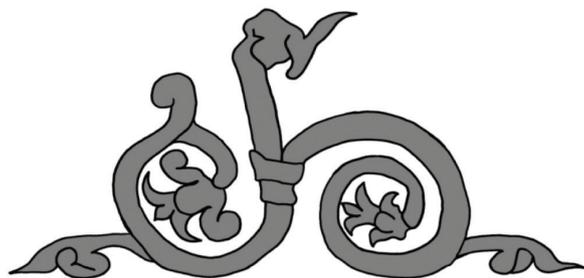


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The Archaeological Site in Zădăreni, Arad County. History of Research and the Bronze Age Discoveries*

Victor Sava, Lavinia Grumeza

Abstract: I believe that due to the rich documentation compiled by the team led by Egon Dörner and the way they approached a situation that was novel for that period, the archaeological researches performed in Zădăreni must see the light of print. In order to ease this initiative and to show the great professionalism of the archaeologists of that period, the present paper is accompanied by the reports written after each field trip, together with the detailed drawings and the plans made on-site. I have also included a brief abstract of the researches for a better understanding of the site and a short discussion of the Late Bronze Age artifacts discovered in Zădăreni, that I have also illustrated.

Keywords: Lower Mureș Basin, history of archaeology, Egon Dörner, Late Bronze Age, pottery.

Introduction

The processing and publication of discoveries made long ago is often a difficult process. Probably the most important lacuna of a study aiming to discuss such discoveries is the absence of archaeological excavations performed according to present-day standards. This significant drawback triggers others, such as the absence of proper documentation (detailed reports, drawings, descriptions of features etc.), small-size excavations, and the absence of a coherent strategy of organizing the investigation. Archaeologists are most often placed in the unfortunate position of only having access to artifacts preserved in the archaeological collections, accompanied by a minimum documentation. Such artifacts can be rarely associated to any context. It is just as rare that the identified archaeological contexts were documented, while their description and position on the ground plan remains an unfulfilled goal.

Taking into account all these major drawbacks, archaeologists much choose whether to publish or not old excavations. In the present case I chose to present to the public the discoveries made during 1957–1958 in the settlement of Zădăreni (Fig. 1). Fortunately, the artifacts preserved in the collection of the Arad Museum are accompanied by a documentation that is very rich for that period. One must state that Egon Dörner wrote no less than 10 reports accompanied by drawings and situation plans. The reports were written at irregular intervals, according to when the team of archaeologists traveled on the field. One can also note the fact that the texts correlate the contexts with the discovered artifacts by indicating the inventory numbers of the items discussed in each described context.

Despite the fact that the site in Zădăreni has not been researched according to the current norms of archaeology, it still represents a good benchmark in understanding the Bronze Age archaeology in Arad region. Still, with all the skill and good will of the research team, one notes the limits of archaeological research during that time. One can say that the research in question has mixed characteristics: some typical to preventive excavations, others to archaeological supervision, while in the extreme case the written reports reflect the recovery of archaeological items following unauthorized interventions.

During 1957 and 1958 the team of the Museum in Arad faced one of the first rescue excavations in the county of Arad. The extension of the settlement of Zădăreni, through the construction of new dwellings, had led to the discovery of archaeological vestiges and this had been brought to the attention of the museum's specialists. They thus traveled on site in order to save the archaeological patrimony. Due to the nonexistence of specific norms, the team had to solve the problems ad-hoc. In most cases the team of archaeologists recovered the archaeological material from the villagers and performed an approximate documentation regarding the contexts, when such were preserved, and

* English translation: Ana M. Gruia.

their location on ground plans. One must nevertheless mention that there were cases in which the discovery of graves has led to true excavations and very detailed documentations.

I believe that due to the rich documentation compiled by the team led by Egon Dörner and the way they approached a novel situation for that period, the archaeological researches performed in Zădăreni must see the light of print. In order to ease this initiative and to show the great professionalism of the archaeologists of that period, the present paper is accompanied by the reports written after each field trip, together with the detailed drawings and plans made on-site. I have also included a brief abstract of the researches for a better understanding of the site and a short discussion of the Late Bronze Age artifacts discovered in Zădăreni, that I have also illustrated.

History of research

As mentioned above, the development and extension of the settlement of Zădăreni, located approximately 5 km south-west from the city of Arad, has led to the discovery of archaeological vestiges (Fig. 3). On that occasion, during 1957 and 1958, the Museum in Arad has performed a series of researches that have led to the localization of a number of archaeological sites in the perimeter of the settlement of Zădăreni. As archaeologists noted during that period, the area, located on the high terrace of River Mureș, was a favorable location both for human settlements and for funerary spaces.



Fig. 1. Administrative map of Romania with the location of the settlement of Zădăreni (graphics by Victor Sava).

Thus, the oldest discoveries made during these researches belong to the Bronze Age. The numerous pottery fragments and animal bones recovered on several occasions suggest the existence of an ample settlement from this period under the present-day settlement of Zădăreni. By carefully analyzing Egon Dörner's reports and the location of his findings on a map of discoveries one notes the fact that the Bronze Age settlement was concentrated in the eastern side of Zădăreni. Still, contemporary pottery fragments were also discovered on the western and northern sides, down to the edge of the high terrace of the Mureș. At the same time, pottery fragments from the same period were identified at ground level on the place called "Zigeunerberg", on the eastern side of Zădăreni (Fig. 2).

Traces of settlements from the first millennium AD were also recorded besides the ample Bronze Age settlement. Discoveries of wheel-thrown pottery fragments, grey in color, dated to the 2nd–4th century, were recorded on the western, north-western, and eastern side of Zădăreni. Pottery fragments of the same type were collected from ground level in the place that the inhabitants call "Zigeunerberg".

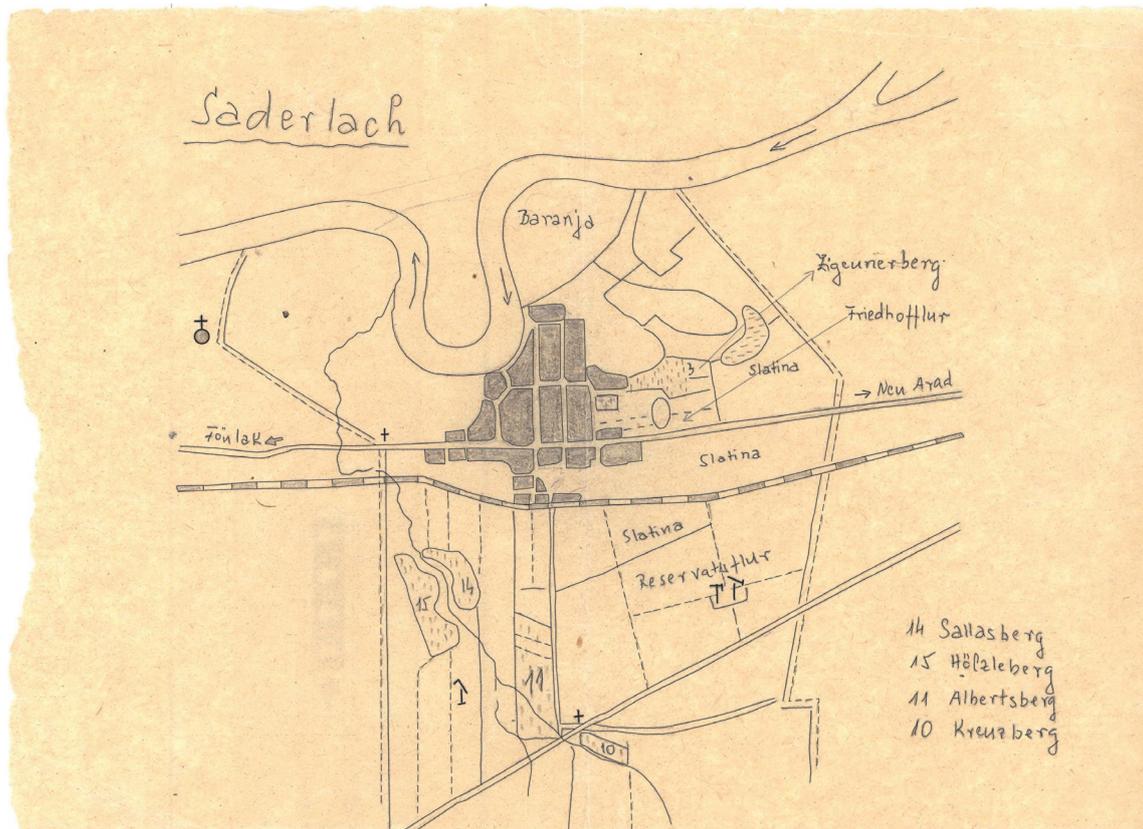


Fig. 2. Map of the settlement of Zădăreni (graphics by Egon Dörner).

The fact that the pottery in question was identified in household contexts suggests the existence of a settlement from the above mentioned period. Another signaled settlement dates to the Middle Ages and was identified in the margin of the current settlement, on the place called “Mortăreț”, in the eastern part of Zădăreni, but also on the eastern edge of the terrace, and of Zădăreni implicitly, on “Schlossberggasse” street. The shards in question belong to several chronological intervals: the 11th–13th centuries and the 14th–16th centuries.

Besides the mentioned settlements, I must also mention the important funerary discoveries made as Zădăreni grew. The first such objective is the Sarmatian cemetery. The more than 20 inhumation graves uncovered through different means are located both on the eastern and the western side of Zădăreni. There is also mention of two chronologically later graves, probably dated to the Avar Period, located on the western side of Zădăreni.

One notes that Egon Dörner and the team of the Museum in Arad have safeguarded more than 20 Sarmatian period graves, two from the Avar Period, one undated grave, a Bronze Age pit and hearth and an kiln with cupola that could not be dated. One can also add the numerous artifacts collected during the researches.

The accidental discoveries and archaeological researches performed in 1957 and 1958 in the perimeter of the settlement of Zădăreni have remained unpublished. Data regarding them are few and incomplete. Though Egon Dörner’s reports mention no Eneolithic-Era discoveries, specialized literature mentions and illustrates several pottery fragments from the Late Eneolithic. The pottery fragments, decorated in the Baden style, seem to have originated in the perimeter of the village of Zădăreni, discovered between 1957 and 1958¹. Unfortunately, the mentioned Baden pottery has not been inventoried and I was unable to identify it in the collection of the Museum in Arad, so that I cannot confirm the data published. There are few mentions, especially in synthesis works, of the Bronze Age settlement². Despite the fact the Sarmatian period cemetery is more often mentioned in

¹ Roman 1976a, 31–40; Roman 1976b, 86, nr. 260; Roman, Némethi 1978, 12, pl. 4/11; Sava 2015, 223, pct. 49.

² Horedt 1967, note 62; Roman 1988, 220; Gumă 1993, 299, pct. 172; Gumă 1997, 34; Sava 2010, 53; Hügel *et al.* 2012, 16; Bader 2015, 29.

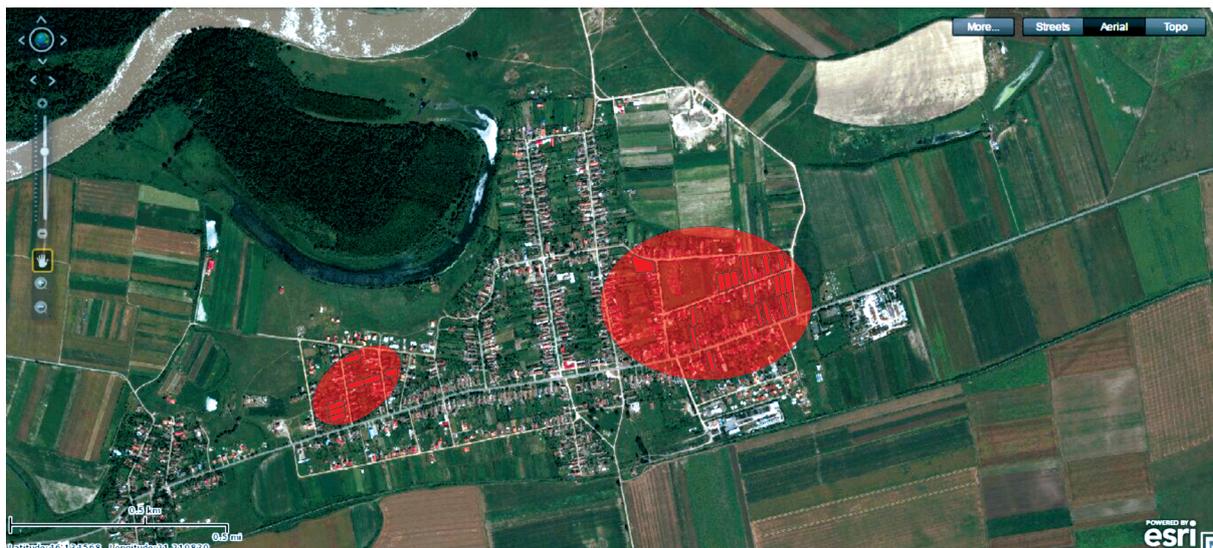


Fig. 3. Satellite image of the settlement of Zădăreni marking the discoveries as they feature in Egon Dörner's site documentation (with red) (graphics by Victor Sava).

the literature, data regarding the discoveries are lacunar³. Also, the site is mentioned in two general repertories of the area under analysis⁴.

Report written by Egon Dörner on 02.06.1957:

"Following the interesting results obtained during the field trip to Zădăreni on May 31st 1957, a team from the Regional Museum in Arad consisting of Dörner Egon, Baranyai Francisc, and Girauschek Albert traveled to the said settlement on June 7th for research.

We contacted comrade Bogdan, secretary of the Communal People's Council and he promised ample support for any rescue or excavation action on the spots that the team deems necessary to research. With the aid of comrade engineer Zohoi Florea, who this time as well accompanied the employees of the museum for free, we obtained the following results:

1. In the pit⁵ located right near the pit described at no. 5, towards the village / see the previous report /⁶, labeled here no. 7, comrade Baranyai found a very nicely decorated pot rim, modeled by hand, with three oblique girdles and prominences between them and a notched rim at the depth of ca. 40 cm in the northern wall (Inv. No. 13233).

In the southern wall of this pit / see appended drawing no. 1 [Fig. 4–5]/ in spot A the team found an animal bone (Inv. No. 13234) and a pottery fragment probably from the Hallstatt (Inv. No. 13235–13237). Spot B, at ca. 1 m, has revealed one fragment from a large pot with channels, yellow inside, dark grey outside (Inv. No. 13238), then small fragments, also of Hallstatt pottery, made of thicker and coarser fabric, an animal's back tooth, a piece of hearth or adobe, and a small La Tène-type shard ornamented with a line in triangular wave and burnished broad horizontal stripes (Inv. No. 13234–13244).

In spot C we found a fragment of pot bottom and a pot side decorated with a line made of horizontal holes; the side is broken but can be matched to the corresponding rim, brown in color, Hallstatt type (Inv. No. 13245–13247).

2. Another pit, no. 8, was located 12 m west of pit no. 7, measured 5 × 5 m, and belonged to Mara Ștefan's house. Different Hallstatt pottery fragments, pieces from the wall of a pot, rims, but also one La Tène handle fragment, grey shiny fabric (Inv. No. 13248–13254), were taken out of the northern wall.

3. In pit no. 5 / belonging to Dragoș Teodor / looking for the remaining feet of the skeleton in the northern profile, they came out but no pot was found, as usual, and according to the position of the

³ Popescu 1962; Mitrea 1962, 539, nr. 45; Diaconu 1971, 241; Barbu, Hügel, 1993, 71; Hügel, Barbu 1997, 563, 589; Grumeza 2014, 280, nr. 146.

⁴ Hügel 1999, 138, nr. 1–3; Luca 2010, 274, nr. 663.

⁵ In all the reports by pit, Egon Dörner understands the house foundations of the newly constructed buildings.

⁶ This report is not preserved in the archive of the Arad Museum.

