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# COINS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT (VI). POJEJENA – AN AUXILIARY FORT WITH A DIFFERENT PATTERN OF COIN CIRCULATION THAN THE PROVINCE OF DACIA

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**Abstract:** The present paper brings to attention the first coins with a proper archaeological context documented at a Roman site, Pojejena, from Dacia (Romania), that by its location – on the Danube – and its historical background (2nd–4th) may reveal specific patterns of coin dynamics.
Using a gradual analytic comparative method, various aspects of history, archaeology and coin circulation at the level of the archaeological unit (the *porta praetoria*) are seen versus the already known models of coin circulation at micro- and macro-regional level as well as the level of the entire Roman province of Dacia.

**Keywords:** *Coin finds, archaeological context, general vs specific patterns, coins by phases of development of the site.*

## THE SITE

Pojejena is nowadays a village in the south-west part of Romania, on the left bank of the Danube River (Map 1).

In the Roman time was an auxiliary fort located here together with the adjacent vicus and a harbour (Fig. 1).[1]

The auxiliary fort is located north of the village, on a high plateau, findspot known as the „Șitarnița" [place of livelihood, place of sight],[2] circa 500 m from the Danube (Fig. 1).[3]

The auxiliary fort from Pojejena was part of Dacia Superior located in the zone that separates Upper Moesia and Dacia (Maps 2–3).[4] The place chosen to build the fort is a strategic one to control the navigation on the Danube[5] at the entrance on rough area for navigation, the Iron Gates.[6]

The excavations form the years 1970's were targeting the gates (except the *porta praetoria*), the peripheral wall of the stone phase and some structures

[1] TIMOC/PISZ/JECZMIENOWSKI/ARDELEAN 2018, 58; NEMETI/CRISTEA 2020, 277; JĘCZMIENOWSKI/PISZ/TIMOC 2023, 25; ȚENTEA/MATEI-POPESCU/TIMOC 2023, 765.
[2] TIMOC 2018, 47.
[3] ȚENTEA/MATEI-POPESCU/TIMOC 2023, 765.
[4] NEMETI/CRISTEA 2020, 277.
[5] TIMOC/PISZ/JECZMIENOWSKI/ARDELEAN 2018, 58.
[6] NEMETI/CRISTEA 2020, 277.

within the fort (Fig. 2)[7], of which poor state of investigation and documentation, have led to continuing debates on their functionality.[8]

The fort had two main development phases consisting of a wooden-earth phase dated under Domitian and a stone one built it in the period Trajan-Hadrian that lasted until AD 260 and reorganized under the House of Constantine I.[9]

The troop garrisoned here was the *cohors V Gallorum Dacica/Pannonica*.[10] The small wooden fort was probably the garrison of *cohors V Gallorum*, epigraphically attested at Pojejena in the 2nd century AD.[11]

The civilian settlement adjacent to the fort (the *vicus*) was located towards south and South-west of the *porta principalis dextra*. At the moment, it is documented only through geomagnetic prospections (Fig. 1).[12]

Circa 700 m south-east of the fort, a 14th century medieval fortress was controlling the area (Fig. 1).[13]

## THE EXCAVATED AREAS

The revival of archaeological investigations at the Roman fortress of Pojejena since 2016 principally sought to elucidate the previously identified phases of the fortification's development. The excavations concentrated on finalising the internal planimetry and determining the period of the fortress's abandonment. In this instance, it is known that the Danube line was fortified with troops following the Aurelian retreat, and it once more served as the border between the Roman Empire and Barbaricum.

The commencement of systematic research meant the carrying out of a comprehensive suite of non-invasive investigations conducted by experts from the University of Warsaw and the National Museum of Banat from Timișoara, aimed at elucidating the site's archaeological potential. Through a comprehensive series of measurements (magnetometry, electro-resistivity, and ground-penetrating radar (GPR), covered by topography and aerial photography), two separate phases of the Pojejena fort's existence were identified: A – a small castellum made of earth and wood featuring a single defensive ditch; B – an extended castellum with a stone enclosure and two defensive ditches (Fig. 4).[14]

These prospections were archaeologically verified in 2019 at *porta prateoria*, the only area not affected by the excavations in the 1970's.

The 2019 archaeological survey, which was conducted to determine the stratigraphy in the vicinity of the stronghold's defensive system, revealed that we were outside the small fort. The data analysis provided information only about the development of the fortification with stone enclosure. Over the centuries it has undergone several phases of renovation, extension and repair.[15]

The *porta praetoria* underwent comprehensive investigation throughout the 2020–2021 campaigns by establishing areas with bystanders between the opened sections. Following the removal of the agricultural layer, the enclosure and the stone wall conduits defining the gate layout were recognised. Differences were observed in the architecture of the two towers flanking the gateway, with the northern tower being larger and more expansive in its later phase of use compared to the southern tower (Fig. 4). It was discovered that, initially, the two towers were symmetrical, analogous to the towers of the other gates, with similar measurements of 4.5 × 3.9 m. At some point, the north tower was hastily rebuilt after a heavy fire, with an addition of about 2 m to the outside of the fort. The gateway is c. 4 m wide and shows traces of stone and brick pavement. The analysis of the tegular material shows that the construction of the stone fort was contributed to by the Moesic legions: *VII Claudia* and *IIII Flavia Felix*.

Stratigraphically, the excavated area – *porta pratoria* – revealed four main phases of development:

– Phase Ia – the construction of the Praetorian stone gate of the Pojejena fort is the first stratum above the sterile layer, which, based on the artefacts discovered (knee brooches, sherds of Pontic amphoras), is dated from the late 2nd century to the early 3rd century A.D. This layer is observable at a depth of c. -0.80 m to -0.60 m;

– Phase Ib – level of fitting out (-0.60 to approx. -0.40 m) and resurfacing of the roads around the gate in the mid–3rd century AD with a rich military metallic material (among artefacts a T-shaped brooch), which is covered with a layer of heavy burn layer between 2 and 5 cm thick; dating: early – mid 3rd century AD).

– Phase IIa – level of refortification of the gate (mid- - late 3rd century AD), thickening of the outer wall of the north tower of the gate, upper layer – between 0.40 – 0.20 m. This layer also shows traces of wood-burn damage. Many militaria pieces also come from this level: pieces of military weaponry and equipment and several fragmentary fibulae typical of the soldierly environment, including one with incipient onion heads, dated in the second half of the 3rd century AD.

– Phase IIb – represents the use of the fort after its abandonment. The only evidence is the laying of a floor with reused Roman bricks in a late Roman dwelling built leaning against the ruined outer wall of the south tower and partially covering the entrance road through the gate, most probably dating to the post-Constantinian era; construction of the *horreum* (mid–4th century AD).

## NUMISMATIC COMMENTS

During the archaeological excavations at the *porta praetoria* of the Roman auxiliary fort from Pojejena in 2019 and 2020, twenty-four coins were retrieved (catalogue).

According to the minting date, the coins cover a large chronological range from the first century AD (Claudius I)

[7] GUDEA 1975; GUDEA/BOZU 1977; GUDEA/BOZU 1979.
[8] MARCU 2009, 150; JĘCZMIENOWSKI/PISZ/TIMOC 2023, 25; ȚENTEA/MATEI-POPESCU/TIMOC 2023, 765.
[9] ȚENTEA/MATEI-POPESCU/TIMOC 2023, 765, 767.
[10] For the discussion on the epithet see ȚENTEA/MATEI-POPESCU/TIMOC 2023, 767.
[11] TIMOC 2022, 183–184, Pl. IV–V.
[12] TIMOC/PISZ/JECZMIENOWSKI/ARDELEAN 2018; ȚENTEA/MATEI-POPESCU/TIMOC 2023, 765
[13] TIMOC 2018.
[14] JECZMIENOWSKI/PISZ/TIMOC 2023, 16; Fig. 7.
[15] TIMOC/PISZ/JECZMIENOWSKI/ARDELEAN 2018, 63, Fig. 6.

to the mid–4th century AD (Constantius II) (catalogue; table 1; graph 1).

The denominations suggest that the majority of these coins were ones of low value. From twenty-four coins 21 are made of bronze. The three silver coins, *denarii*, can also be considered among the 'normal' daily loss of money in that period. While the denarius of Antoninus Pius (cat.no. 3) may be regarded as a loss of some high value, those of Septimius Severus (cat.no. 4) and Septimius for Geta (Caesar) (cat. no. 5) are the most frequently found for this emperor and the following ones up to Gordian III, following the imperial monetary policy at the beginning of the 3rd century AD.

Furthermore, the analysis of the coins found during these archaeological investigations showed that the antoninianus denomination was clearly an overrated coinage of the 3rd century AD not only by weight but also by the silver fineness, or better said by the absence of it. All the antoniniani recovered from the site are either billon, plated or simply bronze pieces (cat. nos. 11, 16, 20–22).

The number of denarii in the site-finds of the province of Dacia is characterized by a strong increase for the period AD 193–218. This increase is supported by the huge quantity of coin-finds issued in the reign of Septimius Severus. As is revealed by the majority of the sites studied for Dacia and the adjacent provinces, the denarii of Septimius Severus account for more than 80% of the total coins of all denominations of this emperor. Moreover, at some sites the denarius is the only denomination which has been found for this emperor.[16]

This increase of denarius-finds for Septimius Severus might be a consequence of the increase in production, following a gradual long-term phenomenon of the denarius' debasement of the denarius[17] at the end of the Civil War in AD 197/198[18] and the rarity of Severan base metal coinage.

At the same time, it must be mentioned, that the denarius depicting Geta is a plated coin. The presence of such a coin is not an isolated case but part of a phenomenon that reached its peak in the 3rd century AD, when it was an Empire scale endemic.[19]

At first sight, the small number of coins analysed in this study (24) looks irrelevant. Certainly, this number imposes some limits on the research, however, comparing with the rest of the province of Dacia, some distinctive features of coin circulation at the auxiliary fort of Pojejena can be noted.

One first aspect, it is the large presence of the civic Greek coins among these site-finds. From the total of the 24 coins, 8 coins belong to this category. Seven coins were issued at mints from eastern part of the Empire, in the province of Bithynia, the cities of Iuliopolis (1 – cat. no. 15), Nicaea (5 – cat. nos. 1, 6–9) and Nicomedia (1 – cat. no. 10). One more civic Greek coin of a Nicaea type of four standards depicting Gordian on the obverse (cat. no. 14) is a cast piece, thus, it is uncertain where and when was actually produced.

The percentage of 33.3% is the highest one recorded for a site in Roman Dacia. The urban, the military and the rural sites of intra-Carpathian territory of the province (Map 3) have between 1% at Porolissum and 4.2% at Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa.[20] A much higher presence of the civic Greek coins was noted for the sites of Dacia located on the Danube, such as Drobeta (9.96%),[21] Orlea (19.6%)[22] (Map 3).

The geo-strategic and economic position of Drobeta and Orlea – bridges over the Danube, the harbour (Drobeta), a gateway to Dacia – may have served as an excellent path for coin arriving with the troops involved in the eastern campaign of Severus Alexander as well as with the trade.[23] At the same time, the very low presence of the civic Greek coins in north-central part of Dacia may suggest that they were not accepted in transactions.[24]

Therefore, the location and the functionality as a military garrison on the Danube (Maps 2–3), can be the explanation for the large presence of Greek civic coins in the area excavated within the auxiliary fort at Pojejena. Furthermore, the presence of the cast civic Greek coin suggest the acceptance of this coinage in this area (cat. no. 14).

The presence among de studied coins of 5 sestertii minted at Viminacium (Upper Moesia) (Map 4), type *P M S COL VIM* (cat. nos. 12–13, 17–19), can be regarded as part of the imperial monetary policy at the Middle and Lower Danube in the mid–3rd century AD.

