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STUDIA ARCHAEOLOGICA

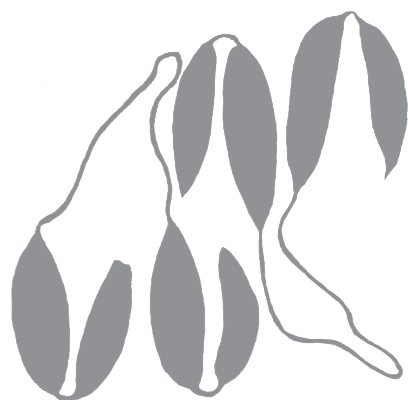
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**Editura MEGA**  
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# Archaeological evidence on land farming in the Someş river Plain – north-western Romania (1<sup>st</sup> century BC?)\*

Ioan Stanciu

**Abstract:** We discuss here a ploughshare (iron-made) discovered in the settlement of Lazuri–Lubi-tag, a site inhabited over the course of different periods, the Middle and Late La Tène included. Accurate parallel cultural artefacts from the Celtic milieu of Western Europe yet also within the Celt-colonised territories of Central Europe were chronologically framed to LT D and particularly, LT D1. Connected to the Late La Tène horizon of Lazuri was also identified a silver Celtic coin, Simmering type, hence based on the short time span during which such coins were minted (more likely 70–40 BC) and the date when the Lazuri specimen might have been buried, the LT D inhabitancy may be reasonably established to mid 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, with a somewhat extension around such date. Unfortunately, the ploughshare cannot be directly associated with other materials, pottery or different artefacts, therefore its connection to one of the two stages of the La Tène inhabitancy remains problematical. The LT C1 dating cannot be excluded, yet if one bears in mind the chronological positions suggested for its parallels, the symmetrical plough metal component of the sort being better represented in the Late La Tène, the northern Carpathian area included, then it is more likely that such dating also suits the discussed exemplar, namely around the landmark provided by mid 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, somewhat extending bi-directionally.

**Keywords:** ploughshare / <pointe d'araire>; dating; symmetrical plough; the Celts; the Dacians.

The artefact discussed here originates from the multi-layered site of Lazuri–Lubi-tag, the Lazuri commune, Satu Mare County (Lázári, in Hungarian), a place in north-western Romania located in the Micula Plain (or Satu Mare–Micula), a sub-unit of the Lower Someş River Plain, according to the detailed classifications and more recent terms used by Romanian geographers. It is a microregion marked by former streambeds of the Someş river, with flat relief bordered southwards by the lower segment of mentioned river, while on south-western direction, delimited in the past by the spread Ecedea Marsh, today the namesake Plain. In fact, prior repeated drainage works, the landscape was dominated by wetlands, slightly more elevated areas, emerging as “islands” (Fig. 1)<sup>1</sup>, being inhabited over the course of time.

Originally, sondages were performed in 1977–1978, with narrow trenches<sup>2</sup> being excavated, followed between 1993–2003 by systematic investigation of more extended areas, likely representative for the whole site (Fig. 2)<sup>3</sup>. On the same location there existed Bronze Age settlements, of the First Iron Age<sup>4</sup>, the same land being later used during the Middle (LT C1) and Late (LT D1) La Tène period<sup>5</sup>. The Late Roman imperial inhabitancy commenced towards the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, with a settlement that ceased to exist by late 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, possibly early the following century<sup>6</sup>. After a less known chronological time frame in the lower Someş river basin, in fact similarly to the entire Upper

\* English translation: Gabriela Safta.

<sup>1</sup> Regarding the former Ecedea Marsh (Ecsedi-láp, Hungarian term), for instance see Farkas, Németh 1978.

<sup>2</sup> Gheorghe Lazin, the late archaeologist of the County Museum of Satu Mare. To my knowledge, the documentation of this research was lost in most part.

<sup>3</sup> By constant cooperation between the County Museum of Satu Mare and the Institute of Archaeology and Art History of the Romanian Academy (Cluj-Napoca), in the 1995 and 1996 campaigns, with the involvement of the former Romanian Institute of Thracology as well, via dr. Némethi János, who suggested the classification of the Middle La Tène date finds. In total, a 2288 m<sup>2</sup> area was investigated. For details see Stanciu 2016, 21–24.

<sup>4</sup> Némethi 1997, 78–80; Marta 2008, 5; Marta 2009, 8 note 10, 98, 102–103, 216; Marta 2010; Marta 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Regarding the absolute chronology, for north-western Romania, the Middle La Tène period (La Tène C1) was proposed a long time ago to have started once with the last quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, evolving later for a good part over the course of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (Némethi 1986, 75–76; Némethi 1988, 108 Fig. 12). For the end of this horizon, references are made to landmarks located by the last half or third of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, stage C2 being less known in the case of Transylvania and the north-western region of Romania (Berecki 2008, 59, with bibliographical references).

<sup>6</sup> Stanciu 1995, 145–150; Matei, Stanciu 2000, 53–60, with references to the illustration; Gindele 2010, 35–41.

Tisza region (the 5<sup>th</sup> and first half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD), in the same site of Lazuri may be identified an inhabitancy horizon related to the presence of most ancient Slavs who reached the north-eastern edge of the Carpathian Basin, with a suggested dating to the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century and first third or half of the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD<sup>7</sup>. The area of the former settlements was re-occupied by a community whose remains surviving in the soil belong to the Early Medieval period, with more certain dating to the second half of the 8<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD, and a noted sequence that may be framed to the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD included<sup>8</sup>.