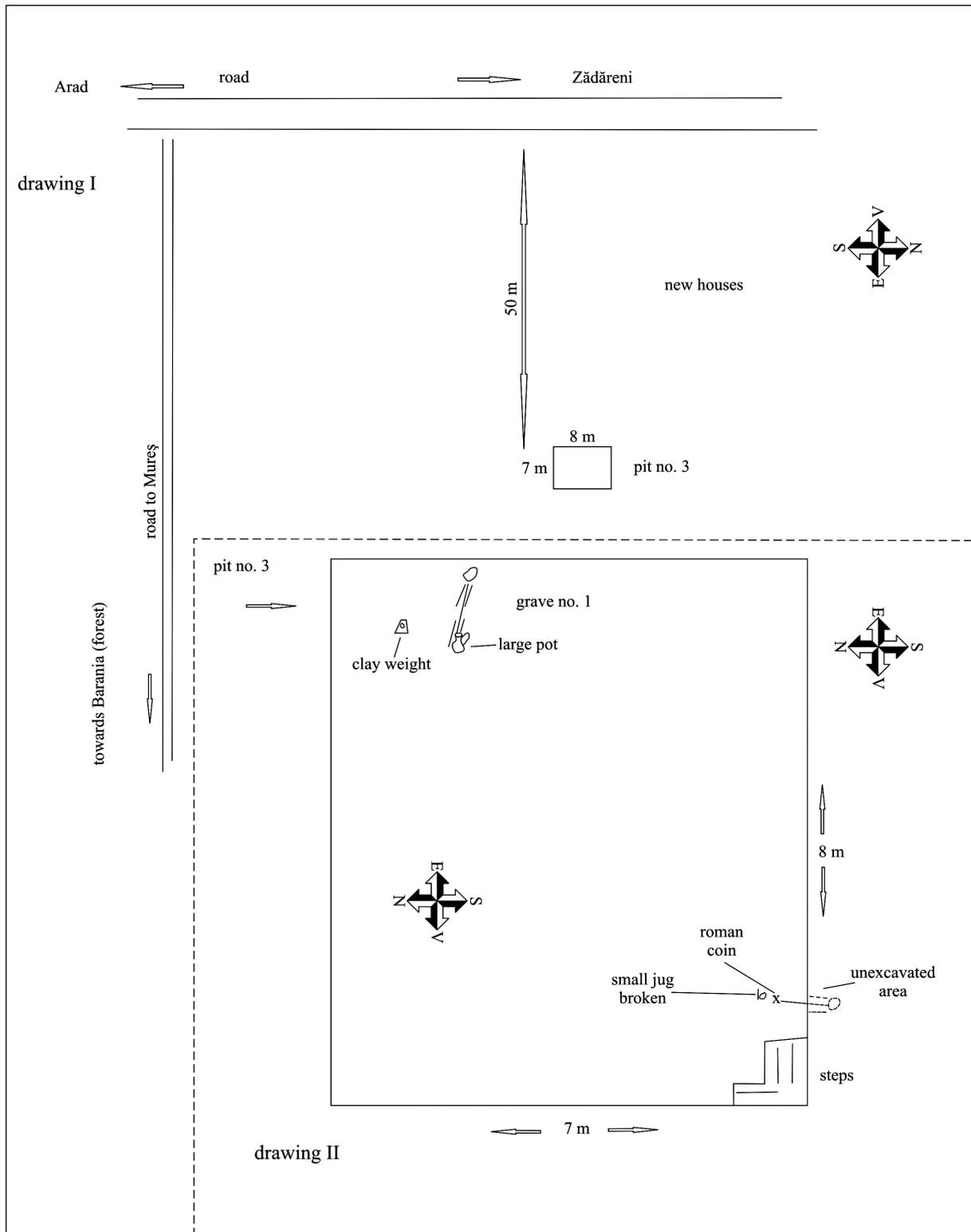


Fig. 4. Plans attached to the report dated 02.06.1957 (plan by Egon Dörner).

bones it seems that it was placed here in crouching position. This pit has also revealed a grey pot made on the potters' wheel (Inv. No. 13232), consisting of two pieces, when another skeleton was found, about the middle of the pit / comrade engineer Zăhoi donated the pit to us.

4. The head of the skeleton was recovered in acceptable state of preservation from pit no. 3 / belonging to Andra Vasile / and the small pot and the coin issued by Antoninus Pius were found at the feet. The teeth are complete, the lower mandible is moved to the right and the skull crushed at the back due to the pressure of the soil. Fragments of Hallstatt-type pottery were found in the filling pit that

prove that when the pit for the grave was remade people reached the Hallstatt cultural layer and the remains of this layer were thrown on top of the skeleton.

5. North of the plot with discoveries made after the excavation of pits for houses one finds the border line in the shape of a low hill that bears the name of “Zigeunerberg”. Vineyards once stood here, and currently there are plots where vegetables are grown.

Pottery fragments can be found everywhere, among which one can distinguish several categories: Hallstatt pottery with channels, brown or blackish prominences, sometimes striated ornaments and Late La Tène pottery, grey, wheel-thrown (Inv. No. 13255–13265). Other fragments seem to date from the Bronze Age. The researched plot is owned by Popa.”

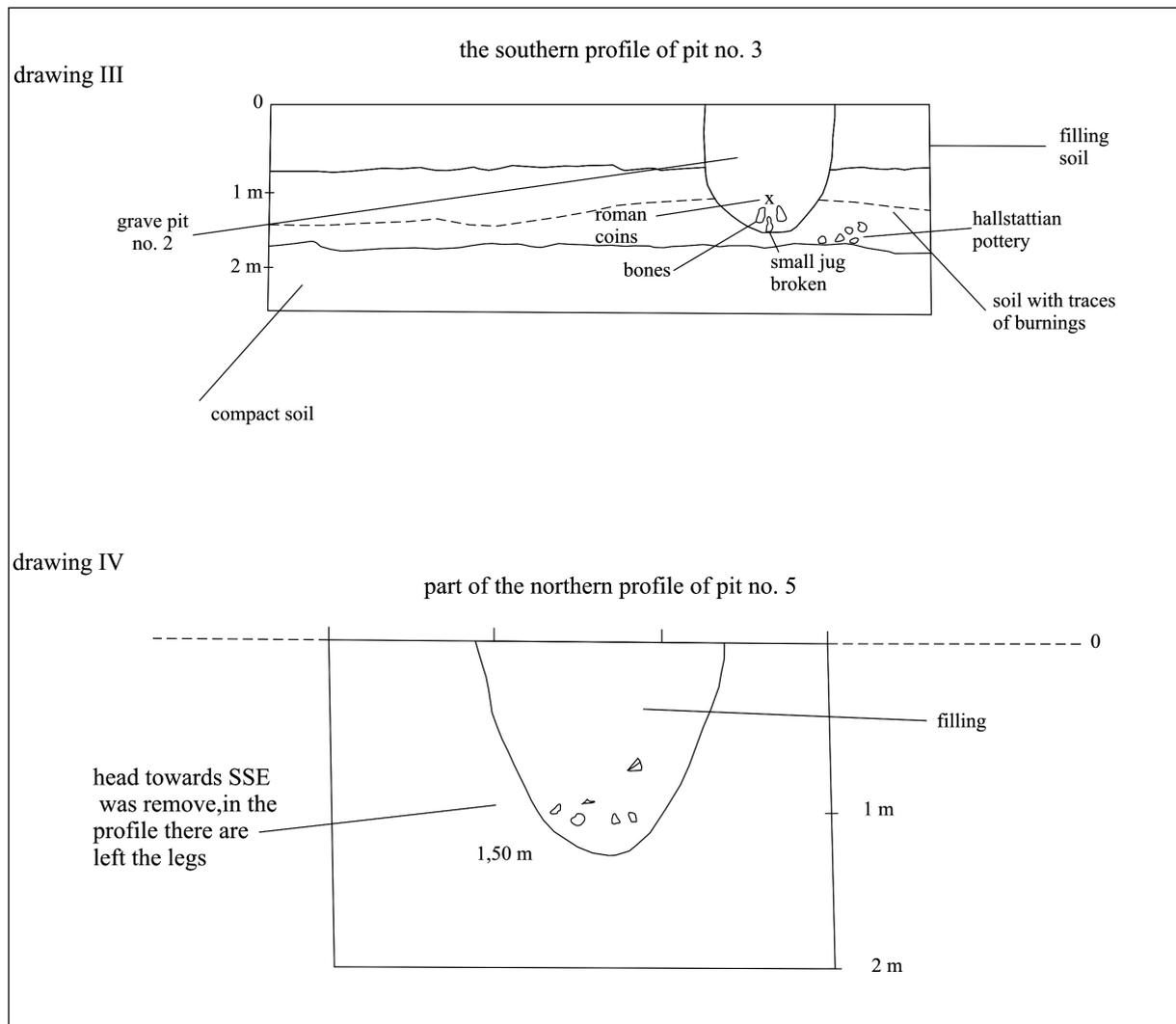


Fig. 5. Planes attached to the report dated 02.06.1957 (plan by Egon Dörner).

Report written by Egon Dörner on 29.08.1957:

“On August 27th 1957, the undersigned Dörner Egon from the Regional Museum in Arad, traveled to Zădăreni in order to clarify to which degree the construction works for new houses in the perimeter of the municipality of Zădăreni have revealed new archaeological traces. The brief reports written on the occasion of the field trips of May 31st and June 7th clearly indicate that the soil extraction pits in the eastern part of the municipality, right north of the road from Zădăreni to Aradul-Nou, in the place where new houses are being built, have revealed archaeological traces that attest to the existence of a large settlement from the First Iron Age overlapped, in the majority of cases, by an Early pre-Feudal cemetery.

In the house of comrade Zăhoi Florea, teacher-director, we found, preserved for our museum, a series of materials that were discovered, according to him, as follows:

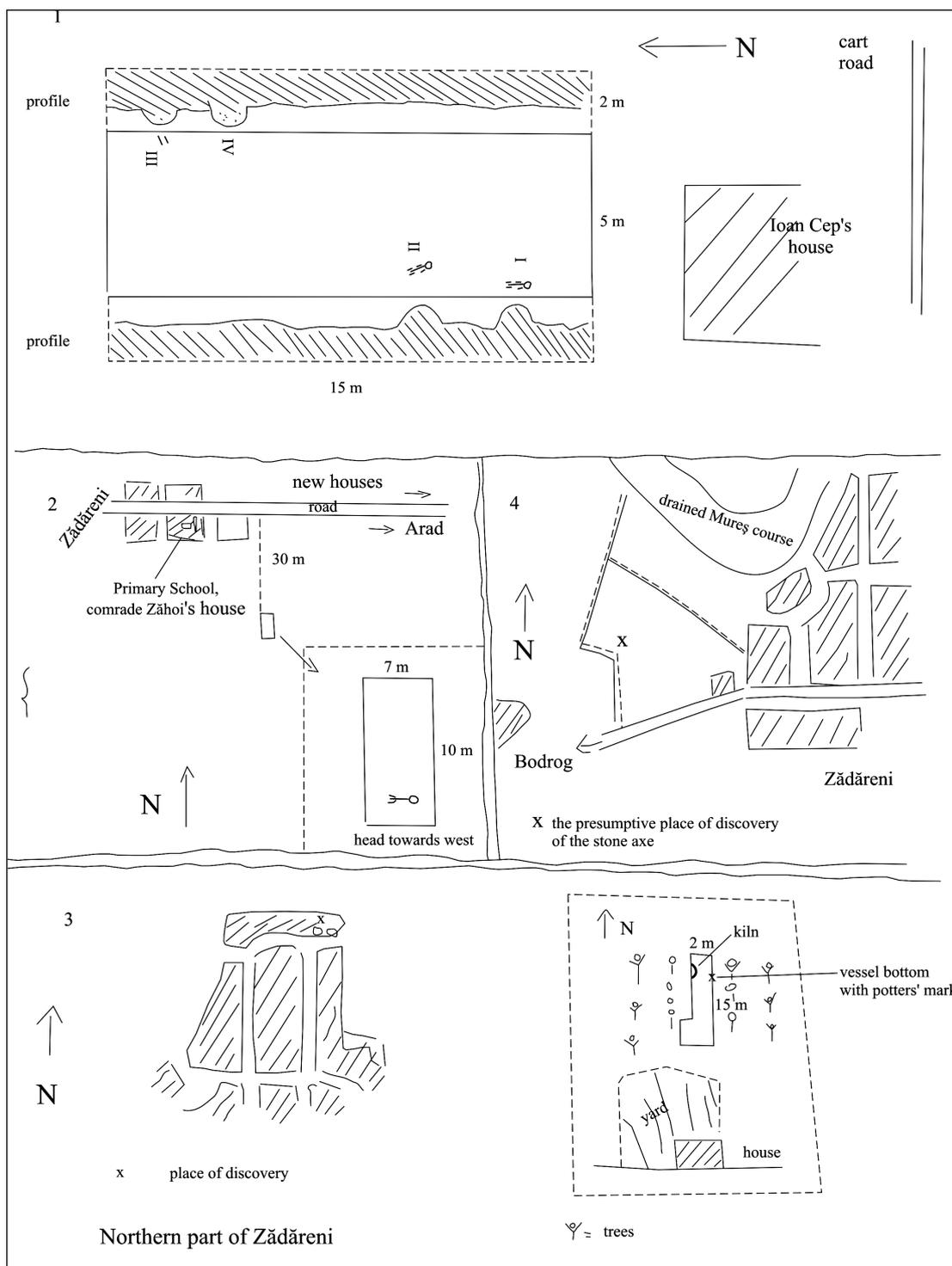


Fig. 6. Plans attached to the report dated 29.08.1957 (plan by Egon Dörner).

1. Behind Cep Ioan's house that is near the cart road, parallel to the main road, three meters away from the house, there is a pit measuring 15 m in length towards the north, 5 m-wide, and 2 m-deep. Traces of two grave pits are visible north in the eastern and the western walls. Skeletons I and II and part of skeleton III were found here / see appended drawing no. 1 [Fig. 6]/. Skeleton I was accompanied by a small grey cup (Inv. No. 13266), now broken into three pieces that can be reconstructed, made on the potters' wheel, ornamented in the lower part with horizontal, parallel, burnished lines, and in the upper part also with burnished lines, but vertical, and in one segment with 6 rows of burnished stripes. A bronze fibula was also found here (Inv. No. 13267), the crossbow part is caught in rusty iron. A black pot (Inv. No. 13268), modelled by hand, with the mouth slightly chipped, was found by

skeleton II. A small pot (Inv. No. 13269), reddish-brown on three parts, made by hand, was also found in this pot, it one does not know exactly where. The two pits, of graves III and IV, should be excavated.

2. In the same row of houses, on the road parallel to the car road, behind Epure Ion's house, 6 m to the south of it, extends a pit measuring 20 m in length towards the south and 6 m in width. There, around the middle, a hearth was found at the depth of 1.2 m, measuring 2.50 × 1.50 m, and on it and around it numerous Hallstatt pots, the fragments of which comrade Zăhoi Florea and comrade Müller, accountant for the GAS, were able to collect⁷. These are very beautiful items, the majority made of brown ceramic, consisting of bases, walls, pots, many of them with channeled ornaments; a large weaving loom weight was also found (Inv. No. 13281–13315).

3. A pit measuring 10 m length southwards and 7 m in width is located south of the Zădăreni-Aradul Nou road, by the second house east of the school, home of comrade Zăhoi, on the so-called plot no. 475 owned by Trașcă Petru, 30 m south of the road and 4 m south of the house. A skeleton was found there / see drawing no. 2 [Fig. 6]/ and besides it there was a pot the remains of which have been preserved, modelled by hand, brown-yellow in color, the mouth notched with lines (Inv. No. 13270). Part of a bronze pendant / earring? / was also found there (Inv. No. 13271–13272), ending in a hexagonal lozenge; there was also a part made of colored glass /?/used as ring / reddish in color /.

A skeleton was also found in a pit, around 150–200 m south-east of the previous place. According to the villagers, the skeleton was taken to be analyzed by two “gentlemen” from Arad. It remains unknown if pottery fragments were also found here.

5. A pit was dug out in the perimeter of the municipality, in the northern side, on Schlossberggasse Street, in the last row towards the Mureș, in the yard of the second house on the right / see drawing no. 3 [Fig. 6]/; the pit measured 15 m northwards and 5 m in width and was excavated between two rows of trees. From there a peasant brought comrade Zăhoia small pot / probably from the Hallstatt / and in his turn he gave it to comrade Müller. Visiting the place we noted that traces of a 14th–15th century settlement were visible in the pit's wall, as indicated by the pottery fragments extracted from the wall. The most beautiful item is part of a pot's bottom with the potter's mark on it (Inv. No. 13276), square-shaped. One fragment from a Hallstattian pot was found below (Inv. No. 13279) and in the western wall towards the northern corner, a bit above the level of the pit, ca. 2 m in depth, one can see the traces of an kiln that should be extracted. A profile of the walls and researches will be performed in this spot as well.

6. Some time ago, still in the perimeter of the municipality of Zădăreni, this time in the part towards Bodrog / see drawing no. 4 [Fig. 6]/ peasant Pinkhard Matei / living at no. 36/ found on his plot a large axe made of polished and perforated stone (Inv. No. 13273). Part of the axe is missing. No details are known. Comrade teacher Eisele Andrei, born in Zădăreni, currently working as teacher at Middle School no. 6 in Aradul Nou, living in Aradul-Nou, K. Marx St., donated the axe to the museum.”

Report written by Egon Dörner on 30.08.1957:

“1. Most part of a kiln was discovered in the pit (ditch) on Schlossberggasse St. no. 151, but no pottery was found. A profile of the wall was performed, with the traces of the kiln over a segment of 4 m (comrade Baranyai).

A series of materials were found on the opposite wall (eastern) towards the end: an iron spike, a lozenge-shaped object (plaque?), various bones among which a cattle jaw (?), several pottery fragments (bases, rims) made of blackish or brown fabric, wheel-thrown, 14th–15th centuries, also pottery fragments from small pots (cups) made of whitish substance (kaolin?), very light. According to comrade Müller, the small cup in his possession is made of the same material.

Pottery fragments, one from a large yellowish pot etc., all dated to the 18th–19th centuries were found in the same ditch, in different places.

The kiln will be completely uncovered on a future occasion, so that a photograph can be taken and we can save what we can for the museum.

2. Grey medieval pottery fragments were found on the road passing by the steep slopes of the dead branch of River Mureș, surrounding the western-northern side of the municipality, as well as in the gardens of house nos. 93 (Müller Hans), 94 (Lidolt Iohann) and 91 (?). The fragments are identical to those found in the ditch at 1.

