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THE SARMATIAN NECROPOLIS FROM FOENI (TIMIŞ COUNTY)

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Abstract: The graves described in this study were discovered by members of the Banat Museum Timiºoara and the Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj Napoca, in the area of the Foeni (Timiº County) archaeological site, "Orthodox Cemetery". The research took place between 1991 and 2007, and reported mainly prehistoric discoveries (from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages). However, in the excavations of 1991–1994, 1995–1998 and 2001-2002, archaeologists discovered 18 inhumations graves characteristic of the Sarmatian population. These graves appear to be only a small part of a larger necropolis, largely destroyed by current orthodox cemetery. Of these graves, only those excavated during the years 1992–1993 have been published. We consider it important to revisit the topic in the present study in order to provide an overview of the necropolis, and to complete the previous study published in 2000, with drawings of the graves. The graves unpublished and discovered in the years 1991–1992, 1995–1998 and 2001–2002 have also been included in this study, making it possible to discuss the role of grave-goods and the funerary rite and ritual in the Sarmatian necropolis from Foeni.
The graves discovered at Foeni could be dated precisely only in a few cases (M2, M4, M6, M14). The dating was based on brooches discovered in the grave. The impossibility of dating the remaining graves is not due to lack of archaeological inventory, but rather to grave robberies. Based on the preserved funerary inventory, the graves of the Foeni necropolis date to the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD, the second period of the Sarmatian age, after the M. Párducz chronology (years 180–270 AD)[1]. However, without further excavations, we cannot assert that this timespan applies to the entire necropolis.

In addition to the important chronological data, the Foeni necropolis gives us information about the complexity of the Sarmatian burial rites and rituals, aspects of the culture seldom discussed in relation to the Banat region. An attempt was made to identify the distinct ethnic or social groups of the necropolis. Unfortunately, the small number of graves discovered to this day only allows us to formulate hypotheses supported by the analogies with the Sarmatian area of the Great Hungarian Plain. However, it is our hope that future anthropological analyses will answer any remaining questions and will confirm, at least in part, our hypotheses.

I. Introduction

The graves presented in this study were discovered by members of the Banat Museum Timişoara and the Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca, in the area of the Foeni (Timiş County) archaeological site, "Orthodox Cemetery"[2]. The research took place between 1991 and 2007, and reported mainly prehistoric discoveries (from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages). In the excavations of 1991–1994, 1995–1998 and 2001–2002, the archaeologists discovered 18 inhumations graves characteristic of the Sarmatian population. The graves appear to be only a small part of a bigger necropolis, largely destroyed by current orthodox cemetery[3].

An attempt to group these graves according to the sex, age or social status of the deceased would be inappropriate, given the small number of graves uncovered, their distribution in space, their degree of devastation and the absence of an anthropological analysis that could confirm the age or sex of the deceased.

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[1] Párducz 1956, 140; this chronological attribution is similar to the one indicated by Tănase, Mare 2000, 207, for the Sarmatian graves discovered in the years 1992–1993.

[2] We would like to thank Professor Dr. Florin Drașovean (1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Banat Museum Timişoara), Dr. Florin Gogâltan (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca), Dr. Alexandru Szentmiklosi, and Dr. Dana Tănase (Banat Museum Timişoara) for the archaeological material and documentation provided for this research.

[3] Facts confirmed by the funerary artifacts discovered on the necropolis (without certain place of discovery) or by the funerary artifacts originated from donations.

All the funerary complexes are inhumation graves, and there are no recorded cases of superposition, interlocking or double graves.

The archaeological research conducted on the Foeni – Selişte site in 2004 brought to light a few pit – houses positioned in a succession if chronological layers, dating from the late 2nd century AD to the beginning of the 3rd century AD, and continuing up to the 5th century AD[4]. It is difficult to establish a connection between this settlement and the Sarmatian necropolis, considering that there is a distance of about 3 km between the two sites[5]. However, the grayish pottery found in the area of the orthodox cemetery[6], proves that the settlement was in proximity to the necropolis.

The only graves discoveries published were those from the years 1992–1993[7]. We consider it important to revisit the topic in the present study in order to provide an overview of the necropolis, and to complete the previous study published in 2000, with drawings of the graves. The graves unpublished and discovered in the years 1991–1992, 1995–1998 and 2001–2002 were also added in this study, therefore, at this moment, it is possible to discuss the role of the grave – goods and the funerary rite and ritual in the Sarmatian necropolis from Foeni.

II. Elements of funerary rite and ritual

II.1.Shape and size of the graves pits

Analyzing the contours of the graves pits, were possible, allows us to conclude that most grave pits are rectangular (with slightly rounded corners) or irregular in shape. However, some grave pits have an oval shape. Irregular contours may be due to human post – mortem intervention, such as robbery or reburial, which destroyed the pit outlines (see M15, M18, M4?). In one instance (grave M6), the researchers observed several "steps", in an 88 cm profile pit: the first step was 35 cm deep, and the second 63 cm deep[8].

The length of the pits varies with the age of the deceased. While adult graves have lengths between 160 cm and 260 cm, children's graves are generally shorter with lengths between 120 cm and 130 cm. The width of the pits does not vary with the age of the deceased, and ranges between 45 cm and 140 cm. The depth of the pits is relative since the surface of the researched area was rearranged during the construction of the Mocioni Mausoleum. Therefore, we can only state that grave M6, where the walking surface was observed, has a depth of 120 cm[9]. For the remaining graves, the depth varies between 70 cm and 230 cm.

II.2. Orientation of graves and position of skeletons

The Sarmatian graves of the Great Hungarian Plain are predominantly orientated South–North. The same orientation is in part observed in the Foeni necropolis. This trend is characteristic to the Iazygen tribes, who continued the funerary traditions of the middle Sarmatian period[10].

The North–South orientation could not be linked exclusively to a limited chronological horizon, or to the sex, age or social status of the deceased, especially since it is impossible to observe significant differences in the funerary offerings. A. H. Vaday states that the "reverse" orientation would most likely indicate a superstition ritual[11].

S. Simonenko demonstrated that the North–South orientation may be attributed to Roxolani wave[12]. There is a probability that the material culture of the newcomers from the East was assimilated faster than the rite; therefore, we cannot separate the funerary artifacts of the new migrants from the ones of the Iazygen group[13].

Only one grave (M9) is orientated to the West (West–North–West). In the study of the Sarmatian necropolis from the Carpathian Basin, V. Kulscár reports that this atypical orientation could be the expression either of a new population from the East, or of a population from the LaTène period[14]. The absence of the funerary inventory from the grave M9 impeded us from establishing the specific ethnicity of the grave.

The position of the skeletons in the necropolis appears to be uniform. In two cases (M5, M14), the skeletons were preserve in an anatomical order, lying on the back, with the hands resting on the side. In the other cases, the skeletons were not preserved in anatomical order; many parts of the body were missing or lay in the grave chaotically[15].

In addition, it is worth mentioning the case of grave M18, where the skeleton was also lying on its back. However, the jaw, the hands, the ribs,

[4] Timoc – Szentmiklosi 2008, 113; Szentmiklosi – Timoc 2005, 61.
[5] Pl. I, 1–2.
[6] Information Fl. Drașovean.
[7] Tănase, Mare 2000.
[8] Information Fl. Gogâltan.
[9] Information Fl. Drașovean.
[10] Kulcsár 1998, 109.
[11] Vaday 1989, 195.
[12] Simonenko 2001, 117.
[13] Kulcsár 1998, 109.
[14] Kulcsár 1998, 109.
[15] Information Fl. Drașovean, Fl. Gogâltan.

the metacarpals, and the carpals of the feet were missing. The missing bone fragments were found buried at a distance of 30 cm above the grave[16].

II.3. Looting or funeral rituals?

Out of the 18 graves described in this study, 16 showed evidence of further human intervention. The looting of graves is a phenomenon attested in all the cemeteries of the Great Hungarian Plain.

In the vast necropolis of Madaras, out of the 615 graves discovered, about 80–90% had been looted[17]. After analyzing the looting methods, it was noticed that the "thief" must have been aware of certain data related to the location and the composition of the grave. This would have been possible only if the graves were marked by a mound of earth or other grave sign carrying information about the deceased. The robberies appear to have taken place shortly after the funerals[18].

We can assume that the same acts of looting took place in the Foeni necropolis. Pits dug by rubbers were observed only on the graves found in section S4 and S5[19]. In the other cases, medieval or contemporary complexes overlapped the Sarmatian graves, making it impossible to detect such robber pits.

For the disturbed graves (M3, M4, M6, M18), where the skeletons were found in anatomical order with only some parts missing, and where the funerary inventory was discovered, it can be assumed that the missing skeleton parts are the result of exhumation rituals[20]. Nevertheless, it cannot be excluded that these rituals were performed on the deceased of an ethnic or social group that the community was afraid of, such as witches or wizards[21].

The particular case of grave M2 is interesting, in that the skeleton was not preserved al all, however, there are no traces of any subsequent intervention, disturbance or disappearance of the funerary inventory[22].

Cases of graves without skeletons but with funerary inventory occur frequently in the area inhabited by the Iazygen Sarmatians. The idea of cenotaph graves is excluded, because osteological dust or small traces of bones have often been noticed. Furthermore, the argument that the skeletons were completely decomposed due to acid soil is unlikely[23], considering that bones were well preserved in graves situated in close proximity. A plausible explanation for graves without skeletons comes from M. László who studied the chemical composition of bone remains from a Sarmatian necropolis near Madaras, Hungary. M. László's purpose was to investigate the nature of the unknown organic material discovered on the surface of some bone samples and to understand the process that led to such a rapid deterioration of the bones[24].

Tests have shown that the bones suffered major effects from acid. This was not due to the environment in which the skeleton was kept, but rather to the wrapping of the dead in tanned animal leather[25]. This analysis was extremely important because it provided new information about Sarmatian burial rituals and also eliminated, at least partially, a cliché often invoked in the study of Sarmatian burial remains.

II.4. Coffins

Coffins remains were discovered only in grave M6. From an archaeological point of view, only the following items were preserved: a thin layer of black soil and coal, an iron nail positioned on the right leg area of the deceased, and three "C" – shaped iron clamps. Two of the iron clamps were positioned near the left arm, and one near the right arm of the deceased[26].

The disposal of the deceased in coffins or in burial chambers, especially in the barrow graves, was a common practice in the area inhabited by the Iazygen Sarmatians. Although this phenomenon was observed only in one third of the studied cases, the actual proportion is most likely higher[27].

Most coffins were built either of several wood boards, or one piece of wood, such as a hollowed tree trunk. In the case of the latter, "C" – or "S" – shaped iron clamps were used to attach the lid of the

[16] Information Fl. Draşovean.

[17] Kőhegyi 1994, 280; this phenomena is also observed in the smaller necropolis, such as the one from Szeged-Tápé. In this site, the researchers have established a same proportion: 83% of the graves had been looted, see Vörös 1996, 134.

[18] Kőhegyi 1994, 281.

[19] Information Fl. Gogâltan.

[20] Mare 2004, 76 considers the ritual of exhumation as a constant feature of the Sarmatian burial traditions.

[21] Kulcsár 1998, 11.

[22] The deceased had a typical female inventory; Vörös 1996, 134–135; Vörös 2003, 150; Kőhegyi, Vörös 1989/1990, 115; Istvanovits, Kulcsár 2001, 142–143 (Fig. 2–3).

[23] Aspects also discussed by Ferencz *et alii* 2009, 427 – for a 6th century AD cemetery discovered at "Polus Center", Cluj-Napoca.

[24] László 2003, 151–163.

[25] László 2003, 158; for the north – Black Sea area, but also for the Alföld region are known cases in which the deceased were wrapped into an animal tanned leather or into a shroud, see Kulcsár 1998, 111.

[26] Pl. III, 6, 7.

[27] The burials inside the coffins are only rare in the early Sarmatian period (they appear only in Szanda and Endrőd-Sujókereszt),Vaday 1989, 201.

coffin, particularly at the corners[28]. Typically, at least two such clamps were used to secure the coffin lid[29].

The funerary framework described above was found in grave M6. We do not exclude the possibility that other deceased, from the Foeni necropolis, could have been buried in coffins, however, looting, or other human intervention, has remove all the archaeological traces.

II.5. Offerings

Although no animal bones were discovered, this does not exclude possible offerings of meat having been removed from the bones. Small ceramic vessels were found, in seven of the eighteen graves; however the number of vessels could have been higher if some of the graves had not been looted. Four other vessels were donated by workers at the Orthodox Cemetery and came from unknown sites in the Foeni necropolis[30].

Vessels have been encountered in the Great Hungarian Plain in 83% of the sites, or in 765 of the graves (more than half) known by 1998[31]. It is unlikely that these vessels were deposited empty, without food or liquid offerings. Ceramic vessels, placed inside the graves would typically contain food or drink; they cannot be regarded as offerings unless they were discovered in royal graves and were made of precious metals[32].

