

ZIRIDAVA  
STUDIA ARCHAEOLOGICA

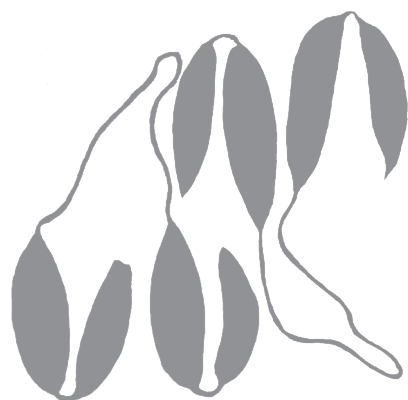
35

2021



MUSEUM ARAD

---



ZIRIDAVA  
STUDIA ARCHAEOLOGICA

---

35  
2021

**Editura MEGA**  
Cluj-Napoca  
2021

# MUSEUM ARAD

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-chief: Victor Sava, Florin Mărginean.

Editorial Assistants: Norbert Kapcsos, Ioan Cristian Cireap.

## EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

**Vitalie Bârcă** (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

**Adina Boroneanț** ("Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest, Romania)

**Marin Cârciumar** (Valahia University of Târgoviște, Romania)

**Sorin Cociș** (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

**Dragoș Diaconescu** (The National Museum of Banat, Timișoara, Romania)

**Daria Loznjak Dizdar** (Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia)

**Florin Drașovean** (Romanian Academy, Timișoara branch, Timișoara, Romania)

**Alin Frînculeasa** (Prahova County Museum of History and Archaeology, Ploiești, Romania)

**Erwin Gáll** ("Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest, Romania)

**Florin Gogâltan** (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

**Adrian Ioniță** ("Vasile Pârvan" Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest, Romania)

**Hrvoje Kalafatić** (Institute of Archaeology, Zagreb, Croatia)

**Aleksandar Kapuran** (Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade, Serbia)

**Rüdiger Krause** (Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Germany)

**Tobias Kienlin** (Universität zu Köln, Germany)

**Valéria Kulcsár** (University of Szeged, Hungary)

**Sabin Adrian Luca** (Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Romania)

**Barry Molloy** (University College Dublin, Ireland)

**Sorin Nemeti** (Babeș-Bolyai University, Romania)

**John O'Shea** (University of Michigan, USA)

**Karl Zeno Pinter** (Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Romania)

**Ioan Stanciu** (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

**Imre Szatmári** (Munkácsy Mihály Museum, Békéscsaba, Hungary)

**Miklos Takács** (Institute of Archaeology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary)

**Ioan Marian Țipilic** (Lucian Blaga University, Sibiu, Romania)

In Romania, the periodical can be obtained through subscription or exchange, sent as post shipment, from Museum Arad, Arad, Piata G. Enescu 1, 310131, Romania.

Tel. 0040-257-281847.

## ZIRIDAVA STUDIA ARCHAEOLOGICA

Any correspondence will be sent to the editor:

Museum Arad

Piata George Enescu 1, 310131 Arad, RO

e-mail: ziridava2012@gmail.com

The content of the papers totally involve the responsibility of the authors.

Layout: Francisc Baja, Florin Mărginean, Victor Sava

ISSN 2392-8786



EDITURA MEGA | [www.edituramega.ro](http://www.edituramega.ro)  
e-mail: [mega@edituramega.ro](mailto:mega@edituramega.ro)

# Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Petru Ciocani</b>   |     |
| Early Neolithic inter-settlement pattern in the northwestern corner of the Banat.....  | 7   |
| <b>Astrid Vicas</b>  |     |
| Seeking Opportunity: Mobility and Transmission of Innovation in the Chalcolithic.....  | 23  |
| <b>Alin Frînculeasa</b>  |     |
| The Yamnaya mounds and the local cultural traditions of the first half of the 3rd millennium in Muntenia. The archaeological excavations of Moara Vlăsiei (Ilfov County).....                    | 49  |
| <b>Mihai Remus Feraru</b>  |     |
| The cult of goddess Hekate in Miletus and the Milesian colonies .....  | 107 |
| <b>Ioan Stanciu</b>  |     |
| Archaeological evidence on land farming in the Someş river Plain – north-western Romania (1 <sup>st</sup> century BC?).....  | 127 |
| <b>Georgeta El Susi</b>  |     |
| Animal management in the Latène settlement (2 <sup>nd</sup> century BC – 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD) at Săvârşin, Arad County.....   | 139 |
| <b>Sorin Cociş</b>   |     |
| A new stamped <i>mortarium</i> from Napoca.....  | 153 |
| <b>Andrei-Cătălin Discă</b>  |     |
| Roman Sites and Discoveries Around Potaissa (V). New Data and Clarifications Regarding the Cheia Settlement and the Stone Quarries of Roman Dacia .....  | 159 |
| <b>Vitalie Bârcă</b>   |     |
| Roman bronze casseroles in the Sarmatae graves from the area between the Don and the Lower Danube..  | 179 |
| <b>Dorel Micle, Remus Dincă, Octavian Cristian Rogozea, Sergiu Gabriel Enache</b>  |     |
| Preliminary report on the rescue archaeological excavations in Dudeştii Vechi – 54.....  | 225 |
| <b>Florin Mărginean, Erwin Gáll</b>  |     |
| Traces of an Early Avar Period Settlement. The Archaeological Findings from Pecica – Rovine / Căprăvanul Mic (Arad County).....  | 263 |
| <b>Luminița Andreica-Szilagy</b>   |     |
| Anthropological analysis of the skeletons discovered at Pecica “Rovine” (Arad County). Identification of certain occupational stress markers specific to horseback riding practice.....          | 273 |
| <b>Dan Băcuet-Crişan</b>   |     |
| On the early medieval fast wheel-thrown pottery (of late ancient tradition) ( <i>Lazuri-Nuşfalău type finds</i> ) from north-western Romania. Relative and absolute chronological landmarks..... | 283 |
| <b>Andrea Demjén</b>   |     |
| Archaeological research of the Roman-Catholic church from Joseni (Harghita County).....  | 299 |
| <b>Dan Băcuet-Crişan, Horea Pop, Timea Keresztes</b>   |     |
| The Kaolin Clay Medieval Pottery of <i>Măgura Hill</i> Moigrad (Sălaj County). A Few Notes on Finds of the Type from Transylvania and the Banat.....   | 321 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>Zoltán Rózsa, Viktória P. Horváth, György Kerekes, Rajmund Péter Zsikai</b>   |     |
| At the Intersection of Border Areas. Traces of an Inn of the 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries on the Border of Today's Kaszaper and Végegyháza (Békés County, Hungary)..... | 335 |
| <b>Bogdan Ciupercă, Andrei-Cătălin Discă, Tudor Hila, Andrei Măgureanu</b>   |     |
| The manufacture of lime on the Budureasca Valley (Prahova County) by late medieval and early modern period.....  | 357 |
| <b>Cristian Floca, Florin Gogăltan, Alexandru Hegyi, Patrick Chiroiu, Sorin Forțiu</b>   |     |
| Using the water power in preindustrial Banat. A historical archaeology study on the Lower Timiș River..  | 371 |

## REVIEWS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Florin Drașovean, Wolfram Schier (editors), in collaboration with Alex Bayliss, helmut Becker, Barbara Dammers, Bisserka Gaydarska, Christoph Menzler, Silviene Scharl, Stefan Suhrbier, Petru Urdea, Alasdait Whittle, Uivar "Gomilă". <i>A Prehistoric Settlement in the Romanian Banat Vol. I. Site, Architecture, Stratigraphy and Dating. Prähistorische Archäologie in Südosteuropa 32.</i> Verlag Marie Leidorf GmbH, Rahden/Westf. Leidorf 2020, (ISBN 978-3-8646-687-7), 585 pages ( <b>Victor Sava</b> )..... | 419 |
| Valeriu Sîrbu, Aurora Pețan (editors), <i>Temples and Cult Places from the Second Iron Age in Europe</i> (Proceedings of the 2nd International Colloquium "Iron Age Sanctuaries and Cult Places at the Thracians and their Neighbours", Alun, Romania, 7th–9th May 2019, Dacica press, Alun 2020 (ISBN 978-606-8538-02-0), 352 pages ( <b>Ioan Cristian Cireap</b> ).....   | 421 |
| Radu Harhoiu, Nikolaus Boroffka, Rodica Boroffka, Erwin Gáll, Adrian Ioniță, Daniel Spănu, <i>Schäßburg – Weinberg (Sighișoara – Dealul Viilor) II Archäologische Grabungen bei der Fundstelle „Gräberfeld / Necropolă</i> , Cetatea de Scaun verlag, Târgoviște 2020 (ISBN 978-606-537-465-2), 577 Seiten, 75 Tafeln ( <b>Bianca Profiran</b> ).....   | 423 |
| Abbreviations.....  | 425 |

# The Yamnaya mounds and the local cultural traditions of the first half of the 3rd millennium in Muntenia. The archaeological excavations of Moara Vlăsiei (Ilfov County)\*

Alin Frînculeasa

**Abstract:** The prehistoric (post-Eneolithic) tumular phenomenon seemed to evolve into a rather uninteresting topic for Western research once Marija Gimbutas left the archaeological stage. Most of her theories regarding the waves of kurgans and Indo-European populations had meanwhile become a historiographic heritage. Recently, research on the prehistoric tumular phenomenon has reached a scale that was completely unexpected some years ago. New palaeogenetic, isotopic and linguistic investigations have brought the topic back into debate, however, in a slightly more sophisticated approach. Although her contributions are not particularly highlighted, Marija Gimbutas once again occupies a place in the discussions. At the same time, the tumular/Yamnaya phenomenon of the first half of the 3rd millennium BC seems an overexposed topic, very present in what are considered as high standard publications by the elite of researchers in the field. Although mentioned, the Yamnaya impact on local societies does not deal in most cases with the affected subjects. In this article, by presenting a case study, we aim to bring out of the shadow of the mounds segments of local societies that are presumed to have interacted with the newcomers. The existence of local cultures/aspects in southern Romania, which intersect chronologically with the tumular funerary phenomenon, is not a new topic, but in the absence of new archaeological finds the debates seem subsidiary. In this study, we try to outline and analyse with available means an episode dated to the first half of the 3rd millennium BC on the Lower Danube, without segregating the local world from newcomers. Starting from the archaeological research conducted in the locality of Moara Vlăsiei (Ilfov), our text will seek to identify directly or indirectly these traces that seem to be relatively discreet and isolated. At the same time, it aims to offer an alternative to what tends to become a unilateral discourse, namely the negative/violent impact the Yamnaya migration to the west had on local societies. The Yamnaya phenomenon has certain peculiarities in the West-Pontic region precisely because here it intersected with the local cultural environment. Archaeological information, as elusive as it is, speaks of a not at all one-way direction of the impact the Yamnaya had on local societies. The interaction of the two sides seems to be more complex.

**Keywords:** Moara Vlăsiei; Muntenia; 3rd millennium BC; mounds; Yamnaya.

## Introduction

Over the course of the last third of the 4th millennium BC and early the subsequent, the Cernavodă II communities develop in Muntenia, southern Moldova and Dobruja, radiating east of the Prut and south of the Danube as well<sup>1</sup>. Concurrently, mounds are already consistently/visibly present in flatland regions<sup>2</sup>. A series of artefacts present within the graves (including flat ones), yet also in settlements, seem to ensure a certain relationship between the mound burials and the Cernavodă II culture in the described area<sup>3</sup> or Coțofeni in Transylvania and part of Oltenia<sup>4</sup>, late Cucuteni/Tripolie CII, Foltești II east and west of the Prut<sup>5</sup>, Usatovo and Zhivotilovka east of the Prut, but elements are not missing from the west either<sup>6</sup>, Ezero A/EBA A/I and Coțofeni south the Danube<sup>7</sup>. By early 3rd

\* English translation: Gabriela Safta.

<sup>1</sup> Berciu *et al.* 1973, fig. 4; Roman 1976, 167; Roman 1982a, 407; Schuster *et al.* 2009; Alexandrov, Kaiser 2016; Ciobanu *et al.* 2019a, fig. 18, 19; Frînculeasa 2020a; Alexandrov, Stefanova 2021, 69, fig. 15.

<sup>2</sup> Frînculeasa 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a; Bezkova, Tonkova 2020, 453/cat. no. 369; Alexandrov 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Ciugudean 2011; Diaconescu 2020; Frînculeasa 2020b.

<sup>5</sup> Burtănescu 2002; Brudiu 2003.

<sup>6</sup> Manzura 2016; 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Merkyte 2007; Alexandrov, Kaiser 2016; Alexandrov, Stefanova 2021.

millennium, the Yamnaya tumuli/communities dominate the lowlands by the Lower Danube<sup>8</sup>, while for a few centuries, the local cultural context becomes more difficult to specify<sup>9</sup>. Then, in the second third of the same millennium, in Muntenia and Oltenia emerges the Glina culture, represented by many settlements<sup>10</sup>, with a few flat graves<sup>11</sup>, possibly tumular also ascribed to it (see the Vârtopeu or Verbița type finds)<sup>12</sup>. The latter coexists with the final evolution of the Yamnaya phenomenon and the Katakombnaya burials' horizon<sup>13</sup>.

\*\*\*

The Cernavodă II culture develops over the last third of the 4th millennium and early that following<sup>14</sup>. It is contemporary with the evolution of the Coțofeni<sup>15</sup> and Foltești II cultures<sup>16</sup>, a chronological frame even better delimited by the absolute data for the Bodești-Frumușica<sup>17</sup>, Târgșoru Nou and București-Dămăroaia settlements<sup>18</sup>, yet also by the mounds investigated in northern Muntenia in the *Prahova area*<sup>19</sup> or those in the Coțofeni environment<sup>20</sup>. Prior to the half of the 3rd millennium commences to evolve the Glina culture<sup>21</sup>. In the period, the Yamnaya phenomenon, at the end of its evolution, seems to have been replaced (in the east of Muntenia) by the Katakombnaya funerary features<sup>22</sup>. Although it is not entirely missing, the Glina – Yamnaya<sup>23</sup> and later Katakombnaya interaction is not very well documented in archaeological data/excavations<sup>24</sup>. If one takes into consideration the chronological limits of the two cultures specific to southern Romania, namely Cernavodă II and Glina, then one must get across almost one millennium<sup>25</sup>. The evolution of the Cernavodă II culture might be comprised approximately between 3300/3200–2900/2850? cal BC<sup>26</sup>, while that of Glina culture between 2700?/2650–2400 cal BC<sup>27</sup>, which means there is an idle time span between the two cultural occurrences. Concurrently, as the many absolute data published recently show, the Yamnaya burial monuments cover the first half of the 3rd millennium and intersect both Cernavodă II and Glina<sup>28</sup>.

Originally, alternate solutions were suggested in order to ensure the connection between the two cultural manifestations<sup>29</sup>. The finds, main tools aiding the delimitation of contact chronology were few, therefore some of the conclusions are no longer valid. It was specified that Cernavodă II and Foltești II were contemporary<sup>30</sup>, preceding a possible Foltești III<sup>31</sup> or Foltești Iib horizon<sup>32</sup>, to which similar finds from Dolheștii Mari, Hăbășești, Izvoare, Uricani, Tîrpești, Bodești etc. would correspond, their main feature being the presence of pottery decorated with belts in relief<sup>33</sup>. This chronological horizon

<sup>8</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015a; Kaiser, Winger 2015; Alexandrov 2018a; Diaconescu 2020; Koledin *et al.* 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Roman 1982b; 1986.

<sup>10</sup> Schuster 1997; Schuster *et al.* 2005; Băjenaru 2002, 111, fig. 6; 2014, 125.

<sup>11</sup> Schuster 1997, 47–48; Schuster *et al.* 2005, 62 and subsq.; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015b, 136–137.

<sup>12</sup> Berciu, Roman 1984; Calotoiu 2012, 184.

<sup>13</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015a; 2017a

<sup>14</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019b; Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>15</sup> Ciugudean 2000; Diaconescu 2020; Frînculeasa 2020b.

<sup>16</sup> Morintz, Roman 1968; Roman 1982b.

<sup>17</sup> Munteanu 2018.

<sup>18</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>19</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019b; Frînculeasa 2020b; 2021.

<sup>20</sup> Diaconescu 2020; Frînculeasa 2020b, table 2, fig. 4.

<sup>21</sup> Băjenaru 1998, 16.

<sup>22</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 138.

<sup>23</sup> Berciu, Roman 1984; Popescu, Băjenaru 2012, 388–389; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015b.

<sup>24</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 142–149, pl. 88; Frînculeasa 2021.

<sup>25</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>26</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>27</sup> Băjenaru 1998, 16; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015a, 78.

<sup>28</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015a; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017b; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2018; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019b; Frînculeasa 2019; Frînculeasa 2020a; Frînculeasa 2020b; Frînculeasa 2020c; Frînculeasa 2021; Ailincăi *et al.* 2016.

<sup>29</sup> Berciu 1961, 133; Roman 1964; Roman 1969; Leahu 1965; Morintz, Roman 1968.

<sup>30</sup> Berciu 1961, 133; Morintz, Roman 1968.

<sup>31</sup> Berciu 1961; Roman 1969.

<sup>32</sup> Burtănescu 2002.

<sup>33</sup> Berciu 1961, 140; Marinescu-Bîlcu 1964; Roman 1969, 20.



would be older than the Cățelu Nou (Bucharest) settlement or possibly contemporary<sup>34</sup>, although a local development of the latter was not excluded either<sup>35</sup>. It is noteworthy that the Cățelu Nou finds were ascribed by certain scholars to Foltești III phase, which by its pottery forms heralds the Glina culture<sup>36</sup> or exhibits elements merging in the Glina culture<sup>37</sup>, thus possibly defining a proto-Glina episode<sup>38</sup>. V. Leahu used for the finds yielded by this site the term of Foltești II, which in fact he also used for the contemporary habitation level from *point b* at Cernavodă<sup>39</sup>. The Smeeni mound (Buzău) is also worth mentioning, built on top of a settlement of ...*Gorodsk-Horodiște-Foltești*... type while the 2nd phase burials are ...*in a pre-Glina III-Schneckenberg stage*<sup>40</sup>. P. Roman saw in the *Zimnicea* type finds a relevant episode linking the post Coțofeni cultures to those Glina-Schneckenberg-Năieni-Jigodin-Bogdănești<sup>41</sup>. The authors who published the archaeological material originating from the eponymous site of the Cernavodă II culture mentioned ...*an authentic case of hole-knobs set on the shoulder of a dish (?) by inward pressing from the exterior ...The significance of this technical procedure for explaining certain Glina III decoration elements needs no further discussions*<sup>42</sup>. We also mention the excavations of Mironești (Giurgiu), which yielded Cernavodă II<sup>43</sup> archaeological materials, yet also of *Cățelu Nou* type. According to the excavators, the Cernavodă II culture was followed in Muntenia by an *occurrence provisionally termed Cățelu Nou-Mironești*<sup>44</sup>.

### **Yamnaya and the cultural framework by the Lower Danube (approx. 3050/3000–2450 cal BC)**

The burial standard of the Yamnaya grave mounds is compact, maintaining/preserving its main coordinates for more than half of a millennium. In the majority of cases, an adult male grave has no grave goods, but a possible ochre lump placed nearby one shoulder. The silver hair rings, rarely in gold or copper, and the pottery are the main furnishing elements. Hair rings emerge in less than 5% of the Yamnaya graves<sup>45</sup>, while pottery and jewellery made of mammal canines are rather found in sub-adult graves<sup>46</sup>. The graves ascribed to female adults, precisely by their exceptionally rare occurrence, containing different ritual elements (side-crouching, arms stretched towards the knee or bend and brought towards the face), occasionally special/rich/of various origin grave goods<sup>47</sup>, become relevant for understanding the Yamnaya society<sup>48</sup>, yet seem to represent the result of a certain type of interaction with the local environment<sup>49</sup>. Therefore, these elements (grave goods, ritual), may represent useful tools in the attempt to distinguish the local cultural milieu and then understand/describe its intersection/interaction with the Yamnaya phenomenon.

The Yamnaya burial mounds emerge in the west-Pontic area by late 4th millennium/early the following<sup>50</sup>, covers the extra-Carpathian flatlands, crosses Serbia and reaches the Great Hungarian Plain

<sup>34</sup> Roman 1969, 21.

<sup>35</sup> Morintz, Roman 1968, 566.

<sup>36</sup> Morintz, Roman 1968, 561; Roman 1969, 21.

<sup>37</sup> Berciu *et al.* 1973, 399.

<sup>38</sup> Berciu 1961.

<sup>39</sup> Leahu 1965.

<sup>40</sup> Simache, Teodorescu 1962, 280.

<sup>41</sup> Roman 1982b; Roman 1986.

<sup>42</sup> Berciu *et al.* 1973, 390.

<sup>43</sup> Schuster *et al.* 2009.

<sup>44</sup> Schuster, Popa 2008, 60.

<sup>45</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a, 46.

<sup>46</sup> Frînculeasa 2019.

<sup>47</sup> See a cart from Plachidol I/Gr.1 (the only one discovered in the mounds investigated by the Lower Danube) (Alexandrov 2021) or 4 hair rings from Gr.1/T.IV Blejoi (Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a), two hair rings in Vojlovica (Koledin *et al.* 2020, fig. 10), the local origin pots from Smeeni G.13, Blejoi T.I/G.1, etc. (Frînculeasa 2019, 145). In this respect, we also note the flat grave of Șoimești-Merez (Prahova), ascribed to a female adult with an exceptional furnishing for the standards of the period, which included a silver hair ring as well (Frînculeasa *et al.* 2020). A possible primary grave of a female adult with Yamnaya ritual was discovered in T.II at Rast (Dolj) (Dumitrescu 1980, 130). Another primary grave attributed to a female individual (Perianu 1988, 12) was investigated in T.7 at Cotârgaci (Botoșani) (Moscalu 1989, 120).

<sup>48</sup> See also in the Corded Ware tumular environment graves of female individuals with rather special grave goods (Kyselý *et al.* 2019), but also in flat graves ascribed to the Baden culture (Horváth 2017).

<sup>49</sup> Frînculeasa 2019, 145.

<sup>50</sup> There are a few earlier absolute dates in Bulgaria (Alexandrov 2021, pl. 1, 2), while one comes from Romanian Dobruja

without bypassing Bulgaria or avoiding the intra-Carpathian space<sup>51</sup>. Depending on available absolute data, there may be delimited three plateaus/phases in which the Yamnaya communities set up/bury their deceased in burial mounds in this area, namely 3050/3000–2900/2850 cal BC, 2850/2800–2650 cal BC and 2650/2600–2450 cal BC<sup>52</sup>. The first two are characterised by primary and secondary burials, while in the case of the third, those secondary<sup>53</sup> seems to be prevalent.

**The first phase** partially intersects/coexists with the evolution of the Cernavodă II culture<sup>54</sup>, and in a broader sense with the pre-Yamnaya burial horizon<sup>55</sup>. Concurrently, east of the Carpathians (the northern half) are present the Globular Amphorae burials<sup>56</sup>, which occur only isolate in Transylvania<sup>57</sup>. For this phase, the archaeological information to ensure the interaction (discussion) fund of the local cultures with those Yamnaya/of the steppes is little. More recently, palaeogenetic data have become available, evidencing the presence of steppe elements in the early graves<sup>58</sup>, however the roots of this picture are the fruit of older contacts descending to previous millennia<sup>59</sup>. Still relevant is *Movila Mare* of Smeeni (Buzău), by both the direct stratigraphic relation with the Cernavodă II settlement and its dynamic with the two Yamnaya phases, followed by a Katacombnya one<sup>60</sup>. Even though absolute dates exist for Yamnaya and later burials<sup>61</sup>, the fact that the mound overlaps a Cernavodă II settlement is a good landmark for the chronological relation between the two cultural occurrences. From the first phase we mention Gr.5 dated C14-AMS of 4357±35 BP (3089–2899 cal BC, sigma 2)<sup>62</sup>. From the Gr.19 grave pit (entrained), and also from beneath the mound raised over Gr.17, which are first phase burials, were recovered Cernavodă II pottery fragments<sup>63</sup>. From Gr.12 comes a small sized ovoid jar with a slightly out curved profile (height=8.6 cm)<sup>64</sup>. It is decorated by impressions/indentations on most of the body, to which adds a series of incisions and the applying of *lugs* on its upper half. By both shape and decoration, it is paralleled by pots from east of the Prut like those in Gr.5/T.1 at Găvănoasa<sup>65</sup> or Gr.14/T.3 at Sărăteni<sup>66</sup>. The deceased in Gr.14/T.3 at Sărăteni, an adult, was laid side-crouched with upper limbs brought to the knees<sup>67</sup>. The Găvănoasa skeleton, poorly preserved, seems to have belonged to a sub-adult<sup>68</sup>. A pot with decoration similar to that of Smeeni was discovered in *mound 2* at Burlănești<sup>69</sup>. Relevant are also a few burials from Brăiila where emerge *askoid* pots, mugs

---

– code GrN–1995, Hamangia G.1/1952, analysis performed in 1959 on a sample of the wood out of which the grave cover was made (Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 128, note 147; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a, 42; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2021); we also mention Păulești T.II/G.2, where the stratigraphic situation invalidated the absolute dates (Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015a, 62, note 100). For the west-Pontic area are published also dates older than the 3100 cal BC limit, of which some are disputable (Rassamakin, Ivanova 2008; Popovici, Kaiser 2020). Certain reserves/a critical approach in the use of certain early dates is necessary in order not to record the existence of the Yamnaya ritual by the Lower Danube prior to its emergence in the north of the Black Sea or the north-Caucasian steppe. Since the discussion is complex, we shall resume it elsewhere.

<sup>51</sup> Heyd 2011, 535; Alexandrov, Kaiser 2016; Preda-Bălănică *et al.* 2020, 96; Diaconescu 2020.

<sup>52</sup> Occasionally, these plateaus touch by their exterior limits, therefore they should not be very strictly regarded, but only noted this dynamic of absolute dates in correlation with the Yamnaya development.

<sup>53</sup> Horváth *et al.* 2013; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015a; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a; Kaiser, Winger 2015; Diaconescu 2020; Koledin *et al.* 2020. The pottery from the Verbița tumuli evidences the presence of burials ascribable to this plateau. For the lack of exhaustive excavation of the Verbița mounds, it is difficult to say whether the primary graves were also investigated. Partially contemporary may be also the Vărtopu-Ciuperceeni features (Calotoiu 2007; Calotoiu 2012). G.5 in mound II at Rahman (Tulcea) seems to be secondary (Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 120, note 139).

<sup>54</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>55</sup> Frînculeasa 2021.

<sup>56</sup> Bîrliba-Mihăilescu, Szmyt 2003; Motzoi-Chicideanu 2011; Szmyt 2013.

<sup>57</sup> Ciugudean 2015 (with related references).

<sup>58</sup> Mathieson *et al.* 2018.

<sup>59</sup> Mathieson *et al.* 2018; Immel *et al.* 2020.

<sup>60</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a.

<sup>61</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, tab. 4; Frînculeasa 2021.

<sup>62</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, tab. 4.

<sup>63</sup> Simache, Teodorescu 1962, 275; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, pl. 62/4.

<sup>64</sup> From Gr.29 too comes a pot, currently lost though. In the published photos, the pot shape is not identifiable (Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 68, pl. 48/2–3). The vessel, still not found, is most likely in the MNIR heritage and has, according to registry position 728, a pear-shaped body with very slightly everted rim. Without decoration, dark-chestnut black colour.

<sup>65</sup> Agulnikov, Popovici 2015, pl. 3/6.

<sup>66</sup> Levițki *et al.* 1996, fig. 30/2.

<sup>67</sup> Levițki *et al.* 1996, 43, fig. 30/1.

<sup>68</sup> Agulnikov, Popovici 2015, 178.

<sup>69</sup> Demcenko, Levițki 2006, fig. 7/4; Ivanova, Toshev 2015, fig. 23/21.

and jars decorated with notches, bowls with wide rim, cord-decorated pots<sup>70</sup> that might cover the Cernavodă II – early Yamnaya time interval. Here there may also be included a few burial mounds like Gr.7/T.II at Ploiești-Triaj and Gr.3/T.II at Păulești with oval grave pits, deceased placed side-crouched, with arms brought/placed on the abdomen. C14-AMS dates (4274±33 BP and 4342±26 BP) intersect the first Yamnaya plateau, however the ritual remains rather related to the pre-Yamnaya phase. Gr.2 in T.I at Păulești (4284±23 BP) may be included in the same analysis<sup>71</sup>. Gr.10 at Sárretudvari (individual placed side-crouched), dates to 4350±40 BP (3090–2890 cal BC, sigma 2)<sup>72</sup>. We also note a date from the Celei *tell* coming from L.7 (level 2e), which indicates 4335±45 BP (3092–2895 cal BC, sigma 2)<sup>73</sup>; the date (context) precedes the habitation levels in this site that are contemporary with the Zimnicea cemetery<sup>74</sup>. We also mention the Yamnaya mound of Târgșoru Nou, which overlaps a Cernavodă II habitation level<sup>75</sup>. From tumuli east of the Prut come bowls that may be ascribed to the Cernavodă II culture, one from Gr.5/T.8 at Kazaklia and another at Taraklia I/T.14a in Gr.1/M.2?<sup>76</sup>. That of Kazaklia was discovered in a Yamnaya burial, while that of Taraklia was deposited near an individual with a partially preserved skeleton<sup>77</sup>. Both graves were secondary, while that of Kazaklia cut the stone ring of the primary grave, believed to be Eneolithic<sup>78</sup>. From south of the Danube, we mention two ovoid jars discovered in Gr.1/T.26 at Pliska<sup>79</sup> and Gr.2/T.7 at Vetrino<sup>80</sup>, with forms and decoration typical for the Cernavodă II (-Foltești II) milieu<sup>81</sup>.

