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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

THE LATE BRONZE AGE GÁVA POTTERY FROM THE LOWER MUREŞ

Abstract: The widespread societal collapse that occurred in the Lower Mures Basin in the Late Bronze Age following the destruction of mega-sites during the 13th century BC is largely mirrored in the dwindling number of settlements, prestige goods, and metal finds. The same period is also associated with the spread of Gáva pottery. Apparently, the respective pottery style has been subject to thorough investigation; however, ceramic analyses and 14C data are quite scarce. We are publishing here a pottery assemblage from contexts located in the Lower Mureș Basin, where Gáva pottery style was discovered. Besides illustrating representative potsherds, we have analyzed their style and added 14C data when available. The results of the study proper and comparative analyses with other assemblages suggest a different perspective from certain approaches to Gáva culture as a unitary phenomenon. Starting from the stylistic features of the pottery, we have attempted at offering a regional perspective without overlooking the distinctive characteristics of a much wider area. Moreover, 14C data and previous studies on LBA II pottery enable us to argue that several well-known features of the Gáva pottery style can be identified, at least in the Lower Mures Basin, as early as the 14th-13th century BC and even earlier, with some dating back to the 15th century BC **Keywords:** pottery, style, absolute chronology, Gáva, Lower Mures Basin.

INTRODUCTION

Gáva pottery has been a constant preoccupation for specialists of the Bronze Age in the Carpathian Basin and the neighboring areas. The main reason for the persistent interest in the topic is perhaps the wide geographical diffusion of several stylistic and technological elements that constitute the common basis of the Gáva pottery style. The literature in the field most often postulates that Gáva pottery is a unitary phenomenon spread across a vast area¹. However, there are not enough analyzed ceramic assemblages and 14C data available. For instance, there is no absolute dating for any context associated with Gáva pottery in the Banat Region, the Central Plain of the Tisza River, and the Lower Mureş Basin. Moreover, the number of hitherto published studies is not sufficient enough to offer an accurate picture of the evolution of the respective pottery style.

The following paper will introduce a ceramic assemblage displaying the general features of Gáva pottery. The ceramic ware under discussion has been excavated from two sites in close geographic proximity, Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci, during extensive pre-development excavations conducted over the last years. The respective pottery has been analyzed stylistically according to

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 $^{^{\}scriptscriptstyle 1}\,$ See most recently DIETRICH 2015.

criteria already established on other occasions². For a most comprehensive stylistic analysis, we have identified the main features of the pottery, alongside with several technological aspects, and we have interpreted the data according to the context from where the specimens have been taken. Three contexts have been 14C dated and thus we are able to determine an accurate timeline of the data currently available.

The data supplied by 14C measurements in the archeological contexts at Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci, the stylistic analysis of the pottery, as well as the results of studies conducted in other regions allow us to argue that the Lower Mures Basin can also be regarded as one of the birth places of the Gáva pottery. At the same time, we should draw the attention to the many regional characteristics of this ceramic style without failing to notice its supra-regional elements.

SETTING AND BACKGROUND

While quite a few studies on various aspects of Late Bronze Age (LBA) I and II finds in the Lower Mures Basin are available³, LBA III in the same region is much less known for the time being. One possible reason for the absence of studies dealing with the latter chronological phase could be the small number of finds dating to this period.

The chronological system used in the present study is newly developed on the basis of a consistent set of 14C measurements and concerns the main events that occurred in the investigated region, the Lower Mures Basin4. Accordingly, LBA I (1550-1450 BC) covers the time span between the abandonment of the Middle Bronze Age (MBA) Pecica-Şanţul Mare tell-settlement and the beginning of fortification construction in Sântana-Cetatea Veche and Cornești-Iarcuri. LBA II (1450-1250 BC) corresponds to the heyday of vast fortifications (mega-forts/sites). LBA III (1250-900? BC) starts with the destruction of fortification III in Sântana, and ring I and II in Cornești. Unfortunately, the lack of studies on the latter chronological phase prevents any attempt at pinpointing a major event that could stand for the end of LBA III in the investigated region. A potential clue in this respect can be found in a close-by region (South West Transylvania), that is the destruction of the Teleac defensive system, which occurred towards the end of the $10^{\rm th}$ century BC5.

During the 13th century BC, the most important fortification in the Lower Mureș Basin went through violent destruction: Sântana-Cetatea Veche⁶, Cornești-Iarcuri⁷, and Idoš-Gradište8. At the same time, the settlement of Sagu-Site A1_1, inhabited as early as the 16th century BC, seemed to be less peopled by the 13th century BC and was most likely abandoned as late as the 12th century BC9. We should note

here that there was a conspicuous decline in the amount of finds from this period on. However, in certain cases such as Cornești-Iarcuri and Idoš-Gradište it can be proved that, after the ruin of the defense systems in the 13th century BC, the respective places were still in use as late as LBA III and Early Iron Age (EIA)¹⁰. Other examples of continuity are the burial grounds of Tápé and Pecica-Site 14, which mostly developed during LBA I and LBA II. In this respect, we are certain that a cremation grave (188) from Tápé dates back to the 12th -11th century BC11, and that the graveyard of Pecica-Site 14 has been used until the 10th - 9th century BC, the last phase being represented by cremation graves.

In order to acquire accurate data on LBA III sites in the Lower Mureș Basin, we conducted a case study focused on Arad County (7754 km²), an essential part of the investigated region (Fig. 1)¹². We should mention that our research included thorough perusal of the literature in the field, field surveys to locate and check each and every site in the area, comprehensive evaluation of the entire archeological collection of the Arad Museum, accompanied by a decade-long field survey conducted over almost 183000 ha (1830 km²), countless test excavations over 1263 ha, and 43 pre-development excavations.

We noticed from the very beginning that there were only a few cases of LBA II sites still in use during LBA III; the general tendency was to set up new settlements. At the same time, the number of settlements, burial grounds, and metal finds dating back to this phase decreased drastically (Fig. 1; 2). As opposed to LBA II, the number of fortifications and settlements halved during LBA III. While in LBA II fortifications extended over large areas¹³ and certain structures turned into actually monumental constructions¹⁴, it seems that the buildings were small-scale during LBA III. Although the literature in the field mentiones one LBA III fortification in Lipova-Coasta Rea/Lipovița, located on a prominent hilltop in the mountain gorge of Mureș River¹⁵, the lack of excavations makes it difficult to ascribe it to this phase. Surface surveys were conducted in the vast majority of the 14 settlements under investigation, alongside test excavations in certain cases such as the settlement in Arad-Centru. Several stray finds or test trenches and predevelopment excavations conducted over time on the perimeter of the settlement in Arad did not amount to much; all in all, the settlement is remains largely unknown¹⁶. The bronze hoard of Arad-Astoria¹⁷, a sword¹⁸, and a sandstone mold for casting socketed axes¹⁹ were unearthed from

² SAVA 2019: SAVA 2020.

³ SAVA 2020 with bibliography.

⁴ SAVA 2020, 254-256, 289-290.

⁵ UHNER et alii 2019, 188, Fig. 20.

⁶ GOGÂLTAN/SAVA/KRAUSE 2019, 209, Fig. 22-24; SAVA, GOGÂLTAN/ KRAUSE 2019, 170-174.

LEHMPHUL et alii 2019, 273-275, Tab. 8.

⁸ MOLLOY et alii 2020, 15-17; Tab. 3.

⁹ SAVA 2019.

LEHMPHUL et alii 2019, 275-276, Tab. 9; MOLLOY et alii 2020, 15-17; Tab. 3.

¹¹ O'SHEA et alii 2019, Tab. 3.

The available data on Arad County cannot be interpreted within the wider context of the intra-Carpathian area because of the absence of centralized data on LBA III discoveries; Körös region is an exception, see BÓKA 2012; BÓKA et alii 2017.

GOGÂLTAN/SAVA 2010; GOGÂLTAN/SAVA/KRAUSE 2019; KRAUSE et alii 2019; MOLLOY et alii 2020; SAVA, GOGÂLTAN/KRAUSE 2019; SZEVERENYI et alii 2017.

¹⁴ GOGÂLTAN/SAVA/KRAUSE 2019, 199-200, Fig. 8-9.

¹⁵ CHIRILA/HÜGEL 1999, 80; MARUIA 2011, Annex 2, 1361-1368.

SAVA/PĂDUREAN 2009, 38-39.

¹⁷ RUSU et alii 1977, R68a-R68f; PETRESCU-DIMBOVIȚA 1977, 125, Pl. 296-297.

¹⁸ BADER 1991, 115, nr. 277, Taf. 28/277.

¹⁹ DÖRNER 1970, 449, Fig. 8/2; RUSU et alii 1977, R68a/9.

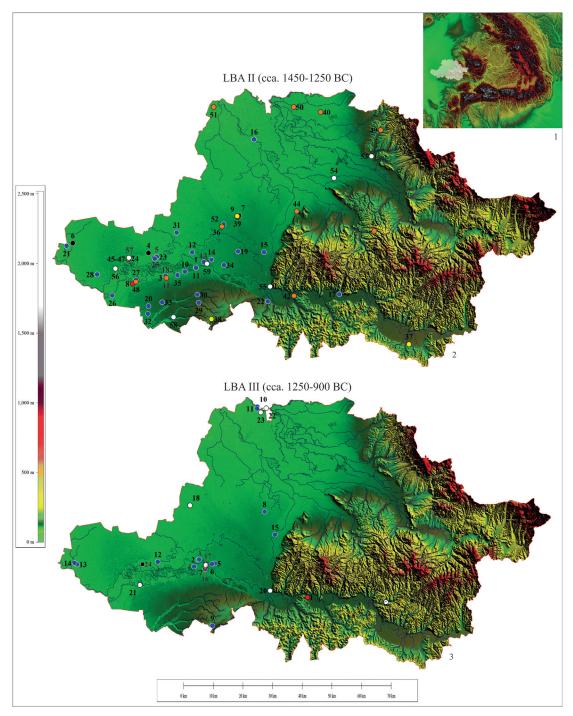


Fig. 1. 1. Map of the intra-Carpathian area with the outlying of Arad county (map by authors).

2. LBA II discoveries from Arad county, with the outlying of the hydrographic network mapped in the second topographic survey of the Habsburg Empire (1806-1869) (map by authors). Funerary discoveries (black): 1. Arad-Site BO_3; 2. Conop-Situl 5; 3. Felnac-Complexul Zootehnic; 4. Pecica-Site 14; 5. Pecica-Site 15; 6. Nădlac-Site 9M; 7. Sântana-Cetatea Veche. Fortifications (red): 8. Munar-Wolfsberg; 9. Sântana-Cetatea Veche. Settlements (blue): 10. Arad-Bufnit; 11. Arad-Bypass B03-B04; 12. Arad-Gai; 13. Arad-Palatul Cultural; 14. Arad-Uzina de apă; 15. Covăsânț-Situl 9; 16. Chișineu Criș-Situl 5; 17. Conop-Situl 5; 18. Felnac-Complexul Zootehnic; 19. Horia-Situl V7; 20. Mailat; 21. Nădlac-Situl N8; 22. Neudorf-Pârâul Roşia; 23. Pecica-Forgaci; 24. Pecica-În vii; 25. Pecica-Site 15; 26. Satu Mare; 27. Sâmpetru German; 28. Semlac-Situl 21; 29. Şagu-Situl A1_1; 30. Şagu-Lângă Gară; 31. Variaşu Mare; 32. Vinga-Situl 30; 33. Vinga-Situl 43; 34. Vladimirescu; 35. Zădăreni; 36. Zimandu Nou. Gold hoards (yellow): 37. Birchiş; 38. Firiteaz; 39. Sântana-Cetatea Veche. Bronze hoards (orange): 40. Apateu; 41. Felnac; 42. Lipova; 43. Minișu de Sus; 44. Pâncota?; 45. Pecica II; 46. Pecica III; 47. Pecica IV; 48. Sâmpetru German; 49. Secaci; 50. Vânători; 51. Vărșand IV; 52. Zimandu Nou. Metal stray finds (white): 53. Beliu; 54. Ineu; 55. Păuliș; 56. Pecica, lângă Şanţul Mare; 57. Pecica "În vii"; 58. Vinga; 59. Zona Arad.

3. LBA III discoveries from Arad county, with the outlying of the hydrographic network mapped in the second topographic survey of the Habsburg Empire (1806-1869) (map by authors). Fortifications (red): 1. Lipova-Coasta Rea/Lipovița. Settlements (blue): 2. Arad-Bujac/Str. Tiberiu nr.5/str. Progresului nr. 34/str. Ghioceilor nr. 75; 3. Arad-Silvaş (Bujac); 4. Arad-Aeroport; 5. Arad-Micălaca-Deluţ; 6. Arad-Autogara veche; 7. Arad-Čentru; 8. Caporal Alexa?; 9. Firiteaz-Situl 2; 10. Iermata Neagră-Situl 1?; 11. Iermata Neagră-Situl 7; 12. Pecica-Est și Forgaci; 13. Nădlac-Situl N28; 14. Nădlac-Situl N33; 15. Șiria. Bronze hoards (orange): 16. Arad-Astoria. Metal stray finds (white): 17. Arad-Centru; 18. Dorobanți; 19. Dumbrăvița; 20. Păuliș; 21. Sâmpetru German; 22. Tămașda; 23. Zona Zerind. Funerary discoveries (black): 24. Pecica-Situl 14.

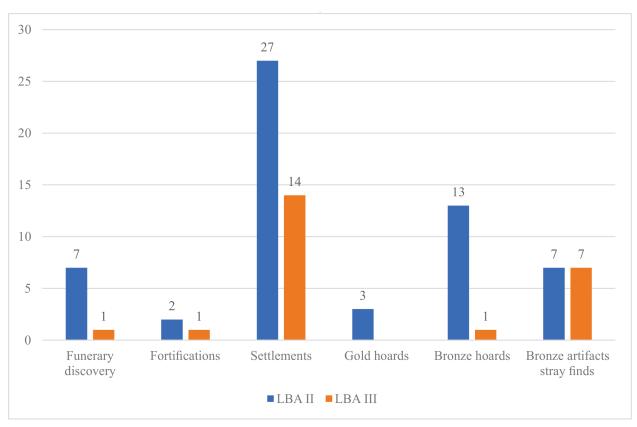


Fig. 2. The LBA II and III sites in Arad County, arranged according to the chronological stage and the main types of discoveries (graphic by authors).

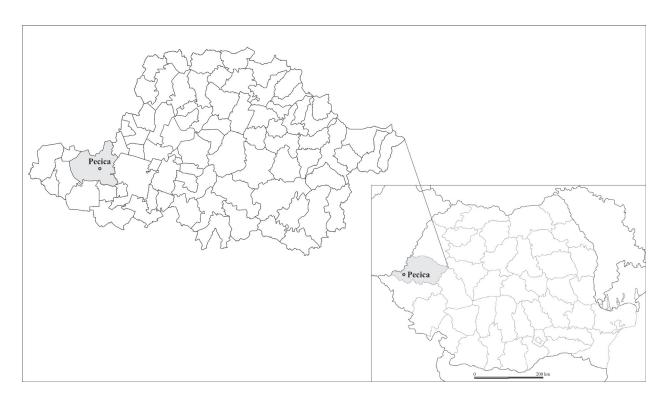


Fig. 3. Administrative map of Romania and Arad County with location of Pecica Town (map by authors).

the settlement, proof of intense metallurgical activities. Beside the *cluster* of settlements found within the present boundaries of Arad town²⁰, systematic field surveys ²⁰ SAVA/PĂDUREAN 2009, 36-39.

conducted around several localities had led to discovering new LBA III settlements. Two settlements were identified in the immediate vicinity of Nădlac town, Site N28 and Site N33; the archeological finds collected on their surface



Fig. 4. Satellite photo illustrating the Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci sites, as well as the contemporary sites in the immediate vicinity (source: GoogleEarth modified by authors).

were scattered over 4, namely 10-11 ha. The settlements of Pecica-Est21, Pecica-Forgaci, Iermata Neagră-Site 722, and Iermata Neagră-Site 1, small clusters of habitation in fact, also belong to LBA III. Alongside the LBA III sites, we should also mention several bronze artifacts discovered by accident, whose context is unknown, that typologically belong to Moigrad-Tăuteu horizon of hoards: a spearhead found in Dorobanți, a situla unearthed in Dumbrăvița²³, and three socketed axes found within the boundaries of Sâmpetru German, Zerind, and in the south-west of Tămașda village.