⁷ Gospodărie Agricolă de Stat (State-owned Agricultural Household).

3. Traces of four grave pits (I-IV) are visible in the large pit behind Cep Ion's house and there we found in the fill of grave no. IV pottery decorated with striations, a shiny black pot, and many unio shells.

Another grave pit (no. V) is visible in the southern wall of the pit, on the right side. Comrade Kin [?] found the traces of a skeleton, consisting of the leg bones and fragments from a small black pot.

On the same side, comrade Zăhoi found pottery fragments, some decorated with striations. “

Certificate no. 376/958 issued 28.04.1958 regarding the Museum in Arad acquiring certain artifacts from Zădăreni:

“The present certificate attests that the Regional Museum in Arad has acquired the archaeological items listed below, found in the perimeter of the settlement of Zădăreni, in the department of Arad:

1. One jug made of grey clay, wheel-thrown, missing the handle. One whorl made of burnt clay. One thin quadrangular bracelet made of bronze, with one missing end, one bronze fibula in the shape of a crossbow with in-turned foot underneath. One long string of beads made of glass paste, limestone, chalcedony, glass etc., measuring a total of 4 m in length. All these items were found near a skeleton in a pit by Mihota Gheorghe's house, NW of the municipality, at the side of the road leading to Bodrog. / Dated to: the 2nd-4th centuries AD/.

2. Part of a clay cup with both handles missing and two fragments from another small cup, both modelled by hand out of blackish fabric. Two fragments from a pot made of grey hard fabric, ornamented with an alveoli girdle. All found in a pit near Crețu Nicolae's house, in the eastern part of the municipality. /Dated to: the 10th-12th centuries BC/.

3. Two fragments from a large pot / cauldron? / modelled by hand out of reddish-brown fabric, under the neck with a stripe in relief with oblique cuts. Found in the pit from Tolan Dumitru's house, Crețu Nicolae's neighbor.

4. Part of the three-lobed rim, modelled by hand, blacking in color, made of clay / the Early Iron Age/ and one fragment from a hard pot ornamented with a semicircular motif in relief / early medieval / found on the spot called “Mortăreț”.

The enumerated items were rescued and handed over to our museum by comrade teacher director Zăhoi Florea, to whom we hereby renew our thanks.”

Report written by Egon Dörner and Nicolae Kiss on 28.04.1958:

“Regarding the piece of information provided by comrade teacher-director Zăhoi Florea from Zădăreni, the department of Arad, according to which archaeological materials were found again in the perimeter of the municipality, on a spot already known from the previous discoveries, comrade Kiss Nicolae, guide at the Regional Museum in Arad, traveled to the settlement of Zădăreni on April 26th 1958.

The following items were discovered and handed over to the Regional Museum in Arad:

1. One clay jug (Inv. No. 13357), grey, wheel-thrown, missing handle, without decoration, wide mouth, narrow base, similar in shape to a globe. It was found at the feet of a skeleton that was also accompanied by a burnt clay whorl (Inv. No. 13358), in the simple shape of an irregular wheel, – one thin bracelet (Inv. No. 13360), quadrangular, without ornaments, made of bronze to a small proportion, one broken end. A bronze fibula (Inv. No. 13361) was also found here, intact, in a very good state of preservation. The crossbow-shaped head, with the wide semicircular spring that narrowed towards the leg is ornamented on both sides with a row of minuscule zig-zag incrustations. The fibula foot is in-turned underneath and three horizontal lines in relief separate the leg from the spring. Numerous beads (Inv. No. 13359) were found scattered around the skeleton; they were of different color, made of clay, shell, glass etc., forming a string with the total length of 4 meters.

All these items were found 300 m away from the municipality, on the side of the road that leads to Bodrog, in the NW part of the municipality, where works for the construction of a house were performed on Mihota Gheorghe's property, aka a pit was excavated. The items were found at the depth of ca. 1.50 m.

2. Part of a clay cup (Inv. No. 13362), with both handles missing, made of blackish-brown fabric. The wide mouth is flared, the base is narrow, the cup is tronconic in shape, fabric modelled by hand, undecorated. Found together with two small fragments from another, smaller cup (Inv. No. 13363),

blackish in color, shiny fabric, modelled by hand, four lines under the neck, in relief – two other fragments made of hard fabric, grey, from a large pot / storage pot? / ornamented with an alveoli girdle (Inv. No. 13364). These materials were found in a pit near the house owned by Crețu Nicolae, located in the eastern part of the municipality, north of the road towards Arad.

3. Two large fragments (Inv. No. 13365) from a large pot / cauldron, storage pot? / made of reddish-brown fabric, modelled by hand; the items are rim parts, one with a prominence right on the rim towards the outside. 10 cm from the rim a relief stripe with oblique cuts. Was found in the pit from Tolan Dumitru's house, Crețu Nicolae's neighbor, near the road, to the north.

4. Part of a lobed rim (Inv. No. 13366) triangular in shape /?/, made of clay, modelled by hand, blackish in color / analogy in Arad-Gai /, and one pot fragment (Inv. No. 13367) with semicircular decoration in relief, reddish-brown fabric, modelled by hand / feudal?/. At ground level, on the spot called "Mortăreț" / pond / located 5–600 m east of the municipality, parallel to the road to Arad."

Report written by Egon Dörner on 14.05.1958:

"On 13. V. 1958 the chief of the Old History Department of the Regional Museum in Arad traveled for research to the settlement of Zădăreni, Arad Dept. Accompanied by comrade Zăhoi Florea, teacher-director, they researched both in the western and the eastern part of the municipality all the pits from which soil had been removed for the construction of new houses. The following items were found and on this occasion and brought to Arad:

1. A pit was located ca. 60 m SE of Mihota Gheorghe's pit, 15 m NW of Ghilea Iosif's house, on a plot owned by letter carrier Popescu Nicolae, north of the Bodrog-Arad road in the western part of the settlement of Zădăreni. Researching the northern wall of the pit they found bones and excavating they discovered a stretched skeleton with the feet to NNE, the head had been destroyed by the remake of the pit. The following could be extracted: 2 bronze bracelets (Inv. No. 13369), quadrangular, undecorated, on the right arm, one iron buckle made of three parts, on the pelvis (Inv. No. 13370), 2 parts from a small iron knife (Inv. No. 13371) and other iron fragments, parts of an iron loop (Inv. No. 13372), one imperial Roman silver coin, Av. DIVUS ANTONINUS, Rv. CONSECRATIO, found to the left of the left leg's knee cap, and at the feet a grey jug (Inv. No. 13368), partly deteriorated.

From the same pit the remains of another gray jug, found in the excavated soil.

2. According to collected pieces of information, the skeleton in the pit owned by Mihota Gheorghe where the bronze fibula, the bronze bracelet, the clay whorl, the jug, and the beads were found, belonged to a child, stretched along the S-N direction. The pit measures 7 m in length and 1.5 m in width.

3. A pit measuring 15 m in length, 1.5 m in width, and 2 m in depth is located ca. 60 m NW from pit no. 1 on the plot owned by Setanschi Mihai. In the southern wall one can see the profile of a rectangular concavity measuring 2.5 m in length, black soil with yellow clay. According to the villagers, the pit contained skeletons. Fragments of rims from massive pots and one grey clay handle, wheel-thrown, and the base of a fragmented grey pot (Inv. No. 13373) were collected from the edge of the pit.

4. Another pit, measuring 6 × 3 cm, is located 50 m west of pit no. 3; fragments of large pots, grey in color, superior technique and one fragment modelled by hand, blackish-brown (Inv. No. 13374) were collected from this other pit, located on a plot owned by Ghiura Todor.

5. A 6 × 4 m pit located in the eastern part of the municipality, on a plot owned by Lucaș Vasile. The pit revealed the brought items, namely: fragment of a large grey rim, wheel-thrown, fragments of brown wheel-thrown pots, others made of fine fabric, wheel-thrown, brown or reddish in color, from the Hallstatt (Inv. No. 13375).

6. Numerous Hallstatt fragments, some with new motifs and interesting shapes (Inv. No. 13376), were found ca. 60 m NE of pit no. 5 from the plot owned by Izghirean Roman.

I attach drawings regarding the more important discoveries."

Report written by Egon Dörner on 22.05.1958:

"On 20. V. 1958, the undersigned Dörner Egon, department chief at the Regional Museum in Arad, accompanied by comrade Kiss Nicolae, guide, traveled to the municipality of Zădăreni for new archaeological researches.

With the aid of comrade Zăhoi Florea, teacher-director, we ended up in the possession of the following items found in the meanwhile while villagers worked to remake pits:

1. A skeleton was found in the eastern part of the municipality, on the plot owned by Rotaru Pascu, during works for the remake of a water well, at the depth of 1.50 m; the following items were extracted from near the skeleton: jug made of impure fabric, blackish-brown, modelled by hand (Inv. No. 13403), one side handle attached to the middle of the pot. Then a whorl (Inv. No. 13404) made of clay, conical, and beads (Inv. No. 13405) forming a short necklace.

2. Tall jug with the mouth slightly chipped (Inv. No. 13406), intact handle, wheel-thrown, grey fabric. Together with part of an iron fibula, the jug was found near a skeleton with mixed or chopped bones, the skull was missing, only the lower jaw, ribs, and the spine, the bones of the feet were missing. On the plot owned by Izghirean Roman. The skeleton was in the southern wall of the pit, the head to the north, the feet to the south. Horse bones and Hallstatt shards were also found in the pit.

The field researches have led to the following discoveries:

3. Shards of grey pottery, wheel-thrown, part of a base from a massive pot and a massive handle (Inv. No. 13407) were found in the eastern corner of the municipality *per se*, on the plot owned by Chichezan Ludovicin a pit for adobe, at the depth of 0.75 m. Horse bones, skull, were found in the wall, back teeth and a dorsal bone were brought.

4. A horse skull and fragments of pots modelled by hand, from the Hallstatt, ornamented with striations and a small boar tusk (Inv. No. 13408–13410) were also found in the eastern part of the municipality, on Sirbuț Ion's plot, in the southern wall, at 0.60 m in depth inside a pit measuring 4 × 5 m. Fragments of pots ornamented with striations, modelled by hand, in the northern wall at the depth of 0.50 m.

5. Traces of a dwelling's pit starting at 0.35 m in a large pit located 8 m east of pit no. 4 on the plot owned by Fărnău Ion. An intact pitcher, animal bones, and fragments of Hallstatt pots were extracted (Inv. No. 13411).

6. A skeleton with unusually large bones, together with a grey pitcher, wheel-thrown, broken handle, were found in the western part of the municipality towards Bodrog, on the plot owned by Bodrogean Teodor. Two bones were also brought as evidence.

7. Parts of the skeleton's skull were found in the pit on Mihota Gheorghe's plot where the inventory rich in beads etc. was found."

Report written by Egon Dörner on 25.05.1958:

"On 23rd May 1958, the undersigned Dörner Egon, department chief at the Regional Museum in Arad, accompanied by comrade Kiss Nicolae, guide, traveled to the municipality of Zădăreni for archaeological researches. Based on what we observed we can describe the following discoveries:

1. A 4 × 4 m pit in the western part of the municipality towards Bodrog, north of the plot owned by Mihota Gh., on Izghirean Constantin's piece of land. According to the villagers, a child's skeleton was found in the northern wall, according to some of them part of the skeleton is still in the wall.

2. Tiny fragments from a small pot modelled by hand, blackish, ornamented with striations, were found in a 4 × 4 pit on the plot owned by Chevereșan Ștefan east of pit no. 1. There were also small fragments of grey pottery.

3. In the eastern part of the municipality we uncovered the settlement pit from the large pit on Fărnău Ion's plot / see the report dated 20. V. no. 5/. The pit measured 0.75 m in depth and was full of different large and small fragments of Hallstatt pots, pot rims, bases, parts of cups, an idol's leg?, bones of horses and other animals, one fragment from a primitive grinder (No. 13415–13421). We were able to recover three almost intact pots, namely: a/ one pot-cup with two handles (Inv. No. 13412), b/cup with broken handle (Inv. No. 13413) and c/ jar-pot with the two small handles broken, ornamented with a girdle with prominences (Inv. No. 13414).

4. On Tolontan Dumitru's plot, at 1.30 m in depth, different fragments of Hallstatt pots, especially black ones, some with grooves (Inv. No. 13422).

5. According to some villagers, it was comrade Clop, a young man who works at the Regional Peoples' Council in Timișoara, the one who uncovered and brought to Timișoara a sort of iron dagger from a skeleton from Tărnău's place / see report V of 26. XI. 57/."

Report written by Egon Dörner on 30.05.1958:

"The undersigned Dörner Egon, department chief at the Regional Museum in Arad, accompanied

by comrades Kiss Nicolae and Girauschek Albert, employees of the same institution, traveled on 27–28 May 1958 to the municipality of Zădăreni for archaeological researches.

Taking into consideration the fact that traces indicating the existence of a skeleton in the southern wall of a pit on Mihota Gheorghe's plot, we struck a deal with the working peasants and decided to perform works to uncover the skeleton entirely and to take it to the Museum in Arad.

A large quantity of soil was excavated on May 27th from the pit and around it in order to be able to reach the part under which lay the skeleton. On the same day we managed to have the dismantlable case for extracting the soil together with the skeleton brought with a cart from the Museum in Arad.

On May 28th, proceeding to uncover the skeleton, we noted that unfortunately most of it was missing, rotten and eaten away by the acid soil. We only found the skull that had been crushed and broken in dozens of pieces, and some of the spine. According to its position, it seems that the skeleton had been deposited in crouching position, with the head to the south [Fig. 7].

The inventory of the grave was the following:

- a/ By the feet a grey pitcher, wheel-thrown, intact (Inv. No. 13443).
- b/ Around the ankles a lot of beads of different colors, most of them barrel-shaped (Inv. No. 13444).
- c/ A bitronconic clay whorl (Inv. No. 13445) was found right near the upper part of the cannon bone, besides fragments from a small, rusted, iron knife (Inv. No. 13447).
- d/ A small iron object, rusted / arrowhead? / by the pelvis.
- e/ Beads similar to those from the ankles found around the neck and lower on the chest, behind the spine a back tooth (Inv. No. 13446).
- f/ In some parts crumbs of oxidized bronze.

The jaws were missing from the head. Due to the extremely poor state of preservation of the skeleton, it was eventually not taken for the museum, but we made drawings and took photographs of its position and accompanying materials.”

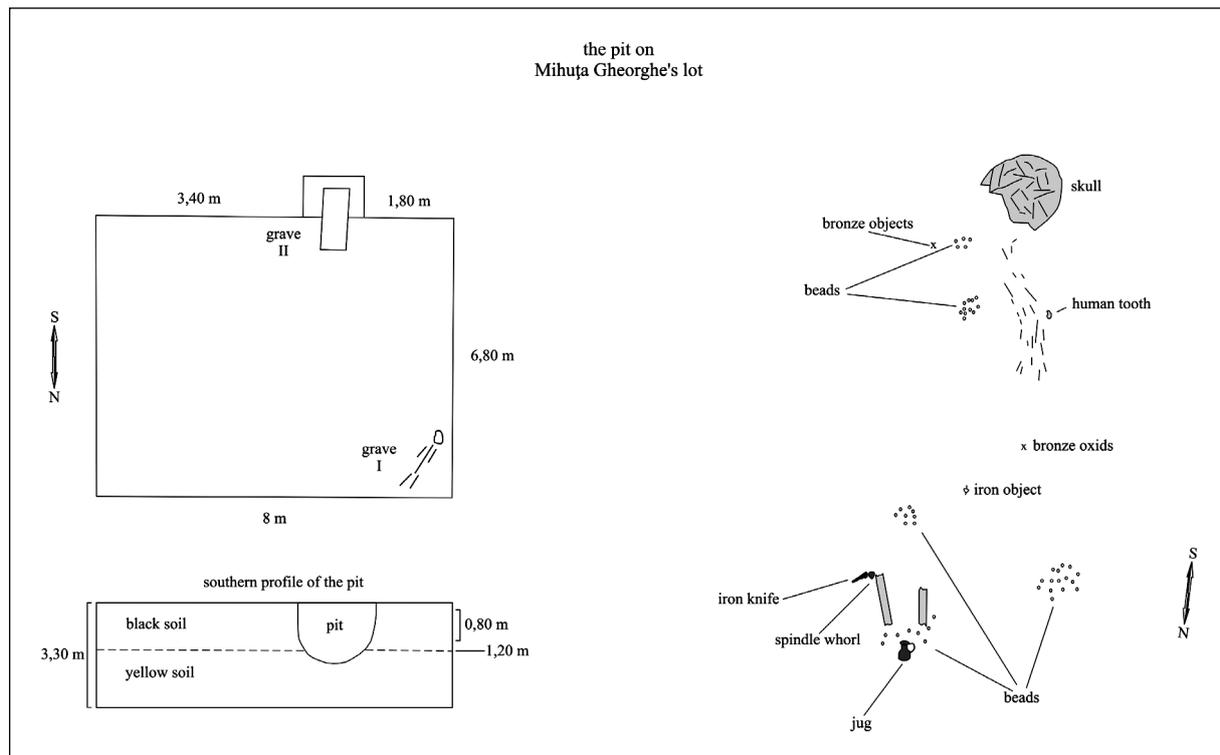


Fig. 7. Plans appended to the report dated 30.05.1958. (plan by Egon Dörner)

Report written by Egon Dörner on 08.06.1958:

“The undersigned Dörner Egon, department chief at the Regional Museum in Arad, traveled on 6. VI. 1958 to the municipality of Zădăreni to continue the archaeological researches.