**Phase II** is somewhat better represented in Muntenia by a series of archaeological materials reminiscent of the Cernavodă II culture<sup>82</sup>. Again, we reference Smeeni, because from the burials' phase II come 3 absolute dates established for Gr.15, Gr.16 and Gr.18, all Yamnaya adult graves, located in the 2900/2850–2650 cal BC interval<sup>83</sup>. Concurrently, one burial is rather interesting owing to the present pots with specific forms and decorations. In Gr.13 at Smeeni, a burial ascribed to a female adult, the dead was laid rather side-crouched placed nearby an *askoid* pot and another conical pot, which by shape and decoration (small applications-*buttons*) may be ascribed to the Cernavodă II culture. The conical pot may be added to the same discussion which also includes vessels discovered in Gr.2/T.14a at Taraklia and Gr.5/T.8 at Kazaklia<sup>84</sup>. Such applications also occur on a pot discovered in T.I/G.1 at Blejoi, which is a secondary grave<sup>85</sup> of a female adult, with a ritual that is not specific to the Yamnaya standard<sup>86</sup> and a C14-AMS (4178±37) date<sup>87</sup> located in the same chronological interval with phase II of the Smeeni mound. From the same burial phase of the Smeeni mound also come two pots set in Gr.18 (in secondary position) and Gr.30 (destroyed)<sup>88</sup>.

A mug decorated with notches on the rim was discovered at Taraklia II/T.17/Gr.6. It lay on the step of a grave pit ascribed to a secondary burial, yet where no human bones were preserved<sup>89</sup>. It resembles very well with a mug decorated with notches on the rim and body discovered in Gr.26 at Zimnicea<sup>90</sup>.

<sup>70</sup> Harțuche 2002.

<sup>71</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015a, table 2; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 119, fig. 22.

<sup>72</sup> Dani, Nepper 2006, fig. 7/3.

<sup>73</sup> Mantu 1995, nr. 112; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 100, note 116.

<sup>74</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 99–100, note 116.

<sup>75</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a. From Bălteni (Buzău county) is mentioned without too many details a prehistoric grave, yet also potshards identical by decoration and fabric to the *askoses* discovered at Brăilița and Cârna (Dragomir 1962, 21), materials preceding the emergence of the Yamnaya graves (s.n.). According to the descriptions in the excavation report of the excavator found in the archives of the County Museum of Galați, *Grave 1 with red ochre* is a funerary feature with Yamnaya ritual.

<sup>76</sup> Agulnikov 1995; Sava *et al.* 2019, pl. 35/8; incongruity between the two publications.

<sup>77</sup> Agulnikov 1995.

<sup>78</sup> Agulnikov 1995, 82; Sava *et al.* 2019, pl. 89/1; 90/5.

<sup>79</sup> Alexandrov, Kaiser 2016, fig. 2.

<sup>80</sup> Bezkova, Tonkova 2020, 451.

<sup>81</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a, 143, fig. 6/7–12.

<sup>82</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>83</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, table 4.

<sup>84</sup> Sava *et al.* 2019, fig. 35/8, 90/4.

<sup>85</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a, 37.

<sup>86</sup> Paveleț 2007, fig. 6/4–5.

<sup>87</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015a, 62.

<sup>88</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, pl. 39/1, 4–5, pl. 49; Frînculeasa 2020a, fig. 5.

<sup>89</sup> Agulnikov, Redina 2005, fig. 6/7–8.

<sup>90</sup> Alexandrescu 1974, pl. 5/7.

In southern Romania and northern Bulgaria, approximately in the 2850/2800–2650 cal BC interval evolve the Zimnicea-Batin type communities, identified by the eponymous cemeteries<sup>91</sup> and other burial finds<sup>92</sup>, yet also by settlements like those at Kiten, Urdoviza, Ezerovo, Ezero, early Yunatsite, Dubene, Momchilgrad, etc., located south the Danube<sup>93</sup>. From the north of the river, we mention the contemporary habitation<sup>94</sup> from the Celei-Corabia *tell*<sup>95</sup>. Known also in the second half of the 4th millennium in Horodiştea, Folteşti II, Cernavodă II or Coţofeni sites<sup>96</sup>, we note the *askoi* type pots or the *jars with oblique mouth* present in a series of contemporary burial mounds from Smeeni, Sultana, Mircea Vodă, Casimcea, yet also south of the Danube at Boyanovo, Mednikarovo, Ovchartsi, Golyama Detelina, Merichleri, Plachidol<sup>97</sup>. The same vessel category is found also east of the Prut, in burials ascribed to the Yamnaya culture phase/*Bugeak* variant from Glubokoe, Matroška, Kubey and Ciulai<sup>98</sup>. Worth mentioning are the parallels between the vessel discovered in the Casimcea mound<sup>99</sup> and that in the Gherăseni-*Grindul Cremenea* settlement (Buzău), site which could mark the same chronological interval<sup>100</sup>. From Gherăseni also comes a grave showing Yamnaya ritual, overlapping a pre-Yamnaya one<sup>101</sup>. From the Zimnicea cemetery we report an ovoid jar found in Gr.23, with notches on the rim and body<sup>102</sup>, which by form and decoration recalls the Cernavodă II pottery<sup>103</sup>. Also important are the silver hair rings, of which some with specific shape – *type Zimnicea*<sup>104</sup>. This artefact is a useful element regarding the relationship with the Yamnaya burial mounds, yet also other cultural contexts like the Livezile group<sup>105</sup> or even the south-Danubian area, reaching the Aegean<sup>106</sup>.

In Transylvania, stage II is overlapped by the evolution of the late Coţofeni-Kostolac communities<sup>107</sup>, the Zăbala<sup>108</sup>, Livezile/Copăceni<sup>109</sup> and Şoimuş<sup>110</sup> find types. In the case of the Livezile type finds, we mention mounds built in stone on high ground, in association with artefacts that seem of local origin<sup>111</sup>. In the south-eastern part of the same province were discovered *askoid* vessels at Turia, Sânzieni, Zăbala<sup>112</sup>, best paralleled by one present in a flat grave from the southern side of the sub-Carpathian hills investigated at Şoimeşti-Merez (Prahova)<sup>113</sup>. The discussion may be also extended south of the Danube, from where comes a similar vessel discovered in Gr.5 in the Chudomir mound, which was a secondary (double) Yamnaya grave<sup>114</sup>. It is also associated with a cord-decorated vessel<sup>115</sup>, while the C14-AMS date places it sometimes in the 3200–2900 cal BC interval<sup>116</sup>. Returning to the Şoimeşti burial, another pot with exterior sleeve-like thickening of the rim adds from this grave, together with

<sup>91</sup> Alexandrescu 1974.

<sup>92</sup> Alexandrov 2002, 141.

<sup>93</sup> Nikolova 1999, 209–211; Nikolova 2002; Alexandrov 2002; Vasileva 2018; Minkov 2019, 24.

<sup>94</sup> Mantu 1995, no. 110.

<sup>95</sup> Bujor 1967; Nica 1982; Tudor *et al.* 1982.

<sup>96</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 94–103; Munteanu 2018, 147–148; Alexandrov 2019.

<sup>97</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 99–100; Iliev, Bakardžiev 2020; Minkov 2021.

<sup>98</sup> Häusler 1976, pl. 33/6; Ivanova 2013, fig. 6/2; 20/10; Popovici *et al.* 2016, fig. 7.

<sup>99</sup> Vasiliu *et al.* 2014, fig. 6.

<sup>100</sup> Garvăn *et al.* 2018, 281, pl. XIII/11. We also note the find of Boldu (Buzău) – <http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp?codran=45370.13> – from where come a cord-decorated shard and another decorated with small indents (information received by courtesy of our colleague D. Garvăn, whom we thank here too).

<sup>101</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 42; Garvăn *et al.* 2018, pl. XV/1–2.

<sup>102</sup> Alexandrescu 1974, pl. 5/8, 7/4.

<sup>103</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a, fig. 6.

<sup>104</sup> Motzoi-Chicideanu, Olteanu 2000, 28; Popescu 2010, 166; Preda 2015, 19–20. See in this respect the artefacts discovered in T.I/Gr.3 at Ariceştii Rahtivani (Frînculeasa *et al.* 2013, fig. 9/4–5).

<sup>105</sup> Preda 2015; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a.

<sup>106</sup> Vasileva 2017.

<sup>107</sup> Ciugudean 2000; Gogăltan 2013; Bulatović *et al.* 2020.

<sup>108</sup> Roman 1986a, 35–36; Székely 1997, 33–35.

<sup>109</sup> Ciugudean 1996; 2011; Rotea *et al.* 2014, 28, 50. The dispute related to the semantics/evolution of these cultural groups/cultures is no object of this study. See also other discussions in: Rişcuţa *et al.* 2009; Rişcuţa 2018.

<sup>110</sup> Andriţou 1992; Rişcuţa, Andriţoiu 2007.

<sup>111</sup> Ciugudean 1996; 2011.

<sup>112</sup> Székely 1997.

<sup>113</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2020, fig. 8.

<sup>114</sup> Alexandrov 2020, 463, fig. 5, cat. 370; 2021, fig. 15/3–6.

<sup>115</sup> Alexandrov 2020, cat. 371.

<sup>116</sup> Alexandrov 2021, pl. 1, 2; based on a series of arguments which we shall detail elsewhere, we believe that date C14-AMS is too early (see also note 50).

three copper spectacle-shaped pendants, which aid correlations between the south-Carpathian area and the intra-Carpathian space<sup>117</sup>. The presence in the same grave of a silver hair ring supports the connection of this area/cultural context with the Yamnaya tumular environment<sup>118</sup>. Here may also be included the *askoid* vessels of Mlăjet (Buzău), originating in a contemporary burial context<sup>119</sup>. We also note Gr.1/T.IV at Păulești (Prahova) where emerge copper (*Saltaleoni*) and shell adornments<sup>120</sup>. Singular in a Yamnaya burial is the plurispiral jewellery of type *Saltaleoni* in copper, pieces which although without chronological impact<sup>121</sup> emerge in association with the spectacle-shaped pendants in coeval mounds from Transylvania<sup>122</sup>, yet also in Gr.1 at Șoimești-Merez<sup>123</sup>. Towards 2700–2650 BC, in the south-east of the same province possibly commences the Jigodin culture, in which the cord-decorated pottery emerges as an element of identity<sup>124</sup>.

East of the Carpathians are suggested various cultural groups evolving in the discussed chronological segment<sup>125</sup>, of which we select the finds from Aldești, Bogdănești, a few burials from the Bolotești mounds<sup>126</sup>, with elements anchored to the first half of the 3rd millennium by both the view of the local cultural context and the interaction with the Yamnaya phenomenon. The emergence of flat graves with Yamnaya ritual like those at Tîrpești<sup>127</sup> or Costișa<sup>128</sup>, of specific objects like copper tanged daggers at Tîrpești<sup>129</sup> or Văleni-Neamț<sup>130</sup> represent a few clues concerning the Yamnaya interaction with the local cultural environment<sup>131</sup>. In the same period, east of the Carpathians occur the Bogdănești type finds, in which the cord-decorated pottery is the identity element which draws them closer to the Jigodin environment<sup>132</sup>.

To the south of the Danube as well, in Bulgaria post-Ezero A and Coțofeni, there is a phase where emerge Zimnicea-Batin, Yunatsite, Mihalich type elements etc.<sup>133</sup>. More to the west, in Serbia, Banat there develops a late phase of the Baden<sup>134</sup>, Vučedol<sup>135</sup> and Coțofeni-Kostolac communities<sup>136</sup>, northwards Makó<sup>137</sup> and later Somogyvár, however we already exit the discussed time span<sup>138</sup>. In Hungary, for phase II we mention the Sárretudvari-Órhalom mound where Makó and Livezile pottery<sup>139</sup> was discovered, which generated, beside isotopic investigations, a discussion regarding the interaction of the steppe world with the natural/cultural environment located at higher altitudes in the Apuseni area<sup>140</sup>.

<sup>117</sup> Ciugudean 1996; Popa 2010; Popa 2011.

<sup>118</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2020.

<sup>119</sup> Roman 1986a, 35. Recently were published C14-AMS dates from Mlăjet (Buzău) and Năeni-Colarea (Buzău), which further complicate the discussion on the relative chronology of the second half of the 3rd millennium on both sides of the Carpathians (Constantinescu 2020). Some of the absolute data, possibly the contexts from where the samples were taken, require a critical approach, certain reserves. We shall resume these issues elsewhere.

<sup>120</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017b, 208.

<sup>121</sup> Ciugudean 1996, 121.

<sup>122</sup> Ciugudean 1996, 93; Rîșcuța *et al.* 2009; Popa 2010.

<sup>123</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017b; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2020.

<sup>124</sup> Roman *et al.* 1973; Roman *et al.* 1992.

<sup>125</sup> Burtănescu 2002.

<sup>126</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a. The Tîrpești group, the Dolhești settlement, the Răcăciuni grave may rather date to the last third of the 4th millennium (Munteanu 2018; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019b; Frînculeasa 2020a).

<sup>127</sup> Marinescu-Bîlcu 1964.

<sup>128</sup> Popescu, Băjenaru 2008.

<sup>129</sup> Băjenaru, Popescu 2012, 379, 389.

<sup>130</sup> Diaconescu, Hânceanu 2020.

<sup>131</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>132</sup> Roman *et al.* 1973, 572; Burtănescu 2002, 190, 194, 199, 201 (with references).

<sup>133</sup> Alexandrov 2018a.

<sup>134</sup> Krauß 2014.

<sup>135</sup> Durman, Obelić 1989, 1004, tab. 1; Horváth, Balen 2012, 15; Bulatović *et al.* 2020, 14.

<sup>136</sup> Bulatović *et al.* 2020.

<sup>137</sup> Horváth *et al.* 2013 tab. 3; 2016.

<sup>138</sup> Kulcsár 2009; Kulcsár, Szeverényi 2013; Gogâltan 2015.

<sup>139</sup> Dani, Nepper 2006.

<sup>140</sup> Gerling *et al.* 2012; Gerling, Ciugudean 2013.

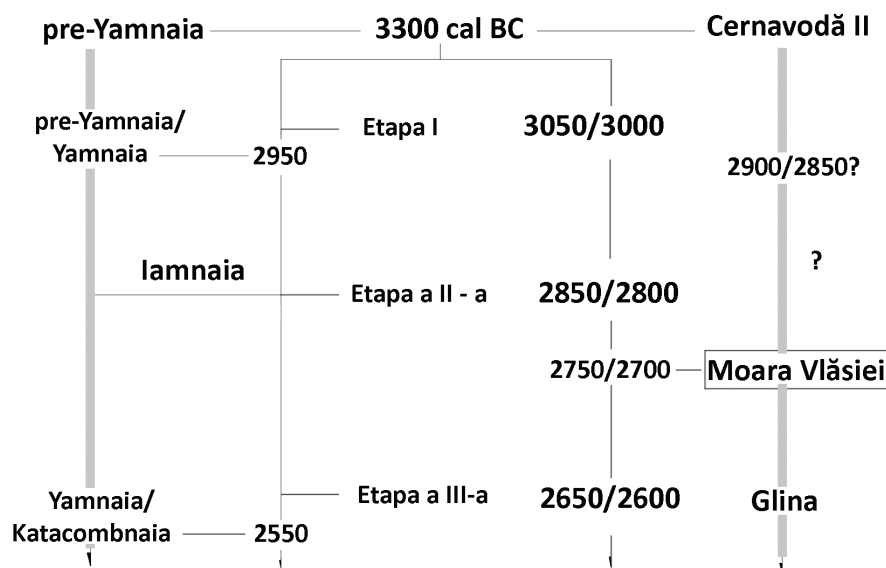


Fig. 1. Phases of burials in mounds and of local cultural development in Muntenia.

### Case study – Moara Vlășiei (Ilfov County)

The rescue archaeological excavations were conducted at the site of Moara Vlășiei in 2010 and 2012 prior to the construction of the Bucharest-Ploiești motorway<sup>141</sup>. The archaeological site, located on the northern terrace of the river Cociovaliștea (Pl. 1), consists of a 0.30 m thick archaeological layer, gray in color, in which the majority of the Bronze Age features were discovered, as well as those of subsequent periods (La Tène and Mediaeval) located below the ploughing layer. During the excavations, over 30 archaeological features dated to the Bronze Age (Pl. 3) were identified and investigated. Most were pits, circular, ovoid, or irregular in shape, some filled with specific archaeological material (pottery, mammal bones, small fragmentary flint items, stone, bone, horn, clay, etc.). Additionally, certain areas with assemblages of pottery material and a slightly different texture than the archaeological stratum were recorded as possible house remains. For instance, L.3/2010 was defined by observing an area with pieces of burnt adobe, though clear delimitation of the feature was not possible. Another possible dwelling/surface structure (L.5/2012) was outlined as an area with wood pigments and crushed burnt clay (approximately 3.5 × 2.5 m) (Pl. 2).

### The archaeological materials

The material discovered within the features or in archaeological deposition is composed of pottery fragments, mammal bones, tools, and plastic art<sup>142</sup>. With respect to the pots, these are modeled of good quality paste, compact, with fine sand used as temper; some have the external surface with a metallic/burnished appearance, with orange, brown, yellow, gray, or dark gray hues. There also occurs sandy/coarse surface pottery, with sand in the paste, yellowish in color, brown or orange. The somewhat coarser pots, occasionally with barbotine, have a more or less biconical shape (occasionally walls are rather vertical, with the upper part slightly inturned), one or two handles, of average sizes, decorated with an alveolar belt (attached or modeled on the pot's wall). Much present are the biconical or conical bowls, bowls with hemispherical walls, then rarely, the amphoroid pots, beakers, cups, strainers, and miniature vessels. A series of average to small sized pots have slightly curved walls, a rather slender shape, which could be defined as beakers, possibly jars. In the case of certain bowls, the rims are slightly widened, insplayed. The most frequently found decorative patterns are represented by the alveolar belt in relief or carved in the pot wall (set horizontally or vertically), notches, holes, horizontal or angular incisions/fish skeletons, hatches, stitches, plastic applications, fine folds, *Bessenstrich*.

<sup>141</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2014a.

<sup>142</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2014a; Popa, Bălășescu 2014.



Fig. 2. Artefacts of horn, bone, clay and stone discovered at Moara Vlăsiei.

Holes are set below the rim, occasionally above the alveolar belt, other times perforating it. These do not occur on bowls or smaller vessels, but are sooner associated with those of large or average sizes. Notches are occasionally associated with the belt/rib in relief. The sleeve-like thickening is also found or possibly suggested by the thickening of the pot's upper part. Another decoration is that cord-made, identified on a number of 41 fragments/36 pots (Cpl.13=28 pots, cpl.12=2 pots, Cpl.31=2 pot, layer=4 pots)<sup>143</sup>. There are no complicated decorations obtained alike those in the Jigodin culture<sup>144</sup> or the Ezero tell<sup>145</sup>, but only lines set horizontally (a line or two or groups of two), rarely vertically (associated with the horizontal ones) (Fig. 4; Pl. 18–20). There also emerges the *caterpillar* type impressed cord (Fig. 4/6; Pl. 19/5, 11, 13) identified on four fragments of conical bowls, of which two have thickened rim/sleeve-like, while on another it appears in association with the twisted cord (Fig. 4/10). The cord is found on good quality pottery (with burnished appearance), yet also on sandy/slightly porous exterior pots<sup>146</sup>, in a single case on a somewhat coarser pot (Pl. 19/6). We mention that sandy pottery emerges in small quantities in this site. Another decoration is that excised and consists of triangular or square patterns set on a horizontal line on pot walls. White paste encrustations are not missing either,

<sup>143</sup> For southern Romania, all published cord-decorated pottery yielded by burials or settlements ascribed to the first half of the 3rd millennium does not reach this number. To the south of the Danube, we note the Ezero tell of which were published at least 230 fragments, nevertheless these come from several habitation levels (Roman 1986b, 18).

<sup>144</sup> Roman *et al.* 1973; Roman *et al.* 1992, tale XIII-XV.

<sup>145</sup> Georgiev *et al.* 1979, tables 194, 196, 198.

<sup>146</sup> The cord-decorated pot discovered in Gr.2/T.IV at Blejoi was in this category (Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a, 40).

both in the case of excised pottery as well as of that imprinted (cord-decorated). There are both strap handles (including tubular), as well as circular in cross-section.

Beside clay pots, at Moara Vlăsiei were discovered tools of flint, bone, horn and stone (Fig. 4; Pl. 24). The discovered bone items are represented by a piercer and an object (lacer?) (Fig. 2/4; pl. 24/7) likely used in weaving. Similar pieces come from the Schneckenberg environment<sup>147</sup>. We also note two red deer horn hoes with sanded active side (Fig. 2/1–2). In the category of clay items discovered in this site count the wagon wheels (generally fragmentary), pieces that could be associated with the presence of a rectangular pot<sup>148</sup> with tapering walls, secondary burnt, with its four wavy/notched sides upturned above the rim and pierced, which allowed its hanging. This pot could be associated with a miniature wagon (Fig. 5/1). In clay are also three miniature axes (Pl. 24/1–3), of which one fragment is decorated, with moulded back, circular in shape (Fig. 2/9). Conical spindle whorls were also discovered (Pl. 24/5–6), a pendant, a weight, all made of clay. Relatively numerous is the clay zoomorphic plastic art, representing bovinds, ovicaprids, yet also what seems like a frog? (Fig. 6). By stitches are suggested skin/fur specificities of the modelled exemplars, others are decorated in the same technique. The lithic assemblage (fragmentary) consist in general of flint blades, scrapers as well as flakes. A discovered piece which seems to be an axe was made in stone. A stone grinder with sunken active side was also found (Fig. 2/11). The prevalent fauna is wild, with species that chose moist, open areas, possibly vegetal bush<sup>149</sup>.

### The chronology of the Moara Vlăsiei site

For a more restricted chronological framing of the habitation in this site three C14-AMS dates were obtained by the Debrecen lab (Hungary) (Table 1). The analysed samples (mammal bones) were sampled from Cpl.13, which was a pit found in S. IX/2010 and trench 8, grids 24–25. It was identified at -0.50 m, and the base at -1.80 m deep. The pit had an elongated shape in surface, bell-shaped in cross-section, with dark colour filling. Its sizes were 2.90 × 1.70 m (E-W/N-S). It was the most richly furnished feature composed of a large quantity of archaeological material, formed of the numerous pottery fragments and mammal bones. Also add zoomorphic statuettes, one *phallus*, two miniature axes, wagon wheels, spindle whorls, a pendant, a weight, all modelled in clay, yet also tools made of bone, horn, flint and stone.

Table 1. C14-AMS dates for the Moara Vlăsiei site.

| Lab date | Archaeological context | Sample      | Date in BP years | Calibrated years, Sigma 1 68.2% | Calibrated years, Sigma 2 95.4% | Average value |
|----------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| DeA-3859 | Cpl.13                 | Mammal bone | 4157±28          | 2871–2673                       | 2877–2631                       | 2754          |
| DeA-3860 | Cpl. 13                | Mammal bone | 4215±31          | 2893–2706                       | 2903–2675                       | 2802          |
| DeA-3861 | Cpl.13                 | Mammal bone | 4120±29          | 2853–2624                       | 2868–2578                       | 2718          |

In correlation with C14-AMS dates, the pottery remains the most representative archaeological material discovered in Cpl.13, useful in a discussion related to the chronological-cultural framing of habitation in this site. 145 pots/profiles could be drawn (however, judging by other fragments, decorations, the real number of the pots may increase towards 200), a series of shapes and decoration categories being distinguished, also recorded in the remaining pottery lot coming from other archaeological features. Most numerous are the bowls, bowls with hemispherical walls, dishes, beakers, cups, amphoroid pots, then storage vessels, miniature vessels (Pl. 4–12). There are present the cord-decorated pottery, with sleeve-like thickening of the rim, pots with holes in walls, with horizontal incisions or set angularly, regular or random hatches, decoration with alveolar belts (in relief or cut-out in pot

<sup>147</sup> Prox 1941, taf. XXXIII, 1–2.

<sup>148</sup> Schuster 1996; Schuster 1997; Kacsó 2018.

<sup>149</sup> Popa, Bălăşescu 2014.





Fig. 3. Decorations on the pottery found at Moara Vlășiei.

walls), notches, tube-made stitches, white paste encrustations, fine folds, attached plastic decoration; there also emerge triangular or square excisions, which seem to have been encrusted with white paste (Fig. 3, 4/1, 3, 8–9, 11, 13; Pl. 21/1–2, 7, 22/8–9, 23/1–3, 5–7).

**The sleeve-like thickening of the rim** – emerges as an element specific to average size pots (biconical pots, amphora necks, bowls) (Pl. 22/8–9), occasionally associated with plastic decorations (applications), alveolar belt or even cord decoration (Fig. 4/3, 7, 13). It is present past the Carpathians starting with the Coțofeni culture, being a common element in the Livezile/Copăceni, Șoimuș, Jigodin, Schneckenberg, Roșia, Iernut cultural environments<sup>150</sup>. In general, the sleeve-like thickening of the rim appears in Glina sites considered to date from an early phase, occasionally together with *Runcuri* type pottery, as well as in the first habitation level of the Odaia Turcului site<sup>151</sup> or the Șoimești-Merez settlement<sup>152</sup>. The sleeve-like thickening of the rim associated with decoration of perforation/ hole type is present in the sites of Branet (level 3), Bungetu, Văcărești<sup>153</sup> or in Transylvania, for instance at Feldioara<sup>154</sup>. Important is also the pot with sleeve-like thickening from Gr.1 at Târgșoru Vechi-Biserica Albă<sup>155</sup>. A first C14-AMS date with a somewhat greater error placed it in a broader interval from the second third of the 3rd millennium (4052±43 BP)<sup>156</sup>. Meanwhile, another lab established a different

<sup>150</sup> With related references see: Ciugudean 1988, 21; Roman *et al.* 1973; Roman *et al.* 1992; Andrițoiu 1992, 26; Rotea 1993; Schuster 1997; Băjenaru 2002, 114; Molnar, Gemiş 2003; Boroffka 2004, 24; Sztáncuj 2009; Berecki, Balazs 2010.

<sup>151</sup> Băjenaru 2014, 181.

<sup>152</sup> Frînculeasa, Garvăn 2017.

<sup>153</sup> Băjenaru 2002, 114, note 25; Băjenaru 2014, 181.

<sup>154</sup> Boroffka 2004, 24.

<sup>155</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015b, pl. IV.

<sup>156</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015b, fig. 2a (the first sample had a reduced collagen quantity and a second time, it was performed on a human molar).

date which delivered a much narrower margin of error, which places the grave in the third Yamnaya plateau, contemporary with the evolution in the area of the Glina culture (code PSUAMS-3996 = 3980±25 BP/2574–2459 cal BC, 95.4% probability)<sup>157</sup>. One of the pots coming from Gr.1 at Şoimeşti-Merez also had a sleeve-like thickening<sup>158</sup>.

The **holes**/perforations in pot walls (Pl. 12, 13, 15, 21/3, 22/4) are rare in the case of the Cernavodă II type wares<sup>159</sup>, also emerge in upper levels (X), yet also in those subsequent (VII) in the Ezero tell<sup>160</sup>, but these would be commonly present in Glina<sup>161</sup> or Schneckenberg site<sup>162</sup>. The **notched** decoration (Pl. 21/5, 22/2, 5) seems to be inherited from the classic Cernavodă II fund<sup>163</sup>, being much present in the Livezile cultural environment<sup>164</sup> and later also in the Schneckenberg<sup>165</sup> or Glina sites<sup>166</sup>. On a pot occurs a *fish skeleton* type decoration set in one register (Pl. 21/2), which reminds of the pottery from the Livezile type graves at Țelna, Meteş<sup>167</sup> or Mada-*Chicioarele*<sup>168</sup>. The presence of grooves/certain fine folds on a pot emerges as singular (Pl. 12/8), with few parallels in the contemporary environment, possibly in Livezile group, where it is also rare<sup>169</sup>. The **belt** in relief set either horizontally or vertically (occasionally associated) (Pl. 33/7) is known in the cultural environment contemporary with the site of Moara Vlăsiei, yet also later in Glina or Schneckenberg settlements<sup>170</sup>. Among **plastic** decorations counts the **lentil beans** type (circular shape applications *s.n.*)(Pl. 23/2, 4). Known in the Coţofeni and Cernavodă II settings, such decoration also emerges in the Early Bronze age in Transylvania, Muntenia or Moldova<sup>171</sup>, yet also in flat graves or burial mounds dated to the first half of the 3rd millennium (Zimnicea, Blejoi, Smeeni, Mlăjet, Turia, Sânzieni, Zăbala, Aldeşti, Soimeşti, Sárretudvari etc.)<sup>172</sup>. **Hatches** obtained by incisions on soft fabric are also present (Fig. 3; Pl. 11/11–12, 14–15; 21/4, 6), mostly covering the lower halves of vessel without describing a specific decorative pattern, however they are also set in registers (Pl. 23/6). We also mention the single pottery fragment decorated with hatched triangles with tip towards vessel base discovered in Cpl.13 (Pl. 23/3)<sup>173</sup>. Pottery with hatches, including those set in registers, triangles or encrusted with white paste is present in large numbers in the Ezero tell in building levels contemporary with the site of Moara Vlăsiei<sup>174</sup>. We also mention the *Runcuri* type pottery from northern Oltenia characterized by this decoration type<sup>175</sup>.

A few pottery fragments have their decoration **encrusted with white paste** (Pl. 23/1), a technique known in the Glina cultural environment of *Runcuri* type, yet also at Jigodin<sup>176</sup>, Vućedol, Csepel<sup>177</sup>, in the Ezero tell<sup>178</sup> or that of Celei<sup>179</sup>. The related **excising** of certain triangles – *wolf's tooth* may also be mentioned here (Pl. 14/1; 22/3, 6). From the Moara Vlăsiei site come at least three fragments of cord-decorated pottery with white encrustations (Fig. 4/2, 12)<sup>180</sup>. The **cord** decoration from Moara Vlăsiei is also present on a large number of vessels (bowls, bowls with hemispherical walls, beakers, dishes, amphoroid pots) (Fig. 4; Pl. 18–20). Noteworthy is the fact that cord-decorated pots

<sup>157</sup> Lazaridis *et al.* 2021.

