

New data on the Stoicani-Aldeni cultural aspect. The archaeological excavations from the Eneolithic site at B I ne ti (Buz u County)

Adina BORONEAN ^{*}
Alin FRÎNCULEASA ^{**}
Valentin DUMITRA CU ^{*}

Abstract: The present paper discusses and presents for the first time Hortensia Dumitrescu's archaeological excavations from B I ne ti (Buz u County) in 1943. The only published information on the subject appeared in the Encyclopaedia of Archaeology and Ancient History of Romania, volume I (VI. Dumitrescu 1994) and in the monograph of the Stoicani-Aldeni cultural aspect (I.T. Dragomir 1983). The site of B I ne ti is also quoted in Romanian archaeology in connection to Eneolithic funerary practices, mentioning the human skull (lying on a vessel associated with red-ochre) found at the site. The paper presents a detailed account of the old excavations, followed by the analyses of pottery, faunal remains and lithics, ending with a brief discussion on the chronology of the area within the Stoicani-Aldeni cultural aspect and its links with the neighbouring sites and cultures.

Rezumat: În acest articol ne-am propus restituirea i în acela i timp valorificarea cercet rilor realizate de Hortensia Dumitrescu în anul 1943 în localitatea B I ne ti (jud. Buz u). Materialul arheologic este inedit, singurele informa ii publicate reg sindu-se într-un raport de s p tur arheologic cu câteva alte referiri punctuale în Enciclopedia Arheologiei i Istoriei Vechi a României vol. I (VI. Dumitrescu 1994) i în monografia aspectului cultural Stoicani-Aldeni (I.T. Dragomir 1983). B I ne ti este menționat și în contextul discu iilor legate de descoperiri i practici funerare în eneolitic, datorit identific rii în această a ezare a unui craniu uman a ezat pe un vas cu ocru ro u. Articolul de față prezint detaliat cercetarea arheologic a Hortensiei Dumitrescu, urmat de o analiz a materialului arheologic rezultat (ceramic , resturi faunistice, material litic) i de o scurt discuție privind încadrarea cronologic a acestui sit i a aspectului Stoicani-Aldeni i de leg turile cu alte situri i arii culturale din zon .

Keywords: Eneolithic, Stoicani-Aldeni, pottery, stone industry, faunal and human remains.

Cuvinte cheie: eneolitic, Stoicani-Aldeni, ceramic , industria pietrei, resturi faunistice i umane.

◆ Introduction

Northern Muntenia shows a series of cultural particularities, perhaps partly due to the diversity of its geography that favoured – during the Eneolithic at least – a certain line of local evolution and triggering thus certain patterns of habitation, exploitation of space, resources and natural environment. As a peripheral cultural area it was exposed to various cultural contacts, assimilated then in a local synthesis.

The Eneolithic settlements in the Subcarpathian area of Muntenia or nearby it were archaeologically assigned to the Stoicani-Aldeni cultural aspect - defined either as a synthesis between the Gumelni a and the Precucuteni-Cucuteni civilizations or as regional aspect of the Gumelni a culture (Gh. tefan 1944; M. Petrescu-Dimbovi a 1953; E. Com a 1963; VI. Dumitrescu 1963; A. Ni u 1971; 1973; I.T. Dragomir 1983; M. imon 1986; A. Frînculeasa 2007). Initially labelled as Gumelni a – Ariujd (Gh. tefan 1944), later as Aldeni II (E. Com a 1963), it established itself as the cultural aspect Stoicani-Aldeni after the publication of I.T. Dragomir's monographic work (I.T. Dragomir 1983).

First excavations in the northern area of Muntenia took place during the third decade of the last century at Aldeni, S rata-Monteoru and B I ne ti, with the results published in a few brief reports and papers (Gh. tefan 1938; 1944; I. Nestor 1944, p. 28; H. Dumitrescu 1944). During the following years the area and the subject were rarely paid any interest (Gh. tefan, E. Com a 1957; E. Com a 1987;

^{*} Institute of Archaeology "Vasile Pârvan", 11 Henri Coand , sector 1, Bucharest, e-mail boro30@gmail.com and dumitrascu.valentin@gmail.com.

^{**} Muzeul Jude ean de Istorie i Arheologie Prahova, 10 Toma Caragiu, Ploie ti, e-mail alinfranculeasa@yahoo.com.

M. Peneş, E. Paveleţ 2001). It was only after the year 2000 that a series of sites attributed to this cultural aspect was again investigated (A. Frînculeasa 2008; 2010): M I ie tii de Jos (R. Andreescu et alii 2006; A. Frînculeasa et alii 2012), Apostolache (A. Frînculeasa 2008), Seciu (A. Frînculeasa 2011), Boboci (A. Andreescu et alii 2012), Urlaţi (A. Frînculeasa et alii 2008) in Prahova county and Co atcu in Buz u county (L. Grigora , E. Pavele 2007; R. Andreescu et alii 2009; E. Paveleţ 2010).

Despite the fact that the archaeological literature makes references to various aspects of the archaeological excavations from B I ne ti¹, very little was so far published, other than the very brief report published in 1944 by Hortensia Dumitrescu, the author of the 1943 excavation (H. Dumitrescu 1944, p. 48-50). Interesting discussions were triggered by the presence of the human skull found overlapping a pot covered with red ochre (E. Com a 1960, p. 6; A. Ion 2008, p. 111-112; C. Laz r 2012, p. 117-118). The site was assigned to the Stoican-Aldeni Eneolithic cultural aspect without much discussion of the pottery or other categories of artefacts (Vi. Dumitrescu 1994, p. 169, I.T. Dragomir 1983).

In Hortensia Dumitrescu's fieldnotes the Eneolithic site was said to be located on "Muceha Mare" ridge, overlooking B I ne ti village, east of S r ţelului valley, on the western limit of "Poduri". Field surveys that took place in 2013 failed to identify the site. The "Muceha Mare" toponym is visible on a topographic map from the beginning of the 20th century (pl. 1). On a more recent map, the same location is marked much further north (pl. 1/3). The ridge was described as being "peculiarly shaped", with a maximum width at the northern edge of ca. 15 m, the southern one of ca. 40 m and an average length of 19 m. Access to the top – based on the sketch in the fieldnotes (pl. 1) - was most likely from the southwest where the slope was less abrupt (H. Dumitrescu, fieldnotes).

The digging was done by spade – probably in 20-25 cm deep spits and the working force employed were peasants from the B I ne ti village. Depth was most likely measured from the walking level. The fieldnotes and the marking on the pottery indicate that finds were collected every two spits or so. Finds from the feature areas were not collected/marked separately but based on the higher depths reached it was possible to separate the material resulted from the deeper features. Throughout the excavated area there seems to have existed a cultural layer of variable thickness, layer that started at ca. 20-30 cm from the walking level (the 20-30 cm accounting for the so called vegetal soil). This cultural layer overlapped a yellow clayish soil - seen as archaeologically sterile. Some of the features (L1, L2) cut down into this latter geological layer. Nothing more can be speculated about the stratigraphy of the site.

The surviving field documentation includes Hortensia Dumitrescu' fieldnotes with daily entries and a few sketches, as listed below:

1. General plan of the excavations (pl. 2);
2. Trench SI with features L1, L2 and F3 (pl. 3);
3. Western section of trench SI with L1, L2, F3 (pl. 3);
4. Central part of (eastern?) section of trench SII;
5. Western section of trench SIII (pl. 4/1-2);
6. North-eastern section of trench SIV (pl. 4/3-4).

The sketches have different scales vertically and horizontally (pl. 2/1) – and the information they provide is only approximate (when redrawing them most measurements proved inaccurate).

The archaeological excavations took place between July 19 and July 29, 1943. Four main trenches (SI to SIV) and a few other sondages (SV to SVIII) were excavated, ca. 200 sqm in total (pl. 2). The maximum depth reached varied from trench to trench, function of their location and the various features identified. The maximum depth reached was 2.30 m (H. Dumitrescu 1944, p. 49).

Nowadays, the largest remaining² part of the resulted archaeological material is in the collections of "Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest, and a few vessels are either exhibited or curated in the Buz u County Museum.

The first part of the paper focuses on the 1943 excavation and is based on Hortensia Dumitrescu's fieldnotes, comprising detailed information on the trenches, followed by a discussion of

¹ We would like to thank dr. Silvia Marinescu-Bilcu for kindly allowing us to study the archaeological collection and offering us full access at the field documentation.

² When the present authors started their work on the B I ne ti material, all the finds were still wrapped in their initial package (brown coarse paper with notation of date, trench and depth). It was noted from the first a discrepancy between the description of the material in the fieldnotes and the packages/items identified, suggesting that part of the collection was lost and possibly, some of the finds were perhaps never collected. Among the obvious missing part of the collection are the faunal and human remains.

the identified features (extending at times in more than one trench). The second part of the article groups analyses of various types of finds (pottery, small finds, bone and antler industry, lithics). The final part of the paper is a discussion on various aspects of the Stoicani-Aldeni group and its connections with the neighbouring cultural areas.

Trench SI (21.70 m x 2.60 m, pl. 2) oriented NE-SW, was located right on top of the ridge, 2.60m north from its southern edge. Archaeological finds were said to be easily observed on the freshly ploughed soil. Close to the surface pottery fragments were rather small and of two different types: the first type was made of a fine paste, grey both on the surface and in the break, while the second was red in the fresh break. Four definite features were observed (F1/L1³, F2/L2, F3, and F4) together with some human remains (M1). F1, F2, F3 were described as "dwellings" while F4 seems to have been a pit feature underlying L1 (see below).

The trench was excavated down to various depths, function of the appearance of the yellow (considered sterile) soil: at 1m excavation stopped on the south-western end of the trench (ca. 2 sqm), at 1.20 m excavations continued only on the north-western half of the trench, while at 1.50 m the yellow soil was noted everywhere but an area of ca. 5 x 2.60 m beneath the location of L1. At about 2m this area was reduced to 2m x 2.60m and the yellow sterile soil was reached at 2.30 m (pl. 2/2).

Trench SII (19 m x 2.20 m, pl. 2) was parallel to SI but slightly shorter and narrower. From the vegetal layer down finds clustered towards the centre of the trench (mainly in the area corresponding to F1/L1) and less towards the ends of the trench. At the extremities the excavation stopped at 0.80 m. At 1.50 m the digging area was further reduced to some 4 x 2.20 m located in the centre of the trench (in an area where daub fragments were observed in the profile, probably corresponding to F4). Despite the fact the soil was of the yellow type finds still occurred down to 1.80 m (both pottery and bone fragments). Pottery was mostly of the thick variety (the fieldnotes mention half a pot preserving its base, painted on the exterior with pale yellow on a dark greyish-black background) and less of the thin grey type. A horn/antler piece was also mentioned.

Trench SIII (16 m x 1.20 m, pl. 3/3-4) was located in the south-western part, almost perpendicular to SI and SII. Vertically, soil colour went gradually from brown to yellow and it became more compact as the depth increased. On the south-eastern corner of the trench, over an area of approx. 3 m in length, the excavation stopped at 0.50 m, while in the rest of the trench it went down to 1.10 m. The trench was described as "rather poor in finds".

Daub fragments were scattered over an area of 5-6m in length, appearing more concentrated towards the surface of the trench and more loosely scattered as they reached the depth of 0.70m, interpreted as perhaps another possible feature (F5).

Finds singled out in the fieldnotes for the first spit (0-0.50 m) were "a clay stamp with a spiral motif, a sandstone chisel, an oval stone grinder, pottery fragments with painted red lines on dark background" and a grey flint flake, a sandstone chisel and a painted pottery fragment for the second one (0.50-1 m).

Trench SIV (8 m x 3 m, pl. 4/1-2) was opened in the vicinity of feature F1/L1 observed in trench SI. The villagers had previously reported finding there "ash" and various types of items. During the excavations sherds were noted appearing from the very vegetal layer. On the eastern corner the yellow sterile soil was reached at 0.85 m while in the rest of the trench the excavation stopped at a depth of 1.50-2 m (corresponding to those of the bases of F1/L1 and F4).

In the south-eastern corner (0-0.50 m) a concentration of daub fragments was observed, probably part of L1. At this depth, the fieldnotes also mentioned pottery fragments (decorated with incised lines), two sandstone chisels, the leg of a figurine (with part of the torso and a laterall prominence), 2-3 halves of small vessels (perhaps from the same one), horns, bones, many snails, a very large antler, a possibly worked vertebra. Unfortunately it is not clear whether they all belonged to L1 or some had been found scattered in the cultural layer.

Further down, another pair of deer antler and small vessel were noted at 0.85 m.

From the next excavation spit (0.85-1 m) resulted two round stone punchers, a large grinder, two (four legged) small animal figurines, a spoon with a broken handle, a pot fragment painted with

³ The "F"-numbers were given by the present authors when working with the notes and the archaeological material while the "L" numbers were given by Hortensia Dumitrescu during the excavations. To be noted that some of the features were never numbered/named in the fieldnotes, but they had been observed as features and at times they were assigned names in the present paper for a better understanding of the archaeological situation.

white lines on a red background, thick fragments of pottery, a small vessel with a prominence (the other one probably broken), a flat spindle, pierced in the centre, horns, bones, etc.

The lowest excavation spit (1-1.50 m) yielded quite a few pottery fragments (both of the red and the grey varieties, and some with white paint on red background): pedestalled cups, handles, buttons, a small round vessel, half of an anthropomorphic figurine.

Prior to the complete excavation of the trench both the north area and the one towards SI collapsed and the finds were collected (a small chisel and quite a few sherds – among them a robust base, the neck of a painted vessel- and a clay stamp with an angular pattern).

Trench SV (2 m x 16 m, pl. 2) connected trench SIV to trench SIII in a somehow oblique manner, probably in an attempt to expose more features. Finds collected from the first excavation spit included pottery fragments, a complete miniature vessel, horn shaped handles, pedestalled bases. Many of ceramic fragments were also said to have occurred between 0.50-0.80 m (second spit). H. Dumitrescu noted that they were “difficult to classify”. At ca. 0.80m the sterile yellow soil started to appear and at 1m the excavation stopped.

Trench SVI (6 m x 1.5 m, pl.2) was cut parallel to SV and located further to the east. Very little is mentioned about the finds resulting from it: an almost complete miniature vessel at 0-0.25 m, a chisel, a figurine (armchair?), pottery sherds and various vessel fragments at 0.25-0.50 m. At 0.50 m the yellow soil appeared and the excavation stopped.

Two other small trenches were also opened (SVII and SVIII) but there are no fieldnotes referring to them. From the general sketch, trench SVII (probably 2m x 2m) was located towards the northern corner of SIV (probably in an attempt to uncover the entire area of L1).

Trench SVIII (2 m x 2 m? – also from the general sketch, pl.2) was located at the edge of the mound, in an area where the villagers reported having found animal horns, bones and pottery fragments in the fresh collapsed section of the mound).

◆ Discussion: the dwellings and pit-features

F1/L1 (pl. 2/1-2) appeared to be a large feature: first identified in SI, it stretched to the north (also appearing in SII) and to the south-west (it was noted in the south-western corner of SIV and probably in SVII).

In all the above mentioned trenches L1 was observed rather close to the surface, at only 0.15m. The depth of its base was not clearly mentioned but fewer pottery fragments occurred between 1.20-1.50m – suggesting perhaps the end of it (rather plausible considering that the depths the bases of F2/L2 and F3 occurred at similar depths).

Calculated from the profile of SI (pl. 2/1-2), L1 had an approx. a length of 4.5 m and a depth of ca. 1 m. Its width and shape remained unknown. In the infill of L1 were many pottery fragments of a large variety: from fragments made of a coarse paste red-painted on the exterior to fragments of bright pink or grey. There were also fragments painted red on white, surrounded by a darker background. The patterns comprised meanders and circle fragments, perhaps spirals. Small vessels with thin walls of greyish colour were also mentioned, some with impresso decoration (“tiefverziert” - in the fieldnotes).

At a lower depth, there were some large stone fragments (later interpreted as grinder fragments), a large amount of pottery fragments, “a round stamp decorated with concentric circles, two spoons (or vessel handles), a few cup pedestals, many handles and prominences” (H. Dumitrescu Fieldnotes, leaf 5, verso), a flat whorl spindle, another “stamp with an angular pattern”.

The faunal remains comprised a large deer antler, horns, various fragments of bones and maxillae, a possibly worked vertebra, many snail shells. Among the lithics were mentioned grey and black flint implements, a trapeze sandstone adze (polished and broken at the distal end and worked at the proximal one), two round stone punchers, a large grinder, a small sandstone chisel.

Fragments of three clay female figurines occurred also (one headless with the arms and legs broken, the second was a part of a torso and hip, the third was described just as “half of an anthropomorphic figurine”) together with two animal ones.

Underneath F1/L1 (below 1.30/1.50 m), a new agglomeration of pottery fragments and bones (F4) was noted (see the original profile of SI pl. 2/1-2) so that this area of the trench was excavated down to 2.30 m.

From F4 resulted pottery fragments of a large variety and among them a few miniature vessels made of grey paste. Coarse pottery was noted and also some fragments painted in red and

grey. There were also snails, bones, maxillae, a large tooth, large stones (grinders?), daub, calcareous concretions, pot fragments with incised decorations on the body and painting at the base, sherds painted with red and grey, a small deep spoon/ladle, sherds with vertical grooves and grey patina, others with two rows of incisions in a spiral pattern.

At 2 m of depth, on an area of ca. 0.50 x 0.50 m there was a layer of charcoal, ashes and burnt soil – identified on the sketch-plan as a hearth. At this depth there were fewer sherds but the same above mentioned varieties remained. There were also snails and large bones.

Thus, it is apparent that L1 overlapped and probably cut into an earlier feature – F4 – also a possible dwelling (of the sunken-hut type), as indicated by the presence of the hearth. Whether the two features belonged both to the same “phase” of the Stoicani-Aldeni aspect is impossible to tell, since the finds were not sorted separately when collected.

Feature F2/L2 (Pl. 2/1-2) – identified by Hortensia Dumitrescu as a second “dwelling”- started at ca. 0.25 m and according to the general sketch and the fieldnotes ended more or less at the same level as F1/L1 (and F3), at ca. 1.20-1.50 m. As shown below, its infill suggests – as in the majority of cases – that after it was no longer used for habitation – ended up as a refuse pit.

