics (certain Terra Sigillata dishes, jugs, lamps), fibulae (types 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10), bracelets (2a, 2b, 6, 7), earrings (1a–c, 2, 3b, 4), and personal ornaments (pearl beads, type-9 mirrors, *flabella* fans, unguentaria) dominate.
- **Transitional phase:** Introduces additional ceramics (e.g. bronze jug, oenochoe, new Terra Sigillata bowls), glass vessels (flasks, cups), and jewelry (fibulae types 2, 5, 11; earrings 3a; bracelet 4). Notable new finds include a ring-handled sword, Shelov C amphora, disc-shaped appliqué, and coin pendant.
- **Second phase:** Belt fittings become prominent (belt types 1–5 and variants, with tips/plates); more Terra Sigillata forms appear (bowls 1a–1d, 2, 4a–4c; jugs; cups); fibulae types 1, 2, 11 and bracelets 1, 4 are common. Amphorae (Shelov C, D and Red), glass cups, and typical vessels (e.g. three-handled bowls) are also frequent.

Other graves not used in the seriation can be dated by their imported items and fall into the same scheme. In sum, the Late Sarmatian phase comprises two main burial phases with one transitional phase in between, as shown by both seriation and artifact evidence.

The seriation also reveals temporal sequences of key items. For example, type-9 mirrors appear early in the sequence and then overlap with pearl beads, implying that the mirror style predates the bead adornment. Ring-handled swords emerge in phase one and persist into phase two. Items introduced in the transitional phase - such as disc appliqués and Shelov C amphorae - continue into the second phase. In the second phase, belt fittings (especially belt tips and types 2, 2/3, 3) along with simple-handled swords dominate the assemblage. These patterns suggest a chronological progression of artifact styles, lending confidence to my phase distinctions.

4.2 Absolute chronology of selected graves

To refine the absolute chronology, I consulted institutions holding osteological materials from earlier excavations and requested 14 bone samples reported by excavation authors as originating from Late Roman-period Sarmatian graves. Of these, 11 yielded dates consistent with the Sarmatian cultural horizon, but only 5 met all the necessary criteria and could be securely incorporated into this study (Figs. 2, 5)[15]. Five of these belonged to the late Sarmatian phase (from Cazaclia T1G3, Ocnița T6G12/T6G15, Taraclia Gaidabul G1, and Chirileni T3G11); here I present results for those five. My approach integrates typological dating, radiocarbon (14C) analysis, and Bayesian modeling to build a robust timeline.

The five selected samples come from secure contexts: four tumulus inhumations and one flat-grave burial, each with a homogeneous Sarmatian artifact assemblage. Collagen preservation was good: yields and atomic C:N ratios (Table 1) are within accepted ranges N:C ~3.0–3.6, (DeNiro 1985), confirming reliability of the dates. AMS radiocarbon dating yielded uncalibrated ages from 1890±30 to 1820±30 BP. Calibrated (68.3%) date ranges fall roughly between AD 124 and 267, consistent with the established Late Sarmatian timeframe (2nd–3rd c. AD).

Sample Name	**Lab No.**	**14C Age**	**Collagen (%)**	**N (%)**	**C (%)**	**Weight ratio (N:C)**	**Atomic ratio (C:N)**
Chirileni T3G11	Poz-173472	1890 ± 30 BP	4.7	2.7	8.2	0.329	3.54
Ocnița T6G12	Poz-173477	1865 ± 30 BP	16.3	3.4	9.8	0.347	3.36
Ocnița T6G15	Poz-173478	1870 ± 30 BP	14	3.8	9.8	0.387	3.01
Taraclia G1	Poz-173482	1865 ± 30 BP	3.4	3.5	9.5	0.368	3.17
Cazaclia T1G3	Poz-173483	1820 ± 30 BP	6.9	1.9	5.8	0.327	3.56

Table no 1

I applied Bayesian modeling using OxCal v4.3.2 to integrate these dates with archaeological context. This probabilistic framework refines the raw dates and identifies distinct phases. The

[15] The study of all eleven samples is scheduled for publication in the journal Radiocarbon (Batog, Michałowski, 2026).

model achieves high statistical agreement (A_model = 127.5%; A_overall = 126.5%), indicating internal consistency. The five dates group into three chronological phases:

- **Early phase:** Chirileni T3G11 (1890±30 BP) → calibrates to 124–195 AD (68.3%).
- **Core (Middle) phase:** Ocnița T6G15 (1870±30 BP), Ocnița T6G12 (1865±30 BP), and Taraclia G1 (1865±30 BP) → overlapping calibrated ranges 167–218 AD (68.3%).
- **Late phase:** Cazaclia T1G3 (1820±30 BP) → 202–250 AD (68.3%).

These phases match this seriation results: the modeled middle phase (167–218 AD) corresponds to the first seriation phase, and the modeled late phase (202–250 AD) aligns with the second seriation phase (Table 2, Figs. 3–4). All five dates pass quality criteria, and the high agreement (indices >100%) confirms the dataset's reliability.

Without modeling, the calibrated date ranges spanned 76–326 AD (95.4% range) with medians 158–231 AD. The Bayesian model narrows this significantly: the 68.3% span is 124–273 AD (149 years) and 95.4% span 124–250 AD (126 years) (Table 2). I also tested a phased model: treating the Chirileni sample alone, the three middle samples together, and Cazaclia separately. This yields a 68.3% range of 124–195 AD for the early, 167–218 AD for the core, and 202–250 AD for the late phase. The phased approach further sharpens the intervals. In all cases, the Bayesian results corroborate the seriation phases, providing a precise, self-consistent chronological framework.

These results illustrate the benefit of combining methods. Typological dating alone can leave broad gaps, whereas direct 14C dating with Bayesian modeling sharply refines phase boundaries. For example, recent work in the Rostov region (Strokov et al. 2022) showed that artifacts thought to be "late" actually date earlier when radiocarbon is applied. This study similarly shows that Sarmatian grave goods (including Roman imports like brooches and amphorae) must be dated empirically to avoid assumptions. The short calibrated ranges achieved here - beyond confirming the traditional Early/Middle/Late scheme - provide new precision on when each phase occurred.

Methodological note: Potential limitations are mitigated by the applied protocols. All bone samples retained good collagen preservation, reducing concerns regarding diagenesis, while reservoir effects are expected to be minimal given a predominantly terrestrial diet. Bayesian models necessarily rely on prior assumptions, and seriation presupposes discrete phases, which

may risk oversimplifying processes of gradual change. Nevertheless, the high-quality data and the convergence of independent methods provide confidence that these limitations do not compromise the overall conclusions.

In conclusion, the five radiocarbon determinations, when integrated with typological analysis, substantially refine the chronology of the Late Sarmatian culture in the Prut–Dniester region. Radiocarbon dating-particularly when enhanced by Bayesian modeling-proves indispensable for reducing chronological uncertainty. This interdisciplinary framework not only corroborates the established periodization but also narrows the temporal ranges and highlights transitional dynamics between phases. On this basis, it becomes possible to examine more precisely how Sarmatian funerary practices intersected with broader cultural and historical developments of the Roman era.

Name	Unmodelled (BC/AD)				Modelled (BC/AD)				Indices A_{model}=127.5 $A_{overall}$=126.5				
	from_68.3	to_68.3	from_95.4	to_95.4	from_68.3	to_68.3	from_95.4	to_95.4	A_{comb}	A	L	P	C
Model_Bayesian													
Start					110	201	-14	221					97
Early Sarmatian Phase													
Chirileni T3G11	124	205	76	231	124	195	82	215		109			99
Transition to Core					150	210	120	221					99
Core (Middle) Sarmatian Phase													
Ocnita T6G15	130	212	84	239	167	217	134	227		110			99
Ocnita T6G12	130	215	85	241	166	218	134	227		111			100
Taraclia Gaidabul G1	130	215	85	241	166	218	134	228		111			99
Transition to Late					181	232	138	244					100
Late Sarmatian Phase													
Cazaclia T1G3	205	319	130	326	202	250	151	312		114			100
End					181	273	133	399					97

Table no 2.

4.3 Chronology of Sarmatian necropolises in correlation with Roman Era

Having established the refined chronology, I correlate it with known Roman Chronology System – and major events of the time. In the late 2nd century AD, during the Marcomannic Wars and increased pressure on the Danubian frontier, Sarmatian necropolises in the Prut-Dniester region expanded and diversified. Larger and more organized cemeteries appear (e.g. Taraclia Gaidabul, Bocani, Bădragii Noi, the latter a military cemetery). Formal features like ritual ditches (Petrești, Cuconeștii Vechi, Obileni) become widespread, and Roman-provincial imports turn up more frequently in Sarmatian graves (Popa 2015). This likely reflects intensifying contact with Rome through both trade and military avenues.

Artifact assemblages from this period align with the late Antonine–Severan horizon (roughly 160–220 AD). For example, the prevalence of type-9 mirrors, pearl beads, several fibulae, earrings, and bracelets corresponds to the Central European chronological phase B2/C1a (fig. 6), (150/160-210/220 AD) (Godłowski 1970; Lund Hansen 1987). Finds of Terra Sigillata vessels, Shelov C amphorae, and Roman glass in these graves indicate active trade networks and cultural exchange on the Empire's frontier.

In the first half of the 3rd century AD (the Severan and early Crisis period), changes in funerary inventory become pronounced. I see a rise in snake-headed earrings and later-style bracelets, more Terra Sigillata and new amphora types (Shelov D, Opaiț), and distinctive items like fans (*flabella)*, datable to mid-3rd c. AD (Popa 2009). The variety and prestige of grave goods increase markedly, suggesting growing social differentiation. Many necropolises (Pașcani, Kotlovyna, Holmskoe, Divizia, etc.) date to phase C1b (fig. 6), (210/220-250/260 AD) (Godłowski 1970; Lund Hansen 1987), showing continued strong connections to North Pontic and Danubian regions. Indeed, this period's graves blend Sarmatian traditions with abundant Roman imports (late Sigillata, type-9 mirrors, fibulae 1–2, 11, Shelov D amphorae), indicating an increasingly syncretic material culture.

Comparing across sites, there is a trend toward regional synchronicity. Earlier cemeteries (Medeleni, Șalvirii Noi, Ostrovec) fall into the maximum mid-2nd century – B1. Sites like Petrești, Chirileni, Selište mark a transitional phase leading into B2/C1a. Fully developed first-phase communities (Cuconeștii Vechi I–II, Turlaki, Krinicinoe, Bocani, Florițoaia Nouă, Cioropcani, Bădragii Noi, Vasilivca, etc.) correspond to B2/C1a. Later sites (Pașcani,

Kotlovyna, Nagornoe, Holmskoe, Divizia, Ursoaia, etc.) fall into phase C1b. The steady increase in Roman imports in these burials suggests intensifying ties with the Empire's economy and military. These ties likely had both martial and commercial aspects - for instance, Sarmatians served as Roman auxiliaries, facilitating exchange, while Roman campaigns brought new dynamics to the frontier.

Multicultural influences are also evident. Recent finds at Kartal show a mix of Sarmatian, Roman, and other 'barbarian' elements, reflecting the fluid ethnic landscape of the time. In particular, cemeteries like Holmskoe, Cuconeștii Vechi I–II, Bocani, Petrești, and Vasilivca (and certain tumuli at Kotlovyna, Pașcani, etc.) serve as benchmark sites because of their rich inventories of imports and local goods.

In summary, the chronological assessment of necropolises within the Prut-Dniester region gains its full interpretive value only when viewed in relation to the eastern Roman provinces. Such a perspective highlights how the socio-cultural realities of the Empire shaped communities situated beyond the frontier (extra limes). The alignment between Sarmatian funerary phases and Roman periodization underscores the existence of sustained connectivity between these peripheral groups and the provincial world. Shifts identified in mortuary practice - such as the expansion of cemeteries, the introduction of novel ritual behaviors, or the diversification of grave inventories - most plausibly reflect broader processes, including patterns of migration, the dynamics of trade networks, and the reconfiguration of social structures. Establishing this refined chronology does not merely indicate what changed and when; it also provides the groundwork for subsequent inquiries aimed at understanding the underlying causes of such developments (e.g., alterations in trade routes, demographic movements, or transformations in social hierarchies). Ultimately, this chronological framework demonstrates that in the 2nd–3rd centuries AD, Sarmatian society was far from an isolated entity; rather, it was an active and responsive participant in the interconnected world of the Roman Middle Imperial Period.

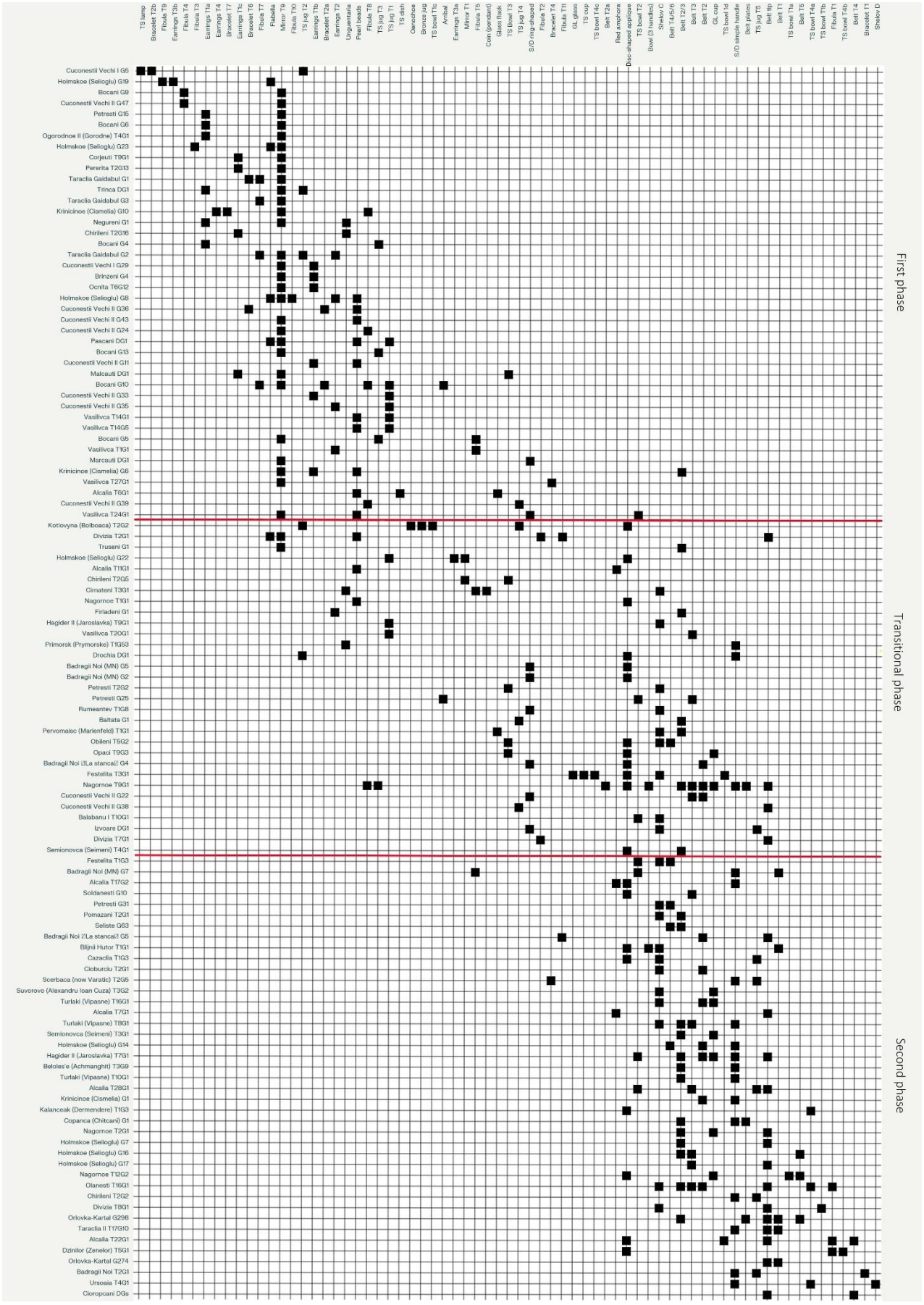

TS lamp
Bracelet T2b
Fibula T9
Earrings T3b
Fibula T4
Fibula T3
Earrings T1a
Earrings T4
Bracelet T7
Earrings T1c
Bracelet T6
Fibula T7
Fabella
Mirror T9
Fibula T10
TS jug T2
Earrings T1b
Bracelet T2a
Earrings T2
Unguentaria
Pearl beads
Fibula T8
TS jug T3
TS jug T1
TS dish
Oenochoe
Bronze jug
TS bowl T1c
Amsal
Earrings T3a
Mirror T1
Fibula T5
Coin (pendant)
Glass flask
TS Bowl T3
TS jug T4
S/D ring-shaped
Fibula T2
Bracelet T4
Fibula T11
GL glass
TS cup
TS bowl T4c
Belt T2a
Red amphora
Disc-shaped applique
TS bowl T2
Bowl (3 handles)
Shelov C
Belt T4/5/6
Belt T2/3
Belt T3
Belt T2
GL cup
TS bowl 1d
S/D simple handle
Belt plates
TS jug T5
Belt tip
Belt T1
TS bowl T1a
Belt T5
TS bowl T4a
TS bowl T1b
Fibula T1
TS bowl T4b
Belt T4
Bracelet T1
Shelov D
Cuconestii Vechi I G5
Holmskoe (Selioglu) G19
Bocani G9
Cuconestii Vechi II G47
Petresti G15
Bocani G6
Ogorodnoe II (Gorodne) T4G1
Holmskoe (Selioglu) G23
Corjeuti T9G1
Pererita T2G13
Taraclia Gaidabul G1
Trinca DG1
Taraclia Gaidabul G3
Krinicinoe (Cismelia) G10
Negureni G1
Chirileni T2G16
Bocani G4
Taraclia Gaidabul G2
Cuconestii Vechi I G29
Brinzeni G4
Ocnita T6G12
Holmskoe (Selioglu) G8
Cuconestii Vechi II G36
Cuconestii Vechi II G43
Cuconestii Vechi II G24
Pascani DG1
Bocani G13
Cuconestii Vechi II G11
Malcauti DG1
Bocani G10
Cuconestii Vechi II G33
Cuconestii Vechi II G35
Vasilivca T14G1
Vasilivca T14G5
Bocani G5
Vasilivca T1G1
Marcauti DG1
Krinicinoe (Cismelia) G6
Vasilivca T27G1
Alcalia T6G1
Cuconestii Vechi II G39
Vasilivca T24G1
Kotiovyna (Bolboaca) T2G2
Divizia T2G1
Truseni G1
Holmskoe (Selioglu) G22
Alcalia T11G1
Chirileni T2G5
Cirnateni T3G1
Nagornoe T1G1
Firladeni G1
Hagider II (Jaroslavka) T9G1
Vasilivca T20G1
Primorsk (Prymorske) T1G53
Drochia DG1
Badragii Noi (MN) G5
Badragii Noi (MN) G2
Petresti T2G2
Petresti G25
Rumeantev T1G8
Baltata G1
Pervomaisc (Marienfeld) T1G1
Obileni T5G2
Opaci T9G3
Badragii Noi (La stanca) G4
Festelita T3G1
Nagornoe T9G1
Cuconestii Vechi II G22
Cuconestii Vechi II G38
Balabanu I T10G1
Izvoare DG1
Divizia T7G1
Semionovca (Seimeni) T4G1
Festelita T1G3
Badragii Noi (MN) G7
Alcalia T17G2
Soldanesti G10
Petresti G31
Pomazani T2G1
Seliste G63
Badragii Noi (La stanca) G5
Blijnii Hutor T1G1
Cazaclia T1G3
Cioburciu T2G1
Scerbaca (now Varatic) T2G5
Suvorovo (Alexandru Ioan Cuza) T3G2
Turlaki (Vipasne) T16G1
Alcalia T7G1
Turlaki (Vipasne) T8G1
Semionovca (Seimeni) T3G1
Holmskoe (Selioglu) G14
Hagider II (Jaroslavka) T7G1
Beloles'e (Achmanghit) T3G9
Turlaki (Vipasne) T10G1
Alcalia T28G1
Krinicinoe (Cismelia) G1
Kalanceak (Dermendere) T1G3
Copanca (Chitcani) G1
Nagornoe T2G1
Holmskoe (Selioglu) G7
Holmskoe (Selioglu) G16
Holmskoe (Selioglu) G17
Nagornoe T12G2
Olanesti T16G1
Chirileni T2G2
Divizia T8G1
Orlovka-Kartal G298
Taraclia II T17G10
Alcalia T22G1
Dzinilor (Zenelor) T5G1
Orlovka-Kartal G274
Badragii Noi T2G1
Ursoaia T4G1
Cioropcani DGa
First phase
Transitional phase
Second phase

Diagram 1. Combinatorial Seriation

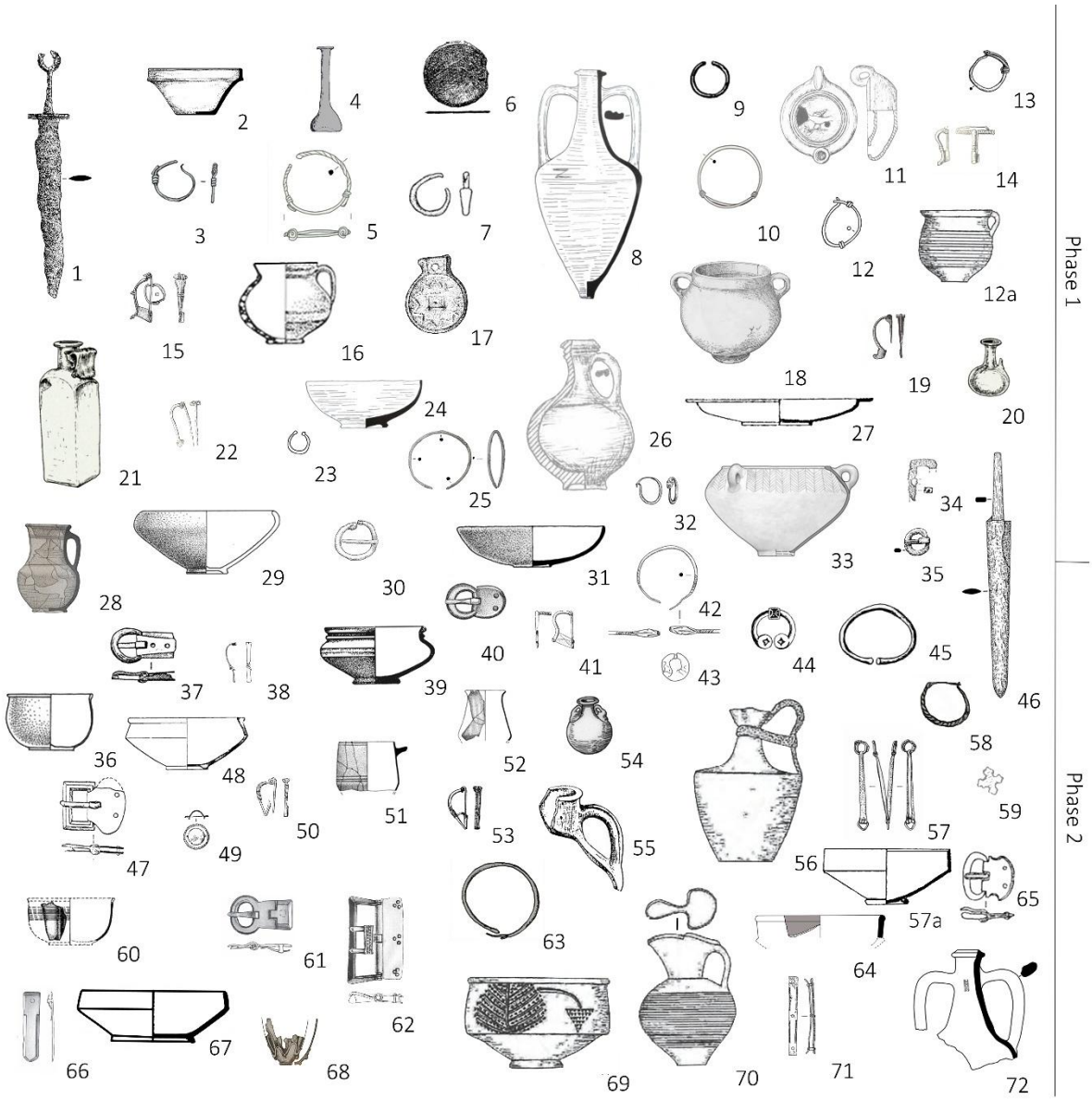


Fig. 1. Goods used in Combinatorial Seriation and Phase Markers

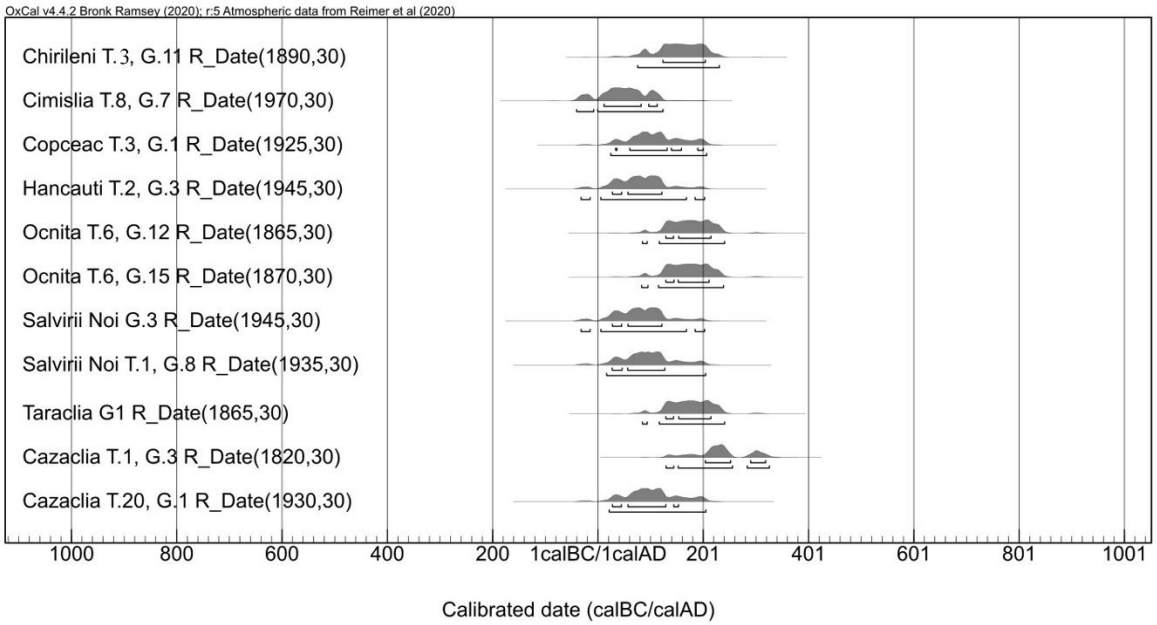


Fig. 2. C14 data calibration graph: Laboratory calibration.

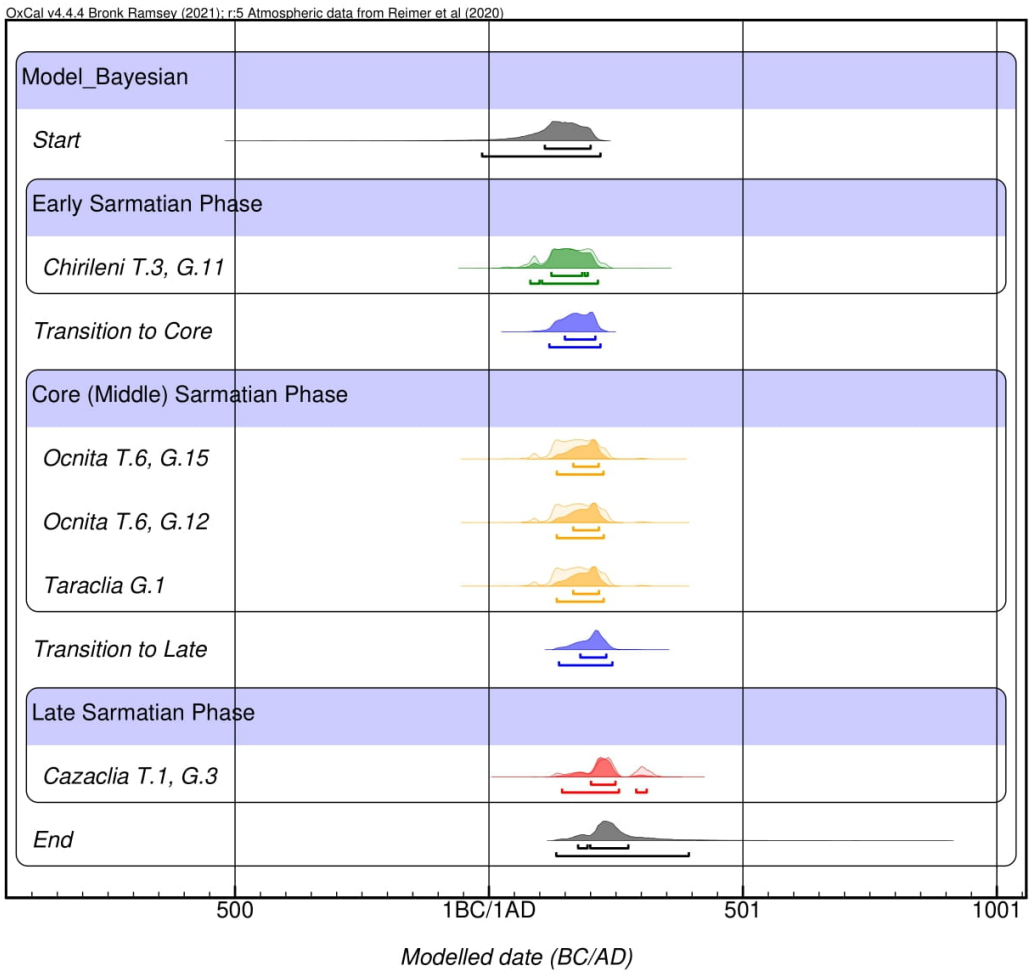


Fig. 3. Bayesian model for delimiting the evolutionary phases of the Sarmatian culture.

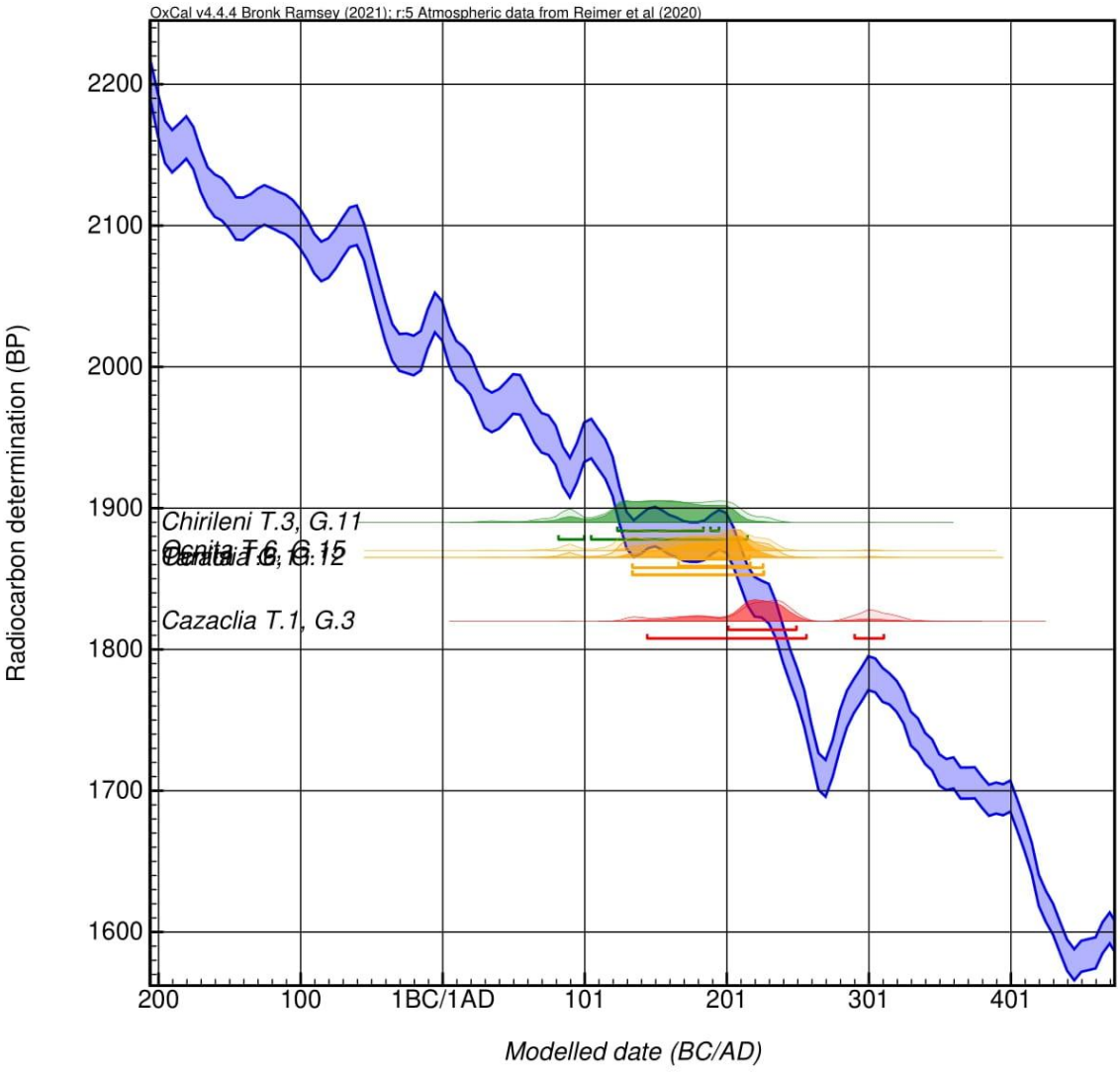


Fig. 4. Individual calibrated radiocarbon dates plotted against the IntCal20 calibration curve.

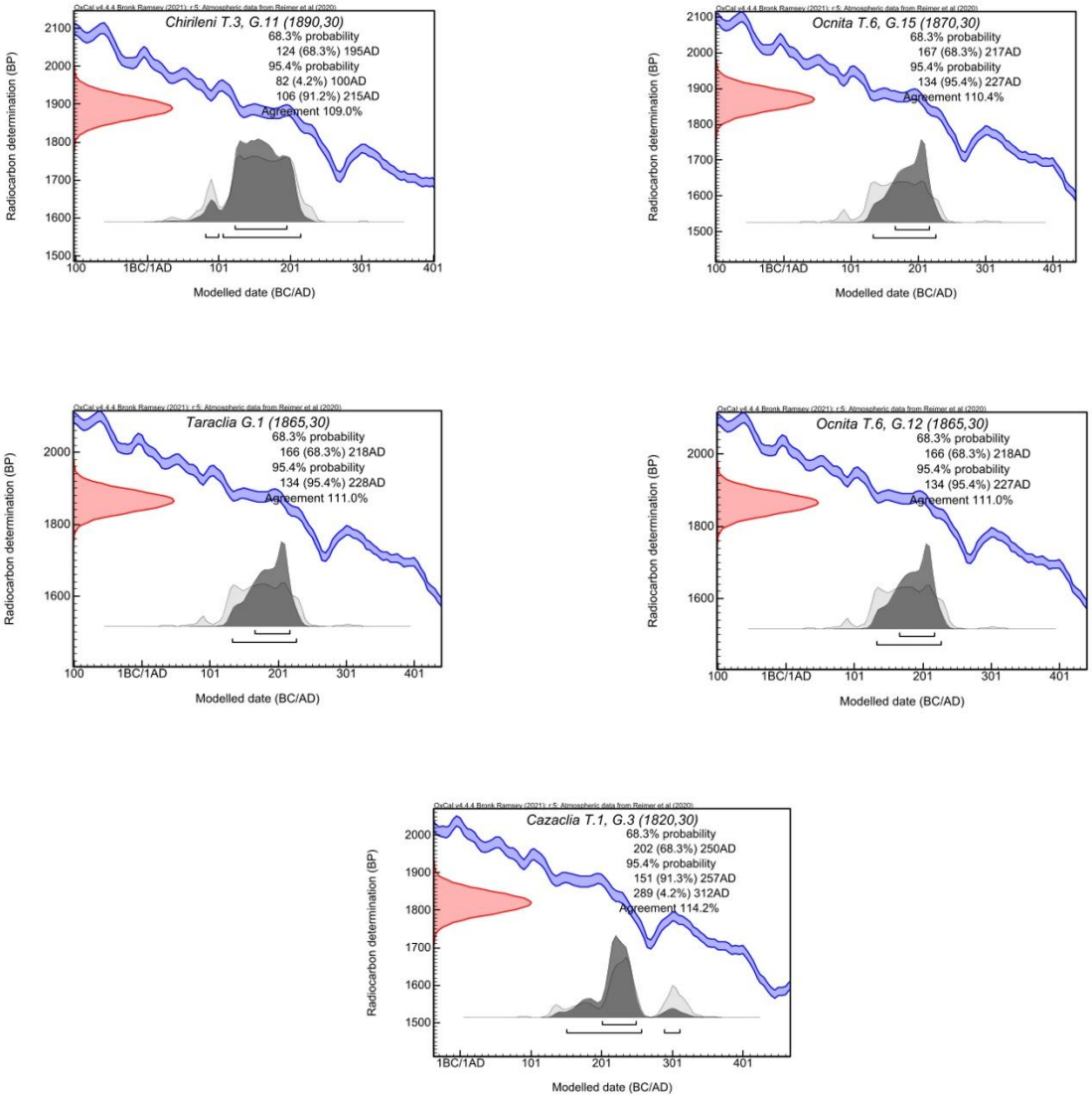


Fig. 5. Individual calibrated radiocarbon dates plotted against the IntCal20 calibration curve.

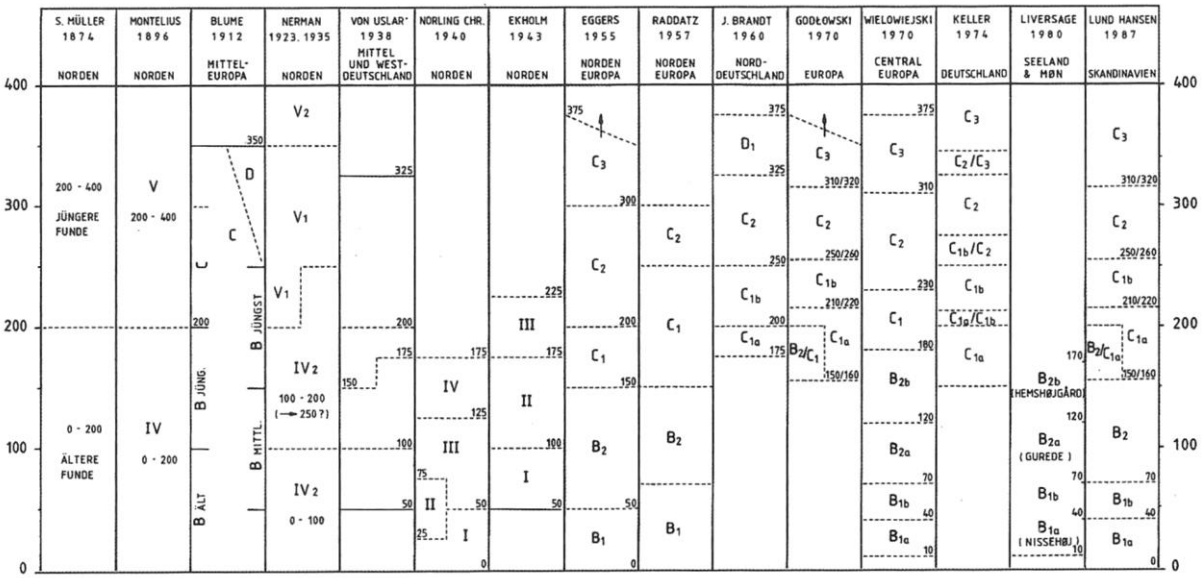


Fig. 6. Comparative Chronological Table of the Roman Period in Central and Northern Europe (after Lund Hansen 1987)

V. Conclusions

This thesis aimed to examine an important and, until now, under-explored period in the history of the North-Pontic Barbaricum: the dynamics of nomadic communities in the Prut-Dniester region between the second half of the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century AD. Beginning with a corpus of funerary sources, the research inventoried, analyzed, and synthesized information from 454 graves discovered in 111 archaeological sites. The scale of this database revealed the limited extent of prior knowledge and underscored the need for this study. Consequently, this work constitutes the first comprehensive synthesis dedicated to the Late Sarmatian period in the Prut-Dniester region, filling a gap in specialized historiography and offering a coherent narrative on one of the most multifaceted populations on the Roman Empire's frontier.

The late Sarmatian horizon in the Prut–Dniester region is characterized by two interrelated phenomena: a marked demographic expansion and a strategic adaptation to the local landscape. Archaeological evidence fully corroborates ancient literary accounts of continued migrations of Iranic groups from the east, illustrating a striking numerical growth. The number of recorded burials nearly triples, rising from 167 in the Middle Sarmatian phase to 454 in the Late Sarmatian phase (Bârcă 2006), providing quantitative testimony to this human influx.

Through the application of a GIS-based spatial analysis and detailed cartographic mapping of sites - it becomes evident that this expanding population did not settle arbitrarily. The distribution of archaeological sites indicates a carefully considered choice of habitat, reflecting a sophisticated understanding of the landscape. The Sarmatians strongly favored the open steppe and forest-steppe zones - such as the Bugeac Plain, the Middle Prut Plain, and the Lower Dniester Plain - which were ideally suited to their predominantly pastoral economy, providing extensive pasturage for herds. In contrast, upland and forested regions, such as the Bâc Plateau, which were incompatible with a nomadic lifestyle.

Equally significant was their strategic positioning along major river arteries (Siret, Prut, Dniester, etc.) (Grosu 1995, Popa 2015). These locations not only satisfied essential subsistence needs but also represented pragmatic economic choices, enabling rapid integration into regional exchange networks. The archaeological record thus depicts a

dynamic community, one that did not merely occupy space but actively reshaped it to meet its social and economic requirements. In doing so, the Sarmatians transformed the North Pontic steppe into a prosperous corridor and a crucial frontier zone vis-à-vis the Roman provincial world, including its northern Black Sea urban centers. Special consideration must also be given to the Danubian garrison at Orlovka-Kartal, whose case exemplifies a symbiotic interaction not only with Roman authorities but also with the local Daco-Carpic population.

An evaluation of the current state of research on the Late Sarmatian period in the Prut–Dniester region reveals a striking imbalance between the scarcity of ancient literary testimony and the abundance of archaeological evidence. While written accounts provide only a fragmentary narrative, their correlation with the material record underscores the complexity of historical processes unfolding at the turn of the 2nd–3rd centuries AD - such as new waves of Alanic groups advancing westward into the Roxolani sphere, and the emergence of a cultural symbiosis within the broader context of the Marcomannic Wars, most likely influenced by sustained interaction with indigenous populations. In this regard, sites such as Șoldănești, Hlinaia, and Kartal illustrate Sarmatian relations with the so-called "Free Dacians," while other sites, including Pruteni and Odaia, also attest to the active occupation of this region by indigenous - during the same period.

From a historiographical perspective, although the study of the Sarmatians in this region has a tradition of more than 150 years, the field remains fragmented. Research has advanced from the early phase of chance discoveries (during the Tsarist era), to systematic post-war investigations, and ultimately to major monographic syntheses by scholars such as Grosu, Dzigovskij, Bârcă, and Simonenko. Yet, no single work has so far offered a dedicated and comprehensive study focused exclusively on this pivotal chronological horizon. Previous scholarship has tended either to generalize across broader timelines or to privilege other chronological phases.

This thesis addresses the need to integrate the fragmented state of research into a coherent analytical framework. It offers a focused examination of a key chronological stage, essential for understanding the Sarmatian communities of the Prut-Dniester region and their role within the broader dynamics of the Roman frontier.

A detailed analysis of Late Sarmatian culture funerary behaviour reveals a system characterised by strong continuities with earlier traditions, significant innovations, and a deliberately structured ritual grammar encoding social rank and group identity.

Sarmatian mortuary culture was based exclusively on inhumation. A defining innovation of this period, in contrast to the preceding Middle Sarmatian culture, is the systematic construction of new tumuli (generally modest in size – 200 graves) combined with the establishment of extensive flat cemeteries (181 graves). In primary tumuli, a dominant pattern of central interments is observed, the principal grave placed on the mound's axis, suggesting that the act of tumulus construction was intrinsically connected to the social significance of a founding individual. By contrast, in cases where Sarmatian burials were inserted into secondary (pre-existing) tumuli (73 graves), graves were overwhelmingly located in the southern sector rather than at the centre - a layout that appears deliberate and may be linked to symbolic or cosmological beliefs.

In flat cemeteries, the majority of burials display a seemingly irregular or dispersed arrangement. Nevertheless, several exceptional cases demonstrate deliberate spatial organisation. At Taraclia Gaidabul and Bocani, graves were arranged in rows with comparable spacing, while the necropolis at Bădragii Noi offers the clearest example of intentional planning. This site, often referred to as the "military necropolis" due to the presence of weaponry in virtually every grave, displays a structured plan: square ditches with burials placed at each right corner, all aligned in the same orientation and with uniform entrances. A similar association of grave and ditch is observed at Cașunca. Conversely, other sites such as Petrești illustrate more irregular and "chaotic" configurations, demonstrating the coexistence of both structured and less ordered spatial models within the funerary landscape.

With regard to the continuity of traditions, the simple rectangular grave remains the most widespread and unifying feature across all funerary contexts - primary tumuli, secondary tumuli, and flat cemeteries - demonstrating the persistence of a fundamental cultural model inherited from the Early to Middle Sarmatian period. Nevertheless, the study highlights clear differences that indicate pronounced social stratification and ritual diversity. The analysis of Sarmatian burial pits reveals a significant variability in dimensions and morphology, potentially reflecting differences in social status, chronology, and ritual practices. The length of adult burial pits ranges from 1.5 to 2.5 meters, while for children,

it varies from 0.65 to 1.5 meters. The width of the pits oscillates between 0.45-1 meters for adults and 0.3-0.8 meters for children. Exceptionally large burial pits, exceeding 3 meters, are exclusively associated with primary tumuli, suggesting a correlation with high-ranking individuals.

- Monumental graves, often equipped with steps, are associated exclusively with primary tumuli. Despite being looted in roughly 80% of cases, the surviving evidence suggests that they were intended for members of the social elite (e.g., Cioburciu T1G1, Feștelița T3G1, Kotlovyna T2G2, Kalanceak T1G3, Opaci T9G3, Mirnoe T1G1, Turlaki T8G1). Their complex architecture, reminiscent of crypt-like structures, together with their regional concentration, indicates a privileged status and a funerary practice reserved for high-ranking groups. Beyond their big dimensions, the frequent recovery of elite goods - such as objects of precious metals or imported items - even in plundered contexts, reinforces this interpretation.
- Flat cemeteries display a markedly higher frequency of oval graves and niche graves, suggesting the presence of distinct regional, chronological, or functional traditions compared to those in tumuli.
- The complete absence of catacombs in this early phase of the Late Sarmatian period - contrasting with their widespread use in the subsequent phase - marks a clear chronological and cultural boundary, most likely linked to successive waves of incoming groups.

The analysis of funerary orientation and body positioning reveals both persistence and change in Sarmatian mortuary practices. The dominant use of the supine position, combined with a marked preference for a northerly orientation, reflects continuity with the Middle Sarmatian period and suggests the endurance of established cosmological concepts. At the same time, greater variability in limb arrangement and the occurrence of double burials indicate an increasing diversity of ritual expression. Moreover, the adoption of artificial cranial deformation - closely linked to eastern traditions - emerges as a defining feature of the Late Sarmatian period, pointing to the influence of new cultural groups.

A defining feature of this period is the widespread use of commemorative ditches, which, although rooted in earlier traditions, now become a hallmark of Late Sarmatian funerary practice. The analysis of ritual elements such as ditches and offerings demonstrates that mortuary customs went beyond basic inhumation, forming a structured ceremonial

framework through which communities honored the deceased, delineated sacred space, and expressed cultural identity. The prevalence of square, rectangular, and trapezoidal ditches serves as a distinctive chronological marker of the early phase of the Late Sarmatian period, with their origins traceable to traditions from the eastern Don region. These features functioned not merely as boundaries but as active ritual spaces, as evidenced by the recurrent deposition of Roman amphorae, pottery, and animal remains, most likely linked to funerary banquets.

At the same time, notable changes are observed in the treatment of animal offerings. Whereas large-scale sacrifices decline in frequency compared to earlier phases, they are replaced by more selective and symbolic deposits. The discovery of horse skulls in ditches and pits, dog skeletons in burial chambers, and remains of other animals illustrates the persistence of long-standing ritual practices, albeit in modified form, aimed at maintaining and reinforcing the symbolic relationship between the living and the dead.

The available corpus - 454 graves, of which approximately 92 (c. 20%) preserve identifiable funerary constructions - constitutes a substantial dataset that allows me to trace the development of mortuary practices in the Prut–Dniester region. Among the most frequent features are wooden elements (planking, coffins or cover structures), attested wherever preservation permits, indicating a standardised care in grave preparation. Traces of burning (charcoal, ash, calcined wood) occur repeatedly and are best interpreted as intentional purificatory or consecratory acts rather than accidental phenomena. The recurrent deposition of chalk, shells and other whitish materials, often in association with traces of fire, points to a sustained symbolic repertoire of "purity" and liminality, a practice with deep roots among Iranian populations. Elaborate arrangements - such as the use of stone slabs, inscribed funerary stelae, or layers of compacted and fired clay - are rare and most likely associated with high-ranking individuals. These practices demonstrate that funerary ritual served not only as a rite of passage but also as a means of reflecting and reinforcing social hierarchies.

Therefore, the funerary practices of Sarmatian graves should not be regarded merely as a classificatory exercise, but as a reflection of broader social dynamics: a solid traditional foundation overlaid with elite practices, regional variations, and innovations introduced by newcomers - elements that foreshadow the cultural complexity characterizing Barbaricum in the Prut–Dniester interfluve.

Overall, the evidence demonstrates that Sarmatian mortuary arrangements transcended simple inhumation, involving a sequence of deliberate ritual acts - from the construction of coffins and vegetal coverings to purification by fire and the use of symbolic materials associated with purity. These practices reveal a well-defined cosmological and social worldview embedded in funerary custom.

Ultimately, the funerary landscape emerges as a structured ceremonial arena: ditches delineated sacred space, offerings reinforced the link between the living and the dead, and specific construction types served as chronological and cultural markers. When combined with innovations such as artificial cranial deformation, these elements illustrate a dynamic society continuously negotiating its traditions within a context of intense cultural interaction.

The funerary assemblages of the Late Sarmatian culture provide a privileged window into the symbolic universe, social structures, and intercultural dynamics of these communities. Like many ancient societies, the Sarmatians believed in an afterlife, and the goods deposited in graves were not only essential components of the funerary ritual but also tangible reflections of the deceased's social status and group identity. Their presence indicates that burial was conceived as more than a moment of closure - it was an arena in which memory, hierarchy, and cultural affiliation were materially negotiated.

The diversity of these assemblages also highlights the remarkable interconnectedness of the Prut–Dniester region during the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD. Objects originated from multiple cultural milieus, ranging from the provincial Roman world - represented by fibulae, belts, applliques, earrings, rings, bracelets, glassware, Terra Sigillata, amphorae etc. - to neighboring groups such as the Free Dacians, Germanic tribes, and eastern Sarmatian communities. Each of these contributions carried distinct symbolic and social weight: Roman imports often marked prestige and elite display, locally produced wheel-made ceramics reflected exchanges with sedentary neighbors, while amber beads, three-handled vessels, and specific fibula types tied the Sarmatians into northern European networks. Similarly, eastern influences are visible in characteristic buckles, mirrors with tamgas, reinforcing the east–west horizon of cultural interaction.

Within this framework, richly furnished burials stand out as statements of elite identity, their inventories including ornaments of gold and silver, prestigious imports, and finely

crafted personal items. Such finds not only emphasize the hierarchical stratification of Sarmatian society but also demonstrate the degree to which external contacts were selectively appropriated to express authority and distinction. Ultimately, the study of these goods reveals that funerary practices were a complex cultural grammar through which communities articulated beliefs about the afterlife, reaffirmed social order, and inscribed themselves within a broader landscape of interaction across the Barbaricum and the Roman world.

The diversity of artefacts confirms that the Sarmatians shared the widespread ancient belief in an afterlife where earthly possessions retained their value. Ceramic vessels, amphorae, toiletry objects, and offerings of food or animals were not simply practical goods but symbolic provisions, designed to accompany the dead on their journey and to mark the grave as a locus of ritual activity. The inclusion of coins - whether perforated pendants (Cîrnățeni) or unperforated denarii (Orlovka) used as Charon's obol - illustrates a clear adoption of Greco-Roman eschatological concepts, selectively integrated into the local ritual framework.

Certain burials stand out by the richness of their inventory. Gold and silver ornaments, luxury imports such as glassware, bronze jugs, or Terra Sigillata tableware, as well as prestigious martial assemblages, all served as explicit statements of rank. The presence of elaborate jewellery - fibulae, earrings, rings, metal collars, and belt fittings - further underscores the role of adornment as both a chronological marker and a social emblem. Such inventories delineate a Sarmatian elite that actively negotiated its position by appropriating symbols of prestige drawn from both local traditions and the Roman cultural horizon.

The grave goods testify to an exceptionally complex network of contacts that extended across the Pontic steppe, the Roman provinces, and even into Central and Northern Europe. Amphorae of Pontic origin, Roman glass and metal vessels, Wielbark-type pottery, and amber beads illustrate the multiplicity of routes - commercial, diplomatic, or warfare-related - through which these items circulated. Fibulae, in particular, highlight the synchrony between the Prut–Dniester region and broader European typologies, marking the integration of Sarmatian groups into long-distance exchange systems.

Weaponry and equestrian gear form another essential dimension of the funerary record. The marked predominance of swords and daggers over bows and spears indicates a symbolic reconfiguration of the warrior's identity, where the long blade emerged as the quintessential emblem of military status. The rare but significant traces of horse harness fittings, despite the absence of organic components, reaffirm the centrality of cavalry to Sarmatian society, projecting the deceased as both warrior and rider.

Alongside prestige goods, the inventory also includes domestic tools such as spindle whorls, loom weights, needles, scissors, and lamps. These objects, often associated with female burials, shed light on daily practices, household production, and gendered roles within the community. Their deposition in graves suggests that personal identity in death was constructed not only through symbols of wealth and power but also through references to craft, and the intimate sphere of domestic life.

Ceramics occupy a special place in the funerary assemblages, being present in approximately 70% of the graves analyzed. Their morphological diversity - handmade jars, wheel-thrown jugs, imported Terra Sigillata, and amphorae - mirrors the complexity of production and distribution networks in the region. As previous scholars have underlined, the very concept of "Sarmatian pottery" is a conventional construct, encompassing objects of heterogeneous origin. Nevertheless, their recurrent presence in funerary contexts demonstrates their central role in ritual provisioning, communal feasting, and symbolic boundary-making between the worlds of the living and the dead.

The study of funerary goods from the Late Sarmatian culture in the Prut-Dniester interfluve reveals far more than the material wealth of individual burials. It provides a valuable lens on the cultural, social, and historical dynamics of the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD. Imported artefacts - such as Shelov Type C amphorae, distinctive glass vessels like the Delphiniumflasche from Bocani, the bronze jug (Blechkanne) from Kotlovyna, the Opaiț "table pitcher" and the coins from Orlovka with a terminus post quem of 192 AD etc. - serve as key chronological markers. Beyond their essential value, these items not only anchor the dating of local funerary contexts but also establish a secure framework for tracing cultural change and interaction in this region.

At the same time, the broader funerary inventory demonstrates the complexity of Sarmatian ritual and social life. Fibulae, earrings, rings, bracelets, necklaces, pendants, and belt fittings

articulate identities of dress and status, while toiletry objects such as mirrors, pyxides, and aryballoi illuminate aspects of personal care and cultural symbolism. Military equipment - dominated by swords and daggers, with rarer instances of spears, bows, and defensive gear - underscores the central role of the warrior ethos. Equestrian fittings, though fragmentary, point to the continued significance of mounted mobility in Sarmatian society. Domestic artefacts, including spindle whorls, loom weights, needles, scissors, lamps, and fire-strikers, root the funerary assemblage in the sphere of everyday life, while ceramic vessels, whether handmade, wheel-thrown, or imported (Terra Sigillata, amphorae), highlight both functional practices and intercultural connections.

Yet these imports cannot be reduced to markers of commerce alone. They testify to the dynamic interplay between the Roman provincias and the so-called "barbarian" periphery, demonstrating that Sarmatian communities were deeply embedded in networks of exchange and influence. Roman prestige goods, northern and eastern artefacts, and locally adapted traditions were all woven into a complex ritual pattern, through which the dead were equipped for the afterlife, social hierarchies were asserted, and cultural identities were continually renegotiated.

Taken together, the grave inventories reveal multiple overlapping dimensions: the religious and cosmological beliefs underpinning funerary rituals; the consolidation of elite status through the appropriation of prestigious imports; and the articulation of identity across military, domestic, and symbolic structure. This material record portrays a society in transition - rooted in long-standing nomadic traditions, yet increasingly entangled in the economic, cultural, and ideological currents of the Roman world and its neighbors. Ultimately, the funerary assemblages do not simply reflect individual biographies, but serve as archaeological testimonies to broader processes of stratification, intercultural connectivity, and cultural transformation in the antique of the Prut-Dniester Barbaricum.

In Chapter 4 I pursued two complementary lines of inquiry to establish the chronology of the Late Sarmatian culture: a traditional approach based on relative typological seriation, and a modern approach based on absolute radiocarbon dating and Bayesian modelling.

The traditional strand built on the typological analogue method applied to grave goods (developed in Chapter 3). I imported those well-dated typological categories into a seriation diagram generated with the PAST software in order to detect internal phases within the

horizon - a first for the Sarmatian culture in the East-Carpathian area. After entering 114 graves (≈25% of the total number) with 69 typological categories into the database, the seriation revealed two principal phases and an intermediate/transitional phase. The results are robust overall, with minor ambiguities in a few contexts.

The modern strand used radiocarbon (^{14}C) dating on key bone samples and subjected the calibrated results to Bayesian modelling. For the graves that could be integrated into the combined seriation model, the Bayesian analysis corroborated the phases identified by typology. The model resolves three sequential phases - an Early phase, a Middle (Core) phase, and a Late phase. The Middle and Late phases align closely with my archaeological expectations: the Middle phase spans roughly 167–218 AD, while the Late phase corresponds approximately to 202–250 AD; the Early phase appears to begin somewhat earlier than the principal chronological frame of this study.

Without modelling, the calibrated radiocarbon results span 76–326 AD at the 95.4% probability level (medians ~158–231 AD). The Bayesian model markedly reduces this uncertainty: the modelled central credible interval (68.3%) is reported as 124–273 AD, while the wider modelled interval (95.4%) is reported as 124–250 AD — i.e. the model produces substantially tighter, more informative date ranges for the sequence (these are model outputs and should be referred to directly when citing precise bounds).

In conclusion, Chapter 4 moves beyond previous broad periodizations by establishing, for the first time in the Prut–Dniester area, a high-resolution chronology for the early phase of the Late Sarmatian culture (c. 150–250 AD). This advance was made possible by an interdisciplinary protocol that combined three complementary methods:

- Seriation (typological-analogue seriation) of 114 funerary complexes, which produced a clear relative sequence and identified two main chronological phases plus a transitional stage.
- Absolute dating by radiocarbon (^{14}C) of key bone samples, providing independent temporal anchors.
- Bayesian modelling, which refined the ^{14}C results and integrated them with the archaeological stratigraphic and typological context, confirming and quantifying the time intervals for each phase.

The combined evidence indicates that the first major phase - characterised by specific fibula types, mirrors, amphorae, belt fittings, etc. - corresponds to the Central-Eastern European B2/C1a chronological horizon (160–220 AD). The second phase, distinguished by belt fittings and an increased presence of Roman imports (notably amphorae, glass tableware and Terra Sigillata), aligns with C1b (220–250 AD). Radiocarbon determinations are consistent with these assignments.

Ultimately, this thesis reframes the Late Sarmatians of the Prut-Dniester region. By converging a large archaeological dataset with modern chronological methods, the study transforms the image of marginal "barbarians" into that of dynamic, stratified, and well-connected communities. The Sarmatians emerge as active participants on the Roman frontier - socially hierarchical, ritually articulate, and capable of rapid cultural interaction and adaptation. They functioned not only as passive recipients of influence but as commercial partners, military actors, and agents of ethno-cultural change during the transition to Late Antiquity in this part of Europe.

VI. Catalogue[16]

Before moving on to the catalogue I would like to point out a few things. The first moment in order to make the catalogue as efficient as possible I will go the way of a systematized presentation for the description of the graves and order of grave goods.

The following criteria will be taken into account when describing the graves: 1. Location and number of the grave; 2. Pit direction; 3. Pit dimensions; 4. Pit shape; 5. Anatomical position or condition of the skeletal remains and other remains (coffin etc.); 6. Grave finds; 7. Dating and 8. References.

Concerning the goods found in the graves, their presentation will be made in the following order: 1. Adornment and dress objects (fibulae, earrings, bracelets, pendants, belt fittings, beads etc.); 2. Toiletries (mirrors, pixida etc.); 3. Weaponry (swords and daggers, spears etc.); 4. Household objects (knives, spindles etc.); 5. Pottery.

The dimensions of the elements are listed in the next order: length, width and depth. The following abbreviation has been applied: T – tumulus or mound; G - grave; N - north; S - south; E - east; W – west; D - diameter; DB - base diameter; DR - rim diameter; DM - maximum diameter; H – height; L – length; W – width; Th - thickness.

[16] Regrettably, not all of the materials referenced in the catalogue are illustrated or supported by visual documentation.

The list of the graves:

1. **Alcalia River (Shirokoe), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

I. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T5G13
II. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T6G1
III. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T7G1
IV. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T11G1
V. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T12G1
VI. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T17G2
VII. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T19G2
VIII. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T20G1
IX. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T21G1
X. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T22G1
XI. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T23G1
XII. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T24G1
XIII. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T26G1
XIV. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T27G1
XV. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T28G1
XVI. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T29G1
XVII. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T30G1
XVIII. Alcalia (Șirokoe) T32G1

2. **Alcedar, Șoldănești District, Republic of Moldova**

I. Alcedar G1
II. Alcedar G2

3. **Alijaga (Glăvani), Bolhrad District, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

I. Alijaga (Glăvani) G1
II. Alijaga (Glăvani) G2
III. Alijaga (Glăvani) G3
IV. Alijaga (Glăvani) G4
V. Alijaga (Glăvani) G5

4. **Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis", Edineț District, Republic of Moldova**

I. Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G1
II. Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G2
III. Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G3

IV. Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G4
V. Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G5
VI. Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G6
VII. Bădragii Noi (Military necropolis) G7

5. Bădragii Noi "La stâncă", Edineț District, Republic of Moldova

I. Bădragii Noi „La stâncă” G1
II. Bădragii Noi „La stâncă” G2
III. Bădragii Noi „La stâncă” G3
IV. Bădragii Noi „La stâncă” G4
V. Bădragii Noi „La stâncă” G5
VI. Bădragii Noi „La stâncă” G6
VII. Bădragii Noi „La stâncă” G7
VIII. Bădragii Noi „La stâncă” G8

6. Bădragii Noi, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova

I. Bădragii Noi T2G1
II. Bădragii Noi T3G2
III. Bădragii Noi T3G3
IV. Bădragii Noi T3G6
V. Bădragii Noi T4G3
VI. Bădragii Noi T5G7

7. Bădragii Vechi, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova

I. Bădragii Vechi T29G1
II. Bădragii Vechi T29G10

8. Bălăbănești, Criuleni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Bălăbănești T4G4

9. Balabanu I, Taraclia District, Republic of Moldova

I. Balabanu I T7G2
II. Balabanu I T10G1

10. Bălțata, Criuleni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Bălțata G1

11. Beloles'e (Achmanghit), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Beloles'e (Achmanghit) T2G4
II. Beloles'e (Achmanghit) T3G9

12. Blijnii Hutor[17], Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Slobozia District", Republic of Moldova

I. Blijnii Hutor T1G1

13. Bocani, Fălești District, Republic of Moldova

I. Bocani G-A - destroyed
II. Bocani G-B - destroyed
III. Bocani G1
IV. Bocani G2
V. Bocani G3
VI. Bocani G4
VII. Bocani G5
VIII. Bocani G6
IX. Bocani G7
X. Bocani G8
XI. Bocani G9
XII. Bocani G10
XIII. Bocani G11
XIV. Bocani G12
XV. Bocani G13
XVI. Bocani G14
XVII. Bocani G15
XVIII. Bocani G16
XIX. Bocani G17
XX. Bocani G18

14. Bolhrad, Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Bolhrad G 1

15. Brînzeni, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova

I. Brînzeni G1
II. Brînzeni G2
III. Brînzeni G3

[17] Although the region falls outside the area indicated by the title of the thesis, I decided to include the relatively few sites from the Prut-Dniester interfluve due to their immediate proximity to the Dniester River and because I worked with some bone remains from this region for radiocarbon dating.

IV. Brînzeni G4

V. Brînzeni G5

VI. Brînzeni G6

VII. Brînzeni G7

16. Burlăneşti, Edineţ District, Republic of Moldova

I. Burlănești T3G13

II. Burlănești T3G17

17. Butești, Glodeni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Butești DG1

18. Butor I, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Grigoriopol District", Republic of Moldova

I. Butor I T10G1

19. Călmățui, Hîncești District, Republic of Moldova

I. Călmățui DG1

20. Carabetovca, Basarabeasca District, Republic of Moldova

I. Carabetovca T1G3

21. Cazaclia, Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, „Ceadîr-Lunga District", Republic of Moldova

I. Cazaclia T1G3

II. Cazaclia T2G4

III. Cazaclia T5G3

IV. Cazaclia T22G1

V. Cazaclia T25G1

22. Chirileni, Ungheni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Chirileni T1G17

II. Chirileni T2G2

III. Chirileni T2G5

IV. Chirileni T2G16

V. Chirileni T2G20

VI. Chirileni T3G11

23. Cimișlia, Cimișlia District, Republic of Moldova

I. Cimișlia DGs

24. Cioburciu, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Slobozia District", Republic of Moldova

I. Cioburciu T1G1 (2000)

25. Cioburciu, Ștefan Vodă District, Republic of Moldova

I. Cioburciu T2G1

II. Cioburciu T5G1

26. Cioropcani, Ungheni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Cioropcani DGs

II. Cioropcani G1

27. Cîrnățeni, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Cîrnățeni T3G1

28. Cișmea, Orhei District, Republic of Moldova

I. Cișmea G1

29. Cișmichioi (Gagauz: Çöşmäküü), Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, „Vulcănești District", Republic of Moldova

I. Cișmichioi T1G1

30. Cocicovatoe (Buduri, Kocikuvate), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Cocicovatoe (Buduri) T27G1

31. Comrat II, Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, „Comrat District", Republic of Moldova

I. Comrat II G1 - destroyed

32. Copanca near Chițcani, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Copanca (Chițcani) G1

33. Corjeuți, Briceni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Corjeuți T9G1

34. Corpaci II, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova

I. Corpaci II T1G1

II. Corpaci II T3G2

III. Corpaci II T3G4

35. Costești, Rîșcani District, Republic of Moldova

I. Costești T1G4

36. Crasnogorca, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Grigoriopol District", Republic of Moldova

I. Crasnogorca G1

37. Cuconeștii Vechi I, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova

I. Cuconeștii Vechi I G1
II. Cuconeștii Vechi I G2
III. Cuconeștii Vechi I G3
IV. Cuconeștii Vechi I G4
V. Cuconeștii Vechi I G5
VI. Cuconeștii Vechi I G6
VII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G7
VIII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G8
IX. Cuconeștii Vechi I G9
X. Cuconeștii Vechi I G10
XI. Cuconeștii Vechi I G11
XII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G12
XIII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G13
XIV. Cuconeștii Vechi I G14
XV. Cuconeștii Vechi I G15
XVI. Cuconeștii Vechi I G16
XVII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G17
XVIII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G18
XIX. Cuconeștii Vechi I G19
XX. Cuconeștii Vechi I G20
XXI. Cuconeștii Vechi I G21
XXII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G22
XXIII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G23
XXIV. Cuconeștii Vechi I G24
XXV. Cuconeștii Vechi I G25
XXVI. Cuconeștii Vechi I G26
XXVII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G27
XXVIII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G28
XXIX. Cuconeștii Vechi I G29

XXX. Cuconeștii Vechi I G30

XXXI. Cuconeștii Vechi I G31

XXXII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G32

XXXIII. Cuconeștii Vechi I G33

38. Cuconeștii Vechi II, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova

I. Cuconeștii Vechi II G1

II. Cuconeștii Vechi II G2

III. Cuconeștii Vechi II G3

IV. Cuconeștii Vechi II G4

V. Cuconeștii Vechi II G5

VI. Cuconeștii Vechi II G6

VII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G7

VIII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G8

IX. Cuconeștii Vechi II G9

X. Cuconeștii Vechi II G10

XI. Cuconeștii Vechi II G11

XII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G12

XIII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G13

XIV. Cuconeștii Vechi II G14

XV. Cuconeștii Vechi II G15

XVI. Cuconeștii Vechi II G16

XVII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G17

XVIII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G18

XIX. Cuconeștii Vechi II G19

XX. Cuconeștii Vechi II G20

XXI. Cuconeștii Vechi II G21

XXII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G22

XXIII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G23

XXIV. Cuconeștii Vechi II G24

XXV. Cuconeștii Vechi II G25

XXVI. Cuconeștii Vechi II G26

XXVII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G27

XXVIII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G28

XXIX. Cuconeștii Vechi II G29
XXX. Cuconeștii Vechi II G30
XXXI. Cuconeștii Vechi II G31
XXXII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G32
XXXIII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G33
XXXIV. Cuconeștii Vechi II G34
XXXV. Cuconeștii Vechi II G35
XXXVI. Cuconeștii Vechi II G36
XXXVII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G37
XXXVIII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G38
XXXIX. Cuconeștii Vechi II G39
XL. Cuconeștii Vechi II G40
XLI. Cuconeștii Vechi II G41
XLII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G42
XLIII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G43
XLIV. Cuconeștii Vechi II G44
XLV. Cuconeștii Vechi II G45
XLVI. Cuconeștii Vechi II G46
XLVII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G47
XLVIII. Cuconeștii Vechi II G48
XLIX. Cuconeștii Vechi II G49

39. Cuzmin, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Camenca District", Republic of Moldova

I. Cuzmin T2G3

40. Divizia, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Divizia T2G1
II. Divizia T6G1
III. Divizia T6G3
IV. Divizia T7G1
V. Divizia T8G1
VI. Divizia T9G1
VII. Divizia T10G1
VIII. Divizia T11G1

IX. Divizia T12G1

X. Divizia T13G1

XI. Divizia T17G2

41. Drochia, Drochia District, Republic of Moldova

I. Drochia, destroyed grave

42. Dumeni II, Rîșcani District, Republic of Moldova

I. Dumeni II T1G2

II. Dumeni II T1G8

43. Dumeni, Rîșcani District, Republic of Moldova

I. Dumeni T8G6

44. Duruitoarea Nouă II, Rîșcani District, Republic of Moldova

I. Duruitoarea Nouă II T1G1

II. Duruitoarea Nouă II T5G2

45. Dzinilor (Zenelor), Izmail District, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Dzinilor (Zenelor) T4G1

II. Dzinilor (Zenelor) T5G1

III. Dzinilor (Zenelor) T8G1

IV. Dzinilor (Zenelor) G1

46. Ecaterinovca, Cimișlia District, Republic of Moldova

I. Ecaterinovca T2G5

47. Feștelița, Ștefan Vodă District, Republic of Moldova

I. Feștelița T1G3

II. Feștelița T2G1

III. Feștelița T3G1

IV. Feștelița T4G1

V. Feștelița T5G1

VI. Feștelița T6G1

48. Filipeni, Leova District, Republic of Moldova

I. Filipeni T1G1

49. Fîrlădeni, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Fîrlădeni G1

50. Florițoaia Nouă, Ungheni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Florițoaia Nouă DG

II. Florițoaia Nouă G1

III. Florițoaia Nouă G2

51. Glubokoe (Eschipolos), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Glubokoe (Eschipolos) T1G1

52. Goteşti I, Cantemir District, Republic of Moldova

I. Goteşti I G1

II. Goteşti I G2

53. Hagider II River, (Jaroslavka), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Hagider II (Jaroslavka) T7G1

II. Hagider II (Jaroslavka) T8G1

III. Hagider II (Jaroslavka) T9G1

IV. Hagider II (Jaroslavka) T10G1

V. Hagider II (Jaroslavka) T11G1

VI. Hagider II (Jaroslavka) T12G1

54. Hancăuți, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova

I. Hancăuți T1G6

II. Hancăuți T2G2

55. Hlinaia (Russian: Glinoje), Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Slobozia District", Republic of Moldova

I. Hlinaia T12G1

II. Hlinaia T38G2

56. Holmskoe (Selioglu), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G3

II. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G5

III. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G6

IV. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G7

V. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G8

VI. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G9

VII. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G10

VIII. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G11

IX. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G12

X. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G13

XI. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G14
XII. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G15
XIII. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G16
XIV. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G17
XV. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G18
XVI. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G19
XVII. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G20
XVIII. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G21
XIX. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G22
XX. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G23
XXI. Holmskoe (Selioglu) G24

57. Holmskoe I (Selioglu), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Holmskoe I (Selioglu) T1G17

58. Holmskoe II (Selioglu), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Holmskoe II (Selioglu) G1

59. Izvoare, Florești District, Republic of Moldova

I. Izvoare DG

60. Kalanceak (Dermendere), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Kalanceak (Dermendere) T1G3

61. Kotlovyna (Bolboaca), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Kotlovyna (Bolboaca) T1G1
II. Kotlovyna (Bolboaca) T2G1
III. Kotlovyna (Bolboaca) T2G2

62. Krinicinoe (also known as Cișmelia, Cișmeaua-Văruită, and Cișma/Ceșma-Varuita), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Krinicinoe (Cișmelia) G1
II. Krinicinoe (Cișmelia) G2
III. Krinicinoe (Cișmelia) G3
IV. Krinicinoe (Cișmelia) G4
V. Krinicinoe (Cișmelia) G5
VI. Krinicinoe (Cișmelia) G6
VII. Krinicinoe (Cișmelia) G7
VIII. Krinicinoe (Cișmelia) G8

IX. Krinicinoe (Cișmelia) G9

X. Krinicinoe (Cișmelia) G10

63. Mălcăuți, Soroca District, Republic of Moldova

I. Mălcăuți DG1

64. Mărcăuți, Briceni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Mărcăuți DG1

65. Mereni, Anenii Noi District, Republic of Moldova

I. Mereni DG1

66. Mirnoe (Caracica or Myrne), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Mirnoe T1G1

67. Nagornoe (Caragacii-Vechi, Caragaci and Nahirne), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Nagornoe T1G1

II. Nagornoe T2G1

III. Nagornoe T9G1

IV. Nagornoe T12G2

68. Negureni, Telenești District, Republic of Moldova

I. Negureni G1

II. Negureni T1G1

69. Novoselițe/Vișnevoe (Sulița/Noul-Caragaci), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Novoselițe/Vișnevoe T19G24

II. Novoselițe/Vișnevoe T19G25

70. Novoselskoe II (Satu-Nou), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Novoselskoe II (Satu-Nou) G1

71. Obileni, Hîncești District, Republic of Moldova

I. Obileni T5G2

72. Ocnița, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Camenca District", Republic of Moldova

I. Ocnița T6G12

II. Ocnița T6G14

III. Ocnița T6G15

73. Ogorodnoe II (Gorodne, Ciișia), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Ogorodnoe II (Gorodne) T3G1
II. Ogorodnoe II (Gorodne) T4G1
III. Ogorodnoe II (Gorodne) T5G1

74. Olănești, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Olănești T1G1
II. Olănești T16G1
III. Olănești T16G2

75. Opaci, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Opaci T9G3

76. Orlovka-Kartal, Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Orlovka-Kartal G1
II. Orlovka-Kartal G6
III. Orlovka-Kartal G7
IV. Orlovka-Kartal G8
V. Orlovka-Kartal G27
VI. Orlovka-Kartal G40
VII. Orlovka-Kartal G274
VIII. Orlovka-Kartal G298
IX. Orlovka-Kartal G323
X. Orlovka-Kartal G537

77. Pașcani, Criuleni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Pașcani destroyed grave

78. Pererîta, Briceni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Pererîta T2G13

79. Pervomaisc (Ialpujeni or Marienfeld), Cimișlia District, Republic of Moldova

I. Pervomaisc (Marienfeld) T1G1

80. Petrești, Ungheni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Petrești G1
II. Petrești G2
III. Petrești G3
IV. Petrești G4
V. Petrești G5
VI. Petrești G6

VII. Petrești G7
VIII. Petrești G8
IX. Petrești G9
X. Petrești G10
XI. Petrești G11
XII. Petrești G12
XIII. Petrești G15
XIV. Petrești G16
XV. Petrești G17
XVI. Petrești G18
XVII. Petrești G20
XVIII. Petrești G22
XIX. Petrești G23
XX. Petrești G24
XXI. Petrești G25
XXII. Petrești G26
XXIII. Petrești G27
XXIV. Petrești G28
XXV. Petrești G29
XXVI. Petrești G31
XXVII. Petrești G32
XXVIII. Petrești G33
XXIX. Petrești G34
XXX. Petrești G35
XXXI. Petrești G36
XXXII. Petrești G41
XXXIII. Petrești G42
XXXIV. Petrești G56
XXXV. Petrești G62
XXXVI. Petrești G66
XXXVII. Petrești G81
XXXVIII. Petrești G167
XXXIX. Petrești T2G2

XL. Petrești T3G12

XLI. Petrești T3G3

81. Podoima, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Camenca District”, Republic of Moldova

I. Podoima T3G3

II. Podoima T3G5

82. Polevoe (Beni), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Polevoe T6G1

83. Pomazani (Pomazany), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Pomazani T1G4

II. Pomazani T2G1

84. Primorsk (Prymorske, Jibrieni), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Primorsk (Prymorske) T1G17

II. Primorsk (Prymorske) T1G52

III. Primorsk (Prymorske) T1G53

IV. Primorsk (Prymorske) T2G2

85. Rumeantsev, Cahul District, Republic of Moldova

I. Rumeanțev T1G7

II. Rumeanțev T1G8

86. Șabolat (Sergheevca), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Șabolat (Sergheevca) T4G1

87. Șalvirii Noi/Palanca, Drochia District, Republic of Moldova

I. Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G7

II. Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G8

88. Sărata Veche, Fălești District, Republic of Moldova

I. Sărata Veche T1G1

II. Sărata Veche T1G7

III. Sărata Veche T1G8

89. Șcerbaca/Dumeni (now Văratic), Rîșcani District, Republic of Moldova

I. Șcerbaca (now Văratic) T2G5

90. Seliște, Orhei District, Republic of Moldova

I. Seliște DG1

II. Seliște G62

III. Selişte G63
IV. Selişte G67
V. Selişte G69
VI. Selişte G72
VII. Selişte G77

91. Semionovca (Seimeni), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Semionovca (Seimeni) T3G1
II. Semionovca (Seimeni) T4G1

92. Sergheevca, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Sergheevca T5G1
II. Sergheevca T12G1

93. Șoldănești, Șoldănești district, Republic of Moldova

I. Șoldănești G1
II. Șoldănești G4
III. Șoldănești G7
IV. Șoldănești G10

94. Strumok (Cișma or Cișmele), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa oblast, Ukraine

I. Strumok (Cișma) T1G12

95. Suvorove (Șichirlichitai, Katlabuh), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Suvorove (Katlabuh) G1
II. Suvorove (Katlabuh) G2
III. Suvorove (Katlabuh) G3

96. Suvorovo (or Alexandru Ioan Cuza), Cahul District, Republic of Moldova

I. Suvorovo (Alexandru Ioan Cuza) T3G2

97. Svetlîi, Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, „Comrat District", Republic of Moldova

I. Svetlîi T2G2

98. Talmaza, Ștefan Vodă, Republic of Moldova

I. Talmaza T1G7
II. Talmaza T7G1

99. Taraclia Gaidabul, Taraclia District, Republic of Moldova

I. Taraclia Gaidabul G1
II. Taraclia Gaidabul G2

III. Taraclia Gaidabul G3

100. Taraclia II, Taraclia District, Republic of Moldova

I. Taraclia II T9G2

II. Taraclia II T17G3

III. Taraclia II T17G9

IV. Taraclia II T17G10

101. Tîrnauca, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Slobozia District", Republic of Moldova

I. Tîrnauca T1G2

102. Tocmagiu, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Grigoriopol District", Republic of Moldova

I. Tocmagiu DG1

II. Tocmagiu DG2

III. Tocmagiu G1

IV. Tocmagiu G2

V. Tocmagiu G3

103. Trapovka (Tropoclo), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Trapovka (Tropoclo) T1G5

104. Trinca, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova

I. Trinca DG1

105. Truşeni, Chisinau Municipality, Republic of Moldova

I. Trușeni G1

106. Turlaki (now Vîpasne), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Turlaki (Vîpasne) T8G1

II. Turlaki (Vîpasne) T10G1

III. Turlaki (Vîpasne) T12G1

IV. Turlaki (Vîpasne) T13G1

V. Turlaki (Vîpasne) T14G1

VI. Turlaki (Vîpasne) T16G1

VII. Turlaki (Vîpasne) T17G1

107. Tuzara I, Călărași District, Republic of Moldova

I. Tuzara I G1

108. Ursoaia, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Ursoaia T4G1

109. Vadul lui Isac, Cahul District, Republic of Moldova

I. Vadul lui Isac T1G3

110. Vasilivca (Vaisal), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

I. Vasilivca T1G1
II. Vasilivca T1G2
III. Vasilivca T1G3
IV. Vasilivca T6G4
V. Vasilivca T6G5
VI. Vasilivca T6G6
VII. Vasilivca T11G1
VIII. Vasilivca T11G2
IX. Vasilivca T14G1
X. Vasilivca T14G2
XI. Vasilivca T14G3
XII. Vasilivca T14G4
XIII. Vasilivca T14G5
XIV. Vasilivca T14G6
XV. Vasilivca T19G2
XVI. Vasilivca T20G1
XVII. Vasilivca T21G2
XVIII. Vasilivca T23G1
XIX. Vasilivca T24G1
XX. Vasilivca T25G2
XXI. Vasilivca T25G3
XXII. Vasilivca T26G2
XXIII. Vasilivca T27G1

111. Viișoara, Glodeni District, Republic of Moldova

I. Viișoara DG1

1. Alcalia River (Shirokoe), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine

The tumulus group known as the Alcalia tumulus necropolis is named after the river originating in Moldova. The necropolis is located 0.6-0.8 km from the village of Șîroke/Shirokoe (or Chebabcea). The tumuli were situated along the NW-SE axis on the right bank of the river, extending over a distance of 2.5 km. Many tumuli were leveled due to agricultural activities. The research took place between 1987-1988, led by L.V. Subbotin, A.N. Dzigovskii, S.A. Dvoreaninov, M.M. Fokeev, and others.

Alcalia T5G13 The tumulus had a height of 3.6 meters and a diameter of 50 meters. It was discovered towards the SSE at a depth of 1.45 meters.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not identified

Pit shape: not identified

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton is in poor condition, but from the cranial bones, it can be inferred that the deceased was oriented with their head towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

Near the cranial bones:

1. **Black polished jug**: single handle. H: 16 cm; DR: 8.5 cm; DB: 7 cm. (Fig. 1/1).
2. **Stone fire striker**: with signs of impact. L: 7.5 cm; W: 6 cm; Th: 2-3 cm. (Fig. 1/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990, p. 4-5 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T6G1 The tumulus had a height of 0.1 meters and a diameter of 20 meters. In the tumulus, a single Sarmatian burial and 4 ritual pits were identified (fig. 1/3). The grave was situated in the central part of the tumulus. The contours of the burial pit were identified at a depth of 0.35 meters, below the plowed layer (fig. 1/6).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.8 x 1.5 x 1.35 m (1 meter from the identified upper edge).

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with a niche along its western wall with a spacious vault. Access to the vault was through two steps. At a level of 2.3 meters from the base of the lower step (1.95 meters from the level of the grave identification), the horizontal floor was trapezoidal with dimensions of 2.8 x 1.7-2 meters.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was destroyed in antiquity. The separate bones of the skeleton (pelvis, hands, legs) were found at different filling levels of the pit. The bottom of the pit and the niche were covered with charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the pit and niche:

1. **Beads & Pendants** (23+ pcs.): various shapes and materials (glass, mother-of-pearl, amber, coral, carnelian). H: 1; Ø: 0.8-2 cm. (Fig. 2/9-26).
2. **Bronze buckles** (2 pcs.): oval-shaped with open ends. (Fig. 1/10, 12).
3. **Bronze harness fitting (?)**: plate connected to a rectangular loop. L: 4.5 cm; W: 1.3 cm. (Fig. 1/11).
4. **Bronze nails**: quadrilateral section. L: 2 cm; Head W: 0.8 cm. (Fig. 1/9).
5. **Bronze bells** (3 pcs.): with iron clappers. H: 1.4-1.9 cm; DB: ~2 cm. (Fig. 1/4, 5).
6. **Rectangular clamps** (2 pcs.): L: 2.3 cm and 2 cm; W: 1 cm. (Fig. 1/7, 8).
7. **Bone dagger handle**: round section, with bronze inlays and rivets. L: 12 cm; Ø: 2 cm. (Fig. 2/2).
8. **Iron sickle** (fragment). (Fig. 2/5).
9. **Iron knife** (fragments): with bronze rivets. (Fig. 2/6, 7).
10. **Conical hand-made lid** (fragmented). DB: 12 cm. (Fig. 2/1).

In the filling:

11. **Hand-made pot**: decorated with incisions and clay applications. H: ~16 cm; DR: 9 cm; DB: ~5 cm (restored). (Fig. 2/4).

12. **Hand-made incense burner**: hourglass shape, decorated with holes and a relief band. H: 10.5 cm; DR: 14 cm; DB: 11.5 cm. (Fig. 2/8).
13. **Terra Sigillata dish**: red-slipped, with a flat, flared rim. H: 3 cm; DR: 23 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 1/13).
14. **Glass flask** (partially restored): narrow neck and wide body. DR: 3 cm; DB: 9 cm. (Fig. 2/3).

Alcalia, Ritual Pits[18]

The ritual pits were discovered at the same depth as the grave, 0.35 meters. All had practically identical shapes and dimensions, being sub-cylindrical: the diameter of Pit 1 measured 1.2 meters, Pits 2 and 4 were 1.3 meters in diameter, with a depth of 0.3 meters, and the oval dimensions of Pit 3 were 1.25 x 1.45 meters, with a depth of 0.45 meters. The pits were symmetrically arranged in pairs, evenly spaced from the center of the grave pit (fig. 1/3): the southwestern pair of pits was located 7 meters away, while the northwestern pair was 5.5 meters away. Animal bones were found at the bottom of all the pits.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990, pp. 5-7, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T7G1 The tumulus had a height of 0.1 meters and a diameter of 20 meters. Inside the tumulus, a single Sarmatian burial and 4 ritual pits were identified (fig. 3/1). The grave was located in the center of the tumulus, directly beneath the plow layer, at a depth of 0.3 meters (fig. 3/3).

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 2.9 meters, with a width of 1.2 meters at the top and 0.8 meters at the bottom, and a depth of 2.1 meters from the reference point. The steps of the pit were 0.2 meters wide, left along the long sides at a height of 0.7 meters from the bottom.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and steps

[18] In addition to the graves included in the catalog of this work, I have also included a series of other structures related to funerary elements, such as ritual pits, constructions/ditches that surrounded the graves or were in close proximity, the pits left behind from funeral feasts (trizna), funerary stelae, etc.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton had been destroyed in antiquity. Based on the positioning of the skull fragments, it can be inferred that the deceased was oriented with the head toward the north-northwest.

Funeral furniture:

Found at different levels of the pit's fill:

1. **Silver belt fittings** (fragments): plate remnants with preserved leather. Th: ~0.1 cm; W: 1.5 cm. (Fig. 3/2).
2. **Gold ornament**: sphere connected to a cylinder with attachment holes. H: 0.6 cm; Ø: 0.4-0.6 cm. (Fig. 3/8).
3. **Glass beads** (40 pcs.): primarily pill-shaped and spherical. (Fig. 3/4-7).
4. **Red clay amphora** (fragments of neck and walls).
5. **Hand-made pot** (fragments): with a cylindrical neck and straight rim.

Alcalia, Ritual pits

The ritual pits were identified at the same level (0.3 meters), with a similar depth (0.6 meters from the reference point). Three of them were semi-cylindrical, with diameters of 1.1 meters (Pits No. 1 and 2) and 0.9 meters (Pit No. 3). Pit No. 4 had an oval plan shape, measuring 1.3 by 1 meter, elongated in the NW-SE direction. Two pits were symmetrically located relative to the center of the grave and approximately equidistant: Pit 4 was 2.5 meters to the north-northeast, and Pit 3 was 3.2 meters to the south-southwest. The other two pits were situated further to the southwest of the grave: Pit No. 1 was 5 meters from the center, and Pit No. 2 was 1.2 meters west of Pit No. 1. No artifacts were found in these pits (fig. 3/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 8, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T11G1 The tumulus was not noticeable but only a patch with a diameter of 12 meters. A single Sarmatian burial was identified within the patch (fig. 3/9). The grave was located in the center of the patch. The outlines of the funeral pit were identified at a depth of 0.3 meters.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 1.1 x 1.6 m. At 0.7 meters above the bottom, along the length of the long walls, steps were found, 0.2 meters wide, which narrowed the bottom of the pit to 0.7 meters. The surface of the steps was whitish.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton had been robbed and destroyed: the remaining human bones of the hands and feet were scattered at different levels of the pit's fill.

Funeral furniture:

At different levels:

1. **Mother-of-pearl jewellery** (complex). (Fig. 3/13, 18).
2. **Glass beads** (80 pcs.): round, pill-shaped, and prismatic forms. (Fig. 3/14-17, 19-20).
3. **Spindles** (2 pcs.): one conical, one biconical. H: ~3 cm; DM: 4 cm and 5 cm. (Fig. 3/10, 11).
4. **Iron knife blade** (fragment). (Fig. 3/12).
5. **Hand-made gray clay pot** (fragments).
6. **Conical hand-made lid**: H: 3 cm; DB: 7.5 cm; Top Ø: ~2 cm. (Fig. 3/21).
7. **Red clay amphora** (wall fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 9, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T12G1 The tumulus had a height of 0.05-0.1 meters and a diameter of 12 meters. Within the patch, a single Sarmatian burial was identified. The burial was discovered in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 0.3 meters (fig. 4/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.5 meters in length and 1.15 meters in width. The bottom of the pit was at a depth of 1.3 meters. The steps, with widths of 0.15 and 0.2 meters, were positioned along the long sides of the pit at a height of 0.5 meters above its bottom. The width of the bottom of the pit was 0.8 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: No bones were found in the grave—possibly a cenotaph? At the bottom, traces of decomposed organic matter and a few pieces of charcoal were found.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Iron dagger-sword** (fragments): blade W: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 4/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 9-10, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T17G2 The tumulus was not noticeable but only a patch with a diameter of 13 meters. Within the patch, two burials were identified (fig. 4/3): No. 1 - undetermined, and No. 2 - Sarmatian, the main one. The grave was located in the center of the tumulus (fig. 4/4).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 1 x 0.6-1.05 m

Pit shape: a rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was destroyed. The bones were scattered at different levels of the pit's fill. At the bottom of the pit, traces of decomposed organic matter and a thin layer of chalk were found.

Funeral furniture:

At different levels:

1. **Bronze disc-applique**: umbo-shaped, decorated edges, with two fastening hooks. Ø: 1.9 cm; H: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 4/7).
2. **Bone tube** (fragment). (Fig. 4/6).
3. **Two-edged iron sword** (fragments): with a simple handle. Blade W: up to 4 cm. (Fig. 4/5).
4. **Hand-made pot** (fragments).
5. **Red clay amphora** (fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 10, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T19G2 The tumulus was not visible but only a patch with a diameter of 15 meters. Within the patch, two burials were identified: G1 - Scythian, the main one, and G2 - Sarmatian. The burial was located in the center of the tumulus and partially overlapped grave 1 (fig. 5/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.7 x 0.5 x 0.75 meters. The bottom was preserved at a width of 0.25 meters: on the northwest side, it was cut along its entire length by a vertical step with a height of 0.2 meters, from which the niche began. The bottom of the niche had an oval shape, parallel to the pit, with dimensions of 1.7 x 0.45-0.65 meters (widening towards the north). The maximum height of the niche vault at the entrance was 0.5 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners in the northeast direction and a niche built into the northwest wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: At the bottom, there were remains of organic matter and chalk; the skull, hand bones, and fragments of leg bones were in anatomical position. Based on the skeletal remains, the buried person was lying on their back, with their head towards the northwest. The right hand was extended towards the hip, while the left was bent at the elbow and placed on the abdomen.

Funeral furniture:

Over the right-hand bones:

1. **Iron double-edged swords** (2 pcs.): one with a guard (L: ~50 cm; W: 4.5 cm), one fighting sword with a simple handle (L: ~100 cm; W: 6.2 cm). (Fig. 5/3-4).

In the center of the pit:

2. **Gray wheel-thrown dish**: conical body, ring base, with a thickened outward-turned rim. (Fig. 5/5).

At the bottom of the pit, near the feet:

3. **Gray hand-made pot**: decorated with finger indentations, funnel-shaped neck. H: 22.5 cm; DR: 16 cm; DB: 8.5 cm. (Fig. 5/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 10-11, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T20G1 The tumulus was not visible, only a patch with a diameter of 14 meters. Within the tumulus, a single grave, a ritual pit, and a square ditch were identified (fig. 4/8). The burial was located in the northwest sector of the patch (fig. 4/10).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.6 x 0.5 x 0.4-0.9 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial had been disturbed and looted in antiquity. Only scattered human bones were found in the fill of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Hand-made pottery** (fragments).

Alcalia, Ritual pit

The ritual pit was discovered at a depth of 0.4-0.9 meters, 0.6 meters northwest of the burial. It was irregularly oval-shaped, extending in the northwest-southeast direction, with dimensions of 1.3 x 1 meter.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the pit, on the southern side:

1. **Red clay amphora** (large upper fragments): shows signs of ancient repair (drilled holes for securing breaks). (Fig. 4/9).

Alcalia, Trench[19] No. 1 (Fig. 4/8) Discovered at a depth of 0.4 meters, 3 meters southeast of the burial.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan and in cross-section a rectangular shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points (with slight deviations)

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: The ditch measured 6.2 x 6 meters. Depth was 0.6 meters, width ranged from 0.3 to 0.35 meters, and the entrance was 0.7 meters.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 11-12, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T21G1 The tumulus was not visible, only a patch with a diameter of 15 meters. Within the tumulus, a single grave was identified (fig. 6/1). The burial was discovered in the center of the patch at a depth of 0.3 meters

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: The dimensions of the pit were 2.4 meters in length, 1.2 meters in width at the top, and 0.8 meters at the bottom, with the steps having a width of 0.2 meters. The depth of the pit from the surface was 1.55 meters, and from the steps to the bottom was 0.85 meters.

Pit shape: a sub-rectangular shape with rounded corners and steps along the long sides

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial had been destroyed and looted; only scattered human bones were found in the fill of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Iron object** (unclear fragments).
2. **Hand-made pottery** (fragments): with a straight rim.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

[19] By trench - I will call what are called ditches, ground constructions or funeral commemorative constructions.

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 12, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T22G1 The tumulus was not visible, only a patch with a diameter of 15 meters. Within the tumulus, a single grave was identified (fig. 6/2). The burial was discovered in the center of the patch at a depth of 0.6 meters.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.6 x 0.9 x 1.1 m (1.7 m from the surface).

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial had been destroyed, and only scattered bones of a person were found.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Bronze buckle**: with a faceted rectangular frame and movable tongue. Dimensions: 3.9 x 3.5 cm. (Fig. 6/3).
2. **Bronze appliqués** (2 pcs.): umbo-shaped, decorated with false beads. Ø: 2.1 cm; H: 0.6 cm. (Fig. 6/4, 6).
3. **Bronze fibula**: curved, with a wire construction and extended receptor. L: 6 cm. (Fig. 6/8).
4. **Bronze clasp**: made from a thin strip (Th: 0.1 cm; W: 0.7 cm), fixed with a pin. Dimensions: 2 x 1.5 cm. (Fig. 6/5).
5. **Iron knife blade** (fragments).
6. **Hand-made gray vessel** (wall fragments).
7. **Terra Sigillata bowl**: red clay, biconical shape with a ring-shaped foot. H: 10 cm; DR: 23.5 cm; DB: 8.5 cm. (Fig. 6/7).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 12-13, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T23G1 The tumulus was not apparent, only a patch with a diameter of 15 m. Within the tumulus, a single grave was identified. The burial was located in the center of the patch (fig. 7/1).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: The length of the pit was 2.1 meters, the width at the top was 1 meter, and at the bottom was 0.8 meters, a depth ranging from 0.5 meters to 1.8 meters. At a depth of 0.6 meters from its bottom along the long sides, there were steps with a width of 0.1 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial had been completely destroyed and looted, with only fragmented bones of a person found in the pit fill. Traces of plant material and a chalk covering were found at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Stone grinder** (fragment): broken section Ø: ~1.7 cm. (Fig. 7/3).
2. **Large pot** (upper part fragment): with a curved neck and flared rim. DR: ~19 cm; DM: ~24 cm. (Fig. 7/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 13-14, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T24G1 The tumulus was not apparent, only a patch with a diameter of 12 meters. Within the tumulus, a single grave was identified. The burial was discovered in the center of the patch at a depth of 0.3 meters (fig. 5/6).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 0.7 x 0.3 meters (0.6 meters from the reference point).

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Traces of plant material and a chalk covering were observed at the bottom, and above these was found the skeleton of a woman. The buried woman lay supine with her head oriented towards the northeast. Her left

arm was extended alongside her body and placed on her left hip, while her right arm was extended forward (to the right).

Funeral furniture:

To the right of the head:

1. **Biconical spindle whorl**: H: 3.5 cm; DB: 2 cm and 3 cm; DM: 5 cm. (Fig. 5/7).
2. **Mushroom-shaped spindle whorl**: H: 3 cm; DB: 2.2 cm and 2.8 cm; DM: 4 cm. (Fig. 5/8).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 14, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T26G1 The tumulus was not apparent, only a patch with a diameter of 10 meters. Within the tumulus, a single grave was identified. The burial was located in the center of the patch (fig. 7/4).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 0.65 x 0.4-2.9 m. The upper step, with a width of up to 0.1 meters, followed the length of the southwest wall, inclined at a depth of 0.6 meters. The lower step, with a width between 5 and 12 cm, surrounded the pit around the perimeter at a depth of 1.5 meters. The length of the pit bottom was 1.65 meters, and the width ranged from 0.3 to 0.45 meters (narrowing towards the southern end).

Pit shape: an almost rectangular shape with rounded corners and 2 steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was destroyed and looted. Only scattered human bones were found in the fill of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Terra Sigillata bowl** (fragments): red clay, with pointed shoulders, a cylindrical upper part, and a conical lower part. DR: 17 cm. (Fig. 7/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 14-15, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T27G1 The tumulus was not apparent, only a patch with a diameter of 10 meters. Within the tumulus, a single grave was identified. The burial was discovered in the central part of the patch at a depth of 0.5 meters (fig. 9/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.6 x 0.5 x 1.5 m (2 m from the reference point). At a height of 0.5 meters above the bottom of the pit, along the long sides, steps were made with a width of approximately 0.1 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was destroyed and looted. Fragments of human bones were found at various levels of the pit fill. The bottom of the pit and the steps were covered with chalk.

Funeral furniture:

At various levels of the pit fill:

1. **Hand-made pottery** (small pieces).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 15, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T28G1 The tumulus was not apparent, only a patch with a diameter of 12 meters. Within the tumulus, a single grave was identified. The grave was located in the center of the tumulus (fig. 8/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.97 x 0.65 x 0.5-1.3 m. At 0.5 meters above the bottom of the pit, steps with a width of up to 0.15 meters were present along the long sides of the pit.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was lying on their back with the head oriented towards the northeast. The arms were extended along the body. The bottom of the pit and the steps were covered with chalk.

Funeral furniture:

In the chest and abdomen area:

1. **Bronze bow-shaped fibula** (heavily fragmented).
2. **Bronze buckle**: with a round frame, movable tongue, and preserved leather remnants. Frame Ø: 2.5 cm; Pin: 2.6 x 1.7 cm. (Fig. 8/2).
3. **Bronze belt tip**: with two rivets. (Fig. 8/5).

In the fill at the step level:

4. **Bronze plate**: scoop-shaped, for a wooden object. H: 2.2 cm; W: 1 cm. (Fig. 8/9).
5. **Iron knife** (fragments). (Fig. 8/8).
6. **Large hand-made pot**: with a conical neck, decorated with finger impressions and relief lines. H: 24.2 cm; DR: 17.5 cm; DB: 9 cm. (Fig. 8/4).
7. **Hand-made conical lid**: decorated with finger impressions. H: 9 cm; DB: 17.5 cm; Top Ø: 6 cm. (Fig. 8/3).

At the feet:

8. **Terra Sigillata jug**: red glazed, wheel-made, single handle, with a biconic body and ring base. H: 18.6 cm; DR: 10 cm; DB: 6.9 cm. (Fig. 8/10).
9. **Terra Sigillata bowl**: red glazed, wheel-made, with an inward-turned rim and ring base. H: 8 cm; DR: 16.5 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 8/6).

Inside the bowl:

10. **Hand-made pot**: with a conical neck, decorated with finger impressions and vertical ridges. H: 15 cm; DR: 8.5 cm; DB: 6.4 cm. (Fig. 8/7).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 15-16, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T29G1 The tumulus was not noticeable, only a patch with a diameter of 10 meters. Within the tumulus, a single grave was identified. The grave was located in the center of the patch (fig. 7/6).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 0.8 x 0.3-1.05 m. At 0.55 meters from the bottom of the pit, on the western side of the clay wall, there was a small step with a width of 0.2 meters and a length of 0.8 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with a step

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was disturbed, and in the fill, fragmented human bones were found. The bottom of the pit was covered with chalk.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Conical hand-made lid**: with a cylindrical-convex handle and decorated edge. H: 5.5 cm; Lid Ø: 11 cm; Handle Ø: 5 cm. (Fig. 7/9).
2. **Terra Sigillata bowl** (upper part fragment): red glazed, with a slightly inward-flaring rim. Ø: 10 cm. (Fig. 7/8).
3. **Hand-made pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck, decorated with finger impressions and indentations. H: 16 cm; DR: 9.2 cm; DB: 7 cm. (Fig. 7/7).
4. **Hand-made pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck and tapering cylindrical body, decorated with finger impressions and indentations. H: 13.5 cm; DR: 8.6 cm; DB: 6.7 cm. (Fig. 7/10).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 16-17, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T30G1 The tumulus was not noticeable, only a patch with a diameter of 10 m. Within the tumulus, a single grave was identified. The grave was located in the center of the patch (fig. 6/9).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 0.8 x 0.3-1 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was destroyed and looted: fragmented human bones were found in its fill. The bottom of the pit was covered with chalk.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Conical hand-made lid**: with a cylindrical-convex handle. Lid H: 6.5 cm; Handle H: 1 cm; DB: 8.5 cm; Handle Ø: 3 cm. (Fig. 6/10).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 17, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T 31, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 9/2) was discovered at a depth of 0.4 meters, 3 meters southeast of the burial. The tumulus was not noticeable, only a patch with a diameter of 12 meters. Within the tumulus, a commemorative structure was identified.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan and in cross-section a rectangular shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: The trench measured 7.5 x 6.8 meters. The depth was 0.7 meters, width 0.6 meters, and the entry was 1 meter wide.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 17, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T32G1 The tumulus was not noticeable, only a patch with a diameter of 20 meters. Within the tumulus, a single grave was identified. The grave was located in the center of the tumulus (fig. 9/3).

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 3.8 x 1.1 x 0.35-1.45 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was disturbed and looted. In the fill of the pit, scattered fragments of human bones were found. The bottom of the pit was covered with chalk.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Terra Sigillata bowl** (lower part fragment): red glazed, with a ring-shaped base. DB: 9 cm. (Fig. 9/4).
2. **Hand-made clay bowl** (fragments): deep, with a cylindrical upper part and a base that narrows sharply. DB: 30 cm.
3. **Gray clay jug** (upper part fragment): two-handled, with a decorated faceted rim and grooved neck. DR: 13 cm. (Fig. 9/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, pp. 17-18, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T1, Trizna. It was a mound rising 0.1 meters with a diameter of 13-15 meters. Two ritual pits were identified, similar to those in tumuli 6 and 7. The pits, discovered at depths ranging from 0.65 to 0.85 meters from the reference point, were arranged in the tumulus along the SSW-NNE axis, spaced 1-2 meters apart. The northern pits (as well as in the groups of pits in tumuli 6 and 7) had oval outlines in plan, while the southern ones were circular. The dimensions of the former were, consequently, 0.8 x 0.9 meters, while the diameters of the latter were 1.2 meters. In the fill of the southern pit (No. 2) of Tumulus 1, small carbonized animal bones and ash were found, and the bottom was partially burned and covered with chalk.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 18, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Alcalia T16, Trizna. It was visible on the field surface as a slightly yellowish patch, with a diameter of approximately 12 meters. Two ritual pits were identified, similar to those in tumuli

6 and 7. The pits, discovered at depths ranging from 0.65 to 0.85 meters from the reference point, were arranged in the tumulus along the SSW-NNE axis, spaced 1-2 meters apart. The northern pits (as well as in the groups of pits in tumuli 6 and 7) had oval outlines in plan, while the southern ones were circular. The dimensions of the former were 1.05 x 1.1 meters, while the diameters of the latter were 1 meter. At the bottom of the northern pit (No. 1) of Tumulus 16, disordered animal bones were identified.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 18, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

1. **Alcedar, Șoldănești District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1984, V. S. Beilekci, during excavations of a settlement in the village of Alcedar, discovered and partially investigated a bi-ritual necropolis consisting of: 2 inhumation graves and 6 cremation graves.

Alcedar G1 (Fig. 10/1)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 0.35 x 0.75-0.85 m

Pit shape: rectangular pit with rounded corners and a small niche in the NE wall. The walls slope inward towards the bottom, which is flat.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, lying on their back with the head to the NE. The skull slightly turned towards the left shoulder. Arms stretched alongside the body; hands placed towards the pelvis. The fill was chernozem, with fragments of charcoal observed at the bottom.

Funeral furniture:

Around the neck:

1. **Necklace**: composed of 22 glass beads: three ring-shaped, yellow and black (Ø: 0.8 cm; Th: 0.5 cm); eleven disc-shaped, gray-blue and blue (Ø: 0.9-1 cm; Th: 0.3 cm); seven lenticular-shaped, violet (Ø: 1 cm; Th: 0.4 cm); and one prismatic-tubular, red (L: 1.4 cm; Th: 0.4 cm). (Fig. 10/4).

On the radius bones in layers:

2. **Glass beads** (715 pcs.): of different colors (violet, blue, green, orange), divisible into 6 types: barrel-shaped with relief decoration (green); parallelepiped-shaped (transparent-violet); polyhedral with 14 facets (transparent-violet and orange); parallelepiped-shaped (green); cylindrical (yellowish-green); and conical tubular (various colors). L: 0.5-0.7 cm; Th: 0.6-0.7 cm; Hole Ø: 0.2-0.3 cm. (Fig. 10/3).

Between the femurs:

3. **Clay spindle whorl**: bitronconic, gray, with indentations at the tips. H: 3.1 cm; DM: 4.3 cm; Hole Ø: 0.8 cm. (Fig. 10/6).

Dating: 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurceatov 1989, p. 163-165, fig. 3/1,3,5,9 (2nd-3rd century AD).

Alcedar G2 (Fig. 10/2)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.6 x 0.7 x 0.7 m

Pit shape: rectangular pit with heavily rounded corners; the walls slope inward towards the bottom, which is flat.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, lying on their back with the head to the north. The skull oriented upwards. The left arm stretched alongside the body, while the right arm was bent and placed on the pelvis. The fill was chernozem mixed with fragments of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

On the radius bones in layers:

1. **Glass beads** (827 pcs.): of different colors (violet, green, yellow), with the following forms: polyhedral with 14 facets (yellow); parallelepiped-shaped (yellow); prism-shaped with rounded corners (green); cylindrical (various colors); and conical tubular (various colors). L: 0.3-0.7 cm; Th: 0.5 cm; Hole Ø: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 10/3).

Near the left-hand palm:

2. **Clay spindle whorl**: "mushroom"-shaped, yellow, with funnel-shaped indentations at the bottom. H: 2.4 cm; Top Ø: 2 cm; DB: 4.5 cm; DM: 4 cm; Hole Ø: 0.9 cm. (Fig. 10/7)

Dating: 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurceatov 1989, p. 165, 167, fig. 3/2,3,8 (2nd-3rd century AD).

3. **Alijaga (Glăvani), Bolhrad District, Odessa Region, Ukraine**

In 1979, the Ismail region archaeological expedition investigated a complex of monuments dating to the first half of the first millennium AD, including the Alijaga or Glăvani necropolis, discovered on the steep bank of the steppe river Alijaga, 3 km north of Glăvani village, Bolhrad District, Odessa Region. 500 meters south of the necropolis lies the SM-C Glăvani I settlement. Partially within and outside the necropolis area, to the north, is the Glăvani III settlement from the first centuries AD. Before the excavations, local residents often found human bones, beads, and other objects in the cliffs of the cemetery area. A significant part of the necropolis has disappeared due to erosion along the banks. Excavations were conducted along a narrow strip along the bank to examine the area being destroyed. The entire surface of the cemetery has not yet been fully identified. Six tombs and a square structure were discovered in the excavated portion.

Alijaga, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 11/1) Located in the central part of the necropolis, the southern part of this structure was destroyed by a ravine, but the contours can still be traced. The fill is dense chernozem.

Trench shape: a square shape in plan and a trapezoidal-conical shape in section.

Orientation: The sides were oriented towards the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interrupted/Entrance: On the southern side.

Dimensions of the trench: The trench measured 13x13 m. The depth was 1.2 m. The trench width at 0.5 m depth was 1.1-1.2 m.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 32, 34; Fig. 10/1, (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Alijaga G1 (Fig. 11/1) Discovered in a ravine. The corner of the burial pit had collapsed, but its fill was completely preserved.

Pit direction: ENE-WSW

Pit sizes: 2.25 x 0.85 x 1 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The tomb was looted. Human bone fragments were found in the fill.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Iron arrowhead** (heavily corroded)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 34, Fig. 10/1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Alijaga G2 (Fig. 11/2) Discovered in a ravine. The southern part of the burial pit is preserved. The upper part of the pit was washed away.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: The width at the bottom is 45 cm. The depth is 120 cm.

Pit shape: rectangular (southern suggest)

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The pelvis and leg bones of a child's skeleton were found. The child was laid on their back, with the head towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

Around the leg bones:

1. **Glass seed-beads** (several hundred): small, colored, cut beads, including a few larger, flattened round beads. (Fig. 11/18).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 34; Fig. 10/1, 2, 18, (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Alijaga G3 (Fig. 11/3)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.85 x 1 x 1.1 m

Pit shape: Rectangular. Short sides of the pit, from a depth of 85 cm, form small niches.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted. Human bone fragments found in the fill. Skull bones were located in the northeastern part of the pit, suggesting the buried individual had their head oriented towards the NE.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Hand-made vessel** (ceramic fragments).
2. **Spindle whorl** (fragment).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 34; fig. 10/1, 3 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (end of the 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Alijaga G4 (Fig. 11/4)

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 1.75 x 0.5 x 1 m, a niche 1.95 x 0.5 m

Pit shape: Rectangular. The pit narrows slightly at the southeast, i.e., towards the feet. In the southwestern part, a niche is dug, extending 25 cm below the bottom of the entrance pit.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Laid on the back, stretched out, head towards NW. Face oriented to the right. Right arm bent at the elbow, with the hand on the abdomen.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 34; fig. 10/1, 4 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (end of the 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Alijaga, Trench No. 2 (Fig. 11/5) Partially excavated – the other part was destroyed (steep bank). Inside, there was a grave. The eastern corner was preserved.

Shape: a rectangular ditch in plan.

Orientation: Sides oriented towards the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interruptions/Entrance: Not preserved.

Dimensions of the ditch: Not preserved – except for the eastern corner.

Alijaga G5 (Fig. 11/5)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.95 x 0.95 x 1.45 m

Pit shape: Rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted. Human bone fragments were found.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Iron sword** (fragments): with traces of a wooden sheath.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 34; fig. 10/1, 5 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (end of the 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

4. **Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis", Edineț District, Republic of Moldova**

Following archaeological research in 1988, a necropolis associated with nearby structures was discovered. This necropolis introduced innovations by arranging graves and constructions in a specific manner - square constructions were arranged in two lines, and the deceased were positioned in the SW corner (fig. 13/1). Researchers date this necropolis to the second half of

the 2nd century to the first half of the 3rd century AD. Additionally, authors presume that this could be the result of contact between the Sarmatians and the Germano-Celtic world.

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis", Trench no. 1 (Fig. 14/1):

Trench shape: a square trench in plan, in section, the trench had a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Dimensions of the trench: 12.7x12.6 m, entrance width 2.5 m, depth 1.1 m, trench width 0.5 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern corner of the structure:

1. **Amphorae** (4 pcs., fragmented): same type, light yellowish clay with tall necks, complex handles, and short, ribbed bodies. H: 57-59 cm; DR: 7.5-8 cm; Neck L: 25 cm; DB: 4-4.5 cm. (Fig. 13/2).

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G1 (Fig. 14/2): Discovered 2.2 m from the western wall of structure no. 1, forming a single complex.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.25 x 0.65 x 0.85 m

Pit shape: Rectangular-shaped grave with rounded corners.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature man aged 45-50 years, lying on his back with head towards NE.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right thigh:

1. **Two-edged iron sword**: with traces of a wooden sheath, handle has a ring-shaped pommel and cross guard. Total L: 41 cm; Blade L: 28.5 cm; Blade W: 4 cm; Handle L: 8.2 cm. (Fig. 14/3).

To the left of the skull:

2. **Grayish bowl**: conical, wheel-made, with a ring-shaped bottom and a decorated band below the rim. H: 10 cm; DR: 23-25 cm; DB: 7.6 cm. (Fig. 14/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995, p. 113, fig. 2, 3/1-4, 4; (second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 161 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis", Trench no. 2 (Fig. 15/2)

Trench shape: a square trench in plan, in section, the trench had a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Dimensions of the trench: 12x12 m, entrance width 2.8 m, depth 1.1 m, trench width 0.5 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the middle of the NW and SE walls of the structure:

1. **Amphorae** (5 pcs., fragmented): same type, light yellowish clay with tall necks, complex handles, and short, ribbed bodies; one has a triangular mark. H: 58-59 cm; DR: 7-8 cm; Neck L: 25 cm; DB: 4-4.5 cm. Bones of ovicaprids were found among the fragments. (Fig. 13/3).

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G2 (Fig. 15/3): Discovered 3 m west of the western corner of structure no. 2, forming a single complex.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.8 x 1.7 m

Pit shape: Rectangular-shaped grave with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature man, lying on his back with head towards NE. Hands extended along the body, and the bones of the left arm were under the pelvis. Legs extended. On the tibiae, remnants of brown color - possibly shoes (?). The filling retained traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

At the left elbow:

1. **Bronze buckle**: composed of a rectangular buckle and a rectangular plate with a mobile connection and faceted edges. Plate: 3.9 x 1.2 cm; Buckle: 2 x 1.2 cm. (Fig. 15/6).
2. **Barrel-shaped bead**: made of non-transparent glass paste. L: 0.7 cm; W: 0.9 cm; Hole Ø: 0.4 cm. (Fig. 15/5).

Near the pelvis:

3. **Semi-circular bronze plates** (fragments). (Fig. 15/7, 8).

Near the right thigh:

4. **Two-edged iron sword**: with traces of a wooden sheath, handle has a ring-shaped pommel and cross guard. Total L: 45 cm; Blade L: 32 cm; Blade W: 4 cm; Handle L: 8 cm. (Fig. 15/1).

To the left of the skull:

5. **Gray-polished jug**: wheel-made, single handle, with a biconical body, ring-shaped bottom, and decorated with incised and polished lines. H: 9 cm; DR: 6.4 cm; DB: 5.2 cm. (Fig. 15/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995, p. 113-115, fig. 5/1-8, 6/1-6; (second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 161 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis", Trench no. 3 (Fig. 16/2):

Trench shape: a square trench in plan, in section, the trench had a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Dimensions of the trench: 11.5x11 m, entrance width 2.5 m, depth 1 m, trench width 0.5 m

Funeral furniture:

In the middle of the NW wall of the structure:

1. **Amphora** (fragments): light pink clay, with a tall neck and a complex-shaped handle. DR: 8 cm.

In the southern corner of the structure:

2. **Handmade pot** (fragments): with a tall funnel-shaped neck, spherical body, and decorated with incised lines. H: 25 cm; DR: 18 cm; DB: 12 cm. (Fig. 16/4).

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G3 (Fig. 16/3): Discovered 1.7 m west of the western corner of structure no. 3, forming a single complex.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.25 x 0.65 x 1.40 m

Pit shape: Rectangular-shaped grave with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a man aged 30-35 years, lying on his back with head towards NE. Hands extended. Legs extended. The filling retained traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right thigh:

1. **Two-edged iron sword**: with traces of a wooden sheath, handle has a ring-shaped pommel and cross guard. Total L: 33 cm; Blade L: 23.5 cm; Blade W: 3.5 cm; Handle L: 5 cm. (Fig. 16/1).
2. **Iron knife**: with wooden remnants around the handle and a triangular blade section. L: 6 cm; W: 1.8 cm. (Fig. 16/6).

Near the right shin:

3. **Grayish bowl**: wheel-made, truncated cone shape, with a ring-shaped bottom. H: 12 cm; DR: 26.5 cm; DB: 11 cm. (Fig. 16/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995, p. 115-116, fig. 7/1-6; (second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 161 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis", Trench no. 4 (Fig. 17/1):

Trench shape: a square trench in plan, in section, the trench had a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Dimensions of the trench: 12x12 m, entrance width 2.4 m, depth 1.2 m, trench width 0.5-0.6 m

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G4 (Fig. 17/4): Discovered 6.3 m SW of structure no. 4.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.35 x 0.7 x 1.3 m

Pit shape: Rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was destroyed in antiquity, the bones were found in the fill at different levels. The filling retained traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

In the western corner:

1. **Iron sword** (fragments): handle has a ring-shaped pommel and cross guard. (Fig. 17/2).

In the center of the grave:

2. **Grayish bowl**: wheel-made, truncated cone shape, with a ring-shaped bottom; shows signs of ancient repair (paired holes, Ø: 0.3 cm). H: 5.5 cm; DR: 15.5 cm; DB: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 17/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995, p. 116, fig. 8/1-4; (second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 161 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis", Trench no. 5 (Fig. 17/7): This structure formed the same complex with 2 graves in immediate proximity.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan, in section, the trench had a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Dimensions of the trench: 12.5x12.5 m, entrance width 2.5 m, depth 1.1 m, trench width 0.6 m

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G5 (Fig. 19/1): Discovered 5.5 m west of the western corner of structure no. 5.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 0.8 x 1.75 m

Pit shape: Rectangular-shaped grave with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature man, lying on his back with head towards NE. Hands extended. Legs extended. The filling retained traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right foot:

1. **Bronze clasp**: made from a solid plate bent into a ring, covered with holes. Ø: 1.3 cm. (Fig. 19/8).
2. **Blue glass bead**: non-transparent, barrel-shaped. Ø: 1 cm; Th: 0.8 cm; Hole Ø: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 19/7).

Near the right thigh:

3. **Chalcedony bead**: rounded shape with a wide hole. Ø: 1.6 cm; Th: 1 cm; Hole Ø: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 19/10).
4. **Bronze plates** (4 pcs.): semi-spherical, part of a sword suspension system with lead and bronze attachments. Ø: 1.5 cm; H: 1 cm. (Fig. 19/2-4, 6).
5. **Two-edged iron sword**: with traces of a wooden sheath, handle has a ring-shaped pommel and cross guard. Total L: ~40 cm; Blade L: 28.5 cm; Blade W: 4 cm; Handle L: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 19/5)

Near the right shin:

6. **Gray jug**: wheel-made, single handle, with a bi-truncated conical body, ring-shaped bottom, and a neck decorated with burnished vertical lines. H: 14.5 cm; DR: 9 cm; DB: 3 cm. (Fig. 19/9).

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G6 (Fig. 17/5): Discovered 2 m west of structure no. 5.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.25 x 0.7 x 1.6 m

Pit shape: Rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a woman aged 35-40 years, was destroyed in antiquity. The filling retained traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Iron sword** (fragments): handle has a ring-shaped pommel and cross guard. (Fig. 17/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995, p. 116-117, fig. 8/5-7; 9/1-10 (second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 161 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis", Trench no. 6 (Fig. 18/1):

Trench shape: a square trench in plan, in section, the trench had a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Dimensions of the trench: 12x12 m, entrance width 2.1 m, depth 1.1 m, trench width 0.5 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the western corner of the structure:

1. **Amphorae** (2 pcs., fragmented): same type, light yellowish color, with tall necks and complex-shaped handles. (Fig. 18/4, 5).

Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G7 (Fig. 20/1): Discovered 1.6 m northwest of the wall of structure no. 6.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 0.7 x 1.05 m

Pit shape: Rectangular-shaped grave with rounded corners.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature man, lying on his back with head towards NE. Hands extended along the body, and the bones of the left arm were on the pelvis.

Funeral furniture:

Next to the right skull:

1. **Bronze fibula**: strongly profiled. L: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 20/7).
2. **Egyptian faience bead**: rounded shape with ribs. Ø: 1.3 cm; Hole Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 20/11).

Near the left hand and legs:

3. **Bronze buckles** (2 pcs.): with an oval frame, rectangular clasp, and movable pin. Dimensions: 2.3 x 1 cm. (Fig. 20/9, 10).

Near the right thigh:

4. **Bronze clasp**: faceted. Dimensions: 3.2 x 1 cm. (Fig. 20/8).
5. **Long iron sword**: without handle covering or cross guard. Blade L: 60.5 cm; Blade W: 3.5 cm; Handle L: 9.8 cm. (Fig. 20/5).
6. **Iron dagger**: sword-like, without handle covering but with a cross guard. L: 29 cm. (Fig. 20/4).
7. **Terra Sigillata bowl**: with a wide mouth, obliquely cut rim, and ring-shaped bottom. H: 8.5 cm; DR: 24 cm; DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 20/6).

Near the right foot:

8. **Gray jug**: wheel-made, single handle, with a bi-truncated conical body, ring-shaped bottom, and a neck decorated with burnished vertical lines. H: 13.5 cm; DR: 9.2 cm; DB: 6.3 cm. (Fig. 20/3).

Near the right skull:

9. **Gray jug**: wheel-made, single handle, with a bi-truncated conical body, ring-shaped bottom, and a neck and body decorated with burnished lines. H: 8 cm; DR: 6 cm; DB: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 20/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995, p. 117-118, fig. 10/1-5; 11/1-11 (second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 161 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

5. Bădragii Noi "La stâncă", Edineț District, Republic of Moldova

In 1987, archaeological research in the village of Bădragii Noi uncovered a Sarmatian necropolis with 8 tombs from the late Sarmatian period. This area is locally known as "La stâncă".

Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G1 (Fig. 21/1) The tomb was discovered in the SE sector of an isolated natural mound, presumed to be a tumulus in its initial phase, and at a distance of 25.5 m from its center.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1 x 0.40-0.50 x 1.1 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal in shape with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton, belonging to a child, was destroyed and looted in antiquity. Small bone fragments were discovered**.**

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, p. 50, fig. 27/1; Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997 (2nd-3rd century AD).

Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G2 (Fig. 21/2) The tomb was discovered in the SE sector of an isolated natural mound, presumed to be a tumulus in its initial phase, and at a distance of 33.5 m from its center.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.85-0.95 x 1.15 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton, belonging to an adult, was destroyed and looted in antiquity. In the northern sector of the pit, several bone fragments from the ribs and pelvic girdle were discovered.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 50-51, fig. 27/2; Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997 (2nd-3rd century AD).

Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G3 (Fig. 21/3) The tomb was discovered in the SE sector of an isolated natural mound, presumed to be a tumulus in its initial phase, and at a distance of 34.7 m from its center.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 1.6 x 0.80-1.00 m, the width of the steps 0.15-0.25 m, and the depth to the steps 0.80 m, total depth 0.95 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The fill consisted of chernozem mixed with clayey sand, and traces of wood were discovered in the fill, suggesting the presence of beams. The skeleton, belonging to a 2.5-6-year-old child, was lying on their back with the head to the NW, face up. The skull was slightly inclined towards the right shoulder, with the left humerus preserved alongside the body. The right arm was bent at the elbow at a right angle, with the radius towards the pelvic girdle. The state of preservation of the skeleton is relatively good. On the right side of the skull and near the pelvic bones, small fragments of charcoal were found.

Funeral furniture:

On the left side of the pelvic girdle:

1. **Astragalus**: with a hole on the lateral edge. Hole Ø: 0.4 cm. (Fig. 21/5).

At the left temple:

2. **Handmade pot**: light gray, with a rounded, bulging body and a funnel-shaped neck decorated with symmetrical finger impressions. H: 12 cm; DR: 9.4 cm; DM: 11.4 cm; DB: 6.7 cm. (Fig. 21/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 51-52, fig. 27/3,6; Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997, pp. 221-222, fig. 2/5,6 (2nd-3rd century AD).

Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G4 (Fig. 21/4) The tomb was discovered in the SE sector of an isolated natural mound, presumed to be a tumulus in its initial phase, and at a distance of 36 m from its center.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 2.6 x 0.9 x 0.9 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton, belonging to a 20-25-year-old man, was destroyed and looted in antiquity. Bones were found at different levels in the NW sector of the pit. In the southern sector were the humeri, clavicle, scapula, and skull. The femora and radii were on the pelvic girdle in the center of the pit. The position of the tibiae and feet corresponded to their anatomical position in the SE sector, suggesting that the head was oriented to the NW, and the deceased was lying on their back. The state of preservation of the bones is relatively good.

Funeral furniture:

On the foot:

1. **Bronze buckle**: with a semi-circular frame, round plate (clip), and no pin. Frame Ø: 1.3 cm; Plate Ø: 1.2 cm; Total L: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 21/10).

At the bottom in the northern corner:

2. **Bronze round plate**: semi-spherical in profile, thickens toward the center. (Fig. 21/11).

In the fill in the NW sector:

3. **Bronze clips/staples** (2 pcs.): curved, found on the sword hilt. (Fig. 21/9).
4. **Iron sword/dagger hilt** (fragmentary): with an intact ring button and traces of wood. Poor preservation. Button Ø: 3.5 cm; Inner Ø: 1.2 cm. (Fig. 21/7).

At the bottom in the center of the pit:

5. **Flint sickle** (fragment): triangular in section, with retouching marks and signs of burning. (Fig. 21/12).

In the SE sector of the pit at the right foot:

6. **Gray jug**: small, wheel-thrown, with a bi-truncated cone body, ring base, and a neck decorated with polished vertical lines. H: 8 cm; DR: 7.3 cm; DM: 8 cm; DB: 4.2 cm. (Fig. 21/8).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 52-53, fig. 27/4,5,7-11; Grosu 1995, p. 161 (1st century AD); Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997, p. 224, fig. 2/8,11 (2nd-3rd century AD).

Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G5 (Fig. 22/1) The grave was discovered in the SE sector of an isolated natural rise, presumed to be a tumulus in its initial phase, at a distance of 56.5 m from its center.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.8 x 0.80-0.90 m, steps width - 0.20-0.25 m, depth to the steps - 0.95 m, total depth - 1.5 m.

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners and steps along the entire perimeter

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult. The grave was destroyed and looted in antiquity. In the northern sector and the center of the pit, the lower jaw, vertebrae, humerus, and femurs were found. The position of the tibiae

corresponds to the anatomical position - in the southern sector, which suggests that the head was oriented north, and the deceased was lying on their back. The condition of the bones is relatively good.

Funeral furniture:

Near the northern wall of the pit:

1. **"Ringfibel" fibula**: bronze, with widened disc-shaped ends decorated with concentric circles and a cross with pink enamel. Ø: 5.5 cm; Disc Ø: 2 cm; Ring Th: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 22/2).

In the central part of the pit:

2. **Bronze buckle**: with a semi-oval frame and a composite plate with faceted edges. Frame Ø: 2.2 cm; Plate Ø: 1.8 cm. (Fig. 22/4).

On the left tibia:

3. **Bronze belt end fitting**: made from two plates with a partially faceted edge. Outer plate: 7.2 x 1.2 cm; Inner plate: 3 x 1 cm. (Fig. 22/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 54-55, fig. 28/1-4; Grosu 1995, p. 161 (second half of the 2nd century - early 3rd century AD); Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997, p. 224, fig. 3/2-4 (2nd-3rd century AD)

Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G6 (Fig. 23/1) The grave was discovered in the SE sector of an isolated natural rise, presumed to be a tumulus in its initial phase, at a distance of 68.4 m from its center.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.25 x 0.75-0.85 x 1.5 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult aged 50-60 years. The grave was destroyed and looted in antiquity. In the center of the pit, fragments of the skull were found under which the radii were located. In the southern sector - the tibiae and femurs, and in the northern sector - the lower jaw. Although the bones are in a

chaotic position, I can assume that the head was oriented north. The condition of the bones is relatively good.

Funeral furniture:

In the northern part of the pit:

1. **Hand-made vessel** (6 fragments). DB: 3.5 cm.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 55-56, fig. 29/1; Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997, pp. 225, fig. 4/1 (2nd-3rd century AD)

Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G7 (Fig. 22/7) The grave was discovered in the SE sector of an isolated natural rise, presumed to be a tumulus in its initial phase, at a distance of 65.3 m from its center.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 1-1.1 x 1 m. In the western part, a recess with a depth of 0.2-0.3 m was made.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with a niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult. The grave was destroyed and looted in antiquity. The skeleton's bones were scattered. The condition of the bones is relatively good.

Funeral furniture:

Near the southern wall of the pit, in the fill:

1. **Tubular bead**: blue glass paste, round in section. L: 0.6 cm; Ø: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 22/6).
2. **Silver mirror-pendant** (fragments): round shape with a rectangular handle. One side is polished, the other has a "spider"-shaped tamga motif. Ø: 4 cm; Th: 0.1-0.2 cm; Hole Ø: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 22/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, p. 56, fig. 28/5-7; Grosu 1995, p. 161 (end of the 1st century - 3rd century AD); Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997 pp. 226-227, fig. 3/5,6 (2nd-3rd century AD)

Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G8 (Fig. 23/2) The grave was discovered in the SE sector of an isolated natural rise, presumed to be a tumulus in its initial phase, at a distance of 69.9 m from its center.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 2.45 x 0.75 x 1.4 m.

Pit shape: an elongated rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature man aged 45-50 years. The grave was destroyed and looted in antiquity. The skeleton's bones were scattered, with the skull artificially deformed. In situ, as in graves no. 4 and no. 5, the tibial bones were partially preserved, suggesting that the deceased was lying on his back, with the skull oriented north. The condition of the bones is good.

Funeral furniture:

In the center of the pit:

1. **Hand-modeled jar-like vessel** (upper part fragments): brown-gray, with a slightly bulged body and a vertical rim. DR: 12 cm. (Fig. 23/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 56-57, fig. 29/2; Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997, p. 227, fig. 4/3 (2nd-3rd century AD)

1. **Bădragii Noi, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1987, archaeological research in the villages of Bădragii Noi and Bădragii Vechi investigated seven tumuli. Among these, graves from the Late Sarmatian period were discovered.

Bădragii Noi T2G1 (Fig. 24/1) Burial conducted in a Bronze Age tumulus (Yamnaya culture). The grave was found in the southwestern sector of the tumulus at a depth of 0.8 m from its surface.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.65-2.80 x 1.20-1.25 x 1 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased (adult) was laid on their back with the head towards NNE, facing upwards. The skull was slightly tilted towards the right shoulder, hands placed along the body, and legs straight. Under the skeleton, a yellow decayed layer from the bottom covering of the pit was observed. The skeleton was in poor condition. The fill of the pit consisted of chernozem and contained several wooden board fragments from the grave's cover.

Funeral furniture:

Near the radius bones on the sword:

1. **Bronze ring bracelet**: with free, pointed ends, made from a round-section bar. Ø: 6.5 x 7 cm; Section Ø: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 24/4).

Near the right temple and pitcher:

2. **Copper wires** (2 pcs.): twisted like a cord, with associated wood traces (possibly from a vessel). L: 0.6 cm; Ø: 0.08 cm. (Fig. 24/3).

Near the right hand and foot:

3. **Double-edged iron sword**: with a simple handle, lenticular blade section, and remnants of a wooden scabbard. Total L: 86 cm; Handle L: 15 cm; Blade W: 4.5 cm; Blade Th: 1.5 cm. (Fig. 24/5).

Near the right temple:

4. **Terra Sigillata pitcher**: wheel-made, red-slipped, with a rounded body, ring-shaped bottom, and a grooved neck and shoulders. H: 17.6 cm; DR: 9.2 cm; DM: 12 cm; DB: 6.8 cm. (Fig. 24/2).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 6-7, fig. 4, 5/1-5; Bârca 2006, pp. 273-274, fig. 2 (end of the 1st - beginning of the 2nd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 160 (end of the 1st - 2nd century AD); Popa 2015, fig. 47/2.

Bădragii Noi T3G2 (Fig. 24/6) Burial conducted in a Bronze Age tumulus (Yamnaya culture). The grave was discovered in the southwestern sector of the tumulus, 17 m from its center, at a depth of 1.25 m from its surface.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.40 x 0.75-0.85 x 0.15 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton, belonging to a child, was laid on its back with the head towards NNE, facing upwards. Hands were placed along the body, with the right humerus and the left radius preserved. The skeleton was fragmentary. Mole traces were observed in the grave pit.

Funeral furniture:

Below the chest:

1. **Glass bead**: blue, semi-spherical in section, with a white spiral decoration. Ø: 2.2 cm; Th: 0.9 cm; Hole Ø: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 24/8).

On the cervical vertebrae:

2. **Amber beads** (2 pcs.): elongated shape. L: 1.7 and 2.1 cm; W: 0.8 and 0.6-0.9 cm; Th: 0.4 cm. (Fig. 24/9).

Near the right femur:

3. **Green glass cup** (ring base fragment). Ø: 4.7 cm; Th: 0.7 cm; Preserved H: 1.5 cm. (Fig. 24/11).

At the feet of the deceased:

4. **Hand-made pot**: light gray, polished, with a rounded, bulging body and soot traces. H: 11.5 cm; DR: 6 cm; DM: 10.3 cm; DB: 4.7 cm. (Fig. 24/7).
5. **Hand-made jug**: light gray, conical body, with an irregular surface and firing traces. H: 5-6 cm; DR: 10.2-10.8 cm; DB: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 24/10).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 15-16, fig. 8, 9/3-8; Grosu 1995, p. 160 (end of the 1st - 2nd century AD).

Bădragii Noi T3G3 (Fig. 25/1) The grave was discovered in the southwestern sector of the tumulus, 13.9 m from its center, at a depth of 1.20 m from its surface.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.50 x 0.45-0.50 x 0.15 m

Pit shape: a rectangular with strongly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton, belonging to a child, was laid on its back with the head towards NE, facing upwards. Only a fragment of the pelvic girdle and femurs were preserved; other bones were destroyed by rodents. Mole traces were observed in the grave pit.

Funeral furniture:

At the level of the pelvis:

1. **Glass bead**: blue, semi-spherical in section, with a white spiral decoration. Ø: 2.5-2.7 cm; Th: 1 cm; Hole Ø: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 25/3).

On the cervical vertebrae and knees:

2. **Dark glass beads** (6 pcs.): four round and two tubular. (Fig. 25/4).

At the feet of the deceased:

3. **Hand-made vessel with lid** (fragmentary): heavily damaged by rodents. Reconstructed as a pot with a bulging body and a conical lid. Light brown clay. DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 25/2).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 16-17, fig. 8, 10/1-4; Grosu 1995, p. 160 (end of the 1st - 2nd century AD).

Bădragii Noi T3G6 (Fig. 25/5) The grave was discovered in the southwestern sector of the tumulus, 17.4 m from its center and at a depth of 1.60 m from the surface.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.60 x 0.10 m

Pit shape: a rectangular with strongly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, laid on their back with the head facing NNE, looking upwards. The hands were close to the body and stretched along it. The state of preservation of the skeleton was good.

Funeral furniture:

On the cervical vertebrae:

1. **Necklace**: composed of 15 beads: four round carnelian beads and eleven opaque glass beads (cylindrical and lenticular). (Fig. 25/9).

On the legs:

2. **Faience beads** (20+ pcs.): turquoise blue. (Fig. 25/8).

At the left thigh:

3. **Clay spindle whorl**: bitruncated conical shape, gray-brown, with funnel-shaped indentations. H: 3.4 cm; DM: 3.3 cm; Min Ø: 1.5 cm; Hole Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 25/6).

At the left temple:

4. **Terra Sigillata vessel**: pear-shaped with a flat base and a narrow, broken neck. Brownish clay with a reddish-brown slip. Preserved H: 7.5 cm; DM: 5.5 cm; DB: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 25/7).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 19-20, fig. 10/8-11; Grosu 1995, p. 160 (1st-2nd century AD); Popa 2015, fig. 59.

Bădragii Noi T4G3 (Fig. 25/10) Burial conducted in a natural "tumulus". The grave was discovered in the SSW sector of the tumulus, 5.3 m from its center and at a depth of 1 m from the surface.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.60-0.75 x 0.15 m

Pit shape: an elongated trapezoidal with strongly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, deteriorated, laid on their back with the head facing NNE, looking upwards. The hands

were stretched along the body, and the left humerus was missing. The skeleton was fragmentarily preserved.

Funeral furniture:

At the right temple:

1. **Bronze earring** (fragment): very poor preservation, shape undetermined.

On the left tibia:

2. **Round beads** (2 pcs.): one carnelian, one blue glass. (Fig. 25/12).

On the left tibia towards the foot:

3. **Faience beads** (12 pcs.): turquoise blue. (Fig. 25/13).

On the right tibia:

4. **Handmade jug**: gray, with a rough surface and soot spots. Features an oval body, flat base, and a handle destroyed in antiquity. H: 16 cm; DR: 8.5 cm; DM: 11 cm; DB: 6 cm. (Fig. 25/11).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 25-26, fig. 12, 14/1-4; Grosu 1995, p. 160 (2nd century AD).

Bădragii Noi T5G7 (Fig. 25/14) Burial conducted in a Bronze Age tumulus (Yamnaya culture). The grave was discovered in the SE sector of the tumulus, 13 m from its center and at a depth of 1 m from the surface.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 2.55 x 0.90-1.10 x 0.50 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal with strongly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, laid on their back with the head facing NNW, looking upwards. The skull is slightly tilted towards the left shoulder, and the hands were stretched along the body. The state of conservation of the skeleton is good.

Funeral furniture:

At the right temple:

1. **Gray jug**: bitruncated, wheel-made, with a ring base and a handle destroyed in antiquity. Decorated with polished tree-shaped, vertical, and zigzag lines. H: 14.5 cm; DR: 9 cm; DM: 14 cm; DB: 7 cm. (Fig. 25/15).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987, pp. 32-33, fig. 15, 17/4,7.

2. **Bădragii Vechi, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1989, several tumuli were investigated in the village of Bădragii Vechi.

Bădragii Vechi T29G1 It had a height of 1.7 m and a diameter of 48 m. The grave was discovered in the southwest sector of the tumulus.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: The outlines of the pit were not visible, at a depth of 2.1 m

Pit shape: The outlines of the pit were not visible

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of an adult was lying on its back with the head oriented to the north. The skeleton was slightly bent at the pelvic bones. The arms were extended along the body, with the radius bones beneath the pelvis. The legs were straight with the soles together (fig. 25/16).

Funeral furniture:

In the area of the tibial epiphyses:

1. **Glass beads**: blue, flattened cylindrical shape. Ø: 0.3-0.5 cm; H: 0.1-0.2 cm. (Fig. 25/18).

Next to the skull on the right:

2. **Gray clay jug**: wheel-made, bi-conical body with a ring base. Decorated with polished vertical lines; handle broken in antiquity. H: 7.8 cm; DR: 6.4 cm; DB: 4.2 cm. (Fig. 25/19).

3. **Hand-molded cup**: truncated conical shape with a flat bottom. Color varies from orange to black. H: not specified; DR: 10 cm; DB: 5.8 cm. (Fig. 25/17).

Next to the left foot:

4. **Hand-molded vase/fruit bowl**: with a high profiled foot and a rim decorated with a wavy incised line. Uneven color from orange to black. H: 9.5 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 25/20).
5. **Censer/incense burner**: hand-molded, truncated conical shape with openings in the walls and signs of burning inside. Pale orange color. H: 5.5 cm; Rim: 4.5 x 4.5 cm. (Fig. 25/21).
6. **Jug without handle**: wheel-made, gray clay, with a bi-conical body, tall cylindrical neck, and ring base. Neck and lower part are polished. H: 9.8 cm; DR: 3.8 cm; DM: 10.4 cm; DB: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 25/22).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov, Buculici 1990, p. 27-29

Bădragii Vechi T29G10 The grave was discovered in the southeast sector of the tumulus at a depth of 1.6 m. The skeleton was placed in a central depression in the burial chamber (fig. 26/6).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.75 x 1 x 0.5 m

Pit shape: an elongated rectangular shape with rounded corners; The walls of the pit were uneven and narrowed towards the bottom.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of an adult was lying on its back with the head oriented to the north. The condition of the skeleton's preservation was poor. The arms were extended along the body, but the right hand and the radius bones from the left side were missing. The legs were straight, but the bones of the right leg were displaced.

Funeral furniture:

Next to the right femur bone:

1. **Iron dagger**: simple-ended, double-edged blade broken in antiquity. Traces of wooden handle and scabbard preserved. Preserved L: 15.5 cm; Blade W: 2 cm. (Fig. 26/7).

Next to the left foot:

2. **Hand-molded pot**: with rounded shoulders and a concave bottom. Uneven color from light brown to black. H: 13.4 cm; DR: 6.5 cm; DB: 6 cm. (Fig. 26/8).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj, Čirkov, Buculici 1990, pp. 37-38

3. **Bălăbănești, Criuleni District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1980, several tumuli were excavated in Criuleni District by Beilekci and Agulnicov.

Bălăbănești T4G4 (main) (fig. 26/1). The mound is 1.7 m high and 50 m in diameter. The grave was discovered in the center of the burial mound.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.6 x 2.4 x 1.7 - 1.9 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The pit was filled with alluvial soil, containing a gold foil fragment and scattered human bones, indicating ancient looting. Animal bones.

Funeral furniture:

In the topsoil layer, at the north edge of the pit, at a depth of 1.7 m:

1. **Conical dish**: wheel-thrown, gray clay, on a ring base with an outward-turned edge. H: 6.7 cm; DR: 20 cm; DB: 6.1 cm; DM: 18.8 cm. (Fig. 26/2).

Bălăbănești, Trench No. 1

Trench shape: a circular and a trench bottom is rounded

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: -

Trench dimensions: diameter 38 m, 0.4-0.38 m wide and 1 m deep from the topsoil level

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Amphora** (fragments): dated to the 2nd century AD.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Beilekci, Agulnicov 1981, pp. 19-20, fig. 11/3-4; Agulnicov, Beilekci, 1987, pp. 77-79, fig. 6 (1st-2nd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, (?).

4. **Balabanu I, Taraclia District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1971, a series of tumuli in Taraclia district were excavated. Tumuli 7 and 10 were identified as Scythian due to the presence of "Greek amphoras" around them, although these had no stratigraphic link to the grave. However, fragments of Roman amphoras in the burial pit led to their inclusion in this catalog. Both tumuli were surrounded by earthworks; Tumulus 7's structure was partially excavated (only on the southern side), measuring 3 m wide and 0.5 m deep—typical of the Sarmatian culture. Tumulus 10's structure was 5 m wide and about 1 m deep—also typical of the Sarmatian culture. Research was conducted under archaeologist G. F. Cebotarenco.

Balabanu I T7G2 (Fig. 27/9, 12) A central grave, located in the eastern part of the tumulus, about 3 meters east of its center. The tumulus height is 3 m, diameter 40 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.8 x 4.5 x 1.7 m

Pit shape: rectangular with steps on the east and west sides (each 0.65 m wide)

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was completely looted in antiquity. The roof of the burial chamber was supported by massive wooden beams laid transversely over the chamber. At the top of the pit, the roof was made of the same massive beams, also laid transversely. Wooden remains were detected during the excavation. The burial chamber floor was covered with tree bark, partially covered with a layer of black ash. The chamber floor was at a depth of 3.25 m from the old ground surface (1.50 m from the step level). The grave was destroyed in antiquity. In the filling of the burial pit, at different levels, bones of a mature skeleton, broken deer antlers, and horse bones were found.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Copper bracelet**: with bulbous ends. (Fig. 27/11).
2. **Silvered copper applique** (fragment): from a leather belt. (Fig. 27/10).
3. **Wheel-made bowl** (fragments): covered with yellow glaze, likely Terra Sigillata.
4. **Roman amphora handle** (fragments).

Balabanu I, Trench No. 1 A partially excavated circular structure surrounded the grave.

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: -

Trench dimensions: -

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Chebotarenko 1972, pp. 19-22 (early 4th century BC); Chebotarenko 1973, pp. 121-123 (early 4th century BC); Chebotarenko, Yarovoi, Telnov 1989, p. 37-39, fig. 15/3-5 (1st-2nd century AD).

Balabanu I T10G1 (Fig. 26/3)

Only one grave was found in the tumulus, which had been looted. The mound was built on a platform initially covered with a thin layer of clay, up to 3 cm thick. In the central part and northern sector of the mound, clay fragments from the burial chamber were found. A ditch surrounded the mound, up to 5 meters wide and up to 1 meter deep. The tumulus height is 1.5 m, diameter 40 m. Its construction replicates the main grave chamber of T7.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 3.8 x 2.2 m

Pit shape: a rectangular pit with steps along both long sides (each 0.60 m)

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Like the surface level, the burial chamber was covered with wood laid perpendicular to the pit. The space between the cover beams formed an antechamber, more spacious than the burial chamber of the crypt. The crypt burial chamber, located under the lower cover, measured 1.2 x 3.8 m and was sunken 1.8 m below the lower cover and 4 m from the surface. The grave was destroyed. The burial

chamber contained bones of an adult skeleton and part of a skull, mixed with earth and found at depths from 3.4 m from the surface to the pit's bottom. Some bones indicated the skeleton lay on its back with the head oriented northeast.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Iron object** (remnants): heavily corroded.
2. **Terra Sigillata bowl**: red-lacquered, wheel-made, with a flat base and inturned rim. H: 5.5 cm; DR: 13 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 26/4).
3. **Roman amphora handle** (2 fragments). (Fig. 26/5).

Balabanu I, Trench No. 1 An oval structure partially excavated surrounded the grave.

Trench shape: an oval trench in plan

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: -

Trench dimensions: up to 5 meters wide and up to 1 meter deep

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Chebotarenko 1972, pp. 26-28; Chebotarenko 1973, pp. 124-125, 129 (early 4th century BC); Chebotarenko, Yarovoi, Telnov 1989, p. 45-47, fig. 19 (1st-2nd century AD).

5. **Bălțata, Criuleni District, Republic of Moldova**

In 2008, an ancient grave was discovered in the garden of a resident in Bălțata village. Archaeologists V. Bubulici and S. Matveev visited the site. The topography of the location did not indicate the presence of a tumulus, so it is likely a flat necropolis or an isolated flat grave. It is located near Bălțata II necropolis SMC (Fig. 1).

Bălțata G1

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.7 x 0.95 x 0.66 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Beneath the wooden structure, remains of a human skeleton in a highly degraded state were found (Fig. 28/1). The skeleton was laid on its back, oriented on the NNE-SSW axis, with arms extended along the body. The burial belonged to a woman who had died at around 50-60 years of age.

At a depth of about 0.5 meters from the bottom of the pit (approximately 1.58 meters from the current ground level), remains of a wooden structure (coffin?) in an advanced state of decay were found. The remains included 7 transverse beams, with preserved parts measuring between 0.15-0.3 meters in width, approximately 0.45 meters in length, and 0.04 meters in thickness. The side walls were made of planks with a preserved height of 0.15 meters and a thickness of 0.03-0.06 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the cervical vertebrae area:

1. **Necklace beads** (10 pcs.): six blue glass tablets (Ø: 0.6-0.8 cm); three red coral cylinders (L: 0.8-1.3 cm); and one white-gray chalcedony ellipse (Ø: 1.4 x 1.9 cm). (Fig. 28/2).

In the sternum area:

2. **Bronze buckle**: ring-shaped, made from a bronze bar. Ring Ø: 2.4 cm; Bar Ø: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 28/3).

On the bones of the left pelvis area:

3. **Beads** (2 pcs.): one cylindrical brownish amber (H: 0.6 cm; DB: 1.4 cm); one rectangular azure glass (0.6 x 1.1 x 2.4 cm). (Fig. 28/5-6).

Near the right knee:

4. **Iron object** (fragment): strongly oxidized. (Fig. 28/10).

On the right side of the skull:

5. **Spindle whorl** (fragment): near-conical, dark gray to black color. H: 2.6 cm; DM: 3.3 cm; DB: 1.3 cm; Hole Ø: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 28/4).

In the lower leg area:

6. **Glassy paste beads** (145 total: 135 whole, 10 fragmented): spherical, in various colors (green, white-yellowish, red-brown, bluish). Ø: 0.5-0.6 cm; Hole Ø: 0.15 cm. (Fig. 28/7-9).
7. **Terra Sigillata jug** (fragments): wheel-made, reddish, with a bitronconic body, annular base, and decorated with incised and colored lines; handle lost in antiquity. H: 19.8 cm; DR: 7 cm; DM: 13.6 cm; DB: 8.4 cm. (Fig. 28/11).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Bubulici, Matveev 2014 (2nd century AD).

6. **Beloles'e (Achmanghit), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

This is a tumulus group known in specialized literature as the Beloles'e tumulus necropolis, named after the eponymous village. The tumuli were located on the SSW-NNE axis on a plateau on the right bank of the Sarata River, spanning a distance of 6 km, connecting with the tumulus necropolis in the village of Mihailivka (Mihăileni). Research began in 1980, with seven tumuli investigated, followed by another archaeological expedition in 1982, during which 12 tumuli in Mihailivka were studied. Researchers considered this a single tumulus group attributed primarily to the Eneolithic period, containing later burials, including Sarmatian ones—sometimes as principal Sarmatian burials. Out of six discovered graves, two had entrances into older tumuli, two were principal in Beloles'e, one had entered an older tumulus, and one was principal in Mihailivka (Fig. 27/1), dating to the 1st-3rd centuries AD. Only the late burials will be included here.

Beloles'e T2G4 H 1.2 m, oval along the W-E axis, D 40 x 44 m. Four burials were found in its mantle, one of which was Sarmatian. Six fragments of late Roman vessels were found in the mantle of the tumulus: pieces of handles and necks of amphorae made of light clay, as well as fragments of thin red clay vessel bases. The discoveries were located at distances of 13-19 m west and 8-14 m east of the tumulus center. The principal burial was identified in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 1.2 m from the ancient ground surface (Fig. 27/2).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 4.4 x 2 x 2.8 m. At a distance of 1.8-1.85 m from the upper part of the pit (0.95-1 m above its bottom), steps 0.2-0.25 m wide were present along the long sides.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was destroyed and looted. Only a few human bones were found in the pit fill.

Funeral furniture:

In the pit fill:

1. **Iron fixing plate**: rectangular, with rivets along the edges. Dimensions: 3 x 1 cm; Th: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 27/3).
2. **Unidentified iron objects** (3 small fragments).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990 (b), p. 14, (1st-2nd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157, (2nd century AD); Subbotin et al 1998, p. 115 (2nd-3rd century AD); Subbotin, Dvorjaninov 1980 (report)

Beloles'e T3G9 (Fig. 27/4) Height: 2.2 m. Diameter: 50 m. The grave was discovered in the central part of the tumulus at a depth of 0.7 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: Its length was 2 m, width 0.95 m, and depth 0.9 m. Along the walls, at the far end, the remains of a wooden coffin measuring 0.75 m in width were preserved. The planks of the coffin had a thickness of 5 cm and a width of 15 cm.

Pit shape: partially destroyed, had a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Behind the southern wall of the coffin, opposite the bones of the left leg, the remains of a wooden beam with a diameter of 20 cm were discovered. Based on the bones preserved in situ, it can be stated that the deceased was laid on their back with their head oriented towards the NNE. The bottom, also made of wooden planks but thinner, was sprinkled with chalk and charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Bronze buckle**: ring-shaped with a tongue. Ø: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 27/6).

In a pile in the corner of the coffin:

2. **Iron arrowheads** (10 pcs.): with three vanes. L: 3 cm. (Fig. 27/5).

Along the right leg:

3. **Iron sword**: with a simple handle and no metal guard. Total L: 58 cm; Blade W: 4 cm. (Fig. 27/7).

Near the left knee:

4. **Bone button**: from the end of the sword handle. Ø: 4 cm; H: 1.2 cm. (Fig. 27/8).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990 (b), p. 14-15, fig. 12/1-4; Subbotin, Dzigovskij, Ostroverhov 1998, p. 70-71, 82, 115, fig. 25/7-11 (first half of the 3rd century AD); Grosu 1990, p. 60; Grosu 1995, p. 157 (second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century AD); Dzygovs'kyj 1993, p. 75 (1st century BC); Bârcă 2006, p. 291 (second half of the 1st – beginning of the 2nd century AD).

7. **Blijnii Hutor, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Slobozia District", Republic of Moldova**

In 2014, a series of tumuli from the "Sputnic" group were investigated. The first of these contains a single noble grave belonging to the Sarmatian population. This is evidenced primarily by the grave's inventory, which indicates that the tumulus was built for the deceased (Dzygovsky 2000: 28) and the proportions of the burial pit – including its depth (Synyka et al. 2015, p. 187).

Blijnii Hutor T1G1 (Fig. 29/1,2). The tumulus is circular, with a diameter of 14-15 m and a height of 1 m. The grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 1.6 x 3.3 x approximately 3.2 m. Steps with a width of 15-20 cm were observed at the SE and NW corners.

Pit shape: rectangular with steps. The walls slightly widen inward up to the steps and then continue vertically

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the fill of the pit, bones from the skeleton of a woman (?) were discovered at various depths. In the northern part, traces of a robbers' pit were observed. At the corners, in the region of the steps, traces of beams

blocking the deceased were noted – with a width of 10-20 cm; these traces were also fixed in the grave fill.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Beads** (multiple types):
- **Glass paste beads** (14 pcs.): includes round (green, blue), disc-shaped (dark red), and cylindrical (dark brown). (Fig. 30/11-1).
- **Amber bead**: short cylinder/"tablet" shape. H: 0.4 cm; Ø: 0.9 cm. (Fig. 30/13).
- **Black jet beads** (6 pcs.): "tablet" shape. Th: up to 0.2 cm; Ø: up to 1 cm. (Fig. 30/14).
- **Pearls**: cylindrical shape. H: 0.5-0.6 cm; Ø: 0.3-0.4 cm. (Fig. 30/15).
- ***Bone/horn (?) beads*** (4 pcs.): yellow, cylindrical shape. H: 0.4 cm; Ø: 0.4-0.7 cm. (Fig. 30/16).
2. **Gold foil strips** (26 specimens): used to decorate a ribbon, with bent edges and visible textile impressions. L: 2 cm; W: up to 0.5 cm. (Fig. 30/6).
3. **Semicircular gold plates** (2 pcs.): with diametrically opposite holes for attachment. Ø: up to 0.75 cm; H: up to 0.3 cm. (Fig. 30/5).
4. **Silver buckle**: simple type, with an oval frame, rectangular plate, and bronze tongue. Frame: 1.8 x 1.4 cm; Plate: 1.8 x 1.2 cm. (Fig. 30/7).
5. **Bronze components of a wooden box**:
- **External angular fitting**: L-shaped bracket with hexagonal ends and nails. (Fig. 30/8);
- **L-shaped brackets** (2 pcs.): made from bronze rod, one with a looped end. (Fig. 30/10);
- **Fixing plate**: rectangular bent plate with an incised ornament and a bronze nail. (Fig. 30/9).
6. **Iron knife** (fragments): handle and part of a triangular-section blade, with remains of a wooden handle. Handle L: 2.5 cm; Preserved blade L: 3.3 cm. (Fig. 30/3).
7. **Sand abrasive** (fragment): fine-grained, sub-rectangular shape. Dimensions: 6.75 x 5.4 cm; Th: up to 2 cm. (Fig. 30/17).
8. **Limestone slab**: trapezoidal, with a leveled front face and rough back. Dimensions: 36.5 x 35.5 cm; Th: up to 15 cm. (Fig. 30/18).
9. **Hand-made spindle whorl**: truncated cone shape, dark gray. H: 2.8 cm; DM: 4.5 cm; Base Ø: 1.2 and 2.8 cm. (Fig. 30/2).

10. **Late amphora** (rim and handle fragments): Heraklion type, with a triangular profile rim. DR: 6.95 cm. (Fig. 29/4).
11. **Red ceramic pixida** (lid and wall fragment): terracotta-colored slip, with a conical lid and cylindrical handle. Lid H: 4.45 cm; Body DR: 10.3 cm. (Fig. 29/5).
12. **Gray jug**: small, wheel-made, with three handles, a biconical body, and a ring base. Decorated with incised "tree" motifs. H: 18 cm; DR: 22 cm; DM: 29 cm; DB: 7.25 cm. (Fig. 29/6).
13. **Hand-made smoker**: truncated pyramidal shape with a square plan, decorated with fingerprint and nail impressions. H: 8.5 cm; Side L: 10.9 cm. (Fig. 30/1).
14. **Hand-made smoker**: small cup shape with a flared rim and perforated holes. H: 3.8 cm; DR: 9.9 cm; DB: 7.6 cm. (Fig. 29/3).
15. **Thracian hand-modeled vessel** (handle fragment): showing signs of secondary use. L: 6.5 cm; W: 3.8 cm. (Fig. 30/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century AD

References: Synyka et al. 2015, p. 164-171 (second half of the 2nd century AD)

8. **Bocani, Fălești District, Republic of Moldova**

This site was researched by G. B. Fedorov in 1953. Near this site, a settlement was discovered which, according to the author, belongs to both Sarmatian nomads in its early phase and Germanics who arrived here towards the end of the 3rd century, as well as "Slavs." The settlement is dated between the 2nd and 5th centuries, and the necropolis between the 2nd and 4th centuries (1956), later revised to the 2nd-3rd centuries (1960, p. 86). Twenty graves were discovered here, two of which were destroyed by workers from the kolhoz (collective farm) of the clay quarry, who were actually responsible for uncovering the site.

Bocani destroyed GA (fig. 31/1).

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a male, position - lying on his back

Funeral furniture:

At the right hand:

1. **Sword**: with a cruciform hilt. L: 75-80 cm; Blade W: 4-5 cm.

At the head of the deceased:

2. **Grey-lustrous jugs** (2 pcs.): wheel-made, single-handled, with rounded bodies. Dimensions for one: H: 16 cm; DR: 9.5 cm; DB: 14.5 cm. (Fig. 31/2, 37/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 22 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 50, fig. 9/4 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani destroyed GB (fig. 31/1).

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a female, position - lying on her back, with an artificial deformed skull.

Funeral furniture:

Around the neck:

1. **Clay paste beads**: multicolored (several pcs.).

At the head of the deceased:

2. **Grey-lustrous vessel**: wheel-made.

At the feet:

3. **Hand-made vessel**.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 22 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 50-51 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G1 (Fig. 31/4)

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.8 x 1.4 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 20-25-year-old man, lying on his back with his head facing NNE. Hands extended along the body, legs stretched out. Length of the deceased - 177 cm. Skeleton condition - good.

Funeral furniture:

At the right hand:

1. **Iron sword** (fragments and traces): heavily corroded. L: 65-70 cm; W: 3-5 cm.

Near the left knee:

2. **Iron object** (possibly a knife?): L: 8 cm; W: 2 cm.

At the left knee:

3. **Iron object (?)**: L: 3 cm; W: 1 cm.

At the right foot:

4. **Grey-lustrous jug**: wheel-made, single-handled, with a bi-truncated conical body. Decorated with incised and polished lines. H: 16 cm; DR: 7 cm; DM: 12.5 cm; DB: 6 cm. (Fig. 31/3).
5. **Wood (?)** (fragment).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 24-25 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 51-52, fig. 2, 3, 9/1 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G2 (fig. 31/5)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 0.6 x 0.95 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 25-30-year-old man, lying on his back with his head facing NE, the skull crushed and slightly turned towards the right shoulder. Hands extended along the body; legs stretched out. Length of the deceased - 163 cm. Traces of mole. Skeleton preservation - poor.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 26 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 52 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G3 (fig. 31/8)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.70 x 0.65 x 1.00 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a teenage girl (?), lying on her back with her head facing NE. The partially preserved skull showed signs of artificial deformation. Hands extended along the body; legs stretched out.

Funeral furniture:

At the left palm:

1. **Beads** (43 pcs. and numerous fragments): blue, yellow, and green paste and glass, round shape. (Fig. 31/6).

50 cm towards SE from the skull:

2. **Triple blue glass beads**. (Fig. 31/6).

Around the neck:

3. **Necklace** (traces): composed of 83+ beads (blue, yellow, green), round shape. (Fig. 31/6).

Near the skull towards NW:

4. **Hand-made pot**: jar-shaped with a slightly flared rim and rough surface. H: 7 cm; DR: 3 cm; DM: 6 cm; DB: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 31/7)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 26-27 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 52 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G4 (fig. 31/9)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.75 x 1.15 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a woman, lying on her back with her head facing N. The right hand and right leg slightly bent at the joints. Length of the deceased - 155 cm. Skeleton preservation - good.

Funeral furniture:

Near the left palm:

1. **Copper earring**: made of circular-section wire with open ends. (Fig. 31/12).

At the sole of the left foot:

2. **Beads** (43 pcs.): glass and clay, various colors, mostly round. (Fig. 31/10).

Around the neck:

3. **Beads** (6 pcs.): clay and glass, blue and white, prism and cylindrical shapes. (Fig. 31/10).

Under the right knee:

4. **Wooden needle**: with a copper eye. (Fig. 31/13).

A little above the right knee:

5. **Clay spindle whorl**: truncated cone shape. (Fig. 31/11).

At the soles of the feet:

6. **Hand-made pot**: bulging shape with a rough, brownish-yellow surface. H: 8.5 cm; DR: 4.5 cm; DM: 7 cm; DB: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 31/15).

At the left temple:

7. **Terra Sigillata jug**: small, wheel-made, with two strongly profiled handles and a ring base. H: 9 cm; DR: 6 cm; DM: 9.5 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 31/14).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 27-29 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 52-53, fig. 8/3, 9/12 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G5 (fig. 32/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.85 x 0.60 x 1.30 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 20-25-year-old woman, lying on her back with her head facing NE. The skull showed signs of artificial deformation and was turned towards the left shoulder. Hands extended along the body, legs stretched out. Skeleton preservation - good.

Funeral furniture:

Below the elbow of the same arm:

1. **Bronze fibula**. (Fig. 32/2).

At the right shoulder:

2. **Bronze pendant** (fragment): in the shape of a bear paw. (Fig. 32/6).

At the wrist:

3. **Bronze pendant**: with five lobes and a suspension hole.

Near the pelvis:

4. **Beads**: several light blue glass beads and one polychrome blue-white clay bead. (Fig. 32/4).

Around the neck:

5. **Clay beads**: several cylindrical black and two white. (Fig. 32/4).

At the soles:

6. **Beads** (1050+ pcs. and hundreds of fragments): round glass and cylindrical clay beads in various colors (blue, yellow, green, gold, etc.). (Fig. 32/4).

Under the vertebral column:

7. **Cylindrical bead**: made from a bronze plate.

At the left elbow:

8. **Mirror** (fragmented): with a geometric relief ornament on the reverse. (Fig. 32/5).

Near the left knee:

9. **Terra Sigillata jug**: wheel-made, with two strongly profiled handles and a ring base. Similar to the one from G4. (Fig. 31/14).

At the feet:

10. **Hand-made pot**: poorly fired, with thick walls and a slightly flared rim. H: 17 cm; DR: 10 cm; DB: 8.5 cm. (Fig. 32/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 29-30 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 53, fig. 8/7, 12/1,2 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G6 (fig. 32/10).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.90 x 0.65 x 1.50 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 20-25-year-old woman who was lying on her back with her head facing N. The skull was crushed with signs of artificial deformation. Many bones were not preserved. Hands extended along the body, legs stretched out. Length of the deceased - 150 cm. Skeleton preservation - poor. Traces of rodents.

Funeral furniture:

At the left shoulder:

1. **Bronze earring** (fragments): made of circular-section wire with closed ends. (Fig. 32/11).
2. **Iron fibula pin** (fragmentary). (Fig. 32/8).

At the soles:

3. **Clay beads** (24 pcs.): cylindrical and round, in various colors (blue, yellow, green, white). (Fig. 32/7).
4. **Cylindrical beads** (2 pcs.): made from bronze plates. (Fig. 32/7).

Around the neck:

5. **Beads** (200+ pcs. and dozens of fragments): various shapes (round, cylindrical, ribbed, etc.) and materials (glass, clay), in various colors. (Fig. 32/7).

On the right side, among the ribs:

6. **Bronze mirror** (fragments). (Fig. 32/9).

Near the pelvis:

7. **Undetermined iron object (?)**. (Fig. 32/8).
8. **Clay spindle whorl** (fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 30-31 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 53-54, fig. 4/1 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G7 (fig. 32/16).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.70 x 0.60 x 1.40 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 5-7-year-old girl, lying on her back with her head facing N. The skull was inclined towards the right shoulder and showed signs of artificial deformation. Most bones did not survive. Hands

extended along the body, legs stretched out. Length of the deceased - 110 cm. Skeleton preservation - poor.

