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XXXIV–XXXV

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LATE IRON AGE FINDS FROM THE COLLECTION OF ISTVÁN DÉNES*

SÁNDOR BERECKI

Keywords: Late Iron Age, caves, Vârghiş Ravine, pottery, metallurgy

Cuvinte cheie: a doua epocă a fierului, peşteri, Cheile Vârghişului, ceramică, metalurgie

The collection of István Dénes consists of a large amount of archaeological materials dating from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages, collected and excavated in the caves from the Vârghiş Ravine and from other sites in the area. The present paper presents the Late Iron Age materials of this collection, comprising mainly common pottery. The importance of the Late Iron Age finds is given by their place of discovery, while a metal melting furnace discovered in one of the caves brings into discussion new elements for the interpretation of the use of these natural shelters.

The Late Iron Age materials from the collection of István Dénes can be considered neither numerous nor remarkable. The finds from the end of the Late Iron Age are almost exclusively potsherds, mainly hand-made, seldom wheel-thrown and in all cases they are common forms. Nevertheless, the place of discovery of the finds is exceptional, since, even if a considerable number of caves with Late Iron Age materials are known, their comprehensive analysis has not been completed. Generally, in the case of the caves, the Late Iron Age materials belong to the upper layer; therefore, because of the often minor geological deposits the Late Iron Age materials appear mixed with the finds of the later periods even in the cases of archaeological excavations.

In the Vârghiş Ravine, Late Iron Age materials were collected from the caves nos. 1200/9 (Lublinit), 11, 12, 14 (Almási or Orbán Balázs), 23, 27 (Cseppköves), 33 (Átjáró), 36 (Kőfalas), 57 (Alagút), 80 (Vízfeletti), 87 (Kőcsűr) and 106 (Cserepes), as well as from Mereşti–Pipások dombja and three further sites from Racoşul de Sus. In addition to the above, the earlier literature mentions further Late Iron Age finds from

the caves nos. 1, 3 and 20.¹ In the records of István Dénes entitled “*Jelentés a Vargyas-szorosban levő 1200/122 számú sziklaereszben (Párkány) végzett ásatás eredményeiről*”² and the archaeological notes entitled “*Kőbezárt világ. Régészeti kutatások a Vargyas-szoros barlangjaiban*”³ Dacian pottery is mentioned from cave no. 122 (Párkány). Besides the summarizing – yet not always identical – tables of the “*Cave list*” Late Iron Age finds from caves nos. 4, 6, 34 (Ablakos), 35 (Csontos), 54, 81 (Fehér-ozslop), 101 (Orgonákbeli) and 107 (Oszlopocskák) are mentioned. However, no Late Iron Age finds could be identified from these latter caves in the collection.

From cave 1200/9 (Lublinit) four hand-made rim and body fragments of pots and one rim fragment of a deep bowl are preserved (*Pl. 1/1–5*). The brown and greyish brown fragments were tempered by crushed potsherds, coarse and fine sand, all of them presenting strong calcareous sediments on their surface. One of the pots was decorated by impressions, another with pinched ornament.

¹ Boroneanţ 2000, 64, 66–68.

² Translation: *Report about the results of the excavations undertaken in the overhang no 1200/122 (Párkány) from the Vârghiş Ravine.*

³ Translation: *World locked in stone. Archaeological surveys in the caves of the Vârghiş Ravine.*

*This work was supported by a grant of the Romanian Ministry of Education, CNCS–UEFISCDI, project number PN-II-RU-PD-2012-3-0316.

In cave 1200/11, besides Bronze Age pottery, four Late Iron Age potsherds were found: two hand-made rim fragments of pots, a grey, wheel-thrown, slime tempered body fragment of a pot and another wheel-thrown, grey, slime tempered rim fragment of a cup. The two hand-made and crushed potsherd tempered brown fragments of pots presented intensive calcareous deposits on their surface; one was decorated with impressed cordon, the other with bosses (*Pl. 1/9–10; 2/1*).

From cave 1200/12 only four Late Iron Age fragments were collected. Besides the featureless potsherds, the fragments of a large, brown pot with everted and rounded rim (120 mm) and traces of secondary burning (*Pl. 2/2*) and the brown, crushed potsherd tempered pot's base can be mentioned.

From cave 1200/14 (Almási or Orbán Balázs) 194 fragments are kept in the collection, out of which only three hand-made, brown and greyish brown rims' fragments tempered with sand or organic materials were from the Late Iron Age (*Pl. 1/6–8*). A sack-shaped pot's neck was decorated with impressed cordon, while another fragment of a pot with vertical profile was ornamented with a boss. The third, undecorated fragment, presented slight traces of calcareous deposits on the exterior surface, while the interior of the ware kept the marks of secondary burning. The "*Kőbezárt világ*" registry mentions a survey on 26th October 2003; probably these materials were collected on that date.

The Late Iron Age and Medieval use of cave 1200/23 was previously known.⁴ A Bronze Age potsherd and five undecorated Late Iron Age fragments were found in the collection: two rim fragments of hand-made dark grey pots, a hand-made body fragment of a brown pot, a body fragment of a wheel-thrown brown shallow bowl and another slime tempered, brown body fragment of a cup (*Pl. 2/3–4*). On the exterior surface of the three hand-made fragments traces of secondary burning could be observed.

From cave 1200/27 (Cseppköves) Late Iron Age materials were collected on two occasions (*Pl. 2/5–7*). On the first occasion, out of the twelve pottery fragments and animal bones, nine were from the Bronze Age and three from the Late Iron Age. The second survey resulted in Copper Age, Bronze Age and Migration Period pottery as well as four Late Iron Age fragments. Six of the seven hand-made brown and grey pot fragments were from the rim and one was from the body. Three

potsherds presented traces of calcareous deposition on their surface. The wares were tempered with sand, one pot kept the traces of secondary burning on its interior. A rim was decorated with impressions, impressed cordon and boss, the other wares were ornamented with impressed cordon.

In the cave 1200/33 (Átjáró), together with Bronze Age and Migration Period pottery, ten hand-made Late Iron Age fragments were found; eight were grey and brown rim and body fragments of pots tempered with sand, coarse sand and crushed potsherds, one belonged to a dark grey coarse sand tempered rim of a pitcher, while several fragments came from a brownish dark grey chalice tempered with sand and crushed potsherds (*Pl. 2/8–9; 3*). The interior of two pots and the exterior of another fragment presented traces of secondary burning. The pots were decorated with incisions, bosses, impressed cordons and impressed bosses. The "*Kőbezárt világ*" mentions Late Iron Age materials collected on the occasion of the survey from 28th February 2004.

Three surveys undertaken in the cave 1200/36 (Kőfalas) resulted Late Iron Age pottery. The first prospection took place on 22nd October 1994 in chamber 36/C in the company of Gábor Szabó and Zoltán Kárpáti, but data about this exploration are only mentioned in the "*Kőbezárt világ*". The research of the trench traced opposite the entrance on 15th March 2003, besides pottery from the Bronze Age, Migration Period and Modern Era, resulted in three Late Iron Age hand-made, brown rim and base fragments of pots (*Pl. 4/1–3*). A rim fragment tempered with coarse sand was decorated with impressed cordon and impressions on the rim, while the base fragment presented traces of secondary burning on its interior and calcareous sediments on the exterior surface. In December 2003, together with Copper Age and Bronze Age materials, three brown, hand-made Late Iron Age rim fragments of pots with intensive calcareous deposition were also collected (*Pl. 4/4*). The pottery was tempered with sand and in one case with crushed potsherds, and it was ornamented with impressions on the rim and impressed cordon. One pot presented traces of secondary burning on its exterior surface.

