

REFLECTIONS ON THE SETTLEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE POIENEȘTI-LUCAȘEUCA CULTURE¹

Abstract: We shall discuss herein the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture settlements. To date, in central and northern Moldavia there were identified approximately 200 archaeological sites, deemed Poienеști-Lucașeuca type settlements. Approximately 40% were systematically excavated or examined by sondages, the other being known only by field research. Within the settlements investigated by archaeological excavations there were found several archaeological features: houses, fire installations, pits, “workshops”, outbuildings, cult pits and features.

Keywords: *the East-Carpathian forest steppe, the recent pre-Roman Iron Age, the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture, habitat sites.*

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It is known that by the end of the 3rd century BC, in the area between the Eastern Carpathians and the Dniester there occurred a series of ethnic-cultural and socio-economic changes having as result the establishment of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca² culture in the east-Carpathian forest steppe. According to the information supplied by written sources, this period is characterised by the advance in respective region of certain populations known as the Bastarnae, with their three branches – the Peucini, Sidoni and Atmoni³ – the Scirii and the Galattii⁴. The “homeland” of these tribes seems to be northern Central Europe⁵.

Since the study of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture settlements is still an imperative issue for the research of the Middle and Late La Tène periods in the east-Carpathian region, we proposed to analyse herein this category of sites.

Firstly, we noted there are no exhaustively researched Poienеști-Lucașeuca settlements. Views on the issue are few and also inconclusive since said culture did not benefit, in the recent years, of any special attention.

We mention that the archaeological investigations carried out in

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² BABEȘ 1985; TEODOR 1992; BABEȘ 1993; BABEȘ 2003; MUNTEANU 2004; IARMULSKI 2016.

³ PSEUDO-SKYMNOS v. 797; STRABON II, 5, 30, VII, 3, 15; TITUS LIVIUS XL, 57, 2; POLIBIUS, XXVI, 9, 1.

⁴ TITUS LIVIUS XL, 57, 2; the Olbian decree to the honour of Protogenes.

⁵ BABEȘ 1993, 158-162; IARMULSKI 2013, 29.

the central and northern regions of Moldavia yielded approximately 200 archaeological sites deemed habitat sites⁶ (Fig. 1). Amongst, in only approximately 40% of the sites, systematic excavations or archaeological sondages were conducted.

The Poienеști-Lucașeuca settlements are, without exception, open settlements. In seven cases – Arsura⁷, Măscăuți⁸, Moșna⁹, Poiana Mănăstirii¹⁰, Rudi¹¹ Trebujeni Potârca¹² and Victoria¹³ – they lay within the perimeter of fortifications dating to the preceding period (the 6th – 3rd centuries BC). Nevertheless, in only the sites at Moșna¹⁴ and Rudi¹⁵ archaeological features were identified, in the other five cases being recovered only potshards specific to the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture.

With few exceptions, the settlements lay just nearby water sources, a fact common to the entire historical period. Topographically, they are located either on the smooth slope of certain valleys descending to water sources or in places on the first or second river terraces (Fig. 2; 3). Moreover, there are cases when the habitat sites lay on high relief (Fig. 4).

The size issue of these site categories seems to be rather complicated. This is due to the fact that relevant data on the settlement's surface may be obtained only upon their complete research and not by sondages or field walks, which provide incomplete information. Regretfully, neither the geomagnetic exploration is more precise, especially when the sites include several cultural levels. This is the case, for instance, of the site at Brănești – *Marignea de Vest*, where the Poienеști-Lucașeuca settlement overlaps a Cucuteni-Tripolie culture site¹⁶ (Fig. 5).

As previously mentioned, until present no settlement was fully researched, so that data on habitat site sizes are few. From available data, it was assumed their surface could vary between 1-3 ha (Ghelăiești, Lucașeuca II; Brănești – *Marginea de Vest*)¹⁷ and 8-10 ha (Botoșana, Lunca Ciurei)¹⁸.

Another aspect which we wish to discuss herein is represented by settlement groups. Noticeably, (Fig. 1) the area between the Bârlad and the Prut was rather densely inhabited. Several settlement clusters may be evidenced on the Siret and its tributary, the Moldova. Another compact site group is delimited on the middle Prut course. In the area comprised between the Răut and Botna there is another site cluster. Lastly, another compact group of settlements is delimited on the middle Dniester.

⁶ We note that potshards specific to the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture were found also outside the area of the said cultural group area. We mention to this effect the settlements at Morești, Mureș county (HOREDT 1979, 35-52; BABEȘ 1993, 207, Taf. 46/11-14; BERECKI 2008), Satu-Nou, Constanța county (IRIMIA/CONOVICI, 1989, 122, Fig. 15/3; 17/1; 19/10; 24/1-11; 29/1-6; CONOVICI 1992, 3-12; BABEȘ 1993, 229, Taf. 52/1-14); Șeușa, Alba county (FERENCZ/CIUTĂ 2005, 239-254) and Novoselskoe II (БРУЯКО 2009, 346, Рис. 5/7, 6/4.9).

⁷ TEODOR 1973, 53-57; BABEȘ 1993, 182.

⁸ ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1963, 28-29.

⁹ FLORESCU/MELINTE 1968, 129-134.

¹⁰ BERZOVAN 2016, 219.

¹¹ ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1973, 415-416.

¹² NICULIȚĂ/MATVEEV/POTĂNGĂ 1999, 299-300.305.

¹³ PĂUNESCU/ȘADURSCHI/CHIRICA 1976, 56.

¹⁴ FLORESCU/MELINTE 1968, 129-134.

¹⁵ ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1973, 415-416.

¹⁶ MEYER *et alii* 2016, 313.

¹⁷ BABEȘ 1993, 22.199; ФЕДЮРОВ 1960, 19; MEYER *et alii* 2016, 312.

¹⁸ TEODOR 1969, 34; BABEȘ 1993, 22

As also mentioned for Late periods¹⁹, although certain settlement groups may be evidenced, one should be cautious in expressing any social-economic conclusions, especially since the chronological framing of most habitat sites is not well established. To this effect, it is possible that several settlements lying one nearby the other had belonged, in fact, to one and the same human community, moving back and forth in respective area in search for farming lands. Moreover, we may hypothetically agree that, in the same manner as a group of inhabitation features represent a patriarchal family, a settlement or more, lying nearby, represents a community, while a group of sites could form a union of communities.

Settlements' structure. The lack of comprehensive research of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture settlements prevents us to endorse any view regarding their internal planning, or even more, establish several site types based on this criterion. Nevertheless, in some cases, when excavations stretched over larger surfaces, a few notes may be drawn.

Thus, the most complex situations, from the point of view of the settlements' internal planning, are found with Botoșana and Lozna Hlibicioc. In the first case, there were excavated and examined 29 habitation features²⁰, and in the second case, 19²¹.

In the site at Botoșana there is a notable priority for the NNV-SSE orientation of the houses (13 habitat features), the remaining features being oriented on a NNE-SSV or N-S²² direction. Furthermore, the habitation features lay close to each other, thus forming smaller groups (Fig.). Since houses no. 4-6.12 and the half-huts no. 3.7-8.11-12.14 are practically aligned (Fig. 6), one may suppose certain extant alleys.

Similar circumstances may be noted in the site at Lozna Hlibicioc²³. Houses there were built not far from one another, sometimes in a single row. Thus the habitation features no. 3-5.7.16-17 were situated aligned, while the distance between some of them did not exceed 2 m (Fig. 7). Thus, alike in the settlement at Botoșana, we suppose there existed certain alleys too.

In terms of the structure of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca settlements, it is also worth mentioning that, the grouping of household extensions, as recorded in most sites, around the houses suggests the existence of family set-up form of village communities, whereby the family owned house hearths and the neighbouring area, a fact also recorded for later periods²⁴.

Houses. Houses are, for the majority of the historical periods, one of the most important elements of human life. This is due to the fact that based on their investigation, the lifestyle specificities of a human community may be reconstructed to a certain extension.

Currently, in the approximately 50 sites investigated by systematic excavations or archaeological sondages, 119 houses were discovered. It is a matter of course that the number of the habitation features discovered in each

¹⁹ CORMAN 1998, 13.

²⁰ TEODOR 1980, 181-227.

²¹ TEODOR 1992, 46-70.

²² TEODOR 1980, 183-196.

²³ TEODOR 1992, 46-52, Fig. 1.

²⁴ VORNIC 2006, 248; MUSTEAȚĂ 2005, 36.

site is different, mostly determined by the scale of the investigations. Most of them were examined in the sites at Botoșana²⁵ (29 houses); Lozna Hlibicioc²⁶ (19 houses), Goroșovo²⁷ (9 houses), Lucașeuca II²⁸ (7 houses), Lunca Ciurei²⁹ (7 houses) and Orheiul Vechi³⁰ (6 houses).

The archaeological research determined that over the 2nd – 1st centuries BC, in central and north Moldavia, two house types were used: 1) surface houses; 2) sunken houses. Commonly, in the same settlement both types co-existed. There are cases though, when in a site, only one type of houses was found. Thus, at Kruglik³¹ only surface houses were identified, while at Orheiul Vechi³² and Sokol³³ only sunken buildings were found.

Based on preliminary notes, it was established a numerical ratio of 37 surface houses to 82 sunken houses. This ratio is approximate as long as the already conducted excavations in some of the Poieniști-Lucașeuca settlements remain unpublished and until a larger number of archaeological sites are researched.

Surface houses. As mentioned, of the 119 houses excavated, 37 are surface habitation features. Their shape, more or less precise, was established in 21 cases. They were rectangular or quasi-rectangular. For instance, we mention H. 5 at Lunca Ciurei (Fig. 8/2). Its shape was quasi-rectangular, it had 4.5x3 m sides and NNE-SSV³⁴ orientation. House no. 2 at Dolhești Mari was rectangular flat, with the sides sized 4.85 x 3.9 m (Fig. 8/5) and oriented NNE-SSV³⁵.

Taking into account the sizes of the surface houses, three categories may be delimited: small, average and large. In the first category, which is most numerous, are included the habitation features with a surface varying from 6 to 11 sqm – feature B at Borosești³⁶, H. 12 at Botoșana³⁷ (Fig.). The surface habitation features in the category of those average occupy a surface varying from 12 sqm – H. 8 at Botoșana³⁸ (Fig. 8/3) up to 32 sqm – H. 3 at Lucașeuca II³⁹ (Fig. 9/1). Large surface houses are rarely recorded. The surface of these features oscillates from 32.8 sqm – H. 2 at Kruglik⁴⁰ (Fig. 9/3) to 48 sqm – H. 3 at Kruglik⁴¹ (Fig. 8/6).