The issues of Viminacium and then of *PROVINCIA DACIA* held the most important places among de bronze denomination in circulation in this century. These two coinages were issued according to the Roman bronze denomination system – *sestertius, dupondius, as* – and at similar size and weight of the central mint of Rome.[25] The establishment of these two mints, Viminacium in AD 239[26] and Apulum in AD 246,[27] represents a monetary policy intended to supply bronze coins to the large number of troops, mainly in the provinces of Pannonia and Dacia.[28] On the same line, the presence of Viminacium issues and the absence of any *Provincia Dacia*, at the moment, can be explained by another aspect of the Roman monetary policy that the coin supply is ensured by the nearest mint.[29] As Viminacium is located only circa 30 km upstream on the Danube (Map 4), it is not a surprise that it was the main coin supplier for the bronze coinage at the middle of 3rd century AD for Pojejena, as it was for the most important urban and military Roman settlement on the Lower Danube at the time, Drobeta, which is even further downstream from Viminacium (163 km).[30]

The most interesting aspect revealed by these coins here is the period of circulation. Despite the small number – 24 coins, but 1 unidentifiable (cat. no. 24) – their retrieving from archaeological contexts may help us understand how long a coin could stay in circulation at the auxiliary fort of Pojejena.

Based on the stratigraphy and archaeological evidence,

[16] GĂZDAC 2010, 147, 189b.
[17] BUTCHER/PONTING 2014, 15.
[18] DUNCAN-JONES 1994, 142.
[19] KING 1996, 259–263; GĂZDAC 2010, 177–178 (with references).
[20] GĂZDAC 2010, 155.
[21] GĂZDAC/ÁLFÖLDY-GĂZDAC/NEAGOE/NEAGOE 2015, 27, 75, Tab. 6.
[22] GĂZDAC 2010, 155.
[23] GĂZDAC/ÁLFÖLDY-GĂZDAC/NEAGOE/NEAGOE 2015, 27; BENEA 2006.
[24] GĂZDAC 2010, 155.
[25] ALFÖLDY-GĂZDAC/GĂZDAC 2004, 247–258; GĂZDAC/ALFÖLDY-GĂZDAC 2008, 135–171.
[26] MARTIN 1992, 9.
[27] GĂZDAC/ALFÖLDY-GĂZDAC 2008, 146.
[28] GĂZDAC/ALFÖLDY-GĂZDAC 2008, 146.
[29] HOWGEGO 1994, 12–13.
[30] GĂZDAC/ALFÖLDY-GĂZDAC 2015, 27–28.

four main phases have been established for the excavated area – the *porta praetoria* of the auxiliary fort from Pojejena (table 1). According to this stratigraphy, the distribution of coins by phases revealed the following aspects considering the coin circulation time frame (table 1, catalogue, graphs):

A. A very low number of coins minted before the first phase of this excavated area – phase 1a (late 2nd century – early 3rd century AD): Claudius I (1), Septimius Severus (2);

B. The period of circulation is extremely fluctuating with coins being in circulation even for more than a century, such as the coins of Claudius I, Hadrian, Severus Alexander while other seems to have been in circulation for much shorter period of time 30–50 years.

C. The coins with a long period of circulation and being frequently used show a high grade of worn out: Claudius I, Hadrian, Severus Alexander, Gordian III (catalogue)

At the same time, the distribution of coins by issuer from this excavated area of the fort revealed a large predominance of coins issued during the 3rd century AD, including 7 coins from the second half of this century (cat. nos. 16–22).

Why is this aspect of high importance?

A comparison with the situation of the site finds for the province of Dacia (graph 6),[31] seems to indicate that the auxiliary fort of Pojejena did not go along with province numismatic pattern. Taking into account the distribution of the studied coins within the archaeological phases, one can easily note the absence of 2nd century AD contexts and a very low number (3) of coins issued in the 1st–2nd centuries AD (catalogue; table 1; graphs 3–4). On the other hand, the same criterium – coins by context – indicate that the most numerous coins are provided by the contexts from phases 1b (7 coins) and 2a (10) (catalogue; table 1; graphs 3–4). Together, the two phases cover the entire 3rd century AD. The interpretation of the numismatic evidence with the archaeological one reveal that it was a period of a high dynamic building activity, especially in the second half of that century following the destructions and rebuilding layers as revealed by the two layers of fire with intermediary layers of reconstruction (Fig. 5).

The latest phase identified on the excavated areas under study (2019–2020), 2b (mid-late 4th century, is marked by a small number of coins (3) (catalogue; table 1; graphs 3–4). This phase marks the last period of use of this site. According to the literary sources Constantine I (AD 306–337) increase the construction activity on the strongholds on the left bank of the Danube.[32] At the same time, the military activity increased especially in this area following the heavy defeat of the Taifales and the Visigoths by Constantius II Caesar in AD 332 in the south west area of the former province of Dacia (today Banat).[33]

In the case of the fort from Pojejena, the coin evidence indicates that the *horreum* was rebuilt at the mid/second half of the 4th century AD – a *nummus* (AE3) of Constantius II (minted AD 351–355) being discovered in the debris from the wall mortar (catalogue, no. 23; table 1).[34]

One may say that the number of coins retrieved from these excavations (24) is too small to be relevant.

Therefore, we tried to gather all the single coins found at Pojejena that were published in the past (graph 5).[35]

The analysis of statistics indicates the same pattern as the one for the coins found during the excavations at the *porta praetoria*. An extremely low number of the coins minted in the 1st and the 2nd centuries AD, and a larger frequency for the 3rd and higher frequency of the 4th centuries AD coins (table 2; graph 5).[36]

It can also be stated that this spectre can be a consequence of the coin debasement and the repeated monetary reforms during the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. These aspects, for certain, play their role in the fluctuation number of coin finds at the site.

However, an analysis of the northern vs southern sites of the province of Dacia may offer the explanation (graph 7).

By the mid–3rd century AD, the percentage of coin finds/year is much higher for the sites in the interior of the province. The explanation of this situation is the location of the majority of towns (9 of 11) as well as the higher concentration of military bases, including the two legions, in the two Daciae: Apulensis and Porolissensis. The percentage value of coin finds/year records a different pattern for the two areas of Dacia, north and south, for the last period of Roman administration and the post-provincial period. Starting with the period of AD 249–253 the percentage of coin finds/year of the southern sites becomes higher than that of northern sites. For the next period the percentage for southern sites records a strong increase for AD 268–275 followed by a gradual decrease until the reign of Constantine I; while the percentage for the northern sites has a dramatic decrease with a very low value (graph 7).[37] The explanation is offered by the different dynamics of on the two regions analysed for Dacia. The abandonment of Dacia (around c. 270/275) and the reconquest of the southern part of Dacia only under the Constantine I (including troops presence in garrisons across the Danube) brought into the southern part of the former Roman province a much larger quantity of coins than in the northern part.[38]

Coincidentally, in 1883, a heavy hoard of 7 kg (c. 21,000 coins) of Roman bronze coins, nummi of the House of Constantine I (4th century AD) was found at Pojejena, unknown findspot.[39]

[31] It must be mentioned here that the database at the scale of the province of Dacia based on the work by C. Găzdac is following the main chronologically milestones for this province. The territory became a Roman province under the reign of Trajan, was under the Roman administration until the 2nd half of the 3rd century AD, and was partially re-conquered by Constantine I (GĂZDAC 2010, 35).

[32] Aurelius Victor, 41, 18.

[33] PETOLESCU 1995, 166; BENEA 1996, 59.

[34] The coin is also mentioned being found in the *horreum*'s mortar in NEMETI/CRISTEA 2020, 278; TIMOC 2022, 177; JĘCZMIENOWSKI/PISZ/TIMOC 2023, 23, Fig. 14; 24; ȚENTEA/MATEI-POPESCU/TIMOC 2023, 767.

[35] GUDEA 1971, 142; CHIRILĂ/GUDEA 1972, 716; MITREA 1972, 145, no. 80; BĂLĂNESCU 1984, 129; GĂZDAC 2010, catalogue site-finds Dacia, 25

[36] It must be mentioned here, that based on the Dogariu's information, B. Mitrea mentions 64 coins of Constantius II (!) to have been found at Pojejena (MITREA 1972, 145, no. 80). It is unlikely that they were single coin-finds, probably, part of a hoard/hoards. A similar opinion was expressed by N. Toma-Demian (to whom we express our gratitude for her expertise) who have published 21 nummi of Constantius II from the large hoard found at Pojejena in 1883 (TOMA-DEMIAN 2020, 473–489).

[37] GĂZDAC 2010, 169–170; tab. R2; Pl. Q1.

[38] GĂZDAC 2010, 170–171.

[39] TOMA-DEMIAN 2020, 473–489.

## CONCLUSIONS

Despite the small number of coins (24), some historical-monetary results still can be extracted.

The analysis of these coins within stratigraphic contexts together with a comparative analysis with both the adjacent area and at the scale of the province indicate that the auxiliary fort of Pojejena fits within the pattern of the Dacian sites located on the Danube, with a higher monetary dynamic in the 3rd–4th centuries AD.

Methodologically speaking, at the moment, this auxiliary fort needs, by far, a much more systematic investigation.

At the moment, we encounter a contradictory situation regarding the archaeological evidence together and the coin evidence and the previous excavations!

The 24 coins analysed here demonstrates a dynamic activity from the 3rd to the 4th centuries AD, while the excavations carried out in 1970's 1980's, according to those publications seem to reveal a large quantity of material dated in the 2nd century AD.

An explanation could have been offered by the numismatic evidence from the old excavations. Unfortunately, for this aspect, we encountered another methodological situation. The numismatic material from the, 46 areas/trenches excavated in the1970's[40] are still not published although mentioned as discovered evidence.[41]

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## CATALOGUE

### CLAUDIUS I

1. Denomination: AE provincial
Axis: 6; D: 22.1 mm; W: 5.33 g.
Mint: Nicaea (Bithynia)
Dating: 47–48
Obverse: [ΠΡΩΤΗ ΠΟ]ΛΙC ΤΗ[C ΕΠΑΡΧΕΙΑC]
Head of Tyche, right.
Reverse: Γ [ΚΑΔΙOC ΡΟΥΦOC ΑΝΘ]ΥΠΑΤOC
Catalogue: RPC I, 3386
Inv. no.: 0/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*; trench 1; excavated ground, probably from above the wall; metal detector; 24.07.2019; phase 1a.

### HADRIANUS

2. Denomination: sestertius
Axis: 6; D: 31.15 mm; W: 26.63 g.
Mint: Rome
Dating: 130–133
Obverse: [HA]DRIANVS – AVG COS III P P
Bust of Hadrian, laureate, draped, right; seen from front.
Reverse: RE[STIT]VTORI BI-THYNIAE
Hadrian standing left, holding scroll and raising kneeling Bithynia, turreted, holding rudder.
Catalogue: RIC 2.3, 1840
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area B; h: -0.40m; from the clay layer layout to prepare the road that pass the gateway; south from the edifice/pavement of bricks/tiles; 31.07.2020; phase 1b.

### ANTONINUS PIUS

3. Denomination: denarius
Axis: 12; D: 18.33 mm; W: 3.23 g.
Mint: Rome
Dating: 156–157
Obverse: ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P IMP II
Head of Antoninus Pius, laureate, right.
Reverse: TR POT X–X–COS IIII
Annona, draped, standing right, left foot on prow, holding rudder in right hand and modius in left.
Catalogue: RIC, 260
Inv. no.: 13/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*; trench 1, x: 545198.29330, y: 4957987.85616; h: 136.35; 24.07.2019; phase 1b.

[40] TIMOC 2022, 176.
[41] GUDEA 1975, 339 (1 bronze coin identifiable, no further information); GUDEA/BOZU 1977, 436; GUDEA/BOZU 1979, 184 (mentions 19 coins with no further information).

**SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS**

4. Denomination: denarius
Axis: 12; D: 18.70 mm; W: 3.02 g.
Mint: Rome
Dating: 208
Obverse: SEVERVS – PIVS AVG
Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right.
Reverse: P M TR P XVI COS III P P
Concordia, draped, seated left, holding patera in extended right hand and sceptre in left hand.
Catalogue: RIC, 218
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; excavated ground from the extension towards west, western bypass; 03.08.2020; phase 1a.

**SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS: Geta (Caesar)**

5. Denomination: denarius – plated, hybrid
Axis: 6; D: 17.50 mm; W: 2.69 g.
Mint: uncertain
Dating: 203–208
Obverse: [P SE]PTIMIVS – GETA CAES
Bust of Geta, laureate, draped and cuirassed, right; seen from behind.
Reverse: [VIC]T AE-T-ER-N
Victory, winged, draped, flying left, holding ribbon in both hands over shield on low base.
Catalogue: cf. p. 319–321 (obv); RIC, 23 (rv.)
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; h: -0.70m; from the upper part of the sterile earth; outside the tower, close to road O7 – the access way through the gate; 03.08.2020; phase Ia.

