

NOTES ON THE USE, DATING AND ORIGIN OF THE BUCKET-SHAPED PENDANTS FROM THE SARMATIAN ENVIRONMENT OF THE GREAT HUNGARIAN PLAIN

Abstract: Bucket-shaped pendants were widely spread in various cultural environments from the Roman imperial period, in the area comprised between the north of the Black Sea and Central Europe. This study, without aiming to be exhaustive, attempts to examine pieces of the type found in the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain starting from the iron bucket-shaped pendants discovered in graves 9 and 13 from the cemetery at Hunedoara Timișană, Șagu commune, Arad county.

Grave 9 from Hunedoara Timișană, correlated with the remaining grave goods, dates sometime to the chronological time frame comprised between the end of the 2nd century AD and first half of the 3rd century AD, while grave 13, dates sometime to the time span between the end of the 2nd century AD and the third quarter of the 3rd century AD.

The author examines the pendants from Hunedoara Timișană beside the other found in the burial features of the Great Hungarian Plain, but also in other cultural environments, in a broader context and notes that in the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain bucket-shaped pendants come mainly from female and infant graves, being found in both richly and poorly furnished graves.

Subsequent to the examination of bucket-shaped pendant finds in the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain, it was noted that although they cover the entire geographical area, one may not speak of an intensive use by the Sarmatians, like the case of other pendant types. Also, it was noted that these pendants were used by the Sarmatians from the Great Hungarian Plain, to a larger or smaller extent, over the entire duration of the chronological interval comprised between the end of the 1st century AD and the end of the 4th – early 5th century AD.

Last but not least, the author observes that earliest specimens come from the north-Pontic area and originate in features dating to the 2nd – 1st century BC, which suggests that these pendants originated, beside other types of pendants, in the north-Pontic region. In the 1st century BC, such pendants were present with the late Scythians and the Sarmatians from the north and north-west of the Black Sea, but also in the Geto-Dacian and Germanic environments (Poienești-Lucășeuca culture). Once with the 1st century AD, bucket-shaped pendants are present in several cultural milieus, the Sarmatian from the Great Hungarian Plain included, where the custom of wearing these pendants was brought in the second half of the 1st century AD by the first groups of Sarmatians that settled the region.

In the end, it is concluded that the massive use of the bucket-shaped pendants over the 2nd – 4th century AD in various cultural environments from the area comprised between the north of the Black Sea and Central Europe evidences they became “supranational” artefacts, being produced and used by various populations from this geographical area.

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DOI: 10.14795/j.v5i2.325

ISSN 2360 – 266X

ISSN–L 2360 – 266X

Keywords: *bucket-shaped pendants, graves, the Sarmatians, the north and north-west Pontic area, the Great Hungarian Plain, the Germans, Przeworsk, the Barbaricum.*

Similarly to other cultural environments of the Antiquity, pendants were frequently used in the Sarmatian world too. They are adornment objects made of gold, silver, bronze, iron and also bone, stone, alabaster, chalkstone, talcum, glass and amber. They are of different shapes and types and play an important role in the inventory of the Sarmatian graves. Commonly, they are small pieces part of sets consisting of several jewellery objects. In some cases, they were central to the set other times they were worn independently. Some of the pendants that the Sarmatian used also fulfilled an apotropaic function.

The bucket-shaped pendants discovered in the Sarmatian environment, from the Great Hungarian Plain included, are made of iron, bronze, silver or gold sheet, have an elongated or short cylindrical shape, straight base and are provided with a small attachment handle. Occasionally, in the Sarmatian, late Scythian graves of the Crimea, as well as in the cemeteries of some of the towns and settlements in the north of the Black Sea, specimens made of two or even three buckets¹ are found, while in a 1st century-grave from the late Scythian cemetery at Neapolis a quadruple bronze specimen² is also known. Often, double bucket-shaped pendants made of gold are decorated in the filigree technique similarly to the common specimens in the same metal from the north and north-west of the Black Sea³.

These were objects usually worn in necklaces around the neck or by the wrist together with other pendants, beads and amulets⁴, being part of collars or bracelets. This is confirmed by the fact that in many graves, including from the Sarmatian milieu, they were found in the neck area of the dead. Nevertheless, one should mention that in some cases they were hung by the belt/strap, which is also validated by the find of bucket-shaped pendants in the pelvis or thigh area.

Occasionally, the inner walls of some bucket-shaped pendants discovered in the Sarmatian environment of the north and north-west Pontic area still preserved the dry remains of the content⁵. For instance, inside a bucket-shaped pendant from a grave in the cemetery at Zolotaya Balka wool remains survived⁶, while in one of the pendants from the Sarmatian grave (T 2/41 G 1) in the cemetery at Chertovitsk there were pieces of twine⁷. Inside one of the pendants from the Sarmatian grave (T 7 G 4) at Bădragii Vechi survived a white matter (substance)⁸. A yellow substance was found inside one of the pendants from the richly furnished grave from the Sokolova Mogila barrow⁹.

Since sometimes bucket-shaped pendants were identified beside pieces that fulfilled a cultic-magical role, it was concluded they may be deemed amulet-pendants of apotropaic utility¹⁰. Furthermore, it is also believed that inside bucket-shaped pendants were preserved various spells (incantations)¹¹.

As regards the common or double bucket-shaped pendants it is worth mentioning that either of gold, silver, bronze or iron, they are infrequent in the Sarmatian graves from the north-Pontic territories and those east

¹ Cf. MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007, I, 96-97 with references. They belong to types J and K in the typological classification of bucket-shaped pendants drafted by I. Beilke-Voigt (BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, 53, 55, Fig. 58).

² Cf. SYMONOVICH 1983, 55, 99, Pl. XLV/6; DASHEVSKAYA 1991, 38, Pl. 70/37.

³ Decorating pendants in the filigree technique is a tradition that originates in the late Hellenistic period (MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007, I, 97).

⁴ BĂRCĂ 2006, 133.

⁵ See to this effect KOVPANENKO 1986, 95, 97, Fig. 100/1-2, 101/1, 3.

⁶ VYAZ'MITINA 1972, 22, Fig. 7/6.

⁷ MEDVEDEV 1990, 90.

⁸ BĂRCĂ 2006, 133, 277.

⁹ KOVPANENKO 1986, 97, Fig. 101/1.

¹⁰ SYMONOVICH 1983, 99; BĂRCĂ 2006, 133.

¹¹ VYAZ'MITINA 1972, 153.

of the Don and Volga¹². In connection with the bucket-shaped pendants from the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain it must be said that although found on this entire geographical area, they were not intensively used¹³, like other pendant types. It is still worthy of note that these small artefacts are very fragile and most often their fragments are impossible to identify during the archaeological excavations and not even if their results are published, which would account to a certain degree for their small numbers. Moreover, it is worth underlining that many such pieces were very likely discovered subsequent to more recent rescue excavations, with still forthcoming results.

Among recent finds of bucket-shaped pendants count those of iron from G 9 (Fig.2/5) and G 13 (Fig. 6/2) at Hunedoara Timișană¹⁴, a place which lies south the Lower Mureș river (Fig. 1).

The cemetery to which the latter two graves belong to was discovered in the summer of 2010 during the rescue archaeological excavations performed prior the construction of the Arad-Timișoara motorway, namely Arad-Seceani¹⁵ section. The investigations yielded **17** inhumation graves, to which add the pieces from a grave damaged following the construction of an early medieval house¹⁶.

The bucket-shaped pendant from G 9 is made of iron sheet and is cylindrical with flat base. The attachment handle did not survive. Height – 1.2 cm, diameter – 1.2 cm (Fig. 2/5). It was found in the northern part of the pit nearby the teeth and a series of beads (Fig. 2/1.5).

The grave where this pendant was found had the burial pit in a rectangular shape (2.55 x 0.70-0.79 m) with rounded corners, oriented on the NNE-SSW axis (Fig. 2/1). The skeleton of the dead did not survive. In the northern part of the grave were identified a few bone fragments, namely from the skull and human teeth (Fig. 2/1), which indicated that the dead, was likely buried with the head towards NNE. Based on the grave goods and size of the burial pit we may conclude that the dead was most likely an adolescent/female (age could not be determined). The grave goods also contained a bronze “Sarmatian” brooch, the variation with outer chord and vertical catchplate without headknob (Fig.

¹² MAKHNO 1960, Fig. 2/12; GALANINA 1973, 50, Fig. 1/3; KOVPANENKO 1986, 95, 97, 100/1-3, 101/1-3, 104/3; ARKHEOLOGIIYA SSSR 1989, Pl. 82/56; BESPALYJ 1990, 213, Fig. 1/3, 14; MEDVEDEV 1990, 41, 68, 90, Fig. 9/8-10, 12/13, 27/7; KOSTENKO 1993, Fig. 28/19; GUSHCHINA/ZASETSKAYA 1994, 42, cat. no. 20, Pl. 2/20, 68 cat. no. 417/5, Pl. 45/417, 5, 70, cat. no. 443.8, Pl. 48/443, 8; ROMANYUK/SYMONENKO 2001, 23, Fig. 1/5; BUBULICH/KHAKHEU 2002, 122, Fig. 6/A3; BĂRCĂ 2006, 133-134, Fig. 6/6-7, 63/6, 70/2, 75/5, 143/10, 182/4-7; BĂRCĂ/SYMONENKO 2009, 163, Fig. 60/3, 25-26; SIMONENKO 2008, Pl. 65/11, 72/2g; 81/5, 119/5, 130/15-16; MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007, I, 96, II, cat. no. A105.1, A129.2, A250.11-12, B46.2; VORNIC/BUBULICI/POPOVICI 2015, 68, Fig. 15/2; VORNIC/BUBULICI/POPOVICI 2016, 23, Fig. 12/4.

¹³ PÁRDUCZ 1941, 47, 56-57, 58 Pl. VII/5-7, XXIV/15-22, XXIX/30, 56; PÁRDUCZ 1948, 284, Pl. XLI/18; GAZDAPUSZTAI 1960, 47, Pl. XIII/4; KOREK 1980, Fig. 13/2; VÖRÖS 1981, 128; VADAY/SZÓKE 1983, 82, Fig. 6/2; VADAY 1984, 170, 174-175, Pl. 2/1, 3/1, 6/1-2, 8/2-3; VADAY 2016, 760, 767-768, Fig. 4/2c, 4-18; ISTVÁNOVITS 1990, 85, Pl. II/4; ISTVÁNOVITS 1993, 98, 100, 107, Fig. 6/8, 8/9, 13/6, 8; FARKAS 1998, 74, Pl. II/8; FARKAS 2000, 18, Fig. 13/8; HAVASSY 1998, 147, cat. no. 5; NAGY 2005, 13, Fig. 9/3; GULYÁS 2011, 152, Fig. 40/10; GULYÁS 2014, 25, Pl. XVII/7; ISTVÁNOVITS/KULCSÁR 2017, 206, Fig. 158.

¹⁴ Șagu commune, Arad county, Romania.

¹⁵ Cf. BĂRCĂ *et alii* 2011, 187-192.

¹⁶ For further details and information related to this cemetery see BĂRCĂ 2014.

2/2), a half-moon-shaped silver pendant (Fig. 2/3), 201 beads, mainly of glass (Fig. 3-5a), an iron needle (Fig. 2/4) and a wheel-thrown handled bowl (Fig. 2/6)¹⁷.

Based on the dating of each piece, yet especially of the brooch¹⁸ it was concluded that G 9 dated sometime to the chronological time frame comprised between the end of the 2nd century and first half of the 3rd century AD¹⁹.

As regards the bucket-shaped pendant from G 13 it must be argued it was found amongst the beads at ca. 0.7 m from the skull bones and teeth (Fig. 6/1.2). It is made of iron sheet and is cylindrical, while the base is flat. The attachment handle did not survive. Height – 1.35 cm, diameter – 1.3 cm (Fig.6/2).

Similarly to G 9, G 13 also had a rectangular gravepit (1.57 x 0.56-0.63 m) with rounded corners, oriented on the NNW-SSE axis (Fig. 6/1). In the northern part of the grave large part of the skull and teeth were found. Human bone fragments were identified also at ca. 0.10 m from the skull, as well as near the western wall of the gravepit (Fig.6/1). This indicates that the dead was placed in the grave with head oriented to the NNW. Based on the grave goods, sizes of the gravepit and tests of the osteological remains it was concluded that the dead was an infant aged between 4-5 years. Beside the pendant, the burial inventory also contained 56 beads, of which 30 of amber (Fig. 7/1-42, 7a), a cup (Fig. 6/3) and a wheel-thrown bowl (Fig. 7/43), both found fragmentarily. The vessels were discovered placed one beside the other, in the southern part of the pit, in the feet area. The grave dates sometime over the first three quarters of the 3rd century AD²⁰.