On its upper part the infill of L2 yielded fewer daub fragments than L1. Among them some were “grooved”, some had “tiefverziert” decorations while two fragments had white paint on red background decorations – suggesting that in the settlement some houses might have had decorated/painted walls. Also from the infill of L2 came some grinder fragments, a piece of large pedestalled vessel and black flint flakes. Lower down in the infill, at 0.50-1.00 m, were many fragments of coarse pottery (some with impresso decoration), handles (perforated or mere prominences), fragments of painted pottery (some thinner painted with red and black, some thicker – painted only with red), applique bands, rim fragments from small vessels, some conjoining fragments possibly from a complete pot, three grey flint punchers (cores), half a „mattock”, many animal bones and horns. There were again many daub fragments some with posthole imprints.

F3 (pl. 3/2) was located 3.20 m south of the northern limit of the trench. From the sketch it must have ended at the same depth as L1 and L2. There was no other additional information.

The remains of two other features – also described as concentrations of daub fragments, but smaller in size than L1 - were identified further to the west of SI but no further details are available.

◆ Archaeological collection

1. Pottery

The pottery constitutes a representative lot for the evolution of this Eneolithic settlement, with features specific to the north of Muntenia. The sherds were well preserved but only a small number of them were conjoining – possibly a consequence of the selective collection of finds and the spade-digging. Given the fact the pottery was collected from rather thick layers (as explained above) and over large surfaces a more detailed and complex pottery analysis was impossible. We chose to give a synthetic presentation of its main characteristics, focusing on the elements that would help us pin this particular site within the larger context of the Eneolithic communities at the Lower Danube. Thus, the B I ne ti pottery can be easily assimilated to that of the Stoicani-Aldeni cultural aspect.

Morphologically this ceramic collection exhibits the three well known categories: coarse, semi-fine and fine. It was fired both in an oxidizing and a reducing environment, with surface colours ranging from yellowish to brick-colour and reddish, and from grey to black. In most cases the paste is compact and homogenous, with fine (at times coarser) grained sand used as temper, and more rarely crushed pottery or pebbles.

The shapes include both life-sized pots and miniature ones, with the same typology. The most frequent types are dishes, goblets, cups, mugs, bowls, lids, storage pots, jars, vessels stands, ladles and spoons (pl. 11/1-5), rectangular vessels.

Dishes and goblets are the best represented types. The former shows various subtypes and sizes – from the large size tronconic and bi-tronconic (pl. 8/1,3,5-6, pl. 10/6, 8-10) with a diameter of ca. 32-34 cm to bowls of miniature, small and medium sizes (pl. 9/7-12). Dishes were generally made of all types of paste – coarse, semi-fine and fine (pl. 6; 8). A separate category seems to be represented by the dishes made from a semi-fine paste, with curved walls, while the base and the mouth have similar diameters.

Goblets are made of fine paste while the surface exhibits different colours (yellowish, brownish, blackish or greyish). Some of the shapes are similar to the dishes (pl. 5). The predominant

shape is bi-tronconic, more seldom spherical. Decoration includes fluting associated with thin painted bands, grooved ellipses or circles. Goblet sizes are almost standardized – height and diameter at the mouth of ca. 9-11 cm with a narrow base of 2.5-3.5 cm (pl. 5; 12/1-10).

Two types of lids (pl. 9/1-6, pl.12/7) – the “bread-baking cover”⁴ and the calotte were mainly identified (pl. 9/1-5). The latter is made of fine or semi-fine paste, with conical handles. A third type is the “hat-shaped” lid (pl. 14/10-11). One lid was painted bright red (pl. 13/9). In another case a lid made of coarse paste has a house shaped handle (pl.14/10). Such plastic representations of house models are well-known within the Gumelni a cultural area (including some Stoicani-Aldeni sites – K. Moldoveanu 2008). In another case a small prominence was noted inside the lid – until now a unique presence in the area (pl. 12/7; 14/11). Such lids do appear both in the tell-settlements along the Black Sea and also in Dobrudja and northern Thrace (V. Voinea 2005, p. 44). They also appear in the S Icu a-Krivodol cultural area (D. Berciu 1961, fig. 84/6, 149/1; C. tefan 2011, p. 352).

Worth mentioning among jars (pl. 7/7-8, 11-14, pl. 8/8) is a distinct category (with one jar painted in bright red and chocolate-brown – pl. 7/12) remarkable through its small size (less than 10 cm in height), with slightly curved walls, a carinated shoulder, two symmetrical small handles (vertically perforated) attached to the exterior of the carination and a narrow mouth (pl. 7/7, 8, 12, 13). This shape is also to be found at Ia M I ie tii de Jos (A. Frînculeasa 2012, p. 137, pl. 7), Co atcu (E. Pavele 2010, fig. 87/7), Poduri (the Cucuteni A2 layer – but that jar is not painted - D. Monah et al. 2003: 121/no. 187). The same type, but of a different size was observed at M I ie tii de Jos and Bon e ti (A. Frînculeasa 2012, pl. 153) and B I ne ti. Within the Gumelni a cultural area it was found at C scioarele Ostrovel – level A2 (V. Voinea 2005, pl. 88/9). It was also noted at Ariu d (Fr. Laszlo 1924, pl. XI/4).

To be mentioned at B I ne ti is the presence of tronconic vessels (Pl. 9/13-21) with short and oblique walls, at times perforated, made of coarse paste, with a tinge of barbotine on the surface (Pl. 9/17, 19-21). Other examples are known from M I ie tii de Jos where they are quite well represented (A. Frînculeasa 2012, pl. 6), Seciu (A. Frînculeasa, O. Negrea 2010, pl. 4/5, 6/3), Aldeni (L. Grigora , E. Pavele 2013, fig. 11/22). They seem to originate in the Precucuteni cultural area (S. Marinescu-Bilcu 1981, fig. 92/70-72; N. Ursulescu et alii 2005, fig. 13/2). They appear equally in other Stoicani-Aldeni sites (I. T. Dragomir 1983, p. 64), in the Bolgrad area (V. Subbotin 1983, fig. 30/1-4; Skakun 1996, pl. 2/14; V. Sorokin 2001, p. 82) but they also have analogies in the Gumelni a area (V. Voinea 2005). Similar vessels but without the wall perforation are known at M I ie tii de Jos, Seciu (A. Frînculeasa 2013, pl. VII), Ariu d (F. Laszlo 1924, pl. I/3; XI/1) and M rgineni, in the Cucuteni A2 settlement (I. Mare 2008, p. 54, cat. 34) or in the Gumelni a site from Tangâru (D. Berciu 1961, p. 435, fig. 212/1-3).

A special category is represented by the vessels stands – present in this site in two variants: coil-like (pl.10/4) or cylindrical (pl. 10/4/1-3). The coil-like ones are known in the Gumelni a sites from Muntenia or Dobrudja (V. Voinea 2005, pl. 42). In the northern part of Muntenia they appeared at Br ili a (N. Har uche, F. Anastasiu 1968, fig. 31), Li coteanca Movila Olarului (N. Har uche, F. Anastasiu 1976, cat. 197), Co atcu (E. Pavele 2010, fig. 124), Aldeni (L. Grigora , E. Pavele 2013, fig. 11/9; 19/9, 10) with an impressive lot being found at M I ie tii de Jos (A. Frînculeasa 2012, pl. 10; 2013, p. 175, pl. VIII). This vessel type is specific to the southern Romania but a few examples are known in the Cucuteni area at Ariu d (F. Laszlo 1924, pl. VII/1, 2), Frumu ica (C. Matas 1946, p. 124, pl. XXX/258), Preu e ti Cetate (D. Boghian, E. Ursu 2004, p. 19, fig. 1), Scânteia (C. Mantu, S. urcanu 1999, p. 116-117, no. 235, 237, 240), Ruginoasa (C.M. Lazarovici, Gh. Lazarovici 2012, p. 184, fig. VIIB), all within the Cucuteni A2-A3 cultural horizon.

Contrary to the coil-like stands, the cylindrical ones were not mentioned in the Gumelni a or the Stoicani-Aldeni pottery typologies until recently (Pl. 10/1-3). It was not mentioned in the Stoicani-Aldeni monograph (I.T. Dragomir 1983) and the same fact is to be noted for the Gumelni a – Karanovo VI pottery monograph (V. Voinea 2005). It is only recently that artefacts of this type were found at M I ie tii de Jos, Seciu (A. Frînculeasa 2012; 2013) and Co atcu (E. Pavele 2010, fig. 90). In Muntenia one item was found at Sultana Malu Ro u and a few fragments at Sudi i Movila B laia, both in the Gumelni a area. In the northern part of Muntenia this vessel type appears with a certain frequency suggesting a shape well known to the local communities. At M I ie tii de Jos and Seciu such vessels were found in all levels. The paste is similar to that of the rest of the pottery, suggesting a local production.

⁴ “test” in Romanian.

It is worth mentioning for the northern Muntenia that some of the stands have curved walls while others look tubular, but they all lack the delicate appearance of the Cucuteni stands. Although they are not specific to the Gumelni a culture, the firing and the paste are no different from those of the local pottery. A miniature stand was uncovered at B I ne ti (pl. 12/24), and another one at M I ie tii de Jos (A. Frinculeasa 2013, pl. III).

This type is frequent during the Cucuteni A phase (C. Matas 1946; R. Vulpe 1957; S. Marinescu-Bilcu 1981; C.M. Mantu 1998; M. Petrescu-Dimbovi a et alii 1999; D. Popovici 2000; D. Monah et alii 2003; R. Alaiba 2007; G. Bodi 2010; Gh. Lazarovici, C.M. Lazarovici 2012) but is also found on Ariu d sites (A. Laszlo 1924; Gh. Lazarovici, C.M. Lazarovici 2010), Foeni (M. Gligor 2009, p 78) and Petre ti (I. Paul 1992; Z. Maxim 1999). Given the fact the type does not exist either in Muntenia or Oltenia at a previous cultural horizon – the Boian culture) and the Precucuteni typology does not have it either, it can be regarded as the reflexion of some early contacts with the Petre ti cultural area, followed by some later contacts with the Ariu d and finally with Cucuteni. No pedestalled stands were found in the southern Romania, despite the fact they are well known in the Cucuteni area and the Transylvanian Eneolithic (Z. Maxim 1999). There are examples though in the Precucuteni pottery (S. Marinescu-Bilcu 1974).

Pedestalled pots were not found in the southern part of Romania either– although they were well known in the Precucuteni and Cucuteni areas and in the Transylvanian Eneolithic. There are a few examples at B I ne ti, though (pl.12/20-21). One should also remember that the pedestalled vessel found in the Vidra-tell (D.V. Rosetti 1934, p. 17-18, fig. 25) generated the initial discussions on the cultural relationship between the Gumelni a and the Precucuteni/Cucuteni cultures.

The storage vessels (pl. 7/9-10; pl.8/7; 10-11) are large or medium in size, made of coarse paste. They are all in a very fragmented state (pl. 7/9; 8/7, 11).

We also note the presence of numerous miniature vessels (pl. 12/13-24), made of fine or semi-fine paste. Generally their shapes are the same as those of the normal sized vessels (pl. 12). An exception is made by a few pedestalled cups and some rectangular pots similar to small clay boxes (pl. 12/25). The latter are well known in the Gumelni a cultural area.

The decoration is made in various techniques: painting (pl. 6/3,7,9,10,14; pl. 7/12; pl. 8/4; pl.13/9, pl. 13/8,10), incision (pl. 5/16, pl. 6/1; pl. 7/6;), carination (pl. 6/11,13), impresso, burnishing, etc. In the case of the coarse ware the exterior was barbotine decorated. The painting was done after the firing in the case of the graphite and the white (pl. 7/8, 10; 8/2, 10), yellowish or bright red paint (in the last case the paint covers large areas both on the inside and the outside of the pot). The presence of red ochre in the interior might be connected to the preparation and storage of ochre rather than to decoration proper. On the exterior, the red paint covers at times almost the entire surface of the vessel, as it is the case of the coarse-ware cylindrical stands (pl. 10/1-2). The graphite was used in thin bands forming registers and linear decoration both on the exterior (pl. 10/5, 7; 11/7) and the interior (pl. 13/11) of the pots (pl. 10/5, 7; 11/7; 13/11). White thin bands appear vertically, horizontally, oblique and in a semi-circular shape mostly on small fine paste ware, but also on a few pots larger in size (pl. 7/9,10), made of the semi-fine paste. White was used on the exterior of the vessels to make rows of circular dots. The yellowish paint covers more extensive areas on some coarser ware. Carination is present on the surface of fine pottery, creating horizontal registers, more seldom oblique or vertical ones (pl. 6/11, 13). Incision was employed in the shape of hachure filled areas forming various patterns (pl. 5). At times, vertical incisions cover a large part of the pot or are grouped in series. The impresso is represented by small circular or ellipse-shaped impressions, occurring on fine ware. Many times these techniques and motifs are associated together on the surface of the same vessel.

A special category is represented by the Cucuteni A2 pottery (pl. 12/8-12; 13/1-7). There are several fragments painted with white-yellowish colour, delimited by chocolate-coloured thin lines (pl. 11/8-12). The ware was fired in an oxidizing environment, with reddish or orange as the background for painted geometric patterns (angular, wavy or more seldom, semi-circular). Sometimes the temper used was finely crushed ware, giving the impression of a rather badly mixed paste. Some of the pots have thin walls, some thicker, up to 0.8 cm. A fragment of a ladle is also painted in Cucuteni manner (pl. 11/5) but a few other similar fragments were un-decorated (pl. 11/1-4). We would also like to mention a fragment of a dish that appears to be Precucuteni (pl. 11/6). It was made of brownish semi fine paste, with a burnished surface and a series of incisions as decoration.

2. Figurines and miscellaneous small finds

A list of the small finds mentioned in the fieldnotes and their contexts is presented in table 1, below. Unfortunately, at the time the present paper was prepared only a few of them were available for study: a clay stamp, two anthropomorphic figurines, a small "chair" and several spindles. It was observed though that some of the identified small items were not listed in the fieldnotes.

According to H. Dumitrescu, the decoration of the clay stamps consisted of "spiral, concentric circles and angular ornaments" (H. Dumitrescu 1944, p. 50). The only presently available clay spindle has a diameter of 41 mm and a height of 21 mm. The handle, broken in antiquity, was perforated and has a conical shape. The active side displays a grooved spiral decoration, in slight relief (pl. 14/3). This type of small finds are known in the Stoicani-Aldeni settlements from the northern Muntenia – Aldeni, M l i e tii de Jos, Seciu, Coțatcu, Moșica, Sudi i (E. Pavele , L. Grigora 2006; A. Frînculeasa 2010, pl. 17/7, 8; 2010a, pl. 184/11; 2011, p. 50, pl. 61/6; 2012, p. 139, pl. 13; A. Frînculeasa et alii 2012, p. 19, pl. XXIII) – or Moldavia – Ige ti and Bursuci (G. Coman 1980, p. 316, fig. 106/1, 2). They are equally common in Gumelni a A1 sites – Cire u, Insur ței, Br ilița (E. Pavele , L. Grigora 2006, p. 38), in Gumelni a A2 (E. Pavele , L. Grigora 2006, p. 38; C. tefan 2009, p. 153-154), in Cucuteni A2 and A3 settlements in Moldavia (D.N. Popovici 2006; L. Istina 2010) and in Ariu d sites in Transylvania (D. Buzea, A. Kovacs 2010).

No.	Trench	Depth (m)	Description from fieldnotes	Observations
1	SI	surface	clay spindle	
2	S I	0.5-1	perforated flat anthropomorphic figurine	complete "idol"
3	S I	0-0.5	clay stamp with perforated handle	complete
4	S II	0.5-0.8	female figurine	only breast area preserved
5	S II	0.5-0.8	perforated flat anthropomorphic figurine	fragment of "idol"
6	S II	1-1.2	clay stamp with perforated handle	complete
7	S IV	0.85-1.00	flat perforated clay spindle	complete
8	S IV	0.85-1.00	animal figurine	complete
9	S IV	0.85-1.00	animal figurine	fragment
10	S IV	0-1	decorated clay stamp with perforated handle	found together with animal figurines and "idols?"
11	S IV	1.50-1	female figurine	fragment
12	S VI	0-0.5	human figurine	fragment
13	S VI	0-0.5	female torso	unclear if fragment or complete item
14	S VI	0-0.5	"furniture" figurine	fragment
15	S VI	0-0.65	small "chair"	fragment
16	passim		human legs on a pedestal	fragment

Tab. 1. Small finds mentioned in the fieldnotes.
Lista pieselor miniaturale menționate în carnetul de s p tur .

Overall, there are at least 21 clay stamps found throughout the Stoicani-Aldeni settlements, other 52 come from 22 sites in the Gumelni a-Karanovo VI cultural area, while 61, recently catalogued (D. Buzea, A. Kovacs 2010, p. 130), originated from Cucuteni and Ariu d cultural areas. Another recent publication quotes 14 clay stamps from the Poduri Dealul-Ghindaru (D. Nicola 2012). Apparently this type of finds were present during the late Early Neolithic, disappeared during the Late Neolithic (no such items were found in Boian or Precucuteni areas – D.N. Popovici 2006) and re-emerged during the Eneolithic (C. tefan 2009, p. 150-151).

Two figurines were available for study, both made of clay, none complete. They were manufactured in the traditional technique of putting together two vertical halves (pl. 14), later covered with another thin layer of clay to unify the surface. The first is a female figurine (lacking the head and the

arms) of 102 mm preserved height. The silhouette is rather shapely, with the breasts represented by two small circular “protuberances” (pl. 14/1, 2). The second figurine preserves only the lower right half, showing the ankle-bone as a small protuberance (pl. 14/4).

Among the small finds is also worth mentioning a bi-tronconic clay spindle whorl (with a diameter of 39 mm and a height of 21 mm, Pl. 14/8). Two other spindle whorls, made probably from broken fragments of pottery show a perforation in the middle (Pl. 14/7, 9). Also interesting is the handle of a lid – in the shape of a pointed house-roof (Pl. 14/10). Such handles appear quite frequently in the Gumelni a area, with similar finds at Gumelnița, C scioarele, Vidra, M gura Jilavei, Tangâru, Vit ne ti, Alexandria, Pietrele, Li coteanca, M riuța, Urlați (E. Comșa 1980; M. Șimon, E. Paveleț 2000, p. 186, fig. 12/2; R. Andreescu et alii 2007, p. 17; K. Moldoveanu 2008, p. 53).