The drawing no. 352, Cave 36/H from the "*Régészeti leltárkönyv*", illustrates a 22 mm in diameter and 1 mm thick "copper wire ring". The simple, 3a-Rustoiu and E2a-Horedt type ring

⁴ Boroneanț 2000, 67–68.

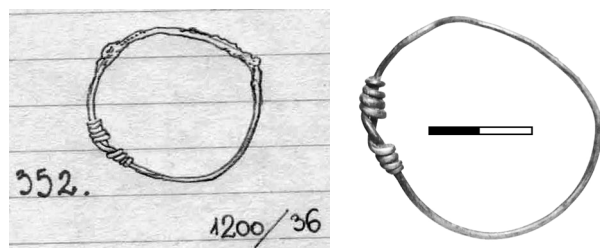


Fig. 1. 3a-Rustoiu type silver ring from cave no. 36.

1. Drawing made by István Dénes;
2. Photo of the ring (S.-J. Sztáncsuj).

with overlapped and coiled ends is in fact made of silver (Fig. 1). These rings appeared at the end of the Late Iron Age, they are known to be made of bronze, silver and gold too and they were used as chain buckles, necklace or chain links, or as independent jewellery such as hair hoops or finger rings.⁵

From cave 1200/57 (Alagút), besides the Bronze Age and Medieval pottery, only two Late Iron Age potsherds were found: the base of a wheel-thrown pitcher and the rim of a hand-made pot (Pl. 4/5–6). The grey pitcher was slime tempered; the brown pot was tempered with coarse sand and decorated with impressed cordon and boss.

In the cave 1200/80 (Vízfeletti) five greyish hand-made pot fragments decorated with impressed cordon and covered by intensive calcareous remains were found (Pl. 4/7–11).

From cave 1200/87 (Kőcsűr), 86 prehistoric and Migration Period fragments are kept in the collection; among them eleven (eight rim and three body fragments) Late Iron Age hand-made fragments of pots (Pl. 5/1–7). The brown coloured pottery was tempered with crushed potsherds, sand, coarse sand and in one case with organic materials. In the case of three rim fragments, traces of secondary burning could be observed on the inside. The decorations consisted of incisions, impressions on the rim or body, impressed cordons and impressed bosses. According to the report of the “*Kőbezárt világ*”, during a smaller excavation undertaken on 12th September and 9th October 1999, besides Late Iron Age potsherds, the pieces from the walls of an iron melting furnace and slags were unearthed.

In cave 1200/106 Copper Age, Bronze Age and two Late Iron Age pottery fragments were found. Both rim fragments belonged to pots; they are hand-made, grey coloured and were tempered with coarse sand. One fragment was ornamented with impressed cordon.

In the collection of István Dénes there were also Copper Age, Bronze Age, Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age materials from the known site at Merești–Pipások dombja (*Kőmező*) situated in the foreground of the Vârgheiș Ravine, half a kilometre from the Almási Cave (Orbán Balázs Cave). The majority of the thirty-nine Late Iron Age fragments are atypical, brick red or grey, sometimes with traces of secondary burning (Pl. 6/1–5). Only two wheel-thrown fragments were found, the major part of the material is hand-made. On the rim (diameter: 440/330 mm) of a wheel-thrown, grey coloured, slime tempered footed bowl, a pair of polished waved lines could be observed. The hand-made, brown, greyish brown or yellowish brown pots tempered with coarse sand and crushed potsherds were decorated with impressed cordons and cut rims; one pot's rim presented traces of secondary burning on the exterior surface. The site is known due to the field walks of István Ferenczi and the archaeological excavations of Viorica Crișan from 1984–1993.⁶ The 3 hectare settlement dated between the middle of the 2nd century BC and the 1st century AD was terraced in several places, it was defended on three sides by ravines and steep slopes, while the north-eastern side was secured by a 330 m long ditch and rampart; this latter place is also known as *Tatársánc* (in translation: Tatar rampart). The earliest Late Iron Age finds date from the end of the second century BC. During the excavations, on terrace no. 5 traces of a fire from the middle of the first century BC were observed.⁷ The researches from 1994 revealed evidences of metalworking.⁸ The archaeological surveys unearthed a number of good quality painted pottery with linear and geometrical patterns – shallow bowls, *kantharoi* and pitchers – some of these wares are documenting the influences of the workshops along the Siret River, in other cases, they might have been Roman imports.⁹

From the site Racoșul de Sus–*Kápolnaoldala* István Dénes collected materials in 1997; on this occasion seven brown and grey coloured hand-made body fragments were found, tempered with coarse sand and crushed potsherds, together with a hand-made base and a wheel-thrown, brick red body fragment. All the fragments are atypical and undecorated.

⁶ Ferenczi – Ferenczi 1979, 415; Crișan – Ferenczi 1994, 377.

⁷ Căvruc 2000, 139–143; Crișan 2000, 54–56.

⁸ Crișan 1995, 361.

⁹ Florea 1998, 71.

⁵ Rustoiu 1996, 107.

In 2002 three wheel-thrown (a body and two base) and five hand-made fragments were added to the collection from Racoşul de Sus–*Somosajla* (Pl. 6/6), from the limestone hill situated in front of the Somostető, on its side facing the Sósút Creek.

Lastly, from Racoşul de Sus–*Durduja*¹⁰ three large, hand-made, brown coloured rim and body fragments of Late Iron Age pots are kept. The wares were tempered with crushed potsherds and sand and they were decorated with impressed bosses, impressed cordons and simple cordons (Pl. 6/7–9).

Although the finds are scarce and the circumstances of discovery are less professional, several statistical observations can be made. Regarding the shapes of pottery, one can note the preponderance of pots, only one deep bowl is documented from cave 9, a cup is known from cave 11 and a wheel-thrown bowl and a handled cup from cave 23. From cave 33 a fine chalice and a handled ware, probably a pitcher is kept, while from cave 57 a wheel-thrown pitcher is known. From several caves (14, 27, 36, 80, 87, 106) only pots were collected. The preponderance of cooking and storage wares is general characteristic of the Late Iron Age sites, while their exclusive appearance in some of the caves can be connected to the use of these natural places as shelters or refuge places.

The vast majority of the wares from the caves are hand-made; only from cave 11, 23 and 57 five wheel-thrown fragments are known. The wheel-thrown pottery is rare in the case of the sites from Mereşti and Racoşul de Sus, too, but in contrast to the finds from the caves, wheel-thrown wares are documented for each settlement.

The ornamentation of the Late Iron Age pottery from the sites of the Vârghiş Ravine is not too diversified, and it can be connected rather to the utility of the wares than to the ornamental technique, pattern use or aesthetical talent of the potters. The most common elements are the impressed cordons, bosses, incisions, impressed rims, impressions and the combination of these patterns; polished pared waved lines could be observed only on a wheel-thrown footed bowl from Mereşti.

The temper materials are the ones specific for the period: sand, coarse sand, crushed potsherds, slime and seldom organic materials. Regarding their chromatic, most of the fragments are brown or dark grey. The firing is mainly oxidizing, only

a few – and exclusively wheel-thrown – pots had reducing firing. Many fragments had calcareous deposits on their surface; in some cases because of the thickness of this stratum, even the original colour of the fragment could not be established. Only in the cave 1200/33 there are no preserved calcareous fragments, despite the fact that from this cave a large number of Late Iron Age pottery is kept in the collection. Calcareous sedimentation suggests that the potsherds had been for a long time on the surface, which is due to the usually slow process of sedimentation and soil layer formations inside the caves.