Funeral furniture:

At the left temple:

1. **Earring** (traces).

Around the neck:

2. **Beads** (17 pcs.): clay and glass, in various colors (yellow, green, white) and shapes (prism, round, cylindrical). (Fig. 32/13).

On the right side of the pelvis:

3. **Spherical bead**: light blue glass paste. (Fig. 32/13).

On the right side, among the ribs:

4. **Bronze mirror**: circular, with a geometric relief ornament on the reverse. (Fig. 32/15).

Above the right foot:

5. **Bone needle**: with an eye. (Fig. 32/14).
6. **Undetermined iron object (?).**

Near the skull:

7. **Gray-polished jug**: wheel-made, single-handled, with a rounded body, ring base, and strongly profiled features. Wall Th: 0.4-0.6 cm. H: 9.5 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DM: 10 cm; DB: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 32/12).
8. **Handmade pot**: small, jar-type. (Fig. 32/17).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 31-32 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 54, fig. 9/6 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G8 (fig. 33/1).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.20 x 0.80 x 1.05 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 30-year-old man, lying on his back with his head facing N. The skull was crushed and slightly inclined towards the left shoulder. Many bones did not survive. Hands extended along the body, legs stretched out. Length of the deceased - 175 cm.

Funeral furniture:

Above the right elbow:

1. **Copper plate**: triangular, with a hole (probably a buckle tongue). (Fig. 33/3).

Near the cervical vertebrae:

2. **Cylindrical bronze beads** (2 pcs.): made from folded plates.
3. **Cylindrical clay bead**.

At the left elbow:

4. **Copper earring**: with one oloid and one closed end. (Fig. 33/2).

Near the right femur:

5. **Iron ring** (fragments).
6. **Single-bladed iron knife** (fragments).

Near the right side of the skull:

7. **Gray-polished jug** (small): wheel-made, single-handled, with a bitronconic-rounded body, ring base, and strongly profiled features. H: 10.5 cm; DR: 5.5 cm; DM: 9 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 33/4).

Near the left side of the skull:

8. **Gray-polished jug** (large): similar to the one on the right side, wheel-made, single-handled, with a bitronconic-rounded body, ring base, and strongly profiled features. H: 17.5 cm; DR: 8 cm; DM: 16 cm; DB: 7 cm. (Fig. 33/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 32-33 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 54, fig. 9/2 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G9 (fig. 33/6).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.20 x 1.00 x 1.50 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 30-year-old woman, lying on her back with her head facing NE. The skull faced towards the right with signs of artificial deformation. Hands extended along the body, legs stretched out. Length of the deceased - 154 cm.

Funeral furniture:

Around the neck:

1. **Beads** (65 pcs.): various shapes (round, cylindrical, etc.) and materials (glass, clay, bone), in various colors (yellow, white, light green). (Fig. 33/7).

At the wrists and ankles:

2. **Beads** (85 pcs.): glass and clay, in various shapes (round, cylindrical, etc.) and colors (yellow, brown, light green). (Fig. 33/7).

To the left of the chest:

3. **Bronze fibula**. (Fig. 33/9).

A little lower between the ribs:

4. **Bronze mirror**: circular, with a geometric relief ornament on the reverse. Ø: ~5 cm. (Fig. 33/8).

At the right hip:

5. **Clay spindle whorl**: bitronconical. (Fig. 33/13).

At the feet:

6. **Handmade pot**: small, with thin walls. H: 7 cm; DR: 3 cm; DM: 6 cm; DB: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 33/10).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 33-34 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 55, fig. 4/2, 8/5, 12/4 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G10 (fig. 34/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.00 x 1.00 x 0.95 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a young woman aged 15-16 years, lying on her back with her head facing NE. The skull inclined towards the left shoulder with signs of artificial deformation. Hands extended along the body, legs slightly bent at the knees. Length of the deceased - 145 cm. Preservation condition of the skeleton - good.

Funeral furniture:

At the cervical vertebrae:

1. **Beads** (31 pcs.): glass and clay, in various shapes (round, cylindrical, prismatic) and colors (yellow, brown, red). (Fig. 34/7).
2. **Small round beads** (100 fragments): light yellow. (Fig. 34/4).

To the right chest area:

3. **Late Roman fibula**: with a high-arched bow. (Fig. 34/9).

At the wrists of both hands:

4. **Bracelets** (2 pcs.): bronze, circular section with closed ends. Ø: 8 cm. (Fig. 34/8).
5. **Small beads** (170 pcs.): glass and clay, round and cylindrical, in yellow and green. (Fig. 34/7).

At the ankles:

6. **Small beads** (120 pcs. and many fragments): glass and clay, round and cylindrical, in yellow and green. (Fig. 34/7).

Inside the bell:

7. **Round beads** (2 pcs.): green glass. (Fig. 34/4).

Next to the right shoulder:

8. **Iron fibula** (fragment). (Fig. 34/7).

A little lower between the ribs:

9. **Bronze mirror**: circular, with a cross-shaped relief ornament on the reverse. Ø: ~5 cm. (Fig. 34/2).

At the left shoulder:

10. **Bronze bell**: pyramidal shape with a hanging hole and four beads at the corners. H: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 34/3).

At the right hip:

11. **Clay spindle whorl**: bitronconical. (Fig. 34/12).

At the sole of the right foot:

12. **Handmade pot**: brown, jar-shaped with a flared rim. H: 15 cm; DR: 9 cm; DM: 11.5 cm; DB: 7 cm. (Fig. 34/11).

18 cm to the NE of the skull:

13. **Roman glass unguentarium**: with two swan-shaped handles, a spherical body, and a long, thin neck. H: 7 cm. (Fig. 34/5).

To the right - adjacent to the skull:

14. **Terra Sigillata jug**: wheel-made, single-handled, with a rounded body, ring base, and decorated with incised lines. Wall Th: 0.3-0.4 cm. H: 9 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DM: 9.5 cm; DB: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 34/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 34-36 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 55, fig. 4/4, 5, 6, 8/8, 9/12,13, 11, 12/3 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G11 (fig. 35/1)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.20 x 0.70 x 0.90 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 5-6 year old girl, lying on her back with her head facing NE. The skull slightly tilted towards the left shoulder. Many bones have not been preserved. Hands extended along the body, legs extended. Length of the deceased - 85 cm. Preservation condition of the skeleton - poor.

Funeral furniture:

At the neck:

1. **Beads** (55 pcs. and many fragments): various shapes and materials (glass, clay, bone), polychrome with "eye" decorations. (Fig. 35/2).

At the left ankle:

2. **Small beads** (8 pcs.): yellow, light green, and white, conical and round shapes. (Fig. 35/2).

At the right ankle:

3. **Small beads** (16 pcs.): yellow, light green, and white, conical and round shapes. (Fig. 35/2).

At the right hip:

4. **Bone needle**: L: 7 cm. (Fig. 35/3).

At the feet:

5. **Handmade pot**: small, brown, with a nearly spherical body, flared rim, and flat bottom. H: 10.5 cm; DR: 6 cm; DM: 9.5 cm; DB: 5 cm. (Fig. 35/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 36-37 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 55-56, fig. 4/3, 9/4 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G12 (fig. 35/5)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.70 x 0.80 x 1.20 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 5-6 year old girl, lying on her back with her head facing NE. The skull facing downwards and crushed. Many bones have not been preserved. Hands extended along the body, legs extended. Length of the deceased - 100 cm. Preservation condition of the skeleton - poor.

Funeral furniture:

Around the cervical vertebrae:

1. **Clay beads** (9 pcs.): small, conical, yellow. (Fig. 35/6).

At the soles of the feet:

2. **Clay beads** (20+ pcs. and several fragments): small, conical, yellow and green. (Fig. 35/6).

At the feet, on the right side:

3. **Handmade pot**: tall, brown, jar-shaped with a flared rim. H: 15 cm; DR: 9 cm; DM: 11.5 cm; DB: 7 cm. (Fig. 35/7).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 37-38 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 56, fig. 8/6 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G13 (fig. 35/8)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.35 x 0.98 x 1.15 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 30-year-old woman, lying on her back with her head facing NE. The skull slightly tilted towards the right shoulder, with signs of artificial deformation. Hands extended along the body; legs extended. Length of the deceased - 158 cm.

Funeral furniture:

Around the cervical vertebrae:

1. **Glass and clay beads** (8 pcs.): round with facets and banded decorations, yellow and green. (Fig. 35/9).

At the wrists:

2. **Beads** (6+ pcs. and several fragments): cylindrical and oval, in yellow, light blue, and green. (Fig. 35/9).

At the ankles:

3. **Glass beads** (8+ pcs. and several fragments): round, yellow. (Fig. 35/9).

At the left shoulder:

4. **Bronze earrings** (2 pcs., fragmented): made from circular wire with closed ends. One found at the left shoulder, the other inside the skull.

On the right side, among the ribs:

5. **Bronze mirror** (fragmented): with a geometric relief ornament on the reverse. (Fig. 35/10).

At the left hip:

6. **Clay spindle whorl**: bitronconical.

On the left side, near the skull:

7. **Terra Sigillata jug**: small, wheel-made, with a spherical body, two handles, and a ring base. H: 13 cm; DR: 10 cm; DM: 14 cm; DB: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 35/11).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 38-39 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 56, fig. 9/10, 10 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G14 (fig. 36/1)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.95 x 0.65 x 1.15 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 25–27-year-old man, lying on his back with his head facing NE. The skull slightly tilted towards the left shoulder, with signs of artificial deformation. Hands extended along the body, legs extended. Length of the deceased - 143 cm.

Funeral furniture:

At the feet:

1. **Gray glossy jug**: large, wheel-made, single-handled, with a bitronconical-rounded body, ring base, and strongly profiled features. H: 22 cm; DR: 8.5 cm; DM: 16 cm; DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 36/3).

To the left of the skull:

2. **Handmade pot**: reddish-yellow, with a spherical body, low neck, and vertical rim. H: 9.5 cm; DR: 4 cm; DM: 8 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 36/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 39 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 57, fig. 8/2, 9/2 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G15 (fig. 36/4)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.72 x 0.60 x 1.20 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a boy aged 11-13 years, lying on his back with his head facing NE. The skull - facing up and close to the chest. Hands extended along the body; legs extended. Length of the deceased - 140 cm. The skeleton is well-preserved.

Funeral furniture:

On the chest, to the right:

1. **Clay bead**: ribbed, spherical, light blue. (Fig. 36/6).

At the feet:

2. **Sheep astragali** (8 pcs.). (Fig. 36/5).

To the right of the skull:

3. **Terra Sigillata jug**: small, wheel-made, two-handled, with a spherical body and ring base. H: 8 cm; DR: 8.5 cm; DM: 9.7 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 36/7).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 39-40 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 57, fig. 9/12 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G16 (fig. 37/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.10 x 0.75 x 0.97 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a man aged 25-30 years, lying on his back with his head facing NE. The skull - tilted towards the right shoulder. Hands extended along the body; legs extended. Length of the deceased - 168.5 cm. The skeleton is well-preserved.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 40 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 57 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G17 (fig. 37/2).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.00 x 0.68 x 1.60 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a 30-year-old woman, lying on her back with her head facing NE. The skull - tilted towards the left shoulder, with traces of artificial deformities, lower jaw moved. Hands extended along the body, legs extended. Length of the deceased - 155 cm.

Funeral furniture:

At the cervical vertebrae:

1. **Beads** (6+ pcs. and several fragments): glass and clay, with banded decorations, in yellow, light blue, and green. (Fig. 37/3).

At both ankles:

2. **Beads** (38+ pcs. and several fragments): glass and clay, conical and round, in yellow, dark blue, red, and brown. (Fig. 37/3).

At the wrist joints:

3. **Beads** (28+ pcs. and several fragments): glass and clay, conical and round, in yellow, dark blue, red, and brown. (Fig. 37/3).

At the feet:

4. **Gray-lustrous jug**: wheel-made, single-handled, with a biconical body and decorated with polished lines. H: 12.5 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DM: 11 cm; DB: 5 cm. (Fig. 37/4).

At the left ankle:

5. **Handmade cup**: with uneven edges. H: 3.5 cm; DR: 6.5 cm; DB: 3 cm. (Fig. 37/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 40-41 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 57, fig. 8/1, 9/7 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

Bocani G18

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 0.82 x 0.48 x 0.98 m

Pit shape: Oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a child, presumably lying on their back with the head facing NE - where it was discovered. Except for the skull and a few teeth, most bones did not survive.

Funeral furniture:

Near the skull:

1. **Terra Sigillata jug**: small, wheel-made, with a spherical body, ring base, and a decorated neck. H: 7.5 cm; DR: 5.5 cm; DM: 7.2 cm; DB: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 37/6.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1953, p. 41-42 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1956, p. 57, fig. 9/5 (2nd-4th centuries AD); 1960; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD).

9. **Bolhrad, Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

During the excavation of a Gumelnița culture settlement, a Sarmatian grave was discovered by chance.

Bolhrad G1 (Fig. 38/1) The pit was encountered at 0.55 meters, while the skeleton was discovered at 1.55 meters.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was lying on their back with the head towards the north. The arms were extended along the body. The left leg was bent, while the right leg was extended.

Funeral furniture:

At the right foot:

1. **Bronze buckles** (2 pcs.): round, part of weaponry equipment.
2. **Iron dagger**: heavily corroded, with traces of a scabbard. (Fig. 38/1).

Near the head on the left:

3. **Gray polished jug**: wheel-made, single band-shaped handle, with a wide, high neck and a low ring base. (Fig. 38/1).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Passek 1963, fig. 6, 7, 26, p. 2 (4th century AD)

10. **Brînzeni, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1980, a Sarmatian necropolis consisting of 7 graves was discovered on the territory of the Cucuteni-Tripolie culture settlement – Brînzeni VIII.

Brînzeni G1 (Fig. 38/2,3)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.7 x width 0.82 m towards the north and 0.65 m towards the south x 1.45 m. Steps were left in the south and north, each 20 cm deep.

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a child lying on their back with the head to the northeast, inclined towards the left. The right hand was alongside the body, while the left hand was missing. The legs were extended. The length of the deceased was 1.17 m. The fill consisted of soil mixed with ashes. Traces of wood were found on the steps and at their level, suggesting the presence of beams covering the deceased. Ashes were also found beneath the bones of the deceased (indicating the presence of a wooden arrangement).

Funeral furniture:

At the left shoulder:

1. **Cervical vertebrae** (2 pcs.): show greenish oxidation traces, likely from a bronze necklace.

Between the cervical vertebra towards the chin, two beads:

2. **Chalk bead**: barrel-shaped, with a wide hole. L: 1.9 cm; Ø: 1.3 cm; Hole Ø: 0.6 cm. (Fig. 39/6).
3. **Bronze bead**: rounded with ribs, a wide hole, and three rows of beaded decoration. L: 1 cm; Ø: 1.4 cm; Hole Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 39/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1985, p. 129, 131; fig. 3/1,6 (1st-2nd century AD); 1995, p. 151 (late 1st-2nd century AD).

Brînzeni G2 (Fig. 38/4)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.4 x width 0.7 m towards NE and 0.98 m towards SW x 1.65-1.70 m. Steps were left in the NE and SW, each 16 cm deep.

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a woman (?) lying on her back with the head to the northeast, inclined towards the right. The hands were extended alongside the body, and the legs were extended. The length of the deceased was 1.60 m. Traces of wood were found on the steps and at their level, suggesting the presence of beams covering the deceased. Ashes were found beneath the bones of the deceased (indicating the presence of a wooden arrangement).

Funeral furniture:

At the tibia of the right leg:

1. **Beads** (8 pcs.): five elongated multi-faceted chalk; two oval dark brown clay; and one oval light yellow glass paste. (Fig. 39/7).

At the tibia of the left leg towards the foot:

2. **Beads** (15+ pcs. and fragments): small, turquoise, cylinder-shaped, including one triple bead. (Fig. 39/8).

On the right side of the skull:

3. **Miniature vessel** (cup): handcrafted, inverted truncated cone shape, gray-brown. H: 3.6 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 39/12).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1985, p. 131-133; fig. 3/5,7, fig. 4/3 (1st-2nd century AD); 1995, p. 151 (late 1st-2nd century AD).

Brînzeni G3 (Fig. 38/5)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.4 x width 1 m towards the north and 0.9 m towards the south x 1.4 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, lying on their back with the head to the northeast, inclined towards the right. The hands were extended alongside the body, with palms on the pelvic girdle. The legs were extended. The length of the deceased was 1.70 m.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right shoulder:

1. **Miniature vessel** (cup): handcrafted, inverted truncated cone shape with a flat bottom, gray-brown. H: 4.3 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DB: 3 cm. (Fig. 39/15).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1985, p. 133; fig. 4/6 (1st-2nd century AD); 1995, p. 151 (late 1st-2nd century AD).

Brînzeni G4 (Fig. 38/2)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.6 m, width 0.8 m towards the northeast and 0.7 m towards the southwest, with a depth of 1.5 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Steps were left in the northeast and southwest. Traces of wood were found on the steps and at their level, suggesting the presence of beams covering the deceased.

The skeleton belonged to a mature woman (?) lying on her back with the head to the north, inclined towards the right. The hands were extended alongside the body, and the feet were extended. The deceased was arranged diagonally with the head to the north and the feet to the south. The length of the deceased was 1.55 m.

Funeral furniture:

At the cervical vertebra:

1. **Cylindrical bead**: elongated, semi-transparent glass paste. (Fig. 39/2).

Near the skull towards the right ear:

2. **Bronze earring**: circular, with one end looped and the other hooked. (Fig. 39/3).

Above the pelvic girdle:

3. **Bronze mirror**: with a lateral loop and decorated on the reverse with three concentric relief circles. (Fig. 39/10).

At the palm of the right hand:

4. **Clay spindle whorl**: bi-truncated conical shape, gray. H: 3.4 cm; DM: 4.3 cm; Hole Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 39/11).

On the left side of the skull:

5. **Gray jug**: wheel-thrown, with a rounded body, ribbed band handle, and ring base. Decorated with polished vertical lines. H: 18 cm; DR: 7 cm; DM: 15.2 cm; DB: 6.8 cm. (Fig. 39/14).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1985, p. 133-135; fig. 3/2,3,8, fig. 4/1,5 (2nd-3rd century AD); 1995, p. 151 (late 1st-2nd century AD).

Brînzeni G5 (Fig. 38/6) In the SE, it intersected with a pit from the Cucuteni culture.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.95 x 1.55 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature woman (?) lying on her back with the head to the north, inclined towards the right. The hands were extended alongside the body, and the feet were extended. Similar to Tomb 4, the deceased was arranged diagonally with the head to the north and the feet to the south. The length of the deceased was 1.43 m.

Funeral furniture:

At the cervical vertebra on the right side and at the tibias:

1. **Beads**: 13 beads and fragments of glass paste and clay. Eight oval-shaped yellow glass paste beads, one prism-shaped of non-transparent glass, and one cylindrical of polychrome glass with alternating oblique multicolored stripes (Fig. 39/4,9).

On the right side of the skull:

2. **Handmade pot**: oval-shaped body, funnel-shaped neck, and flat base, gray in color. Paste with grog and gravel temper. H: 14 cm; DR: 10.5 cm; DM: 12.8 cm; DB: 7 cm (Fig. 39/13).
3. **Handmade pot fragments**: from another handmade pot, unrestored
4. **Ritual vessel**: handmade, with a flat base, gray in color. Paste with grog and gravel temper. H: 4.3 cm; DR: 9 cm; DB: 6.5 cm (Fig. 39/16).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1985, p. 135-137; fig. 3/4,9, fig. 4/4,7 (1st-2nd century AD); 1995, p. 151 (late 1st-2nd century AD).

Brînzeni G6 (Fig. 38/7)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 0.8 x 1.48 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult lying on their back with the head to the north, inclined towards the right. The hands were extended alongside the body, and the legs were extended. The length of the deceased was 1.66 m.

Funeral furniture:

On the right side of the skull:

1. **Small gray jug**: wheel-thrown, with a profiled flared rim, narrow neck, ellipsoidal body, flat band handle, and ring base. The neck is decorated with polished vertical lines and zigzags. H: 9 cm; DR: 5.5 cm; DM: 8.5 cm; DB: 4.5 cm (Fig. 39/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1985, p. 137; fig. 4/5 (2nd-3rd century AD); 1995, p. 151 (late 1st-2nd century AD).

Brînzeni G7 (Fig. 38/2)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.7 x 1.65 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult lying on their back with the head to the northeast, inclined towards the left. The left hand was extended alongside the body, and the right hand was slightly bent and placed on the femur. The legs were extended.

Funeral furniture:

Along the right femur:

1. **Iron sword/dagger fragments**: Due to heavy corrosion, typological classification could not be determined.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1985, p. 137-138 (1st-2nd century AD); 1995, p. 151 (late 1st-2nd century AD).

11. **Burlăneşti, Edineţ District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1987, rescue archaeological excavations were conducted near the village of Burlănești, during which six tumuli were investigated.

Burlăneşti T3G13 It had a height of 1.9 m and a diameter of 42 m. The grave was discovered in the southwest sector of the tumulus.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.28 x 0.86 x 2 m

Pit shape: outlines of the pit were poorly defined, an elongated rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the center of the pit, at the bottom, there was a well-preserved skeleton belonging to an adult. The deceased was lying on their back with the head oriented towards the NE. The legs were slightly apart at the knees, with the heels together. The arms were extended alongside the body (fig. 40/1).

Funeral furniture:

Next to the right hip joint:

1. **Hexagonal pendant-bead**: (1 pc.) Barrel-shaped, white metal. L: 2 cm; W: 1.2 cm (Fig. 40/3).

In the thigh area:

2. **Wooden object (traces)**: Three partially preserved, thin bronze plates (1 cm wide) were fixed to the object with bronze rivets (Ø 0.25 cm) (Fig. 40/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Demchenko, Levitsky 2006, pp. 306, 311-312; Grosu 1995, p. 160 (second half of the 2nd-3rd centuries AD).

Burlăneşti T3G17 was discovered in the southwest sector of the tumulus.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.87 x 0.72 x 3.8 m

Pit shape: outlines of the pit were poorly defined, an elongated rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: At the bottom of the pit, in the center, a skeleton in a satisfactory state of preservation was discovered, belonging to an adult. The deceased was lying on their back, with the head oriented to the north and the face up. The arms were extended alongside the body (fig. 40/4).

Funeral furniture:

Next to the right thigh:

1. **Iron object**: Highly corroded, likely a dagger. L: 8 cm; W: 2-3.5 cm (Fig. 40/5).

Next to the feet:

2. **Small jug**: Wheel-thrown, circular with a ring base. The handle (W: 2.7 cm) has two longitudinal grooves. A deepened horizontal line is incised at the handle level, with two additional lines above it. H: 16.2 cm; DR: 8 cm; DM: 13 cm; DB: 6 cm (Fig. 40/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Demchenko, Levitsky 2006, pp. 306, 311-312; Grosu 1995, p. 160; Demchenko 1988, p. 23.

12. **Butești, Glodeni District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1980, during the stone quarrying works in the village of Butești, several graves were destroyed. The tractor driver, who worked on widening the quarry, reported that there were many human bones, ceramic fragments, and other objects in the displaced soil. Some of the recovered pieces were handed over to E. V. Jarovoj.

Butești, Destroyed Grave

Funeral furniture:

1. **Glass beads (5 pcs.)**: One biconical opaque, two round transparent, and two round brown-gray opaque beads (Fig. 40/8).
2. **Bronze fibula**: A single-piece fibula with a strong profile and a bilateral eight-coil spring with two nodes. The foot is flattened, decorated with incised dots, and terminates in a conical button. L: 6.3 cm (Fig. 40/7).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Grosu 1983, p. 37-38, fig. II/8-9; Grosu 1990, p. 63, fig. 20V (second half of the 1st century – 2nd century AD); Bârcă 2006, p. 300 (end of the 1st century – beginning of the 2nd century AD).

13. **Butor I, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Grigoriopol District", Republic of Moldova**

In 1973, archaeological excavations investigated a series of tumuli in the Grigoriopol District (Transnistria), where a tumulus with a Sarmatian burial was discovered. The research was led by archaeologist A. I. Meliukova.

Butor I T10G1 (fig. 40/9) The tumulus is 1.5 meters high with a diameter of approximately 40 meters. The grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 0.24 meters.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was buried on their back, with the head facing northwest. The arms were extended along the body, with palms against the thighs, and the legs were straight.

Funeral furniture:

At the right foot:

1. **Iron (?) buckle**: In poor condition.

At the left foot:

2. **Sheep bones (several)**: Including some astragali.

Butor I, Trench No. 1.

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan, narrowing towards the bottom

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: to the east and west.

Trench dimensions: The ditch has a diameter of 30-31 meters. The width varies between 1.2-1.5 meters near the interruptions and 1.6-2.2 meters in the center, with a depth ranging from 0.6 to 3.97 meters

Funeral furniture:

In its fill in the western part of the northern ditch:

1. **Animal bones**: Possibly from a horse.

In the northwestern area:

2. **Terra Sigillata vessel (fragments)**: Black.

At a depth of 1.86 meters:

3. **Roman amphora (fragments)**: One handle and two fragments of a light yellow amphora with a narrow neck.

At a depth of 2.42 meters in the western part:

4. **Hellenistic amphora base**: Sinope type.

In the southeast part of the fill:

5. **Gray jug**: With a broken rim and handle.

Dating: Based on these finds, the ditch can be attributed to the late Sarmatian period, 2nd-3rd centuries AD. The Sarmatians buried the deceased in a Scythian tumulus, which explains the presence of earlier items.

References: Meliukova 1974, pp. 67-70, fig. 9 (2nd-3rd centuries AD)

14. **Călmățui, Hîncești District, Republic of Moldova**

In 2014, a team from the National Archaeological Agency, visiting the school museum in Călmățui, observed a whole Roman amphora on display. Discussions with Mr. Nicolae Dodu, the local school director and history teacher, revealed that the vessel was found accidentally on the village estate in the second half of the 1960s (exact year, 1966 or 1968[?]), during plowing. It is possible that the amphora originated from a small tumulus or, more precisely, from a tumular grave destroyed by agricultural work.

Călmățui, destroyed grave.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Amphora**: Neapolis/Šelov C type. This beige-yellow vessel has a narrow neck, high handles with grooves and ribs, a piriform-elongated body, and a narrow ring base. The paste is sandy and compact with black and brown particles. H: 63.5 cm; DM: 24 cm; Mouth Ø: 8 cm; Base Ø: 3.7 cm (fig. 40/14).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Ciobanu, Vornic 2015, p. 77-80; fig. 3 (2nd century AD).

15. **Carabetovca, Basarabeasca District, Republic of Moldova**

Carabetovca T1G3

Pit direction: W-E

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was on its right side, with bent legs and the head oriented to the west. The left arm was extended along the body, and the right arm was slightly bent forward, with the hand near the knee.

Funeral furniture:

On the middle finger of the right hand:

1. **Bronze ring**: Made from a single piece of wire, with three coils (fig. 40/12)

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Grosu 1983, p. 39, fig. III/17; Matveev et al 2023, p. 68, fig. 42; Rikman 1975, 31; Grosu 1990, 39

16. **Cazaclia, Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, „Ceadîr-Lunga District", Republic of Moldova**

In the years 1984-1985, 29 burial mounds belonging to different eras were investigated in the necropolis at Cazaclia, among which ten were Sarmatian from various phases. Tumulus no 1 was investigated in 1984 by E. Savva, S. Agulnikov, and I. Manzura.

Cazaclia T1G3 (Fig. 41/1-2) It had a height of 0.57 meters and a diameter of 44 meters. Three graves were discovered in the mound, two of medieval period and one belonging to the Sarmatian culture, along with a rectangular construction associated with the Sarmatian burial (fig. 1/1). The grave was discovered in the center of the mound. The burial site was located in a trench-delimited area near the entrance.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 3.55 x 1.45-1.10 m with the burial chamber (without steps) measuring 1.2-0.6 m, and 1.95 m deep. The steps, 0.15 cm wide, ran along the long sides at different depths—the northwest side at a depth of 1 meter and the southeast side at a depth of 0.65 meters.

Pit shape: a trapezoidal in shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, largely destroyed and looted in antiquity. Most of the skeleton was missing, with fragments of the skull, a few vertebrae, and long leg bones concentrated in the southwest part of the burial chamber. The position of the deceased could not be determined. Partial traces of gray organic matter were preserved on the floor of the burial chamber, with a concentration of wood ash in the middle part. The fill consisting of black earth mixed with clayey-sandy soil, ceramics, bones, and charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

In the southwest corner of the pit, at 2 m:

1. **Gold foil fragment**: A slightly curved fragment with two incised lines on the edges. Dimensions: 3.5-2.5 x 1.5 cm; Wt: 0.29 g; Purity: 758 (Fig. 41/3).
2. **Bronze plaque/application**: A semi-spherical plaque in poor condition, with remnants of a fixing pin. Ø: 2 cm; H: 0.8 cm (Fig. 41/4).
3. **Glass beads (cluster)**: Rounded, pressed-edge beads of matte white glass in poor condition. One well-preserved bead has a diameter of 0.6 cm (Fig. 41/5).

In the southeast corner, at 1.98 m:

4. **Silver plate fragments**: With remnants of leather and fixed with bronze rivets. Likely a clasp.
5. **Iron knife blade fragments (3 pcs.)**: A straight, wedge-shaped blade. The preserved part is 4.4 cm long, 1 cm wide, and 0.5 cm thick (Fig. 41/6).

In the northeast corner of the pit, at 1.65 m:

6. **Amphora upper part**: With traces of two handles with a complex section. The mouth has a molded, rounded relief roll. Mouth Ø: 3.5 cm (Fig. 41/9).

In the northeast corner of the pit, at 2 m:

7. **Amphora foot**: A cylindrical base with a pronounced inner edge. Made of light pink clay with fine sand. Ø: 4 cm (Fig. 41/8).

In the central part of the fill, at 1.75 m:

8. **Glass cup fragments (small)**: With traces of burning (?).

In the southwest corner of the pit, at 1.95 m:

9. **Red-lacquered jug upper part**: (Terra Sigillata) With a single handle. The neck was vertically polished. The mouth, which is slightly flared and thickened, forms a rectangular relief roll. Neck Ø: 9.5 cm (Fig. 41/7).

Cazaclia, Trench No. 1 (fig. 41/1):

Trench shape: a rectangular trench with rounded corners in plan and in cross-section a triangular shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the northwest part

Trench dimensions: 27x13.5 meters, entrance width 2 meters, depth 0.5-0.6 meters, trench width 0.4-0.6 meters.

Funeral furniture:

Near the northern corner of the structure, at the trench bottom:

1. **Amphora (fragments)**: The first amphora is represented by the upper neck with complex handles, a slightly grooved body, and a lower part. The mouth (Ø 5.7 cm) is triangular with internal ring decoration. Made of light pink clay mixed with sand. H: ~50 cm; DM: 23 cm (Fig. 41/10).
2. **Amphora (fragments)**: The second amphora has a preserved neck, handle fragments with complex profiles, and a large body section. The mouth (Ø 5 cm) has a rounded ridge and internal ring decoration. It's unpolished and made of light clay with fine sand. H: ~40 cm; DM: 20 cm (Fig. 41/11).
3. **Amphora handles (2 pcs.)**: One handle (complex section) from pink clay with coarse sand may belong to the first amphora (Fig. 41/12). The other has an irregular rounded-oval section with a vertical groove, made of well-processed light clay with medium sand (Fig. 41/13).

In the southern sector, at 30 cm in the trench:

4. **Amphora fragments (group)**: Found at a depth of 30 cm. A mouth and part of a funnel-shaped neck (Mouth Ø 10.5 cm, inward curvature, neck 5-7 cm). Made of pink clay with fine sand (Fig. 41/14). Two handle bases were also found, one with a body diameter of ~25 cm (Fig. 41/17). Another handle is oval in section with a vertical rib (Fig. 41/16). Also, a conical foot (Ø 4 cm) from a pink clay amphora (Fig. 41/15), and 14 wall fragments with wavy patterns from pink clay, along with seven light clay wall fragments. The last two items may belong to the funnel-shaped neck amphora.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century AD

References: Agulinikov, Kurceatov 2013, pp. 175-178, fig. 1/1-9; 2/1-8 (third quarter of the 2nd century AD); Sava et al 1984; 2019, p. 107-108 (2nd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 156 (2nd century AD).

Cazaclia T2G4 (fig. 42/1-2) The tumulus was subjected to agricultural works. Its height was 1.25 m, and its diameter was 42 m. The grave was the main one, located in the center of the tumulus, at a depth of 1.25 m from the reference point. North and south of the grave, two semicircles of continental rock deposition are visible, with a length of 9.0 m, a width of 3.5-1.9 m, and a thickness of 0.1-0.4 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.75 x 2.35 x 1.92 m. At a depth of 0.35 m, steps with a width of 0.4 m were found along the long sides.

Pit shape: an elongated rectangular shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave is destroyed. In the profile, a looting pit is observed, and its fill consists of earth mixed with fragments of wood and disturbed human bones. At the southwest edge of the pit, a looting pit with dimensions of 0.6×1.0 m and a depth of 0.45 m was observed. A similar pit, with dimensions of 0.45×0.8 m and a depth of 0.35 m, was observed at the northeast edge of the grave. Throughout the fill, at the bottom of the pit, disturbed human bones and fragments of wood were found.

Funeral furniture:

In the center of the pit, at a depth of 1.7 m:

1. **Glass bead (half)**: A round-flattened blue glass bead with yellow "eyes." Ø: 1.0 cm (Fig. 42/3).

In the southwest corner of the pit, at a depth of 1.92 m:

2. **Yellow clay amphora fragments (cluster)**: Found at a depth of 1.92 m. Includes a handle (L: 13 cm; Cross-section Ø: 4.5 cm), the bottom, and eight wall fragments. Black deposits are visible on the fragments (Fig. 42/4).

On the step in the southwest corner of the pit:

3. **Iron object fragment**: Found on the step. Heavily oxidized.

At a depth of 0.35 m, in the northwest corner:

4. **Iron object fragment**: Heavily oxidized. With gold inclusions (?).

In the northwest corner, at a depth of 0.25 m:

5. **Yellow clay amphora handle fragment**: Found at a depth of 0.25 m. L: 23 cm; Cross-section Ø: 4 cm.

At a depth of 1.5 m, in the southwest corner:

6. **Amphora fragment**.

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 1984; 2019, pp. 108-109, fig. 77, 79/1,2 (2nd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 156 (2nd century AD).

Cazaclia T5G3 (fig. 42/5-6) The tumulus was subjected to agricultural works. Its height was 0.6 m, and its diameter was 44 m. The grave was the main one, located in the center of the tumulus. In connection with the burial, a deposition of yellow continental clay is identified, extending in two semicircles to the east and west from the burial pit. The length of the eastern deposit is 9 m, and its width is 2.5 m. The length of the western deposit is 9 m, its width is 2.5 m, and the thickness of the clay deposit, highlighted in profile, is 0.3-0.25 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 4.1 x 2.2 x 3.6 m, steps with a width of 0.2-0.25 m and a length of 4.1 m, total depth of the pit was 4 m

Pit shape: an irregular rectangular shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted in antiquity.

Funeral furniture:

At the northern wall of the pit, at a depth of 3.6 m, 0.2 m from the edge:

1. **Iron buckle (half)**: Heavily corroded, with traces of fabric or leather.

In the center of the pit, at a depth of 3.45 m:

2. **Iron object fragments**: Found at a depth of 3.45 m. Flat, likely from a sword blade (Fig. 42/7).

At the southern edge of the pit, at a depth of 3.5 m, 0.35 m from the wall:

3. **Dagger/sword blade fragment**: Found at a depth of 3.5 m. L: 11 cm; W: 2.8 cm; Cross-section: 0.9 cm (Fig. 42/7).

In the center of the pit, at a depth of 3.9 m:

4. **Knife blade**: Found at a depth of 3.9 m. L: 8 cm; W: 1.5 cm; Cross-section: 0.6 cm.

In the northwest corner of the pit, from the surface to its bottom:

5. **Large vessel fragments**: Found from the surface to the bottom. Gray-polished, with a flat bottom; the upper part and rim are missing, preventing profile reconstruction.

Cazaclia, Trench No. 1 (fig. 42/6):

Trench shape: a circular trench, rounded at the bottom;

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the south part

Trench dimensions: diameter 18.5 m, depth 0.5-0.6 m;

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the trench in the south:

1. **Cattle bones (several)**: Large bones.

2. **Yellow amphora fragments (2 pcs.)**: Characteristic of the Roman era.

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 1984; 2019, pp. 122-123, fig. 84/7 (2nd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 156 (2nd century AD).

Cazaclia T22G1 (fig. 43/1-2)

The tumulus was periodically exploited. The height of the tumulus was 0.9 m above the current surface level, and the diameter was 32 m. One burial and nine pits, probably for looting, were identified in the tumulus. The main inhumation was discovered at a depth of 1.25 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.34 x 1.1 x 1 m. At a depth of 0.7 m, steps with a length of 2.34 m, width of 0.2-0.18 m, and depth of 0.3 m were identified.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Human femur and tibia bones, placed one over the other, were found on the steps. A dark brown ash layer, likely from a wooden covering, was also observed on the steps. Human bone fragments were found at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the northwest corner of the burial chamber:

1. **Glass bead (half)**: A tablet-shaped transparent green glass bead with traces of red and blue paint. Ø: 2.7 cm; Hole Ø: 0.7 cm (Fig. 43/3).

Cazaclia, Trench No. 1 (fig. 43/1)

Trench shape: a circular trench

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: diameter of 16.5 m, width of 0.5 m, and entry width of 1.3 m

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 2019, p. 158-159, fig. 77, 116/1-3 (1st-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 156; Agulnikov, Kurchatov 2005, p. 285 (2nd-3rd centuries AD)

Cazaclia T25G1 (fig. 43/4-5) The height of the tumulus was 0.7 m above the current surface level, and its diameter was 30 m. The main grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 0.95 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.7 x 1.2 x 1 m. The side steps had a width of 0.3-0.25 m and a depth of 0.35 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with side steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was looted in antiquity, and the fill consisted of chernozem. Human bone fragments were found in the fill and at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the pit fill:

1. **Iron object fragments** (insignificant).

At the bottom of the pit:

2. **Yellow clay amphora fragments (2 pcs.)**: Wall fragments.

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 2019, p. 158-159, fig. 77, 123/1, 5 (1st-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 156.

17. **Chirileni, Ungheni District,**

In 1990, five tumuli were excavated by archaeologists E.O. Clocico and A.V. Subbotin.

Chirileni T1G17 The tumulus measured 1.3 meters in height and 40 meters in diameter. The grave was discovered to the southwest at a depth of 1.11 meters (fig. 43/6).

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: destroyed by plowing

Pit shape: destroyed by plowing

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was destroyed, and only scattered bones were preserved. Beneath the skeleton, a layer of vegetal covering was identified.

Funeral furniture:

Near the feet:

1. **Glass beads (17 pcs.)**: Elongated, with a reduced cross-section. Made from thin turquoise glass tubes. Ø: 0.4-0.6 cm (Fig. 43/7).

Dating: By analogy with the beads discovered in a grave from Chirileni, dated through Radiocarbon analysis to the second half of the 2nd century – the early decades of the 3rd century AD.

References: Klociko, Subbotin 1991, p. 14-15; Abîzova, Klociko 2000, p. 516-525

Chirileni T2G2 (fig. 44/1-2) The location of the tumulus is named "La Coiceni." At the start of the excavation, the tumulus was 2.7 meters high and had a diameter of 46 meters. The grave was discovered in the southwestern direction of the tumulus, at a depth of 2.62 meters.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.05 x 0.65 x 0.14 m, with a depth from the reference point of 2.75 m

Pit shape: an elongated rectangular shape with rounded corners. The walls were slanted.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was destroyed. Only the skull and lower limbs were preserved. Based on the remaining skeletal remains, it can be determined that the deceased (adult) was lying on their back, with the head oriented towards the northeast, and the legs placed parallel.

Funeral furniture:

Parallel to the right femur:

1. **Iron dagger (poor condition)**: A simple-handled dagger with a double-edged blade. The blade has a lenticular cross-section, is shaped like an elongated equilateral triangle, and has a short, pointed end. Traces of a wooden sheath are preserved on the blade. Blade L: 23 cm; Max. W: 4.5 cm (Fig. 44/3).

Near the right foot:

2. **Terra Sigillata jug**: A red-glazed jug with a spherical body and a narrow neck that is horizontally divided into two parts. It has a single, small handle and a ringed base. H: 16.5 cm; DR: 7.2 cm; DM: 15.2 cm; DB: 6.8 cm (Fig. 44/4).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Klociko, Subbotin 1991, p. 20-21; Abîzova, Klociko 2000

Chirileni T2G5 (fig. 45/1) was discovered in the southeastern part of the tumulus, at a depth of 2.65 meters. The grave is partially destroyed.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.65 x 0.55 x 0.08 m, with a depth from the reference point of 2.73 m

Pit shape: an elongated rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton is destroyed, except for the lower limbs, which were extended and placed parallel. Judging by these, the deceased was lying on their back with the head towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

Other finds identified in the fill:

1. **White metal appliqué**: H: 0.9 cm; Head Ø: 0.6x0.8 cm (Fig. 45/10).
2. **Glass beads (13 pcs. + ~20 fragments)**: Cylindrical, opaque green and gray glass. H: 0.5-0.8 cm; Ø: 0.6-0.8 cm (Fig. 45/9).
3. **Carnelian bead**: Round, compressed transversely. H: 0.6 cm; Ø: 0.8 cm.
4. **Thin bronze mirror**: Ø: 4.3 cm (Fig. 45/7).
5. **Copper bells (4 pcs.)**: Conical shape with a top hole for attachment. H: 1.3-1.5 cm; Ø: 1.4-2.1 cm (Fig. 6/8).
6. **"Caurii" shells (3 pcs. + 1 fragment)** (Fig. 45/9).
7. **Undefined iron object fragment** (Fig. 45/11).

Near the lower limbs:

8. **Glass beads (47 pcs.)**: Elongated, cut from thin yellow and turquoise glass tubes. Ø: 0.2-0.3 cm (Fig. 45/6).

9. **Spindle-whorl**: A truncated-conical shape with a slightly concave base. Made of well-smoothed clay. H: 3.1 cm; DM: 3.9 cm (Fig. 45/5).
10. **Hammerstone fragment**: A large stone with a small central depression from use. L: 16 cm; W: 9 cm; T: 1.2 cm (Fig. 45/2).
11. **Fragmented jug**: A reddish round jug with a single handle and a straight, flared rim. The paste contains fine sand, grog, and crushed shell, and the firing was incomplete. H: 13 cm; DM: 12 cm; DB: 5 cm (Fig. 45/3).
12. **Terra Sigillata bowl**: A truncated-conical bowl with a well-defined rim, glazed in dark red inside and out. H: 6.4 cm; DM: 11.8 cm; DB: 4.8 cm (Fig. 45/4).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Klociko, Subbotin 1991, p. 23-25; Abîzova, Klociko 2005, p. 269-270

Chirileni T2G16 (fig. 46/1) This grave was discovered towards the southwest of the tumulus, at a depth of 3.12 meters.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.77 x 0.52-0.65 x 0.2 m, with a depth from the reference point of 3.32 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal elongated shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased (adult) was positioned lying on their back, with the head oriented towards the northeast. The bones of the skull were partially preserved. The upper limbs were extended along the body and placed near the pelvic bones. The lower limbs were extended and arranged parallel.

Funeral furniture:

To the left of the lower jaw:

1. **Bronze earring**: Made from wire with a circular cross-section (0.2 cm). The front is wrapped with the same wire, and the attachment is a long loop. L: 1.8x2.3 cm (Fig. 46/2).

In the cervical vertebrae and clavicle area:

2. **Amber beads (11 pcs.)**: Elongated cylindrical shape with a strong patina. L: 1.1-1.5 cm; W: 0.6-1.1 cm (Fig. 46/3).

In the trunk area:

3. **Beads (94 pcs. + 65 fragments):**

- Two beads and four fragments of **mountain crystal (quartz)**, with a truncated bi-conical shape and double perforations. Ø: 0.9 cm; H: 0.5-0.7 cm. **92 glass paste beads** in various shapes (cylindrical, round, elongated, and truncated bi-conical) and colors (brown, white, gray, green, blue, and turquoise). H: 0.3-0.9 cm; Ø: 0.3-1 cm (Fig. 46/3).

At the feet of the deceased:

4. **Glass beads (10 pcs.)**: Small, elongated beads cut from thin yellow and orange glass tubes. Ø: 0.3 cm (Fig. 46/4).

In the pelvic bone area:

5. **Necklace closures (?) (2 pcs.)**: Made from flattened bronze wire. L: 1.0-1.2 cm (Fig. 46/5).
6. **Fabric fragments (2 pcs.)** (Fig. 46/6).
7. **Iron bracelet (?)**: Made from a circular iron rod (0.2x0.3 cm). Approx. Ø: 5.5 cm (Fig. 46/6).
8. **Circular jug**: A gray jug with a single handle attached to the slightly thickened rim and the body's maximum diameter. Made of high-quality paste with no visible impurities. Firing was complete. H: 10.5 cm; Body Ø: 12.8 cm; Handle Ø: 0.6 cm (Fig. 46/7).

Near the left tibia:

9. **Unguentarium**: A transparent glass vessel with blue hues. It has a conical body narrowing to a narrow cylindrical neck. H: 12.5 cm; Base Ø: 4.5 cm; Neck Ø: 1.2 cm (Fig. 46/8).

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Klociko, Subbotin 1991, p. 33-36; Abîzova, Klociko 2005, p. 269-270

Chirileni T2G20 (fig. 47/1) This grave was discovered towards the southeast of the tumulus, at a depth of 1.39 meters.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 1.95 x 0.77 x 0.1 m, with a depth from the reference point of 1.49 m

Pit shape: an almost rectangular shape, with the southwest wall slightly curved and the corners strongly rounded

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased (adult) was positioned lying on their back, with the head oriented towards the NW, and facing upwards. The upper limbs were extended along the trunk and closely adhered to it. The right hand was placed on the pelvic bones, while the left hand was missing. The lower limbs were extended.

Funeral furniture:

Near the left shoulder:

1. **Opaque glass bead**: A truncated-conical, semi-spherical bead made of opaque blue glass. It's decorated with concentric circles of white paste. H: 1.1 cm; Small Base Ø: 1.5 cm; Large Base Ø: 2.5 cm; Hole Ø: 0.5 cm (Fig. 47/5).

In the fill:

2. **Beads (13 pcs.)**: Includes two cylindrical agate/gagat beads (H: 0.7 cm; Ø: 0.6-0.8 cm), one truncated-conical mountain crystal bead (H: 0.7 cm), three barrel-shaped onyx beads (H: 0.9-1.1 cm; Ø: 0.6 cm), four amber beads (H: 0.4-1.2 cm; Ø: 0.5-0.7 cm), and three glass beads of various shapes and opaque colors (blue, brown, and gray) (Ø: 0.4-0.6 cm; H: 0.4-1.4 cm) (Fig. 47/2).
3. **Bronze bells (2 pcs.)**: Conical with a hole at the top for a clapper (one bell has a metal clapper). H: 1.5-1.6 cm; Ø: 1.7-1.8 cm (Fig. 47/3).

At the heel of the right foot:

4. **Bone pendant-bead**: An oval-shaped bone pendant-bead. Ø: 1.2x1.4 cm; T: 0.4 cm; Hole Ø: 0.3 cm (Fig. 47/7).
5. **Glass beads (22 pcs.)**: Two small beads (Ø: 0.3 cm) of opaque blue and white glass, and 20 barrel-shaped or cylindrical fused beads of opaque white glass (H: 0.5 cm; Ø: 0.2-0.3 cm) (Fig. 47/9).
6. **Heavily corroded iron pieces (?)** (Fig. 47/4).
7. **Tool fragment (?)**: Triangular shape with no signs of use. L: 8.5 cm; Max. W: 5.3 cm; T: 3.1 cm (Fig. 47/6).

8. **Miniature fragmented pot**: Max H: 8 cm. The paste contains finely ground shards, and the vessel is covered with a light-colored slip on both sides. Wall T: 0.4 cm; Base T: 0.5 cm (Fig. 47/8).

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Klociko, Subbotin 1991, p. 39-41; Abîzova, Klociko 2005, p. 281

Chirileni T3G11 (fig. 44/5, 9) The grave was discovered towards the southeast at a depth of 4.82 meters.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 1.92 x 0.6-0.68 x 0.3 m, and the depth from the reference point is 5.12 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal in shape with rounded corners, with a slightly concave longitudinal side towards the southwest

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The buried individual (an adult) was lying on their back, with the head oriented towards the NW. The upper limbs are extended along the body. The lower limbs are extended and placed parallel. Beneath the skeleton, a layer of covering was identified, consisting of chernozem (1.5 cm) and clay (4 cm). Additionally, fragments of chalk and wood charcoal were observed on the bottom of the chamber. In the northwest corner, 13 cm north of the buried individual's skull, there was a small fragment of decomposed wood (length 12 cm and width 5 cm), and in the area of the clavicles and cervical vertebrae, fragments of wood charcoal were observed.

Funeral furniture:

At the feet:

1. **Glass beads (4 pcs.)**: Elongated, turquoise beads cut from thin glass tubes. Ø: 0.3 cm (Fig. 44/7).
2. **Clay spindle whorl**: A mushroom-shaped spindle whorl with a slightly concave base, made of clay with added chamotte. H: 3.5 cm; DM: 3.9 cm; Hole Ø: 0.6 cm (Fig. 44/8).
3. **Jug**: A jug with elegant proportions and a high, rounded rim. It has a high neck, a slightly biconic body, a flat base, and a flat handle. Made of clay with sand, chamotte, limestone, and vegetal remains. Firing is incomplete, with a mottled exterior surface. H: 16.2 cm; DM: 14 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DB: 7 cm (Fig. 44/6).

Dating: dated through Radiocarbon analysis to the second half of the 2nd century – the early decades of the 3rd century AD

References: Klociko, Subbotin 1991, p. 57-58; Abîzova, Klociko 2005, p. 293

18. **Cimișlia, Cimișlia District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1955, several graves were discovered on the right side of the Kotovsk-Cimișlia road.

Cimișlia, **destroyed grave(s)**

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: depth – 1.5 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: A woman grave.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Glass paste beads (small)**: Made of white and blue glass paste.
2. **Beads (20 pcs.)**: Polyhedral carnelian (9 pcs.), polyhedral white quartz (2 pcs.), spheroidal agate (5 pcs.), and cylindrical white paste (chalk?) (4 pcs.).
3. **Bronze mirror**: With a short, perforated loop handle. The diameter is 4.3 cm. One side is outlined by a perimeter belt with four embossed semicircles; three have four perpendicular belts, and the one near the handle has seven (Fig. 40/13)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Sergheev 1961, p. 136; Chetraru, Rikman 1960, p. 10; Rikman 1975, p. 31; Rikman 1966, fig. 8/7; Grosu 1990, 80-81; Matveev et al 2023, p. 69

19. **Cioburciu, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Slobozia District", Republic of Moldova**

In the year 2000, a Sarmatian tumulus was excavated.

Cioburciu T1G1 (fig. 40/10) Height: 0.6 m. Diameter: 30-35 m. The mound contained fragments of Roman amphorae. The burial was discovered at a depth of 0.7 m.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: The upper part was rectangular with slightly rounded corners, measuring 4.4 m in length, 3 m in width, and 2.5 m in depth. Steps, 0.6 m wide, were identified along the side walls at a depth of 0.65 m from the upper edge. The central part of the burial pit had a rectangular shape, measuring 4.4 m in length, 2 m in width, and 1.7 m in depth relative to the steps.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was looted in antiquity. As a result, the eastern part of the pit and one of the steps were destroyed by a looting tunnel. It was difficult to determine the exact dimensions of the step. A piece of iron from an unknown object was found in the fill of the looting tunnel. The area affected during the looting measured 1.7 m in width. Due to the looting, it was impossible to determine the position and orientation of the deceased. Only at the bottom of the pit, next to the northern wall, were fragments of human bones (skull fragments, finger phalanges) found, along with the lower jaw fragment of a horse, as well as fragments and objects from the funerary inventory. On one of these steps, fragments of wooden planks, arranged transversely and used as covering for the grave, remained.

Funeral furniture:

At a depth between 0.7 and 1.4 m:

1. **Iron objects (fragments).**
2. **Glass cup fragment**: Made of thin, transparent glass. Features engraved horizontal bands. The reconstructed diameter is 15.5 cm. The glass is a good mixture of quartz sand and pure potash (Fig. 40/11).
3. **Glass vial fragments (2 pcs.)**: The vial had a hemispherical shape and was made of thin, transparent glass. Decorations on the outer surface include horizontal bands, vertical incisions, and polished circles (Fig. 40/11).
4. **Roman amphora fragments**: Made of red clay with a pear-shaped, ribbed body.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Fidelsky 2004, p. 272-277 (2nd-3rd centuries AD).

20. **Cioburciu, Ștefan Vodă District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1989, a series of tumuli near the village of Cioburciu were investigated.

Cioburciu T2G1 (fig. 48/1) It had a height of 1.3 m and a diameter of 50 m. The tumulus revealed 2 pits and one burial; the pits were probably left by looters (both without material). The grave (fig. 10, 1) was discovered in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 1.8 m.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: at the fixing level were 1.85 × 1.3 m, and at the steps level, it measured 1.5 × 0.6 m. The depth from the fixing level was 1.3 m, and from the steps level, it was 0.6 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity, and the filling consisted of leached chernozem, where separate animal bones and fragments of human bones were found.

Funeral furniture:

At the threshold level:

1. **Silver buckle**: A faceted circular buckle with a faceted pin and an oval clasp secured by two rivets. Dimensions: 2.5 × 1.4 cm (Fig. 49/14).
2. **Silver rivet** (Fig. 49/8).
3. **Glass beads**: Made from a yellow-colored material (Fig. 49/9).
4. **Gold threads**: Thin wire threads from the clothing of the deceased.
5. **Bone sheaths (fragments)**: Possibly from a bow (Fig. 49/2-6).
6. **Bronze wire fragment**: Bent in the middle. Dimensions: 2.5 × 2 cm; Cross-section: 0.5 cm (Fig. 49/7).
7. **Iron ring**: From a horse harness. Outer Ø: 3.4 cm; Inner Ø: 1.6 cm; Cross-section: 0.8 cm (Fig. 49/10).
8. **Iron knife blade piece**: Dimensions: 1.9 × 1 × 1.9 cm (Fig. 49/12).
9. **Iron bar fragment**: L-shaped, heavily corroded. Possibly part of a horse bridle. Dimensions: 3.2 × 3 cm; Ø: 0.6 cm (Fig. 49/13).
10. **Red clay bowl (fragmented)**: On a low ring support with a horizontally flared, flat rim. The rim has two parallel ribs and is decorated with cylindrical appliqués. Restored H: 16 cm; Base Ø: 13 cm; Rim Ø: 32 cm (Fig. 49/11).
11. **Glass cup fragments**.

In the filling:

12. **Amphora fragments**: Made of yellow clay.
13. **Wheel-made vessel fragments**: Gray in color.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990, pp. 4-5; Agulnikov, Popovici 2022, p. 14 (2nd-3rd century AD); Agulnikov 1997, pp. 281-282 (end of the 1st century – beginning of the 2nd century AD); Bârcă 2000, p. 412 (end of the 1st century – beginning of the 2nd century AD); Bârcă 2006, p. 196 (2nd century AD); Bârcă, Simonenco 2009, p. 279 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Cioburciu T5G1 (fig. 48/2) It had a height of 1 m and a diameter of 31 m. The tumulus contains a single grave and two pits, likely ritual, similar to those in the southern part of Bessarabia. The grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 1.3 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: at the discovery level were 2.8 × 1.5 m, and its depth was 1 m. The dimensions of the burial chamber were 2 × 1 m, with a depth of 0.7 m from the threshold base level

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. The filling consisted of leached chernozem. Dispersed human bones and fragmented animal bones were found in the filling and at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Roman amphora fragments.**

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990, p. 24; Agulnikov, Popovici 2022, p. 25 (II-III centuries AD).

21. **Cioropcani, Ungheni District, Republic of Moldova**

In April 1982, during excavation work for the construction of irrigation ponds conducted by the Ungheni Irrigation Systems Directorate on the lands of the "Maiak" collective farm in Ungheni district, ancient graves were destroyed. At the request of the head of the Ungheni Irrigation

Systems Directorate, Comrade Gaviuk Nicolai Sergeevich, archaeologists arrived at the worksite led by the principal researcher T.A. Shcherbakova. The archaeologists were handed over items from the destroyed graves: 2 jugs, 1 bronze buckle, 1 bronze belt tip, and 3 bronze rings, each with 3 clasps.

Cioropcani, destroyed grave(s) (fig. 50/5-6**)**

1. **Buckle**: A rectangular buckle (1.7 x 1.4 cm) with a sharp pin and a semi-oval, riveted clasp for belt fastening (Fig. 50/4).
2. **Belt tip**: An elongated rectangular tip with a rounded end. The front is decorated with facets and an incised pattern, and it's attached with two rivets. L: 5.3 cm; W: 0.9 cm (Fig. 50/4).
3. **Rings (3 pcs.)**: All have a diameter of ~1.8 cm. Each is equipped with three small round, riveted clasps. Likely remnants of harnessing (Fig. 50/3).
4. **Jug**: A wheel-molded, biconical jug of well-prepared gray clay. It has a ring foot, a flat handle, and a profiled, curved mouth. The neck and shoulders are decorated with incised bands. H: 17.5 cm; Mouth Ø: 10 cm; Foot Ø: 6.5 cm; DM: 14.8 cm; Handle W: 2.8 cm (Fig. 50/1).
5. **Jug**: A wheel-molded, biconical jug of well-prepared gray clay with a smoothed surface. It has a ring foot, wide vertical neck, and a rectangular-section handle. H: 9 cm; Mouth Ø: 5.5 cm; Foot Ø: 4 cm; DM: 7.7 cm (Fig. 50/2).

It is unclear whether the described objects originate from a single complex or from multiple ones.

Cioropcani, Trench No. 1 (fig. 50/6)

Trench shape: square-shaped with a conical section

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: Dimensions: length 8 x 8 m, trench width 0.75 m, depth 0.5 m, entrance 1.2 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling, in the SW corner:

1. **Animal bones.**

Cioropcani G1

Pit direction: S-N

Pit sizes: appears at a depth of 50 cm, its length was 1.35 m, width 1.10 m, and depth 0.15 m. The total depth from the current surface was 0.65 m.

Pit shape: an oval shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the northern part of the pit, the lower half of a child's skeleton (from the pelvis down) was discovered. Based on these bones, it can be deduced that the child was laid on their back, in a supine position, with the head oriented towards the south. Wood charcoal and ash were found in the content of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Iron objects (2 small fragments)**: Undetermined.
2. **Handmade vessel fragments (4 pcs.)**: From thick gray walls.
3. **Round vessel fragment**: A wall fragment from a round gray vessel.

At the child's feet:

4. **Animal bones**.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1983, p. 2 (1st-2nd centuries AD); Grosu 1995 (second half of the 1st century – 2nd century AD).

22. **Cîrnățeni, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1985, several tumuli in the Căușeni district were investigated.

Cîrnățeni T3G1 (Fig. 51/27) The tumulus was 1.4 meters high and had a diameter of 24 meters. The grave was located in the center of the tumulus, at a depth of 1.5 meters.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: At a depth of 2.2 m, the pit measured 3.4 x 2.4 m, and below the steps, it measured 2.7 x 1.4 m.

Pit shape: an irregular shape with steps along the long sides with a width of 0.15-0.25 meters

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. The position of the deceased could not be determined. The skeleton belonged to a woman aged 20-35 years.

Funeral furniture:

In the NW corner of the pit, at a depth of 2.5 m:

1. **Iron ring**: A heavily corroded iron ring (Ø 4.3 cm) extended into a 4 cm long rod, bent at a 30° angle. Rod Ø: 0.4 cm (Fig. 51/18).

In the northeast part of the pit, at a depth of 2.8 meters:

2. **Iron fibula fragment**: Includes the back and spring. Back L: 2.7 cm; Spring L: 3 cm (Fig. 51/19).

In the southeast part of the pit, at depths ranging from 2.5 to 3.35 meters:

3. **Glass paste beads (30 pcs.)**: Fragile, turquoise, white, blue, and pale yellow beads. Ø: 0.3 cm (Fig. 51/9,11).

In the southeast part of the pit, at different depths:

4. **Amber beads (5 pcs.)**: Irregularly shaped, slightly flattened ellipsoids (one is a fragment). L: 1.6-3 cm; W: 0.9-2.2 cm (Fig. 51/1-5).
5. **Carnelian beads (3 pcs.)**: Small polyhedrons. L: 0.6 cm; W: 0.4-0.5 cm. (Fig. 51/10, 12).
6. **Beads (several pcs.)**: Includes two small elongated, multifaceted beads and several spherical beads (Fig. 51/10, 12).

In the southeast part of the pit, in the fill, at a depth of 0.7 meters:

7. **Copper coin**: Found at a depth of 0.7 m. Poorly preserved, with a hole (Fig. 51/7).

In the northeast and center of the pit:

8. **Gold foil fragments (8 pcs.)**: Two are semi-spherical. Includes a teardrop-shaped blue (possibly glass) insert, likely from a lost piece of jewelry.
9. **Bronze objects (fragments)**: Two are small rods (L: 1.2 cm; round cross-section), likely rivets
10. **Bone plates (166 pcs.)**: Various geometric shapes (Fig. 51/13-17, 20, 22-23).
11. **Clay spindle whorl**: Bi-conical. Ø: 2.6 cm (Fig. 51/6).
12. **Red clay vessel handle**: With a prominent central portion. L: 4.5 cm; W: 1.7 cm (Fig. 51/8).
13. **Glass unguentarium** (Fig. 51/24).
14. **Terra Sigillata dish fragments**: Red glazed.

In the west part of the pit, at a depth of 2.2 meters, on a step:

15. **Hand-made lamp (fragmented)**: A small lamp with a high, wide, outward-turned rim and a prominent base. The paste is dense, with a fine sand admixture and a rough, spotted surface. There are traces of burning. H: 3.8 cm; Rim Ø: 8.8 cm; Base Ø: 4.6 cm (Fig. 51/26).
16. **Hand-made incense burner**: A miniature incense burner with a square mouth and a rounded bottom. Made of gray clay with fine chamotte, with a rough surface. H: 3.6 cm; Rim Ø: 6x5 cm; Base Ø: 4.8 cm (Fig. 51/25).

In the tumulus mantle:

17. **Amphora upper part**: From a narrow-necked amphora made of light yellow clay (Fig. 51/21).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu, Demcenco 1990, pp. 132-136, Fig. 1/4, 2/1-11, 3, (2nd century A.D.); Levțkii, Demcenco 1986, p. 12-14

23. **Cișmea, Orhei District, Republic of Moldova**

Discovered in 1956 by the Prut-Nistru Expedition, this site is located on a promontory similar to the one at Bocani.

Cișmea G1

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: a depth of 2.5 m

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of a woman was lying on her back with her hands stretched across her body, her legs extended.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Glass beads**: Blue.
2. **Bronze mirror**: A circular mirror with a mark on the back.
3. **Wheel-made jug**: A gray, polished jug.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1956, p. 58; Rikman 1975, p. 18; Fedorov 1960, p. 277.

24. **Cișmichioi (Gagauz: Çöşmäküü), Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, „Vulcănești District", Republic of Moldova**

Investigated in 1979 by archaeologist I. Borziac. The excavation was conducted using technical means, leaving witnesses.

Cișmichioi T1G1 (Fig. 51/28) The tumulus was subjected to agricultural work and even recently (according to the author) became a vineyard. It was almost leveled, with a diameter of 40-44 m. A soil trench was observed around the tumulus. The grave was located in the center.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.6 x 1.7 x 1.9-2 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with burn traces

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Cenotaph (?) Two looting pits were identified in this tumulus.

Cișmichioi, **Trench No. 1** (Fig. 51/28)

Trench shape: circular trench, conical in section

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Dimensions: diameter 29-32 m, trench width at the discovery level 1-1.3 m, depth 0.75-1 m, entry width 1.45 m

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill – indicated by a triangle:

1. **Amphora fragments (7 pcs.)**: 5 handles (4 yellow, one reddish) and 2 wall fragments, characteristic of the Roman era.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Borziac 1980, p. 2-4, fig. 1-2 (1st-2nd centuries AD).

25. **Cocicovatoe (Buduri, Kocikuvate), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

Cocicovatoe T27G1 Height: 0.65 m. Diameter: 30 m. The mound contained fragments of Roman amphorae. The grave was discovered in the central part of the mound at a depth of 1.15 m, with a total pit depth of 2.3 m (Fig. 50/7).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: the upper part were 2.9 x 1 m, with a depth of 1.65 m to the western step (10 cm wide) and 1.55 m to the eastern step (20 cm wide). The lower (funerary) part of the pit had the same length as the upper part (2.9 m) but was narrowed to 0.7 m. Its depth was 0.65 m from the western step and 0.75 m from the eastern step.

Pit shape: an elongated rectangular shape with steps along the long sides

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was damaged: the pelvic and limb bones of an adult were thrown onto the eastern step, while the rest of the bones were found at various levels in the filling of the pit, from the steps to the base. Fragments of wood from the collapsed roof, ceramic shards, and other objects were also found, all leaning towards the southern edge of the pit. Traces of chalk scattering were identified at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Bronze loop**: Made from flattened wire (1-3 mm W, 1 mm T). Dimensions: 1 x 0.8 cm (Fig. 50/13).

2. **Iron buckles (3 complete + 2 fragmented)**: Oval-shaped. Dimensions: 3x3 cm to 4x4.5 cm (Fig. 50/10).
3. **Bronze clamp**: Consists of two thin rectangular plates (1x1 cm and 1.2x1.3 cm) held by a central rivet (Ø ~2 mm). Contains remnants of a wooden object (Fig. 50/12).
4. **Bronze ring**: From a buckle, with oxidation traces from the tongue. Outer Ø: 3.5 cm; Section Ø: 0.5 cm (Fig. 50/14).
5. **Iron sword/dagger fragments**: Double-edged, with remains of a wooden scabbard.
6. **Slate plaque fragment**: Slightly rectangular with smoothed edges and two cylindrical holes (Ø: 0.4 and 0.5 cm). Dimensions: 3 x 0.8 x 1 cm (Fig. 50/10).
7. **Large marine shell fragment**: From the valves, with a perforated hole on the narrow edge (Ø: up to 0.5 cm) (Fig. 50/16).
8. **Iron knife blade fragment**: Approx. 2 cm wide.
9. **Hand-formed pot**: A gray clay pot with a flat bottom, bulging body, and conical mouth. The surface is covered with soot. H: 16 cm; Mouth Ø: 8.5-9 cm; Body Ø: 11-12.8 cm; Base Ø: 7 cm (Fig. 50/15).
10. **Jug lower part**: A red clay, wheel-made jug with a fragmented ring base. A fragment of the raised handle and a separate mouth fragment are also preserved. Restored H: 15.3 cm; Mouth Ø: ~7.5 cm; Body Ø: 10.4 cm; Base Ø: 5 cm (Fig. 50/9).
11. **Hand-formed vessel fragments (several)**: From large vessels (Fig. 50/11).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Vanchugov, Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1992, pp. 14–17

26. **Comrat II, Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, „Comrat District", Republic of Moldova**

During leveling works in the 1950s, two tumuli were destroyed, including Sarmatian graves, about which I have no data. This is the Comrat I site, whereas Comrat II is known to have a flat necropolis. This information comes from descriptions left by A. A. Nudeliman in 1958, Chetraru, Rikman in 1960, and Fedorov in 1960. Among the skeletal remains, material dated to the Sarmatian period was found.

Comrat II, destroyed grave

Funeral furniture:

1. **Beads**: cylindrical and spherical, made of clay and glass, both monochrome and polychrome.
2. **Bronze mirror**: with a rectangular handle and a hole, decorated on the reverse with raised grids. (Fig. 50/18).
3. **Conical bowl**: with a straight-cut rim and a flat base. (Fig. 50/17).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Chetraru, Rikman 1960, p. 10-11; Fedorov 1960, p. 273; Rikman 1966, p. 77, fig. 7/1-2 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Rikman 1975, p. 29.

27. **Copanca near Chițcani, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova**

The cemetery was named "Odaia Mănăstirii" and was discovered in 1937 by archaeologist N. Moroșan. Locals mentioned that several graves were unearthed here with jugs at the heads and iron items. E. Rikman and V. Grosu refer to this necropolis as Chițcani

Copanca G1 (Fig. 52/1)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.2-2.5 x 1 x 1.5 m

Pit shape: oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains:

Funeral furniture:

Under the left femur:

1. **Bronze plate**: with two rivets. (Fig. 52/2).

In the region of the sword handle:

2. **Bronze buckle frame**: small. (Fig. 52/3).
3. **Bronze belt end**: made of two plates fastened with two rivets. (Fig. 52/5).

At the sword tip:

4. **Bronze plates** (2 pcs.): fastened with rivets. Dimensions: 3.5 x 0.9 cm. (Fig. 52/4).

At the right hand:

5. **Iron sword**: two-edged, biconvex shape, heavily corroded with traces of a wooden scabbard. L: ~63-66 cm; W: 2 cm.

Near the skull on the left side:

Jugs (2 pcs.), (Fig. 52/6-7):

6. **Larger jug**: wheel-made, brick-colored, with a high cylindrical neck and ring base. H: 18.4 cm; DM: 14.8 cm.
7. **Smaller jug**: hand-made, yellow-grey-green, with a flat base. H: 11.2 cm; DM: 8.6 cm.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Moroșan 1939, p. 249-256, fig. 2, 3, and plates 1, 2 (end of the 3rd century - beginning of the 4th century AD); Fedorov 1960, p. 274; Rikman 1975, p. 20, 22.

28. **Corjeuți, Briceni District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1989, the authors of this study conducted rescue excavations in the area of improvement works in Corjeuti, during which a tumulus complex was investigated. The tumulus group at Corjeți was located on a promontory, on the left bank of the Lopatnic River, at the southeast edge of the locality, in a place called "Husa."

Corjeuți T9G1 It had a height of about 1.2 m and a diameter of 30 m (Fig. 52/8-9). The grave was discovered at a depth of 0.48 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton is disturbed. It belongs to an adult laid on their back, with the skull oriented towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

Next to the skull:

1. **Bronze earring**: fragmented, made of thin wire (Ø: 0.15 cm) with two pendants: one a wire spiral (L: 0.7 cm), the other a rolled bronze cone (H: 0.8 cm). Poor preservation. (Fig. 52/11).

At the neck:

2. **Beads** (14 pcs.): thirteen round, slightly flattened carnelian beads (Ø: ~0.6 cm) and one rectangular glass paste bead (L: 1.4 cm; W: 0.4 cm). (Fig. 52/13).

Under the skull:

3. **Bronze mirror**: round, with a wide handle and suspension hole. One side is polished, the reverse has a cast ornament. Ø: 4.5 cm; Hole Ø: 0.4 cm. (Fig. 52/12).

To the left of the skull:

4. **Clay pot**: elongated, hand-molded, with a flared rim, rounded sides, and a flat base. Irregular grey surface. Poor preservation. H: 20.4 cm; DR: 11.6 cm; DM: 16 cm; DB: 8.4 cm. (Fig. 52/10).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Levitski, Demcenko 1994, p. 226; Demcenko 1990, p. 35-36

29. **Corpaci II, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1970s, a series of barrows in the Middle Prut microregion, including those near the village of Corpaci in Edineț district, were investigated. These barrows were first noted in the 1960s when a Sarmatian funerary stele with a tamga sign was discovered (Rikman 1975, p. 25). In the 1970s, V. Grosu created a catalog of barrows in this region. And later archaeologists dug here: V. Grosu, V. Dergaciov, S. Jarovoi

Corpaci II, Funerary Stele

1. A stele with a tamga sign (fig. 53/4).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Rikman 1975, p.25, fig. 11/1.

Corpaci II T1G1 (fig. 53/1) This burial, performed in a Sarmatian period barrow, had a height of 1 m and a diameter of 38-40 m. The grave was found in the center of the barrow. Additionally, this barrow had a trapezoidal structure under the barrow and an accumulation of stones measuring 5.8 x 1.2 m, discovered at a depth of 0.8 m, oriented west-east, with stones piled on top of each other. The stone dimensions were: 10 x 4 x 4 cm, 13 x 9 x 2 cm, and 40 x 30 x 10 cm. The central stone had a sharp corner, measuring 150 x 60 x 35 cm. Among the

stones, fragments of a Roman amphora were found, similar to those in the trench. This structure likely served as an altar for the deceased.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 3.9 x 2.4 x 1.30 m

Pit shape: an irregular rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted, and bones were found at different levels. The fill was black soil with layers, indicating that the grave was not refilled after being looted. At the bottom, charcoal and animal bones were found, likely left as offerings.

Funeral furniture:

In the west of the pit at a depth of 2.1 m:

1. **Iron sword-dagger** (fragments). (Fig. 53/2)

In the center of the pit at a depth of 1.6 m:

2. **Yellowish amphora** (fragments)

In the northwest of the pit at a depth of 3.6 m:

3. **Handmade vessel** (rim fragment). (Fig. 53/3).

Corpaci II, Trench No. 1 (fig. 53/1)

Trench shape: a trapezoidal trench in plan and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: N-S

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: base - 21 m, length - 25 m, entrance width - 1.6 m, depth - 1 m, and trench width - 0.9 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the structure, especially in the northeast and northwest:

1. **Amphorae** (fragments): representing a minimum of 10 vessels, dated to the 2nd century. Assemblage includes 29 rim/neck fragments, 62 handle fragments, 11 base

fragments, and 169 body sherds. Traces of wine residue (Th: 0.1-0.3 cm) are present. (Fig. 53/5).

In the south fill:

2. **Horse skull**.

In the northeast fill:

3. **Horse skulls** (2 pcs.).

In the northwest fill:

4. **Horse skull**. **Remarks**: The horse skulls from the different fills are positioned to form a triangular arrangement.

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Grosu 1976, pp. 1-6, fig. 1-8 (2nd century AD); Grosu 1979, pp. 250-255, fig. 1-4 (2nd century AD, p. 255); Grosu 1995, p. 151 (2nd century AD).

Corpaci II T3G2 (fig. 53/6-7) This burial, performed in a Sarmatian period barrow, had a height of 0.5 m and a diameter of 25 m. The grave was found in the center of the barrow. In the filling of this barrow, there is a complex handle of an amphora dating to the 2nd century (fig. 53/10).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 3.7 x 1.25 x 1.45 m. At a depth of 2.1 m in the northern sector, a step with a width of 30-35 cm and a height of 1 m was observed, connecting from the west with another step with a width of 30 cm and a height of 25 cm, with a length of 90 cm.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the filling, there are mixed human bones. At a depth of 1.50 m to the north, there is a complete anatomical skeleton of a hare, at a depth of 1.86 m to the southeast, there are horse teeth, and at a depth of 2 m to the south, there are two complete anatomical skeletons of hares. In the southern sector of the pit, traces of previous interventions are observed.

Funeral furniture:

In the southwest of the pit at a depth of 2.35 m:

1. **Bronze appliqué**: cylindrical. L: 1 cm; Ø: 1.1 cm. (Fig. 53/8).

In the southwest of the pit at a depth of 2.55 m:

2. **Iron buckle**: oval. (Fig. 53/9).

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergaciov 1982, p. 38, 134 fig. 9/9, 9/17-20 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 151 (2nd century AD)

Corpaci I T3G4 (fig. 53/11-12) The burial was conducted in an older mound, which was 2 meters high and had a diameter of 40 meters. The grave was discovered in the southeast of the mound at a depth of 2.1 meters.

Pit direction: S-N

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a young person aged 15-17 years, laid on their back with the head oriented southward. The hands were positioned along the body, and the legs were straight. The skull was artificially deformed.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj 1984, p. 37-75, fig. 7, 9/5; Grosu, Jarovoj 1976

30. **Costești, Rîșcani District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1974, a tumulus was excavated near the village of Costești in the Râșcani district, and since 1975, several tumuli in this microregion have been investigated. The 1974 tumulus was excavated under the direction of V.S. Safronov, while the subsequent tumuli were studied under the leadership of V.A. Dergachov.

Costești T1G4 (Fig. 54/1-2) The burial was made in a Bronze Age tumulus (Yamnaya culture), with a height of 3 meters and a diameter of 50 meters. The grave was discovered in the southeast part of the tumulus at a depth of 3.05 meters from its surface.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: not defined

Pit shape: not defined

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of an adult woman was laid on her back with her head towards the northwest. The arm bones were placed along the body, and the leg bones were straight.

Funeral furniture:

At the left hip:

1. **Clay spindle whorl**: biconical, with indentations around the hole. (Fig. 54/3).

At the right temple:

2. **Wheel-made jug**: with a flared rim, wide neck, ring base, and a handle from neck to shoulder. H: 14.5 cm; DM: 13 cm. (Fig. 54/4).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Dergachov 1982, p. 7, figs. 1/1,7-9 (2nd-3rd century AD, p. 134).

31. **Crasnogorca, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Grigoriopol District", Republic of Moldova**

Crasnogorca G1. Discovered in 1958.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Skeleton with a deformed skull (?).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Rikman 1975, p. 20.

32. **Cuconeștii Vechi I, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1975 V. A. Dergačiov discovered and researched two Sarmatian necropolises in the village of Cuconeștii Vechi. They were named Cuconeștii Vechi I and Cuconeștii Vechi II, the first one has 33 Sarmatian graves and the second one 49 Sarmatian graves. The method by which he observed the location of the graves was aerial - so the author used both technical resources (the machine on the roof) and natural resources (the contrast between soil/vegetation and the falling of the sun's light at the required angle), showing ingenuity and craftsmanship. His observations

led to what the author calls the discovery of anomalies "spots" within which one or two graves were discovered. The "spots" given have shapes: oval or circular. The diameter is between 5-7 and 10-15 m. The author assumed that they were artificially created small-sized burial mounds, and now they have been cut by multiple agricultural works and only "spots" remain. In Cuconeștii Vechi I, in spot number 3 a Bronze Age grave was discovered (Fig. 55/1).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G1 (Fig. 55/2). Spot No. 1[20]. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2 x 1.65 x 1.6 m[21]

Pit shape: rectangular pit with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was missing. A mature human tooth was found at the bottom.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Metal fragment**: rusted.

Cuconeștii Vechi I G2 (Fig. 55/2).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.85 x 1.6 m

Pit shape: rectangular with strongly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual and were disturbed. The bones were not in situ. Skull bones were located in the NE portion of the pit, and bones from the lower extremities were found in the central area of the pit. Fragments of charcoal were observed at the bottom.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 88, fig. 27/2, (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152, (late 1st-2nd century AD)

Cuconeștii Vechi I G3 (Fig. 55/3). Spot no. 2. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

[20] In this way the name spot has the meaning of tumulus.
[21] Depth taken from current surface (of 1975).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2 x 1.25 x 1.75 m

Pit shape: rectangular with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual and were disturbed. The bones were not in situ. Humeri were located in the central area of the pit, while pelvic and leg bones were found in the SW part of the pit. The deceased was buried with the head oriented towards the northeast NE. Many bones were missing.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 88, fig. 27/3 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD)

Cuconeștii Vechi I G4 (Fig. 54/5). Spot no. 4. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 1.4 x 1.5 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners, the side walls were slanting, narrowing towards the bottom, and the bottom was flat

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual and were disturbed. The bones were not in situ. Pelvic and leg bones were located in the SE part of the pit. The deceased was buried with the head oriented towards the N. Many bones were missing.

Funeral furniture:

In the SE corner of the pit:

1. **Wheel-made jug**: single-handled, grey, with a long, decorated neck and a well-profiled ringed base. H: 15 cm; DR: 9.8 cm. (Fig. 54/10)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 90, fig. 28/3,4 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G5 (Fig. 54/6). Spot no. 5. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 1.2 x 2.4 m

Pit shape: Rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual, possibly female, and were disturbed due to antiquity. The bones were scattered at the bottom of the pit. Some finger phalanges, the lower jaw, ulna, and clavicle exhibited signs of oxidation (bronze corrosion).

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the pit:

1. **Beads** (50 pcs.): includes faceted cornelian (2), faceted quartz (1), pearl (1), amber (1), and paste beads (45) in green, yellow, and light blue. (Fig. 54/7).

In the northern part of the pit:

2. **Bronze scales**: small, from an unidentified object.
3. **Bracelet (?)** (fragments): made from two twisted bronze wires. (Fig. 54/8).

In the NE corner of the pit:

4. **Terra Sigillata lamp** (fragments): with a prominent spout, circular handle, and a disc decorated with a dove on a laurel branch. H: 2.6 cm; D: 6.8 cm. (Fig. 56/2).

In the center of the pit towards the eastern wall:

5. **Handmade clay vessel** (fragments): mixed with grog.
6. **Terra Sigillata cup/jug** (fragments): with a handle and decorated with horizontal grooves. Preserved H: 3.8 cm; DR: 6.4 cm; DM: 10.4 cm; Wall Th: 0.4-0.6 cm. (Fig. 54/9).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 90, fig. 28/5,8; fig. 29/2 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G6 (Fig. 56/1). Spot no. 6. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 1 x 1.5 m

Pit shape: rectangular with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a young individual and were disturbed due to antiquity. The bones were scattered at the bottom of the pit. Some bones were preserved, including femurs, one tibia, several ribs, and the maxilla.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 90, 92, fig. 29/1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G7 (Fig. 56/3). Spot No. 7. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 1.1 x 1.60 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual and were disturbed due to antiquity. Only a few fragments from the skull and radius were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

In the center of the pit:

1. **Cornelian bead**: faceted.
2. **Round vessel** (small fragment).
3. **Handmade pot**: jar-like shape with a rough surface, flared rim, and a flat bottom with protrusions. H: 9.7 cm. (Fig. 56/7)

Cuconeștii Vechi I G8 (Fig. 56/3)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1,85 x 0,65 x 0,9 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a young individual and were disturbed due to antiquity. In the center of the pit, a mixture of femurs, tibia, fibula, and pelvic fragments were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

In the center of the pit:

1. **Beads** (16 pcs.): four simple and twelve multicolored. (Fig. 56/6).
2. **Iron rod (?)**. (Fig. 56/4).
3. **Iron handle**: from an awl tool. (Fig. 56/5)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 92, fig. 29/3-7 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G9 (Fig. 56/8). Spot no. 8. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.45 x 1 x 1.8 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a young individual and were disturbed due to antiquity. Only fragments of various bones were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

In the northern part of the pit:

1. **Iron buckle**: heavily rusted, with a pin. (Fig. 56/9).

In the southern part of the pit:

2. **Iron buckle**: heavily rusted, similar to the first.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 92, fig. 29/8,9 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G10 (Fig. 56/10). Spot no. 9. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.15 x 1 x 1.55 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. Only two bones were preserved in the center of the pit.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 92, fig. 29/10 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD)

Cuconeștii Vechi I G11 (Fig. 57/1). Spot No. 10. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 0.9 x 1.2 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. Only a few bones were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part of the pit, at the bottom:

1. **Handmade pot** (fragments): jar-like shape (?). DB: 6 cm.

Cuconeștii Vechi I G12 (Fig. 57/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 0.9 x 1.2 m

Pit shape: rectangular with one corner more rounded

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a young individual and were disturbed due to antiquity. The bones were mixed at the bottom.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part of the pit:

1. **Handmade pot** (fragments): jar-like shape (?).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 92-93, fig. 30/1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G13 (Fig. 57/2). Spot no. 11. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.2 x 0.8 x 0.9 m

Pit shape: pseudo-rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were missing – a cenotaph (?).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 93, fig. 30/2 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G14 (Fig. 57/3). Spot No. 12. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.85 x 1.35 m

Pit shape: rectangular-trapezoidal with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. Only fragments of the skull and teeth were preserved (possibly female?).

Funeral furniture:

In the southern corner:

1. **Bead**: barrel-shaped, made of Egyptian paste. (Fig. 57/4).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G15 (Fig. 57/3).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.7 x 0.7 x 1.75 m

Pit shape: rectangular with a slightly rounded corner

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a child and were destroyed in antiquity. Only a fragment of a child's skull and an astragalus bone were preserved.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 93, fig. 30/3,4 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G16 (Fig. 57/5). Spot no. 13. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.95 x 0.9 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a woman (?) and were destroyed in antiquity. Fragments of the skull and finger phalanges were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

At the eastern wall at the bottom:

1. **Beads** (12 pcs.): made of amber, cornelian, glass, and coral (3 pcs.). (Fig. 57/6).
2. **Seed-beads** (16 pcs.).

In the southern part of the pit:

3. **Tubular bone**: polished and worked. Preserved L: 3.5 cm; Opening Ø: 0.8 cm. (Fig. 57/7).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 93, fig. 30/5-7 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G17 (Fig. 57/8). Spot no. 14. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.9 x 1.25 x 0.95 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual and were destroyed in antiquity. Fragments of the skull were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part of the pit at the bottom:

1. **Seed-beads** (16 pcs.) and **glass beads** (2 pcs.). (Fig. 57/9).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 93, fig. 30/8-9 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G18 (Fig. 57/10). Spot No. 15. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 1.1 x 1.15 m

Pit shape: rectangular with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual and were destroyed in antiquity. Some bone fragments were preserved.

Cuconeștii Vechi I G19 (Fig. 57/10).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.15 x 1.1 x 1.2 m

Pit shape: rectangular with a rounded corner

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity, and only a few bone fragments were preserved.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 93, fig. 30/10 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G20 (Fig. 58/1). Spot No. 16. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 0.85 x 1.6-1.7 m

Pit shape: rectangular with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a 40-year-old woman (?), laid on her back, with her head towards the NNE. The hands were placed along the body, palms towards the pelvis. The right humerus was slightly disturbed.

Funeral furniture:

Near the cervical vertebrae:

1. **Beads** (2 pcs.): one carnelian/granite, one cylindrical white paste. (Fig. 58/3).

At the hands:

2. **Glass beads** (4 pcs.): two found at each hand (bracelet?). (Fig. 58/3).

At the ankles:

3. **Seed-beads** (46 pcs.). (Fig. 58/3).

On the left side of the thoracic cavity:

4. **Bronze mirror**: discoidal, with a rectangular handle. Reverse is ornamented with concentric circles and radiating lines. Ø: 4.7 cm. (Fig. 58/4).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G21 (Fig. 58/1).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 0.8 x 1.6 m

Pit shape: rectangular with a rounded NE wall

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a mature man (?), disturbed in antiquity. Most of the bones were discovered towards the western wall.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 95, fig. 31/1,3,4 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G22 (Fig. 58/5). Spot No. 17. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 1.2 x 1.3 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult, disturbed in antiquity. Only fragments of the lower jaw were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

At the northern bottom of the pit:

1. **Beads** (9 pcs.): three amber, four faceted cornelian, one clay, and one glass. (Fig. 58/2).
2. **Wire earring** (fragment). (Fig. 58/6).

At the southern part of the pit:

3. **Seed-beads** (26 pcs.).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G23 (Fig. 58/5).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.05 x 0.75 x 1.15 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult, disturbed in antiquity. Only the femur bone was preserved.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 95, fig. 31/2,5,6 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G24 (Fig. 58/7). Spot no. 18. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.95 x 1.2 m

Pit shape: rectangular with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult, disturbed in antiquity. Only fragments of the skull and other small bones were preserved.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 95, fig. 31/7 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G25 (Fig. 58/10). Spot No. 19. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 0.95 x 1.1 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners on the SW wall

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult, disturbed in antiquity. Portions of the femurs, fibulas, humerus, fragments of the skull, and separate teeth were preserved.

Cuconeștii Vechi I G26 (Fig. 58/10).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.65 x 0.7 x 1.1 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a child, disturbed in antiquity. Fragments of the skull and teeth were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

In the northern part of the pit:

1. **Quartz fragments** (possibly beads?).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 95, 97 fig. 31/10 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G27 (Fig. 58/8). Spot no. 20. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.7 x 2.1 x 2.1 m (tapering to 2.45 x 1.2 m towards the bottom)

Pit shape: rectangular with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult, disturbed in antiquity. Fragments of the skull, fibulas, and tibias were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part of the pit:

1. **Seed-beads** (29 pcs.). (Fig. 58/9)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 97, fig. 31/8,9 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G28 (Fig. 59/1). Spot No. 21. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 1.05 x 1.7 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners on the southwestern wall

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. Fragments of the pelvis, radius, and separate teeth were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part of the pit:

1. **Beads** (several pcs.): faceted cornelian, amber, and glass.
2. **Seed-beads** (several pcs.): with simple and complex shapes.
3. **Bronze key**: small. (Fig. 59/2).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G29 (Fig. 59/1).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.15 x 1.05 x 1.7 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult (female?), destroyed in antiquity. Fragments of the skull, longer bones, and separate ribs were preserved.

Funeral furniture:

In the central part of the pit:

1. **Bronze earring** (fragmented): with a simple loop earwire and a wire "wing" ornament. (Fig. 59/4).

In the southern part:

2. **Beads** (12 pcs.): one clay, four faceted cornelian, four amber, and three glass paste. (Fig. 59/3).
3. **Seed-beads** (10 pcs.). (Fig. 59/3).

In the central part of the pit:

4. **Silver mirror**: discoidal, with a rectangular handle. Reverse is ornamented with concentric circles and radiating lines. Ø: 4.6 cm. (Fig. 59/5)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 97, fig. 32/1-5 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G30 (Fig. 59/6). Spot no. 22. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2,4 x 1,1 x 1,65 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult, destroyed in antiquity. Only certain bones have been preserved. On the right tibia, traces of oxidized bronze were observed.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part of the pit:

1. **Seed-bead**. (Fig. 59/7).
2. **Terra Sigillata vessel** (fragment).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 97, 99 fig. 32/6,7 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G31 (Fig. 59/8). Spot no. 23. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.25 m x 0.95 m x 1.75 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a young individual (female?), destroyed in antiquity. Most of the bones were destroyed and scattered at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom:

1. **Beads** (16 pcs.): three cornelian, seven amber, three quartz, and three glass paste. (Fig. 59/9).
2. **Seed-beads** (50 pcs.). (Fig. 59/9).
3. **Earring** (fragmented): with a simple loop earwire and a wire "wing" ornament. (Fig. 60/2).

In the southern part of the pit:

4. **Handmade pot** (fragments): jar-shaped, with a flared rim and a slightly prominent flat bottom. H: 18 cm; DR: 8 cm. (Fig. 60/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 99 fig. 32/8,9; 33/2,3 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G32 (Fig. 60/1). Spot no. 24. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.93 x 1.7 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual, destroyed in antiquity. The bones were partially destroyed.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom:

1. **Iron (?)** (fragments): heavily rusted.
2. **Bronze** (small fragments): oxidized.
3. **Handmade vessel** (fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 99 fig. 33/1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi I G33 (Fig. 60/4). Spot no. 25. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 1.15 x 1.6 m

Pit shape: rectangular, with steps along the longer sides - with a height of 20-30 cm and a width of 15-20 cm

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual (possibly a male), destroyed in antiquity. The bones were moved towards the southern wall.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part:

1. **Bronze (?)** (small fragments).
2. **Iron** (fragments): oxidized, most likely from a knife.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 99 fig. 33/4 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

33. **Cuconeștii Vechi II, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova**

I continue with the second necropolis discovered by V.A. Dergačiov in 1975 in the village of Cuconeștii Vechi. Here, 49 Sarmatian graves were uncovered. They were identified using the same method - 42 anomalies. The identified "anomalies/spots" are oval or circular in shape. Their diameter ranges from 5-7 to 10-15 meters. Additionally, six "commemorative" earth structures were found here. In anomaly number 1, there is a Scythian burial, while in anomalies 4 and 41, alongside the Sarmatian ones, there is one from the Bronze Age and another from the medieval migration period (Fig. 60/5).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G1 (Fig. 61/1). Spot no. 2. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 1 x 1.9 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual, destroyed in antiquity. Only the tibiae remained untouched, and based on them, it is assumed that the deceased was oriented with the head towards the NE.

Funeral furniture:

At the ankles:

1. **Disc-shaped beads** (13 pcs.): made of glass, amber, and clay. (Fig. 61/2).
2. **Seed-beads** (4 pcs.). (Fig. 61/2).

In the central part:

3. **Terra Sigillata vessel** (fragments).
4. **Gray, wheel-thrown rounded vessel** (3 bottom fragments): with a ring-shaped bottom.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 103 fig. 35/1,2 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G2 (Fig. 61/4). Spot no. 3. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 0.9 x 1.4 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult individual, destroyed in antiquity. The bones are scattered at the bottom of the pit – many are missing.

Funeral furniture:

In the SW part:

1. **Cylindrical bead**: made of clay. (Fig. 61/5).
2. **Seed-beads** (101 pcs.). (Fig. 61/5).

In the SE part:

3. **Handcrafted pot** (fragments): jar-shaped, with a flared rim. DR: 6.7 cm. (Fig. 61/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 103 fig. 35/3-5 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G3 (Fig. 61/6). Spot no. 4. Inside it one Sarmatian grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.55 x 0.7 x 0.9 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 103,105 fig. 35/6 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G4 (Fig. 61/7). Spot no. 5. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 0.9 x 1.95 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, remains were destroyed in antiquity. Only the tibiae remain untouched, suggesting that the deceased was oriented with the head to the NE.

Funeral furniture:

Under the southeastern wall:

1. **Iron (?)** (fragment).

At the feet:

2. **Handcrafted pot**: small, jar-shaped. H: 7 cm. (Fig. 61/8).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 105 fig. 35/8,9 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G5 (Fig. 61/9). Spot no. 6. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.75 x 1.75 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, remains were destroyed in antiquity. The bones were moved towards the southwestern wall.

Funeral furniture:

Under the southwestern wall:

1. **Seed-beads** (18 pcs.).
2. **Iron (?)** (fragment).

In the northeastern part:

3. **Beads** (2 pcs.): one cylindrical clay bead and one multi-faceted glass paste bead. (Fig. 61/10).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 105 fig. 35/10,11 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G6 (Fig. 61/11). Spot No. 7. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.45 x 1 x 1.2 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult (male?) were destroyed in antiquity.

Funeral furniture:

Under the southwestern wall:

1. **Iron dagger** (fragments): with a simple handle, no guard, and a lenticular blade section. Preserved blade L: 13 cm; Handle L: 7 cm; Blade W: 3 cm. (Fig. 62/1).

In the northern part:

2. **Handcrafted vessel** (small fragments).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G7 (Fig. 61/11).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.25 x 0.5 x 0.9 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to a child and have not been preserved.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 105-106, fig. 35/12; 36/1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G8 (Fig. 62/2). Spot no. 8. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 0.8 x 1.7 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. Only a small number of bones have been preserved, scattered.

Funeral furniture:

In the northern part, at the bottom of the pit:

1. **Cornelian bead**: multi-faceted. (Fig. 62/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 106 fig. 36/2,3 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G9 (Fig. 62/4). Spot No. 9. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.7 x 1.4 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. Only a small number of bones have been preserved. Based on their position, the deceased was lying on their back, with the head oriented towards NNW.

Funeral furniture:

In the center of the pit, under the eastern wall, near the left femur:

1. **Rusted iron fragment**: composed of a straight-edged knife blade and a round buckle. (Fig. 62/5).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G10 (Fig. 62/4).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.9-1.1 x 1.25 m

Pit shape: irregular rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. The bone remnants have been moved towards the SSV side of the pit.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 106, fig. 36/4,5 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G11 (Fig. 62/8). Spot no. 10. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 0.9 x 1.5 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of a young individual were positioned on their back, with the head to the north.

Funeral furniture:

At the skull:

1. **Beads** (5 pcs.): three cross-shaped pearls and two oval clay beads.
2. **Bronze pendant rod**. (Fig. 62/6).

At the joints:

3. **Seed-beads** (150+ pcs.).

At the left temple:

4. **Bronze earring**: circular, with one end looped and the other hooked. (Fig. 62/7).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 106 fig. 36/6-8 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G12 (Fig. 62/9). Spot no. 11. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 1.6 x 0.6 x 1,4 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. Based on the position of the bones, the deceased was lying on their back, with the head oriented towards the northwest.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 106 fig. 36/9 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G13 (Fig. 62/11). Spot no. 12. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.15 x 0.85 x 1 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, destroyed in antiquity. The bones were moved towards the northeastern part of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

Among the bones:

1. **Clay spindle whorl** (fragment): bitronconical in shape. (Fig. 62/10).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 106, 108 fig. 36/10,11 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G14 (Fig. 62/13). Spot no. 13. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.9 x 1.25 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, destroyed in antiquity. The bones were moved towards the southern part of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the pit:

1. **Bead** and a **bead-charm**. (Fig. 62/12).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 108 fig. 36/12,13 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G15 (Fig. 63/1). Spot no. 14. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.9 x 1.1 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult, laid on their back, with the head towards the northeast.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 108 fig. 37/1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G16 (Fig. 63/2). Spot no. 15. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 1.2 x 1.8 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult, destroyed in antiquity. The bones were moved towards the northern part of the pit.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 108 fig. 37/2 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G17 (Fig. 63/3). Spot no. 16. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.9 x 0.8 x 1.6 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult, destroyed in antiquity. The bones were moved towards the northeastern part of the pit.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 108 fig. 37/3 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G18 (Fig. 63/4). Spot no. 17. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 1.1 x 1.6 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains belonged to an adult, destroyed in antiquity. The bones were scattered throughout the entire bottom of the pit.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 108 fig. 37/4 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G19 (Fig. 63/5). Spot no. 18. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2 x 1 x 1.45 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: Cenotaph

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 108 fig. 37/5 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G20 (Fig. 63/6). Spot no. 19. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 1 x 1.65 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. The scattered human bones were located in the eastern part of the pit. Among the human bones, a large animal bone (horse, cattle?) was also found.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 108 fig. 37/6 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G21 (Fig. 63/7). Spot no. 20. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 0.95 x 1.65 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. The scattered human bones were spread throughout the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part of the pit:

1. **Iron (?)** (small fragments).

In the northeastern part of the pit:

2. **Handcrafted vessel** (6 fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 108, 110 fig. 37/7 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G22 (Fig. 63/11). Spot No. 21. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.25 x 0.9 x 1.9 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of a male were positioned lying on his back, with the head oriented to the north.

Funeral furniture:

At the left ankle:

1. **Bronze buckle**: circular, with a circular clasp. (Fig. 63/8).
2. **Bronze buckle clasp**: from a similar buckle to the one above. (Fig. 63/9).

At the right humerus:

3. **Bronze buckle**: circular, with a rectangular clasp. (Fig. 63/10).

Along the right leg:

4. **Sword-dagger**: hilt has a ring-pommel; found with traces of a complex wooden scabbard that included the guard. Total L: 37 cm; Blade L: 25.5 cm; Handle L: 7.7 cm. (Fig. 64/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 110 fig. 37/8, 37/9, 37/10, 38/1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G23 (Fig. 63/11).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 1.2 x 1.85 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. The scattered bone remains were found on the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the center of the pit:

1. **Seed-beads** (4 pcs.).

In the southern corner:

2. **Horse tooth**.

In the southeastern corner:

3. **Handcrafted pot** (2 ceramic fragments): jar-shaped.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 110 fig. 37/8-11, 38/1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G24 (Fig. 64/2). Spot No. 22. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 1 x 1.6 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a woman (?), position - lying on her back, with the head oriented towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

At the ankles and foot phalanges:

1. **Seed-beads** (191 pcs.).

Between the ribcage and left humerus:

2. **Iron fibula** (fragmented). (Fig. 64/4).

Near the left femur:

3. **Silver mirror** (fragment): with relief ornament. (Fig. 64/3).

At the left ankle:

4. **Handcrafted pot** (3 ceramic fragments): jar-shaped.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 110 fig. 38/3,4 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G25 (Fig. 64/2).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.6 x 1.15 x 1.8 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity, with only a limited number of bones preserved.

Funeral furniture:

In the center of the pit:

1. **Iron buckle**: oval-shaped. (Fig. 64/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 112 fig. 38/2-5 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G26 (Fig. 64/6). Spot no. 23. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 1.1 x 1.75 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were found in a scattered state due to antiquity-related disturbance.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part of the pit:

1. **Seed-beads** (19 pcs.).
2. **Handcrafted vessel** (3 fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 112 fig. 38/6 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G27 (Fig. 64/7). Spot no. 24. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.6 x 1.1 x 1.7 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. A limited number of scattered bones were found throughout the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the SSW part of the pit:

1. **Seed-beads** (2 pcs.) and **amber beads** (2 pcs.). (Fig. 64/10).
2. **Pendant**: made from a wolf or dog tooth with a suspension hole. (Fig. 64/8).

3. **Bronze rod**: possibly from a buckle pin. (Fig. 64/9).

In the center, under the eastern wall:

4. **Bronze earring**: circular, with one end looped and the other hooked. (Fig. 64/11).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 112 fig. 38/7-11 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G28 (Fig. 65/1). Spot no. 25. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Pit dimensions: 2.1 x 1 x 1.6 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. A limited number of scattered bones were found throughout the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the northern part of the pit:

1. **Seed-beads** (7 pcs.).

Under the southern wall:

2. **Gray cup** (upper part fragment): wheel-made, circular, with a flared rim, neck, and handle preserved. (Fig. 65/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 112 fig. 39/1-2; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G29 (Fig. 65/3). Spot no. 26. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.1 x 1 x 1.2 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. A limited number of bones were found under the northern wall of the pit.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 112 fig. 39/3; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G30 (Fig. 65/4). Spot no. 27. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.2 x 1 x 1.2 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. A limited number of bones were found under the northern wall of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

Under the northern wall:

1. **Amber bead**. (Fig. 65/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 112 fig. 39/4,5; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G31 (Fig. 65/6). Spot no. 28. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.2 x 1 x 1.5 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. A limited number of bones were found scattered throughout the bottom of the pit.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 112,114 fig. 39/6; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G32 (Fig. 65/7). Spot No. 29. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.95 x 1.1 x 1.6 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. The bones of the skull were located in the northern part of the pit, and the tibiae were in the southern part, suggesting that the deceased was oriented with the head to the north.

Funeral furniture:

Under the northern wall:

1. **Gray vessel** (2 ceramic fragments): wheel-made, round-shaped, with a ring-shaped base.

Cuconeștii Vechi II G33 (Fig. 65/7).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.4 x 1.2 x 1.65 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of a young woman were in a good state, lying on her back with her head to the north.

Funeral furniture:

At the skull:

1. **Beads** (16 pcs.): six clay, three jet, two amber, one glass with knotwork, two coral, and two Egyptian faience. (Fig. 65/8).

At the ankles and knees:

2. **Seed-beads** (~150 pcs.).

At the temples:

3. **Bronze earrings** (2 pcs., one fragmented): with one end looped and the other hooked. (Fig. 65/9, 10).

In the pit fill:

4. **Clay spindle whorl**: bitronconical-shaped. (Fig. 65/11).

Among the bones of the thoracic region:

5. **Cutting tooth**: from a rabbit or beaver.

At the skull:

6. **Terra Sigillata cup**: small, circular, with a band-shaped handle, flared rim, and ring-shaped base. H: 9.4 cm; DR: 6.6 cm. (Fig. 65/12).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 114 fig. 39/7-12; (sec. II-III d.Hr.); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (sf. sec. I d.Hr.- sec. II d.Hr.)

Cuconeștii Vechi II G34 (Fig. 66/1). Spot no. 30. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.4 x 1 x 1.4 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. A limited number of bones were found in the center of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the northeastern part of the pit:

1. **Beads** (13 pcs.): nine seed-beads, three glass beads, and one rod-shaped bronze bead. (Fig. 66/3).
2. **Clay spindle whorl**: bitronconical shape. (Fig. 66/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 114 fig. 40/1-3; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G35 (Fig. 66/4). Spot no. 31. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 3.1 x 1.3 x 2.2 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. A limited number of bones were found in the northern part of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the northern part of the pit:

1. **Bronze earring**: open, circular. Ø: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 66/6).

In the southern part of the pit:

2. **Seed beads** (~500 pcs.): glass and clay, in various colors. (Fig. 66/7).

In the SW part of the pit:

3. **Large circular gray vessel** (fragments).

In the northern part of the pit:

4. **Terra Sigillata cup**: small, circular, with a handle, flared rim, and ring-shaped base. H: 9.3 cm; DR: 7 cm. (Fig. 66/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 114, 116 fig. 40/4-7, (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G36 (Fig. 66/8). Spot No. 32. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2 x 0.7 x 1.3 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of a young woman were found stretched on her back with her head to the north. Some bones have been disturbed by rodents.

Funeral furniture:

Near the left femur:

1. **Bronze bracelet**: with flattened open ends and a circular-section bar. Ø: 6.5 cm; Bar Ø: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 66/10).

Beside the skull, near the right radius:

2. **Bronze bracelet**: semicircular section with overlapping ends. Ø: 6.3 cm. (Fig. 66/12).

Near the skull:

3. **Beads** (36 pcs.): includes one cross-shaped pearl, cylindrical and multi-faceted glass, multi-faceted cornelian, clay, amber, and coral beads.

At the joints:

4. **Seed beads** (~500 pcs.): circular or twin. (Fig. 66/11).

Near the left knee:

5. **Iron awl** (fragment): with traces of a wooden handle. (Fig. 66/9).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G37 (Fig. 66/8).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.5 x 1 x 1.7 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: Cenotaph.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 116 fig. 40/8-12; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G38 (Fig. 66/13). Spot no. 33. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.4 x 1 x 2.6 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. A limited number of bones were found in the NW of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

Among the bones:

1. **Belt end**: small, made from two plates connected by a rivet. L: 4.8 cm. (Fig. 67/1). **Iron (?)** (fragment): rhombic-shaped. (Fig. 67/2).

In the center of the pit:

2. **Astragalus bone**.

Under the SE wall of the pit:

3. **Terra Sigillata cup**: small, with a bitronconic-rounded body, narrow neck, and complex handle. H: 12 cm. (Fig. 67/3).
4. **Gray cup**: circular, wheel-made, with a vertically polished neck, complex handle, and ring base. H: 15.6 cm; DR: 10 cm. (Fig. 67/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 116 fig. 40/13, 41/1-4; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G39 (Fig. 67/5). Spot no. 34. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.3 x 1 x 1.7 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. A limited number of bones were scattered throughout the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the NE of the pit:

1. **Iron fibula** (fragment). (Fig. 67/6).

In the eastern corner:

2. **Handcrafted vessel** (small fragment).
3. **Terra Sigillata cup** (fragment): with a narrow neck.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 116, 118 fig. 41/5,6; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G40 (Fig. 67/7). Spot no. 35. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit shape: irregular almost oval with a niche

Pit dimensions: 1.55 x 1.2 x 1.9 m (with niche depth of 2.15 m), niche dimensions: 0.7 m in wall, 0.35 m deep

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of a child were discovered in the pit. A fragment of a child's skull was found at the northern bottom of the pit. The rest of the bones did not preserved.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 118 fig. 41/7; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G41 (Fig. 67/8). Spot no. 36. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Pit dimensions: 2.2 x 1 x 2.5 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains were destroyed in antiquity. A limited number of bone fragments were found at the bottom of the pit.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 118 fig. 41/8; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G42 (Fig. 67/9). Spot no. 37. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.5 x 1.2 x 2 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. The preserved bones were discovered in the northwest corner of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the northwest corner:

1. **Uncertain iron object** (small fragment).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 118 fig. 41/9; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G43 (Fig. 68/1). Spot No. 38. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.2 x 0.9 x 1.7 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. The preserved bone remnants were scattered.

Funeral furniture:

In the pit fill:

1. **Pearl beads** (18 pcs.): eleven cross-shaped and seven flat-cylindrical. (Fig. 68/2).

In the center of the pit:

2. **Silver mirror**: circular, with a small rectangular handle and relief ornaments on one side. Ø: 4.2 cm. (Fig. 68/3).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G44 (Fig. 42/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 1.6 x 0.7 x 1.3 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: Cenotaph

Funeral furniture:

Under the NW wall:

1. **Bronze bead**: from a necklace, made from a small plate. (Fig. 68/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 118, 120 fig. 42/1-4; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G45 (Fig. 68/5). Spot no. 39. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.5 x 0.9 x 1.8 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. The preserved bones were scattered.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 120 fig. 42/5; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G46 (Fig. 68/6). Spot No. 40. Two graves were discovered inside.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.9 x 1.2 x 1.9 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. The preserved bones were moved towards the north of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the north of the pit:

1. **Beads** (5 pcs.): one multi-faceted carnelian; three amber; and one small, multi-faceted from a greenish mineral. (Fig. 68/7).
2. **Bronze** (small fragments): possibly from a mirror (?).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G47 (Fig. 68/6).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 2.35 x 1 x 1.8 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of a young woman were lying on her back with her head to the NE. The state of the skeleton was well-preserved.

Funeral furniture:

Near the skull on the right side:

1. **Bronze fibula**: with a spring mechanism and an iron pin. (Fig. 68/8).

Around the cervical vertebrae:

2. **Beads** (13 pcs.): seven multi-faceted carnelian and six amber. (Fig. 68/11).

At the ankles:

3. **Seed-beads** (~20 pcs.): mono- and polyhedral.

On the ribs on the left side:

4. **Silver mirror**: circular, with a small, wide rectangular handle and relief decorations on one side. Ø: 4.9 cm. (Fig. 68/10).

At the right tibia:

5. **Clay spindle whorl**: bitronconical. (Fig. 68/9).

At the soles:

6. **Gray clay cup**: polished, wheel-made, circular, with a single handle and ring base. Decorated with a polished lattice pattern. H: 19 cm; DR: 9.6 cm. (Fig. 68/12).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 118, 120 fig. 42/6-12; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G48 (Fig. 69/1). Spot no. 41. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit dimensions: 1.85 x 0.8 x 1.7 m

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: Cenotaph

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 120, 122 fig. 43/1; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II G49 (Fig. 69/2). Spot no. 42. Inside it 1 grave was discovered.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit shape: rectangular with stepped sides

Pit dimensions: 2.5 x 1.25 x 1.7 m, along all walls there were steps of 15-20 cm with a height of 30 cm

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal remains of an adult were destroyed in antiquity. Some preserved bones were found near the northern wall of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

Near the northern wall:

1. **Handmade vessel** (fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 122 fig. 34; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

As noted earlier in addition to the 49 Sarmatian graves there are also 6 earth constructions (ditches) of which three have been completely uncovered and three partially. Unfortunately the connection between them and the necropolis graves could not be observed.

Cuconeștii Vechi II, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 69/3)

Structure shape: The trench had a rectangular shape in plan and a trapezoidal shape in cross-section, tapering towards the bottom.

Orientation: Its corners were aligned with the cardinal points, with slight deviations.

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part.

Trench dimensions: The trench measured 11.5 meters by 12.8 meters. The width of the entrance was 4 meters. The depth ranged from 0.5 to 0.7 meters. At the discovery level, the trench had a width of 2 to 2.2 meters, while at the bottom, it narrowed to 0.5 to 0.7 meters.

Funeral furniture:

Near the entrance (Left Side):

1. **Horse mandible** (lower jawbone).

Two meters northeast from the southeast corner at the bottom:

2. **Gray polished jug**: circular, with a complex-shaped handle; base is missing. Preserved H: 33 cm; DR: 12 cm; DM: 22 cm. (Fig. 69/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 122-123 fig. 43/5,6; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II, Trench No. 2 (Fig. 69/5)

Structure shape: a square trench in plan. In cross-section, the trench took on a trapezoidal shape, narrowing towards the bottom, and was filled with yellowish clay.

Orientation: its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part.

Overlap and complex relationships: this construction overlapped with spot number 4, suggesting that the complexes were not synchronous. However, it's important to note that there was no overlap with the tomb that could potentially be linked to the construction (Fig. 60/5).

Trench dimensions: The trench's dimensions measured 7x7 meters. The entrance width was 2 meters. The trench's depth ranged from 0.5 to 0.7 meters, and its width was 0.5-0.7 meters at the discovery level and 0.4-0.5 meters at its bottom.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 123 fig. 34, 43/7; (2nd-3rd century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II, Trench No. 3 (Fig. 69/6):

Structure shape: a square trench in plan, in cross-section, the trench exhibited a trapezoidal form, tapering towards the bottom, and was filled with yellowish clay.

Orientation: Its corners were aligned with the cardinal points, with slight deviations.

Interruption/Entrance: in the southern part.

Trench dimensions: The trench had dimensions of 12x12.2 meters. The entrance width measured 2 meters. The trench's depth ranged between 0.5 to 0.7 meters, while its width spanned from 1.5 to 1.8 meters at the discovery level, narrowing to 0.5-0.7 meters at the bottom.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, page 123, figure 43/8 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, page 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II, Trench No. 4 (Fig. 60/5): Partially Investigated

Structure shape: The construction consisted of a square trench in plan, in cross-section, the trench displayed a trapezoidal form, tapering towards the bottom, and was filled with yellowish clay

Orientation: oriented with its corners aligned to the cardinal points, albeit with slight deviations

Interruption/Entrance: in the southern part

Trench dimensions: The trench measured 13x13 meters. The entrance width was 4.3 meters. The trench's depth ranged between 0.5 to 0.7 meters, and its width was 1.8-2 meters at the discovery level, narrowing to 0.6-0.7 meters at the bottom.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, page 123, figure 34 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, page 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II, Trench No. 5 (Fig. 60/5): Partially Investigated

Structure shape: The construction was (presumably) composed of a square trench in plan, in cross-section, the trench displayed a trapezoidal form, tapering towards the bottom, and was filled with yellowish clay

Orientation: oriented with its corners aligned to the cardinal points, albeit with slight deviations

Interruption/Entrance: in the southern part

Trench dimensions: The trench measured 12x12 meters. The trench's depth ranged between 0.5 to 0.7 meters, and its width was 1.7-1.9 meters at the discovery level, narrowing to 0.4-0.6 meters at the bottom.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, p. 124, figure 34 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, page 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Cuconeștii Vechi II, Trench No. 6 (Fig. 60/5): Partially Investigated

Structure shape: The construction was (presumably) comprised of a square trench in plan, in cross-section, the trench exhibited a trapezoidal form, tapering towards the bottom, and was filled with yellowish clay

Orientation: oriented with its corners aligned to the cardinal points, albeit with slight deviations

Interruption/Entrance: in the southern part

Trench dimensions: The trench measured 9x9 meters. The trench's depth ranged between 0.5 to 0.7 meters, and its width was 0.9-1.2 meters at the discovery level, narrowing to 0.4-0.5 meters at the bottom.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dergačiov 1982, page 124, figure 34 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, page 152 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

34. **Cuzmin, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Camenca District", Republic of Moldova**

In 1989, two groups of tumuli were researched near the villages of Podoima and Cuzmin.

Cuzmin T2G3 (Fig. 69/7-8) The mound had a height of 1.5 m and a diameter of 60 m. The grave (Fig. 11/A) was discovered in the southwestern sector of the mound at a depth of 1.75 m.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was lying on their back, with the head oriented toward the NNE. The arms were extended alongside the body.

Funeral furniture:

Under the mandible, near the cervical vertebrae:

1. **Glass bead**: opaque white, elongated cylindrical shape. L: 0.7 cm; Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 69/10).

At the base of the left tibia:

2. **Small beads** (8 pcs.): made from blue glass paste. (Fig. 69/10).

On the right side of the skull:

3. **Gray jug**: wheel-made, with a ringed base and a loop-type handle; rim has not survived. H: 10.6 cm; DR: 5.5 cm; DM: 9.6 cm; DB: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 69/9).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Haheu 1990; Bubulici, Haheu 2002, p. 121-122, 146 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

35. **Divizia, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

Here lies a tumular group known in the specialized literature as the Divizia tumular necropolis, named after the village with the same eponym. The tumuli were located along a north-south axis on a plateau on the right bank of the Hagider River, stretching for a distance of 2 km. Their research took place in 1985, with 21 tumuli being investigated, of which 9 were Sarmatian, and in another older tumulus, there are 2 Sarmatian graves. In the mantle of the tumulus there were the following pieces – from different vessels (Fig. 70/3-5).

Divizia T2G1 Height 0.1 m, Diameter 20 m. Sporadically found vessel fragments included decorated pieces and parts of amphorae. Under the mantle, a single Sarmatian burial and a ritual lamb burial were discovered. Double burial located 2 m south of the reference point (Fig. 70/1,8).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.75 x 0.5 m, bottom at 2.05 m from the opening (2.55 m from the reference point). Along the long walls, 0.4 m above the bottom, were steps 0.1-0.15 m wide. The step on the eastern side had a central interruption of about 50 cm

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The buried individual lay on their back with the head towards the north, slightly inclined towards the right shoulder. Child's skeletal remains were found under the pelvis.

Funeral furniture:

Right shoulder:

1. **Bronze arched fibula** (damaged). L: 8.7 cm. (Fig. 71/3).

Left shoulder:

2. **Bronze omega-type fibula**. Ø: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 71/4).

Chest:

3. **Bronze mirror**: round, with a rectangular handle and tamga symbol. Ø: 4.9 cm; Handle H: 1.4 cm. (Fig. 71/9).

Infill, just below lateral steps:

4. **Glass beads**: various colors. (Fig. 72/2, 3, 5-17).
5. **Bronze object**: twisted tube clasp with oval rings at the ends. L: 11.6 cm. (Fig. 71/1).

Above right hip:

6. **Bronze plate** (belt plate?): with holes at the widened ends. L: ~8 cm. (Fig. 71/5).
7. **Iron object** (fragments): bracket-shaped.

Along arm and leg bones:

8. **Mother-of-pearl beads**: figurative. (Fig. 70/9-14).

Near northern wall:

9. **Handmade spindle whorl**: conical. H: 2.3 cm; Ø: 4.6 cm. (Fig. 72/4).

At the feet:

10. **Large handmade pot** (lower part): with a slightly cylindrical bottom and flat base. DB: 13.5 cm; Preserved H: 20 cm. (Fig. 70/7).
11. **Red clay bowl**: wheel-thrown, semi-spherical, with an annular base and inwardly turned rim. H: 13.5 cm; DR: 32 cm; DB: 9.5 cm. (Fig. 71/10).
12. **Red clay jug**: wheel-thrown, single-handled, with a tall neck and annular base. H: 20 cm; DR: 9.5 cm; DM: 15 cm; DB: 6.7 cm. (Fig. 71/2).
13. **Handmade pot**: with a conical neck, high rounded shoulders, and decorated with incised lines. H: 13.6 cm; DR: 9 cm; DM: 12 cm; DB: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 71/6).

14. **Handmade pot**: with a conical neck, high rounded shoulders, and a flat base raised on an annular projection. H: 8.7 cm; DR: 7.2 cm; DM: 9 cm; DB: 6.2 cm. (Fig. 71/8).
15. **Small gray pot**: wheel-thrown, with a biconical body, short neck, and slightly concave base. H: 6.3 cm; DR: 3.9 cm; DM: 9 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 71/7).
16. **Large handmade pot**: with a subcylindrical neck and decorated with three applied relief bands. H: 23 cm; DR: 15.2 cm; DM: 21.2 cm; DB: 9.4 cm. (Fig. 72/1).

Infill:

17. **Handmade conical lid** (lower part). DB: 22 cm. (Fig. 70/6).
18. **Large handmade vessel** (lower part).

Divizia, Ritual burial – sacrifice (Fig. 70/2)

A sheep was ritually sacrificed and buried 3.2 m northeast of the tomb (2.5 m northeast of the reference points) in an ovoidal pit, measuring 0.9 x 0.6 m, oriented W-E. The discovery level was at 0.7 m, and the pit was dug to a depth of 0.8 m (1.5 m from the reference points). Inside the pit was the skeleton of a sheep, laid on its back, with its head facing west and turned south. The hind limbs were bent at the joints and stretched laterally, while the forelimbs were directed to the right.

Funeral furniture:

Next to the north wall:

1. **Light-colored clay amphora** (ribbed wall fragment).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b, p. 2-4, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Divizia T6G1 The tumulus was not observed, only a 15 m diameter spot. The tumulus was from an older period (end of the Bronze Age, Belozerskaya culture), where five graves were discovered, including two Sarmatian ones (Fig. 72/18, 21). The grave was located 2.7 m southeast of the reference point, at a depth of 0.5 m.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.45 x 0.8-0.9 x 0.75 m (1.25 m from the reference point).

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners on the south side were strongly rounded and at the bottom, they widened slightly

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The left hand and pelvic area bones of the child's skeleton were destroyed by a fox burrow. From the preserved part of the skeleton, it appears the person was laid on their back, with the head facing NNE and turned left. Under the skeleton, dark brown ash was found.

Funeral furniture:

Along the neck and right hand:

1. **Glass beads** (13 pcs.): blue and black, in round, subcylindrical, and biconical shapes. (Fig. 72/23-25).

Along the thighs and femur of both legs:

2. **Glass beads** (19 pcs.): small, yellow, flattened cylindrical. (Fig. 72/26, 27).

Next to the right shoulder:

3. **Gray jug**: wheel-made, single-handled, with a ring base. H: 11.5 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DM: 11.2 cm; DB: 4.8 cm. (Fig. 72/20).

Next to the right foot:

4. **Hand-molded pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck, rounded shoulders, and a slightly concave base. H: 13 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DM: 12.2 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 72/22).

Divizia T6G3 was discovered 1.6 m south of the reference point, at a depth of 0.8 m (Fig. 72/19).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.3 x 0.8 m, with an undulating eastern side

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The person was laid on their back, with the head facing NNE. Brown ash remains were found under the skeleton.

Funeral furniture:

At the right wrist:

1. **Bronze wire bracelet**: with a braided joint area. Wire Section Ø: ~0.2 cm. (Fig. 73/4).

At the lower edge of the left hip bone:

2. **Glass bead**: round. Ø: 1.5 cm. (Fig. 73/2).

In and around the cup:

3. **Sheep astragali** (6 pcs.): one is perforated. (Fig. 73/3).

Next to the left shoulder:

4. **Wheel-made jug**: single-handled, with a ring base. H: 15 cm; DR: 10 cm; DM: 14.5 cm; DB: 7 cm. (Fig. 73/1).
5. **Hand-molded cup**: hemispherical, with a flat base. H: 5.5 cm; DR: 13.2 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 73/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b, p. 4-6, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Divizia T7G1 H 0.1 m, D 15 m. Under the mantle, a single Sarmatian burial and the surrounding ditch were discovered (Fig. 73/6-7). The burial was in the center of the tumulus.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.85 x 0.3-2.5 m. The pit had a step on all sides, located 0.55 m above the bottom. The ledge width along the long walls was 0.1-0.2 m, and on the short walls was 0.05 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The person was laid on their back, with the head facing NE, and the face tilted towards the left shoulder. The platforms of the ledge showed a dark brown ash covering, and the bottom of the pit had a white ash covering.

Funeral furniture:

Inside the pot:

1. **Bronze mounting plate** (fragment). (Fig. 73/9).
2. **Arched bronze fibula**: with an ornamented back. L: 6.8 cm. (Fig. 74/1).
3. **Bronze belt end**: L: 7.8 cm; W: up to 0.9 cm. (Fig. 74/2).
4. **Wrought iron hook**: L: 7.7 cm. (Fig. 74/3).
5. **Iron knife handle**: flat, with a rivet hole. (Fig. 73/10).

At the bottom of the southern side of the pit:

6. **Iron ring** (fragment): Ø: ~7 cm; Section: 1.2 x 0.3 cm. (Fig. 73/8).

Next to the right shoulder:

7. **Handmade pot**: with a conical neck and decorated with two horizontal rows of notches. H: 14.5 cm; DR: 9 cm; DM: 12 cm; DB: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 74/6).
8. **Hand-molded conical lid**: with a cylindrical handle. H: 6.5 cm; DB: 10 cm; Handle Ø: 3 cm. (Fig. 74/4).

Next to the left foot:

9. **Hand-molded pot**: with a short conical neck, rounded shoulders, and a flat base with protrusions. H: 11 cm; DR: 8 cm; DM: 9.5 cm; DB: 5.3 cm. (Fig. 74/5).
10. **Red clay bowl**: wheel-made, truncated conical shape with a slightly concave base and an inwardly curved rim. H: 10 cm; DR: 20 cm; DM: 24 cm; DB: 9 cm. (Fig. 74/8).

In the pit fill:

11. **Large hand-molded pot**: with a short conical neck, high rounded shoulders, and a flat base. H: 42 cm; DR: 23 cm; DM: 35.5 cm; DB: 12.5 cm. (Fig. 74/9).
12. **Hand-molded conical lid**: with a cylindrical handle, covering the large pot. H: 12.2 cm; DB: 22 cm; Handle Ø: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 74/7).

Divizia, Trench No. 1 Discovered at a depth of 0.5 m, with a burial in its center.

Trench shape: The ditch had a circular shape, in section it was semi-oval.

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: -

Trench dimensions: The external diameter was 12.5 m, depth was 0.75 m, width 0.5-0.6 m.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b, p. 6-7, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Divizia T8G1 The mound's height is 0.2 meters and its diameter is 20 meters. Underneath the mound, a single Sarmatian burial was discovered (Fig. 75/1). The grave was located in the central part of the burial mound, identified at depths ranging from 0.45 meters to 2.55 meters.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: The pit's dimensions were 2.5 meters by 1.5 meters. It narrowed uniformly towards the bottom, forming a rectangle of 2.5 meters by 1 meter at a depth of 1.3 meters. The possible deformation of the pit's upper part is the result of a looting pit. At a depth of 1.85 meters (0.7 meters above the bottom), steps with a width of approximately 0.1 meters were present along the long sides of the grave.

Pit shape: an irregular rectangular shape with curved long sides and strongly rounded northern corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The disorganization and looting of the grave are confirmed by the chaotic distribution of the findings within the pit's fill.

Funeral furniture:

In the lower part of the pit, at the southern wall:

1. **Bronze bead**: oval. Dimensions: 1.1 x 0.8 cm; Th: ~0.2 cm.
2. **Bronze belt end**: made from a plate with a divided and beaten upper end. L: 10 cm; W: ~1 cm. (Fig. 75/4).
3. **Forged iron rod**. (Fig. 75/10).
4. **Iron sword** (fragments).

On the steps in the fill:

5. **Wooden fragment**: with a hole. (Fig. 75/7).

In the upper part of the pit:

6. **Handmade pot**: with a conical neck, high shoulders, and a flat bottom. H: 16 cm; DR: 9.5 cm; DM: 13 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 75/3).
7. **Conical clay lid**: with a broken handle. H: 4 cm; DB: 11.5 cm. (Fig. 75/2).

8. **Large handmade pot** (lower part): with a flat bottom. DB: 11 cm. (Fig. 75/11).
9. **Large handmade pot** (fragments): with high shoulders and a flat bottom, decorated with four vertical relief strips. Probable H: ~18 cm; DR: 10 cm; DM: 12 cm; DB: 7 cm. (Fig. 75/6).
10. **Terra Sigillata bowl**: red clay, with a cylindrical upper part, a conical lower part, and a circular support base; traces of red lacquer. H: 8.3 cm; DR: 18 cm; DB: 6 cm. (Fig. 75/9).
11. **Light-colored ceramic amphora** (fragment): with a seal pressed on the neck. (Fig. 75/5, 8).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovsky 1990b, pp. 7-8, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Divizia T9G1 The mound was not visible, only a 10-meter-diameter patch. In this patch, a single Sarmatian burial was discovered. The grave was located in the central part of the burial mound, excavated from depths between 0.4 meters and 2.25 meters (Fig. 76/1).

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: The pit's dimensions were 1.9 meters by 0.7 meters, the niche length was 2.1 meters, and its depth was 0.25 meters, with a vault height at the entrance of 0.6 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape and a slightly concave western side (possibly due to destruction), under which a niche was dug

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was destroyed and looted. The remaining inventory fragments were found at various levels within the fill. Human bones were found in the lower part of the pit and especially in the niche.

Funeral furniture:

In the upper part of the pit:

1. **Bronze object** (ring?): fragment with an oval section. W: 0.3 cm; Th: 0.1 cm.

In the lower part of the pit and especially in the niche:

2. **Colored glass beads** (262 pcs.): various round and prismatic shapes. (Fig. 76/2-8).

3. **Iron object** (fragments): heavily corroded.

In the lower part of the northern corner of the pit, at the niche boundary:

4. **Conical clay lid**: with a conically widening handle. H: 5.5 cm; DB: 10 cm; Handle Ø: 3 cm. (Fig. 76/9).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovsky 1990b, pp. 8-9, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Divizia T10G1 The mound's height is 0.1 meters and its diameter is 10 meters. Underneath the mound, a single Sarmatian burial was discovered. The grave was located in the center of the burial mound, identified at depths ranging from 0.3 meters to 2 meters (Fig. 76/10).

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: Its dimensions were 2 meters by 1.15 meters. From the western edge, a step with a width of up to 0.15 meters was observed, possibly formed due to the digging of a looting pit. In the western wall of the pit, at depth, there was a niche made with the same orientation as the pit. The niche length was 2.2 meters, the vault height at the entrance was 0.9 meters, and the total width of the pit bottom and the niche was 1.4 meters.

Pit shape: an irregular oval shape with a straight eastern side

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was destroyed and looted. The buried skeleton was not preserved, its fragmentary remains and the funeral inventory were in the pit's fill above the foundation.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Glass beads** (2 pcs.): one black, pill-shaped; one yellow, cylindrical. (Fig. 76/11, 12).
2. **Conical clay lid**: with a conically widening handle. H: 5.5 cm; DB: 10 cm; Handle Ø: 4 cm. (Fig. 76/14).
3. **Handmade pot** (upper part): with a funnel-shaped neck and a rim decorated with inlays. DR: 10 cm; Preserved H: 13 cm. (Fig. 76/13).
4. **Amphora** (2 wall fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovsky 1990b, pp. 9-10, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Divizia T11G1 The mound was not visible, only a 15-meter-diameter patch. In this patch, a single Sarmatian burial and a circular earth construction were discovered (Fig. 76/15). The grave was located in the center of the burial mound (Fig. 77/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.6 x 0.4-1.8 m, the western step was situated 0.37 meters above the bottom, and the eastern step at 0.4 meters. The steps were approximately 0.1 meters wide. In the southern wall, at the base of the pit, a small niche was made, extending the pit's length by 0.05 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with steps and niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The southeastern edge of the pit was disturbed by a looting pit. Human bones were found in the fill below the steps.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill below the steps:

1. **Necklace**: composed of one mother-of-pearl bead and nine glass beads of various shapes and colors. (Fig. 77/2-8).
2. **Stone-ceramic (?) fragment**: brick-type. Th: ~1.5 cm.

Divizia, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 76/15) Found at a depth of 0.4 m, with a burial at its center.

Trench shape: The ditch was circular with a semi-oval cross-section.

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: In its southwest part.

Trench dimensions: The external diameter was 10 m, the depth was 0.6 m, width 0.3-0.5 m, entrance 1 m.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b, p. 10, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Divizia T12G1 The tumulus was not identified, only a spot with a diameter of 15 m. In the spot, a single Sarmatian burial was found (Fig. 77/12). The grave was in the central part of the funerary mound and identified at a depth of 0.6 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: The upper part of the grave pit measured 2 m x 0.8 m. Along the long sides, 0.4 m above the bottom of the pit, there were steps up to 0.15 m wide. The short sides of the pit were inclined, diverging in opposite directions at the bottom. As a result, the bottom of the pit measured 2.4 m x 0.5 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and with a rounded prominence on the southwestern edge formed by a looting pit.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Disturbed human bones were found in the pit fill.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the pit:

1. **Bronze ring**: with iron inlay. (Fig. 77/9).
2. **Glass beads**: seven round beads and one round pair. (Fig. 77/10, 11).
3. **Stone-ceramic (?) fragment**: probably brick-type. Dimensions: 10 x 5 x 1.5 cm.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b, pp. 10-11, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Divizia T13G1 The tumulus was not identified, only a spot with a diameter of 15 m. In the spot, a single Sarmatian burial was found (Fig. 78/1). The grave was found in the central part of the spot at a depth of 0.7 m.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 0.5 x 1.7 m deep from the reference point. The niche was made along the length of the western wall, 0.05 m above the bottom of the pit. The niche measured 1.85 m x 0.7 m, with a vault height of 0.5 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with a niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was destroyed with a disorderly accumulation of human bones in the southeastern corner.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the pit:

1. **Glass bead** (fragment).

In the pit fill at 0.3-0.35 m above the bottom:

2. **Iron sword** (fragments): with traces of a wooden scabbard. Blade W: 2.6 cm; Handle W: up to 1.8 cm. (Fig. 77/13).
3. **Hand-molded pot**: with a sub-cylindrical neck and a tapered body. H: 12.5 cm; DR: 8 cm; DM: 10 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 78/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b, pp. 11-12, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Divizia T17G2 H 0.1 m, D 15 m. Two Sarmatian and medieval burials and a circular earthen construction were found in its mantle (Fig. 78/3, 6). Grave 2 was found 0.9 m east of the reference point at a depth of 0.7 m.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 2.45 x 0.8-1.05 x 1.45 m (2.15 m from the reference point). The sides of the pit were inclined, narrowing towards the bottom to 0.45 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was destroyed and looted. Scattered human bones were found in the lower half of the pit fill.

Funeral furniture:

Towards the bottom:

1. **Double-edged dagger** (fragments): blade W: up to 1.5 cm. (Fig. 78/5).
2. **Iron spearhead** (fragments): with an oval section measuring 2 x 1 cm. (Fig. 78/4).
3. **Hand-molded pot** (bottom fragment): with a flat base. DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 78/7).

Divizia, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 78/3) Found at a depth of 0.55 m, with a burial at its center.

Trench shape: The ditch was circular with a semi-oval cross-section.

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: -

Trench dimensions: The external diameter was 12 m, the depth was 0.8 m, width 0.3-0.4 m.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b, p. 12, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

36. **Drochia, Drochia District, Republic of Moldova**

During the 1980s-90s, archaeological sites were surveyed in the village of Drochia, where a Sarmatian grave, likely two, were discovered. V. Grosu mentions that there might have been two graves, but there are no details about them. Only in 2007, a grave and its inventory were documented by I. Cereteu. The grave is likely part of a flat necropolis.

Drochia, destroyed grave

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: a depth of 1.7-2 meters.

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: -

Funeral furniture:

1. **Appliques**.
2. **Iron sword**: with a simple handle. (Fig. 79/3).
3. **Conical hand-molded bowl** (ritual?): (Fig. 79/1).
4. **Roman clay pitcher/jug**: small, with a tall, spherical body decorated with horizontal grooves, an oval-section handle, and a tall flaring rim. (Fig. 79/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1990, p. 81-82, (second half of the 2nd century AD); Cereteu 2007, p. 9, 12, (1st-4th century AD, attributed to the Dacians); Grosu 1995, p. 151, (second half of the 2nd century AD).

37. **Dumeni II, Rîșcani District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1983, a series of tumuli around the villages of Dumeni and Duruitoarea Nouă in Râșcani District were investigated. The excavations were conducted under the leadership of V. I. Marchevici.

Dumeni II T1G2 (Fig. 79/4) This Bronze Age burial was located in a tumulus 3 m high and 40 m in diameter. The grave was found in the southern part of the tumulus at a depth of 3.58 m from its surface.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: not identified

Pit shape: not clearly identified

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of a young individual (18-20 years old) was found lying on its back, oriented towards the northwest, with the skull and mandible located near the pelvis. The right arm was bent at the elbow, and the legs were straight.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right knee:

1. **Iron arrowhead**: with three fins and a tang. L: 2.9 cm; Max W: 0.7 cm; Tang L: 1 cm. (Fig. 79/5).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Markevici 1984, p. 6, figs. 1-3, 5/1, 5/2; Demcenko 1988, p. 62, figs. 1, 2, 3/3,9.

Dumeni II T1G8 (Fig. 79/6)

This burial from the Bronze Age (Yamnaya culture) was located in a tumulus 3 m high and 40 m in diameter. The grave was found in the southeastern part of the tumulus, 15.5 m from its center, at a depth of 3.5 m from its surface. The grave was partially destroyed during bulldozer activity.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: partially destroyed

Pit shape: was likely an oval-shaped pit (partially destroyed)

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Tibia, fibula, and calcaneus of the right leg; a fragment of the left tibia; a fragment of the right femur; fragments of the right humerus and ulna. Based on their positions, the individual was lying on its back with the head oriented southwards.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Complex-shaped amphora handle** (fragment): made of yellowish paste. (Fig. 79/7).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Markevici 1983, p. 9, fig. 5/3,4; Demcenko 1988; Grosu 1995, p. 152 (2nd century AD).

38. **Dumeni, Rîșcani District, Republic of Moldova**

Excavations took place in 1974-75 under the leadership of N.A. Chetraru and V.A. Safronov.

Dumeni T8G6 (Fig. 79/8) The burial was found in the southeastern sector of the tumulus.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not visible

Pit shape: not visible

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was oriented with the head towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right femur:

1. **Copper bead**: made from a copper plate. (Fig. 79/9).
2. **Egyptian faience bead**: turquoise-colored, with grooves. (Fig. 79/9).
3. **Iron dagger**: poorly preserved, with a simple handle.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1988, p. 83, fig. 2/12-13 (second half of the 1st century – 2nd century AD); Safronov 1974-75.

39. **Duruitoarea Nouă II, Rîșcani District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1983, a series of tumuli around the villages of Dumeni and Duruitoarea Nouă in Râșcani District were investigated. The excavations were conducted under the leadership of V. I. Marchevici.

Duruitoarea Nouă II T1G1 (Fig. 79/12) This Bronze Age burial (Yamnaya culture) was located in a tumulus 0.6 m high and 28 m in diameter. The grave was found in the southwestern part of the tumulus, 6.05 m from its center.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.8 x 1.54 m

Pit shape: oval-shaped with walls slightly widening towards the top and a flat bottom

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: A female aged 16-18 years, lying on her back with the head towards the north. Arms extended along the body.

Funeral furniture:

Slightly above the right wrist:

Amulets/Pendants (2 pcs.), (Fig. 79/10):

1. **Conical pendant**: brown horn/bone, with concentric indentations and a suspension hole. L: 1.9 cm; DB: 0.9 cm.
2. **Pseudo-trapezoidal pendant**: bone, polished, brown. L: 1.5 cm; W: 0.4-0.7 cm; Th: 0.3 cm.

At the right temple:

3. **Handmade jug**: yellowish-gray, with a band-shaped handle, high flared rim, and flat bottom. H: 17.6 cm; DR: 9.2 cm; DM: 13.8 cm; DB: 5.7 cm. (Fig. 79/11).

Dating: 2nd-3rd centuries AD

References: Markevici 1984, pp. 16-17, figs. 13-14/1,3; 21/9; Demcenko 1988.

Duruitoarea Nouă II T5G2 (Fig. 80/1). This Bronze Age burial (Yamnaya culture) was located in a tumulus 0.85 m high and 26 m in diameter. The grave was found in the southeastern part of the tumulus, 13 m from its center, at a depth of 1.46 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: pit was not identified

Pit shape: pit was not identified

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: A child aged 3-5 years, lying on its back with the head towards the north

Funeral furniture:

At the right tibia:

1. **Vessel**: smooth, brick-colored with a dark glaze on the upper part. Shows signs of ancient repair (three pairs of holes). H: 5.5 cm; DR: 11 cm; DB: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 80/2).
2. **Terra sigillata bowl**: wheel-made, with a flared, faceted rim highlighted by horizontal lines, and a flat bottom.
3. **Handmade pot** (lower part): gray-reddish, with a rounded body and flat bottom. Preserved H: 9.5 cm; DM: 8.2 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 80/3).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Markevici 1986, p. 2-3, figs. 3-4/1,4,9; Demcenko 2007, p. 202, figs. 5/1, 6/1,4,9 (2nd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (2nd century AD).

40. **Dzinilor (Zenelor), Izmail District, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

In 1979, the archaeological expedition of the Ismail region investigated a complex of monuments dating to the first half of the first millennium AD, including the Dzinilor tumular necropolis. Nearby, flat Sarmatian graves were discovered. The necropolis was located on a plateau 3 km west of Lake Chitai (fig. 11/17).

Dzinilor T4G1 (fig. 12/11) Tumulus was completely leveled.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.42x0.76 m with steps, at a depth of 1.1 m. Dimensions below the steps are 0.5x1.3 m, with a depth of 1.5 m. The bottom part of the grave slightly shifts towards the northeast, forming a small niche of 5 cm at the head.

Pit shape: Rectangular with steps.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: A child's grave. The grave was disturbed. Bone fragments were found at the bottom of the pit. Skull bones were located near the northeastern wall, indicating the head was oriented towards the NE.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Hand-made vessel** (ceramic fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 35; fig. 10/17, 11/11 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (2nd century AD).

Dzinilor T5G1 (fig. 11/6) Tumulus was leveled, retaining a height of only 0.3 m. In addition to the main Sarmatian grave, a late nomadic grave was identified.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 1 x 2. 55 m. The bottom part extends slightly towards the level of the steps. Steps are at a depth of 1.90 m. The walls show traces of digging tools.

Pit shape: Rectangular, dimensions 240x100 cm with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted. Most of the skeleton's bones were found in the fill, with only the bones of the left hand undisturbed. Skull fragments were located near the northeastern wall, showing clear signs of artificial deformation. The buried person was in a supine position, with the head towards NE. Fragments of covering remained on the steps, and wood fragments and pieces of vegetal covering were found in the fill. A layer of chalk and vegetal matter remnants were observed at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill and at the bottom of the pit, beneath the pelvis of the buried individual:

1. **Silver plaques**: pyramidal and spherical, attached with bronze rivets. (Fig. 11/7, 8).

In the fill:

2. **Curved bronze fibula**: made from a single piece of metal. L: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 11/9).
3. **Cast bronze ring**: Ø: 3.5 cm; Section Ø: 0.6 cm. (Fig. 11/16).
4. **Iron ring** (fragmented): square in section. Ø: 2 cm. (Fig. 11/10).
5. **Iron ring** (fragmented): round in section. Ø: 9 cm. (Fig. 11/15).
6. **Iron clamp**: driven into a piece of wood, with bent ends. (Fig. 11/11).
7. **Iron object** (fragment): hook-shaped, with traces of wood at the base. (Fig. 11/13).
8. **Rods** (fragments): both straight and curved. (Fig. 11/14, 12).
9. **Iron sword** (fragment): with traces of a wooden sheath.

At the feet of the buried person:

10. **Hand-modeled pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck and decorated with combed and incised lines. H: 33 cm; DR: 25 cm; DB: 12 cm. (Fig. 12/5).
11. **Hand-modeled conical lid**: with a central handle, likely for the pot above. Ø: 28 cm. (Fig. 12/2).
12. **Terra Sigillata cup**: reddish, with a short, outwardly flaring rim; exterior is partially glazed. H: 6.4 cm; DR: 13 cm. (Fig. 12/1).
13. **Grey clay jug** (neck and handle fragment). DR: 12 cm. (Fig. 12/6).
14. **Wheel-thrown reddish vessel** (rim fragment). DR: 10.3 cm. (Fig. 12/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 35-36; fig. 10/6-16, 11/1-2, 4-6 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (2nd century AD).

Dzinilor T8G1 (Fig. 12/8) The tumulus is almost completely leveled. Two burials were discovered here: one Sarmatian and one late nomadic.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 1 x 2.2 m. The steps are at a depth of 160 cm, with the width of the grave between them being 60 cm.

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners, steps and a slight extension towards the southwest

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was plundered, leaving only the bones of the hands and feet. Skull fragments were found near the northeastern wall of the pit. The buried individual was lying on their back, head oriented towards the NE. Remnants of wooden covering were preserved on the steps.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Iron fibula** (hinged): with a rectangular-section back and a solid pin holder with a forged "button". L: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 12/9).
2. **Wooden pieces**: covered in red paint.
3. **Hand-crafted pot**: round, with a short funnel-shaped neck. Decorated with rim incisions and four adorned buttons on the shoulder. H: 13 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DB: 6 cm. (Fig. 12/10).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 36; fig. 11/8-10 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (2nd century AD).

Dzinilor, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 12/7) In the western part of the central chamber, there was a child's burial. The structure is a rectangular trench (17.4 x 4.7 m) divided internally as if it had three chambers.

Orientation: The sides are oriented towards the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Break/Entrance: None.

Trench dimensions: The trench measures 17.4 x 4.7 m. The central, largest chamber measures 8 x 4.7 m, while the side chambers are identical at 4.7 x 4.7 m.

Dzinilor G1 (Fig. 12/3) Discovered in the western part of the central chamber of the structure.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1 x 0.5 x 1.35 m. The steps are at a depth of 115 cm, with the grave's width between them being 40 cm.

Pit shape: rectangular with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave belonged to a child. The burial was disturbed, with only the humerus of the right hand remaining. The buried individual was likely laid on their back, head oriented towards the north.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 36; fig. 11/3, 7 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (2nd century AD).

41. **Ecaterinovca, Cimișlia District, Republic of Moldova**

Ecaterinovca T2G5 Discovered 6 m E of the center of the tumulus, at a depth of 1.4 m.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the initial position, only the leg bones were preserved, indicating that the buried person was lying on their back, head oriented NW. Traces of decomposed wood were visible under the skeleton. The state of preservation - poor.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right knee:

1. **Iron sword**: with a simple handle. (Fig. 80/4).

Near the left sole:

2. **Clay vessel**.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1983, p. 41, fig. III/10, (2nd-4th century AD)

42. **Feștelița, Ștefan Vodă District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1989, a series of tumuli near the village of Feștelița were investigated.

Feștelița T1G3 (Fig. 80/5, Fig. 81/1) It had a height of 1.2 m and a diameter of 42 m. The grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus. The outlines of the burial were identified at a depth of 2.2 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: at the upper outline were 3.15 × 1.75 m. At a depth of 0.5 m, steps measuring 3.15 × 0.45 m, with a height of 0.2 m, were identified. The dimensions of the burial chamber were 3.15 × 1.1 × 0.9 m, with a depth of 1.1 m from the fixation level

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with slightly rounded corners and steps along the long sides

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. The filling was composed of chernozem mixed with clay, fragments of wood, and isolated clusters of limestone. Scattered human bones were found in the filling. The jawbone of the deceased was located on a step. The skull was found in the filling, closer to the northern part of the pit, at a depth of 0.9 m. Other isolated human bones were found at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Amber bead** (fragment): in poor condition. (Fig. 81/3).
2. **Iron buckle**: rectangular. Dimensions: 2.5 × 1.8 cm. (Fig. 81/2).
3. **Iron objects** (indistinct fragments): heavily corroded. (Fig. 81/4, 6).
4. **Amphorae** (fragments): made of yellow clay.
5. **Red-glazed bowl** (fragments): round, truncated-conical, with an inwardly curved rim. Restored H: 4.5 cm; Restored DR: 20 cm. (Fig. 81/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd centuries AD

References: Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990, pp. 58-59; Agulnikov, Popovici 2022, p. 49 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu, Agulnikov 1997, p. 108 (2nd century AD).

Feștelița T2G1 (Fig. 80/6) It had a height of 1 m and a diameter of 28.5 m. The grave was discovered at a depth of 1.2 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2 × 0.98 x 1 m (from the fixation level)

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. The skeleton of the deceased was completely destroyed. In the filling, composed of infiltrated chernozem mixed with clay, isolated human bones were found.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Amphorae** (fragments): made of yellow clay.

Dating: second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd centuries AD

References: Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990 (1st-2nd centuries AD); Agulnikov, Popovich 2022, pp. 49-50 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu, Agulnikov 1997, p. 108 (2nd century AD).

Feștelița T3G1 (Fig. 82/1-2) It had a height of 1.3 m and a diameter of 40 m. The grave was discovered in the center of the mound at a depth of 1.8 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 3.3 × 1.9 m, with a depth of 1.78 m from the fixation level

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. The skeleton of the deceased was completely destroyed. Human bones and fragments of wood were found in the filling.

Funeral furniture:

On the southwestern wall, at a depth of 1.6 m:

1. **Gold appliqués** (3 pcs.):
- **Oval appliqué**: stamped, with a convex center and three attachment holes. 1.1 × 0.7 cm. (Fig. 82/9).
- **Oval appliqué**: same as above. (Fig. 82/10).
- **Round appliqué**: with a convex center, dotted decoration, and two attachment holes. Ø: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 82/11).

At the base of the burial chamber:

2. **Spindle whorl** (fragment): black clay. Restored Top Ø: 2.5 cm; Restored Base Ø: 4.6 cm. (Fig. 82/3 3).

In the filling:

3. **Amphorae** (fragments).
4. **Red-glazed bowl** (reconstructed): hemispherical, with a ring support and smooth rim. Restored H: 5.5 cm; Restored DR: 16 cm; DB: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 82/4).
5. **Red-glazed kantharos-type vessel** (fragmented): jar-shaped, biconical, with a horizontal handle and decorated with incised lines. Restored DR: 8 cm; Restored DM: 9 cm. (Fig. 82/8).
6. **Red-glazed bowl** (fragment): with an outwardly turned rim and biconic body. (Fig. 82/5).
7. **Vessel** (rim fragment): apparently cylindrical, decorated with punctures and a zigzag ornament. (Fig. 82/7).
8. **Glass cup** (fragment): biconic, with a raised and outwardly oriented rim. Restored DR: 10 cm; Restored DM: 11 cm. (Fig. 82/6).
9. **Glass cup** (fragment): with a rounded body, cylindrical neck, and slightly flared rim. Restored DR: 6 cm; Restored DM: 8 cm.

Dating: second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd centuries AD

References: Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990; Agulnikov, Popovici 2022, pp. 50-51 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Bârcă, Simonenco 2009 (second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd centuries AD); Grosu, Agulnikov 1997, p. 108 (2nd century AD).

Feștelița T4G1 (Fig. 83/1-2) It had a height of 0.5 m and a diameter of 30 m. The grave was discovered in the center of the mound.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: at the upper level were 3.1 × 1.6 m. At a depth of 1 m, steps were identified, measuring 3.1 m in length and 0.2-0.24 m in width. The burial chamber measured 3.2 × 0.8 m, with a slight extension of up to 0.1 m in the southwestern part. The depth of the burial chamber from the fixation level was 2 m, and from the level of the steps, it was 1 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. The skeleton of the deceased was not found. The filling consisted of infiltrated chernozem with clay inclusions and fragments of wood. Scattered human bones and animal bones (large cattle) were found in the filling.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Amphorae** (fragments): made of yellow clay.
2. **Handmade vessels** (fragments): with straight walls, a pronounced rim, and decorated with notches and circular incisions. (Fig. 83/3-5).
3. **Gray polished vessel** (fragments): wheel-made.

At the base of the burial chamber:

4. **Glass cups** (fragments): some with painted decorations of yellow and turquoise parallel stripes. (Fig. 83/6-11).

Dating: second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd centuries AD

References: Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990; Agulnikov, Popovici 2022, p. 51 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Bârcă, Simonenco 2009 (second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd centuries AD); Grosu, Agulnikov 1997, p. 108 (2nd century AD).

Feștelița T5G1 (Fig. 84/1-2) It had a height of 1.3 m and a diameter of 44 m. The grave was discovered at a depth of 1.3 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2 × 1 m, with a depth of 0.7 m from the fixation level

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. Scattered human bones were found in the filling.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Amphorae** (fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd centuries AD

References: Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990; Agulnikov, Popovici 2022, p. 52 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Bârcă, Simonenco 2009 (second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd centuries AD); Grosu, Agulnikov 1997, p. 108 (2nd century AD).

Feștelița T6G1 (Fig. 85/1-2) The tumulus had a height of 0.5 m and a diameter of 28 m. The grave was discovered in the southwestern sector of the mound at a depth of 1.4 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.45 × 0.73 m, and the depth from the fixation level was 0.7 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted in antiquity, and the skeleton of the buried individual did not survive. In certain places, the bottom of the pit was covered with dark brown plant material.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Beads** (group of various types): includes one flat amber bead (1.5 × 1 cm); eleven small gray-green beads (Ø: 0.4-0.5 cm); one multifaceted rectangular glass bead; one cylindrical glass bead (Ø: 0.5 cm); two double glass beads (0.5 × 0.5 cm); and two multifaceted rectangular glass beads (0.7 × 0.5 cm and 0.5 × 0.3 cm). (Fig. 85/3).
2. **Wooden piece** (fragment): with a bronze rivet. (Fig. 85/5).
3. **Bronze needle** (fragment): L: 2.3 cm; Section Ø: 0.02 cm.
4. **Bronze tubes** (2 pcs.): cylindrical. L: 1.2-1.5 cm; Section Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 85/6-7).

On the bottom of the chamber, in the southeast part:

5. **Handmade pot** (fragments): with a wavy, everted rim and a body decorated with rectangular incisions. H: 11.6 cm; DR: 9.5 cm; DM: 12 cm; DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 85/8).
6. **Red-glazed clay bowl** (fragments): semi-spherical, with an inwardly twisted rim and a circular base support. Restorable H: 6 cm; Restorable DR: 20 cm. (Fig. 85/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd centuries AD

References: Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990, pp. 25, 29-30; Agulnikov, Popovici 2022, pp. 28-29 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Bârcă, Simonenco 2009, p. 226 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

43. **Filipeni, Leova District, Republic of Moldova**

In the spring of 2015, as part of the rehabilitation of the Leova-Sud irrigation system, rescue archaeological excavations were carried out by the ANA team at two burial mounds located in the area of the works. In the first tumulus, a Sarmatian burial was uncovered.

Filipeni T1G1 The mound was approximately oval in shape, measuring around 48x56 meters, with a height of 1.2 meters (Fig. 80/7-8). The grave was found in the center of the tumulus, at a depth of 1.2 meters.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 3.4 x 2.1 m

Pit shape: approximately rectangular with a niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was double. The skeletal remains of the deceased were scattered throughout different parts of the grave pit, with bones discovered at varying depths. In the fill, small pieces of charcoal were found, along with small reddish ceramic fragments of Roman amphorae and wheel-thrown gray pottery of Dacian origin. Additionally, small pieces of iron, which did not have a clear form, were recovered from the fill. At a depth of 1.8 meters, fragments of a human skull and femur were found. According to the anthropological analysis, the skeleton belonged to a male aged around 40-45 years at death. Anthropologically, the skull displayed interesting Proto-Europoid characteristics. In the southeast part of the burial chamber, a niche measuring 0.2x0.4 meters was found. Inside this niche were fragments of a child's skull and milk teeth. According to the anthropological analysis, the child was between 12-18 months old at death. During the excavation of the fill, evidence of grave robbery was noted in the upper part of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part of the pit, at a depth of approximately 2 meters:

1. **Gold appliqué (?)** (fragment): rectangular. Dimensions: 0.3 x 1.0 cm. (Fig. 80/17).

At the bottom of the pit:

2. **Iron bead**: round, corroded, likely a decorative harness element. DM: 1.9 cm; Hole Ø: 0.4 cm. (Fig. 80/12).

Under the western side of the pit, at a depth of 1.8 meters:

3. **Iron arrowhead**: with three fins and a socket. Dimensions: 0.9 x 3.4 cm; Socket Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 80/10).
4. **Iron arrowheads** (3 pcs.): with three fins and sockets, fused by oxidation. Dimensions: 0.9 x 3.5 cm; 1.0 x 3.4 cm; 0.9 x 3.4 cm; Socket Ø: 0.4-0.5 cm. (Fig. 80/9).

In the southern part of the pit, at a depth of 1.85 meters:

5. **Cylindrical arrowhead**: slightly pointed at one end. Dimensions: 0.4-0.6 x 2.5 cm. (Fig. 80/11).

In the fill of the pit:

6. **Roman amphora** (fragments): two wall fragments and a foot, made from coarse whitish clay. DB: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 80/13).
7. **Gray clay jug** (16 fragments): wheel-thrown, with a roughly biconical body and a short cylindrical neck. (Fig. 80/18).
8. **Ceramic vessel** (upper part fragment): wheel-thrown, reddish clay, with an outward-flaring rim.
9. **Hand-formed ceramic vessel** (fragments): coarse clay with grog temper, gray exterior and orange interior.
10. **Faunal remains**: includes fragments of lower limbs of large horned cattle and horse teeth.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Agulnikov, Ciobanu 2016, p. 79-88 (2nd century AD)

44. **Fîrlădeni, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova**

In 2014, a Sarmatian grave was discovered in a private household in the village of Fîrlădeni. It was investigated by a team from the National Archaeological Agency. The grave was identified as an isolated flat grave, as there were no visible traces of a tumulus. It is possible that the grave was part of a larger flat necropolis.

Fîrlădeni G1 (Fig. 84/3)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 1 x 1.2 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an 8-9-year-old child, laid on their back with the head towards the north and face towards the west. The arms were placed along the body, and the legs were extended. The skull bore traces of artificial deformation.

Funeral furniture:

On the skull bones, in the left temple area:

1. **Bronze wire earring**: circular section with open ends. Ø: 2.4 cm; Wire Th: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 84/5).

Below the chest:

2. **Bronze buckle fitting** (fragment): irregularly oval, with a hole on one side. L: 1.9 cm; Max W: 0.7 cm; Th: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 84/8).

Below the chest, between the left humerus and ribs:

3. **Iron object**: strongly oxidized, shape and function undetermined. Dimensions: 4.4 x 1.5 x 1.0 cm. (Fig. 84/11).

Near the ribs:

4. **Beads** (4 pcs.): one polyhedral reddish-dark agate (1.1 x 0.7 x 0.5 cm); one pill-shaped mother-of-pearl (Ø: 0.8 cm); and two pill-shaped blue glass paste (Ø: 0.9 and 1.0 cm). (Fig. 84/6-7, 9-10).

At the left shoulder:

5. **Small wheel-made jug**: gray, with a biconical body, ring base, and a neck decorated with a zigzag pattern. H: 9.3 cm; DR: 6.5 cm; DM: 8.4 cm; DB: 3.7 cm. (Fig. 84/4).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Popovici, Mistreanu, Noroc 2015, p. 73-76; fig. 1-5 (first half of the 2nd century AD).

45. **Florițoaia Nouă, Ungheni District, Republic of Moldova**

The site was discovered in 1984 when two vessels were found from a grave. The grave was exposed due to the collapse of the plateau's bank. In 1990, with the assistance of the monument protection department, field research was conducted. The research was carried out by the Sarmatian-Cerneahovean team, led by expedition chief Al. Levinschi. The Florițoaia Nouă necropolis is located to the SE of the village (Fig. 86/1), on a plateau.

Florițoaia Nouă, Destroyed grave no. 1, by the collapse of the plateau's bank where it was buried.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Chalcedony bead**.
2. **Ceramic vessels** (2 pcs. preserved out of 3):
   - **Wheel-thrown bowl**: asymmetrical, hemispherical, orange, with an inwardly turned rim and ring base. H: 8.5-9.5 cm; DR: 25.5 cm; DB: 9 cm. (Fig. 86/7).
   - **Single-handled pitcher**: red-glazed, with a wide horizontal rim, funnel-shaped neck, and a concave base on a ring support. H: 22.1 cm; DM: 21.8-22.5 cm; DB: 10.5 cm. (Fig. 86/8).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Levinschi 1990, p. 48-52 (2nd – 3rd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Levinschi 2007, (second half of the 2nd century AD)

Florițoaia Nouă G1 (Fig. 86/2)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.8 x 1 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of a child, lying on its back with its head to the N. The left hand on the pelvis. Artificially deformed skull. Legs bent at the knees.

Funeral furniture:

At the feet:

1. **Sheep bones** (4 pcs.): average dimensions: 3 x 2 x 1.8 cm. (Fig. 86/5).
2. **Handmade pot**: coarse, pear-shaped body with a vertical rim and flat base. Greyish-red color. H: 17 cm; DR: 10.5 cm; DM: 16 cm; DB: 7.8 cm. (Fig. 86/6).

Florițoaia Nouă, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 86/1):

Trench shape: The trench was square with rounded corners in plan.

Orientation: Corners towards cardinal points (with slight deviations)

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Dimensions of the trench: The trench measured 10.5 x 10.5 m. Depth was 0.6-0.7 m, width of the trench 0.6-0.8 m, entrance 2.5 m.

Florițoaia Nouă, Trench No. 2 – discovered in the steep bank, partially investigated:

Trench shape: The trench was square

Orientation: Corners towards cardinal points (with slight deviations)

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part (?)

Florițoaia Nouă, Pit No. 1 (Fig. 86/1): Discovered at a depth of 1 m from the current soil level. The pit, round in plan, had a diameter of 1.2 m and a depth of 1.1 m from the discovery level. The walls were vertical, and the bottom was flat. The pit's fill consisted of chernozem.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Fine gray ceramic vessel** (2 wall fragments): wheel-made.

Florițoaia Nouă, Pit No. 2 (Fig. 86/1): Discovered at a depth of 1 m from the current soil level. The pit, round in plan, had a diameter of 1.3 m and a depth of 0.4 m from the discovery level. The walls were vertical, and the bottom was flat, with the fill consisting of chernozem.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Levinschi 1990, p. 48-52 (2nd – 3rd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Levinschi 2007, (second half of the 2nd century AD)

Florițoaia Nouă G2 (Fig. 86/4): Discovered in the bank rupture during its investigation. The grave was discovered at a depth of 0.8 m from the current soil level.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.2 x 0.6 x 0.25 m from the discovery level

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with strongly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of a child, heavily disturbed by rodents, was positioned with its head to the N, lying on its back in a supine position, with its legs bent at the knees and heels together.

Funeral furniture:

At the feet:

1. **Sheep bones** (6 pcs., one fragmentary). (Fig. 86/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Levinschi 1991, p. 48-52 (2nd – 3rd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Levinschi 2007, (second half of the 2nd century AD)

46. **Glubokoe (Eschipolos), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

Glubokoe T1G1 (Fig. 86/9) It had a height of 2.4 m and a diameter of 50 m. The grave was discovered in the western part of the mound. Excavated in 1985.

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: At a depth of 0.6 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: a deformed human skull was found

Funeral furniture:

In the area of the skull:

1. **Bronze plates** (3 pcs.). (Fig. 86/10-12).

Under the mandible:

2. **Gold ring pendant**. (Fig. 86/13).
3. **Bronze bell**.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Shmagliy, Chernakov 1970, p. 37.

47. **Goteşti I, Cantemir District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1958, two graves were discovered. The first was uncovered by villager E.I. Iurașcu in his garden, and the second by N.A. Chetraru.

Goteşti I G1

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: a depth of 1 m

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was destroyed in antiquity. Based on some preserved bones, the skeleton was oriented with the head towards NE.

Funeral furniture:

At the head:

1. **Two-handled Terra Sigillata jug**: with a globular body, tall neck, flared rim, and ring base; decorated below the neck. (Fig. 86/14).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Chetraru, Rikman 1960, p. 11; Rikman 1975, p. 28-29.

Goteşti I G2

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: not visible, a depth of 0.3 m

Pit shape: not visible

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave of a child, destroyed in antiquity. The skeleton was oriented with the head towards NE. The skull was slightly tilted to the left. Poor preservation state.

Funeral furniture:

At the head:

1. **Copper earring**: circular, made from wire. Ø: 2.5 cm; Wire Ø: 0.1 cm.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Chetraru, Rikman 1960, p. 11; Rikman 1975, p. 28-29; Grosu 1995, p. 155, (2nd century AD).

48. **Hagider II River, (Jaroslavka), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

The tumulus group known in the specialized literature as the Hagider II tumular necropolis is named after the river that originates in Moldova. The necropolis is located 25 km from the Alcalia necropolis and 3 km from the village of Iaroslava. The tumuli were positioned along a NW-SE axis on the right bank of the river, spanning a distance of 3 km. The tumuli were exposed to agricultural work, leading to many being leveled. The research took place in 1988, investigating six tumuli (fig. 88/1). The excavations were led by L.V. Subbotin, A.N. Dzigovskii, S.A. Dvoreaninov, M.M. Fokeev, and others. Hagider I and III were primarily sites from the Eneolithic and Bronze Age.

Hagider II T7G1 Tumulus: Height 0.1 m, Diameter 20 m. Only one grave was identified in the tumulus. Located in the center of the tumulus and discovered at a depth of 0.4 m (fig. 87/1).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.6 x 1 x 1.7 m (2.1 m from the reference point), 0.2 m along the long walls, 0.5 m from the bottom

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was destroyed and looted in antiquity. Scattered fragments of human bones were found in the fill.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Iron buckles** (3 pcs.): oval, with movable tongues. Dimensions: 4.5 x 3.5 cm, 4 x 3 cm, and 3 x 2.4 cm. (Fig. 87/9, 11, 12).
2. **Iron ring**: Outer Ø: 6.5 cm; Section Ø: 1.2 cm. (Fig. 87/14).

3. **Iron buckle**: circular, with a movable (broken) tongue. Buckle Ø: 1.4 cm; Section Ø: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 87/3).
4. **Bronze belt tip**: with a rivet at one end. L: 5.4 cm; W: 0.9 cm; Th: 1 cm. (Fig. 87/2).
5. **Bronze clamp/plate** (fragment): bent into a tweezer shape with a rounded head and rivet. Made from a plate 1 cm wide and 0.1 cm thick. (Fig. 87/6).
6. **Bronze buckle**: oval frame with a circular section and an oval clip. Movable tongue. Buckle: 2 x 1.5 cm; Clip: 2 x 1.6 cm. (Fig. 87/5).
7. **Iron spearhead socket** (fragment). Ø: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 87/15).
8. **Iron sword** (fragments): double-edged blade (W: up to 4 cm) and a handle with a rivet. Traces of a wooden sheath are present. (Fig. 87/13).
9. **Iron dagger** (fragment): with a simple handle. Blade W: 1.2-1.8 cm. Traces of wood are present on the handle and blade. (Fig. 87/7).
10. **Undetermined iron object** (fragment): made from a plate (Th: 0.15 cm) with bent edges and fabric traces on the inner surface. Preserved L: 6 cm; W: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 87/10).
11. **Terra Sigillata bowl**: red-lacquered, with a ring-shaped base, inwardly turned rim, and rounded shoulders. H: 10 cm; DR: 21.5 cm; DM: 23 cm; DB: 6.8 cm. (Fig. 87/4).
12. **Glass cup**: transparent with a slight green tint, on a low ring-shaped base. Sub-cylindrical body with a thickened, rounded rim. H: 5.5 cm; DR/DM: 8.8 cm; DB: 4.6 cm. (Fig. 87/8).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 19-20, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD); Simonenko 2008, p. 83 (late sarmatian period)

Hagider II T8G1 Tumulus: Height 0.2 m, Diameter 10 m. Only one grave was identified in the tumulus. Located in the central part of the tumulus at a depth of 0.6 m (fig. 88/1,3).