3. Human remains

Not far from feature F3 (pl. 3/3) was noted an isolated human skull, occurring near a few (conjoining?) fragments from a large pot, with red ochre in the interior (H. Dumitrescu 1943, p. 49). When going to the original source - H. Dumitrescu fieldnotes. – one reads “...in an area located 3.20 m from the northern edge of the trench, beyond the few traces of burning in feature 3 there is an isolated human skull and nearby it a few fragments of a pot with red ochre on the inside”. A few pages on, the field-log also mentions: „In line with the skull – at a depth of 1 m – advancing towards the eastern wall of the trench (thus oriented NE-SW) there are some small bones (ribs) and a fragment of a long bone (the note “animal?” was added later on by H. Dumitrescu...) with a lot of ochre. They overlap some thick pottery fragments (from a large storage vessel) with Kamm⁵ ornaments, also reddened by ochre”. It is thus possible that the postulated “human skull” was in fact either a badly preserved human burial or a group of disarticulated human remains. It is also unclear if the bones were nearby or overlapped the pottery fragments.

The presence of human remains in so-called non-funerary contexts is not unusual for the Gumelni a (A. Ion 2008, p. 109-110), Aldeni (E. Com a 1960, p. 6) and even Cucuteni areas (A. Frînculeasa 2006). The suggested interpretations for such finds point to rather specific funerary practices (A. Ion 2008, p. 123-124) and even cannibalism (C. Laz r, A.D. Soficaru 2005). Unfortunately, only speculations are possible until the mentioned human remains would be found and analysed.

4. Faunal remains and bone/antler industry

Despite the relative abundance of animal bones mentioned in the fieldnotes, only 21 specimens were available for the present study (see footnote 2).

Two types of material were present – antler and bone. The state of preservation of the artefacts was good, making it possible to observe human and animal modifications left on their surface.

The existing animal remains came from three different trenches, but no other details regarding their archaeological contexts were available:

- In SI – a distal left humerus epiphysis from an adult domestic pig (*Sus domesticus*).
- In SIII – a red deer tine fragment.
- In SIV – 19 items: 12 red deer remains (11 antler fragments and a metatarsal), six bovid remains (three astragals, one proximal femur, a horn core and a rib) and one pig atlas.

Species	SI	SIII	SIV	Total
<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		1	12	13
<i>Bos primigenius/Bos taurus</i>			6	6
<i>Sus domesticus</i>	1		1	2
Total	1	1	19	21

Tab. 2. Antler and bone remains by species and context.
Resturile faunistice dup context i specie.

⁵ Comb ware decoration.

The majority of the artefacts suggest antler and bone crafting activities. No finished tool was identified, all preserved artefacts were in the intermediate stages of the chaîne opératoire. Waste products were also present.

Only three items did not seem directly connected with bone working: a pig atlas, a bovid proximal femur and a bovid horn core did not display any specific signs of human modifications for tool making. The horn core was simply broken off the skull; the proximal bovid femur and the pig vertebra were gnawed by carnivores (most likely dogs).

Raw material procurement

Two of the antler fragments preserved their coronet, indicating they were cast antlers and had not been chopped off the skull. Cast antlers were most probably gathered from the woods, not long after their shedding, as they had not been damaged by rodents, boars, deer or other animals that usually gnaw or chew antlers to extract particular minerals. The shedding time for red deer is the period between the second half of February and the first half of March. Nevertheless, red deer hunting was suggested by the presence of a metatarsal fragment, also used for bone crafting.

Hunting was also indicated, judging by the presence of three big bovid astragals. They were too large to belong to the Chalcolithic domestic cattle but they fit in the aurochs (*Bos primigenius*) dimensions range (tab. 3). Beside polished surfaces, these bovid astragals exhibit cut marks caused by disarticulation, so they may derive from the initial alimentary use of the animals. The same alimentary purpose is suggested for the other bovid and pig bones.

GLI	GLm	DI	Dm
80.31	76.94	43.70	43.04
81.09	74.42	45.43	43.35
83.84	77.85	46.87	46.03

Tab. 3. Measurements of the three modified Bovid astragali (using A. von den Driesch, 1976).
Dimensiunile celor trei astragale de bovideu prelucrate (după A. von den Driesch, 1976).

Tool manufacturing and use

SI – The distal pig humerus shows signs of breakage with a stone hammer. The fractures differ from the usual marrow extraction breaks – small flakes were removed by knapping resulting in a sharp edge. Also, the bone has a slightly polished surface possibly caused by recurring handling, maybe as some sort of scraping tool.

SIII – Only an antler tine fragment was recovered from this context; seemingly a waste product resulted from antler working.

SIV – This is the richest assemblage, consisting of 19 bone and antler fragments from three species: red deer, bovid and pig.

Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)

Studying the 11 antler fragments and the one metatarsal fragment, it looks like the antler working identified in this trench was directed towards the production of mattocks (hache marteau), hammers or mattock heads that could be used as hafts for flint or antler axes.

One such object, made from the base of a shed antler, was almost finished (pl. 15/4) lacking only the perforation. Its place was however marked by a notch made with a sharp tool. Two antler tines in the process of perforation were also present, exhibiting the same notch (pl. 15/4-6).

Another shed antler appeared to be worked for the purpose of mattock preparation (pl. 15/7). It was possible to refit three deliberately broken fragments: the beam (separated into two fragments) and the trez tine. The brow tine and the bez tine were also detached but are missing. The trez tine was also detached. The main beam was separated between the trez tine and the crown. The terminal tines were detached and missing (see fig. 1 for terminology).

Apart from these above described fragments, the rest of antler fragments appear to be waste products – tine fragments with nicking and cutting traces at the level of the separation from the beam.

A distinct artefact is a red deer left metatarsal (pl. 15/8). It was split longitudinally through grooving, and then, the medial half was modified suggesting a possible use as a barbed point.

Bovid (*Bos primigenius/Bos taurus*) – three astragali (two from the right side, one from the left side) (pl. 15/1-3), a horn core and a proximal femur. Only the astragali show human modifications. Two of them were more intensely polished on the medial facet and the third one was slightly polished on all four facets.

The bovid rib seemed to have been fractured at both extremities with a hammer on an anvil. Even though it displayed no other modifications, it may very well be a blank material prepared for future use: e.g. by grooving the edges two flat pieces could be obtained easily transformed into sharp, flat tools (knives, spatulas etc.) by grinding/polishing them on a coarse surface.

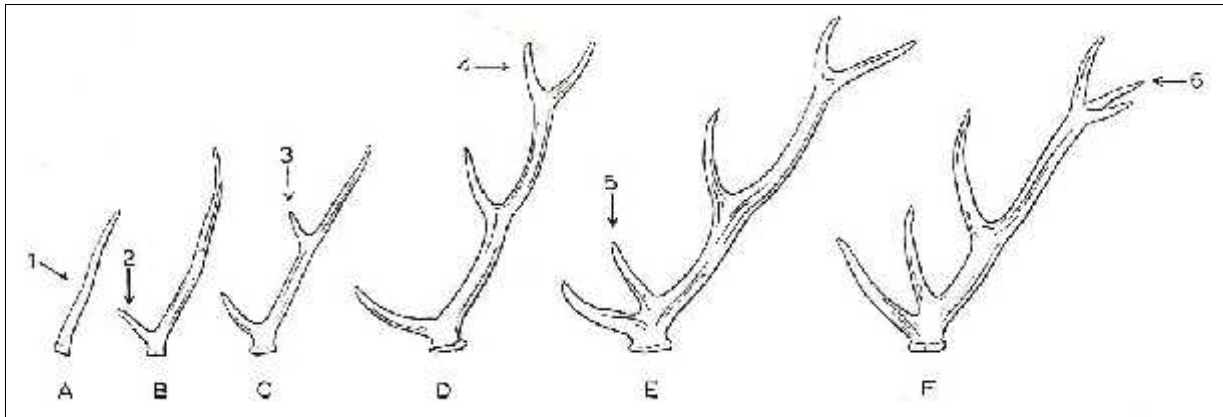


Fig. 1. Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*). Stages of development of the antler and the names of different elements. (after T. Haltenorth, W. Trense 1956, fig. 20). A. procket; B. stage of 2 points; C. stage of 6 points; D. stage of 8 points; E. stage of 10 points; F. stage of 12 points. 1=beam; 2=brow tine; 3=trez tine; 4=terminal tines; 5=bez tine; 6 crown (E. Schmid 1972).

Stadiile dezvoltării coarnelor de cerb (*Cervus elaphus*) și numele diferitelor elemente (după T. Haltenorth, W. Trense 1956, fig. 20). A. mascul tânăr; B. stadiul de 2 puncte; C. stadiul de 6 puncte; D. stadiul de 8 puncte; E. Stadiul de 10 puncte; F. stadiul de 12 puncte. 1=pr. jina; 2=ramura ochiului; 3=ramura mijlocie; 4=ramuri terminale; 5=ramura de gheață; 6=coroana (E. Schmid 1972).

5. Lithics

Compared to the quantity of pottery unearthed, the stone industry is rather modest, a consequence of various combined factors: the excavation technique, a possible selection of the archaeological material during the excavation and curation issues.

The fieldnotes mention several fragments of grinding stones (and possibly an oval complete one in trench SIV) in the infill of the "dwellings", hammer stones and punchers made of grey flint cores/stones, half a grey mattock, a few fragmented blades and complete flakes of grey or yellow flint, several chisels, a few axes.

The list of the retrieved items is given in the three tables at the end of the paper (tab. 4-6) and is in many ways more substantial than what was mentioned in the fieldnotes. No grinding stones fragments were preserved in the archaeological collection.

The present paper aims to give a preliminary account of the lithic industry and thus only a macroscopic study was performed, while a forthcoming paper will offer a more detailed analysis.

The lithic industry was divided in three main categories: "Polished stone", "Chipped stone" and "Other", but a few remarks need to be made. Given the raw material used for the "polished" artefacts – mainly volcanic tuff, the term "polished" was used here for lack of a better one. In fact, the artefacts were "flattened" in order to create smooth horizontal surfaces, rather than aiming at a real polishing. The category of the chipped stone is incredibly poor and this must be a reflection of the excavation technique. The third category comprises all the items (artefacts and unworked items) that were collected by H. Dumitrescu but would not fit in any of the other two categories.

The "polished" stone (19 items in total – see tab. 4) comprises axes (6), adzes (8), chisels (3) and two artefacts that could not be typologically identified due to their fragmentation status. The predominant raw material employed was a light greenish volcanic tuff (16 items), two artefacts (an axe and a chisel) were made of dark grey chert and one axe was made of sandstone.

Id	Trench	Depth (m)	Tool type	Length (cm)	Breadth (cm)	Thickness (cm)	Weight (g)	Raw material	Modifications for re-use	Type of modification	Preservation status	Comments
3	SI	0-0,50	?	5,6	4,8	1,4	32	volcanic tuff	No		complete	
1	SI	0-0,50	?	6,5	5,4	1,5	37	volcanic tuff	No		distal part	
30	SIV	0-0,50	adze	5,7	3,1	1	28	volcanic tuff	No		complete	
35	SIV	1-1,50	adze	5,8	2,8	1,5	25	volcanic tuff	No		almost complete	
36	SIV - section	0-1	adze	7,3	1,12	1,8/3,5	38	volcanic tuff	Yes		complete	Active edge resharpened on dorsal side
29	SIII	0,50-1	adze	8,4	1,18	2,87/3,34	52	volcanic tuff	No		complete	marks on ventral side
9	SII	0-0,5	adze	9	4,4	1,9	84	volcanic tuff	No		complete	unfinished ? - not polished
7	SII	0-0,5	adze	9,05	3,9	1,4	33	volcanic tuff	No		almost complete	
17	passim		adze	13,5	2,2	2,4	114	volcanic tuff	No		complete	
8	SII	0-0,5	adze	102	33	32	75	volcanic tuff	No		almost complete, broken at proximal ends	
16	SII	0,50-0,80	axe	6,3	4,5	1,6	44	volcanic tuff	No		distal half	
2	SI	0-0,50	axe	8,1	3,4	1,9	51	volcanic tuff	No		fragment	
5	SIV	0-0,5	axe	11,2	4,15	1,4	93	volcanic tuff	No		almost complete	
4	SI	0-0,5	axe	11,6	2,74	4/6,72	250	sandstone	Yes	two resharpened edges	complete	
15	passim		axe	13	6	3,4	73	chert	No		fragment	
6	passim		axe?	11	4	2,4	83	volcanic tuff	Yes	three sides resharpened, butt modified	complete	
38	passim		chisel	4,3	1,9	0,8	9	chert	No		almost complete - part of butt missing, fresh break	
27	SIII	0-0,50	chisel	6,05	3	1	25	volcanic tuff	No		complete	
37	SIV	0-0,50m	chisel	7,9	4,3	1,5	52	volcanic tuff	Yes	resharpened on ventral right side	complete	

Tab.4. Polished stone artifacts.
Artefacte de piatră lăcuită.

Id	Trench	Depth (m)	Tool type	Support	Fragment part	Cortex	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Weight (g)	Raw material	Colour	Re-use modification	Modification type
34	passim		sidescraper/ endscraper	blade	proximal end	No	9,84	7,62	2,33	4	flint	dark gray	Yes	abrupt side retouches, later proximal end semi-abruptly retouched and turned into an endscraper
19	SI	1,00-1,20	sidescraper	blade	distal end	No	15,25	6,81	2,6	7	flint	brown	Yes	left side completely retouched-abrupt, invasive, used; right side retouched only on the distal half, not used
24	SII	0,50-0,80	blade	blade	proximal end	No	15,98	3,81	1,33	3	flint	spotted gray	No	use wear retouches on right side
25	SII	0,50-0,80	sidescraper	blade	proximal end	No	13,65	7,19	2,1	5	flint	light gray	Yes	retouched on all sides
26	SII	0,50-0,80	sidescraper	blade	complete	No	11,68	6,26	2,12	3	flint	spotted gray	Yes	retouched on lateral sides
18	SIV	0,85-1,00	sidescraper	blade	proximal end	No	20,88	6,98	2,41	9	flint	spotted gray	Yes	lateral abrupt retouches
28	SV	0,50-0,80	sidescraper	blade	proximal end/broken blade	No	14,27	6,42	1,38	3	flint	light gray	Yes	fine retouches on sides
33	passim		thin blade core	core	median	Yes	17,81	8,99	6,96	19	flint	gray	No	
12	passim		core fragment ?	core	complete	No	10,5	8,6	4,2	389	chert	dark gray	No	
32	passim			flake	complete	Yes	18,05	3,82	4,36	6	flint	gray	No	
20	SI	0-0,50		flake	complete	No	10,13	8,42	4,24	8	flint	gray-beige		
22	SI	0,50-1,00		flake	complete	Yes	18,11	12,65	3,99	10	gritstone	gray	No	
15	SI	0,50-1,00	flake	flake	complete	No	6,1	5,1	2,3	74	chert	gray	No	
10	SII	0-0,50	sidescraper	flake	complete	No	15,16	7,18	15,19	7	flint	beige	Yes	retouched on all sides, traces of shine on the left dorsal retouched area
11	SII	0-0,50		flake	complete	No	22,15	13,15	6,14	46	flint	black	No	

Tab. 5. Chipped stone artifacts. Industria litic cioplit .

Id	Trench	Depth (m)	Tool type	Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Thickness (cm)	Weight (g)	Raw material	Re-use modification	Comments
14	SI	0,50-1,00	puncher	7	7		468	chert	No	complete
21	SI	0,50-1,20	puncher/ core	8,5	8,2	5	238	chert	Yes	used as core for intended blade debitage
23	SI	0,50-1,00	mattock	6,5/2,2		4,2	136	gritstone	No	one half only
31	SIV	0-0,50	spatula	6	1,68	0,62	7	shale	No	distal end
39	passim		polisher	8,2	7,4	2,5	286	gritstone	No	complete
40	SII	0,80-1,30	?	14,3	7,5	1,8	198	shale	No	unmodified

Tab. 6. Other stone artifacts.
Alte tipuri de descoperiri din piatr .

The raw material did not come from a very long distance (a possible source - Sînic Prahova is less than 100 km away), as in other sites that are chronologically contemporaneous. The artefacts are generally well preserved and complete, or almost complete. Context wise they appear to have been evenly scattered over the excavated area, with many clustering in the area of the identified features – but no attribution can be securely made.

The axes (pl. 16/1)⁶ are mostly medium sized (their lengths range from 6.3 to 13 cm) and two of them show traces of resharpening at the lateral edges, suggesting a possible change in their function. The adzes (pl.16/2) fit more or less in the same size range (with lengths varying from 5.7 to 13.5 cm). Only one adze was resharpened, while another one was abandoned before “polishing”. The chisels (pl. 16/3) are much smaller (4.3 to 7.9 cm in length) and one of them was also resharpened on the lateral side, suggesting a change in function. The choice of the raw material is rather difficult to interpret, since volcanic tuff is not a very hard raw material.

The chipped stone (tab. 5) is represented by 15 items: 7 blades and blade fragments, 6 flakes, one core and one core fragment. The used raw material is predominantly flint, of at least four varieties: dark grey, spotted light grey, brown and beige. Given the small number of implements and the selection of the material, no refits were possible. Very few complete pieces were found. Cortex was present in only three cases – one blade core and two flakes, suggesting that some debitage was taking place on the site. All blades and one flake were resharpened, at times with a change in the typology of the implement. Most of the items had been retouched, suggesting again a selection was operated when collecting the artefacts during the excavation. One flake might have been possibly used in a composite tool, given the polish noticed on the active part.

The category “Other” (tab. 6) is represented by six items: two punchers, half of a mattock, a polisher and two stones that show no traces of human modifications. One of the punchers is a chert blade core, abandoned probably due to the poor quality of chert. The polisher might have been used for pottery, since it is made of a rather soft gritstone.

Given the small number of implements and the lack of secure data regarding their stratigraphic positions it is difficult to draw final conclusions on the use of stone tools by the Stoicani-Aldeni communities at Bîlnești.

◆ Discussion and final remarks

The Stoicani-Aldeni settlements were located on high terraces or hillsides, thus dominating the area. The thickness of the deposits does not go beyond 3 m (Coatcu, Boboci, Seciu, Mîlieștii de Jos or Aldeni, Bîlnești) but most sites have well represented habitation layers, with stratigraphies similar to those of the tells, even though at a different scale. The resulted finds are substantial in number, including pottery, flint and stone implements, human and zoomorphic figurines and not very often, copper items. The walls of the dwellings were solid and allegedly made of wood and clay, with floors of battered soil or at times wooden platforms.

Although this cultural area may be defined as a “periphery”, the local Eneolithic communities had access and employed many of the materials seen as “typical” for the Gumelnița culture. The particularity of the area is given by the contacts with the cultural area north-east of it, as showed by the archaeological finds with analogies in Precucuteni, Cucuteni and Ariușd cultures. Bîlnești settlement yielded a few (possibly) Precucuteni pottery fragments and a few more Cucuteni, and the anthropomorphic figurines are also more similar to the east-Carpathian area examples.

