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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL AND REPORTS

EARLY ROMAN POTTERY (2ND –3RD CENTURIES AD) DISCOVERED IN A BUILDING WITHIN A RURAL SETTLEMENT IN THE TERRITORY OF TOMIS

Abstract: As a result of the construction of the Constanța bypass (A4 motorway), carried out between 2010 and 2011, a large rural Roman settlement was identified between kilometers 8+400 and 9+500. The site is broadly dated to the 2nd–4th centuries AD and includes several phases and sub-phases of occupation. Within the investigated area, a residential building conventionally designated House 1 – CC was identified in Lot no. 2. The building has a rectangular ground plan and is subdivided into two rooms and a porch. The present study focuses on the ceramic assemblage recovered from the porch area. It is most likely that, at the end of the occupation phase, the ceramic material was discarded in this space. The assemblage is dated to the 2nd and first half of the 3rd centuries AD and includes several ceramic categories: tablewares, cooking wares, lightning equipment, transport vessels, and building materials. Each category is analyzed according to the criteria of functionality, chronology, and provenance. The assemblage shows a clear preference for products that were most probably manufactured within the province of Moesia Inferior. Imported wares are limited in quantity and include vessels from Aegean and Pontic production centers. Statistical analysis highlights the predominance of cooking wares—both wheel-made and hand-made products (non-Roman pottery, influenced by the local Getae tradition)—which together account for nearly half of the pottery recovered.

Keywords: *Early Roman pottery; rural settlement; Tomis territory; building; 2nd –3rd centuries AD; Pontic Grey Slip Ware; hand-made pottery – Getae tradition.*

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Archaeological investigations conducted by the National Museum of History and Archaeology, Constanța between 2010 and 2011, in connection with the construction of the A4 motorway, led to the discovery of a sector of a Roman rural settlement along the stretch of kilometers 8+400–9+500.

The investigated area lies approximately 8 km in a straight line from Tomis and forms part of a group of satellite settlements that developed in proximity to the city (**Fig. 1**). Based on data provided by the scholarly literature, it may be hypothesized, at this stage of the research, that the settlement was located near an ancient road or was connected to the main route that crossed the province of Moesia Inferior from the Danube to the Black Sea, starting



Fig. 1. Localization of the Roman settlement from Tomis territory (Constanța bypass, Km. 8+400-9+500) –illustration by A. Irimia;



Fig. 2. Aerial view of rural settlement from Tomis territory (Constanța bypass, Km. 8+400-9+500), with red the outline of lot 2;

from Tomis and ending at the settlement of Axiopolis¹. From a territorial and legal perspective, the studied area falls within the *Territorium Tomitanorum*². As regards a more precise classification of the settlement type, the hypotheses proposed by the authors of the archaeological excavation are provisionally adopted, and the site is cautiously interpreted as a *vicus*.³

Information concerning this settlement has been published in several specialized studies⁴. Archaeological research has identified two main habitation cores: the first located in the northern sector (**Fig. 2a**), and the second in the southern sector (**Fig. 2b**). These are associated with archaeological features such as pits, pavements made of large stone slabs, semi-interred dwellings, and large dwellings at the ground level built of stone walls bonded with earth. In addition, a system of ditches cut into the loess, oriented east–west and north–south, was identified crossing the investigated area.⁵

The general stratigraphy of the site, supported by a substantial numismatic assemblage, indicates two main habitation phases, each comprising several developmental stages:

- the first habitation phase dates from the end of the 2nd century to the first half of the 3rd century AD;
- the second habitation phase corresponds to the 3rd–4th centuries AD.⁶

The entire surface of the second habitation core is intersected by loess-cut ditches oriented north–south and east–west, which most likely indicate a parceling of the inhabited space into individual plots. A particular case study is Lot no. 2 (**Fig. 3**). This rectangular area covers approximately 2.000 m² and yielded pits, one semi-interred dwelling, and two dwellings at ground level constructed of stone. The present article analyses the ceramic material discovered in **House 1 – CC** (**Fig. 4**).

The structure has a rectangular plan and consists of fragments of walls and foundations built from a single course of large, unshaped stones bonded with clay. The total surface area is approximately 70 m², divided into two rooms, with a porch added.⁷

¹ PANAITE 2015, 598.

² BĂLTĂC 2010, 106–107.

³ Bibliography for numismatic material (TALMAȚCHI/CLIANTE 2016) and the epigraphic discoveries (HĂLMAGI 2022); G. Talmațchi, L. Clianțe and D. Hălmagi designated the settlement using the term *vicus*.

⁴ TALMAȚCHI/CLIANTE 2016; HĂLMAGI 2022; MĂIȚĂ 2024.

⁵ Preventive archaeological research report, 2011, Constanța bypass road, km 8+400–9+500 (2nd–4th centuries AD).

⁶ TALMAȚCHI/CLIANTE 2016, 294–295.

⁷ Field records designated these structures under different terms: Room 1 was recorded as C.22, Room 2 as C.23, and the porch as C.22 – western extension (in Romanian, C. 22 – *extindere vest*).

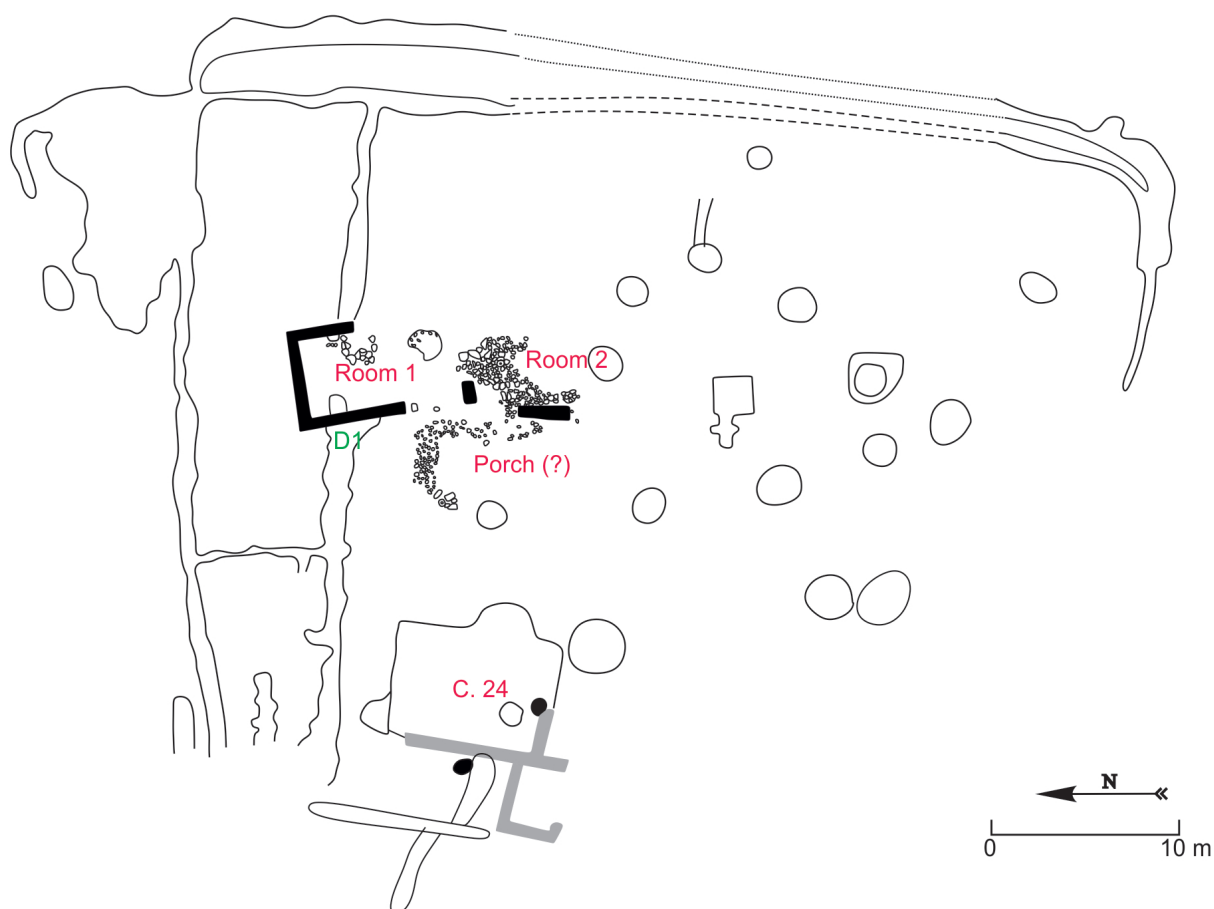


Fig. 3. Aerial view and excavation plan of Lot no. 2;

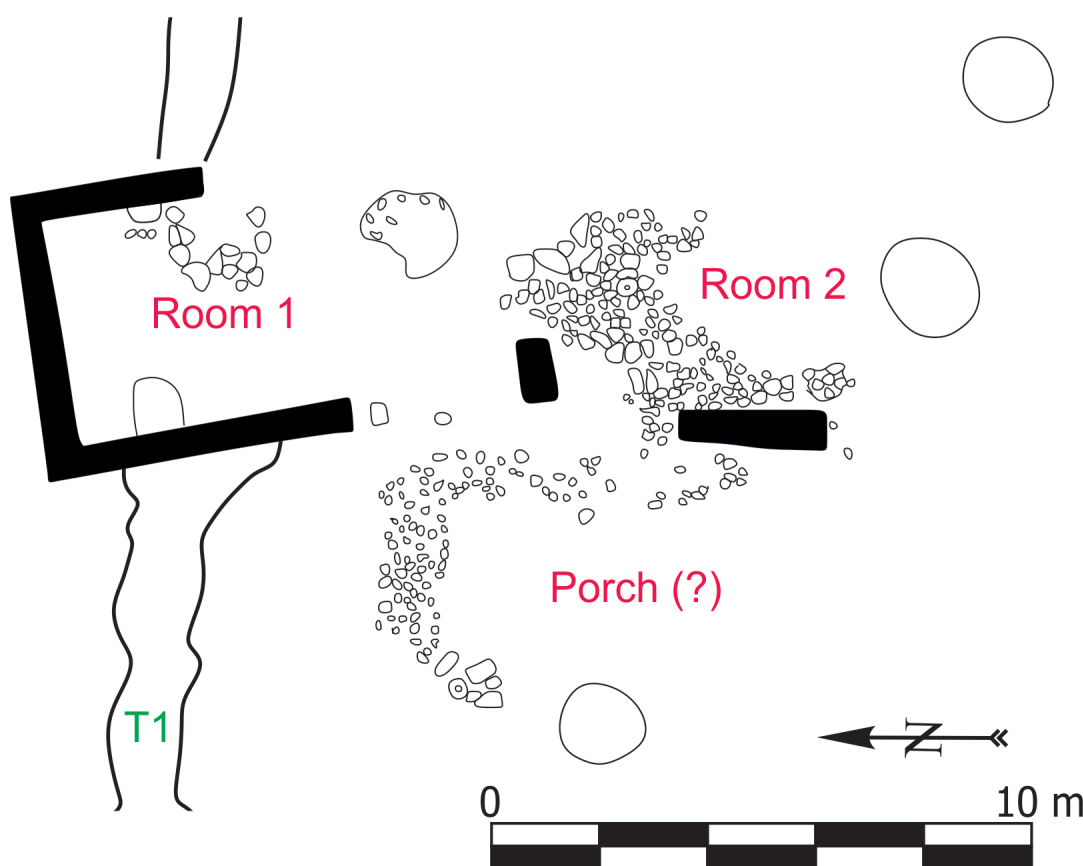


Fig. 4. Aerial view and excavation plan of building House 1 – CC, after. S. Dobrotă's drawing;

- **Room 1** – measuring 46.5 m², was equipped with two hearths, an oven, and a large stone slab platform. Several coin issues dating to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD were discovered within this room.⁸
- **Room 2** – covering 32.5 m², most likely preserves the remains of a similar stone-slab platform and contained a large stone quern fixed into the floor. Only one coin was recovered from this room, dated to the reign of Emperor Commodus.⁹ Near the southern wall, on the exterior, a coin issued during the reign of Emperor Caracalla was identified.¹⁰
- On the western side of the structure, evidence of extensive dismantling was recorded. Based on the preserved remains, it is assumed that an additional wall was attached to the building in this area. This construction effort was most likely undertaken to create a porch or terrace. From this zone, a coin issued during the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus¹¹ was recovered, along with a substantial quantity of ceramic material, which constitutes the subject of the present study.

Stratigraphic data and associated finds indicate that **House 1 – CC** underwent several construction and occupation phases:

- The earliest phase corresponds to a ditch that ran east–west across the area where the house would later be built;
- During the second phase, the ditch was backfilled and leveled, and the walls of **Room 1** were constructed; in both the eastern and western areas, these walls partially overlapped pre-existing hearths, which continued to function throughout the building's use;
- A third construction phase is also identifiable, during which the dwelling was expanded through the addition of two new spaces: **room 2** to the south and **the porch** to the west.

METHODOLOGY

The ceramic material analyzed in this study was recovered from the porch area of **House 1 – CC**. All items presented are shards. The assemblage was featured according to the main functional ceramic categories: tableware, liquid containers used for pouring and storage, cooking wares, lighting equipment, transport vessels, and building materials. Each category includes several types, presented by production area and chronology.

Within the tableware category, the presentation of the finds follows the ceramic class criterion—namely, *Early*

Pontic Red Slip Ware and *Pontic Grey Slip Ware*—within which dishes, bowls, and mugs were identified. Liquid containers used for pouring and storage were divided into pitchers, trefoiled-mouthed jugs, and table amphorae. Cooking wares include wheel-made vessels, classified by type (pots, storage pots, casseroles, cooking dishes, and pans), as well as hand-made pottery (non-Roman pottery, influenced by the Getae tradition), such as jar-pots, cooking dishes, pans, and baking covers. The lightning equipment is represented by hand-made lamps (distinguished by mugs/cups with burned internal surfaces). Transport vessels were grouped according to the contents they originally carried, including wine amphorae, olive oil amphorae, and fish sauce amphorae.

For each ceramic type, the presentation begins with a description of the vessel form. Typological attributions are included directly in the text, as some forms have been designated under different names by various authors. Chronological distinctions are noted where differences occur, depending on the production center or the distribution area. Pottery catalogs containing multiple analyzed items allow for the formulation of hypotheses regarding periods of peak circulation for specific forms or typological variants.

Analogies are presented according to the geographical area in which the same forms/types or comparable material were discovered. Priority is given to finds from Tomis and its rural territory, followed by examples from the province of Moesia Inferior. To refine the chronological framework and better contextualize the circulation dynamics of ceramic forms, additional parallels from North Pontic sites and the province of Thracia are also discussed.

The primary objective of this approach is to identify the most commonly used ceramic forms and to highlight preferences in the composition of table sets and cooking equipment. Establishing the proportion of imports, their provenance, and the relationship between Roman products and non-Roman vessels, influenced by the Getae tradition, provides insight into the degree of Romanization, the level of prosperity, and the cultural preferences of the local population.

THE CERAMIC INVENTORY¹²

A. Table Ware (Fig. 5/1–9)

This category includes vessels used for serving food; based on functional considerations, mugs were also included. The assemblage comprises nine vessels (**Fig. 5/1–9**), as follows: dishes (**Fig. 5/ 1, /7–9**), bowls (**Fig. 5/2–3**), and mugs (**Fig. 5/4–6**), accounting for 11% of the analyzed assemblage. All the vessels in this category represent regional Pontic production.

The first group, Early Pontic Red Slip Ware (EPRSW) (**Fig. 5/1–6**), is well attested and widely distributed among finds from the province of Moesia Inferior. The vessel illustrated in **Fig. 5/7** is extremely rare, and its provenance remains uncertain—either local or, more probably, North Pontic. The

⁸ TALMAȚCHI/CLIANTE 2016: issued by Callatis — 296, no. 1, Heracles type; issued by Tomis — 296, no. 3, Trajan (?); 296–297, no. 4, Antoninus Pius; Marcus Aurelius Caesar; 298, no. 10, Septimius Severus; 298, no. 11, Septimius Severus; Julia Domna; 299, no. 14, Caracalla.

⁹ TALMAȚCHI/CLIANTE 2016: issued by Tomis — Commodus, 297, cat. no. 7.

¹⁰ TALMAȚCHI/CLIANTE 2016: issued by Tomis — Caracalla, 299, cat. no. 16.

¹¹ TALMAȚCHI/CLIANTE 2016: issued by Tomis — Septimius Severus; Julia Domna, 298, cat. no. 11.

¹² The catalog is organized as follows: form, typology, figure, D.= rim diameter, D.b.= base diameter, H.= preserved height, W.t.=wall thickness, fabric, color code Munsell Soil Color Charts 1994, slip, feature of discovery, bibliography, place of storing the material, f.i.= field inventory.

last two examples (**Fig. 5/8–9**) are products manufactured using techniques that imitate the forms of Roman red-glazed pottery. Their presence may reflect survivals of grey ware traditions rooted in La Tène pottery, or even a limited continuation of Hellenistic grey (or grey-black slipped) ceramics. They belong to the Pontic Grey Slip Ware class of ceramics.

