

BRONZE AGE PYRAUNOS POTS AND CLAY PLATES DISCOVERED IN OLTENIA

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During the middle and late Bronze Ages in South West Oltenia two cultures developed in this area that is both representatives for the Romanian Bronze Age: Verbicioara and Gârla Mare. In these two cultures were discovered dwellings with hearths used for heating and food preparation, using a large variety of pots. Each house had one hearth, but there were cases of bigger houses with two hearths. Besides this heating system there were other ways to heat up the spaces such as clay plates.

Pyraunos pots were used in food preparation both inside and outside the house, in hearths or open spaces. These pots had different shapes and they are mentioned, for this period, on a relatively large territory that covers Hungary, Serbia, Romania and Macedonia. In a relatively recent article is mentioned data about this type of objects, for the late Bronze Age and the first Iron Age¹ for a larger area which, besides the above mentioned countries, bring into discussion others. Another article talks about the pyraunos pots from Romanian area. It is specified that these discoveries were made in Cehălut Group and the Mureș, Otomani, Suciul de Sus and Wietenberg cultures for Transilvania, Gârla Mare and Verbicioara for Oltenia and Tei for Muntenia². I must also mention that several amphorae discovered in Moldova Veche Island are preserved in The Iron Gates Museum from Drobeta Turnu Severin. These belong to the Vatina Culture. Some of these amphorae still have some evidence of the double wall, a proof they were initially pyraunos pots.

Some of these pots have large dimensions, comparing with the current 10 liter vessels. Again in Banat, belonging to the Cruceni – Belegiș culture, a fragment of a pyraunos³ pot was discovered in Cruceni – *Módosi út*. The pot was made of coarse paste which included grit and crushed ceramic fragments.

Returning to the South West Oltenia area, I state that the existence of pyraunos pots is documented in Verbicioara and Žuto Brdo – Gârla Mare cultures. Their first description is related to the Verbicioara culture when some explanations about the area where similar pots were discovered. These types of pots were discovered in Romania, Hungary and Slovakia⁴. In the same paper D. Berciu also states that during the Verbicioara research, besides the reassembled pot (Pl. I/1), numerous fragments of this type of pot were discovered especially in pits.

¹ Fischl/Kiss/Kulcsar 2001, p. 125–156; Kacsó 2004, p. 205 și Pl. LXII/1,2.

² Schuster/Comșa/Popa 2001, p. 46–47.

³ Szentmiklosi 2010, p. 296–297 și Pl. III/2.

⁴ Berciu 1961, Fig. 6 și p. 144.

Archaeological research carried out in Rogova, Mehedinți County, during 1995–2007, in an archaeological site covering about 11 ha belonging to Verbicioara⁵ culture allowed observations about multiple ceramic fragments that were part of pots belonging to this culture. We talked about large size ceramic fragments, provided with round opening made in the pot's walls. Unfortunately, I didn't have the chance to restore the shape of any pot or significant fragment of it in order to determine their shape. In another archaeological site belonging to this culture from Orevița Mare – Păulești on Măroiu hill, a large amount of ceramic material belonging to the late Verbicioara⁶ culture appeared. Reviewing a part of the ceramic material, I found the existence of 2 ceramic fragments part of pyraunos pots. These are almost black and are made of a paste mixed with a lot of crushed ceramic fragments. According to the shape, these belong to some bigger pots. These discoveries are less abundant for Verbicioara culture because there relatively few archaeological researched sites belonging to this culture. Pyraunos pots are more often mentioned when talking about Gârla Mare Culture.

The first discoveries of these kinds of pots were made, within Žuto Brdo – Gârla Mare culture, in Balta Verde⁷ and Ostrovul Mare⁸. In both cases we are talking about archaeological research carried out in the necropolis of this culture, finding small pieces. In both situations the pieces were part of some graves inventory. According to the frequency these pieces are mentioned during material discovered from Gârla Mare, we could assume that their number is very small. There is a different reality due to the negligence these ceramic fragments found during archaeological research were studied.

