

FORMS OF HABITAT BELONGING TO COTOFENI CULTURE IN THE HILL AND MOUNTAIN AREA OF OLTENIA

Ion Tuțulescu¹

iontutulescu@yahoo.com

Cuvinte-cheie: *locuire, cuptor, așezare, suprafață, civilizație, eneolitic, perioada de tranziție.*

Keywords: *dwelling, oven, settlement, area, civilization, eneolithic, period of transition.*

Sumar: *Perioada de tranziție spre epoca bronzului, respectiv etapa finală este reprezentată în zona deluroasă și montană a Olteniei de purtătorii civilizației Coțofeni. Comunitățile culturii menționate mai sus ocupă mai toate formele de locuire, stațiuni arheologice fiind atestate pe insule, terase, vârfuri de deal etc. Referitor la construcții, predomină locuințele de suprafață, alături de care cercetările semnaleză apariția bordeielor și a colibelor-locuințe cu structură ușoară. O mare parte a locuințelor dețin instalații de încălzit, alcătuite din vetre și cuptoare; dar și amenajări interioare, reprezentate prin podine din lut.*

Abstract: *The transition period to the Bronze Age, respectively the final stage, is represented, in the hill and mountain area of Oltenia, by the bearers of Coțofeni civilization. The communities of the above culture occupy all forms of habitat, archaeological sites being certified in islands, terraces, hilltops etc. Concerning constructions, there are prevailing the surface houses, with whom the researches indicate the occurrence of the huts-which are lightweight housing. Most of the houses have heating installations, consisting of hearths and ovens; but also interior improvements, represented by clay floorings.*

Geographical landscape. Men's life is closely related to the land where he lives. The architecture of this „land”, its look and wealth determine the basic occupations of the inhabitants. In Prehistory, especially the influence of the land on men was very big. The more the men evolves technologically, the less the influence of the environment is, but it will never vanish at all. This is the reason why, in order to study ancient people's life we must know the places where they lived. The mountain and hill area of Oltenia include three big landforms: mountains, hills, plateau. The mountain region forms a part from the huge structural unit of the southern Carpathian laying from the Perisani mountains and Magura Codle to the Danube Bazias and Iron Gates². Here the Southern Carpathians reach imposing heights: Parang = 2518 m and Mandra = 2324 m. For Oltenia, the mountain area is formed by the heaps: Parang, Vulcan and Cerna's mountains.

¹Ion Tuțulescu, arheolog, Muzeul Județean „Aurelian Sacerdoțeanu” Vâlcea, doctor în istorie, Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan”, București.

² Cucu 1961, p. 10.

The Getic Sub-Carpathians (southern) stretch in the territory framed by the river Olt and Motru's valley, to the Mehedinți plateau. The characteristic elements of the Sub-Carpathic area, that somehow differentiates it from the other Sub-Carpathians, are the narrowing of the Sub-Carpathic region and the less emphasized folds than those from the East of Dambovită, where these frequently reach to diapirism³.

In the North-West of Oltenia and the West of the Getic Sub-Carpathians lies the Mehedinți plateau, that even though it occupies a small area (about 760 km² or 0,33% of the country's territory), it has a typical aspect of plateau, of erosion, individualized in a Carpathic unit. This landform was created by the leveling which cut in old landforms (crystalline schists, limestones, sandstones), but also in Miocene sedimentary rocks and it was mainly made during the Pleistocene, at the end of which the resulted surface at the border of the mountain (mainly by abrasion), began to be raised and to be submitted to fragmentation⁴.

In the South of the Sub-Carpathians lies the Getic plateau (13900 km² or 5,9% of the territory of Romania); it represented at the beginning of the Quaternary a vast piedmont plain which, after was raised more in the North and in the East of the river Olt, where it reached altitudes of 500-700 m; in rest, the values maintain between 300-400 m decreasing even more at the contact with Romanian plain. The working area is delimited hydrographically by the river Olt (East) and the Danube (West), the territory between these two important hydrographic networks is crossed by the river Jiu. The location of the country in the 45° parallel, leads to the registration of a little difference between the time of days and nights from North to South, as well as the existence of a reduced difference between the annual temperatures from the North border to the Southern border⁵. The climate⁶ is temperate continental, with Mediterranean influences, the arrangement in steps of the relief (plateau, hill, mountain) leading to a natural setting of the climate elements.

Brief History of studying the habitat in the Coțofeni culture period

The great area of spreading of the event in question occupies the West of Muntenia, Oltenia, North-West of Bulgaria, North-East of Serbia, the inside of the Carpathian arch (except the low areas) and the South of Maramureș⁷. In the whole spreading area have been identified about 1500 sites⁸, which 1000 only in Romania⁹.

³ Ghinea 2002, p. 1187.

⁴ Ielenicz 1999, p. 19.

⁵ Roșu 1980, p. 73.

⁶ We are talking about the hill and mountain area of Oltenia.

⁷ Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007, p. 311.

⁸ Popa 2009.

⁹ Ciută 2009, p. 95.

Over time, the studying of the habitat belonging to this culture is in connection with the name of some researchers like: Petre Roman¹⁰, Horia Ciugudean¹¹, Gheorghe Lazarovici¹², Doru Liciu¹³, Stefan Alexandrov¹⁴, Valeriu Lazăr¹⁵, Gheorghe Petre-Govora¹⁶ etc.

The settlements

1. The location of the settlements

1.a. Of terrace: Brăneț¹⁷, Roșiile-Biserică¹⁸, Rogova¹⁹, Copăcelu²⁰, Crivina²¹, Piatra Olt²² etc.

1.b. On islands: Ostrovul Corbului²³ and Ostrovul Șimian²⁴.

1.c. On natural channels: Castele Traiane²⁵ and Plenița²⁶.

1.d. Of heights:

1.d.1. Headlands: Cetățuia²⁷, Govora-Dealul Săpunarului²⁸, Oprișor²⁹, Mateești, Cosota³⁰, Bârsești³¹ etc.