Almost all of the sites yielded potsherds with traces of secondary burning from the period of their use. In some cases these could be observed on the exterior of the wares, in other cases these were on the interior, while in the case of four pots from cave 1200/87 secondary burning could be observed on the interior of the rims.

On the margin of the Late Iron Age pottery from the Dénes-collection found in the caves of the Vârghiş Ravine the question arises as to what purpose the contemporary communities used these isolated natural spaces. It is generally accepted, that regardless of the historical period or region, the caves were permanent, seasonal, periodic or strategic settlements, workshops, cultic or hoarding places or funerary sites,¹¹ with analogous examples in historical books of the Bible¹² and in the Greco-Roman mythology.¹³ Occasionally, the function of the caves might have been more complex. There are examples throughout Europe for sheltering in caves of the individuals displaced or discriminated by the society, in other cases the caverns were the habitat of persons or families of low social status. The function of the caves and the classification of the individuals or communities who used them can be further refined if the accessibility of the caves, their natural environment or 'cavescape', their orientation, the temperature, the degree of human intervention or analyses of the organic materials, faunal and floral objects are taken into consideration. In this respect, for some regions it could be

¹¹ Petrescu 2000, 78–83, 88.

¹² Abraham bought a cave for the funerary of his wife and after his death he was also buried there (Genesis 23); Lot and his daughters fled in a cave (Genesis 19), men of Israel fled from the Philistines in caves (1 Samuel 13), David hid from King Saul in a cave (1 Samuel 22).

¹³ The cults of Pan, Bacchus, Pluto, Mithras, Sibyls and Nymphs often were held in caverns, other caves served as oracles.

¹⁰ Costea 1996, 48–54, fig. 28–32.

observed that the caves used as shelters or settlement are easily accessible, while the funerary or fortified sites are harder to reach.¹⁴

In the case of the caves from the Vârghiș Ravine – except for the cave 1200/87 (Kőcsúr) – it is highly probable that in the Late Iron Age (1st century BC – 1st century AD) these were the temporary shelters and refugee places of the inhabitants, shepherds and hunters of the fortifications and settlements from the area. Since the majority of the pottery from the caves is hand-made, with pots presenting traces of secondary burning on their exterior or interior surface which would suggest their use for cooking or heating, it is also possible that caves were used for a shorter or longer period of time by individuals or communities during natural calamities or wartime, maybe as a hiding-place of the helpless persons.

It is possible, however, the ritual use of these caves, either. These ceremonial acts interwoven with myths and legends had rarely left archaeological traces in our region, but they are well documented for the Mediterranean region.¹⁵ Yet, the few written sources referring to the Late Iron Age religion of the area report about the caves, too. According to Herodotus (Histories IV, 93–96) Zalmoxis, who resembles with Pythagoras, preached about the life after death among the Getae, and as a proof he withdrew for three years in an underground place, and while the people mourned him as dead, in the fourth year he came out, thereby supporting his doctrines. Strabo in his *Geographika* (VII, 3, 5) mentions the astronomer, magician, prophet, high priest and later divine Zalmoxis, who allowed in his cave on the Kogălniț mountain only the king and his followers.

The difficultly accessible and humid, but naturally illuminated cave from Iabalcea–*Peștera Țapului*, Caraș-Severin County, has been associated with the cult of Zalmoxis.¹⁶ There, besides a drachma of Alexandria from the third–second centuries BC found in the thin and mixed prehistoric and medieval layer,¹⁷ in the back of the central chamber three vessels dated to the 4th–3rd centuries BC were found placed in the holes of the floor.¹⁸ Another cave connected to the reports

of the ancient sources is the Limanu Cave also known as La Icoane in Constanța County:¹⁹ Cassius Dio mentions the conflict from 28 BC between Rhodē, allied with the Roman Marcus Licinius Crassus, and Daphnē the king of Getae, when the supporters of the latter retreated and hid with their wealth and flocks in the cave named Keiris.

On the territory of Transylvania, however, in most of the cases the caves yielded only pottery fragments and traces of short term settling. The two caves from Federi, Hunedoara County might have served during the Late Iron Age as a temporary shelter of a small community,²⁰ although, as in the case of the caves from Ohaba Ponor, Hunedoara County,²¹ the possibility of their use as observation posts during the Dacian wars was also supposed.²² The traces found in the caves from Grădiștea de Munte, Hunedoara County, where the Late Iron Age materials were also dated to the first century BC and the first century AD, indicated their use during the Dacian wars, too.

However, not all the Transylvanian caves served only as shelters during the Late Iron Age. Based on the discovered coins from Thasos, Apollonia and Dyrrachium it can be presumed that the caves with thermal and medicinal waters at Geoagiu-Băi, Hunedoara County were also used before the Roman conquest, in the period of the Late Iron Age.²³ During the earlier researches from Șuncuiuș–*Peștera Mișidului or Napiștileu*, Bihor County, a vessel and a Dyrrachium coin from the 2nd–1st century BC were found.²⁴ The excavations from 2000 brought to light, at the entrance of the cave, a cultic feature together with several vessels, two iron spearheads, an axe, a knife, a bronze arrowhead and two silver Dyrrachium coins.²⁵

In the case of the Vârghiș Ravine the cave 1200/87 (Kőcsúr) is outstanding: here, István Dénes reports about traces of a blacksmiths' workshop: pieces from the walls of a smelting

¹⁴ Bergsvik 2014, 392.

¹⁵ Eliade 2000, 90–91.

¹⁶ Rogozea 1987, 350; Boroneanț 2000, 32–33; Luca 2006, 139.

¹⁷ Petrescu 2000, 72, fig. 1. Regarding the cultic function see: Petrescu 2000, 82–83.

¹⁸ Crișan 1986, 382; Petrescu 1997, 33.

¹⁹ Boroneanț 2000, 50–51.

²⁰ Oltean 2007, 76.

²¹ During the excavations in 1999–2000 only materials from the first century BC and first century AD were found, but from the earlier researches in the cave Ohaba Ponor–*Bordul Mare* a LT C1 (250–175 BC) C-Ieșova or A17-Pișcolt type (*fibeln mit Achterschleifen*) silver brooch was also found (see: Ferencz 2007, 43–44).

²² Roska 1924, 304, no. 1.

²³ Gheorghiu 2005, 38; Luca 2008, 79–80.

²⁴ Boroneanț 2000, 7–8.

²⁵ Ignat – Ghemiș 2001, nr. 202; Ghemiș et al. 2011, 52, no. 9.