Just in the south-eastern vicinity of the settlements in the place at “Lubi-tag”, at ca. 300–500 m distance, lies the site from the boundary point, which the locals name as “Nagy Béla-rét” / “Râțul lui Béla” (Fig. 2/B), investigated by sondages and more recently, by partial geo-physical measurements, where inhabitancy stages repeat most of those recorded in the neighbouring settlement (“Lubi-tag”), and the notable potter kilns used by late 4<sup>th</sup> century and early 5<sup>th</sup> century AD<sup>9</sup>. It remained unclear whether in the two neighbouring places we are dealing with traces of strictly contemporary settlements or – more likely, with short distance movements of the same community, a phenomenon much more difficult to identify. One should also specify that just in the westward vicinity of the settlements at “Lubi-tag”, a barrow cemetery (cremation) of Late Roman imperial date (Fig. 2/A)<sup>10</sup> was identified and partially investigated. Other settlements are known in the same microarea, mainly northwards yet also southwards the Someș river, archaeologically investigated to one extent or the other or only reported, with inhabitancies datable especially to the Bronze Age and the start period of the Iron Age, then over the course of the first millennium AD<sup>11</sup>. Traces of 12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> century settlements are further documented as well<sup>12</sup>. Previous specifications were necessary as they evidence the rather extensive inhabitancy of this Lower Someș River Plain segment, with settlements whose presence also entailed the use of the surrounding land.

The two La Tène inhabitancy horizons in the Lazuri–Lubi-tag settlement were only briefly reported, with a few references to the investigated archaeological structures and especially the collected items, pottery and other artefacts<sup>13</sup>. As far as the early stage, three or four houses were documented, together with a few storage pits, repurposed as domestic waste pits. Beside the wheel-thrown pottery, of Celtic specificity and that handmade, of local Hallstatt tradition, in one of the houses were discovered two LT C1 brooches (one fragmentary, in iron, the other made of bronze; Fig. 3/1–2) and saponel-made bracelets (Fig. 3/3–4)<sup>14</sup>. Datable to the Late La Tène are also several storage pits, reused for domestic waste purposes, a sunken house being also mentioned<sup>15</sup>. Important for the chronological framing of this inhabitancy stage (La Tène D1) is a silver Celtic coin, referencing from the very beginning the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC (Fig. 3/5a–b)<sup>16</sup>. The exemplar was found in the filling earth of one of the two pits investigated by Gheorghe Lazin in 1977, on the occasion being also discovered an iron arrowhead

<sup>7</sup> Stanciu 2011, 110–308 (with references to the illustration), 331–358.

<sup>8</sup> Stanciu 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Lazin 1981–82b and Stanciu 1996, 74, 77 (the Early Medieval inhabitancy). The potter kilns there are presented in Lazin 2011 and Gindele 2010, 42–63, 238–266. With respect to the LT C1 inhabitancy of the place see Lazin 1981–82a, 75–77, No. 8b. This is a house, related to which a bronze brooch, framed by the excavator to series Dux and dated to the Middle La Tène (Lazin 1981–82a, 76, Fig. 8, 77, with Fig. 9) was also discovered. The Lazuri specimen was assimilated to a certain type II4, chronologically positioned to the transition stage LT B2/C1 and sub-stage LT C1 (Măndescu 2000, 59–60). János Némethi dated the piece to LT C1 (Némethi 1997, 79).

<sup>10</sup> Kotigoroshko 1997; Kotigoroshko 1998.

<sup>11</sup> Regardless the period, the distribution of the known sites in the plain lying westwards the Satu Mare city and northwards the Someș river to the Romanian-Hungarian border, was mentioned in Stanciu 2018, 123 Fig. 2. Subsequent such date, significant rescue archaeological investigations were initiated, supported particularly in connection with the construction of the Satu Mare city by-pass, new sites being identified and researched to the north and mainly to the south of said river.

<sup>12</sup> Stanciu 2016, 176, 177 Fig. 139/1–9; Stanciu 2018, 130.

<sup>13</sup> Bader, Lazin 1980, 14, 67–69 Fig. 37–39 (LT D); Lazin 1981–82a, 74–75 (LT D); Lazin 1990 (LT D); Némethi 1996 (LT C1, LT D); Némethi 1997 (LT C1, LT D 1); Némethi 2001, 58, No. 2 (LT D); Stanciu, Marta 2001, 125 (LT C); Stanciu *et al.* 2002, 185–186 (LT C).

<sup>14</sup> Némethi 1996; Némethi 1997, 80–81, 83 Fig. 1.

<sup>15</sup> The note regarding this house appears in Lazin 1990, 64.

<sup>16</sup> The Simmering type, “mit Lorbeekranzallein”; diameters of 17.1 and 17.4 mm, weight 2.28 g (Lazin 1980, 127 No. 2, 129–130, Pl. LXVII/1–2). According to the determining and specifications of the author of the find, with bibliography references, such coins were minted in the environment of the Central European Celts in the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. See also Lazin 1981–82a, 74–75 No. 8.a., also Bader, Lazin 1980, 14, 67 Fig. 37 above.