A.1 Early Pontic Red Slip Ware

The locally produced vessels in this category belong to the fine red-slipped pottery class, which has been extensively analyzed in the scholarly literature and is known for its intense and sustained regional circulation. Different terms in the literature have designated this ceramic class: C. Băjenaru refers to it as “*céramique à engobe rouge / red slip-coated ware, mostly local or Western Pontic*.”¹³; M. Mocanu uses the term “*Early Pontic Red Slip Ware*.”¹⁴; while S. Ivanov refers to it simply as “*Red Slip Ware*.”¹⁵. In the present study, M. Mocanu’s terminology is used, abbreviated as **EPRSW**.

Five vessels are assigned to this category: one dish (**Fig. 5/1**), two bowls, and two mugs, all recovered in fragmentary condition.

A.1.1 Dish with flaring, rounded rim and profiled carination (**Fig. 5/1**)

Catalog **no. 1** is a local imitation of Pontic Sigillata, Zhuravlev 2010, form 4.2.¹⁶ Such vessels were common in the province of Moesia Inferior throughout the 2nd–3rd centuries AD and are also recorded in the EPRSW repertoire as plates, form 3, Mocanu 2021.¹⁷ Local production is attested in ceramic workshops near Pavlikeni during the second and third quarters of the 2nd century AD, as well as at the workshop at Cape Sveti Atanas near Byala in the first half of the 3rd century AD. These products correspond to plates, type IV in Ivanov’s typology¹⁸. Comparable examples are known from Tomis and its rural hinterland.¹⁹

A.1.2 Bowls (**Fig. 5/ 2–3**)

The first example, **cat. no. 2**, a bowl with an incurved rim and a groove on the exterior surface, represents a well-known ceramic type inspired by the Hellenistic *echinus* bowl tradition²⁰. Typologically, it corresponds to Rădulescu 1975, type 19, (1st–3rd centuries AD²¹), and Suceveanu 2000, type VI; examples from Histria are dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD.²² At Tomis, vessels of this type circulated between the 2nd and the first half of the 3rd century AD.²³

¹³ BĂJENARU 2013, 47.

¹⁴ MOCANU 2021, 121.

¹⁵ IVANOV 2022, 7–16.

¹⁶ BĂJENARU 2013, 48–49.

¹⁷ MOCANU 2021, 126–129, no. 16, fig. 38.

¹⁸ IVANOV 2022, 20–21, no. 18, fig. 3.

¹⁹ **Tomis** – BĂJENARU 2013, 48–49, no. 15, pl. 3; end of the 2nd century AD – beginning/first quarter of the 3rd century AD; **necropolis of Poiana** (Constanța County) – *Supply of Ceramic Goods*, 207, no. 563; 2nd century AD.

²⁰ BĂJENARU 2013, 52.

²¹ RĂDULESCU 1975, 352–354, no. 1, pl. XVII.

²² SUCEVEANU 2000, 29, cat. nos. 2–31, pls. 6–8.

²³ BUCOVALĂ 1969, 304, fig. 10, funerary context, 2nd century AD; BĂJENARU / DOBRINESCU 2008, 193, 204, no. 1, pl. 6b, M.7, 2nd century AD; BĂJENARU 2013, 52, cat. nos. 25–31, pl. 4, end of 2nd–beginning/first

Item **no. 3** is an imitation of form T 2c, Kühnelt 2008, (the second half/end of the 2nd – beginning of the 3rd century AD²⁴; as well as of form 6.3, Sigillata Pontica, Zhuravlev 2010, dated from the end of the 1st – beginning of the 3rd century AD²⁵. Within the EPRSW repertoire, the form appears as type 5, Mocanu 2021 (2nd–3rd centuries AD)²⁶. Moreover, plates of type VI, as defined by Ivanov 2022, were produced in ceramic workshops near Butovo and Mezdra during the first half of the 3rd century AD.²⁷ In the province of Moesia Inferior, local manufacture is presumed at Durostorum, with examples attributed, based on archaeological features, to the second half of the 2nd – beginning of the 3rd century AD.²⁸

The incidence of this form is notably higher in the province of Thracia²⁹ and in the North Pontic region.³⁰

1. Plate; Suceveanu 2000, type XVII A-B / Mocanu 2021, form 3 – Early Pontic Red Slip Ware / Ivanov 2022, plates type IV; **Fig. 5/1**

D. 16 cm; H. 2.5 cm; W.t. 0.4; fine fabric, red (10 R 5/8), rare limestone, iron particles. Dull dark red slip (10 R 5/8) (outside only below the rim, cca. 1/3 of the total surface of the vase), with streaks leaking on the lower part; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 77.

2. Echinus bowl; Rădulescu 1975, type 19 / Suceveanu 2000, type VI b. **Fig. 5/2**

D. 32 cm; H. 2.7 cm; W.t. 0.5 – 0.7 cm; fine fabric, red (10 R 5/8), mica, rare limestone, iron particles. Dull dark red slip on the upper part of the external surface, red on internal surface (2.5 YR 3.5 / 2); S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 37.

3. Plate; Mocanu 2021, EPRSW form 5 / Ivanov 2022, plate type VI. **Fig. 5/3**

D. 24 cm; H. 2.3 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.5 cm; semifine fabric, yellow (10 YR 8/1), rare limestone and iron particles, many silvery mica particles. Yellowish brown slip (10 YR 5/8), totally exfoliated, preserved only as a small dark red spot; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F.190.

A.1.3 Mugs – imitations of Aegean “brocs à collarino” (**Fig. 5/ 4**)

The ceramic mug, **cat. no. 4** is a local imitation of the widely distributed Aegean “*brocs à collarino*”, Hayes 2008³¹. These vessels are particularly common in the province of

quarter of the 3rd century AD (with the observation that such vessels do not occur in funerary inventories from Tomis after the second half of the 3rd century AD); *Supply of Ceramic Goods* 2018, 210, no. 574 — West-Pontic workshop, 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

²⁴ KÜHNELT 2008, 459, 322–323.

²⁵ ZHURAVLEV 2010, 49–50. The author notes that this form reached its peak popularity in the 2nd century AD.

²⁶ MOCANU 2021, 129–131, no. 23, fig. 38.

²⁷ IVANOV 2022, 20–23, no. 26, fig. 4.

²⁸ MUȘTEANU 2003, 62–63, cat. nos. 276–278, pls. 26–28.

²⁹ **Nicopolis ad Istrum** — FALKNER 1999, 172–173, no. 414, fig. 9.22, 130–175 AD; **Necropolis of Charda** — ALEXANDROVA 2013, 22, 85, no. V/117, 1st–4th centuries AD.

³⁰ **Olbia** – KRAPIVINA 1993, 47, 110 – 111, cat. nos. 4–5, fig. 50, group B – plates, form 5, 2nd–3rd centuries AD; **tumulus near the village of Pet Mogili** – IGNATOV 1996, 67–68, 104, no. 3, fig. III, M. 5, end of 1st – beginning of 2nd centuries AD; **Blitznetsy** – KLENINA 2004, cat. nos. 122–123, 125–128, 130, fig. 12, plates type I, 2nd–4th centuries AD; **Tauric Chersonesos** – KLENINA 2008, 315, fig. 15 ceramică manufacturată local; 317, fig. 17, 2nd–3rd centuries AD; **Balaklava** – SARNOWSKI/SAVELJA 2000, 145, cat. nos. 9–10, fig. 31; 146–147, plates type 6.1.2, subtype 2.2, 1st–3rd centuries AD.

³¹ HAYES 2008, 101–102

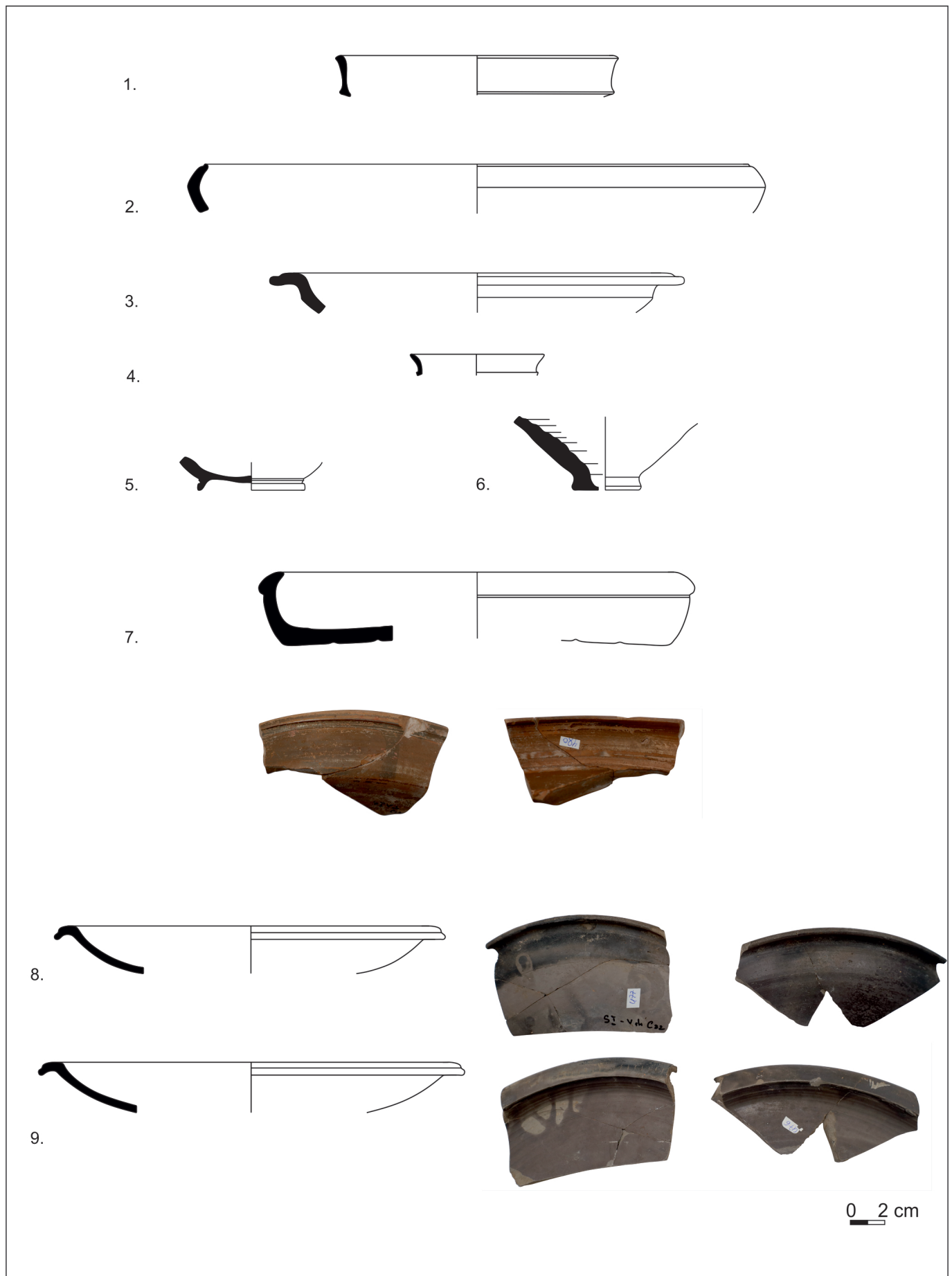


Fig. 5. Pottery, cat. nos. 1 – 9;

Moesia Inferior and are recorded as mugs, type VII, Rădulescu 1975³²; type XXXII B, Suceveanu 2000³³; cups, type XIII, Ivanov 2022³⁴; all belonging to the Early Pontic Red Slip Ware class. Most items from Tomis derive from necropolis contexts, where they constitute a standard component of funerary inventories. The form is attested from the end of the 1st to the 3rd century AD.³⁵ The series is completed by two ring bases (**cat. nos. 5–6**), which most probably belonged to mugs, although further typological assessment is not possible.

4. Mug; Rădulescu 1975, type 7 / Suceveanu 2000, type XXXII B / Ivanov 2022, cups type XIII. **Fig. 5/4**

D. 8 cm; H. 1.3 cm; W.t. 0.3 cm; fine fabric, red (2.5 YR 5/6), mica, rare limestone, and iron particles. Red slip on both external and internal surfaces (2.5 YR 5/6); S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 385.

5. mug, ring base; Fig. 5/5

D.b. 6 cm; H. 4.2 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.6 cm; semifine fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6), mica, rare limestone, iron particles. No slip on external surface, red slip (2.5 YR 5/8) on internal surface; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 175.

6. mug, ring base; Fig. 5/6

D.b. 4 cm; H. 2 cm; W.t. 0.2 – 0.4 cm; fine fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6), mica, rare limestone, iron particles. No slip on external surface, red slip (2.5 YR 5/8) on internal surface; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 179.

A.2 Pontic Slipped Dish

With incurved rim and flat base (variant closely related to EPRSW) (Fig. 5/7)

Dish **cat. no. 7** most likely is an imitation of Eastern Sigillata B plates, Hayes form 60.³⁶ These prototypes were widely distributed in the North Pontic region during the 1st–3rd centuries AD.³⁷ On this basis, it may be hypothesized that

the form was adopted regionally and locally imitated. Vessels of similar shape are also recorded within the Pontic Grey Ware repertoire (1st–2nd centuries AD), which D. Zhuravlev considers closely related to Sigillata Pontica, describing that “the vessels from both groups are similar in shape and differ only in the type and color of the slip”.³⁸

Local production took place in the first half of the 3rd century AD in the ceramic complexes near Butovo and Mezdra, where the form is designated as plates, type XI (Ivanov 2023).³⁹ At present, no close analogies from the province of Moesia Inferior have been identified in the literature. Based on paste quality and slip application, the CC items more closely resemble EPRSW products, although a North Pontic origin remains highly plausible.

7. dish; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVI (?) / Ivanov 2022, plates type XI. **Fig. 5/7;**

D. 24 cm; H. 4.1 cm; W.t. 0.7–0.8 cm; fine fabric, light yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4), silvery mica, rare limestone, iron particles. Yellowish brown slip (10 YR 5/4) on the external surface, broken and exfoliated, with rare streaks of leakage. Yellowish brown slip (10 YR 5/8) of good quality applied on the internal surface; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 480.

A.3 Pontic Grey Slip Ware (Fig. 5/ 8–9)

Plate with strongly everted, downward-curving rim and flattened spheroidal body

Pontic Grey Slip Ware has been relatively rarely discussed among Pontic ceramic finds and has been described under various terms in the literature. R. K. Falkner refers to such vessels as *Black Slip Ware*—noting the grey fabric and black or grey slip—while also distinguishing **fine and semi-fine grey wares**, **coarse grey wares** (characterized by small pebbles and quartz inclusions, typically associated with kitchen vessels), and **micaceous grey wares** (possibly of local production).⁴⁰ Studies by D. Zhuravlev and M. Mocanu adopt the term *Pontic Grey Slip Ware*⁴¹, emphasizing that the forms were derived from regional and supra-regional ceramic repertoires circulating in the Pontic area. A high degree of morphological similarity with red-slipped wares has been noted, the only difference being the grey color.⁴²

Within the analyzed assemblage, two fragments (**cat. nos. 8–9**) belong to this category. Both vessels are made of fine fabric with rare limestone, iron, and silvery mica inclusions and are covered with a medium-quality grey slip. One example is fully slipped on the exterior (**no. 9**), while the other is slipped only on the upper third, with streaks flowing down the body (**no. 8**). Morphological and functional

³² RĂDULESCU 1975, 335–338, cat. nos. 1–5, pl. V, 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

³³ SUCEVEANU 2000, 99–102, cat. nos. 15 – 18, pl. 42 – 44, locally made, 1st/ end of 1st century AD – beginning / first half of 3rd century AD.

³⁴ IVANOV 2022, 50–51, no. 265, fig. 13, produced during the second half of the 2nd–first half of the 3rd century AD, within the production complexes near Butovo, Karavelovo, and Hotnisa (?).

³⁵ **Tomis necropolis** – BARBU 1961, 218, nos. 7, 9, fig. 8, M. 37, end of 1st–second half of 2nd century AD; 219, no. 3, fig. 9; 222, no. 2, fig. 16, M. 18 2nd century AD; 223, no. 4, fig. 17, (2nd–3rd century AD); no. 5, fig. 18, 2nd–3rd century AD; 224, no. 3, fig. 19; no. 3, fig. 20, M. 124; BUCOVALĂ 1969, 311–312, no. a, figs. 20–21, items discovered in various funerary features dated second half of 1st – 2nd century AD; it is mentioned that the form is frequent in graves dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD; BUCOVALĂ 1970, 191–197, fig. 2, Grave CDXXXVI, end of 1st – beginning of 2nd century AD; 199–201, no. A, fig. 9, Grave CDXXXVII, beginning of the 2nd century AD; RĂDULESCU 1975, 338, cat. nos. 1–5, pl. V, discoveries from Constanța, 2nd–3rd centuries AD; CHERA / LUNGU 1985, 204, 206–209, no. 1, pl. I — Grave I; cat. nos. 9, 11, pl. II — Grave II; 2nd–4th centuries AD; BUCOVALĂ / PAȘCA 1991, no. 37655, pl. VII; no. 3771, pl. IX, Grave 43; Grave 9, nos. 37645–37646; 204–207, no. 37655, pl. VII, Grave 11, chronology established based on coin evidence, 2nd century AD; **necropolis of Poiana** — Supply 2018, 214, no. 585, West-Pontic workshop, 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

³⁶ HAYES 1985, 64, cat. nos. 5–8, tav. XIV — assigned to ESB 2; HAYES 2008, 39–40, Atlante form 60, considered one of the most common and widely distributed ESB 2 form, dated between AD 50 – the end of the 2nd century/beginning of the 3rd century AD.