Within the framework of material culture, the ceramic ware found in the Lower Mures Basin displays the general traits of the Gáva pottery style24 as summed up by A. Mozsolics nearly six decades ago: polished black on the outside and red inside, the most characteristic shape being the faceted-rim, round-bodied urn adorned with channeled decoration arranged obliquely or in garland patterns²⁵. Other distinctive features²⁶ of this ceramic style have been added over time, and several morphological analyses performed on substantial ceramic assemblages $^{\rm 27}$ are now available. Since the term "Gáva culture" has been introduced in the literature in the field, many opinions concerning its terminology, origin, distribution, chronology, and importance have been

expressed28. To sum up the main points of the debate, it is obvious that there is a certain consensus on denomination, the term "Gáva" being quite widespread for the intra-Carpathian area, but other names such as Gáva-Holihrady, Reci-Mediaș, and Chișinău-Corlăteni can also be found. At the same time, the use of different denominations suggests the presence of a "cultural complex" made up of several groups scattered over a vast area: the central and northern part of the Tisza Plain, Transylvania, northern Banat, Moldavia, the Republic of Moldova, and southern Ukraine. Chronologically speaking, most specialists agree on the early emergence of the Gáva pottery, or proto/pre-Gáva pottery, in the north of the Tisza Plain and north-western Romania, as early as around 1400-1200 BC, gradually spreading to the south of Ukraine and north-western Moldavia.

SITES AND CONTEXTS

Although many pre-development excavations²⁹ have been conducted in the Lower Mures Basin in the past few years, new research projects have been initiated³⁰, and old collections have been reevaluated³¹, we have unfortunately

²¹ SAVA/MĂRGINEAN/URSUŢIU 2017.

²² MĂRGINEAN/HUREZAN/SAVA 2014.

²³ SOROCEANU 2008, 138, Abb. 20a, 20b, Taf. 27/102.

²⁴ DÖRNER 1970, 449-450, Fig. 8/1; SAVA/PĂDUREAN 2009, 36-39, Pl. IX.

²⁵ MOZSOLICS 1957, 121.

ex. PANKAU 2004, 27-31; VASILIEV 2008; BADER 2012.

KEMENCZEI 1984, 64-70; VASILIEV et alii 1991, 78-94; LÁSZLÓ 1994, 65-89, 111-124; LEVIŢKI 1994, 79-108; PANKAU 2004, 43-85; MARTA 2009, 60-76; KÓSA 2020; MARTA 2020.

See presentations or summaries of these topics in KEMENKZEI 1984, 58-60; FURMÁNEK/VELIAČIK/VLADÁR 1991, 149-153; GUMĂ 1993, 181-184; LÁSZLÓ 1994, 48-50; BUKVIĆ 2000, 13-21; PANKAU 2004, 27-42; PRZYBYŁA 2009, 102-109; CIUGUDEAN 2011, 69-70; BADER 2012; METZNER-NEBELSICK 2012; CIUGUDEAN 2012; DIETRICH 2015; SZABÓ 2017; LÁSZLÓ 2019; GOGÂLTAN 2019, 52, 55, 57; KÓSA 2020, 7; MARTA 2020, 6-8.

Ex. SAVA/HUREZAN/MĂRGINEAN 2011; SAVA/ANDREICA 2013; IGNAT/SAVA 2019.

Ex. GOGÂLTAN/SAVA 2010; MOLLOY et alii 2020; SZEVERENYI et alii 2017; GOGÂLTAN/SAVA/KRAUSE 2019; KRAUSE et alii 2019; SAVA/ GOGÂLTAN/KRAUSE 2019.

Ex. SAVA/PĂDUREAN 2009; GOGÂLTAN/SAVA 2014; SAVA 2016;

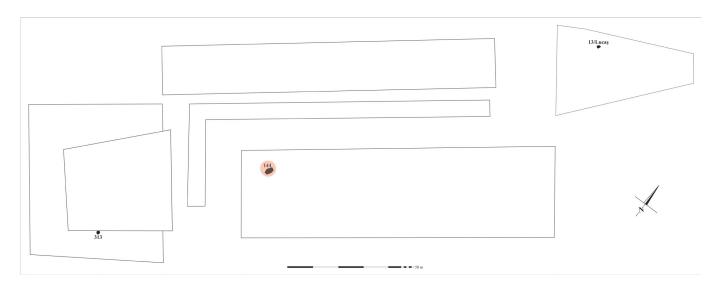


Fig. 5. Topographic plan of the excavations carried out at Pecica-Est with the outlying of the LBA discoveries (plans by the authors).

Table 1. List of the LBA 14C dates from Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci.

No.	Site	Feature no.	Lab no.	Age 14C [BP]	±	Calibration value 2σ	Mean	Material
1	Pecica- <i>Est</i>	сх. 144	RoAMS 996.80	3038	28	cal BC 1396-1215	cal BC 1293	animal bone (bos taurus)
2	Pecica- <i>Forgaci</i>	сх. 70	RoAMS 1526.80	2876	27	cal BC 1191-933	cal BC 1051	animal bone (bos taurus)
3	Pecica- <i>Forgaci</i>	сх. 94	RoAMS 1525.80	2854	34	cal BC 1124-916	cal BC 1019	animal bone (bos taurus)

noticed the presence of a rather small number of LBA III finds. Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci, both recently investigated, can be dated to this period (Fig. 3; 4). Several pits excavated in the two sites contain LBA III ceramic ware known as Gáva pottery.

Pecica-Est

The site was discovered and studied in 2015-2017, when an area of 13800 m² (Fig. 4-5) was investigated and many archeological features dating back to different periods were found³². Among them there were three pits where specific LBA pottery was identified. Noteworthy was the fact that the finds scattered over the aforementioned area were discovered near the relatively contemporary settlements of Pecica-Site 15³³ and Pecica-Forgaci. Of the three pits, only cx. 144 contained pottery appropriate for analysis.

Cx. 144 was rather rectangular in shape, with slightly slanted walls and honeycombed base, filled with dark-grey soil flecked with many calcareous concretions and with small daub fragments in the upper layer (Fig. 7). The pit fill contained pottery sherds (Pl. 1-3) and animal bones. Sample RoAMS 996.80 (Fig. 8/1; 9-10), belonging to an adult Bos taurus (bovine) mandible, was chosen from the pit and dated between cal BC 1396-1215 (2σ) (Table 1).

Pecica-Forgaci

In 2019, pre-development excavation was conducted over an area of 24470 m². The site had been investigated before,

SAVA/IGNAT 2016; SAVA/GRUMEZA 2018; KAPURAN 2019.

but smaller areas were taken into consideration³⁴. Following the 2019 excavation, four pits with archeological material dating to LBA III were identified without the shadow of a doubt: cx. 70, 71, 73, and 94. Besides, we should also mention cx. 69, 101, and 102, pits with atypical pottery resembling LBA III ceramic ware, therefore not included in the present study. It was obvious that they were concentrated in the north-eastern corner of the investigated area, forming a small cluster (Fig. 6).

Pit cx. 70 was identified and demarcated according to the color of the fill embedded in the archaeologically virgin soil. The fill was a loose grey soil with daub fragments, irregular in shape, 2.8 x 3.4 m in size, and a maximum depth of 0.16 m (Fig. 7). The archeological material consisted of pottery (Pl. 4-5) and animal bones. One mandible of Bos taurus (bovine), aged between 4 and 6 years old, was chosen from the pit for 14C dating, RoAMS 1526.80 (Fig. 8/3; 9-10), and the result was cal BC 1191-933 (2 σ) (Table 1). The fill of pit cx. 71 consisted of loose grey soil with daub fragments. The pit was round, flat-based, with irregular walls, approximately 1 m in diameter, and a maximum depth of 0.6 m (Fig. 7). The archeological assemblage consisted of animal bones and pottery (Pl. 6/1-9). The fill of pit cx. 73 was loose grey soil with daub fragments. The pit was round, with honeycombed walls and base, approximately 1 m in diameter, and a maximum depth of 0.4 m (Fig. 7). The archeological material consisted of pottery (Pl. 6/10) and animal bones. Pit cx. 94 was large, filled with loose grey soil with daub fragments. Irregular in shape and with honeycombed base, it was approximately 6 x 4.5 m in size and a maximum depth

SAVA/MĂRGINEAN/URSUŢIU 2017; SAVA, URSUŢIU 2020A; SAVA, URSUTIU 2020b.

³³ MARTA et alii 2012.

³⁴ LUCA 1993; URSUŢIU *et alii* 2017.



Fig. 6. Topographic plan of the excavations carried out at Pecica-Forgaci with the outlying of the LBA discoveries (red) (plans by the

of 0.8 m (Fig. 7). The archeological material was rich in animal bones and contained a substantial amount of pottery sherds (Pl. 7-20). From this pit we selected for 14C dating a mandible of *Bos taurus* (bovine), between 2.5 – 3 years of age, RoAMS 1525.80 (Fig. 8/2; 9-10), and the result indicated cal BC 1124-916 (2σ) (Table 1).

POTTERY ANALYSIS

Our present study included the analysis of 2069 pottery sherds found in the five aforementioned archeological features at Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci. Among them, 317 displayed elements appropriate for stylistic analysis (Fig. 11). It was quite clear that most of them were found in cx. 94 at Pecica-Forgaci, but the other features had enough pottery sherds appropriate for stylistic examination as well. All investigated contexts contained elements specific to Gáva style, and many similarities could be found between them and other finds throughout the intra-Carpathian area and in the neighboring regions. From the very beginning, 14C

measurements revealed chronological difference between cx. 144/Pecica-Est and cx. 70 and 94 in Pecica-Forgaci (Fig. 8-10), which was not apparent in the stylistic analysis. Considering that the vast majority (82%) of the investigated pottery was discovered in Cx. 94/Pecica-Forgaci, we did not use the comparative method according to context, but only in isolated cases. The methodology for pottery analysis applied in the present study was used before on other occasions, and the terminology employed for pottery shapes, decoration techniques, and ornaments was borrowed from Sava 2019; Sava 2020. Besides the stylistic features of the ceramic ware, we explored several aspects related to the firing technique, chiefly the one by which the bi-chrome effect was achieved (black exterior and red interior), because this was an essential criterion in defining the Gáva pottery.

Pottery Shapes

Of the total amount of analyzed pottery, 179 sherds could be fit to the 5 types and 20 sub-types of identified

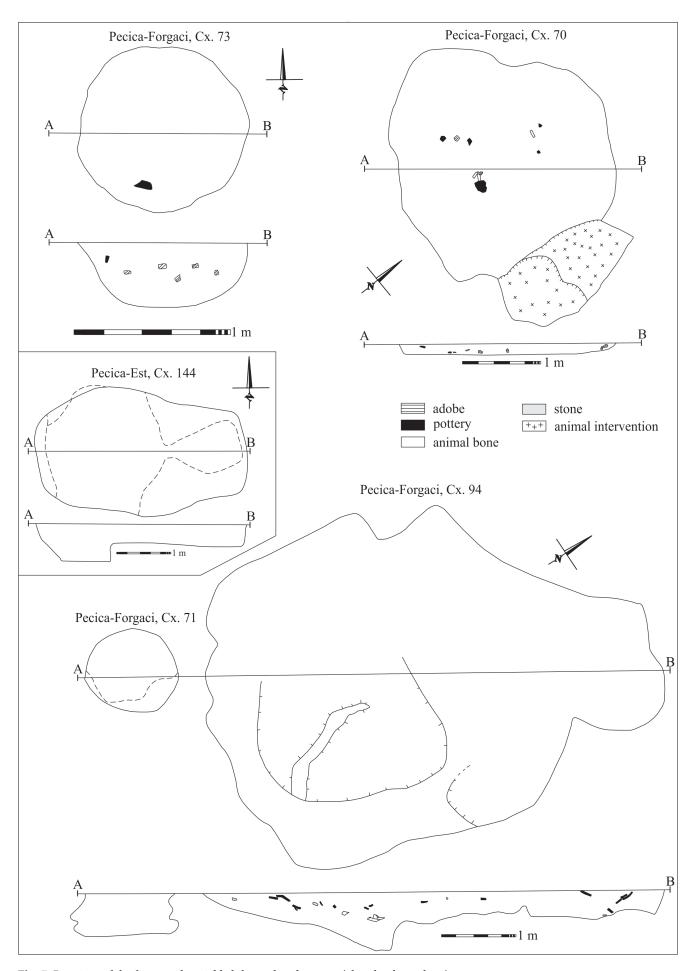


Fig. 7. Drawings of the features that yielded the analyzed pottery (plans by the authors).

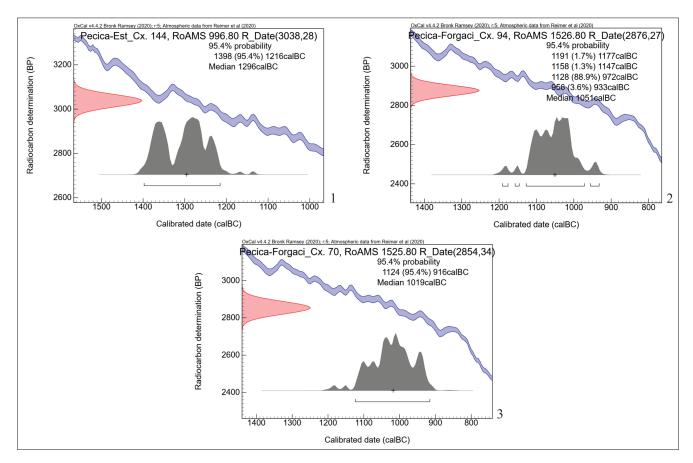


Fig. 8. Individual calibrated 14C dates from Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci.