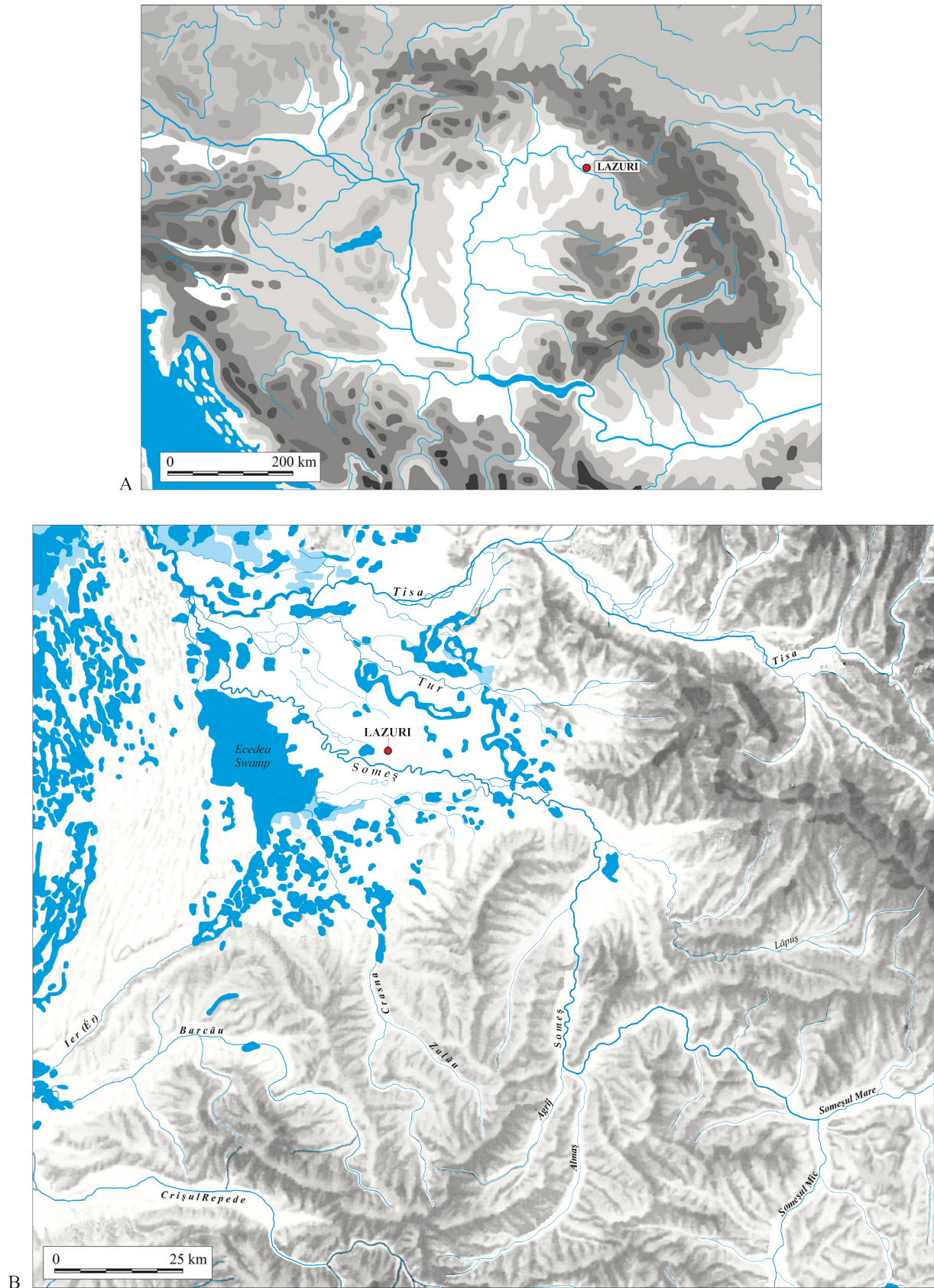


Fig. 1. Position of the Lazuri site within the Carpathian Basin (A) and the north-western segment of Romania (B, graphical editing after an older map, with the reconstruction of the past hydrographical network – <http://foldepites.wordpress.com/terkepek/>). The marshy appearance of the Lower Someș Plain is notable.

with attachment socket (Fig. 3/6) and a supposed fragment of a silver mirror, together with handmade Dacian pottery (Fig. 3/7–8), yet also wheel-thrown, including painted fragmentary vessels (white-red), the latter illustrating a persisting Celtic fashion in the local pottery field (Fig. 3/9)<sup>17</sup>. Only a very small part of the collected archaeological items has been published so far, while comments concerning a more accurate dating of the Late La Tène inhabitancy in the site of Lazuri–Lubi-tag have not been convincingly supported, the already quoted bibliography mentioning the 2<sup>nd</sup> century (its end part) – 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, yet also the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC – 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. One may assume that the settlement of the time could not have evolved on long term, hence its more certain chronological framing would lie by mid third of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, with the landmark (*post quem* date) provided by the mentioned Celtic coin.

In the excavated area, the horizontal distribution of La Tène date structures suggests a few clustering areas, namely feature groups consisting of houses and storage pits. Without the possibility of more accurate horizontal delimiting, it seems that the more ancient stage inhabitancy (LT C1) extended south-eastwards on the direction of the neighbouring site of “Nagy Béla rét” (Fig. 2). There are no depositions in the layers corresponding to the two habitation stages, which stands as evidence of the shorter duration of both.

The artefact of interest here was discovered in 1978, trench III, by meters 2–3 and at 55 cm deep, therefore a strayfind, without the mention of any related archaeological feature<sup>18</sup>. Its shape is relatively conical and it was iron-made by forging<sup>19</sup>. Its preservation state is rather good, except for the tip (the active side), which is slightly chipped, most likely worn and torn as early as ancient times owing to repeated use. The surviving length is of 17.20 cm, with at most 1 cm addable, respectively the missing tip part. The maximum width is reached by the end of the attachment socket (5.60 cm), while by the tip base the width is of 4.04 cm. On the socket side, the iron plate has an average thickness of 0.85 cm, yet it increases towards the active part (notably, it is slightly tilted upwards), to 1.15 cm. The socket, modelled by the lengthwise bending of the iron plate, is open, less, near the tip, and more towards the opposite end (Fig. 5). The overall shape of the implement, its material and making technique, sizes and their ratio, evidence precise parallels with ploughshares in the western Celts’ milieu, yet also identifiable in the territories they colonised in Central Europe, with the good example of today’s Slovakia, a territory neighbouring the lower basin of the Someş river (located in the north-western part of Romania and north-eastern Hungary). In the case of the finds from France, items like that of Lazuri were divided into a group composed of shorter and narrower “ploughshares”, biconical, made by rolling the iron plate towards nearby the tip, the latter slightly extended (group 1 in Antoine David). Some exhibit a hole towards the socket used for attachment to wood by a nail, and occasionally, a cut-out on their back side, whose purpose is insufficiently clear (for instance Fig. 6/7)<sup>20</sup>. Quasi-identical items to that in north-western Romania were also reported in Slovakia (Fig. 6/6)<sup>21</sup>, however there, and generally in the northern Carpathians and the Middle Danube area, ploughshares with tip reinforced by the sideways bending of the iron plate<sup>22</sup> are more diffused<sup>23</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> Regarding the painted pottery, of Celtic tradition: Bader, Lazin 1980, 14; Lazin 1981–82a, 74–75; Lazin 1990, 64, No. 14; Florea 1998, 56; Némethi 2001, 58, 62. Concerning its presence in the Upper Tisza region, see Kotigoroshko 1995, 87–88. A more recent discussion of the topic, with references to the north-western area of Romania too, including the material from the Lazuri settlement, in Drăgan 2014.