Among more recent finds of bucket-shaped pendants in the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain, beside those at Hunedoara Timișană, count the iron specimens from G 36 at Abony-Kisbálaton-dűlő²¹, G 138 at Óföldséki-Ürmös II²², those in silver (4 specs.) in G 11 from Orosházitanyák²³, that of gold in G 39 at Nyíregyháza-Felsősimá²⁴ (Fig. 12/13) or the silver specimens (9 pieces) and iron (11 pieces) from a female grave at Kálló²⁵ (Fig. 8).

In the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain bucket-shaped pendants mainly come from infant and female graves²⁶. Furthermore, they are notably found in both richly and poorly furnished graves, which remains also valid for the Sarmatian environment in the north and north-west Pontic milieu. Such state of facts indicates, in our view, that bucket-shaped pendants were worn by both the representatives of the wealthy class of the Sarmatian society as well as by the commoners, those of gold highlighting the special standing of their bearers.

¹⁷ BĂRCĂ 2014, 155-156, Pl. 26-29, 59-61.

¹⁸ See for the analysis of these brooch type COCIȘ/BĂRCĂ 2014, 189-214; BĂRCĂ 2014, 115-117.

¹⁹ BĂRCĂ 2014, 156.

²⁰ Cf. BĂRCĂ 2014, 88-91, 158.

²¹ GULYÁS 2011, 152, Fig. 40/10.

²² GULYÁS 2014, 25, Pl. XVII/7.

²³ NAGY 2005, 13-14, Fig. 9/3.

²⁴ ISTVÁNOVITS/KULCSÁR 2017, 206, Fig. 158.

²⁵ VADAY 2016, 760, 767-768, Fig. 4/2c, 4-18.

²⁶ In the Wielbark and Przeworsk cultural environments, bucket-shaped pendants are found mainly in female graves (GODŁOWSKI 1977, 43; BIERBRAUER 1999, 220), while in that of the Sântana de Mureș-Chernyakhov culture, they were found in male graves too (Cf. GOPKALO 2011, 12).

The bucket-shaped pendants discovered in the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain are made of iron, bronze, silver or gold sheet, they are in a cylinder shape, have a straight base and are provided with a small attachment handle. Compared to the north-Pontic Sarmatian milieu, in the Great Hungarian Plain lack specimens made of two or three buckets attached together.

Most part of these artefacts from the Sarmatian graves of the Great Hungarian Plain are noticeable by their common features and belong to type A in the typological classification of I. Beilke-Voigt²⁷, except for the conical silver pendants in G 11 at Orosházi-*tanyák* (Fig. 12/2), which pertain to type F²⁸. Within type A are evidenced two variations. The first is represented by the specimens with short cylindrical body, their height and diameter having close or similar sizes, yet there are specimens with a height slightly higher than the diameter, but also specimens whose diameter is slightly larger than the height. The pendants in the second variation have an elongated cylindrical body whose height is even up to twice greater than the diameter.

The specimens in the first variation from the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain are of gold, silver, bronze and iron and much more numerous than those in the second variation. To this variation belong the iron specimens from G 9 (Fig. 2/5) and G 13 (Fig. 6/2) in the cemetery at Hunedoara Timișană, as well as the golden specimen from the infant grave at Átány²⁹ (Fig. 12/6), dating to the end of the 1st century BC – early 2nd century AD, yet also that made of the same metal in M 39 at Nyíregyháza-*Felsősim*³⁰ (Fig. 12/13).

Bucket-shaped pendants in the second variation are of bronze and iron and come mainly from graves of early Sarmatian date, some from also the end of the 1st – early 2nd century AD (Alsónémedi-*Faluréti domb*³¹, Kálló³² (Fig. 8), Endrőd-*Szujókereszt*³³ (Fig. 12/3)).

Similar or close bucket-shaped pendants to those discovered in the Sarmatian graves, yet belonging also to other types in the typology drafted by I. Beilke-Voigt³⁴ are documented in the Geto-Dacian³⁵, late Scythian of Crimea³⁶ and Poieniști-Lucășeuca³⁷ environments. These artefacts are frequent in the Germanic world too, mainly in the Przeworsk

culture area³⁸. In the cemetery at Zemplin (Slovakia) such pendants come from both Germanic graves (Przeworsk), but also Dacian³⁹ (Fig. 9/1-16). Such pendants are found as well in the cemeteries of the towns and settlements from the north-Pontic area⁴⁰, but also in the territories west the Black Sea and in the central grave from the Roshova Dragana barrow at Chataalk⁴¹. They are not missing from the 2nd – 4th-century cultural environments of Crimea⁴², the east-Carpathian⁴³ space and that south the Carpathians⁴⁴, but also in the entire area of the Sântana de Mureș-Chernyakhov culture⁴⁵. Such iron and silver filigree pendants were also discovered in the graves of certain cemeteries on the territory of Roman Dacia (Soporu de Câmpie, Locusteni)⁴⁶, but also in the Barbarian environment west of Dacia (Suplacu de Barcău (Fig. 13/3))⁴⁷. In the case of the silver filigree specimens from the cemetery at Locusteni it must be mentioned they come from graves dating to the first half of the 2nd century AD⁴⁸ and belong to type M in the typological classification of I. Beilke-Voigt⁴⁹. The specimen at Suplacu de Barcău is of gold and has the body decorated in the filigree technique, coming from a 3rd century context⁵⁰. Bucket-shaped pendants were also recorded in south-east Transylvania⁵¹.

Notably, bucket-shaped pendants were widely spread in various cultural environments of Roman imperial date,

³⁸ Cf. BICHIR 1973, 119 with complete bibliography; GODŁOWSKI 1968, Fig. 1/32, 3/8, 5/20; GODŁOWSKI 1970, Pl. I/32, II/9, III/25, IV/10, V/14, VII/22, IX/17, XII/14, XX/21, XXII; GODŁOWSKI 1992, Fig. 12/10, 13/17, 18/18, 22/13; GODŁOWSKI/WICHMAN 1998, Pl. III/7-8, LXXII/2, XCH/17; SZYDŁOWSKI 1964, Fig. 44/2, 101/8, 120, 124/2, 6; SZYDŁOWSKI 1974, Pl. CII/c-e, i, CLXXX/h-o; KACZANOWSKI 1980, 179-180, KACZANOWSKI 1987, Pl. II/10, 32, VI/8; TEMPELMANN-MAĆZYSKA, 1989, map 13; OLEŹKI 1999, Fig. 2/6, 19, 3/3-4, 8-9, 19/1-12; DROBERJAR 2002, 377, no. 23, 25-26; SZELA 2007, 286, Fig. 1/9; TEJRAL 1999, Fig. 25/1-3; TEJRAL 2011, Fig. 26/22; MADYDA-LEGUTKO/RODZIŃSKA-NOWAK/ZAGÓRSKA-TELEGA 2011, Pl. LXXVII/5, CXXII/3-5, 12, 14, 17, CXXXII/1, 7, CXXXVI/1, CXXXVI/3, CCCL/1, CCCLIV/4, CCCLX/11-12, CDXVIII.

³⁹ BUDINSKÝ-KRÍČKA/LAMIOVÁ-SCHMIEDLOVÁ 1990, 294, Pl. III/9-20, VI/3-4, 8-9, XVI/43, XX/11, 25.

⁴⁰ Cf. PYATYSHEVA 1956, 60, Fig. 19; SHELOV 1961, 78; SHELOV 1970, 146; ARSEN'EVA 1977, Pl. XXIX/2, XXXI/2; VYAZ'MITINA 1972, 154-155; RUXER/KUBSZAK 1972, 271, Pl. LXX/1-3; ALEKSEEVA 1982, 25, type 24-25; KORPUŠOVA 1983, 72, 102, 111, 112, Pl. XI/2, 18, XXII/15; KAZANSKIJ 2006, 29, Fig. 3/9; MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007, I, 96-97.

⁴¹ BUYUKLIEV 1986, 67, 106, no. 49, Pl. 4.

⁴² Cf. KAZANSKIJ 2006, 29, Fig. 3/10-11; STOYANOVA 2016, 130-132, Fig. 3/8-16, with complete bibliography.

⁴³ BICHIR 1973, 119, Pl. CLXIV/7-10, CLXXXII/13-14; CĂPITANU 1975, 64, 65, 67, 75, 85, 90, Fig. 13/4-11; CĂPITANU 1976, 161, 163, 167, 174, 179, 181; PALADE 1985, Fig. 9/6; PALADE 1986, R74/3-5, R77/6, R86/1, R87/4; IONIȚĂ 1977, R50b/9; IONIȚĂ 1982, Fig. 16/8; RAFALOVICI 1986, 88, Pl. XLV/1-10, IONIȚĂ/URSACHI 1988, 11, 12, 26, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 49, 50, 65, Fig. 19/1, 20/1, 28/1, 33/6, 34/9, 35/9, 36/23, 30, 37/48, 38/177, 39/32, 41/15, 44/69, 46/40, 51/22, 61/1-2; IGNAT 1980, 64, Fig. 2/5-6; IGNAT, 1999, 55; VORNIC 2006, 182; ȘOVAN 2009, 162, 210, 211-213 tab. 5, Pl. 5/5-9, 35D/3, 54B/2-3, 81D/20, 108A/1, 130B/6, 165/153-154, 194B/3, 220/2, 253/27.

⁴⁴ DIACONU 1965, 94-95, 286, Pl. CXXIV/5, CXXXVI/18; DIACONU 1970, 16, Fig. 15/4, 7; DIACONU 1986, Fig. 2/3; BICHIR 1984, 53-54, Pl. L/16-18.

⁴⁵ GOPKALO 2008, 63-65, with complete bibliography.

⁴⁶ Cf. PROTASE 1976, 66, 68, note 123, Pl. XXX/2; POPILIAN 1980, 34, 37, 38, 42, 92, 93, Pl. XXI/M144, 2, XXII/M162, 3-5, XXIV/M177, 5-10, XXVII/M194, 6-7; OPREANU 1998, 99, Fig. 15.

⁴⁷ GINDELE 2015, 11, Fig. 20.

⁴⁸ See for the dating of the pendants and cemetery OPREANU 1998, 99, 101, 102, 103.

⁴⁹ BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, 56, Fig. 58/M.

⁵⁰ We thank this was also our colleague and friend Robert Gindele for his kindness in providing this information.

⁵¹ PROTASE 1976, 68.

²⁷ BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, 52-53, Fig. 58/A, 54, Fig. 59.

²⁸ BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, 55, Fig. 58/F.

²⁹ PÁRDUCZ 1941, 56, Pl. XXIX/56.

³⁰ ISTVÁNOVITS/KULCSÁR 2017, 206, Fig. 158. There is no information related to the remaining grave goods neither on the dating of this pendant.

³¹ KOREK 1980, Fig. 13/2.

³² VADAY 2016, 760, Fig. 4/9-18.

³³ VADAY/SZÓKE 1983, 82, Fig. 6/2.

³⁴ BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, 52-53, Fig. 58/A, 59.

³⁵ URSACHI 1986, 112-115, 121, Pl. XVII/5-10, XXI/4-5, XXIII/4-5; URSACHI 1995, Pl. 359/5-10, 361/4-5, 362/4-5; CĂPITANU 1989, 103, Fig. 11/16-19; VULPE/VULPE 1933, 329, Fig. 109/25-27; VULPE 1976, 198, 208, Fig. 5/10, 6/24; BERCIU 1981, 106, Pl. 91/4-5; RUSTOIU 1996, 125, Fig. 86/41-47; CRIȘAN 2000, 138, Pl. 111/12; CRIȘAN 2000a, Fig. 4/1.

³⁶ VYAZ'MITINA 1972, 22, 44, 50, 56, 153-154, Fig. 7/6, 17/7, 21/10, 25/3, 5; SYMONOVICH 1983, 99, Pl. XLV/6-13; ARKHEOLOGIYA SSSR 1989, Pl. 51/20, 45-46; DASHEVSKAYA 1991, 38, Pl. 70/33-34, 37; VYSOTSKAYA 1994, Pl. 9/13, 10/25, 12/58, 15/1, 24, 19/23, 28, 23/30, 31/44-45, 40/20; ZAJTSEV 1997, Fig. 3/6, 12; STOYANOVA 2004: 297; PUZDROVSKIJ 2007, Pl. 15/8; Fig. 57/11, 58/6, 115/4, 144/20; MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007, I, 96, 97.

³⁷ SMIRNOVA 1981, 195, 204, Fig. 3/5; BABEȘ 1993, 113, Pl. 47/2g.

which, over time, led to increased interest in their study. Nevertheless, it must be noted that although various scholars have attempted to identify their origin, the period when they emerge in certain cultural environments, but also their diffusion paths, today, it is increasingly obvious that some of these aspects would remain unanswered.

On the shape of the bucket-shaped pendants it was argued to be one that could have emerged spontaneously and sporadically in different regions⁵². For those in the Sântana de Mureş-Chernyakhov environment of the north and north-west of the Black Sea it was argued they represent the evidence for the arrival there of the Germanic tribes and that their origin is Gothic⁵³. An entirely opposite point of view was expressed by E. A. Symonovichi, who rejected any connection between the finds from the Sântana de Mureş-Chernyakhov milieu of the north of the Black Sea and the farther parallels from the west, believing, based on their presence in the north-Pontic area much before, that they were borrowed from the local population⁵⁴.