<sup>158</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2020, fig. 2/c.

<sup>159</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>160</sup> Georgiev *et al.* 1979, fig. 143/a, 153/b.

<sup>161</sup> Schuster 1997; Băjenaru 2002; Băjenaru 2014.

<sup>162</sup> Prox 1941; Sztáncsuj 2009, 53.

<sup>163</sup> Schuster 1997; Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>164</sup> Ciugudean 1996, 89.

<sup>165</sup> Prox 1941; Sztáncsuj 2009.

<sup>166</sup> Băjenaru 2002; 2014.

<sup>167</sup> Ciugudean 1996, fig. 38/10, 46/1.

<sup>168</sup> Rişcuţa *et al.* 2009, fig. 10/5.

<sup>169</sup> Ciugudean 1996, 90–91.

<sup>170</sup> Prox 1941; Sztáncsuj 2009; Berecki, Balazs 2010; Băjenaru 2014.

<sup>171</sup> Ciugudean 1996, 89.

<sup>172</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 101.

<sup>173</sup> See such finds also in the Şoimuş site of Deva-Curia (Rişcuţa 2018, pl. IV/5–7).

<sup>174</sup> Georgiev *et al.* 1979.

<sup>175</sup> Roman 1985; Petre-Govora 1986.

<sup>176</sup> Roman *et al.* 1973, 364.

<sup>177</sup> Roman 1985; Băjenaru 2002, 113–114;

<sup>178</sup> Georgiev *et al.* 1979; Roman 1986b, 19; Alexandrov 2018b, fig. 4 (dish in a *Mihalich* habitation layer).

<sup>179</sup> Bujor 1967, 215.

<sup>180</sup> The encrustation technique with white paste is well-known in southern Romania during the second quarter of the 3rd millennium in both the case of incised pottery and that cord-decorated (Băjenaru 2014, 173).

from Moara Vlăsiei are modelled of a paste no different than that of which other pottery classes from the settlement are made. Also, the cord emerges including on pots with sleeve-like thickening<sup>181</sup> or possibly is doubled by notched decoration (Pl. 19/1)<sup>182</sup>. With origins in the north of the Black Sea<sup>183</sup>, the presence of the cord-decorated pottery by the Lower Danube during the first half of the 3rd millennium ensures a certain relation between the local world and that of the steppes<sup>184</sup>, that south of the Danube<sup>185</sup> and trans-Carpathian connections as well<sup>186</sup>. It occurs in graves, contemporary settlements and even caves<sup>187</sup>. It is present in the burial mounds, possibly flat graves as well, like those at Ploiești-Triaj, Blejoi T.IV/Gr.2<sup>188</sup>, Gurbănești, Brăilița, Lișcoteanca, Grivița, Liești-Arbănașu, Valea Lupului, Bolotești, Viile, Slobozia-Hănești, Independența, Hârșova, Izvoarele, Medgidia etc.<sup>189</sup>. Of an earlier date could be the flat? graves Gr.8 and Gr.144 at Brăilița, ascribed to sub-adults<sup>190</sup> or Gr.34, of an adult, with individuals laid side-crouched in oval pits<sup>191</sup>. Gr.176 seems to be a Yamnaya grave of an adult lying supine, with the lower limbs bent and fallen to both sides (rhomb), near which was discovered a cord-decorated pottery fragment<sup>192</sup>. At Moașca<sup>193</sup> or Milostea<sup>194</sup> too occur cord-decorated pots, but in burial mounds showing a series of characteristics rather foreign to the Yamnaya burials. Still in Transylvania we note the presence of the cord decoration on Copăceni pottery<sup>195</sup>. We mention the presence of the cord decoration also in the Celei *tells*<sup>196</sup> or in Schneckenberg settlements owing to the influence/contact with the Jigodin milieu<sup>197</sup>. Cord-decorated pots are also found south of the Danube in the mounds at Târnovo<sup>198</sup>, Drazhevo<sup>199</sup>, Chudomir<sup>200</sup>, Vetrino<sup>201</sup>, in flat grave? at Devnya<sup>202</sup>, in *tells*/flat settlements at Ezero<sup>203</sup>, Nova Zagora, Ovcharitsa II, Dyadovo, Sokol<sup>204</sup>, Karnobat<sup>205</sup>, Velikan<sup>206</sup>, Kiten (Urdoviza)<sup>207</sup>, etc., yet also in the Tisza river basin at Buj-Baba, Tiszabábolna, Békésszentandrás, Nagyhalász-Királyhalom and Halmaj-Vasonca<sup>208</sup>.

Specific are also the *censer pots* decorated in the same manner, present in Yamnaya and Katacombnya burial mounds from both the north-Pontic and north-Caucasian areas<sup>209</sup>. North of the Lower Danube such a pot emerges at Grivița in a Yamnaya burial<sup>210</sup>, while those of Corlăteni<sup>211</sup>

<sup>181</sup> See a cord-decorated shard with sleeve-like thickening from the Bogdănești site (Burtănescu 2002, 201).

<sup>182</sup> For instance, at Ezero it is found on pots with alveolar belts (Georgiev *et al.* 1979, fig. 157, 163). From the same volume see tables 194, 196, 198.

<sup>183</sup> Kotova 2010.

<sup>184</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a, 43–44.

<sup>185</sup> Roman 1986b.

<sup>186</sup> Burtănescu 2002, 198 and subseq.

<sup>187</sup> Roman *et al.* 1992; Dani 2011: 33–34; Gogăltan 2013; Bulatović 2014; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a.

<sup>188</sup> See date C14-AMS of 4212±29 cal BC in Gr.1/T.IV at Blejoi (Prahova); Gr.2 was buried in the same pit with the individual abbreviated Gr.1 (Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a, 39–40, table 3).

<sup>189</sup> With related references see Frînculeasa 2019; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a.

<sup>190</sup> M. Vernescu publishes a cord-decorated pot also from Gr.3, yet it is the same with that from Gr.34 (Vernescu 2013, pl. 13/3a, 3b; 23/2).

<sup>191</sup> Harțuche 2002.

<sup>192</sup> Harțuche 2002, 86, fig. 98/2.

<sup>193</sup> Szekely 1997, 43.

<sup>194</sup> Popescu, Vulpe 1966, 150.

<sup>195</sup> Rotea 1993, 75, 84; Ciugudean 1996, 99.

<sup>196</sup> Bujor 1967, 214; Nica 1982, 25–36.

<sup>197</sup> Sztáncsuj 2009, 54.

<sup>198</sup> Alexandrov 2019, 88, pl. VII/9 (with extended references).

<sup>199</sup> Iliev, Bokardzhiev 2018, 327; 2020.

<sup>200</sup> Alexandrov 2020, cat. 370.

<sup>201</sup> Alexandrov *et al.* 2021, 6, pl. IX/3–4.

<sup>202</sup> Alexandrov, Stefanova 2021, 61, fig. 9/1.

<sup>203</sup> Roman mentions a few cord-decorated pottery fragments discovered in horizons XIII-IX (=Ezero A), yet many in the VIII-IV habitation levels (=Mihalich) (Roman 1986b).

<sup>204</sup> Georgiev 1978; Roman 1986b; Semotto 2016, fig. 3; Semotto *et al.* 2016.

<sup>205</sup> Boyadziev, Boyadziev 2016, 158, fig. 14.

<sup>206</sup> Minkov 2019, 17, table 7/IX.

<sup>207</sup> Draganov 1995, 229.

<sup>208</sup> Dani 2011, 33–34, fig. 9, 26.

<sup>209</sup> Panasyuk 2009; Kaiser 2013; Kaiser 2019, Abb. 135.

<sup>210</sup> Brudiu 1987, 11, fig. 5.

<sup>211</sup> Tudor *et al.* 1953, 413–414, fig. 17; Roman 1986a, 50, fig. 5.



Fig. 4. Cord decorated pottery found at Moara Vlășiei.

and Blejoi T.III<sup>212</sup> come from features located in mounds, yet which are not graves. The dating of the Yamnaya burial in T.III at Blejoi would represent a landmark, namely  $4174 \pm 33$  BP = 2886–2635 cal BC, with 95.4% probability<sup>213</sup>, placed in the same chronological horizon with the Moara Vlășiei habitation. Such pots are also known in Bulgaria<sup>214</sup>, the Great Hungarian Plain<sup>215</sup>, including the Vučedol/Vučedol-Kostolak environment<sup>216</sup>, almost reaching the Adriatic Sea<sup>217</sup>, the latter two being even slightly earlier

<sup>212</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017d, 167; 2019a, pl. XI.

<sup>213</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a, table 3.

<sup>214</sup> Leshtakov, Borisov 1995.

<sup>215</sup> Kalicz 1968, tab. I, 18; Dani 2011, fig. 13/9; Dani, Horváth 2012, fig. 21/7.

<sup>216</sup> Kulcsár 2013.

<sup>217</sup> Leghissa *et al.* 2020.

than those from the north of the Black Sea<sup>218</sup>. E. Kaiser identified this pot type as an influence element of the Vučedol cultural environment on Yamnaya features from the north-Pontic area<sup>219</sup>. Similar cord-decorated pots also come from southern Poland<sup>220</sup> or eastern Slovakia<sup>221</sup>. In the Yamnaya milieu, this pot type emerges especially in the Don River basin<sup>222</sup>.

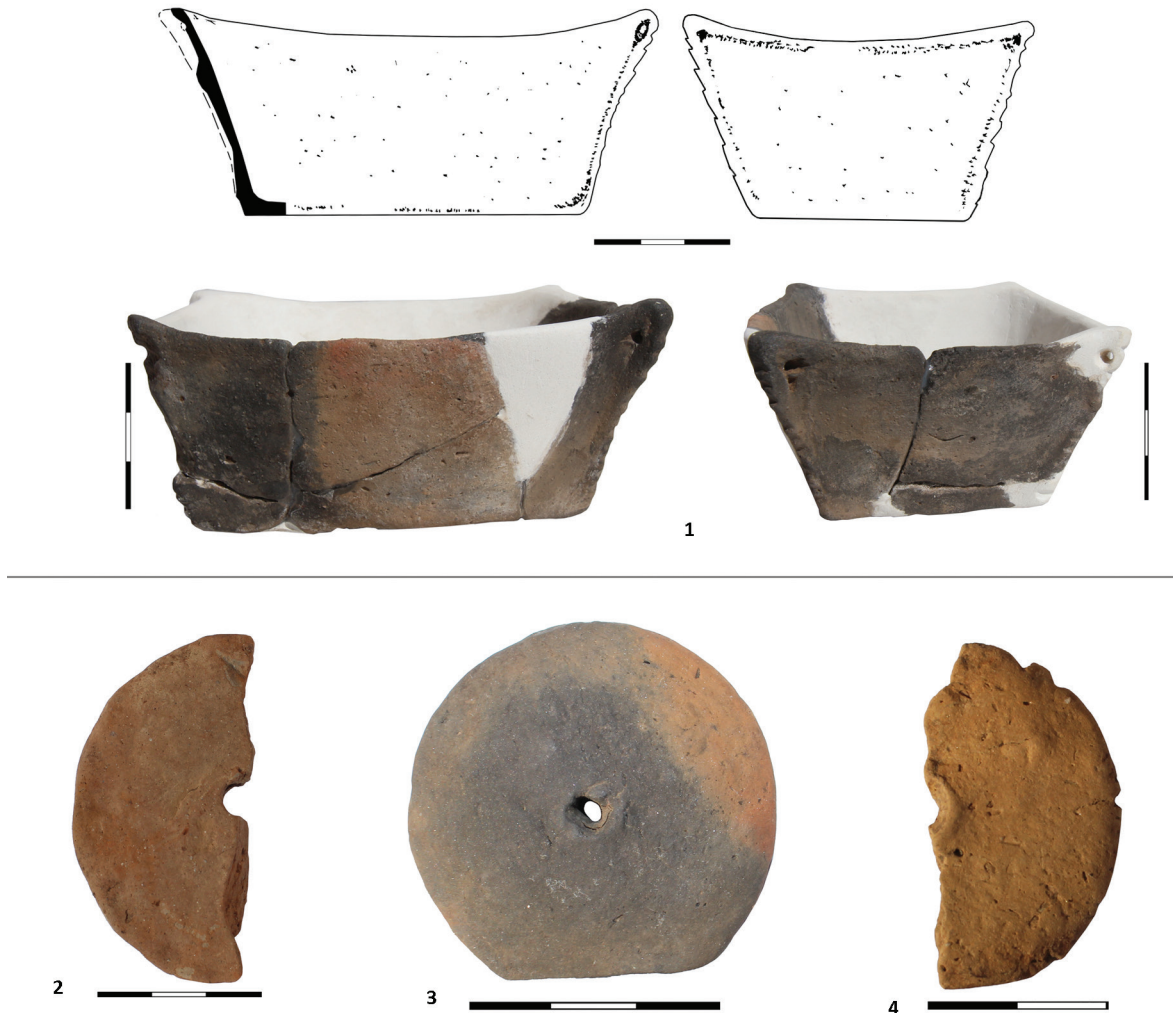


Fig. 5. Rectangular vessel (1) and clay wheels found at Moara Vlăsiei.

The bowl is the most present typological category in the Moara Vlăsiei site. Amphoroid pots are somewhat rarer comparative to those in the Cernavodă II culture<sup>223</sup>. Numerous are also the bowls with hemispherical walls, dishes, yet also the beakers. A mug with (likely) an oblique mouth (Pl. 16/5) alludes to such pots present in the period especially in Transylvania, however they may be also linked to the Zimnicea environment. A spoon fragment was also identified (Pl. 16/7), an item known in the Glina culture<sup>224</sup>. Rather rare is a rectangular pot with tapering and curved walls, which could be hung, found in Cpl.7/Moara Vlăsiei. Made of a sandy paste, it had an engobe exfoliated in most part, being secondary burnt both on the interior and exterior. Known in the Bronze Age<sup>225</sup>, such pots emerge as

<sup>218</sup> Kaiser 2013.

<sup>219</sup> Kaiser 2013, 150.

<sup>220</sup> Włodarczak 2014, fig. 17/2.

<sup>221</sup> Batora 2016, 109, fig. 7.

<sup>222</sup> Kaiser 2019, Abb. 135.

<sup>223</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a, 143–144.

<sup>224</sup> Schuster 1997, 77-78.

<sup>225</sup> Schuster 1996; Popescu 2006.

cord-decorated (or *pseudo-cord*) in both Yamnaya graves east of the Prut<sup>226</sup> and the Tisza river basin and the Middle Danube (the Kostolac and Vučedol cultures), made rather in the *Furchenstich* technique<sup>227</sup>. Interpretations relate to the emergence of wagon miniatures<sup>228</sup> or vessels that could be hung and used for ritual purposes<sup>229</sup>. From the Moara Vlăsiei settlement also comes another fragment detached from the remaining pot at the area where it could be hung. From the Glina settlement of Crivăț comes a *miniature wagon box*<sup>230</sup>. Such vessels also exist in the Schneckenberg environment, termed *carriages*<sup>231</sup>. A decorated pottery fragment of a pot in the same category comes from the Șoimești-Merez site. We mention the lack of dishes with a wide rim, frequent in the Cernavodă II milieu<sup>232</sup>. A series of pots seem to be reminiscent of the ovoid jars well-known in the Cernavodă II (-Foltești II) sites or in contemporary burial mounds<sup>233</sup>. Unique is also a strainer fragment coming from Cpl.10 (Pl. 13/2). We also note the many tubular handles from the Moara Vlăsiei site, later present in the Glina culture<sup>234</sup> as well.

The clay modelled zoomorphic plastic art, represented by six items (Fig. 6), prompts the continuous emergence of this artefact type in Glina<sup>235</sup> and Schneckenberg settlements<sup>236</sup>. Although less present, it is not missing from the Cernavodă II ones<sup>237</sup>. Three clay items, of which one decorated, seem to be miniature axes (Fig. 2/9–10; Pl. 24/1–3). They are known in the Coțofeni, Livezile<sup>238</sup>, Glina<sup>239</sup> and also Schneckenberg cultural environments<sup>240</sup>. Earlier is an item coming from the Cernavodă II feature of Târgșoru Nou (Prahova)<sup>241</sup>.

The contemporary/known absolute chronology dates for the habitation horizon of Moara Vlăsiei are those from the mounds ascribed to the second plateau<sup>242</sup>, to which add a few from the isolate graves at Uivar (4164±24 BP)<sup>243</sup>, Costișa (4044±30 BP, 4031±20 BP)<sup>244</sup>, Șoimești (4197±26 BP)<sup>245</sup> or Târgșoru Vechi (4052±43 BP)<sup>246</sup>. Still from the site of Șoimești come other three dates of which one (4170±43 BP) lies approximately in the same interval with the mentioned grave<sup>247</sup>. From the Celei site we mention two dates from L.1 (4135±45 BP) and L.2 (4225±60 BP)<sup>248</sup>, features from a habitation level contemporary with the Zimnicea cemetery<sup>249</sup>. We also mention the dates from sites deemed late Coțofeni, yet also those in the Livezile burial type features<sup>250</sup> or even settlements<sup>251</sup>. Some dates like those for Costișa, Târgșoru Vechi and Șoimești (settlement), although partially intersect those for Moara Vlăsiei, seem to be contemporary rather with the third Yamnaya plateau and the Glina culture evolution.

<sup>226</sup> Agulnikov, Popovici 2009.

<sup>227</sup> Horváth, Balen 2012.

<sup>228</sup> Burmeister 2017.

<sup>229</sup> Horváth, Balen 2012, 19.

<sup>230</sup> Schuster 1997, 76.

<sup>231</sup> Székely 1988.

<sup>232</sup> Berciu *et al.* 1973; Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>233</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 39–40; Frînculeasa 2020a, 143.

<sup>234</sup> Schuster 1997, 66–67.

<sup>235</sup> Schuster 1997, 79; Băjenaru 2014, 253.

<sup>236</sup> Prox 1941.

<sup>237</sup> Schuster, Popa 2008, pl. XVI/2; Schuster *et al.* 2009, pl. VI/2; Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>238</sup> Ciugudean 1996, 136–137.

<sup>239</sup> Schuster 1997, 78.

<sup>240</sup> Băjenaru 2014, 252, pl. 78/4–11.

<sup>241</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a, 13/10.

<sup>242</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015a; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a; Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019a; Ailincăi *et al.* 2014; Ailincăi *et al.* 2016; Frînculeasa 2019; 2020c, 45; Diaconescu 2020.

<sup>243</sup> Woidich, Szentmiklosi 2013, 235, fig. 4.

<sup>244</sup> Popescu, Băjenaru 2008.

<sup>245</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2020, table 1.

<sup>246</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2015b, fig. 2/a.

<sup>247</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2020, table 1.

<sup>248</sup> Mantu 1995, Appendice 2, no. 110–111.

<sup>249</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017a, 99–100, note 116.

<sup>250</sup> Ciugudeanu 1996; Ciugudeanu 2000; Gerling, Ciugudean 2013; Boroneanț 2020, table 10; Frînculeasa 2020b, table 2.

<sup>251</sup> Gerling, Ciugudean 2013; Frînculeasa 2020b, table 2.



Fig. 6. Zoomorphic plastic art found at Moara Vlăsiei.

## Conclusions

By the early 3rd millennium most part of the area previously controlled by the Cernavodă II communities becomes a space/territory marked by the Yamnaya burial mounds. As shown by available data, elements specific to the Cernavodă II culture endure or possibly, certain areas (including lowland regions) remain unsettled by the Yamnaya communities<sup>252</sup>. Concurrently, there is another model, namely the *Prahova area* where originally the cultural environment that merged local and steppe traditions, coexisted for a period with the Yamnaya phenomenon<sup>253</sup>. South of the Danube such coexistence might have occurred, marked by both flat graves (Smyadovo, Sabrano, Lîga) and mounds with grave goods, possibly rites/rituals specific to the local world (Târnovo, Pliska, Chudomir, Vetrino, Ovchartsî, Mogila etc). In the area we note Gr.3/T.5 at Beli Bryag, which is a double grave with mixed ritual, respectively individuals laid supine with the lower limbs bend and raised and arms brought towards the skull/face<sup>254</sup>. Investigations have indicated that the two deceased were locals from the point of view of genetic inheritance<sup>255</sup>. We also mention Gr.30 at Mogila where a gracile individual, different from the other skeletons,

<sup>252</sup> There are areas in southern Romania where neither mounds nor settlements are documented. The circumstances might mirror the state of research.

<sup>253</sup> Frînculeasa 2021.

<sup>254</sup> Alexandrov *et al.* 2016, fig. 3; Alexandrov 2021, table 2.

<sup>255</sup> Mathieson *et al.* 2018, fig. 2 and Supplementary Information, 5;

which are massive, was buried according to the Yamnaya burial ritual. The skeleton gracility, the pot with parallels in the Ezero cultural settings<sup>256</sup> and ritual segments (partial burning of the individual) were deemed elements specific to the burial of a native<sup>257</sup>. By contrast with the west-Pontic area, circumstances in Bulgaria are much more complex in the first half of the 3rd millennium<sup>258</sup>. Beside burial mounds there were also discovered flat graves<sup>259</sup> both to the south of the Balkan Mountains (Upper Thrace)<sup>260</sup> as well as to the north, the latter being related to the Zimnicea-Batin burial type horizon<sup>261</sup>.

- The Yamnaya burials have a standard funerary ritual in which the simplicity of the funerary furnishing is relevant. The defining elements are the wooden cover, the white mat, the rectangular grave pit, west-east orientation, supine deposition with the lower limbs bent and raised, ochre (lumps or scattered on the body)<sup>262</sup>. In all this *package*, the presence of certain *non-steppe* objects, to which adds a series of ritual adjustments in the case of graves of rather female adults are the markers of a persisting local cultural environment intersecting with these allogeneous communities, which likely become themselves local<sup>263</sup> at some point.

- It remains to be established what is local and what is of the *steppes*, where they may be divided and what tools are available to generate an analysis model. Yamnaya has a certain outline in the west-Pontic area precisely because there, the local cultural framework is consistent<sup>264</sup>. In fact, the Nerushayska/Bugeak culture<sup>265</sup> was proposed for the Bugeak steppes, approach followed by other authors<sup>266</sup> as well, or the concept of a local version of the Yamnaya culture<sup>267</sup>. South of the Danube too, a series of elements related to the local cultural fund<sup>268</sup> are present in graves specific to this space. In addition, the stratigraphic successions/habitation levels from a series of *tells*, yet also from flat settlements, cover the chronological interval contemporary with the Yamnaya burials<sup>269</sup>. The same is noted in the case of the Celei *tell*<sup>270</sup>.

- An example is cord-decorated pottery originating in the north-Pontic world, yet deemed *....a part of the Ezero cultural horizon..., is not an import...while the technique is due to the north Danubian component (Cernavodă II s.n.) of the Ezero culture*<sup>271</sup>. We shall not dwell here on the chronological relation between the Ezero (= Ezero A) and Cernavodă II cultures, the first deemed more recent by P. Roman<sup>272</sup>. As more recent studies based also on absolute dates show, without excluding a certain chronological gap, Cernavodă II evolves contemporarily with part of the XIII-XI construction levels in the Ezero *tell* or EBA (stage A) from Bulgaria<sup>273</sup>. The cord-decorated pottery from Cernavodă II settlements is rather exceptional<sup>274</sup> in terms of emergence, a case also noted in early levels of the Ezero *tell*<sup>275</sup>. The relation changes in the second quarter of the 3rd millennium. The idea of decorating pottery with the cord/corded patterns seems to be adopted by the local communities<sup>276</sup>, an example being the Jigodin type finds from south-east Transylvania<sup>277</sup> or east of the Carpathians, with the known site of Bogdănești-

<sup>256</sup> Iliev, Bakărdziev 2020, 42; Valchev 2020.

<sup>257</sup> Valchev 2020, fig. 3; Iliev, Bakărdziev 2020, pl. 10; the individual is placed on the back, with upper limbs set on the abdomen, not side-crouched as described in mentioned sources.

<sup>258</sup> Leshtakov, Tsirtsoni 2016, 480–481; Kaiser, Winger 2015; Alexandrov 2021.

<sup>259</sup> Alexandrov, Kaiser 2016, 367–368.

<sup>260</sup> Nikolova 1995; Nikolova 1999;

<sup>261</sup> Nikolova 1995; Nikolova 1999; St. Alexandrov 2002; M. Valentinova *et al.* 2020, 230.

<sup>262</sup> Alexandrov, Kaiser 2016, 367–368.

<sup>263</sup> Nikolova 1995; Nikolova 1999;

<sup>264</sup> Nikolova 1995; Nikolova 1999; St. Alexandrov 2002; M. Valentinova *et al.* 2020, 230.

<sup>265</sup> Preda-Bălănică *et al.* 2020, 87.

<sup>266</sup> Preda-Bălănică *et al.* 2020, 97.

<sup>267</sup> Frînculeasa 2021.

<sup>268</sup> Kleyn 2017, 197.

<sup>269</sup> Ivanova 2013, 86.

<sup>270</sup> Rassamakin 1994; Dergacev 1994, 126.

<sup>271</sup> Kaiser, Winger 2015; Alexandrov, Kaiser 2016; Alexandrov 2021.

<sup>272</sup> Nikolova, Górsdorf 1998; Nikolova 1999; Semotto, Kamuro 2015; Boyadzhiev, Aslanis 2016; Alexandrov 2018a.

<sup>273</sup> Nica 1982.

<sup>274</sup> Roman 1986b, 19.

<sup>275</sup> Roman 1982a; Roman 1986a.

<sup>276</sup> Weninger 1995; Schwenzer 2005; Merkyte *et al.* 2005; Merkyte 2007; Nikolov, Petrova 2016; Alexandrov 2018a, 90–91; Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>277</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a, 146.



*Todoscanu*<sup>278</sup>, yet also others<sup>279</sup>. The presence of the cord-decorated pottery in the Moara Vlăsiei settlement does not seem to be the effect of imports. The large number of pots, their shape, paste and firing resemble the other pottery categories from the site (Pl. 25). In the Ezero tell too, most cord-decorated pottery clusters, according to the excavators (and not later reconsiderations *s.n.*)<sup>280</sup> in levels contemporary with the Moara Vlăsiei habitation. In the now underwater site of Urdoviza, the most diffused decoration is that cord-made, while habitation is contemporary<sup>281</sup> with the VIII-V building levels of the Ezero tell<sup>282</sup>. In the Celei tell, the cord-decorated pottery is missing from the lower levels and emerges in levels contemporary with the development of Zimnicea type finds<sup>283</sup>. The integration/assimilation of this type/decoration tradition in the techniques/practices of the local pottery seems plausible.

- One should not exclude a violent relation/interaction between the Yamnaya communities with/and the local world. Violence was a social behaviour present in the first half of the 3rd millennium<sup>284</sup>, the Yamnaya communities included, even though not at the level imagined and promoted by the popular science magazines, ideas around which rallied part of the Western scholars' elite<sup>285</sup>. There are violence traces in the case of pre-Yamnaya burials<sup>286</sup>, yet there is a chronological gap by relation to the Yamnaya presence in the area<sup>287</sup>. Concurrently, violence marks also emerge on Yamnaya skeletons<sup>288</sup>, while in Gr.3/T.I at Ariceştii Rahtivani a flint arrowhead with the sharp side fractured was discovered below the femur of an individual who died young<sup>289</sup>.

- After a first episode in which the Yamnaya impact seems to have been relevant in terms of scale and immediate consequences, (re)emergence of certain artefacts (especially pottery) that seems to mirror older traditions are recorded especially in burial contexts. The Moara Vlăsiei settlement which develops in full Yamnaya evolution/milieu, incorporates elements that may be originating in the Cernavodă II culture, then certain features specific to the early Bronze Age south of the Danube, yet also from Transylvania. There also appear elements prompting steppe traditions. Concurrently, it foretells the emergence of the Glina culture<sup>290</sup>. What one must note in the case of the pottery lot discovered in the Moara Vlăsiei site is the lack of pottery decorated with hole-knobs, ...*the main identification criterion of a Glina culture site*. However, as noted ...*only 97 of the 345 settlements comply*<sup>291</sup>. Schneckenberg or Năeni-Schneckenberg type<sup>292</sup> imports do not emerge either. By correlating this information with the absolute dates, we may place the Moara Vlăsiei habitation in a chronological horizon preceding the emergence of the Glina and Schneckenberg cultures. At the same time, we mention that nearby the Moara Vlăsiei site no mounds are reported. In fact, from south of Ploieşti (Cocorăştii-Grind) to past southern Bucharest, although crossing a flat, lowland area, no mounds are visible in the landscape.

- Upon the analysis of the material from Moara Vlăsiei we may (rather timidly) return to the Cernavodă II culture and attempt to ensure the somewhat linear transition from Cernavodă II to Glina. The pathway is unsafe, the lack of further finds/consistent publications makes it difficult to establish a comprehensive picture. Appealing to alternate solutions such as the *Căţelu Nou* group type does not seem to have at this point a solid ground. Looking at the pottery material published from Căţelu

<sup>278</sup> Roman 1986b, 18.

<sup>279</sup> From the Glina settlement of Crivăţ was published a shard with *hole-knobs?* on which cord decoration emerges (Berciu 1966, fig. 2/4; Nica 2000, pl. III/19).

<sup>280</sup> Roman *et al.* 1973.

<sup>281</sup> Florescu, Buzdugan 1972.

<sup>282</sup> Burtănescu 2002, 201.

<sup>283</sup> Roman 1986b, 18.