<sup>18</sup> Missing a plan recording the horizontal planning of the trenches excavated by Gh. Lazin, from received information the location of trench I/1977 being more certain, traced on the southern edge of the drainage channel crossing the north-eastern periphery of the site (Fig. 2/A). More likely, its south-eastern end was identified during subsequent excavations (Stanciu 2011, 638 Pl. 29/1, 650 Pl. 40/1–2). Without a more accurate chronological framing (possibly the 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> century) or the functionality mention, the artefact was published a long time ago (Stanciu 1998–99, 238 Pl. XLVII/1). Later, it was identified as ploughshare, with the indication of possible parallels in the Celtic environment, with reference to Magdaléna Beranová (1993), yet without any further comments. See Stanciu 2016, 240 note 891, 241, Fig. 202/6.

<sup>19</sup> The results of the metallographic analyses of certain items from the Gallo-Roman Belgium evidence cold forging (Marbach 2001, 99), while such examination evidences hot forging, at least for some of the many ploughshares in the deposit of Negri discovered in Moldova and re-dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> century BC (Babeş 1970, 608).

<sup>20</sup> David 2010, vol 1, 40–41, 41 Tab. 2, vol. 2, Pl. 1–5. Some of the items, fewer, have a very similar length to that of the specimen at Lazuri.

<sup>21</sup> Pieta 2010, 230–231, 232, Fig. 103/1.6.

<sup>22</sup> Pieta 2010, 231, 233, Fig. 104, 234, Fig. 105/A.

<sup>23</sup> Pieta 2010, 231, 233, Fig. 104, 234, Fig. 105/A.



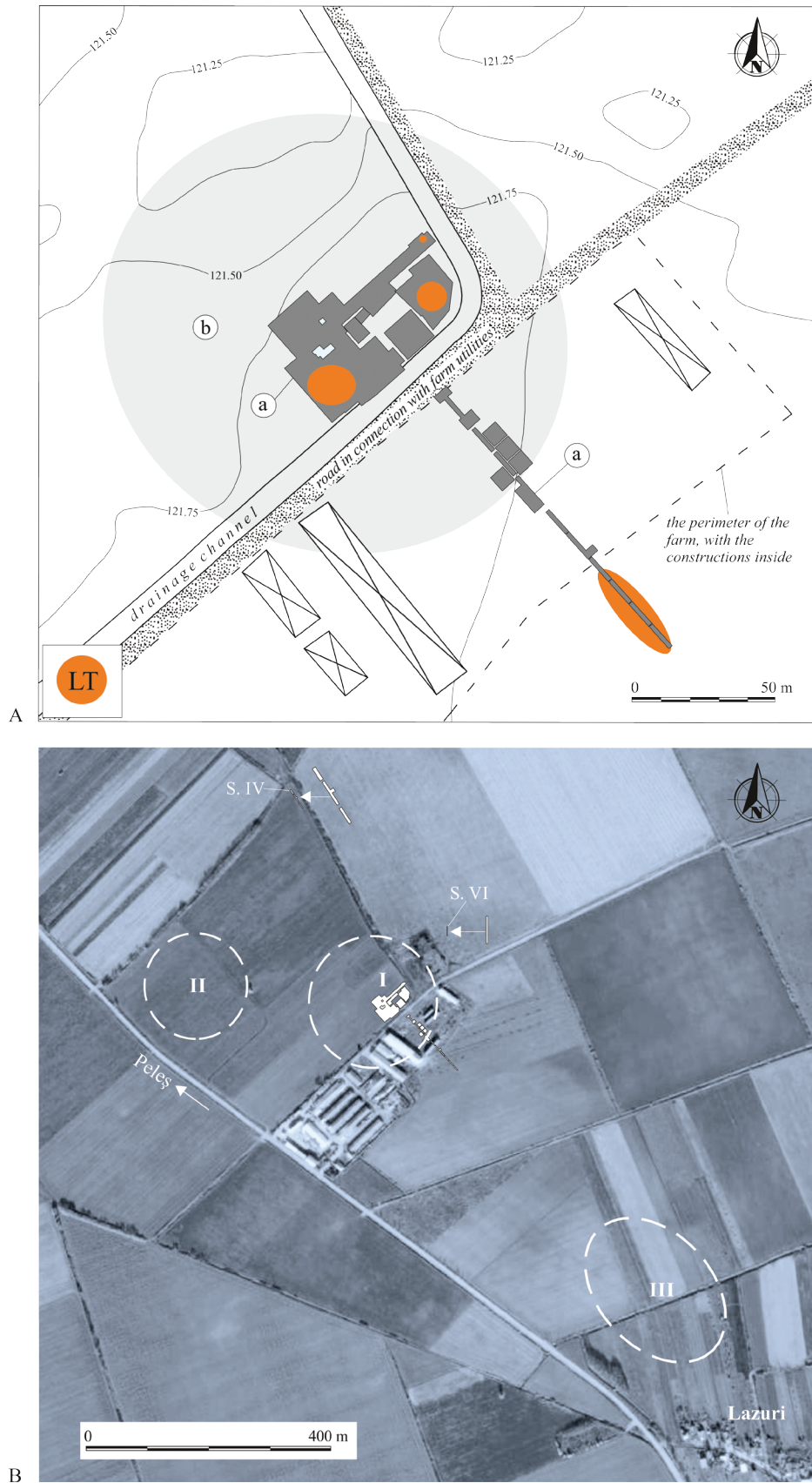


Fig. 2. The Lazuri-Lubit-tag settlement, with several date inhabitations. A — With the mark of the archaeologically excavated area (a) and estimate of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium AD inhabitations (b), and areas where La Tène C and D date features cluster (LT, in orange). B — Horizontal distribution of the known sites within the north-western boundary of the place: I – “Lubi-tag” (trenches IV and VI are also marked, by which the extension of inhabitation north-westwards and north-eastwards was checked); II – “Lubi-tag” (Roman date barrow cemetery); III – “Nagy Béla-rét” (inhabitations dated to various periods).

