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Seventh–Eighth centuries Earrings Discovered in Transylvania

Călin Cosma

Abstract: We discuss here 7th–8th centuries earrings discovered on the territory of Transylvania. These were identified in graves from both Avar and Avaro-Slavic biritual burial grounds as well in settlements. Most earrings were yielded by Avar graves compared to the burials from biritual cemeteries. Earrings were discovered in only five settlements in Transylvania. In Transylvania, many earring types were discovered from simple examples, ring-shaped and pointed by extremities, made in wire or round bar, to those provided with stellar pendant or the *lunula* pendant earrings. Almost the majority of the artefacts have parallels on the territory of the Avar Khaganate of the Carpathian Basin, yet also in the lower Danube basin area and on the territory of Bulgaria. Their presence within the graves is due, on one hand, to the fact that the deceased were buried with all their dress accessories and jewellery, including earrings, which they wore in their lifetime and on the other hand, because of the tradition to place such objects in burial features by the family of the deceased at the time of burial. The earrings here were worn by women and to a less extent by men and children.

Keywords: earrings; typology; chronology; Transylvania; the early Middle Ages.

Argument. Chronological and geographical limits

We have chosen to discuss here only the 7th–8th centuries earrings discovered on the territory of Transylvania as there is no study addressing exhaustively said artefacts for the specified time period in the Transylvanian archaeological literature. We have catalogued earrings from Transylvania dated to the 7th–8th centuries and drawn up their typology. We have offered parallels for the earring types in Transylvania. We tackled issues regarding the artefacts' chronology, the earrings' presence within graves regardless gender or age, as well as the interpreting of earrings from the graves and settlements in the Transylvanian Plateau of the 7th–8th centuries. In order to avoid glutting the text with too many technical details in what the description of earring types is concerned, like for instance, their find-spot according to gender, but also the metal out of which these were made, we chose to enter these in appendices by the end of the text.

Why Transylvania only?. Because even during the early Middle Ages, the Transylvanian Plateau represented a distinct territory where different military and political events compared to other geographical areas of Romania¹ occurred. Transylvania is a united geographical territory so we believe that the ultimate goal of the research proposed here may offer a specific view of a well defined geographically, yet also politically space over the course of the 7th–8th centuries. Historically, the 7th and 8th centuries are a well defined period in the history of Transylvania, which corresponds to the Avar period in the Carpathian Basin.

The type of archaeological site where the earrings were discovered

In the catalogue of finds we included earrings discovered in Avar burial grounds and graves, in biritual Avaro-Slavic cemeteries as well as those found in settlements from the Transylvanian Plateau.

In Transylvania, earrings of various types were discovered in nine Avar cemeteries: 1. Câmpia Turzii²; 2. Cicău³; 3. Gâmbaş/Cimitirul reformat⁴ (hereinafter Gâmbaş 1); 4. Gâmbaş/Ogoarele de jos⁵

¹ Cosma 2017, 14–15; Cosma 2020, 7–8.

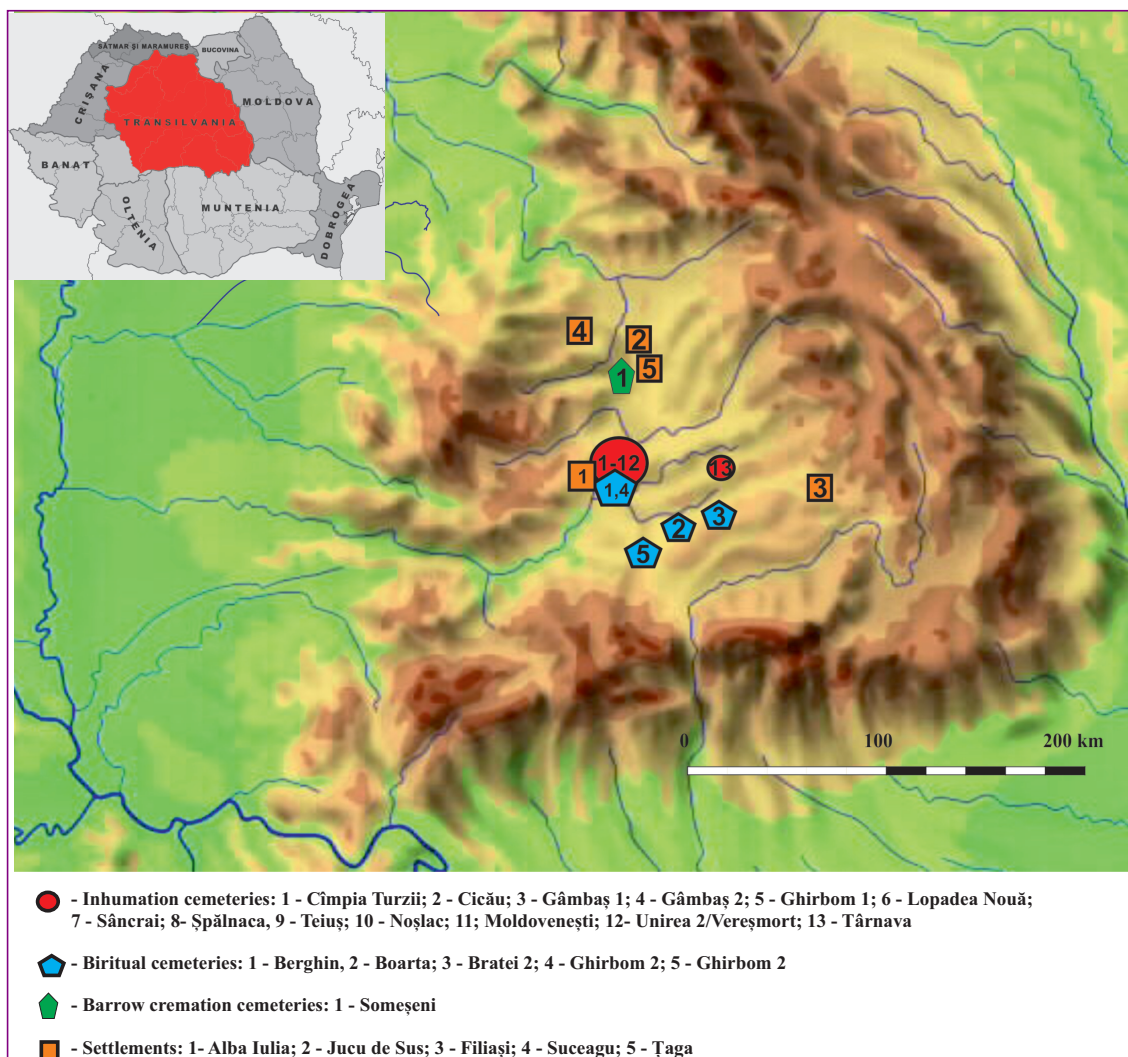
² Cosma 2017, 52–53.

³ Winckler/Takas/ Păiuş 1977, 269–283.

⁴ Cosma 2017, 56–61.

⁵ Cosma 2017, 61–62.

(hereinafter Gâmbaş 2); 5. Ghirbom/Gruului măciuliilor (hereinafter Ghirbom 1)⁶; 6. Lopadea Nouă⁷; 7. Sâncrai⁸; 8. Șpălnaca⁹; 9. Teiuș¹⁰. The earrings were also discovered in the Avar graves in the Gepido-Avar cemetery at Noșlac¹¹. Also, earrings have been identified in two singular Avar graves, one discovered at Moldovenești¹², and the second at Unirea 2/Veresmort¹³. Another earring comes from Târnava (likely a destroyed grave)¹⁴. The flat biritual cemeteries that yielded earrings count: 1. Berghin¹⁵; 2. Boarta¹⁶; 3. Bratei 2¹⁷; 4. Ghirbom/Gruul fierului (hereinafter Ghirbom 2)¹⁸; 5. Ocna Sibiului¹⁹. Just one earring was discovered in the cremation barrow cemetery of Someșeni²⁰.



Map 1. Cemeteries and Settlements in Transylvania where Earrings from the 7th-8th Centuries were discovered.

⁶ Stoicovici/Blăjan 1982, 139–154

⁷ Cosma 2017, 63–64.

⁸ Cosma 2017, 65–75 (graves 1–33); archaeological excavations C. Cosma, G. Balteș (graves 34–84)

⁹ Cosma 2017, 75–79.

¹⁰ Cosma 2017, 79–89.

¹¹ Rusu 1962, 269–292; arhivă șantier arheologic Noșlac, Institutul de Arheologie și Istoria Artei din Cluj-Napoca.

¹² Palkó 1972, 678–679.

¹³ Rustoiu/Ciută 2015, 107–127.

¹⁴ Horedt 1942, 124–125, Taf. 21/4,7.

¹⁵ Aldea *et al.* 1980, 151,153; Blăjan/Botezatu 2000, 457; archive archaeological site of Berghin, National Museum of the Union Alba Iulia.

¹⁶ Dumitrașcu/Togan 1974, 93–107.

¹⁷ Zaharia 1977.

¹⁸ Aldea *et al.* 1980, 151–177; Aldea 1997, 255–271.

¹⁹ Protase 2004.

²⁰ Macrea 1959a, 519–527.

From settlements we succeeded to catalogue earrings originating from Alba Iulia²¹, Jucu de Sus²², Filiași²³, Suceag²⁴ and Țaga²⁵.

Typology, parallels

We catalogued earrings from 7th–8th centuries Transylvania into seven main groups (A–G). There we framed earrings in several main types and/or versions. The typological groups are based on the presence or absence of the pendant attached to the earring hoop. The types individualize by how their hoops end as well as by how the attached pendant is related to the earring hoop body. Moreover, the suggested typology took into account the shape of the earring pendants.

Group A – Earrings with variously shaped ends

Type 1 – Ring-shaped earrings with open ends

According to the manner in which the earring hoop was made, there are several variants: from round bar in cross-section, twisted bar, bar made of three twisted bronze threads and of bronze bar wrapped with a wire thread in a twisted form.

1a – Earrings of round bar were discovered in both Avar and biritual graveyards.

The Avar cemeteries which yielded the earring type include: 1. Câmpia Turzii; 2. Gâmbaș 1; 3. Gâmbaș 2; 4. Sâncrai; 5. Șpâlnaca; 6. Teiuș. Among the biritual graveyards, earrings of type 1a were found in the cemeteries of: 1. Berghin; 2. Bratei 2; 3. Ocna Sibiului. Earrings with open ends were made of round or rhomboid bar. These are artefacts in a simple form, easy to make. Originally, all earrings were round in shape. A part survived in their original form, other suffered deformations, evidencing now especially an elongated form. Other exemplars survived only fragmentarily. Earring sizes frame between 1.8 cm and 2.5 cm (Fig. 1, Appendix 1–2)

For the exemplars in Transylvania parallels are found in the Avar setting of the Carpathian Basin. They are extremely numerous, earrings with open ends being identified in both children and adult graves²⁶. Generally, in women burials two earrings are commonly found. One earring with open ends was discovered for instance in graves of Avar males no. 146 and 364 in the Alattyán cemetery²⁷. Still in the same cemetery, in

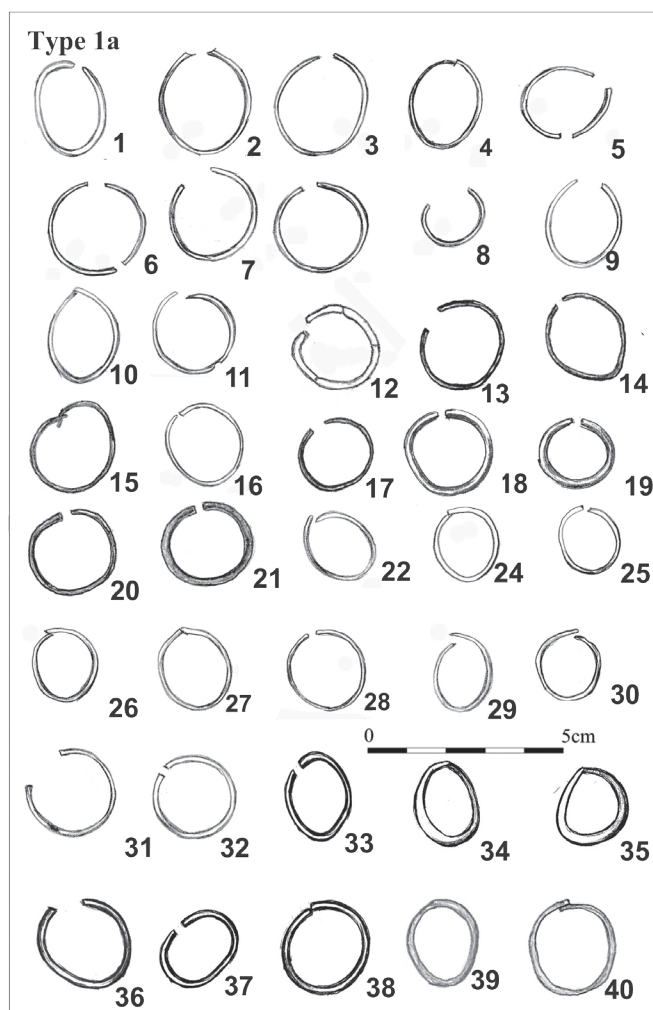


Fig. 1. Group A. Earrings type 1a: 1–2. Câmpia Turzii; 3–4. Gâmbaș 2; 5–22. Sâncrai; 23–30. Teiuș; 31–38. Șpâlnaca; 39–40 – Berghin.

²¹ Arta bronzului 2014, 50

²² Stanciu 2016, 231, Fig 194/4, Fig. 195/3.

²³ Székely 1974–1975, 39, Pl. IX/9

²⁴ Opreanu 2010, 545–546, Pl. I.1.

²⁵ Protase 2003, 60/10, Fig. 24/1.

²⁶ Garam 1995, 284, Abb. 149/17–18.

²⁷ Kovrig 1963, 20, grave 146, Taf. XII/146/3, 36, grave 364, Taf XXV/364/8.

graves 249, 380, 542 and 659 of Avar male individuals were found two earrings in each burial feature, while in grave 268 were identified three earrings, one with a larger diameter than the remaining two²⁸. This earring type was adopted from the Avar environment into the Bulgarian world²⁹. They are not a secure chronological marker, being found in the middle and late Avar periods³⁰.

1b – Earrings with open ends of twisted bronze bar were discovered in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai (Fig. 2, Appendix 3).

1c – Earrings with open ends, with bar of two or three twisted bronze threads were discovered in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai and the biritual graveyard of Berghin (Fig. 2, Appendix 3). The sizes of both earring variants frame between 2 and 2.3 cm.

The 1b and 1c earring variants are artefacts used in the 7th–8th centuries in the Avar Khaganate. Such exemplars emerge by late 7th century³¹ and are present in both women and men graves. Two earrings similar to that in Gr. 7 at Sâncrai were found for instance in grave 267, of a male, in the Avar cemetery of Alattyán, dated to the 8th century³².

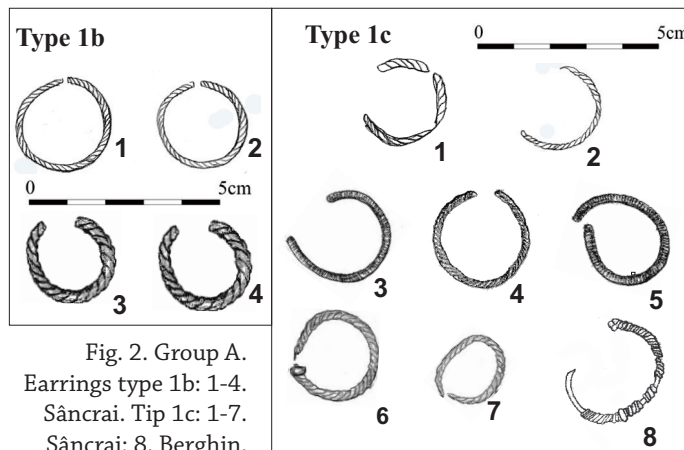


Fig. 2. Group A. Earrings type 1b: 1-4. Sâncrai. Tip 1c: 1-7. Sâncrai; 8. Berghin.

Type 2 – Earrings with one spiral-shaped end

2a – One earring with cylindrical spiral was discovered in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai and Teiuș. The Sâncrai item is 2.5 cm high, while that of Teiuș has a surviving height of 3 cm. Cylindrical spiral earrings were also yielded by the biritual graveyard of Berghin. The height of the three items frames between 2 and 3 cm. One of the ends of this earring type is bent downward, twisted in the form of a spiral roll, hollow on the inside (Fig. 3, Appendix 4).

Earrings like those described above compose type VIII, variant A, in the typology drafted by Z. Čilinská³³ for the earrings in the Carpathian Basin of the 7th–8th centuries. It is believed these were adornments used by Slavic women in the lower class of the Slavic society³⁴. In the 9th–10th centuries too, these were worn by women³⁵. In the 8th century, most exemplars were discovered in the Middle and Lower Danube basin area, a geographical region where likely emerged the first prototypes of earrings with a roll spiral shaped end³⁶. In B. M. Szóke's typology, earrings with roll spiral compose type 1, of which it is specified to be present in the Carpathian Basin also during the first half of the 9th century³⁷. Best parallels for the Teiuș exemplars in Transylvania are two earrings with spiral pendants discovered in grave 91, of a female, in the Avaro-Slavic cemetery of Štúrovo³⁸, two earrings found in grave 67, of an infant, in the Avar cemetery of Zelovce³⁹ or two

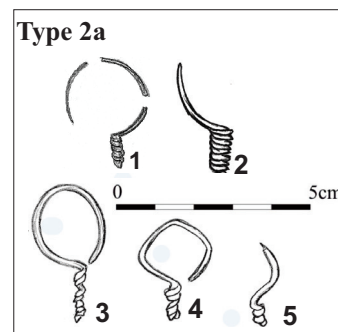


Fig. 3. Group A. Earrings type 2a: 1. Sâncrai; 2. Teiuș; 3-5. Berghin.

²⁸ Kovrig 1963, 29, grave 249, Taf. XX/249/38–39, 30, grave 268, Taf. XXI/268/1–3, 37, grave 380, Taf. XXV/84–85, 48–49, grave 542, Taf. XXXV/64–65, 56, grave 659, Taf. XLI/659/47–48.

²⁹ Grigorov 1999, 42, tab. 8, type I A.

³⁰ Garam 1995, 284, abb. 149/17–18.

³¹ Szabó 1975, 266–267, Fig. II/C.

³² Kovrig 1963, 30, Taf. XX/267/69–70.

³³ Čilinská 1975, 76–77, Abb1/VIII/A

³⁴ Čilinská 1975, 76–77.

