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This volume is dedicated to the memory of Egon Dörner (1925–1993)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Egon Dörner".





# Observations Regarding the Dacian Discoveries made on the site of Zăbrani “La Pârneavă”, Arad County (first-second century A.D.)<sup>1</sup>

Alexandru Berzovan

**Abstract:** During the 1965–1985 period the archaeology of Arad experienced a special impetus in the research of the traces of the Dacian civilization. The investigations have mainly envisaged the fortifications and possible fortifications of the Dacians. Nevertheless, returning to the “rural” world one can note that almost no data is available. The present study discusses a series of archaeological materials that have remained unpublished, found on the multi-stratum site of Zăbrani “La Pârneavă”, archaeologically researched between 1973 and 1975. The discovered materials are rather few in numbers and they exclusively consist of pottery. The majority of these items have been found in the culture layer, except for some items discovered in two complexes: one pit-house and one pit. The absence of documentation does not allow one to establish the precise use of the pit. On the basis of the pottery, the Dacian remains there can be dated to the wider interval of the first-second century A.D., namely not earlier than 50 A.D. and not later than the middle of the second century A.D. Paleobotanical analyses performed on the site suggest a survival economy.

**Keywords:** Lower Mureș, Zăbrani, period of the Dacian kingdom, Dacian pottery.

## Introduction

During the 1965–1985 period the archaeology of Arad experienced a special impetus in the research of the traces of the Dacian civilization<sup>2</sup>. The investigations have mainly envisaged the fortifications and possible fortifications of the Dacians, but, for various reasons, the majority of the discovered materials, with the notable exception of those from Pecica “Șanțul Mare”<sup>3</sup>, have remained, until now, insufficiently valorized.

One thus knows rather little on the Dacian fortifications from this area. Nevertheless, returning to the “rural” world one can note that almost no data is available. The repertory available at this stage of research mainly includes settlements the existence of which has been postulated on the basis of surface researches. Very few of them have been researched through excavations or text excavations of any type<sup>4</sup>.

The present study discusses a series of archaeological materials that have remained unpublished<sup>5</sup>, found on the multi-stratum site of Zăbrani “La Pârneavă”, archaeologically researched between 1973 and 1975. The rich Paleolithic materials discovered there have been published during time in several distinct studies<sup>6</sup>, but the Dacian discoveries have not been yet presented in detail, as they have only been mentioned in brief informative notes in a series of local newspapers<sup>7</sup>.

Unfortunately, the excavation documentation preserved in the archive of the Arad Museum Complex is incomplete<sup>8</sup>. and this renders all interpretative initiative significantly more difficult. Prof. Eugen Pădurean, who took part in the excavations, has kindly provided several completions.

<sup>1</sup> English translation: Ana M. Gruia.

<sup>2</sup> For an evaluation of the stage of research, see Berzovan 2013a, 75–76.

<sup>3</sup> Crișan 1978.

<sup>4</sup> For example Zdroba 1982; Barbu, Mureșan 1987; for further details, see Berzovan 2013a.

<sup>5</sup> The late V. Boroneanț, leader of the excavation, has allowed me to publish the Dacian materials from Zăbrani ever since 2010. I would also like to thank the collective of the Arad Museum Complex (Prof. Dr. Peter Hügel, Dr. Victor Sava and Dr. Florin Mărginean) for all their support.

<sup>6</sup> Boroneanț 1979; Boroneanț, Boroneanț 2002, 13–52.

<sup>7</sup> Pădurean 1972; Dörner 1975; Dörner 1976; see also Manea 1973 and Hayer 1973 for other reactions to the discoveries from Zăbrani in that era's printed media.

<sup>8</sup> One cannot exclude the possibility that other documents, that I was unable to access, are kept in the private collection of the late V. Boroneanț.

## I. The archaeological site of Zăbrani “La Pârneavă”

From a geographic perspective, the discussed site is located in the north-western extremity of Lipovei Hills, i.e. on the place where they meet the Mureș Meadow. This was the western part of pre-Roman Dacia (Pl. 1/1).

The spot is located in the margin of a high terrace that dominates with ca. 20 m. the lower surrounding areas. There are favorable habitat conditions: in this area, River Mureș exits the mountains and enters, making several meanders, the Western Plain through the wide gulf of the Lipova – Păuliș Depression.

Mureșului Meadow, in the ancient times marshy and submitted to periodical floods, could not have been integrated into the agricultural circuit, but it provided an abundance of game, oysters, and fish to the human communities. North of the great river, the short and abrupt peaks of Zarandului Mountains, well forested, provided an abundance of timber. There were also underground resources, among which copper is the most important, to be found in the area of Cladova<sup>9</sup>.

On the other hand, the southern bank, dominated by the gentle extensions of Lipovei Hills that are gradually lost into the High Vinga Plain, has been fit for the practice of agriculture. The highest concentration of habitation traces in this very area (Pl. 1/2) might not be a simple coincidence<sup>10</sup>.

What local communities were unable to obtain locally was the object of trade (and, maybe, plunder), as the Mureș Valley was in the old times an important commercial artery that connected the Transylvanian area and the Pannonian Plain.

The site on the spot called “La Pârneavă” was discovered in the summer of 1972, during field researches performed by Eugen Pădurean. The identification of significant Paleolithic and third-fourth century A.D. finds, both in “La Pârneavă” and in close proximity, in the area called “Dealului Viilor”, on that occasion, has triggered the start of the first systematic archaeological researches in the area in the subsequent year. Thus, in 1973, a team consisting of Vasile Boroneanț, Egon Dörner, Marin Cărciumaru, John Nandriș, and Eugen Pădurean started the first excavations in “Dealul Viilor”, revealing a rich lithic material from the Middle and Upper Paleolithic. During the subsequent year a smaller team, consisting of V. Boroneanț, E. Dörner, and E. Pădurean, continued and extended the excavations also in “La Pârneavă”; on that occasion they have also identified traces of material culture from other periods such as the First Iron Age, the period of the Dacian Kingdom, the third-fourth centuries A.D., and the Early Middle Ages.

## II. Dacian discoveries

Rather few Dacian materials were discovered and they consisted of just pottery. The majority were found inside the culture layer, except for some items found in two complexes: one pit-house and one pit<sup>11</sup>. As for the pit-house, I could not identify it on the excavation ground plan at my disposal; its shape, dimensions, and outlook remain unknown. The recovered materials consisted of pottery fragments made on the potter’s wheel or hand modeled.

Equally scarce information is available on the pit. It is indicated on the only existing ground plan of the site (see Pl. 3). Its exact shape cannot be established; in the upper part, the pit is cut by an early medieval dwelling. The diameter of the pit’s bottom seems to have measured around 1.50 m. As for the inventory, it seems to have been rather varied: pottery fragments modeled by hand and on the potters’ wheel, clay weights, and spindle weights. No data is available on the position of these items inside the pit.

The location of the archaeological sections could not be established on site and field researches have not led to relevant results either.

Despite its modest character, the Dacian site from Zăbrani was the only one in the Lower Mureș

<sup>9</sup> Giușcă, Bleahu 1966.

<sup>10</sup> For a detailed analysis of pre-Roman Dacian habitat from the area where River Mureș enters Aradului Plain, see Berzovan, Coatu 2011.

<sup>11</sup> In a popularizing article (Dörner 1976, 6), the author spoke of half pit-dwellings but also surface dwellings and several “refuse pits”. Due to the mentioned deficiencies, I was unable to verify these data.

Valley to benefit from paleobotanical analyses. Thus, a series of analyses performed on a lot of seeds recovered during the archaeological researchers performed there<sup>12</sup> provide several pieces of information on the settlement's economy. Specialists were able to establish the existence of the following species: *Triticum diccicum* (ancestral wheat), *T. Monococcum* (Einkhorn wheat), *Setaria sp. Italica* (?) (Foxtail millet), and *Panicum miliaceum* (Proso millet)<sup>13</sup>. The restricted repertory of wheat and millet species suggests a restricted agricultural production, at a subsistence level, envisaging simple but resistant varieties. During Antiquity, all the four species mentioned above were used as nourishment<sup>14</sup>; various recipes of food and porridge were probably cooked with ground grains.

### III. Chronology and importance of the discoveries

It seems that the chronology of the Dacian vestiges from “La Pârneavă” has generated certain problems, so that researchers have provided, in time, two distinct datings: during the pre-Roman Dacian period<sup>15</sup> and during the Roman period<sup>16</sup>. The presence in this settlement of a lot of materials obviously dated to the third-fourth centuries A.D. (that I shall not present here) probably contributed to this situation.

In the absence of relevant metal items, it is difficult to establish a solid chronology. I shall nevertheless subsequently present several observations mainly based on the material recovered from the pit. The few globular or bell-shaped pots present in that context (see no. 10, 11, and 12) represent “archaic” shapes that betray the influence of the pottery traditions of the First Iron Age. They were almost certainly initially part of an earlier habitation layer disturbed by the Dacian pit.

At first glance, the majority of recovered archaeological materials belong to the transition horizon from “classical” Dacian shapes and those from the Roman period. For example, the reconstructed jar (no. 1), with atypical decoration (see Pl. 1a and 1b), can be included from a morphological perspective to the slim, elongated type. This is a relatively common shape, with analogies in numerous sites throughout pre-Roman Dacia: Cetățeni (from the upper layer)<sup>17</sup>, Sighișoara “Wietenberg”<sup>18</sup>, Pietroasele “Gruu Dării”<sup>19</sup>, Poiana<sup>20</sup>, Răcătău<sup>21</sup> etc. As for its chronology, the shape is especially typical to the first century A.D.<sup>22</sup>, but it also features in the material culture of the Dacians during the Roman period<sup>23</sup>.

As for the cup fragments (no. 2, 4, and 5), it is rather difficult to say if they were once part of fruit-bowls or other types of vessels. Anyway, their morphology also seems to suggest a later dating – one can mention some very good analogies from the site in Segvár – “Oromdölö” (Hungary)<sup>24</sup>.

A ring-shaped bottom, made on the potter's wheel and fired in an oxidizing atmosphere (no. 16), probably belonged to a *pythos*, a type of pot frequent in the pottery repertoire of the first century B.C. – first century A.D.<sup>25</sup>.

Thus, starting from these preliminary observations, the pit could be dated, with due caution, to the first-second century A.D., no earlier than the first century A.D. and no later than the beginning of

<sup>12</sup> Nandriș 1981, 238; Cărciumaru 1996, 59. R. N. L. B. Hubbard performed the determinations, in England.

<sup>13</sup> Nandriș 1981, 238.

<sup>14</sup> Suci 2009, 118.

<sup>15</sup> E. Dörner (1975, 7) speaks of “beautifully ornamented pottery from the period of the Dacian state”; during the subsequent year, in a new popularizing article (1976, 6), the Dacian traces from Zăbrani were discussed beside those from Clit, Pecica, Berindia. In the inventory catalogue of the Arad Museum Complex part of the items from Zăbrani are also dated to the first century B.C. – first century A.D.