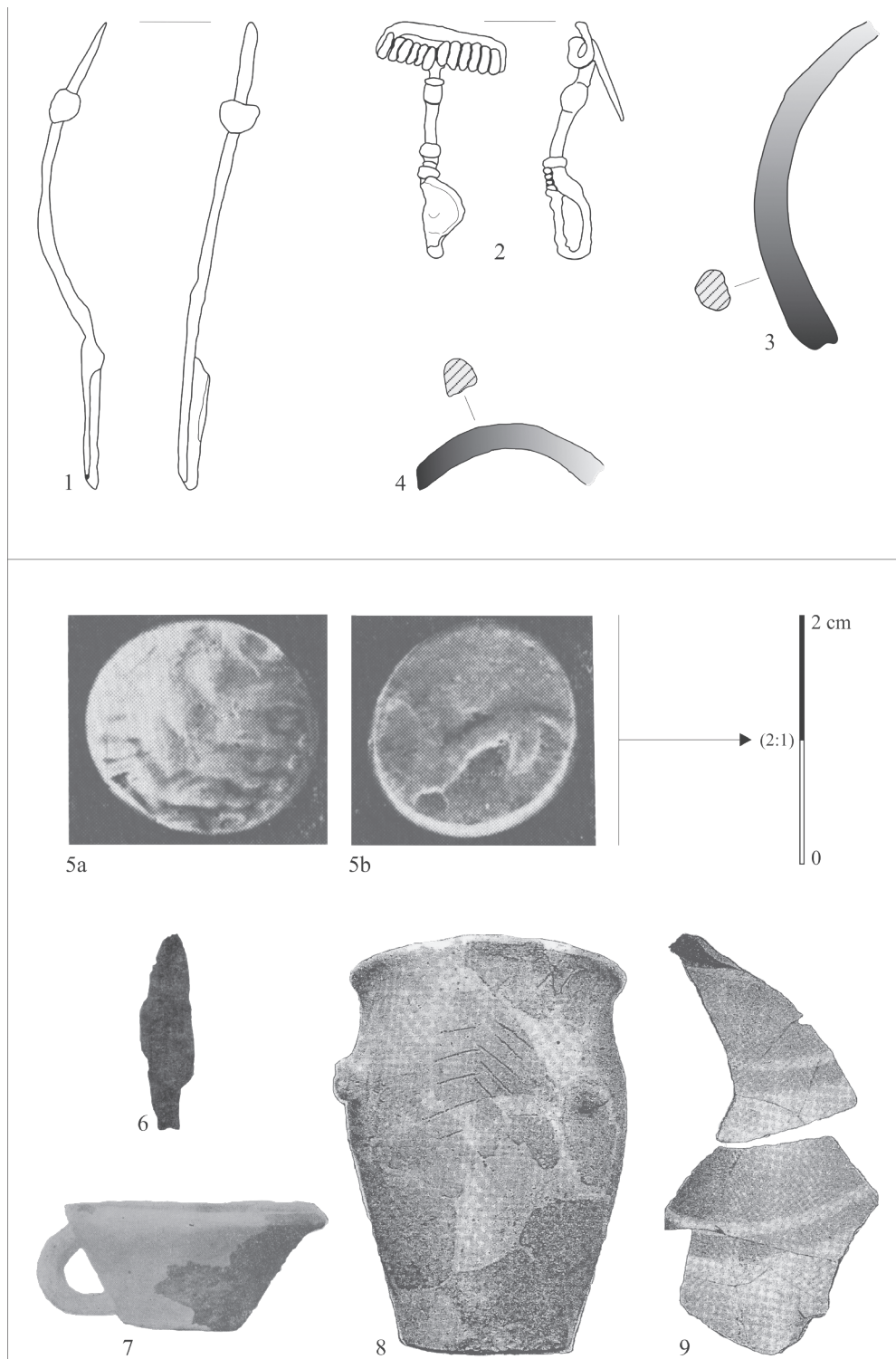


Fig. 3. Artefacts from the Lazuri-Lubi-tag settlement, representative for La Tène date inhabitancies: LT C1 (1-4) and LT D (5-9). Iron (1, 6), bronze (2), silver (5a-b), bracelet fragments made of sapropel (3-4), pottery (7-8: handmade, 9: wheel-thrown and painted). 1-4, with accurate sizes, yet preserving the proportions between the items, according to the original publication. 6-9, random sizes (original publication without graphic scale or any specifications in this respect). After Némethi 1997 (1-4), Lazin 1980 (5a-b) and Lazin 1981-82a (6-9).

For items like that at Lazuri was suggested a more accurate term in French, namely instead of *le soc* (share), that of *pointe d'araire* (relative translation by “plough tip”, referencing the active segment, iron-made and attached by the extremity of the wooden “shoe” or in direct extension of a symmetrical plough handle)<sup>24</sup>. Such a metal component was used in relation with the more simple, symmetrical

<sup>24</sup> Marbach 2001, 113, 116; Marbach 2006-07, 5, 6 Fig. 2; David 2010, vol. 1, 40 (term adopted from André Marbach).



plough, animal drawn, functioning as an earth scarifying tool, without yet throwing the furrow to the side, being mainly used to prepare the soil for sowing and suitable for land deforesting too<sup>25</sup>.