The rooms' set-up is relatively uniform, in most cases these are single-room spaces. To date, only a single house with two rooms is known – H. 2 at Kruglik⁴² (Fig. 9/3).

Heating systems were present for certain in 15 of the 37 surface houses. They are usually represented by hearths. Only H. 3 at Lucașeuca II⁴³ and H. 3 at Kruglik

were provided with kilns⁴⁴. As yet, there are only two cases, both in the settlement at Kruglik⁴⁵ (H. 1 and 2) (Fig. 9/2-3), where inside the same house there were identified two heating installations. Regularly, hearths were set in one of the house corners. Thus, of the 13 surface houses where hearths were identified with certainty, four lay in the north-eastern corner and only one in the northern, north-western, western and eastern corners, in the other cases on one of the sides – yet never on the southern side – or in the middle of the habitation feature (Fig. 8/2-4; 9/2-3). In terms of the kilns, we mention that in H. 3 in the site at Lucașeuca II (Fig. 9/1) it was set nearby the western side of the feature, and in H. 3 at Kruglik (Fig. 8/6) the kiln was built in the middle of the house.

Thus, we may conclude that commonly, the fire installation within surface houses occupied the peripheral area of the feature, often one of its corners, and rarely near one of the sides. We believe this was only natural as such planning allowed maximum use of the house surface, which was anyhow small.

Noticeable, almost half of the fire installations lay in the northern side of the houses. On the other hand, there are no cases when they were set on the southern side or the southern corner of the house. Hence, we may assume that access into the surface house was made from the southern side. This seems rather logical, since it protected the house against cold winds, whose predominant direction was from the north or east.

Of the 15 surface houses with the place where the hearth or kiln lay was identified with precision, only H. 8 at Botoșana⁴⁶ (Fig. 8/4) had a pit dug nearby the hearth. It most likely was designed to deposit the ash.

The floor of the surface houses, was not, usually, specially made, consisting of battered clay. In some cases though, it was carefully worked. This is the case of H. 3 at Kruglik (Fig. 8/6), where the floor was made of a 4-5 cm thick-clay coating layer, formed, very likely subsequent to repetitive treatments⁴⁷. Moreover, it is not excluded that while in use, the houses' floors were covered with planks or hides⁴⁸.

It is very difficult to assess how the walls and roofs of the surface houses were built. They were likely placed on the ground, supported by a timber frame stuck in the ground over which was applied a layer of clay coating mixed with straws or other perishable materials⁴⁹. Traces of postholes, representing the timber frame of the house were identified in H. no. 1-3 from the settlement at Kruglik (Fig. 8/6; 9/2-3) and in H. 3 in the site at Lucașeuca II (Fig. 9/1).

Regarding the roof of such buildings, we agree with T. Arnăuț's views⁵⁰, according to which surface houses had a gabled roof. It was supported on the sides by wall plates set in the upper side of the walls, while the rafter tie was bolstered by a girder supported at its turn by the row of the central posts. The rafters were made of beams bolstered on

²⁵ TEODOR 1969, 33-42; TEODOR 1980, 183-196; BABEȘ 1993, 22.

²⁶ TEODOR/ŞADURSCHI 1980, 225-235; TEODOR 1992, 46-52.

²⁷ ПАЧКОВА 1983, 4-26.

²⁸ ФЕДОРОВ 1960, 240-246.

²⁹ TEODOR 1987, 69-85. As recorded in the scholarly literature (BABEȘ 1993, 204), houses no. 2 and 3 at Lunca Ciurei belong to the Getae level.

³⁰ ТКАЧУК 1991, 44-53; POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 457-494.

³¹ TIMOSHCHUK/VINOKUR 1962, 73-74; ПАЧКОВА 1974, 34-35.

³² ТКАЧУК 1991, 44-53; POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 457-494.

³³ БАКУЛЕНКО/ПАЧКОВА 1979, 5-7.

³⁴ TEODOR 1987, 79.

³⁵ ANDRONIC 1994, 235, Fig. 2.

³⁶ BABEȘ 1993, 184.

³⁷ TEODOR 1980, 196.

³⁸ TEODOR 1980, 193.

³⁹ ФЕДОРОВ 1960, 244-245.

⁴⁰ TIMOSHCHUK/VINOKUR 1962, 72.

⁴¹ ПАЧКОВА 1977, 26.

⁴² TIMOSHCHUK/VINOKUR 1962, 73-74

⁴³ ФЕДОРОВ 1960, 244

⁴⁴ ПАЧКОВА/ПОМАНОВСКАЯ 1983, 53.

⁴⁵ TIMOSHCHUK/VINOKUR 1962, 73-74.

⁴⁶ TEODOR 1980, 193, Fig. 7/2.

⁴⁷ ПАЧКОВА 1977, 27.

⁴⁸ TEODOR 1999, 28.

⁴⁹ BABEȘ 1993, 24; TEODOR 1999, 29.

⁵⁰ ARNĂUȚ 2003, 37.

a ridge and wall plates set one beside the other. Over this structure were placed thatches, reed or other perishable materials attached to the roof's timber framework.

An important issue of such building types is the appreciation of their purpose – habitation/dwelling features or buildings designed for household activities. In the scholarly literature, the view according to which the lack of heating installations inside most surface houses indicates they were used for household needs is well-established. However, for the given period, portable hearths are well known. Therefore, the absence of the hearths is no relevant indication for the separation between the dwelling/habitation features and household appendages⁵¹. Furthermore, the ethnographic research has shown that many of these buildings, lacking the heating installation, might have been used as temporary shelter until the proper house was built, or that they were inhabited only during the summer⁵². The insofar small number of such feature types impedes any generalisation on their purpose.

Sunken houses. The basic criterion delimiting this house type is the depth of their floors. Thus, ethnographically, two sunken house variants may be delimited: huts and half-huts. Since archaeologically it is difficult to accurately separate among these two variants⁵³, we shall further use the term of sunken houses. Usually, the depth of their floors varies between 0.5 and 0.8 m from the ancient surface level – feature 1 at Orheiul Vechi⁵⁴, the half-hut 2 at Goroșovo⁵⁵ – and in some cases between 0.2 and 0.45 m – feature D at Ghelăiești⁵⁶, H. 11 at Lozna Hlibicioc⁵⁷. (Fig. 10/6). Since foundations were required, we may not exclude the possibility that in the latter case, such features were in fact surface houses⁵⁸. According to some scholars, these are the cases when the use of the term “sunken featured buildings”⁵⁹ is much more appropriate.

When the land was sloping, for horizontal floors, the depth of the house varied much from one edge to another. This is the case for instance of H. 1 at Lunca Ciurei, whose depth varies between 0.3 to 0.75 m from the ancient surface level⁶⁰ (Fig. 9/5). We also mention H. 4 at Rudi, whose floor on the southern side lay at 0.5 m deep, while the northern at 0.24 m from the ancient surface level⁶¹.

Based on the observations made until now, it was established that sunken houses had, from the point of view of their layout, a large variety of forms. Thus, H. 1 at Lunca Ciurei (Fig. 9/5) was rectangular with well outlined corners and sides of 5x3.75 m⁶². House no. 3 at Dolhești Mari (Fig. 9/6) was also rectangular with the sides of 2.9x2 m⁶³. In the Poieniș-Lucașeuca culture environment there are also rectangular sunken houses with rounded corners. For

instance, we mention feature no. 4 at Orheiul Vechi. It was rectangular with rounded corners, while the sides were sized 4.4x3.6 m⁶⁴. There are also flat oval houses too. For instance H. 2 at Lucașeuca II (Fig. 9/4) was oval with 4.4x3.1 m sides⁶⁵.

Notably, the sizes of such features were not large, usually varying from 12 to 24 sqm. There are though also cases when they were even smaller in surface. Thus, H. A in the settlement at Ghelăiești was sided 3x2.5 m⁶⁶, and the half-hut 1 at Botoșana (Fig. 9/7) occupied a surface of ca. 9 sqm⁶⁷.

In 35 of the sunken houses fire installations were clearly delimited – either hearths or kilns. Regularly, they were represented by hearths. In most cases, the fire installations were placed in one of the corners of the house – six in the western corner, four in the north-western corner, two in either the north corner or the north-eastern corner and once in the southern and south-eastern corner. In 12 cases they were placed on one of the sides – four on the western side, two on the south-western and northern side and once on the southern, south-eastern, eastern and north-eastern side (Fig. 9/5-6: 10/1-2.4). Within the same context, we specify that in seven cases the fire installations were discovered in the middle of the houses (Fig. 9/7). Thus, alike in surface houses, fire installations commonly occupied the peripheral area of the sunken buildings, which was somewhat natural as such planning allowed the maximum use of the house surface.

In six cases – half-huts 1.3-4.9 at Goroșovo⁶⁸, H. 6 at Lucașeuca II⁶⁹ and H. 1 at Roșiori Dulcești⁷⁰ – nearby the fire installations were identified pits (Fig. 10/2-5). Some, likely, served to deposit the ash.

The identification of the access inside the houses is very difficult, since in most cases, any such traces are impossible to identify. Nevertheless, in the present, there are certain data which partially resolve this issue. Thus, on the southern and eastern side of feature no. 53 at Orheiul Vechi (Fig. 10/7) an entry step with a maximum height of 0.25 m⁷¹ was identified. Similar circumstances were recorded in the case of the half-hut no. 4 at Botoșana (Fig. 10/1), where the access niche lay on the eastern side of the structure⁷². The half-hut no. 3 in the settlement at Goroșovo (Fig. 10/2) was provided on the western side with an access threshold sized 1.4x1.2 m⁷³.

Very rarely within the sunken houses were identified pits, whose functionality, likely, was that of food storages. We shall detail such features below.

In general, traces of the furniture playing the role of beds or tables could not be identified. Sometimes though, within some dwelling/habitation features were reported larger steps, which possibly, were used as furniture. Thus, the half-hut no. 7 at Goroșovo was provided on the southern

⁵¹ IARMULSCHI 2010, 165.

⁵² VUIA 1973, 133-137.

⁵³ BABEȘ 1993, 22.

⁵⁴ POTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 459.

