

THE CULTURAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF THE BRONZE AGE CEMETERY FROM SEBEȘ-ÎNTRE RĂSTOACE

Gabriel BĂLAN

Muzeul Național al Unirii
Alba Iulia, Romania
liviugabrielbalan@yahoo.com

Colin P. QUINN

Hamilton College, Anthropology Department
Clinton, NY, USA
cquinn@hamilton.edu

Gregory HODGINS

University of Arizona, AMS Laboratory
Tucson, AZ, USA
ghodgins@email.arizona.edu

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The Bronze Age cemetery at Sebeș-Între răstoace was discovered in the summer of 2011 and rescue archaeological excavations were conducted during November and December of the same year (FÂNTÂNEANU *ET AL.* 2013, 173; FÂNTÂNEANU *ET AL.* 2014, 1). The site is situated on a low terrace of the Secaș River, close to the foothills of the South-Western edge of Secaș Plateau, part of the Transylvanian Plateau. The Mureș River, which in prehistory was an important route that linked Transylvania to Pannonian Plain (O'SHEA 2011), runs at 8 km WNW from the site (Fig. 1–2).

The funerary area at Sebeș includes 61 cremation in urn burials (M1–61) and two stone structures (features Cx. 21 and 73) identified in the site Între răstoace (Pl. 1/1–2). The necropolis is covered by a depositional level with artifacts dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (Gáva culture) and Migration

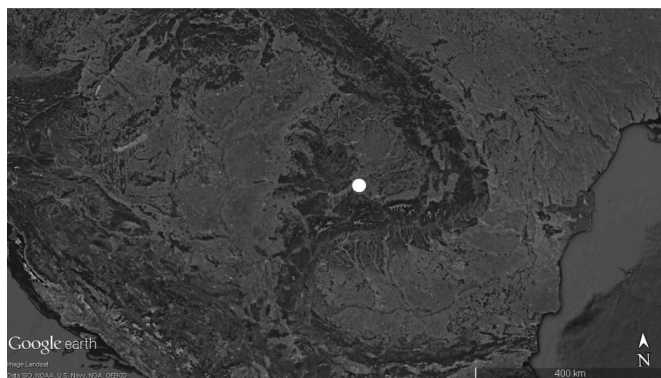


Fig. 1. Location of Sebeș-Între răstoace site in the Carpathian Basin on a satellite image (Google Earth).



Fig. 2. Delimitation of the site on the motorway project.

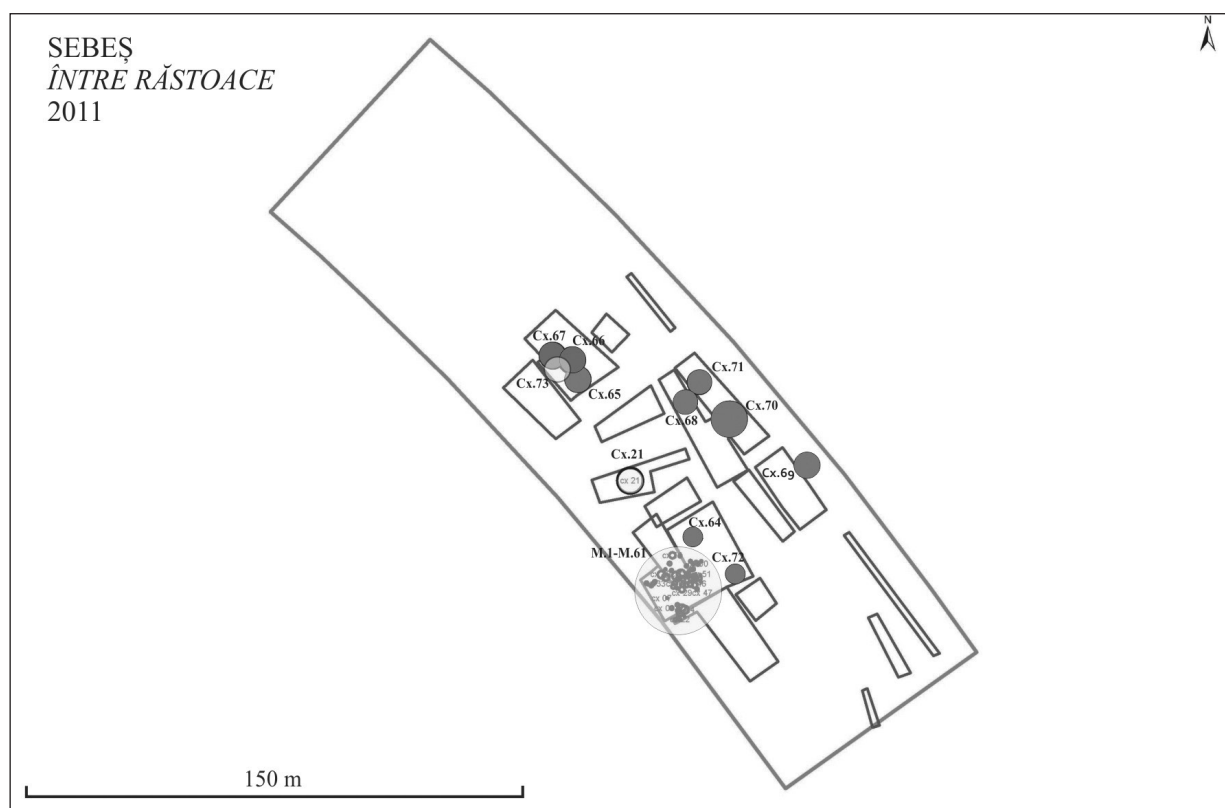


Fig. 3. Plan of the excavations in Sebeș-Între răstoace site.

Period (Fig. 3). The Bronze Age level, contemporary with the cemetery, is a brown clayey soil identified at 1.40–1.60 m depth in the main group of burials area and at 1.10–1.20 m in Cx. 73 area. The Bronze Age level is situated directly over the archaeologically sterile soil. The outline of pits into which the urns at Sebeș-Între răstoace were deposited could not be identified because the soil used for their filling has the same texture and colour as the one they were dug into. Based on previous work at Wietenberg cemeteries at Turia (Székely 1995, 127–130, fig. 3) and Aiton (Soroceanu et al. 1976, 60), we suppose that there were two types of pits: (a) rectangular shaped, in which stone structures (cists) were arranged, as the case of M38, M44 and Cx. 21, and (b) round or oval shaped, which contain the urns. In M49 two urns were placed next to each other (Fig. 4/3). Inside, the remains of a 23–30 year old female (49a) and a 2–5 year old child (49b) were identified. A few other graves from the cemetery are also placed in close proximity with each other (Pl. 1/2), which may represent a consanguinity or family relationship: burials M3 (adult male), M4 (9 months–1 year old child) and M5 (6 months–1 year old child); burials M41 (adult male), M42 (1–3 years old child) and M43 (adult male); burials M38 (9–10 years old child) and M44 (adult male).

In the funerary area at Sebeș stone structures built inside and outside grave pits were discovered (Pl. 1/1). The structures built inside pits are cists made of carved stone slabs, blocks or boulders placed to create rectangular boxes to be used for urn deposition. In the main group of burials at Sebeș (group I) two such cists were placed next to each other (burials M38 and 44) (Fig. 5/1). A third cist which did not contain vessels, pottery fragments, bones or ashes was constructed at 26 m NW from the main group of graves (Fig. 5/4). This archaeological context is hypothesized to have been disturbed, possibly as a process of returning (Quinn 2015) or robbing the grave during ancient times. The stone structures outside of pits are made of slabs or big rocks used to cover the graves: M12, M13 (Fig. 5/3), M15 and M32 (Fig. 5/2). Urns covered with lids were found in direct association with these slabs or stones. Another type of stone structure is Cx. 73, built 35 m to the NW of the cist in Cx. 21 and 61 m NW from the main burial group. This structure was made up of a 6.4 m row of slabs, fixed on the edge and oriented E–W. The function of this feature is unknown, but it is possible that it is part of a structure similar to a funerary enclosure or cist. A Late Bronze Age and two deepened Migration Period dwellings were built above and near this structure, disturbing the Middle Bronze Age stone structure.

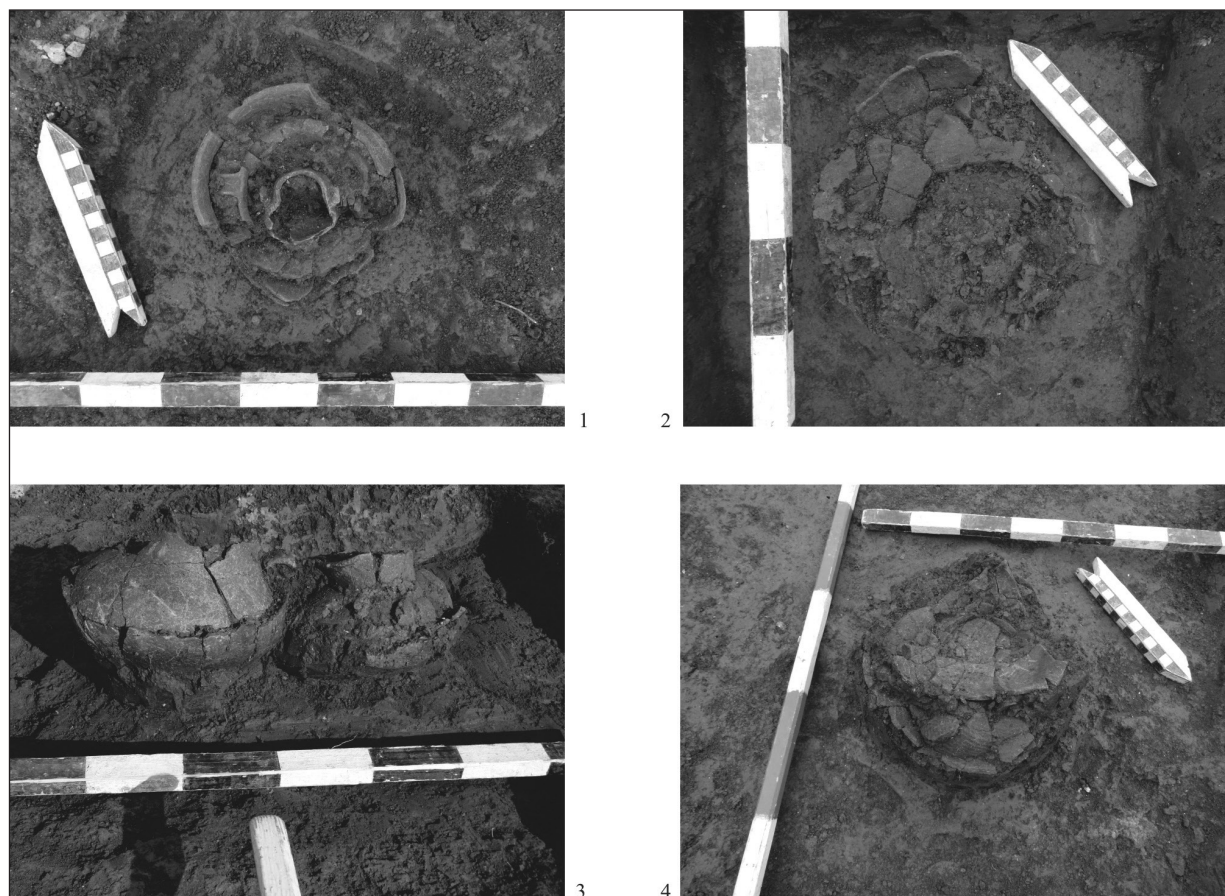


Fig. 4. Burial types at Sebeș: 1. Urn, lid and addiacent vessel (M12); 2. Urn without lid (M27); 3. Double burial (M49); 4. Urn and lid (M25).

The ceramic vessels in which cremated remains were placed (urns), as well as the vessels used to cover the urn opening (lids), serve as containers and can be considered to be part of the grave structure, along with the pit and other stone structures (MOTZOI-CHICIDEANU 2011, 62). The graves from Sebeș can be divided in two main categories: (a) with urn without lid (27 burials) and (b) with urn and lid (33 burials). Wietenberg burials were placed at a shallow depth below the Bronze Age ground level, which left the burials susceptible to later disturbances (more recent habitations, agricultural workings, floods etc.). These disturbances especially impacted the upper part of graves, including the lid. Even in well-preserved contexts, later disturbances can be identified.

In 4 burials at Sebeș, additional vessels deposited in the urn (M3 and M56) or in the lid-vessel (M12) were found (Fig. 4/1). Fragments from an additional vessel were discovered near the urn of burial M43, but it is possible that they fell into the pit from the upper side of the urn.

Faience beads were found among the calcined bones in 6 burials (M3, M4, M24, M25, M29 and M42). It is interesting that faience beads appear mostly in the burials of infants, except for burial M29 where an adult female of 25–40 years old was deposited.

Ceramic fragments from several types of vessels were discovered, but in some cases they could be reconstructed (Anghel 2014). The vessel types from the cemetery are pots (type A), bowls (type B), a dish (type C), cups (type D) and a pyxis (type E) (Fig. 6). The general typologies used for Wietenberg ceramics that we refer to were created by Chidioșan (1980, 27–60), Andrițoiu (1992, 35–44) and Boroffka (1994, 115–198). Pots of various types were found in the greatest number: A.1 is biconical shaped, with a well outlined shoulder and the maximum diameter of the body wider than the vessel's rim which is slightly or more everted; in some cases, it has knobs or small handles on or under the maximum diameter (type Chidioșan A3; Boroffka TA4b-c, e-f; Andrițoiu IV/e; Berecki I.6); analogies are observed at Turia (Székely 1995, pl. III/1, 5; IV/1, 5; V/1, 5; VI/2; VI/4; X; XI/3–4), Derșida (Chidioșan 1980, pl. 7/8), Deva-Dealul cetății (Andrițoiu 1992, pl. 28/9) and Deva-Dâmbul Popii (Andrițoiu 1978, fig. 5/1), Uioara de Jos (Andrițoiu 1992, pl. 38/9), Oarța de Sus (Kacsó 1987, fig. 25/3–5; 26/5–6; 27/4; Kacsó 2004, pl. XVII; Kacsó 2013, fig. 8; 12; Kacsó 2015, fig. 197; 204–205); Brașov-Bartolomeu-Schottergrube (Boroffka 1994,

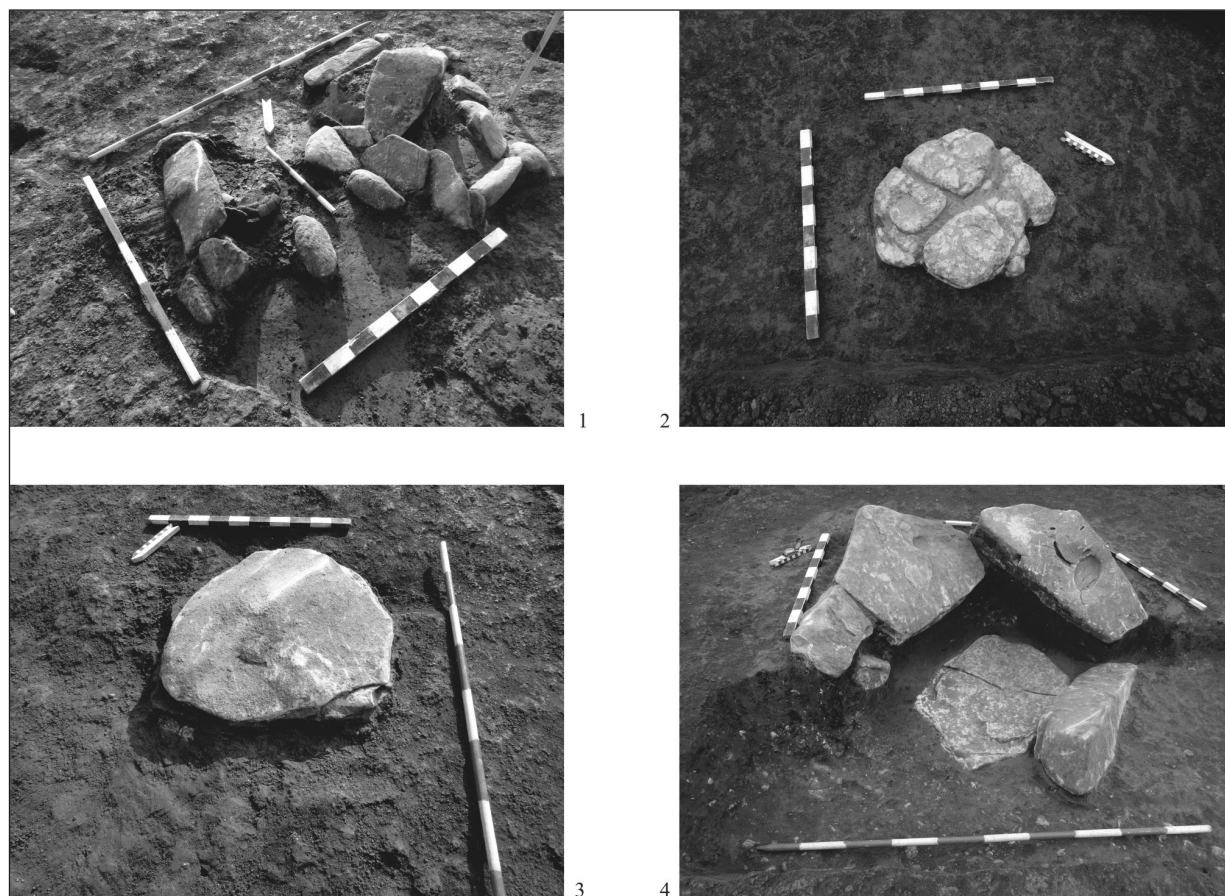


Fig. 5. Stone structures in Sebeș cemetery: 1. two cists (M38 and M44) in the main group of burials; 2. Stones covering the burial (M32); 3. Stone slab covering the burial (M13); 4. Cist outside the cemetery (Cx. 21).

