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Some observations about the discovered human skeletons at Rousse tell

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Abstract: *The overall study of the Rousse tell is the reason for it to be one of the important prehistoric archaeological sites of the Balkan Peninsula. One of the main problems is the discovery of skeletons in the outlines of the settlement. The various attempts for explanation and interpretations are the reason for passionate discussions. The lack of scientific solution of the problem is a consequence of the insufficient informativeness of the publications as well, where not all the "graves" are presented. The purpose of this report is to make an attempt to bring some clarity on the issue by including all discovered human remains on the basis of available documentation and publications made, which is to entered into scientific circulation and become the basis for new research and conclusions.*

In 1904, the Shkorpil brothers conducted the first archaeological excavations of the tell. Two drilling excavations were accomplished in the southeast part, and archaeological materials of bone, ceramics, copper and others were found. Two human skeletons were found on the site of the prehistoric settlement before the time of the Shkorpil brothers' research. The excavations which followed are related to a local archaeological association. They were conducted in 1921 and 1922 by Dimitar Kostov, a teacher at the Boys' High School, under the direct observation of Rafail Popov, head of the prehistoric department of the Archaeological Museum in Sofia. With the help of students from the High School and citizens, 2 drill-holes with a total length of 28.5 m and a width of 8 m in the north periphery of the tell were conducted, without respecting the stratigraphic principles, and the material was collected in order to fill up the museum collection. 7 human skeletons were found. Between 1948 and 1953 an overall study of the site was conducted by G. Georgiev and N. Angelov. The tell was divided into a Western and an Eastern sectors by a control profile. In 1948/1949 there was work in the Eastern sector and about 5 m of cultural stratification were taken off, which were differentiated into 10 construction horizons (G. Georgiev, N. Angelov 1952, p. 119-194). The Western sector is excavated in 1950/1953, and 11 distinct construction horizons were differentiated. In the 1948-1949 period, 45 human skeletons were found, all of them with a different degree of preservation. 44 human skeletons were found at different depths in the Western sector. 6 human skeletons has been discovered in the period 1986-1988. The revealed 104 human skeletons belong to the cultural complex Kodzhadermen - Gumelnița - Karanovo VI.

Based on the available archaeological data, the following conclusions can be extracted:

1. In the Chalcolithic layers of the Rousse tell the largest number of skeletons studied by all such situations was found (104 preserved) in comparison to other objects. This is due to the fact that the tell was excavated completely unlike the other sites with "intramural burials" found.

2. Part of the human skeletons in the Rousse tell are the result of deliberate "burials". Another part of them are due to extraordinary circumstances which caused the death of people in the settlement.

3. The discovered human skeletons do not belong to the last construction horizon and are not the result of the final enemy invasion, which led to the conquest and the devastation of the settlement. The following facts are arguments to be thought in this direction: 1 they are found at different depth within different construction horizons; 2 intact skeletons are not registered in the uppermost horizons, perhaps because it was destroyed by later interventions during the Iron and Roman eras. If there was a so-called final devastation of the settlement and people, who were killed during its defense, their remains should have been found in the last construction horizons, and we have no archaeological evidence for that. The thesis of the three consecutive enemy invasions, which have led to the capture and burning down of the settlement, based on the grouping of skeletons in three basic levels, is also considered unsatisfactory. Assuming there's a reliable distinction of construction horizons by the researchers, it is from the 6th down to 13th and 15th that preserved human skeletons were found. Assuming the fact that the found skeletons are an indicator for enemy attacks, the number of invasions exceeds 9.

4. There is a possibility that some of the burned houses and the discovered skeletons among their destructions are not the result of violent burning due to enemy attack or natural disaster.

5. Some of the found skeletons, grouped in several sectors, might be part of the extramural necropolis, which belongs to the second tell. It is not excluded that for a certain period of time the area of the huge tell was uninhabited and might have been used for a necropolis. Another argument for this conclusion is that it is located in the southwest direction from the small tell (the destination, in which a large part of the necropolis from the Gumelnița culture are located).

6. With a view to the lack of relation and common trends between them, specified above, the found skeletons, which we assume are the result of deliberate burials, do not set up the so-called "intramural

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necropolis". Furthermore – it is possible for certain groups of them to have a duplicate situation to that of the Kubrat tell and the differentiation of an extramural necropolis within the territory of the tell itself, due to an available, free of constructions area (we have in mind the discovered groups of skeletons, found in the northeastern and northern part of the Eastern sector at the depth of 2.90 m to 3.70 m)

7. With a view to the discovered human burials at the Rouse tell, as well as similar others in the Chalcolithic layers of other sites, we can consider the existence of intramural tradition during the Gumelnița culture period. It is a retardation of a Neolithic practice and, though being less popular, it exists in parallel with the practice of body interment in necropolis outside the settlements during the Late Chalcolithic period.

Rezumat: Studiul complet al tell-ului de la Ruse este motivul pentru care acesta este unul dintre cele mai importante situri preistorice din Peninsula Balcanică. Una dintre principalele probleme este descoperirea unor schelete în limitele așezării. Diversele încercări pentru explicarea și interpretarea acestora reprezintă baza unor dezbateri. Lipsa unei explicații științifice pentru această problemă este și o consecință a insuficientei informări a publicațiilor, care nu prezintă toate mormintele. Scopul acestui raport este de a încerca unele clarificări asupra acestui subiect incluzând toate descoperirile de oase umane, pe baza documentației disponibile și a publicațiilor existente, care nu au intrat în circuitul științific și devin baza unor noi cercetări și concluzii.

În 1904, frații Shkorpil au condus primele săpături arheologice în tell. Au fost săpate două sondaje în partea sudică, fiind descoperite diverse materiale arheologice - oase, ceramică, cupru și alte obiecte. Trei schelete umane au fost găsite în așezarea preistorică înainte de cercetarea fraților Shkorpil. Săpăturile care au urmat sunt promovate de o asociație arheologică locală. Acestea au fost conduse în 1921 și 1922 de Dimitar Kostov profesor la Școala Superioară de Băieți, sub coordonarea directă a lui Rafail Popov, directorul departamentului de preistorie al Muzeului de Arheologie din Sofia. Cu ajutorul elevilor de la Școala Superioară și a localnicilor, au fost realizate două sondaje, cu o lungime totală de 28.5 m și o lățime de 8 m, în extremitatea nordică a tell-ului, fără respectarea principiilor stratigrafice, inventarul fiind recoltat în scopul completării colecției muzeului. Au fost descoperite 7 schelete umane. Între anii 1948 și 1953, un studiu de ansamblu al sitului a fost coordonat de G. Georgiev și N. Anghelov. Tell-ul a fost secționat în sectoarele vestic și estic printr-un martor stratigrafic. În 1948/1949, a fost cercetat sectorul estic, fiind îndepărtate depuneri arheologice cu grosime de aproape 5 m, diferențiate în 10 orizonturi de construcție (G. Georgiev, N. Angelov 1952, p. 119-194). Sectorul vestic este săpat în 1950/1953, fiind identificate 11 orizonturi de construcție distincte. În perioada 1948-1949, au fost descoperite 45 de schelete umane, în diferite stări de conservare. 44 de schelete umane au fost descoperite în sectorul vestic, la diferite adâncimi. 6 schelete umane au fost descoperite în perioada 1986 – 1988. Cele 104 de schelete umane descoperite aparțin complexului cultural Kodzhadermen - Gumelnița - Karanovo VI.

Pe baza datelor arheologice disponibile, pot fi stabilite următoarele concluzii:

1. În nivelurile eneolitice din tell-ul de la Ruse, a fost descoperit cel mai mare număr de schelete din toate situațiile similare studiate (104 conservate), în comparație cu alte obiecte. Aceasta se datorează faptului că tell-ul a fost săpat complet, spre deosebire de alte situri cu descoperiri de morminte în așezare („intra muros”).

2. O parte din scheletele umane este rezultatul unor „inmormântări” deliberate. O altă parte a lor este datorată unor circumstanțe extraordinare ce au cauzat moartea oamenilor în așezare.

3. Scheletele umane descoperite nu aparțin ultimului orizont de construcție și nu sunt rezultatul unor invazii inamice finale, care a determinat cucerirea și devastarea așezării. Următoarele fapte sunt argumentele considerate în această direcție: 1 - acestea sunt descoperite la adâncimi diferite în mai multe orizonturi de construcție; 2 - scheletele bine conservate nu au fost înregistrate în orizonturile superioare, poate din cauza faptului că au fost distruse de intervenții ulterioare în timpul epocilor fierului și romană. Dacă a existat o așa numită distrugere finală a așezării și a oamenilor, care au fost omorâți în timpul apărării, rămășițele acestora s-ar fi găsit în ultimele orizonturi de construcție, dar nu avem nici o dovadă arheologică pentru aceasta. Teza celor trei invazii inamice consecutive, care a dus la capturarea și incendierea așezării, bazată pe gruparea scheletelor în trei niveluri de bază, este astfel considerată nesatisfăcătoare. Considerând că există o delimitare fiabilă a orizonturilor de construcție de către autorii cercetării, se observă că scheletele umane au fost descoperite de la nivelul 6 în jos, către nivelurile 13 și 15. Dacă se consideră faptul că scheletele descoperite sunt un indicator pentru atacurile inamice, numărul invaziilor depășește numărul 9.

4. Există posibilitatea ca unele locuințe incendiate și scheletele descoperite printre urmele de distrugere să nu fie rezultatul unei arderi violente cauzată de un atac inamic sau de un dezastru natural.

5. Unele dintre scheletele descoperite, grupate în câteva sectoare, pot face parte dintr-o necropolă „extra muros”, care aparține celui de al doilea tell. Nu este exclus ca pentru o anumită perioadă de timp, aria tell-ului mare să fi fost nelocuită și să fi putut fi folosită ca necropolă. Un alt argument pentru această concluzie este aceea că zona este situată în direcție sud-vestică față de tell-ul mic (direcția în care este situată o mare parte a necropolelor culturii Gumelnița).

6. În ceea ce privește inexistența relației și tendințelor generale dintre acestea, specificate mai sus, scheletele descoperite, pe care le considerăm rezultatul unor inmormântări deliberate, nu pun în evidență așa numita necropolă „intra muros”. Mai mult, este posibil ca anumite grupuri ale acestora să aibă o situație similară cu cea din tell-ul de la Kubrat și este posibilă diferențierea unei necropole „extra muros” în teritoriul tell-ului însuși, datorită existenței unei zone disponibile, fără construcții (avem în minte grupurile de schelete descoperite în ariile de nord-est și nord ale sectorului estic, la adâncimi între 2.90 m și 3.70 m).

7. În ceea ce privește mormintele descoperite în tell-ul de la Ruse, ca și altele similare din nivelurile eneolitice din alte situri, putem lua în considerație existența tradiției "intra muros" în timpul culturii Gumelnița. Este o întârziere a practicii neolitice care, gândită a fi mai puțin populară, există în paralel cu practica înhumării în necropolele din afara așezărilor din timpul perioadei eneolitice.

Keywords: human skeletons, necropolis, burials, Rouse tell.

Cuvinte cheie: schelete umane, necropolă, morminte, tell-ul Ruse.

◆ Introduction

The overall study of the Rouse tell is the reason for it to be one of the important prehistoric archaeological sites of the Balkan Peninsula. One of the main problems is the discovery of skeletons in the outlines of the settlement. The various attempts for explanation and interpretations are the reason for passionate discussions. The lack of scientific solution of the problem is a consequence of the insufficient informativeness of the publications as well, where not all the "graves" are presented. The purpose of this report is to make an attempt to bring some clarity on the issue by including all discovered human remains on the basis of available documentation and publications made, which is to enter into scientific circulation and become the basis for new research and conclusions.

While analyzing the available data, we'll make an attempt to do some new observations and conclusions about the human skeletons, discovered at the Rouse tell.

Two tells, withstanding about 50 m apart, are known on the territory of Rouse. They are located on slightly inclined towards the Danube river low terrace. Their Northern peripheries are washed by the waters of the river, which until recently have flowed past them. The larger tell is one of the most significant prehistoric settlements in Northeastern Bulgaria. Located on the riverbank of the Danube, it had a height of 10 m, width of 50 m and a length of 98 m (К. Шкорпил 1914, p. 59). The tell is fully explored through archaeological excavations. Because of this we have a certain idea about the changes in layout, residential architecture, the everyday life of the ancient farmers, their religious concepts and beliefs. The discovered 18 construction horizons provide us with rich information about the various aspects of people's lives here in the Copper-Stone Age.

The lesser tell is oriented to the East-West direction, with a diameter of 60 m and to the North-South with a maximum diameter of 70 m. The latter has the shape of a truncated cone with an average height of 5 m and a maximum height of 6 m with a diameter on the surface of 60 m. Its cultural layer is adversely affected at almost all sides, which indicates that the ancient terrain has been significantly larger. The tell has been partially studied through archaeological drilling. Based on those it is considered that its territory was firmly built. In the Eastern, southern and Western periphery the foundations of one-storey residential and farm buildings (К. Кънчев и др. p. 1987). A certain number of materials from the site were obtained by terrain observations. The materials are typical of the Late Chalcolithic Age. This is an indication that lesser tell has developed synchronously with the larger one at least during the final stage of the Late Chalcolithic Age, with the possibility its existence to have continued shortly afterwards as well (Д. Чернаков 2003, p. 213).

◆ History of the research

In 1904, the Skorpil brothers conducted the first archaeological excavations of the tell. Two drilling pits were set in the southeast part, where archaeological materials of bone, ceramics, copper and others were found. Before the time of Skorpil's research, 2 human skeletons were found on the territory of the prehistoric settlement (К. Шкорпил 1914, p. 73-74).

The next excavations are related to the activities of a local archaeological society. They are conducted in 1921 and 1922 by Dimitar Kostov, a teacher at the Boys' High School, under the direct observation of Rafail Popov, Head of the Prehistoric department of the Archaeological Museum in Sofia. With the help of students from the school and civilians two drillings with a total length of 28.5 m and a width of 8 m in the northern periphery of the tell were conducted, without complying with the stratigraphic principles, and the material is collected to fill up the museum's collection. 7 human skeletons are found (Д. Костов 1926, p. 68-70). A graphic or photographic documentation

for them is not preserved. Anthropological analysis of the bones was made by Kr. Dronchilov (К. Дрончилов 1924, p. 187-201).

In the 1948 – 1953 period the overall investigation on the site is conducted by G. Georgiev and N. Angelov. Through a control profile the tell is divided into Western and Eastern sectors. In 1948/1949, the work is in the Eastern sector and approximately 5 m of cultural layers were taken off, in which 10 construction horizons are distinguished (Г. Георгиев, Н. Ангелов 1952, p. 119-194). The Western sector is excavated in 1950/1953, with 11 distinct construction horizons.

In 1948-1949 a total of 45 human skeletons with a different degree of preservation were revealed at the mound.

The Western sector is excavated in the 1950/1953 period, and 11 construction horizons are distinguished. All materials are dated from the Late Chalcolithic Age and belong to the cultural complex Kodjadermen-Gumelnita-Karanovo VI. 44 human skeletons at different depths were found there (Г. Георгиев, Н. Ангелов 1957, p. 112-121).

In connection with the construction program of Rousse in 1986 the Rousse County Museum of History and the AIM at BAS undertook joint rescue excavations of the tell. The formed team is lead in 1986/1988g. by Assoc. Prof. Kancho Kanchev, representative of AIM at BAS, and Dimitar Ivanov – Rousse County Museum of History (К. Кънчев и др. 1987а, p. 25-41). In 1989/1990, the excavations continued under the direction of Volodia Popov from the Rousse County Museum of History and the scientific consultants Totyu Ivanov the Razgrad Museum of History and Ilka Angelova – Targovishte Museum of History, until the final exploration of the site. 7 new construction horizons are distinct from the Early, Middle and Late Chalcolithic Age, that brought clarity on the chronology of the Rousse tell and enriched the knowledge about various aspects of life of the ancient population here. 6 new human skeletons are found, as well as other single bone remains.

◆ **Criteria for defining the skeletons as a result of burials and/or people killed on the spot**

Regarding the situation with the human skeletons found at the Rousse tell different assumptions are expressed. Henrieta Todorova considers that these are burials, related to the time immediately after the burning of the last residential Chalcolithic horizon. According to her, they are not people who have died in battle with the approaching from the steppes nomadic population (Х. Тодорова 1986, p. 74-75). According Velichka Matsanova the attacks on the village can be divided into three successive enemy invasions. Reasons for that conclusion are given by skeletons found at the tell, being grouped into three levels – at 2.45 m to 2.20 m depth (XI horizon), at 1.90 to 1.60 m (X - VIII horizons), at 1.40 m to 0.90 m (VII - VI horizons) (В. Мацанова 2000, p. 124). Yavor Boyadjiev suggests that in fact these are cases of human remains, the result of more than three enemy attacks, but not all of them have led to the seizure and burning of the whole settlement. He also supports the hypothesis that it's possible for the skeletons, found in trash pits, to belong to the slain assailants, with "not-ritual funeral" being conducted to them (Я. Бояджиев 2001, p. 21). The expressed assumptions lead towards explanation of the situation with the human skeletons in the Rousse tell. To define them as "intentional burials" (intramural, from intra muros - behind a wall or within the settlement) the following components should be considered: 1. The presence/absence of burial facility; 2. Presence of skeletal remains; 3. Burial inventory; 4. Sepulchral facility or traces of ritual activities. At some of the discovered skeletons there is apparent data for conducted burials. It can be affirmed that most of them are deviation from the usual burial custom (they are not in a necropolis) and their implementation is related to exceptional circumstances.

Comparing them with the discovered graves in the northern periphery of the tell, which are probably part of the extramural necropolis (which is going to be our issue later on), prove that opinion. To claim that the funerals constitute an "intramural necropolis" the following must be considered: 1. A similar burial ritual between them; 2. A distinguished burial space; 3. A connection to buildings/structures in the settlement. In the absence of these three criteria, or some of them, there is no reason to talk about an "intramural necropolis", but for single "intramural" funerals unrelated to one another. The lack of the above mentioned components with the human skeletons is an argument to rule out the option for intentional burials. The discovery of groups of them at the same depth, the proximity of some of the skeletons to burnt remains of furnaces, destructions of buildings and more, the traces of violent death on the bones are facts that suggest the death of part of the people of the settlement in distress or fighting. It should be noted that the absence of data for most of the

skeletons for conducted funerals or at least the lack of such in the preserved documentation is not a reliable indicator for referring the human skeletons to one of the two options. However, almost all of the discovered skeletons are in a hocked (crouched) position, which is typical of funeral rituals in the late Prehistory. We should not ignore the fact that this is the normal position of the human body in an attempt to prevent from lethal danger (the collapse of a building by fire or other circumstances, prevention from a threat etc.). The interpretation of this situation in the Rouse tell is based entirely on the available data in the documentation and publications made.