III. Funerary inventory

III.a. Jewels and clothes accessories[33]

Earrings, beads, torques, pendants, bracelets, brooches and belt parts are included in the funerary inventory.

III.a.1. Earrings

Earrings were discovered in two women's graves (M4 and M14). The circular (hoop) shaped earrings are made of silver wire and the fastener is executed in a loop and hook technique. The piece from the grave M 4 has a simpler decoration that the one from grave M14[34].

The pair of earrings found in grave M14 is almost identical in shape and technique to the one in M4, but one of the earrings is partially damaged. This pair is also made of silver wire, twisted and spiraled as a node, at the extremity of the jewelry[35].

Earrings with a loop and hook fastening, made of silver or bronze, are found in women's graves in the area inhabited by the Sarmatian starting with the 2nd century AD. They are a characteristic of the "Kiszombor Group"[36].

Regarding the dating of the earrings, A. H. Vaday attributes earrings with a diameter of 3–4 cm, the same as Foeni earrings, after the 3rd century AD[37]. There is some reservation regarding this dating, since the 3rd century earrings have a decorative spiral spanning more than a quarter of the earring body, while the 2nd century pieces have a much shorter wire wrapping on the earring body[38], as seen in the Foeni earrings. Therefore, these artifacts can mist likely be dated to, somewhere in the 2nd or the 3rd century AD.

III.a.2.Torques

Two metal torques were found in grave M4, both of which were placed in the neck area of the deceased. The first one is made of silver, with a square section, a smooth wire, and edges in nod and loop decoration[39]. For the torques, we found the closest analogy in the I/2 Vaday type (*Torques mit Öse schließßen*)[40]. The second torques is made of twisted bronze wire[41]. Unfortunately, the piece is fragmented and for this reason, the fastening system cannot be identified. However, the closest match might be with the I/1 Vaday type (*Torques mit gerolltem Körper*)[42]. Both pieces date from the 2nd and 3rd century AD[43].

III.a.3.Beads

Beads appear exclusively in women's graves[44] and they are the most numerous elements of the Foeni necropolis funerary inventory: 1594 pieces, plus fragments have been discovered. The raw materials from which these beads were made are diverse: glass, limestone, carnelian, coral, amber, bone and even gold. The most numerous kind, approximately 89%, are opaque and translucent glass beads. We

[28] Vaday 1989, 197, 189.
[29] Vörös 2002, 167; pl. III, 7.
[30] Information Fl. Drașovean; Al. Szentmiklosi.
[31] Kulcsár1998, 115.
[32] Sîrbu 2003, 21.
[33] Clothing accessories: functional items attached to clothes, such as buttons, brooches, belt accessories, etc., some with real artistic feature; adornments: items with decorating value, sometimes also functional and linked to the person, such as earrings, necklaces, tiarae, pendants, bracelets, rings, phalerae, etc.; Sirbu 2003, 15, 22, see Ferencz Nagy, Lazarescu 2009, 429, no 43, for further discussions.
[34] Pl. III, 4.
[35] Pl. VI, 1.
[36] Párducz 1960, 92; Vaday 1985, 361.
[37] Vaday 1989, 45.
[38] Vaday 1989, 45.
[39] Pl. III, 1.
[40] Vaday 1989, 48, Taf. 77, 12; 64, 15.
[41] Pl. III, 2.
[42] Vaday 1989, 48, Taf.93, 5, 106, 9, 132, 8, 141, 3.
[43] Vaday 1989, 49.
[44] We discus only the graves that hasn't been looted.

identified eleven types of monochrome glass beads: round flat (type I), with circular and hexagonal cylindrical profile (type II), hexagonal (type III), prismatic (type IV), globular (type V), bitronconic (type VI), biconic (type VII), hexagonal flat (type VIII), rectangular profile (type IX), melon form (type X) and sandwich type (type XI)[45].

Some multicolored beads have also been found, probably as central part of necklaces, bracelets or cloth ornamentation. We identified four types: globular beads (red and green) with floral decoration (*Rosettenmuster*)[46], globular (green) with various figure – eight incisions (*Achterförmigerline*)[47], globular with checker board decoration (*Sachbrettmuster*)[48] and bitronconic (blue color) with zig – zag incisions[49].

Beads manufactured of more expensive raw materials, such as: carnelian (prismatic shapes and flat hexagonal pieces)[50], amber (of globular form)[51], coral[52] or gold leaf[53], have also been found in the Foeni necropolis. These pieces usually appear in compositions with glass beads necklaces or bracelets, or they are embroidered on clothing. The limestone beads are represented by three types: flat six sided prism shapes, thin cylindrical shapes, and so-called "barrel – beads" (*tonnenförmige Perlen*)[54]. The way of wearing them is identical to glass beads.

Golden layer beads, also called "sandwich type", were discovered in two graves. In the funerary complex M7, which was brutally robbed, the researchers observed extremely small fragments of such beads[55]. Eight such artifacts, grouped by two, three or four, have been preserved in good condition only in grave M8.

The large number and variety of beads can be explained by the multiple ways they could be worn. Most often, they were embroidered on clothes – in the hem, the cuffs and the collar area – on belts, handbags or even shoes[56]. It should be noted that the trend of decorating clothing with beads is a characteristic of adult women's costumes, but the glass pieces can also appear in teenager's' graves[57] .

Such methods of ornamentation can be observed in three women's graves, where the researchers found hundreds of beads of different shapes and colors in the ankle area of the deceased.

In grave M2 globular and prismatic beads (398 pieces) could be observed in the lower part of the dress, arranged symmetrically in seven rows as follows: first – orange beads (type V), second – red beads (type V), third – white beads (type V), fourth – green beads (type V), fifth – red beads (type V), sixth – green beads (type V), and seventh – prismatic carnelian beads[58].

A similar decoration appear on the dress from grave M14, but this time the beads are more varies[59]; there are 357 white, red, orange, green, and blue glass beads (type V), 10 pieces of limestone (type C1), 24 blue glass beads (type VII), two blue glass beads with white incrustation (*Zickzackverzierung),* and a fragmented blue bead (type II). A substantial number of limestone beads (28 pieces) of various types (C1, C2, C3) were discovered in grave M18, in the ankle area of the deceased: 217 white, orange, blue, green, and red glass (type V); two red glass (type IX A), two green and red glass (type III), 5 purple glass (type IV), an amber, a translucent green glass (biconic form), and a polychrome glass with chessboard model.

These beads were not just sewn on clothing, but were probably part of the composition of necklaces or bracelets. From grave M2 comes a bracelet made of beads, namely a piece of limestone (type C3), a blue glass bead (type I), 11 blue glass beads (type VII), four white glass beads (type V), two red glass beads (type V), three yellow glass beads (type V) and an ax – shaped pendant[60]. Parts of this jewelry set are not different from the others presented thus far.

The beads are a constant and an omnipresent element in the Iazygen – Sarmatian costume. They appear in graves in large numbers, especially starting with the first third of the 2nd century AD. By the end of the 3rd century and the beginning of the 4th century AD, the same bead sets appear; this fashion trend reaches its peak after the Marcomanicwars[61]. After the 4th century AD, as a

[45] Pl. IX.
[46] Pl. X, 5.
[47] Pl. X, 6.
[48] Pl. X, 7.
[49] Pl. X, 8.
[50] Pl. X, 2.
[51] Pl. X, 4.
[52] Pl. X, 3.
[53] Pl. X, 9.
[54] Pl. X, 1.
[55] Information Fl. Gogâltan.
[56] Istvanovits – Kulcsár 2001, 142–143, pl. 2–3; Vaday 1989, 105.
[57] Vörös 2003, 150; Vaday 1989, 64.
[58] In the necropolis from Szeged Algyő (M 81) it was observed similar embroidery. The beads were sewn together side by side in rows (each row had always the same color), Kőhegyi, Vörös 1992, 115.
[59] Unfortunately, we can't specify the order in which they were sewn.
[60] Pl. IV, 1.
[61] Kulcsár 1998, 112.

result of the influence of new populations, others types of beads can be observed[62].

These artifacts could not be used for absolute dating by themselves. We can only specify that the flat round beads (type I) and the globular beads (type V) are the earliest. The former date from the first half of the 2nd century AD, based on the archaeological layers of workshop I from Tibiscum, where they were manufactured[63]. The other types mostly belong to the end of the 2nd – the beginning of the 3rd century AD, and must have been manufactured and used until the 4th century AD[64].

Regarding the dating of the polychrome pieces, in the study of Sarmatian material from Szolnok County, A. H. Vaday classifies the beads incrusted as belonging to the 2nd century AD (although there are some pieces that also appear in the 3rd century AD) and the beads manufactured using the Millefiori technique as belonging to the 2nd and 3rd century AD[65]. D. Benea supports the same dating based on the stratigraphy from the Tibiscum workshops. However, she considers the green – blue beads, with striped incisions (*Achterförmigerline*) to belong to the late 3rd and 4th century AD[66]. In the same stratigraphy, beads manufactured using the "sandwich technique" and covered with a golden layer, are dated after the Marcomanic wars[67].

For the carnelian, coral and amber exemplars, the dating is quite large, these beads being attested in the early Sarmatian material – some of our forms occur starting with the 2nd century AD – and they are in vogue until late Sarmatian period[68].

It should be noted, that a large proportion of the beads, discovered in the Foeni necropolis – except the limestone and amber pieces – were imported from Tibiscum, the nearest Roman trade center in the area. Furthermore, the beads discovered in the necropolis coincide in shape, color and size with those manufactured in the workshops of Tibiscum[69].

III.a.4. Pendants

A single pendant, made of bronze, was discovered in grave M2. The pendant is ax – shaped and was part of a bracelet made of beads of different kinds. The ax – shaped pendant is known in the literature as *Labrys* – or *Securisförmigen Anhänger*[70]. This pendant type appears often in the Sarmatian material, and it was discovered mostly in women's graves, but also in men's graves[71] (M2 was a woman's grave). The origins of these pendants are date back to the 4th century BC, in the Northern and Western parts of the Black Sea. They appear in the Great Hungarian Plain in the 2nd century AD[72].

Examples of ax-shaped pendants that appear in composition with beads to form bracelets or necklaces, were also attested to the Tisafölfvár, Banatski Karlovac (Nagykárolyfalva), and Vrčac necropolises[73].

Two iron bells from grave M14 will also be discussed in the pendants category. The bells were discovered in the right and left hand of the deceased[74]. It was assumed at the time of discovery that they were each tied to an iron bracelet, and therefore were restored as such. They have a pear shape and appear to be manufactured in the molding technique. This type of bells appears both in girls' and women's graves during the early and middle Sarmatian period. The bells are mostly Roman products; however, barbarian articles of a poorer craftsmanship have also been discovered[75]. An interesting observation was made in the Szolnok County necropolises: in four of the ten women's graves which contained such pieces, Roman enamel brooches dated in the 2nd and 3rd century AD[76] were also found. The same was also observed in grave M14 of the Foeni necropolis.

III.a.5. Brooches

Four brooches appear in the funerary inventory of the analyzed graves. These pieces are characteristic to the Iazygen – Sarmatian area.

Out of the four, one enameled *Pelta*-shaped brooch (*Peltaförmige Fibel*) was discovered isolated, though still in the area of the Sarmatian graves[77]. This large brooch (5.3 × 5 cm) had most of its surface covered with white enamel, its double border covered with blue enamel, and its central oval cell most likely covered with a red color[78].

This type of brooch originates from the Rhine area and it was discovered in numerous variants in both the Roman provinces from the Danube area

62 Vaday 1985, 377
63 Benea 2004, 227, 234; Vaday 1989, 98, 102.
64 Benea 2004, 249, 268.
65 Vaday 1989, 104.
66 Benea 2004, 241.
67 Benea 2004, 245.
68 Vaday 1989, 104.
69 Benea 2004, *passim* for types and forms.
70 Pl. IV, 1.
71 Vaday 1989, 54.
72 Vaday1989, 54; Vaday 1985, 369.
73 Vaday 1985, 370, Barack 1961, 12.
74 Pl. VI, 4.
75 Vaday 1989, 59.
76 Vaday 1989, 60.
77 Information Fl. Drașovean, pl. VIII, 6.
78 Tănase, Mare 2000, 197.

and in the Barbaricum[79]. Based on analogies, the *Pelta* brooch from Foeni can be dated somewhere between the middle of the 2nd century and the end of the 3rd century AD[80].

A bronze crossbow-brooch (*Armbrustfibel*) with a short spring[81] was discovered in M4. Its origin is in the Dacian area and is dated somewhere between the second half of the 2nd century and the beginning of 3rd century AD[82]. This type of brooch appears especially in the plain areas inhabited by the Sarmatians[83].