<sup>16</sup> For example RAJ Arad 1999, 136; Luca 2006, 245.

<sup>17</sup> Măndescu 2006, Pl. 42/1.

<sup>18</sup> Andrișoiu, Rustoiu 1997, fig. 62.

<sup>19</sup> Dupoi, Sirbu 2001, fig. 70/3.

<sup>20</sup> Vulpe, Teodor 2003, fig. 158/2.

<sup>21</sup> Căpitanu 1986–1987, fig. 30/2,4.

<sup>22</sup> Matei 2011, 49–50.

<sup>23</sup> In the Carpien environment for example (Bichir 1973, pl. XLIV, pl. XLV, etc.); a morphologically similar pot, decorated with “tamga”-type marks, was found in Șiria (Arad County), dated to the wider interval of the first-third century A.D. (Berzovan, Pădurean 2010).

<sup>24</sup> Istvanovits *et al.* 2005, pl. 7/1; pl. 12/6; pl. 31/3, dated to the second century A.D. Nevertheless, in my opinion, taking into consideration the illustrated material, the Dacian habitation from “Oromdölö” seems to have started earlier.

<sup>25</sup> See the discussions in Glodariu 1995.

the second century A.D.; the same dating can be extended to the rest of habitation traces identified there. The fruit-bowl foot fragment (no. 43), but also the bowl fragment (no. 44), found inside the settlement, seem to complete these observations.

A series of questions arise on the importance of the discoveries, i.e. on the pit's role and function. It is difficult to state if this was an ordinary pit, for provisions – possibly also a refuse pit – or a ritual pit. The argument that forces one to take into consideration the second hypothesis as well is the inventory that includes spindle-weights and clay weights, the presence of which is more difficult to explain in the case of a simple storage pit. On the other hand, the inclusion of a pit in the group of ritual pits involves a vast argumentative analysis, in which the inventory only represents one element among all the characteristics taken into consideration<sup>26</sup>. In this context, according to the present conditions, a definitive verdict cannot be reached.

An interesting problem relates to the significance of the artistic ornaments from the reconstructed jar (no 1, Pl. 4/1a and the unfolded decoration, 1b), that lack analogies<sup>27</sup>. At first glance, they might be stylized renderings of vegetal or solar motifs, maybe in connection to the era's beliefs and superstitions, as their cardinal location seems to suggest as well. Nevertheless, the five smaller veins, radially starting from the two hooks, might also indicate a much stylized depiction of an open palm. Just as likely, the ornaments could be devoid of all meaning, the simple result of the potter master's inspiration. Beyond these possible interpretations, their meaning (or lack of meaning) is difficult to establish.

#### IV. Final observations

Therefore, the site in Zăbrani "La Pârneavă" consists of traces of a Dacian settlement of rural character, modest from an economical perspective, very likely based on a subsistence-type economy, according to the paleobotanical analyses. The presence of spindle-weights and also of clay weights indicate the fact that domestic crafts were practiced inside the settlement. On the other hand, the lack of metal items, imports, and coins suggests a certain poverty of the site and its inhabitants; this image can be, nevertheless, relative, as a deposit of tools and weapons was found in Chesinț and the items might have hypothetically belonged to certain local communities.

New researches will have to complete the information provided by the present study and I hope that the future publication of Dacian materials from near-by sites where excavations have been performed (Cladova, Șoimoș), will further complete the picture of Dacian traces at the entrance of River Mureș into Aradului Plain.

#### Appendix 1: Catalog

I shall subsequently present the archaeological materials that I have analyzed. I shall not dwell on the description system, with the corresponding categories, as it is detailed in one of my previous articles<sup>28</sup>.

#### Materials recovered from the pit

##### 1. (Pl. 4/1a,b)

**Code:** 15 557; **Type:** jar; flared rim, flattened end; flat base, no sole; slightly deformed; **Technique:** hand modeled; reducing firing; blunt wooden instrument; **Dimensions:** Ø<sub>mouth</sub>: 13.5 cm; Ø<sub>neck</sub>: 11 cm; Ø<sub>median</sub>: 14.5 cm; Ø<sub>base</sub>: 8.5 cm; H<sub>total</sub>: 23.5 cm; H<sub>upper</sub>: 13.5 cm; H<sub>lower</sub>: 10 cm; Gr<sub>wall</sub>: 0.5–0.7 cm; **Aspect:** brown fabric; average roughness; accented strength; inclusions of sand, in moderate quantity; **Decoration:** alveoli girdle placed horizontally, in the upper half of the pot. Four hook-shaped veins start from the girdle; two such "hooks" generate five smaller veins, placed in radial positions; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

##### 2. (Pl. 5/2)

**Code:** 15 576 – 15 579; **Type:** fruit bowl (?); flat rim, strongly flared, flattened end; well-profiled shoulder; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; mix firing, predominantly reducing; traces of spatula; **Dimensions:** Ø<sub>mouth</sub>: 25.3 cm; Gr<sub>wall</sub>: 0.6–0.8 cm; **Aspect:** grey fabric, brown-reddish spots; polished on both sides; very low roughness; accented hardness; no visible inclusions; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

<sup>26</sup> See also my analysis of the ritual pits from Unip (Timiș County), Berzovan 2013b.

<sup>27</sup> I do not mean the two simple hooks, variations of a relatively common decorative motif, but the other two hooks from which five smaller veins start in a radial manner.

<sup>28</sup> Berzovan 2014; see also Teodor 2001 for methodological considerations on the description of fabric characteristics.



### 3. (Pl. 5/3)

**Code:** 15 580; **Type:** cooking pot; rim with flattened end, slightly flared; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; spatula; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{mouth}}$ : 28 cm;  $\varnothing_{\text{neck}}$ : 24.5 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.4–0.5 cm; **Aspect:** grey fabric; low roughness; average hardness; without visible inclusions; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

### 4. (Pl. 5/4)

**Code:** 15 581; **Type:** fruit bowl (?); strongly flared rim, rounded end; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{mouth}}$ : 25 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.5–0.8 cm; **Aspect:** dark-grey fabric; low roughness; average hardness; without visible inclusions; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

### 5. (Pl. 5/5)

**Code:** 15 583; **Type:** fruit bowl (?); rim with rounded end, slightly everted; cup with poorly profiled shoulder; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{mouth}}$ : 23.5 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.6–0.8 cm; **Aspect:** coffee-colored fabric; blackish slip on the inside; low roughness; average hardness; sand in small quantity; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

### 6. (Pl. 5/6)

**Code:** 15 584; **Type:** cooking pot (?), rim; slightly in-turned rim, rounded end; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; spatula; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{mouth}}$ : 18 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.5–0.7 cm; **Aspect:** grey fabric; low roughness; average hardness; very little grit; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

### 7. (Pl. 5/7)

**Code:** 15 586; **Type:** bowl (?), fragment; strongly flared rim, flattened end; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; oxidizing firing; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{mouth}}$ : 22 cm;  $\varnothing_{\text{neck}}$ : 20.5 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.6–0.9 cm; **Aspect:** reddish fabric, with grey core; red slip, polished, on both sides; low roughness; accented hardness; no visible inclusions; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

### 8. (Pl. 6/8)

**Code:** 15 575; **Type:** cooking pot, rim; strongly flared rim, rounded end; **Technique:** modeled by hand; reducing firing; spatula traces; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{mouth}}$ : 29 cm;  $\varnothing_{\text{neck}}$ : 25 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.8–0.9 cm; **Aspect:** dark grey fabric; average roughness; accented hardness; no visible inclusions; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

### 9. (Pl. 6/9)

**Code:** 15 561; **Type:** jar, fragment; slightly flared rim, flattened end; **Technique:** hand modeled; reducing firing; traces of spatula; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{mouth}}$ : 20 cm;  $\varnothing_{\text{neck}}$ : 19.5 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 1–1.2 cm; **Aspect:** brown fabric; accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in large quantity; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

### 10. (Pl. 6/10)

**Code:** 15 560; **Type:** pot, fragment; slightly in-turned rim, flattened end; **Technique:** modeled by hand; mix firing, predominantly oxidizing; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{mouth}}$ : 20 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.8–1 cm; **Aspect:** coffee-color fabric (on the outside), brick-red (on the inside); accented roughness; accented hardness; sand and grit in large quantity; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

### 11. (Pl. 6/11)

**Code:** 15 558; **Type:** pot, fragment; in-turned rim, flattened end; **Technique:** modeled by hand; mix firing, predominantly reducing; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{mouth}}$ : 17 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.6–1 cm; **Aspect:** brick-red fabric (on the outside), brown (on the inside); accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in moderate quantity; **Decoration:** alveoli girdle placed horizontally and ovoid-shaped button; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

### 12. (Pl. 6/12)

**Code:** 15 550; **Type:** bowl (?), fragment; flared rim, rounded end; **Technique:** modeled by hand; reducing firing; traces of fingers; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{mouth}}$ : 24 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.6–0.8 cm; **Aspect:** coffee-color fabric (on the outside), brown (on the inside); accented roughness; average hardness; sand in small quantity; **Decoration:** horizontal alveoli girdle; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

### 13. (Pl. 7/13)

**Code:** 15 549; **Type:** fragment, base; flat base, without sole; **Technique:** negligently modeled by hand; mix firing, predominantly reducing; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{fund}}$ : 15 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.8–1.2 cm; **Aspect:** brown fabric; very accented roughness; low hardness; sand and grit in large quantity; strong secondary firing on both sides; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

### 14. (Pl. 7/14)

**Code:** 15 567; **Type:** fragment, base; flat base, poorly profiled sole; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; spatula; **Dimensions:**  $\varnothing_{\text{fund}}$ : 9 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.8 cm; **Aspect:** grey fabric; dark-grey slip, polished on the outside; low roughness; accented hardness; no visible inclusions; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

**15. (Pl. 7/15)**

**Code:** 15 569; **Type:** fragment, base; flat base, no sole; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; traces of spatula, finger marks; **Dimensions:**  $\emptyset_{\text{base}}$ : 8 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 1.4 cm; **Aspect:** dark-grey fabric; polished on the outside; low roughness; average hardness; no visible inclusions; displays an orifice performed after firing with a sharp metal instrument; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

**16. (Pl. 7/16)**

**Code:** 15 570; **Type:** pythos (?); ring-base, poorly profiled sole; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; oxidizing firing; spatula; **Dimensions:**  $\emptyset_{\text{base}}$ : 9.7 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.8–1 cm; **Aspect:** brick-red fabric; polished on the outside; low roughness; accented hardness; no visible inclusions; slight secondary firing on both side; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

**17. (Pl. 7/17)**

**Code:** 15 574; **Type:** fragment, base; flat base, poorly profiled sole; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; **Dimensions:**  $\emptyset_{\text{base}}$ : 4 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.4–0.6 cm; **Aspect:** grey fabric; low roughness; accented hardness; no visible inclusions; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

**18. (Pl. 7/18)**

**Code:** 15 565; **Type:** cooking pot, base; flat base, no sole; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; spatula, finger marks; **Dimensions:**  $\emptyset_{\text{base}}$ : 13.5 cm; Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.8–1.3 cm; **Aspect:** grey fabric; dark grey slip polished on the outside; low roughness; accented hardness; no visible inclusions; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