**SEVERUS ALEXANDER**

6. Denomination: AE provincial
Axis: 12; D: 18.57 mm; W: 3.87 g.
Mint: Nicaea (Bithynia)
Dating: 222–235
Obverse: M AY[P CEY AΛEXA]NΔPOC AY
Bust of Severus Alexander, radiate, draped and cuirassed, right.
Reverse: NI-[K-AI]-E
Exergue: ΩN
Three standards
Catalogue: BMC, 102
Inv. no.: 16/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*; trench 1, x: 545190.42973, y: 4957992.23174; h: 136.52; 24.07.2019; phase 2a.

**SEVERUS ALEXANDER**

7. Denomination: AE provincial
Axis: 12; D: 18 mm; W: 4.28 g.
Mint: Nicaea (Bithynia)
Dating: 222–235
Obverse: M AY[P CEY AΛEXA]NΔPOC AY
Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped and cuirassed, right.
Reverse: NI-[K-AI]-E
Exergue: ΩN
Three standards
Catalogue: BMC, 102
Inv. no.: 19/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, *ager*, trench 1, x: 545190.05512, y: 4957991.09966; h: 136.399; 24.07.2019; phase 2a.

**SEVERUS ALEXANDER**

8. Denomination: AE provincial
Axis: 6; D: 21.22 mm; W: 4.95 g.
Mint: Nicaea (Bithynia)
Dating: 222–235
Obverse: [M AYP CEY] AΛEΞANΔ[POC AY]
Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, right.
Reverse: [NI-K]-A-I[E]
Exergue: ΩN
Three standards.
Catalogue: BMC. 102var.
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; h: -0.80m; from the filling of the tower O7, close to the trench that removed the precinct wall; 05.08.2020. Metal detector; phase Ib.

**SEVERUS ALEXANDER**

9. Denomination: AE provincial
Axis: 6; D: 19.36 mm; W: 4.44 g.
Mint: Nicaea (Bithynia)
Dating: 222–235
Obverse: [M AYP] CEY A[ΛEXANΔPOC] AY
Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped and cuirassed, right; seen from behind.
Reverse: [NI]-[K]-AI-E
Exergue: ΩN
Three standards
Catalogue: Kemppinen, 767
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; h: -0.80m; from the filling of the tower O7, close to the trench that removed the precinct wall; 05.08.2020. Metal detector; phase 1b.

**SEVERUS ALEXANDER**

10. Denomination: AE provincial
Axis: 6; D: 24.50 mm; W: 8.26 g.
Mint: Nicomedia (Bithynia)
Dating: 222–235
Obverse: [M AYP CEY AΛEΞ]ANΔPOC AYΓ
Bust of Severus Alexander, radiate, draped, cuirassed, right; seen from behind.
Reverse: [ΔIC N]EΩKORΩN [NIKOMHΔEΩN]
Athena standing facing, head left, holding patera and spear.
Catalogue: RPC VI, 3386
Inv. no.: 16/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*; trench 1; x: 545190.42973, y: 4957992.23174; h: 136.52; 24.07.2019; phase 2a.

**GORDIANUS III**

11. Denomination: antoninianus – billon
Axis: 12; D: 22.50 mm; W: 4.96 g.
Mint: uncertain
Dating: 241–243
Obverse: IMP GORDIANVS PIVS FEL AVG
Bust of Gordian III, radiated, draped and cuirassed, right.
Reverse: [P M] TR P I[III C]OS II P [P]
Gordian III, in military attire, standing right, holding transverse spear in right hand and globe in left hand.
Catalogue: cf. RIC, 92
Inv. no.: 69/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*; trench 1, under the debris layer of the *horeum*. Meter 20; x: 545187.62737, y: 4957991.81882; h: 136.17; 29.07.2019; phase 2a.

**GORDIANUS III**

12. Denomination: sestertius
Axis: 12; D: 22.50 mm; W: 14.96 g.
Mint: Viminacium
Dating: 239–240
Obverse: [IMP] CAES M ANT GORDIA[NVS AVG]
Bust of Gordian III, laureate, draped and cuirassed, right.
Reverse: P M S CO-L VIM]
Exergue: AN I
Moesia standing left, holding cornucopiae and standard, eagle and lion at feet.
Catalogue: Martin, 1.05.1
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; h: -0.50m; from the filling of the tower O7, close to the tower's entrance; 01.08.2020. Metal detector; phase 1b.

**GORDIANUS III**

13. Denomination: sestertius
Axis: 12; D: 29.65 mm; W: 18.65 g.
Mint: Viminacium
Dating: 240–241
Obverse: IMP CAES M ANT GORDIA[NVS AVG]
Bust of Gordian III, laureate, draped and cuirassed, right; seen from behind.
Reverse: P M S – [COL VIM]
Exergue: AN · II
Moesia standing left, holding cornucopiae and standard, eagle and lion at feet.
Catalogue: Martin, 1.08.3/4
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; h: –1m; from the filling of the tower O7, from the trench that removed the precinct wall; 05.08.2020. Metal detector; phase 1b.

**GORDIANUS III**

14. Denomination: AE provincial – cast
Axis: 12; D: 16.98 mm; W: 1.85 g.
Mint: Nicaea (Bithynia)/uncertain
Dating: 238–244
Obverse: legend illegible AYΓ
Bust of Gordian III, radiate, draped and cuirassed, right.
Reverse: N-I-K-A-I
Exergue: EΩ[N]
Four standards
Catalogue: cf. RPC VII.2, 1968
Inv. no.: 19/19W
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; h: -0.45m; between the two towers, close to the eastern profile, in the layer of fire (burn O2); 16.07.2020. Metal detector; phase 1b.

**GORDIANUS III**

15. Denomination: AE provincial
Axis: 12; D: 18 mm; W: 2.67 g.
Mint: Iuliopolis (Bithynia)
Dating: 238–244
Obverse: M ANT ΓOP[ΔIANOC AYΓ]
Bust of Gordian III, radiate, draped and cuirassed, right; seen from front.
Reverse: IO-YΛ-IO-[ΠO]
Exergue: ΛEI[TΩN]
Three standards; central one topped by eagle flanked by two standards topped by wreaths.
Catalogue: RPC VII.2, 2055
Inv. no.: 2/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*; trench 1, no. 8, on the wall; x: 545204.13155, y: 4957985.55928; h: 136.46; 23.08.2019; phase 2a.

**PHILIP I**

16. Denomination: antoninianus – plated
Axis: 7; D: 20.40 mm; W: 3.82 g.
Mint: Rome
Dating: 244–247
Obverse: IMP M IVL PHILIPPVS AVG
Bust of Philip I, radiated, draped and cuirassed, right.
Reverse: [AD]VENTV-S AVGG
Philip the Arab, on horse, pacing left, raising right hand and holding spear in left hand.
Catalogue: RIC, 26
Inv. no.: 6/2020
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; h: -0.50m; debris, close to the profile; 17.07.2020. Metal detector; phase 2a.

**PHILIP I**

17. Denomination: sestertius
Axis: 12; D: 27.50 mm; W: 16.01 g.
Mint: Viminacium
Dating: 246–247
Obverse: [IMP M IVL PHILIPP]VS AVG
Bust of Philip I, laureate, draped and cuirassed, right; seen from behind.
Reverse: P M S C–OL VIM
Exergue: AN VIII
Moesia standing left, holding cornucopiae and standard, eagle and lion at feet.
Catalogue: Martin, 2.16.1
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; h: -0.45m; between the two towers, in the center of area A, in the layer of fire; 16.07.2020. Metal detector; phase 2a.

**TRAJAN DECIUS**

18. Denomination: sestertius
Axis: 12; D: 23.58 mm; W: 14.09 g.
Mint: Viminacium
Dating: 250–251
Obverse: legend erased
Bust of Trajan Decius, draped, right; seen from behind.
Reverse: [P M S] C-OL VIM
Exergue: AN XII
Moesia standing left, holding cornucopiae and standard, eagle and lion at feet.
Catalogue: cf. Martin, 3.10
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area B; h: -0.35m; from the clay layer layout to prepare the road that pass the gateway; close to the profile on the pavement of bricks; 31.07.2020; phase 2b.

**TRAJAN DECIUS**

19. Denomination: dupondius
Axis: 12; D: 21.8 mm; W: 4.44 g.
Mint: Viminacium
Dating: 250–251
Obverse: [IMP T]RAIANVS DECIVS AV
Bust of Trajan Decius, draped and cuirassed, right; seen from behind.
Reverse: P M S C-OL VIM
Exergue: AN XII
Moesia standing left, holding cornucopiae and standard, eagle and lion at feet.
Catalogue: Martin, 3.21.1
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; h: -0.50m; under the debris layer consisting of tiles and burnt wood, on the walking level (gravel) from the *porta praetoria*; 01.08.2020; phase 2a.

**TREBONIANUS GALLUS**

20. Denomination: antoninianus – billon
Axis: 12; D: 22.11x18.02 mm; W: 3.92 g.
Mint: Rome
Dating: 251–253
Obverse: IMP CAE C VIB TREB GALLVS AVG
Bust of Trebonianus Gallus, radiate, draped, cuirassed, right.
Reverse: FELICITAS PVBLICA
Felicitas, draped, standing left, leaning on column, holding caduceus in right hand and cornucopiae in left hand
Catalogue: RIC, 34a
Inv. no.: 57/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria, horeum*; trench 1, debris; x: 545189.18681, y: 4957992.58968; h: 136.26; 27.07.2019, phase 2a.

**GALLIENUS**

21. Denomination: antoninianus
Axis: 12; D: 17.60 mm; W: 2.29 g.
Mint: Rome
Dating: 260–268
Obverse: [GALLIEN]VS [A]V[G]
Head of Gallienus, laureate, right
Reverse: [LAETI]TIA AVG
Laetitia, draped, standing left, holding wreath in right hand and anchor in left hand.
Catalogue: RIC, 226k
Inv. no.: 71/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria, horeum*; trench 1, under the debris, over the road; x: 545189.25940, y: 4957992.82372; h: 136.21; 29.07.2019; phase 2a.

**GALLIENUS**

22. Denomination: antoninianus
Axis: 12; D: 18.31 mm; W: 2.77 g.
Mint: Rome
Dating: 260–268
Obverse: GA[LLIEN]VS AVG
Head of Gallienus, laureate, right
Reverse: [MART]I PACIFERO
Mars, helmeted, in military attire, standing or walking left, holding olive-branch in right hand and spear and shield in left hand.
Catalogue: RIC, 236k
Inv. no.: 43/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*; trench 1, under the top soil, the beginning of extension towards west (meter 20); x: 545187.08257, y: 4957992.75927; h: 136.74; 25.07.2019; phase 2b.

**CONSTANTIUS II**

23. Denomination: nummus AE3
Axis: 6; D: 20.6 mm; W: 3.66 g.
Mint: Sirmium
Dating: 351–355
Obverse: [D] N CONSTAN-[TIV]S P F AVG
Bust of Constantius II pearl-diademed, draped, and cuirassed, right
Reverse: [FEL TEMP RE]-PARATIO
Mint-mark: ·S·/-//
Helmeted soldier to left, shield on left arm, spearing fallen horseman who is bearded with extended arm and turns to face soldier.
Catalogue: RIC, 47
Inv. no.: 54/19W
Context: Pojejena 2019, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, *horeum*; trench 1, x: 545185.11910, y: 4957991.36148; h: 136.64; 24.07.2019; phase 2b.

**Unidentifiable coin**

24. Denomination: bronze
Axis: -; D: 25.2 mm; W: 7.98 g.
Mint: uncertain
Dating: 1st–3rd century AD
Obverse/Reverse: corroded.
Catalogue: -
Inv. no.: 1/2020
Context: Pojejena 2020, Auxiliary fort, area of the east gateway – *porta praetoria*, area A; h: -0.25m; excavated ground, humus; 15.07.2020. Metal detector; phase 2b.