Over the years, the problem of the Precucuteni-Cucuteni/Boian-Gumelnița relations was given due attention (P. Roman 1963; Vl. Dumitrescu 1964; 1968; S. Marinescu-Bîlcu 1976; 1978; C.M. Mantu 1995; 1998; 1999-2000; C. Bem 2000; 2001; S. Pandrea, M. Vernescu 2005; A. Frînculeasa 2007; 2010; C.E. Ștefan 2011a). Not so much is known about the Stoicani-Aldeni – Precucuteni connections, a fact explained mainly by the small percentage of the Stoicani-Aldeni pottery fragments in the context of a huge mass of decorated Precucuteni, and mainly Cucuteni ceramics. But examples do exist: at Târgu Frumos (Precucuteni III phase) pots decorated with graphite (of Gumelnița influence) were mentioned but “together with other influences... originating in the Stoicani-Aldeni cultural area” (C.M. Mantu 1998, p. 116). The clay altar from Târgu-Frumos displays geometric patterns with analogies in the rhomb-shaped clay items discovered in the Stoicani-Aldeni area (N.

⁶ The Id number next to artefact indicates the identification number in the respective table.

Ursulescu et alii 2005, fig. 5/2-3). Another similar example is the Poduri site (A. Frînculeasa 2010, p. 180). At Tangâru, in the Gumelni a A1 settlement, Precucuteni pottery (D. Berciu 1961, p. 66, 413-414) appears together with Stoicani-Aldeni fragments (A. Ni u 1973, p. 79), a situation also occurring in the Gumelni a A1 site from M gurele (A. Ni u 1973). In a similar way, at the Gumelni a A2 settlement from Cune ti the Stoicani-Aldeni materials (N. Anghelescu 1955, p. 311) appear together with the Precucuteni (C. Bem 2001, p. 44). At Stoicani, in the lower habitation levels Precucuteni pottery was found (S. Pandrea, M. Vernescu 2005, p. 269), while the upper level yielded tri-coloured Cucuteni pottery (M. Petrescu-Dîmbovi a 1953, p. 184). At Ghinoai (Prahova County) the Stoicani-Aldeni pottery appeared associated with Precucuteni III fragments (A. Frînculeasa, D. Garv n 2011).

Precucuteni II imports were discovered in the Gumelni a A1 sites from Tangâru (S. Marinescu-Bîlcu 1974, p. 135) and Însur ei (S. Pandrea, M. Vernescu 2005, p. 265), indicating the earliest Gumelni a-Precucuteni contacts. A Precucuteni II pot fragment was also found in the Gumelni a site from Jilavele (D. Garv n 2013, p. 44). Also speaking about the Stoicani-Aldeni/Precucuteni links we should mention the clay sanctuary models discovered at Aldeni (Gh. tefan 1941) and Poduri (Precucuteni III level - D. Monah et alii 2003, p. 114, nr. 76, 153-154). Also of Precucuteni affiliation are certain vessel shapes, figurines etc., associated with Cucuteni painted pottery sherds at Stoicani, Aldeni, Suceveni, Dode ti and Co atcu.

One should note the appearance of Stoicani-Aldeni materials in Gumelni a sites. The best example is that of M riu a site in the Gumelni a A2 final-B1 phases (M. imon 1986, p. 28; 1995, p. 33) but also on the Gumelni a A1 levels at Glina (M. Petrescu-Dîmbovi a 1945, p. 211), M gurele (P. Roman 1963, p. 41 and on), Tangâru (A. Ni u 1973, p. 79), Gumelni a A2 la Cune ti (N. Anghelescu 1955, p. 311), Însur ei (S. Pandrea et alii 1997, p. 33), Urla i (A. Frînculeasa et alii 2008, pl. 2), Ploie ti (A. Frînculeasa 2010, p. 127/3-5), Moara din Groap (A. Frînculeasa 2010, pl. 127/6-8) or B1 at Vit ne ti (A. Frînculeasa 2010, pl. 127/1-2). Recently Cucuteni A3 pot sherds were also noted (C. Bem 1998-2000, p. 344; 2001, p. 45) in the same habitation levels that yielded fragments from a Stoicani-Aldeni vessel. Stoicani-Aldeni pottery also occurred in the Gumelni a sites from C scioarele and Gumelni a (I.T. Dragomir 1983, p. 15).

In what concerns the presence of Cucuteni pottery in Stoicani-Aldeni settlements, it was found at Aldeni (L. Grigora , E. Pavele 2013, fig. 23/2-5), Co atcu (L. Grigora , E. Pavele 2007, pl. 8/1, 9; pl. 10/2; R. Andreescu et alii 2009). A Cucuteni pedestalled cup was found at B neasa (Gala i County) (I.T. Dragomir 1969), while Cucuteni A2 pottery painted (after firing) white on a red background was found in the Stoicani-Aldeni at Dode ti, Suceveni, Smul i, T m ani (I.T. Dragomir 1983, p. 11).

Coming to the Precucuteni III/Cucuteni A3 – Gumelni a A1-A2 connections we must mention the finds from Li coteanca Mo Filon. Thus, in the Gumelni a A1 level was noted a Precucuteni III sherd (N. Har uche, O. Bounegru 1997, p. 98, fig. 61/1), while in the A2 level tri-coloured pottery was found, assigned to the Cucuteni A3 horizon (N. Har uche, O. Bounegru 1997, fig. 59/4).

Also, at Însur ei in the Gumelni a A1 level were found Precucuteni II-III sherds (S. Pandrea, M. Vernescu 2005), and in the Gumelni a A2, Stoicani-Aldeni pottery appeared (S. Pandrea et alii 1997, p. 33). The Gumelni a site from Br ilița also yielded Cucuteni A3 pottery (N. Harțuche, F. Anastasiu 1968, pl. 37-38; V. Voinea 2005, pl. 100).

In what the chronology of the three cultural areas (Petre ti, Cucuteni, Gumelni a) is concerned, the time frame for the settlements in the northern Muntenia seems to indicate a chronological horizon anterior to Cucuteni A2 (suggested by the Ariu d-type finds from Ariu d, P uleni-Ciuc, Bod, Ciucsângeorgiu, Le) while the upper limit stops at Cucuteni A3, thus indicating a contemporaneity with Precucuteni III - Ariu d - Cucuteni A2 - Gumelni a A1 - A2. Also within the Gumelni a A1-A2 horizon would partly fit the evolution of the sites at M l ie tii de Jos, Co atcu, Seciu i B l ne ti, as indicated by a ¹⁴C date from Seciu (A. Frînculeasa 2012, p. 140, fig. 1, 2).

Within the general framework of the above mentioned cultural relations an important part occupies the genesis and evolution of the Stoicani-Aldeni cultural aspect. It was suggested that Stoicani-Aldeni aspect originated in the Precucuteni and Gumelni a cultures, fitting between Precucuteni III phase and the initial Bon e ti sequence of Cucuteni A2 (A. Ni u 1971, p. 89; 1973, p. 77), being contemporaneous with the proto-Precucuteni developing in the central and northern parts of Moldavia (A. Ni u 1973). It was underlined the importance of the Stoicani-Aldeni pottery for the origins of the painted Cucuteni ware (A. Ni u 1971, p. 87; 1973, p. 75-89). It was suggested that the white thin-band painted pottery seen by Vl. Dumitrescu of Gumelni a origin (Vl. Dumitrescu 1963) would actually belong to the Stoicani-Aldeni facies (A. Ni u 1973, p. 81-82). The same author indicated a more important expansion of the Gumelni a communities towards the centre of Moldavia, to the detriment of the Precucuteni ones, and a more pronounced cultural influence of the Gumelni a

over the Precucuteni (Vi. Dumitrescu 1964, p. 54; S. Pandrea, M. Vernescu 2005, p. 277). During the second phase of the Stoican-Aldeni cultural aspect, the respective communities advanced in the southern Moldavia at least "up to the Cîlmău river" (E. Comăna 1963, p. 23-24).

No discussion took place so far on the relevance of the Cucuteni A2, A3 imports found at the sites of Aldeni or Coșatcu. In what the sites from Lișcoteanca, Brăniștea, Însurșii were concerned, such finds were explained through the inclusion of the sites within the classical Gumelnița area (S. Pandrea et alii 1997). Keeping this debatable opinion in mind, we would suggest a further reduction of the Stoicani-Aldeni area towards the west, and postulate the existence of a "communication channel" going along the foothills of the Sub Carpathians, while the settlements closer to the mouth of the Danube would still be anchored to the classical Gumelnița area. In many sites on Cîlmău valley Stoicani-Aldeni elements do exist, including the sites of Brăniștea, Lișcoteanca sau Însurșii. Such elements are perhaps more visible towards the west-northwest, including the settlements from Sudița, Gherșeni, Moșica, Luciu, Lărgu, Udați (A. Frînculeasa 2008, 2010, 2010a).

The more recent excavations at Seciu, Urlați, Coșatcu and also Măliștii de Jos offered useful materials for comparative studies. At Urlați, a site situated at the foothills of the Subcarpathians the pottery is more Gumelnița in manner, with fewer Stoicani-Aldeni elements. It is to be noted that this site is closer to the Stoican-Aldeni area than Seciu and Măliștii de Jos, located further to the west. When analysing the pottery we note the presence of Gumelnița ware, as well as some Precucuteni and Early Cucuteni pots. If the Cucuteni imports are a certitude, the Precucuteni presence on the Stoicani Aldeni sites can only be inferred, although it is also certain on the Gumelnița sites, and they were considered as imports at Vidra (D.V. Rosetti 1934, p. 17-18, fig. 25) or Măgurele (P. Roman 1962; 1963). The presence of cylindrical stands at Bănești and other sites on northern Muntenia can be correlated with other finds defining the link between the Ariușd and the Cucuteni-Gumelnița cultures: clay stamps (found predominantly in the Ariușd or Cucuteni A2 sites and more seldom in the Cucuteni A3 or beyond this stage (A. Frînculeasa 2012, p. 139), bone anthropomorphic figurines (D. Monah 1997, p. 136 and further pages., pl. 258, 259), Cucuteni vessels in Gumelnița B1 sites (C. Bem 2001), or even clay anthropomorphic figurines (Frînculeasa et alii 2012). The latter seem to indicate the moment of maximum intensity of contacts between the two civilizations.

As noticed for the sites at Măliștii de Jos, Seciu, Coșatcu and also Bănești, the pottery shapes are similar to those from Cucuteni and Ariușd cultures but the modelling and technology appear to be local. The shapes at least were imitated, and at times, decoration also. This might be connected to certain taboos and cultural traditions, dictated by certain conservative practices. The elements connected to the pottery technology (paste, firing, quality and decoration) are indicatives of local production.

If considering the settlements as units defining certain social groups, one sees that the Stoicani-Aldeni sites in northern Muntenia have more in common with the Gumelnița ones. The settlements are small, with only a few dwellings in an area constrained by natural elements. The stratigraphies are mostly simple ones, but tells with substantial cultural layers were also found. All these suggest a human behaviour close to the Gumelnița one, when the same living area was re-used in successive phases, generating thick stratigraphic sequences, although at a different scale from the ones on the Danube. A distinct element is the location of the sites on the edge of higher terraces or near the hills, different from the Gumelnița sites found usually on river meadows or at the base of terraces. This trait is more similar to that of the Cucuteni communities.

Studying the main characteristics of such communities tends to indicate the conservation of certain southern elements – mainly concerning the structure and the habitat, while the east and north Carpathian area is represented at a more symbolical level. All the cultural elements discussed above point towards the existence of dynamic communities, with contacts in Transylvania, southern Moldavia and the Danube.

◆ Bibliography

- R. Alaiba 2007 Complexul cultural Cucuteni - Tripolie. Me te ugul ol ritului, Editura Junimea, Ia i.
- R. Andreescu et alii 2006 R. Andreescu, A. Frînculeasa, E. Pavele , T. Nica, I. Torcic , Considera ii preliminare asupra a ez rii eneolitice de la M I ie tii de Jos (jud. Prahova), Mousaios, XI, p. 9-33.
- R. Andreescu et alii 2007 R. Andreescu, A. Frînculeasa, D. Garv n, T. Nica, I. Torcic , L. Ni , V. Dumitra cu, Noi cercet ri arheologice în Muntenia. Descoperirile de la Urla i (jud. Prahova), Argeşis. Studii i comunic ri, Seria Istorie, XVI, p. 11-37.
- R. Andreescu et alii 2009 R. Andreescu, L. Grigora , E. Pavele , K. Moldoveanu 2009, New discoveries in the Eneolithic settlement from Co atcu "Cet uia", Buz u County, SP, 6, p. 135-147.
- R. Andreescu et alii 2012 R. Andreescu, A. Frînculeasa, O. Negrea 2012, B ile Boboci, com. Jugureni, jud. Prahova, Cronica Cercet rilor Arheologice din România, campania 2010, Sibiu, 26-29 mai 2011, p. 157-158.
- N. Angheliescu 1955 Cercet ri i descoperiri arheologice în raioanele C l ra i i Slobozia, SCIV, 1-2, p. 311-330.
- C. Bem 2000 Elemente de cronologie radiocarbon. Ariile culturale Boian-Gumelni a-Cernavoda I i Precucuteni-Cucuteni/Tripolie, CA, XI, I (1998-2000), p. 337-359.
- D. Berciu 1961 Contribu ii la problemele neoliticului în România în lumina noilor cercet ri, Bucure ti.
- G. Bodi 2010 Hoise ti - La Pod. O a ezare cucutenian de pe valea Bahluiului, Bibliotheca Archaeologica Moldaviae, XIII, Editura Pim, Ia i.
- D. Boghian, E. Ursu 2004 Eternul cucutenian. Catalogul expozi iei – Comunit ile cucuteniene din nord-estul României, Editura Terrae Design, Suceava.
- D. Buzea, A. Kovacs 2010 Pintadere descoperite la P uleni Ciuc 'Dâmbul Cet ii', jude ul Harghita, Angustia, 14, p. 129-40.
- G. Coman 1980 Statornicie, continuitate. Repertoriul arheologic al jude ului Vaslui, Bucure ti.
- E. Com a 1960 Considérations sur le rite funéraire de la civilisation de Gumelnița, Dacia (NS), IV, p. 5-31.
- E. Com a 1963 Unele probleme ale aspectului cultural Aldeni II (Pe baza s p turilor de la Dr g ne ti-Tecuci), SCIV, XIV, 1, p. 7-32.
- E. Com a 1987 Les relations entre les cultures Cucuteni et Gumelni a, în La civilisation de Cucuteni en contexte europeen, Ia i, p. 81-87.
- E. Com a 1980 Despre obiectele de mobilier din epoca neolitic de pe teritoriul României, Pontica, XIII, p. 32-56.
- H. Dumitrescu 1944 Raport asupra cercet rilor i s p turilor din jude ul Buz u, RMNA în anii 1942 i 1943, „Bucovina” I.E.Toruțiu, Bucharest, p. 48-50.
- I.T. Dragomir 1969 Contribu ii la cunoa terea aspectul cultural Stoicani-Aldeni (S p turile de la Li coteanca, jude ul Br îla i B neasa, jude ul Gala i), Danubius, II-III, 45-63.
- I.T. Dragomir 1983 Eneoliticul din sud-estul Moldovei, aspectul Stoicani-Aldeni, Editura Academiei R.S.R., Bucure ti.

- A. von den Driesch 1976 A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites, Harvard University, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology Bulletin 1, Cambridge.
- VI. Dumitrescu 1963 Originea și evoluția culturii Cucuteni-Tripolie (I), SCIV, 14, 1, 1963, p. 51-76.
- VI. Dumitrescu 1965 Considerations et données nouvelles sur le problème du synchronisme des civilisations de Cucuteni et de Gumelnița, Dacia (NS), VIII, p. 53-66.
- VI. Dumitrescu 1968 Considerații cu privire la poziția cronologică a culturii Cucuteni în raport cu culturile vecine, Apulum, VII, p. 35-51.
- VI. Dumitrescu 1994 B I ne ti, in C. Preda (coord.) Enciclopedia Arheologiei și Istoriei Vechi a României, vol 1, Editura Enciclopedică, București, p. 169.
- A. Frînculeasa 2006 Complexe de cult descoperite în așezările Precucuteni și Cucuteni (cu privire specială asupra grupurilor de cult), Carpica, XXXV, 2006, p. 23-38.
- A. Frînculeasa 2007 Aspectul cultural Stoicani-Aldeni, repere de cronologie relativă, Peuce (SN), V, p. 7-32.
- A. Frînculeasa 2008 Așezarea eneolitică de la Apostolache, județul Prahova, Anuarul Muzeului de Istorie și Arheologie Prahova, Serie Nouă, III-IV (11-12) (2007-2008), p. 19-46.
- A. Frînculeasa 2010 Noi informații privind cercetările arheologice de la Sudiți, com. Gherșeni (jud. Buzău) – Descoperiri din epoca neo-eneolitică, Mousaios, XV, p. 23-54.
- A. Frînculeasa 2010a Epoca neolitică în nordul Munteniei (Contribuții arheologice asupra evoluției comunităților umane în epoca neolitică în nordul Munteniei), Editura Ploiești Mileniul III, Ploiești.
- A. Frînculeasa 2011 Seciu – județul Prahova un sit din epoca neo-eneolitică în nordul Munteniei, Editura Oscar-Print, București.
- A. Frînculeasa 2012 Tradiții și contacte culturale în nordul Munteniei în epoca eneolitică: despre siturile de la Mălieții de Jos (jud. Prahova), Seciu (jud. Prahova) și Coțacu (jud. Buzău), Buletinul Muzeului Județean Teleorman. Seria Arheologie, 4, p. 133-165.
- A. Frînculeasa 2013 Note despre un tip de vas descoperit în așezarea eneolitică de la Mălieții de Jos (jud. Prahova), Buletinul Muzeului Județean Teleorman. Seria Arheologie, 5, p. 173-188.
- A. Frînculeasa, D. Garvăn 2007 Câteva considerații asupra unor descoperiri Precucuteni în Muntenia, MemAnt, XXIV, p. 213-220.
- A. Frînculeasa et alii 2008 A. Frînculeasa, L. Niș, V. Dumitrașcu, Asupra descoperirilor aparținând culturii Gumelnița de la Urlați (jud. Prahova), AMT, III, p. 94-105.
- A. Frînculeasa, O. Negrea 2010 Un sit din epoca neo-eneolitică în zona colinară a Munteniei - Seciu, jud. Prahova, BMJT, Seria Arheologie, 2, p. 45-68.
- A. Frînculeasa et alii 2012 A. Frînculeasa, R. Andreescu, O. Negrea, L. Niș, M. Frînculeasa, E. Popa, B. Preda, Cercetări arheologice în așezarea eneolitică de la Mălieții de Jos (jud. Prahova), campaniile 2002-2010, MCA (SN), VIII, p. 11-57.
- D. Garvăn 2013 Contribuții la cunoașterea culturii Precucuteni, BMA, XXX, Piatra Neamț.