1.d.2. Bots of a hill: Bunești³², Ocnele Mari-Zdup³³, Calopăr³⁴, Căzănești-Cărmidărie³⁵, Costești-Măgura Costeștilor³⁶, Cozia Veche³⁷, Găneasa³⁸, Gătăjesti³⁹, Ocnele Mici-Coasta Ungurească⁴⁰, Vârț⁴¹ etc.

¹⁰ Roman 1976; *Idem* 1977.

¹¹ Ciugudean 2000.

¹² Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007.

¹³ Liciu 2002.

¹⁴ Alexandrov 1997.

¹⁵ Lazăr 1975; *Idem* 1976; *Idem* 1977; *Idem* 1978; *Idem* 1980; *Idem* 1981-1982.

¹⁶ Petre Govora 1967; *Idem* 1982; *Idem* 1995.

¹⁷ Roman 1976, p. 14; Ulanici 1975b, p. 243; *Idem* 1975a, p. 45.

¹⁸ Tuțulescu 2010, p. 32.

¹⁹ Liciu 2002, p. 12; Crăciunescu 2002, p. 12; Crăciunescu *et alii* 2001, *punct* 170; Crăciunescu *et alii* 2002, *punct* 180; Crăciunescu, Manea 2003, *punct* 160; Crăciunescu, Manea 2004, *punct* 157; Crăciunescu, Manea 2005, *punct* 185; Crăciunescu *et alii* 2006, *punct* 154; Crăciunescu, Manea 2007, *punct* 151; Manea 2003, p. 48.

²⁰ Tuțulescu 2008, p. 17.

²¹ Liciu 2002, p. 12.

²² Lazăr 1997, p. 13.

²³ Roman 1976, p. 14; Liciu 2002, p. 12; Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007, p. 312.

²⁴ Roman 1976, p. 14; Liciu 2002, p. 12; Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007, p. 312.

²⁵ Roman 1976, p. 14; Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007, p. 312.

²⁶ Roman 1976, p. 14; Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007, p. 312.

²⁷ Petre Govora 1982, p. 14; *Idem* 1995, p. 19.

²⁸ Petre Govora 1967, p. 645; Berciu 1966, p. 135, Roman 1976, p. 82; Petre Govora 1982, p. 23.

²⁹ Liciu 2002, p. 12.

³⁰ Berciu *et alii* 1984, p. 177; *Idem* 1990, p. 135.

³¹ Petre Govora 1967, p. 645-647; *Idem* 1982, p. 23; *Idem* 1995, p. 19; *Idem* 1997, p. 11.

³² *Idem* 1967, p. 652; *Idem* 1982, p. 23; *Idem* 1995, p. 19; *Idem* 1997, p. 11.

³³ *Idem* 1982, p. 9-10; *Idem* 1995, p. 18-19.

1.e. Dwellings in caves: *Peștera Neolitică-Costești*⁴², *Peștera Sf. Grigore Decapolitul-Costești*⁴³, *Peștera Muierilor* and *Peștera Pârcălabu-Baia de Fier*⁴⁴, Runcu⁴⁵.

1.f. Settlements placed on tells: Sălcuța⁴⁶.

2. According to the way of organizing

2.a. Unfortified settlements: Bunești⁴⁷, Brăneț⁴⁸, Calopăr⁴⁹, Căzănești⁵⁰, Copăcelu⁵¹, Modoia⁵², Rogova⁵³ etc. The majority of this kind of settlements is placed in areas in which the nature played a protective role (settlements situated on headlands, terrace spurs etc.), the defensive sistem having no more use.

2.b. Fortified settlements: Castele Traiane⁵⁴, Plenița⁵⁵, Șiacu⁵⁶. For the settlements at Castele Romane and Plenița we have information regarding the use of the defensive sistem consisting in ditches and mounds of defense. Regarding the fortification from Șiacu (Gorj county), the ambiguous informations does not reveal us the defense sistem they used. It is important to mention the fact that the fortification of the above mentioned settlements is realised during the phase III of Coțofeni Culture, probably due to an external danger; the same phenomenon is also observed in the Glina civilisation (phase II-III contemporary to the phase III Coțofeni).

2.c. The tell settlements: Ostrovul Corbului⁵⁷ and Ocnele Mari-Zdup⁵⁸. The high levels of deposit belonging to the concerned manifestation entitle us to fit the sites in the above mentioned category. At Ostrovul Corbului, in the sector A,

³⁴ Zirra, Pop 1995, p. 13.

³⁵ Petre Govora 1967, p. 649-650; *Idem* 1982, p. 23; *Idem* 1995, p. 20.

³⁶ Vulpe 1967, p. 190.

³⁷ Petre Govora 1995, p. 20.

³⁸ Information from Cristinel Fântâneau.

³⁹ Petre Govora 1995, p. 20.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*.

⁴¹ Calotoiu *et alii* 1987, p. 25-27.

⁴² Procopie 1982, p. 56-64; Bondoc 2002, p. 26.

⁴³ Bondoc 2002, p. 26.

⁴⁴ Berciu 1939, p. 76; Comșa 1968; Roman 1976, p. 79. Plopșor *et alii* 1957, p. 13-27.

⁴⁵ Smeu 1988, p. 5-9.

⁴⁶ Berciu 1961, p. 338-339.

⁴⁷ Petre Govora 1967, p. 652; Roman 1976, p. 79; Petre Govora 1982, p. 23.

⁴⁸ Ulanici 1975a, p. 45 ; *Idem* 1975 b, p. 243; *Idem* 1976, p. 27; Roman 1976, p. 80.

⁴⁹ Zirra, Pop 1995, p. 13.

⁵⁰ Roman 1976, p. 81; Petre Govora 1982, p. 23; *Idem* 1995, p. 20.

⁵¹ Tuțulescu 2008, p. 17.

⁵² Petre Govora 1995, p. 20.

⁵³ Roman 1976, p. 81; Crăciunescu 2002, p. 19. Liciu 2002, p. 10.

⁵⁴ Roman 1976, p. 14.

⁵⁵ *Ibidem*.

⁵⁶ *** 2001, p. 229; Ciută 2009, p. 97.

⁵⁷ Roman, Oprițescu 2008, p. 161. The authors do not speak about a tell settlement here.

⁵⁸ Petre Govora 1995, p. 18-19.