◆ Stratigraphic position, burial facilities and inventory¹

At the start of the archaeological excavations of the site, conducted by the Skorpil brothers, two graves were found. Skeleton № 1 was found at 3 m depth, which suggests being carried to the Late Chalcolithic layer. The position of the dead is likely a hocker. There are no reports of burial inventory or burial facilities, so it cannot be determined as a funeral or not. Skeleton № 2 was discovered in the Eastern periphery of tell 2 at a 3 m depth from the surface. Given that there are no regular archeological excavations conducted its chronological background and circumstances of location cannot be determined.

The excavations, conducted in 1921-1922 by Dimitar Kostov were unfortunately without complying with the stratigraphic principle. Seven human skeletons were found in the northern periphery (№ 3-9). The digger mentions that four of the skeletons were found in pits dug into the loess (№ 3-6). No information was left however, for their size and forms. All of them are hockers to the right with almost identical orientation - head to the south (№ 6)/southwest (№ 3-5). No inventory was found, only at the head of skeleton № 4 two flint plates were found and a copper awl with bone handle. No burial facilities are mentioned for the remaining 3 skeletons (№ 7-9). The discovery of skeleton № 7 at the same depth implies connection with the previous 3. He is also in a hocked position to the right, but with head towards west, a ceramic vessel and a cover were found next to it, turn upside down, in which a copper needle and small beads were found. Skeleton № 8 is in the same position as the rest non-inventory are, and skeleton № 9 was destroyed and the position of the dead is unclear. The skeletons, found in 1921-1922 are probably the result of conducted funerals. An argument in this direction is the facts of the existence of burial facilities, inventory at some of the skeletons, similarities in pose and orientation. Their discovery in the periphery (near?) of the tell, four of them being dug into the loess is reasonable to conclude that perhaps this is not the case of "intramural" funerals, but for the disclosure of the southern periphery of the necropolis, which belongs to the tell. Its location - north/northwest, corresponds to that of other Late Chalcolithic necropoles to the settlements to which they belong: Kosharna - 160 meters northwest of the tell on a hill slope, Smyadovo - 200 m northwest of the Diado Zlateva (Nazlamova) tell (C. Чохаджиев, C. Венелинова 2008, p. 211), Căscioarele - 300 m northwest of the "D'aia Parte" tell (D. Șerbănescu, B. Șandric 1998), Vărăști "Grădiștea Ulmilor" - 150 m northwest of the Boian B tell (E. Comșa 1995, p. 55) and others. The findings discovered in some of the graves are typical for the final of the Late Chalcolithic Age, indicating that the necropolis refers to any of the settlements in the I - XI horizons. Interestingly, the majority of skeletons have their heads oriented towards south/southwest. It is in this direction that the tell is located, which is a variant explanation for the orientation of the dead. Based on studied until now graves of Chalcolithic necropoles in the area of the Kodzhadermen – Gumelnița – Karanovo VI cultural complex is known that during the Late Chalcolithic prevails obsequies of body-laying in a hocked (crouched) position with the head to the left. This tradition probably does not refer to the necropolis of the Rouse tell. We must not forget the fact that in almost all Late Chalcolithic necropoles Northeastern Bulgaria and Southeastern Romania right hockers are also met, but their number is considerably smaller than that of the left hockers.

The skeletons, found at the tell during the 1948-1953 excavations are 86 in number. They fall in layers of the Late Chalcolithic period, at which 11 construction horizons are distinguished by the researchers. Because of the absence of accurate documentation concerning the examination, as well

¹ Only the findings discovered around the skeleton, which are identified on the basis of the available documentation, are shown in the present publication. The largest part of the rest is also kept in the fund of the Rouse Regional Museum of History, but because of similarity with others and the lack of information about their precise finding location their exact identification is impossible. The lack of exact coordinates on the finding location of each of the findings does not allow the method of the feedback – i. e. the localization of some of the findings of the tell in close distance to the human skeletons and the possibility for them to be burial inventory.

as the synchronization of results from the Western and Eastern sectors, the appropriate relation of each of the skeletons at the relevant horizon is impossible.

This is hardly identifiable because:

1. No information is given (with a few exceptions) as to whether the "graves" are dug into an earlier horizon, whether these are human remains belonging to the same horizon, etc.
2. There is no documentation kept with images of all human skeletons found.
3. It is unclear at what altitude is the selected Central benchmark at the time of the excavations, the excavation publications mention depth of the horizons (only for the 1950-1953 research) from the tell's surface, which is always a variation concept.

For the archaeological research, conducted in 1948-1949 in the Eastern sector, 10 "settlements" from the Copper-Stone Age are mentioned, which are at 0.70 m depth from the surface to 4.70 m (Г. Георгиев, Н. Ангелов 1952, p. 123). The thickness of each of the horizons, however, as well as their positioning in depths, is not specified. This is a serious problem facing attempts to distinguish the discovered skeletons by horizons, as well as their chronological affiliation. We can talk about intentional burials at skeletons 22 (hocked to the left, folded arms with palms in front of the facial part of the skull, a small box was found in the region of the chest, with red ocher in it), 25 (hocked to the left, seriously folded, the palms are in front of the face, a bone needle is found next to the skeleton, fig. 1/2), 25/1 (the posture of the skeleton is not mentioned, the bones are painted in red ocher, a fragmented vessel is found next to them with red ocher in it and three oblong beads of a *Spondylus* mussel, fig. 13/6, fig. 13/7), 31 (hocked to the right, the tibia bones are dyed in red, a vessel with red ocher in it is found next to the feet, the skeleton lies underneath a fireplace). The rest of them are probably not burials, but skeletons of people, who have died in different circumstances.

The following facts are the argument for this conclusion:

1. Most of them are found in a group (12-17; three demolished children skeletons are found near skeleton 18; 26-28, skeletons 29, 30, 32, 33 (fig. 1/3), 38-43, underneath skeleton 44 are found the bones of three demolished skeletons);
2. Some of them have holes in the skulls (№ 22, 29, on one of the children's skulls near skeleton 18);
3. A harpoon, made of antler, is found next to skeleton № 35. It is not excluded that this is the weapon by which the man was killed;
4. Skeleton 26 lies over a layer of coals and ash;
5. Traces of tissue are found underneath skeleton 26, which is demolished. Perhaps the man have fallen dead on the floor of a building, covered with a mat. Probably skeletons 59-65 form a group, about which may be assumed that intentional burials were committed.

There is a bit more detailed information about the archaeological excavations, conducted at the site in 1950-1953 in the Western sector. The Copper-Stone Age layer is at a depth of 0.70 m from the surface to 2.45 m, with 11 construction horizons distinguished as follows: I horizon 0 m; II horizon 0 to 0.30 m; III horizon 0.30 to 0.50 m; IV horizon 0.50 to 0.70 m; V horizon - 0.70 to 0.90 m; VI horizon 0.90 to 1.20 m; VII horizon 1.20 to 1.40 m; VIII horizon 1.40 to 1.60 m; IX horizon - 1.60 -1.80 m; X horizon 1.80 to 2.10 m; XI horizon 2.10 to 2.45 m (Г. Георгиев, Н. Ангелов 1957, p. 52).

No human skeletons are found in the first five horizons. The explanation for this is that in Antiquity a large building was located over the tell, whose substruction was to a depth of 1.15 m. The investigators report for many later dug into the Chalcolithic layer belonging to that of the Late Bronze and the Iron Ages. The discredit of the Chalcolithic layer is probably affecting other possible burials or skeletons, which are to a depth of 0.90 m. 13 skeletons are located in the VI horizon. Five of them were destroyed and were found at a depth of 0.90 m, lying on a large amount of pottery. Eight (№ 59-66, fig. 9/1) were found at an equal depth, 1.10 m from the surface, with holes on some of the skulls, probably from a strike (№ 60, a stone was found on the skull), the majority of them are destroyed. The situation precludes the possibility of intentional burials or for such, belonging to an upper layer, probably these are people, who have died on the place where their remains are found. The artifacts discovered near skeleton № 59 - two ceramic vessels, one of which is destroyed, have probably fallen by accident there. Ceramic beads and a adze (fig. 13/3) near skeleton № 63 probably belonged to the killed man when he was alive and have been on/with him at the time of death. The fragmentation of most of the skeletons may be the result of later dug from the layer of Bronze and Iron Ages, which are mentioned in the publication (Г. Георгиев, Н. Ангелов 1957, p. 52).

In VII horizon appeared a skeleton, which is destroyed (№ 67, Fig. 3/4). Skeletons № 67 (fig. 3/4), 68 (fig. 3/2) and 78 (fig. 3/1) according to the investigators were laid in the same pit and

have the same orientation. The most deeply located of them – skeleton № 78 – is at the level of the X horizon (2.10 m). Probably all three of them belong to a horizon higher than the VII and it is the case of consecutive burials. This can not be stated with certainty, since there is no information left for the size of the burial pit. The only thing mentioned is that between the different skeletons there are different in thickness layers of soil.

IX horizon - 6 skeletons (№ 69-74). They were found at a depth of 1.60 to 1.65 m (2 pieces) and at 1.80 - 5 pieces. Only at skeleton № 69 (fig. 10/3) a little box with biconical form was found at the hands (fig. 12/2) as well as a flat bone idol to the front of the skull (fig. 13/2). The orientation of the skeleton is similar to that of studied burials from the Late Chalcolithic Age in the cultural complex area Kodjadermen - Gumelnița - Karanovo VI (Southeast-head – Northwest-legs), it comes to a hocked to the right. We can assume that this is a burial of a higher horizon.

X horizon - 4 skeletons (№ 75-77, 79; fig. 11/3). The pose of skeleton № 77 (fig. 4/1) is the same as found in some burials from the Late Chalcolithic in the area of the Kodjadermen - Gumelnița - Karanovo VI cultural complex. The orientation of the skeleton (Southeast - head, Northwest - legs), the degree of flexion of the lower limbs (the tibia bones are almost adjacent to the thighs), the position of the bones of the arms (they are flexed at an acute angle in the elbows) - the wrists are in front of the facial part of the skull, suggest a deliberately achievement of the pose. The above mentioned facts, as well as the lack of inventory, allow the assumption that it is a funeral. At skeletons № 75 (fig. 2/4), 76 (fig. 2/2; fig. 11/2) and 79 (fig. 11/3) the legs are also strongly flexed with feet very close to the pelvic bones (two hockers to the left and one to the right). It is hard to determine with certainty whether these are burials or people killed on the spot. On the dating of grave № 76 on the basis of mussel washers necklace H. Todorova suggests that it is later one than the others (X. Тодорова 1986, p. 76-77). However, for its stratigraphic position we assume that it correlates with at least the rest of this horizon.

XI horizon - 18 skeletons (№ 80-97). Five of them are found at a depth of 2.25 m, 13 at a depth of 2.45 m. Two skeletons are the evidence for the conduction of intentional burials – skeleton № 81 (fig. 3/3; fig. 11/4) and № 88 (fig. 5/2). They belong to an upper horizon, probably the X. Skeleton № 81 is in a hocker to the right position, the arms are strongly flexed with palms in front of the facial parts of the skull, the legs are also strongly flexed, it is placed in a pit with a close to the oval form, there is a chest in the region of the pelvis which is most probably a burial inventory. The pose of skeleton № 88, as well as the discovered ceramic vessel with fragments of red ocher inside in close distance to the skull, are an indication for the conduction of an intentional burial. On the other side, through shallow incisions on the vessel there is a sign Σ (fig. 12/3). For the rest of the skeletons it can be stated for certain that these are people killed on the spot. Almost all of them are found at a similar depth, some of them are in waste fills (№ 80, fig. 3/6), skeleton № 84 (fig. 4/2) is lying over a destroyed fireplace, around skeleton № 83 (fig. 3/5) are found traces of coals, skeletons № 91-93 (fig. 6/4) are found one next to another, skeleton № 97 (fig. 6/1) is located next to the floor of a fireplace, despite that in the documentation is marked the pit in which the skeleton was found as well.

Conditionally, it can be assumed that for most of the skeletons found in 1948 - 1953, it is the case of human remains from the Late Chalcolithic, the victims of an enemy attack or a disaster over the settlement. Very few of them have been buried intentionally.

By the excavations, conducted in 1986 - 1990 data from the field documentation has been left for 6 human skeletons (№ 98-103). None of them is preserved in total (№ 98, 102, 103), 3 of them are almost entirely destroyed (№ 99-100, 101). Data about burial facilities is present in 3 of the cases (№ 98, 102, 103). Skeleton № 98 (fig. 7/1) falls into the XIII horizon, placed in a pit, the lower part of which falls within the borders of habitation № 10. It is probably a burial from a higher horizon. Skeleton № 102 (fig. 7/2) falls into the XV horizon within the borders of a building. It is also placed in a pit, the lower part of which reaches the level of a building. It is possible here to have been conducted intentional burial from an upper horizon as well, though the reconstruction of the position of the body in the burial pit is hardly attainable (the skeleton is lying on back, destroyed from the waist downwards and cannot be defined for certain whether it is a version of a hocker or stretched on its back). Skeleton № 103 (fig. 8) is destroyed during the excavations and falls into the XII horizon. It is interesting that around the bones are found 5 crumbled stones, surrounding the skeletons. Unfortunately from the field documentation of this situation it cannot be stated for certain whether these stones were inside the burial pit or appear to be a tomb sign (kerb stone), but probably it is also the case of conducted intentional burials from an upper horizon. For the rest three skeletons it can

only be assumed that these are people killed on the spot, the arguments for this conclusion is that the skeletons are destroyed and that over skeleton № 99 (fig. 7/3) are found the destructions of a fireplace.

By the presentation made so far is visible that inventory is found at 19 skeletons. 10 of them are consisting of a single object, 9 of them are with more than one. Not all of the skeletons are the result of intentional burials.

◆ Orientation and position of the skeletons

The orientation of the skeletons found at the Rousse tell is examined by the position of the head in relation to one of the directions of the world (tab. 1). The lack of data on the orientation of some of the skeletons that are not fully preserved or are not well documented is a problem at justifying them to any of the world's directions. This is why they enter in the "undetermined" category. It is apparent from table that the skeletons are oriented with head towards all possible directions.

Position of the skeletons	Orientation toward heads									Generally
	E	W	N	S	NE	NW	SE	SW	Without data	
Left hocked	3		1	2	4	3	5	2	1	21
Right hocked	1	2		7	3	3	14	7	1	38
Right hocked on its back	1			1				2		4
Left hocked on its back						1		1		2
Hocked on the chest by right	1							1		2
Undetermined hocked						1				1
Stretched on its back				1		1	1	2	1	6
Stretched on its chest							1			1
Stretched on its right side									1	1
Undetermined	2	1		1	1	2			21	28
Generally	8	3	1	12	8	11	21	15	25	104

Tab. 1. The orientation and the position of the discovered skeletons.
Orientarea și poziția scheletelor descoperite.

Predominant are those to the Southeast 21 pieces (20%), followed by the skeletons with heads to the Southwest – 15 pieces (14%), to the South – 12 pieces (12%), Southwest - 11 pieces (11%), East and Northeast are equal – 8 pieces each (with 8% each), West 3 pieces (3%), the least in count are those with head to the North – 1 piece (1%), the undetermined are 25 pieces (23%) (fig. 1).

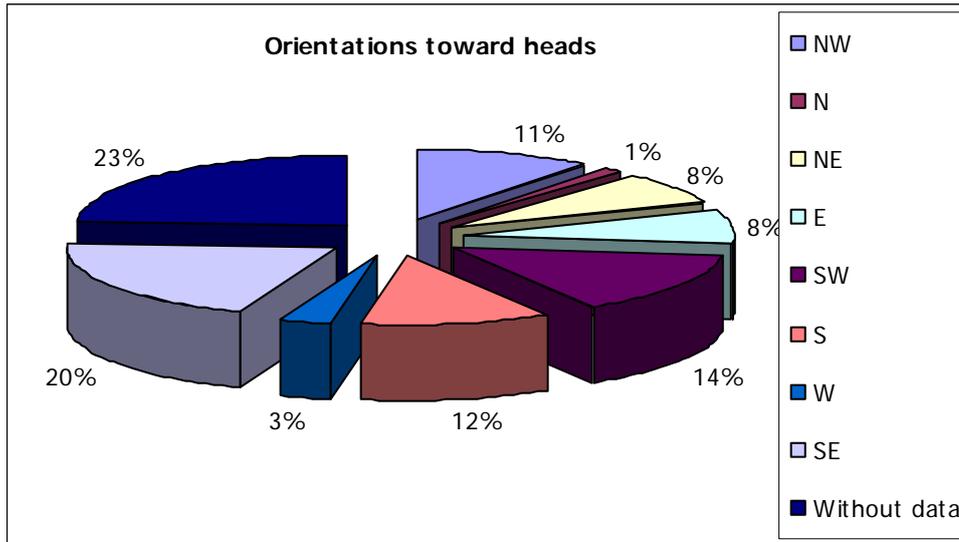


Fig. 1. Diagram showing the orientations of the discovered skeletons.
Diagramă ce ilustrează orientarea scheletelor descoperite.

The positions, in which the skeletons are found, are 9 in total (fig. 2). In predominant are the hockers to the right – 38 pieces (36%), followed by the hockers to the left – 21 pieces (20%), the rest positions are with insignificant quantity, those which cannot be determined because of a bad degree of preservation, the lack of information in the documentation or other reasons are 28 (27%).