⁵⁵ ПАЧКОБА 1983, 9.

⁵⁶ BABEȘ 1993, 199.

⁵⁷ TEODOR 1992, 49, Fig. 3.

⁵⁸ LEUBE 2009, 154.

⁵⁹ LEINEWEBER 1997, 30.

⁶⁰ PETRESCU-DÎMBOVÎȚA *et alii* 1955, 184; TEODOR 1987, 69, Fig. 3.

⁶¹ ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1972, 11.

⁶² TEODOR 1987, 69.

⁶³ ANDRONIC 1994, 235, Fig. 2.

⁶⁴ POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 459, Fig. 3.

⁶⁵ ФЕДОРОВ 1960, 240.

⁶⁶ BABEȘ 1993, 24.

⁶⁷ TEODOR 1980, 183.

⁶⁸ ПАЧКОБА 1983, 7, 12, 14, 24.

⁶⁹ ФЕДОРОВ 1960, 246.

⁷⁰ HÂNCEANU 2016, 41.

⁷¹ ТКАЧУК 1991, 47.

⁷² TEODOR 1980, 185.

⁷³ ПАЧКОБА 1983, 12.

and south-western side with a bench sized 2.6x1.3 m⁷⁴. Similar circumstances were identified in half-hut no. 1 from the same site. In this case, the half-oval feature sized 1.6x0.8 m was identified on the south-western side of the house⁷⁵. It likely served as bed or table⁷⁶.

Usually, the floor of the sunken-featured buildings was simple, made of battered clay. There is only one case, to date, namely feature D/SIV in the site at Borosești, where the floor was slightly burnt⁷⁷. We do not exclude the possibility that when used, the floor was covered with planks or hides⁷⁸.

Similarly to the surface houses, it is difficult to identify how walls and roofs were built. Hence, we may hypothetically outline three categories of sunken houses: 1) features where within the pit perimeter, post prints were identified, supporting the walls and roof; 2) buildings with a single post supporting the roof; 3) houses without such pits.

The first category is characterised by the fact that the walls were supported by timber posts whose traces were delimited within the pit perimeter. For instance, H. 2 in the settlement at Lucașeuca II (Fig. 9/4). There were uncovered six postholes, with a diameter varying from 0.2 to 0.5 m, grouped as three on the eastern and western sides of the house⁷⁹.

The second category of buildings is characterised by the presence of a single posthole. For instance, feature no. 53 in the site at Orheiul Vechi (Fig. 10/7), in the middle of which was discovered a posthole with a depth of 0.1 m from floor level⁸⁰.

Lastly, the last category of buildings, which is most numerous⁸¹, is characterised by the lack of postholes, the walls and roofs being supported, likely, on timber skids set on the edge of the house pit.

Since such buildings were sunken, usually, by at most 1 m from the ancient surface level, we may assume their walls were built, alike the surface houses, of a timber frame, coated with a clay layer. The roof, of which details regarding its construction are unknown, was likely, gabled and made of timber, thatch, reed and other perishable materials.

Similarly to the surface houses, an issue still debated in the scholarly literature, is represented by the function of the sunken buildings. We join the view expressed by some of the German and Polish scholars arguing that they might have fulfilled multiple functions – that of a dwelling, for cooking, storage purposes, as waving space etc⁸². Several finds support such an approach. For instance, H. 3 at Sokol was provided, near the eastern side, with a 1.8x1.2 m sized flat oval pit. It was in fact, the entrance to a cellar-type structure, sized 2.8x2.25 m and 1.25 m deep⁸³.

That in some cases waving was performed in the sunken buildings is suggested by the find of precisely

24 spindle weights in H. 4 at Lucașeuca II⁸⁴. It is worth mentioning that some ancient authors, namely Pliny, report that the Germans practiced weaving “...in pits and below the ground”⁸⁵.

Household appendages. Within the houses and nearby were discovered various household appendages. They are represented by – kiln, hearths, outbuildings and pits. We shall analyse each of them below.

Kilns. Such fire installations were discovered in both houses – H. 1 at Lucașeuca II (Fig. 11,1), H. 3 in the site at Kruglik (Fig. 8/6) and outside them – the settlement at Lucașeuca II⁸⁶. Depending on the material used for their construction, two types were distinguished⁸⁷:

The first type is represented by kilns made of clay and vegetal materials. They were sunken into the ground by 0.15-0.2 m and were rectangular with rounded corners. Such structures were recorded in the settlement at Lucașeuca II⁸⁸ and Ghelăiești⁸⁹.

The second type includes kilns made of a stone bed with the dome bound with clay mixed with potshards, pebbles and perishable materials. Such fire installations were discovered in H. 3 in the site at Kruglik⁹⁰ (Fig. 8/6) and H. 6 at Lucașeuca II⁹¹.

The presence of fire installations within houses or nearby seem to indicate they were used for cooking or bread baking. It is possible that the kilns discovered outside the habitation features had been provided with timber structures, whose traces did not survive.

Hearths. Houses were usually heated by hearths, which in only exceptional cases – H.1 and H. 2 at Kruglik (Fig. 9/2-3) – appear double placed at the centre or near one of the house walls. As mentioned in the description of the habitation features, there is a choice for placing them in the north-east and north-west corners of the rooms. We specify that hearths and their remains were also discovered outside the houses.

When they lay outside the habitation features, they were built near the houses. For instance, outdoor hearths were found near H. 3 and H. 5 at Rudi⁹². Similar circumstances were recorded in the settlement at Botoșana. There, such fire installations were found near H. 11 and the half-huts 13 and 15⁹³. A case somewhat special was noted in the site at Goroșovo, where six outdoor hearths were investigated with only one situated near a habitation feature, the other being found around some pits⁹⁴.

Based on the material used in arranging the hearths, we delimited two types:

1. Hearths made of stone material. Usually, they appear as fired stone clusters with a surface of ca. 1 sqm⁹⁵ – H. 1 at Kruglik (Fig. 9/2), the half-hut no. 1 at Botoșana (Fig.

⁷⁴ ПАЧКОВА 1983, 19.

⁷⁵ ПАЧКОВА 1983, 6.

⁷⁶ ПАЧКОВА 1983, 6.

⁷⁷ BABEȘ 1993, 184.

⁷⁸ TEODOR 1999, 28.

⁷⁹ ФЕДОРОВ 1960, 241-242.

⁸⁰ ТКАЧУК 1991, 47.

⁸¹ We believe the number of such house is in fact much smaller. In our view, postholes could not be identified owing to the soil colour, which most often hinders such identification.

⁸² LEUBE 2009, 157; MICHAŁOWSKI 2010, 189.

⁸³ БАКУЛЕНКО/ПАЧКОВА 1979, 5.

⁸⁴ ФЕДОРОВ 1960, 246.

⁸⁵ PLINIUS, *Naturae historiarum libri*, XIX, 8-9.

⁸⁶ ФЕДОРОВ 1960, 246.

⁸⁷ BABEȘ 1993, 24.

⁸⁸ ФЕДОРОВ 1960, 18; IARMULSCHI 2010, 165.

⁸⁹ BABEȘ 1993, 24.

⁹⁰ ПАЧКОВА 1977, 59.

⁹¹ ФЕДОРОВ 1960, 246.

⁹² РОМАНОВСКАЯ 1972, 10.15-16.

⁹³ TEODOR 1980, 189.

⁹⁴ ПАЧКОВА 1983, 26-28.

⁹⁵ BABEȘ 1993, 24; IARMULSCHI 2010, 163.

9/7).

2. Hearths without stone material in their composition arranged on house floors – H. 6 at Botoșana – or directly on the ground. They, when well preserved, represented a burnt earth lens with remains of firing traces around⁹⁶.

Since such features were recorded within both the houses and around them, we assume they were used for cooking and room heating as well.

Outbuildings. They are household buildings, which most often are similar in shape and sizes with the houses. Possibly, this is why some of them were deemed habitation features. An eloquent example to this effect is represented by several surface “houses” in the settlement at Cucorâni (Fig. 11/7-8), measuring at most 4 sqm⁹⁷. In our view, features with such a surface were not habitable, hence their inclusion in the outbuildings category⁹⁸.

Likely, most outbuildings were small surface buildings, reason for which only a few were identified archaeologically. Moreover, as supposed, in the case of some sunken features dating to the Roman period from Germany⁹⁹, it is possible that those sunken more into the ground and of a smaller surface, had been used as cellars. For instance, we may mention H. A in the settlement at Ghelăiești, sunken by 1.3 m from the ancient surface level and surfaced only 7 sqm¹⁰⁰.

We wish to mention that in the Poieniști-Lucașeuca culture environment there are outbuildings with a very large surface. To this effect we mention the surface feature no. 2 in the settlement at Orheiul Vechi, covering a surface of ca. 12x10 m and oriented on a SSE-NNV¹⁰¹ direction. The archaeological remains of the building consist of stone clusters, potshards and animal bones¹⁰². It is difficult to establish the functionality of this feature with certainty, yet given the large number of clusters identified (approximately 30)¹⁰³, one may suppose it served as an outbuilding storing the household goods.

Another structure, likely made for food storage, is feature no. 1 in the same site (Fig. 10/8). It is a sunken irregular flat building, composed of two rooms linked by an approximately 1.2 m wide space. The shape of the rooms resembled a rectangular with rounded sides, each with a surface of ca. 12 sqm. At floor level, there were identified 5 pits (two and respectively three). The pits were flat circular, their diameter varying between 1.1 and 1.8 m, while their depth was comprised between 1.1-1.35 m¹⁰⁴.

Another outbuilding possibly used to store household goods is represented by feature no. 3 in the site at Sokol. It was discovered nearby H. 8 and represented an irregular sunken building, 4.2 m long and a width varying from 2.1 to 2.9 m. The maximum floor depth (1.35 m from the current surface level) lay on the western side of the feature. On the eastern side a step was noted, which allowed the descent into the feature¹⁰⁵.

⁹⁶ TEODOR 1980, 189.

⁹⁷ TEODOR 1975, 130-131.

⁹⁸ IARMULSCHI 2010, 163.

⁹⁹ ZIMMERMANN 1992, 184

¹⁰⁰ BABEȘ 1993, 24.199.

¹⁰¹ POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 458.

¹⁰² POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 458.

¹⁰³ POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 458.

¹⁰⁴ ТКАЧУК 1991, 45.

¹⁰⁵ БАКУЛЕНКО/ПАЧКОВА 1979, 6, 10.