Two discoid plate brooches (*Scheibenfibel mit Blechkörper*), a subtype of the box-brooch (*Dosenförmigefibel*)[84] were discovered in graves M2 and M14. The brooch discovered in M2 is made of silver, but its front plate is missing[85]. In the cases when the plate was preserved, it was noticed that it was often embedded in glass, semiprecious stone, amber or bone, a large proportion of these materials being friable[86]. We can't say which was the exactly form of the box-brooch from grave M2, but the silver box-brooch, from grave M14 was almost entirely conserved. The top plate has a spiral decoration, arranged in circular bands, with a central flower[87]. This type of decoration (*Filigran* – or *Granulationstechnik*) appears at the end of the 2nd century and it is maintained until mid 3rd century AD[88], with analogies to the Törökszentmiklos[89], Vrsac[90] and Klárafalva[91] necropolises.

III.a.6. Bracelets

Bracelets were mainly discovered in the women's graves of the Foeni necropolis. There are cases in which several metal bracelets were discovered on the same hand (M14)[92].

The metal bracelets can be classified in three types. The first type includes an iron bracelet with a rectangular section and superimposed extremities, similar to the II/1.4 Vaday type, and it is chronologically attributed to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD[93]. The second type includes a bracelet with open extremities, made of iron with a rectangular section, similar to the III/1/1 Vaday type[94]. This bracelet, discovered in M14, on the left hand of the deceased, is also attributed to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. The third type is similar to the second type; however, the bracelets are made of bronze wire, and have a decorated and flattened fastener (III/1/3Vaday type). This type could have various ornamentations[95].

Two such bracelets were discovered in grave M2 in an unspecified position. The decoration on these two bracelets consists of semi lunar motifs that are arranged vertically on one bracelet and horizontally on the other[96].

V. Kulcsár noticed a common funerary tradition of the Alföld Sarmatians, namely that the bracelets made of iron were always placed on the left arm, as discovered in grave M14. This placement seems to have mystic and religious significations[97].

III.a.7. Belt Parts

The study of the Sarmatians burial contexts reveals that the male costume is less elaborate than the female one. In general, objects like the belt buckles or the "shepherd bag" indicate the male gender of the deceased[98].

Belt parts, two belt buckles and four belt prongs (*Rimmenzunge*), are confirmed in a single grave (M6) in the Foeni necropolis. The first buckle is made of silver with a rectangular frame, and an almost square plate made of silver sheet, folded in half and caught with five clinches, and with a hole for the spine buckle[99]. This belt part resembles the third Vaday type (*Schnalle mit eckigem Kopf*)[100]. Similar exemplars are known in the Roman provinces and the Barbaricum, especially versions in bronze or iron, and they are chronologically attributed to the 2nd and 3rd century AD[101].

The second buckle is made of silver, with a "D"-shape frame made of a rectangular silver plate folded in half and caught with five clinches, and a hole for the spine of the buckle. Its stylized ornamentation seems to represent a hunting scene with a

[79] The Foeni brooch has analogies in Csongrád Debrecen-Óhat, Kecskemét-Fülöpszallás, Szentes, Törökszentmiklos, Vršac-Crvenka; Tănase – Mare 2000, 199; Vaday 1989, 373 – with bibliography related to this artifact.

[80] Vaday 1989, 85.

[81] Type Cociş 36, no 1711 / 1717; Vaday 1989, 79, Abb. 12, 20 (the most appropriate type). We would like to thank Dr. Sorin Cociş (Institute of Archaeology and Art History, Cluj-Napoca), for a precise determination of the brooch; see pl. III, 3.

[82] Vaday 1989, 78.

[83] Vaday 1989, 79.

[84] Vaday1989, 90–92.

[85] Pl. IV, 2.

[86] Vaday 1985, 375.

[87] Pl. VI, 2.

[88] Vaday 1989, 90.

[89] Vaday 1985, 374.

[90] Barack 1961, Abb. VII, 16-b, XIII, 13.

[91] Parducz 1950, Taf. LIII, 1-b-c.

[92] For same cases see Vaday 1989, 49.

[93] Vaday1989, 50, pl. VI, 5a.

[94] Vaday1989, 51, pl. VI, 5b

[95] Vaday 1989, Taf. 8,4.

[96] Pl. IV, 3.

[97] Kulcsár 1998, 113.

[98] Vaday1989, 155.

[99] Tănase – Mare 2000, 197, pl. V, 2a.

[100] Vaday1989, 67, fig. 8, 8–10.

[101] Tănase – Mare 2000, 200; Vaday 1989, 67.

human face and a running animal, possibly a deer[102]. D. Tănase attributed this artifact to the "D"-shape buckle type which is chronologically linked to the late 2nd century (180/190 AD) and the first half of the 3rd century AD[103]. However, the hunting motif appears in the early Iazygen-Sarmatian material only of the 1st and 2nd century AD, as evidenced by a golden plate from Dunaharazti and a golden diadem from Szentes Nagyhegy[104].

Four belt prongs, made of silver, flattened and split at the top in order to be attached to the belt with 1–3 clinches, were also found in grave M6[105]. These pieces have no analogies in the area inhabited by the Sarmatians. However, analogies exist in the selection and the arrangement of the funerary inventory in the grave.

It should be noted that there are two male belts in grave M6, as evidenced by the two buckles and the four belts-prongs discovered. One belt was placed around the pelvis, while the other was placed open on the lower part of the body.

The case of grave M6 of the Foeni necropolis is similar to that of Hódmezővásárhely – Kopáncs (M3), a man's grave in which two belt buckles, four prongs and many clinches were discovered[106]. According to the funerary inventory, grave M3 was attributed to the late 3rd century AD. G. Vörös believes that a second belt should not necessarily be considered part of the costume, but rather an offering placed on the deceased[107]. The same interpretation could be applied to the case of grave M6 of the Foeni necropolis.

IV. Household objects

IV.b.1. Utensils

In the Sarmatians man's graves, numerous tools appear positioned in the pelvis area: needles, whetstones, lithics or pressing tools. These tools, characteristic of nomads, were placed in a textile or leather bag (*Hirtenbeutel*) and attached to the belt or kept in hand by the deceased[108]. The following tools were discovered in grave M16: one pressing tool made of bone, one obsidian and one radiolarian[109]. Grave M18 also contains four lithics: three radiolarians and a Banat flint[110]. The functionality of these tiny tools could vary, though apparently some served as inserts in sickles[111].

The presence of these tools in the funerary inventory may be related to the traditions of certain micro communities. For example, in the Hódmezővásárhely – Fehértónecropolis, each deceased was buried with these tools, while in many large necropolises such tools have not been found[112].

The possibility that the lithic tools are not part of the funerary inventory of the Foeni necropolis is not excluded. Since graves M16 and M18 were heavily devastated, and the lithic tools did not have a well-defined position at the time of discovery, the tools could also come from the dirt used to refill the grave.

IV.b.2. Loom weights

Bitronconic (more or less regular) loom weights appear only in women's graves, at the feet of the deceased. In the Sarmatian material from the Carpathian Basin they are present during the early, middle and late Sarmatian periods[113].

In the Foeni necropolis loom weights were discovered in three graves: M2, M14, and M18. The loom weight uncovered in M2 is made of bone and does not have a specific context of discovery[114]. The other two loom weights are ceramic pieces and have a specific context of discovery: at the left knee[115].

In terms of size, the bone piece is smaller than the ceramic pieces. The latter have more than 3 cm in height, more than 3,4 cm in diameter and was made of two pieces of approximately equal size.

V. Ceramic Vessels

Ceramic vessels appear in almost every Sarmatian burial inventory, placed at the lower part of the deceased's body. Thirteen ceramic vessels were found in the Foeni necropolis; however only nine had a specific context of discovery. Two vessels discovered in graves M2 and M18 were positioned at the feet of the deceased[116]. The presence of ceramic vessels in graves is independent of the sex, age or social status of the deceased.

Generally, the vessels are small and made by hand or on potter's wheel, in grayish colors. The

[102] Tănase – Mare 2000, 197, pl. V, 2b.
[103] Tănase – Mare 2000, 200; Vaday 1989, 68.
[104] Tănase – Mare 2000, 200–201, with the bibliography regarding these belt parts.
[105] Tănase – Mare 2000, 197, pl. V, 3.
[106] Pl. V, 5–6.
[107] Vörös 2001, 326.
[108] Párducz 1956, 28.
[109] Pl. VIII, 1–3
[110] Pl. VII, 2–5.
[111] We would like to thank Laura Drașovean ("1 Decembrie 1918" University of Alba Iulia) for the correct determinations of the tools.
[112] Kulcsár 1998, 114.
[113] Vaday 1989, 127.
[114] Pl. IV, 4.
[115] Pl. VI, 6, VII, 1.
[116] Pl. IV, 5–6 and pl. VII, 6–7.

Type of vessel	Grave	Modeling technique	Composition	Fabric quality	Firing	Color
rectangular glass	M15	by hand	sand, rubble	coarse	reduced	10 YR 4 /1
cup without a handle	M17	by hand	sand, rubble, mica	fine	reduced	10 YR 3/1
rectangular glass	M18	by hand	sand, rubble	fine	reduced	10 YR 4/1
cup with handle	M18	on potter's wheel	sand, rubble	fine	reduced	10 YR 4/1
cup with handle	M4	on potter's wheel	sand	fine	reduced	10 YR 4/1
cup with two handles	M6	on potter's wheel	sand, mica	fine	reduced	10 YR 4/1
rectangular glass	M14	by hand	sand, rubble	coarse	reduced	10 YR 2/1
cup without a handle	passim	on potter's wheel	sand, mica	fine	reduced	10 YR 4/1
cup without a handle	passim	on potter's wheel	sand, mica	fine	reduced	10 YR 5/1
bowl	passim	on potter's wheel	sand, mica	fine	reduced	10 YR 4 / 1
rectangular glass	M2	by hand	sand, mica	fine	mixed	10 YR 5 /3
cup with handle	M2	by hand	sand, mica	fine	reduced	10YR 2 / 1

drinking vessels, cups with or without handles, and glasses with rectangular bottom are the predominant types. One miniature bowl painted on the surface is certified[117]. Bowls often appear in the Sarmatian funerary inventory of the Bascha, Hortobágy–Poroshát, Szentes–Sárgapart necropolises[118].

Miniature vessels with rectangular bottoms appear in three graves M2, M15, and M18[119]. These vessels are made by hand; of coarse material, and have an irregular upper part. This type of ceramic vessels is a constant presence in the Sarmatian funerary inventory[120].

The cups are made both on potter's wheel and by hand and they are made of a better material than the rectangular vessels. The cup with handle from grave M4 is painted black on the outside surface[121], while the four cups from M6 and 1, 2, 4 *passim* have a polished surface[122]. The small jug from grave M18 has similarities with those at Törökszentmiklos, Kecskemét – Széktó, Seleus, and Pişcolt – Lutărie[123] where the red color pots are predominant[124]. The containers with a handle (from M4[125] and *passim* 4[126]) have similarities with those discovered in the Törökszentmiklos[127], Kiskőrös – Csukástó and Kiszombor B necropolises[128]. The two-handled jar from grave M6 is similar to one in the Törökszentmiklos necropolis[129].

VI. Conclusions

The graves discovered at Foeni could be dated precisely only in a few cases (M2, M4, M6, M14). The precise dating was made based on brooches discovered in the grave. The impossibility of dating the remaining graves is not due to lack of archaeological inventory, but rather to grave robberies.

Based on the preserved funerary inventory, the graves of the Foeni necropolis could be dated to the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD, the second period of the Sarmatian age, after the M. Parducz chronology (years 180–270 AD)[130] without reaching the maximum of this timeline. During this period, relations between the Romans and the Sarmatians were less tense and characterized by intense trade links, which allowed for a significant presence of the Sarmatians in the Banat area[131]. However, without further excavations, we cannot assert that this timeline applies uniformly throughout the necropolis.

In addition to the important chronological data, the Foeni necropolis gives us information about the complexity of the Sarmatian burial rites and rituals, aspects of the culture seldom discussed in relation to the Banat region. Although only 18 graves were studied, many of them damaged, it was still possible to observe several manifestations of the Sarmatian burial beliefs.

[117] No clear context of discovery, but comes from the necropolis, pl. VIII, 9.
[118] Vaday 1985, 382.
[119] Pl. IV, 6, VII6, VIII, 4.
[120] Vaday 1985, fig. 9, 14.12, 11.15, 10; Gindele 2009, pl. II, 5.
[121] Pl. III, 5.
[122] Pl. V, 4, VIII, 7, 8, 10.
[123] Gindele 2009, pl. II, 9, see also pl. VII, 7.
[124] Vaday 1985, 363, Abb. 12, 7 with bibliography.
[125] Pl. III, 5.
[126] Pl. VIII, 8
[127] Vaday 1985, 383.
[128] Párducz 194, Taf. XXX, 1950, Taf. XXXIV, 19
[129] Vaday 1985, 366, Abb. 15,25; Pl. V, 4.
[130] Párducz 1956, 140; this chronological attribution is similar to the one indicated by Tănase, Mare 2000, 207, for the Sarmatian graves discovered in the years 1992 –1993.
[131] Tănase – Mare 2000, 203–207 – for discussions regarding the penetration of the Sarmatians east of Tisa and south of Mureş, after the second half of the 2nd century AD.