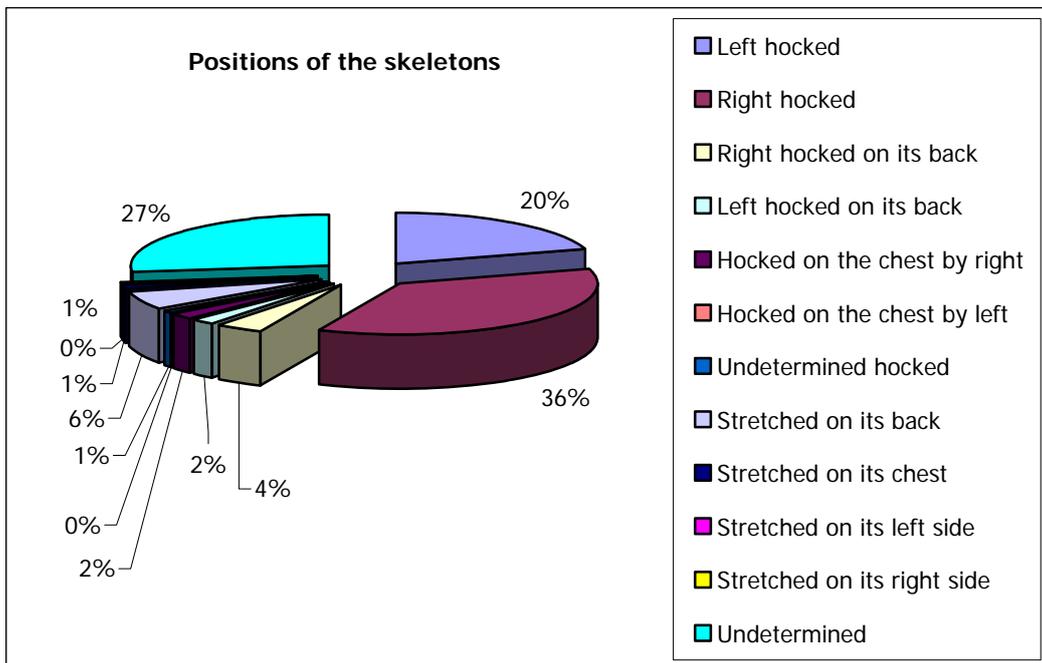


Fig. 2. Diagram showing the positions of the discovered skeletons.
Diagramă ce ilustrează poziția scheletelor descoperite.

Through the presented statistic data can clearly be seen that the predominant part of the combination position-orientation of the skeletons is hocked to the right with orientation towards Southeast of the head (14 pieces), Southwest (7 pieces), South (7 pieces), etc. This position of the skeletons is observed in all other possible directions except for the North. Second are the left hockers, which are observed in almost all possible directions except for to the West. The predominant (though minimal) are those with heads towards Southeast (5 pieces), followed by those towards Northeast (4 pieces), etc.

◆ Location

Unfortunately, there is no data available on the documented location of all human skeletons found in the Rousse tell. Documentation about them exists from the 1948 – 1953 research period (although incomplete) and 1986 – 1990. Based on the available information general plans are drawn of the exact location of some of the skeletons found during the research of Georgiev and Angelov, as well as during the excavations conducted by K. Kanchev and V. Popov (fig. 14-16). Of course we note that all of the skeletons shown in the general plans are not chronologically simultaneous.

In the Eastern sector (fig. 14) there is data for the localization of 23 skeletons out of a total of 42. Five skeletons (№ 49-53) are located in the Southwest periphery, 3 of which are situated one next to another. We have preserved field documentation about 2 skeletons (№ 22, 23) in the Southeast periphery. What is interesting about them is that they are located just next to the fortification wall: № 22 is located on its inner side, and № 23 on the outside. The biggest part of the skeletons is grouped in the northern and northeastern periphery. Skeletons № 25-28, 35 and 48 are located in close distance to one another. The situation is the same with skeletons № 36, 37, 44, and for № 29-32. It is made an impression that the northern and northeast part of the tell is the richest in human skeletons, as such are missing in the central part.

The main group of skeletons in the northeastern and northern part of the Eastern sector are at a depth of 2.90 m to 3.70 m. In the documentation there is no evidence of the presence of buildings or facilities in that unlike the central part of the tell. This implies to assume that the skeletons fall into an out-of-settlement space.

There is data for the localization of 27 out of a total of 44 human skeletons in the Western sector (fig. 15). Unlike the Eastern sector of the tell, here they are “more scattered” and cover a relatively larger area. On the inner side of the fortification wall are located 5 skeletons and one next to another are № 80, 85 and № 86, 82 and 90, № 83 is located outside the fortification. There is a concentration of human skeletons in the Southwestern periphery of the sector – squares 8 r and 9 в. In square 9 в they are 7 pieces (№ 59-65). Almost all of them are destroyed. By the available data in the documentation on the location of separate bones or a group of them we can assume that all of them have a similar orientation (with heads towards West/Southwest), 5 right and 2 left hockers. They are found at a depth of 1.10 m. There is no building or structure at this place. Another group of skeletons (4 pieces) are № 91-93, 95 in square 8 r. They are found at a depth of 2.45 m. They fall within the borders of a building (Г. Георгиев, Н. Ангелов 1957, p. 52, Обр. 15). There are at least 3 skeletons in the central part of the tell - № 76, 81 and 88 which are located at about 5 m from one another. As “single” skeletons can be defined № 74, 79, 97 (Southwestern periphery of the sector), № 69, 94, 96 (Northwestern periphery of the sector), skeleton № 89 (Northeastern periphery of the sector).

The exact location of the found skeletons in the tell during 1987-1988 is reconstructable thanks to the preserved documentation (fig. 16). In the Eastern sector, Northwestern periphery, there are 2 skeletons № 98 and 103, as well as bones from one more № 100, in the Western sector, Northeastern periphery – 2 skeletons № 99 and 102, as well as bones of skeleton № 101. Skeletons № 98 and 103 are located in two neighboring archaeological squares, while № 99 and 102 are located at a distance of 15 m from one another.

◆ Archaeological parallels

It is known that separate human bones are found in almost all investigated sites. Except for the Rouse tell, however, entire human skeletons from the Chalcolithic within the borders of a settlement are found in 5 more tells: in North Bulgaria – Hotnitsa, Kubrat and Kosharna, South Bulgaria – Stara Zagora County Hospital and Yunatsite, as well as a discovered settlement at Telish-Luga.

Hotnitsa. In 1956 an earthwork is done on the tell for the extraction of earth for the irrigation canals. Later on Nikola Angelov conducted rescue excavations, and as a result finds 2 fired dwellings. In the South half of habitation № 2 were found 5 seriously fired human skeletons with broken and deformed by the fire bones - 3 of adult individuals and 2 of children. At the head of one of the skeletons near the bones of the arms was found a copper axe-hammer (H. Ангелов 1958, p. 390, fig. 2; p. 392). Probably the situation is related to the last horizon of development of the settlement of the Late Chalcolithic Age. Following the conducted later on excavations at the tell other human skeletons were found, which are unpublished².

Kubrat (Balbunar). As a result of the excavations conducted by Vasil Mikov at the tell in 1924 in the drills at the Western half a total of 25 human skeletons are found at a depth from 2.70 m to 3.10 m. The position of the skeletons is hocker. Two groups can clearly be distinguished. The first one consists of 13 skeletons (12 left hockers and one right and 2 separate skulls, which have an orientation towards East - West. All of them are located with 0.15-0.20 m deeper than the second group of 10 skeletons (7 left hockers, 2 right and one undetermined), which have an orientation towards South – North and are located very close to one another. Only in 9 of the cases inventory is found. In close distance to the discovered human remains are found destructions of buildings (B. Миков 1926/27, p. 277-282). With a view on a similar burial ritual (a similar orientation, a way of body lying, the presence of inventory) some authors assume that these are regular burials conducted (Я. Бояджиев 2001, p. 21). Others express the hypothesis that in a certain period of the development of the settlement the inhabited area was not covering the whole of the tell and thus the free space was used as a necropolis (X. Тодорова 1986, p. 72).

Kosharna. The tell is being researched since 2007 by Dimitar Chernakov. A total of 4 drillings were made in the central part of the tell, were to this moment are distinguished and researched 4 construction horizons. They are related to the Late Chalcolithic and the Kodjadermen – Gumelnița – Karanovo VI cultural complex. Parts of two buildings were investigated in the third horizon, which were destroyed by fire. At a depth of 4.22 m was found the skeleton of a child, located underneath building № 2. A burial pit is not distinguished. Its position is hocker to the right, head to the Southwest. The bones of the one arm (cubitus and radius) are behind the skull. The thigh of the left leg (preserved) and the tibiae are almost at a right angle. Next to the skull, which is flattened, the chest to the left of the skeleton – an animal shoulder-blade. On the back of the of the skull – a mussel shell. Behind the spinal column – animal bones. Length of the skeleton – 0.44 m. Around it – small coals³.

Telish – Laga. The prehistoric settlement is located 1 km to the North of the village of Telish, Cherven briag Municipality, Pleven District. It is investigated by V. Gergov. Three construction horizons from the Late Chalcolithic are represented in it, related to the Krivodol-Salcuța-Bubani cultural complex, as well as a so-called “transitional” period between the Copper-Stone and Early Bronze Age. Within the borders of the settlement in the second horizon, just next to the buildings or dug into them are found a total of 8 graves, one of which is a double, belonging to adult individuals and children, all of the male, in a hocked position with an orientation towards East – West. Probably after the abandonment of the second in turn settlement by its inhabitants, its Southern part was turned into a necropolis (B. Геров 2007, p. 33; V. Gergov, K. Randsborg 2005, p. 7-8). By information of the researcher, the graves are related to the so-called transitional period⁴.

Stara Zagora – County Hospital. During the research by M. Dimitrov in 1984 three skeletons were found in the layer of culture Maritsa V – of an adult, of a juvenile and of a child (M. Димитров 1985, p. 25). There is no information about the exact location of the skeletons, as well as explanation of the researcher why are they within the borders of the settlement.

² I'd like to thank to my colleague Stefan Chohadjiev, for the information granted.

³ The third horizon was excavated in 2009, and the results from the excavations are not published yet.

⁴ I'd like to thank to my colleague Ventsislav Gergov, for the information granted.

Yunatsite. Vasil Mikov made the first drilling research of the tell in 1939. In 1976 regular archaeological excavations began, directed by the Archaeological institute with museum – BAS and the Pazardjik Museum of History. From 1981 the team included the Archaeological institute at the Russian Academy of Sciences – Moscow, and since 2002 a Bulgarian-Greek scientific expedition works on the site, lead by Yavor Boiadjiev and Ioanis Aslanis. The layer from the Bronze Age is entirely investigated in the Eastern half of the tell. The layer of the Late Chalcolithic is being reached, and its investigation continues. A total of 108 human skeletons are found within the borders of the settlement so far, from the Copper-Stone and Bronze Ages. Among fired buildings from the I construction horizon of the layer of the Late Chalcolithic a total of 32 human skeletons are found, belonging to men, women and children to an age of 10-12 (B. Мацанова 2000, p. 121; Я. Бояджиев и кол. 2007, p. 24, Обр. 1, 25; Я. Бояджиев и кол. 2008, p. 90, Обр. 2, 91). Two major groups are distinguished. In the first one are those, about which there is no data for a conducted ritual and have probably become the victims of violence (19 pieces). They are in the pose, at which death has reached them. A large portion of them carry signs of a violent death (B. Мацанова 2000, p. 122-123). 13 human skeletons are falling into the second group with a partial burial ritual conducted. They are found in the space between the buildings or the periphery of the tell (Я. Бояджиев и кол. 2007, p. 25). The position of the skeletons is hocker to the right (8 pieces), hocker to the left (4 pieces) and stretched on its back (1 piece). Their orientation (head - legs) varies from E-W to N-S. Over three of the skeletons fragments of thick-wall vessels are found (B. Мацанова 2000, p. 123), a small cup is found at the head of one of the skeletons (Я. Бояджиев и кол. 2008, p. 90, Обр. 2, 91), the rest of them are found without any inventory. According to V. Matsanova the discovered burials at the Yunatsite tell are not part of an intramural necropolis. According to her, these are the results of extraordinary circumstances, which are the reason the deceased to not have been buried in an extramural necropolis, but to be inhumated inside the settlement (B. Мацанова 2000, p. 123).

At some of the researched Chalcolithic sites in Romania have also been found human skeletons within the borders of the settlement:

Năvodari. A settlement, located on a small island at the lake of Taşaul. Archaeological excavations are being conducted since 1999 by a team, formed by Silvia Marinescu-Bilcu, Valentina Voinea and Ştefan Dumitrescu. Three horizons from the Chalcolithic have been distinguished. The first of them is related to the Hamangia III culture, the second – Gumelniţa A1 culture, the third – Gumelniţa A2. Within the borders of the settlement, in the Third horizon, is discovered a double burial with orientation towards Northeast (heads) – Southwest (legs). The burial pit is oval in shape, violating the floor level of a building. Skeleton 1 is in a hocked position to the left, a stone pad is found underneath it. Fragments of 3 vessels are found near by, a flint lamella and a small axe. The skeleton belongs to a man around 60 years old (S. Marinescu-Bilcu *et alii* 2000-2001, p. 125). Skeleton 2 is located underneath the stone pad. The deceased is in a hocked position on its back with legs flexed to the right. The left arm is almost stretched beside the body, the right one is destroyed, and the legs are flexed at an acute angle in the knees. Burial inventory – fragments of ceramic vessels, flint lamellae and a flint axe, a fragmented vertebra for a spindle, made of schist (S. Marinescu-Bilcu *et alii* 2003, p. 211). Most probably the burial at Năvodari is not the only one, since a lot of other separate human bones are found in the settlement not in an anatomical order, probably the result of destroyed burials (D. Moise 2000-2001, p. 155-164).

Hirşova. The tell is among the biggest in size in Southeastern Europe (200/150 m, height of 12 m). The site is researched since the second half of the past century. The Chalcolithic layer begins from the period Boian-Vidra, continues through Boian-Spanţov, Gumelniţa A1 and A2 (P. Haşotti 1997, p. 79). In the layer, related to the Gumelniţa A2 culture, underneath the floor of 2 different buildings 2 children skeletons are found (C. Lazăr 2001). One of them belongs to a child at a 5-6 years age. It is laid in a vessel with organic matter. The pose of the skeleton is strongly flexed at the left side, the reason for this is that the corpse was probably tied up, orientation towards Northwest (head) – Southeast (legs). Probably the death of the child was violent (D. Popovici, Y. Rialland 1996, p. 56, fig. 69).

Căscioarele – Ostrovel. The tell is surrounded by the Cătălui Lake (Călăraşi County). Its sizes are 57/103 m, height of 5 m. The archaeological excavations on the site have begun in 1924 under the direction of Ghe. Ştefan, renewed in 1962-1968 by a team, established by VI. Dumitrescu, H. Dumitrescu, S. Marinescu-Bilcu, E. Tudor and B. Ionescu. The Chalcolithic layer is represented by the Boian-Giuleşti, Gumelnita A2 and B1 and Cernavoda I cultures. In the layer, belonging to phase A2 of the Gumelniţa culture, 11 children skeletons were found in small pits, buried under constructions.

The position of the buried is hocked to the left, usually oriented towards Northeast – Southwest, no inventory found near them (Vi. Dumitrescu *et alii* 1983, p. 74).

Bordușani – Popină. The tell is located 2.5 km to the Northeast of the lake Ialomița and near the Danube river. The site is being researched since 1980 by S. Marinescu-Bilcu. Separate ceramic fragments of vessels are found, related to the Boian culture, the Gumelnița culture is represented by 5 construction horizons. Within the borders of the settlement in the layer of the Late Chalcolithic 4 skeletons are found, belonging to children (S. Marinescu-Bilcu *et alii* 1997, p. 93-95; C. Lazăr 2001 fig. 14), and one of a young man (S. Marinescu-Bilcu 2000, p. 116).

Bucșani – La Pod. The tell has the sizes 64/55 m, height of 2.86 m, located on the river bank of Neajlov, 300 m to the South of the village of Bucșani. The archaeological excavations on the site are being conducted since 1998 by S. Marinescu-Bilcu, C. Bem and others. The Chalcolithic layer is represented by 3 construction horizons, belonging to different phases of the Gumelnița culture. In the first of them a skeleton is found underneath the floor of a building, belonging to a child around 4 years old, a grave pit is not registered (S. Marinescu-Bilcu *et alii* 1998, p. 111).

Vidra. The tell is located in the County of Giurgiu. It was investigated in the previous century by Dinu V. Rosetti. The Chalcolithic layer is represented by the Boian and Gumelnița cultures. Three graves were found within the borders of the settlement, belonging to the Gumelnița culture – 2 of children and one of an adult, their position is hocked to the right. The skeleton of the adult has an orientation of Northwest (head) – Southeast (legs), the palm of the right hand is located under the knee of the right leg. The inventory consists of two flint axes (E. Comșa 1960, p. 12).

Chitila – Fermă. The tell is located near Bucharest, it is researched during the 80's of the past century by V. Boroneanț. In the layer, belonging to the Gumelnița culture, are found 5 graves in total: grave 1 – the skeleton is destroyed, it belongs to an adult individual, orientation North – South; grave 2 – destroyed, orientation Northeast – Southwest, it belongs to an adult individual, a copper spiral lace is found near by; grave 3 – destroyed, the mandible of a pig is found near by; grave 4 – a double funeral. One of the skeletons has an orientation towards North – South, the other one South – North. Both of them are in a crouched position. The double grave is violated by a child's grave, orientation of the skeleton West – East; grave 5 – found in the periphery of the tell, the skeleton is laid in a pit with a rectangular shape, the deceased is laid on its back, oriented towards Southwest – Northeast, inventory – a copper artifact and a ceramic anthropomorphous figure (V. Boroneanț 1987, p. 128).

Luncavița. The tell is located on the territory of Northern Dobrogea, at 4 km from the village of Luncavița, Tulcea County. The site is explored from 1998 onwards. At the layer, belonging to the Gumelnita A2 culture, underneath the floor of a burned building, a fragmented human skeleton is found (the bones of the lower limbs and parts of the pelvis) (E. Comșa 1960, p. 6).

Gumelnița. At the Gumelnița culture layer of the tell a human skeleton is found among the destructions of a building. Probably the deceased has died during the collapse of the building and has stayed at the place, where he met death (Vi. Dumitrescu 1925, p. 38).