Taf. 18/1), Bistrița (Crișan 1970, fig. 8/3/B; 10/3/B); Sibișeni (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 124/1, 3) and Luduș (Berecki 2016, 83–84); A.2 is derived from the previous type and has a rounder body, wider rim and base, and a well-defined shoulder (the closest variant is Boroffka TA2c); there is an analogous vessel at Sibișeni (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 122/7); A.3 has a spherical body, flat base, an everted neck, a vertically pinched rim, and two handles on the maximum diameter (the closest analogy is type Andrițoiu IV; Andrițoiu 1992, pl. 43/14); there is an analogous vessel at Alba Iulia (Andrițoiu 1992, pl. 27/12); A.4 also has a spherical body, short neck, a slightly everted rim and a flat base (Andrițoiu V type; Andrițoiu 1992, pl. 43/23); there is an analogous vessel at Ghirbom–Sub vii (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 81/3); A.5 has a slender body, flat base, a slightly everted rim, and two handles symmetrically applied on the neck (type Boroffka TA2a, Andrițoiu V, Chidioșan A2); analogies are found at Oieșdea (Andrițoiu 1992, pl. 38/16), Deva–Dâmbul Popii (Andrițoiu 1978, fig. 2/10), Sighișoara–Herțes (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 129/7–8), Dumbrăvița (Soroceanu–Retegan 1981, fig. 8/1; 12/3) and Derșida (Chidioșan 1980, pl. 11/3; 30/4); A.6 is a short pot, like the bowls, with an S-shaped profile and two handles applied on the neck and shoulder (it is a combination between the types Boroffka TC2b and TC3e); A.7 is a short pot with a slender body and flat base (it is a combination between types Boroffka TC2b and TC3a); analogies are found at Turia (Székely 1995, pl. V/3; VI/3) and Sibișeni (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 120/1); A.8 has a flat base, slender body, an everted neck, and a vertically pinched rim (it is a combination between types Boroffka TA4f and TC2b); A.9 has a flat base, rounded body, an inverted neck, and a vertically pinched rim (type Boroffka TA3a, Chidioșan Ib); an analogous vessel was found at Bistrița (Crișan 1970, fig. 9/2); A.10 is the short variant of A.1 type; analogies have been found at Fântânele (Marinescu 2008, pl. II/2) and Luduș (Berecki 2016, pl. 32/12). The most common types of pots in the cemetery at Sebeș are A.1 and A.10, which were used as urns that contained calcined bones.

There are 5 types of bowls: B.1 has a flat base, slender body, short neck and an everted rim (it is a combination between Boroffka TC2b and TC2c types); analogies are found at Oarța de Sus (Kacsó 1987, fig. 24/10, 13; Kacsó 2013, fig. 13/5), Turia (Székely 1995, pl. V/6), Dumbrăvița (Soroceanu–Retegan 1981, fig. 3/1); B.2 has a different neck shape from the previous type – it is inverted and the rim is vertically pinched (a combination of Boroffka's TC2a and TC2b types); B.3 is short, with an S-shaped profile,

flat base and an everted rim (type Chidioșan E2, Boroffka TD3d, Berecki III.3); analogies are found at Baraolt (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 8/7), Sibișeni (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 124/6), Sighișoara-Wietenberg (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 132/5), Bistrița (Crișan 1970, fig. 10/3/A, 4; 11/3, 5/A), Cicău (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 49/7, 12), Chintelnic (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 29/4, 18; 31/9–10; 32/12), Cluj-Napoca-Str. Banat (Rotea-Wittenberger 1999, pl. V/1; VII/2), Luduș (Berecki 2016, 86) and Dumbrăvița (Soroceanu-Retegan 1981, fig. 16/3); B.4 has an S-shaped profile, annular base, rounded body, everted rim, and a handle applied under the rim to the shoulder (a combination of types Boroffka TD2b and TD2c); the vessel discovered at Boiu is a similar shape (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 14/1); B.5 is represented by a fragmentary vessel with the profile curved towards interior and a handle applied on the shoulder (a combination of types Boroffka TD1b and TD1c); analogous vessels have been found at Stolna-Podurile Domnești (Daróczy-Ursuțiu 2015, pl. 112/1873b) and Romos (Bălan et al. 2016, pl. 3/19). A single dish was identified in the cemetery, in M32: type C is a form with flat base, truncated cone-shaped body, well-defined shoulder, everted neck, and a strongly everted rim; analogies are found in the Nagyrév (Vicze 2011, pl. 2/9; 6/7; 8/14), Kisapostag (Vicze 2011, pl. 22/11; 23/2) and Vátya (Vicze 2011, pl. 36/1, 6; 47/3; 50/11) cultures.

Only three types of cups have been found in the cemetery: D.1 is a small variant of the B.3 type with a high handle (type X/61 Andrițoiu); analogies have been found at Oarța de Sus (Kacsó 2013, fig. 11/2–3, 5, 8), Lancrăm-Glod (Popa-Simina 2004, pl. 2/1, 3); D.2 is similar to D.1, but is taller and lacks a handle (type Andrițoiu IX/57); analogies are found at Brașov-Valea Răcădăului (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 18/8), Chintelnic (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 26/3) and Luduș (Berecki 2016, pl. 13/5; 18/3); D.3 is a large cup, with slender body, flat base, short neck, vertically pinched rim and a high handle (type Andrițoiu XI; the closest variant is Boroffka TC2b); analogies have been found at Păuleni (Rotea 2000, pl. IV/2, 5), Deva-Dâmbul Popii (Andrițoiu 1978, fig. 2/5), Oarța de Sus (Kacsó 1987, fig. 24/5, 9; Kacsó 2013, fig. 13/1; Kacsó 2015, fig. 202), Cicău (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 45/6), Ciceu-Corabia (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 59/6), Sighișoara-Wietenberg (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 131/5), Țelna-Pe coastă (Boroffka 1994, Taf. 135/9) and Romos (Bălan et al. 2016, pl. 3/21). One pyxis was discovered, in burial M12: type E has a globular body, short inverted neck, a slightly everted rim, and two small handles with vertical perforations; the closest analogy in Wietenberg sites is the pyxis in the settlement at Derșida (Chidioșan 1980, 44, pl. 22/16); analogies are also found in the Vátya (Bóna 1975, 53, pl. 25/8; 29/4–7) and Transdanubian Encrusted Pottery cultures (Bóna 1975, pl. 249/5, 15, 17).

The decoration on the vessels at Sebeș is made by techniques such as grooving, incision and stamping. There is another ornamentation technique that can be considered a hybrid between grooving and incision: wide channel. Among the relief ornamentations, knobs of different shapes are present, applied on or under the widest part of the vessel. These knobs likely have a more functional than ornamental role, similar to handles. There are few cases of applied ornamental bands on the vessels at Sebeș. Motifs and combinations of motifs (Fig. 7–8) on the vessels found in cemetery (31) were placed by the Bronze Age potters on the rim (on interior or exterior), on the neck (rarely), on the body and on the base (on exterior, on the vessel's foot). Most decorations were placed on the upper portion of the vessel's body (the most visible part of the vessel). Motifs extend around the body of the vessel, and can consist of simple (motifs 10.1 and 10.2) or complex decorations (combinations: 12–20, 23, 26–27). In rare instances, the combinations of motifs are unique. All the vessels with rich ornamentation from the cemetery are unique within the site. Additionally, the specific combinations of motifs found at Sebeș are not found on any other vessels from the entire cultural area. The main motifs used on the pottery at Sebeș are: diagonal line (used in most combinations: 1–2, 4, 8, 10–23, 25), triangle (combinations: 23–27), herringbone (combinations: 21 and 25), spiral (combinations: 28 and 29) and garland (motif combination: 30). The ceramics at Sebeș

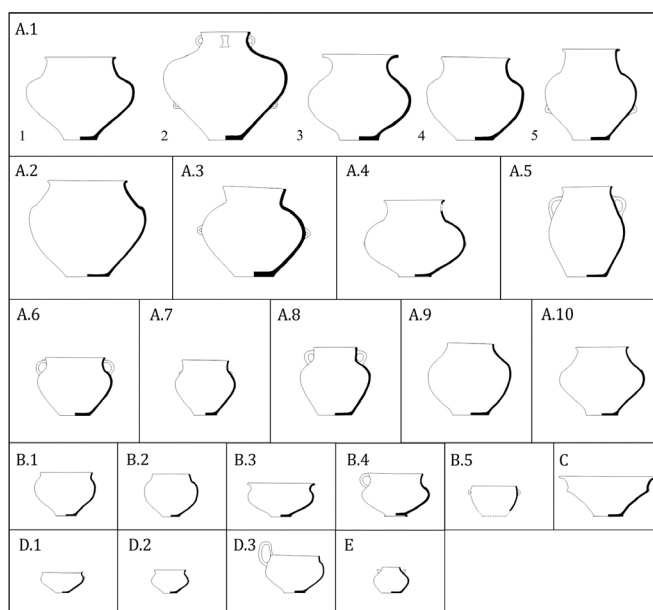


Fig. 6. Pottery shapes at Sebeș-Între răstoace.

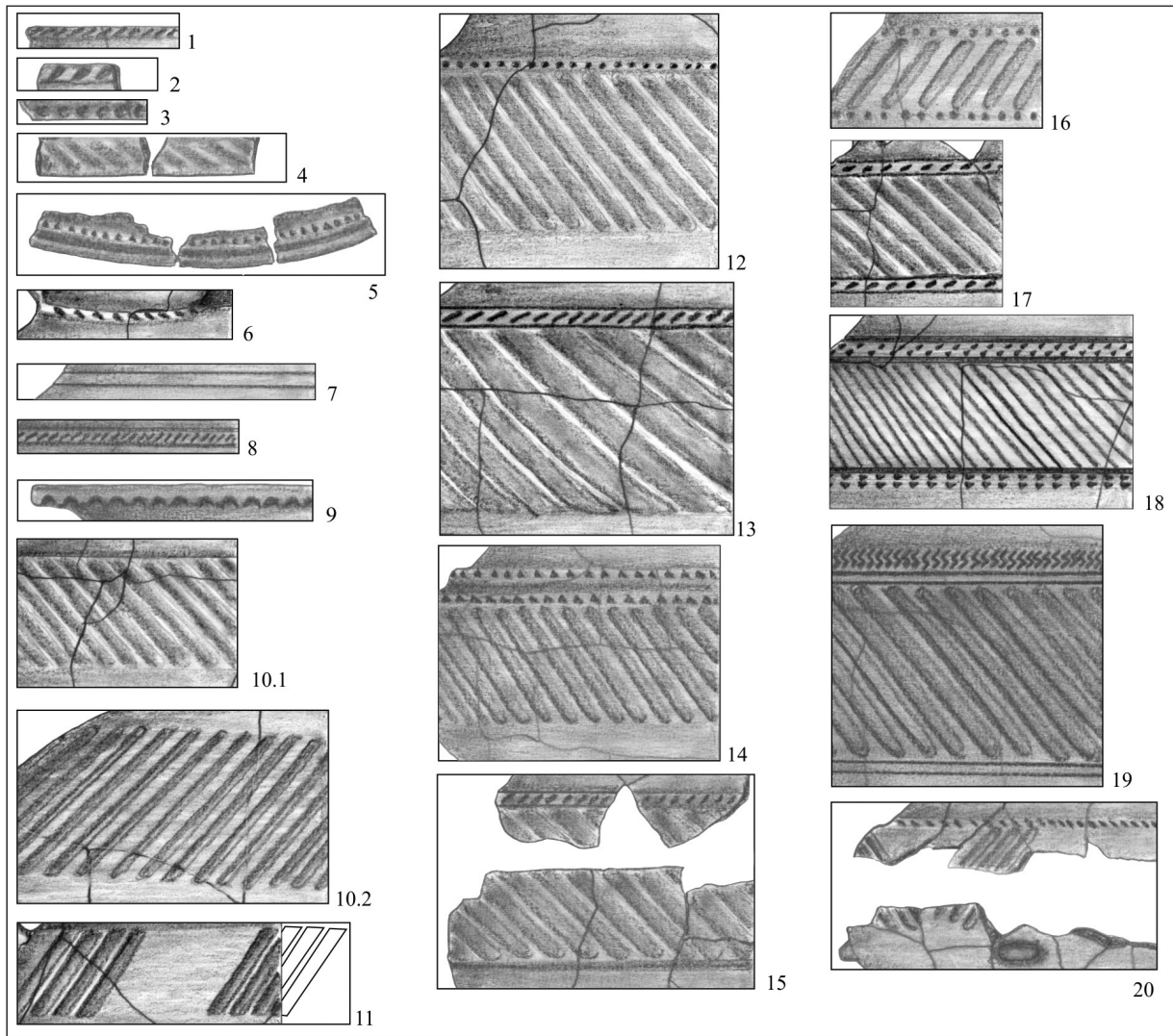


Fig. 7. Motifs and combinations of motifs (1–20) on the pottery at Sebeș-Între răstoace.

lack decoration techniques and motifs that define later Wietenberg culture phases, such as simultaneous stitching (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, 54, type 2g; ANDRIȚOIU 1992, 42, type Ib7; BOROFFKA 1994, 183–188, type VC), successive wide stitching (ANDRIȚOIU 1992, 42, type Ib6; BOROFFKA 1994, type VB), lime encrustation (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, 79), broken spiral motif (ANDRIȚOIU 1992, 41, type Ia12/e) and the meander motif (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, 59, types 2f and 6; ANDRIȚOIU 1992, 42, type Ia13; BOROFFKA 1994, types VD 14/variants 5–6 and 19; VD33; VC8/variants 8–12; VC18–19, 20–28).

The shape of nine of the 62 urns discovered at Sebeș could not be identified due to poor preservation. Except two graves, cremains were placed in pots (type A). The specific type of pot was unidentifiable, due to poor preservation, for 15 of the 49 pots. In the cemetery at Sebeș, the most common pot type used as an urn is A.1 (16 vessels). A.1 pot variants were found in burials as follows: A.1.1 – M17, M32, M36, M39, M48, A.1.2 – M3, A.1.3 – M58, A.1.4 – M6, A.1.5 – M13, M15, M19, M26 and M34. The reconstructed vessel profiles of the urns in burials M30 and M31 do not clearly match the A.1 type. The next most common pot is A.10 type (7 burials), which include variants A.10.1 – M43, M51, M56 and M57 and A.10.2 – M47. There are also A.10 type urns in M22 and M27. The other urn types are: A.5 – M2, M49a and M61; A.4 – M25 and M37; A.9 – M40 and M59; A.2 – M41, A.3 – M9; A.6 – M12 and A.8 – M20.

In the cemetery at Sebeș only one bowl (M55) and one cup (M42) were used for the deposition of calcined bones. Both burials belonged to children aged 1–3 years old. Also in burial M5, which was of a child (6 months–1 year), the bones were placed in a small vessel which was not preserved.