**19. (Pl. 8/19)**

**Code:** 15 551; **Type:** pot fragment, wall; **Technique:** modeled by hand; mix firing, predominantly oxidizing; **Dimensions:** Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.8–1 cm; **Aspect:** brick-red fabric (outside), coffee-color (inside); average roughness; average hardness; sand in small quantity; **Decoration:** alveoli girdle placed horizontally; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

**20. (Pl. 8/20)**

**Code:** 15 552; **Type:** pot fragment, wall; **Technique:** modeled by hand; reducing firing; **Dimensions:** Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.8 cm; **Aspect:** blacking brown fabric; average roughness; accented hardness; sand and grit in small quantity; **Decoration:** displays a horizontal alveoli girdle and a horizontal line, incised with a blunt-ended instrument; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

**21. (Pl. 8/21)**

**Code:** 15 553; **Type:** pot fragment, wall; **Technique:** modeled by hand; mix firing, predominantly reducing; **Dimensions:** Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.5–0.6 = 7 cm; **Aspect:** brownish brick-red fabric; average roughness; accented hardness; sand in moderate quantity; **Decoration:** horizontally placed vein, carelessly performed; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

**22. (Pl. 8/22)**

**Code:** 15 554; **Type:** pot fragment, wall; **Technique:** modeled by hand; reducing firing; **Dimensions:** Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.6–1.5 cm; **Aspect:** blackish brown fabric; accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in large quantity; **Decoration:** horizontally placed alveoli girdle; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

**23. (Pl. 8/23)**

**Code:** 15 555; **Type:** pot fragment, wall; **Technique:** modeled by hand; mix firing, predominantly reducing; **Dimensions:** Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.6–1 cm; **Aspect:** brown fabric; accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in large quantity; **Decoration:** horizontal alveoli girdle; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

**24. (Pl. 8/24)**

**Code:** 15 556; **Type:** pot fragment, wall; **Technique:** modeled by hand; oxidizing firing; **Dimensions:** Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.5–0.7 cm; **Aspect:** brick-red fabric; accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in large quantity; **Decoration:** horizontally placed vein, pinched; **Place of discovery:** Zăbrani, La Pârneavă, the Dacian pit.

**25. (Pl. 8/25)**

**Code:** 15 557; **Type:** fragment, wall; straight rim, flattened end; **Technique:** modeled by hand; reducing firing; **Dimensions:** Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.7–0.8 cm; **Aspect:** coffee-color fabric (outside), grey (inside); average roughness; average hardness; sand in small quantity; **Decoration:** alveoli girdle placed under the rim, carelessly made; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit.

**26. (Pl. 8/26)**

**Code:** 15 559; **Type:** fragment, wall; **Technique:** modeled by hand; mix firing, predominantly oxidizing; **Dimensions:** Gr.  $_{\text{wall}}$ : 0.6–1 cm; **Aspect:** coffee-color fabric (outside), brown/brick-red (inside), black core; accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in average quantity; **Decoration:** displays small button applied on the pot's wet fabric; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

**27. (Pl. 9/27)**

**Code:** 15 562; **Material:** burnt clay; **Dimensions:** Ø: 4.8 cm; Ø<sub>orifice</sub>: 0.7 cm; H.<sub>total</sub>: 3.5 cm; **Description:** approximately bi-trunk-shaped object, carefully modeled by hand, reducing firing, brown color, displays a central undecorated orifice; **Function:** spindle weight or toy ("spinning top"); **Degree of preservation:** good; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

**28. (Pl. 9/28)**

**Code:** 15 548; **Type:** cup – oil lamp („cătuie"); notched rim, flared, with rounded end; flat base, no sole; full lower handle; **Technique:** modeled by hand; reducing firing; finger marks; with secondary firing and smoked on the inside; **Dimensions:** Ø<sub>mouth</sub>: 10.6 cm; Ø<sub>base</sub>: 5.2 cm; H.<sub>total</sub>: 5.2 cm; Gr.<sub>wall</sub>: 0.6–1 cm; **Aspect:** brown fabric; accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in small quantity; **Decoration:** displays a notched rim; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

**29. (Pl. 9/29)**

**Code:** 15 563; **Material:** burnt clay; **Dimensions:** Ø: 4.8 cm; Ø<sub>orifice</sub>: 1 cm; H.<sub>total</sub>: 3 cm; **Description:** trunk-shaped object, modeled by hand, reducing firing, brown-grey in color, displays a central orifice. It displays two cuts inside the orifice, performed after firing; **Function:** spindle-weight or toy ("spinning top"); **Degree of preservation:** good; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

**30. (Pl. 9/30)**

**Code:** 15 587; **Type:** handle, fragment; ovoid-shaped in profile; **Technique:** modeled by hand; reducing firing; **Dimensions:** Gr.<sub>handle</sub>: 1.5 cm; **Aspect:** brown fabric; accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in average quantity; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

**31. (Pl. 9/31)**

**Code:** 15 564; **Material:** burnt clay; **Dimensions:** Ø<sub>total</sub>: 3 cm; Ø<sub>orifice</sub>: 0.8 cm; H.<sub>total</sub>: 2 cm; **Description:** bi-trunk-shaped object, carefully modeled by hand, reducing firing, blacking-brown in color, displays a central orifice. Ornamented with two horizontal straps consisting of three zigzag lines each, placed on the two halves. It also displays straps consisting of two horizontal lines each placed in the upper part, the lower part, and in the middle. The decoration, performed in a rather careful manner, was made with an instrument with a sharp tip; **Function:** spindle weight; **Degree of preservation:** good; **Place of discovery:** the Dacian pit.

**32. (Pl. 10/32)**

**Code:** 15544; **Material:** clay; **Dimensions:** H: 16.6 cm; l: 8–11 cm; Ø<sub>orifice</sub>: 1 cm; **Description:** pyramid-trunk-shaped object, with one hollowing at the end; reducing firing; displays inclusions of sand in average quantity and grit in small quantity; secondary firing on the base; **Function:** clay weight; **Degree of preservation:** good, the item is entirely preserved; **Place of discovery:** Dacian pit

**33. (Pl. 10/33)**

**Code:** 15 545; **Material:** burnt clay; **Dimensions:** H: 17 cm; l: 5–11.2 cm; G: 6–11.2 cm; Ø<sub>orifice</sub>: 1.2–1.5 cm; **Description:** pyramid-trunk-shaped object, carelessly modeled, in the upper part it displays an orifice performed before firing; mix firing, predominantly oxidizing; as inclusions it contains sand, grit, and chaff in small quantity; **Function:** clay weight; **Degree of preservation:** good.

**Other materials****34. (Pl. 11/34)**

**Code:** Zăbrani 1975\_E\_bordei\_1; **Type:** cooking pot, fragment; rim with two steps, slightly flared, rounded end; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; traces of spatula; **Dimensions:** Ø<sub>mouth</sub>: 15 cm; Ø<sub>neck</sub>: 13.3 cm; Gr.<sub>wall</sub>: 0.8–1 cm; **Aspect:** grey fabric; polished on the outside; very low roughness; accented hardness; as inclusions, mica in small quantity; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** section E, pit-house.

**35. (Pl. 11/35)**

**Code:** Zăbrani 1975\_E\_bordei\_4a,b; **Type:** cup – oil lamp („cătuie"); flat base, no sole; flared rim, rounded end; lowered handle, circular in section (broken); **Technique:** modeled by hand; reducing firing; finger marks; **Dimensions:** Ø<sub>mouth</sub>: 19 cm; Ø<sub>base</sub>: 9.2 cm; H.<sub>total</sub>: 8 cm; Gr.<sub>wall</sub>: 0.9–1.3 cm; **Aspect:** brown fabric; accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in moderate quantity; secondary firing and smoking on both sides; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** section E, pit-house.

**36. (Pl. 11/36)**

**Code:** Zăbrani 1975\_E\_pit-house\_5; **Type:** fragment, wall; **Technique:** modeled by hand; reducing firing; **Dimensions:** Gr.<sub>wall</sub>: 0.8–0.9 cm; **Aspect:** blackish fabric (outside), brown (inside); accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in average quantity; secondary firing on the outside; **Decoration:** alveoli girdle placed horizontally; **Place of discovery:** section E, pit-house.

**37. (Pl. 11/37)**

**Code:** Zăbrani 1975\_E\_pit-house\_6; **Type:** cup – oil-lamp (“cătuie”) fragmentary, handle; circular profile; **Technique:** modeled by hand; oxidizing firing; **Dimensions:** Gr. <sub>handle</sub>: 1.2 cm; **Aspect:** brown/brick-red fabric; accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in moderate quantity; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** section E, pit-house.

**38. (Pl. 11/38)**

**Code:** Zăbrani 1975\_E\_pit-house\_3; **Type:** fragment, wall; **Technique:** modeled by hand; reducing firing; spatula; **Dimensions:** Gr. <sub>wall</sub>: 0.8–1 cm; **Aspect:** blackish brown fabric (outside), brown (inside); accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in average quantity; **Decoration:** horizontally placed alveoli girdle; **Place of discovery:** section E, pit-house.

**39. (Pl. 11/39)**

**Code:** Zăbrani 1975\_E\_pit-house\_2; **Type:** fragment, wall; **Technique:** modeled by hand; mix firing, predominantly reducing; **Dimensions:** Gr. <sub>wall</sub>: 0.6–1 cm; **Aspect:** brown fabric (outside), reddish-brown (inside); accented roughness; accented hardness; sand in moderate quantity; **Decoration:** alveoli girdle placed horizontally; **Place of discovery:** section E, pit-house.

**40. (Pl. 12/40)**

**Code:** Zăbrani\_E\_1; **Type:** fragment; strongly flared rim, flattened end; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; spatula, polishing tool; **Dimensions:** Ø <sub>mouth</sub>: 18 cm; Ø <sub>neck</sub>: 14.6 cm; Gr. <sub>wall</sub>: 0.5–0.7 cm; **Aspect:** grey fabric, slightly polished on the outside; low roughness; accented hardness; no visible inclusions; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** section E.

**41. (Pl. 12/41)**

**Code:** Zăbrani\_E\_3; **Type:** fragment; flared rim, rounded end; lower handle, ovoid-shaped in profile (broken); **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; spatula; **Dimensions:** Ø <sub>mouth</sub>: 17.2 cm; Ø <sub>neck</sub>: 14 cm; Gr. <sub>wall</sub>: 0.6–0.9 cm; Gr. <sub>handle</sub>: 0.7–1.2 cm; **Aspect:** grey fabric; average roughness; average hardness; grit in small quantity; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** section E.

**42. (Pl. 12/43)**

**Code:** Zăbrani\_E\_4; **Type:** jar; flared rim, rounded end; **Technique:** modeled by hand, carelessly; reducing firing; finger marks; **Dimensions:** Ø <sub>mouth</sub>: 16.8 cm; Ø <sub>neck</sub>: 15.7 cm; Gr. <sub>wall</sub>: 0.6–1.3 cm; **Aspect:** blackish fabric; accented roughness; accented hardness; grit in average quantity; secondary firing and smoking on both sides; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** section E.