The situation with the discovered graves at the Rouse tell is not an isolated case. In view of these archaeological parallels in other sites can be stated that those in the Yunatsite tell are closest to these in the Rouse tell. This is so at least in terms of the large number of skeletons found in Chalcolithic layers of each of the two sites. However the Yunatsite tell is not excavated entirely unlike that the Rouse tell, so the number of skeletons from the Chalcolithic layer may be substantially higher. Probably in both sites it comes to people killed on the spot and for conducted intentional burial as well, some of which have traces of partial burial ritual. For people killed on the spot it comes to the situations identified in the tells at Hotnitsa and Gumelnița, something that can be said for most of the human remains in the Rouse tell. In view of the human skeletons found underneath the floors of buildings in some of the above sites (*Luncavița*, *Bucșani – La Pod*, *Căscioarele* and *Kosharna*) can be stated that correspond to a small fraction of those in Rouse, for which there is data that are found underneath furnaces or destructions of buildings, if we assume that they are directly related to the buildings. At Rouse, however, we do not have data for children buried under floors of buildings or burials in a vessel, as we have such data from the Hîrșova tell. The situation at the tells in Kubrat and Telish-Laga is similar to that of Rouse assuming the hypothesis that for some time vacant spots on the settlements were used as necropoles (the Northern and Northeastern peripheries of the Eastern sector of the Rouse tell from a depth of 2.90 m to 3.70 m).

The double grave at Năvodari and the stone pad between the two skeletons has an analogue with skeleton № 103 from Rouse, around a few stone blocks are found.

◆ Conclusions

Based on the presented data, the following conclusions on the human skeletons, found at the Rouse tell, can be extracted:

1. In the Chalcolithic layers of the Rouse tell the largest number of skeletons studied by all such situations was found (104 preserved) in comparison to other objects. This is due to the fact that the tell was excavated completely unlike the other sites with "intramural burials" found.

2. Part of the human skeletons in the Rouse tell are the result of deliberate "burials". Another part of them are due to extraordinary circumstances which caused the death of people in the settlement.

3. The discovered human skeletons do not belong to the last construction horizon and are not the result of the final enemy invasion, which led to the conquest and the devastation of the settlement. The following facts are arguments to be thought in this direction: 1. they are found at different depth within different construction horizons; 2. intact skeletons are not registered in the uppermost horizons, perhaps because it was destroyed by later interventions during the Iron and Roman eras. If there was a so-called final devastation of the settlement and people, who were killed during its defense, their remains should have been found in the last construction horizons, and we have no archaeological evidence for that. The thesis of the three consecutive enemy invasions, which have led to the capture and burning down of the settlement, based on the grouping of skeletons in three basic levels, is also considered unsatisfactory. Assuming there's a reliable distinction of construction horizons by the researchers, it is from the 6th down to 13th and 15th that preserved human skeletons were found. Assuming the fact that the found skeletons are an indicator for enemy attacks, the number of invasions exceeds 9.

4. There is a possibility that some of the burned houses and the discovered skeletons among their destructions are not the result of violent burning due to enemy attack or natural disaster.

5. Some of the found skeletons, grouped in several sectors, might be part of the extramural necropolis, which belongs to the second tell. It is not excluded that for a certain period of time the area of the large tell was uninhabited and might have been used for a necropolis. Another argument for this conclusion is that it is located in the southwest direction from the small tell (the destination, in which a large part of the necropolis from the Gumelnița culture are located).

6. With a view to the lack of relation and common trends between them, specified above, the found skeletons, which we assume are the result of deliberate burials, do not set up the so-called "intramural necropolis". Furthermore – it is possible for certain groups of them to have a duplicate situation to that of the Kubrat tell and the differentiation of an extramural necropolis within the territory of the tell itself, due to an available, free of constructions area (we have in mind the discovered groups of skeletons, found in the northeastern and northern part of the Eastern sector at the depth of 2.90 to 3.70 m)

7. In order to distinguish some of the human skeletons (a relatively small proportion of the total) as a result of deliberate burials conducted at the Rouse tell as well as similar in Chalcolithic layers of other sites cited above, we can speak of the existence of intramural tradition in the Copper-Stone Age. It is the retardation of a Neolithic practice, though much less popular, it exists in parallel with the practice of burial body-laying in necropolis outside the settlement during the Late Chalcolithic Age as well. Here we should note that the reasons for its exercise must be sought in unusual circumstances, which have led to the foundation of alternative solutions at the burial of a small part of the dead.

◆ Catalogue of the discovered human skeletons

Skeleton № 1 (1904). Found at a depth of 3 m from the highest point of the tell during excavation activities. The orientation of the skeleton in relation to head-legs was Southeast-Northwest. The skull was rotten. The preserved have the following sizes: humerus 33 cm, radius 25.5 cm and clavicalae 15.5 cm. The phalanxes of the left arm were found next to the cervical vertebrae. There is no information for the pose of the buried man, as well as for its precise location.

Skeleton № 2 (1904). Found in the Eastern periphery of the Small tell at a depth of 3 m from the surface. The orientation of the skeleton in relation to head-legs is South-North with face towards the East. The arms were stretched in parallel to the body. The skull is in poor condition. There is no information about the pose of the skeleton. According to B. Helich the skull belongs to the doliocephal type.

Skeleton № 3 (1921/1922). Found at a depth of 3.50 m from the surface in a pit, dug into the loess. The buried is a grown-up individual. The pose of the skeleton is a hocker to the right, head towards Southwest with face to the South. The skull is in poor condition, it belongs to the doliocephal type. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 4 (1921/1922). Found at 1 m to the West of skeleton № 3 at the same depth in a pit, dug into the loess. The buried is a grown-up individual. The pose of the dead is a hocker to the right with head towards Southwest. The skull is well preserved, the femural bone of the left leg is almost attached to the tibiae. The arms are in front of the body flexed upwards. Two flint plates and a copper awl with a bone handle were found next to the head.

Skeleton № 5 (1921/1922). It belongs to a child, found just next to the previous one at the same depth in a pit, dug into the loess, the skull was touching the skull of the previous skeleton. The pose of the buried is a hocker to the right with head towards Southwest, the face was turned upwards and to the West. The skull was destroyed. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 6 (1921/1922). It is located to the Northeast of skeleton № 3 in a pit, dug into the loess at a depth of 3.60 m. It belongs to a grown-up individual. The pose of the dead is a hocker to the right with head towards South, face to the East. The skull is destroyed. The arms are in front of the body flexed at an acute angle, the palms are in front of the face. The bones of the legs, which are folded, are found in the profile of the tell. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 7 (1921/1922). Found at the same depth. It belongs to a grown-up individual. The pose of the dead is a hocker to the right, head towards West. The legs are strongly flexed, the arms are flexed – the left one is under the skull, and the right – in front of the face. The skull is preserved. Two ceramic vessels are found in front of the skeleton next to the palms. 1 - A biconical vessels, a profiled outwards edge at its most bulging part, height 8.5 cm, diameter of the mouth 9 cm. A graphite ornamentation in the part below the mouth. Fibers of textile material yellow in color are found at the bottom of the vessel. 2 - Cover of a vessel, ornamentation of the upper part of black, red and white paint, diameter of 25 cm. The cover is turned upside down and a copper needle and some little beads were found in it.

Skeleton № 8 (1921/1922). Part of the bones are missing. The skull is fragmented, the face is turned upwards and to the South. Probably this is again the case of a hocker to the right with head towards Southeast. The femural bones are found at 0.50 m aside, oriented on the axis North-South. Bones between the legs and the head are not found. No burial inventory found.

Skeleton № 9 (1921/1922). The upper part to the 21 thoracic vertebra was preserved. The orientation of the dead is with the head towards Northwest. The skull was placed with face upwards. The arms are stretched aside the body. The cubit bone and the wrist are missing from the right arm and the wrist of the left. The radius of the left arm is located at a smaller depth in comparison to the thorax. 2 flint lamellae are found in the mud around the skeleton, as well as fragments from ceramic vessels, for which it is unclear whether they are related to the deceased or have fallen on the site by accident.

Skeleton № 10 (1948/1949). Located in the Southwest corner of the Eastern sector. The skeleton is destroyed, only the skull is preserved. Found at a depth of 1.40 m. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 11 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. The orientation is South – head, North – legs, hocked to the left. The arms are flexed and placed in front of the face. No inventory found.

A group burial, consisting of 6 skeletons in total – 2 of adultus and 4 of infans. They are located in the Southwest half of the Eastern sector at a depth of 1.50 m.

Skeleton № 12 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. Hocked to the left, orientation Southeast-Northwest. The upper and lower limbs are strongly flexed. The left arm is placed next to the mandible, the wrist of the right arm lies on the clavicle. No inventory found.

At a distance of 0.20 m to the west of this skeleton 3 skeletons of children were found. Two of them are placed one against another.

Skeleton № 13 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. It is located to the right of the skeleton of the adult individual, it lies over its left side. Orientation head – legs Southeast – Northwest. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 14 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. It lies over its right side, a bad degree of preservation. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 15 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. It is located next to skeleton № 13. It lies over its left side. Orientation of the skeleton head to the South, feet to the North. The skeleton is destroyed. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 16 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is placed over its right side with face to the West. Orientation of the skeleton head to the South, legs to the North. The legs are stretched and are located underneath the head of skeleton № 15. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 17 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. The skull is located next to the abdominal part of skeleton № 16 and it is destroyed, the legs are next to the head of the adult individual. It is oriented at Southwest-Northeast. It lies over its left side with face to the West. The skull is lower than the head of the other skeleton. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 18 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located in the Western half of the sector. Depth of 2.00 m. The orientation of Northwest (head) – Southeast (legs). A hocker to the right position, the arms are flexed with palms in front of the face, and the left in front of the chest area. A bone lamella is found next to the skeleton.

In close distance to skeleton № 18 3 destroyed children's skeletons were found. Over one of the skulls a trepanation was done. A copper needle was found next to it. The researchers have not left information about the pose and orientation of the dead.

Skeleton № 22 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located in the south part of the Eastern sector. Found at a depth of 2.50 m. The pose is a hocker to the left, orientation Northeast (head) – Southwest (legs). The skull is fragmented by the weight of earth, traces of fibers are noticed over it. The arms are flexed and placed with palms in front of the facial part of the skull. A clay box is found in the region of the chest with red ocher in it.

Skeleton № 23 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located next to the previous at a depth of 2.50 m. It is turned over its left side. The pose of the dead is not mentioned by the researchers, but it is probably a hocker position. Its orientation is North (head) – South (legs). The skeleton is poorly preserved. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 24 (1948/1949), fig. 1/1). It belongs to a grown-up individual. Found at a depth of 2.90 m, in the southeast end of the Eastern sector of the tell. The pose is hocker to the right lying on back and with face towards East, orientation of the skeleton East (head) – West (legs). The right arm is flexed at an acute angle with palm in front of the face. The left arm is also flexed at an acute angle, but with a palm next to the right shoulder. The legs are flexed at an acute angle and folded in the knees. The skeleton is well preserved, next to the right femoral bone a bone chisel was found (fig. 13/4).

Skeleton № 25 (1948/1949), (fig. 1/2). It belongs to a grown-up individual. Found at a depth of 2.90 m in the Southeast end of the eastern sector of the tell. The pose is hocker to the left, the skull is turned with face towards South. The arm are flexed with palms in front of the face, the legs are strongly flexed at the knee and pelvic bones. This position is probably artificially established (the dead was tied up or muffled). It's oriented at Northeast (head) – South (legs). A bone needle with a wide upper end and hole is found next to the skeleton.

Skeleton № 25/1 (1948/1949). Demolished. Orientation and position – unknown. Found at a depth of 2.90 m in the southeast end of the Eastern sector of the tell. The bones are colored in red. A fragmented vessel is found next to them, with red ocher and three oblong beads from a Spondylus clam (fig. 13/6, 13/7).

The next three skeletons are found one next to another.

Skeleton № 26 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is found in the Eastern half of the Eastern sector at a depth of 3.10 m. Relatively well preserved, the facial part of the skull is damaged. Hocked to the right with face towards Northeast. The orientation of the skeleton is with directions Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs). The arms are flexed at an acute angle at the elbow bones with palms placed in front of the facial part of the skull. The lower limbs are flexed at an obtuse angle at the pelvic bones and at an acute in relation to the knee ones. The sedimentation below the bones of the lower limbs is mixed with coals and ashes. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 27 (1948/1949), (fig. 10/2). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located at 0.50 m to the Northwest from the previous one. Found at a depth of 3.10 m. Hocked to the left, oriented at Northwest (head) – Southeast (legs), with face turned towards Northeast. The arms are strongly flexed at an acute angle with palms in front of the facial part of the skull, the lower limbs are flexed at an acute angle at the pelvic and knee bones. The skeleton is relatively well preserved with the exception of the skull, which is partially damaged. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 28 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located at 0.70 m Southwest from the previous. Found at a depth of 3.10 m. Hocked to the right, strongly flexed, orientation of the skeleton Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs), with face turned at Northeast. The bones of the upper limbs are not preserved, the bones of the legs are strongly flexed, and the feet are located 0.20 m below the sciatic parts. The skeleton is relatively well preserved, the jaws of the skull are damaged. No inventory found.

The next 5 skeletons are found one next to another. The group of skeletons is located 2 m to the North from the previous.

Skeleton № 29 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. The skeleton is somewhat damaged. It is found in the Eastern half of the Eastern sector. It is found at a depth of 3.10 m. Hocked to the left, strongly flexed, with face towards Northwest. The orientation of the skeleton is Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs). The arms are flexed at an acute angle with palms in front of the facial part of the skull. The legs are flexed at an acute angle at the knee and pelvic bones, the feet are located at 0.35 m below the sciatic parts. There are several holes on the skull, made with a sharp object. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 30 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located 1.80 m to the west of the previous. It is found at a depth of 3.10 m. Hocked to the right, the facial part of the skull is oriented towards the Northeast, orientation of the skeleton Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs). The arms are strongly flexed with palms in front of the face, the lower limbs are flexed at an acute angle at the pelvic and knee bones with feet next to the sciatic parts. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 31 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. Located 1.70 m to the Northeast from the previous. Found at a depth of 3.10 m. Hocked to the right, flexed on the average, orientation of the skeleton Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs). The arms are strongly flexed with palms in front of the facial part of the skull, the legs are less flexed, forming an acute angle at the knee bones and an obtuse at the pelvic. The feet are at a distance of 0.40 m from the pelvis. A ceramic vessel is found next to the legs with red ocher in it. The bones of the legs from the knees downwards colored in red. A fireplace is found above the skeleton.

Skeleton № 32 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. It is located 0.50 m to the South from the previous and 0.50 m to the North from skeleton № 29. Found at a depth of 3.10 m. The skeleton is in poor condition. The lower limbs are preserved, which are flexed at the knee bones at an acute angle. It is probably the case of a hocker to the left. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 33 (1948/1949), (fig. 1/3). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located 1.40 m to the East of skeleton № 29. Found at a depth of 3.10 m. Hocked to the right, oriented at Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs), the facial part of the skull is oriented towards Southeast and is in poor condition. The right arm is flexed at an acute angle with palm under the skull. The left one is flexed at an acute angle with a palm in front of the chest, the shoulder bone is parallel to the spinal column. The lower limbs are flexed at an acute angle at the knee and pelvic bones. The feet are located 0.30 away from the pelvis. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 34 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located in the Eastern periphery of the tell, found at a depth of 3.30 m. Hocker to the right, oriented at South (head) – North (legs). The hands are flexed with palms in front of the face. The legs are strongly flexed at the pelvic and knee bones at an acute angle, the bones of the feet are almost touching the pelvis. The skull is missing. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 35 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located 7 m to the South from the previous in close distance to the fortification wall, found at a depth of 3.30 m. Hocked to the right, oriented at Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs), the facial part of the skull is directed to Southeast. The arms are flexed in front of the facial part of the skull. The fingers of the right hand are under the head. The skull is damaged. The legs are strongly flexed at the pelvic and knee bones at an acute angle, the bones of the feet are almost touching the pelvis. A fragment of a harpoon, made of antler.

Skeleton № 36 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located in the Northeast part of the tell, in its periphery. It was found at a depth of 3.50 m. Hocked to the right, oriented at Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs), the facial part of the skull is oriented at Northeast. The arms are flexed, the palm of the right one is below the skull and the palm of the left one – next to the chest. The lower limbs are flexed at the knee and pelvic bones at an acute angle, the distance between the bones of the feet and the pelvis is 0.35 m. The skull is damaged. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 37 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located in the Northeast part of the tell, in its periphery. It was found at a depth of 3.50 m. The skeleton stands at 0.20 m Northeast from the previous one and is parallel to it. Hocked to the right, oriented at Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs), the facial part of the skull is oriented at Northeast. Some of the bones of the lower limbs are missing. The legs are flexed at the knee and pelvic bones at an acute angle, the distance between the feet and the pelvis is 0.25 m. There are traces of fibers on the skull. No inventory found.

Six human skeletons are found in the Western half of the Eastern periphery of the tell at a depth of 3.30-3.50 m, some of them are standing one over another and in bad degree of preservation.

Skeleton № 38 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. Hocked to the right, oriented at Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs). The legs and arms are strongly flexed to the body. There is trepanation on the skull. The skeleton is destroyed. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 39 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. Stretched on its back, with the head slightly turned to the East. The legs are at stretched position and distanced at one another. The bones of the arms are in flexed position above the skull. A ceramic lamella is found next to it.

Skeleton № 40 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. Stretched on its back. The orientation of the skeleton is to the Northwest (head) – Southeast (legs). The bones of the lower limbs are stretched. The arms are flexed: the right one – in front of the chest, and the left one aside. There is trepanation on the skull. A copper ring is found next to its left part (fig. 13/5). The skeleton is semi-destroyed.

Skeleton № 41 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. It is located over the previous skeleton. Stretched position, orientation Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs). The skeleton is destroyed. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 42 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. Located in close distance to the pelvis of skeleton № 40. No information about the pose and orientation of the skeleton. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 43 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. Oriented at Northeast (head) Southwest (legs). The skeleton is destroyed. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 44 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. It is located in the northeast part of the Eastern sector of the tell. Found at a depth of 3.70 m. Hocker lying on back to the left, oriented at Northwest (head) – Southeast (legs). The skull is well preserved, there are 4 trepanations on it with a rectangular shape. A flint lamella is found next to the chest.

The bones of other three demolished skeletons, one of which belongs to a child, were found beneath the skeleton. There is no detailed information in the field documentation about them.