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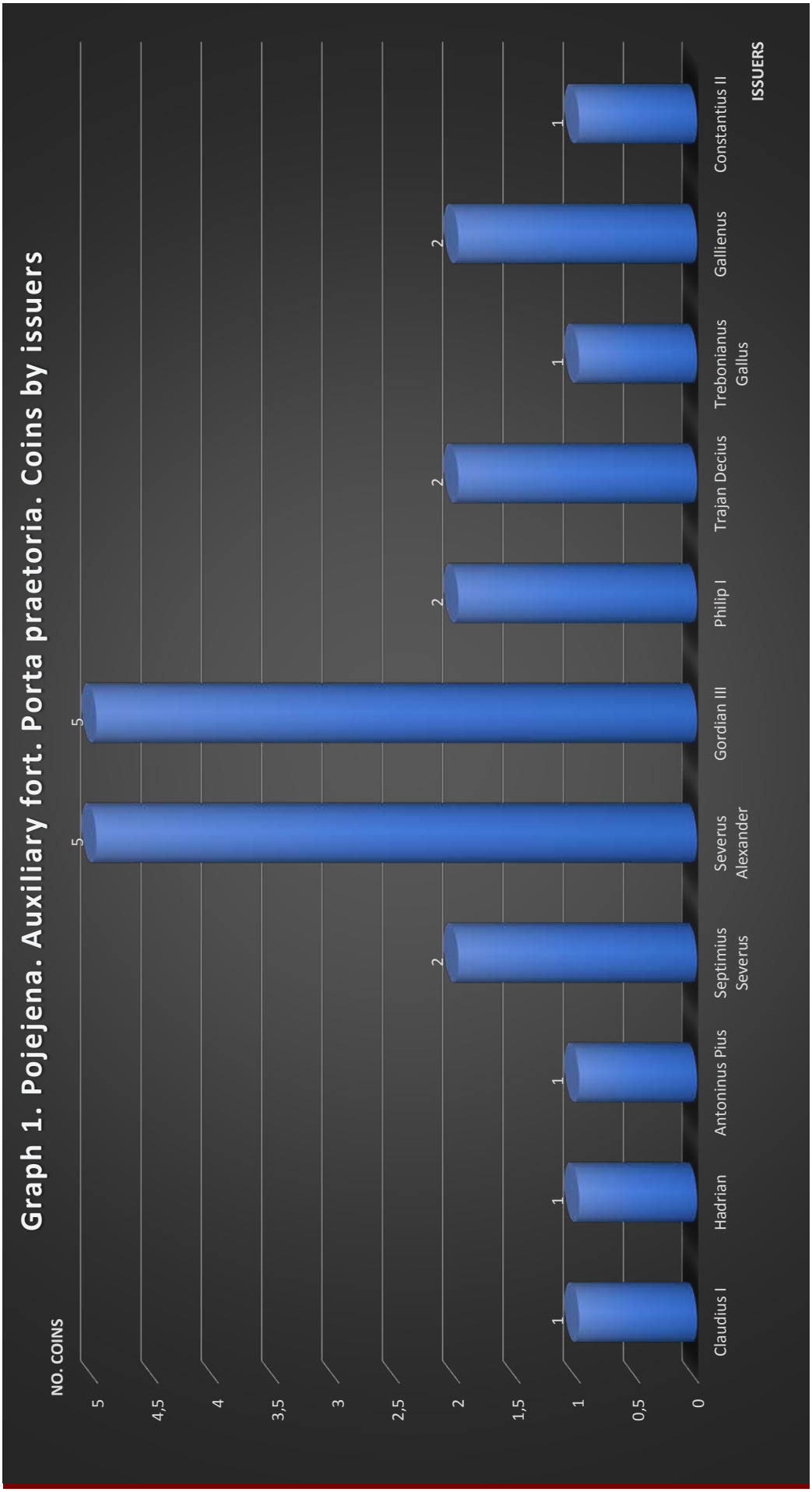
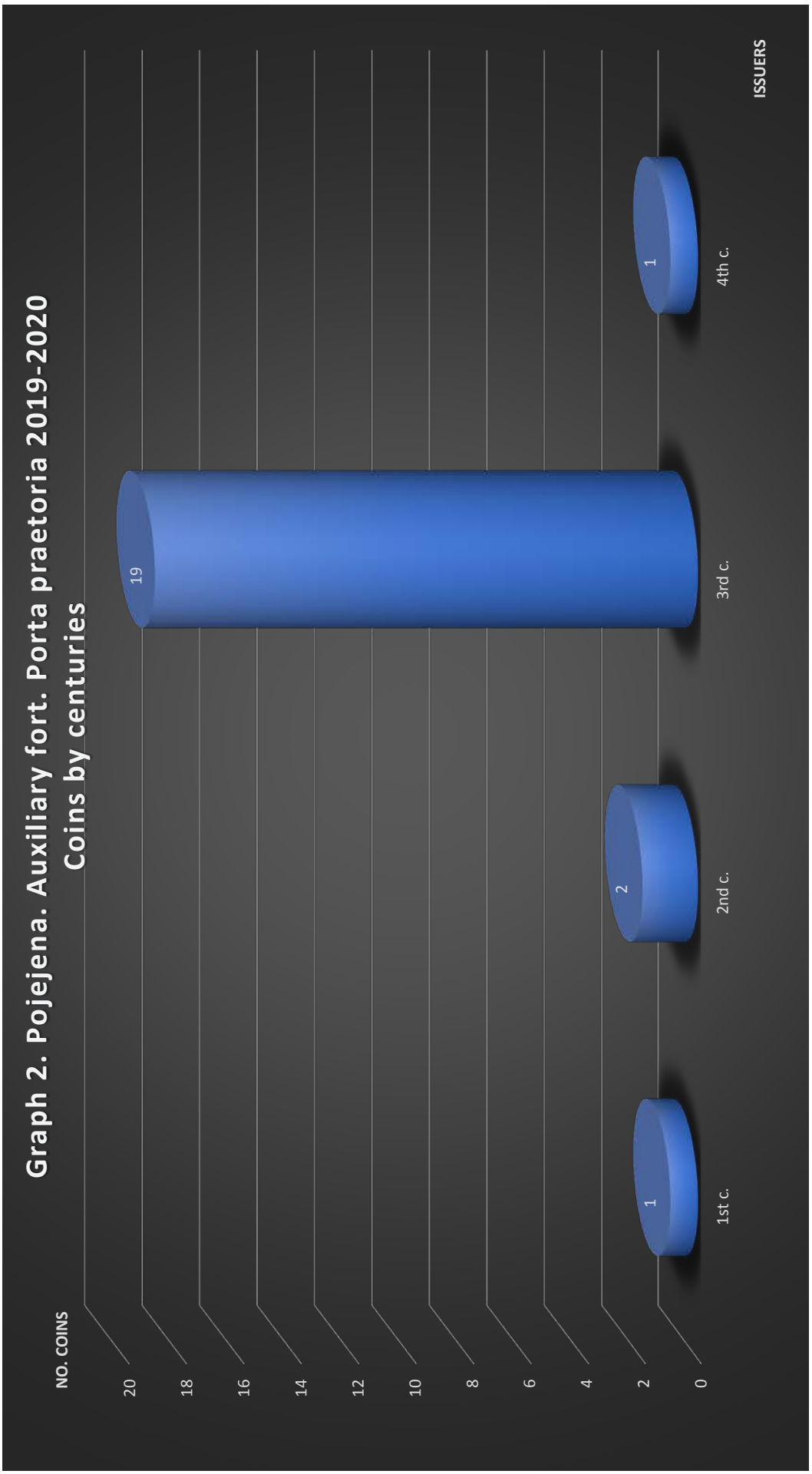
Table 1. Pojejena. Auxiliary fort. Porta praetoria. Coins by phases

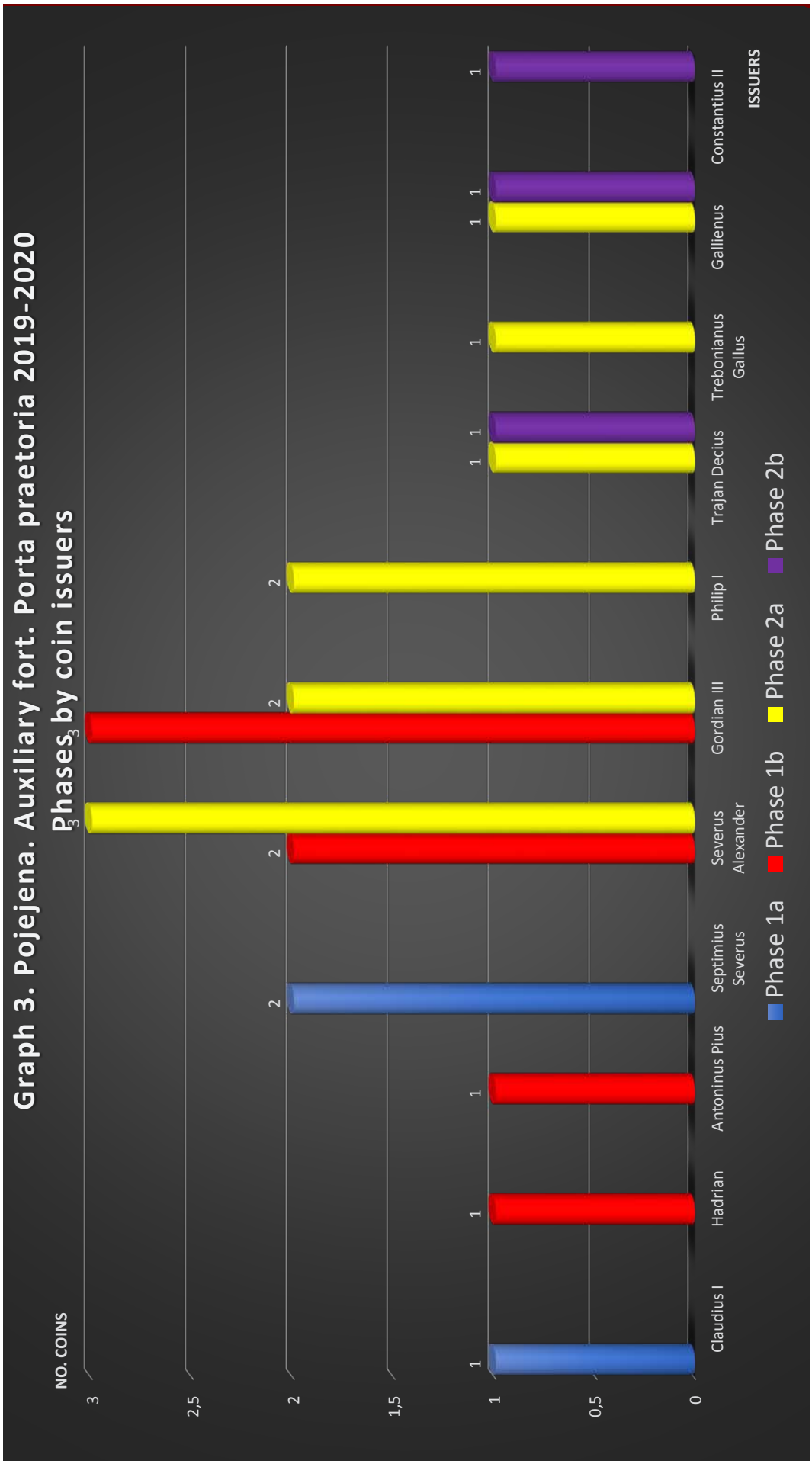
| Phase | Coins/ phase | Coins/ issuer | Issuer |
|---|---|---|---|
| Phase 1a (late 2nd c. - early 3rd c. AD) | 3 | 1 | Claudius I |
| | | 1 | Septimius Severus |
| | | 1 | Septimius Severus: Geta (Caesar) |
| Phase 1b (early - mid-3rd c. AD) | 7 | 1 | Hadrian |
| | | 1 | Antoninus Pius |
| | | 2 | Severus Alexander (cat. nos. 8-9) |
| | | 3 | Gordian III (cat. no. 12-14) |
| Phase 2a (mid - late 3rd c. AD) | 10 | 3 | Severus Alexander (cat. no. 6-7, 10) |
| | | 2 | Gordian III (cat. no. 11, 15) |
| | | 2 | Philip I (cat. no. 16-17) |
| | | 1 | Trajan Decius (cat. no. 19) |
| | | 1 | Trebonianus Gallus |
| | | 1 | Gallienus (cat. nos. 21) |
| Phase 2b (mid - late 4th c. AD) | 3 | 1 | Trajan Decius (cat. no. 18) |
| | | 1 | Gallienus (cat. nos. 22) |
| | | 1 | Constantius II |

