

SARMATIAN GRAVES DISCOVERED WITHIN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF MOȘNIȚA VECHE – „DEALUL SĂLAȘ” (TIMIȘ COUNTY, ROMANIA)*

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Cuvinte cheie: morminte sarmatice, *Barbaricum*, jefuirea mormintelor, epoca romană târzie, Banat

1. Introduction

The archaeological site of Moșnita Veche–Dealul Sălaș¹, has seen its fair share of intrusive investigations in the last five years. These investigations highlighted the archaeological importance of this particular area (Pl. 1/1). The site itself is situated on top of two alluvial sand banks, and is approximately a meter and a half higher in altitude than the surrounding terrain. Since prehistoric times, these geomorphological characteristics have been a determining factor in choosing this area as a settling point for the ancient communities. This has been proven by the vast chronological interval of the discoveries, as they range from the Eneolithic period, and all the way in to the Middle Ages².

Given the fact that the site is located in an area that has seen a constant flow of real estate development, all of the archaeological investigations that took place here, have been preventive or rescue excavations. The purpose of the excavations that took place in the summer of 2017, was to save part of the archaeological artifacts and features destroyed by an unauthorized intervention, caused by the need to extend the electrical grid in the area (Pl. 1/2). Thus, a ditch was dug along Jimbolia and Lugoj streets by the entrepreneur, and in the

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¹ Măruia *et alii* 2012, 579–678.

² Floca *et alii* 2016.

process, a large variety of archaeological features were destroyed or heavily disturbed. Among these were the four graves that we wish to analyze in the present paper. The graves were more or less affected by the unauthorized intervention. Based on the funeral rite and ritual, these four graves can be attributed to the Sarmatians that once inhabited this region.

2. Description of the graves and funerary inventory

Older excavations within the site of Moșnița Veche–“Dealul Sălaș” have unearthed a rather large number of archaeological features – pit houses and household annexes – that can be attributed to the Sarmatians. During those excavations, no traces of the necropolis were found, until 2017 when the research team tasked with conducting the rescue excavations in this point, managed to find four Sarmatian graves. Only one out of the four graves was preserved good enough to be properly documented (Pl. 3). Of the other three graves, two of them were almost entirely destroyed by the bulldozer (Pl. 2/3–6; G.2; G.4), while the other one was poorly preserved because of the acidity of the soil (Pl. 2/1–2; G.1).

Grave no. 1 (G.1) was discovered at a depth of 0,78 m compared to the present day ground level. We were unable to identify the grave pit. The only part of the skeleton that we found were some skull fragments, which themselves were poorly preserved (Pl. 2/1–2). In terms of position of the dead, most probably he was placed in a supine position. The only grave good discovered was a spouted jug, found at 1,2 meters north-east from the skull fragments, where the lower limbs would have been. In spite of the poorly preserved grave, based on the position of the skull and the cup, we can assume that it's orientation was along the SW-NE axis.

The second grave (G.2) was discovered 15 m north-east from the first one (G.1). Only the northern extremity of the grave pit was preserved, the rest being destroyed by the unauthorized intervention. The preserved pit was rectangular shaped, with rounded corners, and it had a length of 0,7 m, a width of 0,62 m and a rather shallow depth of only 0,3 m. The feature had a filling composed of a clayey, dark grey and loose soil. The only preserved parts of the skeleton, were segments of the tibia and one vertebra. As in the case of grave no. 1 (G.1), the only grave good found was a cup, placed right between the lower limbs of the dead. In regards to the orientation of the skeleton, it was on the SE-NW axis. The grave overlaps a Bronze Age pit (Pl. 2/3–4).

Grave no. 3 (G.3) is the best preserved one, being only superficially affected on its southern part by the unauthorized intervention. The grave pit has a rectangular shape with rounded corners, a length of 2,1 m, 1,12 m in width and a

depth of 0,54 m. The feature had a homogenous filling, made out of a clayey, dark grey and loose soil. The grave has probably been disturbed since antiquity, as bones from the upper part of the body – vertebrae, fragments of ribs and other bones – were found mixed within the filling of the grave pit. The skull, as well as two other fragments of ribs, were found near the pelvic region. The only parts of the skeleton that were found in anatomical connection were the pelvis and the lower limbs. Their placement suggests the fact that the dead was placed in a supine position, similar to the other two graves we have discussed. The entire funeral inventory was collected from the lower limbs area, thus, a brooch and a knife fragment were found near the femoral area, while a pottery vessel was discovered between the tibias. The dead was oriented on a SW-NE axis (Pl. 3/1–4).

The fourth grave (G.4) was located in the immediate vicinity of the third grave, towards the east. Although most of the grave pit was also destroyed by the mechanized intervention, but we could still determine that its shape was rectangular with rounded corners. It had a length of 1 m, width of 0,92 m and a depth of 0,2 m. As in the case of the other three graves, the filling had a clayey, loose texture and a dark grey color. Only two bone fragments were found in the grave pit, both of them being part of the lower limb area. The only grave good found was a bowl, discovered north-east from the two bone fragments, near the edge of the pit. The dead was oriented on a SE-NW axis (Pl. 2/5–6).