<sup>284</sup> Kuniholm *et al.* 1998; Peev *et al.* 2020, 403.

<sup>285</sup> Draganov 1995, 229, 232.

<sup>286</sup> Nica 1982, 35–36.

<sup>287</sup> Wicke *et al.* 2012; Neubert *et al.* 2014; Konopka *et al.* 2016; Schroeder *et al.* 2019.

<sup>288</sup> See New Scientist 29, 30 March 2019. Story of most murderous people of all time revealed in ancient DNA <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg24132230-200-story-of-most-murderous-people-of-all-time-revealed-in-ancient-dna/#ixzz6sIY1SBMb>.

<sup>289</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2014b, tab. 1.

<sup>290</sup> Frînculeasa 2021.

<sup>291</sup> Perianu 1988b, 132; Nikolova 2012, pl. 1/2; Ciobanu *et al.* 2019b, fig. 1; Hohlov *et al.* 2019; from the Prahova area we mention the traces of an unhealed traumatism in the skull area in case of Gr.1A in T.V at Ariceştii Rahtivani (Frînculeasa *et al.* 2017c).

<sup>292</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2013, 25; Frînculeasa 2019, 137.

Nou<sup>293</sup> (Fig. 7/B), it is no different than the already Cernavodă II published material from the eponymous site<sup>294</sup>, București-Dămăroaia<sup>295</sup>, Târgșoru Nou (Fig. 7/A)<sup>296</sup> or even Gr.1 from the Ploiești-Gara de Vest mound<sup>297</sup>, contexts chronologically located by late 4th millennium, possibly early the subsequent. The dishes with wide rim, amphorae, the notched alveolar belt, the jars or bowls with notched decoration on the rim or body<sup>298</sup> are present. Therefore, V. Leahu accurately noticed the parallels between the Cățelul Nou pottery with that from the Cernavodă site and the Foltești II type settlements<sup>299</sup>. Concurrently, the Cernavodă II pottery, including that of Cățelu Nou, displays significant differences from that of Moara Vlăsiei. We mention that dishes with wide rim (Pl. 25), an important feature of the Cernavodă II pottery<sup>300</sup> are missing from the Moara Vlăsiei site. Also, the pottery published from Mironești (Giurgiu) finds it best parallels in the Cernavodă II cultural milieu<sup>301</sup>.

• As noted in the case of the discussed chronological frame, direct data on the local cultural context are few. Important prove to be the indirect information suggested by the presence among the grave goods, yet also in the ritual of the burial mounds of certain materials/elements that make somewhat more visible the local cultural environment of the first half of the 3rd millennium. Possible reconsideration of some of the many sites ascribed to the Glina culture, yet of which pottery decorated with *hole-knobs* is missing, might bring additional data on this chronological episode. Relevant are also a part of the habitation levels in the Celei tell and the Zimnicea cemetery. In the second quarter of the 3rd millennium in Muntenia, in a well outlined relation of the area with the south-Danubian region, the local cultural environment coexists with the Yamnaya tumular burials. The state of research is still discouraging, which leaves the impression of the exceptional nature of the Moara Vlăsiei site.

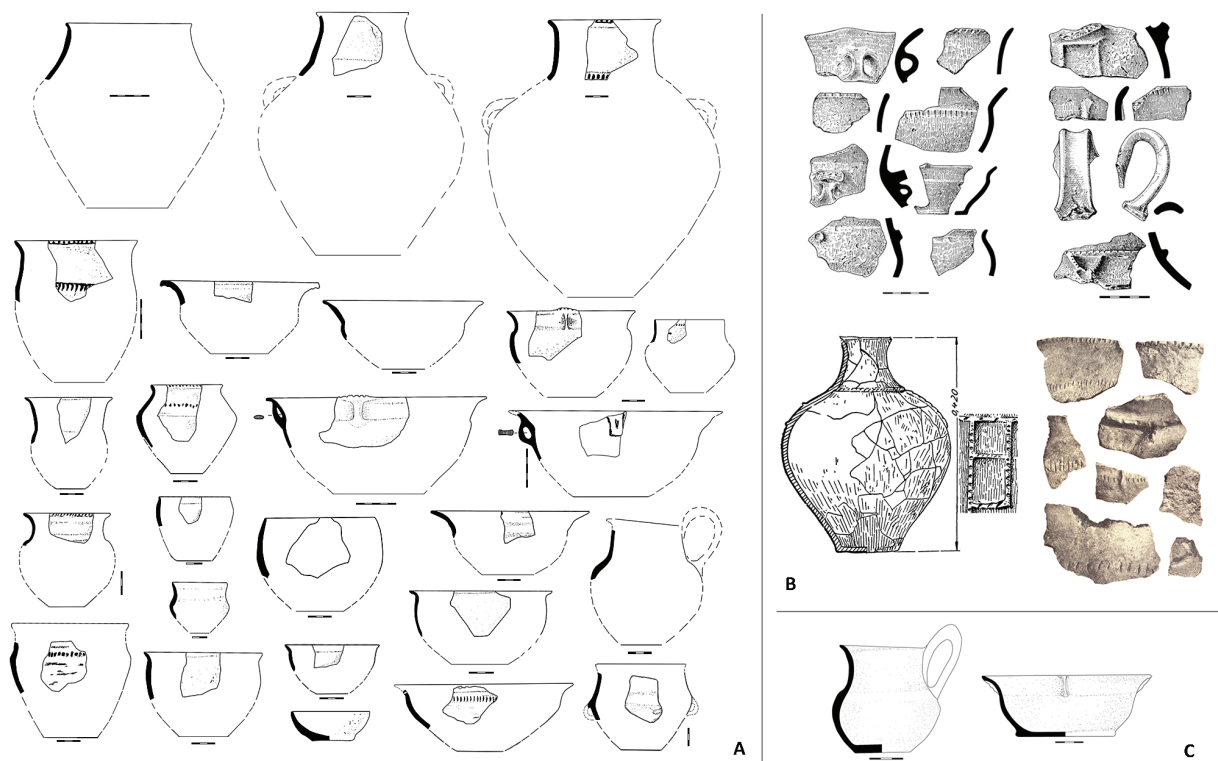


Fig. 7. A. Pot shapes found at Târgșoru Nou (1) (following A. Frînculeasa 2021, fig. 3); B. Pottery found at Cățelu Nou (3) (following V. Leahu 1965); C. Pots found in grave 2 in the Ploiești-Gara de Vest mound (following A. Frînculeasa et alii 2019b, pl. 4).

<sup>293</sup> Leahu 1965.

<sup>294</sup> Berciu *et al.* 1973.

<sup>295</sup> Gavrilă *et al.* 2016.

<sup>296</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a.

<sup>297</sup> Frînculeasa *et al.* 2019b, pl. 4.

<sup>298</sup> Leahu 1965, fig. 5–8.

<sup>299</sup> Leahu 1965.

<sup>300</sup> Frînculeasa 2020a, 142–143.

<sup>301</sup> Schuster, Popa 2008, pl. X–XVII; Schuster *et al.* 2009, pl. IV–VI.

## Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Mr. Stefan Alexandrov for allowing us to use a forthcoming study. To Mr. Ionuț Adamescu we express our thanks for making available to us the excavation notes found in the archives of the County Museum of Galați, where we found information on the prehistoric grave that I.T. Dragomir excavated at Bălteni (Buzău). We also thank the research team of the Moara Vlăsiei excavation site, namely Alin Anton, Nicolae Șerban, Octav Negrea, Bianca Preda.

**Alin Frînculeasa**

Prahova County Museum of History and Archaeology  
Ploiești, RO  
alinfranculeasa@yahoo.com

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Agulnikov 1995 S. M. Agulnikov, *Importuri de pe cursul inferior al Dunării în complexe arheologice ale bronzului timpuriu din stepa Bugeacului*. Cercetări arheologice în aria nord-tracă I, 1995, 81–85.
- Agulnikov, Redina 2005 S.M. Agulnikov, S. Redina, *Moghilnik epohi rannei Emneiaia Balka i c Koșarîi*. Revista Arheologică S.N. I/2, 2005, 267–276.
- Agulnikov, Popovici 2009 S. M. Agulnikov, S. Popovici, *Kurgan epohi rannej bronzii u sela Grigorovka (Sinjerei, Respublika Moldova)*. Materiali po Arheologii Severnogo Pricernomorija 9, 2009, 156–171.
- Agulnikov, Popovici 2015 S.M. Agulnikov, S. Popovici, *Rezultatele investigațiilor arheologice de la Găvănoasa, Raionul Cahul, Republica Moldova*. In: C. Schuster, C. Tulugea, C. Terteci (eds.), *Buridava XII/1, Symposia Thracologica X, Volum dedicat profesorului Petre I. Roman la cea de-a 80-a aniversare*. Râmnicu Vâlcea 2015, 176–185.
- Ailincăi et al. 2014 S. C. Ailincăi, F. Mihail, L. Carozza, M. Constantinescu, A. Soficaru, C. Micu, *Une découverte funéraire du début du l'Age de Bronze en Dobroudja (Sud-est de Roumanie). Le tumulus de Rahman (com. Casimcea, dep. Tulcea)*. Prilozi. Instituta za arheologiju u Zagrebu 31, 2014, 135–149.
- Ailincăi et al. 2016 S. Ailincăi, M. Florian, M. Constantinescu, L. Carozza, C. Micu, A. Burens, *Découverte d'un tumulus de l'âge du bronze à Rahman sur la commune de Casimcea (dép. Tulcea)*. SCIVA 67, 1–2, 2016, 29–52.
- Alexandrescu 1974 A. D. Alexandrescu, *La nécropole du Bronze ancien de Zimnicea (dép. de Teleorman)*. Dacia (N.S.) 18, 1974, 79–94.
- Alexandrov 2002 St. Alexandrov, *Post Cernavodă III-Boleráz Phenomena South of the Danube*. Godischnik na Arheologhiceskija Institut s Muzei II, 2002, 140–147.
- Alexandrov 2108a St. Alexandrov, *Ранн и средна бронзова епоха в българските земи: хронология, периодизация, културни контакти и находки от благородни метали/The Early and Middle Bronze Age in Bulgaria: Chronology, Periodization, Cultural Contacts and Precious Metal Finds*. In: St. Alexandrov, Y. Dimitrova, H. Popov, B. Horejs, K. Chukalev (eds.) *Metals, Technologies and Interregional Contacts in the Eastern Balkans during the Bronze Age*. Sofia 2018, 85–95.
- Alexandrov 2018b S. Alexandrov, *Селищна могила Езеро/Tell Ezero*. In: S. Alexandrov, Y. Dimitrova, H. Popov, B. Horejs, K. Chukalev (eds.) *Metals, Technologies and Interregional Contacts in the Eastern Balkans during the Bronze Age*. Sofia 2018, 300–303.
- Alexandrov 2019 S. Alexandrov, *Early Bronze Age Barrow Graves in North-West Bulgaria*. In: V. Filipović, Al. Bulatović, Al. Kapuran (eds.), *Papers in Honour of Rastko Vasić 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday*. Belgrad 2019, 75–94.
- Alexandrov 2020 S. Alexandrov, *Site 3 near Chudomir, Loznitsa municipality*. In: H. Popov (ed). *Stream Through Time. Rescue archaeological investigations along the expansion of the gas transmission infrastructure of Bulgartransgaz EAD (National Archaeological Museum Catalogues, Supplementum 1)*. Sofia 2020, 462–471.

- Alexandrov 2021 S. Alexandrov, *Forth – Third millennium BC barrow graves in North-East Bulgaria (120 years of investigations)*. In: V. Heyd, G. Kulcsár, B. Preda-Bălănică (eds.), *Yamnaya Interactions. Proceedings of the International Workshop held in Helsinki, 25–26th April 2019* (in print).
- Alexandrov, Kaiser 2016 S. Alexandrov, E. Kaiser, *The Early Barrow Graves in West Pontic Area. Cultures? Migrations? Interactions?* In: V. Nikolov, W. Schier (eds.), *Der Schwarzmeerraum vom Neolithikum bis in die Früheisenzeit (6000–600 v. Chr.). Kulturelle Interferenzen in der zirkumpontischen Zone und Kontakte mit ihren Nachbargebieten*. PAS, 30. Rahden/Westf. 2016, 359–370.
- Alexandrov et al. 2016 S. Alexandrov, B. Galabova, N. Atanassova-Timeva, *Спасителни археологически проучвания на надгробна могила №.5, землище на с. Бели Бряг, община раднево/Rescue excavations of tumulus no. 5, Beli Bryag village, Radnevo municipality*, in: A. Aladzhov (ed.), *Arheologicheski otkritiya i razkopki prez 2015 (National institute of archaeology with museum; Bulgarian academy of sciences)*, 2016, 153–154.
- Alexandrov, Stefanova 2021 S. Alexandrov, A. Stefanova, *The Early Bronze Age graves from Devnya (northeast Bulgaria). 50 years later*. Peuce (S.N.) XIX, 2021, 49–77.
- Alexandrov et al. 2021 S. Alexandrov, V. Slavchev, E. Tokova, *Rescue excavations of Bronze Age barrows in Vetrino Region, northeast Bulgaria*. MCA (S.N.) XVII, 2021, 5–48.
- Andrițoiu 1992 I. Andrițoiu, *Civilizația tracilor din sud-vestul Transilvaniei în epoca bronzului*. Bibliotheca Thracologica II. București 1992.
- Bátora 2016 J. Bátora, *The question of the presence of the Yamnaya and Catacomb culture in the area of the Middle Danube and North Carpathians*. In: A. Zanoci, E. Kaiser, M. Kashuba, E. Izbitser, M. Băț (Hrsg.), *Mensch, Kultur und Gesellschaft von der Kupferzeit bis zur frühen Eisenzeit im Nördlichen Eurasien (Beiträge zu Ehren zum 60. Geburtstag von Eugen Sava)*. Man, culture, and society from the Copper Age until the Early Iron Age in Northern Eurasia (Contributions in honour of the 60th anniversary of Eugen Sava). Chișinău 2016, 103–115.
- Băjenaru 1998 R. Băjenaru, *Discuții privind cronologia absolută a culturii Glina*. SCIVA 49, 1, 1998, 3–22.
- Băjenaru 2002 R. Băjenaru, *Date noi privind cronologia bronzului timpuriu în jumătatea sudică a României*. Apulum XXXIX, 2002, 107–143.
- Băjenaru 2014 R. Băjenaru, *Sfârșitul bronzului timpuriu în regiunea dintre Carpați și Dunăre*. Cluj-Napoca 2014.
- Băjenaru, Popescu 2012 R. Băjenaru, A. D. Popescu, *Pumnalele de metal cu limbă la mâner din bronzul timpuriu și mijlociu din spațiul carpato-dunărean//Poignards métalliques à languette au manche datant du Bronze ancien et moyen dans l'espace carpato-danubien*. In: V. Sârbu (coord.), *Un monument din Carpații Orientali cu reprezentări din preistorie și evul mediu – Nucu – „Fundu Peșterii”, județul Buzău – Un monument des carpates orientales avec des représentations de la préhistoire et du moyen âge – Nucu – «Fundu Peșterii», département de Buzău*. Brăila-Buzău 2012, 363–433.
- Berecki, Balázs 2011 S. Berecki, Á. C. Balázs, *Discoveries belonging to the Schneckenberg Culture from Șincai, Transylvania*. In: S. Berecki, R.E. Németh, B. Rezi (eds.), *Bronze Age Rites and Rituals in the Carpathian Basin. Proceedings of the International Colloquium from Târgu Mureș 8–10 October 2010*. Târgu Mureș 2011, 59–76.
- Berciu 1961 D. Berciu, *Contribuții la problemele neoliticului în România în lumina noilor cercetări*. București 1961.
- Berciu 1966 D. Berciu, *Rezultatele primelor săpături de la Crivăț, (1965) (r. Oltenița)*. SCIV 17, 3, 1966, 529–535.
- Berciu et al. 1973 D. Berciu, S. Morintz, P. Roman, *Cultura Cernavoda II. Așezarea din sectorul b de la Cernavoda*. SCIV 24, 3, 1973, 373–405.
- Berciu, Roman 1984 D. Berciu, P. Roman, *Morminte tumulare de la Verbița (jud. Dolj)*, *Thraco-Dacica* V, 1–2, 1984, 15–21.
- Bîrliba-Mihăilescu, Szmyt 2003 V. Bîrliba-Mihăilescu, M. Szmyt, *Radiocarbon Chronology of the Moldavian (Seret) Subgroup of the Globular Amphora Culture*. In: A. Koško (ed.), *The foundations of radiocarbon chronology of cultures between the Vistula and Dnieper: 4000–1000 BC*, *Baltic-Pontic Studies* 12, 2003, 82–112.

- Boyadziev, Boyadziev 2016 Y. Boyadziev, K. Boyadziev, *Archaeological excavations at Tell Karnobat*. In: Z. Tsirtsoni (ed.) *The Human Face of Radiocarbon Reassessing Chronology in prehistoric Greece and Bulgaria, 5000–3000 cal BC*. Lyon 2016, 147–162.
- Boyadzhiev, Aslanis 2016 Y. Boyadzhiev, I. Aslanis, *Radiocarbon dates from Tell Yunatsite*. In: Z. Tsirtsoni (ed.), *The Human Face of Radiocarbon Reassessing Chronology in prehistoric Greece and Bulgaria, 5000–3000 cal BC*. Lyon 2016, 147–161.
- Boroffka 2004 N. Boroffka, *Preistoria*. In: D. Căpățână, N. Boroffka, R. Boroffka, A. Popescu, Feldioara-Marienburg. *Contribuții arheologice la istoria Țării Bârsei*. Archäologische Beiträge zur Geschichte des Burzenlandes. București 2004, 16–26.
- Boroneanț 2020 A. Boroneanț, *Locuirea Coțofeni de la Cuina Turcului-Dubova. O nouă imagine*. Acta Musei Tutovenss XVI, 2020, 20–53.
- Bozkova, Tonkova 2020 A. Bozkova, E. Tonkova, *Site A1/7002 near Vetrino, Varna Region*. In: H. Popov (ed.), *Stream Through Time. Rescue archaeological investigations along the expansion of the gas transmission infrastructure of Bulgartransgaz EAD (National Archaeological Museum Catalogues, Supplementum 1)*. Sofia 2020, 450–455.
- Brudiu 1987 M. Brudiu, *Date noi privind începutul epocii bronzului în sud-estul Moldovei*. Thracodacica 8, 1–2, 1987, 10–15.
- Brudiu 2003 M. Brudiu, *Lumea de sub tumulii din sudul Moldovei. De la indo-europeni la turanicii târzii-mărturii arheologice*. București 2003.
- Bujor 1967 E. Bujor, *Așezarea de la Celei din perioada de tranziție spre epoca bronzului*. RM IV, 3, 1967, 211–216.
- Bulatović 2014 A. Bulatović, *Cordded Ware in the Central and Southern Balkans: A Consequence of Cultural Interaction or an Indication of Ethnic Change?* Journal of Indo-European Studies 42/1–2, 2014, 101–143.
- Bulatović et al. 2020 A. Bulatović, M. Gori, M. Vander Linden, *Radiocarbon dating the 3rd millennium BC in the central Balkans: a re-examination of the Early Bronze Age sequence*. Radiocarbon, Vol 00, Nr 00, 2020, 1–29, DOI:10.1017/RDC.2020.61.
- Burmeister 2017 St. Burmeister, *Early Wagons in Eurasia: Disentangling an Enigmatic Innovation*. In: P. W. Stockhammer, J. Maran (eds.), *Appropriating innovations entangled knowledge in Eurasia, 5000–1500 BCE*. Oxford & Philadelphia 2017, 69–77.
- Burtănescu 2002 F. Burtănescu, *Epoca timpurie a bronzului între Carpați și Prut cu unele contribuții la problemele epocii bronzului în Moldova*. Bibliotheca Thracologica XXXVII, București, 2002.
- Calotoiu 2007 Gh. Calotoiu, *Necropole tumulare din Gorj. Vârtopu-Ciuperceci, Telești-Drăgoiești*. Târgu-Jiu 2007.
- Calotoiu 2012 Gh. Calotoiu, *Civilizații milenare în județul Gorj. Epocile bronzului și fierului*. Târgu-Jiu 2012.
- Ciobanu et al. 2019a I. Ciobanu, A. Simalcsik, L. Băjenaru, R. Pîrnău, S. Agulnikov, S. Popovici, *Considerații preliminare privind cercetările arheologice și interdisciplinare de la Crihana Veche (raionul Cahul). Campaniile 2016 și 2017*. Arheologia Preventivă în Republica Moldova IV, 2019, 71–118.
- Ciobanu et al. 2019b I. Ciobanu, A. Simalcsik, V. Vornic, S. Agulnikov, *Investigații arheologice preventive în tumulul 9-La Mohilă de pe teritoriul localității Cișlița-Prut (R-nul Cahul)*. Cercetări Arheologice în Republica Moldova, Campania 2018, Sesiune de Rapoarte arheologice 18 aprilie 2019 (rezumatele comunicărilor), 2019, 37–39.
- Ciugudean 1988 H. Ciugudean, *O așezare din epoca timpurie a bronzului la Alba Iulia*. Thracodacica IX, 1–2, 1988, 15–22.
- Ciugudean 1996 H. Ciugudean, *Epoca timpurie a bronzului în centrul și sud-vestul Transilvaniei*. Bibliotheca Thracologica XIII. București 1996.
- Ciugudean 2000 H. Ciugudean, *Eneoliticul final în Transilvania și Banat: cultura Coțofeni*. Timișoara 2000.
- Ciugudean 2011 H. Ciugudean, *Mounds and Mountains: Burial Rituals in Early Bronze Age Transylvania*. In: S. Berecki, R.E. Németh, B. Rezi (eds.), *Bronze Age Rites and Rituals in the Carpathian Basin, Proceedings of the International Colloquium from Târgu Mureș*. Bibliotheca Musei Marisiensis, Seria Archaeologica IV. Târgu Mureș 2011, 21–57.

- Ciugudean 2015 H. Ciugudean, *Contacte între Cultura Amforelor Sferice și comunitățile Coțofeni în spațiul transilvan*. In: C. Schuster, C. Tulugea, C. Terteci (eds.) *Buridava XII/1, Symposia Thracologica X, Volum dedicat profesorului Petre I. Roman la cea de-a 80-a aniversare*. Râmnicu Vâlcea, 2015, 164–175.
- Constantinescu 2020 M. Constantinescu, *Începuturile culturii Monteoru. Așezarea de la Năeni-Zănoaga Cetatea 2*. Biblioteca Mousaios 15. Cluj-Napoca 2020.
- Dani 2011 J. Dani, *Research of Pit-Grave culture kurgans in Hungary in the last three decades*. In: Á. Pető, A. Barczy (eds.), *Kurgan studies: An environmental and archaeological multiproxy study of burial mounds of the Eurasian steppe zone*. BAR International Series 2238. Oxford 2011, 25–69.
- Dani, Nepper 2006 J. Dani, I. M. Nepper, *Sárrétudvari-Örhalom tumulus grave from the beginning of the EBA in eastern Hungary*. *Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungaricae*, 2006, 29–49.
- Demcenko, Levițki 2006 T. Demcenko, O. Levițki, *Kurgany u sela Burlănești*. *Revista Arheologică, S.N.*, II/1–2, 2006, 293–327.
- Dergacev 1994 V. Dergacev, *Epoca bronzului. Perioada timpurie*. *Thraco-Dacica* 15, 1–2, 1994, 121–140.
- Diaconescu 2020 D. Diaconescu, *Step by Steppe: Yamnaya culture in Transylvania*. *PZ* 91 (1), 2020, 17–44.
- Diaconu, Hânceanu 2020 V. Diaconu, G.-D. Hânceanu, *Discovered in the ground, rediscovered in the museum. Metallic artifacts from the Bronze Age discovered at Văleni (Neamț county, eastern Romania)*. In: D. Aparaschivei, G. Bilavski, L. Părnău (eds.) *Varia archaeologica (I). Tradiție și inovație în cercetarea arheologică din România și Republica Moldova*. Cluj-Napoca 2020, 91–100.
- Draganov 1995 V. Draganov, *Submerged Coastal Settlements from Final Eneolithic and the Early Bronze Age in the Sea around Sozopol and Urdoviza Bay near Kiten*. In: D. Bailey, I. Panajotov (eds.), *Prehistoric Bulgaria*. Madison, Wisconsin 1995, 225–241.
- Dragomir 1962 I. T. Dragomir, *Săpăturile arheologice întreprinse la Bălteni (r. Făurei, reg. Galați)*. *MCA III*, 1962, 11–23.
- Dumitrescu 1980 V. Dumitrescu, *The Neolithic Settlement at Rast (South-West Oltenia, Romania)*. BAR International Series 72. Oxford 1980.
- Durman, Obelic 1989 A. Durman, B. Obelic, *Radiocarbon dating of the Vučedol culture complex*. *Radiocarbon* 31, 3, 1989, 1003–1009.
- Florescu, Buzdugan 1972 M. Florescu, C. Buzdugan, *Așezarea din epoca bronzului de la Bogdănești (jud. Bacău). Raport amplu asupra cercetărilor arheologice efectuate în anii 1959–1962*. *AM VII*, 1972, 103–205.
- Frînculeasa 2019 A. Frînculeasa, *The Children of the Steppe: descendance as a key to Yamnaya success*. *SP* 16, 2019, 129–168.
- Frînculeasa 2020a A. Frînculeasa, *Cultura Cernavoda II la Dunărea Inferioară. Relevanța cronologiei și a înmormântărilor tumulare*. *SP* 17, 2020, 135–193.
- Frînculeasa 2020b A. Frînculeasa, *Earthen burial mounds and the Coțofeni culture south of the Carpathians. Archaeological research in Ariceștii-Rahtivani-Movila pe Răzoare*. *ZSA* 34, 2020, 35–90.
- Frînculeasa 2020c A. Frînculeasa, *Endangered monuments: in rescue of the mutilated and anonymous burial mounds of the steppe*. *Revista de Arheologie, Antropologie și Studii Interdisciplinare* 2, 2020, 41–79.
- Frînculeasa 2021 A. Frînculeasa, *Burial mounds in the Lower Danube region – from the international to the local and the other way round*. In: V. Heyd, G. Kulcsár, B. Preda-Bălănică (eds.), *Yamnaya Interactions. Proceedings of the International Workshop held in Helsinki, 25–26th April 2019*, 2021, 173–206.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2013 A. Frînculeasa, B. Preda, O. Negrea, A.-D. Soficaru, *Bronze Age tumular graves recently investigated in Northern Wallachia*. *Dacia N.S. LVII*, 2013, 23–63.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2014a A. Frînculeasa, N. Șerban, A. Anton, O. Negrea, *Raport de cercetare arheologică preventivă pe autostrada București-Ploiești. Șantierul arheologic Moara Vlăsiei (jud. Ilfov)*. *Anuarul MJIAF S.N. V*, 2014, 114–153.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2014b A. Frînculeasa, B. Preda, T. Nica, A.-D. Soficaru, *Un nou tumul preistoric cercetat la Ariceștii-Rahtivani (jud. Prahova)*. *SP* 11, 2014, 189–227.

- Frînculeasa et al. 2015a A. Frînculeasa, B. Preda, V. Heyd, *Pit-Graves, Yamnaya and Kurgans along the Lower Danube: Disentangling 4th and 3rd Millennium BC Burial Customs, Equipment and Chronology*. PZ 90, 2015, 45–113.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2015b A. Frînculeasa, A. Soficar, A. Măgureanu, B. Preda, B. Ciupercă, D. Garvăn, A. Anton, C. Constantinescu, *Un complex funerar preistoric descoperit la Târșoru Vechi (jud. Prahova)*. BMJT 7, 2015, 133–156.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2017a A. Frînculeasa, A. Simalcsik, B. Preda, D. Garvăn, *Smeeni-Movila Mare: monografia unui sit regăsit*. Târgoviște 2017.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2017b A. Frînculeasa, P. Mirea, G. Trohani, *Local cultural settings and transregional phenomena: on the impact of a funerary ritual on the Lower Danube in the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium B.C.* BMJT 9, 2017, 75–116.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2017c A. Frînculeasa, B. Preda, O. Negrea, C. Dumitrescu, A.-D. Soficar, *Ariceștii-Rahtivani, jud. Prahova*, CCA. Campania 2016, 2017, 164–165.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2018 A. Frînculeasa, B. Preda, A. Simalcsik, O. Negrea, *Peisaje și contexte actuale: un tumul de pământ cercetat în localitatea Coadă Izvorului (jud. Prahova)*. MCA S.N. XIV, 2018, 77–99.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2019a A. Frînculeasa, B. Preda-Bălănică, A. Simalcsik, O. Negrea, B. Constantinescu, D. Stan, *Morminte Iamnaia într-un tumul redescoperit și salvat în localitatea Blejoi (jud. Prahova)*. BMJT 11, 35–78.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2019b A. Frînculeasa, B. Preda-Bălănică, D. Garvăn, O. Negrea, A.-D. Soficar, *Towards a better understanding of the end of the fourth millennium bc in Northern Muntenia: the case of the burial mound in Ploiești – Gara de Vest*, ZSA 33, 2019, 53–88.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2020 A. Frînculeasa, D. Garvăn, M. Mărgărit, A. Bălășescu, I. Lazăr, M.N. Frînculeasa, A.D. Soficar, M. Molnár, M. Georgescu, *Between worlds and elites at the beginning of Early Bronze Age at the Lower Danube: a pluridisciplinary approach to personal ornaments*. Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences 12, 213, 2020, <http://doi.org/10.1007/s12520-020-01177-0>.
- Frînculeasa et al. 2021 A. Frînculeasa, O. Negrea, C. Discă, A. Simalcsik, *Tumulul II de la Strejnicu (jud. Prahova) – o prezentare arheologică și bio-antropologică*. Revista de Arheologie, Antropologie și Studii Interdisciplinare, 3, 2021, 67–104.
- Frînculeasa, Garvăn 2017 A. Frînculeasa, D. Garvăn, *Un raport pierdut: săpăturile de la Șoimești – Dealul Merez/La Merez, com. Ceptura, jud. Prahova, campania 2016*. Mousaios XXI, 2017, 57–67.
- Garvăn et al. 2018 D. Garvăn, A. Frînculeasa, A. Simalcsik, *Complexe preistorice cercetate la Gherăseni – Grindul Cremenea (jud. Buzău) la mijlocul secolului al XX-lea*. BMJT 10, 2018, 279–301.
- Gavrilă et al. 2016 E. Gavrilă, T. Ignat, M. Vintilă, *Date preliminare privind materiale arheologice din perioada de tranziție de la eneolitic la epoca bronzului descoperite la Dămăroaia, campania 2013*. Revista de cercetări arheologice și numismatice II, 2016, 36–40.
- Georgiev et al. 1979 .Георгиев, Н. Мерперт, Р. Катинчаров, Д. Димитров, *Езеро. Раннобронзовото селище*, Българска Академия на Науките. София 1979.
- Gerling et al. 2012 C. Gerling, E. Bánffy, J. Dani, K. Köhler, G. Kulcsár, A.W. G. Pike, V. Szeverényi, V. Heyd, *Immigration and transhumance in the Early Bronze Age Carpathian Basin: the occupants of a kurgan*. Antiquity 86, 2012, 1097–1111.
- Gerling, Ciugudean 2013 C. Gerling, H. Ciugudean, *Insights into the Transylvanian Early Bronze Age Using Strontium and Oxygen Isotope Analyses: A Pilot Study*, în: V. Heyd, G. Kulcsár, V. Szeverényi (eds.), *Transitions to the Bronze Age. Interregional Interaction and Socio-Cultural Change in the Third Millennium BC Carpathian Basin and Neighbouring Regions*. Budapest 2013, 181–202.
- Gogâltan 2013 F. Gogâltan, *Transilvania și spațiul nord-pontic. Relații interculturale între sfârșitul epocii cuprului și începutul epocii bronzului (cca. 3500–2500 a.Chr.)*. Acta Musei Sabesensis 5, 2013, 1–53.
- Gogâltan 2015 F. Gogâltan, *The Early and Middle Bronze Age Chronology on the Eastern Frontier of the Carpathian Basin. Revisited after 15 Years*. In: R. E. Németh, B. Rezi, *Bronze Age chronology in the Carpathian Basin*, Proceedings of the International Colloquium from Târgu Mureș 2–4 October 2014, Târgu Mureș: Bibliotheca Musei Marisiensis, Seria Archaeologica VIII. Cluj-Napoca 2015, 53–95.