**43. (Pl. 12/43)**

**Code:** Zăbrani\_E\_2; **Type:** fruit bowl (foot); **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; spatula; **Dimensions:** Ø <sub>base</sub>: 17 cm; Gr. <sub>wall</sub>: 0.6–0.8 cm; **Aspect:** blackish-grey fabric; brown core; average roughness; accented hardness; mica in small quantity; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** section E.

**44. (Pl. 12/44)**

**Code:** Zăbrani\_E\_9; **Type:** bowl; slightly flared rim, flattened end; **Technique:** wheel-thrown; reducing firing; spatula, polishing tool; **Dimensions:** Ø <sub>mouth</sub>: 12 cm; Ø <sub>neck</sub>: 11.5 cm; Gr. <sub>wall</sub>: 0.5–0.7 cm; **Aspect:** grey fabric; polished on both sides; very low roughness; average hardness; no visible inclusions; **Decoration:** undecorated; **Place of discovery:** section E.

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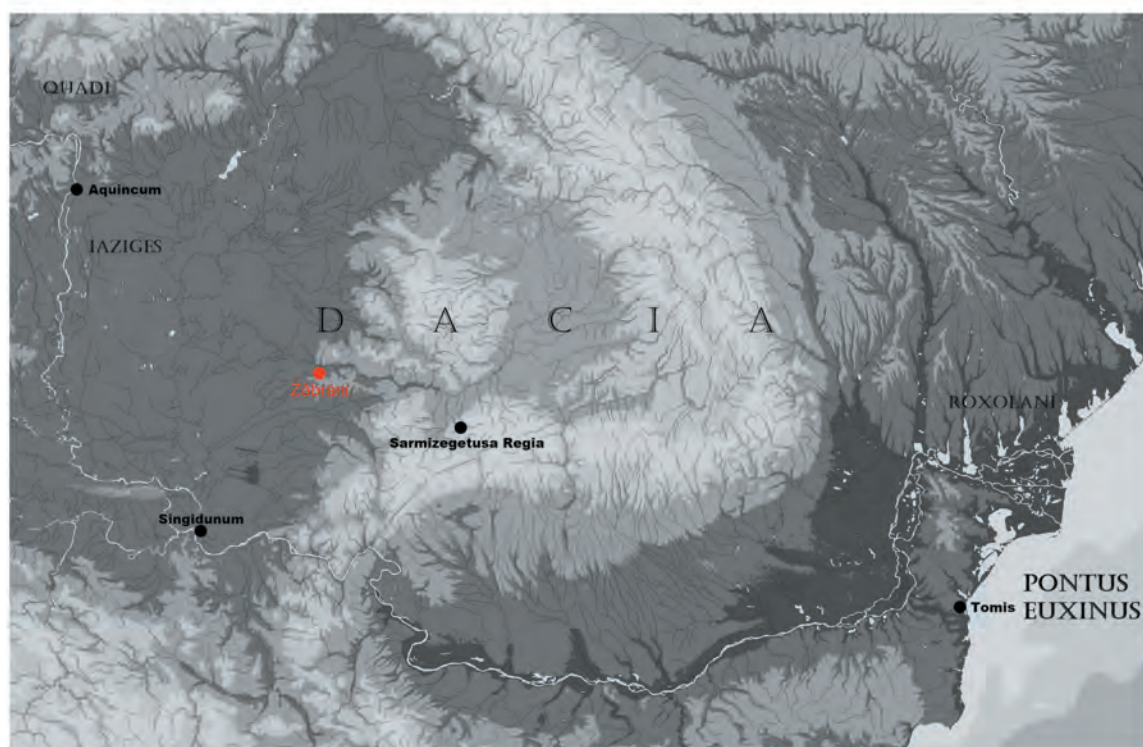
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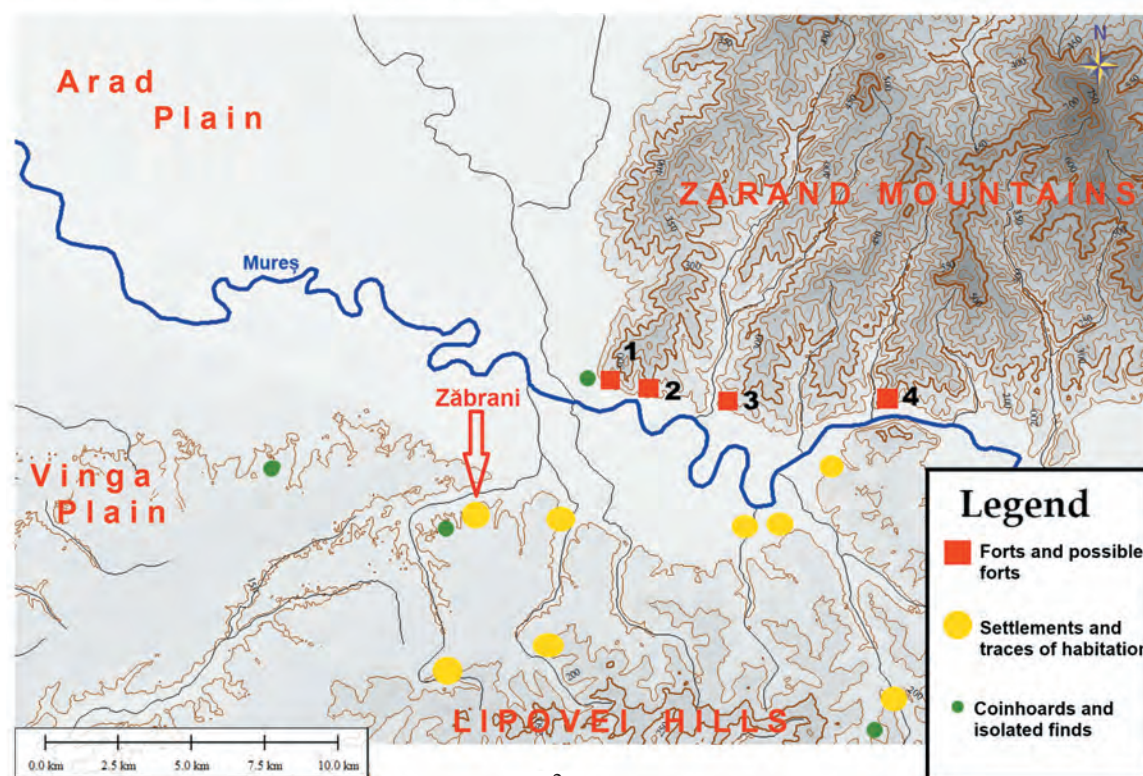
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2

Plate 1. 1. Map of pre-Roman Dacia with the location of the site under discussion; 2. Lipova – Păuliș Depression: 1. Păuliș "Dealul Bătrân"; 2. Păuliș 2; 3. Cladova "Dealul Cetății"; 4. Șoimoș "Dealul Cetății".





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Plate 2. 1. Zăbrani “La Pârneavă” (topographic map 1:25 000); 2. Zăbrani “La Pârneavă” (ortho-photoplan).

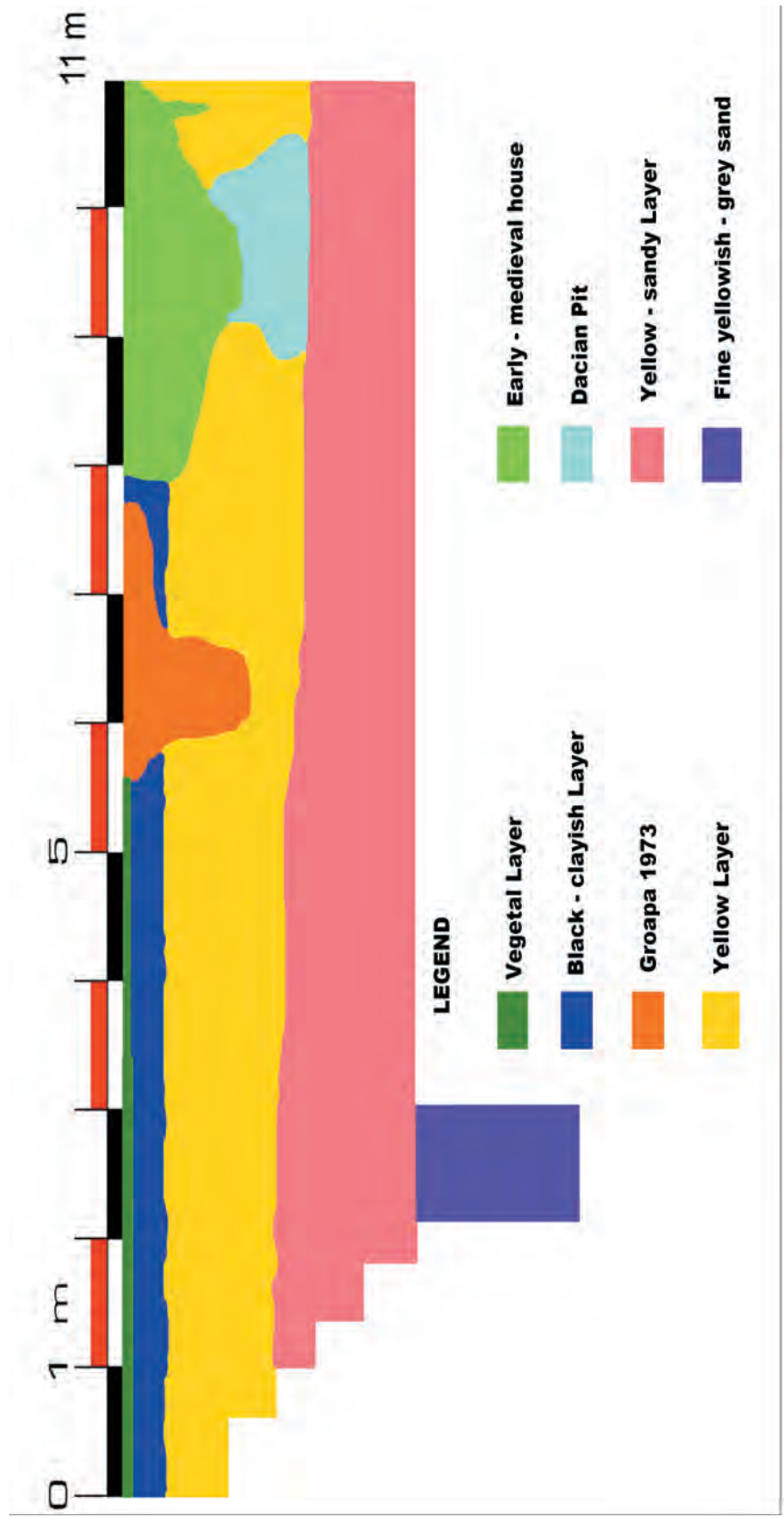


Plate 3. Ground plan of the excavations from "La Pârneavă".