On that occasion I researched the following three parts:

1. A soil extract pit was noted on the plot of house no. 98 owned by Lăpușcă Petru. The place is in

the NW corner of the municipality, in the northern part of the street called “Schlossberggasse”. The profile of the pit shows that the 0.40 m burnt layer was followed by a strongly aired layer, grey; in the NW corner of the pit one could see pieces of round wooden posts jutting out from the wall; a fragment of rim from a brick-red pot, undecorated, was found in the eastern wall at the depth of 1.40 m. Medieval pottery fragments, one iron spike and part of a dark red brick were found scattered in the pit.

2. Remains of medieval fragments were also seen descending to the north towards the edge of the garden, in the cultivated beds. Fragments of medieval pots, animal bones, and part of a pot with two prominences and incised lines / Neolithic? / were also found around the outer corner of the garden’s bank, that is very steep, in the segment behind plot no. 100.

3. The skeleton of a man buried with his horse was found in the western part of the municipality, in the pit of the plot belonging to Chevereșan Ștefan, in the western wall, at the depth of 1.60 m [Fig. 8]. A small jar-pot was extracted broken into pieces, made of black clay, well-fired, ornamented with tree wavy lines (Inv. No. 13448) as well as two pieces from a deteriorated iron fibula (Inv. No. 13449). In order to uncover this fully, we threw again soil on the uncovered parts, so that the excavation will be performed at a subsequent time. In the same pit, in the eastern corner of the southern wall, one can see traces of a pit with black soil that have to be subsequently researched.

On the same day, at the Communal Peoples’ Council we made copied of the plot of the terrain where the new houses are being built. Also, led by comrade accountant Schmalz I also saw an iron plaque, currently used as a plate for feet at the entrance to the summer kitchen in the yard of the health center. The plaque depicts in the relief the figure of a dignitary /king? princeps?/ framed by branches with leaves. Size ca. 80 × 80 cm. It has no inscription. Seems to be a copy of some medieval original.

On the same day I paid the workers who uncovered the two skeletons with rich archaeological inventories / both also with beads / on the plot owned by Mihota Gheorghe.”

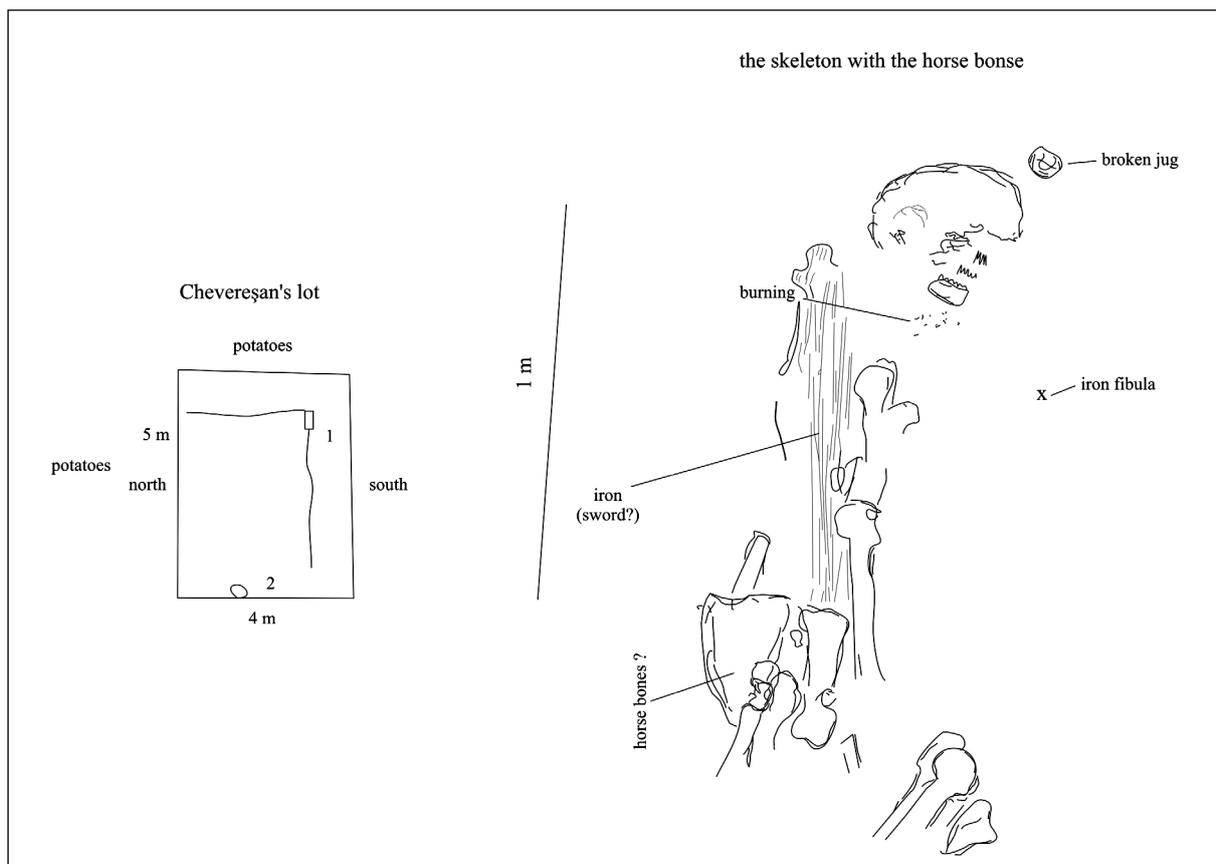


Fig. 8. Plans appended to the report dated 08.06.1958. (plan by Egon Dörner).

Report written by Egon Dörner on 12.06.1958:

“The undersigned Dörner Egon, department chief at the Regional Museum in Arad, accompanied

by comrade Kiss Nicolae, guide, traveled on 10.VI.1958 to the municipality of Zădăreni to continue the archaeological researches. To that end we accomplished the following:

The human skeleton in the pit located on the plot owned by Chevereșan Ștefan was completely uncovered, position NNE-SSW; it continued with an animal's skeleton / probably a horse's. As the bones were badly preserved, they could not be collected, but we took photos. No extra funerary inventory was found except for the objects previously found, namely the iron fibula and the black broken pot [Fig. 9].

In the eastern corner of the pit we started removing the soil to uncover the funerary pit previously noted. At the depth of 1.00 m we found traces of iron and could only collect in pieces an iron semicircle, measuring 2.50–3.00 m[?] in width. We then noted to the S-E the bones of the two lower limbs of a human skeleton, but the latter was not uncovered after all as the current pit could not be enlarged. Small traces of burning were found near the iron circle in some areas. We presume that the circle in question probably belonged to a wooden vessel that had been placed with foodstuffs or drink at the feet of the buried person.

One can thus note that the pit on Chevereșan's plot contained human skeleton buried according to a rite completely different that the majority of the other skeletons located so far close by. We presume, hypothetically, that these two skeletons belonged to a different group, judging by the black pot with the wavy line ornament maybe must be dated later, to the seventh century / Slavs?/. New researches are required to clarify this issue.”

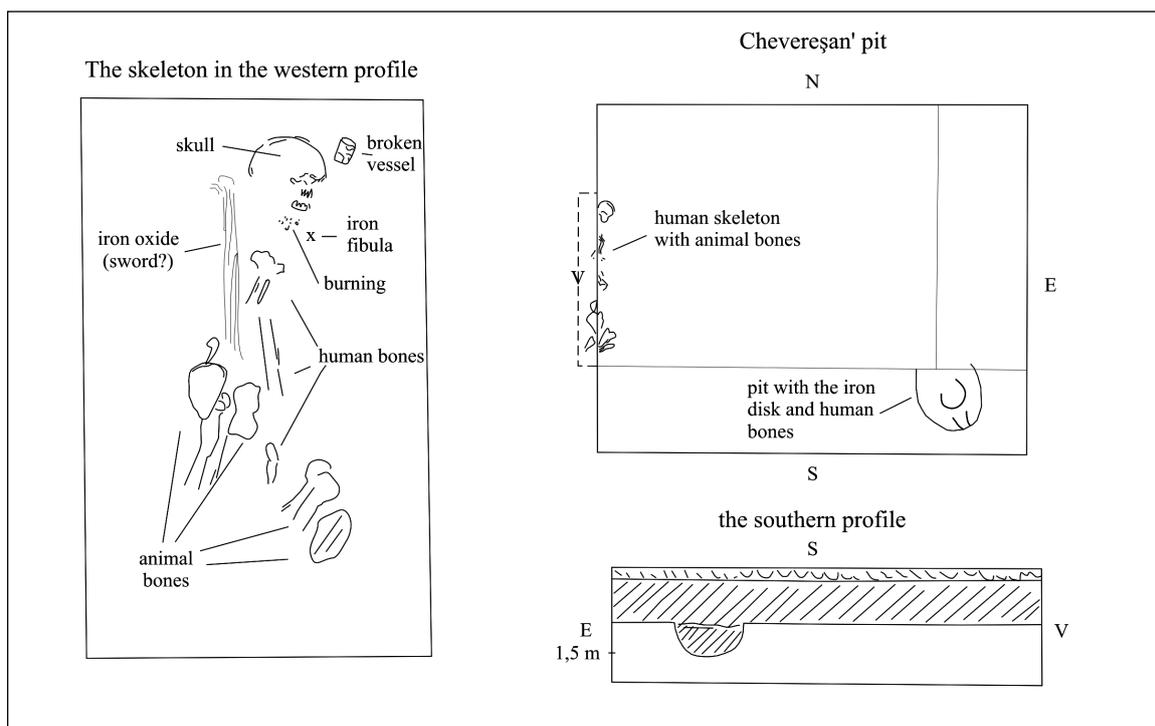


Fig. 9. Plans appended to the report dated 12.06.1958. (plan by Egon Dörner)

No. crt.	Date of delegation	Research team	Discoveries
1	31 May 1957	?	Two graves from the Sarmatian Period (pit no. 3).
2	7 June 1957	Egon Dörner, Francisc Baranyai, Albert Girauschek	Animal bones, pottery, and a piece of hearth or adobe, dated to the Late Bronze Age (pit no. 7, locations A, B, C; the northern profile of pit no. 8). (Inv. Nos. 13234–13244; 13245–13247; 13248–13254). Two graves from the Sarmatian Period (pit no. 5). Pottery from the end of the Bronze Age and the Sarmatian Period was found on the spot called “Zigeunerberg” (Inv. Nos. 13255–13265).

No. crt.	Date of delegation	Research team	Discoveries
3	27 August 1957	Egon Dörner	<p>A hearth from the end of the Bronze Age, discovered at the depth of 1.2 m. The hearth had the following dimensions: 2.50 × 1.50 m; numerous pottery fragments from the end of the Bronze Age were found around it and a clay weight (behind Ion Epure's house). (Inv. Nos. 13281–13315).</p> <p>Six graves from the Sarmatian Period (the pit behind Ioan Cep's house; Trașcă Petru's house and 150–200 m south-east from the latter).</p> <p>Traces of the settlement from the end of the Bronze Age (Inv. No. 13279) and of another date to the 14th–15th centuries were discovered on Schlossberggasse Street.</p> <p>An kiln that could not be dated was observed in the western profile of the pit on Schlossberggasse Street no. 151, at approx. 2 m in depth.</p> <p>An axe made of stone (Inv. No. 13273) was discovered on a plot owned by peasant Matei Pinkhard.</p>
4	30 August 1957	Egon Dörner, Francisc Baranyai	<p>The oven on Schlossberggasse Street no. 151 was uncovered. Pottery and other artifacts made of iron that have been dated to the 8th–9th and 14th–15th centuries were also discovered on the plot.</p> <p>Pottery fragments from the Middle Ages were discovered in the gardens of houses nos. 91, 93, and 94.</p> <p>Another grave from the Sarmatian Period (the fifth) was discovered in the pit behind Ioan Cep's house.</p>
5	26 April 1958	Nicolae Kiss	<p>One grave from the Sarmatian Period (Gheorghe Mihota's house).</p> <p>Pottery fragments from the Middle Ages were discovered on the spot called "Mortăreț" (approx. 500–600 m east of the settlement, parallel to the road leading to Arad).</p>
6	13 May 1958	Egon Dörner	<p>One grave from the Sarmatian Period (on Popescu Nicolae's house plot).</p> <p>Another grave from the Sarmatian Period (on Mihai Setanschi's house plot).</p> <p>Several pottery fragments from the Sarmatian Period (on Ghiura Todor's house plot).</p> <p>Pottery fragments from the Late Bronze Age and the Sarmatian Period (from the plots of Vasile Lucuța's house and Roman Izghirean's house).</p>
7	20 May 1958	Egon Dörner, Nicolae Kiss	<p>One grave from the Sarmatian Period (during excavations for the water wall of Pascu Rotaru's house).</p> <p>Another grave from the Sarmatian Period (on Roman Izghirean's house plot).</p> <p>Pottery fragments and animal bones from the Sarmatian Period (on Ludovic Chichezan's house plot).</p> <p>Pottery fragments and animal bones from the Late Bronze Age (on the house plots of Ion Sirbuț and Ion Fărnău). (Inv. Nos. 13408–13410; 13411).</p> <p>Another grave from the Sarmatian Period (on Teodor Bodrogean's house plot).</p>
8	23 May 1958	Egon Dörner, Nicolae Kiss	<p>One grave from the Sarmatian Period (on Constantin Izghirean's house plot).</p> <p>Pottery fragments from the Sarmatian Period (on Ștefan Chevereșan's house plot).</p> <p>Pit from the Late Bronze Age, 0.75 m in depth (on Ion Fărnău's house plot). "Different large and small fragments of Hallstatt pots, rims, bases, cup parts, an idol's leg?, bones of horses and other animals, one fragment from a primitive grinder (No. 13415–13421)." (Inv. Nos. 13412–13414).</p> <p>Pottery fragments from the Late Bronze Age (on Dumitru Tolontan's house plot). (Inv. No. 13422).</p>

No. crt.	Date of delegation	Research team	Discoveries
9	27–28 May 1958	Egon Dörner, Nicolae Kiss, Albert Girauschek	One grave from the Sarmatian Period (on Gheorghe Mihota house plot).
10	6 June 1958	Egon Dörner	Traces of a medieval settlement (Schlossberggasse St. no. 98, owner Petru Lăpușcă). Traces of the same medieval settlement were identified in the same area, in the garden of house no. 100, but there were also several prehistoric pottery fragments (the exact chronological identification of which is not mentioned; the report only records the fact that it might belong to the Neolithic Era). A grave in which the deceased was accompanied by a horse (on Ștefan Chevereșan's house plot); probably belongs to the Avar Period.
11	10 June 1958	Egon Dörner, Nicolae Kiss	The grave that also contained a horse was entirely uncovered on the plot owned by Ștefan Chevereșan. Another grave, probably also from the Avar Period, was discovered on the same plot.

Table 1. Brief presentation of the field works.

No. crt.	Owner name	Pit dimensions	Location	BA	SP/ fun	SP/ set	AP	MA
1	Vasile Andra (pit no. 3)	8 × 7 m	Zădăreni/East	x	x			
2	Teodor Bodrogean	?	Zădăreni/West		x			
3	Ioan Cep	15 × 5 m	Zădăreni/East		x			
4	Ștefan Chevereșan	4 × 4 m	Zădăreni/West	x			x	
5	Ludovic Chichezan	?	Zădăreni/East			x		
6	Pavel Copil	?	Zădăreni/East	x				
7	Precup Copil	?	Zădăreni/East					
8	Nicolae Crețu	?	Zădăreni/East	x				
9	Ion Epure	20 × 6 m	Zădăreni/East	x				
10	Ion Fărnău	?	Zădăreni/East	x				
11	Todor Ghiura	6 × 3 m	Zădăreni/West			x		
12	Constantin Izghirean	4 × 4 m	Zădăreni/West		x			
13	Roman Izghirean	?	Zădăreni/West	x				
14	Petru Lăpușcă (no. 98)		Zădăreni/West					x
15	Vasile Lucuța	6 × 4 m	Zădăreni/East	x		x		
16	Gheorghe Mihota	?	Zădăreni/West		x			
17	Gheorghe Mișca	?	Zădăreni/East	x				
18	Maria Floare Mișca	?	Zădăreni/East	x		x		
19	Persida Pirtea	?	Zădăreni/West					
20	Nicolae Popescu	?	Zădăreni/West		x			
21	Pascu Rotaru	?	Zădăreni/East		x			
22	Mihai Setanschi	15 × 1.5 m	Zădăreni/West		x			
23	Ion Sîrbuț	4 × 5 m	Zădăreni/East	x				
24	Mara Ștefan (pit no. 8)	5 × 5 m	Zădăreni/East	x		x		
25	Petru Trașcă	10 × 7 m	Zădăreni/East		x			
26	Dragoș Teodor (pit no. 5)	7 × 6 m	Zădăreni/East	x	x			
27	Dumitru Tolan	?	Zădăreni/East	x				
28	Ion Țăran	?	Zădăreni/East		x?			
29	Dumitru Vidican	?	Zădăreni/East		x?			
30	? (pit no. 7)	4 × 4 m	Zădăreni/East	x		x		

No. crt.	Owner name	Pit dimensions	Location	BA	SP/ fun	SP/ set	AP	MA
31	Schlossberggasse Street, no. 151	15 × 5 m	Zădăreni/ North	x				x

Table 2. List of location with discoveries made in the perimeter of the settlement of Zădăreni between 1957 and 1958. Abbreviations used in the table: BA: Bronze Age settlement features; SP/fun: Sarmatian-period graves; SP/set: Sarmatian-period settlement features; AP: Avar-period graves; MA: medieval settlement features; U: cannot be dated.