It is surprising the fact that in the biggest necropolis of this culture, Cârna – Grindul Tomi⁹ and Orsoja¹⁰, no such pieces were mentioned. Current discoveries, east from the Iron Gates allow us to compile the following repertory for the Žuto Brdo – Gârla Mare and Verbicioara cultures:

Crt No.	Site Name	Point Name	Settlement/ Necropolis	Culture
1.	Balta Verde	<i>La morminți</i>	necropolis	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
2.	Cârna	<i>Rampă</i>	settlement	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
3.	Gârla Mare	<i>Insulă</i>	settlement	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
4.	Gârla Mare	<i>La dune</i>	necropolis	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
5.	Gârla Mare	<i>Km. fl. 836,4</i>	settlement	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
6.	Ghidici	<i>Balta Țarova</i>	settlement	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
7.	Izvoarele	<i>Aria lui Anderca</i>	settlement	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
8.	Orevița Mare	<i>Măroiu</i>	settlement	Verbicioara
9.	Ostrovul Corbului	<i>Botul Cliuci</i>	settlement	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
10.	Ostrovul Mare	<i>Bivolării</i>	necropolis	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
11.	Ostrovul Mare	<i>Km. fl. 865</i>	settlement	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
12.	Plosca	<i>Cabana de metal</i>	necropolis	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
13.	Rogova	<i>Cazărmi</i>	settlement	Verbicioara
14.	Verbicioara		settlement	Verbicioara

My intention is to focus more on archaeological sites from South West Oltenia which I know well and have studied under various aspects.

⁵ Crăciunescu 2004.

⁶ Crăciunescu 2003, p. 55–102.

⁷ Berciu/Comșa 1956, Fig. 38.

⁸ Berciu 1939, Fig. 137/7; Berciu 1953, Pl. XXIX/4,6.

⁹ Dumitrescu 1961.

¹⁰ Bonev 1999, p. 3–35.

I have studied many of these site over the years and I posses some information which I haven't totally harness.

Pyraunos pots were used in food preparation or keeping some liquids at a higher temperature. According to size there are 2 types of pots: large ones, similar to pots used in food preparation and others miniatures, small sized but still functional.

Such a pot has the shape of a truncated cone, with its smaller base downwards, but not leaning on this base because the original pot is doubled by another pot, often named double wall. This second pot, from the exterior, has side openings or these are replaced with some supports. Depending on this aspect we can distinguish two types of pyraunos pots: with double wall and with supports. We encounter such pots, with supports, especially in Ardeal, at Berveni – *Râtul Caprei*¹¹, Acâș – *Crasna Veche* and Pișcol – *Nisipărie*¹². In Banat and Oltenia are common pots with double wall, such as those from Pecica¹³, Balta Verde, Ostrovul Mare, etc. The pots with double wall have different shaped openings but there is a pot without any kind of opening, which is the topic of the presentation below. Thus we can determine there are two different sub-types of pyraunos pots with double wall: with opening and without. Next we present a brief description of the pyraunos type vessels discovered in Oltenia.

In Balta Verde – *La morminți*, in tombs no17–18, a fragmentary¹⁴ pyranous pot (Pl. I/2) was discovered. It was made of a paste mixed with pebbles, crushed and broken husk. The paste was poorly mixed and poorly burned. Due to the fragmentation only a portion of a circular opening was kept.

The authors of this discovery also mention the finding of a similar pot on the riverside of Blahnița¹⁵.

In the settlement belonging to the Žuto Brdo – Gârla Mare culture, dug by P. Roman at Ostrovul Corbului – *Botul Cliuci*, among various materials, five fragments of pyraunos pots were found¹⁶.