S. XV, the layer of culture has a thickness between 1-1,20 m⁵⁹, the level totally belongs to the phase III. In Vâlcea County, at Ocnele Mari-*Zdup*, the level of culture begins at a depth of 0,60 m and it ends at -3,60 m⁶⁰. It is interesting that all the phases of evolution are represented, the layer of culture indicating a long term settlement. The problem of the tell settlements in Coțofeni culture area it is briefly presented by Cristian Popa; except from those presented above, the author identifies some in Transilvania⁶¹.

2.d. Settlements with an obvious economic character of exploiting of some resources. In the saline platform around Ocnele Mari it has been certificated a number of five settlements in which salt exploiting had the major role. We mention that in the points from Ocnele Mari-*Coasta Ungurească*, Ocnele Mari-*Cosota*, Ocnele Mari- *Zdup*, Govora-*Dealul Săpunarului* and Căzănești the salt was extracted using briquetting vessels (truncated glasses), and from here it was realized a commerce with neighboring areas⁶².

3. The time of using the settlements

3.a. Settlements used for a long time, reported by the sequence of levels, are present at Ostrovul Corbului, Ocnele Mari-*Cosota*⁶³ and Ocnele Mari-*Zdup*.

3.b. Settlements used for an average period of time, mentioned by a single level of habitation, but rich in archaeological material are reported at Castele Traiane, Rogova, Cetățuia, Vârț, Govora-*Dealul Săpunarului*, Roșiile, Oprișor, Mateești, Căzănești, Craiova etc. The majority of the discoveries from the area fit in this type.

3.c. Seasonal settlements (used for a short period of time) generally placed in the mountain area or caves area or in places where establishment was linked to a certain economic practice. In this category fit the discoveries from Copăcelu⁶⁴, *Peștera Neolitică*, *Peștera Sf. Grigore Decapolitul-Costesti*⁶⁵ etc.

4. Dimensions

Insufficient researches in the hill and mountain area of Oltenia present a pretty concise image regarding the dimensions of Coțofeni settlements. At Ostrovul Corbului, the deposits along the Danube's shore are distinguishable on about 500 linear meters, and an appreciation of the complexes spreading is

⁵⁹ Roman, Opreșescu 2008, p. 161.

⁶⁰ Petre Govora 1995, p. 18-19.

⁶¹ Popa 2009.

⁶² Schuster, Tuțulescu 2010. Communication held at the symposium at Prodiva Bulgaria „Salt and Gold: The Role of Salt in Prehistoric Europe” (30 septembrie-4 octombrie); Schuster *et alii* 2010, p. 263; Schuster, Tuțulescu 2011, p. 141-142.

⁶³ We mentioned that the settlement from here was destroyed by Geto Dacian civilisation, but from researching the ceramic material we see a long evolution from the first phase up to the third phase.

⁶⁴ The discovery from here can be assigned to a fishing camp settled here. We underline that the theory is just a supposition, because the little researched area does not show us a clear situation.

⁶⁵ Inhabited points for a short period of time, in the communities succession.

estimated at 38000 m²⁶⁶. For this kind of settlement as well we find out that the dwellings are oriented in most of the cases parallel to the Danube (East-West), positioned in the most prominent zone and along the Danube⁶⁷.

At Ocnîța-Cosota the archeological researches from Buridava Dacică and especially from the *Acropola* led to the discovery of an important lot of material, the area for this point being of about 3000 m²⁶⁸.

At Brăneț, the Coțofeni settlement is located on a headland with the dimensions 250 x 60 m⁶⁹, the living area being of about 15000 m².

From the personal researches made at Cetățuia, where on the headland on which the discoveries from here have been made, the living area is about 900 m². Regarding the site from Rogova (Mehedinți county), the author suggests the idea that the Coțofeni settlement occupied a squared perimeter with the side of 40 m⁷⁰, the living area being therefore 1600 m².

By all the facts presented above, we assert that the Coțofeni settlements are classified in big dimensions settlements and small dimensions settlements.

5. The way of dividing in different zones the settlements.

Having a mixed economy, mostly pastoral, we consider that these could have been divided in zones for sheltering the cattle and zones for living.

Constructions

1. Huts: Vârț-Cioaca lui Meilă, Rogova, Brăneț and Ostovul Corbului.

1.a. Form:

1.a.1. Ovoid: Vârț, Ostrovul Corbului. The archeological researches from Vârț led to the discovery of a fifth type hut⁷¹, ovoid form, diameter between 3-4 m⁷².

For Ostrovul Corbului the situation is different; some pits can be classified as hut type dwellings. In the South part of S. II, S. VIII from sector A, has been researched an oval pit noted Gr. 5 with the dimensions of 3,40 x 2 m and depth of 0,90-1 m. That pit is dished from East to West, the orientation being ESE-WNW, the entrance from WNW is like a step. Near the step, in the left side, has been discovered a stake pit with the diameter of 35 cm⁷³. Petre Roman, the coordinator of the diggings from here, considers that Gr. 5 can be classified as a hut type dwelling.

In S. XII, Sector A, level 4, has been researched a pit with big dimensions (ovoid form as in the picture), which pierced Sălcuța level having in the middle

⁶⁶ Roman 1996, p. 30-31.

⁶⁷ Roman, Opreșcu 2008, p. 162.

⁶⁸ Information from Mariana Iosifaru.

⁶⁹ Ulanici 1975a, p. 45.

⁷⁰ Crăciunescu 2002, p. 19.

⁷¹ Calotoiu *et alii* 1987, p. 25.

⁷² Gherghe 1982, p. 40; Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007, p. 315.

⁷³ Roman, Opreșcu 2008, p. 127.

the hole for the stake for the roof⁷⁴. Is remarkable the fact that *Sector B*, S. the XXI-st is reported a construction in its filling has been discovered an appreciable quantity of ceramic, bones, stones, sea shells⁷⁵, elements that can frame the complex of the category mentioned above.

1.a.2.Rectangular: Brăneț, Ostrovul Corbului. In the inferior level (research 1972) has been discovered a rectangular hut with rounded edges, dimensions 2,70 x 2,30 m, maximum depth being of 0,70 m⁷⁶. The dwelling has a stake pit in the middle for supporting the roof. At Ostrovul Corbului in S. XV, *Sector A* has been researched a rectangular pit with the length of 2,80 m and depth of 0,80 m⁷⁷.