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 1.6 x 0.6 x 0.7 m (bottom at 1.3 m from the reference point). Along the long walls, 0.3 m above the bottom, steps about 0.1 m wide were made

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The pit was destroyed and looted in antiquity.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Handmade pot**: asymmetrically elongated, with bulging shoulders and a flat bottom. Decorated with oblique folds on the rim and four vertical protrusions on the shoulder. H: 16 cm; DR: 9 cm; DM: 11.5 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 88/5).
2. **Terra Sigillata jug**: single-handled, wheel-thrown, with a rounded body and ring base; upper part is coated with red lacquer. H: 9 cm; DR: 7.2 cm; DM: 10 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 88/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 20-21, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Hagider II T9G1 Tumulus: Height 0.2 m, Diameter 12 m. Only one grave was identified in the tumulus. Located in the central part of the tumulus at a depth of 0.6 m (fig. 89/1).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.6 x 1.1 x 1.3 m (bottom at 1.9 m from the reference point). Steps about 0.15 and 0.2 m wide were made along the long walls, 0.6 m above the bottom

Pit shape: a rectangular-arched shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The pit was destroyed and looted in antiquity.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Glass beads**: includes one 12-faceted blue bead (1.0 x 0.9 cm) and 12 small cut beads (H: 0.2-0.5 cm; Ø: 0.3-0.35 cm) in green, red, and yellow. (Fig. 89/4).
2. **Bronze "shovel" fragments** (2 pcs.): petal-shaped. (Fig. 89/2, 3).
3. **Bronze clamps** (fragments) and **unclear iron objects**.
4. **Terra Sigillata jug**: red clay, single-handled (broken), with a biconical body and ring base; some red lacquer traces remain. H: 18.2 cm; DR: 10.5 cm; DM: 15.5 cm; DB: 6.4 cm. (Fig. 89/5).
5. **Narrow-necked amphora** (neck and wall fragments): light clay, from the first centuries AD.

6. **Gray handmade pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck, bulging shoulders, and decorated with vertical protrusions. Surface is blackened. H: 15.5 cm; DR: 10 cm; DM: 12 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 89/7).
7. **Gray handmade pot**: with a short funnel-shaped neck and an asymmetrical biconical body. Blackened surface. H: 20.2 cm; DR: 13 cm; DM: 19 cm; DB: 8.5 cm. (Fig. 89/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990, p. 22, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Hagider II T10G1 Tumulus: Height 0.2 m, Diameter 15 m. A single grave was identified. Discovered centrally in the tumulus at a depth of 0.6 m (fig. 89/11).

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 2.55 x 1.45 m (at the top). Depth: 0.95 m (1.55 m from the reference point). Along the southern wall, 0.2 m above the bottom, there was a step 0.2 m wide. The wall rose obliquely from there.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and a slightly curved long side towards the south

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial had been completely looted.

Funeral furniture:

Along the step:

1. **Limestone slabs** (2 pcs.): one measuring 130 x 80 x 25 cm; the smaller, more finely worked slab measures 110 x 80 x 30 cm and has round indentations.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovsky 1990, p. 22 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Hagider II T11G1 Height 0.1 m, Diameter 15 m. A single grave was identified (fig. 89/8). Discovered centrally in the tumulus at a depth of 0.6 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.35 x 2.05 x 0.7 m (1.3 m from the reference point); a curved step 1 - 0.75 m wide in the middle. Height above the bottom: 0.3 m. Dimensions of the bottom of the grave: 2.1 x 1.7 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with step along the eastern side

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial had been destroyed and looted shortly after, indicated by intact skeletal parts thrown on the step.

Funeral furniture:

Infill:

1. **Terra Sigillata bowl**: red clay, with a conical body, strongly bent rim, and covered with a gray slip. H: ~9 cm; DM: 24 cm; DR: 22 cm. (Fig. 89/10).
2. **Hand-modeled pot**: with a spherical body, slightly flared rim, and flat bottom. H: 8.4 cm; DR: 5.7 cm; DM: 9 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 89/9).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovsky 1990, p. 22-23, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

Hagider II T12G1 Height 0.1 m, Diameter 20 m. A single grave and an earth construction were identified. Discovered nearly centrally in the tumulus at a depth of 0.6 m (fig. 89/12).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 0.8 x 1 m (1.6 m from the reference point). Along the long sides, there were steps 0.3 m above the bottom, 0.15 m wide.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial had been destroyed and looted in antiquity. Skeletal remains were found both at the bottom of the grave and at various levels of the fill. The position of the left foot and right-hand bones suggests the individual was lying on their back with the head towards NNE.

Hagider II, Trench No. 1: Discovered at a depth of 0.4 m, with a central burial.

Trench shape: Circular trench.

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: -

Trench dimensions: External diameter 8-9 m, depth 0.7 m, width 0.4 m.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovsky 1990, p. 23, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

49. **Hancăuți, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1975, a series of barrows in the Middle Prut microregion, including those near the village of Hancăuți in Edineț district, were investigated. The excavation was conducted under the leadership of V. A. Dergaciov.

Hancăuți T1G6 (Fig. 90/1-2) This burial, performed in a Bronze Age barrow (Yamnaya culture), had a height of 2.6 m and a diameter of 40 m. The grave was found in the southeast of the barrow.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 1.1 x 0.6 x 3 m

Pit shape: oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was of a child, laid on their back with their head to the northwest.

Funeral furniture:

In the cervical vertebrae area:

1. **Barrel-shaped bead**: large, turquoise. L: 3.2 cm; Ø: 2.1 cm. (Fig. 90/3).

In the thoracic area:

2. **Glass beads** (5 pcs.): polyhedral, rectangular. (Fig. 90/4).

At the right ankle:

3. **Beads**. (Fig. 90/4).

At the feet:

4. **Conical bowl**: handmade, with a flared rim and flat base. Color ranges from light orange to black-gray. H: 6 cm; DR: 13.5 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 90/5).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Dergaciov 1982, p. 45, fig. 11/1, 11/3-6 (2nd-3rd centuries AD, p. 134)

Hancăuți T2G2 (Fig. 90/6-7) This burial, performed in a Bronze Age barrow (Yamnaya culture), had a height of 1.1 m and a diameter of 30 m. The grave was found in the southwest of the barrow.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 0.6-0.7 x 2.1 m

Pit shape: trapezoidal

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was of a man, laid on his back with his head to the northeast. The leg bones were likely tied at the ankles. Longitudinal traces of logs placed under the skeleton were observed.

Funeral furniture:

In the right femur area:

1. **Iron sword-dagger**: with a simple handle and guard; blade is lenticular in cross-section. Blade L: 18.5 cm; Blade W: 3.3 cm; Handle L: 3.2 cm. (Fig. 90/8).

At the feet:

2. **Gray jug**: wheel-made, single band-shaped handle, with a flared rim and ringed base. H: 14.8 cm; DM: 14 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 90/9).
3. **Stone**.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Dergaciov 1982, p. 45, fig. 12/6, 12/14-16 (2nd-3rd centuries AD, p. 134)

50. **Hlinaia (Russian: Glinoje), Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Slobozia District", Republic of Moldova**

In 2018, a series of tumuli (Nos. 11-14) of the "Sad" group in Hlinaia village were investigated. In one of the examined tumuli, there was a Sarmatian grave that entered a Scythian tumulus.

Hlinaia T12G1 The tumulus was 0.29 m high and had a diameter of 15 m. Destroyed by agricultural work (Fig. 91/1-2).

Pit direction: SSE-NNW

Pit sizes: 1.42 x 0.53 x 1.15 m

Pit shape: an oval shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a child (6-8 years old) and was laid on its back with the head facing SSE. The right hand was stretched out, the left hand was bent and placed on the pelvis.

Funeral furniture:

Below the skull, near the right temple:

1. **Silver earring**: irregularly shaped, made from round wire with a loop and hook fastening. Ø: 1.1 cm; Wire Ø: 0.1 cm. (Fig. 91/3).

In the neck area:

2. **Necklace** (52 beads): includes 12 elongated cylindrical orange glass paste beads; 22 intertwined blue glass paste beads; one double intertwined yellow glass paste bead; and 17 round, flattened greenish-yellow glass paste beads. (Fig. 91/9-12).

Next to the skull, on the left:

3. **Burnt ballast**: trapezoidal shape with an oval cross-section and wear marks on the bottom. Dimensions: 5.8 x 4.9 cm; Max H: 2.2 cm. (Fig. 91/6).
4. **Burnt ballast**: round shape with a trapezoidal cross-section and wear marks. Dimensions: 3.7 x 4.7 cm; Max H: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 91/7).
5. **Burnt ballast**: oval shape with a round cross-section and wear marks on the bottom. Dimensions: 3.8 x 4.8 cm; Max H: 3.4 cm. (Fig. 91/8).
6. **Gray handmade pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck, decorated with diagonal impressions, relief appliques, and incised grooves. H: 13 cm; DR: 11.5 cm; DM: 11.7 cm; DB: 7.8 cm. (Fig. 91/4).

Above the left shoulder:

7. **Gray wheel-thrown jug**: with a biconical body, high flared neck, and a band-shaped handle. H: 19.8 cm; DR: 10.5 cm; DM: 17.2 cm; DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 91/5).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Simonenko 2019, p. 173-178 (2nd century AD).

Investigated between 2000-2007.

Hlinaia T38G2 The tumulus was observed as a yellow patch with a diameter of 10.5 m (Fig. 91/13-14).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.45 × 0.5 x 1.3 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: During the cleaning of the pit, the remains of a man were discovered, slightly curled on the right side, with the head oriented towards the northeast. The hands, heavily bent, were near the face. Under the body, a thin layer of dark brown decomposition was observed from the leather clothing.

Funeral furniture:

On the left shoulder blade:

1. **Bronze fibula**: profiled, with a high plate receiver, sharply curved back with decorative volutes, and a multi-spiral spring. L: 4.3 cm; H of back: 2.6 cm; W of arch: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 91/15).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century AD

References: Telinov et al 2016, p. 263; Synyka et al 2016, p. 131.

51. **Holmskoe (Selioglu), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

In the years 1977-1978, the archaeological expedition from the Ismail region investigated a complex of monuments dating to the first half of the first millennium AD. On the southern outskirts of the village of Holmskoe, the following were investigated: a group of tumuli, a flat Sarmatian cemetery, a settlement from the early centuries of our era, Holmskoe II, and an SM-C settlement with its necropolis, Holmskoe III. On the site of Holmskoe I, a Sarmatian

necropolis consisting of 24 flat graves was investigated. Among these, grave 4 is the earliest. Graves 1 and 2 are probably later and lack material evidence. The necropolis was located near a Chalcolithic tumulus. The necropolis might extend to the north, while the other directions have been investigated. There were: five large square ditches and eight smaller structures.

Holmskoe, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 99/1)

Structure shape: a rectangular trench in plan and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points, with rounded corners

Interruption/entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: 13 x 13 m; entrance width: 2 m; depth: 1.65 m; trench width (at discovery level): 1.1 m

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 6, fig. 1, (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 2 (Fig. 99/1)

Structure shape: a rectangular trench in plan and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points, with rounded corners

Interruption/entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench Dimensions: 11 x 11.5 m; entrance width: 2 m; depth: 1 m; trench width (at discovery level): 0.65 m

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Amphora** (fragment): yellowish-light, narrow-necked, with a rectangular letter stamp. (Fig. 97/20, 21)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 6, fig. 1, 8/20-21 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 3 (Fig. 99/1)

Structure shape: The trench had a rectangular shape in plan and a trapezoidal shape in cross-section.

Orientation: With its corners aligned to the cardinal points, with rounded corners.

Interruption/Entrance: In the southwestern part.

Trench dimensions: The trench measured 13 x 13 meters. The entrance width was 2 meters. The depth was 1 meter. The trench width at the discovery level was 1.2 meters.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 6, fig. 1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 4 (Fig. 99/1)

Structure shape: The trench had a rectangular shape in plan and a trapezoidal shape in cross-section.

Orientation: With its corners aligned to the cardinal points, with rounded corners.

Interruption/Entrance: In the southwestern part.

Trench dimensions: The trench measured 12 x 12 meters. The entrance width was 2 meters. The depth was 1.05 meters. The trench width at the discovery level was 0.75 meters.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 6, fig. 1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 5 (Fig. 99/1)

Structure shape: The trench had a rectangular shape in plan and a trapezoidal shape in cross-section.

Orientation: With its corners aligned to the cardinal points, with rounded corners.

Interruption/Entrance: In the southwestern part.

Trench dimensions: The trench measured 16 x 16 meters. The entrance width was 1.2 meters. The depth was 1.15 meters. The trench width at the discovery level was 1 meter.

Funeral furniture

In the trench fill:

1. **Vessel handle**: complex shape, gray. (Fig. 96/9)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 6, fig. 1, 7/9 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G3 (Fig. 92/4)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1,8 x 0,55 m

Pit shape: rectangular with slightly rounded corners, with a niche along the eastern wall and with an irregular bottom (1,8 x 0,4-0,5 x depth 0,1 x height 0,35 m)

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletal of a child, was positioned in an elongated posture on their back, with their head facing north.

Funeral furniture:

Near the leg bones below the knees:

1. **Seed-beads** (several pcs.): various colors (green, blue, etc.). (Fig. 92/2).
2. **Glass bead**: blue, parallelepiped shape. (Fig. 92/2).
3. **Coral bead**: red. (Fig. 92/2).

Near the skull:

4. **Clay jug**: rudimentary, roughly hemispherical shape. H: 4 cm; DR: 8 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 92/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 6, 8; fig. 3/3-5, (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 6 (Fig. 92/7). Two graves were discovered inside this structure.

Structure shape: The trench had a pseudo-rectangular shape with rounded corners in plan.

Orientation: With its corners aligned to the cardinal points.

Interruption/Entrance: None or not observed (but possibly in the northern corner).

Trench dimensions: The trench measured 4.4 x 6.4 meters. The depth was 0.65 meters. The trench width at the discovery level was 0.5 meters.

Holmskoe G5 (Fig. 92/1):

The pit intersects with the structure of the trench, which suggests that they were dug at different phases. Additionally, the placement of the other deceased near the first one and almost inside the structure may indicate a familial relationship.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit dimensions: 2.3 x 1.25 m (width at the bottom 0.8 m) x 1.5 m (depth to steps 1.1 m, then 0.4 m)

Pit shape: Rectangular with steps, the walls widen slightly towards the bottom. The steps have different widths.

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was on their back, with the head oriented NE, facing left. Brown ash traces were found at the bottom.

Holmskoe G6 (Fig. 92/5):

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2 x 1 m (width at the bottom 0.7 m) x 1.55 m (depth to steps 1 m, then 0.55 m)

Pit shape: Rectangular with steps, the walls widen slightly towards the bottom. The steps are inclined downward and have different widths.

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was on their back, with the head oriented NE. Wooden traces, probably from a covering, were observed from the step level and below. Brown ash traces were found at the bottom.

Funeral furniture:

On the chest:

1. **Iron buckle**: oval, with a thickened front part and tapering pin. (Fig. 92/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 10; fig. 3/1,6-8 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 7 (Fig. 92/7). One grave was discovered inside this structure.

Trench shape: The trench had a rectangular shape with rounded corners in plan. Its southern part connects with Structure No. 6. The walls are vertical, and the bottom is semi-rounded.

Orientation: With its corners aligned to the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interruption/Entrance: None or not observed.

Trench dimensions: The trench measured 5 x 4.6 meters. The depth was 0.75 meters. The trench width at the discovery level was 0.45 meters.

Holmskoe G7 (Fig. 93/1):

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: At the surface: 1.8 x 0.8 x 1.1 m; steps are 0.2 m wide; at the bottom: 2.4-2.5 x 0.65-0.48 m; depth from steps: 0.55 m – total depth: 1.65 m

Pit shape: Rectangular with steps, the walls widen slightly towards the bottom, which has a trapezoidal shape in plan.

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was on their back, with the head oriented NE. In the pit fill: white vegetal ash and traces of wood.

Funeral furniture:

Near the left collarbone:

1. **Iron buckle**: oval, with a thickened front part and tapering pin; heavily corroded. (Fig. 93/21).
2. **Iron belt end**: elongated, heavily corroded. (Fig. 93/22).

Near the right leg bones:

3. **Iron belt end**: elongated, tapering. L: 6 cm; W: 1.0-1.3 cm. (Fig. 93/3).

Near the skull:

4. **Hand-crafted pot**: with a short, cut rim and slightly rounded shoulders. H: 12.7 cm; DR: 9 cm; DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 93/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 10; fig. 3/8, 4/1-3, 21, 22 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD)

Holmskoe G8 (Fig. 93/4):

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit dimensions: 2 x 0,98 m, depth to steps – 0,55 m, step width – 0,15 m. Width of the lower part of the pit 0,78 m. Total depth of the grave 0,95 m.

Pit shape: Rectangular with steps, whose upper part had slightly outward-curving long walls.

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was in an extended position on the back, with the head oriented NE.

Funeral furniture:

On both sides of the skull:

1. **Silver temple rings/earrings** (2 pcs.): made from round wire with pointed, open ends. Ø: 2.8 cm. (Fig. 93/5, 6).

Near the cervical vertebrae:

2. **Beads** (various types): includes blue glass pill-shaped beads; large, light-colored barrel-shaped glass beads; four mother-of-pearl pill-shaped beads; twelve flat rectangular beads; semi-spherical beads; three amber barrel-shaped beads; ten coral beads; and three carnelian beads (two pill-shaped, one six-faceted). (Fig. 93/7-14).
3. **Jewelry piece (?)**: made from interconnected bronze rings. (Fig. 93/15).
4. **Bronze fan**: composed of two hinged tubes with a clamping mechanism and release rings. Total L: 10 cm. (Fig. 93/16).

On the right shoulder of the deceased:

5. **Iron fibula-buckle**: massive, omega-shaped, with a pin. Ø: 6.8 cm. (Fig. 93/17).

In the chest area:

6. **Bronze mirror**: with a rectangular handle and an ornament of six radial rays on the reverse. Ø: 5 cm. (Fig. 93/18).

Around the leg and foot bones:

7. **Glass beads**: small, round, of various colors, and three barrel-shaped blue beads, likely from boots.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 10, 13; fig. 4/4-18 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G9 (Fig. 99/1):

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit dimensions: 2.35 x 0.9 x 1.5 m

Pit shape: Rectangular

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: Destroyed, looted since antiquity. Human bones and fragments of wood were found in the fill.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 13; fig. 1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G10 (Fig. 93/19):

Pit direction: N-S

Pit dimensions: 0.8 x 0.75 x 0.83 m

Pit shape: almost square

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: cenotaph (?)

Funeral furniture:

In the western corner:

1. **Handmade pot**: with a slightly flared rim. H: 9.5 cm; DR: 8 cm. (Fig. 93/20).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 13; fig. 4/19, 20 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G11 (Fig. 94/1):

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit dimensions: at the level of discovery: 1.25 x 0.6 m, at the step level: 1.5 x 0.85 m. Thus, the lower part of the pit was surrounded by shoulders around its entire circumference. The depth of the upper part of the pit was 1.2 m. The lower part was rectangular (1.15 x 0.42 m) with vertical walls and a flat bottom. Its depth was 0.3 m. The total depth of the grave was 1.5 m.

Pit shape: The grave was located in a rectangular pit with steps. The pit walls widened towards the inside up to the steps.

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The grave belonged to a child and was destroyed. However, the position of the findings indicates it was oriented NE.

Funeral furniture:

Near the northeastern wall of the lower part of the pit:

1. **Bronze hair ring/earring (?)**: loop-shaped with open ends. (Fig. 94/2).
2. **Beads** (various): includes five black faience spool/amphora-shaped beads; three spherical green glass beads; one round-flat glass bead; and one blue 14-faceted glass bead. (Fig. 94/3-6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 13; fig. 5/1-6 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G12 (Fig. 99/1):

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit dimensions: 1.9 x 0.6 x 1 m

Pit shape: rectangular with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: No bones were found, cenotaph (?)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 13; fig. 1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G13 (Fig. 94/8)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: The dimensions of the upper part of the pit were 2.4 x 1.1 m. The width of the lower part between the steps was 0.6 m, and its depth was 0.3 m. The total depth of the pit was 1.6 m.

Pit shape: was located in a rectangular pit with steps.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been robbed, and the only preserved elements were tibia bones. The buried person was lying on their back, in an extended position, with the head oriented towards NE. In the fill of the pit, pieces of wood and decomposed black organic matter were found.

Funeral furniture:

Around and under the leg bones:

1. **Small glass beads** (several hundred).

Near the left leg:

2. **Terra Sigillata jug**: small, red clay, single-handled, with red lacquer on the upper part. H: 8.5 cm; DR: 6.5 cm; DB: 3.8 cm. (Fig. 94/9).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 13, 14; fig. 5/8-9 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G14 (Fig. 94/7)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: The length of the pit at the top was 2.6 m, the width at the head was 1.05 m, and at the feet, it was 0.98 m. The long walls widened inward towards the steps. The depth of the grave to the steps was 1.35 m, the depth of the lower part of the pit was 0.6 m, and the total depth reached 1.95 m.

Pit shape: was located in a trapezoidal stepped pit with rounded corners.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been robbed, and human bone fragments were found in the fill of the pit. Teeth were found on the bottom of the pit near the northeastern wall, which may indicate the skeleton's orientation towards NE.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Miniature bronze buckle**: with an iron tongue and clasp. Flat ring with grooves. Ø: 1.4 cm. (Fig. 94/10).

In the fill towards the eastern part of the pit:

2. **Iron buckle** (fragment): rectangular. Dimensions: 7 x 4 cm. (Fig. 94/12).
3. **Iron object** (fragment): with bronze rivets.
4. **Iron rod** (fragment): with a rectangular section. (Fig. 94/11).
5. **Various iron objects** (fragments): including rectangular and round rods, and a possible clamp. (Fig. 94/13, 14).
6. **Iron sword** (fragments): with traces of a wooden scabbard.
7. **Sword handle ornament / Spindle whorl (?)**: alabaster, gypsum, or chalk. (Fig. 94/16).
8. **Iron knife** (fragmented): single-edged, with a wooden handle fixed with an iron rivet. L: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 94/15).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 14; fig. 5/7, 10-16 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 8 (Fig. 94/17) A tomb was discovered inside this structure.

Trench shape: The trench had a rectangular shape with rounded corners in plan and one corner cut.

Orientation: The corners were oriented towards the cardinal points, with slight deviations.

Interruption/Entrance: Without or unsurprising.

Dimensions of the trench: The trench measured 9.5 x 6.5 meters. Its depth was 0.9 meters, and the width at the discovery level was 0.4 meters.

Holmskoe G15 (Fig. 94/17) The tomb was located nearly at the center.

Pit direction: NE-SW.

Pit shape: rectangular

Pit sizes: 2,5 x 1,2 x 1,35 m

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The tomb had been looted. Fragments of human bones were found in the fill of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Iron sword** (fragments): with traces of a wooden sheath.
2. **Stone polisher**. (Fig. 94/18).

Dating second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 14; fig. 5/17-18 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 9 (Fig. 95/1) A tomb was discovered inside this structure.

Construction shape: The trench had a rectangular shape with rounded corners in plan.

Orientation: The corners were oriented towards the cardinal points, with slight deviations.

Interruption/Entrance: Without or unsurprising.

Dimensions of the trench: The trench measured 7 x 8 meters. Its depth was 0.45 meters, and the width at the discovery level was 0.4 meters.

Holmskoe G16 (Fig. 94/19)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.80 x 1.20 x 1.50 m. The width of the steps was 0.20 m, and the depth to the steps was 0.70 m. The width of the pit between the steps was 0.80 m.

Pit shape: The grave had a rectangular shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was lying in a supine position with the head oriented towards the NE. Above the skeleton, there was a fragmentary piece of wooden closure.

Funeral furniture:

On the pelvic bone:

1. **Bronze buckle**: rectangular, double-pinned, with ribbed ornaments on the frame. Buckle: 7.3 x 2.3 cm; Pins: 7 x 3 cm. (Fig. 95/2).

Near the right femur:

2. **Iron buckle**: oval, with a thickened front and tapered back. (Fig. 95/3).

On the left ankle:

3. **Bronze buckle**: oval, with a rectangular iron frame. (Fig. 95/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 14; fig. 5/19, 6/1-4 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 10 (Fig. 95/5) Inside, a grave was discovered.

The construction had a rectangular **shape** with rounded corners in plan.

Orientation: The corners were oriented towards the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interruption/Entrance: Without or unsurprised.

Dimensions: The trench measured 7 x 4.5 m. The depth was 0.5 m. The width of the trench at the discovery level was 0.45 m.

Holmskoe G17 (Fig. 95/5) The grave was located near the center.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.10 x 0.80 x 1.35 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was lying in a supine position with the head oriented towards the NE.

Funeral furniture:

At both ankles, a buckle each:

1. **Iron buckles** (2 pcs.): circular, same type, with an elongated rectangular clasp. (Fig. 95/6, 7).
2. **Double belt end**. (Fig. 95/9).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 14, 17; fig. 6/5-7, 9 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 11 (Fig. 95/8) Inside, a grave was discovered.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench with rounded corners in plan.

Orientation: The corners were oriented towards the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interruption/Entrance: Without or unsurprised.

Dimensions: The trench measured 5.5 x 4 m. The depth was 0.47 m. The width of the trench at the discovery level was 0.55 m.

Holmskoe G18 (Fig. 95/8) The grave was located near the center.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.40 x 1.00 x 1.35 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted. Fragments of human bones were found in the pit's fill.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 17; fig. 6/8 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G19 (Fig. 96/1)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 1 x 1.55 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was lying on their back with the head oriented towards the NE. The arms were extended along the body, and the legs were slightly bent to the right. The head was turned to the left. At the bottom of the pit, brown ash was observed.

Funeral furniture:

On the left clavicle:

1. **Bronze fibula**: with a curved back and high-profile clasp engraved with "x" marks. Made from round wire (Ø: 0.35 cm). L: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 96/2).

Between the left hand palm and the pelvis at the bottom of the pit:

2. **Bronze fibula**: identical to the one above. (Fig. 96/3).

In the grave fill:

3. **Bronze earring**: "snake head" type with a hook-shaped attachment. (Fig. 96/6).

Between the right hand palm and the pelvis:

4. **Bronze fan**: similar to the one from grave 8. (Fig. 96/4).

Near the right elbow:

5. **Iron knife**: single-edged, poorly preserved, with traces of a wooden handle. L: 12 cm. (Fig. 96/11).

Near the right pelvis:

6. **Conical spindle whorl**: with a broad base and a central depression. (Fig. 96/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 17; fig. 7/1-6, 11 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G20 (Fig. 99/1)

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.7 x 0.9 x 1 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: It was completely looted. Fragments of human bones were found in the fill during excavation.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 17; fig. 1 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G21 (Fig. 96/7)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: The dimensions of the pit at the discovery level were 1 x 0.7 m, and at the bottom 1.3 x 1 m, with a total depth of 1 m.

Pit shape: rectangular with all walls widening inward.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: This burial belonged to a child and had been looted.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill in the northeastern corner of the pit:

1. **Handmade vessel**: with bulging shoulders and a tall, funnel-shaped neck. H: 10.7 cm; DR: 7.2 cm; DB: 5.4 cm. (Fig. 96/8).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 17; fig. 7/7, 8 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 12 (Fig. 96/10). Inside it, a tomb was discovered.

Trench shape: The trench had a rectangular form with rounded corners in plan.

Orientation: Corners oriented towards the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interrupted/Entrance: Without or unaltered.

Dimensions of the trench: The trench measured 6.5 x 5.4 m. The depth was 0.6 m, width 0.3 m.

Holmskoe G22 (Fig. 96/10, Fig. 97/1). The planned tomb was surrounded by a rectangular trench.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.85 x 0.9-0.8 x 1.50 m

Pit shape: trapezoidal with a niche, it was dug with a depth of 0.30 m and height of 0.50 m - across the entire width of the pit

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was lying on their back with the head facing NE. The hands were placed alongside the body, the left leg was straight, and the right leg slightly bent at the knee.

Funeral furniture:

On the right and left sides of the skull in the temple area:

1. **Silver earrings** (2 pcs.): made from a single piece of silver with one pointed and one flattened end. Ø: ~1.5 cm. (Fig. 97/2-3).

In the neck area:

2. **Beads** (various): includes four 14-faceted carnelian; two 14-faceted crystal; five round amber; nine reddish coral (six branch-shaped, three cylindrical); three cubic pyrite; four paired tubular glass; six ribbed glass with metallic trails; and several barrel-shaped and square-shaped glass beads. (Fig. 97/5-13).

At the wrists and in the pit fill:

3. **Gold appliqués** (several pcs.): petal and circular shapes, decorated with repoussé granules. (Fig. 97/15-16).

In the feet area:

4. **Small glass beads** (several pcs.): of various colors.

Near the left knee:

5. **Bronze mirror**: round and flat disc. Ø: 7 cm; Th: 0.4 cm. (Fig. 97/17).

Near the left elbow:

6. **Bronze clamp**. Dimensions: 1.5 x 0.7 cm. (Fig. 97/14).

On the left side of the skull:

7. **Grey jug**: wheel-made, with a ring-shaped bottom and a band-shaped handle. Decorated with polished lines. H: 13.3 cm; DR: 9.2 cm; DB: 5.8 cm. (Fig. 97/4).

Near the left leg calf:

8. **Terra Sigillata jug**: single-handled, wheel-made, with a bulging body and short, flared rim; bottom not preserved. H: 8 cm; DR: 6 cm. (Fig. 97/18).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 17-18, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, fig. 8/1-17 (second half/late 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD), Grosu 1990, p. 41 (boundary between 1st century BC - 1st century AD), Grosu 1995, p. 158 (1st century BC), Dzygovs'kyj 1993, p. 86 (second half/late 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD), Bichir 1993, p. 163 (late 1st century BC), Simonenco 2004, p. 144 (second half of the 2nd century AD), and Bârcă 2006 (late 1st century BC - early 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe, Trench No. 13 (Fig. 97/19). Inside it, a tomb was discovered.

Trench shape: The trench had a rectangular shape with rounded corners in plan.

Orientation: N-S (with slight deviations).

Interrupted/Entrance: Without or unaltered.

Dimensions of the Trench: The trench measured 7 x 6 m. The depth was 0.6 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Animal bones**.
2. **Terra Sigillata pottery** (fragments).

Holmskoe G23 (Fig. 98/1) was almost in the center.

Pit direction: N-S (with slight deviations).

Pit sizes: 1.6 x 0.7 m at the surface and 2 x 1.1 m at the bottom, with a depth of 1 m.

Pit shape: Rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was looted. Human bone fragments were found in the pit fill. Black ash traces were observed at the bottom.

Funeral furniture

In the pit fill:

1. **Bronze fan** (fragmented): similar to fasteners from G8 and G19. (Fig. 98/5).
2. **Bronze hinged fibula**: with an iron pin and bow-type features. L: 4.9 cm. (Fig. 98/11).
3. **Mirror** (fragments): with a rectangular handle and faint traces of a tamga sign on the reverse. Ø: 4 cm. (Fig. 98/7).
4. **Beads** (several): includes one rectangular bone bead; four small round glass beads; and one pill-shaped glass bead. (Fig. 98/2, 3).
5. **Iron pin**: with wood imprints, possibly from a tube. (Fig. 98/10).
6. **Ochre** (piece).
7. **Clay spindle whorls** (2 pcs.): bitronconic. (Fig. 98/8, 9).

In the northeast corner of the pit:

Small hand-modeled pots (2 pcs.):

8. **Pot 1**: with bulging shoulders and a tall conical neck. H: 11 cm; DR: 6.5 cm; DB: 5.6 cm. (Fig. 98/6).
9. **Pot 2**: with a flared rim decorated with incised lines. H: 7 cm; DR: 5 cm; DB: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 98/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 19; fig. 9/1-11 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

Holmskoe G24 (Fig. 98/12)

Pit direction: ENE-WSW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.8 x 1.3 cm

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The buried individual lay on their back, stretched out, with the head towards ENE. The skeleton was severely affected by moles, and many smaller objects had been moved by them. Fragments of wood were found in the fill and at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

On the individual's chest:

1. **Beads**: seven 8-faceted carnelian beads and one branch-type coral bead. (Fig. 98/16).

Around the tibia bones:

2. **Small glass beads** (~500 pcs.): various colors, round and disc-shaped. Preserved patterns indicate they were sewn onto boots in concentric circles.

Near the cervical vertebrae:

3. **Bronze bell**: pyramidal, with an iron tongue and four suspended tassels. H: 3.5 cm; Base side: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 98/13).
4. **Bronze mirror** (broken in antiquity): with a rectangular ear and an ornament of concentric circles and radial lines on the reverse. (Fig. 98/14).

In the fill around the head area:

5. **Iron bell tongue**: with a broken ear. L: 2.6 cm. (Fig. 98/15).

At the feet:

6. **Hand-modeled pot** (broken): with a cylindrical neck, spherical body, and flat base. H: 22.5 cm; DR/DB: 8.5 cm. (Fig. 98/17).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 19, 21; fig. 9/12-17 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

52. **Holmskoe I (Selioglu), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

A burial was discovered in a mound from an earlier period, investigated in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Holmskoe I T1G17 The burial was placed in an older mound near the village of Holmskoe (Fig. 99/2).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: (?)

Pit shape: not visible (?)

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton is stretched on its back, with the head towards the northeast.

Funeral furniture:

On the left hand:

1. **Bronze buckle**: oval, made from round wire (Ø: 0.25 cm) with bent ends and remnants of an iron clasp. (Fig. 99/3).

At the feet:

2. **Hand-modeled pot**: with a cylindrical neck and swollen middle body. H: 16.5 cm; DR: 7 cm; DB: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 99/4).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 54; Fig. 17/13, 14, 19.

53. **Holmskoe II (Selioglu), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

Holmskoe II G1 (Fig. 99/5)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.65 x 0.5 x 0.4 m

Pit shape: narrow and oval. The bottom was irregular and concave.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The individual was laid on their back, stretched out, with the head towards the north. The right arm was bent at the elbow, with the hand resting on the pelvic bones.

Funeral furniture:

On the chest:

1. **Large black bead**: round, opaque glass, possibly a button (?). (Fig. 99/6).

At the level of the shins, around the tibia bones:

2. **Colored glass beads** (several pcs.): various types (small cut, spherical, parallelepiped), sewn in rows from knees to ankles.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 21; Fig. 17/1-2 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (late 1st century AD - 2nd century AD).

54. **Izvoare, Florești District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1975, V. Grosu, during surveys in the Florești district, learned about a Sarmatian necropolis near the P.I. Rusu school. There, a Sarmatian grave was discovered, the inventory of which was kept at the school. However, the necropolis was already destroyed by the time, as locals mentioned that clay had been extracted from there after World War II.

Izvoare, destroyed grave

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was known for having an artificially deformed skull.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Iron sword-dagger**: with a handle ending in a ring and a guard. (Fig. 99/8).
2. **Terra Sigillata jug**: cylindrical shape with an elliptical body and ringed base; handle is broken. Reddish varnish. H: 18.9 cm; DR: 8.8 cm; DM: 17 cm; DB: 7.8 cm. (Fig. 99/7).
3. **Roman amphora handle**: light yellowish.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1976, pp. 8-9, (1st-2nd centuries AD); Grosu 1983, pp. 44-45, (1st century AD); Grosu 1990, pp. 45-46, 178, fig. 8b (1st century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 152 (1st century AD); Bichir 1993, p. 31, (second half of the 2nd century AD)

55. **Kalanceak (Dermendere), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

In 1979 and 1981, archaeological expeditions in the Ismail region investigated a complex of monuments dating to the first half of the first millennium AD, including the Kalanceak mound.

Kalanceak T1G3 (Fig. 99/9) The mound is nearly leveled and has been preserved as a slight rise with a height of 0.15 meters. Adjacent to it is an earthen construction. Besides the Sarmatian tomb, two medieval nomadic burials were identified within the mound. The Sarmatian burial is surrounded by a rectangular **trench**.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.35 x 3 x 2.5 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The tomb had been looted, but the skeleton was almost completely preserved. The buried individual was placed with their head to the north on a wooden or bark surface.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Bronze ring**: oval section. Ø: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 99/15).
2. **Silver appliques** (2 pcs.): semispherical, with hooks for fastening. Ø: 1.3 cm. (Fig. 99/11).
3. **Bronze frame/clasp**: rectangular, made from a thin plate with rivets preserving traces of leather. Dimensions: 1.5 x 2.5 cm. (Fig. 99/13).
4. **Iron rivets** (3 pcs.): used to fasten parts of a wooden object. (Fig. 99/12, 14).
5. **Ceramic cup** (fragmented): brown-lacquered. H: 4.9 cm; DR: 10.2 cm. (Fig. 99/10).

Kalanceak, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 99/9) Located near the mound, partially excavated. Grave No. 1 was found inside, with its northeastern part preserved.

Trench shape: Rectangular trench with rounded corners in plan (partially excavated).

Orientation: With corners aligned to the cardinal points (as observed).

Entrance/Interruption: Not specified.

Dimensions of the trench: One side was traced for a length of 13 meters, and the other for 16 meters. The width of the trench is 0.7 meters, and the depth is 0.65 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Narrow-necked amphorae** (fragments): made of light yellowish clay.

Kalanceak, Trench no. 2 (Fig. 99/9) Located 100 meters east of the mound, a rectangular trench was discovered, partially destroyed during agricultural work. Only its northern corner has been preserved.

Trench shape: Rectangular trench with rounded corners in plan (partially excavated).

Orientation: With corners aligned to the cardinal points (as observed).

Entrance/Interruption: Not specified.

Dimensions of the trench: One side was traced for a length of 5 meters, and the other for 7 meters. The depth and width of the trench are 0.7 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Narrow-necked amphorae** (fragments): made of light yellowish clay.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 52; fig. 16/6-13 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (2nd century AD).

56. **Kotlovyna (Bolboaca), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

In 1990, the tumular necropolis at Kotlovyna was investigated by M.M. Fokeev.

Kotlovyna T1G1 (Fig. 100/1): The tumulus was destroyed by agricultural work. The tumulus features a grave and a circular trench.

Kotlovyna, Trench No. 1

Trench shape: a circular trench

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the south part

Trench dimensions: The trench had a diameter of 11 meters, a width of 0.5 meters, and a depth of 1.3 meters, interruption 1 meter wide.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.5 x 1.55 m. On the bottom, the niche was rectangular with rounded corners, measuring 2 meters in length and 0.95 meters in width. The depth of niche was 1.55 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with very rounded corners with a niche situated under the western wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was laid on their back, with the head facing north. The arms were extended along the body, with the right hand placed under the pelvic bone. The legs were straight.

Funeral furniture:

Near the deceased's foot, against the southern wall:

1. **Large pot**: wheel-made, pink-orange, with an asymmetrical biconical body, high ring base, and a flat, raised handle. H: 44.6-44.9 cm; DR: 10.55 cm; DM: up to 32.9 cm; DB: 6.8 cm. (Fig. 100/3).
2. **Conical clay lid**: with a conical, concave handle-foot; gray and black with soot traces. H: 9.3 cm; Ø: 19.5–20 cm. (Fig. 100/2).
3. **Large handmade pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck, rounded body, and decorated with combed lines and finger impressions. Color varies from yellow-gray to black. H: 28.8–29.6 cm; DR: 21.2–21.5 cm; DM: up to 25.8 cm; DB: up to 9.8 cm. (Fig. 100/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Simonenko et al 2020, pp. 168-180 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Fokeev 2008, pp. 160-166.

Kotlovyna T2G1 (Fig. 101/1-2) The tumulus was destroyed by agricultural work. Height: 0.15-0.2 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: The discovery depth is 0.70 m. The grave features a niche under the eastern wall, extending 0.24 m from the wall. The entrance pit is rectangular 1 x 0.50 m, with a depth of 1.85 m from the surface.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave has been looted. This is a child's grave.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Iron object** (fragment).

Kotlovyna T2G2 (Fig. 101/1, 3)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 3.4 x 1.45 x 4 m

Pit shape: The pit is rectangular and the pit widens towards the bottom.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave has been looted. Human bone fragments, a fragment of a large animal jaw, pieces of soil with chalk traces, ash, and remains of burnt wood were found in the fill. There were also indications of a fire ritual in the pit: fragments of burnt clay and a burn mark on the western wall, near the northwest corner. Soot was observed on an open clay jug, with the burnt part facing the deceased.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Gold plates/appliqués** (2 pcs.): round, sewn, with imitation granulation on the edges. Ø: 0.9 cm. (Fig. 101/15).
2. **Iron needle**. (Fig. 101/16).

On either side of the bowl, in the fill:

3. **Bronze object**: rectangular (2.5 x 2.5 cm), possibly a belt fitting, with two rivets and a central loop from which two rings (Ø: 1.2 cm) hang. (Fig. 101/6).

4. **Bronze hook-like object**: made from a rectangular-section rod, decorated with stamped bands, with a looped end holding a square-section wire. L: 5 cm. (Fig. 101/5).

The looters left an area untouched near the southern wall, where the following were found:

5. **Clay jug** (oenochoe type): with horizontal ribs. H: 20 cm; DB: 4.8 cm. (Fig. 101/10-10a).
6. **Bowl**: dark red lacquer, with nearly vertical walls and decorated with a vegetal motif. H: 12.5 cm; Ø: 20 cm. (Fig. 101/14-14a).

Inside the bowl:

7. **Iron lamp**: boat-shaped, with a curved handle and hanging system. L: 13.5 cm; W: 10.5 cm. (Fig. 101/8).

Near the bottom of the bowl:

8. **Red lid**: with a handle and traces of lacquer. Estimated Ø: 12-13 cm; H: 6 cm. (Fig. 101/7).
9. **Bronze jug**: oenochoe style, with an iron handle and a deformed rim. Has three "legs" of a white material on the flat bottom. H: 28 cm; DM: 20.5 cm. (Fig. 101/13).
10. **Red clay cup**: single-handled, with a sooty surface. H: 13 cm; DR: 13 cm; DB: 5 cm. (Fig. 101/12-12a).
11. **Jug**: red lacquer, with a cylindrical neck and round body. H: 18.5 cm. (Fig. 101/9).

In the fill:

12. **Handmade vessels** (fragments of 2 pcs.): one reconstructed as a round pot with slightly marked shoulders. H: 12 cm; DR: 7 cm; DB: 7 cm. (Fig. 101/11).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fokeev 1991, p. 12-14; Simonenko 2008, p. 82 (Late Sarmatian period); Fokeev 2008, pp. 160-166, fig. 1/3, 10; 2/1-12.

Kotlovyna, Trench No. 2 (Fig. 101/4)

Trench shape: Square-shaped in plan and rectangular in section.

Orientation: with the sides toward the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the south part

Trench dimensions: Side lengths are 7.5 m, width is 0.6 m, and depth is 1.3 m.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fokeev 2008, pp. 160-166, fig. 1/2 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)

57. **Krinicinoe (also known as Cișmelia, Cișmeaua-Vărută, and Cișma/Ceșma-Varuita), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

The necropolis and "settlement" are located on the high eastern bank of Lake Ialpug, in the steppe zone on the left bank of the Lower Danube, 5.7 km north of the village of Krinichnoe in Bolgrad District. Before the "Sarmatian settlement," there was a settlement of the Neolithic Gumelnița culture, a late Bronze Age settlement (10th-8th centuries BC), and after the Sarmatian period, a medieval settlement (of the First Bulgarian Empire culture in the 9th-10th centuries AD). The cultural layer has been heavily exposed to earthworks, resulting in only the lower parts of the burial pits being preserved, sunk into the continental clay. Moreover, a significant part of the necropolis (likely the majority) has been destroyed due to soil erosion, causing parts of the high bank to collapse and continue to collapse into the lake. Excavations conducted in 1967 by the Prut-Dniester Expedition provided new materials for studying the Sarmatian culture in this area. A total of seven graves were discovered. In 1968, one more grave was found. In 1970, two more graves were discovered. In terms of layout, it can be assumed that the graves were arranged in rows and at quite a distance from each other. The necropolis was flat, and currently, the surface graves are not marked in any way.

Krinicinoe G1

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not specified only depth 1-2,2 m

Pit shape: an oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of a woman was lying on her back, with her head oriented to the NNE.

Funeral furniture:

Near the cervical vertebrae:

1. **Necklace**: composed of 33 glass beads (up to 1 cm in size): three spiral cylindrical black beads; four biconical; ten straight cylindrical brown beads; and sixteen blue tablet-shaped beads.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1969, p. 248-253, (3rd century AD)

Krinicinoe G2

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not specified only depth 1-2,2 m

Pit shape: oval

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The destroyed skeleton belonged to a man.

Funeral furniture:

Near the bones of the right hand:

1. **Bronze buckle**: oval, with a double oval clamp secured with 3 rivets. 2 x 1.5 cm. (Fig. 102/9).
2. **Iron sword** (fragments): heavily corroded, with traces of a wooden scabbard and a bronze-filled pommel. L: 100 cm; W: 2.5 cm; Th: 0.4 cm. (Fig. 102/10).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1969, p. 248-253, fig. 2/9-10 (3rd century AD)

Krinicinoe G3

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not specified only depth 1-2,2 m

Pit shape: an oval shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a man lying on his back, with his head oriented to the NNE.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1969, p. 248-253, (3rd century AD)

Krinicinoe G4

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not specified only depth 1-2,2 m, steps 10 cm on the long sides

Pit shape: an oval-shaped pit with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The destroyed skeleton belonged to a woman.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Bronze bead**: made from a bent plate. Ø: 0.6 cm.
2. **Conical spindle whorl**: with a depression on the base. DM: 4.3 cm. (Fig. 102/11).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1969, p. 248-253, fig. 2/11 (3rd century AD)

Krinicinoe G5

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not specified only depth 1-2,2 m

Pit shape: an oval-shaped pit with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The destroyed skeleton belonged to a man.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Light yellowish amphora** (fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1969, p. 248-253, (3rd century AD)

Krinicinoe G6 (Fig. 102/12)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not specified only depth 1-2,2 m

Pit shape: a rectangular pit with a semi-oval niche in the eastern wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a woman lying on her back, with her head oriented to the N. Hands along the body. The deceased was in the niche.

Funeral furniture:

On the head:

1. **Diadem** (fragments): made of cross-shaped pearl beads (61 whole, ~30 fragmented). H: 1.2 cm. (Fig. 102/7).

Near the skull on both sides:

2. **Bronze wire earrings** (2 pcs.): circular, with a loop-shaped clasp. Ø: 3 cm. (Fig. 102/3).

In the cervical vertebrae area:

3. **Necklace** (60+ whole beads and ~60 fragments): includes various glass and carnelian beads of different shapes (twin-coupled, cylindrical, discoid, etc.) and a few drop-shaped pearls. (Fig. 102/8).

On the middle finger of the right hand:

4. **Roman bronze ring**: made from a plate, with an attached rectangular plate bearing the image of a woman's head in profile. Ring Ø: 1.8 cm; Plate: 1.2 x 1.7 cm. (Fig. 102/4).

Along both legs (from ankles to knees), on both sides of each leg:

5. **Small beads** (950+ whole, ~950 fragmented): various materials (glass paste, carnelian, jasper), colors, and shapes (cylindrical, discoid, spherical, etc.).

At the left elbow:

6. **Bronze appliques** (2 pcs.): flat, circular, decorated with incised concentric circles. Ø: 4.3 and 4.5 cm; Th: 0.1 cm. (Fig. 102/2).
7. **Massive cast bronze ring**: with a raised ornament. Ø: ~4 cm. (Fig. 102/5).

Near the left shoulder:

8. **Iron buckle**: oval. Dimensions: ~3 x 2.5 cm.

On the chest:

9. **Bronze mirror**: round, with a short handle and a hanging hole. Decorated on the reverse with a rectangle and curved bands. Ø: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 102/1).

Near the right hand:

10. **Iron object** (remains): possibly a knife.

Near the right shoulder:

11. **Conical spindle whorl**: smooth. DM: 4 cm. (Fig. 102/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1969, p. 248-253, fig. 1, 2/1-8 (3rd century AD)

Krinicinoe G7

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not specified only depth 1-2,2 m

Pit shape: an oval-shaped pit with a niche in the eastern wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The destroyed skeleton belonged to a man.

Funeral furniture:

In the niche, in the NE corner:

1. **Handmade pot**: with a rough yellowish surface and a well-profiled rim. H: 12 cm.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1969, p. 248-253, (3rd century AD)

Krinicinoe G8

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not specified only depth 1-2,2 m

Pit shape: an oval-shaped pit

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was destroyed and belonged to a woman.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1969, p. 248-253, (3rd century AD)

Krinicinoe G9 (Fig. 103/1) Partially destroyed by erosion on the west side.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 1.4 x 1.23 m, niche - 1.1 x 0.5 m, extending 0.4 m into the wall. The bottom was inclined with a depth of 1.84 m in the north part and up to 1.95 m in the south part.

Pit shape: an irregular rectangular-shaped pit with an oval niche on the south side

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was in the deeper part, disturbed, with most bones fallen into the niche (skull and pelvic bones), indicating it was disturbed long after burial. The skeleton belonged to an elderly woman (about 60 years old). The skull with signs of oxidation (earrings?).

Funeral furniture:

In the fill at the bottom:

1. **Small beads** (150+ pcs.): up to 0.5 cm, made of glass paste, in various colors and shapes. Original number estimated at ~600. (Fig. 103/3).

In the fill at a depth of 1.8 m:

2. **Conical spindle whorl**: gray, with a flat base and smooth surface. H: 2.6 cm; DB: 3.8 cm; Hole Ø: 1 cm. (Fig. 103/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1971, p. 4-6, fig. 4 (late 2nd – early 3rd century AD), report 55

Krinicinoe G10 (Fig. 104/1)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 0.65 x 0.35 x 2 m

Pit shape: pit's shape could not be discerned

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of a young woman (up to 30 years old) was found in anatomical position, but the right leg from the knee down and the feet were missing due to erosion, having collapsed. The deceased was laid on her back, head oriented NE, with an artificially deformed skull. Beneath the deceased, there was a layer of organic material 2.5-3 cm thick.

Funeral furniture:

From the ankles to the knees (boots sewn with beads) / at the wrists / on the chest:

1. **Beads** (533+ whole pcs. and hundreds of fragments): estimated total over 2000. Various materials (glass paste), shapes (faceted, cylindrical, spherical, lenticular, etc.), and colors. Some show traces of gilding. Found at wrists, chest, and legs, likely sewn onto clothing. (Fig. 105/64).

Near the pelvic bones:

2. **Barrel-shaped bead**: ribbed, ceramic with blue paint/glaze, and incised with oblique lines. Ø: 1.5 cm; Hole Ø: 0.8 cm. (Fig. 104/6).

On the right elbow bones:

3. **Bronze bracelet**: round, broken, with a snake-head-and-tail-like fastening system. Ø: ~7 cm; Section: 0.5 x 0.3 cm. (Fig. 104/4).

Near the left shoulder bones:

4. **Bronze fibula**: with a wide flat bow and an articulated fastening system. Size: 5.8 cm. (Fig. 104/7).

At the back of the skull, on the right side:

5. **Silver temple ring/earring (?)**: oval, with a plate/shield set with a reddish, drop-shaped carnelian. Ring Ø: 3.8 x 3 cm; Stone L: 1.5 cm. (Fig. 104/2, 5).

Near the spine bones a bit above the hips/waist area:

6. **Silver mirror**: round, with a rectangular handle and a raised "H"-shaped inscription on the reverse. Broken. Ø: 5.5 cm; Th: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 104/8).

Near the mirror:

7. **Bronze clamp** (2 fragments): from a thin plate (Th: 0.05 cm), likely from the mirror's cover. L: 2.3 and 2.5 cm. (Fig. 104/4).

In the center of the pelvic bones:

8. **Conical spindle whorl**: mushroom-like, with a concave base, gray. H: 2.8 cm; Ø: 3.9 cm; DB: 2.9 cm. (Fig. 105/62).

On the pelvic bones, northwest of the spindle whorl:

9. **Roman terracotta pot**: with ribbed surface, two handles, and a short neck. Repaired in antiquity and placed upside down. H: 8 cm; DM: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 105/63).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1971, p. 4-6, fig. 4 (late 2nd – early 3rd century AD), report 55

58. **Mălcăuți, Soroca District, Republic of Moldova**

In the fall of 2015, a grave was accidentally discovered.

Mălcăuți destroyed grave (Fig. 105/59)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: a depth of 1 meter

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was placed on their back, with arms along the body and legs extended and close together. The skeleton belonged to a female, aged 18-20 at the time of death.

Funeral furniture:

Near the skull:

1. **Temple ring** (fragmentary): bronze wire, with overlapping and coiled ends. Ring Ø: 2 cm; Wire Ø: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 105/1).

In the area of the shins and feet:

2. **Glass paste beads** (2 pcs.): small, spheroidal, white-yellowish. Ø: 0.4 cm. (Fig. 105/4-5).

3. **Cylindrical beads** (1 whole, 1 fragmentary): azure glass paste. Ø: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 105/6-7).
4. **Cylindrical bead**: black glass paste. Ø: 0.4 cm. (Fig. 105/8).
5. **Segmented beads** (7 pcs.): with six or seven lobes, translucent yellowish-white glass paste. Ø: 0.6 cm; L: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 105/14-17).
6. **Discoidal beads** (13 whole, 1 fragmentary): small, turquoise-colored glass paste. Ø: 0.6-0.7 cm. (Fig. 105/21-34).
7. **Segmented beads** (22? pcs., whole and fragmentary): yellow glass paste. Ø: 0.4 cm; L: 0.6-1.2 cm. (Fig. 105/35-56).
8. **Limestone beads** (2 pcs.): hexagonal prism shape. L: 6-7 cm. (Fig. 105/9-10).
9. **Limestone beads** (3 pcs.): spheroidal. Ø: 0.8-0.9 cm. (Fig. 105/11-13).

Unspecified location:

10. **White metal mirror**: disc-shaped, with a perforated side handle and a raised solar (?) symbol on the reverse. Broken in antiquity. L: 5.1 cm; Disc Ø: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 105/2).
11. **Clay spindle whorl**: biconical. H: 3 cm; DM: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 105/3).
12. **Flint pieces** (2 pcs.).
13. **Pitcher**: wheel-thrown, fine gray clay, with a flattened spheroidal body and broken handle. Restored. H: 13.3 cm; DM: 12 cm. (Fig. 105/61).
14. **Hand-modeled incense burner**: coarse clay, roughly spheroidal with body perforations. H: 5 cm; DM: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 105/57).
15. **Incense burner** (fragmentary): hand-modeled, coarse clay, with a flattened spheroidal shape and body perforations. Estimated H: 4.5 cm; DM: 7 cm. (Fig. 105/58).

In the fill:

16. **Gray wheel-thrown vessel** (3 atypical shards).

Near the left knee:

17. **Roman clay bowl** (Terra Sigillata): wheel-thrown, reddish, with a truncated conical shape, incurved rim, and ring foot. Covered with red slip. H: 6 cm; DM: 11.3 cm. (Fig. 105/60).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Vornic, Matveev 2016, p. 89-94 (Late 1st century – early half of the 2nd century AD).

59. **Mărcăuți, Briceni District, Republic of Moldova**

The first graves were discovered in the 1950s, and the items reached A.A. Nudeliman. They were found during agricultural works, and later in 1954, during the renovation of a dam, about 50 graves belonging to different historical epochs were destroyed according to the village professor E.A. Corol.

Mărcăuți, destroyed grave

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: -

Funeral furniture:

1. **Glass beads**.
2. **Mirrors** (2 pcs.): one bronze, one silver, circular, very similar, with a tamga mark and a handle with a hanging hole. (Fig. 106/2-3).
3. **Iron sword** (upper part): with a handle ending in a knob (possibly with an antenna). (Fig. 106/1).
4. **Wheel-made jug**: single-handled, jar-shaped. (Fig. 106/4).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Rikman 1975, p. 22-24, fig. 10/1-3; Fedorov 1960, p. 277; Grosu 1995, p. 151; Rikman 1966, fig. 8/5-6.

60. **Mereni, Anenii Noi District, Republic of Moldova**

In the summer of 2023, during the excavation of a sewer pit in the village of Mereni, a Roman amphora was discovered.

Mereni destroyed grave (?)

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: The sewer pit, measuring 1.10 × 1.25 m and with a depth of 1.35-1.55 m

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: It is noted that two fragments of bones, which appear to be human, were collected from the fill of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

From the bottom of the pit:

1. **Handmade pot**: made of coarse paste, with a crumbled edge.
2. **Wide-necked pitcher**: wheel-made from fine gray paste.
3. **Roman bowl**: brick-colored, with an inwardly drawn, thickened rim and traces of reddish glaze on the inside.
4. **Conical lid**: hand-shaped, with a circular, alveolate knob.
5. **Roman amphora**: almost complete. (Fig. 106/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Ciobanu, Vornic 2024, pp. 62-64 (second half of the 2nd century AD).

61. **Mirnoe (Caracica or Myrne), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

In 1979 and 1981, archaeological expeditions in the Ismail region investigated a complex of monuments dating to the first half of the first millennium AD, including the Mirnoe mound. This site is located downstream of the small steppe river Draculea, which flows into the Danube Delta, on the plateau of its right bank.

Mirnoe T1 (Fig. 106/6), had a height of 2.1 meters and an ellipsoidal shape in plan. Its mantle was oriented from northeast to southwest (50x62 meters). This shape was not random. Excavations revealed that before the mound's construction, a trapezoidal trench was dug in its place.

Mirnoe, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 106/6) was beneath the mound. The excavated earth from the trench was thrown into the area delimited by it. Over time, excess soil collapsed, partially filling the trench. In section, it can be seen that the outlines of the earth fill and the upper layer of collapse in the trench form a single unit (Fig. 15/3). Thus, the trench remained exposed long before the mound was built. Inside, in the northwest corner, there was a burial.

Trench shape: Trapezoidal trench with rounded corners in plan.

Orientation: Extending from northeast to southwest.

Entrance/Interruption: On the northeast and southwest sides.

Dimensions of the trench: The trench measured 67x36x22 meters. Its depth was 1.5-2 meters. Its width reached 3 meters and abruptly narrowed to the bottom after about a meter. The entrances were 0.8 meters wide.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Faunal remains**: bones of large animals, indicating a complex and prolonged funerary ritual.

Mirnoe G1 (Fig. 106/6) was located in the northwest corner of the area delimited by the trench.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 4x3.2 m, in its northwest wall, a rectangular niche (3.44 x 1.28 meters) was dug deeper into the bottom of the pit by 30 cm

Pit shape: rectangular with a niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The tomb had been looted. In the fill of the burial pit, fragments of human bones were found. The off-center placement of the tomb can be explained by attempts to prevent looting. Indeed, thieves initially failed to reach the burial pit directly. At a distance of 5 meters, there was a looting tunnel in the form of a round-rectangular shaft, reaching a depth of 2 meters into the rock. At its bottom, attempts by thieves to dig a tunnel towards the tomb can be observed. Another attempt was more precise in the northeast wall of the tomb, where a vertical shaft was dug into the rock to a depth of 1.5 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the burial pit fill:

1. **Bead**: round, flat. (Fig. 106/8).
2. **Silver belt buckle** (parts preserved): includes an oval plate and a bronze tongue. (Fig. 106/7, 12).

3. **Silver plate objects** (fragments): with holes for rivets, likely parts of a belt set. (Fig. 106/9).
4. **Iron sword** (fragments): double-edged blade. W: 5 cm.
5. **Iron objects** (fragments): plates with a sharp bent edge, likely for penetrating wood. (Fig. 106/10).
6. **Gray-polished jar** (body only): bitronconic shape with a flat bottom. (Fig. 106/11).
7. **Vessel** (rim fragment).
8. **Hand-modeled vessel** (insignificant fragment).
9. **Faunal remains**: bones of large animals.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 50-52; fig. 15 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (unknown period).

62. **Nagornoe (Caragacii-Vechi, Caragaci and Nahirne), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

In 1979 and 1981, the archaeological expedition in the Izmail region studied a complex of monuments dating to the first half of the first millennium AD, including the Nagornoe tumulus necropolis, located east of Lake Cahul (Fig. 107/7).

Nagornoe T1G1 (Fig. 107/1) The tumulus was significantly impacted by agricultural activities. It had a height of 1 m and a diameter of up to 30 m. On the surface were fragments of narrow-necked amphorae of light yellow color. Under the mound, **a circular stone structure** was discovered. It consisted of unshaped stone slabs, with average dimensions of 0.8 x 0.6 x 0.2 m. The slabs were closely placed together and buried vertically into the ground up to 0.3 m from the ancient surface. There was a 4 m wide **opening** on the western side of the stone structure. Numerous fragments of narrow-necked amphorae, forming accumulations, were found in the southern part of the tumulus at the ancient surface level.

The tumulus was constructed in two stages. Initially, the grave was covered with a small accumulation of 12 cm thick, after which the funeral ceremony took place. This is evidenced by fragments of amphorae on the surface near the southern edge inside the stone structure. Shortly after (before the initial accumulation settled completely), the main covering was added. Over time, the accumulated soil spread and covered the surrounding stones. Later, two round pits with burnt flat bottoms were dug into the mound. One pit contained no artifacts, while the

other contained fragments of narrow-necked amphorae and calypters. The pits are likely associated with one of the settlements on the eastern shore of Lake Cahul.

The burial was in the center of the tumulus.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 3.35 m long, 1.25 m wide at the north end, 1.4 m wide at the south end, and 2.8 m deep

Pit shape: trapezoidal with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was plundered. Human bones and remnants of the inventory were found in the pit fill. Skull fragments were found near the northern wall of the pit. The pit had a wooden cover made of small beams with a diameter of 5-6 cm. Vertical and inclined bands 3-4 cm wide, left by a tool, can be seen on its walls.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Beads** (several): includes round, cylindrical, rectangular-round, and tablet-shaped glass beads; amber fragments; and cross-shaped pearl beads. (Fig. 108/11-14).
2. **Bent iron rod** (fragment): wrapped in bronze wire with a bronze sphere at one end; possibly part of a bracelet or buckle. (Fig. 108/8).
3. **Stone polisher**. (Fig. 108/5).
4. **Glass vessels** (small fragments).

In the southeastern corner of the pit:

5. **Wooden item** (pieces) with associated **gold foil appliqués** (fragments): representing at least three different standing animals. Largest fragment L: 5 cm. (Fig. 108/3).
6. **Gold foil strip**: decorated with a fir-tree ornament. L: 4.5 cm; W: 0.8 cm. (Fig. 107/4).
7. **Gold appliqués/hooks** (2 pcs.): one round and convex (Ø: 0.7 cm), the other oval with volutes. (Fig. 107/2, 3).
8. **Gold tubes**: made from wrapped rectangular gold foil. L: up to 1.5 cm.
9. **Handmade spindle whorl**: biconical. (Fig. 108/7).

10. **Handmade incense burners** (2 pcs.): cup-shaped with perforated holes near the bottom. One H: 3.5 cm, DR: 7.5 cm; the other H: 3 cm, DR: 8.5 cm. (Fig. 107/5, 6).
11. **Handmade conical lid** (fragment): with a central, funnel-shaped handle and a polished, striped exterior. Ø: 22 cm; H: 13 cm. (Fig. 108/6).
12. **Handmade round vessel** (fragment).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 39-42; fig. 12/1-7, 13/3-8, 11-14 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (3rd century AD).

Nagornoe T2 (Fig. 107/8) is located 45 meters southeast of tumulus 1. The shape of the mound is oval, elongated from northwest to southeast. The height of the mound is 1 meter. It covered a rectangular earthen structure. Fragments of handmade pottery were found inside the mound, including amphora fragments with narrow-necked light-colored clay and large reddish amphora fragments.

Nagornoe, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 107/8) It was located beneath the tumulus, partially covering it in its center. Inside, there was a tomb.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench with rounded corners in plan, rectangular in section, with a flat bottom.

Orientation: elongated from north-northwest to south-southeast.

Interruption/Entrance: on the southern side.

Dimensions of the trench: The trench measured 54x10.5 m. The depth was 0.55 m. The width of the trench was 0.3-0.4 m. The entrance was 0.6 m wide.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench, on both sides of the entrance:

1. **Animal bone**.

Nagornoe T2G1 (Fig. 107/8) It was discovered in the center of trench 1 and tumulus 2.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.1 x 2.4 x 3.2 m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The tomb had been looted. Bones and inventory were found in the fill of the pit. Pieces such as shells and chalk were discovered. Fragments of wooden planks, 15 cm wide and 5 cm thick, were preserved on the edges and in the fill of the pit, covering it. Vertical tool marks, 4-6 cm wide, were observed on the walls of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit:

1. **Silver belt end**: long and narrow, with an attached bronze plate and clasp. 7.5 x 1 cm. (Fig. 108/1, 2).
2. **Iron buckle**: circular. Ø: 3 cm. (Fig. 108/10).
3. **Sword** (fragments): with traces of a wooden scabbard.
4. **Glass cup**: thin, transparent, semi-spherical with a thickened rim, ring support, and a central boss on the bottom. H: 5.8 cm; DR: 9 cm; DB: 4.8 cm. (Fig. 108/9).

Nagornoe, Trench No. 2 (Fig. 107/7) Located 80 meters southwest of tumulus 1. No tomb was found inside.

Trench shape: square trench with rounded corners in plan, flat bottom, with rounded areas.

Orientation: with corners towards cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interruption/Entrance: unnoticed?

Dimensions of the trench: The trench measured 25x26 m. The depth was 0.7-0.8 m. The width of the trench was 0.35-0.5 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench:

1. **Open-necked amphora** (fragments): including a foot similar to the one from Tumulus No. 1.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 42-44; fig. 12/8, 13/1-2, 9-10 (3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (3rd century AD).

Nagornoe T9G1 (Fig. 109/3) The tumulus was destroyed, and at the beginning of the excavations, it was an irregular-shaped mound. From the preserved part, it can be assumed that its height was approximately 1 meter. Around the tomb, at the level of the ancient ground surface, a thin layer of thrown soil was preserved, indicating that the tomb belonged to a main and unique burial.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: The length was 3 m, the width was 1.3 m, and the depth was 2.9 m. At a depth of 1.85 m along the long walls, steps with a width of 15-20 cm were dug.

Pit shape: rectangular, with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial had been looted. In the fill of the pit, remnants of the covering, fragments of various objects, and human bones were found, including a skull with pronounced artificial deformation. At the lower part of the skeleton, traces of burning were preserved. The buried person was placed on a layer of wood charcoal, lying on their back with the head pointing north. Probably, at the time of burial, the charcoal covering the bottom had not yet completely cooled. This is demonstrated by the traces of burning on the shoulder bone, which carbonized in the lower epiphyses. There were also burn marks on the eastern wall of the step.

Remnants of the covering were preserved on these. Plates with a diameter of 8-10 cm were sparsely placed along them, at intervals of 30 cm or more. Above them, throughout the length of the pit, husk was spread, from which traces of brown and black vegetable ash were preserved. The bottom of the pit was slightly rounded towards the center. On the bottom, there was a layer of wood charcoal with a thickness of 10-12 cm.

Funeral furniture:

On the ankle of the right leg:

1. **Leather shoe** (traces): fragment with an attached oval silver buckle (2.4 x 1.3 cm) with a double clasp. (Fig. 109/7).

Together with the buckle, on the remnants of the shoe:

2. **Silver buckle end**: elongated rectangular plate with a square clasp, part of the shoe fastening system. L: 5 cm; W: 1.6 cm. (Fig. 109/8).

In the pit:

3. **Footwear fastening system**: a second set, similar to the one above.
4. **Silver belt end**: elongated and narrow (9 x 0.9 cm), found with associated small, oval silver buckles. (Fig. 109/18, 13).

Near the head:

5. **Silver belt plates** (2 pcs.): small, rectangular (9 x 0.9 cm), with bronze backing plates. (Fig. 109/9).
6. **Bronze buckles** (2 pcs.): cast, without clasps, with a thickened front. 2.2 x 1.4 cm. (Fig. 109/14).
7. **Bronze buckle**: oval, cast, with a thickened front part and a circular clasp. (Fig. 109/6).
8. **Bronze buckle pin**. (Fig. 108/23).
9. **Bronze amulet ring/bracelet (?)**: cast, with three rows of prominences. Ø: 7 cm. (Fig. 109/12).
10. **Bronze ring**: smooth, cast, round in section. Section Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 109/11).
11. **Silver appliqués** (2 pcs.): semi-spherical, with traces of fixing loops. Ø: 1.5 cm. (Fig. 109/22).
12. **Silver appliqués** (2 pcs.): small, pyramidal, fixed with welded loops. (Fig. 109/21).
13. **Silver belt plates** (4 pcs.): rectangular, part of a harness set. 7.5 x 2.5 cm. (Fig. 109/4).
14. **Silver pendant**: leaf-shaped, slightly domed, with a bronze backing plate. 3.5 x 3.1 cm. (Fig. 109/15).
15. **Silver pendant**: slightly convex leaf shape, with a rectangular clasp. 4.4 x 4 cm. (Fig. 109/17).
16. **Wooden object** (fragments): made of pieces joined with pegs. (Fig. 109/2).
17. **Wooden object** (fragment): flattened-round shape with a small bronze clasp. Th: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 109/5).
18. **Bronze fibula**: hinged, with a slightly curved rectangular back. L: 5.2 cm. (Fig. 109/10).
19. **Iron object**: knife-shaped, with traces of a wooden handle; blade is flattened and rectangular in section. Blade L: ~12 cm. (Fig. 108/15).
20. **Dagger (?)** (narrow blade fragment): with traces of a wooden sheath. (Fig. 108/20).
21. **Iron buckle** (fragmented): oval, 6.5 x 5 cm, with fragments of a similar buckle. (Fig. 108/22, 21).
22. **Spear (?)** (tip fragment).

23. **Iron plate** (fragmented): with wooden plates fixed on both sides with bronze rivets. 7.5 x 2.2 cm; Th: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 109/1).
24. **Iron object** (fragment): resembles the blade of a small axe. Blade L: 5 cm. (Fig. 108/18).
25. **Iron object** (fragmented): a two-layered clamp fixed with five rivets. (Fig. 108/16).
26. **Bronze plates** (2 pcs.): rectangular, folded. (Fig. 108/17).
27. **Iron objects** (fragments): shapes cannot be reconstructed.

Under the right hand:

28. **Iron dagger** (fragmented): with traces of a wooden handle and scabbard. Blade W: 3 cm. (Fig. 108/19).

To the left of the head:

29. **Gray clay cup**: tulip-shaped with a conical foot, decorated with vertical polishing. H: 10.8 cm; DR: 8.3 cm; Foot Ø: 5 cm. (Fig. 109/16).
30. **Gray clay jug**: single-handled, with a tall funnel-shaped neck and elongated body. H: 11.8 cm; DR: 6.7 cm. (Fig. 109/19).
31. **Terra Sigillata jug**: reddish-brown, two-handled, with a bell-shaped neck and round body. H: 11.5 cm; DR: 8.8 cm. (Fig. 109/20).
32. **Glass cup**: thin, transparent (small fragments preserved).

Near the head:

33. **Bowl**: reddish, with three handles, a thickened rim, and a conical lower body on a ring base. H: 22 cm; DR: 35 cm; DB: 12.5 cm. (Fig. 109/23).

Nagornoe, Trench No. 1 (partially researched) Located 100 m west of the tumulus, nearly destroyed during agricultural work. Its southwest part was preserved for a length of 28 meters and the southwest corner.

Construction shape: Rectangular trench, with straight walls in section, and a rounded bottom.

Orientation: Not specified?

Interruption/Entrance: Not specified?

Dimensions of the trench: Depth was 0.7 m. Width of the trench ranged from 0.4 to 0.5 m.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 44-48; fig. 13/15-23; 14 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (3rd century AD).

Nagornoe T12G2 (Fig. 110/1-2) Height: 1 m; Diameter: 26-28 m. Discovered at a depth of 1.4 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 3 x 2.1 m; the steps were discovered around the perimeter of the pit at a depth of 2.1 m. The walls of the pit, except for the very convex western wall, were well finished and inclined inward above the steps. Signs of wood rot were observed where the pit was widened. The western wall showed signs of erosion. The dimensions of the steps: northern - 0.40 m, eastern - 0.20 m, southern - 0.30 m, western - 0.8 m. Wooden planks, 10-15 cm wide, were discovered on the surface of the western step. Two of these were placed longitudinally (from north to south), and one was located in the northwest corner, with its western end supported on the step and inclined into the burial pit. The burial chamber, situated under the steps, was rectangular, measuring 0.9 x 2.65 m with rounded corners.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape pit with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Human bones were found among the wooden planks, with the skull of the deceased located in the northern part of the western step. Human bones were discovered disordered within the fill of the pit too.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill and bottom of the pit:

1. **Gold foil** (fragment).
2. **Silver buckle**: rectangular. L: 2.8 cm; W: 2.7 cm. (Fig. 110/5).
3. **Iron ring**: round section. Ø: 4.3 cm; Section Ø: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 110/9).
4. **Iron ring**: round section. Ø: 3.5 cm; Section Ø: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 110/14).
5. **Iron ring**: round section. Ø: 4.3 cm; Section Ø: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 110/8).
6. **Iron object**: irregular oval shape, round section. L: 3.5 cm; W: 1.5 cm; Section Ø: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 110/6).
7. **Iron objects** (9 fragments). (Fig. 110/3, 4, 13).

8. **Silver rivet**: found with wood remains. Ø: 2 cm; Th: 0.1 cm; Shaft L: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 110/10).
9. **Silver rivet**: found with wood remains. (Fig. 110/12).
10. **Clay incense burner**: with a square base, decorated with punctate impressions and covered with soot inside. Broken in antiquity. H: 9.5 cm; Upper rim L: 12.5 cm. (Fig. 110/15).
11. **Red-gloss bowl** (Terra Sigillata): wheel-made, with a ring base. Decorated on the bottom interior with circular incisions and a shoe-shaped stamp. H: 8 cm; DR: 27 cm; DB: 12.5 cm. (Fig. 110/7).
12. **Glass cup**: thin, decorated. (Fig. 110/11).
13. **Fish scales**.

Nagornoe, Trench No. 1 The circular structure surrounds the tumulus (Fig. 110/2).

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSE part

Trench dimensions: Diameter: 24.5 m; Width: 0.45-0.8 m; Height: 0.6-0.85 m. Entrance 1.2 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern area of the fill:

1. **Amphora** (fragments).
2. **Animal bones**.

Nagornoe, Trizna entered the tumulus in the SW.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Amphora** (fragments).
2. **Animal bones**.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Gudkova et al. 1982, p. 24-27; Grosu 1990, p. 84 (late 2nd century – early 3rd century AD); Dzygovs'kyj 1993, p. 201 (late 2nd century – second half of the 3rd century AD).

63. **Negureni, Telenești District, Republic of Moldova**

The necropolis is located west of Negureni village, on the bank of the Răut River, near a clay quarry. In 1960/61, a skeleton was discovered.

Negureni G1

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belongs to a young woman (17 years old).

Funeral furniture:

Around the neck:

1. **Necklace**: made of amber and carnelian beads. (Fig. 111/9).

To the right of the head:

2. **Bronze earrings** (2 pcs.). (Fig. 111/10).

At the elbow:

3. **Beads**.
4. **Bronze bell**. (Fig. 111/6).

To the left of the head:

5. **Bronze mirror**: with a hanging ear. (Fig. 111/8).
6. **Glass unguentarium**. (Fig. 111/7).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Rikman 1975, fig. 5/1-5, p. 16-18; Grosu 1995, (end of the 1st century AD); Rikman 1966, fig. 6, 8/1 p. 76.

Negureni T1G1

Mound near the clay quarry. In 1960/61, a skeleton was discovered in an earlier mound.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belongs to a young woman (17 years old).

Funeral furniture:

1. **Beads**. (Fig. 111/2-3).
2. **Two-edged iron sword** (fragment). (Fig. 111/1).
3. **Wheel-made jug**: two-handled, with a tall neck, flared rim, and ring base; shows possible repair traces. (Fig. 111/4).
4. **Handmade pot**: with a flared rim, funnel-shaped neck, and flat base. (Fig. 111/5).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Rikman 1975, fig. 5/5-9, p. 16-18; Rikman 1966, fig. 4, p. 74.

64. **Novoselițe/Vișnevoe (Sulița/Noul-Caragaci), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

Novoselițe/Vișnevoe T19G24 (Fig. 112/1-2) The tumulus was 2.1 m high and had a diameter of 54 m. The grave was discovered at a depth of 2.6 m.

Pit direction: SWW-NEE

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.4-0.6 m, had a depth of 0.3 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with extended southeastern edge was rounded

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: On the northern edge, traces of boards with a width of 7-9 cm and a thickness of approximately 2 cm were preserved, covering the pit transversely. The young deceased lay in a supine position with the head toward the SWW. The skull was located 20 cm above the right shoulder, and it had likely been severed.

Funeral furniture:

Between the knees and the left wing of the pelvis:

1. **Handmade pot** (fragments): with plant traces observed in the paste.

2. **Roman amphora** (wall and neck fragments): yellowish.

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dvorjaninov 1978, p. 53-54 (2nd-3rd century AD).

Novoselițe/Vișnevoe T19G25 (Fig. 112/1, 3) The grave was discovered at a depth of 2.9 m. The pit was not observed.

Pit direction: SW-NE

Pit sizes: The pit was not observed.

Pit shape: The pit was not observed.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The adult deceased was lying supine, oriented toward the SW. The anatomical order of the bones was severely disturbed.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Roman amphorae** (wall fragments): yellow clay.

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dvorjaninov 1978, p. 54 (2nd-3rd century AD).

65. **Novoselskoe II (Satu-Nou), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

In 1989, a Sarmatian grave was discovered in the Novoselskoe II settlement.

Novoselskoe II G1 Discovered in the flat necropolis (Fig. 112/4).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: cca 2 x 0.75 x 0.40 m

Pit shape: a rectangular in plan pit

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Destroyed in antiquity (looted). Skeleton belonged to a woman (20-25 years old). Bones were moved to southtern part of the pit. The skull showed signs of artificial deformation.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Glass beads**: discoidal. (Fig. 112/5).
2. **Bronze ring/earring**: with open ends. (Fig. 112/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Brujako, Jaroshevich 2001, p. 69, fig. 36/1-2

66. **Obileni, Hîncești District, Republic of Moldova**

Excavated in 1988.

Obileni T5G2 (Fig. 112/7) The tumulus had a height of 0.7 m and a diameter of 28 m. The grave was located in the center of the tumulus. The contours of the treasure seekers' pit, dug from the surface of the mound, are visible in profile, distinguished by its specific fill.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 3.92 x 1.65-1.9 x 1.52-1.57 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the northern part of the fill, isolated human bones were found. The grave was completely destroyed. The archaeological remains were primarily grouped in the northern part of the pit, whose bottom was covered with fragments of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

Southern part of the pit:

1. **Iron buckle** (fragment): massive, square-shaped, with a tongue (L: 4.6 cm). A second similar tongue was also found. (Fig. 113/5).
2. **Bronze wire ring**: passes through a flat piece with spikes for attachment to a wooden object. Ring Ø: 3.2 cm; Wire Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 113/8).
3. **Bronze ring**: Ø: 4.2 cm; Rod W: 1 cm. (Fig. 113/1).
4. **Bronze plates** (3 pcs.): one flat (Ø: 2.5 cm) and two semi-spherical (Ø: 1.1 cm). (Fig. 113/9).
5. **Bronze foils** (2 pcs., decorative items): L: 0.6 cm and 0.25 cm. (Fig. 113/9).

6. **Iron object** (fragments): similar to those found in the northern part.

Northern part of the pit:

7. **Iron object** (fragments): heavily corroded, some with bronze rivets, others covered with decorated gold leaf. Likely from a sword and sheath. (Fig. 113/3, 4, 6, 7).
8. **Amphora** (fragments).
9. **Glass vessels** (15 fragments): from several opaque, good quality vessels. (Fig. 113/12).
10. **Bowl** (Terra Sigillata, fragmentary): fine reddish paste, with a conical body, vertical rim, and flat bottom. H: 6.1 cm; DR: 12.4 cm; DB: 4.8 cm. (Fig. 113/2).

Obileni, Trench no. 1 The grave was surrounded by a circular ditch.

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the NNE part

Trench dimensions: diameter of 14 m, a depth of approximately 1 m, and a width of 0.3-0.37 m

Funeral furniture:

At the ends of the ditch:

1. **Amphora** (263 fragments): accumulation of walls, rims, and handles. (Fig. 113/10-11).
2. **Horse skull**: found in the northwestern part, near the inner edge of the ditch.

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Demcenco 1989, p. 58; Levițki et al. 1996, pp. 55-56, 90, Fig. 45/4; 46-48 (1st-2nd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 161 (1st century AD); Bârcă 2006, p. 337 (second half of the 1st century – beginning of the 2nd century AD).

67. **Ocnița, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Camenca District", Republic of Moldova**

In 1988, several tumuli were excavated in the Camenca district, with the excavations led by archaeologists I.V. Manzura and E.O. Clocico.

Ocnița T6G12 (Fig. 114/1-2) The tumulus has a height of 2.3 meters and a diameter of 60 meters. It was discovered towards the south at a depth of 2.62 meters.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not identified

Pit shape: not identified

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The buried individual (an adult) was lying on their back, with the head oriented towards the north. The upper limbs are extended along the body. The lower limbs are extended and placed parallel.

Funeral furniture:

Near the skull on both sides:

1. **Silver wire earrings** (pair): with a loop-shaped clasp. Ø: 2.1 cm. (Fig. 114/4, 5).

At the pelvis, hands and chest:

1. **Beads** (various): includes irregularly oval amber beads (L: up to 1.7 cm); three jet beads (prismatic and parallelepiped); two spherical, irregular chalky material beads (Ø: 0.7-0.9 cm); and two elongated coral beads (one reddish, one greenish). (Fig. 114/6-16).

At the chest:

2. **Bronze mirror**: with a handle and an orifice with a geomorphological sign. Ø: 3.7 cm. (Fig. 114/3).

Dating: dated through Radiocarbon analysis to the second half of the 2nd century – the early decades of the 3rd century AD

References: Manzura, Klociko 1989, fig. 54, 64; Grosu 1995, p. 160 (late 1st century – early 2nd century AD); Manzura et al 1992, p. 52-53, 94 (1st century – 2nd century AD)

Ocnița T6G14 (Fig. 114/1, 115/1, 1a) The grave was discovered towards the south at a depth of 2.79 meters.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: not identified

Pit shape: not identified

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The buried individual (a kid) was lying on their back, with the head oriented towards the NW. The upper limbs are extended along the body. The lower limbs are extended and placed parallel.

Funeral furniture:

At the chest:

1. **Coral beads** (6 pcs.): elongated. L: 1.1 cm; Ø: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 115/4).

Near the head on the right:

2. **Handmade bowl**: with a flat bottom and rough, uneven surface. Color varies from light brown to gray. H: 4.5 cm; DR: 6.3 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 115/3, 3a).

At the feet:

3. **Handmade pot**: with a globular body, flared rim, and flat bottom with protrusions. H: 12.4 cm; DR: 8.2 cm; DM: 11 cm; DB: 5.8 cm. (Fig. 115/2, 2a).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Manzura, Klociko 1989, fig. 54, 66; Grosu 1995, p. 160 (1st century – first half of the 3rd century AD); Manzura et al 1992, p. 54, 94 (1st century – 2nd century AD)

Ocnița T6G15 (Fig. 114/1, Fig. 116/1) The grave was discovered towards the south at a depth of 2.85-2.97 meters.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: not identified

Pit shape: rectangular with strongly rounded corners and with steps on the sides

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The buried individual (an adult) was lying on their back, with the head oriented towards the north. The upper limbs are extended along the body. The lower limbs are extended and placed parallel.

Funeral furniture:

At the right foot:

1. **Sword/dagger**: with a simple handle and biconvex blade section. Total L: over 40 cm; Blade L: 35 cm; Blade W: 3.2 cm. (Fig. 116/4).

At the feet:

2. **Limestone**: flat, round, with a lenticular section. Ø: 3.5 cm; H: 2.4 cm. (Fig. 116/3).
3. **Flint fragment** (possibly intrusive). (Fig. 116/2).
4. **Metal fragments (?)**.
5. **Jug**: single-handled, with a globular body, flared rim, and flat bottom. H: 15.5 cm; DR: 10 cm; DM: 14 cm; DB: 5.3 cm. (Fig. 116/5).

Dating: dated through Radiocarbon analysis to the second half of the 2nd century – the early decades of the 3rd century AD

References: Manzura, Klociko 1989, fig. 54, 67; Grosu 1995, p. 160 (1st century – 2nd century AD); Manzura et al 1992, p. 55-56, 94 (1st century – 2nd century AD)

68. **Ogorodnoe II (Gorodne, Ciișia), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

The tumular necropolis was investigated in 1966-1967.

Ogorodnoe II T3G1 The tumulus appeared as a light yellow patch with a diameter of approximately 8 m.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.90 x 1.35 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The northern part of the pit was destroyed by an oval-shaped looting pit measuring 120 x 150 cm. The skeleton was completely destroyed.

Funeral furniture:

In the burial pit (primarily in its southern part):

1. **Beads** (67 pcs.): varying in shape, material, and size.

Near the southern wall of the pit:

2. **Hand-crafted pot**: gray clay. (Fig. 118/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Zagynailo, Shmahliy 1970, p. 148; Dzygovs'kyj 1993, p. 201 (first half of the 3rd century AD).

Ogorodnoe II T4G1 The tumulus appeared as a light yellow patch. Its current appearance is similar to tumulus 3. In the center of the tumulus.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: a depth of 1.05 m and dimensions of 2 x 0.70 m; at the base, the width of the pit narrowed to 0.60 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of the buried person was poorly preserved, but based on the remains, it can be determined that the deceased was positioned on their right side in a slightly curled position, with the head oriented toward the NNE. The left arm was bent at the elbow and directed with the palm facing the face (Fig. 117/1).

Funeral furniture:

Near the left temporal bone of the skull:

1. **Bronze earring**. (Fig. 117/4).

Throughout the pit, especially in the chest area of the deceased:

2. **Beads** (242 pcs.): similar to those from Tumulus 3.

At a depth of 45 cm from the upper edge of the pit:

3. **Silver mirror**: oval, with a hanging hole and a relief tamga ornament on the back. (Fig. 117/5).

At the feet of the deceased:

4. **Stone sharpener**: flat, rectangular, with indentations from sharpening tools.
5. **Hand-crafted pots** (2 pcs.). (Fig. 118/2, 4).
6. **Bowl**. (Fig. 118/3).
7. **Gray hand-crafted lid**. (Fig. 117/2).

8. **Gray hand-crafted cup**: filled with a whitish material. (Fig. 117/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Zagynailo, Shmahliy 1970, p. 148-149; Dzygovs'kyj 1993, p. 201 (first half of the 3rd century AD).

Ogorodnoe II T5G1 The tumulus was distinguishable on the surrounding field by a light yellow patch, with a diameter of approximately 14 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 0.95 x 1.60 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the fill of the pit, wooden remains were discovered, suggesting the presence of a wooden roof. The bottom of the burial pit was covered with a layer of vegetation. As the pit was cleaned from a depth of 80 cm to the bottom, scattered human bones were found.

Funeral furniture:

At various levels in the pit:

1. **Iron brooch**.
2. **Iron knife** (fragments).
3. **Gray hand-crafted pots** (2 pcs.): with incisions on their rims. (Fig. 118/6).
4. **Clay weight**. (Fig. 117/6).
5. **Gray hand-crafted lids** (2 pcs.). (Fig. 118/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Zagynailo, Shmahliy 1970, p. 149; Dzygovs'kyj 1993, p. 201 (first half of the 3rd century AD).

69. **Olănești, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova**

West of the village of Olănești, on a high plateau along the road between the district center of Căușeni and Belgorod-Dnestrovsk, there are a large number of tumuli. They form groups of 2 to 6 tumuli or are placed individually, sometimes at significant distances from each other. In 1960, the Scythian team investigated four small tumuli. Three of these belong to the Bronze

Age (tumuli No. 2, 3, and 4), while one is Sarmatian (No. 1). Tumulus No. 1 was part of a group of two tumuli (group No. 1).

Olănești T1G1 Its height was 1.10 m, and its diameter was approximately 28 m. The mound had an irregular semicircular shape, being strongly plowed, but the contours of the tumulus were quite clear. In the tumulus, mainly in the central part, fragments of Roman amphorae and isolated animal bones were found, which should be considered remains of a funeral banquet dedicated to the deceased (Fig. 119/1-2).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: irregular contours and large dimensions: 4.5 m from north to south and 4 m from west to east at its widest part, at its base, the pit narrowed considerably, having a width of only 1 m and a length of 4.5 m at a depth of 3.90 m from the top of the tumulus (2.80 m from the ancient horizon).

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and steps along the long walls

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: During the excavations, it was found that the western and eastern edges of the burial pit had been affected by a robbery pit. At a depth of 1.85 m from the top of the tumulus, in the filling of the pit, in the northeastern corner, a fragmented human skull was found. To the south and southeast of the skull was an accumulation of charcoal. From this depth, the composition of the soil in the pit changed significantly, with charcoal becoming an essential part of the filling. The layers of charcoal were densest in the lower part of the filling. At the base of the pit, a compact layer of charcoal and fragments of charred wood had a thickness of 0.35-0.40 m. At a depth of 3.70-3.72 m from the top of the tumulus, in the central and northern part of the pit, the bones of a person's legs were discovered, in a poor state of preservation, without signs of burning. At the bottom of the pit, at a depth of 3.90 m, near the northern wall, a human mandible was found.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Bronze plate** (small fragment).
2. **Glass vessels** (fragments from probably three vessels).
3. **Red-glazed vessel** (small fragment).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Melyukova 1961, p. 51-53, (2nd century AD); Grosu 1990, p. 76, (2nd century AD)

Olănești T16G1 The tumulus was periodically plowed but was visible in the field. The mound was circular in shape. The height was 2.1 m, with a current diameter of 40 m. Excavations revealed two Sarmatian culture graves. Grave was discovered at the center of the tumulus, at a depth of 1.7 m.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: The length at the upper part was 2.35-2.50 m, while at the lower part it was 2.40-2.70 m; the width at the upper part was 1.35-1.60 m, and at the lower part, it was 1.40-1.45 m. At a depth of 1.55 m from the upper edge, wide steps of 0.35-0.40 m were observed along the long sides of the pit.

Pit shape: an irregular trapezoidal shape, with sloping and uneven walls and steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the filling of the chamber, at various depths, scattered human bones were found, which were in very poor condition. Many of them had been broken in antiquity. This positioning of the bones is undoubtedly the result of looting. The discovery of a skull fragment in the northern part of the pit suggests that the buried individual was laid on their back, with their head oriented towards the NNE. At the level of the steps, the pit was covered with small logs (or boards?) up to 1.15-1.20 m long and up to 0.15 m wide. The wood was in very poor condition, but it was established that the covering consisted of approximately 17 logs (or boards). A fragment of a log (or board) was placed on the western step of the pit, parallel to the main burial chamber.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Bronze fibula**: heavily profiled, with a high pearl receptor and multi-spiral spring. L: 4.3 cm. (Fig. 120/2).
2. **Bronze belt end**: made of two plates secured with rivets. L: 6.4 cm; W: 1 cm. (Fig. 120/13).
3. **Bronze buckle**: oval, with preserved leather fragments. 2.2 x 1.5 cm.
4. **Iron plate**: mushroom-shaped, with traces of leather. Ø: 2.3 x 2.3 cm; H: 1 cm.
5. **Iron ring**: quadrilateral shape, with traces of wood. 3 x 3.4 cm. (Fig. 120/18).

6. **Iron rod**: inside a wood fragment, possibly from a knife or arrowhead. L: 1.8 cm.
7. **Bone plate** (for a bow): in poor condition. L: 18 cm; W: 1.4 cm.
8. **Iron semi-ring**: in poor condition, with traces of wood.
9. **Iron buckle**: round, with a tongue. 3.5 x 3.5 cm. (Fig. 120/16).
10. **Iron ring**: quadrilateral shape, with traces of wood. Similar to No. 5. 3.5 x 3 cm. (Fig. 120/21).
11. **Iron ring**: round, with a freely moving "L"-shaped hook. 3 x 3 cm. (Fig. 120/15).
12. **Bronze plates** (2 pcs.): square, joined by a rivet with a leather fragment between them. 1.2 x 1.2 cm and 0.7 x 0.7 cm.
13. **Iron object** (3 fragments): with traces of wood.
14. **Miniature bronze astragal**: with a hole through which an iron rod passes. 1.4 x 0.9 x 0.7 cm. (Fig. 120/6).
15. **Bronze plates** (2 pcs.): joined by rivets with a leather fragment between them.
16. **Iron fitting**: "C" shaped. L: 1.7 cm; W: 1 cm.
17. **Bronze belt end**: made of two plates.
18. **Bronze object**: perforated. 1.4 x 1.3 cm.
19. **Leather fragment**: from a belt.
20. **Bronze rivet**.
21. **Stone pendant**: with a central hole. 3 x 3 x 0.9 cm.
22. **Bronze plate**: with traces of rivets.
23. **Iron buckle**: in poor condition. 1.8 x 1.8 cm.
24. **Bronze plate**: from an unidentified object.
25. **Bronze ring**: oval, with a clip.
26. **Belt fragment**: decorated with two silver plates joined by rivets.
27. **Iron object**: miniature "padlock" shape, in poor condition. H: 3.5 cm; W: 2.7 cm. (Fig. 120/12).
28. **Astragal**: with one side polished. 3.2 x 2 x 1.7 cm. (Fig. 120/14).
29. **Bronze buckle**: with two bronze plates and preserved leather remnants. Buckle: 1.6 x 1.4 cm. (Fig. 120/10).
30. **Iron ring**: similar in shape and dimensions to No. 5, with traces of wood.
31. **Iron ring** (half): 1.7 x 1.7 cm; Section: 0.4 cm.
32. **Iron rod**: in poor condition. L: 3 cm; Section: 0.3 cm.
33. **Bronze bracelet**: similar to the iron ring No. 5.

34. **Iron objects** (12 pcs.): unclear.
35. **Iron object**: rectangular, elongated, with a square hole and traces of wood. L: 4.2 cm.
36. **Iron ring** (half): rectangular. L: 4.8 cm; W: 2.5 cm.
37. **Iron ring**: similar to No. 5, but slightly smaller. Poor condition.
38. **Bronze buckle**: with a tongue and clip. Buckle: 2.1 x 1.8 cm; Clip: 1.7 x 1.7 cm. (Fig. 120/11).
39. **Iron fittings** (4 fragments): from probably two fittings.
40. **Bronze rivet**: with a round head. Rod L: 0.9 cm; Head Ø: 0.6 cm.
41. **Iron ring**: in poor condition. 1.7 x 2 cm.
42. **Iron fitting**: with traces of wood. L: 7 cm.
43. **Bone bow cover/brace**: with a notch for the string. L: 27.5 cm; W at notch: 1.5 cm.
44. **Bone bow cover/brace**: similar to No. 43, likely a pair.
45. **Bone arrowhead**: with a lateral hole. L: 4 cm; DB: 0.9 cm. (Fig. 120/9).
46. **Iron arrowhead**: with three lobes. Total L: 3.8 cm. (Fig. 120/5).
47. **Iron dagger** (tip fragment): with traces of a wooden scabbard. L: 4.5 cm; W at fracture: 1.5 cm. (Fig. 120/3).
48. **Iron arrowhead**: with three lobes and shaft with wood traces. Total L: 4.5 cm; Arrowhead L: 2.5 cm.
49. **Iron arrowhead**: with three lobes and shaft, in poor condition. Total L: 2.8 cm. (Fig. 120/4).
50. **Amphora**: with an ovoid body. H: 47 cm; DM: 23 cm. (Fig. 120/7).
51. **Ceramic bowl** (Terra Sigillata): red glazed. H: 6 cm; DR: 14 cm. (Fig. 120/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj 1979, p. 42-48, fig. 90-91; Grosu 1990, p. 85-86, fig. 26, (late 2nd - early 3rd century AD); Dzygovs'kyj 1993, p. 201, (late 2nd - early 3rd century AD).

Olănești T16G2 was discovered in the central-west part of the tumulus at a depth of 1.7 meters.

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: The length of the pit at the upper part was 3.30-3.85 meters, while at the lower part it reached 4.20 meters, with a width of 2.0-2.25 meters at the upper part. The steps, with a width of 0.3-0.6 meters, were discovered at a depth of 1.45 m. The total depth of the grave was 2.27 meters.

Pit shape: an irregular rectangular shape with rounded corners and uneven sides, featuring steps along its length.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the filling and on the bottom of the burial chamber, various parts of the pit contained relatively well-preserved scattered human bones. This displacement of the bones was the result of looting, probably in antiquity. However, it was established that the deceased was laid in a supine position, with the head oriented towards the NNW.

Funeral furniture:

In the filling:

1. **Bronze ring**: small, made from flat wire with open ends. 1.2 x 0.7 cm.
2. **Iron buckle**: round, with a broken tongue. 3 x 3 cm.
3. **Silver applique**: with rhomboid ends and two rivets. L: 2.5 cm.
4. **Iron ring**: small, rectangular with open ends, possibly a belt ornament. 1.5 x 0.9 cm.
5. **Wooden fragment**: with a rivet that has two washers.
6. **Unidentified iron objects** (18 fragments).
7. **Iron plate**: with traces of wood and two rivets.
8. **Bronze rivet**: 0.7 x 0.2 cm.
9. **Astragal**: with one side polished.
10. **Iron arrowhead**: triangular. Total L: 4 cm; Arrowhead L: 2.5 cm.
11. **Wooden fragment** (possibly a knife handle): with a bronze rivet.
12. **Knife handle** (fragment).
13. **Large grey vessel** (10 fragments): wheel-made, ornamented with polished oblique lines (fir tree pattern).

At the western threshold:

14. **Unworked stone**: triangular shape. L: up to 42 cm; W: up to 22 cm.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Jarovoj 1979, p. 48-50, fig. 93, 95; Grosu 1990, p. 86 (late 2nd - early 3rd century AD);

70. **Opaci, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova**

Opaci T9G3 (Fig. 119/3-4a): It was 1 meter high and had a diameter of 24 meters. The tumulus was subject to annual agricultural work. The grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus, at a depth of 1.43 meters.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 3.68 x 2.2 m. At the 2.16 meters level, the pit had steps with a width of 0.5 meters. The dimensions of the pit at the base were 3.5 x 1 meter, and the depth from the step level was 0.98 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity, and the burial position could not be determined.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the pit, in the central part:

1. **Carnelian ornament** and **glass beads** (164 pcs.): round, in yellow, green, and reddish colors. (Fig. 121/4). **White beads** (4 pcs.): likely chalk, astragal-shaped. L: ~1 cm. (Fig. 121/4). **Gold foil applique** (6 fragments). (Fig. 121/4). **Bronze objects** (fragments). **Roman glass drinking vessel** (broken): spherical body, vertical thickened rim, and a double-ringed bottom. Greenish-yellow glass. (Fig. 121/2). **Terra Sigillata bowl** (upper part): conical, red-lacquered, with a profiled and flared rim. DR: 18 cm; Preserved H: 5.7 cm. (Fig. 121/3). **Conical fruit bowl**: small, with a wide opening and a flat, conical foot. H: 12.4 cm; DR: 18.6 cm; Foot Ø: 12.6 cm. (Fig. 121/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu, Demcenco 1990, p. 136-138, Fig. 1/1,2, (2nd century AD); Levițki, Demcenco 1986, p. 46-47

71. **Orlovka-Kartal, Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

Located on the left bank of the Danube Delta, the Kartal fortress was part of a fortification system (limes) that protected Lower Moesia and served as a foothold (R. D. Bondar 1984, p. 32). The main element of the system was the Roman castrum Noviodunum (in present-day Romania), situated on the opposite bank of the Danube but with a view of Kartal. A flat necropolis of the Sarmatian culture was discovered in the immediate vicinity of the Kartal

fortress, used in the 3rd century AD. It comprised graves of various forms: graves surrounded by ditches, ditches without graves in the middle, as well as graves without ditches. However, all the burials discovered in this cemetery shared an important feature, namely traces of intentional cranial deformation. Three graves were discovered between 2001 and 2003.

Orlovka-Kartal G1 (Fig. 121/6)

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Skeleton belonged to a woman aged 30-35. The deceased exhibited pronounced cranial deformation, with the head facing NNW.

Funeral furniture:

At the head:

1. **Gray pot**: wheel-made and decorated by polishing. (Fig. 121/8, 122/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Bruyako et al. 2009, p. 140.

Orlovka-Kartal G6

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: -

Funeral furniture:

1. **Sword**: with a ring-shaped handle. (Fig. 122/5).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Bruyako, Nosova 2021, p. 62.

Orlovka-Kartal G7 (Fig. 121/5)

Pit direction: S-N

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: It belonged to a child, with the head facing S.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Beads**. (Fig. 121/7).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Bruyako et al. 2009, p. 140.

Orlovka-Kartal G8

Pit direction: E-W

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Belonged to a child. A dog was also buried alongside. The head faced E.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Beads**.

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Bruyako et al. 2009, p. 140.

Orlovka-Kartal G27

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: -

Funeral furniture:

1. **Bronze buckle**: circular, with a movable pin. (Fig. 122/8).
2. **Polished item**: with a hanging hole. (Fig. 122/7).
3. **Iron knife**. (Fig. 122/6).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Bruyako, Nosova 2021, p. 62.

Between 2005 and 2007, four earthen constructions and one grave were discovered. Later, circular constructions also appeared (Bruyako, Nosova 2021).

Orlovka-Kartal, Trench no. 1-4

These consist of two types: rectangular oriented NE-SW and square with sides oriented toward the cardinal points. They had interrupted entrances.

Orlovka-Kartal, Trench no. 1 Partially researched (fig. 123/1).

Trench shape: a rectangular trench in plan

Orientation: oriented NE-SW

Interruption/Entrance: entrance facing NE

Trench dimensions: -

Funeral furniture:

At the entrance, in the northwest part of the long ditch, on both sides:

Ceramic complex:

a. **Interior Group**: includes three large handmade pots, a clay lid, and the mouth of a red clay amphora (type Zeest 80). (Fig. 123/3-6, 8).

b. **Exterior Group**: includes a pithoid-shaped amphora with a funnel-shaped mouth and white slip. (Fig. 123/7).

Orlovka-Kartal G40 was discovered inside the same ditch.

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased exhibited pronounced cranial artificial deformation.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Bruyako, Dzigovski 2008, p. 74-79.

Orlovka-Kartal G274

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Destroyed in antiquity. The skull exhibited artificial deformation.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Buckle**: pierced, with a pelta-shaped frame. (Fig. 122/9).
2. **Belt end**. (Fig. 122/10).
3. **Amber sword tip**. (Fig. 122/11).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Bruyako, Nosova 2021, p. 48-65 (late 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Orlovka-Kartal G298 (Fig. 123/1-2)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: The length of the grave pit was 205 cm with the step and 190 cm without it, while the width measured 115–135 cm and 80 cm, respectively. The maximum depth of the pit was 119 cm from the present-day surface, and its thickness varied from 25 to 35 cm, with the maximum depth of the step at 101 cm below the present-day surface, having a thickness of 15 to 20 cm.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape pit featured a stepped edge along two sides: one longer (SSE) and one shorter (E). Another semicircular step was located in the eastern wall of the main step, which is where grave **298a** was situated.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted, and the bones of the skeleton were scattered along the northern wall of the grave pit. The skull, along with the mandible, was thrown upwards during the looting and was found within the fill of the pit at the level where the outlines were observed. A skull was discovered along with its mandible. Below this, at the level of the bedrock (82–95 cm), an oval outline of the burial pit became apparent, indicating that the grave had been disturbed, likely due to looting.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Copper alloy buckle**: with a slightly trapezium-shaped frame and a rectangular plate attached with rivets. Frame: 8.5 × 3.4 cm; Plate: 8.0 × 2.0 cm. (Fig. 124/1, 126/1).
2. **Copper alloy strap end-fitting**: rectangular, decorated with an openwork pattern. 13.0 × 5.8 cm. (Fig. 124/2, 126/2).
3. **Silver buckle**: with an oval, angular frame and a rectangular, facetted plate. L: 4.0 cm; W: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 125/1, 126/3).
4. **Silver end fitting**: tongue-shaped and facetted. L: 6.2 cm; W: 1.5 cm. (Fig. 125/3, 126/5).
5. **Silver fitting**: small, open ring with tapering, flattened ends. Ø: 1.2 cm. (Fig. 125/2, 126/4).
6. **Copper alloy belt end-fitting**: tongue-shaped. L: 8.2 cm; W: 1.5 cm. (Fig. 125/4, 126/10).
7. **Copper alloy rings** (3 pcs.): small, suspended on circular loops. Ring Ø: 1.7 cm; Loop Ø: 1.1 cm. (Fig. 124/5, 8, 9, 126/11-13).
8. **Copper alloy fitting**: narrow, with a decorated loop. L: 4.3 cm; W: 0.8 cm. (Fig. 124/4, 126/9).
9. **Bimetallic fitting**: copper alloy ring and plates connected to an iron plate. Extant L: 6.0 cm. (Fig. 124/3, 126/8).
10. **Copper alloy fitting**: ribbon-like, fragmentarily preserved. L: 2.5 cm; W: 1.0 cm. (Fig. 124/7, 126/6).
11. **Copper alloy rivet** (fragment): with a plano-convex head. Ø: ~1 cm. (Fig. 124/6, 126/7).

12. **Iron buckle**: with a circular frame and partly preserved tongue. Ø: ~10 cm. (Fig. 125/5, 126/14).
13. **Clay spindle-whorl** (fragments, lost).

Approximately 2–2.5 m NE of grave 298a, at a depth of 20–30 cm below the present-day ground surface:

14. **Silver strap button**: shaped like a dog's head. L: 2.5 cm; H: 1.7 cm. (Fig. 125/6).

It is highly probable that this artifact belonged to the inventory of grave 298a.

Orlovka-Kartal, Trench No. 1 (Fig. 123/1). A circular ditch surrounded both graves. The ditch itself was very carelessly dug, with uneven bottom and side walls. Its outline became clear only at a depth of 80–90 cm.

Trench shape: a circular ditch in plan

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the northern part

Trench dimensions: 10–11 m in diameter, a depth 0,9-1,2 m with an average width of 1 m

Funeral furniture:

In the southern part of the ditch:

1. **Bronze fitting**: small. (Fig. 127/11).

In the eastern and southern parts of the ditch:

2. **Stone layer**: a compact layer of small and mid-sized stones, stretching over 3 meters in the upper fill.

Between the stones:

3. **Roman pottery** and fragments of **Roman roof tiles (?)**.

In two places at the bottom of the ditch:

4. **Horse skull remains** (short adult male): skull with left mandible found in the NW section; right mandible found in the S section.

In the northern part of the ditch and just outside it:

5. **Red-slip plates** (Terra Sigillata): several found, one reconstructed. (Fig. 127/10).
6. **Red clay jug** (fragment): with a broad handle. (Fig. 127/9).
7. **Amphora** (body sherd): red-brick-red color, with a grooved surface. (Fig. 127/8).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Bruyako et al. 2017, p. 233-264; Bruyako et al. 2018, p. 25-49.

Orlovka-Kartal G323

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skull showed signs of artificial deformation. The complex presents an interesting feature: the skeleton, which was found in situ, was missing the left tibia. However, this bone was not completely absent; it was found exactly 30–35 cm above where it would have been located had the anatomical integrity been preserved. Moreover, the bone was positioned in the same manner, horizontally and correctly. This ritualic feature has already been observed in two graves from the same cultural-chronological context—graves No. 323 and No. 537.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Handmade clay vessel**.
2. **Amphora** (fragmented): made of light clay. (Fig. 122/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Bruyako, Nosova 2021, p. 48-65 (late 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

In 2017, a Sarmatian grave containing a coin was discovered near the Roman fortification of Kartal. Along with this, the presented plan includes six graves (41, 274, 289, 312, 323, and 405) with artificially deformed skulls (Fig. 5, Bruyako, Nosova 2021). The authors noted that two more graves were discovered near grave 537, also with artificially deformed skulls and rich archaeological materials.

Orlovka-Kartal G537 (fig. 127/6)

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: outline of the pit could not be identified, depth of 1 m

Pit shape: outline of the pit could not be identified

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: It was partially destroyed in antiquity. The displaced bones were positioned directly over the bones of the rib cage. The skull exhibited artificial deformation and was oriented NW.

Funeral furniture:

At various depths, **Roman Coins** (5 pcs.):

1. **Denarius**: Marc Antony, 32-31 BC. Silver. 3.24 g, 17.8 mm. Obv: Galley right. Rev: LEG III, legionary eagle and standards. Type: RRC 544/15. (Fig. 127/1).
2. **Denarius**: Vespasian, 70-71 AD. Silver. 3.15 g, 15.3 × 18.1 mm. Obv: Laureate head right. Rev: TRI POT, Vesta seated left. Type: RIC 37. (Fig. 127/2).
3. **Denarius**: Nerva, 97 AD. Silver. 3.12 g, 18.0 mm. Obv: Laureate head right. Rev: AEQVITAS AVGVST, Aequitas standing left. Type: RIC 13. (Fig. 127/3).
4. **Denarius**: Antoninus Pius (for Faustina Senior), after 146-161 AD. Silver. 2.97 g, 18.0 mm. Obv: Bust of Faustina right. Rev: AETERNITAS, Aeternitas/Providence standing left. Type: RIC 351. (Fig. 127/4).
5. **Denarius**: Commodus, 192 AD. Silver. 2.37 g, 17.3 mm. Obv: Laureate head right. Rev: Victory walking left. Type: BMC IV, 329-330. (Fig. 127/5).

In the basin area:

6. **Boar tusk**: with a pierced hole. (Fig. 127/B).

On the pelvic bones:

7. **Iron rod**: small, thin.

Dating: The cultural-chronological position of grave No. 537 is determined by two factors: the first is the artificial deformation of the skull, and the second is the presence of five silver coins from the Roman period. The combination of these factors indicates that the grave belonged to the Sarmatian culture. Second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD.

References: Bruyako, Nosova 2021, p. 48-65 (late 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

72. **Pașcani, Criuleni District, Republic of Moldova**

During construction work, a Sarmatian grave was accidentally discovered near a tumulus.

Pașcani DG1

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: not observed, depth of 1.2 meters.

Pit shape: not observed

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was laid on their back, stretched out, with the head facing north-northeast.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Necklace** (93 beads): includes one large cylindrical chalk bead; 21 flat disc-shaped glass beads; four structured white glass beads; five opaque yellow glass beads; and 30 round amber beads. (Fig. 128/16-19).
2. **Cross-shaped beads** (2 pcs. and fragments): made of river shell. (Fig. 128/5-6).
3. **Bell**: pyramid-shaped, with an iron tongue and a top handle. H: 3.3 cm; DB: 1.7 cm. (Fig. 128/9).
4. **Pendant amulet**: circular, with a hanging ring and surrounding beads. Ø: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 128/14).
5. **Bronze pendant clasp**: composed of two telescoping tubes with a triangular ring joint. Decorated with hammered ornaments. Total L: 11.5 cm. (Fig. 128/15).
6. **Mirror**: circular, with a handle, relief border, and a central tamga sign on the reverse. (Fig. 128/7).
7. **Mirrors** (fragments of 2 pcs.). (Fig. 128/11-13).
8. **Spindle whorl**: truncated-conical, dark gray clay, with a slightly concave base. H: 3.3 cm; Ø: 4.4 cm. (Fig. 128/4).
9. **Pot**: poorly processed dark clay, with a decorated, everted rim and rounded basin. H: 12 cm; DR: 8 cm; DM: 10.2 cm; DB: 5.6 cm. (Fig. 128/10).

10. **Lid**: truncated-conical, dark gray, with a rough surface. H: 4.6 cm; Max Ø: 9.6 cm. (Fig. 128/3).
11. **Terra Sigillata jug**: thin, reddish, spherical with a flat, prominent base; handle broken. H: 8.3 cm; DR: 5 cm; DM: 7.8 cm; DB: 2.8 cm. (Fig. 128/8).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu 1983, pp. 31-35, fig. II/15,16; V (2nd century AD)

73. **Pererîta, Briceni District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1987, two tumuli near the village of Pererîta in the Briceni District were investigated under the direction of S. Kurceatov and E. Jarovoi.

Pererîta T2G13 (fig. 129/1): This tomb was discovered in the southeast sector of the tumulus, at a depth of 1.5 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.05 x 0.9 x 0.2 m. The step, with a width of 0.25-0.2 m along the long walls and 0.15-0.1 m along the short walls, measuring 1.9 x 0.45 x 0.15 m. The total depth of the pit was 0.35 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular-shaped grave pit had steps on all sides, chamber with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of an adult was found lying on its back, with the head towards the north. The right arm was slightly bent at the elbow. The left arm was straight. The legs were extended. Underneath the skeleton, a layer of decayed wood was found, likely remnants of a vegetal covering, with a longitudinal piece of wood preserved near the feet.

Funeral furniture:

At the right and left temples:

1. **Silver earrings** (pair): round wire with a hook and loop clasp and a decorative central loop. Ø: 2.2-2.5 cm; Wire Ø: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 129/2, 3).

On the neck and chest of the deceased:

2. **Necklace** (30 beads): includes various large and small barrel-shaped and round agate and carnelian beads, and one round black mineral bead. (Fig. 129/4).

On the wrists of both hands, **bracelet bead strings** (likely sleeve decorations):

3. **Right wrist**: 9 beads of amber, carnelian, and agate. (Fig. 129/6).
4. **Left wrist**: 6 beads of agate and carnelian. (Fig. 129/5).

At the ankles of the deceased:

5. **Egyptian faience beads** (114 pcs.): cylindrical, light turquoise. W: 0.2 cm; Ø: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 129/8).

Near the left knee:

6. **Bronze mirror**: with a rhomboid-shaped tamga sign; handle broken in antiquity. Ø: 5 cm; Th: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 129/7).

Near the left ankle:

7. **Gray jug**: wheel-made, single-handled, with a ring base and decorated with grooves and oblique lines. H: 9.8 cm; DR: 5 cm; DB: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 129/9).
8. **Handmade pot**: asymmetric, dark gray, with a high neck and decorated with finger impressions. H: 9.5-10 cm; DR: 6.6 cm; DB: 5 cm. (Fig. 129/10).

Under the head and cervical vertebrae:

9. **Fired clay plates** (3 fragments): gray to ash-colored. Largest fragment: 7 x 5.5 x 2.8 cm.

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Yarovoy, Kurchatov 1988, p. 58-60, fig. 40; Kurchatov 2006, p. 265-268 (1st century AD – early 2nd century AD)

74. **Pervomaisc (Ialpujeni or Marienfeld), Cimișlia District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1966, a Sarmatian skeleton was discovered in a leveled mound.

Pervomaisc T1G1 (fig. 130/1)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 1 x 1.5 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The bones were scattered, many were missing - ritual destruction (?) many goods remained intact. The skull and chest bones were primarily in the north, and the leg bones towards the south, suggesting the head was oriented north.

Funeral furniture:

At the right shoulder:

1. **Iron buckle**: small, oval-circular, with a thickened front part (a late Sarmatian characteristic). (Fig. 131/1).

At the feet:

2. **Iron buckles** (2 pcs.): one circular, one elongated circular. (Fig. 131/2, 3).
3. **Circular iron bits** (fragments). (Fig. 131/4-7).

At the basin:

4. **Iron knife** (fragments): with holes for rivets in the handle.

At the feet:

5. **Bronze ring**: semi-oval section.
6. **Light pink amphora**: with an elongated narrow neck and complex handles. Stamped on the shoulder with Greek letters in black and red paint. (Fig. 130/2, 131/10).
7. **Glass balsamarium**: rectangular, blue-green, with a cylindrical neck and decorated base. (Fig. 130/3, 131/9).

At the head:

8. **Glass unguentarium**: with a handle. (Fig. 130/4, 131/8).

In the filling:

9. **Ceramic fragments**: from reddish and gray pitchers and amphorae.

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Rikman, Hîncu 1970, fig. 1, 2, p. 35-37 (2nd century AD)**;** Rikman 1975, fig. 8/1-4, p. 20 (2nd century AD)**;** Grosu 1995, p. 154, (first half of the 2nd century AD)**;** Dzigovsky, Ostroverhov 2000, fig. 41/2, p. 128; Matveev et al 2023, p. 77, fig. 55

75. **Petrești, Ungheni District, Republic of Moldova**

Following archaeological research in 1986 in the village of Petrești, within the area of mound number 3, specifically in its western part, two Sarmatian "ritual" arrangements were discovered. These findings led to the uncovering of one of the largest Sarmatian flat necropolises in the Prut-Dniester space, comprising 34 graves, 32 commemorative structures, and 3 pits. In 1988, further excavations revisited some complexes from the previous dig, uncovering an additional 8 graves, 3 structures, and 2 pits. The cemetery was dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD by E.A. Iarovoi, V. Glazov, and S. Kurceatov.

With the aid of machinery (bulldozer), the chernozem layer (approximately 30-40 cm) was removed, allowing subsequent measures to be taken from the level of continental clay. The total surface area excavated that year was 33,650 m². The necropolis stretched in the NW-SE direction relative to the Prut River (Fig. 132/1).

Petrești, Trench no. 1 (Fig. 133/1): No burial was found inside the structure.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan with slightly rounded corners, in section, the trench had a triangular shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: 7.5x7.5 m, entrance width 1.4 m, depth 0.3-0.4 m, trench width 1.5 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the western corner of the structure:

1. **Object**: pseudo-square shape, pink paste, with a central lenticular depression. 18.5 x 18.5 cm; Th: up to 1.2 cm. (Fig. 133/2).
2. **Complex-shaped amphora handle** (fragment): light yellowish. (Fig. 133/3).
3. **Horse tooth**.

To the right of the entrance, within the trench fill, three handmade vessels were found:

4. **Handmade pot**: coarse paste, with a slightly flared rim and rounded body. H: 28 cm; DR: 17 cm; DB: 12 cm. (Fig. 133/6).

5. **Handmade pot**: paste with grog, with a slightly flared rim and rounded body. H: 28 cm; DR: 19 cm; DB: 10.5 cm. (Fig. 133/4).
6. **Handmade pot** (base): flat bottom with prominent edges and incised decoration. Ø: 12 cm. (Fig. 133/5).

At 8.2 m northwest of trench no. 1, at the level of continental clay, the following was uncovered:

7. **Gray jug**: wheel-made, single-handled, with bulging shoulders, a ring base, and a decorated neck. H: 20.5 cm; DR: 10 cm; DM: 16 cm; DB: 6.8 cm. (Fig. 134/2).

Petrești G1 (Fig. 133/7): It was discovered 80 cm from the northwest wall of Structure no. 1 and formed a single complex with it.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.20 x 0.80 x 0.80 m

Pit shape: rectangular with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a young woman, laid on her back with the head towards NNE, face up, arms stretched alongside the body, and legs extended. The fill consisted of dark gray clay-sand mixture, with traces of charcoal at the bottom.

Funeral furniture:

At the left foot of the deceased were found:

1. **Metal fragments** (4 pcs., possibly a knife?): heavily corroded. (Fig. 133/8).
2. **Freshwater mussel shell** (Unio pictorum). (Fig. 133/9).
3. **Terra Sigillata bowl**: conical, with an abrupt rim and slightly concave flat base. H: 6 cm; DR: 12.1 cm; DB: 4.8 cm. (Fig. 133/10).
4. **Handmade pot**: with a slightly flared rim and slightly bulging body. H: 15.5 cm; DR: 10.5 cm; DM: 12.4 cm; DB: 8.2 cm. (Fig. 133/12).
5. **Handmade lid**: truncated cone shape with a round handle. H: 6.7 cm; Ø: 10.7 cm. (Fig. 133/11).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 41-43, fig. 28/1-8; 29/1-6; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 2 (Fig. 134/1) was located 11 m north of Structure no. 1 with a burial in the center.

Trench shape: a round trench in plan, a triangular shape in section

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: diameter 10.75 m, entrance width 1.5 m, trench depth 0.3 m, trench width 0.75 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the trench:

1. **Cattle tooth**.

Petrești G2 (Fig. 134/3) It was discovered in the center of Structure no. 2.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 0.5 x 0.7 m

Pit shape: rectangular with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Cenotaph

Funeral furniture:

At the top of the grave:

1. **Glass bead**: melted. 1.2 x 0.9 cm. (Fig. 134/4).

Dating: It is dated to the period of the necropolis existence – 2nd-3rd centuries AD, based on the inventory of other graves.

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 43, fig. 30/1,4; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 6, 4.

Petrești, Trench no. 3 (Fig. 134/5) was located 1.9 m northwest of Structure no. 2 with a burial in the center.

Trench shape: a round trench in plan, a triangular shape in section

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwest part

Trench dimensions: diameter 10 m, entrance width 1.5 m, trench depth 0.25 m, trench width 0.75 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Light yellow amphora** (complex rim fragment). L: 5 cm.

Petrești G3 (Fig. 134/6) was discovered in the center of Structure no. 3.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.80 x 0.70 x 0.50 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a woman, and the grave was disturbed in antiquity, resulting in bones not retaining their anatomical position. The fill consisted of dark gray clay-sand mixture with traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

In the lower part of the burial chamber:

1. **Iron knives** (2 fragments) and another **iron object** fragment with a curved tip. (Fig. 134/8, 9).

In the grave fill:

2. **Handmade pot**: decorated with diagonal incised lines and a comb pattern. H: 15.7 cm; DR: 11 cm; DM: 13.2 cm; DB: 8.5 cm. (Fig. 134/10).
3. **Handmade pot**: decorated with small ovate motifs and a comb pattern. H: 18 cm; DR: 11 cm; DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 134/11).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 44-45, fig. 31/1-7; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 4 (Fig. 135/1) was located 2 m northwest of Structure no. 3. It featured a central burial and adjacent to it, on the northwest side, a semicircular shape forming a complex resembling the figure "eight".

Trench shape A: a round trench in plan, a triangular shape in section

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwest part

Trench dimensions: The diameter of the main structure is 9.5 m, entrance width 0.7 m, trench depth 0.5 m, trench width 0.8 m.

Trench shape B: a round trench in plan, a triangular shape in section

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwest part

Trench dimensions: The diameter of the semicircle is 7.5 m, trench depth 0.5 m, trench width 0.6 m. There was no passage to the tomb.

Petrești G4 (Fig. 135/2) was discovered in the center of Structure no. 4.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.80 x 0.60 x 0.65 m; The dimensions of the **niche**: 1.80 x 0.75 x 0.15 m. Total depth – 0.80 m.

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners, in the northwest wall a niche was discovered, which was destroyed in antiquity

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was disturbed in antiquity, with most bones found in the fill towards the entrance of the niche. The fill consisted of dark gray clay-sand mixture with traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

In the grave fill, towards the southwest part:

1. **Handmade pot**: with a rim decorated with dimples. DR: 15 cm; DB: 9 cm. (Fig. 135/3).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 45, fig. 30/2,3,5; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 5 (Fig. 135/4) It was located 13.5 meters southwest of construction No. 1. No burial was found inside the construction.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench with slightly rounded corners in plan

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the south part

Trench dimensions: 10.2x12.5 meters, the width of the entrance is 2.3 meters, the depth is 0.7 meters, and the width of the trench is 0.8 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Light yellowish amphora** (complex handle fragment). L: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 135/5).

Petrești G5 (Fig. 135/6) It was located 1.5-1.7 meters from the western wall of construction No. 5, forming a single complex with it.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.5 x 1.1 m, the depth of the niche was 0.45 m – total depth – 1.55 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners, and a niche was discovered along the western wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Cenotaph. The fill consisted of light yellowish clay, with traces of charcoal at the bottom of the niche.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 45-46, fig. 32/1-3; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD). Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 6 (Fig. 136/1) It was located 6.5 meters south-southwest of construction No. 5. The construction consisted 2 burials.

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: diameter 15.6 meters, the width of the entrance is 0.8 meters, the depth of the trench is 1.2 meters, and the width of the trench is 1.1 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the trench, on the right side of the entrance:

1. **Faunal remains**: cattle skull and a horse tooth.
2. **Handmade pot**: with a fairly slender body and slightly pronounced shoulders. H: 14 cm; DR: 10 cm; DM: 12 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 136/3).

In the fill of the trench, on the left side of the entrance:

3. **Sandstone polisher**: with a polished working part. L: 8.5 cm; Ø: 4.8 cm. (Fig. 136/5).
4. **Polisher**: made from an orange amphora handle. L: 6.2 cm; Ø: 3.8 cm. (Fig. 136/2).
5. **Thin pottery object**: orange. 14.5 x 6.8 x 2 cm. (Fig. 136/4).
6. **Light yellowish amphora** (2 fragments): including rim, neck, and a complex-shaped handle. Neck H: 19 cm; DR: 7.9 cm. (Fig. 137/1).
7. **Light yellowish amphora** (neck fragment). Ø: 2.8 cm. (Fig. 136/9).
8. **Light yellowish amphora** (neck fragment). Ø: 4 cm. (Fig. 136/8).
9. **Wheel-thrown pot** (base fragment). Ø: 8 cm. (Fig. 136/7).
10. **Glassy slag** (piece) and two **Bronze Age vessel** fragments.

Petrești G6 (Fig. 137/2) was discovered in the center of Structure no. 6.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.10 x 0.70-1.25 x 1.15 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners, in the northwest wall, a niche was discovered, which had been destroyed in antiquity

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: cenotaph

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 46-47, fig. 32/5; 33/1-7; 55/3; 94/1; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G7 (Fig. 137/3) was discovered in the northwest part of Structure no. 6 at the level of the continental clay layer.

Pit direction: SW-NE

Pit sizes: was not identified?

Pit shape: was not identified?

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a young woman (?), lying on her back with the head towards the southwest. The skull was facing upwards, arms extended along the body, and legs stretched out.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 48, fig. 32/4; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 7 (Fig. 137/4) It was located 8.5 meters northwest of construction No. 6. The construction consisted of a burial No. 8 in the center.

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: diameter 18 meters, the width of the entrance is 1 meter, the depth of the trench is 1.2 meters, and the width of the trench is 1.7 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the trench:

1. **Handmade pot** (fragments): globular shape, decorated with oblique incised lines and vertical appliques. DR: 17 cm; DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 137/6).
2. **Light yellowish amphora** (complex handle fragment). L: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 137/9).
3. **Handmade conical lid** (3 fragments): with cooking residues on the interior. Preserved H: 3.7 cm; Ø: 17 cm. (Fig. 137/5).

Petrești G8 (Fig. 137/7) was discovered in the center of Structure no. 7.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.40 x 1.70 x 1.10-1.50 m

Pit shape: rectangular with a niche in the northwest wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Cenotaph

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the grave:

1. **Iron knife blade** (fragment): feather-shaped. 2.2 x 1.4 x 0.3 cm. (Fig. 137/8).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 48, fig. 34/1-3; 35/5; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 9/5, 8.

Petrești, Trench no. 8 (Fig. 138/1) It was located 6.4 meters southwest of construction No. 7. No burial was found inside the construction.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench in plan with slightly rounded corners, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: 13x14.5 meters, the width of the entrance is 2.5 meters, the depth is 0.9 meters, and the width of the trench is 1-1.3 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the trench:

1. **Light yellowish amphora** (wall fragment from which a handle originated). (Fig. 138/2).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 48-49, fig. 35/1,4; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 9 (Fig. 138/3) It was located 2.9 meters southwest of construction No. 5 and consisted of a burial No. 9 in the center.

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: diameter of the construction is 9.9 meters, the width of the entrance is 1.2 meters, the depth is 0.4 meters, and the width of the trench is 0.5 meters.

Petrești G9 (Fig. 138/4) was discovered in the center of Structure no. 9.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.05 x 0.25 x 0.20-0.25 m; Dimensions of the niche: 2.05 x 0.80 x 0.30 m

Pit shape: rectangular-oval in shape with rounded corners and a niche in the northwest wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Cenotaph. Fill consisted of dark gray clay-sand mixture, with traces of charcoal found at the bottom of the niche.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 49, fig. 35/3,6; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 10 (Fig. 139/1) It was located 4.4 meters north of construction No. 9. No burial was found inside the construction.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench in plan with slightly rounded corners, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: corners oriented northwest-southeast

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: 12.3x14.9 meters, the width of the entrance is 2.2 meters, the depth is 0.9 meters, and the width of the trench is 1 meter.

Petrești G10 (Fig. 139/2) discovered 1.1 m west of Structure 10, forming a single complex with it.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.00 x 0.85 x 1.00 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a young female, disturbed in antiquity, with the chest and skull displaced towards the center of the grave. Only the left tibia with the tarsus and foot remained undisturbed, suggesting the deceased was laid on their back with the head oriented towards NNE. The fill consisted of dark gray clay-sand mixture with traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

Northeast part of the grave:

1. **Bone bead**: elongated, with perforation. L: 4 cm; W: 1.2 cm; Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 139/3).
2. **Necklace**: composed of 55 glass beads and one amber bead. (Fig. 139/4).

The feet of the deceased were covered with:

3. **Glass beads** (47 pcs.). (Fig. 139/5).

Western corner of the grave:

4. **Gray jug**: wheel-thrown, with rounded shoulders and body, decorated with dimples and oblique-vertical incisions. DR: 11 cm; DB: 7.7 cm. (Fig. 140/1).
5. **Terra Sigillata bowl**: with a wide mouth, rounded flared rim, and a low ring-shaped bottom. H: 10 cm; DR: 25.5 cm; DB: 9 cm. (Fig. 139/6).
6. **Handmade pot**: decorated with oblique-vertical lines across the body. H: 18.5 cm; DR: 10.9 cm; DM: 16.3 cm; DB: 6.3 cm. (Fig. 140/2).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 49-50, fig. 36/1-6; 95/1; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G11 (Fig. 138/5) discovered 14.7 m southwest of Structure no. 10.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.50 x 0.80 x 1.05 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was disturbed in antiquity, with small fragments of human bones found in the fill. The fill consisted of dark gray clay-sand mixture with traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

Scattered throughout the grave:

1. **Beads** (23 pcs.): 21 glass, 1 amber, and 1 bone. (Fig. 138/6).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 50-51, fig. 37/4,5; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 11 (Fig. 138/7) It was located 6.8 meters east of construction No. 5. No burial was found inside the construction.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan with slightly rounded corners, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: sides oriented to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the S part

Trench dimensions: 8.4x8.4 meters, the width of the entrance is 0.8 meters, the depth is 0.3 meters, and the width of the trench is 0.5-0.7 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Light yellowish amphora** (neck fragment). (Fig. 138/8).

Pit 1 (Fig. 138/9) was located 1 m north of Structure no. 11 and was part of the same complex.

The pit shape: oval in plan, **elongated** along the NE-SW axis with a step towards the NE sector. The **dimensions** of the pit were 1.5 x 1.1 m for the outer contour, with a step width of 0.2 m. The walls of the pit were vertical up to a depth of 50 cm, widening afterwards to reach the flat bottom with a diameter of 1.45 m and a total depth of 0.95 m.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Light yellow amphora** (fragment).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 50-51, fig. 37/1-6; 95/1; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 12 (Fig. 140/3) It was located 4 meters southeast of construction No. 11. No burial was found inside the construction.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan with slightly rounded corners, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: corners oriented to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: 9.5x9.5 meters, the width of the entrance is 2.5 meters, the depth is 0.2 meters, and the width of the trench is 0.4 meters.

Petrești G12 (Fig. 140/4), discovered 1-1.8 m northwest of Structure 12, forming a single complex with it.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.50 x 0.95 x 0.75 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a young male, lying on his back with the head towards NE. The skull was facing upwards, arms stretched along the body, and legs extended. The fill consisted of light gray clay-sand mixture with traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

At the left elbow:

1. **Glass bead**: cone-shaped, non-transparent white. W: 0.8 cm; Ø: 1.1 cm. (Fig. 140/7).

Along the right leg:

2. **Iron sword**: double-edged, with a ring-pommel and cross-guard; found in a wooden scabbard. Traces of yellow (?) paint on the handle. Total L: 48 cm; Blade L: 36.5 cm. (Fig. 140/8).

Near the skull:

3. **Gray jug**: wheel-thrown, with a pear-shaped body, ring base, and decorated with polished vertical lines. H: 14 cm; DR: 7 cm; DM: 13.5 cm; DB: 6.3 cm. (Fig. 140/6).

Near the right knee:

4. **Gray jug**: wheel-thrown, with an almost vertical rim, pear-shaped body, and tall ring base. H: 8 cm; DR: 5.8 cm; DM: 8.2 cm; DB: 4.4 cm. (Fig. 140/5).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 51-53, fig. 38/1-6; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Ritualic pit (no 13) (Fig. 141/2) contained a ritual burial of a horse skull. It was discovered in an **oval-shaped** plan and **bell-shaped profile pit**, located 13 m southwest of Structure 11. The walls were vertical for 20 cm, then widened towards the flat bottom of the pit. The fill consisted of dark gray clay-sand mixture with scattered smoothed clay patches, up to 4 cm thick. The diameter at the discovery level was 0.85 m, and at the bottom, it was 1.6 cm with a depth of 0.70 m. The horse skull with cervical vertebrae was placed in the center of the pit, lying on its left side with the muzzle towards SW.

Funeral furniture:

On the lower jaw:

1. **Iron knife blade** (fragment): feather-shaped cross-section, with imprints of a wooden handle. Preserved L: 4.3 cm. (Fig. 141/3).

In the southwest sector of the pit:

2. **Sandstone curler/whetstone**: irregularly shaped with a polished surface. L: 8.2 cm; W: 7.2 cm; Th: 1.6 cm. (Fig. 141/4).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 53, fig. 39/2,3; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 13, 3.

Petrești, Trench no. 13 (Fig. 141/1) It was located 2 meters west-southwest of grave 13. No burial was found inside the construction.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan with slightly rounded corners, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: corners oriented to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: on the southwest side

Trench dimensions: 11x11 meters, the width of the entrance is 1 meter, the depth is 0.3 meters, and the width of the trench is 0.5 meters.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 53, fig. 39/1; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 14 (Fig. 141/5) It was located 12.1 meters southeast of construction No. 12. Inside the construction, in the southern corner, a ritual burial of two horse skulls was discovered.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan with slightly rounded corners, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: corners oriented to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: on the southwest side

Trench dimensions: 9x9 meters, the width of the entrance is 2.2 meters, the depth is 0.3 meters, and the width of the trench is 0.3 meters.

Petrești, Ritualic pit (no 14) (Fig. 141/6) contained a ritual burial of two horse skulls. They were discovered in the southern corner intersection of the trenches of structure no. 14. The pit had a **complex shape**: circular in plan with a diameter of 0.90 m up to a depth of 0.75 m, then the walls narrowed to 0.85 m, and gradually widened towards the bottom (diameter 1.25 m), with a bi-truncated conical profile. The skulls were found at a depth of 0.90 m, placed at the same level. One skull was oriented with the muzzle towards NW, the other towards E. Maximum depth reached 1.30 m.

Petrești G15 (Fig. 141/7) discovered 0.4-0.6 m northwest of structure 14, forming a single complex with it.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.50 x 0.90 x 0.80 m

Pit shape: rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature woman, lying on her back with the head oriented towards NE. The skull was turned to the left side, arms stretched along the body, and legs extended. Brown ash was observed under the skeleton, and a layer of brown burnt clay was observed on the left radius bone of the hand. The fill consisted of light gray clay-sand mixture with traces of charcoal at the bottom.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the grave:

1. **Bronze earring**: circular, made from round wire with a loop and hook fastening. Ø: 2 cm; Wire Ø: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 141/9).

The feet of the deceased were covered with:

2. **Glass beads** (31 pcs.). (Fig. 141/8).

On the chest:

3. **Silver mirror**: with a chain and a complex star-shaped tamga sign on the reverse. Ø: 4.2 cm. (Fig. 141/10).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 53-55, fig. 40/1-5; 94/2; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 15 (Fig. 142/1) It was located 10.5 meters northeast of construction No. 14 and consisted of a burial in the center.

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: 15.8 meters in diameter, the width of the entrance is 1 meter, the depth is 0.9 meters, and the width of the trench is 1.5 meters.

Petrești G16 (Fig. 142/2) was discovered in the center of structure no. 15.

Pit direction: SE-NW

Pit sizes: 2.35 x 0.95-1.30 x 1.20 m

Pit shape: rectangular shape with rounded corners and a niche in the northwest wall, which was destroyed in antiquity

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was disturbed in antiquity, and only thigh bones were found in the grave fill.

Petrești G17 (Fig. 142/3) was discovered 8.8 m east of structure 15.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.9 x 1.25 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was disturbed in antiquity, with all bones displaced to the center of the grave.

Funeral furniture:

Among the fill and among the bones:

1. **Handmade pot** (fragments): with a conical neck, decorated with oblique incised lines and vertical comb-made lines. H: 18 cm; DR: 12.5 cm; DM: 15 cm; DB: 7.5 cm. (Fig. 142/4).

In the western corner:

2. **Handmade pot** (rim and neck fragment): decorated with vertical comb-made lines. Neck H: 6.3 cm; DR: 12.5 cm. (Fig. 142/5).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 55-56, fig. 41/2,4,5; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 16 (Fig. 142/6) It was located 8.6 meters southeast of construction No. 15. In the construction, a pit and a burial were discovered.

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: 17 m in diameter, the width of the entrance is 1 m, the depth is 0.9 m, and the width of the trench is 1.2 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Handmade vessel** (base fragment). Ø: 9 cm; Preserved L: 5.4 cm. (Fig. 142/10).

Pit 2 (Fig. 42/1) intersected the trench of structure no. 16 in the west. It had a **circular shape** in plan with a flat bottom, diameter of 1.9 m, and depth of 1 m.

Petrești G18 (Fig. 142/9) was discovered in the center of structure no. 16.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.95 x 1.25 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was disturbed in antiquity, with the skull and leg bones displaced to the northeast part of the grave where the intervention was observed. At the northeast part of the grave up to a depth of 75 cm, a trapezoidal intervention profile was observed, most likely left by looters.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Iron sword/dagger** (blade fragments): with a lenticular section. Preserved L: 5.8 cm; W: 2.3 cm; Th: 0.6 cm. (Fig. 142/7).
2. **Scabbard end**: iron, with a conical notch and impressions of wooden fittings. L: 4.8 cm. (Fig. 142/8).

3. **Faunal remains**: a large horned animal bone.

Pit 3 (Fig. 143/1) was located 0.3 m east of structure no. 16. It had **a circular plan** and a conical section. The diameter at the discovery level was 1.6 m, bottom diameter 1.8 m, and depth 1.5 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the southeast part of the pit:

1. **Horse remains**: fragments of a lower jaw and part of a skull.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 56-57, fig. 42/1-6; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 14, 9.

Petrești, Trench no. 17 (Fig. 143/5) It was located 20 meters southwest of construction No. 14. Inside the construction, 2 pits and 2 Bronze Age burials were discovered.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan with slightly rounded corners, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: corners aligned to the cardinal points (with slight deviations)

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: 12x12.5 meters, the width of the entrance is 2.2 meters, the depth is 0.3-0.4 meters

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 57; Glazov, Kurceatov 1989, p. 1 fig. 2/1; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 18 (Fig. 144/1) It was located 38 meters south of construction No. 16.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan with slightly rounded corners, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the south part

Trench dimensions: 11.6x11.9 meters, the width of the entrance is 2.2-1.2 meters (narrowing towards the interior), the depth is 1.5 meters, and the width of the trench is 2.3 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Sandstone whetstone**: oval-shaped. 12 x 8.5 x 3.4 cm. (Fig. 144/4).
2. **Burnisher**: made from a complex handle of a pink amphora. L: 10 cm. (Fig. 144/3).
3. **Burnisher**: made from the handle of a yellowish amphora, with working marks on both ends. L: 7 cm. (Fig. 144/9).
4. **Amphora handle**: pink, with an oval cross-section. L: 4.3 cm. (Fig. 144/10).
5. **Light yellow amphora handles** (5 fragments): complex shape. (Fig. 144/5-8, 11).
6. **Light yellow amphora** (2 wall fragments).
7. **Smoking vessel**: spherical, with a flat bottom and a horizontal row of holes below the rim. H: ~5.5 cm; DR: 6 cm. (Fig. 144/2).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 57-58; fig. 43/1-3, 5-7, fig. 44/1-5; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 16, 3.

Petrești, Trench No. 19 (Fig. 145/1**)** It was located 10 meters north of construction No. 18 and was formed by two burials, one in the center and another in the southern sector of the construction, right in front of the entrance.

Trench shape: a round trench in plan, a triangular cross-section

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: Diameter of the construction is 15 meters, width of the entrance is 0.7 meters, depth of the trench is 0.8-1 meter, and width of the trench is 1.2 meters.

Petrești G20 (Fig. 145/2) was discovered in the center of structure no. 19.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.6 x 1.25 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was disturbed in antiquity, and only a few skull fragments and a tibia were found in the fill.

Funeral furniture

On the bottom of the grave**:**

1. **Pink ochre** (piece).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 58-59; fig. 45/1,3; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 20 (Fig. 145/4) It was located 4.9 m SSW of construction No. 18 and consisted of a burial in the center.

Trench shape: a round trench in plan and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: 9.3 m, the width of the entrance is 5.5 m, the depth of the trench is 0.5 m, and the width of the trench is 0.7 m

Funeral furniture:

1. **Hand-crafted vessel** (rim and wall fragments). DR: 9 cm. (Fig. 145/5).

Petrești G22 Fig. 145/6) was discovered in the center of structure no. 20.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 0.6 x 0.85 m. The niche measured 1.65 x 0.55 m, with a depth of 0.05 m from the entrance and a total depth of 0.9 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners, and an oval-shaped niche was discovered towards the northwest wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was disturbed in antiquity, with only a few fragments of bones from hands and feet found in the fill. The skull was missing.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 59; fig. 45/4,5; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 21 (Fig. 145/7) It was located 4.8 m SSW of construction No. 20 and consisted of a burial in the center.

Trench shape: a round trench in plan in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points, with rounded corners

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: 11.8-12.4 m, the width of the entrance is 0.8 m, the depth of the trench is 0.7 m, and the width of the trench is 1 m.

Petrești G23 (Fig. 145/8) was discovered in the center of structure no. 21.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.7 x 1.25 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was disturbed in antiquity, with the bones displaced towards the northeast side of the grave. The skull was missing.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Iron piece** (fragment): with traces of wood. 2.2 x 1.5 x 0.7 cm. (Fig. 145/9).
2. **Handmade vessel** (3 wall fragments).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 59-60; fig. 46/1,3; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 17/9.

Petrești, Trench no. 22 (Fig. 145/10) It was located 30 m SW of construction No. 8. No burial was found inside the construction.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan with slightly rounded corners and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: 14.5x14.5 m, the width of the entrance is 0.8 m, the depth is 0.5 m, and the width of the trench is 0.7 m

Funeral furniture:

In the fill of the trench on the right and left of the entrance:

1. **Light-yellow amphorae** (fragments): narrow-necked; one restored, one neck fragment. H: 30 cm; DR: 3.4 cm; DB: 2.4 cm (for restored vessel). (Fig. 145/11).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 60; Glazov, Kurceatov 1989, pp. 4-5, fig. 4/1,2; (2nd-3rd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 23 (Fig. 146/1) It was located 35 m west of construction No. 8. No burial was found inside the construction.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench in plan with slightly rounded corners and a triangular cross-section

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: 14.1x15.1 m, the width of the entrance is 2 m, the depth is 0.5-0.7 m, and the width of the trench is 0.7 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the right part of the entrance in the fill of the trench:

1. **Horse skull**.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 60; fig. 51/1; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G24 (Fig. 146/2) was discovered 8.9 m southwest of structure no. 23.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.75 x 0.7 x 0.6 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an elderly mature man, laid on his back with the head towards the northeast. The skull faced to the left, the right hand was bent at the elbow and placed on the femur, and the left hand was alongside the body with legs extended. The fill consisted of dark gray clay-sand mixture with traces of coal.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right femur:

1. **Iron knife**: curved-back, with traces of a wooden handle. Total L: 7.8 cm. (Fig. 146/6).
2. **Clay spindle whorls** (3 pcs.):
    a. **Cone-shaped**: H: 4.2 cm; DB: 5.1 cm. (Fig. 146/3).
    b. **Mushroom-shaped**: H: 4 cm; DB: 4.7 cm. (Fig. 146/4).
    c. **Mushroom-shaped**: H: 3.5 cm; DB: 4.3 cm. (Fig. 146/5).
3. **Freshwater mussel shells** (3 pcs., Unio pictorum). (Fig. 146/7-9).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 60-61; fig. 47/1-8; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G25 (Fig. 145/3) was discovered 0.4 m northwest of structure no. 24.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.35 x 0.95 x 0.8 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an elderly mature man, disturbed in antiquity with bones displaced towards the northeast of the grave; the skull was missing. The fill consisted of dark gray clay-sand mixture with traces of ashes.

Funeral furniture:

In the southwest corner:

1. **Bronze buckle**: with an oval frame and elongated rectangular clasp. Buckle: 1.8-2 cm; Clasp L: 1.2 cm. (Fig. 146/10).
2. **Bronze buckle clasp (?)**: L: 2.4 cm; W: 1 cm; Th: 0.1 cm. (Fig. 146/11).
3. **Iron knife** (fragments): with traces of a wooden handle and a triangular blade section. L: 10.8 cm; W: 2 cm. (Fig. 146/12).

In the southern corner of the grave:

A gray pitcher containing a glass vessel covered with an overturned bowl:

4. **Terra sigillata bowl**: with an invaded rim and ringed bottom; shows ancient repairs. H: 9.2 cm; DR: 25.3 cm. (Fig. 147/1).
5. **Gray pitcher**: wheel-made, with a pear-shaped body and ringed bottom. H: 15.5 cm; DR: 9.8 cm; DM: 13.7 cm. (Fig. 147/2).
6. **Glass aryballos**: transparent, with a rounded form, cylindrical neck, and two triangular-section handles. Reconstructed H: 6.8 cm. (Fig. 146/13).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 61-62; fig. 48/1-6; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 18, 14.

Petrești G26 (Fig. 147/3) was discovered 7 m southwest of structure no. 23.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 0.95 x 0.5 x 0.3 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an infant of infancy I age, with only a few skull fragments found in the northeast part of the grave.

Funeral furniture:

In the center of the grave:

1. **Bronze bell**: bell-shaped with a hole in the dome. H: 1.6 cm; DB: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 147/4).

2. **Bone object (?)**.
3. **Handmade clay pot**: with an everted rim and bulging shoulders. H: 11.5 cm; DR: 9.3 cm; DB: 7 cm. (Fig. 147/5).

Near the northeast wall:

4. **Gray pitcher**: wheel-made, with a bi-truncated-conical body and ringed bottom. H: 7.5 cm; DR: 5.6 cm; DM: 7.5 cm. (Fig. 147/6).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 62-63; fig. 46/2,4-6; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G27 (Fig. 147/7) was discovered 18.7 m southwest of grave 26.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 0.85 x 0.7 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a child aged 9-11 years, disturbed in antiquity with bones displaced towards the eastern part of the grave. The fill consisted of dark gray clay-sand mixture with traces of charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the grave in the southwest part:

1. **Bronze buckles** (2 pcs.): with a circular link and decorated with facets. 1.9-1.5 cm. (Fig. 147/8).
2. **Astragali** (3 pcs.): unprocessed. (Fig. 147/9).
3. **Iron knife** (fragments): with traces of a wooden handle. Total L of fragments: 13.1 cm. (Fig. 147/10).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 63; fig. 49/1-5; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G28 (Fig. 147/11) was discovered 9.3 m southwest of grave 27.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.55 x 0.6 x 0.4 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was absent, with only one human bone found in the fill.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the grave in the southeast part:

1. **Bronze amulet**: miniature axe-shape with a suspension hole. L: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 147/12).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 63-64; fig. 49/6,7; (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st - early 2nd centuries AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G29 (Fig. 148/1) was discovered 8 meters to the NNV of grave 26.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 0.85 x 0.9 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners the walls were slanted, and the bottom was flat.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a young man, disturbed in antiquity, with bones and skull fragments scattered throughout the grave.

Funeral furniture:

In the center of the grave:

1. **Bronze plate** (fragment). 1.6 x 1 cm. (Fig. 148/3).

In the SV part:

2. **Sword/dagger** (2 fragments): double-edged, iron, in a wooden sheath. Preserved L: 8.6 cm. (Fig. 148/5).
3. **Iron ring** (fragments): Ø: 6 cm; Section Ø: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 148/2).

4. **Gray jug** (lower part): wheel-thrown, with a ring base and a vertically polished neck. Preserved H: 12 cm. (Fig. 148/4).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 64; fig. 50/1-4,8; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 24 (Fig. 148/6) was located 12.7 m to the NW of grave 29. No burials were found inside the structure.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench with slightly rounded corners in plan and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Dimensions of the structure: 17.5 x 21 m, entrance width 2.5 m, depth 1 m, trench width 1 m.

Petrești, Ritualic pit (no. 30) (Fig. 148/7) was a ritual pit discovered in front of the entrance to structure No. 24, forming part of the same complex.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.25 x 0.8 x 0.3 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Traces of burning measuring 0.65 x 0.75 m and 0.10 m in thickness were observed in the NNV part of the grave, covered with three layers of ash. The fill consisted of dark gray sandy clay with ash interspersed with wood charcoal at the bottom.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 64-65; fig. 50/7; 51/2; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G31 (Fig. 148/8) was discovered 14.5 meters to the NE of structure No. 24.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.7 x 0.75 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners the walls were slanted, and the bottom was flat.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a young man aged 18-20 years, disturbed in antiquity, with most bones displaced to the southern part of the grave.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the grave:

1. **Iron beads** (2 pcs.): with openings. Ø: 2 cm. (Fig. 148/9-10).
2. **Iron buckle** (fragment): with the tongue stuck. Preserved L: 2.6 cm. (Fig. 148/12).
3. **Iron object** (fragment): unknown, heavily corroded, rectangular. L: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 148/11).

In the fill, the following were found:

4. **Amphora** (2 neck fragments): light yellowish. Ø: 5 cm..

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 65; fig. 50/5,6,9,10; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 20, 12.

Petrești, Trench no. 25 (Fig. 149/1) was located 17 meters to the NNE of grave 31. It consisted a burial in the center.

Trench shape: a round trench in plan and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: diameter 12.5 m, entrance width 1.8 m, trench depth 0.6 m, trench width 1 m

Funeral furniture:

1. **Light yellowish amphora** (wall fragment).

Petrești G32 (Fig. 149/2) was discovered in the center of structure No. 25.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.25 x 0.6-0.75 x 0.75 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a young woman, disturbed in antiquity, with all bones displaced to the SV part of the grave.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Iron knife (?)** (3 fragments). Total L: 6.9 cm. (Fig. 149/3).
2. **Handmade pot**: with a decorated rim and body with incised comb decoration. H: 15 cm; DR: 9.9 cm; DM: 11.8 cm. (Fig. 149/6).
3. **Handmade lid**: truncated cone shape with a concave rounded handle and incised comb decoration. H: 8.2 cm; Ø: 11.5 cm. (Fig. 149/4).
4. **Handmade vessel** (thin bottom fragment). Preserved H: 4.5 cm; Ø: 9 cm. (Fig. 149/5).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 66; fig. 51/4-8; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 21/5.

Petrești, Trench no. 26 (Fig. 149/8) was located 3.9 meters to the NW of grave 31. The structure consisted a burial in the SE sector.

Trench shape: a trapezoidal trench with slightly rounded corners in plan and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: NW-SE axis

Interruption/Entrance: in the NE and NW parts

Trench dimensions: length 35 m, width 7.5-9.5 m, entrance width from NE 12 m, entrance width from NW 4 m, trench depth 0.3 m, trench width 0.5 m

Funeral furniture:

Discovered in the SE sector of the trench:

1. **Stone grinder**: circular, with a concave working part. 30-26.5 cm. (Fig. 149/9).

Petrești G33 (Fig. 149/10) was discovered in the SE part of structure No. 26.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.65 x 0.75-0.85 x 1.1 m the niche had been destroyed in antiquity, was oval in plan, dimensions 2.65 x 1 m, depth from entrance 0.25 m, total depth 1.35 m.

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners and a niche in the NW wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a young man aged 18-20 years, disturbed in antiquity, with bones scattered throughout the bottom of the grave.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Glass beads** (2 pcs.): one small, brown, bi-partite; one flat, rounded with a star image on a green background. (Fig. 150/2-3).
2. **Bronze sewing needle**: with an eye. L: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 150/1).
3. **Iron scissors**: with a spring. Total L: 11.4 cm. (Fig. 150/6).
4. **Pink ochre** (piece).
5. **Handmade vessel** (thickened rim fragment): with incised ornaments on the neck. (Fig. 150/4).
6. **Gray wheel-thrown jug** (2 fragments): with traces of repairs on the body. Preserved H: 6.5 cm; DR: 9 cm. (Fig. 150/5).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 66-68; fig. 52/1-7, 95/2; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 22/5.

Petrești, Trench no. 27 (Fig. 150/7) was located 5.3 meters NW from the edge of structure No. 26. It consisted a burial in the center.

Trench shape: a round trench in plan and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Dimensions of the structure: diameter 13 m, entrance width 1 m, trench depth 0.9 m, trench width 1 m.

Petrești G34 (Fig. 150/8) was discovered in the center of structure No. 27.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 0.8 x 1.1 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature man, disturbed in antiquity, with bones displaced to the NE part of the grave.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Gray dish** (fragment): wheel-thrown, with a vertical, inwardly bent rim and a body decorated with polished oblique grooves. DR: 16 cm. (Fig. 150/9).
2. **Handmade vessel** (bottom part): with a flat bottom. Preserved H: 3.7 cm; DB: 5 cm. (Fig. 150/10).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 68; fig. 53/1,2,4; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 22/10.

Petrești, Trench no. 28 (Fig. 150/11) was located 0.3 meters NW of structure No. 27. No burial was found inside the structure.

Trench shape: a square trench with slightly rounded corners in plan and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: 7x7 m, entrance width 1.5 m, trench depth 0.5 m, trench width 0.7 m.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 68; fig. 53/3; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 29 (Fig. 150/12) was located 5 meters NNE of structure No. 27. No burial was found inside the structure.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan with slightly rounded corners and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with corners oriented towards the cardinal points (with minor deviations)

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: 9x9.5 m, entrance width 1.5 m, trench depth 0.6 m, trench width 0.6 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the trench fill:

1. **Handmade vase** (fragments): tulip-shaped, with thin walls, bulging shoulders, and a flat bottom. Reconstructed H: 8.5 cm; DR: 6 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 151/2).
2. **Handmade lid**: truncated cone shape with a concave rounded handle. H: 7.5 cm; Ø: 11.5 cm. (Fig. 151/1).
3. **Light yellow amphora**: DR: 8 cm; DM: 62 cm; DB: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 151/4).
4. **Pink amphora** (rim fragment). Ø: 13 cm. (Fig. 151/3).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, pp. 68-69; fig. 54/1-5; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 30 (Fig. 151/6) was located 5.9 meters east of structure No. 29. No burial was found inside the structure.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench in plan with slightly rounded corners and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with sides oriented towards the cardinal points (with minor deviations)

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: 10x11 m, entrance width 1.1 m, trench depth 0.7 m, trench width 0.7 m

Funeral furniture:

In the NE part of the trench:

1. **Necklace**: composed of 21 rounded glass beads. (Fig. 151/5).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 69; fig. 55/1,2; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 31 (Fig. 149/8) was located in the eastern part of structure No. 25.

Trench shape: in plan unknown and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: oriented along the NW-SE axis, with the SE side rounded, intersected by a pit

Interruption/Entrance: -

Trench dimensions: length up to the corner - 13.5 m, then 2.5 m, width 0.6 m, depth 0.3 m

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 69; fig. 51/3; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 32 (Fig. 152/1) was located 21.5 meters east of structure No. 25. The SE part of the trench intersected a grave of the Sântana de Mureș - Černjachov culture. No burial was found inside the structure.

Trench shape: a square trench in plan with slightly rounded corners and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: 7.2x7.5 m, entrance width 1.3 m, trench depth 0.4 m, trench width 0.5 m

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 70; fig. 53/5, (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G35 (Fig. 152/3)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.75 x 0.95-1.1 x 0.32 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature individual lying on their back with the head oriented towards the NE, face up. The arms were extended alongside the body, and the legs were straight. The skeleton was poorly preserved, missing cervical vertebrae, hands, and feet bones.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Glazov, Kurchatov 1989, p. 5, fig. 9/2; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 33 (Fig. 152/4) was located 35 meters SE of structure No. 32. It consisted a burial No. 36 in the center. Around the perimeter of the structure, there were 4 more graves and a small pit.

Trench shape: a round trench in plan and in cross-section a trapezoidal shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: 9.5 m, entrance width 1.1 m, trench depth 0.4 m, trench width 0.5 m

Petrești G36 (Fig. 152/5) was discovered in the center of structure No. 33.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 0.7 x 0.5 m, the dimensions of the niche were 2.1 x 0.5 m, with a depth of 0.15 m from the entrance and a total depth of 0.65 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature individual, heavily disturbed in antiquity. Only fragments of the skull and two shoulder bones were found in the southern part of the grave.

Petrești G62[22] (Fig. 152/6)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.45 x 1.15 x 1.05

[22] It comes from the numbering in the SM-C necropolis that was excavated on the territory of Petrești in the vicinity.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of a mature man was heavily disturbed in antiquity. Bones were concentrated in the fill and at the bottom, predominantly in the central part of the burial chamber. Traces of vegetable decomposition were observed at the bottom. The eastern wall and the southern part of the burial chamber were disturbed by a late semicircular pit measuring 1.9 x 0.45 x 0.5 m.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the southeast part of the burial chamber:

1. **Double-edged iron sword** (small fragments): with a ring-shaped pommel. (Fig. 152/8).

In the middle part of the burial chamber, under the eastern wall:

2. **Wheel-thrown jug**: single-handled, with a tall cylindrical neck and flat bottom. Reconstructed H: ~17 cm; DR: 7 cm; DB: ~8 cm. (Fig. 153/1).

In the southwest corner of the grave:

3. **Handmade jug** (upper part fragments): with a rounded handle loop and slightly flared rim. Preserved H: 10 cm; DR: 11 cm. (Fig. 153/2).

In the southeast corner of the grave:

4. **Wheel-thrown vessel** (fragments): upper part not preserved; has a slightly concave bottom with a protrusion. Preserved H: 17 cm; DB: 9 cm. (Fig. 152/7).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 109-110, fig. 80/7; (2nd-3rd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 24, 7-9, 25, 1,2.

Petrești G66 (Fig. 153/3)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.25 x 0.35-0.9 x 0.1-0.15 m. The niche had a width of 0.6-1 m and a depth of 0.8 m with a height of 0.45 m

Pit shape: a rectangular pit with long rounded walls and a shallow niche in the NW part of the pit

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of a child aged 2-4 years was disturbed in antiquity. The skull and small bone fragments were displaced to the NE part of the burial chamber.

Funeral furniture:

In the southern corner:

1. **Handmade pot** (fragments): decorated with finger impressions on the rim and three horizontal incrustations on the shoulder. H: 12.7 cm; DR: 9.6 cm; DB: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 153/4).

Petrești, Pit 7 (Fig. 152/2) intersected the trench of structure No. 33 on the western side. It was circular in plan with a lenticular bottom. Diameter was 0.4 m and depth was 0.3 m.

Funeral furniture:

The fill contained:

1. **Horse bones** (12 fragments).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 70; Glazov, Kurceatov 1989, pp. 5-7, fig. 5/1, 5, 6/6; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 25/4, 24/2.

Petrești G81 (Fig. 153/5).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 0.8-0.75 x 0.7 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal pit

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of an adult was disturbed in antiquity. Only a few fragments of the pelvis and a heel were found in the fill. The bottom of the burial chamber was covered with wood charcoal, which was also found in the pit fill.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Handmade pot** (upper part fragments): with a straight rim decorated with oblique notches and a funnel-shaped neck. DR: 12 cm. (Fig. 153/6).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 117, fig. 86/6, 7; (2nd-3rd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 25/5, 6.

Petrești G56 (Fig. 153/9)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.75 x 0.25 x 1.25 m. The oval-shaped niche measures 2 m in length, 0.55 m in width, with a depth relative to the main pit of 0.15 m and a height of 0.4 m. The total depth of the burial chamber is 1.4 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular pit with short rounded walls and a niche in the northwest wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of an adult woman was disturbed in antiquity, with the skull missing. The ribs and leg bones were concentrated in the middle and northeast part of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the northeast part of the burial chamber:

1. **Beads** (3 pcs.): two rounded white glass (colored red and orange) and one cylindrical, opaque golden-colored glass fragment. (Fig. 153/7).
2. **Iron object**: heavily corroded, resembling a tool, with traces of a wooden handle. Total L: 2.8 cm. (Fig. 153/8).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 105-106, fig. 79/4,5,7; (2nd-3rd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 25/7-9.

Petrești, Trench no. 34 (Fig. 154/1): The construction consisted a burial no. 41 in the center.

Trench shape: a round trench in plan and in cross-section a triangular shape

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: Diameter 7-7.7 m, entrance width 0.5 m, trench depth 0.3 m, trench width 0.4 m.

Petrești G41 (Fig. 154/2): Discovered in the center of construction no. 34.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.7 x 0.50-0.75 x 0.43 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners. The walls are vertical, with the bottom slightly rising towards the NE wall.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the northeast part, signs of looting were found in the form of a rectangular intervention (1.85 x 1.85 x 0.15 m). The skeleton belonged to a mature person, disturbed in antiquity. Unaffected were the bones of the right hand, hip bones, and leg bones. Judging by their position, the deceased was laid on their back with the head oriented towards the NE. The right hand is extended along the body, the right leg slightly bent, and the left leg bent more, with the knees to the right. The sole of the right foot is missing, while the rest of the bones are in the looter's fill.

Funeral furniture:

At the left foot:

1. **Clay spindle whorl**: pear-shaped with bowl-like indentations, black-grey. H: 3 cm; Ø: 1.5 cm (top) and 3 cm (bottom). (Fig. 154/3).

In the pit left by the looter:

2. **Handmade clay pot** (fragments): with rounded shoulders and decorated with prominences and brush strokes. H: 16 cm; DR: 9.5 cm; DB: 7.8 cm. (Fig. 154/4).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Glazov, Kurchatov 1989, pp. 8-9, fig. 7/1-4; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești, Trench no. 35 (Fig. 154/8): No burial was found inside the structure.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench in plan with slightly rounded corners and in cross-section a square shape

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: 13.3x11.8 m, entrance width 2.5 m, depth 0.5 m, trench width 0.5-0.8 m, widening to 1 m at the entrance.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Glazov, Kurchatov 1989, p. 9, fig. 6/2; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-early 2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G42 (Fig. 154/5): Discovered near structure no. 17.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.3 x 0.9 x 0.8 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a mature individual, disturbed in antiquity, with bones found throughout the pit, more concentrated in the northeast.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom center of the pit:

1. **Iron buckle** (fragments): made from a folded rectangular plate. (Fig. 154/6).
2. **Blue glass** (small fragments): likely from beads.
3. **Iron knife** (2 fragments): heavily corroded, with a straight back and triangular blade section. Preserved L: 6.2 cm. (Fig. 154/7).

Pit 4 (Fig. 143/6): Circular in plan and conical in section, with a flat bottom. Fill in the upper part consists of chernozem transitioning to gray soil mixed with charcoal. Large clay fragments from the kiln were discovered in the NW, NE, and SE sectors. Diameter at discovery level 1 m, bottom diameter 1.05-1.2 m, depth 0.49 m.

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Glazov, Kurchatov 1989, p. 3-4, fig. 8/2; 9/1,3-5; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești G167 (143/2)

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 0.65 x 0.25-0.35 x 0.8 m

Pit shape: an oval shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of a child was lying on its back, with the head oriented towards NNE. Fragments of the skull, several ribs, and two femur fragments were poorly preserved.

Funeral furniture:

Around the neck and under the skull of the deceased:

1. **Necklace** (6 beads): includes one 14-faceted rose-colored agate; one rounded amber; one large, colorless transparent glass; two violet transparent glass; and one conical opaque violet glass bead. (Fig. 143/3).
2. **Handmade vessel** (fragments): poorly preserved, with a flat bottom and prominent rim.
3. **Gray-lustrous jug**: wheel-made, single-handled, with a ring bottom. H: 13.5 cm; DR: 4 cm; DB: 6 cm. (Fig. 143/4).

Dating: the second quarter of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Glazov, Kurchatov 1989, pp. 8-9, fig. 7/1-4; (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153 (late 1st-early 2nd century AD); Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 27/1-3.

Petrești T2G2 (Fig. 155/14-15): Burial conducted in a Bronze Age tumulus (Mnogovalikova culture) with a height of 2.6 m and diameter of 50 m. The tomb was discovered in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 1 m below its surface.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 4 x 3 x 3 m. At a depth of 2 m along the long sides, there were 1 m wide steps upon which a wooden cover made of small logs was placed transversely over the grave.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The wood preservation was very poor, and reconstruction of the cover was unsuccessful. Thus, the main burial chamber

had an elongated rectangular shape, measuring 4 m in length, 1 m in width, and 1 m in depth from the cover.

The upper part of the grave fill consisted of very dense chernozem, but inside the actual burial chamber, the soil was looser and more disturbed. The tomb was looted in antiquity, likely shortly after its construction. Fragments of a human skull and scattered bones of the skeleton were found in the upper part of the grave. Bones of the hands, feet, pelvis, vertebrae, and skull fragments were found at various depths within the fill. The exact position of the buried person could not be determined (Fig. 20).

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Iron ring** (fragment). L: 3 cm; W: 1 cm; Th: 0.3 cm. (Fig. 155/3).
2. **Bone ring**: with a round central hole. Ring Ø: 2.5 cm; Hole Ø: 1 cm; Th: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 155/6).
3. **Bronze object** (belt plate?): with two rivet holes. L: 2.7 cm. (Fig. 155/7).
4. **Bronze beads** (2 pcs.): oval, made from wire (Ø: 0.2 cm). L: up to 0.7 cm. (Fig. 155/8).
5. **Iron fragment**: L: up to 2 cm. (Fig. 155/9).
6. **Iron rod**: from an unknown object. L: 5.0 cm; Ø: 0.2-0.3 cm. (Fig. 155/5).
7. **Iron plate** (small fragment): with gold foil decorated with horizontal incisions. Plate L: 1.4 cm. (Fig. 155/4).
8. **Glass phial** (2 fragments): transparent, colorless, with an engraved ornament of two parallel lines. (Fig. 155/10).
9. **Iron arrowhead**: with three barbs. L: 3 cm. (Fig. 155/2).
10. **Bowl** (fragments): trapezoidal profile with a turquoise glaze, possibly alabaster. Decorated with horizontal bands. H: 7 cm; DR: 12 cm; DB: 9 cm. (Fig. 155/1).