There are differences related to age and gender associated with the various types of urns from Sebeș cemetery. Community members preferred to use bigger vessels (A.1, A.2, A.3 and A.5 types) for adults. Sub-adults burials (Infans I and II) were placed in shorter pots of A.10, A.4.2, A.8, A.9 and A.6 types, as

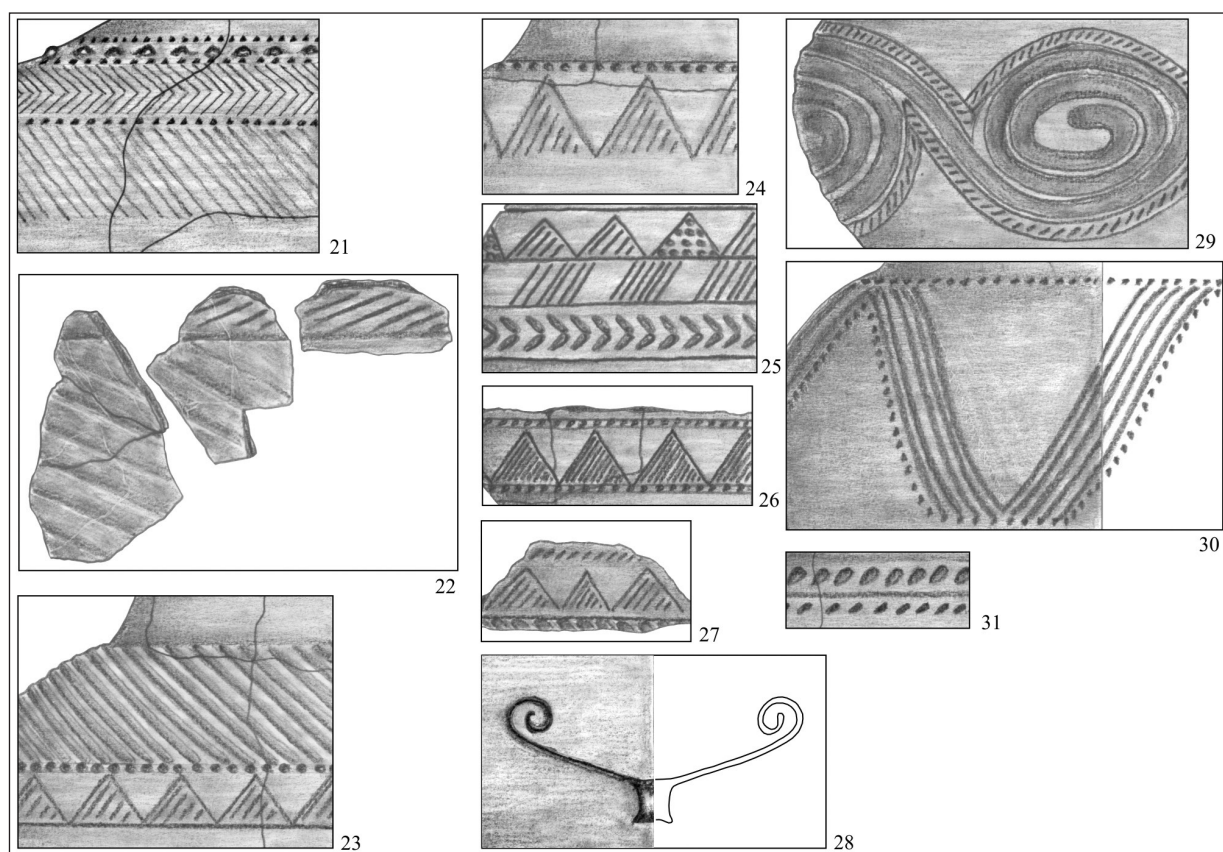


Fig. 8. Motifs and combinations of motifs (21–31) on the pottery at Sebeş-Între răstoace.

well as two bowls (one of B.1 type) and a D.3 type cup. Only a few fragments of the urns from burials M24 and M52 were preserved, but they are clearly parts of small pots. Children were rarely interred in large vessels of A.1, A.9 and A.4.1 types. Adult males were primarily interred in urns of types A.1 (8), A.2 (1), A.3 (1), A.10 (1). Adult female remains were normally placed in pots (7), but the poor preservation state made it only possible to identify shapes in three cases: M15 (A.1.5.), M2 (A.5) and M49a (A.5). The same situation was identified in the cemeteries at Bistrița (Crișan 1970, 141–153) and Luduș (Berecki 2016, 53–58): cremains of adults were placed in bigger vessels, while the cremains of children and adolescents were placed in smaller vessels.

At Sebes, 33 vessels were used as lids to cover urns. Of these lids, 15 could not be assigned a shape or vessel type. Most vessels used as lids are bowls (10), preserved whole or partially. The type of vessel was identified in 7 cases: B.1 (M31, M13, M40), B.2 (M49b), B.3 (M25), B.4 (M12), B.5 (M8). The vessel used as lid in M36 is fragmentary (only the lower part was preserved), but may also be a bowl. Cups of two types were used to cover urns in four cases: D.1 (M49b) and D.3 (M15, M17 and M58). Only one dish (type D) was found in the cemetery at Sebeş, in burial M32, which was covered with large stones. This is the only context in the cemetery where a vessel was placed upside down to cover the urn. In burial M9, a short pot (A.7) was placed vertically to cover the urn. Based on the fragmentary lids and those made from the lower halves of vessels, we assume that some lids were pots (M4, M5 and M51) or from shorter vessels, such as bowls or cups (M2, M6 and M48). Type B.1 is found in the burials of an adult male, over 30 years old (M13), and a child of 11–12 years old (M31). Type D.3 covered urns in which there were adult males, one of 30–40 years old (M17), another one of 20–23 years old (M58) and an adult female of 23–25 years old (M15).

The four companion vessels at Sebeş, placed next to urns, are of two types: small cups (D.2 type) in burials M3, M43 and M56 and a pyxis (E type) in M12. Cups placed near or inside urns have been found in other cemeteries of Wietenberg culture: Luduș, in Gr. 2, 13–14, 19, 25, 27 (Berecki 2016, 63); Deva, in burials M9, M16 and M17 (Andrițoiu 1978, 243–246); Turia, in burial M10a–b (Székely 1995, 128–129); Băcăinți (Andrițoiu 1987, 59; Berecki 2016, 44); Oiejdea (Ciugudean 1990, 71); Sânniccoară (Berecki 2016, 63); Bistrița, in burials 6, 8, 13, 17–19, 22 and 34 (Crișan 1970, 144–153), Sibiușeni (Paul 1995, 165; Berecki 2016, 63), Aiton, in burial C (Soroceanu et al. 1976, 59). Pyxies of different shapes than the one at Sebeş

were discovered inside burials 16 and 17 at Deva (Andrițoiu 1978, 243–246) and in burial 15 at Luduș (Berecki 2016, 55, pl. 11/5).

There are three different shapes of faience beads at Sebeș: (a) four-pointed, (b) cylindrical and (c) segmented (Fig. 9). The majority are four-pointed beads, discovered in 5 burials, all belonging to children of Infans I age. In the Wietenberg culture, the only analogy is at Cerișor, discovered in the Middle Bronze Age level from cave no. 1 (ROMAN *ET AL.* 2000, 15, pl. IV/9; BELDIMAN–SZTANCZ 2005, 51, fig. 3/2). Published as ceramic object, we suppose that it is also made from faience. A segmented-shaped bead was discovered in M29 together with the remains of an adult female of 25–40 years old. Another fragment of a segmented bead was discovered in M4 (an Infans I), which was part of a necklace, together with other four-pointed beads. A similar object was in the urn (M15) of an Infans I child (2–4 years old) from Luduș (BERECKI 2016, 55, 67, pl. 12/6). In the settlement at Dersida, in cremation burial no. 3, two segmented beads, likely made of faience, have been published (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, 23, fig. 7/3/a). Another segmented bead was discovered in pit number 1 from the settlement at Giurtelecu Șimleului–Coasta lui Damian (BEJINARIU 2005, 367, pl. 12/2; BERECKI 2016, 67). The cylindrical bead doesn't have analogs in the area of Wietenberg culture, but it is widely found in Monteoru culture cemeteries (BÂRZU 1989, 57, 61, 75, 78, fig. 10/T. 32/5; 11/T. 35/8; 25/T. 122/4; 27/T. 142/2; MOTZOI-CHICIDEANU 2011, 424–425). Faience beads may be considered to be local products and not long distance trade objects, and have been found often in Early and Middle Bronze Age in the Carpathian Basin. Four-pointed faience beads appear to be limited to the Carpathian Basin (HARDING 1984, 96, fig. 26).

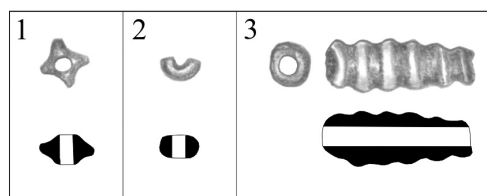


Fig. 9. Types of vitreous paste beads: 1. Four-pointed; 2. Cylindrical; 3. Segmented.

During the Middle Bronze Age in the Carpathian Basin and its surrounding regions, the organization in family clusters in cemeteries is a common thing (Motzoi-Chicideanu 2011, 342). In Văța culture cemeteries, where the main rite is cremation and burial in urns, discrete spatial groups and clusters are observed at Dunaújváros–Duna-dűlő, Kulcs–Császártanya, Szalkszentmárton–Cifrahíd and Szigetszentmiklós–Felsőtag (Vicze 2011, 38). The Intracarpethian region during the Middle Bronze Age appears to have had a similar spatial organization as that seen at Văța cemeteries. As stated before, the organi-

zation of burials into distinct spatial groups has been noted at Sebeș, Sibișeni, Luduș, Bistrița and Turia (Motzoi-Chicideanu 2011, 531, 534, 540; Bălan 2014, 25–26; Berecki 2016, 49–50).

Three groups of burials have been observed at Sebeș (Pl. 1/1–2), including a main group (44 burials) and two secondary (one of 12 burials and one of 4). There are also two isolated burials (M7 and Cx. 21) and another possible isolated burial in the north western limit of the site (Cx. 73) that has been disturbed by later occupations. These groups can be divided further, into clusters according to the distance between burials and their orientation (Pl. 1/2). Inside group I there are 6 clusters (A–F) and inside group II, 2 clusters (A–B).

The 9 small clusters within the larger groups at Sebeș (12, if we include the two stone structures and the isolated burial 7) may represent the remains of different nuclear families. In the main group at Sebeș (I), small children (Infans I) are found in the majority of clusters: A, B, and C clusters D and E are different from the others. One difference observed is related to age, as there are no small children (Infans I) in cluster D and E. The majority of individuals from clusters D and E are adults: several are over 30 years old (M13, M33 and M45), between 25–40 years old (M29) and between 30–40 years old (M9). The only individuals over 60 years old in the cemetery are part of these two groups (M34 and M32). Cluster B from group II at Sebeș includes only adults, including two individuals over 45 years old (M2 and M21). The graves with stone structures are present only in clusters D and E: burials covered with slabs and stones in cluster E and the stone cists in cluster D.

Stone structures were built for both adults, including 3 males (M13 – over 30 years old; M32 – over 60; M44) and a female (M15 – 23–25 years old), and for 2 sub-adults between 7–14 years old (M12) and 9–10 years old (M38). The sub-adult in M38 was buried next to an adult male (M44), most probably a close family relative. Funerary architecture is often associated with increased energy expenditure (O'SHEA 1984; SAXE 1970). The special funerary structures, slabs and stones that cover burials and stone cists (M38, M44 and Cx. 21) discovered in the Sebeș cemetery, may be the “expression of certain groups with a special social status” (MOTZOI-CHICIDEANU 2011, 417). The presence of an isolated cist from the rest of burials (Cx. 21) may indicate the funeral of a person with a different identity.

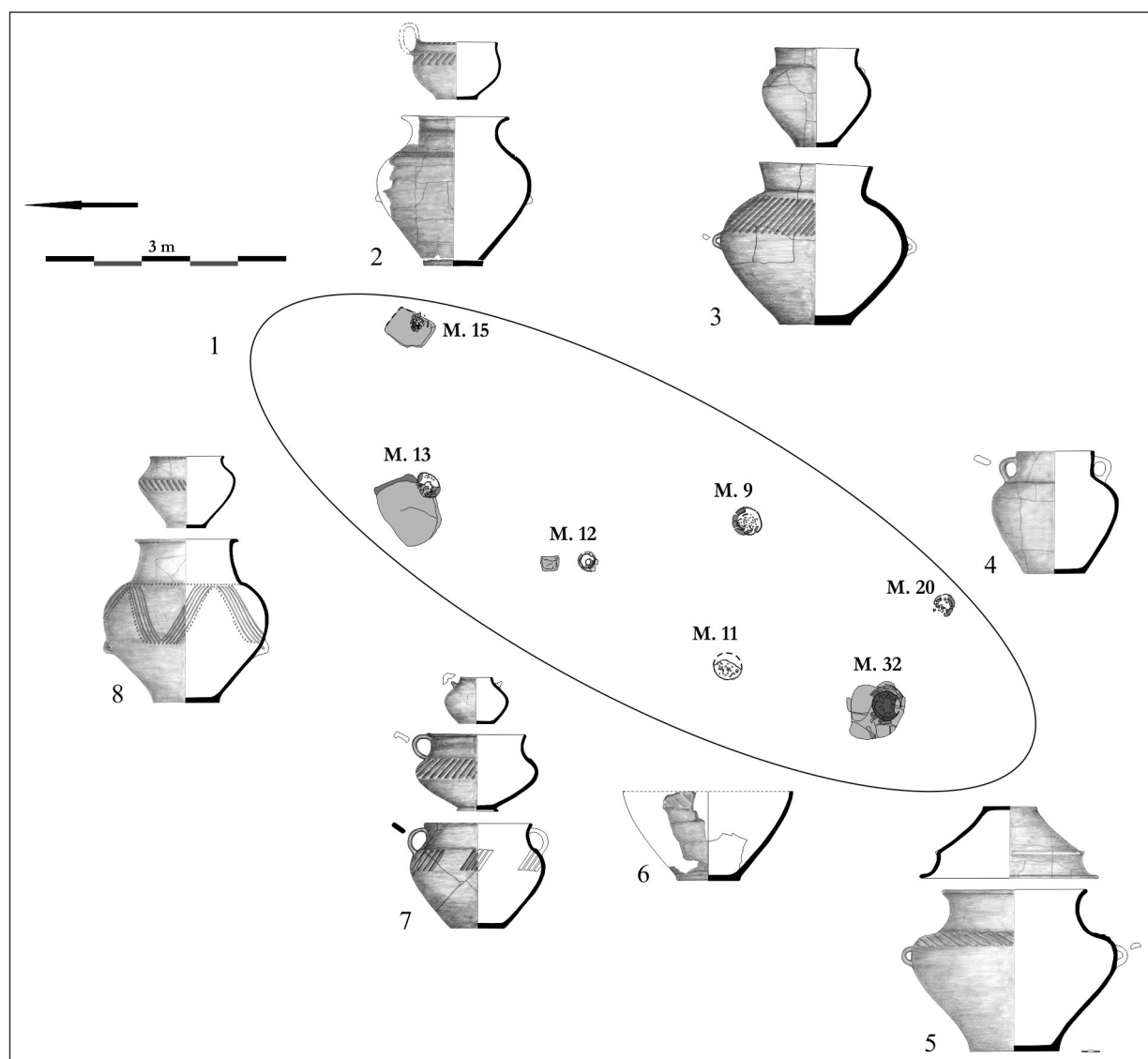


Fig. 10. 1. Cluster E in the Sebeş cemetery main group (I): different type of vessels (some of them having unique shape or decoration in the cemetery) found in burials; 2. M15; 3. M9; 4. M20; 5. M32; 6. M11; 7. M12; 8. M13.

Some vessels found in the cluster E burials are unique both in the cemetery as well as in Wietenberg culture area (Fig. 10): the spheric-shaped pot with two handles applied on the maximum diameter, decorated with diagonal grooves in M9 (Fig. 10/3), the pot with garland ornamentation from M13 (Fig. 10/8), the dish from M32 (Fig. 10/5) and the pyxis from M12 (Fig. 10/7). The last two vessels, which we consider to be imports, have analogies in the Nagyrév (VICZE 2011, pl. 2/9; 6/7; 8/14), Kisapostag (VICZE 2011, pl. 22/11; 23/2) Vátya (BÓNA 1975, 53, pl. 25/8; 29/4–7; VICZE 2011, pl. 36/1, 6; 47/3; 50/11) and Transdanubian Encrusted Pottery cultures (BÓNA 1975, pl. 249/5, 15, 17). The urn shape from M9 resembles with pots found at Dunaújváros–*Duna-dűlő* (VICZE 2011, pl. 22/8; 24/4; 25/3; 26/5; 61/6). It seems important that individuals buried with imported ceramics are placed together. It is possible that the objects may reflect a link between these individuals and their place of origin. The closest cultural group with funerary rites similar to the Wietenberg culture during the early 2nd millennium BC is Vátya communities in the Carpathian Basin.

The presence of isolated graves at Sebeş is similar to Turia, where an isolated burial was set apart from the other graves through the stone slab and a stone axe, and is situated at 300 m away from the cemetery (Székely 1995, 130). We do not know for sure what the function of the slab row from the northern part of the site was, but it was likely linked to the sacred area of the Middle Bronze Age site. There are only four stone cists known from Wietenberg cemeteries: Gheorghieni – SD CX8 and SC CX25 (Crişan et al. 2009, 304), Aiton – burial E (Soroceanu et al. 1976, 59, fig. 5/2), and Floreşti – burial M29 (Rotea et al. 2008, 52–53). In two of these cases, special grave goods were discovered inside: a bronze sword was placed under

one of the two urns in SD CX8 at Gheorghieni and a gold lock-ring was found in burial 29 at Florești-Polus. According to the authors, the stone cist at Florești, together with a burial very close to it (M30), were isolated from the rest of the cemetery (ROTEA *ET AL.* 2008, 52–53).

