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DAILY BREAD FOR THE AFTERLIFE OR FEEDING THE PEOPLE? POTTERY AS STATUS MARKER IN AN OUTSTANDING BURIAL FROM VALEA STÂNII NECROPOLIS (ROMANIA)

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Abstract. The main component of the archaeological site at Valea Stânii (Argeş County, Romania) is a cremation necropolis (about 40 small barrows covered with river stones, now almost completely flattened) belonging to the Early Iron Age South-Carpathian group Ferigile. The field research program's excavations started here in 2014 and continuing to this day, so Valea Stânii represents the most recently explored Ferigile group's necropolis. The article focuses on the barrow no. 4 from the necropolis (excavated during 2015 season), an outstanding funeral complex containing a double cremation tomb under stone sheet (8 m in diameter). According to the anthropological determinations, the owners of the grave were an adult woman and a subadult individual of unidentified sex. The grave goods consisted in both weapons (battle ax, arrowheads, knife), adornments (a fragment of a bronze bracelet, iron pin, glass and kaolin beads) as well as prestige items (a set of red deer canine imitations made in antler). Striking is the large amount of pottery in this double grave that far exceeds the quantity of ceramics from the "ordinary" tombs at Valea Stânii: fragments of about 45 ceramic vessels of different shapes, dimensions and qualities were collected, thus a "table set" capable not only to provide to the dead the ritual meal in the journey for the afterlife, but also to sustain a rich funeral feast (at the pyre and in the presence of the deceased) for the whole collectivity, taking into account the estimated proportions for such Early Iron Age communities.

Key words: Early Iron Age, Ferigile group, funerary rites and rituals, grave goods, pottery.

During the previous meeting on Early Iron Age in Central Europe held in the summer of 2015 at Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, I presented the opening of a new field research program managed by the Argeş County Museum from Piteşti, in a necropolis belonging to the South-Carpathian Early Iron Age, at Valea Stânii, Argeş County, in the south-central part of Romania (Fig. 1) (Măndescu 2018).

From then on it was obvious than the peculiarities of the rite (exclusively incineration), and the funerary ritual, as well as the grave goods allowed the assigning of this necropolis to the archaeological group Ferigile. This name, adopted after the eponymous site (today a hamlet in Costeşti commune, Vâlcea County, 25 km westward of Râmnicu Vâlcea), defines a horizon of necropolises of incineration in small barrows covered with stones, stretched out towards the latter period of the Early Iron Age in the high sub-montaneous area of Oltenia and Muntenia, in nowadays territory of Vâlcea and Argeş Counties (Vulpe 1967, 101–104, pl. 41).

The excavations at Valea Stânii began in 2014 and these are still in progress. After the first excavation season finalized with some relevant results, from 2015 onward this necropolis has been part of the systematic annual archaeological research plan in Romania. The site, consisting of about 40 small barrows covered with river stones, today almost completely flattened and looking more like stone platforms due to the yearly agricultural work systematically carried out there, is

the most recently explored Ferigile group's necropolis. Until now 19 barrows, which represent almost a half of the entire necropolis, were explored. Some preliminary reports illustrating the general characteristics of the site have been published already (Măndescu 2016; 2018). The area has been very suitable for living from ancient times until today, and in the territory of the necropolis there are traces of other sites from different eras and belonging to different cultures that overlap or are superimposed by the barrows. The Iron Age necropolis overlaps the southwestern edge of a Bronze Age settlement (Tei culture, the 2nd millennium BC). Some mounds in the northeastern and central sectors of the necropolis are affected by a Roman period settlement (Militari-Chilia culture, 3rd century AD). Also, the northern fringes of the necropolis are overlapped by traces of a late medieval settlement (the 17th–18th centuries). Finally, the nowadays village Valea Stânii overlaps the eastern edge of the cemetery. So, we are dealing with an area with multiple objectives of interest (with a prevalence of the Iron Age necropolis), dating back the prehistory to today.

Regarding the methodology of the archaeological research at the Early Iron Age necropolis of Valea Stânii, it must be said that the excavations are hampered by the land ownership regime, which is divided into many small private properties, thus, a unitary approach was excluded from the very beginning. The area of the necropolis is currently occupied by agricultural crops, which creates additional difficulties for



Fig. 1. Valea Stânii. Location of the archaeological site.

archaeological research. No geophysical survey has yet been carried out at the site, so the excavations have focused directly on the barrows visible on the surface of the area and have also been guided by the evidence provided by the scattered river stones from the damaged barrow mantles, often uncovered and dispersed by plowing during the annual agricultural activities. The barrows were investigated individually using the altimetric method; the investigated area was divided into four (usually) or two square units of variable size according to the dimension of the mantle and aligned according to the cardinal points. A single one or two perpendicular balks of 0.5 m in width were preserved along the median area of the barrow. The vegetation layer was excavated manually by shovel, followed by the cleaning of the river stones that make up the mantle by spatulas and brushes. After being documented the stones in the mantle were measured, drawn and photographed and the boulders were removed. The last stage was the excavation of the grave itself, also using spatulas and trowels. The size, position and relationship of the components of the funeral assemblage were measured and recorded *in situ*, then everything was extracted (ideally with as much surrounding soil as possible) and transported to the Argeş County Museum's laboratory in Piteşti (23 km away) for cleaning and primary restoration. The identification, extraction and

cleaning of incinerated bones and small grave goods found between them took place in the laboratory and not on the site. When the research and documentation of the graves in the field was finished, for safety reasons, an of about 0.2 m thick band was excavated across the entire area of the square units in the upper natural layer. The excavation was finished at a depth of usually -0.70/0.75 m. Next, the profiles within the stratigraphic column were documented using drawings and photos, after which the balks were gradually dismantled and investigated according to the method outlined above. After completing the excavation of each tumulus, the stones from the mantle were removed from the field and deposited along the fringes of the agricultural area, and the square units filled in and leveled to re-enter the agricultural circuit.

This paper focuses on barrow no. 4 in the necropolis, which was an archaeological complex located in the northeast extremity of the necropolis (Fig. 2) and explored by our team during the 2015 archaeological season. This barrow had an approximately round shape with a diameter of about 8 m (an average size for the necropolis at Valea Stânii) and contained a central grave. Its southwest sector was overlaid by a distinct barrow, noted as the barrow no. 5, having an oval shape, and with a more compact mantle made by slightly bigger stones than those used for the mantle of barrow no. 4 (Fig. 3).

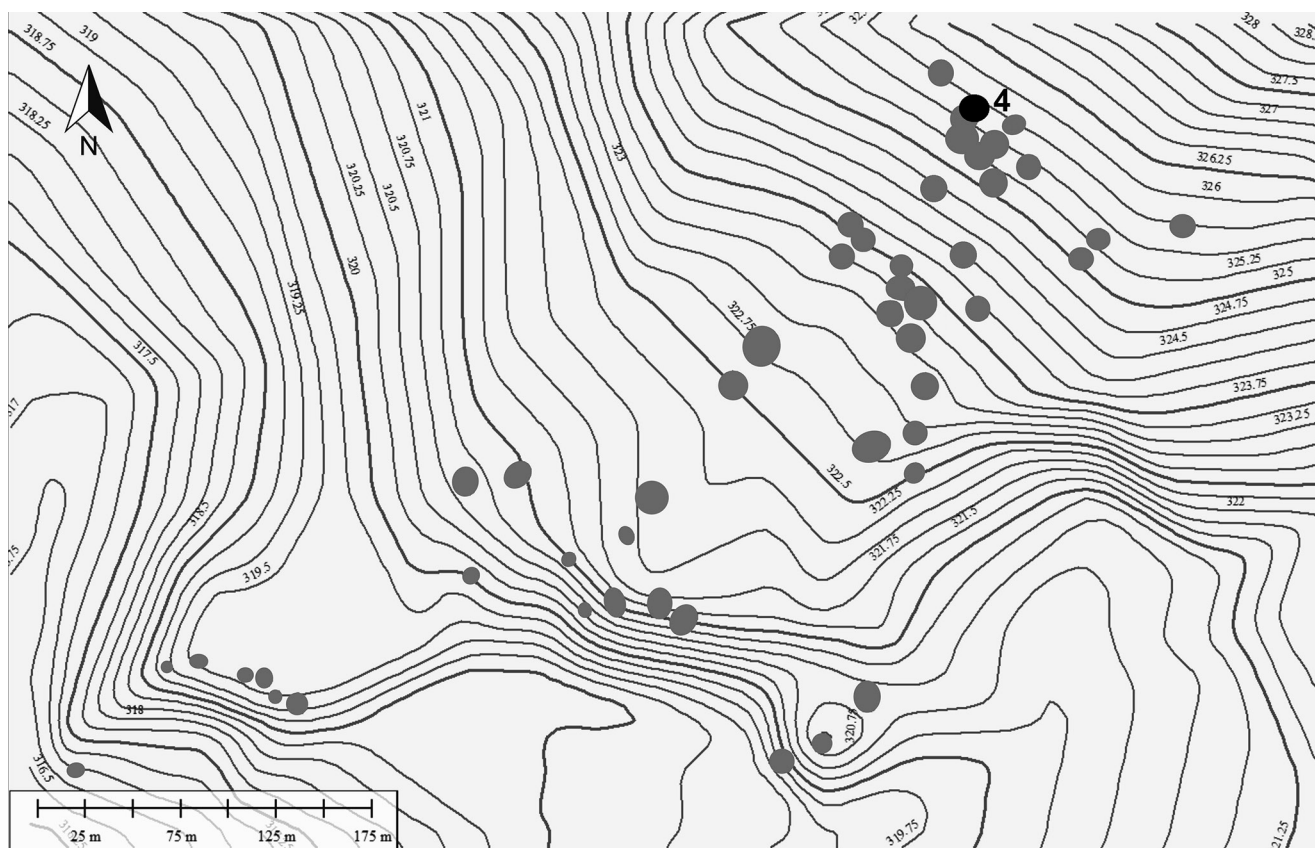


Fig. 2. Location of barrow no. 4 on Valea Stăinii necropolis plan (2019 stage). Layout by D. Ștefan and D. Măndescu.

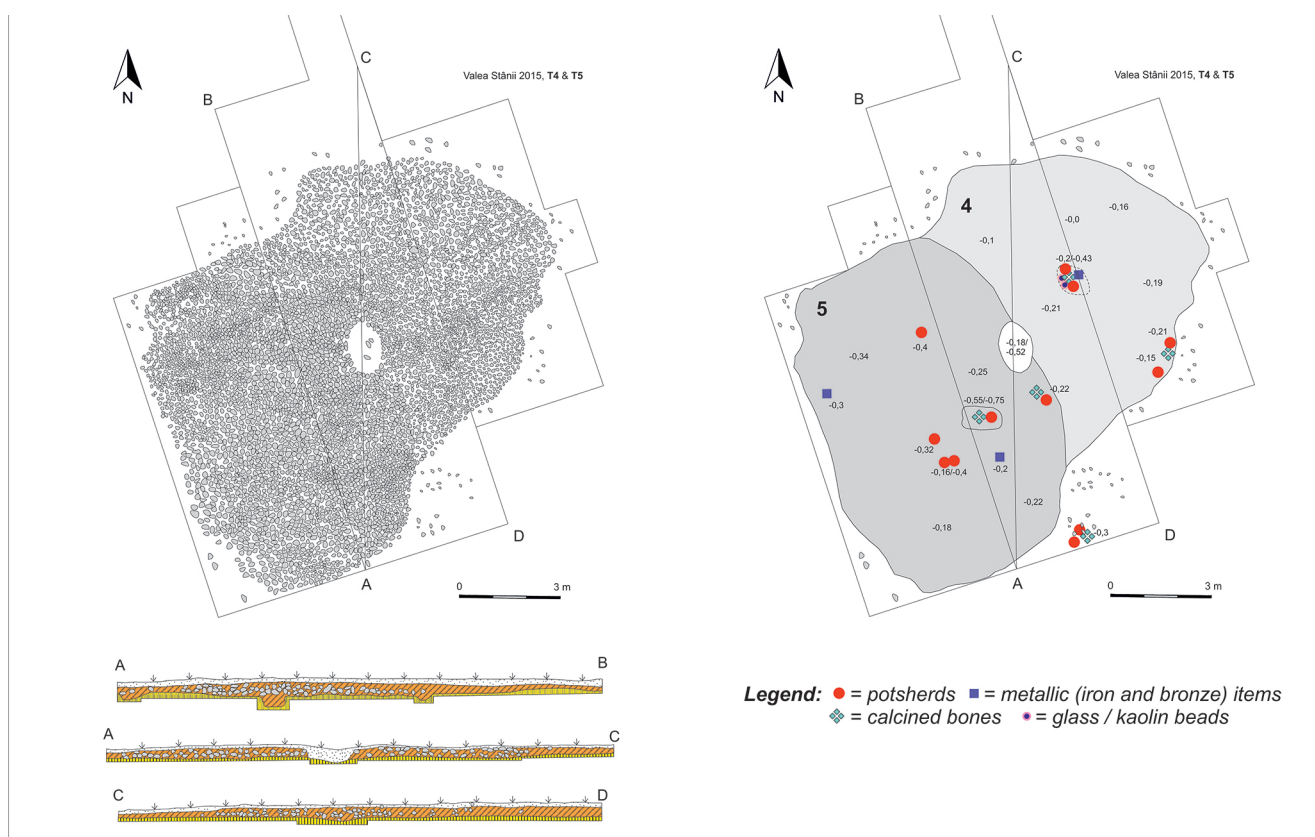


Fig. 3. Barrows nos. 4 and 5 from Valea Stăinii. Plan, profiles, depths details and the finds layout under the stone sheet.