As showed, in the majority of the cases, the purpose of the outbuildings was to store the household goods, as further evidenced by the extant food storage pits within such buildings.

Pits. In the Poieniști-Lucașeuca settlements were discovered a large number of pits differentiating by a range of peculiarities in shape, sizes and nature of the inventory. Such features were recorded both inside the houses of the settlements at Borniș¹⁰⁶, Botoșana¹⁰⁷, Orheiul Vechi, Sokol¹⁰⁸ etc. as well as just nearby like in the sites at Ghelăiești¹⁰⁹, Goroșovo¹¹⁰, Orheiul Vechi¹¹¹, Rudi¹¹² etc.

Most pits are flat circular or oval – pit A/SII at Borosești¹¹³, feature no. 9 in the site at Orheiul Vechi¹¹⁴. Both shapes are found in the same archaeological sites. Admittedly, at Sokol almost all pits are circularly-shaped¹¹⁵, whilst in the settlement at Goroșovo predominate those oval¹¹⁶. Such features were dug in the sterile layer, deepening in the earth down to 2 m from the ancient surface level – pit A/SI in the site at Borosești¹¹⁷, pit no. 3 at Goroșovo, feature no. 31 at Orheiul Vechi¹¹⁸.

Analysing pit shapes from profile, the following variants may be distinguished:

1. Cylindrical pits – pit C/SIII at Borosești, pit no. 2 at Ulmu¹¹⁹.

2. Conical, with bevelled walls narrowing slightly to the bottom – feature no. 29 at Orheiul Vechi, pit no. 5 in the settlement at Sokol¹²⁰.

3. Biconical pits – features no. 1 and 3 at Brănești-Marginea de Vest¹²¹.

4. Pits with a niche in the lower part, towards the bottom – pit no. 28 at Rudi, pit no. 9a at Sokol¹²².

5. Sandglass pits, wide by the mouth, necked by the middle and then again broad by the bottom – feature D/SIII at Borosești, feature no. 6 in the settlement at Orheiul Vechi¹²³.

The bottom of such features was commonly horizontal, sometimes slightly sloping thus increasing pit depths on certain parts. Cases when pit bottoms are concave, like pit 3 at Brănești¹²⁴ or were provided with a step – the pit in H. 8 at Sokol¹²⁵ are extremely rare. Some had their bottoms and walls burnt¹²⁶ for improved storage of the goods deposited there.

As yet, there is little archaeological evidence regarding

¹⁰⁶ TEODOR 1984, 127.

¹⁰⁷ TEODOR 1980, 183.

¹⁰⁸ БАКУЛЕНКО/ПАЧКОВА 1979, 5.

¹⁰⁹ BABEȘ 1993, 24.

¹¹⁰ ПАЧКОВА 1983, 24-26.

¹¹¹ POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 460-462.

¹¹² РОМАНОВСКАЯ 1972, 16-18.

¹¹³ BABEȘ 1993, 184.

¹¹⁴ POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 461.

¹¹⁵ БАКУЛЕНКО/ПАЧКОВА 1979, 7-8.

¹¹⁶ ПАЧКОВА 1983, 24-26.

¹¹⁷ BABEȘ 1993, 183.

¹¹⁸ POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 462.

¹¹⁹ BABEȘ 1993, 184; ROMANOVSKAJA 1987, 223.

¹²⁰ POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 461; БАКУЛЕНКО/ПАЧКОВА 1979, 7-8.

¹²¹ MEYER ȘA. 2016, 313-314, FIG. 4/1, 7/1.

¹²² РОМАНОВСКАЯ 1972, 17; БАКУЛЕНКО/ПАЧКОВА 1979, 8.

¹²³ BABEȘ 1993, 184; MUNTEANU 2005, 61.

¹²⁴ РОМАНОВСКАЯ 1962, 42.

¹²⁵ БАКУЛЕНКО/ПАЧКОВА 1979, 7.

¹²⁶ TEODOR 1999, 33.

how they were covered. It is possible that some features, like for instance, pit no.1 at Gorošovo¹²⁷, had been provided with a lid, possibly with timber structures, standing on one or several posts. Taking into account the information in Tacitus¹²⁸, who reported that the Germanic tribes covered their storage pits with waste to prevent them for freezing and also hide them from the attacking enemies, we believe that the bearers of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture acted in the same manner.

In terms of their purpose, it was assumed that most were originally used to store food reserves. Any subsequent damage turned them into deposits of domestic waste¹²⁹. Evidence to this effect is given by the potshards, object fragments and animal bones discovered there. Moreover, it was argued that some pits fulfilled a ritual function¹³⁰ or that they were excavated in order to extract clay for domestic necessities, being later transformed into pits where waste was deposited¹³¹.

Production-designed features. Within some of the settlements, although few, there were identified remains suggesting that there existed “workshops”. Thus, in the settlement at Brănești was investigated a feature related to pottery production¹³². In the same train of thoughts, we mention that though clay recipients are the most found archaeological material, customary in every site, until present this feature is unique.

The archaeological feature represented a rectangular surface building sized 4.2x4 m. Inside, a kiln was discovered at 0.3-0.4 m deep, which in the upper part exhibited clusters of clay coating with wattle prints, its surface being strongly slagged. The sunken part was a pit, flat oval, sized 1.3x1.1 m. The walls of the feature were vertical, so that in cross-section the pit was rectangularly-shaped. The kiln bottom, located at 0.8 m deep, was almost horizontal and had an approximate diameter of 1.35 m¹³³ (Fig. 11/4). Inside, ten strongly slagged and deformed pots were found. According to the excavator, the maker did not succeed to maintain the necessary temperature for the pottery firing, hence the pots became unusable¹³⁴.

Another economical activity that the bearers of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture practiced was metal working. Traces of such occupations were recorded in the settlements at Borneș¹³⁵ and Ulmu¹³⁶.

The feature unveiled in the site at Borneș represented a sunken building, inside which the prints of a kiln were identified on the north-western wall. It was excavated in the sterile and had the dome preserved on a portion of approximately 0.25 m. The kiln mouth was flanked by two stones which perfectly closed it. On its grate were identified a few burnt stones, iron slag, ash and remains of burnt

earth collapsed from the dome¹³⁷ (Fig. 11/3). Based on all its peculiarities, this kiln for iron ore reduction is part of the Glienick kilns, specific to the Jastorf culture from the Brandenburg region¹³⁸.

In the settlement at Ulmu was identified a sunken structure, rectangular in shape and sized 3.5x3.4 m. On the eastern side of the building a step, raised by ca. 0.5 m above the floor, was found. On this threshold were identified the prints of a kiln pit. The kiln was flat oval and deepened into the ground by 0.45 m. The floor was horizontal and strongly burnt, its diameter being of 0.74 m. The kiln dome did not survive¹³⁹ (Fig. 11/2). Given the small objects found there, namely firstly the blowing tube, clay-made, we believe that the kiln discovered in this complex was used for iron ore reduction¹⁴⁰.

The presence of such buildings undoubtedly records, in our view, the relatively high level of economic development which the bearers of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture had reached.

Cult features. As noted in the scholarly literature¹⁴¹, the cult places of the “Germanic” populations during the pre-Roman Iron Age are archaeologically difficult to confirm, as the temple concept was unknown to these tribes¹⁴². Hence, the presence of cult features within the Poienеști-Lucașeuca type settlements or just nearby them may only be supposed¹⁴³ and not conclusively proven.

A first building, which seems to have been used for cult purposes is that discovered in the settlement at Gorošovo. The feature, rectangular in shape and sized 0.7x0.9 m was built of stone material – the edges were made of larger stones (0.2x0.3 m), while the middle of small stones, from amongst which were retrieved also a few potshards¹⁴⁴. The excavator supposed that the building played the role of an altar where religious rituals¹⁴⁵ were carried out.

Another feature, which seems to evidence the extant sacred space in the Poienеști-Lucașeuca type settlements, was researched in the site at Orheiul Vechi. The feature was a flat circular pit, with a sandglass-shaped cross-section. The mouth diameter was of 1.4x1.5 m and that of the bottom – 1.5x1.6 m. The pit depth was of 3 m from the current surface level. In the upper part, down to 2 m deep, the pit was filled with a dark earth without impurities, while lower, followed successive layers of clay and ash in association with charcoal. In the filling earth were discovered a sandstone strickle, a spindle weight, a polisher, potshards, clay slag pieces and animal bones. The pit bottom was covered with a thick ash layer, onto which lay a red deer antler¹⁴⁶. According to the filling of the feature, but especially the red deer horn, an animal, who, in fact, is the symbol of fecundity, of ritual growth and rebirth, it was assumed this features had ritual

¹²⁷ ПАЧКОВА 1983, 24.

¹²⁸ TACITUS, XVI, 3.

¹²⁹ ПАЧКОВА/ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1983, 54; IARMULSCHI 2010, 166.

¹³⁰ BABEȘ/MIHĂLESCU-BÎRLIBA 1970-1971, 179; BABEȘ 1993, 24; MUNTEANU 2005, 61.

¹³¹ TEODOR 1999, 32.

¹³² ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1965, 37-39; BABEȘ 1993, 24; IARMULSCHI 2010, 163.

¹³³ ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1965, 38-39; BABEȘ 1993, 24; IARMULSCHI 2010, 163.

¹³⁴ ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1965, 39.

¹³⁵ TEODOR 1984, 126-127; TEODOR 1999, 56; BABEȘ 1993, 183.

¹³⁶ ROMANOVSKAJA 1987, 210; IARMULSCHI 2010, 163.

¹³⁷ TEODOR 1984, 126-127.

¹³⁸ BRUMLICH/MEYER/LYCHATZ 2012, 448-453, Abb. 10.

¹³⁹ ROMANOVSKAJA 1987, 208-210.

¹⁴⁰ IARMULSCHI 2010, 163, nota 6.

¹⁴¹ RUBEL 2011, 95

¹⁴² SIMEK 2009, 35-41; RUBEL 2011, 97, note 11.

¹⁴³ Within this context, it is worth mentioning the so-called sanctuary at Dolinei (see SMIRNOVA 1976, 309-318), which T. Arnăuț ascribes to the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture (ARNĂUȚ 2014, 85).

¹⁴⁴ ПАЧКОВА 1983, 28.

¹⁴⁵ ПАЧКОВА 1983, 28.