Bronze Age discoveries

As we were able to note from Egon Dörner's documentation and from the archaeological material stored in the collection of the museum, the expansion of Zădăreni destroyed a good part of the Bronze Age settlement. The analysis of the dispersion and frequency of discoveries indicate that the latter can be located on the eastern side of Zădăreni, even if sporadic discoveries were also found in the northern and western parts of the municipality (Fig. 3).

Due to the character of the research in question, the main aspects of the Bronze Age settlement were lost. With only the selected pottery fragments and the few mentions connected to the discoveries dated to the Bronze Age at hand, we are missing a detailed analysis of the contexts in which the artifacts were discovered⁸. Only in top cases can one associate the artifacts with clear contexts. A hearth measuring 2.50 × 1.50 m was identified during the survey on 27.08.1957. The feature became apparent at the depth of 1.20 m on the plot owned by Ion Epure. The report indicates that numerous pottery fragments and a clay weight were discovered around the hearth. At the same time, the text contains mentions of the fact that the observations in question and the collection of the archaeological material were not made by specialists, but by the village teacher and the accountant of the GAS. According to Dörner's notes, it seems that the following pottery fragments, illustrated here as well, were discovered: pl. 1/8; pl. 2/1–2; pl. 4/1–3; pl. 5/1–4; pl. 6/2–3; pl. 7/1–4; pl. 8/1–4; pl. 11/1, 3–4; pl. 12/1–2, 4, 6; pl. 13/1; pl. 14/3, 5; pl. 15/5; pl. 16/1–2, 9. From a chronological perspective, the discovered pottery belongs to Late Bronze Age II. The second recorded context is a pit uncovered on the plot owned by Ion Fernău. The report of the survey made on 23.05.1958 mentions that the pit that measured 0.75 m in depth contained pottery fragments, one statuette leg, one grinder fragment, and animal bones among which some belonging to horses. The following pottery fragments discovered in the pit on Ion Fernău's plot are being preserved in the collection of the museum: pl. 1–6; pl. 2/3; pl. 6/1, 4; pl. 9/1–2, 4; pl. 10/1; pl. 13/2; pl. 14/7; pl. 15/7–8; pl. 16/3–8. An interesting aspect is that the pottery in question, illustrated here, belongs to distinct chronological horizons. Some of the pottery is typical to the late phase of the Early Bronze Age or to the early stage of the Middle Bronze Age, while the rest of the material belongs to the Late Bronze Age. We thus believe that the dating of this archaeological feature is uncertain.

As previously indicated, the prehistoric pottery collected from the perimeter of the village of Zădăreni belongs to several chronological stages. The first chronological horizon is represented by the Baden pottery fragments already published. One then notes the fact that the majority of the Bronze Age pottery is decorated with motifs specific to Late Bronze Age II. These are especially decorated through channelings (pl. 1/1–2, 4; pl. 2/4; pl. 3; pl. 4/1–2; pl. 6/3; pl. 10/1; pl. 11–12; pl. 13/2; pl. 14/1, 3, 5–7); the channels are placed in horizontal stripes, or vertically and in garlands. One also notes the typical knobs (pl. 2/2–4; pl. 13–14), pricks and notches placed in a row (pl. 7/2–4; pl. 8; pl. 15/3–4), or veins (pl. 1/3). The shapes are also typical to this chronological stage. One encounters small cups (pl. 1/6), bowls (pl. 1/7–8; pl. 2), bitronconic vessels with a long neck (pl. 3–5; pl. 10/1; pl. 13/2), and different types of cooking pots (pl. 6–8). Besides the pottery typical to the Late Bronze Age one notes a series of fragments decorated with motifs typical to the developed stage of the Early Bronze Age or an early stage of the Middle Bronze Age (pl. 16/5–8)⁹.

As one could well observe, the great majority of the pottery belongs to Late Bronze Age II. This

⁸ In the reports the Bronze Age pottery is called Hallstatt type pottery.

⁹ The closest analogies for these types of ornaments can be seen in Arad „Bufniț” (Sava, Matei 2013), Arad „Uzina de apă” (Pădureanu 1988), Căciir „Spinul lui Stanca” (Pădureanu 1973), Pecica „Șanțul Mare” (Soroceanu 1991; Nicodemus *et al.* 2015), Semeș „Livada lui onea” (Gogăltan 1996; Gogăltan 2014), ori Socodor „Căvăjdia” (Popescu 1956a).

chronological period is marked by the construction of the mega fortifications of the Lower Mureş Basin (Sântana “Cetatea Veche”¹⁰, Corneşti “Iarcu”¹¹, Munar “Wolfsberg”¹² etc.). Channels became generalized as a means of decorating ceramic pots during this period, though the decoration technique was used since the Middle Bronze Age¹³. One notes the thin or wide channels, placed horizontally, as a garland or a torsade on large bitronconic pots, bitronconic bowls with inverted rim, or small cups with heightened handle. This type of pottery is the *marker* of the period in the nearby region¹⁴.

Conclusions

The processing and publication of old researches is certainly a difficult initiative. Thus, the one who initiates such endeavors faces numerous obstacles and the real benefice only consists of the illustration of the archaeological material. Sometimes, browsing through the old collections can provide pleasant surprises. Such a happy case is the documentation of the archaeological researches performed in Zădăreni, preserved in the archive of the Arad Museum. Egon Dörner, the one who has coordinated these researches, has compiled a rigorous documentation for the time. Each field trip was followed by a report accompanied by the illustration of the discovered contexts. At the same time he has also created numerous general and detailed maps of the areas with archaeological potential or where discoveries had already been made.

The archaeological researches performed in Zădăreni in 1957 and 1958 were the first rescue excavation on the territory of Arad County. Naturally, the researches in Zădăreni cannot be compared with a contemporary rescue excavations, but for that time the efforts of the team of the Museum in Arad are worthy of note in the history of Romanian archaeology. Even if the materials were sometimes recovered from the villagers and small test excavations were subsequently performed, I believe that we today must make the initiatives of our predecessors known.

Though the extension of the settlement of Zădăreni, a reason for the initiation of the 1957 and 1958 researches, has led to the identification of certain archaeological objectives that date to several eras, in this study I have illustrated and briefly analyzed only those that belong to the Bronze Age. Despite that few fragments belong to the Early Bronze Age or maybe to the Middle Bronze Age, the majority of prehistoric pottery belongs to the Late Bronze Age.

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¹⁰ Rusu *et al.* 1996; Rusu *et al.* 1999; Gogâltan, Sava 2010; Gogâltan, Sava 2012; Gogâltan *et al.* 2013; Gogâltan, Sava 2018; Sava *et al.* 2019.

¹¹ Medeleţ 1993; Szentmiklosi *et al.* 2011; Heeb *et al.* 2012; Heeb *et al.* 2014; Heeb *et al.* 2017; Lehmpful *et al.* 2018.

¹² Gogâltan, Sava 2010, 57–61; Sava, Gogâltan 2014; Gogâltan 2016, 90–94; Sava, Gogâltan 2017.

¹³ See for example Popescu 1956b; Soroceanu 1991; Gogâltan 1998; Sava 2010 for channeled pottery in the Middle Bronze Age contexts of the Lower Mureş Valley.

¹⁴ Pottery similar to the one discovered in Zădăreni can be especially encountered in the Lower Mureş Basin in the settlement in Arad „Bufniţ” (Sava, Matei 2013), in Felnac “Complexul Zootehnic” (Sava 2016), Şagu „Sit A1_1” (Sava *et al.* 2011; Sava *et al.* 2012), and Vladimirescu (Pădureanu 1985).

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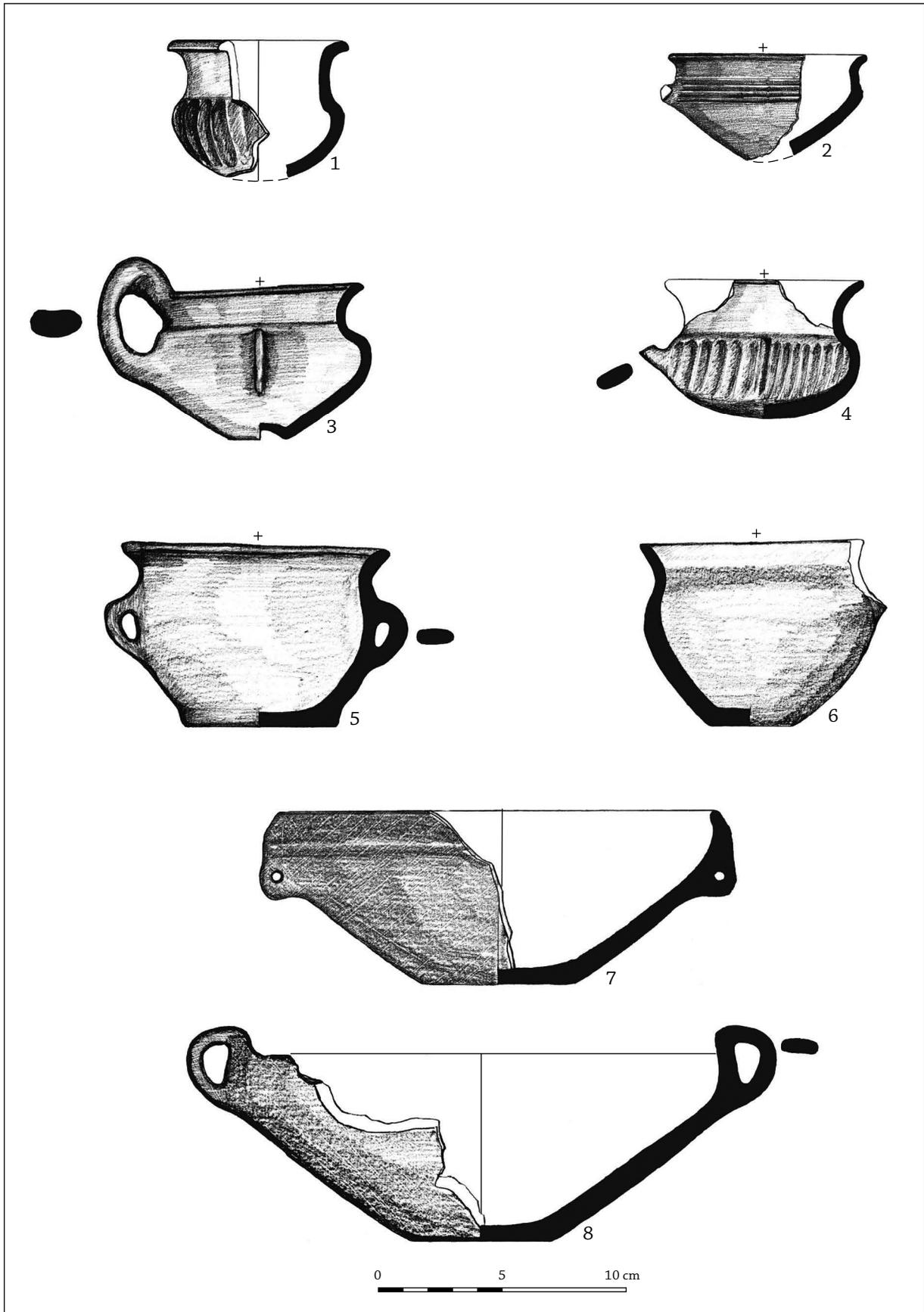


Plate 1. Zădăreni. Late Bronze Age Pottery.

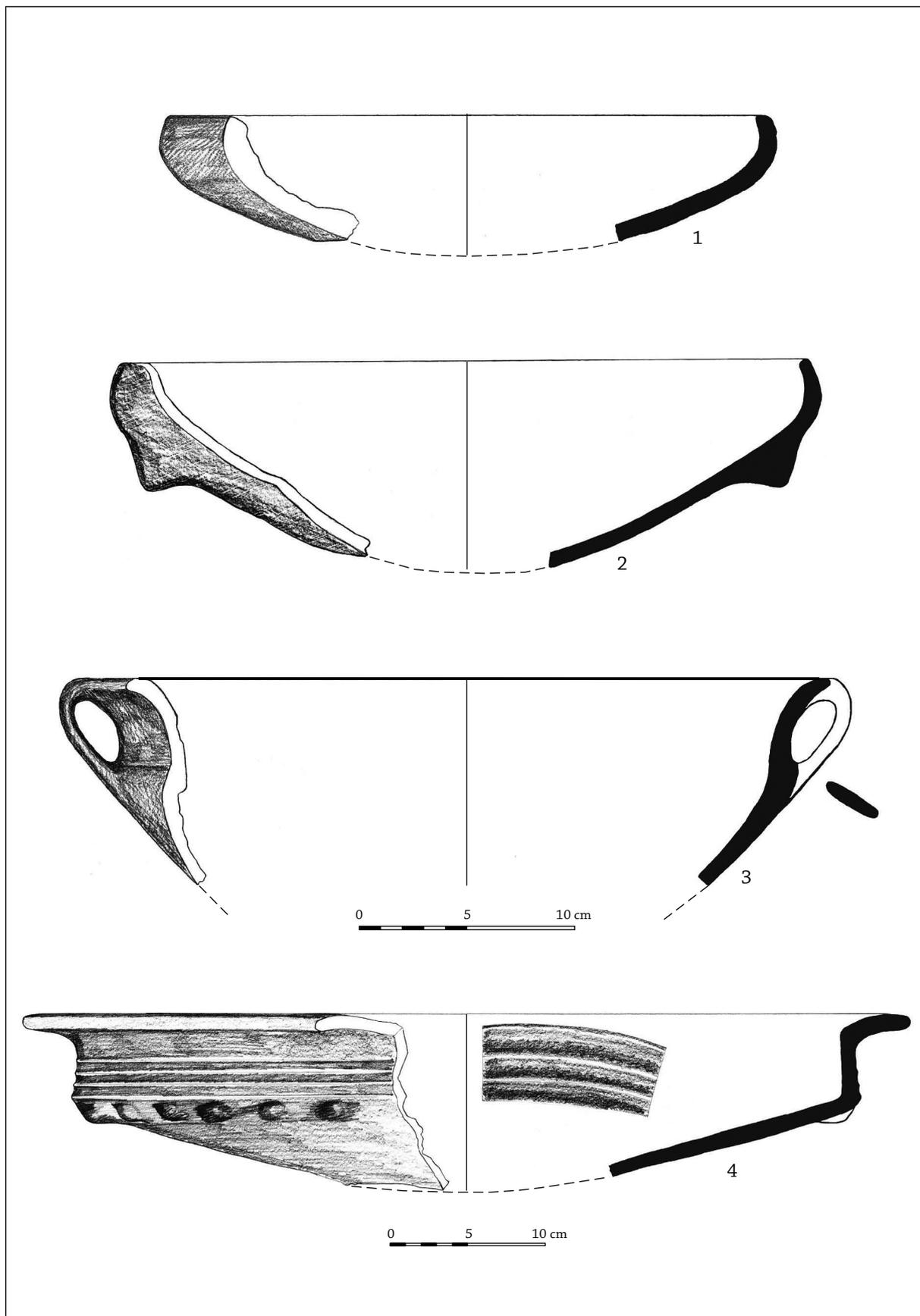


Plate 2. Zădăreni. Late Bronze Age Pottery.