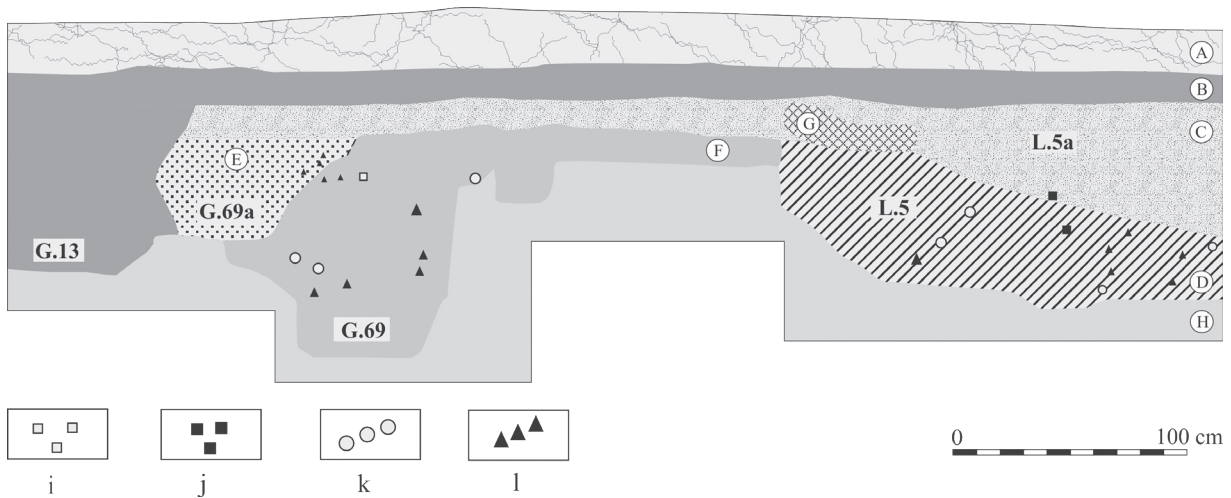


Fig. 4. Example of the Lazuri-Lubitag settlement stratigraphy, in segments with higher density of structures datable to various periods. A — Farming layer, extensively practiced over the course of time. B — Layer filling early medieval features, contains also previous date potshards. C — Layer corresponding to the Roman date inhabitancy. D — House LT C1. E — House from the First Iron Age. F — Layer and archaeological features datable to the Bronze Age. G — Dark earth mixed with yellow clay. H — archaeologically sterile soil. i — Animal bones. j — Iron slag. k — Pottery fragments. l — Burnt earth pieces (or adobe). After Stanciu 2016.

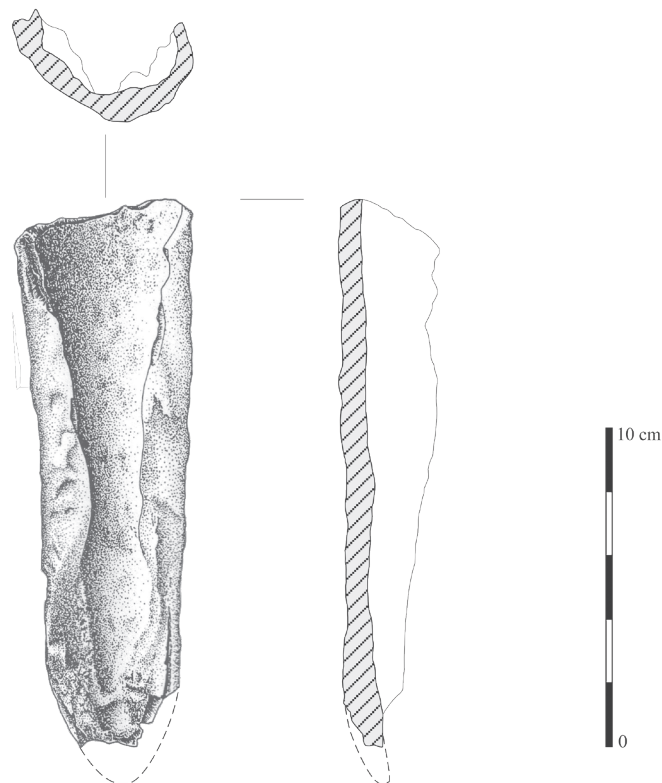


Fig. 5. The ploughshare / “pointe d’araire” discovered in the Lazuri-Lubi-tag settlement (iron).

Reconstruction suggestions of the making of such ploughs of La Tène date, together with the mention of variations: Beranová 1993, 98 Fig. 1 (after Z. Tempirs), 101; Marbach 2006-07; David 2010, vol. 1, 36–40. See also Faucher 1956 and Neamtu 1970. A critical examination of contributions regarding the Gallo-Roman plough, extending to Central and South-Eastern Europe, in Marbach 2001, 28–35.

<sup>25</sup> Faucher 1956, 122; Marbach 2001, 4–5, 44; Nillesse *et al.* 2015, 140, 142. Alike the French term (*araire*) for this precursor form of the proper plough, the Romanian term is *aratru*, both with origins in the Latin *aratrum*. For the discussion related to the Romanian term, together with bibliographical references, see Bilavschi 2016, 42–50.

The “ploughshare” or “pointe d’araire” documented in France (group 1 according to the classification taken from A. David) – with which the Lazuri item coincides – emerged during LT C (280–140 BC, according to the chronology there), their presence being more marked in stage LT D (140–30 BC) and LT D1 (140–80 BC) in particular, while similar specimens in group two (“small socketed ploughshares”) were overall dated to LT D<sup>26</sup>. In the Northern Carpathians area, such “Celtic type” ploughshares are framed to the Middle and Late La Tène, being also spread in the Púchov culture environment<sup>27</sup>. Exemplars, also dated to the Middle and Late La Tène, exist in large numbers in Moldova, east the Carpathian Mountains, associated within deposits that also contain other iron objects and dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>–1<sup>st</sup> century BC, their presence being related to exchange relations of the local communities with Celtic groups<sup>28</sup>.