¹⁴⁶ POSTICĂ/MUNTEANU 1999, 460; MUNTEANU 2005, 61.

specificities¹⁴⁷.

Very likely, the same purpose fulfilled the features with dog offerings. We mention, to this effect, the pit discovered near H. 1 in the settlement at Ulmu. On the bottom of the flat rectangularly-shape feature, sized 2x1.1 m and with a depth varying from 0.45 to 0.75 m, was placed a 0.65 m-long¹⁴⁸ dog's skeleton (Fig. 11/6), which lay on the right side head northwards. The skeletons of two dogs, placed approximately one on top of the other, were also discovered in pit no. 25 in the site at Cucorăni¹⁴⁹.

The ritual burial of the dogs was recorded not only in specially arranged pits, but also in houses. For instance, we mention H. 7 at Lunca Ciurei where, near the southern wall, placed on the floor, lay a dog skeleton in crouched position on the right side (Fig. 11/5). On top of the head and legs were discovered potshards¹⁵⁰.

We wish to mention that the ritual offering of dogs is not specific to only the Poienesti-Lucașeuca culture. This practice is frequently found in recent pre-Roman Iron Age sites from northern Central Europe¹⁵¹, the Celtic *oppida*¹⁵², but also certain in Dacian sites¹⁵³.

If the cultural-chronological framing of H. 4 and 5 in the site at Rudi was accurate, then, we may assume that the bearers of the Poienesti-Lucașeuca culture practiced human sacrifices. We mention that from the bottom of H. 4, mixed with charcoal and animal bones, were recovered 12 human skeletons – 10 children, one woman and an unidentified skeleton – not anatomically placed¹⁵⁴.

Similar circumstances were recorded in H. 5. There, on the bottom of the feature, among five large stones (ca. 0.4x0.35x0.15 m) and several animal bones – bovid, horses, swine and beavers – were identified the skeletons of six individuals. Age could be specified for two of them, namely a 4-5 years old infant and a young man aged 15-18¹⁵⁵.

It is also possible that “grave” no. 6 from the same site suggests the practice of human sacrifices in the 2nd – 1st centuries BC. We specify that in respective feature, interpreted as grave¹⁵⁶, were discovered the skeletons of two children and two youngsters¹⁵⁷. Although the excavators at Rudi did not ascribe respective feature to the Poienesti-Lucașeuca¹⁵⁸ level, we believe it corresponds to the settlement dating to the recent pre-Roman Iron Age, as it contained an iron spur¹⁵⁹ (type A after J. Ginalschi)¹⁶⁰, pieces specific to stage A2 in the Przeworsk culture¹⁶¹.

That the “Germanic” populations of the pre-Roman Iron Age practiced human sacrifices is proven by both the archaeological finds from northern Central Europe¹⁶² as well

as the information in some classical authors¹⁶³. Orosius, for instance, describes the behaviour of the *Cimbri* subsequent to the battle at Arausio (105 BC). According to the ancient historian and theologian, they threw away the gold and silver into the river, destroyed the armours, hung the war prisoners and drowned the horses¹⁶⁴. The Roman historian Tacitus reported on the human sacrifices with the *Semnoni*, who are the noblest among the *Suebi*¹⁶⁵.

Therefore, based on the archaeological finds and narrative sources, we believe that the spiritual manifestations of the “Germanic” peoples in general, and those of the bearers of the Poienesti-Lucașeuca culture, in peculiar were rather complex and of a varied nature.

Funerary features. Funerary features were found in two settlements – Lozna Hlibicioc¹⁶⁶ and Orheiul Vechi¹⁶⁷. In the first case only the find is mentioned¹⁶⁸, while on the second, the grave at Orheiul Vechi, there is more information. It is a cremation grave with the charred bones placed in an urn. The urn is in fact a pot, partially preserved, made of fine fabric. It was covered by a bowl made of the same fabric. Inside the urn, beside the charred bones, was also discovered a brooch similar to variant B after Kostrzewski¹⁶⁹.

While several specialists have argued that the key resemblances extant between the settlements of the culture discussed herein and those of the Getae (the 6th – 3rd centuries BC) are a substantial argument in favour of a genetic relation between these two cultures¹⁷⁰, one must specify that the settlements of the Poienesti-Lucașeuca culture have also perfect parallels with the habitat sites ascribed to the Jastorf and Przeworsk cultures in the north of Central Europe. To this effect, and in order to avoid declarative statements, we mention a few – Datyn 10¹⁷¹, Gemarkung Kölln¹⁷², Glinieck¹⁷³ and Poznań-Nowe Miasto, Fst. 278¹⁷⁴. The emergence and origin of the Poienesti-Lucașeuca culture shall be discussed though in another article.

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¹⁶³ SIMEK 2003, 62; RUBEL 2011, 97.
¹⁶⁴ OROSIUS V, 16, 1-7.
¹⁶⁵ TACITUS, XXXIX, 1-4.
¹⁶⁶ TEODOR 1992, 46.
¹⁶⁷ ТКАЧУК 1991, 50-51.
¹⁶⁸ TEODOR 1992, 46.
¹⁶⁹ ТКАЧУК 1991, 50-51.
¹⁷⁰ НИКУЛИЦЭ 1987, 203-205; ПАЧКОВА 1985.
¹⁷¹ DOMAŃSKI 2010, 159-160.
¹⁷² BRANDT 2005, 53-54.
¹⁷³ BRUMHLICH/MEYER/LYCHATZ 2012, 433-473.
¹⁷⁴ MICHAŁOWSKI 2010, 181.

¹⁴⁷ MUNTEANU 2005, 61.

¹⁴⁸ ROMANOVSKAJA 1987, 215; IARMULSCHI 2010, 166.

¹⁴⁹ TEODOR 1975, 132.

¹⁵⁰ TEODOR 1987, 84; IARMULSCHI 2010, 166.

¹⁵¹ SCHEIBNER 2013, 33-45; MEYER/RAUCHFUß 2014, 208, Abb. 12.

¹⁵² MENIEL 1982, 81-88.

¹⁵³ SÎRBU 1993, 102.104.

¹⁵⁴ ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1972, 13.

¹⁵⁵ ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1972, 15.

¹⁵⁶ TCACIUK/ZASĂPCHINA 2000, 101-112; Fig. 2/24-29

¹⁵⁷ PAVLOV 2000, 115-116, Tab. 2

¹⁵⁸ TCACIUK/ZASĂPCHINA 2000, 101-112.

¹⁵⁹ TCACIUK/ZASĂPCHINA 2000, Fig. 2/24.

¹⁶⁰ GINALSKI 1991, 55.

¹⁶¹ GINALSKI 1991, 55.

¹⁶² SIMEK 2003, 63-64; BEILKE-VOIGT 2007, 154-158.

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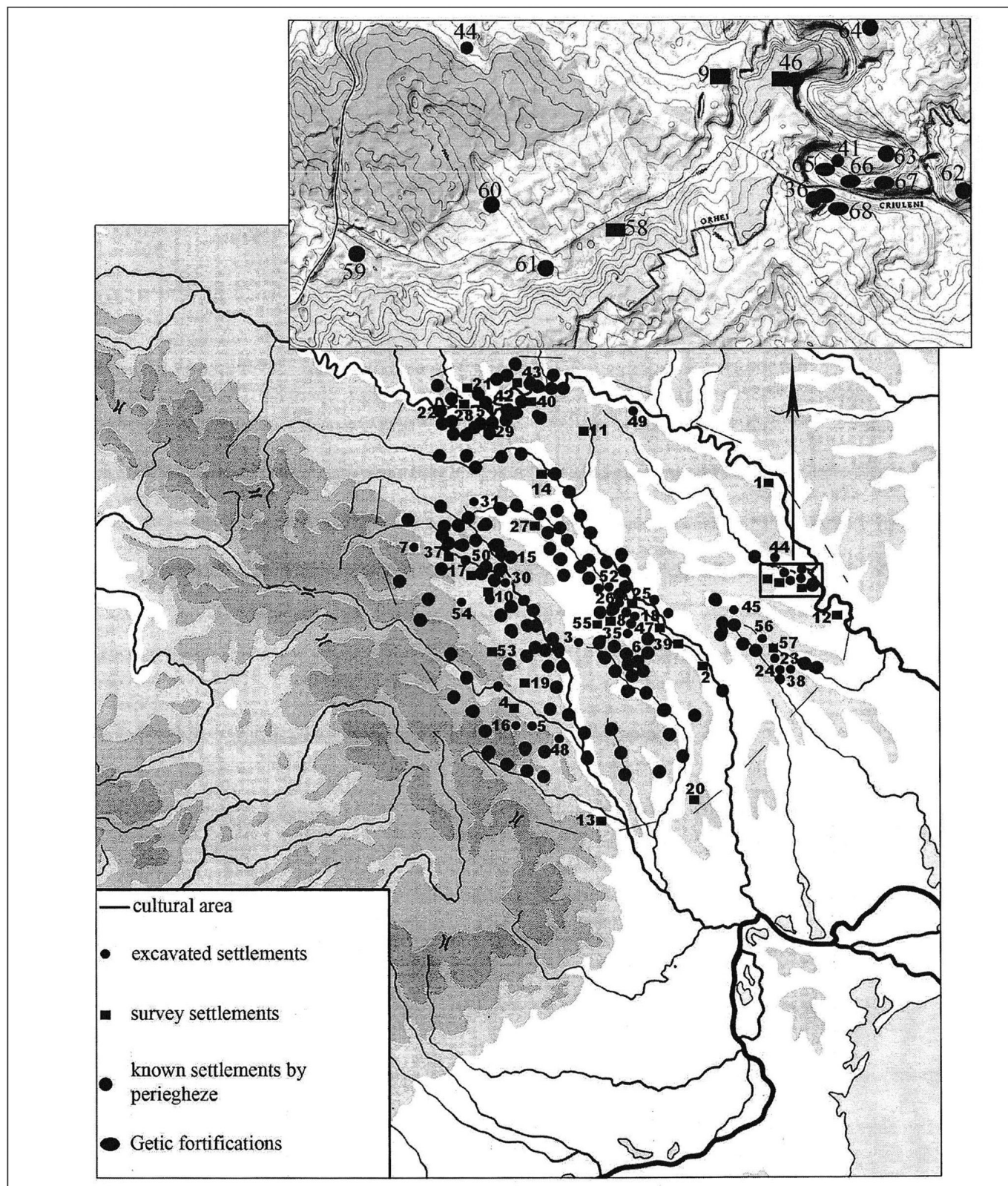


Fig. 1. Distribution of the Poienesti-Lucașeuca culture settlements (after MEYER *et alii*, 2016).