The grave was a double one, where two distinct groups of cremated human bones¹ were placed side by side, the first one belonging to an adult woman, 20–50 years old, and the second one belonging to a subadult individual, 15–20 years old, whose sex could not be established (Măndescu *et al.* 2019, 304, Fig. 3). The color and appearance of the bones show that both bodies were probably cremated under similar conditions and possibly at the same time. With over one kilogram of bones from two individuals, the amount of calcined bones taken from the pyre and placed in this grave was well above the quantity usually seen in the funeral ritual of Valea Stânii and of Ferigile group in general (Măndescu *et al.* 2017, 22–25, tab. 1–2). The cremated bones (burned at a temperature of above 800°C, not on the spot, but on a pyre located somewhere else, in an unknown place) and the grave goods also showing obvious traces of burning, found at a depth of between –0.3 m and –0.5 m were deposited on the ancient occupational level or possibly in a slight depression of the ground.

Everything was afterwards covered with a heap of river boulders of different sizes arranged into at least two layers, resulting in a small barrow (nowadays flattened by modern plowing). A large number of potsherds belonging to hand-modelled vessels (storage vessels but also table-ware), some of them displaying clear Ferigile stylistic features, were deposited mainly in the center of the barrow, in area of the grave, where they melted with the calcined bones and the grave goods artefacts. Vessel fragments were also found on the southeastern fringes of the barrow together with few fragments of cremated bones.

Personal adornments, particularly hundreds of kaolin, clay and glass beads as well as fragments of shells, fragments of an iron pin and a fragment probably from a bronze bracelet but also a fragment of knife and few arrowheads in iron were found together with the bones of the adult female. Among the calcined bones of the subadult individual a set of red deer canine imitations in antler as prestige items (Măndescu *et al.* 2019) and some iron weapons (a double edged axe, knife, arrowheads, and a fragment possibly of a spearhead) were found. It is obvious that this subadult individual was given a warrior's burial, deliberate intending a high status representation in the afterlife.

The first radiocarbon absolute dating of the grave, obtained on a single one sample of a calcined bone fragment belonging to the subadult individual (Poz-86140, 14C age 2550 ± 35 BP), indicating preponderantly the first half and the middle of the 8th century BC (Măndescu *et al.* 2017, 32–33, Fig. 5; Măndescu *et al.* 2019, 305, Fig. 4), however almost a century earlier than the emergence of the Ferigile group considered to occur at around the mid-7th century BC (Vulpe 1977, 85–87; 1990, 126). It would be tempting to believe that this dating may have the potential to push the beginnings of the Ferigile group back in time, but it is premature to draw such conclusions based on a single clue. In addition, the problem of radiocarbon dating of burnt bones (collagen-free samples) is still subject to criticism and, moreover, we need

to keep an eye on the possible „reservoir effect” responsible for errors such as the distorted aging of bone samples (Soficaru *et al.* 2018, 20–25, 32–34, Fig. 14). Therefore, for the present, we prefer to remain cautious and quite reserved, at least until more samples from Ferigile milieu radiocarbon-dated for this early interval will be available. However, this early date was subsequently tempered by a second dating obtained on a charred wood sample from the same grave (Poz-119364, 14C age 2455 ± 30 BP), the most probable dating, suggested by the years in sigma 2, being the 6th or even the 5th century BC (the so-called „Hallstatt plateau”). This second dating provided by 14C proves to be much more in accordance with the relative chronology of the grave, which according to the ceramic shapes and ornamentation, but also according to the typology of the grave goods weapons (the arrowheads and the axe), corresponds to the Ferigile-North phase (Vulpe 1977, 88–91, Abb. 13–17), at the earliest to a stage corresponding to the transition from the Ferigile-South phase to Ferigile-North. Although for the time being it is nothing more than a compromise solution, proceeding to a crude, statistical mediation of the two radiocarbon data resulting for tumulus 4 from Valea Stânii we will obtain a date anytime in the range the 8th century – the second third of the 6th century BC, most likely during the time span of the second half of the 7th century and the first half of the 6th century BC (so within the traditional chronological limits of the Ferigile group). This hypothetical situation would again indicate a concordance with the typology of the grave goods, as that absolute dating would be able to reflect in the relative internal chronology of the Ferigile group the transition from the Ferigile-South phase to the next stage (Ferigile-North) and the beginnings of the Ferigile-North phase.

Undoubtedly, the pair of individuals in the grave enjoyed great prestige within the community during their life – some of the elements of funeral ritual used by the community for the funeral ceremony are eloquent for this. Striking is the impressive amount of pottery in this grave that far exceeds the quantity of ceramics from the “ordinary” tombs in this necropolis: out of the total of 2434 Early Iron Age potsherds collected from the grave (weighing 27.3 kg), 1473 representing 60.5% can be attributed to at least 46 recognized ceramic vessels of different shapes, dimensions and qualities, but roughly evenly assigned for liquids and solid food storage and consumption. So, there are six bowls (Fig. 4: 1, 5: 1, 6: 1–2, 7: 4, 8: 7), nine dishes (Fig. 7: 1–3, 8: 1–6), nine jugs (Fig. 9: 1–2; 10: 1–4; 11: 2–6, one unillustrated), 13 cups (Fig. 11: 1; 12: 1–11, one unillustrated), one big bellied pot (Fig. 13: 19) and at least eight different jars (Fig. 13: 6–14, 16–17), all hand-modelled. In addition, other batches of potsherds from different eras, in secondary position, were collected from the barrow area, coming from the sites that partially overlap or are superimposed by the Iron Age necropolis. First of all, there is a consistent batch of 235 potsherds from the Bronze Age (fragments of rims, handles, walls decorated with sinuous belt, bases – Fig. 12: 12–18; 13: 1–5, 15, 18), generally from coarse thick-walled vessels (supply vessels, jars, double handled pots *kantharos* type), having a red-fired fabric, clay with many gravel particles. There are also five late medieval potsherds,

¹ The anthropological processing and study of the human remains from Valea Stânii necropolis is carried out by dr. Mihai Constantinescu («Francisc I Rainer» Institute of Anthropology, Bucharest).

wheel-turned ceramic, red-fired fabric, sometimes covered with green enamel. Finally, a single one gray fragment from a Roman period wheel-turned pot was found.

None of these vessels is complete and so is most of the non-ceramic funerary inventory of the grave. All the Early Iron Age potsherds belong to the common and widespread pottery in the Ferigile group's necropolises, having a predominant brown, reddish or dark gray color, weakly fired, with a blackish core and poor consistency. As degreasing substance were used usually sand and small white gravel and sometimes crushed ceramic shards. The groove-type decoration (crossed, spiral, oblique, garland, volutes grooves) is widely encountered, usually associated with the polished surface of the vessel. Some fragments show traces of secondary firing. It is clear that all these fragments were brought already broken from the funeral pyre, together with the calcined bones of the two individuals and their personal belongings, and then randomly discarded on the grave spot without any particular order or default rule. Many of the ceramic fragments were probably left behind at the burning spot, where most important part of the funerary ritual and ceremony, including the pot-breaking, seems to have taken place.

The potsherds with traces of secondary firing, as well as some of the deceased's personal adornments, such as kaolin and glass beads, melted and attached to the surface of the vessels, show that at least in part the ceramic group was in contact with the fire at the funeral pyre and even with the burned corpses. So, it is certain that some of the vessels accompanied the deceased on the pyre, containing food offerings, the ritual meal supplies for a safe and comfortable journey of the dead to the world beyond. In the same time, the strong fragmentation of the pottery can therefore be due not only to the ritual breakage, but also to the contact with the fire of the funeral pyre and exposure to heat variation, as the results of the experimental archaeology suggest (Becker *et al.* 2005, 115–117, 150–151, Abb. 22).

But such a significant amount of pottery certainly exceeded even the most opulent offerings intended exclusively to the deceased in afterlife, and as „the dead do not bury themselves” (Parker-Pearson 1999, 3), in a such big “table set” as the one in barrow no. 4 we should distinguish the traces of a rich funeral feast including consumption of food and drinks (at the pyre and in the presence of the deceased) with the participation of the whole mourning collectivity. To these ceramic containers, initially full of food and beverages consumed around the pyre and broken on the spot after emptying, belong the vast majority of the sherds that are later deposited in grave. There is obvious the intentional, systematic destruction of the ceramic vessels that probably contained the food products consumed in the funeral feast. This situation is a typical one for the necropolises of the group and has been noticed ever since the exploration of the eponymous necropolis at Ferigile (Vulpe 1967, 23–24), located at roughly 70 kilometers away to the West from Valea Stânii. Moreover, the poor quality of ceramics (especially the weak firing, with an obvious superficiality in which we should perceive not so much a lack of technology as especially the hastiness of production) gives the impression that these pots

were made only for the moment of the burial itself and were not suitable for an everyday use.

The connection of the funeral ceremony with the community and with the funeral feast is also strengthened by the fragment of the ceramic firedog in the shape of pyramid trunk (approx. one quarter of the piece is preserved, the rest being broken, destroyed – Fig. 14: 38) recovered among the stones from the southeastern fringe of barrow no. 4 embankment, in the same area being also found many potsherds and few calcined bones. This kind of item, related to the hearth, the stability of the domestic habitat and the community, is not a unique occurrence in the graves of Ferigile group. In the barrow no. 17 from the necropolis at Tigveni, several pits contained deposits of lumps of adobe walls (Popescu, Vulpe 1982, 98), and in two tombs from the flat necropolis from Ferigile fragments from the edges of hearth were found (Vulpe 1967, 75, fig. 25).

The great amount of pottery used at the burial banquet of the two important individuals in barrow no. 4 even seems to exceed the real needs of the community, taking into account the estimated proportions for such Early Iron Age collectivities. For example, the demographic projections proposed by the anthropologists, based on statistical calculations, estimated the size of the community on the Ferigile site, with a necropolis three times larger than that from Valea Stânii, to a maximum of about 80 individuals. Of these, the adult members of the community, so those – supposedly – who were directly involved in the funeral ceremony, should have represented a quarter (Nicolaescu-Plopșor, Wolski 1975, 92).

Moreover, neither in a large necropolis, such as the one at Ferigile, having 150 barrows, nor in any other necropolis of the group, not so much pottery can be found deposited in a single grave as in barrow no. 4 from Valea Stânii. A reasonable average of the quantity of vessels deposited in the group's graves, of a slightly over 10 vessels per barrow, is provided by the situation at Ferigile, where in all the 150 explored barrows were found potsherds belonging to 1570 different vessels (Vulpe 1967, 24). Until now, the record of pottery contained by a grave was held by the barrow no. 17 from Tigveni with 32 vessels (Popescu, Vulpe 1982, 98–99, Fig. 20), followed by the barrow no. 5 from Cepari, with around 27 vessels (Popescu, Vulpe 1982, 88, fig. 10). So, far away from the over 40 vessels from the barrow presented here. The grave from Tigveni was robbed sometime in the 19th century, so that the situation obtained for the pottery in the grave may be incomplete, but in the grave from Cepari was buried an important warrior chief, with a complete panoply of weapons and horse harness parts (Popescu, Vulpe 1980, 261–263, Fig. 2–3).

Unfortunately, the analysis of the ceramics from these graves cannot reveal a certain standard regarding the composition of the set of vessels for the funeral ceremony: as in the Valea Stânii case, in the tomb from Tigveni the cups predominate (nine exemplars, representing almost a third of the total pottery in the grave, namely 28%); on the other hand, in the tomb at Cepari the majority is held by the bowls (ten exemplars, representing more than a third of the total pottery in the grave, namely 37%).

Returning to our topic, such a big funeral banquet as the one suspected in the case of barrow no. 4, does not match the likely modest size of Valea Stânii community. The food and drink quantities consumed on the occasion of the funeral far exceeded the needs of the mourners and of the adult community in general, even if some opulent waste should always be considered. It is therefore supposed that members of other groups – belonging to some external, foreign or related communities – to be involved and to participate at this funeral, which is not at all improbably given the rank and the high status of the deceased.