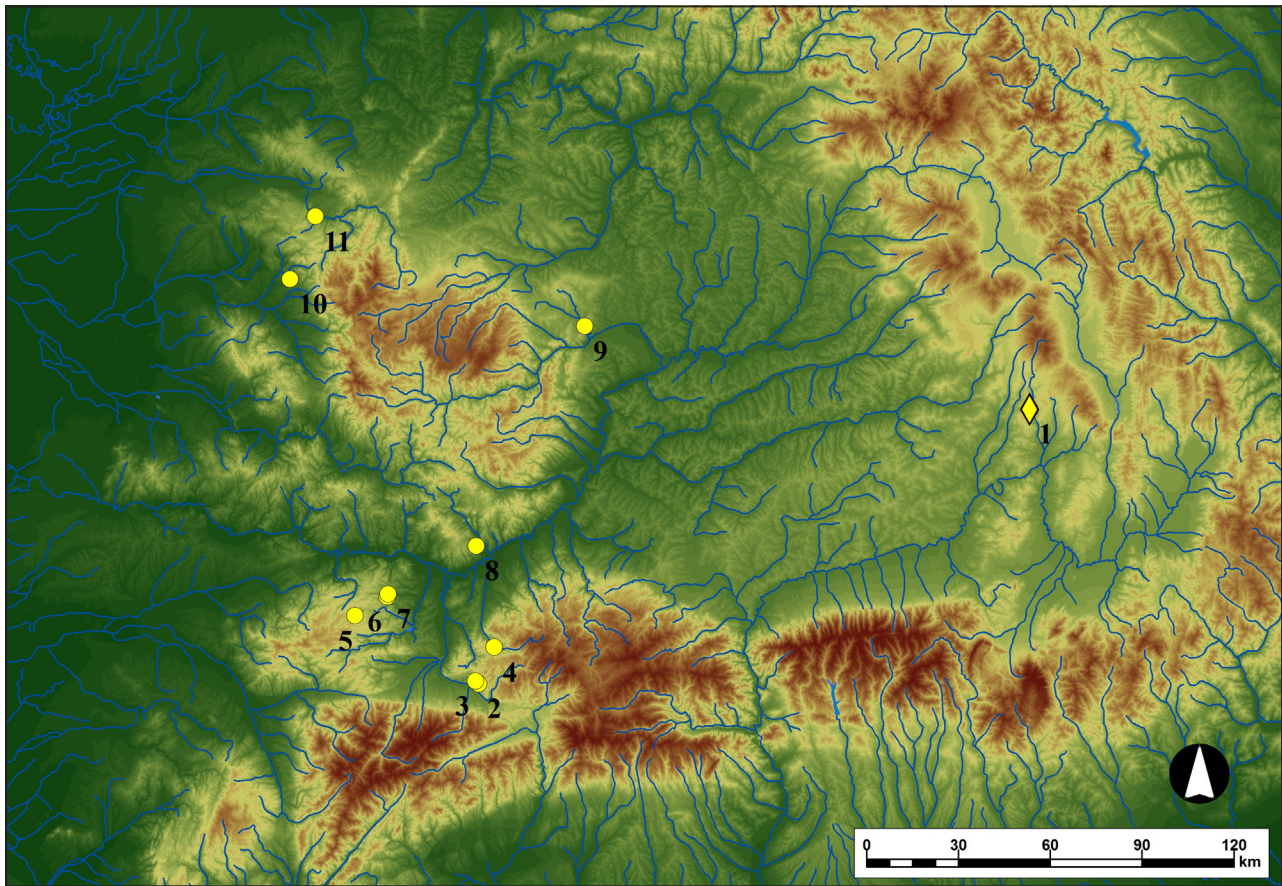


Fig. 2. Caves with Late Iron Age finds from Transylvania (map: L. Rupnik).

furnace together with slags. Similar finds – iron ore, slag and crucibles – were found on the territory of the close fortification from Merești–*Pipások dombja*.²⁶ Late Iron Age cave workshops are rare in the Carpathian Basin; apart from the finds from the Vârghiș Ravine only the hearths from the Femeii cave-section at Cireșu–*Peștera Topolnița* in Mehedinți County and the iron melting furnaces found outside this caves can be mentioned.²⁷ Further caves, such as the one from Dumbrava–*Peștera cu apă*, Hunedoara County²⁸ are in regions rich in precious metals and iron ore, therefore, their use may be associated also with mining.

The myths of the Mediterranean region – among which the most representative is the legend of Hephaestus, the physically disabled yet talented (initiated) ‘magician-technologist’ blacksmith of the gods²⁹ – suggest that the metal workshops from the caves are exceptional.

Herodotus, according to whom the “iron has been discovered for the evil of mankind” (I, 68) reports that “the Thracians also and Scythians [...] esteem those of their citizens who learn the arts, and the descendants of them, as less honourable than the rest” (II, 167).³⁰ In contrast, in Eliade’s interpretation and view the metallurgist is the ‘master of the fire’, who, with his forge, substitutes the Mother Earth, and as a kind of alchemist accelerates the ‘maturation’ of the minerals. Because of his knowledge the metallurgist is considered by the community both saint and demonic, which is feared and held in contempt in the same time.³¹ Maybe with such a social perception we could associate the metallurgist’s workshop from the Vârghiș Ravine, too.

²⁶ Crișan 1995, 361.

²⁷ Boroneanț 2000, 83.

²⁸ Roman 2008, 125.

²⁹ According to Crișan 1986, 427 the Geto-Dacian pantheon also included a god similar to Hephaestus.

³⁰ Herodotus, *History* (translated by G. C. Macaulay).

³¹ Eliade 2000, 44–46.

Appendix

Caves with Late Iron Age finds in Transylvania (Fig. 2)

1. **Merești** (Homoródalmás, HR), Caves 1, 3, 9 (Lublinit), 11, 12, 14 (Almási or Orbán Balázs), 20, 23, 27 (Cseppköves), 33 (Átjáró), 36 (Kőfalas), 57 (Alagút), 80 (Vízfeletti), 87 (Kőcsúr) and 106 (Cserepes) and 122 (Párkány). Boroneanț 2000, 64, 66–68.

2.1. **Ohaba Ponor–Bordul Mare** (Ohábaponor, HD). Roska 1924, 304, no. 1; Nicolăescu-Plopșor et al. 1957, 47; Crișan 1969, 269; Boroneanț 2000, 80–81; Gheorghiu 2005, 42; Ferencz 2007, 43–44, 65; Luca 2008, 120; Roman 2008, 126, 129.

2.2. **Ohaba Ponor–Șura Mare** (Ohábaponor, HD). Luca 2008, 120; Roman 2008, 126.

3.1. **Federi–Coasta Vacii**, cave no. 1 (Fégyér, HD). Roska 1924, 304, no. 1; Nicolăescu-Plopșor – Mateescu 1955, 394; Gheorghiu 2005, 38; Oltean 2007, 76; Luca 2008, 73; Roman 2008, 126.

3.2. **Federi–Gura Cocoșului/Gaura Cocoșului/Peștera Cocoșului** (Fégyér, HD). Roska 1924, 304, no. 1; Nicolăescu-Plopșor – Mateescu 1955, 394; Crișan 1969, 262; Boroneanț 2000, 77; Gheorghiu 2005, 38; Luca 2008, 73–74; Roman 2008, 126.

4.1. **Grădiștea de Munte–Peștera Dealul Cocos** (Gredistye, HD). Daicoviciu et al. 1953, 188; Boroneanț 2000, 73; Gheorghiu 2005, 71; Luca 2008, 81.

4.2. **Grădiștea de Munte–Culmea Vârtoapelor**, cave no. 1, La Găuri, Piatra Bodii (Gredistye, HD). Boroneanț 2000, 78–79; Luca 2008, 81.

5. **Runcu Mare**, stalactite cave no. 1 (Nagyrunk, HD), Luca et al. 1997, 19, pl. IV/5–7; Luca et al. 2004, 39; Roman 2008, 126.

6. **Ciulpăz–Peștera Bulgărelu** (Csulpesz, HD), Roman 2008, 126.

7. **Dumbrava–Peștera cu Apă** (Erdőhát, HD), Luca et al. 1997, pl. VI/2; Luca et al. 2004, 35; Roman 2008, 125.