³⁷ ZHURAVLEV 2010, 26–27, 126–128, 201–203, cat. nos. 4–26, pls. 5–7, (where he lists bibliographical references).

³⁸ ZHURAVLEV 2002, 262–264, fig. 19.

³⁹ IVANOV 2022, 25–27, 141, fig. 6, cat. nos. 42–44.

⁴⁰ FALKNER 1999, 101–102.

⁴¹ ZHURAVLEV 2002, 262–264; MOCANU 2021, 137–142 (six forms established); ZHURAVLEV *et alii* 2023, 702, 724, 1st century BC–1st century AD. Based on XRF analyses, the author advanced the hypothesis that Pontic Grey Slip Ware tableware was produced in the same regions as *Sigillata Pontica*.

⁴² A specific example in this regard is provided by MĂIȚĂ 2024, 112–117: EPRSW form 7 / Durostorum Red Slip Ware form 3 / Pontic Grey Slip Ware form 3; (MOCANU 2021, 131–134, cat. nos. 27–30, pls. 39–40; 114–115, no. 3, fig. 32; 140–141, no. 5, fig. 43).

characteristics closely parallel those of red-slipped ceramics; the only difference lies in the firing process, which resulted in a grey coloration.

Both vessels are local imitations of *Sigillata Pontica* forms Kuhnelt **T-2b** and **7.1/7.2(?)**, as defined by Zhuravlev 2010⁴³. The prototypes circulated widely, particularly during the 2nd century AD. For chronological accuracy, a circulation period from the second half of the 1st century to the second half of the 2nd century AD is proposed, with the possibility of continuation into the mid-3rd century AD. Similar vessels are also present in the local red-slipped ceramic repertoire belonging to the *plates, type II*, **Ivanov 2022**, produced in the complex at Varbovski Livadi site near Pavlikeni during the first half to the 70s of the 2nd century AD⁴⁴/ and as Suceveanu 2000, type XIV A, dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD.⁴⁵ Comparable vessels have been documented in the province of Moesia Inferior for the 2nd–3rd centuries AD, with certain variants persisting into the 4th century AD⁴⁶. In Mocanu's typology, this form is not explicitly recorded for *Pontic Grey Slip Ware*; the only noted parallel comes from northern Dobruja, at Telița–Valea Morilor, classified as a *type II bowl*.⁴⁷

No. 8 – plate; imitation after *Sigillata Pontica*: Kuhnelt 2008, form T 2-b / Zhuravlev 2010, types 7.1 / 7.2; **Fig. 5/8**

D. 22 cm; H. 3 cm; W.t. 0.5 cm; fine fabric, (7.5 YR 5/1), rare limestone, iron, and silvery mica. Very dark gray slip (7.5 YR 4.1 – 3.1) with metallic sheen and discolored areas in the same tones on the external surface; on the internal surface (light) gray slip with discolored areas in the same tone (7.5 YR 5/1). Decorated with incised vertical lines on the inner surface of the rim; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 476

No. 9 – plate; imitation after *Sigillata Pontica*: Kuhnelt 2008, form T 2-b / Zhuravlev 2010, types 7.1 / 7.2; **Fig. 5/9**

D. 24 cm; H. 3.2 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.5 cm; Very dark gray slip (7.5 YR 4.1 – 3.1) with metallic sheen applied as a horizontal band under the rim, the rest of the vessel being same colour as the vessel fabric with rare streaks leaked on this; on the internal surface (light) gray slip with discoloured areas in the same tone (7.5 YR 5/1). Decorated

⁴³ **Necropolis of Ust Alma** — KÜHNELT 2008, 459, cat. nos. 319–321. Based on the discovery feature: second half of 1st century AD – beginning of 2nd century AD, respectively second half of 2nd century; **Necropolis of Belbek IV** — ZHURAVLEV 2010, 51, 217, pl. 21: for **form 7.1**, no. 134, first half of 2nd century AD; for **form 7.2**, cat. nos. 136–139, chronology according to analogies: second half of 1st – middle of 3rd century AD; chronology according to funerary contexts from Belbek IV: end of 1st – beginning/first half of 2nd century AD.

⁴⁴ IVANOV 2022, 18–19, cat. nos. 7–11, fig. 2.

⁴⁵ SUCEVEANU 2000, cat. nos. 13–14, 52–55, considered Pontic products.

⁴⁶ GOLOFAST/RIZHOV 2018, 58–59. The same production technique, most probably, survived until the 6th century AD, being attested in the class of Late Roman Pontic Burnished Ware (LRPBW). The authors note that its origins lie in grey burnished ware that circulated extensively in the North Pontic area, where it was produced throughout Antiquity, imitating supra-regional forms. LRPBW is generally dated to the 4th–6th centuries AD, with the possibility of continuation into the 7th century AD.

⁴⁷ **Telița – Valea Morilor**: BAUMANN 1997, 38–39, no. 7, pl. VI, with the observation that these vessels were manufactured in a variety of fabrics, with colours ranging from red / brick-red to grey. Regarding the grey examples, their origin is considered to lie in the repertoire of Greek common ware, frequent in the western and northern Pontic area from the 5th century BC onward; the persistence of the form is explained by a strong Greek tradition. Local production at Telița–Valea Morilor (hemispherical bowls) followed the trend of traditional ceramic manufacture during the 2nd–3rd centuries AD, with the possibility of continuation into the 4th century AD.

with incised vertical lines on the inner surface of the rim; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 477

B. Containers used for pouring and storing the liquids (Fig. 6/10–22)

This group comprises 13 vessels (**Fig. 6/10–22**): pitchers (**Fig. 6/10–11**), trefoiled-mouthed jugs (**Fig. 6/12–19**), and table pitchers (**Fig. 6/20–22**), representing 19% of the total assemblage. Two items (Fig. 12–13) are imports, manufactured in the north-eastern Aegean basin, within the area corresponding to the province of Thracia. The remaining vessels are locally produced. These common ware vessels display a variety of fabrics: fine EPRSW-type fabric (**Fig. 6/10**), semi-fine grey ware (**Fig. 6/11**), and semi-coarse to coarse wares (**Fig. 6/ 15–22**).

B.1 Table Jugs / Pitchers

Pitchers with funnel-like mouth (Fig. 6/ 10–11)

Two fragments of vessels intended for pouring, storing, and transporting liquids were identified in the analyzed assemblage. Due to their fragmentary condition and small size, it is difficult to determine with certainty whether they should be classified as table jugs. **Cat. no. 10**, characterized by an atypical curvature of the rim, most likely belongs to the Early Pontic Red Slip Ware category. Typologically, it corresponds to Suceveanu 2000, type XLVI B, considered local products of the 2nd–4th centuries AD⁴⁸, and to Ivanov 2022, jug type VIII, dated to the end of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD, with manufacture associated with the ceramic production complexes near Butovo.⁴⁹ Such an item was discovered in a 2nd-century AD grave at Tomis.⁵⁰

Catalog no. 11 exhibits pronounced grooves below the rim, on the neck, and most probably decorative elements. It is made of semi-fine grey fabric and covered with a well-adhering grey-to-blackish slip. A similar product is recorded in the province of Thracia, discovered in a Roman house at the settlement of Yurta-Stroyno, where it was classified as Grey Ware.⁵¹

10. jug; Suceveanu 2000, type XLVI B / Ivanov 2022, jugs type VIII; **Fig. 6/ 10**

D. 8 cm (?); H. 4.5 cm; W.t. 4.5 cm; fine reddish yellow fabric (5 YR 6/8), rare mica, limestone, and iron particles. Reddish brown slip on both surfaces (5 YR 6/8 – 5/4); S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F.175.

11. jug; Suceveanu 2000, type XLVI B / Ivanov 2022, jugs type VIII; **Fig. 6/11**

D. 8 cm; H. 4.8 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.5 cm; fine brown fabric (7.5 YR 5/3), iron and limestone particles, rare silvery mica, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles. Dark gray slip on both surfaces (7.5 YR 4/1). Decorated with canels under the rim on the external surface; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F.158b.

⁴⁸ SUCEVEANU 2000, 150–151, cat. nos. 2–4, pl. 70.

⁴⁹ IVANOV 2022, 57–58, no. 320, fig. 22.

⁵⁰ BUCOVALĂ 1969, 304, fig. 10.

⁵¹ TUŠLOVÁ 2023, 54, 145, 208, 227, no. 275, fig. 16, pl. 3, 2nd–3rd/4th centuries AD; the settlement developed from the second half of the 1st century to the 4th century AD.

B.2 Trefoiled-mouthed jugs / oinochoe

B.2.a Trefoiled-mouthed jug with a short neck – North-Eastern Aegean (Thracian) type (Fig. 6/12-13)

Catalog nos. 12–13 have an everted rim, a trefoiled mouth, and a short neck. The vessels are made of fine reddish-salmon fabric with small limestone, iron, and rare silvery mica inclusions. The exterior surface has a vitrified grey appearance. These characteristics are consistent with those of the so-called “*boccalino a collarino*”⁵², considered by J. W. Hayes to be products of the north-eastern Aegean basin.⁵³ The designation follows C. Băjenaru.⁵⁴ Typologically, both examples correspond to Hayes 1983, trefoiled-mouthed jug, type I.⁵⁵

The prototype was widely imitated in the province of Moesia Inferior, where local versions were classified as Rădulescu 1975, type 10.⁵⁶

According to the typological analysis conducted by Băjenaru (2013), short-necked trefoiled jugs represent a manufacturing innovation characteristic of the 2nd century AD. Parallels are attested at Histria and Tomis, dating to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD.⁵⁷

12. trefoiled mouthed jug; Hayes 1983, type I; Fig. 6/12

D.L. 8.2 cm; D.l. 7.6 cm; H. 4.5 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.7 cm; D.neck 4.4 cm; fine fabric, reddish-brown (2.5 YR 7/8), mica, rare iron and limestone particles. Exterior fired grey (7.5 YR 5/1); S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F.147.

13. trefoiled-mouthed jug; Hayes 1983, type I; Fig. 6 / 13

D.L. 6.8 cm; D.l. 4.9 cm; H. 3.8 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.5 cm. Same as no. 15.); S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F.148.

B.2.b Trefoiled-mouthed jug with tall neck – Early Pontic Red Slip Ware (Fig. 6/14)

Unlike the previous examples, **cat. no. 14** is characterized by a thicker neck, separated from the body by two fine grooves. The fabric is fine and corresponds to the Early Pontic Red Slip Ware category.

Typologically, it is recorded as Rădulescu 1975, type 10 (2nd–3rd centuries AD)⁵⁸ and as Ivanov 2022, jug type VII, manufactured in the production workshops near Butovo and Karavelovo, and possibly also at the Varbovski Livadi complex, dating from the end of the 2nd century to the first

half of the 3rd century AD.⁵⁹ Similar examples have been discovered at Tomis and in its hinterland.⁶⁰

B.2.c Trefoiled-mouthed jugs – common ware (Fig. 6/15-19)

The second group of oinochoes is manufactured in semi-coarse, well-levigated fabric with a clean fracture. The paste contains small to medium inclusions of limestone, iron, quartz, or sand; in some cases, silvery mica is also present. Two fabric color groups are distinguished: reddish-orange examples (catalog 15) and vessels ranging in color from grey to grey-black (catalog 16–19). The external surfaces, covered by self-slip, fall within the same chromatic range of brown and grey tones (7.5 YR 6/6, 5/3–4/3, 4/1–3/1; 10 YR 6/2–3), often displaying a gradient effect resulting from firing. To the touch, the surfaces have a slightly gritty texture. The vessel walls are relatively thin, ranging from 0.2 to 0.4 cm. Pronounced traces of secondary burning were observed on the external surfaces.

About the functionality, two main hypotheses are discussed in the scholarly literature:

The first—and most widely accepted—interpretation treats these vessels as tableware used for serving liquids, either by pouring into cups or for storing and transporting them.

The second hypothesis posits that they were used for cooking, based on their semi-coarse fabric. The vessels are described by V. Krapivina as follows “*brown clay (kitchen) ceramics are comparatively thin – walled, characterized by a brownish color with admixtures of sand, lime, a large number of small shiny particles, usually smoked. The main forms are determined by their purpose: saucepans, pots with one or two handles, and frying pans without handles. Much less common are oinochoes, bowls, apparently used for heating water*”.⁶¹ A similar interpretation has been advanced for jugs discovered at Nea Paphos, where comparable fabrics—similar to those of cooking vessels—suggest use in boiling liquids, especially water. The reduced wall thickness and absence of sharp angles may have enhanced resistance to thermal shock.⁶²

Most probably, these vessels had a dual function: both serving and heating liquids (for example, herbal infusions or milk).

Cat. nos. 16–17 are morphologically inspired by the Aegean products described by J.W. Hayes as trefoiled-mouthed jug type I. Fabrics similar to those from the settlement are recorded as Krapivina 1991, oenochoes type 1, (items from Olbia, 2nd–3rd centuries AD)⁶³; Suceveanu 2000, type XLVI (vessels considered manufactured at Histria, 2nd –3rd centuries AD)⁶⁴; and Honcu 2024, type IV (from the rural settlement of Niculițel, dated to the end

⁵² The same observation is also noted in the scholarly literature; (For more references see: BĂJENARU 2014, 114; ERGÜLER 2018, 109, 114, no. 139, fig. 7 (incorrectly identified as a kantharos instead of a trefoiled-mouthed jug; discovered at the Parion theatre); TUŠLOVÁ 2023, 67–68, 211, 230, no. 335, fig. 19, pl. 6 (discovered in a Roman house at the Yurta Stroyno settlement, province of Thrace; labelled “Thracian thin-walled ware”).

⁵³ HAYES 2008, 101–102; BĂJENARU 2013, 57–58.

⁵⁴ BĂJENARU 2013, 57–58, designated as “*Cruches à embouchure trilobée* – Aegean Thracian production”; BĂJENARU 2014, 114, noted as “Trefoiled-mouthed jug (...) North-Eastern Aegean (Thracian)”.

⁵⁵ HAYES 1983, 122, 124, no. 76, fig. 6.

⁵⁶ RĂDULESCU 1975, 341, cat. nos. 2–2a, pl. VIII, type 10.

⁵⁷ BĂJENARU 2014, 114), no. 91; BĂJENARU 2013, 57–58; the Tomis examples, based on their contexts, belong to the end of the 2nd century–beginning/first quarter of the 3rd century AD.

⁵⁸ RĂDULESCU 1975, 341 – 343, no. 1, pl. VIII.

⁵⁹ IVANOV 2022, 55–58, no. 314, fig. 22.

⁶⁰ BĂJENARU 2013, 56–57, no. 47, end of 2nd – beginning / first quarter of 3rd century AD. This should be considered together with the note that “numerous examples remain unpublished”; *Supply of Ceramic Goods, Tomis – Poșta Nouă*, 221, no. 607 (local workshop, 2nd century AD); *necropolis of Poiana* — 220, no. 603 (West-Pontic workshop, 2nd century AD); 221, no. 605 (West-Pontic workshop, 2nd–3rd centuries AD).

⁶¹ KRAPIVINA 1993, 101.

⁶² WIĘCH 2017, 443; WIĘCH 2019, 210–213.

⁶³ KRAPIVINA 1993, 34, 101, 103, cat. nos. 1–2, fig. 37.

⁶⁴ SUCEVEANU 2000, 150 – 153, cat. nos. 2, 8, 10 –11, pl. 73.