³⁵ Čilinská 1975, 76–77.

³⁶ Čilinská 1975, 76–77.

³⁷ Szóke 1992, 851–852.

³⁸ Točík 1968a; 31, Grab.91, Taf. XXVI, 3–4.

³⁹ Čilinská 1973, 47, Taf XII/67/10–11.

earrings in graves 291 and 440, both of females, in the Nové Zámky Avar burial ground⁴⁰. Two earrings like those at Sâncrai, Teiuş and Berghin, were also identified in the Avar graveyard at Kékezd, in grave 185⁴¹, and that of Pilismarót-Basaharc⁴².

Earrings with roll spiral are present in a large number on the territory of Bulgaria. In the book about jewellery items from Bulgaria dated to the 7th–11th centuries, V. Grigorov, makes no distinction between earrings with roll spiral and those with conical spiral or bell shaped. The author includes them all in type I.6⁴³. V. Grigorov notes that the type of spiral earrings regardless its configuration dates to different time spans over the course of the 8th–11th centuries⁴⁴.

2b – Earrings of round bar with conical spiral were identified only in the Avar burial grounds of Câmpia Turzii and Sâncrai. The Sâncrai exemplar is fragmentary, while that of Câmpia Turzii is 2.5 cm high (Fig. 4, Appendix 4).

Parallels for the Câmpia Turzii and Sâncrai earrings, with spiral of round twisted bar are found in many Avar cemeteries of the Carpathian Basin, especially in female graves⁴⁵. The exemplars emerge in 7th–8th centuries dated contexts. An exemplar of the type was also discovered in north-western Romania, in the early medieval settlement of Lazuri/LubiTag (Satu Mare county), feature (pit) 72⁴⁶.

We have already specified that on the territory of Bulgaria were discovered earrings with spiral end, of various shapes. Among the variants that all compose type I6 in V. Grigorov's typology, also count those with cone-shaped spiral discovered in contexts dated to the 8th–10th centuries⁴⁷.

B. M. Szőke believes earrings with cone-shaped spiral pendant is a separate type among artefacts of the type⁴⁸, however makes no distinction between those with wide band spiral and those with round bar spiral. The author notes that the artefacts are present in the Avar milieu of the Carpathian basin during the second half of the 8th century, these being worn especially in the first half of the 9th century⁴⁹. Many 9th century exemplars were discovered in the area to the right of the Middle Danube and westwards this territory⁵⁰.

2c – Two bronze earrings with cone-shaped spiral made of wide band were discovered in the biritual burial ground of Bratei 2. Earring spirals were made by widening one of the ends by hammering, turned into a wide band out of which the spiral was modelled. The two earrings are 3.5 cm high (Fig. 5, Appendix 4).

Earrings with wide band conical spiral were discovered in grave 9, of a female, in the Avaro-Slavic cemetery of Štúrovo⁵¹ and grave 373, of a female, in the Avar cemetery of Nové Zámky⁵².

Type 3 – Annular bronze earrings with an end twisted outwards in the form of a spiral and/or circle

3a – Earring with an end in the form of a spiral were discovered in the Avar cemeteries of Gâmbaş 1, Gâmbaş 2 and Sâncrai. Two earrings like the already mentioned were found in the biritual graveyards of Berghin and Boarta, one in each of the two cemeteries. Item sizes vary between 1.4/1.5 × 2.4/2.5 cm (Fig. 6, Appendix 5).

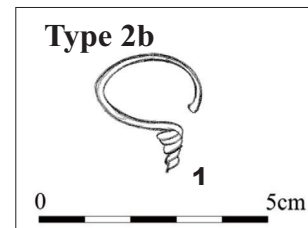


Fig. 4. Group A. Earrings type 2b: 1. Câmpia Turzii.

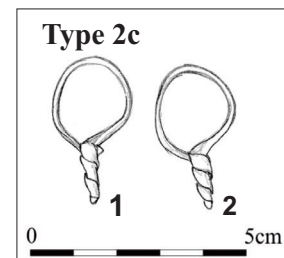


Fig. 5. Group A. Earrings type 2c: 1-2. Bratei 2.

⁴⁰ Čilinská 1966, 60, 86, Taf. L/291/2–3, LXVI/440/4,6.

⁴¹ Kiss 1977, 56, Pl. XXI/185/2

⁴² Fettich 1965, 32, Abb. 47/2, Abb 118/10–11.

⁴³ Grigorov 2007, 136, TIP 6, 140, Pl.3/Type I.6/1–8.

⁴⁴ Grigorov 2007, 161, Tab 24.

⁴⁵ Examples are too many to be quoted entirely: see for instance the monographs of the Avar cemeteries discovered in Hungary and Slovakia.

⁴⁶ Stanciu 2016, 233–234.

⁴⁷ Grigorov 2007, 140, Pl. 3/Type I.6/5–6, 161, Tab 24.

⁴⁸ Szőke 1992, 850–851.

⁴⁹ Szőke 1992, 851.

⁵⁰ Szőke 1992, 893–908, Karte 13.

⁵¹ Točík 1968a, 12, Taf, 16/2.

⁵² Čilinská 1966, 1966, 73, Taf. LVIII/373/2.

Identical examples with those in the above mentioned cemeteries may be encountered in the Gepid environment of Bratei 3 burial ground dated to the 7th century. In this cemetery were discovered six earrings with an end twisted twice in spiral shape⁵³. The great majority were yielded by adult graves whose gender could not be determined. For instance, in Gr. 203 were discovered two earrings with a spiral-shaped end, an earring with attached pendant, an arrowhead, a knife and a clay pot⁵⁴. All these artefacts suggest the grave belonged to a male.

Two earrings similar in shape, however not identical, were identified in the Gepid grave no. 8 from the Veresmort cemetery⁵⁵. Another earring with a spiral formed of several coils was discovered in the Gepid grave no. 32 from the Noşlac cemetery⁵⁶.

One earring end twisted in the shape of a wreath was yielded by a male grave with Avar grave goods in the Moravian cemetery of Mikulčice (A. M. 108)⁵⁷.

Earrings with one of the ends twisted twice outwards in the form of a spiral were identified in Eastern Europe in the Semenki settlement (Ukraine) dated to the 7th century⁵⁸. Another similar earring, yet not identical with those discussed, comes from the Slavic treasure of Zaitsev (Ukraine) dated to the second half of the 7th century⁵⁹, the latter exhibiting several spiral-shaped twists. An item approximately identical with those from Transylvania was discovered in Bulgaria⁶⁰. V. Grigorov includes this earring type, beside other earrings with once twisted end in the form of a circle, to type I.3⁶¹. The artefacts were fashionable in Bulgaria over the course of the 8th–10th centuries⁶².

3b – Annular earrings with an end twisted outwards once, in circle shape were discovered in the Avar cemeteries of Sâncrai and Teiuş. Earrings sizes varied between 1.8 and 2.5 cm (Fig. 7, Appendix 5).

As parallels for the Sâncrai and Teiuş artefacts we mention five earrings discovered in Gepid graves from the Bratei 3 graveyard framed to the 7th century⁶³. One of the earrings from Bratei 3 was yielded by an infant grave (grave 167)⁶⁴. Another earring identical with those of Sâncrai and Teiuş was found in the Gepid-Avar cemetery of Kölked-Feketekapu, in the Gepid grave no. 37 dated to the 7th century⁶⁵. An artefact like those discovered in the two Avar cemeteries of Transylvania comes from inhumation 144, of a female, from the Avaro-Slavic cemetery of Pokaszepetk dated to the early Avar period⁶⁶ and another from the grave of a young woman, no. 510, dated to the early Avar period in the Avar cemetery of Zamárdi-Rétiföldek⁶⁷. One earring surfaced in grave 177, of a female, likely Gepid, in the 7th century cemetery of Pilismarót-Basaharc⁶⁸. Another emerged in grave 71, of a female, in the Avar cemetery of Pilismarót⁶⁹. The grave was dated to the Middle Avar period⁷⁰.

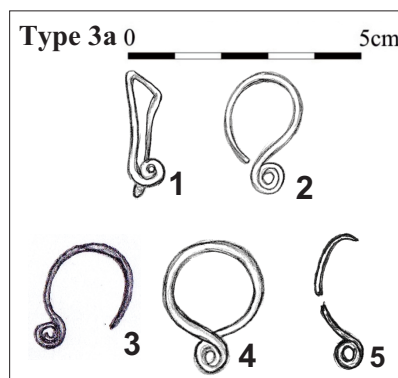


Fig. 6. Group A. Earrings type 3: 1. Gâmbaş 2; 2. Gâmbaş 1; 3. Berghin; 4. Boarta (after Horedt 1979, Abb. 2/3); 5. Sâncrai.

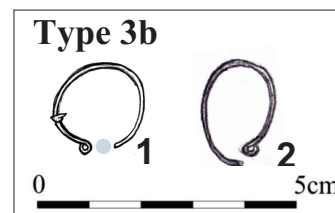


Fig. 7. Group A. Earrings type 3b: 1. Teiuş; 2. Sâncrai.

⁵³ Bârzu 2010, 75, 73/Abb 44/Type 13.b1.

⁵⁴ Bârzu 2010, 234, Taf. 35/G. 203.

⁵⁵ Roska 1934, 125, Abb. 3/A. 1, 4.

⁵⁶ Archive M. Rusu, Institute of Archaeology and Art History of Cluj-Napoca.

⁵⁷ Profantova 1992, 682, Taf. 22/4.

⁵⁸ Kazanski 1999, 100.

⁵⁹ Kazanski 1999, 115.

⁶⁰ Grigorov 2007, 138, Pl. 1/14.

⁶¹ Grigorov 2007, 138, Type I.3.

⁶² Grigorov 2007, 161. Tab. 24.

⁶³ Bârzu 2010, 76, Abb. 73, Abb. 44, Type 13b1a, 13i.

⁶⁴ Bârzu 2010, 76.

⁶⁵ Kiss 1996, Taf. 25/A 37/7.

⁶⁶ Sós/Salamon 1995, 151/144, Pl. XII/144/1.

⁶⁷ Bárdos/Garam 2009, I, 75/510, Taf. 63/510/2.

⁶⁸ Fettich 1965, 59–60, 116, Abb. 98/1.

⁶⁹ Szabó 1975, 258/71, Fig. 7/71/2, 267/Fig. 13/IV/b.

⁷⁰ Szabó 1975, 268.

A chronological table drafted by Z. Čilinská for the jewellery from the Carpathian Basin of the Avar period lists an earring with an once outward twisted end placed to the 8th century⁷¹. Z. Čilinská infers that respective earring type was worn by the lower class of the Avar society during the course of the 7th–8th centuries, it being a prototype for earrings whose ends are twisted several times or in an “S” ended circle⁷².

Earrings with one of the ends twisted outwards one time were also discovered in Bulgaria and the Lower Danube area. In these territories, this earring type is more numerous compared to the earring version with one of the ends twisted outwards twice in a spiral shape⁷³. In V. Grigorov’s typology, earrings with an end twisted outwards in the form of a circle compose type I.3⁷⁴. They were identified in archaeological contexts dated to different periods over the course of the 8th–10th centuries⁷⁵. B. M. Szóke finds earrings in respective type in the territory to the right of the Middle Danube, yet also more westwards in Europe, in contexts dated to the 9th century⁷⁶.

3c – Earring with one of the ends twisted outwards/inwards in circle shape. The specimen was discovered in house (hut) no. 2 in the Filiași settlement. The earring is 2.2 cm high (Fig. 8, Appendix 5).

In Z. Čilinská’s typology, earrings like that of Filiași form type VIII, variant B, of earrings dated to the 7th–8th centuries in the Carpathian Basin⁷⁷. The Slovakian scholar specifies that respective earring type may be located mainly in Pannonia and south-western Slovakia. She also noted that exemplars from respective type are few in number, inferring they were worn by the lower class of the Avar society during the transition period between the 7th century and the 8th century⁷⁸.

Type 4 – Earrings with one of the extremities ended in a round or pyramid sphere were discovered only in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai. These were made of a thin bronze bar, round in cross-section. The earrings are annular and have a diameter comprised between 2 and 2.5 cm. One of the extremities ends in a round/bulb sphere or in pyramid shape (Fig. 9, Appendix 6).

One earring identical with those of Sâncrai with a round sphere-shaped end was discovered in grave 284, of a female, in the Avaro-Slavic cemetery of Holiare, identified in a context dated to the second half of the 7th century⁷⁹.

Type 5a – Earring with one end completed in an ellipsoidal pendant. It was discovered in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai. It has a diameter of 2 cm (Fig. 9, Appendix 6).

Type 5b – Earring with one end terminated in a cube-shaped pendant. It was discovered in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai. It has a diameter of 1 cm (Fig. 9, Appendix 6).

Type 6 – Bronze earring with lower part twisted in spiral form was discovered in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai. The exemplar, with a diameter of 3 cm, was made of a thin bronze wire that in the lower part was twisted in spiral shape. A possible parallel for the Sâncrai earring may be a specimen originating from the territory of Bulgaria, which forms type I.7 in V. Grigorov’s typology⁸⁰. Respective earring type was fashionable during the 7th–8th centuries⁸¹ (Fig. 9, Appendix 6).

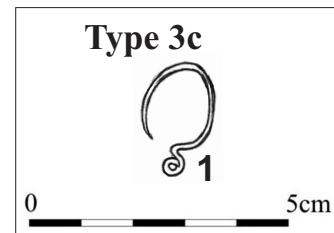


Fig. 8. Group A. Earrings type 3c: 1. Filiași (after Székely 1974–1975, 39, Pl. IX/9).

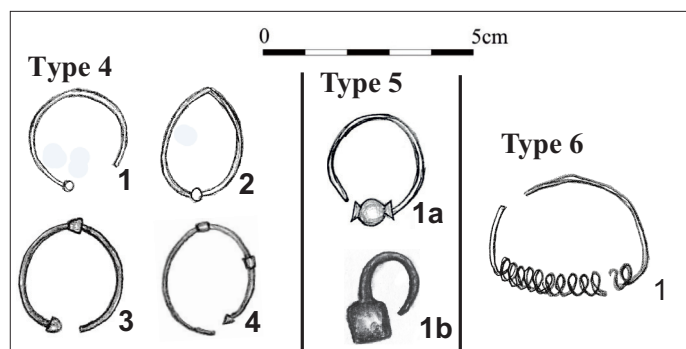


Fig. 9. Group A. Earrings type 4: 1–4. Sâncrai. Earrings type 5: 1a–b. Sâncrai; Earrings type 6: 1. Sâncrai.

⁷¹ Čilinská 1975, 92, Abb. 12.

⁷² Čilinská 1975, 77.

⁷³ Grigorov 2007, 138, Type I.3.

⁷⁴ Grigorov 2007, 136, Type I.3.

⁷⁵ Grigorov 2007, 161, Tab. 24

⁷⁶ Szóke 1992, 923, 986, Karte 13, Abb. 1. Taf. 1/43, 9/ 177/1, 27/186/2, 31/101, 41/24/11.

⁷⁷ Čilinská 1975, 65, Abb.1, 77.

⁷⁸ Čilinská 1975, 77.

⁷⁹ Točík 1968b, 53, Taf. LV/19.

⁸⁰ Grigorov 2007, 136, Type I/7.

⁸¹ Grigorov 2007, 161, Tab 24.

Group B – Earrings with pendants welded to the earring hoop

Type 1- Earrings with round pendants welding to the hoop

1a – Earrings with one sphere attached to the hoop were discovered in the Avar cemeteries of Ghirbom 1 and Sâncrai. In one of the two Ghirbom 1 earrings survived the round sphere, welded directly to the earring hoop. The earrings have a diameter of 2.2 cm (Fig. 10, Appendix 7). An earring similar to those in Transylvania was discovered for instance in grave 3 in the Avaro-Slavic cemetery of Nové Zámki⁸².

1b – Earring with two over lapping spheres were discovered in the Avar cemeteries of Sâncrai and Teiuş. The two exemplars have a diameter of 2 cm (Fig. 11, Appendix 7)⁸³.

1c – Earrings with two sphere registers were identified in the Avar cemeteries of Gâmbaş 2 and Sâncrai. Their hoop is of round bar. An earring with two sphere strings was also found in the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2. The latter has the bar wrapped with a thin wire. In all earrings, the welded pendant is composed of two strings of spheres. Two are attached to the hoop and the third is attached midway the two spheres. All spheres have the same sizes. The hoop diameter is of 2 cm (Fig. 12, Appendix 7).

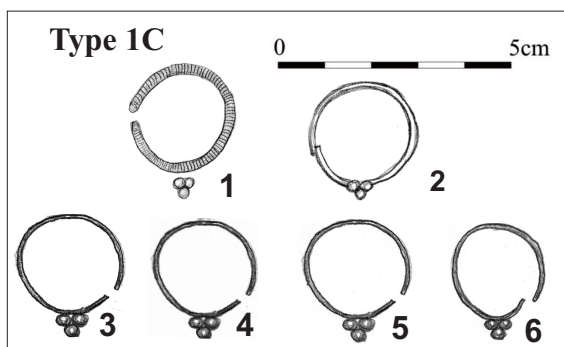


Fig. 12. Group B. Earrings type 1c: 1. Bratei 2; 2. Gâmbaş 2; 3-6. Sâncrai.

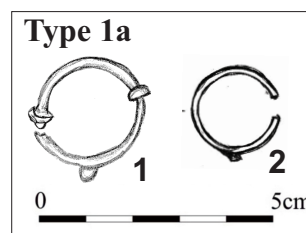


Fig. 10. Group B. Earrings type 1a: 1. Ghirbom; 2. Sâncrai.

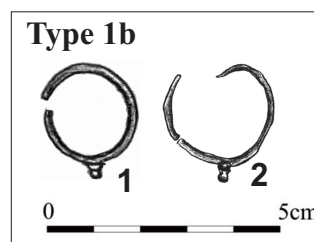


Fig. 11. Group B. Earrings type 1b: 1. Sâncrai; 2. Teiuş.

Bronze earrings

with welded pendants

count among the

most numerous artefacts

discovered in the burial

grounds from the Avar setting

of the Carpathian Basin.

In the region, these were

discovered in contexts dated

to both the 7th century and

the 8th century. In Z. Čilinská's

last typology, earrings with

two-register grape cluster-shaped

pendants from the Carpathian

basin of the Avar period compose

type VII of earrings⁸⁴. The

origins of this earring type

are still debated. Z. Čilinská

assumes that earrings in the

shape of grape cluster (as termed by the author), would have crystallized their shape in the Danube region sometime in the 7th century, being later present also during the period of Great Moravia⁸⁵.