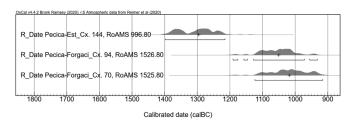


Fig. 9. The calibrated 14C dates from Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci.

vessels (Fig. 12; 13). The best represented type is by far the dish (1), illustrated by more than 51% of the specimens (Pl. 2/5-6; 3/9; 4; 6/1-4; 7-11; 12/1-6, 8-10), followed by large biconical vessels (6) (Pl. 1/1-6; 16; 20/14) and pots (3) (Pl. 13/5-11; 14-15), both around 23%, whereas cups (2) (Pl. 5/1; 12/7) and jars (10) (Pl. 13/3-4) are quite rare, making up 1%, namely 2% of the assemblage; of course, the ratio varies depending on the context where they have been discovered. Relatively similar percentages of ceramic types can be found in other contemporary pottery assemblages such as those at Baks-Temetőpart³⁵ and Petea-Csengersima³⁶. In the case of Călinești-Oaș, the ratio is more balanced as the number of dishes and bowls is not much higher than the number of pots and biconical vessels³⁷, whereas at Lazuri the reverse is true, pots prevail, followed by dishes and biconical vessels³⁸. A percentage similar to Lazuri is revealed by the analysis of the ceramic ware found in Moldavia³⁹, but when taking into

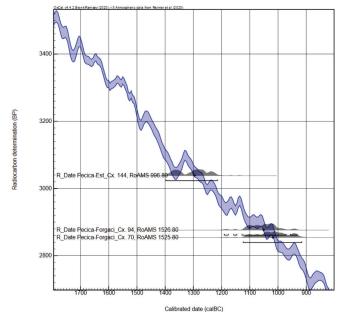


Fig. 10. The 14C dates from Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci displayed on the calibration curve.

consideration the Republic of Moldova as well, it is plain clear that the situation varies depending on site⁴⁰. The comparative analysis of these pottery assemblages should take into consideration several aspects such as the wide geographical dispersion, possible chronological discrepancies, as well as the investigated area of each site. Naturally, the respective figures should be taken with a grain of salt and not deemed

KOSA 2020, 34, Fig. 18.

MARTA 2009, 61.

MARTA 2020, 21.

MARTA 2020, 21.

³⁹ LASZLO 1994, 68-82, Table 9.

⁴⁰ LEVIŢKI 1994, 79-108.

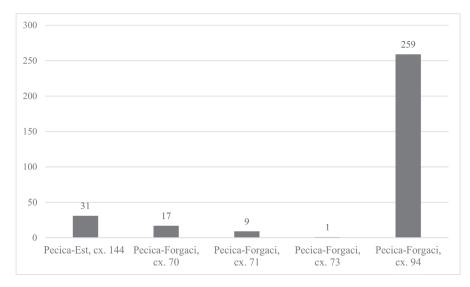


Fig. 11. Numerical distribution of typical pottery sherds by feature (graphic by the authors).

final as they represent just one stage in an ongoing research.

The most numerous vessels are dishes coming in various shapes, followed by pots and large biconical vessels; in contrast, the least numerous identified vessel shapes are cups and jars (Table 2). Moreover, we have noticed a clear preference for the use of certain sub-types, for instance dishes in 1.K (Pl. 4/1, 2, 5, 7; 6/1-2, 4; 7; 8; 9/5-7), 1L (Pl. 9/1-4, 10; 11/3), and 1.M (Pl. 3/9; 4/3-4; 6/3; 11/1-2, 6-7); pots in 3.D (Pl. 15), 3.F (Pl. 13/8-11; 14/1-4) and 3.G (Pl. 14/5-8), and large biconical vessels (6A) (Pl. 1/1, 3-6; 2/2; 16; 20/14). Considering the previous chronological stages, the

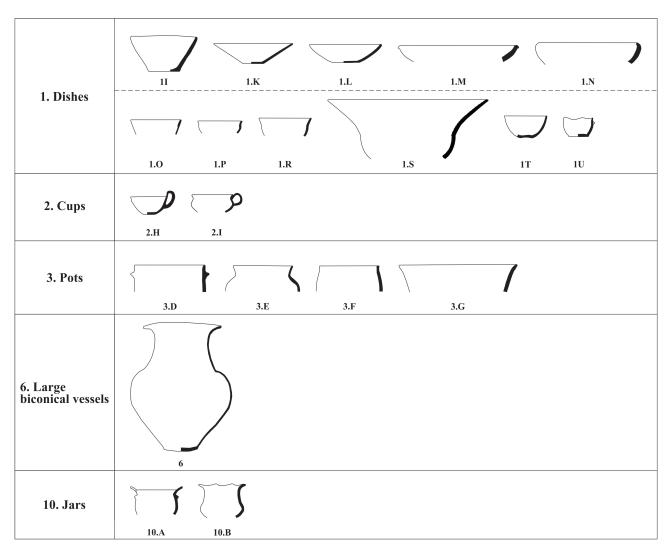


Fig. 12. Typological table of the pottery shapes identified in the analysed features (graphic by the authors). 1. Dishes: 1. Dish in the shape of a truncated cone, with narrower mouth; 1.K Dish in the shape of a truncated cone, with larger mouth; 1.L Dish with slightly rounded walls; 1.M Slightly biconical dish; 1.N Slightly biconical dish with inverted rim; 1.O Dish with straight rim and sleeves on the inside; 1.P Dish with S-shaped body; 1.R Dish with almost straight rim and slightly convex body; 1.S Dish with oblique rim and globular body; 1.T Dish in the shape of a truncated cone (of reduced size); 1.U Small dish with straight, lobed lip and slightly biconical body; 2. Cups: 2.H Cup in the shape of a slightly truncated cone and a handle rising slightly above the rim; 2.I Biconical cup, everted rim and a handle reaching up to the rim; 3. Pots: 3.D Pot with straight body; 3.E Pot with globular body; 3.F Pot with slightly globular body; 3.G Pot in the shape of a truncated cone; 6. Large biconical vessels: 6.A Large biconical vessels with flaring rim, biconical body and flat base; 10. Jars: 10.A Jar with lobed rim, short neck and slightly globular body; 10.B Jar with lobed rim, long neck globular body.

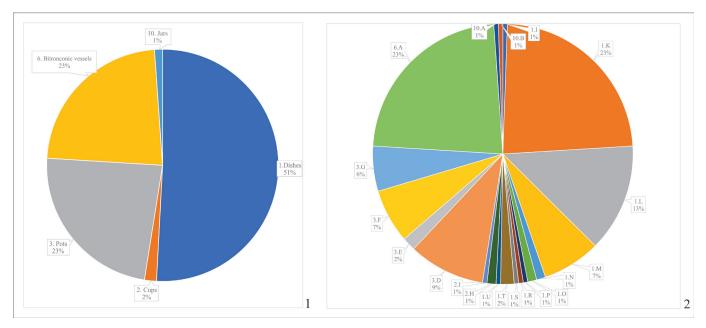


Fig. 13. 1. Distribution of ceramics according to the types of pottery shapes; 2. Distribution of ceramics according to the sub-types of pot shapes (graphics by the authors).

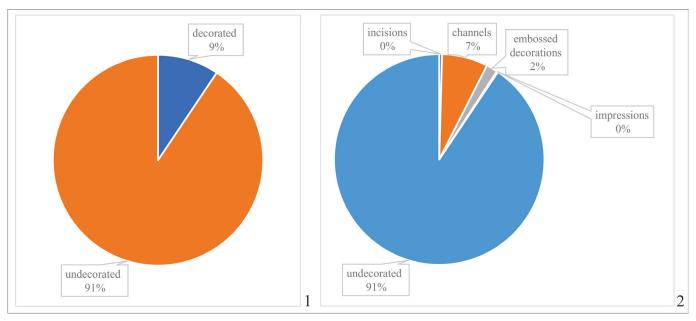


Fig. 14. The ratio between the undecorated and decorated pottery (graphics by the authors).

number of vessel types and sub-types still remains rather large, but there is an obvious predilection now for certain types, whereas others are poorly represented. As in LBA II, dishes are the most numerous, but now large biconical vessels and pots become more and more abundant, while cups are less and less present⁴¹. It is obvious that they kept on using rather few ceramic types such as large biconical vessels dating back to LBA II, the vast majority consisting of more of less different types.

Pottery decoration techniques

Like in the settlement of Grănicești⁴², only 9% of the pottery sherds found in Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci are decorated (Fig. 14/1). Of course, when interpreting the respective percentage, one should also take into account the excessive fragmentation of the pottery.

The stylistic analysis reveals the prevalence of channeled ware, although other decoration techniques are also present, such as embossed decoration, impression, and incision (Fig. 14/2; 15; Table 3). In cx. 144/Pecica-Est, as well as in the features identified in Pecica-Forgaci, there is a high ratio of pottery with channeled decoration, 73%, namely 88% of all the decorated sherds, but when taking into account the entire number of sherds the total ratio drops to 7%. Similar data on prevailing channel-decorated pottery are provided by the excavations at Teleac⁴³, Mediaș⁴⁴, and Petea-

⁴¹ SAVA 2019, 112-113; SAVA 2020, 269-270.

⁴² LASZLO 1994, 87.

VASILIEV/ALDEA/CIUGUDEAN 1991, 92.

⁴⁴ PANKAU 2004, 69-70, 83.

10.A 6.A 29 G 6 ∞ 3 3.D 14 2 2.I2.H 2 \Box α 0 α 1.N 2 1.M 6 α 24 1.K 35 Mean [cal BC] 1296 1019 1051 Calibration value 20 [cal BC] 1398-1216 1124-916 1191-933 28 27 34 14C age [yr BP] 3038 2876 2854 70 71 94 Pecica-Est, cx. 144 Pecica-Forgaci, cx. Pecica-Forgaci, cx. Pecica-Forgaci, cx. Ŗ. Pecica-Forgaci,

 Table 2. Distribution and frequency of pottery shapes by feature

Csengersima⁴⁵. We should also mention that the channeled pottery represents only 1.46% of the total number of sherds found at Grănicești, whereas combed decoration is present on almost 5% of the sherds⁴⁶.

The channeled decoration on the pottery found at Pecica is associated in very few cases with ornamentation made by other techniques such as embossing or impression, as a rule, channelings being the only ornament present on the outer surface of these vessels (Table 4). As in LBA II, channelings are never associated with incisions on the exterior of the vessels. Certain preferences are obvious when analyzing decoration techniques and vessel types; for instance, in most cases the dishes found at Pecica display channeled decoration both on the interior and exterior. Large biconical vessels and cups display only channelings, pots bear only impressed and various relief decorations, while jars have incisions and embossed ornaments (Table 5). In Grănicești for instance, jars and dishes are decorated differently, but the combed decoration that cannot be found in the Lower Mures Basin seems to prevail; on the other hand, the biconical vessels discovered in the same settlement are channel-decorated like those found in Pecica, but also bear relief ornaments such as small knobs⁴⁷ for instance. Another case study significant for understanding the pottery of this chronological phase is the aforementioned Petea-Csengersima case; although several elements are similar to Pecica, biconical vessels are both channel and relief decorated, the most representative of the latter being the knob⁴⁸.

In contrast with the previous stages LBA I and LBA II, when incision or channeling dominated pottery decoration techniques⁴⁹ in ratios depending on the investigated site, channeling becomes the most popular technique during LBA III. Moreover, the vast majority of large biconical vessels, cups, and dishes are now channel-decorated, while pots and jars are decorated by impression and embossing.

Decorative motifs

We were able to recreate the decorative motifs present on the outer or inner surface of the vessels for 65% (205 specimens) of the total amount of ornamented sherds. They were classified into 30 groups according to technique (Fig. 16; Table 6). The vast majority (50%) was made by channeling, the rest were made by embossing, and only a few by incision or impression.

Incised motifs are quite rare, whereas the most numerous motifs are executed by channeling. However, only a few are regularly used such as: narrow horizontal channelings (2.2) (Pl. 19/10-12), wide horizontal channelings (2.11) (Pl. 5/2-3, 6-7; 7/8; 12/6; 17/1-11, 13-16, 18, 20-21, 24; 18/4, 7, 10), wide channelings displayed on the inside (2.16) (Pl. 1; 2/2, 6; 3/3-2; 4/2, 7; 7/3, 7, 8; 8/1, 4, 5, 7-9; 9/5-7; 10/1-3; 12/10; 16/1-3, 5-9; 17/12, 17, 22; 18/5-6, 13), and oblique wide channelings displayed on the rim (2.19) (Pl. 6/3; 7/1, 10; 8/3, 6; 9/6; 11/4-6). In contrast to LBA I and LBA II, almost half of the number of motifs made by channeling is illustrated now by channels made on the rim, or even more often on the inside surface of the vessel. A significant number of decorative motifs is embossed, most popular being the elongated rectangular knob (4.4) (Pl. 4/6; 15/2-3; 20/3, 9-11) and the conical knob (4.1) (Pl. 2/4; 13/1, 3; 15/4; 20/2, 4, 8), the latter often present on the ceramic ware characteristic to LBA II. Impressed motifs are quite rare and illustrated by crest like ornaments on the rim (5.8) (Pl. 2/5; 10/6, 8). Sometimes, two decorative motifs are associated: oblique narrow channelings displayed on the rim (2.9) with wide channelings displayed on the inside (2.16) (Pl. 9/7; 13/1-3); wide horizontal channelings (2.11) with elongated vertical narrow ribs 4.14 (Pl. 19/17, 18); narrow channelings displayed in a star shape on the inside (2.22) with serrated rims (5.8) (Pl. 10/4-8). Even more scarce are the associations of more than two motifs: oblique narrow channelings displayed on the rim (2.9) with wide channelings displayed on the inside (2.16), narrow vertical channelings on the inside (2.20) and narrow horizontal channelings on the inside (2.21) (Pl. 10/1); narrow vertical channelings on the inside (2.20) with narrow horizontal channelings on the inside (2.21) and narrow channelings displayed in a star shape on the inside (2.22) (Pl. 7/5) (Table 7).

MARTA 2009, 76.

LÁSZLÓ 1994, 87.

LÁSZLÓ 1994, 70-71, 74-75, 76-77.

MARTA 2009, 63-64. See in METZNER-NEBELSICK 2012 a synthetical analysis of biconical vessels decorated with such knobs.

SAVA 2020, 270-277.

Table 3. Distribution and frequency of pottery decoration techniques by feature.

Context	14C age [yr BP]	±	Calibration value 2σ [cal BC]	Mean [cal BC]	incisions (1)	channels (2)	embossed decorations (4)	impressions (5)
Pecica-Est_ cx. 144	3038	28	1396-1215	1293	1	22	2	
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 70	2854	34	1124-916	1019		10	1	
Pecica- <i>Forgaci</i> , cx. 71					1	1		
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 73								
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94	2876	27	1191-933	1051	7	113	33	4

Table 4. Distribution and frequency of the association of pottery decoration techniques by feature.

Context	14C age [yr BP]	±	Calibration value 2σ [cal BC]	Mean [cal BC]	1	2	4	5	1; 4	2; 4	2;5
Pecica-Est_ cx. 144	3038	28	1396-1215	1293	1	22	2				
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 70	2854	34	1124-916	1019		10	1				
Pecica- <i>Forgaci</i> , cx. 71					1	2					
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 73											
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94	2876	27	1191-933	1051	5	104	26	2	2	5	2

When comparing data on vessel shapes and decorative motifs, certain preferences become apparent (Table 8). For instance, when large mouthed dishes with bucket-shaped bodies are decorated (1.K), they most often display wide channelings serially arranged on the inside (2.16) (Pl. 4/1-2, 7; 7/3, 7-8; 8/1, 4-5, 7-9; 9/5-7), sometimes just channelings on the rim (2.19) (Pl. 7/10; 8/3), and hardly ever both (2.16 and 2.19) (Pl. 9/6). The dish with slightly rounded walls (1.L) is in most cases unadorned, but it sometimes has

channelings on the rim (2.19) (Pl. 11/3-6). The decoration is also absent on most of the pots analyzed here, except for those with slightly globular body (3.D), which are typically decorated with conical knobs (4.1) (Pl. 2/4; 15/4, 6) or elongated rectangular knobs (4.4) (Pl. 4/6; 15/2, 3, 8). When large biconical vessels (6.A) are decorated, their ornament consists of channelings on the inner rim (2.16) (Pl. 1/5-6; 2/2; 16/1-3, 5-9).