Wietenberg funerary areas are often placed in close proximity to the settlements, as has been observed at Sibișeni (PAUL 1995), Luduș (BERECKI 2016), Oiejdea (CIUGUDEAN 1990, 71–72), Bistrița (CRIȘAN 1970, 141) and Sighișoara-*Herțeș* (ANDRIȚOIU-RUSTOIU 1997, 17). They often cover large areas, with empty spaces between groups, clusters of graves and isolated burials. Until recently most graves were found in isolation, which has led researchers to consider this practice to be one of the “specifics of mortuary behavior/funerary standard” of Wietenberg culture (MOTZOI-CHICIDEANU 2011, 541). The recent archaeological research at Sebeș, Luduș, Stolna-*Podurile Domnești* and Florești confirms only part of this theory. There are isolated burials at these sites, but they are either close to settlements like the one from Stolna (DARÓCZI-URSUTIU 2015, pl. 1a) and Luduș (BERECKI 2016, pl. 2), and/or to a cemetery, like Luduș (BERECKI 2016, fig. 19), Sebeș and Florești (ROTEA *ET AL.* 2008, 52–53). Given this recent evidence, we do not believe that Middle Bronze Age peoples from the Intra-Carpathian area were buried at random or according to a plan at long distances, at several kilometers away from home. The isolated discoveries and the researches limited to few trial trenches (BĂLAN 2014, 21–24) inside some funerary spaces similar to the ones at Sebeș or Luduș had as result spreading wrong suppositions about the presence of isolated burials or groups of isolated burials. Only with large-scale horizontal excavation of cemeteries, as was the case at Sebeș, is it possible to confidently distinguish burial groups, clusters, or isolated graves.

In Wietenberg culture flat cemeteries, grave pit outlines have only been observed at Aiton (SOROCEANU *ET AL.* 1976, 60) and Turia (SZÉKELY 1995, 127–130, fig. 3), where round, oval and rectangular funerary structures (stone cists are arranged in rectangular pits) have been found. There are two types of special structures: (a) stone cists built in rectangular pits, from Aiton (SOROCEANU *ET AL.* 1976, 59), Sebeș, Gheorghieni (CRIȘAN *ET AL.* 2009, 304) and Florești (ROTEA *ET AL.* 2008, 52–53, pl. XVIII/3), and (b) slabs or stones which cover burials and are surface markers for the burial place, from Sebeș, Aiton (SOROCEANU *ET AL.* 1976, 58–59), Ilișua (BERECKI 2016, 63) and Dumbrăvița (SOROCEANU-RETEGAN 1981, 197–200).

In few cases, cremated bones collected from pyre were placed directly in pit and not within urns, sometimes among or covered by pot sherds: Luduș – 2 burials (BERECKI 2016, 59), Aiton – 3 burials (SOROCEANU *ET AL.* 1976, 58–60; BERECKI 2016, 59), Bratei (POPA 2010, 156; BERECKI 2016, 59), Turia (SZÉKELY 1995, 128; BERECKI 2016, 59), Dumbrăvița (SOROCEANU-RETEGAN 1981, 197, 199; BERECKI 2016, 59), Sibișeni (PAUL 1995, 167; BERECKI 2016, 59–60), Gheorghieni (CRIȘAN *ET AL.* 2009, 304; BERECKI 2016, 60) and Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, 260; BERECKI 2016, 60). The mortuary standard in many cemeteries was the deposition of cremated bones in urns covered with lids, as seen at Sebeș, Sibișeni (PAUL 1995; MOTZOI-CHICIDEANU 2011, 533–536), Bistrița (CRIȘAN 1970), Dumbrăvița (SOROCEANU-RETEGAN 1981, 195–207), Turia (SZÉKELY 1995), Aiton (SOROCEANU *ET AL.* 1976, 58–60; MOTZOI-CHICIDEANU 2011, 530–531), Luduș (BERECKI 2016, 44–67), Oiejdea (CIUGUDEAN 1990, 71–72), Sighișoara-*Herțeș* (ANDRIȚOIU-RUSTOIU 1997, 17), and Deva (ANDRIȚOIU 1978). Urns lacking ceramic vessel lids have also been found, which leaves the possibility that other perishable materials (e.g., wood, animal skins) may have been used to cover urns.

Among the few grave goods discovered in Wietenberg cemeteries, most were adornment items presumably worn by the deceased during the incineration process: faience beads at Luduș (BERECKI 2016, 55, 67, pl. 12/6) and Sebeș, moon or rectangular-shaped bronze pendants at Luduș (BERECKI 2016, 65; REZI 2016, 122), human bone and stone pendants at Luduș (BERECKI 2016, 66), bone plates at Dumbrăvița (SOROCEANU-RETEGAN 1981, 196–197), bone and bronze pins at Luduș (BERECKI 2016, 65; REZI 2016, 122), a bronze wire at Gheorghieni (CRIȘAN *ET AL.* 2009, 304) and a gold lock-ring at Florești (ROTEA *ET AL.* 2008, 52–53). Other objects were deposited in the urn – two stone axes and an anthropomorphic figurine at Turia (SZÉKELY 1995, 130) – or under the urn – a bronze sword at Gheorghieni (CRIȘAN *ET AL.* 2009, 304). We have indications of other special artifacts found in graves at Gheorghieni, in SC CX15 – a bronze link (CRIȘAN *ET AL.* 2009, 304; BERECKI 2016, 66), at Sibișeni – a bronze pin near grave 19 (PAUL 1995, 165; BERECKI 2016, 66), at Florești – bronze bracelet, stone pendant and bone pin (ROTEA *ET AL.* 2008, 52), at Ocna Sibiului – bone plates (BERECKI 2016, 66), at Deva – bone bead (ANDRIȚOIU 1978, 246, 248; BERECKI 2016, 67), and at Bistrița – a clay bearing block (CRIȘAN 1970, 144, fig. 8/4A; BERECKI 2016, 65). In the triple burial in a stone cist at Gheorghieni, the researchers mention an offering of meat (CRIȘAN *ET AL.* 2009). Animal bones with traces of burning are mentioned in burials 25 (inside the urn) and 12 (inside the lid-vessel) from the cemetery at Luduș (BERECKI 2016, 65).

The burials within other cemeteries in the Wietenberg area are organized in groups and clusters similar to Sebeș-Între răstoace: 3 groups at Luduș: I – 21 burials, II – 4 burials, III – 2 burials; possible two clusters in group I; in the cemetery there are other two isolated burials, from which one, Gr. 2, is close to group II (Pl. 2/6); 2 groups and 4 possible clusters at Sibișeni: I – 21 burials, II – 23 burials (Pl. 2/7); 2 groups at Bistrița: I – the majority of burials (with possible clusters), II – 3 burials (Pl. 2/5); 3 groups/clusters at Turia: I – the majority of burials, II – 4 burials, III – 3 burials (Pl. 2/1); an isolated burial was discovered 300 m away from the cemetery (M27); 2 clusters at Deva (Pl. 2/2); 3 clusters at Dumbrăvița (Pl. 2/4); 2 possible clusters and an isolated burial at Aiton (Pl. 2/3).

In some cases, the small groups of burials were organized in a slightly curved line similar to those seen in the Vatya culture. Two examples are seen in group III at Sebeș (Pl. 1/2) and group II at Luduș (Pl. 2/6). The presence of isolated burials or small groups of two burials might reflect the intention to form new family burial clusters that were not expanded, likely do to the abandonment of local settlements. An analogous situation is seen at Dunaújváros–*Duna-dűlő*, where Vatya I burials complete small burial clusters from previous phases (VICZE 2011, 37–39).

Based on spatial relationships, we can say that the cemeteries of Wietenberg culture are organized into family clusters, which, after a time, grow to cover a large area and connect to each other (groups of graves). The presence of multiple bodies in graves suggests that related individuals were buried in close proximity to each other. There are double and triple burials and by graves placed next to each other at Sebeș: M49 (double), M38–M44, M3–M4–M5, M40–M41–M42, Gheorghieni: SD Cx5–Cx6 (double) and SD CX8 (triple) (CRIȘAN *ET AL.* 2009, 304), Dumbrăvița: burial 14 (double) (SOROCEANU–RETEGAN 1981, 199; ANDRIȚOIU 1994, 148; MOTZOI-CHICIDEANU 2011, 536; BERECKI 2016, 51), Turia: burial 10 (triple), burials 14–15 (SZÉKELY 1995, 128–129, pl. I/4), Luduș: Gr. 3 (double), Gr. 10 (double), Gr. 13–Gr. 14, Gr. 19–Gr. 20, Gr. 29–Gr. 30 (BERECKI 2016, 52–55), Bistrița: burial 36 (double) (CRIȘAN 1970, 153; BERECKI 2016, 52). If Wietenberg practices match Vatya practices, burial clusters would have started from 1–2 graves which develop in curved line, getting to a certain point to close an oval or boat-shaped area.

The presence of some artifacts with special character (bronze sword or gold lock-ring) and stone structures (cists and slabs that mark the grave) are suggestive of the existence of some sort of social hierarchy. The concentration of these structures only in certain burial clusters or isolated from the main group is another argument in favour of this affirmation. At the same time, Wietenberg burial was not as restrictive as seen in Early Bronze Age tumuli in the region in the preceeding time period, where only a few individuals were eligible for burial (see CIUGUDEAN 1995; 1996; 1997). While some social differences are attested, the use of cremation may also play a role in transforming the bodies and creating a collective identity that obscures emerging inequalities (QUINN *ET AL.* 2014). The internal Wietenberg cemeteries organization (the individual grave – collective graves – clusters and groups of graves), with differentiated burials through special structures or special inventory artifacts, is similar to Middle Bronze Age funerary customs seen elsewhere in neighboring regions (MOTZOI-CHICIDEANU 2011, 330–560).

Infant mortality in Bronze Age Europe was high (HARDING 2000, 377). “Life expectancy increase for individuals that reach adolescence or juvenile ages” (HARDING 2000, 377–378). In the Luduș and Sebeș cemeteries, osteological analyses lead to a similar conclusion. In establishing the limit between childhood and adulthood is a difficult proposition, as it can be divided according to physiological or biological age, chronological and social age. We prefer the term “sub-adult” for infants and children when using biological age (HALCROW–TAYLES 2011, 197). In Sintashta society, adolescents between 14–17 years old who have similar grave goods as adults, were likely considered adults by Bronze Age people (BERSENEVA 2010, 176). Taking the age of 14–15 years as the limit between adults and sub-adults, we observe a high number of sub-adults in Wietenberg culture cemeteries: 28 at Sebeș (47% of the individuals), 11 at Luduș (38%) (BERECKI 2016, 52, fig. 19) and 12 at Bistrița (52%) (CRIȘAN 1970, 159). When only looking at the adults, 18 individuals at Sebeș (56% of the adults) and 7 individuals at Luduș (54%) lived beyond the age of 30. Only four adults older than 45 years were identified at Sebeș (12% of the adults). In both cemeteries, in the cases where biological sex could be determined, there are more male adults than females, 14 from 22 at Sebeș (64% of individuals with identified sex) and 7 of 13 (54%) at Luduș (BERECKI 2016, 52, fig. 19).

The chronology of the Middle Bronze Age in the Intra-Carpathian area has been characterized mainly by the Wietenberg culture’s evolution. There are two periodization systems that archaeologists have used to anchor the evolution of the Wietenberg culture in time. The first chronological system was created by N. Chidioșan on the basis of Derșida stratigraphy. Chidioșan divided the Wietenberg culture into 4 phases: I with level 1 from Derșida, II with levels 2 and 3 from Derșida, III with levels 4–5 from Derșida,

IV based on ceramic forms and ornaments discovered in other sites, but not at Derșida (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, 68–84). In 1994, N. Boroffka published a monograph of Wietenberg culture, in which he proposed a new periodization system, divided into four main phases (named A–D), with phase A having two subphases, A1 and A2 (BOROFFKA 1994, 285–290).

The shapes and decoration of vessels from the cemetery at Sebeș correspond to the early phases of Wietenberg culture, lacking the elements which define phases III–IV (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, 77–84) or B–D (BOROFFKA 1994, 250–251). In the preliminary studies of Sebeș–Între răstoace, a date at the end of phase I and the beginning of phase II was proposed (FÂNTÂNEANU *ET AL.* 2013, 179; FÂNTÂNEANU *ET AL.* 2014, 18).

N. Boroffka is the first scholar to propose that pottery from level 1 at Derșida was not from a separate phase (BOROFFKA 1994, 249). References to phase I have also been made recently by ROTEA (2000) and POPA (2010, 129–134, 136). It has been stated that level I from Derșida does not describe a distinct phase in Wietenberg culture's evolution. The main arguments are: (a) there are only a limited quantity of forms and ornaments in level I when compared to the next two levels; (b) none of level 1 types are exclusive to phase I, they are also found in the overlaying levels; (c) there is no settlement nor cemetery in the whole cultural area that has been attributed to phase I; (d) in contemporary cultures, ceramic materials specific for phase I are not found as imports (BĂLAN *ET AL.* 2016).

Based on ceramics and analogues from within and beyond Transylvania, the cemetery from Sebeș–Între răstoace can be attributed to the first phase in the cultural evolution of the Wietenberg culture. Related to the two periodization systems, the ceramics in the cemetery are typical of phases Chidioșan I–II and Boroffka A.

There are many sites in the Wietenberg area that share common elements with levels 1–3 from Derșida settlement and the Sebeș cemetery. One problem in identifying the early sites has been that most archaeological material has been published without reference to the discovery context. Not all sites attributed to phase A by N. Boroffka belong to first phase, describing them by terms as “early elements” or “tendential early elements” (BOROFFKA 1994, fig. 26). Some examples where elements specific to Chidioșan III phase and Boroffka B–C were discovered in greater numbers than phase A are Lechința–Livada intensivă (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 84/14–16; 85/1–4) and Poderei (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 85/5–13), Ocna Sibiului–Dealul Trestiei (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 102/13–14; 103; 104/1–6), Porumbenii Mici (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 112/5–10) or Uioara de Jos–Valea Orăzleci–Grui (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 139/1–11). The early or tendential early elements were brought into discussion for dating the cemeteries at Sibișeni and Bistrița, starting from the early phase (BOROFFKA 1994, 251–252, fig. 26). The pottery shapes and elements considered early in these cemeteries by N. Boroffka are frequently present in sites attributed to the Chidioșan III phase (BĂLAN 2014, 28–29).

Sites that have materials specific to the early phase (attributed by researchers to phases Wietenberg I–II or A) are Sebeș–Podul Pripocului (BOROFFKA 1994, 72, pl. 117/1–7; POPA 2010, 151–152, pl. 42/3; 43–44), Suatu (ROTEA 1994), Păuleni (ROTEA 2000; CAVRUC–ROTEA 2000; CAVRUC–BUZEA 2002, 46–50, pl. X–XIX; XXVII–XXX; XXXII), Oarța de Sus–Ghiile Botii (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 22–28; KACSÓ 2013; 2015, 428–433, fig. 188–209), Oarța de Jos–Vilceaua Rusului (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 16–19; KACSÓ 2004, 53–54), Bădeni II (LAZAROVICI–MILEA 1976, pl. VI–X: some of materials are specific for the early horizon), Țelna–Pe coastă (ANDRIȚOIU 1992, 50, pl. 23/3–5; 24/4; 28/1, 10; 31/7; 32/4; 33/1; 35/8, 18, 21, 25, 31; BOROFFKA 1994, 83–84, pl. 135/6–10), Turia (SZÉKELY 1995), Bratei (POPA 2010, 156–159, pl. 45), Sfântu Gheorghe–Epreșetă (BOROFFKA 1994, 74, pl. 118; 119/1–2), Stejeriș (DUMITRAȘCU *ET AL.* 2014), Romos (BĂLAN *ET AL.* 2016, pl. 3/9, 13, 21), Cerișor (ROMAN *ET AL.* 2000, pl. XIX–XXVII), Brașov–Bartolomeu (BOROFFKA 1994, 26, Taf. 15/7–8; 16–17; 18/1), Lancrăm–Glod (POPA–SIMINA 2004, 17–31, pl. 2–6: pit 12), Stolna–Podurile Domnești (DARÓCZI–URSUȚIU 2015, 14–26), Băștioara (DARÓCZI–URSUȚIU 2015, 233–234), Rotbav–La pârauț (DIETRICH 2014a: levels 1 and 2), Plopiș–Cucleu (BEJINARIU 2001, 100–101, 105, pl. II–III, IV/5–8; BEJINARIU 2003, 31–32, 38, pl. II–VI), Albiș (SZÉKELY 2003), Fântânele (MARINESCU 2008) and Șeușa (CIUTĂ 2009, 83–92). In the settlements at Stolna–Podurile Domnești and Băștioara, Rotbav, Lancrăm and Bădeni, material dated to the early horizon are also mentioned in later Wietenberg levels. These sites have provided important quantities of ceramic material, many of them from features, that makes an accurate analysis possible.