As we already pointed out, the funeral inventory found within the four graves was composed mostly of pottery vessels and two metal artefacts. The four pottery vessels used as grave furniture, have the following features and characteristics:

1. Spouted jug, biconical shaped, with its maximum diameter found at the midway point of the vessel. The base is slightly elevated and the upper part of the vessel is missing. A rounded handle sprouts right under the rim and is attached right above the maximum circumference area of the jug. The handle presents a drain tube. The vessel was wheel-made using loam degreased with fine sand and fired in a reduction atmosphere. The surface of the vessel it has a light gray color. Its measurements are: $\varnothing_{\text{maximum}} = 8 \text{ cm}$; $\varnothing_{\text{base}} = 3,5 \text{ cm}$; $H_{\text{kept}} = 11 \text{ cm}$ (Pl. 4/1–2).

2. Biconical shaped cup, slightly everted rim and profiled base. The maximum diameter of the body is found at the midway point of the vessel and it's larger than the diameter of the rim. The remnants of an oval shaped handle are visible, as it sprouted right beneath the rim and ran all the way down to the middle section, where it was attached to the body. The vessel was wheel-made using high quality loam and fired in a reducing atmosphere, resulting in a light-grey colored cup. The surface of the vessel was covered in verniss which was

preserved rather well. Measurements: $\varnothing_{\text{rim}} = 6 \text{ cm}$; $\varnothing_{\text{maximum}} = 9 \text{ cm}$; $\varnothing_{\text{base}} = 4 \text{ cm}$; $H = 11 \text{ cm}$ (Pl.4/3–4).

3. Conical bowl, with slightly profiled rim, oblique walls and annular base. The vessel was wheel-made using loam degreased with fine sand and fired using the reducing method. The bowl has a light gray color and its surface is covered in verniss, which itself was poorly preserved. Measurements: $\varnothing_{\text{rim}} = 9 \text{ cm}$; $\varnothing_{\text{base}} = 3,5 \text{ cm}$; $H = 4,5 \text{ cm}$ (Pl. 4/5–6).

4. Conical bowl with rounded rim towards the exterior, profiled and slightly concave base. The vessel was wheel-made, using a gray fine fabric and fired in a reducing atmosphere, resulting in a dark-grey color. The exterior surface was covered in a well preserved verniss. Measurements: $\varnothing_{\text{rim}} = 10 \text{ cm}$; $\varnothing_{\text{fund}} = 3,5 \text{ cm}$; $H = 5 \text{ cm}$ (Pl.4/7–8).

Grave no. 3 (G.3) was the only one that provided us with metal artifacts, a brooch (Fig. 1/1–2) and a knife fragment (Fig. 1/3), both of them made out of iron. When discovered, the brooch was highly corroded, thus the restoration process didn't yield the expected results. The knife fragment has a length of 3,5 cm, while the brooch is 6,5 cm long.



Fig. 1. Funerary furniture: The brooch fragment (1-2) and the knife fragment (3) form the grave no.3. / Mobilier funerar: fragmentul de broșă (1-2) și fragmentul de cuțit (3) din mormântul nr. 3.

3. Discussions

The four graves were discovered in the SSW area of Dealul Sălaș, where the alluvial bank is 0,5 m lower in elevation than the upper area. During our research, we were not able to find a demarcation – anthropogenic or natural – between the settlement and the four graves (Pl. 1/2). The graves were discovered at depths between 0,6 m and 0,78 m, compared to the present day ground level. The grave pits contour – this being the case for the graves that were not completely destroyed by the mechanized intervention – indicate a rectangular shape with rounded corners (Pl. 2/4–6; Pl. 3). Grave no. 3 was the only one preserved good enough to allow us to calculate an index of 1,87³ based on its mea-

³ Kulcsár 1998, 23–24.

surements. Thus, grave no. 3 (G.3) accedes to a rather limited group of graves found in Banat who share the same characteristics, together with grave no. 5 from Banatski Despotovac⁴, grave no. 13 from Foeni–Cimitirul Ortodox⁵ and grave no. 17 from the cemetery discovered in the archaeological site Giarmata–Situl 10⁶.

In the case of grave no. 1 (G.1), based on the 1,2 m distance between the skull and the offering, we can assume that we are dealing with a grave that belonged to a child. Similar sized child graves (with the length varying from 1,2 m to 1,3 m), were excavated at Foeni–Cimitirul Ortodox⁷.

All of the four graves were oriented on south-north general axis (Fig. 2). Compared to this general direction, two graves deviate towards the east (M.2–135°; M.4–154°) while the other two deviate towards the west (M.1–204°; M.3–203°). Most Sarmatian graves discovered in Banat are oriented on a general south-nord axis, usually deviating between 9 and 45 degrees⁸. Similar results were encountered when analyzing the data sets from the rest of the Pannonian Plain, where Valéria Kulcsár admitted that 65% of the Sarmatian graves are oriented on general south-nord axis. In his opinion this is a defining trademark for the Sarmatian culture in the Carpathian Basin⁹.