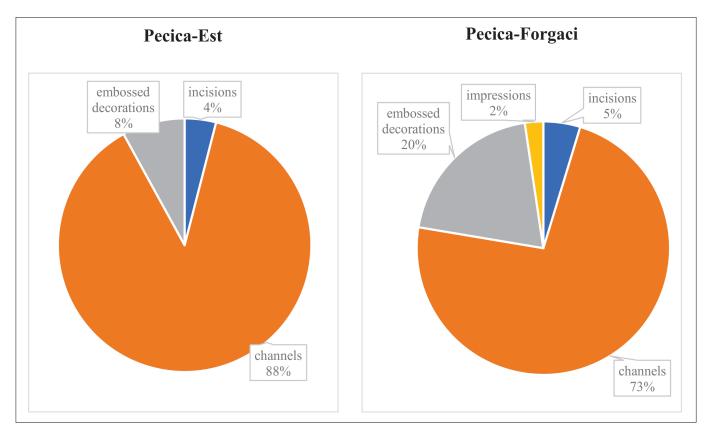


Fig. 15. Distribution and frequency of decoration techniques by site (graphic by the authors).

Table 5. Distribution and frequency of the association between pottery decoration techniques and pottery shapes by feature.

Context	14C age [yr BP]	+1	14C age ± Calibration value Mean 1.1 1.K 1.K 1.L	? Mean [cal BC]	1.I +2	1.K	1.K i	1.L 1.	L 1.L 2 +2,	1.1.5	1.W	1.M +2	1.N	1.N +2	1.0	1.P	1.R	1.S 1 +2	1.T i	1.U 2.	1L 1.M 1.M 1.N 1.O 1.P 1.R 1.S 1.T 1.U 2.H 2.I 3.D 3.D +5 +2 +2 +2 +4 +2 +4 +2 +4	3.D	3.D +4		3.E 3.F	3.F +5	3.6	3.F 3.G 6.A 6.A 10.A 10.B +5 +4 +1,4	6.A 1 +2 +	10.A +4	10.B +1,4
Pecica-Est_cx. 144	3038	28	Pecica-Est_cx. 3038 28 1396-1215	1293 1	1							⊣						, ,					2		н				10		
Pecica-Forgaci, 2854 cx. 70	2854	34	34 1124-916	1019			æ				2										1		1		2						
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 71						m						₩															1	П			
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 73																									Π.						
Pecica-Forgaci, 2876 27 1191-933 cx. 94	2876	27	1191-933	1051		15	15 20 12 9	12 9	2	1	7	2	1	1	2	1 2 1 1 1 2	1	1	2 1	1 2		8	11	8	7 1	1	6	18	11 1		1

Table 6. Distribution and frequency of ornamental motifs by feature.

Context	14Cage [yr BP]		Calibration value Mean 1. 1. 1. 1. 20 [cal BC] 24 25 26	Mean [cal BC]	1. 24	1. 25	1. 26	1. 27	1. 28	1.	2.1	2.2	2.6	2.9	2. 10	2.	2.	2	2. 2 15 1	2. 2 16 1	2. 2. 18 19	2.	2.	2.	4.1	4.4	4.	4.	4.	4.	4.	4. 15	5.8
Pecica-Est_cx. 144	3038	28	3038 28 1396-1215	1293										2	2	1 1		1	1	16					П		1						
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 70 2854	2854	34	1124-916	1019							1					4				3	2					1							
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 71					1																1												
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 73																																	
Pecica-Forgaci, сх. 94 2876 27 1191-933 1051 1 2 1	2876	27	1191-933	1051	1	2	П	1	1	1	1 1 1 1 13		4			32	7	4	6	36	2 11	1 2	m	9	6	10	3	2	1 1	1	2	2	m

 Table 7. Distribution and frequency of the association of ornamental motifs by feature.

																						ĺ	ŀ													- 1
Context	14C age [yr BP]	+1	14Cage \pm Calibration value Mean 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 2.1 [yr BP] $2\sigma [alBC]$ [al BC] 24 25 25, 26 27 28 28, 29 4.11 4.11	Mean [cal BC]	1.	1. 1 25 22 4.1	5, 26	1. 1 27 2	1. 1. 28 28, 4.11	1. 29		2.2	2.6 2	2.9 2.9, 2.16	3, 2.9, 6 2.16, 2.20, 2.21	2, 10	2.	2. 11, 1	2. 11, 1 2.16 4.	2. 2. 11, 12 4.14	2. 2. 2. 12, 2.14	2. 14	2. 2	2. 2. 16 16, 2.19	2. 2. 3. 18	2.	2. 2.20, 2. 20 2.21, 21 2.22	2.21,	22 2.2	5.8	4.1 4.4	4.	4. 4.	13	4. 4. 15	1.0
Pecica-Est_ cx. 144	3038	28	3038 28 1396-1215 1293	1293									14	7		2	Н				1		ъ Б							1	_	н				l .
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 70	2854	34	2854 34 1124-916 1019	1019							1						4							m	2						1					
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 71					1																															
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 73																																				
Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94	2876	2876 27	1191-933	1051 1 1 1 1 1 1	1	1 1	1	1	1	1	2	7	4	4	1		25	1	1	5 7	_	4	2 3	30 1	2	10	1	Н	2 2	6	9 10	m			2	

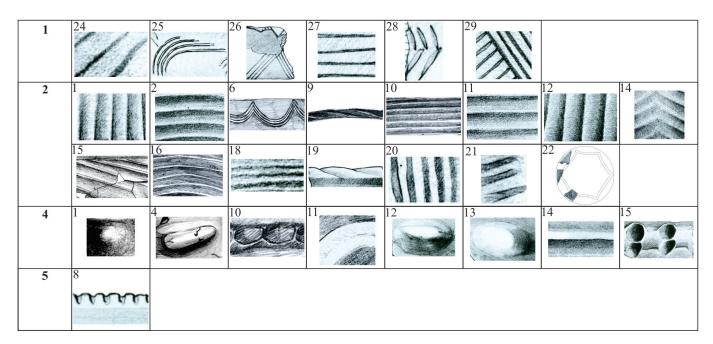


Fig. 16. Typological table of the ornamental motifs identified within the analysed features (graphic by the authors). 1. Incisions: 1.24. Oblique incisions; 1.25. Incisions arranged in the form of schematic arches; 1.26. X-shaped incisions; 1.27. Rows of narrow horizontal incisions; 1.28. Zigzag incisions; 1.29. Incisions arranged in textile form; 2. Channellings: 2.1. Narrow vertical channellings; 2.2. Narrow horizontal channellings; 2.9. Oblique narrow channellings displayed on the rim; 2.10. Narrow channellings displayed semi-circularly on the inner rim; 2.11. Wide horizontal channellings; 2.12. Wide vertical channellings; 2.14. Wide channellings displayed in a garland pattern; 2.15. Wide oblique channellings; 2.16. Wide channellings displayed on the inside; 2.18. Narrow channellings displayed on the interior bottom of the vessel; 2.19. Oblique wide channellings displayed on the rim; 2.20. Narrow vertical channellings on the inside; 2.21. Narrow horizontal channellings on the inside; 2.22. Narrow channellings displayed in a star shape on the inside; 4. Embossed decorations: 4.1. Conical knob; 4.4. Elongated rectangular knob; 4.10. Stripe made of alveoli; 4.11. Rib arranged in a semicircle; 4.12. Elongated knob; 4.13. Conical large knob; 4.14. Elongated vertical narrow rib; 4.15. Double stripe made of alveoli; 5. Impressions: 5.8. Jagged rim.

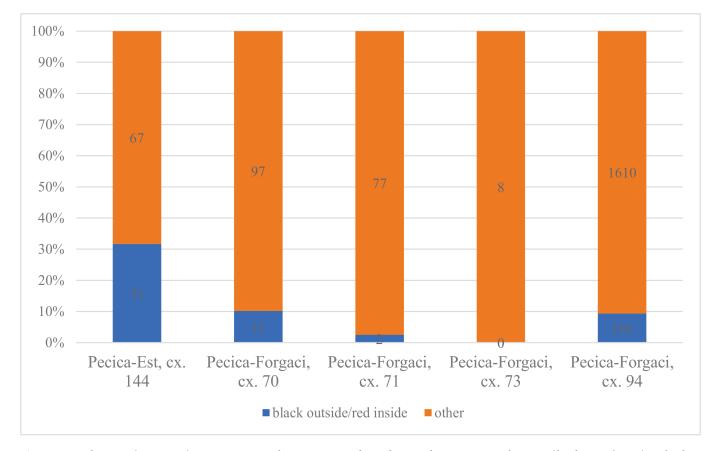


Fig. 17. Distribution of ceramics from Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci depending on the presence or absence of bi-chrome firing (graphic by the authors).

otifs and shapes by feature.	Li- 1Li- 1Li- 1M Mid- Mid- Mid- Mid- Mid- Mid- Mid- Mid	1	α	1	1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1
on and frequency of the association of ornamen	Calibra. Mean 11+ 1K 1K- 1K- 1K+ 1K+ 1K+ 1K- 1L- 1L- 1L- 1L- 1L- 1L- 1L- 1L- 1L- 1L	1386- 1215- 1283- 1	Recka- Pengad, 2854–34. 1124-916. 1019 3 cc.70	б	Pickia. Densai 2926 77 1191,032 1051 15 1 2 10 1 5 1 12 1 1 4 1 1

Although the decorative motifs on the pottery assemblage unearthed at Pecica fall into the same category as the Gáva pottery, they display several regional features that can be put into evidence only by performing a comparative analysis with other available pottery assemblages. Unfortunately, very few of these studies have approached decorative motifs quantitatively and so it is quite difficult to assess their occurrence on vessels. Previous research on LBA pottery in the Lower Mureș Basin has plainly revealed that one of the most relevant criteria for analyzing decorative motifs is incidence rate⁵⁰. From this perspective, the most pertinent analysis available up to now concerns the sites in Moldavia and has been conducted by A. László. It is worth mentioning that several features of the ceramic ware are quite similar, especially the range of decorative motifs⁵¹, although the distance between Pecica and Moldavia is about 500 km. Naturally, besides similar motifs such as horizontal and oblique channelings, garland-patterned channelings, and conical knobs found over a larger area, there are some regional differences. In the north-western part of Romania, north-eastern Hungary, and southern Slovakia, specific elements are associated with big knobs (horn-like knobs)52, while combed decoration is most popular in Moldavia⁵³. A comparative analysis of the decorative motifs found at Pecica and Baks-Temetőpart clearly reveals the resemblance of the two pottery assemblages, which could be explained for sure by the relatively small distance - just about 80 km - between the two localities. However, we should mention the absence of elements specific to the area north to the Tisza River, like oversized/horn-like knobs and to the Moldavian combed ceramic ware from the inventory of the two assemblages. The Lower Mures Basin can be more likely associated with central Transylvania rather than with Moldavia or Upper Tisza, but in the absence of comparative studies grounded on quantitative analyses this assertion should be taken with a grain of salt.

Bi-chrome Firing

Since bi-chrome firing – black on the outside, red/reddish-brown on the inside - is an essential characteristic of the Gáva style we have decided to include this criterion related to pottery production technology in our study. Of the entire amount of pottery fragments discovered at Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci, we have noticed that only 10% of the sherds display traces of bi-chrome firing. When taking into account the presence of this firing technique in each uncovered context, the ratio fluctuates up to 32% (Fig. 17). It is also worth mentioning that the pottery manufactured by the respective method has well-polished outer surface and is generally made from fine fabric. The sherds belong exclusively to biconical vessels, dishes and, to a lesser extent, cups. The only decoration present on the outer or inner surface of the bi-chrome pottery is channeling.

The data supplied by the literature in the field reveal that, in the few cases in which the firing technique was investigated, the results show bi-chrome firing ratios similar to Pecica⁵⁴. Moreover, only certain vessels such as biconical vessels, dishes, and cups display the respective type of firing and the vast majority also has a shiny burnished surface⁵⁵. Chronologically speaking, there is a general opinion that bi-chrome firing is more and more in use as the Gáva pottery style develops⁵⁶. In the case of Pecica the reverse is true, that is the percentage of sherds displaying bi-chrome firing is clearly superior in the early stage of the Gáva pottery (cx. 144/Pecica-Est).

⁵⁰ SAVA 2019; SAVA 2020.

⁵¹ LASZLO 1994, 86-87, Table 10.

⁵² METZNER-NEBELSICK 2012, Fig. 4.

⁵³ LÁSZLÓ 1994, 87.

⁵⁴ An exception is the pottery found in the settlement of Chişinău, where this type of firing is present in 38,6% of the cases (LEVITKI 1994, 81).

LÁSZLÓ 1994, 67; MARTA 2009, 61; MARTA 2020, 61.

 $^{^{56}\,}$ With this respect, see MARTA 2009, 61, note 380; MARTA 2020, 21.



DISCUSSION

The ceramic material found in Pecica-Est and Pecica-Forgaci adds up to a substantial but very fragmentary amount. The sherds come from disparate pits; most likely remnants of a small cluster of sparse habitation (low to medium intensity). Typical pottery represents only 9% of the total of 2069 sherds, most of which is decorated with channeled ornaments, and few specimens with embossed, incised, and impressed ornaments. The most popular shapes are dishes, followed by biconical vessels and pots. At the same time, we should mention that channeled decoration is preferentially used for dishes, biconical vessels, and cups,

while relief decoration is mainly chosen for pots. Another essential element is the firing technique used to achieve a bi-chrome effect; the number of sherds displaying evidence for this method varies depending on the context they have been unearthed from, but all in all, roughly 30% of the total amount of specimens belongs to bi-chrome vessels.

There are significant similarities between the pottery analyzed in our study and the Gáva ceramic style. The entire pottery assemblage found both at Pecica-*Est* and Pecica-*Forgaci* displays the same stylistic and technological characteristics. The only major difference between the context from Pecica-*Est* and the other contexts discovered

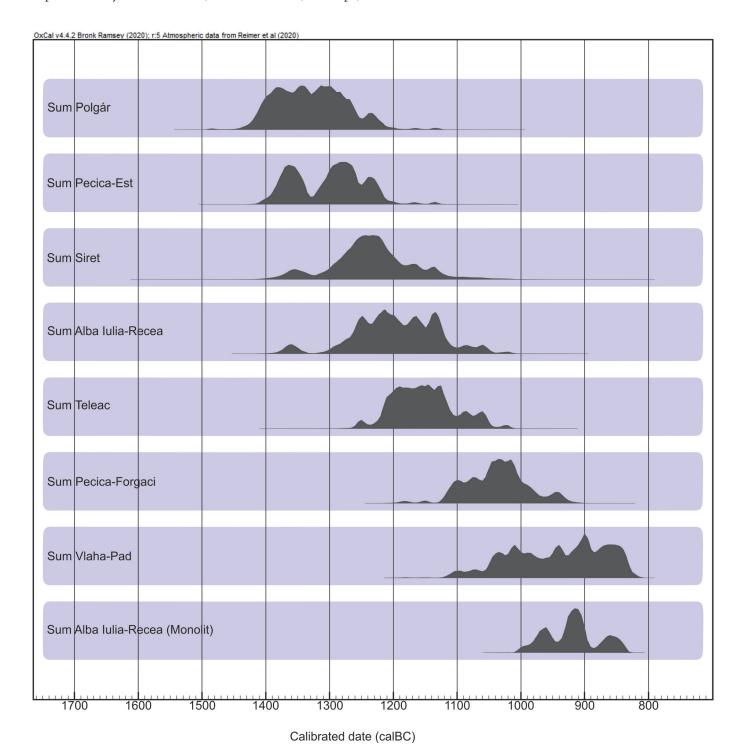


Fig. 18. 14C calibrated dates belonging to the contexts associated with Gáva pottery, arranged by site.