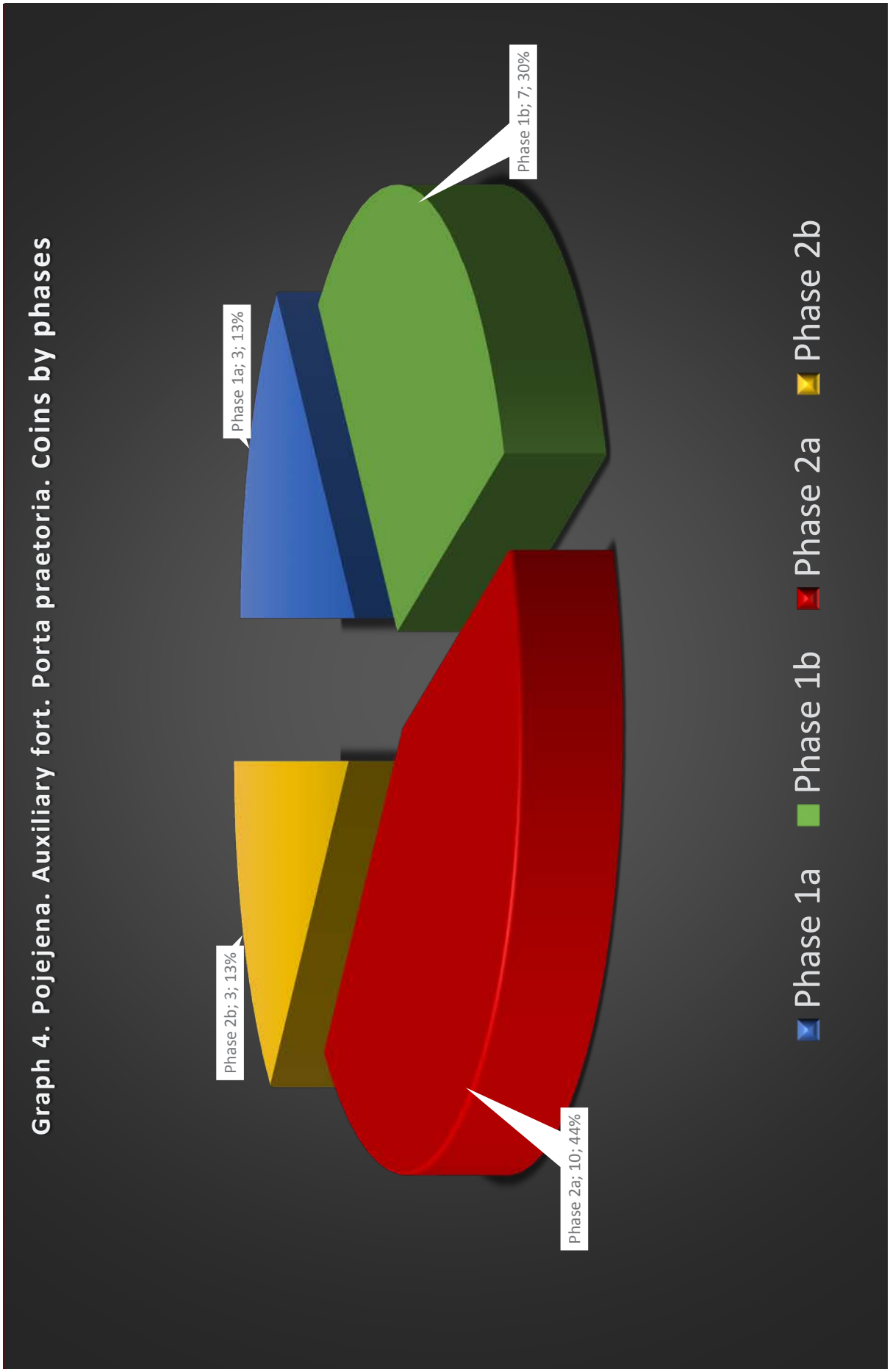
Table 2. Pojejena. Stray finds

| Issuer | Coin no. |
|---|---|
| Republic (Mark Antony) | 1 |
| Vespasian | 1 |
| Trajan | 1 |
| Antoninus Pius | 1 |
| Gordian III | 1 |
| Philip I | 1 |
| Trajan Decius (Herennius Etruscus) | 1 |
| Trebonianus Gallus | 1 |
| Aemilian | 2 |
| Valerian I | 1 |
| Constantine I: Crispus | 1 |
| Constans | 3 |
| Constantius II | 4 |
| Constantiu II (Constantius Gallus) | 2 |
| Constantius II (Julian II) | 1 |
| Julian II | 5 |
| TOTAL | 27 |

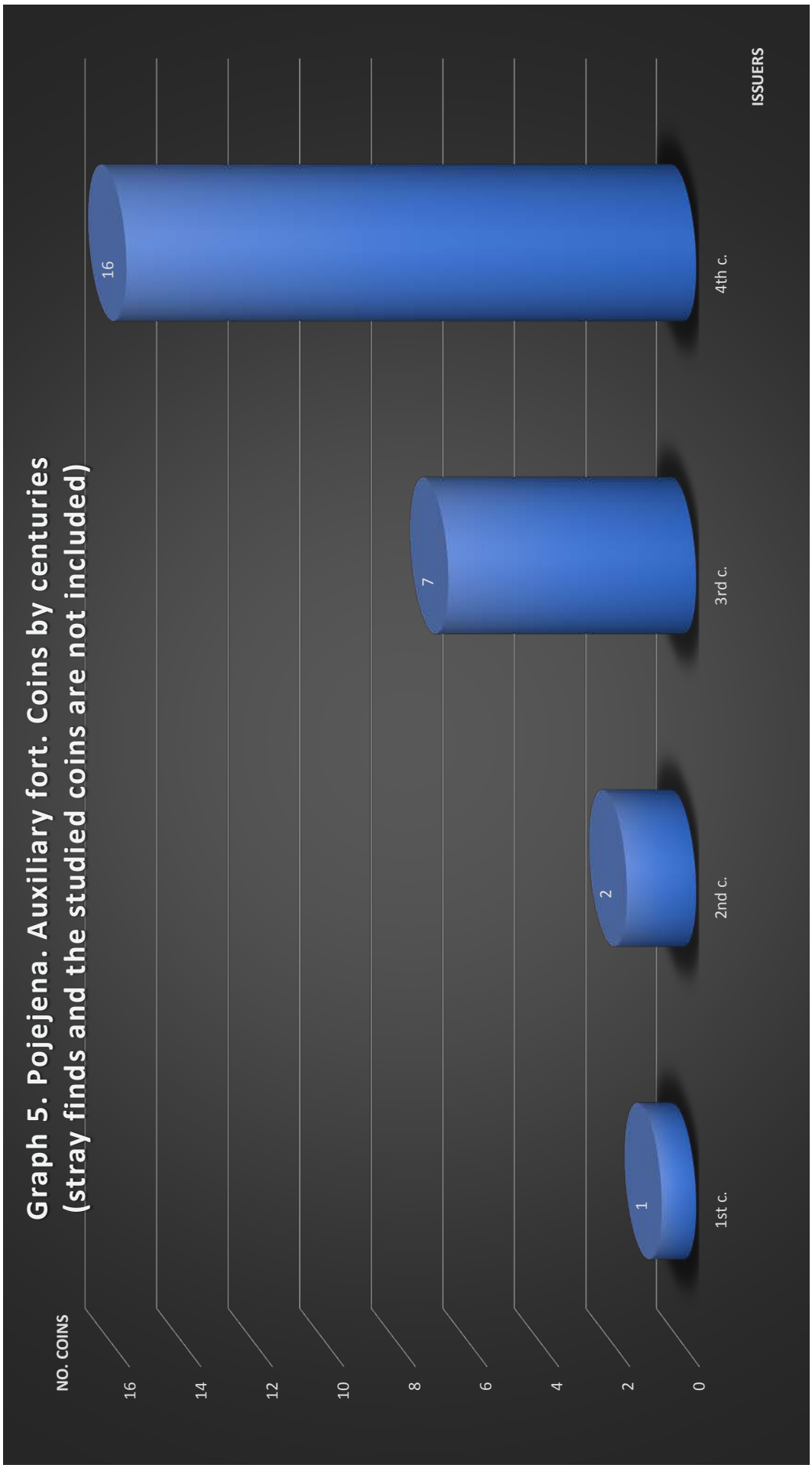

Graph 1. Pojejena. Auxiliary fort. Porta praetoria. Coins by issuers
NO. COINS
5
4,5
4
3,5
3
2,5
2
1,5
1
0,5
0
1
1
1
2
5
5
2
2
2
1
1
Claudius I
Hadrian
Antoninus Pius
Septimius Severus
Severus Alexander
Gordian III
Philip I
Trajan Decius
Trebonianus Gallus
Gallienus
Constantius II
ISSUERS


Graph 2. Pojejena. Auxiliary fort. Porta praetoria 2019-2020
Coins by centuries
NO. COINS
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
19
2
1
1
1st c.
2nd c.
3rd c.
4th c.
ISSUERS

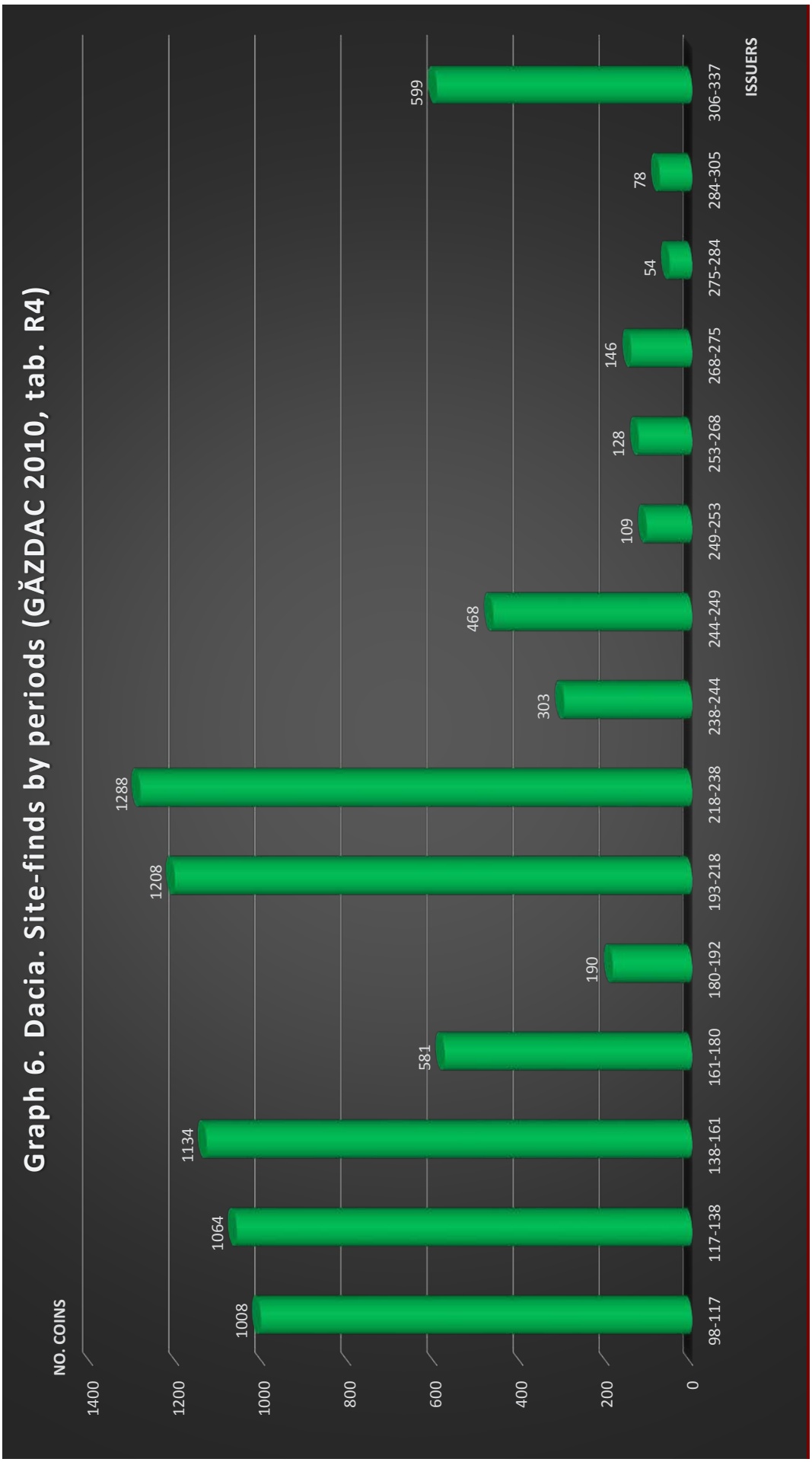

Graph 3. Pojejena. Auxiliary fort. Porta praetoria 2019-2020
Phases by coin issuers
NO. COINS
3
2,5
2
1,5
1
0,5
0
1
1
1
2
2
2
3
3
1
1
1
1
1
Claudius I
Hadrian
Antoninus Pius
Septimius Severus
Severus Alexander
Gordian III
Philip I
Trajan Decius
Trebonianus Gallus
Gallienus
Constantius II
ISSUERS
Phase 1a
Phase 1b
Phase 2a
Phase 2b