- Hartuche 2002 N. Hartuche, *Complexul arheologic Brăițița*, Bibliotheca Thracologica XXXV. București 2002.
- Häusler 1976 A. Häusler, *Die Gräber der älteren Ockergrabkultur zwischen Dnepr und Karpaten*. Berlin 1976.
- Heyd 2011 V. Heyd, *Yamnaya groups and tumuli west of the Black Sea*. In: E. Borgna, S. Müller Celka (Hrsg.), *Ancestral Landscapes*. Travaux de la Maison de l'Orient et de la Méditerranée, 58. Lyon 2011, 536–555.
- Hohlov *et al.* 2019 A. A. Хохлов, Ю. О. Капинус, А. П. Григорьев, *Антропологические материалы из погребений курганного могильника Николо-Варваринка (Бобровский район, Воронежская обл.)*, Археологическое Наследие 1(2), 2019, 106–113.
- Horváth 2017 T. Horváth, *Fightress Clubs? Women of a Special Social Status in the Late Copper Age in Hungary*. Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt 47, 2017, 21–40.
- Horváth, Balen 2012 T. Horváth, J. Balen, *The cultural attribution and dating of the cult vessel from Szelevény – Vadas*. Opuscula Archaeologica 36, 2012, 7–25.
- Horváth *et al.* 2013 T. Horváth, J. Dani, A. Petö, L. Pospieszny, E. Svingor, *Multidisciplinary Contributions to the Study of Pit Grave Culture Kurgans of the Great Hungarian Plain*. In: V. Heyd, G. Kulcsár, V. Szeverényi (eds.) *Transitions to the Bronze Age. Interregional Interaction and Socio-Cultural Change in the Third Millennium BC Carpathian Basin and Neighbouring Regions*. Archaeolingua 30. Budapest 2013, 153–79.
- Iliev, Bokardzhiev 2018 I. Iliev, K. Bokardzhiev, *Могилен гроб от ранната бронзова епоха до с. Дразево, Ямболско/Early Bronze Age Tumular Grave near the Village of Drazhevo, Yambol Region*. In: St. Alexandrov, Y. Dimitrova, H. Popov, B. Horejs, K. Chukalev (eds), *Metals, Technologies and Interregional Contacts in the Eastern Balkans during the Bronze Age*. Sofia 2018, 325–327.
- Iliev, Bakardžiev 2020 I. Iliev, St. Bakardžiev, *Kurgane der frühen bis späten bronzezeit im bezirk Jambol, Südostbulgarien*. Budapesta 2020.
- Immel *et al.* 2020 Al. Immel, S. Țerna, A. Simalcsik, J. Susat, O. Šarov, G. Sîrbu, R. Hofmann, J. Müller, A. Nebel, B. Krause-Kyora, *Gene-flow from steppe individuals into Cucuteni-Trypillia associated populations indicates long-standing contacts and gradual admixture*. Scientific Reports 10, 4253, |<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-61190-0>, 2020.
- Ivanova 2013 S. Ivanova, *Connections between the Budzhak culture and Central European groups of the Corded Ware culture*. In: A. Koško, V. Klochko (eds), *The Ingul-Donets Early Bronze Civilization as Springboard for Transmission of Pontic Cultural Patterns to the Baltic Drainage Basin 3200–1750 BC*. Baltic-Pontic Studies 18. Poznań 2013, 86–120.
- Ivanova, Toshev 2015 S. Ivanova, G. Toshev, *The Middle-Dniester cultural contact area of Early Metal age societies. The frontier of Pontic and Baltic drainage basins in the 4th/3rd–2nd millennium BC*. In: A. Koško (ed.), *Podolia as a Cultural Contact Area in the 4th/3rd–2nd Millennium BC*, Baltic-Pontic Studies 20, 2015, 336–405.
- Kacsó 2018 C. Kacsó, *Contribuții la cunoașterea rotitelor de lut ars din epoca bronzului. Descoperirile de la Pir*. Revista Bistriței XXXII, 2018, 20–53.
- Kaiser 2013 E. Kaiser, *Import, Imitation and Interaction: A Critical Review of the Chronology and Significance of Cross Footed Bowls of the Third Millennium BC in Southeastern and Eastern Europe*. In: V. Heyd, G. Kulcsar, V. Szeverényi (eds.), *Transition to the Bronze Age: Interregional Interaction and Socio-Cultural Change at the Beginning of the Third Millennium BC in the Carpathian Basin and Surrounding Regions*. Archaeolingua 30. Budapest 2013, 139–152.
- Kaiser 2019 E. Kaiser, *Das dritte Jahrtausend im osteuropäischen Steppenraum kulturhistorische studien zu prähistorischer subsistenzwirtschaft und interaktion mit benachbarten räumen*. Studies of the Ancient World 37. Berlin 2019.
- Kaiser, Winger 2015 E. Kaiser, K. Winger, *Pit graves in Bulgaria and the Yamnaya Culture*, PZ 90 (1–2), 2015, 114–140.
- Kalicz 1968 N. Kalicz, *Die Frühbronzezeit in Nordost-Ungarn*. Archaeologia Hungarica XLV. Budapest, 1968.
- Kleyn 2017 L. Kleyn, *The steppe hypothesis of Indo-European origins remains to be proven*. Acta Archaeologica 88/1, 2017, 193–204.



- Kyselý *et al.* 2019 R. Kyselý, M. Dobeš, K. Svoboda, *Drilled teeth and shell artefacts from a grave at Prague-Březiněves and a review of decorative artefacts made from animal material from Corded Ware culture in the Czech Republic*. *Archaeological and Anthropological Science* 11, 2019, 87–131.
- Konopka *et al.* 2016 T. Konopka, A. Szczepanek, M.M. Przybyła, P. Włodarczak, *Evidence of interpersonal violence or a special funeral rite in the Neolithic multiple burial from Koszyce in southern Poland—a forensic analysis*. *Anthropological Review* 79, 2016, 69–85.
- Koledin *et al.* 2020 J. Koledin, U. Bugaj, P. Jarosz, M. Novak, M. Przybyła, M. Podziało, A. Szczepanek, M. Spasic, P. Włodarczak, *First archaeological investigation of barrows in the Bačka region and the question of the Eneolithic/Early Bronze Age barrows in Vojvodina*. *PZ* 95, 2, 2020, 350–375.
- Kotova 2010 E. Kotova, *The first 'corded' ceramics ornamentation of eneolithic steppe and neolithic forest-steppe cultures*. In: A. Koško (ed.), 'Cord' ornaments on pottery in the Vistula and Dieper interfluvial region: 5th – 4th mill BC, *Baltic-Pontic Studies* 15. Poznań 2010, 75–109.
- Krauβ 2014 R. Krauβ, *Troy, Baden Culture and Corded Ware – Correlations in the Balkan-Carpathian Region at the Turn of the 4th Millennium BC*. In: B. Horejs, M. Mehofer (eds.), *Western Anatolia before Troy Proto-Urbanisation in the 4th Millennium BC? Proceedings of the International Symposium held at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria, 21–24 November, 2012 Oriental and European Archaeology, Volume 1*. Vienna 2014, 261–274.
- Kulcsár 2009 G. Kulcsár, *The beginnings of the Bronze Age in the Carpathian Basin: the Mako-Caka and the Kosihy-Somogyvar-Vinkovci cultures in Hungary*. *Varia Archaeologica Hungarica* 23. Budapest 2009.
- Kulcsár 2013 G. Kulcsár, *Glimpses of the Third Millennium BC in the Carpathian Basin*. In: A. Anders, G. Kalla, V. Kiss, G. Kulcsár, G. V. Szabo (eds.), *Moments in Time. Papers Presented to Pál Raczky on His 60th Birthday*. *Ósregészeti Tanulmányok / Prehistoric Studies* I. Budapest 2013, 643–659.
- Kulcsár, Szeverenyi 2013 G. Kulcsár, V. Szeverenyi, *Transition to the Bronze Age: Issues of Continuity and Discontinuity in the First Half of the Third Millennium BC in the Carpathian Basin*. In: V. Heyd, G. Kulcsár, V. Szeverenyi (eds.), *Transition to the Bronze Age: Interregional Interaction and Socio-Cultural Change at the Beginning of the Third Millennium BC in the Carpathian Basin and Surrounding Regions*. *Archaeolingua* 30. Budapest 2013, 67–92.
- Kuniholm *et al.* 1998 P. I. Kuniholm, B. Kromer, S. L. Tarter, C. B. Griggds, *An Early Bronze Age settlement at Sozopol, near Burgas, Bulgaria., dated by dendrochronology and radiocarbon*. In: M. Stefanovich, H. Todorova, H. Hauptmann (eds.), *In the steps of James Harvey Gaul, Volume 1: James Harvey Gaul – in memoriam*. The James Harvey Gaul Foundation. Sofia 1998, 399–409.
- Lazaridis *et al.* 2021 I. Lazaridis (+205 authors), *The genetic history of the Southern Arc: a bridge between West Asia and Europe*, *Science* (under review).
- Leahu 1965 V. Leahu, *Săpăturile arheologice de la Cățelu Nou*. CA București II, 1965, 11–74.
- Leghissa *et al.* 2020 E. Leghissa, Z. Kasztovszky, V. Szilágyi, I. Harsányi, A. De Min, F. Princivalle, M. Montagnari Kokelj, F. Bernardinie, *Late-Copper-Age decorated bowls from the Trieste Karst (north-eastern Italy): What can typology, technology and non-destructive chemical analyses tell us on local vs. foreign production, exchange systems and human mobility patterns?*, *Quaternary International*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2020.02.008>.
- Leshtakov, Borisov 1995 K. Leshtakov, B. Borisov, *Nadgrobná moghila IV ot rannata bronzova epoha v zemlicheto na selo Goljama Detelina, obschina Radnevo*. *Maritza-Istok, Archeologhiceski prouchvanija*, 3, 1995, 9–33.
- Leshtakov, Tsirtsoni 2016 K. Leshtakov, Z. Tsirtson, *Caesurae in the Bronze Age Chronology of Eastern Bulgaria*. In: V. Nikolov, W. Schier (eds.) *Der Schwarzmeerraum vom Neolithikum bis in die Früheisenzeit (6000–600 v. Chr.). Kulturelle interferenzen in der zirkumpontischen Zone und Kontakte mit ihren Nachbargebieten*. PAS, Band 30. Rahden/Westf. 2016, 477–491.

- Levițki *et al.* 1996 O. Levițki, I. Manzura, T. Demcenko, *Necropola tumulară de la Sărăteni*. Bibliotheca Thracologica XVII. București 1996.
- Mantu 1995 C. M. Mantu, *Câteva considerații privind cronologia absolută a neo-eneoliticului din România*. SCIVA 46, 3–4, 1995, 213–235.
- Manzura 2016 I. Manzura, *North Pontic steppes at the end of the 4th millennium BC: the epoch of broken borders*. In: A. Zanoci, E. Kaiser, M. Kashuba, E. Izbitser, M. Băț (eds.), *Mensch, Kultur und Gesellschaft von der Kupferzeit bis zur frühen Eisenzeit im Nördlichen Eurasien* (Beiträge zu Ehren zum 60. Geburtstag von Eugen Sava), Tyragetia International I. Chișinău-Berlin 2016, 53–75.
- Manzura 2020 I. Manzura, *History Carved by the Dagger: the Society of the Usatovo Culture in the 4th Millennium BC*. In: S. Hansen (ed.), *Repräsentationen der Macht. Beiträge des Festkolloquiums zu Ehren des 65. Geburtstags von Blagoje Govedarica*. Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Eurasien-Abteilung, Berlin, Kolloquien zur Vorund Frühgeschichte 25. Wiesbaden 2020, 73–96.
- Marinescu-Bîlcu 1964 S. Marinescu-Bîlcu, *Unele probleme ale perioadei de tranziție de la neolitic la epoca bronzului din Moldova în lumina a trei morminte plane de înhumare de la Tîrpești*. SCIV, 15, 2, 241–250.
- Mathieson *et al.* 2018 I. Mathieson (+114 authors), *The Genomic 1 History of Southeastern Europe*. Nature 555, 2018, 197–203.
- Merkyte 2007 I. Merkyte, *Ezero – Kale from the Copper Age to the Bronze Age in the Southern Balkans*. Acta Archaeologica 78/2, 2007, 1–78.
- Merkyte *et al.* 2005 I. Merkyte, S. Albek, J. Sørensen Ostegaard, P. Zidarov, *Lîga. Copper Age strategies in Bulgaria*, Acta Archaeologica 76/1. Acta Archaeologica Supplementa VI. Centre of world Archaeology (CWA) – Publications 2, 2005.
- Minkov 2019 P. Minkov, *Characteristics and Chronology of Bronze Age Site near Velikan, Dimitrovgrad District*. Journal of historical and archaeological research, 2, 2019, 16–46.
- Minkov 2021 P. Minkov, *Askoi from the Early Bronze Age in the burial contexts from the present-day Bulgarian lands (observations on relative chronology, characteristics and volume data)*. Proceedings of the National Museum of History XXXIII, 2021, 92–120.
- Molnar, Gemiș 2003 Z. Molnar, C. Gemiș, *Contribuții la problematica grupului Roșia. O descoperire provenită din peștera Izbucu Topliței*. Ephemeris Napocensis XIII, 2003, 41–92.
- Morintz, Roman 1968 S. Morintz, P. Roman, *Asupra perioadei de trecere de la eneolitic la epoca bronzului la Dunărea de Jos*. SCIV 19, 4, 1968, 553–573.
- Moscalu 1989 E. Moscalu, *Săpăturile de salvare de la Cotârgaci (comuna Roma, județul Botoșani)*. Hierasus VII-VIII, 1989, 117–145.
- Motzoi-Chicideanu 2011 I. Motzoi-Chicideanu, *Obiceiuri funerare în epoca bronzului la Dunărea mijlocie și inferioară*. București 2011.
- Motzoi-Chicideanu, Olteanu 2000 I. Motzoi-Chicideanu, G. Olteanu, *Un mormânt în cistă din piatră descoperit la Văleni-Dâmbovița*. SCIVA 51, 1–2, 2000, 3–70.
- Nica 1982 M. Nica, *Locuirea preistorică de la Sucidava-Celei din perioada de trecere de la neolitic la epoca bronzului*. Oltenia 4, 1982, 15–38.
- Nica 2010 T. Nica, *Unele aprecieri cu privire la așezarea glina de la Crivăț (Campaniile arheologice din 1965–1968)*. Drobeta XX, 2010, 53–71.
- Munteanu 2018 R. Munteanu, *Începutul bronzului timpuriu în estul României: observații privind valoarea cronologică a orizonturilor ceramice, în baza descoperirilor de la Bodești-Cetățuia Frumușica*. Mousaios XXII, 2018, 141–172.
- A. Neubert *et al.* 2014 A. Neubert, J. Wicke, H. Bruchhaus, *Mit der Axt – durch die Axt. Der Zusammenhang von Schädeldefekt und Waffenbeigabe in Bestattungen des schnurkeramischen Kulturkreises*. In: T. Link, H. Peter-Rocher (Hrsg.), *Gewalt und Gesellschaft. Dimensionen der Gewalt in ur- und frühgeschichtlicher Zeit*, Internationale Tagung vom 14.–16. März 2013 an der Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg. Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie 259. Bonn 2014, 217–224.
- Nikolova 2012 A.V. Nikolova, *Абсолютна хронологія ямної культури північного Надчорномор'я в Світлі Дендродат*, Археологія 4, 2012, 14–31.

- Nikolova 1995 L. Nikolova, *Burials in Settlements and Flat Necropolises during the Early Bronze Age in Bulgaria*. In: D. Bailey, Y. Panajotov (eds.), *Prehistoric Bulgaria*, Monographs in World Archaeology 22. Madison Wisconsin 1995, 271–275.
- Nikolova 1999 L. Nikolova, *The Balkans in Later Prehistory. Periodization, Chronology and Cultural Development in the Final Copper and Early Bronze Age (Fourth and Third Millennia BC)*. BAR International Series 791. Oxford 1999.
- Nikolova 2002 L. Nikolova, *New radiocarbon dates from the Balkans (Dubene-Sarovka): approach to the Early Bronze Absolute chronology in Upper Thrace*. Radiocarbon 44, 2, 2002, 531–540.
- Nikolova, Görtsdorf 1998 L. Nikolova, J. Görtsdorf, *Stratigraphic sequence and 14C-dates from Dubene-Sarovka Tell in the context of the Early Bronze Balkans*. Eurasia Antiqua 4, 1998, 11–18.
- V. Nikolov, V. Petrova 2016 V. Nikolov, V. Petrova, *Tell karanovo: the hiatus between the Late Copper and the Early Bronze Age*. In: Z. Tsirtsoni (ed.) *The Human Face of Radiocarbon Reassessing Chronology in prehistoric Greece and Bulgaria, 5000–3000 cal BC*. Lyon 2016, 133–146.
- Panasyuk 2009 N. V. Panasyuk, *Ornamentatzija kurilinitz katakombnoi kultury – analiz kompozitzi-onnyh shem*. Vestnik Rosijskogo Universiteta Drujby Narodov, Vseobschjaya Istoria 2, 2009, 19–31.
- Paveleț 2007 E. Paveleț, *Cercetări arheologice preventive întreprinse în tumulul situat pe raza comunei Blejoi, jud. Prahova*. Mousaios 12, 2007, 107–122.
- Peev et al. 2020 P. Peev, R. H. Farr, V. Slavchev, M. J. Grant, J. Adams, G. Bailey, *Bulgaria: Sea-Level Change and Submerged Settlement on the Black Sea*. In: G. Bailey, N. Galanidou, H. Peeters, H. Jöns, M. Mennenga, *The Archaeology of Europe’s Drowned Landscapes*. Springer Open, 2020, 393–412.
- Perianu 1988a M. Perianu, *Câteva observații privind aparatul dento-maxilar într-o serie osteologică din epoca bronzului*. St.Cerc.Antropol. 25, 1988, 11–14.
- Perianu 1988b M. Perianu, *Date antropologice privind mormintele din tumulul de la Vânători, jud. Galați. Epoca bronzului*. Thraco-Dacica IX, 1–2, 1988, 131–136.
- Petre-Govora 1986 G. I. Petre-Govora, *Asupra problemelor culturii Glina în nord-estul Olteniei*. Thraco-Dacica VII, 1–2, 1986, 154–166.
- Popa 2010 C. I. Popa, *Între podoabe, statut social și simbolică. Pandantivele-ochelari din bronzul transilvănean*. Apulum 47, 2010, 1–22.
- Popa 2011 C. I. Popa, *Between ornaments, social status and symbolism. Spectacle-shaped pendants of the Transylvanian Bronze Age*. Thraco-Dacica (N.S.) 11 (25–26), 1–2, 2011, 35–46.
- Popa, Bălășescu 2014 E. Popa, A. Bălășescu, *Studiul arheozoologic al faunei descoperite în așezarea aparținând epocii bronzului – cultura Glina de la Moara Vlășiei (jud. Ilfov)*. Anuarul MJAP S.N. V, 2014, 102–113.
- Popescu 2006 A.D. Popescu, *Un fragment de car miniatural din lut de la Rușinești (jud. Vrancea)*. SCIVA 57, 1–4, 2006, 113–128.
- Popescu 2010 A.D. Popescu, *Silver artefacts of the third and second millennia BC at the Lower and Middle Danube*. In: R. Băjenaru, G. Bodı, C. Opreanu, V. V. Zirra, *Recent Studies on Past and Present I. Human Heritage and Community: Archaeology in the Carpathians and Lower Danube Area from Prehistory to the Early Medieval Age*. Transylvanian Review 19 = Supplement 5/1, 2010, 163–182.
- Popescu, Băjenaru 2008 A.D. Popescu, R. Băjenaru, *Mormântul colectiv din perioada timpurie a epocii bronzului de la Costișa (jud. Neamț)*. Acta Moldaviae Meridionalis 28–29, 2008, 63–80.
- Popescu, Vulpe 1966 E. Popescu, R. Vulpe, *Necropola de la Milostea*. RM III/2, 148–155.
- Popovici et al. 2016 S. Popovici, I. Ciobanu, S. Agulnikov, I. Noroc, *Tumulul 8 de la Cimișlia. Considerații preliminare*. Arheologia Preventivă în Republica Moldova III, 2016, 19–28.

- Popovici, Kaiser 2020 S. Popovici, E. Kaiser, *A burial mound in the town of Cimișlia in southern part of the Republic of Moldova: relative and absolute chronology of the burials*. In: H. Д. Бурова, А. А. Выборнов, М. А. Кулькова (отв. ред.), *Радиоуглерод в археологии и палеоэкологии: прошлое, настоящее, будущее, Материалы международной конференции, посвященной 80-летию старшего научного сотрудника Института Истории Материальной Культуры Российской Академии Наук*, Санкт-Петербург, кандидата химических наук Ганны Ивановны Зайцевой, Санкт-Петербург. Самара 2020, 72–74.
- Preda 2015 B. Preda, *Considerations regarding barrow burials and metal depositions during the Early Bronze Age in the Carpathian-Danube area*. *Hiperboreea Journal* 2/2, 2015, 5–51.
- Preda-Bălănică et al. 2020 B. Preda-Bălănică, A. Frînculeasa, V. Heyd, *The Yamnaya Impact North of the Lower Danube: A Tale of Newcomers and Locals*. *Bulletin de la Société préhistorique française* 117, 1, 2020, 85–101.
- Prox 1941 A. Prox, *Die Schneckenbergkultur*. Brașov 1941.
- Rassamakin 1994 Y. Rassamakin, *The main directions of the development of early pastoral societies of Northern Pontic zone: 4500–2450 BC (pre-Yamnaya cultures and Yamnaya cultures)*. In: A. Koško, V.I. Klochko (eds), *Nomadism and Pastoralism in the Circle of Baltic-pontic Early Agrarian Cultures: 5000–1650 BC*, *Baltic-Pontic Studies* 2. Poznań 1994, 29–70.
- Rassamakin, Nikolova 2008 Y. Y. Rassamakin, A. V. Nikolova, *Carpathian Imports and Imitations in Context of the Eneolithic and Early Bronze Age of the Black Sea Steppe Area*. In: P. F. Biehl, Yu. Ya. Rassamakin (eds.), *Import and Imitation in Archaeology*. Langenweißbach 2008, 51–88.
- Rișcuță 2018 N. C. Rișcuță, *Some Observations Regarding the Stratigraphy and Relative Chronology of the Livezile Group*. In: N. C. Rișcuță, I. Ferencz (eds.), *Studii și articole de arheologie In memoriam Ioan Andrișoiu*. Cluj-Napoca 2018, 89–104.
- Rișcuță, Andrișoiu 2007 C. N. Rișcuță, I. Andrișoiu, *Istoricul cercetărilor, repertoriul descoperirilor și aria de răspândire a grupului cultural Șoimus*. *Apulum* XLIV, 2007, 29–52.
- Rișcuță et al. 2009 C. N. Rișcuță, I. C. Popa, I. V. Ferencz, *Cercetări arheologice la Balșa și Mada (jud. Hunedoara) și câteva observații privind necropolele tumulare din Munții Apuseni*. *Apulum* XLVI, 2009, 257–286.
- Roman 1964 P. Roman, *Despre unele aspecte ale perioadei de trecere de la epoca neolitică la epoca bronzului în regiunile extracarpătice ale R.P.R.* *RM I*, 4, 1964, 314–325.
- Roman 1969 P. Roman, *Conceptul Foltești II și problema începuturilor epocii bronzului în Moldova*. *Carpica* II, 1969, 17–22.
- P. Roman 1976 P. Roman *Cultura Coțofeni*. București 1976.
- Roman 1982a P. Roman, *Raportul cronologic dintre Ezero și Troia în lumina cercetărilor de la nord de Balcani*. *SCIIVA* 33, 4, 1982, 402–414.
- Roman 1982b P. Roman, *Consituirea noilor grupe etno-culturale de la începutul epocii bronzului*. *Carpica* XIV, 1982, 39–49.
- Roman 1985 P. Roman, *Cercetări la Govora Sat-Runcuri în 1977*. *SCIIVA* 36, 4, 1985, 279–97.
- Roman 1986a P. Roman, *Perioada timpurie a epocii bronzului pe teritoriul României*. *SCIIVA* 37, 1, 1986, 29–55.
- Roman 1986b P. Roman, *Așezări cu ceramică șnurată din Thracia, Macedonia, Thessalia și raporturile cu evoluția culturală din regiunile carpato-danubiene*. *Thraco-Dacica* VII, 1–2, 1986, 14–30.
- Roman et al. 1973 P. Roman, I. Pal, H. Csába, *Cultura Jigodin o cultură cu ceramică șnurată în estul Transilvaniei*. *SCIV* 24, 4, 1973, 559–574.
- Roman et al. 1992 P. Roman, A. Dodd-Oprîțescu, J. Pál, *Beiträge zur Problematik der Schnurverzierten Keramik Südosteuropas*. *Heidelberger Akad. Wiss., Internationale Interakademische Kommission für die Erforschung der Vorgeschichte des Balkans, Monographien* 3. Mainz 1992.
- Rotea 1993 M. Rotea, *Contribuții privind bronzul timpuriu în centrul Transilvaniei*. *Thraco-Dacica* XIV, 1–2, 1993, 65–86.