Table 9. List of LBA II and III 14C data available from the eastern Carpathian Basin. (The data from Luduş were not included in this analysis, because their tolerance is too high, nor the data from the Lower Mureş Basin, respectively those from Tápé, Şagu-Site A1_1 and Pecica-Site 14, because for this region we do not have a stylistic attribution of ceramics).

Nr. Crt.	Lab. no.	Site	Context	14C age	±	Material	References	Pottery style
	II.1 07067	D. (1 DT I D.04	CIV 11 OF	[yr BP]	10		District 2014 A	TAT: 1
1	Hd-27967	Rotbav RT LP 31	S IX. 11, Q E 31, Rt 3	3195	19	animal bone	Dietrich 2014, An- hang 2	Wietenberg
2	Hd-27989	Rotbav RT LP 30	S IX. 6, Q H 16, Rt 3	3174	16	animal bone	Dietrich 2014, Anhang 2	Wietenberg
3	OS-100527	Geoagiu de Sus-Fântâna Mare	layer	3130	20	charcoal	Ciugudean, Quinn 2015, tab. 2	Wietenberg
4	OS-100529	Geoagiu de Sus-Fântâna Mare	layer	3100	25	charcoal	Ciugudean, Quinn 2015, tab. 2	Wietenberg
5	OS-100528	Geoagiu de Sus-Fântâna Mare	layer	3070	25	charcoal	Ciugudean, Quinn 2015, tab. 2	Wietenberg
6	RoAMS 145.47	Pălatca	layer IIa	3181	29	animal bone	Palincaș et al. 2019, tab. 1	Deva-Bădeni
7	RoAMS 147.47	Pălatca	layer IIb	3086	24	animal bone	Palincaș et al. 2019, tab. 1	Deva-Bădeni
8	Hd-28276	Rotbav RT LP 28	S IX. 16, Q H 46, Rt 4	3196	30	animal bone	Dietrich 2014, Anhang 2	Noua
9	Hd-27972	Rotbav RT LP 29	S IX. 16, Q J 44, Rt 4	3085	23	animal bone	Dietrich 2014, Anhang 2	Noua
10	OS-113542	Teiuș-Fântâna Viilor	small pit from unit 1	3080	20	charcoal	Ciugudean, Quinn 2015, tab. 2	Noua
11	Hd-29183	Alba Iulia-Bazinul olimpic	animal bone	3062	21	animal bone	Ciugudean, Quinn 2015, tab. 2	Noua
12	OS-108807	Valea Viilor	human bone	3060	25	human bone	Ciugudean, Quinn 2015, tab. 2	Noua
13	Beta-317259	Florești-Polus P 22	grave 17	3050	30	human bone	Rotea et al 2014, 34, pl. XIX	Noua
14	Hd-28321	Rotbav RT LP 32	S IX. 15, Q C 46, Rt 5	2994	19	animal bone	Dietrich 2014, Anhang 2	Noua
15	KIA 51810	Gradište Iđoš	Pit 6005, context 6011	3172	19	seed	Molloy et al. 2020, Tab. 3	Cruceni-Belegiš II
16	KIA 51804	Gradište Iđoš	Pit 6005, context 6006	3132	21	bone	Molloy et al. 2020, Tab. 3	Cruceni-Belegiš II
17	KIA 51813	Gradište Iđoš	Pit 6005, context 6010	3098	20	charcoal	Molloy et al. 2020, Tab. 3	Cruceni-Belegiš II
18	KIA 51807	Gradište Iđoš	Pit 6005, context 6006	3069	20	bone	Molloy et al. 2020, Tab. 3	Cruceni-Belegiš II
19	Beta-256557	Foeni-Gomila Lupului	L.1/2000	3100	40	charcoal	Szentmiklosi 2009, 106, 211	Cruceni-Belegiš II
20	GrN 7370	Gomolava	Level IVc	3090	55	charcoal	Waterbolk H.T., 1988, 119-121	Cruceni-Belegiš II
21	KIA 51814	Gradište Iđoš	Pit 7003, con- text 7005	3024	28	seed corn	Molloy et al. 2020, Tab. 3	Cruceni-Belegiš II
22	KIA 51811	Gradište Iđoš	Pit 7003, context 7004	2985	27	charcoal	Molloy et al. 2020, Tab. 3	Cruceni-Belegiš II
23	Poz-22800	Lăpuș P36/ Tum26	comp 74	3115	35	charcoal	Metzner-Nebelsick et al. 2010, 223, fig. 7	Lăpuș 2-3
24		Lăpuș P16/ Tum26	comp 56	3085	35	charcoal	Kacsó et al. 2011, fig. 6	Lăpuș 2-3
25		Lăpuș P6/Tum26	comp 25	3075	35	charcoal	Kacsó et al. 2011, fig. 6	Lăpuș 2-3
	-			-	-			

Nr. Crt.	Lab. no.	Site	Context	14C age [yr BP]	±	Material	References	Pottery style
26		Lăpuș P15/Tum26	comp 68	3065	30	charcoal	Kacsó et al. 2011, fig. 6	Lăpuș 2-3
27	Poz-22792	Lăpuș P38/Tum26	comp 87	3055	35	charcoal	Metzner-Nebelsick et al. 2010, 223, fig. 7	Lăpuș 2-3
28		Lăpuș P16a/ Tum26	comp 67	3050	30	charcoal	Kacsó et al. 2011, fig. 6	Lăpuș 2-3
29	Poz-22795	Lăpuș P23/Tum26	comp 74	3005	30	charcoal	Metzner-Nebelsick et al. 2010, 223, fig. 7	Lăpuș 2-3
30		Lăpuș P22/Tum26	comp 78	3005	30	charcoal	Kacsó et al. 2011, fig. 6	Lăpuș 2-3
31	Poz-22788	Lăpuș P14/Tum26	comp 66	2995	35	charcoal	Metzner-Nebelsick et al. 2010, 223, fig. 7	Lăpuș 2-3
32	Deb-9674	Polgár	Obj. 58	3070	40		Szabó 2005, 158	Pre-Gáva
33	Bln-5788	Siret Pr.5 (2000)	S5, square 56	3056	50	charcoal	László 2010, 130	Gáva
34	RoAMS 996.80	Pecica-Est	cx. 144	3038	28	animal bone	inedit	Gáva
35	Bln-5786	Siret Pr. 3 (1998)	S5, square 82	3006	37	charcoal	László 2010, 130	Gáva
36	Bln-5790	Siret Pr. 8 (2000)	S5, square 91	2987	49	charcoal	László 2010, 130	Gáva
37	UA 43723	Alba Iulia-Recea		2976	36	animal bone	Ciugudean et al. 2019, Tab. 1	Gáva
38	KIA-37782	Teleac		2945	25	animal bone	Ciugudean et al. 2019, Tab. 1	Gáva
39	Bln-5789	Siret Pr. 7 (2000)	S5, square 98	2929	65	charcoal	László 2010, 130	Gáva
40	RoAMS 1526.80	Pecica-Forgaci	сх. 70	2876	27	animal bone	inedit	Gáva
41	DeA-5095	Vlaha-Pad	сх. 0010	2856	25	animal bone	Gogâltan et al. 2015, fig. 8	Gáva
42	RoAMS 1525.80	Pecica-Forgaci	сх. 94	2854	34	animal bone	inedit	Gáva
43	Hd-29365	Alba Iulia-Recea (Monolit)		2775	21		Ciugudean 2012, fig. 11	Gáva
44	DeA-5097	Vlaha-Pad	сх. 0055	2743	23	human bone	Gogâltan 2019, Tab. 1	Gáva
45	MAMS-40017	Miceșt-Cigaș		2943	23	animal bone	Ciugudean et al. 2019, 96, Fig. 6, Tab. 1	Cugir-Band
46	UGAMS-42281	Teiuș-Gară	cx. 4	2920	20	animal bone	Ciugudean et al. 2019, 98, Fig. 7, Tab. 1	Cugir-Band
47	MAMS-35023	Turdaș	сх. 175	2907	19	animal bone	Ciugudean et al. 2019, 99, Fig. 9, Tab. 1	Cugir-Band
48	KIA 51809	Gradište Iđoš	Context 05	2685	19	seed	Molloy et al. 2020, Tab. 3	Gornea-Kalakača

in Forgaci is the different ratio of bi-chrome vessels (Fig. 17). However, the available absolute data indicate the presence of two different chronological horizons: cx. 144/Pecica-Est, dating back to ca. 1400-1200 BC, and the contexts of Pecica-Forgaci, dating back to ca. 1200/1100-900 BC (Fig. 8-10). In terms of relative chronology, the 14C data supplied by cx. 144/Pecica-Est suggest a connection to the Proto/Pre-Gáva horizon, while data provided by cx. 70 and 94 from Pecica-Forgaci reveal they belong to the classic Gáva period, failing to agree with the results of our stylistic analysis unable to distinguish any difference between the investigated

contexts. In the absence of a clear-cut definition of the Gáva pottery stages of evolution based on stylistic analysis and a substantial amount of 14C data evenly distributed over the distribution area of this ceramic style, we would rather not blow this discrepancy out of proportion.

When comparing the 14C data from the investigated contexts in Pecica with other available data, we see that they are not without the limits of the time span determined for the contexts associated with Gáva, namely Proto/Pre-Gáva pottery. At the same time, we notice a lengthy evolution of this ceramic style (Fig. 18-19). In terms of absolute

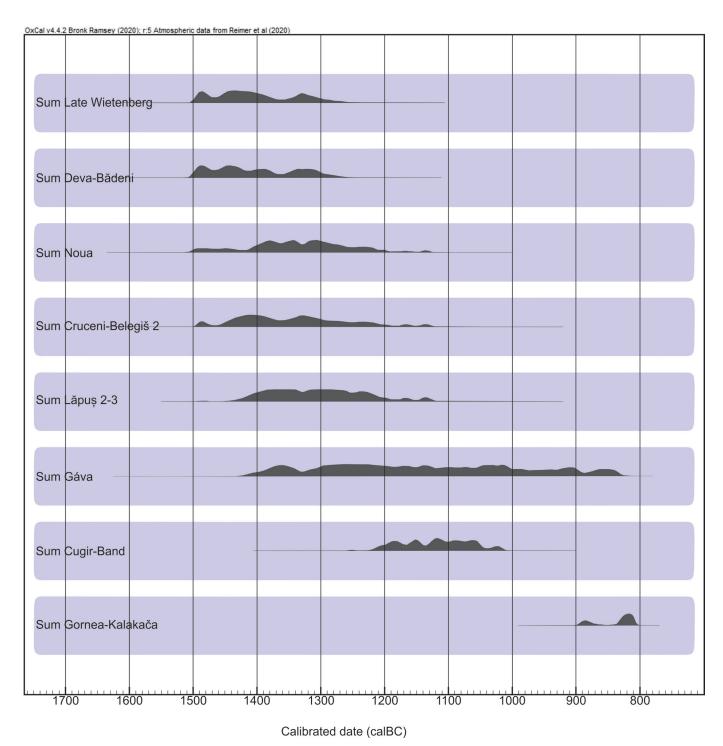


Fig. 19. The LBA II and LBA III calibrated 14C dates coming from the Eastern Carpathian Basin, ordered by pottery styles.

chronology, it seems that the respective pottery style has emerged during the 14th-13th century BC and is being used until the 9th century BC, a long evolution extending over almost 6 centuries. However, an overall analysis of the available data without taking into consideration regional aspects can lead to misinterpretations. Therefore we should mention that the earliest contexts, dating back to the 14th-13th century BC, have been found in Polgár, Siret and Pecica, namely Upper Tisza River, northern Moldavia and Lower Mureş River (Fig. 18). The site in Lăpuş should be added here as data indicate that it is contemporary with the aforementioned early sites⁵⁷, but the available pieces

⁵⁷ METZNER-NEBELSICK 2012, 67.

of information do not allow us to clearly specify whether the pottery found in Lăpuș is Gáva or only displays some elements that define the respective ceramic style⁵⁸. Later on, during the 13th-12th century BC, the Gáva potery spreads in Transylvania and is being used during the 10th century BC, perhaps even during the 9th century BC given the late dating of Vlaha-*Pad*, cx. 0055 (Fig. 18).

Consequently, we should assume a gradual and uneven distribution of the Gáva pottery. At the same time, we should also take into consideration that at least in the

⁵⁸ C. Kacsó called the pottery from this chronological phase found in notheastern Romania, Lăpuș (ex. KACSO 2011) or Lăpuș 2- Gáva (ex. MARTA 2009)

Lower Mures Basin a significant part of the elements specific to the Gáva style are much earlier. For instance, channeling originates as early as MBA, but only during LBA II becomes dominant in certain representative communities⁵⁹. A case in point is Sagu-Site A1_1, where channelled pottery represents almost 70% of the total decorated ceramic ware 60 dating back to the 14th century BC. Moreover, vessels used as early as the 15th century BC are to be found in Gáva assemblages; a typical example is the large biconical vessel (6A) that comes to be representative for the Gáva pottery proper. Of course, there are certain elements particular to the Gáva pottery style such as channel decoration on the rim or inside the vessel, but the most characteristic aspect is bi-chrome firing. A similar evolution seems to have occurred in the Upper Tisza Basin, where the prevailing use of channeled pottery as early as LBA II⁶¹ has led to the development of the Gáva pottery.

It is clear that the Gáva pottery style cannot be thoroughly explored without taking into account specific regional developments and complex phenomena revealed by the archeological contexts investigated up to now. Thus, in the region between the rivers Tisza and Dniester, the distribution area of the Gáva pottery, many other pottery styles (Fig. 19) can be found in the $14^{th} - 10^{th}/9^{th}$ century BC. Available 14C measurements (Table 9) reveal that the Gáva ceramic ware has been used in various regions alongside other pottery styles. For instance, in certain sites from Banat the Cruceni-Belegiš pottery has been used up to the 13th-12th centuries BC62, and consequently the Gáva pottery from Pecica-Est is contemporary with the Cruceni-Belegiš pottery from Idoš-Gradište. We can also find in Banat, perhaps in the same period (the 13th-12th centuries BC), the pottery defined by the discoveries in Susani and Bobda $^{\rm 63}.$ Northern Romania witnesses the development of the so-called Lăpuş pottery, in its 2nd and 3rd stage bearing a certain similarity to the Gáva style, used up to the 13th-12th centuries BC⁶⁴, which means that it is contemporary with the Gáva pottery from Siret and the ceramic defined as Pre/Proto-Gáva from Polgár. By far the most complex situation is in Transylvania⁶⁵. The MBA Wietenberg pottery is still being used up to the 14th century BC even though the Noua pottery has also been spreading in eastern Transylvania since the 16th century BC. These circumstances lead to a mixture between the two pottery styles in various parts of the region, phenomenon known as Gligorești or Deva-Bădeni⁶⁶. Afterwards, in the 12th-11th centuries BC, the so-called Cugir-Band⁶⁷ pottery is used in central-western Transylvania, specifically in the middle basins of the rivers Mureş and Someşul Mic, contemporary

with the Gáva finds at Teleac and Vlaha as shown by 14C data (Fig. 19; Table 9, no. 38, 41, 45-47). Following the end of the Gáva pottery, perhaps during the 10th-9th centuries BC, the Gornea-Kalakača pottery emerges in Banat, and the Basarabi and Gornea-Kalakača in Transylvania.