Some materials belonging to sites with at least two levels can also be attributed to the early phase, even if they were published without a known context: at Chintelnic (BOROFFKA 1994, 29–30, Taf. 26/7; 27/6–9; 28/9; 29/1, 3), Cicău (BOROFFKA 1994, 30, pl. 37/7; 38/21; 40/9–10; 42/4–6; 43/8; 47/9; 49/10; 50/8; 51/2),

Feldioara (BOROFFKA 1994, 42, pl. 73/4; 74/1–6; 75/15; 76/4; 78/1, 13–14; 79/7, 9–10) and Sighișoara-Wietenberg (BOROFFKA 1994, 76–77, pl. 131/5, 11, 14–15; 132/8; 133/10; 134, 1–2, 4; ANDRIȚOIU-RUSTOIU 1997, fig. 23/4).

The settlement at Boiu was attributed to Wietenberg II phase (ANDRIȚOIU 1992, 50, pl. 20; 23/13–14; 27/9; 28/8; 29/2, 6, 9; 30/1–2; 31/1, 4, 9, 13, 15; 32/2, 13; 35/4, 9, 20, 28; BOROFFKA 1994, 24–25, Taf. 13/8–10; 14/1–3), but it should be noted one fragment of later ceramics was among the published materials (ANDRIȚOIU 1992, pl. 35/28). The well-known sword from Boiu was attributed to this settlement (ANDRIȚOIU 1992, 82), but as an isolated find, the place of discovery is not certain (NESTOR 1937, 158).

In many of the funerary sites without clearly chronologically diagnostic ceramics, it is more likely they are associated with the Chidioșan III phase: Sighișoara-Herțes (BOROFFKA 1994, 77, pl. 129/1–3, 7–8), Oiejdea (CIUGUDEAN 1990, 71–72, fig. 2/5; 3/9–10, 12–13; BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 107/8–11), the vessels from a supposed cemetery at Lancrăm-Glod (POPA-SIMINA 2004, 24–26, 31, pl. 17–18). The three burials at Sighișoara were attributed to phase II, while the vessels from Oiejdea and Lancrăm were dated to phase III. Also in the cemetery at Deva there are elements typical for phase III, as the lid-vessel in M8 (ANDRIȚOIU 1978, fig. 3/6) was decorated with elements specific to the classical phase. In general, there are no typical elements for the early horizon. Additionally, two types of pots (Fig. 2/9; 5/1) and other ornaments (Fig. 2/6, 9; 3/8) were discovered in the cemetery at Sibișeni (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 122/3, 5, 7; 124/8).

The repertoire of ceramic shapes from Sebeș matches types of the early horizon encountered in other sites: pots with slender body and wide rim, close in form to vases, rarely decorated with spiral, grooves or row with small depressions (type V/18 Andrițoiu): Turia (SZÉKELY 1995, pl. V/3; VI/3), Șeușa (CIUTĂ 2009, pl. XLVIII/6), Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 2013, fig. 13/4; 14/3); pots of vase type (type I Andrițoiu, TA1c Boroffka, Ia Chidioșan) at Derșida (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, 27–28, type Ia), Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 25/1–2; KACSÓ 2013, fig. 14/2; KACSÓ 2015, fig. 199; 201), Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 107/1) and Lancrăm (POPA-SIMINA 2004, pl. 3/1); lobbed dish (type H4 Chidioșan, TE1a–b Boroffka, VIII/45 Andrițoiu) at Derșida (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, pl. 21/8–9; 30/17), Bădeni II (LAZAROVICI-MILEA 1976, pl. X/3), Brașov-Bartolomeu (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 15/7–8), Stejeriș (DUMITRAȘCU ET AL., pl. XXI/15–16), Cerișor (ROMAN ET AL. 2000, pl. XIX/22; XXII/1–4), Lancrăm (POPA-SIMINA 2004, pl. 4/4), Păuleni (ROTEA 2000, pl. III/1, 3), Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 65/7), Sebeș-Podul Pripocului (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 117/6), Suatu (ROTEA 1994, pl. II/7), Stolna-Băștioara (DARÓCZI-URSUȚIU 2015, pl. 211/5049), Șeușa (CIUTĂ 2009, pl. XLIV/3, 6, 12; XLVI/3; XLVIII/5; LIII/8; LIV/10), Țelna (a variant of small dimensions) (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 135/7), Albiș (SZÉKELY 2003, pl. VIII/3–4), Fântânele (MARINESCU 2008, pl. II/1; IV/1) and Plopiș (BEJINARIU 2003, pl. V/6); dishes with truncated- cone shaped body (type VII/27 Andrițoiu, TD1b Boroffka) at Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 2013, fig. 14/1 KACSÓ 2015, fig. 198; 200), Țelna (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 135/10), Cerișor (ROMAN ET AL. 2000, pl. XXVII/4), Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 99/6; 100/13–14; 103/1; 133/11, 13), Stolna-Băștioara (DARÓCZI-URSUȚIU 2015, pl. 203/5210) and Turia (SZÉKELY 1995, pl. VI/4; VII/2); bowls with the rim vertically pinched or inverted, sometimes with handles applied under the rim at Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 11/1; 57/5, 12; 79/12; 85/8; 86/1; 87/2; 99/11; 100/1; 103/5; 106/6; 108/6–7, 13; 110/1; 136/6; 137/8), Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 2013, fig. 13/3; KACSÓ 2015, fig. 203), Cerișor (ROMAN ET AL. 2000, pl. XXII/7), Stolna-Podurile Domnești (DARÓCZI-URSUȚIU 2015, pl. 112/1873b), Șeușa (CIUTĂ 2009, pl. XLVII/8), Fântânele (MARINESCU 2008, pl. III/1) and Plopiș (BEJINARIU 2003, pl. III/1); a bowl with lobes at Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 24/12); cup with a high handle, sometimes with a spout on the opposite side (type Boroffka TB1) at Brașov-Bartolomeu (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 16/10; 17/2), Sfântu Gheorghe-Epreșet (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 118/6–10; 119/1–2), Șeușa (CIUTĂ 2009, pl. XLVIII/3), Chintelnic (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 26/7; 27/6–9), Corvinești (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 65/3), Feldioara (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 73/4–7), Sighișoara-Wietenberg (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 131/15) and Noșlac-Șumughi (SOROCEANU 1984, pl. VI/3); cups with wide rim, and shape similar to bowls, with S-shaped profile and high handle (type Andrițoiu X, Boroffka TD3, Chidioșan F1–5) at Brașov-Bartolomeu (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 16/1–2; 17/1), Bratei (POPA 2010, pl. 45/19), Stejeriș (DUMITRAȘCU ET AL. 2014, pl. XXI/18), Lancrăm (POPA-SIMINA 2004, pl. 2/1, 3), Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 24/1–2; KACSÓ 2013, fig. 10; 11/2–3, 5, 8), Păuleni (ROTEA 2000, pl. IV/1), Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 103/9), Sfântu Gheorghe-Epreșet (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 118/1), Țelna (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 135/8) and Albiș (SZÉKELY 2003, pl. VII/1–2); cup with two rims and a handle pinched from the rim on the body at Oarța de Jos (type Boroffka TS1b) (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 102/11); pyxes of different shapes at Derșida (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, pl. 22/16), Turia (SZÉKELY 1995, pl. VII/3), Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 27/1) and Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 82/1;

104/1–2); incense burners (type Boroffka TO) at Oarța de Sus, most of them having rich ornaments with motifs belonging to early horizon (KACSÓ 1998, fig. 1–6).

There are several decorations that can be considered part of the repertoire of early Wietenberg types: incised cross-hatching, in a double incised band (type Chidioșan 3f–g, Boroffka VD4) from Cerișor (ROMAN *ET AL.* 2000, pl. XIX/1–4, 6–7, 17), Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 24/1, 6, 11; 25/5; 27/4; 28/2; KACSÓ 2013, fig. 11/3, 8; 12/1, 3–4; 13/2; KACSÓ 2015, fig. 203; 205), Păuleni (ROTEA 2000, pl. I/4, 6–7; II/3; V/2; IX/1; X/6), Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 13/13; 65/7; 87/14; 95/29; 97/8–9; 100/11–12; 101/1; 103/11; 110/11; 128/7, 10), Sfântu Gheorghe–Epreșet (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 118/5), Stolna–Băștioara (DARÓCZI–URSUȚIU 2015, pl. 211/5049), Albiș (SZÉKELY 2003, pl. VIII/5), Plopiș (BEJINARIU 2001, pl. II/7; III/1, 5), Simonești (SZÉKELY 1971, fig. 8/8, 11); row of X-es in band (type Chidioșan 3i; Boroffka VD4) at Cerișor (ROMAN *ET AL.* 2000, pl. XXVII/2), Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 24/10; KACSÓ 2013, fig. 11/4; 13/2), Păuleni (ROTEA 2000, pl. IX/4; X/4); several spiral motifs, simple – made from recumbent S-es, linked to each-other (Chidioșan 5g; Boroffka VD 24, VD30) or not linked (Chidioșan 5d; Boroffka VA17): Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 26/6; 28/2; KACSÓ 2013, fig. 5–6, 8–10; 11/5; 12/2–3; 13/1; KACSÓ 2015, fig. 204), Păuleni (ROTEA 2000, pl. V/1), Bădeni (LAZAROVICI–MILEA 1976, pl. VIII/5; XII/20), Sfântu Gheorghe–Epreșet (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 118/5), Cerișor (ROMAN *ET AL.* 2000, pl. XXV); complicated spirals (Chidioșan 5f; Boroffka VD26, VD30, VA18–19): Cluj-Napoca–Gura Baciului (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 60/1), Stejeriș (DUMITRAȘCU *ET AL.* 2014, pl. XVIII/1; XIX/1), Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 27/3), Sebeș–Podul Pripocului (POPA 2010, pl. 44/12), Cerișor (ROMAN *ET AL.* 2000, pl. XIX/5, 9–10, 14; XX/8, 10, 13), Lancrăm (POPA–SIMINA 2004, pl. 4/10), Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 5/7–8, 10, 13–14; 11/3, 5, 7; 86/13; 101/1; 102/1; 103/11; 106/5; 122/34; 123/2, 28, 31, 40–41). Another decoration which renders spiral-like elements or semi-spiral is type 5a at Derșida (Boroffka VD65), which includes the so-called “Wietenberg cross”, made especially on lids: Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 2004, pl. XVI; KACSÓ 2013, fig. 11/4), Alba Iulia (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 1/8) and Derșida (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, pl. 22/9). Broom and comb strokes on the ceramics are present in a small number in Wietenberg culture sites, which have been used as evidence to potentially explain the origin of the Wietenberg culture as having continuity with the textile impressed and rusticated vessels present in Transylvania at the end of the Early Bronze Age. These sites include Derșida (CHIDIOȘAN 1968, fig. 6/8, 10; CHIDIOȘAN 1980, pl. 34/6, 9f, 10; 37/7), Păuleni (ROTEA 2000, pl. VII/9), Șeușa (CIUTĂ 2009, pl. L/7; LI/19), Turia (SZÉKELY 1995, pl. IX/5), Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 47/3; 57/6; 68/3, 10–11, 13; 86/15; 95/20; 99/13), Plopiș (BEJINARIU 2003, pl. II/4, 6), Suatu (ROTEA 1994, pl. III/5), Sebeș–Podul Pripocului (POPA 2010, pl. 43/1) and Stolna–Podurile Domnești (DARÓCZI–URSUȚIU 2015, pl. 108/1819).

A wide range of other objects made of clay have been found at several Wietenberg sites: lids, sometimes decorated with specific motifs – Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 1987, fig. 26/4; KACSÓ 2004, pl. XVI–XVII, XXXVI; KACSÓ 2013, fig. 11/4, 6), Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 57/10; 126/19) and Albiș (SZÉKELY 2003, pl. IX/5, 7); the clay bearing blocks – Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 2004, pl. XL; KACSÓ 2013, fig. 15/3), Păuleni (ROTEA 2000, pl. V/4–8), Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 113/9), Șeușa (CIUTĂ 2009, pl. XLVIII/4), Albiș (SZÉKELY 2003, pl. IX/1) and Plopiș (BEJINARIU 2003, pl. VI/3); miniature chariot – Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 2015, fig. 206); miniature chariot wheels – Păuleni (ROTEA 2000, pl. I/3), Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 108/1–5, 18) and Plopiș (BEJINARIU 2003, pl. VI/1); anthropomorphic figurines – Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 115/2), Țelna (BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 135/6) and Turia (SZÉKELY 1995, 130, pl. VIII/4–5); loom weights – Oarța de Sus (KACSÓ 2013, fig. 16–19), Stejeriș (DUMITRAȘCU *ET AL.* 2014, pl. XVIII/6; XXI/21) and Rotbav (DIETRICH 2014a, pl. 86/6); and a spinwhorle at Păuleni (ROTEA 2000, pl. V/9).

Wietenberg ceramics have influences from several different cultural groups from the end of the Early Bronze Age (Nagyrev, Nyírség, Sanislău, Gornea-Foeni/Orlești, Odaia Turcului) (Bălan *et al.* 2016). Within Transylvania, the emergence of the Wietenberg ceramic styles at the beginning of the 20th century BC varied from region to region. For example, in south-eastern Transylvania, the Ciomortan-Costișa level at Păuleni–Ciuc, dated to 2031–1925 cal BC (95.4%), is directly overlapped by the early Wietenberg level, dated to 1877–1683 cal BC (95.4%) (Rotea 2000, 30; Căvruc–Rotea 2000, 157–158; Căvruc 2002, 191; Gogâltan 2015, 76–77, fig. 30–31). In other regions of Transylvania, the early Wietenberg phase may be contemporary with the Ciomortan-Costișa group. The early Wietenberg funerary rite of cremation is different from neighbouring cultures (Mureș, Otomani, Monteoru, Tei and Costișa). The adaptation of cremation from the Pannonian Plain, from Sanislău, Nagyrev and Nyírség groups, seems plausible. The Nagyrev group has a great contribution in shaping Vatya culture (Bóna 1975, 31–32; Kovács 1984, 220), in which the funerary rite (Bóna 1975, 32–44, 52, 59) is similar to the Wietenberg one.

Metal implements are rare in early Wietenberg sites (Fig. 11–13): a chisel in level 2 and a socketed-chisel mould in level 3 at Derşida (Chidioşan 1980, 60); bronze, silver, gold artifacts and moulds for casting objects of Apa and Țufalău types at Oarța de Sus (Kacsó 1987, 70, fig. 22–23; Kacsó 2004, 60, pl. XXXVIII–XXXIX); bronze disc-head pin at Sebeş–Podul Pripocului (Boroffka 1994, 286; Popa 2010, 141–145, pl. 42/3), a heart-shaped pendant and a paddle-head pin at Păuleni (Popa 2010, 146, pl. 42/1–2); archaic type sickle and a spear-head at Sighișoara–Wietenberg (Boroffka 1994, 286; Andrițoiu–Rustoiu 1997, 32); and a bronze object at Plopiș (Bejinariu 2003, pl. VI/2).

In the Wietenberg culture area the hoards of Hajdúsámson-Apa, Țufalău and Tolnanémedi types are present (KACSÓ 1993, 74; KACSÓ 1998, 259; GOGÂLTAN 1998, 198; BOROFFKA 1999, 66–67; POPA 2010, 138–153). The first two types are considered local creations, covering the areas of the Wietenberg, Otomani and Suci de Sus cultures. In general, it is accepted that Hajdúsámson-Apa type hoards belong to BrA2 (MOZSOLICS 1967, 122; KACSÓ 1993, 74; GOGÂLTAN 1998, 198), but there are other opinions which propose a dating to BrA2–B1 (BOROFFKA 1999, 67) or only in BrB1 (DAVID 2002, 77, Appendix 1; PERNICKA ET AL. 2016, 65). At the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC, artifacts from these bronze types were spread across the area inhabited by Wietenberg, Otomani, Hatvan, Mureș, Vătya and Vatin communities (Fig. 13–14). Some items, such as the Apa-Hajdúsámson type swords, are traded over long distances as prestige objects (PERNICKA ET AL. 2016, 82) (Fig. 15). The presence of ceramic imports and exports attest a close relationship between these cultures.

The hoards from Deva and Sebeş have bronze artifacts specific to Western Carpathian Basin, which are attributed to early Wietenberg phase (POPA 2010, 138–153).