Earrings with two-register sphere pendants were also found in the Lower Danube area and Bulgaria, territories where these emerged in contexts dated starting with the second half of the 7th century until late the 9th century⁸⁶. In the 9th century, respective earring type is present also in the Carpathian Basin.⁸⁷

Such earrings were yielded by both female and male graves. Because the Gâmbaş 2 earring was identified in a male grave, a few examples of male graves from Avar or Avaro-Slavic cemeteries of the 7th–8th centuries in the Carpathian Basin are worth mention, where bronze earrings with attached pendants in the shape of a grape cluster like those discussed include: Moravia: Mikulčice (A. G. 108, a bronze earring)⁸⁸; Slovakia: Nové Zámky (Gr. 489, two earrings found to the left and right side of the skull)⁸⁹; Kölked-Feketekapu B (Gr. 207 – two earrings found to the right and left sides of the skull; Gr. 420 – one earring discovered on the right side of the skeleton, in the area between the shoulder and skull; Gr.

⁸² Čilinská 1966, 11, Taf XX/33/1.

⁸³ Čilinská 1966, 11, Taf XX/33/1.

⁸⁴ Čilinská 1975, type VII, 75–76, Abb. 1, 65, type VII;

⁸⁵ Čilinská 1975, 75–76.

⁸⁶ Grigorov 2007, 141, type II.1, Pl. 4/1–3,5, 161, Tab. 25.

⁸⁷ Szóke 1992, 986, Abb. 1.

⁸⁸ Profantova 1992, 683, Taf. 22/5.

⁸⁹ Čilinská 1966, 95, Taf. LXXII: 1,2.

427 – two earrings (one gilded), discovered to the right and left side of the skull)⁹⁰. At Nové Zámky and Kölked-Feketekapu B, male graves containing bronze earrings with welded pendant in the shape of a grape cluster did not yield weapons, nonetheless comprised belts decorated with various pendant types.

1d – Earrings with two sphere registers set in the lower and upper part of the annular hoop were discovered only in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai. These stand out by the fact that the pendant is found in both the lower and upper parts of the earring hoop. The pendant in the lower part is attached to the bar and appears in the form of three spheres to each other in the shape of a grape cluster. Above these, in the upper part there is a small sphere welded to the earring hoop. The earring diameter is of 2.5 cm (Fig. 13, Appendix 7).

Two earrings identical to those of Sâncrai were discovered in grave 202 and one in the female grave 210 from the Avar cemetery of Pilismarót-Basaharc dated to the 7th century⁹¹. Another earring like those of Sâncrai was discovered in infant grave no. 35/2016 in the Avar cemetery of Szebény I⁹². É. Garam mentions that respective earring type may be found over the course of the entire Avar period⁹³. Parallels for the Sâncrai earrings come also from Bulgaria, where they date to the period comprised between late 7th century and mid. 9th centuries⁹⁴.

1e – Earrings with three registers of round spheres set in the form of a grape cluster were identified only in the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2. The first register consists of three spheres, welded to the hoop. A second register composed of two spheres is placed on top of the first. The last register is formed of a single sphere welded midway the second register. The earring diameter is 2.2 cm (Fig. 14, Appendix 7).

In Transylvania, parallels for the two Bratei 2 earrings are found in the Gepid grave no. 203 from Bratei 3 cemetery⁹⁵. It is believed that this earring type is present in the Carpathian Basin in the 7th–8th century⁹⁶. Another parallel comes from the Zalakomár burial ground, in grave 520 dated to the 8th century⁹⁷.

1f – Earrings with large lower sphere were yielded by the Avar cemeteries of Sâncrai, Șpálnaca and Unirea 2/Veresmort, as well as the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2. In the biritual cemeteries of Bratei 2 and Șpálnaca, earrings have round hoops covered with thin rolled bronze threads imitating twisting. The diameter of earrings in group 1f frames between 2 and 2.9 cm. This earring type is distinguished by the fact that the three spheres attached to the hoop are of smaller sizes compared to the fourth sphere welded midway the three smaller spheres (Fig. 15, Appendix 7).

Earrings of the above type were found in many Avar cemeteries of the Carpathian Basin. They are mainly encountered in the second half of the 7th century, being though present in

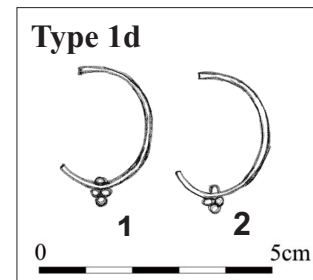


Fig. 13. Group B. Earrings type 1d: 1. Sâncrai.

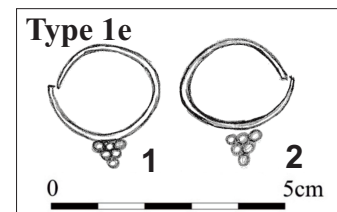


Fig. 14. Group B. Earrings type 1e: 1. Bratei 2.

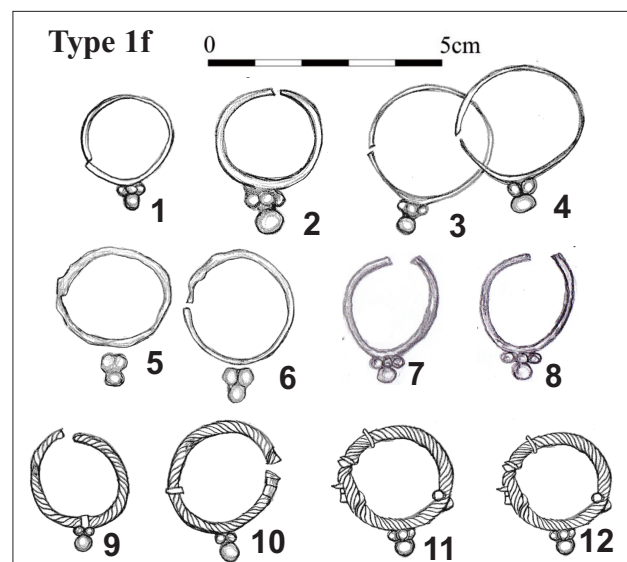


Fig. 15. Group B. Earrings type 1f: 1, 3-6, 11-12. Bratei 2; 2. Unirea 2/Veresmort; ; 7-8. Sâncrai; 9-10. Șpálnaca.

⁹⁰ Kiss 2001, 91/Gr. 207, 133–134/Gr. 420, 135–137/Gr. 427, pl. 55/B207/8, 9, 79/B420/14, 79/B427/12–13.

⁹¹ Fettich 1965, 70, 71, 92–93, Abb. 118/1–2, 15.

⁹² Garam 1975, 77/35, 100, 55/Fig. 4/35/1.

⁹³ Garam 1975, 100.

⁹⁴ Grigorov 2007, 141, type II. 1, Pl. 4/4, 161, Tab. 24.

⁹⁵ Bârză 2010, 76, Abb. 44/type 13d, 313/Taf. 35/G. 203/5.

⁹⁶ Bârză 2010, 76.

⁹⁷ Szóke 1992, 930, Taf. 6/520/1.

the subsequent period⁹⁸ as well. The golden earring from the Unirea 2/Veresmort warrior burial is worth attention. A first parallel to be mentioned is the similar specimen from the Sânpetru German/Magazin warrior grave in Romanian Banat⁹⁹. The single difference between the artefact from Unirea 2/Veresmort and that of Sânpetru German is that the central ball of the Sânpetru German earring has a larger diameter than that of the earring from Unirea 2/Veresmort. It is worth noting that the two graves were Avar warrior burials. Furthermore, both funerary features have in common the deposition beside the body of only a single earring. In this context, one must specify that in Transylvania, in the Avaro-Gepid cemetery of Band, grave 141 was discovered a single bronze earring identical in shape with the earrings of Unirea 2/Veresmort and Sânpetru German/Magazin.

Two golden earrings, associated with Martinovka type artefacts were found in a warrior grave of the 6th–7th centuries from the Čir-jurt Kurgan, in the Euro-Asian steppes¹⁰⁰.

In the Avar Khaganate of the Carpathian Basin, golden earrings identical with those of Unirea 2/Veresmort were identified in Slovakia, warrior grave (no. 26) from the cemetery at Žitavská Tŕň¹⁰¹. In Hungary, golden earrings like that of Unirea II/Veresmort were yielded by burials of high ranking warriors in the military hierarchy of the Avar Khaganate at Dunapentele (grave 11)¹⁰², Igar (grave 3)¹⁰³, Kecel (grave 32)¹⁰⁴, no. 1 and 3 at Szentendre (graves 1 and 3)¹⁰⁵. In all cases, two earrings in each funerary feature could be found. In grave no. 7 at Dunapentele¹⁰⁶, that of Ivánca¹⁰⁷ and grave 1392 at Zamárdi¹⁰⁸ one earring surfaced in each.

Golden earrings like that of Unirea 2/Veresmort were also found in male graves without weapons, individuals who were part of the leading class of the Avar Khaganate. Examples in this respect are a golden earring discovered at Csikó¹⁰⁹ and the earring in grave 913 at Tiszafüred¹¹⁰. Another golden earring comes from grave 269 at Alttján¹¹¹.

Among parallels for earrings with twisted hoops we mention two earrings from grave 511 in the Avar cemetery of Cikó¹¹². Also, an earring like those of Şpálnaca emerged in a likely female grave, no. 196 in the Pilismarót cemetery¹¹³.

Type 2 – Earring with pendant welding to the hoop in the shape of two overlapping circles was discovered only in the Avar cemetery at Câmpia Turzii. The exemplar was made of a round bronze bar. In the lower part it is provided with an ornament welded to the earring hoop, in the shape of two overlapping circles. The earring hoop has a diameter of 2 cm (Fig. 16, Appendix 8).

Two bronze earrings identical with the artefact of Câmpia Turzii were discovered in grave 876, likely of an infant, in the Avar cemetery of Tiszafüred, dated to the 8th century¹¹⁴.

Type 3 – Earrings with pendant set on the earring hoop appeared in the Slavic barrow cremation cemetery of Someşeni. The earring have ellipsoidal or square-shaped pendants on the hoop bar. One earring of Sâncrai and that of Someşeni have a diameter of 2 cm. The second earring of Sâncrai has a diameter of 1 cm (Fig. 17, Appendix 8). The earring can be circumscribed in type V Čilinská¹¹⁵. The author

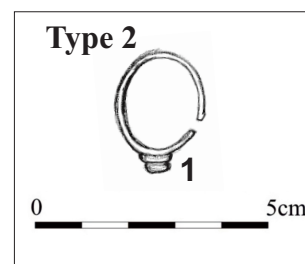


Fig. 16. Group B. Earrings type 2: 1. Câmpia Turzii.

⁹⁸ Kovrig 1963, 111; Čilinská 1975, 66.

⁹⁹ Dörner 1960, 425, no. 9, fig. 4/4.

¹⁰⁰ Bálint 1989, 67, Abb. 31/1–2.

¹⁰¹ Budinský–Krička 1956, 29, tab XXIV, 15–16.

¹⁰² Marosi/Fettich 1936, 17, Pl. VI/ 3–4.

¹⁰³ Fettich 1929, 70, IX Tábla/18–19.

¹⁰⁴ Garam 1993, 79/92, Taf. 47/15–16.

¹⁰⁵ Garam 1993, 104–105, Taf. 90/1–2, 5–6.

¹⁰⁶ Marosi/Fettich 1936, 10–11, Pl. II/6.

¹⁰⁷ Bóna 1970, 243, 252, Fig. 8/1.

¹⁰⁸ Bárdos/Garam 2009 I, 182/G. 1392, Taf. 160/1a, 170/7–8.

¹⁰⁹ Garam 1993, 59, no. 10a, Taf. 3/4

¹¹⁰ Garam 1995, G. 913, 109, Abb. 43, 44, Taf. 131/913/61, 221/913/13.

¹¹¹ Kovrig 1963, 30, Gr. 269, Taf. XXI/9.

¹¹² Somogyi 1984, 63/511, Tábla, 34, /511/1–2.

¹¹³ Szabó 1975, 261, Fig. 8/169/2.

¹¹⁴ Garam 1995, p. 106, Gr. 876, Abb. 149/24/876.

¹¹⁵ Čilinská 1975, 75–76, Abb. 1, Tip V.

notes that the artifacts were used mainly in the 7th century and that few specimens of type V earrings were discovered in the eastern Carpathian Basin. Pieces similar to the earring from Someșeni were discovered in the tombs 52, 157, 158, 666 (women), 162 (man), 171 (child) from the Slavic-Avar cemetery from Holiare, dated in the middle Avar period¹¹⁶. Earrings similar to the one from Someșeni were also found in the Tiszafüred cemetery¹¹⁷. Other earrings of this type were found in tombs 46, 176, 229 in the Avar cemetery from Cikó, dating to the Middle and Late Avar period from the evolution of the Avar Khaganate in the Carpathian Basin¹¹⁸. An earring similar with the one from Someșeni was discovered in the woman grave no. 7 from the Avar cemetery in Budapest/Tihany tér¹¹⁹.

Type 4 – Earrings with pendant of twisted bar were identified only in the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2. In the first case survived a part of the earring hoop and a part of the pendant welded to the earring. From the second earring only the pendant was preserved. The hoops were made of round bar and the earring pendants of twisted bar (Fig. 18, Appendix 8). A parallel for the items at Bratei 2 comes from the Avar cemetery of Zamárdi-Rétiföldek (female grave no. 79)¹²⁰.

Group C – Earrings with attached pendants

Type 1. Earrings with ellipsoidal/acorn shaped pendants or in shape of a watermelon seed

1a – Two silver earrings with pendants decorated with vertical incised lines obtained upon the casting of the artefacts were discovered in a grave from the Avar cemetery of Lopadea Nouă. The earrings are 2.3 cm high (Fig. 19, Appendix 9).

1b – Type 1b of earrings with decorated pendants were found in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai and Avar inhumations in the biritual cemetery at Ghirbom 2. The Sâncrai earrings are in silver, while those of Ghirbom 2 in gold. Their height varies between 3.9 and 4.1 cm (Fig. 19, Appendix 9).

The silver and gold earring pendants are ellipsoidal, very similar to acorn or watermelon seed shape, were made by casting. The pendant is marked in both the upper and lower parts by two hoops. In the lower part, on the hoop from the lower side of the pendant there is a small round sphere. The earrings of Sâncrai and Ghirbom have their pendants decorated with small spheres. On the obverse, there is a central pattern in the shape of a rhombus made of round spheres. The central rhombus is framed by smaller rhombuses set in the four corners of the central rhombus. The reverse is divided from the obverse by two lines made of small pearly spheres set on either side of the pendant. The third golden earring from Ghirbom 2 is decorated only around the pendant ends with small spheres.

Earrings almost identical with those from Transylvania in both pendant shape and decoration are two earrings discovered in the Gater cemetery dated to the 8th century¹²¹. Another earring identical in pendant shape with those from Transylvania was yielded by grave 34, of a female, from the Avar cemetery of Tiszaderzs¹²². The earring is in gold and decorated by granulation with smaller spheres.

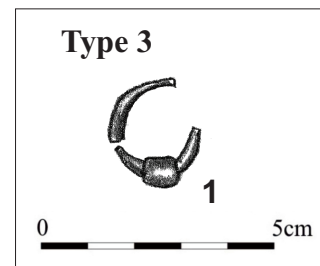


Fig. 17. Group B. Earrings type 3: 1. Someșeni.

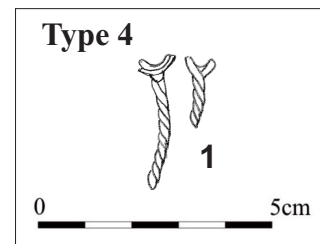


Fig. 18. Group B. Earrings type 4: 1. Bratei 2.

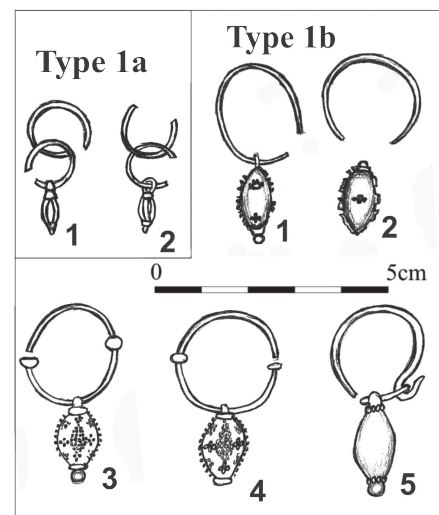


Fig. 19. Group C. Earrings type 1a: 1-2. Lopadea Nouă; Earrings type 1b: 1-2. Sâncrai; 3-5. Ghirbom.

¹¹⁶ Točík 1968b, 18/52, 36/157, 158, 37/171, 102/666, Taf. XXXI/13, XLV/13, 17, XLVI/12,14, LXXXI/1-2.

¹¹⁷ Garam 1995, Abb. 148-149.

¹¹⁸ Somogyi 1984, 73, 5.kép, 7.1.1. 4, 5.Tábla/46/1, 12 Tábla/176/1, 16. Tábla/229/1-2.

¹¹⁹ Nagy 1998, I. 116/9, II, Taf. 93/7/2.

¹²⁰ Bárdos/Garam 2009, 21/79, Taf. 9/79/4-5.

¹²¹ Lazlo 1955, Pl. LXX/24-25

¹²² Kovrig 1975, 222/34, 230, /Fig. 14/2, Fig. 14/34/1.

I. Kovrig specifies that the earring is characteristic to the Middle Avar period¹²³. An ornament almost identical with that on the golden specimens from Transylvania is found on a golden globular earring produced in Byzantium, artefact discovered in grave 22 from the Avar cemetery of Káptalantóti¹²⁴. Earrings with spherical pendant decorated with smaller spheres were identified in a series of Avar cemeteries on the territory of Hungary¹²⁵. As parallel for the Ghirbom 2 earring, decorated by the ends with a string of small spheres, we mention a silver earring discovered in female grave no. 153 in the Avar cemetery at Alattyán¹²⁶. Earrings similar to that of Ghirbom 2 compose group IV.1 in V. Grigorov's typology¹²⁷. They were used in Bulgaria during the period comprised between the second half of the 7th century and the first half of the 9th centuries¹²⁸.

1c – Earrings with plain attached pendants surfaced in the Avar cemeteries of Cicău, Sâncrai, Șpălnaca and Teiuș. They are 3.5 cm long. The ellipsoidal pendants were made by casting. An exception to this technique are two pendants from grave 53 and 81 at Sâncrai made of two half-ellipses attached in-between. The pendant of the Sâncrai

silver earring, grave 75, was cast in a monovalve mould (Fig. 20, Appendix 9).