As our analysis reveals, the question of the Gáva pottery is still open to debate. We believe that for now it is not possible to have an exhaustive discussion on the respective pottery style. Bearing in mind the vast geographical distribution of the Gáva pottery and the time span of almost six centuries of its evolution, there are not enough analyzed pottery assemblages and 14C measurements available. At the same time, present interpretations are much too indebted to the unitary perspective on the Gáva phenomenon, with too little emphasis on regional and micro-regional developments.

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⁵⁹ SAVA 2019; SAVA 2020, 270-277.

⁶⁰ SAVA 2019, 113-114.

⁶¹ FURMANEK 1977, 299-314; KEMENCZEI 1984, 16-19; KACSO 1990; FURMÁNEK/VELIAČIK/VLADÁR, 138-145; MARTA 2009, 87-93; NEMETI 2009, 212-213; POP 2009, 14-24; MARTA et alii 2010, 65-69.

⁶² MOLLOY et alii 2020, 15-16.

⁶³ DIACONESCU et alii 2018a, 131-132; DIACONESCU et alii 2018b, 29-30; GUMA 1993, 168-180.

⁶⁴ METZNER-NEBELSICK/KACSÓ/NEBELSICK 2010, 223; KACSÓ/METZNER-NEBELSICK/NEBELSICK 2011, 349, 351.

 $^{^{65}\,}$ See GOGÂLTAN 2019 and CIUGUDEAN et~alii 2019 for summaries on the complex situation in Transylvania.

⁶⁶ CIUGUDEAN, QUINN 2015; GOGALTAN, POPA 2016, 197-198.

⁶⁷ CIUGUDEAN et alii 2019.

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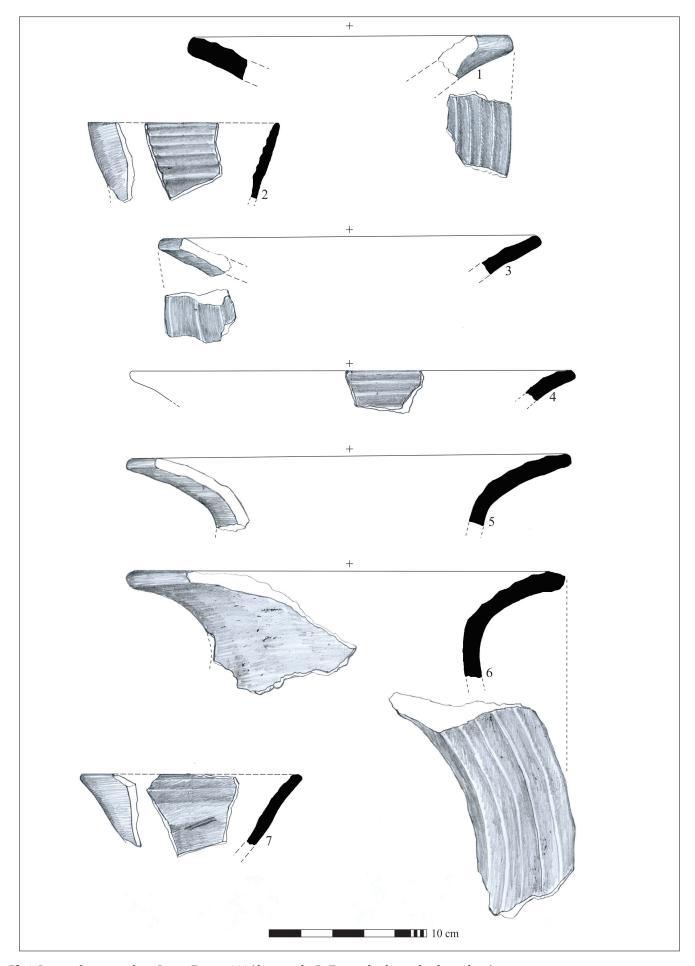
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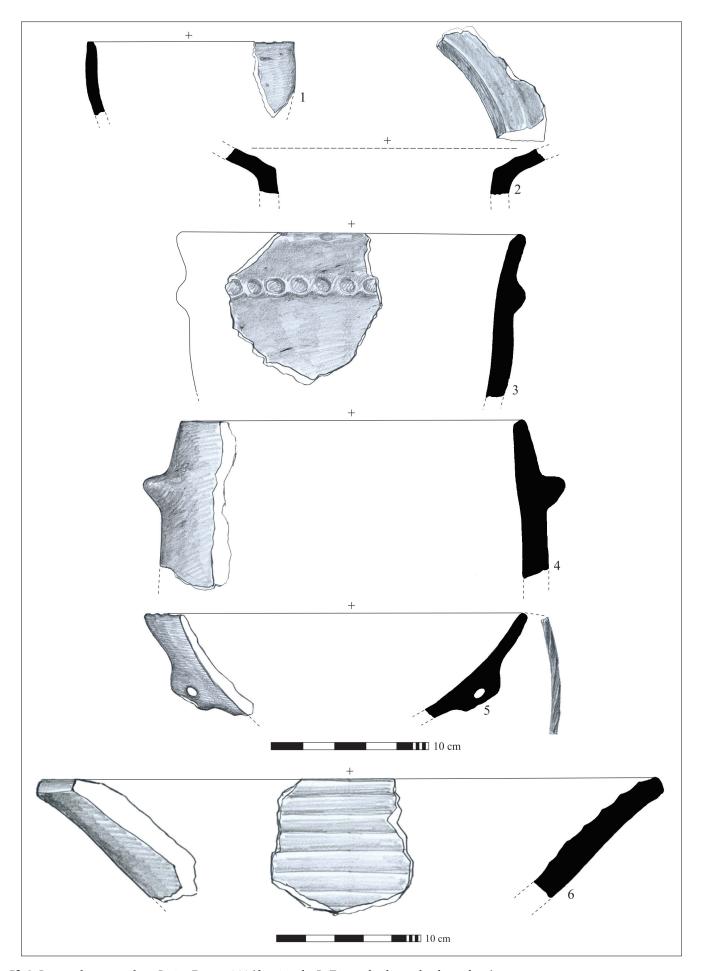
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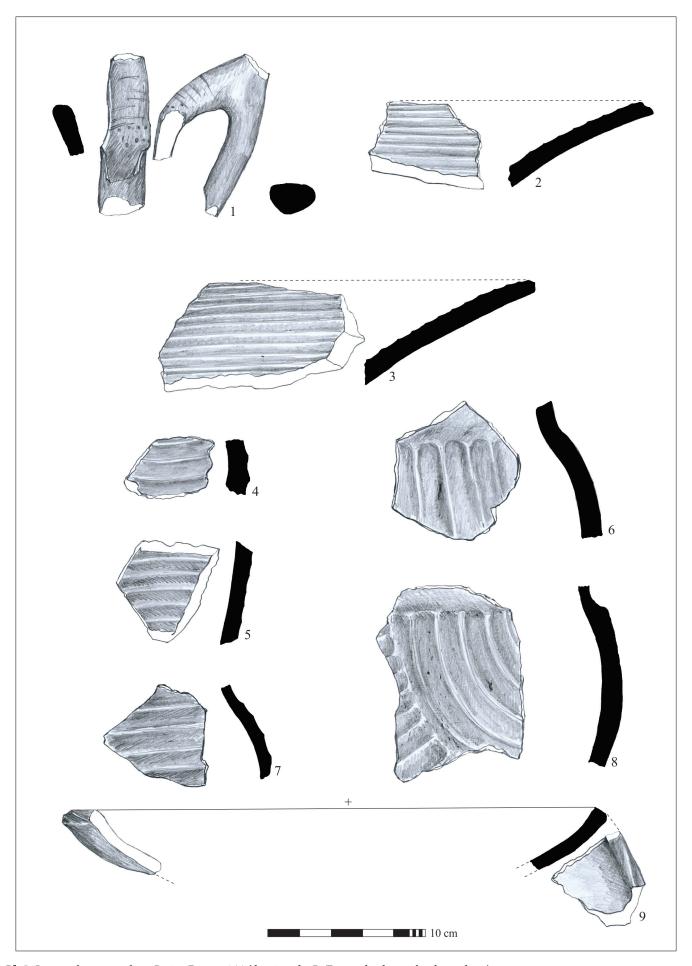
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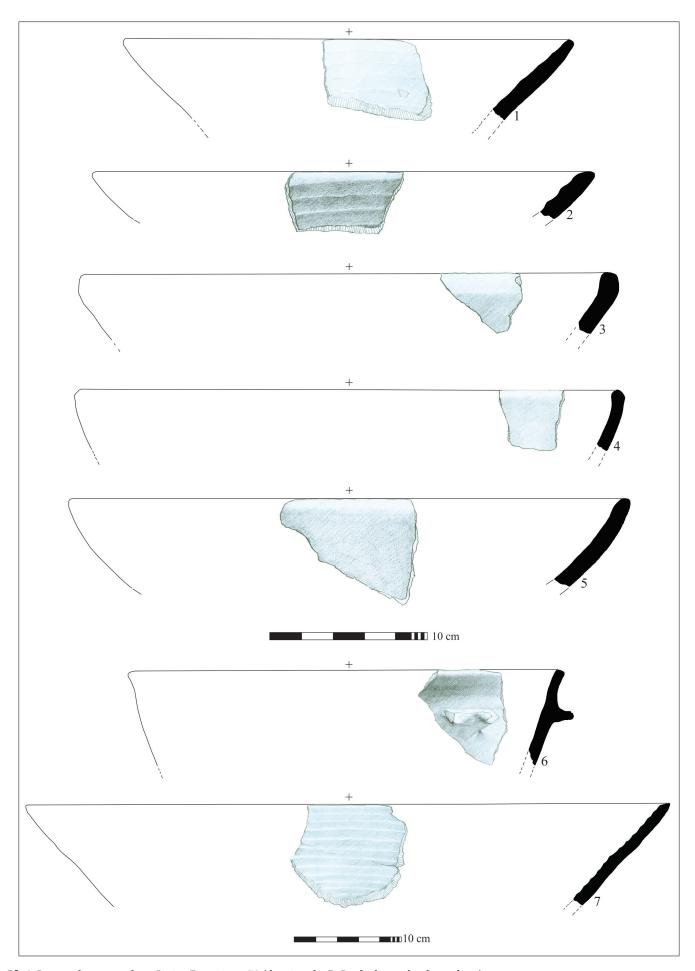
 $\pmb{\textbf{Pl. 1}}. \ \textbf{Pottery fragments from Pecica-Est, cx. 144 (drawings by R. Tănăsache, layout by the authors)}.$



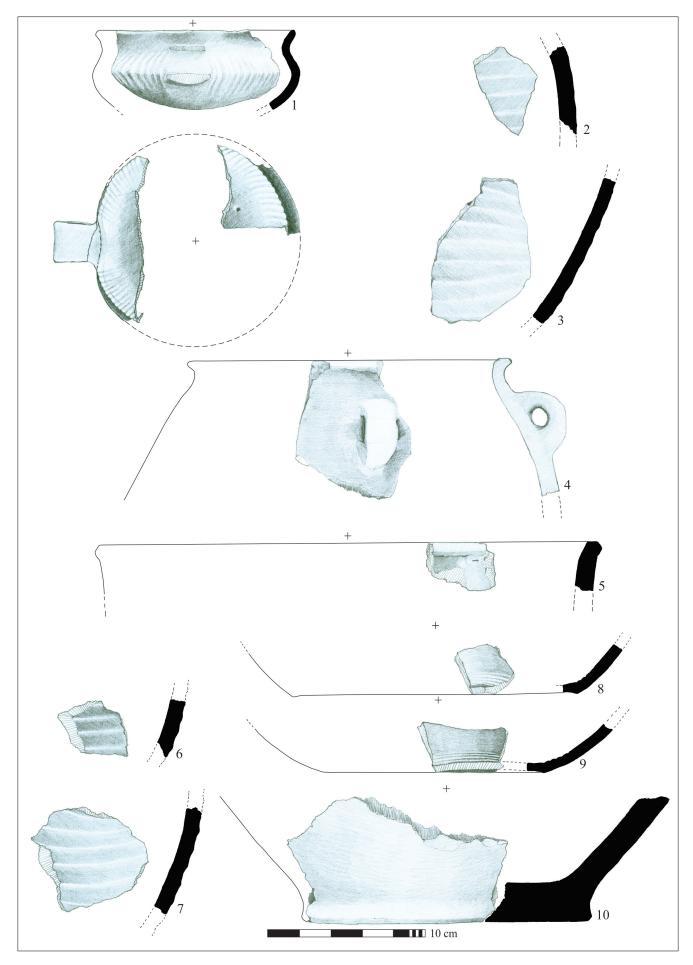
 $\pmb{\textbf{Pl. 2}}. \ \textbf{Pottery fragments from Pecica-Est, cx. 144 (drawings by R. T\\ \verb"anasache", layout by the authors)}.$



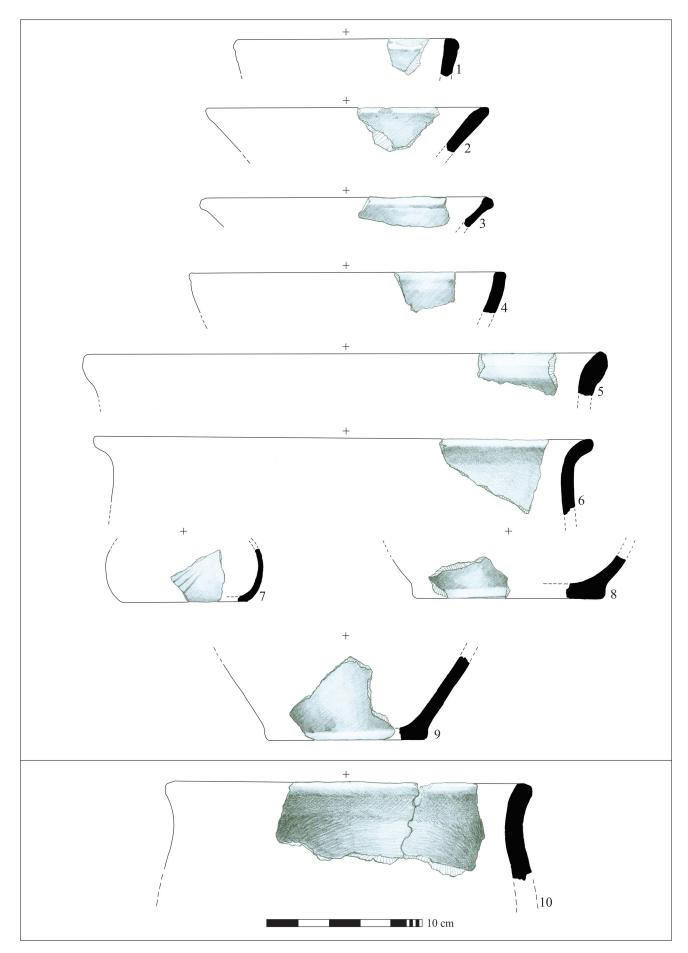
Pl. 3. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Est, cx. 144 (drawings by R. Tănăsache, layout by the authors).