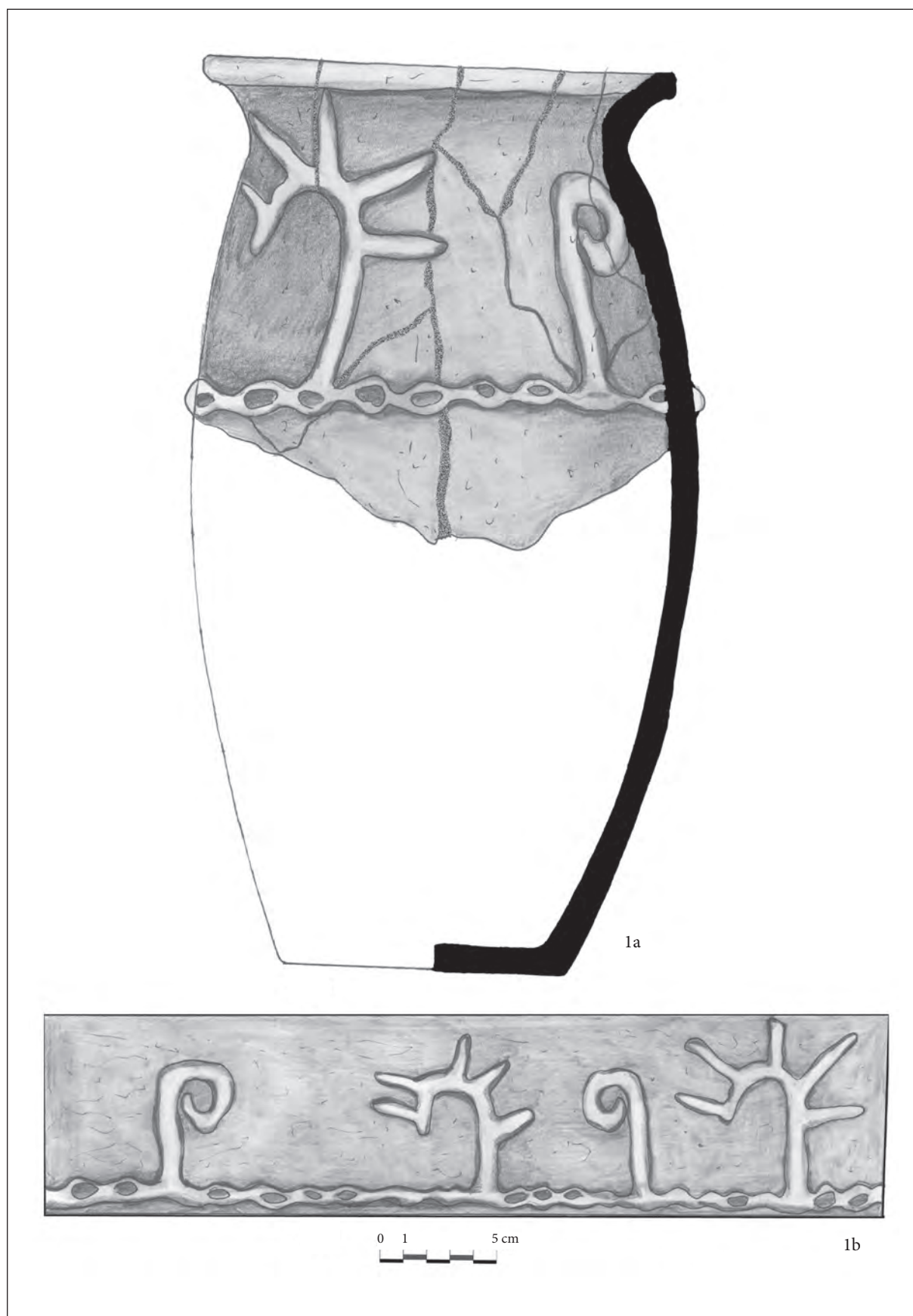


Plate 4. Decorated jar, modeled by hand.



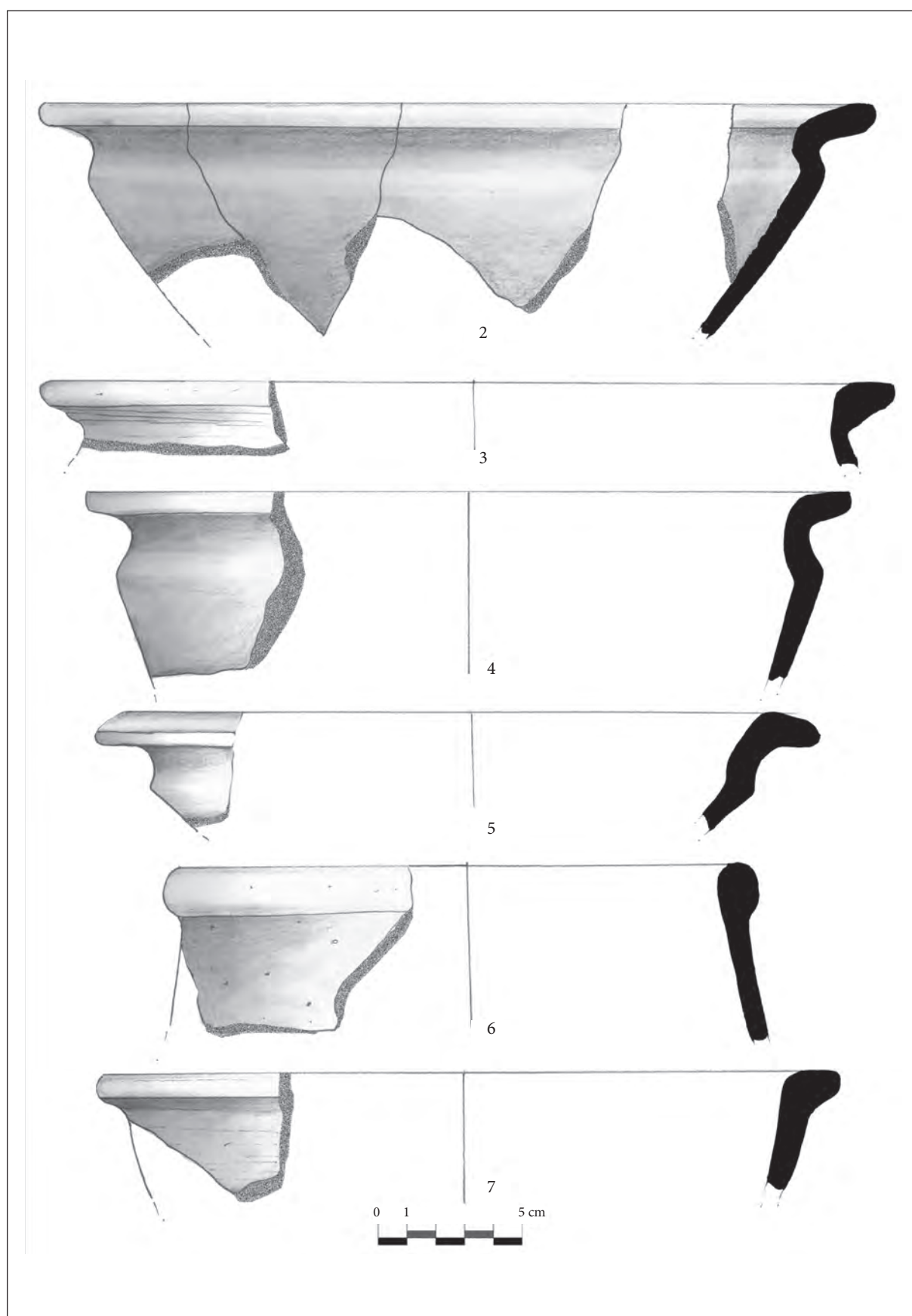


Plate 5. Various categories of pots.

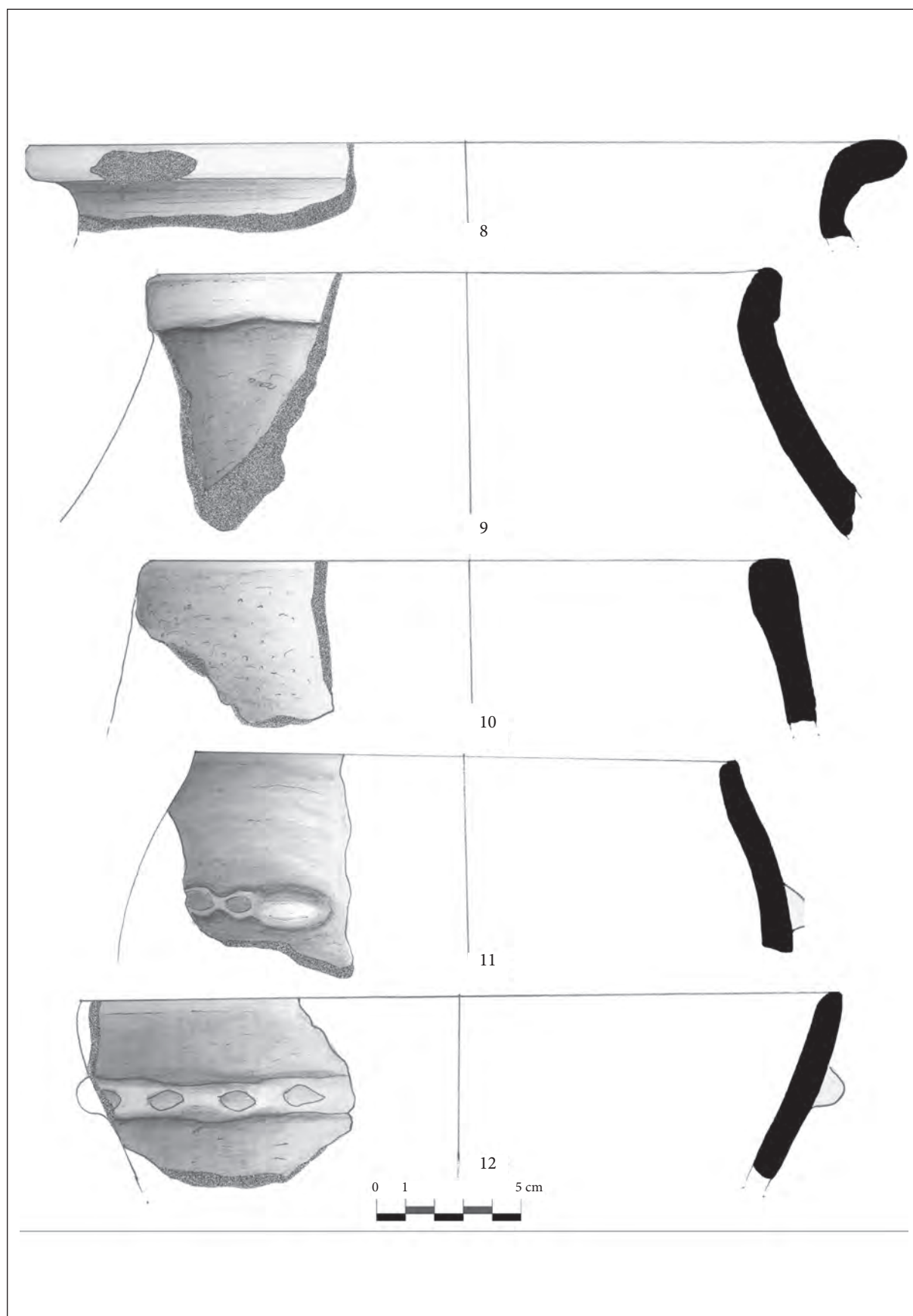


Plate 6. Various categories of pots.