- M. Gligor 2009 A ezarea neolitic i eneolitic de la Alba Iulia – Lumea Nou în lumina noilor cercet ri, Editura Mega, Cluj-Napoca.
- L. Grigora , E. Pavele 2007 Studiu preliminar privind cercet rile arheologice efectuate în tell-ul eneolitic de la Co atcu, com. Podgoria, jud. Buz u, Mousaios, XII, p. 7-26.
- L. Grigora , E. Pavele 2013 Ceramica Stoicani Aldeni. Studiu de caz: tell-ul de la Aldeni, com. Cern te ti, jud. Buz u, Editura Alpha MDN, Buz u.
- T. Haltenorth, W. Trense 1956 Das Grosswild der Erde und seine Trophäen, Bayerischer Landwirtschaftsverlag, Bonn.
- N. Har uche, Fl. Anastasiu 1968 Br ili a, A ez ri i cimitire omene ti datând din epoca neolitic pân în pragul orânduirii feudale, Br ila.
- N. Har uche, Fl. Anastasiu 1976 Catalogul selectiv al colec iei de arheologie a Muzeului Br ilei, Br ila, Muzeul Br ilei.
- N. Har uche, O. Bounegru 1997 S p turile arheologice de salvare de la Medgidia, jud. Constan a (1957-1958), Pontica, XXX, p. 17-104.
- A. Ion 2008 Oseminte umane descoperite în a ez ri din arealul culturii Gumelni a, SP, 5, p. 109-129.
- L. Istina 2010 Pintadere descoperite în situl cucutenian de la Fulgeri , jud. Bac u, MemAnt, XXV-XXIV (2008-2009), p. 171-179.
- Gh. Lazarovici, C.M. Lazarovici 2010 Despre fazele A1 ale grupelor Ariu d i Cucuteni, Angustia, 14, p. 27-108.
- Gh. Lazarovici, C.M. Lazarovici 2012 Ruginoasa – Dealul Dr ghici. Monografie arheologic , Editura Karl A. Romstorfer, Suceava.
- Fr. Laszlo 1924 Les types de vases peints d'Ariu d', Dacia Recherches et découvertes arheologiques en Roumanie, Dacia, I, p. 1-27.
- C. Laz r (ed.) 2012 The catalogue of the Neolithic and Eneolithic funerary findings from Romania, Editura Cetatea de Scaun, Târgovi te.
- C. Laz r, A.D. Soficaru 2005 Considera ii preliminare asupra unor oase umane descoperite în a ezarea gumelni ean de la C scioarele-Ostrovel, CCDJ, XXII, p. 279-316.
- C.M. Mantu 1995 Câteva considera ii privind cronologia absolut a neo-eneoliticului din România, SCIVA, 46, 3-4, p. 213-235.
- C.M. Mantu 1998 Cultura Cucuteni. Evolu ie, cronologie, leg turi, Bibliotheca Memoriae Antiquitates, V, Editura Nona, Piatra-Neam .
- C.M. Mantu 1999-2000 Relative absolute chronology of the Romanian Neolithic, Analele Banatului, S.N., VII-VIII, p. 75-105.
- C.M. Mantu, S. Ţurcanu 1999 Scânteia – cercetare arheologic i restaurare (catalog), Editura Helios, Ia i.
- I. Mare (coord.) 2008 Cucuteni culture – Art and religion, Editura Lidana, Suceava.
- S. Marinescu-Bilcu 1974 Cultura Precucuteni pe teritoriul României, Editura Academiei R.S.R., Bucure ti.
- S. Marinescu-Bilcu 1976 Rela ii între culturile Precucuteni i Boian-Gumelni a, SCIVA, 27, 3, p. 347-353.
- S. Marinescu-Bilcu 1978 Rela ii între culturile Precucuteni i Gumelni a, IIfov. File de istorie, Bucure ti, p. 77-80.

- S. Marinescu-Bilcu 1981 Tirpe ti From Prehistory to History in Eastern Romania, BAR (IS) 107, Archaeopress, Oxford.
- C. Matas 1946 Frumu ica village prehistorique a ceramique peinte dans la Moldavie du nord Roumanie, Monitorul Oficial i Imprimeriile Statului, Imprimeria Na ional , Bucure ti.
- Z. Maxim 1999 Neo-eneoliticul din Transilvania. Date arheologice i matematico-statistice, BMN, XIX, Muzeul Na ional de Istorie a Transilvaniei, Cluj-Napoca.
- K. Moldoveanu 2008 O categorie aparte de materiale descoperite în a ezarea gumelni ean de la Vit ne ti "M gurice", jud. Teleorman, Mousaios, XIII, p. 51-58.
- D. Monah 1997 Plastic antropomorf a culturii Cucuteni-Tripolie, BMA, III, Piatra-Neam .
- D. Monah et alii 2003 D. Monah, Gh.Dumitroaia, F. Monah, C. Preoteasa, R. Munteanu, D. Nicola, Poduri-Dealul Ghindaru, o Troie în Subcarpa ii Moldovei, Bibliotheca Memoriae Antiquitates, XIII, Editura Constantin Matas , Piatra-Neam .
- I. Nestor 1944 Raport asupra cercet rilor i s p turilor de la S rata Monteoru, Rapoarte MNA, 1942-1943, p. 21-28.
- D. Nicola 2012 Un lot de pintadere descoperite la Poduri - Dealul Ghindaru (jud. Bac u), MemAnt, XXVIII, p. 149-166.
- A. Ni u 1971 Noi descoperiri de reprezent ri antropomorfe în relief pe ceramica Cucuteni A, Carpica, IV, p. 81-88.
- A. Ni u 1973 Reconsiderarea Ariujdului, Aluta. Studii i comunic ri, 5, p. 57-124.
- S. Pandrea et alii 1997 S. Pandrea, V. Sirbu, N. Mircea 1997, A ez ri gumelni ene de pe Valea C Im uiului, Istros (NS), VIII, 27-61.
- S. Pandrea, M. Vernescu 2005 Câteva observa ii referitoare la raporturile dintre cultura Gumelni a i cultura Precucuteni, CCDJ, XXII, 263-278.
- I. Paul 1992 Cultura Petre ti, Editura Museion, Bucure ti.
- E. Pavele 2010 Ceramica Stoicani-Aldeni din a ez rile de la M I ie tii de Jos (jud. Prahova) i Co atcu (jud. Buz u), Editura Musica Viva, Ploie ti.
- E. Pavele , L. Grigora 2006 Catalogul pintaderelor din colec ia de arheologie a Muzeului Jude ean Buz u, Mousaios, XI, p. 35-47.
- M. Petrescu-Dâmbovi a 1945 Nouvelles donnees concernant le neolithique carpato-balkanique, Balcania, VIII, 193-215.
- M. Petrescu-Dâmbovi a 1953 Cet uia de la Stoicani, Materiale, I, p. 13-111.
- M. Petrescu-Dâmbovi a et alii 1999 M. Petrescu-Dâmbovi a, M. Florescu, A.C. Florescu, Tru e ti – Monografie arheologic , Editura Academiei, Bucure ti-la i.
- D.N. Popovici 2000 Cultura Cucuteni faza A. Repertoriul a ez rilor (1), BMA, VIII, Editura Constantin Matas , Piatra-Neam .
- D.N. Popovici 2006 Observations about the pintaderas from the Cucuteni culture area in Romania, CA, XIII, p. 173-187.
- M. Pene , E. Pavele 2001 A ezarea de la Boboci, comuna Jugureni, jude ul Prahova, Mousaios, VII, p. 9-15.
- P. Roman 1962 O a ezare neolitic la M gurele, SCIV, XIII, 2, 259-271.

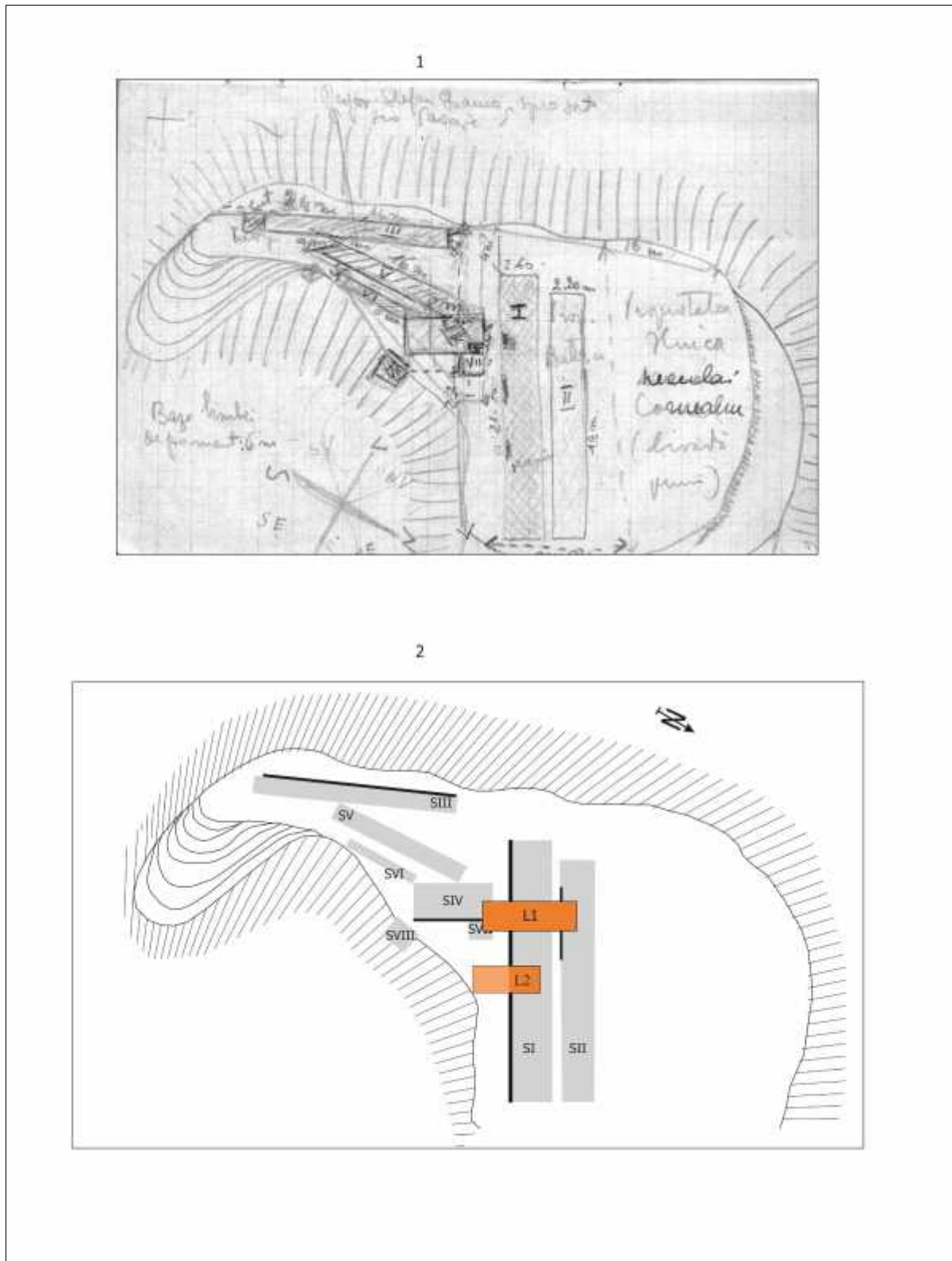
- P. Roman 1963 Ceramica precucuteniană din aria culturilor Boian-Gumelni a și semnificația ei, SCIV, XIV, 1, 33-51.
- D.V. Rosetti 1934 S p turile de la Vidra – raport preliminar, Publicațiile Muzeului Municipiului București, 1, p. 6-60.
- E. Schmid 1972 Atlas of Animal Bones, for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists, Elsevier Publishing Company.
- L.V. Subbotin 1983 Pamjatniki kultury Gumelnica Jugo-Zapadnoj Ukrainy, Kiev.
- N. Skakun 1996 New excavations of a eneolithic settlement in the lower Danube region, in Gh. Dumitroaia, D. Monah (ed.), Cucuteni aujord'hui, BMA, II, p. 141-58, Editura Constantin Matas , Piatra Neam .
- A. Soficaru, A. Frînculeasa 2011 Considerații antropologice asupra descoperirilor de oase umane, în A. Frînculeasa (ed.), Seciu-judeul Prahova- un sit din epoca neo-eneolitic în nordul Munteniei, Editura Oscar-Print, București, p. 85-86.
- V. Sorokin 2001 Relațiile între culturile Precucuteni-Tripolie A și Bolgrad-Aldeni, Tyrageția, X, p. 81-90.
- M. Imon 1986 Unele probleme ale aspectului cultural Stoicani-Aldeni, SCIVA, 37, 1, p. 5-28.
- M. Imon 1995 Importurile Stoicani-Aldeni din a ezarea gumelni ean de la M riu a, jud. C l ra i, CCDJ, XIII-XIV, 29-39.
- M. Imon, E. Pavele 2000 Considerații generale asupra a ezării gumelni ene de la M riu a, BMTA, 5-6 (1999-2000), p. 181-203.
- C.E. tefan 2009 A few remarks concerning the clay stamp-seals from the Gumelni a culture, SP, 6, p. 149-163.
- C.E. tefan 2011 O locuin s lcu ean de la Verbicioara, Peuce (SN), IX, p. 347 - 358.
- C.E. tefan 2011a Observații privind relațiile de schimb în cultura Gumelni a, SCIVA, 62, 1-2, p. 5-22.
- Gh. tefan 1938 Fouilles de B ie ti-Aldeni (dep. de Buz u), Dacia, V-VI, (1935-1936), 139-143.
- Gh. tefan 1941 Un nouveau modele d' habitation de l' eneolithique Valaque, Dacia, VII-VIII (1937-1940), p. 93-96.
- Gh. tefan 1944 Raport asupra s p turilor i cercet rilor arheologice de la B ie ti-Aldeni (jud. Buz u), RMNA 1942 i 1943, p. 31-34, 74-76.
- Gh. tefan, E. Com a 1957 S p turile arheologice de la Aldeni (reg. Ploie ti, r. Berceni), Materiale, III, p. 93-102.
- N. Ursulescu et alii 2005 N. Ursulescu, D. Boghian, V. Cotiug , Problèmes de la culture Precucuteni a la lumiere de recherches de Târgu Frumos (dep. de Ia i), in V. Spinei, C.-M. Mantu, D. Monah (eds.), Scripta Praehistorica. Miscellanea in Honorem nonagenarii magistri Mircea Petrescu- Dimbovi a oblata, Editura Trinitas, Ia i, p. 217-260.
- V.M Voinea 2005 Ceramica complexului cultural Gumelni a-Karanovo VI, fazele A1 și A2, Constan a, Editura Ex Ponto, Constan a.
- R. Vulpe 1957 Izvoare, s p turile din 1936-1948, Editura Academiei R.S.R., București.

New data on the Stoicani-Aldeni cultural aspect. The archaeological excavations ...



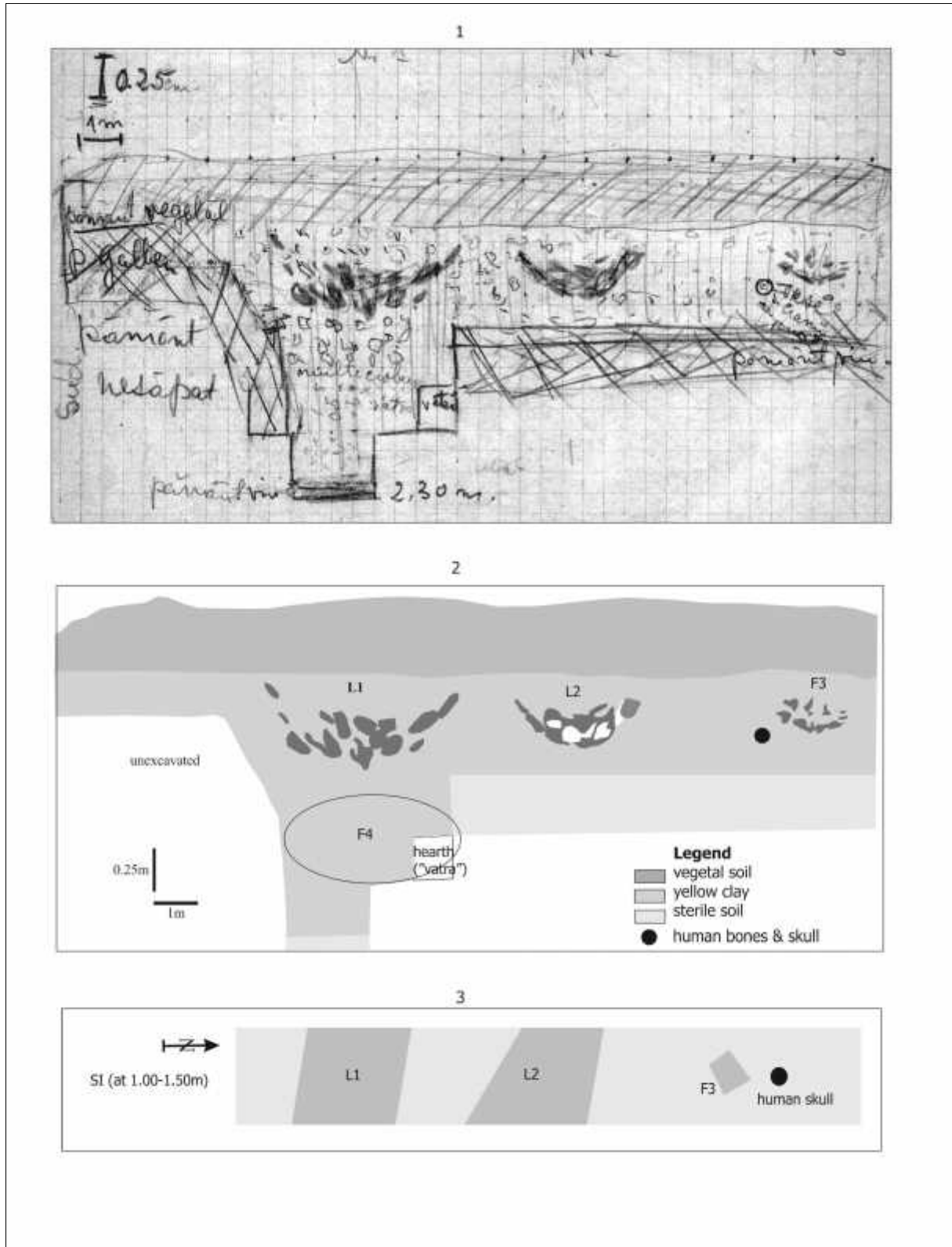
Pl. 1. Location of the Eneolithic site of Bălănești (up) and a few other Stoicani-Aldeni sites in the Sub-Carpathian area of Muntenia (down).

