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# COINS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT (V). THE VILLA RUSTICA FROM RAPOLTU MARE – “LA VIE” (HUNEDOARA COUNTY, ROMANIA)

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**Abstract:** The present paper is focusing on another case in the series Coins in archaeological context. The case under study is the farmstead/villa rustica from Rapoltu Mare – La vie (Hunedoara County, Romania) in the former Roman province of Dacia. Based on the correlation between archaeological, artefact data and the numismatic evidence the paper indicate how single coin finds are distributed by layers according to the site stratigraphy.

**Keywords:** Roman farmstead, archaeological context, stratigraphy coin finds, artefacts.

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## INTRODUCTION

Four years ago, a series – Coins in archaeological contexts – of articles and a monograph was started to emphasize the importance of interpreting the numismatic evidence within the complexity of archaeological environment: excavations, contexts, interpretation.<sup>1</sup>

The aim of this paper is to present another case of how coin finds may be used to understand the stratigraphy and, implicitly, the chronology of an archaeological site and its units, this time the *villa rustica*/farmstead from Rapoltu Mare (Hunedoara County Romania), in the former Roman province of Dacia.

## THE SITE

The multi-layer site of Rapoltu Mare – *La Vie* [At the vineyard] is located in the central part of the Hunedoara, County, Romania, circa 1.5 km upstream of the confluence point of the Strei and Mureş rivers and at the same distance from the volcano neck Măgura Uroiului (ancient *Petrae*) (maps 1–2).<sup>2</sup>

The first archaeological notes of this site are recorded towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, archaeological investigations begun only in 1999, when a testing excavation was undertaken in order to check the old information. Since summer of 2013, a research project was initiated<sup>3</sup> that led to

<sup>1</sup> For the previous works on this topic see: GĂZDAC/COCIŞ 2020, 42–52; GĂZDAC/LĂZĂRESCU/COCIŞ/SOCACIU 2021, 74–101; GĂZDAC/LĂZĂRESCU/COCIŞ 2023A, 27–80; GĂZDAC/LĂZĂRESCU/COCIŞ 2023B.

<sup>2</sup> BADEA et al. 1987, 360; BADEA/MÂRCUŢ 2012, 305.

<sup>3</sup> Since 2013 to nowadays the research is carrying on as an archaeological student excavation as a partnership agreement between the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation from Deva,

the revealing of a large ancient human presence from the Palaeolithic to the Modern Age.<sup>4</sup>

The richest documented period proved to be the Roman one. On one terrace were identified a series of enclosures, delimited by a peripheral wall. A building complex resembling with a villa rustica/farmstead that known a series of transformations during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.<sup>5</sup>

The Roman rural complex from Rapoltu Mare – *La Vie* on a high terrace on the right bank of the Mureş River, on the western part of the Roman province of Dacia and at approximately 10 km westward from the resort settlement of *Germisara*, at the crossroad towards the *coloniae* of *Apulum*, *Sarmizegetusa* and the military camp and vicus of *Micia* (map 2).

The Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) investigations revealed the traces of a trapezoidal-in-shape enclosure that reached a maximum developed area of approximately 0.80 ha (pl. I). The location of the gateways on the southern and eastern sides suggest that the complex was orientated towards the Mureş Valley and the road *Petrae* – *Germisara*. A series of edifices of large sizes seems to have been adjacent to the western side of the peripheral wall, while other ones of smaller sizes were added to the wall on its northern and southern sides. Other buildings can be noticed within the precinct (pl. I/2).

The archaeological trenches were aiming to the research of a complex of edifices next to the southern entrance of the villa (Sp I), and one of the central buildings (Sp II)<sup>6</sup> (Pl. I).

During the archaeological campaigns two main Roman phases with subphases of development were identified for the buildings from these two areas (table).<sup>7</sup>

Phase I: 2<sup>nd</sup> decade – mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century AD

phase 0: 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> decades of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD

phase 1: mid-second half century AD

Phase II: last decade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD – mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD

phase 2: last decade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD

phase 3: first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD

phase 4: mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD

A phase associated to a local Late Roman or post-Roman period (second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD) was documented by a fire layer and a

The Roman period at this site knew two main phases of inhabitancy with a short gap of abandonment between.

The first phase started in the first quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The first construction works focused on the leveling the ground on the terrace promontory and the building of some light wooden structures (pl. II/1). They were in use for a very short period with a totally different planimetry than those from the next phase. The wooden structures were dismantled simultaneously with the building of the first stone structures. The temporary wooden edifices, most

likely, served as shelters during the works on terrain leveling and the building of the stone edifices.

Thus, stratigraphically, this is phase '0' of the Roman presence Rapoltu Mare – *La Vie*.<sup>8</sup>

The first phase of Roman inhabitancy is associated with the erection of few edifices and a peripheral wall of quadrilateral shape (pl. III/1). The remains of buildings unveiled on area Sp I, quadrant C2/2013 and trenches S4 and S9 consist of broad walls made of stones and mortar.<sup>9</sup> On the other hand, the ruins of a building noticed on the northern side of area II present a foundation made of dry stone with an elevation of wood and adobe.<sup>10</sup>

Despite these variety of building techniques, the stone used was always the local travertine.<sup>11</sup> In the absence of a stratigraphic connection between these edifices it is difficult to know whether there were one or two construction subphases. For certain, all these complexes ended at the same time following a strong fire that burn them to the ground<sup>12</sup> (Pl. II/2).