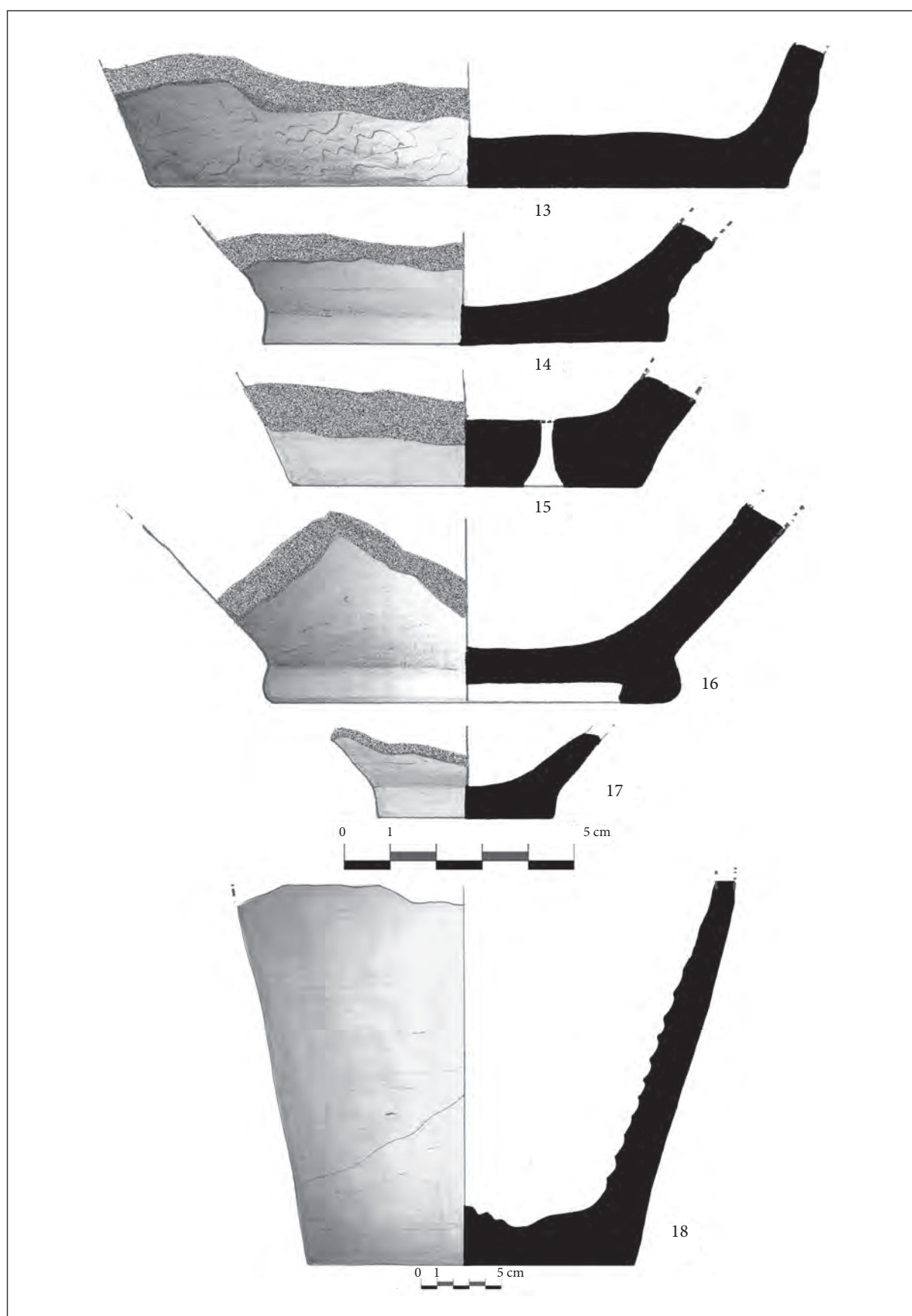


Plate 7. Pot fragments (bases).



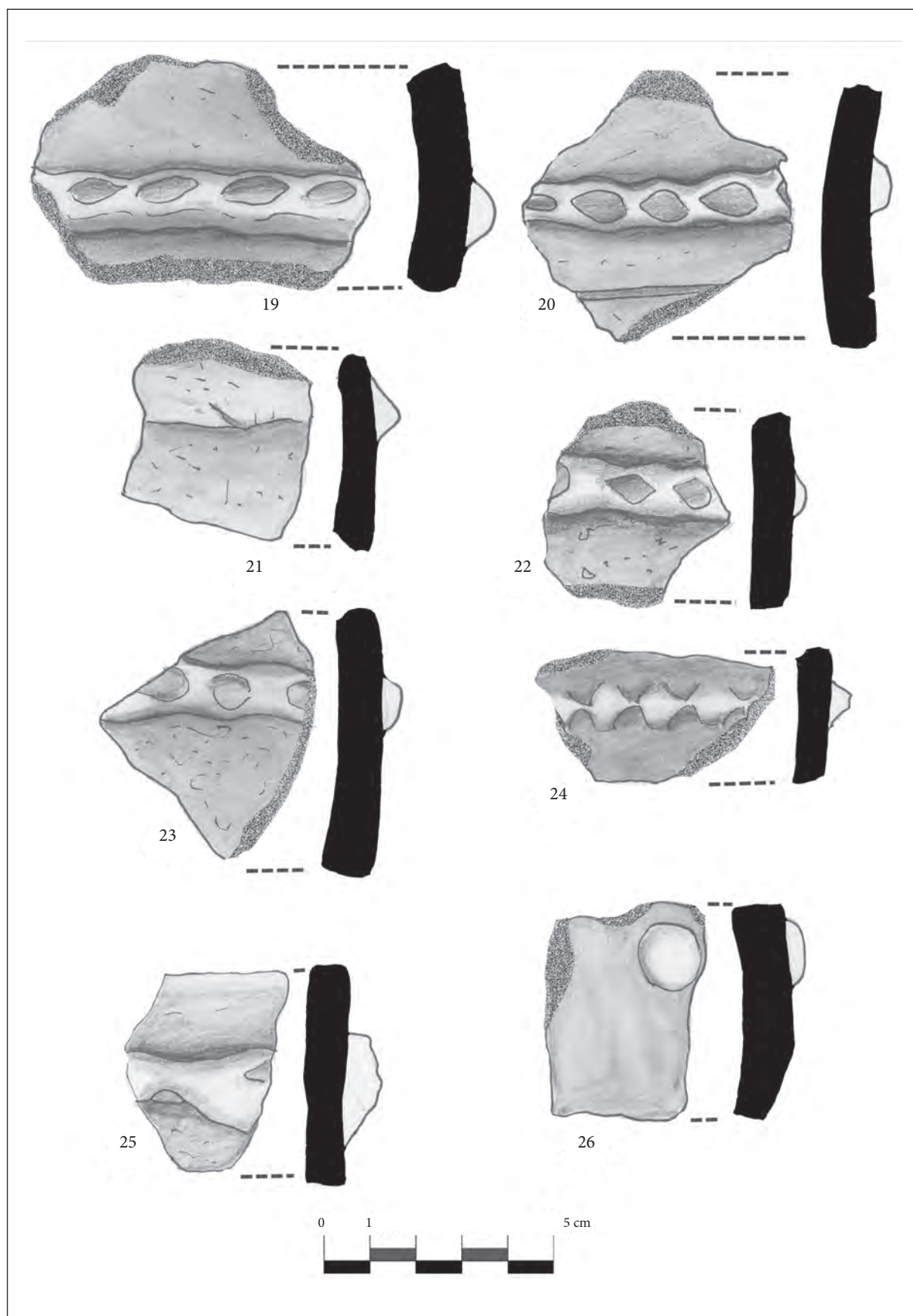


Plate 8. Pot fragments (walls).

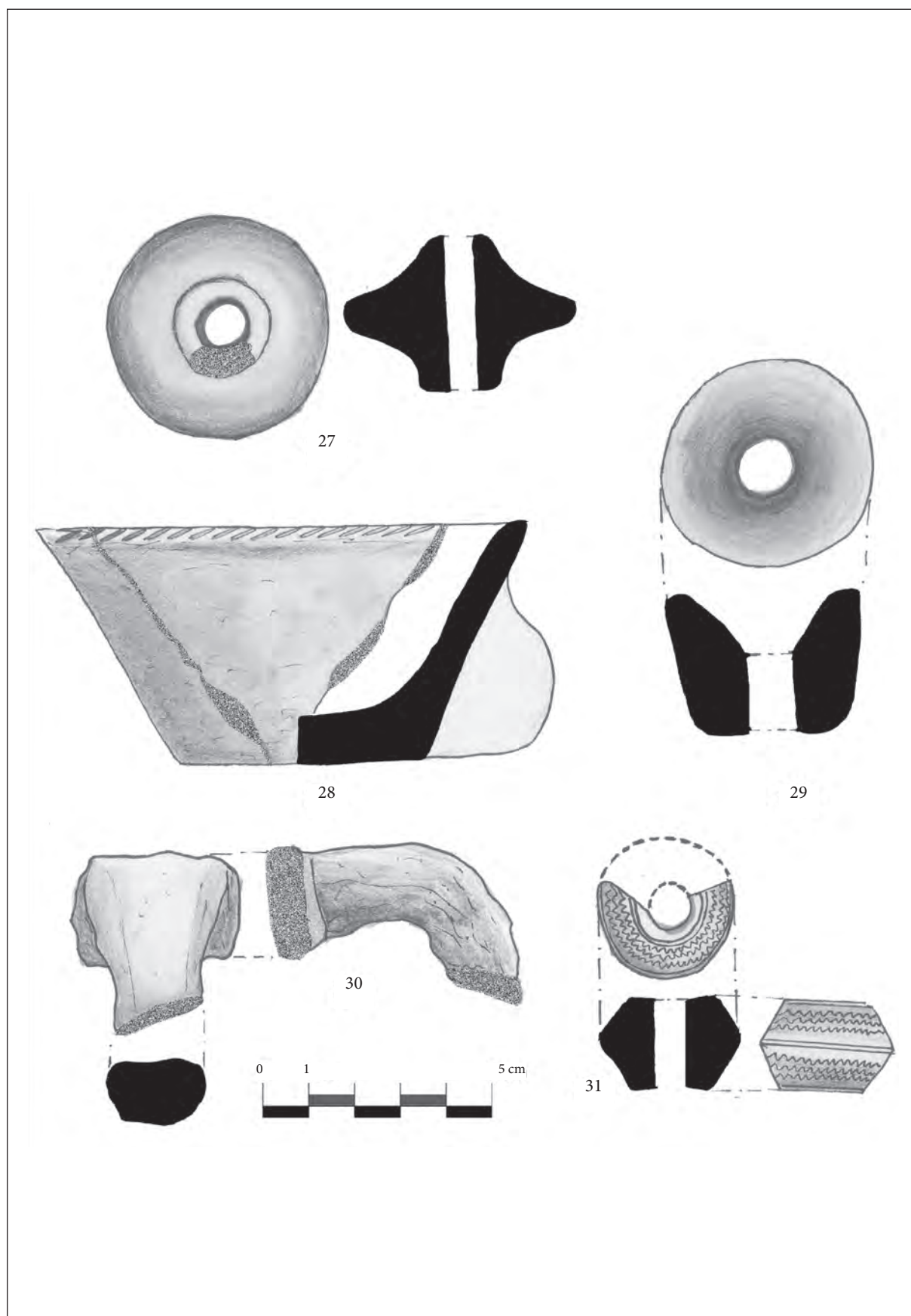


Plate 9. Various categories of burnt clay items.