Earrings similar to those from Transylvania of type 1c are present on the territory of Bulgaria¹²⁹, a geographical area where these artefacts were discovered in contexts dated between the second half of the 7th century until mid 9th centuries¹³⁰.

Type 2 – Earring with ellipsoidal/biconical pendant with fragmented middle

The item was discovered in the biritual cemetery of Ghirbom 2, in a destroyed inhumation¹³¹. It is gold-made and it was most definitely paired with one of the three golden earrings with decorated pendants, presented above. The earring's length is of 4.2 cm. Its pendant was made of two overlapping spheres. The lower sphere tapers in the upper part. It is attached to the upper sphere, which appears as a half-sphere with curved the lower edge. The upper end is provided with a circle comprising three small spheres (Fig. 21, Appendix 19)

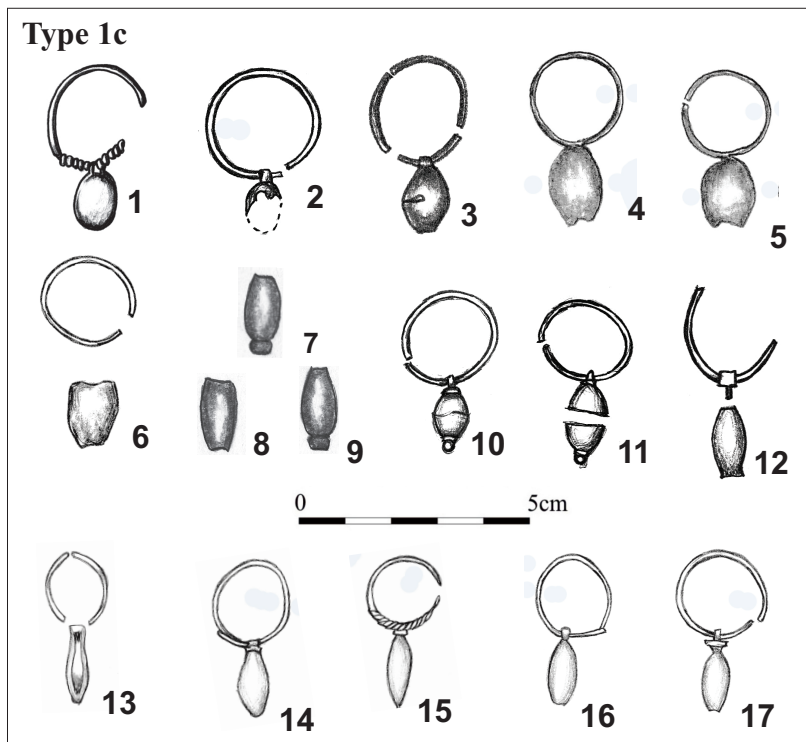


Fig. 20. Group C. Earrings type 1c: 1. Cicău; 2-13. Sâncrai; 14-17. Teiuș.

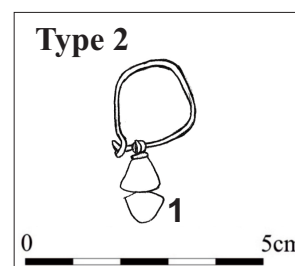


Fig. 21. Group C. Earrings type 2: 1. Ghirbom.

¹²³ Kovrig 1975, 230,

¹²⁴ Garam 2001, Taf. V/2.

¹²⁵ Garam 1993, Taf. 1/6-11, 47/3-4.

¹²⁶ Kovrig 1963, 21/153, Taf. XIII/153/6.

¹²⁷ Grigorov 2007, 137, Type IV.1, 151/ fig. 14/2

¹²⁸ Grigorov 2007, 163, Tab. 28.

¹²⁹ Grigorov 2007, 151, Pl. 14, Type IV.1.1.

¹³⁰ Grigorov 2007, 163, Tab. 28.

¹³¹ Aldea/Stoicovici/Blăjan 1980, 154, Fig. 3/1.



Fig. 22. Group C. Earrings type 3a: 1-5. Sâncrai.

These were cast-made. They have circles by the ends both overtopped by two small spheres, or a round sphere each. The pendants were attached to the earring hoop by a ring. Its length is of 2 cm (Fig. 23, Appendix 9).

Type 4 – Earrings with globular pendants

Earrings with globular pendants were discovered in the Avar cemeteries of Sâncrai and Șpâlnaca, as well as the biritual cemetery of Berghin. Earring lengths vary between 2.5 and 3 cm. They were cast made and provided with a globular pendant, which in the lower part has a round sphere. The pendant is attached to the hoop with the aid of round links cast together with the pendants. An earring similar to those in the cemeteries mentioned above, was discovered in the grave of a woman (no. 76), in the Tiszafured cemetery¹³⁶ (Fig. 24, Appendix 10).

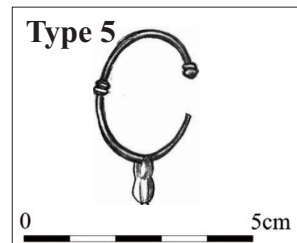


Fig. 25. Group C. Earrings type 5: 1. Sâncrai.

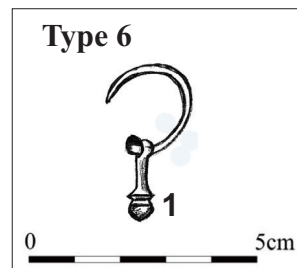


Fig. 26. Group C. Earrings type 6: 1. Berghin.

Type 3 – Earrings with biconical pendants

3a – Earrings with angular edged biconical pendants have been discovered only in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai. The specimens were worked by casting. The ends are marked by small circles. By the lower end, below the circle, there is a round sphere of small sizes. The earrings are between 2.9 and 3.2 cm long (Fig. 22, Appendix 9).

Two earrings with biconical pendant, in silver, were identified in grave 610, of a female, in the Avar cemetery of Zelovce¹³². In the same burial ground, in female grave no. 783 there was found another earring with biconical pendant, yet attached to the earring hoop¹³³. Other earrings with biconical pendants were discovered for instance in the Regöly graveyard¹³⁴, or at Budapest/Csepel-Szanbandkikötő¹³⁵.

3b – Earrings with biconical pendants with rounded middle were found only in the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2.

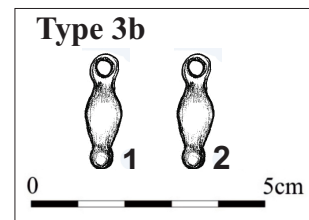


Fig. 23. Group C. Earrings type 3b: 1-2. Bratei 2.

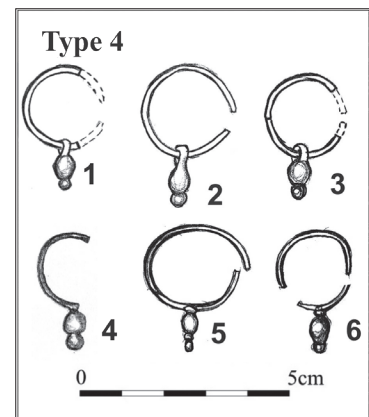


Fig. 24. Group C. Earrings type 4: 1-4. Berghin; 5. Sâncrai; 6. Șpâlnaca

Type 5 – Earrings with pendant composed of two overlapping spheres

Just one earring of the type was discovered in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai, its pendant being cast in a bivalve mould. The earring height is of 2.8 cm (Fig. 25, Appendix 10).

Type 6 – Earrings with pendant of round, straight bar

The earring was discovered in the biritual cemetery of Berghin. It was made of bronze by casting. One of its ends is a round sphere, aimed to stop the pendant from sliding on the earring's hoop. The pendant was made of a straight, twisted bar. The straight pendant has an ellipsoidal sphere by the lower end, whose middle in marked by an incised rib. The pendant was attached to the earring hoop by a round link. Its length is of 3.2 cm (Fig. 26, Appendix 10).

The Berghin earring is similar, yet not identical, with exemplars that form type III Čilinská, specimens fashionable in the second half of the 7th

¹³² Čilinská 1973, 143/610, Taf. XCVI/610/7–8.

¹³³ Čilinská 1973, 174, Taf. CXXV/783/2

¹³⁴ Kiss 1984, 143/8.

¹³⁵ Naghy 1998, I. 182/6,6a, II. Taf. 122/6/1, 6a/2.

¹³⁶ Gram 1995, 18, Abb.149/16/76.

century¹³⁷. Parallels for the above presented item include several similar earrings, yet not identical, discovered in Bulgaria¹³⁸. These remained in use from late 7th century until early 9th century, peaking in the 8th century¹³⁹.

Group D – Earrings with glass globular pendants

Type 1a – These were discovered in the Avar cemeteries of Gâmbaş 2 and Teiuş. Their hoop is made of a bronze bar with a rhombic or round profile. The extremities end flat. The pendant appears in the form of two overlapping spheres. The first bronze sphere is smaller in diameter and is attached to the earring hoop. The second sphere (spherical bulb) is of black and blue glass, being inserted through the wire that starts from the bronze sphere by piercing. The earrings diameter is comprised between 1.5 and 2 cm (Fig. 27, Appendix 11).

In Z. Čilinská's 1966 typology of the jewellery from the Avar Khaganate of the Carpathian Basin, earrings like those of Gâmbaş and Teiuş formed type IIa¹⁴⁰, while in the author's 1975 typology these may be included in type I/B Čilinská¹⁴¹. The scholar chronologically dated this earring type between the second half of the 7th century and mid 8th century¹⁴². At Tiszafüred, earrings with pearl pendant are present also in the third quarter of the 8th century¹⁴³, while in the Bulgarian environment, although scarce, they were identified in archaeological contexts dated to the last decades of the 8th century¹⁴⁴ as well.

Within respect to precious metal earrings with glass globular or pearl pendants, E. Garam specifies there are examples identified in male graves too¹⁴⁵. One bronze earring, like those of Gâmbaş 2 or Teiuş, comes from instance from male grave no. B.430, without weapons, from the Kölked-Feketekapu B cemetery¹⁴⁶.

Type 1b – The earring was discovered in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai. Variant 1b is distinguished by an existing bar in the lower part of the hoop. It pierced the hoop and was fixed with one, respectively two rings. According to parallels, on this bar there existed both upward and downward two round, glass pendants (Fig. 27, Appendix 11). The Sâncrai earring is included in type IX Čilinská¹⁴⁷. The author notes that earrings in type IX are specific to the Avar period of the Carpathian Basin¹⁴⁸.

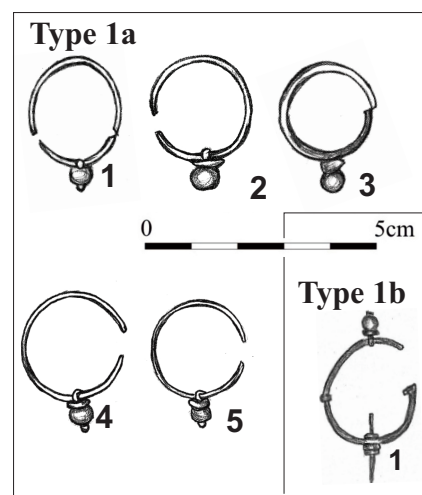


Fig. 27. Group D. Earrings type 1a: 1-2. Gâmbaş 2; 3-5. Teiuş. Earrings type 1b: 1. Sâncrai.

Group E – Earrings with round or rhomboid rod and stellar pendant

These earrings were made by casting in a monovalve mould. The rod is round or rhomboidal. According to pendant shapes and decoration types, there may be distinguished four variations (Fig. 28, Appendix 12).

Type 1a – Circular pendant encircled by three triangular plates decorated with small circles. The exemplars were discovered in the Cămpia Turzii cemetery. The sizes of one of the intact surviving pendants from Cămpia Turzii are of 2.2 × 1.7 cm (Fig. 28, Appendix 12).

¹³⁷ Čilinská 1975, 65, Abb. 1, 72, 80, Abb. 6.

¹³⁸ Grigorov 2007, 136, Type II.5, 149/fig. 12/III.5/1-4,

¹³⁹ Grigorov 2007, 162, Tab. 27.

¹⁴⁰ Čilinská 1966, 144, Abb.11.

¹⁴¹ Čilinská 1975, 64-66, Abb.1.

¹⁴² Čilinská 1966, 144, Abb. 11.

¹⁴³ Garam 1995, 276.

¹⁴⁴ Grigorov 1999, 42, tab. 8, Type IV A.

¹⁴⁵ Garam 1993, 44.

¹⁴⁶ Kiss 2001, Teil I, 137-138, Taf. 80/11.

¹⁴⁷ Čilinská 1975, 65, Abb. 1.

¹⁴⁸ Čilinská 1975, 77-78.

Type 1b – Circular pendant encircled by three ornaments in the shape of a grape cluster consisting of small round spheres. The examples surfaced in the Avar cemetery of Gâmbaş 1. The height of the pieces is of 2.9 cm (Fig. 28, Appendix 12).

Type 1c – Circular pendant encircled by five ornaments in shape of a grape cluster composed of small round spheres. The specimens were yielded by the Avar cemetery of Gâmbaş 1 and the Suceag settlement. The height of the specimens is comprised between 4.6 and 5 cm (Fig. 28, Appendix 12).

Type 1d – Circular pendant encircled by three plain triangular plates. The item was found in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai. Its height is of 2.7 cm (Fig. 28, Appendix 12).

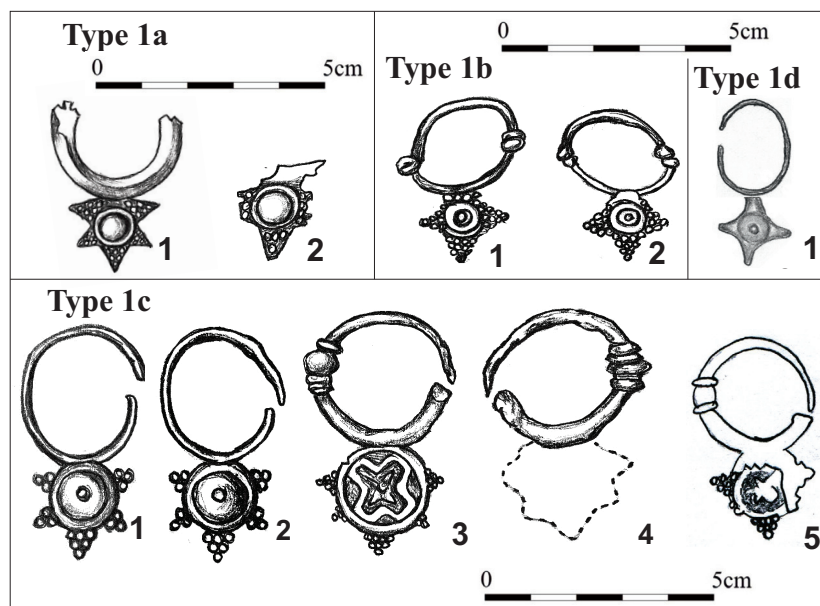


Fig. 28. Group E. Earrings type 1a: 1-2. Câmpia Turzii. Cecei de tip 1b: 1-2. Gâmbaş 1. Earrings type 1c: 1-4. Gâmbaş 1; 5. Suceagu (after Opreanu 2010, 545-546, Pl. I.1). Earrings type 1d: 1. Sâncrai.

Z. Čilinská includes earrings with pendant attached to a rod in Group II, variant A¹⁴⁹. The author identifies these in both Western and Eastern Europe, inferring it is the simplest earring type in type II by contrast with versions B and C, and specifies that in the Avar world, they started to be used as early as the beginning of the 7th century¹⁵⁰.

D. Gh. Teodor, in his study of earrings with stellar pendant of the 6th–8th centuries from Romania, includes earrings similar to those at Câmpia Turzii and Gâmbaş 1 in type 1 of artefacts with star-shaped pendant¹⁵¹ and finds parallels in Eastern Europe, yet also in the western parts of the continent. The author also notes that respective earrings date to the 7th century, yet also to a period subsequent to AD 680¹⁵².

Group F – Lunula earrings

1a – Small lunulas with two ends, with narrow lunulas and curved sides. They were identified only in the Avar cemeteries of: 1. Cicău; 2. Sâncrai; 3. Noșlac; 4. Teiuș. An earring of type 1a was also found in the settlements of Alba Iulia/Stadion (house 2) and Jucu de Sus (feature 317, likely a house).

The lunula height, midway, is comprised between 0.5 and 0.6 cm, while its width varies between 1.9 and 2.2 cm. The specimens' total height, attachment ring included is between 3 and 4.5 cm. The exemplars were made by casting in a monovalve mould, except for the Jucu de Sus earring, which was made by pressing. Earring half-moons are narrow. A lunula is provided with a rib in relief set midway, tracing the earring's plate outline. Another ornament is that made of beaded lines or a pattern imitating twisted twine, tracing the lunula outline. All have in common the umbo-shaped pendant delimited

¹⁴⁹ Čilinská 1975, 65, Abb. 1, 70

¹⁵⁰ Čilinská 1975, 70, Abb. 1.

¹⁵¹ Teodor 1995, 190–191.

¹⁵² Teodor 1995, 194.

by three or five ornaments in the form of a grape cluster made of two or three registers of small spheres (Fig. 29, Appendix 13).

1b – Lunulas with two large size ends. These come from the Avar cemeteries of: 1. Cicău; 2. Sâncrai; 4. Teiuș.

The exemplars are of large sizes, the body without attachment link reaching a height of 5 cm, while that of the lunula, pendant included, is of 3.9 cm. The earrings were made by casting in a monovalve mould. The two lunula extremities end in ellipsoidal projections, marked in the upper and lower sides by a knob. There is a lunula whose extremities are marked by two knobs on which are set small spheres. The ear attachment links survived in all examples. The half-moons are decorated in various manners. A first ornament consists of a frame made of continuous line modelled of small lines imitating the fir tree shape, which traces the earring's plate outline. Another decoration present on the half-moon plate is composed of a grape cluster made of small spheres. A further decoration includes a frame that delimits the half-moon body made of two parallel lines of round, pearled spheres, tracing the lunula outline. On the half-moon plate there are decorative patterns in the shape of a grape cluster made of small spheres set one on top of the other, on the edges of the earring plate. The lower decoration is larger, composed of several spheres (the largest is central and consists of 15 grains). The tips of the downward ornaments touch the tips of the upward ornaments. The pendant is circular and appears in the form of an umbo, with a small central grain. Some umboes are decorated with a design composed of three flower petals or a circle on which are attached grape shaped ornaments. The lunula umbo is marked by three corners in the form of a grape cluster made of small spheres (Fig. 30, Appendix 13).