The coins associated with this phase are issues from the time of Antoninus Pius: Marcus Aurelius Caesar and Diva Faustina I (catalogue nos. 5–6), while the brooches retrieved from the contexts of this phase in the first three quarters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.<sup>13</sup> (table; graph)

It can be stated here that the end of the first phase of inhabitancy of the farmstead from Rapoltu Mare – *La Vie* occurred during the third quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD in the context of the turmoil of events known in historiography as the period of the Marcomanic wars.

The way these structures went out of use has produced a rich layer of archaeological material of 0.40–0.60m thickness.

After a short period of abandonment another phase of inhabitancy is identified on the same terrace from Rapoltu Mare – *La Vie*. This inhabitancy period was one with more phases and subphases.

At the present state of research, no hypothesis can be put forward whether the new complex continued to play the same role of a farmstead or a different one. However, the major modifications on the terrace outlook indicate a large re-arranging of the place.

At the beginning of the second phase of inhabitancy the peripheral wall was rebuilt with a slightly different planimetry that in the first phase. In fact, all the buildings of the second phase are now constructed a bit further to north-west than previously. The foundations of the edifices from the phase were demolished and systematically levelled up beneath the walking layer of the second phase (pl. II/4, 6).

Chronologically, this phase started in the last years of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.<sup>14</sup> A sestertius of Commodus minted in AD 190–192 (catalogue no. 8) was retrieved from the floor substruction of the gateway on the southern side (pl. II/3).

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, new buildings were erected inside the precinct while the GPR investigations revealed an

Romania and the Archaeological Techniques and Research Center association (ArchaeoTek) Canada.

<sup>4</sup> BARBU *et al.* 2016, 286–295.

<sup>5</sup> BARBU *et al.* 2016, 289–293.

<sup>6</sup> BĂEŞTEAN *et al.* 2017, 109–111; BARBU *et al.* 2019A, 45–50; BARBU *et al.* 2019B, 70.

<sup>7</sup> BĂEŞTEAN *et al.* 2017, 109–111.

<sup>8</sup> BĂEŞTEAN *et al.* 2019, 109; BARBU *et al.* 2019A, 248–250.

<sup>9</sup> BARBU *et al.* 2016, 276–283.

<sup>10</sup> BĂEŞTEAN *et al.* 2019, 110.

<sup>11</sup> BARBU 2014, 80–84.

<sup>12</sup> BARBU *et al.* 2016, 290.

<sup>13</sup> BARBU *et al.* 2019A, 249–251.

<sup>14</sup> BARBU *et al.* 2016, 291.

extension of the courtyard towards west. This extension was conventionally named the third phase of development. It was identified on the excavation area II/2016, which investigated a building located on the central part of the farmstead (pl. II/5). It consisted of four rooms in linear display. It was built after AD 205 as denarius of Septimius Severus issued in that year was found in the foundation of a wall (catalogue no. 10)<sup>15</sup>.

The construction of this large building, destined to be the residence of the farmstead seems to have required quite a financial effort. Some archaeological aspects indicate that the economic power of the owner of this farmstead came under pressure at a certain moment – we do not know whether were local or provincial factors – as the complex was finished in haste. The hypocaust system in room 2 was left unfinished. The space for the hypocaust pillars was filled up with earth. A knee bronze brooch lost during the filling up activity suggests that this happened in the first quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

The decline of the farmstead from Rapoltu Mare – *La Vie* started towards the mid–3<sup>rd</sup> century AD together with the rest of the province of Dacia. This process is architecturally documented by the partition of the older rooms and the use of rudimentary techniques.<sup>16</sup> Thus, in the first room of the central building, its western half partitioned in three smaller rooms of 1.80 × 1.80 m (pl. II/5). On one hand, the precise planimetry suggest the presence of experienced workers, on the other hand, the reuse of materials and the elevation made of wood and adobe together with the new narrower spaces indicate modest financial possibility and lower costs for maintenance. In the same context, it must be mentioned here, that in room 3, a pit of 1.20 × 1.20 m and 1.80 m deep was dug up and served as a cellar (Cx 44).

This phase of inhabitancy came to an end in a violent way. Both, the buildings inside the precinct and those next to the southern peripheral wall were torched. A ballista heavy-arrowhead found in a carbonised beam at the southern gate may suggest that the farmstead was under siege. A burnt knee brooch found in the debris of the peripheral wall,<sup>17</sup> dates the event at the mid–3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

On some of the investigated areas, sporadic traces of a human presence after the collapse of the Roman roofs were noticed. In the close vicinity of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century building from the area II Roman fabric pottery (majority) and sherds of hand-made pottery were found. Two brooches – one of bronze, one of iron<sup>18</sup> – of the bent stem typology were also found in the very same area. Beside these artefacts traces of bone processing activities and material recycling were identified.<sup>19</sup>

## COIN FINDS AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT (TABLE; GRAPH; CATALOGUE)

Sixteen coins were retrieved during archaeological campaigns from this site (catalogue) The earliest coin is

a denarius of Mark Antony belonging to the well-known legionary series issued in 32–31 BC in the dawns of the battle from Actium.