Furthermore, it was believed that bucket-shaped pendants originate in the Przeworsk culture area, from where they were borrowed by the Carpi, the Sarmatians etc.⁵⁵. At a later date, based on finds of such pendants in the pre-Roman Geto-Dacian space, it was evidenced that in their environment they emerged earlier, spreading from there into other ethno-cultural areas⁵⁶. I. Ioniță believed that bucket-shaped pendants are specific only to the Goths and the Dacians⁵⁷ and that the iron pieces from the free Dacians milieu are paralleled only in Dacian cremation graves and never with the Sarmatians⁵⁸. Based on archaeological facts, but also the use of bucket-shaped pendants during the 1st century BC – first centuries AD on a spread area and in different cultural environments, it was argued they might be deemed “supranational”⁵⁹ artefacts.

An interesting hypothesis was expressed by I. A. Bazhan and S. Yu. Kargopol'tsev who maintain these pendants originate in the ancient centres from the north-Pontic area where they were widely spread by the boundary between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD, borrowed in the first half of the 1st century AD subsequent to contacts with the north-Pontic ancient centres, by the Sarmatians and late Scythians⁶⁰. Via the Sarmatians, according to the two scholars, bucket-shaped pendants reached farther to the west, where were adopted by the bearers of the Poieniști-Vârteșcoiu and Przeworsk cultures, and then, via the latter, reaching the remaining area inhabited by the Germanic populations⁶¹. Upon the analysis of the features that contained such pendants known at that date in the north of the Black Sea, the two scholars noted their lack from the

⁵² BAZHAN/KARGOPOL'TSEV 1989, 163.

⁵³ BLUME 1912, 97, 98; KUKHARENKO 82; KROPOTKIN 1978, 156, 157.

⁵⁴ SYMONOVICH 1983, 72.

⁵⁵ BICHIR 1973, 119.

⁵⁶ Cf. VULPE 1976, 214; BICHIR 1984, 54; URSACHI 1986, 121; RUSTOIU 1996, 125.

⁵⁷ IONIȚĂ 1982, 111.

⁵⁸ IONIȚĂ 1982, 66.

⁵⁹ BABEȘ 1999, 230; BĂRCĂ 2006, 134.

⁶⁰ BAZHAN/KARGOPOL'TSEV 1989, 164, 169.

⁶¹ BAZHAN/KARGOPOL'TSEV 1989, 169.

graves dating to the chronological time frame comprised between the end of the 2nd century and first half of the 3rd century AD. This made them conclude the pendants re-emerge in the east-Carpathian area and the north-Pontic space following the arrival and under the influence of the Germanic peoples in stages C2-C3⁶². The archaeological research of the last three decades revealed though, graves that contain such pendants⁶³ dating to the end of the 2nd – first half of the 3rd century AD, which invalidate the views of I. A. Bazhan and S. Yu. Kargopol'tsev. Their use in this chronological interval is confirmed by a series of finds from Sarmatian graves in the Lower Don river area⁶⁴ and left the Mid Dniester⁶⁵. Notably, in T 17 G 1 at Vysochino VII (the Lower Don region) are present beside the bronze bucket-shaped pendant other two double, made of silver.

Another view has been recently expressed by I. Khrapunov⁶⁶, who believes that we are either dealing with two independent traditions in the making of bucket-shaped pendants, Germanic and north-Pontic, or the Germanic populations borrowed this tradition from the north-Pontic area, possibly via the Sarmatians or the northern Thracians (namely the Geto-Dacians), in whose inhabitancy area they were identified. According to the same scholar, both Germanic populations as well as those from the north of the Black Sea produced them concurrently.

For the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain it was noted that bucket-shaped pendants were more intensively used in the early Sarmatian period and that in the 3rd century AD they became disused, only to re-emerge in the final stage of the late period (end of the 4th century – early 5th century AD)⁶⁷.

Bucket-shaped pendants emerge in the north-Pontic space sometime in the 2nd century BC⁶⁸, however no later than the 1st century BC. For instance, from G 180 in the cemetery of the town at Tanais come two golden bucket-pendants with the body decorated with horizontal ribs in relief⁶⁹ and two earrings with zoomorphic head of the same metal, decorated with pseudo-granulation and pseudo-filigree⁷⁰. Such earrings belong to a type widely diffused in the late Hellenistic period⁷¹,

⁶² BAZHAN/KARGOPOL'TSEV 1989, 169.

⁶³ STOYANOVA 2004, 297; STOYANOVA 2016, 131-132; KHRAPUNOV 2011, 39; KHRAPUNOV/MUL'D 2000, 513.

⁶⁴ BESPALYJ 1990, 213, Fig. 1/3, 14.

⁶⁵ BUBULICH/KHAKHEU 2002, 122, 146, Fig. 6/A3.

⁶⁶ KHRAPUNOV 2013, 189.

⁶⁷ Cf. VADAY 1984, 174; VADAY 2016, 767-768; GULYÁS 2011, 155; GULYÁS 2014, 43.

⁶⁸ A pendant in the shape of a bucket (it is not specified whether it had a base) is believed to come from a Sauromatian grave in T 2 at Pokrovka (SMIRNOV 1964, 143, Fig. 16/2e; ARKHEOLOGIYA SSSR 1989, Pl. 71/17). It is made of gold, had the upper edge decorated with granules and is attached to an earring/link with overlapping ends of the same metal.

⁶⁹ SHELOV 1970, 146; ARSEN'EVA 1977, 21, Pl. XXIX/2, XXXI/2. These belong to types H, variation II in the typological classification of I. Beilke-Voigt (BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, 55, Fig. 60).

⁷⁰ SHELOV 1970, 146; ARSEN'EVA 1977, 21, Pl. XXIX/3, XXXI/1.

⁷¹ Cf. PYATYSHEVA 1956, 18, Pl. VIII/3; MARSHALL 1969, 184-193, 287, 288, Pl. XXXI/1728-1735, 1772-1782, 1805-1808, LIII/2444-2445; HOFFMANN/DAVIDSON 1965, 106, no. 26, *apud* BYLKOVA 1993, 164; HIGGINS 1980, 159-161, Pl. 47; KORPU SOVA 1983, 56, 57, Fig. 15/1-3, Pl. XIII/3-4, XXIII/6; SYMONOVICH 1983, 92, Pl. XXXI/8, 15; DASHEVSKAYA

while in the north-Pontic territories they come mainly from 2nd – 1st century BC graves⁷². Such an earring comes also from a Sarmatian grave (?) discovered in 1985 at Solontsy, dated to the 2nd – 1st century BC, 1st century BC or only the second half of the 1st century BC⁷³. To the twisted ring of this earring was attached a gold cylindrical pendant provided with an attachment handle, whose surface was adorned by a filigree decoration (spirals in wave- shapes and ovae on the edge). The finder stated that a “stone” fell from inside the pendant. On the territory of Crimea, earliest bucket-shaped pendants come from 1st century BC graves from late Scythian cemeteries⁷⁴. Sometime to the 1st century BC dates grave 2 of type Poieniști-Lucășeuca from Dolineni (the Hotin region, Ukraine), whose grave goods counted, beside the two iron bucket-pendants, two iron bracelets, a fragmentary bronze bracelet, a terrine, a glass bead and an iron filiform brooch, La Tène D1 of type Kostrzewski H⁷⁵.

Among the bucket-shaped pendants from the Sarmatian graves in the north-west Pontic space the earliest are the iron specimens from T 4 at Kholmokoe⁷⁶ (Fig.11/1-3), which date sometime to the second half of the 1st century BC. The grave goods of this richly furnished grave also count a silver brooch of mid La Tène scheme (type Kostrzewski B), 30 golden appliques, two bracelets and two silver foot rings, 74 beads, an iron knife, a bronze needle and a wheel-thrown cup⁷⁷.

In the Geto-Dacian space south the Carpathians the earliest known specimens are those from the barrow graves at Popești (Fig. 9/20-21) and Crăsani, dated over the 1st century BC or only its second half⁷⁸. In the intra-Carpathian Dacian environment an iron bucket-shaped pendant has been recently discovered in a grave from Piatra Craivii, dating to the 1st century BC, likely only its second half⁷⁹. An iron specimen comes also from a Dacian grave (G 13) in the cemetery at Chellenitsya I⁸⁰ (Fig. 9/17), dated to La Tène D1⁸¹. Still from the site at Chellenitsya I comes another iron bucket-shaped pendant⁸² (Fig. 9/18). It was discovered together with several beads, a segment of a waist belt, bronze and iron rings, iron hinges from the waist belt, inside a pyxis, discovered outside

1991, 37, Pl. 67/4-6; BYLKOVA 1993, 164-165, Fig. 1/1; BĂRCĂ 2006a, 71-72, 215, Fig. 34/9, 60/1.

⁷² MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007, I, 101-103.

⁷³ See for this find and its dating BYLKOVA 1993, 164-168, Fig. 1-2 (1st century BC); SIMONENKO 1993, 15-18, 27-29, Fig. 5 (1st century BC); BĂRCĂ 2006a, 83, 87, 214-215, Fig. 34 (second half of the 1st century BC); MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007, II, 131-132, cat. no. B40 (2nd – 1st century BC).

⁷⁴ BOGDANOVA 1963, Fig. 4/16; ZAJTSEV 1997, 164, 166, Fig. 3/6, 12; VYSOTSKAYA 1994, 164. According to Yu. P. Zaitsev's analysis, vault 390 in the cemetery at Ust'-Alma to which the graves with common and double bucket-pendants belong dates to the end of the 2nd – first half of the 1st century BC.

⁷⁵ SMIRNOVA 1981, 195, 204, Fig. 2/3, 3/1-6; BABEȘ 1993, 219, Pl. 47/2a-g.

⁷⁶ Cf. GUDKOVA/FOKEEV 1984, 10, 23, Fig. 2/16-18; BĂRCĂ 2006, 133-134, 318, Fig. 63/6. BĂRCĂ/SYMONENKO 2009, 63, Fig. 14/6-8.

⁷⁷ Cf. GUDKOVA/FOKEEV 1984, 8-10, 21, 23-24, Fig. 2; BĂRCĂ 2006, 317-318, Fig. 63.

⁷⁸ VULPE 1976, 198, 208, Fig. 5/10, 6/24.

⁷⁹ We thank this way too our colleague and friend dr. Cristinel Plantos, the chief of the archaeological site at Piatra Craivii, for his kindness to report this find.

⁸⁰ KOTIGOROSHKO 2015, 21, 52, 109, 138, 197, 226, Fig. 12/9. Site Chellenitsya I is located at 150-200 north the Dacian fortification at Mala Kopanya.

⁸¹ KOTIGOROSHKO 2015, 77, 166, 252.

⁸² KOTIGOROSHKO 2015, Fig. 69/6.

the graves⁸³. To these iron pendants adds a golden specimen (Fig.9/19, 13/2), of which there is no additional information except it comes from the site at Chellenitsya I⁸⁴. Based on the plenty archaeological materials, it was concluded that the remains at the site of Chellenitsya date to the chronological time frame comprised between the end of the 2nd century BC and early 1st century AD⁸⁵.

In the period of the 1st century AD – early 2nd century AD, bucket-shaped pendants become increasingly frequent in the late Scythian and Sarmatian environments from the north-Pontic area, being represented by both golden, silver and bronze specimens and iron⁸⁶. In the case of those of gold, it is worth mentioning that their diffusion area is limited to the north-Pontic area mainly.

Another observation worthy of note is related to the similarity between earlier specimens and those of the 1st century AD. For instance, the golden bucket-shaped pendant from G 3 in the Sokolova Mogila barrow (Fig. 10/4, 5), decorated with horizontal ribs in relief (type Beilke-Voigt H, variation II), is similar to that in G 180 from the cemetery at Tanais, aforementioned. Other three golden bucket-shaped pendants from this grave are double and have their body surface smooth⁸⁷ (Fig.10/1), while two are of iron⁸⁸ (Fig.10/2-3). The richly furnished grave from the barrow at Sokolova Mogila, dates, as previously mentioned, to the second half of the 1st century AD (possibly the third quarter or even its last third)⁸⁹ and not the first half, as dated by G. T. Kovpanenko⁹⁰.

Some of the golden bucket-shaped pendants from the 1st – early 2nd century AD, either common or double, are decorated with filigree decoration, granulation, but other decoration elements as well⁹¹. For the north-Pontic Sarmatian environment we mention the specimens in T 3 G 3 at Mikhajlovka⁹² (Fig.11/19-20) and Tsvetna⁹³ (Fig.11/21-22). The pendants from Mikhajlovka have the decoration completed with granules and the specimen at Tsvetna is adorned also with a rosette with four petals with enamel inlay. The grave at Mikhajlovka (T 3 G 3) dates based on the rich inventory sometime to the second half of the 1st – early 2nd century AD⁹⁴, while the feature at Tsvetna to the second half – end of the 1st century AD⁹⁵. The double bucket-shaped bronze pendant from the grave at Lipovets (Fig. 11/18)⁹⁶too, has its body decorated with anthropomorphic figures made

⁸³ KOTIGOROSHKO 2015, 53, 140, 227, Fig. 69.