On the clay layer, at the eastern edge of the pit:

11. **Roman red clay amphora** (fragments): base and handle restored. (Fig. 155/12-13).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Jarovoi 1985, p. 35-37, fig. 21; Grosu 1995, p. 153 (first half of the 2nd century AD).

Petrești T3G3 (Fig. 132/3, Fig. 155/1): Burial conducted in a Bronze Age tumulus (Yamnaya culture) with a height of 3.7 m and diameter of 60 m. The tomb was discovered in the W section of the tumulus at a depth of 4.2 m from its surface.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: not clearly outlined

Pit shape: not clearly outlined

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of an adult was found lying on its back, with the head oriented towards the NE. The skull was turned slightly to the right. The right arm was extended alongside the body, while the left arm was slightly bent, resting with the hand on the femur. The legs were moderately bent, arranged in a diamond shape.

Funeral furniture:

On the palms and ankles:

1. **Egyptian blue faience beads** (16 pcs.): cylindrical. L: 0.3-0.4 cm; Ø: 0.2 cm. (Fig. 155/2).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 17-19, 30; 2, 4/1,2; Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023.

Petrești T3G12 (Fig. 132/3, Fig. 156/8): The tomb was discovered in the S section of the tumulus at a depth of 5.3 m from its surface.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.9 x 0.65 x 0.1 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton of a child aged 8-9 years was found lying on its back, with the head oriented towards NNE and facing left. The preservation state of the skeleton is fragmentary. Only a part of the right humerus from the arms was preserved. There is a small burn with a cluster of small coals near the left knee joint. Along the NW and SW walls of the pit, wood fragments, remnants of a coffin (?), were found.

Funeral furniture:

At the right temple:

1. **Bronze earring**: with a cylindrical pendant and two paired circular interceptors. Earring Ø: 1.8 cm; Pendant L: 1.9 cm. (Fig. 156/6).

At the left temple:

2. **Bronze wire earring**: oval, with a rosette-decorated loop and hook fastening. Ø: 2.9 cm. (Fig. 156/7).

Around the neck area:

3. **Necklace** (17 beads and 2 pendants): includes round, bicone, and cylindrical glass beads; elongated coral and amber beads; and two green glass pendants with iron ears. (Fig. 156/3-5).

At the right knee, laterally:

4. **Handmade conical spindle whorl**: light brown. H: 3.4 cm; Ø: 3.7 cm. (Fig. 156/9).
5. **Small handmade pottery jar**: with a slightly flared rim and flat bottom. H: 6.5 cm; DR: 4.5 cm; DM: 6 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 156/11).

On the pelvic bones:

6. **Polished gray ceramic jug**: wheel-thrown, with a loop handle, ring base, and decorated with polished vertical bands. H: 6.5 cm; DR: 4.5 cm; DM: 6 cm; DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 156/10).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Iarovoi 1987, p. 17-19, 30; Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023, fig. 2, 4/3-11.

76. **Podoima, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Camenca District", Republic of Moldova**

In 1989, two groups of tumuli were researched near the villages of Podoima and Cuzmin.

Podoima T3G3 (Fig. 132/2, 157/1) The tumulus was 1.85 m high and had a diameter of 50 m. The grave was discovered in the southwestern sector of the mound at a depth of 1.8 m.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was partially destroyed. From the preserved remains, it can be established that the deceased was lying on their back, with the head oriented toward the NW. The arms were straight and extended alongside the body.

Funeral furniture:

Beneath the mandible of the deceased:

1. **Beads** (3 pcs.): one cylindrical opaque white glass; two flattened cylindrical red carnelian. (Fig. 157/1).

At the left wrist:

2. **Bronze bracelet**: made from a round-section rod with twisted ends. Ø: 7.2 cm; Rod Th: 0.2-0.4 cm. (Fig. 157/2).

Near the right shoulder:

3. **Bronze pendant**: in the shape of a small bucket. H: 1.4 cm; Ø: 0.7 cm. (Fig. 157/3).
4. **Handmade pot** (bottom part): yellow-brown. Preserved H: 7 cm; DB: 6.6 cm. (Fig. 157/4).

To the east of the skull of the deceased:

5. **Iron object** (fragment): very deteriorated.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Haheu 1990; Bubulich, Haheu 2002, p. 121-122, 146 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Podoima T3G5 (Fig. 132/1, 157/11) The grave was discovered in the southwestern sector of the mound at a depth of 2.2 m.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was lying on their back, with the head oriented toward the north-northeast, tilting toward the right side. The arms were extended alongside the body.

Funeral furniture:

At the feet:

1. **Beads** (various): includes segmented and round brown glass beads, one cylindrical light blue bead, and three small blue paste beads. (Fig. 157/8).

To the left of the skull:

2. **Bronze earring** (fragment): made from two twisted wires with spiral disc terminals. L: 1.8 cm. (Fig. 157/6).

Near the elbow of the left arm:

3. **Bronze mirror** (pendant type): round, with a rectangular handle and decorated with a central umbo and raised rays on the reverse. Broken in antiquity. L with handle: 4.6 cm; Ø: 3.6 cm. (Fig. 157/7).

Near the left foot:

4. **Truncated conical spindle whorl**: with a funnel-shaped hole. H: 3 cm; Ø: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 157/9).

At the feet:

5. **Handmade pot**: tulip-shaped, decorated with diamond-shaped appliqués and fingertip impressions. H: 14.6 cm; DR: 11 cm; DM: 12 cm. (Fig. 157/10).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Haheu 1990; Bubulich, Haheu 2002, p. 121-122, 146 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

77. **Polevoe (Beni), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

In 1983, the archaeological expedition of the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, led by I. T. Černjakov, investigated a series of tumuli on the plateau of the Dniester estuary.

Polevoe T6G1 The tumulus had a height of 0.6 m and a diameter of 20 m ((Fig. 132/4, 158/1, 3).

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 3.40 x 2.50 x total depth of the pit was 2.90 m

Pit shape: an oval-shaped; the pit narrowed towards the base, which had an elongated rectangular shape with dimensions of 3.32 x 0.85 m.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity, and the position and orientation of the skeleton could not be determined.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Gold foil** (small fragment).
2. **Iron bars** (fragments): square section. (Fig. 158/14-15).
3. **Silver rivet**: small. (Fig. 158/9).
4. **Copper ring**. (Fig. 158/8).
5. **Copper clasp**. (Fig. 158/11).
6. **Opaque violet glass** (fragments): with incisions. (Fig. 158/5, 10).
7. **Two-edged iron sword** (blade). (Fig. 158/13).
8. **Iron knife**. (Fig. 158/16).
9. **Glass vessel** (small fragments): matte glass. (Fig. 158/17).
10. **Large red clay pot** (fragments): with a profiled rim. DR: 18 cm; DM: 36 cm; DB: 15 cm. (Fig. 158/2).
11. **Red clay bowl** (fragmented): with a rounded body and inner rim. DR: 16 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 158/6, 7).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Chernyakov et al., 1983b, p. 10-11 (first centuries AD); Grosu 1990, p. 78 (2nd century AD)

78. **Pomazani (Pomazany), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

An burial was discovered in a tumulus from an earlier period, excavated in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Pomazani T1G4 The burial is located within an older tumulus near the village of Pomazani (Fig. 159/1-2).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: not visible.

Pit shape: not visible.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton is laid on its back, with the head to the northeast. The right arm is bent at the elbow and rests on the abdomen, while the left arm is extended alongside the body.

Funeral furniture:

Near the skull, on the left:

1. **Hand-modeled pot**: pear-shaped, with a cylindrical neck. H: 18 cm; DR: 7 cm; DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 159/3)**.**

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 54; fig. 17/17, 18 (2nd-3rd century AD).

Pomazani T2G1 (Fig. 159/4-5) In the Scythian barrow. It had a height of 1.4 m and a diameter of 30 m. The grave was discovered 15 m southeast of the center, at a depth of 1.7 m.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: The outlines of the pit were not observed.

Pit shape: The outlines of the pit were not observed.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was laid in a supine position, with the head towards the northwest. The arms were extended along the body, and the legs were also extended, with the heel bones in contact.

Funeral furniture:

On the pelvic bones:

1. **Iron buckle**: oval, with a tongue. (Fig. 159/6).

In the chest area:

2. **Narrow-necked amphora** (handle fragment): light clay.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Toshchev, Redina 1991, p. 97; Gudkova et al. 1979, p. 11 (2nd-3rd centuries AD)

79. **Primorsk (Prymorske, Jibrieni), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

Excavated in 1976 by Cebotarenco.

Primorsk T1G17 (fig. 160/1-2) It had a height of 1.5 m and a diameter of 40 m. The grave (fig. 3, 2) was discovered at a depth of 1.65 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.05 x 1.2 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was laid on its back, with the head oriented towards the NE.

Funeral furniture:

Next to the right shoulder:

1. **Iron dagger**: with a simple handle and double-edged blade, in a wooden sheath. Total L: 21.5 cm; Blade W: 3.2 cm. (Fig. 160/15).

Next to the right foot:

2. **Gray wheel-made pitcher**: single-handled, with a wide mouth and a polished surface. H: 13.5 cm; DR: 9 cm; DB: 6.5 cm. (Fig. 160/6).

Next to the elbow of the right arm:

3. **Animal bones**.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Chebotarenko, Cherniakov, Toshchev 1993, p. 50; Cebotarenko 1977, fig. 84, 68; Dzigovskij 1993, p. 201 (second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD); Dzigovskij 1980, p. 2/3,5 (2nd–3rd centuries AD).

Primorsk T1G52 (fig. 160/1, 3) It was discovered at a depth of 1.8 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: The outlines of the pit were not established

Pit shape: The outlines of the pit were not established

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was laid on its back, with the head oriented towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

On the thoracic bones:

1. **Bronze fibula** (bow fragment): with five spirals and a trapezoidal receiver. Bow Ø: 0.4 cm.
2. **Bronze plate**: trapezoidal.

On the right femur bone:

3. **Beads** (multiple): includes a barrel-shaped bead with eye motifs, cylindrical beads, and a semi-spherical blue glass bead with a white spiral (Ø: 1.8 cm). (Fig. 160/9, 11, 12).
4. **Iron dagger**: with a guard, found in a wooden sheath. L: 29 cm; Blade W: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 160/13).
5. **Iron knife**: with a tapered blade, likely had a wooden handle. L: 11.5 cm; W: 1-1.5 cm. (Fig. 160/10).

On the right half of the pelvis:

6. **Iron object**: hollow cylinder (possibly knife remnants). L: 2.5 cm; Ø: 0.7 cm.

On the right side of the skull:

7. **Gray wheel-made pitcher**: single-handled, with a decorated neck and rim. H: 15 cm; DR: 7.8 cm; DB: 5.5 cm. (Fig. 160/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Chebotarenko, Cherniakov, Toshchev 1993, p. 58; Chebotarenko 1977, fig. 90, 98; Dzigovskij 1993, p. 201 (second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD); Dzigovskij 1980, p. 3/1-5 (2nd–3rd centuries AD).

Primorsk T1G53 (fig. 160/1, 4) It was discovered at a depth of 2.3 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.15 x 1 x 0.3 m (from the level of the contours)

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was lying on its back, with the head oriented towards the NE. The arms were slightly bent at the elbows and placed along the body. The radius of the left hand was found next to the right humerus. A layer of rot was observed under and on the skeleton, originating from the bedding and covering.

Funeral furniture:

Near the bones of the right leg:

1. **Iron dagger**: broken tip, with wood traces and an associated cylindrical blue glass bead. Preserved L: 20.5 cm; W: 4 cm. (Fig. 160/14).
2. **Leather (?)**: traces observed on the skull.

On the right side of the skull:

3. **Glass unguentarium**: transparent blue, with a conical body and narrow cylindrical neck. H: 13 cm. (Fig. 160/8).

On the left side of the skull:

4. **Gray pot**: wheel-made, with a polished surface, annular support, and a flattened oval handle. H: 17.5 cm; DR: 10 cm; DB: 8 cm. (Fig. 160/7).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Chebotarenko, Cherniakov, Toshchev 1993, p. 58; Chebotarenko 1977, fig. 94; Dzigovskij 1993, p. 201 (second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD); Dzigovskij 1980, p. 3/7-10 (2nd–3rd centuries AD).

Primorsk T2G2 (Fig. 159/7-8) It had a height of 0.3 m and a diameter of 30 m. The grave was dug 5 m south of the center of the mound.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: outlines of the burial pit were not observed

Pit shape: outlines of the burial pit were not observed

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was lying on its back, with the head oriented towards the NE.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right hand:

1. **Two-edged iron sword**: with a wooden sheath and handle, no guard. L: 32.5 cm; Blade W: 3.0 cm. (Fig. 159/9).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Chebotarenko, Cherniakov, Toshchev 1993, p. 58; Chebotarenko 1977; Dzigovskij 1993, p. 201 (second half of the 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD); Dzigovskij 1980, p. 2/6 (2nd–3rd centuries AD).

Rumeantsev, Cahul District, Republic of Moldova

In 1991, several tumuli in Cahul District were excavated by Bubulici.

Rumeantsev T1G7 (fig. 161/1). The mound is 1.2 m high and 40 m in diameter. The burial was found in the southwestern sector of the tumulus at a depth of 1.05 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 0.85-0.95-1 x 0.65 m. The pit has steps throughout its surface, 0.18-0.2 m high and 0.1-0.25 m wide.

Pit shape: an irregularly rectangular shape with rounded corners and steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was laid on his back with his head towards the northeast, arms along the body, and legs extended. A dark brown wooden bedding was observed at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right knee:

1. **Bronze beads** (11 pcs.): open oval rings made of flat wire. Ø: 0.4-0.7 cm. (Fig. 161/2).

Near the right femur:

2. **Iron sword/dagger**: straight-edged, with a lenticular blade section; handle partially broken. Reconstituted L: 28 cm; W: 3.6 cm. (Fig. 161/4).
3. **Iron knife** (fragments): curved-back type, with wood traces from a scabbard. L: 14.4 cm. (Fig. 161/3).

In the fill:

4. **Amphora** (fragments). (Fig. 161/6-7).

Near the right shoulder bone:

5. **Handmade lid**: conical, coarse clay, top broken in antiquity. H: 4.8 cm; Ø: 9.3 cm. (Fig. 161/5).

Funeral ritual - discovered 5.2 m below the soil level, in the form of vessel fragments.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Handmade pot** (fragments): with bulging shoulders and an outward-turned rim. Polished surface. H: 24.6 cm; DR: 20 cm. (Fig. 161/8).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Bubulich 1992, pp. 7-9, figs. 2, 7, 8.

Rumeantsev T1G8 (fig. 162/1): The burial was discovered at a depth of 1.4 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: an irregularly rectangular shape with rounded corners and it is truncated-conical in section

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Inside, poorly preserved remains of a wooden coffin or chamber were found, consisting of three planks along the pit's

long axis with cross planks at 5-7 cm high. The deceased was laid on their back, head facing NE, with arms and legs extended.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Stone bead** (possibly chalcedony): round, white-gray, polished. Ø: 1.1 cm. (Fig. 162/3).
2. **Bronze beads** (6 pcs.): open oval shapes. Ø: 0.7-0.9 cm. (Fig. 162/4).
3. **Iron knife**: with a curved back, partially broken; wood residue suggests a scabbard. Blade L: 12 cm. (Fig. 162/2).
4. **Iron dagger**: with a ringed handle and cross-shaped guard, heavily oxidized. Total L: 19 cm. (Fig. 162/5).
5. **Jug**: with a broken handle, elongated neck, and rounded body. H: 19.2 cm; DR: 6.6 cm. (Fig. 162/6).
6. **Amphorae** (fragments). (Fig. 162/7-9).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Bubulich 1992, p. 7-9, figs. 9-11

80. **Șabolat (Sergheevca), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

Șabolat T4G1 Height: 1.78 m; Diameter: 53.34 m.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: a depth of 2.13

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: At the bottom of the pit, the bones were scattered.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Bronze fibula** (fragment). (Fig. 164/7).
2. **Beads**: carnelian, coral, glass, clay, and relief bronze. (Fig. 164/9).
3. **Iron knife**.
4. **Oil lamp**. (Fig. 164/10).
5. **Handmade conical lid**. (Fig. 164/8).

6. **Handmade pot**. (Fig. 164/11).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Samokvasov 1908, p. 132; Grosu 1990, p. 169 (2nd century AD); Dzygovs'kyj 1993, p. 201 (2nd to early 3rd century AD).

81. **Șalvirii Noi/Palanca, Drochia District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1990, several burial mounds were investigated in the Drochia District, between the villages of Șalvirii Noi and Palanca, by S. Kurchatov. A small necropolis of the Sarmatian culture was also discovered here.

Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G7 (fig. 163/1) Height 0.55 m, diameter 20 m. Southern sector of the mound.

Skeleton orientation: NW–SE.

Pit dimensions: 2.5 × 0.65 × 0.7 m.

Pit shape: Rectangular.

Anatomical position, condition of the remains, and burial ritual aspects: The skeleton of an adult male was placed extended on his back, with the head-oriented northwest. The skull faced upward. The arms were extended along the body, with open hands. The legs were straight, with the feet partially overlapping.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right femur:

1. **Large iron dagger**: with traces of a wooden grip and scabbard. Total L: 31.8 cm. (Fig. 163/4).

To the right of the skull:

2. **Gray-clay jug**: wheel-thrown, single-handled, biconical. H: 23.5 cm; DR: 11.4 cm; DB: 7.9 cm. (Fig. 163/2).

Near the left ankle:

3. **Handmade pot**: round-bodied, light pink. H: 7 cm; DR: 5.4 cm; DB: 3.7 cm. (Fig. 163/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurchatov 1991, pp. 58, 50–51, Figs. 32; 34/1,4–5.

Șalvirii Noi/Palanca T6G8 (fig. 163/5) Southern sector of the mound, in the eastern profile of the central edge.

Skeleton orientation: NNW–SSE.

Pit dimensions: 2 × 0.85 × 1.49 m.

Pit shape: Rectangular.

Anatomical position, condition of the remains, and burial ritual aspects: The skeleton of an adult female was placed along the eastern wall of the burial chamber, extended on her back with a slight rightward rotation, head oriented north-northwest. The skull was turned to the right and inclined toward the right shoulder. The partially preserved arms were extended along the body. The right leg was straight, while the left leg was slightly bent, with the left ankle resting on the right ankle. The feet were preserved only fragmentarily. A layer of dark gray backfill loam up to 7 cm thick was recorded at the bottom of the burial chamber. The skeleton rested on a dark brown organic bedding of rectangular shape, measuring 1.7 × 0.4 m.

Funeral furniture:

In the neck area:

1. **Necklace** (18 amber beads): oval-elongated and flattened-elongated. (Fig. 164/1)

At the ankles:

2. **Shoe decoration beads** (53 pcs.): includes jet, glass (round, ribbed, segmented), and Egyptian blue faience. (Fig. 164/3).

On the left side of the ribcage:

3. **Bronze mirror-pendant**: with a square handle and a tamga-like ornament. Total H: 5.6 cm; Disc Ø: 4.7 cm. (Fig. 164/2).

Near the radial bones of the left arm:

4. **Bronze capsule/needle case (?)**: made from a rolled thin plate. L: 7.2 cm. (Fig. 164/5).

Under the left hand:

5. **Handmade spindle whorl**: truncated conical shape. H: 2.8 cm; Ø: 3.3 cm. (Fig. 164/4).

In the southwestern corner of the burial chamber:

6. **Sandstone slab**: sub-quadrangular, with a circular, lens-shaped depression on the front. 29.5 x 28 cm. (Fig. 163/6).

To the left of the skull:

7. **Gray-burnished jug**: small, wheel-thrown, single-handled, with polished vertical stripes. H: 13 cm; DR: 6.9 cm. (Fig. 164/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurchatov 1991, pp. 58, 50–51, Figs. 32; 34/1,4–5.

82. **Sărata Veche, Fălești District, Republic of Moldova**

Three graves discovered within an older tumulus. Investigated by G.P. Sergeev in 1958.

Sărata Veche T1G1

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: depth 1.20 m

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition, or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was destroyed in antiquity. The deceased was lying on their back, with the head oriented towards the northwest. The estimated height of the individual was 1.70 m. Traces of wood, possibly from a coffin, were also observed along the sides and underneath.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Sergheev 1961, p. 130-131 (2-4 centuries AD); Rikman 1966, p. 73 (late Sarmatians); Rikman 1975, p. 26; Grosu 1995, p. 153.

Sărata Veche T1G7 (fig. 165/9)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: depth 2 m

Pit shape: oval shaped

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased (woman – cca 30 years) was lying on their back. The deceased had an artificially deformed skull, and they were oriented with their head towards the N. The estimated height of the individual was 1.60 m.

Funeral furniture:

Toward the right foot:

1. **Circular buckle**: with a triangular bronze clasp. (Fig. 165/13).

At the neck:

2. **Amber beads** (2 pcs.): elongated, flattened. Ø: 3 cm and 2.3 cm. (Fig. 165/10-11).
3. **Glass seed beads**: circular, red. (Fig. 165/14).

At the right temple:

4. **Copper earring** (fragment). (Fig. 165/12).

In the femur area:

5. **Iron ring**. (Fig. 165/16).
6. **Iron knife**: with wood traces from the handle. (Fig. 165/17).

At the head:

7. **Gray biconical spindle whorl**. Ø: 4.1 cm. (Fig. 165/15).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Sergheev 1961, p. 131-133 (2-4 centuries AD); Rikman 1966, p. 73 (late Sarmatians); Rikman 1975, p. 26; Grosu 1990, p. 93-94, fig. 29/b (late 3rd-4th centuries AD). 1995, p. 153 (4th century AD).

Sărata Veche T1G8

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was destroyed in antiquity. The deceased was possibly in a crouched position.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Sergheev 1961, p. 131 (2-4 centuries AD); Rikman 1966, p. 73 (late Sarmatians); Rikman 1975, p. 26; Grosu 1995, p. 153.

83. **Șcerbaca/Dumeni (now Văratic), Rîșcani District, Republic of Moldova**

Excavations took place in 1974-75 under the leadership of N.A. Chetraru and V.A. Safronov.

Șcerbaca T2G5 (fig. 165/1) A burial from the Bronze Age, located in the southern sector of the tumulus at a depth of 1.1 meters from the surface.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was laid on their back with the head towards the north. The arms were placed alongside the body, and the legs were straight.

Funeral furniture:

Between the thighs:

1. **Bronze bracelet**: made from a massive oval-section bar, with free, thickened ends. (Fig. 165/4).

Near the right knee:

2. **Globular bead**: turquoise-colored Egyptian faience with a vertically grooved surface. L: 1 cm; Ø: 1.4 cm. (Fig. 165/5).

Near the right hip:

3. **Iron dagger** (fragmentary): with a simple, tongue-shaped handle. (Fig. 165/3).

At the left foot:

4. **Wheel-made jug**: fine, gray paste, with a massive body and decorated with a raised band. Preserved H: 20 cm. (Fig. 165/2).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Grosu 1988, p. 82, 88, fig. 2/7-10; Grosu 1990, p. 65, fig. 20D/1-4 (second half of the 1st century – 2nd century AD), Bârcă 2006, (second half of the 1st century – beginning of the 2nd century AD); Safronov 1974-75.

84. **Selișteе, Orhei District, Republic of Moldova**

During 1969-1973, the multicultural site of Selișteе was excavated, revealing several Sarmatian graves within a flat necropolis. The excavations were conducted by I.A. Rafalovici and V.L. Lapușneanu. In 1979, the inventory of a destroyed Sarmatian grave was discovered.

Selișteе, Destroyed grave no 1.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Articulated iron fibula**. (Fig. 165/6).
2. **Bead**: cylindrical, made of chalk. (Fig. 165/7).
3. **Bead**: rectangular, multi-faceted, dark violet transparent glass. (Fig. 165/8).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Grosu 1983, pp. 36-37, fig. II/11, 12, 14, (2nd century AD).

Selișteе G62 (fig. 165/19):

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.58 x 0.68 x 0.6 cm

Pit shape: Rectangular-shaped grave with slightly rounded corners. The walls widened towards the bottom.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was ritually destroyed – the upper part, the bones were moved towards the south of the pit – the feet remained undisturbed. The head was oriented to the north. The relatively rich inventory suggests ritual destruction.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Beads** (15 whole and several fragments): includes elongated amber, barrel-shaped blue glass, cylindrical coral, and round dark brown clay. (Fig. 165/28, 30).
2. **Bronze needle**: L: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 165/36).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Rafalovich, Lapushnyan 1974b, p. 116; fig. 6/1, 7/12, 17-18 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153, (1st – early 2nd century AD); Grosu 1990, pp. 52, (1st – early 2nd century AD).

Selișteа G63 (fig. 165/20): Discovered at the western extremity of the excavation area, adjacent to a cliff near an ancient Slavic settlement.

Pit direction: W-E

Pit sizes: 1.54 x 0.46-0.72 x 0.9 m

Pit shape: trapezoidal

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: This grave was destroyed. The skeleton's bones are scattered disorderly at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Oval iron buckle**. Outer Ø: 4 cm. (Fig. 165/34).
2. **Rectangular iron buckle** (fragment). L: 5 cm; W: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 165/32).
3. **Blue glass bead**: bi-tronconical.
4. **Yellow clay bead**: elongated cylinder.
5. **Circular mosaic bead**: glass paste with red and white traces.
6. **Small beads**: cylindrical-flat, blue and white. (Fig. 165/27).
7. **Iron knife blade** (fragment). L: 2.8 cm.
8. **Tetrahedral iron nail**. L: 4.5 cm.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Rafalovich, Lapushnyan 1974b, p. 119; fig. 6/2, 7/8, 10, 11 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153, (1st – early 2nd century AD).

Selișteа G67 (fig. 165/23)

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 0.9 x 0.35 m

Pit shape: trapezoidal

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was found lying on its back. It falls into the category of ritually destroyed burials. The skull was missing, and the upper part of the skeleton down to the pelvic bones was affected.

Funeral furniture:

On the right arm of the deceased:

1. **Forged iron bracelet** (fragmented): made from circular wire. Ø: 6.8-8.2 cm. (Fig. 165/33).

Near the left shoulder of the skeleton:

2. **Gray wheel-thrown jug**: single-handled, decorated with polished lines. H: 13.5 cm; DR: 6.7 cm; DM: 11 cm. (Fig. 165/22).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Rafalovich, Lapushnyan 1974b, p. 120, 121; fig. 6/5, 7/2, 11 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153, (1st – early 2nd century AD).

Selișteа G69 (fig. 165/25): Discovered in the northern part of the promontory.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: unknown, only depth of 0.7 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave falls into the category of ritually destroyed burials. The southern part of the grave was previously disturbed by a pit from the Slavic period. The skeleton's bones were disturbed, with only the vertebral column remaining intact. The skull showed clear signs of artificial deformation. The skull exhibited trauma caused by a cutting weapon (sword, battle axe?) in the frontal area. Due to the fact that the edges of the wound were blunted and smooth, this injury was not the cause of death for the buried individual.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Rafalovich, Lapushnyan 1974b, p. 121; fig. 6/9 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153, (1st – early 2nd century AD).

Selișteа G72 (fig. 165/26), double:

Pit direction: SW-NE

Pit sizes: 2.05 x 0.8-0.55 x 0.75 m

Pit shape: an irregular rectangular shape with rounded corners and was found at a depth of 0.4 m

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave contains the remains of a woman and a newborn child. Both skeletons are lying on their backs, with their heads oriented to the southwest. The child's skeleton was approximately 50 cm in length. The woman's grave is accompanied by a relatively rich inventory.

Funeral furniture:

At chest level, **necklaces** (2 pcs.):

1. **First necklace**: 24 large, irregular dark cherry amber beads. **Second necklace**: two mosaic glass beads with rosette designs and four clay beads with eye motifs. Associated finds include two small oval bronze buckles used for fastening. (Fig. 165/18, 35).
2. **Bronze plate decoration** (remains).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Rafalovich, Lapushnyan 1974b, p. 121-123; fig. 6/7, 7/15, 16, 19 (2nd-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153, (1st – early 2nd century AD).

Selișteа G77 (fig. 165/31)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.7 x 0.66 x 1.65 m

Pit shape: rectangular pit with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: This grave is one of the ritually destroyed burials. A large part of the skeleton's bones were displaced towards the southern wall of the pit, and some bones were scattered throughout the pit.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom:

1. **Small glass beads**: white, yellow, light blue, and pink. (Fig. 165/29).
2. **Iron and bronze (?) fragments**.

Among the bones:

3. **Bitronconic spindle whorl**. H: 3.2 cm; DM: 4.1 cm. (Fig. 165/24).
4. **Reddish Terra Sigillata jug**: with a flat handle with ribs. H: 12.7 cm. (Fig. 165/21).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Rafalovich, Lapushnyan 1974b, p. 123, 124; fig. 6/9, 7/1, 5, 13 (1st-3rd century AD); Grosu 1995, p. 153, (1st – early 2nd century AD).

85. **Semionovca (Seimeni), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

Semionovca T3G1 The mound had a height of 1.3 m and a diameter of 30 m. In the mantle of the tumulus, fragments of Roman amphora walls were found. The grave (fig. 166/1) was discovered at a depth of 1.3 m, in the center of the mound.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: The upper part of the pit was measuring 4 × 1.6 m and a depth of 1.9 m. Remains of burnt beams were preserved on the steps, which measured 0.4–0.45 m in width. The lower part of the pit (below the steps) had a rectangular shape measuring 4 × 0.65 m and a depth of 0.8 m. Traces of chalk and charcoal were observed on the bottom of the structure.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Above the beams, a layer of chalk was observed. The grave was looted. In the southwest corner of the step, remnants of a skull and a group of scattered human bones were found, including tibia and toe bones, which were in anatomical position. This suggests that the looting occurred before the complete decomposition of the deceased's body.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Iron buckle** (fragment): oval. Ø: ~5 cm.
2. **Iron ring** (fragment): round. Section Ø: 0.7 cm.
3. **Curved iron bar**: with a chain, likely from horse equipment. L: 12.5 cm. (Fig. 166/3).
4. **Iron tool**: U-shaped. L: 3 cm. (Fig. 166/2).
5. **Iron knife blade** (fragment): W: up to 1.4 cm. (Fig. 166/4).
6. **Astragali** (2 pcs.): with no signs of processing.
7. **Hand-modeled lid**: hemispherical, light gray. H: 3.3 cm; Ø: 8.95 cm. (Fig. 166/5).
8. **Glass cup** (upper part fragments): transparent, decorated with an engraved band of vertical incisions. DR: 9 cm; DM: 8.75 cm. (Fig. 166/7).
9. **Glass cup** (lower part fragments): thin, cylindrical, with a ringed bottom and decorated with a horizontal band of two grooves. Ø: 5 cm. (Fig. 166/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin et al 2017, p. 35-36 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Semionovca T4G1 The mound had a height of 1.4 m and a diameter of 30 m. In the mantle of the tumulus, fragments of Roman amphora walls were found. The grave (fig. 167/1) was discovered at a depth of 2.6 m, in the center of the mound.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: The upper part of the pit was measuring 3.3 × 1.8 m and a depth of 1.75 m. The lower part of the pit (below the steps) with dimensions of 3.3 × 0.7–0.8 m and a depth of 0.85 m. Partially burnt thin wooden planks were preserved on the steps, which covered the lower part of the pit transversely. Below the wood, on the steps, a layer of clay was observed, featuring four layers with a thickness of up to 0.8 cm. Between the layers of the clay, thin layers of earth less than 0.1 cm thick were intercalated. In the southeast corner of the upper part of the pit, at the level of the base of the steps, a rounded niche was created, 0.3 m wide, approximately 0.25 m high, and 0.1 m deep.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Traces of charcoal were found on the bottom of the structure. The grave was looted. In the fill of the pit, mainly near the bottom, scattered human bones were discovered.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Glass appliqués** (3 pcs.): oval; one biconvex blue, two plano-convex in light violet and light green. (Fig. 167/3a-c).
2. **Gold foil** (small fragments).
3. **Iron buckle** (fragment): round, with a movable tongue. Ø: 3.7 cm. (Fig. 167/7).
4. **Bronze button plate**: round, convex, covered with gold foil and decorated with fine relief engraving. Ø: 1.1 cm. (Fig. 167/4).
5. **Copper pendant**: oval leaf shape. 0.7 × 0.45 cm. (Fig. 167/5).
6. **Iron plate** (fragment): coated with gold foil and having a copper nail. (Fig. 167/6).
7. **Iron shovel/clamp**: with narrowed ends and traces of wood on the inner surface. 3.8 × 2.2 cm. (Fig. 167/8).
8. **Iron shovels/clamps** (fragments of 3 pcs.): rectangular, with traces of wood.
9. **Iron rods** (fragments): cylindrical, with one end bent into a loop. (Fig. 167/9).
10. **Iron object** (fragment): with one end shaped like a ring. Head Ø: 2.6 cm. (Fig. 167/10).
11. **Gray jug**: wheel-made, with a vertical handle and decorated with complex incised and zigzag patterns. H: 53 cm; DR: 17 cm; DM: 31 cm. (Fig. 167/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin et al 2017, p. 36-38 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

86. **Sergheevca, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

The tumuli at Sergheevca were investigated in 1989.

Sergheevca T5G1 The tumulus had a height of 1.3 m and a diameter of 30 m. The grave was discovered in the center of the mound at a depth of 1.35 m (fig. 168/1-2).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: The upper part measuring 2 × 1.3 m. The depth to the steps, located on the two long sides, was 1.3 m. The width of the steps was 0.3 m. The lower part of the burial pit measured 2 × 0.9 m. The bottom, at a depth of 3.55 m from the surface, was covered with chalk. The total depth of the burial pit was 2.2 m.

Pit shape: an oval shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Judging by the remains of the skull, located at the bottom of the northern part of the pit, a child was buried here, with the head oriented towards the NNE.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom of the pit:

1. **Iron knife blade** (small fragments).
2. **Sheep astragali** (6 pcs.): one filled with lead. (Fig. 168/3).

Sergheevca, Trench No. 1 Surrounding the grave (fig. 168/1).

Trench shape: an elongated rectangular shape, in section, the ditch had an inverted trapezoidal shape

Orientation: axis in the WNW-ESE direction

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: The width of the ditch was 0.9 m, and the external dimensions were 12.4 x 6 m. The observed depth of the ditch was 0.4 m, but its original depth relative to the level of the old surface was evidently 0.5 m, the ditch had an entrance with a width of 0.6 m.

Sergheevca, Trench No. 2 was discovered at a depth of 0.7 m.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench in plan and its section was rectangular

Orientation: with the long axis in the NW-SE direction

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: with external dimensions of 18.8 x 11.9 m. The width of the ditch was 1.60 m. The observed depth was 0.4 m. Near the middle, there was an entrance with a width of 2.5 m.

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Dzigovskij, Subbotin 1989, fig. 19/5-7.

Sergheevca T12G1 The tumulus had a height of 3.2 m and a diameter of 40 m. The grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 3.2 m (fig. 168/4-5).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 1.7-1.45 m, and the depth was 0.9 m (4.1 m from the reference point)

Pit shape: a trapezoidal in plan, the narrowing of the pit was achieved by diverting the long southeastern side towards the north

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been destroyed and looted in antiquity. Human bones were found scattered at different levels within the burial pit. A sprinkling of chalk and a scattering of wood charcoal were observed at the bottom of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

At different levels of the pit:

1. **Metal objects** (small fragments).
2. **Reddish clay amphora** (fragments).

Sergheevca, Trench No. 3 (fig. 168/4).

Trench shape: a rectangular trench in plan and in section of the ditch was rectangular, with slightly rounded corners at the bottom

Orientation: oriented in the NW-SE direction

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: with external dimensions of 20.5 x 13 m, the width of the ditch was 2 m, and the total depth reached 1 m (an observed depth of 0.4 m was recorded at the bottom, at a level of 4.2 m). An entrance with a width of 2 m, located almost in the middle.

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Dzigovskij, Subbotin 1989, fig. 28/1-3.

87. **Șoldănești, Șoldănești district, Republic of Moldova**

This site was discovered and partially investigated by A. Meliukova, Passek, and Movșa in 1954-1956. Within the necropolis, 4 late Sarmatian graves were discovered. Meliukova initially dated the Sarmatian graves to the 3rd-4th centuries AD in 1956, then withdrew cultural attribution in 1958. In 1960, they were dated to the early centuries of the first millennium by Chetraru and Rikman. In 1975, Rikman associated them with the SM-C culture. In 2010, S. Kurceatov dated them to the first half of the 3rd century AD. The numbering is taken from the authors, and the depth is taken from the 1955 lime level (fig. 171/1).

Șoldănești G1 (fig. 169/1)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1 x 0.65-0.7 x 1.3 m

Pit shape: rectangular pit with heavily rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to a child, lying on their back with the head to the north. The condition of the skeleton was poor.

Funeral furniture:

At the head:

1. **Gray-polished jug**: small, wheel-thrown, with a bitronconic body and a single band-handle. Decorated with polished vertical stripes. H: 8.4 cm; DR: 6 cm; DM: 8 cm. (Fig. 169/2).

Dating: first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Meliukova 1958, p. 64 (3rd-4th centuries AD); Ketraru, Rikman 1960, p. 8 (early centuries AD); Kurchatov 2010, p. 152, 154, fig. 2/1,2 (first half of the 3rd century AD).

Șoldănești G4 (fig. 169/6)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 0.75-0.8 x 1.35 m

Pit shape: rectangular pit with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, disturbed since antiquity. The skeleton's bones were scattered and found at different levels. In the SW part of the construction, several bones were discovered, and one of them showed traces of decayed fabric. Judging by these finds, it can be assumed that the deceased was lying on their back with the head to the NE.

Funeral furniture:

Among the tibia bones:

1. **Glass beads** (2 pcs.): flat, circular, non-transparent blue. Ø: 0.7-0.9 cm. (Fig. 169/4).
2. **Glass bead**: rounded, non-transparent white. Ø: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 169/3).

In the immediate vicinity of the fabric remains:

3. **Glass paste beads** (55 pcs.): includes round (white, yellow, violet, green) and small cylindrical (white, yellowish, reddish). (Fig. 169/3, 5).

In the southern corner:

4. **Handmade vessel**: poorly processed clay paste. Not preserved.

Dating: first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Meliukova 1958, p. 64 (3rd-4th centuries); Ketraru, Rikman 1960, p. 8 (early centuries AD); Kurchatov 2010, p. 154, fig. 2/3-6 (first half of the 3rd century AD).

Șoldănești G7 (fig. 170/1):

Pit direction: WSW-ENE

Pit sizes: 1.7 x 0.8 x 1.25 m

Pit shape: rectangular pit with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, disturbed since antiquity. The skeleton's bones were scattered. The preserved bones suggest that the deceased was positioned with the head towards WSW.

Funeral furniture:

At the bottom, in the fill:

1. **Buckle backplate**: made of two rectangular iron plates, with preserved leather remnants. L: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 170/2).
2. **Iron plate** (fragment): semi-oval, unknown purpose. L: 3.4 cm. (Fig. 170/3).
3. **Astragalus bones** (16 pcs.): from 8 ovicaprids. Not preserved.[23]

Dating: first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Meliukova 1958, p. 64 (3rd-4th centuries); Ketraru, Rikman 1960, p. 8 (early centuries AD); Kurchatov 2010, p. 154, fig. 3/1-3 (first half of the 3rd century AD).

Șoldănești G10 (fig. 170/9):

Pit direction: WSW-ENE

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 0.9 x 1.25 m

Pit shape: rectangular pit with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, disturbed since antiquity. The skeleton's bones were scattered, but in the SW part of the pit, the right radius bone was preserved in situ. Judging by the preserved situation, it can be assumed that the deceased was positioned with the head towards WSW.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill, in the SW of the pit:

1. **Bronze buckle**: oval frame with a rectangular, ornamented clasp. Total L: 3 cm. (Fig. 170/4).

Between the radius bones:

2. **Bronze buckle**: identical to the one above. (Fig. 170/5).
3. **Iron knife** (fragment). Not preserved.

In the northeast corner of the pit:

4. **Bronze plates** (3 pcs.): semi-spherical, with fixing legs. Ø: 1.7-1.8 cm. (Fig. 170/6).
5. **Egyptian faience bead**: large, round, light green, with diagonal stripes. Ø: 1.5 cm. (Fig. 170/7).

[23] According to V. I. Tsalkin

6. **Iron dagger/sword** (fragment): double-edged, with remnants of a wooden sheath. L: 2.9 cm. (Fig. 170/8).

Dating: first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Meliukova 1958, p. 64 (3rd-4th centuries); Ketraru, Rikman 1960, p. 8 (early centuries AD); Kurchatov 2010, p. 154, 156, fig. 3/4-9 (first half of the 3rd century AD).

88. **Strumok (Cișma or Cișmele), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa oblast, Ukraine**

An burial was discovered in a tumulus from an earlier period, excavated in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Strumok T1G12 The burial is within an older tumulus.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.3 x 0.5 x ? m

Pit shape: rectangular

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial itself is disturbed. Only a part of the skull and the left foot bone remained from the skeleton. According to observations, the individual was placed in a supine position with the head to the northeast.

Funeral furniture:

Near the skull:

1. **Gray clay pot** (lower part): wheel-thrown, with a ring base. DB: 5.5 cm.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Gudkova, Fokeev 1984, p. 56, (2nd-3rd century AD).

89. **Suvorove (Șichirlichitai, Katlabuh), Izmail Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

The flat necropolis was investigated in 2008. Three structures were discovered here, each containing a burial at its center. The structures were aligned from west to east (fig. 171/2).

Suvorove, Trench No. 1 The object was discovered at a depth of 60-70 cm from the current soil level. The grave was positioned opposite this entrance and, thus, was slightly displaced to the west from the center of the space inside the ditch (fig. 171/5).

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan and the walls were straight, and at the base slightly rounded

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: diameter of up to 10 m. The width of the ditch was 0,4-0,5 m, depth in natural soil was 0,3-0,40/0,45 m or 0,90-1,05 m from the current soil level; an entrance with a width of 1,25-1,30 m.

Suvorove G2 (fig. 171/6)

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: outline of the pit was observed at a depth of 0,65-0,75 m; 2,15-2,20 m, width – 1,15 m (northern part), 0,60-0,70 cm (southern part). At a depth of 1,60 m from the current surface, a step was arranged along the western wall. Along the eastern wall was a niche, whose bottom was 0,15 m below the step level (1,75 m).

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape; the northern wall was wide and straight. The southern wall was narrower and rounded.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted. Probably for this reason, the step wall was very irregular. In the northern part of the niche, a mound of bones was found - ribs, vertebrae, and some long bones (of the arm). In the southern part, near the wall, the skull bones were uncovered.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Ceramic vessels** (fragments): broken during looting, including a red-lacquered cup.
2. **Hand-modeled pot** (reconstructed profile): with a funnel-shaped neck, decorated with notches and conical excrescences. (Fig. 172/3).

Suvorove, Trench No. 2 (fig. 171/3).

Trench shape: an oval shape, slightly elongated on the north-south axis, the walls were straight.

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part

Trench dimensions: The diameter on the east-west axis was 8.7 m (interior) and 9.2 m (exterior). On the north-south axis, the diameter was 10 and 10.5 m, respectively. The outline of the ditch was observed at a depth of 0,70 m from the current surface. The depth was 0,25-0,35 m and an entrance with a width of 1,25 m

Funeral furniture:

In the northeastern sector, in the fill:

1. **Ceramic fragments**: grouped over 3 m, primarily from light-colored clay amphorae and some hand-modeled vessels.
2. **Animal bones**.

Suvorove G3 (fig. 171/4). The grave pit was clearly shifted towards the western part of the space within the ditch and, like grave 2, was located opposite the entrance.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2,25-2,30 x 1,15-0,90 m and its depth was 75 cm from the edge of the pit (145 cm from the current surface). Along the eastern wall, at a depth of 0,50 m from the edge of the pit, there was a narrow step (0,25-0,40 m). Along the western wall, a niche was arranged.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and long tapered walls (the so-called "figure-eight" outline) with step and a niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: -

Funeral furniture:

In the northern part:

1. **Bronze buckle**: rare type, flat, square frame with four rivets. (Fig. 172/5).

In various parts of the fill:

2. **Iron objects** (fragments): some indicating a blade weapon (sword?). (Fig. 172/4).

Suvorove, Trench No. 3 (partially researched) judging by the part that was uncovered during the trench cleaning (about 5 m), it can be said that it was identified at the same depth as the previous two, having the same width and the same round shape (fig. 171/2).

Trench shape: a circular shape

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: in the SSW part (?)

Trench dimensions: The outline of the ditch was observed at a depth of 0,70 m from the current surface. The depth was 0,25-0,35 m.

Suvorove, Pit 1 (fig. 172/6). About 5-7 m west of trench 2, at a depth of 0,50-0,60 m, the outline of a pit was discovered. This was oriented along the west-east axis and had a clearly rectangular shape with rounded corners. The pit was very large and shallow. Its dimensions were 5 x 2,40 m, and the depth in the natural soil was up to 0,20 m.

Funeral furniture:

In various parts:

1. **Ceramic fragments**: diverse, from the Roman period (amphorae, gray clay pottery, handmade), found with **animal bones**.

Suvorove G1 (fig. 172/1). It was discovered during the digging of a trench with a bulldozer, approximately halfway between the tumulus and the Sarmatian necropolis area. The construction of the pit turned out to be quite complex.

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 1,35 x 0,50 x 1,60 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape and a niche amd a step; On the short northwest wall, there was a small niche. Around the pit, there was a step. This was narrow along the WSW wall and wide, triangular in plan shape in the rest of the space. Its depth was 1,40 m from the current surface. The third segment of the construction was another step, adjacent to the first on the east and northeast. Its depth was 1,10 m.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: No skeletal remains were found. This complex must either be considered a cenotaph or was very thoroughly cleaned by robbers. In the latter case, the presence of ledges with an unusual configuration can be explained by the fact that they are remnants of a robbery tunnel that was dug at an angle towards the burial pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the rectangular pit, in the part with the niche:

1. **Handmade pot**: very coarse. (Fig. 172/2).

Dating: first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Dzigovskij, Brujako 2023, p. 69-77, (first half of the 3rd century AD).

90. **Suvorovo (or Alexandru Ioan Cuza), Cahul District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1973, a tumulus was excavated near the village of Alexandru Ioan Cuza (then Suvorovo) in the Cahul district. The tumulus was surrounded by stones with a diameter of approximately 16 meters. The stones measured between 20 x 40 cm and 15 x 20 cm, showing no signs of processing and coming in various shapes. The researchers also noted traces of a shallow trench, though it was poorly defined. The fill of the tumulus was chernozem, and among the excavated soil, various artifacts typical of the Scythian period (a three-winged arrowhead) and SM-C (glazed pottery) were found, indicating a settlement from the latter period. Only one quarter of this tumulus was investigated.

Suvorovo T3G2 (fig. 173/1-2) double - the burial was made in a Sarmatian tumulus, which had a height of 0.8 meters and a diameter of 22 x 24 meters. The grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 1.20 meters from its surface.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.92-3 x 1.4 x 2.3 m. The side walls had steps: the western one measured 30 cm, and the eastern one 38 cm.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with steps. The walls slightly converge towards the bottom.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeletons were destroyed. Bones were found at different levels. The first skeleton belonged to an adult, and the second to an adolescent. The fill was chernozem mixed with ash, charcoal, and remains of decayed wood, likely from a timber covering. The bottom was uneven, with traces of bronze plates in some places.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Bronze plates** (traces).

2. **Oval bead**. (Fig. 173/5).
3. **Roman amphora** (fragments). (Fig. 173/3, 4, 6).
4. **Glass unguentaria** (fragments of 2 pcs.). (Fig. 173/4).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Beylekchi, Yarovoy 1974, pp. 10-11, figs. 1a, 5, 6, 8, 26/5,7-8, 27/3 (2nd-4th century, p. 11); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (2nd century AD).

Suvorovo, Trench No. 1 (fig. 173/1) Partially investigated. The fill contained densely packed calcined bones mixed with ash and charcoal.

Trench shape: an oval trench in plan

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: -

Trench dimensions: easuring 1 x 1.2 meters with a depth of 1.02-1.1 meters, a layer thickness of 7 cm

Funeral furniture:

1. **Handmade vessel** (base fragment).
2. **Roman amphora** (mouth, handle, and neck).
3. **Stone**.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Beylekchi, Yarovoy 1974, pp. 11, figs. 1a, 10, 11 (2nd-4th century, p. 11); Grosu 1995, p. 158 (2nd century AD)

91. **Svetlîi, Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, „Comrat District", Republic of Moldova**

In 1981, archaeological excavations investigated a series of tumuli in the Comrat District. The research was led by archaeologist I. Manzura.

Svetlîi T2G2 The tumulus had a diameter of 28 meters and was heavily plowed. At a depth of 1.3 meters, groundwater was encountered, preventing complete excavation. The grave was discovered in the west of the tumulus at a depth of 0.8 meters (fig. 173/7-8).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton belonged to an adult, laid on their back with the head facing north and the face west. The arms were extended along the body

Funeral furniture:

Next to the right femur:

1. **Iron dagger**: with a simple, wedge-shaped handle. L: 27.5 cm; W: up to 3 cm. (Fig. 173/9).

On the chest:

2. **Gray vessel** (fragment): made from well-processed clay.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Manzura 1982, p. 15-16, fig. 26/5, 27, 29; Manzura 1984, p. 125-126, fig. 6/1.

92. **Talmaza, Ștefan Vodă, Republic of Moldova**

In the years 1989-1990, a series of tumuli near the village of Talmaza were investigated.

Talmaza T1G7 (fig. 174/1-2) It had a height of 3 m and a diameter of 46 m. The grave (fig. 24, 8) was discovered in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 4.2 m.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 4.2 × 3.9 x 0.6 m from the discovery level

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. The profile shows the configuration and dimensions of the looting tunnel. The tunnel, trapezoidal in shape, had the following dimensions: a depth of 4.6 m, a width of 4.5 m, and at the bottom, it narrowed to 1.5 m. In the western corner of the grave pit, a group of dispersed human bones was discovered. There were also dark brown decomposition traces left

by a layer of decaying bedding. In the filling, made of leached chernozem, scattered human bones and animal bones were found.

Funeral furniture:

At 0.1 m from the southeast wall:

1. **Iron objects** (insignificant fragments): with small gold foil (possible sword remnants?).

In the filling:

2. **Roman amphorae** (fragments): yellow clay.
3. **Pottery fragments**: from the Roman period.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Agulnikov, Antipenko 1990, pp. 25, 29-30; Agulnikov, Popovici 2022, pp. 28-29 (II-III centuries AD); Grosu, Agulnikov 1997, p. 108 (2nd century AD).

Talmaza T7G1 (fig. 174/3-4) It had a height of 2 m and a diameter of 42 m. The grave was located in the center of the tumulus at a depth of 2.1 m.

Pit direction: NNW-SSSE

Pit sizes: 2.48 × 1.55 x 1 m from the discovery level

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. The pit dug by the thieves was identified in profile, with a width of 3 m. At the base of the burial chamber, there was an indentation measuring 1 × 0.8 m, with a depth of 0.48 m from the bottom level of the chamber. Due to the looting (possibly repeated), no traces of the deceased or any inventory were found in the grave.

At a depth of 1.75 m, in the northeastern part of the excavated soil layer, a collection of irregularly shaped oval stones was discovered, arranged like a pavement, embedded in the ancient soil surface at a depth of 0.6 m, measuring 1.5 × 0.7 m and oriented in the NE-SW direction. The dimensions of the stones varied from 0.4 × 0.2 m to 0.3 × 0.1 m. The stones were gray sandstone.

Talmaza, Trizna. Located 0.6 m northeast of the northern corner of grave and at a depth of 1.9 m, there was a trizna. The accumulation consisted of fragments of amphora walls (2nd-3rd

centuries AD) and large animal bones, such as those from cattle. The dimensions of the trizna was 1.5 × 1.2 m.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Agulnikov, Popovici 2022, p. 43 (2nd-3rd centuries AD).

93. **Taraclia Gaidabul, Taraclia District, Republic of Moldova**

In 2017-2018, archaeological excavations were conducted at this site, uncovering three Sarmatian graves. The graves contain a rich assemblage including strongly profiled Almgren 84 type fibulae, Roman and provincial Roman ceramic vessels, Sarmatian pendant mirrors, glass beads, and more. It is also worth noting that the planigraphy of the area and the location of the graves suggest they are part of a flat Sarmatian necropolis overlaying a Sabatinovka culture settlement, extending onto the upper part of the plateau.

Taraclia Gaidabul G1 (fig. 175/1):

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.88 x 0.8 x 1.52 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with slightly rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was laid on its back, oriented along the NE-SW axis of the pit, with arms extended along the body. Due to rodent activity, some small bones (phalanges, ribs, etc.) and funerary material (beads) were disturbed from their in situ position and found in the pit fill and even in the adjacent pit no. 2 in the neighboring square (M/4). The skeleton was relatively well-preserved. Under and around the legs, traces of decayed brownish remains were preserved, possibly a vegetal bedding. The skeleton belonged to a young adult female, aged 20-25 years.

Funeral furniture:

In the thoracic and cervical vertebrae region:

1. **Amber beads** (10 pcs.): various shapes. L: 0.9 to 2.8 cm. (Fig. 176/1-3).
2. **Glass beads** (44 pcs.): greenish, disc-shaped, patterned.
3. **Glass beads** (2 pcs.): white, small ball shape. Ø: 0.5-0.6 cm.
4. **Glass beads** (2 pcs.): white-yellowish, small barrel shape. L: 1.1-1.2 cm.

5. **Glass beads** (4 pcs.): white, with gilded bases, fused in sets of three.
6. **Glass bead**: white, cylindrical. 0.8 x 0.5 cm.
7. **Glass bead**: grey, elongated, pentagonal section. 1 x 0.4 cm.
8. **Glass bead**: dark grey, elongated, hexagonal section. 0.9 x 0.5 cm.
9. **Black agate beads** (4 pcs.): small barrel shape. (Fig. 176/4).

In the right forearm region:

10. **Bronze bracelet**: made from a round-sectioned rod with flared, snake-head-shaped ends. Ø: 7 cm. (Fig. 177/4).

In the left elbow bone region:

11. **Bronze fibula**: strongly profiled, with a four-coiled spring and solid rectangular catchplate. L: 4.4 cm. (Fig. 177/5).
12. **Iron bracelet** (fragments): highly oxidized. Ø: 7-8 cm. (Fig. 177/2).
13. **Bronze pendant mirror** (fragments): highly deteriorated. Ø: ~4 cm. (Fig. 177/3).

Near the hand paws:

14. **Glassy paste beads** (144 whole, 14 fragmented): spherical, including triplets and doubles, in five color groups. Ø: 0.3-0.5 cm. (Fig. 176/7).

At the lower part of the legs:

15. **Glassy paste beads** (60 whole, 7 fragmented): spherical, in four color groups. Ø: 0.5-0.6 cm. (Fig. 176/5).
16. **Bronze sheet beads** (fragments of 2 pcs.). H: 0.5 cm. (Fig. 177/7-10).

In the pit fill:

17. **Glassy paste beads** (316 whole, 36 fragmented): various colors and shapes (mostly spherical). (Fig. 176/6).
18. **Bronze pin** (fragment). L: 2.6 cm. (Fig. 177/6).

On the left side of the left leg bones:

19. **Wheel-thrown jug**: gray, with a bitronconic body, ring base, and decorated with a decorative band. H: 16.7 cm; DR: 10 cm. (Fig. 177/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century AD

References: Sava et al. 2020, p. 22-23 (mid 2nd century AD)

Taraclia Gaidabul G2 (fig. 178/1-2**)** Discovered at a depth of 1.07 m from the current ground level. The bottom of the burial pit was reached at 25 cm. The contour of the pit was difficult to define due to the overlap of two different fills

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: difficult to define

Pit shape: difficult to define

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: At the bottom of the pit, a human skeleton was identified, lying on its back, oriented along the NE-SW axis of the pit, with arms extended along the body. The skeleton was in poor condition, with fragile bones broken in several places. The skeleton belongs to a young adult female, aged 18-20 years, with cranial deformation.

Funeral furniture:

On the lateral sides of the skull:

1. **Bronze temple rings/earrings** (2 pcs.): with flared ends. Ø: 1.4 – 1.5 cm. (Fig. 179/1).

In the left thoracic region:

2. **Bronze fibula**: strongly profiled, with a four-spiral cord and rectangular catchplate. L: 4 cm. (Fig. 179/2).
3. **Bronze bead**: small barrel shape. H: 0.9 cm; Ø: 1 cm. (Fig. 179/4).

In the thoracic region:

4. **Glass beads** (3 pcs.): one 12-sided white; one spherical blue fragment; one cylindrical white. (Fig. 179/4).

Near the bell:

5. **Mirror** (small fragments): white alloy with bronze. Possible Ø: 3-4 cm. (Fig. 179/5).

In the lower part of the right leg:

6. **Glassy paste beads** (53 whole, 12 fragmented): spherical, in three color groups. Ø: 0.1-0.6 cm. (Fig. 179/6).

In the lower part of the left leg:

7. **Glassy paste beads** (90 whole, 20 fragmented): spherical, in three color groups. Ø: 0.1-0.6 cm. (Fig. 179/7).

Near the eastern wall, 25 cm from the left shoulder:

8. **Bronze bell**: stamped from thin sheet, with four holes. H: 2.2 cm; Max Ø: 3.3 cm. (Fig. 179/3).

In the thoracic and cervical vertebrae region:

9. **Unworked stone** (possibly intrusive).

Near the left foot:

10. **Terra Sigillata cup**: Roman provincial, bowl-shaped with deep horizontal incisions and a ring base. Handle lost in antiquity. H: 9.6 cm; DR: 7.6 cm. (Fig. 178/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century AD

References: Sava et al. 2020, p. 30-31 (mid 2nd century AD)

Taraclia Gaidabul G3 (fig. 180/1)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 1-1.2 x 1 m. The total depth of the pit, from the current ground level, was 1.42 m, with the total width including the niche being 1.35 m.

Pit shape: an elongated rectangular shape with rounded corners and in the eastern half of the pit had a step descending into a niche located in the western half of the pit, where the deceased was placed. The difference between the step level and the bottom of the grave was approximately 20 cm, and the niche's depth was about 20 cm.

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: At the bottom of the pit, a human skeleton was identified, lying on its back, oriented along the N-S axis of the pit, with arms extended along the body and legs inclined towards the SW. Charcoal was found near the right side of the human skull. The skeleton belongs to a young adult female, aged 25-30 years, with cranial deformation.

Funeral furniture:

Near the left side of the skull:

1. **Bronze earring** (fragments, not recovered).

In the central thorax region:

2. **Bronze fibula**: strongly profiled, with a five-spiral cord. L: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 180/3).

In the hand area:

3. **Glass beads** (2 pcs.): identical, bluish, with vertical grooves. Ø: 1.3-1.4 cm. (Fig. 180/4).

Near the feet:

4. **Glassy paste beads** (95 pcs.): spherical, in blue-green and brown. Ø: 0.1-0.4 cm. (Fig. 180/5-6).

In the upper part of the thorax, on the right side:

5. **Discoidal mirror**: pendant type, with a solar motif on the reverse. Ø: 4 cm. (Fig. 180/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century AD

References: Sava et al. 2020, p. 36-37 (mid 2nd century AD)

94. **Taraclia II, Taraclia District, Republic of Moldova**

In 1983, ten tumuli (no. 5-14) were examined by V. Grosu and others. In 1984, five tumuli (no. 15-19) were excavated by E. Savva, S. Agulnikov, and I. Manzura.

Taraclia II T9G2 (fig. 174/5-6). Tumulus height: 0.7 m, Diameter: 30 m. Discovered at a depth of 1.5 m.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.4 x 1.3 x 0.45 m

Pit shape: an elongated rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was found lying on its back with the head oriented towards the NE. The arms were extended along the trunk, and the legs were straight. Dark brown decomposed matter was observed beneath the skeleton.

Funeral furniture:

In the chest and left-hand area:

1. **Beads** (various): includes 54 blue glass biconical; 4 gray-brown glass paste; 7 red and brown glass barrel-shaped; and 30 complex-shaped brown glass beads. (Fig. 174/9, 9a).

In the area of the feet:

1. **Faience beads**: small, blue, cylindrical. Ø: 0.2-0.5 cm. (Fig. 174/9, 9a).

Near the right foot:

2. **Clay spindle whorl**: mushroom-shaped. H: 3 cm; Ø: 3.8 cm. (Fig. 174/7).

Near the feet:

3. **Handmade pot**: oval body with a wide flared rim. H: 14.5 cm; DR: 7.5 cm; DM: 11 cm. (Fig. 174/8).

In the fill of the grave pit:

4. **Yellow clay amphora** (fragments).

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Grosu, Agulnikov, Haheu 1984, p. 6, fig. 6; Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 2019, p. 36-37 (1st-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157, (late 1st – 2nd centuries AD).

Taraclia II T17G3 (fig. 181/9, 2). Tumulus height: 1 m, Diameter: 40 m. Discovered in the southwestern sector of the mound.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.3 x 1.2 x 0.9 - 1.2 m

Pit shape: an irregularly square shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The remains of a child's skeleton, approximately 18 months ± 6 months old, were found at the bottom of the pit. The general position of the skeleton could not be determined.

Funeral furniture:

Near the skull and beneath it:

1. **Glass beads** (8 fragments): small, cylindrical, turquoise. (Fig. 181/8).

On the left side of the skull:

2. **Glass bead**: round, dark brown, with a white spiral band. Ø: 0.7-1.4 cm. (Fig. 181/7, 7a).

Under the southeastern wall:

3. **Glass bead**: round, reddish. Ø: 0.5-0.7 cm. (Fig. 181/4, 4a).
4. **Barrel-shaped bead**: chalcedony (?) or opal (?), grayish-white. L: 1.8-2.2 cm. (Fig. 181/5, 5a).

On the right side of the skull:

5. **Glass bead**: round, with complex (illegible) yellow decoration. Ø: 0.7-1 cm. (Fig. 181/6, 6a).
6. **Iron arrowhead**: very corroded, with wood traces in the tube. (Fig. 181/3).

Near the southwestern wall:

7. **Gray wheel-made jug**: single-handled, with a ring support and decorated with a tree-like incision pattern. H: 12.5 cm; DR: 8 cm. (Fig. 181/1, 1a).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 1985, p. 34-35; 2019, p. 63-64 (1st-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (2nd century AD).

Taraclia II T17G9 (fig. 181/9, 11) was discovered in the southwestern sector of the mound.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.6 x 1.5 x 1.5 - 1.7 m

Pit shape: a square shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: It contained the skeleton of an adult male, aged 35-40 years, lying on his back with his head towards the north and limbs extended.

Funeral furniture:

Near the tibia bones:

1. **Egyptian faience beads** (54 pcs.): blue. Ø: 0.3-0.5 cm. (Fig. 181/10).

At the bottom of the pit, in the southwestern corner:

2. **Handmade jug**: light-colored, with a deteriorated rim decorated with oblique indentations.

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 1985, p. 38; 2019, pp. 65-66 (1st-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (1st-2nd centuries AD).

Taraclia II T17G10 (fig. 181/9, 182/1) was discovered in the southwestern sector of the mound.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.5 x 1 x 1.45 - 1.57 m

Pit shape: an elongated rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton (male, 20-35 years) was lying on his back with the head towards the northeast. The arms were along the body, and the legs were parallel.

Funeral furniture:

In the southwestern corner, at the bottom of the pit:

1. **Bronze objects**: includes a buckle, rings, and belt plates with studs. (Fig. 182/2-11).

Along the right femur:

2. **Double-edged sword/dagger** (fragment): highly corroded. Preserved L: ~15 cm. (Fig. 182/12).

On the right humerus:

3. **Iron arrowhead** (fragment). (Fig. 182/14).

In the southwestern corner, at the bottom of the pit:

4. **Gray wheel-thrown pot**: with an everted rim and ring-supported base. H: 17 cm; DR: 10 cm. (Fig. 182/13).

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 1985, pp. 38-39; 2019, pp. 65-66 (1st-3rd centuries AD); Grosu 1995, p. 157 (1st-2nd centuries AD).

95. **Tîrnauca, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Slobozia District", Republic of Moldova**

The tumulus was excavated by O.V. Larina and belongs to the Scythians.

Tîrnauca T1G2 Height 1 m, diameter 60-70 m. The burial was discovered in the NNW part of the mound at a depth of 1.39 m (fig. 183/1-2).

Pit direction: SW-NE

Pit sizes: The pit was not identified

Pit shape: The pit was not identified

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was laid in a supine position, with the head oriented towards the SW. The arms were positioned along the trunk and slightly bent at the elbow joints, with the palms next to the pelvis. The legs were stretched. The burial is of a woman. An artificial deformation is observed on the cranial bones. Near the skull of the buried person was a human tibial bone (?) with broken epiphyses.

Funeral furniture:

Near the right wrist, at a depth of 1.45 m:

1. **Bronze pendant**: ball-shaped, decorated with recessed rays. Ø: 1 cm. (Fig. 183/3).

Tîrnauca, Trench No. 1 Around barrow (fig. 183/1).

Trench shape: a circular trench in plan

Interruption/Entrance: in the SW part and the NE part

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Iron spearhead**. (Fig. 183/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Larina 1987, p. 9-10 (1st-2nd century AD).

96. **Tocmagiu, Administrative-Territorial Units of the Left Bank of the Dniester, „Grigoriopol District", Republic of Moldova**

For several years, human remains were uncovered here during clay extraction. In 1958, two burials were reported, and in 1961, three more burials were discovered.

Tocmagiu, Destroyed G1

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: depth of 1.7 meters

Pit shape:

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Double burial of an adult and a child. The head oriented to the NE.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Small glass beads**: white, orange, and dark blue, in cylindrical, spherical, and disc shapes.
2. **Bronze mirror**: with a rectangular handle and decorated with a raised circle and rays. Ø: 5 cm. (Fig. 183/5).
3. **Grey vessel** and other items that were not preserved.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Ketraru, Rikman 1960, p. 8-10, fig. 3/1; Rikman 1966; 1975, p. 20, fig. 7/1.

Tocmagiu, Destroyed G2

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: a depth of 1.5 m

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Double burial. The head oriented to the NE.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Handmade conical bowl**: with a cut, inward-turned rim. (Fig. 183/7).
2. **Small wheel-made jug**: single-handled, with a rounded body and flared rim. (Fig. 183/6).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Ketraru, Rikman 1960, p. 8-10, fig. 3/2-3; Rikman 1966; 1975, p. 20, fig. 7/2-3.

Tocmagiu G1

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: a depth of 0.5 meters

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was destroyed and belonged to an 18-year-old adolescent.

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Rikman 1962, p. 48-50, (2nd-3rd centuries AD); 1975, p. 20.

Tocmagiu G2

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: a depth of 0.8 meters

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was destroyed. The skull was artificially deformed.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Biconical spindle whorl**. (Fig. 183/9).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century

References: Rikman 1962, p. 50, (2nd-3rd centuries AD); 1966, p. 73 fig. 3/2; 1975, p. 20.

Tocmagiu G3

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Double burial of an adult and a young person. The skeletons were destroyed.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Small blue bead**.
2. **Handmade pot** (upper half): with a flared rim with incised line decorations. (Fig. 183/8).
3. **Handmade bowl** (fragments). (Fig. 183/10).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Rikman 1962, p. 50, (2nd-3rd centuries AD); 1966, p. 73 fig. 3/1,3.

Tocmagiu II, Fortuitous discoveries

These discoveries are from the necropolis found by Chetraru in 1958 and published by S. Simonenko. In 2015-16, the Tiraspol Archaeology Museum registered a set of discoveries. The site was named Tocmagiu II, while III refers to an SM-C settlement.

1. **Bronze fibula**: curved, fragmented. L: 5 cm. (Fig. 183/21).
2. **Round bronze fibula**: made from a rod with inwardly twisted spiral ends. Ø: 3 cm. (Fig. 183/22).
3. **Roman amphorae** (upper fragments of 9 pcs.): light clay, with high cylindrical necks. (Fig. 183/11-19).
4. **Amphora foot** (fragment): cylindrical with a hollow base. (Fig. 183/20).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Simonenko 2018, p. 621-628.

97. **Trapovka (Tropoclo), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

Excavated in: 1974

Trapovka T1G5 Height: 1.5 m. Diameter: 30-34 m. The burial is located at a depth of 0.82 cm.

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton was found lying on its back, with the head facing north and the hands next to the pelvis (Fig. 184/1-2).

Funeral furniture:

To the right of the head:

1. **Gray jug**: wheel-made, with a decorated neck and a flat loop handle. H: 12 cm; DR: 7.8 cm. (Fig. 184/3).

Dating: 2nd century AD

References: Vanchugov, Zaginajlo, Toshchev 1976, p. 219, 223 (2nd century AD); Subbotin 1977.

98. **Trinca, Edineț District, Republic of Moldova**

Discovered in 1984 during excavation work, the bones of a grave were uncovered, but no data was recorded regarding the shape and size of the pit, the orientation and position of the skeleton, or the location of the burial goods. The funerary inventory was kept by a history teacher in his private collection. Based on all evidence, the grave is part of a flat necropolis, with field research conducted by the ANA team.

Trinca DG1

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: -

Funeral furniture:

1. **Bronze wire earring**: with a loop-and-hook closure. Ring Ø: 2.2 cm. (Fig. 185/3).
2. **Coral bead**: roughly cylindrical, reddish. L: 1.2 cm. (Fig. 185/4).
3. **Glass paste beads** (12 pcs.): small, spherical, iridescent, in reddish-brown, yellow, and green. Ø: 0.3-0.4 cm. (Fig. 185/5-16).
4. **White metal mirror** (fragment): discoidal, with a perforated side handle and a raised mark (spoked wheel?). (Fig. 185/2).
5. **Roman clay pitcher/jug** (Terra Sigillata, fragmented): yellowish-white kaolin clay, with a tall, spherical body decorated with horizontal grooves. H: 9 cm; DM: 8 cm. (Fig. 185/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century AD – early 3rd century AD

References: Vornic 2016, p. 95-98, (second half of the 2nd century AD – early 3rd century AD).

99. **Truşeni, Chisinau Municipality, Republic of Moldova**

Discovered accidentally in 2007.

Truşeni G1

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: The grave pit could not be identified, as the deceased was located in a layer of brown earth, at a depth of 0.6-0.7 m from the current surface of the soil.

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The female skeleton, seemingly belonging to an adolescent, lying on its back, with the hands alongside the torso (the bones of the right hand were missing) and the legs extended and close together, situated at a slightly shallower depth than the body. The skull was oriented towards the N, elevated and slightly inclined towards the E, facing S, likely resting against the wall of the pit or placed on a "pillow" of earth (Fig. 186/62).

Funeral furniture:

To the E of the left leg:

1. **Iron buckle (?)** (fragment): circular. Fragment L: 2.5 cm. (Fig. 186/2).

In the neck area and the lower part of the skull:

2. **Necklace** (43 disc-shaped beads): 37 blue glass and 6 dark purple glass. Ø: 0.7-1.1 cm. (Fig. 186/3-45).

At the lower part of the shins:

3. **Small beads** (~140+ whole and fragments): prismatic, glass paste, in various colors. 0.5 x 0.5 x 0.5-0.8 cm.

In the abdominal region, on the vertebrae:

4. **Discoidal mirror**: with a lateral perforated handle and a relief tamga sign on the reverse. L: 5.4 cm; Disc Ø: 4 cm. (Fig. 186/1).

About 30 cm W of the right leg:

5. **Handmade vessel** (jar?, 2 wall fragments): coarse paste, reddish-brown exterior.

To the right of the pelvis:

6. **Roman amphora (?)** (atypical shard): wheel-thrown, pink-yellow.

To the left of the skull:

7. **Wheel-thrown vessel** (wall fragment): reddish-yellow.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Vornic, Tabuncic 2008, p. 179-185 (second half of the 2nd century – the first half of the 3rd century AD).

100. **Turlaki (now Vîpasne), Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

In 1984, the archaeological expedition of the Institute of Archaeology of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences, led by I. T. Černjakov, continued the investigation of tumuli on the plateau of the Dniester Liman, near the Belgorod-Dnestrovsk-Monași road. Several Sarmatian tumuli were discovered in this area. This necropolis is considered princely, due to the large size of the burial pits (Fig. 184/4).

Turlaki T8G1 The mound had a height of 2.4 m and a diameter of 50-55 m. On the surface, fragments of amphora walls made of light clay and handles of light clay amphorae were found (Fig. 21). The grave was discovered in the center of the mound (Fig. 184/5-6).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 3.65 x 2.2 x 3.93 m; At a depth of 2.78 m from the upper part of the pit, steps were discovered along the long sides of the pit. The width of the step on the west side was 0.4 m, and on the east side, 0.36 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted, and the position and orientation of the skeleton could not be determined. On the eastern step, human bones (long leg bones, pelvis, vertebrae, fragments of the skull and mandible) were found scattered. In the fill of the burial pit, from a depth of 2.65 m to the upper part, wild animal bones were discovered. The floor of the burial chamber was sprinkled with chalk. The steps were covered with a layer of chalk and small wood fragments, likely remains of a wooden roof over the grave.

Funeral furniture:

At various levels within the fill:

1. **Gold foil** (small fragments).
2. **Iron oval buckle** (fragment): with a straight movable tongue. Ø: 6.2 cm. (Fig. 184/18).
3. **Copper buckle**: round, with a straight movable tongue and rectangular clasp. Ø: 1.6 cm. (Fig. 184/13).
4. **Copper belt end**: square, with leather remnants. 1.4 x 1.5 cm. (Fig. 184/14).
5. **Bronze pin**: with a ring. (Fig. 184/10).
6. **Iron ring** (fragment). (Fig. 184/16).
7. **Iron objects** (fragments). (Fig. 184/9, 15, 17).
8. **Two-edged iron sword** (tip fragment). (Fig. 184/12).
9. **Two-edged iron sword** (blade fragment): with a straight hilt, no guard. W: 4.6 cm. (Fig. 184/20).
10. **Roman amphora** (wall fragments): light clay. (Fig. 184/21).

11. **Lacquered bowl** (fragments): ring-based, with an inwardly inclined rim. DR: 14 cm; DB: 6 cm. (Fig. 184/22).
12. **Red clay bowl** (rim and wall fragments): with an inwardly curved, thickened rim. (Fig. 184/7-8, 11).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD

References: Chernjakov et al., 1985, p. 5-7; Dzigovskij, 1995, p. 23-24 (second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD).

Turlaki T10G1 The height of the tumulus is 2.1-2.15 m, with a diameter of 40 m. A few small fragments of light clay amphora walls were found on the surface of the tumulus. The grave was discovered at the center of the tumulus (Fig. 184/23-24).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 4 x 2.5 x 3.15 m; At a depth of 2.1 m, steps were identified along the long sides of the pit. The steps were stratified in section. The lower level of the steps was covered with chalk. On this level, a wooden plank roof for the burial chamber was placed, made of boards 0.1-0.15 m in width, all of which were heavily burned. Over this wooden roof, a 0.2 m thick layer of soil composed of base clay mixed with chernozem was added. On top of this layer, another wooden roof of boards, also 0.1-0.15 m wide, was laid.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with steps;

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted in antiquity. At a depth of 1.65 m from the surface of the pit, the bones of the pelvis and lower limbs of the deceased were found in a disordered position. The position and orientation of the skeleton could not be determined. The floor and walls of the burial chamber were covered with chalk.

Funeral furniture:

At different levels of the fill:

1. **Glass fragment**: turquoise-colored, elliptical, with incision. (Fig. 188/16).
2. **Iron oval buckle** (fragment): with a straight movable tongue. Ø: 5 cm. (Fig. 188/11).
3. **Iron oval buckle**: with a straight, broken tongue. Ø: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 188/12).
4. **Iron buckle**: round, with a straight movable tongue. Ø: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 188/2).

5. **Bronze clamp**: small, with leather remnants. (Fig. 188/6).
6. **Bronze staple**: rectangular. 2.3 x 1.5 cm. (Fig. 188/3).
7. **Iron staple**: rectangular. 2.1 x 1.2 cm. (Fig. 188/15).
8. **Double-edged iron dagger** (fragmentary): with a straight handle, no guard. L: 27 cm. (Fig. 188/17).
9. **Iron objects** (small fragments): unknown function. (Fig. 188/14).
10. **Iron knife blade** (fragment). W: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 188/5).
11. **Hand-modeled gray clay vessel** (bottom fragments): flat bottom. DB: 12 cm. (Fig. 188/7).
12. **Glass vessel** (small fragments): thick-walled, heavily patinated. (Fig. 188/9).
13. **Glass vessel** (small fragments): thin-walled, heavily patinated. (Fig. 188/4, 10).
14. **Thin-walled glass vessel** (bottom fragment): ring-shaped base. DB: 4 cm. (Fig. 188/13).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD

References: Chernjakov et al 1985, p. 7-9; Dzigovskij 1995, p. 24, 27, (second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD)

Turlaki T12G1 The height of the mound was 0.95-1.6 m, with a diameter of 16-17 m. In the mound fill, at a depth of 0.35 m, a fragment of a Roman amphora handle made of light clay was discovered (Fig. 188/18-19). The grave was found in the center of the mound.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.5 x 1 x 0.8 m; At a depth of 1 m from the upper edge of the pit, support steps were identified, located along the long sides of the pit. The width of these steps was 0.2 m, and their surface was covered with chalk.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted in antiquity. In the northern part of the pit, on its bottom, several intact fragments of a human skull were found, indicating the deceased was oriented with their head to the north. The floor of the burial chamber was covered with chalk.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD

References: Chernjakov et al 1985, p. 9-10

Turlaki T13G1 The mound had been completely plowed, appearing as a light-yellow patch with a diameter of 20 meters. The grave was discovered 1 m west of the mound's center (Fig. 188/20-21).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2 x 1 x 1.6 m; At a depth of 1 m from the upper edge of the pit, steps were identified along the long sides. The width of these steps was 0.2 m, and their surface was covered with chalk.

Pit shape: an elongated rectangle with slightly rounded corners and with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted in antiquity. In the northern part of the pit, on its bottom, a few intact fragments of a human skull were found, indicating that the deceased was oriented with their head to the north. The floor of the burial chamber was covered with chalk.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD

References: Chernjakov et al 1985, p. 9a

Turlaki T14G1 The surface of the tumulus was completely bare. It stood out on the surface of the field as a light-yellow spot with a diameter of 20 meters. The grave was discovered 1 m east-southeast of the center of the tumulus (Fig. 188/22-23).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2 x 1 x 1.55 m; At a depth of 0.95 m from the upper edge of the pit, steps were identified along the long sides of the pit, with a width of 0.2 m. The surface of the steps was covered with a thin layer of chalk.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. Only a few small fragments of ribs and a part of a human lower limb were found at the bottom of the burial chamber. The position and orientation of the deceased could not be established. The bottom of the burial chamber was sprinkled with chalk.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD

References: Chernjakov et al. 1985, pp. 10-11.

Turlaki T16G1 The height of the tumulus is 1.25 m, and the diameter of the tumulus is 20 m. The grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus (Fig. 189/1-2).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.8 x 1.3 x 2.7 m. At a depth of 2.1 m from the upper edge of the pit, steps were identified along the long sides. The width of the step on the western side was 0.2 m, and on the eastern side, it was 0.17 m. The surface of the steps was covered with chalk.

Pit shape: a rectangular narrow shape with rounded corners and with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. In the fill of the burial chamber, at various depths, scattered bones of the skull, pelvis, and lower limbs were found. The position and orientation of the skeleton could not be established. The walls and bottom of the burial chamber were covered with chalk.

Funeral furniture:

In the center of the burial chamber, at the bottom:

1. **Copper buckle**: oval, with a straight movable pin and oval clasp. Ø: 2 cm. (Fig. 189/7).

On the step on the western side:

2. **Copper belt end**: rectangular, with leather remains. 1.6 x 1.2 cm.
3. **Double-edged sword/dagger** (fragment): blade W: 3.5 cm.

In the center of the burial chamber, at the bottom:

4. **Thin glass vessels** (fragments): decorated with an applied blue thread. (Fig. 189/8).
5. **Thin glass vessel** (mouth fragments): cup type. DR: 8 cm. (Fig. 189/6).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD

References: Chernjakov et al. 1985, pp. 11-12; Dzigovskij 1995, p. 27 (the second half of the 2nd century – the beginning of the 3rd century AD).

Turlaki T17G1 The height of the tumulus is 1.3 m, and the diameter of the tumulus is 40 m. The grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus (Fig. 189/3-4).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 3.9 x 2.8 x 3.4 m; At a depth of 2.2 m from the surface of the pit, steps were identified along the long sides, with a width of 0.3 m. The surface of the steps was sprinkled with chalk.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave had been looted in antiquity. A hole dug by looters partially destroyed the center of the western wall of the pit (up to the level of the steps) and the southeastern part of the pit (also up to the steps). The position and orientation of the deceased could not be established. In the fill of the burial chamber, at various levels, small fragments of scattered human bones and wood were found. The bottom of the burial chamber was sprinkled with chalk.

Funeral furniture:

At different levels:

1. **Ring-shaped object** (dagger?): Ø: 3.5 cm.
2. **Iron objects**.
3. **Iron knife** (small fragment): blade W: 0.9 cm.
4. **Glass vessels** (thin fragments): decorated with an applied blue thread. (Fig. 189/9-10).
5. **Gray vessel handle**: wheel-made, polished, flat in cross-section. (Fig. 189/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – early 3rd century AD

References: Chernjakov et al. 1985, pp. 12-13; Dzigovskij 1995, pp. 27-28 (the second half of the 2nd century – the beginning of the 3rd century AD).

101. **Tuzara I, Călărași District, Republic of Moldova**

In the fall of 2017, ANA and USM conducted rescue excavations at the Tuzara I site, where a Sarmatian grave—probably part of a flat necropolis—was discovered.

Tuzara I G1 (Fig. 189/11)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.17 x 1.08 x 0.84-1.02 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape pit had a rounded northern end

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The skeleton, belonging to a woman aged 40-50 with Mediterranean anthropological features, was placed on her back in a stretched position with arms along the body, her skull-oriented northwards.

Funeral furniture:

In the shoulder area:

1. **Jewelry pieces** (2 pcs.): cross-shaped, made of mother-of-pearl. 0.7 x 0.8 cm.

In the tibial and foot area of the deceased:

2. **Glass paste beads** (300+ pcs.): various colors and shapes. (Fig. 189/13).

Near the left arm:

3. **Biconical spindle whorl** (fragment): dark gray. Ø: 3.9 cm; H: 2.9 cm. (Fig. 189/14).

On the right side of the pelvis:

4. **Handmade vessel** (small wall fragment): coarse, grayish-brown.

Near the skull:

5. **Amphora** (neck fragment). (Fig. 189/12).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Corobcean et al., 2019, p. 217 (2nd-3rd centuries AD).

102. **Ursoaia, Căușeni District, Republic of Moldova**

Four tumuli were investigated in Ursoaia in 1983 by G.F. Cebotarenco.

Armor and individual protection equipment for soldiers are poorly represented in Sarmatian antiquities from the northern Black Sea steppe in the 1st–3rd centuries. Unlike archaeological sources, ancient authors' writings are full of accounts of Sarmatian units of heavily armed warriors who successfully fought against Roman legions (Strabo XI, 4, 4-5; Tac. Hist., I, 79, 14; Arr. Tact., 16,7; Amm. Marc. XXIX, 6, 13-14).

Ursoaia T4G1 H 2.4 m, D 25 m. One burial and two fire spots in its mantle. In the NW and SW sectors, near the edge, two fire spots with diameters up to 1.8 m and incineration depths up to 0.05 m were found. The grave was discovered in the center of the tumulus (Fig. 190/1).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 4.85 x 1.85-1.6 x 2.2 m. Along the long walls, at different depths (0.9 m to the west and 1.1 m to the east), steps 0.15-0.35 m wide were arranged. The width at step level was 1.25-1.15 m, at the bottom 1.05 m.

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The adult skeleton was almost completely destroyed during the looting. In the northern part of the burial chamber, a humerus was preserved, and in the southern part, small leg bones of the deceased. Individual rib and finger bone fragments were found in the middle of the pit, in the fill, and at the bottom of the burial chamber, in the looted area. Based on the bone placement, it is presumed that the deceased was lying with their head to the north. The bottom of the burial chamber in the looted area was covered with a 0.3 cm thick ash layer with many charcoal fragments. The walls of the pit in the looted area were partially burnt. On the steps of the grave were anterior and posterior horse bones without hooves. Two bones were preserved on the western shoulder and one on the eastern shoulder of the burial chamber. The fill consisted of dense clay mixed with small traces of wood ash and charcoal.

Funeral furniture:

On the eastern shoulder:

1. **Bridle pieces**: includes a snaffle bit with movable rings and double figure-eight rings for the bridle strap. (Fig. 190/14).
2. **Iron bridle ring** (fragment): oval. 4.3 x 2 cm. (Fig. 190/13).

In the fill and at the bottom of the burial chamber:

3. **Iron armor scales** (2 whole, 3 fragments): from a cataphract, rectangular with rounded edges. (Fig. 190/2-5).
4. **Double-edged blade** (8 fragments): oval in section, possibly from a dagger-sword. Total L: 14.6 cm; W: up to 2.8 cm. (Fig. 190/6).
5. **Object** (corroded fragment, awl or arrowhead?): with traces of a wooden handle. L: 2.3 cm. (Fig. 190/7).
6. **Iron staples** (2 whole, 3 fragments): nearly square, with wood traces. (Fig. 190/8-12).

In the northern part:

7. **Narrow-necked clay amphorae** (upper parts of 2 pcs.): light-colored, with complex profiled handles. One has a rectangular stamp (ΔIOM?). (Fig. 190/16-17).

Near the grave, on the continental clay deposit surface:

8. **Terra Sigillata bowl** (upper part fragment): red glazed, with a thickened, straight rim. DR: 20 cm. (Fig. 190/15).

Dating: early - first third of the 3rd century AD

References: Kurchatov 2015, pp. 108-116, (early - first third of the 3rd century AD); Chebotarenko 1984, (Scythian, 4th-3rd century BC); Grosu 1995, p. 154, (first half of the 3rd century AD); Chebotarenko, Yarovoy, Telnov 1989, pp. 131-134, fig. 56-58 (1st-2nd century AD).

103. **Vadul lui Isac, Cahul District, Republic of Moldova**

In the years 1990-1991, the IAIV of the Academy of Sciences organized a rescue archaeological expedition of monuments in the construction area in the Cahul district.

Vadul lui Isac T1G3 It had a height of 1.5 m and a diameter of 40 m (fig. 191/1, 3). The grave was discovered in the SW part of the tumulus at a depth of 1.5 m.

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.14 ×1 × 0.6 m

Pit shape: a trapezoidal shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased lay on their back with the head oriented towards the NNE.

Funeral furniture:

To the right of the skull:

1. **Bronze earring**: circular, with a hook and loop clasp. Ø: 2 cm. (Fig. 191/5).

Under the skull:

2. **Bronze earring** (fragment): circular. Ø: 2 cm. (Fig. 191/5).

In the thoracic area:

3. **Necklace** (9 glass paste beads): various shapes (biconical, spool, oval, barrel). (Fig. 191/8).

In the lower region of the shins:

4. **Glass beads**: small, turquoise. Ø: 0.3-0.5 cm. (Fig. 191/7).

Next to the left foot:

5. **Biconical spindle whorl**: with one concave base. H: 3 cm; DM: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 191/6).
6. **Handmade clay pot**: with a rim broken in antiquity. H: 5.6 cm; DM: 6 cm. (Fig. 191/4).

Dating: 2nd-3rd century AD

References: Agulnicov, Ursu 2008, p. 62 (2nd-3rd centuries AD); Agulnikov 1991, p. 7

104. **Vasilivca (Vaisal), Bolhrad Raion, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine**

The Vasilivca tumulus necropolis was used for an extended period, preceding the Sarmatians. Research began in 1985, during which 6 tumuli and 23 graves were investigated, along with 4 structures (fig. 192/13).

Vasilivca T1G1 The tumulus was not recognized but only a spot, D 15 m. Within the spot, 3 graves were discovered. Discovered at a depth of 0.6 meters (fig. 193/1-2).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.9 x 1.3 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Grave (double - adult and child): The deceased adult was laid on his back, head oriented towards the NNE; the child, of which only skull fragments and a few bones were preserved, was located near the adult's right foot. The bottom of the pit was covered with a textile product

Funeral furniture:

On the chest:

1. **Iron fibula**: with an arched back. L: 3.1 cm. (Fig. 193/17).

2. **Iron Rivet**: Head Ø: 1.1 cm.

Near the left temple (1) and the second in the incisor canal:

3. **Silver ring earrings**. (Fig. 193/3, 12).

In the adult's neck area, at the wrists, and at the lower extremities of the legs:

4. **Beads** (18 various): includes prismatic black glass and agate; white chalk (?) beads; a prismatic carnelian bead; tubular red coral; round-flattened amber; and twelve-sided blue glass. (Fig. 193/4-5, 9-11, 13-15).
5. **Glass seed-beads** (40 pcs.). (Fig. 193/6-8).

Near the right hand:

6. **Biconical spindle whorl**: made of clay. H: 2.1 cm; DM: 3.7 cm. (Fig. 193/18).

To the right of the adult's skull:

7. **Handcrafted pot**: with a decorated mouth and three conical appliqués on the shoulders. H: 10.5 cm; DR: 7.3 cm. (Fig. 193/16).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 2-4 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T1G2 (double) Discovered at a depth of 0.7 meters (fig. 193/1, 194/1)

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.45 x 1 x0.9 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted. Fragments of bones belonging to two individuals were found in the fill of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Bronze belt end**: with two iron rivets. L: 7 cm; W: 0.8 cm. (Fig. 194/2).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 4 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T1G3 Discovered at a depth of 0.5 meters (fig. 193/1, fig. 194/6).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.2 x 0.45 x 0.3 m, steps width is 0.15 m

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners, with steps along the long sides

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave is evidently that of a child, but the skeleton did not survive.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Bronze objects** (2 small pcs.): possibly part of a bucket-shaped pendant. (Fig. 194/4, 5).

Near the southern wall:

2. **Handmade pot**: with slightly bulging shoulders and four conical appendages. H: 12.5 cm; DR: 8.6 cm; DM: 10.5 cm. (Fig. 194/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 4 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T6G4 Observed with a height of 5 cm and a diameter of 25 meters. Eight graves were discovered within the tumulus, three of which are Sarmatian. Discovered at a depth of 0.7 meters (fig. 194/7-8).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: Its length is 1.8 meters, but the width could not be determined due to the collapse of the niche vault. The depth of the pit is 0.6 meters. The niche is sub rectangular, measuring 1.8 x 0.75 meters, and its base is 0.4 meters below the level of the pit's bottom.

Pit shape: rectangular with rounded corners and a niche along the eastern side

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted. Fragments of human bones were found in the fill.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Red clay bowl** (fragments): semi-spherical, with a flared rim and low ring base. H: 6.5 cm; DR: 15 cm. (Fig. 194/9).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 4-5 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T6G5 (fig. 194/7, 10).

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 1.45 x 0.7 x 0.35-0.65 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was completely looted. Only fragments of human bones were found in the fill.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 5 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T6G6 (fig. 192/1, 194/7)

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 1.35 x 0.85 x 0.6 - 1.15 m. At 0.45 meters above the bottom of the pit, niches with steps were made along the long sides. The height of these steps is 0.05-0.1 meters, and the depth of the cut is 0.15-0.2 meters. The width of the pit at the level of these steps is 0.65 meters. At 0.3 meters below the steps, a platform was left on three sides (excluding the northern side), which reduced the bottom part of the pit, which is 0.15 meters deep, to dimensions of 1 x 0.45 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and with niches with steps were made along the long sides

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Only fragments of child bones and charcoal were found in this part.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 5 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T11G1 Tumulus: not noticeable, just a spot, diameter 30 meters. Four graves were discovered within the tumulus, two of which are Sarmatian (fig. 192/2)

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.75 x 0.7 m. The rectangular niche measures 1.9 x 0.8 meters and shared the base with the pit.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with a niche along the eastern side

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was placed in the niche, lying on their back with the head oriented towards the NNE.

Funeral furniture:

Above the ankles:

1. **Glass beads** (30 pcs.): multi-colored, short cylindrical and irregular rectangular shapes. (Fig. 192/4-8).

In the fill:

2. **Clay spindle whorl**: semi-spherical. H: 2.1 cm; DB: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 192/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 5-6 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T11G2 (fig. 192/9).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.8 x 0.8 x 0.7 - 1.5 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was looted

Funeral furniture:

In the fill, at the bottom of the pit:

1. **Glass beads** (5 pcs.): short cylindrical and round. (Fig. 192/10-12).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 6 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T14G1 Tumulus: Not noticeable, just a spot, diameter 15 meters. Within the tumulus, 6 Sarmatian graves and a structure were discovered (fig. 195/10, 12).

Pit direction: NNE-SSW

Pit sizes: 1.4 x 0.5 x 0.4 - 0.9 m. The niche, located along the western wall of the pit, is oval-shaped, measuring 1.27 x 0.6 meters, with its base situated 5 cm below the bottom of the pit.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with a niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Based on the position of the child's cranial remains, the child was placed in the niche with the head towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

1. **Glass beads** (38 pcs.): includes rounded, short cylindrical, and four-sided prismatic shapes. (Fig. 195/1-6).
2. **Shell pendants** (2 pcs.): one cross-shaped, one serrated. (Fig. 195/8, 9).

In the fill:

3. **Handmade spindle whorl**: asymmetrical, biconical. H: 2.25 cm; DM: 3.5 cm. (Fig. 195/14).

In the southern part of the niche:

4. **Wheel-made red clay jug**: single-handled, with a spherical body and short ring base. H: 9.4 cm; DR: 6.4 cm; DM: 8.9 cm. (Fig. 195/11).
5. **Handmade pot**: with high shoulders and a funnel-shaped neck. H: 14.5 cm; DR: 8.6 cm; DM: 10.8 cm. (Fig. 195/13).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 6-7 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T14G2 (fig. 195/12; fig. 196/1).

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 0.94 x 0.42 x 0.45 - 0.65 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Remains of a child's skull were identified on the northern short wall.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 7 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T14G3 (fig. 195/12; fig. 196/2).

Pit direction: NNW-SSE

Pit sizes: 1 x 0.42 x 0.55 - 0.75 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: (Cenotaph?)

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 7 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T14G4 (fig. 195/12; fig. 196/3).

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 0.95 x 0.35 x 0.6 – 0.9 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Fragments of a child's skull were found in the northern part of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Bronze pendant**: crescent moon shape. (Fig. 196/6).
2. **Glass beads** (16 pcs.): round and short cylindrical, in various colors. (Fig. 196/7-10).
3. **Handmade pot**: with an almost straight rim and flat base. H: 13 cm; DR: 8.6 cm; DM: 10 cm. (Fig. 196/4).
4. **Handmade pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck and slightly concave base. H: 11 cm; DR: 7.1 cm. (Fig. 196/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 7 (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T14G5 (fig. 195/12; fig. 196/11).

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 2.05 x 0.56 x 0.45 m. Niche was measuring 2 x 0.55 m. The depth of the pit is 0.95 meters from the reference point, and the base of the niche was located 0.35 meters below this.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and a rectangular niche with rounded corners along the eastern wall

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The grave was damaged and looted. Fragments of human bones were found in the fill of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Glass beads** (30 pcs.): includes short cylindrical, blue tablet-shaped, and round beads. (Fig. 196/16-17, 20).

2. **Pendants** (4 pcs.): one tablet-shaped and three cross-shaped, all made of mother-of-pearl. (Fig. 196/13, 14, 18, 19).
3. **Iron ring** (fragment): possibly part of an omega fibula. (Fig. 196/12).
4. **Red ceramic jug**: wheel-made, single-handled, with a globular body and a sub-cylindrical neck separated by a cordon. H: 16 cm; DR: 10.8 cm; DM: 16.6 cm. (Fig. 196/21).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 7-8, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T14G6 (fig. 195/12; fig. 196/22).

Pit direction: NW-SE

Pit sizes: 2.1 x 0.5 x 0.5 – 0.9 m. The niche was constructed along the western wall, measuring 2.17 x 0.5 meters, with its base located 0.1 meters below the bottom of the pit. The height of the vault at the entrance was 0.25 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with a niche with rounded corners

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was laid out on their back, with their head oriented towards the northwest.

Funeral furniture:

In the neck area and near the feet:

1. **Beads** (22 pcs.): includes 9 blue glass tablets; 2 tubular coral beads; 1 white chalk double bead; and 10 round glass beads. (Fig. 197/6-12).

At the feet:

2. **Spindle whorl**: asymmetric-biconical, decorated with two horizontal lines. H: 3 cm; DM: 4.4 cm. (Fig. 197/13).
3. **Iron spindle**: with traces of a wooden handle. L: 3.2 cm. (Fig. 197/2).
4. **Handmade pot**: with a round body and funnel-shaped neck. H: 13.6 cm; DR: 11 cm; DM: 13.4 cm. (Fig. 197/5).
5. **Ceramic lid**: conical, with a handle. H: 5 cm; Ø: 12.3 cm. (Fig. 197/4).

6. **Handmade pot**: with a flat base and decorated with oblique incisions on the shoulder. H: 11 cm; DR: 7.4 cm. (Fig. 197/3).
7. **Conical bowl**: handmade, polished black, with an inwardly turned rim and a ring base. H: 12 cm; DR: 22.2 cm. (Fig. 197/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 8-9, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca, Trench No. 1 (fig. 195/7,12) It surrounded the graves. The eastern part of this structure was also the western part of another trench in tumulus 26 – built in the same period.

Trench shape: a rectangular trench in plan and a slightly narrowing rectangular section towards the bottom

Orientation: with its corners aligned to the cardinal points

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: The ditch measured 11 x 4.5 meters. The depth was 0.5 - 0.85 meters, and the width of the ditch was 0.25 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the NW corner:

1. **Handmade pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck and a flat base. H: 21 cm; DR: 13 cm; DM: 16.7 cm. (Fig. 197/14).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 9, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T26G2 The tumulus was observed in the context of the investigation of tumulus 14, as a spot with a diameter of 15 meters. In the tumulus, 2 graves were discovered, one of which was Sarmatian with a ditch (fig. 195/7, fig. 198/1).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 1.85 x 0.65 x 0.6 m. The niche, oval-shaped, measures 1.96 x 0.7 meters and was constructed along the western wall of the pit. The bottom of the pit was located 1.35 meters from the reference point, with the base of the niche being 5 cm lower. The height of the vault is 0.55 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and a niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Fragments of human bones were found in the fill of the pit.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Fibula (?)** (fragment): a bronze spring wrapped around an iron rod. (Fig. 198/6).
2. **Iron knife handle** (fragment). (Fig. 198/2).
3. **Iron object**: hoe-shaped. (Fig. 198/3).
4. **Sheep astragali** (28 pcs.).
5. **Handmade pot**: with a tall sub-cylindrical neck and a horizontal border. H: 17.5 cm; DR: 8.8 cm; DM: 12.3 cm. (Fig. 198/7).
6. **Handmade pot**: with a short sub-cylindrical neck and a sooty upper part. H: 23.9 cm; DR: 13 cm; DM: 18.3 cm. (Fig. 198/5).
7. **Handmade pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck and a flat base. H: 14 cm; DR: 7.4 cm. (Fig. 198/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 9-10, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca, Trench No. 2 (fig. 195/7) Surrounded the graves. The western part of this structure was also the eastern part of another structure in tumulus 14 – built in the same period (Fig. 195/12).

Trench shape: a rectangular trench in plan

Orientation: north-south

Interruption/Entrance: in the southwestern part

Trench dimensions: The ditch measured 12.5 x 4.5-5.4 meters. The depth was 0.6 meters, and the width of the ditch was 0.3 meters.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Open amphora** (handle and wall fragments).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 10, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T19G2 The tumulus was observed as a spot with a diameter of 20 meters. Within the tumulus, two graves were discovered, one of which was Sarmatian with a trench (Fig. 197/15). Grave 2 was discovered at the center of the mound (fig. 199/2).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.2 x 0.65 x 0.7 - 1.9 m. The steps, which are 0.1-0.2 meters wide, were located 0.45 meters above the bottom of the pit.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners and constructed with steps along the long sides

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The burial was destroyed and plundered. Judging by the location of the leg bones found in the pit, the deceased was oriented towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Handmade vessel** (rim fragment): funnel-shaped, decorated with oblique incisions. DR: 25.5 cm. (Fig. 199/1).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 10, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca, Trench No. 3: Surrounded the graves (fig. 197/15). To the south in the trench, there is a niche and a dog skeleton.

Trench shape: The trench had a circular shape in plan.

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: Southern part.

Dimensions of the trench: diameter 14 meters. Depth discovered from 0.6 meters to 1.3 meters, width of the trench at the surface 1.3 meters, narrowing from 1 meter to 0.45 meters.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 10, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca T20G1 The tumulus was observed as a spot with a diameter of 13 meters. Within the tumulus, a Sarmatian grave with a trench was discovered (Fig. 199/3, 4).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.65 x 0.9 x 0.35 - 1.6 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The fill contained human bones and wood fragments.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Bronze buckle**: with a rounded frame and a rectangular plate. L: 1.5 cm; Plate: 1.5 x 1.2 cm. (Fig. 199/6).
2. **Bronze pin**: from a fibula. (Fig. 199/5).
3. **Bronze objects** (2 pcs.): rods with a disc and washer at the ends. L: 1.6 cm. (Fig. 199/7).
4. **Wheel-made jug**: single-handled, with a rounded body and a horizontal band on the neck; bottom and handle are broken. DR: 10 cm; DM: 12 cm. (Fig. 199/8).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 10-11, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca, Trench No. 4: Surrounded the graves (Fig. 199/3). On the northern side, there is a niche with animal bones.

Trench shape: A trapezoidal trench in plan.

Orientation: Oriented along the north-south line.

Interruption/Entrance: Southern and northern parts.

Dimensions of the trench: dimensions of 8 x 3-7 meters. Depth 0.35 meters, width of the trench – 0.2-0.25 meters.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 11, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca T21G2 The tumulus was observed as a spot with a diameter of 9 meters. Within the tumulus, two graves were discovered, one of which was Sarmatian (fig. 192/14). Grave was discovered at the center of the mound.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2.57 x 0.95 x 0.7 - 1.8 m. It has steps 0.1 meters wide, located 0.6 meters above the bottom along the long sides. At 0.53 meters below these steps, there were additional steps encircling the bottom of the pit, excavated to a size of 2.3 x 0.6 meters and at a depth of 7 cm.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with steps

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The fill contained only fragments of human bones. Along the long sides, there was a vegetal covering.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Bronze objects** (corroded remains).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 11, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca T23G1 The tumulus was observed as a spot with a diameter of 9 meters. Within the tumulus, a Sarmatian grave and a trench were discovered (Fig. 200/1; 202/1). Burial was discovered at the center of the tumulus.

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.6 x 0.45 x 0.8 - 1.05 m. The oval niche, measuring 2 x 0.5 meters, was made along the long west wall of the pit. Its base was 10 cm below the bottom of the pit.

Pit shape: an almost rectangular shape with a niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was laid on their back, with the head towards the northeast.

Funeral furniture:

At the neck and feet:

1. **Bronze bead**: tubular. (Fig. 200/13).
2. **Glass beads** (9 pcs.): of different shapes. (Fig. 200/6-12).

On the left side of the chest:

3. **Chalcedony bead**: round. Ø: 2.8 cm. (Fig. 200/3).

At the neck:

4. **Bone bead**: tubular. L: 2 cm; Ø: 1.2 cm. (Fig. 200/14).

Above the left wing of the pelvis:

5. **Silver mirror**: round, with a rectangular handle and decorated with geometric relief signs. Ø: 5 cm. (Fig. 200/2).

At the southern edge of the pit. In a large bowl, there were a small ornamented vessel covered with a lid and a spindle:

6. **Large conical bowl**: with a rounded rim and a groove on the neck. H: 17.4 cm; DR: 27.7 cm. (Fig. 200/18).

7. **Smaller conical bowl**: with an oblique rim and a flat bottom. H: 8.7 cm; DR: 16.6 cm. (Fig. 200/17).
8. **Handmade pot**: decorated with burnishing, impressions, and relief applications. H: 13.5 cm; DR: 9.8 cm. (Fig. 200/15).
9. **Handmade pot**: with an almost cylindrical neck and a flat bottom. H: 9.3 cm; DR: 6.8 cm. (Fig. 200/16).
10. **Conical lid**: H: 5.5 cm; Ø: 11.8 cm. (Fig. 200/5).
11. **Conical spindle**: H: 2.6 cm; Ø: 4.5 cm. (Fig. 200/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 11-12, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca, Trench No. 1: Surrounded the graves (Fig. 202/1).

Trench shape: The trench had a circular shape in plan.

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: -

Dimensions of the trench: Diameter 5.7 meters. Depth 0.45 meters to 0.55 meters, width of the trench 0.2 meters.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 12, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T24G1 The tumulus was observed as a spot with a diameter of 9 meters. Within the tumulus, a Sarmatian grave was discovered (Fig. 201/1).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 2.55 x 1 x 0.7 - 1.7 m

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: In the fill, fragments of large animal jaw and human bones were discovered.

Funeral furniture:

In the fill:

1. **Glass beads**: 9 round and one blue disc-shaped. (Fig. 201/9, 10, 12).
2. **Mother-of-pearl beads**: two disc-shaped and three cross-shaped. (Fig. 201/6-8).
3. **Chalcedony beads**: one prismatic and one with 14 facets. (Fig. 201/13, 14).
4. **Rock crystal beads** (2 pcs.): with 14 facets. (Fig. 201/11).
5. **Bronze mirror** (round fragments).
6. **Bronze clasp**: cross-shaped. (Fig. 201/16).
7. **Iron dagger (?)**: L: 10.3 cm. (Fig. 202/8).
8. **Iron ring** (fragment, dagger?): Ø: up to 3.5 cm. (Fig. 202/7).
9. **Handmade pot**: with a rounded body and slightly bent neck. H: 14 cm; DR: 9.5 cm. (Fig. 201/4).
10. **Conical handmade lid**: H: 6 cm; Ø: 10.6 cm. (Fig. 201/2).
11. **Reddish conical bowl**: wheel-made, on a ring foot with an inwardly bent rim. H: 16 cm; DR: 22.4 cm. (Fig. 201/15).
12. **Reddish conical bowl**: wheel-made, on a ring foot with an inwardly bent rim. H: 6 cm; DR: 15.3 cm. (Fig. 201/5).

At the southern part of the pit floor:

13. **Handmade pot**: with a funnel-shaped neck and decorated with rows of incisions. H: 22.5 cm; DR: 13 cm. (Fig. 201/3).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 12-13, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca T25G2 The tumulus was observed as a spot with a diameter of 16 meters. Within the tumulus, three graves were discovered, two of which were Sarmatian and one trench (Fig. 201/17; 202/3).

Pit direction: NE-SW

Pit sizes: 1.87 x 0.88 x 0.6 - 1.65 m. The steps were 0.5 meters above the bottom. Below the steps, the pit measured 2 x 0.5 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with rounded corners with steps along the long sides

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: Only fragments of bones were found in the fill.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 13-14, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca T25G3 (Fig. 201/17; 202/4).

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 0.7 x 0.43 x 0.6 - 0.75 m.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The pit contained the skeletal remains of a child, who was positioned with their head towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

In the southwestern corner, there was a pot covered with an inverted bowl:

1. **Handmade pot**: with bulging shoulders and a flat bottom. H: 10 cm; DR: 7.5 cm. (Fig. 202/6).
2. **Deep conical bowl**: handmade, with a horizontal groove below the rim. H: 7.2 cm; DR: 11 cm. (Fig. 202/5).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 14, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca, Trench No. 1: Surrounded the graves (Fig. 201/17). Partially excavated – southern part.

Trench shape: The trench had a circular shape in plan.

Orientation: -

Interruption/Entrance: -

Dimensions of the trench: Diameter 7.2 meters. Depth 0.35 meters to 0.4 meters, width of the trench 0.17 meters.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 14, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

Vasilivca T27G1 The tumulus was observed as a spot with a diameter of 8 meters. Within the tumulus, a Sarmatian grave was discovered (Fig. 203/1). Grave was found at the center of the spot.

Pit direction: N-S

Pit sizes: 2 x 0.8 x 0.65 - 1.45 m. The niche was along the western wall and had an oval shape, measuring 2 x 0.6 meters. It was 0.1 meters lower than the pit and rose 0.5 meters.

Pit shape: a rectangular shape with a niche

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: The deceased was laid on their back, with their head towards the north.

Funeral furniture:

Near the head:

1. **Glass bead**: blue, disc-shaped. (Fig. 203/12).

At the feet:

2. **Small glass beads** (700 pcs.): cylindrical and rectangular with rounded edges. (Fig. 203/5-11).

At the left elbow:

3. **Bronze bracelet**: oval. Inner dimensions: 6.5 x 4.7 cm. (Fig. 203/2).
4. **Bronze bead**: tubular. L: 2 cm. (Fig. 203/3).

In the chest area:

5. **Bronze mirror**: round, with relief ornaments and a rectangular handle. Ø: 5 cm. (Fig. 203/4).

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 14-15, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

In addition to the described graves, four square trenches were identified at the Vasilivca burial site. No graves directly associated with these trenches were identified.

Vasilivca, Trench No. 1: (Fig. 202/2).

Trench shape: The trench was square in plan and triangular in section.

Orientation: With corners oriented towards the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interruption/Entrance: To the south.

Dimensions of the trench: 13 x 13.5 meters. Depth ranges from 0.4 meters to 1.5 meters, trench width 1 meter, entrance 3 meters.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 15, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca, Trench No. 2: (Fig. 203/14).

Trench shape: The trench was square in plan and triangular in section.

Orientation: With corners oriented towards the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interruption/Entrance: To the south.

Dimensions of the trench: 9 x 9 meters. Depth ranges from 0.4 meters to 1.2 meters, trench width 0.85 meters, entrance 2 meters.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 15, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca, Trench No. 3: (Fig. 198/8).

Trench shape: The trench was square in plan and triangular in section.

Orientation: With corners oriented towards the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interruption/Entrance: To the south.

Dimensions of the trench: 12 x 12 meters. Depth ranges from 0.4 meters to 1.1-1.2 meters, trench width 0.9-1 m, entrance 2 m.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 15, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD);

Vasilivca, Trench No. 4: (Fig. 203/13).

Trench shape: The trench was square in plan and triangular in section.

Orientation: With corners oriented towards the cardinal points (with slight deviations).

Interruption/Entrance: To the south.

Dimensions of the trench: 6 x 6 meters. Depth ranges from 0.5 meters to 1 meter, trench width 0.8 meters, entrance 1.3 meters.

Dating: second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c, p. 15, (second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).

105. **Viișoara, Glodeni District, Republic of Moldova**

Discovered in 1959 within a village sand extraction site. The items were kept in the village school.

Viișoara G1 - Destroyed

Pit direction: -

Pit sizes: -

Pit shape: -

Anatomical position, condition or state of the skeletal remains: -

Funeral furniture:

1. **Bronze mirror** (circular fragments): with a tamga mark and a rectangular handle with a hanging hole. (Fig. 191/9).

2. **Iron sword**.
3. **Wheel-made jug**.
4. **Handmade pot**: with a rounded middle and cylindrical neck. (Fig. 191/2).

Dating: 2nd century - first half of the 3rd century AD

References: Fedorov 1960, p. 277; Rikman 1966, fig. 7/4,5; 1975, p. 25; Grosu 1995, p. 153, (end of 1st - 3rd century AD).

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List of abbreviations

- **ActaMN** – *Acta Musei Napocensis* (Journal of the Napoca Museum)
- **ActaMP** – *Acta Musei Porolissensis* (Journal of the Porolissum Museum)
- **ADIU / АДІУ** – *Археологія і давня історія України* (Arkheolohiia i davnia istoriia Ukrainy / Archaeology and Ancient History of Ukraine)
- **AIM / АИМ** – *Археологические Исследования в Молдавии* (Arkheologicheskie Issledovaniya v Moldavii / Archaeological Research in Moldavia)
- **AKM / АҠМ** – *Археологическая карта Молдавской ССР* (Arkheologicheskaya karta Moldavskoy SSR / Archaeological Map of the Moldavian SSR)
- **Arhiva MNIM** – *Arhiva Muzeului Național de Istorie a Moldovei* (Archive of the National Museum of History of Moldova)
- **ASGE / АСГЭ** – *Археологический Сборник Государственного Эрмитажа* (Arkheologicheskii Sbornik Gosudarstvennogo Ermitazha / Archaeological Collection of the State Hermitage Museum)
- **CCA** – *Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România* (The Chronicle of Archaeological Research in Romania)
- **DPSK / ДСПҠ** – *Древности Степного Причерноморья и Крыма* (Drevnosti Stepnogo Prichernomor'ya i Kryma / Antiquities of the Steppe Black Sea Region and Crimea)
- **EphemNap** – *Ephemeris Napocensis*
- **KSIA / КСИА** – *Краткие сообщения Института археологии* (Kratkie soobshcheniya Instituta arkheologii / Brief Communications of the Institute of Archaeology)

- **MAIASP / МАИАСП** – *Материалы по археологии и истории античного и средневекового Причерноморья* (Materialy po arkheologii i istorii antichnogo i srednevekovogo Prichernomor'ya / Materials on the Archaeology and History of the Ancient and Medieval Black Sea Region)
- **MASP / МАСП** – *Материалы по археологии Северного Причерноморья* (Materialy po arkheologii Severnogo Prichernomor'ya / Materials on the Archaeology of the Northern Black Sea Region)
- **MIA / МИА** – *Материалы и исследования по археологии СССР* (Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii SSSR / Materials and Research on the Archaeology of the USSR)
- **MIAD / МИАД** – *Материалы и исследования по археологии Дона* (Materialy i issledovaniya po arkheologii Dona / Materials and Research on the Archaeology of the Don Region)
- **RA** – *Revista Arheologică* (Archaeological Review)
- **SA / СА** – *Советская археология* (Sovetskaya Arkheologiya / Soviet Archaeology)
- **SAI / САИ** – *Свод археологических источников* (Svod arkheologicheskikh istochnikov / Corpus of Archaeological Sources)
- **SCIVA** – *Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie* (Studies and Research of Ancient History and Archaeology)
- **TKhAEE / ТХАЭЭ** – *Труды Хорезмской археолого-этнографической экспедиции* (Trudy Khorezmskoy arkheologo-etnograficheskoy ekspeditsii / Proceedings of the Khorezmian Archaeological-Ethnographic Expedition)
- **ZOOID** – *Записки Одесского Общества Истории и Древностей* (Zapiski Odesskogo Obshchestva Istorii i Drevnostey / Notes of the Odessa Society of History and Antiquities)
- **ZSA** – *Ziridava Studia Archaeologica* (Ziridava Archaeological Studies)

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Fig. 117 Ogorodnoe II T4G1, T5G1 (after Subbotin, Zagynailo, Shmahliy 1970)

Fig. 118 Ogorodnoe II T3G1, T4G1, T5G1 (after Subbotin, Zagynailo, Shmahliy 1970)

Fig. 119 Olănești T1G1 (after Melyukova 1961), Opaci T9G3 (after Grosu, Demcenco 1990)

Fig. 120 Olănești T16G1 (after Jarovoj 1979)

Fig. 121 Opaci T9G3 (after Grosu, Demcenco 1990), Orlovka-Kartal G1, G7 (after Bruyako et al. 2009)

Fig. 122 Orlovka-Kartal G6, G27, G274, G323 (after Bruyako, Nosova 2021), G1 (after Bruyako et al. 2009)

Fig. 123 Orlovka-Kartal G298 (after Bruyako et al. 2017, 2018)

Fig. 124 Orlovka-Kartal G298 (after Bruyako et al. 2017, 2018)

Fig. 125 Orlovka-Kartal G298 (after Bruyako et al. 2017, 2018)

Fig. 126 Orlovka-Kartal G298 (after Bruyako et al. 2017, 2018)

Fig. 127 Orlovka-Kartal G537 and Trench (after Bruyako, Nosova 2021)

Fig. 128 Pașcani DG1 (after Grosu 1983)

Fig. 129 Pererîta T2G13 (after Kurchatov 2006)

Fig. 130 Pervomaisc T1G1 (after Rikman, Hîncu 1970)

Fig. 131 Pervomaisc T1G1 (after Rikman, Hîncu 1970)

Fig. 132 Petrești plan, T3G3, T3G12 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023) Polevoe-Turlaki plan (after Chernyakov et al., 1983b) Petrești T3 Podoima T3 (after Bubulich, Haheu 2002)

Fig. 133 Petrești Trench 1, G1 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 134 Petrești Trench 2-3, G2-3 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 135 Petrești Trench 4-5, G4-5 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 136 Petrești Trench 6 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 137 Petrești Trench 6-7, G6-8 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 138 Petrești Trench 8-9, 11, G9, G11, Pit 1 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 139 Petrești Trench 10, G10 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 140 Petrești G10, G12, Trench 12 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 141 Petrești Trench 13-14, G13-15 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 142 Petrești Trench 15-16, G16-18 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 143 Petrești Pit 3-4, G167, Trench 17 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 144 Petrești Trench 18 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 145 Petrești Trench 19-22, G20, G22, G23, G25, (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 146 Petrești Trench 23, G24-25 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 147 Petrești G25-28 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 148 Petrești G29-31, Trench 24 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 149 Petrești Trench 25-26, 31, G32-33 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 150 Petrești G33, Trench 27-29, 34 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 151 Petrești Trench 29-30 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 152 Petrești Trench 32-33, Pit 7, G35-37 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 153 Petrești G37-40 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 154 Petrești Trench 34-35, G41-42 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 155 Petrești T2G2 (after Jarovoi 1985)

Fig. 156 Petrești T3G3, T3G12 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

Fig. 157 Podoima T3G3, T3G5 (after Bubulich, Haheu 2002)

Fig. 158 Polevoe T6G1 (after Chernyakov et al., 1983b)

Fig. 159 Pomazani T1G4 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984), T2G1 (after Toshchev, Redina 1991), Primorsk T2G2 (after Chebotarenko, Cherniakov, Toshchev 1993)

Fig. 160 Primorsk T1G17, G52-53 (Chebotarenko, Cherniakov, Toshchev 1993)

Fig. 161 Rumeantsev T1G7 (after Bubulich 1992)

Fig. 162 Rumeantsev T1G8 (after Bubulich 1992)

Fig. 163 Șalvirii Noi-Palanca T6G7-8 (after Kurchatov 1991)

Fig. 164 Șalvirii Noi-Palanca T6G8 (after Kurchatov 1991), Șabolat T4G1 (after Grosu 1990)

Fig. 165 Șcerbaca (now Văratic) T2G5 (after Grosu 1988), Sărata Veche T1G7 (after Sergheev 1961), Seliște (after Rafalovich, Lapushnyan 1974b)

Fig. 166 Semionovca (Seimeni) T3G1 (after Subbotin et al 2017)

Fig. 167 Semionovca (Seimeni) T4G1 (after Subbotin et al 2017)

Fig. 168 Sergheevca T5G1, T12G1 (after Dzigovskij, Subbotin 1989)

Fig. 169 Șoldănești G1, G4 (after Kurchatov 2010)

Fig. 170 Șoldănești G7, G10 (after Kurchatov 2010)

Fig. 171 Șoldănești plan (after Kurchatov 2010), Suvorove (after Dzigovskij, Brujako 2023)

Fig. 172 Suvorove (after Dzigovskij, Brujako 2023)

Fig. 173 Suvorovo (Al. Cuza) T3G2 (after Beylekchi, Yarovoy 1974), Svetlîi T2G2 (after Manzura 1984)

Fig. 174 Talmaza T1G7, T7G1 (after Agulnikov, Popovici 2022), Taraclia II T9G2 (after Agulnikov, Manzura 2019)

Fig. 175 Taraclia Gaidabul G1 (after Sava et al. 2020)

Fig. 176 Taraclia Gaidabul G1 (after Sava et al. 2020)

Fig. 177 Taraclia Gaidabul G1 (after Sava et al. 2020)

Fig. 178 Taraclia Gaidabul G2 (after Sava et al. 2020)

Fig. 179 Taraclia Gaidabul G2 (after Sava et al. 2020)

Fig. 180 Taraclia Gaidabul G3 (after Sava et al. 2020)

Fig. 181 Taraclia II T17G3, T17G9 (after Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 1985, 2019)

Fig. 182 Taraclia II T17G10 (after Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 1985, 2019)

Fig. 183 Tîrnauca T1G2 (after Larina 1987), Tocmagiu DG1-2, G1-3 (after Ketraru, Rikman 1960, Rikman 1962, 1966, 1975, Simonenko 2018)

Fig. 184 Trapovka T1G5 (after Vanchugov, Zaginajlo, Toshchev 1976), Turlaki T8G1, T10G1 (after Chernjakov et al., 1985)

Fig. 185 Trinca DG1 (after Vornic 2016)

Fig. 186 Truşeni DG1 (after Vornic, Tabuncic 2008)

Fig. 187 Truşeni DG1 (after Vornic, Tabuncic 2008)

Fig. 188 Turlaki T10G1, T12G1, T13G1, T14G1 (after Chernjakov et al., 1985)

Fig. 189 Turlaki T16G1, T17G1 (after Chernjakov et al., 1985), Tuzara I G1 (after Corobcean et al., 2019)

Fig. 190 Ursoaia T4G1 (after Kurchatov 2015)

Fig. 191 Vadul lui Isac T1G3 (after Agulnicov, Ursu 2008), Viișoara DG1 (after Rikman 1966)

Fig. 192 Vasilivca Plan, T6G6, T11G1, T11G2, T21G2 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 193 Vasilivca T1G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 194 Vasilivca T1G2, T1G3, T6G1, T6G4, T6G5 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 195 Vasilivca T14G1, T26G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 196 Vasilivca T14G2-6 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 197 Vasilivca T14G6, Trench, T19G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 198 Vasilivca T26G2, Trench (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 199 Vasilivca T19G2, T20G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 200 Vasilivca T23G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 201 Vasilivca T24G1, T25G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 202 Vasilivca T23G1, Trench, T25G2-3, T24G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

Fig. 203 Vasilivca T27G1, Trenches (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

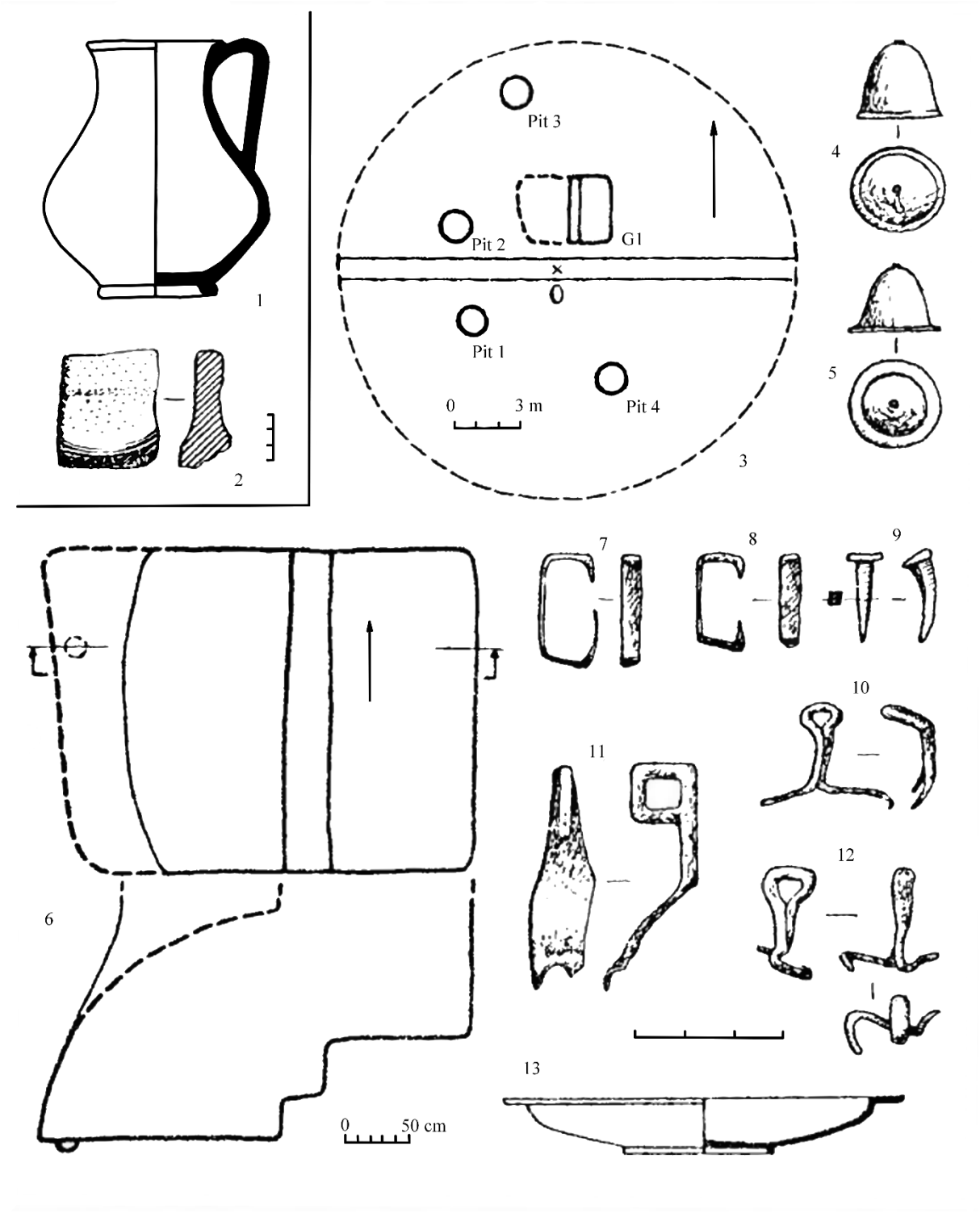


Fig. 1 Alcalia T5G13 and T6G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990)

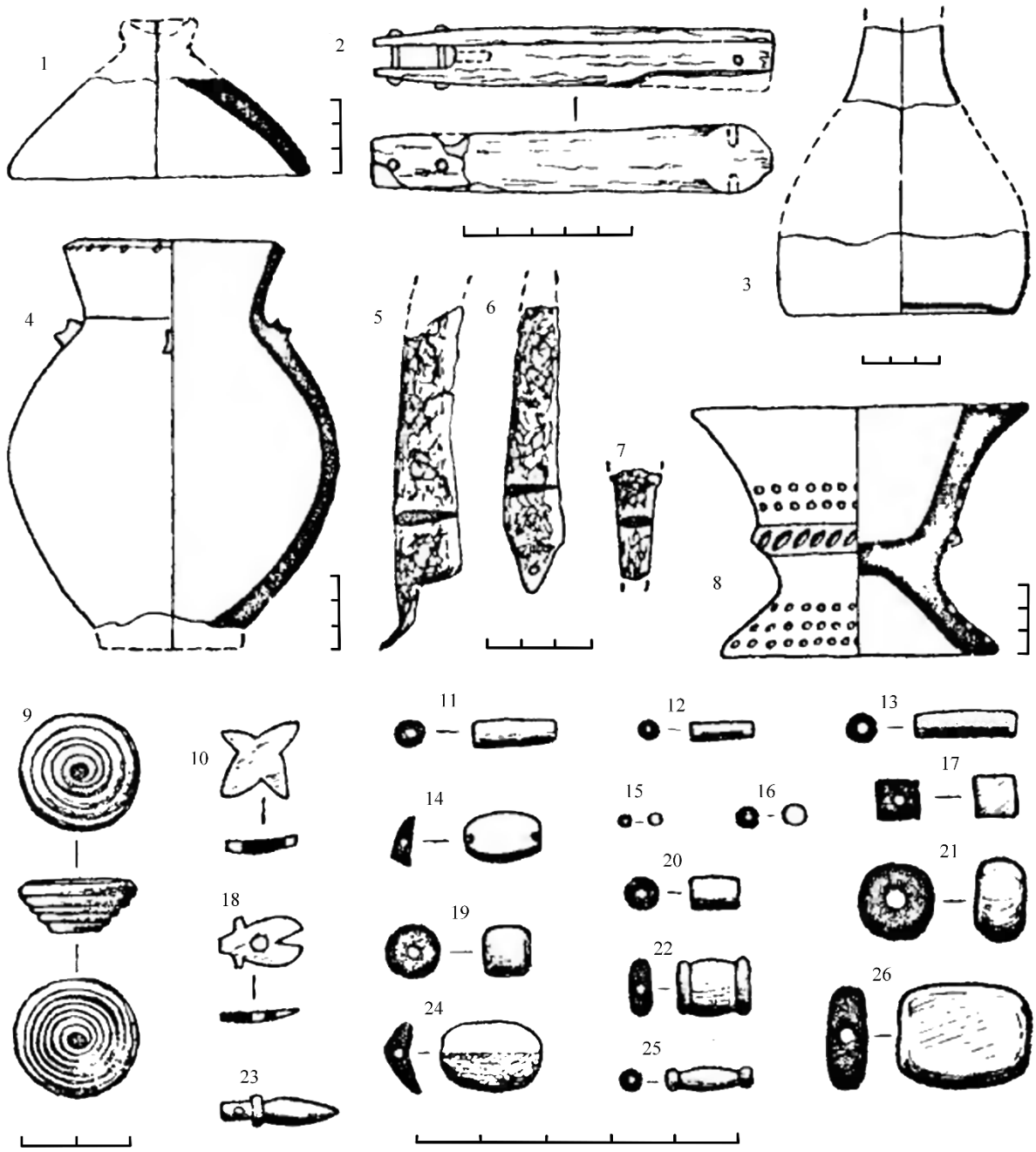


Fig. 2 Alcalia T6G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990)

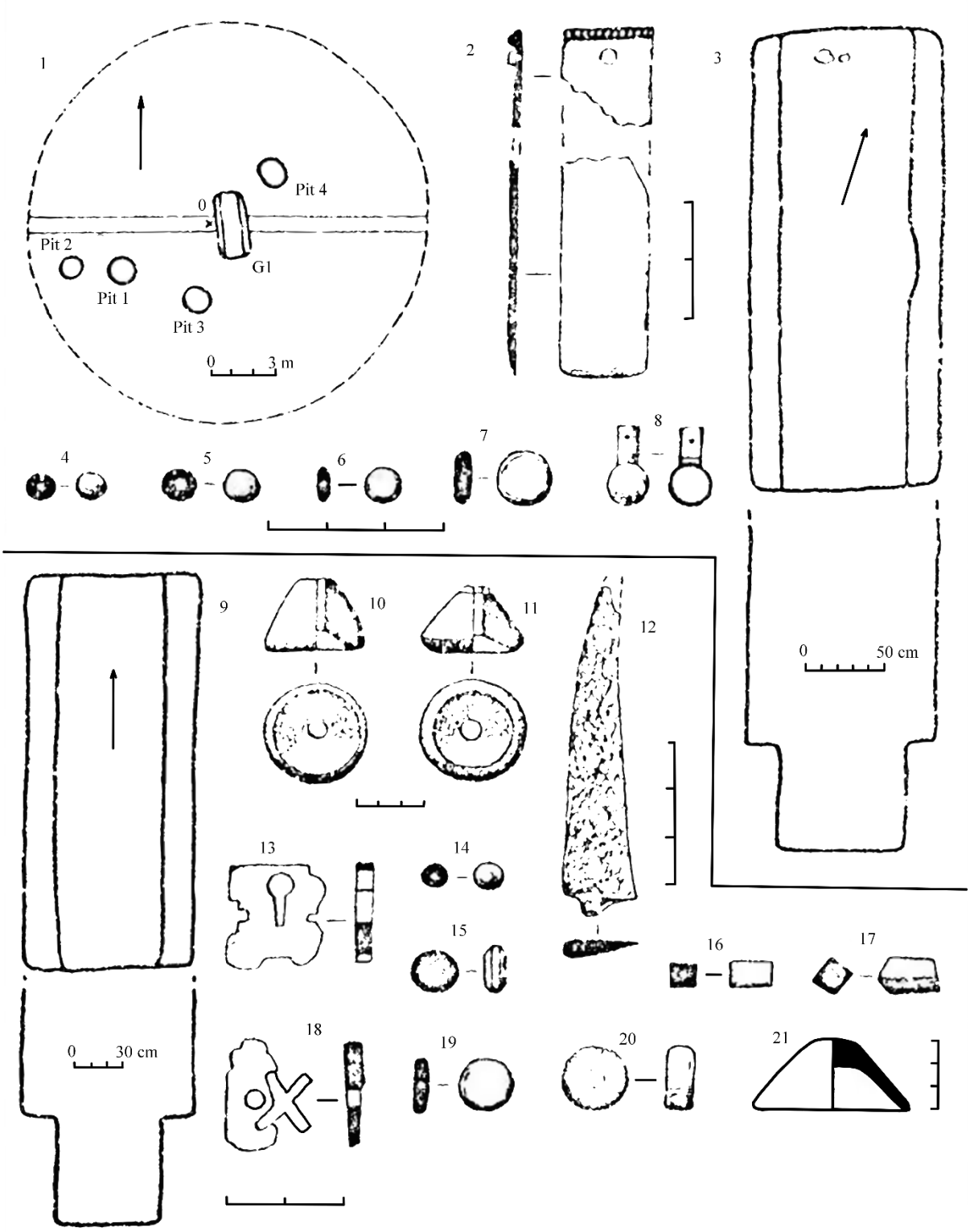


Fig. 3 Alcalia T7G1 and T11G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990)

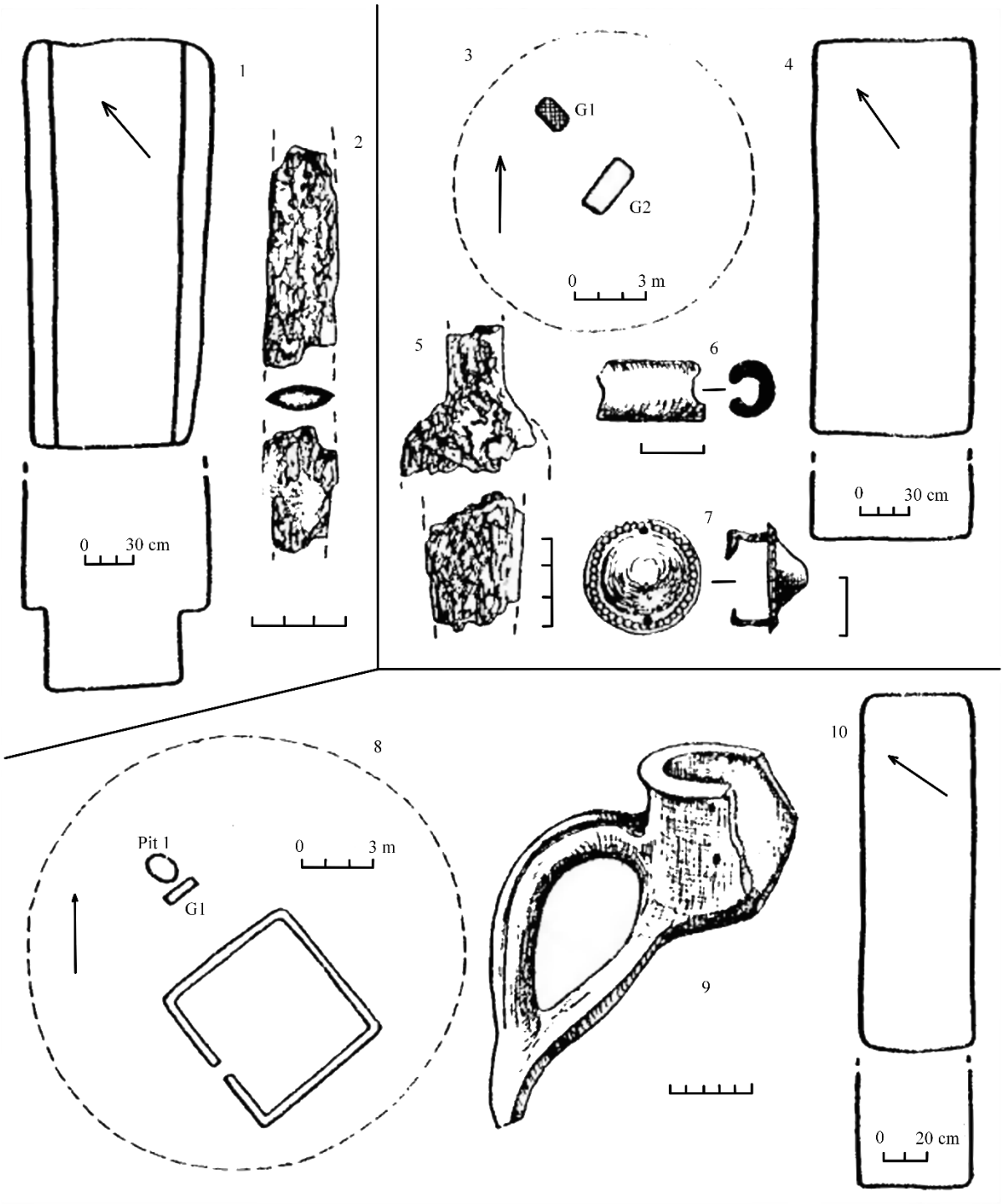

1
2
0 30 cm
3
G1
G2
0 3 m
4
0 30 cm
5
6
7
8
Pit 1
G1
0 3 m
9
10
0 20 cm

Fig. 4 Alcalia T12G1, T17G2 and T20G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990)

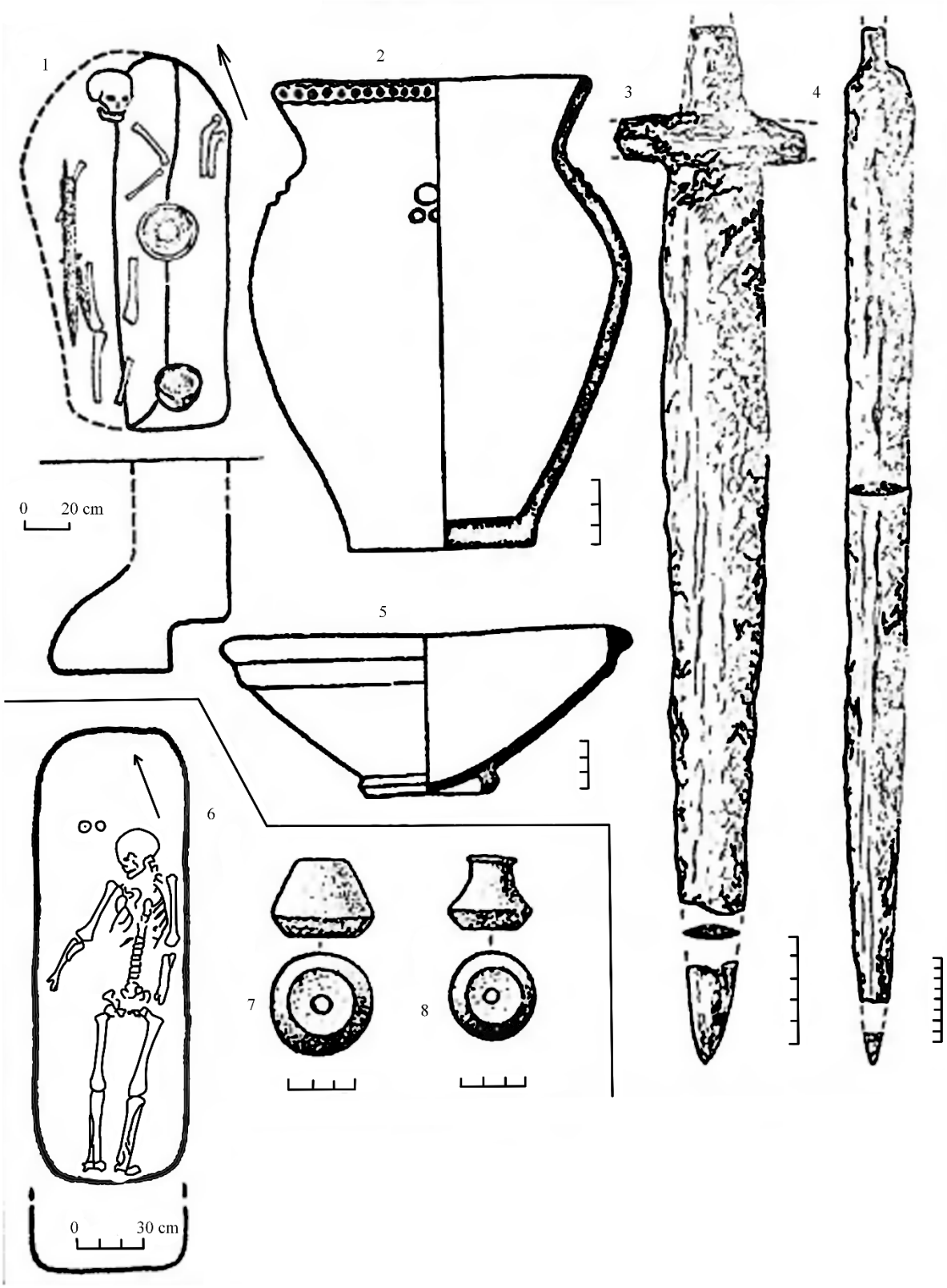


Fig. 5 Alcalia T19G2 and T24G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990)

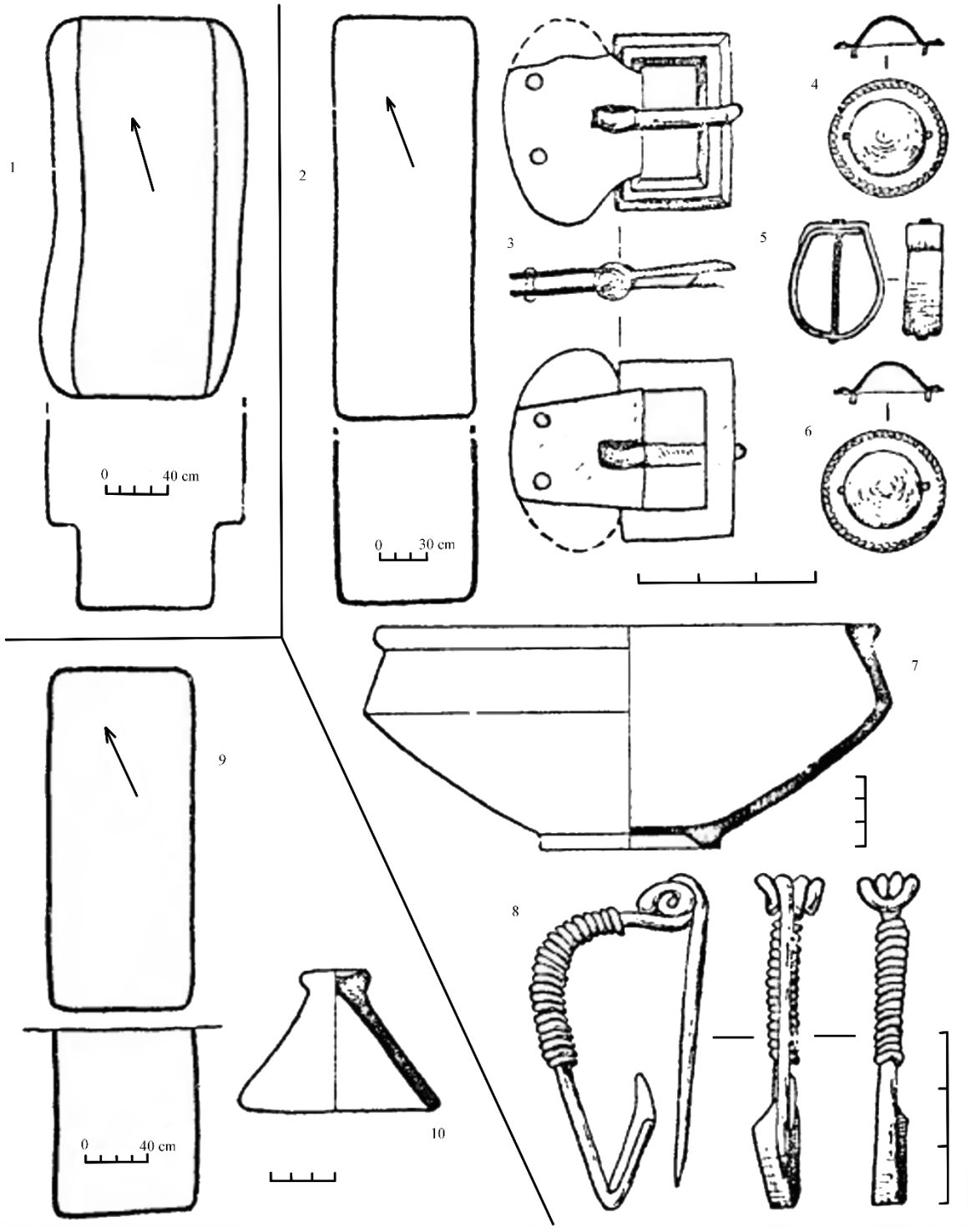


Fig. 6 Alcalia T21G1, T22G1 and T30G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990)

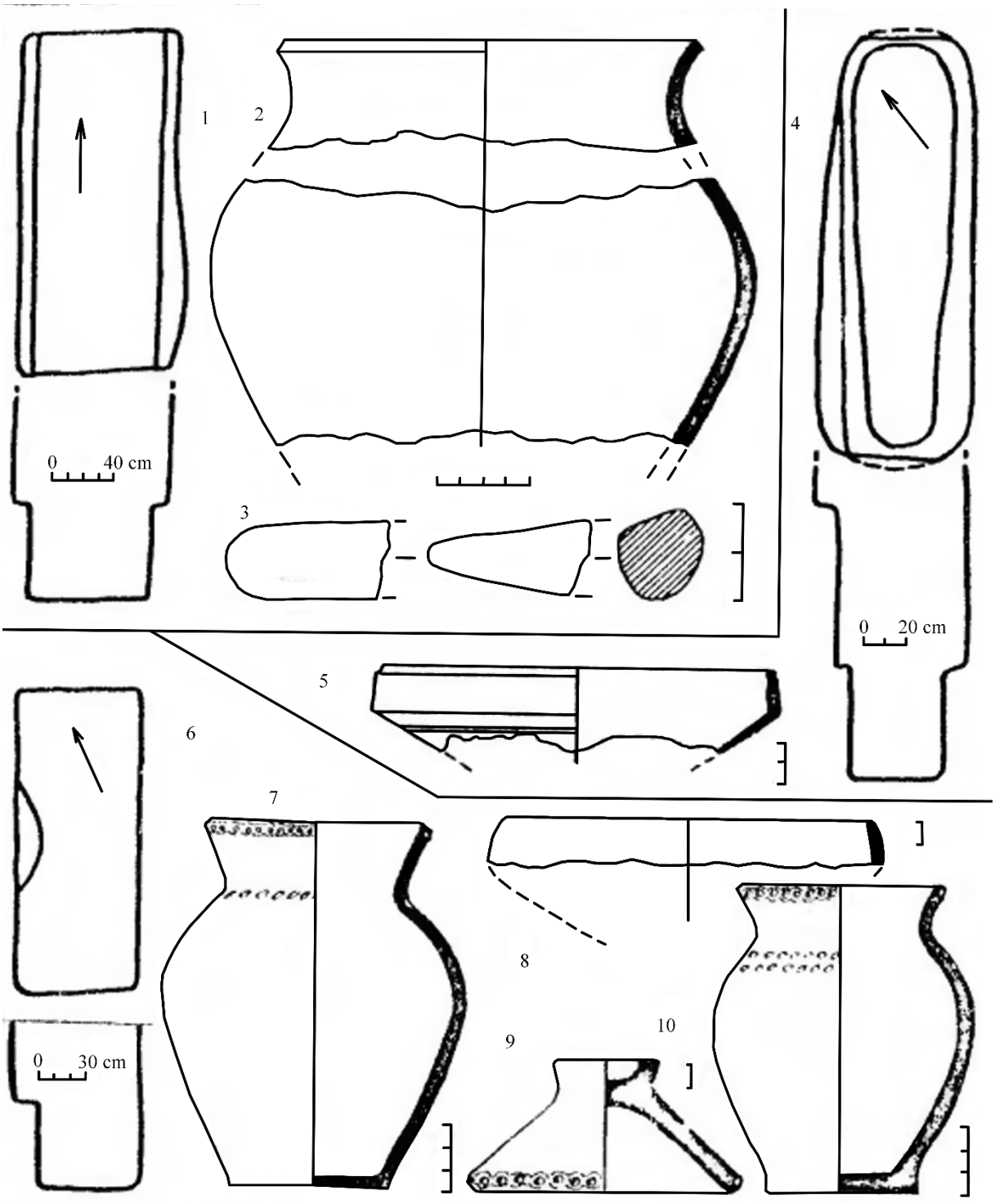


Fig. 7 Alcalia T23G1, T26G1 and T29G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990)

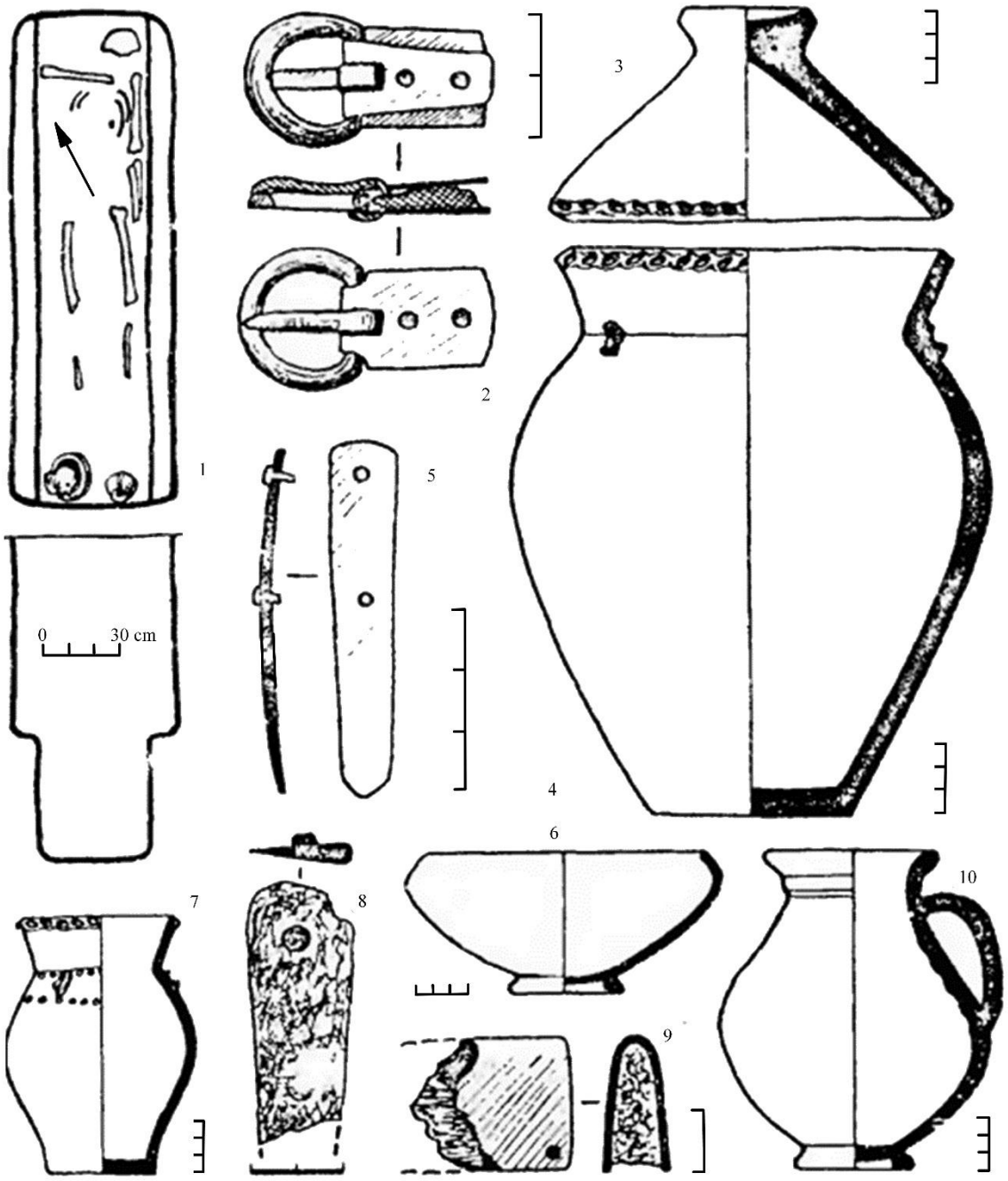


Fig. 8 Alcalia T28G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990)

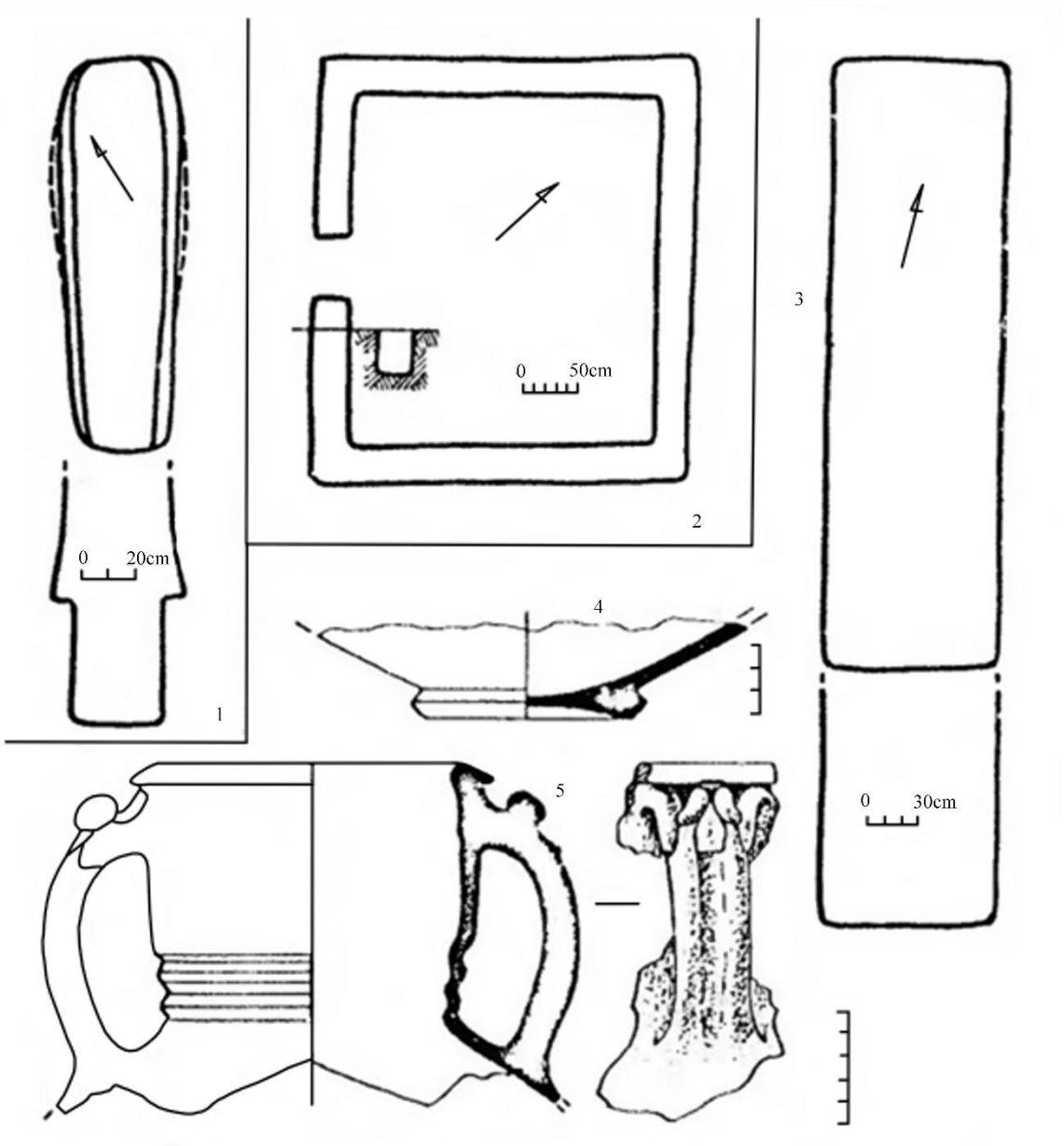


Fig. 9 Alcalia T27G1, T31Tr1 and T32G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990)

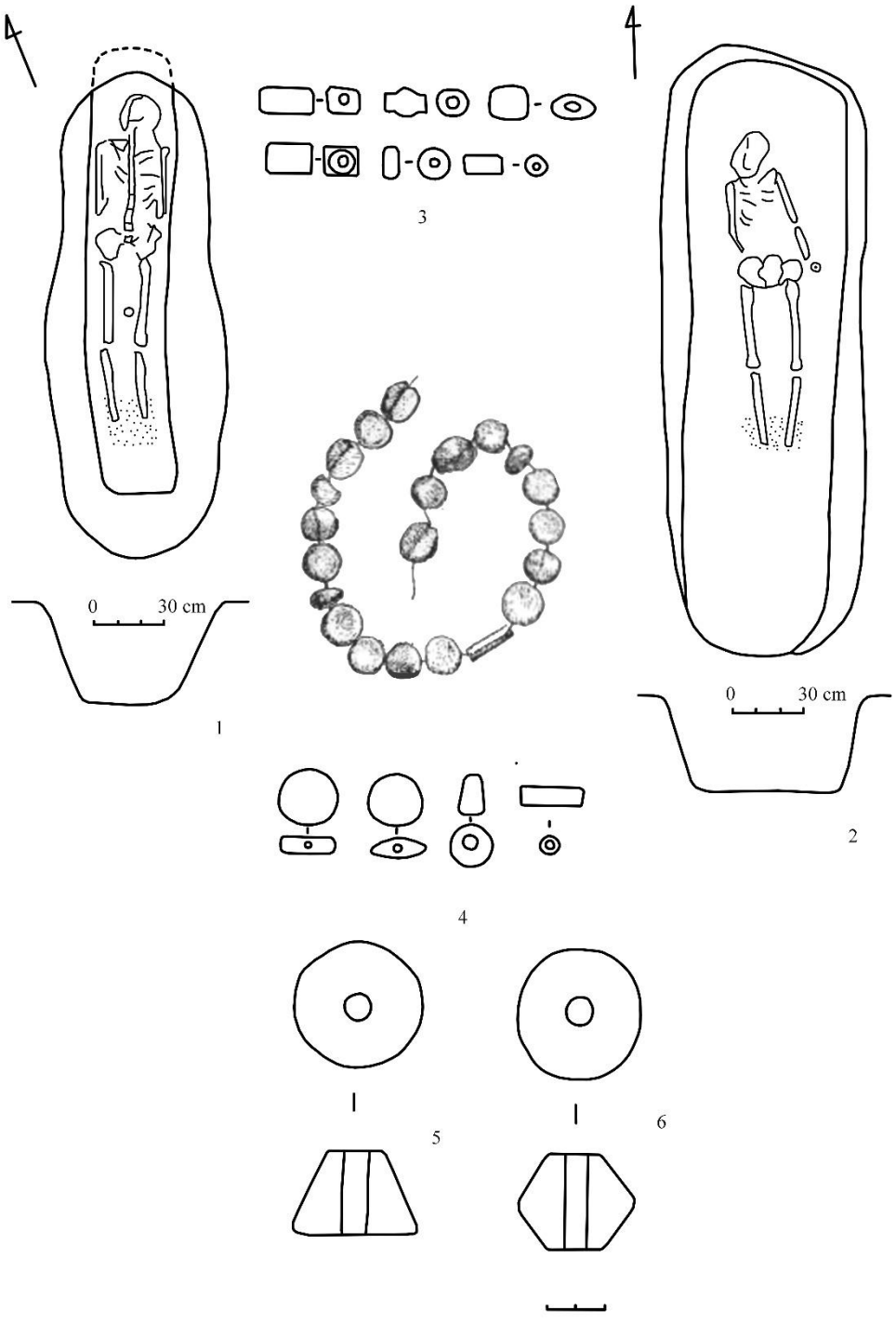


Fig. 10 Alcedar G1 and G2 (after Kurceatov 1989)

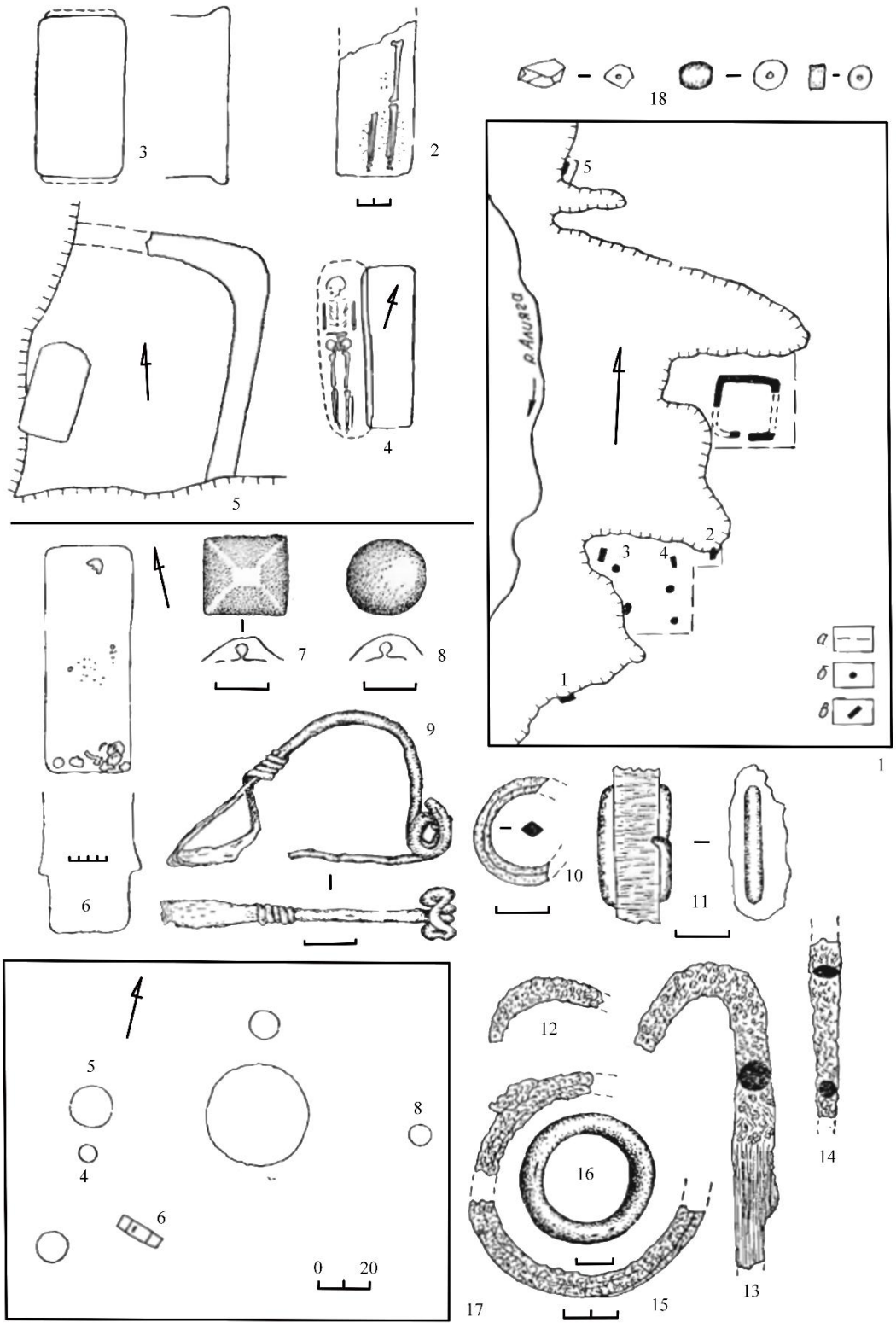


Fig. 11. Alijaga (Glăvani) G1-G5 and Dzinilor T5G1 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

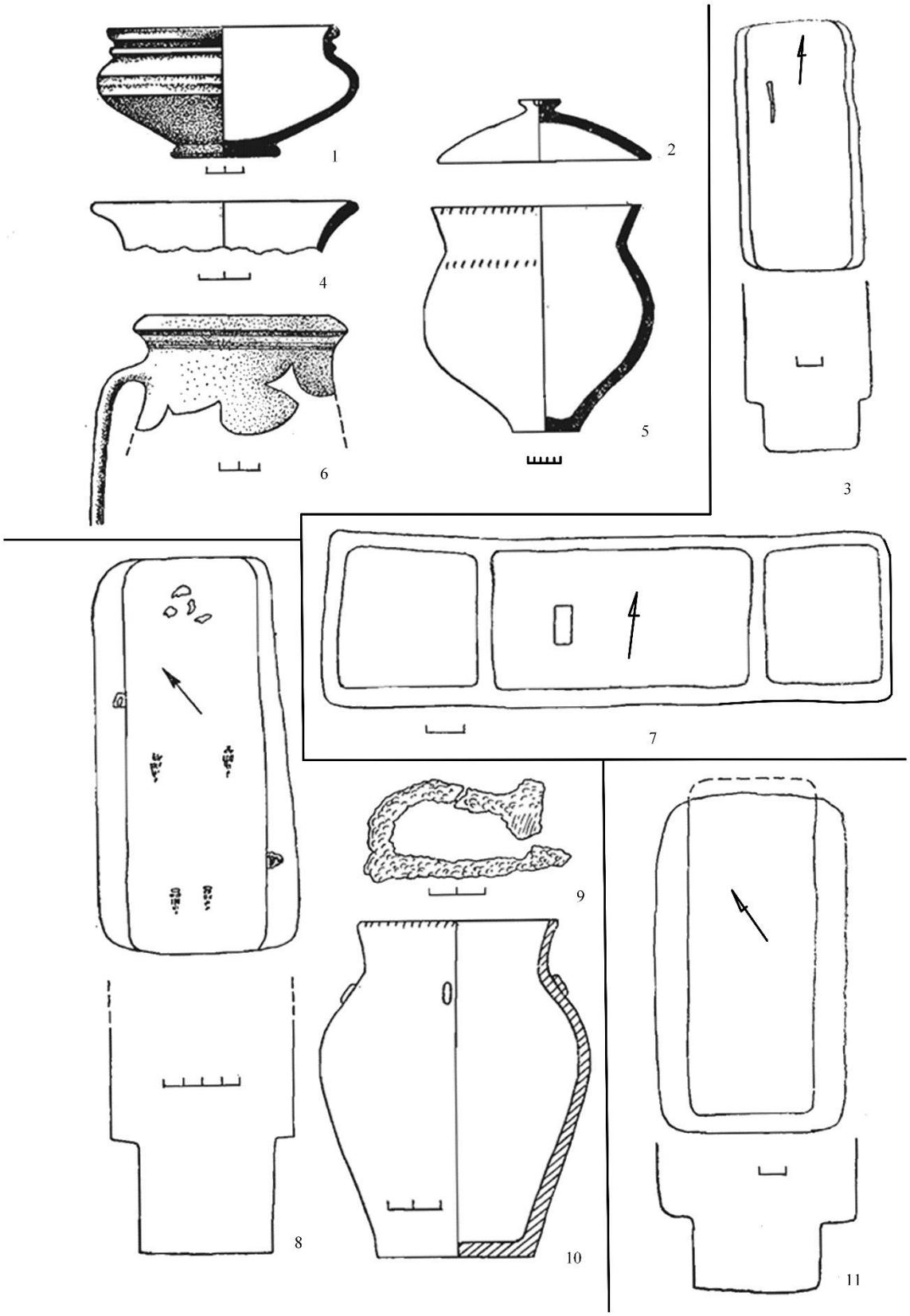


Fig. 12. Dzinilor T4G1, T5G1, T8G1 and G1 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