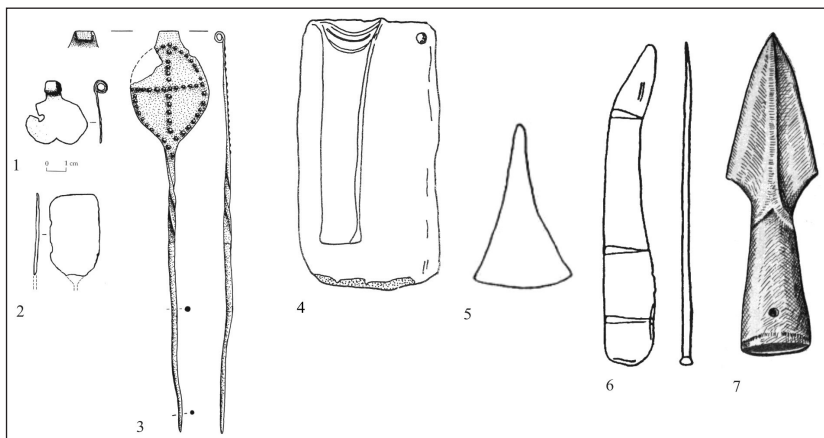


Fig. 11. Bronze objects and moulds found at Oarța de Sus–Ghiile Botii (after KACSÓ 2004, pl. XXXVIII).



Fig. 12. Gold adornments found at Oarța de Sus–Ghiile Botii (after KACSÓ 2015, fig. 209).

Fig. 13. 1–3, 5–6. bronze objects discovered in early Wietenberg sites: 1–2 Păuleni (after POPA 2010, pl. 42/1–2); 3 Sebeş–Podul Pripocului (after POPA 2010, pl. 42/3); 5 Derşida (after BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 130/2); 6 Sighișoara–Wietenberg (after BOROFFKA 1994, Taf. 130/2); 7. Sighișoara–Wietenberg (after HOREDT 1960, fig. 13/3); 4. stone mould for casting socketed chisels: Derşida (after DUMITRAȘCU 1989, pl. XXIV/1a).



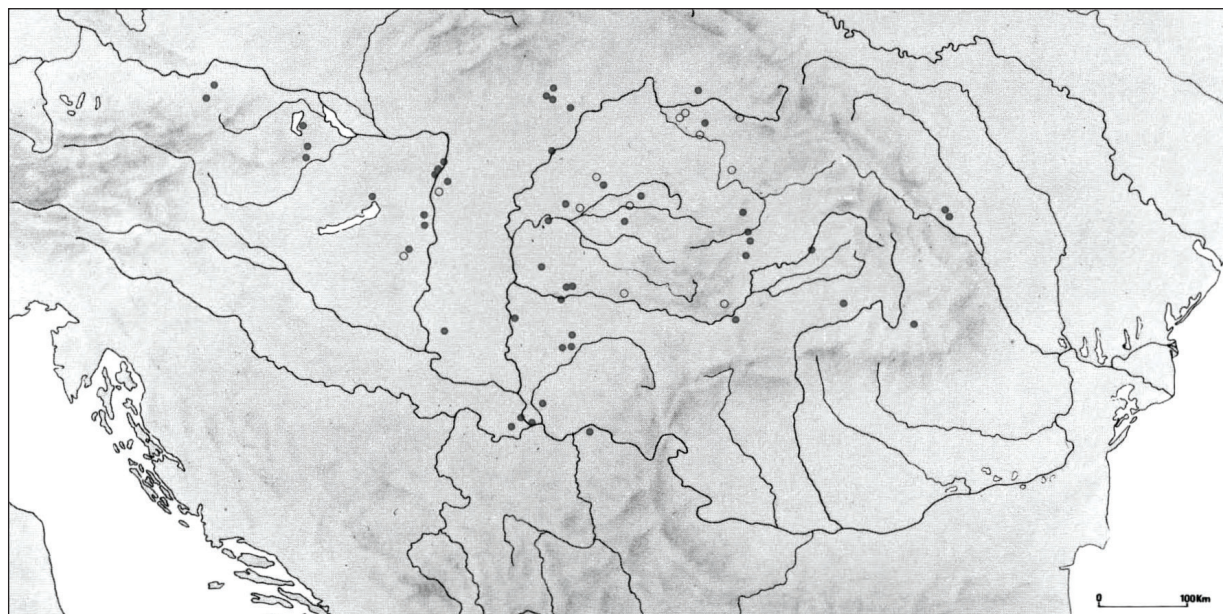


Fig. 14. The distribution of disc-buttressed axe type A and B1 in Carpathian Basin (after VULPE 1970, Taf. 49/B).

Many ornamental elements on the metal objects of Hajdúsámson-Apa and Țufalău types are also found on early Wietenberg ceramics: hatched triangles, spiral motif, herringbone motif or zigzag lines (Pl. 7–8). It is likely that Wietenberg communities deliberately matched the ceramic decoration to decoration on the metal objects that cover a large area of the Carpathian Basin.

Ceramic exchanges between Wietenberg culture and their neighbors makes it possible to determine synchrony between the different ceramic traditions. Based on these synchronies, it appears that early Wietenberg is contemporaneous with Otomani II (CHIDIOȘAN 1974, 157–159; CHIDIOȘAN 1980, 90–91; BOROFFKA 1994, 287), Mureș/Periam-Pecica Ib (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, 88; SOROCEANU 1991, 119, Taf. 49/15; SZABÓ 1999, 24–25, fig. 36/Gr. 102/5; 52/Gr. 127/3), Hatvan II (BOROFFKA 1994, 286) and Monteoru Ic2–1 (CHIDIOȘAN 1980, 85–86; BOROFFKA 1994, 286–287; POPESCU-BĂJENARU 2008, 15; PUSKÁS 2015, 105). Based on the most used chronological systems, the early Wietenberg at Sebeș is contemporary with phases Reinecke BrA2, Bóna MB2, Mozsolics BIII and Gogâltan BMII.

In 2013, human bone samples were collected from the cemetery at Sebeș-Între răstoace for radiocarbon dating, during the Bronze Age

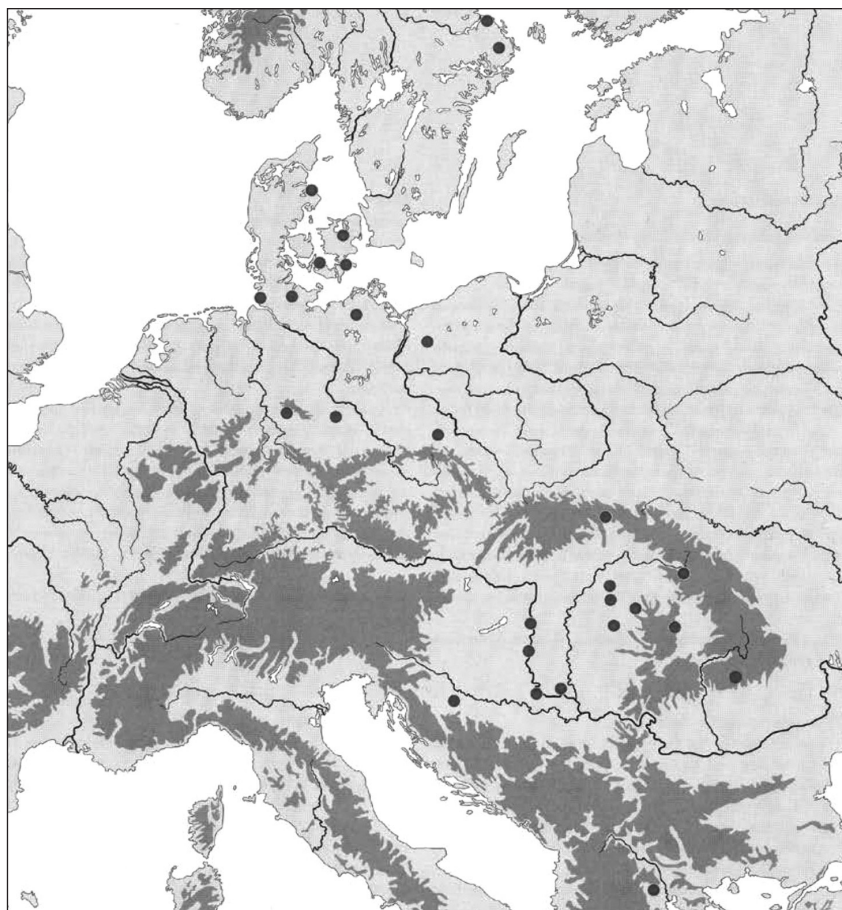


Fig. 15. The distribution of the Apa type swords in Europe (after PERNICKA ET AL. 2016, fig. 27).

Transylvania Survey project (Fig. 16; Pl. 9–10). This project was a partnership between the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology (C. Quinn and J. O'Shea) and the National Museum of Union from Alba Iulia (H. Ciugudean). Samples of calcined bone were processed as AMS dates at the University of Arizona (USA) AMS Laboratory, in a collaboration between G. Hodgins and C. Quinn.

The vessels discovered in Sebeş-Între răstoace cemetery are fairly uniform, in style and decoration, which suggested that the burials were relatively contemporaneous. The radiocarbon dates confirm this. The samples were intentionally selected to date the various funerary rites found within the cemetery: burials from group I (M32, M34, M36, M43, M44 and M45) and from group II (M2, M17 and M25), burials with faience beads (M25), burials that had stone structures (M32 and M44), burials from the center and the margin of the main group; burials in which there were placed the main vessel types. ^{14}C dates from these burials confirm that the cemetery was used for a short time. The most probable time span the cemetery was used is between 1878–1771 cal BC. It is possible, however, that the cemetery was formed more quickly, started slightly earlier, or was abandoned slightly later.

There has been a recent increase in the number of ^{14}C dates published from Wietenberg sites. The dates are mostly between the 20th and 15th centuries cal BC (BERECKI 2016, fig. 32, 34, Table 26; BĂLAN *ET AL.* 2016, fig. 5). From the sites attributed to early horizon (phase II Chidioşan/phase A Boroffka) we have the following ^{14}C dates:

– Bln-5626: 3507±37 BP, 1931–1701 cal BC (95.4%), Oarța de Sus-*Ghiile Botii* (GÖRSDORF 2005, 468; BĂLAN-QUINN 2014, 120; KACSÓ 2015, 432; GOGĂLTAN 2015, 75, fig. 25; BERECKI 2016, fig. 32, 34, Table 26);

– Ly-9190: 3265±30 BP, 1619–1458 BC (95.4%), Oarța de Sus-*Ghiile Botii* (KACSÓ 2004, 60; BĂLAN-QUINN 2014, 119–120; KACSÓ 2015, 432; GOGĂLTAN 2015, 75, fig. 24; BERECKI 2016, fig. 32, 34, Table 26);

– Hd-28203: 3547±24 BP, 1954–1774 cal BC (95.4%), Rotbav-*La pârauț* (DIETRICH 2014a, 171; DIETRICH 2014b, 60–61; BĂLAN-QUINN 2014, 120; GOGĂLTAN 2015, 77; BERECKI 2016, fig. 32, 34, Table 26);

– sample PAC-25: 3440±25 BP, 1877–1683 cal BC (95.4%), Păuleni-*Ciuc* (WHITLOW *ET AL.* 2013, 38; GOGĂLTAN 2015, 77, fig. 31; BERECKI 2016, fig. 32, 34, Table 26).

The dates from early Wietenberg contexts across the Transylvanian Plateau are similar to the dates from Sebeş-Între răstoace (Fig. 16). At Oarța de Sus, two dates from pit 22 have been analyzed in different laboratories. The date run from Berlin matches other dates from Rotbav, Păuleni and Sebeş. Again, we draw attention to the ^{14}C date from Costișa-Ciomortan level at Păuleni, which is directly covered by the Wietenberg level: 3620±16 BP, 2031–1926 cal BC (95.4%) (GOGĂLTAN 2015, 76–77, fig. 30). A ^{14}C date from level 2 at the Rotbav settlement appears to be contemporary with levels 1–3 from Derşida and the cemetery from Sebeş-Între răstoace. Taking into account the absolute dates proposed for Early Bronze Age III – 22nd–21st centuries BC (GOGĂLTAN 2015, 62–70) and Chidioşan III and late Wietenberg phase (CIUGUDEAN-QUINN 2015, 148–152, Table 1, fig. 1; BĂLAN *ET AL.* 2016, pl. 5), the early Wietenberg phase, can be dated between the 20th–18th centuries cal BC. The transition to next subphase of the Wietenberg likely happened in the second half of the 18th century cal BC.

The absolute chronology for the Wietenberg is similar to the chronologies for neighbouring Middle Bronze Age cultures: Mureş (Uhnér 2010, 350–351; Nicodemus-O'Shea 2015; Gogăltan 2015, 70–72, fig. 16–17), Hatvan (Uhnér 2010, 348–350), Otomani (Uhnér 2010, 349–352; Gogăltan 2015, 73), Vatyá (Uhnér 2010, 347–340, 350; Jaeger-Kulcsár 2013, 294–313), Monteoru (Motzoi-Chicideanu et al. 2012,

	Laboratory code	Context	Sample	BP	cal BC (95.4%)	Software
1	AA-103611	burial M.2	calcined human bone	3445±41	1883-1660	Oxcal v4.2.4
2	AA-103613	burial M.17	calcined human bone	3517±41	1950-1700	Oxcal v4.2.4
3	AA-103614	burial M.25	calcined human bone	3533±41	2007-1746	Oxcal v4.2.4
4	AA-103615	burial M.32	calcined human bone	3555±41	2021-1746	Oxcal v4.2.4
5	AA-103616	burial M.34	calcined human bone	3562±42	2026-1771	Oxcal v4.2.4
6	AA-103617	burial M.36	calcined human bone	3425±41	1878-1629	Oxcal v4.2.4
7	AA-103618	burial M.43	calcined human bone	3520±41	1953-1701	Oxcal v4.2.4
8	AA-103619	burial M.44	calcined human bone	3495±40	1923-1695	Oxcal v4.2.4
9	AA-103620	burial M.45	calcined human bone	3501±40	1933-1697	Oxcal v4.2.4

Fig. 16. Radiocarbon data obtained from samples on calcined human bones found in burials at Sebeş-Între răstoace.

52–53; Popescu 2013, 185–187; Vasilescu 2013) and Costișa (Popescu 2013, 184–186; Popescu–Băjenaru 2015, 36; Bolohan et al. 2015, 136–140; Gogâltan 2015, 76–77).

The combination of shared metal types (Hajdúsámson-Apa and Țufalău), as well as different funerary rites, suggests that there were social, political, economic, and ideological systems that integrated people with different identities and statuses. The co-occurrence of different mortuary treatments, such as a small percent of cremated bodies in a community where the main rite is inhumation and vice-versa, reinforces the close connections between different cultural groups in the Carpathian Basin and Transylvania seen in other material realms, including metal and pottery. The presence of Transdanubian Encrusted Pottery and Vátya artifacts in western Transylvania is evidence of the close connections between Transylvania and the Carpathian Basin.

Political and economical structure in Transylvania can be compared with the one from the tell settlements, specific to stratified societies. Around a tell settlement there are attested other fortified or open settlements which are part of the same political entity (UHNÉR 2010). In Wietenberg culture an outstanding role is occupied by fortified or hilltop settlements, situated on dominant positions that can control the commercial routes (BOROFFKA 1994, 100–101, Map 6; DIETRICH 2010). The presence of a few prestige goods (bronze sword or gold lock-ring) and stone structures (cists and slabs that mark the grave) found in cemeteries prove the presence of social differences in the Wietenberg culture.

The formation, evolution and fall of the cultures during Middle Bronze Age in the Carpathian Basin happened approximately in parallel (even the changes from a phase to another). This supports the idea of close social, political, and economic relations between different cultures in this area. Bronze, gold, faience and osseous artifacts (sometimes ornamented with specific symbols) are made and exchanged between different communities. Other resources, such as salt (HARDING–KAVRUK 2010) and horses (NICODEMUS 2014) were likely traded across the Carpathian Basin and Transylvania. The raw materials are also exploited and exchanged in this area (gold, copper, salt, wood from Transylvania, copper and wood from the eastern Alps and Slovakian Ore Mountains). Artifacts with prestige role are exchanged as far as the Baltic Sea, from where amber is brought back. Luxury and prestige objects are obtained by different communities in exchange for domestic animals, agricultural products or raw materials as gold, copper and wood (UHNÉR 2010, 295–298; KISS 2011; PERNICKA ET AL. 2016, 78–82).

Together, the cemetery at Sebeș-Între Răstoace contributes new insights into the evolution of the Wietenberg culture and connectivity between regions in the Carpathian Basin during the Middle Bronze Age. While diagnostic ceramic styles and mortuary practices suggest that each cultural group had its own distinct identity, the movement of people, raw materials, and finished goods between these cultural boundaries suggest increasing scales of connectivity helped fuel social transformations, including the development of social hierarchies, across Bronze Age Europe. The diversity of mortuary treatments within the Sebeș cemetery suggests that funerary rituals brought together different people – some of whom were related, some of whom were not – to create a shared community that transcended, but did not eliminate, important social differences.