⁸⁴ KOTIGOROSHKO 2015, 51, 139, 226, Fig. 70/4, photo 27/4.

⁸⁵ KOTIGOROSHKO 2015, 77, 166, 253.

⁸⁶ See the bibliography above.

⁸⁷ KOVPANENKO 1986, 95, 98, Fig. 100/2, 101/3.

⁸⁸ KOVPANENKO 1986, 96, Fig. 100/1. 3, 101/1-2.

⁸⁹ BĂRCĂ 2011, 10; BĂRCĂ 2015, 41; SIMONENKO 2011, 43-44.

⁹⁰ KOVPANENKO 1986, 127.

⁹¹ Cf. MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007, I, 96-97.

⁹² SUBBOTIN/DZIGOVSKIJ/OSTROVERKHOV 1998, 21, Fig. 16/5; DZIGOVSKYJ 2000, Fig. 43/3; BĂRCĂ 2006, 329, Fig. 75/5; SIMONENKO 2008, 77, cat. no. 107, Pl. 119/5; BĂRCĂ/SYMONENKO 2009, 163, Fig. 60/3.

⁹³ SIMONENKO 2008, 69, cat. no. 87, Pl. 81/5.

⁹⁴ BĂRCĂ 2006, 156, 330; BĂRCĂ/SYMONENKO 2009, 176; SIMONENKO 2011, 87. A. N. Dzigovskij dates the grave to the 1st century AD (DZIGOVSKIJ 1993, 74-75; DZIGOVSKIJ 2000, 105), and V. Mordvitseva and M. Trejster to the mid-third quarter of the 1st century AD (MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007, II, 45, cat. no. A129).

⁹⁵ SIMONENKO 2008, 15; SIMONENKO 2011, 40; V. Mordvitseva and M. Trejster date the feature to the mid-third quarter of the 1st century AD (MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007, II, 136, cat. no. B46).

⁹⁶ SIMONENKO 2008, 68, cat. no.82, Pl. 72/2g.

by dotting.

In the Sarmatian environment of the Great Hungarian Plain a golden pendant decorated with granulation on the body comes from the infant grave at Átány⁹⁷ (Fig.12/6). Together with the pendant were discovered also other golden objects, which point to dating of the feature to sometime in the last quarter/end of the 1st – early 2nd century AD⁹⁸. The grave at Átány, beside others from the same chronological time frame whose inventory include bucket-shaped pendants, is part of the group of early Sarmatian antiquities from the region. Some of these graves, including that at Átány, may be ascribed to the so-called “golden horizon”⁹⁹.

From Sarmatian graves dating to the second half of the 1st century – early 2nd century come mainly simple bucket-shaped pendants made of gold. An example to this effect is the Sarmatian grave from T 3 at Kazanskaya, whose grave goods included two golden bucket-pendants¹⁰⁰, but also that in the grave from T 42 at Ust'-Labinsk¹⁰¹, both from the cemetery at “Zolotoe kladbishche”, on the right bank of the Kuban river. Sometime to the first half of the 2nd century dates the grave from T 38 at Ust'-Labinsk, whose inventory included a double bucket-shaped pendant made of gold¹⁰².

Interesting circumstances are found in Crimea in the Sarmatian grave 178 from the cemetery at Nezhats, where two golden tubular pendants were made of bucket-pendants¹⁰³. The grave dates based on the funerary inventory sometime to the first decades or the first half of the 2nd century AD and cannot be ascribed to the late Sarmatian period, as maintained¹⁰⁴.

To the second half of the 1st century AD date the bronze bucket-shaped pendants from the Geto-Dacian settlement at Ocnîța¹⁰⁵ (Fig. 9/22-23). They come from a feature dated to the 2nd century BC¹⁰⁶ although its inventory¹⁰⁷, which contains a strongly profiled brooch of eastern type¹⁰⁸, evidences a dating to the second half of the 1st century AD. One of the pendants at Ocnîța belongs to type G (Fig. 9/23) in the typological classification of I. Beilke-Voigt¹⁰⁹.

Bucket-shaped pendants are frequent also in the Geto-Dacian settlements from the east-Carpathian environment

at Brad (Fig. 9/25-27)¹¹⁰, Răcătău¹¹¹ and Poiana¹¹². These come both from closed features as well as from the last levels of respective settlements, being found in association with artefacts dating to the 1st century AD.

In the Przeworsk culture area, the earliest bucket-shaped pendants come from features and contexts datable to stage B1 in the Central-European chronology, while starting with stage B2, the number of these artefacts increases significantly in this cultural milieu. The massive use of the bucket-shaped pendants in the Przeworsk culture area is placed in the chronological interval comprised between the last decades of the 2nd century – early 4th century AD (stages C1-C2), yet they are found, although slightly rarely, also over the 4th century AD¹¹³. These pendants are found in stages B2-C1 also in the Wilbark culture environment. They were massively used in the Sântana de Mureș-Chernyakhov milieu too, as confirmed by the many finds all over the area of this culture¹¹⁴, those of iron predominating, similarly to the Germanic environment from Central Europe¹¹⁵. Uninterrupted use of bucket-shaped pendants until the 4th century AD is noticeable in Crimea, those in bronze being numerous, while iron specimens date mainly to the Late period¹¹⁶. For the north-Pontic and north-west Pontic Sarmatian environment it is noticeable that bucket-shaped pendants come mainly from graves in the chronological interval comprised between mid 1st century AD – early/first decades of the 2nd century AD (stages B1b-B2a), yet they are also found, although much rarer, in graves from the second half of the 2nd century – first half of the 3rd century AD. Last but not least, it is worth mentioning that the golden specimens from the Sarmatian environment of the north and north-west of the Black Sea they are from graves that date to the period between mid 1st century and early/first decades of the 2nd century AD. In fact, most part of the golden pendants from the late Scythian environment from Crimea, yet also from the north-Pontic ancient centres come still from graves from the same chronological interval. Another observation worth noting is related to the double, triple or quadruple bucket-shaped pendants coming only from the cultural environments of the north-Pontic space, being unknown in other regions, not even with the Sarmatians of the Great Hungarian Plain. The latter are made of gold and bronze and come especially from graves dating to the chronological interval comprised between mid 1st century and early/first decades of the 2nd century AD. Interestingly, in the case of double bucket-shaped pendants, the region where they are found is very close to that where pendants of similar shape made of Egyptian faience¹¹⁷ were also diffused. These Egyptian faience pendants emerge in the north-Pontic area by the end of the 1st century BC, yet they predominate in 1st – 2nd century graves¹¹⁸. On the other hand,

⁹⁷ PÁRDUCZ 1941, 56, Pl. XXIX/56.

⁹⁸ PÁRDUCZ 1941, 56-57, 58 Pl. VII/5-7, XXIV/15-22, XXIX/30, 56.

⁹⁹ For the types of pieces among the finds ascribed to this horizon see KÓHEGYI 1984; VADAY 1984; VADAY/ISTVÁNOVITS/KULCSÁR 1989, 110-111; FARKAS 2000; ISHTVANOVIČ/KULČAR 2005; ISTVÁNOVITS/KULCSÁR 2006; ISTVÁNOVITS/KULCSÁR 2013; BÂRCĂ 2014, 35-69.

¹⁰⁰ GUSHCHINA/ZASETSKAYA 1994, 42, cat. no. 20, Pl. 2/20. Among the grave goods counts a strongly profiled brooch of eastern type (cat. no. 22, Pl. 2/22).

¹⁰¹ GUSHCHINA/ZASETSKAYA 1994, 70, cat. no. 443, 8, Pl. 48/443, 8.

¹⁰² GUSHCHINA/ZASETSKAYA 1994, 68, cat. no. 417, 5, Pl. 45/417, 5.

¹⁰³ KHRAPUNOV/STOYANOVA 2014, 181, Fig. 4/11; STOYANOVA 2016, 130, 131, Fig. 3/15.

¹⁰⁴ KHRAPUNOV/STOYANOVA 2014, 183.

¹⁰⁵ For the inventory of this feature which contains a strongly profiled brooch of eastern type see BERCIU 1981, 106, Fig. 91/4-5.

¹⁰⁶ BERCIU 1981, 106. The dating was also supported by Gh. Bichir (BICHIR 1984, 54), and I. Beilke-Voigt (BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, 64).

¹⁰⁷ For the grave goods of this feature see BERCIU 1981, 105-106, Fig. 91/1-7.

¹⁰⁸ For the dating of these brooches see RUSTOIU 1997, 54; BÂRCĂ 2011, 17-18.

¹⁰⁹ Cf. BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, 53, 68, Fig. 58.

¹¹⁰ URSACHI 1986, 112-115, 121, Pl. XVII/5-10, XXI/4-5, XXIII/4-5; URSACHI 1995, Pl. 359/5-10, 361/4-5, 362/4-5.

¹¹¹ CĂPITANU 1989, 103, Fig. 11/16-19.

¹¹² VULPE/VULPE 1933, 329, Fig. 109/25-27.

¹¹³ For the finds in the Przeworsk environment from the bibliography mentioned above.

¹¹⁴ GOPKALO 2008, 63-65 with complete bibliography.

¹¹⁵ Cf. BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, 57-58, Fig. 62-65.

¹¹⁶ Cf. STOYANOVA 2016, 132.

¹¹⁷ See for these pendants ALEKSEEVA 1975, 47, types 84-86, Pl. 11/45-46, 13/48; for a series of finds of such pendants see BÂRCĂ 2006, 136 with references.

¹¹⁸ ALEKSEEVA 1975, 47, types 84-86.

it is very likely that double metal bucket-shaped pendants had emerged simultaneously or shortly after those simple, to this effect the association of common and double bucket-pendants in vault 390 at Ust'-Al'ma dated to the end of the 2nd – first half of the 1st century BC being demonstrative¹¹⁹.

Given those mentioned above, we wish to reiterate that it is still difficult to establish with certainty the origin of these artefacts. Nevertheless, it is increasingly noticeable that earliest specimens originate in the north-Pontic space and come from features dating to the 2nd – 1st century BC, which suggests at least in the current state of research, that the origin of the bucket-shaped pendants, beside other pendant types, lies with the north-Pontic region¹²⁰. Furthermore, it is hard to say whether they come from the Greek environment of the north of the Black Sea or if they were only produced by artisans from the ancient centres for the Barbarians. Should we keep in mind that most bucket-shaped pendants come from the Barbarian environment, then, we may assume they are their “invention”, being specific to their costume, as supported by the many types of pendants that the north-Pontic Barbarian populations used, but also by extant metal pendants of similar functions in the shape of miniature cauldrons¹²¹ or “vases”¹²².

In the 1st century BC, these pendants are present, should we bear in mind the few finds, with the late Scythians and the Sarmatians from the north and north-west of the Black Sea. Still in the 1st century BC, simultaneously or in a close time span, bucket-shaped pendants also emerge in the Geto-Dacian (Popești, Crăsani, Pietra Craivii, Chellenitsya I) and Germanic (Dolineni, Poienești-Lucașeuca culture)¹²³ environments. In these latter two cultural environments, bucket-pendants emerge in the first half of the 1st century BC, most likely, following contacts with the north-Pontic world and by no means via the Sarmatians. Once with the 1st century AD, their numbers increase significantly in the late Scythian, Sarmatian and Geto-Dacian environments, but also in the cemeteries of the towns and settlements from the north-Pontic area. Still from this period they start to be recorded also in the Przeworsk culture area, which at the time extended up to the current territory of Slovakia.

The arrival and settlement of the Sarmatians in the Great Hungarian Plain led to the emergence of these artefacts in this space too, fact confirmed by the presence of gold, bronze and iron bucket-shaped pendants within the graves from the group of early Sarmatian antiquities in the region. Therefore, we may assume that the custom of wearing these pendants by women and children was brought to the Great Hungarian Plain in the second half of the 1st century AD by the first groups of Sarmatians settling this

¹¹⁹ Cf. ZAJTSEV 1997, 164, 166, Fig. 3/6, 12.

¹²⁰ Since earlier bucket-shaped pendants are of gold, some decorated in the filigree technique, but also with other decoration elements, one may assume that the golden specimens had served as prototypes for those made of bronze and iron.

¹²¹ GUSHCHINA/ZASETSKAYA 1994, 61, cat. no. 315, Pl. 33/315; MARČENKO/LIMBERIS 2008, 350, cat. no. 52, Pl. 80/8.

¹²² GUSHCHINA/ZASETSKAYA 1994, 68, cat. no. 417, 2, Pl. 45/417, 2. They were made of gold and are provided with granule-decorated handle.

¹²³ In the Germanic environment, earliest bucket-shaped pendants, yet of a much different shape, come from Magdalensberg (Austria) and date to the late La Tène (DEIMEL 1987, Pl. 107/12, 15; BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, 59-60, Fig. 68-69).

region, which they would inhabit for ca. four centuries¹²⁴.