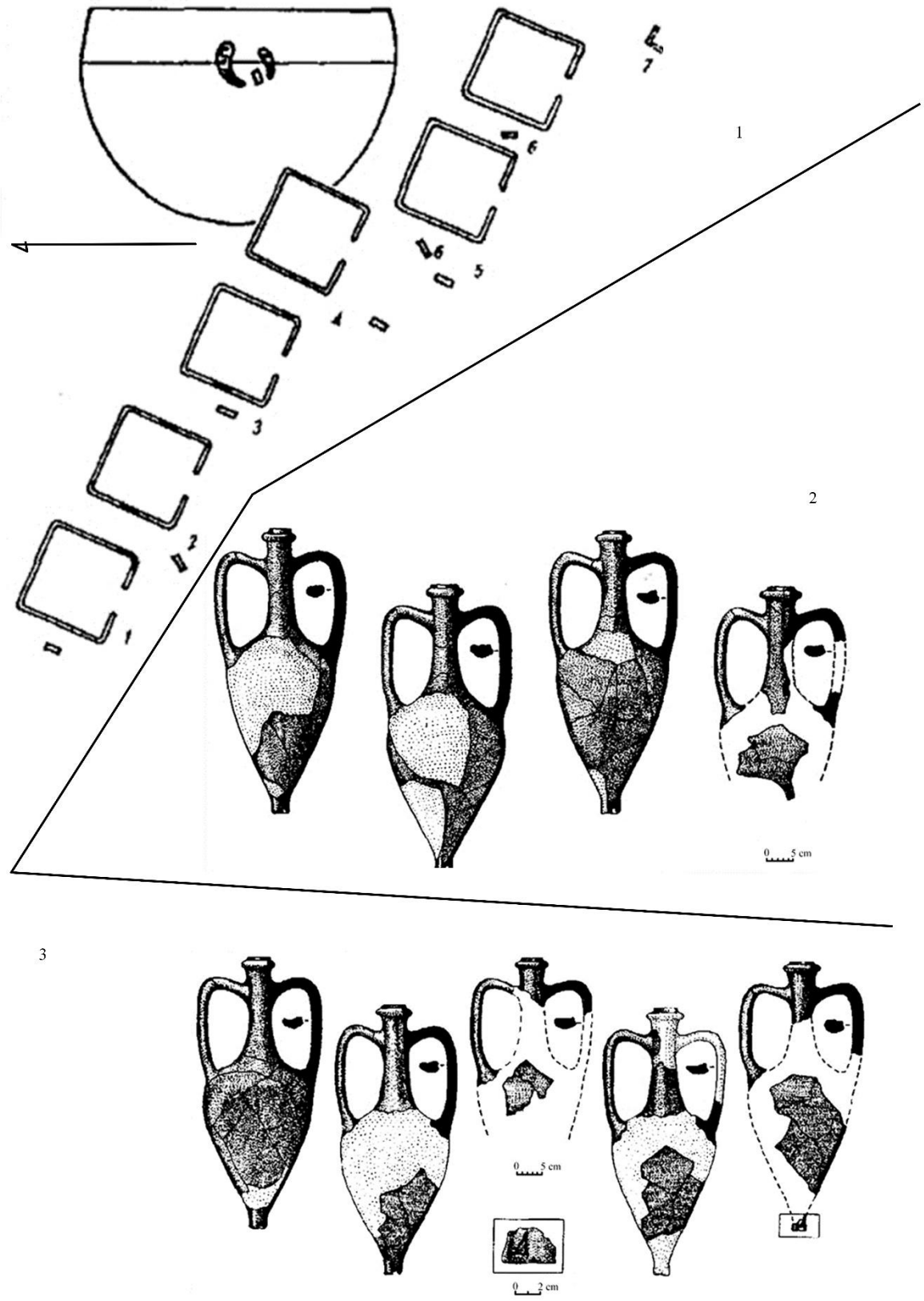


Fig. 13. Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis", plan and amphorae from Tr1 and Tr2 (after Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995)

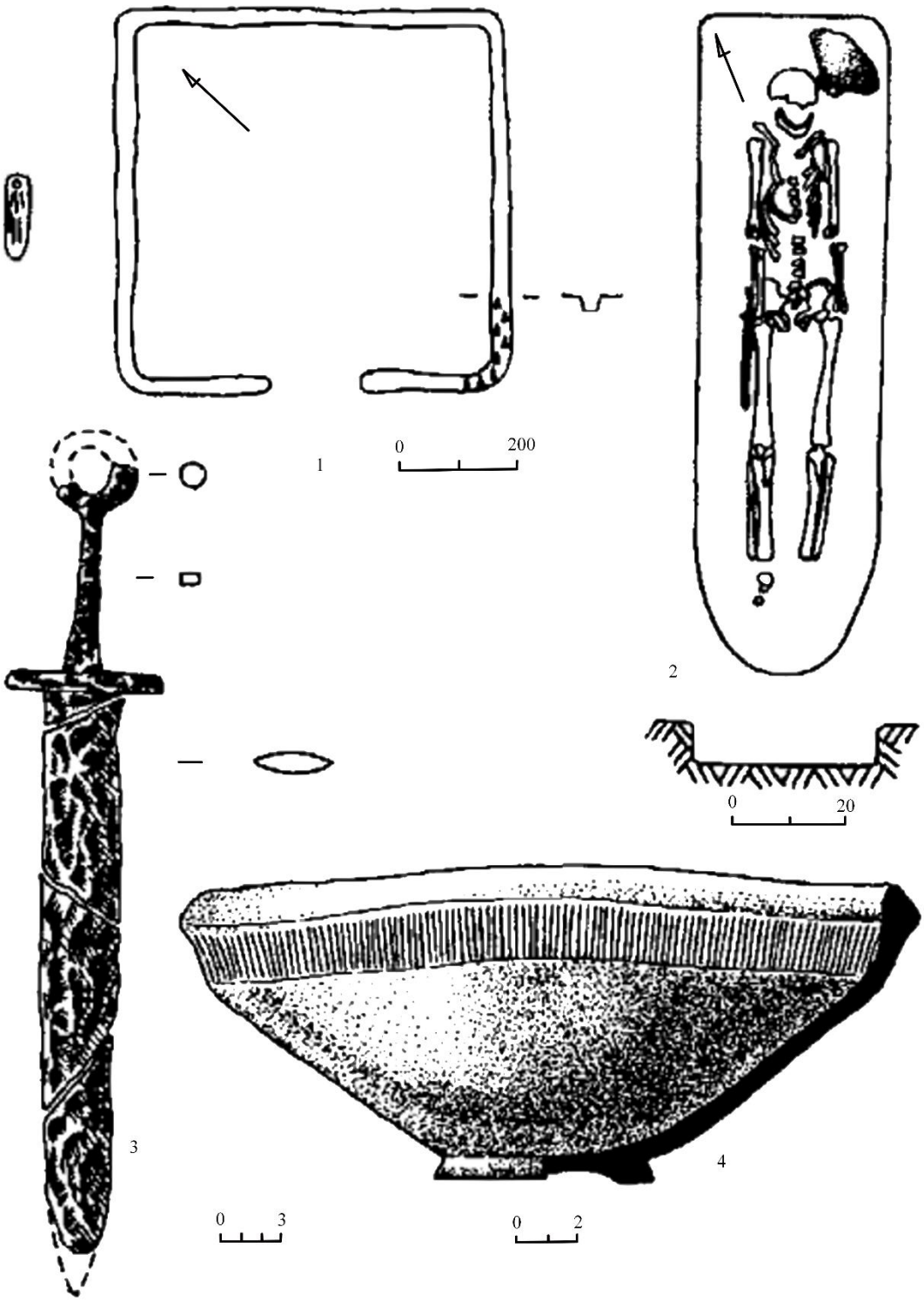


Fig. 14. Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G1 (after Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995)

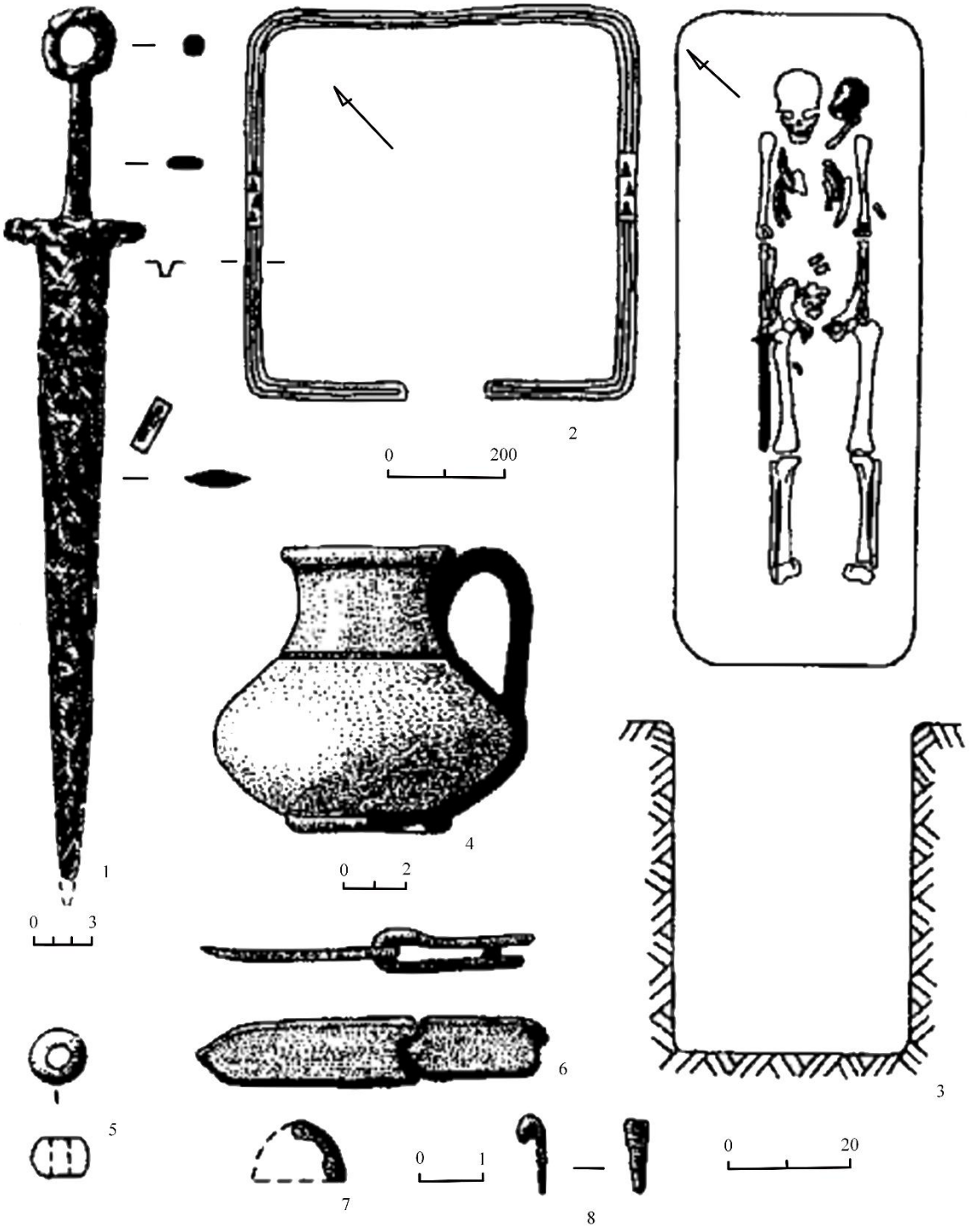


Fig. 15. Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G2 (after Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995)

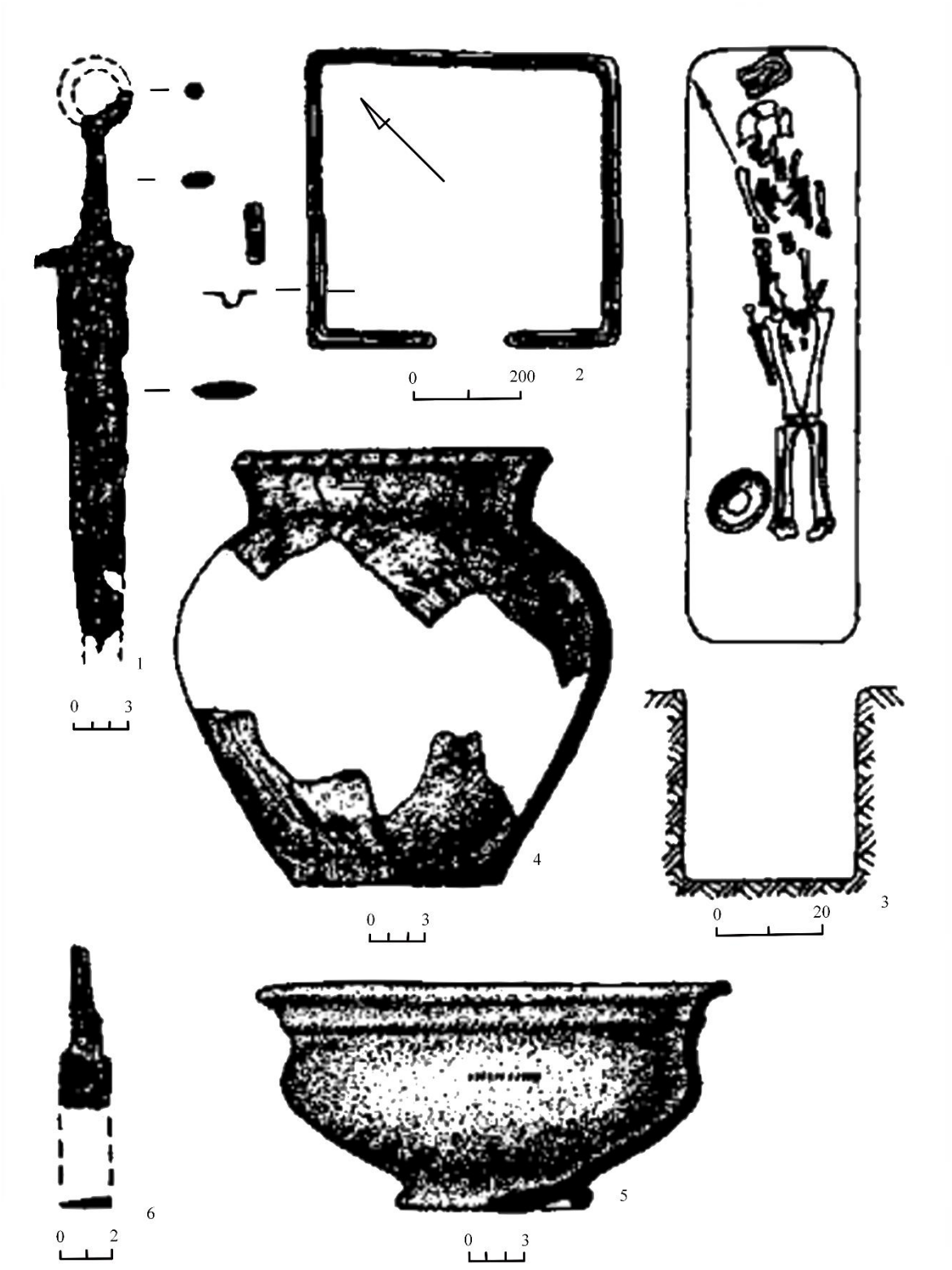


Fig. 16. Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G3 (after Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995)

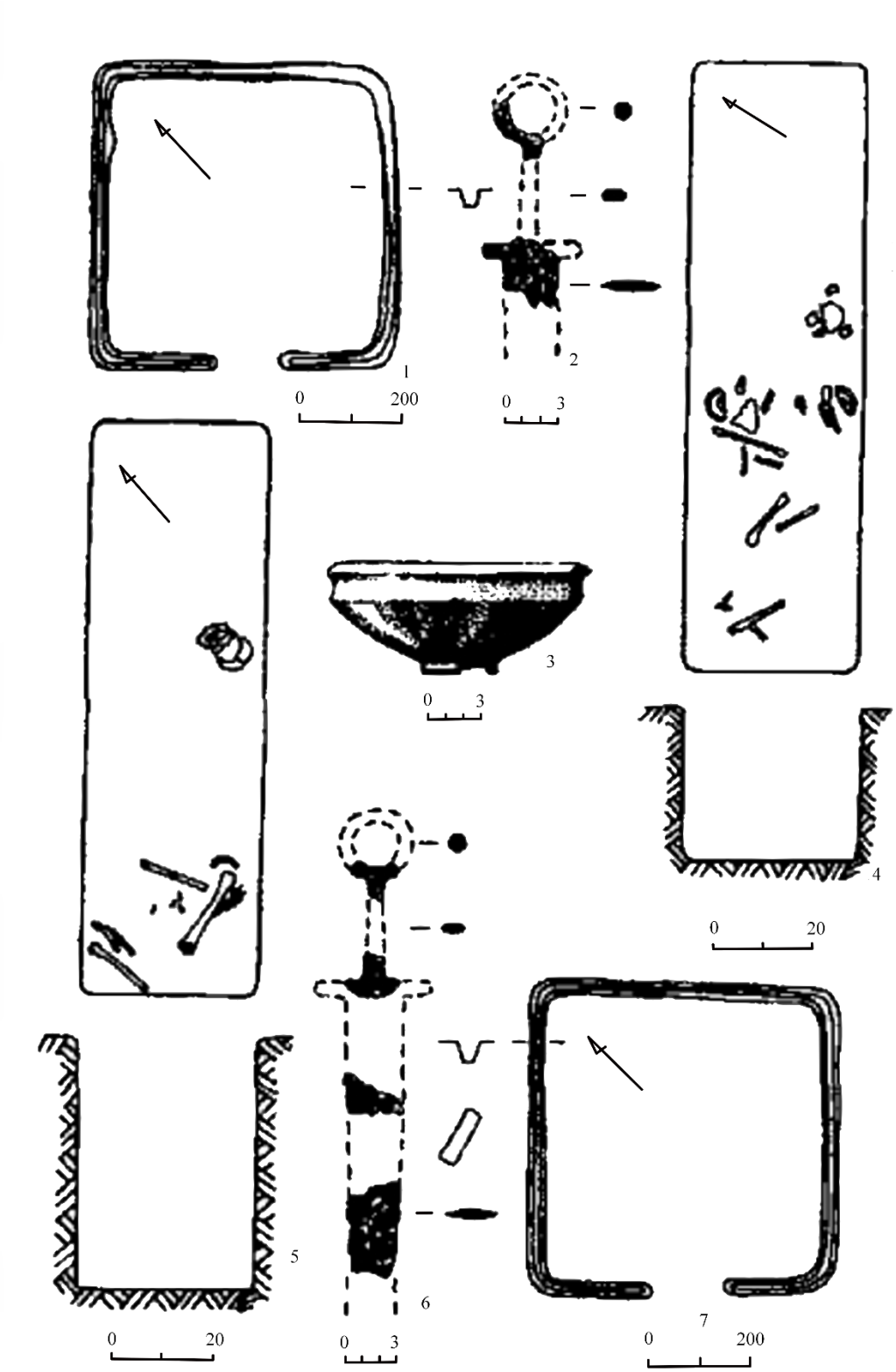


Fig. 17. Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G4 and G6 (after Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995)

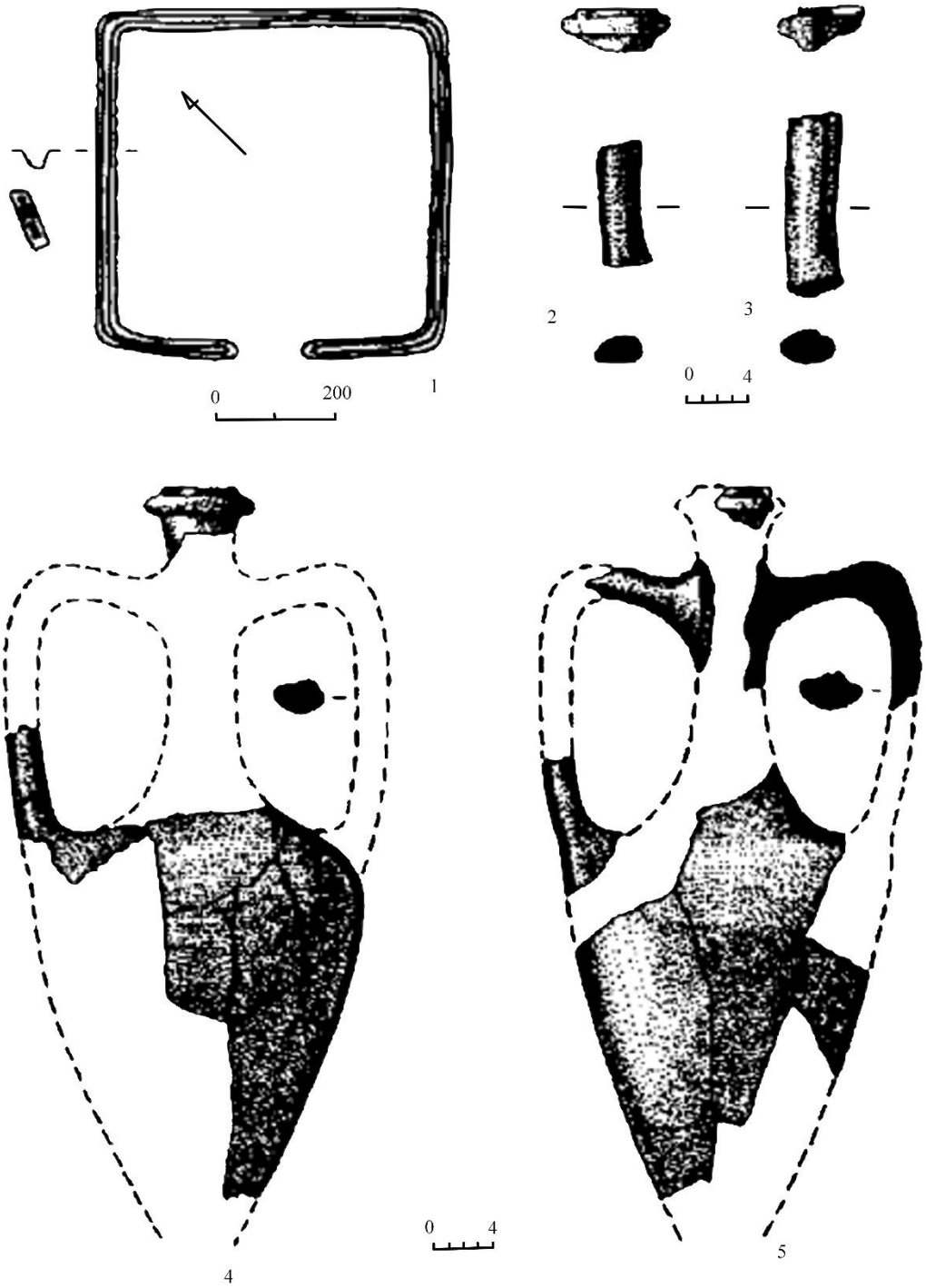

0
200
1
2
3
0
4
4
0
4
5

Fig. 18. Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" Tr3 and Tr6 (after Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995)

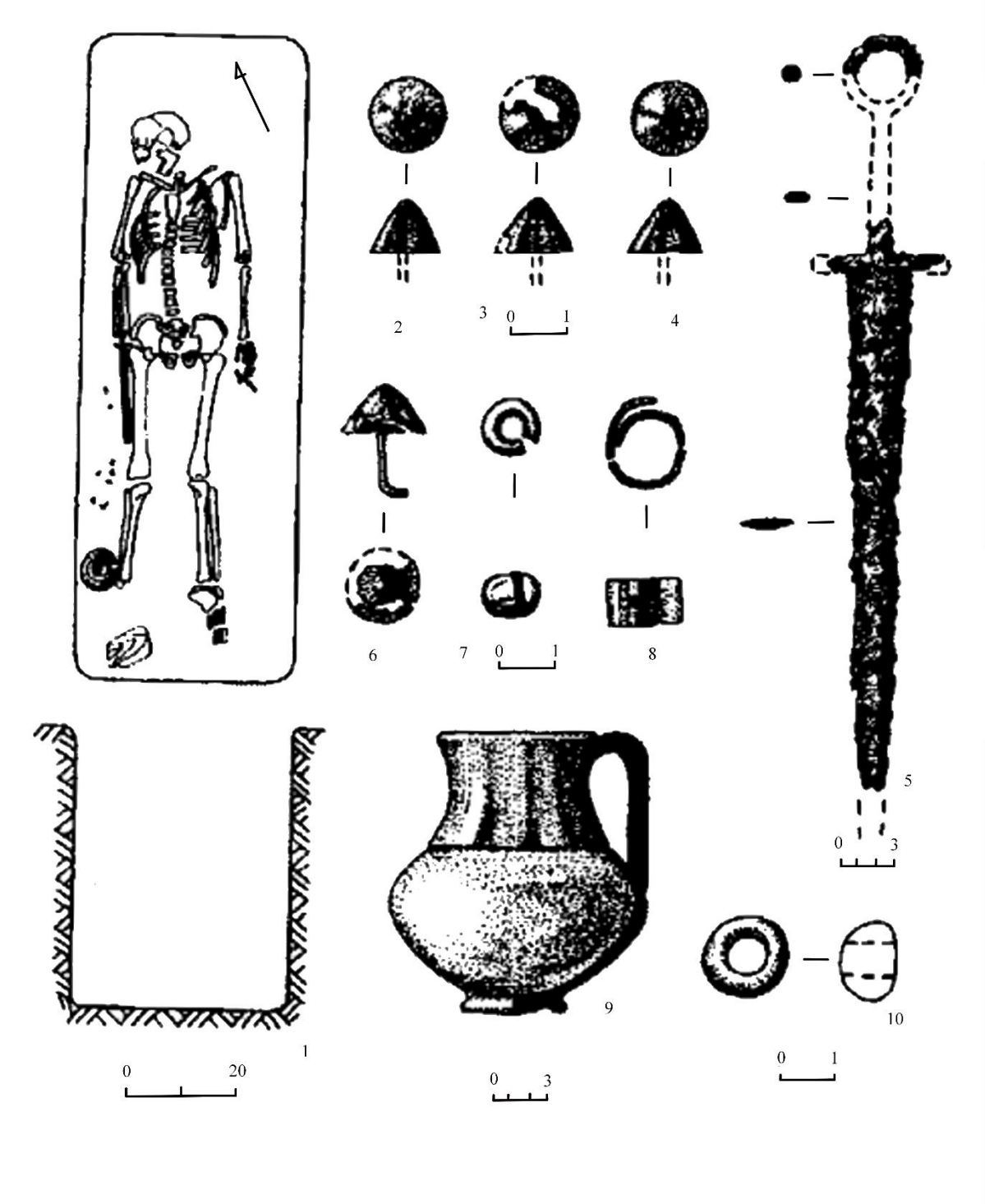


Fig. 19. Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G5 (after Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995)



Fig. 20 Bădragii Noi "Military Necropolis" G7 (after Kurčatov, Simonenko, Čirkov 1995)

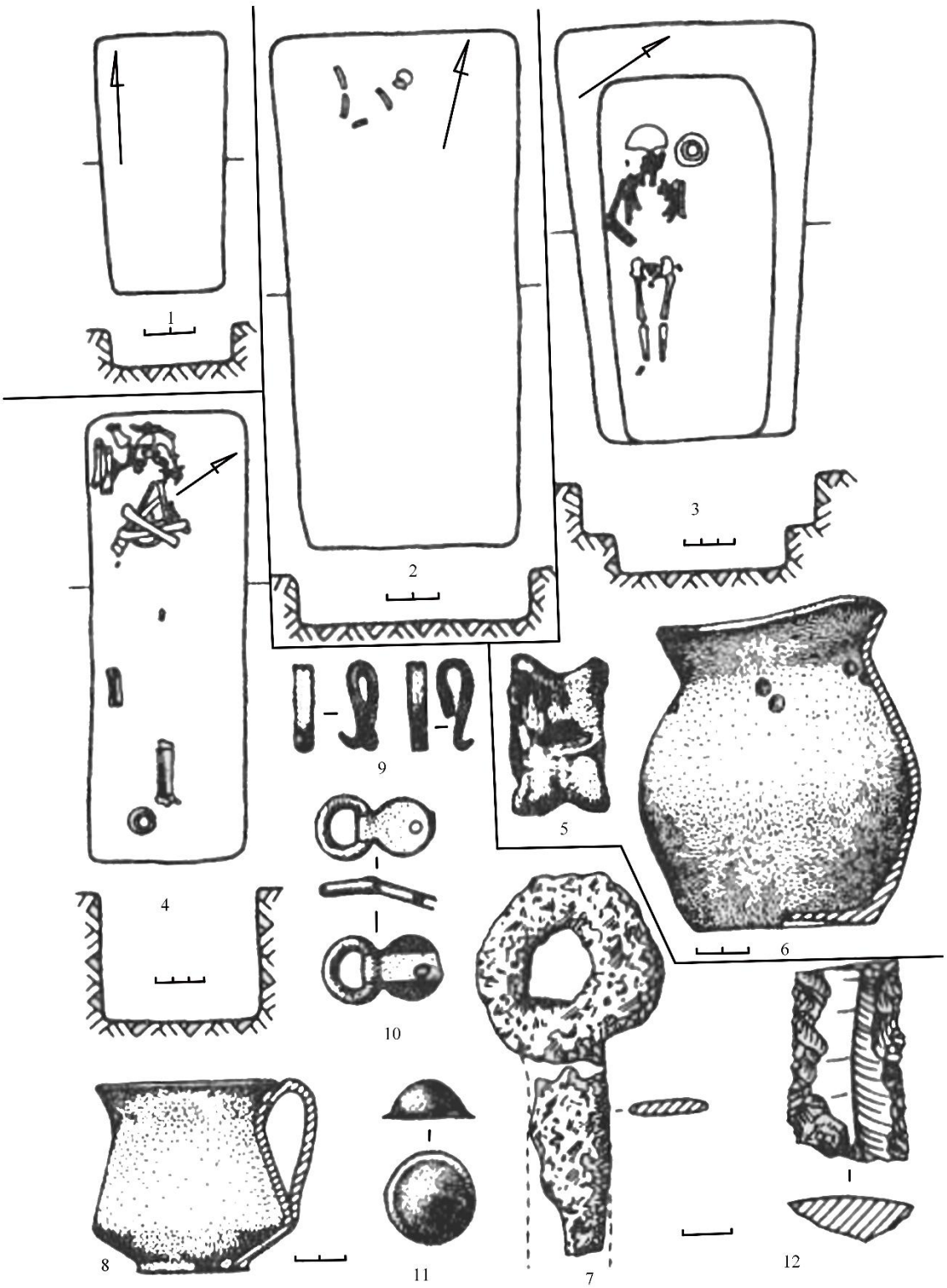


Fig. 21 Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G1-4 (after Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997)

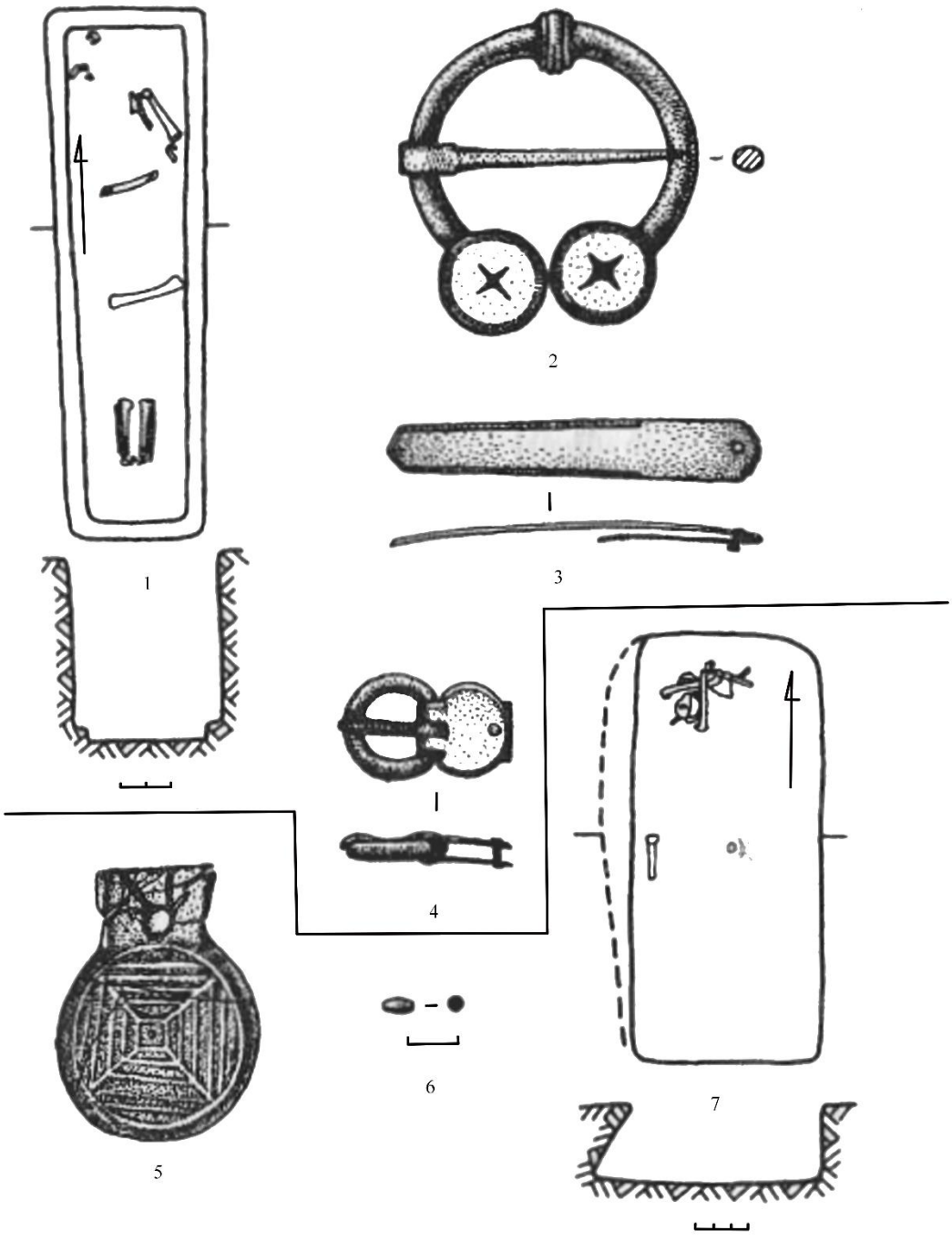


Fig. 22 Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G5 G7 (after Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997)

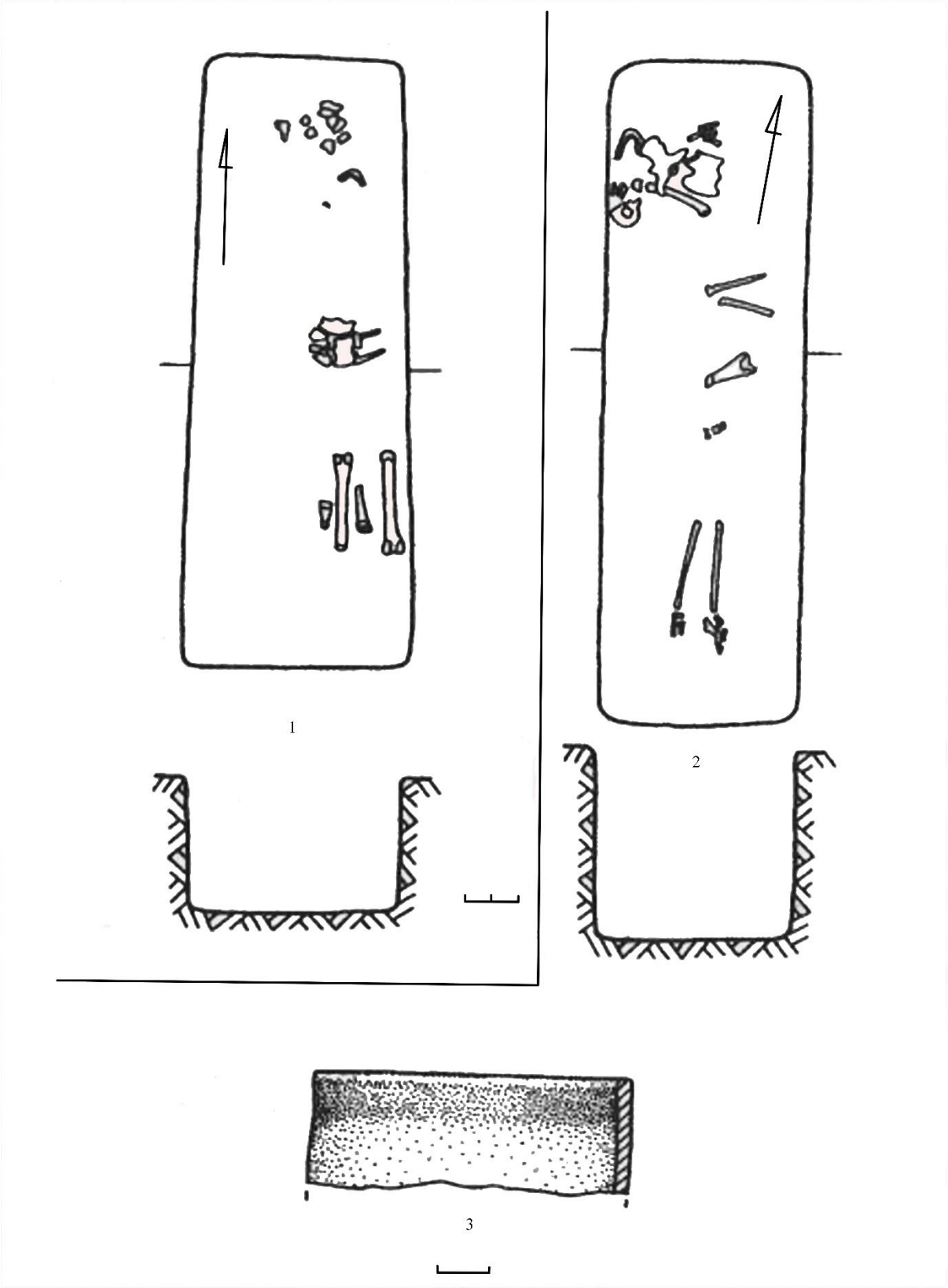


Fig. 23 Bădragii Noi "La stâncă" G6 G8 (after Kurciatov, Bubulici 1997)

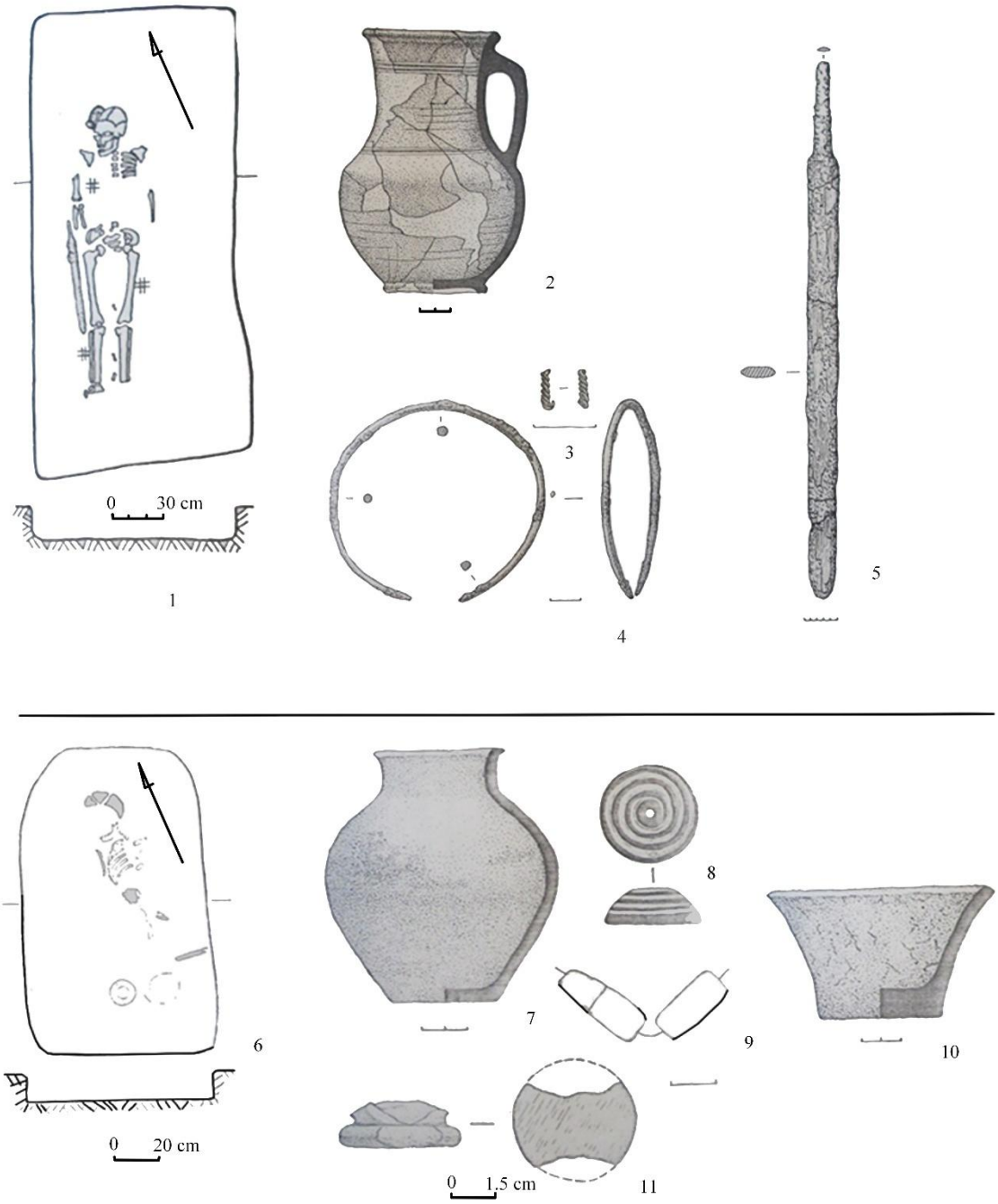


Fig. 24 Bădragii Noi T2G1 and T3G2 (after Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987)

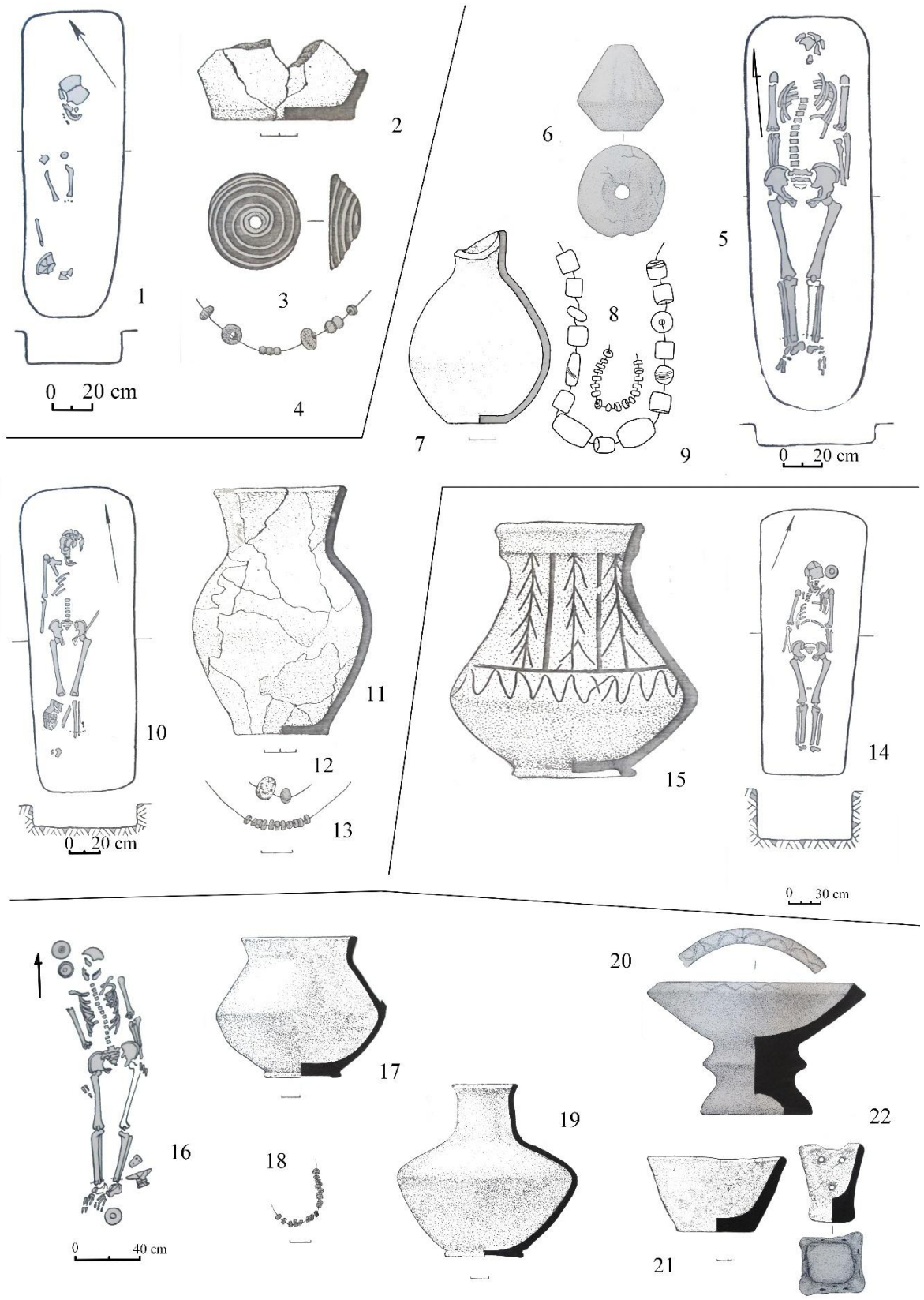


Fig. 25 Bădragii Noi T3G3, G6, T4G3, T5G7 and Bădragii Vechi T29G1 (after Jarovoj, Čirkov 1987)

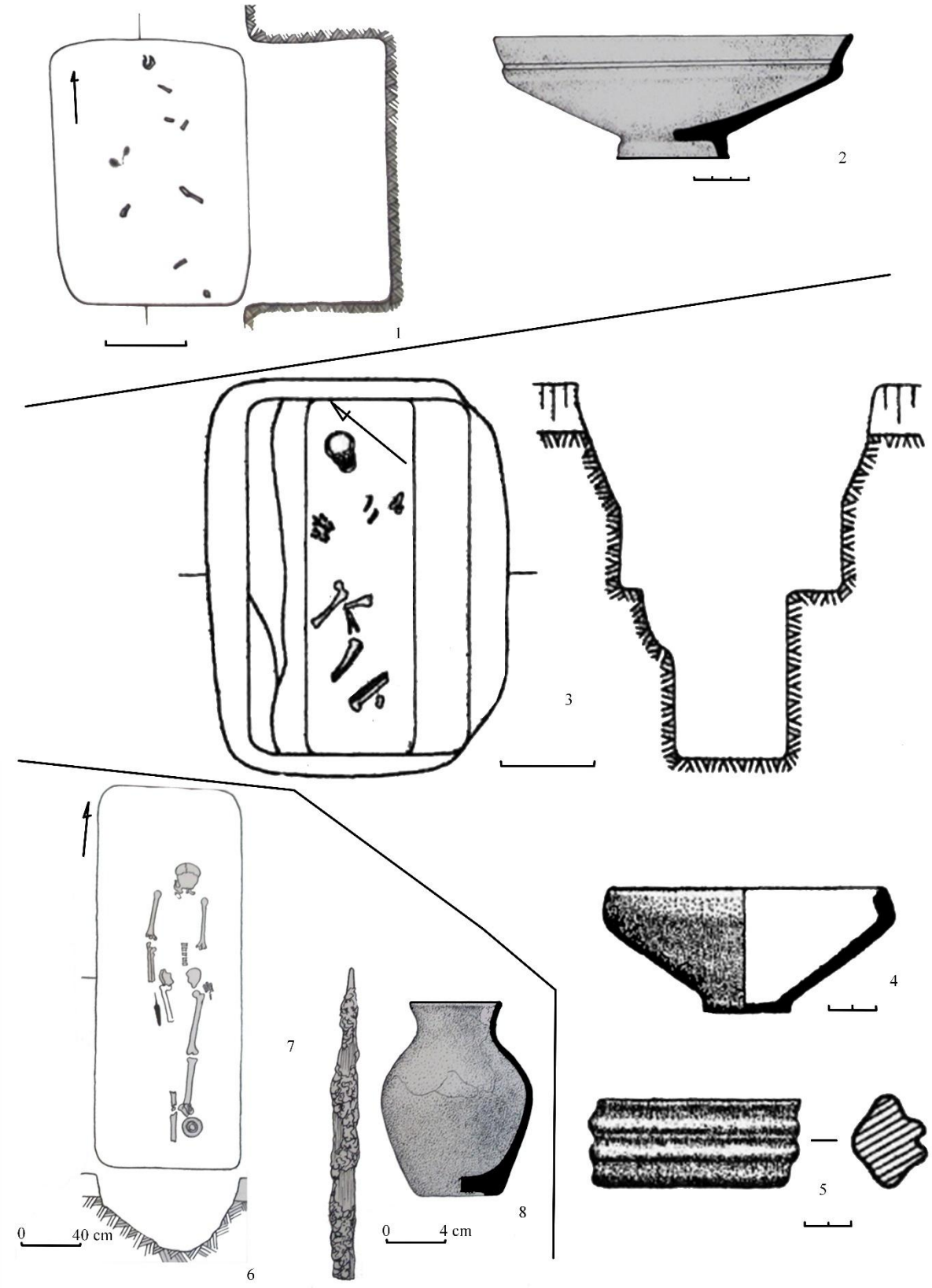


Fig. 26 Bădragii Vechi T29G10 (after Jarovoj, Čirkov, Buculici 1990), Bălăbănești T4G4 (after Beilekci, Agulnicov 1987) and Balabanu I T10G1 (after Chebotarenko, Yarovoi, Telnov 1989)

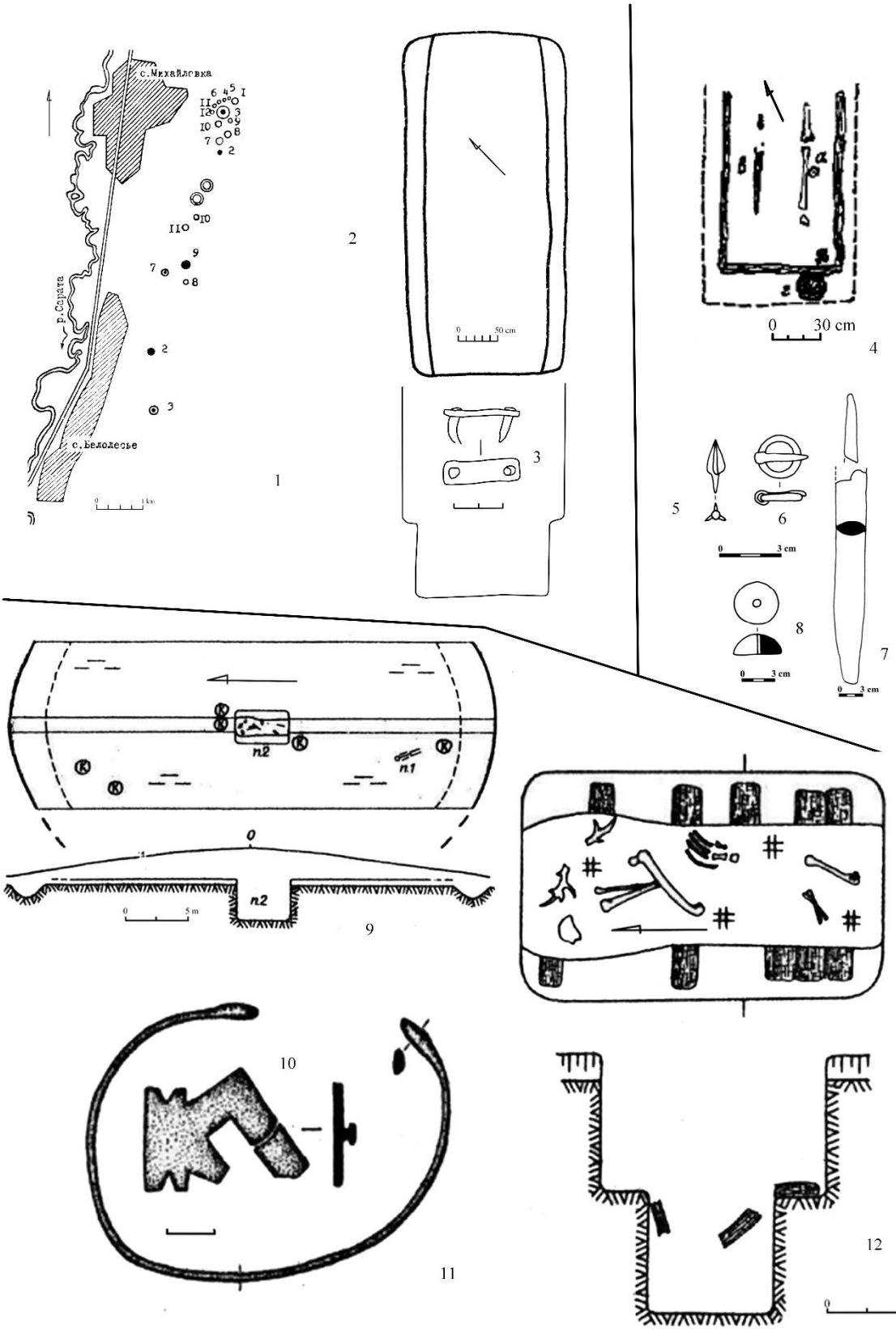


Fig. 27. Balabanu I T7G2 (after Chebotarenko, Yarovoi, Telnov 1989), Beloles'e T2G4 and T3G9 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b)

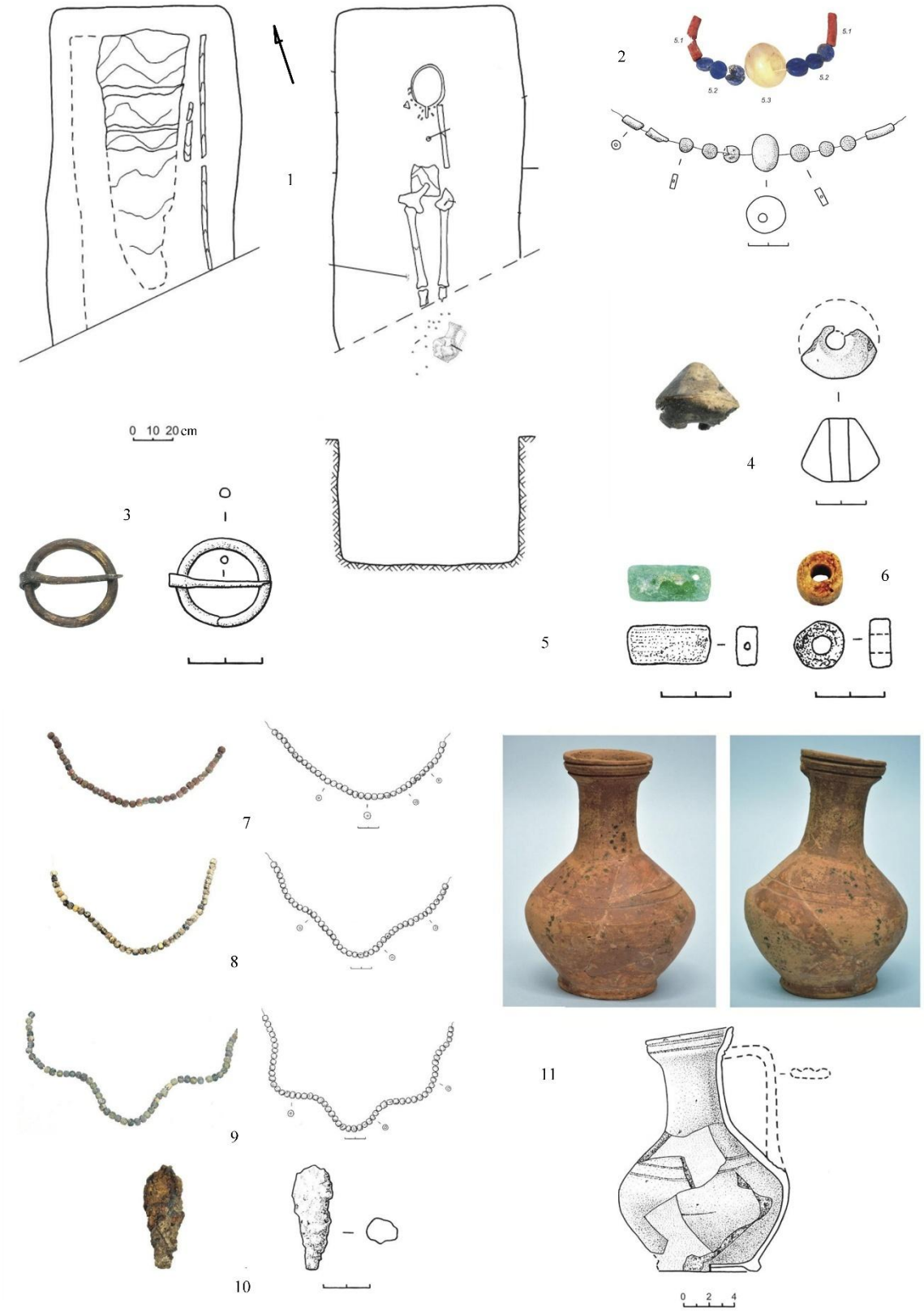


Fig. 28. Bălțata G1 (after Bubulici, Matveev 2014)

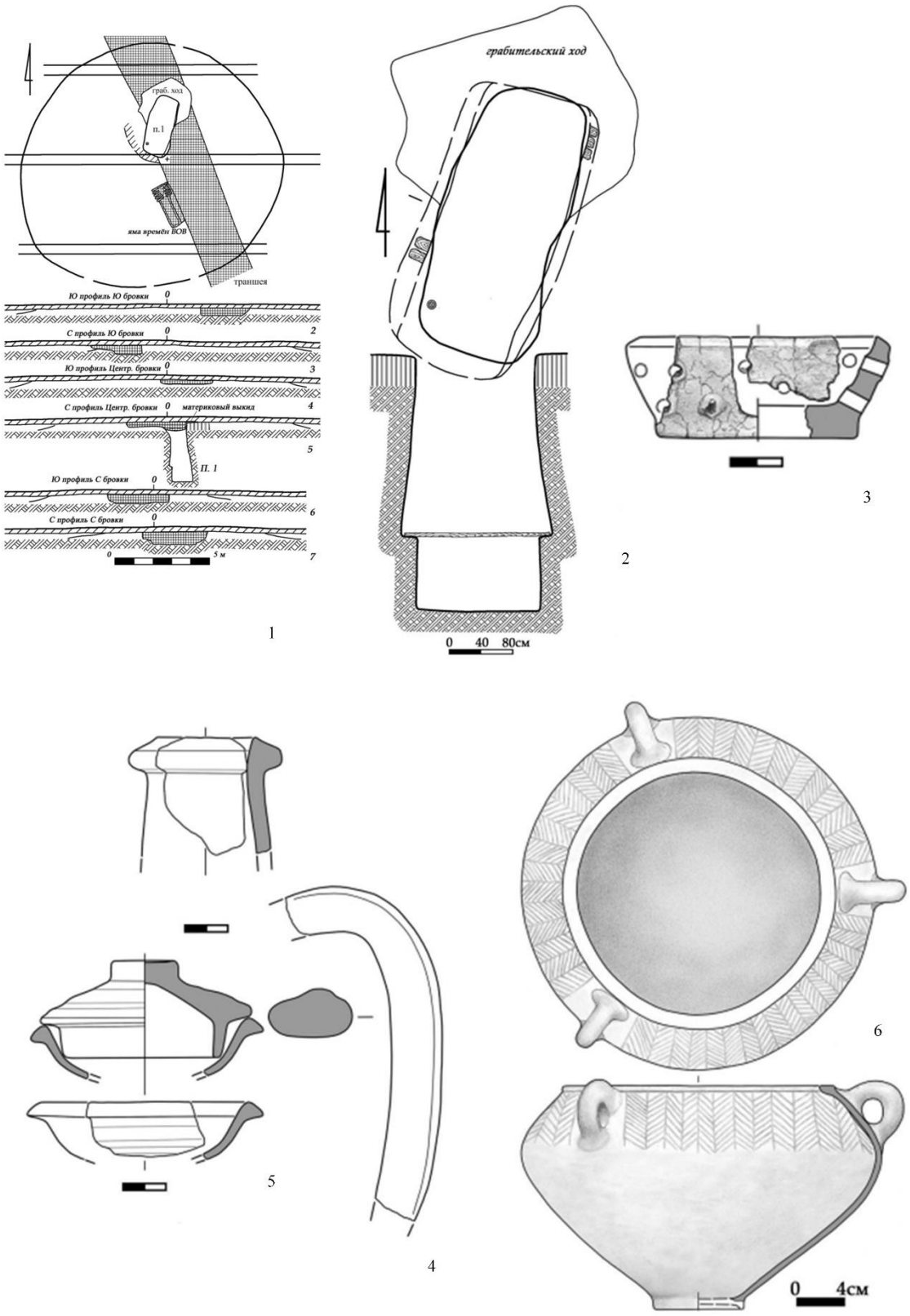


Fig. 29. Blijnii Hutor T1G1 (after Synyka et al. 2015)

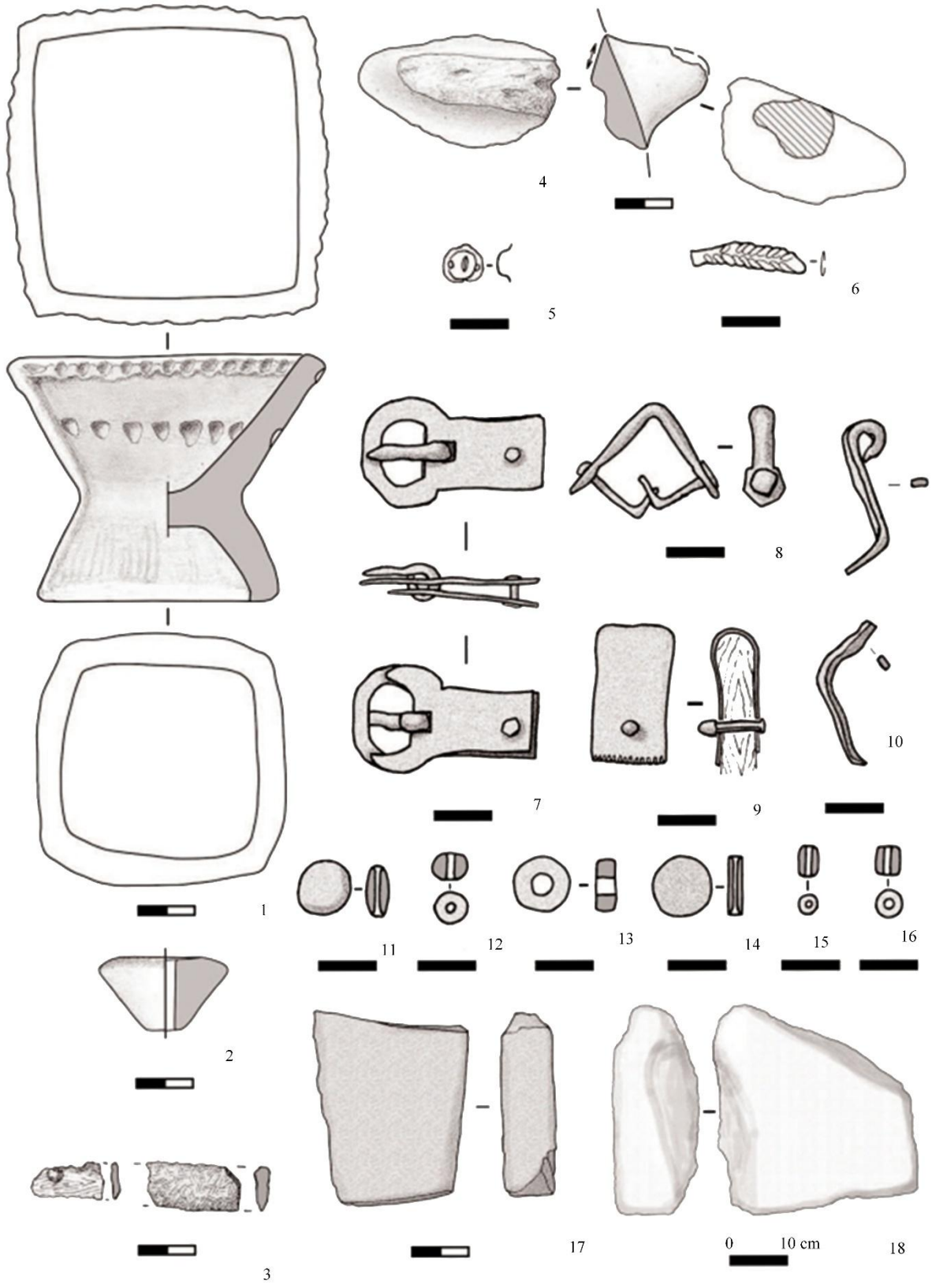


Fig. 30. Blijnii Hutor T1G1 (after Synyka et al. 2015)

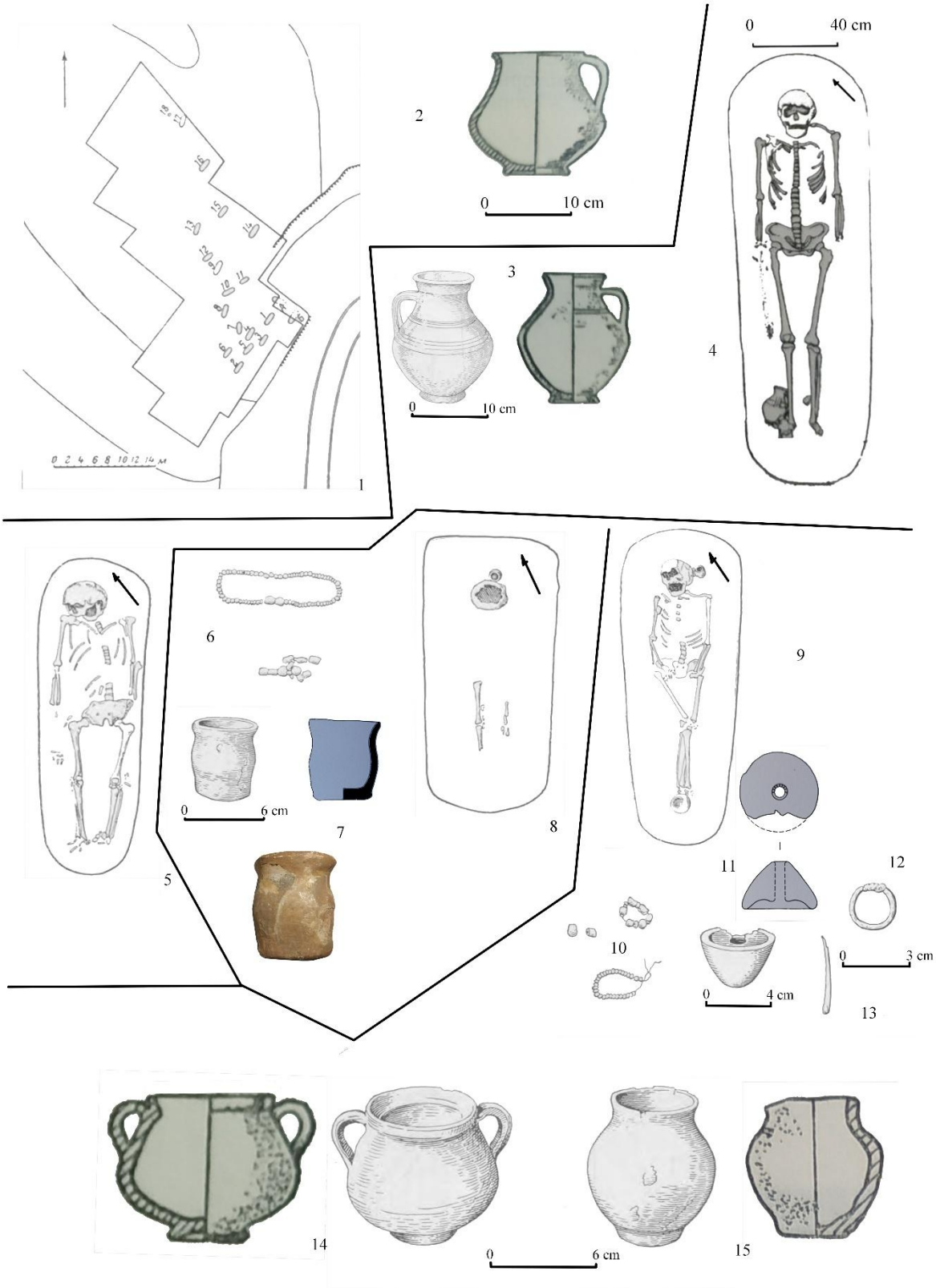


Fig. 31. Bocani GA, G1-4 (after Fedorov 1956, 1960)



Fig. 32. Bocani G5-7 (after Fedorov 1956, 1960)

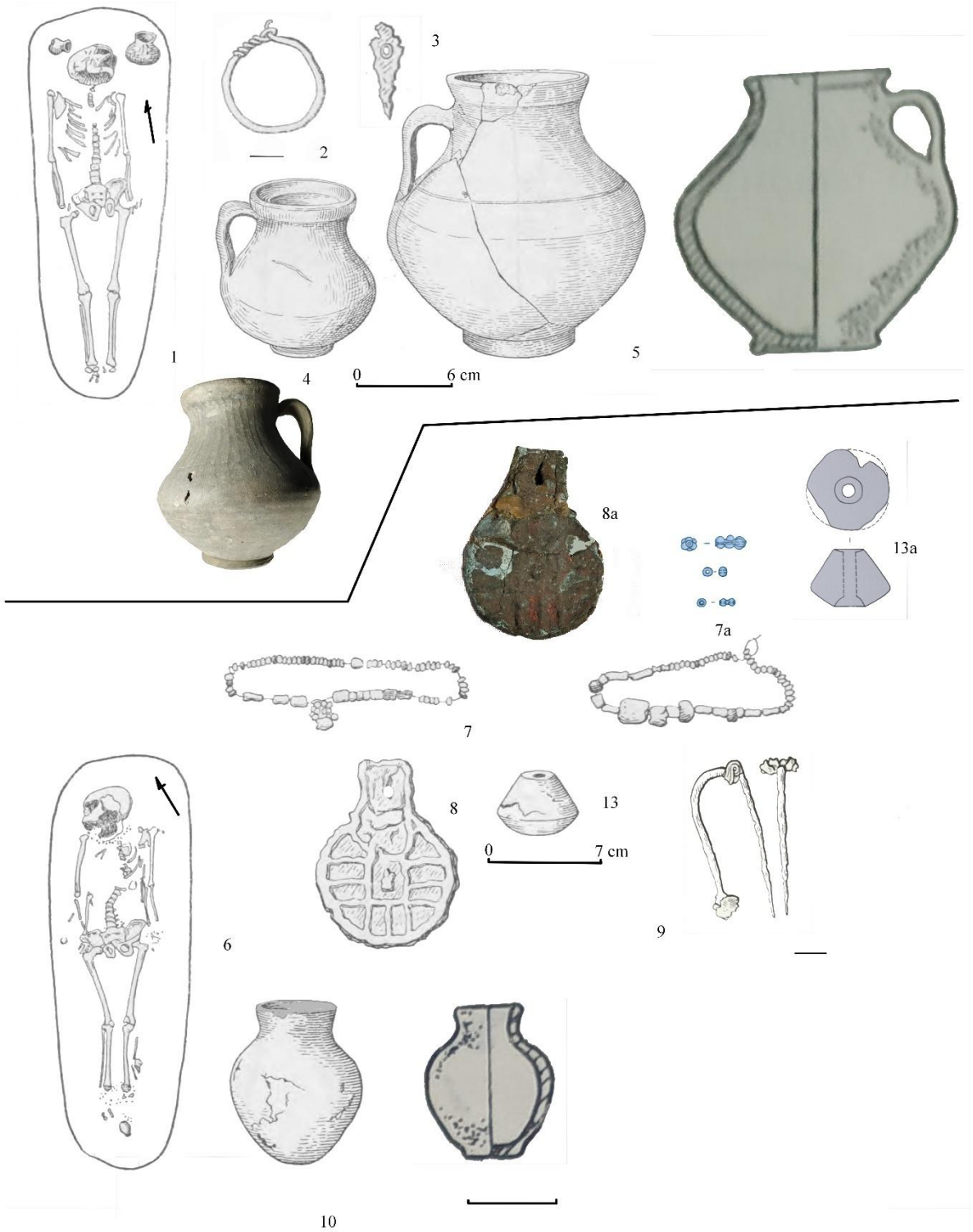


Fig. 33. Bocani G8-9 (after Fedorov 1956, 1960)

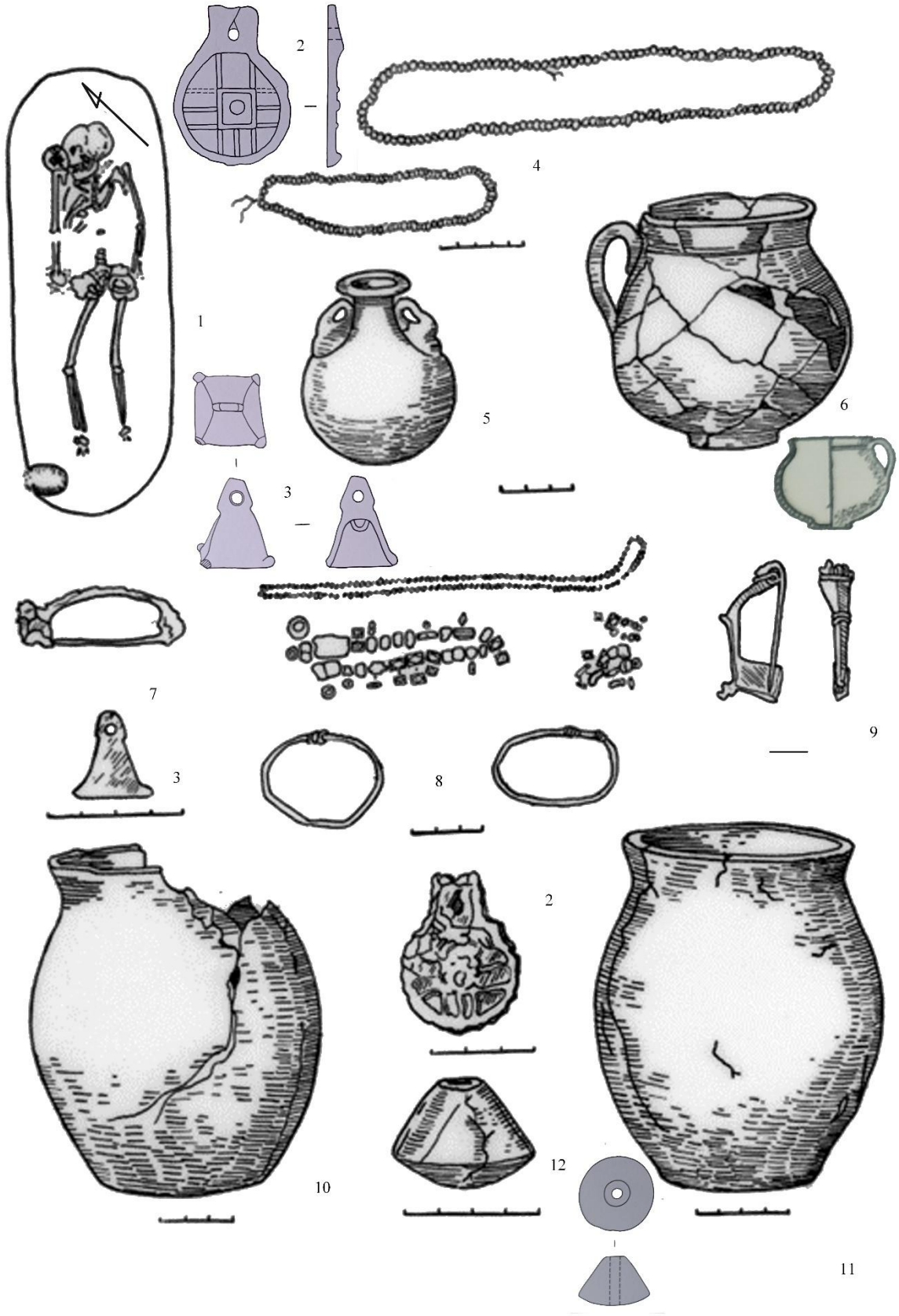


Fig. 34. Bocani G10 (after Fedorov 1956, 1960)

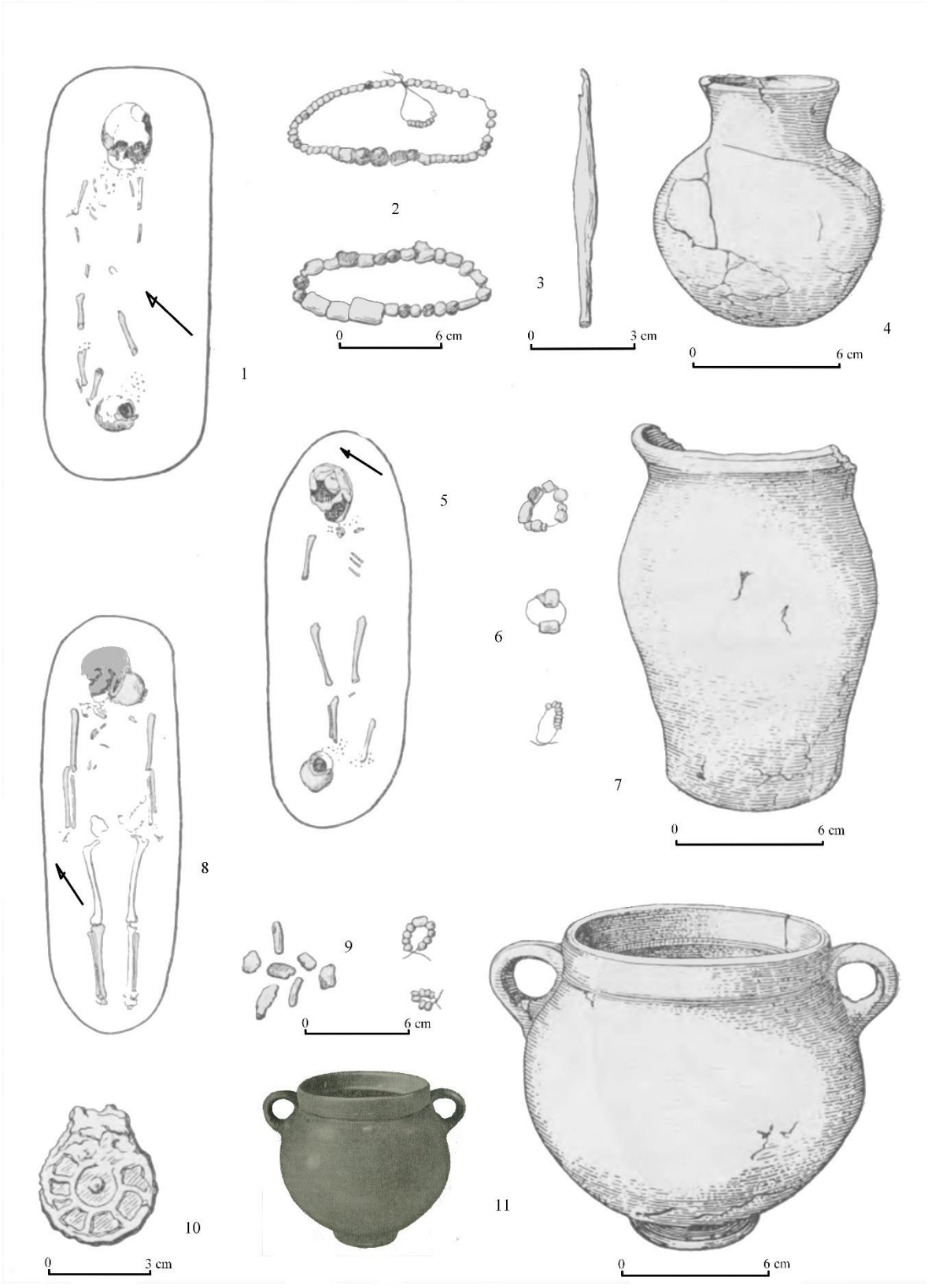


Fig. 35. Bocani G11-13 (after Fedorov 1956, 1960)



Fig. 36. Bocani G14-15 (after Fedorov 1956, 1960)



Fig. 37. Bocani G16-18 and GA (after Fedorov 1956, 1960)

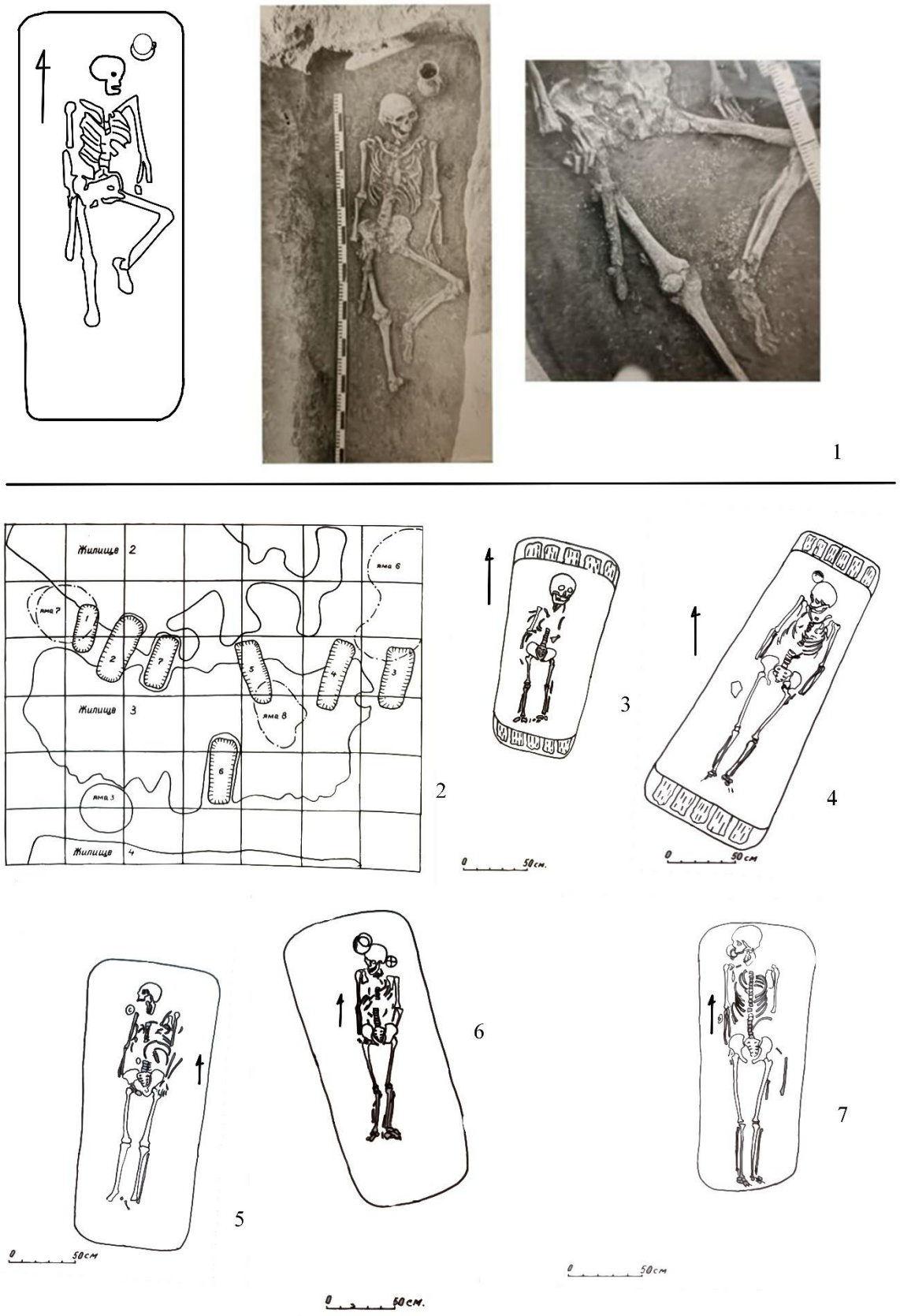


Fig. 38. Bolhrad G10 (after Passek 1963), Brînzeni G1-3, G5-6 (after Grosu 1985)

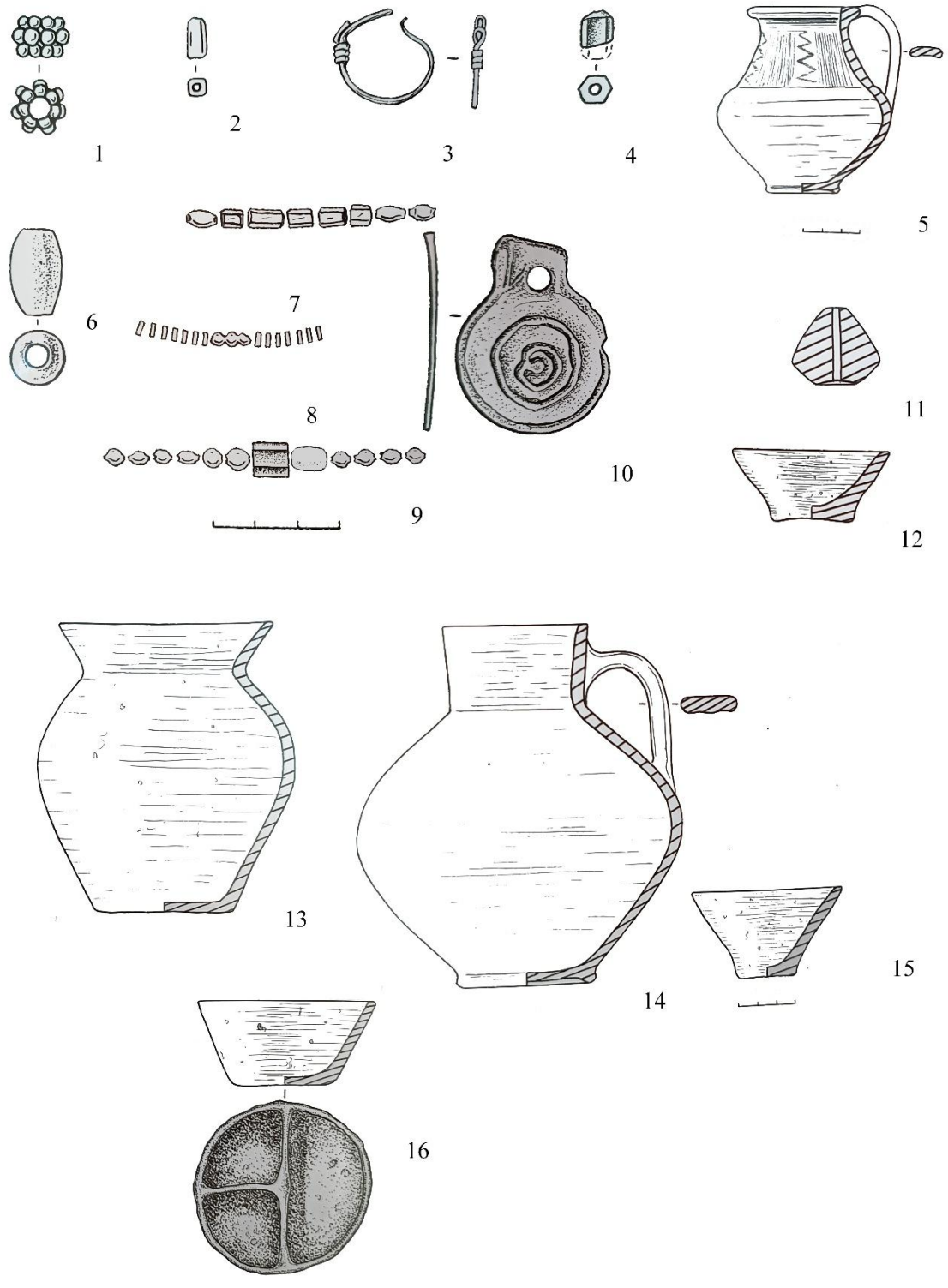


Fig. 39. Brînzeni G1-7 (after Grosu 1985)

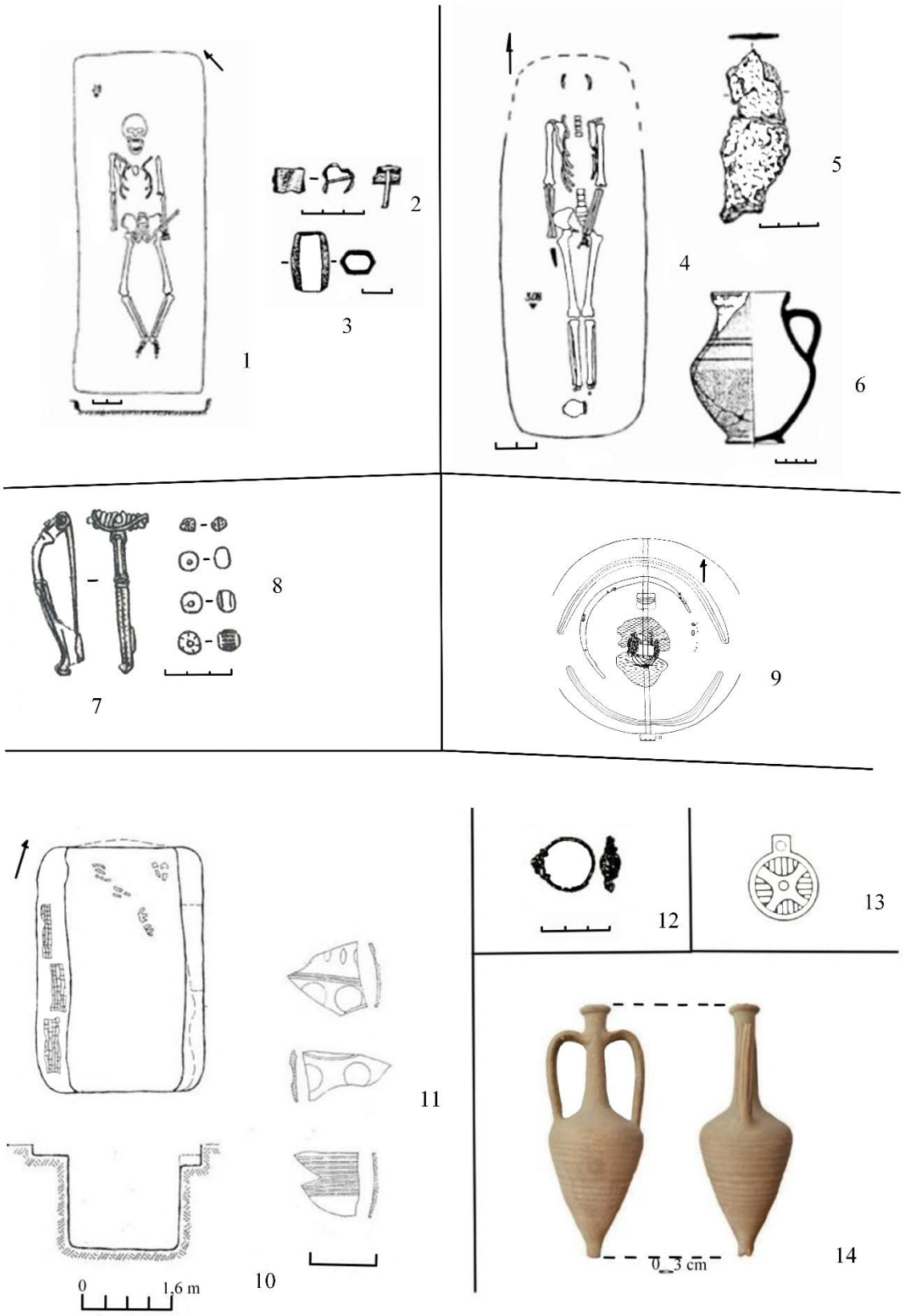


Fig. 40. Burlănești T3G13 (after Demchenko, Levitsky 2006), Butești DG, Carabetovca T1G3 (after Grosu 1983), Butor I T10G1 (after Meliukova 1974), Călmățui DG (after Ciobanu, Vornic 2015), Cimișlia DG(s) (after Rikman 1966), Cioburciu T1G1 (after Fidelsky 2004)

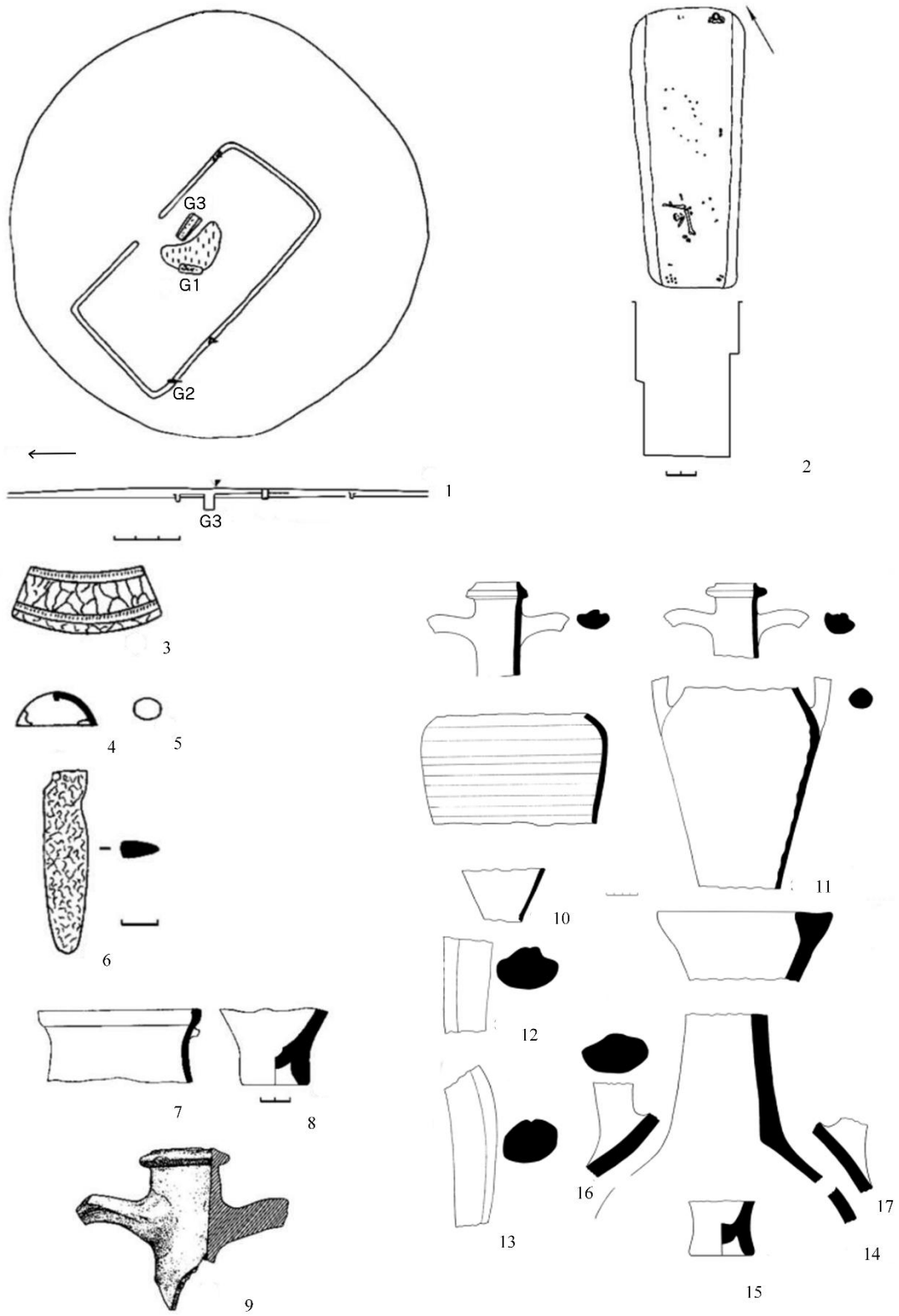


Fig. 41. Cazaclia T1G3 (after Agulinikov, Kurceatov 2013)

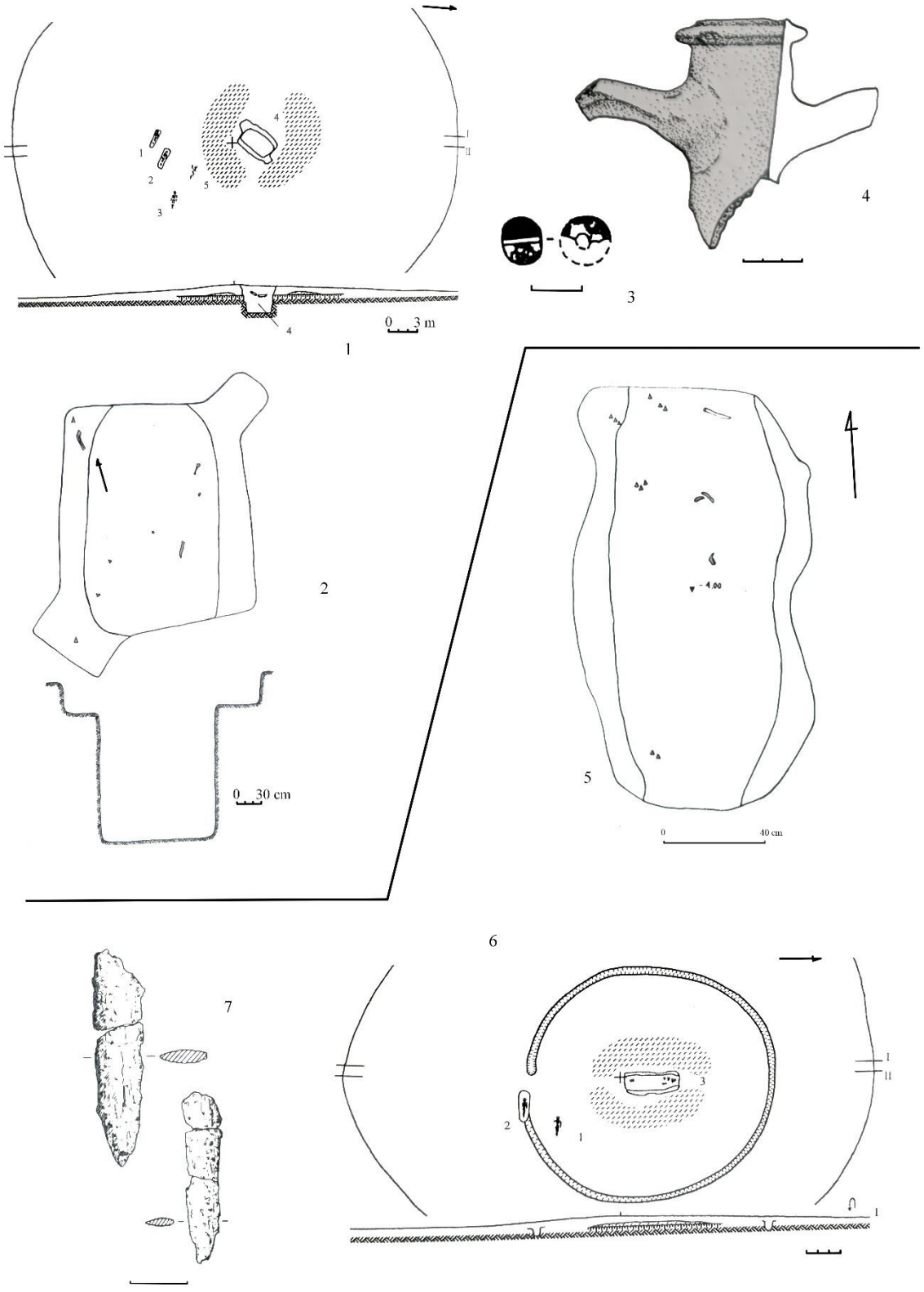


Fig. 42. Cazaclia T2G4 and T5G3 (after Sava et al 2019)

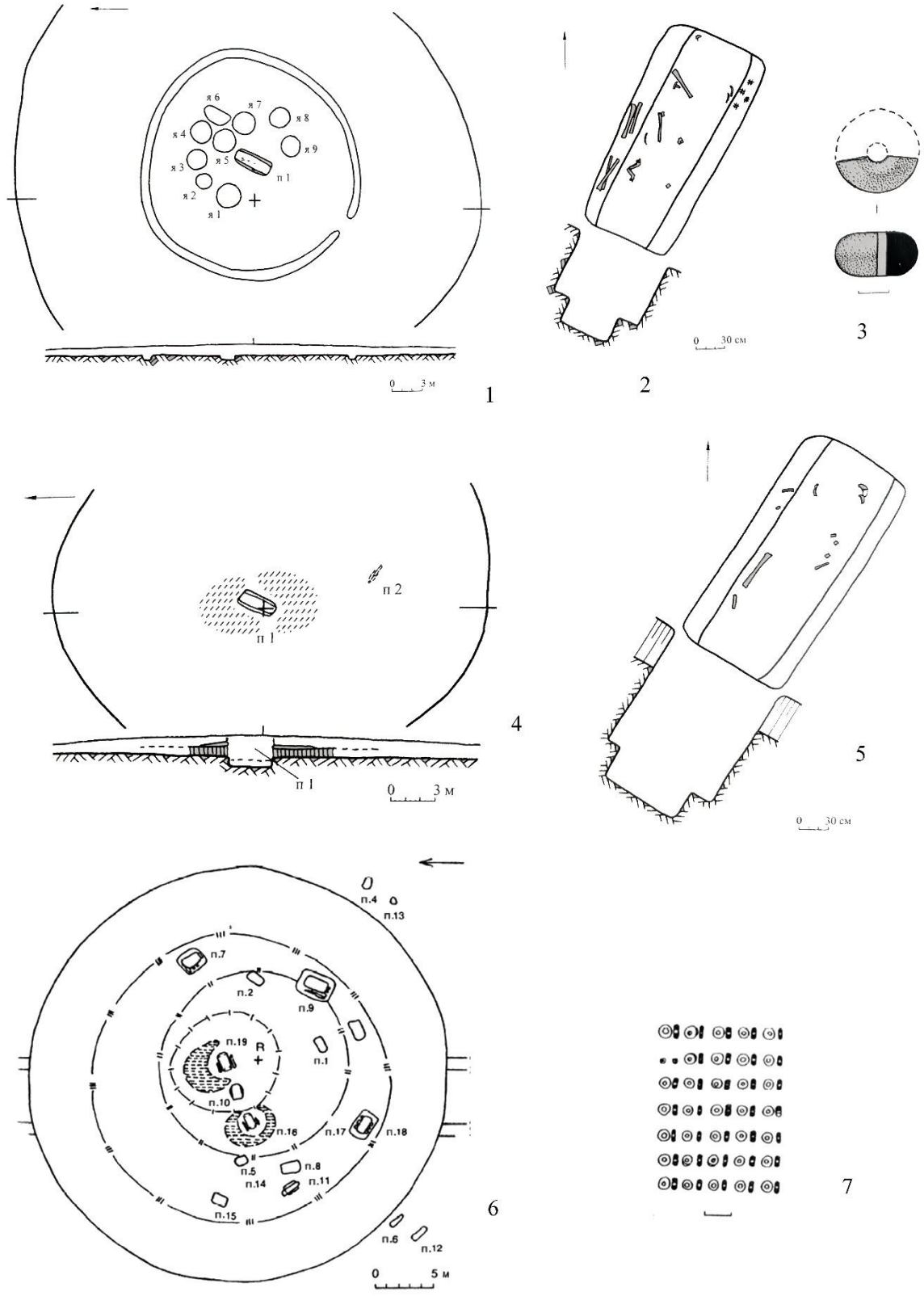


Fig. 43. Cazaclia T22G1 and T25G1 (after Sava et al 2019), Chirileni T1G17 (after Abîzova, Klociko 2000)

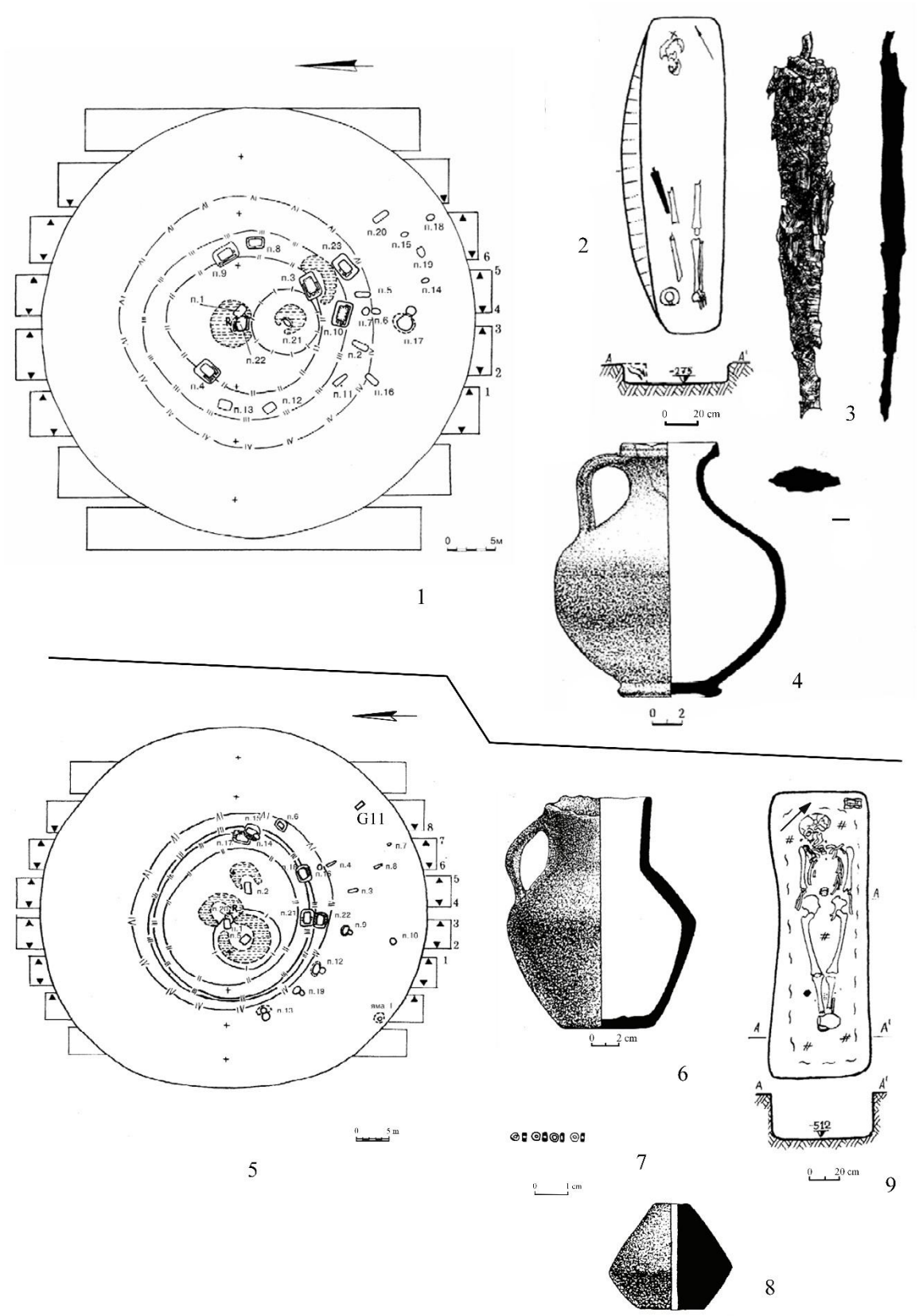


Fig. 44. Chirileni T3G11 and T2G2 (after Abîzova, Klociko 2005)

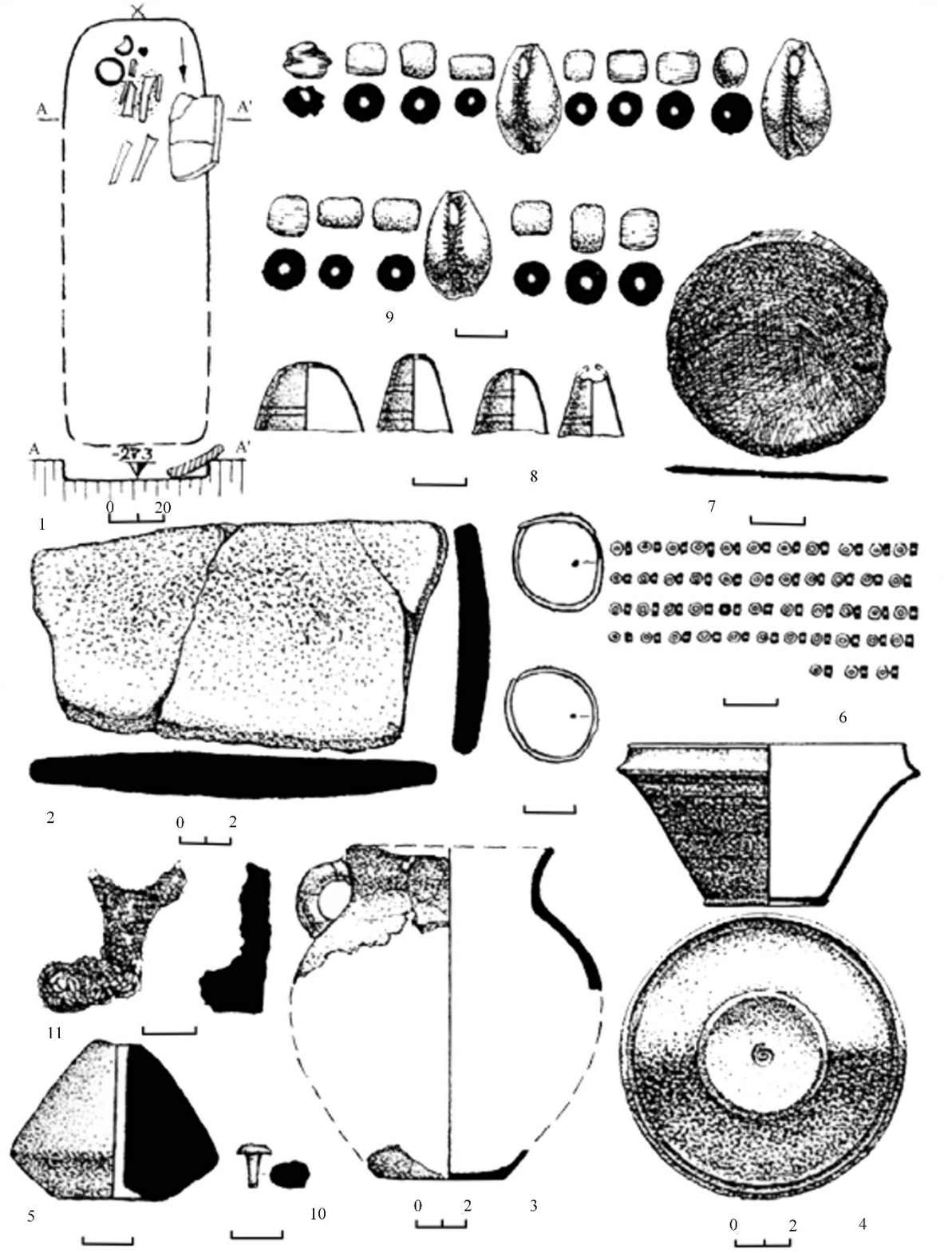


Fig. 45. Chirileni T2G5 (after Abîzova, Klociko 2005)

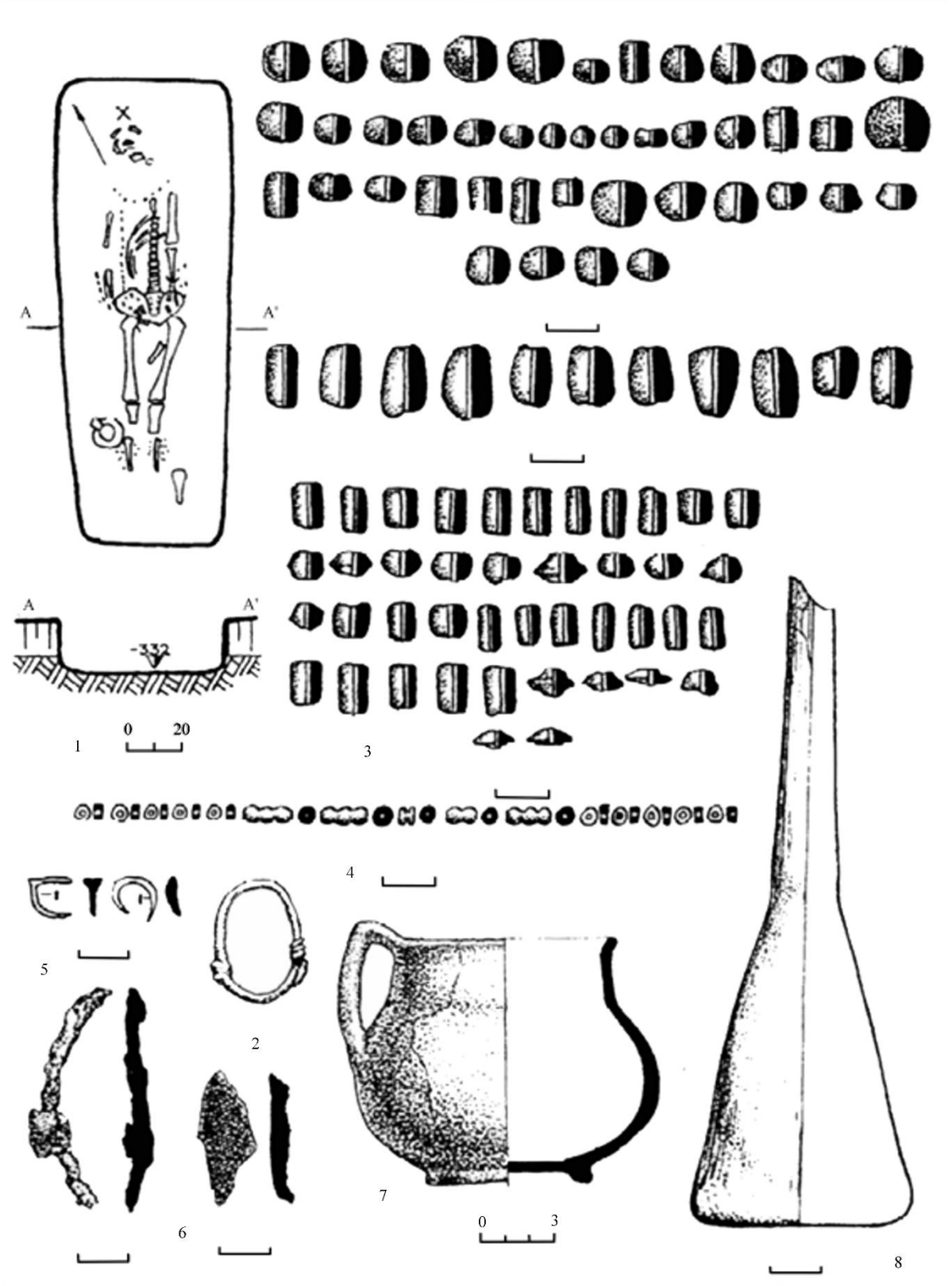


Fig. 46. Chirileni T2G16 (after Abîzova, Klociko 2005)



Fig. 47. Chirileni T2G20 (after Abîzova, Klociko 2005)

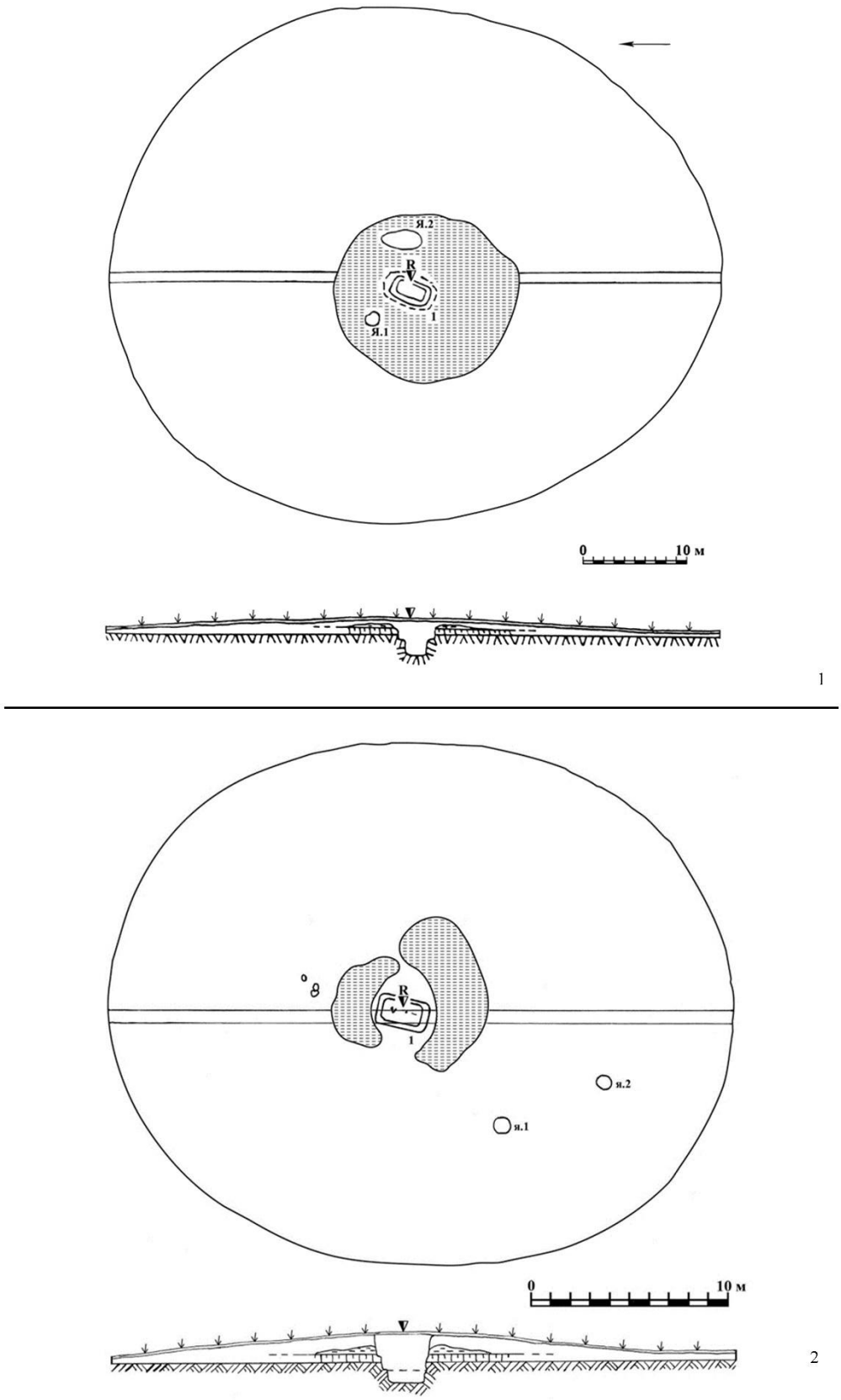


Fig. 48. Cioburciu T2G1 and T5G1 (after Agulnikov, Popovici 2022)

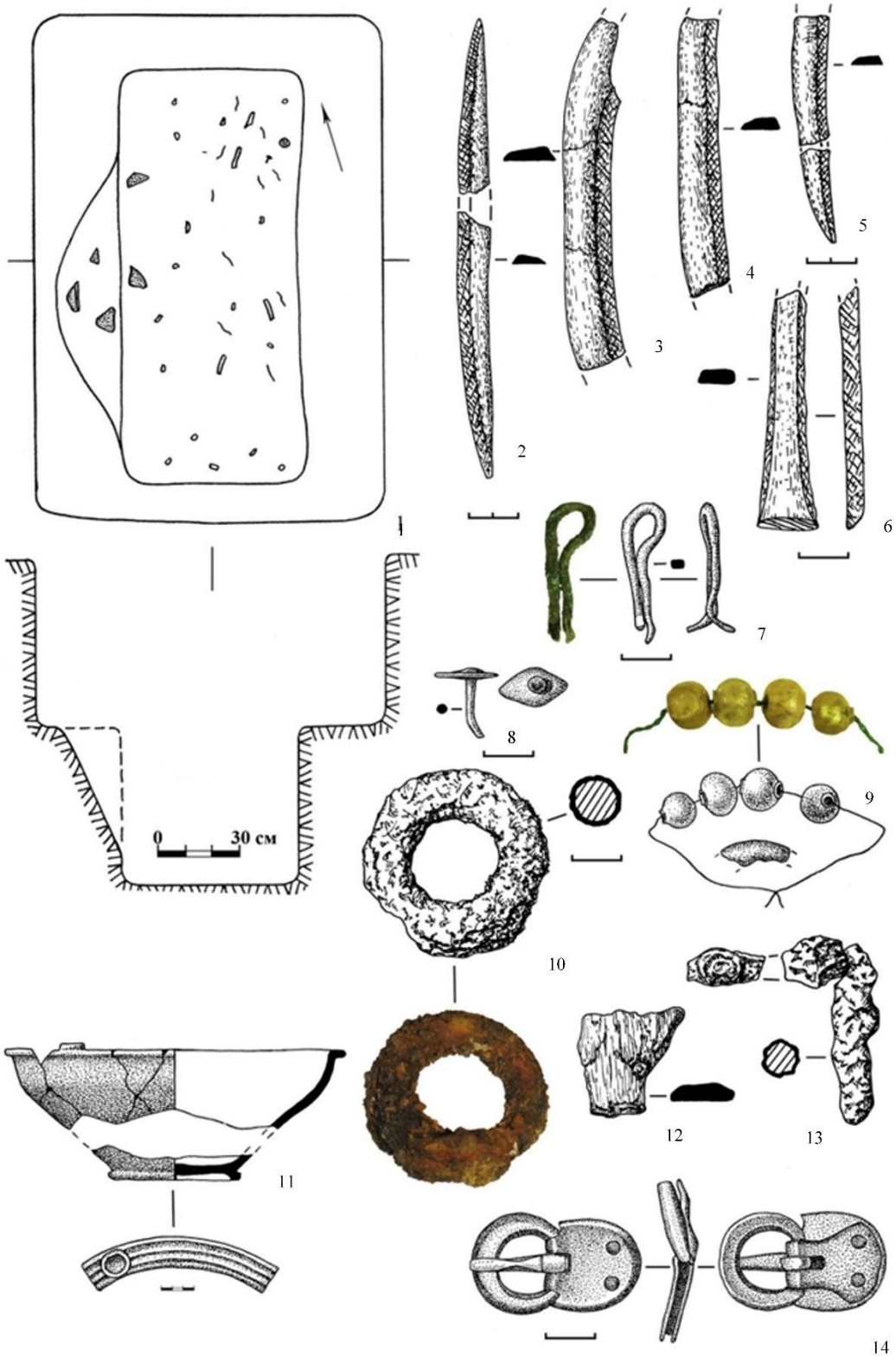


Fig. 49. Cioburciu T2G1 (after Agulnikov, Popovici 2022)

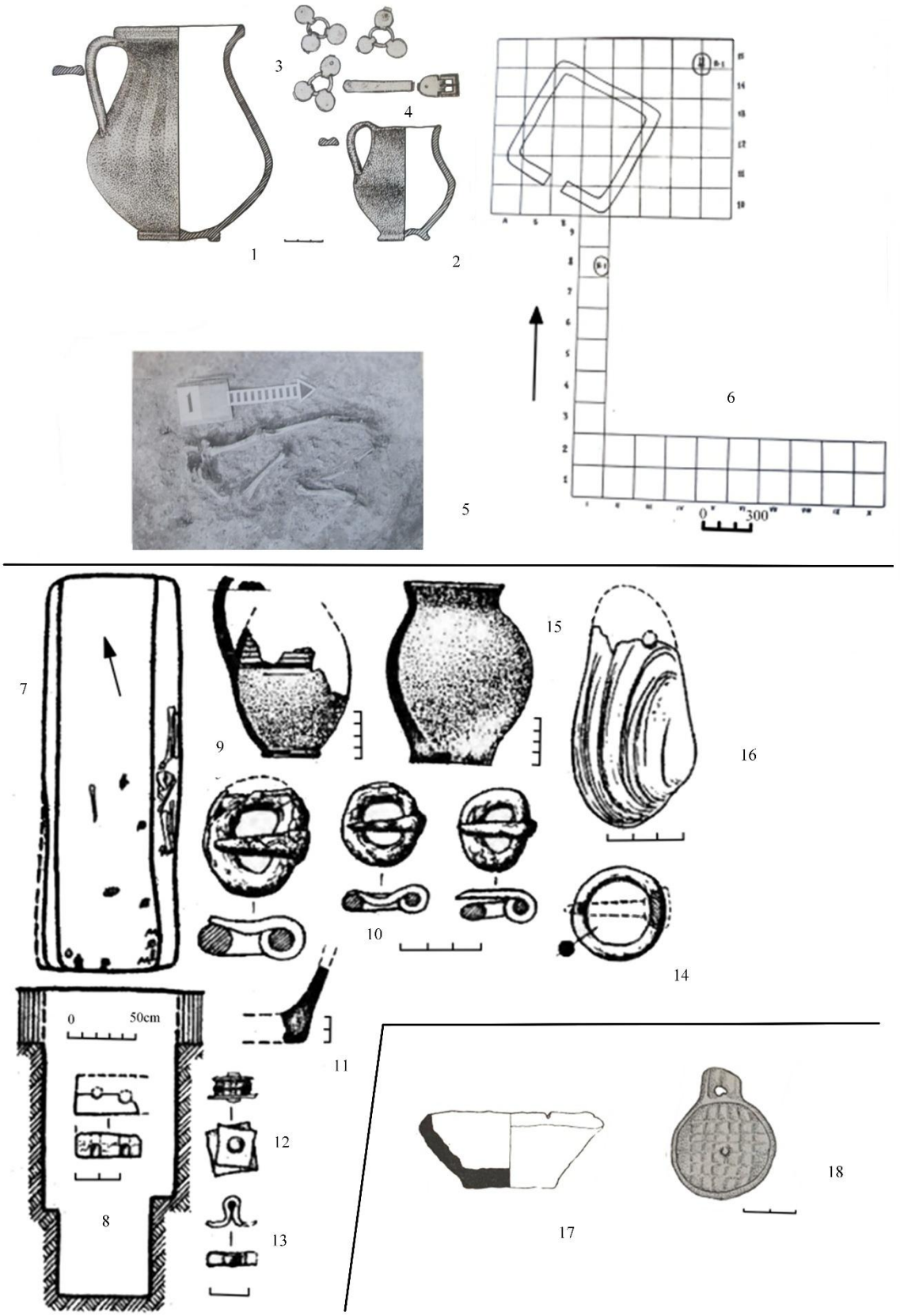


Fig. 50. Cioropcani DG(s) (after Grosu 1983), Cocicovatoe T27G1 (after Vanchugov, Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1992), Comrat II DG (after Rikman 1966)

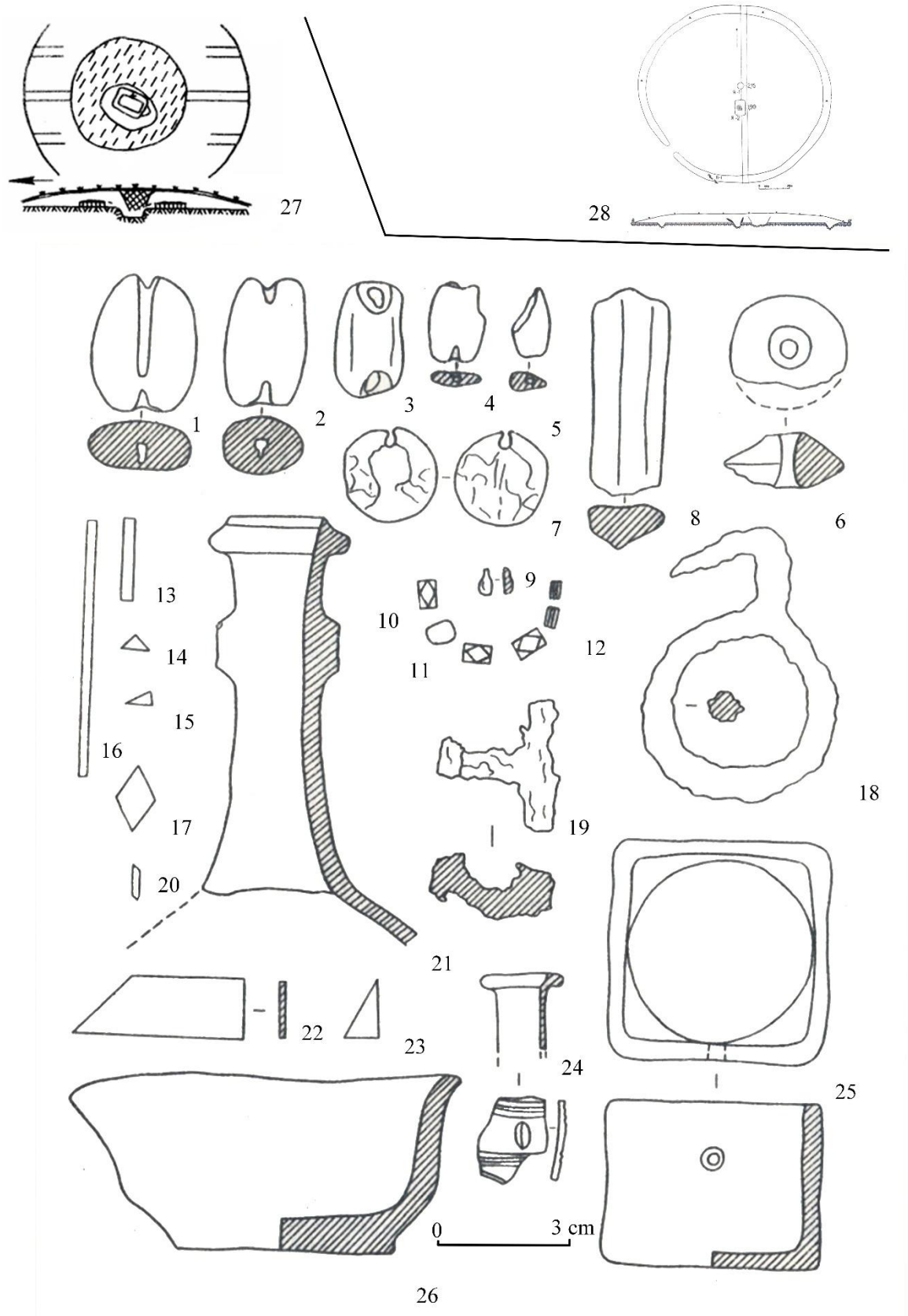


Fig. 51. Cîrnățeni T3G1 (after Grosu, Demcenco 1990) and Cișmichioi T1G1 (after Borziac 1980)

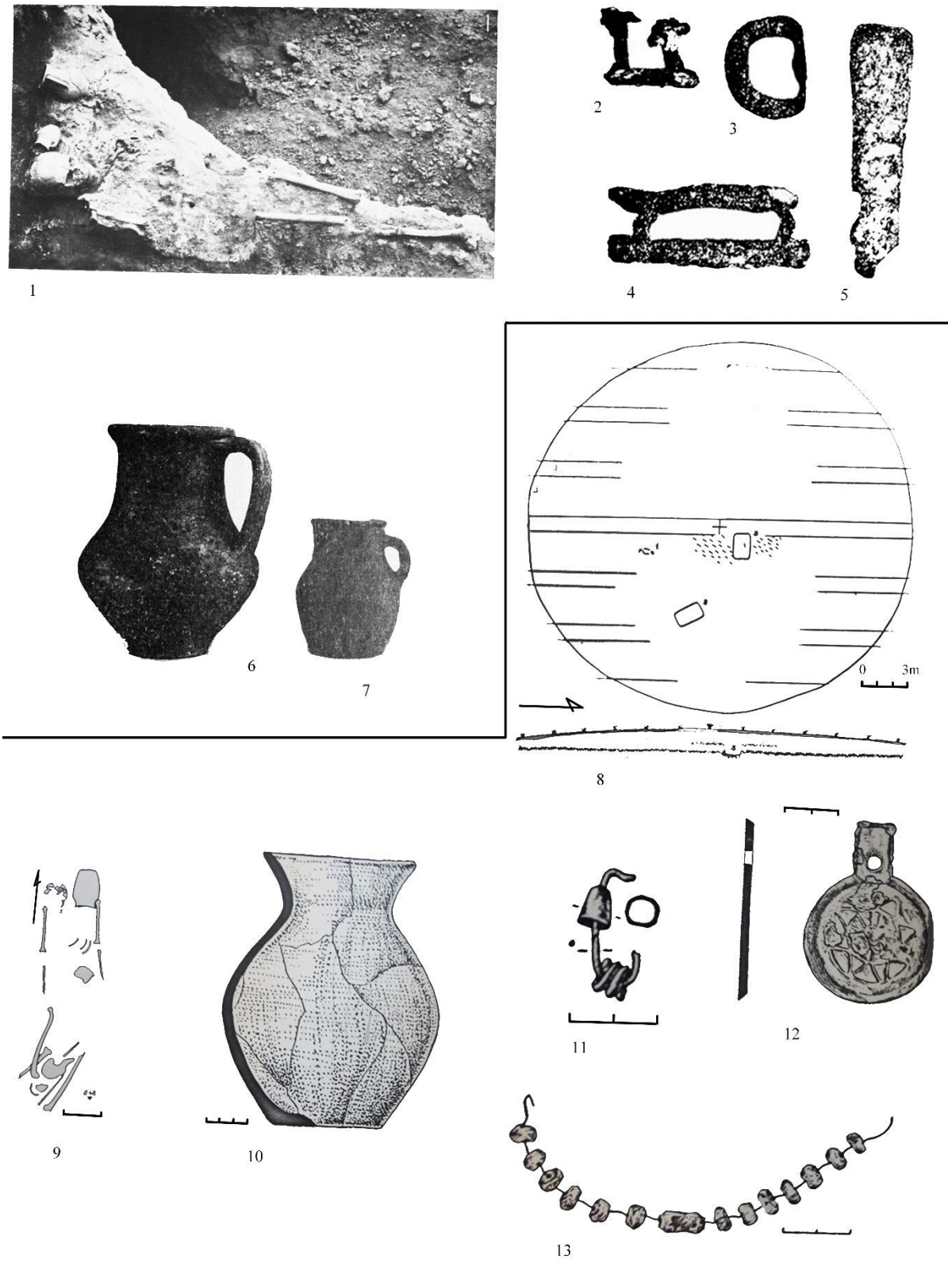


Fig. 52. Copanca G1 (after Moroșan 1939), Corjeuți T9G1 (after Levitski, Demcenko 1994)

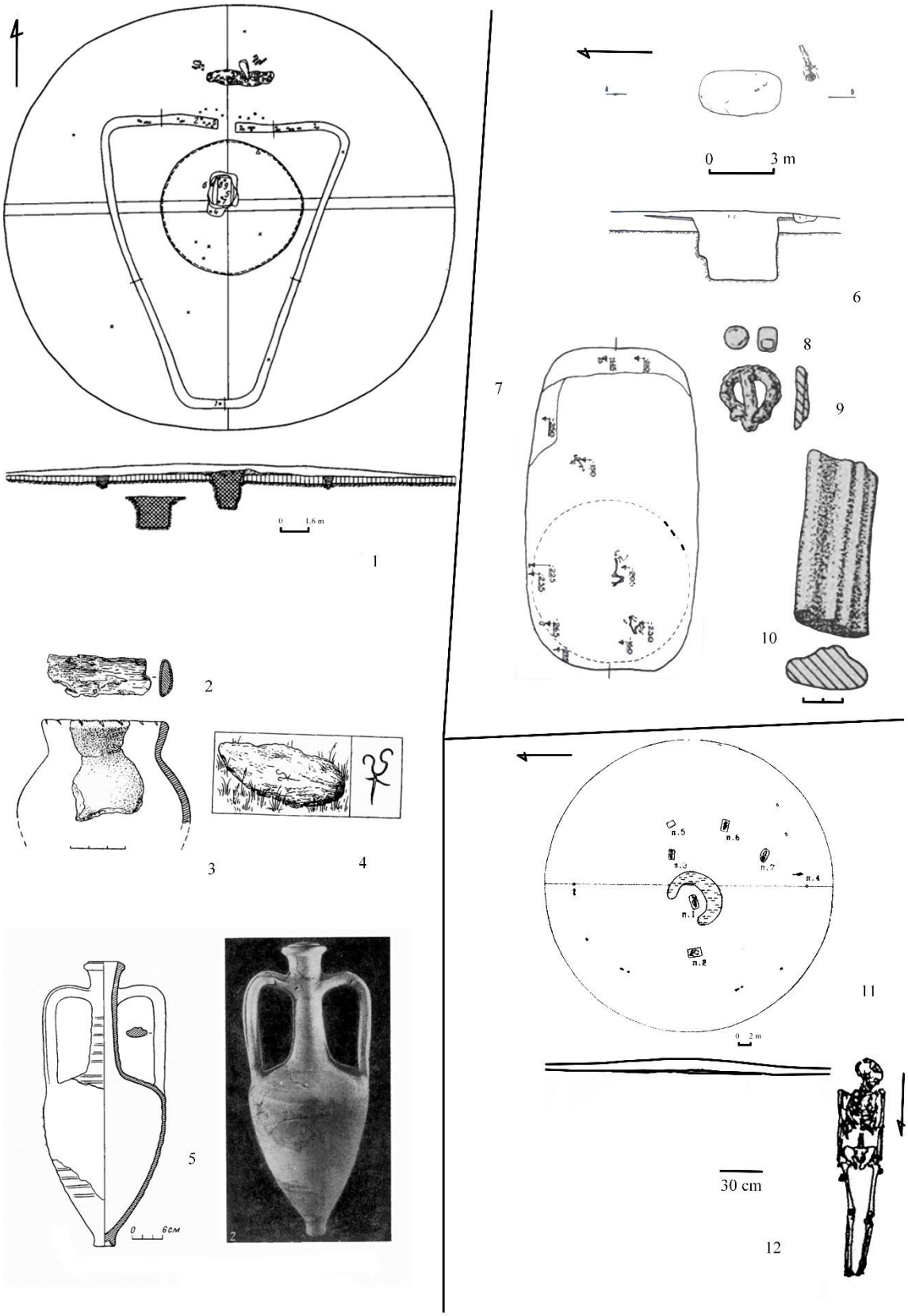


Fig. 53. Corpaci II T1G1 (after Grosu 1979), Corpaci II T3G2 (after Dergaciov 1982), Corpaci I T3G4 (after Jarovoj 1984)

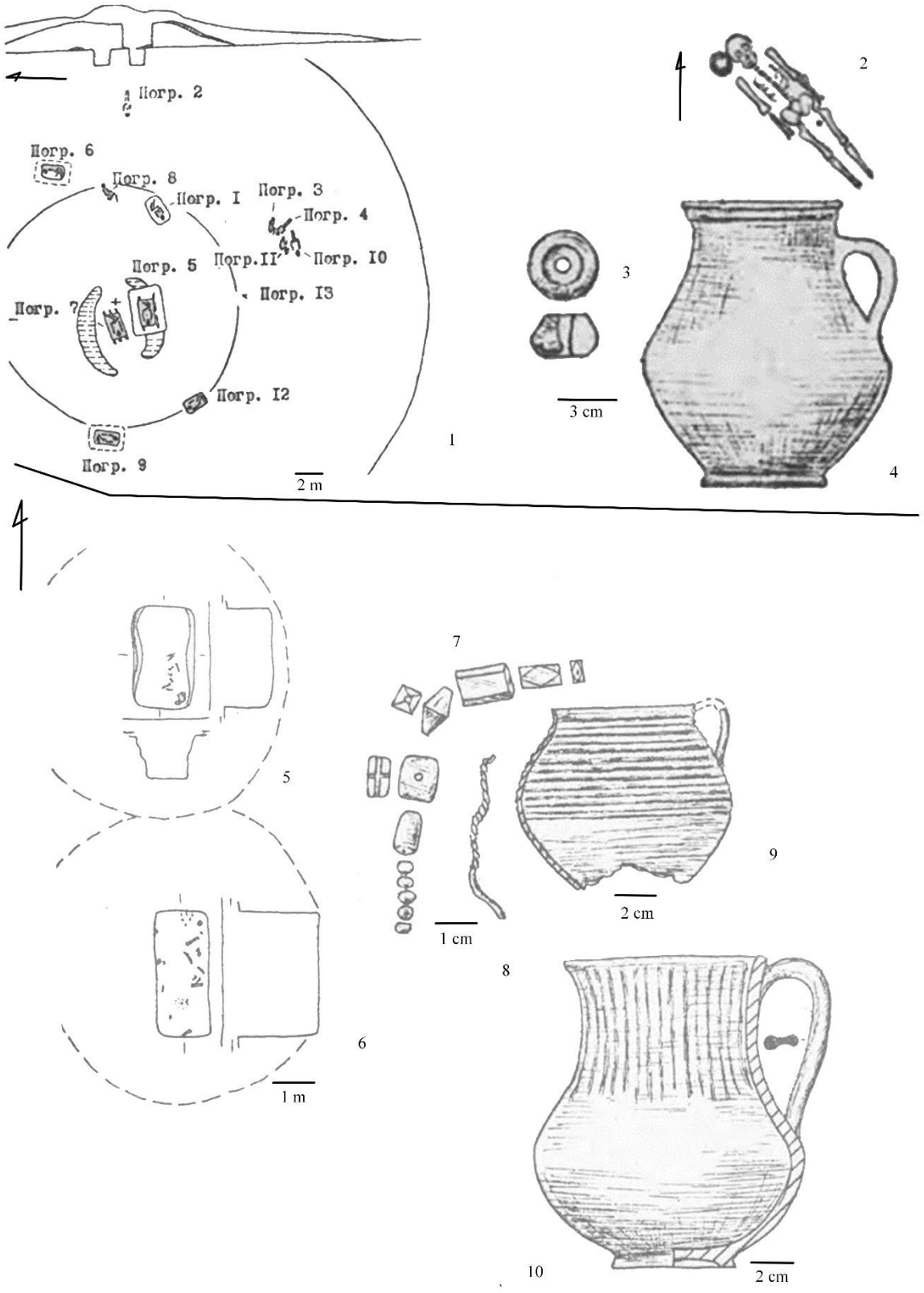


Fig. 54. Costești T1G4 and Cuconeștii Vechi I G4-5 (after Dergachov 1982)

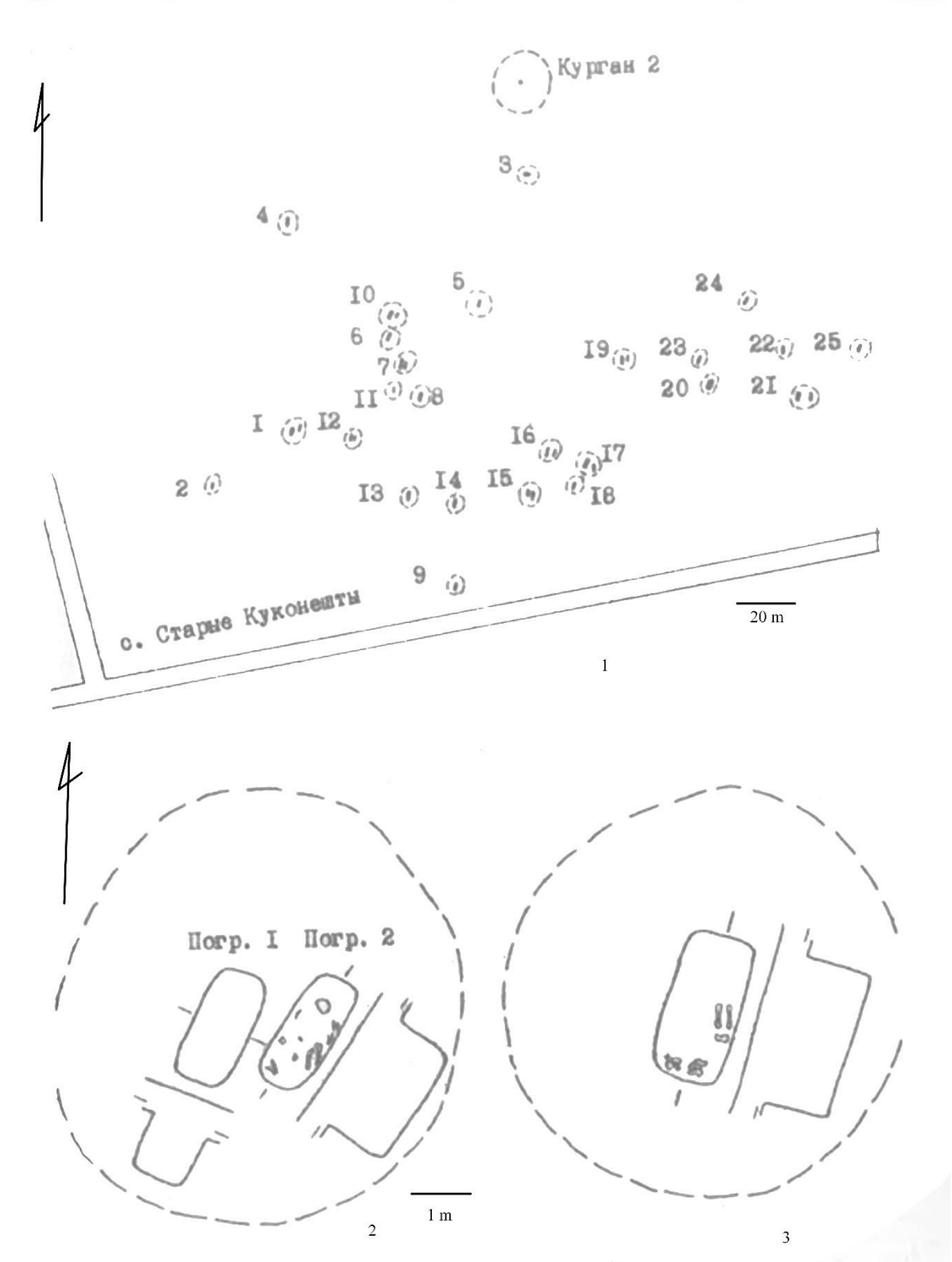


Fig. 55. Cuconeștii Vechi I G1-3 (after Dergachov 1982)

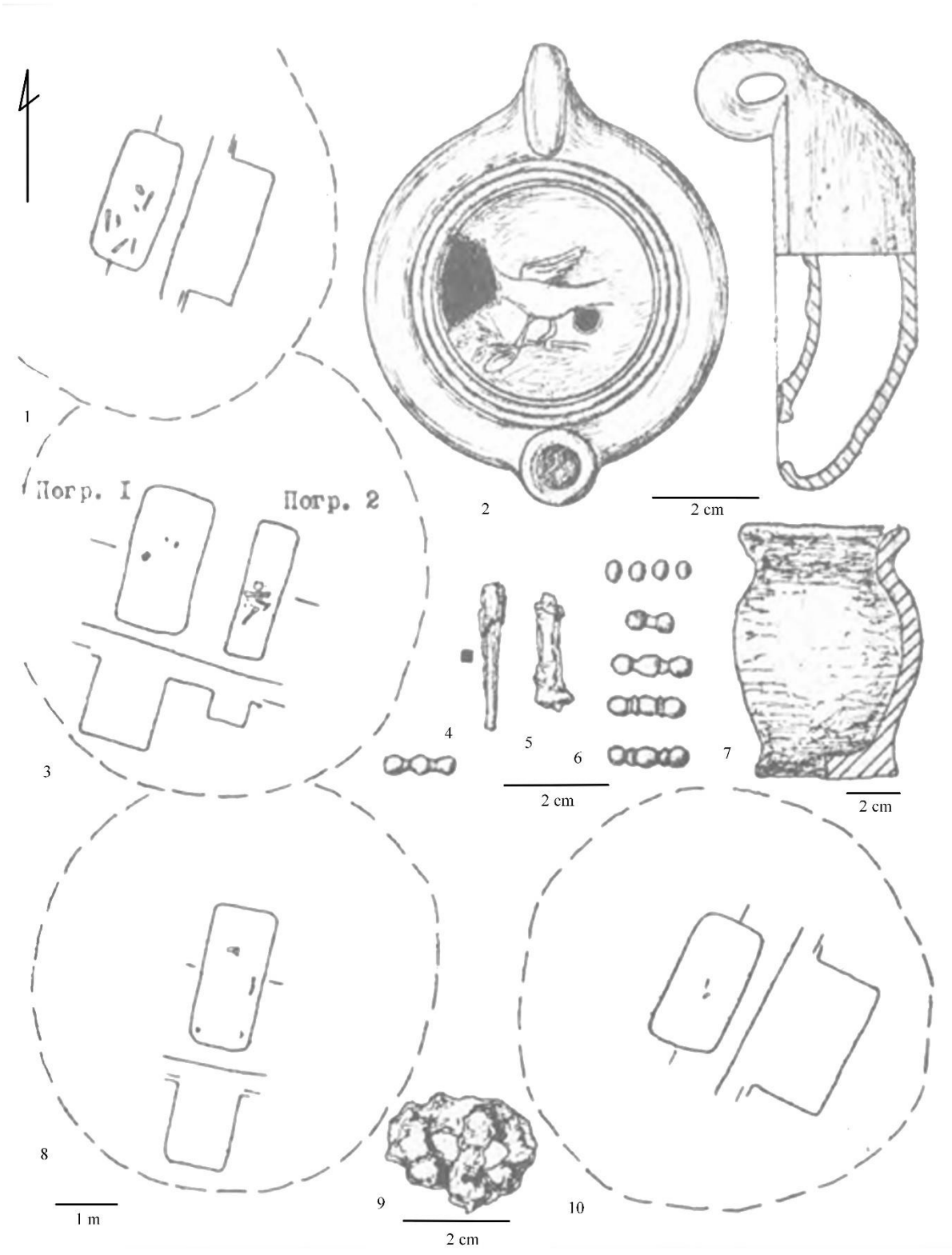


Fig. 56. Cuconeștii Vechi I G6-10 (after Dergachov 1982)

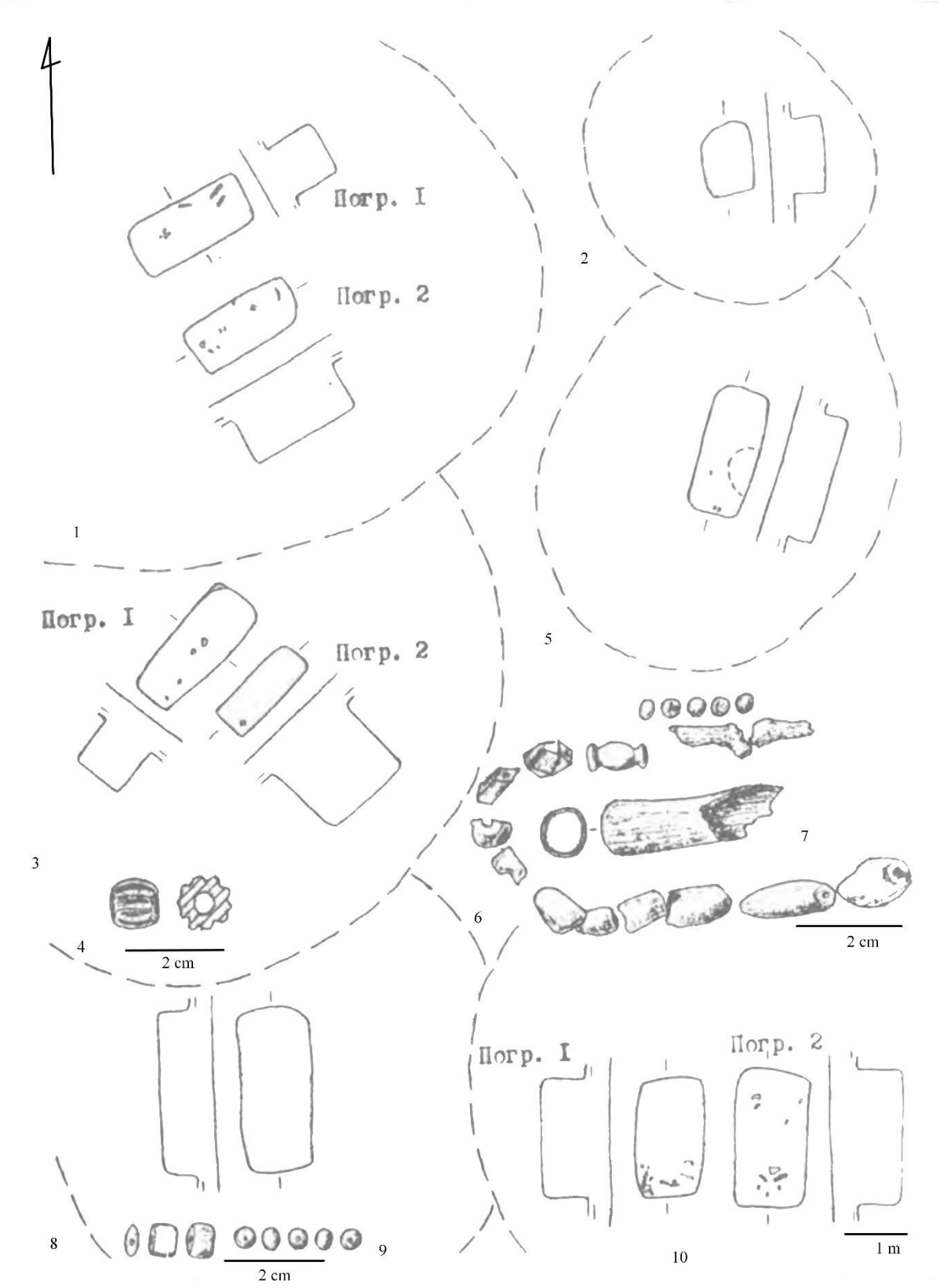


Fig. 57. Cuconeștii Vechi I G11-19 (after Dergachov 1982)

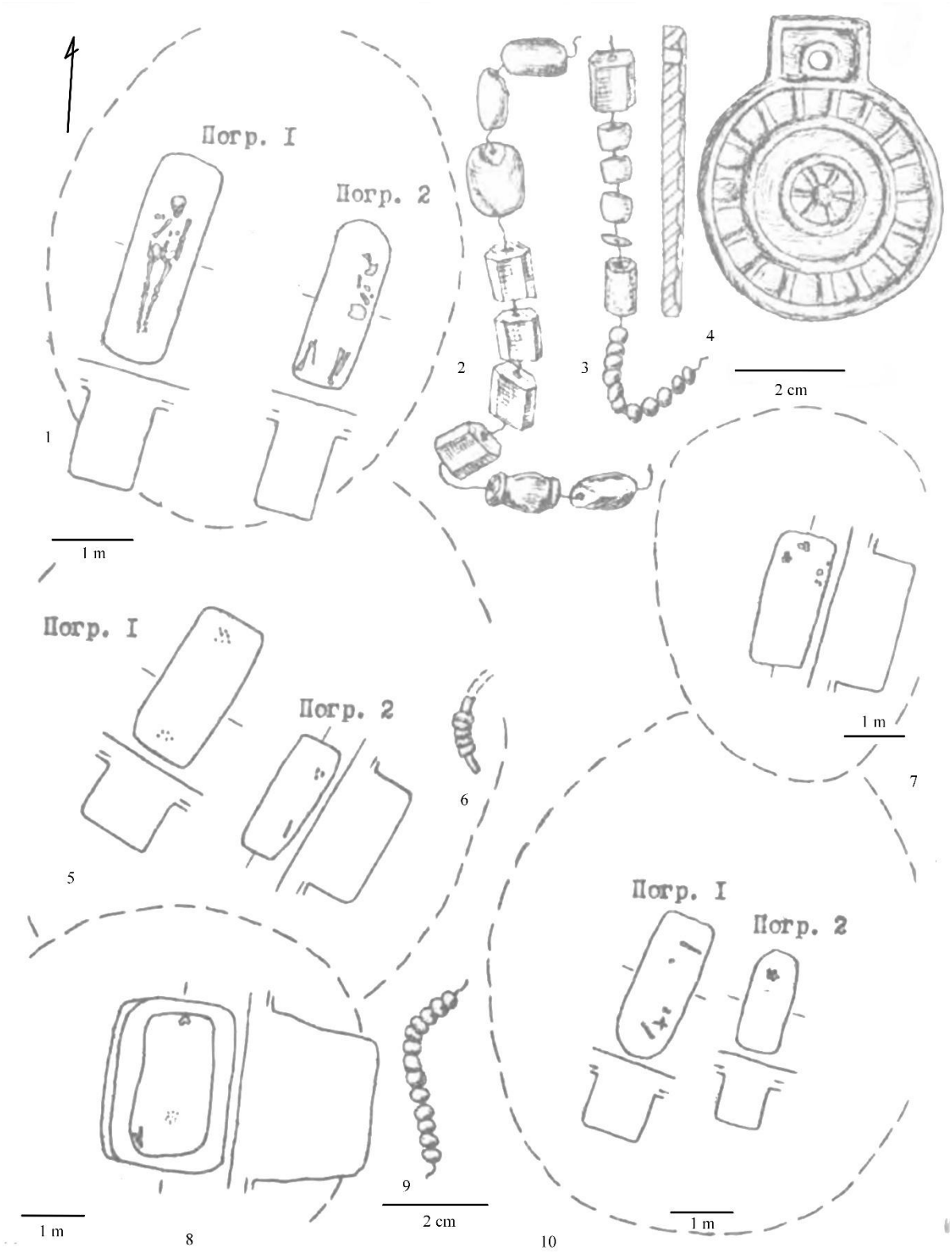


Fig. 58. Cuconeștii Vechi I G20-27 (after Dergachov 1982)

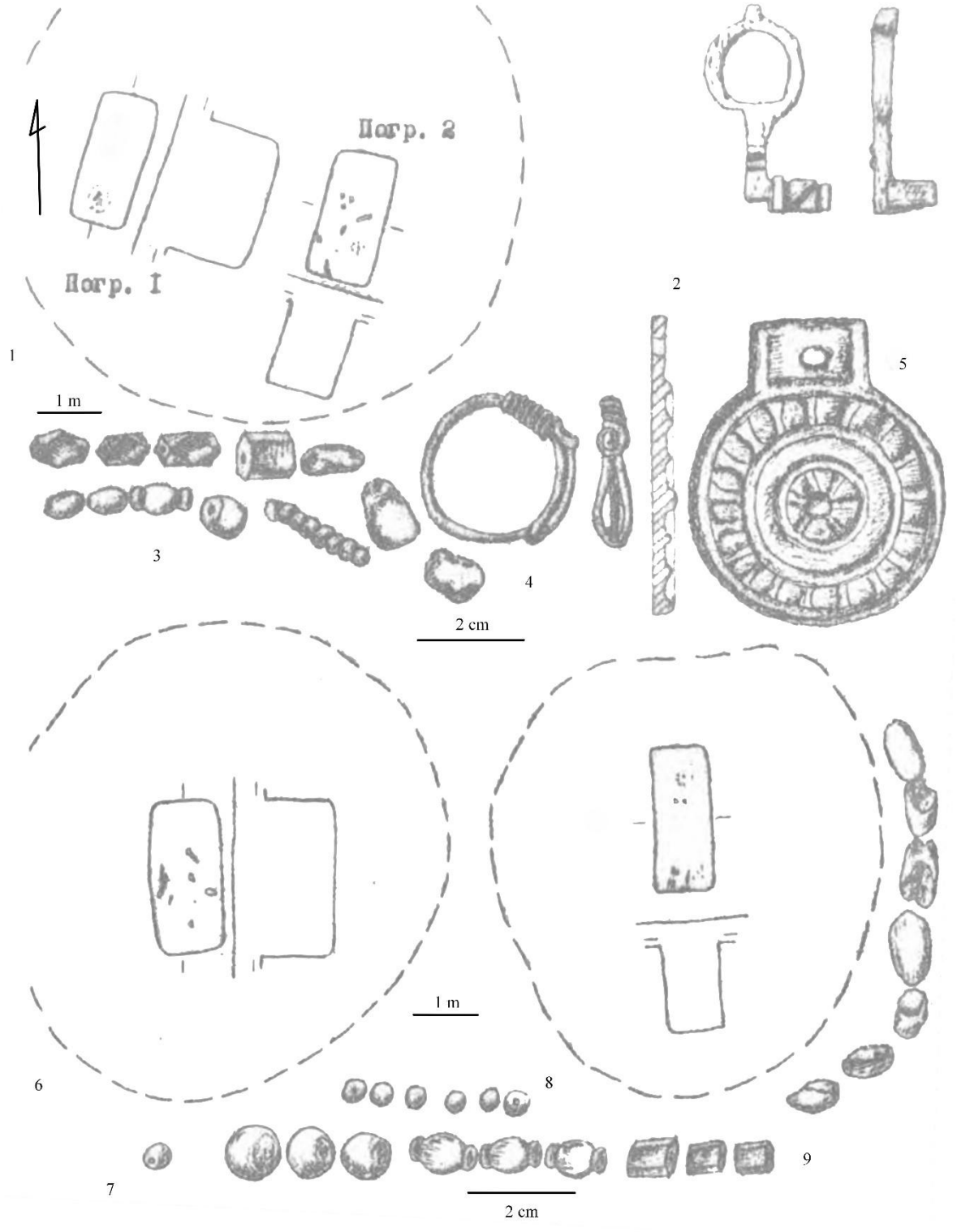


Fig. 59. Cuconeștii Vechi I G28-31 (after Dergachov 1982)

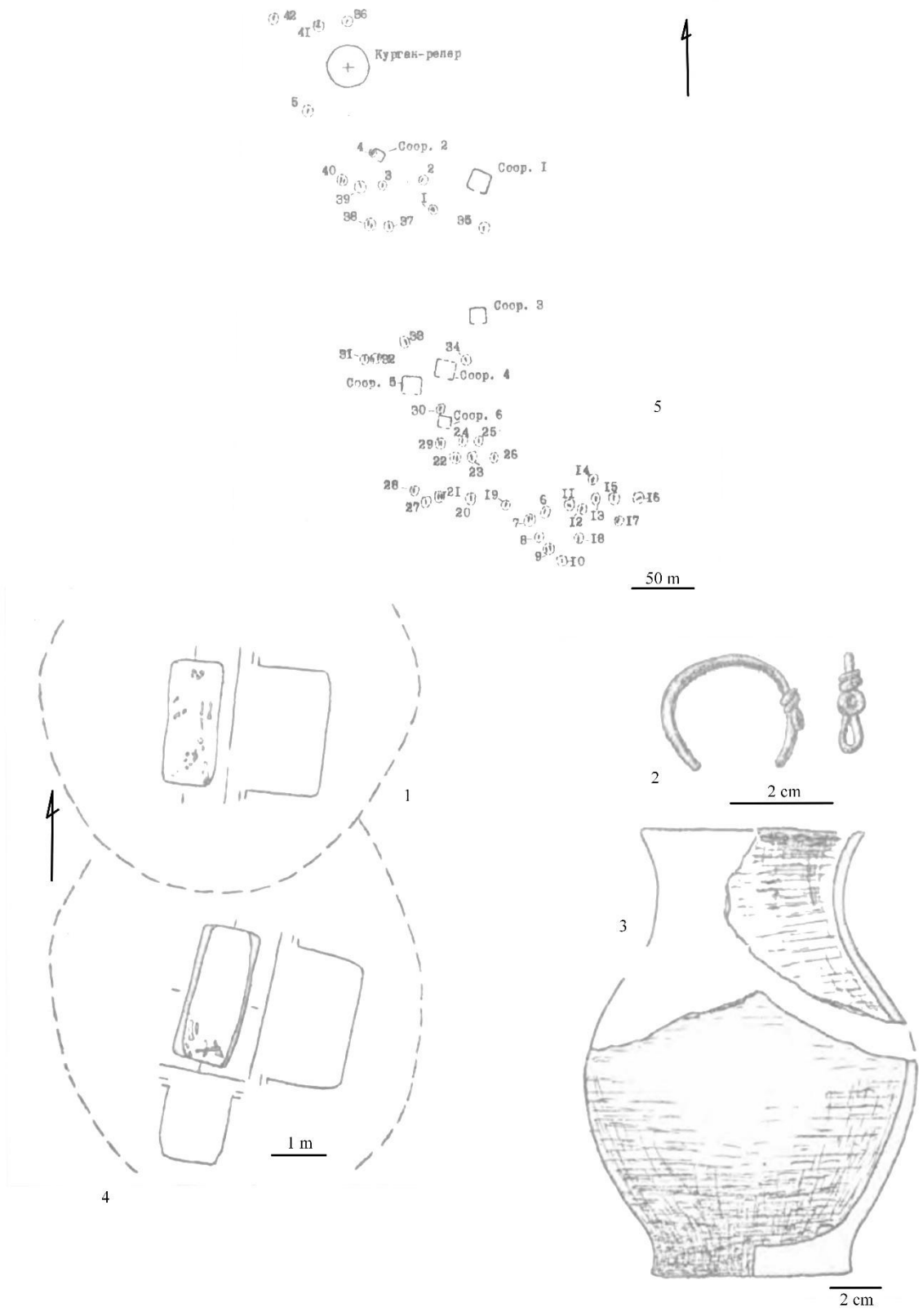


Fig. 60. Cuconeștii Vechi I G32-33 (after Dergachov 1982)