- Rotea *et al.* 2014 M. Rotea, G. Mihai, M. G. Netea, C. De-la-Rua, T. Tecar, M. Hervella, S. Alonso, Z. Maxim, M. Răchită, *The archaeological contexts of DNA samples collected from prehistoric sites in Transylvania*. Acta Musei Napocensis 51/1, 2014, 21–59.
- Sava *et al.* 2019 E. Sava, S. Agulnikov, I. Manzura, *Исследования курганов в Буджакской степи (1980–1985 гг.)*. Biblioteca „Tyragetia” XXX. Chişinău 2019.
- Schroeder *et al.* 2019 H. Schroeder, A. Margaryan, M. Szmyt, B. Theulot, P. Włodarczak, S. Rasmussen, S. Gopalakrishnan, A. Szczepanek, T. Konopka, T.Z. T. Jensen, B. Witkowska, S. Wilk, M. M. Przybyła, Ł. Pospieszny, K.-G. Sjögren, Z. Belka, J. Olsen, K. Kristiansen, E. Willerslev, K. M. Frei, M. Sikora, N.N. Johannsen, M. E. Allentoft, *Unravelling ancestry, kinship, and violence in a Late Neolithic mass grave*. PNAS 116, 22, 2019, 10705–10710.
- Schuster 1996 C. Schuster, *Despre cărucioarele de lut ars din Epoca bronzului de pe teritoriul României – Über die Tonwagenmodelle aus dem Gebiet Rumäniens in der Bronzezeit*. Thraco-Dacica XVII, 1996, 117–137.
- Schuster 1997 C. Schuster, *Perioada timpurie a epocii bronzului în bazinele Argeşului și Ialomiței superioare*. Bibliotheca Thracologica XX. Bucureşti 1997.
- Schuster *et al.* 2005 Schuster, C., Crăciunescu, G. și Fântâneau, C., *Zur Bronzezeit in Südromänien drei kulturen: Glina, Tei und Verbicioara*, vol. I. Târgoviște 2005.
- Schuster, Popa 2008 C. Schuster, T. Popa, *Mironești. I. Locuri, cercetări arheologice, monumente și personaje istorice*. BMG 3. Giurgiu 2008.
- Schuster *et al.* 2009 C. Schuster, T. Popa, M. Panait, *Gedanken zur Cernavoda II kultur (im Lichte der neuesten Forschungen von Mironești-Malu Roșu, Bezirk Giurgiu*. Thraco-Dacica (SN) 1 (24), 1–2, 2009, 5–23.
- Schwenzer 2005 S. Schwenzer, *Zur Beginn der Frühbronzezeit in Bulgarien*. In: B. Horejs, R. Jung, E. Kaiser, B. Teržan (Hrsg.) *Interpretationsraum Bronzezeit*, Bernhard Hänsel von seinen Schülern gewidmet. Bonn 2005, 181–198.
- Semmoto 2016 M. Semmoto, *Notes on Derivation of the Early Bronze Age Pottery with Cord Decoration in Upper Thrace*. Bulletin of the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan 59, 1, 2016, 57–73.
- Semmoto, Kamuro 2015 M. Semmoto, H. Kamuro, *New AMS 14C Dates in Dyadovo of 2010–2012 Seasons – Notes on the Early Bronze Age and Late Chalcolithic Age in the Upper Thracian Plain*. In: H. Kamuro (ed.) *A Study of the Archaeological and Environmental Background of the Initial Period of the Bronze Age in Bulgaria. A report of the Dyadovo Excavations 2010–2012*. Tokio 2015, 59–68.
- Semmoto *et al.* 2016 M. Semmoto, T. Kannari, T. Shibata, H. Kamuro, K. Leshtakov, *Petrographic and chemical characterization of Early Bronze Age pottery from Sokol-Himitliyata in Nova Zagora region: an interim report*. Studia Archaeologica Universitatis Serdicensis 6, 2016, 153–158.
- Simache, Teodorescu 1962 N. Simache, V. Teodorescu, *Săpăturile de salvare de la Smeeni*. MCA VIII, 1962, 273–281.
- Sztáncsu 2009 S. J. Sztáncsu, *Contribuții la cunoașterea bronzului timpuriu din sud-estul Transilvaniei. Așezarea culturii Schneckenberg de la Ariușd*. In: S. Berecki, E. Németh, B. Rita-Rezi (eds.), *Bronze Age communities in the Carpathian basin*. Proceedings of the International Colloquium from Târgu Mureș, 24–26 October 2008, Bibliotheca Mvsei Marisiensis, Seria Archaeologica, I. Cluj-Napoca 2009, 45–77.
- Székely 1988 Z. Székely, *Contribuții la răspândirea cărucioarelor din lut în epoca bronzului în sud-estul Transilvaniei*. Aluta XVII–VIII (1985–1986), 1988, 189–196.
- Szekely 1997 Z. Szekely, *Perioada timpurie și începutul celei mijlocii a epocii bronzului în sud-estul Transilvaniei*. Bibliotheca Thracologica XXI. Bucureşti 1997.
- Szmyt 2013 M. Szmyt, *View from the northwest*. In: V. Heyd, G. Kulcsár, V. Szeverényi (eds.), *Transition to the Bronze Age: Interregional Interaction and Socio-Cultural Change at the Beginning of the Third Millennium BC in the Carpathian Basin and Surrounding Regions*. Archaeolingua 30. Budapest 2013, 93–111.
- Tudor *et al.* 1953 D. Tudor, R. Vulpe, E. Vulpe, N. Berlescu, *Șantierul Corlăteni*. SCIV 4, 1–2, 1953, 394–436.
- Tudor *et al.* 1986 D. Tudor, O. Toropu, C. Tătulea, M. Nica, F. Biciu, *Șantierul arheologic Sucidava – Celei (jud. Olt)*. MCA, 1986, 158–168.

- Valchev 2020 T. Valchev, *Foreign – local interaction: the case of grave № 30 from the burial mound near village of Mogila, Yambol region*, Poster, 26th EAA Virtual Annual Meeting, 24–30 August 2020. Helsinki.
- Valentinova *et al.* 2020 M. Valentinova, R. Gushterakiev, G. Ivanov, *Site A6/4002 near Vladinya, Lovech municipality*. In: H. Popov (ed.), *Stream Through Time. Rescue archaeological investigations along the expansion of the gas transmission infrastructure of Bulgartransgaz EAD (National Archaeological Museum Catalogues, Supplementum 1)*. Sofia 2020, 229–249.
- Vasileva 2018 H. Vasileva, *From the bottom of the sea: the early Bronze Age ceramics from Sozopol and Urdoviza*. *Pontica* LI, 2018, 135–149.
- Vasileva 2017 Z. Vasileva, *The Early Bronze Age Rings of Type Leukas – New Considerations Regarding Their Origin, Distribution and Function*. *Archaeologia Bulgarica* XXI, 1, 2017, 1–13.
- Vasiliiu *et al.* 2014 I. Vasiliiu, M. Mocanu, D. Paraschiv, *Mormântul în cistă de piatră de la Casimcea (jud. Tulcea)*. *Pontica* XLVII, 2014, 163–185.
- Vernescu 2013 M. Vernescu, *Bărăganul în preistorie (cca 3500–1200 a.Chr.). Perioada de tranziție de la eneolitic la epoca bronzului și epoca bronzului*. Brăila 2013.
- Vulpe, Drîmbocianu 1981 Al. Vulpe, V. Drîmbocianu, *Cercetări arheologice în raza comunei Năieni (Buzău)*. *SCIIVA* 32, 2, 1981, 171–193.
- Weninger 1995 B. Weninger, *Stratified 14C dates and ceramic chronologies. Case studies for the Early Bronze Age at Troy (Turkey) and Ezero (Bulgaria)*. *Radiocarbon* 37, 1995, 443–456.
- Wicke *et al.* 2012 J. Wicke, A. Neubert, R. Bindl, H. Bruchhaus, *Injured – but special? On associations between skull defects and burial treatment in the Corded Ware Culture of central Germany*. In: R. Schulting, L. Fibiger (Hrsg.), *Sticks, stones and broken bones: Neolithic violence in a European perspective*. Oxford 2012, 2012, 151–174.
- Włodarczak 2014 P. Włodarczak, *The Traits of Early–Bronze Pontic Cultures in the Development of Old Upland Corded Ware (Małopolska Groups) and Złota Culture Communities*. In: A. Koško (ed.), *Reception Zones of ‘Early Bronze Age’ Pontic Culture Traditions: Baltic Basin – Baltic and Black Sea Drainage Borderlands, 4/3 mil. to First Half 2 mil. BC*. *Baltic-Pontic Studies* 19. Poznań 2014, 7–52.
- Woidich, Szentmiklósi 2013 M. Woidich, M. Szentmiklósi, *Uivar and its Significance for the Beginning of the Early Bronze Age in the Romanian Banat*. In: V. Heyd, G. Kulcsár, V. Szeverényi (eds.), *Transitions to the Bronze Age. Interregional Interaction and Socio-Cultural Change in the Third Millennium BC Carpathian Basin and Neighbouring Regions*. *Archaeolingua* 30. Budapest 2013, 233–244.

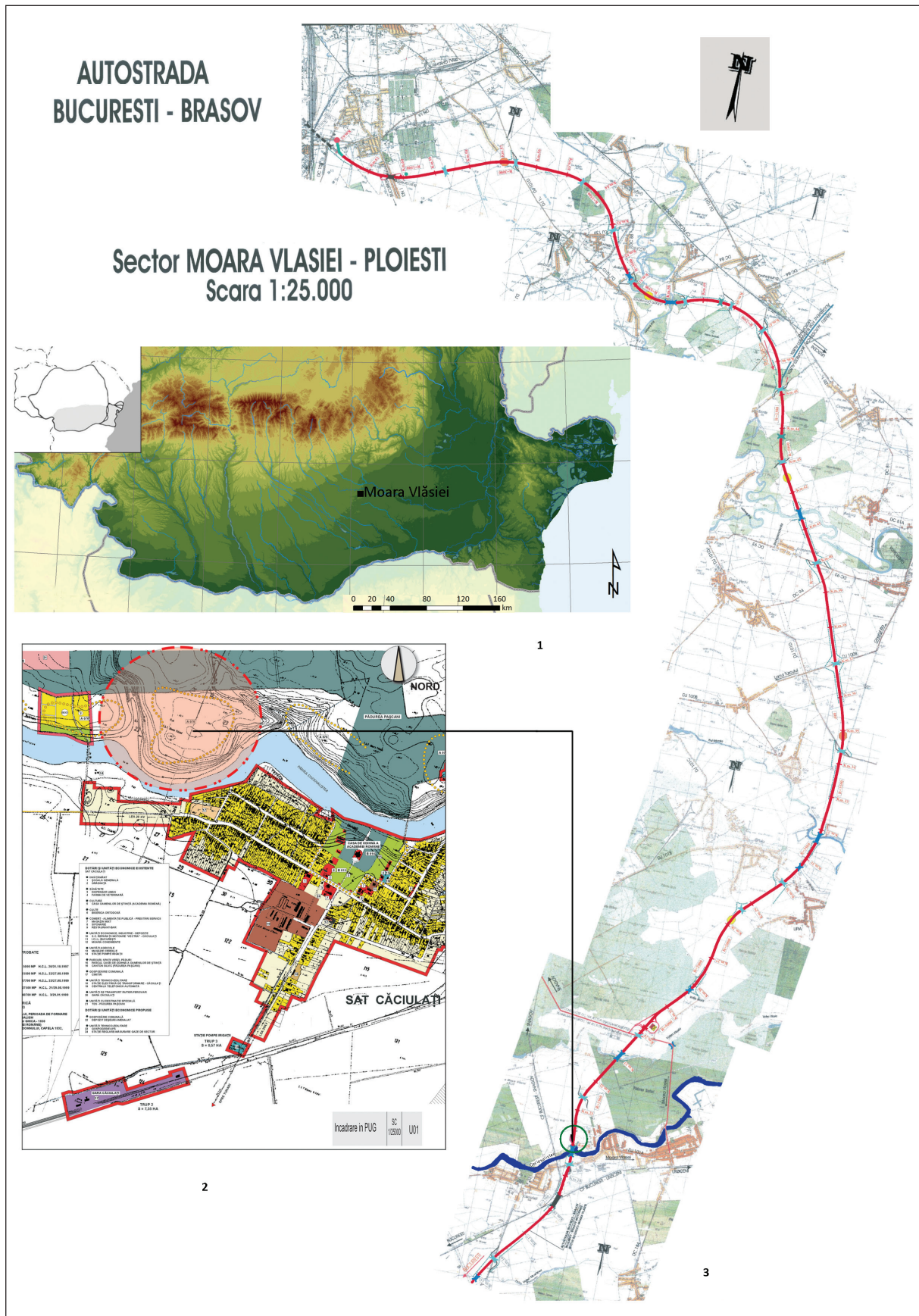


Plate 1. 1. The location of Moara Vlășiei in southern Romania; 2. Detail of the site area and its position marked on the locality map; 3. Detail of the site area and its position marked and on the route of the București-Ploiești highway.

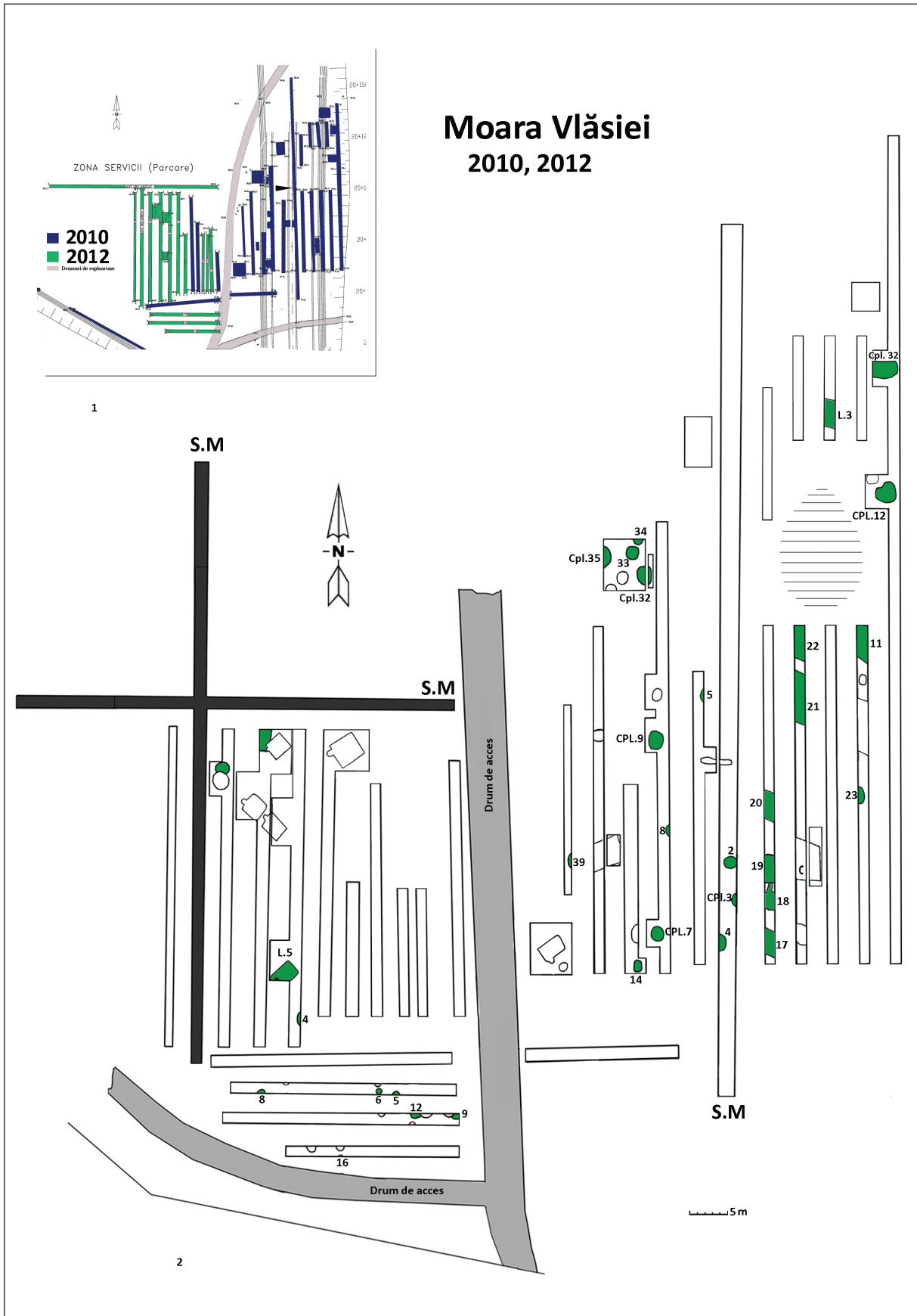


Plate 2. 1. General plan of the excavation; 2 The location of the Bronze Age archaeological features.





Plate 3. Images taken during the archaeological research of the Moara Vlăsiei site.

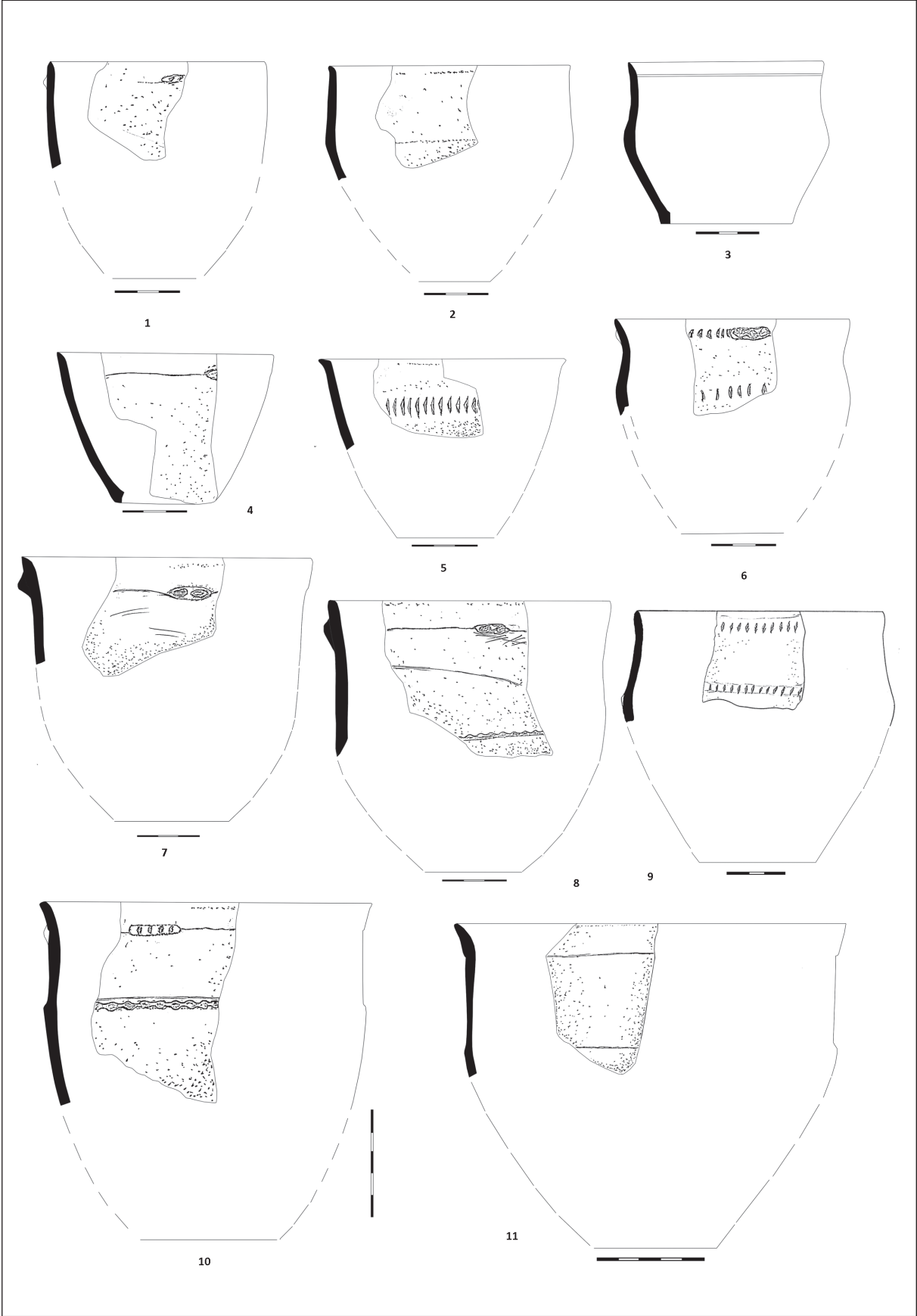


Plate 4. Pottery found in feature 13 at Moara Vlăsiei.

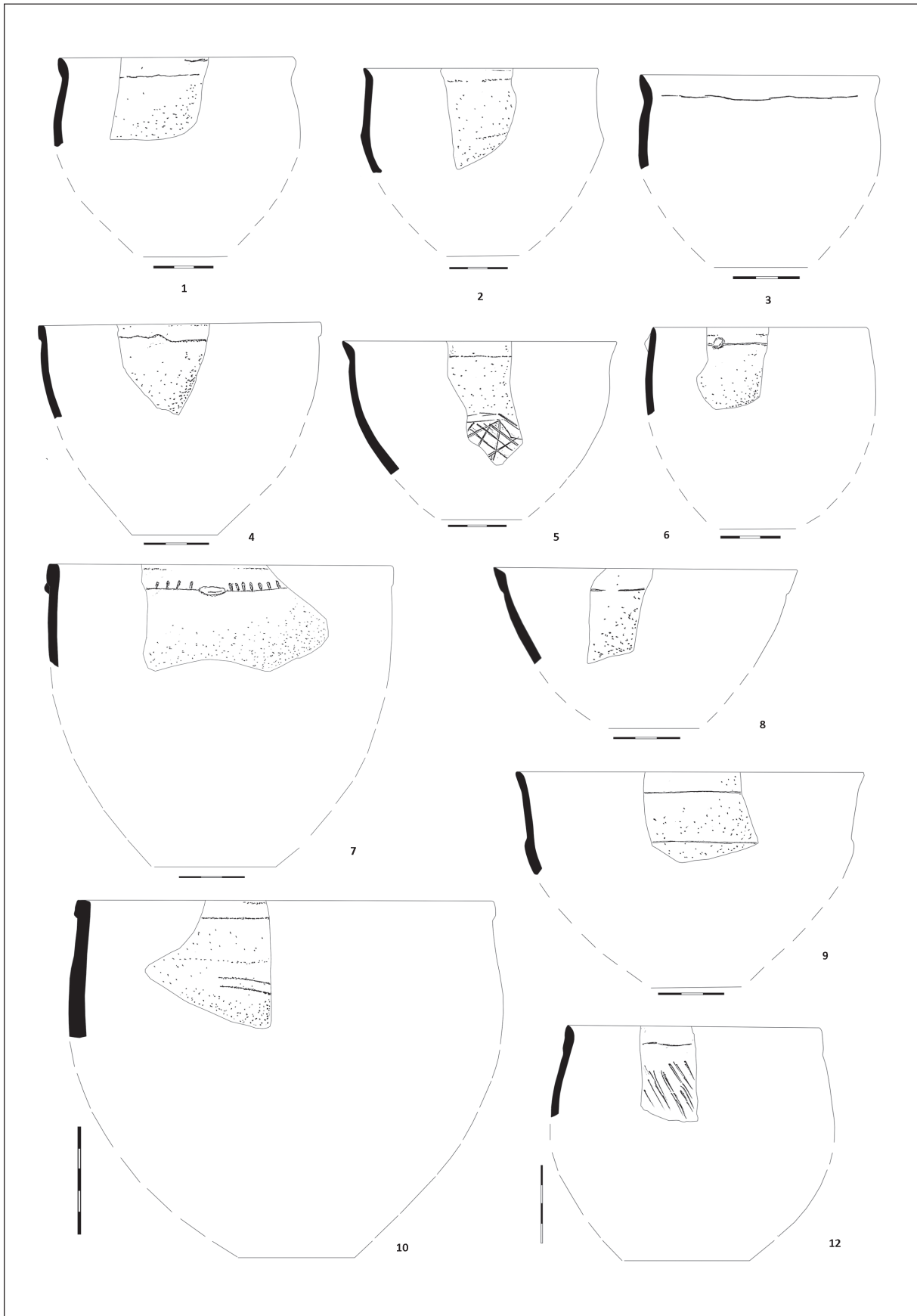


Plate 5. Pottery found in feature 13 at Moara Vlășiei.

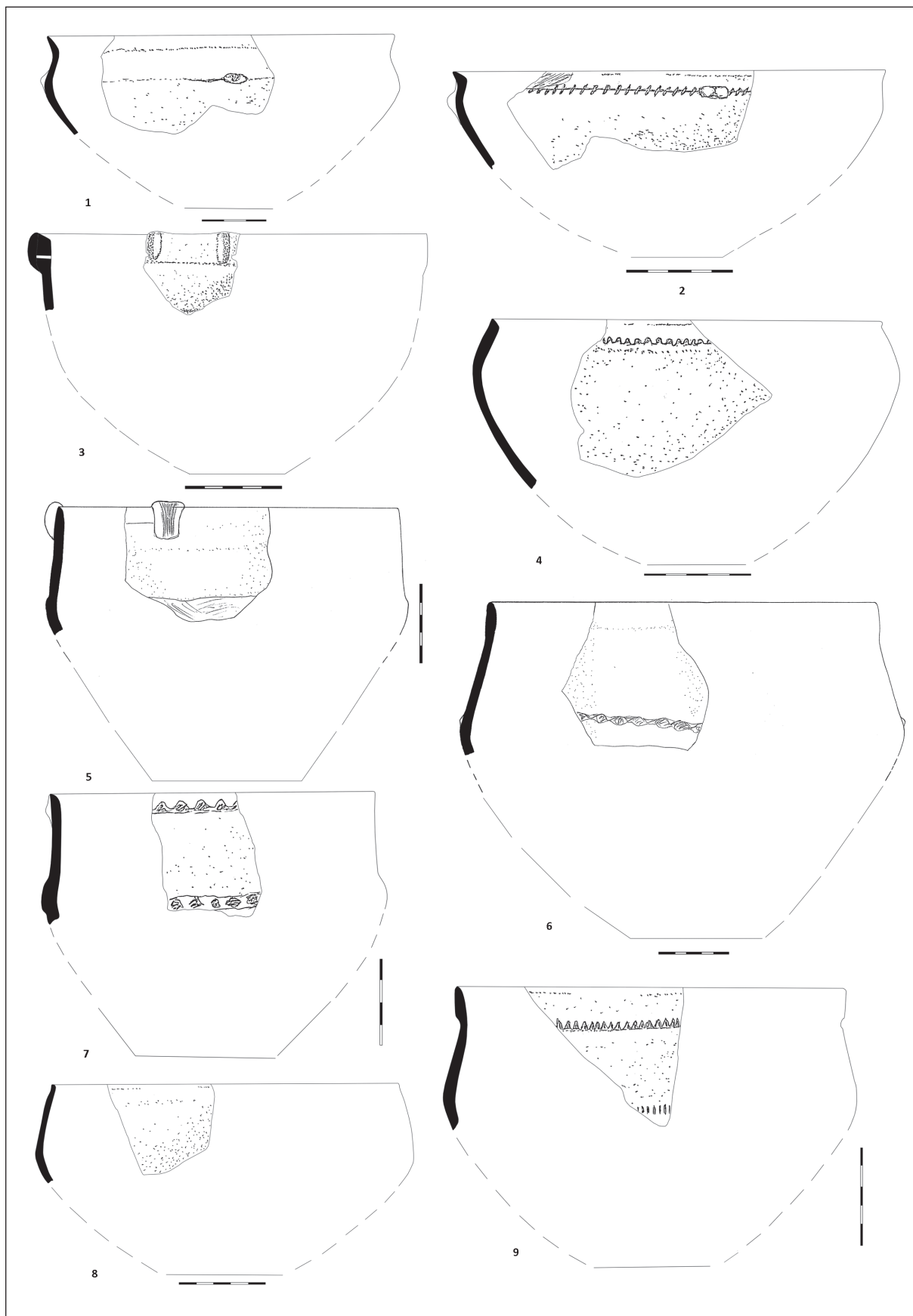


Plate 6. Pottery found in feature 13 at Moara Vlășiei.

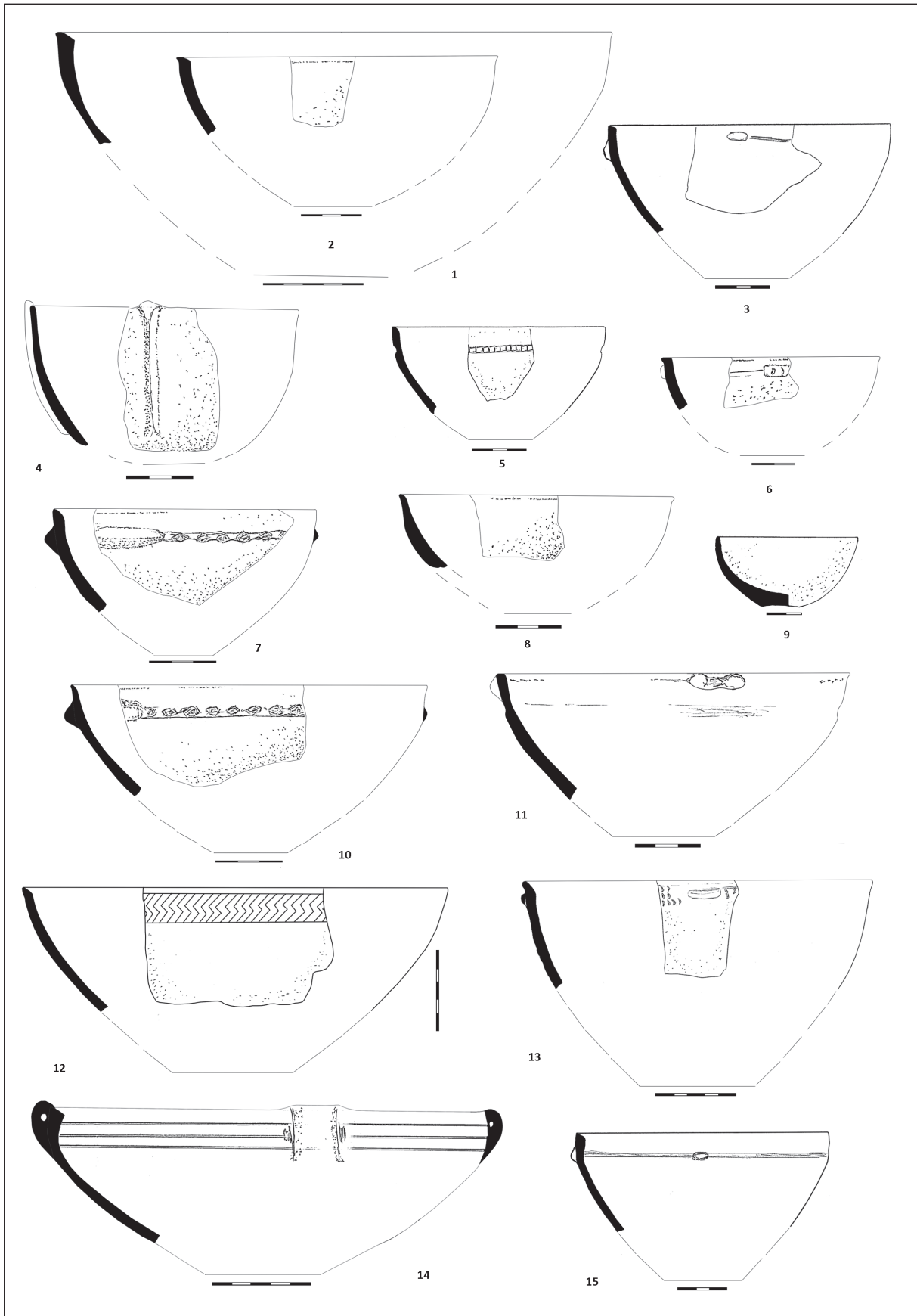


Plate 7. Pottery found in feature 13 at Moara Vlăsiei.