Grave no. 3 (G.3) draws our attention as we identified a rather interesting situation during our excavation.

The upper body of the dead was found heavily disturbed and damaged since Antiquity, and in our opinion this is a clear case of grave looting. We were not

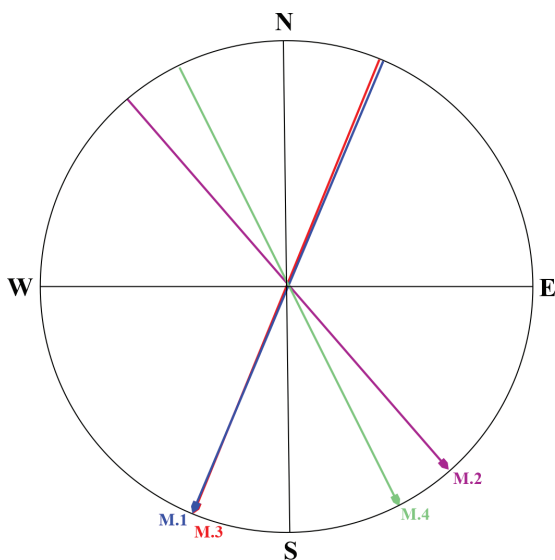


Fig. 2. Orientation of the four graves. /
Orientarea celor patru morminte.

⁴ Párducz 1940, 262, Taf. XLIII/11, XLIV/21, 23; Grumeza, 2014, 161.

⁵ Grumeza 2011, 192; Grumeza 2014, 182.

⁶ Grumeza 2014, 191–192.

⁷ Grumeza 2011, 182.

⁸ Grumeza 2014, 48, no. 358.

⁹ Kulcsár 1998, 16.

able to identify the looting pit during our research, which makes us believe that the grave was still visible at the moment of looting. We can assume the looters simply used the grave pit's contour to facilitate the grave robbing process.

Within the Sarmatian culture, the grave looting phenomenon is widely documented, this being the case for areas across northern Serbia, eastern Hungary and the Romanian Banat. However, in our attempt to find the best analogies for G.3, we will only present the closest resembling archaeological contexts to our own. A likely analogy discovered in Banat, is grave no. 15 (G.15) from the Sarmatian cemetery excavated at Foeni-Cimitirul Ortodox. In this particular case, the skull was heavily damaged and placed in the chest area, while the right hand, tibia, left fibula and right femur were missing¹⁰. The same can be said about grave nr. 6, discovered within the above mentioned archaeological site. In this case, the archaeologists managed to unearth the robbing pit, located on the left hand side of the skeleton, thus concluding that this grave was also disturbed at some point during the antiquity¹¹. Grave no. 2 from the Sarmatian cemetery in Dudeștii Vechi-Movila lui Dragomir – dated in the 4th to the 5th century A.D. – was also disturbed since Antiquity. The skull and parts of the rib section were found scattered within the grave pit¹². Although in the barrows from Vizejdia, assigned to the Sarmatians¹³, no human remains were found, thereby of interest are the notes – from the end of the 19th century – of Gyula Kislégy Nagy's on the phenomenon of looting such funerary monuments: "What if these mounds were looted? – Based on my later experiences, I could almost confirm this, but the correct answer to this question, will come only after the entire surface would be systematically excavated. And this is still to come"¹⁴.

A Sarmatian grave surrounded by a ditch (Cx 235–236) was excavated in the archaeological site of Nădlac 3M Nord, located in the Lower Mureș Basin. The entire upper body of the dead was disturbed and damaged, the only parts that were found in anatomical connection, were the lower limbs¹⁵. Two more similar graves were discovered within the archaeological site Nădlac-Site 1M, both of them were surrounded by ditches and were ravaged by ancient looters. Regarding the first of these graves (Cx. 029), a tibia, corresponding to the right leg of the skeleton, as well as other parts of the body, were found scattered within the filling of the grave pit. The second grave was also ravaged, this was

¹⁰ Grumeza 2011, 193.

¹¹ Bărcă, Grumeza 2014, 164; Grumeza 2011, 191, Pl.V.

¹² Tănase 2002–2003, 223–224; Pl. 1.

¹³ Grumeza 2014, 40, 266 cu bibliografia.

¹⁴ Gáll *et alii* 2010, 22.

¹⁵ Grumeza, Ursuțiu 2016, 195–196, Pl.II/2.

determined by the fact that the skeleton was not found in an anatomical position¹⁶. Another three looted graves were excavated at Arad – “Barieră”, among these, only one was found in a supine position. The grave was heavily affected by the exhumation process, as the discovered bones were all concentrated in the lower limbs area, without being in any anatomical connection¹⁷. Out of the 17 graves excavated from the sarmatian cemetery in Hunedoara Timișană, only grave nr. 5 appeared to be looted, confirmed by the discovery of the robbing pit, as well as the fact that the skeleton was completely destroyed¹⁸. Sarmatians “graves in which the bones were disturbed”¹⁹ were also found and Zimandu Nou.