In fact, some clues are provided even by the grave goods of this tomb. Two elements – attested here for the first time for the Ferigile group – point towards a northwestern origin, to some foreign cultural *milieux*. The tiny kaolin beads put in the grave together with the adult female bones probably have a Transylvanian origin (Măndescu *et al.* 2017, 16–17, Fig. 4), since a high density of such kind of adornments was widely documented as distinctive pattern in the female graves of the contemporary Ciumbrud group in Transylvania (Vasiliev 1980, 99–100, pl. 18/1). Further, the set of red deer canine imitations in antler, found among the subadult bones (Măndescu *et al.* 2019), knows a relevant analogy also in a foreign cultural *milieu* from the northwest, namely the set of eight perforated red deer canines in tomb 37 (probably adult male) at Füzesabony-”Kettőshalom” (Heves, Hungary),

belonging to the pre-Scythian Füzesabony-Mezőcsát horizon (Patek 1990, 63, pl. 10/5–12).

There are enough particular categories of grave goods discovered in the tombs from Valea Stânii, for the first time attested in the cultural milieu of Ferigile group (kaolin beads, bronze arrowheads, armor scales, colored mineral pigment), suggesting stable connections between this community and those north of the Carpathians, from the Ciumbrud group. Perhaps in this group concentrated in Central Transylvania, on the Mureș valley (Vasiliev 1980), should be sought the surplus of participants in the funeral ceremony of the two deceased from barrow no. 4. From the perspective of the unique grave good items from Valea Stânii, the connectivity relationship between the Ferigile and Ciumbrud groups becomes for the first time more well defined, as an alternative that can no longer be denied or ignored. Nor could it be otherwise, if we consider that the main mountain passes connecting Transylvania with the Sub-Carpathian high hills of Muntenia and Oltenia (Rucăr-Bran Pass, respectively Turnu Roșu Pass, on the Olt Valley) are to be found in the immediate northern neighborhood of the core area of the Ferigile group territory.

This grave under barrow no. 4 from Valea Stânii reinforces the idea that in all the periods of Pre- and Proto-history, including the Early Iron Age, the small communities, apparently modest and common ones, are able to offer unexpected surprises and great challenges at any time.

THE COMPLETE CATALOGUE OF THE FINDS IN THE BARROW NO. 4 AT VALEA STÂNII

1. Bowl. Truncated cone shaped body, carenated shoulder with four slightly embossed horseshoe-like handles, wide-rimmed. Black, smoothed surface, spiral and crossed grooves decoration on the inside; brown, coarse surface on the outside; fabric with sand. 99 potsherds of which 70 in connection. Rim diameter 40 cm, base diameter 11 cm, wall thickness 0.8–0.9 cm, height 22.5 cm (Fig. 4: 1).

2. Bowl. Truncated cone shaped body, carenated shoulder, wide-rimmed. Black, smoothed surface, spiral and crossed grooves decoration on the inside; light-brown, with traces of secondary firing on the outside. 163 potsherds of which 99 in connection. Rim diameter 32 cm, base diameter 9.5 cm, wall thickness 0.6–0.7 cm, height 14.7 cm (Fig. 4: 2).

3. Bowl. Truncated cone shaped body, heavy carenated shoulder, wide-rimmed. The base is entirely missing. Light brown, smoothed surface, two concentric and crossed grooves decoration on the inside; light brown on the outside; homogeneous fabric. 76 potsherds of which 17 in connection. Rim diameter 40 cm, wall thickness 0.7–0.8 cm, height preserved 9.5 cm (Fig. 6: 1).

4. Bowl. Truncated cone shaped body, carenated high shoulder, wide-rimmed. The foot is entirely missing. Glossy black, smoothed surface, volutes and crossed grooves decoration on the inside; light-brown, coarse surface on the outside; fabric with sand. 136 potsherds of which 58 in connection. Rim diameter ca. 41 cm, base diameter ca. 9.5 cm, wall thickness 0.7 cm, height ca. 14.5 cm (Fig. 6: 2).

5. Bowl. Truncated cone shaped body, with four handles on the upper part, twisted-like grooved rim. The base is entirely missing. Dark-brown, smoothed surface on the inside; reddish-brown, coarse surface on the outside; fabric with sand. Obvious traces of secondary firing as red brick stains on the both surfaces. 86 potsherds of which 66 in connection. Rim diameter 33 cm, wall thickness 0.8–1.2 cm, height preserved 12.2 cm (Fig. 7: 4).

6. Bowl. Truncated cone shaped body, the rim bent inwardly. Glossy black on the inside; blackish-brown on the outside; fabric with sand. 57 potsherds of which 35 in connection. Rim diameter 24 cm, maximum diameter 25 cm, base diameter 8 cm, height 9.7 cm (Fig. 8: 7).

7. Dish. Wide-rimmed. Yellowish-brown; crossed grooves decoration on the inside. Two potsherds from the rim. Polished surface. Rim diameter ca. 20 cm (Fig. 7: 2).

8. Dish. The rim vertically raised. Only one small potsherd (height of about 3 cm) from the rim preserved. Brown surfaces, black at the edge. The diameter cannot be reconstructed (Fig. 7: 1).

9. Dish. The rim vertically raised, slightly bent inwardly. Hemispherical body. Four small prominences as handles under the rim. Yellowish-brown, smoothed outer surface but careless modelling and poor fired (black at the edge). Paste tempered with small white gravel, sand and crushed potsherds. Large stains of reddish color as trace of heavy secondary firing on the both surfaces occurred before the

breaking (27 pieces). Rim diameter 19.8 cm, maximum diameter 21.8 cm, base diameter 8 cm, wall thickness 0.6–0.9 cm, height 8.8 cm (Fig. 7: 3).

10. Dish. The rim bent inwardly. Only two small potsherds (height of about 4 cm) from the rim preserved. Vertical thin prominence covering at the outside the rim and the shoulder. Reddish-brown surfaces, black at the edge. The diameter cannot be reconstructed (Fig. 8: 1).

11. Dish. The rim bent inwardly. Only one potsherd preserved but enough for the reconstitution of the upper part. Gray. Rim diameter 16 cm, maximum diameter 16.8 cm (Fig. 8: 2).

12. Dish, 13 pieces, six in connection. The rim bent inwardly. Four small prominences as handles on the maximum diameter, under the rim. Gray; micaceous paste with small white gravel. Traces of secondary firing on the both surfaces, some stains being brownish-red and some others being blackish. Rim diameter 14 cm, maximum diameter 15.8 cm, base diameter 10 cm, wall thickness 0.5–0.7 cm, height 5.3 cm (Fig. 8: 3).

13. Dish, 21 potsherds of which 11 in connection. The rim bent inwardly. Four prominences as handles on the maximum diameter, under the rim. Fabric with small gravel particles, weakly fired and careless modelling. Yellowish-brown with reddish stains (secondary firing) on the outside, grayish on the inside. Rim diameter 16 cm, maximum diameter 17 cm, base diameter 8 cm, wall thickness 0.6–0.7 cm, height 6.6 cm (Fig. 8: 4).

14. Dish. The rim bent inwardly. Only one potsherd preserved but enough for the reconstitution of the upper part. Angular prominence as handle placed between the rim and the maximum diameter. Reddish-brown. Rim diameter 17 cm, maximum diameter 18.5 cm (Fig. 8: 5).

15. Dish, 18 potsherds of which ten in connection. The rim bent inwardly. Four protruded prominences as handles immediately under the maximum diameter. Micaceous fabric with small gravel particles. Slightly deformed. Brown on the outside, dark brown on the inside. Rim diameter 18 cm, maximum diameter 20 cm, base diameter 7 cm, wall thickness 0.6–0.9 cm, height 7.5 cm (Fig. 8: 6).

16. Jug, 103 potsherds of which 29 in connection. Bitruncated body, short neck, slightly thickened rim. Small prominences (probably three, preserved only one) on the shoulder. The handle (probable higher than the rim) is missing. Decorated with oblique grooves on the belly. Brown. Rim diameter 14 cm, maximum diameter 19 cm, base diameter 10.7 cm, wall thickness 0.9–1.1 cm, height 15 cm (Fig. 9: 1).

17. Jug, 236 potsherds of which 116 in connection. Globular body, high neck, wide-rimmed. Small prominences (probably three) on the shoulder and under the maximum diameter. Decorated with two parallel grooves on the neck and also with garland grooves on the belly. Dark-brown and dark-gray with smoothed surface on the outside, reddish-gray on the inside, fabric with sand and crushed potsherds. Rim diameter 19 cm, maximum diameter 25 cm, base diameter 13.5 cm, height ca. 30 cm (Fig. 9: 2).

18. Jug, 20 potsherds of which five in connection. Globular body, high neck. Small vertical prominences (probably

three) on the shoulder. The handle (probable higher than the rim) is missing except its inferior part. Nothing was left from the base. Brown color, homogenous fabric, smoothed surface on the outside, black at the edge. Rim diameter 10.3 cm, maximum diameter 15 cm, preserved height 14 cm (Fig. 10: 1).

19. Jug, 24 potsherds of which 12 in connection. Bitruncated body, high neck. The rim is missing. The handle round in section. Brown, smoothed surface, homogenous fabric with few particles of white gravel. Estimated rim diameter 11 cm, maximum diameter 13 cm, base diameter 9 cm, wall thickness 0.7–0.8 cm, estimated height ca. 17 cm (Fig. 10: 2).

20. Jug, 24 potsherds of which 12 in connection. Globular body, high neck. Brown on the outside, dark gray on the inside. Micaceous fabric, smoothed surface on the outside, black at the edge. 24 potsherds of which 12 in connection. Rim diameter 12 cm, maximum diameter 17.5 cm, wall thickness 0.8 cm, estimated height ca. 20–22 cm (Fig. 10: 3).

21. Jug, 13 potsherds of which nine in connection. Globular body. Preserved only parts from the body and the base of the handle. Light gray and coarse surface on the outside, dark brown and smoothed surface on the inside. Garland-like grooves on the belly. Fabric with small particles of gravel. Preserved height 12.5 cm, estimated maximum diameter ca. 20 cm, wall thickness 0.8–1 cm (Fig. 10: 4).

22. Jug. Only part of the base is preserved. Dark gray, fabric with rare sand particles. ten potsherds of which eight in connection. Base diameter 8 cm, wall thickness 0.6–0.7 cm (Fig. 11: 2).

23. Jug, 20 potsherds of which eight in connection. Parts from the neck, shoulder, base and handle. The form cannot be reconstructed (possible to be two different exemplars judging by the fragment of shoulders). Gray color, coarse porous surface on the outside, dark brown on the inside. Traces of heavy secondary firing – reddish stains on the both sides. Base diameter 11 cm, wall thickness 0.7–0.8 cm (Fig. 11: 3–6).

24. Jug, 31 potsherds of which 12 in connection. Big dimensions, reddish-brown color. Traces of secondary firing. The shape cannot be reconstituted with enough certainty (unillustrated).

25. Cup, 91 potsherds of which 41 in connection. One handled, with the handle higher than the rim. Hemispherical form, big dimensions. Light brown on the outside, black on the inside. Smoothed surface. Decorated with oblique grooves on the entire outer surface of the body and with concentric grooves on the inner surface. The handle is missing, except its inferior part. Rim diameter ca. 24 cm, base diameter 8.5 cm, wall thickness 0.8–0.9 cm, height ca. 10.5 cm (Fig. 11: 1).

26. Cup, 15 potsherds of which four in connection. Globular body, without handle. No part from the probably wide-rim was preserved. Four small prominences on the shoulder. Dark brown color. Homogenous and clean fabric, without impurities. Smoothed on the surface. Base diameter 7 cm, wall thickness 0.6–0.8 cm, preserved height 7.5 cm (Fig. 12: 1).

27. Cup, 15 potsherds of which ten in connection. Truncated cone shaped body, without handle. The rim bent inwardly. Gray color, traces of heavy secondary firing. Paste with fine gravel grains. Rim diameter 7.5 cm, maximum diameter 8.7, base diameter 4.5 cm, estimated height 6.5 cm (Fig. 12: 2).

28. Cup. Truncated cone shaped body. Only one potsherd from the base is preserved. Gray, with traces of secondary firing. Fabric with small particles of gravel and sand. On the outer surface are stuck two beads belonging to different types, a small one of kaolin and the other one of melted greenish-blue glass. Thin walls, base diameter 5 cm (Fig. 12: 6).

29. Cup. Cup, 11 potsherds of which seven in connection. Bitruncated body, high neck, one handled. No part from the rim and from the base was preserved. Decorated with vertical parallel grooves on the belly. Reddish-gray. Careless modelling and poor fired. Maximum diameter 9 cm, estimated height 8.5 cm (Fig. 12: 7).