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Rezumat

Colecția lui István Dénes constă dintr-o cantitate mare de materiale arheologice datând din paleolitic până în Evul Mediu, colectate și săpate în peșterile din Cheile Vârghișului și din alte situri din zonă. Lucrarea de față prezintă materialele din a doua epocă a fierului din această colecție, care constă în mare parte din ceramică comună. Importanța descoperirilor din a doua epocă a fierului constă mai ales în locul lor de descoperire, pe când un cuptor de metalurgist descoperit în una din peșteri aduce în discuție elemente noi de interpretare a utilizării acestor adăposturi naturale.

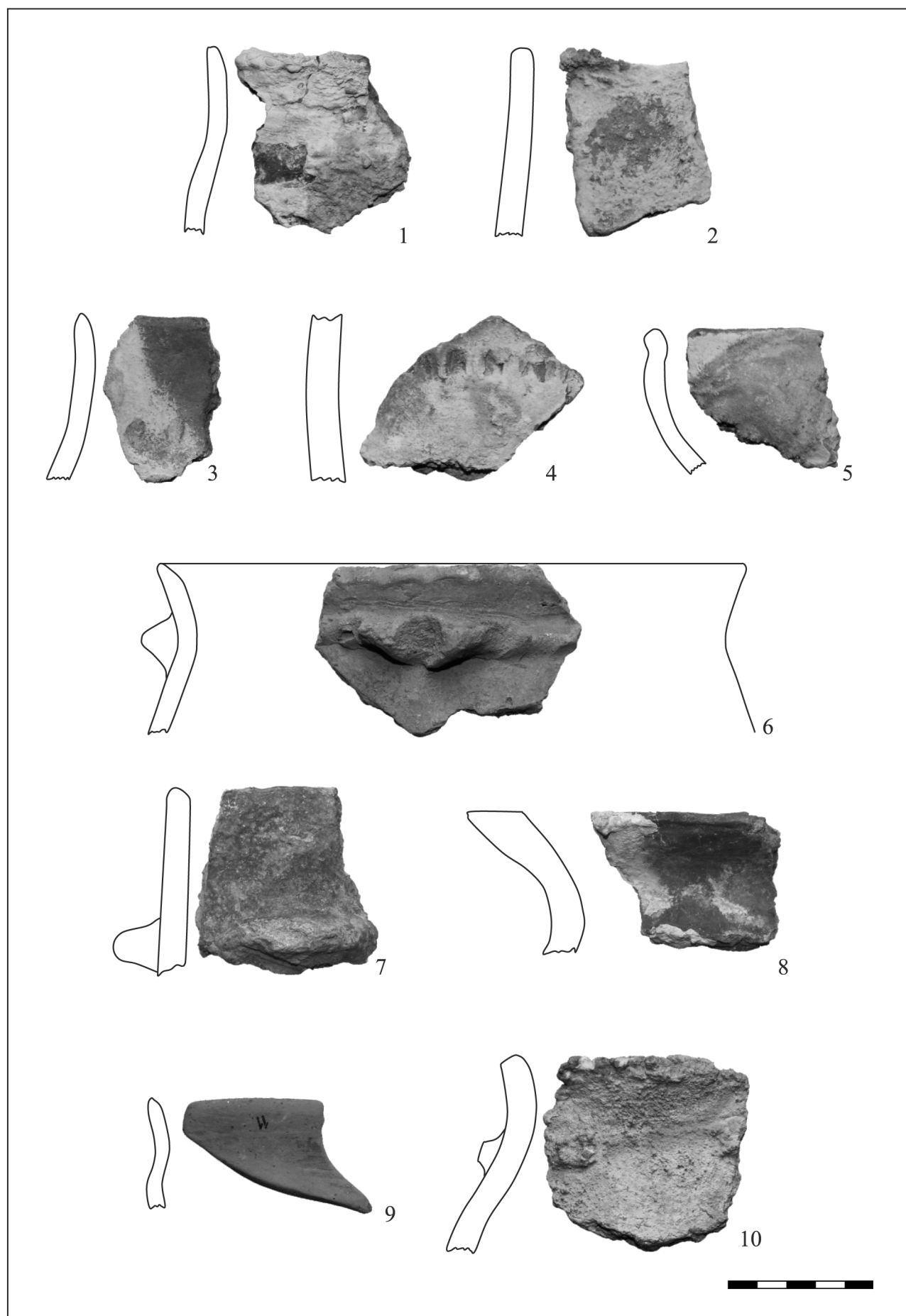


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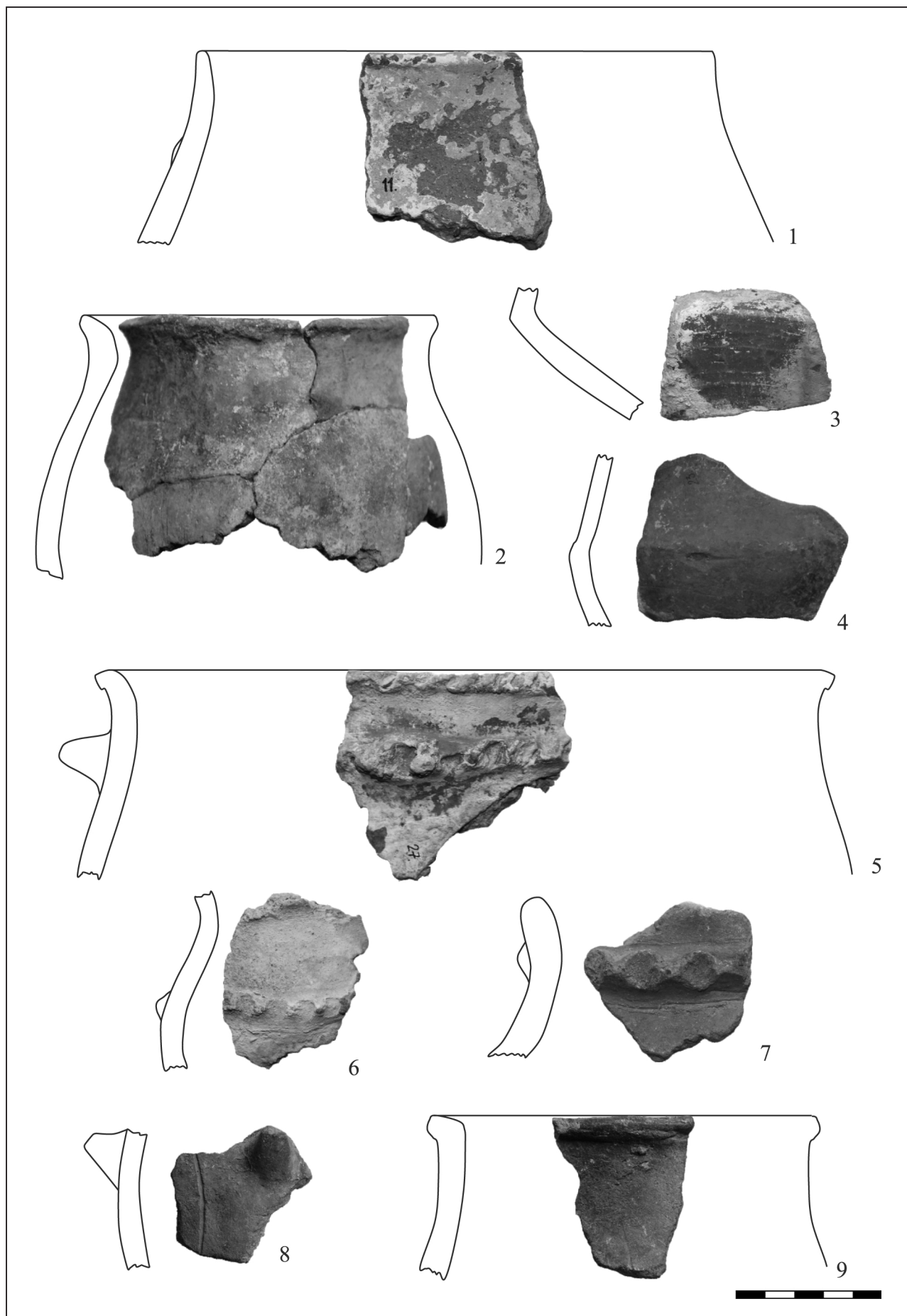