In the years 2001-2002, at Rogova "La Cazărmi", it has been researched a dwelling with the dimensions 2,75 x 1,45 m and depth 0,80 m⁷⁸. Two years later, it has been reported the presence of two complexes of same type, without being presented any details about the form or the depth of the constructions⁷⁹.

2. Surface dwellings

2.a Proper dwellings. Certificate in settlements like: Ostrovul Corbului⁸⁰, Calopăr⁸¹, Rogova⁸², Șiacu⁸³, Cetățuia⁸⁴ and Brăneț.

2.a.1 Rectangular dwellings. We find them at Rogova, Ostrovul Corbului and Brăneț.

In the point *La Cazărmi* from Rogova many rectangular dwellings have been researched. Though, in 2001, two dwellings were unveiled, the first one partially researched a year before, dimensions 3,45 x 2,80 m with the edges slightly rounded⁸⁵, and the second one with dimensions 4,40 x 2,00 m⁸⁶. The coordinator of the research launches the hypothesis that the first dwelling had an interior pit that used for gathering the excess humidity from the level of the floor⁸⁷.

⁷⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 139.

⁷⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 167.

⁷⁶ Ulanici 1975a, p. 45.

⁷⁷ Roman, Opreșescu 2008, p. 161.

⁷⁸ Crăciunescu 2002, p. 20.

⁷⁹ Crăciunescu, Manea 2005, *punct 185*.

⁸⁰ Roman, Opreșescu 2008, p. 123-168; Roman 1996, p. 13-31.

⁸¹ Zirra, Pop 1995, p. 15-16.

⁸² Crăciunescu 2002, p. 12; Crăciunescu *et alii* 2001, *punct 170*; Crăciunescu *et alii* 2002, *punct. 180*; Crăciunescu, Manea 2003, *punct 160*; Crăciunescu, Manea 2004, *punct 157*; Crăciunescu, Manea 2005, *punct 185*; Crăciunescu *et alii* 2006, *punct 154*; Crăciunescu, Manea 2007, *punct 151*; Manea 2003, p. 48.

⁸³ Calotoiu *et alii* 1987, p. 28.

⁸⁴ Petre Govora's site notebook.

⁸⁵ Crăciunescu *et alii* 2001, *punct 170*.

⁸⁶ Crăciunescu 2002, p. 20; Crăciunescu *et alii* 2002, *punct 180*.

⁸⁷ Crăciunescu 2002, p. 20.

At Ostrovul Corbului in *Sector A*, S. XII at level four, it is recalled a dwelling with dimensions 4,00 x 3,00 m⁸⁸, and in S. XII-1 two rectangular dwellings with dimensions 6,50 x 2,70 m⁸⁹, respectively 3,25 x 2,40 m⁹⁰. In S. I level two, a 3,00 cm thick platform has been discovered, with dimensions 5,00 m North South and 3,25 m East West, having stakes for supporting the walls inside and also outside⁹¹.

2.a.2. L shaped dwellings. In *Sector A*. S. XII, from Ostrovul Corbului dwelling noted as L.1., had the following dimensions: South side = 15 m, East side = 5 m and North side= 9 m. In the North East, many stake holes seem the suggest according to the discoverer the existence of a veranda or an annex of 2 x 2 m⁹². The walls of the dwelling had interior and exterior stakes, the thickness being between 0,14-0,30 m.

2.a.3. Oval dwellings. The researches made with the occasion of building a water basin on hill Cetățuia from Râmnicu Vâlcea led to the discovery of a Coțofeni dwelling with the length of 4,50 m⁹³.

2.a.3 Dwellings with an unspecified form.

At Brăneț, in the years 1973-1975 the archeological researches led tot the discovery of two surface dwellings noted with L.C. and L.D.⁹⁴, L.C., whose contour has not been established had 10 cm thick walls; L.D. situated at 4 m North West from the first⁹⁵, of which only 1/5 of the surface has been researched, this not being preserved because of the later destructions. Both dwellings have interior hearths, their improvement being directly on the ground, without floor. The researches from 1972 led to the discovery of a surface dwelling (noted probably L.B), with small dimensions, in the second level of inhabitation. It could not be specified the form or the existence of an interior improvement⁹⁶.

At Bâzdâna-Calopăr, in Dolj county, has been signaled at dwelling with a form that could not be established, because of the landslides from the North area of the sit⁹⁷.

At Șiacu, settlement have been partially discovered two surface dwellings, weakly preserved their accentuation is made after the parts of burned adobe and the ceramic fragments⁹⁸.

⁸⁸ Roman, Oprețescu 2008, p. 138.

⁸⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 142.

⁹⁰ *Ibidem*, 2008, p. 149 ; There is not any information about the stratigraphical classification of the two complexes.

⁹¹ *Ibidem*, 2008, p. 152.

⁹² *Ibidem*, 2008, p. 136.

⁹³ Information from Petre Govora's site notebook.

⁹⁴ Ulanici 1976, p. 37.

⁹⁵ Both dwellings belong to the second level.

⁹⁶ Ulanici 1975a, p. 47.

⁹⁷ Zirra, Pop 1995, p. 15.

⁹⁸ Calotoiu *et alli* 1987, p. 28.

2.b. Huts. The walls are made of wattles covered with clay, of small dimensions, mentioned in the settlements from Ostrovul Simian, Vârț⁹⁹ and Copăcelu¹⁰⁰.

At Ostrovul Simian and Vârț, the huts were referred after the form of the adobe collected around fire hearth, their form being round or ellipsoidal. Regarding that from Copăcelu, the small researched area does not show us a clear image which could suggest an eventual form. According to the opinion of the archeologist Horia Ciugudean, the hut is found in all the phases of culture evolution¹⁰¹.

3. Improvements in the dwellings. The investigations made in the area of Coțofeni culture from our study reveal the existence of dwellings with floors and dwellings placed directly on the ground.

The dwellings discovered during the researches at Ostrovul Corbului have floors, hearth furnaces and pits.