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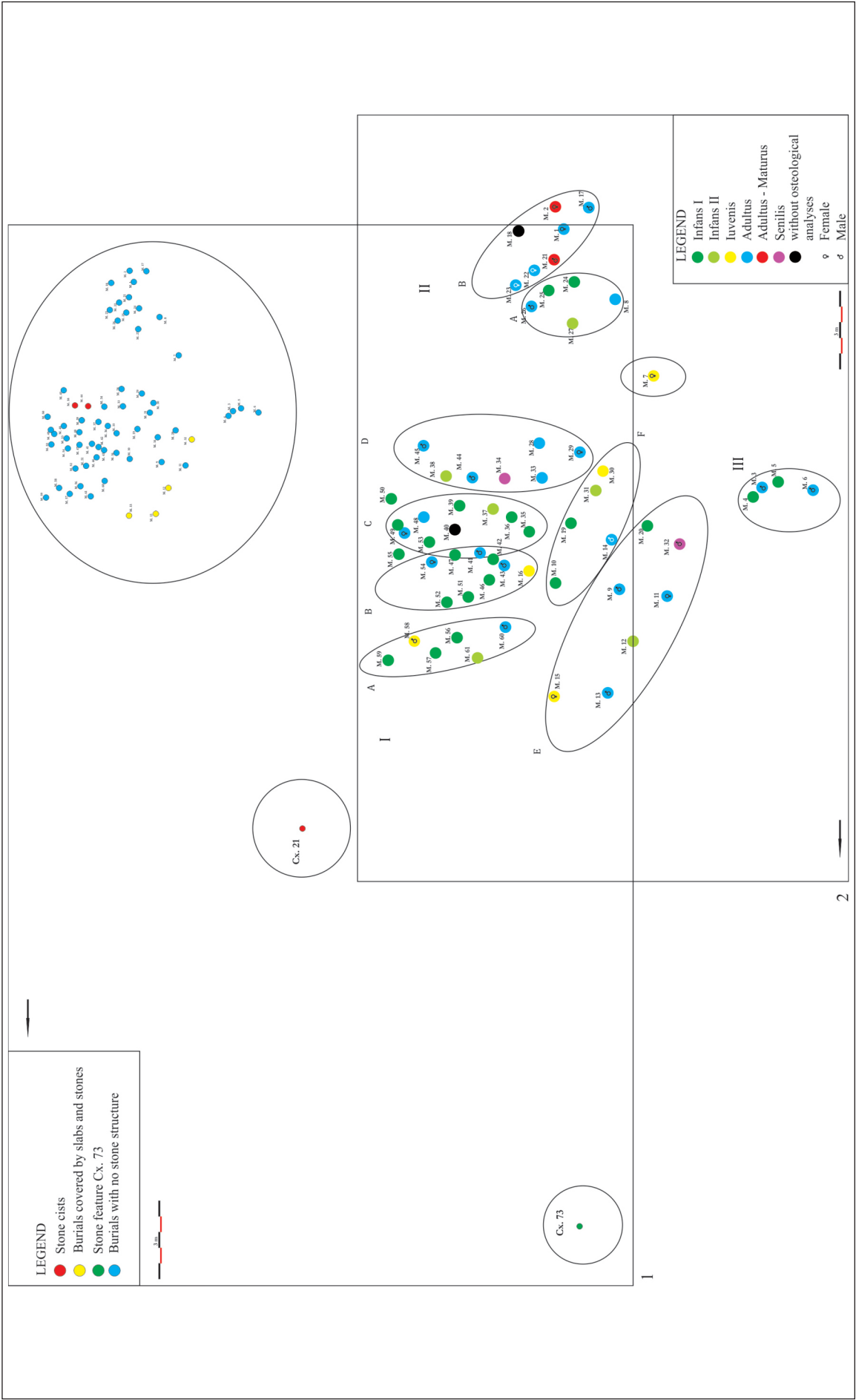
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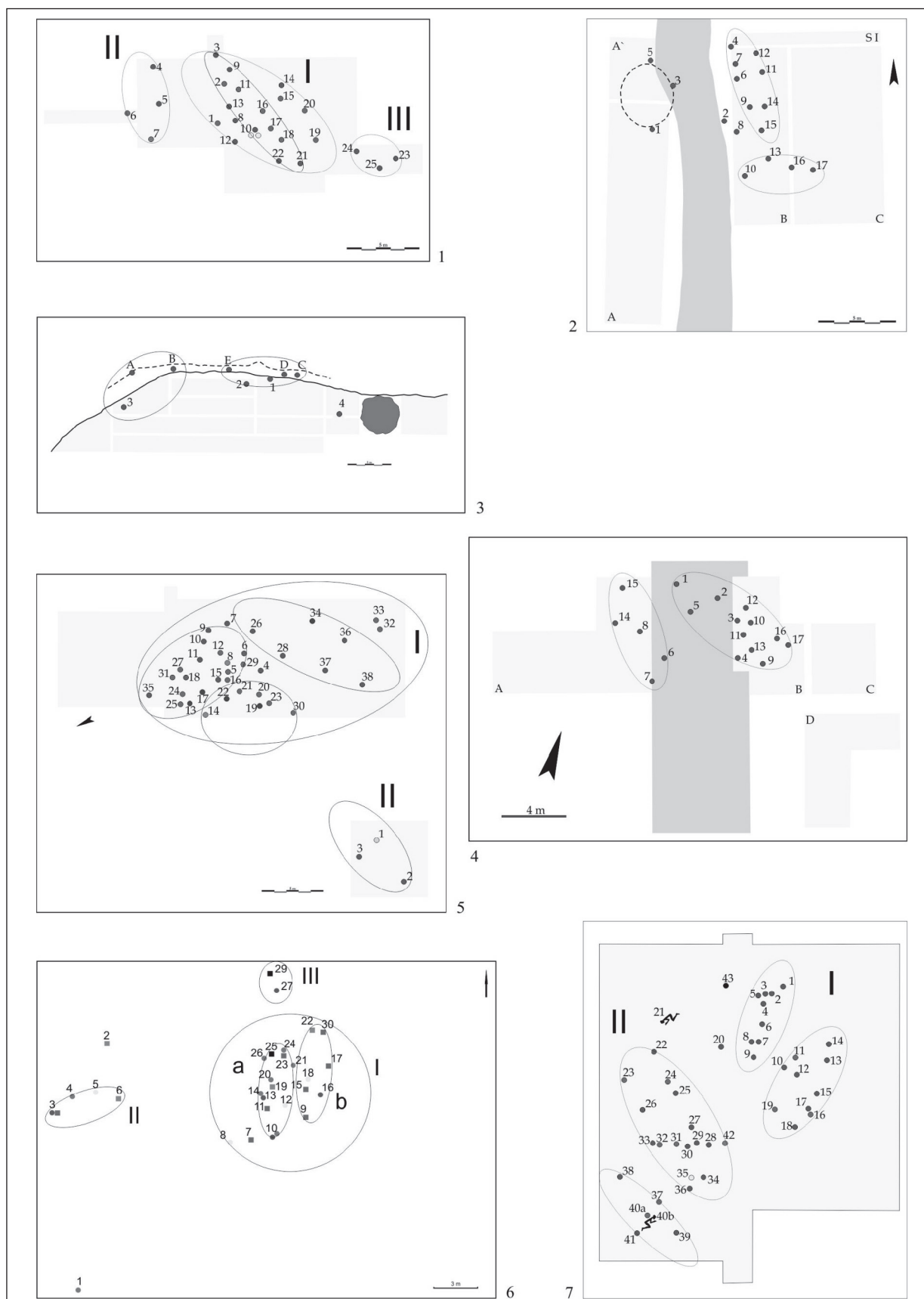
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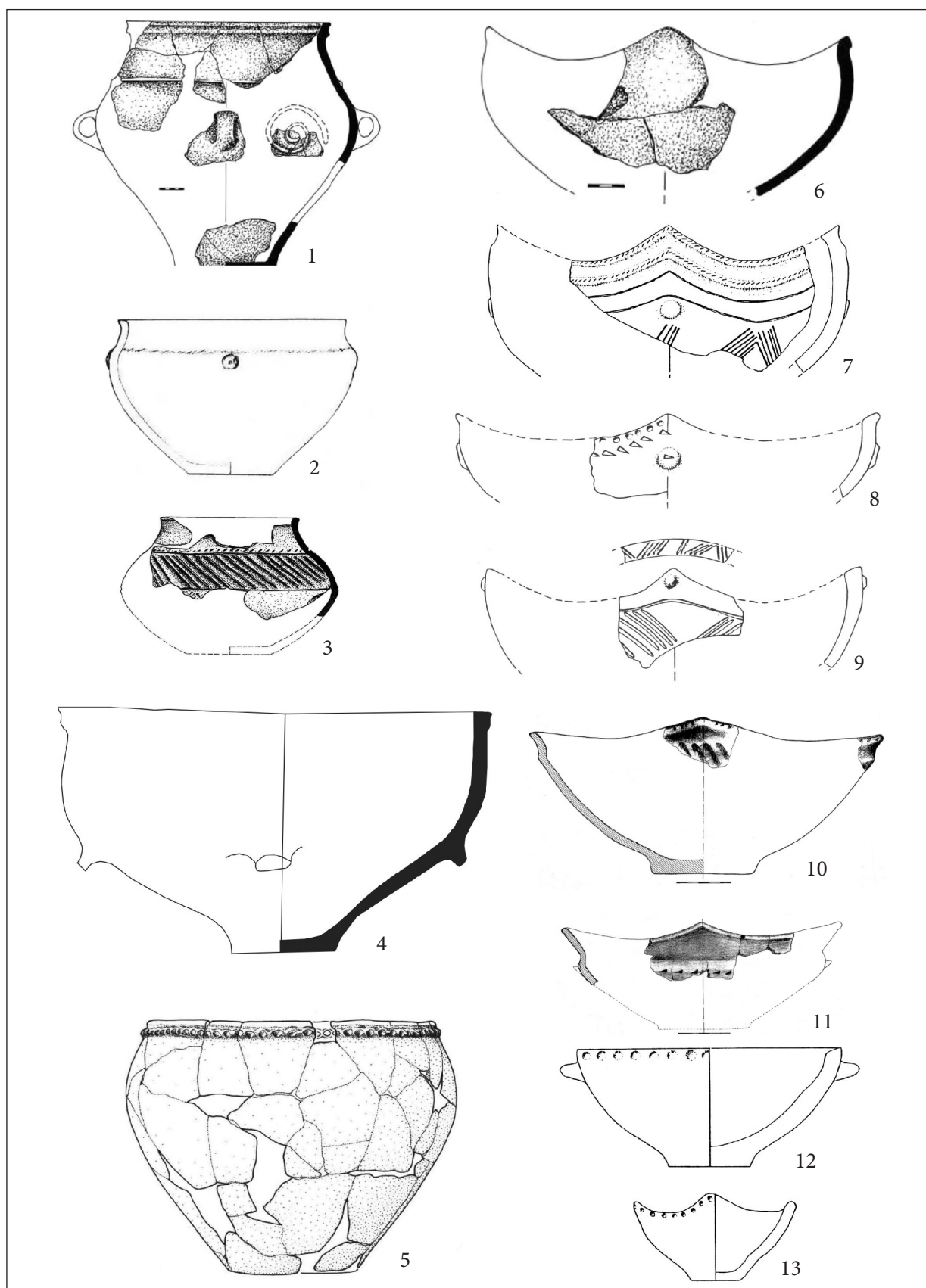
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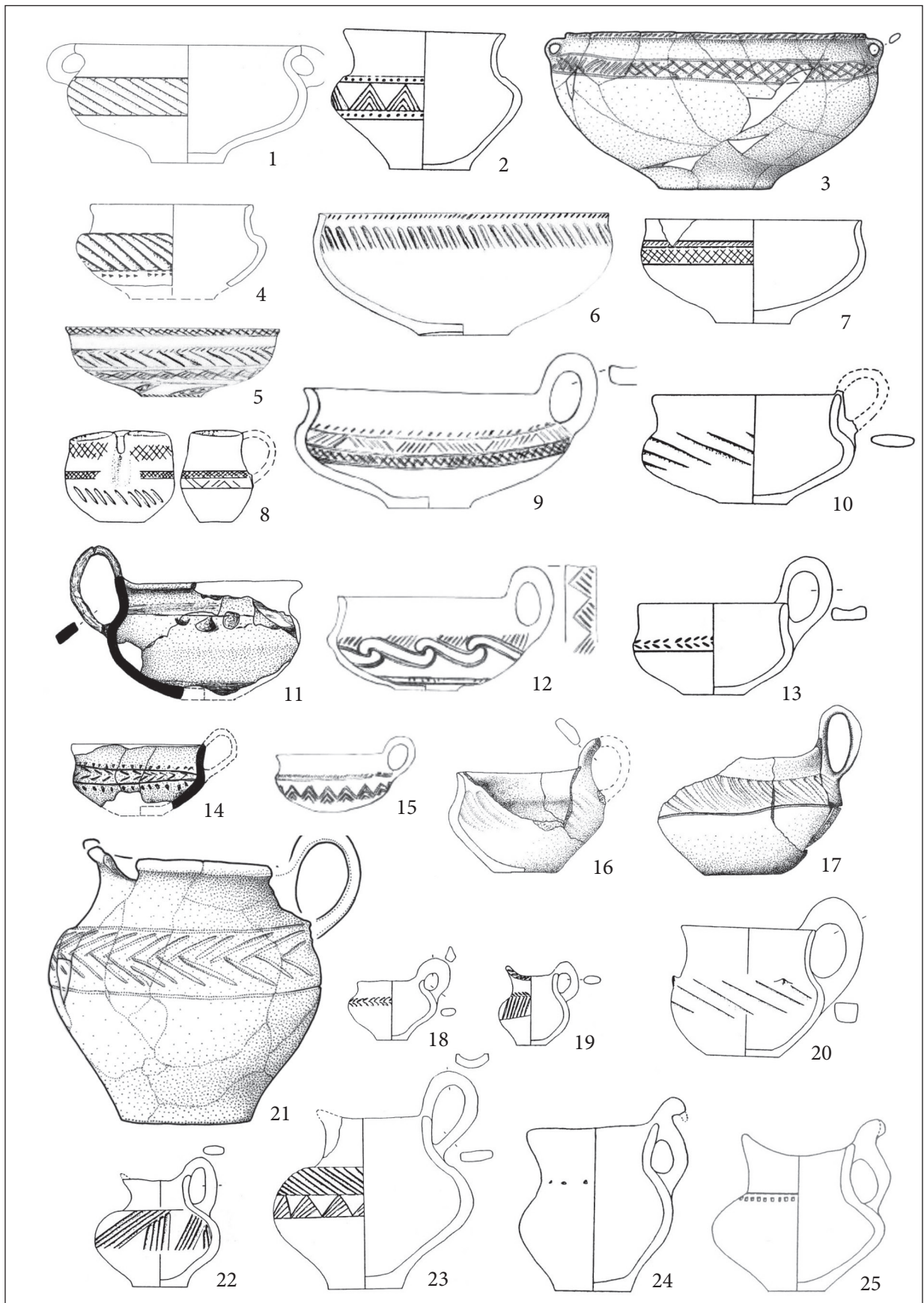
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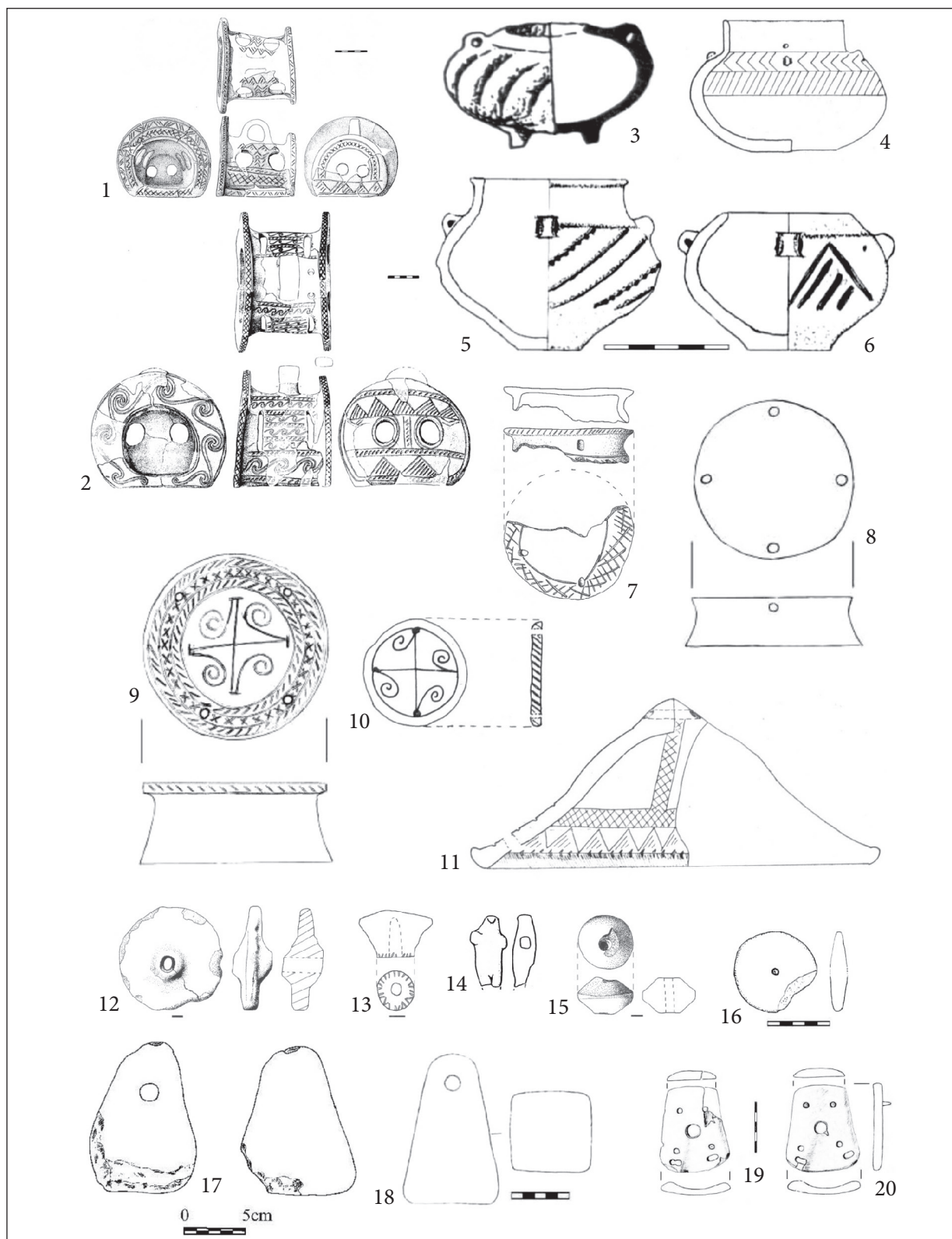