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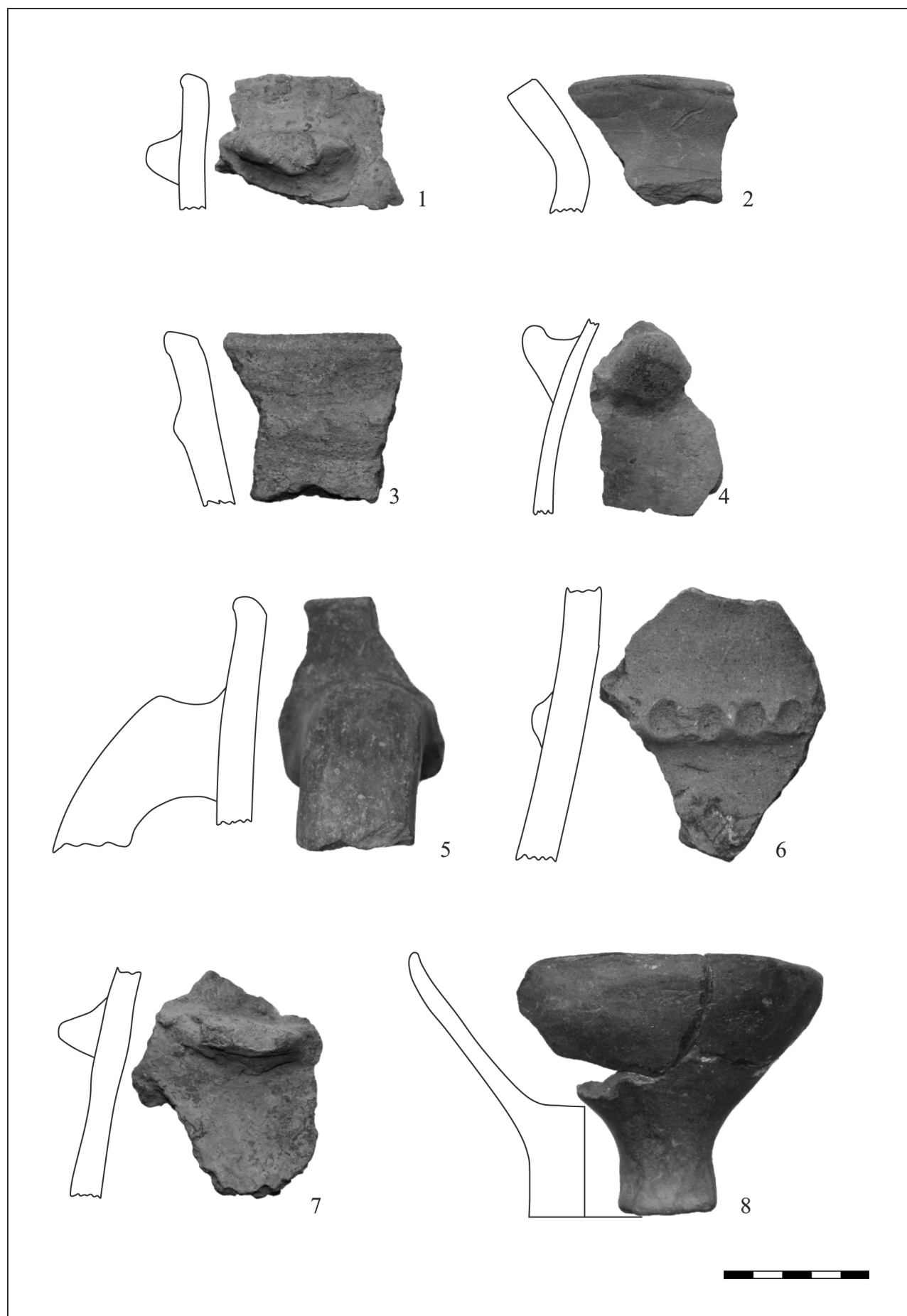


Plate 3. Late Iron Age pottery from Vârghiş Ravine, cave 1200/33.