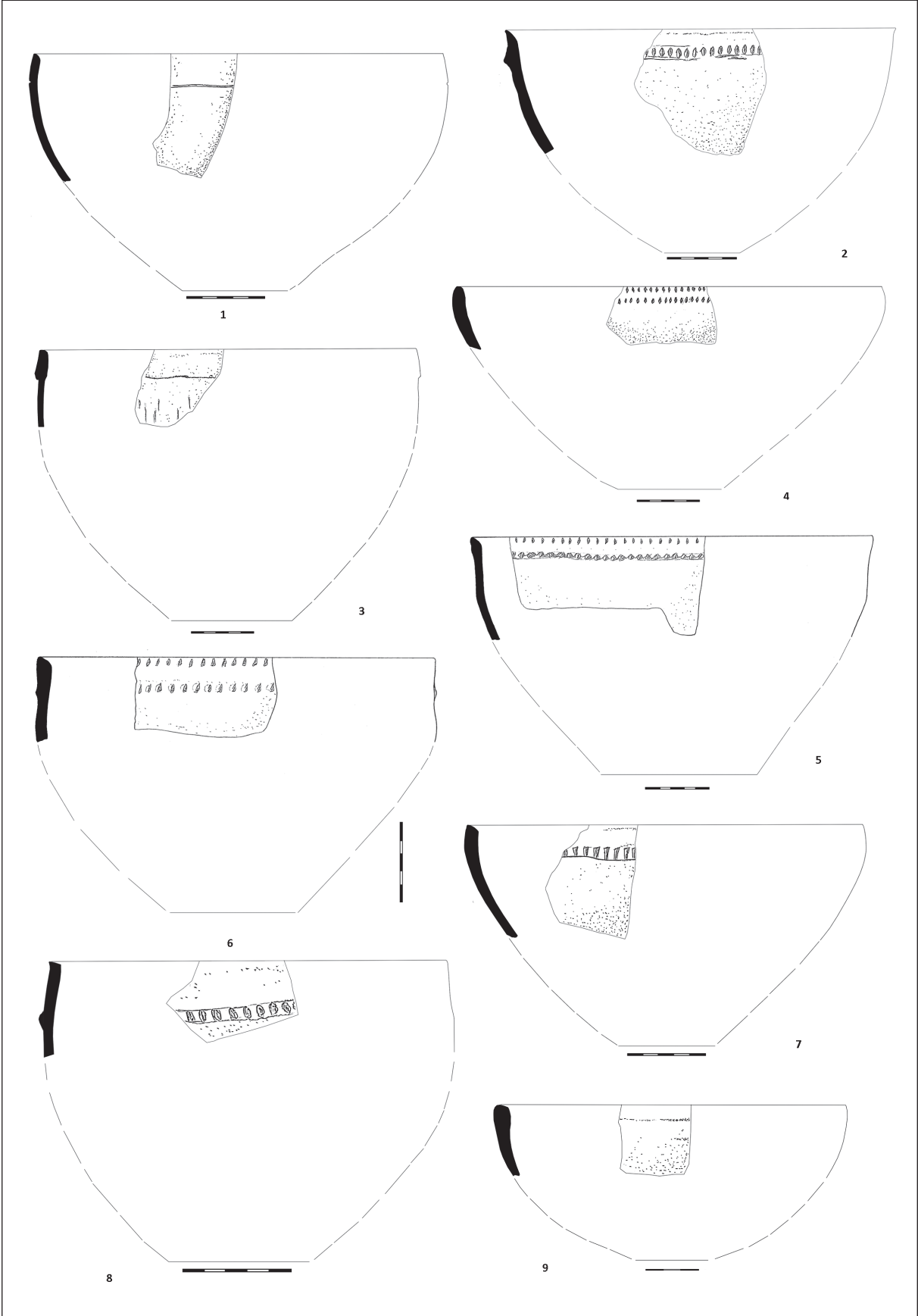


Plate 8. Pottery found in feature 13 at Moara Vlăsiei.

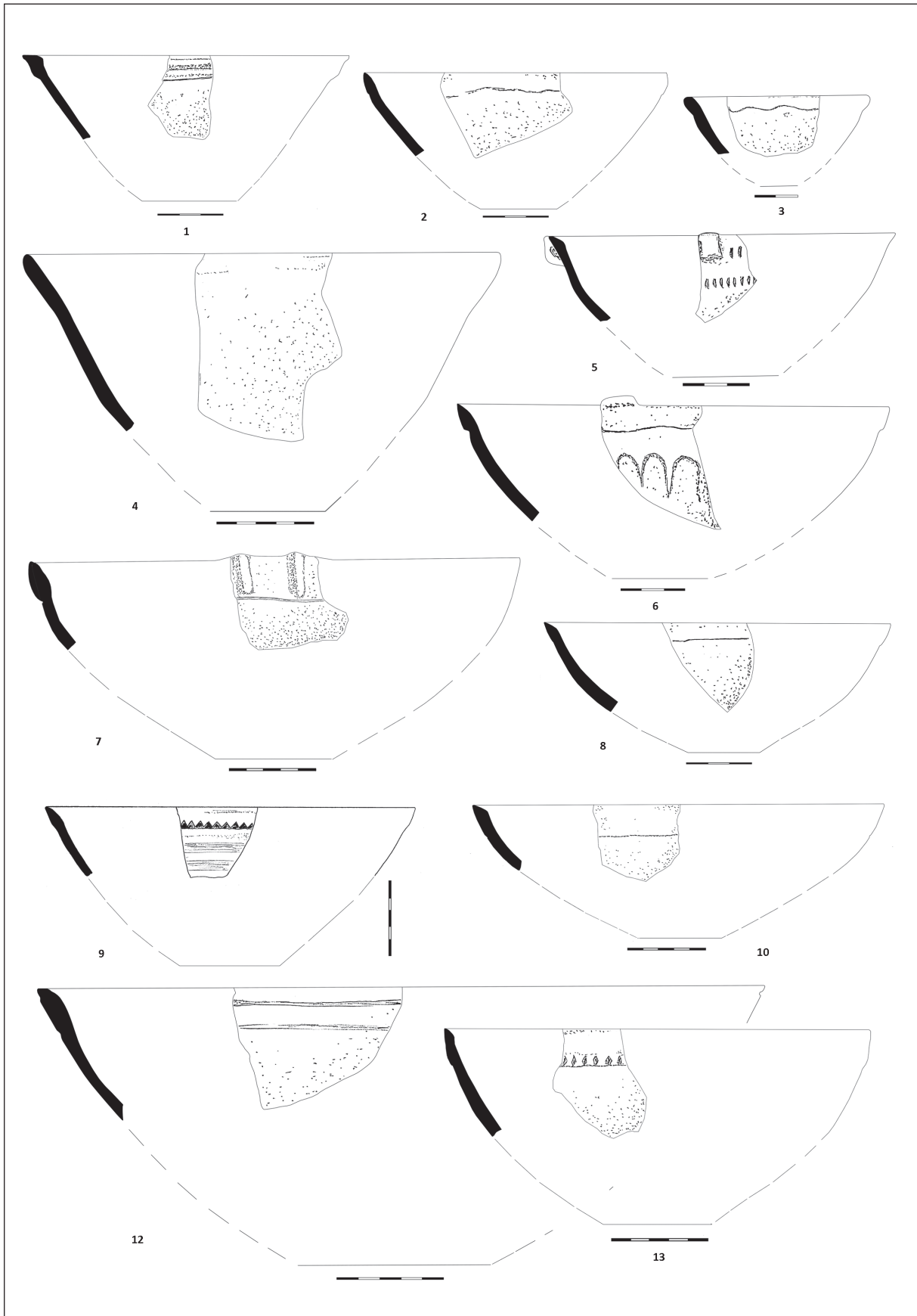


Plate 9. Pottery found in feature 13 at Moara Vlășiei.

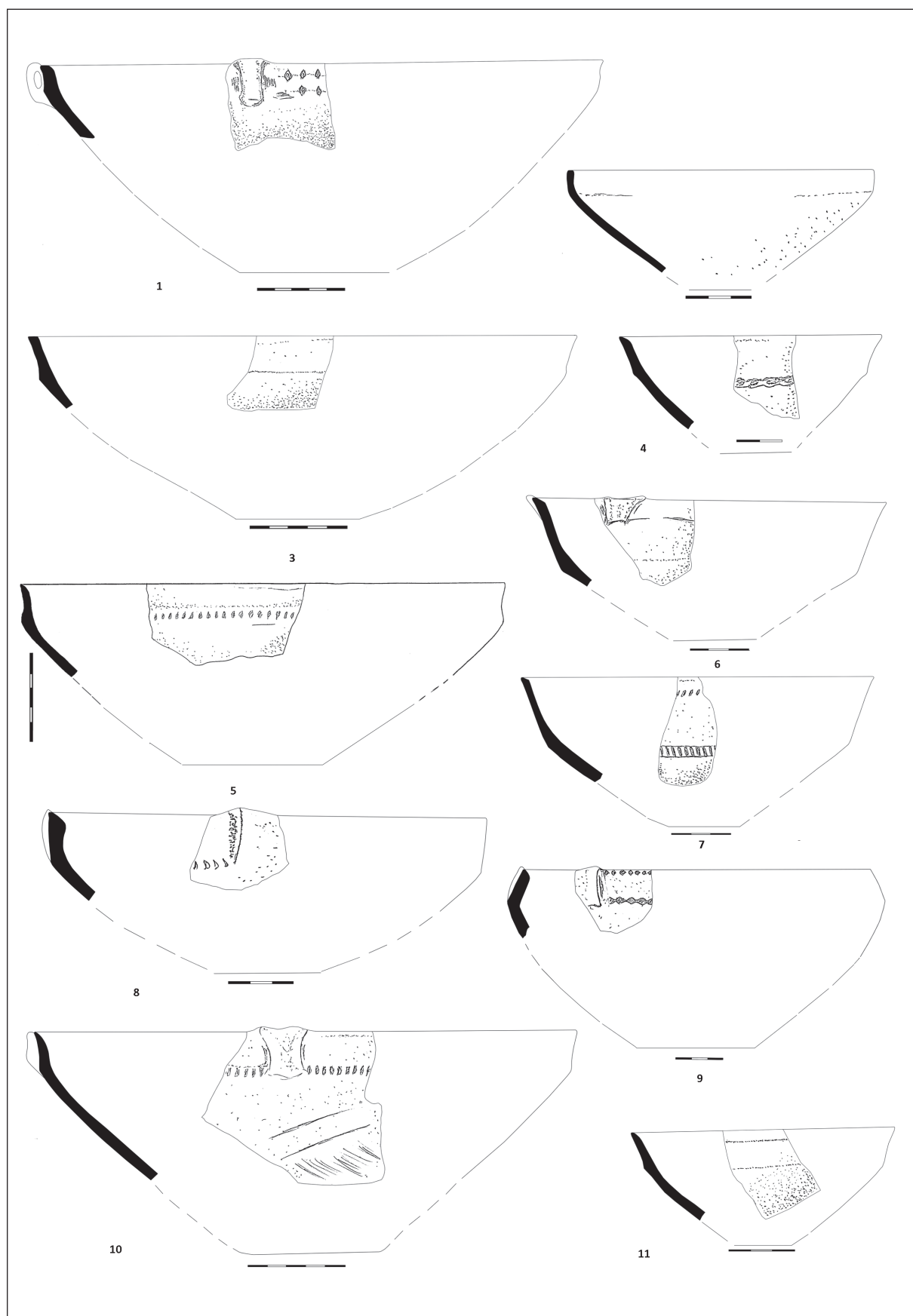


Plate 10. Pottery found in feature 13 at Moara Vlășiei.



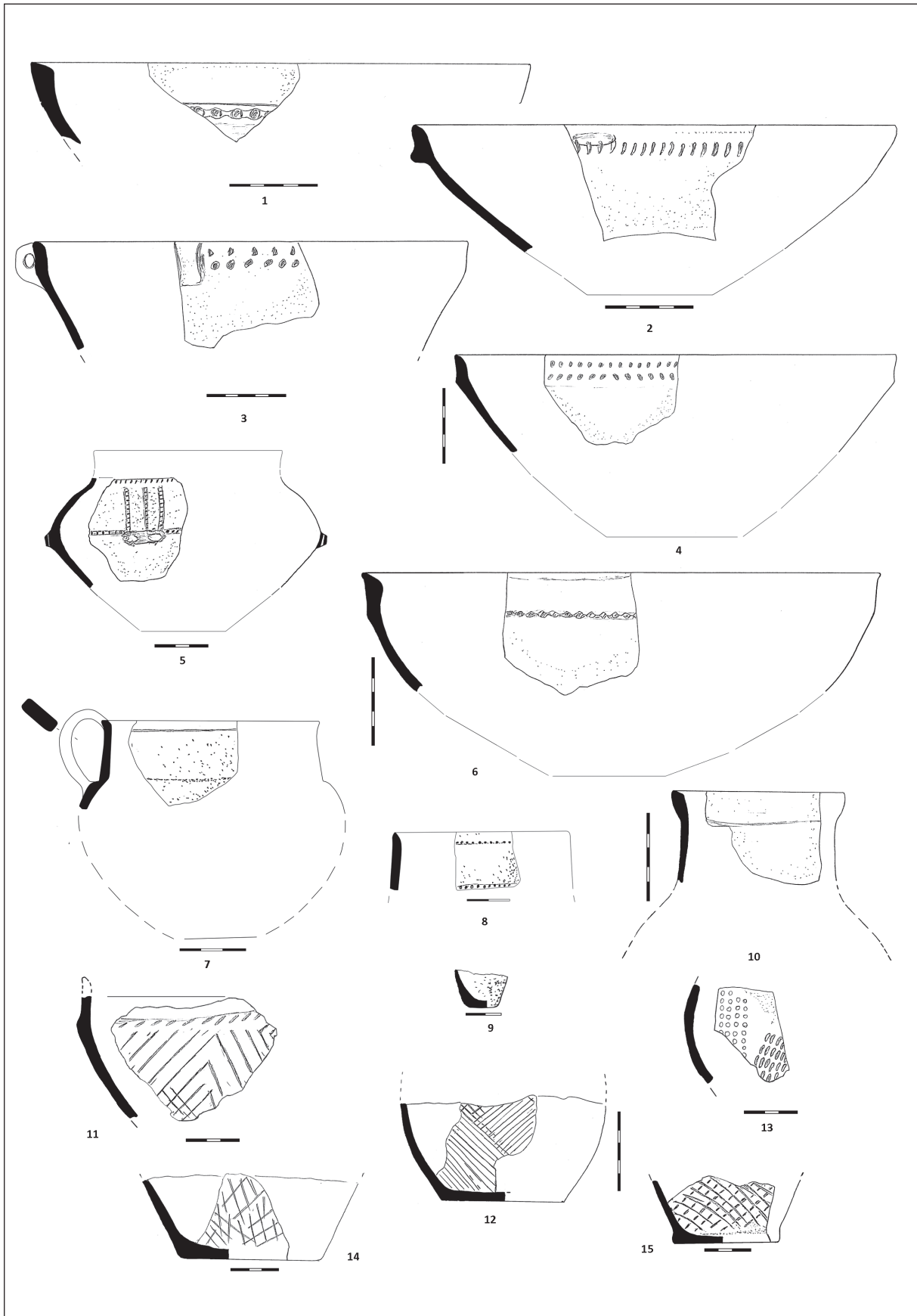


Plate 11. Pottery found in feature 13 at Moara Vlășiei.

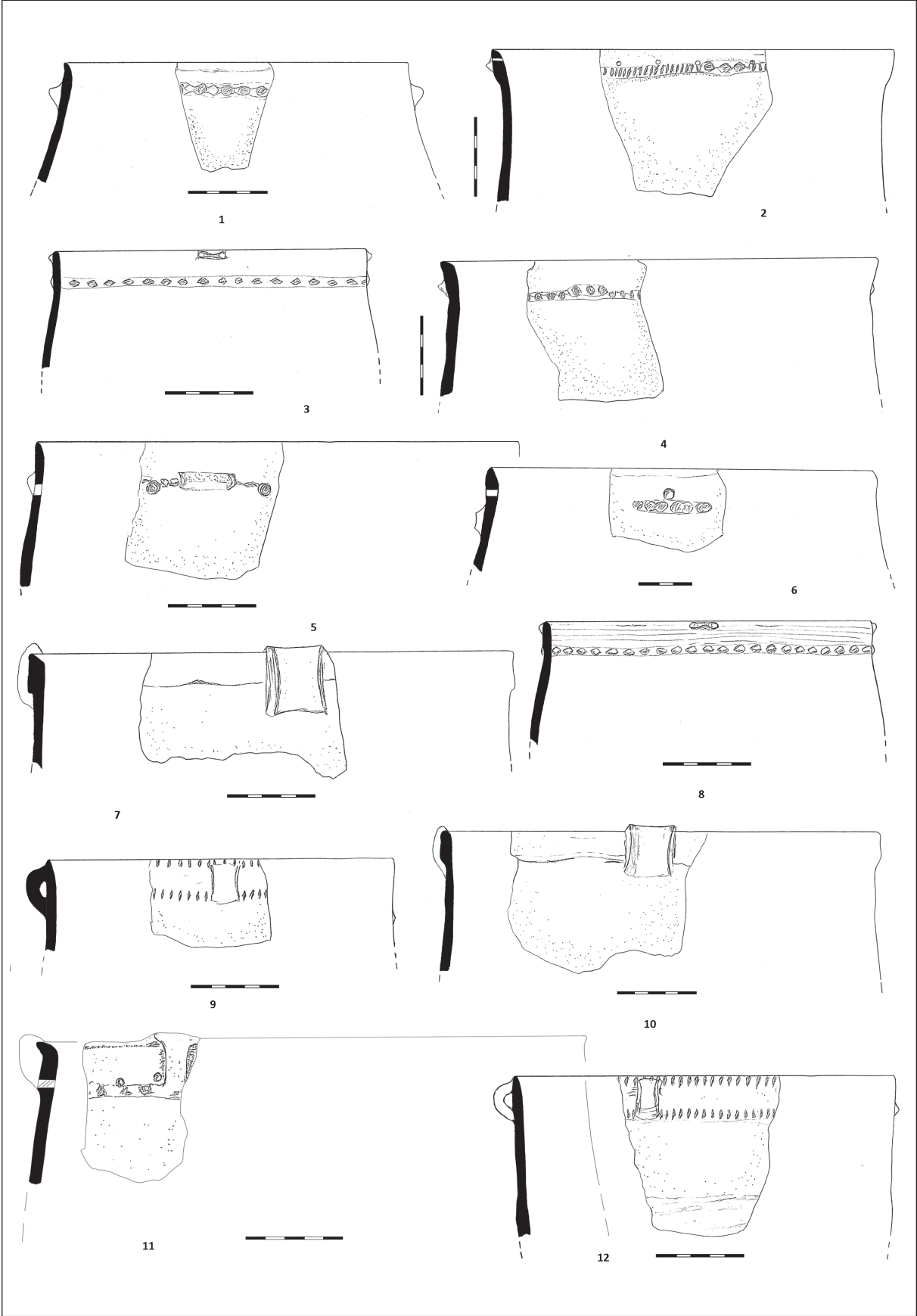


Plate 12. Pottery found in feature 13 at Moara Vlășiei.

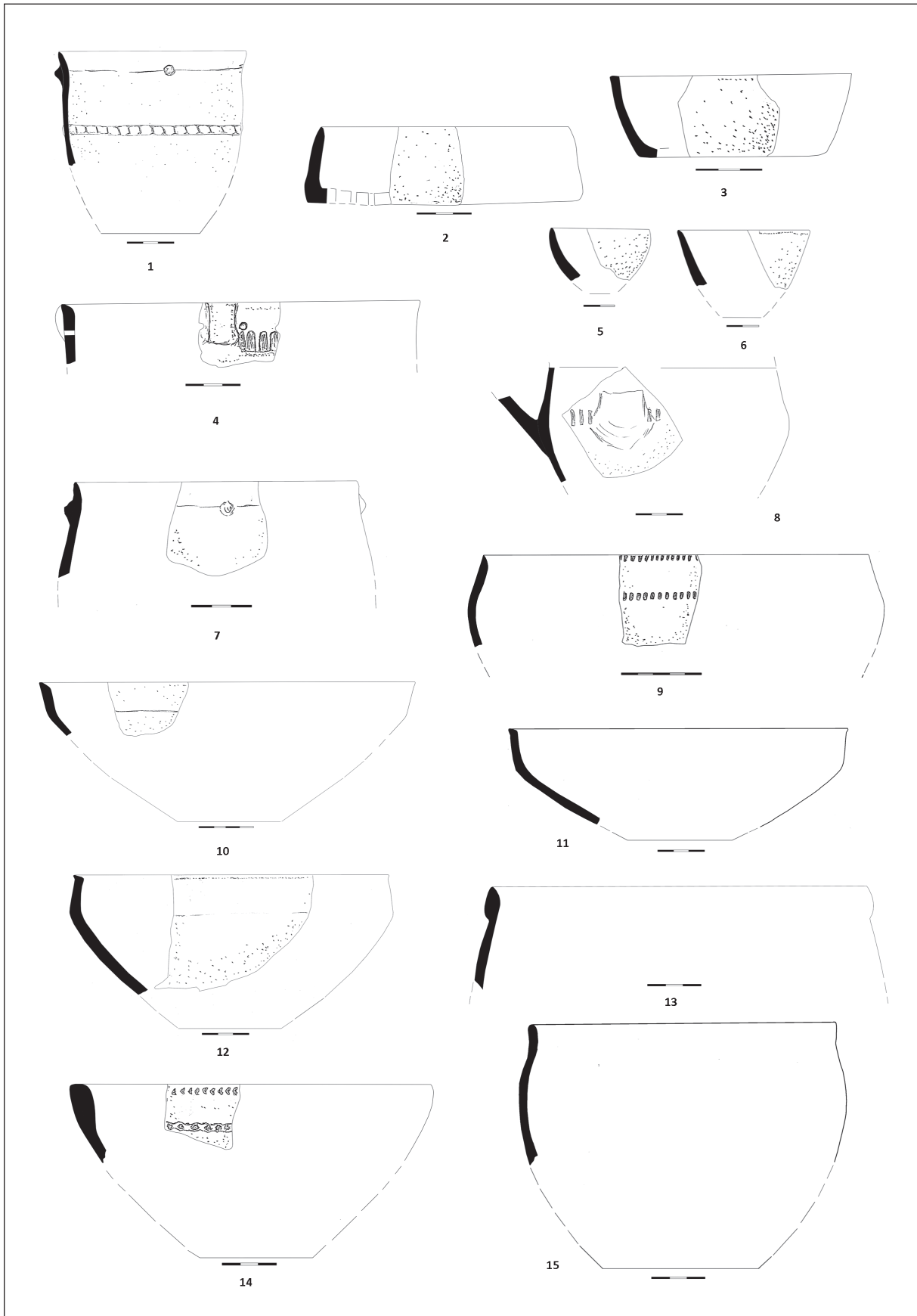


Plate 13. Pottery found in features 1 (5–6, 10), 3 (9), 7 (1, 7, 13, 15), 10 (2, 4, 14), and in the archaeological layer (3) at Moara Vlășiei.

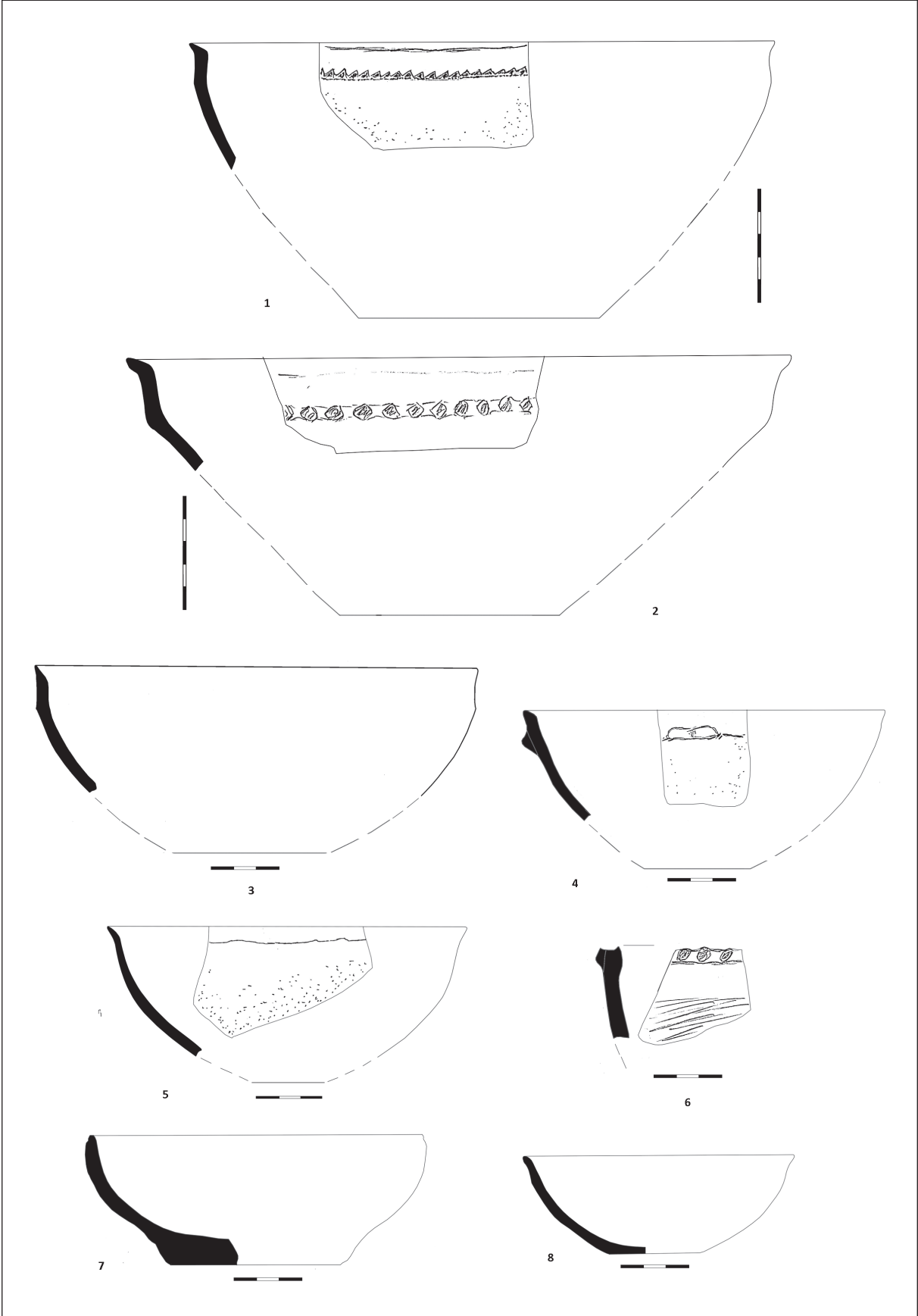


Plate 14. Pottery found in feature 12 at Moara Vlășiei.



Plate 15. Pottery found in feature 12 at Moara Vlăsiei.

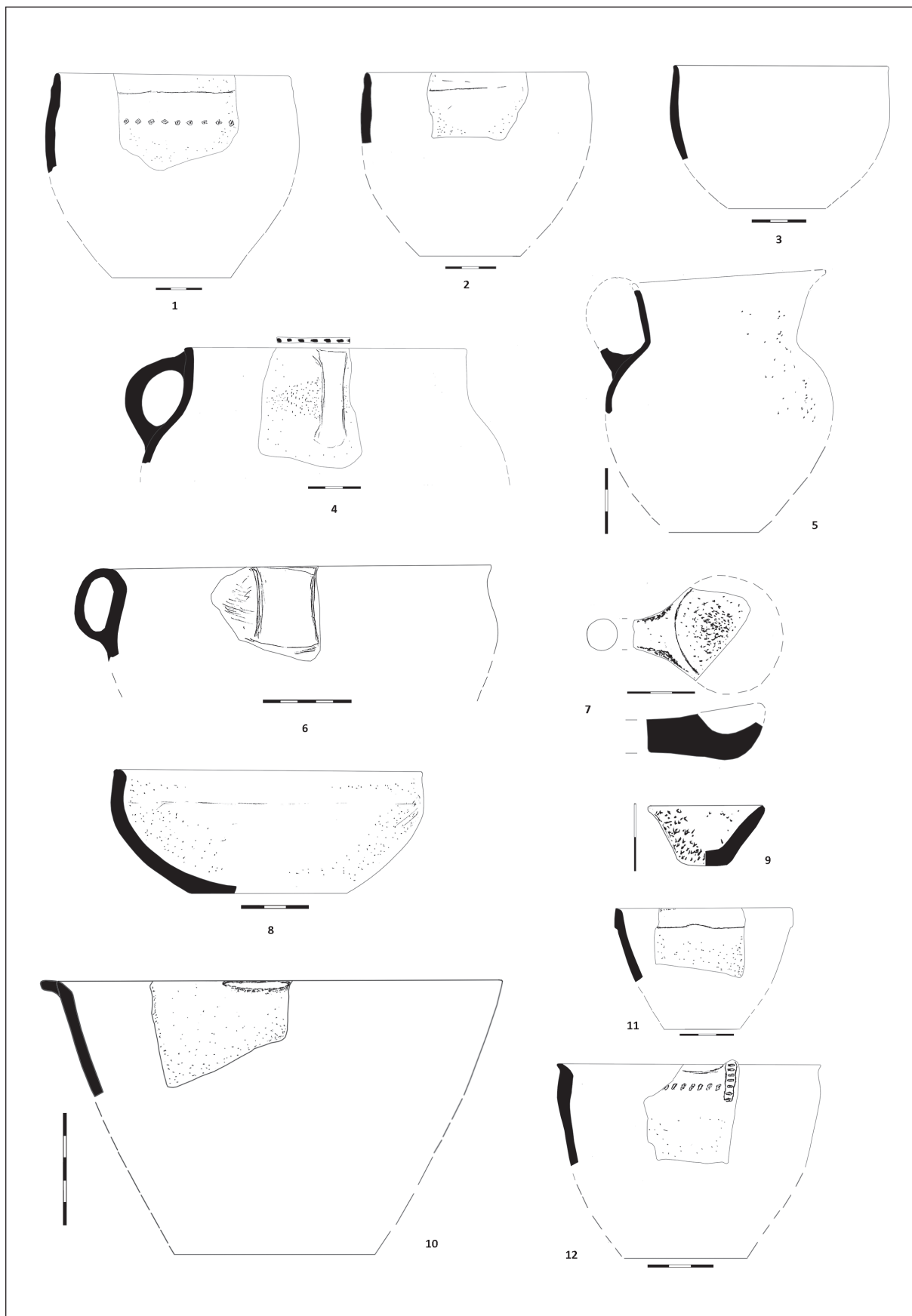


Plate 16. Pottery found in feature 12 (1-6, 11-12), and in the archaeological layer (7-9) at Moara Vlășiei.