30. Cup. Cup, 21 potsherds of which 19 in connection. One handled, with the handle higher than the rim. Truncated cone shaped body. Brown on the outside, black on the inside. Lightly smoothed surface. Decorated with waving grooves on the entire outer surface of the body. A disc-shaped button on the top of the handle. Rim diameter 13 cm, base diameter 6.4 cm, wall thickness 0.5–0.9 cm, height ca. 7 cm (Fig. 12: 9).

31. Cup. 14 potsherds of which nine in connection. Hemispherical form. No part from the handle and the base was preserved. Brown, smoothed surface. Decorated with oblique grooves on the entire outer surface of the body. Rim diameter 11 cm, wall thickness 0.5–0.6 cm, preserved height 5.9 cm (Fig. 12: 8).

32. Cup. Cup, six potsherds Truncated cone shaped body. One handled, the handle (very probably higher than the rim) is missing. Gray color, careless smoothed surface. A disc-shaped button on the top of the handle. Rim diameter 7 cm, base diameter 4 cm, wall thickness 0.4–0.5 cm, height 4 cm (Fig. 12: 10).

33. Cup. Dark-brown color, 24 potsherds, none in connection. The shape cannot be reconstituted (unillustrated).

34–37. Four fragmentary handles (two of them with disc-shaped button on the top), gray and brown color, belonging to four different cups (Fig. 12: 3–5, 11).

38. Big bellied pot, 81 potsherds of which 42 in connection. Bitruncated body, preserved only inferior part with the base. Four big prominences-handles placed diametrically opposite under the maximum diameter. Reddish-brown, black at the edge, red color patches as traces of secondary firing. Maximum diameter 37 cm, base diameter 14 cm, wall thickness 0.9–1.1 cm, preserved height 17.5 cm (Fig. 13: 19).

39. Jar. Only two potsherds from the rim and neck were preserved. Brown color. Diameter of the rim ca. 8 cm (Fig. 13: 6).

40. Jar. 27 potsherds of which five in connection. Globular (?) body, only fragments from the upper part is preserved. Short cylindrical neck, slightly thickened and bent towards outside rim. Reddish-brown color, smoothed surface. Rim diameter 12 cm, wall thickness 0.6–0.7 cm, preserved height 8 cm (Fig. 13: 7).

41. Jar, five potsherds of which four in connection. Only parts form the cylindrical body were preserved, decorated with horizontal relief belt and prominent buttons-handles. Brown color. Paste with sand, smoothed surface and traces of rust from a metallic (iron) object on the inside surface. Wall thickness 0.8 cm, preserved height 7 cm (Fig. 13: 14).

42. Jar. Only the base is preserved. Probably globular body – the inferior part of jar no. 40? Reddish-brown color. Diameter of the base ca. 10 cm (Fig. 13: 17).

43–46. Jars, at least four exemplars from which are preserved seven button-handles (Fig. 10: 8–13, 16). Reddish, brown and gray color, coarse fabric, careless treated surface.

47–50. Small bitruncated **beads** in translucent glass paste. Four exemplars better preserved (Fig. 14: 1–4), others only broken fragments. Traces of heating (slight deformation). Diameter 0.8–0.9 cm, height 0.6–0.7 cm.

51. Big bead in greenish-blue glass paste. Traces of heavy heating (almost complete deformation). Diameter 1.3 cm, length 3.2 cm (Fig. 14: 5).

52. Big cylindrical **bead** in stripes of greenish-blue and white glass paste. Traces of heating (deformation). Diameter 1.6 cm, length 3.7 cm (Fig. 14: 6).

53–54. Two **beads** in greenish blue glass paste and white “eyes”, one almost fully preserved, the other fragmentary. Traces of heating (deformation). Diameter 1.5 cm, height 0.6 cm (Fig. 14: 7–8).

55–65. Eleven better preserved fragments of melted **beads** in translucent light greenish glass paste, many other smallest particles. Traces of heavy heating (melting). Different dimensions. Splinters of calcined bones stuck of some of them (Fig. 14: 9–19).

66. Large bead. Iron. Diameter 2 cm, height 1.3 cm (Fig. 14: 20).

67–338. Considerable amount of small **beads in kaolin** – 272 exemplars (in great majority fully preserved, 49 in fragments), most likely making up a unitary personal adornment set. Standardized shape (small discs with central perforation), ranged in two dimensions: 195 bigger (diameter 0.3–0.45 cm, thickness 0.1–0.12 cm) and 77 smaller (diameter 0.15–0.25 cm, thickness 0.05–0.08 cm) items. Traces of firing, all exemplars were burnt on the funerary pyre. Rugged surface. Light colors in majority (white, gray, yellowish), but also there are some of dark color (pale purple, dark green, dark brick-red) (Fig. 16).

339. Few small fragments from one or two shells used probably as personal adornments. White and gray (no illustration).

340–355. Red deer canine imitations in antler – 16 exemplars (only two fully preserved), with a circular perforation made at the upper end in order to attach them on the garments. Traces of firing (all exemplars were burnt on the funerary pyre, very probably along with the corpse of the subadult individual). Cream color. Length 1.8–2.24 cm, width 0.6–0.85 cm, thickness 0.2–0.5 cm, diameter of the perforations 0.16–0.18 cm (Fig. 15: 1–16).

356. Pin. Iron. Attached fragments of calcined bones. Three fragments preserved. Length 5.5 cm, diameter 0.3–0.4 cm (Fig. 14: 21).

357. Fragment of an open **bracelet.** Bronze. Circular section. Preserved length 3.5 cm, thickness 0.8 cm, estimated diameter about 7.2 cm (Fig. 14: 22).

358–367. Ten fragmentary **arrowheads** (nine almost complete items – Fig. 14: 23–31, from the last one only a small fragment preserved). Iron. Thin, triangular shape, some of the exemplars having a pair of small perforations through

the upper half. Attached fragments of calcined bones. Height 3.5–4.5 cm, thickness 0.2 cm.

368. Battle-axe. Iron. Elongated shape. One edge damaged. Attached fragments of calcined bones. Preserved length 16.5 cm, height 3.2 cm, maximum thickness 3.5 cm (Fig. 14: 32).

369. Socket of a small **spearhead** (?). Iron. Height 6.3 cm (Fig. 14: 33).

370. Battle knife. Iron. Curved blade, concave edge. Broken into six fragments. Attached fragments of calcined bones. Length about 19 cm, maximum width of the blade 2 cm (Fig. 14: 34).

371. Small knife. Iron. Curved blade, concave edge. Two fragment preserved, the tip is missing. Preserved length 5 cm (estimated length 7.5 cm) (Fig. 14: 35).

372. Fragments of a small **knife or** from an **arrowhead**. Iron. Attached fragments of calcined bones. (Fig. 14: 36).

373. Small fragment from an **unidentified item**. Iron (Fig. 14: 37).

374. Ceramic **andiron (firedog)**. Shape of tall truncated pyramid. Reddish-brick color at the surface, greyish core, coarse paste with fine-grained gravel. Traces of secondary

firing. On the middle of the upper side a grooving destined to support the rod. Preserved approx. one quarter of the entire item. Estimated height 17 cm. Upper side approx. 8 × 8 cm. Width of the grooving on the upper side 2 cm (Fig. 14: 38).

The pottery catalogue of barrow no. 4 is completed by a large assemblage consisting of 961 potsherds coming from different parts of the bodies (wall fragments in general, no particularly segment of the vessels, as mouth, base or handle) belonging to Iron Age pottery with obvious Ferigile group's ceramic peculiarities, but which cannot be recognized by shape. In addition, three other sets of potsherds from different periods, in secondary position, were collected from the barrow area, coming from the sites that partially overlap or are superimposed by the Iron Age necropolis: **a)** 235 potsherds from the Bronze Age, red-fired and coarse paste (fragments of rims, handles, walls decorated with sinuous belt, bases – Fig. 12: 12–18; 13: 1–5, 15, 18); **b)** five late medieval potsherds from wheel-turned pottery, red-fired paste, sometimes covered with green enamel (unillustrated); **c)** one gray potsherd from a Roman period wheel-turned pot (unillustrated).

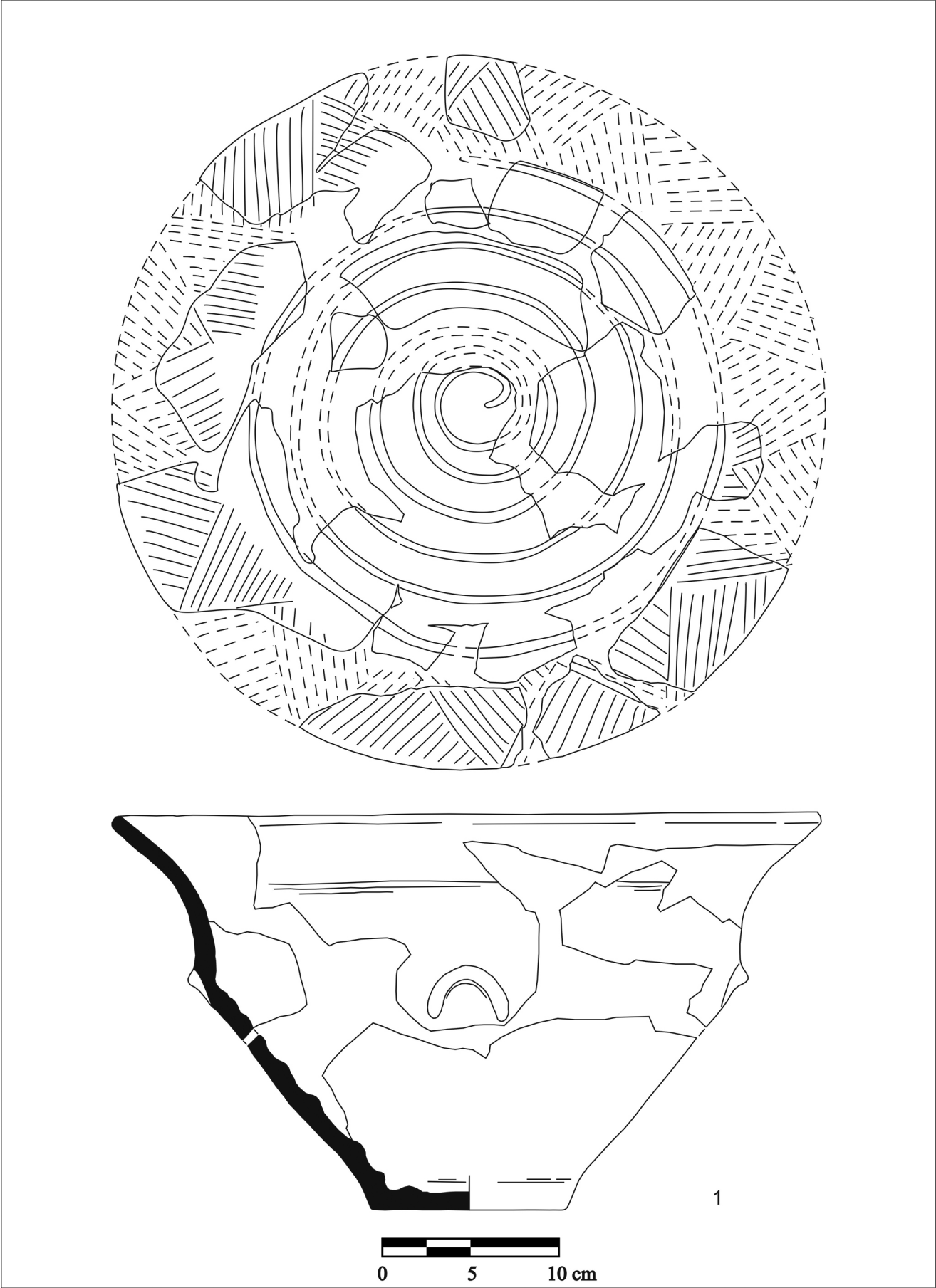


Fig. 4. Valea Stânii, barrow no. 4. 1 Bowl (cat. no. 1). Ceramic.