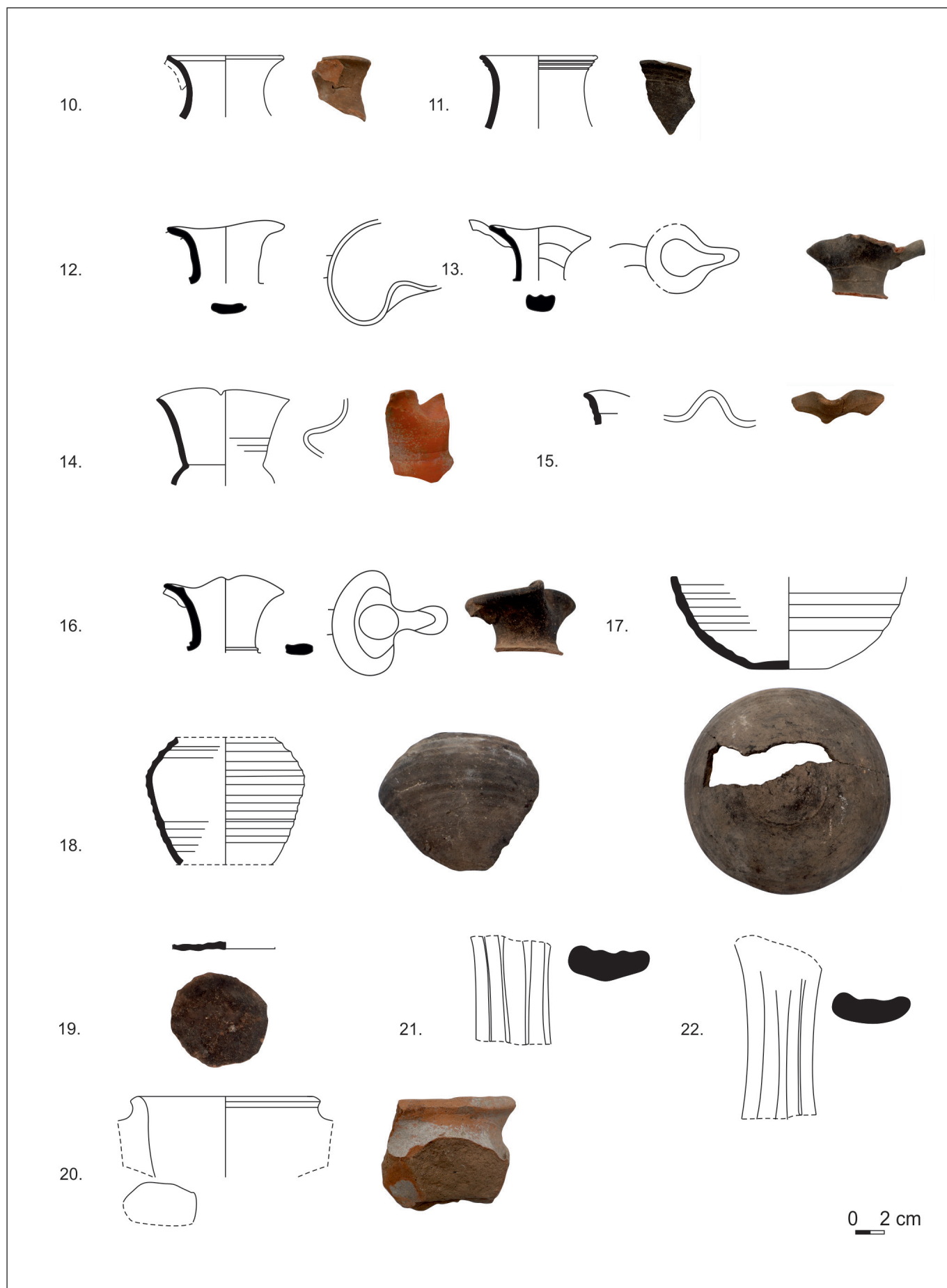


Fig. 6. Pottery, cat.nos. 10 – 22;

of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD).⁶⁵ A broader typological category encompassing examples from various sites in Moesia Inferior, including Tomis, belongs to Rădulescu 1975, type 10, trefoiled-mouthed jug, 2nd-3rd centuries AD.⁶⁶

Cat. no. 18 also represents an oinochoe; given that only the body profile is preserved, classification is limited to Rădulescu 1975, type 11, trefoiled-mouthed jug, 1st-2nd centuries AD.⁶⁷

The following piece, **cat. no. 19** derives from a vessel base and exhibits pronounced traces of secondary burning on both surfaces, with wall thickness between 0.2 and 0.3 cm. It may be assigned to one of the types described by A. Rădulescu, type 10 or 11.⁶⁸

14. trefoiled mouthed jug; Rădulescu 1975, type 10; Fig. 6/14

D: 8 cm; H. 4.5 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.5 cm; fine fabric, reddish yellow (5 YR 6/8), rare mica, limestone, and iron particles; reddish brown slip on both surfaces (5 YR 6/8 – 5/4); S. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 145.

15. trefoiled-mouthed jug; Rădulescu 1975, type 10, trefoiled-mouthed jug. Fig. 6/15

D. ?; H. 2 cm; W.t. 0.3 cm; semicoarse fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6), rare iron and limestone particles, fine silvery mica, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles; self slip (?); slightly traces of secondary burning; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 157.

16. trefoiled-mouthed jug; Rădulescu 1975, type 10, trefoiled-mouthed jug. Fig. 6/16

D.L. = 8.4 cm; D.l. = 7.4 cm; H. 4.2 cm; W.t. 3.6 cm. Semicoarse fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6), limestone and iron particles, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles; incomplete firing – observable in the fracture texture; external surface fired brown (7.5 YR 5.4) with small discoloured areas gray (7.5 YR 5/1 – 4/1), small holes on external surface from the burned organic material; traces of secondary burning; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 143

17. trefoiled mouthed jug – base; Rădulescu 1975, type 10, trefoiled mouthed jug. Fig. 6/17

D.b. 5.4 cm; D.max. 16 cm; H. 6.3 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.5 cm; semicoarse fabric, light brown clay (7.5 YR 6/6), rare iron and limestone particles, fine silvery mica, gravel inclusions – mainly quartz; incomplete firing – observable in the fracture; external surface fired brown with discoloured areas (7.5 YR 5/2 – 4/2); traces of secondary burning on both surfaces. S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 144

18. trefoiled-mouthed jug; Rădulescu 1975, type 11, trefoiled-mouthed jug. Fig. 6/18

D.max. 11 cm; H. 8.6 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.5 cm; same as no. 19; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 162

19. trefoiled mouthed jug – base; Rădulescu 1975, type 10/11, trefoiled mouthed jug. Fig. 6/19

D.b. 7.2 cm; H. 0.5 cm; same as no. 19; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 163

B.3 Table pitchers

Table pitcher with flaring rim and slightly convex neck (Fig. 6/20-22)

The ceramic assemblage from CC includes three fragments belonging to table pitchers: an upper profile (**cat. no. 20**) and two handle fragments (**cat. nos. 21-22**). A. Opaîţ has suggested that table pitchers were more common during the 1st-3rd centuries AD in areas with a stronger Hellenistic tradition, such as the west Pontic littoral, where they may have developed local variants.⁶⁹

All cited items correspond to the same ceramic form: Suceveanu 2000, type L, dated stratigraphically to the mid-3rd century AD⁷⁰; Opaîţ 2003, table jug type 2, dated to the 1st-3rd centuries AD.⁷¹

20. table pitcher; Opaîţ 2003 table jugs type 2; Fig. 6/22

D. 12 cm; H. 5.5 cm; W.t. 1.1 cm; coarse fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/8), iron particles, rare silvery mica and quartz particles; self slip; oval section of handle; S. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC – e.

21. table pitcher – handle; Opaîţ 2003 table jugs type 2; Fig. 6/21

L. 8.4 cm; l. 5.6 cm; T. 1.3-1.7 cm; coarse fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/8); rare limestone, iron, quartz and silvery mica particles; self slip; S. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC – a.

22. table pitcher – handle; Opaîţ 2003 table jugs type 2; Fig. 6/22

L. 12.8 cm; l. 5.4 cm; T. 1.6 cm; coarse fabric, light red (2.5 YR 6/8), rare limestone, iron, quartz, and silvery mica particles; self slip; S. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC – b

C. Cook Wares (Fig. 7-9/ 23-68)

Cooking wares constitute the best-represented ceramic category within the CC assemblage, accounting for 55% of the total material recovered. This group comprises two subcategories: wheel-made pottery (designated in the text as **C.1-7**) and hand-made pottery (non-Roman pottery, influenced by the local Getae tradition) (designated as C.II).

The first subcategory includes 34 vessels (**Fig. 7-9/23-57**), representing 42% of the analyzed assemblage. From a morphological perspective, the material includes pots (**Fig. 7-8/23-43**), a jar (**Fig. 8/44**), casseroles (**Fig. 8/45-48**), cooking dishes (**Fig. 8-9/49-53**), pans (**Fig. 9/54-56**), and one lid (**Fig. 9/57**). Within this group, two vessels (**Fig. 8/45-46**) are imports of Aegean origin. The remaining material corresponds to regional Pontic production. All vessels are made of coarse fabric, and most show traces of secondary burning, indicating exposure to direct fire during cooking. About vessels classified here as cooking dishes (**Fig. 8-9/49-53**), **their functions** may have been broader or even interchangeable. Some examples could have been used not only for cooking over fire but also in the preparation stage of food processing, serving a function similar to that of mixing bowls or Hellenistic basins.

⁶⁹ For more references see: OPAÎŢ 2003, 215-216; OPAÎŢ/ GRIGORAŞ 2022, 47-48; OPAÎŢ 2024, 16-18.

⁷⁰ SUCEVEANU 2000, 158-159, cat. nos. 1, 5, pls. 78-79. Most vessels are considered Pontic products and, based on stratigraphic contexts, dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. A. Suceveanu also advances the hypothesis of dating this type to the 2nd century AD, without excluding slightly earlier or later datings.

⁷¹ OPAÎŢ 2003, 215, fig. 3. Examples dated in clear stratigraphic sequences to the 1st-2nd centuries AD and to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD have also been identified; OPAÎŢ 2024, 16-18, where he lists bibliographical references on this topic.

⁶⁵ HONCU 2014, 83, 241, cat. nos. 184-185.

⁶⁶ RĂDULESCU 1975, 341 – 343, cat. nos. 3 – 3a., pl. VIII.

⁶⁷ RĂDULESCU 1975, 343-344, cat. nos. 1 – 2, pl. IX.

⁶⁸ RĂDULESCU 1975, 341-344.

The second subcategory—hand-made wares (non-Roman pottery, influenced by the local Getae tradition)—comprises 10 vessels, accounting for 13% of the analyzed sample. The morphological repertoire includes pots (**Fig. 9 /58–64**), a cooking dish (**Fig. 9/65**), a pan (**Fig. 9/66**), a baking cover (**Fig. 9/67**), and one item interpreted as a possible support (**Fig. 9/68**). All examples are manufactured in coarse fabric. Several vessels exhibit traditional barbotine decoration, characteristic of local, Getae ceramic traditions (**Fig. 9/58, 60**). Only one example (**Fig. 9/65**) shows a pronounced Hellenistic influence, being inspired by the classical multi-purpose basins used in food preparation contexts.

Cooking wares, wheel-made (C.1-C.7)

C.1 Pots

C.1.a Pots with rolled, thickened rim and interior groove (**Fig. 7/23–32**)

Cat. nos. 23–32 represent one of the most common pot types in the province of Moesia Inferior.⁷² This form appears in numerous typological corpora, including Suceveanu 2000, type XXXV/A⁷³; Honcu 2017, pots type I⁷⁴, and Opaît 2024, pots type I A⁷⁵. It circulated most frequently during the 2nd–3rd centuries AD, although for some examples an extension of the chronology into the 4th century AD remains possible.⁷⁶ The form is also well represented in the province of Thracia, appearing both in rural settlements.⁷⁷ Moreover, in necropolises, it was included in the funerary inventory.⁷⁸ It is likewise recorded within the red-slipped ceramic repertoire as Ivanov 2022, pot type VII, dated to the 3rd century AD.⁷⁹

C.1.b Pots with skewed and flaring rim (**Fig. 7/ 33**)

A single example (**cat. no. 33**) was identified, morphologically similar to the vessels described above (**cat. nos. 23–32**). Typologically, it corresponds to Suceveanu 2000, type XXXVII B (dated to the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD)⁸⁰ and to Streinu 2019, type II⁸¹.

⁷² For further analogies and bibliography listed, see STREINU/ACHIM 2021, 147, note 158; OPAÎT 2024, 114.

⁷³ SUCEVEANU 2000, 113–116, cat. nos. 8–22, pls. 48–49, considered items produced at Histria.

⁷⁴ HONCU 2017, 43, 48–49, cat. nos. 21–28, pl. III; with references to finds from Noviodunum and Troesmis.

⁷⁵ OPAÎT 2024, 114–115. Based on the examples cited by A. Opaît, the chronology spans a broad range; most are dated to the 3rd–4th centuries AD, and only one example is dated to AD 70–130.

⁷⁶ HONCU 2017, 43–44, with listed bibliography.

⁷⁷ **Bliznetsy, villa rustica** – KLENINA 2004, 73, no. 23, fig. 4; no. 244, fig. 27; type 2, 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

Karanovo – workshop located in the immediate vicinity: BORISOV 2013, 285, 327, cat. nos. 1–7, fig. 2, type I, variant B, mid-3rd century – third quarter of the 4th century AD, (including examples without a ribbed body).

⁷⁸ **Tumular necropolis of Diana** – JEVREMOVIĆ 1987, 57, 61, no. II/2, 3rd century AD; **Necropolis of Charda** – ALEXANDROVA 2013, 52–53, 96, cat. nos. I–3/241–242, type I, variant 3, 2nd–3rd centuries AD; **Necropolis of Straldza** – ALEXANDROVA 2016, cat. nos. I–3/241–242, 2nd–3rd centuries AD; **Necropolis of Gorsko-Abramovo** – RUSEV/ RUSEV/ VARBANOV 2015, 690, 737, no. 154, fig. XVI, type I, with references including parallels from Dacia dated to the 2nd–beginning of the 3rd century AD.

⁷⁹ IVANOV 2022, 73, no. 393, fig. 32.

⁸⁰ SUCEVEANU 2000, 113–115, 119, cat. nos. 10–13, 15, pl. 53, items considered to have been produced at Histria.

⁸¹ STREINU 2019, 217–218, 233, cat. nos. 11–12, pl. IV.

C.1.c Pots with vertical rim and ribbed body (with variants) (**Fig. 7/ 34–38**)

Cat. nos. 34–38 correspond to Suceveanu 2000, type XL A (2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD, with possible continuation into the 4th century AD)⁸²/ Honcu 2017, pots type IV⁸³/ Opaît 2024, pots type I B⁸⁴. This form also enjoyed wide popularity and circulation in the Pontic region.⁸⁵ Several variants of this type are identifiable, characterized by the preservation of the basic vessel form with minor modifications to the rim profile: The rim shard no. 36 features a straight, slightly oblique rim; the following, cat. no. 37, presents a vertical rim cut straight toward the exterior (listed as Suceveanu 2000, type XXXVI A)⁸⁶; and the last item, cat. no. 38 has a simple, straight rim.

C.1.d Pots with groove on the top of the rim (**Fig. 7/ 39–40**)

Cat. nos. 39–40 represent products widely distributed in the province of Moesia Inferior, recorded as Opaît 2004, type III.⁸⁷ Parallels dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD have been identified at Histria (considered products made in the citadel)⁸⁸, Noviodunum⁸⁹, and Niculițel–Cornet⁹⁰. Later examples, dating to the 4th–5th centuries AD, are documented at Tropaeum Traiani, demonstrating the long-term survival of the form.⁹¹

23. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVA; Fig. 7/ 23

D. 14 cm; H. 5.5 cm; W.t. 0.4–0.6 cm; same as 26; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 15.

24. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVA; Fig. 7/ 24

D. 16 cm; H. 4.7 cm; W.t. 0.5 cm; same as 26; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 12.

25. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVA; Fig. 7/ 25

D. 16 cm; H. 4.7 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.5 cm; same as 26; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 11

26. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVA; Fig. 7/ 26

D. 20 cm; H. 8.2 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.6 cm; coarse fabric, brown (7.5 YR 5/6), limestone and iron particles, rare quartz particles. Fired brown; traces of secondary burning; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC.14.

27. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVA; Fig. 7/ 27

D. 20 cm; H. 8.2 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.6 cm; same as 26; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 13.

28. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVA; Fig. 7/ 28

⁸² SUCEVEANU 2000, 129–132, cat. nos. 1–15, pls. 60–61.

⁸³ HONCU 2017, 53, cat. nos. 46–59, pl. V; including items discovered at Tomis and analysed by C. Băjenaru, dated to the end of the 2nd century – beginning/first quarter of the 3rd century AD.

⁸⁴ OPAÎT 2024, 114–116, no. 331.

⁸⁵ For further bibliography, see STREINU/ACHIM 2021, 147, note 159; OPAÎT 2024, 115–116.

⁸⁶ SUCEVEANU 2000, 117–119, cat. nos. 1–5, pl. 51; for analogies see GĂMUREAC/TOPOLEANU/AILINCĂI 2023, 95.

⁸⁷ OPAÎT 2004, 45–46.

⁸⁸ SUCEVEANU 2000, no. 15, pl. 61, 130–132, type XL; cat. nos. 21–22, pl. 62; no. 93, pl. 63.

⁸⁹ TOPOLEANU/GĂMUREAC 2021, 116–118, cat. nos. 104–106.

⁹⁰ GĂMUREAC/TOPOLEANU/AILINCĂI 2023, 100–102, cat. nos. 129–145, fig. 16.

⁹¹ GRIGORAȘ/PANAITE 2023, 201.