Today, subsequent to new finds of such pendants, but also the analysis of the Sarmatian burial features in the Great Hungarian Plain where such artefacts were discovered, we may argue with certainty that in the Sarmatian environment from this geographical area bucket-shaped pendants were used to a smaller or larger extent on the entire duration of the chronological interval comprised between the end of the 1st century and end of the 4th century – early 5th century AD.

By the end, we wish to mention that the massive use of bucket-shaped pendants in the 2nd – 4th centuries AD in various cultural environments from the area between the north of the Black Sea and Central Europe indicates, in our view, that in this chronological interval they became “supranational” artefacts, being produced and used by various populations there, even though in the Germanic milieu or closely related to it, their use prevails¹²⁵.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by grants of the Ministry of National Education, CNCS – UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P4-ID-PCE-2016-0737.

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- ¹²⁵ Cf. BEILKE-VOIGT 1998, Fig. 76.

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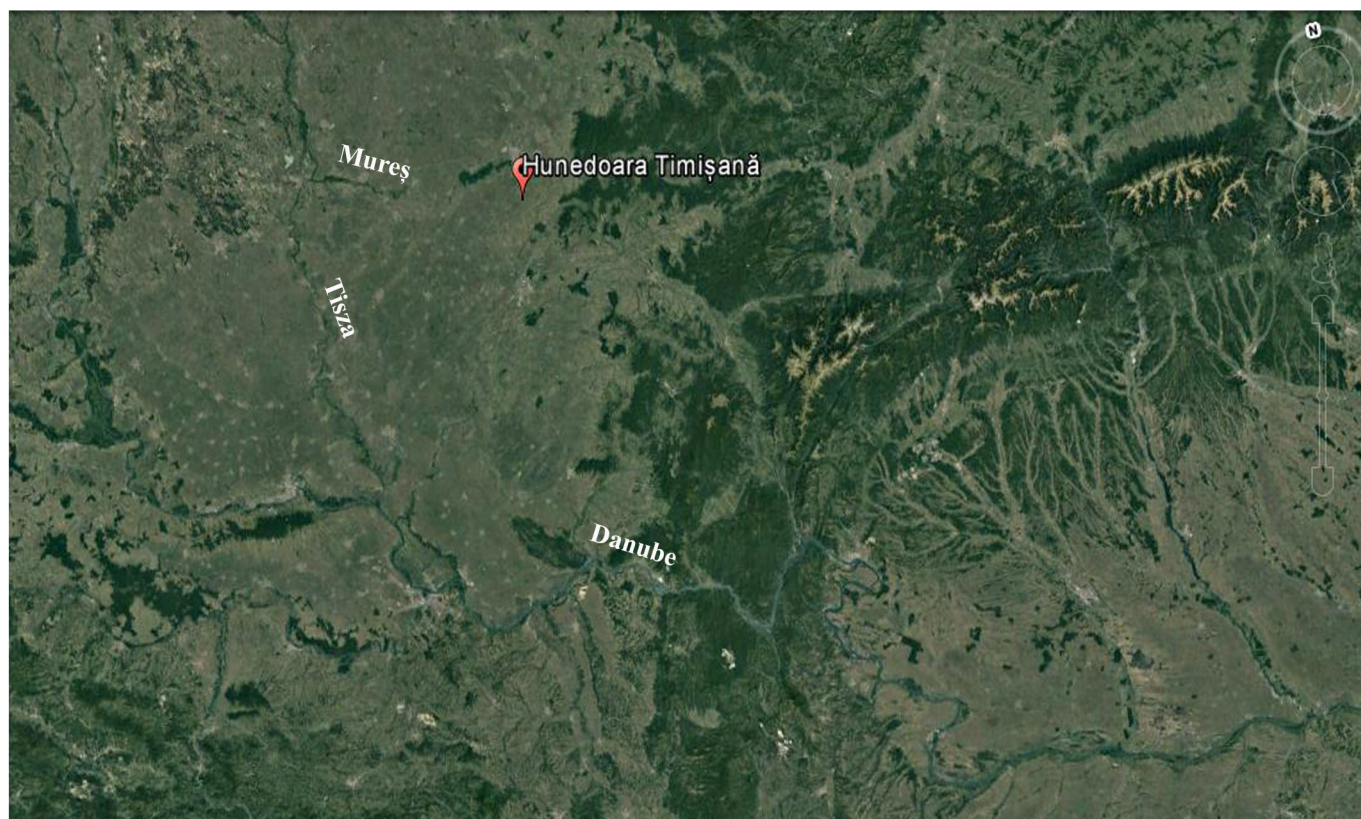


Fig. 1. Location of the cemetery at Hunedoara Timișană.

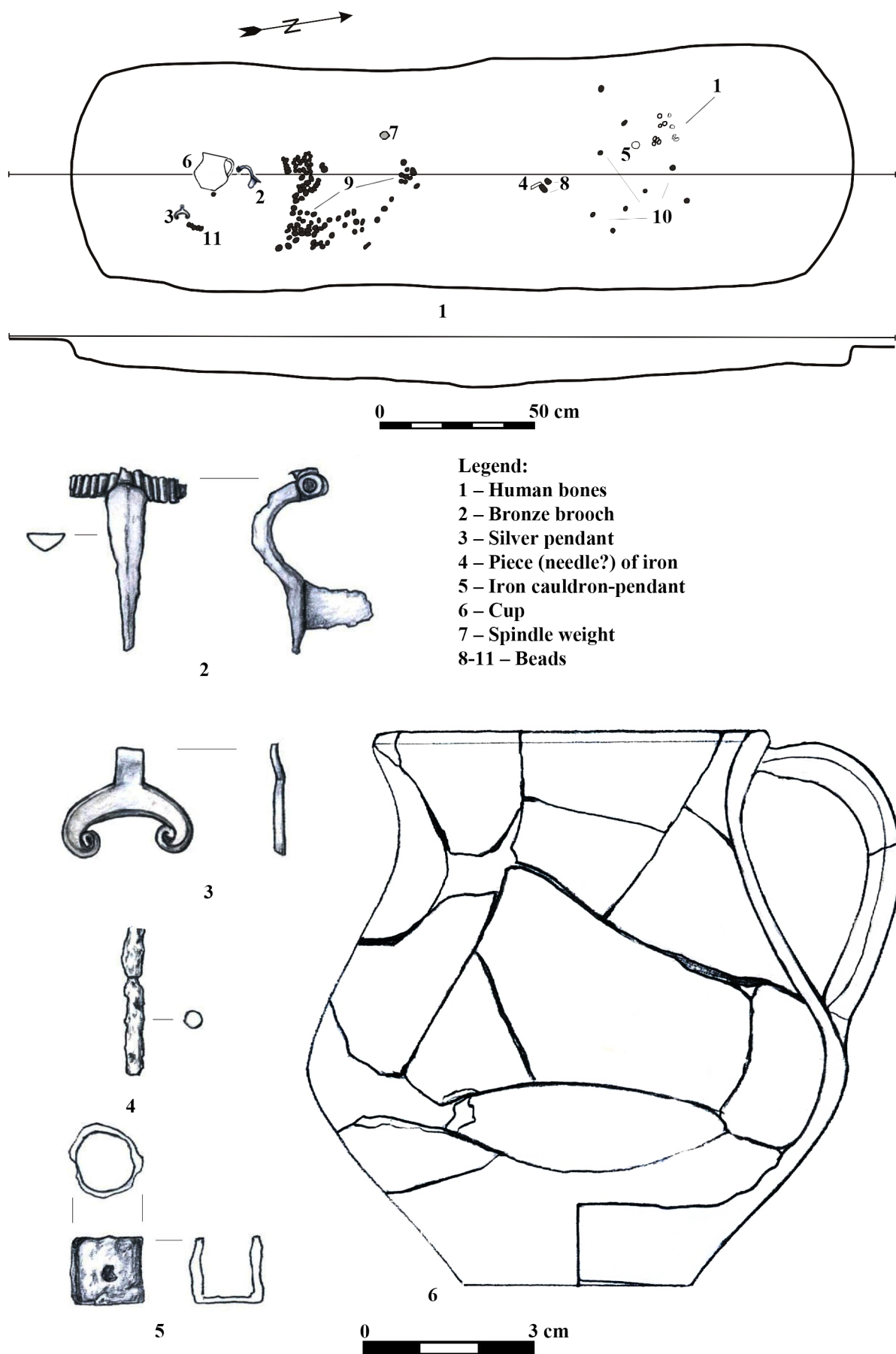


Fig. 2. Grave 9 from Hunedoara Timișană (1) and objects from its inventory (2. Bronze brooch; 3. Silver pendant; 4. Iron piece (pin?); 5. Iron bucket-shaped pendant; 6. Wheel-thrown cup (after BÂRCĂ 2014).

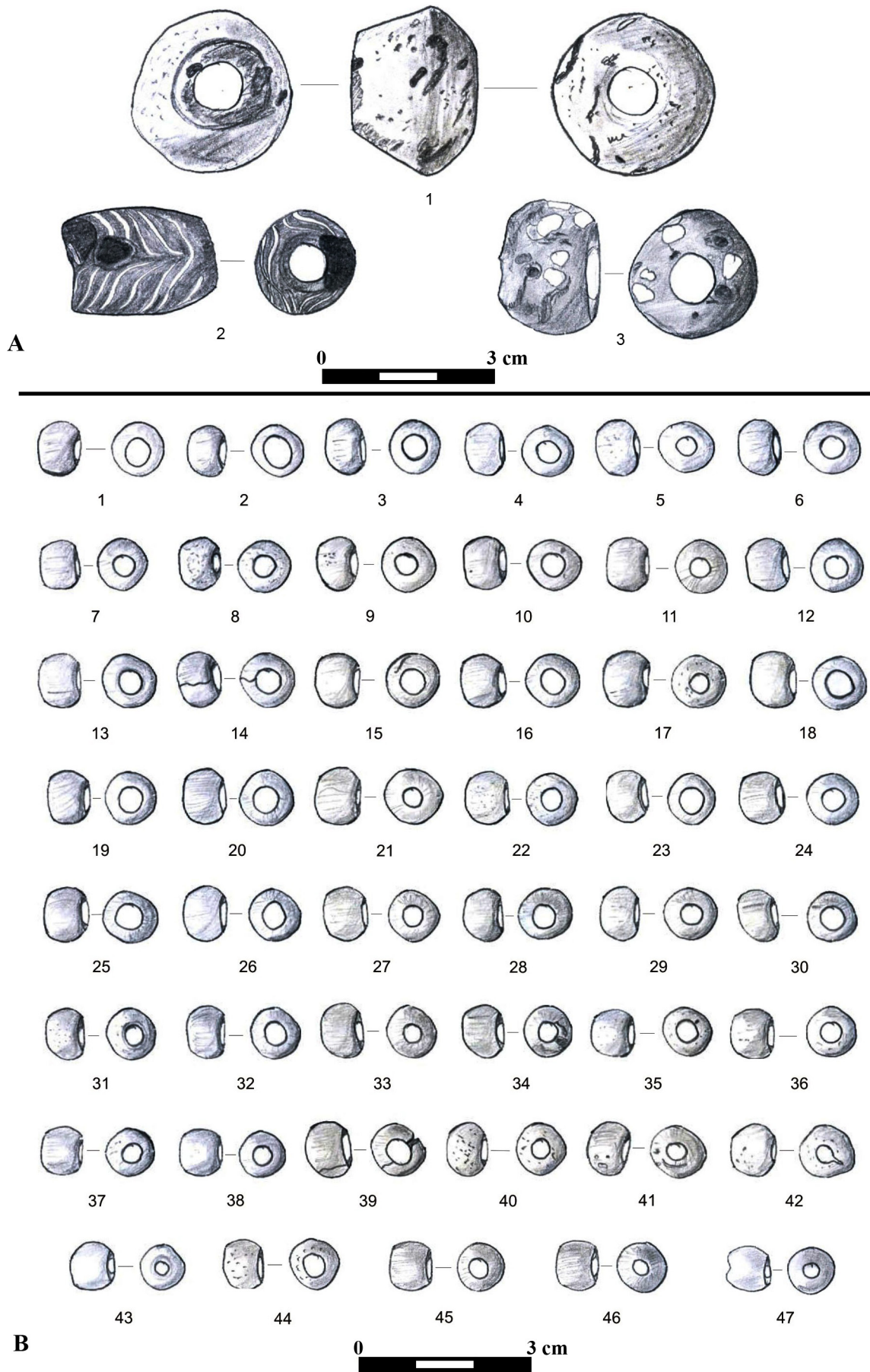


Fig. 3. Beads in the inventory of grave 9 at Hunedoara Timișană (after BĂRCĂ 2014).