1c – Lunula with straight upper side of the half-moon, was discovered in the Avar cemetery of Gâmbaș 2. It is a large earring, with wide lunula, like those framed in type 1b. It was made by casting in a monovalve mould. The upper part of the lunula is straight. The right upper end of the lunula is marked by a ring followed by the hoop that was inserted into the ear. The left upper end of the lunula ends in a spherical projection marked with two rings by the ends. The half-moon is decorated with a "fir tree" pattern set on the edges of the lunula sides and in its middle. The pendant is in the shape of an umbo, with a small sphere midway. The umbo is marked by five corners in the shape of a grape cluster made of small spheres. The earring is large in size, reaching together with the attachment links, a height of 5.6 cm (Fig. 31, Appendix 13).

Two-ended lunula earrings discovered in Romania form type III in D. Gh. Teodor's typology¹⁵³, who specifies that lunula earrings with two ends are present in a vast geographical area, to the west, east and south the

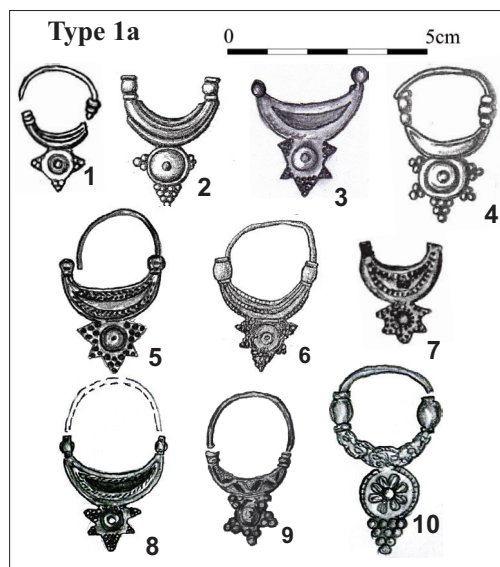


Fig. 29. Group F. Earrings type 1a: 1, 5, 7. Sâncrai; 2, 6. Teiuș; 3. Jucu de Sus (after Stanciu 2016, 231, Fig. 195/3); 4. Cicău; 8. Alba Iulia; 9-10. Noșlac.

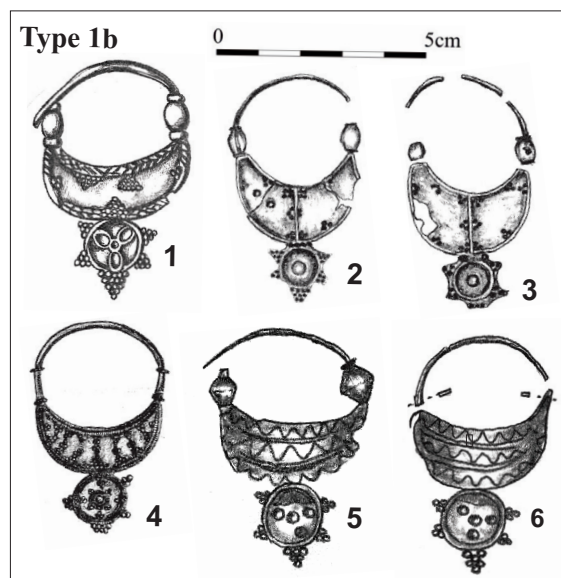


Fig. 30. Group F. Earrings type 1b: 1. Cicău; 2-3, 5-6. Sâncrai; 4. Teiuș.

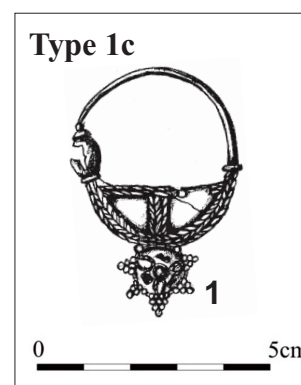


Fig. 31. Group F. Earrings type 1c: 1. Gâmbaș 2.

¹⁵³ Teodor 1995, 192, Fig. 4/Type. 4

Romanian borders¹⁵⁴. The same D. Gh. Teodor suggests that type III of earrings dated mainly between late 7th century and the 8th century, without excluding the possibility that some specimens could be found by early 9th century¹⁵⁵ as well.

A mixed typology of lunula earrings from the Carpathian Basin dated to the 7th–8th centuries which considers the lunula shape, the upper extremity of the lunula earrings' body, the decoration and how it was applied onto the items, as well as various pendant types attached in the lower lunula side was drafted by D. Staššikova-Štukovská¹⁵⁶. The author notes that lunula earrings must be regarded as artefacts of the 7th–8th centuries, while their ethnicity must be further investigated¹⁵⁷.

Among parallels for type 1a we mention the earring from female grave 246, while for type Ib, the earrings discovered in female graves 343, 448, 1092, 1230 and girl grave 114a from the Avar burial ground of Tiszafüred¹⁵⁸. Parallels for type 1a also include two earrings discovered in grave 16, of an infant, from the Avaro-Slavic graveyard of Štúrovo¹⁵⁹, as well as an earring from female grave 33 in the Avaro-Slavic cemetery of Holiare¹⁶⁰.

In V. Grigorov's typology drafted for earrings discovered in Bulgaria, specimens like those of type 1a-c from Transylvania form type V.4¹⁶¹. In this type are included both earrings with two ends and three ends. Parallels for the earrings in Transylvania count the two-ended variation from Bulgaria¹⁶². These were fashionable from late 7th century until late third quarter of the 9th century¹⁶³.

Type 1d – Lunula cast in monovalve mould with five triangles set on the lunula lower side. Two earrings were discovered in the Sâncrai cemetery and a third at Târnavă. The Sâncrai lunulas are decorated with a line traced in a fir tree shape, following the lunula outline. The central decoration is composed of three small spheres set in a fir tree shape. The five triangular plates, with the largest set in the middle, are decorated with small spheres. The Târnavă lunula is decorated with a line of small spheres tracing the upper lunula edge. The five triangular plates are decorated with small spheres (Fig. 32, Appendix 13)

Type 1e – Lunula cast in monovalve mould with three grape cluster-shaped ornaments. The example comes from the biritual cemetery of Berghin. The lunula is decorated with spheres set in the shape of a bead necklace. On the lower side it is provided with three ornaments shaped as a grape cluster. The four sides are formed of two registers of small spheres. The central, grape cluster-shaped decoration of the lower side is composed of three registers of small spheres. The lunula width is of 2.4 cm (Fig. 32, Appendix 13).

Lunula earrings like those in types 1d and 1e, with grape-cluster shaped pendants set directly on the lunula sides from Romania were framed by D. Gh. Teodor in type IV¹⁶⁴. The author finds parallels for specimens dated to the 8th century and specifies that the type could be a prototype for versions with half-moon shaped hoops with attached necklaces or other pendants, exemplars diffused in a few areas from Europe¹⁶⁵. The single resembling item with that of Berghin, yet only from the view of the grape shaped decoration on the lunula sides, is originating from Romanian Banat¹⁶⁶.

Earrings discovered on the territory of Bulgaria, with lunulas similar to those of Berghin and

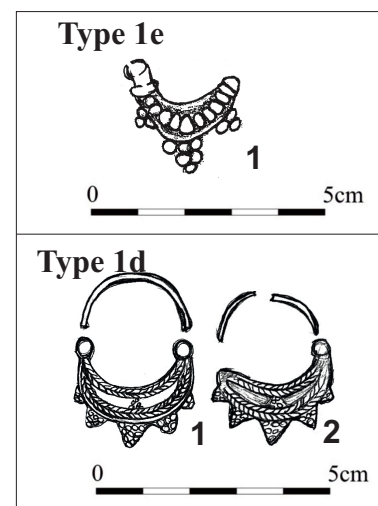


Fig. 32. Group F. Earrings
type 1e: 1. Berghin. Earrings
type 1d: 1-2. Sâncrai.

¹⁵⁴ Teodor 1995, 193.

¹⁵⁵ Teodor 1995, 194.

¹⁵⁶ Staššikova-Štukovská 1999, 250–298.

¹⁵⁷ Staššikova-Štukovská 1999, 296–298.

¹⁵⁸ Garam 1995, Abb. 149, 1–2, 7–9, 12.

¹⁵⁹ Točík 1968a, 14/16, Taf. XVII/1–2.

¹⁶⁰ Točík 1968b Taf. XXIX/1

¹⁶¹ Grigorov 2007, 155, Tab. 1, 8

¹⁶² Grigorov 2007, 155, Tab. 18/1–4, 11–12.

¹⁶³ Grigorov 2007, 163, Tab. 29.

¹⁶⁴ Teodor 1995, 193, Fig. 5, Type 5.

¹⁶⁵ Teodor 1995, 194.

¹⁶⁶ Teodor 1994, 193, Fig. 5/4.

Sâncrai were framed by V. Grigorov in type V.5¹⁶⁷. According to said author, in Bulgaria, these were fashionable in the 8th century and the first three quarters of the 9th century¹⁶⁸.

1f – Lunula earrings with ellipsoidal pendant were identified in the Avar cemetery of Teiuș and in the settlement of Țaga. The exemplars were made in silver by casting. The ornament on the lunula plates from Teiuș appears in the form of “reversed eights” set midway the lunulas, made of small spheres. The pendants are spheroid and have a small sphere in the lower ends. They are decorated with four lines which divide the ellipses in four parts. The lines are composed of three lines made of small spheres. The Țaga earring has the lunula plate decorated with two ribs in relief tracing the half-moon outline. The spheroid pendant is undecorated (Fig. 33, Appendix 13).

V. Grigorov includes the lunula earrings with ellipsoidal pendant discovered on the territory of Bulgaria in type V.3¹⁶⁹. V. Grigorov noted that respective earrings are found in Bulgaria over the course of the 8th–9th centuries¹⁷⁰.

Type 2 – Lunula earrings with three ends come from the Avar cemeteries at: 1. Sâncrai; 2. Noșlac; 3. Teiuș. A fragmentary silver piece was discovered in the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2. A bronze earring was identified in the Jucu de Sus settlement in feature 317 (likely a house).

The examples are of different sizes. The height of the small lunulas, pendant included, is comprised between 2.5 and 3.3 cm. Their width is of 2 cm. The large lunulas, together with the pendant, are between 3 and 3.5 cm high. The width of the lunulas is between 2.8 and 3.2 cm. The earrings were made by monovalve mould casting. The upper part of the lunula is formed of two arches ending with three extremities, of which two are by the ends and one is midway the lunula. The two lunula ends are marked by two borders that frame an ellipsoidal decoration. The half-moons’ central part end has a middle decorations that differs from one exemplar to another. A first consists of an umbo encircled by small grains, the second is in the shape of a grape cluster with the base towards the lunula end. The half-moons have small spheres set differently on their body. The most frequent decoration is in

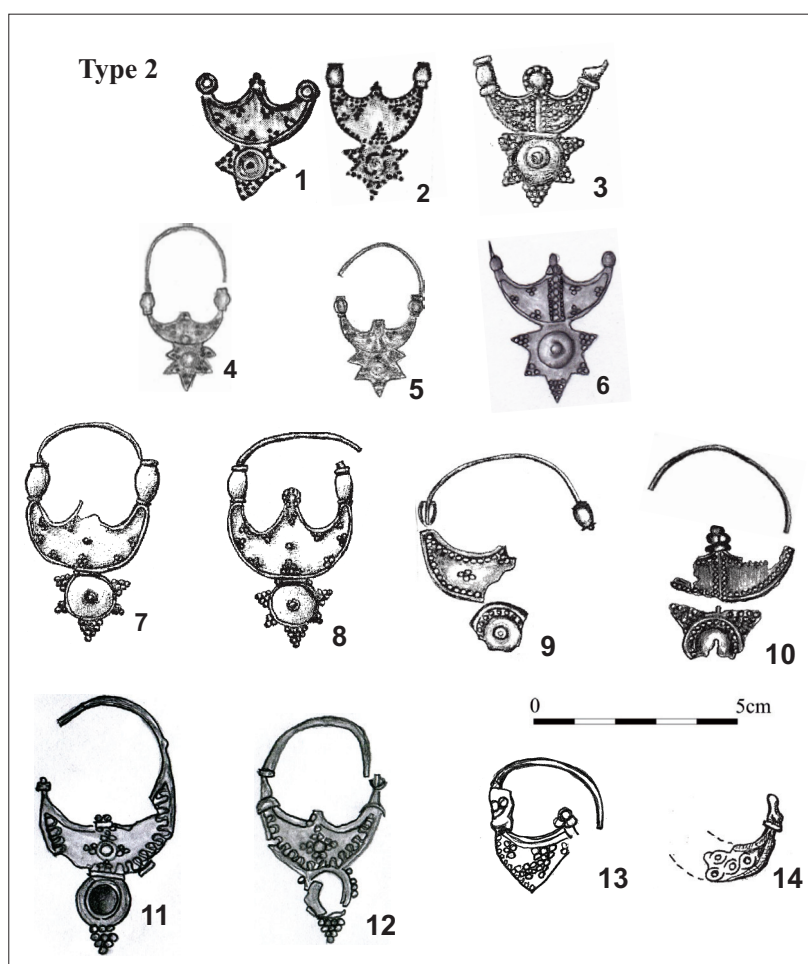


Fig. 34. Group F. Earrings type 2: 1-2, 4-5, 9-10, 13. Sâncrai; 3, 7-8. Teiuș; 6. Jucu de Sus (after Stanciu 2016, 231, Fig. 194/4); 11-12. Noșlac; 14. Bratei 2.

¹⁶⁷ Grigorov 2007, 137, Type V.5, 156, Tab. 17/V.3/1-3.

¹⁶⁸ Grigorov 2007, 163, Tab. 29.

¹⁶⁹ Grigorov 2007, 129, Type V.3 Tab. 17/1-3.

¹⁷⁰ Grigorov 2007, 163, Tab. 29.

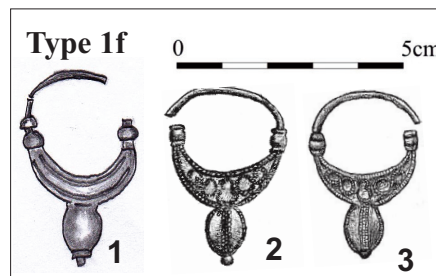


Fig. 33. Group F. Earrings type 1f: 1. Țaga (after Protase 60/10, Fig. 24/1.); 2-3. Teiuș.

grape-cluster shape. Other lunulas are adorned with small sphere registers that trace the lunula outline. In the middle of these beaded registers there is a decoration of small spheres attached one to the other in a crosslike pattern. The lunula pendant is circular and appears in the form of an umbo with a small sphere in the middle. The umbo's large diameter is marked by two parallel lines of beaded spheres. It is encircled by five triangular apices made of small beaded spheres in the form of a grape bundle (Fig. 34, Appendix 13).

D. Gh. Teodor believes that earrings whose lunulas are provided with three ends may be deemed a variation of earrings with two-ended lunulas composing type III¹⁷¹. Thus, the exemplars have a similar dating with earrings with two-ended lunulas, namely between late 7th century and early 8th centuries.

We believe that three-ended earrings form a separate type among lunula earrings. The mould in which these were cast was entirely different from that used for earrings with two-ended lunulas.

Two approximately identical earrings with those of Sâncrai and Teiuş were discovered in north-western Romania in the Lazuri settlement (Satu Mare county)¹⁷² and Moigrad (Sălaj county)¹⁷³. Both were dated to the 8th century¹⁷⁴. In the Tiszafüred cemetery as well were identified earrings with three ends in female graves no. 264a, 465, 597 806 and 864¹⁷⁵.

In V. Grigorov's typology of Bulgarian earrings, specimens similar to those from Transylvania, described above, form type IV.4, variations 5–10,13¹⁷⁶, dating to various chronological sequences from late 7th century to the third quarter of the 9th centuries¹⁷⁷.

Type 3 – Lunula earrings without pendants were discovered in the Avar cemeteries of Noşlac, Sâncrai and an inhumation from Moldoveneşti. The earrings are large in size and cast in a monovalve mould. Lunulas are between 3 and 3.5 cm wide and between 2 and 2.4 cm high. The half-moon plates decoration consists of wavy lines or lines that compose half-circles. There is a specimen whose lunula is undecorated (Fig. 35, Appendix 13).

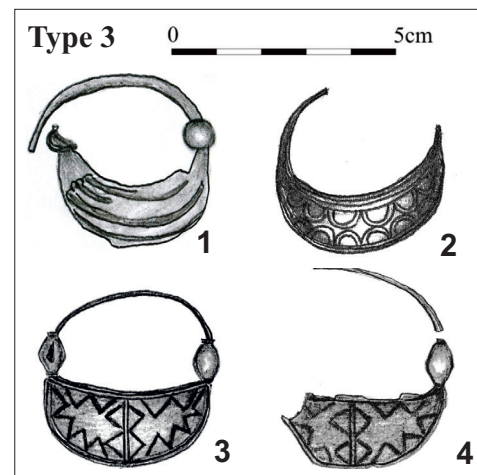


Fig. 35. Group F. Earrings type 3: 1. Noşlac; 2. Moldoveneşti; 3-4. Sâncrai.

Group G – Earrings with rhomboid pendant

Earrings with rhomboid pendant were identified in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai. The two specimens were cast in a monovalve mould. Their upper part consists of a wide band, on which there are two short bars. It is decorated with a notched line tracing the item's outline. The earrings' lower side is rhomboid in shape with pointed ends. The side and lower ends finish in two knobs, one larger and one smaller. The pendants are decorated with two dotted lines that cross midway the pendant. The two earrings are 3.8 cm high (Fig. 36, Appendix 13).

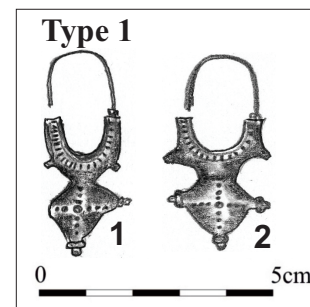


Fig. 36. Group G. Earrings type 1: 1-2. Sâncrai.

Earring types in the Avar and biritual cemeteries of Transylvania

Earrings in **Group A**, type 1a are the most numerous among the earring types recorded in Transylvania. Type 1a is present in almost all burial grounds from Transylvania, in both Avar and biritual Avaro-Slavic graveyards. It is missing only from the Avar cemetery of Ghirbom 1 and those biritual of Boarta and Ghirbom 2. In biritual cemeteries, type 1a was discovered in both inhumations and cremations. Type 1c

¹⁷¹ Teodor 1995, 192.