The floorings discovered at Ostrovul Corbului can be classified according to the colour of the clay as follows:

- Floorings with blue clay (sector A,S., I, level 3 with restorations of a yellow clay¹⁰², from a dwelling with straight corners;

- Floorings with yellow clay (level 6, sector A, S. I, at a depth of -1,90-1,70, on a length of 4 m a yellow clay flooring with a thickness of 10 cm has been researched, in S. XII, level 2, etc);

- Floorings with greenish clay (sector A, S. X).

According to the thickness of the floorings we see that these are between 3 cm¹⁰³ (S. I-c. level 2), 4-5 cm¹⁰⁴ (L.I from sector A.S.XII) and 10 cm (level 6, sector A. S. I), being restored for many times (level 4, Sector A. S. I we can see the existence of some floorings that have been restored for three times¹⁰⁵).

We can see the traces of the floorings in the following sections from Ostrovul Corbului, from Sector A: S. XXVI, S.I-c, S.XV, S.XVI¹⁰⁶.

At Bâzdâna, in Calopăr, Dolj county, the flooring of the dwelling was made from yellow clay, very good trodden, kept under the hearth, under debris and mainly around the hearth¹⁰⁷.

The research from Cetățuia, Râmnicu Vâlcea town, made by Gheorghe Petre Govora, reveal the existence of a clay flooring, mixed with sand and rarely with pebbles, omitting the colour of the above mentioned clay¹⁰⁸.

⁹⁹ Berciu 1939, p. 79.

¹⁰⁰ Tuțulescu 2008, p. 18.

¹⁰¹ Ciugudean 2000, p. 18.

¹⁰² Roman, Oprețescu 2008, p. 152.

¹⁰³ *Ibidem*, p. 152.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 136.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 155.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 125-168.

¹⁰⁷ Zirra, Pop 1995, p. 16-17; We do not know any information regarding the thickness of this settlement.

4. The way of building

The huts are different from the surface dwellings on the depth made in the ground, according to Horia Ciugudean's opinion they are considered single-family residences¹⁰⁹.

For building the huts there were used stakes and wattle on which the clay was added. Important information arrive from Brăneț where the dwelling noted L.C. had the thickness of the stakes and wattle between 2-3 cm on which it was added the clay so the thickness of the wall became 10 cm¹¹⁰.

The information offered by L.I, Sector A. S. XII, from Ostrovul Corbului are essential, the edges of the walls kept in the digging were high up to 10-14 cm, the thickness is between 14-30 cm. For supporting the walls, the dwelling had interior stakes as well as exterior. The exterior ones had sharp tops, the interior ones did not. The building technique was from wattle with clay, the roof was made from clay¹¹¹.

V. Other ensembles: fire installations (fire hearths, ovens), pits

1. Hearths

1.a. Interior. They can be found at Vârț¹¹², Ostrovul Corbului¹¹³, Copăcelu¹¹⁴, Brăneț¹¹⁵, Ostrovul Siminic¹¹⁶ and Bâzdâna¹¹⁷. The information regarding to the place of setting these installations in the dwelling would have been essential. Although, at Ostrovul Corbului according to the plan of the big dwelling L.I, we can see the location of a hearth on the side of the wall and the second in the middle of the structure. After the location of the 2 hearths discovered at Brăneț, the author of the researches mentions that these were situated in higher area.

1.b. Exterior. Ostrovul Corbului¹¹⁸. According to the plans we observe the appearance of the above mentioned type. We do not know if the installation was for one or more dwellings.

1.c. Form:

1.c.1 Round: Brăneț¹¹⁹ (L.D, diameter of 1,20 m and thickness of 0,11 m), Bâzdâna¹²⁰ (diameter of 1,30 m including the garden), Vârț¹²¹ (diameter 1,40 m and thickness 4,5 cm).

¹⁰⁸ Site notebook.

¹⁰⁹ Ciugudean 2000, p. 19.

¹¹⁰ Ulanici 1976, p. 37.

¹¹¹ Roman, Oprițescu 2008, p. 137.

¹¹² Gherghe 1982, p. 40; Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007, p. 314.

¹¹³ Roman, Oprițescu 2008, p. 125-168.

¹¹⁴ Tuțulescu 2008, p. 18.

¹¹⁵ Ulanici 1976, p. 37.

¹¹⁶ Berciu 1939, p. 79.

¹¹⁷ Zirra, Pop 1995, p. 15-16.

¹¹⁸ Roman, Oprițescu 2008, p. 125-168.

¹¹⁹ Ulanici 1976, p. 41

¹²⁰ Zirra, Pop 1995, p. 16.

¹²¹ Gherghe 1982, p. 40; Calotoiu *et alii* 1987, p. 25; Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007, p. 315.

1.c.2 Rectangular: Ostrovul Corbului- Sector A. S. X, diameter 100 x 80 cm¹²², Sector A. S. I, level 6, rectangular including the garden¹²³, Sector B. S. XXII¹²⁴.

1.c.3 Oval: Ostrovul Corbului- Sector A.S. XVII, level 3 diameter 1,20 m¹²⁵, Sector A.S. I level 1, diameter 1,30 x 0,83 m¹²⁶.

1.d. According to the type:

1.d.1 Simple: Brăneț¹²⁷, Ostrovul Corbului, Șiacu¹²⁸.

1.d.2. With garden: Calopăr-Bâzdâna¹²⁹ and Ostrovul Corbului¹³⁰.

1.e. According to the use. Although it is though that this type of installation had a double purpose (warming and cooking), the archeological researches from Ostrovul Corbului led to the discovery of two hearths in a dwelling. The author of the researches considers that the two hearths (Sector A.S. XXVI, -2,40 m), had different purposes: one for warming in the other for cooking¹³¹.

1.f. Way of building. The majority of the installations are raised on a layer of ceramic fragments (disposed on a row or on many rows) over which it is added the plaster. In S. XVII from Sector A from Ostrovul Corbului, level 2 in a dwelling has been researched a hearth that had in its composition a layer of ceramic fragments and bottoms of vessels that were placed head down, disposed on many rows, in a rectangular bed¹³². The role of the ceramic fragments and bottoms of vessel in the composition of hearths was stocking the heat. At the certain period of time and because of prolonged use, these were plastered once again. The hearths made from a layer of ceramic fragments were discovered also at Calopăr-Bâzdâna¹³³, Vârț¹³⁴ at Ostrovul Corbului.