A large number of disturbed graves were excavated within the Sarmatian cemetery at Pančevo-Vojlovica, in Voivodina. The necropolis was dated in the 3rd to 4th century A.D. Out of the 55 excavated graves, only four were unaffected by the grave looting. The same as grave 3 (G.3) from Moşnița Veche–Dealul Sălaș, the looted graves at Pančevo-Vojlovica were damaged from the waist upwards²⁰.

The cemetery from Óföldreák-Ürmös II, in eastern Hungary, dated back to the second half of the 4th century to the first half of the 5th century A.D., contained 48 graves of which 77% were partially or completely looted, part of them having the upper body of the skeleton disturbed²¹. Similar graves were excavated at Kiskunfélegyháza-Kővágóér, as they were part of a cemetery dated back to the end of the 4th century to the first third of the 5th century A.D.²². Graves 17, 18, 31 and 36²³ from Tiszadob, share similarities with grave 3 (G.3) from Moşnița Veche. The funerary finds from Tiszadob were also dated between the second half of the 4th century to the beginning of the 5th century A.D., and from an ethnic point of view, these graves contain specific elements of Sântana de Mureş-Cherniahov culture²⁴. Out of the 665 graves excavated at Madaras-Halmok, a large number of them were looted (almost 90% of the graves were robbed), and in some rare cases, the loot pit was also found²⁵.

Compared to the neighboring regions, this phenomenon was widely generalized and constantly present within the Sarmatian culture. Moreover, damaging the graves with the purpose of looting it, became a common practice in

¹⁶ Bărcă, Cociş 2013, 32; Fig. 2–3; Bărcă, Grumeza 2014, 160.

¹⁷ Grumeza *et alii* 2013, 23–24.

¹⁸ Bărcă 2014a, 83.

¹⁹ Bichir 1972, 141.

²⁰ Baptisić-Popadić 1984–1985, 83.

²¹ Gyöngy 2014, 70, Taf. IX/1, X/8, XII/1, XXIX/3, XXXII/1.

²² Gallina 1999, Taf. 1–2, 7, 10.

²³ Istvanovits 1991, 4, 5.

²⁴ Istvanovits 1991, 42.

²⁵ Kőhegyi, Vörös 2011, 236–243.

the late period²⁶, as some graves – most of them from within burial mounds – were damaged or looted even on two separate occasions²⁷.

In order to precisely date the discussed archaeological features, the grave goods are important. As we have mentioned earlier, the funerary furniture is composed out of four pottery vessels, a brooch and a knife fragment. Regarding the pottery, the spouted jug discovered in G.1 draws the attention (Pl. 4/1–2). In the Romanian Banat, similar pots have been discovered at Timișoara-Pădurea Verde²⁸ and at Periam²⁹. Unfortunately, both artifacts come from unclear archaeological contexts. The only available information on the jug from Timișoara-Pădurea Verde, is found within the National Banat Museum's registries, where the jug is associated with an iron spear dated back to the end of the 4th century A.D to the beginning of the 5th century A.D³⁰. The other vessel was discovered within the administrative borders of Periam, and for a long time was part of Alexandru Rusu's private collection, before it made its way into Arad's Museum collection³¹. A similar pot as the one described by us, was discovered in the Hungarian Plain, during the excavation of the sarmatian cemetery from Csanádpalota-Országátár M43 56. Lelőhelyen. In this particular case, the pot was recovered from grave nr. 48, and was positioned at the feet of the deceased³². After consulting various studies and sources, we can see a pattern emerging, as most of these jugs are found in funerary Sarmatian contexts, or within their settlements³³. Analogies found in the Great Hungarian Plain, place this type of jug in a chronological interval set between the last third of the 4th century and the first half of the 5th century A.D³⁴.

A lot more common is the cup found in G.2 (Pl. 4/3–4). Similar artifacts were discovered in Romanian Banat at Timișoara-Pădurea Verde³⁵, Foeni-Cimitirul Ortodox³⁶ (grave no. 4), Hunedoara Timișană³⁷ and within the Sarmatian necropolis (grave no. 2) from Giarmata-Sit 10³⁸. Cups resembling ours were discovered, in the Lower Mureș Basin, in the archaeological

²⁶ Körösfői 2015, 201.

²⁷ Kőhegyi 1994, 278; Gallina 1999, 13.

²⁸ Tănase, 2013, 69.

²⁹ Dörner 1970, Fig. 16/5.

³⁰ Tănase 2013, 70.

³¹ Dörner 1970, 463.

³² Walter, Pópity 2020, 154–155, Pl. 16/4.

³³ Vaday 1994, 106.

³⁴ Vaday 1994, 105–106; Füle 1995, 56–57, Fig. 1, Pl. I/1–2.