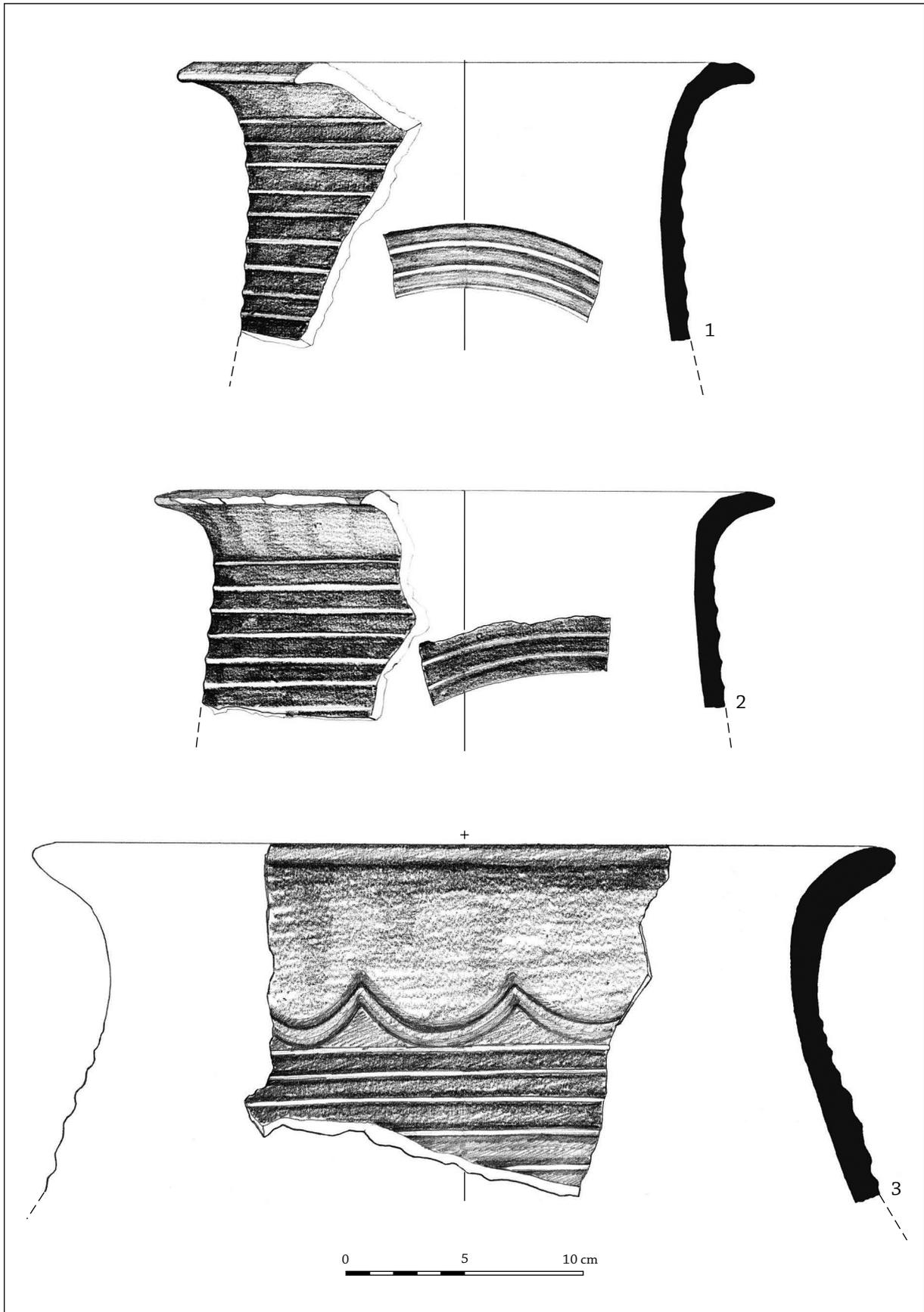


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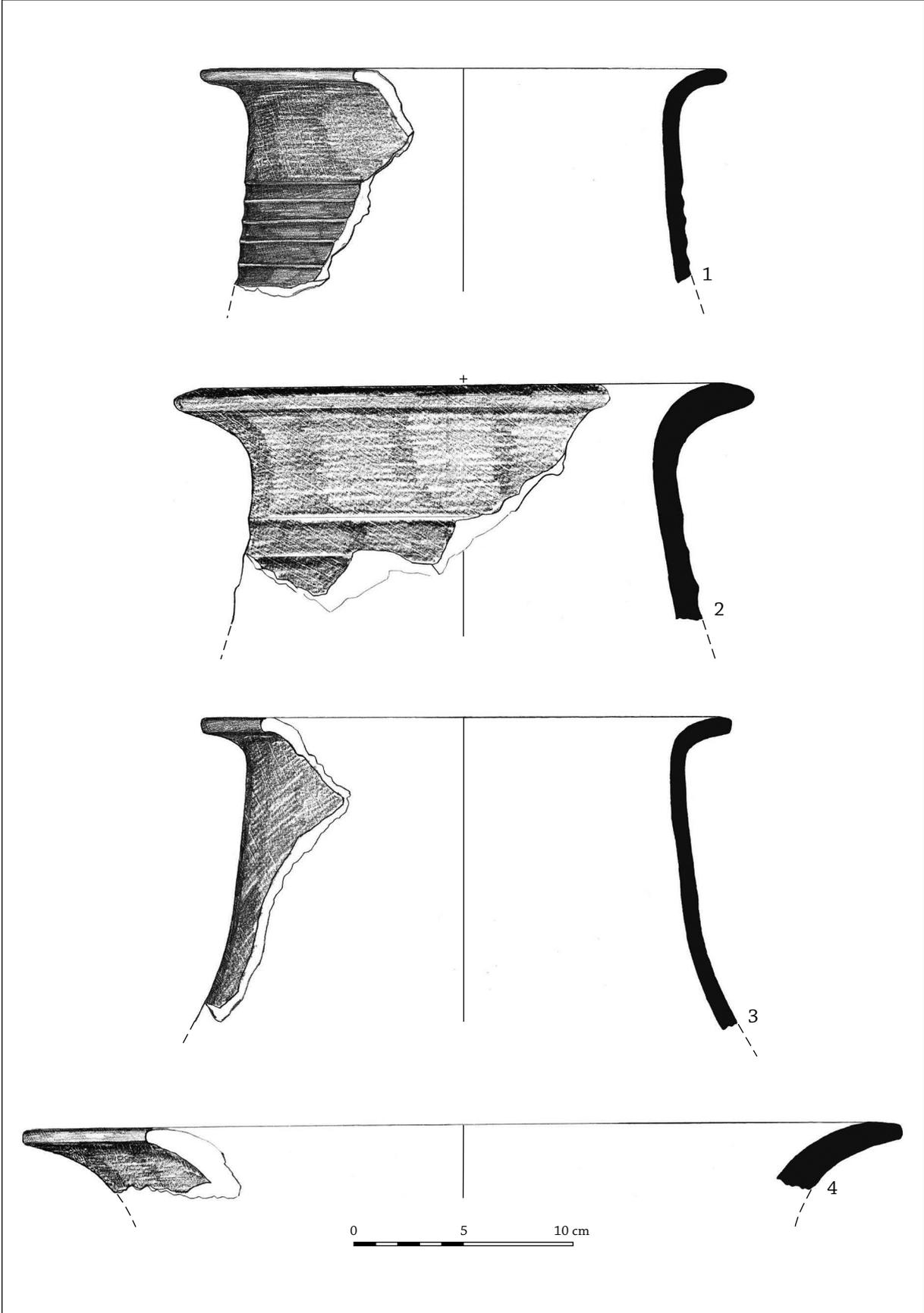


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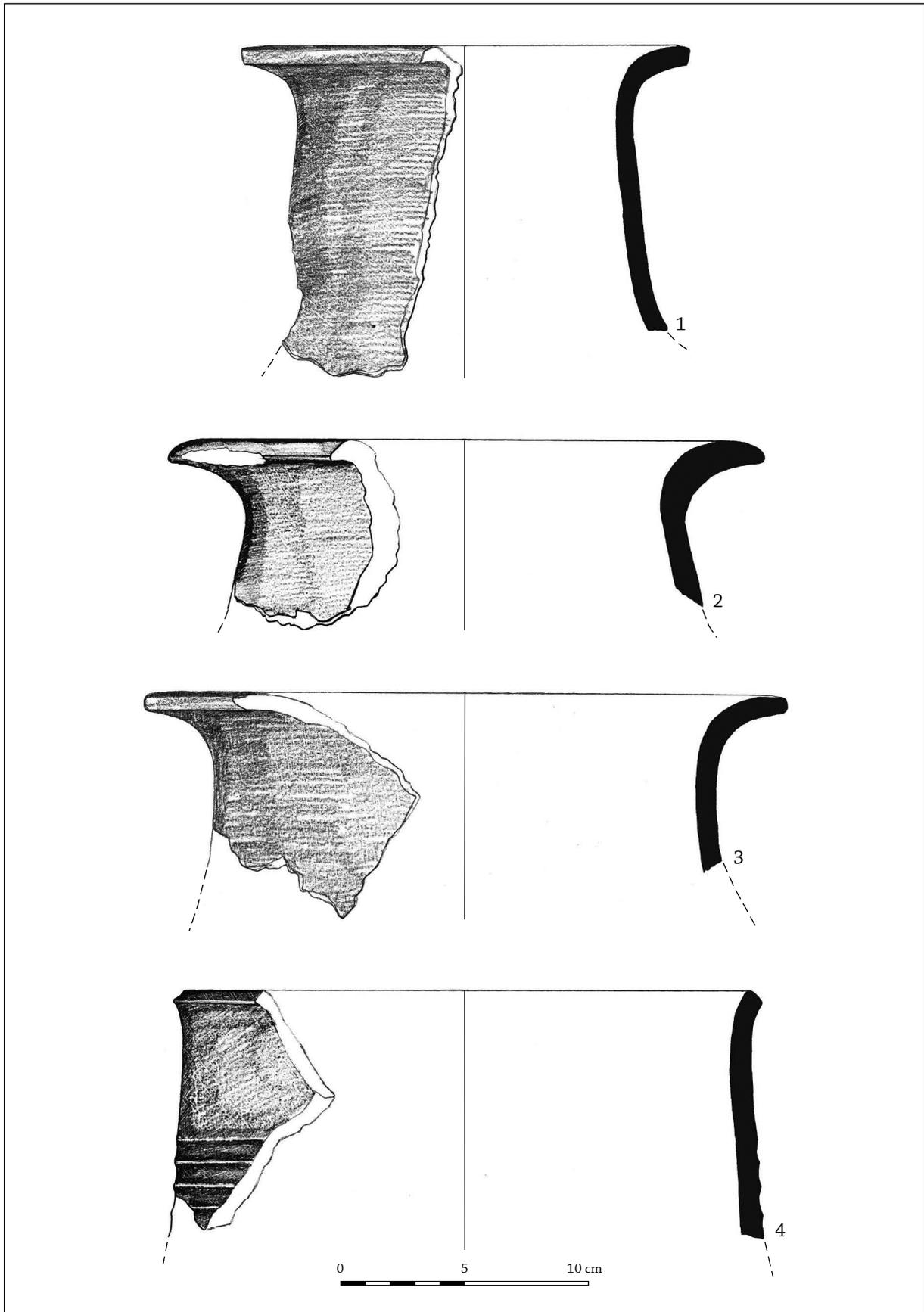


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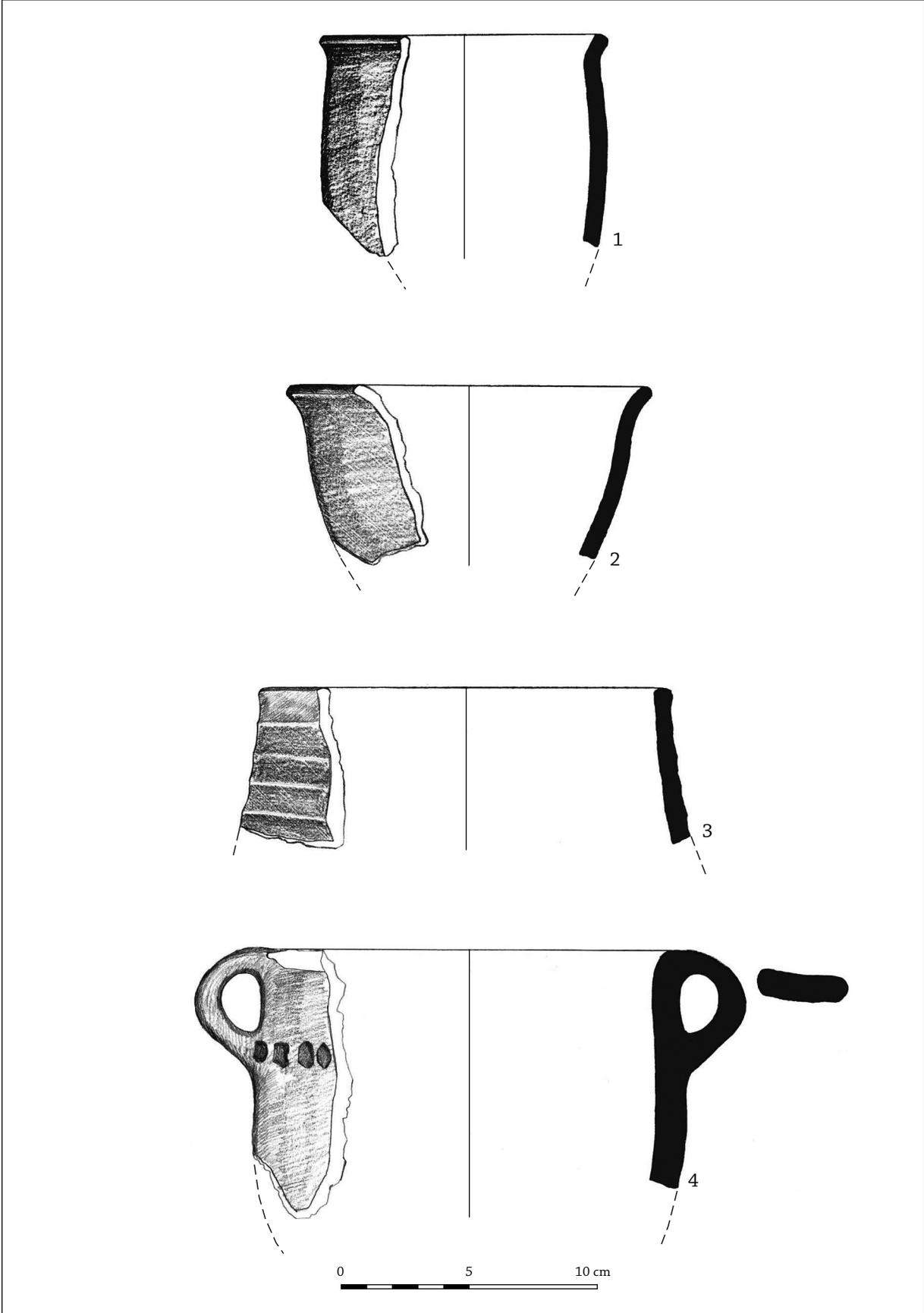


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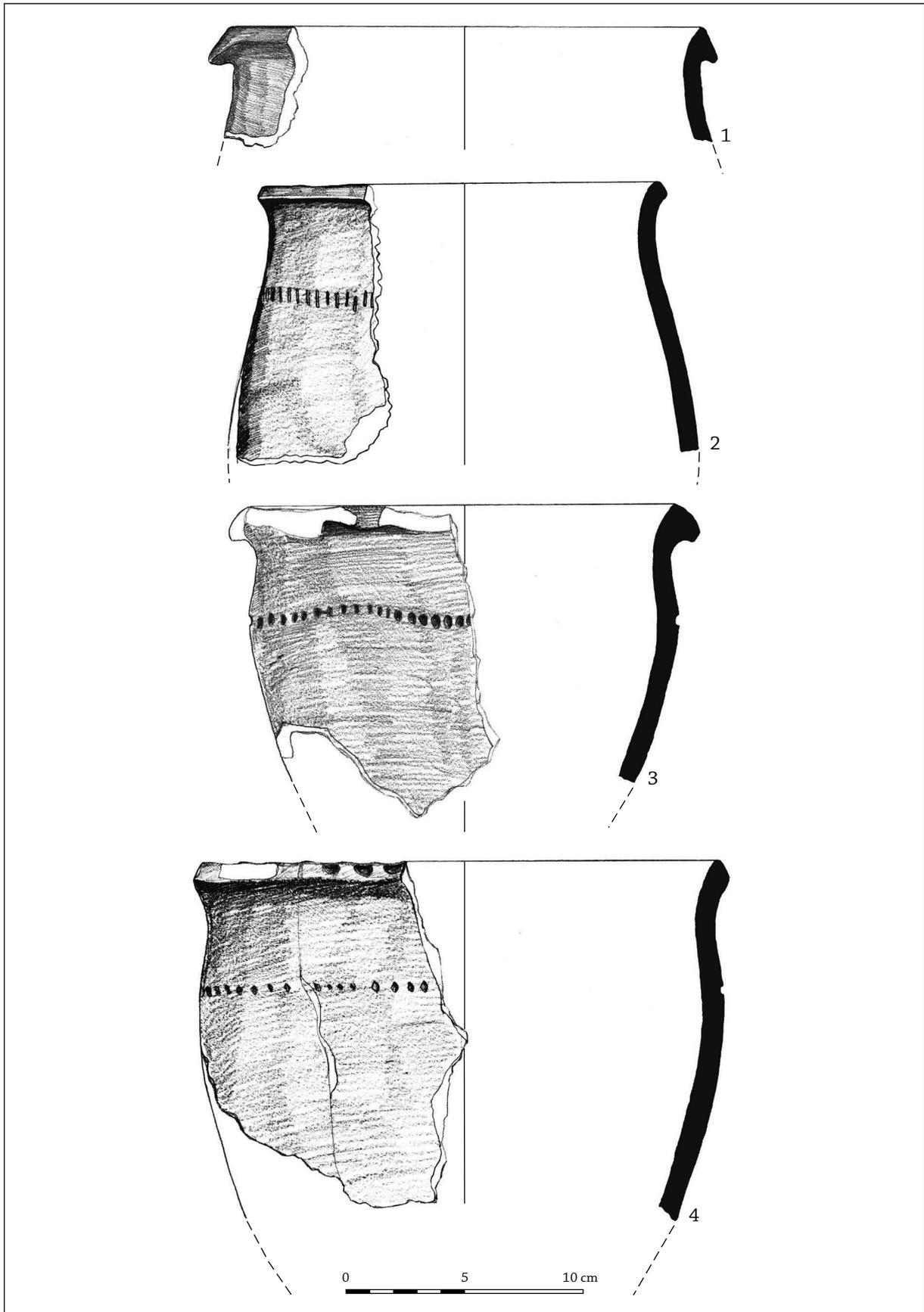