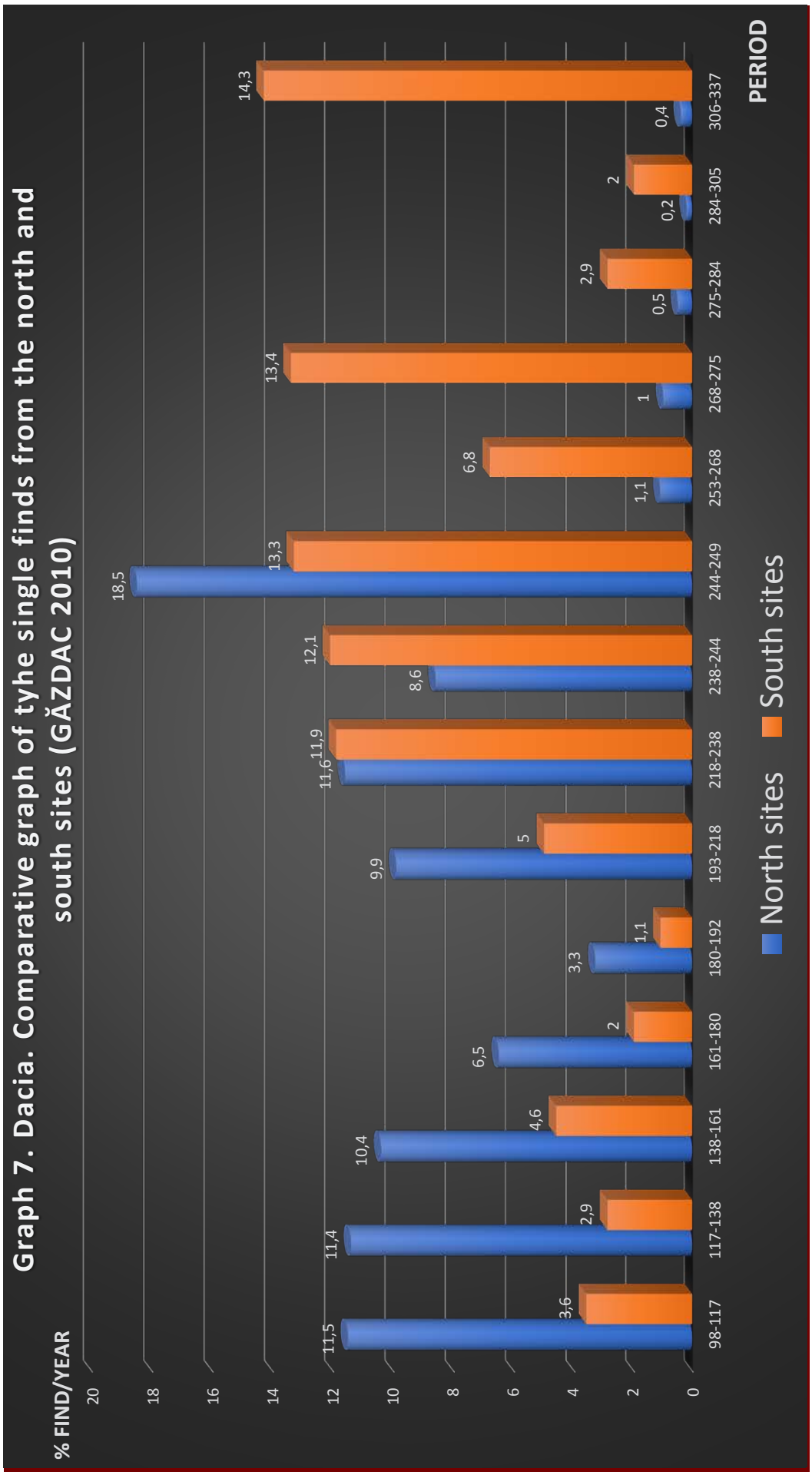



Graph 4. Pojejena. Auxiliary fort. Porta praetoria. Coins by phases

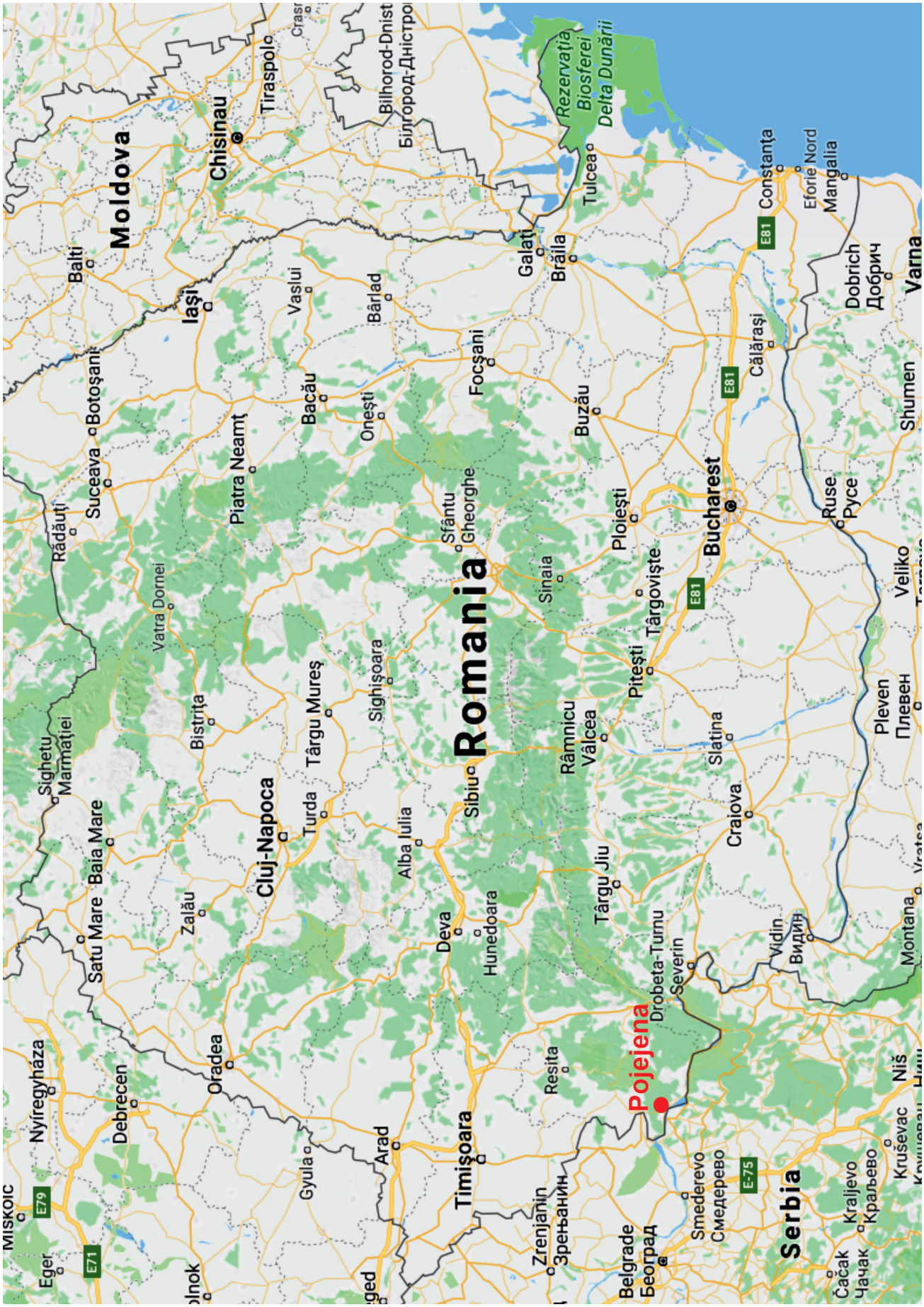



Graph 5. Pojejena. Auxiliary fort. Coins by centuries (stray finds and the studied coins are not included)

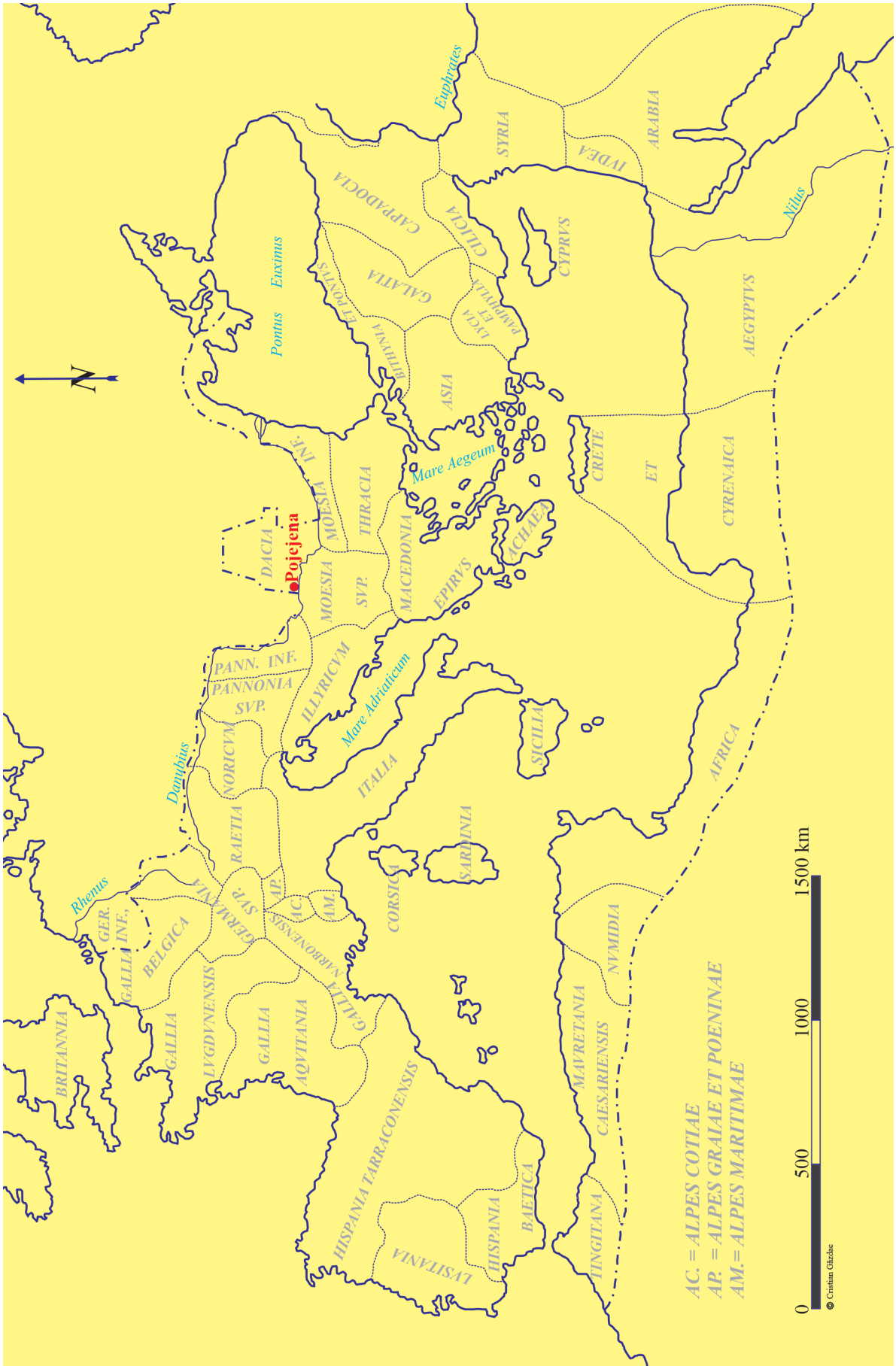

Graph 6. Dacia. Site-finds by periods (GĂZDAC 2010, tab. R4)
NO. COINS
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
1008
1064
1134
1288
1208
581
190
303
468
109
128
146
54
78
599
98-117
117-138
138-161
161-180
180-192
193-218
218-238
238-244
244-249
249-253
253-268
268-275
275-284
284-305
306-337
ISSUERS