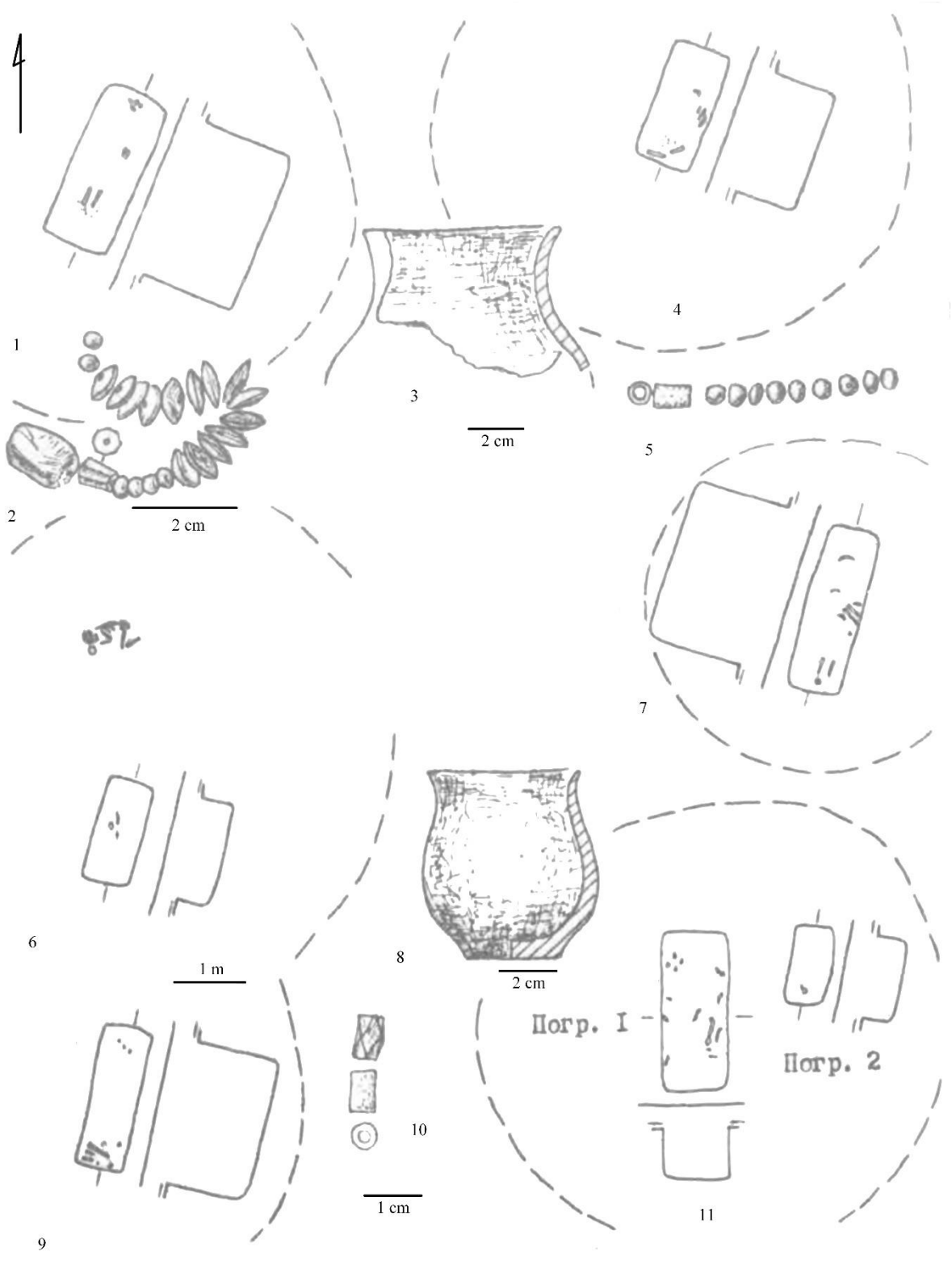


Fig. 61. Cuconeștii Vechi II G1-7 (after Dergachov 1982)

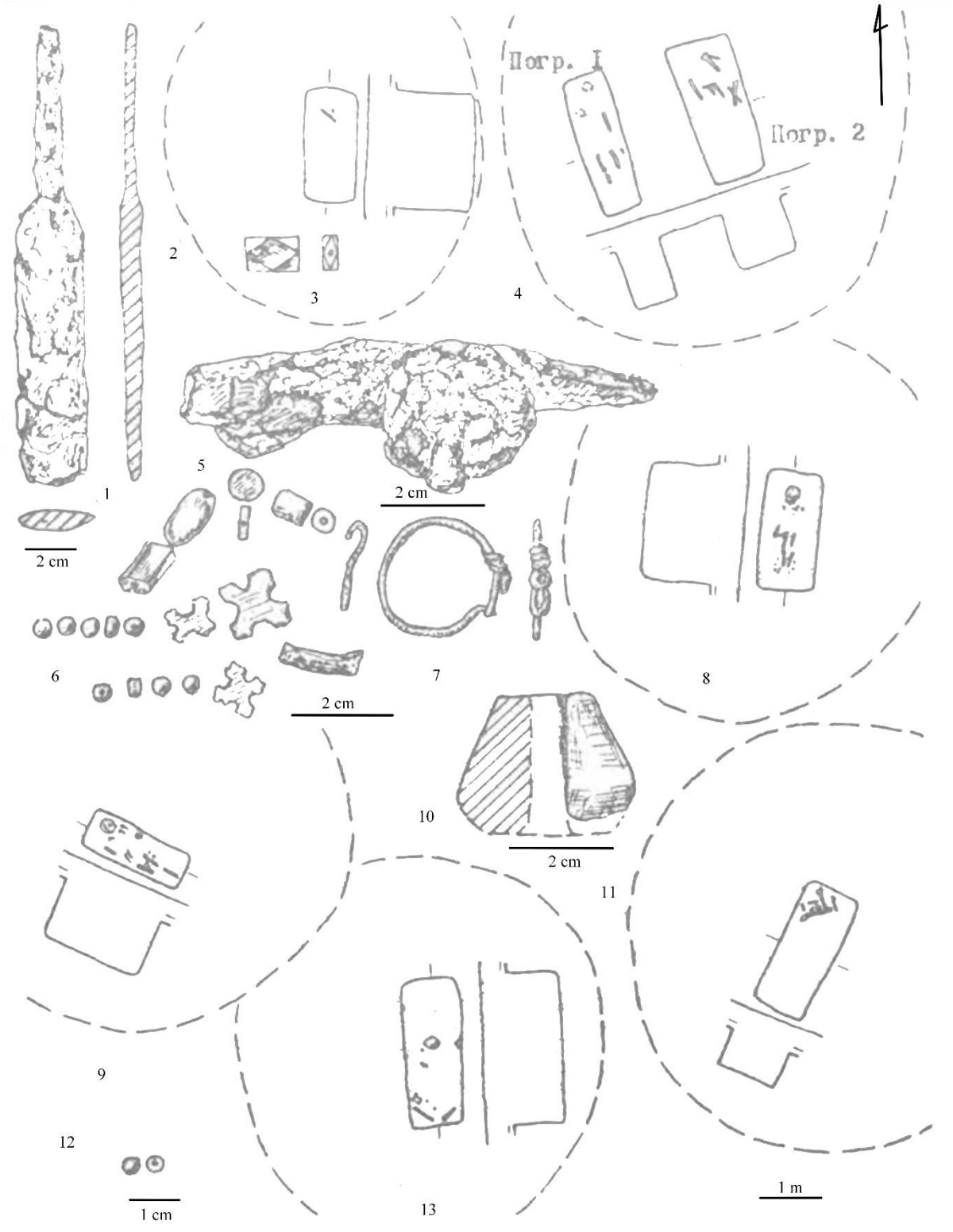


Fig. 62. Cuconeștii Vechi II G8-14 (after Dergachov 1982)

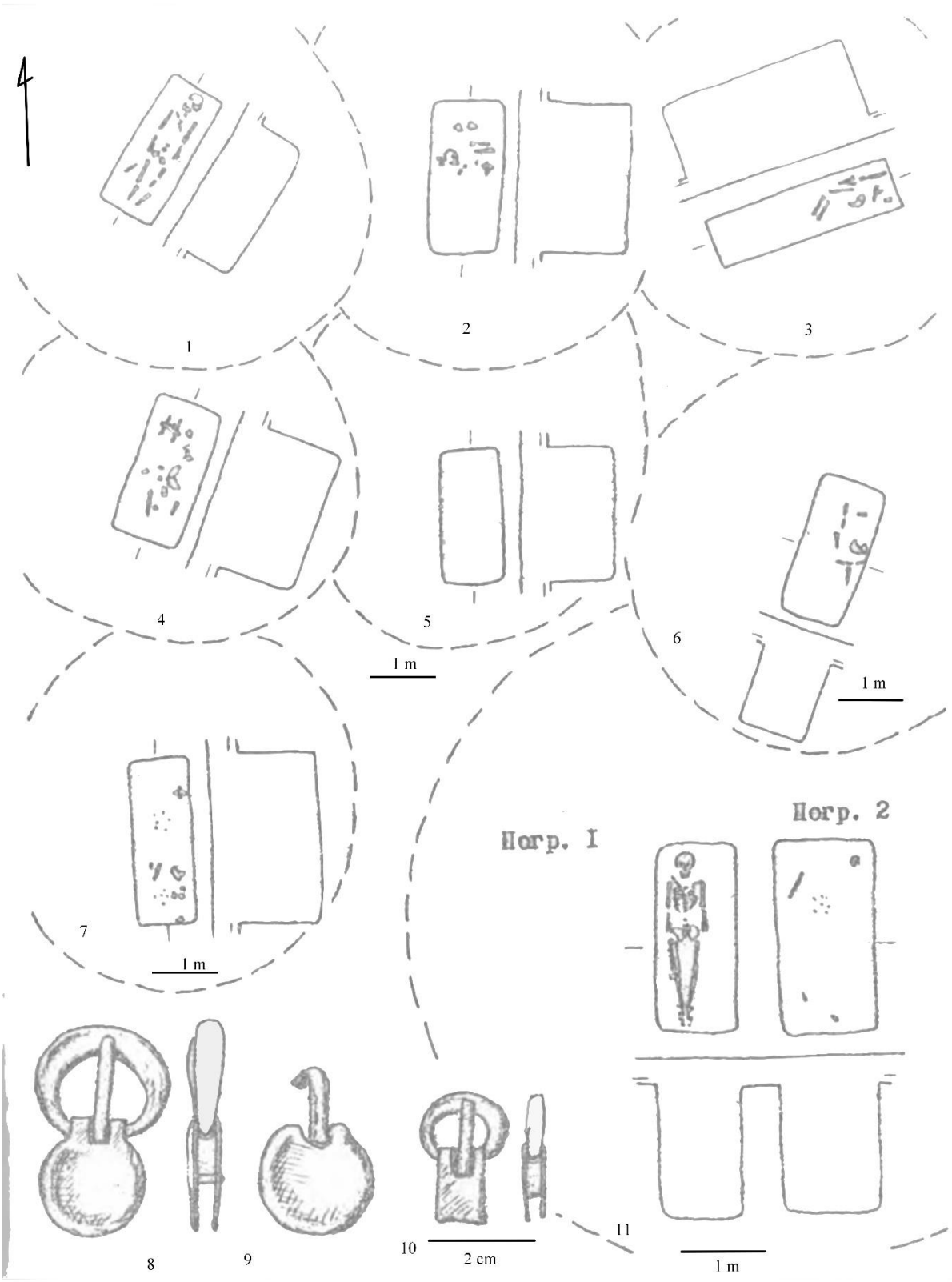


Fig. 63. Cuconeștii Vechi II G15-23 (after Dergachov 1982)

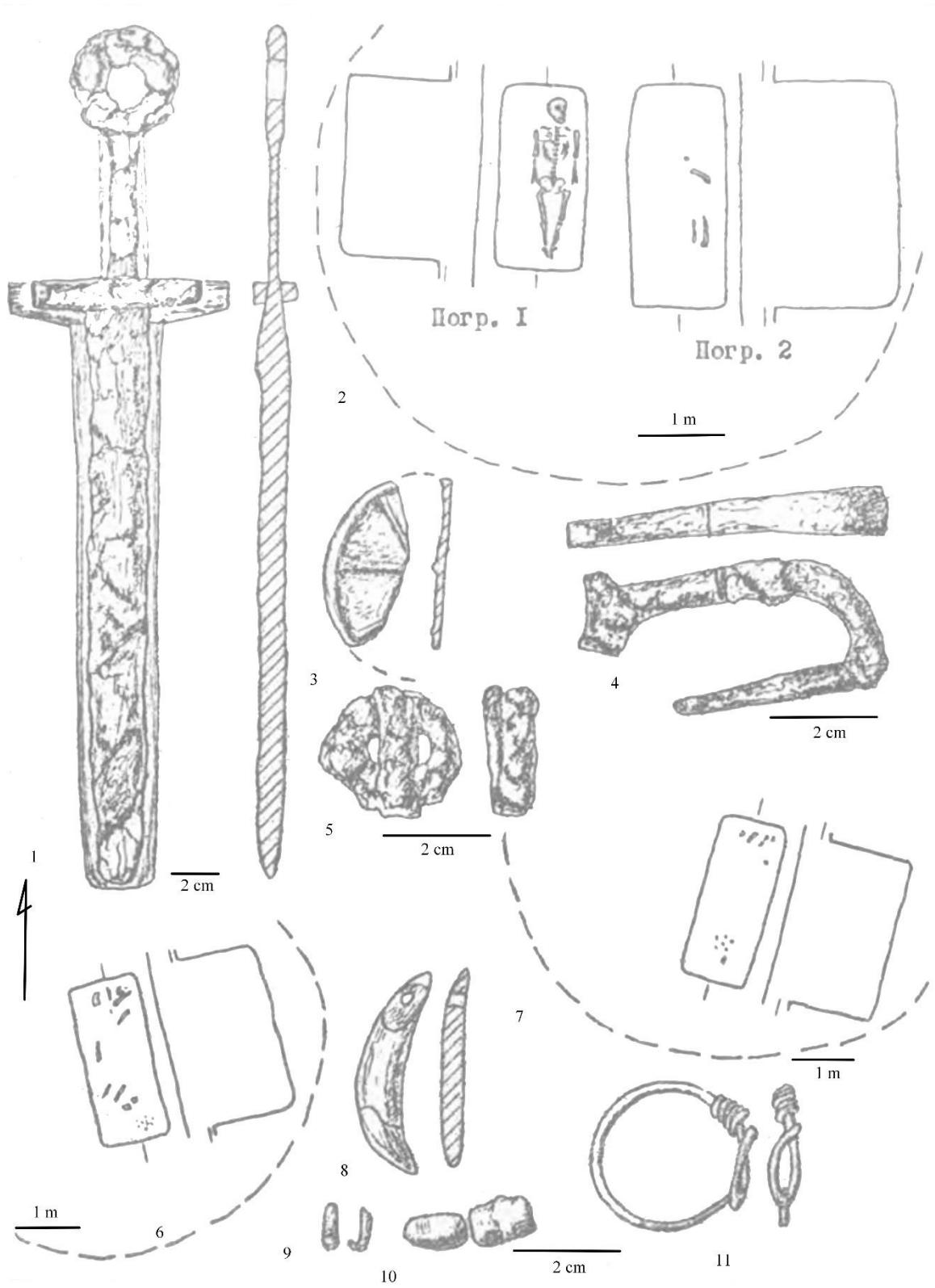


Fig. 64. Cuconeștii Vechi II G24-27 (after Dergachov 1982)

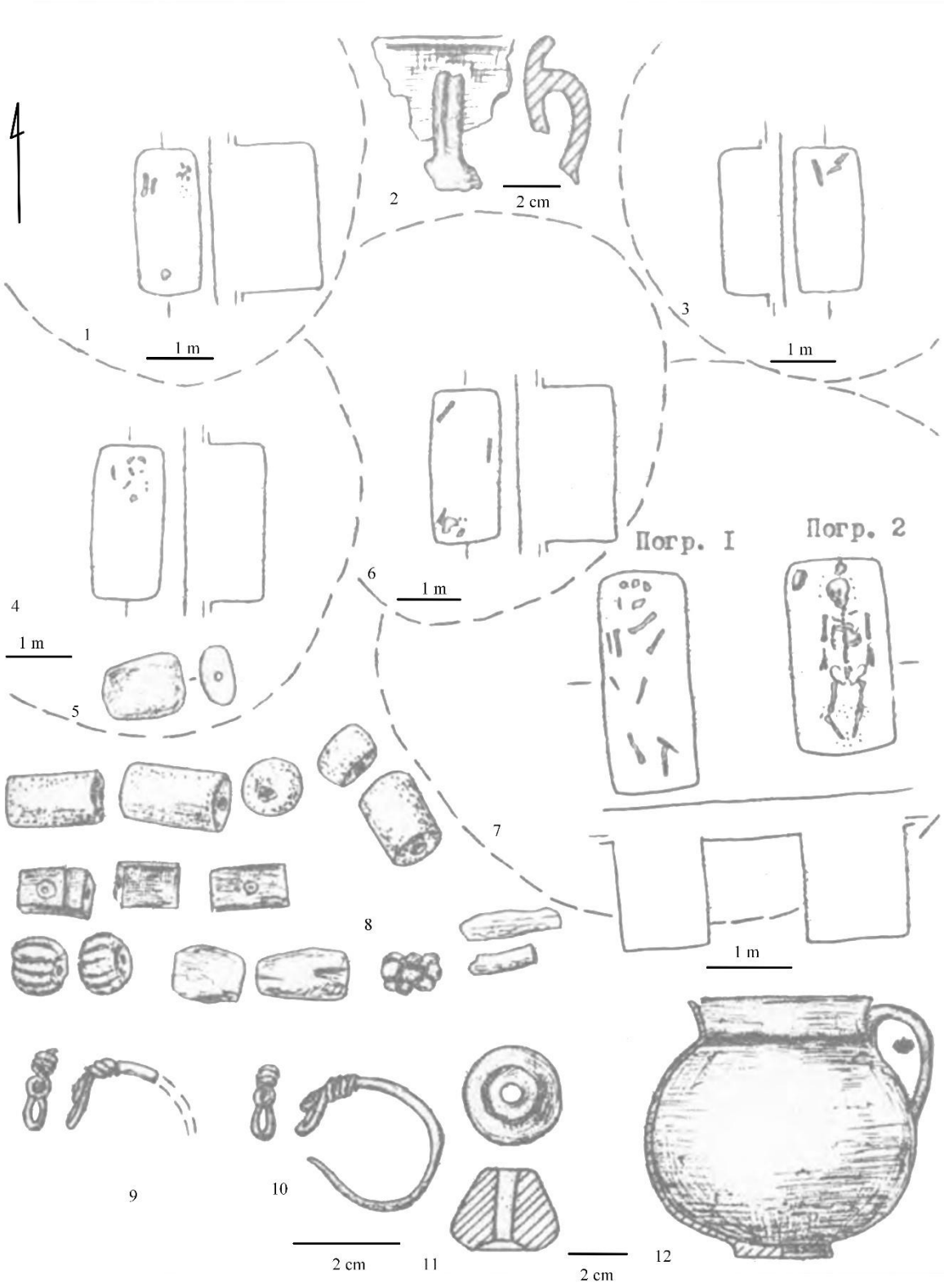


Fig. 65. Cuconeștii Vechi II G28-34 (after Dergachov 1982)

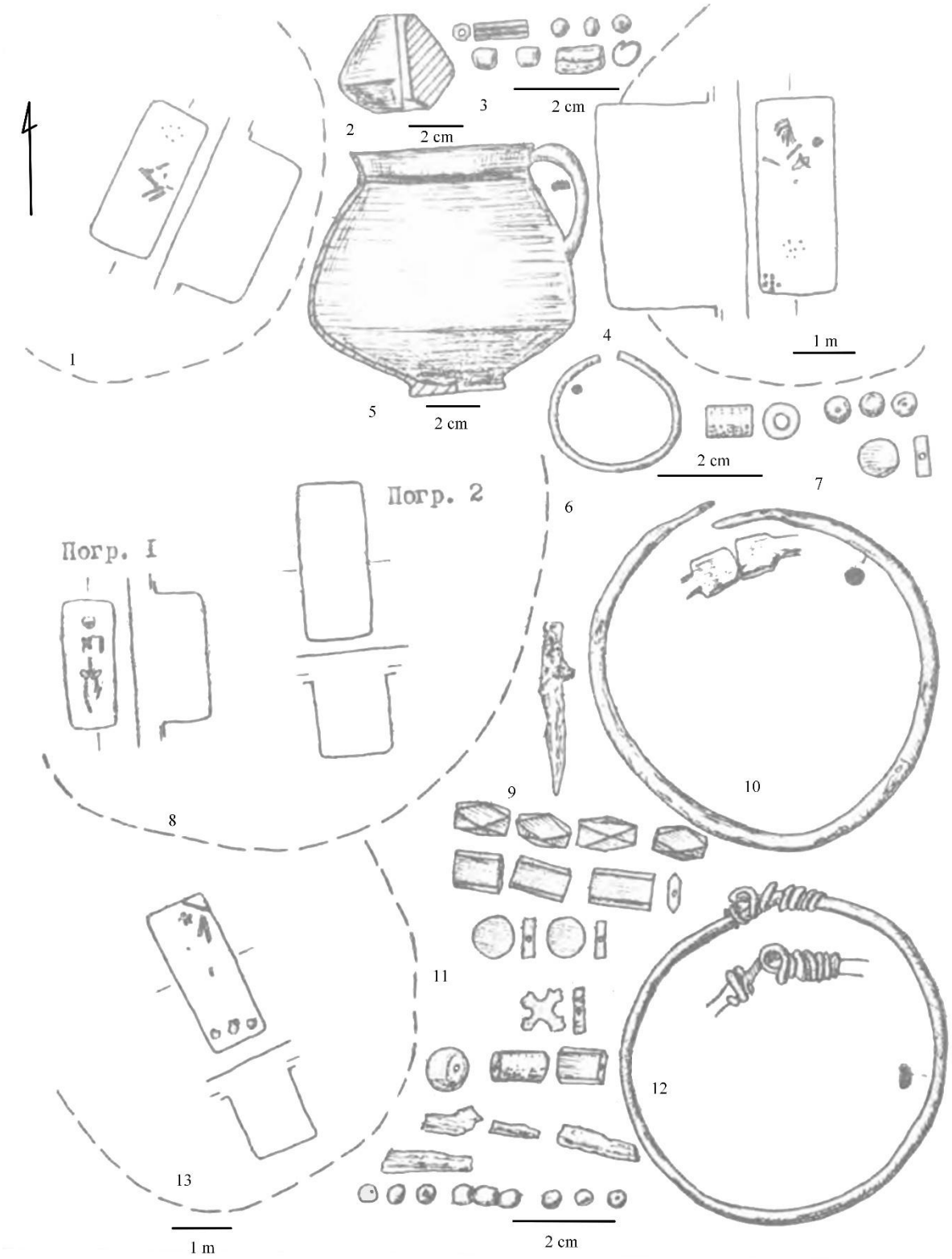


Fig. 66. Cuconeștii Vechi II G35-38 (after Dergachov 1982)

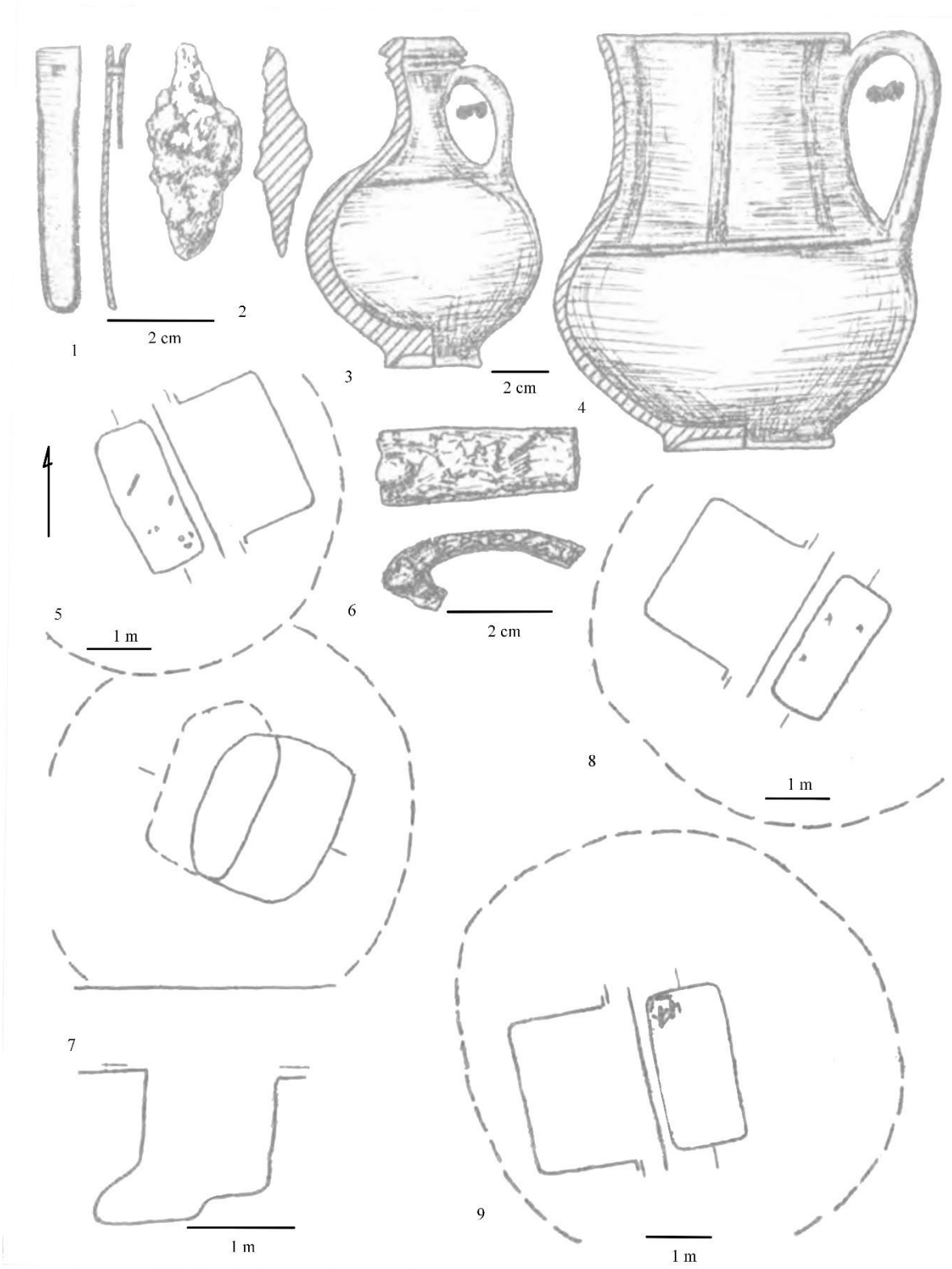


Fig. 67. Cuconeștii Vechi II G39-42 (after Dergachov 1982)

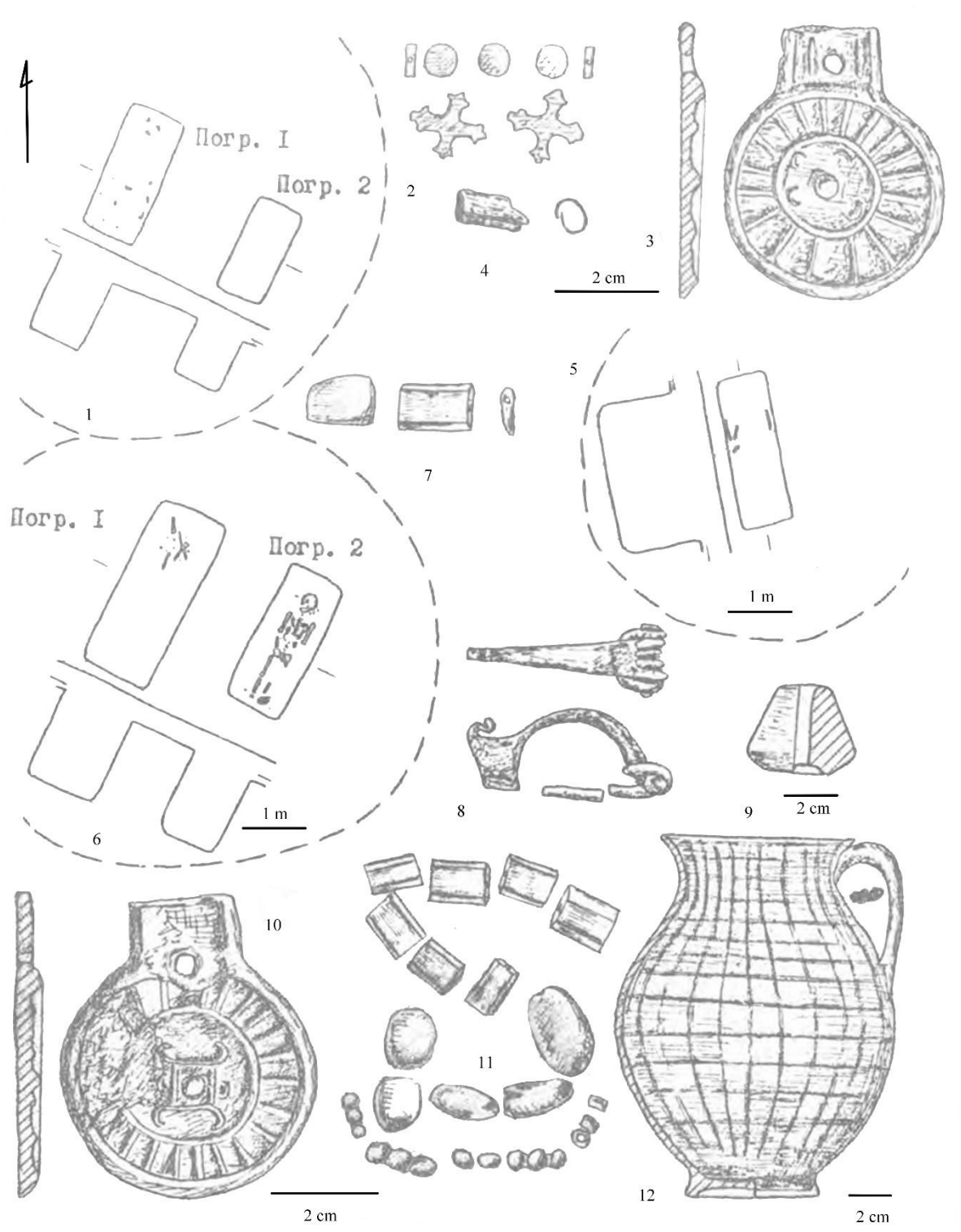


Fig. 68. Cuconeștii Vechi II G43-47 (after Dergachov 1982)

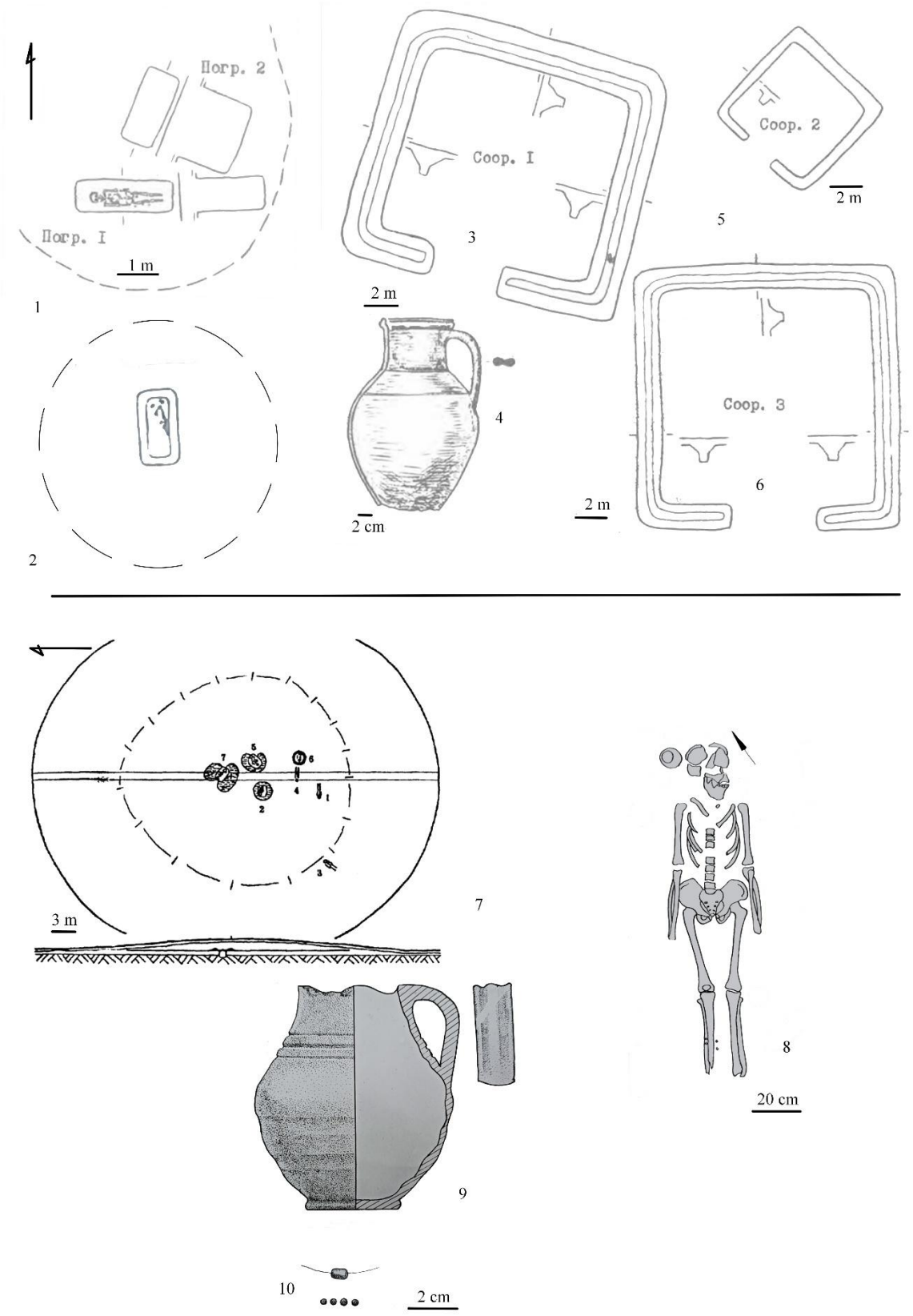


Fig. 69. Cuconeștii Vechi II G48-49 (after Dergachov 1982) and Cuzmin T2G3 (after Bubulici, Haheu 2002)

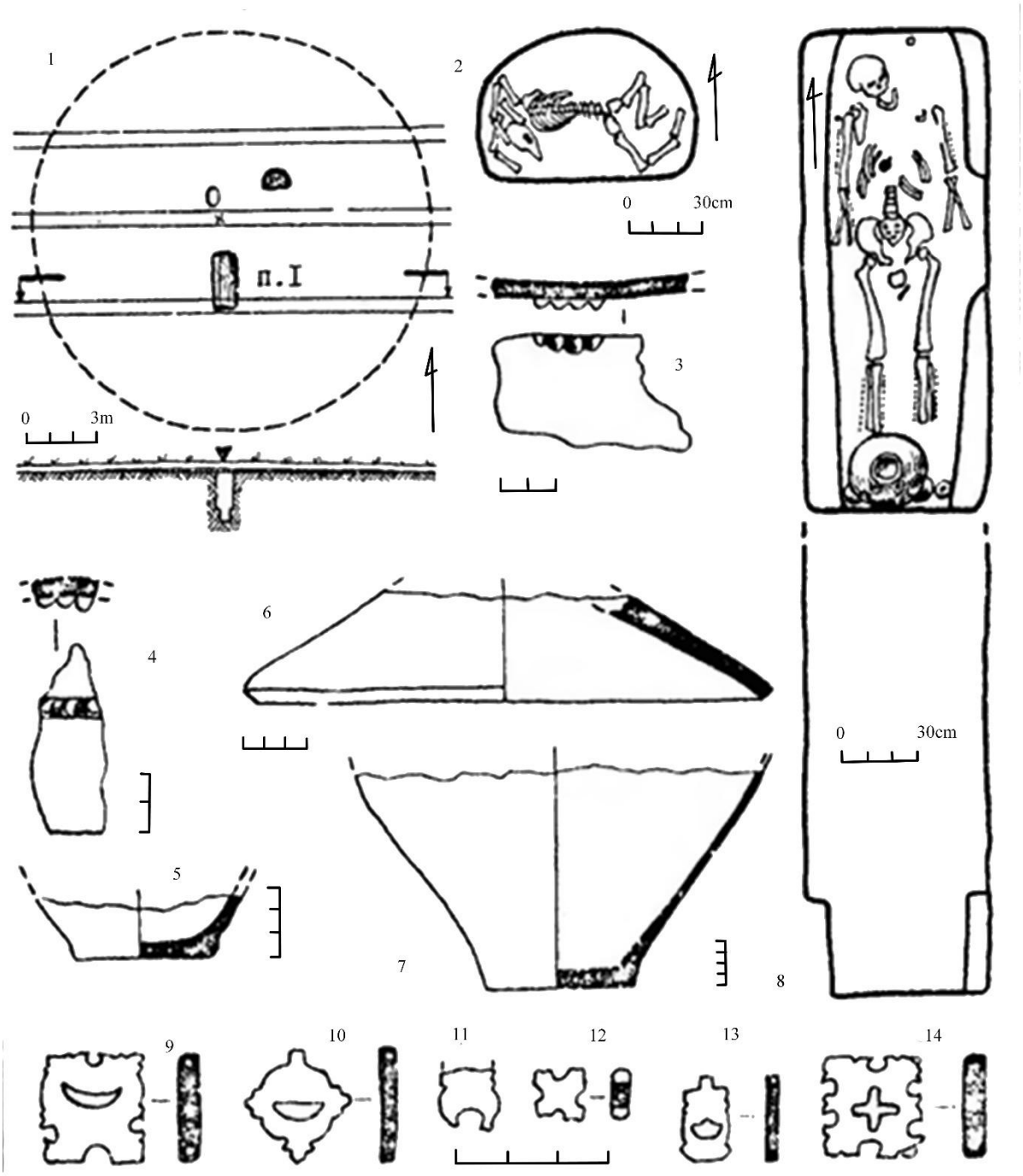


Fig. 70. Divizia T2G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b)

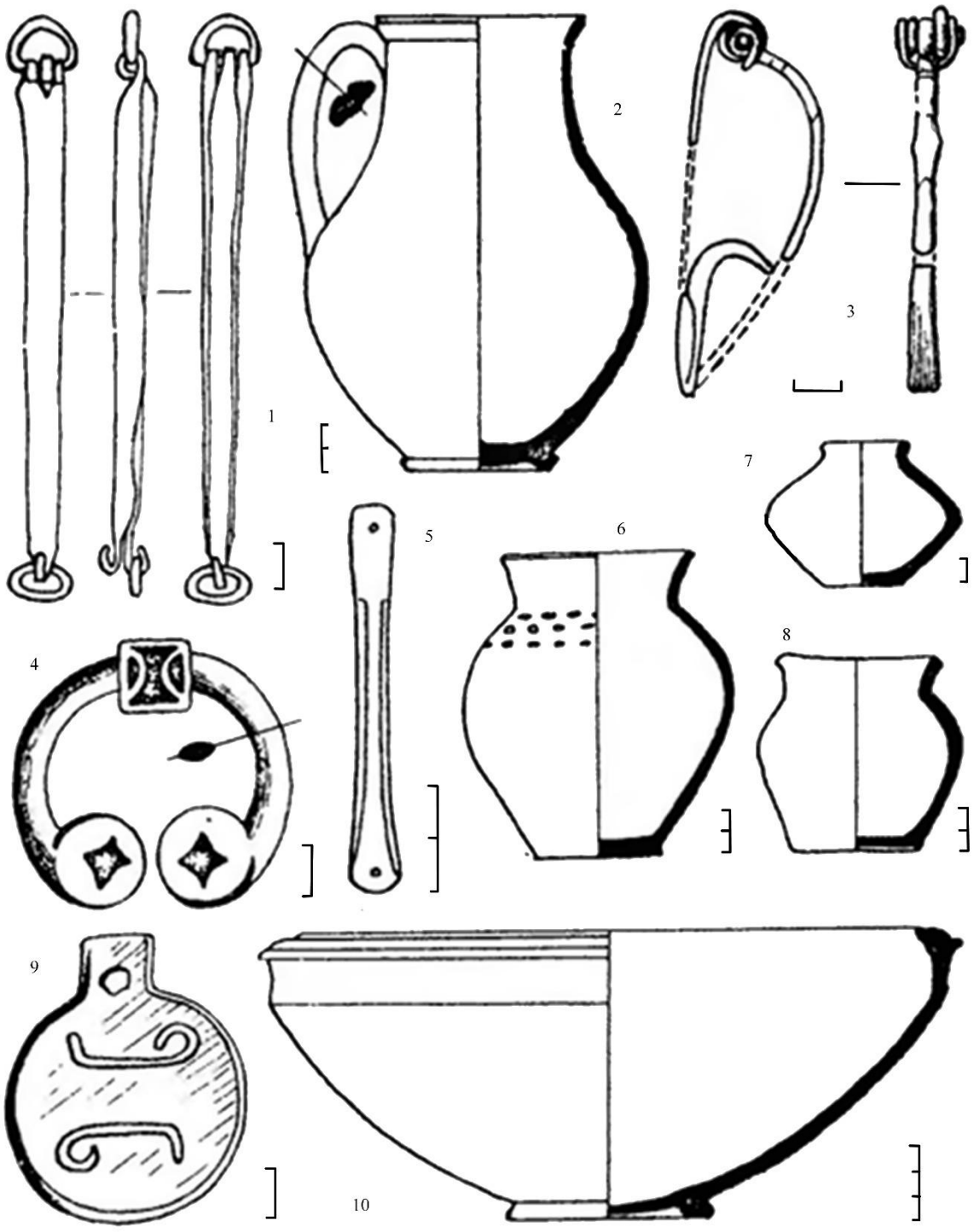


Fig. 71. Divizia T2G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b)

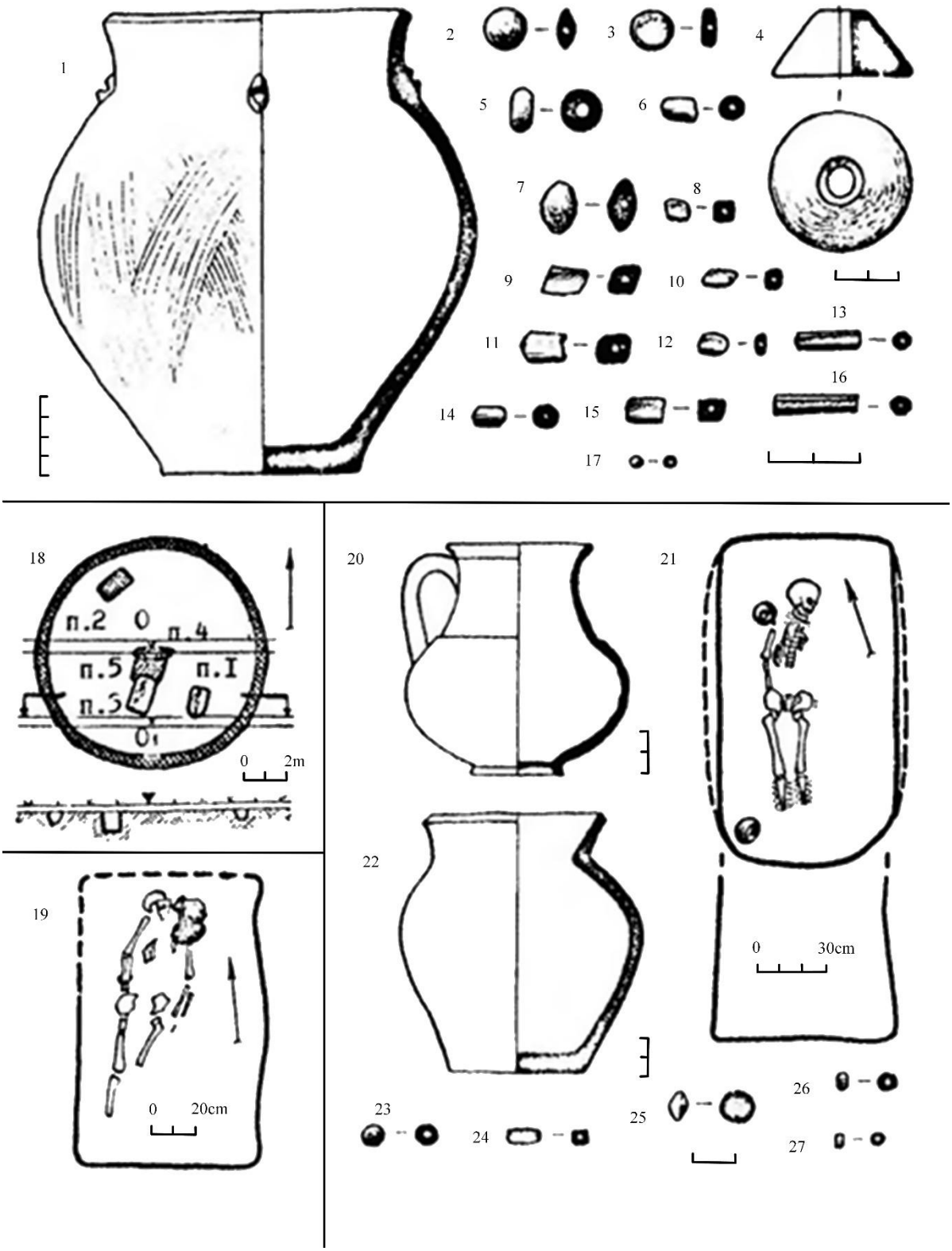


Fig. 72. Divizia T2G1, T6G1 and T6G3 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b)

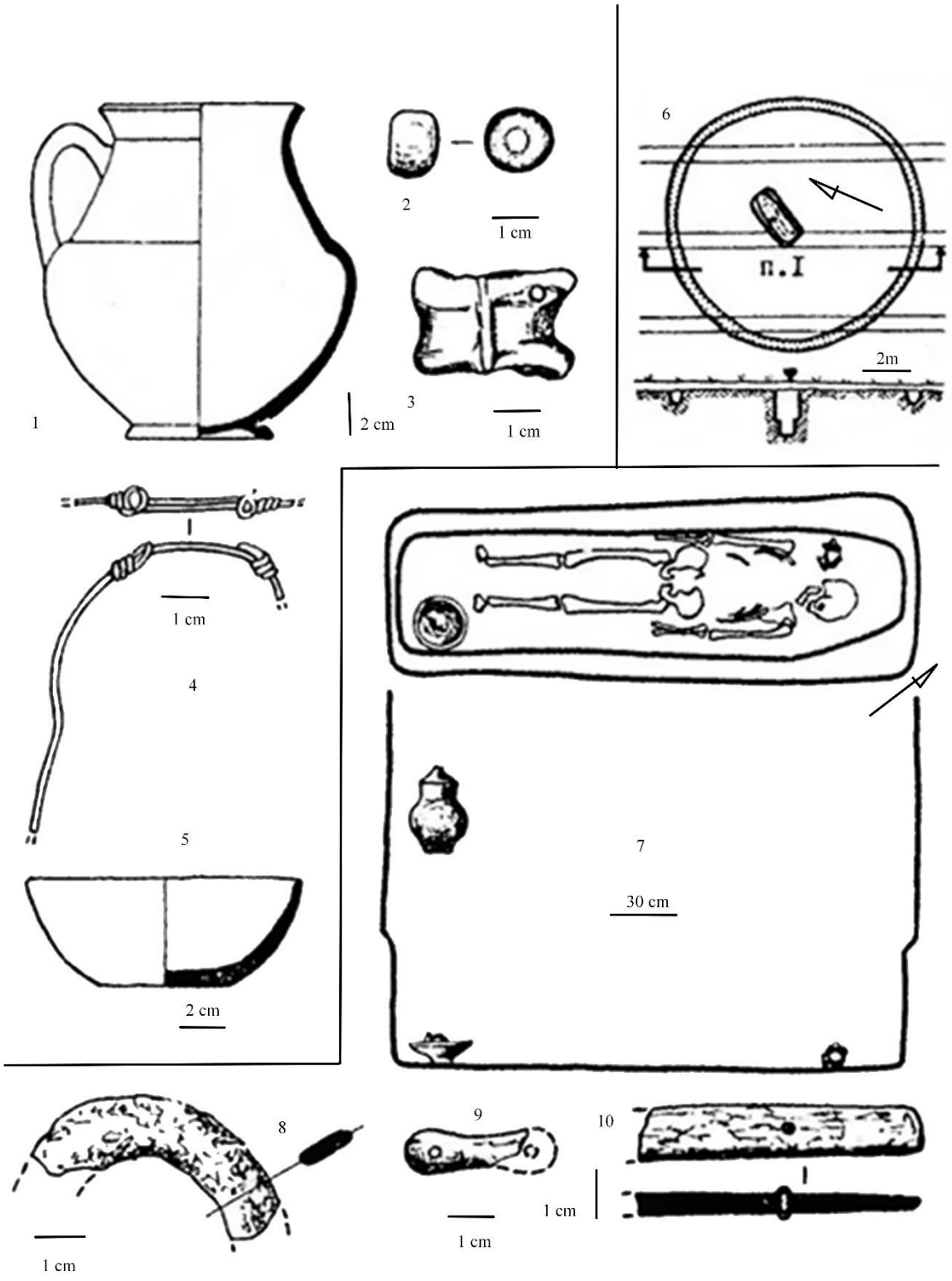


Fig. 73. Divizia T6G3 and T7G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b)

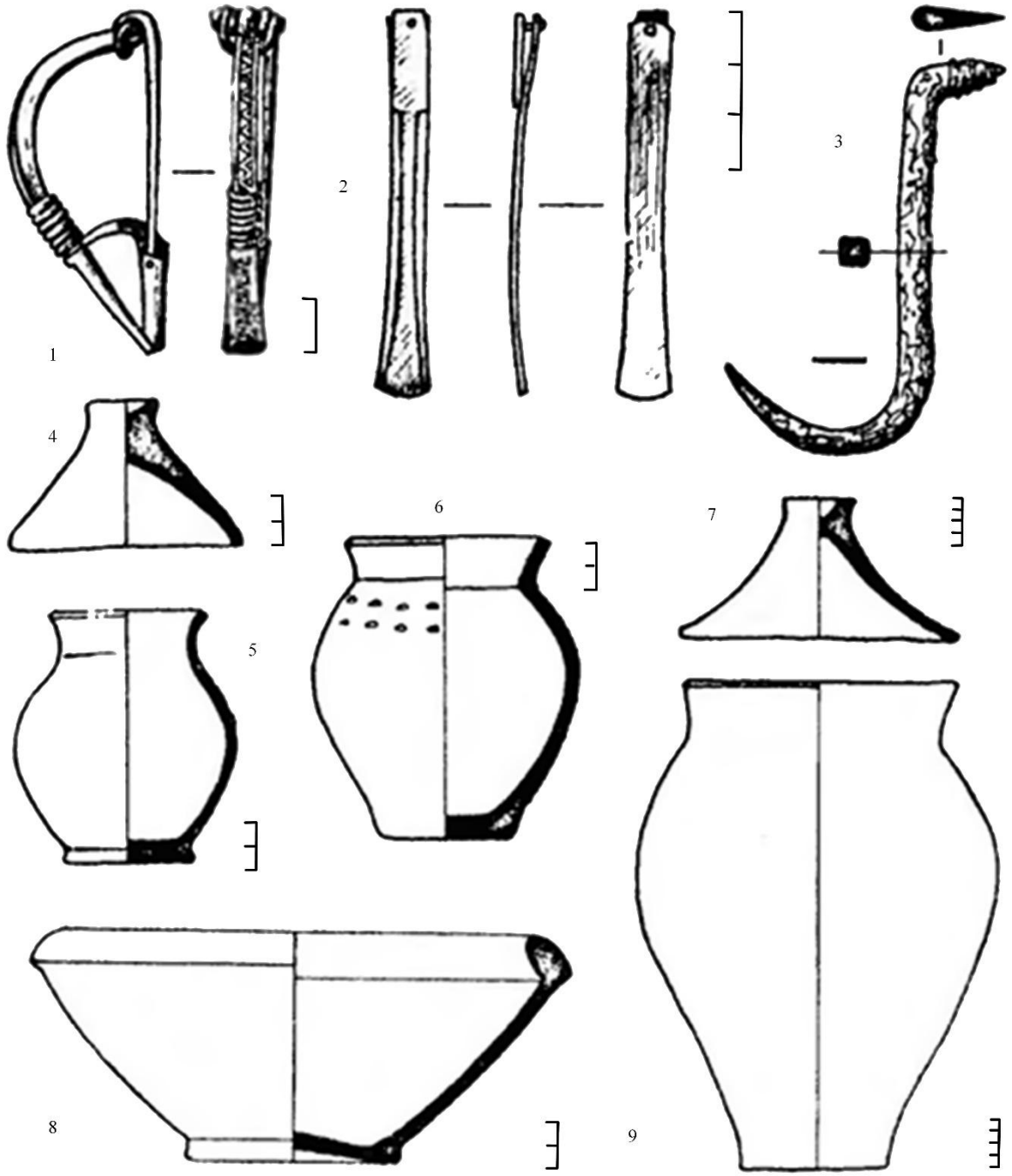


Fig. 74. Divizia T7G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b)

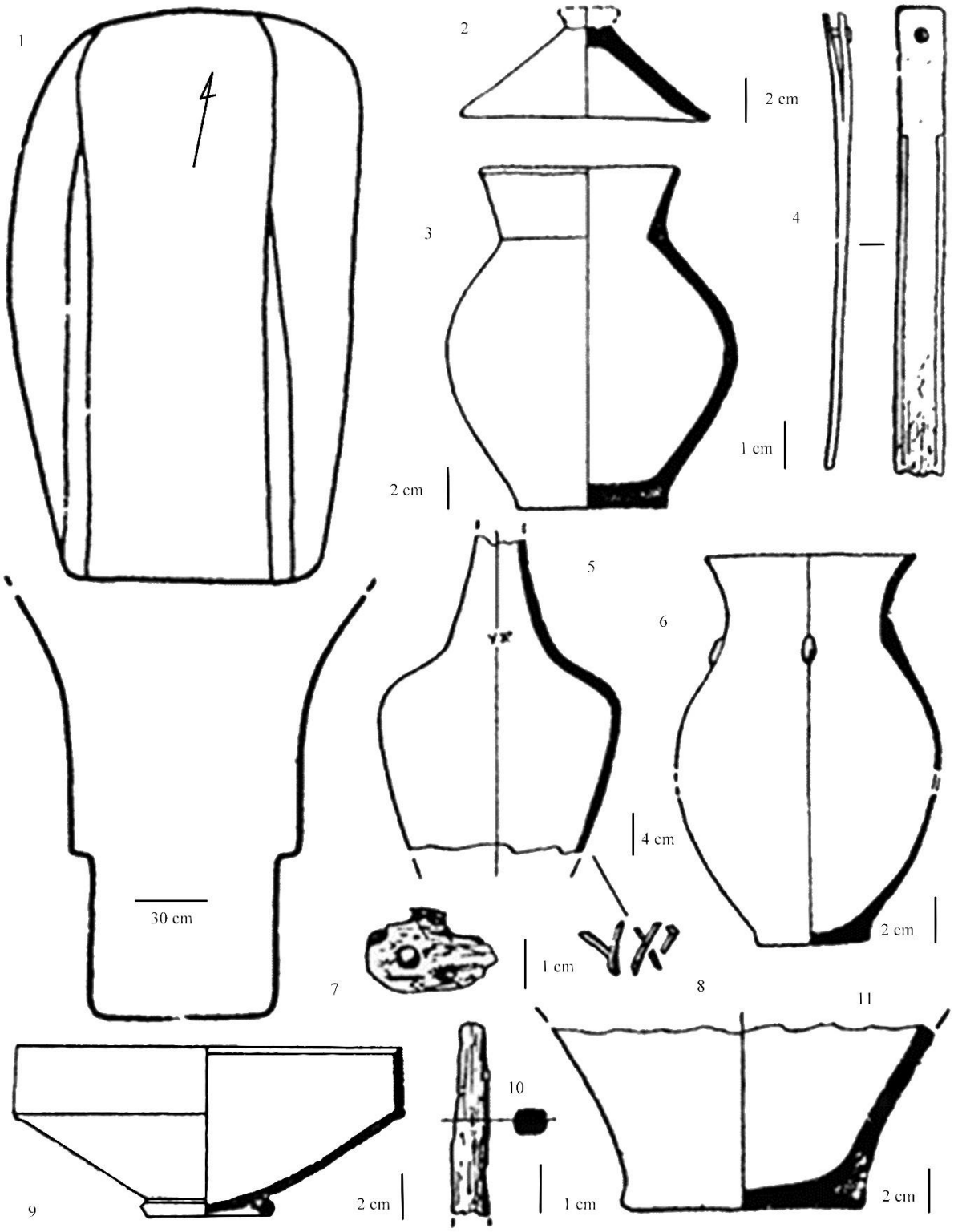


Fig. 75. Divizia T8G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b)

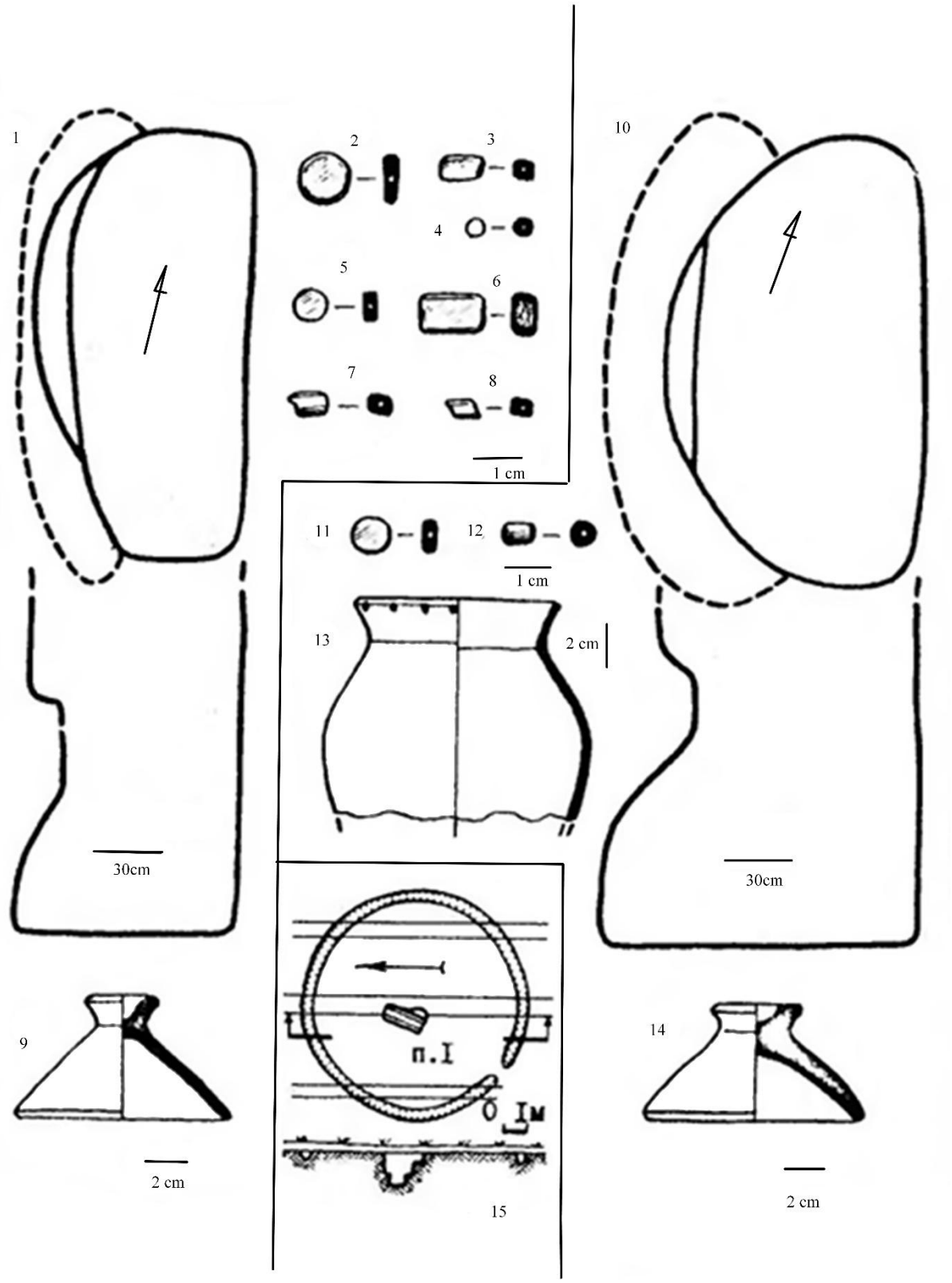


Fig. 76. Divizia T9G1, T10G1 and T11G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b)

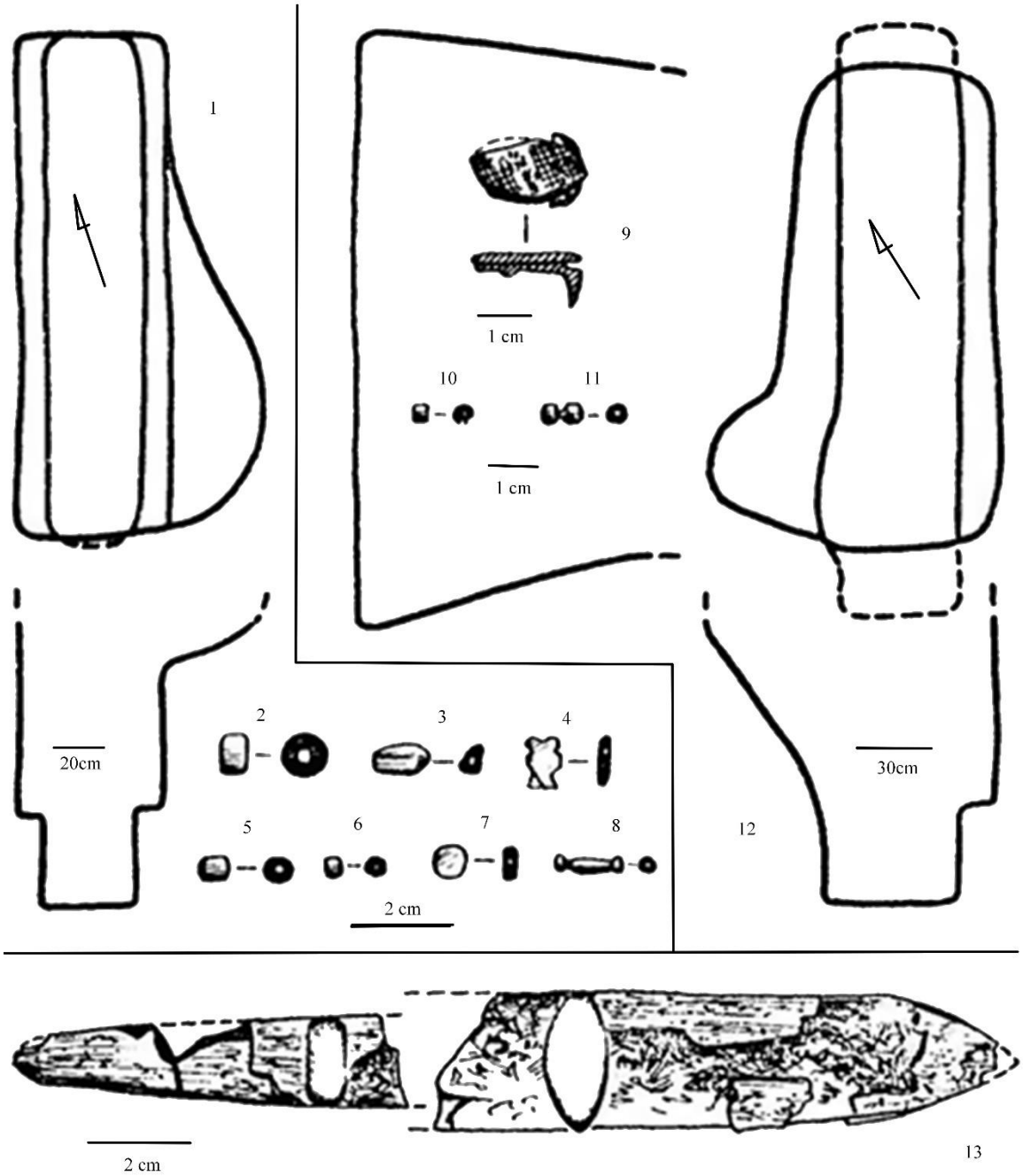


Fig. 77. Divizia T11G1, T12G1 and T13G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b)

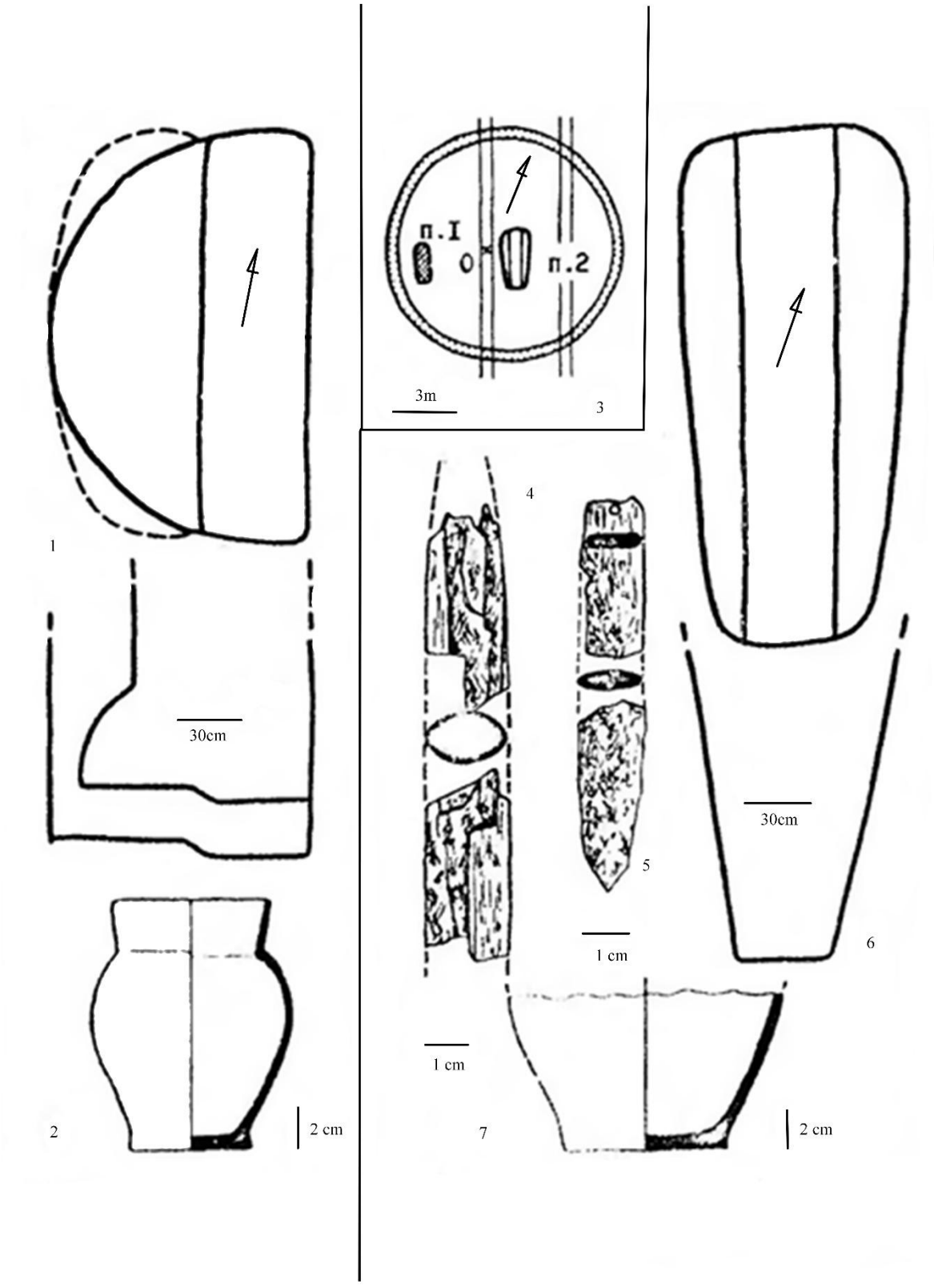


Fig. 78. Divizia T13G1 and T17G2 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990b)

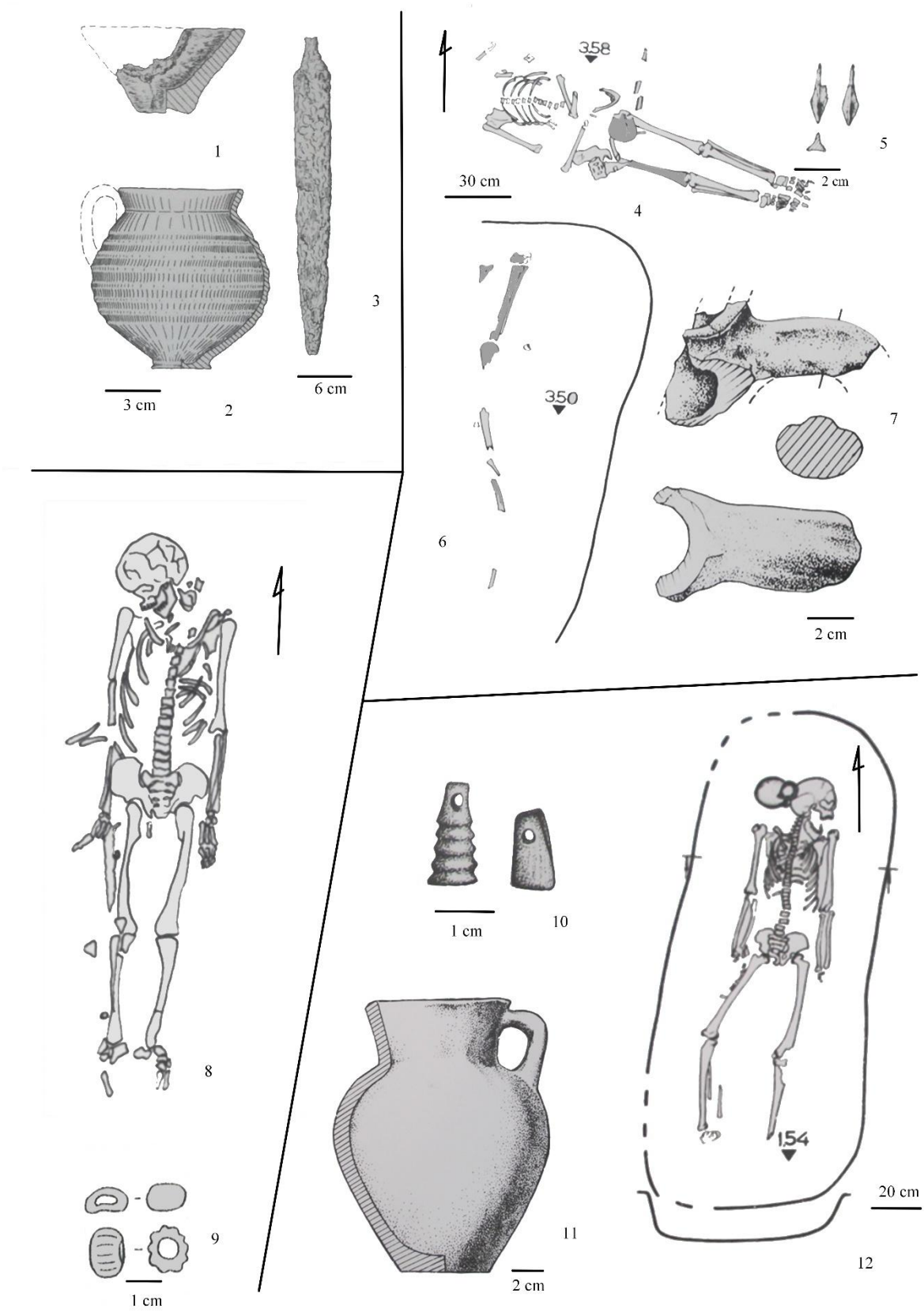


Fig. 79. Drochia DG (after Cereteu 2007), Dumeni II T1G2, T1G8 and Duruitoarea Nouă II T1G1 (after Markevici 1983) and Dumeni T8G6 (after Grosu 1988)

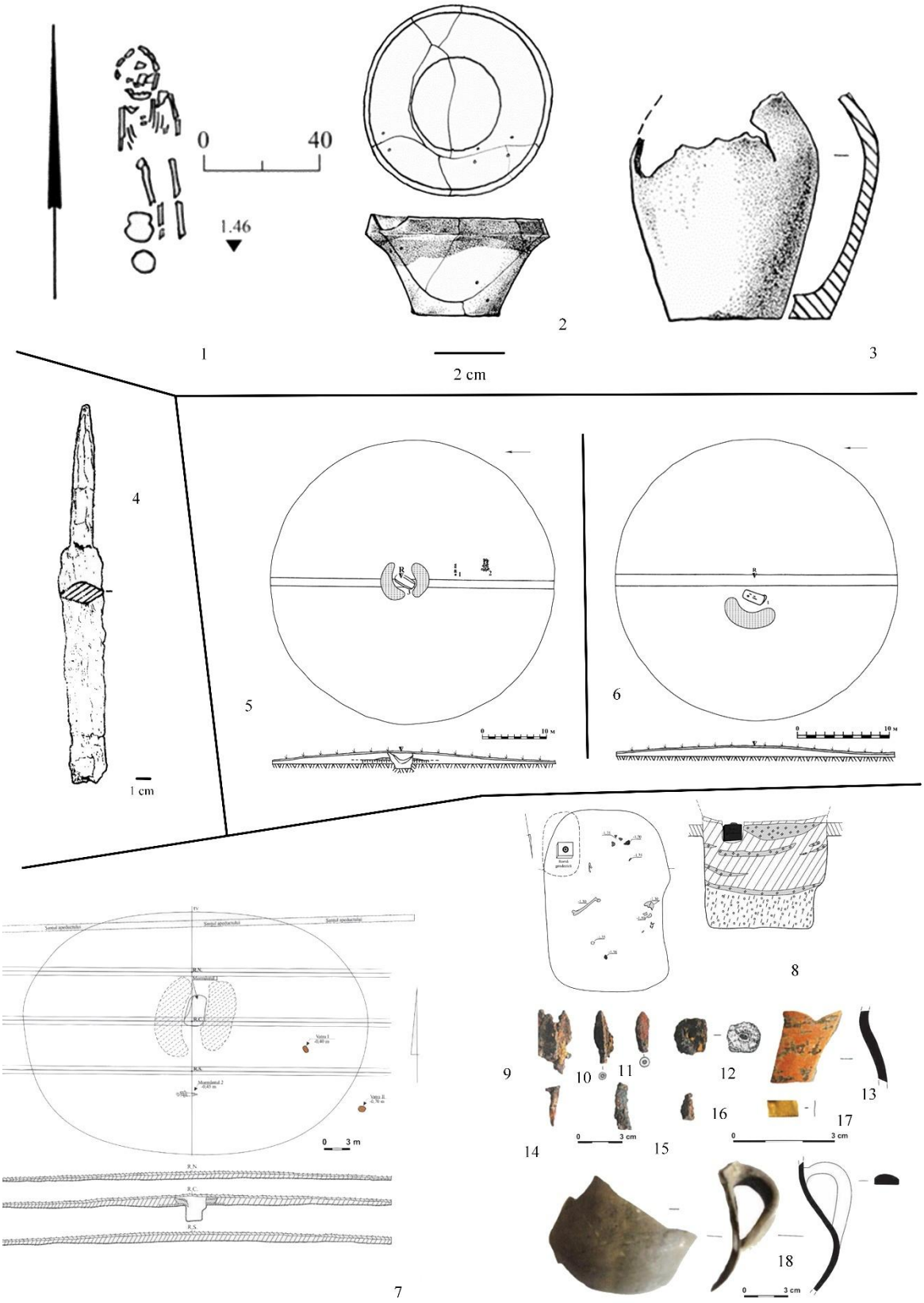


Fig. 80. Duruitoarea Nouă II T5G2 (after Markevici 1986), Ecaterinovca T2G5 (after Grosu 1983) Feștelița T1G3, T2G1 (after Agulnikov, Popovici 2022), Filipeni T1G1 (after Agulnikov, Ciobanu 2016)

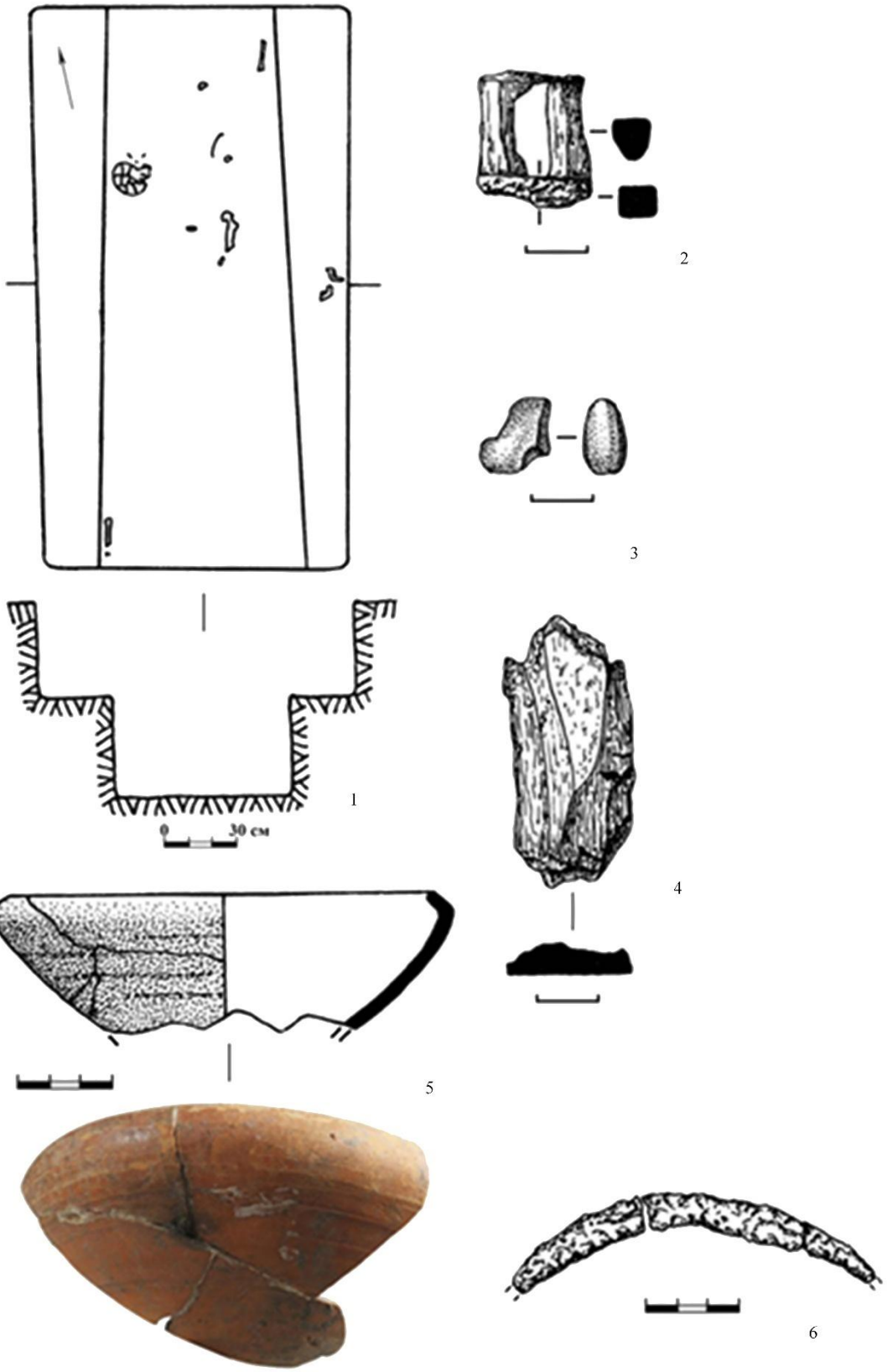


Fig. 81. Feștelița T1G3 (after Agulnikov, Popovici 2022)

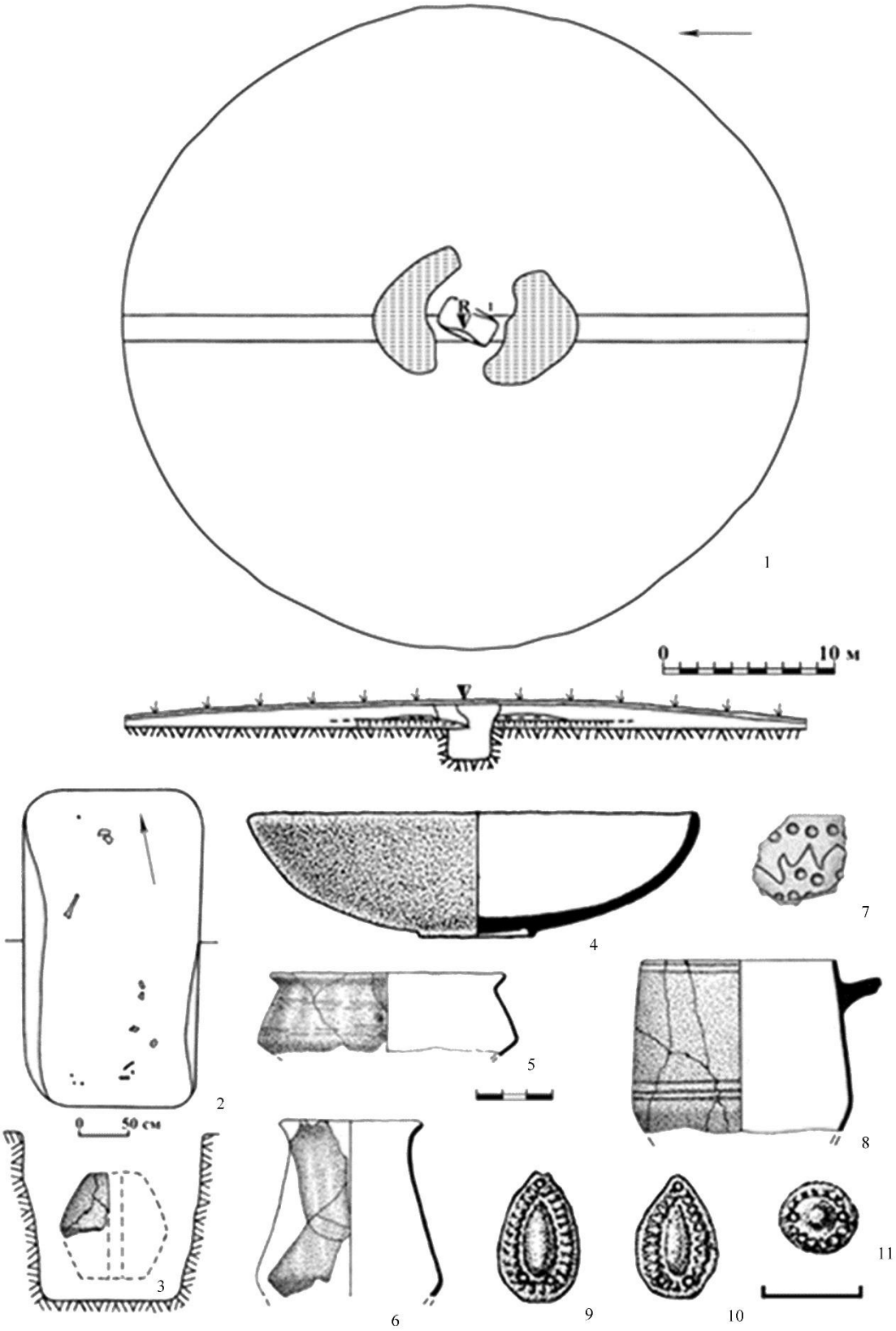


Fig. 82. Feștelița T3G1 (after Agulnikov, Popovici 2022)

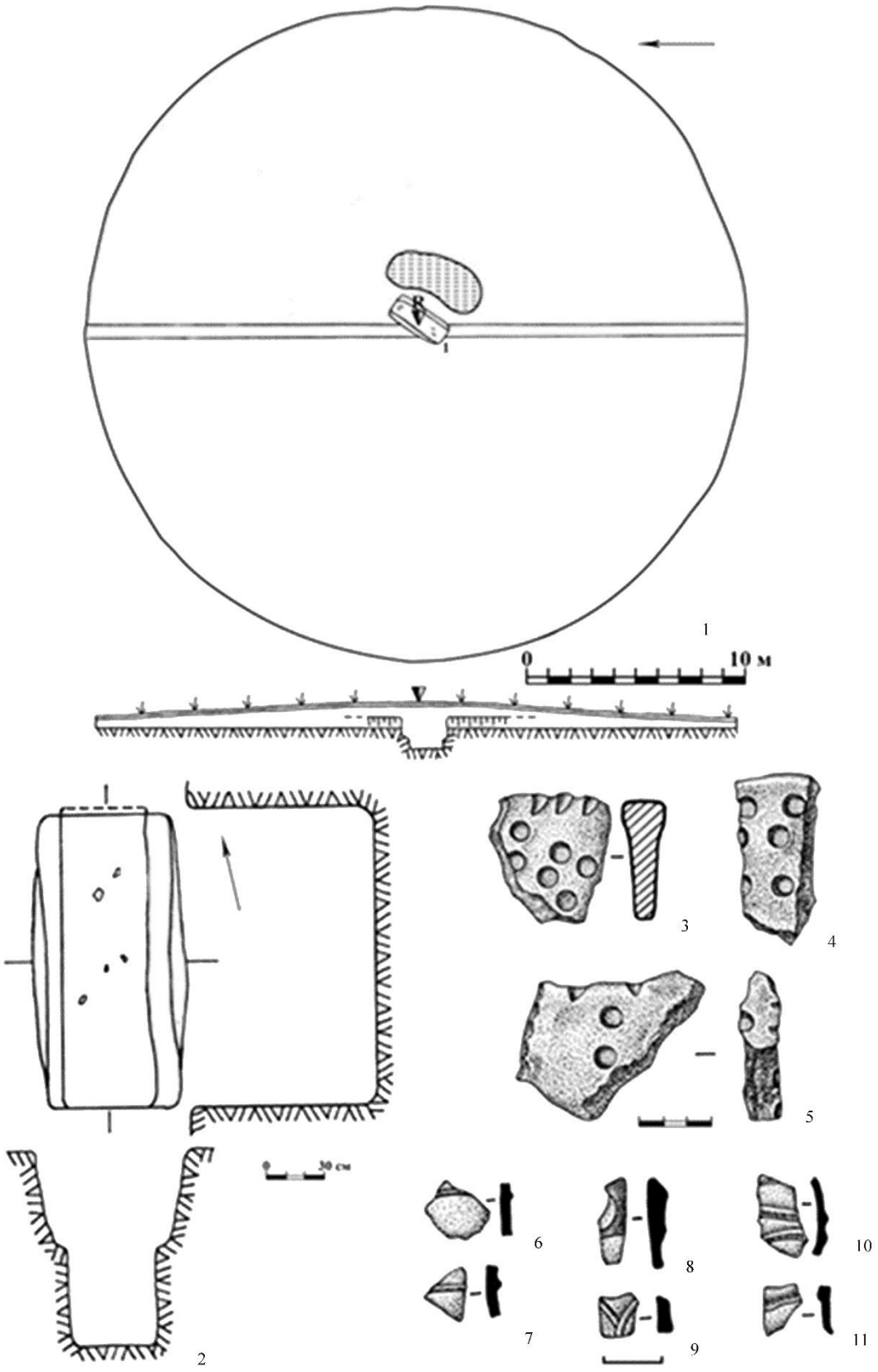


Fig. 83. Feștelița T4G1 (after Agulnikov, Popovici 2022)

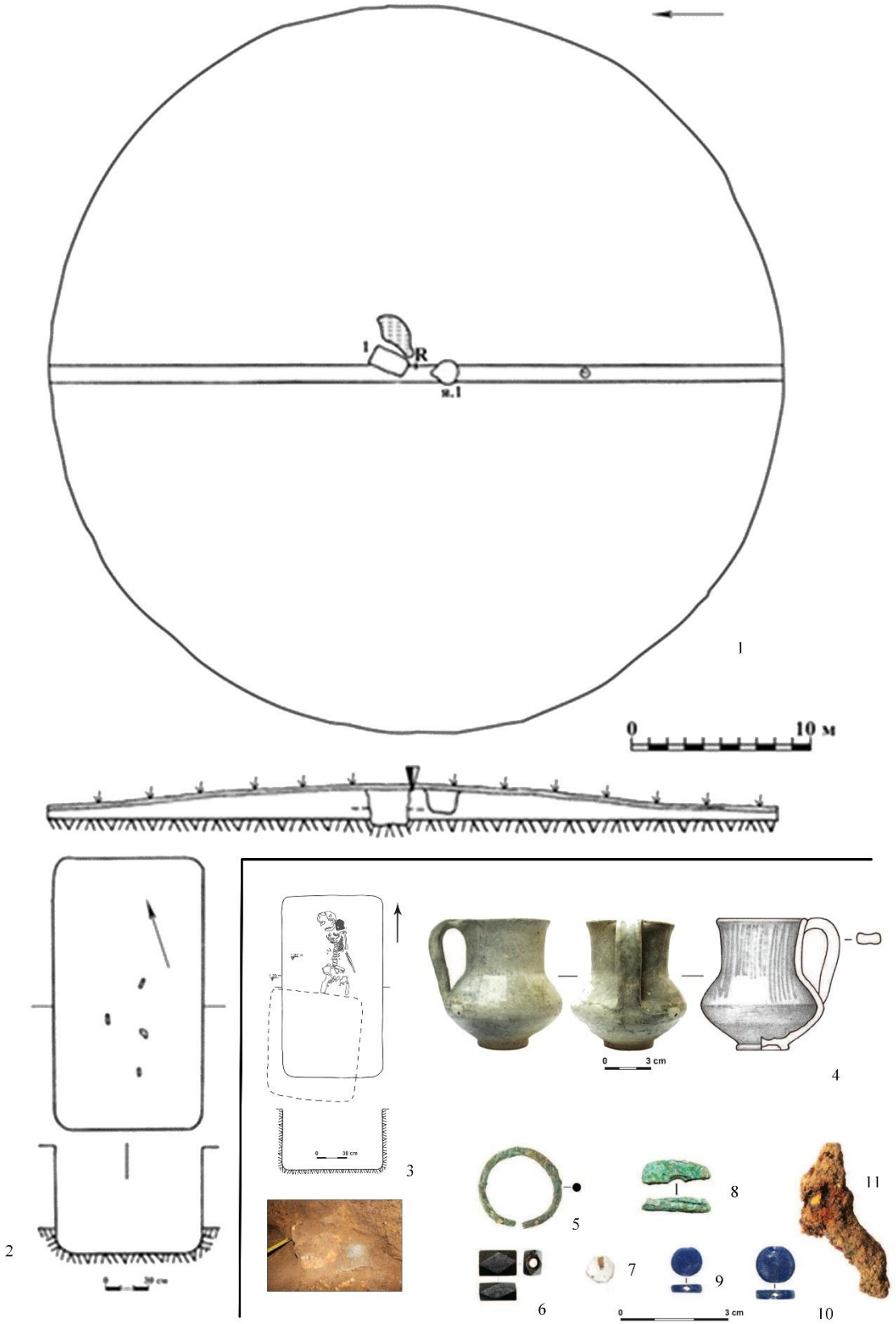


Fig. 84. Feștelița T5G1 (after Agulnikov, Popovici 2022), Fîrlădeni G1 (Popovici, Mistreanu, Noroc 2015)

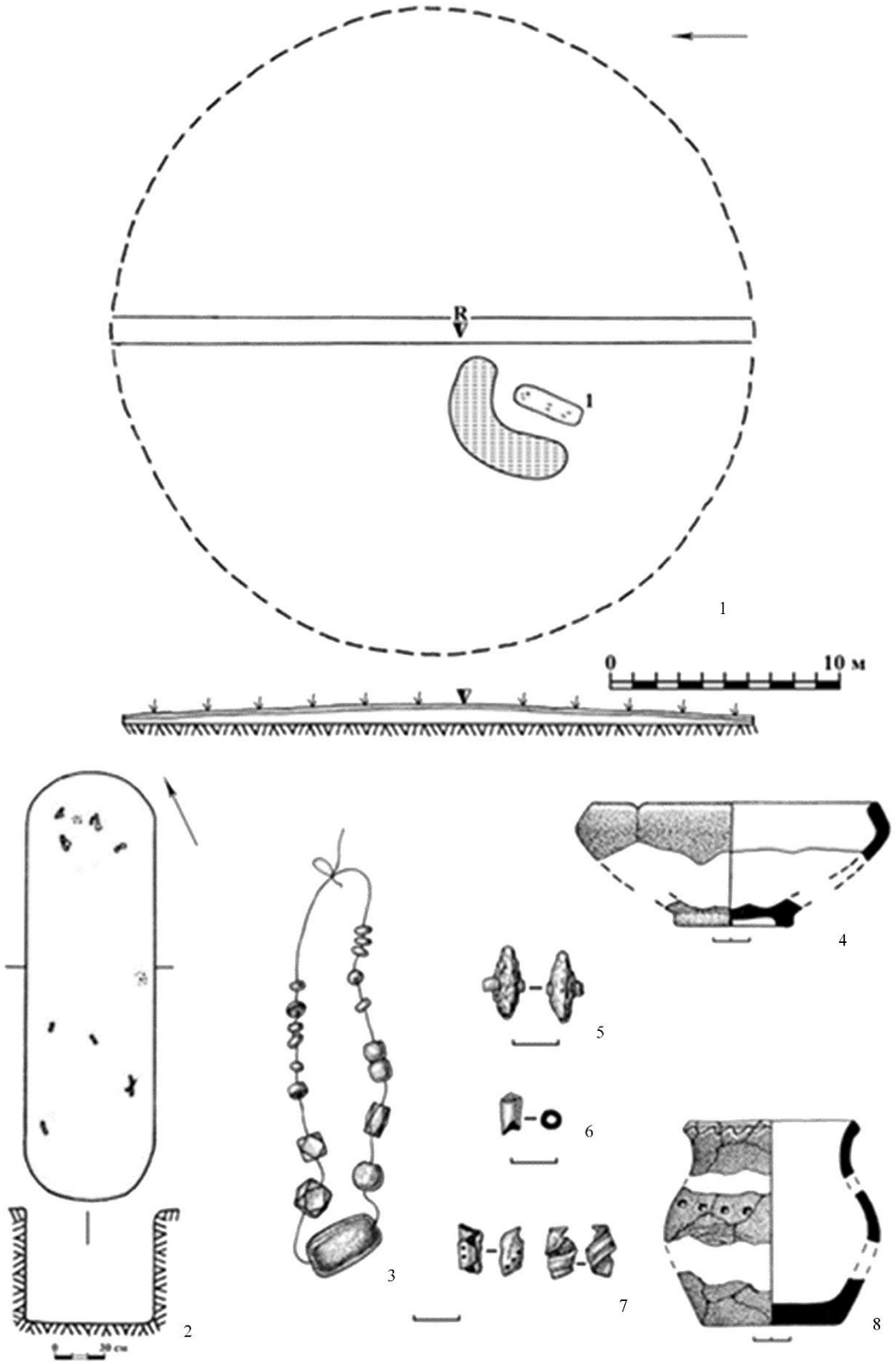


Fig. 85. Feștelița T6G1 (after Agulnikov, Popovici 2022)

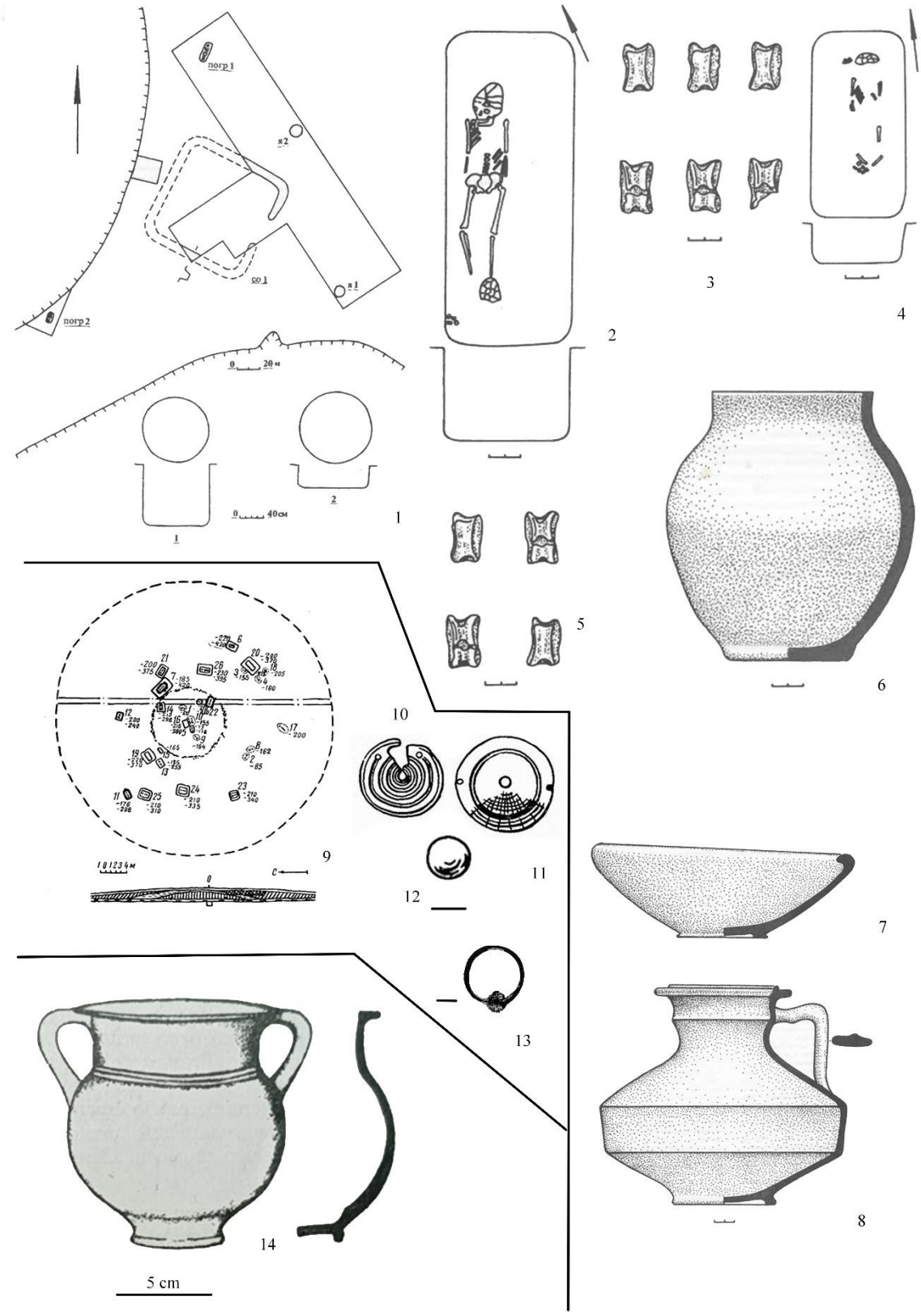


Fig. 86. Florițoaia Nouă G1-2 and DG (after Kurchatov, Levinschi 2007), Glubokoe T1G1 (after Shmagliy, Chernakov 1970), Goteşti I G1 (after Chetraru, Rikman 1960)

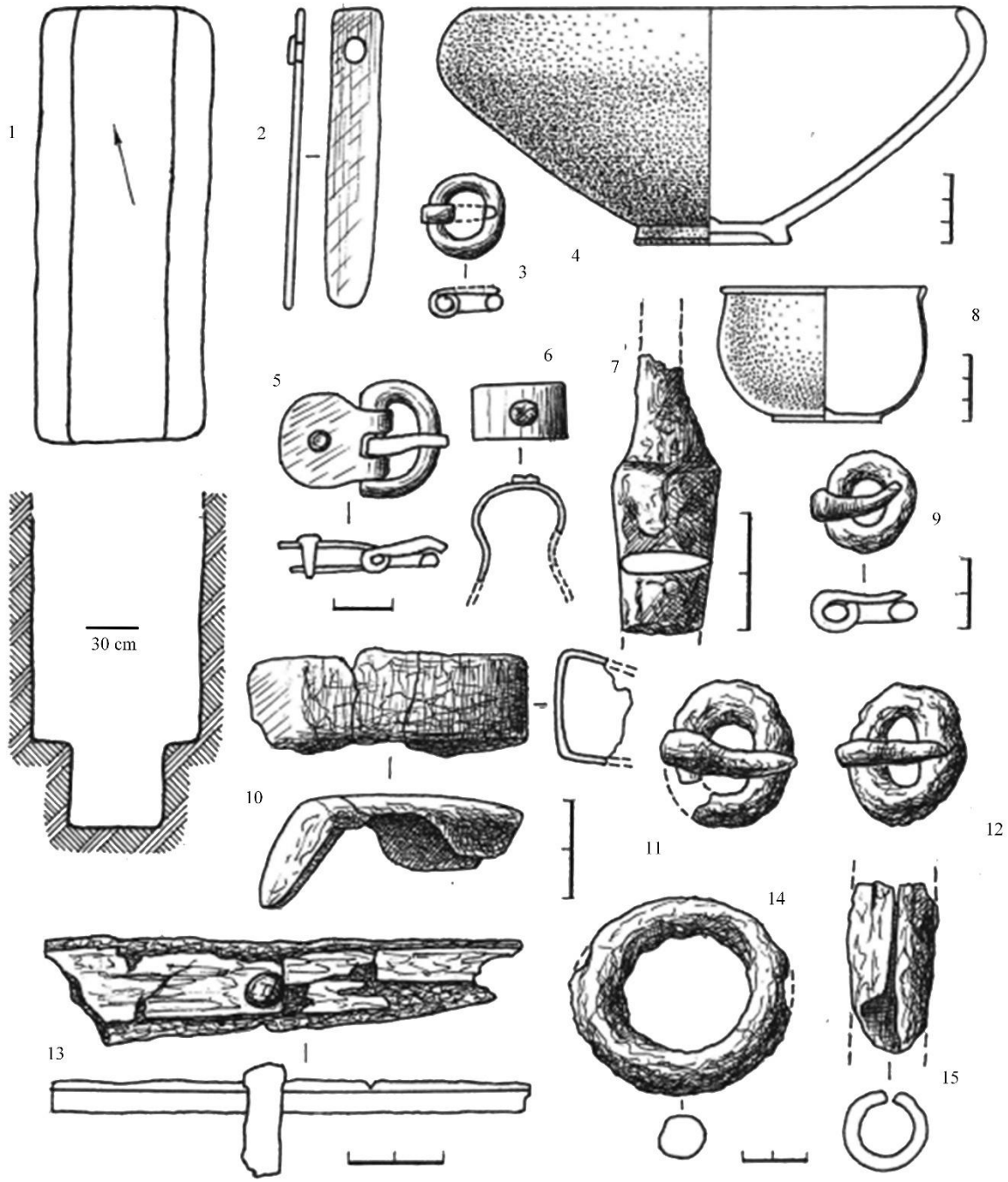


Fig. 87. Hagider II T7G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990)

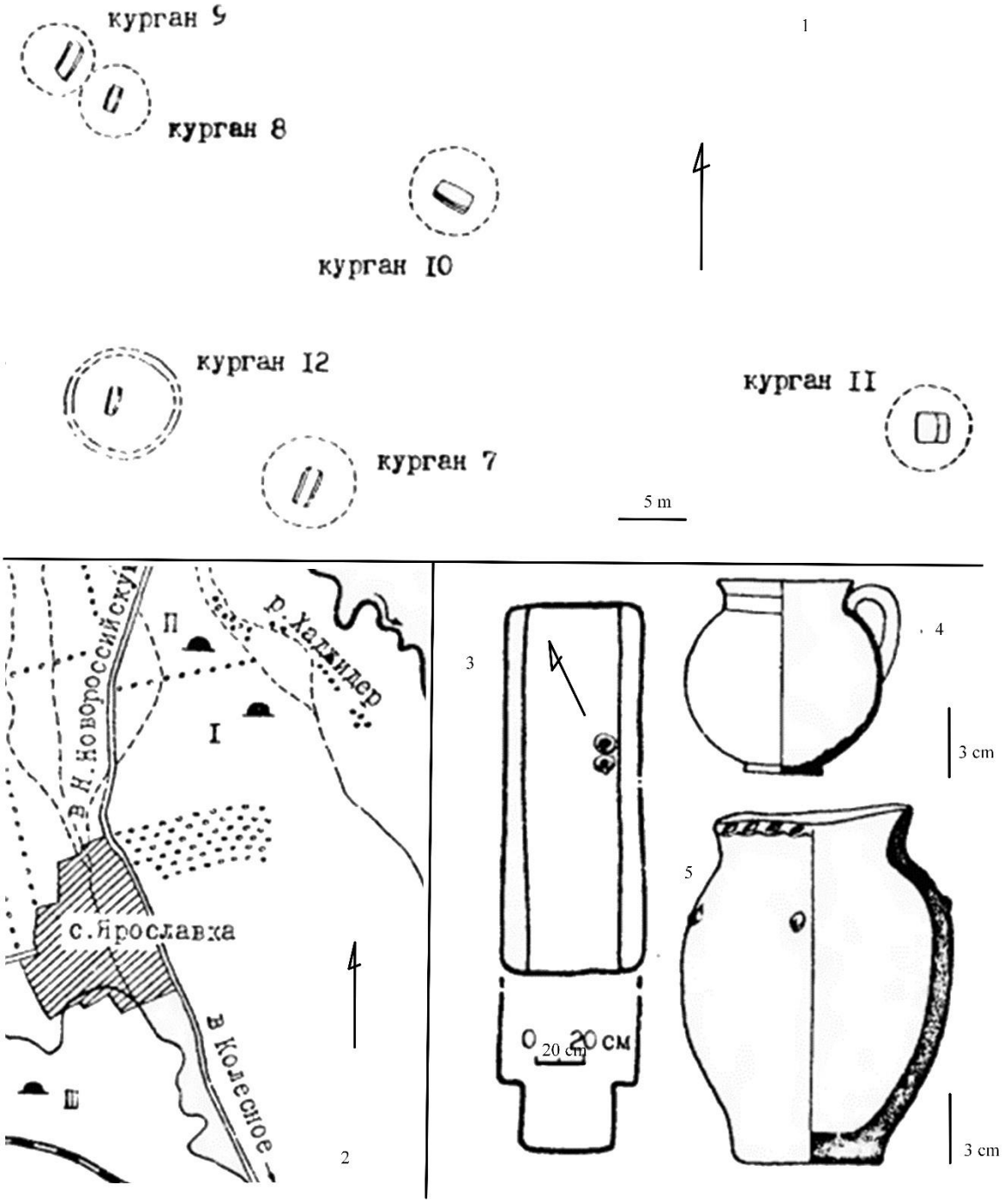


Fig. 88. Hagider II T8G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990)

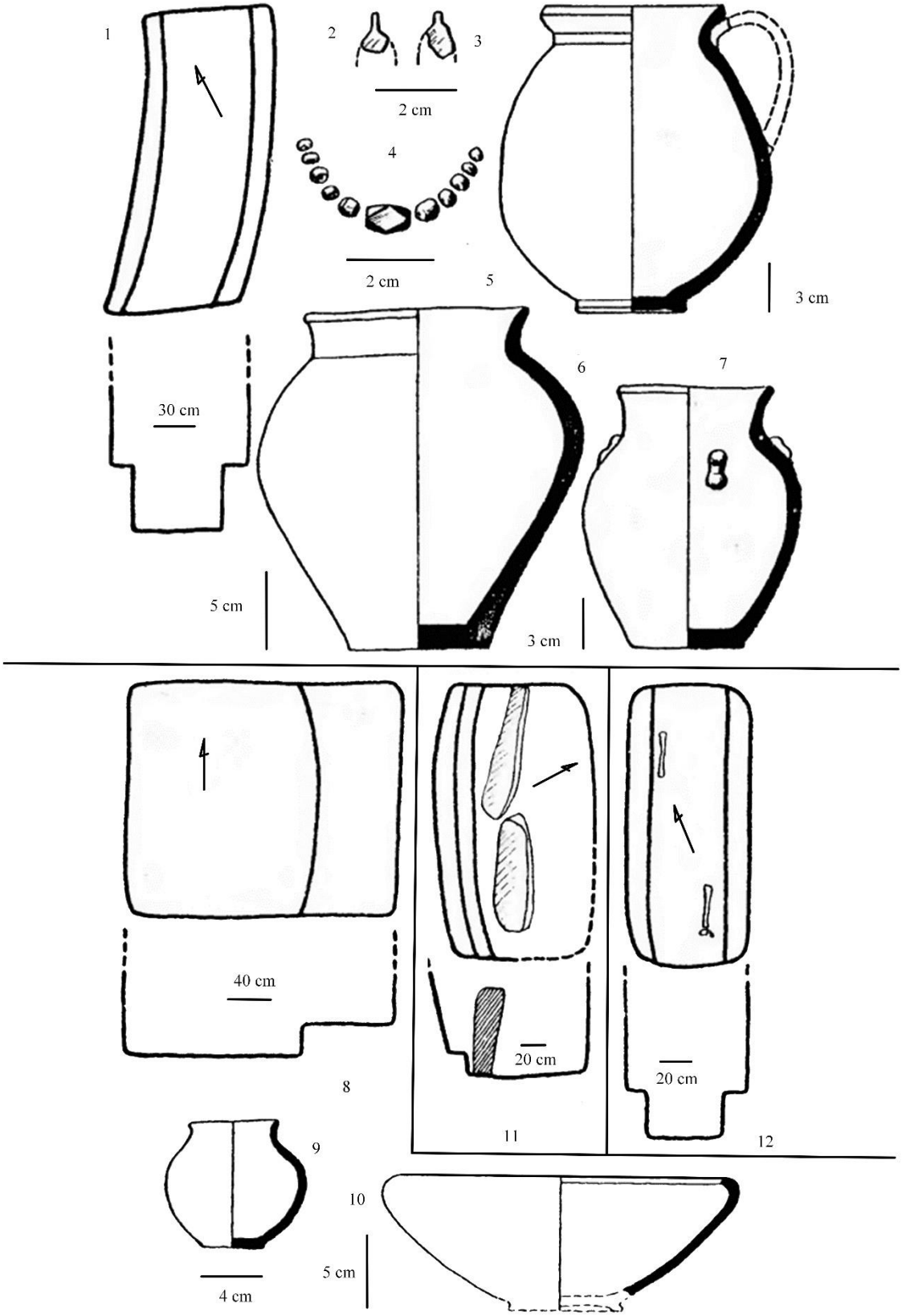


Fig. 89. Hagider II T9G1, T10G1, T11G1, T12G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskii 1990)

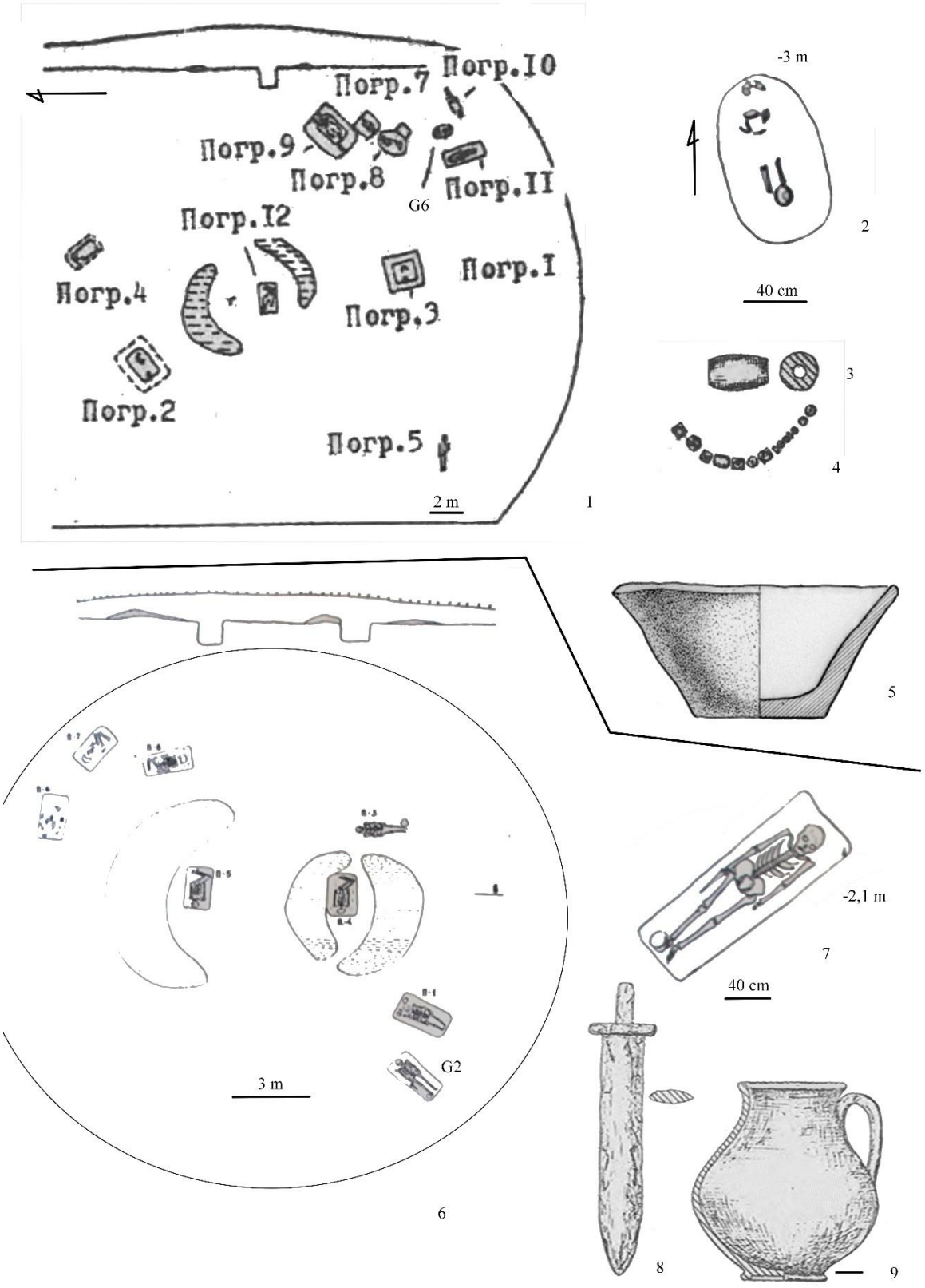


Fig. 90. Hancăuți T1M6, T2G2 (after Dergaciov 1982)

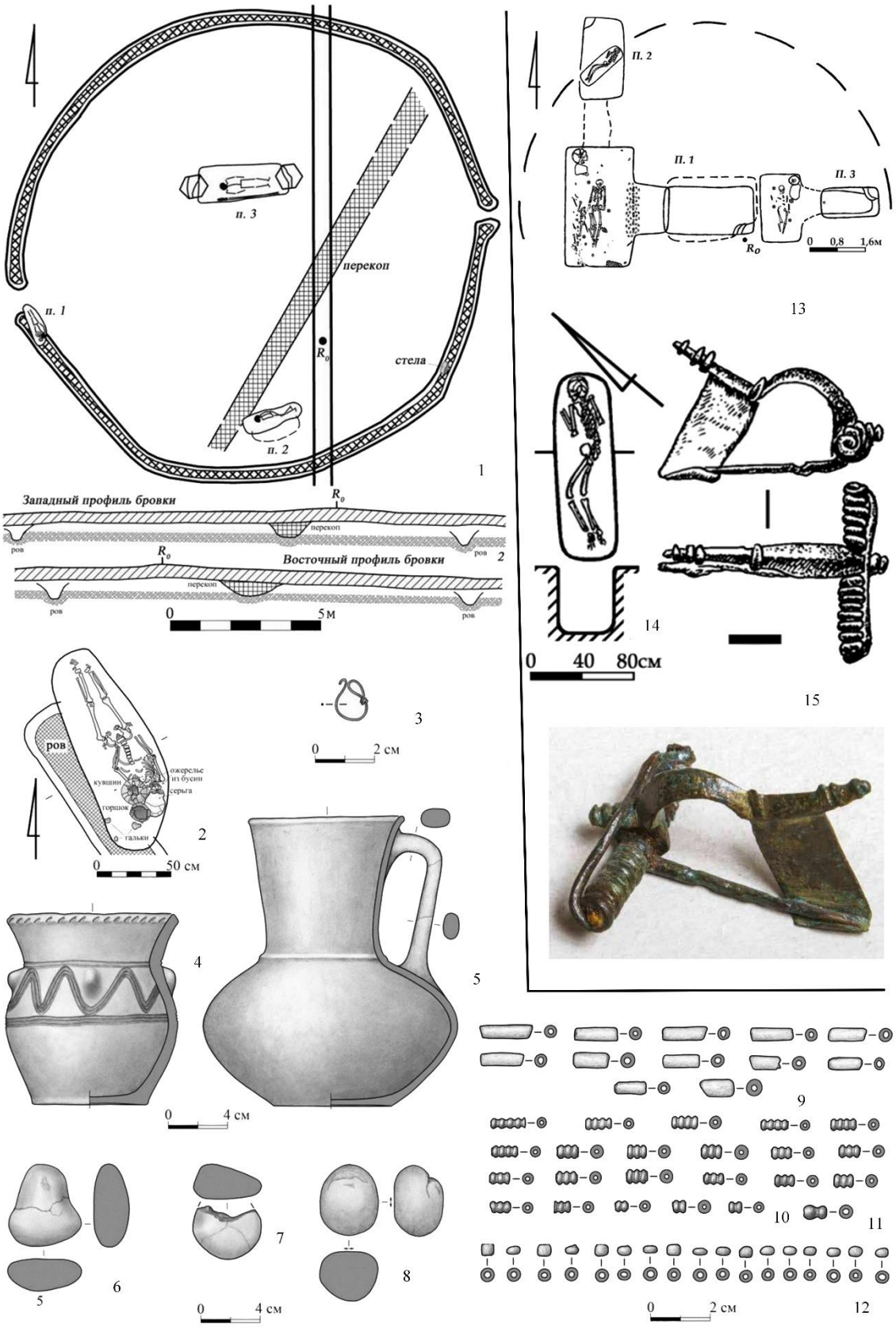


Fig. 91. Hlinaia T12G1 (after Simonenko 2019), T38G2 (after Telinov et al 2016, Synyka et al 2016)

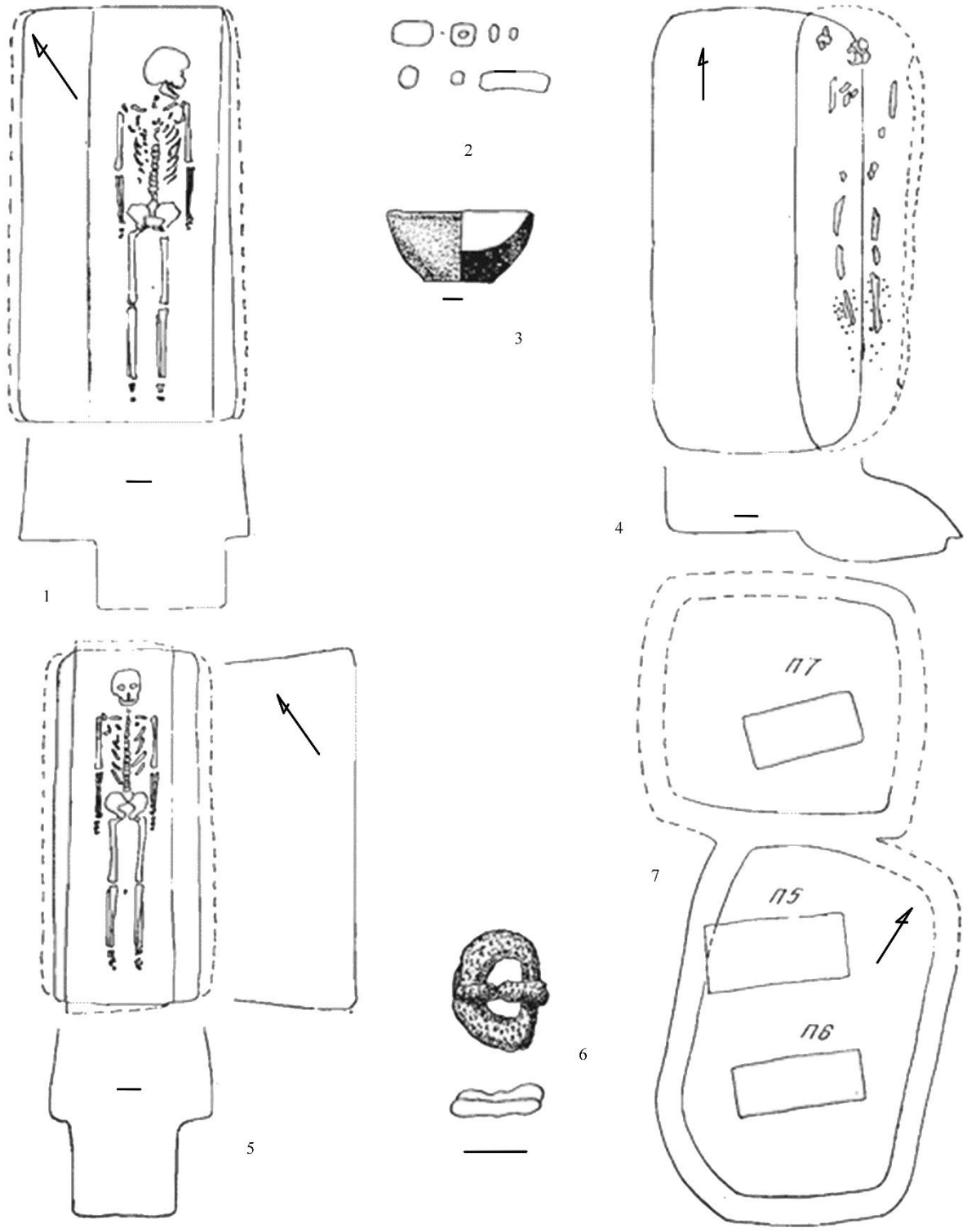


Fig. 92. Holmskoe G3, G5-7 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

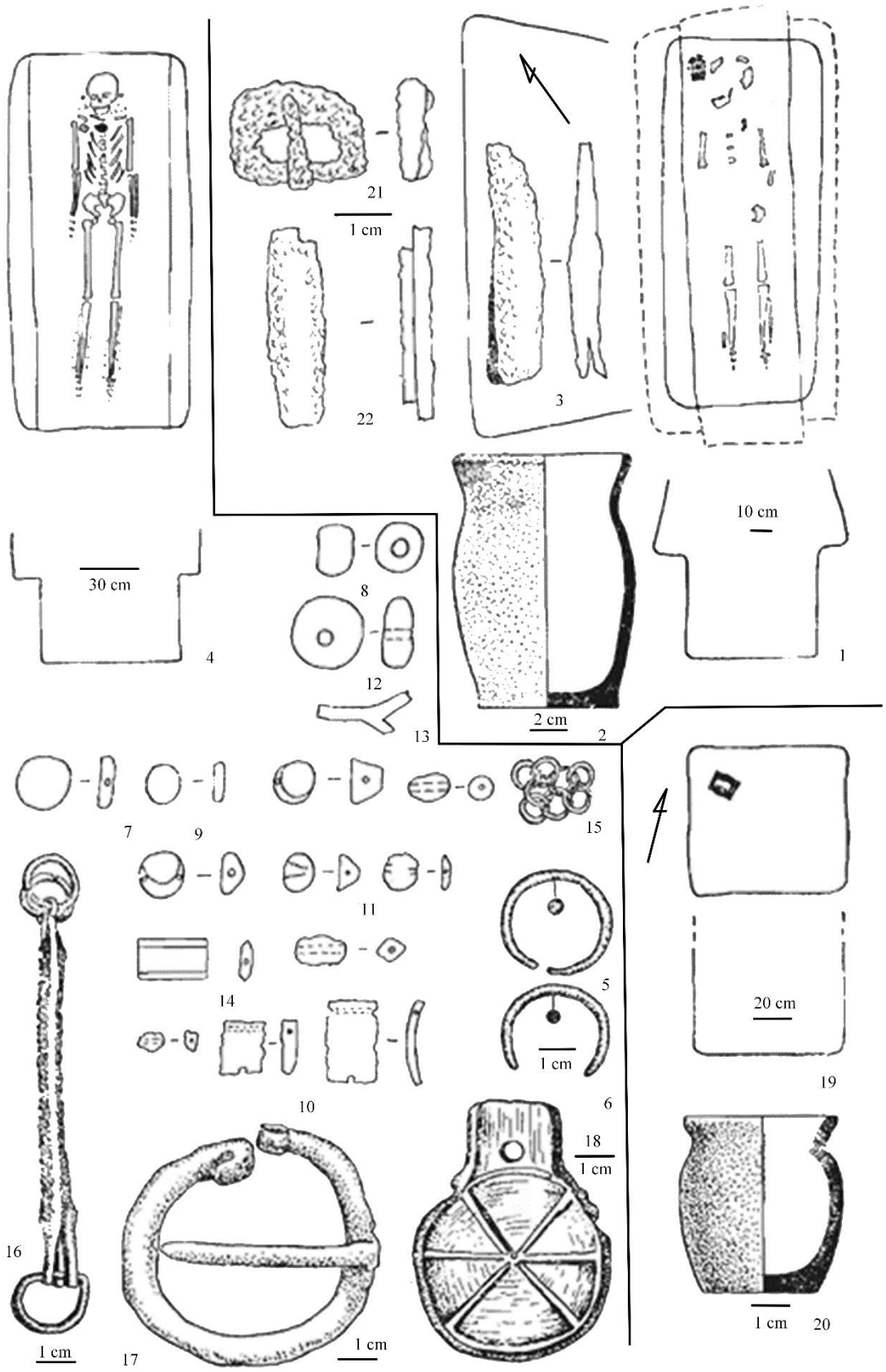


Fig. 93. Holmskoe G7-8, G10 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

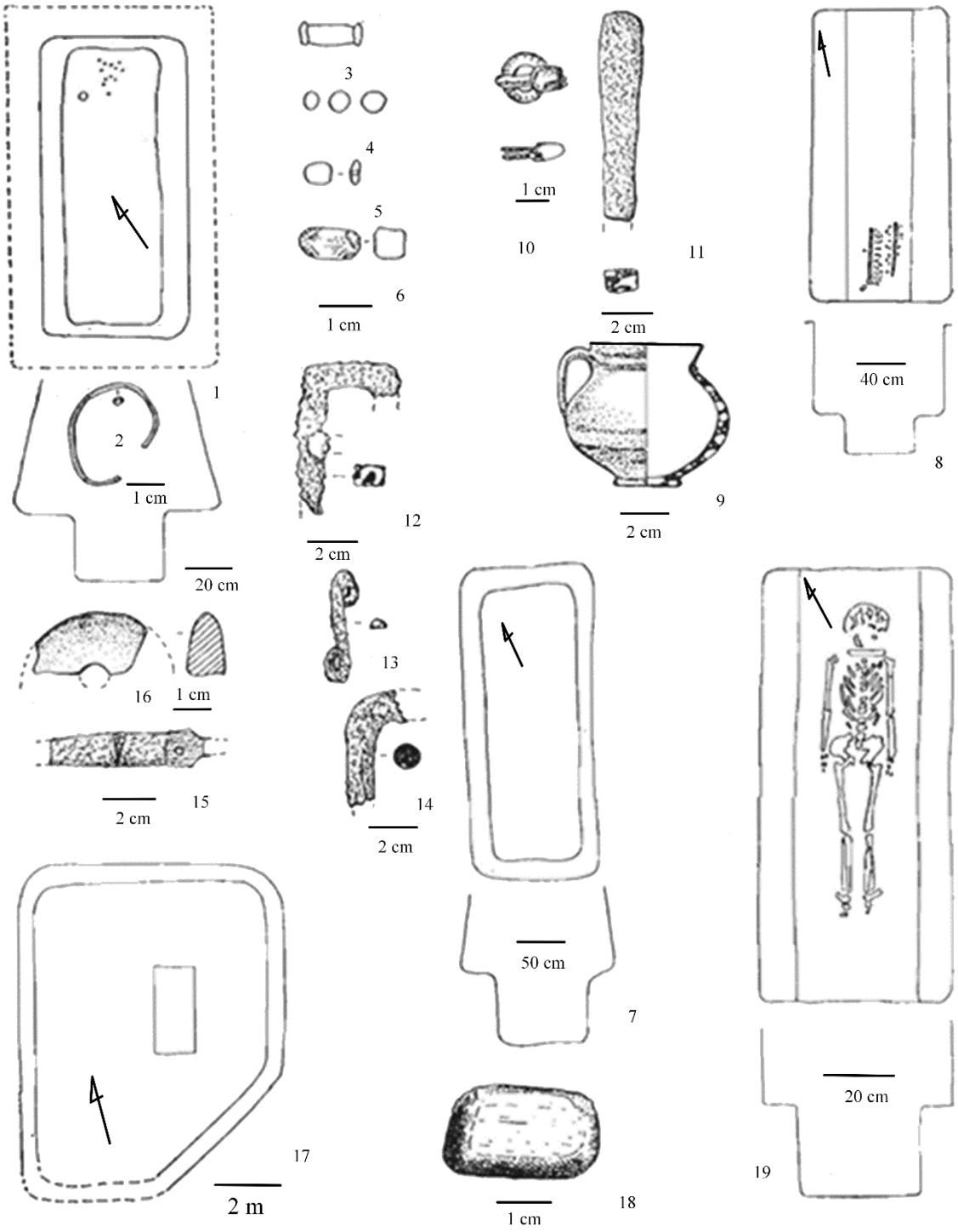


Fig. 94. Holmskoe G11, G13-16 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

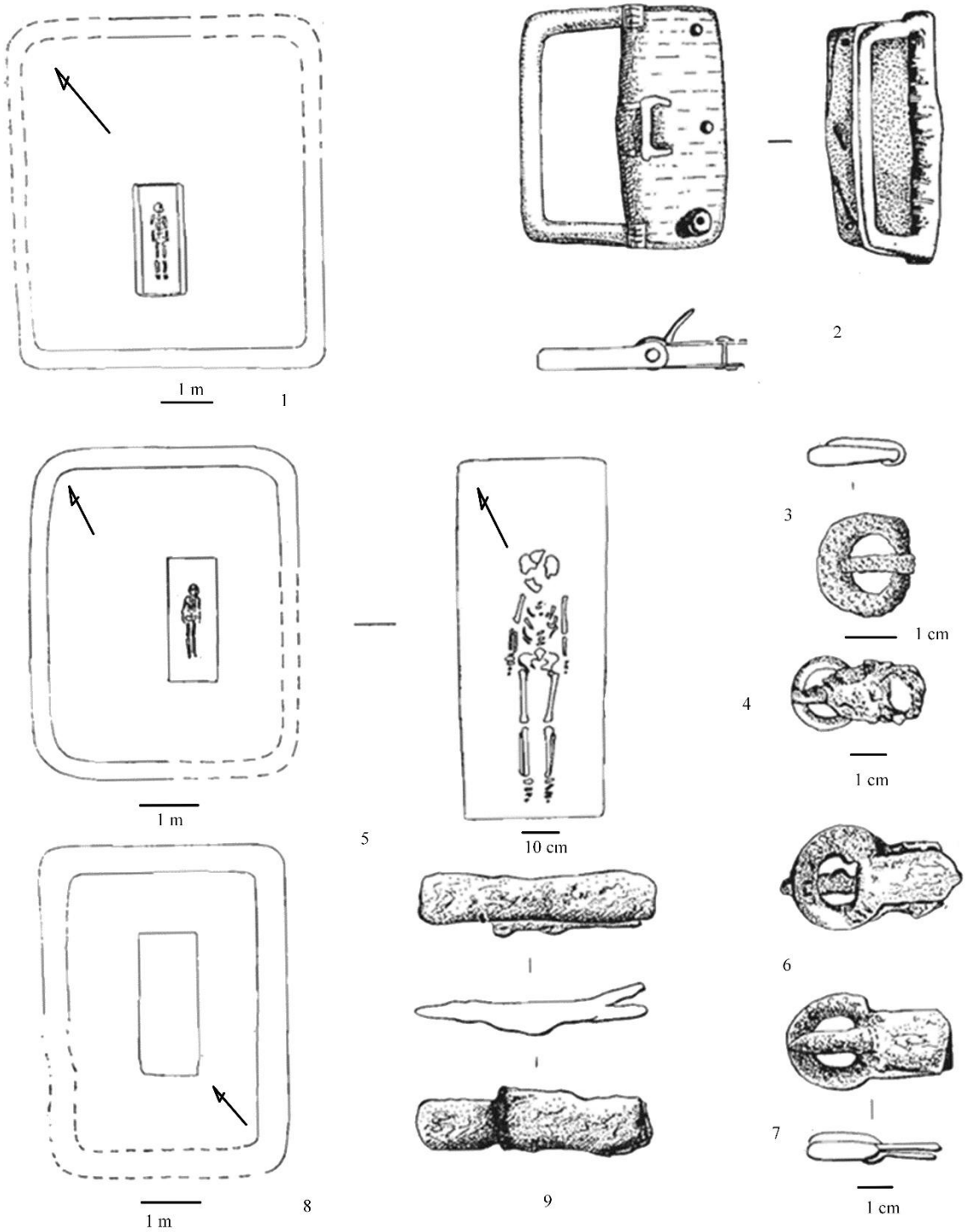


Fig. 95. Holmskoe G16-18 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

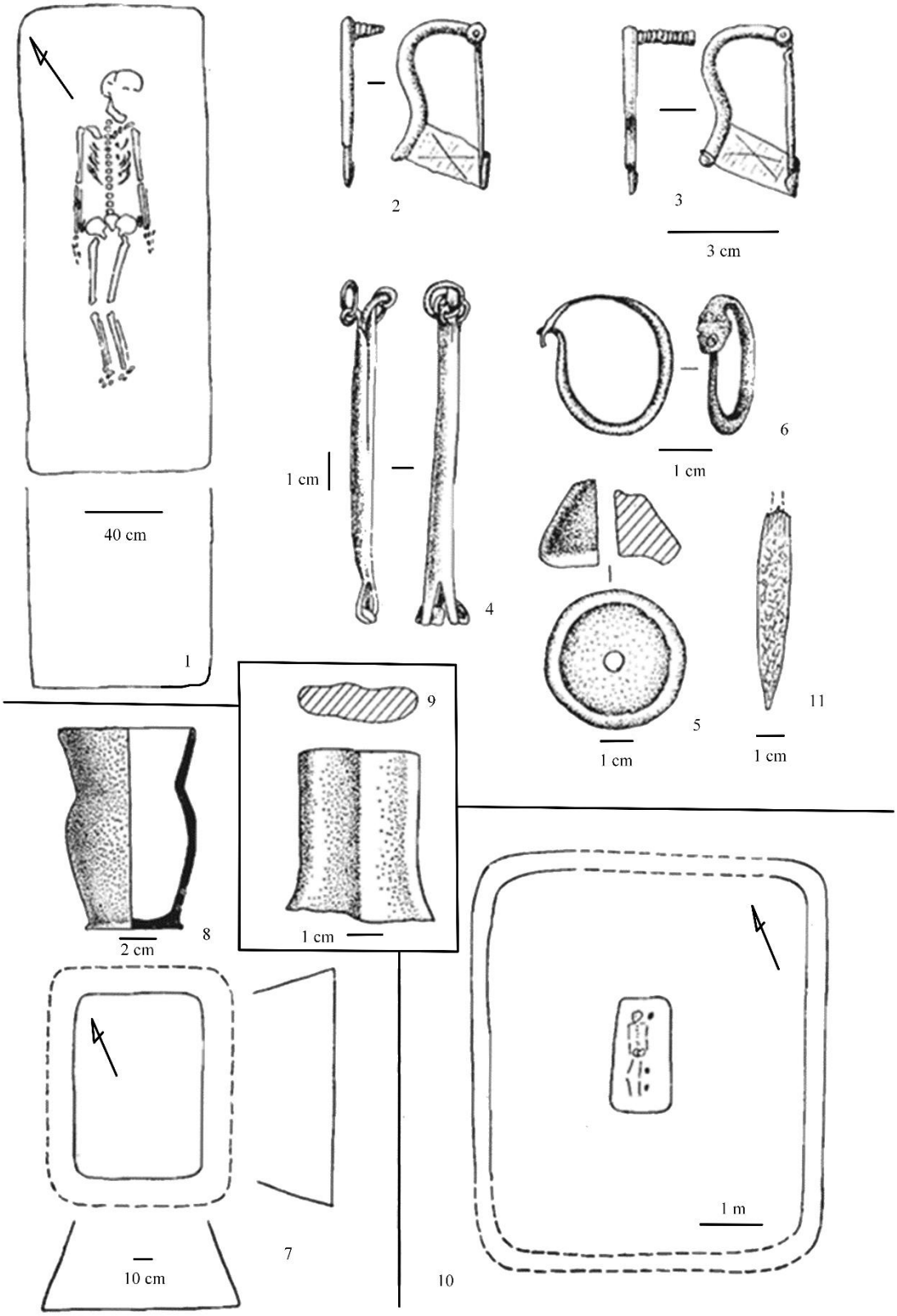


Fig. 96. Holmskoe G19, G21-22, Trench (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

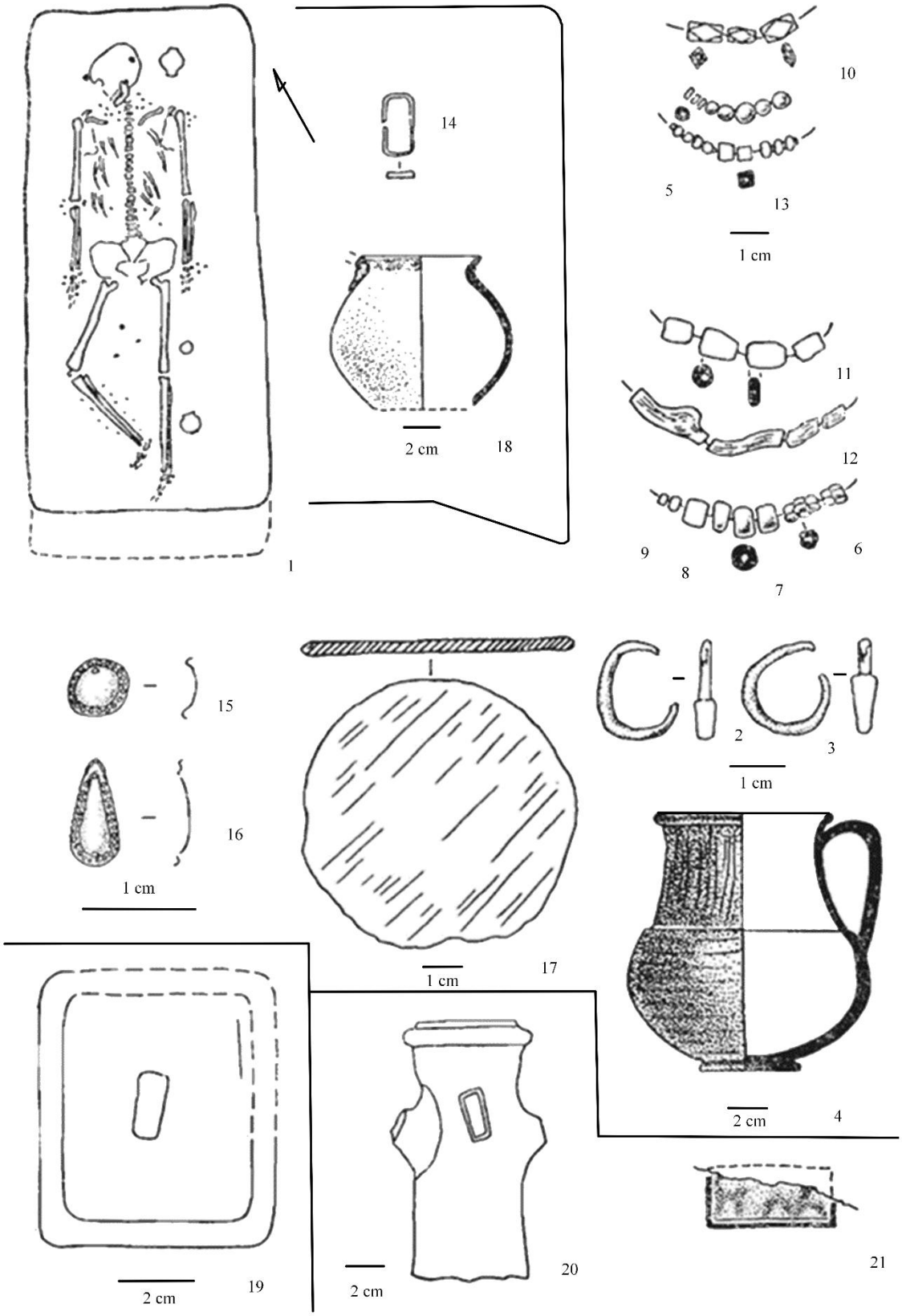


Fig. 97. Holmskoe G22-23, Trench (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

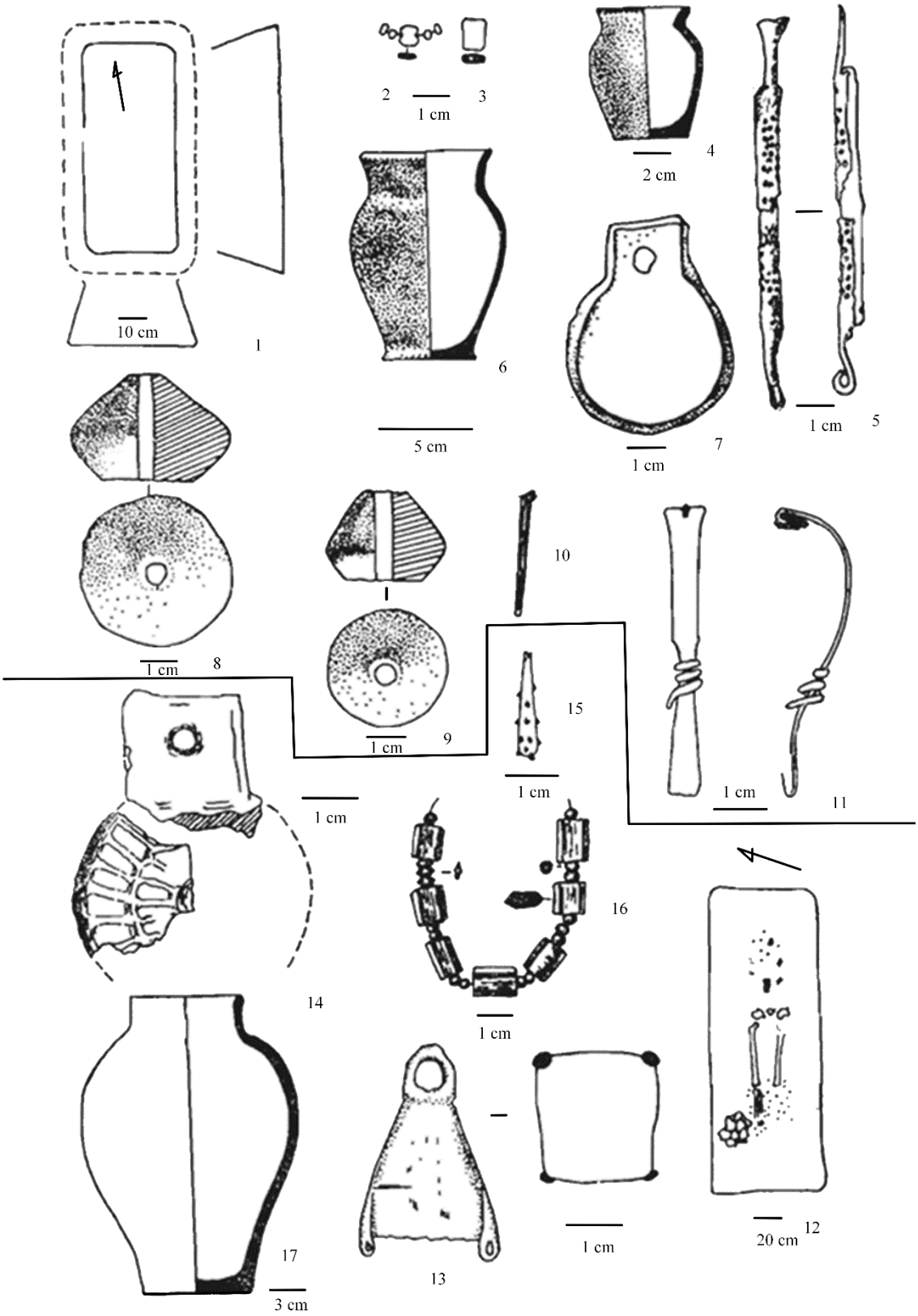


Fig. 98. Holmskoe G23-24 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

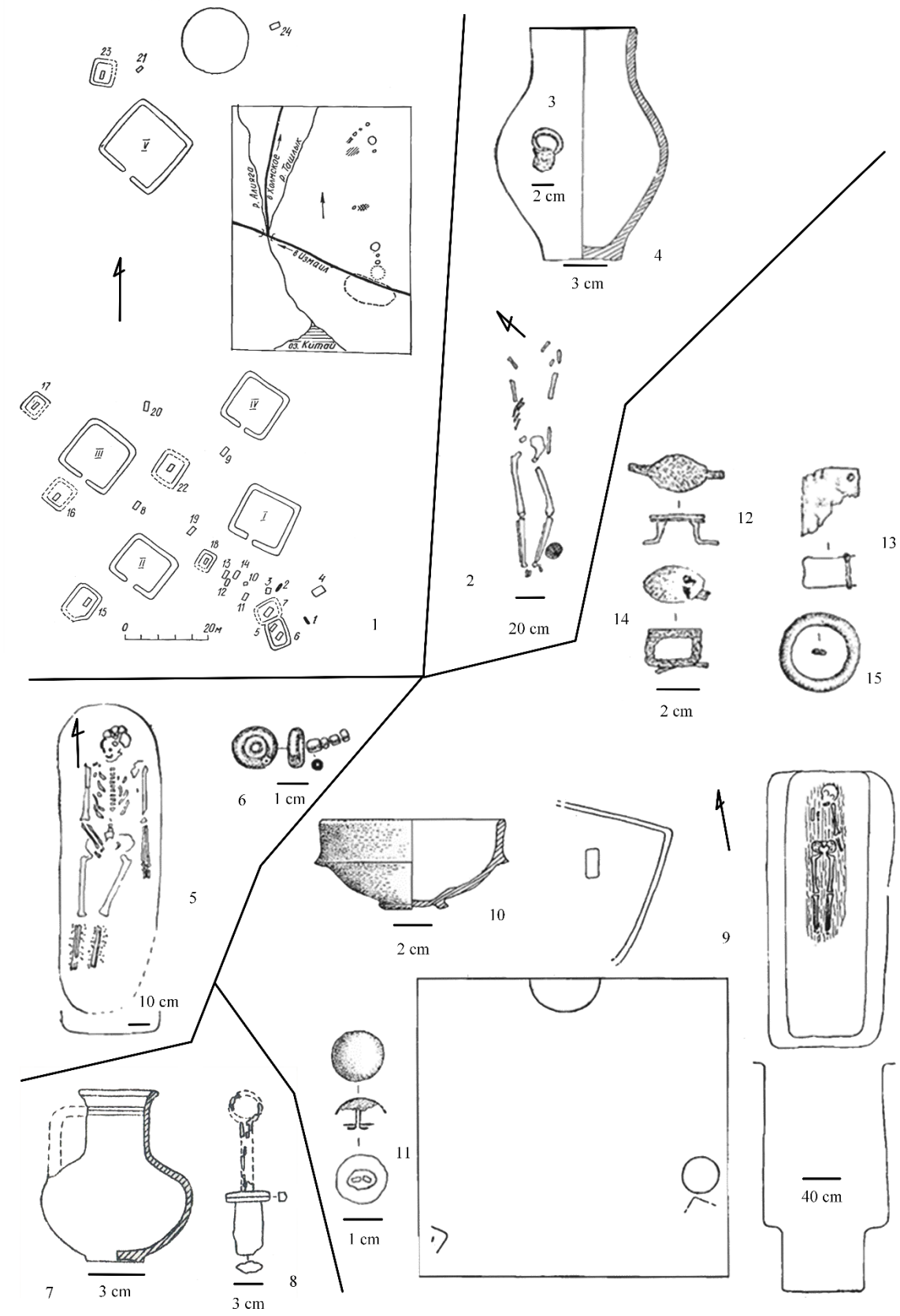


Fig. 99. Holmskoe plan, Holmskoe I T1G17, Holmskoe II G1 and Kalanceak T1G3 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984) Izvoare G1 (after Grosu 1983)

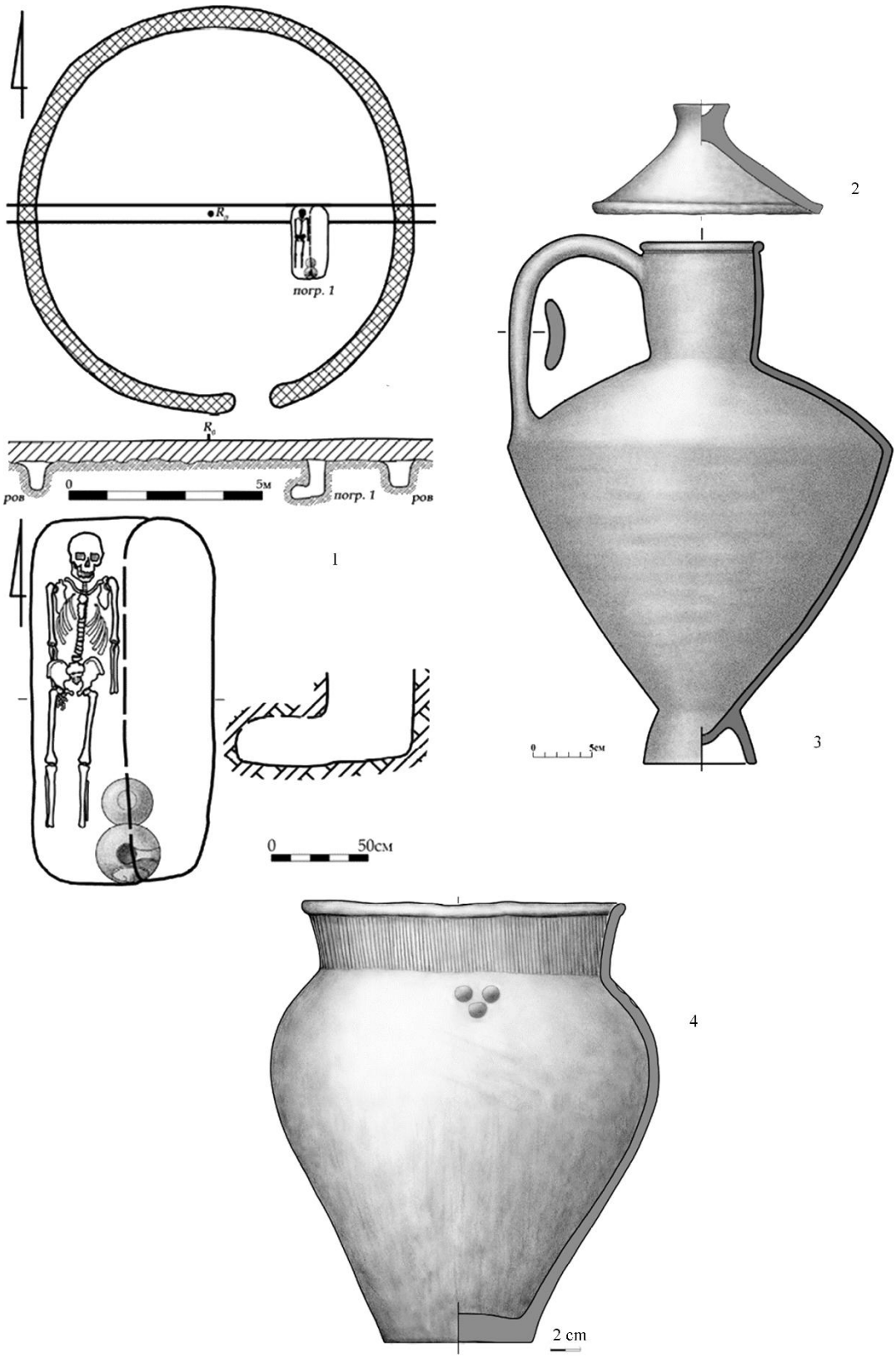


Fig. 100. Kotlovyna T1G1 (after Simonenko et al 2020)

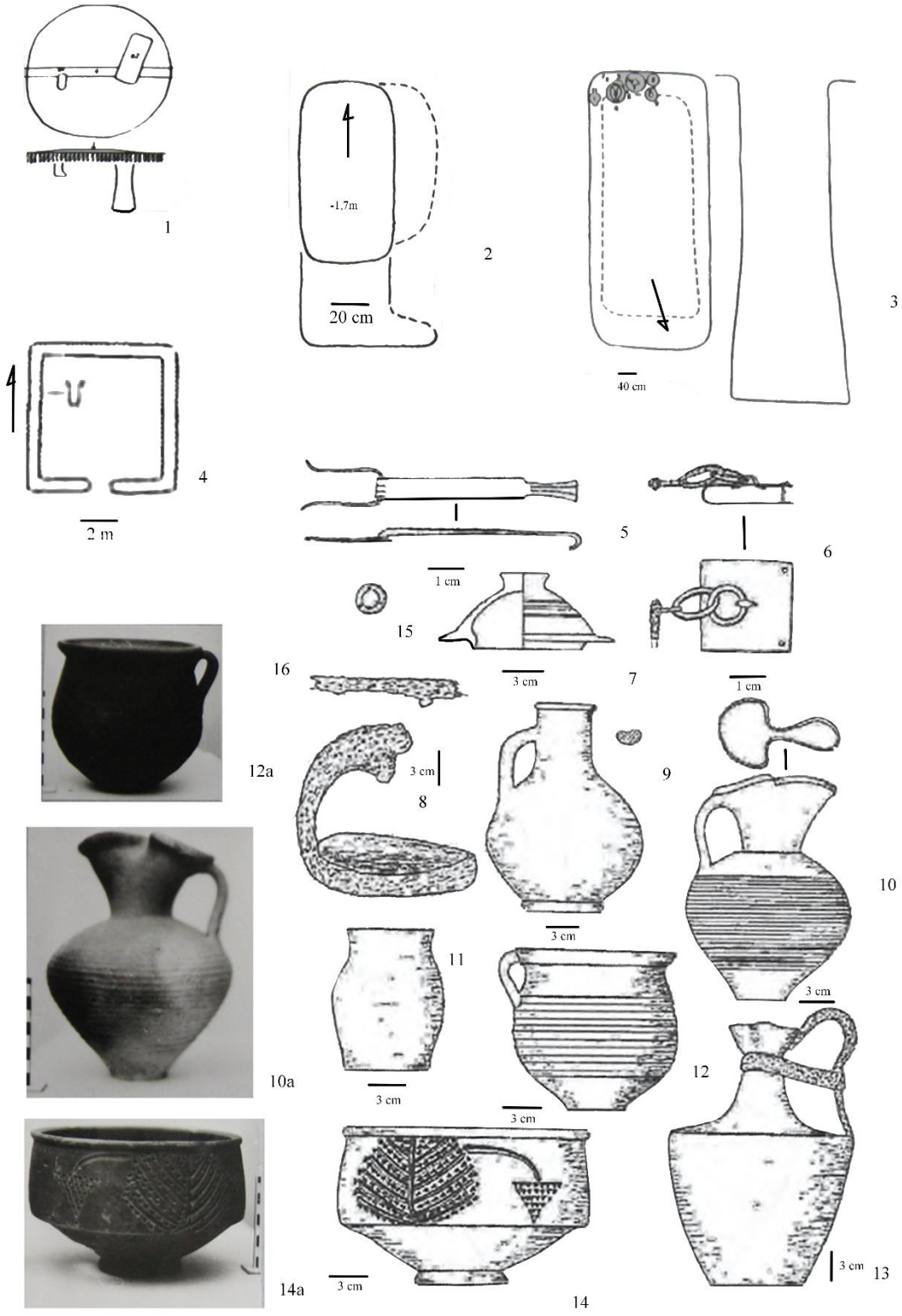


Fig. 101. Kotlovyna T2G1-2 (after Fokeev 2008)

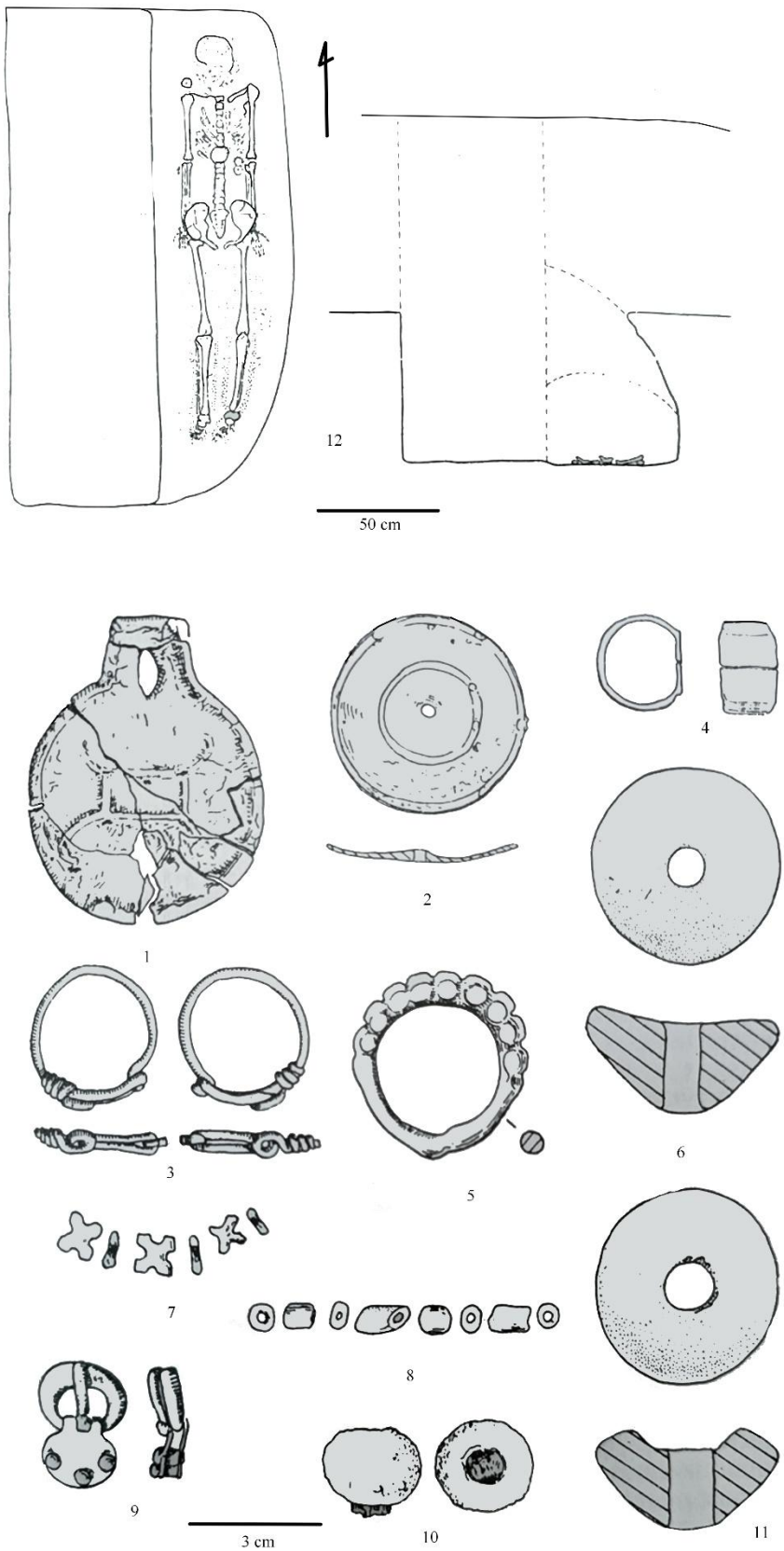


Fig. 102. Krinicinoe G2, G4, G6 (after Fedorov 1969)

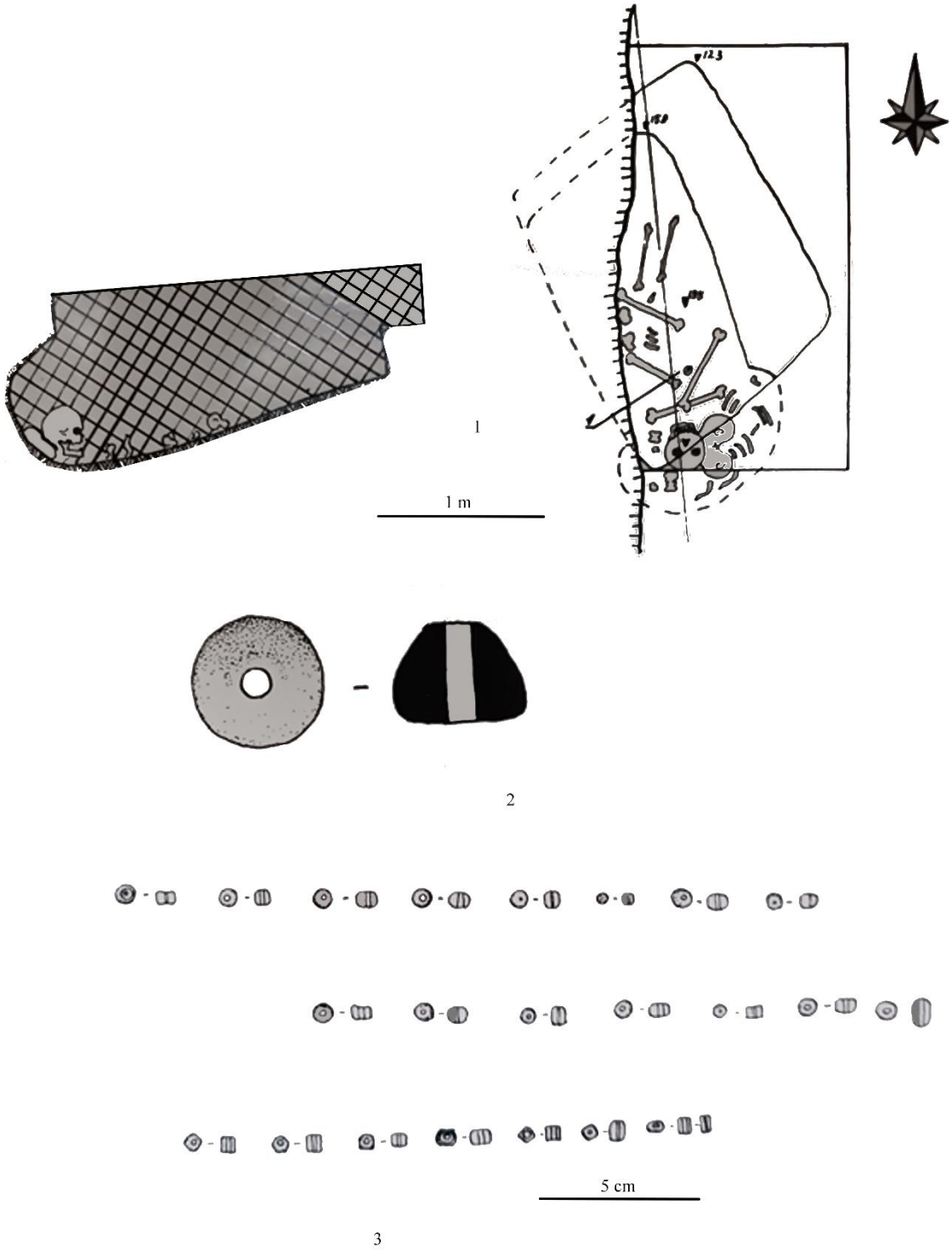


Fig. 103. Krinicinoe G9 (after Fedorov 1969)