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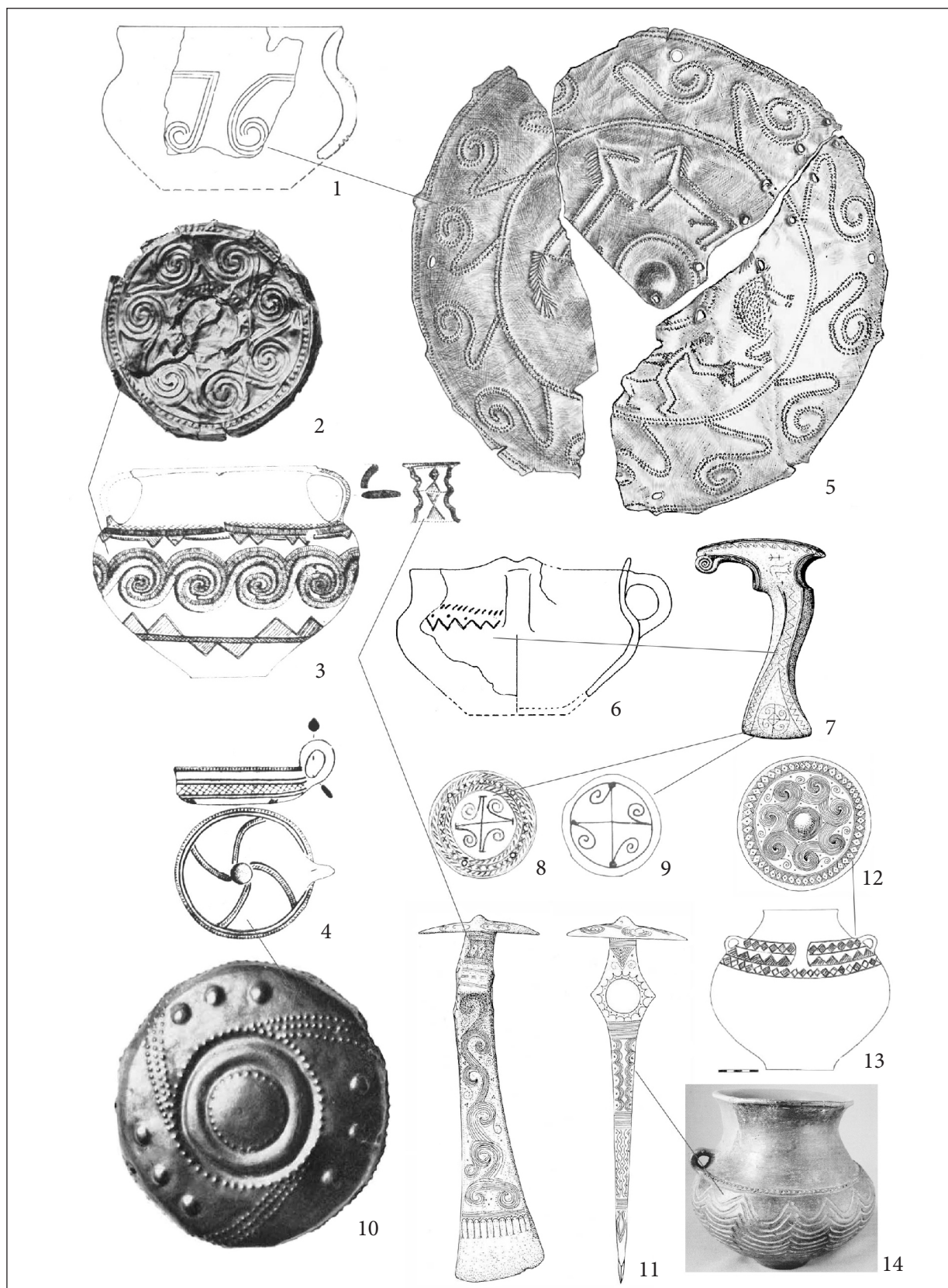
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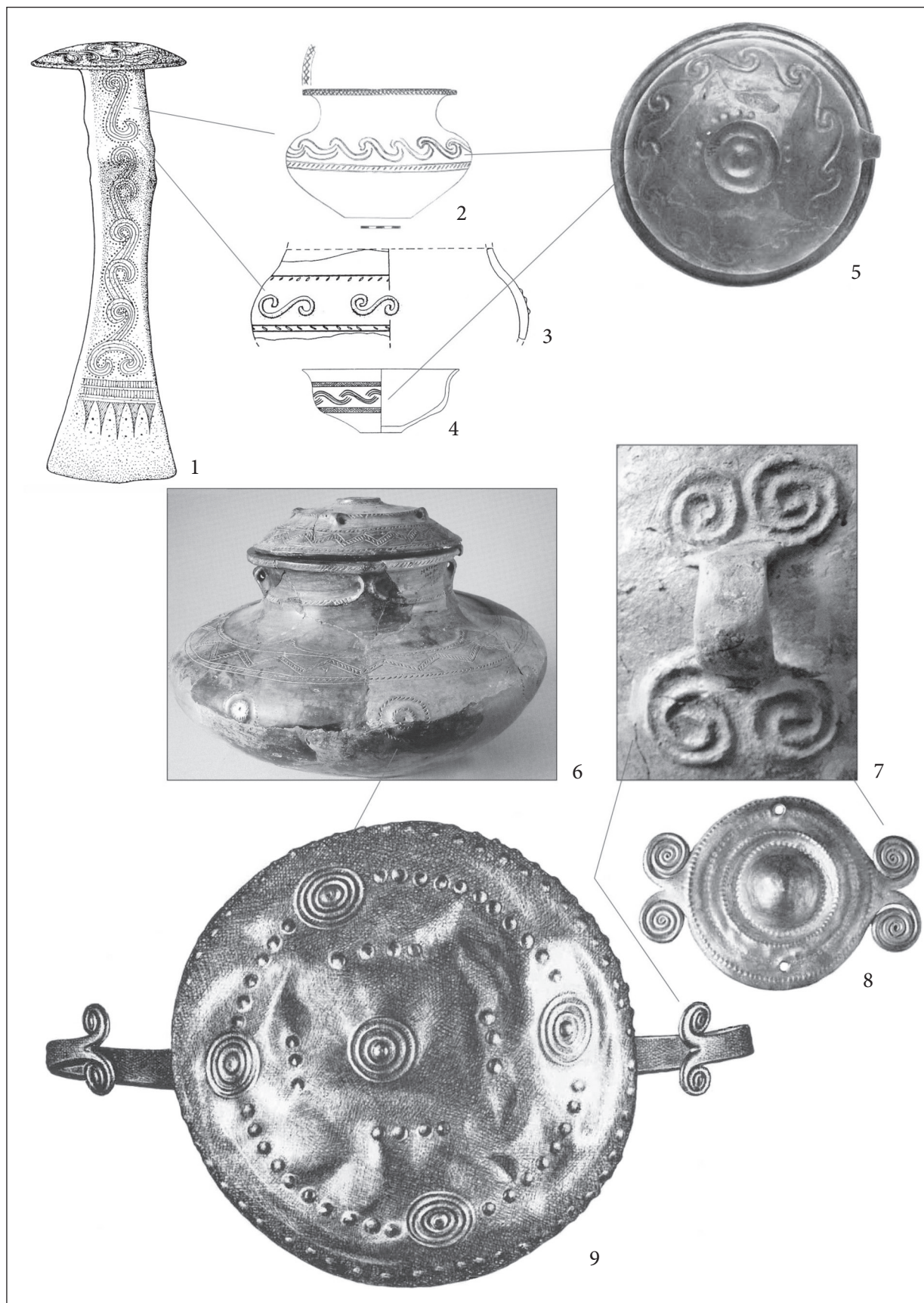
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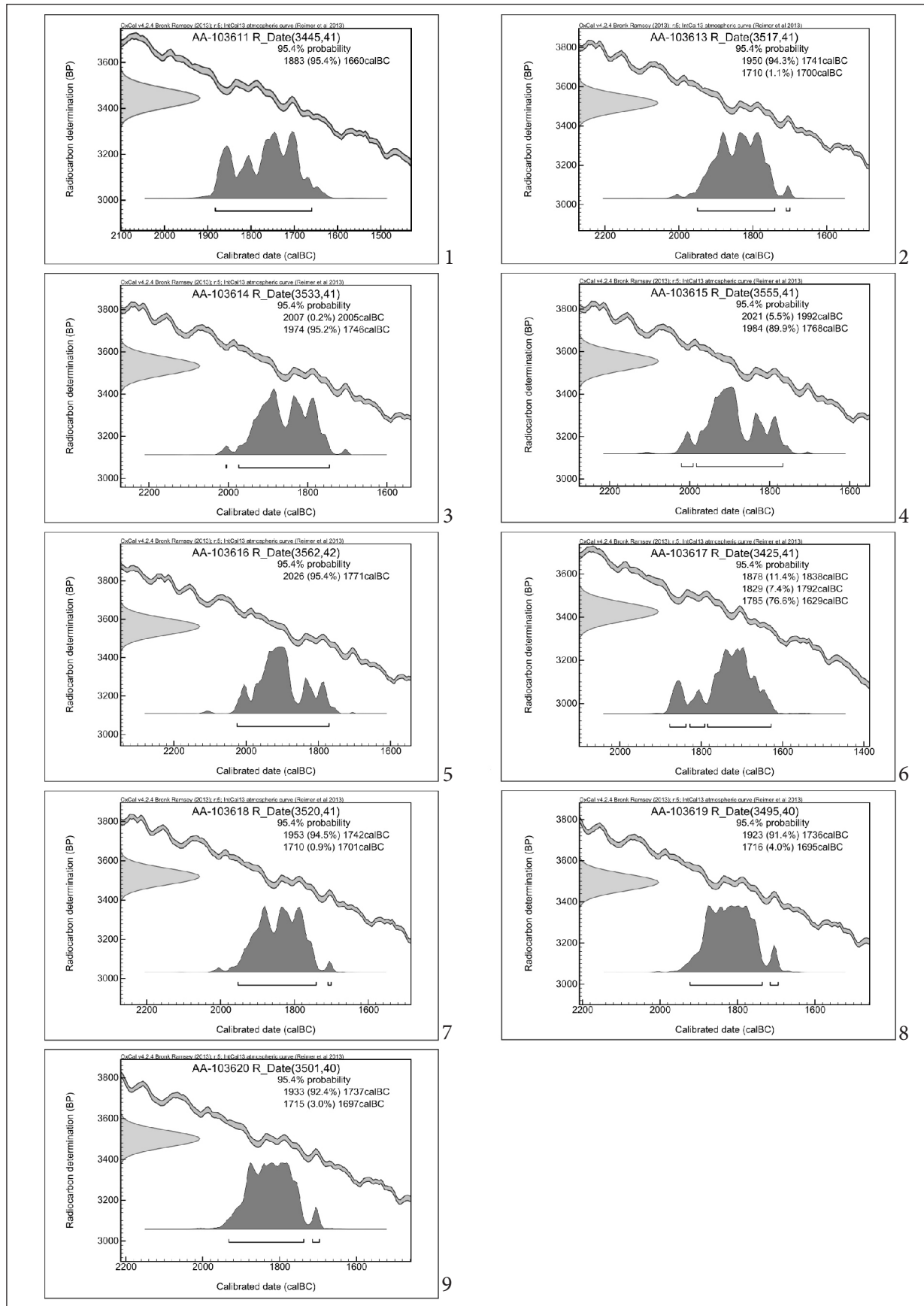
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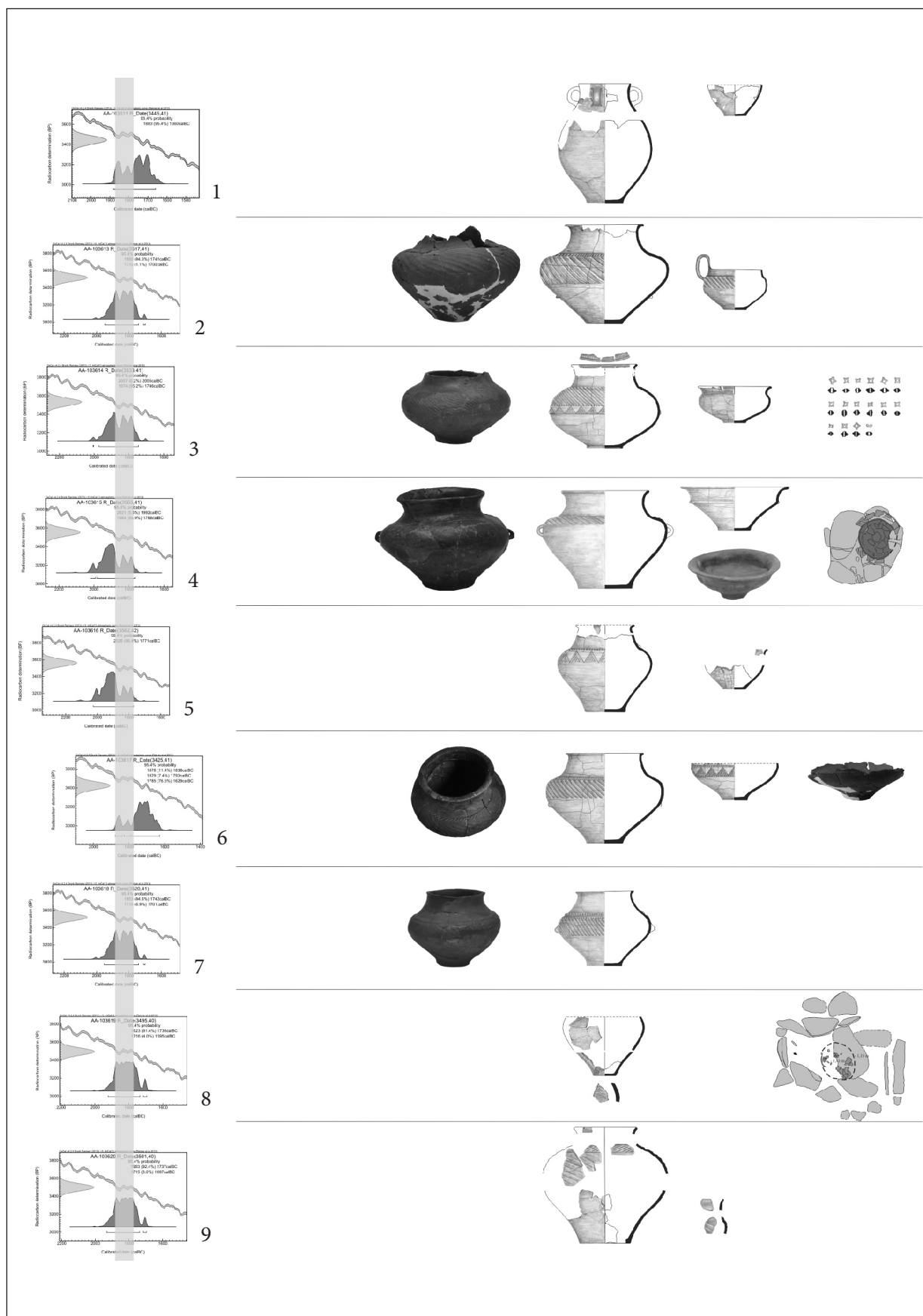
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