In addition, an attempt was made to identify the distinct ethnic or social groups of the necropolis. Unfortunately, the small number of graves discovered to this day only allows us to formulate hypotheses supported by the analogies with the Sarmatian area of the Great Hungarian Plain. However, it is our hope that future anthropological analyses will answer any remaining questions and will confirm, at least in part, our hypotheses.

VII. Catalogue

M1 (M1/1991); pl. II; adult. **Skeleton orientation**: S–N. **Grave dimensions**: 180 cm (length) × 80 cm (width), unspecified depth. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was heavily damaged and only some bone fragments were recovered. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**: no inventory. **Dating**: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M2 (M1/1992)[132] child? (Female); pl. IV. **Skeleton orientation**: S – N; **Grave dimensions**: 70 cm (depth), unspecified length and width. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the skeleton was not preserved. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**[133]:

1. lower limbs area – opaque glass *beads*: 99 orange glass (type V) h = 5.6–6.8 mm, d = 8–8.9 mm, 64 red glass (type V), h = 6–6.5 mm, d = 8.3–8.4 mm, 48 green glass (type V), h = 5.8–7.2 mm, d = 7.7–9.5 mm, 277 white glass (type V), h = 5.2 to 8.2 mm, d = 7.5 –10 mm and carnelian *beads*: 25 pieces (type K 1), h = 8.4–9.5 mm, d = 7.6–8.3 mm

2. secondary position – Box – brooch (*Dosenförmigefibel*) made of silver, the front plate and the needle were not preserved, d = 5.7 cm, t = 0.9 cm (pl. IV, 2)

3. secondary position – two *bracelets* made of bronze and decorated; the decoration on these two bracelets consists of semi lunar motifs that are arranged vertically on one bracelet and horizontally on the other, d = 4.8 cm, t = 0.1–0.3 cm and d = 4.6 cm, t = 0.1–0.3 cm (pl. IV, 3)

4. secondary position – *bracelet* made of *beads*: a large bead of limestone (type C3), h = 8.8 mm, d = 10.3 mm, a bead of white glass (type I) h = 8.8 mm, d = 10.3 mm, four beads of white glass (type V), h = 4.8–6.3 mm, d = 7.2–9 mm, 3 yellow glass beads (Type V), h = 5.5–5.7 mm, two red glass beads (type V), h = 5.3 mm, d = 8.1 mm, 11 blue glass beads (type VII), h = 3.4–4.2 mm, d = 5,4–6 mm and an *ax-shaped pendant* L = 2cm, W = 0.3–0.8 cm, t = 1.7 mm (pl. IV, 1)

5. secondary position – *loom weight* made of bone; bitronconic shape, h = 2.5 cm, d = 3.2 cm (pl. IV, 4)

6. secondary position – *vessel* with rectangular bottom; made by hand; mixed firing; brown color (Munsell code 10YR 5 / 3); h = 5.6 cm, d = 6.4 cm, Ds = 6.6 cm, Di = 5.7 cm (pl. IV, 6);

7. secondary position – *cup* with a handle; made by hand; reduced firing; black color (Munsell code 10 YR 2 / 1) h = 5.1 cm, d = 5 cm, Ds = 3.4 cm, Di = 3.6 cm (pl. IV, 5)

Dating: based on the *Dosenförmigefibel*, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the second century and the middle of the third century AD.

M3 (M2/1992); pl. II; child. **Skeleton orientation**: S – N. **Grave dimensions**: 70 cm (depth), unspecified length and width. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the deceased was placed in a dorsal decubitus position; only the upper part of the body was anatomically preserved. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**: no inventory. **Dating**: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century and the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M4 (M3/1992)[134]; pl. II–III; child. **Skeleton orientation**: N–S. **Grave dimensions**: 120 cm (length) × 70 cm (width) × 160 cm. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity and only the head, the pelvis and the upper limbs were recovered. We can assume that the deceased was placed in the dorsal decubitus position. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**:

1. neck area – *torques* made of silver, with square section, a smooth wire, with edges in node and loop decoration, d = 7.2 cm, t = 0.2 cm (pl. III, 1)

2. neck area – *torques* made of twisted bronze wire; fragmented, d = 10 cm, t = 0.2 cm (pl. III, 2)

3.right clavicle – bronze crossbow – brooch (*Armbrustfibel*); very well preserved, only the needle is partially broken; L = 4.2 cm, L (spring) = 1.9 cm (pl. III, 3)

4. right hand – earring, made of silver wire, with round section; the fastener is executed in a loop and hook technique, d = 4 cm, t = 1.6 cm (pl. III, 4)

5. lower limbs area – *cup* with handle, made on potter's wheel; reduced firing; dark gray color (Munsell code 10YR 4 / 1), painted with black angobe on the outside, h = 8.5 cm, d = 7.3 cm, Ds = 5.3 cm, Di = .6 cm (pl. III, 5)

Dating: based on the Crossbow brooch, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the second half of the 2nd century and the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

M5 (M4/1992)[135] pl. II; adult. **Skeleton orientation**: N–S. **Grave dimensions**: 160 cm (length) × 45 cm (width) × 190 cm (depth). **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the deceased was placed in a dorsal decubitus position, with the hands resting on the side; the skeleton was entirely preserved in anatomical order. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**: no inventory. **Dating:** a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be

[132] Tănase – Mare 2000, 194 (M 1).

[133] Abbreviations: h = height, d = diameter, Ds = superior diameter, Di = inferior diameter, t = thickness, L = length, w = width.

[134] Tănase – Mare 2000, 194 (M 2).

[135] Tănase – Mare 2000, 196 (M 3).

chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M6 (M 1/1993)[136] pl. II, V; adult (Male). **Skeleton orientation**: N–S. **Grave dimensions**: 240 cm (length) × 90 cm (width) × 88 cm (depth), with two "steps", the first one at 35 and the second at 63 cm; the looting pit was observed in the left area of the deceased. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the deceased was placed in a dorsal decubitus position, with the hands resting on the side; the right arm and the ribs were missing. **Observations**: coffin remains were noted: traces of coal, an iron nail (on the right leg area of the deceased) and three "C" shaped– iron clamps (two near the left arm and one near the right arm). **Inventory**:

1. hip area– a silver *buckle*, with a rectangular frame, and an almost square plate made of silver sheet, folded in half and caught with five clinches; dimensions of the frame: L = 3,3 cm, w = 2 cm; dimensions of the the plate: L = 3,1 cm, w = 3 cm (pl. V 2 a)

2. hip area –a silver *buckle*, with a "D" – shape frame made of a rectangular silver plate folded in half and caught with five clinches, and a hole for the spine of the buckle; stylized ornamentation (a hunting scene with a human face and a running animal, possibly a deer); dimensions of the frame: L = 2,5 cm, w = 1,8 cm; dimensions of the plate L = 5,4 cm; w = 2,6–2,8 cm (pl. V, 2 b)

3. lower limbs area – four *belt prongs*, made of silver, flattened and split at the top in order to be attached to the belt with 1–3 clinches; L = 6.8–8.3 cm, w = 0.6–1.4 cm, t = 0.1–0.15 cm (pl. V, 3)

4. near the right leg – *cup* with two handles, made on potter's wheel; reduced firing; dark gray color (Munsell code 10 YR 4 /1), h = 7 cm, d = 8.8 cm, Ds = 5.6 cm, Di = 4.5 cm (pl. V, 4)

Dating: based on the "D" – shape buckle, the grave can be chronologically attributed between 180 / 190 and the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M7 (M2/1993)[137] pl. II; adult. **Skeleton orientation**: N–S. **Grave dimensions**: 260 cm (length) × 90 cm (width) × 230 cm (depth). **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity (the looting pit had been observed) and only fragments of the skull were preserved. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**:

1. secondary position – glass *beads* and small traces of gold (probably from the sandwich – type beads

Dating: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M8 (M3/1993)[138] pl. II; adult (female). **Skeleton orientation**: N–S. **Grave dimensions**: 210 cm (depth), unspecified width and length. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity (the looting pit had been observed, overlapping the grave) and no bone fragments were recovered. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted**. Inventory**:

1. secondary position – a *pressing tools* made of bone, L = 4.3 cm, w = 1.3 cm

2. secondary position–163 opaque glass *beads*, white, green, blue and red (type V), h = 4–8,4 mm, d = 6.6 –11 mm, 22 white and blue glass beads (type I), h = 7.5–9, 1 mm, d = 8–10 mm, 9 blue glass beads (type IIB), h = 13.4–18 mm, d = 3.5–4.2 mm, 5 white glass beads (type III), h = 9–10.5 mm, d = 5 8–5.9 mm, a cherry glass bead (type IV), h = 9.7 mm, d = 5.7 mm, one bead of white glass (type X), h = 6.6 mm, d = 9.7 mm, two blue – green colored beads with central floral decoration (*Rosettenmuster*), h = 8.2–8.6 mm, d = 9.8–10.9 mm, 5 carnelian beads (type K1 and K 3), h = 8.2–10.5 mm, d = 7.1–8.6 mm, two beads made of amber (with globular form), h = 4.1–4.9 mm, d = 8–7.4 mm, combination of white glass beads (sandwich – type) with two (8 pieces) or three sections (one piece), h = 7.7–7.8 mm, d = 8.9–10.3 mm

3. secondary position– golden layer *beads* (sandwich type) attached by two (1), three (4), four (3); h = 4.5–8.8 mm, d = 2.7–3.3 mm

Dating: based on the golden layer beads, the grave can be can be chronologically attributed to the 2nd century and the first half of 3rd century AD.

M9 (M4/1993) pl. II; adult? **Skeleton orientation**: W–NW. **Grave dimensions**: 140 cm (width) × 215 cm (depth), unspecified length. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity and only a part of the skull was preserved[139]. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory:** no inventory. **Dating**: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M10 (M1/1995) pl. II, adult? **Skeleton orientation**: S–N. **Grave dimensions**: 240 cm (length) × 120 cm (width) × 100 cm (depth). **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity; the skull was broken in two and placed in the southern area of the grave; some small fragments of bone were grouped in the western area of the grave[140]. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**:

1. west area of the grave – *beads* fragments [141]

Dating: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M11 (M1/1996) pl. II, adult? **Skeleton orientation**: N–S[142].**Grave dimensions**: 260 cm (length) × 120 cm

[136] Tănase – Mare 2000, 197 (M 4).
[137] Tănase – Mare 2000, 197 (M 5).
[138] Tănase – Mare 2000, 197 (M 6).
[139] Information Fl. Gogâltan.
[140] Information Fl. Draşovean.
[141] Information Fl. Draşovean.
[142] The skeleton orientation is hypothetical, the grave being extremely damaged. We have chosen the general orientation of the graves, but it could also be sustainable a south-north position of the body.

(width) × 100 cm (depth). **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity; the skeleton hasn't been found in anatomical order, many bone fragments were missing. Fragments of skull and two long bones were discovered at 30 cm north of the grave[143]. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**: no inventory. **Dating**: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M12 (M2/1996) pl. II, child? **Skeleton orientation**: N–S[144].**Grave dimensions**: 140 cm (length) × 60 cm (width), unspecified depth. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity; the skeleton hasn't been found in anatomical order, only some skull fragments and limb were preserved. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**: no inventory. **Dating**: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M13 (M1/1998) pl. II, child. **Skeleton orientation**: the dispersion of the bones made the orientation impossible to specify. **Grave dimensions**: 220 cm (length) × 120 cm (width) × 100 cm (depth). **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity; the skeleton hasn't been found in anatomical order, many bone fragments were missing. Only some skull fragments and bones fragments were discovered. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**:

1. unspecified area – a *bead*[145]

Dating: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M14 (M1/2001) pl. II, VI; child (Female). **Skeleton orientation**: S–N. **Grave dimensions**: 130 cm (length) × 45 cm (width), unspecified depth. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the deceased was placed in a dorsal decubitus position, with the hands resting on the side; the skeleton was partially preserved in anatomical order. **Observations:** no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**:

1. left and right side of the skull – two *earrings* made of silver wire, twisted and spiraled as a node, with a loop and hook fastening; one of the earrings is partially damaged: d = 39.5–47.1 mm, t = 1.8–1.6 mm (pl. VI, 1, 3)

2. neck area – a silver brooch (*Dosenförmigerfibel*); the top plate has a spiral decoration, arranged in circular bands, with a central flower; the needle and the spin of the brooch were missing; d = 3.5 cm, t = 0,8 cm, (pl. VI, 2)

3. neck – chest area – three white opaque glass *beads* (Type I), h = 15.6–16.5 mm, d = 13.7–12.5 mm, a blue glass bead with stripes incisions (*Achterförmigerline*), h = 6.9 mm, h = 11 mm, a green glass beads (with *Rosettenmuster*), h = 7.5 mm, d = 10.4 mm, two blue, two green and four opaque glass beads (Type II A, B), h = 10.3–16.5 mm, d = 2.8–4.3 mm, two opaque blue glass beads (type VII) h = 3.4–3.7 mm, d = 6.5–6.6 mm, one white bead (type IX), h = 10.8 mm, d = 4.5 mm, two red and two green glass opaque beads (type IV), h = 9.2–9.5 mm, 4.2–5.3 mm, one green and one red opaque glass bead (type III), h = 5–9.3 mm, d = 5.3–10.6 mm, one white and one blue opaque glass bead (type VI), h = 11.5–12.6 mm, d = 5.9–6.7 mm, two green and one blue glass bead (type V), h = 3–5.3 mm, d = 5.6–7.2 mm, one amber bead, h = 3.5 mm, d = 6.9 mm, two beads made of pink coral, h = 10.7–14.6 mm, d = 3.8 mm, 4 blue opaque glass decorated with zig–zag decoration (*Zickzackverzierung*), h = 8.6–9.5 mm, d = 3.4–3.5 mm

4. right part of the body (belt?) – one blue glass *bead* with stripes incisions (*Achterförmigerline*), h = 7.6 mm, d = 14 mm, two opaque glass bead with "chessboard" decoration (*Schachbrettmuster*), h = 8.6–7.09 mm, d = 11.2–12.4 mm, two green glass beads, with floral decoration (*Rosettenmuster*), h = 8.2 mm, d = 10.1–10.6 mm, a limestone bead (type C1), h = 16.2 mm, d = 13.4 mm, 10 white, green, red and blue color glass beads (type V), h = 3.7–7.5 mm, 6.7–11.6 mm, one white glass bead (type IX), h = 4.1 mm, d = 6.7 mm, 3 blue glass beads with zig – zag ornamentation (*Zickzackverzierung*), h = 9.3 mm, d = 3.8 mm; some fragmentary beads made of limestone, coral and amber beads.