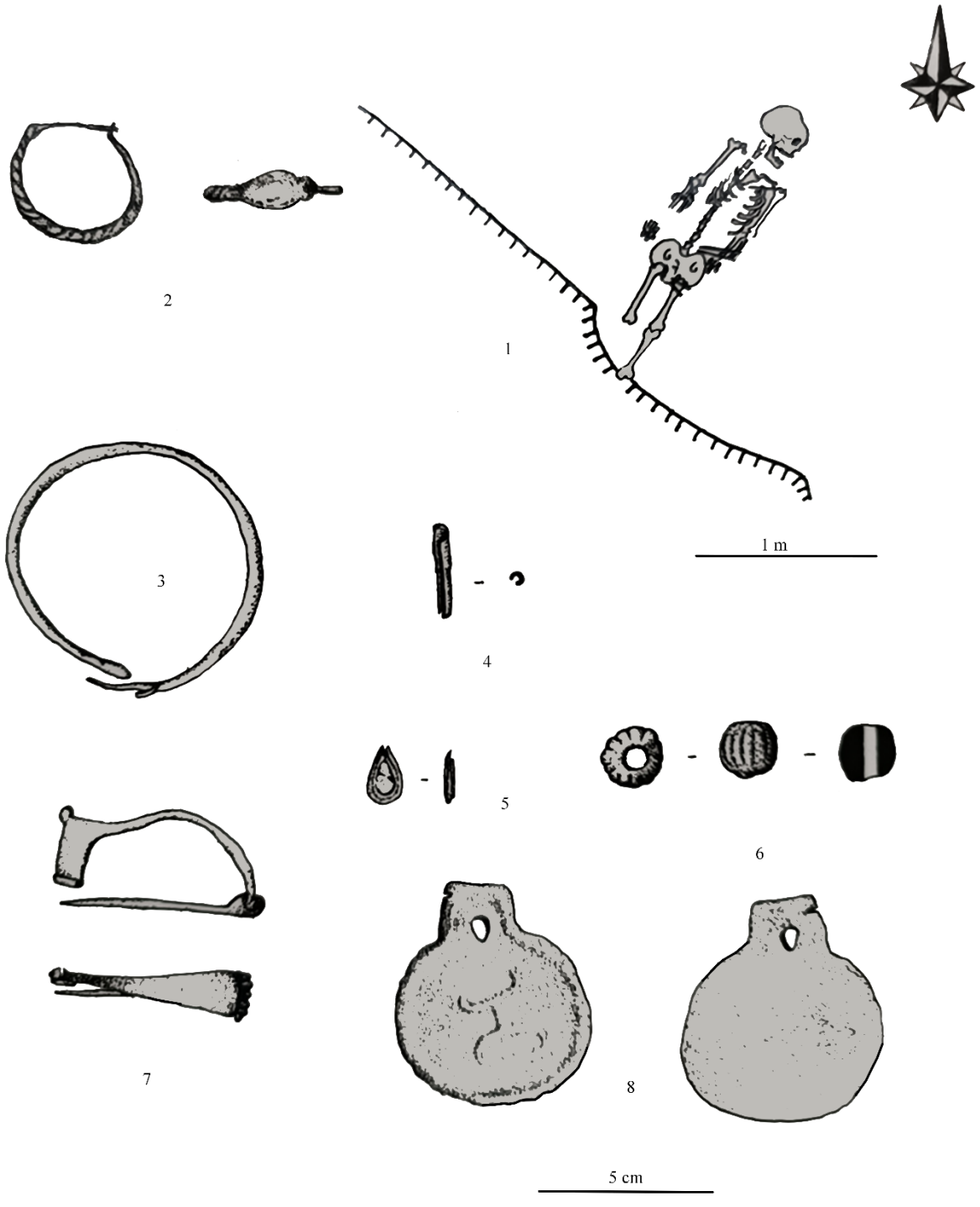


Fig. 104. Krinicinoe G10 (after Fedorov 1969)



Fig. 105. Mălcăuți DG1 (after Vornic, Matveev 2016) Krinicinoe G10 (after Fedorov 1969)

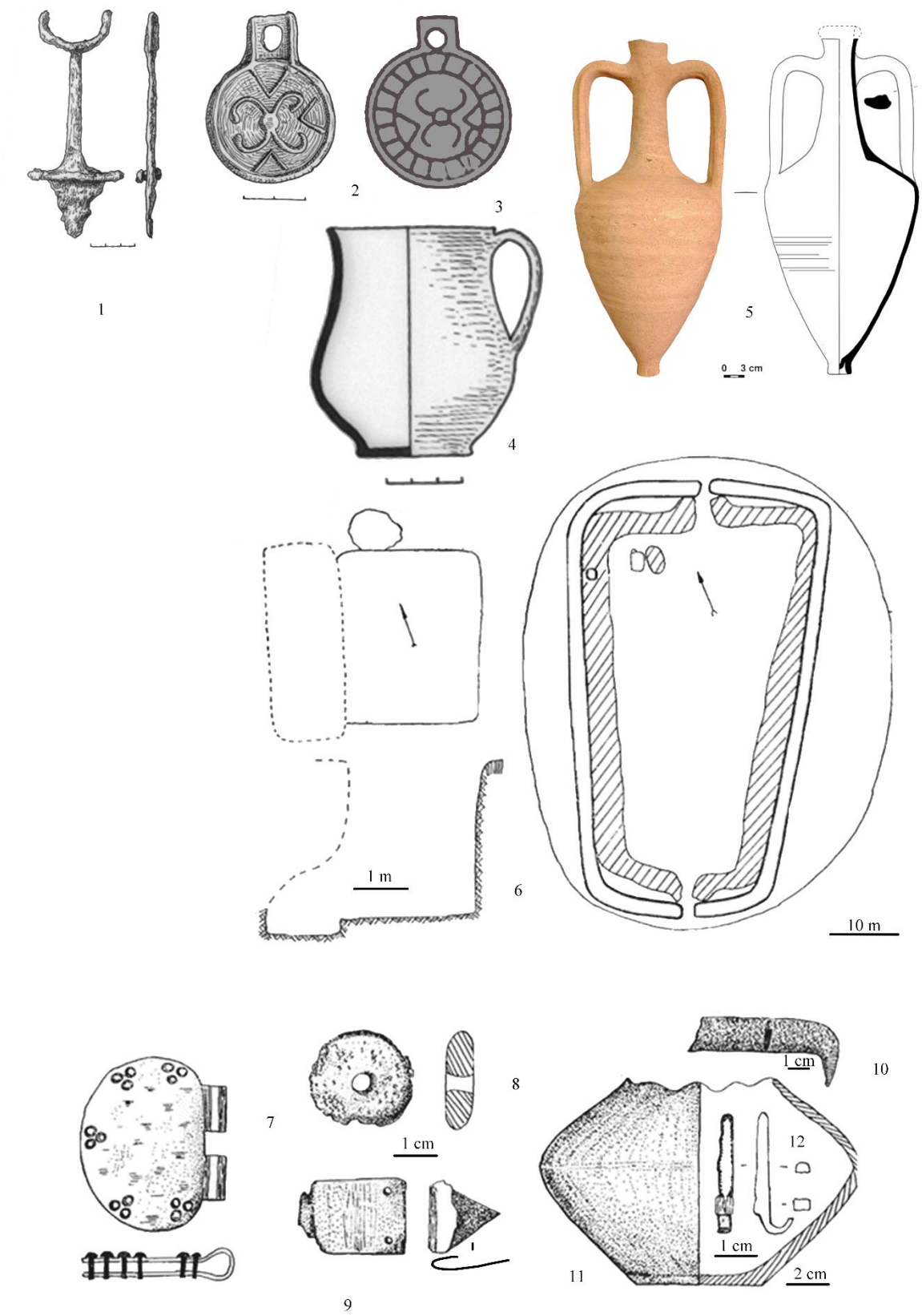


Fig. 106. Mărcăuți DG1 (after Rikman 1975) Mereni DG1 (after Ciobanu, Vornic 2024) Mirnoe G1 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

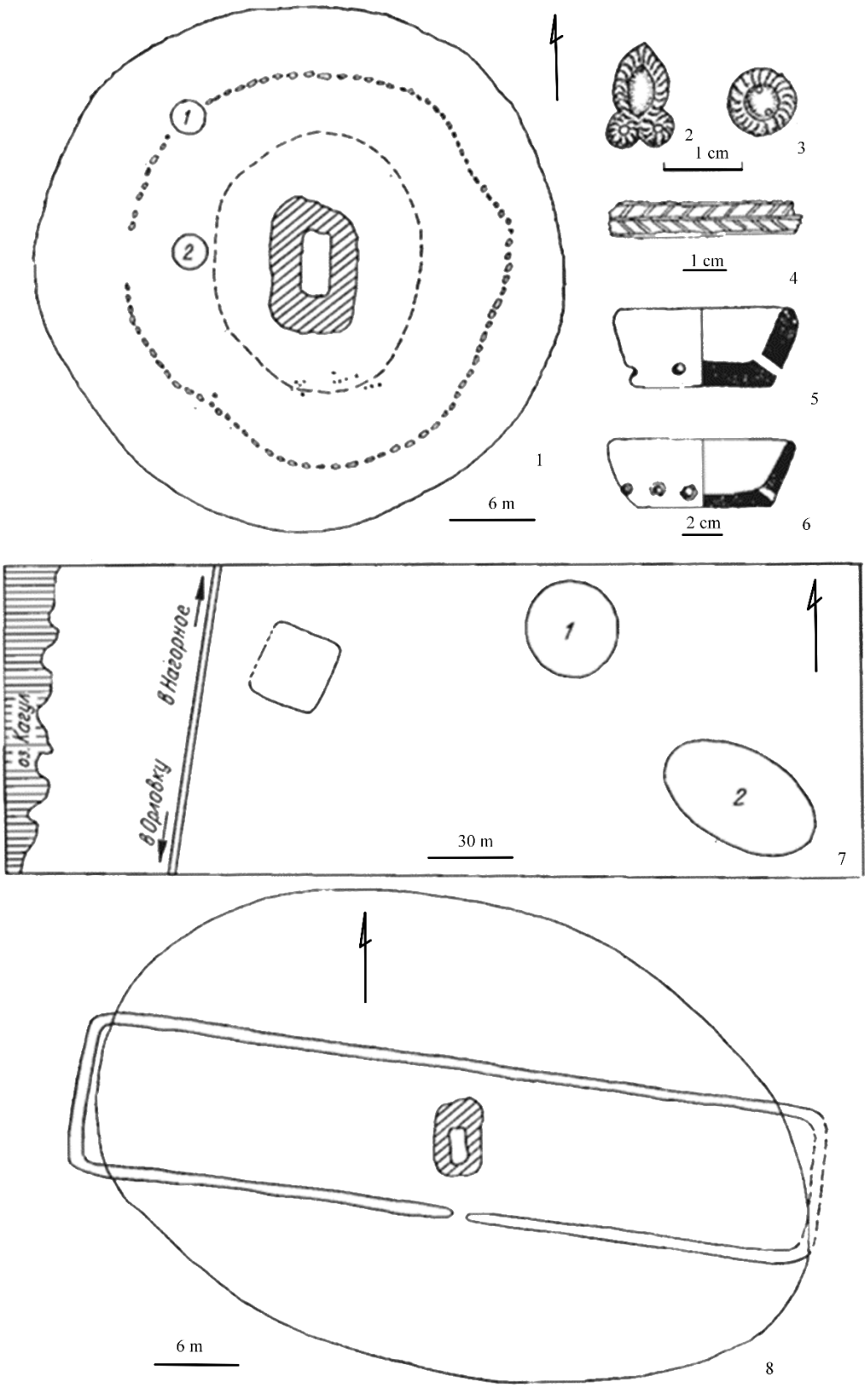


Fig. 107. Nagornoe T1G1, T2G1 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

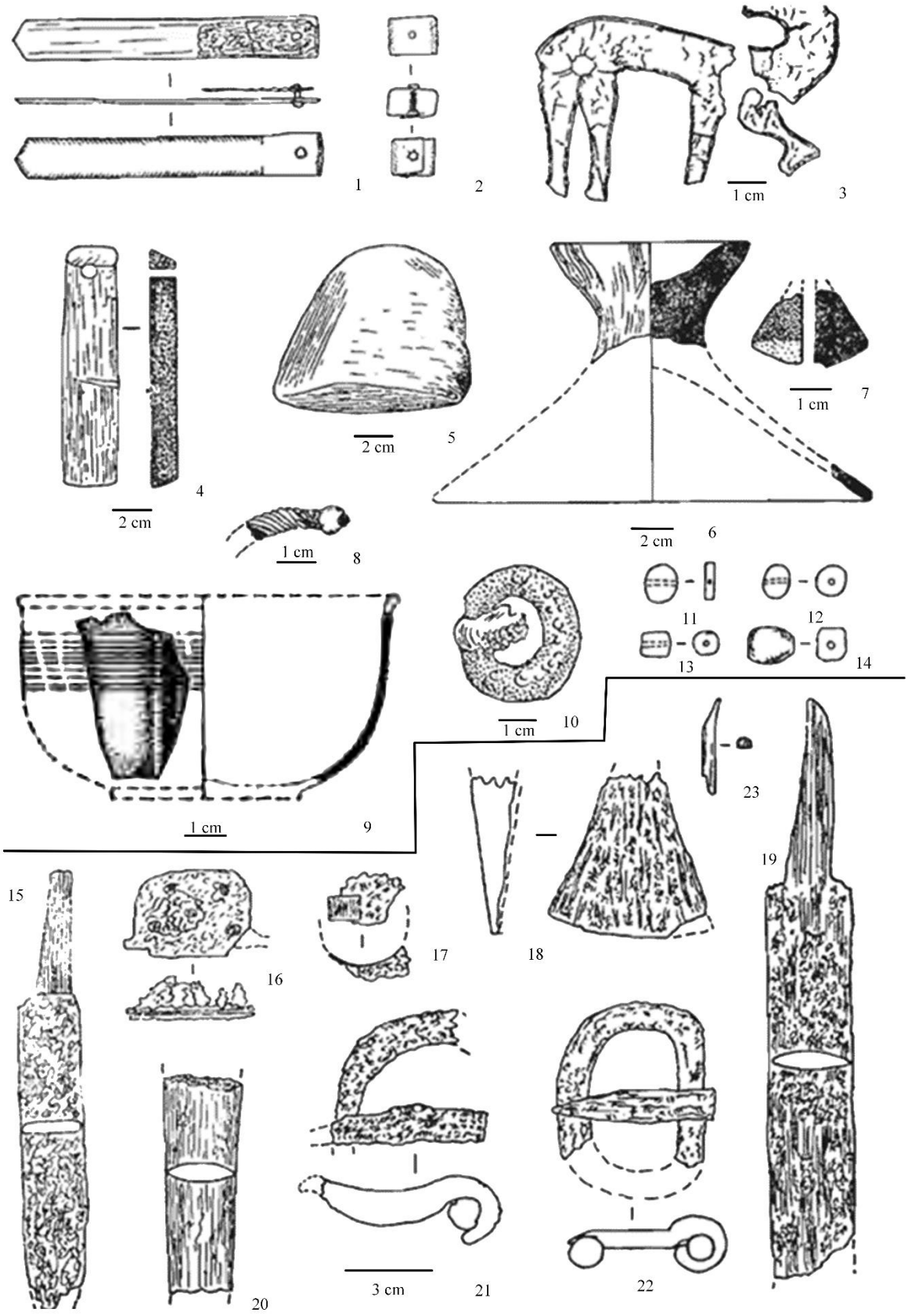


Fig. 108. Nagornoe T1G1, T2G1, T9G1 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

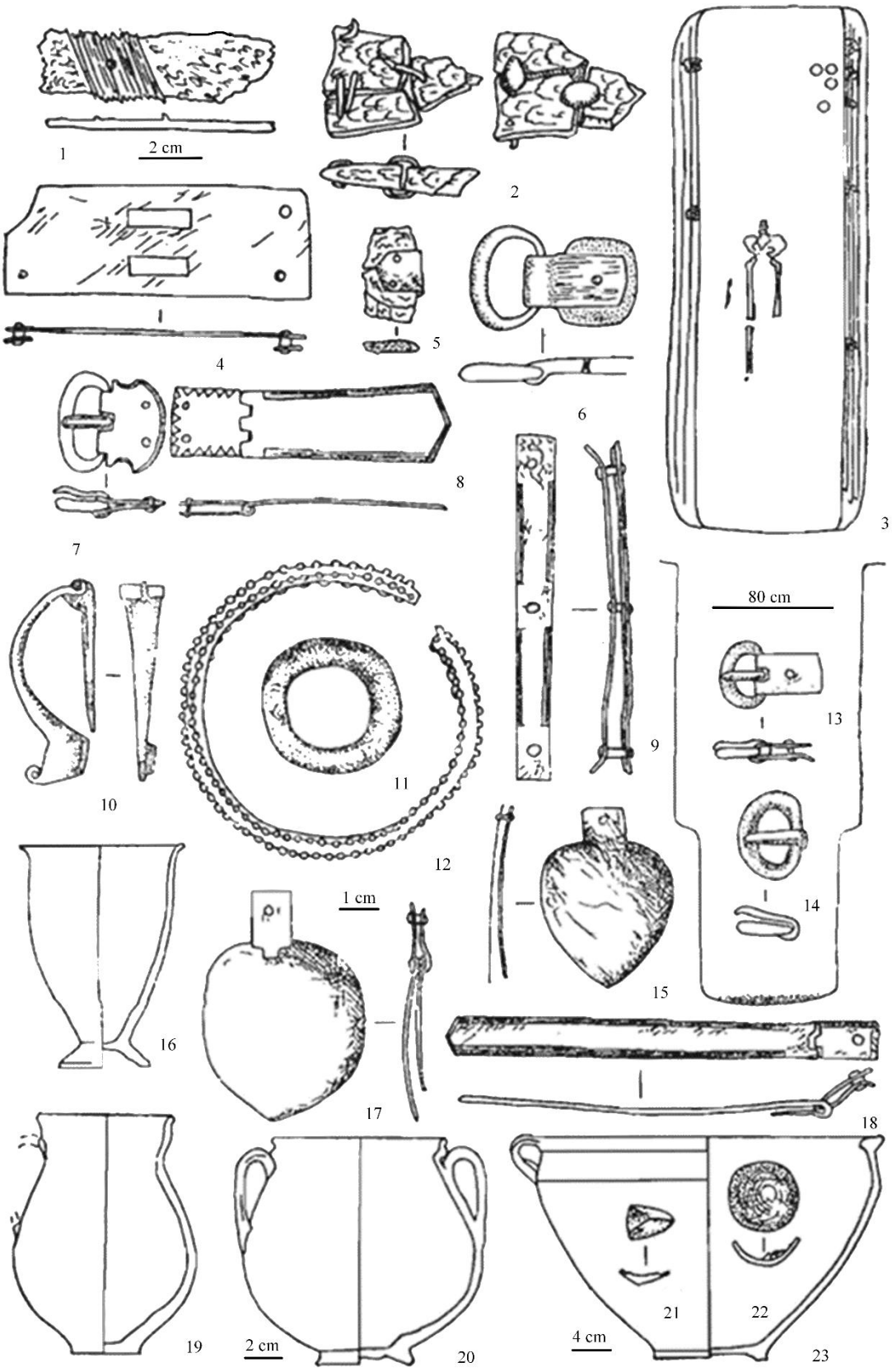


Fig. 109. Nagornoe T9G1 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984)

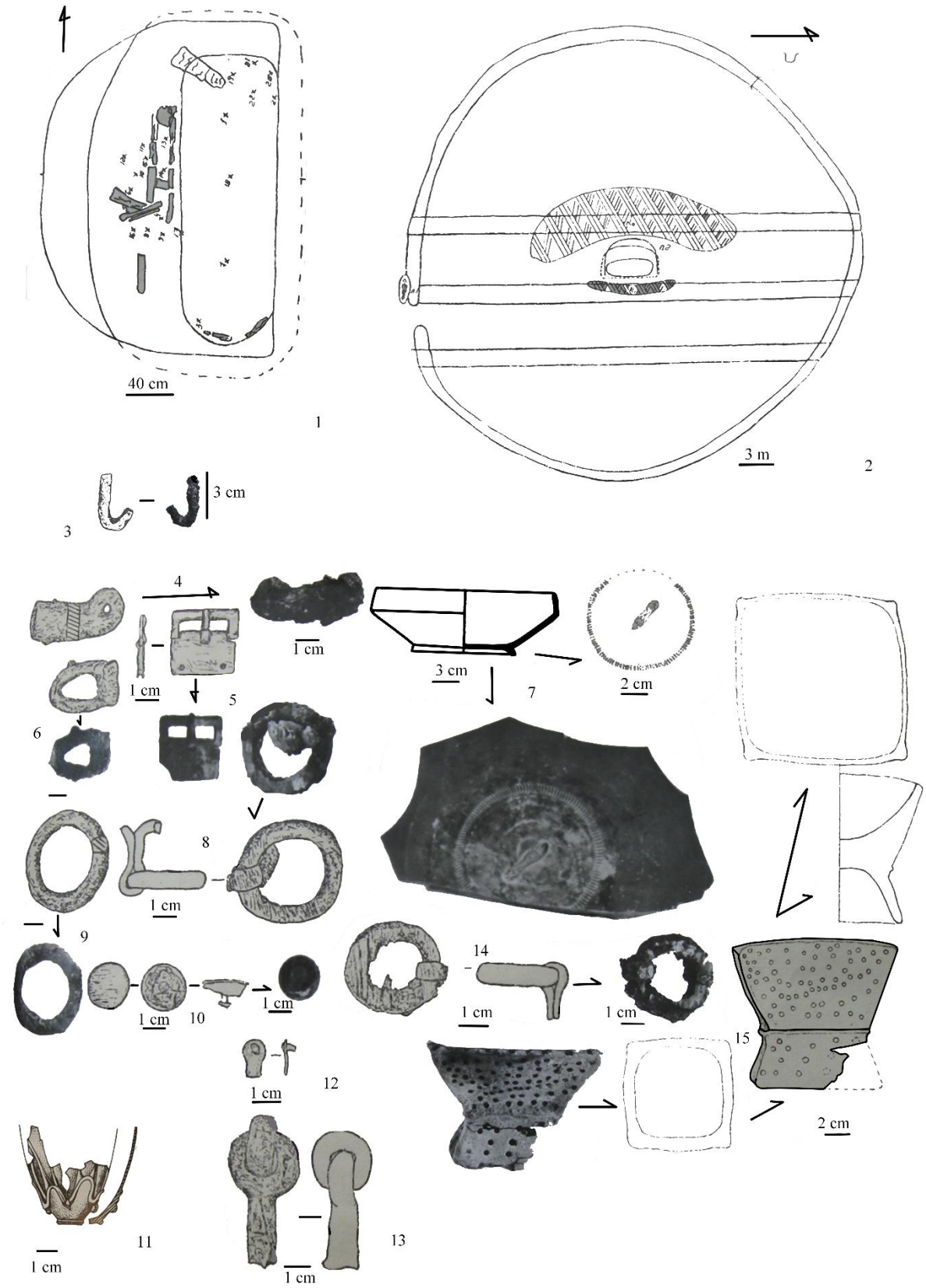


Fig. 110. Nagornoe T12G2 (after Gudkova et al. 1982)



Fig. 111. Negureni DG1, T1G1 (after Rikman 1966, 1975)

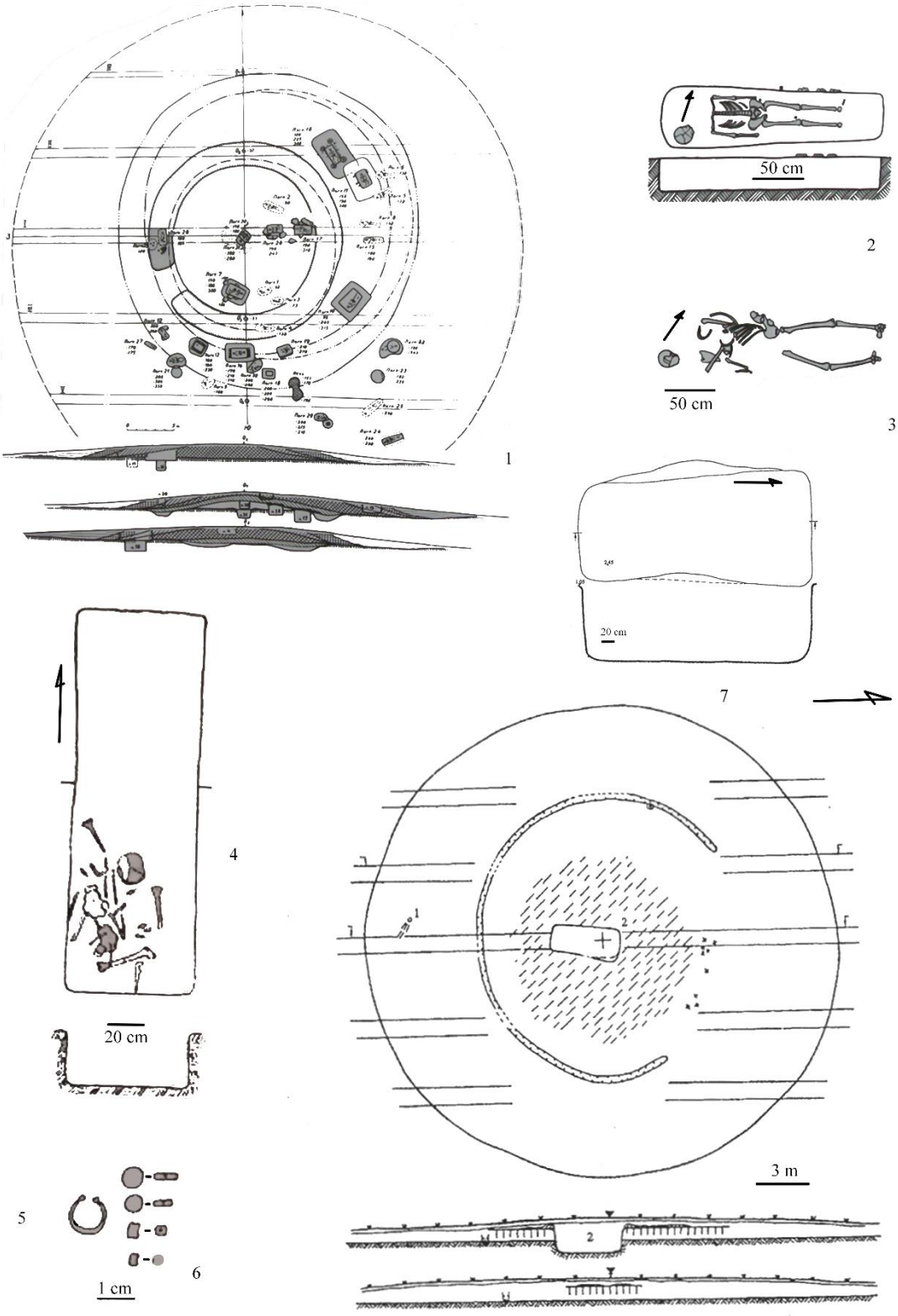


Fig. 112. Novoselițe-Vișnevoe T19G24-25 (after Subbotin, Dvorjaninov 1978) Novoselskoe II G1 (after Brujako, Jaroshevich 2001) Obileni T5G2 (after Levițki et al. 1996)

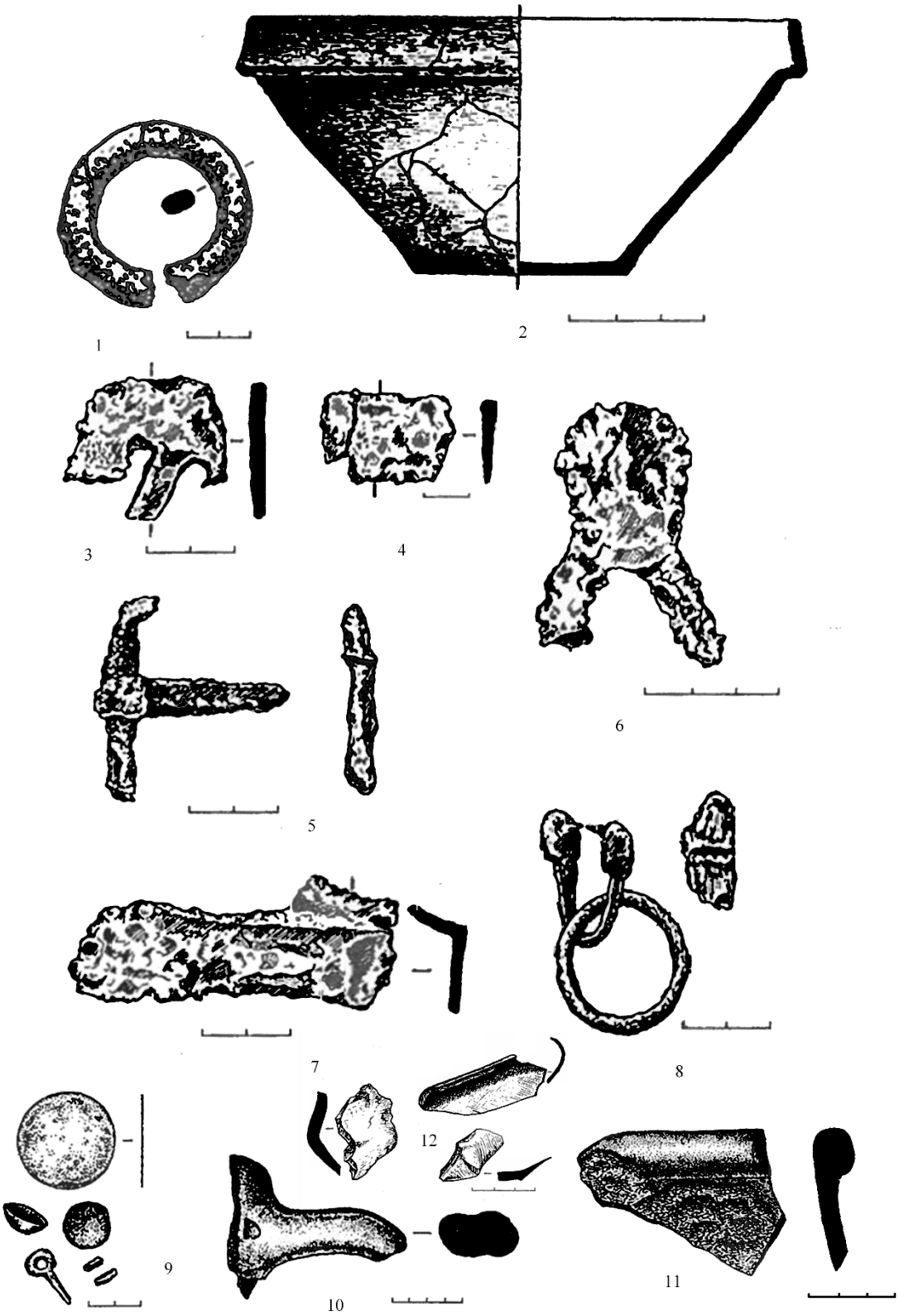


Fig. 113. Obileni T5G2 (after Levițki et al. 1996)

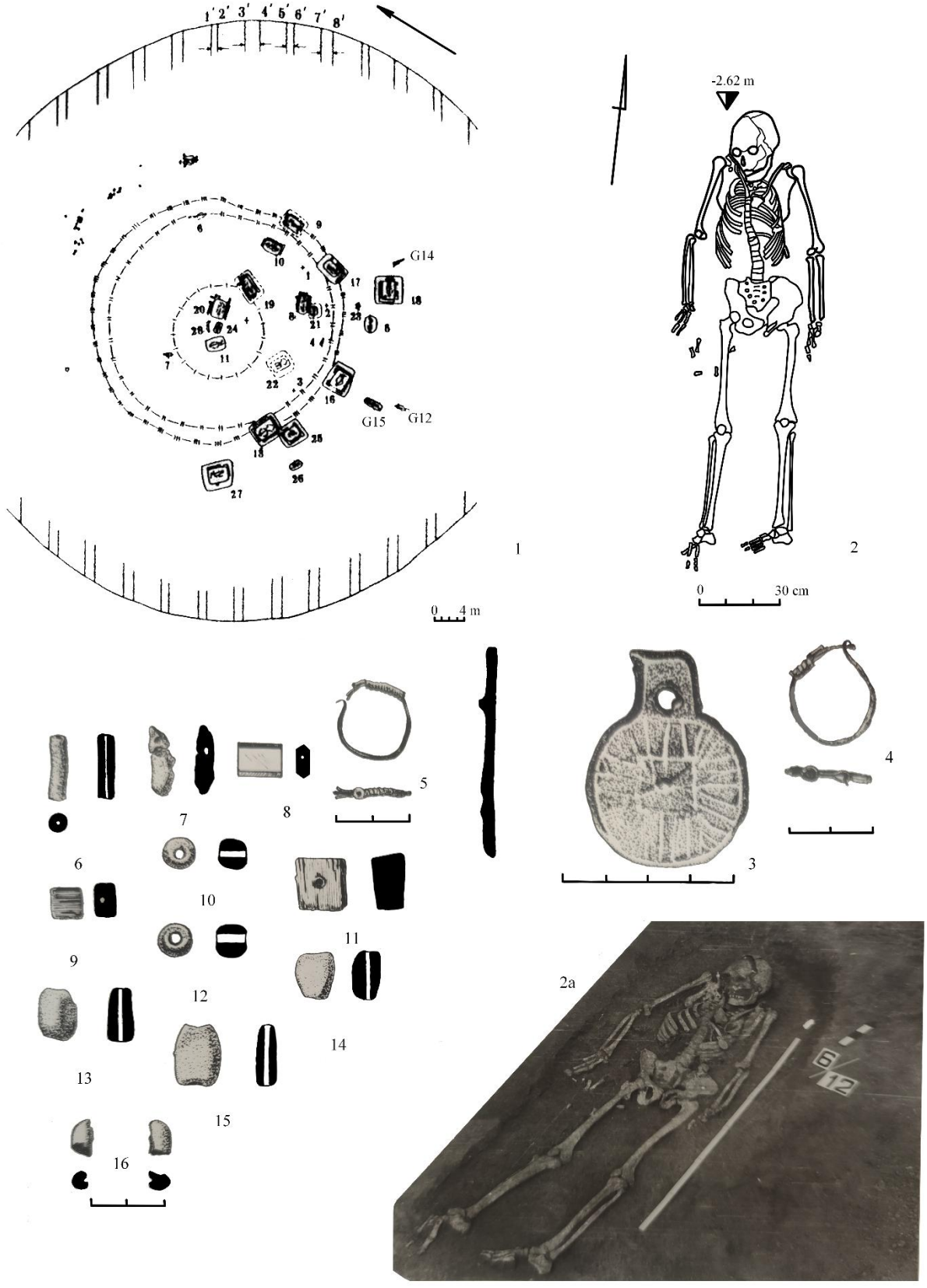


Fig. 114. Ocnița T6G12 (after Manzura et al 1992)

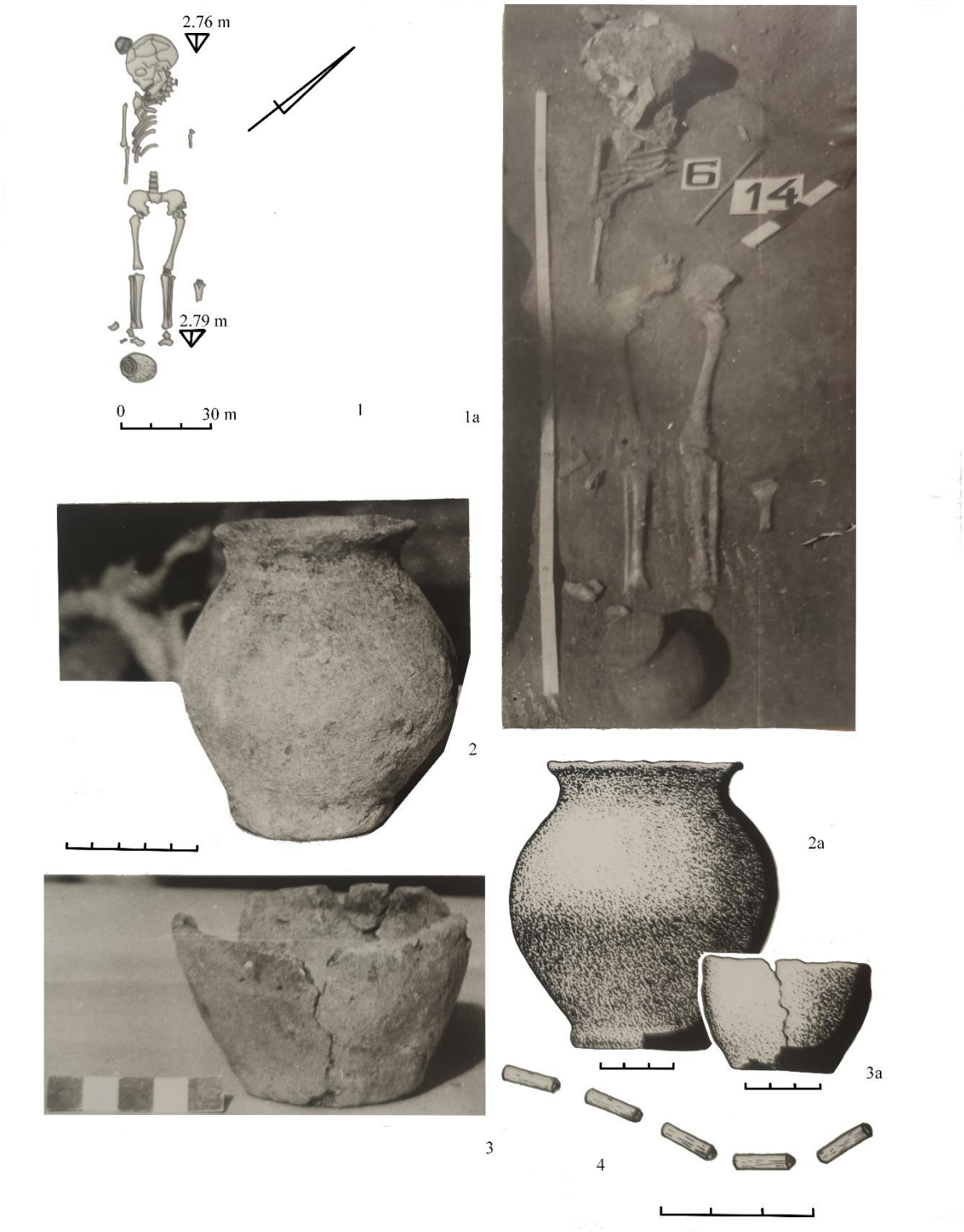


Fig. 115. Ocnița T6G14 (after Manzura et al 1992)

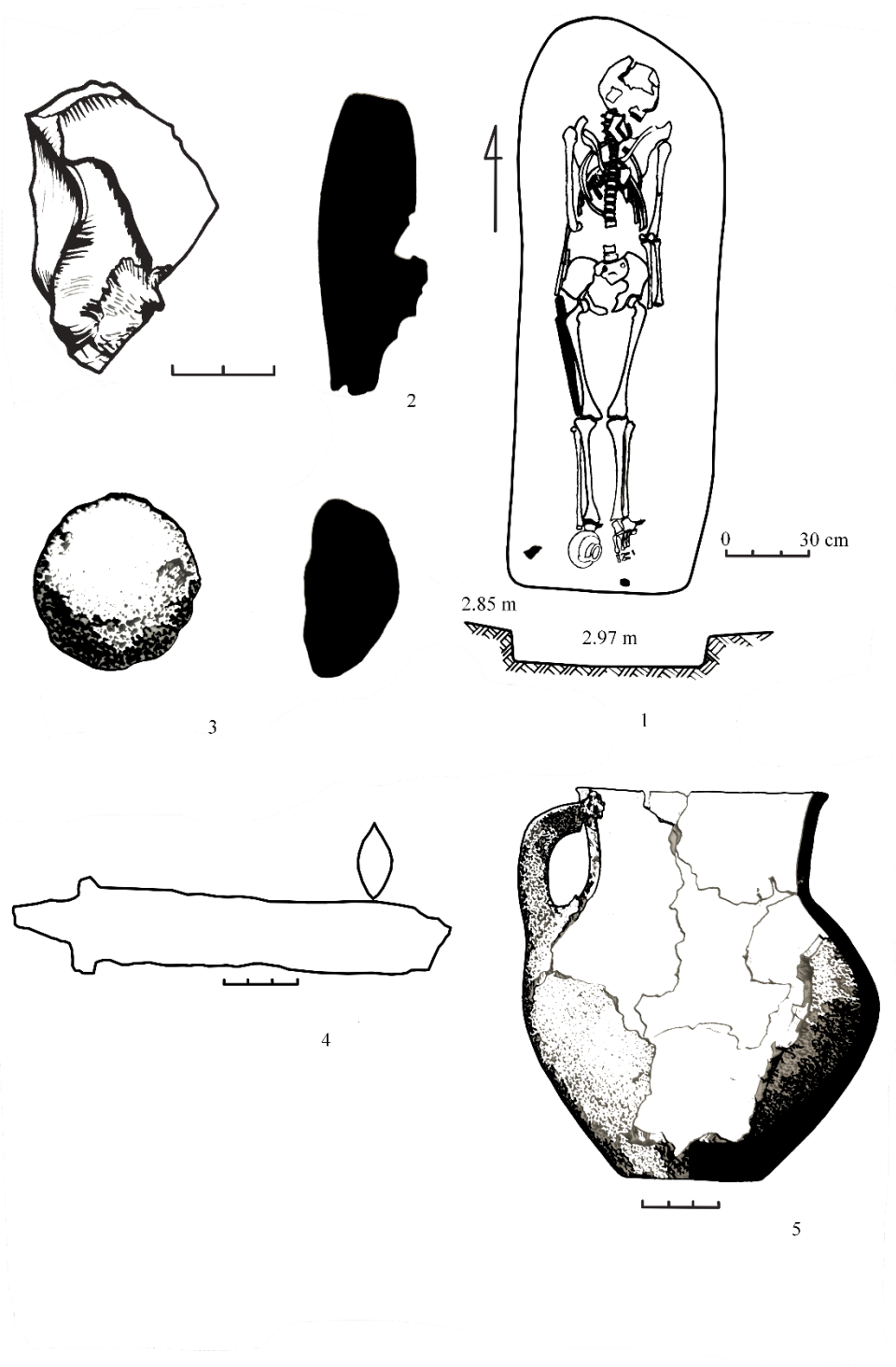


Fig. 116. Ocnița T6G15 (after Manzura et al 1992)



Fig. 117. Ogorodnoe II T4G1, T5G1 (after Subbotin, Zagynailo, Shmahliy 1970)



Fig. 118. Ogorodnoe II T3G1, T4G1, T5G1 (after Subbotin, Zagynailo, Shmahliy 1970)

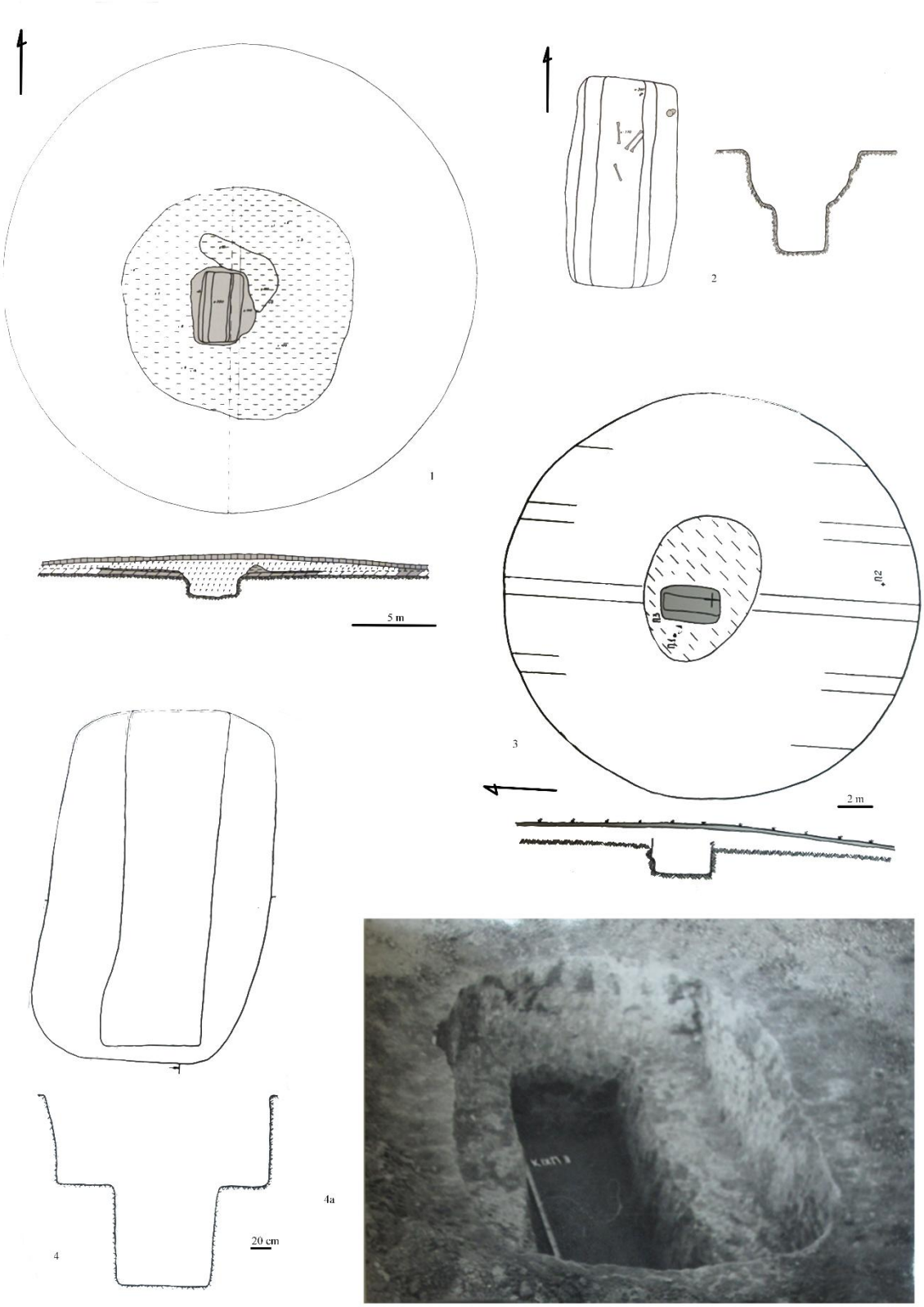


Fig. 119. Olănești T1G1 (after Melyukova 1961), Opaci T9G3 (after Grosu, Demcenco 1990)

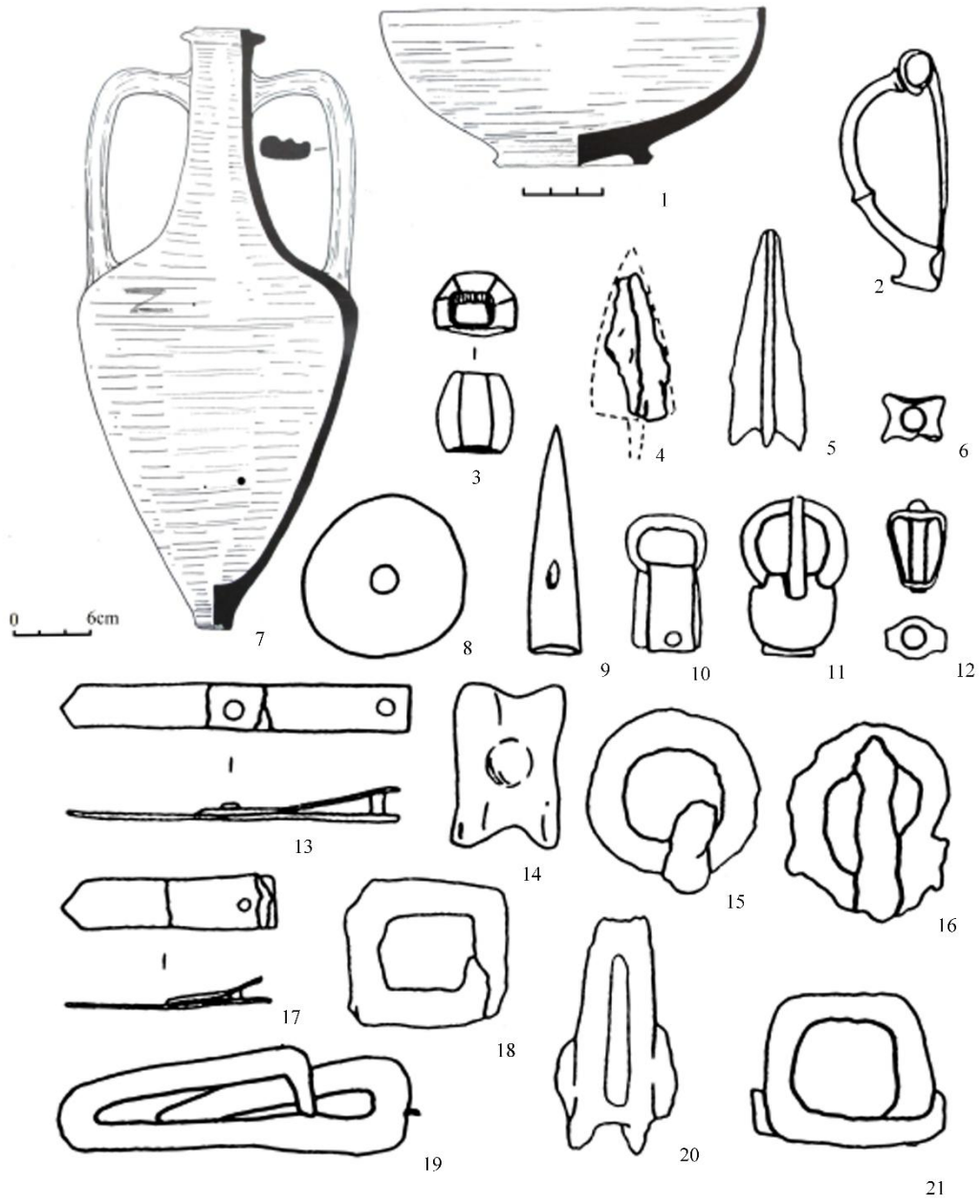


Fig. 120. Olănești T16G1 (after Jarovoj 1979)

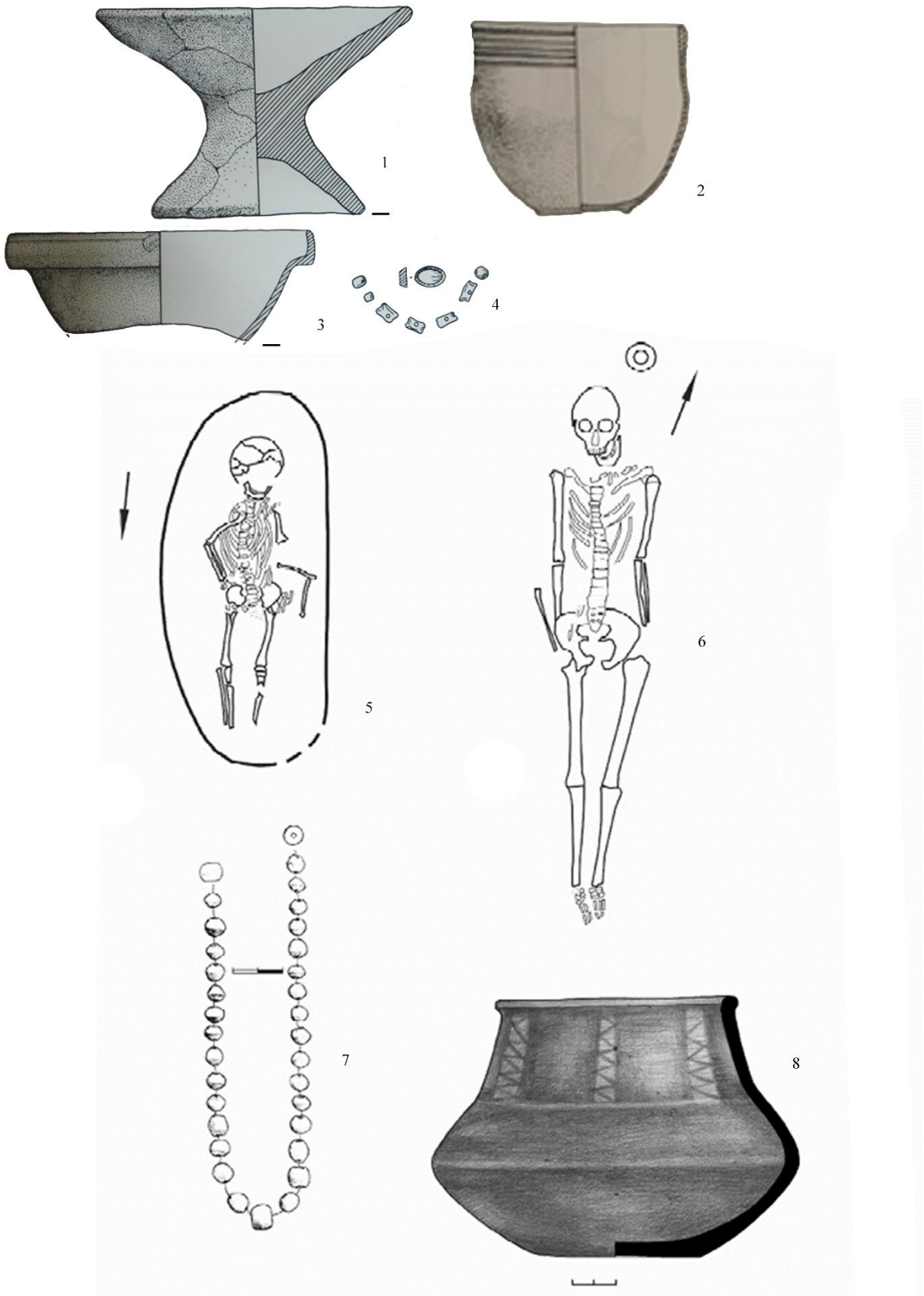


Fig. 121. Opaci T9G3 (after Grosu, Demcenco 1990), Orlovka-Kartal G1, G7 (after Bruyako et al. 2009)



Fig. 122. Orlovka-Kartal G6, G27, G274, G323 (after Bruyako, Nosova 2021), G1 (after Bruyako et al. 2009)



Fig. 123. Orlovka-Kartal G298 (after Bruyako et al. 2017, 2018)

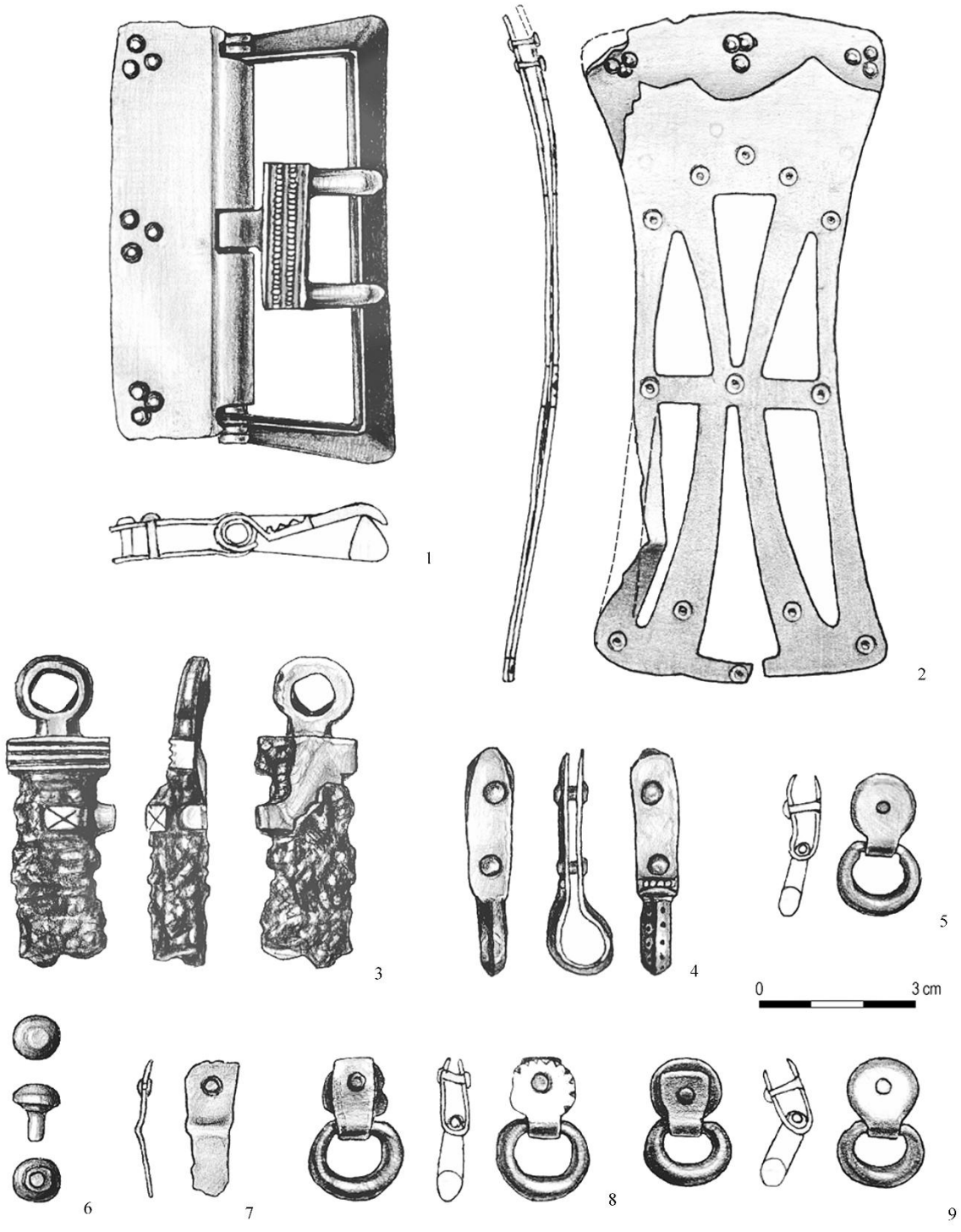


Fig. 124. Orlovka-Kartal G298 (after Bruyako et al. 2017, 2018)

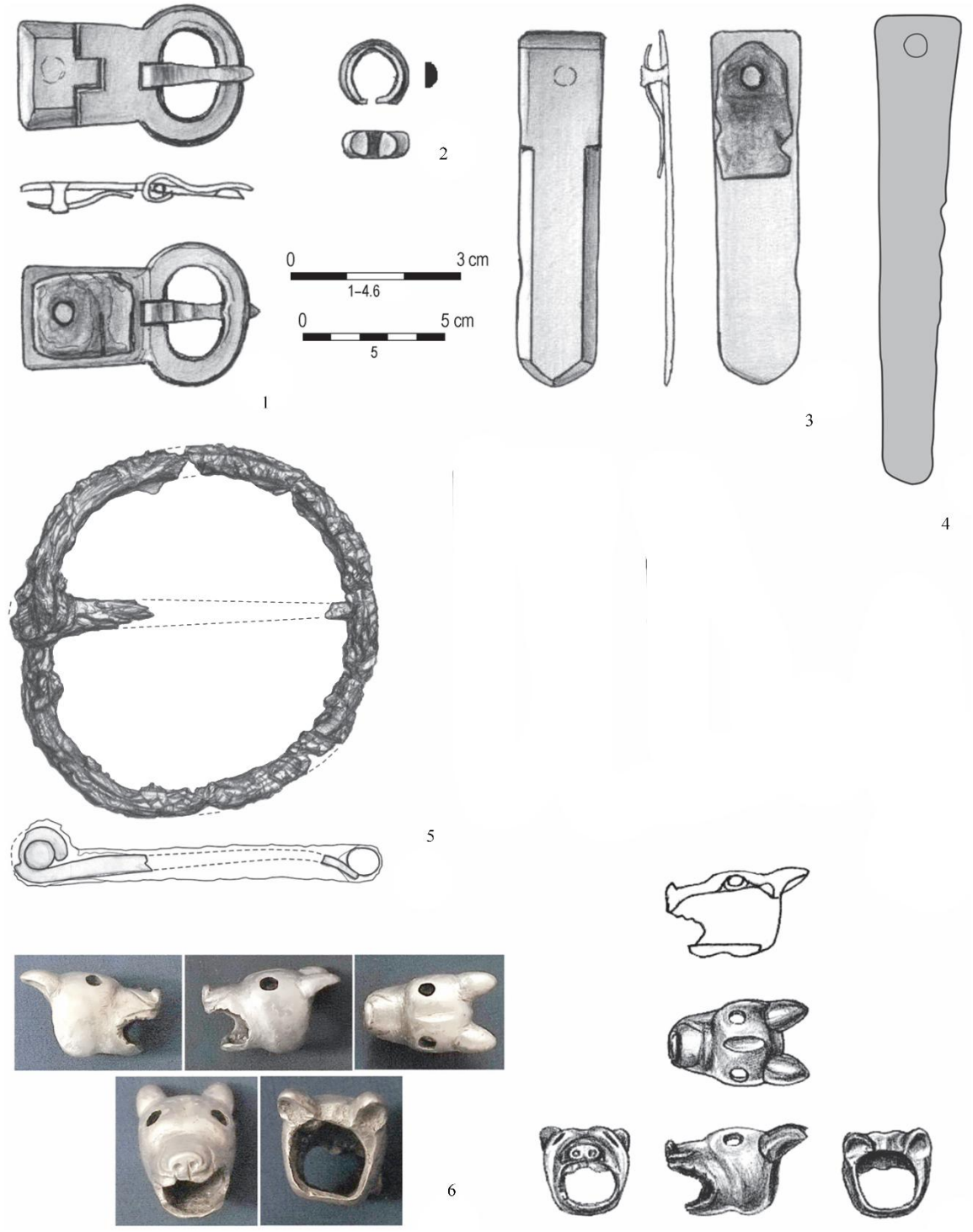


Fig. 125. Orlovka-Kartal G298 (after Bruyako et al. 2017, 2018)



Fig. 126. Orlovka-Kartal G298 (after Bruyako et al. 2017, 2018)

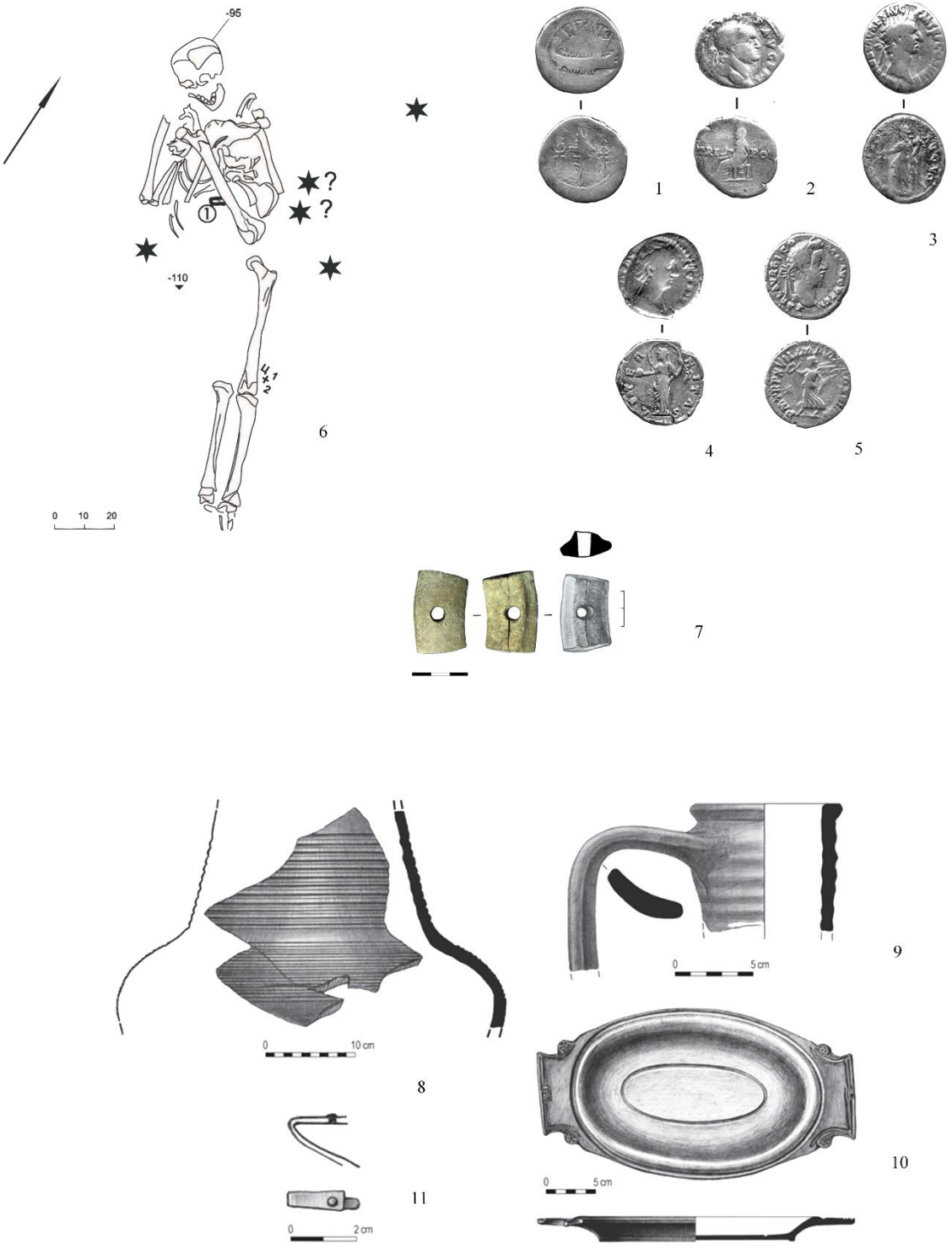


Fig. 127. Orlovka-Kartal G537 and Trench (after Bruyako, Nosova 2021)

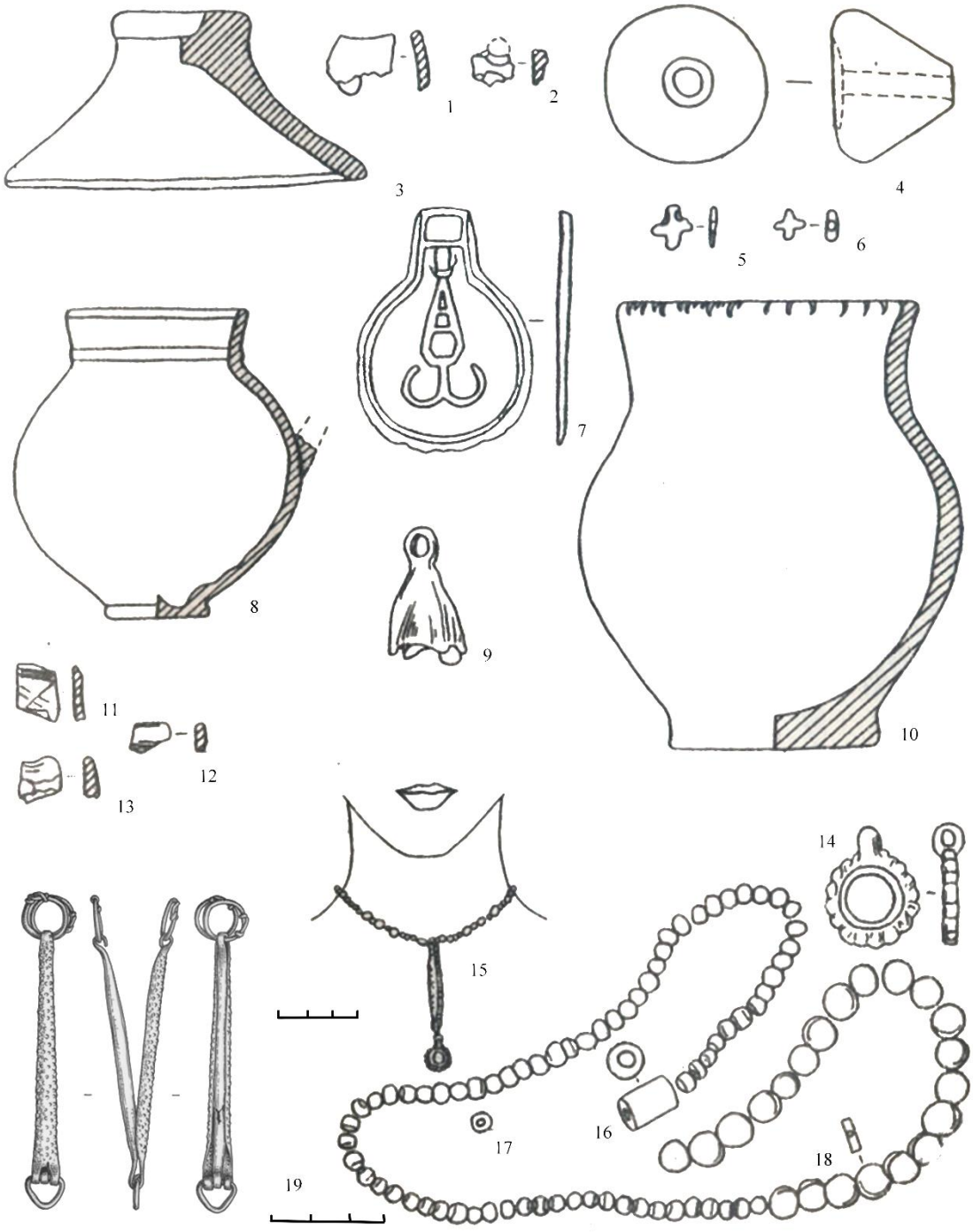


Fig. 128. Pașcani DG1 (after Grosu 1983)

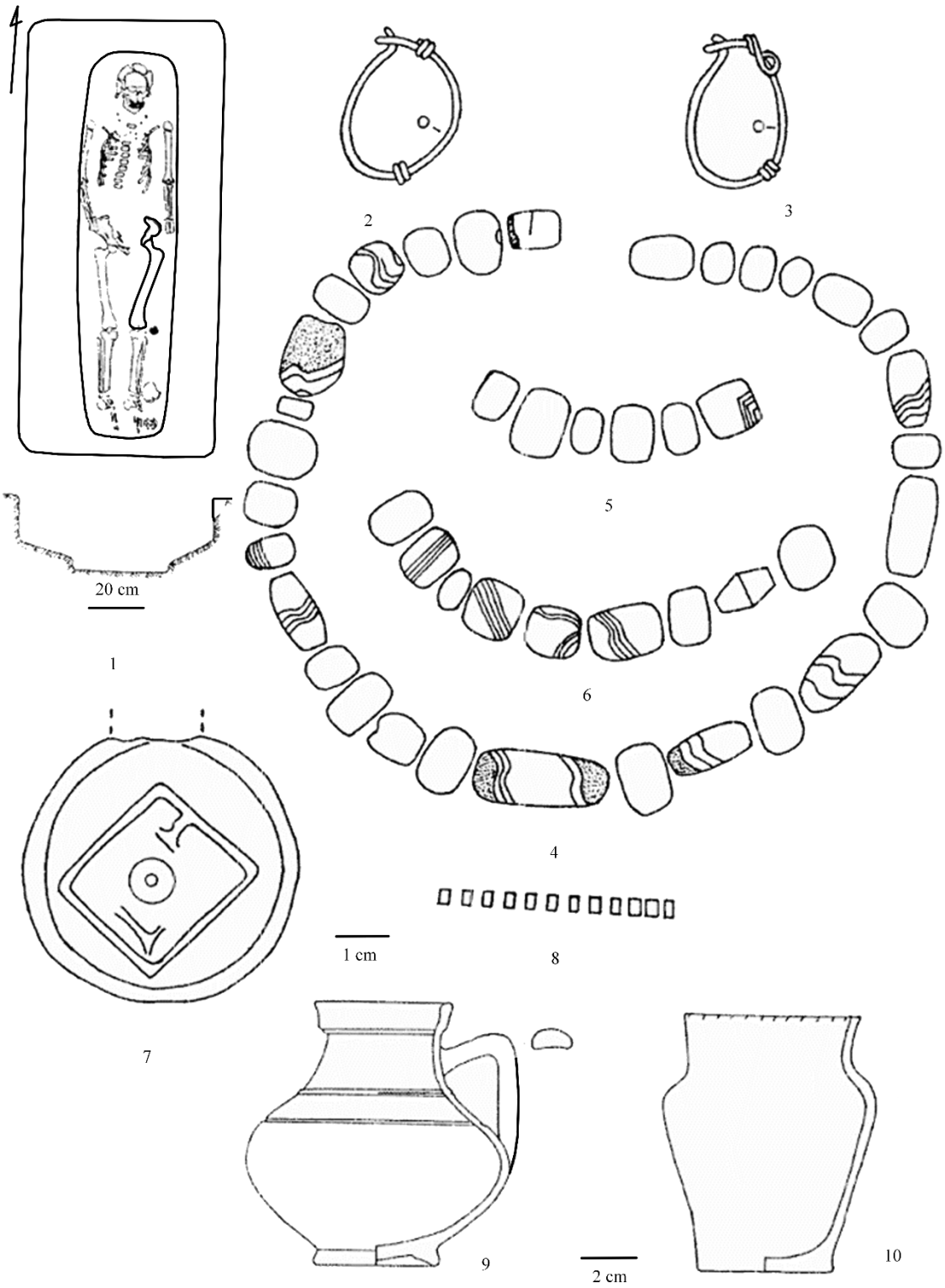


Fig. 129. Pererîta T2G13 (after Kurchatov 2006)



Fig. 130. Pervomaisc T1G1 (after Rikman, Hîncu 1970)



Fig. 131. Pervomaisc T1G1 (after Rikman, Hîncu 1970)

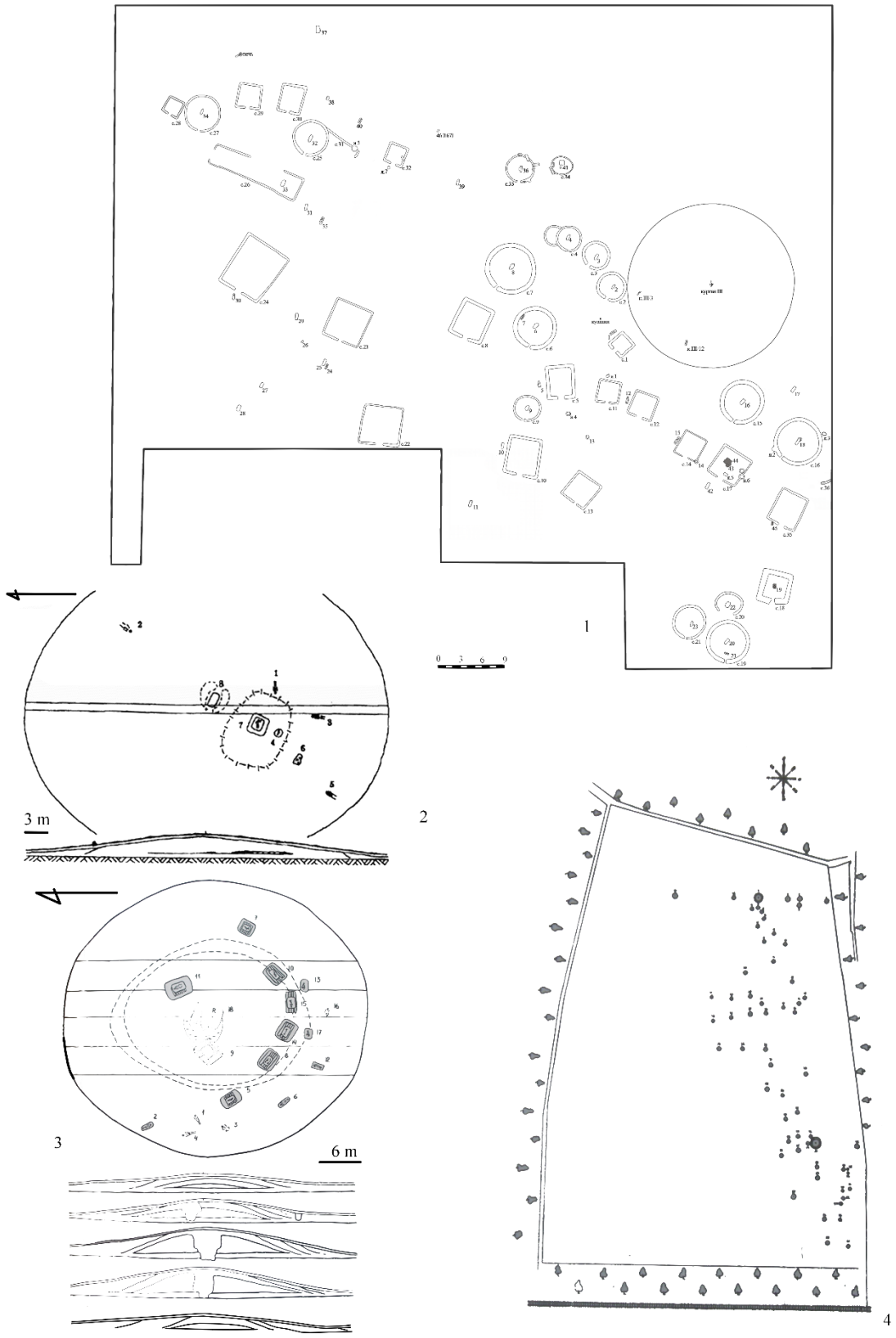


Fig. 132. Petrești plan, T3G3, T3G12 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023) Polevoe-Turlaki plan (after Chernyakov et al., 1983b) Petrești T3 Podoima T3 (after Bubulich, Haheu 2002)

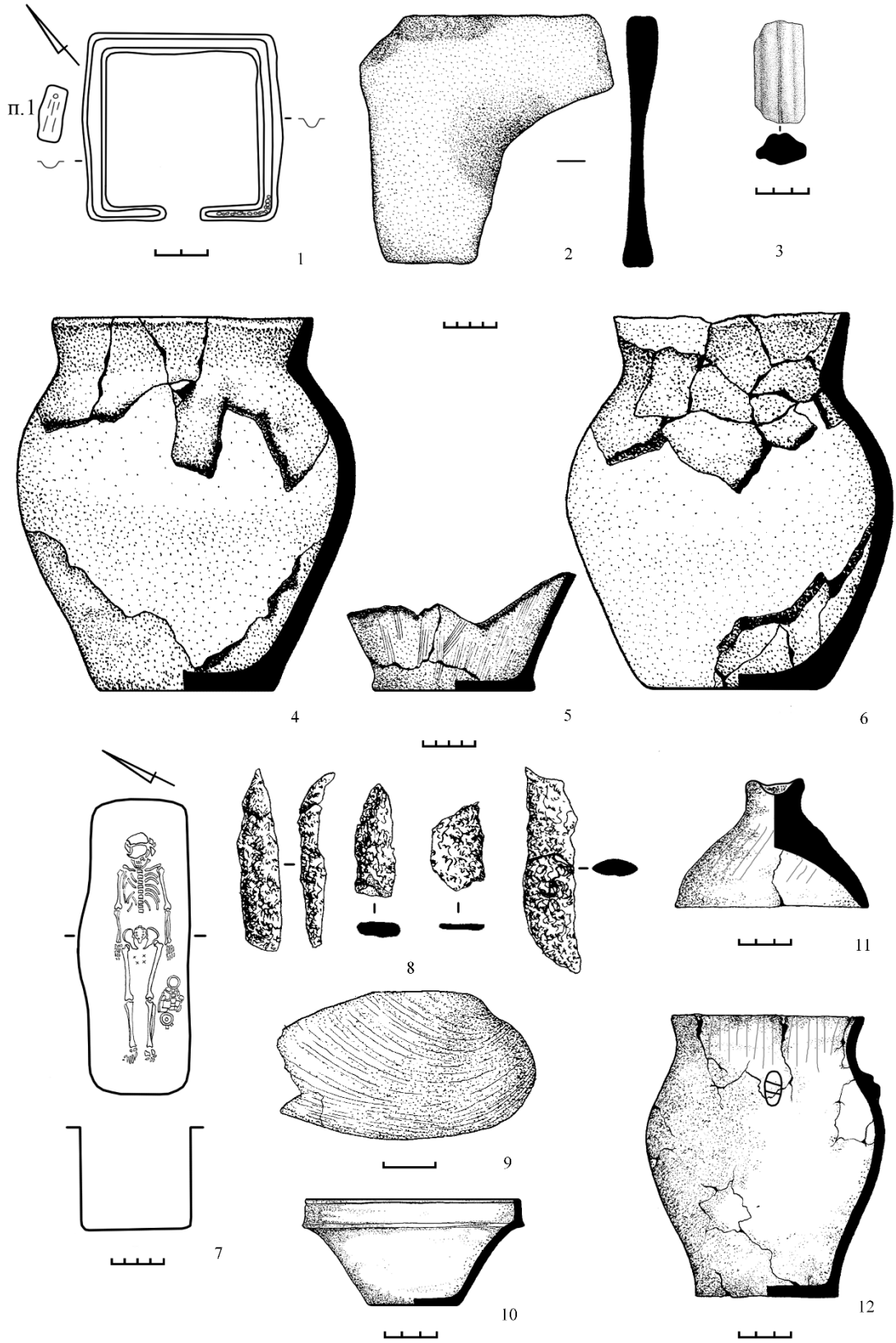


Fig. 133. Petrești Trench 1, G1 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

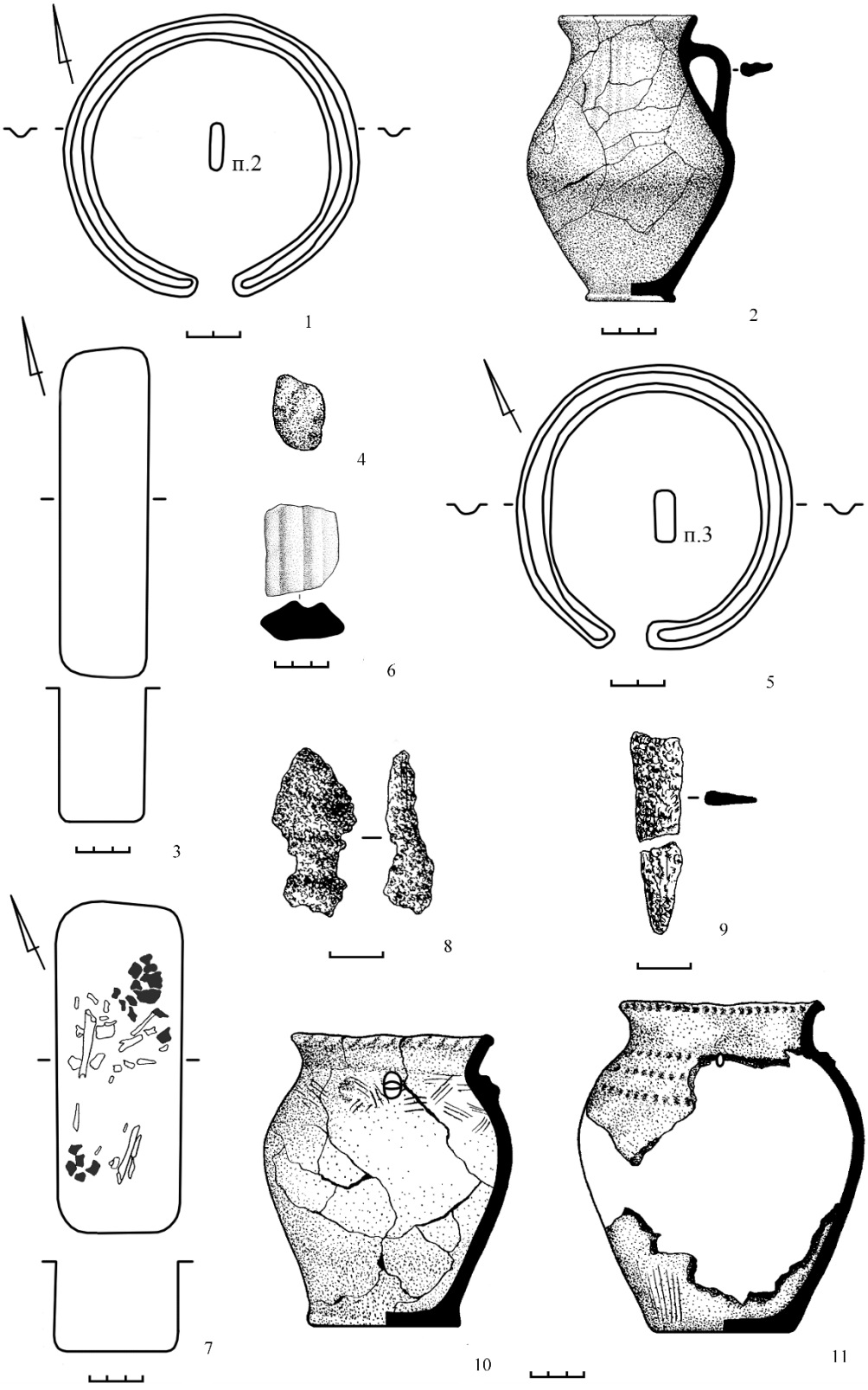


Fig. 134. Petrești Trench 2-3, G2-3 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

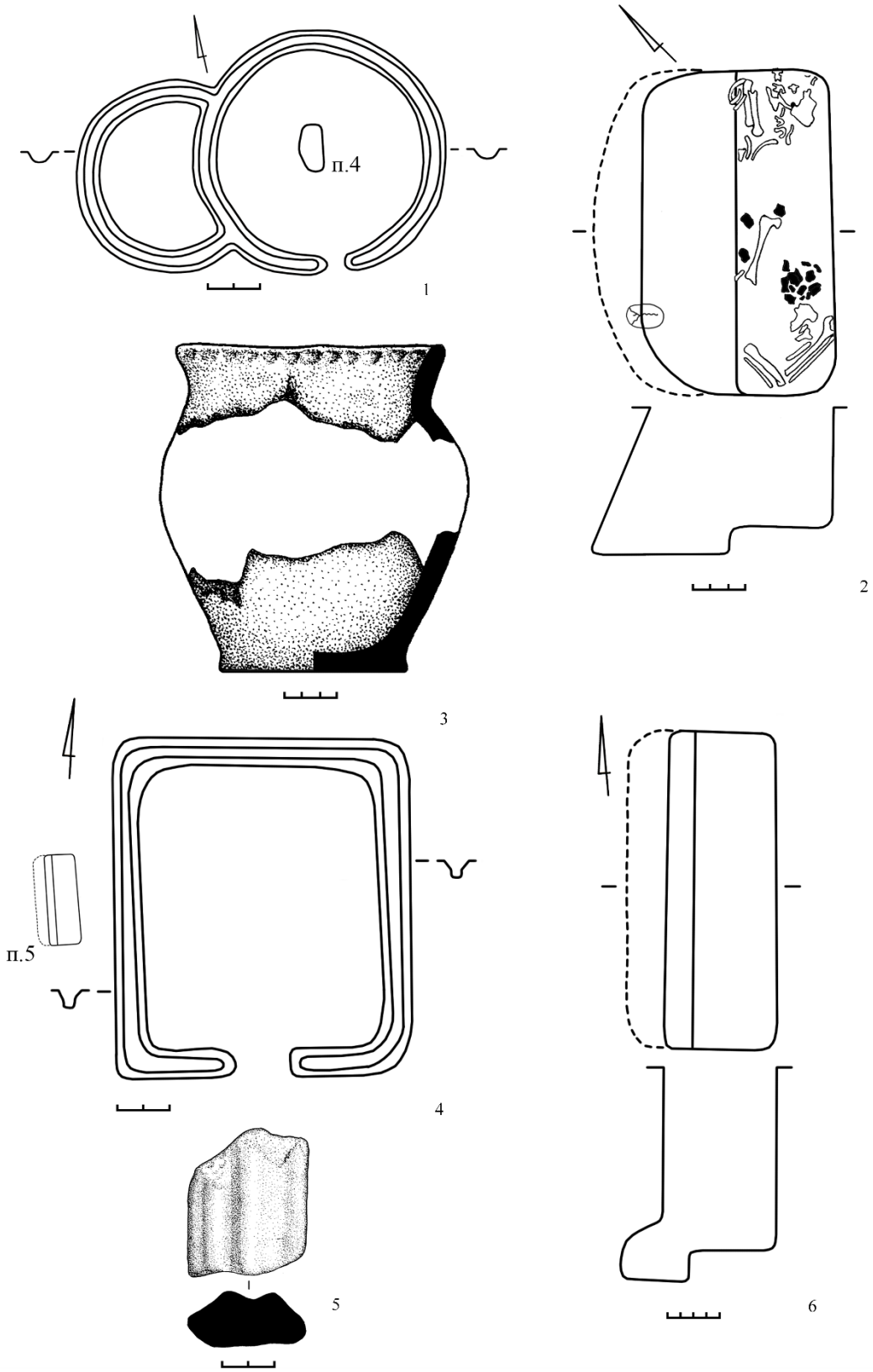


Fig. 135. Petrești Trench 4-5, G4-5 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

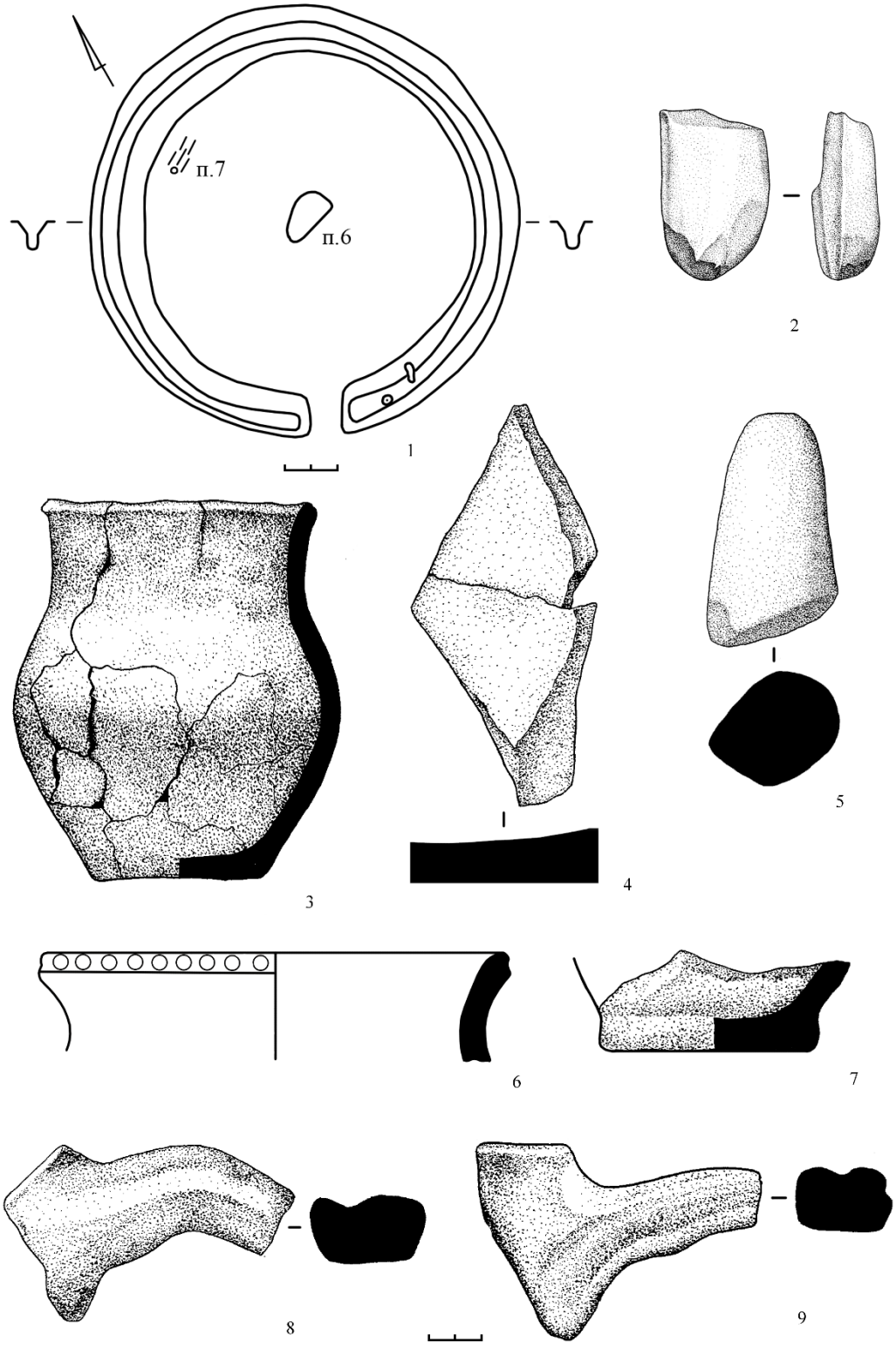


Fig. 136. Petrești Trench 6 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

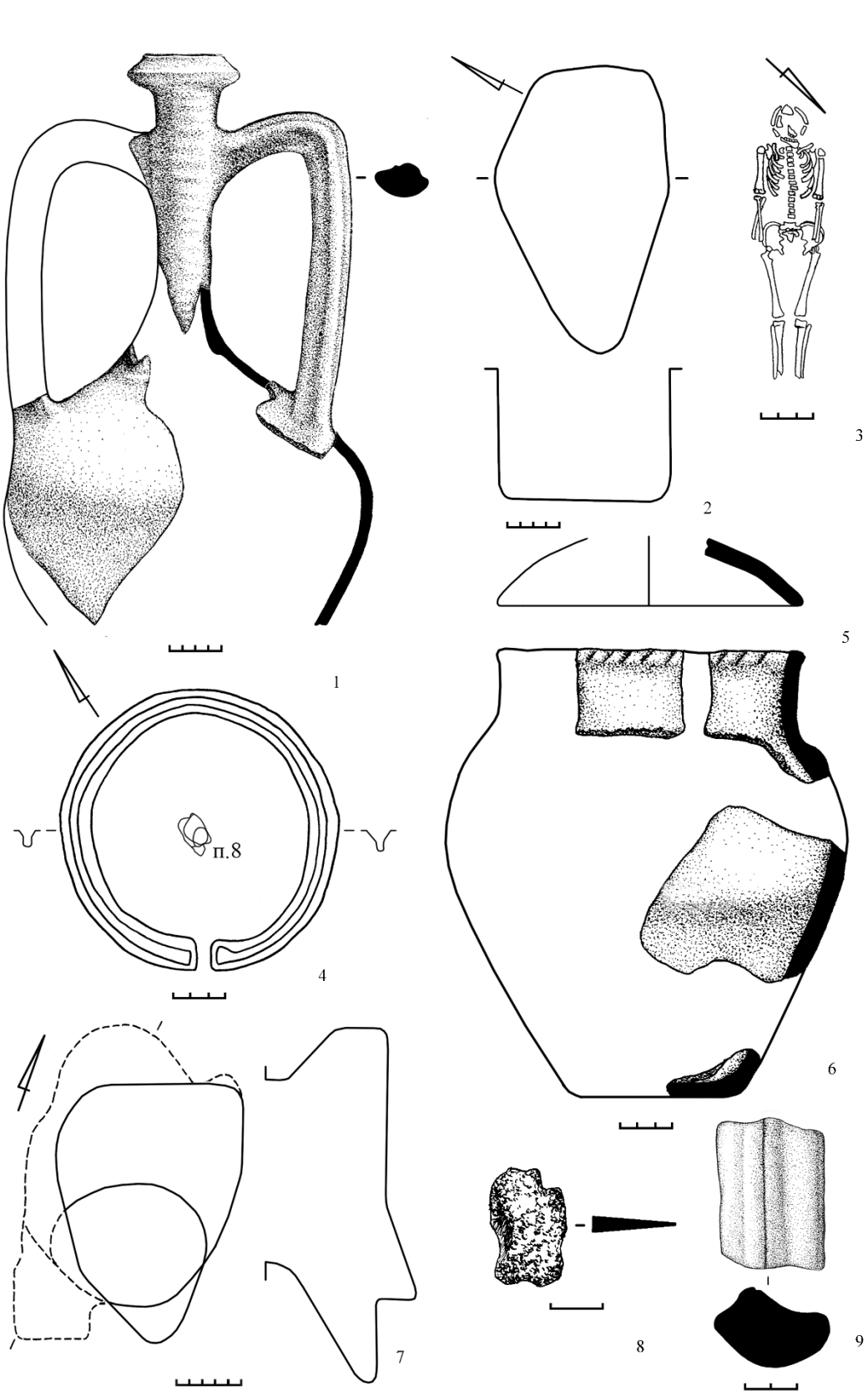


Fig. 137. Petrești Trench 6-7, G6-8 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

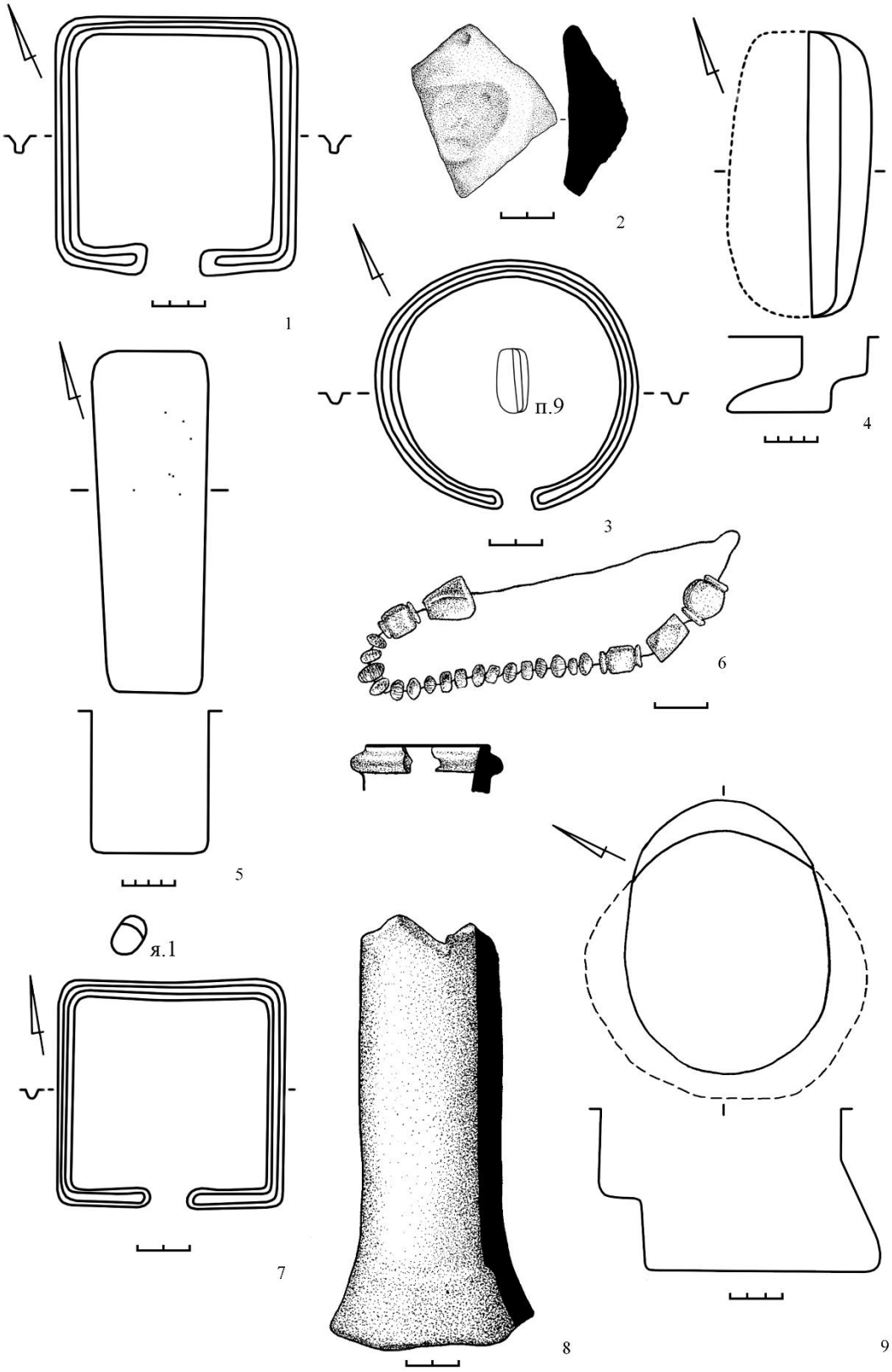


Fig. 138. Petrești Trench 8-9, 11, G9, G11, Pit 1 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

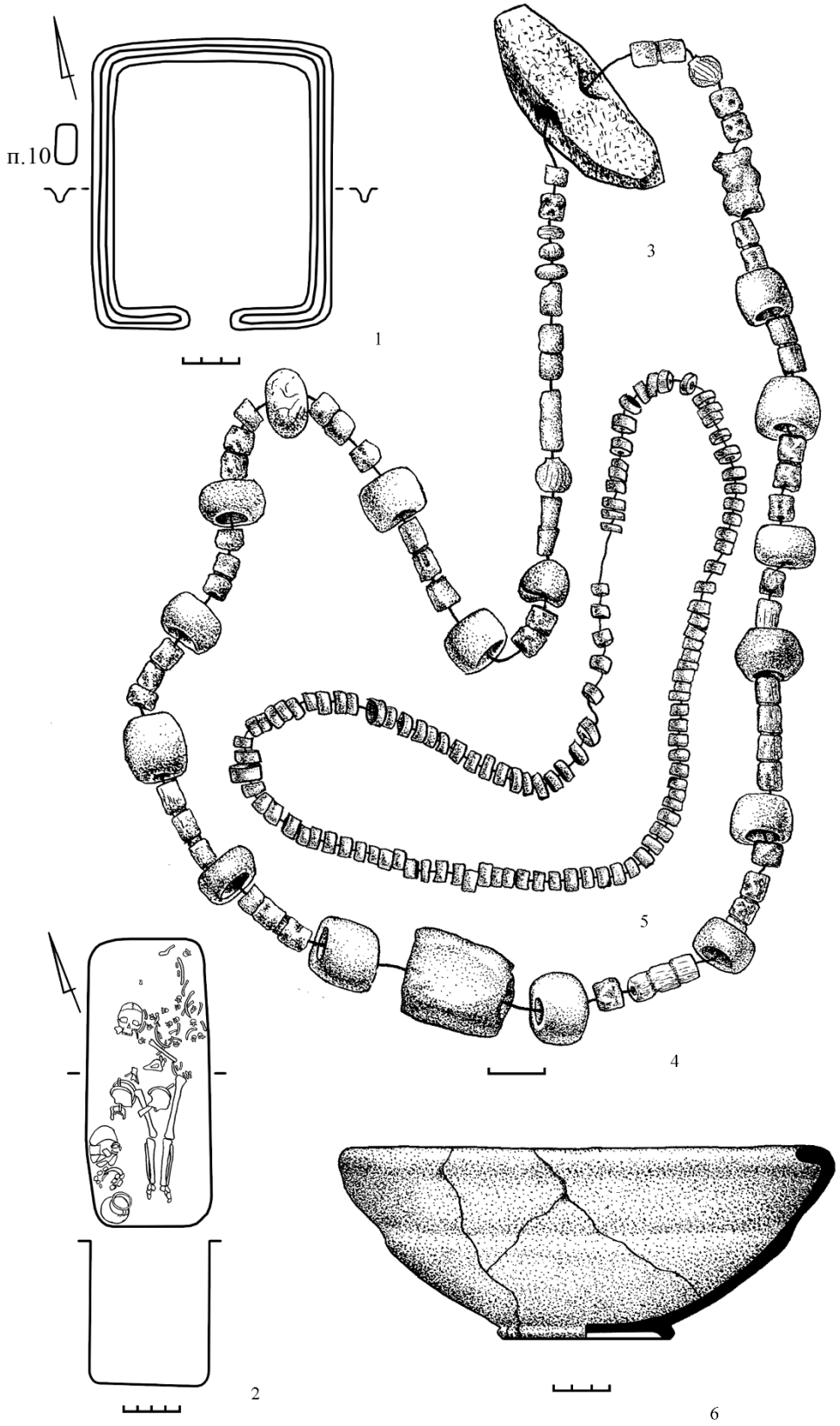


Fig. 139. Petrești Trench 10, G10 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

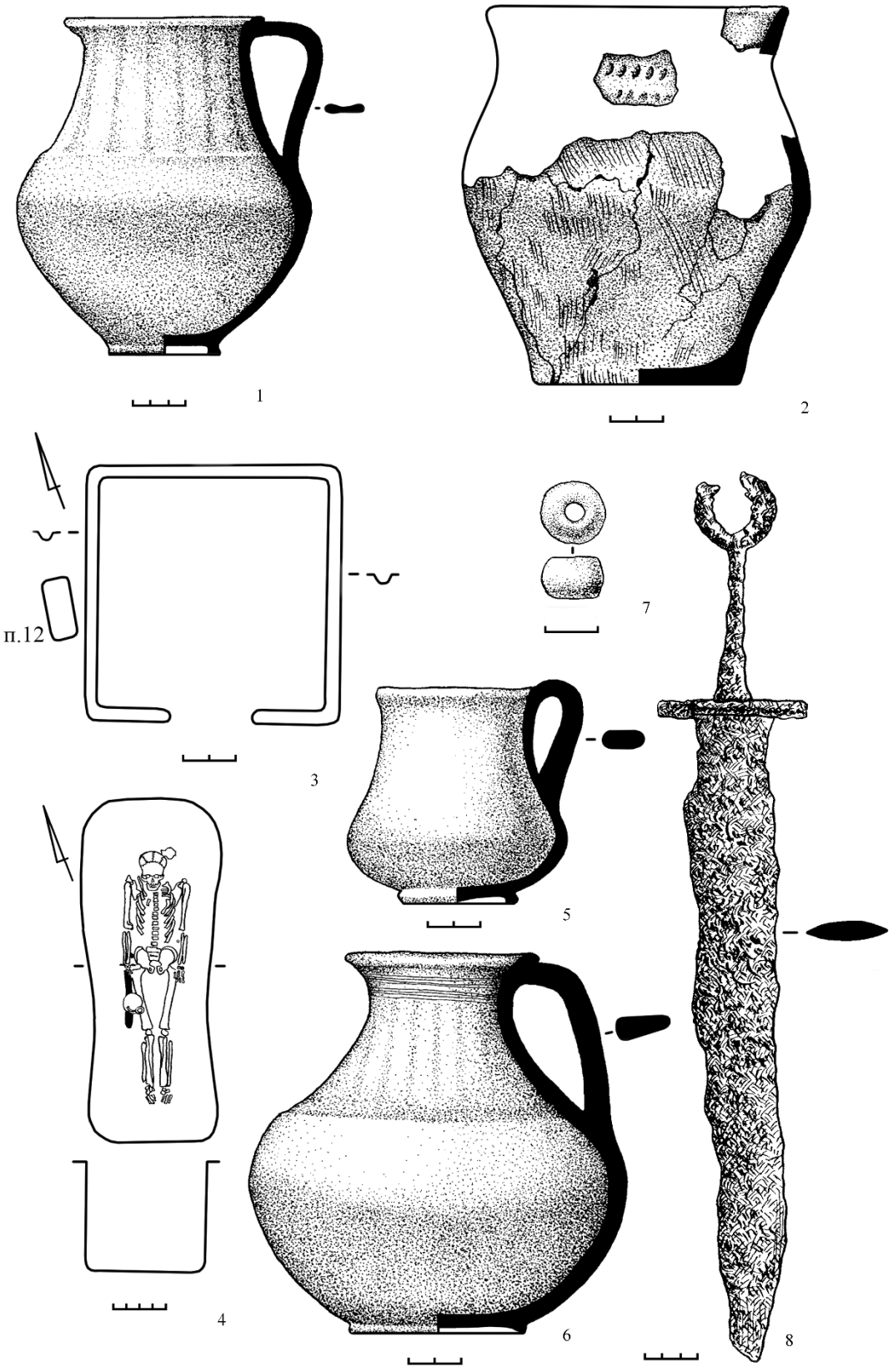


Fig. 140. Petrești G10, G12, Trench 12 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

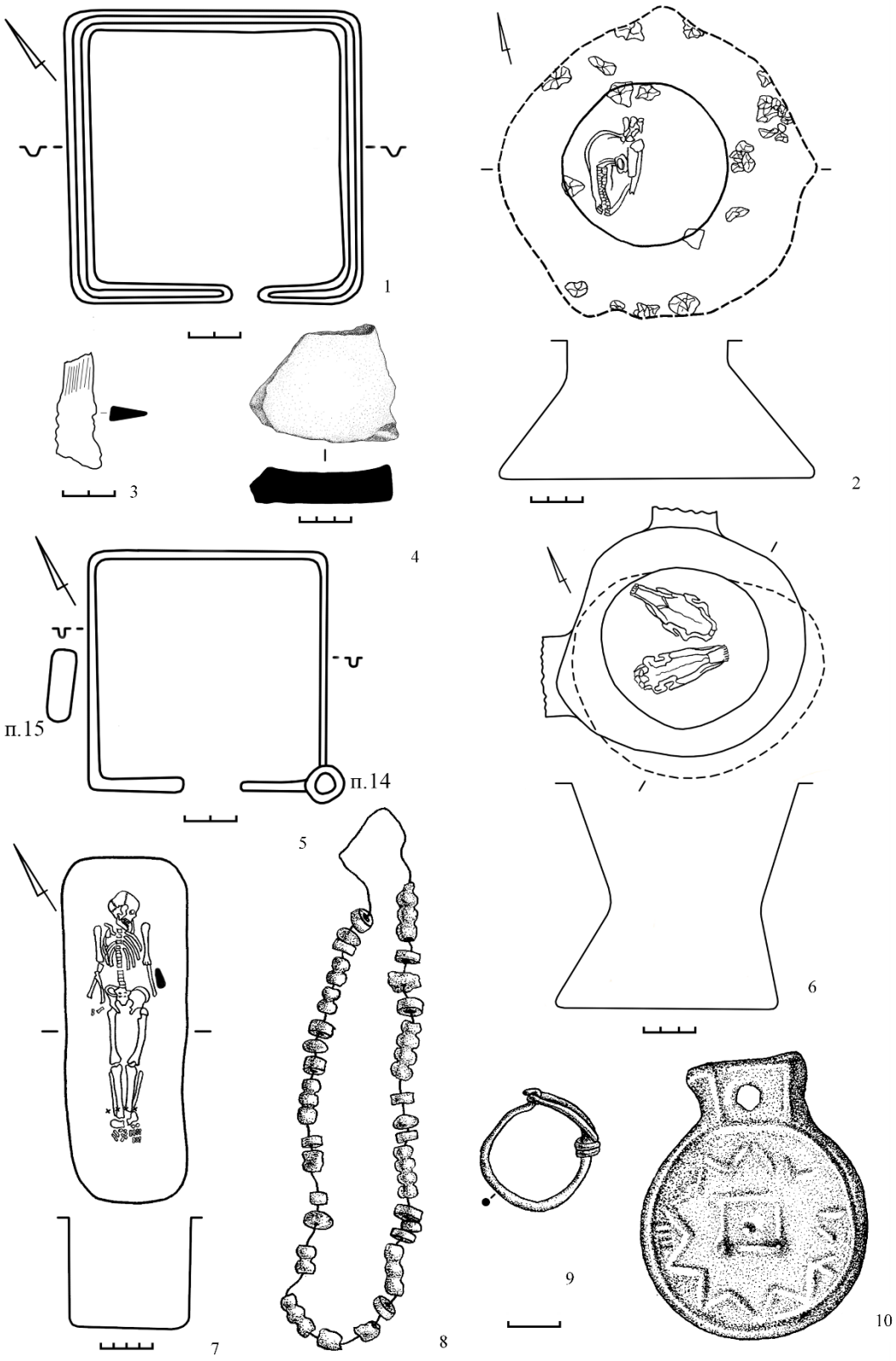


Fig. 141. Petrești Trench 13-14, G13-15 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

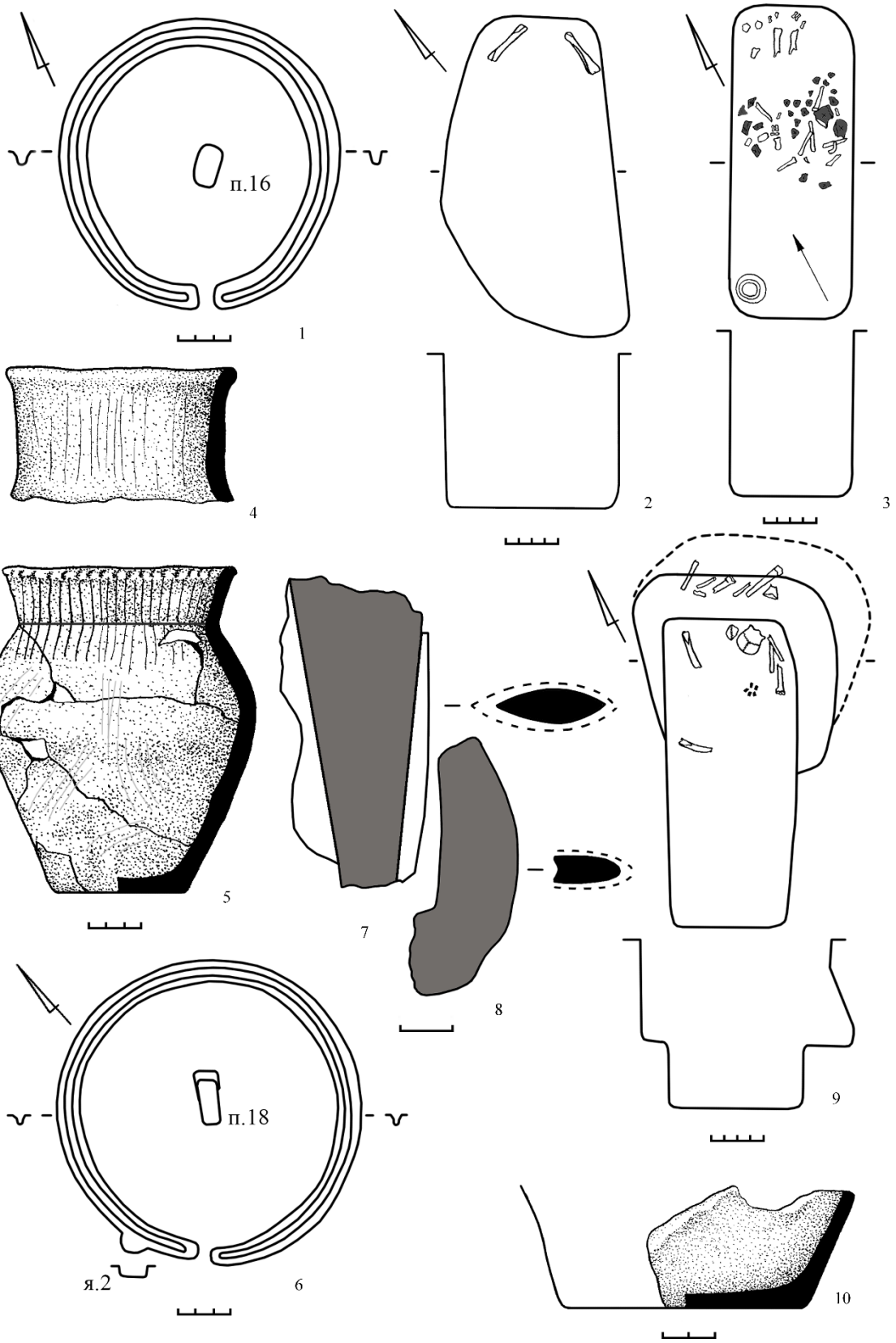


Fig. 142. Petrești Trench 15-16, G16-18 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

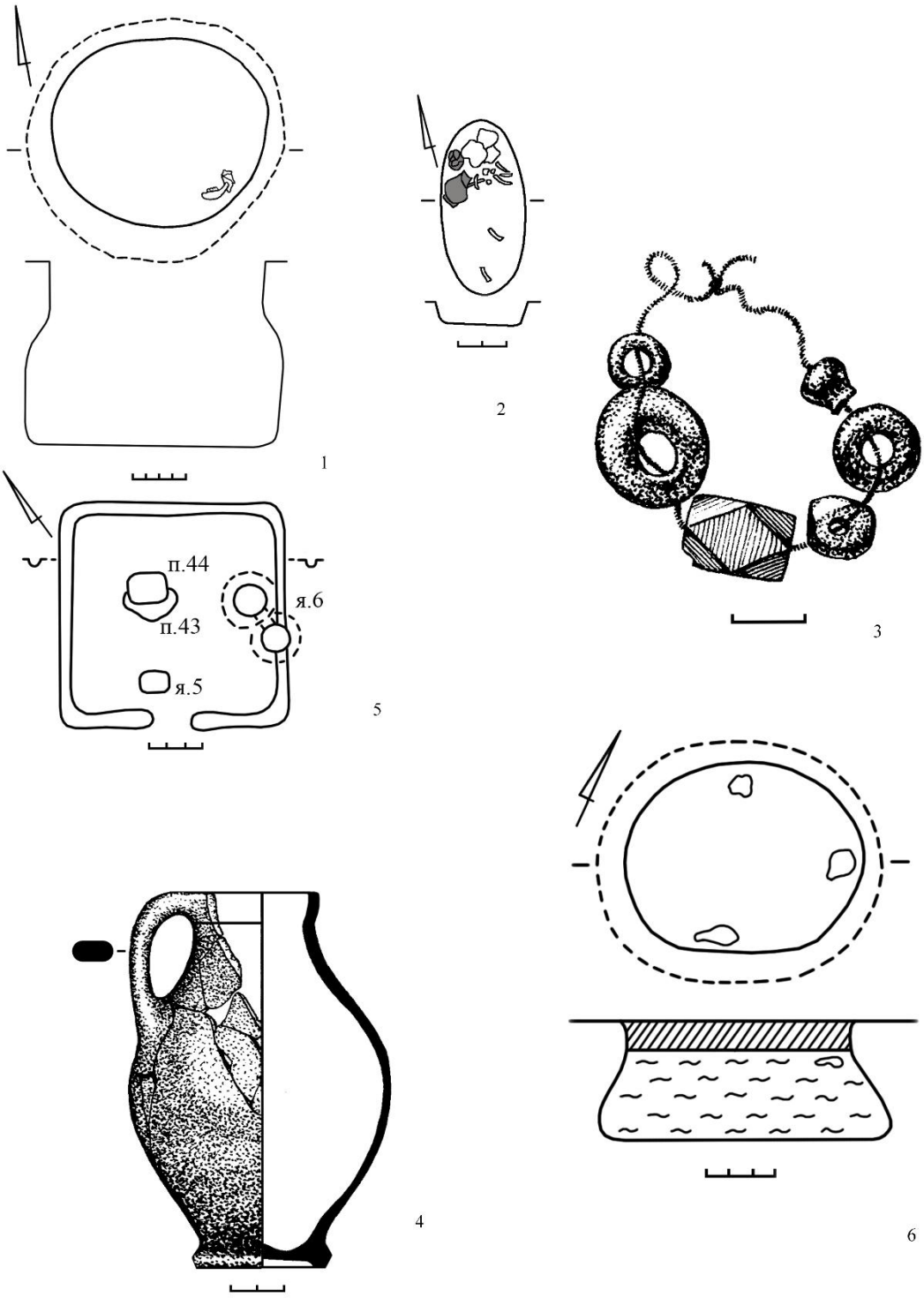


Fig. 143. Petrești Pit 3-4, G167, Trench 17 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

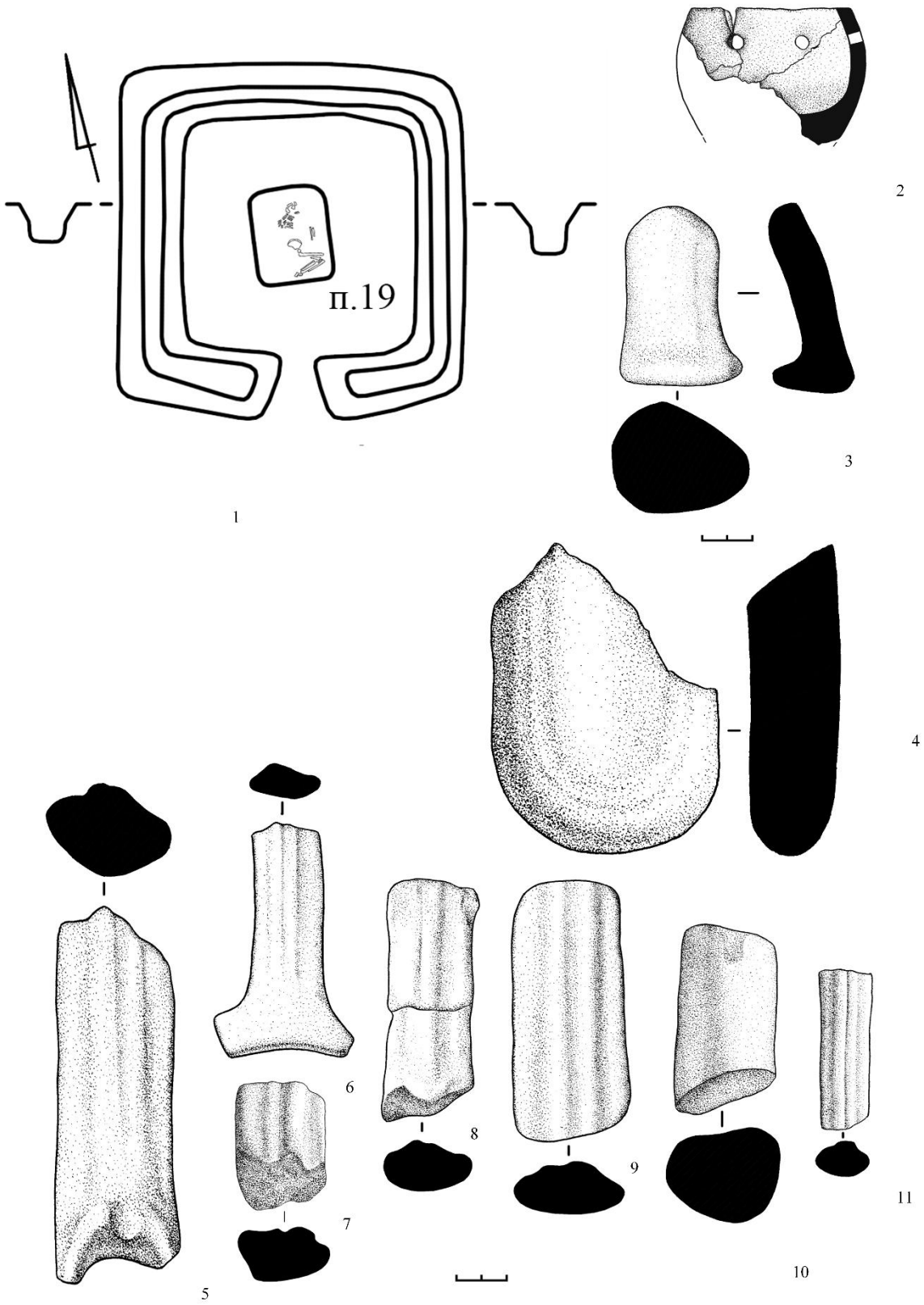


Fig. 144. Petrești Trench 18 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

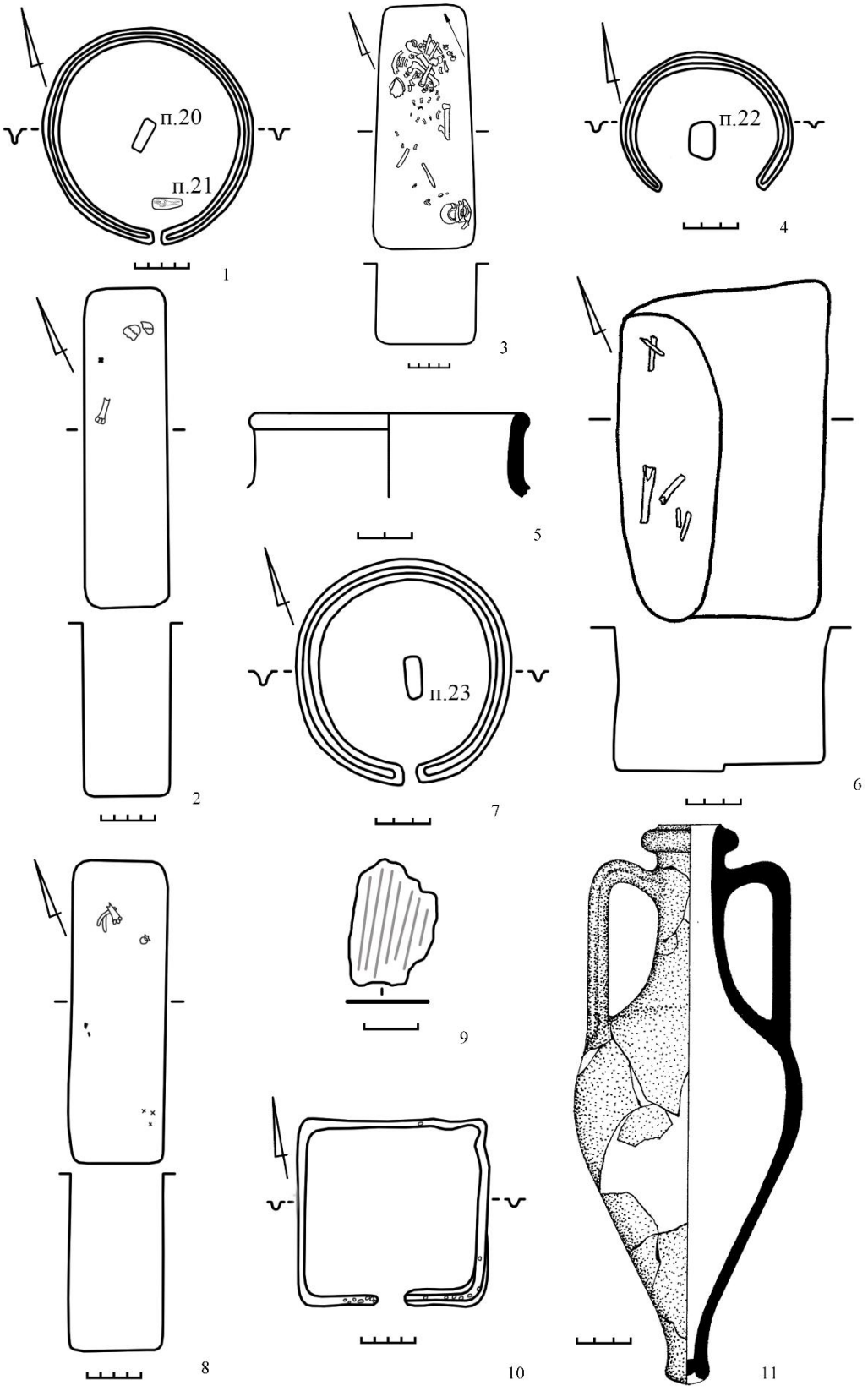


Fig. 145. Petrești Trench 19-22, G20, G22, G23, G25, (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

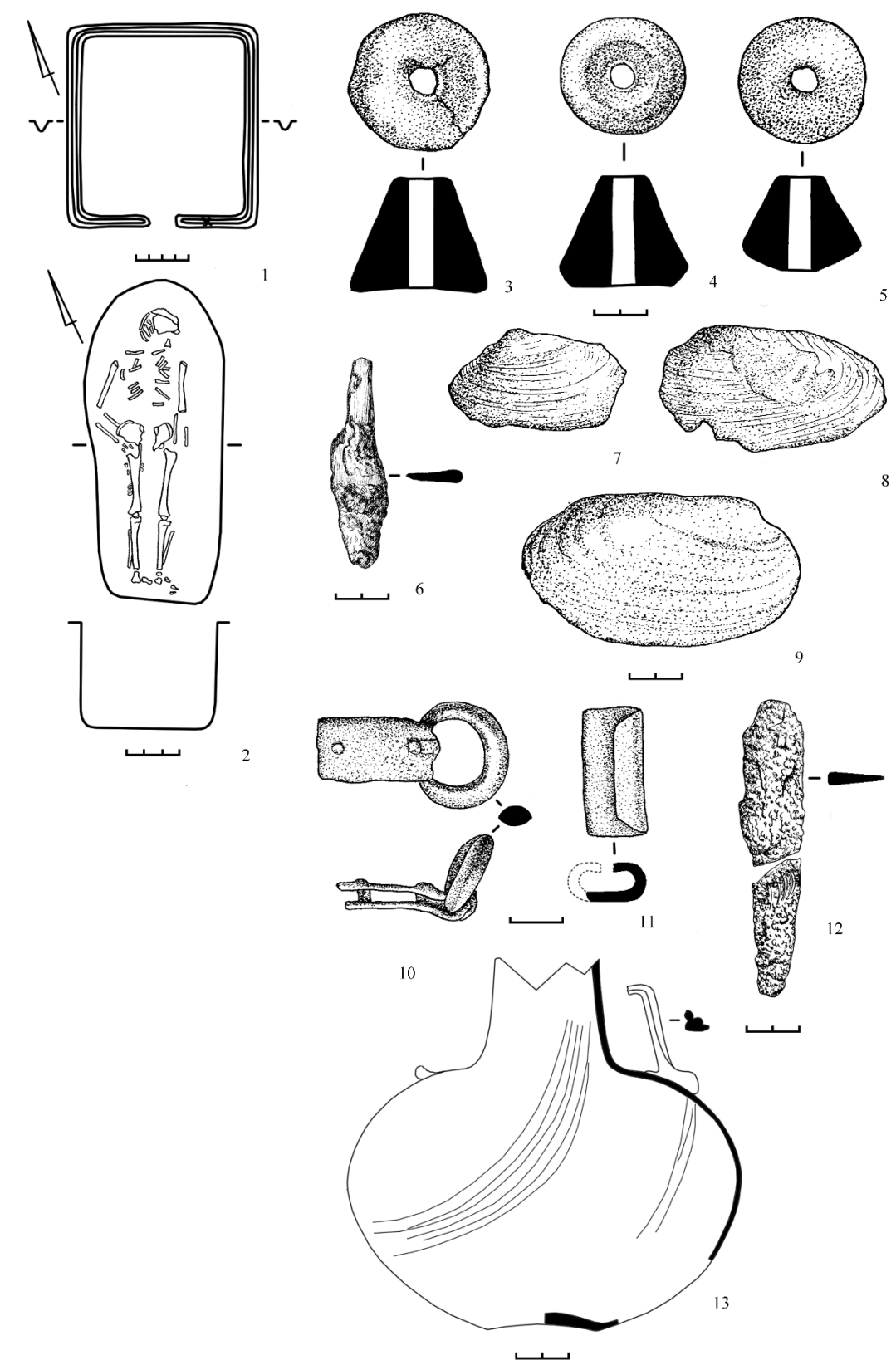


Fig. 146. Petrești Trench 23, G24-25 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

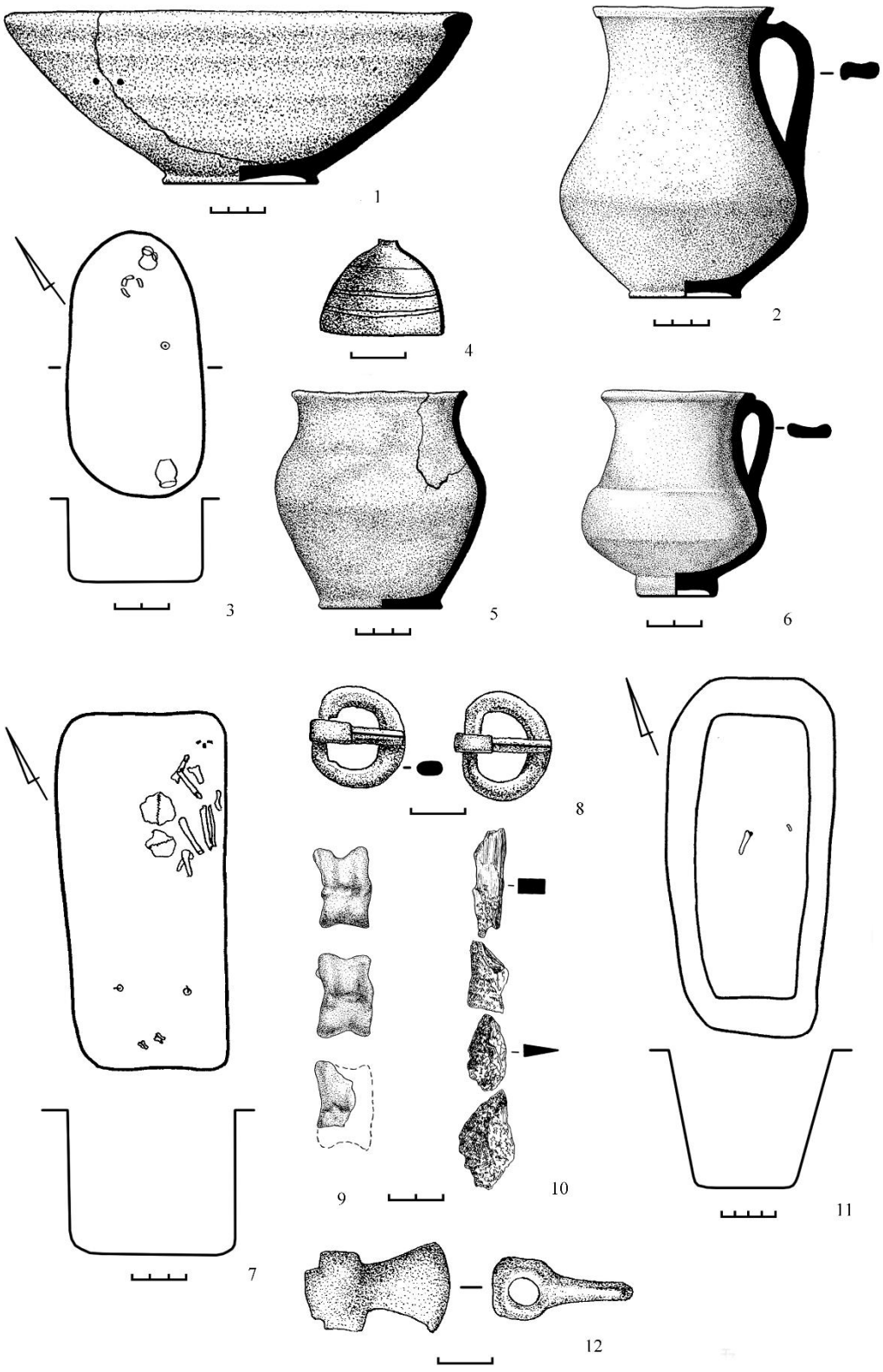


Fig. 147. Petrești G25-28 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

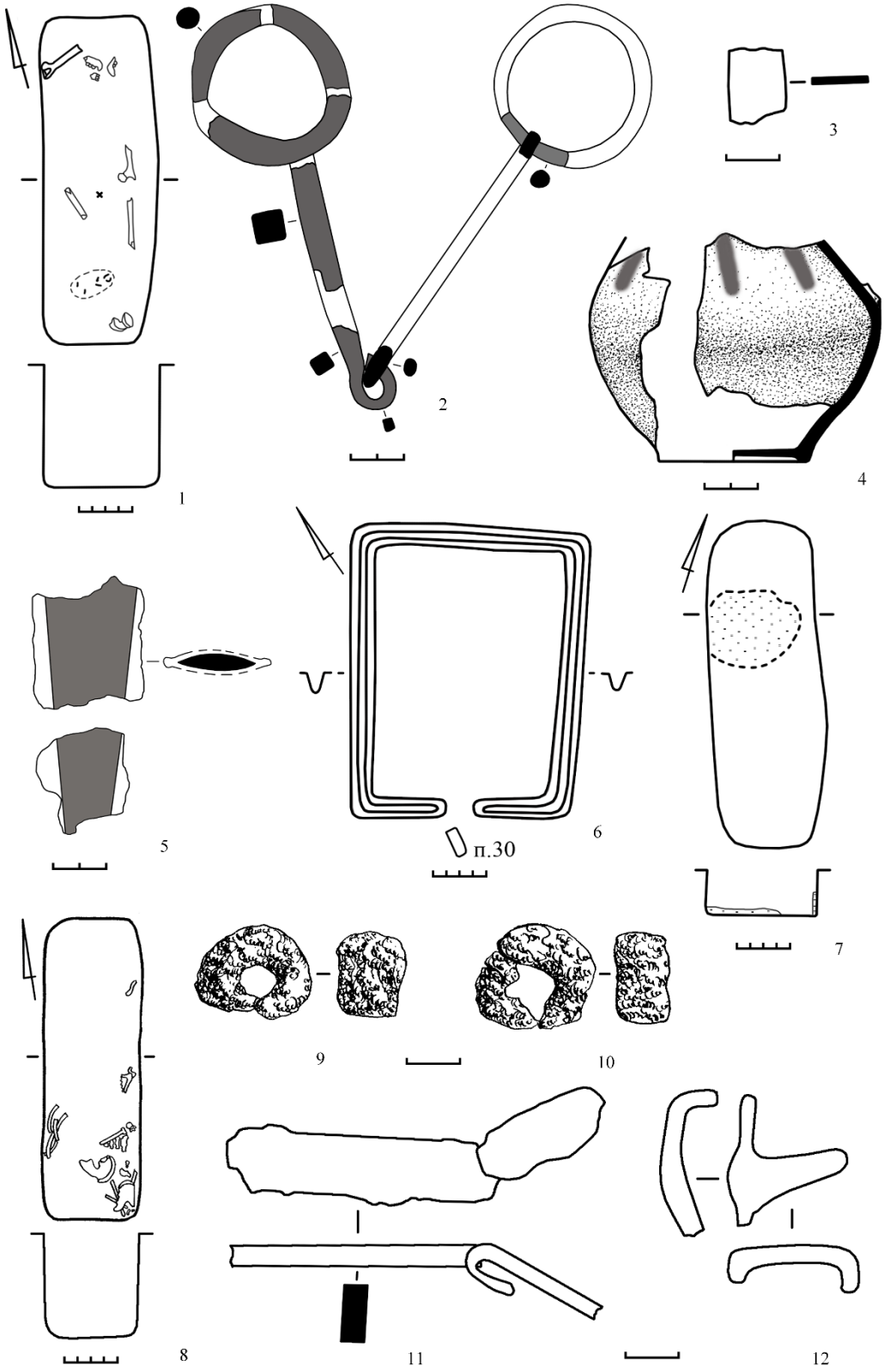


Fig. 148. Petrești G29-31, Trench 24 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

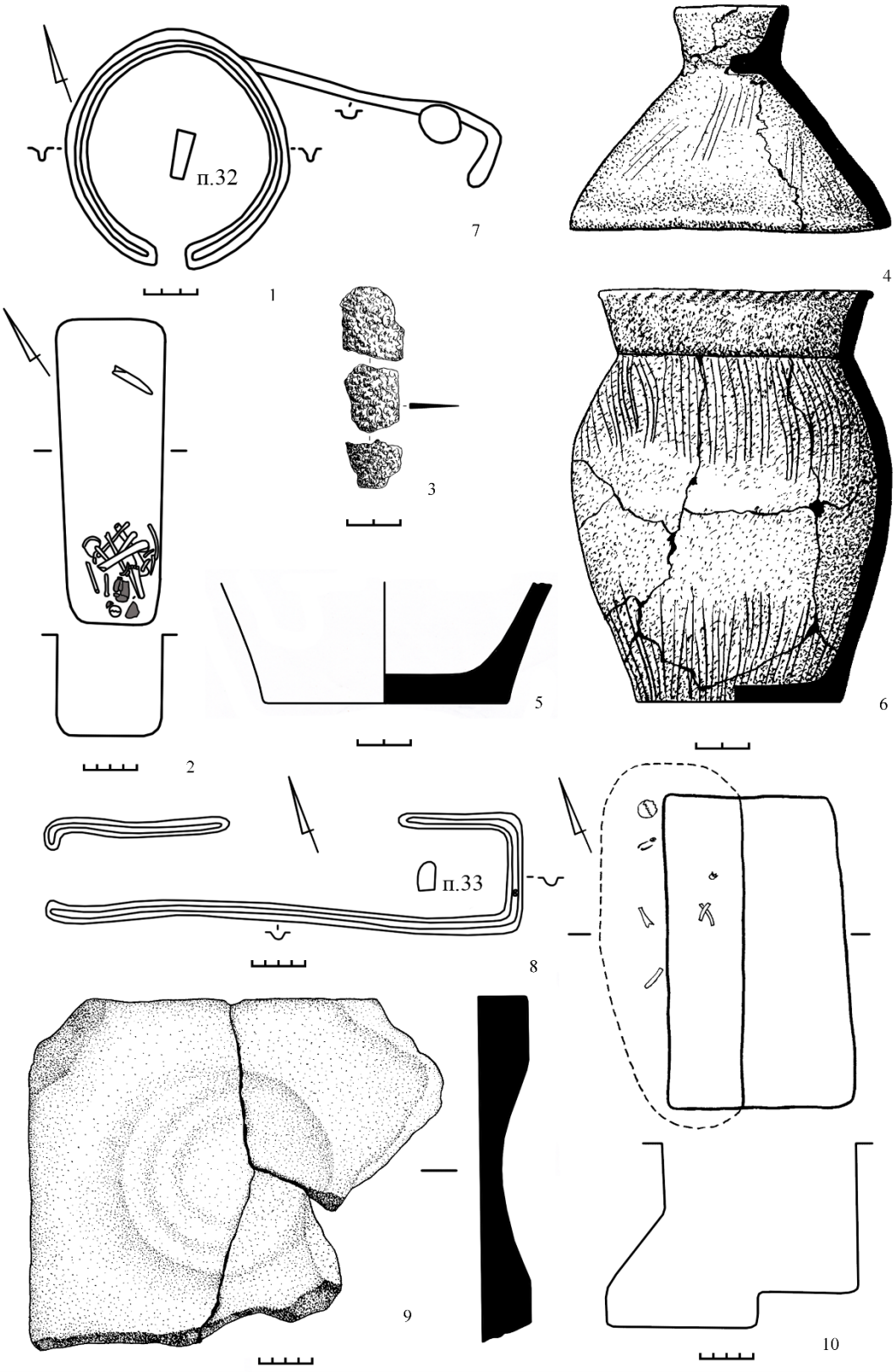


Fig. 149. Petrești Trench 25-26, 31, G32-33 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

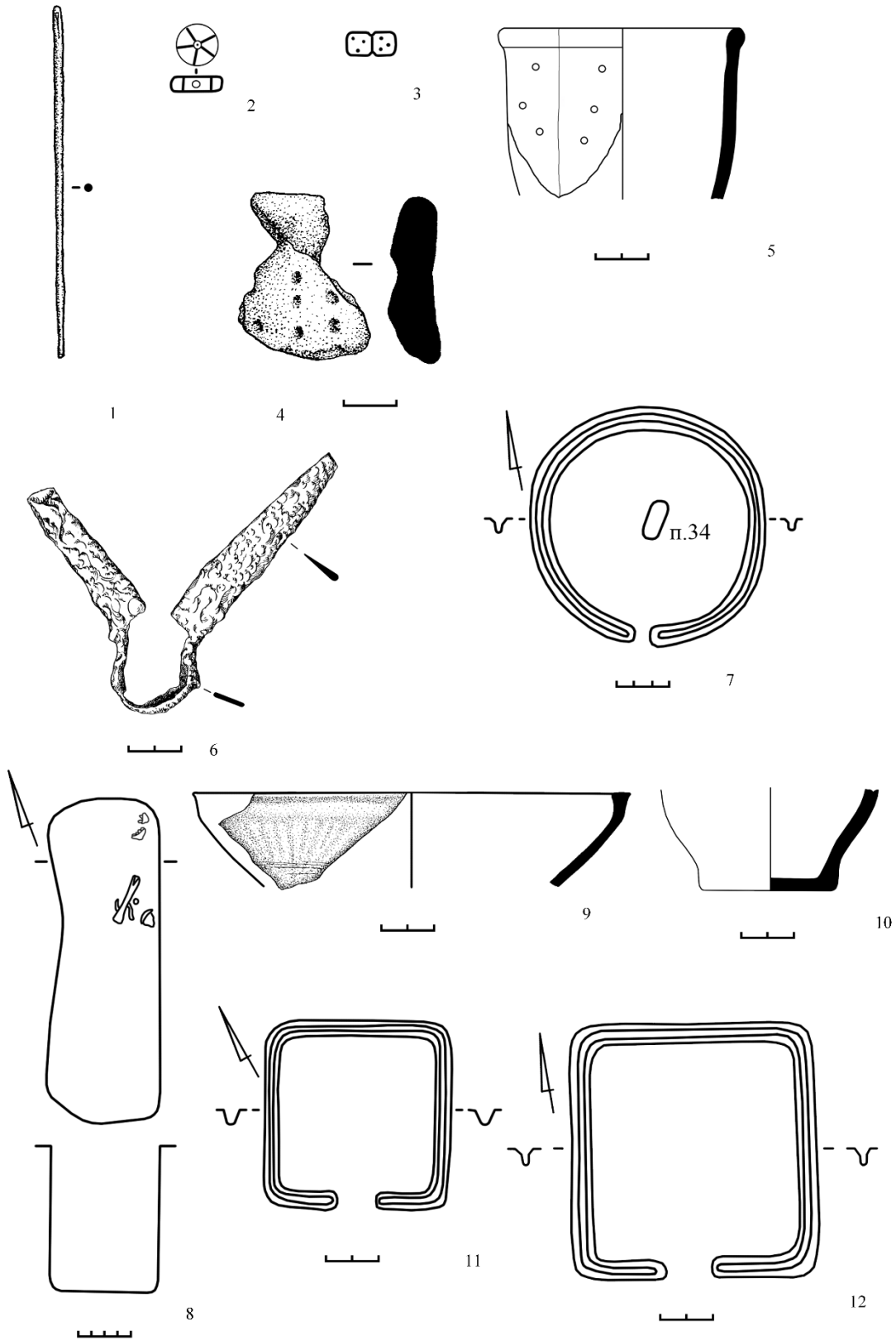


Fig. 150. Petrești G33, Trench 27-29, 34 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

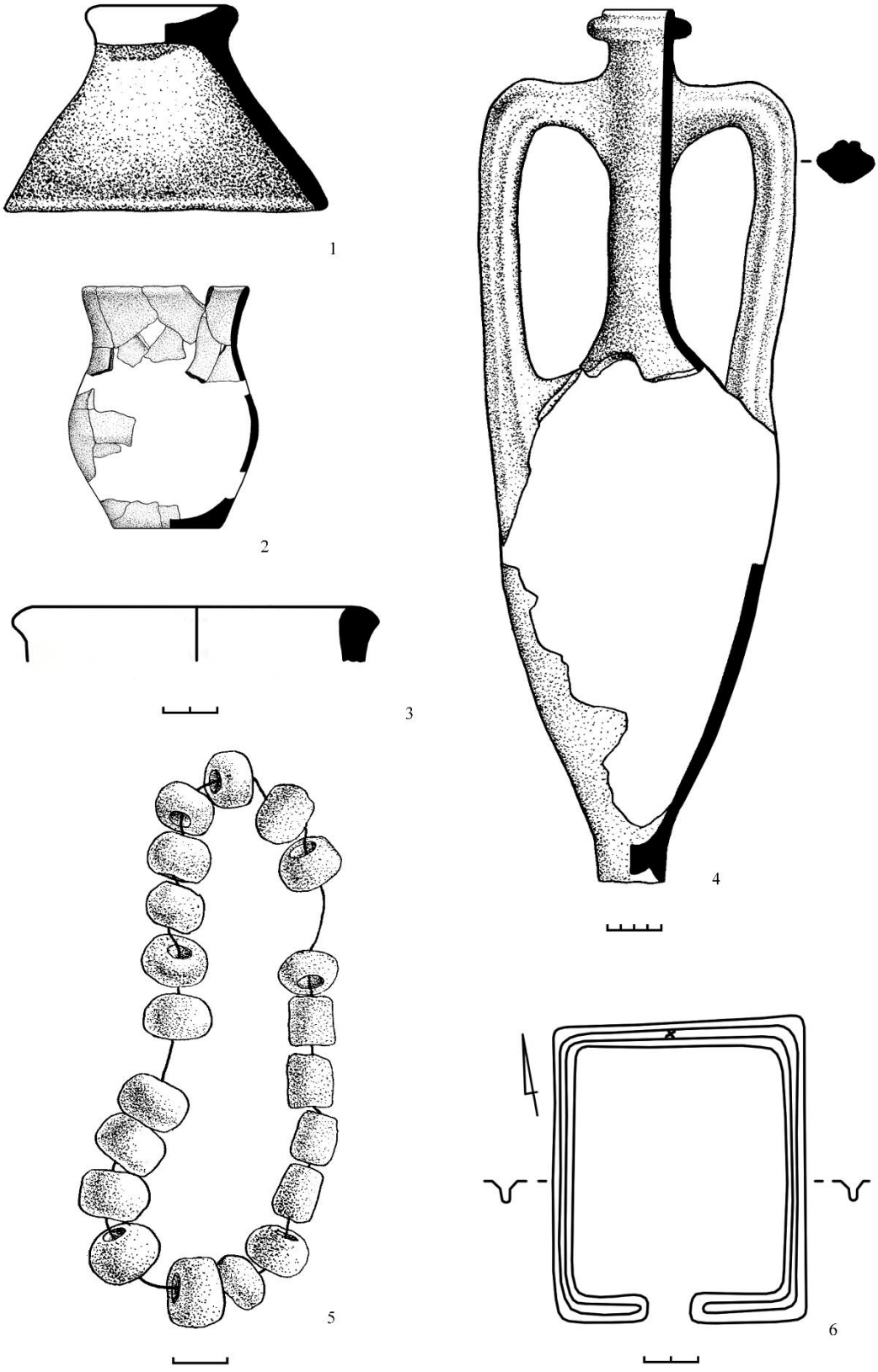


Fig. 151. Petrești Trench 29-30 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

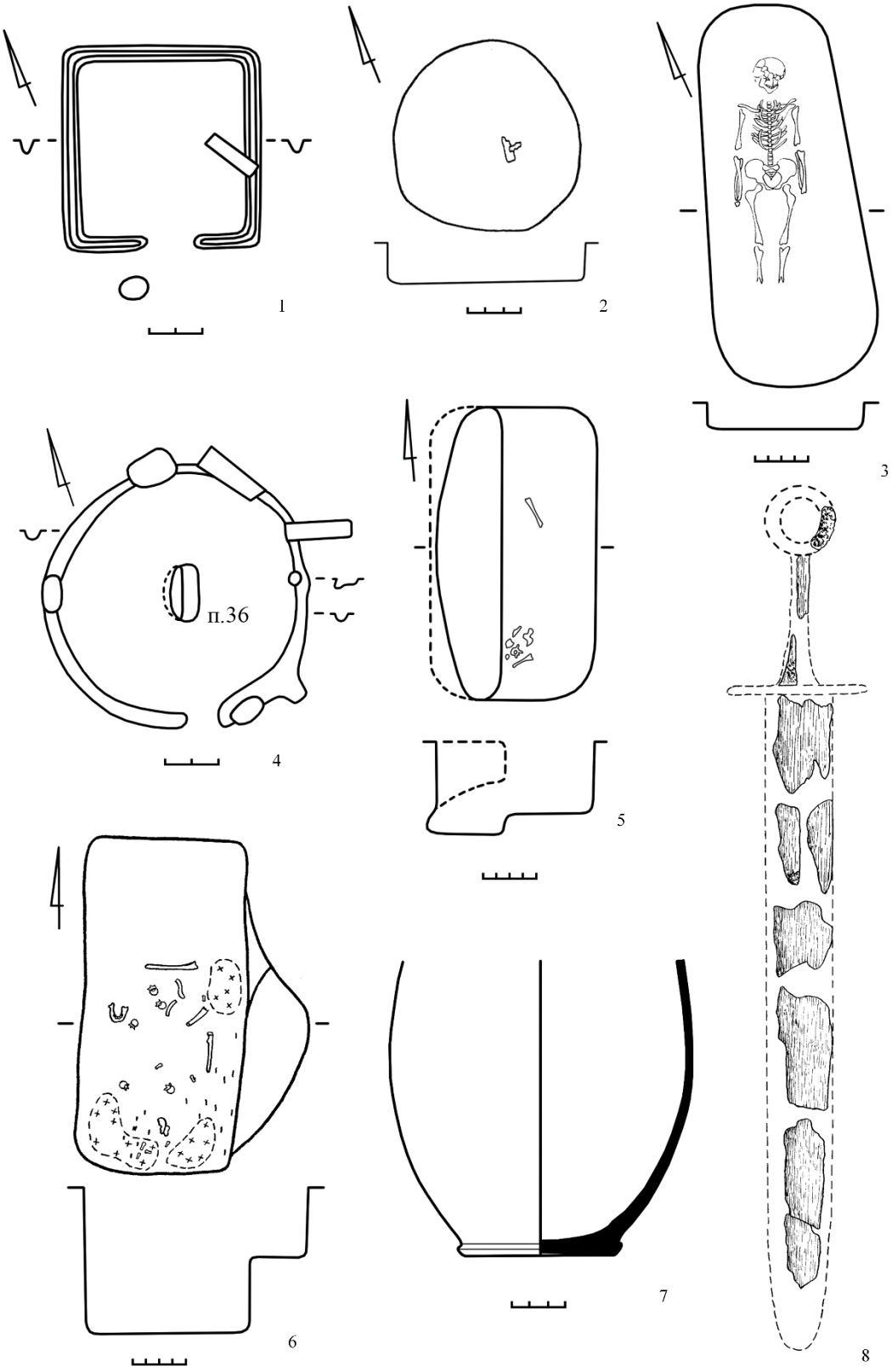


Fig. 152. Petrești Trench 32-33, Pit 7, G35-37 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

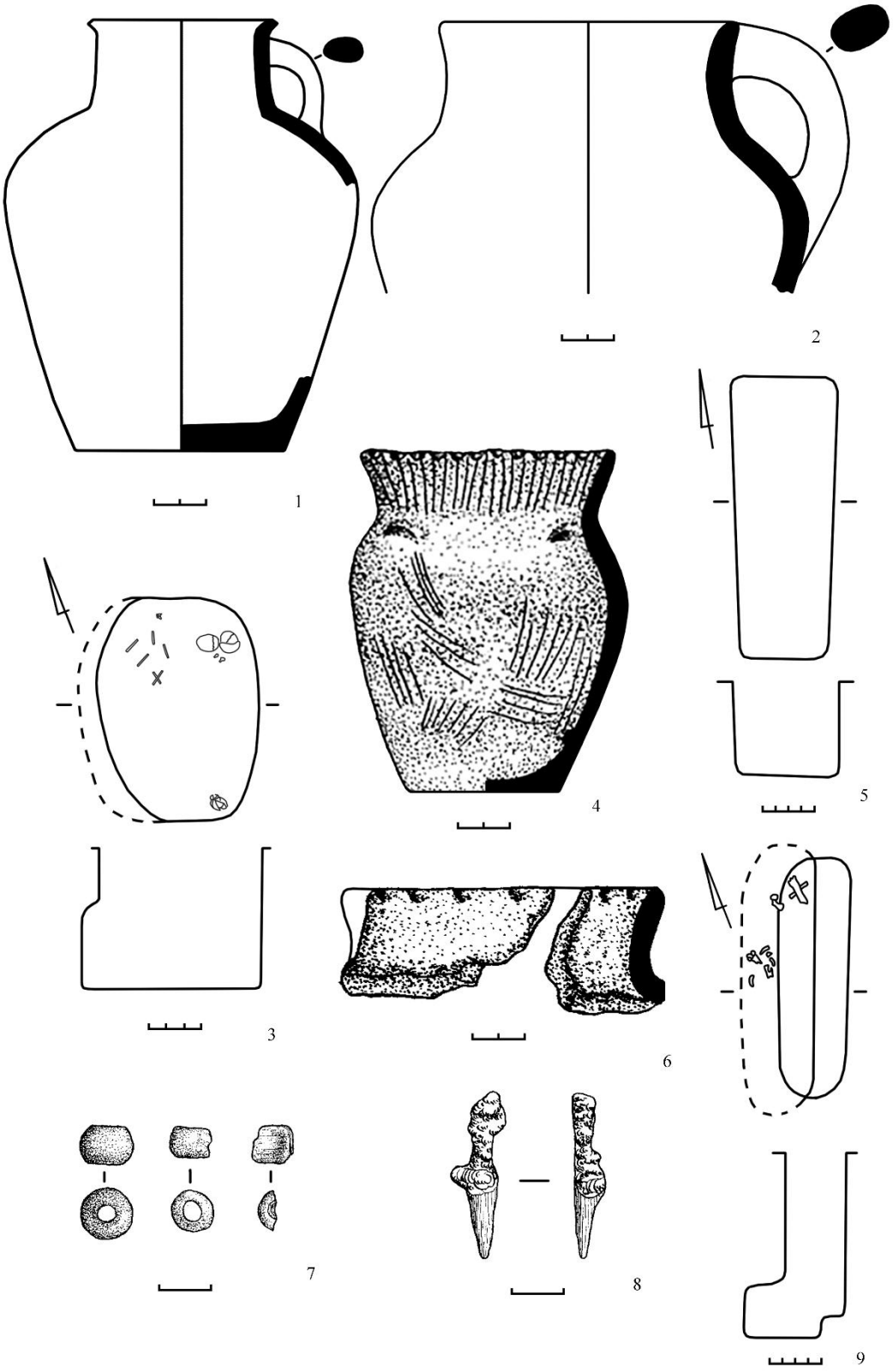


Fig. 153. Petrești G37-40 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

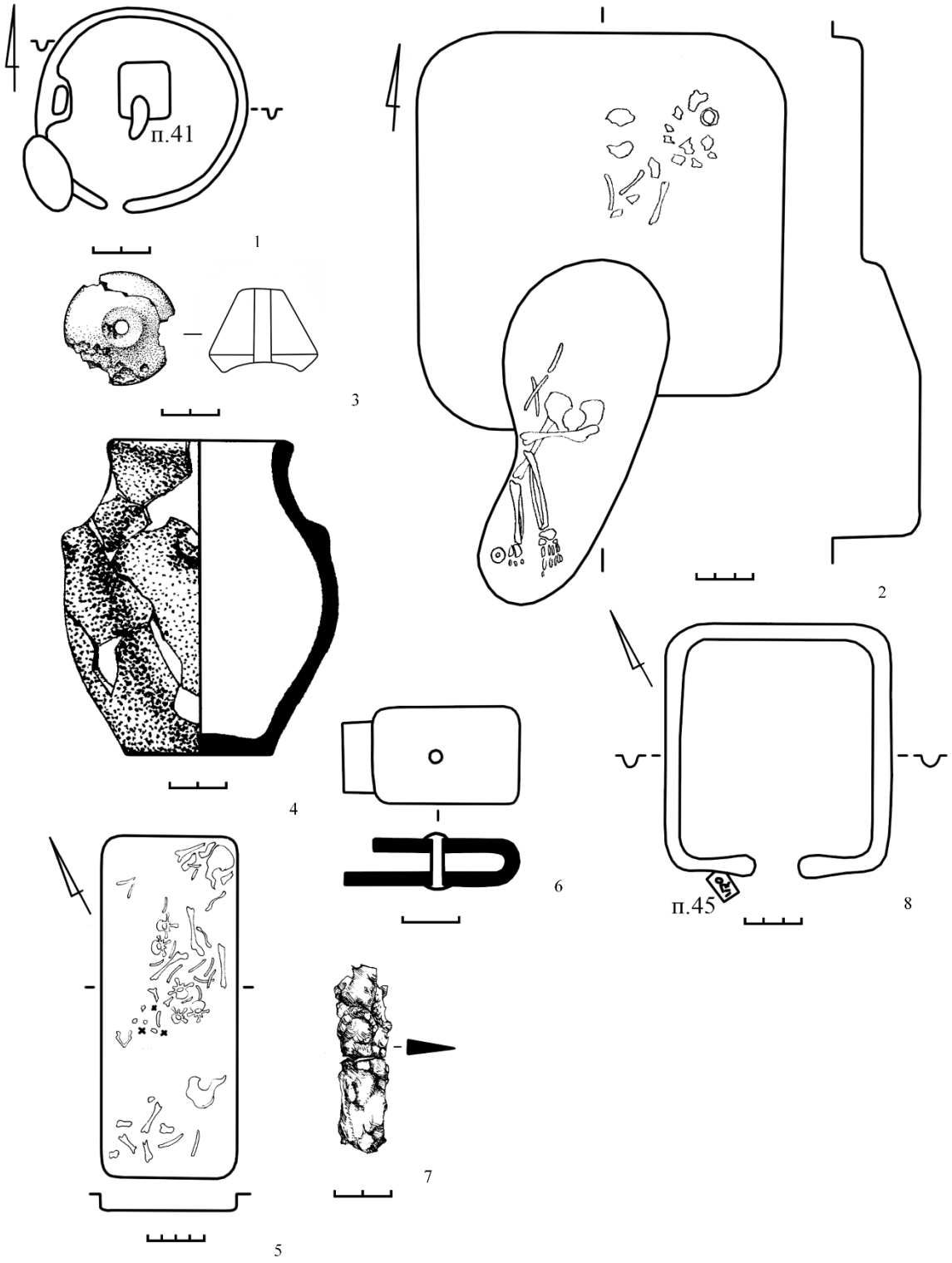


Fig. 154. Petrești Trench 34-35, G41-42 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

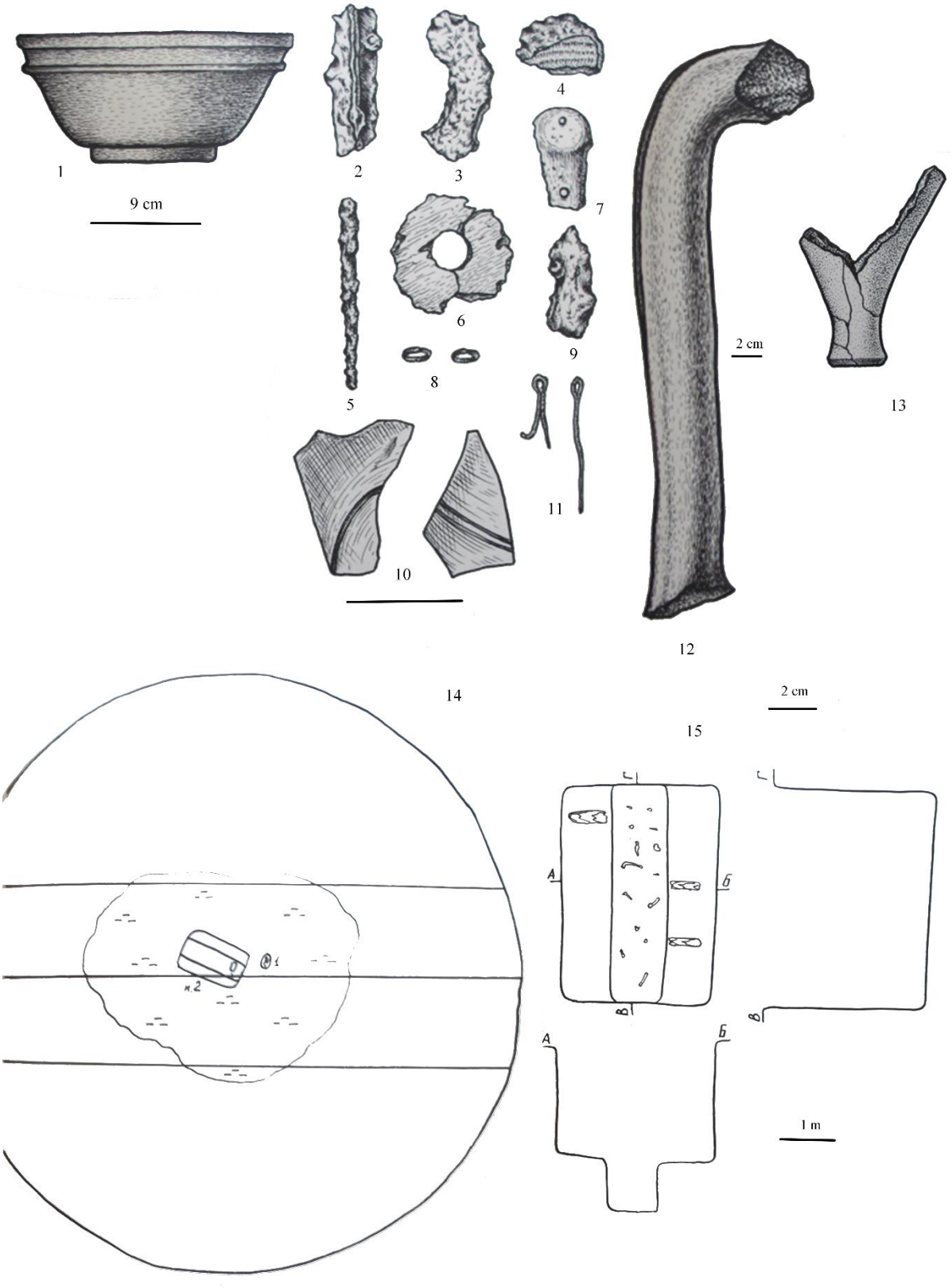


Fig. 155. Petrești T2G2 (after Jarovoi 1985)

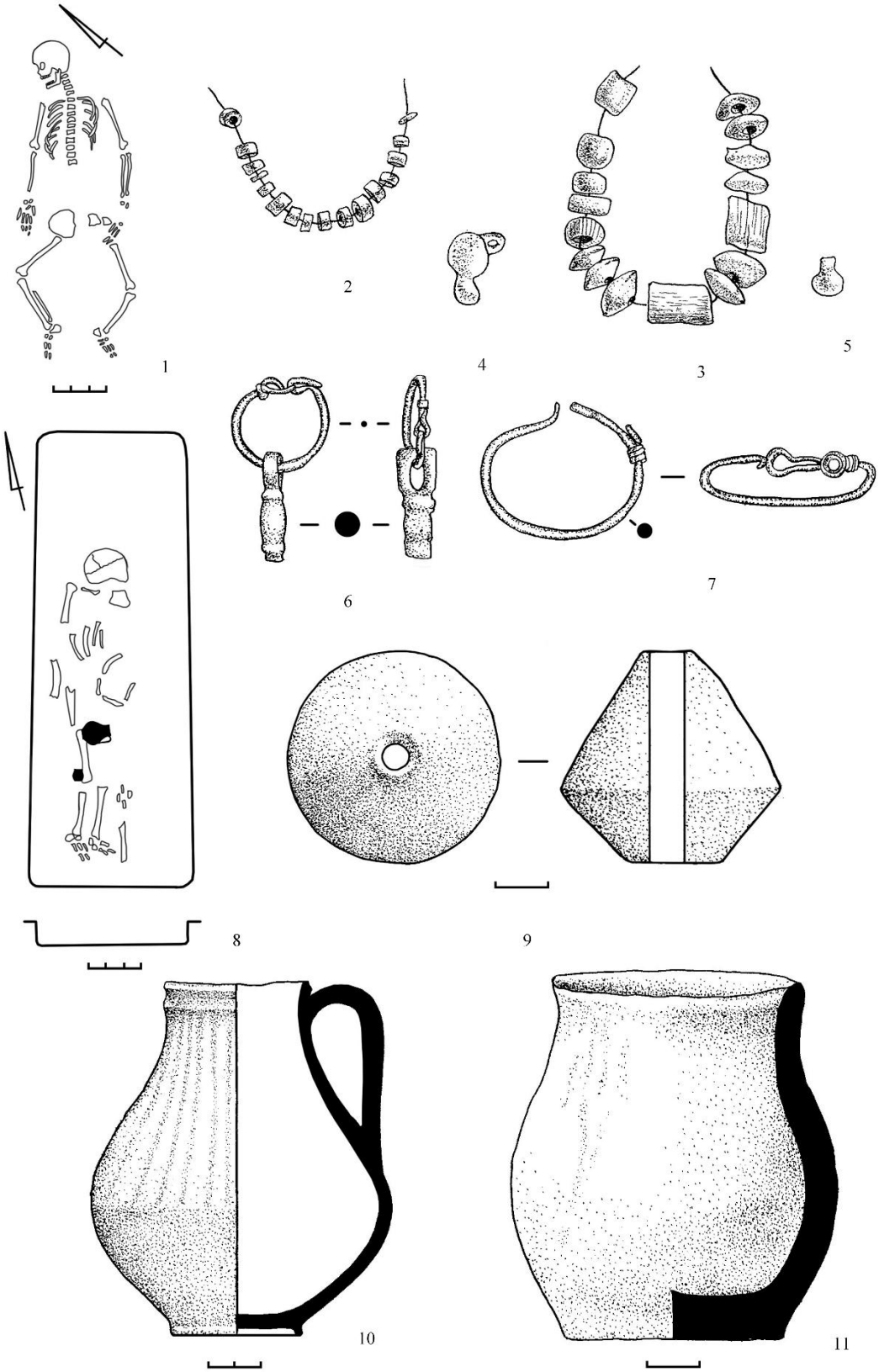


Fig. 156. Petrești T3G3, T3G12 (after Kurchatov, Bubulich 2023)