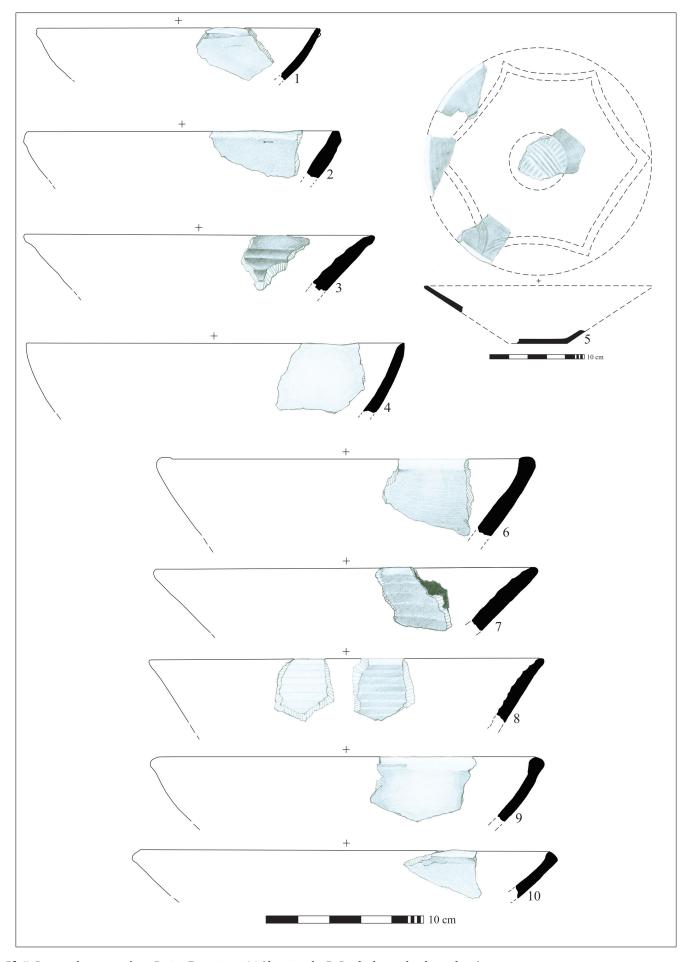
Pl. 4. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 70 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



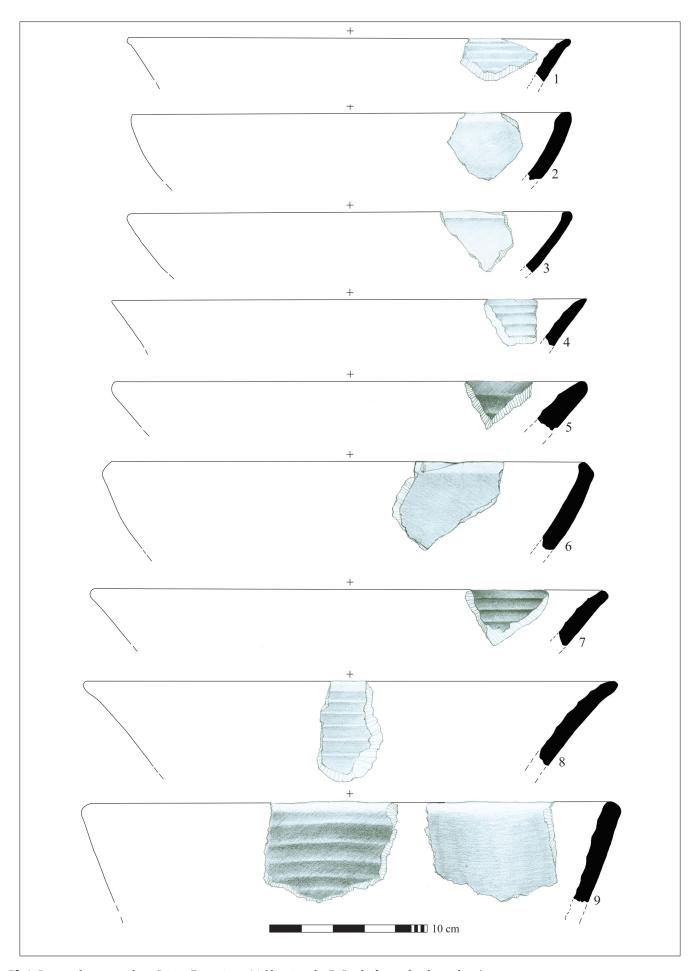
Pl. 5. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 70 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



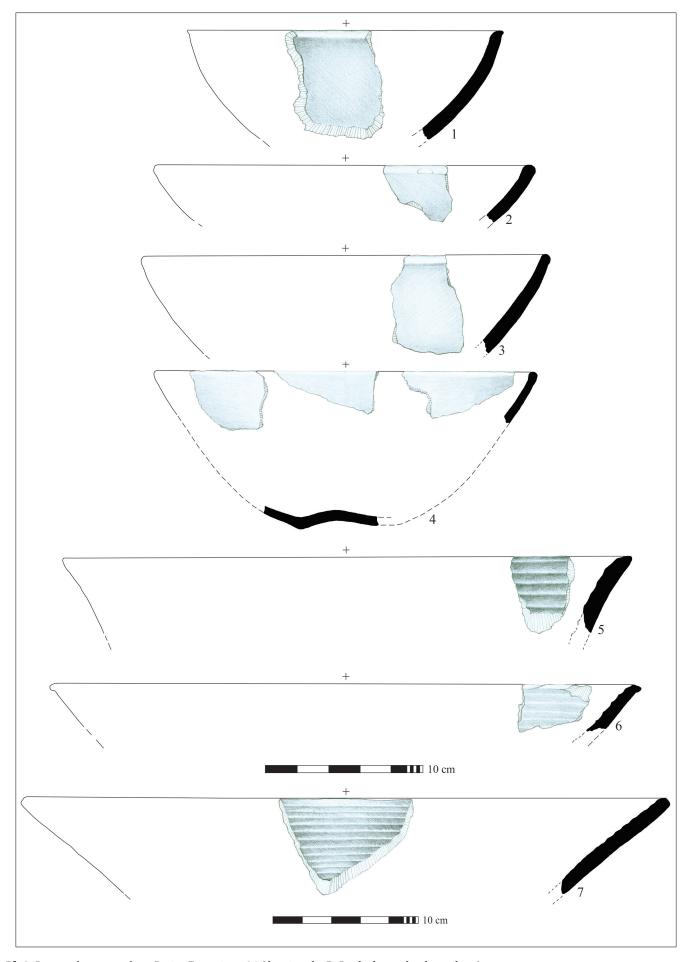
Pl. 6. 1-9. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 71; 10. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 73 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



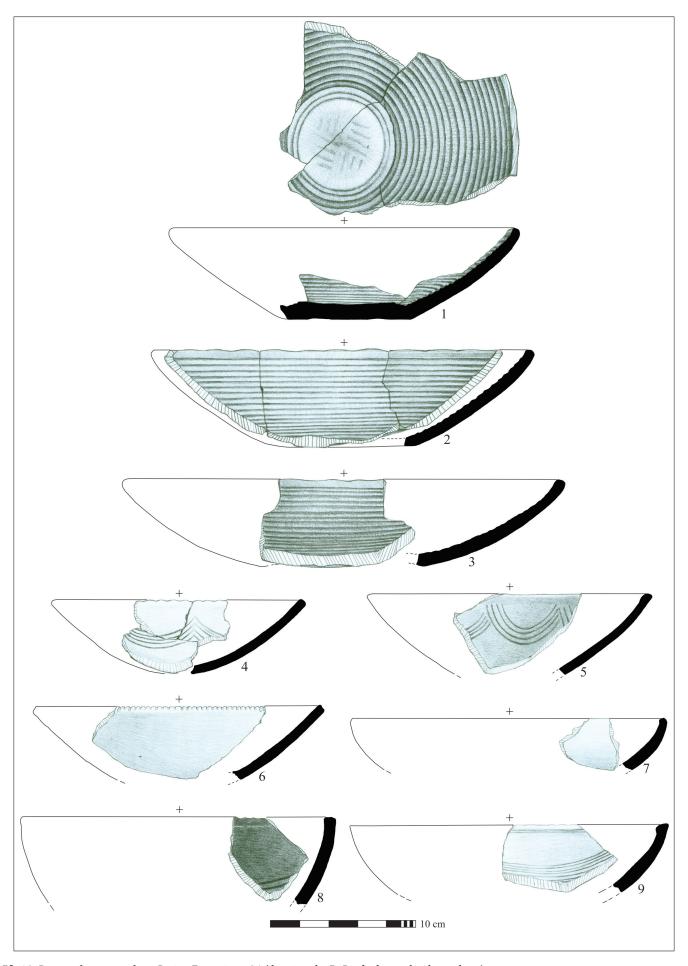
Pl. 7. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



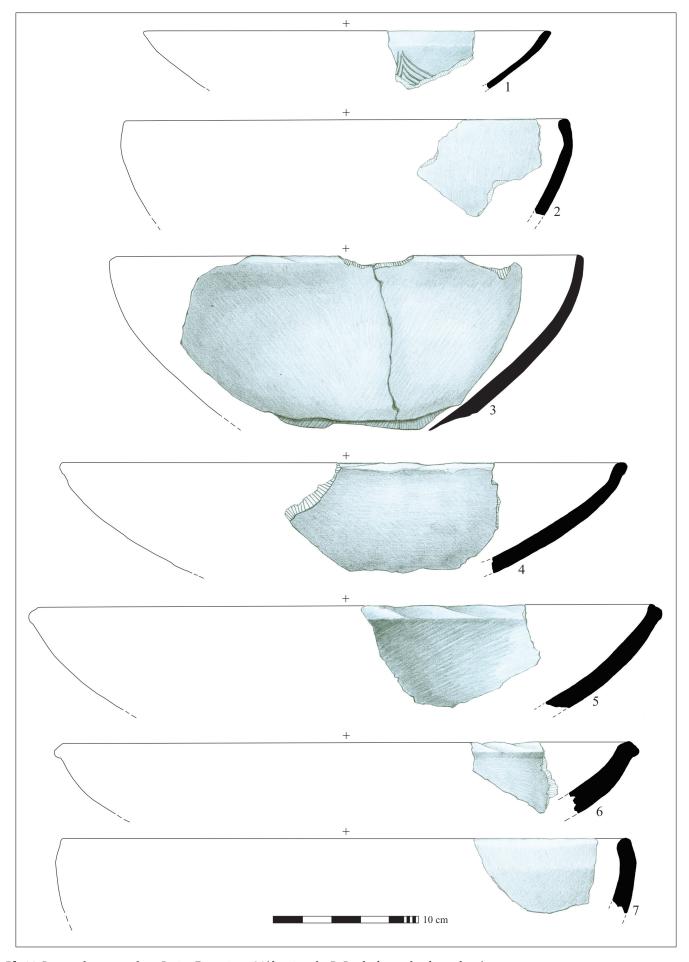
Pl. 8. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



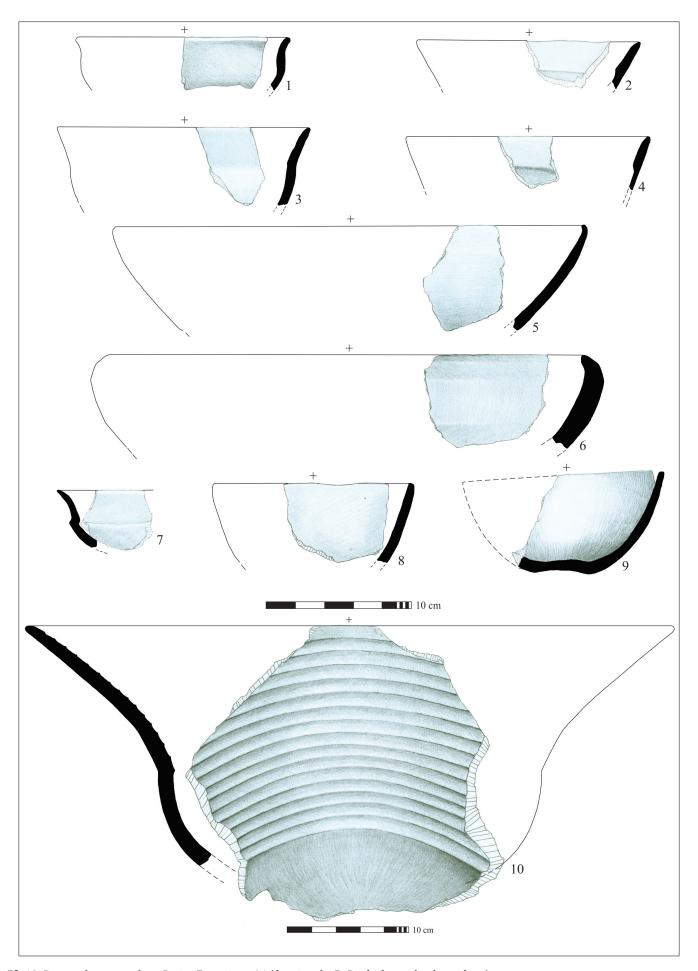
Pl. 9. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



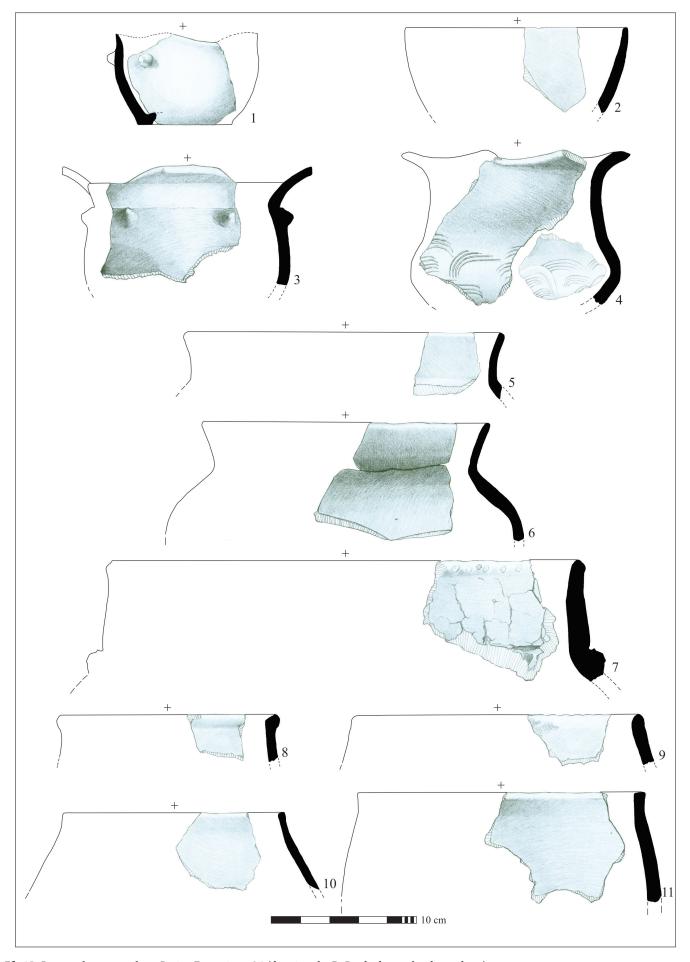
Pl. 10. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