³⁵ Radu 1973, 148, Fig. 1/7.

³⁶ Grumeza 2011, 198, Pl. III/5.

³⁷ Bărcă 2014a, 89, Fig. 20.

³⁸ Grumeza 2014, 186, Pl. 22/5.

site Pecica-4R³⁹ and at Sînpetru German⁴⁰. Also, matching analogies were found within the archaeological sites of Vrșac-Dvoriște Eparhije Banatska⁴¹, Vrșac-Trg Sava Kovačević⁴², Crvenka⁴³, Pančevo-Vojlovica⁴⁴, Vatina⁴⁵, Banatski Despotovac-Kollinger kertek⁴⁶, Kiszombor-B⁴⁷ și Klarafalva-B⁴⁸. This type of cups are found within sarmatian cemeteries, starting from the second half of the 2nd century A.D, all the way to the end of the 4th century A.D⁴⁹. A more narrow chronological sequence was proposed by Norbert Kapcos, who dated these artifacts during the period between the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D⁵⁰.

Also, the two bowls identified in graves no. 3 and 4 (G.3-4) (Pl. 4/5-8), are quite commonly found in Sarmatian necropolis and settlements. Similar artifacts were discovered in graves located at Șeitin⁵¹, Kiszombor-B⁵² or Madaras-Halmok⁵³, as well as within settlements as the ones from Grădinari-Săliște⁵⁴, Moldova Veche-Vinograda-Vlašicrai⁵⁵ and Padej-Cigłana⁵⁶. All of these artifacts, either from cemeteries or settlements, are dated between the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D. The bowls discovered at Padej-Cigłana are considered local products that were used during the 4th century A.D⁵⁷.

As for the brooch fragment identified in grave 3 (Fig. 1/1-2), we are not completely sure in which typological category it fits, nevertheless we assume it closely resembles the brooches category known as *Spiralfibel mit umgeschlagenem Fuß*. Brooches with returned foot are well represented and known throughout the Sarmatian culture in Banat as they are made mainly out of

³⁹ Kapcsos 2014, 158, Pl.4/2.

⁴⁰ Dörner 1970, Fig.11/2c, 11/6a-c.

⁴¹ Barački 1961, 119, 120, Pl.III/7, IV/9, V/17, VIII/1, IX/1; Grumeza 2014, Pl.93/2, 94/11, 95/1, 96/25, 26.

⁴² Barački 1961, 142, Pl.XV/6.

⁴³ Simovljević 1957, Pl.V/1, VI/1; Grumeza 2014, Pl.90/18, 91/5.

⁴⁴ Đorđević 1994, Pl.VI/5-6, VII/8, VIII/8; Grumeza 2014, Pl.70/10-11, 72/9, 73/16, 76/8.

⁴⁵ Barački 1971, 281, 282, 283, Pl.I/2, III/11, IV/20, VII/32.

⁴⁶ Párducz 1940, Pl.XLII/16, XLIII/16-18, XLIV/21-24, 26, XLVII/9-10; Grumeza 2014, Pl.5/4, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 6/1, 7.

⁴⁷ Párducz 1950, Pl.XXXIV/17, 19, 20, CXX/5; Grumeza 2014, 213, 214, Pl.52/5, 9.

⁴⁸ Párducz 1950, Pl.XCVII/14; Grumeza 2014, 226, Pl.60/4.

⁴⁹ Bărcă 2014a, 89.

⁵⁰ Kapcsos 2014, Pl. 8.

⁵¹ Dörner 1970, Fig. 14/1a.

⁵² Grumeza 2014, Pl. 53/12.

⁵³ Köhegyi, Vörös 2011, Pl. 11/1; 19/1.

⁵⁴ Bozu 1990, Fig. 10/4; 22/6.

⁵⁵ Bozu 1987, Fig. 9/5.

⁵⁶ Трифуновић 1999-2000, Таб. VIII/17.

⁵⁷ Трифуновић 1999-2000, 80-81.

bronze. The ones made out of a single piece of metal, as those found in the cemetery from Hunedoara Timișană, have been dated between the end of the 2nd century and the beginning of the 4th century A.D. Regarding the larger brooches with elongated, often widened foot, they appear to be later, as they belong to the C₃-D₁ chronological phases (310/320–400/410 A.D.)⁵⁸. In Sorin Cociș's typology of the brooches discovered in Roman Dacia, these artifacts belong to the category known as "type 37", and are dated back to the period between the second half of the 2nd and the end of the 3rd century A.D. In Serbia, this type of brooch is considered to belong to a later chronological sequence, between the second half of the 3rd century A.D. and all the way to the last quarter of the 4th century A.D.⁵⁹. On the other hand, brooches of this kind that are made out of iron are dated much later compared to the bronze ones. They are used from the second half of the 4th century A.D. and all the way throughout the 5th century A.D.⁶⁰. Similar specimens were found at Arad-Bariera (grave no. 12)⁶¹ and at Klárafalva-Vasútállomás (grave no. 2 and 3)⁶².