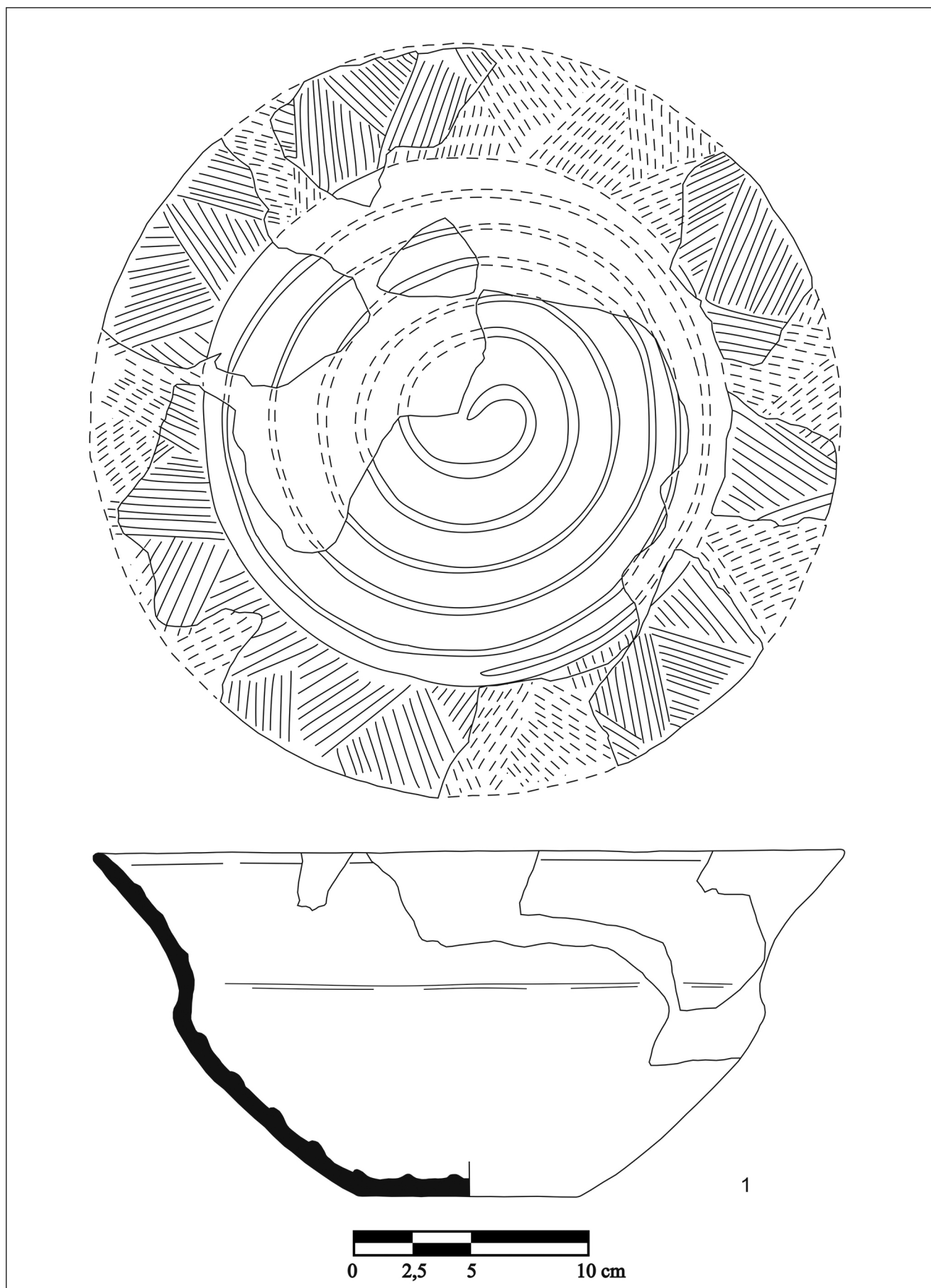


Fig. 5. Valea Stânii, barrow no. 4. 1 Bowl (cat. no. 2). Ceramic.

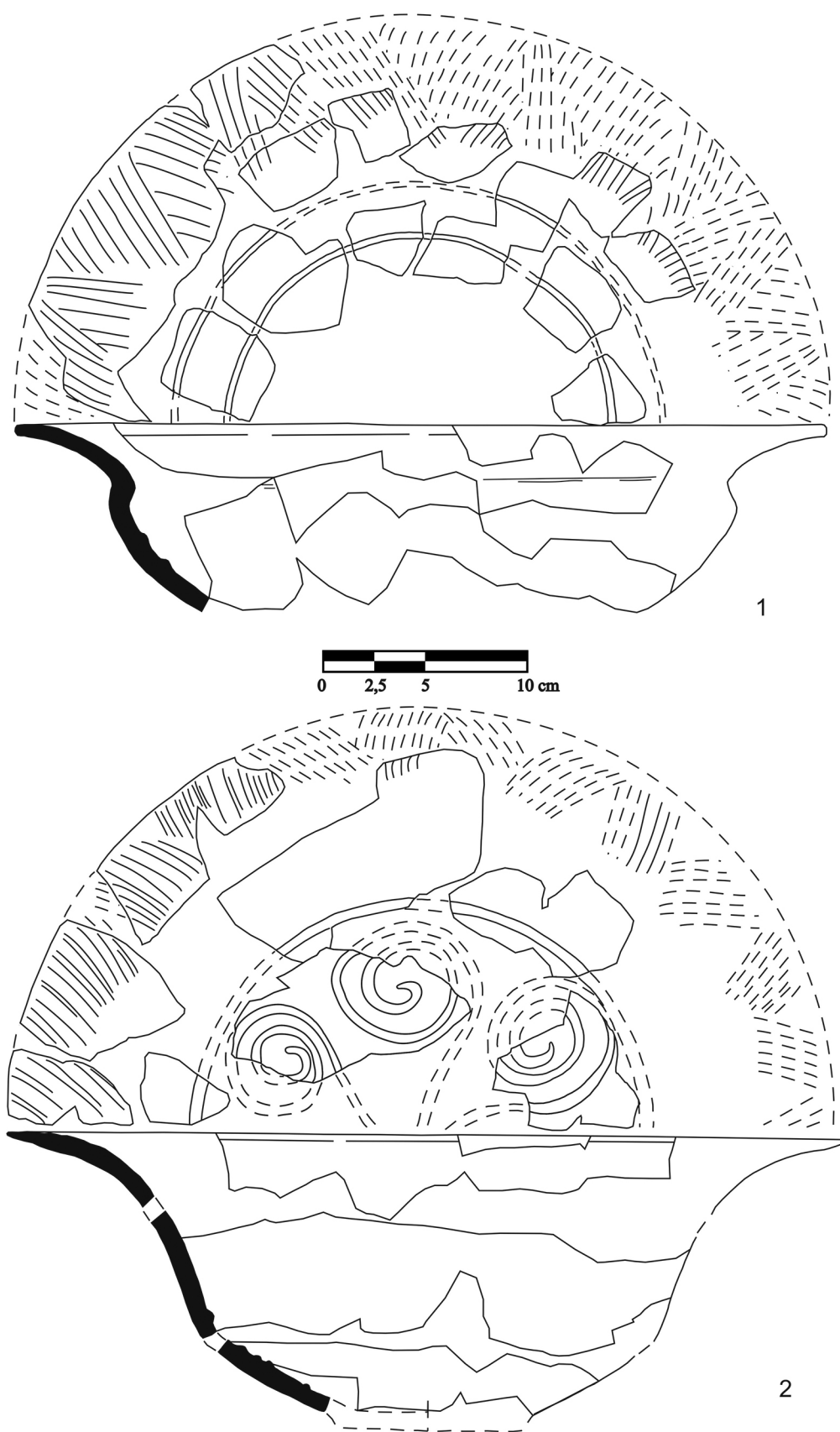


Fig. 6. Valea Stânii, barrow no. 4. 1-2 Bowls (cat. nos. 3-4). Ceramic.

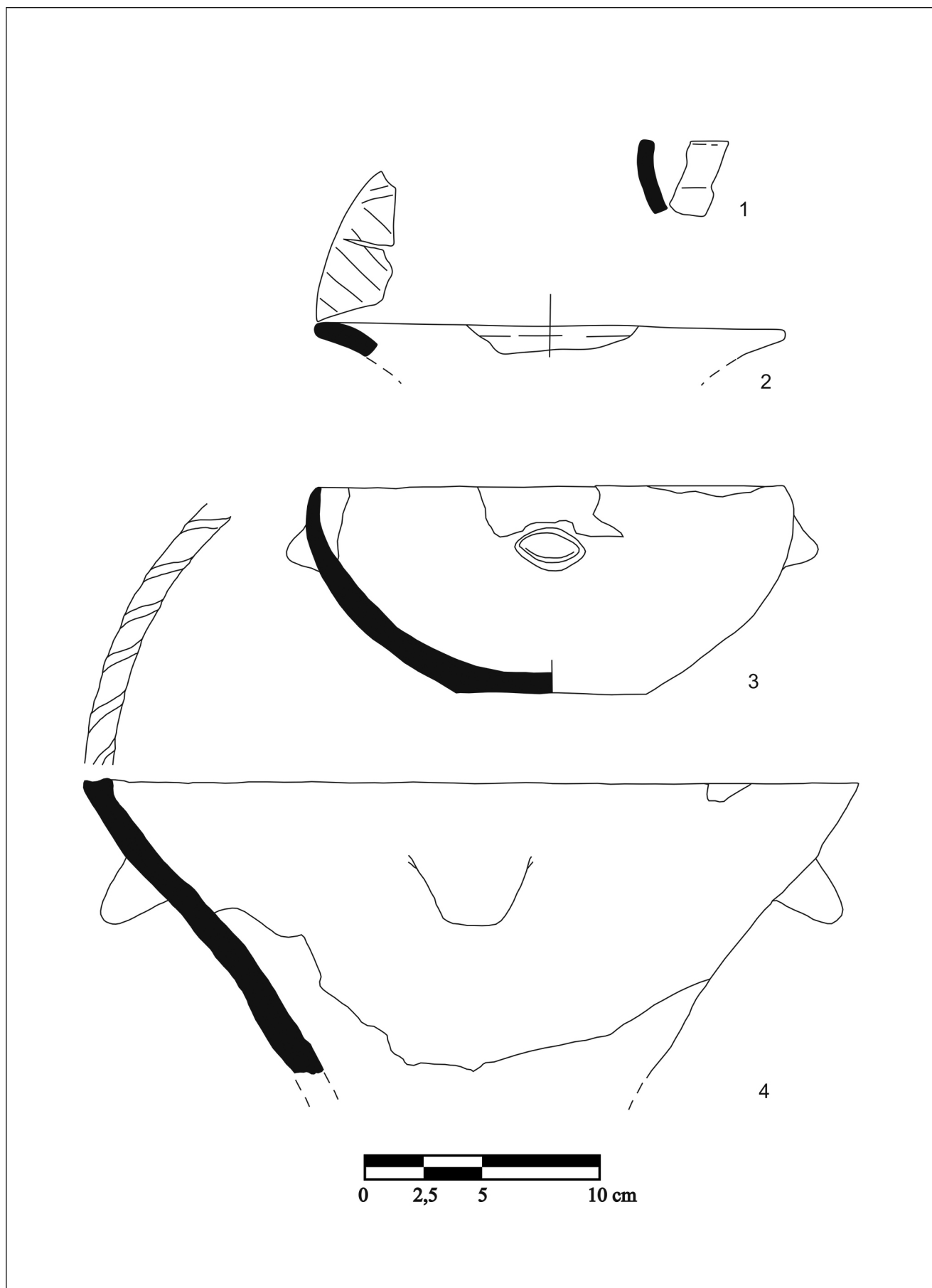


Fig. 7. Valea Stânii, barrow no. 4. 1–3 Dishes (cat. nos. 7–9); 4 Bowl (cat. no. 5). Ceramic.