Poziționarea sitului eneolitic de la Bălănești (sus) și a altor situri Stoicani-Aldeni din arealul subcarpaților Munteniei (jos).



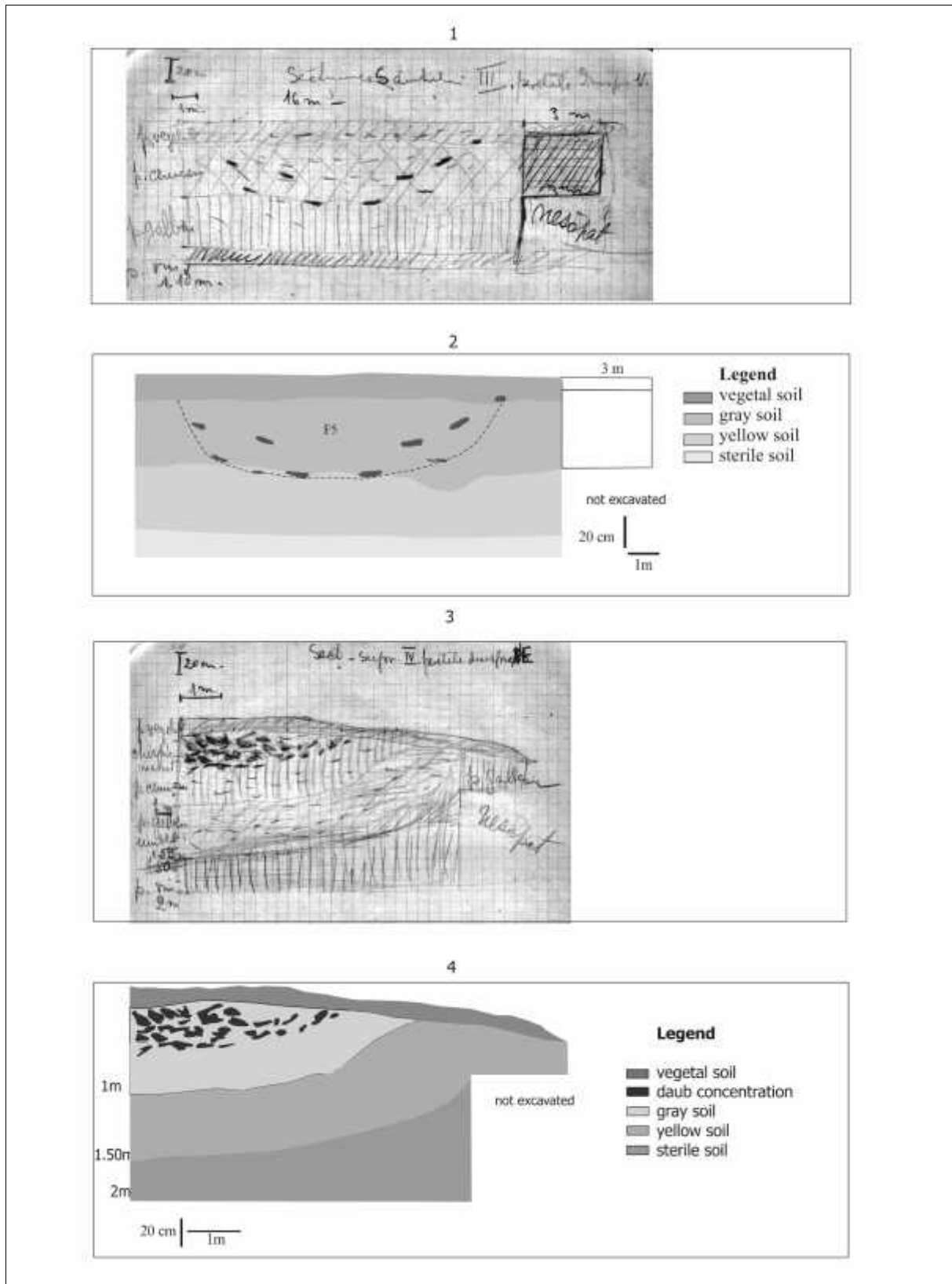
Pl. 2. B I ne ti – general plan of the trenches. 1. Sketch from the fieldnotes of Hortensia Dumitrescu; 2. approximate location of the trenches (redrawn) and of “dwellings” L1 and L2 (using the information in the fieldnotes). 1-2 – not at scale. The thick lines along the trenches represent the existing section-plans.

B I nești, planul general al secțiunilor. 1. schiț din notele de s p tur ale Hortensiei Dumitrescu; 2. localizarea aproximativ a locuințelor L1 și L2 în secțiunile redesenate, folosind informații din notele de s p tur . 1-2 – f r scar ; liniile îngro ate reprezint secțiunile desenate.



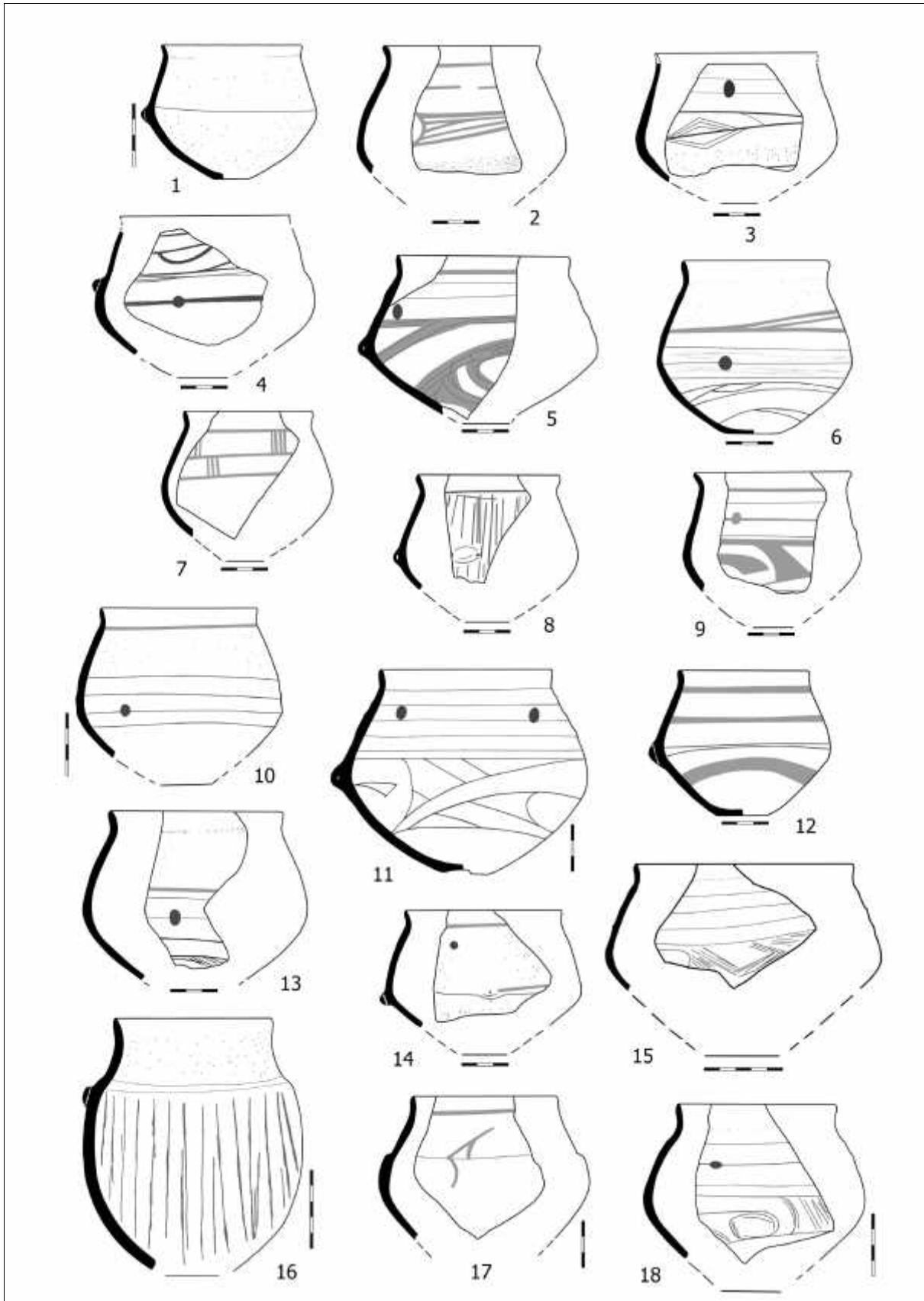
Pl. 3. Trench SI – Western profile (1. Sketch from the fieldnotes of Hortensia Dumitrescu; 2. Profile (redrawn) and ground plan of features L1, L2 and F3 at ca. 1.00-1.50 m (after the sketch in the fieldnotes of Hortensia Dumitrescu, 1-3 not at scale).

Profilul de vest al lui SI (1. Schiț din notele de s p tur ale Hortensiei Dumitrescu); 2. Profilul redesenat i planul complexelor L1, L2, F3 la cca. 1-1,5 m (dup schița din notele de s p tur ale Hortensiei Dumitrescu, 1-3 f r scar).

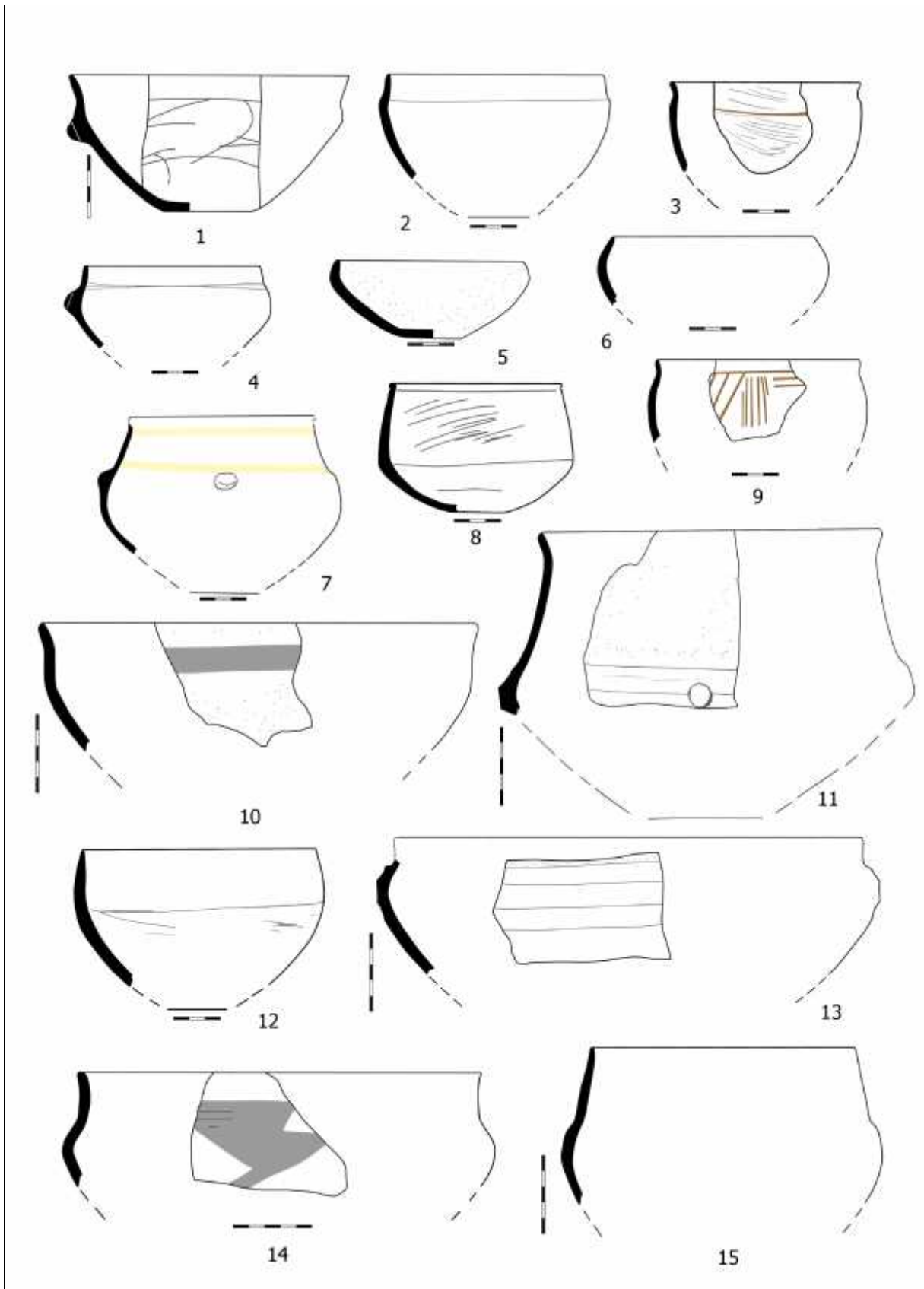


PI. 4. 1. Western profile of trench SIII – sketch from the fieldnotes of Hortensia Dumitrescu; 2. The same profile redrawn and adapted, 3. North-eastern profile of trench SIV – sketch from the fieldnotes of Hortensia Dumitrescu; 4. The same profile redrawn and adapted.

1. Profilul de vest al lui SIII – după o schiță din notele de s p tur ale H. Dumitrescu; 2. Acela i profil redesenat i adaptat; 3. Profilul de nord-est al lui SIV – schiță din notele de s p tur ale Hortensiei Dumitrescu; 4. Acela i profil redesenat.

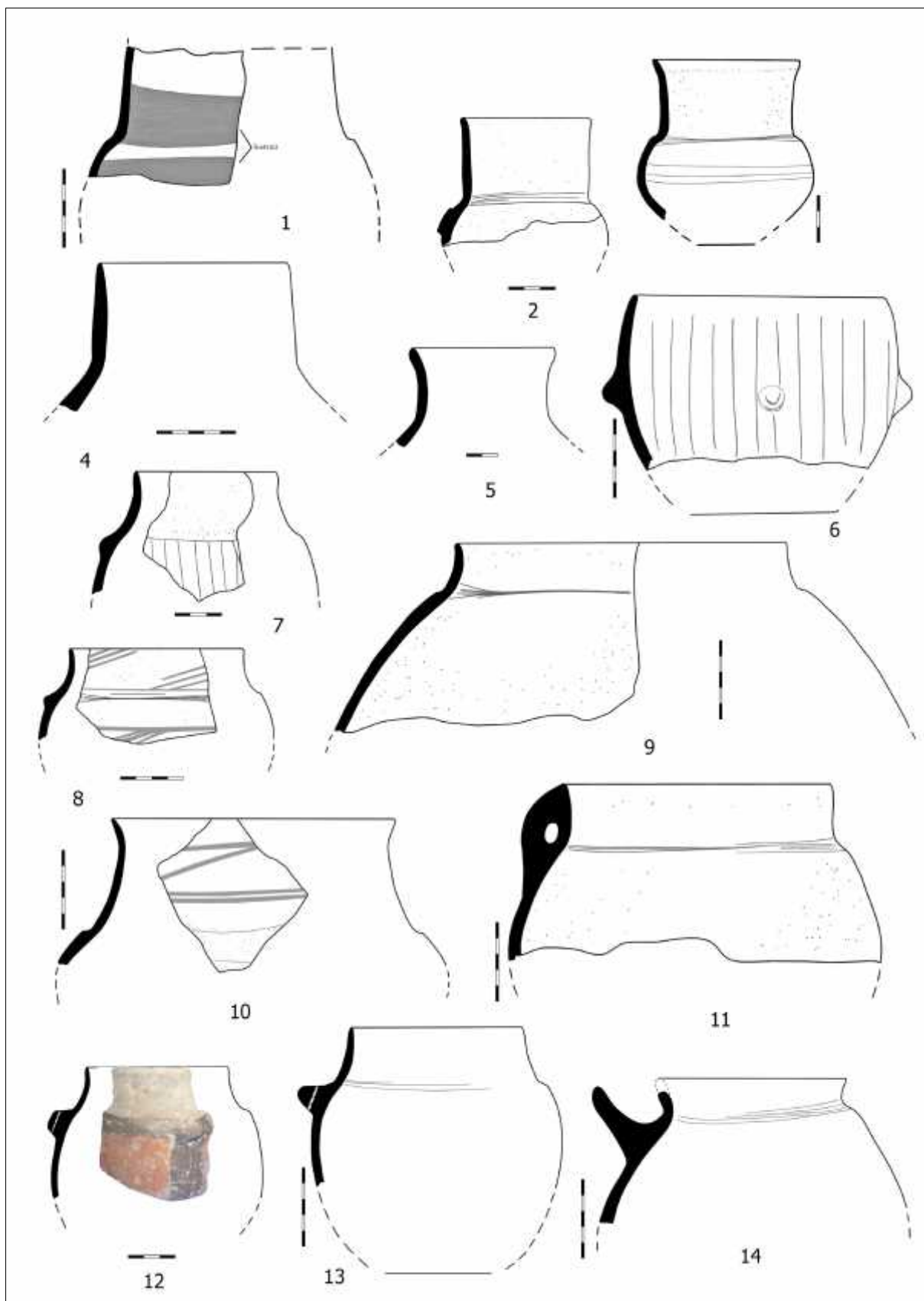


Pl. 5. Cups, goblets and small bi-triconical dishes with incisions or painting decoration or undecorated (1-15, 17-18); cup decorated with vertical incisions (16).
Pahare, cupe și castronașe bitronconice decorate prin pictură și incizare sau nedecorate (1-15, 17-18), pahar decorat cu incizii verticale (16).