As for the knife fragment (Fig. 1/3), because of the high level of corrosion and fragmentation, it's impossible to specify to which typological category it belongs. Nevertheless, we mention that the grave no. 3 from Klárafalva-Vasútállomás, contains a brooch with returned foot, as well as a knife⁶³.

4. Conclusions

After a rigorous analysis of the excavation plans and the spatial distribution of the funerary finds, we assume that the four graves mark the western limit of the Sarmatian necropolis from Dealul Sălaș. This statement is confirmed by the lack of archaeological features west of the graves.

The dating of the four features was possible due to presence of certain grave goods within the funerary inventory of graves. Two of the analyzed funerary features – G.2 and G.4 – can be dated back to the second half of 2nd century to the 4th century A.D. The cup found in G.2 was instrumental for dating the archaeological feature. Using this vessel as a grave offering it is a common practice in the Lower Mureș Basin and Banat, within this time frame⁶⁴. The bowl identified in G.4, based on the analogies, dates back to the period between the

⁵⁸ Bărcă 2014b, 30.

⁵⁹ Petković 2010, 311.

⁶⁰ Grumeza 2014, 74 with bibliography.

⁶¹ Grumeza *et alii* 2013, 46–47, Pl. XVIII/12 (the specimen also contains a part made out of bronze, possibly a loop).

⁶² Grumeza 2014, 225, Pl. 59/3, 11.

⁶³ Grumeza 2014, 225, Pl. 59/9.

⁶⁴ Bărcă 2014a, 89.

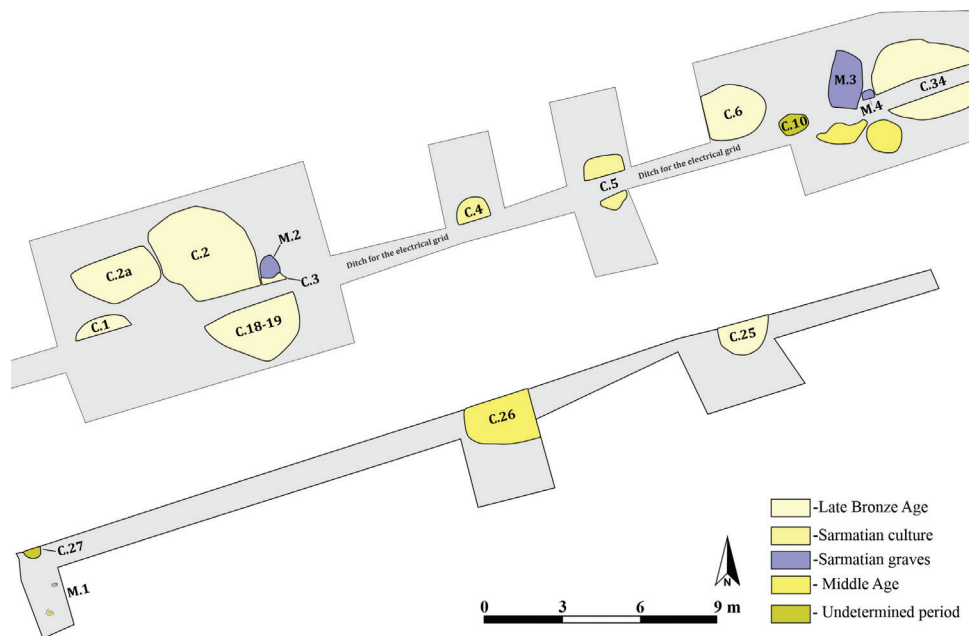


Fig. 3. Archaeological excavation layout with the location of the graves.
/ Planul săpăturilor arheologice cu amplasamentul mormintelor.

3rd to 4th centuries A.D., even if Stanko Trifunović proposes a different chronological interval for these vessels. He states that they were used in the second half of the 4th century A.D.⁶⁵ A similar bowl to the one we have already discussed was identified in G.3. The bowl, together with the large iron brooch (6,5 cm) of the returned foot type, ensures that G.3 can be dated back to the 4th century A.D. The presence of the spouted jug dates G.1 between the last third of the 4th century A.D. and the first half of the 5th century A.D.

An interesting situation emerged after analyzing the orientation of the four graves. Thus, the ones that are dated between the second half of 2nd century to 4th centuries (G.2 and G.4) are oriented on the SE-NW direction, while the ones dated along the 4th century to the beginning of the 5th centuries (G.1 and G.3) have an SW-NE orientation.

The purpose of the archaeological excavations that took place during the summer of 2017, within the site of Moșnița Veche–Dealul Sălaș, was to save what the unauthorized intervention already ravaged. From that moment on, the local authorities and archaeological enthusiasts became preoccupied with maintaining the integrity of the site, in order to prevent future damage done

⁶⁵ Трифуновић 1999–2000, 82.

by the real estate development. In the past three years, numerous rescue excavations have taken place on the site of Moşniţa Veche-Dealul Sălaş, and all of them have greatly contributed to the enrichment of the archaeological heritage of this area. We hope, that in the near future, the results of these excavations will offer new insights in regard to the Sarmatian necropolis discovered through the archaeological research in 2017.