5. left arm – two *bracelets* made of iron with a rectangular section, the first with superimposed extremities and the second with open extremities; dimensions of the bracelets = 3–4.1 cm, t= 0.3–0.2 cm (pl.VI, 5 – a, b).

6. in the hands – two *bells* with a pear shape and manufactured in the molding technique, h = 1.7–1.9 cm, d = 2.2–1.7 cm, t = 1.8–1.7 cm (pl. VI 4)

7. lower limbs area – 357 white, red (with yellow layer), orange, green, blue, and green opaque glass *beads* (type V), h = 3–7.7 mm, d = 6–13.2 mm, 10 limestone beads (type C1), h = 7–7.9 mm, d = 12 mm, 24 blue glass beads (type VII), h = 3.1–3.8 mm, d = 4.9–7.1 mm, two blue glass beads with zig – zag ornamentation (*Zickzackverzierung*), h = 10.2–10.4 mm, d = 3.6–4.2 mm and a fragmentary blue glass bead (type II)

8. left knee – ceramic *loom weight*, with bitronconic shape, h = 2.9 cm, d = 3.4 cm (pl. VI, 6)

9. right leg – *vessel* with rectangular bottom; made by hand; reduced firing; coarse paste, black color (Munsell code 10 YR 2/1), h = 7.5 cm, d = 7 cm, Ds = 6.3 cm, Di = 5.5 cm (pl. VI, 7)

Dating: based on the *Dosenförmigefibel*, the grave can be can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century and the middle of the 3rd century AD.

M15 (M2/2001) pl. II, child. **Skeleton orientation**: S–N. **Grave dimensions**: 150 cm (length) × 40 cm

[143] Information Fl. Drașovean.

[144] The skeleton orientation is hypothetical, the grave being extremely damaged. We have chosen the general orientation of the graves, but it could also be sustainable a south – north position of the body.

[145] Information Fl. Drașovean.

(width), unspecified depth. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity; the deceased was placed in a dorsal decubitus position, with the hands resting on the side; the skeleton was found only partially in anatomical order, the skull was destroyed and placed to the chest; the right hand, the tibia, the left fibula and right femur were missing[146]. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**:

1. chest area – two *beads* made of limestone (type C1), h = 15 mm, d = 7.7 mm, 22 white, green and blue glass beads (type I) h = 7.5–10.5 mm, d = 7.6–11.3 mm, three blue glass beads (type IV) h = 9.5–11.5 mm, d = 6.1–6.3 mm, two green glass beads (type II B) h = 10.3–16, d = 4.2–3.7 mm, 4 beads made of carnelian (type K1) h = 8–14.2 mm, d = 6 3–7.4 mm, an amber bead, h = 9.6 mm, d = 14.2 mm, 7 white glass beads (type V), h = 4.1–5.7 mm, d = 7.4–9.5 mm

2. left wrist – a *bracelet* made of 3 beads: a fragmentary limestone, a polychrome glass with "chessboard" decoration (*Schachbrettmuster*) h = 7.6 mm, d = 11.4 mm and a red glass with floral decoration, h = 8.3 mm, d = 10.4 mm

3. right side of the lower limbs – *vessel* with rectangular bottom; made by hand; reduced firing; coarse paste; dark gray color (Munsell code 10 YR 4/1) h = 5.5 cm, d= 5.5 cm, Ds = 5.8 cm, Di = 4.4 cm (pl. VIII, 4)

Dating: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M16 (M3/2001) pl. II, adult. **Skeleton orientation**: N–S[147]. **Grave dimensions**: 260 cm (length) × 90 cm (width), unspecified depth. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity; the bones which have been found (mandible and tibia) were in secondary position[148]. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted. **Inventory**:

1. secondary position, 4 *beads* of carnelian (type K1 and K3), h = 9.2–12.2 mm, d = 7–8.06 mm, two white and green glass beads (type VIII), h = 10–10.4 mm, d = 5.5–5.8 mm, two white glass beads (Type II A), h = 9.7 mm, d = 5.9 mm, one white glass bead (type VI), h = 6.2 mm, d = 4.6 mm, one fragmentary amber bead and two rectangular bone beads, h = 9.4 mm, d = 8.7 mm

2. secondary position – a fragmented *pressing tools* made of the bone (pl. VIII, 1), L = 7 cm, w = 1.5 cm

3. secondary position – two *small tools* made of obsidian (pl. VIII, 3) and radiolarian (pl. VIII, 2)

Dating: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M17 (M1/2002) pl. II; adult. **Skeleton orientation**: S- N. **Grave dimensions**: 230 cm (length) × 100 cm (width), unspecified depth. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the grave was probably disturbed during Antiquity; only the skull and some bone fragments from the upper limbs were preserved. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted[149]. **Inventory**:

1. lower limbs area – a *cup* without handle; made by hand; reduced firing; dark gray color (Munsell code 10 YR 3/1), h = 8 cm, d = 7 cm, Ds = 6 cm, Di = 4.5 cm (pl. VIII, 5)

Dating: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

M18 (M2/2002) pl. II, VII; adult (Female). **Orientation of the grave**: S – N. **Grave dimensions**: 200 cm (length) × 80 cm (width), unspecified depth. **Preservation state and skeleton position**: the deceased was placed in a dorsal decubitus position, partially in anatomical order; the feet carpals and metacarpals, the mandible and the ribs were missing[150]. **Observations**: no coffin remains were noted**. Inventory**:

1. neck area – a green glass *bead* (type III), h = 8.3 mm, d = 5.3 mm, one bead made of limestone (type C1), h = 12 mm, d = 7.9 mm, 11 white red, green and orange glass beads (type V), h = 3.8–5.5 mm, d = 7.3–8.3 mm

2. pelvis area – one limestone bead (type C3), h = 11 mm, d = 12 mm, one orange glass bead (type V), h = 5.6 mm, d = 7.5 mm

3. the lower limbs area–217 white, orange, blue, green and red (with yellow layer) glass *beads* (type V), h = 4–6 mm, d = 6–7 mm, two red glass beads (type IX A), h = 11.2 mm, d = 5.8 mm, 16 green and red glass beads (type III), h = 10.6 mm, d = 4.5 mm, 5 purple glass beads (type IV), h = 9 –10 mm, d = 7.6–7.7 mm, one fragmentary bead made of amber, one translucent green glass bead (with bitronconic shape), h = 8 mm, d = 17.9 mm, one polychrome glass bead with "chessboard" decoration, h = 8.5 mm, d = 12.5 mm, 28 beads made of limestone (type C1, C2, C3), h = 9.3–23 mm, d = 5.9 –12.2 mm

4. left knee – *loom weight* with bitronconic shape h = 3.2 cm, d = 3.7 cm (pl.VII, 1)

5. near the left tibia – *vessel* with rectangular bottom; made by hand; reduced firing; dark gray color (Munsell code 10 YR 4/1), h = 6.4 cm, d = 5.5 cm (pl. VII, 6)

6. near the left tibia – a *cup* with handle; made on potter's wheel; reduced firing; dark gray color (Munsell code 10 YR 4/1), h = 7.7 cm, d = 6.5 cm, Ds = 5.7 cm, Di = 4 cm (pl. VII, 7)

7. secondary position –a *Banat flint* (pl. VII, 2)

8. secondary position – 5 limestone *beads* (type C3, C1) h = 19.6–22 mm, d = 9.4–16 mm, two white and orange glass beads (type V), h = 7–3.8 mm, d = 9.5–7 mm

9. secondary position – three *radiolarian*s (pl. VII 3–5)

Dating: a precise dating cannot be established without the funerary inventory; based on analogies, the grave can

[146] Information Fl. Drașovean.

[147] The skeleton orientation is hypothetical, the grave being extremely damaged. We have chosen the general orientation of the graves, but it could also be sustainable a south-north position of the body.

[148] Information Fl. Drașovean.

[149] Information Fl. Drașovean.

[150] Information Fl. Drașovean.

be chronologically attributed to the end of the 2nd century the first half of the 3rd century AD.

Funeral inventory without clear context of discovery:

1. *Pelta* – shaped brooch (*Peltaförmige Fibel*), made of bronze, most of the surface was covered with white enamel, its double border covered with blue enamel, and its central oval cell most likely covered with a red color; the needle is missing; h = 5 cm, d = 5.3 cm, t = 0.2 cm (pl. VIII, 6)

2. *Cup* without a handle; polished surface; made on potter's wheel; reduced firing; dark gray color (Munsell code 10 YR 4/1), h = 8.2 cm, d = 7.1 cm, Ds = 5 cm, Di = 3 cm, found in 1991 (pl. VIII, 7)

3. *Cup* without a handle; with polished surface, made on potter's wheel; reduced firing; gray color (Munsell code 10 YR 5/1), h = 8.5 cm, d= 7.6, Ds = 7.3 cm, Di = 4 cm (pl. VIII, 10)

4. *Bowl* painted black on the outside surface; made on potter's wheel; reduced firing; dark gray color (Munsell code 10 YR 4/1), h = 4.5 cm, d = Ds = 10 cm, Di = 4.3 cm (pl. VIII, 9)

5. *Cup* with a handle, polished surface, made on potter's wheel; reduced firing; dark gray color (Munsell code 10 YR 4 /1), h = 7.7 cm, d = 6.2 cm, Ds = 4 cm, Di = 3.4 cm; donation Petru Novacevici (pl. VIII, 8).

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NECROPOLA SARMATICĂ DE LA FOENI (JUD. TIMIŞ)

(Rezumat)

Mormintele prezentate în cadrul acestui studiu reprezintă activitatea de cercetare efectuată de către Muzeul Banatului Timişoara şi Institutul de Arheologie şi Istoria Artei, Cluj-Napoca, în situl arheologic de la Foeni (jud. Timiş), punctul „Cimitirul ortodox". Cercetările au avut loc între anii 1991–2007, complexele dezvelite fiind preponderent preistorice. În campaniile dintre anii 1991–1993, 1995–1998 şi 2001–2002 au fost descoperite şi 18 morminte de inhumaţie, de factură sarmatică, care fac parte, cu siguranţă, dintr-o necropolă mai mare distrusă în mare parte de actualul cimitir ortodox. Mormintele descoperite în campaniile din anii 1992–1993 au fost singurele publicate (Tănase, Mare 2000).