The presence of a M. Antony coin surviving in contexts of 2<sup>nd</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> century AD can be explained in terms of monetary policy. When Trajan debased the silver coinage, he withdrew from circulation the previous issues. The Julio-Claudian and Republican issues as well as the finest of Domitian's denarii were re-minted because of their higher content of silver. Antony's legionary denarii of a lower silver content were not worth melting down at this point for their silver; they were approximately equivalent to the debased silver of Trajan<sup>20</sup> and were allowed to go on circulating.<sup>21</sup> This explains why Antony's denarii were still circulating during the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century.<sup>22</sup>

The other coins were minted between the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and the first quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (catalogue).

However, the stratigraphy of this site indicate that the earliest coin is not automatically found in the oldest layer.

Here comes the old debating aspect between archaeology and numismatics: how reliable can the numismatic evidence be in dating the archaeological context(s)?

For the site Rapoltu Mare – *La Vie* six coins belong to the first phase of inhabitancy at the site (pl. III/1). From the earliest layer comes the *as* of Domitian in a very poor state of preservation (catalogue no. 2). This layer belongs to the first anthropic activities in the area when the terrace was levelled in order to build on it. In the same context was found a strongly profiled type brooch dated in the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.<sup>23</sup>

Four of the coins (catalogue nos. 3, 4, 5, 6) were retrieved from trench 5 of the area 2.

For a better understanding, or better to say to admit that coins may have a very different period of circulation, it must be mentioned here that coins nos. 3 and 6, in other words, an *as* of Nerva (AD 96–98) and an *as* of Antoninus Pius for Faustina I (Diva) (post AD 141) were found together. Furthermore, the other two coins – a *denarius* of Hadrian (AD 126–127) and one of Antoninus Pius for Marcus Aurelius (Caesar) (AD 156–157) were found very close to the previous two pieces.

The archaeological context in which these coins were found represents the walking level in the courtyard of the first phase of inhabitancy. This layer was covered by a destruction layer of a building with stone foundation and an elevation of wood and adobe. The coins were approximately 2 m from the wall Z24, which is the southern limit of that building. The building of large dimensions (E-W wide: c. 9 m; N-S length: over 10m), unknown functionality, was destroyed by a very strong fire. (pl. II/2)

Unfortunately, the last coin found in a layer associated with the first phase of the farmstead is an unidentifiable

<sup>15</sup> BĂEȘTEAN *et al.* 2017, 109–111.

<sup>16</sup> BARBU *et al.* 2019B, 74.

<sup>17</sup> BARBU *et al.* 2019A, 252–254.

<sup>18</sup> BARBU *et al.* 2019A, 254–255.

<sup>19</sup> BARBU/GONCIAR 2019, 80; BARBU/GONCIAR 2021, 37.

<sup>20</sup> DUNCAN-JONES 1994, 204, the similarities between Antony's and Trajan's denarii after the debasement in AD 107, Antony's legionary denarius has 3.06 gr. and 92.2%.

<sup>21</sup> DUNCAN-JONES 1994, 104, 199–200; CRAWFORD 1978, 152; REECE 1987, 60.

<sup>22</sup> DUNCAN-JONES 1994, 205; FITZ 1992, 71.

<sup>23</sup> BARBU *et al.* 2019A, 248–249.

bronze piece (catalogue no. 16). The coin was discovered in the quadrant C2/2013, that brought to light the traces of a building of approximately 100sqm (according to the GPR) located in the SE corner of the precinct. Next to the coin were found sherds, an iron stylus and some lead slip.<sup>24</sup>

Ten coins are associated with the second phase of inhabitation of the site Rapoltu Mare – *La Vie* (pl. III/2).

One coin was found within the trapezoidal precinct of the southern gateway comes from the area Sp. I (pl. II/3). It is an *as* of Commodus minted in AD 190–192 (catalogue no. 8) discovered in the layer beneath the floor of the gate tower. Most likely, it was dropped during the building of this edifice.

The other 9 coins come from the area Sp. II and may be associated with the central edifice consisting of a series of four rooms orientated E-W.

A denarius of Septimius Severus minted in AD 205 (catalogue no. 10) could be regarded as a construction offering being found in the mortar of the wall Z23, part of the building mentioned above.

Another denarius issued by Severus Alexander for Julia Mamaea (catalogue no. 15) was retrieved for the filling of the pit (Cx 44) located in the third room from west to east of the same edifice. This pit, that may have served at a cellar 1.20 × 1.20 × 1.80m was dug up on the southern part of the room, at a moment when the building undertook some modifications requested by a period of economic crisis for the farmstead owner. At the time of fire, the roof collapsed to the bottom of the pit. The entire material in the pit above the roof tiles – including the coin – is the result of the gradual pit filling due to the erosion of the surrounding layers.

Methodologically, it must be mentioned here, that the oldest coin found at the site of Rapoltu Mare – *La Vie*, the denarius of Mark Antony (32–31 BC) (catalogue no. 1) comes the walking layer in the same room!

Coins catalogue nos. 7, 9, 12–14: a *sestertius* of Commodus, a *denarius* of Septimius Severus, two *denarii* of Severus Alexander, a provincial coin Severus Alexander, were found outside that building spread out like a virtual line connecting the courtyard with room 3 of the building that may suggest an access way to the edifice.

One coin (catalogue no. 11) – a *denarius* of Elgabalus (AD 218–222) – comes from the first room of the building. Unfortunately, the small depth (10 cm) makes its stratigraphical association uncertain as the agricultural works have disturbed the upper layers.