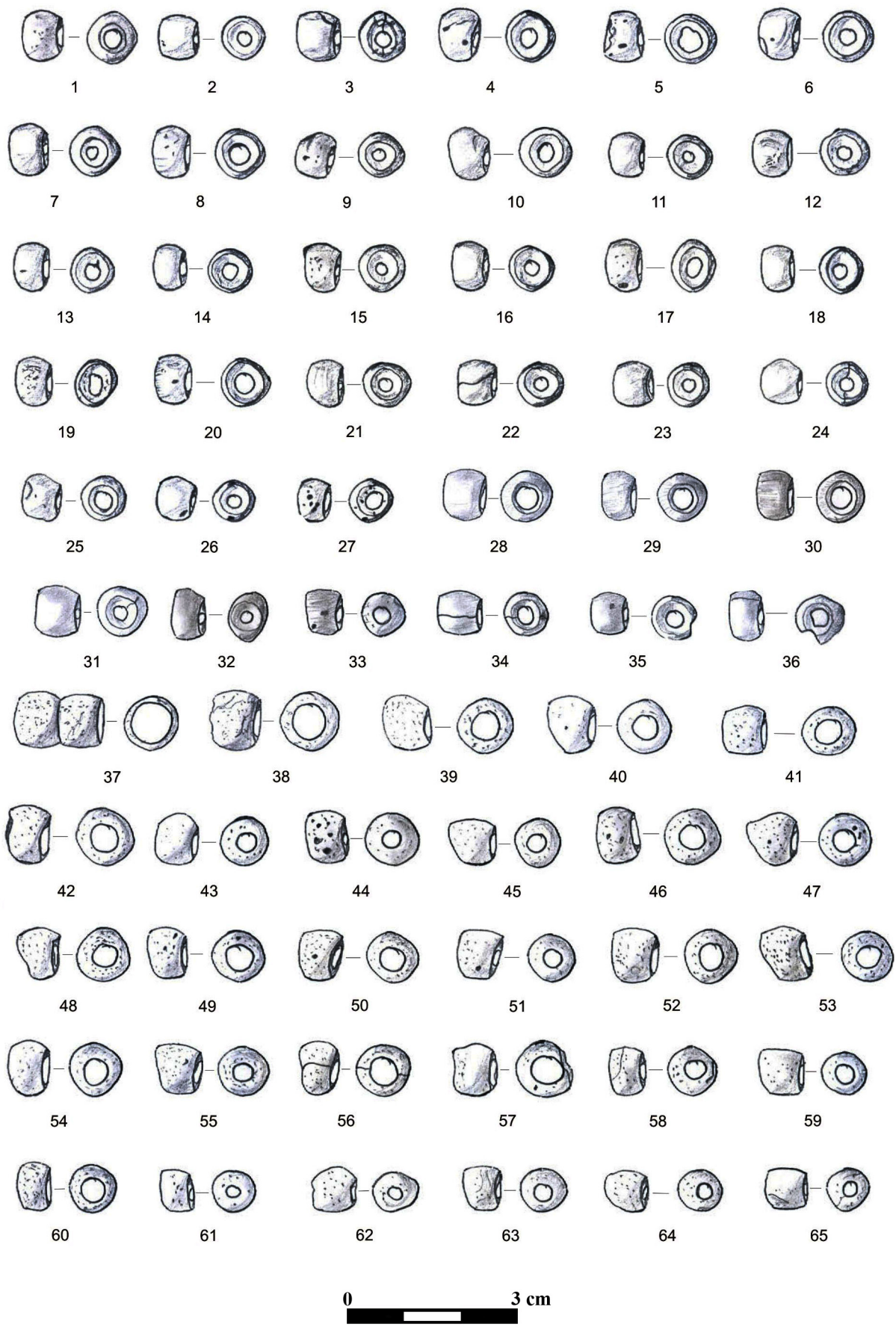


Fig. 4. Beads in the inventory of grave 9 at Hunedoara Timișană (after BÂRCĂ 2014).

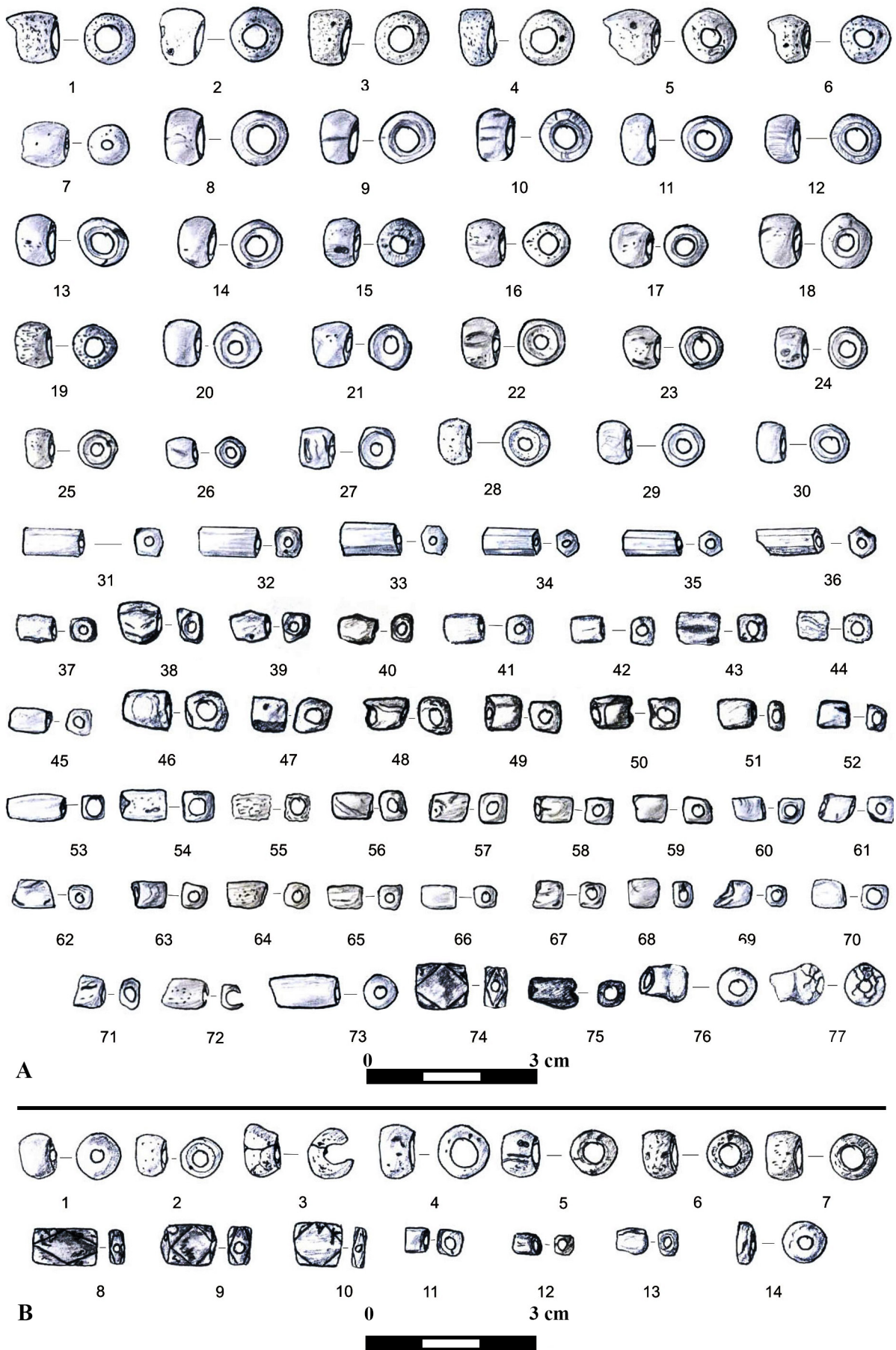


Fig. 5. Beads in the inventory of grave 9 at Hunedoara Timișană (after BÂRCĂ 2014).

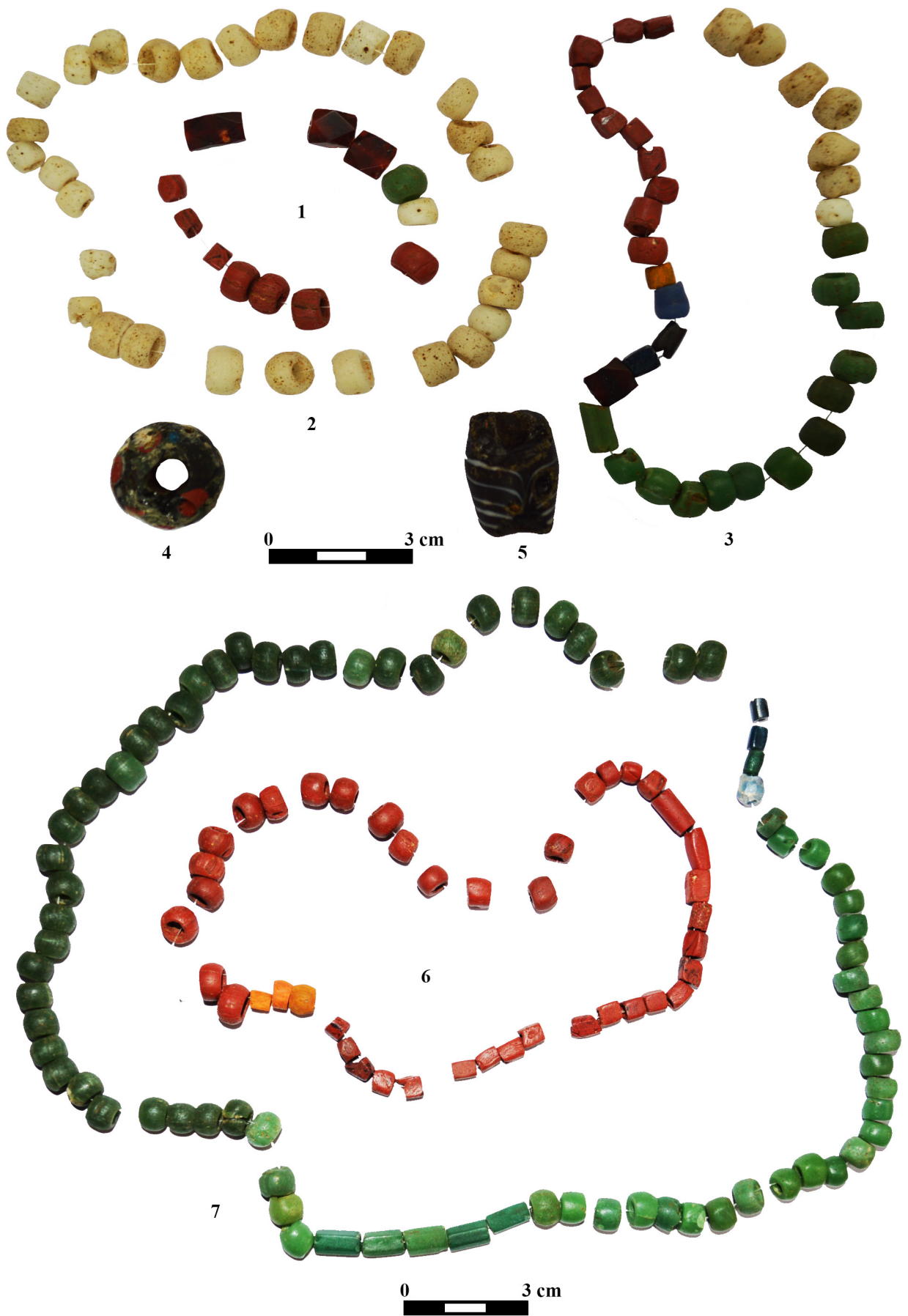


Fig. 5a. Beads in the inventory of grave 9 at Hunedoara Timișană (after BÂRCĂ 2014).