Skeleton № 48 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. Found in the Northeastern part of the tell at a depth of 3.70 m. Hocked to the left with orientation East (head) – West (legs). Traces of fibers are found underneath the skeleton. The skeleton is destroyed. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 49 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. Found in the Northwest part of the tell at a depth of 3.70 m. Hocked to the right, oriented at Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs). The skeleton is destroyed. A fragmented human skull is found to the West of it. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 50 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. Found in the Northwest part of the tell at a depth of 3.90 m. Hocked to the right, oriented at Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs). The arms are flexed in front of the facial part of the skull. The right had has a palm underneath the skull. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 51 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. It is found in the Southwest part of the Eastern sector at a depth of 4.15 m. Hocked to the right with an orientation at South (head) – North (legs), the facial part of the skull is directed at East. The legs are flexed at the pelvic and knee bones at an acute angle. The right hand is between the thigh bones, and the left one is on the chest. The skeleton is semi-destroyed. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 52 (1948/1949). It belongs to a child. Found in the Southwest part of the Eastern sector at a depth of 4.15 m touching from the Northwest the previous skeleton. Stretched on

its right side with orientation of the facial part of the skull to the East. The arms and legs are in stretched position. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 53 (1948/1949). It belongs to a grown-up individual. Found in the Northwest part of the Eastern sector at a depth of 4.50 m. Hocked to the right with orientation to the Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs). The skeleton is destroyed from the waist downwards. A mandible of a dog is found near. There are signs of a demolished fireplace above the skeleton.

In 1950 in the middle of the sector, at a depth of 0.90 m five destroyed skeletons were found, belonging to grown-up (fig. 9/2) and child individuals, which are lying over a great amount of ceramic vessels (Г. Георгиев, Н. Ангелов 1957, p. 112-114).

Skeleton № 59 (1951), (fig. 9/3). Destroyed. Found in square 9 в at a depth of 1.10 m. It is oriented towards West (head) – East (legs). The bones of the legs from the knees downwards and a part of an arm are preserved. A small clay vessel is preserved between them and a destroyed one next to it.

Skeleton № 60 (1951), (fig. 9/1). Destroyed. Found in square 9 в at a depth of 1.10 m. It is oriented towards Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs). It is laid on its back. The upper part is preserved, the legs are missing. The right arm is also missing, the left one is flexed over the chest. The skull is destroyed in the region of the forehead, there is a hole in the upper part, and the upper jaw is also destroyed. A stone is place Westwards over the skull. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 61 (1951), (fig. 9/1). Destroyed. Found in square 9 в at a depth of 1.10 m. A hocker to the right, oriented towards West (head) – East (legs). The skull and the bones of the arms are missing (there is only one bone preserved). A part of the right leg, from the knee downwards without the feet. The left leg is flexed and burnt in the region of the feet. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 62 (1951), (fig. 9/1). Destroyed. Found in square 9 в at a depth of 1.10 m. Only parts of the spinal column and ribs are preserved. There are parts of bones of an arm. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 63 (1951), (fig. 9/1). Destroyed. Found in square 9 в at a depth of 1.10 m. Single semi-destroyed bones of the spinal column and rib bones. 25 flat ceramic beads with black color and a stone adze are found near it. (fig. 13/3).

Skeleton № 64 (1951), (fig. 9/1). Destroyed. Found in square 9 в at a depth of 1.10 m. A part of a thigh bone is preserved. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 65 (1951), (fig. 9/1). Destroyed. Found in square 9 в at a depth of 1.10 m. Only parts of bones of one leg from the knee downwards are preserved. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 66 (1951) (fig. 9/1). Destroyed. Found in square 8 б at a depth of 1.10 m. Only parts of the spinal column, rib bones and a thigh bone are preserved. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 67 (1952), (fig. 3/4). Destroyed. Found in square 2 б at a depth of 1.45 m. The skull, the bones of the right arm and part of the spinal vertebrae are preserved. It is oriented towards Northeast (head) – Southwest (legs). Hocked to the right with the facial part of the skull towards Northwest. The arm is flexed with a palm in front of the facial part. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 68 (1953), (fig. 3/2). Found in square 2 б-г at a depth of 1.65 m under skeleton № 67. Hocked to the left with facial part of the skull to the South, relatively well preserved. Oriented towards Northeast (head) – Northwest (legs). The left arm is stretched, the palm is slightly flexed next to the right knee. The right arm is flexed at an angle of 110°, the palm is flexed towards the knees, and the fingers are in front of the abdominal region. The feet bones are missing as well as some of the teeth. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 69 (1952), (fig. 10/3). Found in square 9 г at a depth of 1.60 m. Hocked to the right, the facial part of the skull is directed at Southeast, relatively well preserved. The orientation of the skeleton is towards Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs). The skull is flattened and cracked. The bones of the arms are flexed in front of the chest area. A small clay vessel with a double cone shape (fig. 12/2) is placed in front of the arms. A flat anthropomorphous figure of bone is found in front of the facial part of the skull with a part of a copper ring at one of the holes at the left part of the head (fig. 13/2).

Skeleton № 70 (1952). Destroyed. Found in square 6 в at a depth of 1.80 m. The pelvic bones and the bones of the legs are preserved, the skull is missing. The orientation of the skeleton is North (legs) – South (head). No inventory found.

Skeleton № 71 (1952). Destroyed. Found in square 6 в at a depth of 1.80 m. Hocked to the right. Some of the bones of the limbs are preserved, the skull is destroyed. The orientation of the skeleton is Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs). No inventory found.

Skeleton № 72 (1952), (fig. 2/3; fig. 10/1). Found in squares 6 B and 6 r at a depth of 1.80 m. It is near skeleton № 70. Hocked to the left, with facial parts of the skull to the East with an orientation at Northwest (head) – Southeast (legs). No inventory found.

Skeleton № 73 (1952), (fig. 2/1; fig. 10/1). Found in squares 6 r and 10 a at a depth of 1.80 m near skeleton № 72. Hocked to the right with orientation towards Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs), the facial part of the skull is oriented towards South. The skeleton is found near the North wall of a burnt building. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 74 (1952), (fig. 11/1). Found in square 9 a at a depth of 1.80 m. Hocked to the right, the orientation is at Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs), the skull is with its facial part towards Southeast. The upper jaw is destroyed, the skull is crushed and cracked. The rib bones and those of the spinal column are semi-destroyed. The tibia of the left leg and the humeral bone of the left arm are broken. The legs are strongly flexed. The right hand is put in front of the face, the left one is stretched and placed between the thigh bones. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 75 (fig. 2/4). Found in square 6 B and 6 r at a depth of 1.85 m. Hocked to the left, its orientation is towards Northwest (head) – Southeast (legs). The skull is cracked, the upper jaw is destroyed. The facial part of the skull is oriented towards East. The left arm is flexed at an acute angle, the wrist is flexed at an acute angle as well, folded towards the body at the same line as the pelvis. The bones of the legs are also flexed at an acute angle. The left leg is more flexed than the right one, its thigh bone is close and parallel to the cubit bone of the left arm. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 76 (1952), (fig. 2/2; fig. 11/2). Found in square 6 a at a depth of 1.90 m. Hocked to the right, oriented towards Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs), the facial part of the skull is oriented towards Northeast. The legs are flexed at an acute angle, the arms are flexed with palms in front of the face. The skull is cracked, the jaws are semi-destroyed. Some beads of mussel shells are found around the neck.

Skeleton № 77 (1952), (fig. 4/1). Found in square 10 B at a depth of 1.90 m. Hocked to the right with an orientation towards Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs), the facial parts of the skull are directed downwards. The hands are flexed and put in front of the face. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 78 (1953), (fig. 3/1). Found in squares 2 B, 2 r at a depth of 2.10 m. It is located 0.50 m below skeleton № 68. Hocked on its back to the right with orientation towards Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs). The skull is cracked and destroyed at the facial part, which is directed upwards and towards Southeast. Some of the teeth of the mandible are missing. The left arm is flexed at a right angle and is placed in front of the abdominal region. The right arm is strongly flexed. The bones of the palm are placed over the right shoulder. The legs are flexed at an almost right angle. The bones of the feet of the legs are preserved. The feet are at an obtuse angle in relation to the tibiae. No inventory found.

Skeletons № 67, № 68, № 78 were laid in one and the same pit. They have similar orientation. There are differing in thickness layers of mud between the separate skeletons, which is an indicator that the burial of the deceased was not performed at the same time. The pit is located in a waste mound. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 79 (1952), (fig. 11/3). Found in square 8 B at a depth of 2.10 m. Hocked to the left with an orientation towards East (head) – West (legs), the facial part of the skull is oriented towards South. The arms are flexed and placed in front of the chest, the legs are strongly flexed, the feet bones are at 0.25 m away from the pelvis. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 80 (1953) (fig. 3/6). Found in square 4 B at a depth of 2.25 m close to the fortification wall. The skeleton is destroyed, bones of the legs are preserved, which are in a crouched position. Hocked to the right with an orientation towards East (head) – West (legs). Located in a mound of waste. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 81 (1953) (fig. 3/3; fig. 11/4). Found in square 6 B at a depth of 2.25 m. Hocked to the right with an orientation towards South (head) – North (legs), the facial part of the skull is directed towards East. The deceased is placed in a pit with approximately oval shape. Some of the teeth are missing. The arms are flexed with palms placed in front of the facial parts of the skull. The legs are strongly flexed, the left one more than the right one, and the feet bones are located 0.10 m away from the pelvis. A clay vessel with a double cone shape is found in front of the abdominal region, the middle edge has transverse knurls. The upper part of the vessel is decorated with graphite (fig. 12/1).

Skeleton № 82 (1953), (fig. 5/3). Found in square 8 a at a depth of 2.25 m closely to the fortification wall. Hocked to the right with orientation towards South (head) – North (legs). The skull

and the bones of the arms are missing, some of the pelvic leg bones are crushed. The legs are flexed at the average, the right one is more flexed than the left. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 83 (1953), (fig. 3/5). Found in square 8 B at a depth of 2.25 m. Hocked to the right with an orientation towards Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs). The skeleton is destroyed, with only the bones of the lower half of the spinal column down to those of the legs and a part of the pelvis preserved. The legs are strongly flexed, the feet parts are almost touching the pelvic bones. The skeleton lies over mud, which contains mixtures of coals. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 84 (1953), (fig. 4/2). Found in square 13 B at a depth of 2.25 m. Preserved down to the waist. Hocked to the right with orientation towards Northeast (head) – Southwest (legs) with the facial parts of the skull towards Northwest. The arms are flexed with palms in front of the facial parts of the skull. At a depth of 0.20 m below the skeleton a destroyed fireplace is found. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 85 (1953), (fig. 5/1 a). Found in square 4 B at a depth of 2.45 m. Hocked to the left oriented towards East (head) – West (legs). The skull and the bones of the arms are missing. The legs are flexed at the average, their lower parts are lying below the legs of skeleton № 86. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 86 (1953), (fig. 5/1 b). Found in square 4 B at a depth of 2.45 m. Located just next to № 85, to the East of it. Hocked to the right with orientation towards North (legs) – South (head) with the facial parts of the skull to the East. The skull is broken, some of the bones are rotten. The arms and legs are strongly flexed. The left arm has a palm close to the beard, the right one is a bit farther from it. The bones of the feet are missing. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 87 (1953), (fig. 5/1 c). Found in square 4 B at a depth of 2.45 m, 0.30 m to the West of the previous skeleton. Only the skull, which is broken, is preserved. Its facial parts are pointing to the North. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 88 (1953), (fig. 5/2). Found in square 6 B at a depth of 2.45 m. Hocked on its back to the right with orientation towards North (legs) – South (head). The skull and some of the bones of the arms are destroyed during the excavation of the skeleton. The arms are strongly flexed, probably the right one has a palm in front of the face, the left palm is next to the chest. The legs are flexed on a smaller scale. At the Eastern side next to the skull was discovered a ceramic vessel with a biconical shape and decoration of graphite (fig. 12/3). Fragments of red ocher are found inside the vessel.

Skeleton № 89 (1953) (fig. 4/4). Found in square 7 a at a depth of 2.45 m. Hocked on its stomach to the right with orientation towards Northeast (legs) – Southwest (head) with the facial parts of the skull to the South, which is damaged by the excavations. The arms are flexed and placed underneath the chest, the legs are slightly flexed at an acute angle, the right one is more flexed at the pelvic joint. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 90 (1953), (fig. 5/4). Found in square 8 B at a depth of 2.45 m. It belongs to a young individual. Hocked to the left, oriented towards Northeast (head) – Southwest (legs), the facial parts of the skull are oriented to the South. The arms are flexed and placed in front of the face, the right palm is closer to it. The skull is flattened, the lower part of the leg bones are destroyed by a fireplace. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 91 (1953), (fig. 6/4 a). Found in square 8 r at a depth of 2.45 m. Hocked to the left, oriented towards Northwest (legs) – Southeast (head), the facial parts of the skull are oriented towards Northeast. The skull is flattened. The left arm is flexed at an acute angle, the palm is folded and placed on the chest, the right arm is stretched with a palm near the pelvis. The legs are flexed on the average. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 92 (1953), (fig. 6/4 b). Found in square 8 r at a depth of 2.45 m. Located just next to the previous one. Stretched on its stomach, oriented towards Northwest (legs) – Southeast (head). The skull is destroyed, its facial parts are directed downwards. The left arm is flexed and placed in front of the facial part, and the right one – underneath the waist. The legs are slightly flexed at the knees towards Northeast. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 93 (1953), (fig. 6/4 c). Found in square 8 r at a depth of 2.45 m. Located just next to the previous two. Stretched on its back, oriented towards Northwest (legs) – Southeast (head). The skull is cracked, its facial parts are oriented upwards, the mouth is open. The right arm is strongly flexed at the elbow with a palm near the skull. The left leg is slightly flexed and placed over the right one, which is stretched. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 94 (1953), (fig. 4/3). Found in square 13 б at a depth of 2.45 m. Hocked to the right, oriented towards Northeast (head) – Southwest (legs), the facial parts of the skull are oriented towards Northwest. The right arm is strongly flexed with a palm under the skull, the left one is parallel to the body with a palm placed between the thigh bones. The legs are strongly flexed. The right one is more flexed at the pelvic joint than the left. The skull is damaged during excavation. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 95 (1953), (fig. 6/2). Found in square 8 r at a depth of 2.45 m. Hocked on its back to the right, oriented towards Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs), the facial parts of the skull are directed towards Southeast. The skull is cracked, but well preserved. The right arm is flexed and has its palm placed in front of the facial part of the skull, the left one is slightly flexed at the elbow with a palm over the pelvic joint. The legs are strongly flexed, the feet are almost touching the pelvis. There is a hole of a stake at the feet of the left leg. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 96 (1953), (fig. 6/3). Found in square 10 в at a depth of 2.45 m. Hocked on its back to the left, oriented towards Southwest (head) – Northeast (legs), the facial parts of the skull are oriented towards Northwest. It is preserved to the waist. The skull is destroyed during excavation. Most of the teeth are missing. The left arm is strongly flexed with a palm in front of the mouth. The bones of the left arm are destroyed. A bone lamella with a hole in the middle is found on the chest.

Skeleton № 97 (1953), (fig. 6/1). Found in square 13 в at a depth of 2.45 m. Hocked to the left, oriented towards Southeast (head) – Northwest (legs), the facial parts of the skull are oriented towards Southwest. The skeleton is found in a pit with oval shape (pit № 5). The skull is flattened and destroyed. The arms are strongly flexed in front of the chest with palms to the beard. The legs are flexed at the average at an acute angle, the right one being more flexed than the left. The skeleton is located next to the floor of a fireplace. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 98 (1987), (fig. 7/1). Found at a depth of 0.65 m in square K 4 in the most Western part of the tell and falls into the XIII construction horizon in a pit with elliptical shape. The skeleton was affected by later violations of the cultural layers. It falls within the borders of a dwelling (inhabitation № 10). Hocked to the right with orientation towards Northwest (head) – Southeast (legs). The skull is relatively well preserved. It stands higher than the skeleton. The teeth are preserved. Judging by them and the size of the bones it is probably a funeral of a male individual. The left arm is flexed at an almost right angle, the palm is missing. The right one is strongly flexed with a palm placed underneath the beard and seriously folded at the wrist with finger in the countering to the skull's direction. A ceramic zoomorphic figurine is found underneath the skeleton, representing a horned animal (fig. 13/1) (К. Кънчев и кол. 1988, p. 9).

Skeleton № 99 (1987), (fig. 7/3). Destroyed. Found at a depth of 0.65 m in square Л 11 in the Eastern part of the tell and falls into the XIII construction horizon. It consists only of a cracked skull with its facial part to the North and some preserved cervical vertebrae. A destruction of a fireplace is piled over it, consisting of small sea gravel and sand, as well as slightly baked coats. Depending on the position of the skull the skeleton should be located to the West or Northwest. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 102 (1988), (fig. 7/2). Destroyed. Found at a depth of 1.30 m in squares H 12/O 12 into the XV construction horizon within the borders of a building. It has sizes on the axis lines East – West 8 m, North – South 5.50 m. The skeleton is located in the middle of the northern part of the south room, preserved to the waist, the bones downwards are missing. The skeleton is lying on back, its orientation is towards South (head) – North (legs). The skull is well preserved, the shoulder bone of the right arm is on the peripheral part of the chest, the bones from the elbow downwards are missing. The bones of the left arm are not preserved. The deceased is placed in a pit, the filler of which is of black soil. No inventory found.

Skeleton № 103 (1986), (fig. 8). Destroyed by work during the clearing of the tell by machines, the bones are heavily cracked. Found in the middle of the southern half of square K 5 at a depth of 0.15 m, XII construction horizon. 5 broken stones are found around the skeleton (fig. 8/3), it is oriented towards East (head) – West (legs). It is probably a hocker. No inventory found (К. Кънчев и кол. 1987, p. 19).

At separate places in the Western and Eastern halves of the tell into the XIII construction horizon are found separate human bones, predominantly from the skulls: part of a skull in square Д 7, which is destroyed by the rounding wall; a mandible in square Л 12 (К. Кънчев и др. 1988, p. 10). These are probably destroyed skeletons by later interventions.