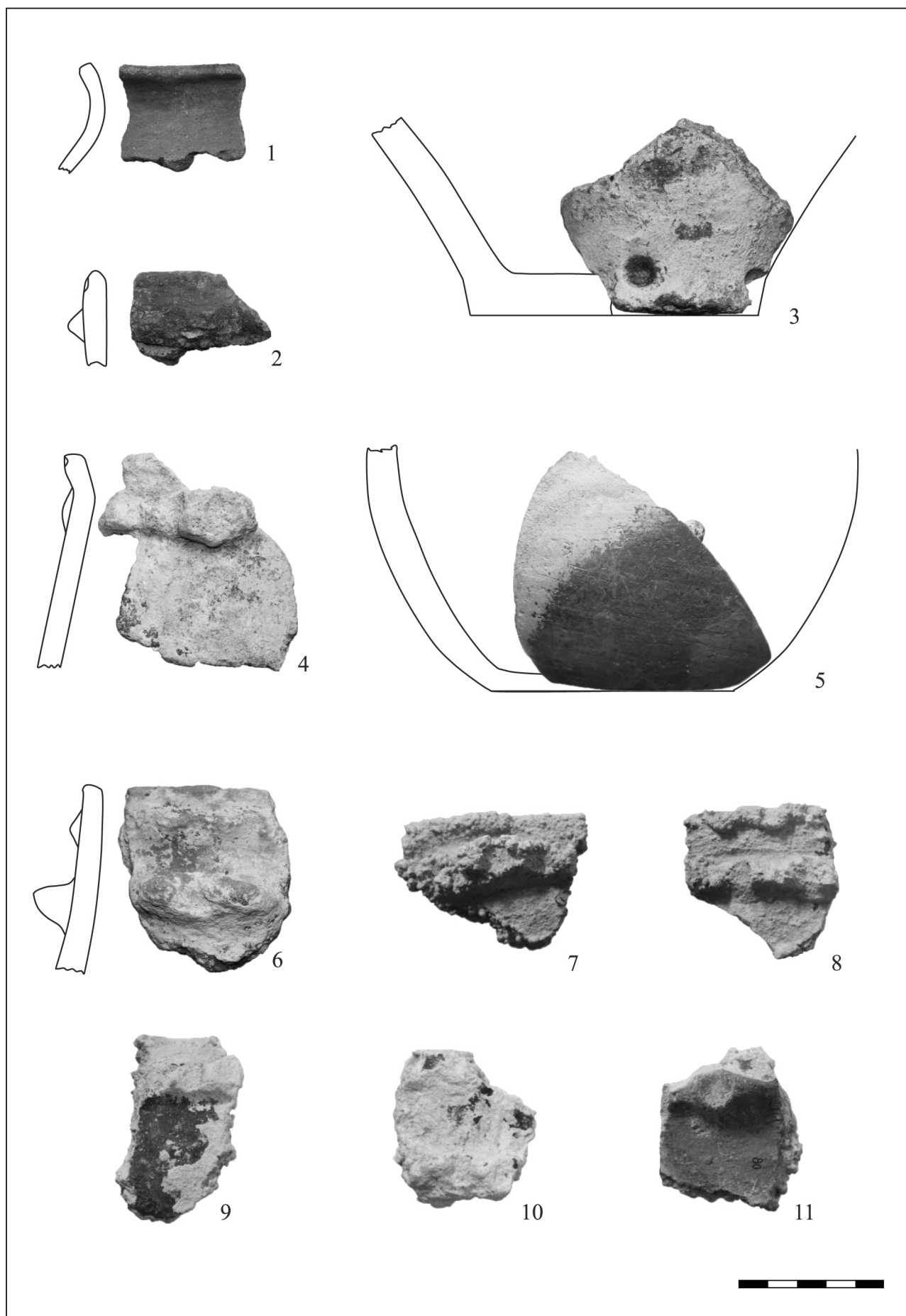


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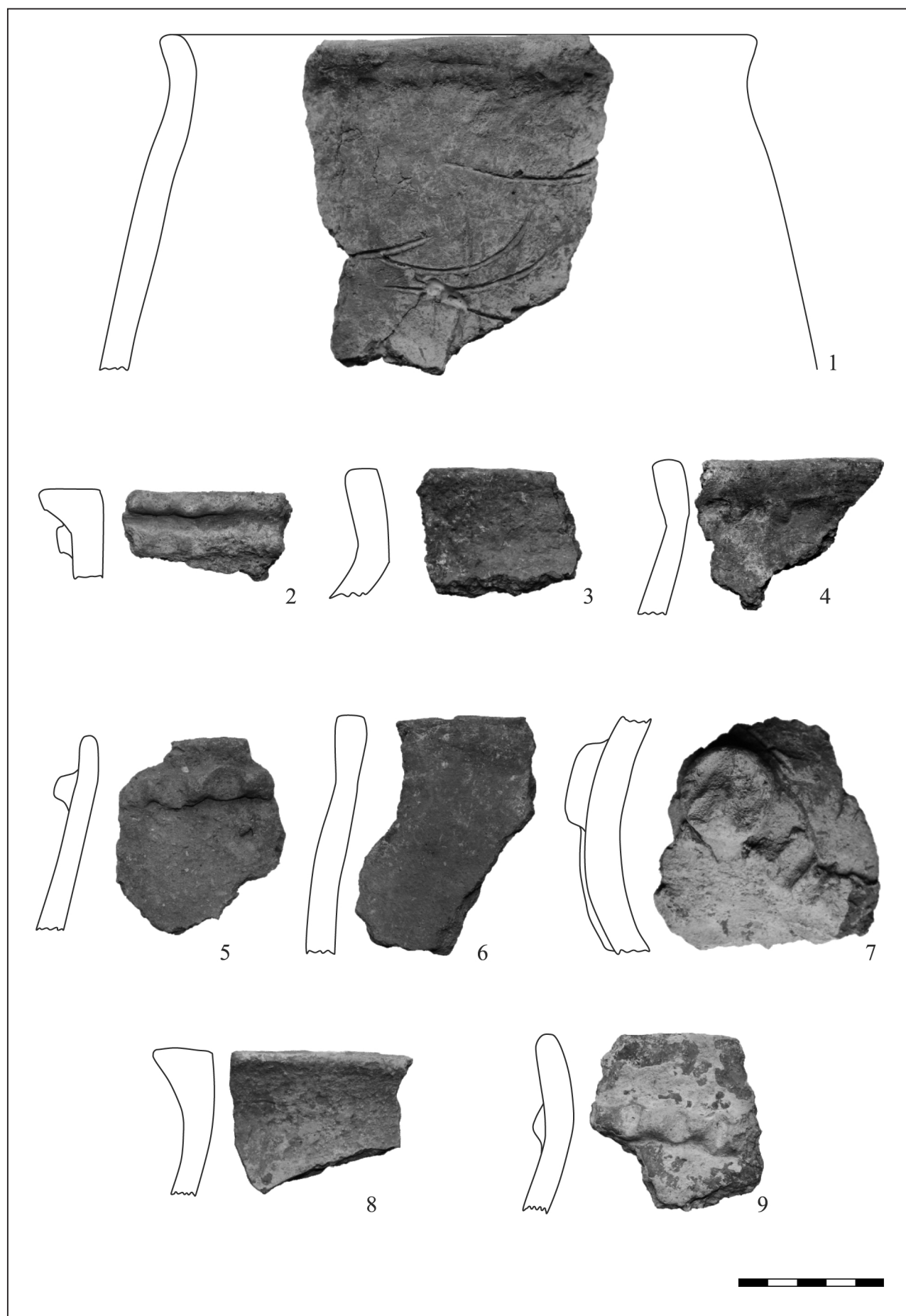


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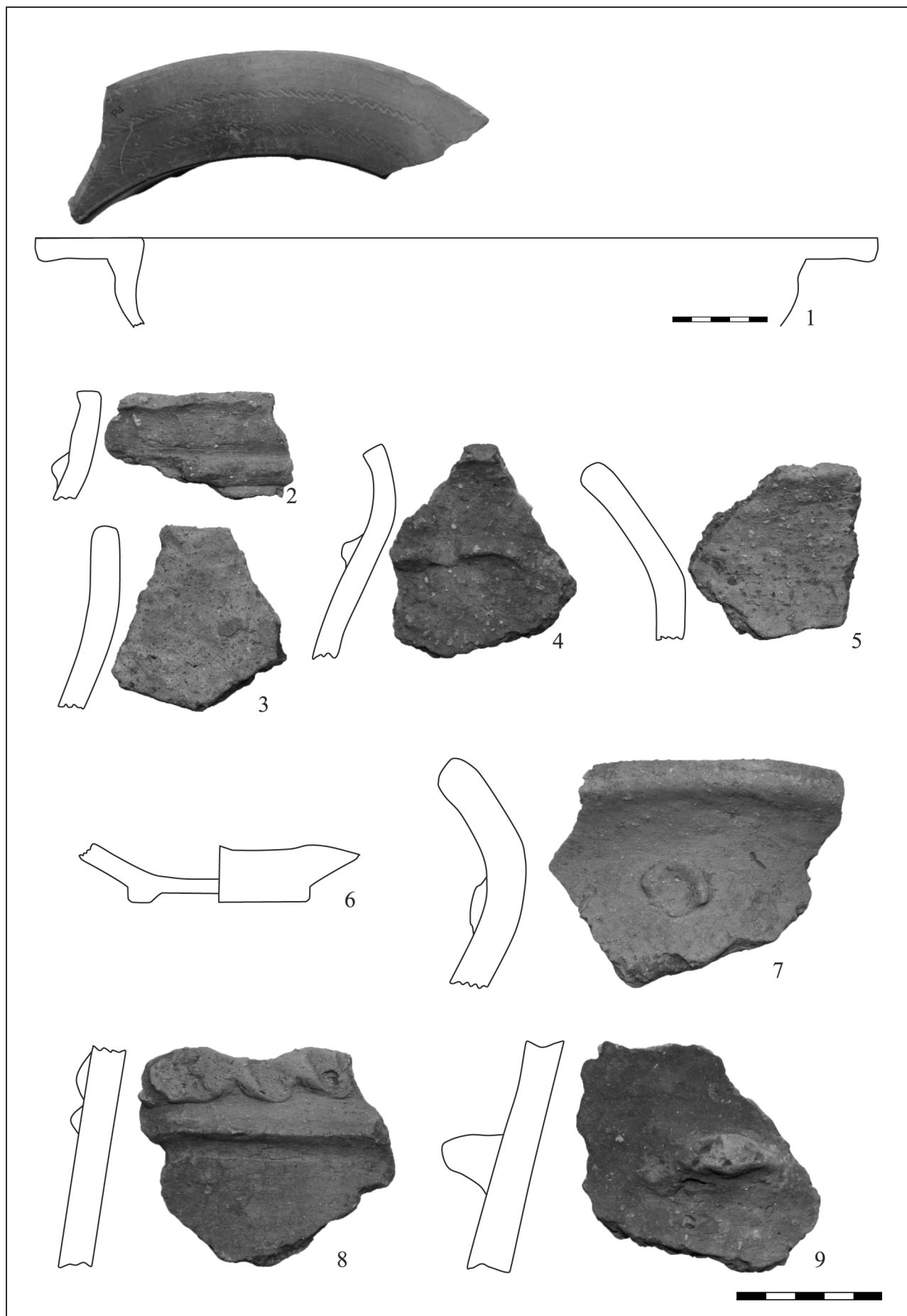