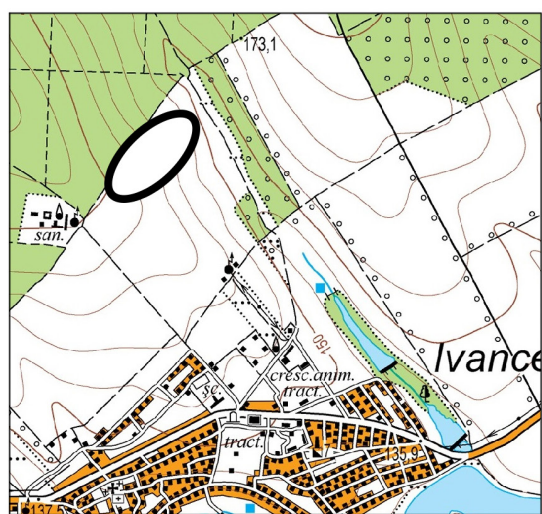
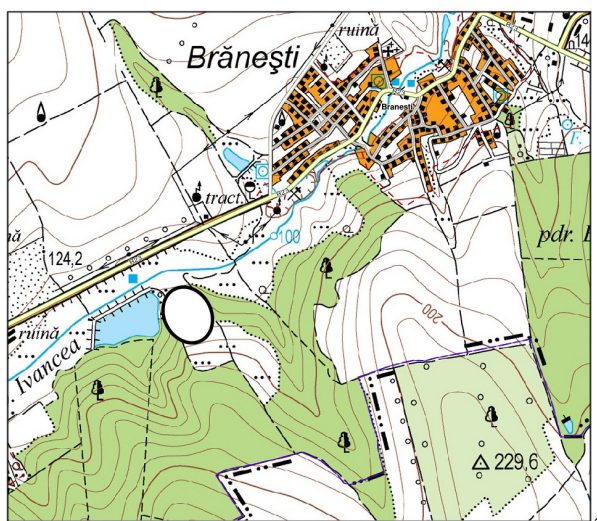
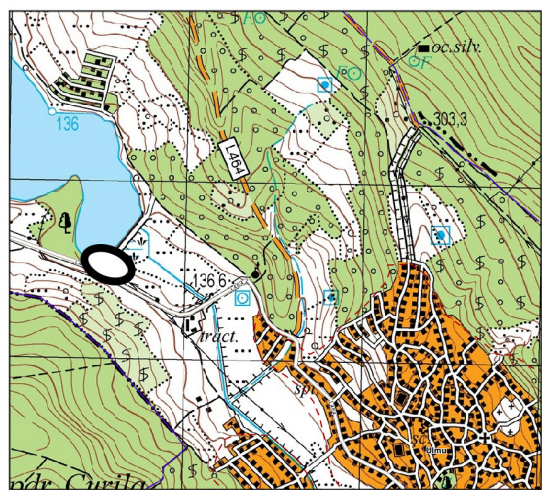
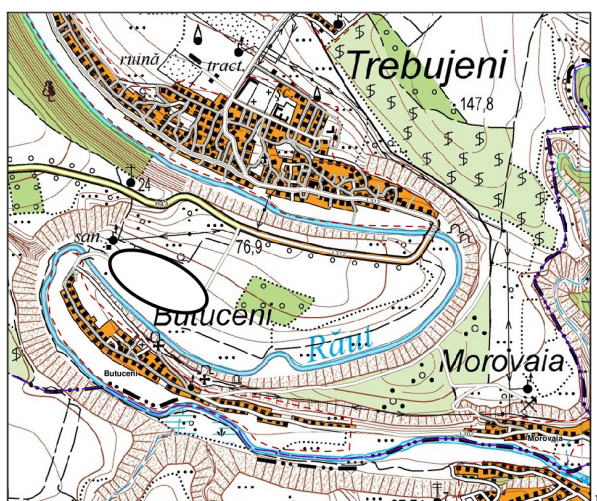


Fig. 2. Topographical location of the settlements of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture: 1. The settlement at Orheiul Vechi; 2. The site at Brănești – Marginea de Vest (source: geoportal.md).

Fig. 3. Topographical location of the settlements of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture: 1. The settlement at Ulmu; 2. The site at Ivancea – Sub Pădure (source: geoportal.md).

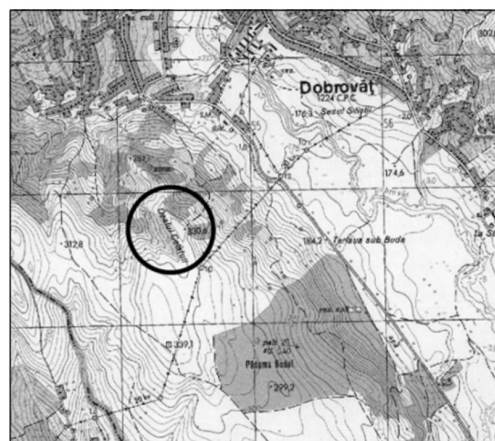
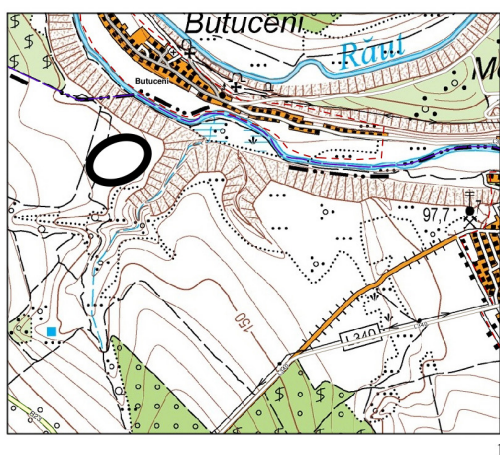


Fig. 4. Topographical location of the settlements of the Poienеști-Lucașeuca culture: 1. The settlement at Mășcăuți; 2. The site at Poiana Mănăstirii – Între Șanțuri (1. Source: geoportal.md; 2. after BERZOVAN 2016).



Fig. 5. The settlement at Brănești - Marginea de Vest. Orthophoto of the site surface and anchoring of the geomagnetic exploration results (after MEYER *et alii* 2016).

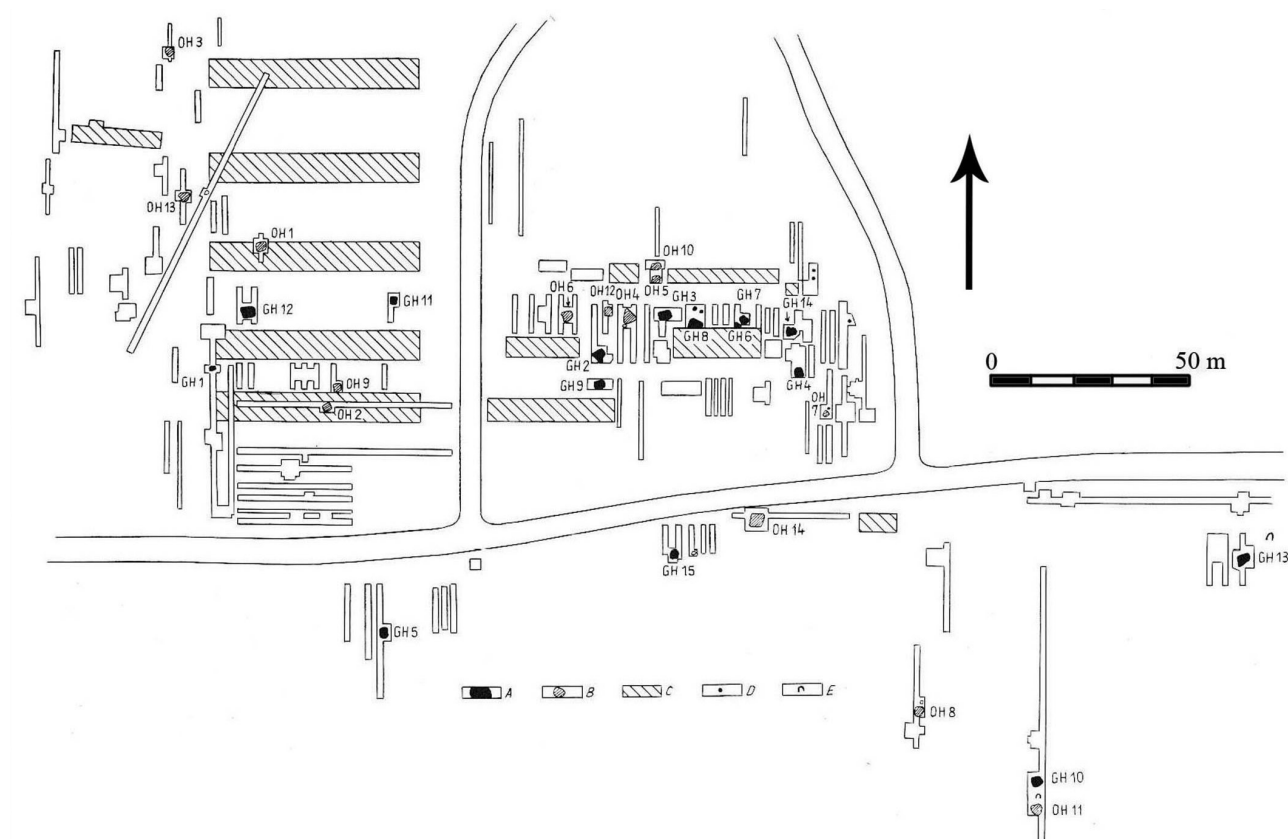


Fig. 6. The settlement at Botoșana. Excavations plan (after BABEȘ 1993).