The graph of the distribution of coins by phases suggest that the large majority of coins were in circulation for period for few decades. The exception, the denarius of Mark Antony (catalogue no. 1) found in a context dated in the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (table; graph) has been explained in the pages above.

The strong presence of silver denomination, *denarius*, seven out of nine coins, in the layers belonging to phase 3 (first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD) can be explained through the Roman monetary policy of the time.

As already stated: “...the majority of the coins issued during this period [AD 193–235] found in the provinces of Dacia and both Pannoniae were *denarii*. This is accounted for by

the monetary policy of Septimius Severus, who increased the production of the *denarius*, while reducing the production of bronze coin.”<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> BARBU et al. 2016, 319–320.

<sup>25</sup> GĂZDAC 2010, 189.



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## CATALOGUE

**Republican coin**  
**MARK ANTONY**


1. Denomination: denarius  
 Axis: -; D: 18 mm; W: 3.28 g.  
 Mint: travelling with Mark Antony  
 Dating: 32–31 BC  
 Obverse: [ANT·AVG] III·VIR·R·P·C  
 Ship, right, with sceptre tied with fillet on prow. Border of dots.  
 Reverse: erased  
 Catalogue: RRC, 544  
 Inv.no. 60819  
 Context: Rapolt 2019, Farmstead, area II, trench 11, -0.29m.  
 II Living stage; phase III

**NERVA**


3. Denomination: as  
 Axis: 6; D: 28.5 mm; W: 9.74 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 96–98  
 Obverse: inscription erased  
 Silhouette of Nerva's head, right.  
 Reverse: inscription erased  
 Silhouette standing.  
 Catalogue: -  
 Inv.no. 53683  
 Context: Rapolt 2017, Farmstead, area II, trench 5, -0.55m.  
 Found together with coin no. 53682  
 I Living stage; phase I

**Imperial coins**  
**DOMITIAN**


2. Denomination: as  
 Axis: -; D: 27 mm; W: 9.27 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 81–96  
 Obverse: inscription erased  
 Vague silhouette of Domitian's head, right.  
 Reverse: erased  
 Catalogue: -  
 Inv.no. 60817  
 Context: Rapolt 2019, Farmstead, area II, trench 5, -0.82m.  
 I Living stage; phase 0

**HADRIAN**


4. Denomination: denarius  
 Axis: 6; D: 18.9 mm; W: 3.18 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 126–127  
 Obverse: HADRIANVS – AVGVSTVS  
 Head of Hadrian, laureate, right. Drapery from left shoulder.  
 Reverse: COS – III  
 Victory, seated left, holding wreath and palm.  
 Catalogue: RIC II.3, 858  
 Inv.no. 60820  
 Context: Rapolt 2017, Farmstead, area II, trench 5–8, in bystander.  
 I Living stage; phase I

**ANTONINUS PIUS: Marcus Aurelius (Caesar)**

5. Denomination: denarius  
 Axis: 6; D: 17 mm; W: 3.30 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 156–157  
 Obverse: AVRELIVS CAES AN-TON AVG PII F  
 Head of Marcus Aurelius, bare, right.  
 Reverse: TR POT XI – COS II  
 Virtus, helmeted, in military dress, standing left, holding parazonium in right hand and vertical spear in left.  
 Catalogue: RIC, 473  
 Inv.no. 60825  
 Context: Rapolt 2017, Farmstead, area II, trench 5, -0.55m.  
 I Living stage; phase I

**COMMODUS**

7. Denomination: sestertius  
 Axis: 12; D: 29 mm; W: 22.19 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 190–191  
 Obverse: [M COMMOD A]NT P F-ELIX AV[G BRIT P] P  
 Head of Commodus, laureate, right.  
 Reverse: [CONC COMMODI P M TR P XVI IMP VIII C]OS VI; S – C  
 Concordia, draped, standing left, holding patera in extended right hand and sceptre in left hand.  
 Catalogue: RIC, 585  
 Inv.no. 53685  
 Context: Rapolt 2018, Farmstead, area II, trench 12, -0.30m.  
 II Living stage; phase III

**ANTONINUS PIUS: Faustina I (Diva)**

6. Denomination: as  
 Axis: 6; D: 26.1 mm; W: 9.05 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: post 141  
 Obverse: D[IV]A F[AV]-STINA  
 Bust of Faustina I, draped, right, hair elaborately waved in several loops round head and drawn up and coiled on top.  
 Reverse: [AETERNI]TAS  
 Pietas, standing left, raising right hand and holding box of incense.  
 Catalogue: RIC, 1161  
 Inv.no. 53682  
 Context: Rapolt 2017, Farmstead, area II, trench 5, -0.55m.  
 Found together with coin no. 53683  
 I Living stage; phase I

**COMMODUS**

8. Denomination: sestertius  
 Axis: 6; D: 28.1 mm; W: 17.50 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: c. 190–192  
 Obverse: inscription erased  
 Silhouette of Commodus' head, right.  
 Reverse: inscription erased  
 Victory, winged, draped, advancing left, holding wreath in extended right hand and palm sloped over left shoulder in left hand.  
 Catalogue: aged Commodus  
 Inv.no. 60816  
 Context: Rapolt 2016, Farmstead, south gateway, area I, -0.60m.  
 II Living stage; phase II



**SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS**

9. Denomination: denarius  
 Axis: 12; D: 18.7 mm; W: 2.19 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 205  
 Obverse: SEVERVS – PIVS AVG  
 Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right.  
 Reverse: P M TR P XIII – COS III P P  
 Jupiter, naked except for cloak over left shoulder, standing left, holding thunderbolt in right hand and sceptre in left hand; at feet, left, eagle.  
 Catalogue: RIC, 196  
 Inv.no. 60827  
 Context: Rapolt 2022, Farmstead, area II, trench 12, -0.24m.  
 II Living stage; phase III

**ELAGABALUS**

11. Denomination: denarius  
 Axis: 1; D: 19.1 mm; W: 2.82 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 218–222  
 Obverse: IMP ANTO[NINVS – PI]VS AVG  
 Bust of Elagabalus, laureate, draped, right.  
 Reverse: SACERD D[EI S]OLIS [ELAGAB]  
 Elagabalus, in Syrian priestly robes, standing right, sacrificing out of patera in right hand over lighted altar, holding upright club in left hand.  
 Catalogue: RIC, 131  
 Inv.no. 60824  
 Context: Rapolt 2017, Farmstead, area II, trench 5, -0.10m  
 (Plowing zone)  
 Probably II Living stage; phase III

**SEPTIMIUS SEVERUS**

10. Denomination: denarius  
 Axis: 6; D: 18.2 mm; W: 3.03 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 205  
 Obverse: SEVERVS – PIVS AVG  
 Head of Septimius Severus, laureate, right.  
 Reverse: P M TR P XIII – COS III P P  
 Roma, helmeted, draped, standing left, holding Victory in extended right hand and reversed spear in left hand.  
 Catalogue: RIC, 197  
 Inv.no. 60826  
 Context: Rapolt 2016, Farmstead, area II, trench 11, -0.25m;  
 near wall Z23's foundation.  
 II Living stage; phase III

**SEVERUS ALEXANDER**

12. Denomination: denarius  
 Axis: 12; D: 18.2 mm; W: 2.41 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 223  
 Obverse: IMP C M AVR SEV ALEXAND AVG  
 Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped, right.  
 Reverse: P M TR P II – COS P P  
 Jupiter, cloak behind and over right arm, standing left, holding thunderbolt in right hand and sceptre in left hand.  
 Catalogue: RIC, 19  
 Inv.no. 60821  
 Context: Rapolt 2021, Farmstead, area II, trench 13, -0.27m.  
 II Living stage; phase III



**SEVERUS ALEXANDER**

13. Denomination: denarius, fragmentary  
 Axis: 6; D: 19.5 mm; W: 2.09 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 228–231  
 Obverse: IMP SEV [ALE]XAND AVG  
 Bust of Severus Alexander, laureate, draped, right.  
 Reverse: FORTVNAE – REDVC[I]  
 Fortuna, draped, standing left, holding rudder placed on globe with right hand and cornucopiae with left hand.  
 Catalogue: RIC, 196b  
 Inv.no. 60822  
 Context: Rapolt 2021, Farmstead, area II, trench 12, -0.32m.  
 II Living stage; phase III

**SEVERUS ALEXANDER: Julia Mamaea (Augusta)**

15. Denomination: denarius  
 Axis: 6; D: 19 mm; W: 2.19 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 222–235  
 Obverse: IVLIA MA-MAEA AVG  
 Bust of Julia Mamaea, diademed, right.  
 Reverse: VE-S-TA  
 Vesta, veiled, draped, standing left, holding patera in right hand and up-right sceptre in left hand.  
 Catalogue: RIC, 360  
 Inv.no. 60823  
 Context: Rapolt 2018, Farmstead, area II, trench 10, complex 44, -0.98m.  
 II Living stage; phase III