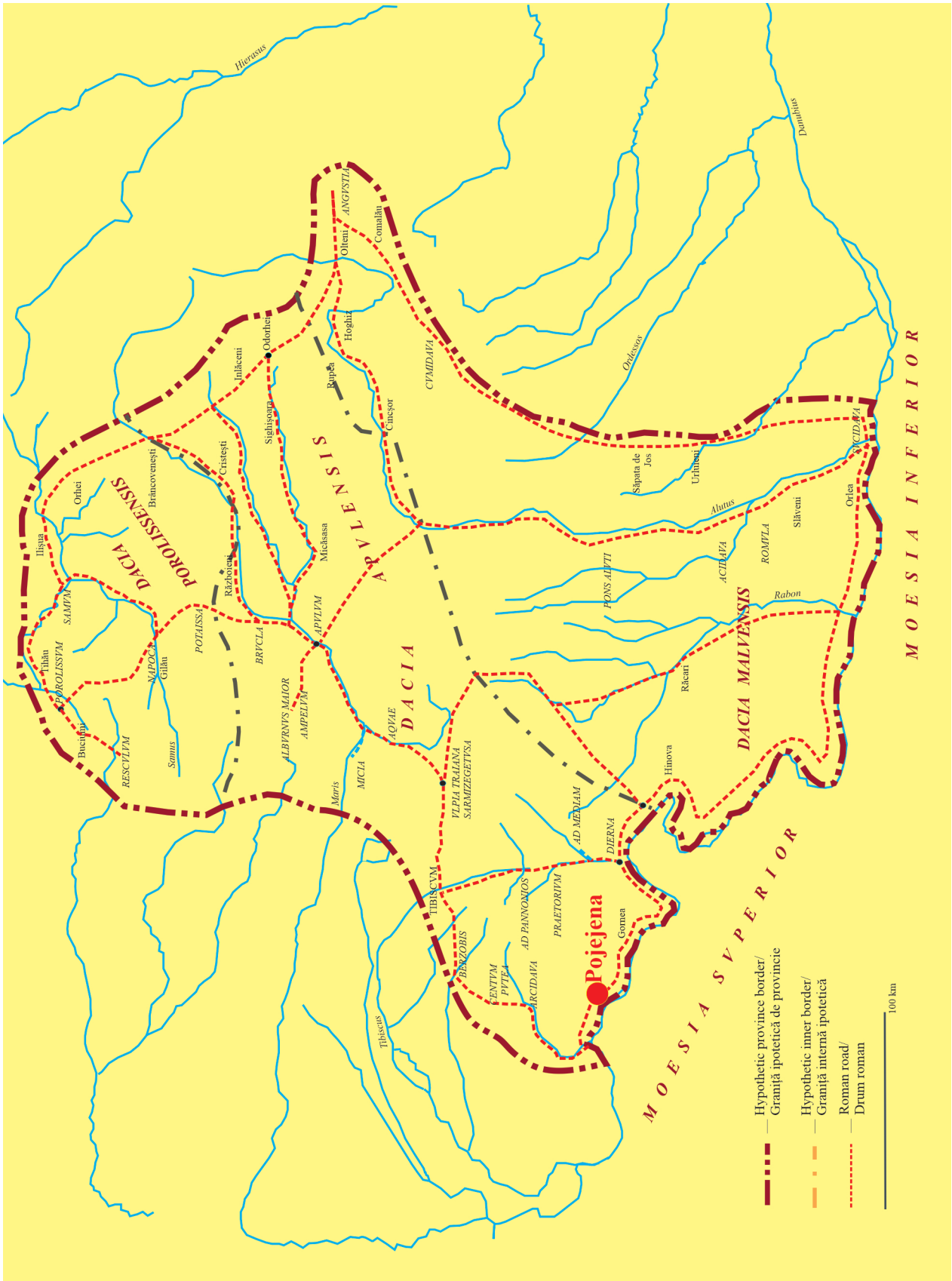

Graph 7. Dacia. Comparative graph of tyhe single finds from the north and south sites (GĂZDAC 2010)



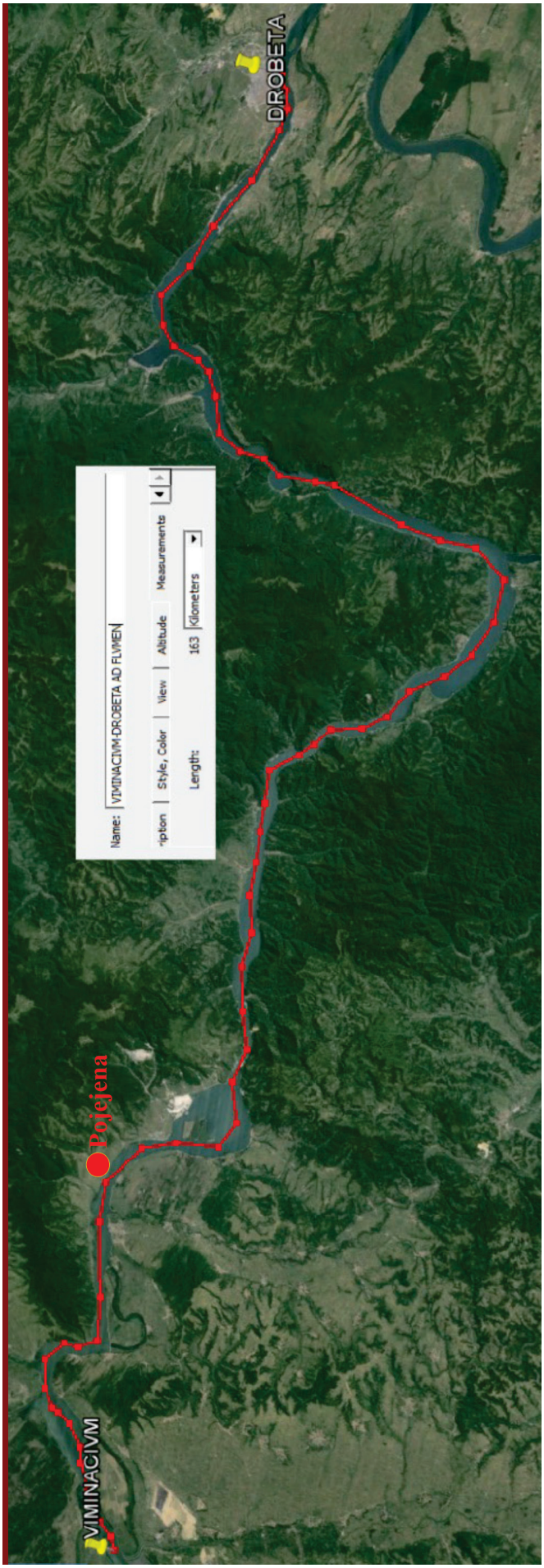

Map 1. Map of Romania pointing the location of Pojejena.




Map 2. The Roman Empire, mid-2nd century AD, pointing the location of Pojejena.




Map 3. Roman Dacia pointing the location of Pojejena.




Map 4. The distance between Viminacium and Drobeta on the Danube River with the location of Pojejena (based on GÁZDAC/ALFÖLDY-GÁZDAC 2015., 28).

Fig. 1. The Roman sites and the medieval fortress at Pojejena (based on TIMOC 2018, 50, fig. 2).

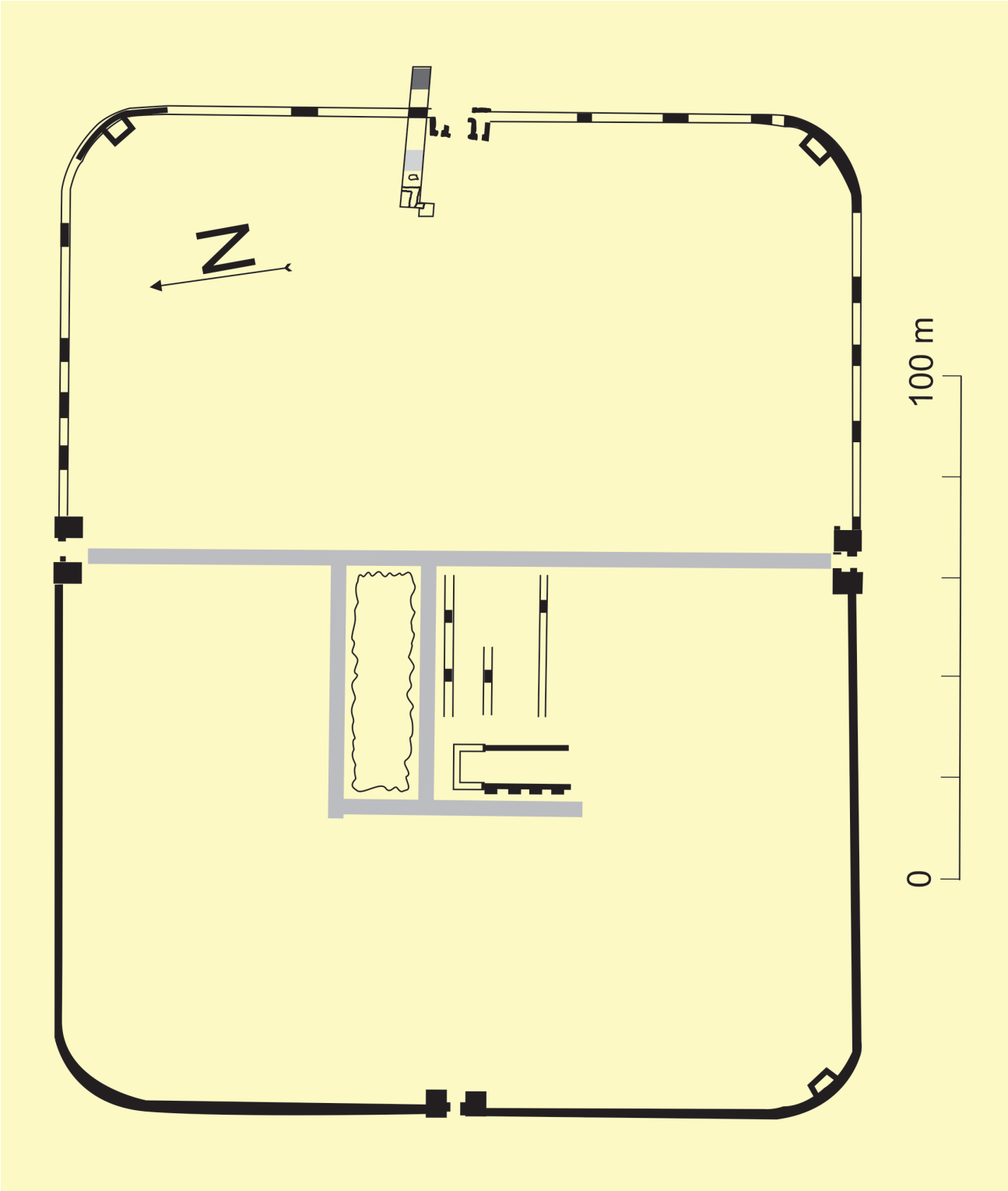



Fig. 2. The auxiliary fort of Pojejena (based on GUDEA/BOZU 1978, 182), including the excavated areas at porta praetoria in 2019-2020.