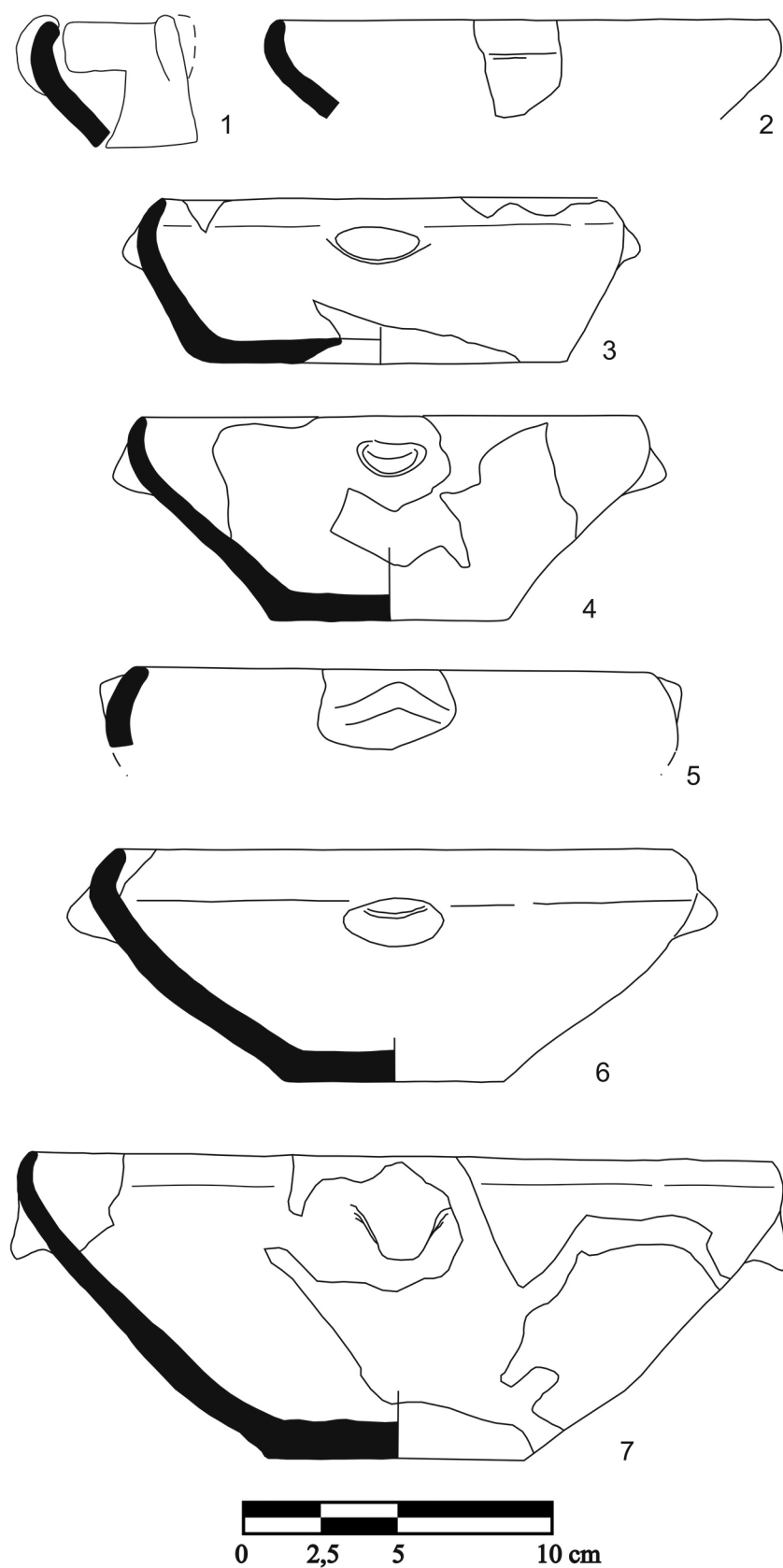


Fig. 8. Valea Stânii, barrow no. 4. 1–6 Dishes (cat. nos. 10–15); 7 Bowl (cat. no. 6). Ceramic.

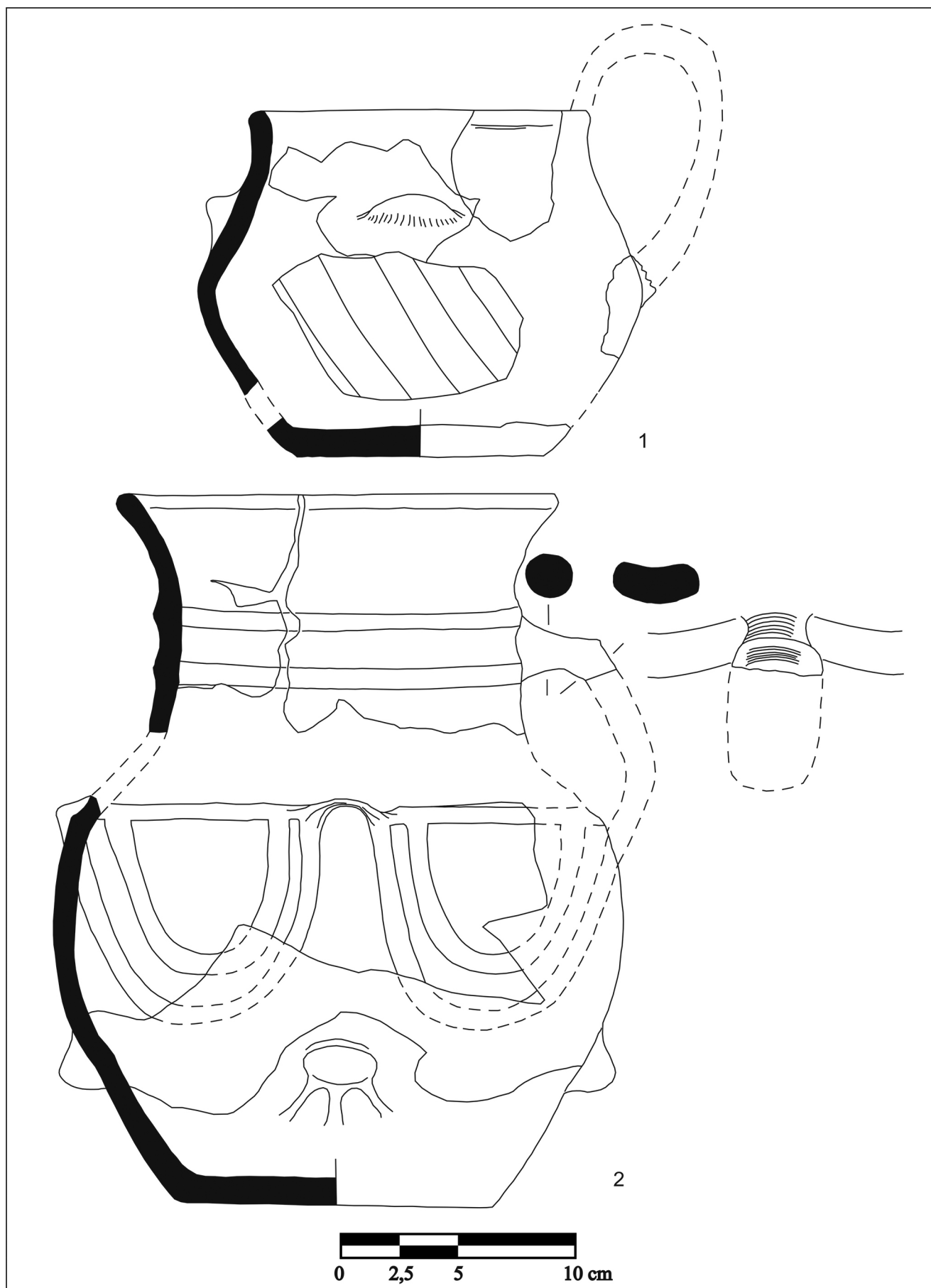


Fig. 9. Valea Stânii, barrow no. 4. 1–2 Jugs (cat. nos. 16–17). Ceramic.

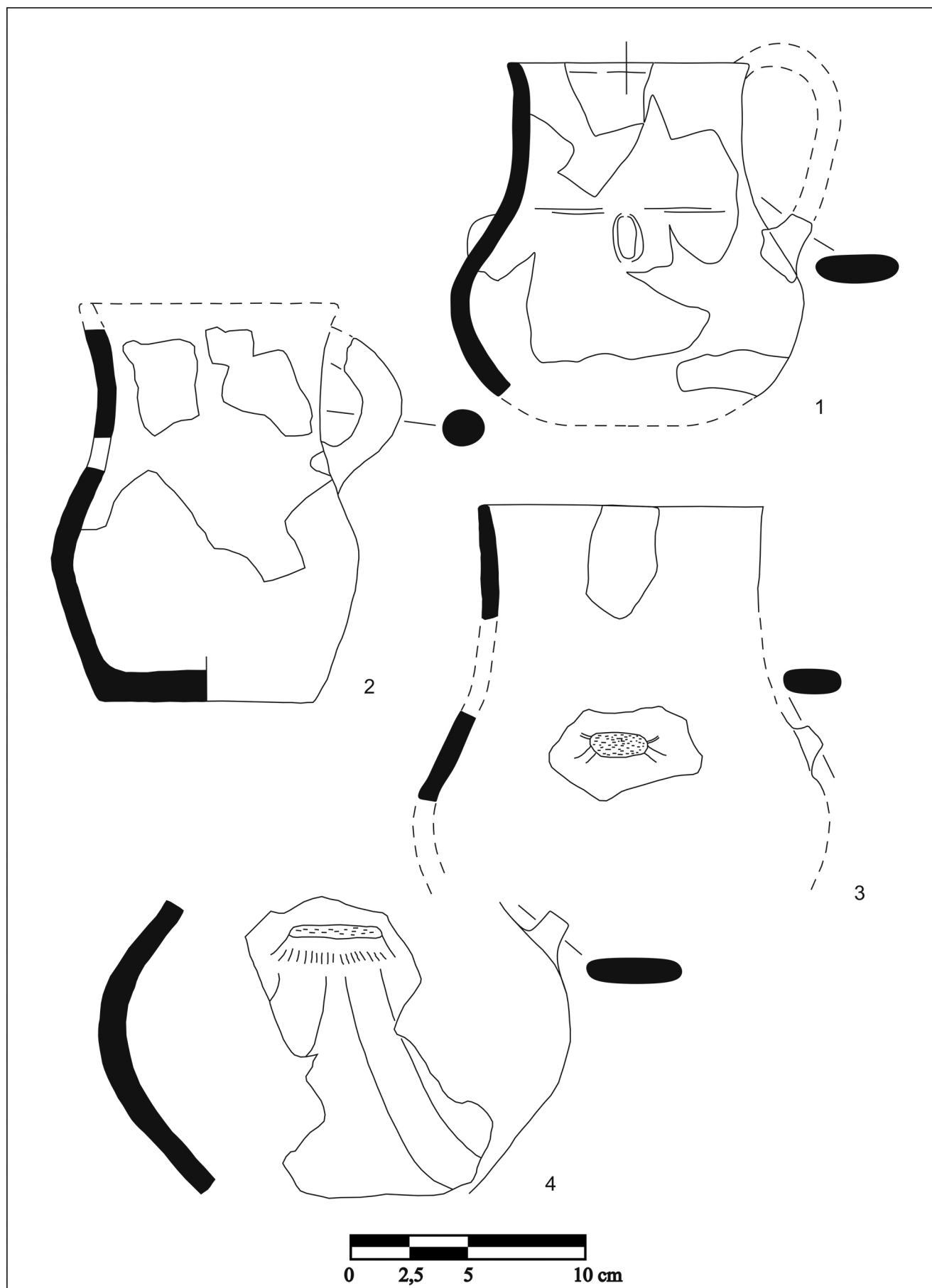


Fig. 10. Valea Stânii, barrow no. 4. 1-4 Jugs (cat. nos. 18-21). Ceramic.

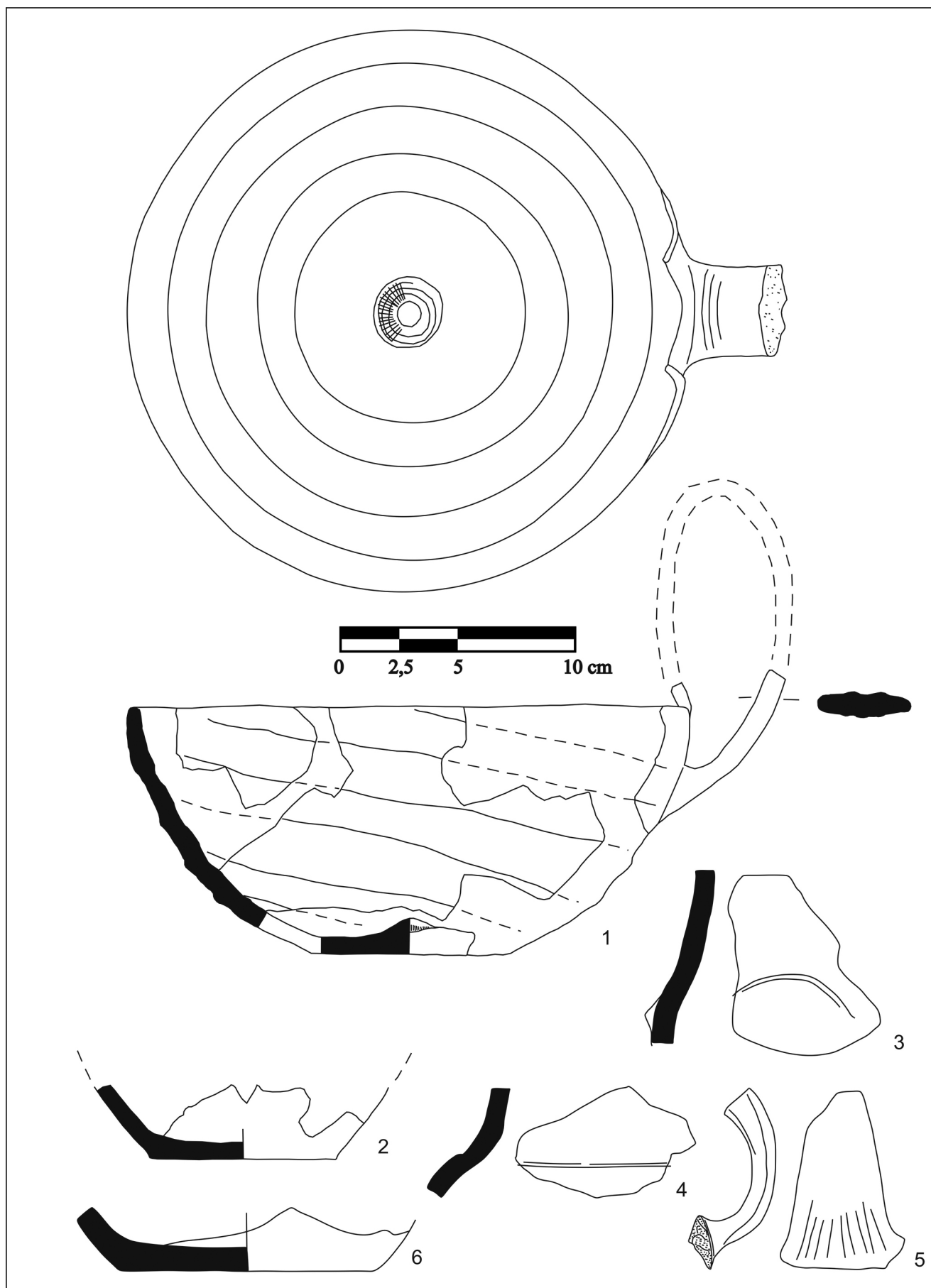


Fig. 11. Valea Stăinii, barrow no. 4. 1 Cup (cat. no. 25); 2–6 Jugs fragments (cat. nos. 22–23). Ceramic.