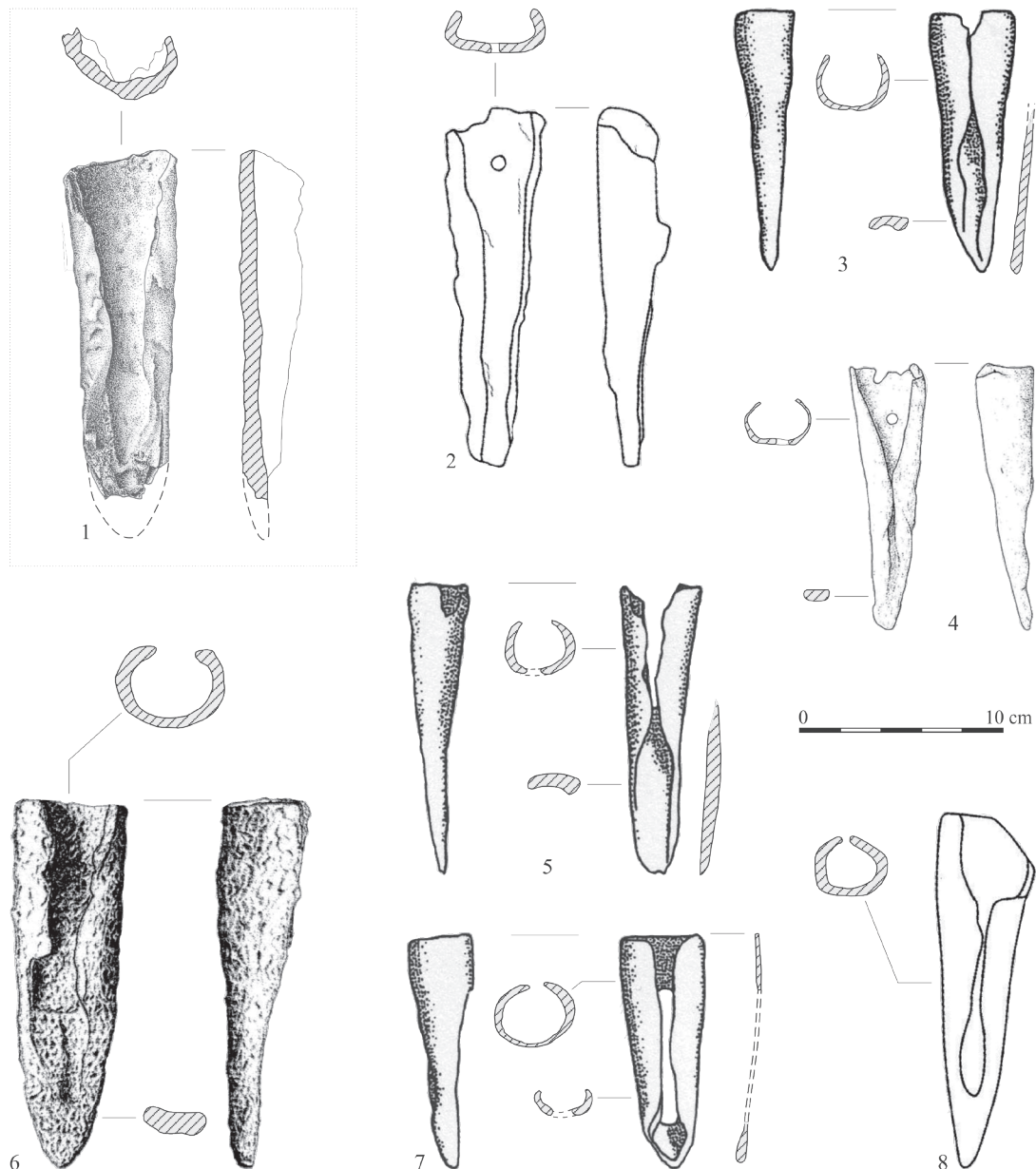


Fig. 6. Examples of parallels for the ploughshare of Lazuri, a settlement in north-western Romania (1). France (after David 2010, vol. 2): Fleury-sur-Orne (2); Gournay-sur-Aronde (3, 5, 7); Fontenay-le-Comte (4); Cairon (8). Slovakia (after Pieta 2010): Hrochoť (6).

<sup>26</sup> David 2010, vol. 1, 48–49; Nillesse *et al.* 2015, 142 (iron ploughshares are not recorded in western Gaul prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC).

<sup>27</sup> Pieta 2010, 230–231.

<sup>28</sup> Spânu 2020, 94, quoting the bibliography.

It would be fairer to assume that, overall, the La Tène horizon from the site at Lazuri–Lubi-tag did not evolve cursively on the rather long duration of approximately two centuries, possibly even longer (LT C1–D1), especially since in the case of the Celtic inhabitancy from north-western Romania it is seriously argued that settlements were abandoned towards late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC<sup>29</sup>. In fact, it is worth noting that in the Lazuri settlement, depositions in one or more layers corresponding to identified archaeological structures of La Tène date are missing, at least in the excavated area, thus pointing to short-lived inhabitancies. The more ancient stage was delimited to LT C1, in the case of north-western Romania, with its weight point by late 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC or the turn of the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and the first half or the first two thirds of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC<sup>30</sup>. The silver Celtic coin (Simmering type) cannot be other than a chronological marker of the more recent stage of La Tène inhabitancy, useful as *terminus post quem*, as it supposedly could have not reached the ground at much later date compared to its minting date. Such coins (smaller and lighter by contrast with other contemporary pieces, datable similarly in part) represent the latest phase of the Boian coinage (*Boii*, a Celtic tribal confederacy), issued in a rather short period of time, in approximately the second third of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, more likely between 70–40 BC, possibly even in the area of the current modern city of Bratislava from south-western Slovakia, as it is believed (hence not too far from the lower basin of the Someş river), until Burebista's raids on the same direction<sup>31</sup>. Therefore, it is reasonable to frame the Late La Tène inhabitancy from the Lazuri settlement to the same mid third of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, possibly with a somewhat extension to the end part of the same century.