Regarding to the huts discovered at Brăneț, we do not have information regarding their composition¹³⁵, that from Copăcelu was destroyed by ages¹³⁶.

2. Ovens

¹²² Roman, Oprețescu 2008, p. 129.

¹²³ *Ibidem*, p. 156.

¹²⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 165, p. 165, fig. 39; Partially research according to the plan it belongs to this type.

¹²⁵ *Ibidem*, p.130, fig. 8.

¹²⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 152.

¹²⁷ Ulanici 1976, p. 37.

¹²⁸ Gherghe 1982, p. 40; Calotoiu *et alii* 1987, p. 25; Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007, p. 315.

¹²⁹ Zirra, Pop 1995, p. 16, round hearth.

¹³⁰ Roman, Oprețescu 2008, p. 156, Sector A, S. I, level 6 depth 1.90-1.70 m, rectangular shape.

¹³¹ *Ibidem*, p. 130.

¹³² *Ibidem*, p. 130.

¹³³ Zirra, Pop 1995, p. 16.

¹³⁴ Gherghe 1982, p. 40; Calotoiu *et alii* 1987, p. 25; Lazarovici, Lazarovici 2007, p. 315.

¹³⁵ Ulanici 1976, p. 41, it is mentioned the settlement in a higher area.

¹³⁶ Tuțulescu 2008, p. 18.

The archeological researches from the hill and mountain area of Oltenia are pretty poor, the only information regarding the ovens come from the West part of the area. The investigations made at *Ostrovl Corbului-Botul Cliuciului*, led to the discovery of two types of ovens:

2.a. Domestic ovens. At *Ostrovl Corbului*, Sector A.S. XII level 3 in a surface dwelling has been researched an oven with the diameter of 1m, strongly destroyed on the inside because of the use¹³⁷.

2.b. Ovens for reducing ore. In the same sector S. XVI b at the border of squares 16-17 has been revealed a metallurgical oven. The installation was destroyed on the superior part (dome), by a new pit, horseshoe shaped, built in a mass of ashes, it had the side parts plated with *Coțofeni* pieces. The hearth was built over a layer of ashes and coals to which it had been added one layer of ceramic fragments. In the interior of the oven were found traces of hard, the orientation being North-South, with an opening to the North¹³⁸.

3. Pits.

3.a. According to the setting in space:

3.a.1. Interior pits. Inside the dwellings, they are certificated at *Rogova*¹³⁹.

3.a.2. Exterior pits. Outside the dwelling at: *Simnic*¹⁴⁰, *Rogova*¹⁴¹, *Ostrovl Corbului*¹⁴².

3.b. According to the use.

3.b.1. Household pits: *Rogova*¹⁴³, *Ostrovl Corbului*¹⁴⁴, *Simnic*.

3.b.2. Pits for extracting the clay: *Ostrovl Corbului*¹⁴⁵.

3.b.3. Pits for gathering the excess of humidity: *Rogova*¹⁴⁶.

3.c. According to the shape:

3.c.1. Oval: *Ostrovl Corbului*¹⁴⁷.

3.c.2. Round: *Ostrovl Corbului*¹⁴⁸.

¹³⁷ Roman, Oprețescu 2008, p. 138.

¹³⁸ Roman *et alii* 1983, p. 101, fig. 1/2; Roman, Oprețescu 2008, p. 163-164, fig. 35-36.

¹³⁹ Crăciunescu 2002, p. 20.

¹⁴⁰ Galbenu 1975, p. 15; We do not have any information regarding the shape, depth or type. The only mention that we have is that coming from discovering in the filling of the holes with copper fragments, the size of a grain bean.

¹⁴¹ Manea, Pădureanu 2005, p. 48, pl. II.

¹⁴² Roman, Oprețescu 2008, p. 127, *Sector A*, S.II; p. 142, S.XII-I, with irregular edges coming down in steps, p. 159, S. I, Gr. 13 A; p. 139, S.XII, Gr.2; p. 159, S. I, Gr. 13 A; p. 166, *Sector B*, S. XVIII.

¹⁴³ Manea, Pădureanu 2005, p. 48, pl. II.

¹⁴⁴ Roman, Oprețescu 2008, p. 127, *Sector A*, S.II ; p. 159, S. I, Gr. 13 A; p. 139, S.XII, Gr.2,

¹⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 127, *Sector A*, S. I, Gr. 10 (diameter 2 m), Gr. 15 ; p. 142, S.XII-I, with irregular edges coming down in steps.

¹⁴⁶ Crăciunescu 2002, p. 20.

¹⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 127, *Sector A*, S.II, diameter 2,30 m, depth -70-80 cm; p. 159, S. I, Gr. 13 A, diameter 1,80x0,90 m, depth -0,52 m; p. 139, S.XII, Gr.2, diameter 2,10 m; p. 166, *Sector B*, S. XVIII,

3.c.3. With irregular shape: Ostrovul Corbului¹⁴⁹.

The researches made in the few Coțofeni settlements do not offer information regarding the appearance of pits for supplies and why not some pits with spiritual features. Regarding this cultural manifestation, the research of the habitat in the area of the study is acceptably realized, the settlements discovered rise to a number of 102 points, the biggest sharing is owned by the surface researches. Proving a big power of adaptability, the Coțofeni communities are met in all the landforms. Regarding the settlements with many levels of inhabitation, we classify the discoveries from Ostrovul Corbului and Ocele Mari-Zdup as belonging to the tell-s. According to the type, we notify the rise of some defensive systems in phase III of evolution, similar situation and in phases II-III of Glina communities, civilization to which Coțofeni is contemporary. The need of building these defensive systems must be suggested by an external danger and the appearance of culture Jamnaja can be a landmark. The proven hypothesis and the setting of the settlements coming from the same phase, mostly in higher lands, points that assured the surveillance of a vast territory, having in the same time protective role.