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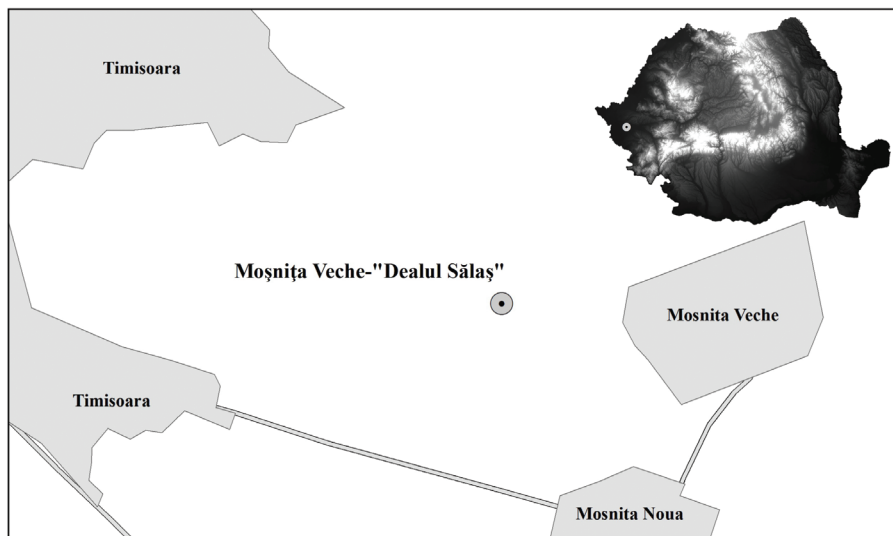
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MORMINTE SARMATICE DESCOPERITE ÎN SITUL ARHEOLOGIC DE LA MOȘNIȚA VECHÉ-„DEALUL SĂLAȘ” (JUDEȚUL TIMIȘ, ROMÂNIA)

Rezumat

Cercetarea arheologică în urma căreia au fost identificate cele patru morminte a fost una de salvare, fiind determinată de săparea unui șanț pentru introducerea de utilități în zona sitului arheologic Moșnița Veche-„Dealul Sălaș” (județul Timiș). Parte dintre mormintele prezentate au fost afectate de aceste intervenții neautorizate. Totodată, observăm că asupra mormântului 3 s-a intervenit încă din vechime. În conexiune anatomică a rămas partea inferioară a scheletului, craniul fiind identificat pe bazin, iar oasele din jumătatea superioară au fost identificate în umplutura gropii. Această intervenție ulterioară înhumării o legăm de fenomenul jefuirii mormintelor, practică larg documentată la sarmați în zona Banatului românesc, nordul Serbiei sau estul Ungariei. Mormintele au o orientare generală S-N, mobilierul funerar fiind constituit din vase ceramice și piese din metal. Vasele ceramice se referă la castroane tronconice și căni, realizate dintr-o pastă fină, bine lucrată, arsă reducător, caracteristice perioadei. Atrage atenția cana prevăzută cu tub de scurgere din M.1, aceasta asigurând mormântului o datare cuprinsă între ultima treime a secolului IV d.Hr.–prima jumătate a secolului V d.Hr. În aceeași perioadă încadrăm și M.3, datarea fiind asigurată de fragmentul de fibulă din fier care poate fi încadrată categoriei fibulelor cu picior întors pe dedesubt. Mobilierul funerar provenit din M.2 și M.4 asigură o datare mai generală a celor două complexe arheologice pe parcursul secolelor III-IV d.Hr.