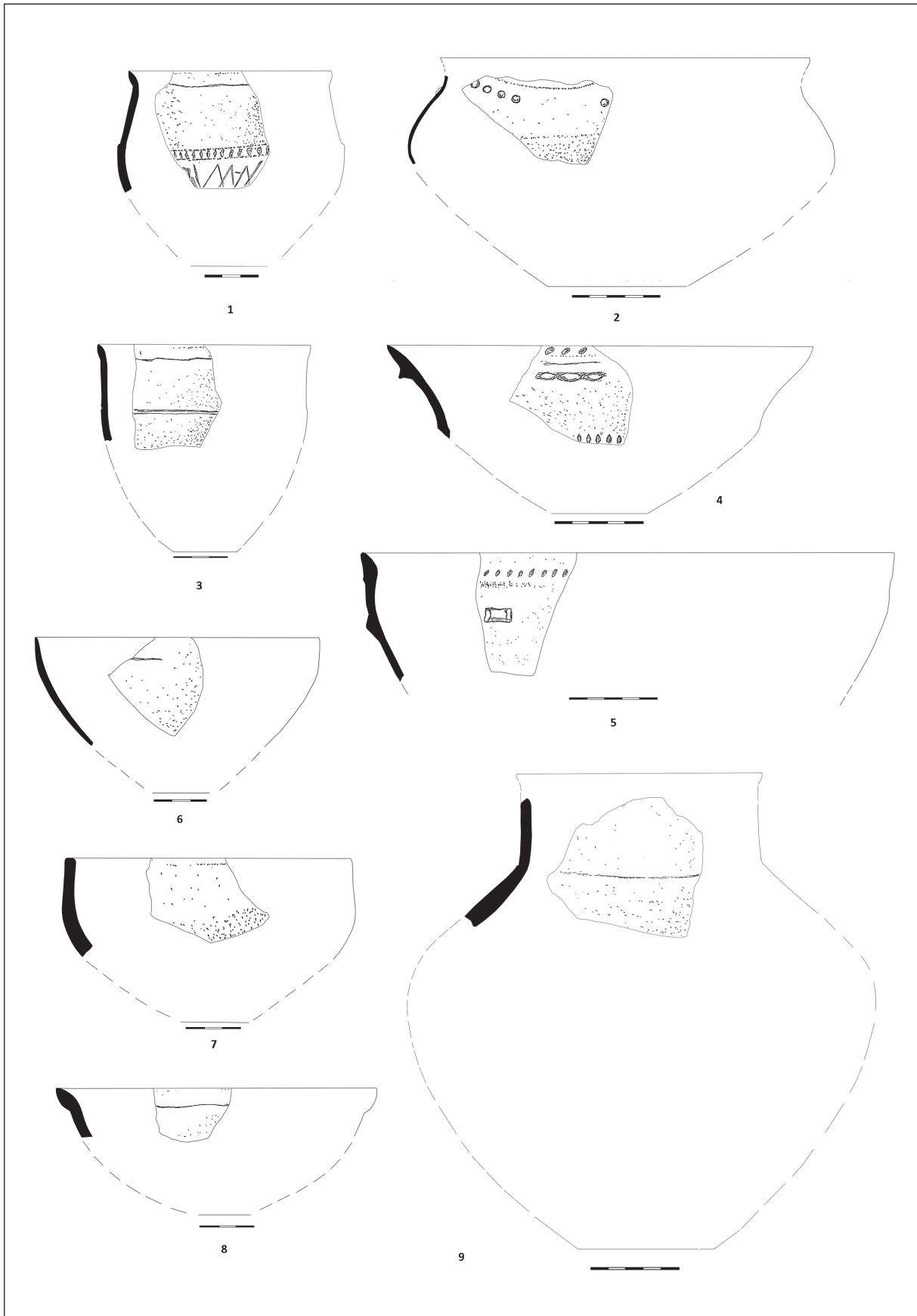


Plate 17. Pottery found in features 25 (7-8), 31 (1-2, 6), 32 (5), 34 (4), and in the archaeological layer (9) at Moara Vlăsiei.

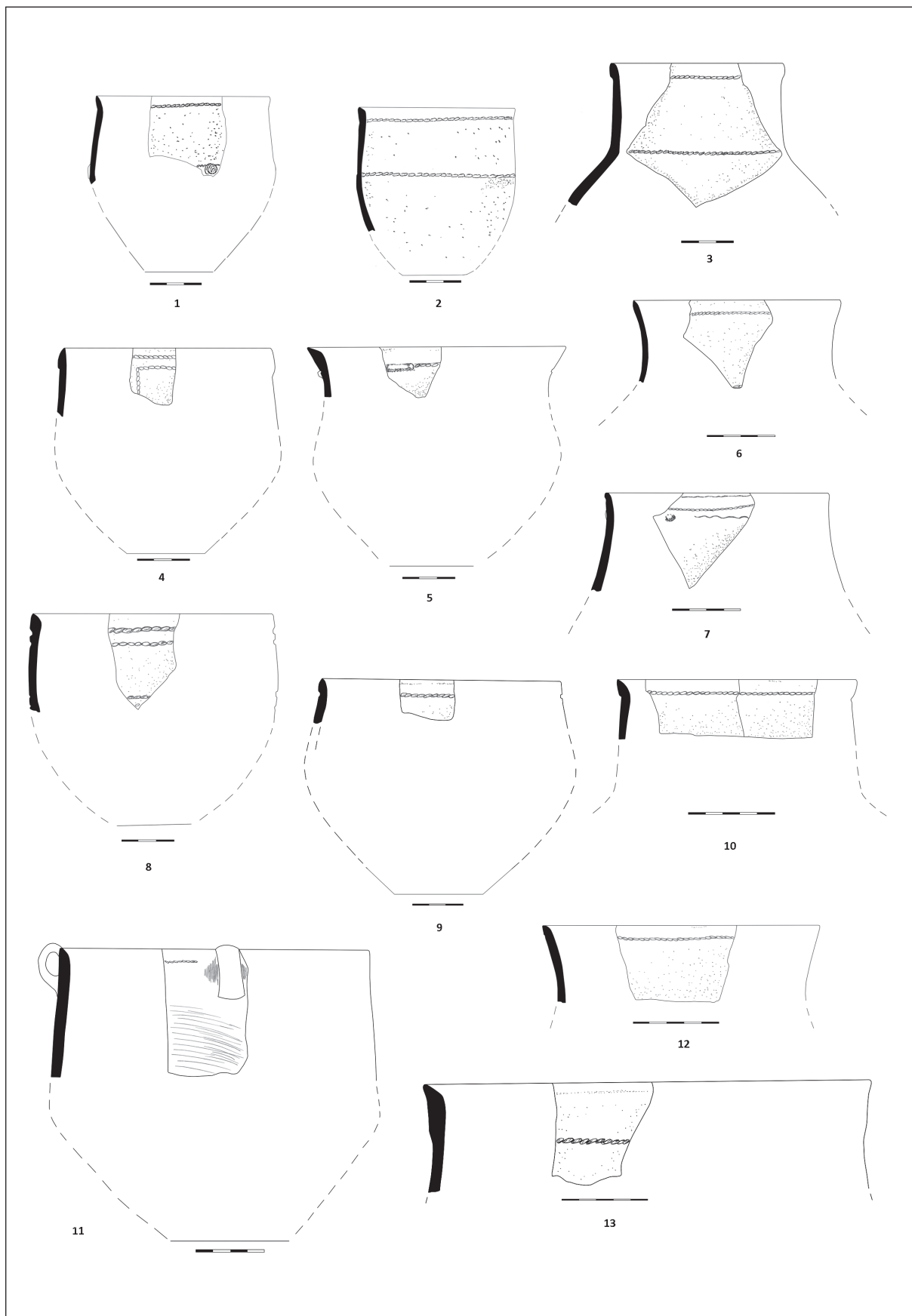


Plate 18. Cord decorated pottery found in features 12 (1-2), 13 (3-6, 8-13) and in the archaeological layer (7) at Moara Vlăsiei.



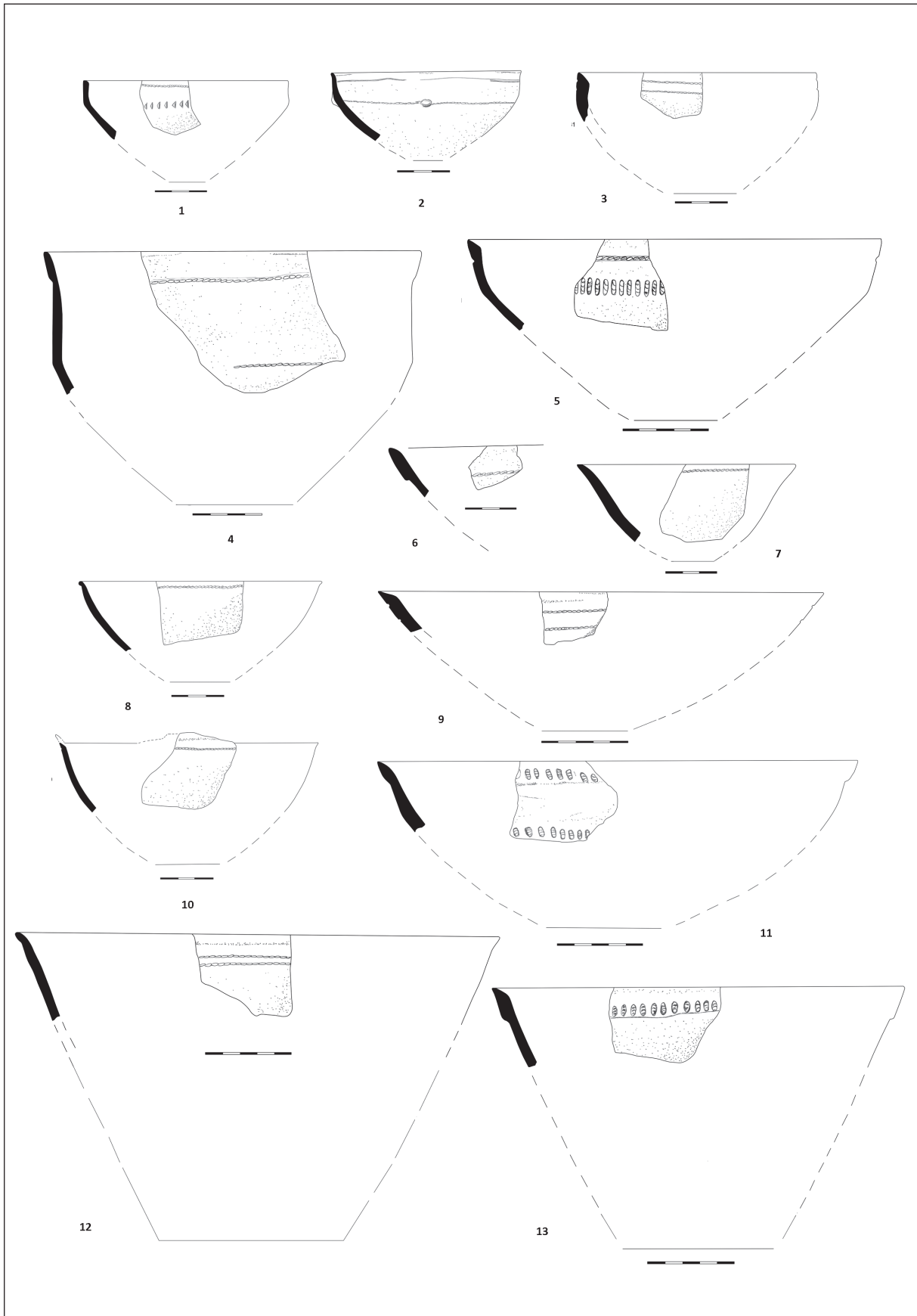


Plate 19. Cord decorated pottery found in feature 13 (1-4, 6-11) and in the archaeological layer (5, 12-13) at Moara Vlășiei.

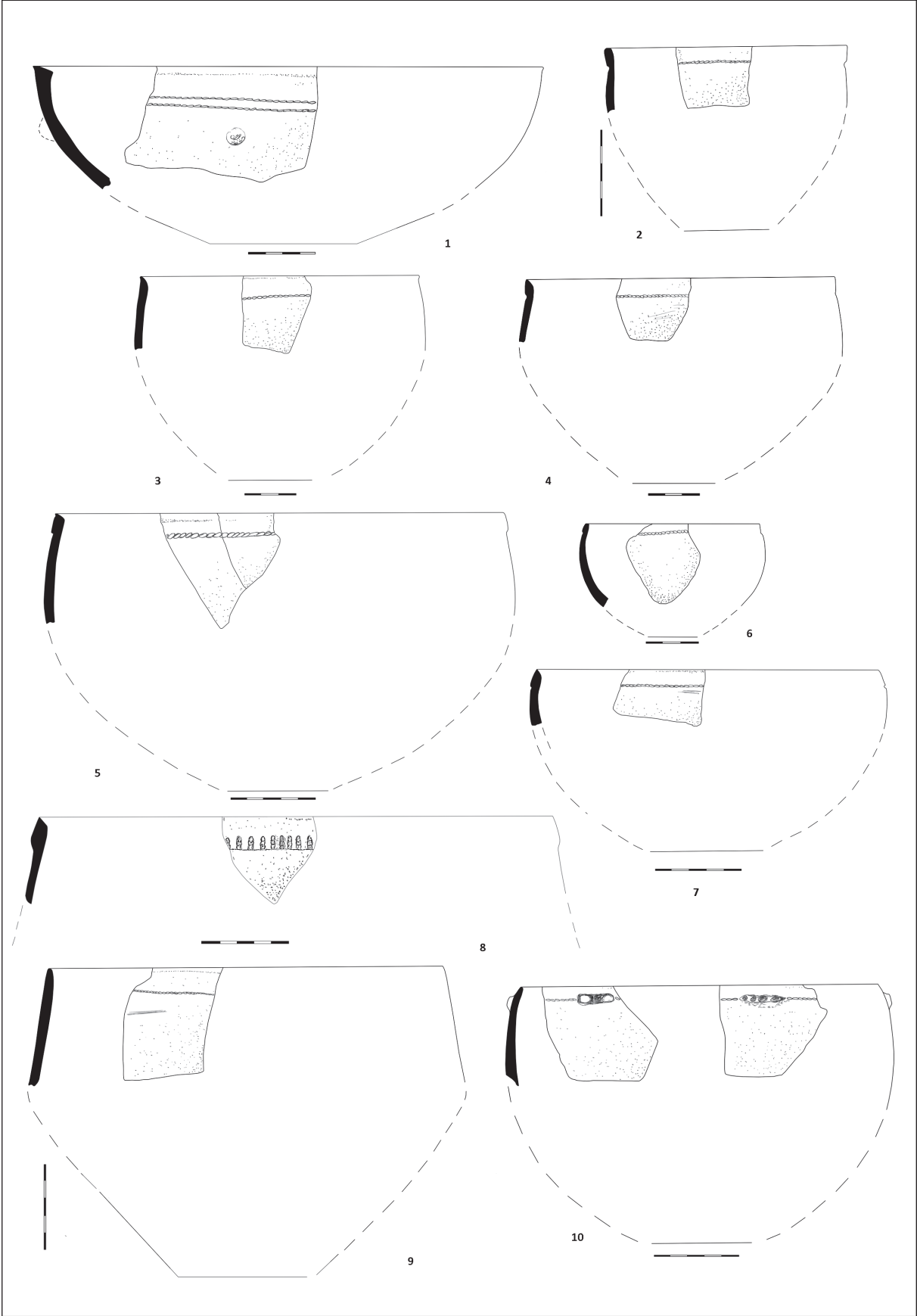


Plate 20. Cord decorated pottery found in feature 13 at Moara Vlășiei.



Plate 21. Decorated pottery found at Moara Vlăsiei.



Plate 22. Decorated pottery found at Moara Vlăsiei.

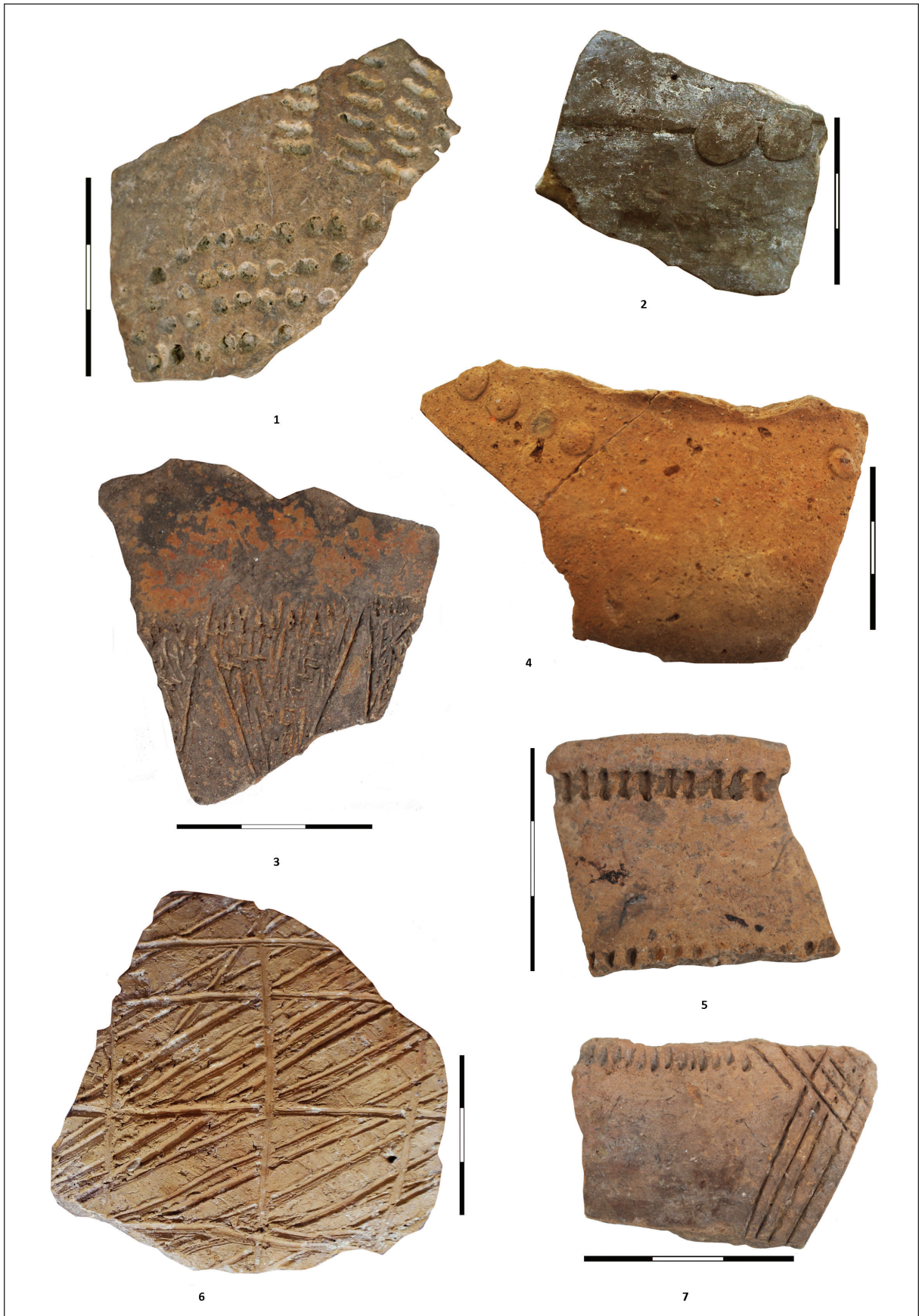


Plate 23. Decorated pottery found at Moara Vlăsiei.

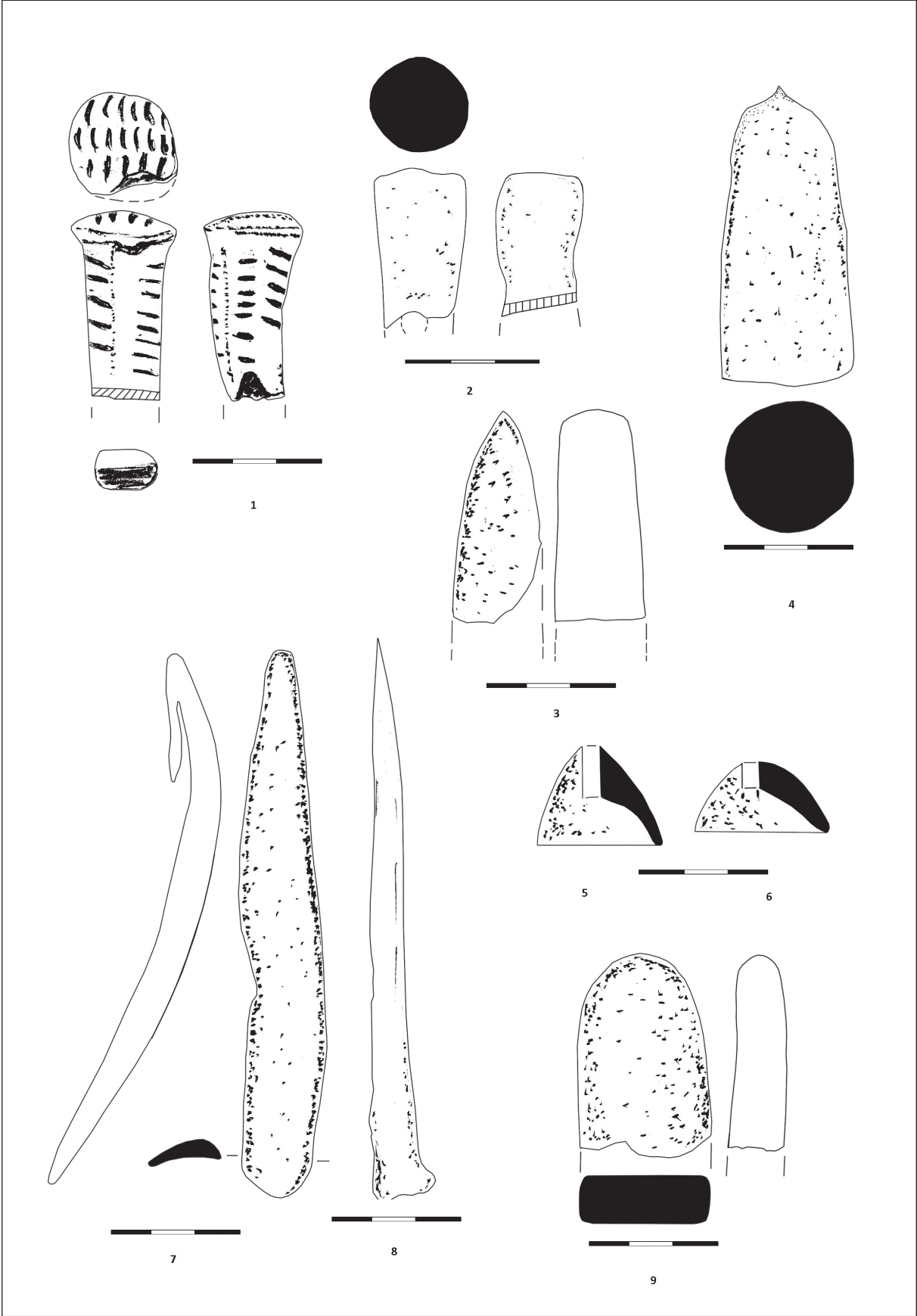


Plate 24. Artefacts of clay (1-6, 9) and bone (7-8) discovered at Moara Vlăsiei.



Plate 25. Pot shapes found at Moara Vlășiei, A. Shapes of cord-decorated pots.





# Abbreviations

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| AEM                    | Archäologisch-epigraphische Mitteilungen aus Österreich-Ungarn, Vienna.                       |
| AM                     | Arheologia Moldovei, Iași.  |
| AMN                    | Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca.   |
| AMP                    | Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău.  |
| AMV                    | Acta Musei Varnaensis, Varna.   |
| Angustia               | Angustia. Revista Muzeului Național al Carpaților Răsăriteni, Sf. Gheorghe.                   |
| Anuarul MJIAP (S.N.)   | Anuarul Muzeului de Istorie și Arheologie Prahova, Serie Nouă, Ploiești.                      |
| Antiquity              | Antiquity. A review of world archaeology, Durham.   |
| Archaeological Journal | Archaeological Journal. New Series. Chișinău.   |
| ArchÉrt                | Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest.   |
| ArchPol                | Archaeologia Polona, Warsaw.  |
| ArchRozhledy           | Archeologické Rozhledy, Praha.  |
| ASM                    | Archaeologica Slovaca Monographiae, Bratislava.   |
| BAR (Int. S.)          | British Archaeological Reports (International Series), Oxford.                                |
| Biharea                | Biharea. Culegere de studii și materiale de etnografie și artă, Oradea.                       |
| BMG                    | Bibliotheca Musei Giurgiuvensis, Giurgiu.   |
| BMJT                   | Buletinul Muzeului Județean Teleorman. Seria Arheologie, Alexandria.                          |
| BMM                    | Bibliotheca Musei Marisiensis, Târgu Mureș.   |
| Budapest Régiségei     | Budapest Régiségei Régészeti és Történeti Évkönyv. Budapest.                                  |
| CA București           | Cercetări arheologice în București, București.  |
| CCA                    | Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice, București.  |
| CIL                    | Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, Berlin.   |
| CsSzME                 | A Csíki Székely Múzeum Évkönyve. Csíkszereda.   |
| Dacia (N.S.)           | Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne. Nouvelle serie. București.                 |
| Dolgozatok             | Dolgozatok a Magyar Királyi Ferencz József Tudományegyetem Archaeológiai Intézetéből. Szeged. |
| EphNap                 | Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca.  |
| Erdély                 | Erdély. Turistai, fürdőügyi és néprajzi folyóirat, Cluj-Napoca.                               |
| FontArchPrag           | Fontes Archaeologici Pragenses, Prague.   |
| Földtközl.             | Földtani közlöny, Budapest.   |
| HOMÉ                   | A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve, Miskolc.   |
| ILD                    | C. C. Petolescu, <i>Inscripții latine din Dacia</i> , Bucharest 2005.                         |
| JAHA                   | Journal of Ancient History and Archaeology, Cluj-Napoca.                                      |
| Jahrb. RGZM            | Jahrbuch des Römisch Germanischen Zentralmuseums zu Mainz, Mainz.                             |
| JAMÉ                   | Jósa András Múzeum Évkönyve, Nyiregyháza.   |
| Karpatika              | Karpatika, Uzhorod.   |
| LMI                    | List of Historic Monuments, updated 2015.   |
| Marisia                | Marisia. Studies and Materials. Archeology. Târgu-Mureș.                                      |
| MCA (S.N.)             | Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice Serie Nouă. București                                      |
| MemAntiq               | Memoria Antiquitatis, Piatra Neamț.   |
| NNA                    | Nordisk Numismatisk Årsskrift, Stockholm.   |
| PAS                    | Prähistorische Archäologie in Südosteuropa, Rahden/Westf.                                     |
| PAT                    | Patrimonium Archaeologicum Transylvanicum, Cluj-Napoca.                                       |
| Paléo                  | PALEO – Revue d'archéologie préhistorique, Les Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil.                       |
| Pallas                 | Pallas. Revue d'études antiques, Toulouse.  |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| PNAS              | Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Washington. |
| PZ                | Prähistorische Zeitschrift. Berlin.  |
| RAN               | National Archaeological Repertory.   |
| RM                | Revista Muzeelor, București.   |
| Sargetia          | Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva.   |
| SatuMareSC        | Satu Mare Studii și Comunicări, Satu Mare.   |
| SCIV(A)           | Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie, București.                               |
| SCȘMI             | Studii și Comunicări Științifice ale Muzeelor de Istorie, București.                         |
| SIB               | Studii de Istorie a Banatului, Timișoara.  |
| SlovArch          | Slovenská archeológia, Nitra.  |
| SP                | Studii de Preistorie, București.   |
| St.Cerc.Antropol. | Studii și Cercetări de Antropologie, București.  |
| StudUBB-G         | Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai. Seria Geologia, Cluj-Napoca.                              |
| ZborníkSlovNMA    | Zborník Slovenského Národného Múzea. Archeológia, Bratislava.                                |
| ZSA               | Ziridava. Studia Archaeologica, Arad.  |
| ИАИ               | Известия на Археологическия Институт при БАН, София.   |