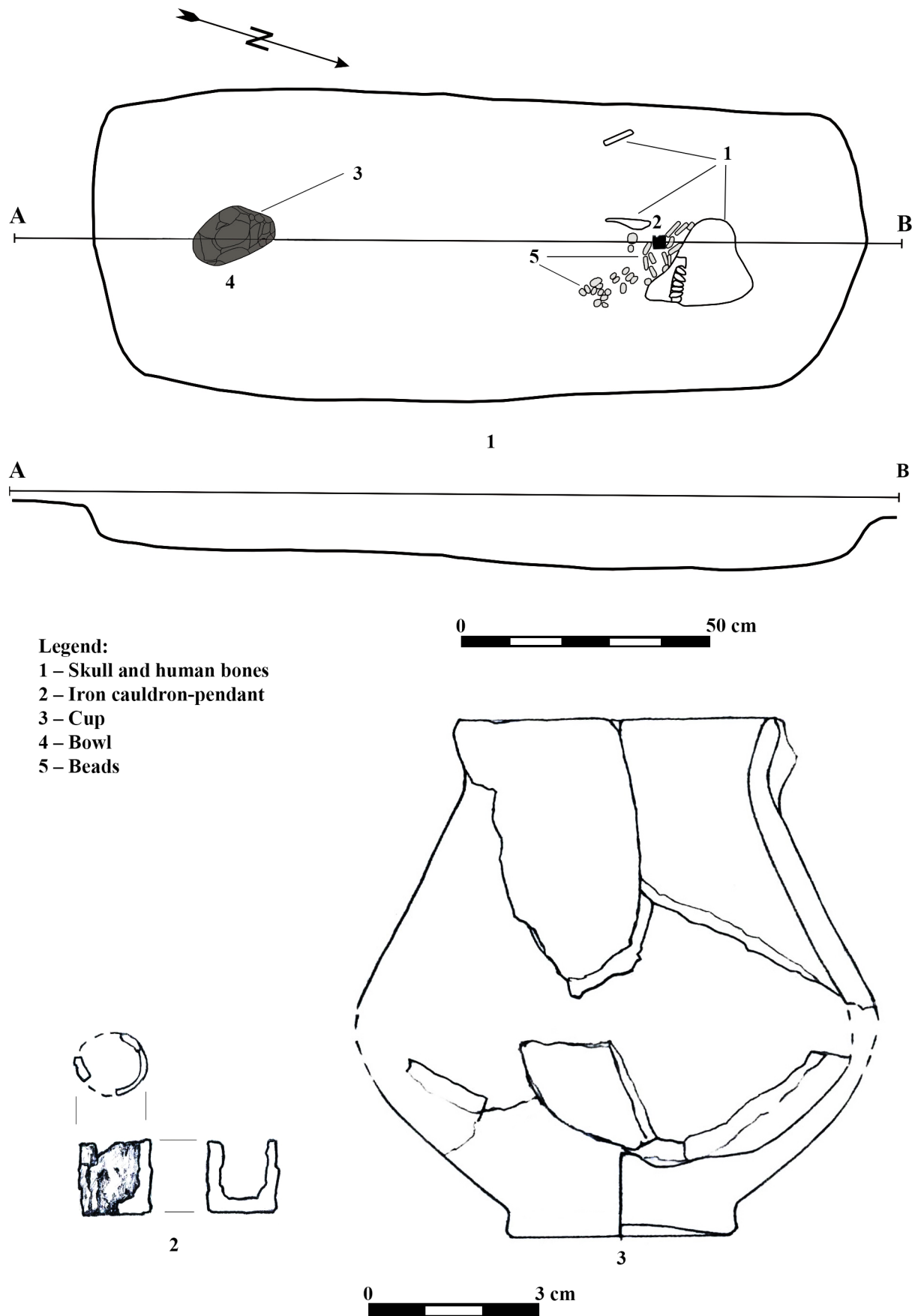


Fig. 6. Grave 13 at Hunedoara Timișană (1) and objects from its inventory 2. Iron bucket-shaped pendant; 3. Wheel-thrown cup (after BĂRCĂ 2014).

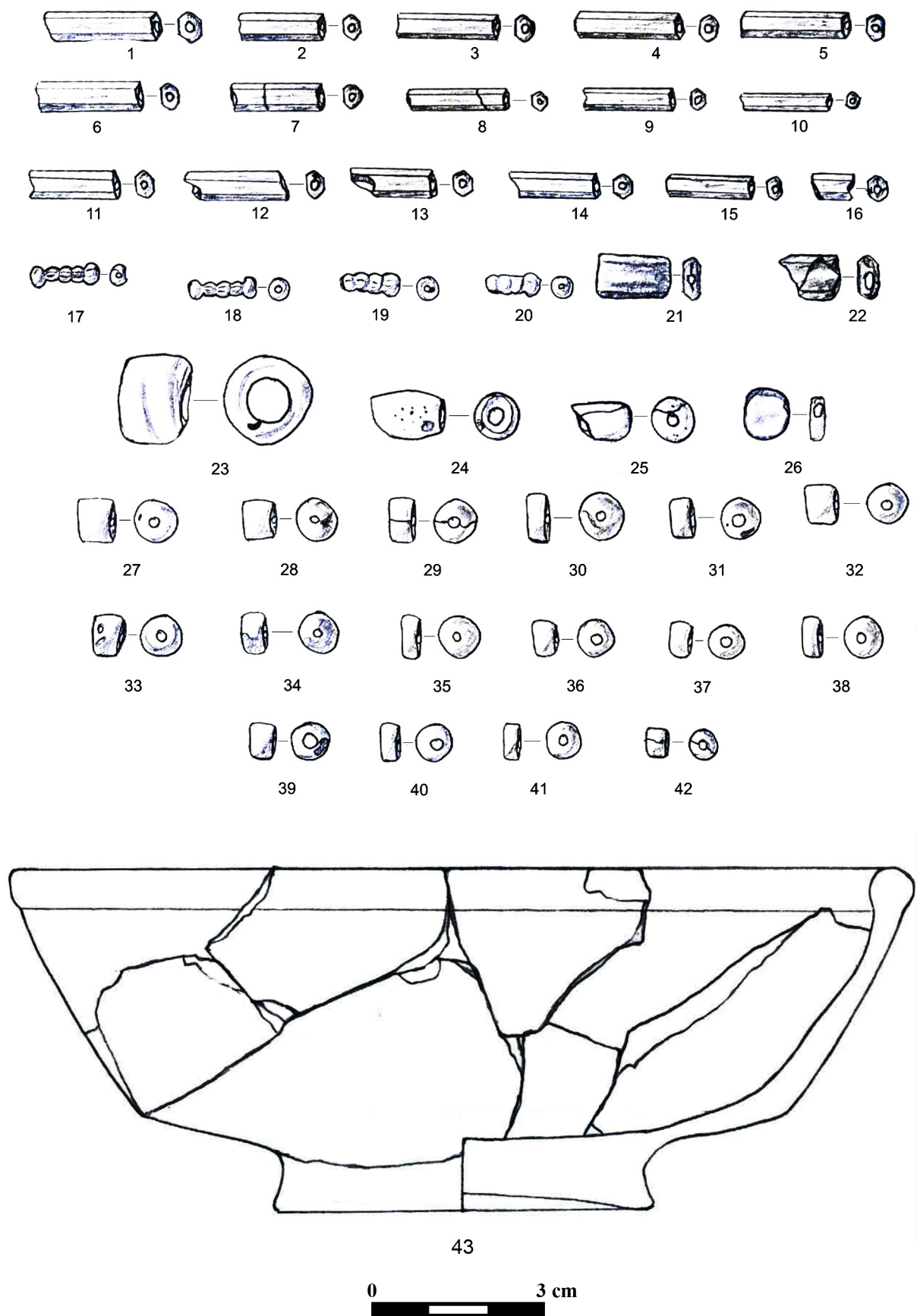


Fig. 7. Objects in the inventory of grave 13 at Hunedoara Timișană. 1-42. Beads; 43. Wheel-thrown bowl (after BÂRCĂ 2014).



Fig. 7a. Beads in the inventory of grave 13 at Hunedoara Timișană (after BÂRCĂ 2014).

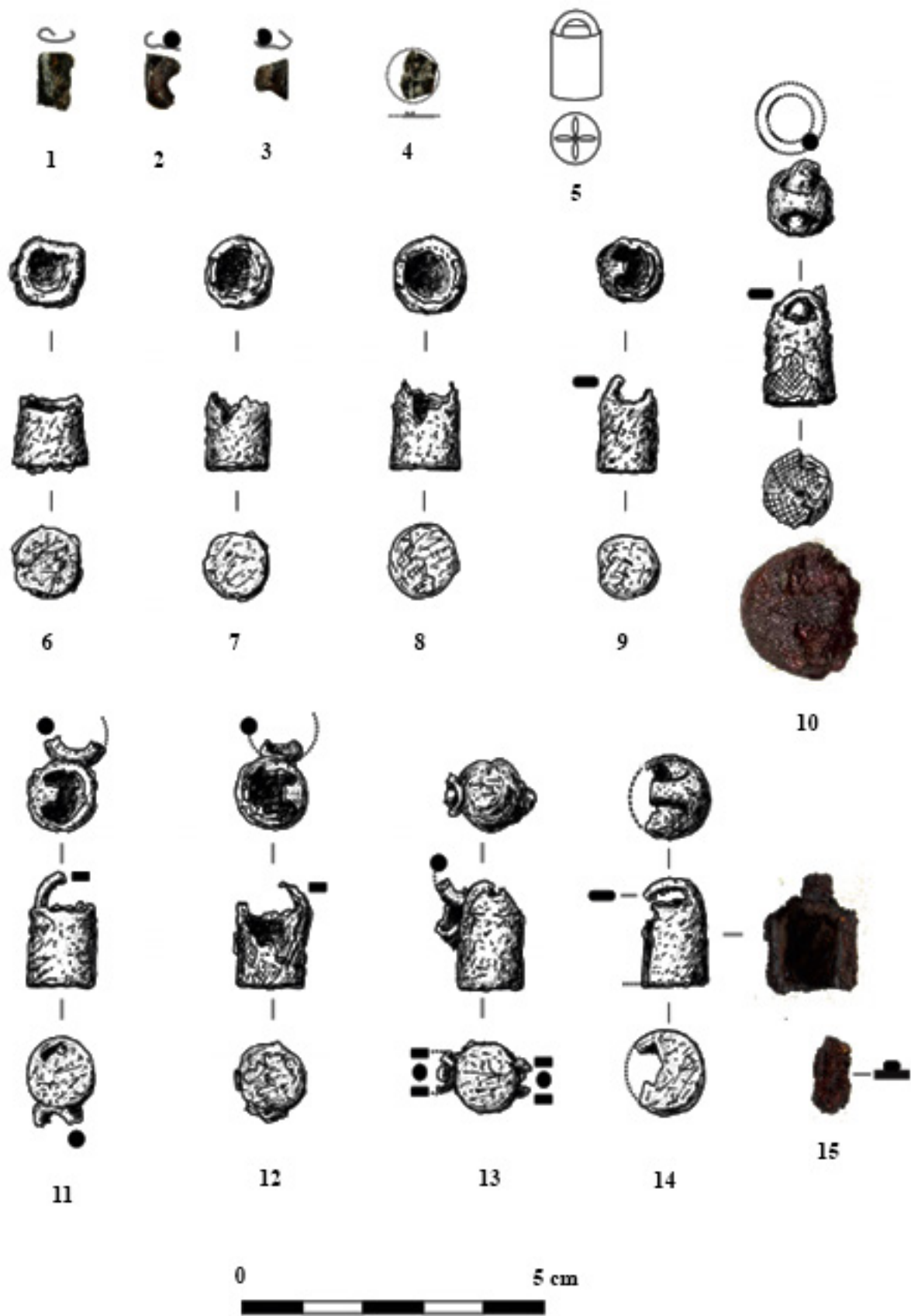


Fig. 8. Bucket-shaped pendants from the Sarmatian grave at Kálló. 1-4. Silver; 5. Reconstruction of the silver bucket-shaped pendant; 6-15. Iron (after VADAY 2016).