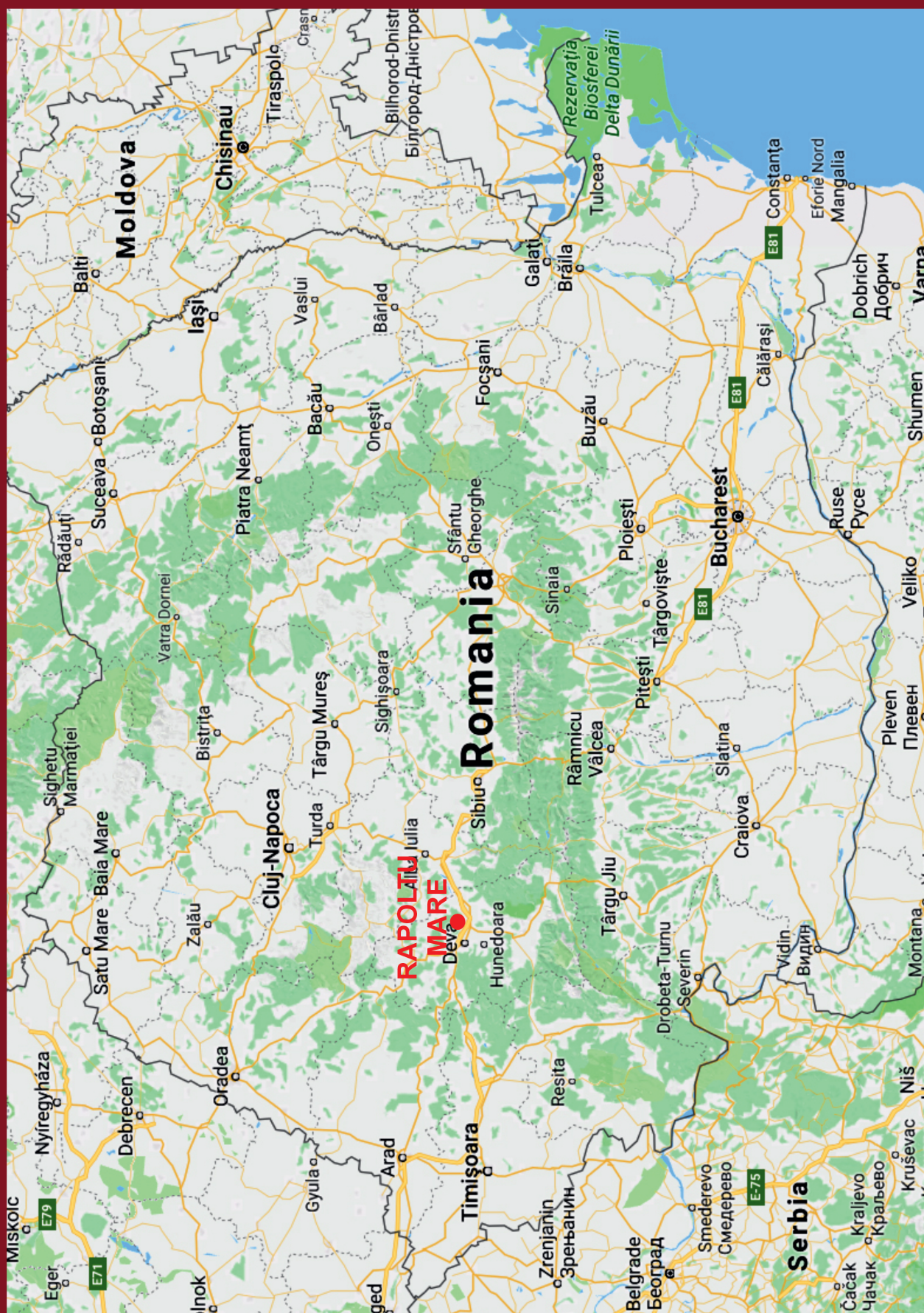
**SEVERUS ALEXANDER**

14. Denomination: provincial AE  
 Axis: 12; D: 19.5 mm; W: 3.87 g.  
 Mint: Nicaea Bithyniae  
 Dating: 222–235  
 Obverse: [M AYP CEY ALEXAND]POC A[Y]  
 Silhouette of Severus Alexander's head, right.  
 Reverse: [NI-K]-AI-//[EON]  
 Three standards.  
 Catalogue: BMC, 102  
 Inv.no. 53684  
 Context: Rapolt 2018, Farmstead, area II, trench 12, -0.28m.  
 II Living stage; phase III