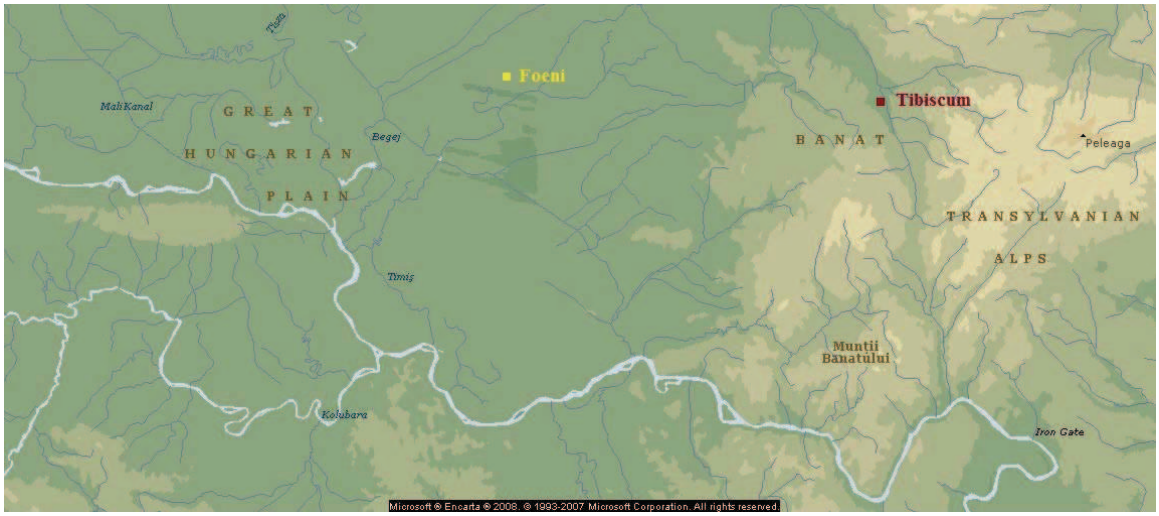
Am considerat necesar o reluare a acestora, în cadrul studiului de faţă, pentru a avea o imagine de ansamblu a necropolei şi pentru a completa articolul din anul 2000 cu planul mormintelor. Mormintele nepublicate, până în prezent, şi descoperite în anii 1991–1992, 1995–1998 şi 2001–2002, au fost adăugate acestui studiu. Prin urmare, în acest moment este posibilă o discuţie mai amplă legată de ritul şi ritualul funerar în cadrul necropolei sarmatice de la Foeni.

O datare corectă a grupului de morminte, poate fi precizată doar în câteva cazuri (M4, M2, M6, M14), fibulele asigurând un asemenea demers. Incapacitatea de a propune o încadrare exactă şi pentru celelalte morminte e o consecinţă, în mare parte, a actelor de jaf.

Pe baza inventatului funerar păstrat, grupul de morminte de la Foeni se poate data la sfârşitul secolului II – prima jumătate a secolului III p. Chr., adică în a doua perioadă a epocii sarmatice (anii 180–270 p. Chr.), după M. Párducz (Párducz 1956, 140; această încadrare cronologică coincide cu datarea propusă de Tănase, Mare 2000, 207, pentru grupul de morminte sarmatice descoperite în 1993–1993 la Foeni), fără a atinge limita maximă a acestei cronologii. Totuşi, fără săpături arheologice suplimentare, nu putem preciza cu exactitate, dacă această cronologie este unitară pentru întreaga necropolă.

Pe lângă importantele date cronologice, necropola de la Foeni ne oferă informaţii despre complexitatea ritului şi ritualului funerar sarmatic, aspecte prea puţin discutate în spaţiul Banatului românesc.

S-a încercat şi identificarea unor grupuri distincte (etnice sau sociale), în cadrul necropolei. Din păcate, numărul mic al mormintelor dezvelite, ne permite doar formularea unor ipoteze, întărite bineînţeles de analogiile existente în spaţiul ungar. Sperăm ca viitoarele analize antropologice să răspundă la întrebările rămase şi să confirme, cel puţin o parte, din interpretările propuse.



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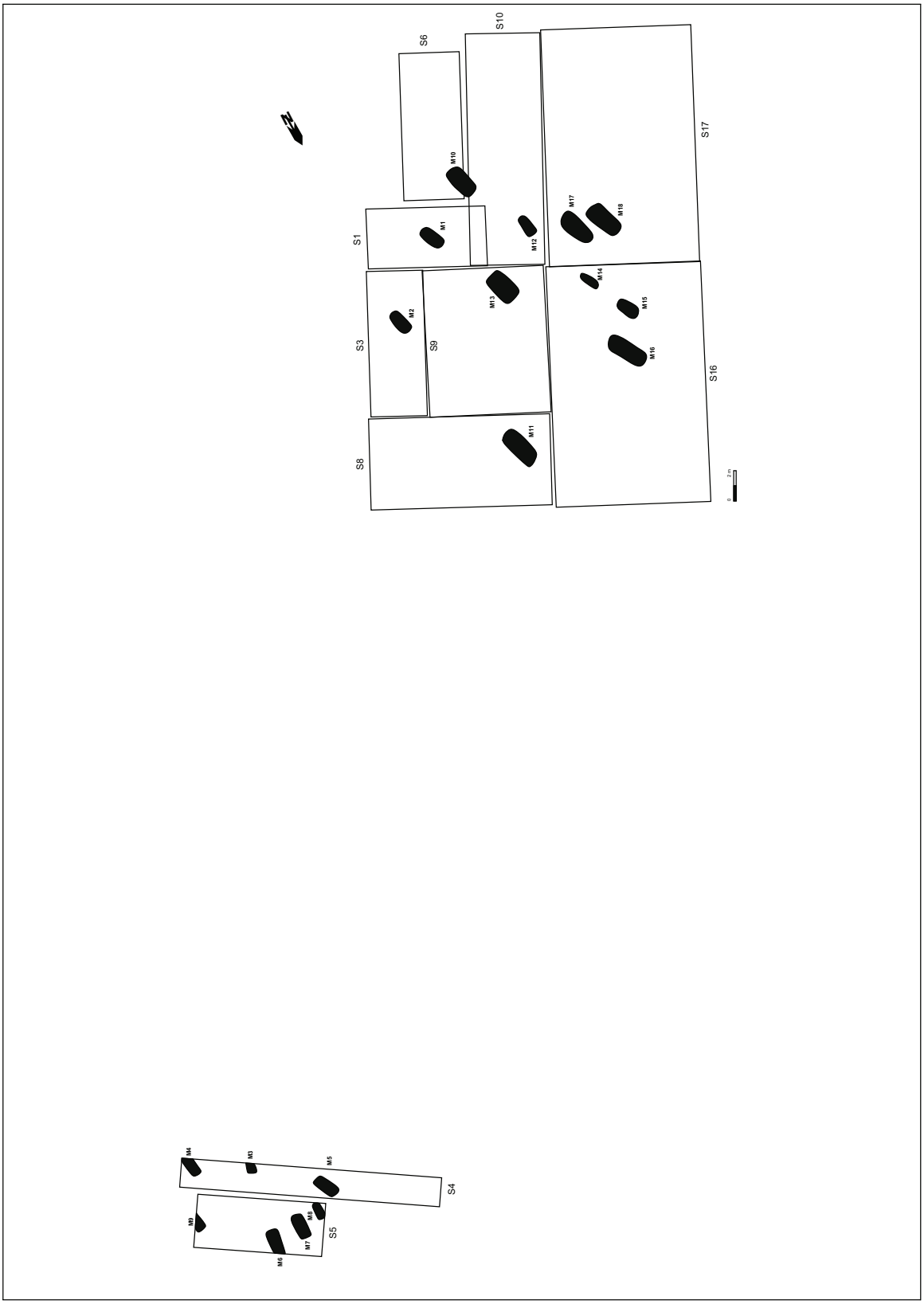
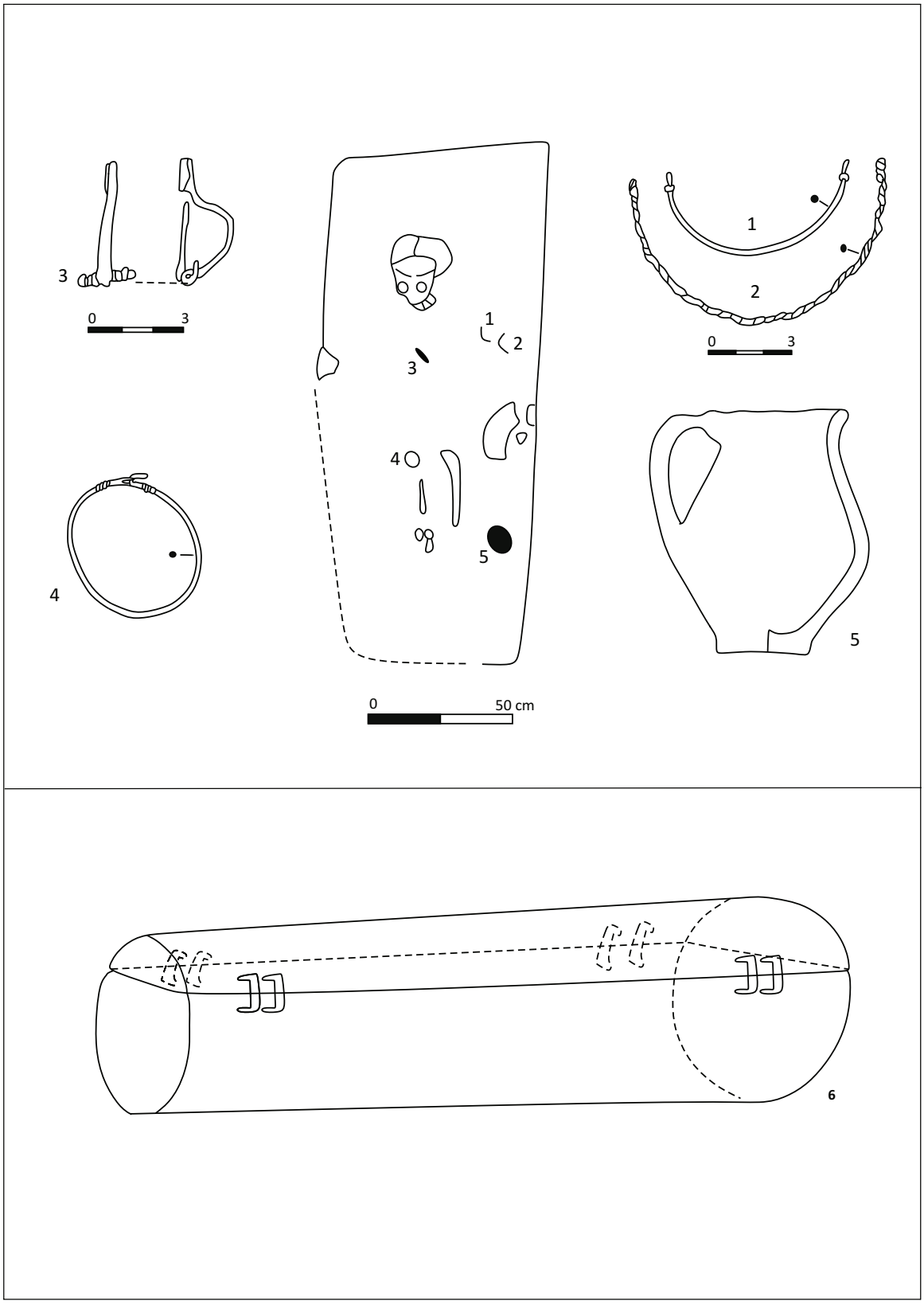
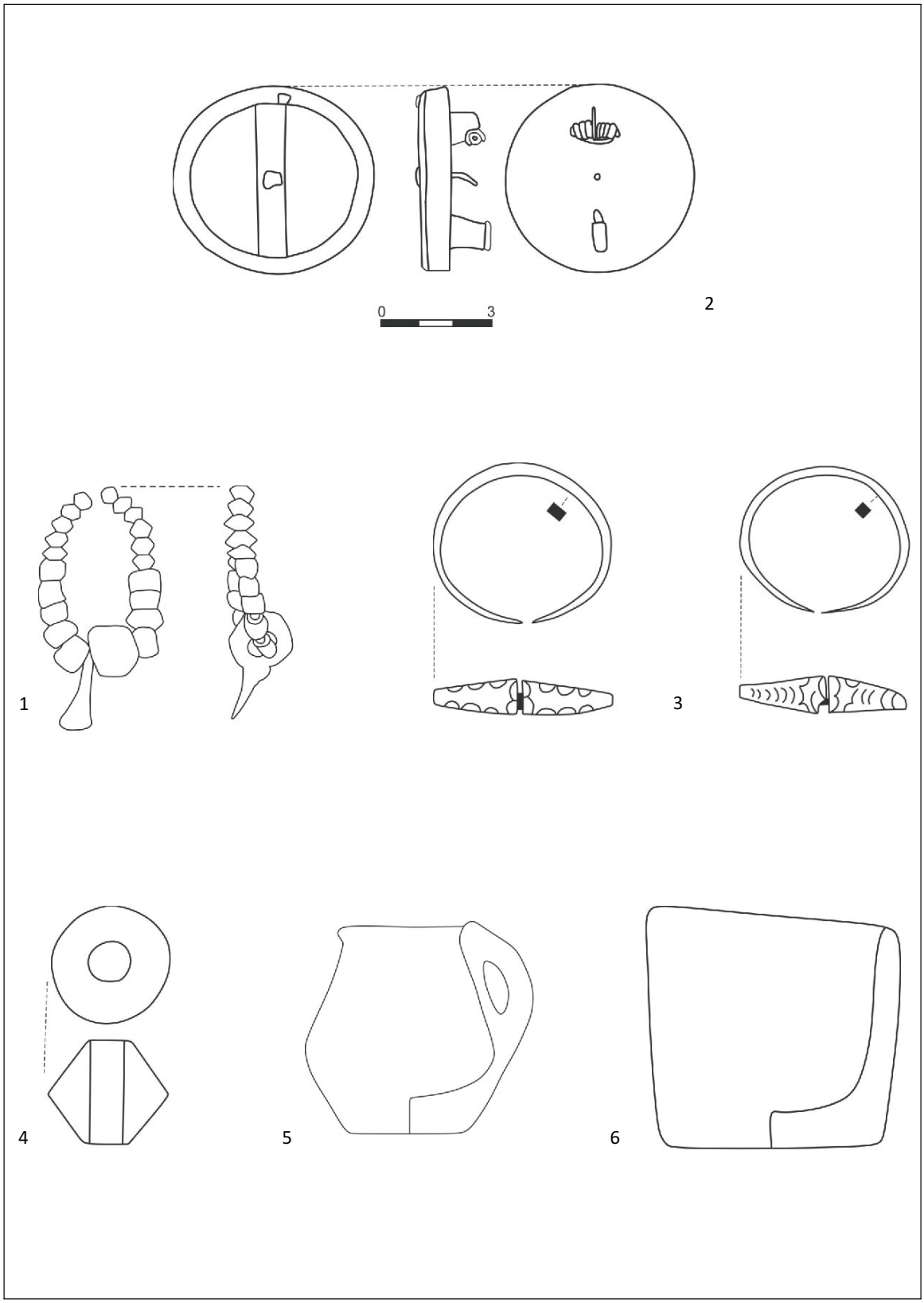
Pl. I. 1.Foeni (Timiş County); 2. Foeni – Selişte and Foeni the "Orthodox Cemetery" / 1. Foeni (județul Timiș); 2 – Foeni – Selişte și Foeni "Cimitirul ortodox".