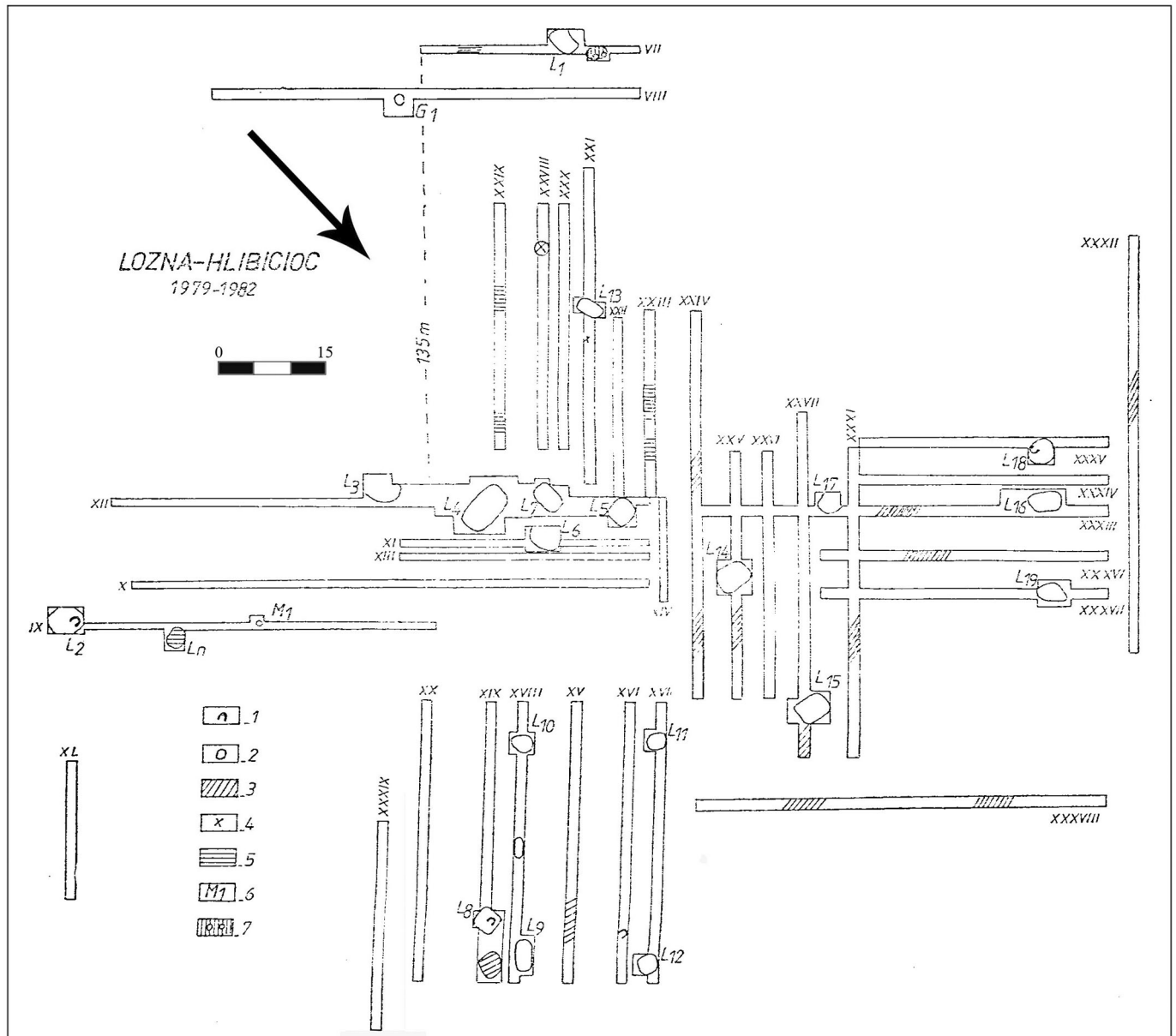


Fig. 7. The site at Lozna Hlibicioc. Excavations plan (after TEODOR 1992).

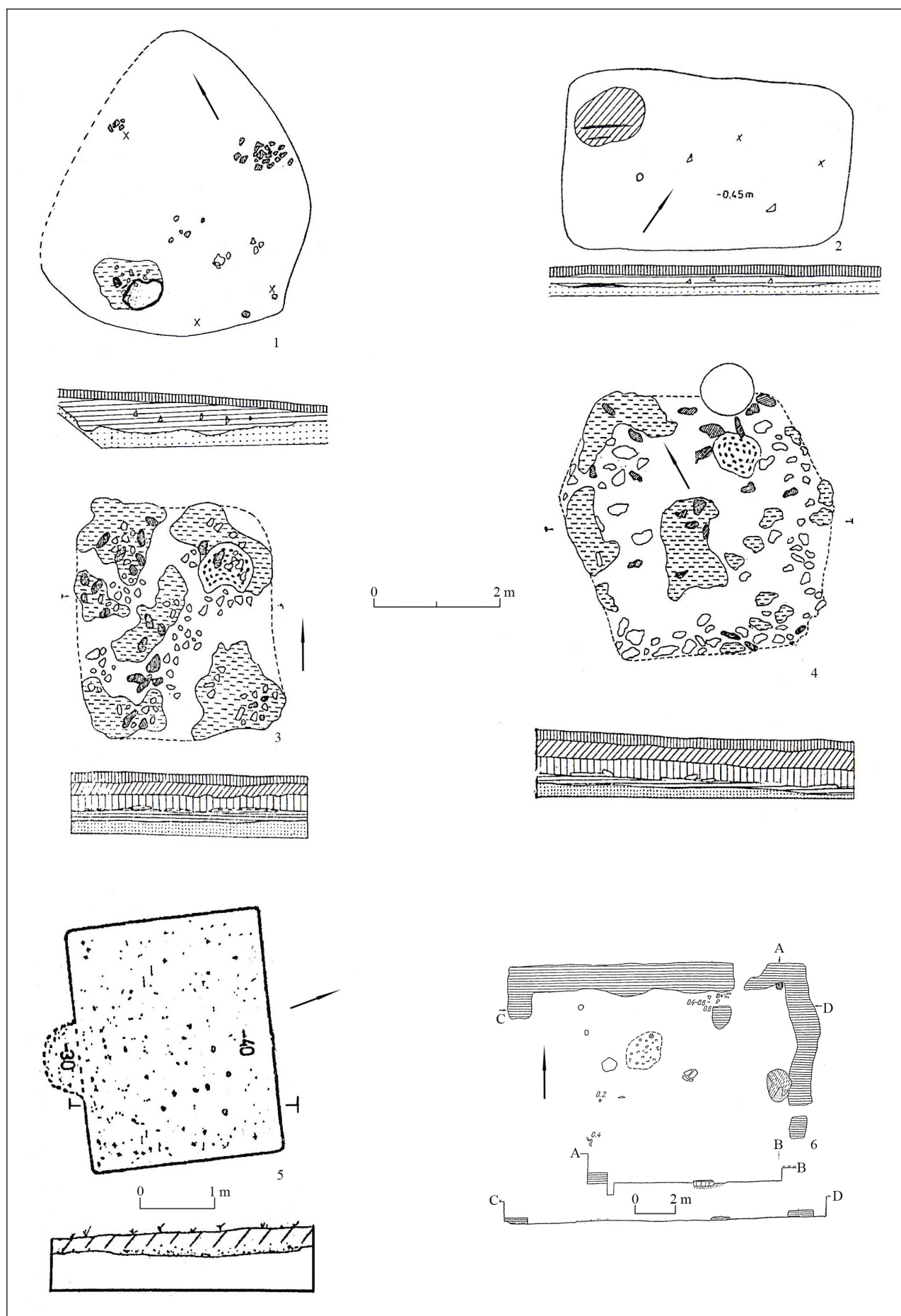


Fig. 8. Poienesti-Lucașeuca type houses: 1-2. (H. 3 and H. 5 at Lunca Ciurei); 3-4. (H. 8 and H. 12 at Botoșana); 5. (H. 2 at Dolheștii Mari); 6. (H. 3 at Kruglik). 1-2. (after TEODOR 1987); 3-4. (after TEODOR 1980); 5. (after ANDRONIC 1994); 6. (after ПИЧКОБА 1977).