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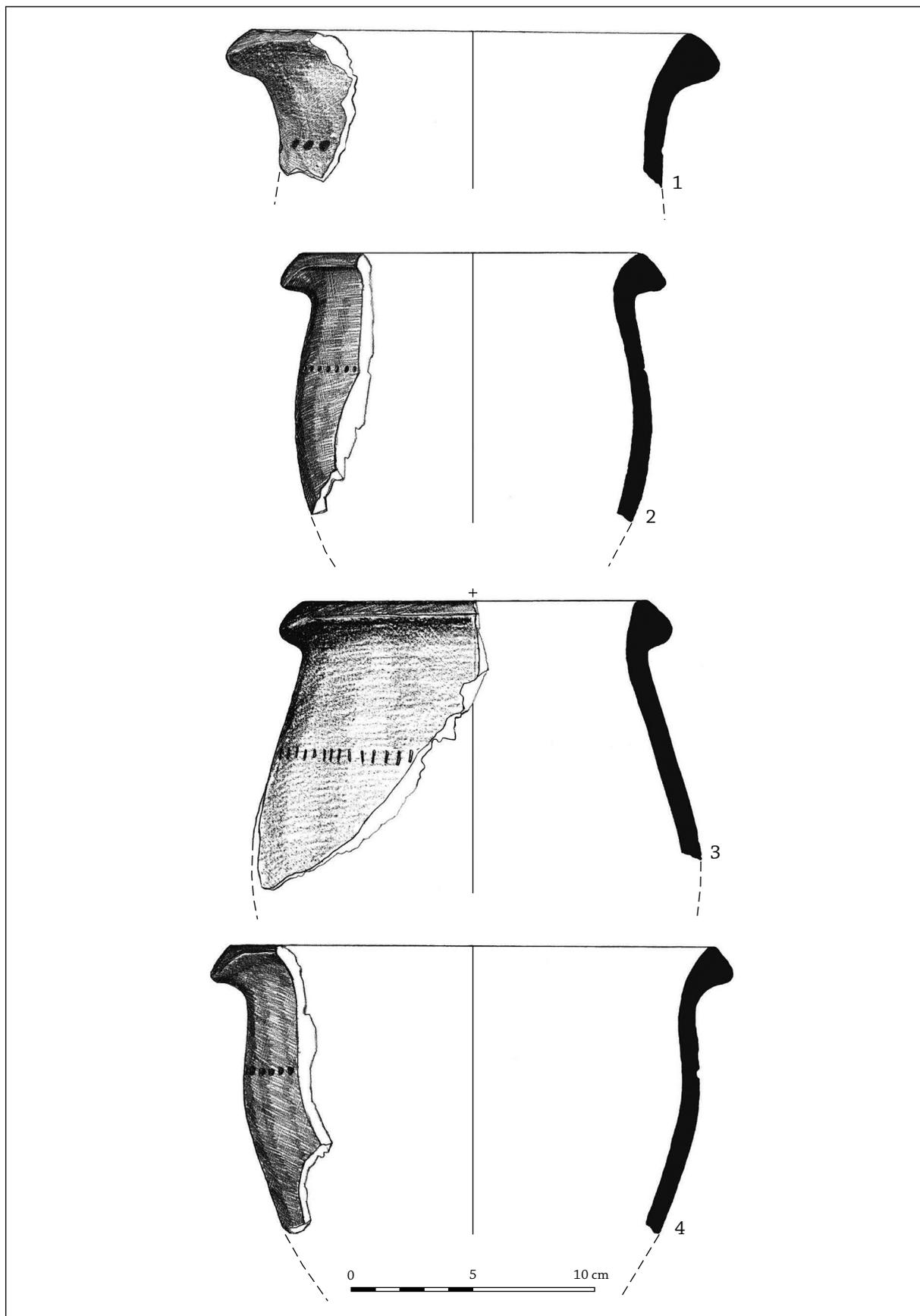


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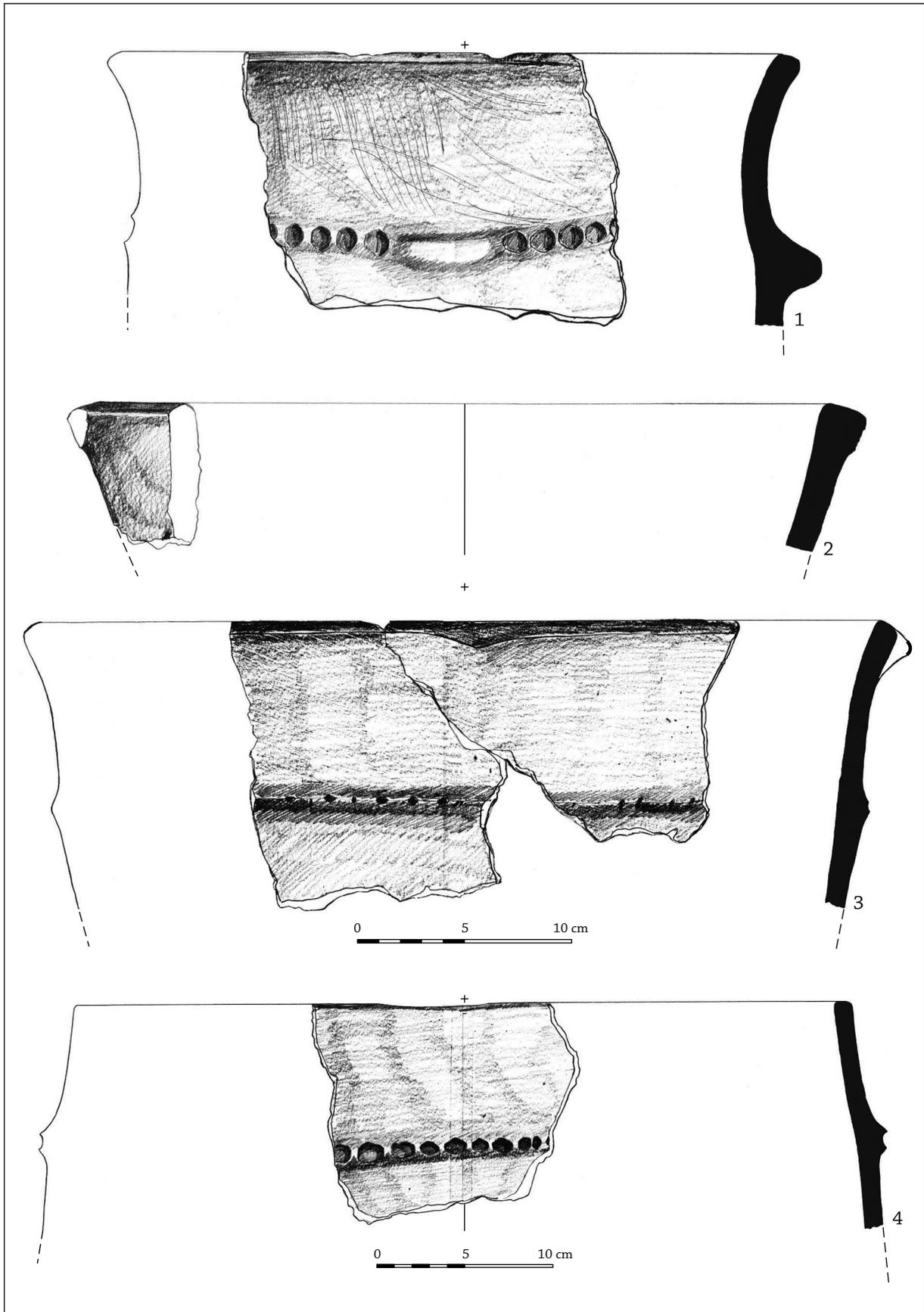


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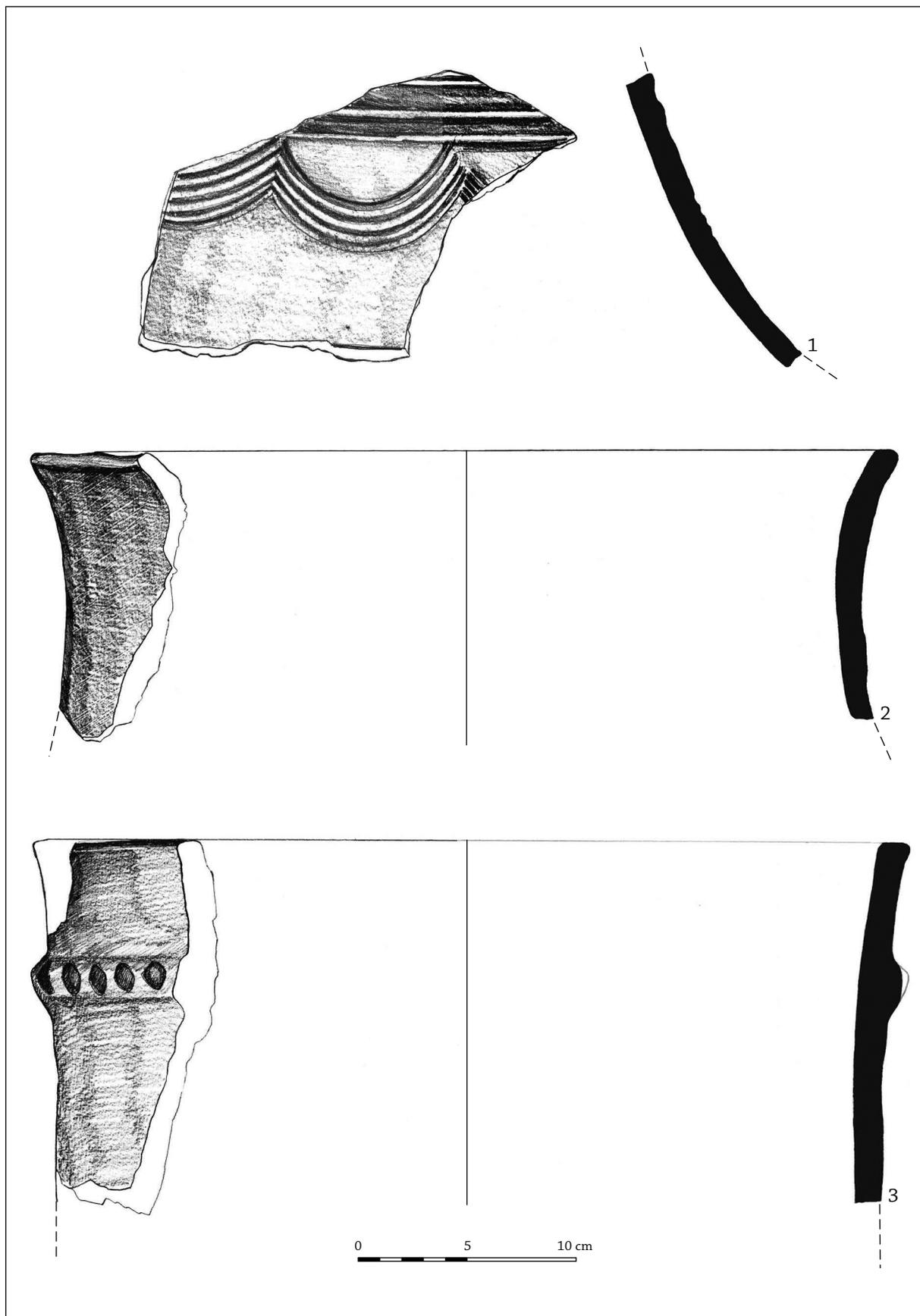


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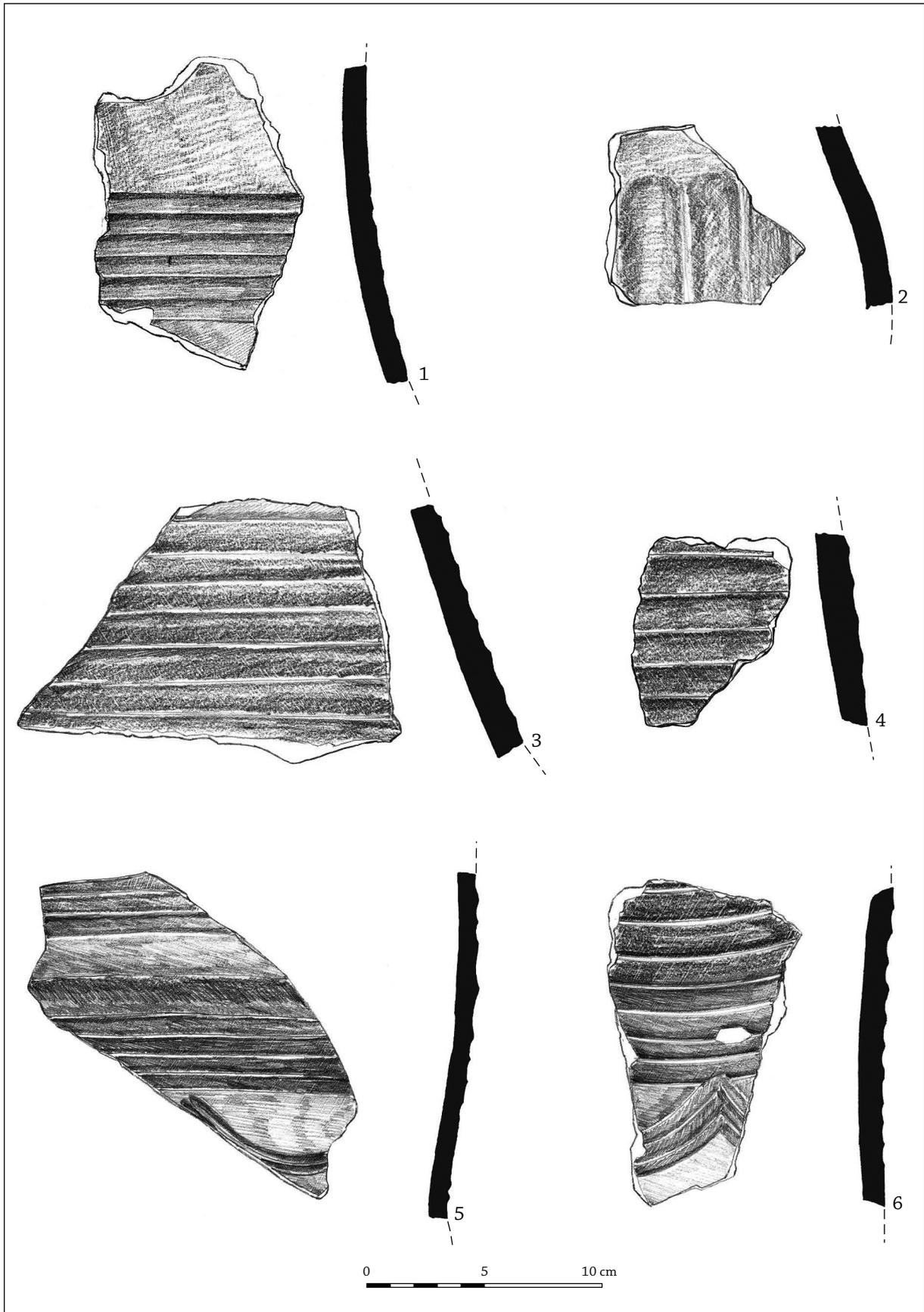


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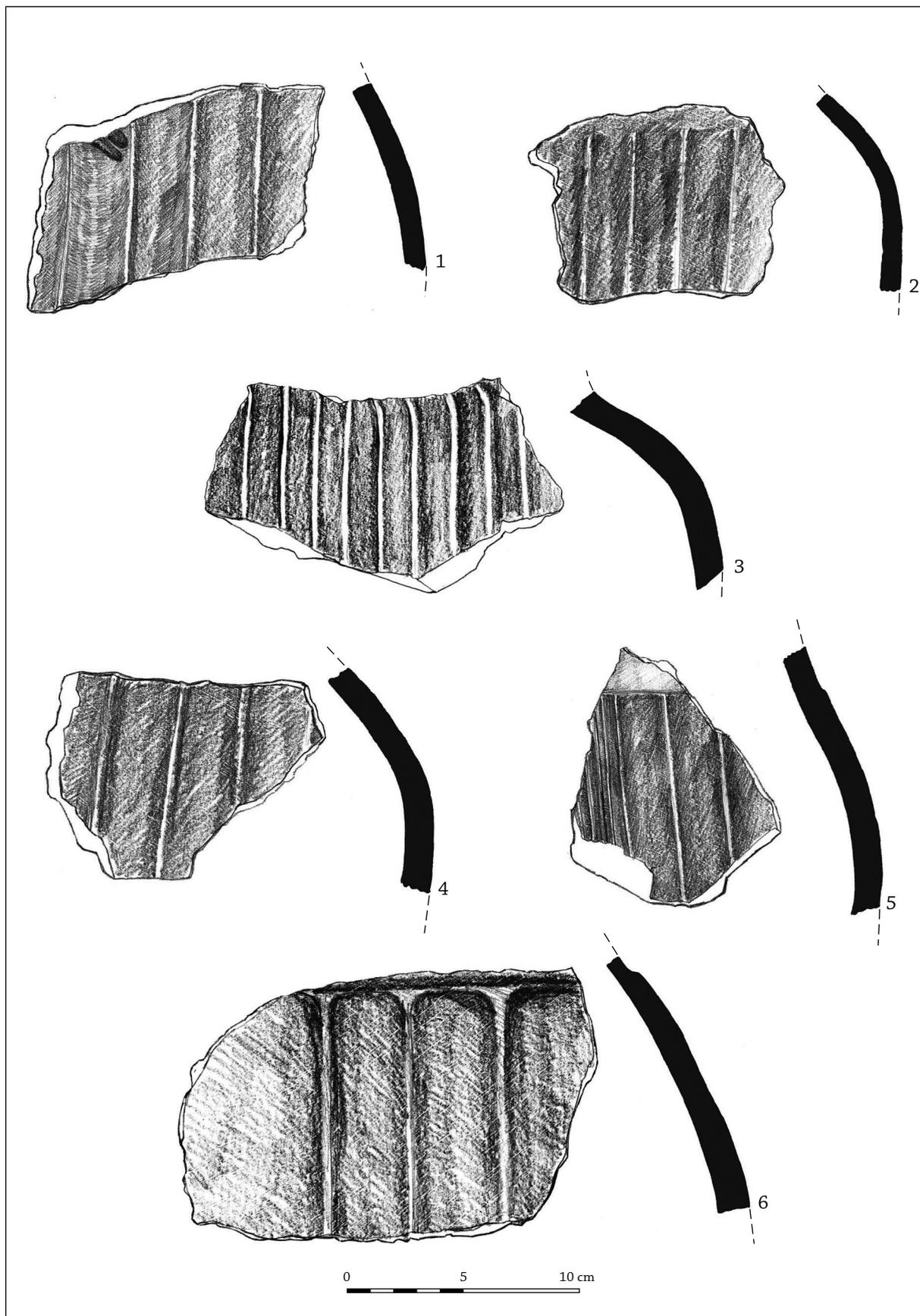