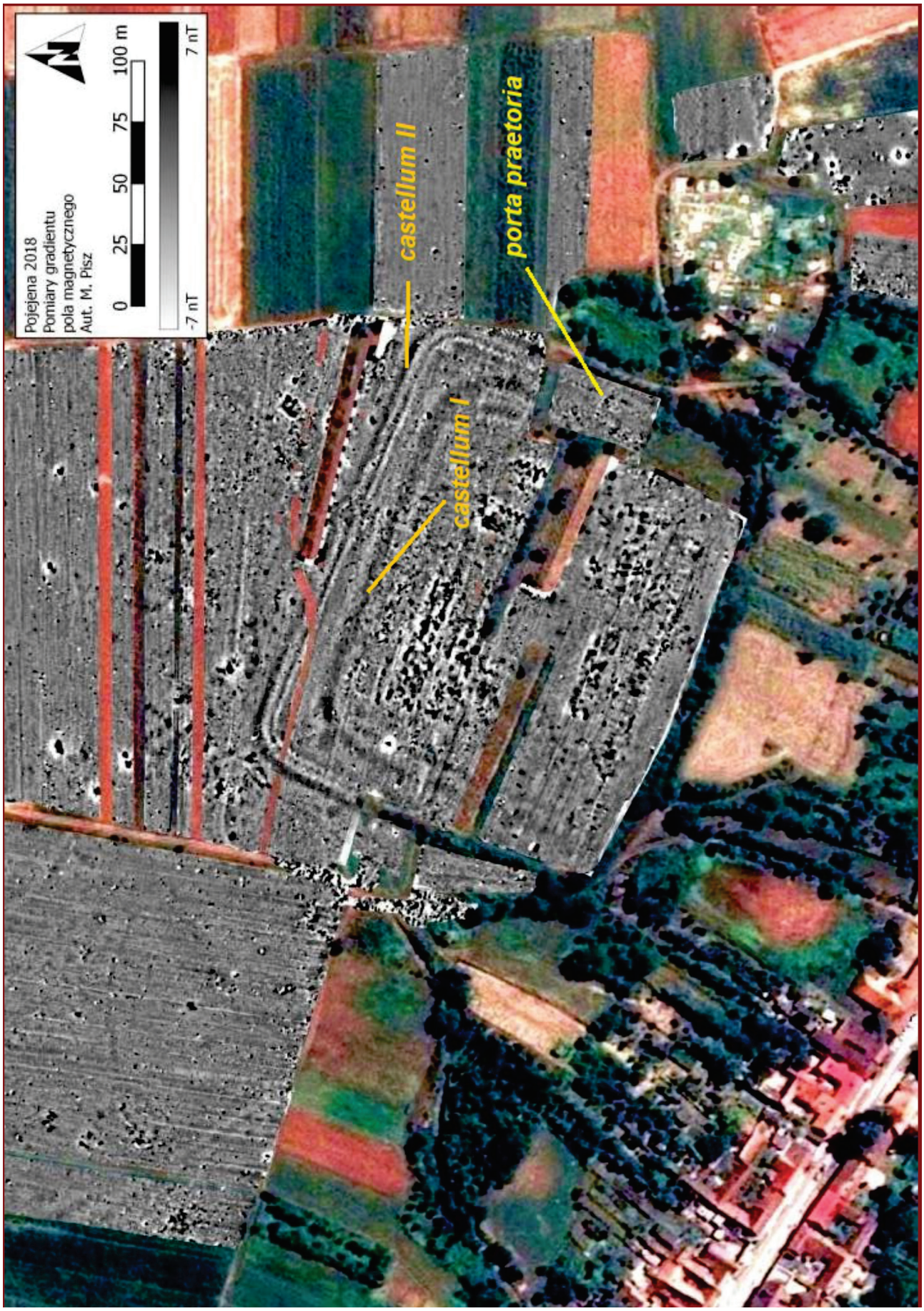



Fig. 3. The two main development phases of the auxiliary fort from Pojejena according the geomagnetic prospections (based on TIMOC/PISZ/JECZMIENOWSKI/ARDELEAN 2018, 63, fig. 6).

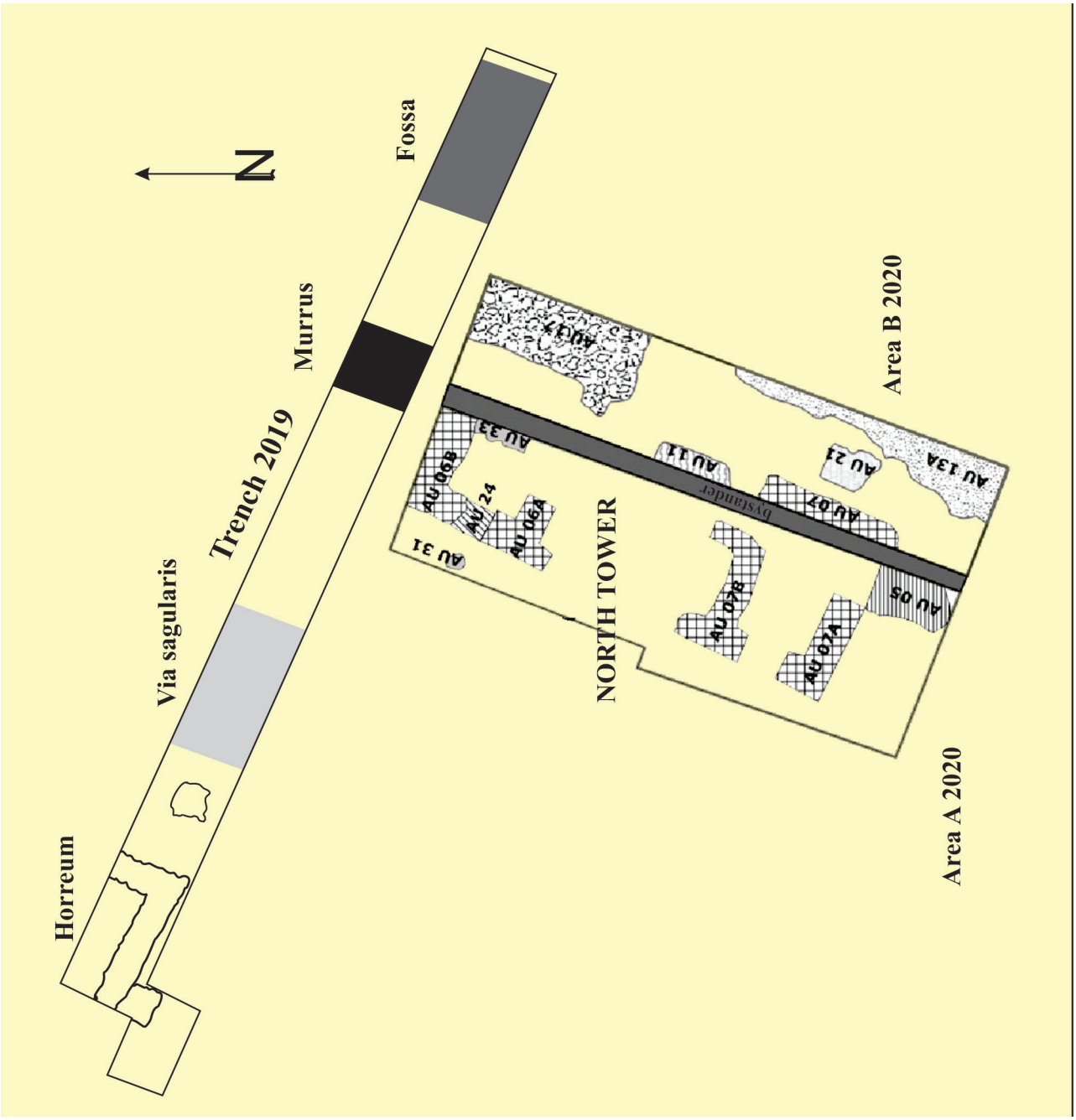



Fig. 4. The excavated areas of 2019-2020 under study.

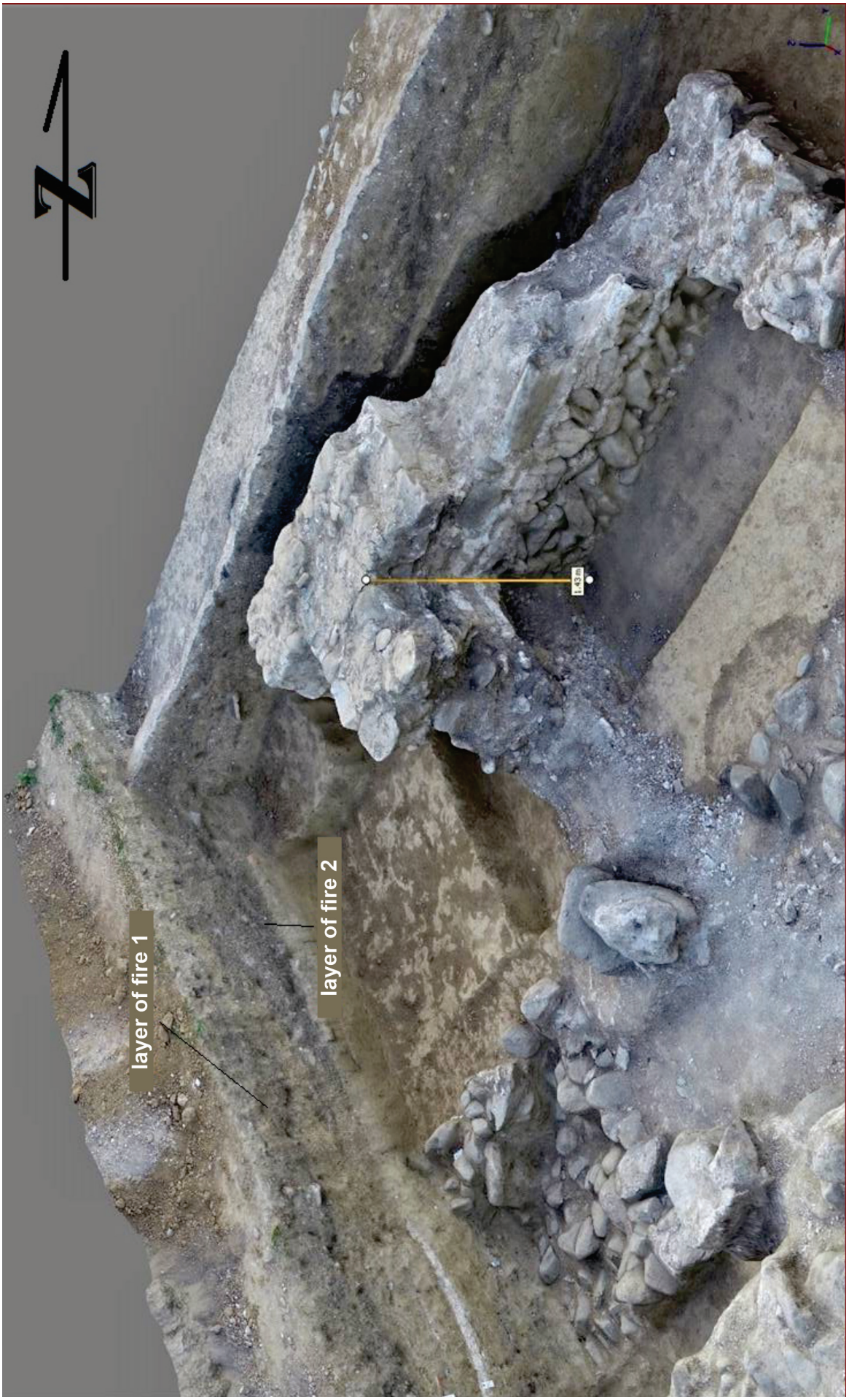



Fig. 5. Pojejena. Auxiliary fort, porta praetoria. A 3d perspective of the area A 2020 pointing out the two layer of fires (photo Cristian Ardelean)