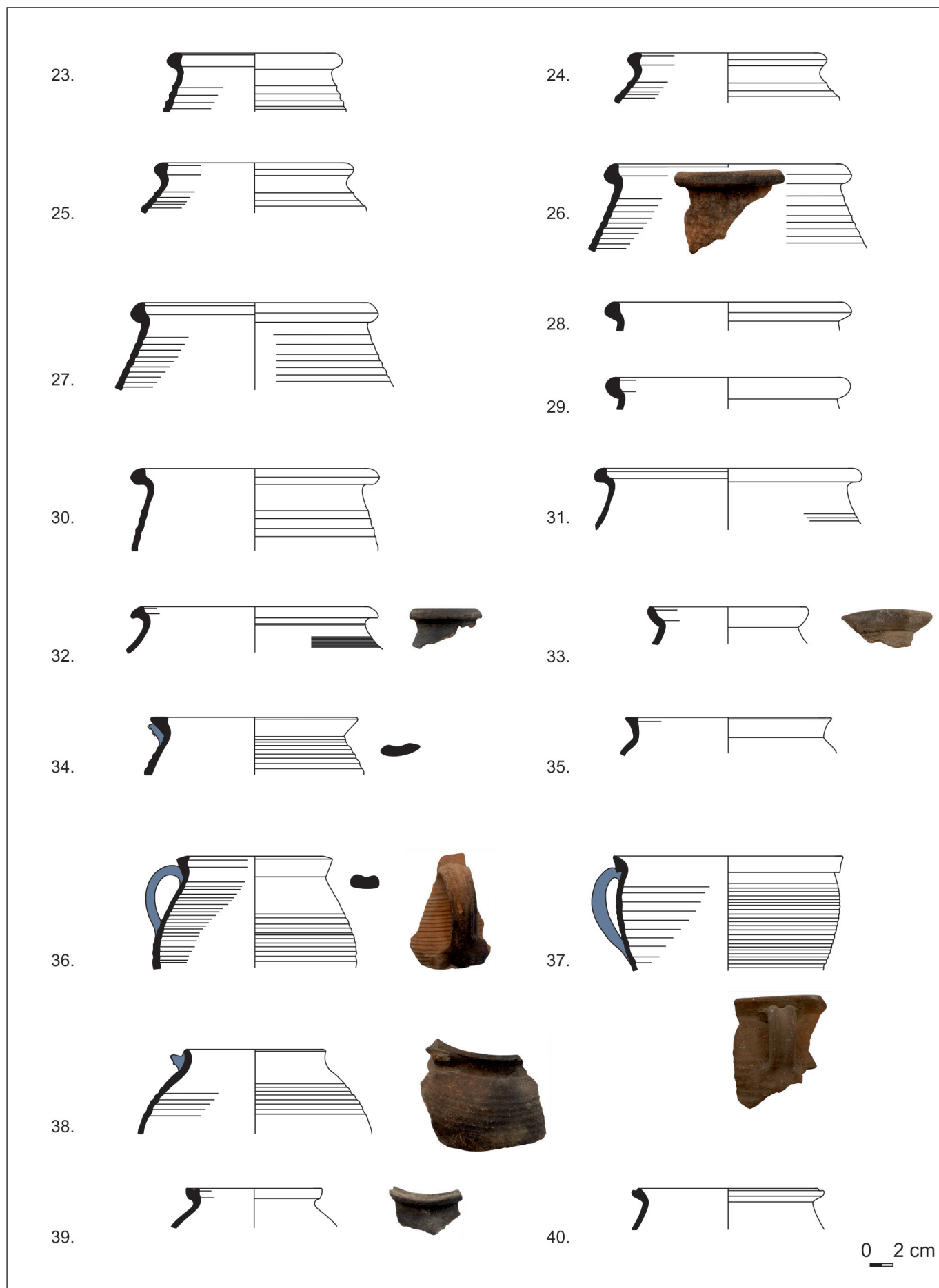


Fig. 7. Pottery, cat. nos. 23 – 40;

D. ? cm; H. 2.5 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.5 cm; same as 26; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 8.

29. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVA; Fig. 7/ 29

D. ? cm; H. 2.7 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.5 cm; same as 26; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 9

30. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVA; Fig. 7/ 30

D. 20 cm; H. 7 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.5 cm; same as no. 26; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 16.

31. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVA; Fig. 7/ 31

D. 22 cm; H. 5.2 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.5 cm; same as no. 26; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 10.

32. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVA; Fig. 7/ 32

D. 20 cm; H. 5 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.5 cm; coarse fabric, gray (10 YR 5.1), rare iron and limestone particles, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles; external surface gray (10 YR 5/1) on the internal surface very dark gray (10 YR 3/1); S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 180

33. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXXVII B; Fig. 7/ 33

D. 14 cm; H. 3.3 cm; W.t. 0.5-0.8 cm; coarse fabric, brownish yellow (10 YR 6/6), rare iron and limestone particles, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles; self slip on both surfaces in the same color as the fabric; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 182.

34. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XL A; Fig. 7/ 34

D. 18 cm; H. 3.4 cm; W.t. 0.4-0.5 cm; coarse fabric, reddish yellow (5YR 6/8), rare iron and limestone particles, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles; self slip; secondary burning traces on the external surface; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 100.

35. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XL A; Fig. 7/ 35

D. 12 cm; H. 10 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.6 / 0.8 cm; same as No. 34; S.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 3

36. pot; Fig. 7/ 36

D. 12 cm; H. 10 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.6 / 0.8 cm; same as 34.; C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 6

37. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVI A; Fig. 7/ 37

D. ? cm; H. 7 cm; W.t. 0.5 cm; same as No. 34; C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 7

38. pot; Fig. 7/ 38

D. 12 cm; H. 7.7 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.8 cm; same as no. 34; C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 1.

39. pot; Opaiț 2024, pots type III; Fig. 7/ 39

D. 12 cm; H. 3.5 cm; W.t. 0.4 cm; coarse fabric, gray (10 YR 5/1), limestone, iron, and quartz particles. On exterior surface dark gray slip (2.5 Y 4/1); C.22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 183

40. pot; Opaiț 2024, pots type III; Fig. 7/ 40

D. 16 cm; H. 3.7 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.5 cm; same as No. 34; C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 181

C.2 Storage pots (*dolia*) (Fig. 8/ 41-43)

The assemblage of pots from CC is supplemented by three additional shards (**cat. nos. 41-43**), assignable to Suceveanu 2000, type XXXVIII (2nd – 4th centuries AD).⁹² These vessels are characterized by a beige-reddish fabric containing large inclusions of limestone and quartz, as well as rare iron oxide

and silvery mica particles. Both surfaces display a slightly gritty texture to the touch and numerous voids resulting from the burning out of organic material during firing. In the section, incomplete firing is visible, along with an uneven fracture. Shard rim, **cat. no. 43** differs from the other two items through a higher proportion of sand in the fabric and the presence of horizontal, parallel grooves as decoration. This type of vessel may have been intended for storage purposes and is therefore also classified as storage pots, type III, Honcu 2017⁹³. The form exhibits a long circulation span, from the 2nd to the 4th centuries AD, with the possibility of continuation into the 5th century AD.⁹⁴

41. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXXVIII; Fig. 8/ 41

D. 22 cm; H. 8.5 cm; W.t. 0.5 cm; coarse fabric, dark orange red (2.5 YR 5/8), iron and limestone particles, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles, with traces of organic material and limestone burnt. Reddish yellow surfaces (7.5 YR 6/6); secondary burning; C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 17.

42. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXXVIII; Fig. 8/ 42

D. 16 cm; H. 6 cm; W.t. 0.5 – 0.7 cm; same as No. 37; C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 18.

43. pot; Suceveanu 2000, type XXXVIII; Fig. 8/ 43

D.b. 13 cm; H. 11 cm; W.t. 0.5 – 0.7 cm; same as No. 37; C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC. 19.

C.3 Small jar (Fig. 8/ 44)

Cat. no. 44 represents a vessel with a rounded, outward-turned rim, globular shape, and ribbed body, manufactured in coarse fabric. In the literature, similar vessels are described as small pots, corresponding to Suceveanu 2000, type XXIII A, (2nd-3rd centuries AD).⁹⁵ At Tomis, most examples were recovered from funerary features dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD and belonging to Rădulescu 1975, type 8.⁹⁶ Based on fabric characteristics and rim morphology that allow lid placement, these vessels may have functioned either as small cooking pots, probably for heating liquids, or as storage containers for condiments or aromatic plants (i.e., small jars).

44. jar; Rădulescu 1975, type 8; Fig. 8/ 44

D. 11 cm; H. 7 cm; W.t. 0.4 – 0.5 cm; semicoarse fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6), rare iron and limestone particles, gravel inclusions –

⁹² SUCEVEANU 2000, 122-123, cat. nos. 1-6, pl. 54. Another hypothesis proposed by A. Suceveanu considers this type to be a product of local Histrian workshops, such examples being discovered both within the fortress at Histria and in the rural settlement, from its territory, at Fântânele, (SUCEVEANU 2000, 122).

⁹³ HONCU 2016, 79-80, cat. nos. 128-129, pl. XIII, storage pots (*dolia*), type I, 2nd-3rd centuries AD, with references from Niculițel (end of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd century AD) and Noviodunum (2nd-3rd centuries AD); HONCU 2017, 81-82, cat. nos. 132-136, with parallels from Argamum, Histria, and Tomis, 2nd-3rd centuries AD.

⁹⁴ GĂMUREAC 2009, 262, 291, no. 84, pl. X, pots type VII, variant 2, 4th-5th centuries AD; HONCU 2016, 78-79, cat. nos. 128-129, pl. XIII, including items discovered at Niculițel (end of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd century AD) and Noviodunum (2nd century AD);

⁹⁵ SUCEVEANU 2000, 107-110, cat. nos. 1-17. Most vessels are characterised by a "gritty" or impurity-rich fabric, with colours ranging from yellow and brick-red to grey. The dating spans the 2nd-3rd centuries AD; for the 3rd century, stratigraphic context indicate that most vessels originate from levels corresponding to the first half of the 3rd century.

⁹⁶ RĂDULESCU 1975, 338, 340, cat. nos. 1-3, pl. VI, type 8; BUCOVALĂ, PAȘCA 1991, 200, cat. nos. 37681, 37683-37684 from Grave 22 (3rd century AD); 204, no. 37630, pl. VII, Grave 2 (3rd century AD); 208, no. 37672, pl. IX, Grave 21 (2nd century AD). It should be noted that some of the small jugs were filled with burnt wood, used in a ritual context.

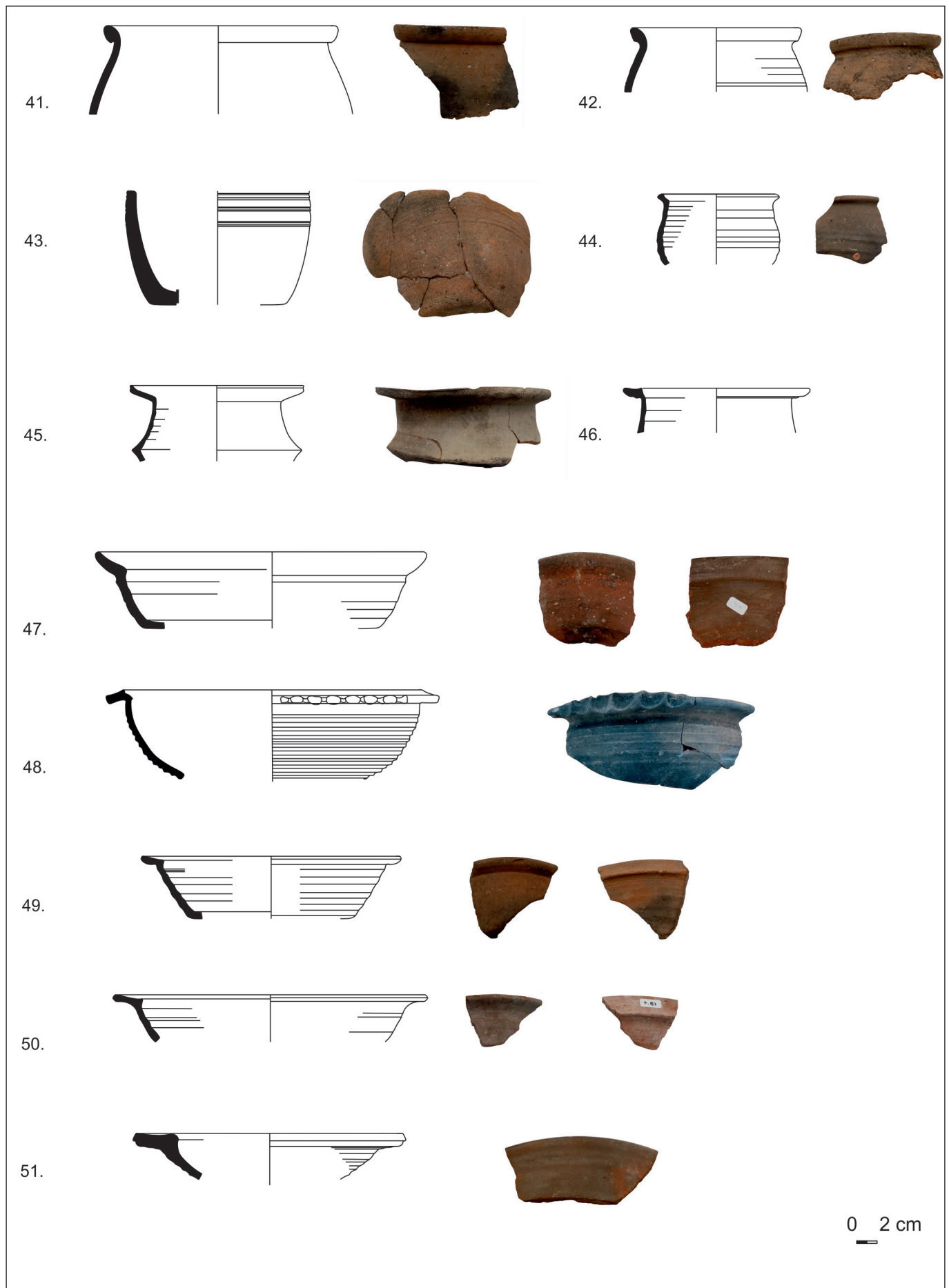


Fig. 8. Pottery, cat.nos. 41 – 51;

mostly quartz particles; brown slip (7.5 YR 5/3), with discoloured gray areas (7.5 YR 5.1 -2); internal surface self slip, brown (7.5 YR 5.4); C. 22 – extindere vest; MINAC; inedit; f.i. F. 164.

C.4 Casseroles (Fig. 8/ 45-48)

C.4.1 Casseroles with flaring rim – Aegean imports (Fig. 8/ 45-46)

Aegean kitchenware is a well-documented category within the province of Moesia Inferior.⁹⁷ According to the typology proposed by J.W. Hayes, items **cat. nos. 45-46** belongs to casseroles, type 2.⁹⁸ It is considered one of the most widespread vessels of this form in both the Aegean Basin and the Pontic region.⁹⁹

45. casserole; Hayes 1983, type 2; Fig. 8/ 45

D. 16.6 cm; H. 7.5 cm; W.t. 0.5 cm; coarse fabric, light yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4) clay, mica, rare iron and limestone particles; external surface fired light gray (10 YR 6/1); secondary burning; C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC 4a.

46. casserole; Hayes 1983, type 2; Fig. 8/ 46

D. 18 cm; H. 4.6 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.5 cm; same as no.17; C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC 4.

C.4.2 Casserole with flaring rim and flat base (Fig. 8/ 47)

Similar vessels have been recorded among finds from Callatis¹⁰⁰ and Histria. The item from CC is typologically assignable to Suceveanu 2000, type XXVII, (2nd-3rd centuries AD)¹⁰¹.

47. casserole; Suceveanu 2000, type XXVII; Fig. 8/ 47

D. 30 cm; H. 6 cm; W.t. 0.9 – 1 cm; coarse fabric, dark orange red (2.5 YR 5/8), iron and limestone particles, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles; both surfaces in fabric color; secondary burning; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 5 a

C.4.3 Casserole with flaring rim, interior groove, and ribbed body (Fig. 8/ 48)

Cat. no. 48 is interpreted as a casserole based on pronounced traces of secondary burning on the exterior surface, indicating use in cooking activities.

Within the province of Moesia Inferior, this form appears in two variants. At Tomis, examples covered with red slip and lacking traces of secondary burning have been identified¹⁰²; these are more appropriately classified as bowls (Suceveanu

2000, type XIII¹⁰³; Honcu 2017, bowl type XVI¹⁰⁴). The second variant, also attested at Tomis, consists of vessels with self-slip and clear traces of secondary burning. Studying similar pottery from Histria, A. Opaîţ classified these as casseroles, type I A.¹⁰⁵ Both variants circulated during the 2nd-3rd centuries AD¹⁰⁶, with some surviving into the 4th century AD¹⁰⁷.