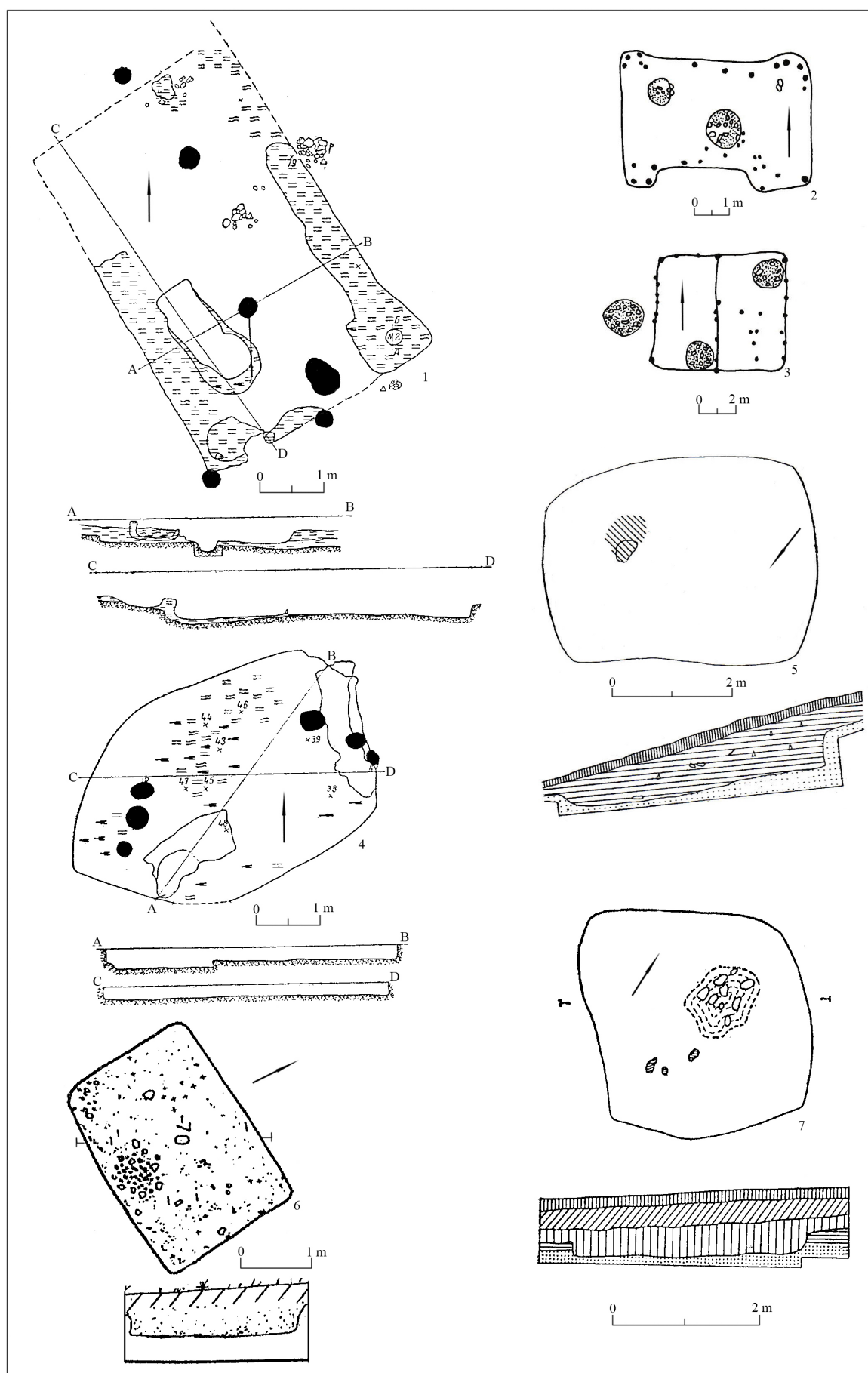


Fig. 9. Poienesti-Lucașeuca type houses: 1.4. (H. 3 and H. 2 at Lucașeuca II); 2-3. (H. 1-2 at Kruglik); 5. (H. 1 at Lunca Ciurei); 6. (H. 3 at Dolhești Mari); 7. (half-hut 1 at Botoșana). 1.4 (after ФЕДІОPOB 1960); 2-3. (after BABEȘ 1993); 5. (after TEODOR 1987); 6. (after ANDRONIC 1994); 7. (after TEODOR 1980).

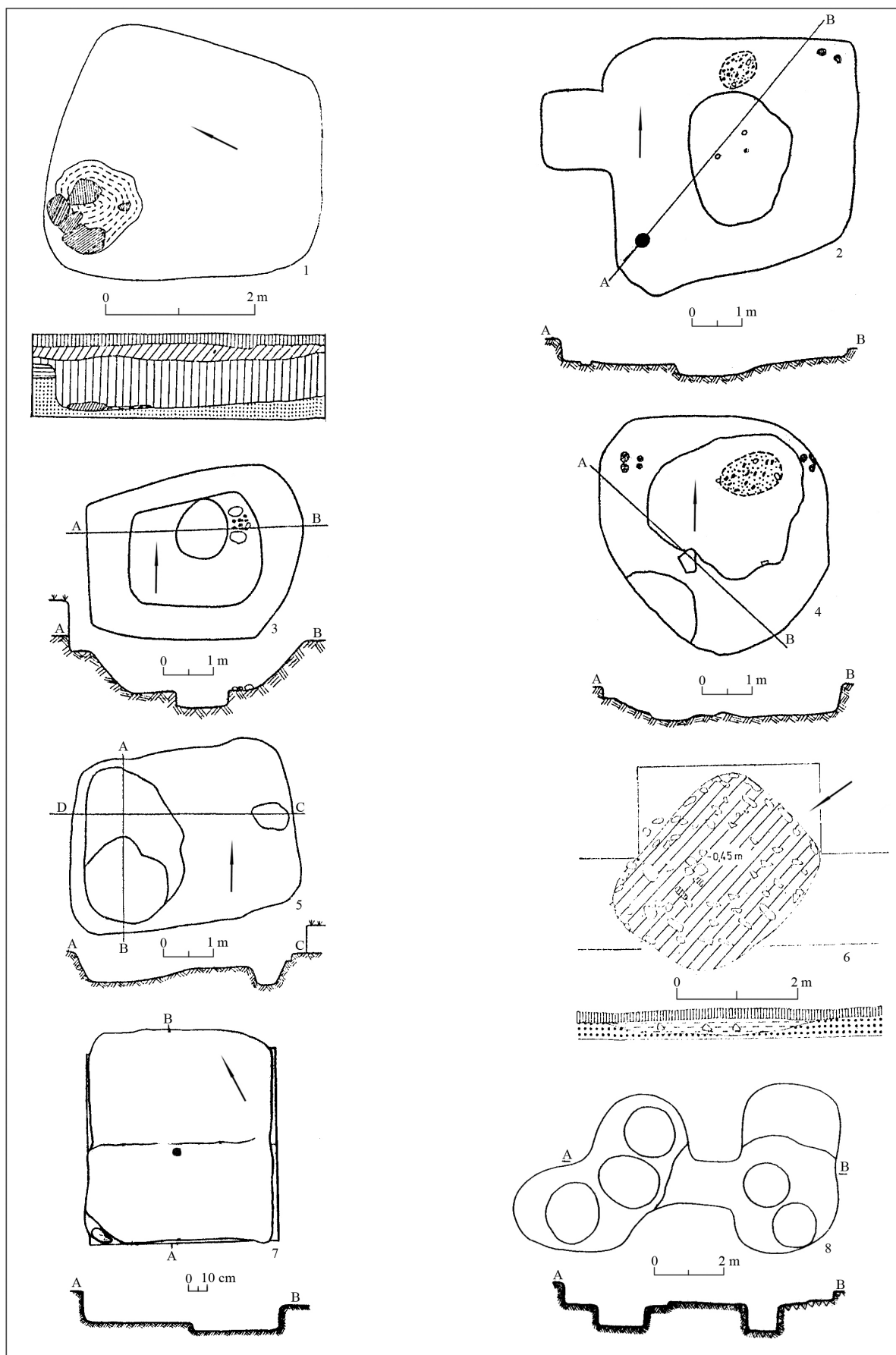


Fig. 10. Houses and outbuildings of Poieniști-Lucașeuca type: 1. (half-hut 4 at Botoșana); 2-5. (half-hut 3-4.1.9 at Goroșovo); 6. (H. 11 at Lozna Hlibicioc); 7-8. (Feature 53 and feature 1 at Orheiul Vechi). 1. (after TEODOR 1980); 2-5. (after ПІЧКОБА 1983); 6. (after TEODOR 1992); 7-8. (after ТКАЧУК 1991).

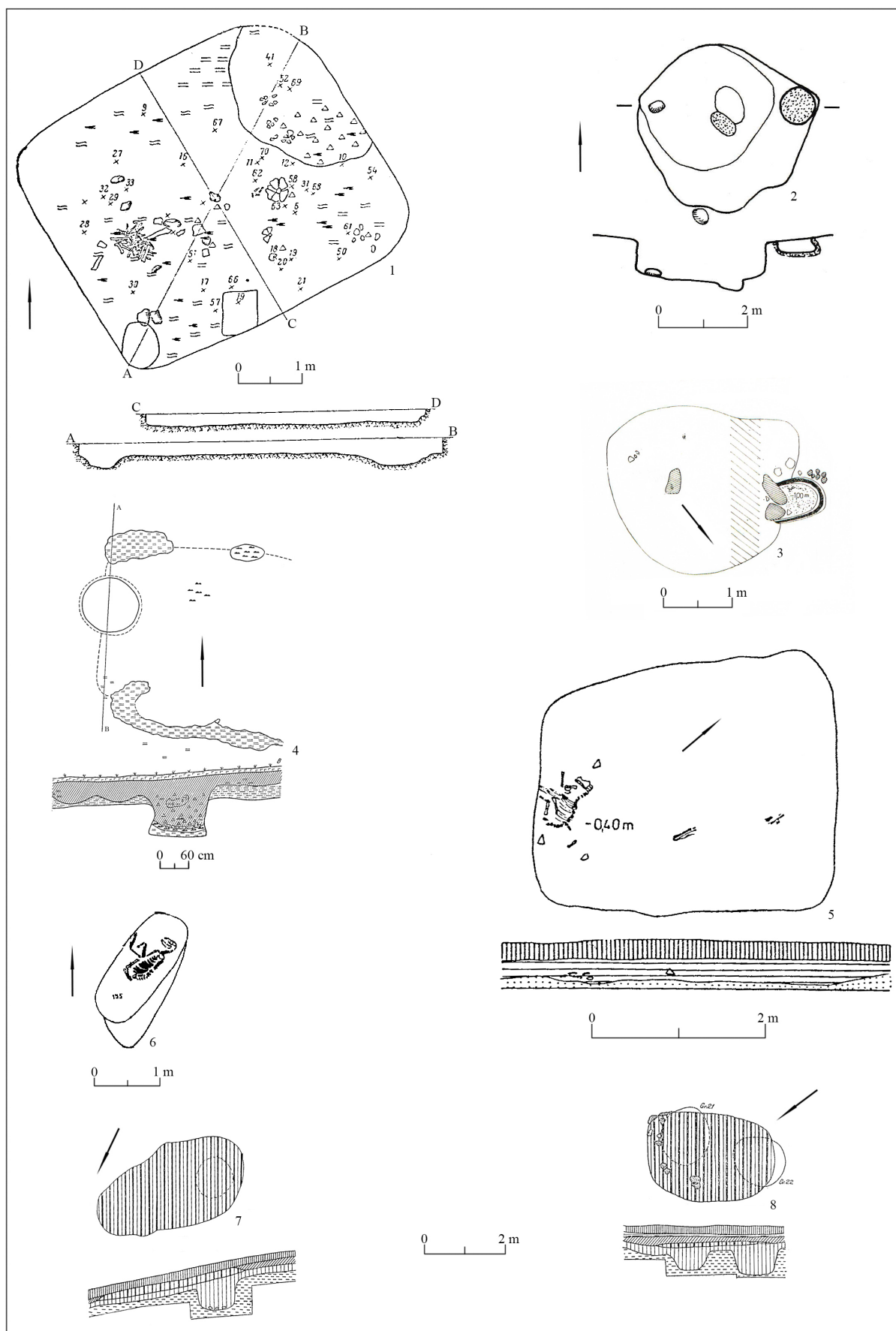


Fig. 11. Houses, outbuildings and Poienești-Lucașeuca type “workshops”: 1. (H. 1 at Lucașeuca II); 2. (the “Workshop” at Ulmu); 3. (the “Workshop” at Borniș); 4. (“Workshop” at Brănești); 5. (H. 7 at Lunca Ciurei); 6. (the pit from Ulmu); 7-8. (H. 15 and H. 11 at Cucurăni). 1. (after ФЕДОРОВ 1960); 2,6. (after ROMANOVSKAJA 1987); 3. (after TEODOR 1984); 4. (after ПОМАХОВСКАЯ 1965); 5. (after TEODOR 1987); 7-8 (after TEODOR 1975).