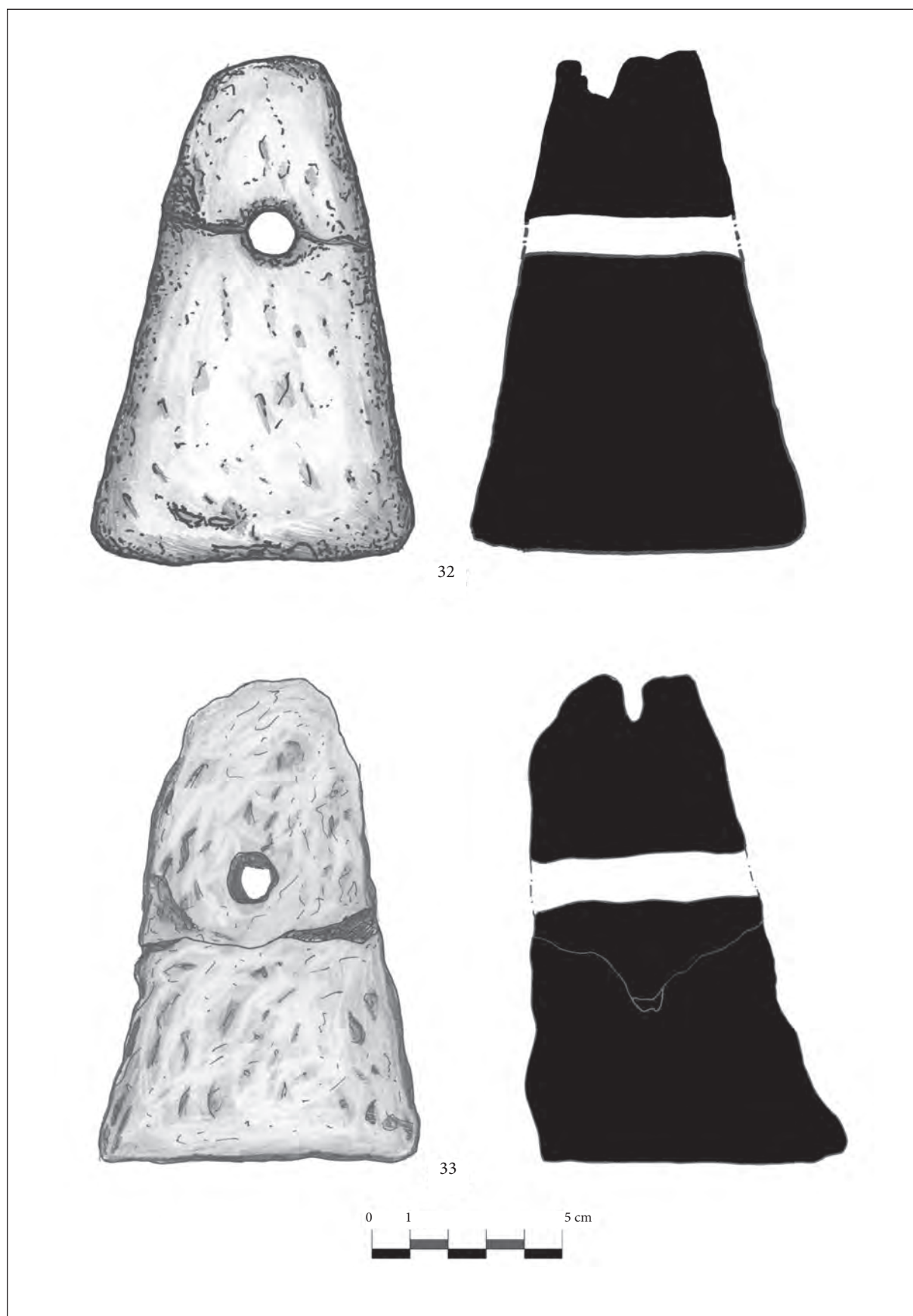


Plate 10. Clay weights.

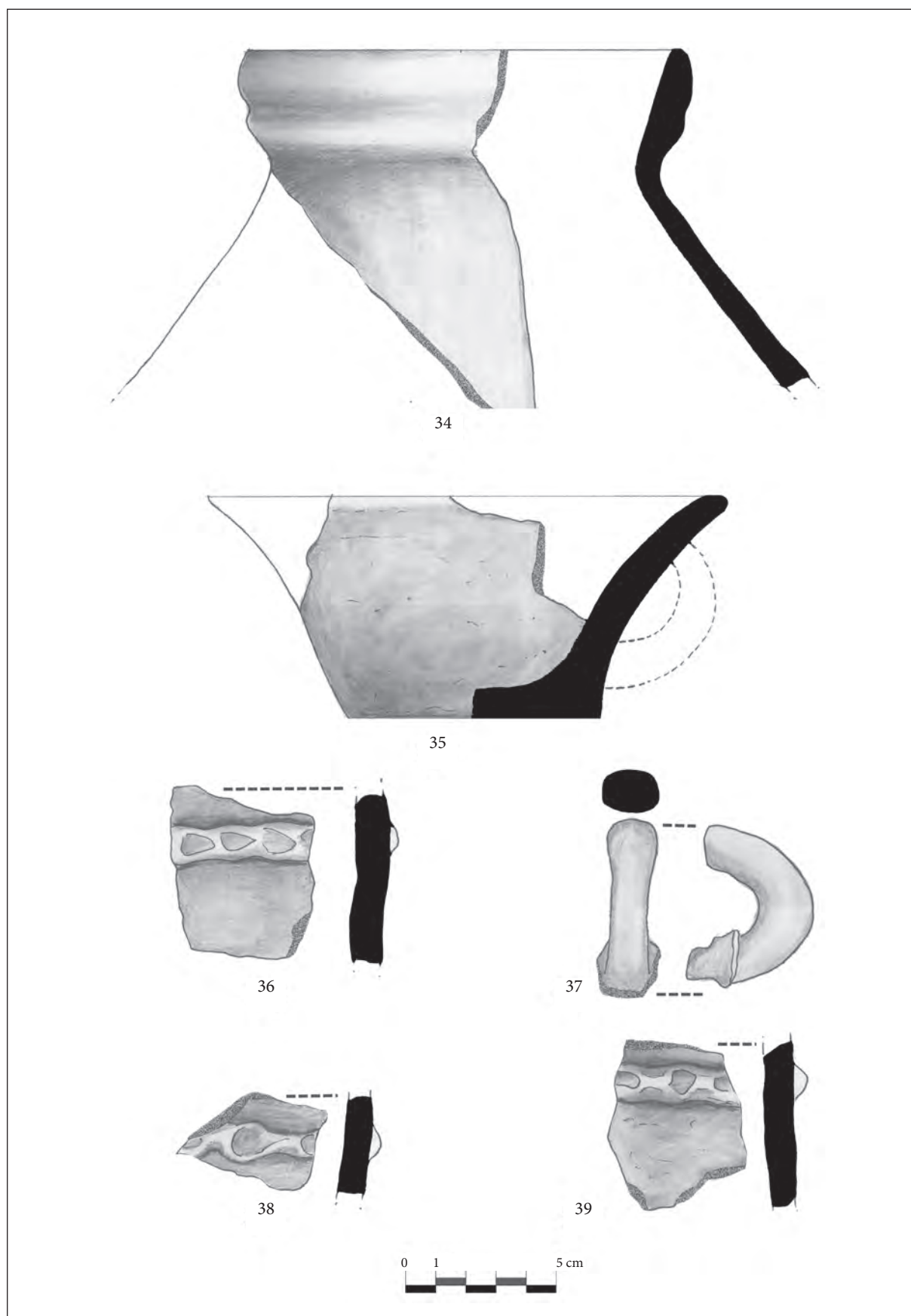


Plate 11. Various categories of pots.