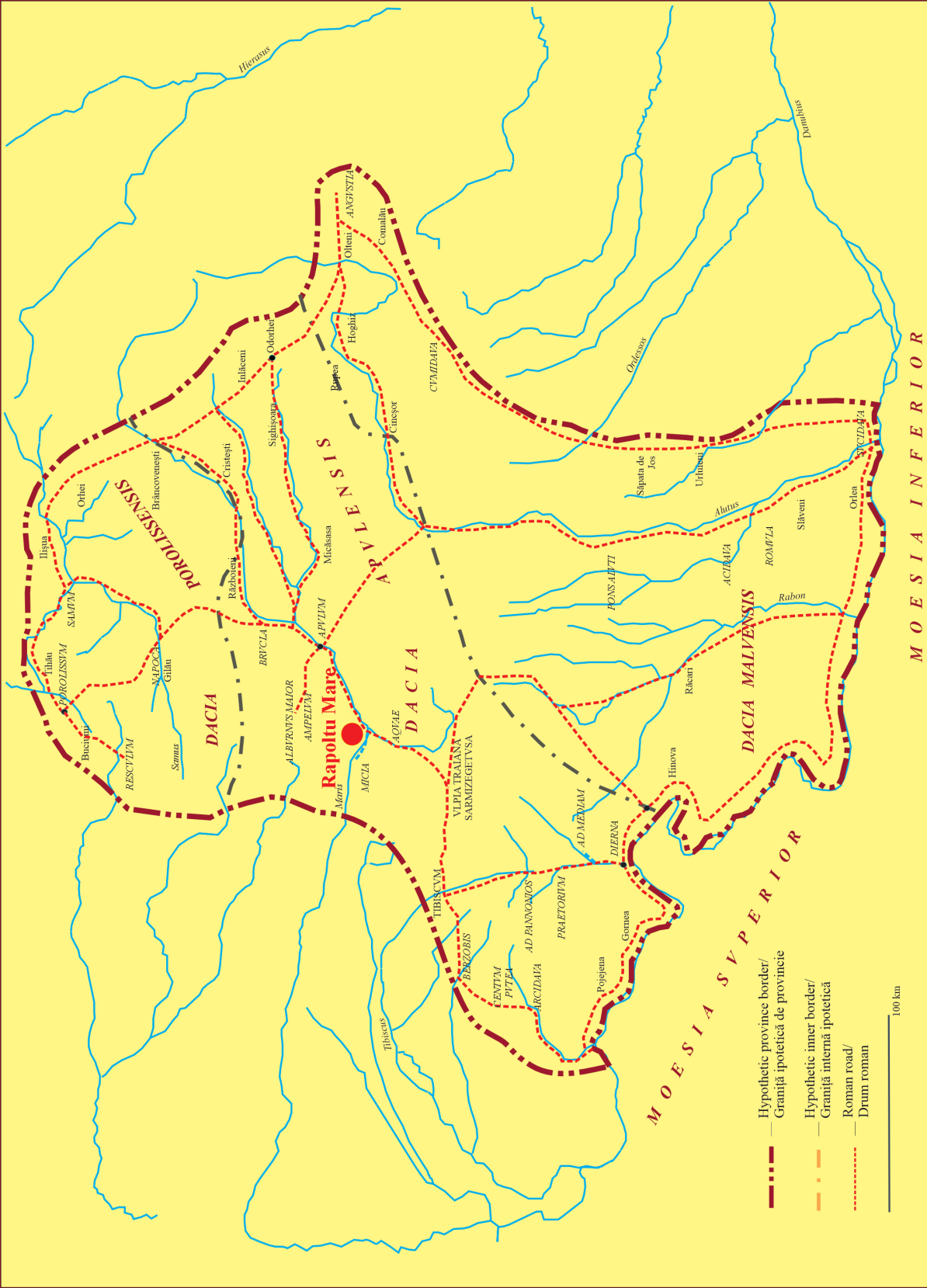
**Unidentifiable coin**

16. Denomination: as  
 Axis: -; D: 26.6 mm; W: 7.75 g.  
 Mint: Rome  
 Dating: 81–96  
 Obverse: inscription erased  
 Vague silhouette of an emperor head, right.  
 Reverse: erased  
 Catalogue: -  
 Inv.no. 60818  
 Context: Rapolt 2013, Farmstead, complex 2, -0.31m.  
 I Living stage; phase I