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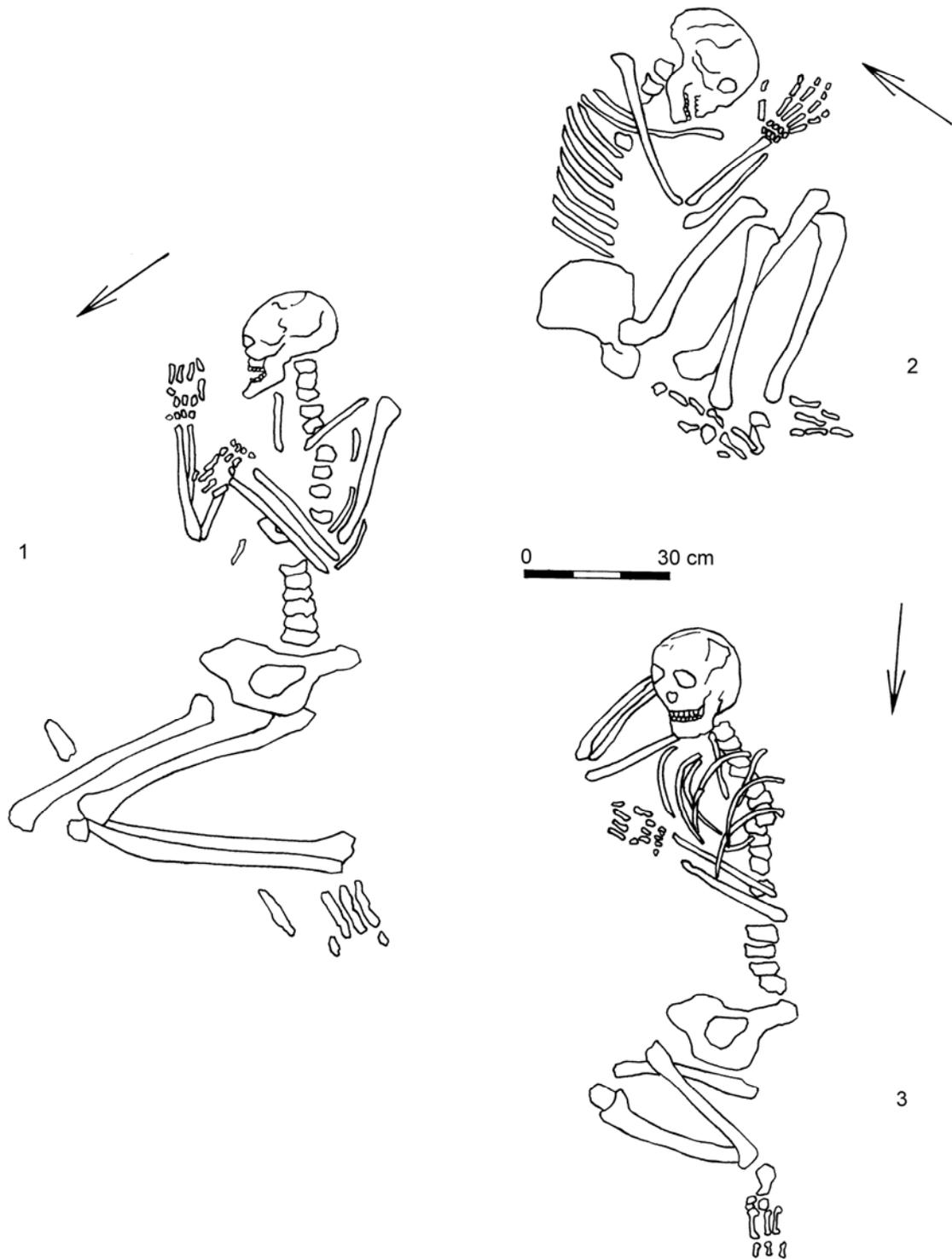


Fig. 1. 1. Skeleton № 24; 2. Skeleton № 25; 3. Skeleton № 33.
1. Scheletul nr. 24; 2. Scheletul nr. 25; 3. Scheletul nr. 33.

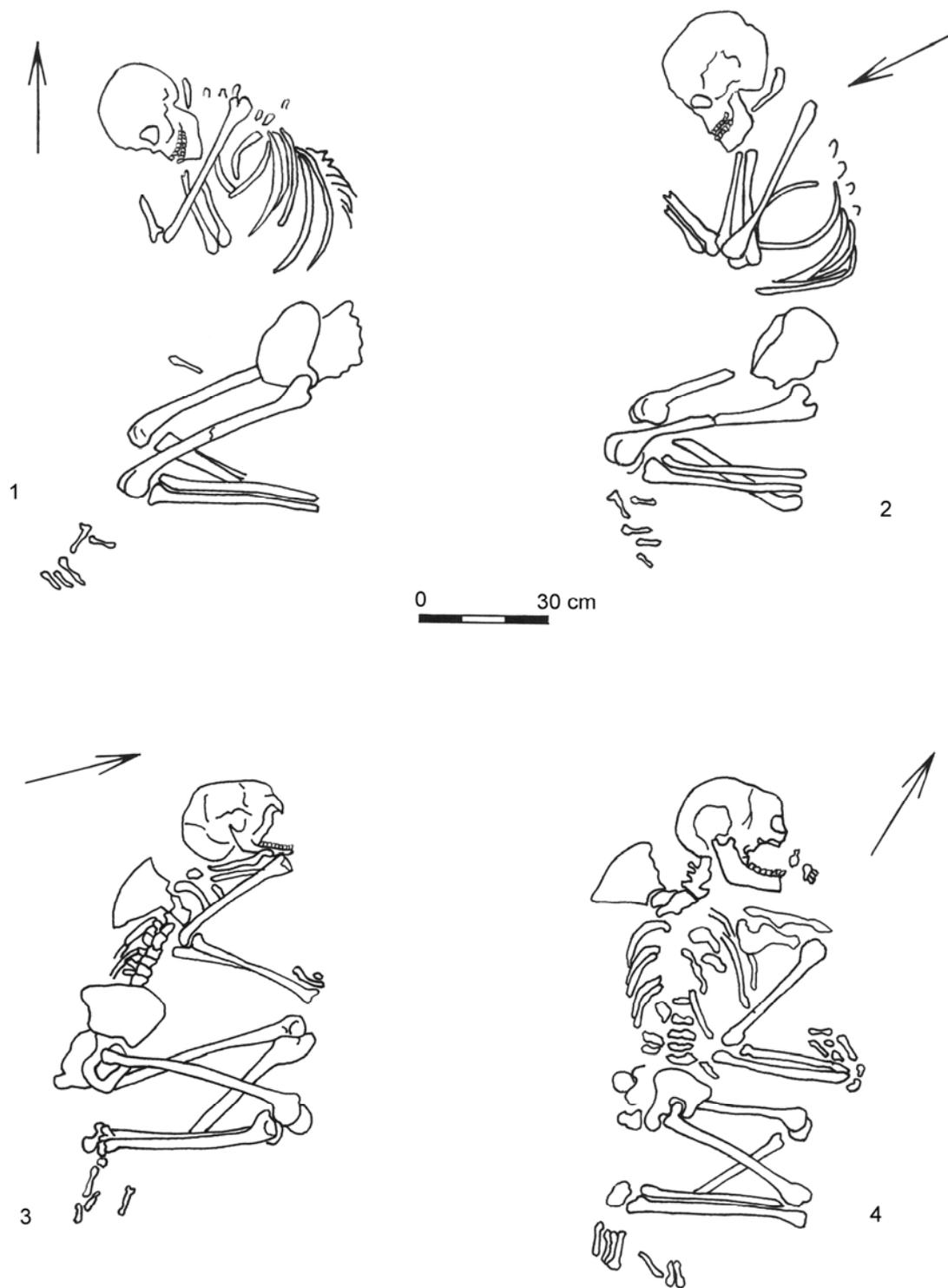


Fig. 2. 1. Skeleton № 73; 2. Skeleton № 76; 3. Skeleton № 72; 4. Skeleton № 75.
1. Scheletul nr. 73; 2. Scheletul nr. 76; 3. Scheletul nr. 72; 4. Scheletul nr. 75.

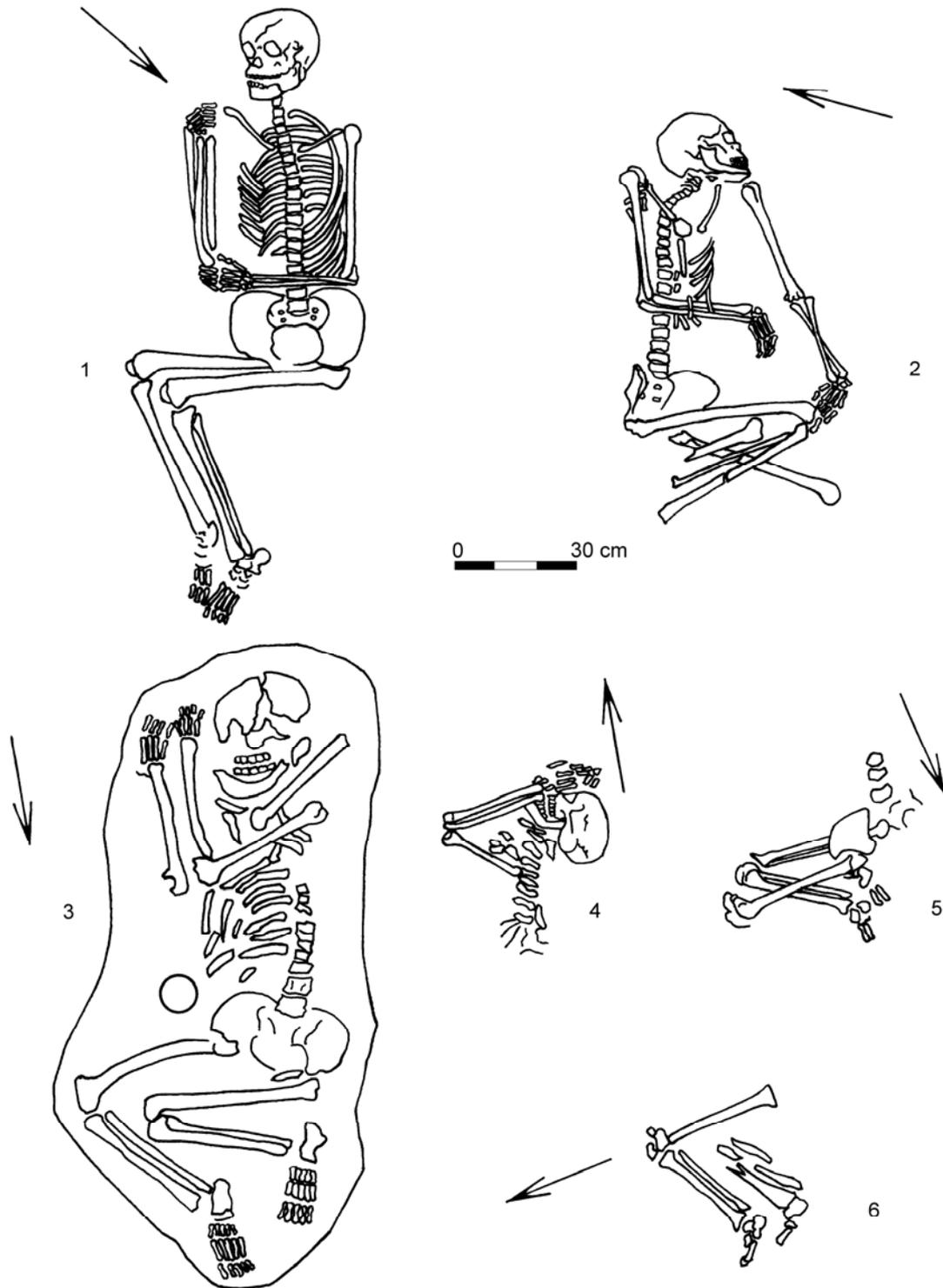


Fig. 3. 1. Skeleton № 78; 2. Skeleton № 68; 3. Skeleton № 81; 4. Skeleton № 67; 5. Skeleton № 83; 6. Skeleton № 80.

1. Scheletul nr. 78; 2. Scheletul nr. 68; 3. Scheletul nr. 81; 4. Scheletul nr. 67; 5. Scheletul nr. 83; 6. Scheletul nr. 80.

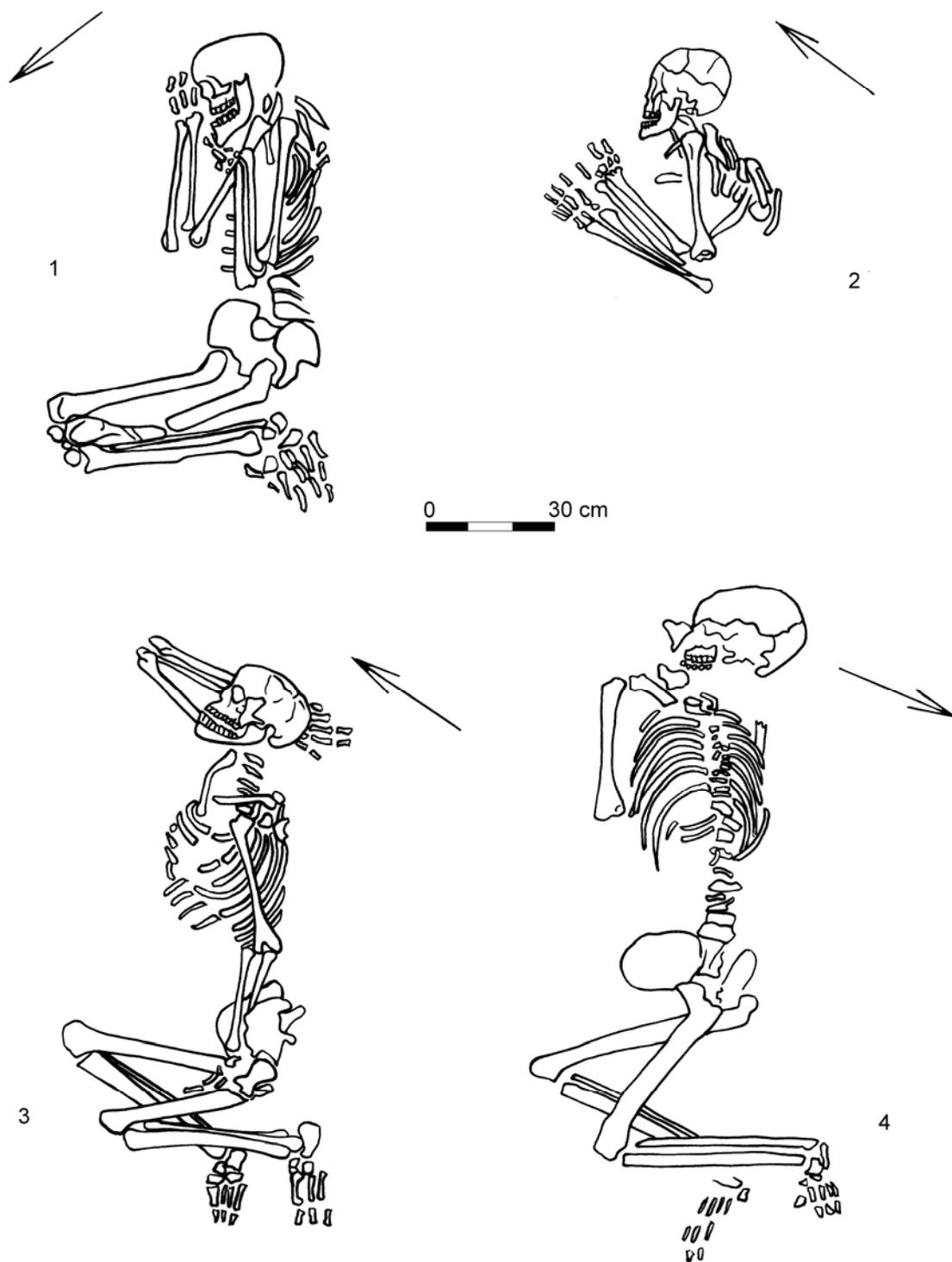


Fig. 4. 1. Skeleton № 77; 2. Skeleton № 84; 3. Skeleton № 94; 4. Skeleton № 89.
1. Scheletul nr. 77; 2. Scheletul nr. 84; 3. Scheletul nr. 94; 4. Scheletul nr. 89.

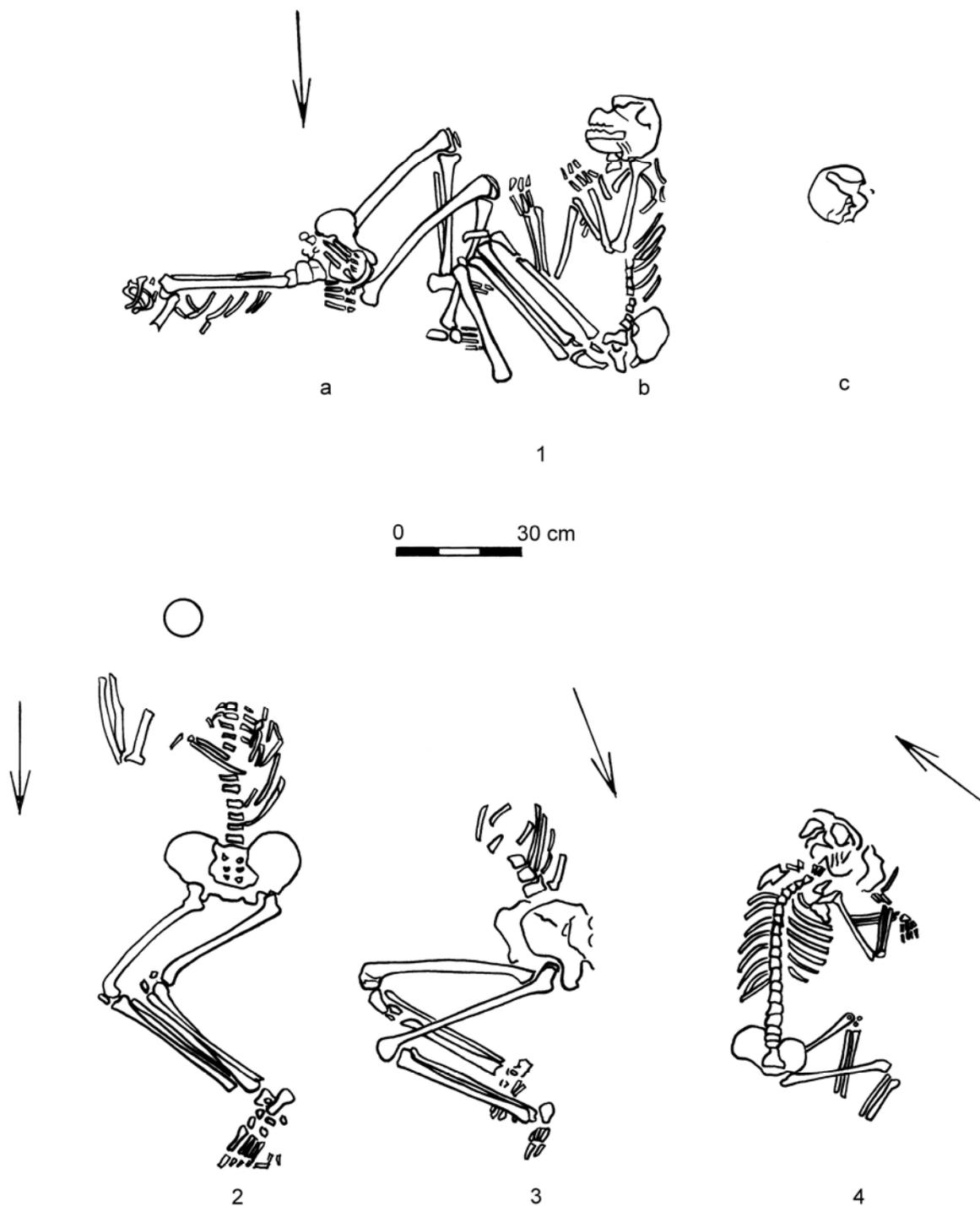


Fig. 5. 1 a. Skeleton № 85; 1 b. Skeleton № 87; 1 c. Skeleton № 86; 2. Skeleton № 88; 3. Skeleton № 82; 4. Skeleton № 90.