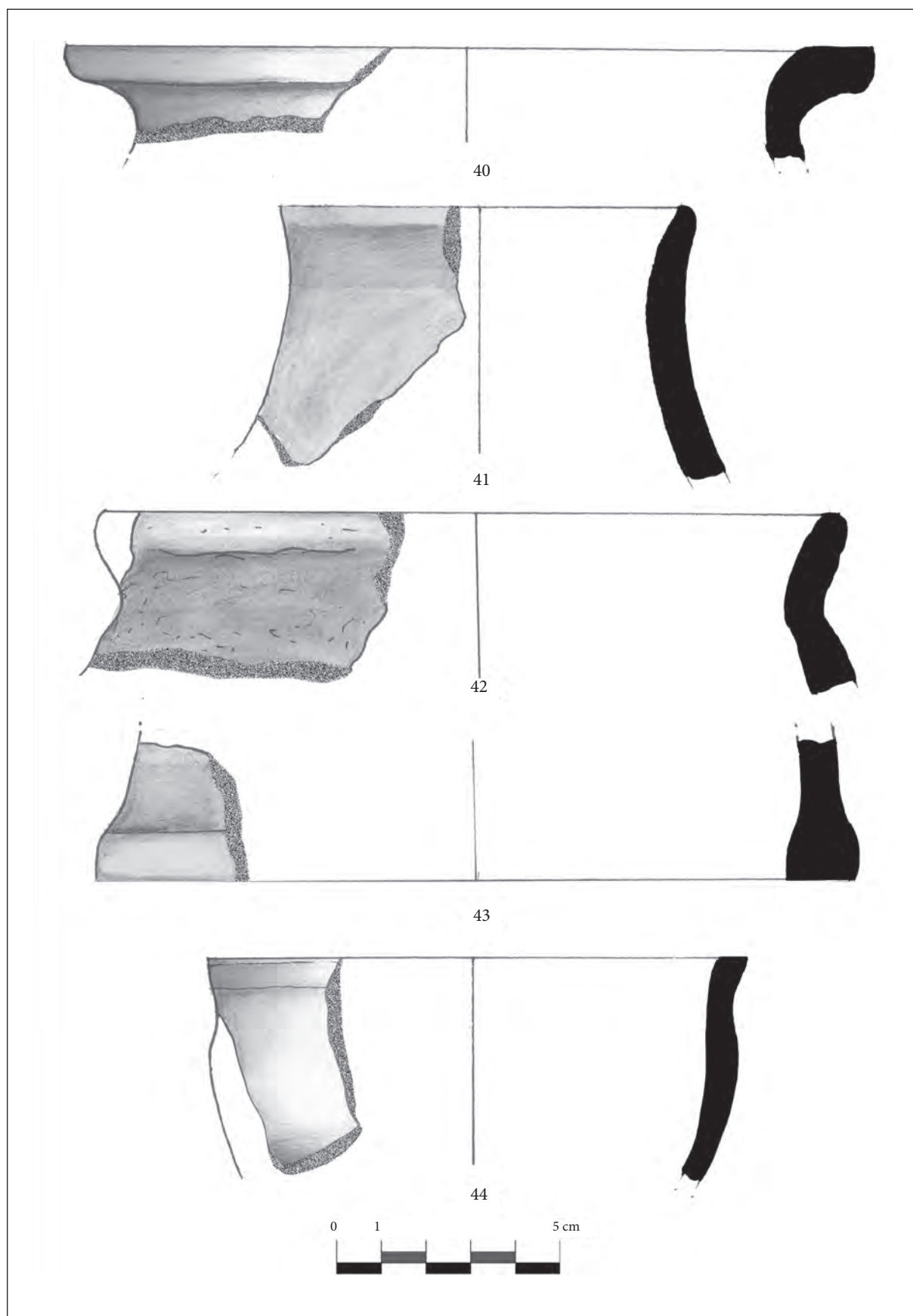


Plate 12. Various categories of pots.





# Abbreviations

Acta Ant et Arch Suppl	Acta Antiqua et Archaeologica Supplementum. Szeged.
AAC	Acta Archaeologica Carpathica. Krakow.
ACMIT	Anuarul Comisiunii monumentelor istorice. Secția pentru Transilvania. Cluj.
ActaArchHung	ActaArchHung Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae. Budapest.
AEM	Archäologische Epigraphische Mitteilungen aus Österreich-Ungarn.
AIIA Cluj	Anuarul Institutului de Istorie și Arheologie. Cluj.
AMP	Acta Musei Porolissensis. Zalău.
ATF	Acta Terrae Fogarasiensis. Făgăraș.
ATS	Acta Terrae Septemcastrenses. Sibiu.
Agria	<i>Agria. Annales Musei Agriensis</i> . Az egri Dobó István Vármúzeum évkönyve. Eger.
AnB S.N.	Analele Banatului. Timișoara.
ArchÉrt	Archaeologiai Értesítő. A Magyar Régészeti és Művészettörténeti Társulat tudományos folyóirata. Budapest.
Arh. Pregled	Arheološki Pregled. Arheološko Društvo Jugoslavije. Beograd.
AM	Arheologia Moldovei. Iași.
AMN	Acta Musei Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca.
ArchRozhl	Archeologické Rozhledy. Praga.
ASMB	Arheologia Satului Medieval din Banat. Reșița 1996.
BAM	Brvkenthal Acta Mvsei. Sibiu.
BAR Int. Ser.	British Archaeological Reports. International Series. Oxford.
BCMI	Buletinul Comisiunii Monumentelor Istorice.
BerRGK	Bericht der RömischGermanischen Kommission, Frankfurt a. Main.
BHAB	Bibliotheca Historica et Archaeologica Banatica. Timișoara.
BMB. SH	Biblioteca Muzeului Bistrița. Seria Historica. Bistrița Năsăud.
BMI	Buletinul Monumentelor Istorice, București.
BMN	Bibliotheca Musei Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca.
BMMK	A Békés Megyei Múzeumok Közleményei. Békéscsaba.
BMMN	Buletinul Muzeului Militar Național, București.
BThr	Bibliotheca Thracologica. Institutul Român de Tracologie, București.
CAB	
CAH	Communicationes Archaeologicae Hungariae. Budapest.
Carpica	Carpica. Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Bacău. Bacău.
CAMNI	Cercetări Arheologice. Muzeul de Istorie al R. S. România/Muzeul Național de Istorie. București.
CCA	<i>Cronica cercetărilor arheologice (din România)</i> , 1983–1992 <i>sqq.</i> (și în variantă electronică pe <a href="http://www.cimec.ro/scripts/arh/cronica/cercetariarh.asp">http://www.cimec.ro/scripts/arh/cronica/cercetariarh.asp</a> ).
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CCA 1996 [1997]	C. Stoica (red. și coord.), CCA. <i>Campania 1996. A XXXI-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, București, 12–15 iunie 1997</i> . [București] [1997].
CCA 1997 [1998]	C. Stoica (red. și coord.), CCA. <i>Campania 1997. A XXXII-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Călărași, 20–24 mai 1998</i> . [București] [1998].
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CCA 2000 (2001)	M. V. Angelescu, C. Borș, I. Oberländer-Tárnoveanu (Ed.), CCA. <i>Campania 2000. A XXXV-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Suceava, 23–27 mai 2001</i> . București 2001.

CCA 2001 (2002)	M. V. Angelescu, C. Borș, I. Oberländer-Târnoveanu, F. Vasilescu (Ed.), <i>CCA. Campania 2001. A XXXVI-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Buziaș, 28 mai–1 iunie 2001</i> . București 2002.
CCA 2003 (2004)	M. V. Angelescu, I. Oberländer-Târnoveanu, F. Vasilescu (Ed.), <i>CCA. Campania 2003. A XXXVIII-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Cluj-Napoca, 26–29 mai 2004</i> . București 2004.
CCA 2006 (2007)	M. V. Angelescu, F. Vasilescu (Ed.), <i>CCA. Campania 2006. A XLI-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Tulcea, 29 mai – 1 iunie 2006</i> . București 2007.
CCA 2008 (2009)	M. V. Angelescu, I. Oberländer-Târnoveanu, F. Vasilescu, O. Cîrstina, G. Olteanu (Ed.), <i>CCA. Campania 2008. A XLIII-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Târgoviște, 27–30 mai 2009 (= Valachica 21–22, 2008–2009)</i> . Târgoviște 2009.
CCA 2013 (2014)	Institutul Național al Patrimoniului (Ed.), <i>CCA. Campania 2013. A XLVIII-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Oradea, 5–7 iunie 2014</i> . [București] 2014.
CCA 2014 (2015)	Institutul Național al Patrimoniului (Ed.), <i>CCA 2015. Campania 2014. A XLIX-a sesiune națională de rapoarte arheologice, Pitești, 28–30 mai 2015, Muzeul județean Argeș</i> . [București] 2015.
CRSCRCR	Coins from Roman sites and collections of Roman coins from Romania. Cluj-Napoca.
Dacia N.S.	Dacia. Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne. Nouvelle serie. București.
Danubius	Danubius – Revista Muzeului de Istorie Galați. Galați.
DDME	A Debreceni Déri Múzeum Évkönyve. Debrecen.
DolgCluj	Dolgozatok az Erdélyi Nemzeti Érem- és Régiségtárából, Klozsvár (Cluj).
DolgSzeg	Dolgozatok. Arbeiten des Archäologischen Instituts der Universität. Szeged.
EphNap	Ephemeris Napocensis. Cluj-Napoca.
FADDP/GMADP	Führer zu archäologischen Denkmälern in Dacia Porolissensis/Ghid al monumentelor arheologice din Dacia Porolissensis.
FolArch	Folia Archaeologica. Budapest.
Forsch. u. Ber. z. Vor- u. Frühgesch. BW	Forschungen und Berichte zur Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Baden-Württemberg.
GPSKV	Gradja za proučavanje spomenika kulture Vojvodine. Novi Sad.
GSAD	Glasnik Srpskog Arheološkog Društva. Beograd.
HOMÉ	A Herman Ottó Múzeum Évkönyve. Miskolc.
JAMÉ	A nyíregyházi Jós András Múzeum Évkönyve. Nyíregyháza.
JahrbuchRGZM	Jahrbuch des RömischGermanischen Zentralmuseums Mainz.
Lohanul	Lohanul. Revistă cultural științifică. Huși.
MCA	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice. București.
MCA-S.N.	Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice-Serie Nouă. București.
MA	Memoria Antiquitatis. Complexul Muzeal Județean Neamț. Piatra Neamț.
MFMÉ	A Móra Ferenc Múz. Évkönyve. Szeged.
MFMÉ StudArch	A Móra Ferenc Múzeum Évkönyve, Studia Archaeologica. Szeged.
MN	Muzeul Național. București.
Opuscula Hungarica	Opuscula Hungarica. Budapest.
PamArch	Památky Archeologické. Praha.
Past and Present	Past and Present. Oxford.
PIKS/PISC	Die Publikationen des Institutes für klassische Studien/ Publicațiile Institutului de studii clasice. Cluj-Napoca.
PBF	Praehistorische Bronzefunde. Berlin.
PZ	Prähistorische Zeitschrift. Berlin.
Rev. Muz.	Revista Muzeelor, București.
RIR	Revista Istorică Română.
RMM-MIA	Revista Muzeelor și Monumentelor. seria Monumente istorice și de artă. București.
RMMN	Revista Muzeului Militar Național. București.
Ruralia	Ruralia. Památky Archeologické – Supplementum. Praha.
RVM	Rad Vojvodjanskih Muzeja, Novi Sad.
SCIV(A)	Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche. București.



SCN	Studii și Cercetări Numismatice. București.
SlovArch	Slovenská Archeológia. Nitra.
SIA	Studii de Istoria Artei. Cluj Napoca.
SIB	Studii de istorie a Banatului. Timișoara.
SKMÉ	A Szántó Kovács János Múzeum Évkönyve, Orosháza.
SMIM	Studii și Materiale de Istorie Medie. București.
SMMA	Szolnok Megyei Múzeumi Adattár. Szolnok.
SMMIM	Studii și Materiale de Muzeografie și Istorie Militară. București.
Starinar	Starinar. Arheološki Institut. Beograd.
StCl	Studii Clasice, București.
StComBrukenthal	<i>Studii și comunicări</i> . Sibiu.
StudArch	Studia Archaeologica. <i>Budapest</i> .
StudCom	Studia Comitatus. <i>Szentendre</i> .
StudUnivCib	Studia Universitatis Cibiniensis. Sibiu.
StudCom – Vrancea	Studii și Comunicări. Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Etnografie Vrancea. Focșani.
StudŽvest	Študijne Zvesti Arheologického Ústavu Slovenskej Akadémie Vied. Nitra.
Symp. Thrac.	Symposia Thracologica. București.
Tempora Obscura	Tempora Obscura. Békéscsaba 2012.
Tibiscus	Tibiscus. Timișoara.
VAH	Varia Archaeologica Hungarica. <i>Budapest</i> .
Ziridava	Ziridava. Arad.
ZSA	Ziridava Studia Archaeologica. Arad.