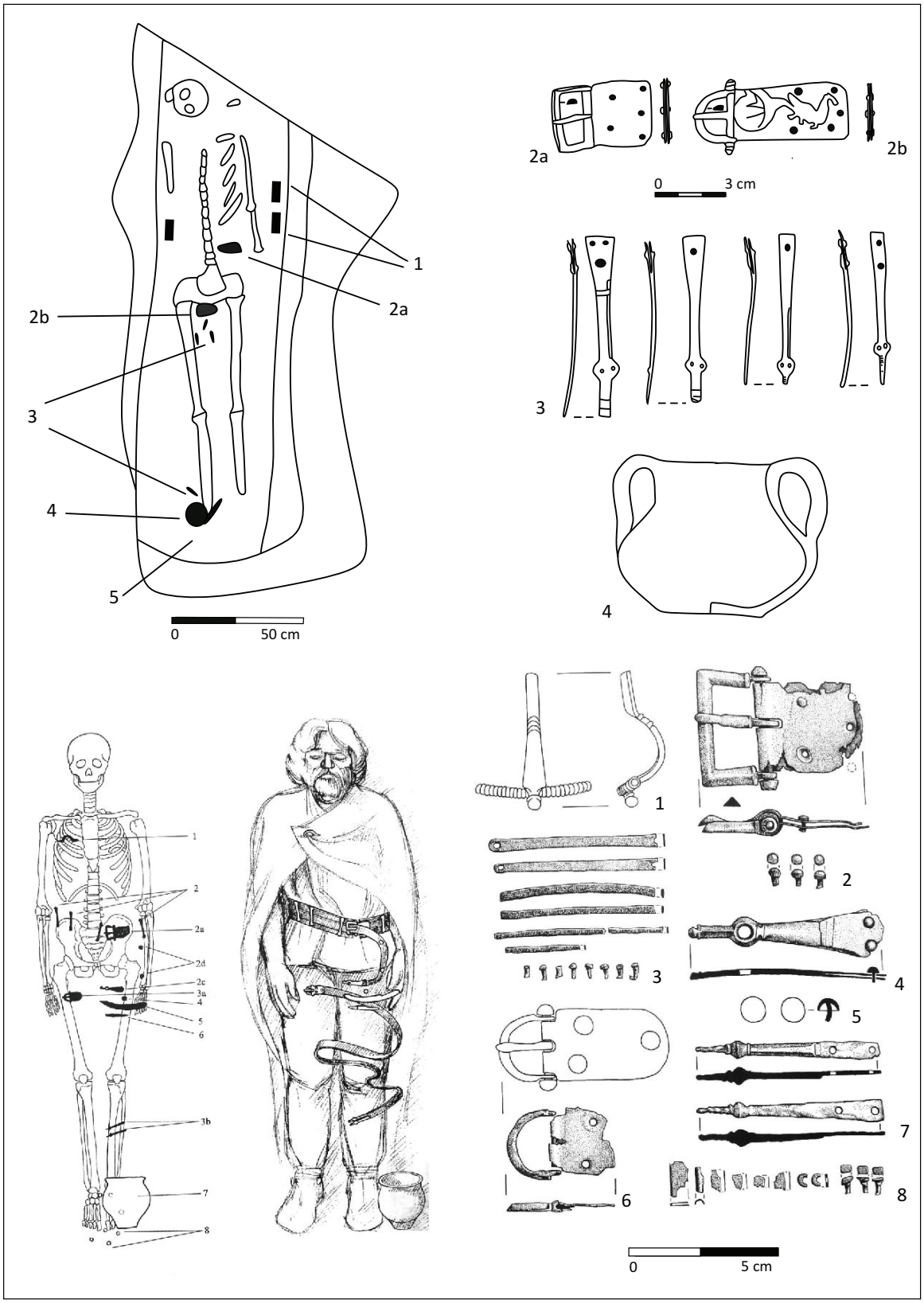
Pl. II. General plan of the necropolis / Planul general al necropolei.



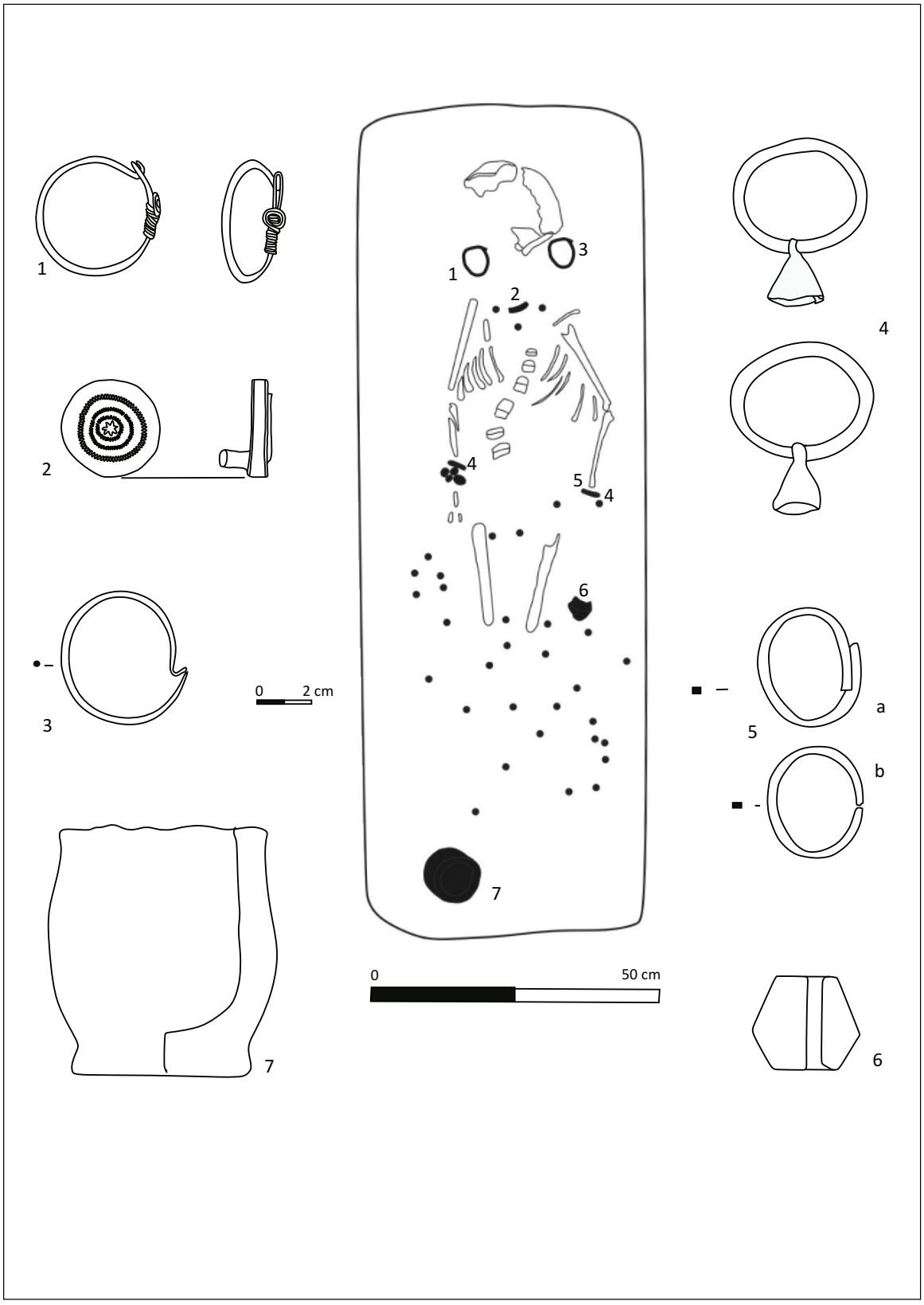
Pl. III. Ground plan of the M4 grave: 1 – 2 - torques, 3 – Crossbow – brooch, 4 – silver earring, 5 – cup; 6 – coffin with iron clamps (*apud* Kulcsár 1998) / Planul mormântului M4: 1 – 2 torques, 3 – fibulă Arbaletă, 4 – cercel de argint, 5 – cupă, 6 – sicriu cu scoabe din fier (*apud* Kulcsár 1998).



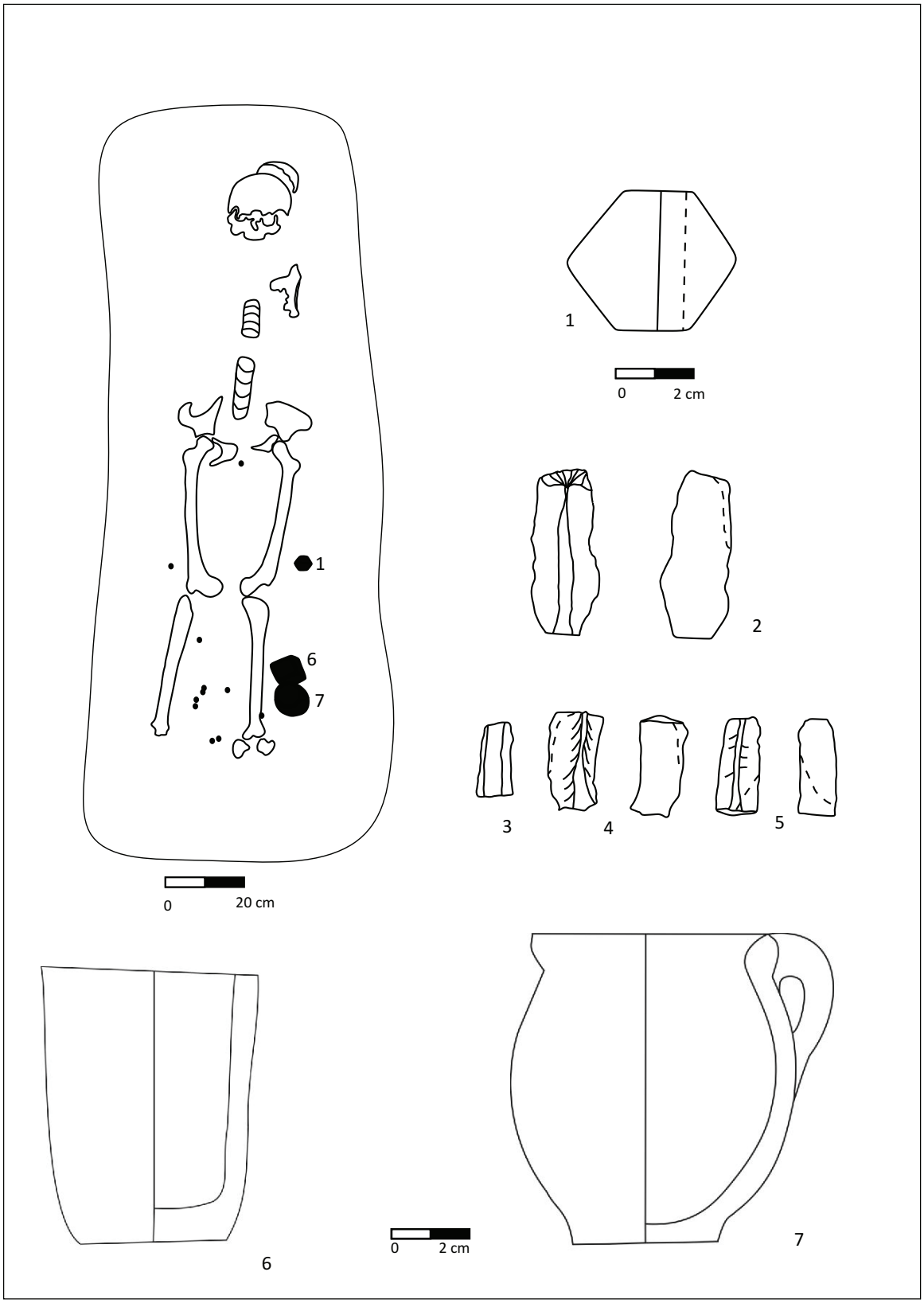
Pl. IV. Funerary inventory of the grave M2: 1 – bracelet made of beads and an ax – shaped pendant, 2 – Box – brooch, 3 – bracelets, 4 – loom weight, 5 – cup, 6 – vessel with rectangular bottom / Inventarul funerar al mormântului M2: 1 – brățară format din mărgele și pandantiv în formă de secure, 2 – fibula Cutie, 3 – brățări, 4 – fusaiolă, 5 – cupă, 6 – vas cu fund rectangular.