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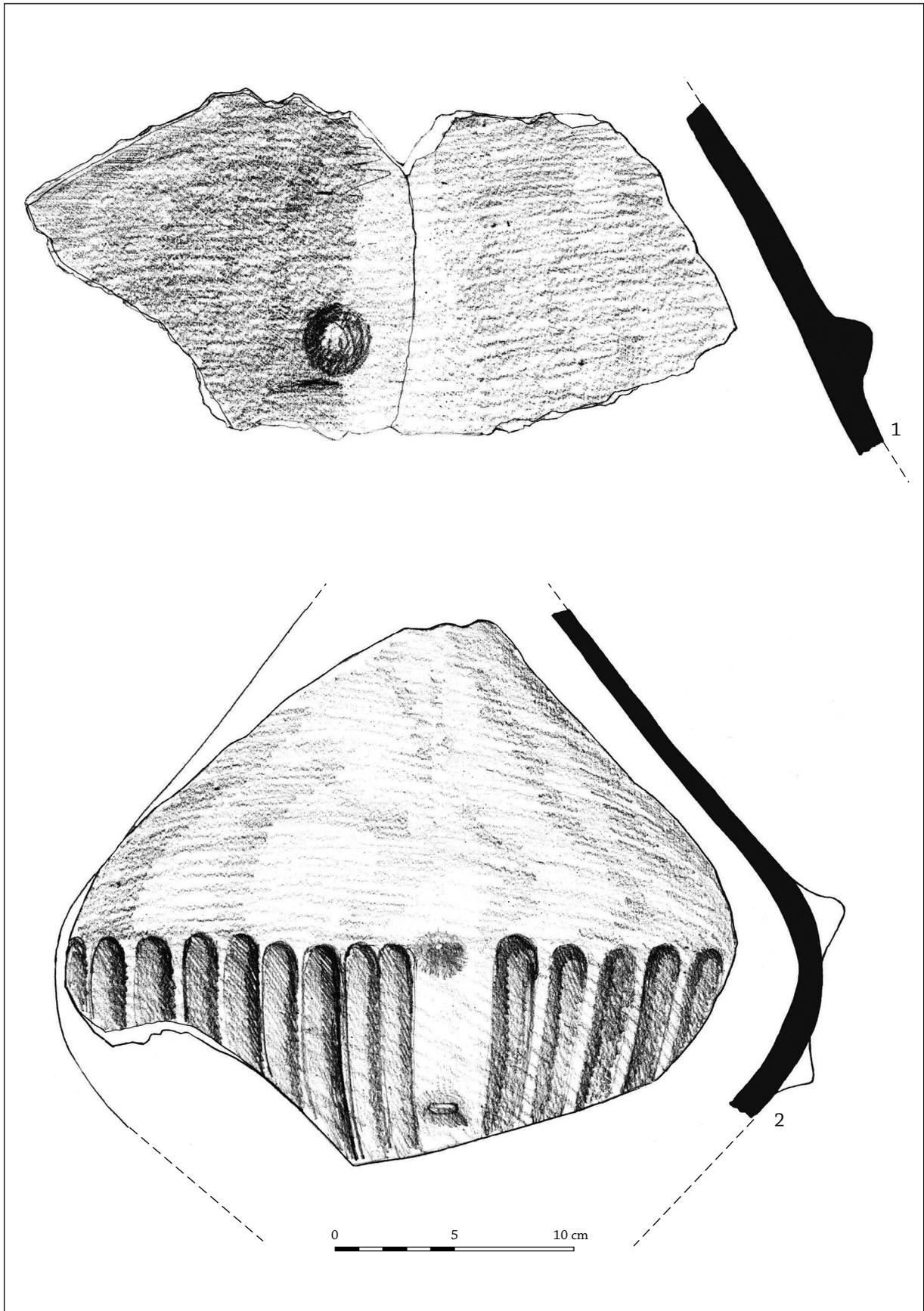


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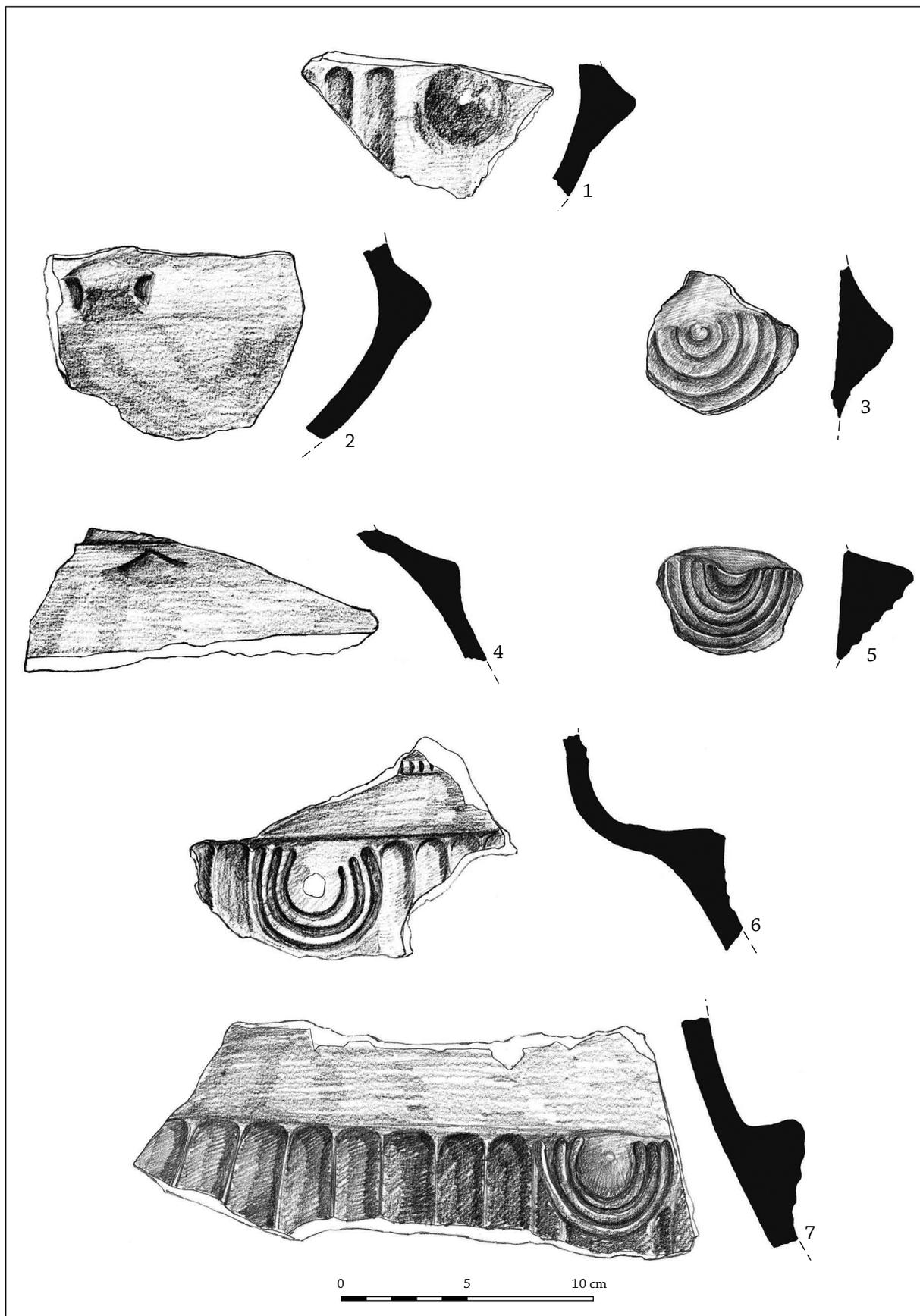


Plate 14. Zădăreni. Late Bronze Age Pottery.

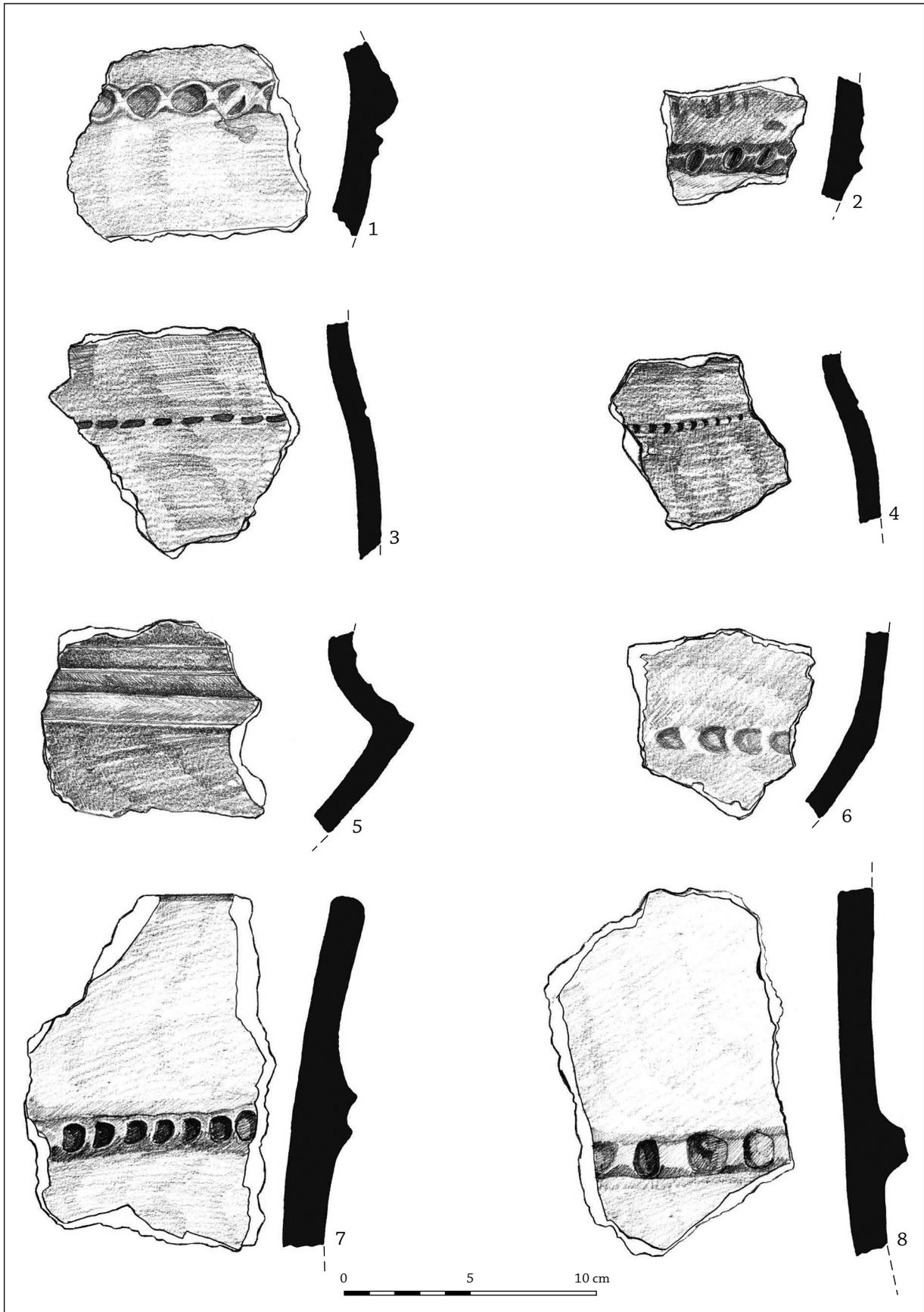


Plate 15. Zádăreni. Late Bronze Age Pottery.

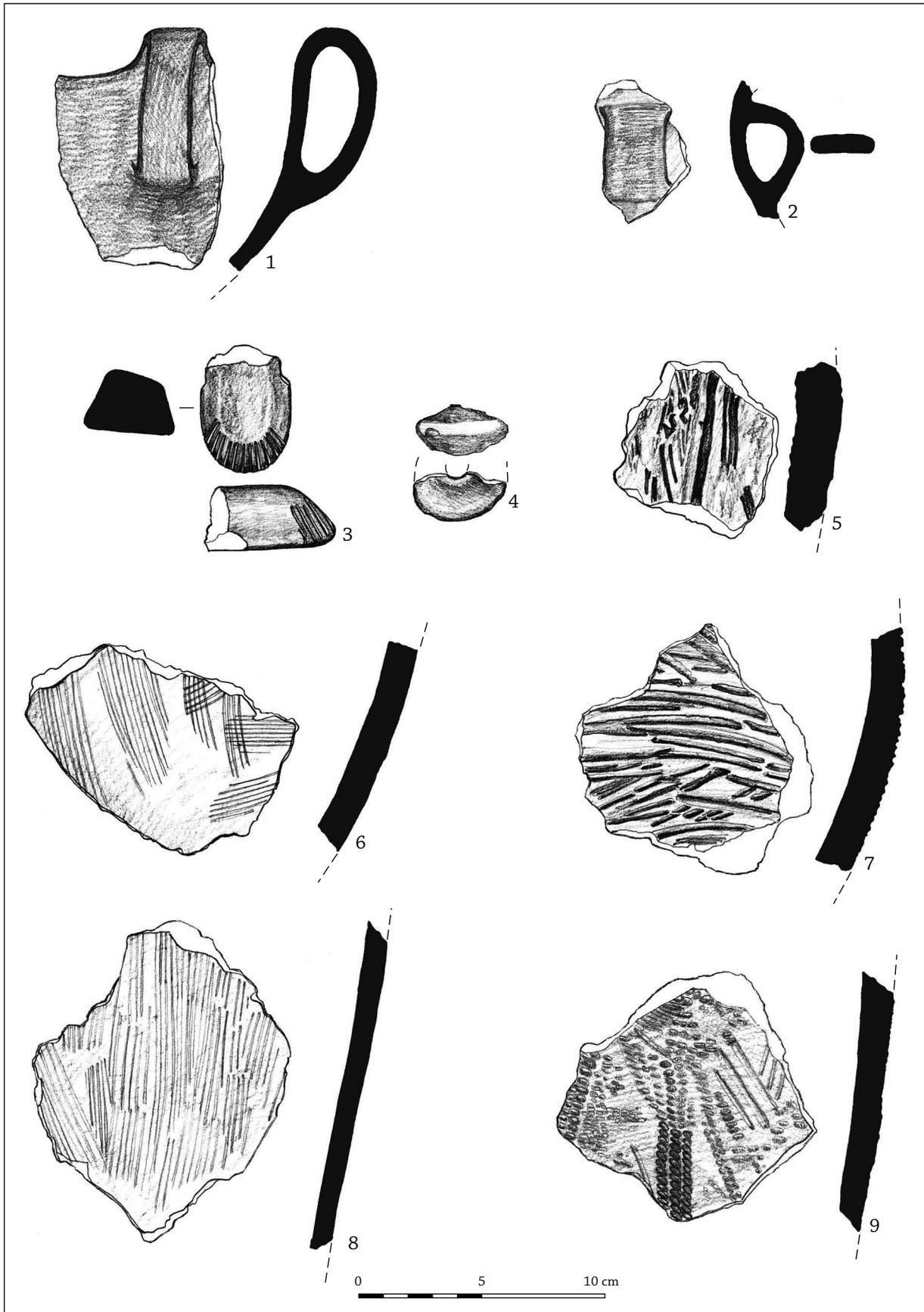


Plate 16. Zădăreni. 1–2. Late Bronze Age Pottery; 3. Bronze Age clay foot; 4. Bronze Age spindle whorl; 5–9. Early/Middle Bronze Age Pottery.