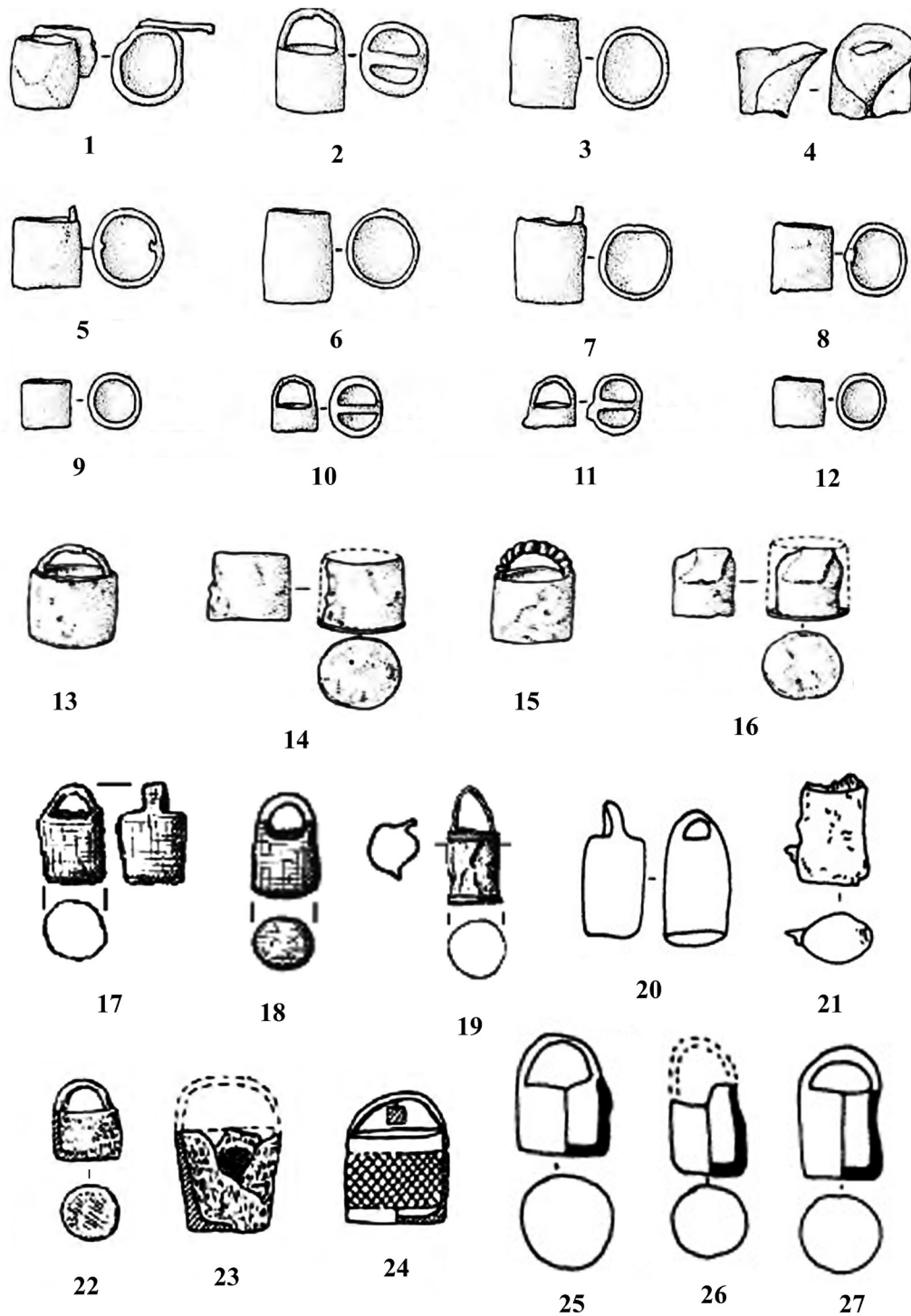
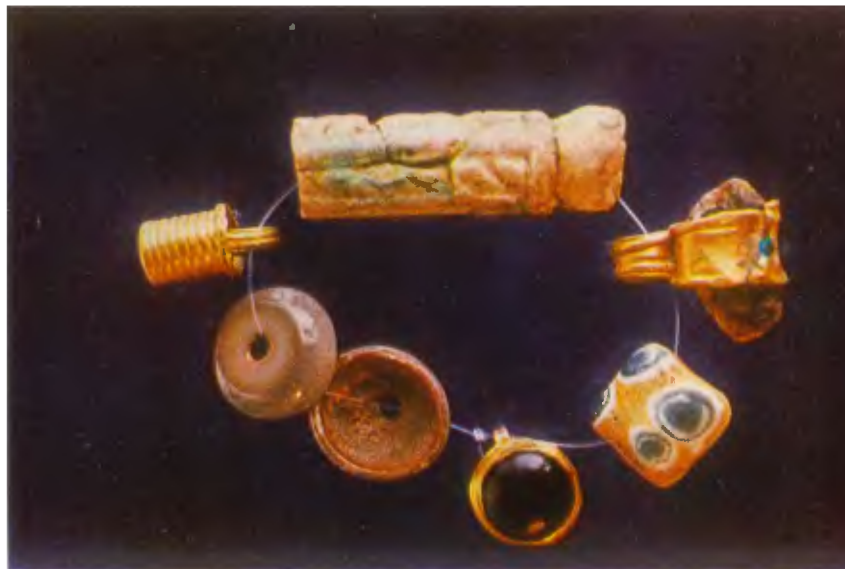
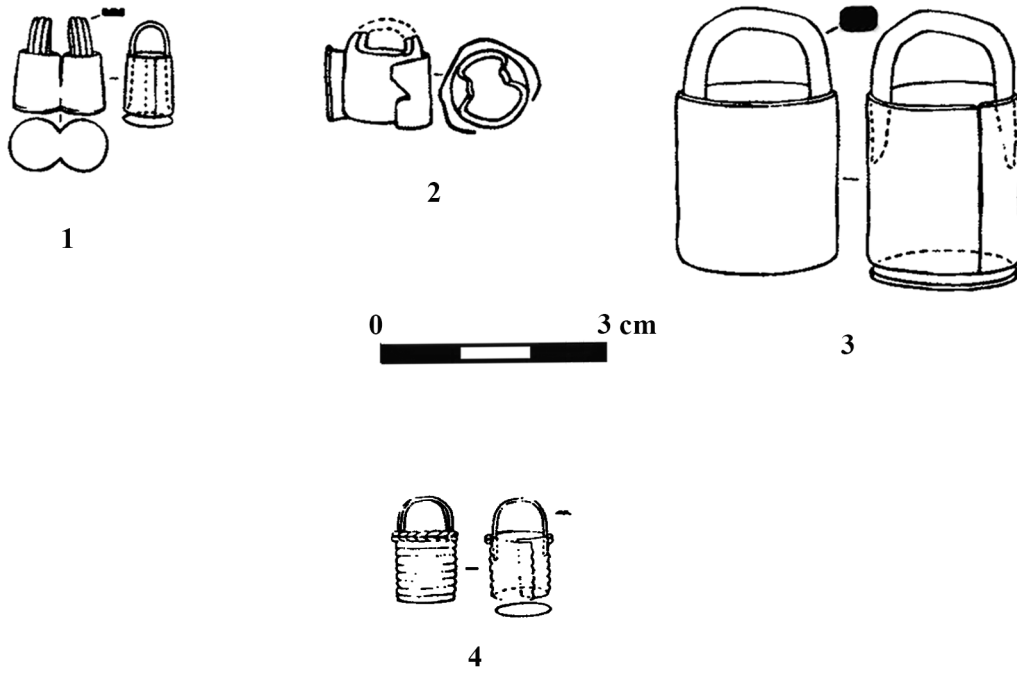


Fig. 9 Bucket-shaped pendants. **1-12.** Zemplin, grave 22; **13-16.** Zemplin, grave 48 (after BUDINSKÝ-KRIČKA/LAMIOVÁ-SCHMIEDLOVÁ 1990); **17.** Chellenitsya I, grave 13; **18-19.** Chellenitsya I (after KOTIGOROSHKO 2015); **20-21.** Popești (after VULPE 1976); **22-23.** Ocnița (after BERCIU 1981); **24.** Merești (after CRIȘAN2000); **25-27.** Brad (after URSACHI 1995).**1-18, 20-27.** Iron; **19.** Gold. Without scale.



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Fig. 10. Bucket-shaped pendants from the Sarmatian grave in the barrow at Sokolova Mogila (after KOVPANENKO 1986). 1, 4. Gold; 2-3. Iron.



Fig. 11. Bucket-shaped pendants from Sarmatian graves in the north and north-west Pontic area. **1-3.** Kholmsoe T 4 (after GUDKOVA/FOKEEV 1984); **4.** Podojma T 3 G 3 (after BUBULICH/KHAKHEU 2002); **5.** Lencovtsy T 1 G 2 (after BĂRCĂ 2006); **6.** Medeleni G 3 (after VORNIC/BUBULICI/POPOVICI 2016); **7-16.** Pisarevka T 1 G 8; **17.** Chuguno-Krepinka T 2 G 1; **18.** Lipovets (after SIMONENKO 2008); **19-20.** Mihajlovka T 3 G 3 (after SIMONENKO 2008 (19), ISTVÁNOVITS/KULCSÁR 2017 (20)); **21-22.** Tsvetna (after SIMONENKO 2008 (21), MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007 (22)). **19-22.** Gold; **4, 6, 18.** Bronze; **1-3, 5, 17.** Iron.



Fig. 12. Bucket-shaped pendants from Sarmatian graves of the Great Hungarian Plain. **1.** Kiskőrös-Csukás tó-Ráczkút, grave 6 (after PÁRDUCZ 1941); **2.** Orosházi-tanyák, grave 11 (after NAGY 2005); **3.** Endrőd-Szujókereszt, grave 45 (after VADAY/SZŐKE 1983); **4.** Abony-Kisbalaton-dűlő, grave 36 (after Gulyás 2011); **5.** Füzesabony-Kastély dűlő I, grave 150 (after Farkas 2000); **6.** Átány (after PÁRDUCZ 1941); **7.** Mezőcsát-Hörcsögös, grave 63; **8.** Mezőcsát-Hörcsögös, grave 1 from the settlement (after VADAY 1984); **9.** Hódmezővásárhely-Fehértó, grave 6 (after PÁRDUCZ 1948); **10.** Tiszadob-Sziget, grave 11; **11.** Tiszadob-Sziget, grave 28 (after ISTVÁNOVITS 1993); **12.** Tiszavasvári, Várofoldje-Jegyző-tag, grave 7 (after ISTVÁNOVITS 1990); **13.** Nyíregyháza-Felsősimá, grave 39 (after ISTVÁNOVITS/KULCSÁR 2017). **6, 13.** Gold; **2, 12.** Silver; **1, 3, 7-9.** Bronze; **4-5, 10-11.** Iron. Without scale.

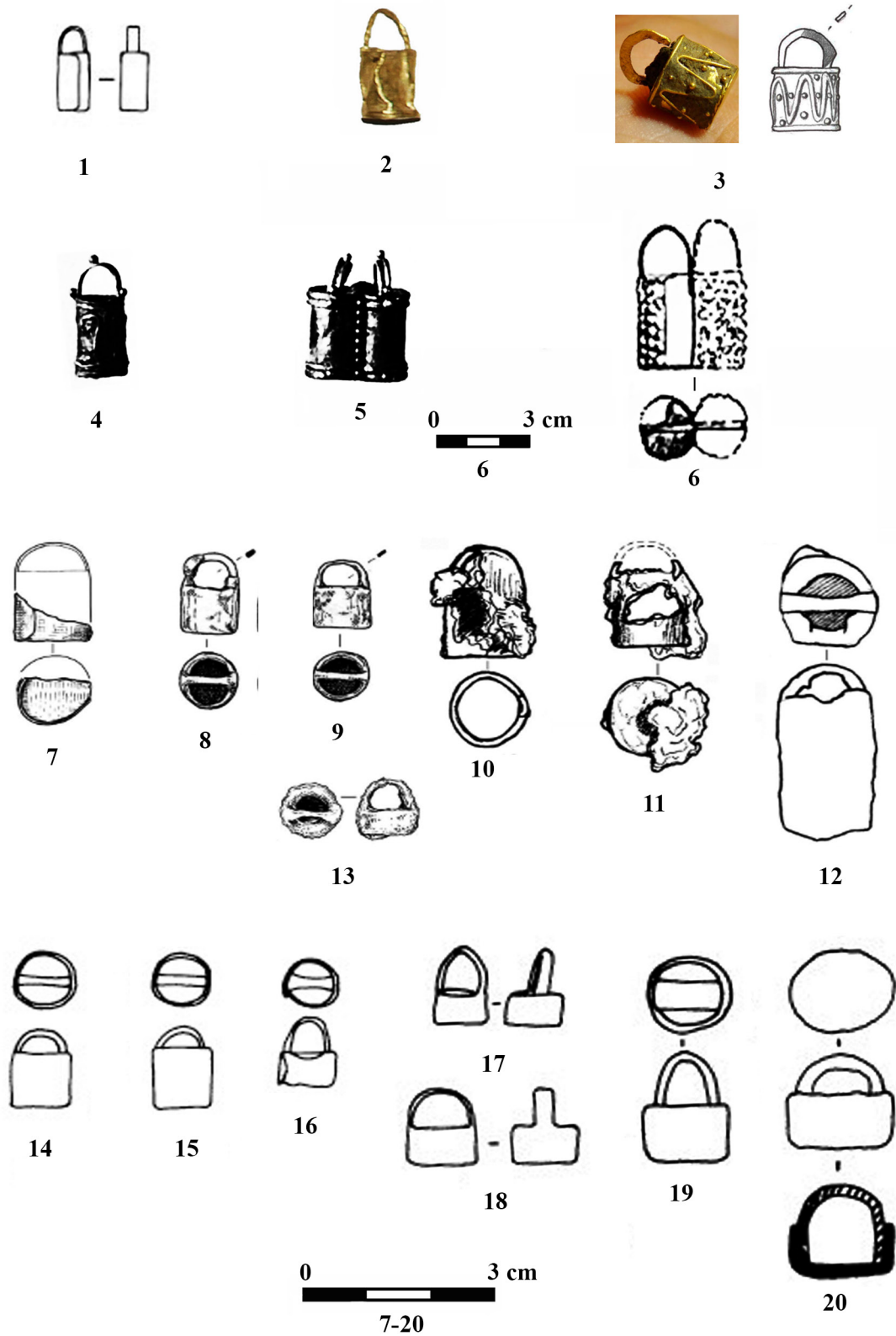


Fig. 13. Bucket-shaped pendants. **1, 7-13.** Nežats (after STOYANOVA 2016); **2.** Chellenitsya I (after KOTIGOROSHKO 2015); **3.** Suplacu de Barcău (after GINDELE 2015); **4-5.** Olbia (after MORDVINTSEVA/TREJSTER 2007); **6.** Ust'-Al'ma (after PUZDROVSKIJ 2007); **14-16.** București-Militari (after BICHIR 1984); **17-18.** Poieniști; **19-20.** Pădureni (after BICHIR 1973). **1-5.** Gold; **7.** Silver; **6.** Bronze; **8-20.** Iron. **1-5.** Without scale.