Unfortunately, the ploughshare examined here cannot be directly associated to other materials, pottery or various artefacts, hence its framing to one of the two La Tène inhabitancy stages at Lazuri is challenging. The LT C1 dating cannot be excluded, however if we keep in mind the suggested chronological positions for its parallels, such a metal component of the symmetrical plough being better represented in the Late La Tène in the northern Carpathians area included, then it is more likely that such dating is also appropriate for the discussed artefact, namely around the landmark provided by the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, somewhat extending to both directions.

Crossed by former streambeds of the Someş river and its northern tributaries, the landscape of the microarea where the settlement of Lazuri had evolved (situated in the south-western vicinity of the former Ecedea Marsh) is defined by low elevations, between 120–125 m, with much land that has preserved its marshy specificity until present, a marked aspect in the past, and the much more spread woodlands<sup>32</sup>. Hydromorphic soils, formed under ancient oak forests, whose natural fertility is low<sup>33</sup> were prevalent, however, likely until the exercise of extensive anthropogenic influences, the farming earth quality was satisfactory. In fact, areas with excessive humidity are related to most productive biological ecosystems, exploited over the course of time as pastures or farming lands (non-floodable areas), the offer of additional resources, food or of other nature, important for the sustenance of the ancient communities being worthy of note as well<sup>34</sup>.

The animal-drawn plough was necessary to work more spread land areas and the growth of cereal crops in particular. In a geographical area closer to the Someş Plain, the archaeobotanical studies indicate for the Celtic milieu of Slovakia the cultivation of several varieties of wheat mainly, then to a more limited extent barley, oat and rye<sup>35</sup>. Concerning the entire north-western area of Romania, such investigations are missing. Preliminary approaches may be reported; however, their results are not mandatorily valid for the entire Someş Plain<sup>36</sup>.

<sup>29</sup> Némethi 1999, 127–128; Némethi 2001, 62.

<sup>30</sup> Notes 5 and 14.

<sup>31</sup> Dembski 1999; Horsnaes, Militký 2003-05, 16; Kolníková, Kovár 2010.

<sup>32</sup> Details in Stanciu 2016, 19–21.

<sup>33</sup> For instance Posea 1997, 89, 147–148.

<sup>34</sup> Dinnin, Van de Noort 1999.

<sup>35</sup> Pieta 2010, 229.

<sup>36</sup> Pollen and charcoal samples coming from two former lakes formed in volcanic craters located on the western slope of the Gutâi Mountains, respectively at 80 km east the settlement of Lazuri, report clues of grain farming starting only with mid 1<sup>st</sup> millennium AD. On forest landscape, more marked anthropogenic influences were exercised between ca. AD 500–1500 (Feurdean, Astaloş 2005, 69–70, with Tab. 1). Paleoeological data obtained from the Iaz peat bog (Sălaj county, 80 km south the lower Someş line, in a hilly area), with AMS<sup>14</sup>C dating indicate for the La Tène period the isolate emergence of plant crops, notable being the high values for grapevine (Grindean *et al.* 2015, 116 Tab. 3, 122). It is worth

In the south-western vicinity of the microarea where the settlement of Lazuri is located lies the fertile plain of Carei, with a remarkable intensity of existent sites, settlements and cemeteries related to the Celts' presence in north-western Romania, with the weight point in the Middle La Tène period<sup>37</sup>. Better known are cemeteries, settlements being less investigated, hence possibly explaining the lack of artefacts related to agriculture in general, however, it may be assumed that respective communities worked the soil according to their own patterns and with specific agricultural tools, while the ensemble of favourable natural conditions might even explain the choice to settle respective area<sup>38</sup>. According to explanations insofar, these settlements were abandoned towards late 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, inhabitanacy datable to subsequent stage being much less consistent, at least in the light of available data insofar<sup>39</sup>. Nevertheless, as evidenced by the ploughshare of Lazuri, together with the wheel-thrown painted pottery, certain elements of the Celtic civilisation were kept alive for a certain while.

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mention that a ploughshare was discovered (Lazin 1981–82b, 137–138, with Fig. 1; Stanciu 2016, 240, 241 Fig. 202/1) in the Early Medieval settlement of Lazuri–Nagy Béla rét (the 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> century AD).

<sup>37</sup> Némethi 1999, 110–111, 127–128, 231, Fig. 49. From there also comes the well-known “Ciumești grave with helmet” (Rustoiu 2008, with complete bibliography).

<sup>38</sup> In the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium AD, the line joining the southern edge of the former Marsh of Ecedea with the south-eastern neighbouring hills (crossing the current city of Carei), likely marked in ancient times by the diverging streambed of the Crasna river, who flowed into the mentioned marsh, represented a segment of the north-eastern “border” of the territory controlled by the Gepids, then by the Avars. During various periods, the Carei Plain was extensively inhabited, while the soil quality there provides an explanation, however the area's strategic position, determined geographically, cannot be overlooked, with possible control over the main route to Transylvania, namely on the Crasna River valley and further to the Meseş Gate (Fig. 1/B). On reversed direction, towards the north-west and the north, this route, bypassing the Ecedea Marsh, extended to the foothills of the Northern Carpathians, while through the known passes, even past them. At different dates, the north-south movement of the Przeworsk cultures bearers, then of the Early Slavs, who reached also the lower basin of the Someş river, provides adequate examples. The commercial importance of the sketched route cannot be neglected, implicitly the control exercised on it (Stanciu 2016, 263). Possibly, the intensity of the Celtic inhabitanacy of the Carei Plain, rare northwards past the Someş river, could be explained from this view, as well.

<sup>39</sup> Némethi 1999, 127128; Némethi 2001, 62.



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# 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.
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