¹⁷² Stanciu 1996, 74, no.5, Pl. VII/15.

¹⁷³ Cosma 2002, 201–202, Pl. 153/4.

¹⁷⁴ Cosma 2002, 133.

¹⁷⁵ Garam 1995, Abb. 149/3–6, 10.

¹⁷⁶ Grigorov 2007, 155, Tab. 18/5–10, 13.

¹⁷⁷ Grigorov 2007, 163, Tab. 29

was identified in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai and the cremations from Bratei 2 and Berghin. Type 2a was found in the Avar burial grounds of Sâncrai and Teiuș, as well as in cremations from the biritual cemetery of Berghin. Type 2b is found at Câmpia Turzii and Sâncrai and type 2c in an inhumation from the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2. Type 3a comes from the Avar cemeteries of Gâmbaș 1, Gâmbaș 2 and Sâncrai, as well as from a cremation in the biritual graveyard of Boarta. Type 3c was discovered in the settlement of Filiași. Earrings in types 1b, 3b, 4 and 5 were yielded only by Avar cemeteries (Tab. 1).

Tab. 1. Presence of Group A earrings in the Avar and biritual cemeteries of 7th–8th century Transylvania



































Cemeteries	Group A												
	1a	1b	1c	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	3c	4	5		6
													
Avar cemeteries													
Câmpia Turzii	•				•								
Gâmbaș 1	•						•						
Gâmbaș 2	•						•						
Sâncrai	•	•	•	•				•		•	•	•	•
Șpălnaca	•												
Teiuș	•			•				•					
Biritual cemeteries													
Berghin	cremation	•		•	•								
	inhumați												
Boarta	cremation						•						
	inhumați												
Bratei 2	cremation	•		•	•								
	inhumați	•						•					
Ocna Sibiului	cremation	•											
	inhumați	•											

Table 2 with data referring to earrings in **Group B** offers the following archaeological information. Earring types 1a, 1b, 1d and 2 were identified in the Avar cemeteries of Transylvania. Earring type 1c is present in the Avar burial grounds of Gâmbaș 2 and Sâncrai as well as in the cremations from the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2. Earring type 1c emerges in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai and Gâmbaș 2 and in cremations from the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2. Earrings of type 1e were identified in inhumations from the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2. Type 1f of earrings was found in the Avar cemeteries and inhumations from the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2. Type 3 comes from the Avar graveyard of Sâncrai and the barrow cremation cemetery of Someșeni. Type 4 was identified in cremations from the Bratei 2 cemetery (Tab. 2).










Tab. 2. Presence of Group B earrings in the Avar and biritual cemeteries of 7th–8th century Transylvania

Cemeteries	Group B										
	1a	1b	1c		1d	1e	1f		2	3	4
											
Avar cemeteries											
Câmpia Turzii									•		
Cicâu											
Gâmbaș 2			•								
Ghirbom 1	•										
Sâncrai		•	•		•			•			
Șpălnaca								•			

Cemeteries	Group B									
	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	1f	2	3	4	
										
Teiuș	•	•								
Unirea 2						•				
Birituale cemeteries										
Bratei 2										
cremation			•			•				•
inhumation					•	•				
Someșeni								•		
cremation										

Group C of earrings, presented in table 3 shows the following data. Earrings of type 1a come only from the Avar grave of Lopadea Nouă. Type 1b and 2 were discovered in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai as well as in the inhumations from the biritual cemetery of Ghirbom 2. Earrings types 1c and 3a are present only in Avar cemeteries. Type 3b was identified in cremations from the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2 and type 5 in inhumations from the biritual cemetery of Berghin. Earrings of type 4 were discovered in the Avar burial grounds of Sâncrai and Șpălnaca and in inhumations from the Berghin cemetery (Tab. 3).







Tab. 3. Presence of Group C earrings in the Avar and biritual cemeteries of 7th–8th century Transylvania

Cemeteries	Group C									
	1a	1b	1c	2	3a	3b	4	5	6	
										
Avar cemeteries										
Cicău			•							
Lopadea Nouă	•									
Sâncrai		•	•		•		•	•		
Șpălnaca			•				•			
Teiuș			•							
Birituale cemeteries										
Berghin inhumation							•			•
Bratei 2 cremation						•				
Ghirbom 2 inhumation		•		•						

Group D of earrings is present only in the Avar cemeteries of Gâmbaș 2, Sâncrai and Teiuș (Tab. 4).










Group E of earrings was found in the Avar burial grounds of Câmpia Turzii and Gâmbaș 1, Noșlac and Sâncrai. An exemplar from Group E was found in the Suceag settlement (Tab. 4).

Tab. 4. Presence of Groups D and E earrings in the Avar and biritual cemeteries of 7th–8th century Transylvania

Avar cemeteries	Group D		Group E			
	Type 1a	Type 1b	Type 1a	Type 1b	Type 1c	Type 1d
						
Câmpia Turzii			•			
Gâmbaș 1	•			•	•	
Sâncrai		•				•
Teiuș	•					
Suceag					•	

Data from table 5 regarding group F which assembles lunula earrings show that almost all earrings were discovered in Avar graveyards. Two lunula earrings of type 1a were identified in the Alba Iulia and Jucu de Sus settlements, one of type 1e in the settlement of Țaga and one of type 2 in the Jucu de Sus settlement. An earring of type 1e was found in the biritual burial ground of Berghin. Another earring, this time in type 2, was identified in a cremation from the Bratei 2 biritual cemetery (Tab 5).







Tab. 5. Presence of Groups F and G earrings in the Avar and biritual cemeteries of 7th–8th century Transylvania

Cemeteries	Group F								Group G
	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	1f	2	3	
									
Avar cemeteries									
Cicău	•	•							
Gâmbaş 2			•						
Noșlac	•						•	•	
Sâncrai	•	•		•				•	•
Teiuș	•	•				•	•		
Moldovenești								•	
Biritual cemeteries									
Cremation g.									
Berghin					•				
Bratei 2							•		
Settlements									
Alba Iulia	•								
Jucu de Sus	•						•		
Țaga						•			

To **Group G** belongs a single earring found in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai (Fig. 36).

According to above data, it may be noted that there are earring types, like those in Group D and E, identified only in Avar cemetery graves. All the other earring types, with two exceptions, are found in both Avar burial grounds and biritual cemeteries. The exceptions refer to earring types 1e and 4 in Group B, type 3b and 5 in Group C discovered only in biritual cemeteries (Tab. 6). It must be mentioned that biritual cemeteries yielded only two earrings in Group F (an intact earring in the Berghin cemetery, of type 1e, and a half earring, broken from Antiquity, in a cremation from the Bratei 2 cemetery, of type 2, Tab. 6).

Tab. 6. Type of earrings present only in the biritual cemeteries of 7th–8th century Transylvania

Earring groups		Group A	Group B		Group C		Group F
Types of earrings		2c	1e	4	3b	5	1e
							
Cemeteries							
Bratei 2	Inhumation	•	•				
	Cremation			•	•		
Berghin	Inhumation					•	•

Earring types in settlements from Transylvania





Typologically, the earrings discovered in the settlements from Transylvania frame in Group A, type 3c, the object of Filiași. To Group E belongs the specimen of Suceagu. From Group F, type 1a are part the lunula earrings from Alba Iulia and an exemplar from Jucu de Sus, while from type 1f an earring from Țaga. To type 2 in the same group belongs an earring from Jucu de Sus (Tab 7).

One exemplar of the artefacts was discovered in each of the houses of Alba Iulia, Filiași and Țaga.

The Suceagu earring was discovered in the culture layer. It is not excluded that it was part of a destroyed house. At Jucu de Sus, both earrings were discovered in “feature 317”, likely a house.

The earrings of Alba Iulia, Filiași and Jucu de Sus are bronze-made, while those of Țaga and Suceagu are in silver. The Jucu de Sus earring, framed in Group F type 2 was made by pressing. The remainder of the above mentioned earrings were cast in monovalve moulds (Tab. 7).

Tab. 7. Earrings in Group F discovered in settlement of 7th–8th century Transylvania

Settlements	Group F			
	Type 1a		Type 1e	Type 2
				
Alba Iulia	•			
Jucul de Sus		•		•
Țaga			•	

Association of earrings in graves with other earring types or artefacts

Avar cemeteries

At Câmpia Turzii, in grave 3 emerge associated earring types 1a and 2b, both variations of Group A. In grave 4 associate an earring of type 1a in Group A with one in type 2 from Group B (Appendix 17A). At Cicău, in grave 2, the lunula earring associates with beads, while the lunula in grave 6 of type 1a in Group F with one earring in Group C type 1b (Appendix 17B). In the Gâmbaș 1 cemetery, in grave 4, earrings in Group E associate with beads, radiate-headed brooches, a wooden bucket with iron circles and a knife. The earring in Group A of type 3b in grave 7, still at Gâmbaș 1, associates with beads. In grave 13 from the same cemetery, earrings in Group E associate with beads and a clay pot (Appendix 17C). At Gâmbaș 2 in grave 1, the lunula earring in Group F of type 1c associates with earrings in Group A type 1a and earrings in Group D type 1 with beads, an iron knife and a buckle. In grave 2 at Gâmbaș 2 were discovered an earring in Group A type 3a and one in Group B of type 1b. In the grave were also found beads and an iron knife (Appendix 17D). Earrings in Group B type 1a in grave 1 at Ghirbom 1 associate with beads of various types. In the Avar grave of Lopadea Nouă, beside the two earrings in Group C, type 1a, there were also identified weapons and harness items (two lanceheads, an axe, two stirrups and a buckle).

In the Sâncrai cemetery most graves contained just a single earring type. There are also graves in which emerged two earring types. Most frequent associations are between earrings in groups A and B. Very few are associations between earrings of type 1a in Group A with earrings in Group C and F. At Sâncrai, almost all graves that yielded earrings regardless the group or type, had also contained beads, some even knives. Within the graves, beside earrings, were found buckles, finger rings, in one grave a flint, in another arrowheads, while in another a spindle weight (Appendix 18).

In the Șpălnaca cemetery, earrings discovered within the graves belong almost entirely to Group A type 1a. These associate with earrings of type 1f in Group B and 1b and 4 in Group C. In some graves, beside earrings in Group A type 1a, were also identified beads, buckles and arrowheads (Appendix 17E).

In the Teiuș cemetery associate earrings in groups A and B mainly. Two graves stand out, where types 1a mix with type 1e or 1a with type 2 in Group F. Many of the graves that contained earrings also yielded beads. In a few graves were discovered clay pots as well, and knives in two graves (Appendix 19).

In the Avar grave of Unirea 2/Veresmort, the earring in Group B type 1e associates with a series of dress accessories, weapons and harness items: broadsword, arrowheads, stirrups and bit.

In conclusion, it may be specified that the most frequent artefact association is that between earrings in Group A and B. Group C and F rarely associate with earrings in Group A type 1a. Group E emerges singular, unaccompanied by other earring types. Beads are artefacts that appear beside earrings in many of the 7th–8th centuries graves from Transylvania. Many of the graves that yielded

earrings also contained knives. There are graves which contained earrings, although very few, that also comprised other object class types. These are limited to dress accessories, like brooches (Gâmbaş), finger rings (Sâncrai), weapons and harness items (Lopadea Nouă, Sâncrai, Șpălnaca, Unirea 2/ Veresmort), domestic and household objects (Sâncrai) or wares (Gâmbaş 1, Teiuș). Examples are not many. Some of these above mentioned artefacts may support the gender ascribing of the deceased, where anthropological analyses are impossible to carry out.

Biritual cemeteries

In inhumation no. 227 from Berghin associate earring type 1a in Group A with earrings in Group C type 5. In the same cemetery, in inhumation 345, the earring in Group C type 6 is singular. In cremations there are no associations between earring types. Inside these, one or two earrings of the same type were identified.

In the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2, especially earrings in Group A and B emerge in inhumations. In burial features were discovered earrings of a certain type in the two mentioned groups only, which though associate within a number of graves. The same applies for cremations. In both burial types, some of the graves yielded beads, pots, knives, buckles or bronze appliques (Appendix 20).

At Boarta, in urn cremation no. 18/A, the earring in Group A type 3b associates with an iron knife. At Ocna Sibiului, in grave 44 were discovered earrings in Group A type 1a and an iron knife. In the biritual cemetery of Ghirbom 2, in the two inhumations, the four earrings in Group C type 1b and 2 are part of the burial features' grave goods. The earrings of Ocna Sibiului (Group A, type 1a) do not associate with any other earring types within burial features regardless their types (inhumations or cremations). The earring in Group B type 3 from barrow no. 1 in the Slavic barrow cremation cemetery of Someșeni associated with an Avar belt set (buckle and appliques).

Lastly, it may be inferred that most earrings from biritual cemeteries, regardless of the burial type (inhumation or cremation) are those in Group A type 1a-c and Group B type 1a-c, e. In many cases, the types in the two mentioned groups were discovered together within the burials. There are also graves, like the cremations from Berghin, where only a single earring type was found. In almost all inhumations, beside earrings, beads were also found. At Bratei 2 emerge beads also in cremations. Knives are few in graves that yielded earrings from biritual cemeteries. In fact, such knives come only from the Bratei 2 burial ground. Pottery vessels emerges beside earrings only in the Bratei 2 cemetery, especially in the inhumations of the respective graveyard.

Chronological specifications

A series of earrings from the Avar environment of the Carpathian Basin, where the finds from Transylvania also frame, are artefacts fashionable over the entire duration of the 7th–8th centuries and even in the subsequent century. In this class are included earrings in Group A and B. There are though earrings from Group A, like type 3a-c, discovered especially in contexts dated to the 7th century. Still in 7th century contexts were identified earrings framed in Group E. Earrings in Group C (type 1a-c) and D and F were present in the Avar environment especially in graves dated starting with the second half of the 7th century and the 8th centuries.

Regarding the dating of Group E earrings, a few notes may be made. Originally, earrings with round or rhomboid rod with stellar pendant (Group E) were dated until late 7th century¹⁷⁸. Nonetheless, in Transylvania they are also recorded in cemeteries dated to the 8th century, like for instance the Avar burial ground of Câmpia Turzii.

Lunula earrings that compose Group F chronologically frame from the second half of the 7th century over the course of the entire 8th century and even in the first decades of the 9th century¹⁷⁹. Nevertheless, based on a series of elements related to their technology and decoration, it may be hypothesised that the timeline of certain lunula earring types may be restricted to only a specific period of the 7th or 8th century¹⁸⁰. In the academic literature, it was noted that exemplars whose decoration is better made,

¹⁷⁸ Teodor 1995, 194.

¹⁷⁹ For instance: Comșa 1971, 376–390; Cilinská 1975, 71–72, fig. 1,6, 12; Teodor 1995, 187–206; Garam 1995, 276–280, Abb. 149/1–12, Abb. 160; Grigorov 1999, 21–42; Staššikova-Štukovská 1999, 250–298.

¹⁸⁰ Cosma 2002, 78–79, 132–133; Staššikova-Štukovská 1999, 250–298.

with a greater finesse are earlier than specimens whose decorative patterns are coarsely made, in some cases even sketched¹⁸¹. Thus, the first exemplars (those superior qualitatively) date especially to the second half of the 7th century and first half of the 8th century¹⁸², a time span where the earrings from the Transylvanian Plateau may also be placed. An earlier dating is unlikely, as in the Carpathian Basin lunulas start to emerge in archaeological contexts dated from mid 7th century. With a single exception (an earring from the Jucu de Sus settlement, made by pressing), all the other lunula earrings from Transylvania are items made in good quality moulds. The decoration is beautiful, well made on all artefacts. This is the reason for which we believe that lunula earrings on the territory of Transylvania date to a period previous to early 9th century, possibly even until mid 8th century. Some of the lunula earrings discovered for instance in north-western Romania, yet also in other geographical areas, framed to the second half of the 8th century and even in the first half of the 9th century have the lunula decorated in a very schematic manner¹⁸³. Lastly, we mention that all lunula earrings from the Transylvanian Plateau were discovered in cemeteries dated between AD 750/670–720 or only in the 8th century.

Regarding the presence of lunula earrings like the specimens discovered in the Transylvanian settlements of the 7th–8th centuries, these may be chronological landmarks for dating culture levels, archaeological features and houses from respective early medieval settlements.

Parallels are extremely important for dating burial features. However, the chronological framing of graves and implicitly cemeteries, one must not disregard a series of other artefacts discovered in burial features with restricted dating possibilities (for instance, the Avar belt fittings or stirrup discovered in the Transylvanian Plateau territory¹⁸⁴). In this context of presenting parallels for the earrings from Transylvania, we must mention there is a time gap between the dating of the artefacts from the Avar environment of the Carpathian Basin and the Slavic/Bulgarian milieu of Bulgaria. The great majority of items from Bulgaria, like some from Transylvania as well, chronologically frame later than those from the Avar environment. In fact, it is specified that many exemplars from the Bulgarian environment were adopted from the Avar setting and used later than mid 8th century¹⁸⁵.

Lastly, we mention that earrings providing a more restricted dating from the Avar environment of Pannonia or Slovakia correspond with the chronological time span of the Transylvanian Avar graves and burial grounds or biritual cemeteries. The burial features from the Transylvanian Plateau were dated on the basis of earrings with more restricted dating limits and a series of other artefacts, already mentioned above, that also offered a more chronology, with which respective earrings were associated within the graves.

The Avar finds from Transylvania may be divided into three chronological groups¹⁸⁶. The first includes cemeteries placed between AD 630–670. Only in the Unirea 2/Veresmort grave was found a golden earring of type 1e in Group B (Fig. 37). The second group of Avar finds date between AD 650/670–710/720 and includes cemeteries and graves of Câmpia Turzii, Cicău; Gâmbaş 1, Gâmbaş 2, Ghirbom 1, Moldovenești, Șpălnaca and Teiuș. These yielded the great majority of earrings object herein (Fig. 37). The last group of Avar finds dates to the 8th century. To this frame the burial grounds of Câmpia Turzii, Lopadea Nouă and Sâncrai, the earrings of Câmpia Turzii being part of Group A type 1a and 2b, Group B type 2 and Group E. The specimens of Lopadea Nouă are earrings from Group C type 1. The Sâncrai graveyard, based on belt fittings cast in bronze with floral patterns, date to around AD 750 (Fig. 37).

The earrings discovered within the bi-ritual cemeteries of Transylvania, both in cremation and inhumation graves, date back to the 8th century. The Bratei 2 necropolis is a good reference in this regard. A series of clothing accessories and harness pieces that chronologically belong to the 8th century were discovered within this necropolis. We make a note that no earrings were discovered in the inhumation graves of Bratei 2, graves dating back to the 7th century¹⁸⁷. The lack of earrings is also noted in the 9th century Mediaș cemetery¹⁸⁸.