For the North-East area of Oltenia, around the salt platform Ocele Mari, we notify the existence of five settlements, where the use of salt springs had an important role. The exploit was made by using lighter pots, considered by some specialists a prestige good¹⁵⁰.

The discoveries from the caves can be assigned to the succession of communities with an economy mostly bucolic.

The dwellings researched in the are of our study reveal a bigger share to the surface dwellings than the deepened once. The discovery of an oven for reducing ore reveals us a clear image of a society in a transition period, the crafts having an important role.

(traducere de Alexandru Zamfir)

¹⁴⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 127, Sector A, S.II, diameter 1,30 m, depth -40 cm.

¹⁴⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 142, S. XII-I, with irregular edges coming down in steps.

¹⁵⁰ Monah 2008, p. 17.

Abbreviations and bibliography

Angustia		Angustia. Muzeul Carpaților Răsăriteni. Sfântu Gheorghe
ArhOlteniei (SN)		Arhivele Olteniei (Serie Nouă). Craiova
A.O.		Arhivele Olteniei (Serie Veche). Craiova
Buridava		Buridava. Studii și materiale. Rm. Vâlcea
CAMNI		Cercetări Arheologice. Muzeul Național de Istorie al României. București
CCDJ		Cultură și Civilizație la Dunărea de Jos. Călărași
Comunicări		Comunicări. Craiova
Drobeta		Drobeta. Turnu Severin
Litua		Litua. Târgu Jiu
Marisia		Marisia. Târgu Mureș
Materiale		Materiale și Cercetări Arheologice. București
PZ		Prähistorische Zeitschrift. Berlin
Oltenia		Oltenia. Craiova
SCIVA		Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie. București
Studii și Cercetări speologice		Studii și Cercetări speologice. București
St. Uni. Cib		Studia Universitatis Cibiniensis. Sibiu
Th.D		Thraco-Dacica. București
Alexandrov	1997	S. Alexandrov, <i>Cultura Coțofeni în Bulgaria</i> (teză de doctorat, coord. D. Berciu), București, manuscris.
Berciu	1939	D. Berciu, <i>Preistoria Olteniei</i> , Craiova.
Berciu	1961	D. Berciu, <i>Contribuții la problemele neoliticului din România în lumina noilor cercetări</i> , București.
Berciu	1966	D. Berciu, <i>Zorile istoriei în Carpați și la Dunăre</i> , București.
Berciu et alii	1984	D. Berciu, M. Iosifaru, S. Purece, Gh. Andreescu, <i>Descoperiri și însemnări de la Buridava Dacică, II</i> , în Th. D, V, 1-2, p. 177-186.
Berciu et alii	1990	D. Berciu, M. Iosifaru, S. Purece, <i>Descoperiri și însemnări de la Buridava Dacică, VIII</i> , în Th.D, XI, 1-2, p. 135-138.
Bondoc	2002	D. Bondoc, <i>Costești-Vâlcea, 45 secole de istorie</i> , Rm. Vâlcea.
Calotoiu et alii	1987	Gh. Calotoiu, I. Mocioi, V. Marinoiu, <i>Mărturii arheologice în Gorj</i> , Tg. Jiu.
Ciugudean	2000	H. Ciugudean, <i>Eneoliticul Final în Transilvania și Banat: Cultura Coțofeni</i> , Timișoara.
Ciută	2009	B. Ciută, <i>Cultivarea plantelor în pre- și protoistoria</i>

		<i>bazinului intracarpatic din România. Analize statistice și spațiale asupra macroresturilor vegetale</i> , Alba-Iulia.
Comșa	1968	E. Comșa, <i>Unele date despre descoperirile arheologice din Peștera Muierilor, de lângă Baia de Fier (epoca neolitică-epoca feudală)</i> , în Comunicări, Seria arheologică, VIII, Craiova.
Crăciunescu	2002	G. Crăciunescu, <i>Locuirea Coțofeni de la Rogova, județul Mehedinți</i> , în Drobeta, XI-XII, p. 19-61.
Crăciunescu et alii	2001	G. Crăciunescu, Cr. Manea, M. Sârbu, I.C. Bălțean, Rogova, com. Rogova, jud. Mehedinți, Punct: La Cazărmi, www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/CronicaCA2001/rapoarte/rapoarte_maine.htm
Crăciunescu et alii	2002	G. Crăciunescu, Cr. Manea, C. Para, Rogova, com. Rogova, jud. Mehedinți, Punct: La Cazărmi, www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/CronicaCA2002/introducere/default.htm
Crăciunescu, Manea	2003	G. Crăciunescu, Cr. Manea, Rogova, com. Rogova, jud. Mehedinți, Punct: La Cazărmi, www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/CronicaCA2003/cd/index.htm
Crăciunescu, Manea	2004	G. Crăciunescu, Cr. Manea, Rogova, com. Rogova, jud. Mehedinți, Punct: La Cazărmi, www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/CronicaCA2004/cd/index.htm
Crăciunescu, Manea	2005	G. Crăciunescu, Cr. Manea, Rogova, com. Rogova, jud. Mehedinți, Punct: La Cazărmi, www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/CronicaCA2005/cd/index.htm
Crăciunescu et alii	2006	G. Crăciunescu, Cr. Manea, O. Pădurean, Rogova, com. Rogova, jud. Mehedinți, Punct: La Cazărmi, http://www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/CronicaCA2006/cd/index.htm
Crăciunescu Manea	2007	G. Crăciunescu, Cr. Manea, Rogova, com. Rogova, jud. Mehedinți, Punct: La Cazărmi, www.cimec.ro/Arheologie/CronicaCA2007/cd/index.htm
Cucu	1961	V. Cucu, <i>Oltenia azi</i> , București.
Gherghe	1982	P. Gherghe, <i>O nouă așezare de tip Coțofeni la Vîrș. Județul Gorj</i> , în Oltenia, 4, p. 39-45.
Ghinea	2002	D. Ghinea, <i>Enciclopedia geografică a României</i> , București.
Ielenicz	1999	M. Ielenicz, <i>Dealurile și podișurile României</i> , București.
Lazarovici, Lazarovici	2007	C. M. Lazarovici, Gh. Lazarovici, <i>Arhitectura neoliticului și epocii cuprului din România, II, Epoca cuprului</i> , Iași.
Lazăr	1975	V. Lazăr, <i>Cultura Coțofeni în județul Mureș</i> , în Marisia, V, p. 29-42.
Lazăr	1976	V. Lazăr, <i>Așezări de înălțime cu terase ale culturii</i>