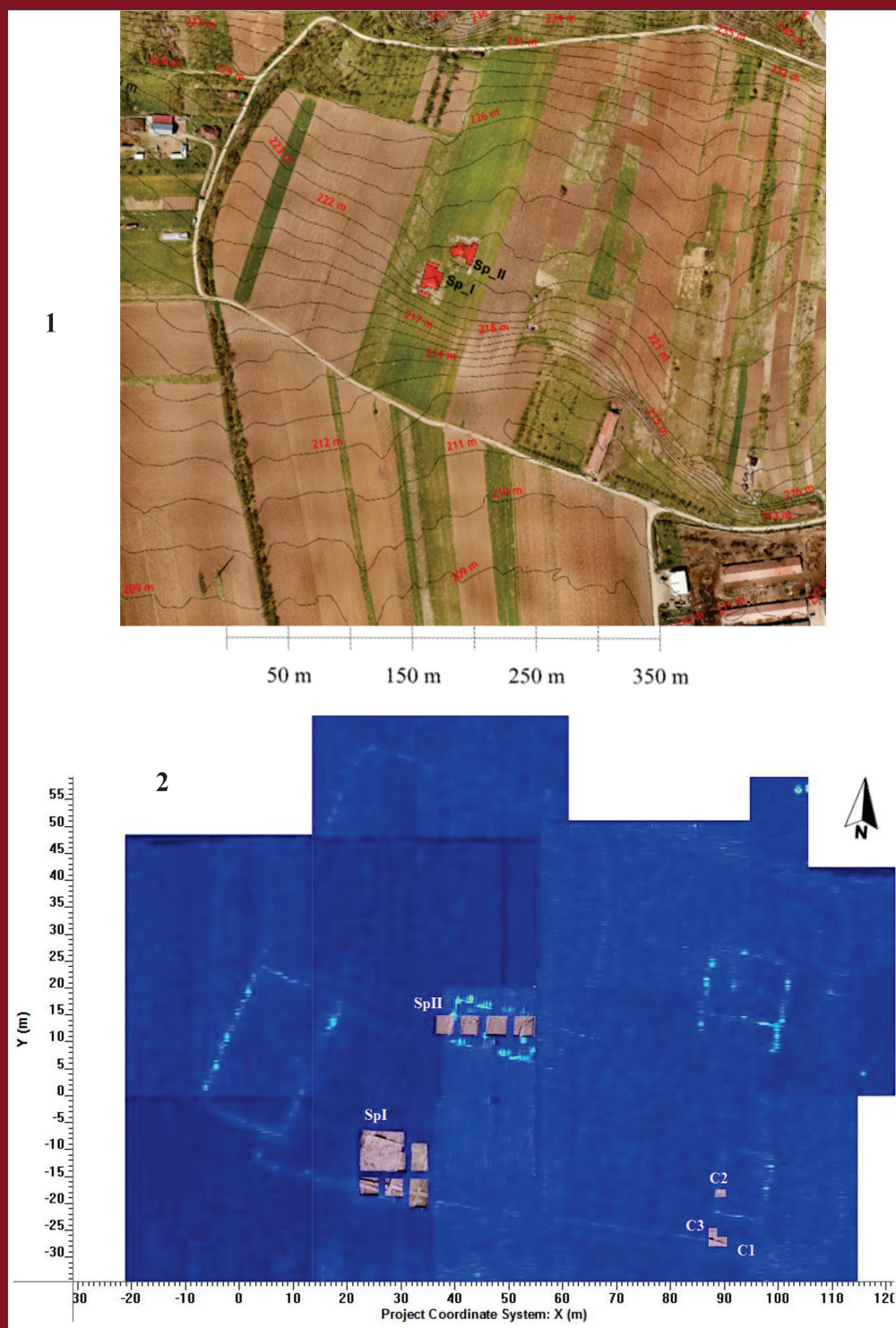


Map 1. Map of Romania pointing the location of Rapoltu Mare



Map 2. Roman Dacia, pointing the location of Rapoltu Mare





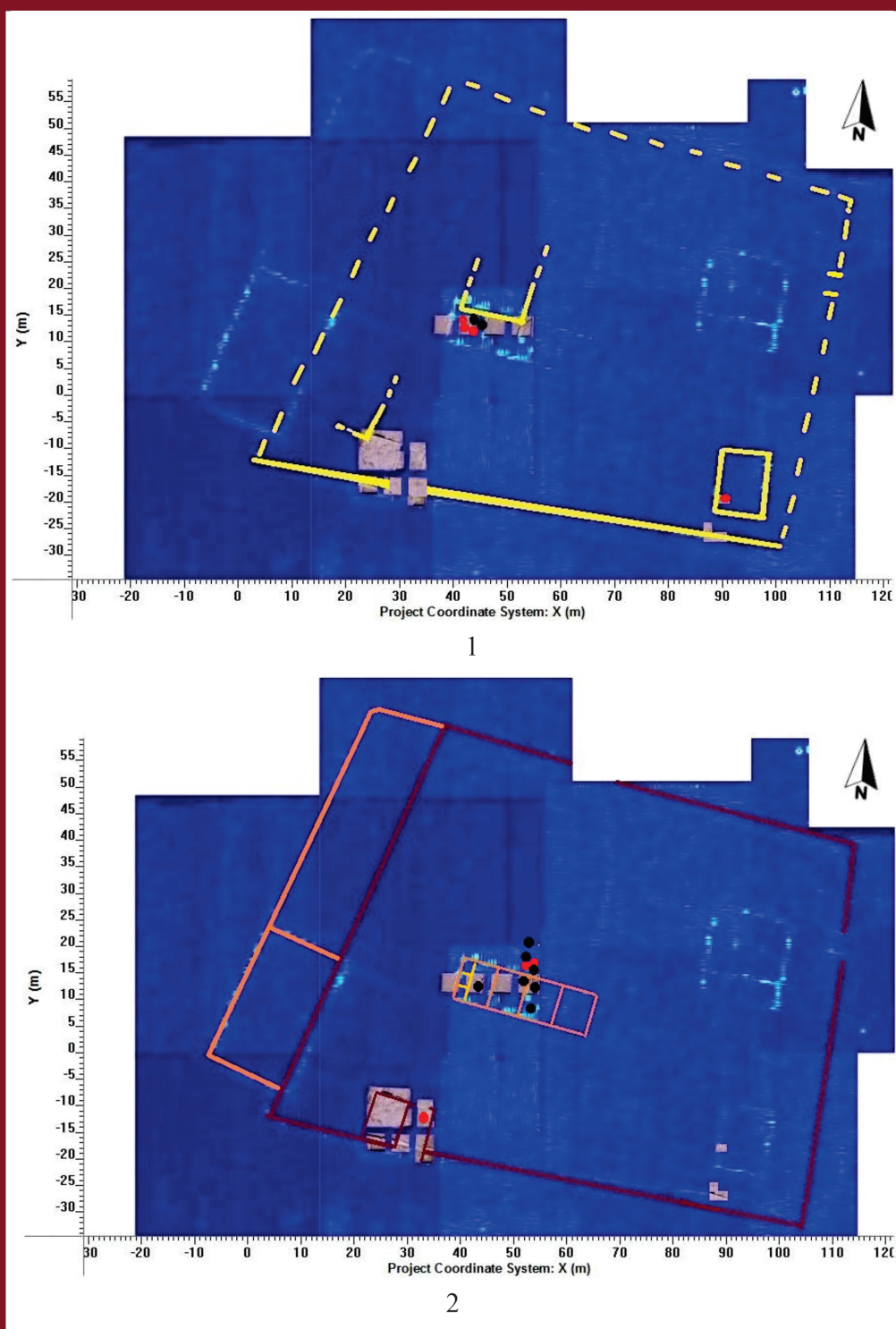
Pl. 1. Site Rapoltu Mare - *La vie*: 1. Topography of site with the excavated areas, 2020 (topographic measurements by A. Șuteu); 2. GPR prospections (GRONCIAR 2017)





Pl. 2. Site Rapoltu Mare - *La vie*, coins in context:

1. The start up (\*phase 0);
2. Destruction layer of the 1st phase (Sp II, S 12)
3. Southern gateway and the building attached - 2nd phase (Sp I)
4. The phases' order on the area Sp I: Z6, Z7 - 1st phase; Z3, Z4 - 2nd phase
5. The partitioned building from central part, area Sp II - 2nd phase
6. The phases' order on the area Sp II: Z24, Z33 - 1st phase; Z23, Z32 - 2nd phase



Pl. 3. Site Rapoltu Mare - *La vie*, the distribution of coins (red dot - bronze; black dot - denarius)  
 1. 1st phase  
 2. 2nd phase