¹⁸¹ Horedt 1958, 83; Comșa 1971, 383 and n. 36.

¹⁸² Comșa 1971, 383 and n. 36.; Stanciu 2000, 139–141; Cosma 2002, 78–79, 132–133; Staššikova-Štukovská 1999, 250–298.

¹⁸³ Cosma 2002, 78–79, 132–133, pl. 153/4.

¹⁸⁴ Cosma 2017, 18–23; Cosma 2019, 48–52; Cosma 2020, 81, 89–91.

¹⁸⁵ Grigorov 1999, 42.

¹⁸⁶ Cosma 2019, 48–52.

¹⁸⁷ Zaharia 1977, 91.

¹⁸⁸ Horedt 1965, 7–23.

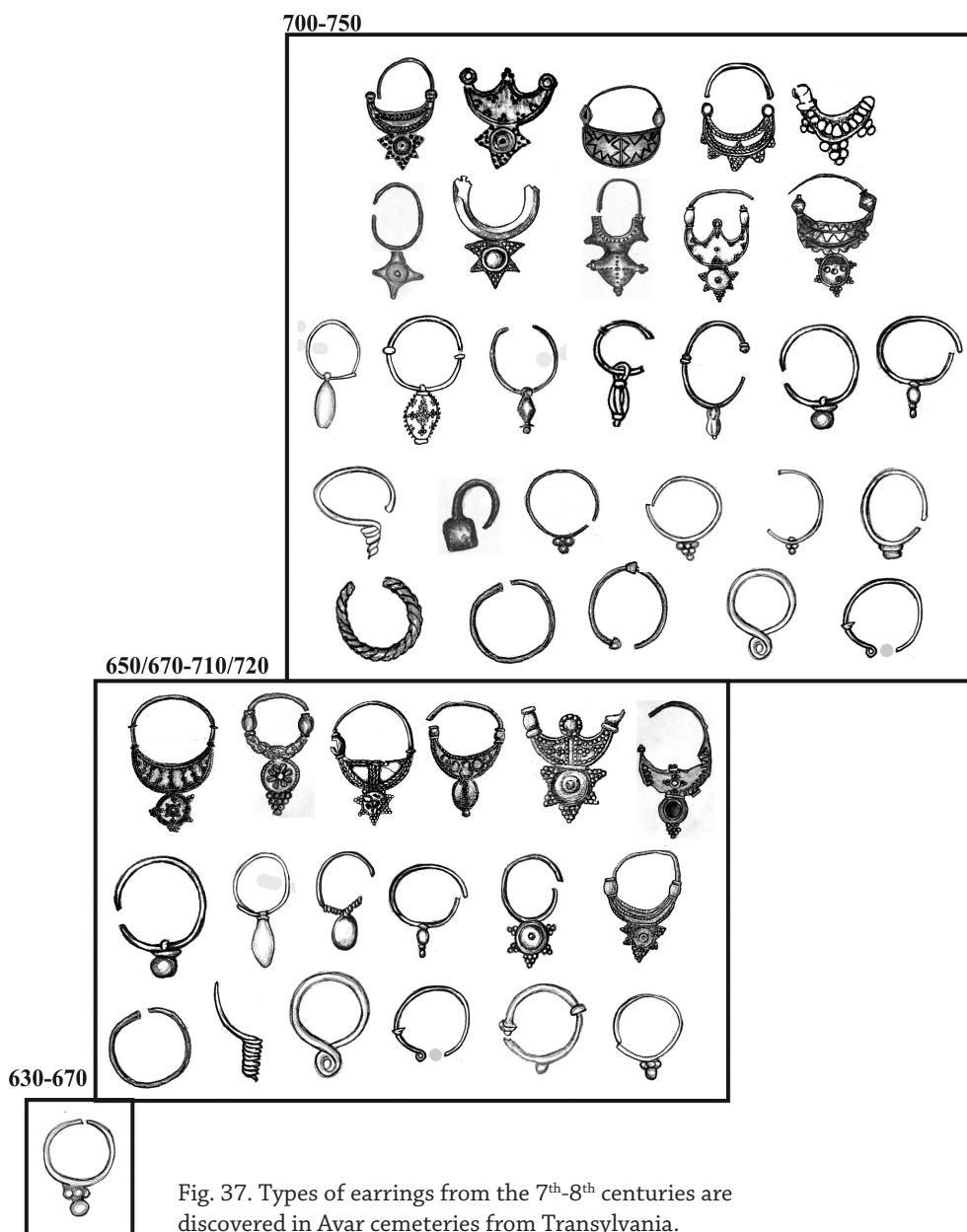


Fig. 37. Types of earrings from the 7th-8th centuries are discovered in Avar cemeteries from Transylvania.

All earrings discovered in Transylvanian settlements, both the one from group A/type 3c found in the settlement from Filiași, as well as the moon-shaped earrings from Alba Iulia, Jucu de Sus, Țaga and Suceaguu, cover a range of use starting with the last four or three decades of the 7th century and the first three to four decades of the 8th century. In such case, the pieces can be standards for restricting the chronology of the archaeological complexes, as well as the pottery discovered within them, with a reflection then on the entire settlement or settlements where the earrings were discovered. (Tab. 7)

Earrings, jewellery beyond gender and age differences

Avar cemeteries

Anthropological analyses, the only to specify with certainty the gender of the deceased, performed on skeletons identified in 7th-8th centuries cemeteries of Transylvania are few. Some are inconclusive. The acid Transylvanian soil hindered the optimal survival of the human skeletons so that they could provide any data, including the gender of the deceased. Nevertheless, there are examples that allow us to address the topic mentioned in subtitle.

In the Avar cemeteries, earrings were especially found in female graves. Examples include the cemetery of Cicău and Sâncrai. As for the Teiuș graveyard, very few human bones have survived (in

three graves out of 60 excavated graves). The performed anthropological analyses have shown that bones in grave 19 where two earrings were identified had belonged to an adult, those in grave 23, with one earring, had belonged to a male, while those in grave 51, without grave goods, to a three–four years old infant. We believe that grave with earrings, especially lunula earrings, from Teiuş, may be ascribed to females. This is supported by J. Zaboinic’s note that where no anthropological analyses exist, graves should be ascribed in gender terms based on the artefacts used by certain individuals mainly, in this case, women¹⁸⁹.

At Gâmbaş 1, graves with earrings in Group E were ascribed to females. In the Avar cemetery of Cicău, in the two female graves were identified a lunula earring in Group F, type 1b, in a first grave, and in the second, a lunula in the same Group F, yet of type 1a, as well as an earring with attached spheroid-shaped pendant of type 1b in Group C.

In the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai, in female graves 18, 48, 68 and 75 was found a lunula earring in Group F, type 1a, in each delimited grave. Furthermore, there were discovered earrings with wide lunulas in female graves no. 6 (two silver earrings) and no. 15 (two bronze earrings). From the same Sâncrai cemetery come also two lunula earrings with grape cluster pendants yielded by female grave no. 79 (type 1d). Earrings with three-ended lunulas of type 2 were identified in female graves no. 6, 95 and 109. Still in the Sâncrai cemetery, in female grave no. 68 were found two lunula earrings without pendants (Group E), while female graves 53 and 68 yielded earrings with undecorated spheroid pendants (Group C, type 1b), while grave no. 49, two earrings with biconical pendants (Group C, type 3a, Appendix 30). In grave 37, of a female, in the Avar cemetery of Şpálnaca were discovered four earrings with twisted links and pendant with large lower sphere (Group B, type 1e).

Male graves containing earrings were discovered in the Avar cemeteries of: Gâmbaş 2 (two graves: Gr. 1–2); Lopadea Nouă (one grave); Sâncrai 2016 (11 graves: Gr. 1–2, 7, 21, 31, 32, 36, 45, 49, 63, 81); Şpálnaca (one grave, no. 37), Teiuş (Gr. 23) and Unirea 2/Veresmort (one grave)¹⁹⁰. The discovered earrings are simple of the type with open ends or with one end twisted in spiral shape (Group A, type 1a and 1c şi 3a). Still in male burials were also identified earrings in Group B, earrings with attached pendant composed of two registers of small round spheres as well as specimens with two registers of round spheres and central large sphere (types 1c and 1e). Group C is represented by earrings with attached pendant in an ellipsoidal shape, decorated or plain, rhomboid or in a rod shape (types 1a–b and 4). Only in male graves were found earrings in Group C, type 3c. To these also add earrings with black glass globular pendant (Group D, type 1), while lunula earrings in Group F are represented in male graves of types 1c, 1f and 2.

Earring finds in male graves from the Avar cemeteries of Transylvania are not uncommon. Men wore earrings customarily in Middle Asia and the Euroasian steppes during the Türkic period¹⁹¹. The custom survived in the Middle and Late period of the Avar Khaganate’s history¹⁹².

Only in the cemetery of Sâncrai it was anthropologically confirmed that an infant was buried with earrings (Gr. 80).

It may be concluded based on the above that women were those to wear the earrings from all artefact groups presented here. There are though two earring types discovered only in male graves, namely earrings in Group C, types 1a and 3c. Earrings of type 1a were identified in the Avar warrior grave at Lopadea Nouă. Type 3c comes from graves 1, 45, 45, 49 and 63 in the Avar cemetery of Sâncrai. Earrings usually worn by women, like specimens in Groups C or F, yielded by male graves evidence there were male individuals wearing earrings fashionable during the 7th–8th centuries. Men in the upper society class wore earrings worked of precious metal, more sophisticated, complex, more beautiful and expensive. This is the case of the silver and gold earrings in Group C type 1b discovered in grave 21 from the Avar burial ground of Sâncrai (Appendix 10, 30).

In conclusion it may be specified that in the Avar world from 7th–8th centuries Transylvania, earrings were not artefacts specific only to a certain human gender. They were worn especially by women, to a lesser extent also by men and children.

¹⁸⁹ Zaboinic 2015, 277–291.

¹⁹⁰ Cosma 2020, 47–63.

¹⁹¹ Balogh 2016, 150.

¹⁹² See for instance: Bóna 1979, 29–30; Balogh 2016, 337.

Biritual cemeteries

Inhumations with found earrings in the biritual cemetery of Bratei 2 belonged to children (Gr. 214, 224; Gr. 229, M. 236), adults (Gr. 211, Gr. 215, 220, 233) and one adolescent (Gr. 242). In the case of grave 233 it is specified that a female was interred in the burial pit. At Ocna Sibiului, in inhumations with earrings were buried children (Gr. 32 and 115) and a female (Gr. 126 of a woman). Inhumations no. 227 and 345 in the Berghin and Ghirbom 2 cemetery that yielded earrings pertained to adults.

With the respect to the cremations from the biritual inhumation cemeteries of Transylvania, in the Ocna Sibiului cemetery, the funerary urn from grave 44 in which survived burnt bone remains of an infant and one adolescent yielded two earrings. For the Berghin cemetery it is specified that the cremation remains preserved in the funerary urn from grave no. 238, in which the earrings were identified, had likely belonged to a female?

Above data certify that in the communities that buried their dead in the biritual cemeteries of Bratei 2, Ocna Sibiului, Berghin or Ghirbom 2, earrings were used especially by women and children. One should not exclude the possibility that among the adults buried with earrings at Bratei 2, Berghin or Ghirbom Gruicul fierului men also counted.

Interpreting the presence of earrings in graves and settlements Cemeteries

We address this issue starting with the fact that in both Avar and biritual cemeteries, graves yielded one to five earrings in different groups and types. A possible criterion to be considered in order to define the role that some of the earrings fulfilled counts their location within the graves. More specifically, in a series of graves, beside the fact that earrings were discovered in the ear area, as it is only natural, there are cases where artefacts were found in different parts of the human body. Earrings identified for instance on the pelvis or in the pelvis area of the deceased evidence the clear intent of depositing them in respective area and by no means the later disturbance of the grave.

In the great majority of women graves certified by anthropological analyses emerged one earring pair only, found to the left and right side of the skull in the ears area. These earrings are not burial depositions. By their location, they prove that the family buried the female with the garments and jewellery she wore during her lifetime.

There are also women graves where two earring pairs surfaced. Such cases were identified in female graves no. 6 and 79 at Sâncraia. All the four earrings in grave 6 are in Group F, two of type 1b and two of type 1g. In grave 79, two earrings are from Group C/type 1b and two are in Group F/type 1d and were identified to the left and right of the skull, in the ears area. In these cases, it may be inferred that respective earrings were not artefacts worn concurrently on a daily basis by the deceased during their lifetime. The earrings could not be attached to the ear two on each side every day as they were overlapping, the lower earring becoming almost invisible thus having no visual impact on the viewers. We believe that the second earring pair, from the previously mentioned two types, may be interpreted as artefact part of the jewellery dowry of respective woman, which the family deposited in the grave. The fact that all four earrings lay in the ears area suggest the family's wish to indicate that they were worn by the deceased alternately in daily life.

Nonetheless, circumstances are different in the case of association within the graves of lunula earrings or with attached pendants, with earrings in Group A, especially type 1a. It is difficult to say whether the two earring types were simultaneously worn. It is possible if we assume that lunula earrings or with attached pendants were inserted through the ear lobe so that the pendant remained

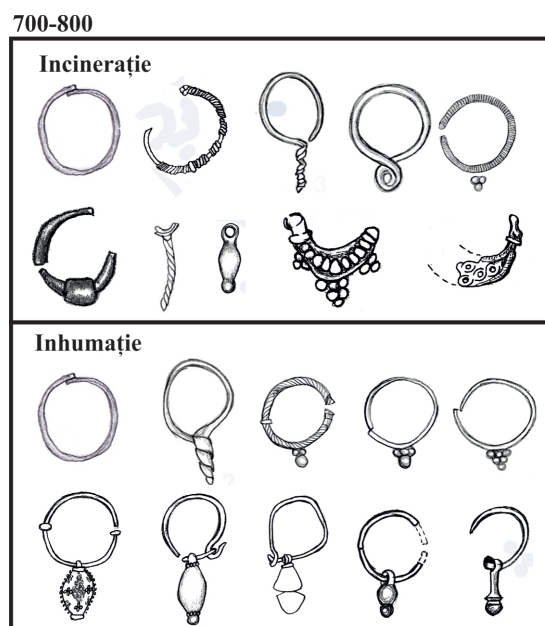


Fig. 38. Types of earrings from the 7th-8th centuries are discovered in Biritual cemeteries from Transylvania.

visible. Earrings with open ends were attached in the upper part of the ear lobe. These did not obstruct earrings hanging from the two ears, thus being visible as independent ear adornments. The fact there are many graves in which earrings with attached pendants of various shapes associated with earrings in Group A, type 1a, supports the above statement. On the other hand, the hypothesis according to which earrings with attached pendants were worn only during festivities occurring within the communities from 7th–8th centuries Transylvania must be also considered.

There are women graves, like grave 48 at Sâncrai, where earrings lay in different parts of the human body. Two earrings in Group C, type 1b were found to the left and right of the skull in the ears area. Other three earrings, one in Group A, type 1a, the second in the same group yet of type 3b and the third in Group F, type 1a, were identified on the pelvis of the deceased. Another example is from grave 18, still of a woman. In the burial pit were identified two earring types, one in Group A/type 5 and the other in Group F/type 1a. Both earrings lay to the right side of the skull, that in Group F/type 1a, on top of the other. The two earrings are not designed to be worn concurrently. In these cases, earrings found in the abdomen area may be deemed burial deposition made by the family of the deceased.

In the Teiuş cemetery, in graves 8 and 35, associate two earrings from different groups. Unfortunately, their location within the grave is unknown and so is the gender of the deceased. In this case, it is difficult to say with certainty what purpose they served within the graves. Were these worn by the deceased or was one placed by the family in the grave as burial deposition?

A first group of male graves with earrings from the Avar cemeteries of Transylvania are those where two earrings were identified in the same grave. This is valid for the Sâncrai cemetery in graves no. 21, 31 and 36. The earrings were found to the left and right of the skull, in the ears area. In all these cases it may be agreed that the objects were worn daily by the deceased. The earrings in grave 21 are part of Group C/type 1a, while those in graves 31 and 36 of Group A/type 1a.

Another group of male graves include burials with just one earring. These examples count grave 23 in the Teiuş cemetery (the silver lunula earring: Group F/type 1f) and the grave of Unirea 2/Veresmort (a golden earring: Group B/type 1f). We do not exclude the possibility that the two earrings were daily worn by respective men. One must though also consider the possibility that the two earrings had been placed within the graves by the families of the deceased to underline that the individuals belonged to the Avar society elite. I. Bóna mentions that the burial deposition of a single golden earring is a Sassanid origin custom, which the Avars adopted and carried from Asia, symbolising the high ranking warrior status within the Avar army¹⁹³. It must be mentioned though that especially men, regardless their social standing, wore only a single earring in daily life.

The third class of graves encompasses burials which yielded three earrings of the same type or of different types. This is the case of the Sâncrai graves 1 and 2. In both graves, earrings of the same type (Gr. 1: Group F/type 2; Gr. 2: Group C/type 1c) lay to the left and right side of the human skull, in the ears area. This evidences their wearing by respective men on a daily basis. The third earring from both graves was found above the shoulders. Both earrings (Gr. 1: Group C/type 3a; Gr. 2: Group C/type 1b) may be deemed burial depositions. In fact, the two earrings, which represent the third earring, are not designed to be worn concurrently with the earrings pair with which these associate in the two burial features.

The fourth class counts men graves where a number of five earrings were identified. This is the case of grave 1 at Gâmbaş 2. In it were found two earrings in Group A/type 1a, two earrings in Group D and a fifth in Group F/type 1c. The earring pairs lay to the left and right of the skull in the ears area, while the earring in Group F/type 1c above the right shoulder. The two types of earring pairs from grave 1 at Gâmbaş 2 are designed to be worn daily. The presence of the lunula earring from Group F/type 1c in the same grave 1 at Gâmbaş 2, discovered above the right shoulder of the deceased, may be deemed an artefact deposited by the family of the deceased.

The last earring location variation within the male graves from the Transylvanian Avar cemeteries is from grave no. 38 at Şpálnaca. Three earrings in Group A/type 1a were found there. One of these lay near the left ear, the other two on the pelvis of the deceased. The location of the latter evidences they were deposited by the family of the deceased in the grave.

The earrings from grave 80, of an infant, were identified to the left and right side of the skull, in the ears area. This suggests that the child (likely a girl) had worn respective earrings in her lifetime.

¹⁹³ Bóna 1979, 5, 27.