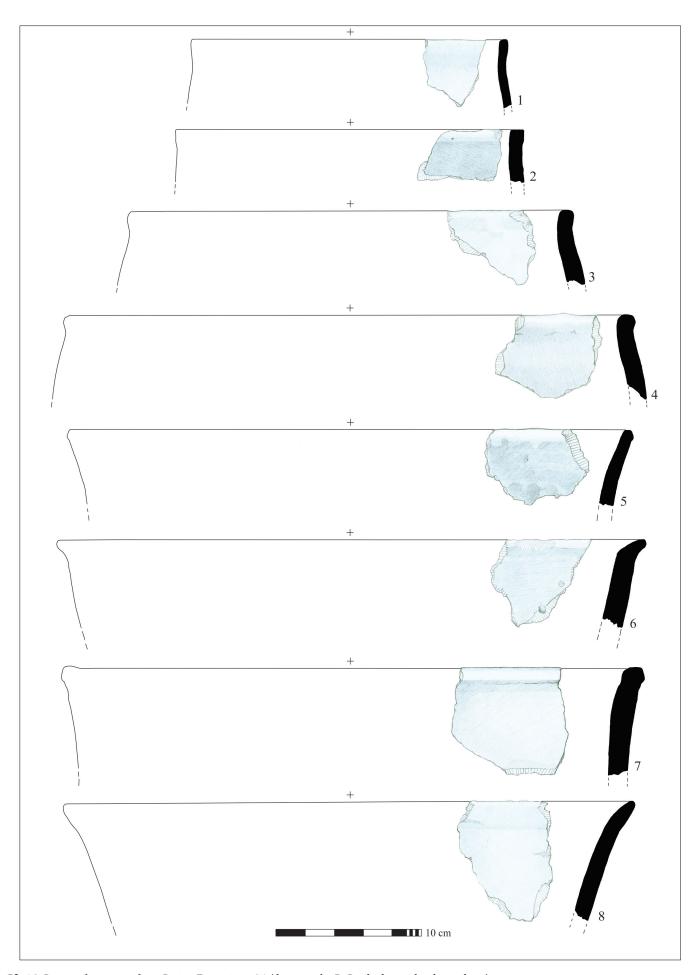
Pl. 11. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94(drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



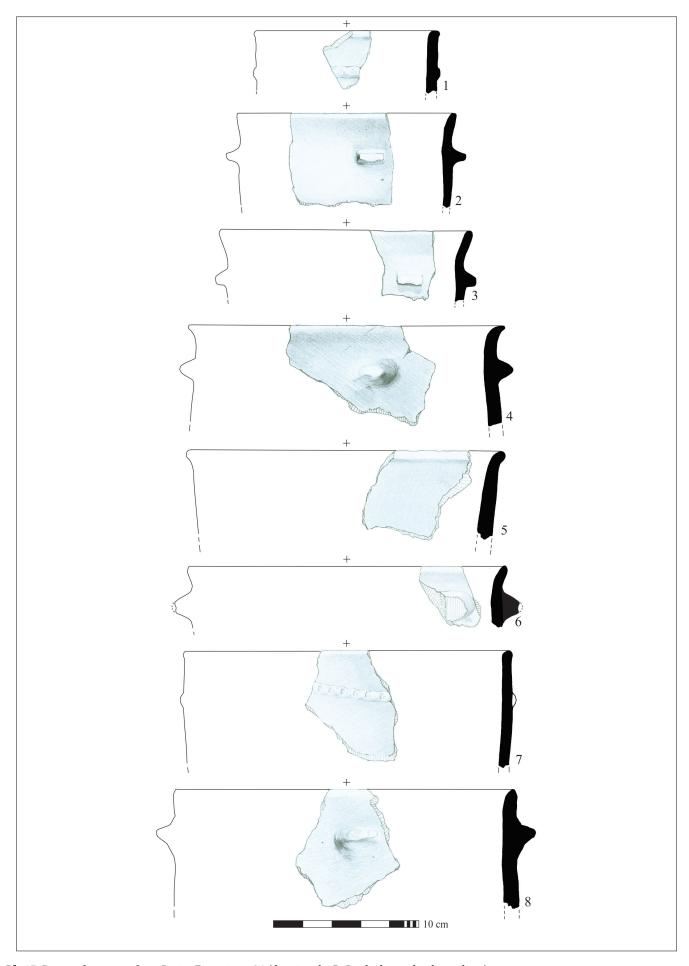
Pl. 12. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



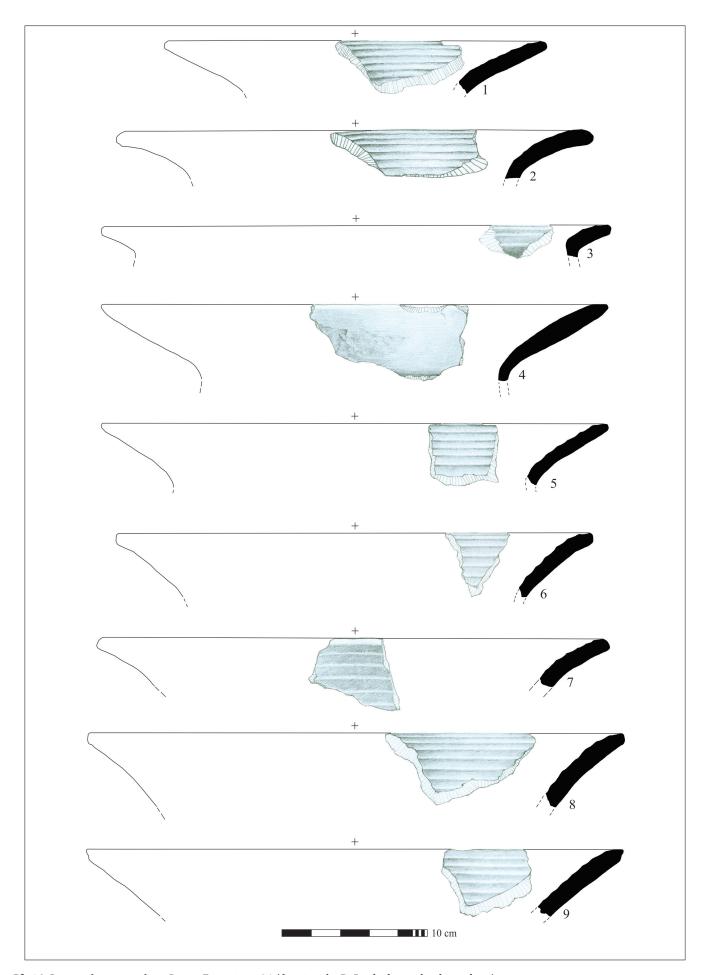
Pl. 13. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



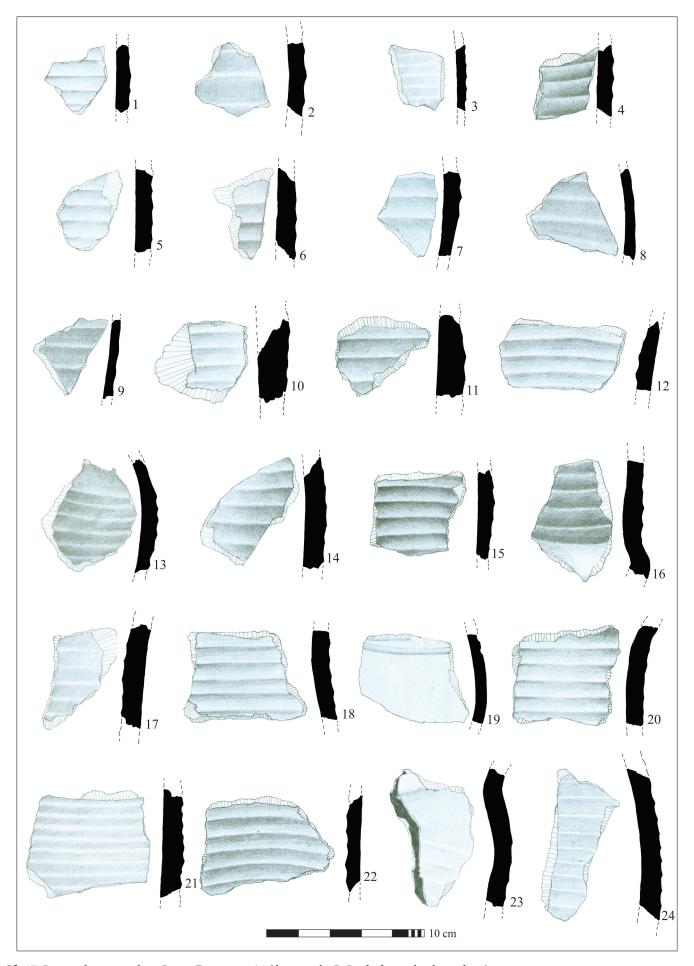
Pl. 14. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



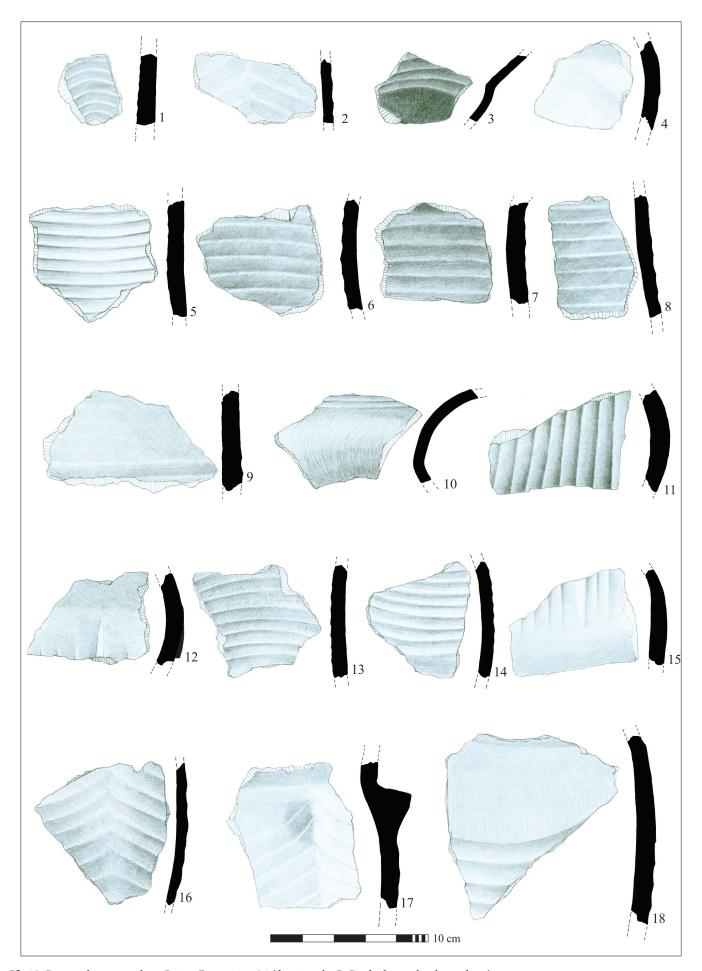
Pl. 15. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



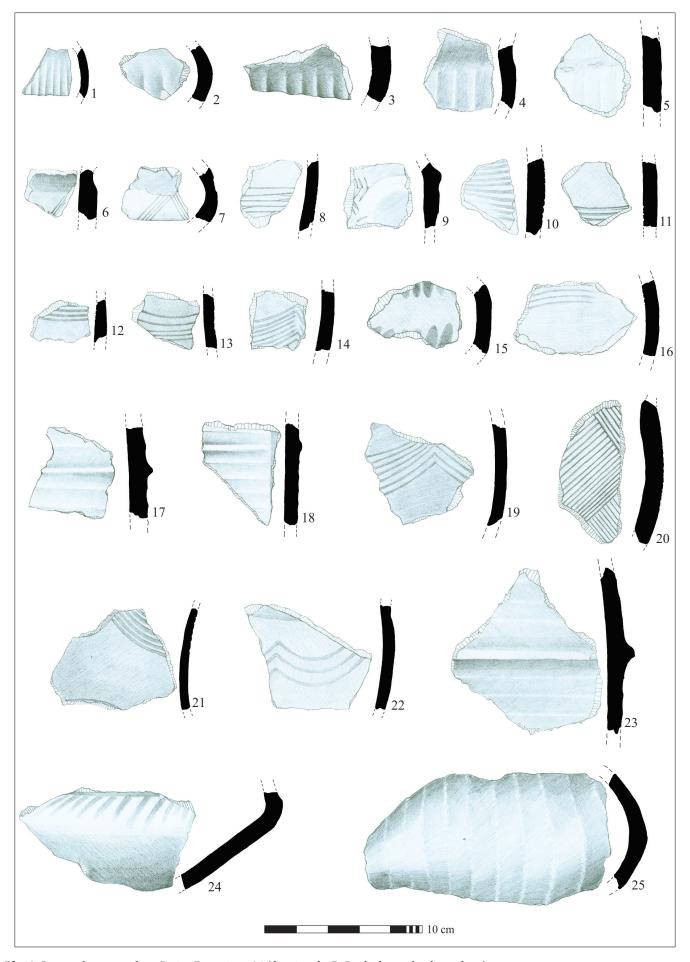
Pl. 16. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



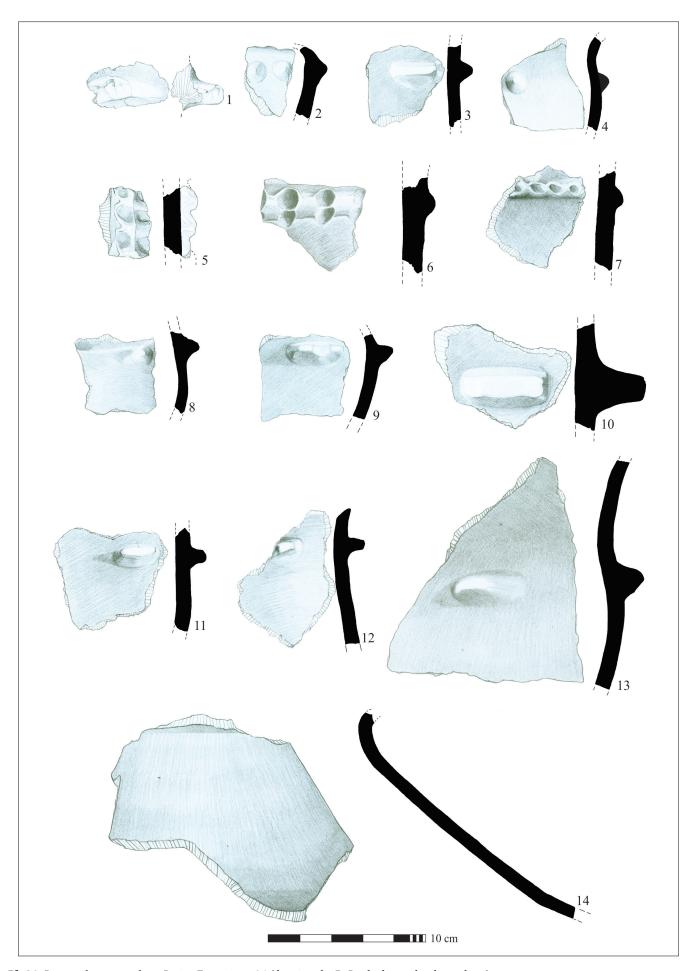
Pl. 17. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



Pl. 18. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



Pl. 19. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).



Pl. 20. Pottery fragments from Pecica-Forgaci, cx. 94 (drawings by D. Preda, layout by the authors).