- Coțofeni în Transilvania*, în Marisia, VI, p. 27-35.
- Lazăr 1977 V. Lazăr, *Așezarea Coțofeni de la Șincai (județul Mureș) (I)*, în Marisia, VII, p. 17-56.
- Lazăr 1978 V. Lazăr, *Așezarea Coțofeni de la Șincai (județul Mureș) (II)*, Marisia, VIII, p. 33-56.
- Lazăr 1980 V. Lazăr, *Așezări de înălțime cu terase Coțofeni în Transilvania (III)*, în Marisia, X, p. 11-30.
- Lazăr 1981-1982 V. Lazăr, *Așezări de înălțime cu terase Coțofeni în Transilvania. Considerații generale social-economice și istorice (IV)*, în Marisia, XI-XII, p. 31-40.
- Lazăr 1997 S. Lazăr, *Câteva considerații cu privire la așezările preistorice de la Piatra Olt, jud. Olt*, în A. O. 12, p. 13-22.
- Liciu 2002 Doru Liciu, *Noi descoperiri aparținând culturii Coțofeni pe teritoriul județului Mehedinți*, în Drobeta, XI-XII, p. 7-18.
- Manea 2003 Cr. Manea, *Locuirile sitului arheologic de la Rogova*, în Drobeta, XIII, p. 48-54.
- Manea, 2005 Cr. Manea, O. Pădureanu, *Șantierul arheologic Rogova. Campania 2005*, în Drobeta, XV, p. 47-56.
- Pădureanu
Monah 2008 D. Monah, *Arheologia preistorică a sării în România. Scurt istoric, Sarea de la Prezent la trecut*, Piatra-Neamț, p. 13-40.
- Petre Govora 1967 Gh. Petre Govora, *Ceramica decorată prin împusături succesive din r. Rm. Vâlcea*, în SCIVA. 4, 18, p. 645-654.
- Petre Govora 1982 Gh. Petre Govora, *Noi descoperiri aparținând culturii Coțofeni, în nord-estul Olteniei*, în Buridava, IV, p. 9-26.
- Petre Govora 1995 Gh. Petre Govora, *O preistorie a nord-estului Olteniei*, Rm. Vâlcea.
- Petre Govora 1997 Gh. Petre Govora, *Govora de la primii oameni la contemporani*, Rm. Vâlcea.
- Plopșor et alii 1957 C.S. Nicolăescu Plopșor, E. Comșa, D.C. Nicolăescu-Plopșor, Al. Bolomey, *Șantierul Arheologic Baia de Fier*, în Materiale, III, p. 13-27.
- Popa 2009 Cr. Popa, *Cultura Coțofeni. Cu specială privire asupra Transilvaniei. Rezumat teza de doctorat*, http://www.uab.ro/invatamant/doctorat/ro/pagini/rezumate/CIPopa_Cotofeni_ro.pdf
- Procopie 1982 G. Procopie, *Cultura Coțofeni în Peștera Neolitică de pe Valea Bistriței*, în Studii și Cercetări speologice, vol. 2, p. 56-64.
- Roman 1976 P. Roman, *Cultura Coțofeni*, București.
- Roman 1977 P. Roman, *Die Coțofeni-Kultur*, în PZ 52, 2, p. 189-198.

Roman	1996	P. Roman, <i>Ostrovul Corbului, Istoricul cercetărilor. Săpăturile arheologice și stratigrafie, I, 1, a</i> , p. 1-33 (versiune în limba germană, p. 35-65), București.
Roman, Opreșcu	2008	P. Roman, A.D-Opreșcu, <i>Ostrovul Corbului între Km. fluviali 911-912. Morminte și unele așezări preistorice</i> , București.
Roșu	1980	Al. Roșu, <i>Geografia fizică a României</i> , București.
Smeu	1988	V. Smeu, <i>Cadrul Natural și așezarea neolitică de la Runcu-Valea Mare</i> , în Litua, IV, p. 5-9.
Schuster et alii	2010	Cr. Schuster, I. Tuțulescu, I. Dumitrescu, <i>Câteva gânduri cu privire la exploatarea sării în nord-estul Olteniei. Din preistorie și până în epoca modernă</i> , în Angustia, 14, p. 261-270.
Schuster, Tuțulescu	2011	Cr. Schuster, I. Tuțulescu, <i>Some remarks about the tools used for obtaining salt in prehistory in nordhern Oltenia</i> , în CCDJ, XXVIII, p. 139-152.
Ulanici	1975a	A. Ulanici, <i>Săpăturile arheologice de la Braneț, jud. Olt</i> , în CAMNI 1, p. 45-76.
Ulanici	1975b	A. Ulanici, <i>Așezarea de tip Coțofeni, de la Brăneț, județul Olt</i> , în Muzeul Național II, p. 243-255.
Ulanici	1976	A. Ulanici, <i>Noi cercetări arheologice la Braneț</i> , în CAMNI 2, p. 33-72.
Tuțulescu	2008	I. Tuțulescu, <i>Câteva contribuții la cunoașterea culturii Coțofeni de pe raza municipiului Râmnicu Vâlcea. Cercetările arheologice din anul 2002 de la Valea Răii-Copăcelu</i> , în St. Uni. Cib, 5, p. 17-27.
Tuțulescu	2010	I. Tuțulescu, <i>Contributions to the Archaeological Repertoire of Vâlcea County. 2008 Field Research</i> , în St. Uni. Cib, 7, p. 31-40.
Vulpe	1967	Alexandru Vulpe, <i>Necropola hallstattiană de la Ferigile. Monografie</i> , București.
Zira, Pop	1995	V. V. Zirra, D. Pop, <i>Săpăturile de la Bâzdâna-Calopăr, "La Cetate", jud. Dolj. Campania 1993</i> , în ArhOlteniei (SN)., 10, p. 13-28.
***	2001	Istoria Românilor, 2001.