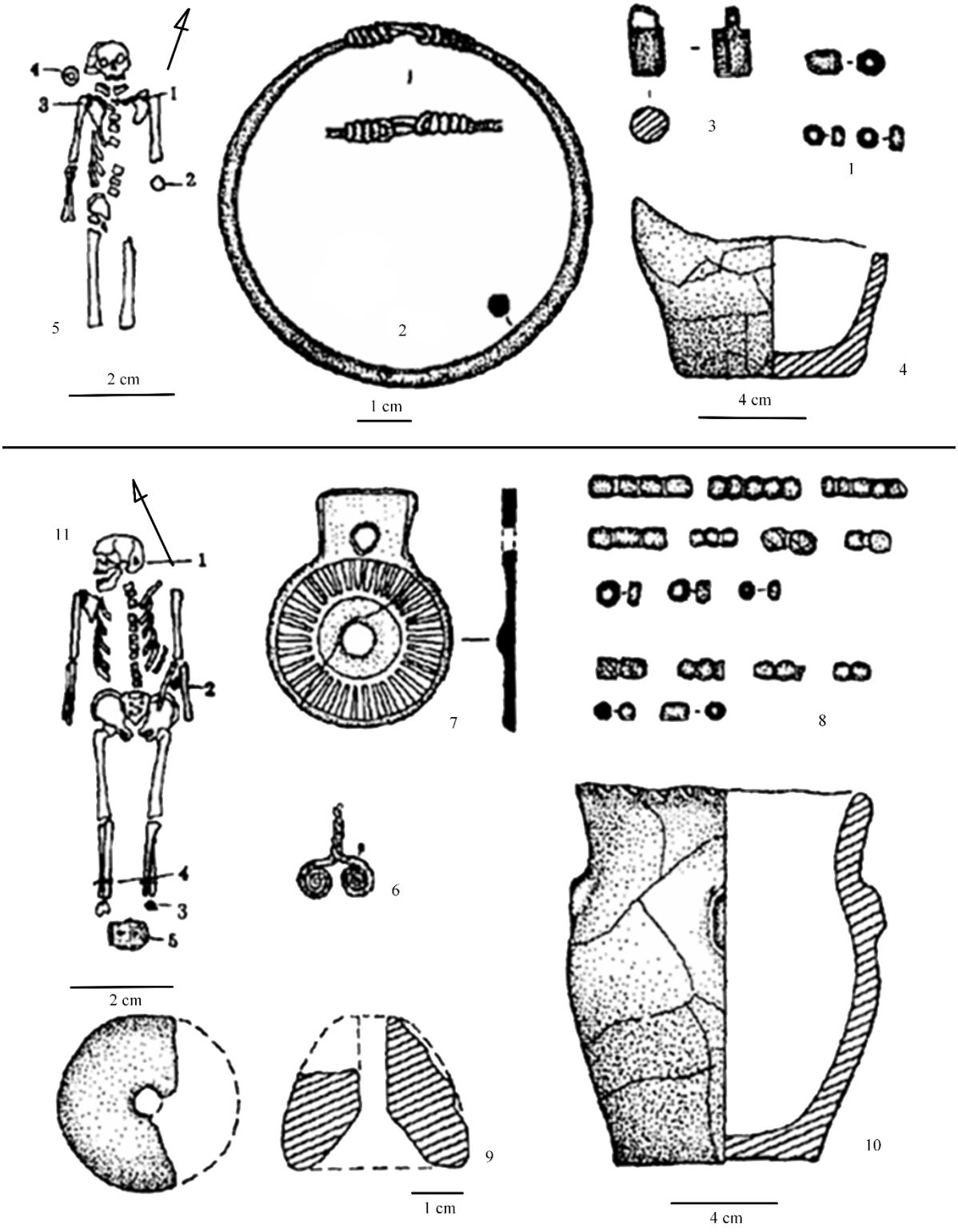


Fig. 157. Podoima T3G3, T3G5 (after Bubulich, Haheu 2002)

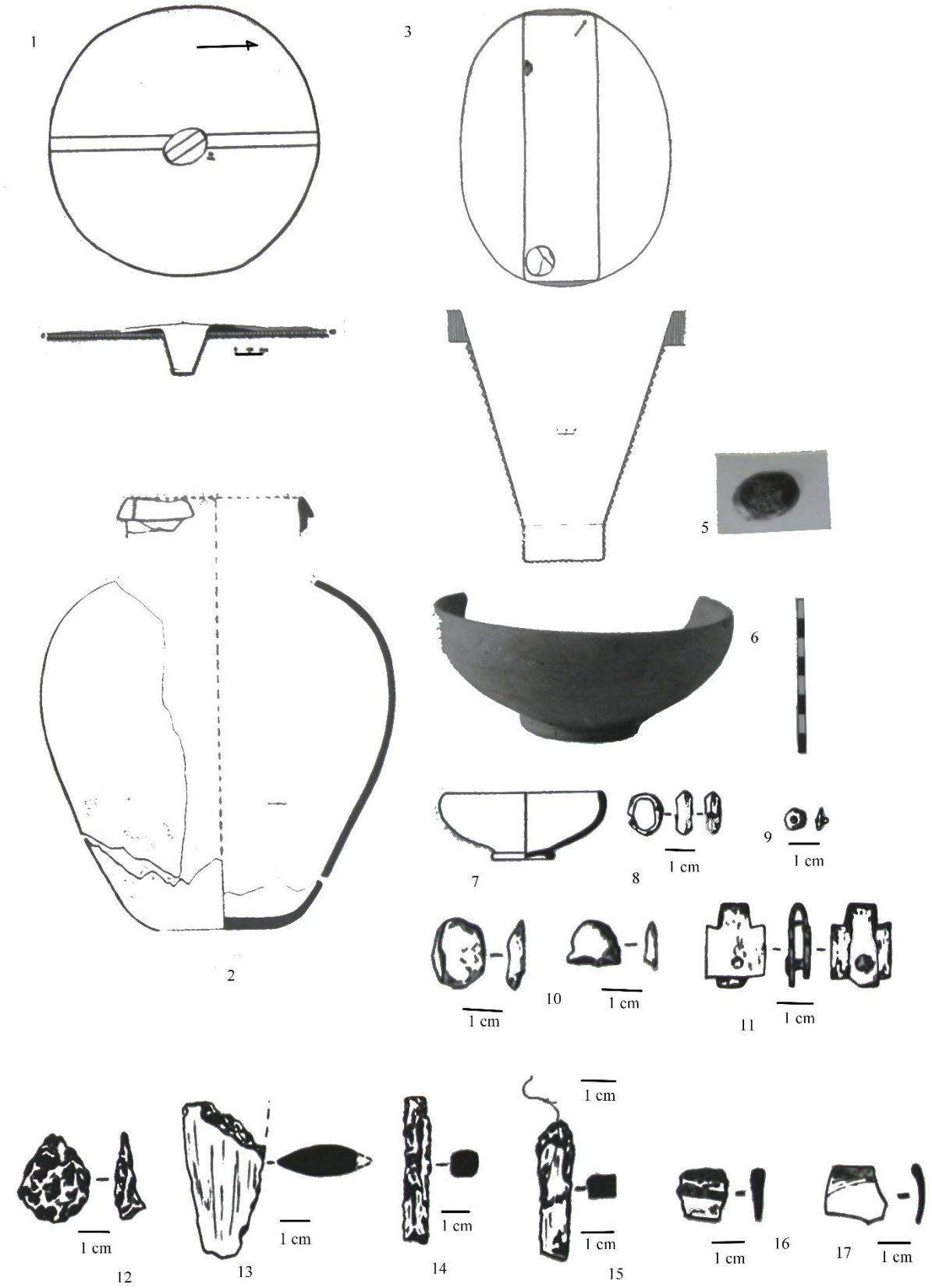


Fig. 158. Polevoe T6G1 (after Chernyakov et al., 1983b)

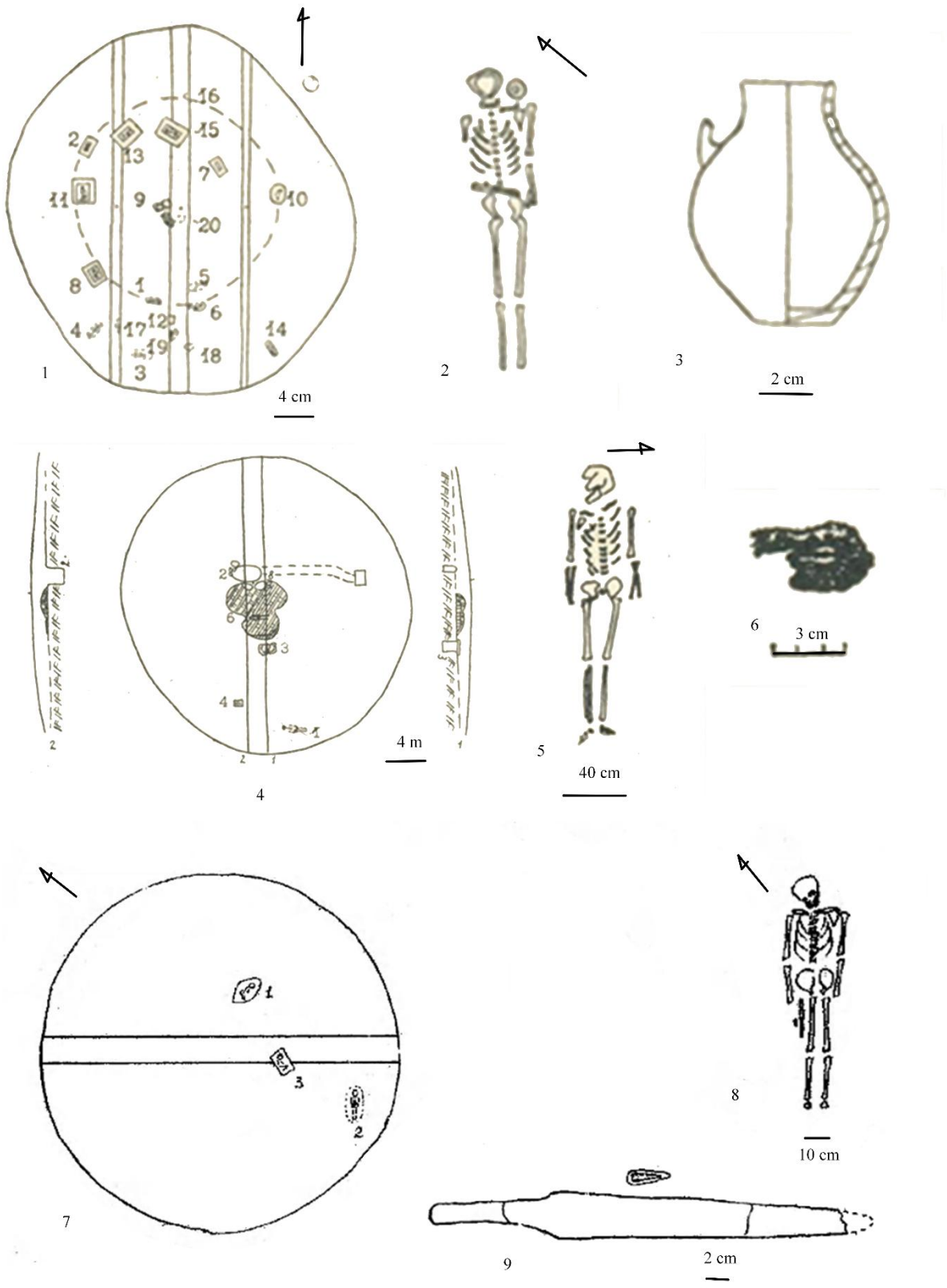


Fig. 159. Pomazani T1G4 (after Gudkova, Fokeev 1984), T2G1 (after Toshchev, Redina 1991), Primorsk T2G2 (after **Chebotarenko, Cherniakov, Toshchev 1993**)

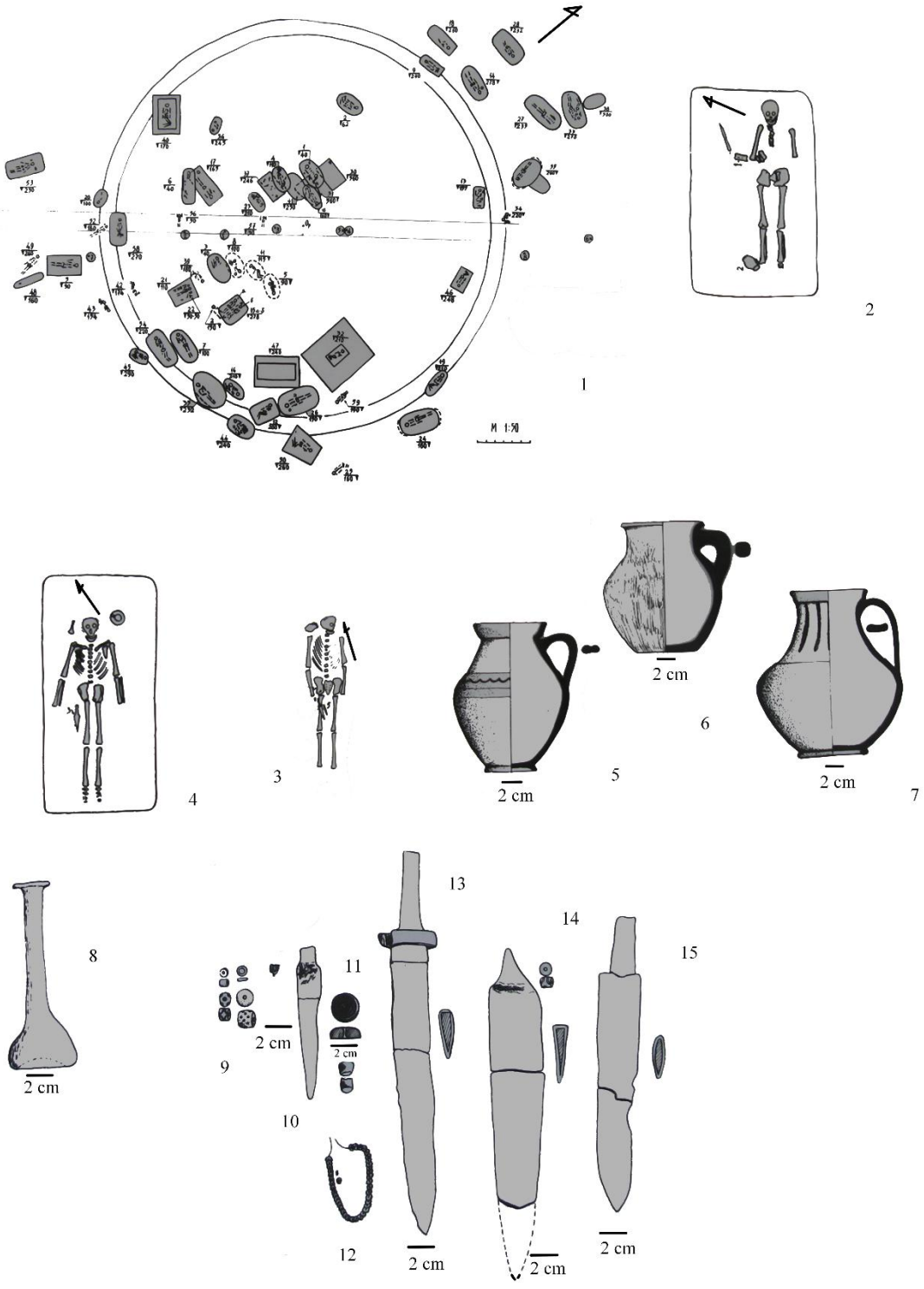


Fig. 160. Primorsk T1G17, G52-53 (**Chebotarenko, Cherniakov, Toshchev 1993**)

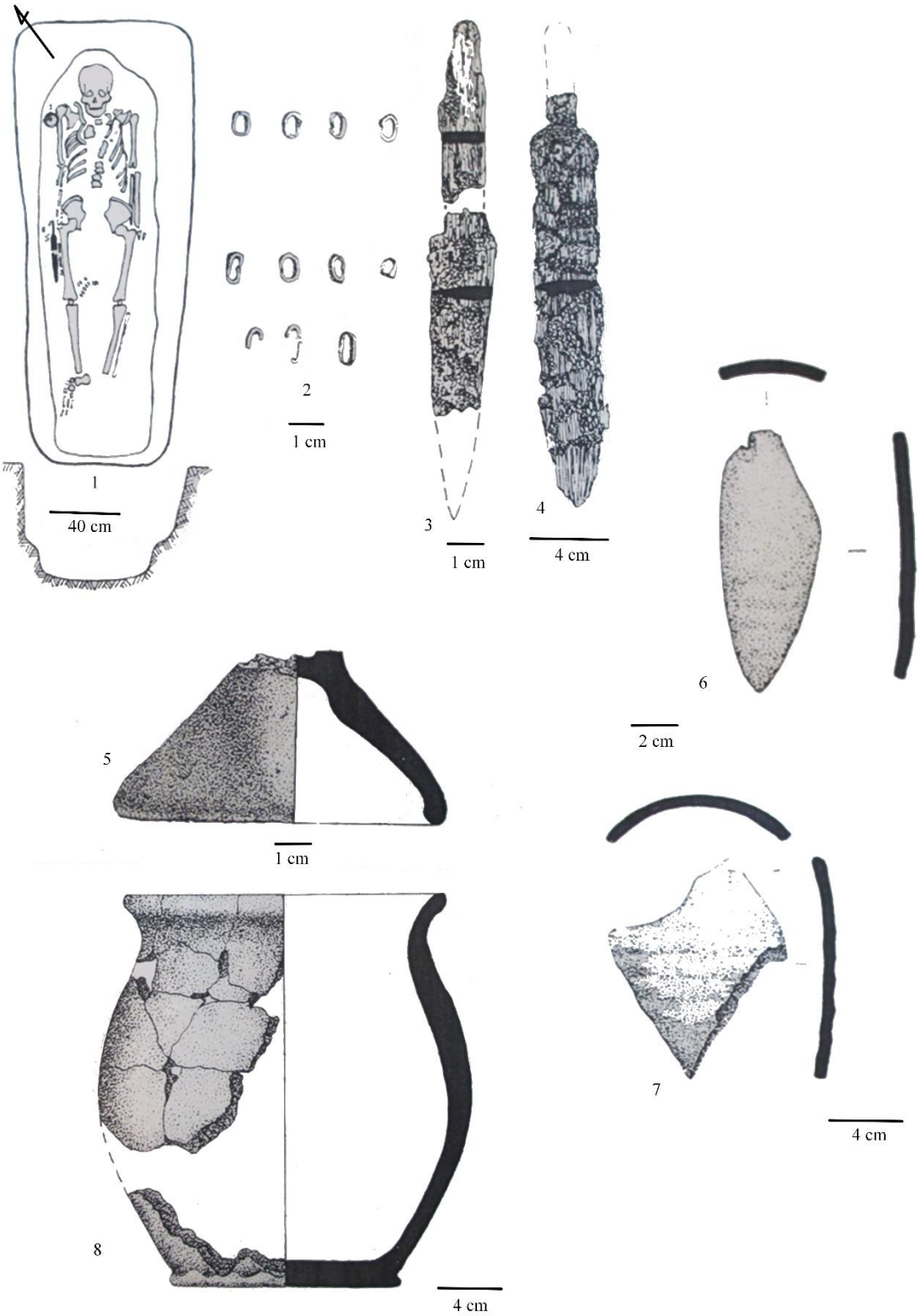


Fig. 161. Rumeantsev T1G7 (after Bubulich 1992)

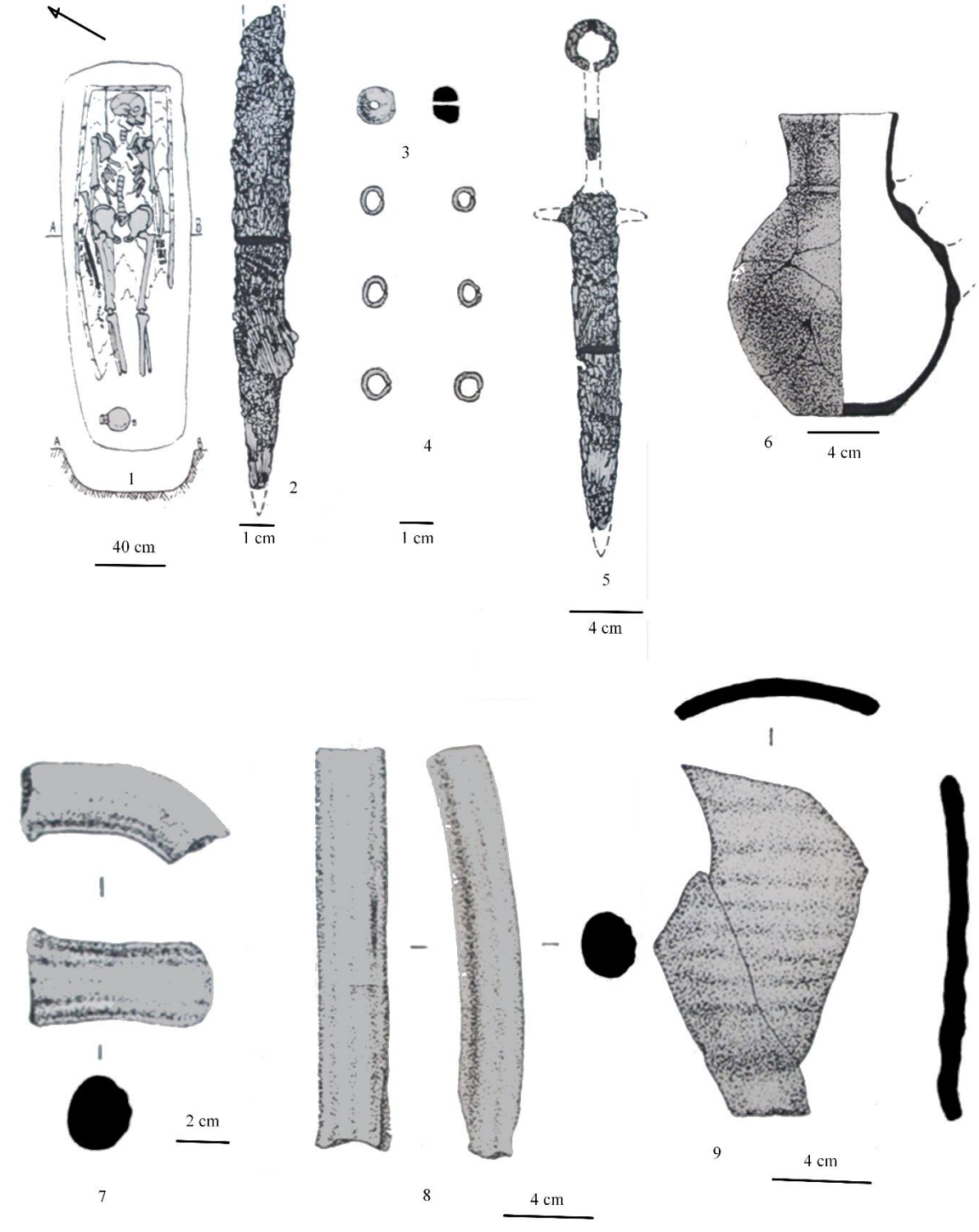


Fig. 162. Rumeantsev T1G8 (after Bubulich 1992)

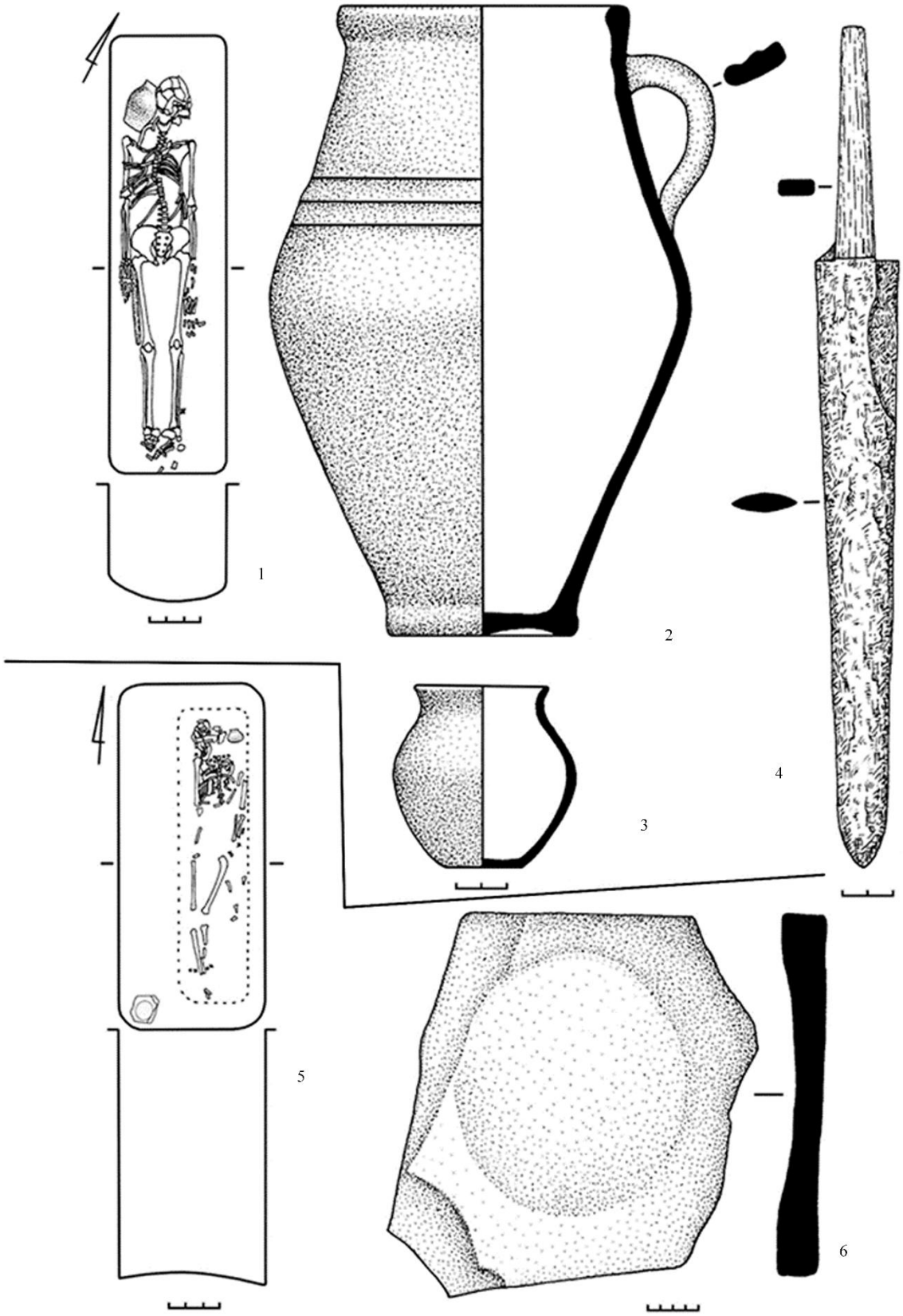


Fig. 163. Șalvirii Noi-Palanca T6G7-8 (after Kurchatov 1991)

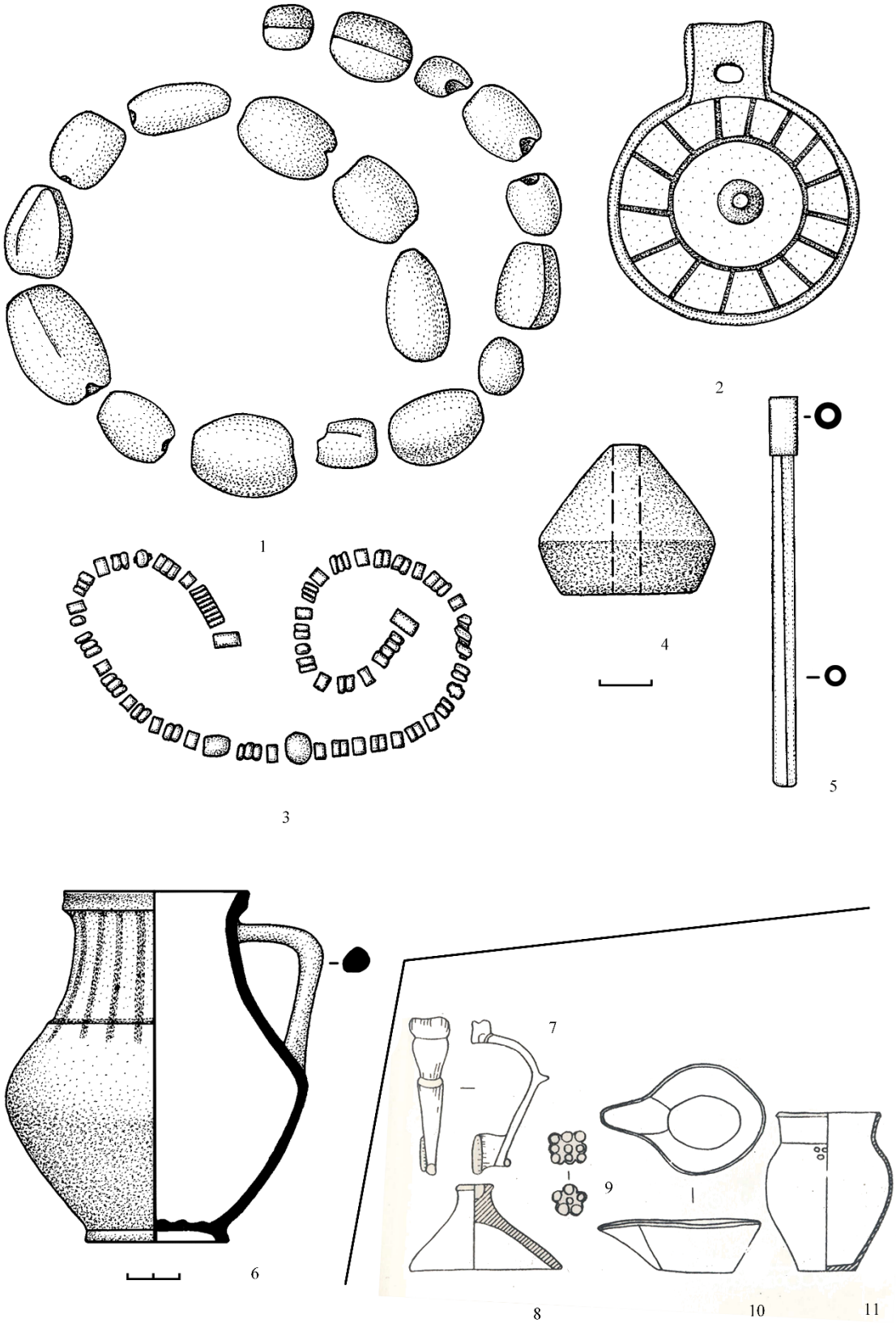


Fig. 164. Șalvirii Noi-Palanca T6G8 (after Kurchatov 1991), Șabolat T4G1 (after Grosu 1990)

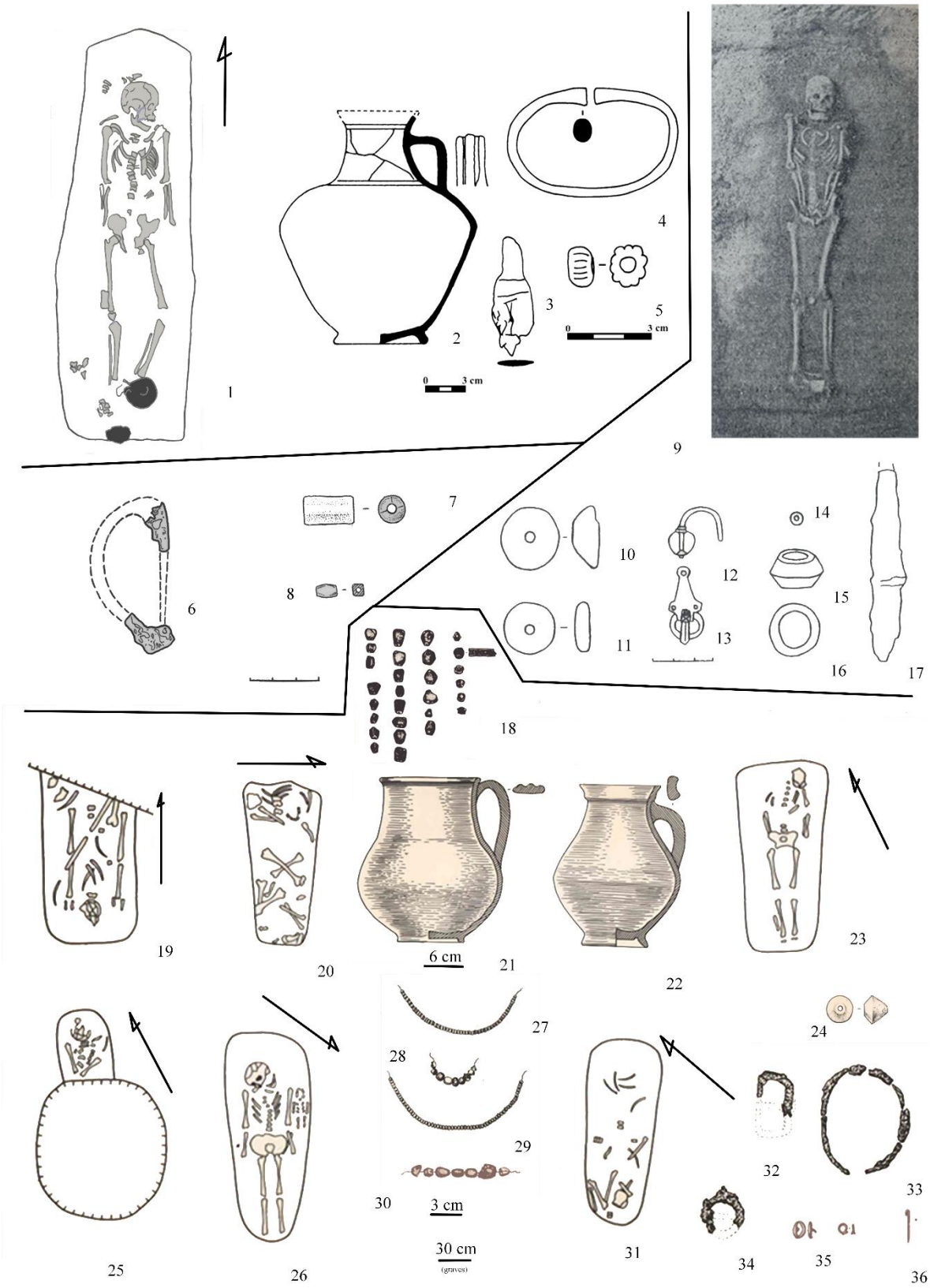


Fig. 165. Șcerbaca (now Văratic) T2G5 (after Grosu 1988), Sărata Veche T1G7 (after Sergheev 1961), Selište (after Rafalovich, Lapushnyan 1974b)

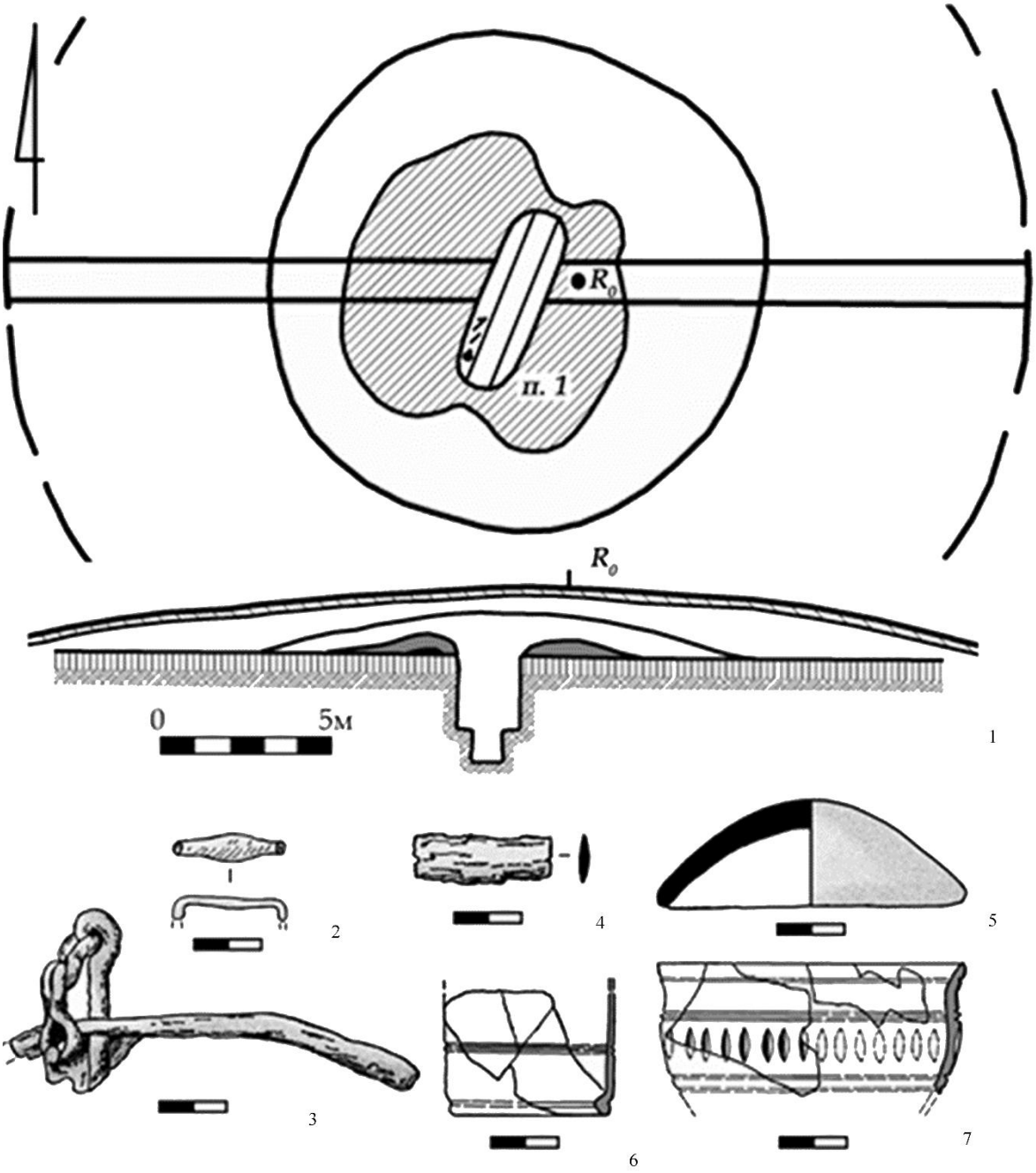


Fig. 166. Semionovca (Seimeni) T3G1 (after Subbotin et al 2017)

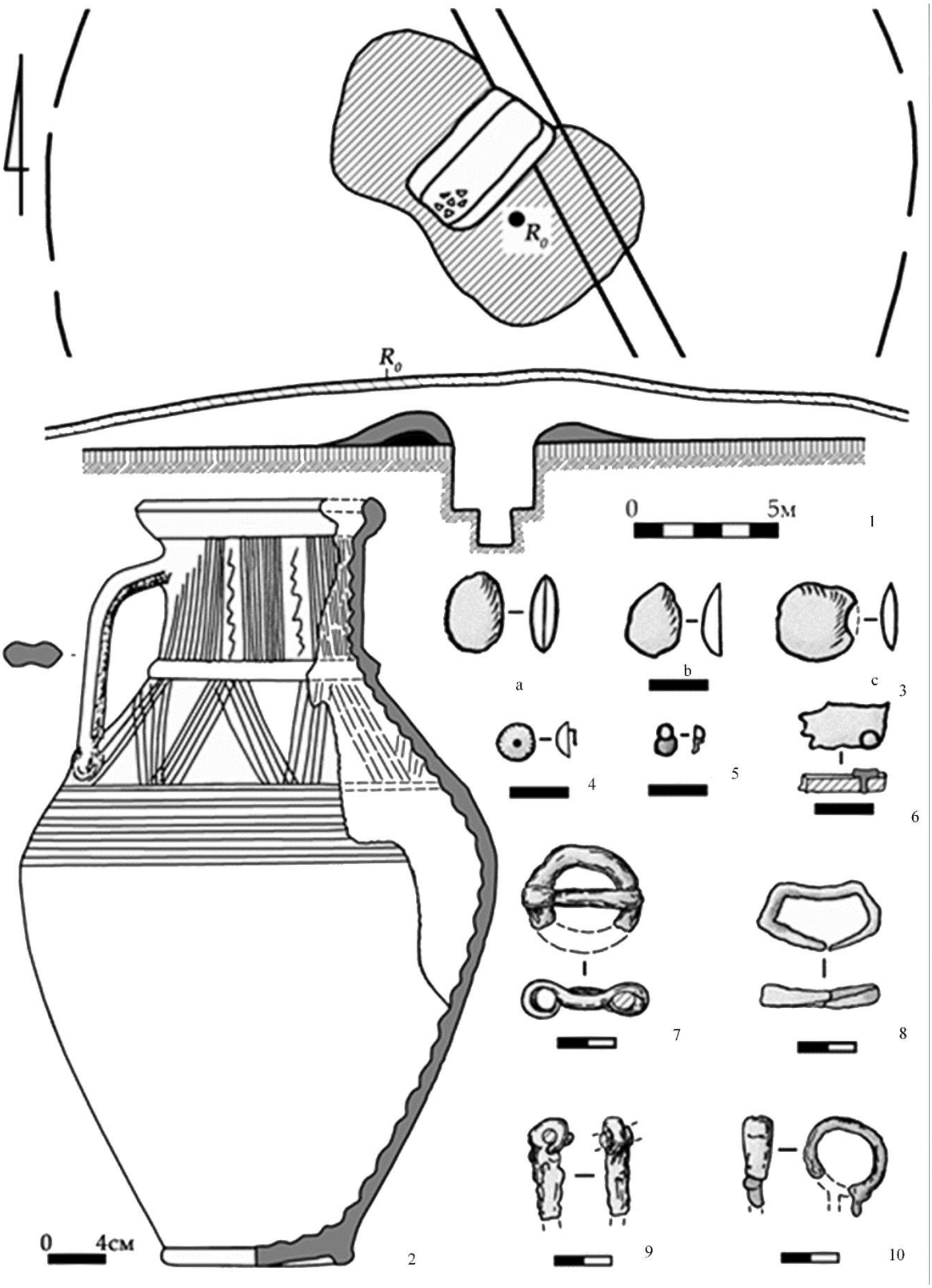


Fig. 167. Semionovca (Seimeni) T4G1 (after Subbotin et al 2017)

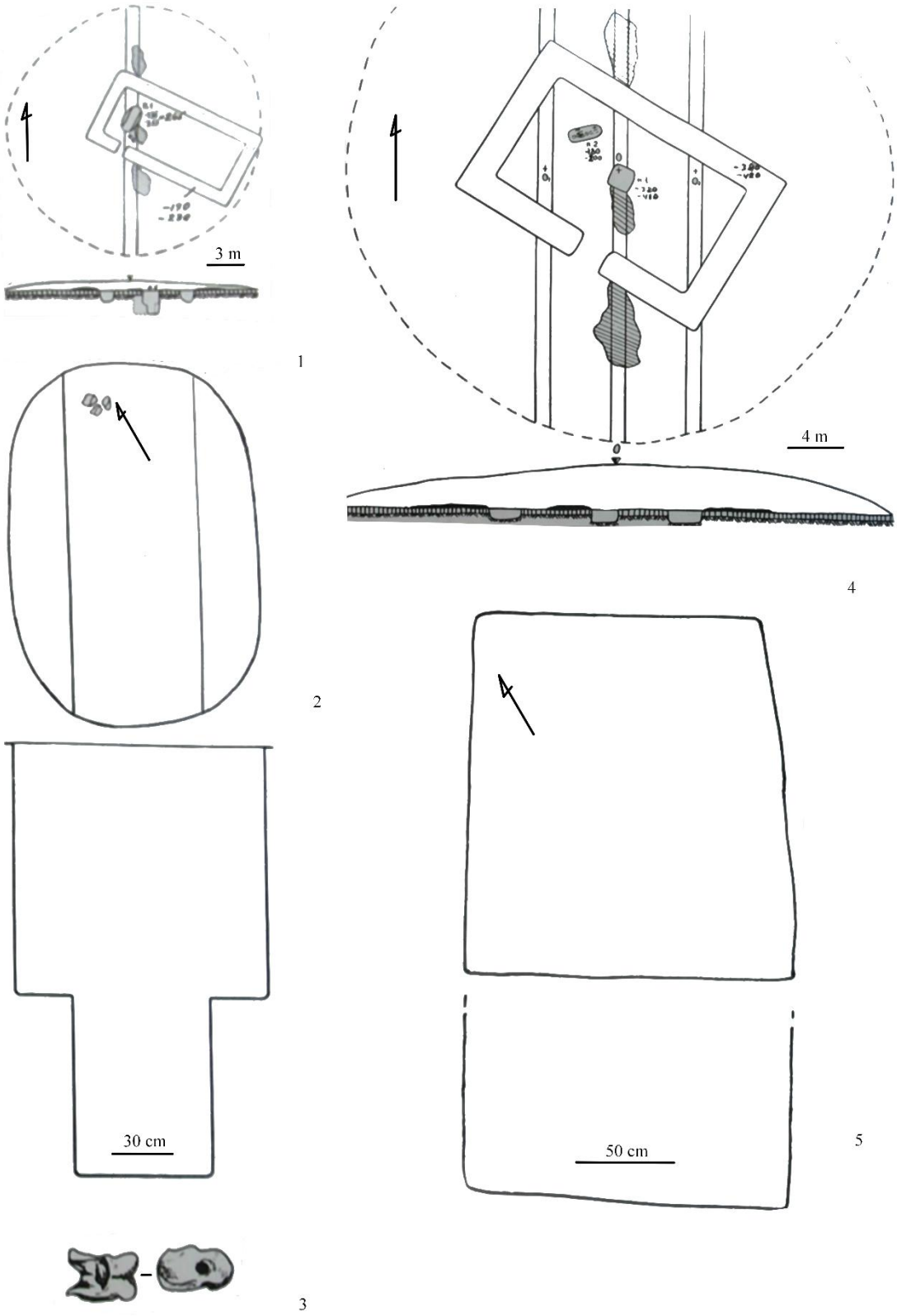


Fig. 168. Sergheevca T5G1, T12G1 (after Dzigovskij, Subbotin 1989)

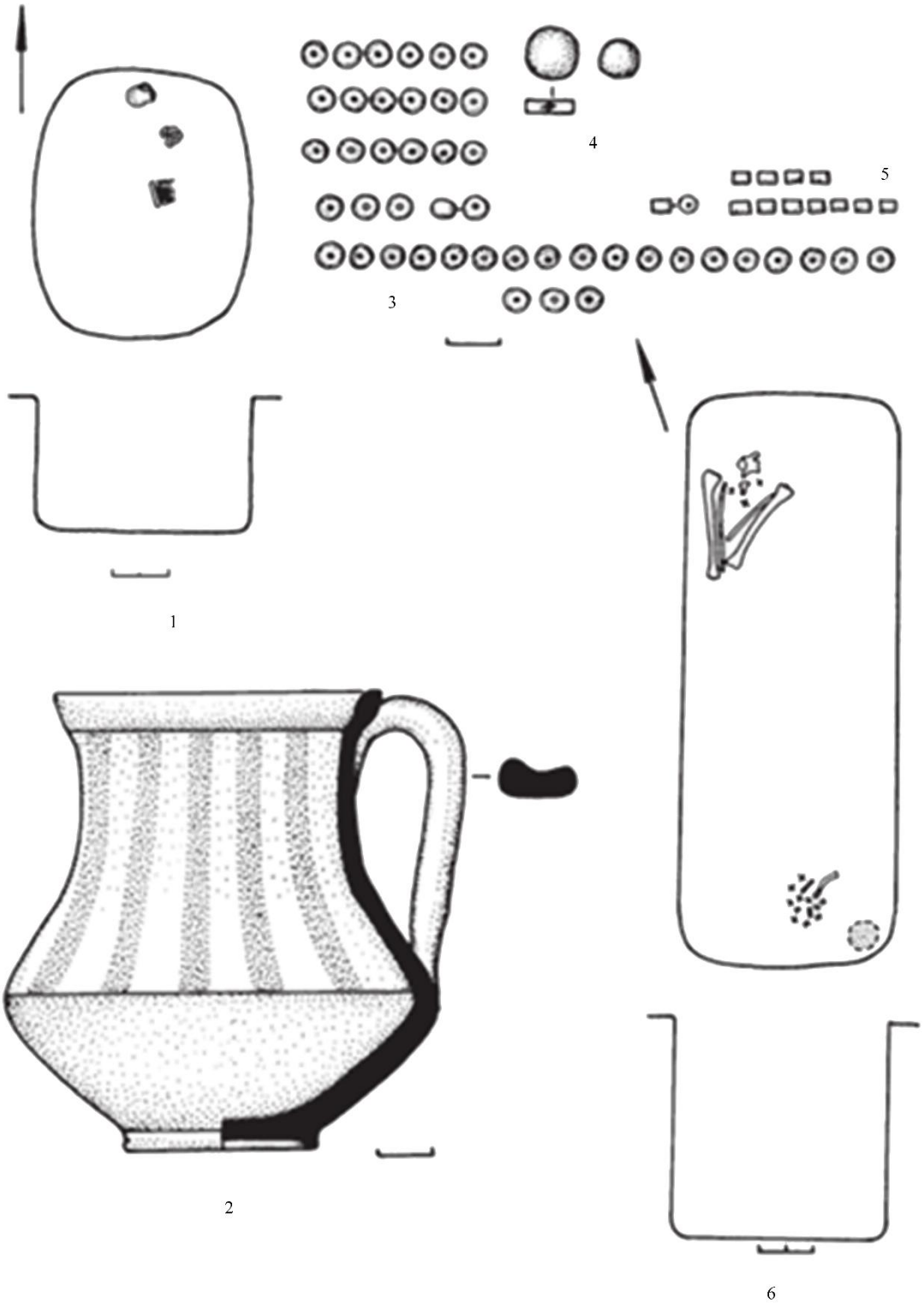


Fig. 169. Șoldănești G1, G4 (after Kurchatov 2010)

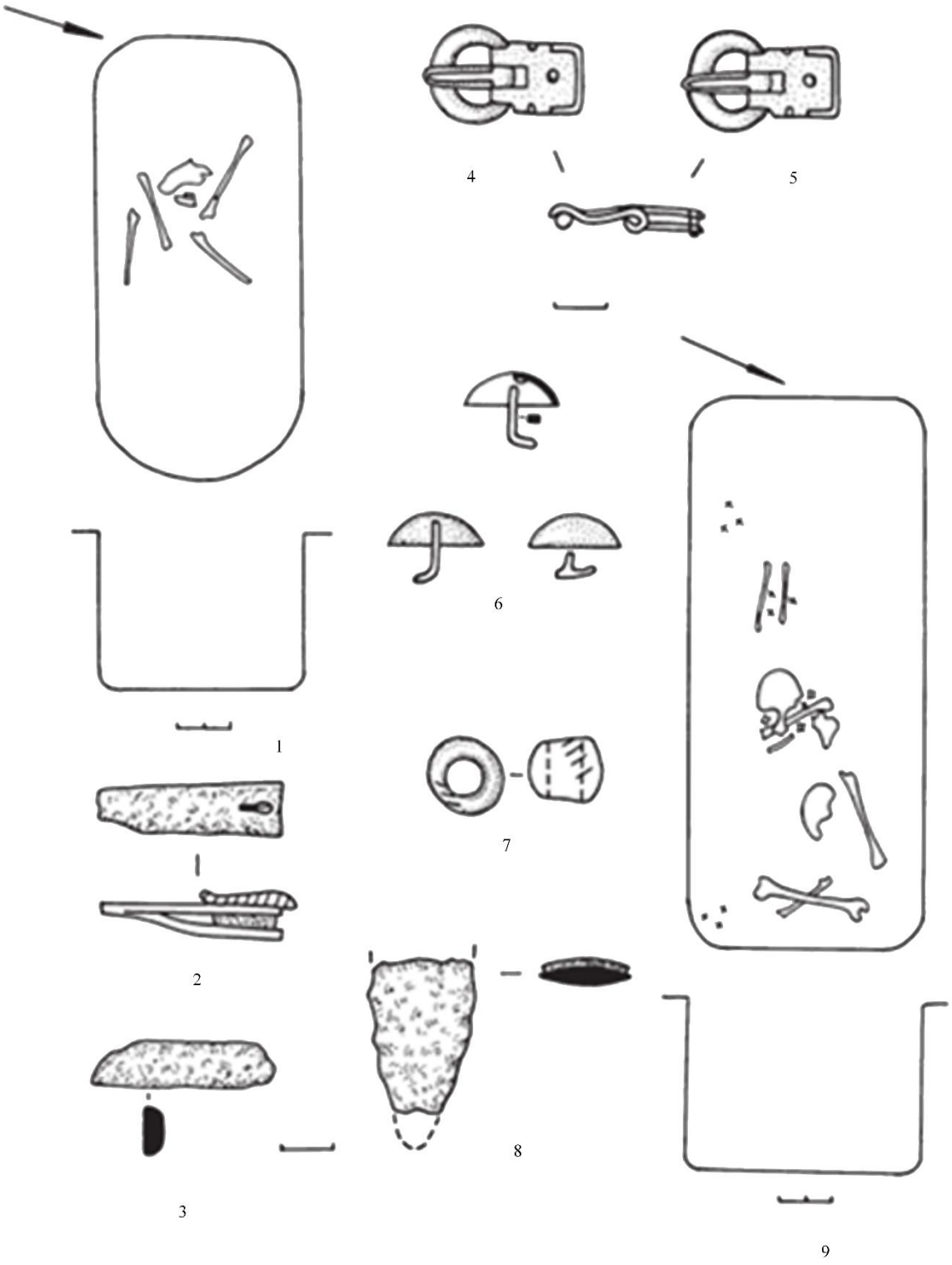


Fig. 170. Șoldănești G7, G10 (after Kurchatov 2010)

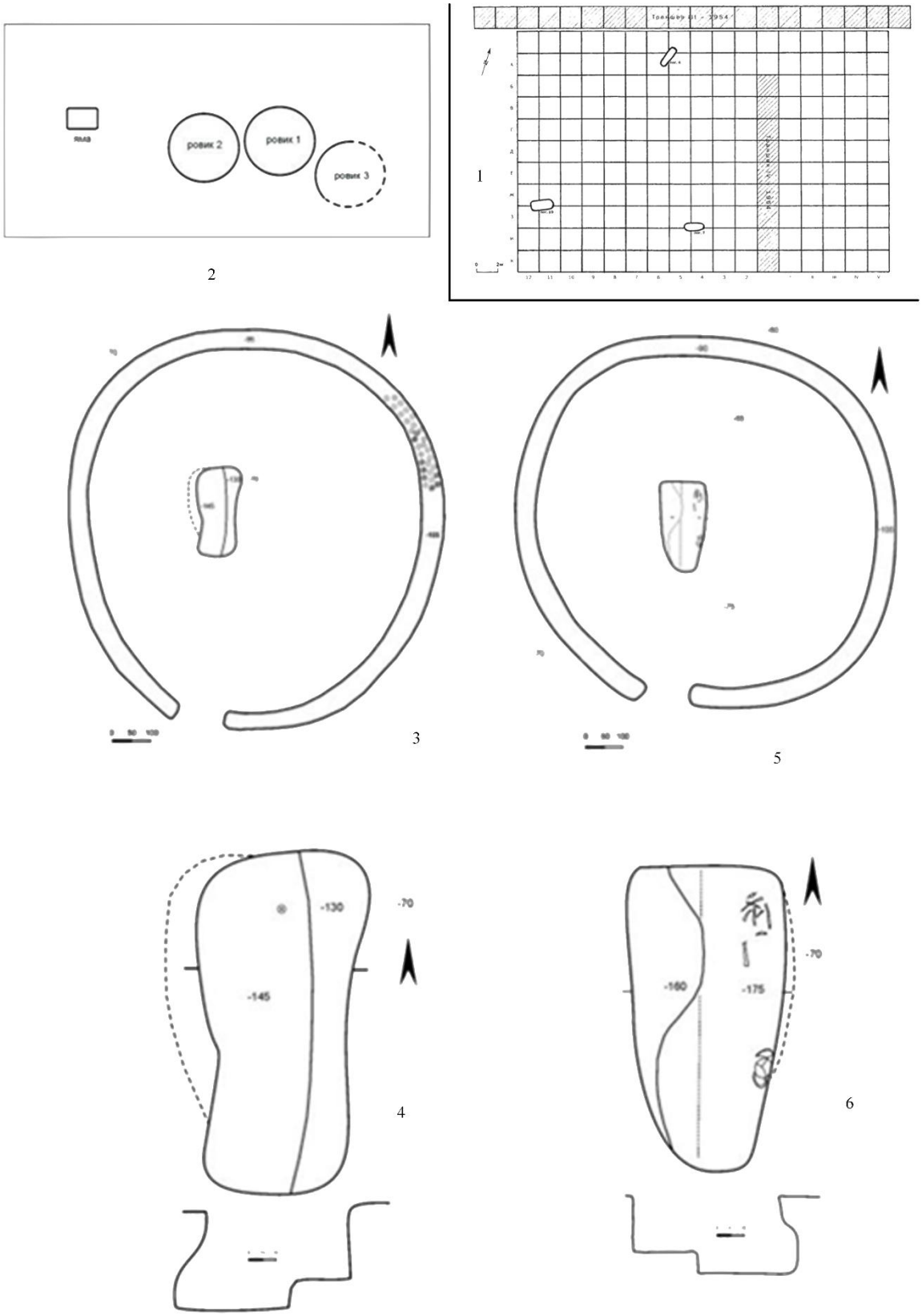


Fig. 171. Șoldănești plan (after Kurchatov 2010), Suvorove (after Dzigovskij, Brujako 2023)

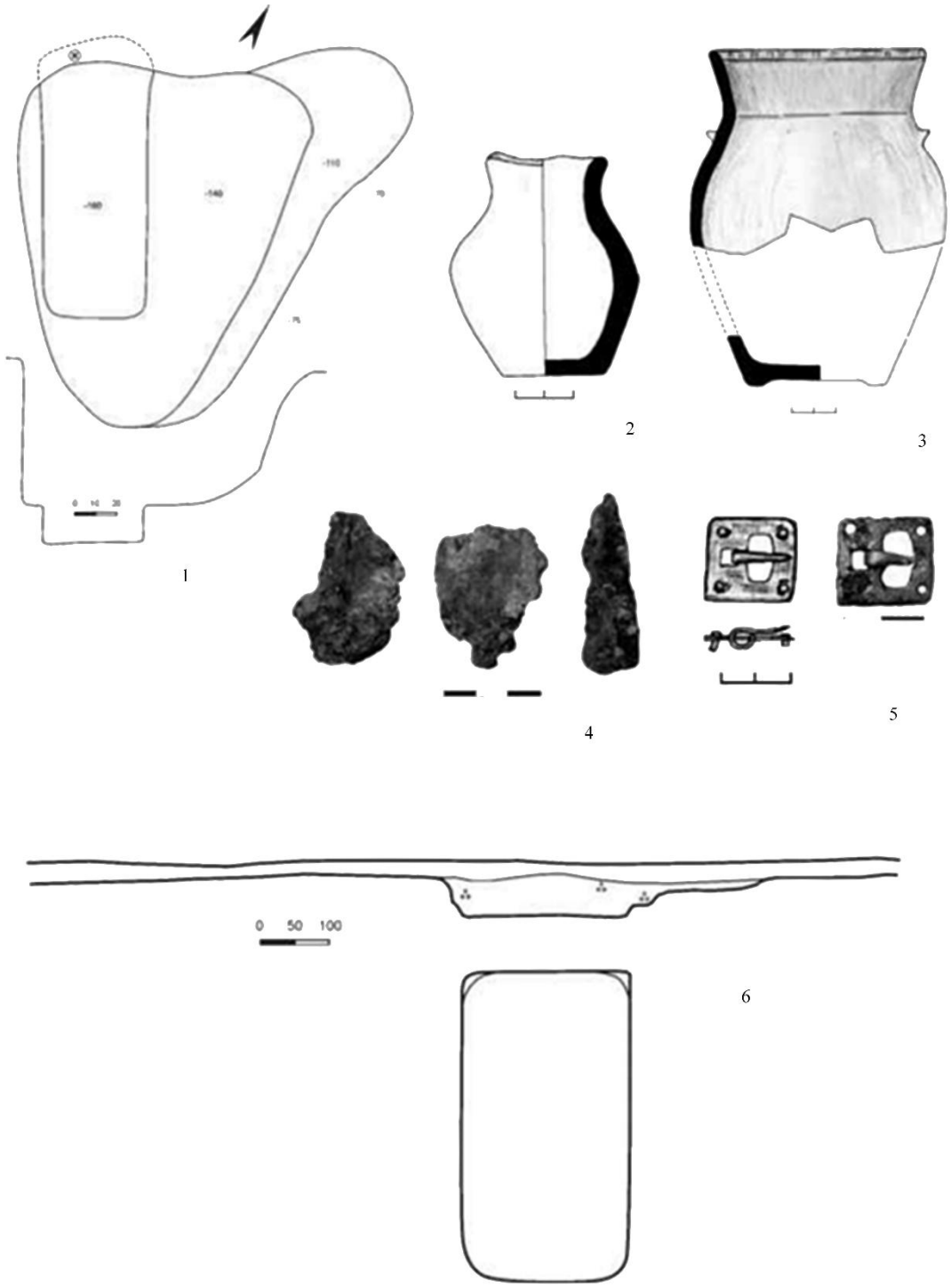


Fig. 172. Suvorove (after Dzigovskij, Brujako 2023)

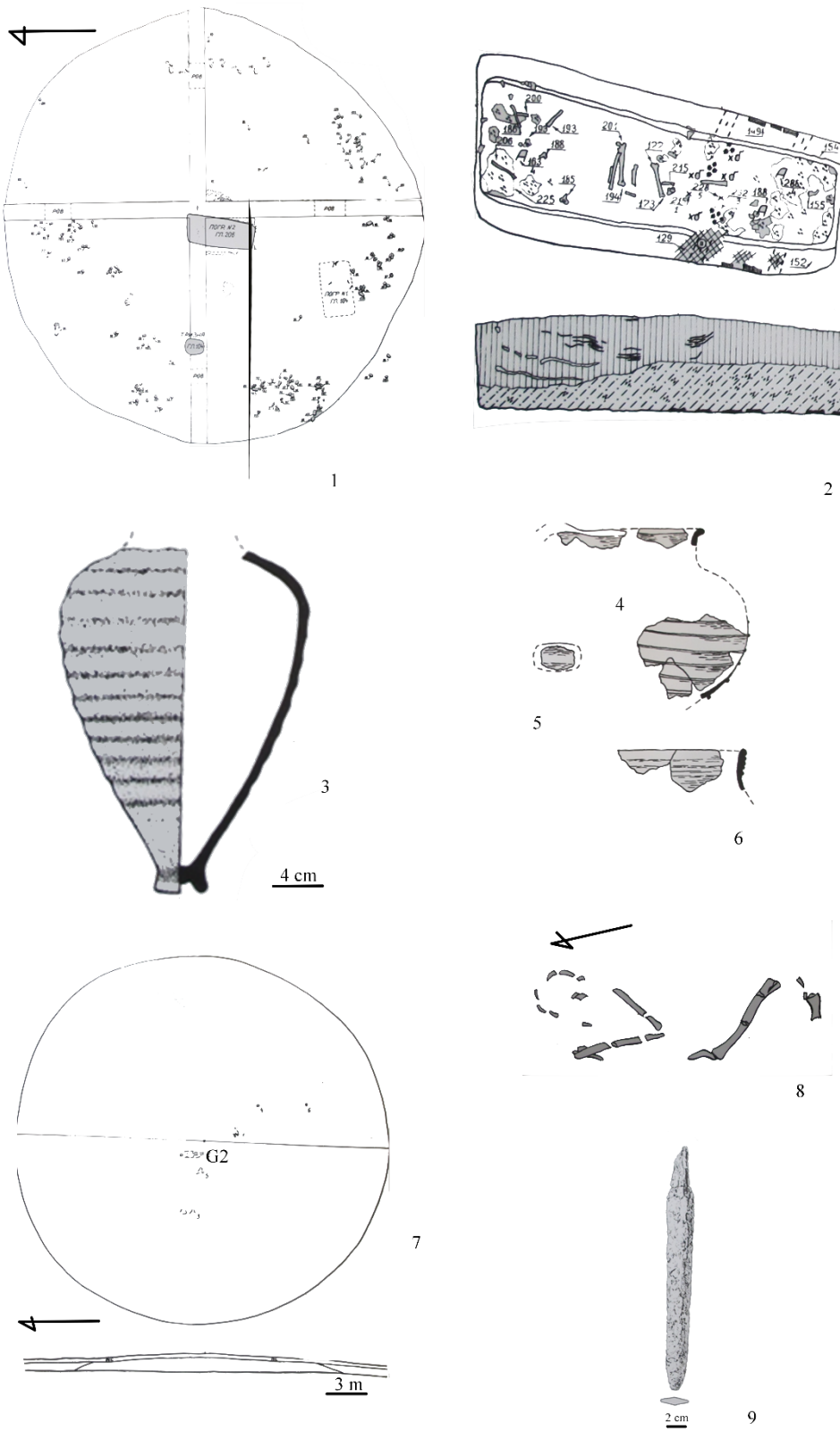


Fig. 173. Suvorovo (Al. Cuza) T3G2 (after Beylekchi, Yarovoy 1974), Svetlîi T2G2 (after Manzura 1984)

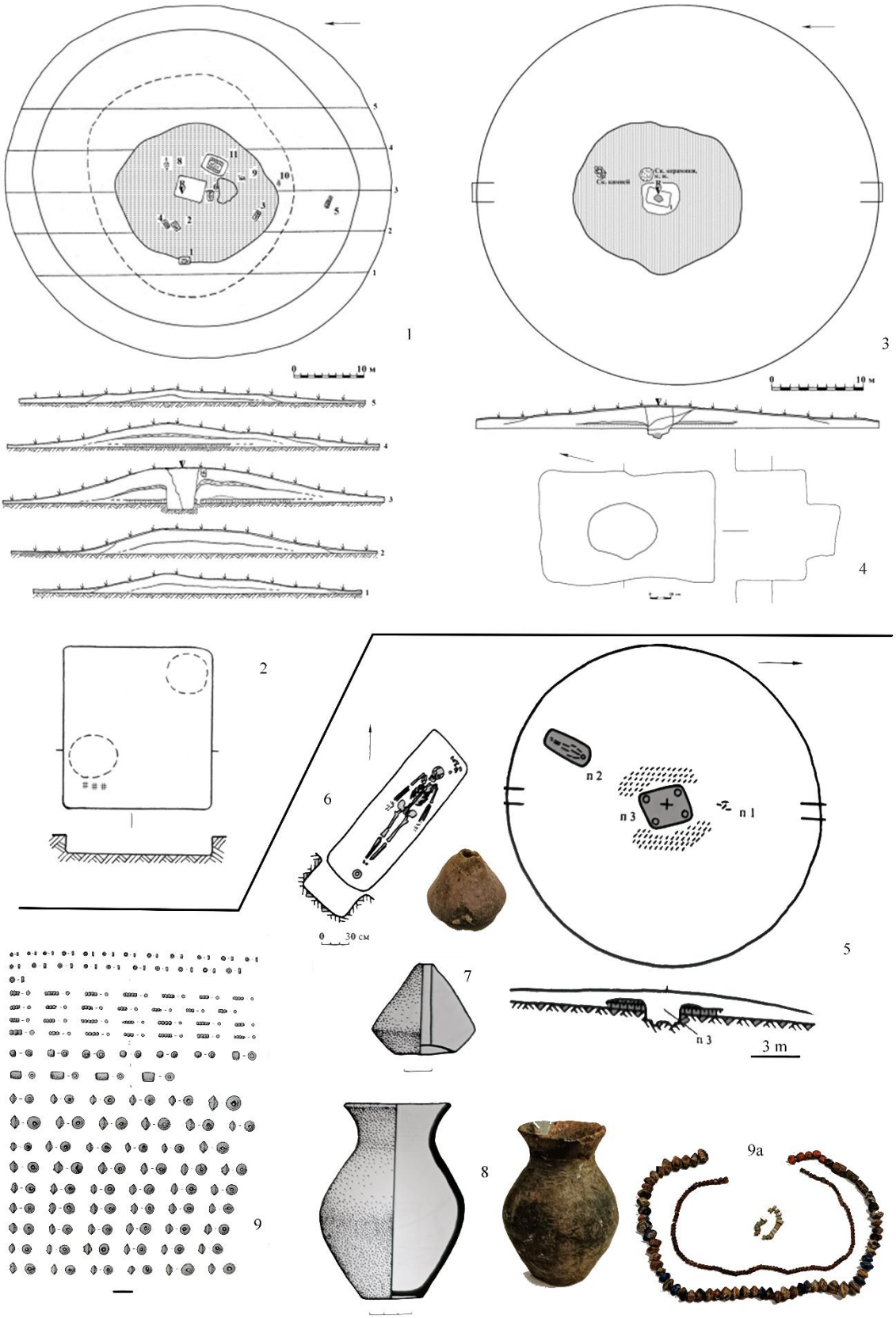


Fig. 174. Talmaza T1G7, T7G1 (after Agulnikov, Popovici 2022), Taraclia II T9G2 (after Agulnikov, Manzura 2019)

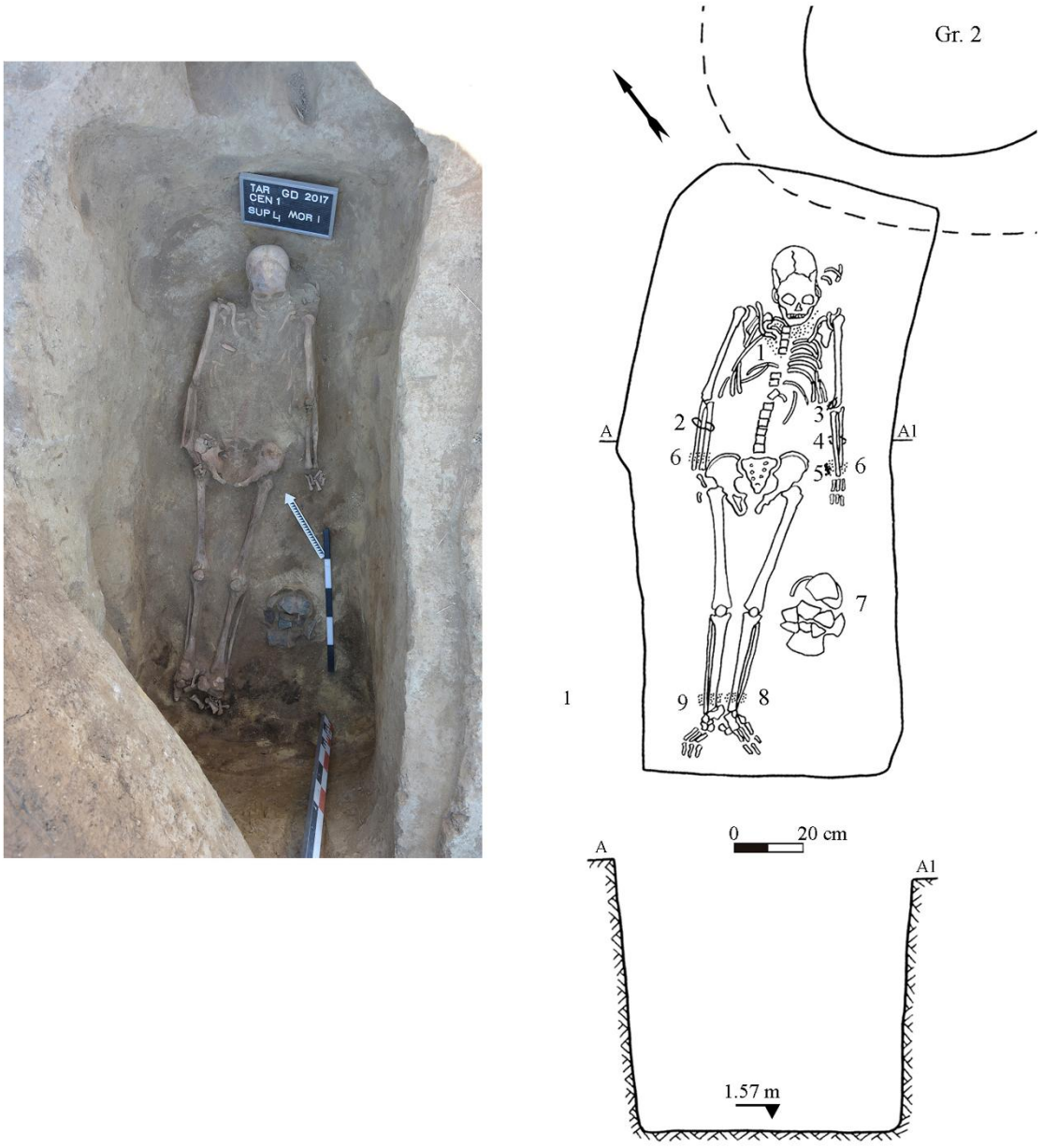


Fig. 175. Taraclia Gaidabul G1 (after Sava et al. 2020)



Fig. 176. Taraclia Gaidabul G1 (after Sava et al. 2020)



Fig. 177. Taraclia Gaidabul G1 (after Sava et al. 2020)

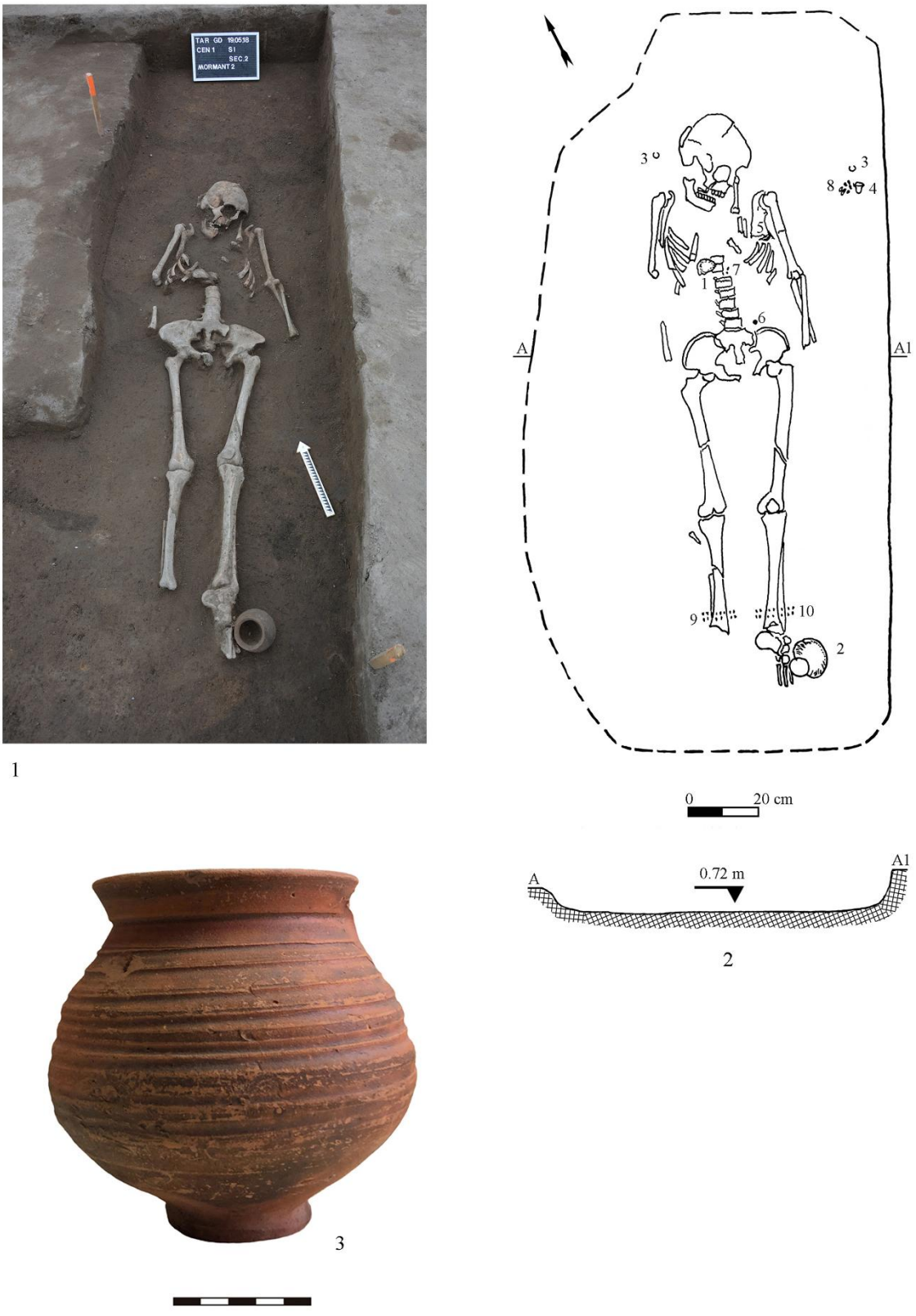


Fig. 178. Taraclia Gaidabul G2 (after Sava et al. 2020)



Fig. 179. Taraclia Gaidabul G2 (after Sava et al. 2020)

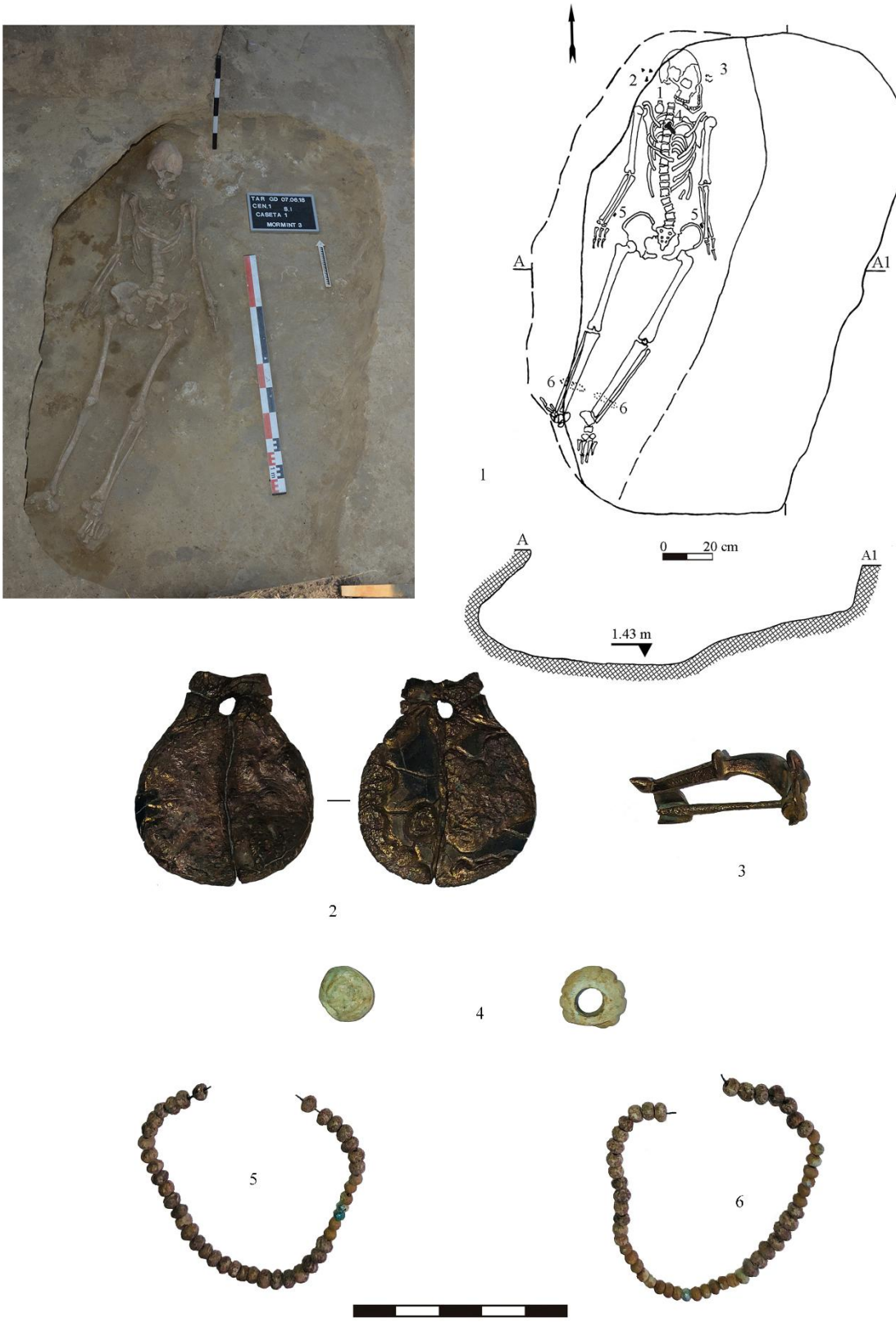


Fig. 180. Taraclia Gaidabul G3 (after Sava et al. 2020)

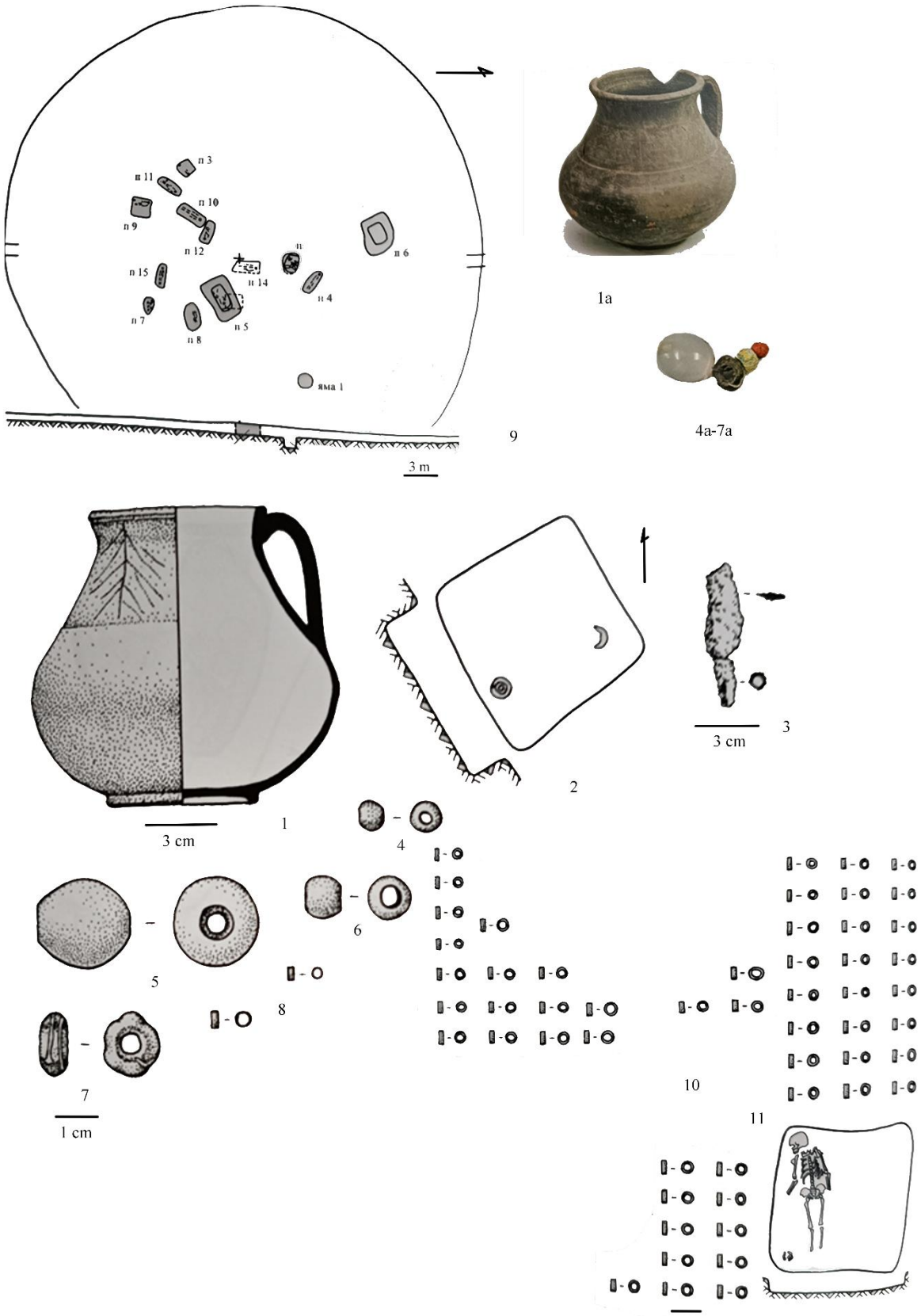


Fig. 181. Taraclia II T17G3, T17G9 (after Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 1985, 2019)

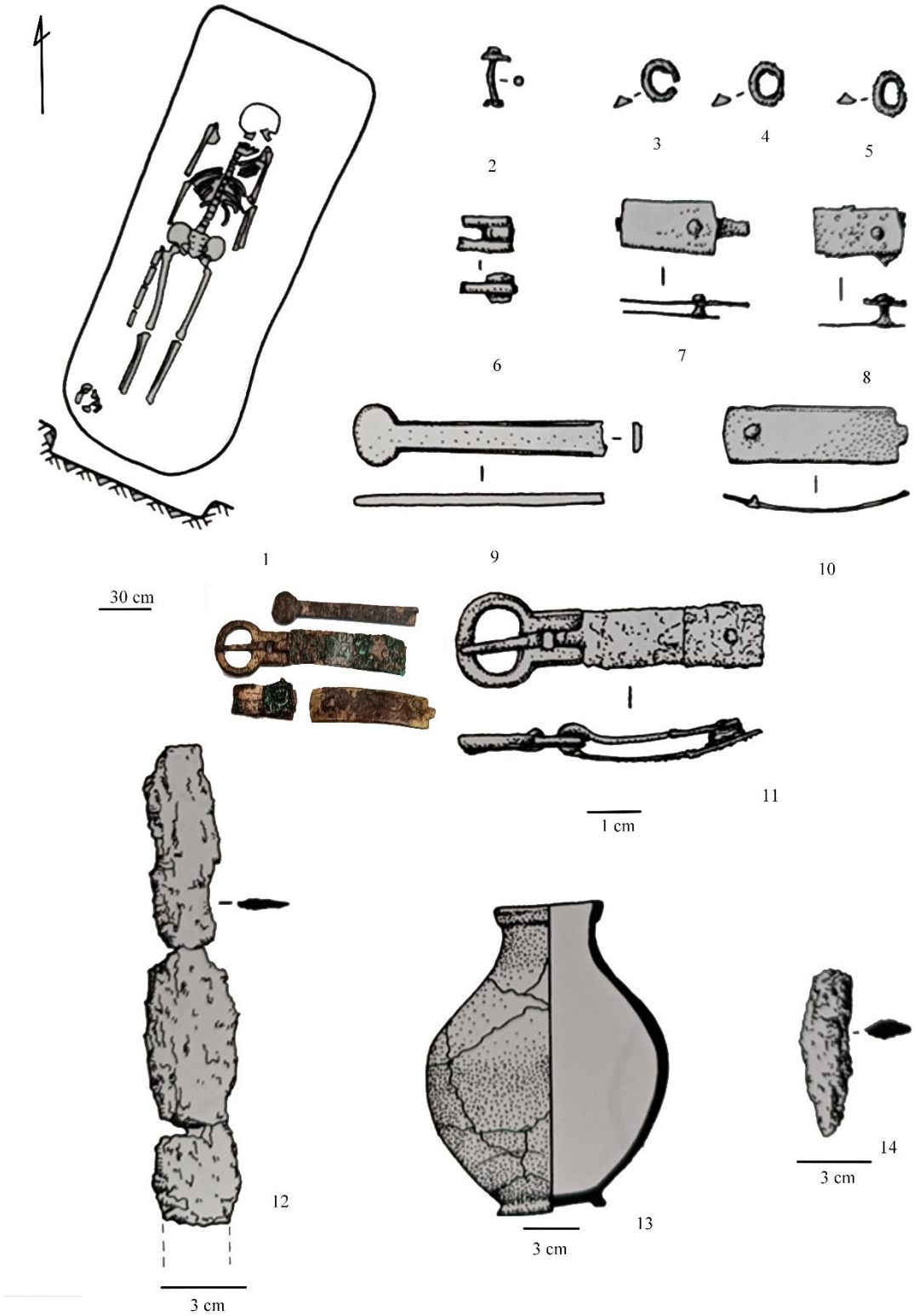


Fig. 182. Taraclia II T17G10 (after Sava, Agulnikov, Manzura 1985, 2019)

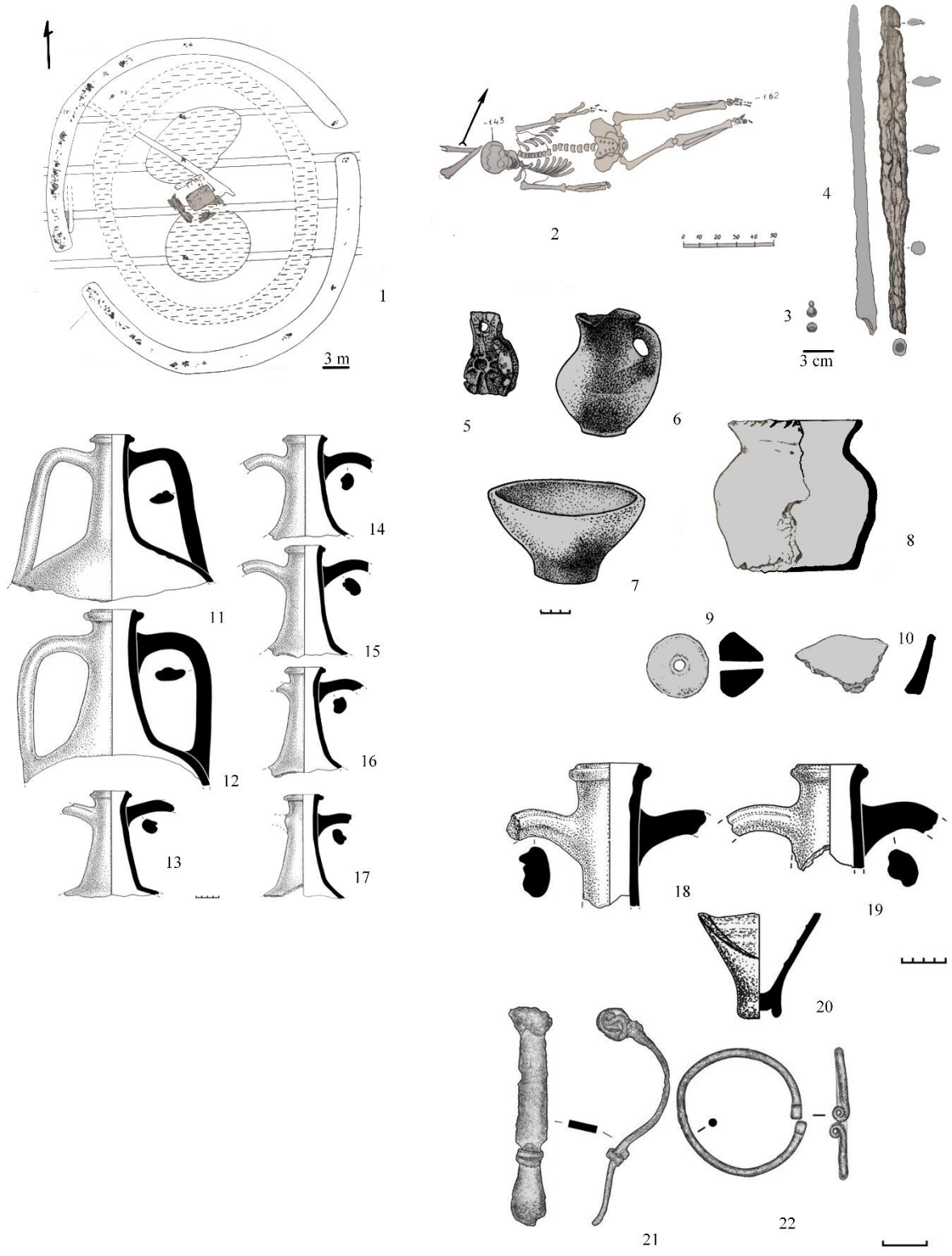


Fig. 183. Tîrnauca T1G2 (after Larina 1987), Tocmagiu DG1-2, G1-3 (after Ketraru, Rikman 1960, Rikman 1962, 1966, 1975, Simonenko 2018)

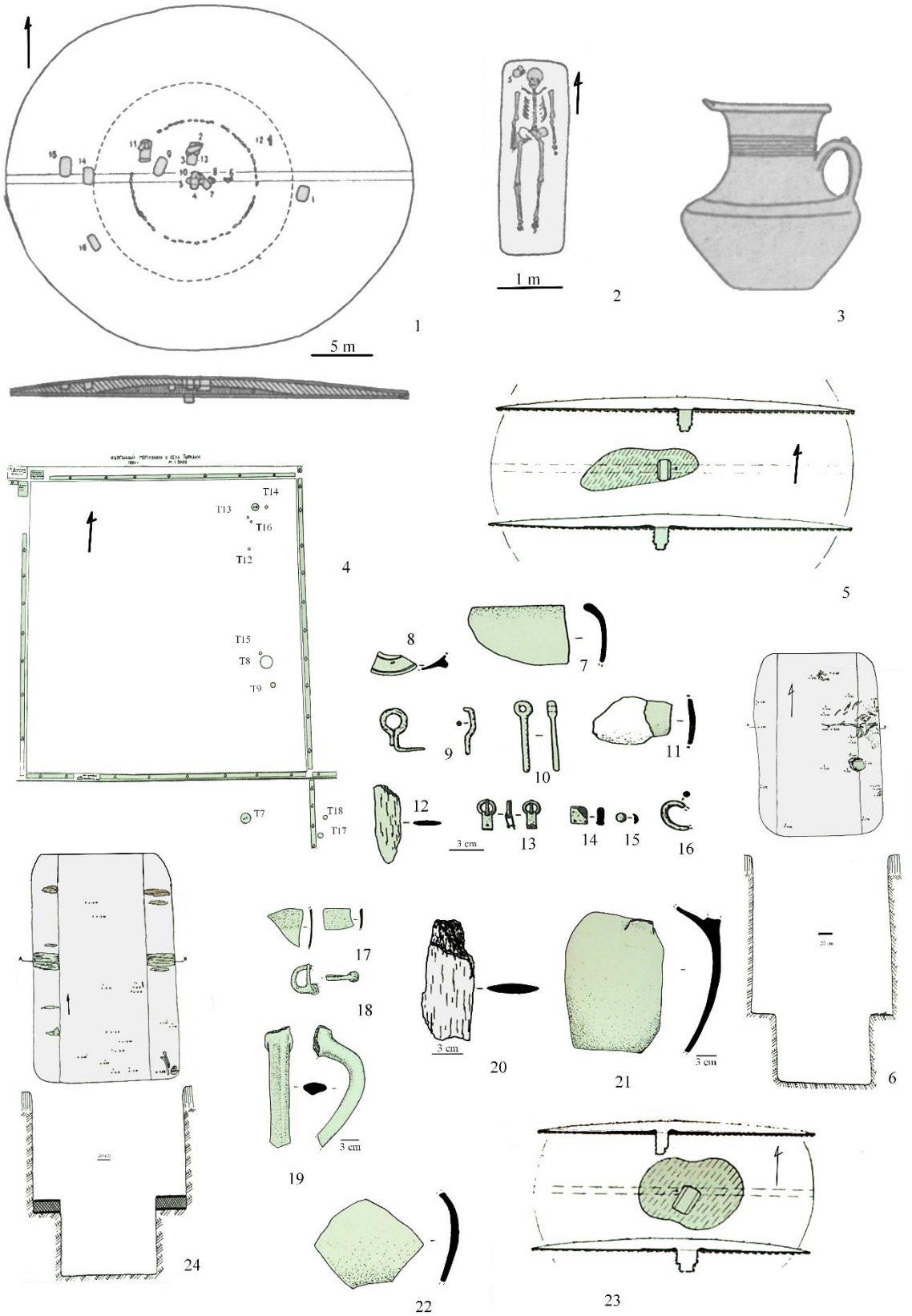


Fig. 184. Trapovka T1G5 (after Vanchugov, Zaginajlo, Toshchev 1976), Turlaki T8G1, T10G1 (after Chernjakov et al., 1985)



Fig. 185. Trinca DG1 (after Vornic 2016)

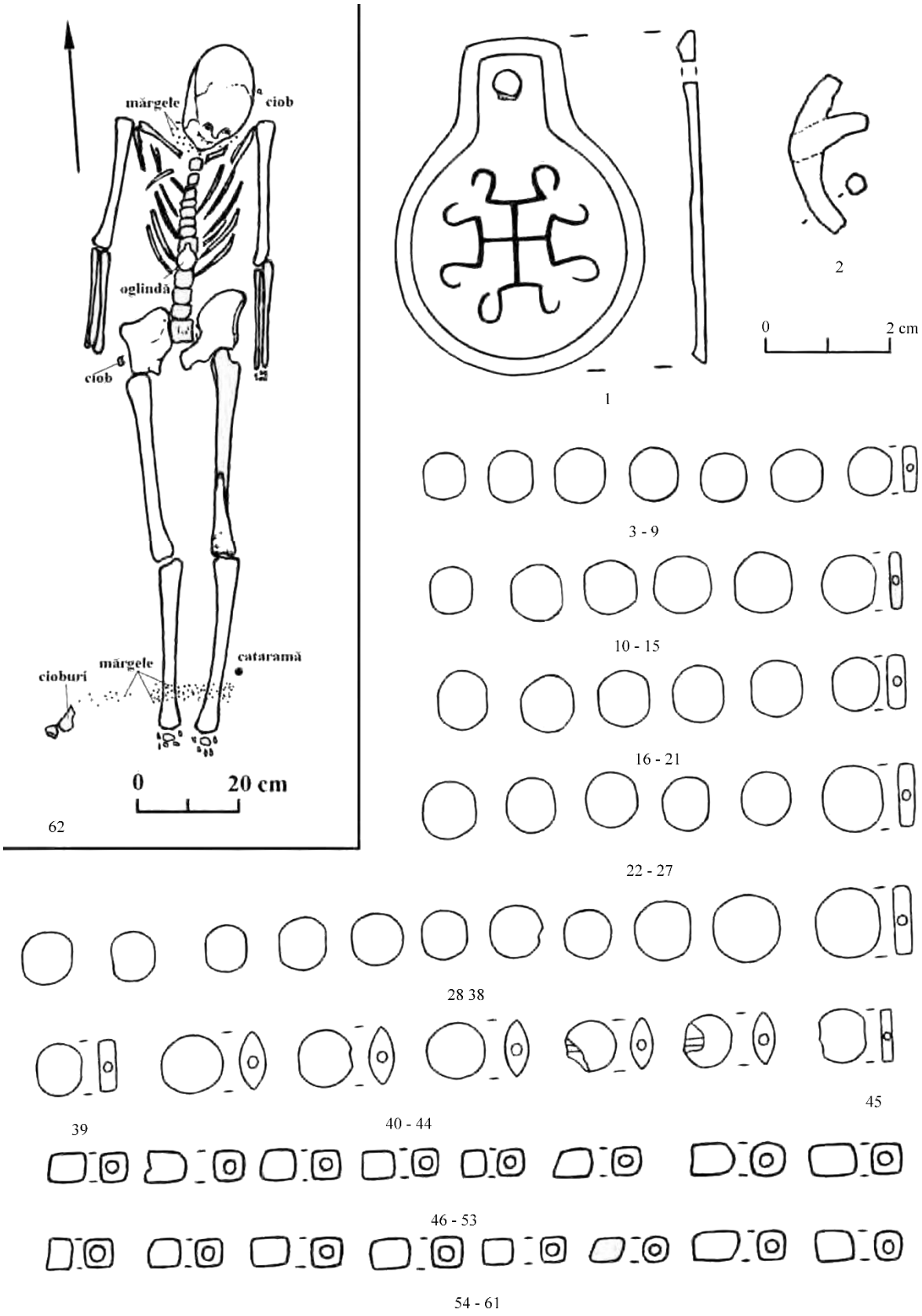


Fig. 186. Truşeni DG1 (after Vornic, Tabuncic 2008)

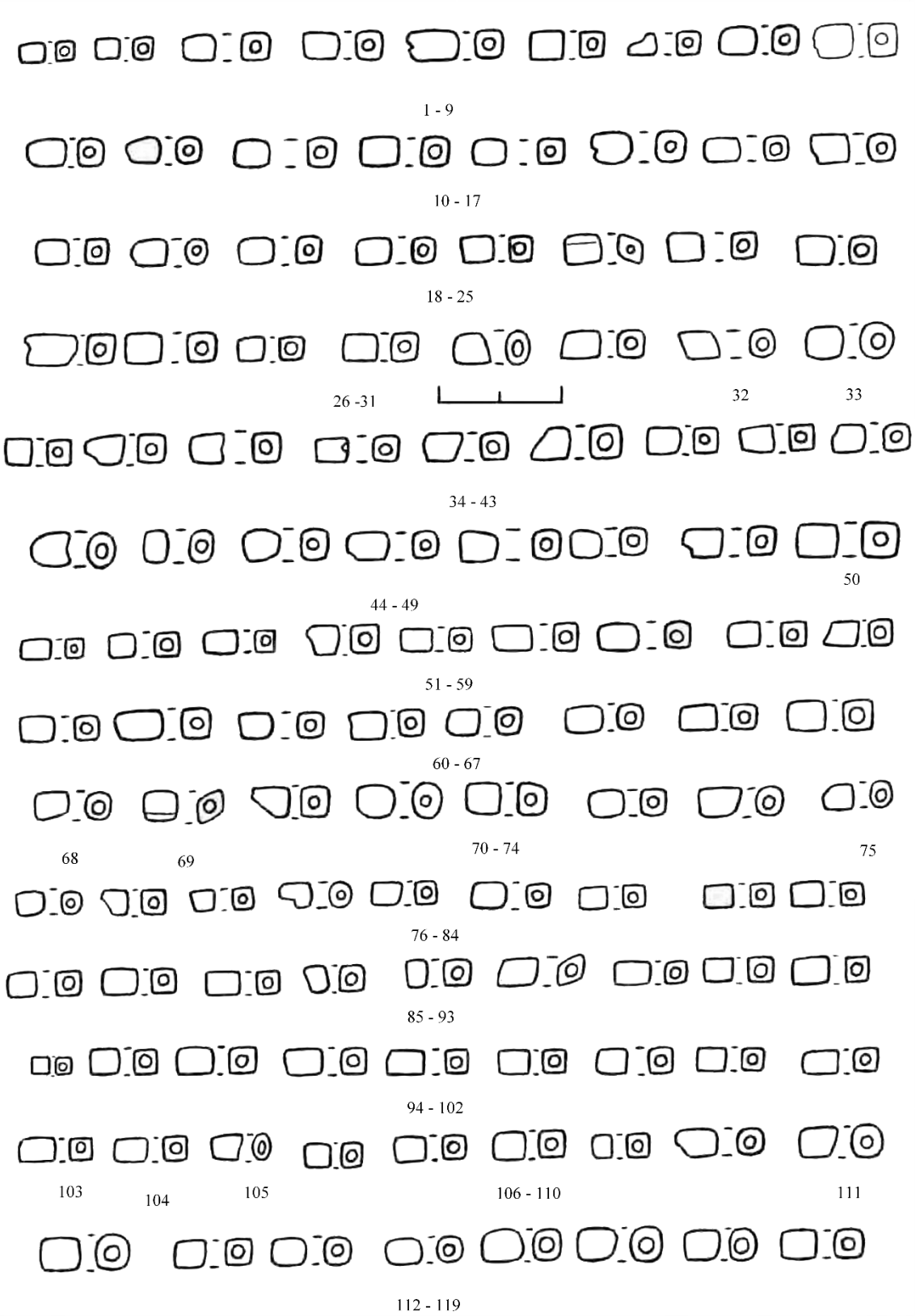


Fig. 187. Truşeni DG1 (after Vornic, Tabuncic 2008)

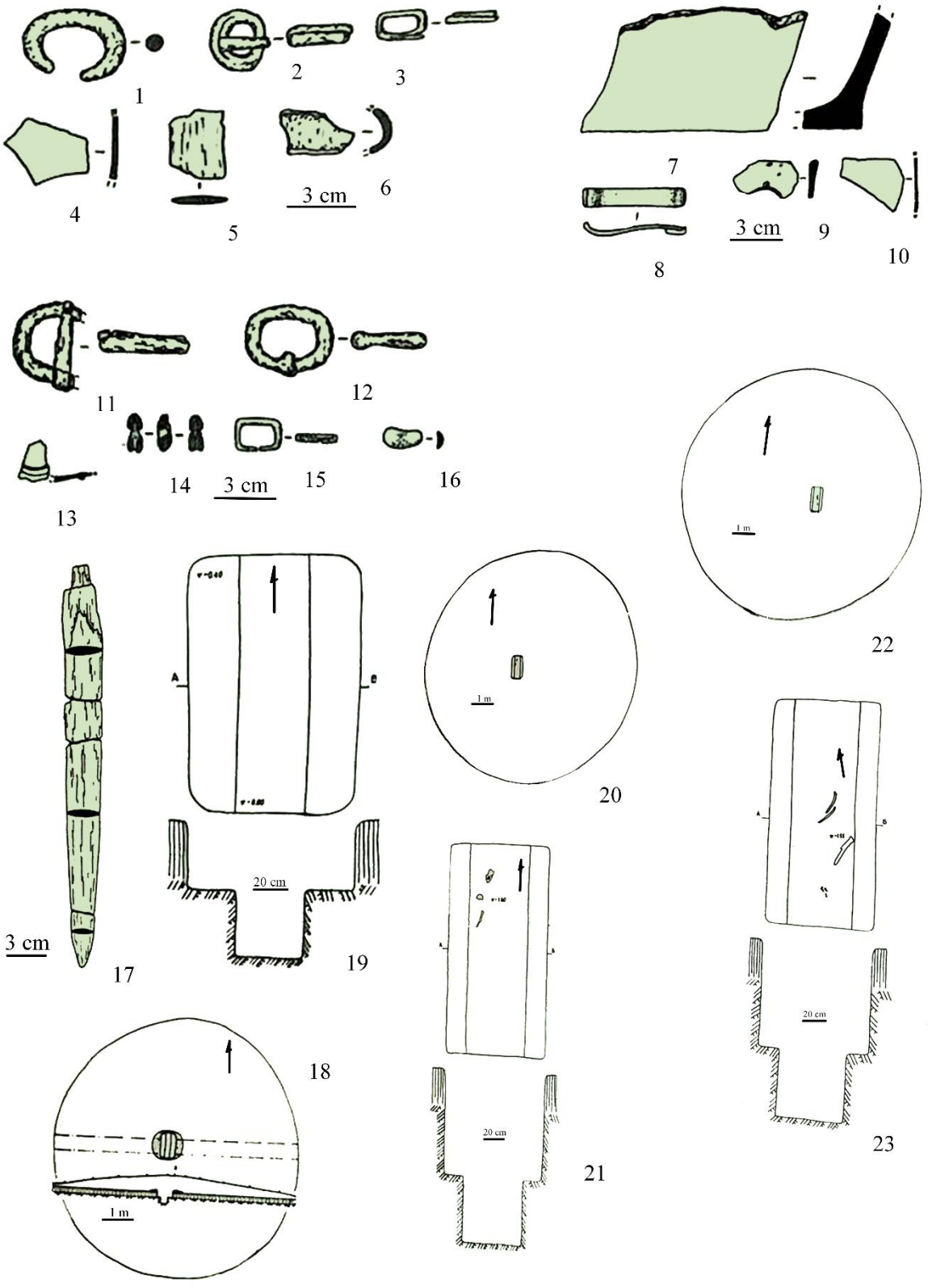


Fig. 188. Turlaki T10G1, T12G1, T13G1, T14G1 (after Chernjakov et al., 1985)

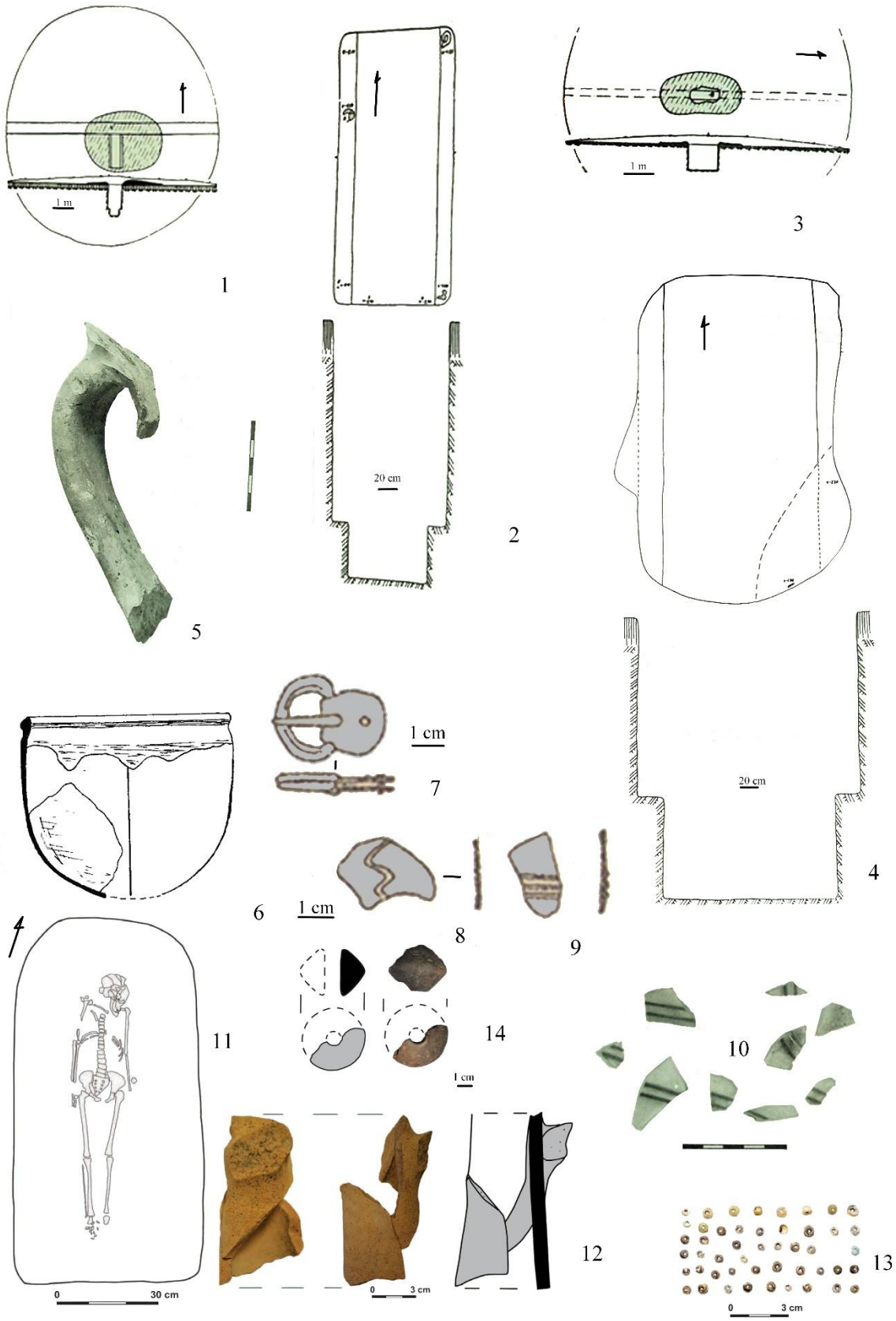


Fig. 189. Turlaki T16G1, T17G1 (after Chernjakov et al., 1985), Tuzara I G1 (after Corobcean et al., 2019)

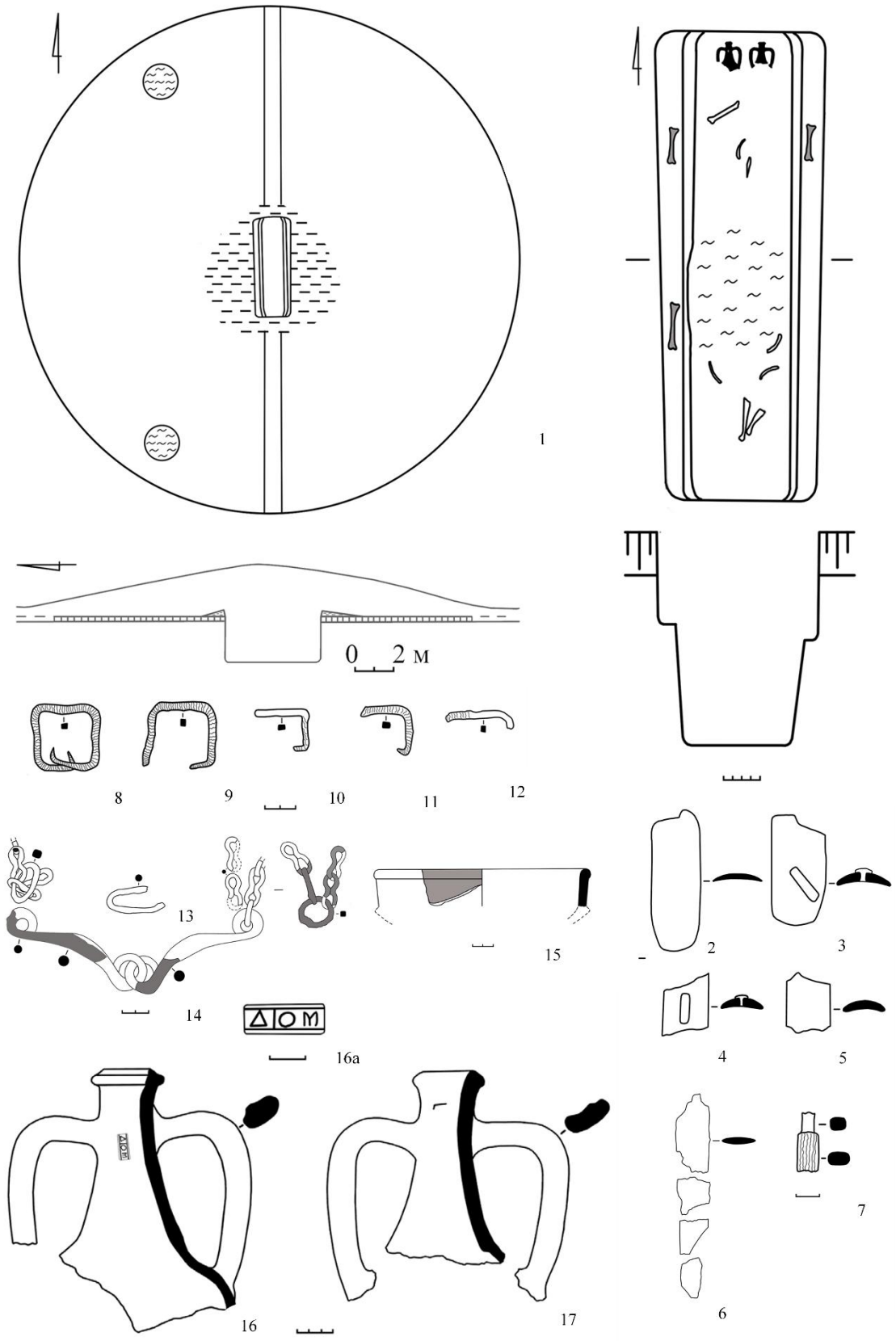


Fig. 190. Ursoaia T4G1 (after Kurchatov 2015)

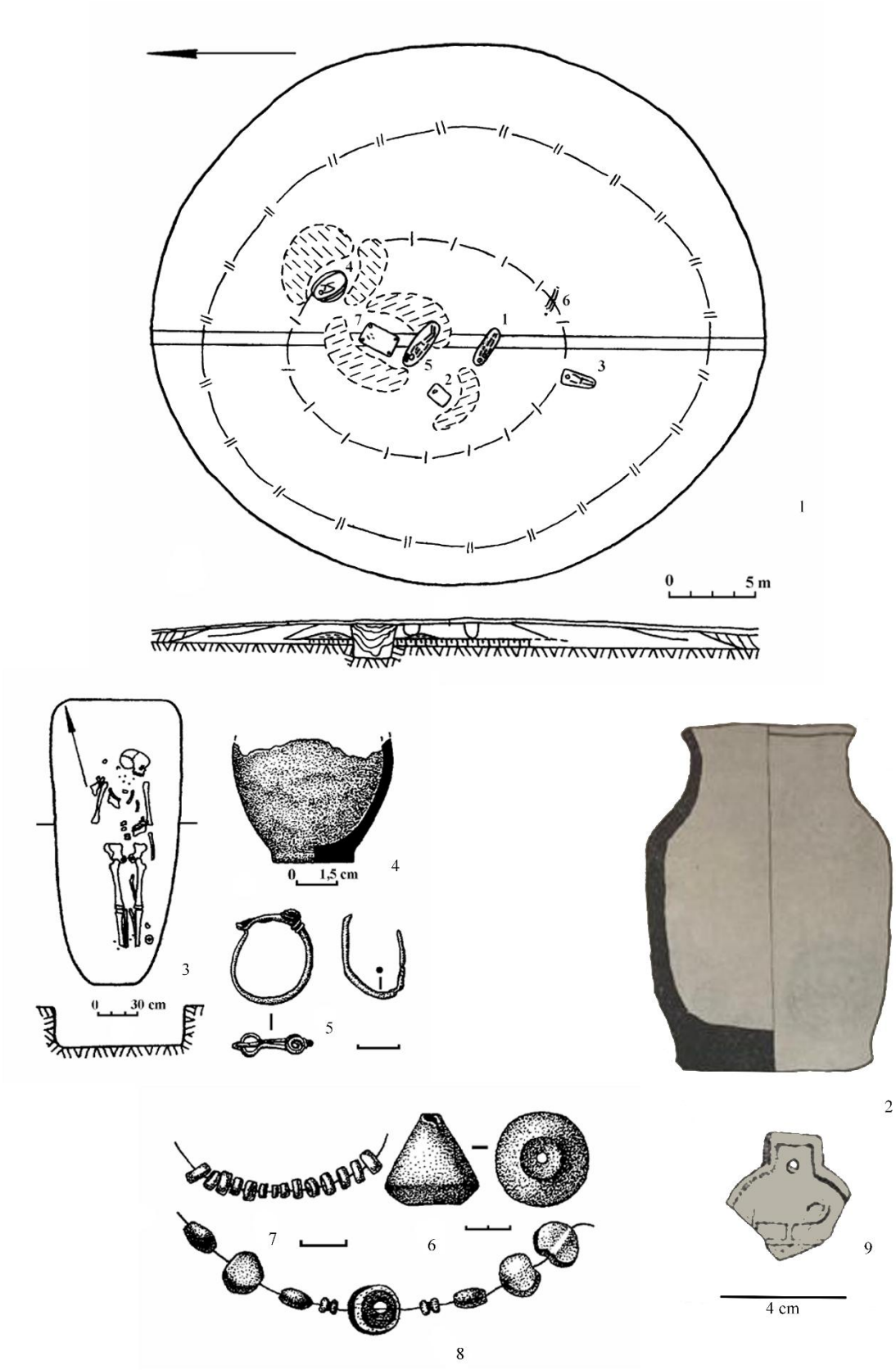


Fig. 191. Vadul lui Isac T1G3 (after Agulnicov, Ursu 2008), Viișoara DG1 (after Rikman 1966)

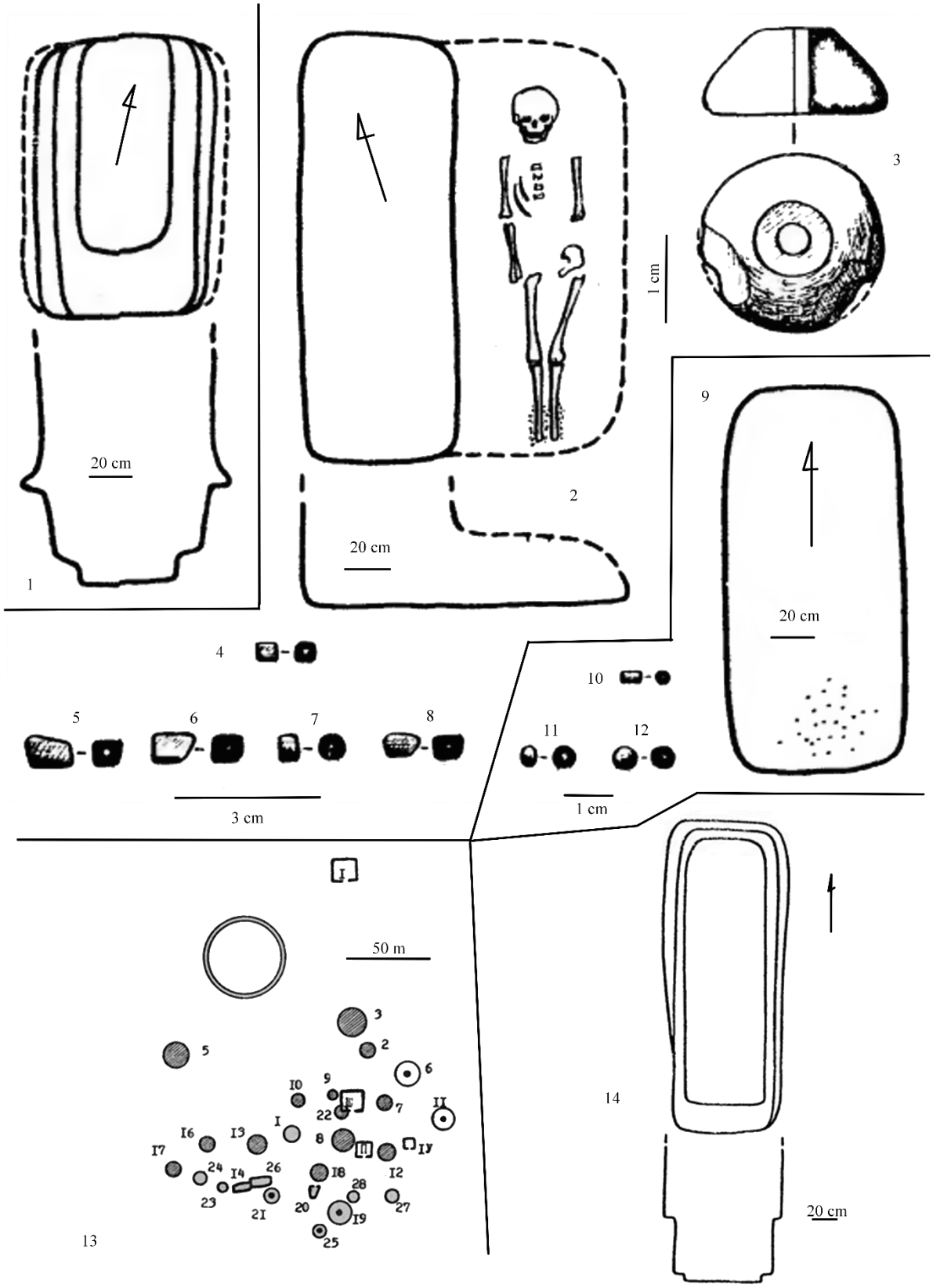


Fig. 192. Vasilivca Plan, T6G6, T11G1, T11G2, T21G2 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

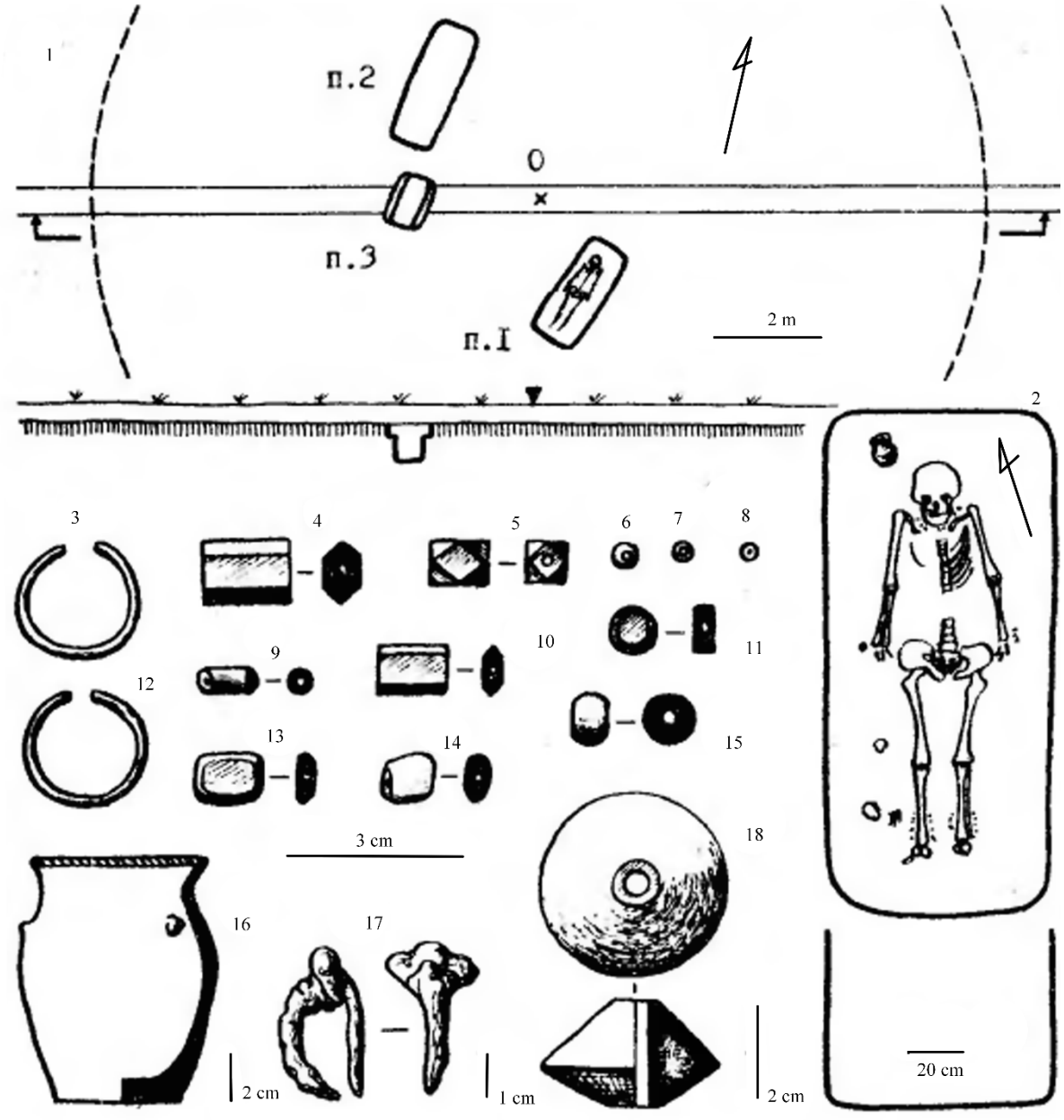


Fig. 193. Vasilivca T1G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

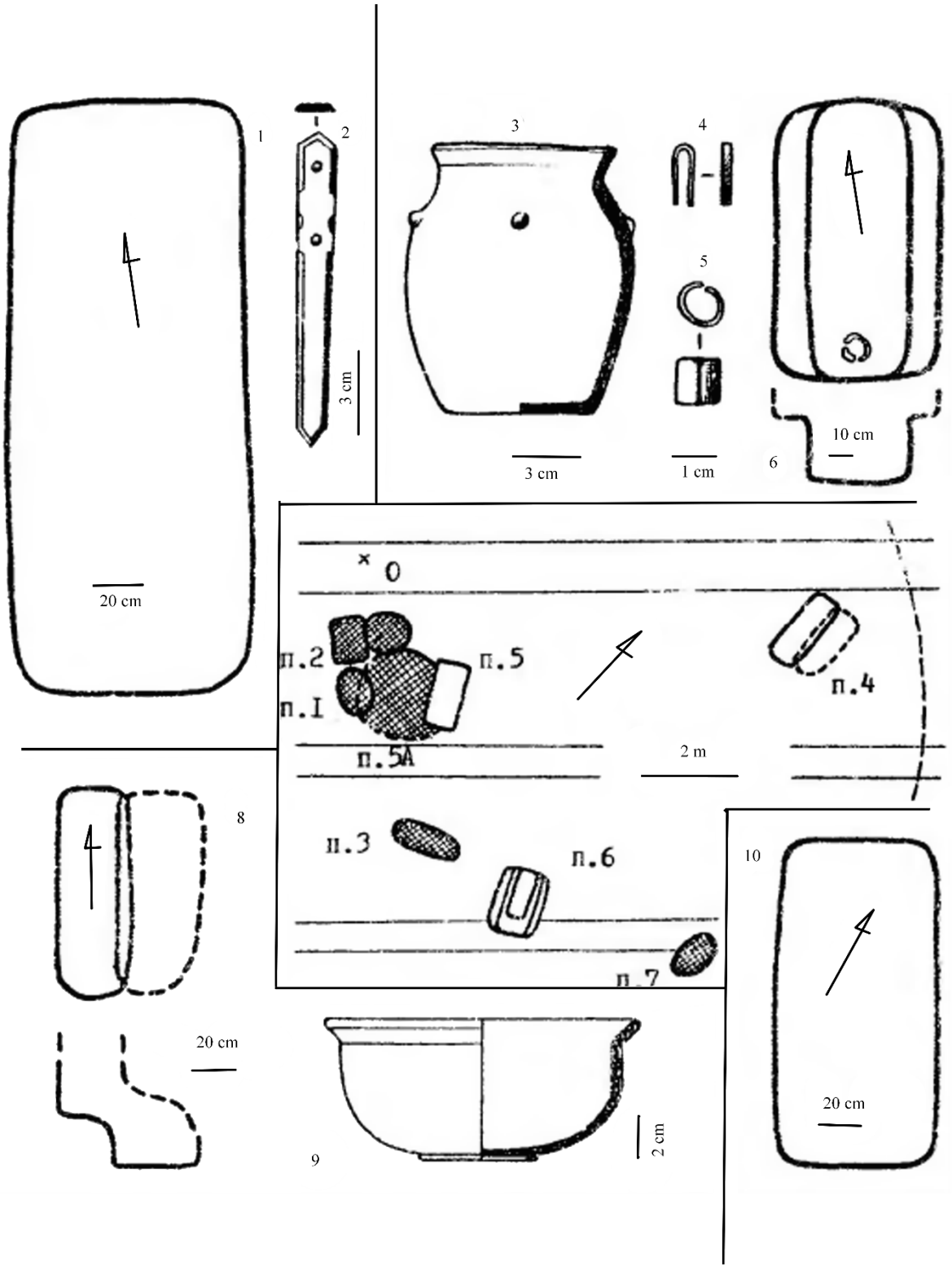


Fig. 194. Vasilivca T1G2, T1G3, T6G1, T6G4, T6G5 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

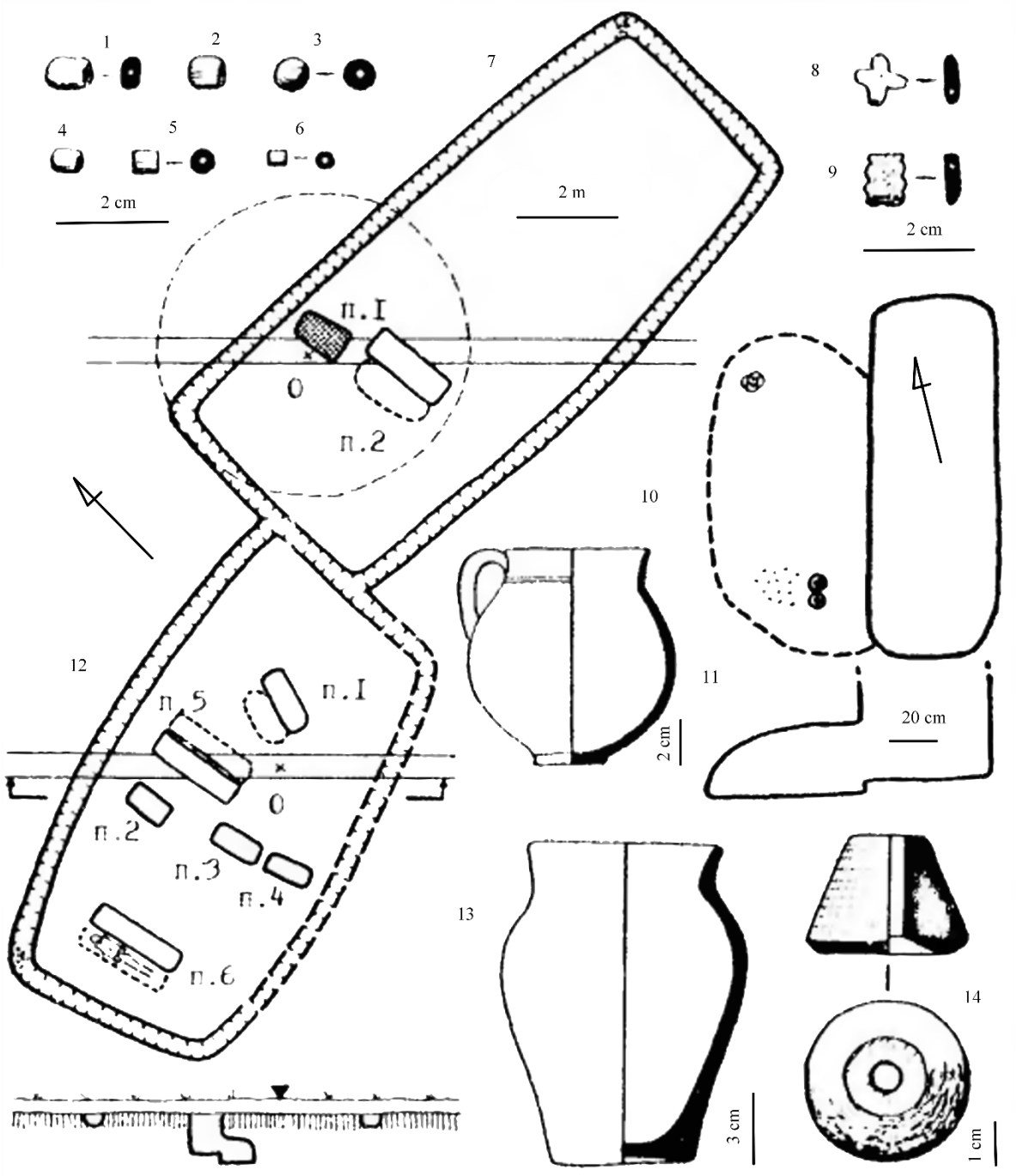


Fig. 195. Vasilivca T14G1, T26G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

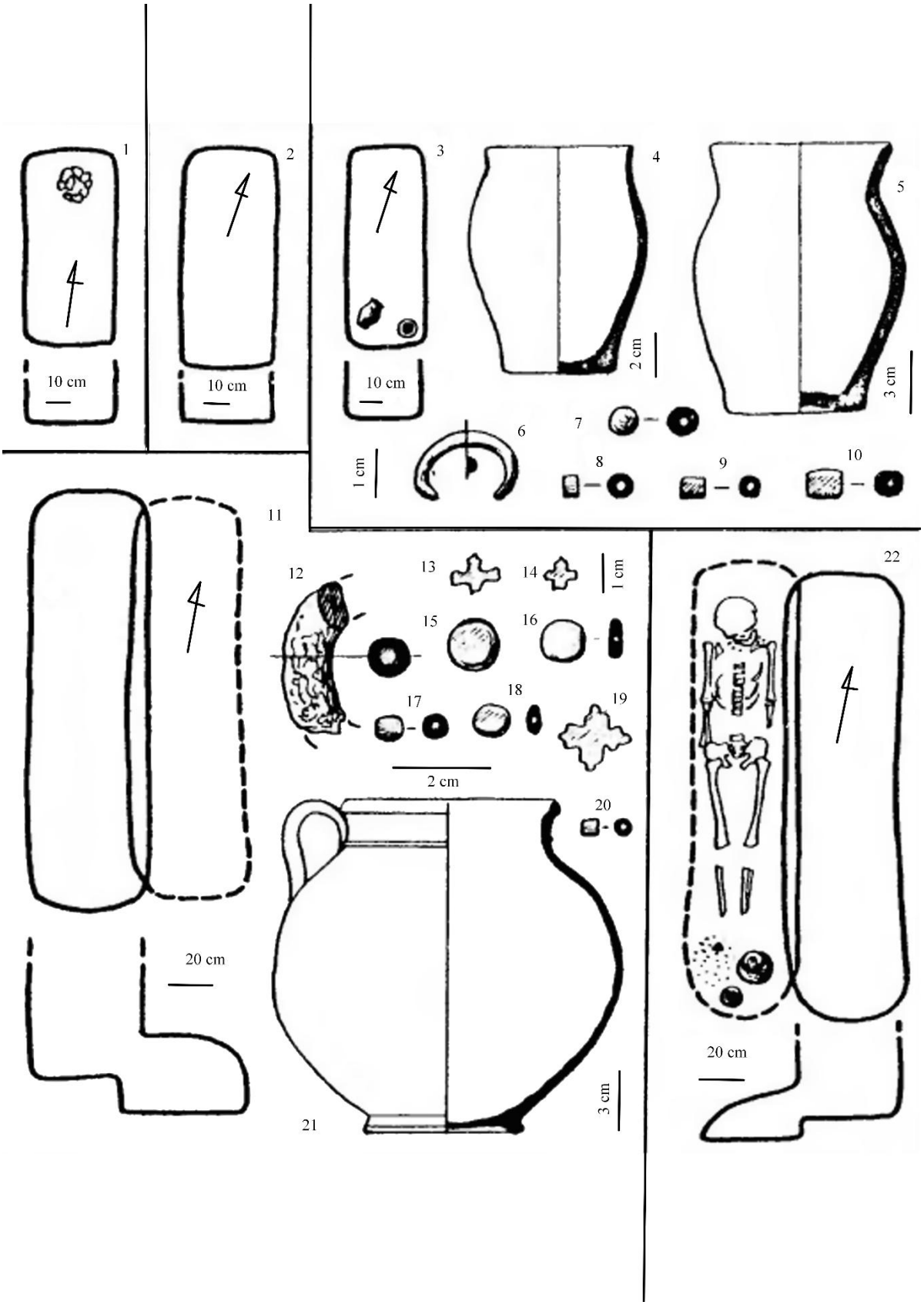


Fig. 196. Vasilivca T14G2-6 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

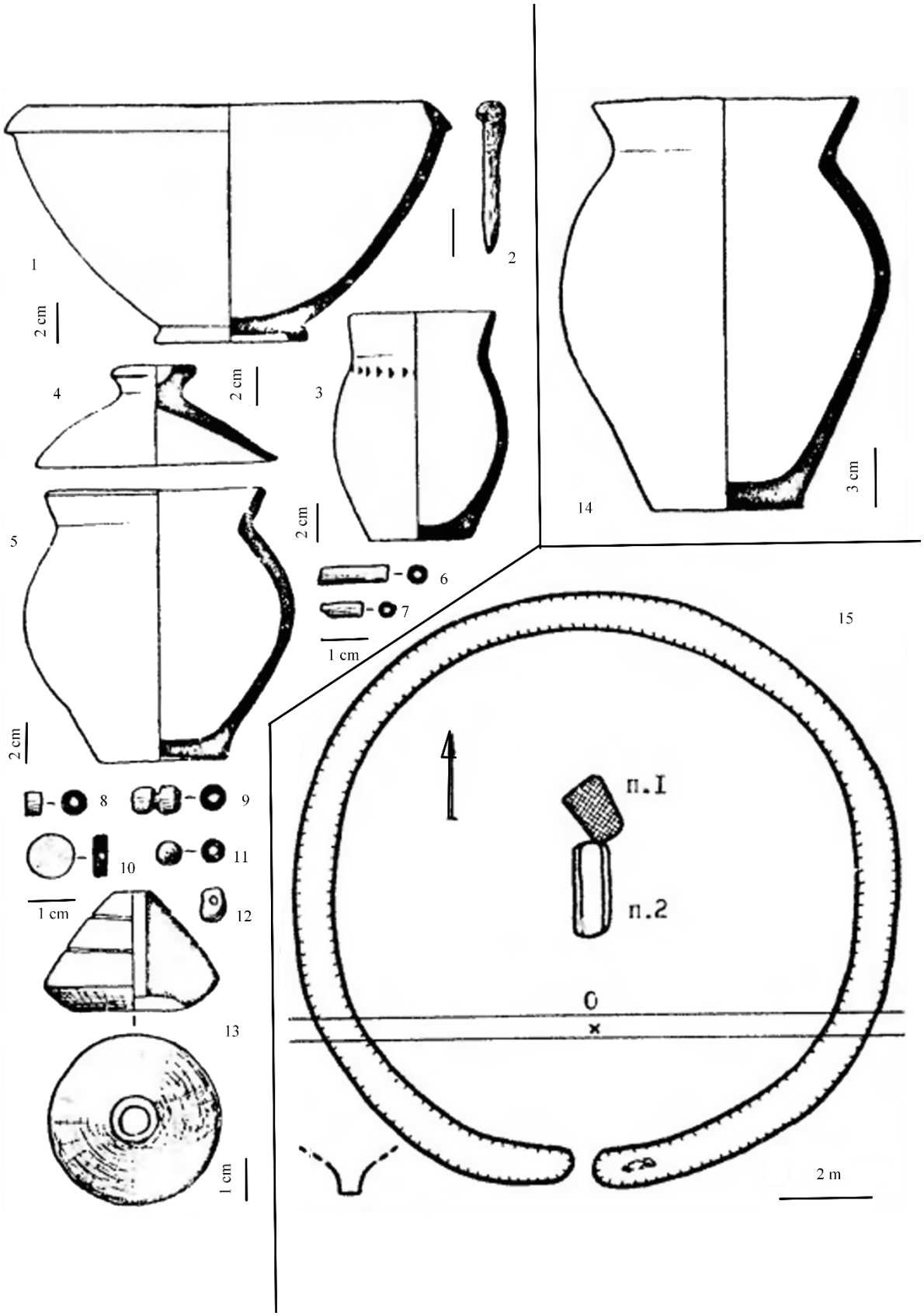


Fig. 197. Vasilivca T14G6, Trench, T19G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

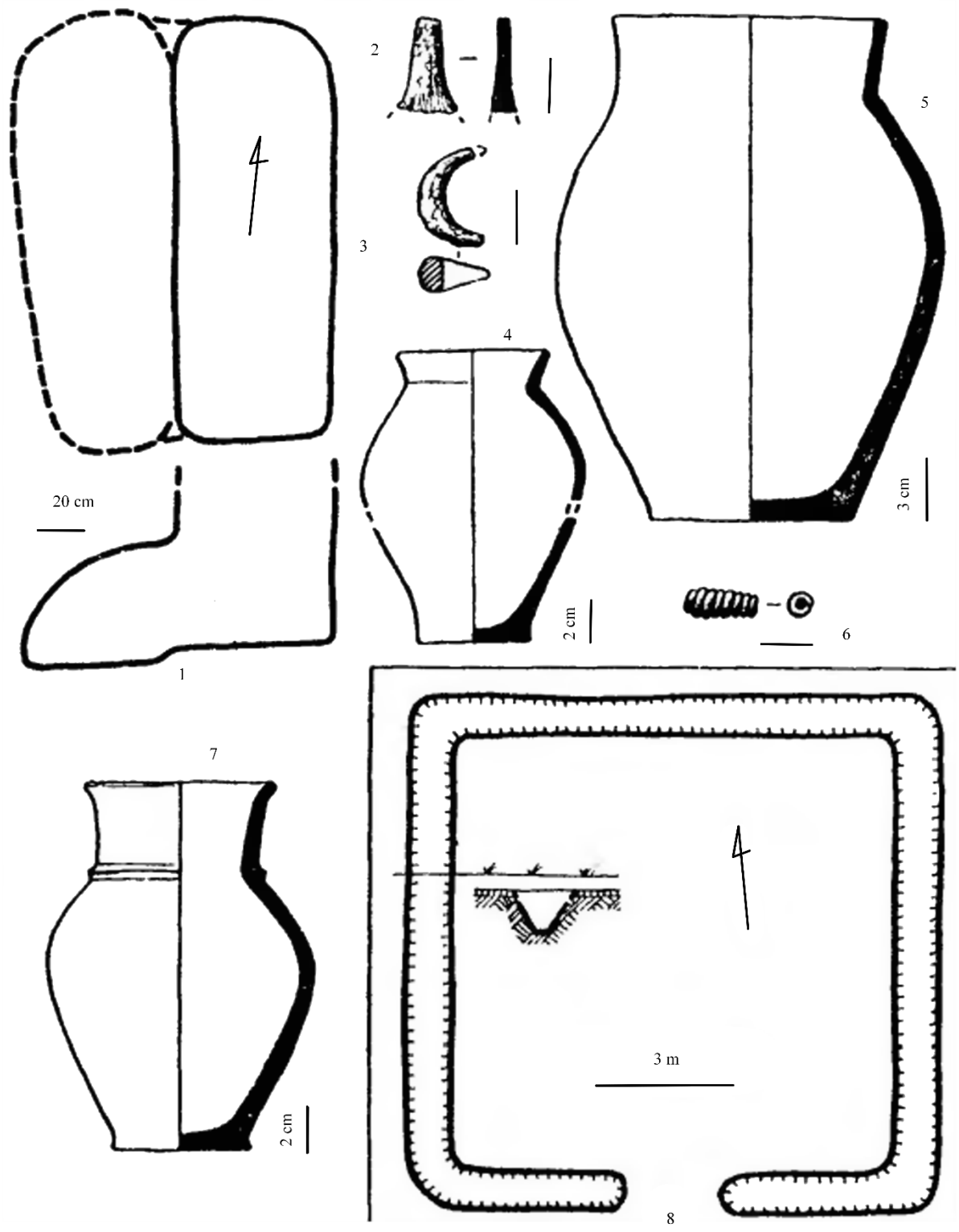


Fig. 198. Vasilivca T26G2, Trench (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

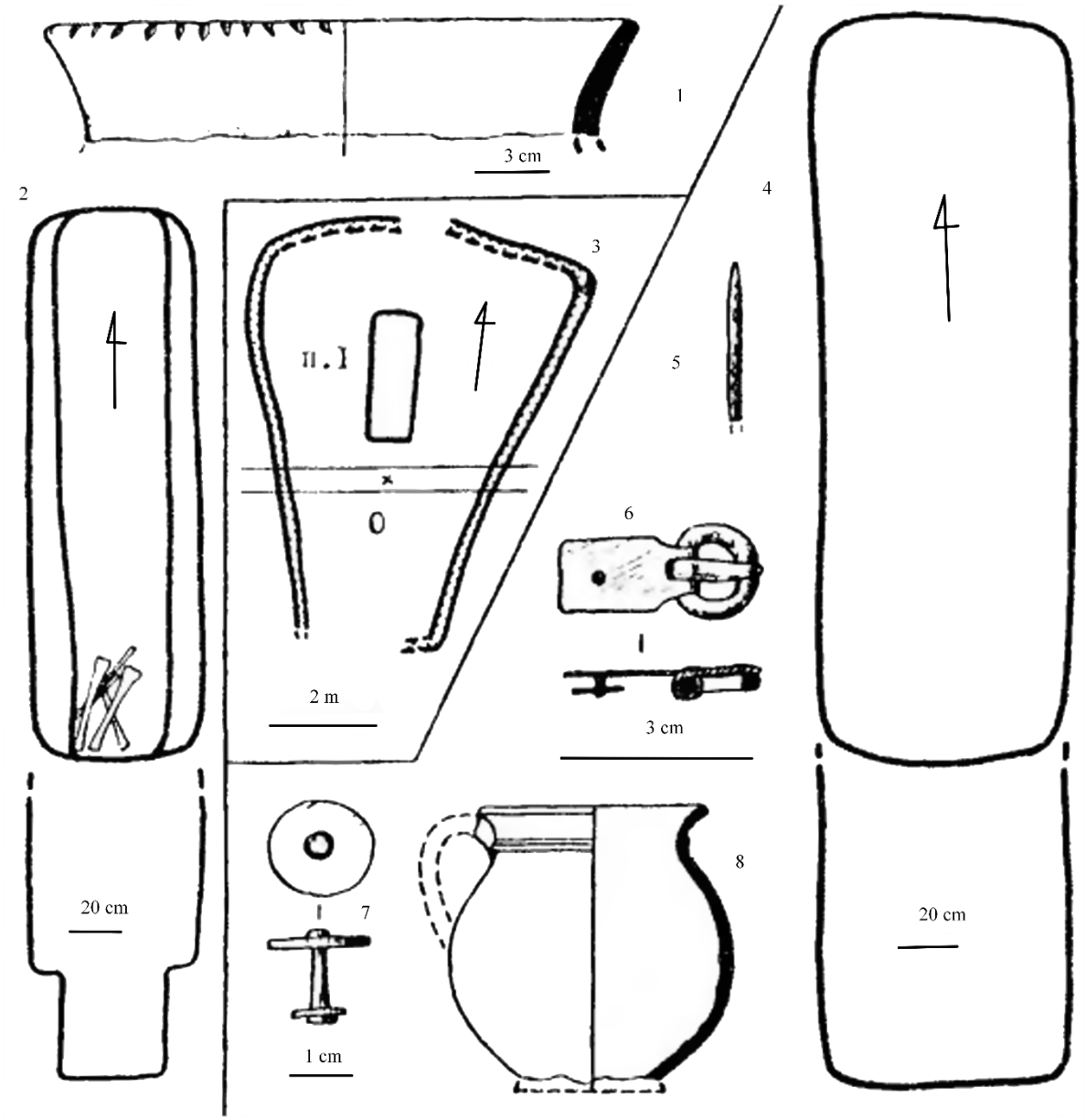


Fig. 199. Vasilivca T19G2, T20G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

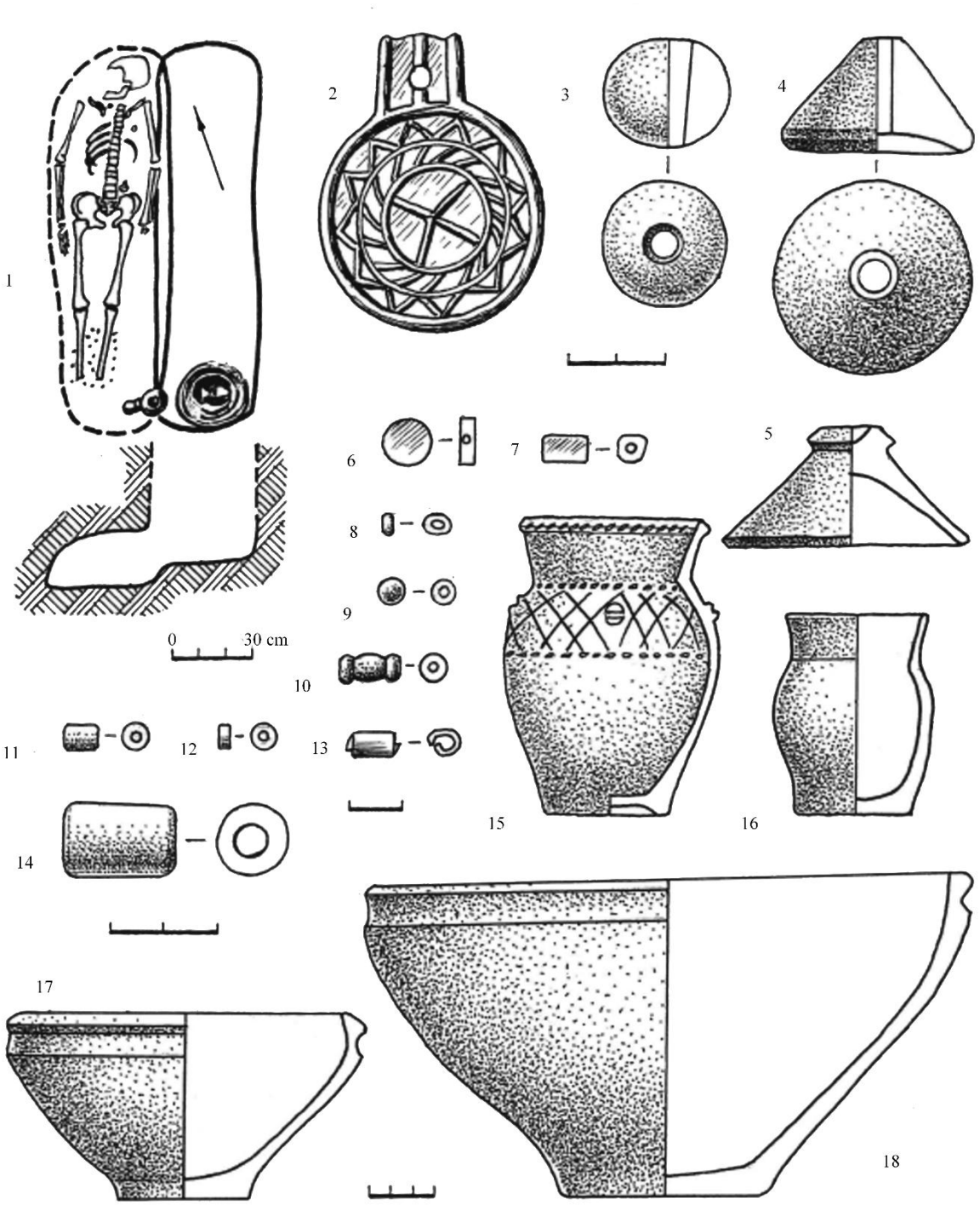


Fig. 200. Vasilivca T23G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

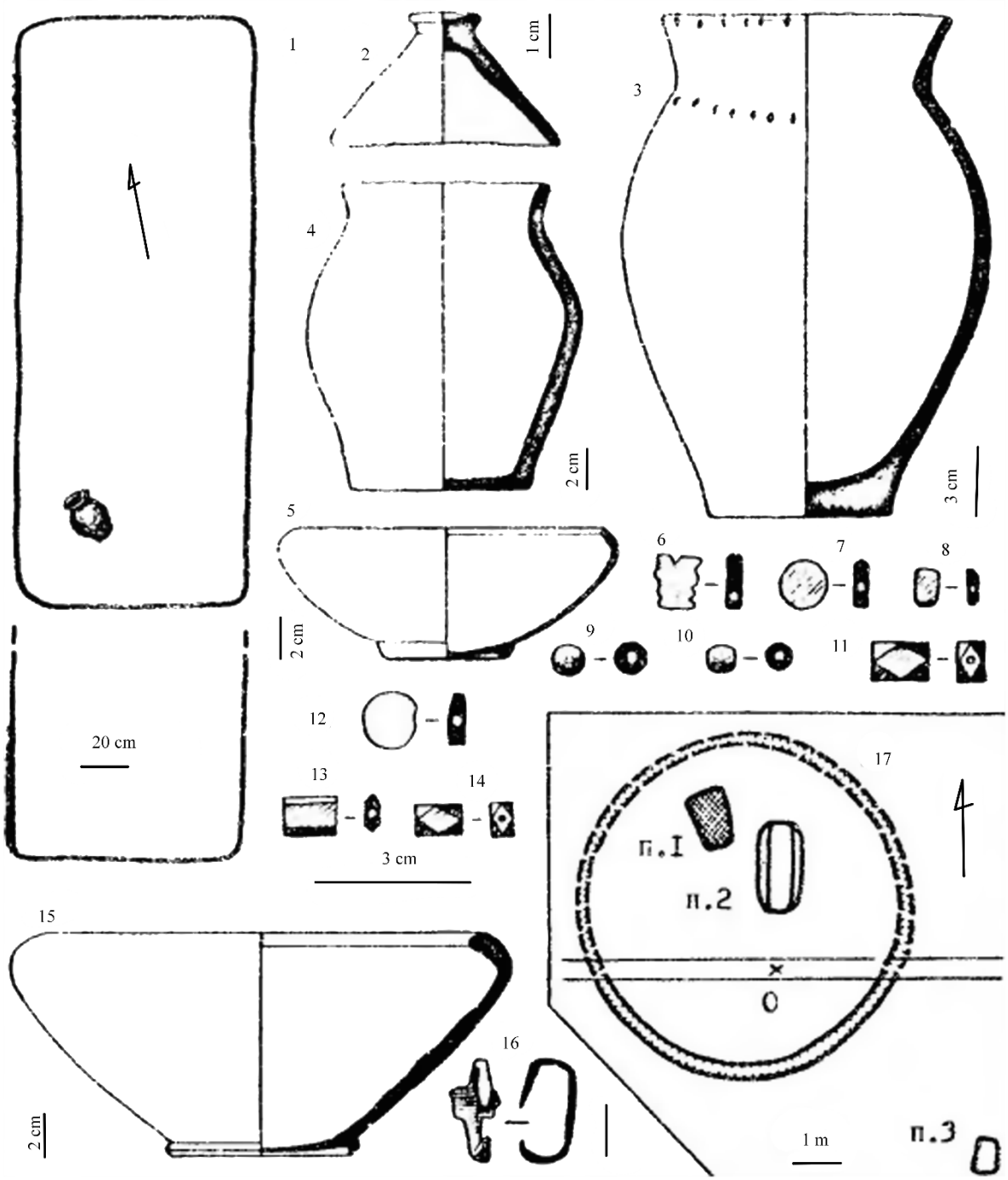


Fig. 201. Vasilivca T24G1, T25G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

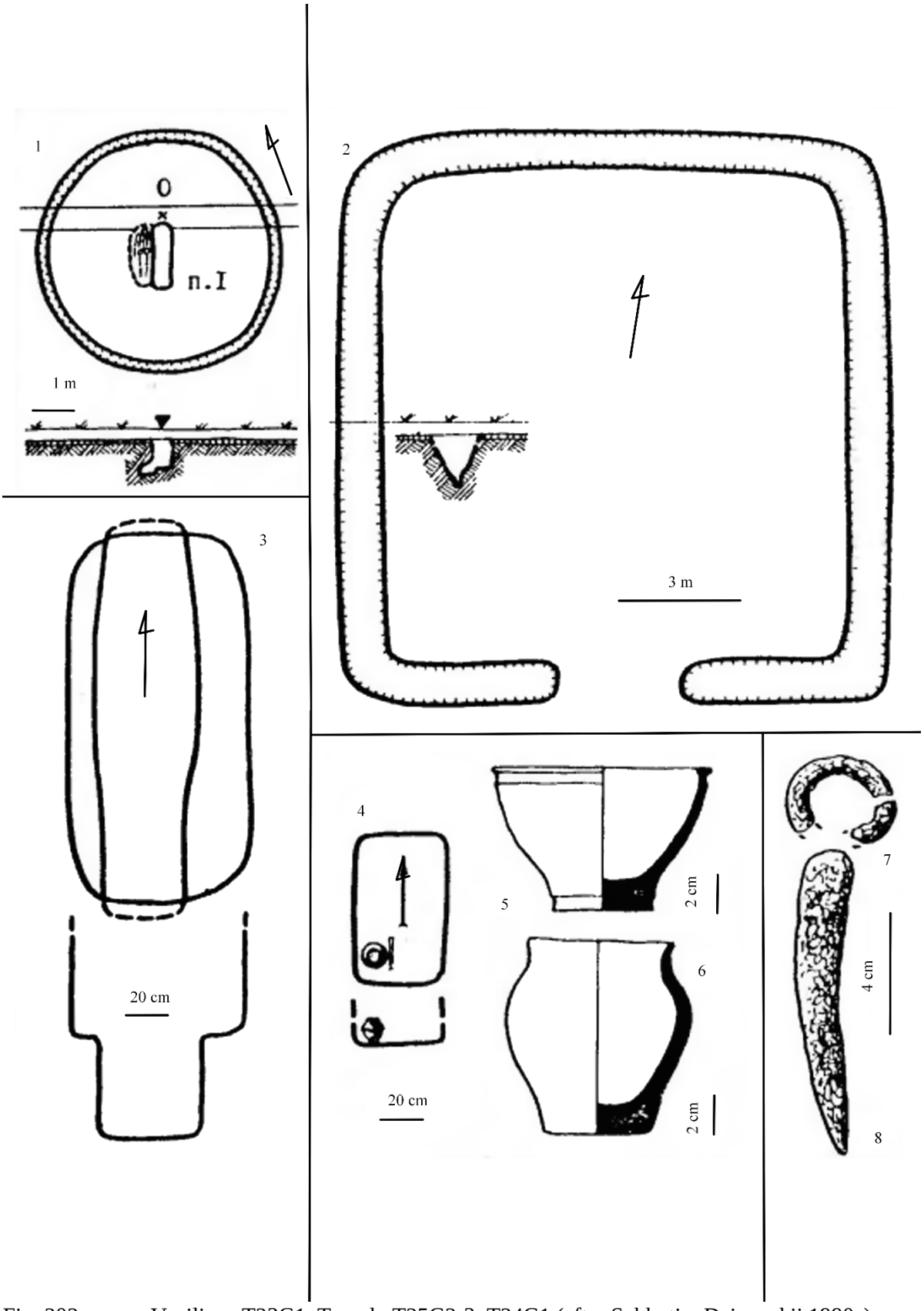


Fig. 202. Vasilivca T23G1, Trench, T25G2-3, T24G1 (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)

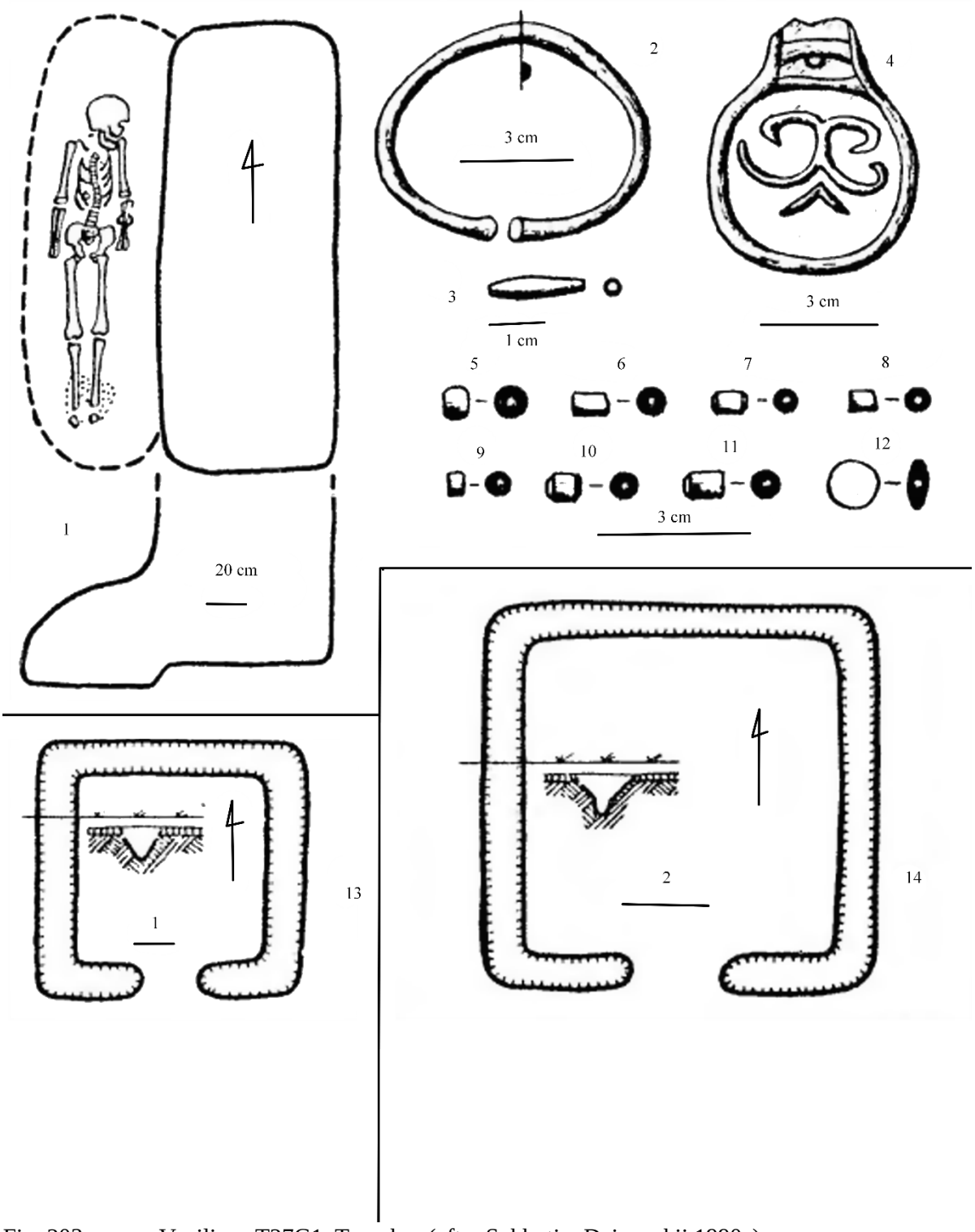


Fig. 203. Vasilivca T27G1, Trenches (after Subbotin, Dzigovskij 1990c)