In conclusion, it may be argued that the great majority of earrings discovered in the graves of the Transylvanian Avar cemeteries were worn on a daily basis by the women, men and children of the Avar communities. The families, who attended to the funeral, placed the human bodies in the graves with the dress, dress accessories and jewellery, among which earrings counted as one of the main artefacts, that the individuals used to wear in their lifetime.

We do not exclude the fact that in certain cases, the singularity of an earring in some graves was due to the custom of their deposition by the family of the deceased. The phenomenon is valid also for the third or fifth earring presence in a series of graves, of both women and men. The deposition of the artefacts within the graves is related to the family's wish to highlight the status of the deceased within the community where he/she lived.

Regarding the earrings discovered in inhumations from Transylvanian biritual cemeteries we believe that in all cases, the artefacts were worn by the deceased in their lifetime. There are no cases that could be interpreted as burial depositions.

In cremations, it is very difficult to say with certainty whether the earrings were only deposited for burial purposes or represented the fact these had belonged to the deceased, who wore them in their lifetime. In graves were identified both one and two earrings in the same type.

In the Bratei 2 cemetery, grave 145, a pit cremation, the half of a lunula earring in Group F/type 2 was discovered. The item was broken into two halves from ancient times. This archaeological fact may be interpreted as burial deposition by the family at the time of the interment of the cremation remains in the burial pit.

Settlements

The presence of earrings in settlements may be explained by the wish of certain families to acquire valuable objects, like earrings, that family members could use to exhibit social standing in both their lifetime and in death, by deposition in the graves.

Final notes

By the end of this study it may be argued that populaces living in 7th–8th centuries Transylvania wore earrings on a daily basis, accompanying the individuals in their graves as well. Earrings were discovered in graves from Avar cemeteries and biritual Avaro-Slavic burial grounds as well as in settlements. Most earrings come from Avar graves compared to burials from biritual cemeteries. In fact, in the latter, few earrings emerged, in both the entire lot of biritual cemeteries as well as at the level of each archaeological site. In Transylvania, many earring types were identified, from the simplest, in ring shape, with pointed ends, made of wire or round bar, to those with stellar or lunula pendant. Almost all artefacts have parallels on the territory of the Avar Khaganate from the Carpathian Basin, yet also in the Lower Danube basin area and in Bulgaria.

The presence of earrings within the graves is mostly due to the fact that the deceased were buried with all their dress accessories and jewellery, earrings included, which they wore in their lifetime. On the other hand, there was an existing custom according to which earrings, beside other objects, were placed within the burial features by the families of the deceased at the time of burial. Earrings were worn by women and to a lesser degree by men and children.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Group A: Type 1a – Earrings with open ends made of round bar from inhumation burial grounds. B – Male; F – Female; C – Child; A –Adult; N – Unknown. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves

Group A – Type 1a Inhumation cemeteries	No. grave	Metal								
		Br					Ag			
		B	F	C	A	U	B	F	N	
1. Câmpia Turzii	3					1				
	4					1				
2. Gâmbaş 1	7									1
3. Gâmbaş 2	1	1					1			
4. Sâncrai	5		2							
	15		2							
	18		2							
	19	1								
	M23		2							
	30	1								
	31	2								
	36	2								
	38	3								
	44				1					
	45	2								
	48				1					
	62		2							
	71		3							
	74		1							
	75		2							
	80			2						
	81	2								
	83		4							
	84		1							
	86		1							
	87		1							
	89					1				
	95		1							
	96				2					
	99		2							
100		1								
101		4								
103		1								
107		1								

Appendix 1 – Group A: Type 1a – Earrings with open ends made of round bar from inhumation burial grounds. B – Male; F – Female; C – Child; A –Adult; N – Unknown. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves

Group A – Type 1a Inhumation cemeteries	No. grave	Metal								
		Br					Ag			
		B	F	C	A	U	B	F	N	
5. Șpálnaca	5		1							
	6		1							
	9								2	
	15		1							
	21		3							
	22				1					
	18		3							
	19				1					
	28		1							
	29	3								
	31						1			
	32						1			
	34						2			
	37		4							
47		2								
6. Teiuș	6						2			
	20						2			
	28						2			
	33									1
	35						1			

Appendix 2 – Group A: Type 1a – Earrings with open ends made of round bar from biritual cemeteries. F – Female; C – Child; A – Adult; G+U – Funery pit and funerary urn; G – Funery pit; U – Funerary urn. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves

Group A Type 1a	No. grave	Metal			
		Br			Ar
		F	C	A	C
Inhumation					
1. Bratei 2	211			1	
	215			1	
	224				2
	228			1	
	229		1		
	235			1	
	240			1	
	242			1	
2. Ocna Sibiului	244			1	
	32		1		
	115		1		
Cremation	126	1			
	No. grave	Br			Ag
1. Berghin		G+U	G	U	U
	238			1	
	285			1	1
	345			2	
2. Bratei 2	38	1			
	177	2			
	210		2		
3. Ocna Sibiului	44			2	

Appendix 3 – Group A: Type 1b-c – Earrings with open ends made of round bar from inhumation and biritual cemeteries. B – Male; F – Female; A – Adult; U – Funerary urn. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves

Group A	No. grave	Metal		
		Br		
		B	F	A
Inhumation cemeteries				
Tip 1b				
1. Sâncrai	26			2
	41			2
	43			1
	105		2	
Tip 1c				
1. Sâncrai	7	1		
	8			2
	41		2	
	49		1	
	87		1	
	103		2	
	104		4	
2. Șpălnaca	28		2	
Biritual cemeteries		Br		
Cremation		U		
1. Berghin	76	1		

Appendix 4 – Group A: Type 2a-c – Earrings with one of the extremities ended in cylinder shaped spiral from inhumation and biritual cemeteries. F – Female; A – Adult; N – Unknown; U – Funerary urn. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves

Group A	No. grave	Metal			
Type 2a					
Inhumation cemeteries		Br			
		F	A	N	U
1. Sâncrai	107		1		
2. Teiuş	20			1	
Birituale cemeteries					
Cremation					
1. Berghin	50				1
	238				3
Typ 2b					
Inhumation cemeteries					
Câmpia Turzii	3			1	
Sâncrai	83		1		
Tip 2c					
Biritual cemeteries					
Inhumation					
Bratei 2	233	2			

Appendix 5 – Group A: – Type 3a-c Bronze annular earring with one end twisted outwards in the shape of a spiral and/or circle from inhumation and biritual cemeteries B – Male; F – Female; A – Adult; N – Unknown; U – Funerary urn. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves

Group A	No. grave	Metal				
Type 3a						Ar
Inhumation cemeteries		Br				A
		B	F	A	U	
1. Gâmbaş 1	7					1
2. Gâmbaş 2	2	1				
3. Sâncrai	71		1			
Biritual cemeteries						
Cremation						
1. Berghin	238		1			
1. Boarta	18A				1	
Tip 3b						
Inhumation cemeteries						
1. Sâncrai	48		1			
3. Teiuş	8			1		
Type 3c						
Settlements						
Filiaşi	House no. 20, 1 bronz piece					

Appendix 7 – Group B: Type 1a-f – Earrings with pendants welded to the earring hoop. B – Male; F – Female; C – Child; A – Adult; U – Funerary urn. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves

Group B Type 1a Inhumation cemeteries	No. grave	Metal								
		Br				Ag			Au	
		B	F	C	A	F	C	A	U	B
1. Bratei 2	211				2					
	214			2						
	224					2				
	233		2							
	242				1			1		

Appendix 8 – Group B: Type 2–4 – Earrings with pendants welded to the earring hoop. N – Unknown; G – Funerary urn; T/B – Barrow/Male. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves

Group B Type 2 Inhumation cemeteries	No. grave	Metal		
		Br		Ag
		N	G	T/B
1. Câmpia Turzii	4	1		
Type 3				
Cremation cemeteries				
1. Someșeni	1			1
Type 4				
Biritual cemeteries				
Cremation				
Bratei 2	182		2	

Appendix 9 – Group C: Type 1–3 – Earrings with attached pendants. B – Male; F – Female; C – Child; N – Unknown; G – Funerary pit. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves.

Group C Type 1a Inhumation cemeteries	No. grave	Metal									
		Br				Ag				Au	
		B	F	N	G	B	F	C	N	N	
1. Lopadea Nouă	1					2					
Type 1b											
Inhumation cemeteries											
1. Sâncrai	21					2					
Cimitire birituale											
Inhumație											
Ghirbom 2	?									3	
Type 1c											
Inhumation cemeteries											
1. Cicău	6						1				
2. Sâncrai	2					2					
	37		2								
	48		2								
	53			4							
	68		2								
	75						1				
	79						2				
80							1				
3. Șpălnaca	15						1				

Appendix 9 – Group C: Type 1–3 – Earrings with attached pendants. B – Male; F – Female; C – Child; N – Unknown; G – Funerary pit. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves.

Group C	No. grave	Metal											
		Br				Ag			Au				
		B	F	N	G	B	F	C	N	N			
4. Teiuș	6			2									
	13			1									
	21										2		
Type 2													
Biritual cemeteries													
Inhumation	?												1
Ghirbom 2													
Type 3a													
Inhumation cemeteries													
1. Sâncrai	1	1											
	45	1											
	49	2											
	63	1											
Type 3b													
Birituale cemeteries													
Cremation													
Bratei 2	158				2								

Appendix 10 – Group C: Type 4-6 – Earrings with attached pendants. B – Male; F – Female; A – Adult. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves.

Group C	No. grave	Metal		
		Br		
		B	F	A
1. Sâncrai	81	1		
2. Șpălnaca	6			1
Biritual cemeteries				
Inhumation				
1. Berghin	227			4
Tip 5				
Inhumation cemeteries				
Sâncrai	48		1	
Tip 6				
Biritual cemeteries				
Inhumation				
1. Berghin	345			1

Appendix 11 – Group D – Earrings with glass globular pendants. B – Male; F – Female; N – Unknown; 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves.

Group D	No. grave	Br. + glass globular pendants		
		B	F	N
Type 1a				
1. Gâmbaș 2	1	2		
2. Teiuș	8			1
	30			2
Type 1b				
Sâncrai	86		1	

Appendix 13 – Group F – Lunula earrings. G – Earrings with rhomboid pendant. B – Male; F –Female; N – Unknown; U – Funerary urn; L – House. 1, 2, 3 – number of objects in graves and the houses.												
Grup F Type 1a Inhumation cemeteries	No. grave	Metal										
		Br					Ag					
		B	F	N	U	L	B	F	N	L		
Inhumations cemeteries												
1. Teiuș	23									1		
	55										1	
Settlements												
Țaga											1	
Type 2												
1. Sâncrai	1	2										
	6									2		
	74									1		
	95									1		
	109									2		
2. Noșlac	85									2		
3. Teiuș	19										2	
	?										1	
Biritual cemeteries												
Cremation												
1. Bratei 2	145				1							
Settlements												
Jucu de Sus								1				
Tip 3												
Inhumations cemeteries												
1. Noșlac	67		1									
2. Sâncrai	68		1									
3. Moldovenești	1									1		
Grup G												
Inhumation cemeteries												
1. Sâncrai	109		2									

Appendix 14 – Association of the earrings with other types of earrings or other types of artifacts in the graves of the cemetery at Câmpia Turzii, Cicău, Gâmbaș 1and Gâmbaș 2

Cemeteries	No. g.	Earrings											Beads	Fibulae	Buckles	Knives	Ceramics	Wooden bucket
		Group A			Group B		Group C	Group E		Group F								
		Type			Type		Type	Type		Type								
		1a	2a	3a	1b	2	1b	1b	1c	1a	1b	1c						
A. Câmpia Turzii	3	•	•															
	4	•																
B. Cicău	2										•			•				
	6										•							
C. Gâmbaș 1	4								•	•				•	•		•	
	7	•		•										•				
	13									•				•		•		
D. Gâmbaș 2	1												•	•		•		
	2			•	•									•				

Appendix 16 – Association of the earrings with other types of earrings or other types of artifacts in the graves of the cemetery at Șpălnaca						
No.g.	Earrings			Beads	Buckles	Arrowheads
	Group A	Group B	Group C			
	Type 1a	Type 1f	Type 1b 4			
5	•					
6				•		
8	•					
9	•			•	•	
15	•		•			
18	•					
19						
21	•			•		
22	•					
37	•	•		•		
38	•					•
42	•					
47	•			•		

Appendix 17- Association of the earrings with other types of earrings or other types of artifacts in the graves of the cemetery at Teiuș

No. g.	Earrings									Beads	Knives	Ceramics
	Group A			Group B	Group C	Group D	Group F					
	Tip			Tip	Tip		Tip					
	1a	2a	3b	1a	1b		1		2			
					a		b	e				
6	•				•					•		
8			•			•				•	•	
13					•							•
19									•			
20	•	•										•
21					•					•		•
23								•		•		
28	•											
30						•				•	•	•
33	•											
35	•			•						•		
42								•				
55								•	•			
?								•				
?									•			

Appendix 18 – Association of the earrings with other types of earrings or other types of artifacts in the graves of the biritual cemetery at Bratei 2

No.g.	Earrings										Beads	Ceramics	Knives	Iron bell	Buckles	Avar appliques		
	Inhumation				Cremation													
	Group A		Group B		Group A		Group B		Group C								Group F	
	Type	Type	Type	Type	Type	Type	Type	Type	Type	Type								
1a	2c	1e	1d	1a	1e	4	3b	4	2									
211	•		•								•							
214			•								•	•						
215	•																	
220			•															
221				•							•							
224	•		•									•						
229	•																	
233		•	•								•	•						
236			•									•						
242	•		•										•					
145									•				•					
158								•										
177					•						•		•	•				
182							•				•					•		
191					•	•		•										
210					•						•	•			•			

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Abbreviations

AB	Analele Banatului, I-IV 1928–1931; S.N. I 1981-, The Museum of Banat/The National Museum of Banat, Timișoara.
ACTA	Yearbook of the Székely Museum in Csík and the Székely National Museum, Miercurea Ciuc – Sepsiszentgyörgy.
ActaArchHung	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest.
AÉ	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest.
Acta Historica	Acta Universitatis Szegediensis (Szeged).
ArchHung	Archaeologia Hungarica.
ArhMed	Arheologia Medievală.
AM	Mitteilungen des Kaiserlich Deutschen Archaeologischen Instituts, Athenische Abteilung (Athenische Mitteilungen), Athen, (1876-).
AMM	Acta Moldaviae Meridionalis (Vaslui).
AMN	Acta Musei Napocensis, The National History Museum of Transylvania, Cluj – Napoca.
AMP	Acta Musei Porolisensis, County History and Art Museum of Zalău.
ArhMold	Arheologia Moldovei, Iași.
BCH	Bulletin de Correspondence Hellénique, Paris, 1 (1877-).
BerRGK	Berichte der Römisch-Germanischen Kommission. Roman-Germanic Commission. Frankfurt am Main.
EphNap	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca.
CCA	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, Ministry of Culture.
CCCA I	M. J. Vermaseren, Corpus cultus Cybelae Attidisque (CCCA), I. Asia Minor, Leiden, New York, København, Köln, 1987.
CIG	Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum, I-IV, (ed. A. Boeckh), Berlin, 1828–1877.
CIL	Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, consilio et auctoritate Academiae litterarum regiae Borussicae editum. (1863-).
Dacia	Dacia. Recherches et découvertes archéologiques en Roumanie, S.V. I-XII; N.S. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne, I. 1957 și urm., Vasile Pârvan Institute of Archaeology, Bucharest.
DAGR	Dictionnaire des Antiquités grecques et romaines, I-X, sous la direction de Ch. Daremberg et E. Saglio, Paris, 1877–1929.
DolgSzeged	Dolgozatok a Szegedi Josef Tudományegyetem Archaeologiai Interzetbol (I, 1925...XIX, 1943).
IGB V	Inscriptiones Graecae in Bulgaria repertae, (ed. Georgi Mihailov), vol. V: Supplementum, addenda et corrigenda. Sofia, 1997.
IGDOP	Inscriptions grecques dialectales d'Olbia du Pont, (ed. L. Dubois), Genève, 1996.
IGRR IV	Inscriptiones Graecae ad Res Romanas Pertinentes, IV (ed. G. Lafaye), Paris, 1927.
ISM I, II	Inscriptiones Scythiae Minoris – Inscrupțiile din Scythia Minor, I: Histria și împrejurimile (ed. D. M. Pippidi), Bucharest, 1983; II: Tomis și teritoriul său, (ed. Iorgu Stoian), Bucharest, 1987.
LIMC	Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae, I–VIII + index vol., (eds. J. Ch. Balty, E. Berger, J. Boardman, Ph. Bruneau, F. Canciani, L. Kahil, V. Lambrinoudakis, E. Simon), Zürich, München, Düsseldorf, 1981–1999.
LSJ	Liddell H. G., Scott R., Jones H. S., A Greek-English Lexicon, with a revised supplement. Oxford, 1996.
MAA	Monumenta Avarorum Archaeologica.
OM	<i>Orbis Mediaevalis</i> .
PBF	Prähistorische Bronzefunde, München.

RA	Revue Archéologique, Paris (1844-).
RAC	Rivista di archeologia cristiana, Rome (1924-).
RevBistr	Revista Bistriței, Bistrița-Năsăud Museum Complex, Bistrița.
RH	Revue historique, Paris, (1876-).
RIG	Recueil d'inscriptions grecques, par Ch. Michel, Bruxelles, 1900.
Sargetia	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva.
SCIV(A)	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche, tom 1–25, Bucharest, 1950–1974; începând din 1974 (tom 25): Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie, Bucharest.
SCN	Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică, Bucharest.
SEG	Supplementum epigraphicum graecum, Lugdunum Batavorum, Leiden, 1923–1971; Alphen aan den Rijn 1979–1980; Amsterdam, 1979–2005; Boston, 2006-.
StCl	Studii Clasice, Bucharest.
Syll ³	Sylloge inscriptionum Graecarum, (3rd edition), (ed. W. Dittenberger), 1915–1924.
Terra Sebus	Terra Sebus, Sebeș.
ThesCRA	Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum, I–V + index vol., (eds. J. Ch. Balty, J. Boardman, Ph. Bruneau, R. G. A. Buxton, G. Camporeale, F. Canciani, F. Graf, T. Hölscher, V. Lambrinoudakis, E. Simon), Basel, Los Angeles, (2004–2006).
UPA	Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Institut für Ur-und Frühgeschichte der Universität Kiel.
ZSA	Ziridava. Studia Archaeologica, Arad Museum, Cluj-Napoca.