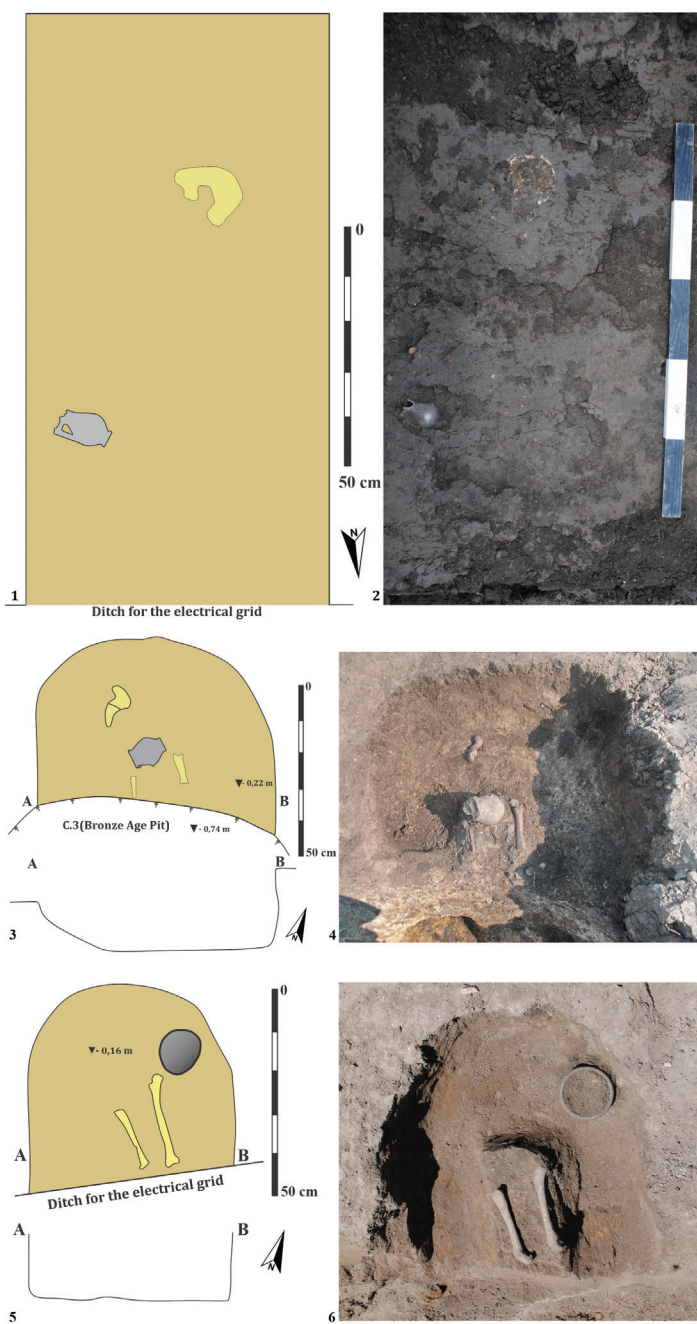


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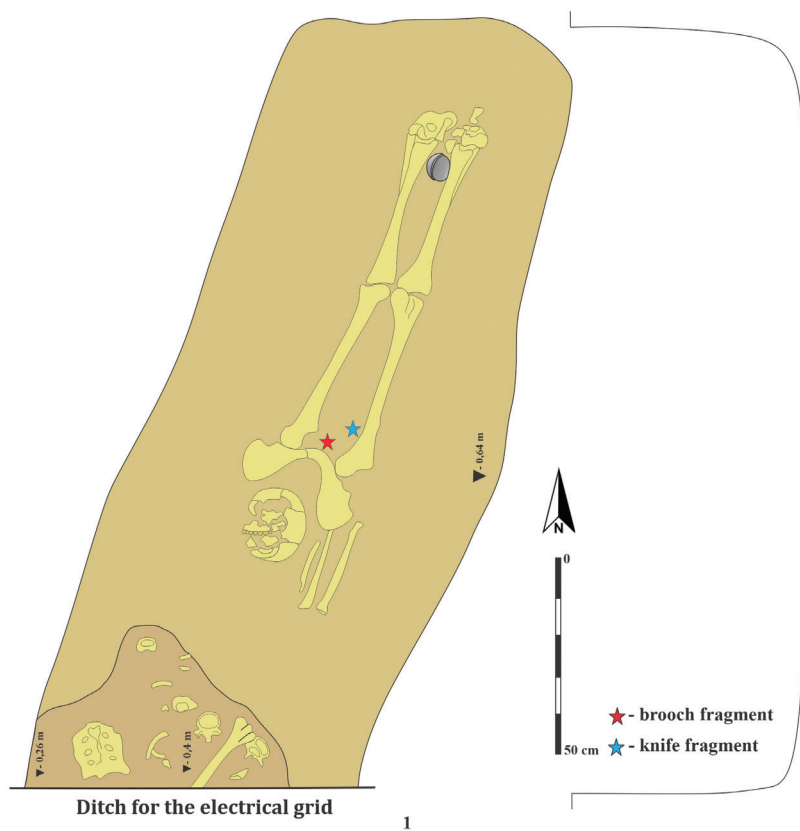


2

Pl. 1. Location of the archeological site: 1. Position of the site in relation with the main localities; 2. Aerial image of the site. / Amplasamentul sitului arheologic; 1. Poziționarea sitului în raport principalele localități; 2. Imagine aeriană a sitului.



Pl. 2. Grave no. 1 (1-2); Grave no. 2 (3-4); Grave no. 4 (5-6). / Mormântul nr. 1 (1-2); 2 Mormântul nr. 2 (3-4); Mormântul nr. 4 (5-6)



Pl. 3. Grave no. 3. / Mormântul nr. 3.



Pl. 4. Ceramic vessels used as funerary furniture: 1-2. Grave no. 1; 3-4. Grave no. 2; 5-6. Grave no. 3; 7-8. Grave no. 4. / Vase de ceramică utilizate ca obiecte funerare: 1-2. Mormântul nr. 1; 3-4. Mormântul nr. 2; 5-6. Mormântul nr. 3; 7-8. Mormântul nr. 4.