1 a. Scheletul nr. 85; 1 b. Scheletul nr. 87; 1 c. Scheletul nr. 86; 2. Scheletul nr. 88; 3. Scheletul nr. 82; 4. Scheletul nr. 90.

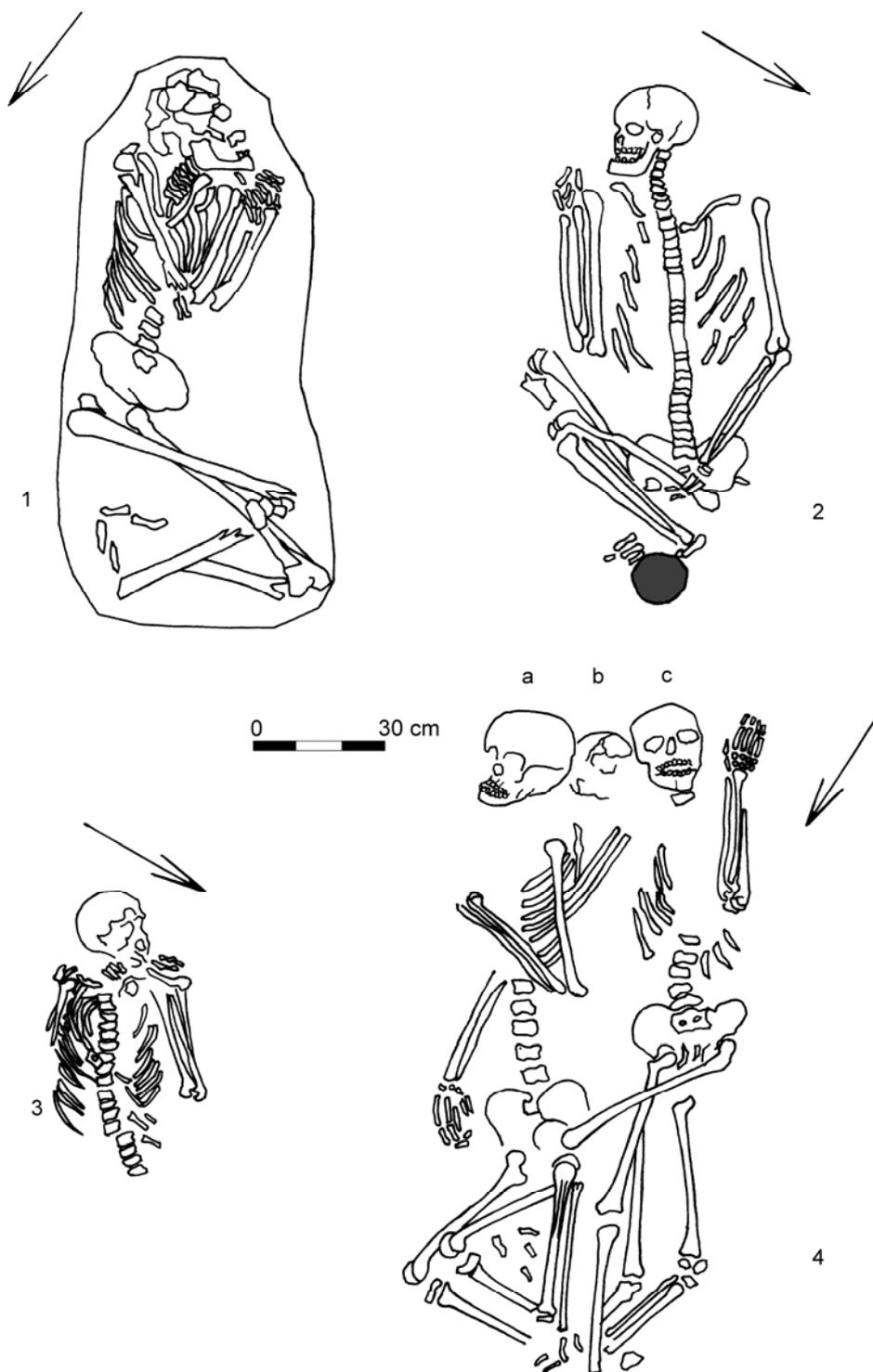


Fig. 6. 1. Skeleton № 97; 2. Skeleton № 95; 3. Skeleton № 96; 4 a. Skeleton № 91; 4 b. Skeleton № 92; 4 c. Skeleton № 93.

1. Scheletul nr. 97; 2. Scheletul nr. 95; 3. Scheletul nr. 96; 4 a. Scheletul nr. 91; 4 b. Scheletul nr. 92; 4 c. Scheletul nr. 93.

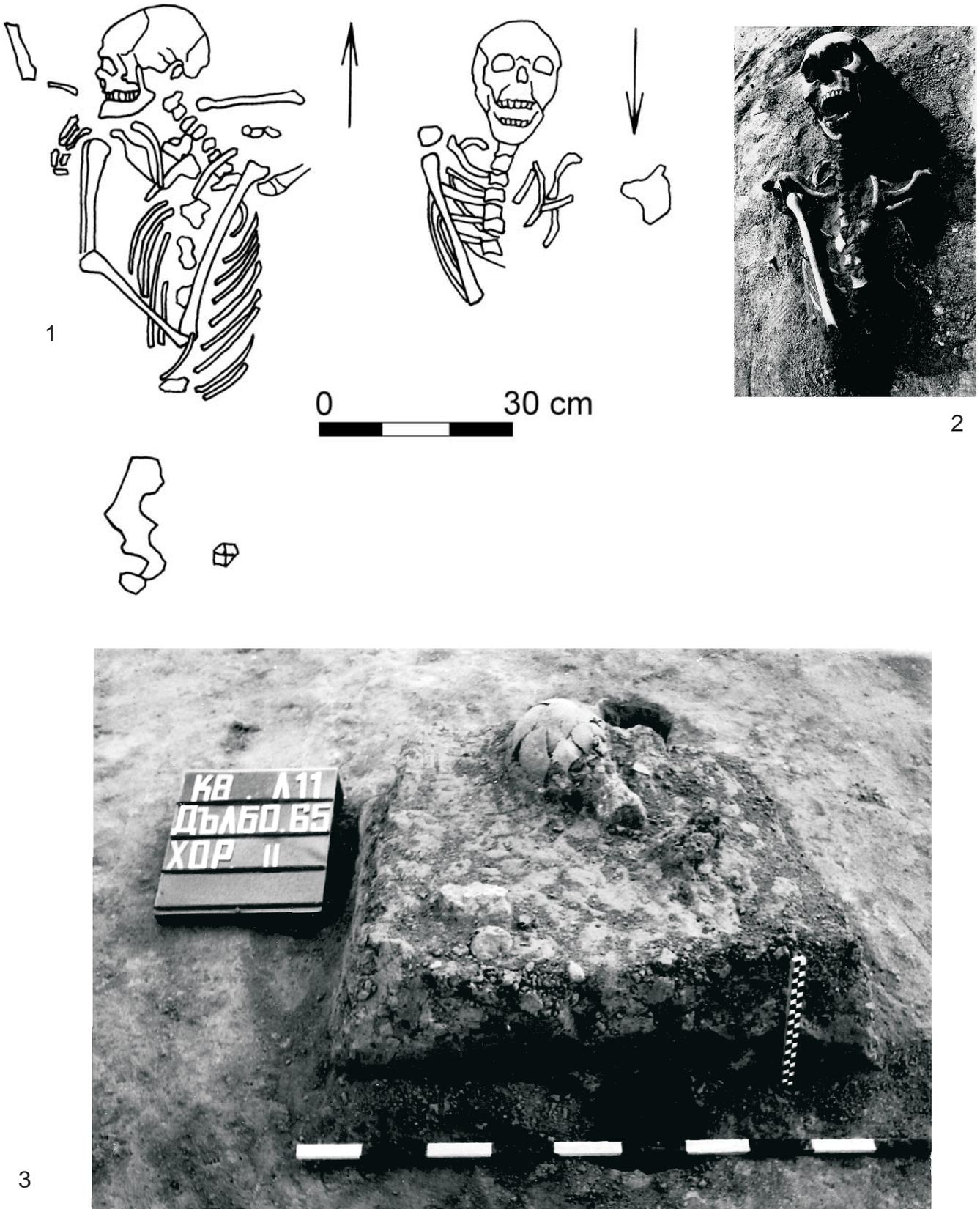


Fig. 7. 1. Skeleton № 98; 2. Skeleton № 102; 3. Skeleton № 99.
1. Scheletul nr. 98; 2. Scheletul nr. 102; 3. Scheletul nr. 99.

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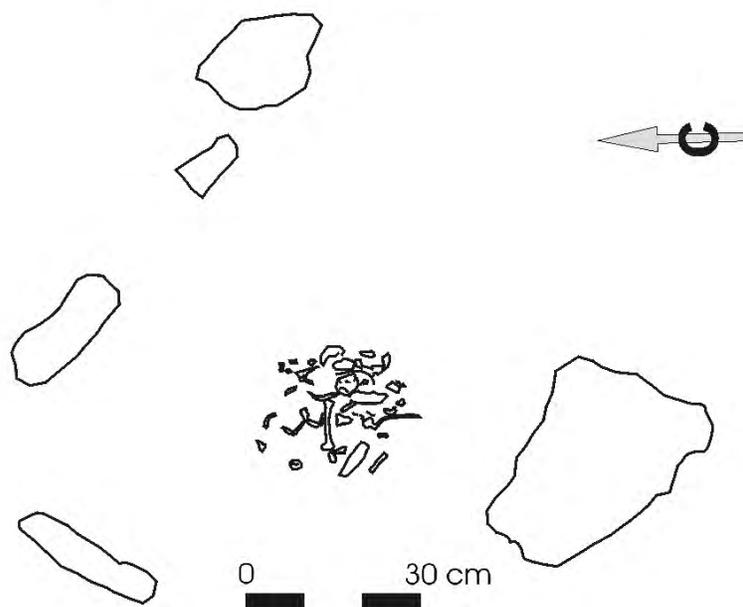
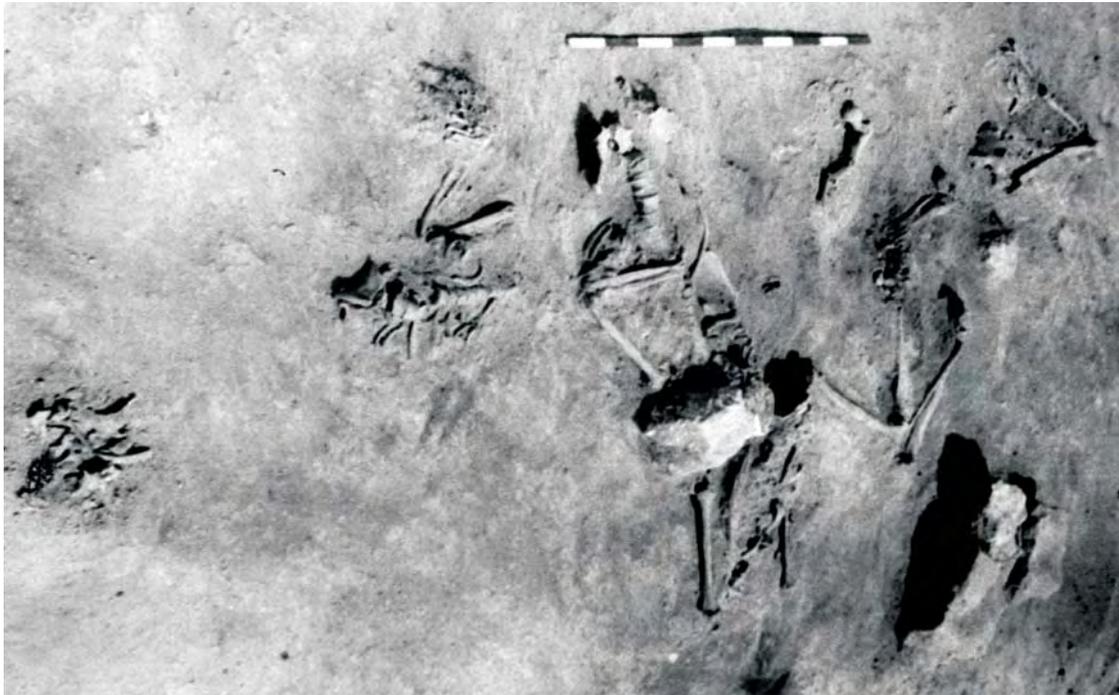


Fig. 8. 1. - 3. Skeleton № 103.
1. - 3. Scheletul nr. 103.



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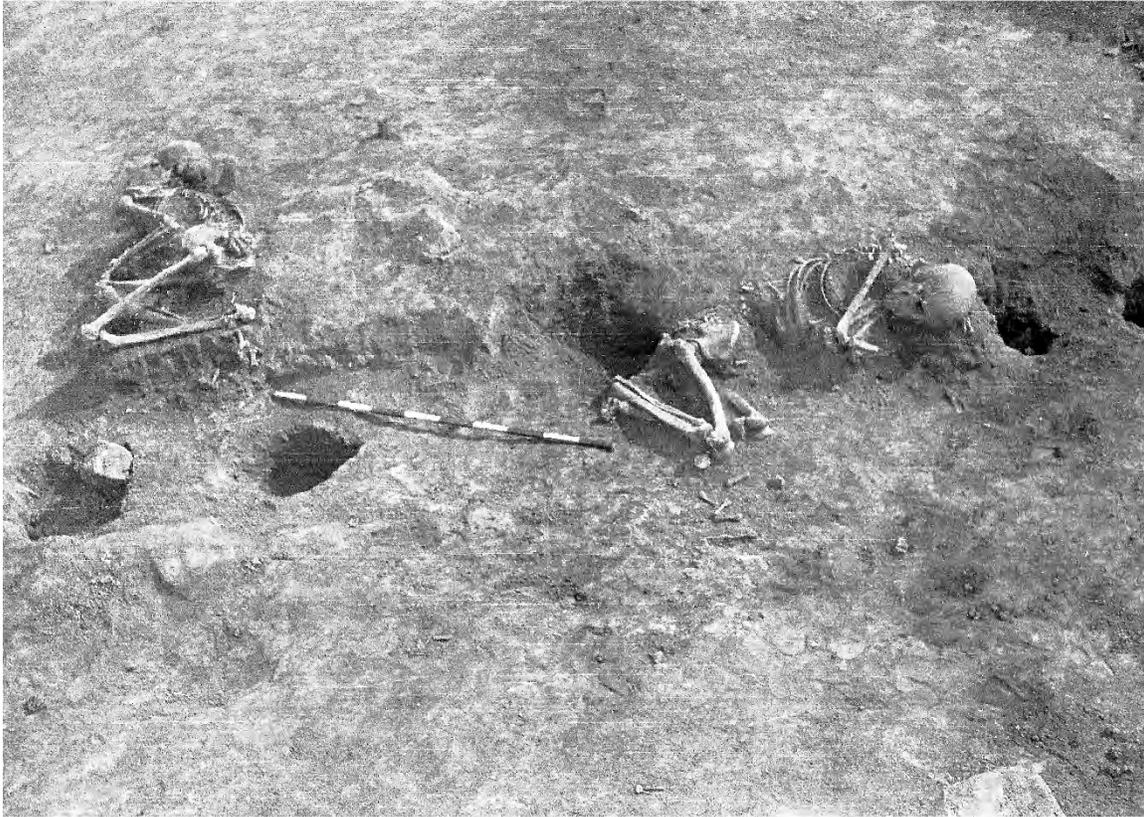


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Fig. 9. 1. Skeletons № 60 – 66; 2. Skeleton № 54; 3. Skeleton № 59.
1. Scheletele nr. 60 – 66; 2. Scheletul nr. 54; 3. Scheletul nr. 59.



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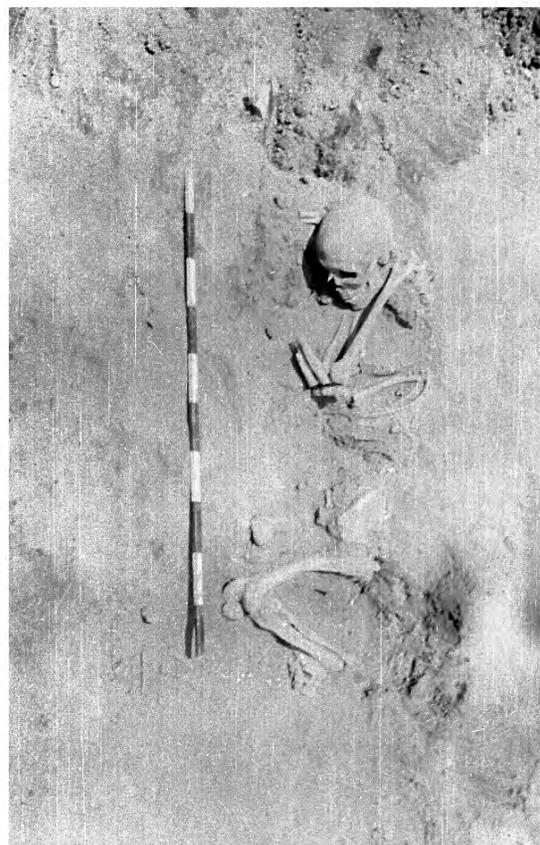


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Fig. 10. 1. Skeletons № 72-73; 2. Skeleton № 27; 3. Skeleton № 69.
1. Scheletele nr. 72-73; 2. Scheletul nr. 27; 3. Scheletul nr. 69.