48. casserole; Suceveanu 2000, type XIII bolul canelat; Fig. 8/ 48

D. 31 cm H. W.t.; coarse fabric, dark orange red (2.5 YR 5/8), iron and limestone particles; quartz particles, silvery mica; external surface burnt dark gray (7.5 YR 4/1) with discolored spots; internal surface in the same color as clay, C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; F.i. A

C.5 Cooking dishes

With wide horizontal rim (Fig.8-9/ 49-53)

Scholarly literature has attributed similar vessels—sharing identical fabric characteristics—to various functional categories. They have been classified as platters (Suceveanu 2000, type XXVIII)¹⁰⁸, pans (Honcu 2017, type II)¹⁰⁹, mixing bowls (Nedelea 2024, type VI)¹¹⁰, or frying pans (Opaîţ 2024, type 3A).¹¹¹ Their functionality was likely multiple. However, based on fabric characteristics – typical of vessels intended for use over open fire and containing specific inclusions such as quartz – as well as the presence of secondary burning traces, we classify these vessels as pans, without further functional specification. Two distinct series may be distinguished within this type. The first series (catalog nos. 49-50) comprises common examples from Moesia Inferior.

Cat. nos. 51-53 are characterized by larger diameters (26-30 cm, up to 38 cm) and a marked tendency toward thicker walls. Nevertheless, the height remains within the type's parameters. All examples display traces of secondary burning on the external surface.

Regarding the treatment of internal surfaces, these items feature a thin slip in the same color as the fabric. Comparable examples have been documented at Noviodunum.¹¹² The scholarly literature assigns various functions to such vessels. Similar forms are also recorded in the North Pontic settlement of Kozyrka, where they are designated as

⁹⁷ BĂJENARU 2013, 62; HONCU 2017, 85; GĂMUREAC/TOPOLEANU/AİLINCĂI 2023, 90-91.

⁹⁸ HAYES 1983, 122, 125-126, cat. nos. 81-91, fig. 7.

⁹⁹ **Tomis** – BĂJENARU 2013, 62, notes 129-130, cat. nos. 64-67, dated to the end of the 2nd century- beginning/first quarter of the 3rd century AD; **Histria** – BĂJENARU 2014, 117, 131, no. 159, fig. 10, group 4, end of the 1st – first half/first quarter of the 2nd century AD; HONCU 2017, 84-89, cat. nos. 142-160; parallels from Argamum (2nd-3rd centuries AD), Ibida (first half of the 2nd century AD), Niculiţel (end of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd century AD), Noviodunum (3rd century AD), and Troesmis (end of the 2nd/first half of the 3rd century AD).

¹⁰⁰ OPAÎŢ/IONESCU 2016, 76-77, no. 153, pl. XXVI.

¹⁰¹ SUCEVEANU 2000 – a similar example from Histria, 93-94, no. 2, pl. 37, type XXVII.

¹⁰² BĂJENARU 2013, 66, cat. nos. 82-86.

¹⁰³ SUCEVEANU 2000, 50-52, cat. nos. 1 – 11, pl. 16 – 17, considered Histrian products, 2nd-3rd centuries AD. Some items are chronologically attributed to the first half of the 3rd century AD.

¹⁰⁴ HONCU 2017, pl. XXVI, 121-122, 273-277, cat. nos. 252-256, type XVI, 2nd-3rd centuries AD, with listed bibliographical references.

¹⁰⁵ OPAÎŢ 2024, 120-122.

¹⁰⁶ For the distribution of this type, see HONCU 2017, 121-122.

¹⁰⁷ OPAÎŢ 2024, 120-121.

¹⁰⁸ SUCEVEANU 2000, 95-96, cat. nos. 1-5, pl. 38, type XXVIII, Pontic/local products, 1st-2nd centuries AD; one example derives from a feature dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD.

¹⁰⁹ HONCU 2017, 93-96, cat. nos. 175-191, with references from Argamum (2nd-3rd centuries AD), Ibida (first half of the 2nd century AD), Noviodunum (2nd century AD), and Tomis (end of the 2nd – beginning of the 3rd century AD); GĂMUREAC/TOPOLEANU/AİLINCĂI 2023, 89-90, no. 61, fig. 9.

¹¹⁰ NEDELEA 2024, 112, 119, 135-136, no. cat. 6; 1 – 7 a, pl. III-IV.

¹¹¹ OPAÎŢ 2024, 129-130, no. 376, 2nd-4th centuries AD.

¹¹² TOPOLEANU/ GĂMUREAC 2023, 103-106, cat. nos. 43-44.

louteria, type II; one example was recovered from a domestic context¹¹³.

Rim shard **no. 52** differs from the others in presenting a slightly rough internal texture, comparable to that of mortaria. On this basis, its function may have extended to processing cereals or crushing foodstuffs. It may therefore have been used both for food preparation and for cooking over an open flame.

49. cooking dish; Honcu 2017, type II; **Fig. 8/ 49**

D. 26 cm; H. 5.8 cm; W.t. 0.4 cm; coarse fabric, dark orange red (2.5 YR 5/8), iron and limestone particles, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles; both surfaces in fabric color; secondary burning; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 184

50. cooking dish; Honcu 2017, type II; **Fig. 8/ 50**

D. 30 cm; H. 3.5 cm; W.t. 0.4 cm; coarse fabric, dark orange red (2.5 YR 5/8), iron and limestone particles, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles; both surfaces in clay color; secondary burning; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 183

51. cooking dish; Honcu 2017, type II; **Fig. 8/ 51**

D. 26 cm; H. 4.3 cm; W.t. 0.9 – 1 cm; coarse fabric, dark orange red (2.5 YR 5/8), iron and limestone particles; external surface brown (7.5 YR 5/4), self slip; internal surface dark orange slip; secondary burning traces, mainly on the internal surface; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 7 a

52. cooking dish; Honcu 2017, type II; **Fig. 9/ 52**

6 a D. 26 cm; H. 4 cm; W.t. 0.9 – 1 cm; coarse fabric, dark orange red (2.5 YR 5/8), iron and limestone particles; external surface burnt very dark gray (7.5 YR 3/1); internal surface, same color as the clay, rough texture; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 185

53. cooking dish; Honcu 2017, type II; **Fig. 9/53**

D. 38 cm; H. 3.4 cm; W.t. 0.9 – 1.3 cm; coarse fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8); many iron and limestone particles, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles; external surface discoloured, brown and very dark gray (7.5 YR 4.3 – 4/1 and 3/1); internal surface light yellowish brown (10 YR 6/4); C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 6 a

C.6 Pans (Fig. 9/ 54-55)

C.6.1 Pans with grooved rim and handle (Fig. 9/ 54)

Most discoveries of this type are recorded at Histria, Argamum, Ibida, and Niculițel, and they circulated during the 2nd–3rd centuries AD.¹¹⁴ Typologically, they correspond to Honcu 2017, pans type III (2nd–3rd centuries AD).¹¹⁵

54. pan; Honcu 2017, type III; **Fig. 9/54**

D. ? cm; H. 2 cm; W.t. 0.5–0.8 cm; coarse fabric, dark orange red (2.5 YR 5/8), iron and limestone particles; external surface burnt very dark gray (7.5 YR 3/1); internal surface, same color as the clay; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC 5

¹¹³ BURAKOV 1976, 19–20, 112, cat. nos. 12–15, fig. XII. The vessel drawings include items lacking the characteristic drainage hole. These *louteria*-type vessels were discovered in House 1, Room 1, near a large oval hearth; the function of the room remains uncertain, being interpreted either as a kitchen or a storage space.

¹¹⁴ STREINU 2021, 149, cat. nos. 119–121, fig. 29

¹¹⁵ HONCU 2017, 97–98, cat. nos. 192–194, pl. XX, interpreted as provincial Roman pans; with analogies at Niculițel and Noviodunum (items comparable to cat. no. 45).

C.6.2 Unclassified Pan (Fig.9/ 55)

55. pan; unclassified; **Fig. 9/55**

H. 5.8 cm; W.t. 0.5 cm; coarse fabric, yellowish brown (10 YR 5/4), limestone particles, many iron particles, gravel inclusions – quartz particles; external surface reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8) with discoloured parts in the same colour as the fabric; internal surface same colour as the clay; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC 5

C.6.3 Baking pan (Fig.9/ 56)

Catalog no. 56 is the only wheel-made cooking vessel in this assemblage, characterized by a resistant, glossy red slip on the internal surface. Traces of secondary burning are visible on both surfaces. Comparable examples are recorded at Histria and are classified as Opaț 2024, pans type 2A (1st century AD).¹¹⁶

56. baking pan; Opaț 2024, pans type 2A; **Fig. 9/56**

D. 24 cm; H. 3.4 cm; W.t. 1 – 1.3 cm; coarse fabric, brown (7.5 YR 4/4), iron and limestone particles, quartz inclusions; external surface with discoloured layers and small holes from the organic inclusions burnt; internal surface with a dull slip, originally dark red, but now discoloured and covered by dark brown spots (7.5 YR 3/3); C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 186

C.7 Lid (Fig.9/ 57)

This item represents a coarse-fabric product widely distributed during the 2nd–3rd centuries AD in the province of Moesia Inferior, with parallels documented in rural settlements such as Beidaud¹¹⁷ and Niculițel–Cornet.¹¹⁸ It corresponds to Honcu 2017, lids type III, (2nd – first half of the 3rd century AD).¹¹⁹

57. lid; Honcu 2017, lids type III; **Fig. 9/57**

D. 24 cm; H. 1.4 cm; W.t. 0.5 – 0.6 cm; coarse fabric reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6), limestone and iron particles, gravel inclusions – mostly quartz particles; incomplete firing – observable in the fracture texture; exterior surface fired brown (7.5 YR 5.4), with small discoloured areas gray (7.5 YR 5/1 – 4/1), small holes on external surface from the burned organic material; secondary burning; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 188

Handmade kitchenware – non – Roman pottery, influenced by the local, Getae tradition (Fig. 9/ 58–68)

The presence of pottery of Getae tradition persists in certain areas of the province of Moesia Inferior, such as Bugeac and Săcădava, until as late as the 6th century AD.¹²⁰ However, considering the integration of the settlement at CC within the territory of Tomis, the chronological limits of such finds within this area must be taken into account. The

¹¹⁶ OPAȚ 2024, 133, no. 302.

¹¹⁷ ILIESCU/STĂNESCU/BOTTEZ 2022, 157–158, cat. nos. 74–75, fig. 14, attributed to Lower Danube Kaolin Ware (LDKW), 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

¹¹⁸ GĂMUREAC/TOPOELANU/AİLINCĂI 2023, 104, cat. nos. 180–181, fig. 19, 1st–3rd centuries AD.

¹¹⁹ HONCU 2017, 132–134, cat. nos. 284–291, 318, pl. XXXI, items recorded at Niculițel.

¹²⁰ SCORPAN 1970b, 158.

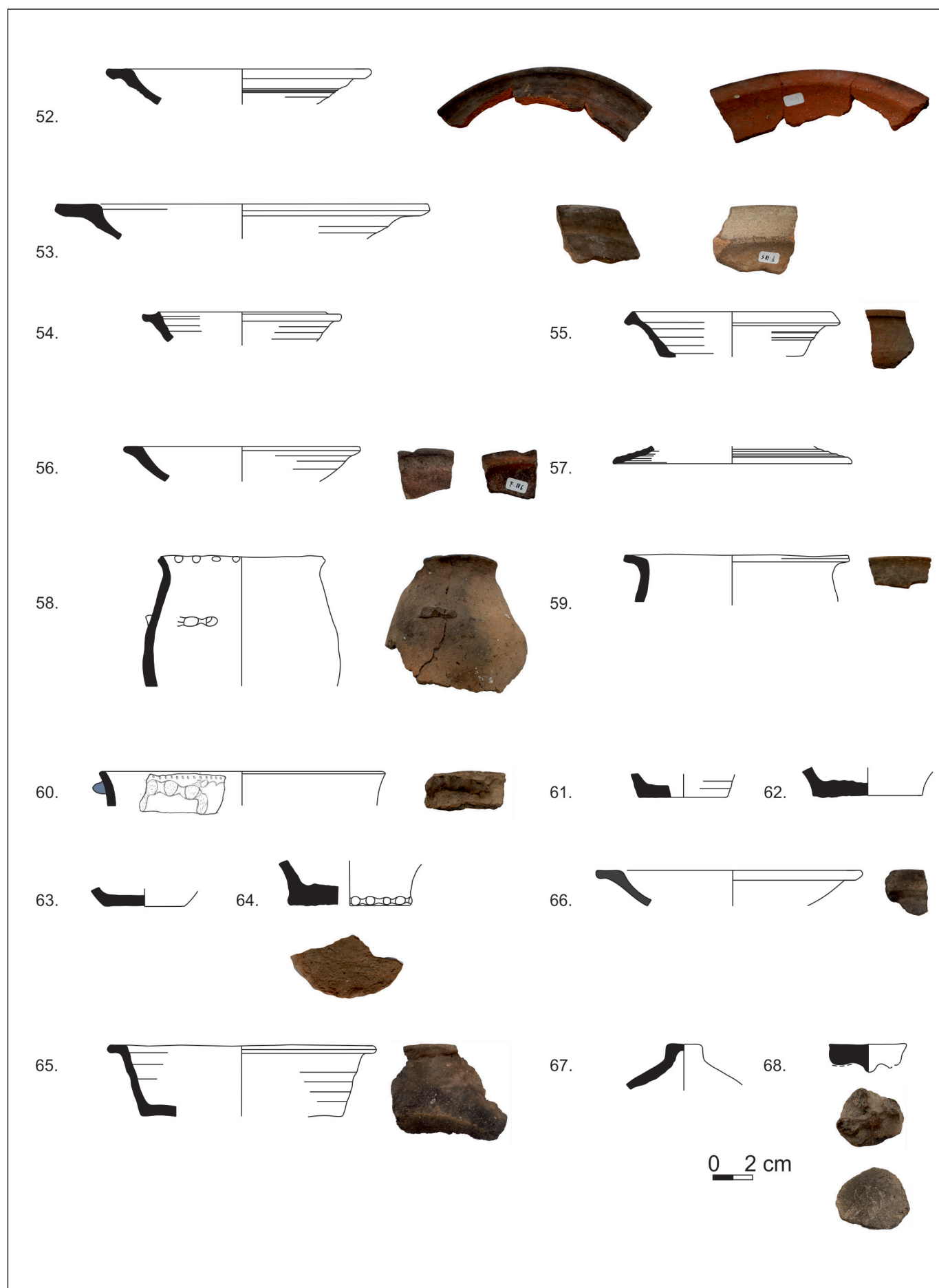


Fig. 9. Pottery, cat. nos. 52 – 68;

scholarly literature has recorded only a limited number of bibliographic references concerning this subject.

C.8 Jar-pot with short neck (Fig. 9/ 58-64)

The jar-pot represents the best-attested form within the repertoire of handmade pottery from this assemblage. For the 1st century BC, M. Coja noted the reappearance of the jar vessel characterized by a well-rounded body, short neck, flaring rim decorated with notches along the outer edge, and a notched applied projection placed slightly above the maximum diameter of the body. About **short-necked vessels**, this observation was later reiterated by Ș. Honcu, who identified two stages in the evolution of jar-pots: one during the 1st century BC – 1st century AD, and a second during the 2nd–3rd centuries AD, the latter distinguished by the elongation of the neck and the narrowing of the base.¹²¹ The examples discovered within the analyzed assemblage (cat. nos. 58–59) are set apart by a short neck. The form is widely distributed and corresponds to Opaïț 2024, pots type I (1st century BC – 1st century AD, based on items discovered at Histria)¹²² and Honcu 2017, pots type I (1st–3rd centuries AD)¹²³. Most parallels from the province of Moesia Inferior, from rural settlements, date such vessels to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD.¹²⁴

Visually speaking, **catalog no. 60**, combines incised motifs with barbotine decoration. Returning to M. Coja's observation, this notched decorative motif reappears on ceramic vessels from the 1st century BC onward.¹²⁵ For the Roman period, C. Scorpan acknowledges the persistence of this decorative element over a relatively long period, from the 2nd to the 5th centuries AD.¹²⁶ In his study of the pottery discovered at Hârșova, at the site *La Moară*, C. Nicolae observed that this decoration is typical of the *La Tène III* phase in Transylvania (1st century BC – 1st century AD), but also occurs on vessels that belong to the 2nd century AD.¹²⁷ He further noted, within this ceramic type, a process of vessel resizing as well as a tendency to transpose decorative motifs of Getae tradition onto products manufactured in fabrics typical of Roman pottery.¹²⁸ Typologically, the vessel corresponds to Opaïț 2024, storage vessels form 4, (1st century BC – 1st century AD)¹²⁹.

The series of these containers is completed by several vessel bases (cat. nos. 61–63), which are flat and display

traces of secondary burning on their external surfaces. A single base (cat. no. 64) shows no traces of secondary burning on either surface, which suggests that this shard most likely belonged to a storage vessel.

58. pot; Opaïț 2024, pots type I; Fig. 9/58

D. 16 cm; H. 13 cm; W.t. 0.7 cm; coarse fabric, brownish yellow (10 YR 6/6), iron and limestone particles, quartz inclusions, incomplete burning of the fabric, observable in the vessel fracture; both surfaces self slip, same colour as the fabric; decorated on the exterior surface; secondary burning traces; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F.166.