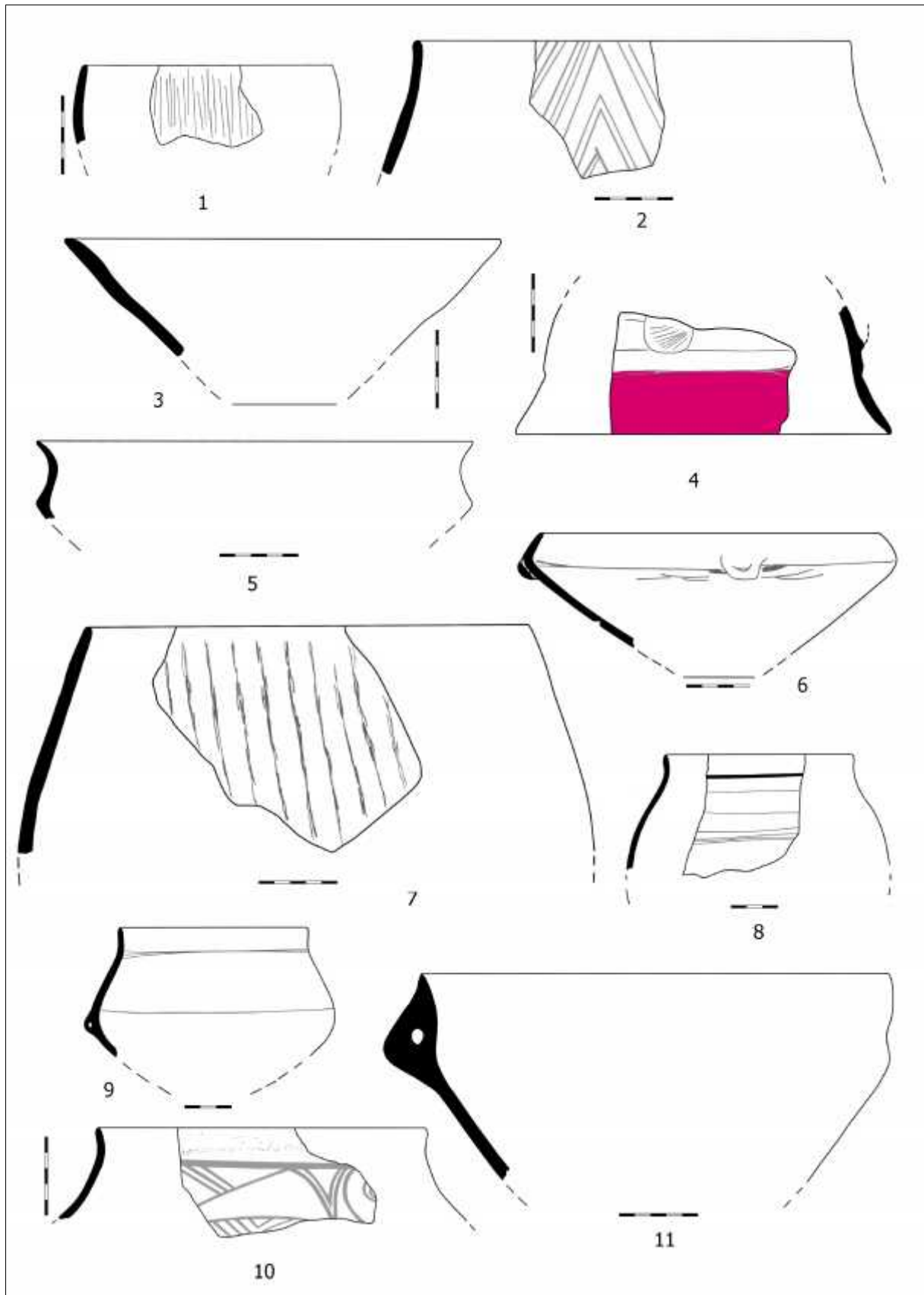


Pl. 6. Decorated dishes and bitronconical storage vessels (1-15): painting (3, 7, 9, 10, 14), incision (1), fluting (11, 13).

Castroane și vase de provizii bitronconice (1-15) decorate prin pictare (3, 7, 9, 10, 14), incizii (1), canelare (11, 13).

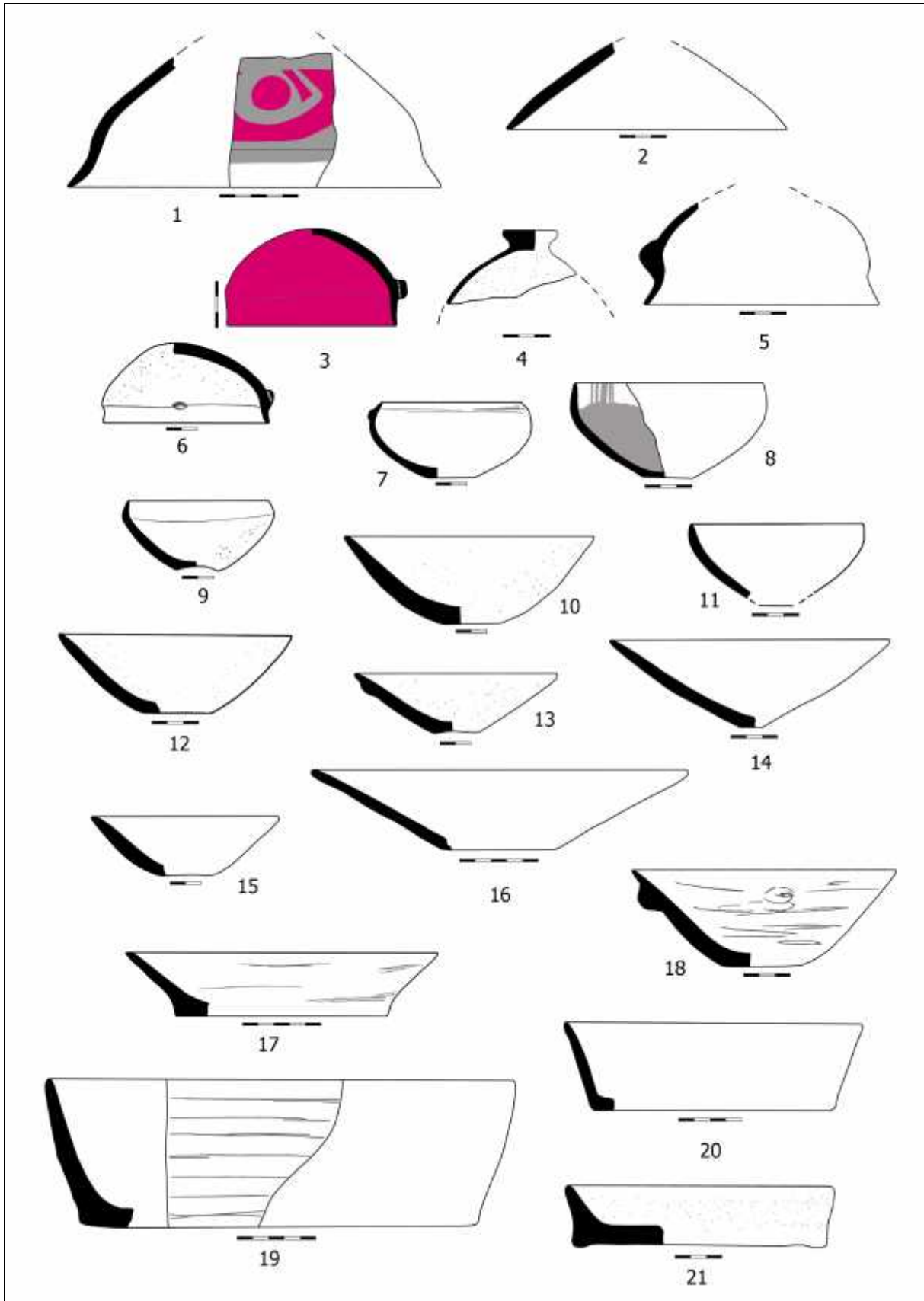


Pl. 7. Pottery: amphora-shaped vessels (1-5), jars (7-8, 11-14), storage vessels (9-10, 10 with white painting), incised dish (6), jar painted with red and chocolate-brown colour (12).
 Ceramic : vase amforoidale (1-5), vase borcan (7-8, 11-14), vase de provizii (9-10) pictat cu alb (10), castron incizat (6); vas borcan pictat cu ro u i brun-ciocolatiu (12).

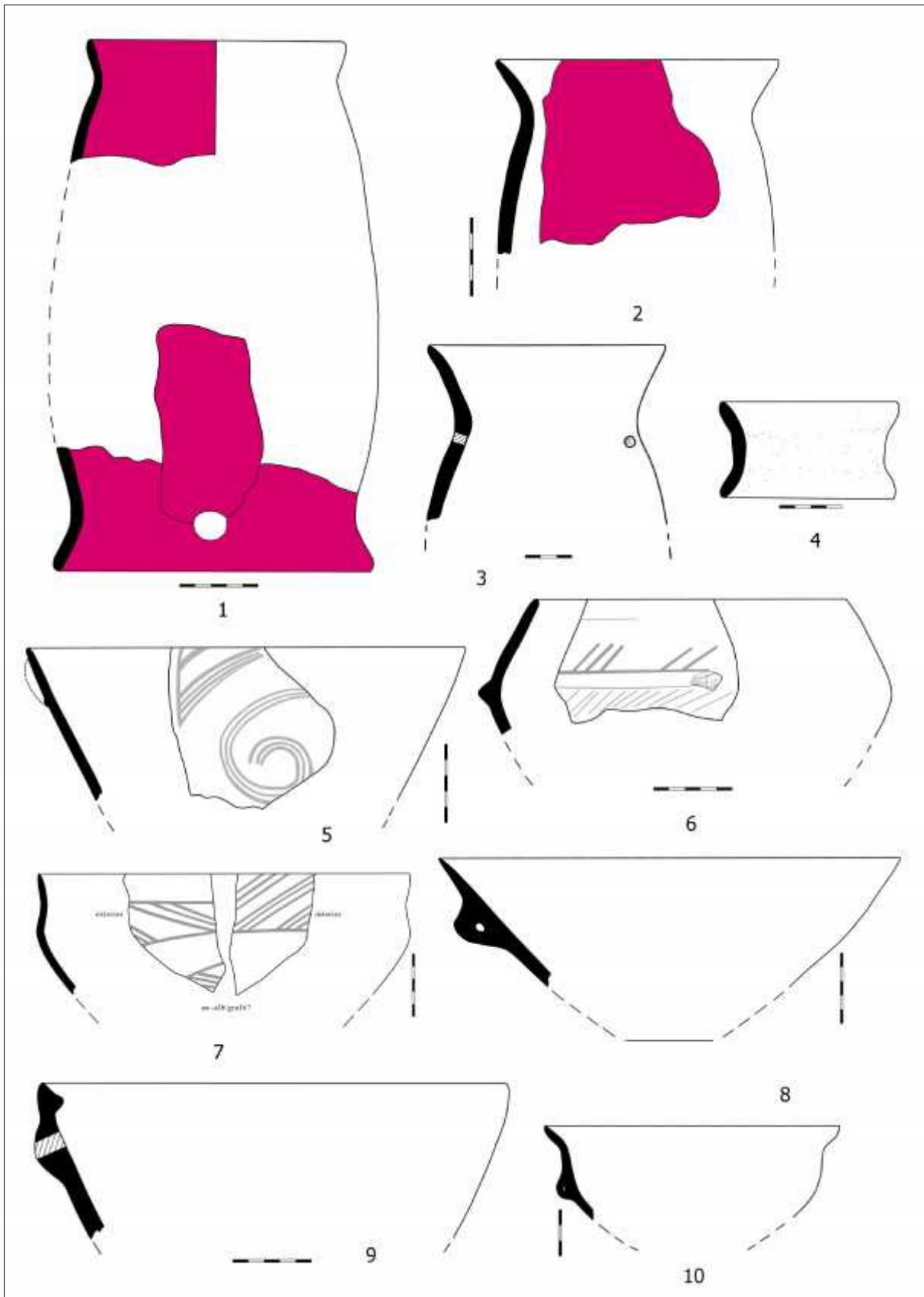


Pl. 8. Tronconical and bi-tronconical dishes (1, 3, 5-6), storage vessels (7, 10-11), lid painted in bright red (4), jar (8).

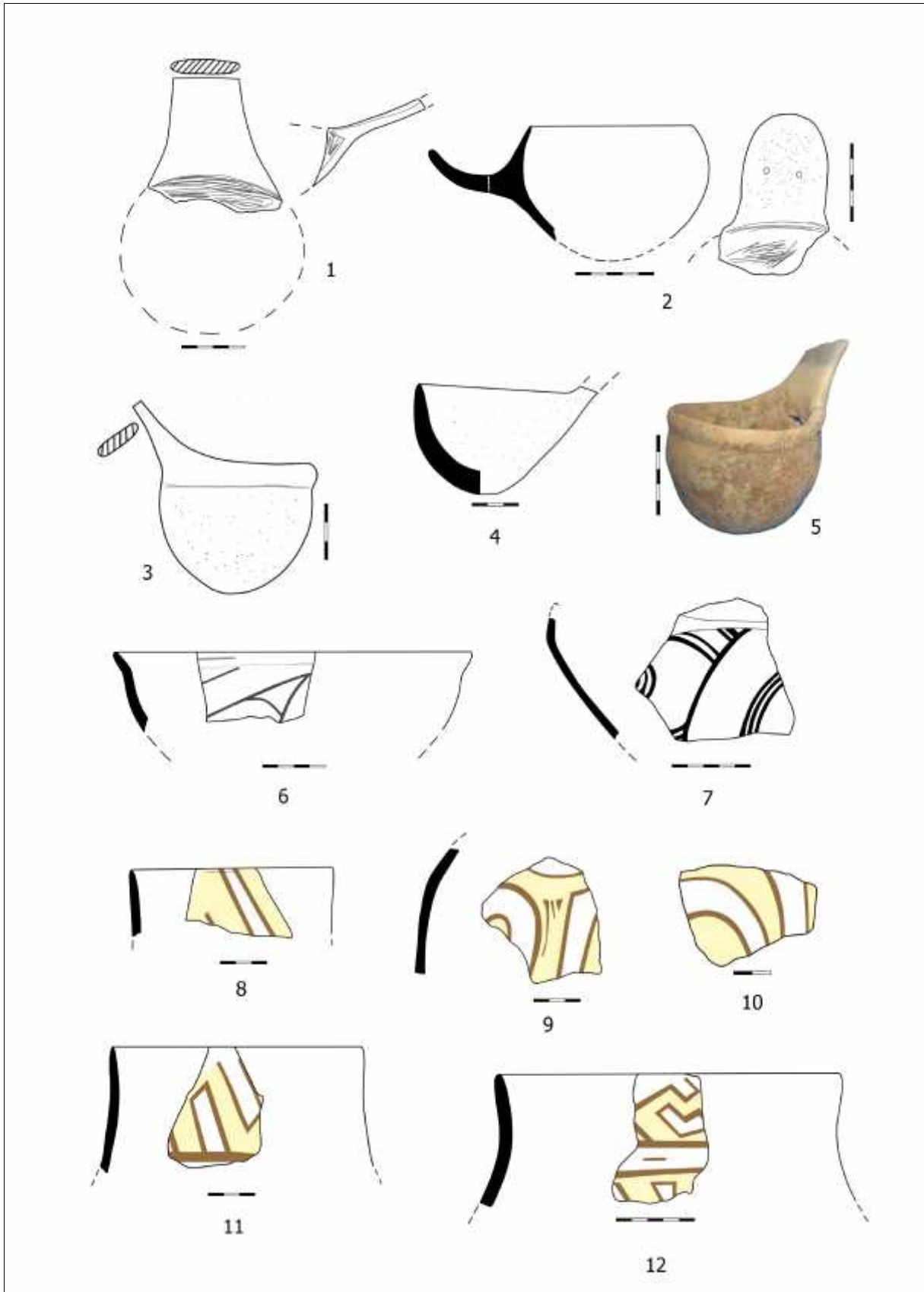
Castroane tronconice i bitronconice (1, 3, 5-6), vase de provizii (7, 10-11), capac pictat cu ro u crud (4), vas borcan (8).



Pl. 9. Lids (1-6), bowls (7-12) and tronconical pots/pans (13-21).
Capace (1-6), boluri (7-12) i vase tronconice/tig i (13-21).

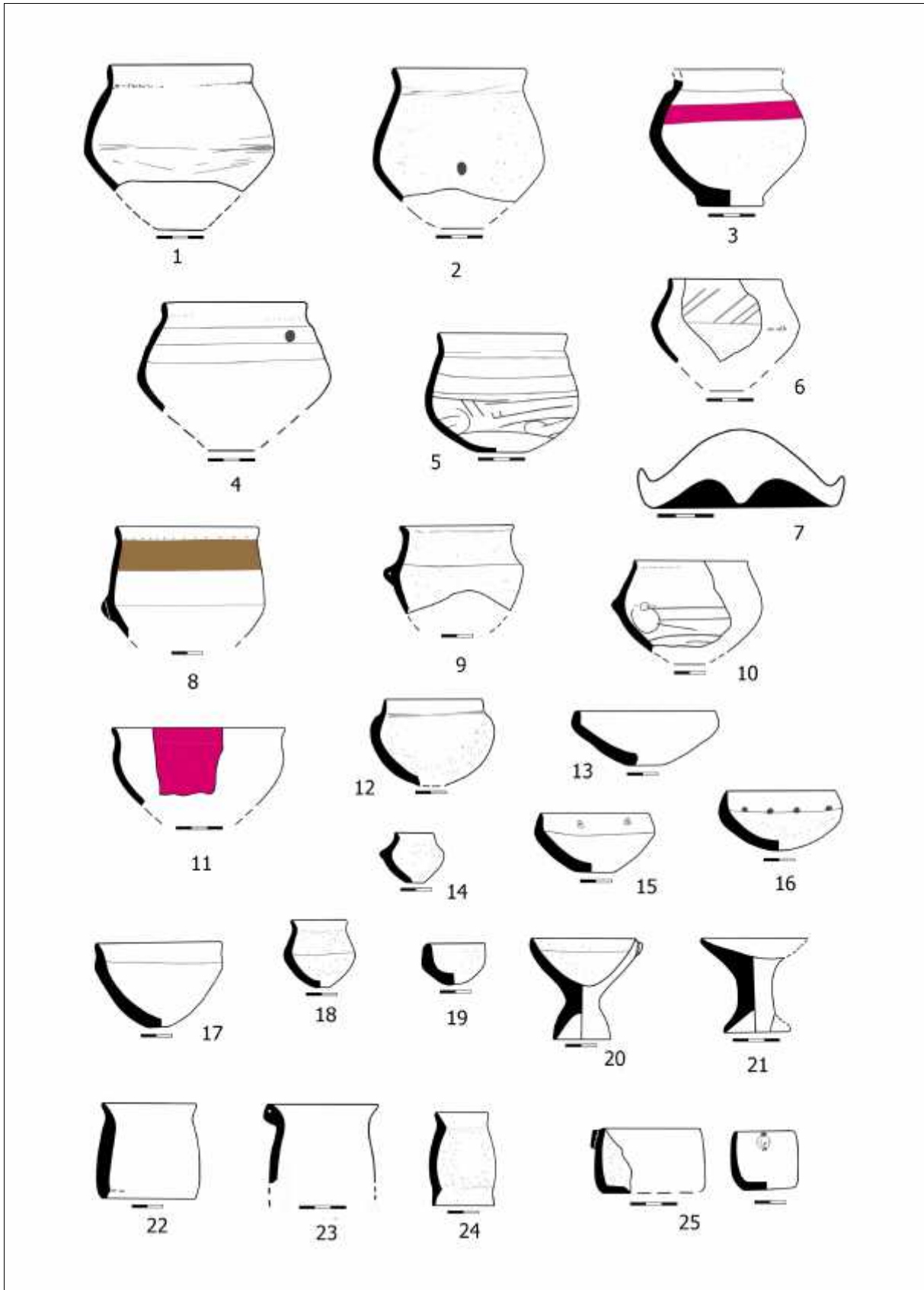


Pl. 10. Cylindrical stands (1-3), coil-like stands (4), tronconical pot decorated with graphite (5), graphite decorate dish (4), various dishes (6, 8-10).
Vase suport cilindrice (1-3), vas suport colac (4), vas tronconic grafitat (5), castron grafitat (7), castroane (6, 8-10).