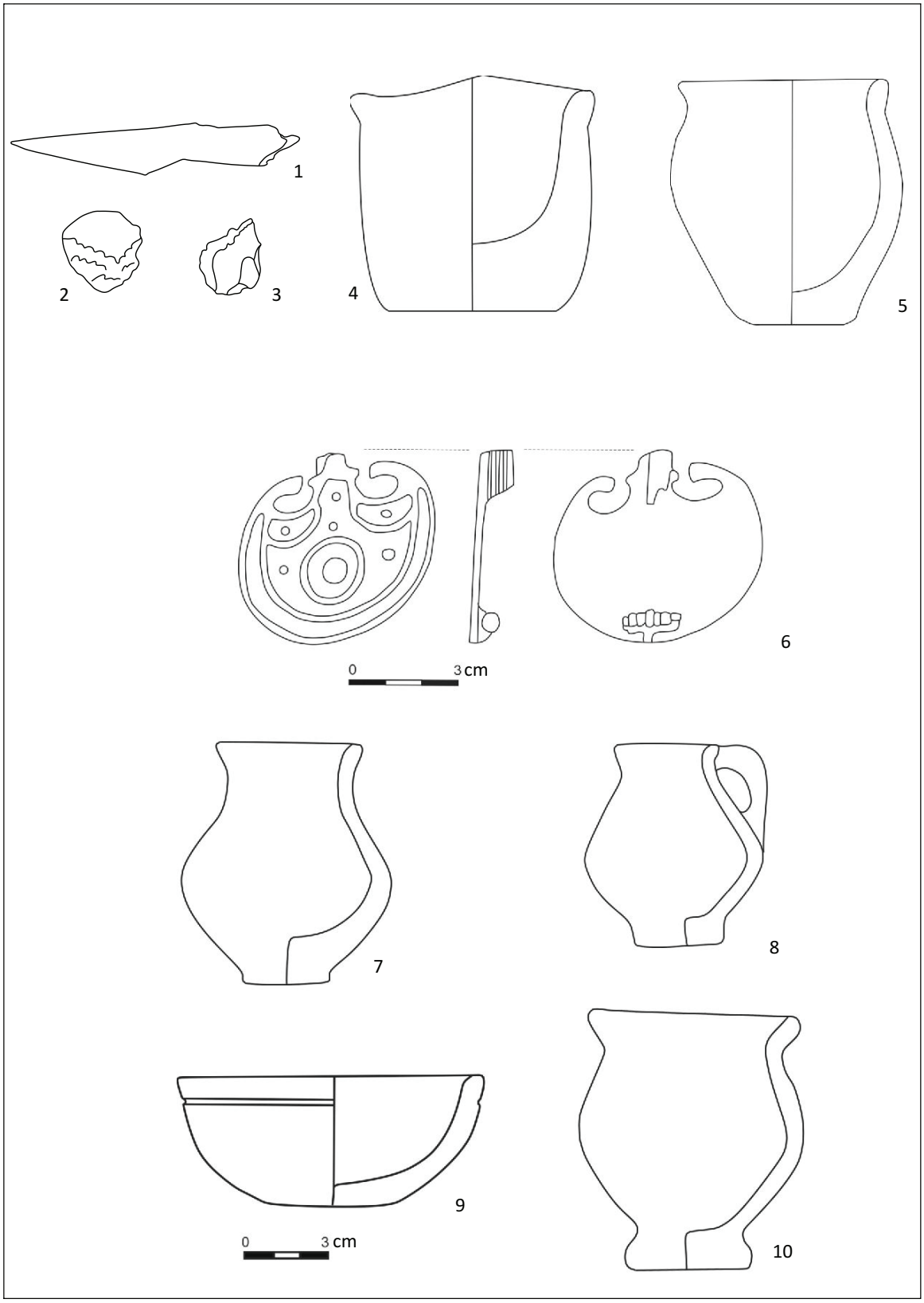
Pl. V. Ground plan of the M6 grave: 1 – iron clamps, 2 (a, b) – silver buckles, 3 – belt prongs, 4 – cup, 5 – 6 – grave M3 from Hódmezővásárhely – Kopáncs (*apud* Vörös 2001) / Planul mormântului M6: 1 – scoabe din fier, 2 (a, b) – catarame din argint, 3 – limbi de curea, 4 – cupă, 5 -6 – mormântul de la Hódmezővásárhely – Kopáncs (*apud* Vörös 2001).



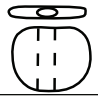
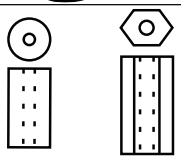
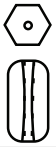
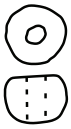
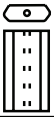
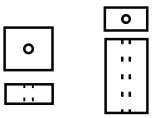
Pl. VI. Ground plan of the M14 grave: 1, 3 – silver earrings, 2 – Box – brooch, 4 – iron bells, 5 (a, b) – iron bracelets, 6 – loom weight, 7 – vessel with rectangular bottom / Inventarul funerar al mormântului M14: 1, 3 – cercei din argint, 2 – fibulă Cutie, 4 – clopoței din fier, 5 (a, b) – brățări din argint, 6 – fusaiolă, 7 – vas cu fund rectangular.



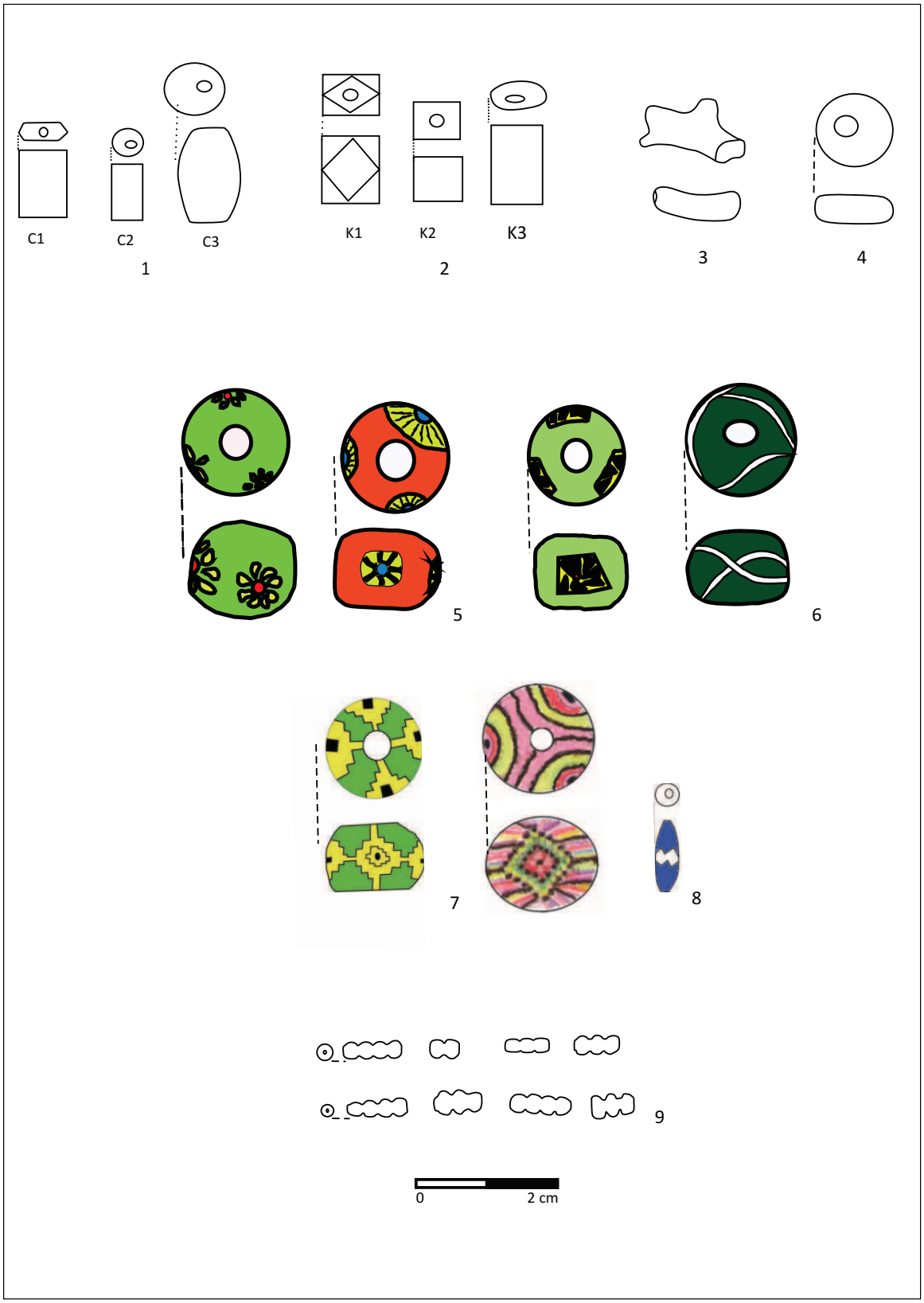
Pl. VII. Ground plan of the M18 grave: 1 – loom weight, 2–5 – lithic tools, 6 – vessel with rectangular bottom, 7 – cup / Planul mormântului M18: 1 – fusaiolă, 2–5 – unelte litice, 6 – vas cu fund rectangular, 7 – cupă.



Pl. VIII. 1–3 tools (grave M16), 4 – vessel with rectangular bottom (grave M15), 5 – cup (grave M17), 6 – Pelta – brooch, 7, 8, 10 – cups, 9 – bowl (no clear context of discovery) / 1–3 unelte (mormântul M16), 4 – vas cu fund rectangular (mormântul M15), 5 – cupă (mormântul M17), 6 – fibulă Pelta, 7, 8, 10 – cupe, 9 – bol (fără context sigur de descoperire).

TYPE	SUBTYPE	SIZE		COLOR								FORM
		L_{ax} mm	D/ l mm	WHITE	CHERRY	ORANGE	RED	GREEN	BLUE	LILA	GOLDEN	
I = I Benea 2004 = VIII1 Vaday 1989		7,5 – 10,5	7,6 - 11,3	x				x	x			
II A = II Benea 2004	A B	10,3 - 16,5	2,8- 5,9	x				x	x			
III = III Benea 2004 = IV 2 a Vaday 1989		5-10,6	4,5- 10,6				x	x				
IV = IV Benea 2004 = V1a, 2a Vaday 1989		9 – 11,5	4,2- 7,7				x	x	x	x		
V = V Benea 2004 = I 1, 2 a Vaday 1989		3 – 8,2	5,3 - 11,6	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	
VI = VI Benea 2004 = II Vaday 1989		6,2 – 12,6	4,6 – 6,7	x					x			
VII = VIII Benea 2004 =VI 1Vaday 1989		3,1 – 4, 2	4,9 – 7,1						x			
VIII = IX Benea 2004 = IV 2b Vaday		10 - 10,4	5,5 – 5,8	x				x				
IX B = XI Benea 2004 = IV1 Vaday 1989	A B	4,1 - 11,2	4,5 – 6,7	x								
X =X Benea 2004 = I2B Vaday 1989		6,6	9,7	x								
XI = XVII Benea 2004 = VII1A Vaday 1989		7,7 - 7,8	8,9- 10,3	x								

Pl. IX. Monochrome beads made of glass / Mărgele monochrome din sticlă.



Pl. X. 1 – limestone beads, 2 – carnelian beads, 3 – coral beads, 4 – amber bead, 5 – polychrome beads with floral decoration, 6 – bead with stripes incisions, 7 – beads with chessboard decoration, 8 – bead with zig-zag decoration, 9 – gold layer beads / 1 – mărgele din calcar, 2 – mărgele din carneol, 3 – mărgele din coral, 4 – mărgea din chihlimbar, 5 – mărgele policrome cu decor foral, 6 – mărgea cu incizii în benzi, 7 – mărgele cu decor în formă de tablă de șah, 8 – mărgea cu decor în zig-zag, 9 – mărgele din foi de aur.