59. pot; Opaïț 2024, pots type I D. 22 cm; Fig. 9/59

H. 5.5 cm; W.t. 0.8 cm; same as no. 58; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 169.

60. pot; Opaïț 2024, storing pot type IV; Fig. 9/60

D. 28 cm; H. 3.6 cm; W.t. 0.6 – 0.8 cm; same as no. 58; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 167.

61. pot; Fig. 9/61

D.b. 9 cm; H. 2.4 cm; W.t. 0.7 – 1.2 cm; same as no. 58; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 176

62. pot; Fig. 9/62

D.b. 11 cm; H. 25 cm; W.t. 1.00 – 1.4 cm; same as no. 58; C. 22 – extindere vest; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 173

63. pot; Fig. 9/63

D.b. 8 cm; H. 1.8 cm; W.t. 1.0 – 1.1 cm; coarse fabric; same as no. 58; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 189

64. pot; Fig. 9/64

D.b. 12 cm; H. 4.2 cm; W.t. 0.9 – 1.7 cm; coarse fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8), iron, limestone particles, rare silvery mica, gravel inclusion – quartz inclusions and crushed pottery; yellow - brownish yellow surfaces (10 YR 6/6-8); secondary burning traces on the inside; decorated on the base diameter; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 174.

D.2 Cooking dish (Fig. 9/ 65)

Cat. no. 65 presents a vessel identified by a horizontal, slightly thickened rim, straight walls, and a slightly concave base. Pronounced traces of secondary burning are visible on both surfaces.

In terms of basic form, similar examples have been discovered at Knossos and Paphos, in levels assigned to the 2nd century AD, where they are classified as *flat-based basins*, type I.¹³⁰ In the area of Moesia Inferior, handmade vessels of this type have been discovered at Histria (to the second half of the 1st century – beginning of the 2nd century AD).¹³¹ At Tomis, a comparable example dates to the end of the

¹²¹ HONCU 2017, 70.

¹²² OPAIȚ 2024, 94–97.

¹²³ HONCU 2017, 69–71, cat. nos. 98–99, pl. X, items discovered at Argamum and dated to the 2nd century AD (with the observation that the vessels from CC, discovered in the rural settlement of Tomis, have larger diameters).

¹²⁴ **Amza settlement** – BAUMANN 1995, 156, cat. nos. 1–7, pl. LV, 2nd–3rd centuries AD; **Jijila Valley** – STĂNESCU *et alii* 2021, 166–169, 185, cat. nos. 36–44, fig. 14, 2nd–3rd centuries AD; **Niculitel-Cornet** – GĂMUREAC/TOPOLEANU/AILINCĂI 2023, fig. 25, 1st–3rd century AD.

¹²⁵ COJA 1970, 109, 113.

¹²⁶ SCORPAN 1970b, 158–159.

¹²⁷ NICOLAE 2009, 134, 142, no. 3, pl. V. Refinement of the chronology is difficult, as the author himself notes: "Though the opinion was advanced that the settlement is dated from the second half of the 1st century A.D. until the middle or the second half of the 2nd cent., the presented materials have large analogies from the middle and last Latene phase until the 2nd–3rd cent. and even the 4th cent."

¹²⁸ NICOLAE 2009, 139, no. 7, pl. II.

¹²⁹ OPAIȚ 2024, 108–109, no. 25.

¹³⁰ HAYES 1983, 132–135, cat. nos. 178–196, figs. 15–16, dated to the Early Roman period, pre-villa level; HAYES 1991, 65–67, 212, cat. nos. 1–3, fig. XXIV, items are listed as a functional category of basins, manufactured in local coarse fabric, with large diameters (30–40 cm), influenced by Cretan and Aegean examples. They frequently occur in Roman-period deposits, especially the late deposits at Villa Dionysos. For the dating of the final phase at this site, the ceramic material indicates a *terminus post quem* at the beginning of the 2nd century AD. No examples indicate manufacture after AD 200. The destruction of the feature is attributed to an earthquake at the end of the 2nd century AD. Rare materials from the 3rd–4th centuries AD are regarded as intrusive, resulting from the reuse of stones as building material.

¹³¹ BĂJENARU 2014, 110–115, no. 109.

2nd century – beginning/first quarter of the 3rd century AD. Regarding this specimen, C. Băjenaru noted that early Roman products inspired such vessels of the Getae tradition.¹³²

65. cooking dish; unclassified cooking dish; Fig. 9/65

D 28 cm; D.b. 20 cm; H. 6.5 cm; W.t. 0.5 -0.7 cm; coarse fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8), iron, limestone particles, rare silvery mica, gravel inclusion – quartz inclusions and crushed pottery; self slip with yellow - brownish yellow spots (10 YR 6/6-8), visible only under the rim on both internal and external surface; secondary burning traces under the rim on bouth surfaces; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 168.

C.10 Pan (Fig. 9/ 66)

Catalog no. 66, classified as a pan, is designated by a horizontal, thickened rim continuing into convex walls. Traces of secondary burning are present on both surfaces. It is most probably a locally produced vessel made from local fabric imitating Roman pan forms. Morphologically, it is similar to **cat. no. 56** from the CC assemblage.

66. pan, unclassified item; Fig. 9/66

D. 24 cm; H. 3.4 cm; W.t. 1 – 1.3 cm; coarse fabric, brown (7.5 YR 4/4), iron and limestone particles, quartz inclusions; external surface with discoloured layers and small holes from the organic inclusions burnt; internal surface with a dull slip, originally dark red, but now discoloured and covered by dark brown spots (7.5 YR 3/3); C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 186

C.11 Baking cover (Fig. 9/ 67)

Traces of secondary burning were identified on the interior surface. According to the criteria established by A. Opaïț, the example identified within the analyzed assemblage represents a baking cover. Parallels from Histria are dated between the mid-1st century and the mid-2nd century AD.¹³³

67. baking cover; unclassified brownish; Fig. 9/67

D. 7.2 cm; H. 4 cm; W.t. 0.6 – 0.9 cm; coarse fabric, yellow (10 YR 6/6), iron and limestone particles, quartz inclusions, incomplete burning of the clay observable in the vessel fracture; both surfaces self slip, same color as the clay; secondary burning mainly on the inner surface; C. 22 – western extension; MINAC; f.i. F. 170.

C.12 Unclassified item (Fig. 9/ 68)

Catalog no. 68 is characterized by a flat base and a surface provided with three protrusions resembling small feet. No parallels have been identified in the scholarly literature. It could be mistaken for a lid; however, the author interprets it as a support used to cool hot vessels or, at least, to protect surfaces (such as tables) from hot, soot-covered containers.

68. suport? , unclassified support; Fig. 9/68

¹³² BĂJENARU 2013, 69, no. 103; manufacture was inspired by Roman vessels, similar to cat. nos. 89–90.

¹³³ OPAIȚ 2024, 102–104.

D.b. 7.2 cm; H. 4.7 cm; W.t. 0.7 – 1.7 cm; coarse fabric, yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6), iron, limestone particles, gravel inclusions – quartz inclusions and crushed pottery; external surfaces with discolored areas varying from dark yellowish brown (10 YR 4/4), brownish yellow (10 YR 6/6) and dark gray (10 YR 4/1); slightly traces of secondary burning; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC.2.

D. Lighting Equipment (Fig. 10/ 69–72)

Vessels used for lightning (**cat.nos. 69–72**) comprise four fragments, representing 2% of the total analyzed material. All examples are handmade, produced in coarse fabric, and belong to the Getae tradition. From a morphological perspective, the distinction between lamps and cups is determined by the pronounced traces of secondary burning identified inside the vessels.

Catalog nos 69–72 constitute vessels of Getae tradition, handmade in semi-coarse fabric. They derive from truncated-conical vessels with flat bases, manufactured in semi-coarse fabric and decorated with a horizontal row of finger impressions along the base diameter, displaying traces of secondary burning on the internal surface. Only one specimen preserves the complete profile (**cat. no. 69**); the remaining examples (**cat. nos. 70–72**) consist of small bases with diameters between 4 and 10 cm, attributed to this form. Attribution is based on their reduced dimensions (especially **cat. no. 72**) and on the presence of decorative motives along the lower diameter (**cat. nos. 70–71**), a feature more frequently encountered on lamp-type vessels. On this basis, the vessels are considered part of the lighting devices category¹³⁴. Their circulation was long-lasting, continuing until the 5th century AD. Within the province of Moesia Inferior, such items have been discovered in the Tomis necropolis¹³⁵, in intramural contexts at Callatis¹³⁶ and Histria¹³⁷, as well as in rural settlements at Valul lui Traian (Valea Seacă)¹³⁸ and Hârșova- “La Moară”¹³⁹.

69. handmade lamp? / cup; Fig. 10/69

D. 16 cm; H. 9.5 cm; W.t. 0.7 cm; coarse fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8), iron, limestone particles, rare silvery mica, gravel inclusion – quartz inclusions and crushed pottery; self slip, yellow - brownish yellow spots (10 YR 6/6-8); traces of secondary burning on the internal surface; decorated on the base diameter; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 170

70. handamade lamp?; Fig. 10/70

D.b. 10 cm; H. 7.7 cm; W.t. 0.9 cm; same as 50; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 171

¹³⁴ RUSU-BOLINDEȚ 2007, 111; OPAIȚ 2024, 106–107.

¹³⁵ SCORPAN 1970a, 80, 84, no. 2a, fig. 7, 3rd century AD, identified as a handmade cup; for further references see cat. nos. 84–85.

¹³⁶ SCORPAN 1970a, 86, no. 2, fig. 8, “smoking cup,” 3rd century AD (characteristic of the local population, Getae – most probably, within the fortress).

¹³⁷ SCORPAN 1970b, 156, 161, no. 4, fig. 11, “with traces of burning inside,” 5th century AD; OPAIȚ 2024, 106–107, cat. nos. 5, 9, second half of the 1st – first half of the 2nd century AD.

¹³⁸ SCORPAN 1970b, 148, 152, no. 4, fig. 6; 154, no. 1, fig. 7. In one example, the presence of “a thick black layer produced by a burnt organic substance” is noted; interpreted as Getae censers (cățui), 3rd–4th centuries AD.

¹³⁹ NICOLAE 2009, 145–148; cat. nos. 1–6, pl. IX; cat. nos. 1–6, pl. X; cat. nos. 1–4, pl. XI; no. F, fig. 9; cat. nos. A–F, fig. 10; cat. nos. A–C, fig. 11, with references dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries AD.

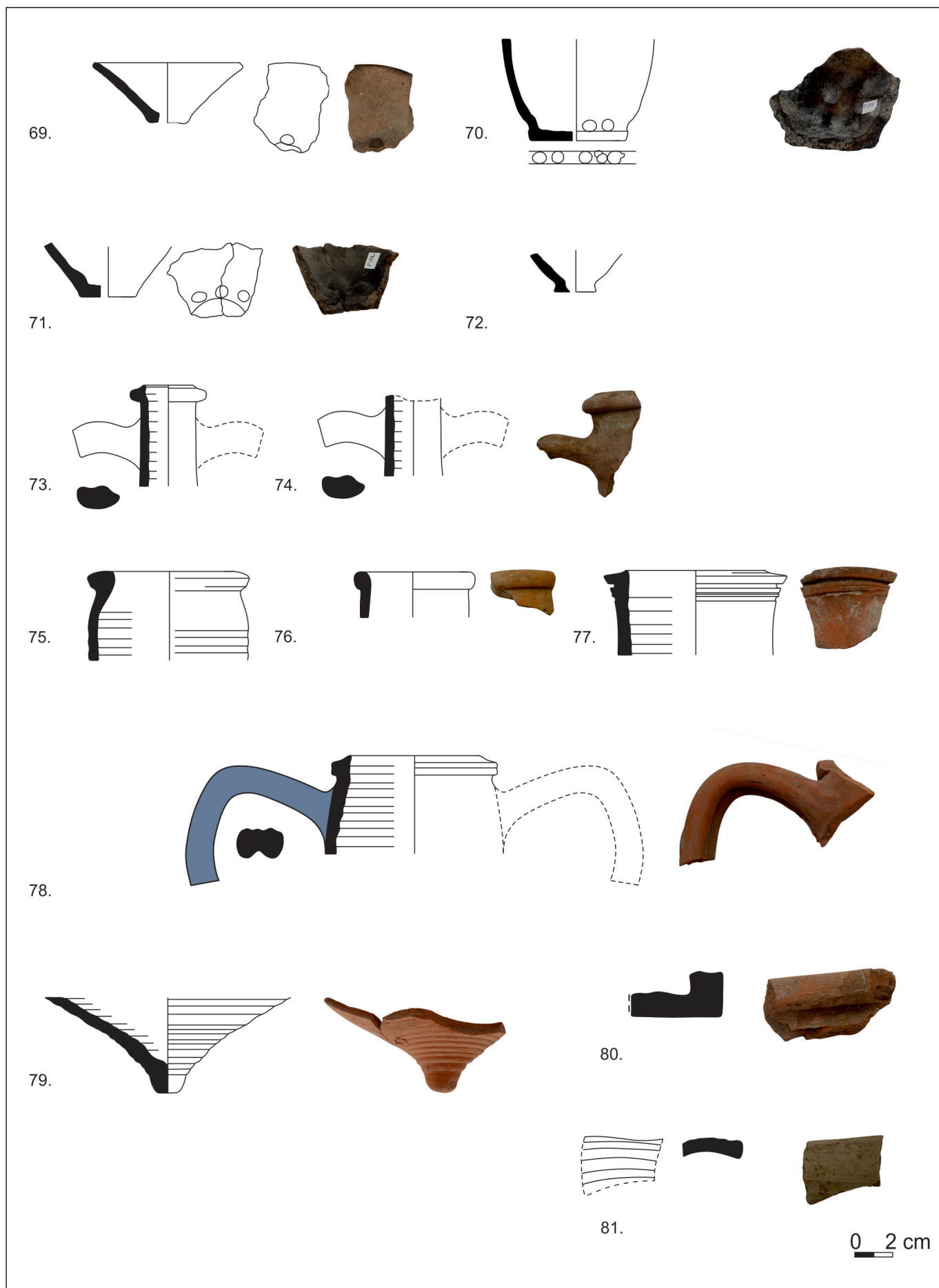


Fig. 10. Pottery, cat. nos. 69 – 81;

71. handmade lamp? / cup; Fig. 10/71

D.b. 6 cm; H. 5.5 cm; W.t. 0.7 cm; coarse fabric, yellow brown (10 YR 5/6), iron, limestone particles, rare silvery mica, gravel inclusion – quartz inclusions and crushed pottery; self slip; traces of secondary burning on both surfaces; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 172.

72. handmade lamp?; Fig. 10/72

D.b. 4 cm; H. 3.5 cm; W.t. 0.5 – 0.6 cm; coarse fabric; reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/8), iron, limestone particles, rare silvery mica, gravel inclusion – quartz inclusions and crushed pottery; self slip; internal surface secondary burnt; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. F. 175.

E. Transport vessels (Fig. 10/ 73–79)

This category includes amphorae (**cat. nos. 73–79**), which represent 8% of the studied ceramic material and comprise seven examples. The majority consists of Pontic imports, used for the transport of wine (**cat. nos. 73–75**) and fish products (**cat. nos. 78–79**). A single vessel of eastern origin, used for transporting olive oil, was identified (**cat. no. 77**).

E.1 Wine amphorae (Fig. 10/ 73–75)

South-Pontic, Heracleian amphorae are represented by two shards (**nos. 73–74**), both assigned to Zeest 94 / Shelov C / Vnukov S IV C types.¹⁴⁰ These forms were particularly popular during the 2nd century AD¹⁴¹, their evolution ending in the first quarter of the 3rd century AD.¹⁴²

Of Pontic origin, catalog **no. 75** belongs to **Zeest type 76**.¹⁴³ The distribution of this type in the province of Moesia Inferior is considered limited, with finds reported at Histria (2nd century AD)¹⁴⁴ and Jijila Valley (2nd–3rd centuries AD).¹⁴⁵

Cat. no. 76 represents a large-capacity amphora of unknown origin, assigned to Paraschiv 2006, type 4¹⁴⁶ / Troesmis X¹⁴⁷. Within Moesia Inferior, such examples circulated during the 1st–2nd centuries AD.¹⁴⁸

73. amphorae; Zeest 94; Fig. 10/73

D. 5.2 cm; H. 11.3 cm; W.t. 0.5 cm; coarse fabric, beige-yellowish (2.5 Y 8/4), with piroxene, rare limestone; self slip; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC f1.

74. amphorae; Zeest 94, idem 67; Fig. 10/74

H. 1.6 cm; W.t. 0.5 cm; same as 67; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. CC f2.

75. amphorae; Zeest 76; Fig. 10/75

¹⁴⁰ VNUKOV 2004, 414–415, no. 8; BĂJENARU 2013, 71, no. 112. Numerous examples are attested in the province of Moesia Inferior, together with relevant parallels (specific references should be clarified); OPAIȚ / GRIGORAȘ 2022, 52–53, with references and the chronological note: “This type evolves until the first quarter of the 3rd century AD”; OPAIȚ 2024, 26, cat. nos. 178, 181, mid–second half of the 2nd century AD.