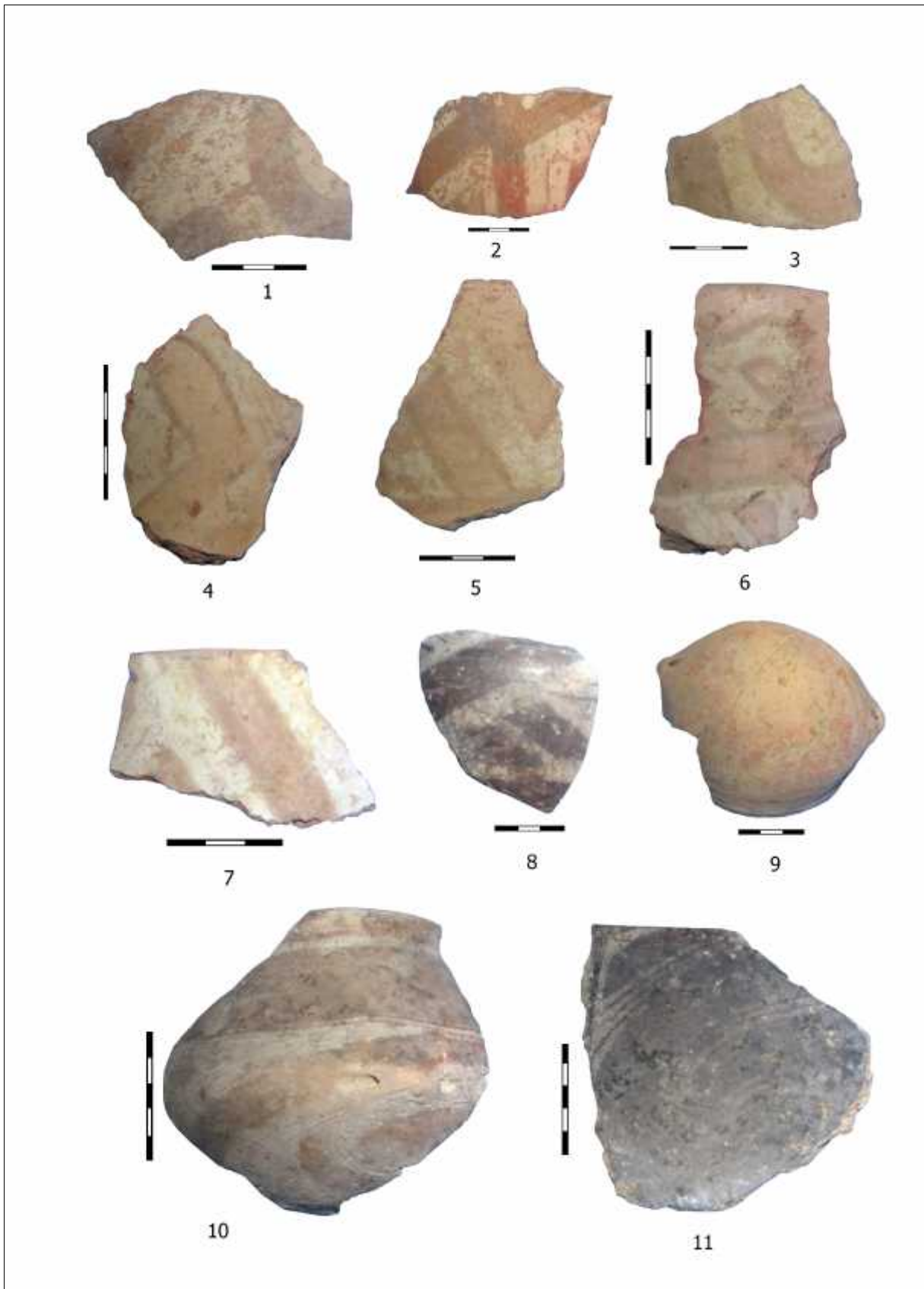
Pl. 11. Ladles (1-5), Precucuteni dish (6), fragment of a graphite decorated vessel (7), painted Cucuteni sherds (8-12).

Polonice (1-5), castron precucutenian (6), fragment de vas decorat cu grafit (7), fragmente ceramice cucuteniene pictate (8-12).

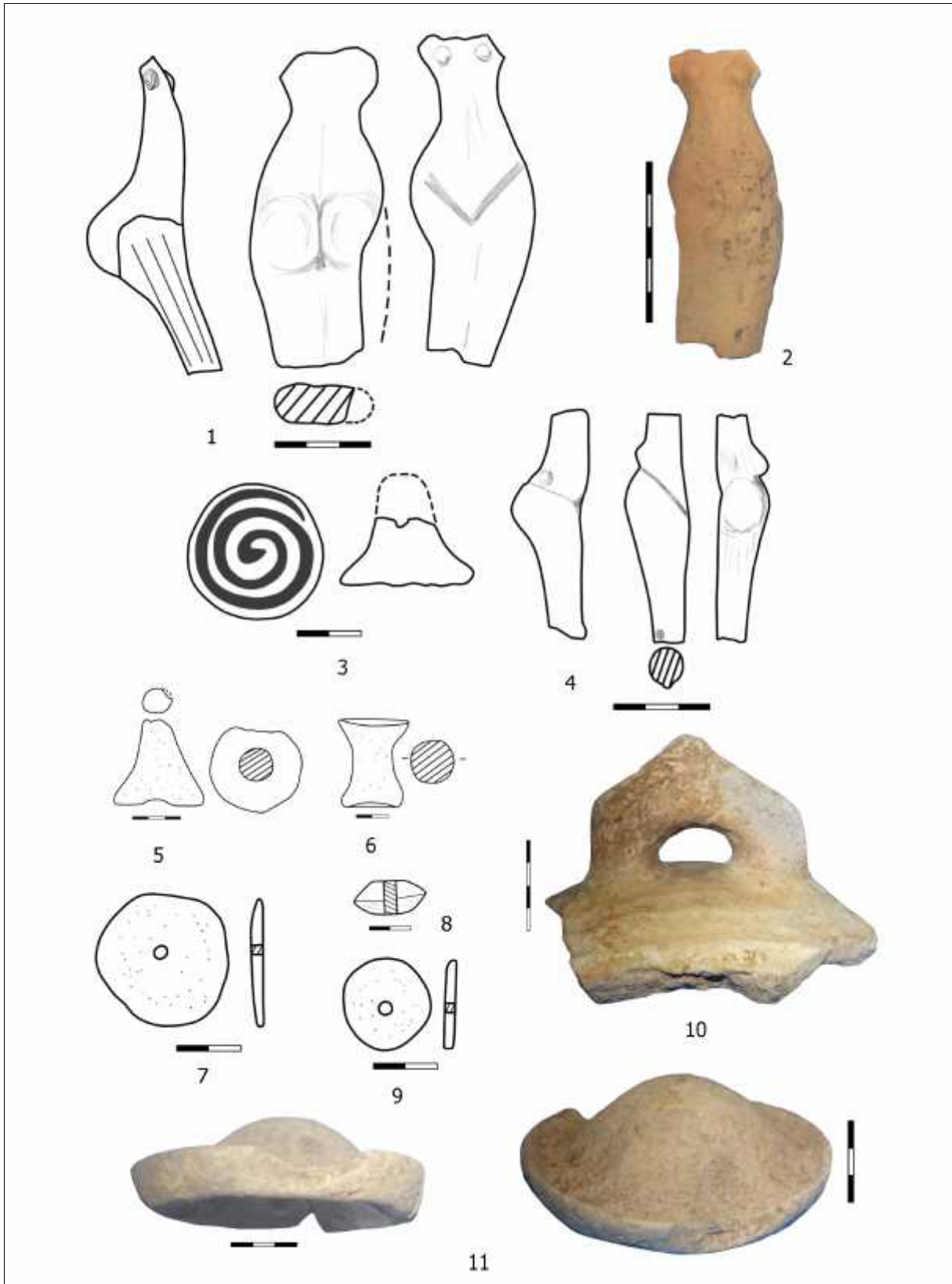


Pl. 12. Small dishes and goblets (1-6, 8-11), lid (7), miniature vessels (13-24), pedestalled pots (20-21), miniature vessel (24), clay box (25).

Castrona e i cupe de mici dimensiuni (1-6, 8-11), capac (7), vase miniaturale (13-24), vase cu picior (20-21), vas suport miniatural (24); cutiuț din lut (25).

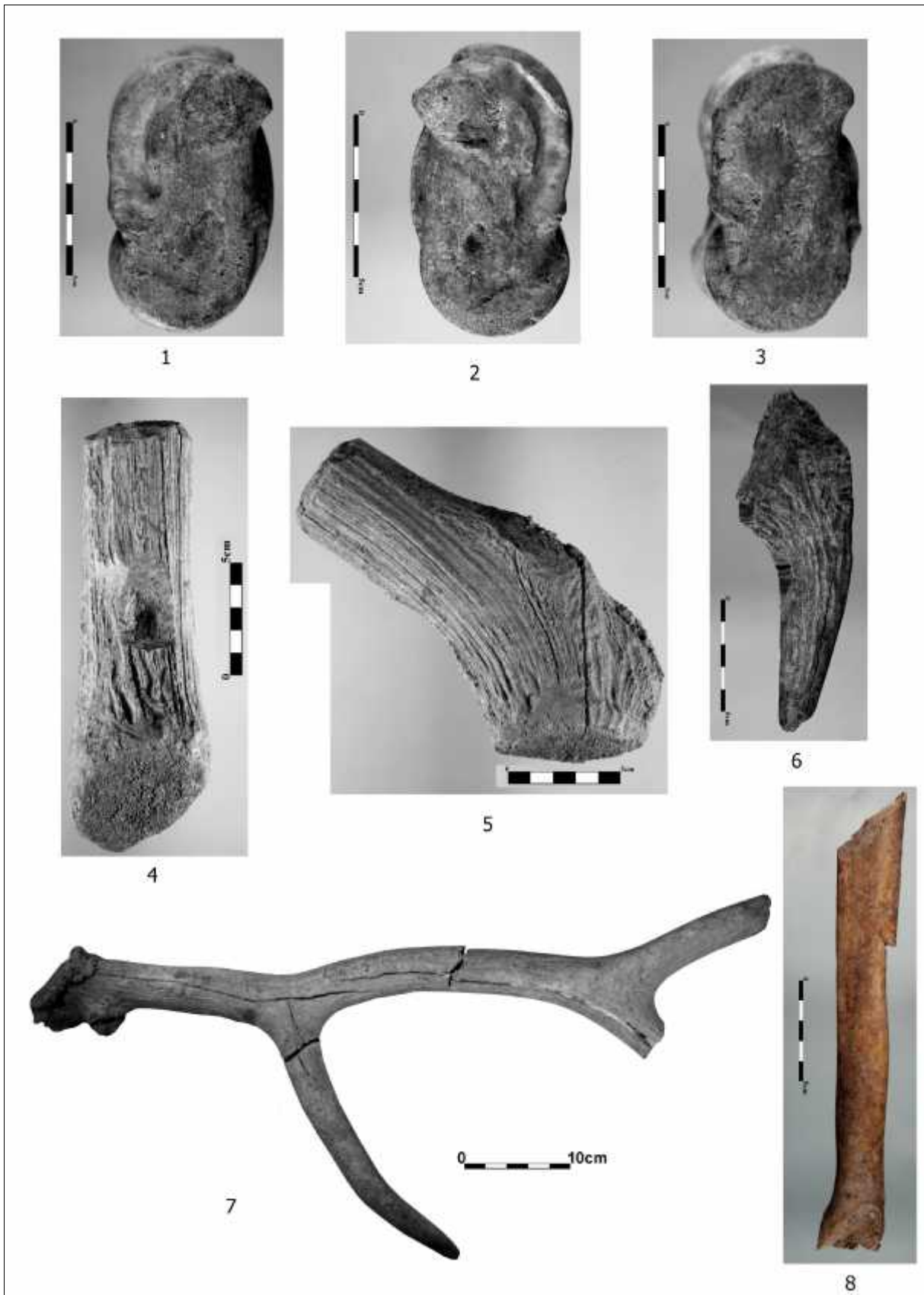


Pl. 13. Cucuteni painted sherds (1-7), white painted ware (8-10), lid painted with bright red on the exterior (9), vessel decorated with graphite on the interior (11).
Ceramic Cucuteni (1-7); ceramic pictat cu alb (8, 10); capac pictat cu ro u crud la exterior (9); vas pictat cu grafit la interior (11).

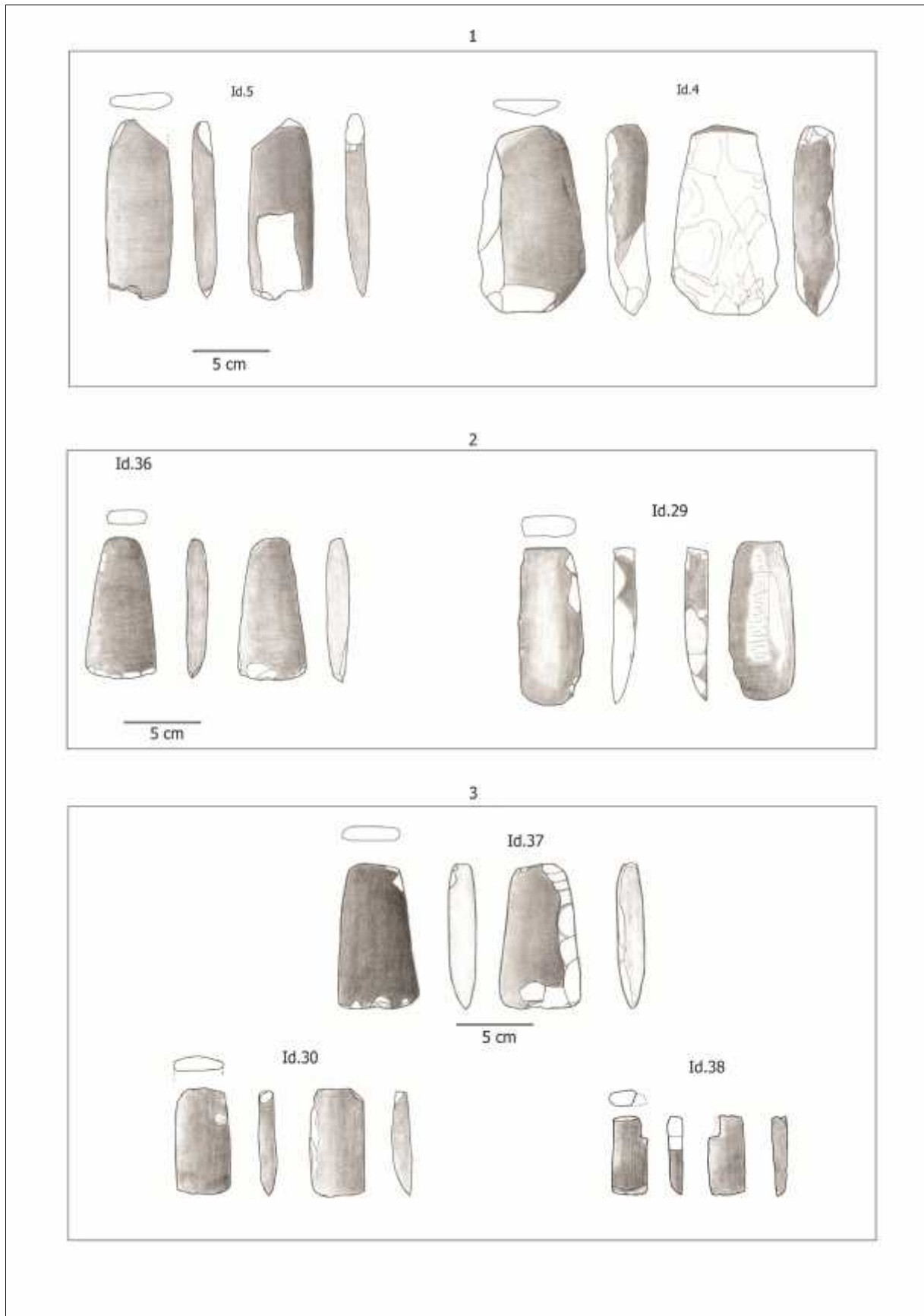


Pl. 14. Clay anthropomorphic figurines (1-2, 4); clay stamp decorated with a fluted spiral (3); clay item (5); clay spindle (6), bi-tronconical spindle (8), spindles made of pottery sherds (7,9); house-shaped handles (10); hat-like lid (10-11).

Statuete antropomorfe din lut (1-2, 4); pintader din lut cu decor volut canelat (3); pies din lut (5), mosorele din lut (6), fusaiol bitronconic (8); fusaiole din fragmente de vase (7, 9); toart de vas în form de c suț (10); capac de tip c ciul (10-11).



Pl. 15. Bone and antler finds: worked bovine astragali (1-3); worked deer antler (4-6); deer antler fragment with traces of working (7); worked deer metatarsal.
Pieșe IMDA: astragale de bovin prelucrate (1-3); corn de cerb prelucrat (4-6); corn de cerb cu urme de prelucrare (7); metatarsian de cerb prelucrat (8).



Pl. 16. 1. axes; 2. adzes; 3. chisels (drawings A. Boronean).
Topoare (1), tesle (2) i d Itițe 3) (desene A. Boronean).