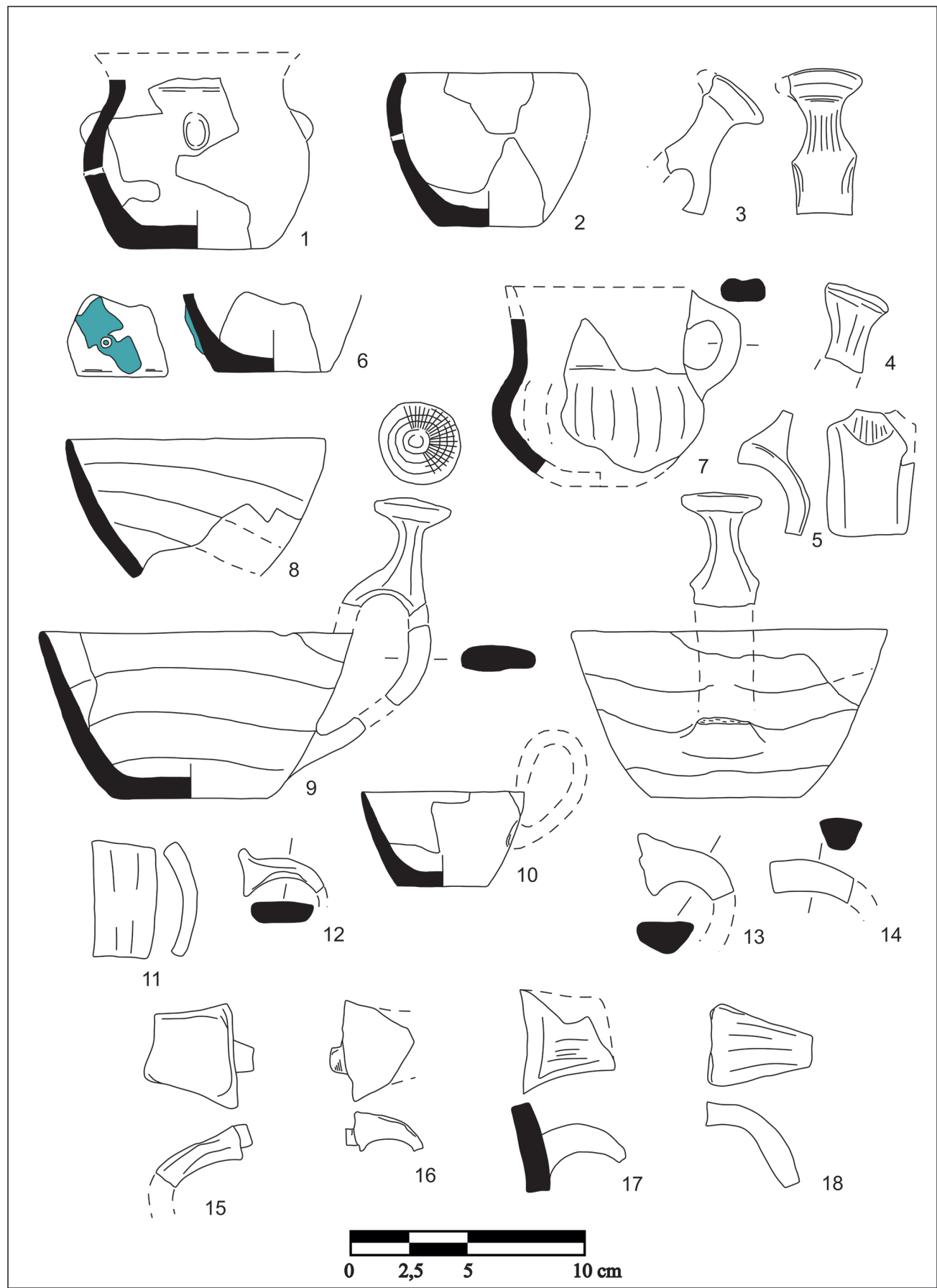


Fig. 12. Valea Stăni, barrow no. 4. 1–11 Cups fragments (cat. nos. 26–32, 34–37); 12–18 Bronze Age potsherds (handles). All ceramic except 6 – kaolin and melted glass stuck on ceramic.

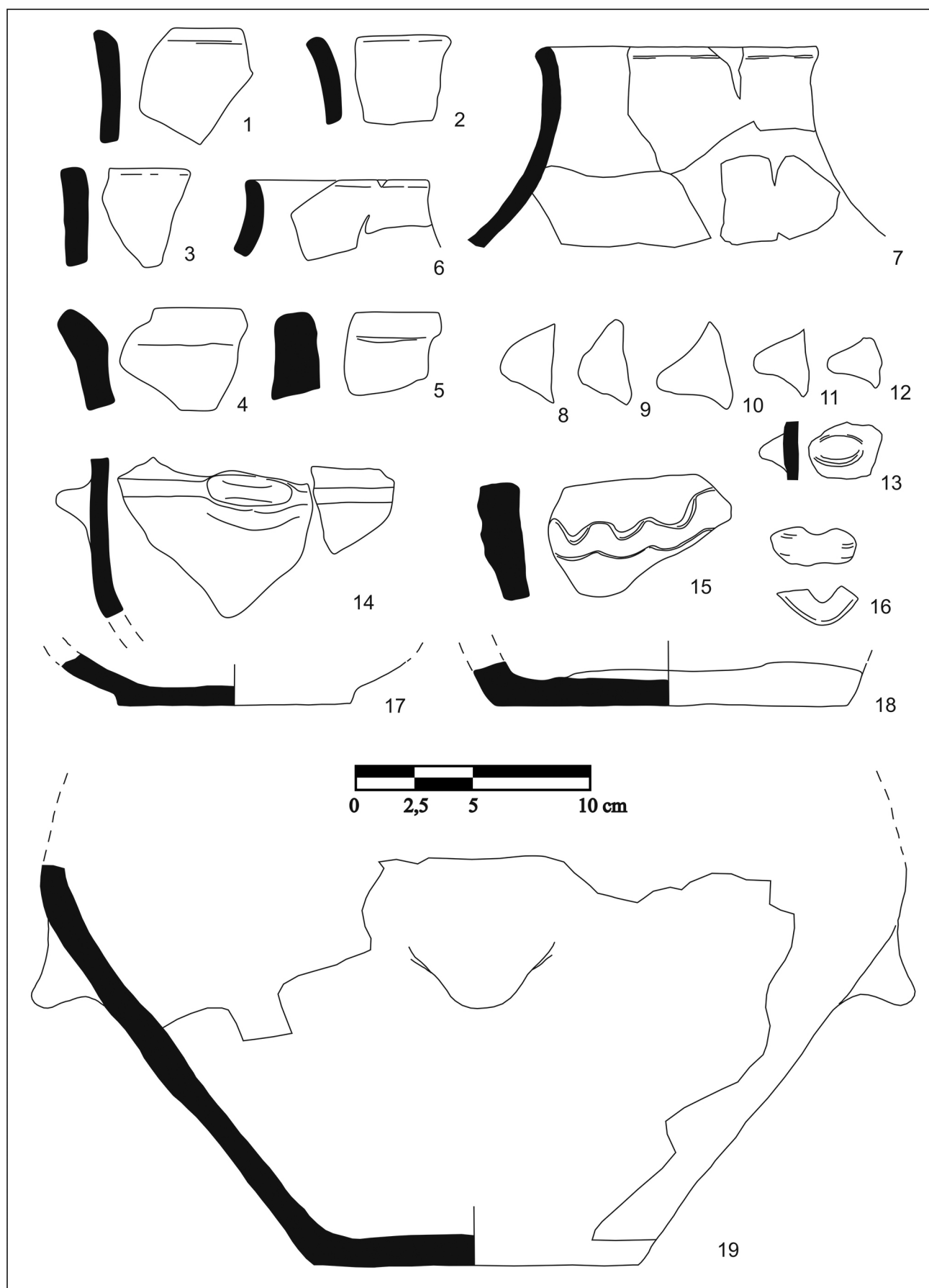


Fig. 13. Valea Stânii, barrow no. 4. 1–5, 15, 18 Bronze Age potsherds; 6–14, 16–17 Jars fragments (cat. nos. 39–46); 19 Bellied pot lower half (cat. no. 38). Ceramic.

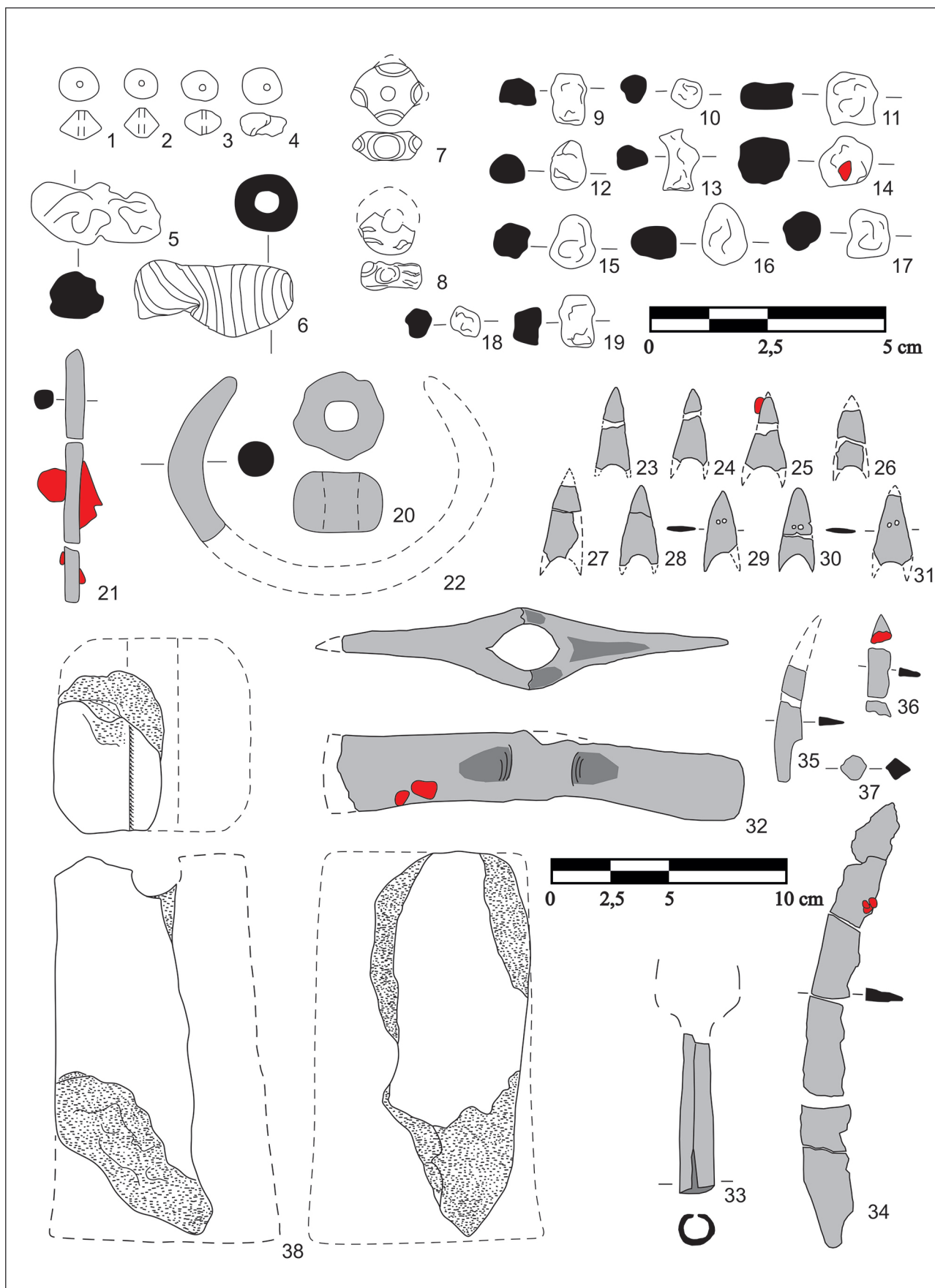


Fig. 14. Valea Stăni, barrow no. 4. 1–20 Beads (cat. nos. 47–66); 21 Pin (cat. no. 356); 22 Bracelet (cat. no. 357), 23–31 Arrowheads (cat. nos. 358–367); 32 Axe (cat. no. 368); 33 Socket (of spearhead?) (cat. no. 369); 34–35 Knives (cat. nos. 370–371); 36 Fragments of knife or arrowhead (cat. no. 372); 37 Fragment of unidentified item (cat. no. 373); 38 Andiron (firedog) (cat. no. 374). 1–19 – glass; 20–21, 23–37 – iron; 22 – bronze; 38 – ceramic.