¹⁴¹ BĂJENARU 2013, 71.

¹⁴² OPAIȚ 2023, 52–53; with listed bibliography.

¹⁴³ ZEEST 1960, 113, 168, pl. XXXII.

¹⁴⁴ OPAIȚ 2024, 91, no. 133.

¹⁴⁵ STĂNESCU *et alii* 2021, 151–152, no. 14, fig. 7.

¹⁴⁶ PARASCHIV 2006, 25–26.

¹⁴⁷ OPAIȚ 2024, 40–42, no. 128.

¹⁴⁸ OPAIȚ 2024, 40–42; for bibliography see PARASCHIV 2006, 25–26; OPAIȚ 2023, 63.

D. 14 cm; H. 9 cm; W.t. 0.3 – 0.4 cm; coarse fabric, reddish brown (2.5 YR 4/8), rare limestone, iron, mica, and quartz particles; self slip; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. Amf3.

76. amphorae; Troesmis X; Fig. 10/76

D. 12 cm; H. 4.7 cm; W.t. 0.7 – 1.7 cm; coarse fabric, reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/8); rare limestone inclusions, iron and silvery mica particles; self slip; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. Amf4.

E.2 Olive oil amphorae (Fig. 10/ 77)

These vessels, originating from the eastern regions of the Roman Empire, had a capacity of approximately 122 liters. The Zeest 80 / MR5 type developed several variants between the 2nd and 6th centuries AD.¹⁴⁹ The rural settlement studied yielded an early variant (**cat. no. 77**), dated to the 2nd–4th centuries AD.¹⁵⁰

77. amphorae; Zeest 80; Fig. 10/77

D. 15 cm; H. 9.2 cm; W.t. 2.8 cm – 1.5 cm; coarse fabric, reddish brown (7.5 YR 5/6), mica, rare limestone particles; self slip; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. Amf5

E.3 Fish amphorae (Fig. 10/ 78–79)

Catalog nos **78–79** derive from Pontic amphorae classified as Zeest 75¹⁵¹ / Krapivina 1991, type 31¹⁵² / Paraschiv, type 6¹⁵³. These vessels were widely used in the province of Moesia Inferior during the 2nd–3rd centuries AD, appearing in numerous variants.¹⁵⁴

78. amphorae; Zeest 75; Fig. 10/78

D. 18 cm; H. 10.7 cm; W.t. 0.8 – 0.9 cm; coarse fabric, light red (2.5 YR 6/8), with rare limestone and iron particles, quartz; self slip; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. Amf6.

79. amphorae; Zeest 75; Fig. 10/79

D. 18 cm; H. 10.7 cm; W.t. 0.8 – 0.9 cm; coarse fabric, light red (2.5 YR 6/8), with rare limestone and iron particles, quartz; self slip; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. Amf7.

F. Building Materials (Fig. 10/ 80–81)

The final ceramic group comprises two examples (**cat. nos. 80–81**), representing the smallest proportion of the assemblage (1%). These materials are typical of construction in the province of Moesia Inferior. The tegula (**cat. no. 80**) belongs to the Corinthian type, while the imbrex (**cat. no. 81**) corresponds to the Laconian type. A hybrid roofing system is thus attested¹⁵⁵, comparable to examples known from rural settlements in Moesia Inferior, such as Jijila Valley

¹⁴⁹ OPAIȚ/GRIGORAȘ 2022, 110–111.

¹⁵⁰ PARASCHIV 2006, 86–87, with listed bibliography; OPAIȚ 2024, 76–78.

¹⁵¹ ZEEST 1960, 113, 167, pl. XXXI.

¹⁵² KRAPIVINA 2009, 69, cat. nos. 1–3, pl. 37, produced in the Black Sea region during the 2nd–3rd centuries AD; items from Olbia, dated to the end of the 2nd century – third quarter of the 3rd century AD; for references see, also, KRAPIVINA 1993.

¹⁵³ PARASCHIV 2006, 27, 225, cat. no. 34, pl. 5.

¹⁵⁴ For bibliography, see PARASCHIV 2006, 27.

¹⁵⁵ WIKKANDER 2025, 118.

and Beidaud¹⁵⁶ and representing a construction pattern that continued from the Hellenistic into the Roman period.¹⁵⁷

80. tegula; Fig. 10/80

L. 13.4 cm; l. 9.1 cm; W.t. 2.2 – 4.8 cm; coarse fabric, red (5YR 6/8), limestone, iron particles, crushed pottery; self slip; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 190.

81. imbrex; Fig. 10/81

L. 8.8 cm; l. 5.4 – 6.5 cm; W.t. 1.3 – 1.8 cm; coarse fabric, yellow (2.5 Y 7/8), limestone, iron particles, crushed pottery; self slip; C. 22 – western extension; inedit; MINAC; f.i. 191.

CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THE POTTERY

The proposed chronology for this assemblage spans the second half of the 2nd century to the first half of the 3rd century AD.

Based on the analysis presented above, a significant accumulation of ceramic material was observed during the 2nd century AD. This chronology is sustained by, with items belonging to the EPRSW and Pontic Grey Slip Ware categories (Fig. 5/1-9), Aegean imports – Hayes 1983, casseroles (Fig. 8/45-46), type I, trefoil-mouthed jugs – Hayes 1983, trefoiled – mouthed jugs, type I (Fig. 6/12-13), Heracleian amphora of type Vnukov S IVC (Fig. 10/73-74), Troesmis X amphora (Fig. 10/76) all of which reached a peak in circulation and popularity during this interval.

Among the pottery of the Getae tradition, the short-necked pot/jar (oală-borcan) (Fig. 9/58-60), as defined by M. Coja, and the incised decorative motif noted by C. Scorpan occur more frequently among 2nd-century finds. Beginning with the subsequent period, these forms either disappear or evolve into more slender variants distinguished by higher necks.

For refining the chronology, it is important to note that, in certain features identified on the surface of the studied rural settlement, Pontic plates with a high rim, pronounced carination, and oblique walls were observed. In the scholarly literature, these correspond to Suceveanu 2000, type XVIII B (cat. nos. 22, 24–25), which, according to C. Băjenaru, became predominant at Tomis during the 3rd century AD and continued, with certain modifications, into the 4th century AD.¹⁵⁸ Furthermore, based on analogies with examples from Bulgarian production complexes and workshop contexts, EPRSW material appears to have been produced until the first half or the middle of the 3rd century AD. On these grounds, the chronological limits of the ceramic group may be placed until the beginning/middle of the 3rd century AD.

These dates correspond to the chronological range indicated by the numismatic discoveries. Nevertheless, we consider that the inferior limit of the first occupation phase should be slightly lowered. At the current stage of research, the most appropriate formulation remains the 2nd century,

first half of the 3rd century AD. The epigraphic material discovered at the site is dated to the same interval (2nd–3rd centuries AD).¹⁵⁹

This chronology is synchronous with two other situations recorded in rural settlements within the territory of Tomis, located within the area of modern Constanța and investigated relatively recently. The first settlement, at Palazu Mare, is dated to the 2nd–3rd centuries and the first decades of the 4th century AD.¹⁶⁰ The second, located at the Hornbach commercial center, shows an initial occupation phase dated to the second half of the 2nd century AD, followed by renewed habitation in a second phase corresponding to the end of the 3rd century – first quarter of the 4th century AD.¹⁶¹

Imports, although limited in number (approximately 15%), were determined both by the utilitarian value of certain vessels — such as *oinochoe* (Fig. 6/12-19) and cooking pots (Fig. 7/23-40) — and by their contents, namely amphorae used for transporting wine, olive oil, and fish products (Fig. 10). The presence of these Pontic and Aegean imports attests the existence of transport routes and commercial exchange. This situation is readily explained by the settlement's proximity to Tomis, 8 km straight-line distance, as well as by its connection to the road linking Axiopolis to the metropolis. The predominance of Pontic products is therefore unsurprising.

A smaller category of material, representing approximately 18% of the studied assemblage, consists of non-Roman handmade vessels of local Getae tradition, belonging to the functional categories of kitchenware (13%) and lighting equipment (5%). Only a single fragment reveals a strong Hellenistic influence — a cooking dish comparable to the Hellenistic basins analyzed by J. Hayes at Paphos. This constitutes an indicator of the presence of a local population or indigenous substratum in contact with Roman communities. An earlier, Getae, influence may also be attributed to vessels classified as Pontic Grey Slip Ware; the grey slip may be interpreted as a continuation of the grey ware tradition or grey/black slipped ceramics of the Hellenistic period (4th–2nd centuries BC). This cultural background is further supported by the analysis of the two inscriptions discovered within the settlement, which, based on language and onomastics, indicate a Greek-speaking population.¹⁶²

The majority of the assemblage (approximately 85%) is of Pontic origin and was most likely manufactured in workshops within the province of Moesia Inferior.

Most probably, the material discovered in the porch area represents refuse discarded from the building structure, CC – house 1. Considering the significant proportion of cooking wares — approximately 55% of the total assemblage — it is highly likely that this area functioned as a disposal zone associated with household activities.

¹⁵⁶ Jijila Valley – STĂNESCU *et alii* 2021, 178–182, cat. nos. 87–94, fig. 20, 2nd–3rd centuries AD; Beidaud – ILIESCU/STĂNESCU/BOTTEZ 2022, 92, 117, cat. nos. 49–54, fig. 14; cat. nos. 55–56, fig. 15, with references to rural settlements such as Telița-Valea Morilor.

¹⁵⁷ MĂIȚĂ MAXIM/COLȚEANU/IRIMIA 2025, 206, 210.

¹⁵⁸ BĂJENARU 2013, 48–49, 89, no. 16, pl. 3.

¹⁵⁹ HĂLMAGI 2022, 414–415.

¹⁶⁰ PETCU/PETCU-LEVEI 2025, 633–634.

¹⁶¹ GEORGESCU-HAMAT *et alii* 2023, 527–533. The first phase of occupation is attributed to the second half of the 2nd century AD.

¹⁶² HĂLMAGI 2022, 414–415.

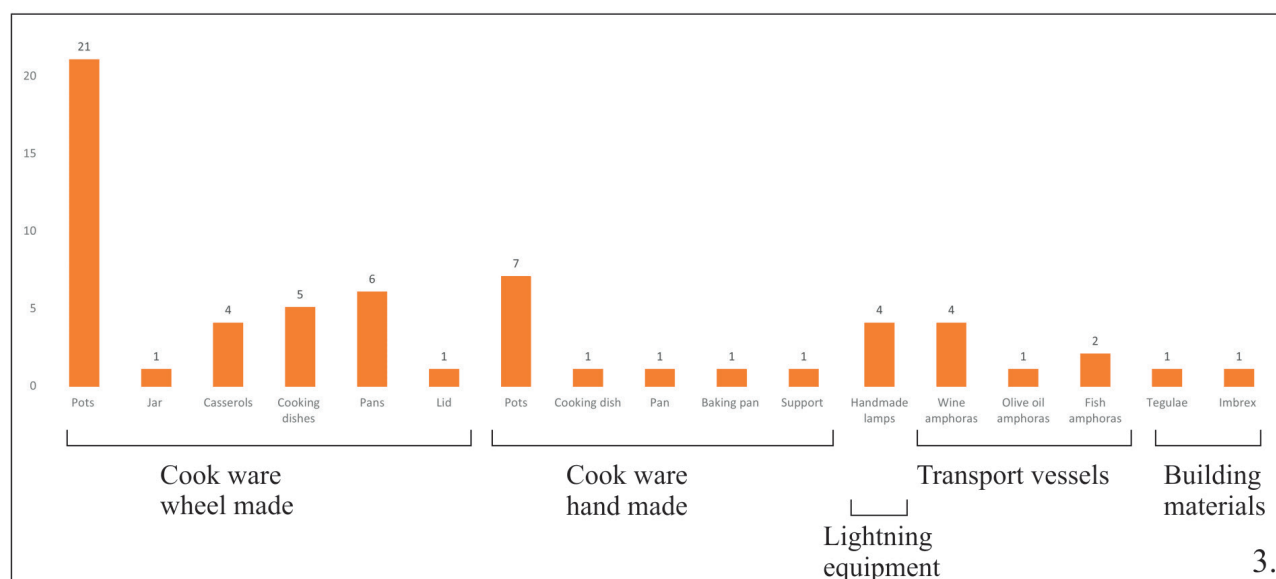
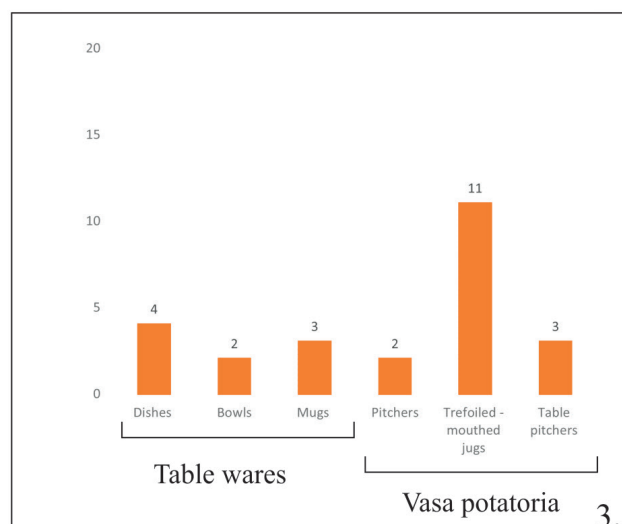
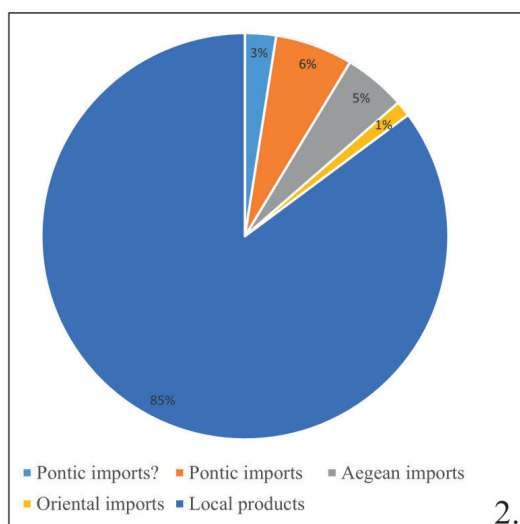
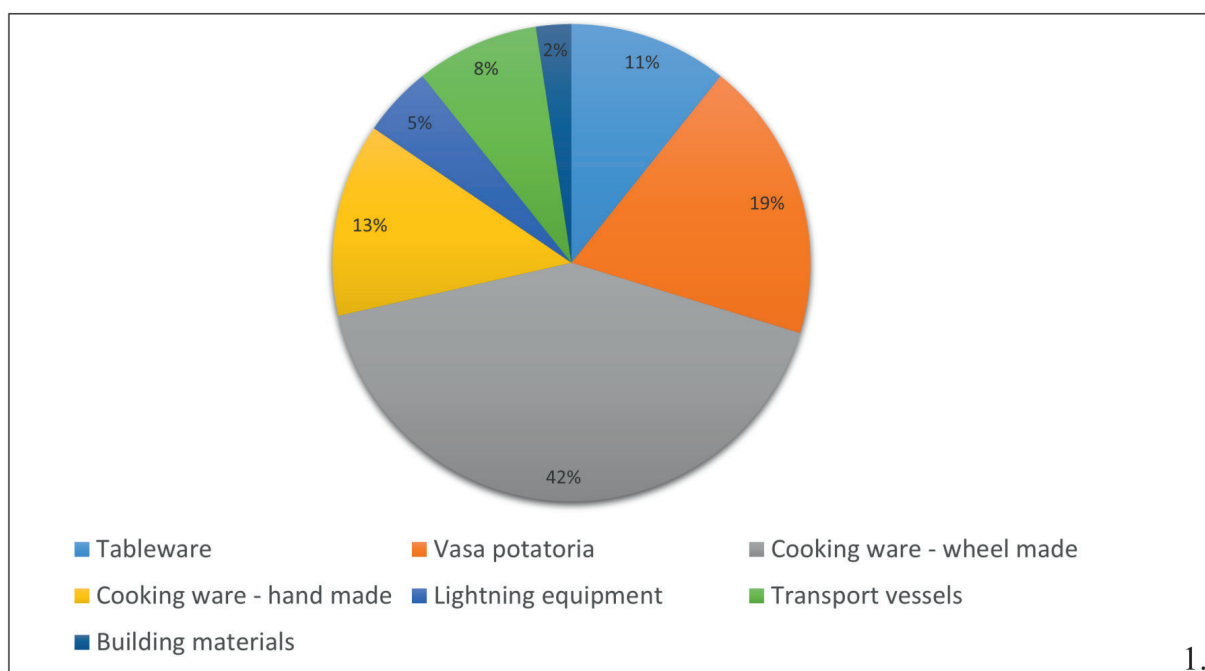


Fig. 11. 1. Distribution of finds by categories; 2. Distribution of finds according to local products – imports ratio; 3. quantification of forms according to main categories

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