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Fig. 11. 1. Skeleton № 74; 2. Skeleton № 76; 3. Skeleton № 79; Skeleton № 81.
1. Scheletul nr. 74; 2. Scheletul nr. 76; 3. Scheletul nr. 79; Scheletul nr. 81.

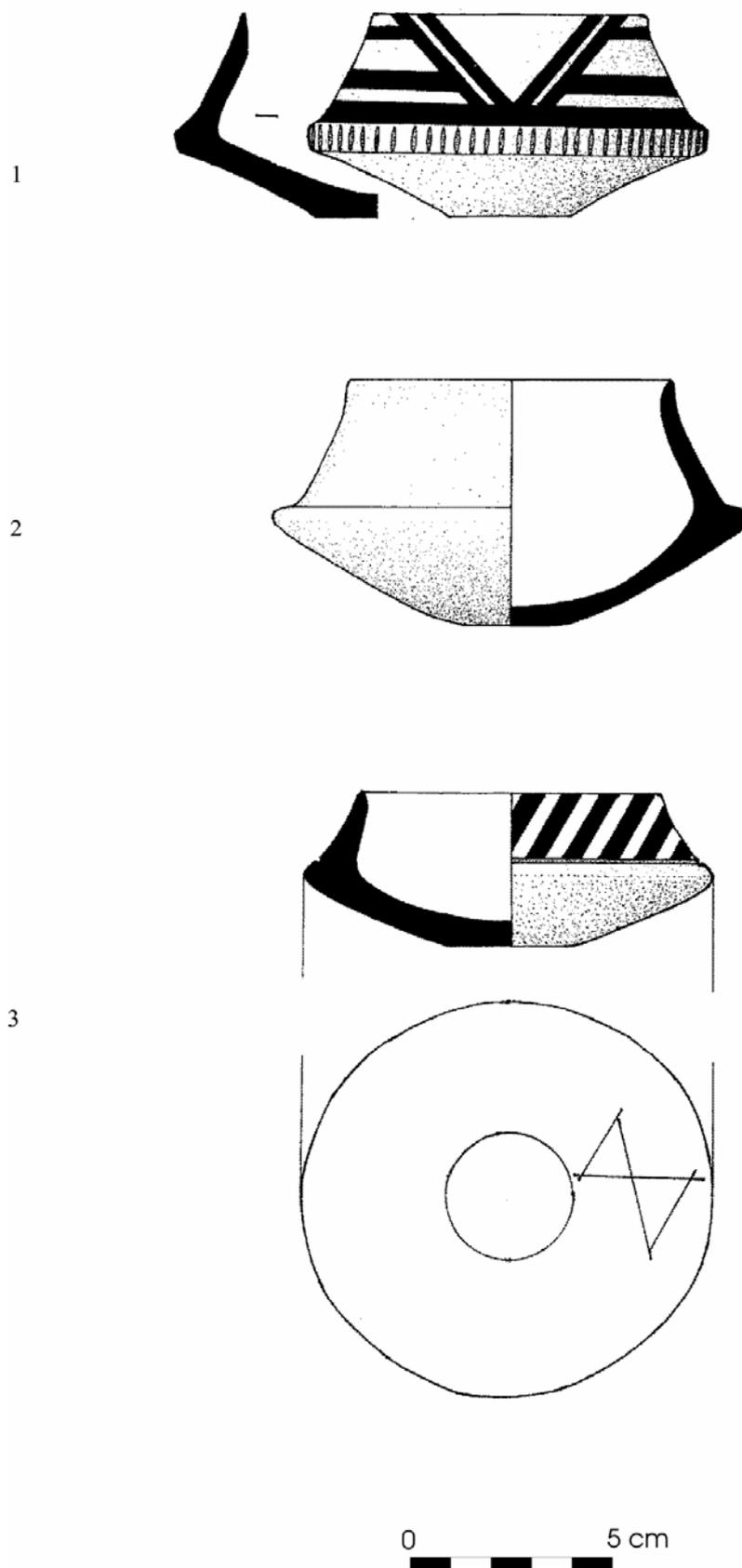


Fig. 12. 1. Vessel, ceramics, skeleton № 81; 2. Vessel, ceramics, skeleton № 69; 3. Vessel, ceramics, skeleton № 88.

Vas, ceramică, scheletul nr. 81; 2. Vas, ceramică, scheletul nr. 69; 3. Vas, ceramică, scheletul nr. 88.

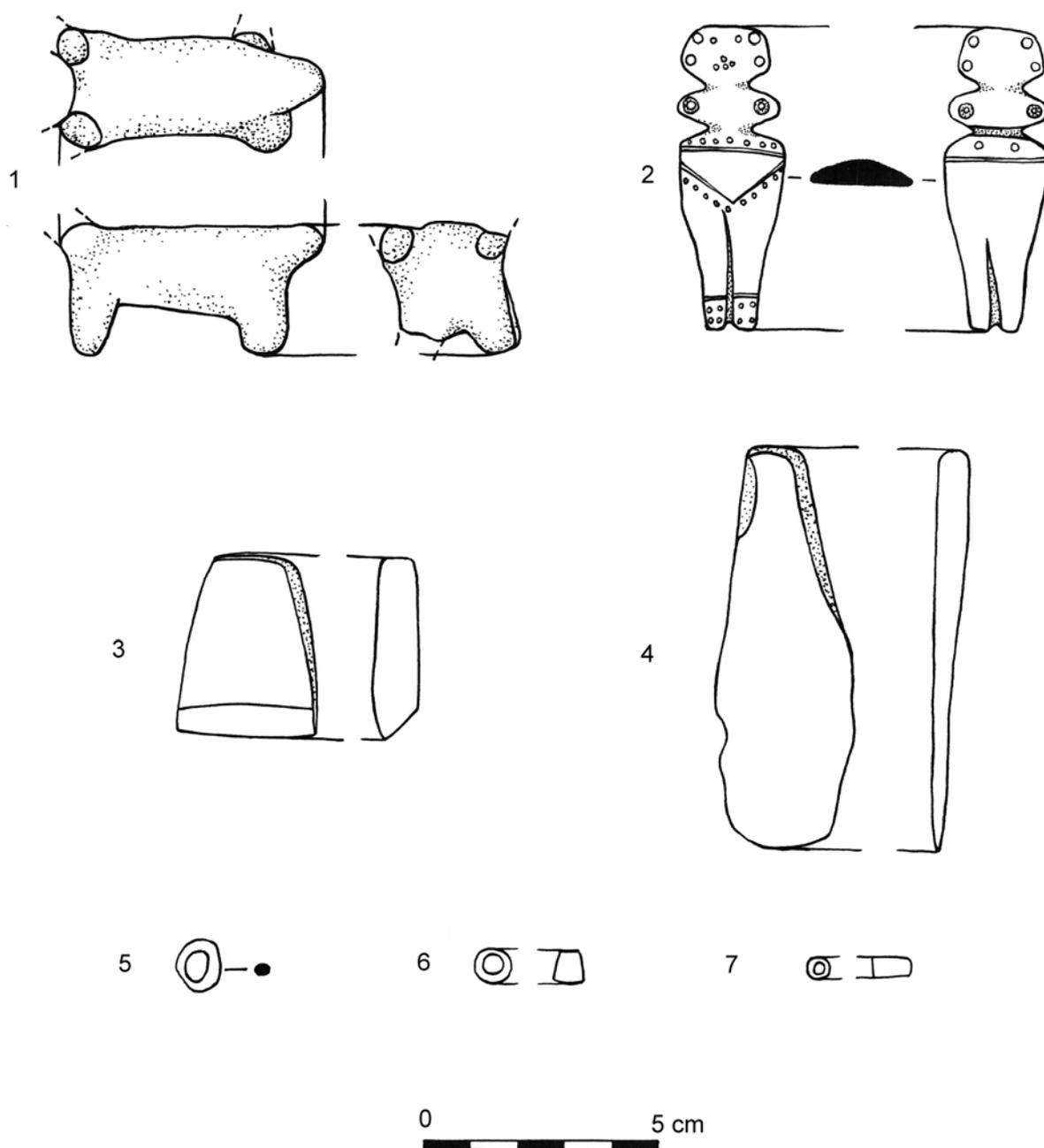


Fig. 13. 1. Zoomorphous figurine, ceramics, skeleton № 98; 2. Flat bone figurine, skeleton № 69; 3. Adze, gray-black rock, skeleton № 63; 4. Chisel, bone, skeleton № 24; 5. Ring, copper, skeleton № 40; 6, 7. Beads, *Spondylus*, skeleton № 25/1.
 1. Statuetă zoomorfă, ceramică, scheletul nr. 98; 2. Figurină plată de os, scheletul nr. 69; 3. Herminetă, rocă cenușiu închis, scheletul nr. 63; 4. Dălțiță, os, scheletul nr. 24; 5. Inel, cupru, scheletul nr. 40; 6, 7. Mărgele, *Spondylus*, scheletul nr. 25/1.

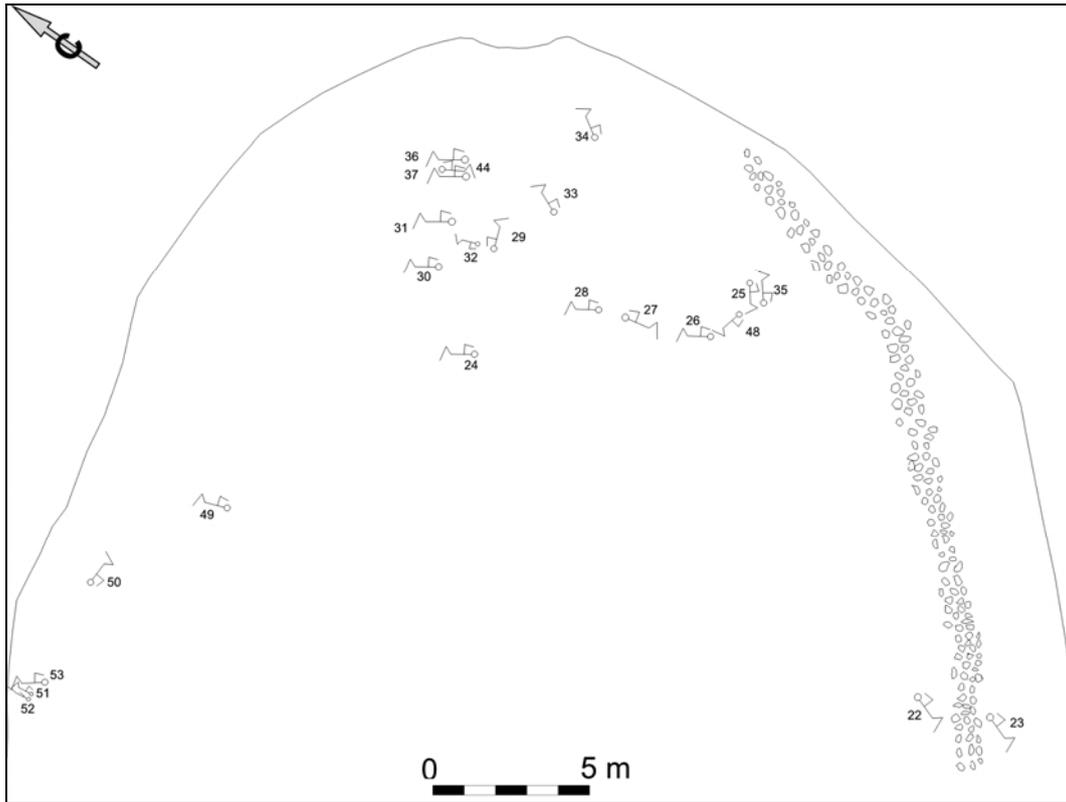


Fig. 14. Plan of the discovered skeletons in the period 1948-1949, eastern sector.
Planul scheletelor descoperite în perioada 1948-1949, sector estic.

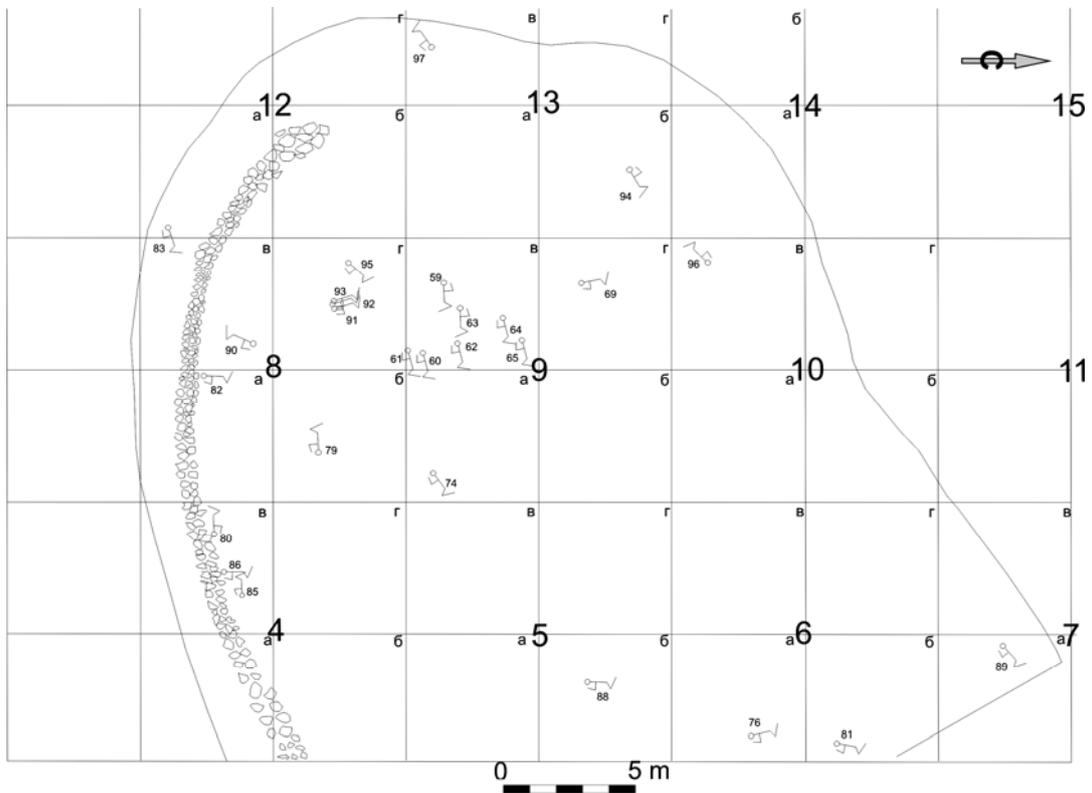


Fig. 15. Plan of the discovered skeletons in the period 1950-1953, western sector.
Planul scheletelor descoperite în perioada 1950-1953, sector vestic.

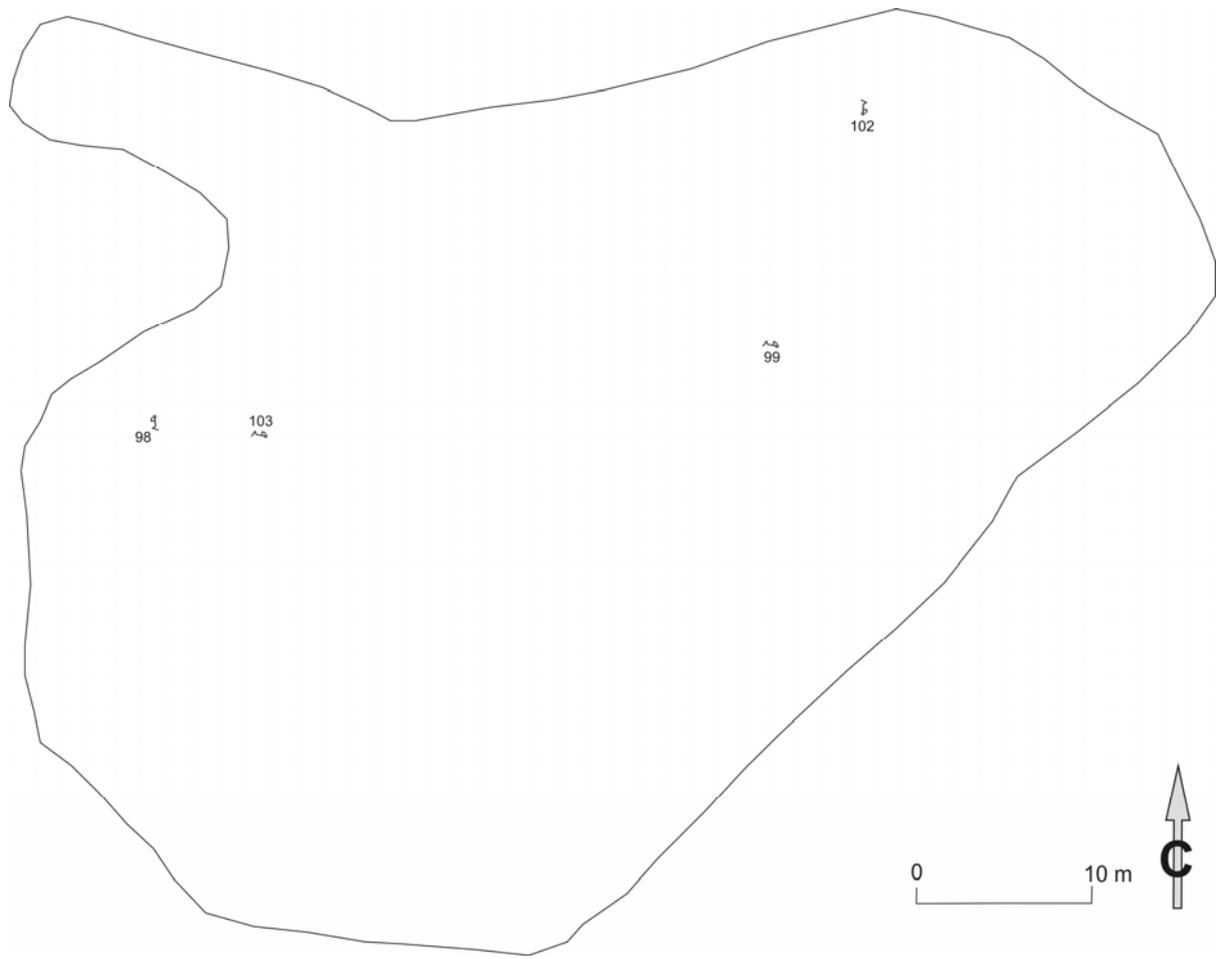


Fig. 16. Plan of the discovered skeletons in the period 1986-1988.
Planul scheletelor descoperite în perioada 1986-1988.