Plate 6. Late Iron Age pottery.
 1–5. Merești–Pipások dombja; 6. Racoșul de Sus–Somosalja; 7–9. Racoșul de Sus–Durduja.

ABBREVIATIONS

Acta	Acta. Anuarul Muzeului Național Secuiesc și al Muzeului Secuiesc al Ciucului, Sf. Gheorghe
ActaAntPhilippo	Acta Antiqua Philippopolitana, Sophia
ActaArchHung	Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, Budapest
ActaHistSzeged	Acta Historica. Acta Universitatis Scientiarum Szegediensis, Szeged
ActaMM	Acta Moldaviae Meridionalis, Vaslui
ActaMilMed	Acta Militaria Mediaevalia, Sanok
ActaMN	Acta Musei Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
ActaMP	Acta Musei Porolissensis, Zalău
ActaSic	Acta Siculica, Sf. Gheorghe/Sepsiszentgyörgy
Aluta	Aluta, Sf. Gheorghe
AnB	Analele Banatului, Timișoara
Apulum	Apulum. Acta Musei Apulensis, Alba Iulia
ArbFberSächs	Arbeits- und Forschungsberichte zur sächsischen Bodendenkmalpflege, Dresden
ArchÉrt	Archaeologiai Értesítő, Budapest
ArchKözl	Archaeologiai Közlemények, Budapest
Aregia	Alba Regia. Annales Musei Stephani Regis, Székesfehérvár
Areopolisz	Areopolisz. Történelmi és társadalomtudományi tanulmányok, Székelyudvarhely
ArhMed	Arheologia Medievală, Cluj-Napoca
ArhMold	Arheologia Moldovei, București
Banatica	Banatica. Muzeul Banatului Montan, Reșița
BrukenthalAM	Brukenthal. Acta Musei, Sibiu
Carnuntum Jb	Carnuntum-Jahrbuch. Zeitschrift für Archäologie und Kulturgeschichte des Donaupraumes, Wien
Carpica	Carpica, Bacău
Castrum	Castrum. A Castrum Bene Egyesület Hírlevele, Budapest
CCA	Cronica Cercetărilor Arheologice din România, București
CCDJ	Cultură și Civilizație la Dunărea de Jos, Călărași
CercArh	Cercetări arheologice, București
Colloquia	Colloquia: Journal of Central European History, Cluj-Napoca
CommArchHung	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungaricae, Budapest
Corviniana	Corviniana, Hunedoara
Crisia	Crisia, Oradea
CsSzMÉ	A Csíki Székely Múzeum Évkönyve, Csíkszereda
Cumidava	Cumidava, Brașov
Dacia	Dacia. Revue d'Archéologie et d'Histoire Ancienne, Bucarest
Danubius	Danubius, Galați
DissArch	Dissertationes Archaeologicae ex Instituto Archaeologico Universitatis de Rolando Eötvös Nominatae, Budapest
Dolg	Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Nemzeti Múzeum Érem- és Régiségtárából, Kolozsvár
Drobeta	Drobeta, Drobeta-Turnu Severin
EL	Erdővidéki Lapok, Barót
EphNap	Ephemeris Napocensis, Cluj-Napoca
Emúz	Erdélyi Múzeum, Kolozsvár
FVL	Forschungen zur Volks- und Landeskunde, Sibiu/Hermannstadt
HOMÉ	A Hermann Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve, Miskolc
Istros	Istros. Muzeul Brăilei, Brăila

ABBREVIATIONS

JAMÉ	A Nyíregyházi Jóna András Múzeum Évkönyve, Nyíregyháza
JbRGZM	Jahrbuch des Römisch-Germanischen Zentralmuseums, Mainz
JromMilSt	Journal of Roman Military Equipment Studies
KHKM	Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej, Warszawa
Marisia	Marisia (V-). Studii și Materiale, Târgu Mureș
Marmatia	Marmatia, Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Maramureș, Baia Mare
MatCercArh	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice, București
MedArch	Medieval Archaeology, London
MemAnt	Memoria Antiquitatis. Acta Musei Petrodavensis, Piatra Neamț
MFME	A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve, Szeged
MIMK	A Molnár István Múzeum Közleményei, Székelykeresztúr
MNMAK	Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Adattárának Közleményei, Budapest
OH	Opuscula Hungarica, Budapest
PRS	Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical & Engineering Sciences, London
PZ	Praehistorische Zeitschrift, Berlin
REA	Revue des études anciennes, Bordeaux
RMM-MIA	Revista Muzeelor și Monumentelor. Monumente istorice și de artă, București
RevBist	Revista Bistriței, Bistrița
Sargetia	Sargetia. Acta Musei Devensis, Deva
SCIV(A)	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche (și Arheologie 1974–), București
SCN	Studii și Cercetări de Numismatică, București
SlovArch	Slovenská Archeológia, Bratislava
SMMIM	Studii și materiale de muzeografie și istorie militară, București
SSz	Soproni Szemle, Sopron
StCercIstorCluj	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie, Cluj
StComSM	Studii și Comunicări, Seria Arheologie, Satu Mare
StComSibiu	Studii și comunicări. Muzeul Brukenthal, Sibiu
StudUCH	Studia Universitatis Cibiniensis, Series Historica, Sibiu
StudUClujH	Studia Universitatis “Babeș-Bolyai” – Historia, Cluj-Napoca
Terra Sebus	Terra Sebus. Acta Musei Sabesiensis, Sebeș
Thraco-Dacica	Thraco-Dacica, București
UPA	Universitätsforschungen zur Prähistorischen Archäologie, Bonn
VAH	Varia Archaeologica Hungarica, Budapest
VjesAMuzZagreb	Vjesnik Arheološkog muzeja u Zagrebu, Zagreb
VMMK	A Veszprém Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei, Veszprém
VTT	Veszprémi Történelmi Társaság, Veszprém
WA	Wratislavia antiqua, Wrocław
WiadA	Wiadomości Archeologiczne. Bulletin archéologique polonais, Warszawa