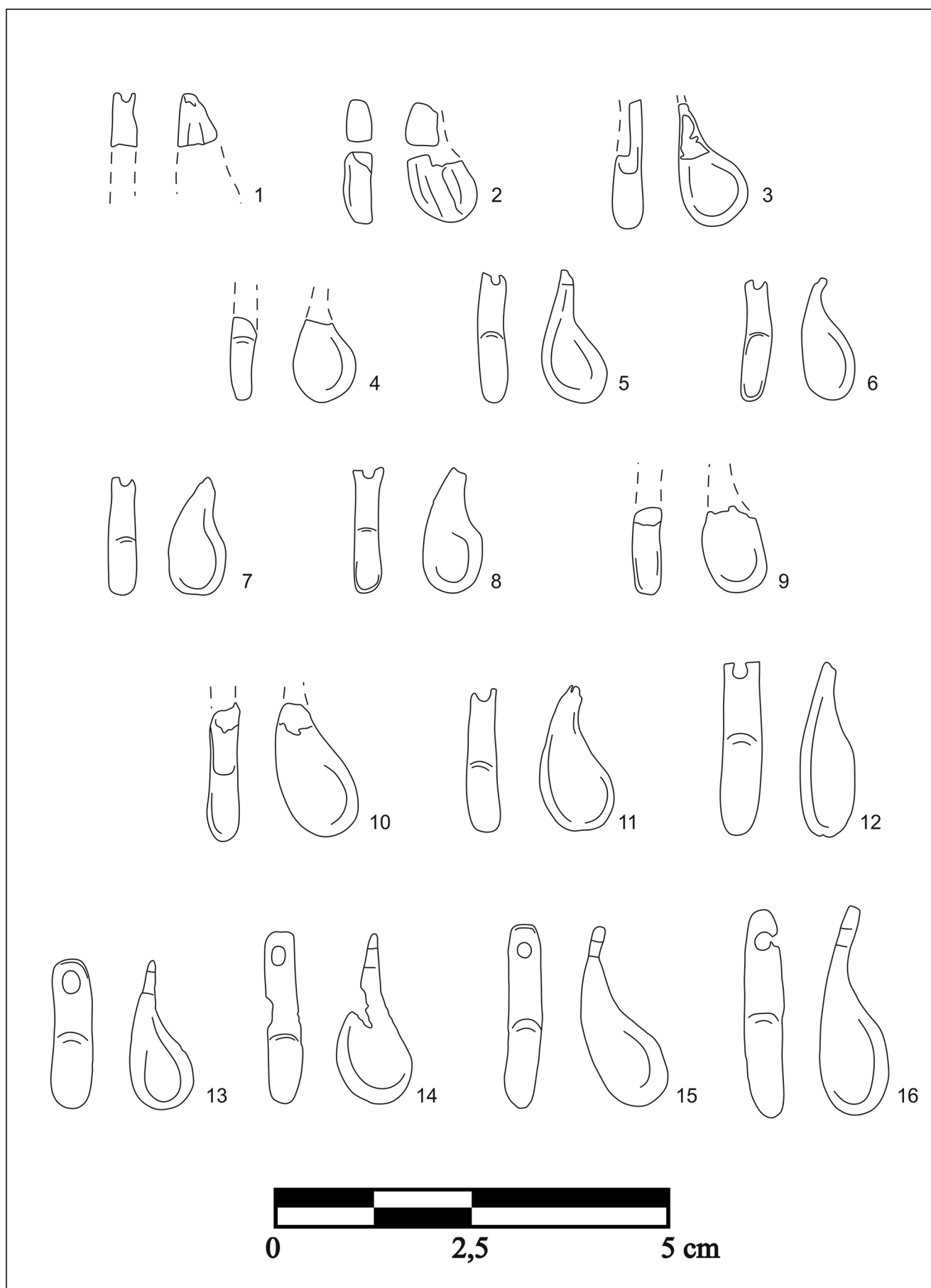


Fig. 15. Valea Stâinii, barrow no. 4. 1–16 Red deer canine imitations. Antler (cat. nos. 340–355).

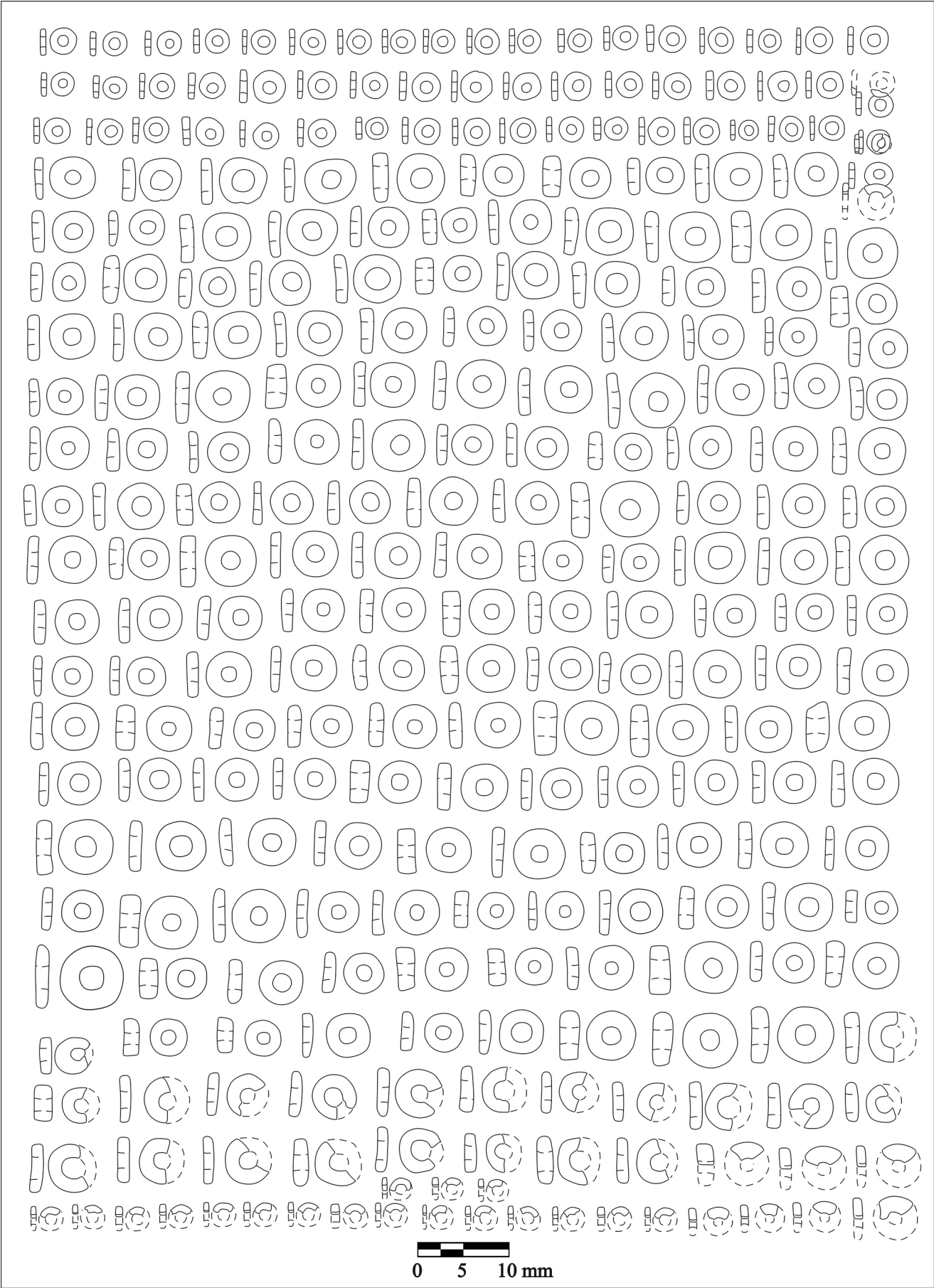
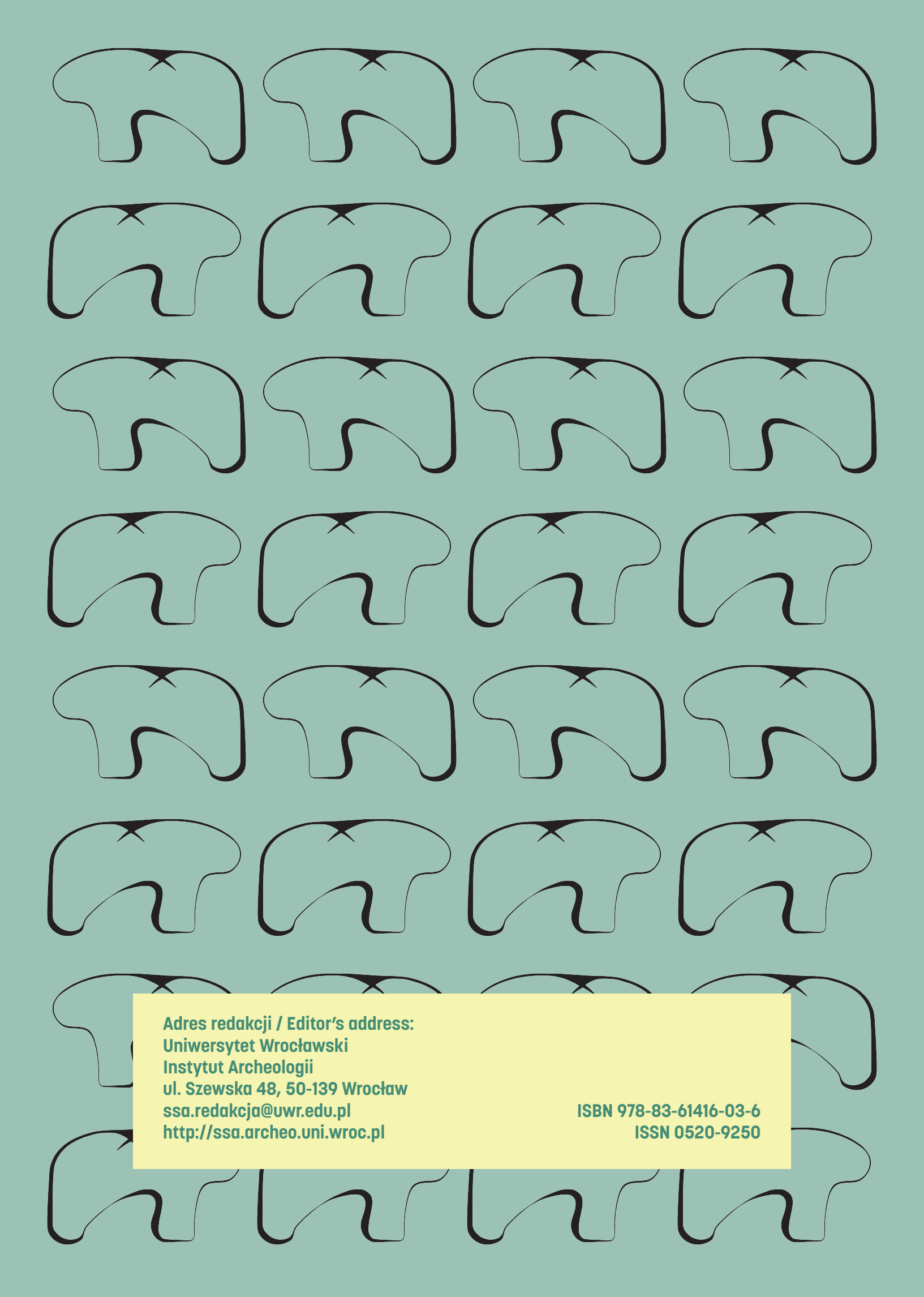


Fig. 16. Valea Stânii, barrow no. 4. Beads. Kaolin (cat. nos. 67–338).

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