Research carried out at Ostrovul Mare – *Bivolării* pointed out, among others, the existence of four pyraunos type vessels. The first one, inventory number I 161, is almost whole (Pl. II/1,2) and has two small size handles which connect the rim with the upper side of the pot¹⁷. It has two groups of three holes each, diametrically located and a rectangular opening, assumed by the discoverer, which was not pointed out by the restorer. The piece is 11 cm tall with a 7 cm diameter. The second pot, inventory number I 162 is whole but it doesn't show any hole or opening¹⁸. It's neck is short, bulging body in the medial area, splays slightly towards the base (Pl. II/3,4). The pot is 11 cm tall, with a 12.5 cm diameter and it seems it originates from tomb no. 3.

The uncertainty of it's belonging to a certain tomb is due to the poor presentation of the necropolis from *Bivolării*, mostly dug by Al. Barcacila, former director of the Turnu Severin Museum.

The author describes the last two pyraunos pots as novel. During the time I have managed and worked within the Iron Gates Museum with these pots from *Bivolării* I haven't seen those two novel pieces mentioned by D. Berciu. It is possible they were discovered in fragmentary state and they weren't mentioned in the inventories that followed.

¹¹ Nemeti 1990, Fig. 3/3.

¹² Kacso 1997, Pl. VIII/7–9; III; IV/1.

¹³ Soroceanu 1991, p. 66 și fig. 22/19; 29/26; 30/12; 31/13; 35/15.

¹⁴ Berciu/Comșa 1956, Fig. 38.

¹⁵ Berciu/Comșa 1956, p. 303.

¹⁶ Hänsel/Roman 1984, Fig. 22/1–5.

¹⁷ Berciu 1953, p. 606 și Pl. XXIX/4a,4b.

¹⁸ Berciu 1953, Pl. XXIX/6a, 6b.

Specialized literature tells us that in the settlement from **Cârna – Rampă** such a piece¹⁹ was discovered. Unfortunately this piece couldn't be reconstituted nor assigned to one of the two types of pyraunos pots determined by Ms. Monica Șandor – Chicideanu²⁰.

In the settlement in **Ghidici – Balta Țarova** a single pot²¹ of this type was discovered in house no. 1. The author reports at a certain point, that in the third phase of the Garla mare cultural group, in the four dwellings, a large number of fragmented pots were found, among which the oven type pots²².

Although the plural form is used there is no mention if fragments from different pyraunos pots were found.

Research at Plosca – *Cabana de metal* necropolis led to the discovery of a pyraunos pot²³ in tomb nr 64. This was broken a long time ago, and pieces of it could be found in tombs 65 and 67, as the discoverer of the tombs assumed. A possible explication would be that the bodies in the three tombs were simultaneously buried. Another explication is that cremation pyre was located in the same place for all three dead bodies. In the last case it is acceptable the fact that fragments from the original pyraunos pot remained on the pyre and thus ended up in the inventory of the other two tombs.

The settlement at Izvoarele – *Aria lui Andreca*, provided a rich and diversified ceramic material concerning the ceramic shapes²⁴. Fragments of two pyraunos type vessels were discovered here. The first fragment has a straight rim (Pl. III/2) while the second one has a superficial incision at the outer side of the rim²⁵. The pots are published without a scale, but I can mention that these are large vessels, comparing to those used in food preparation.

Settlement in Ostrovul Mare – *km fluvial 865* provided a rich ceramic material. Among the various pots fragments, two fragments of pyraunos pots can be distinguished. These come from two different pots²⁶ because have a different wall curving. One seemed to have a straight rim (Pl. VI/2) while the other had an alveolate rim at the upper side (Pl. XI/1). These are fragments that come from large pots and were made of a paste mixed with a lot of sands and crushed ceramic fragments.

In the Garla Mare Island there is a big settlement belonging to the Žuto Brdo – Gârla Mare where dwellings are very large²⁷. A systematical archaeological research has been impossible until this moment because the island is a private property, it's covered by forest, there is a lack of founding and the culture layer is covered with 3.5 m of archaeological sterile ground. It is almost impossible to bring light mechanical equipment over the Danube which separates the island from the Romanian shore. This mechanical equipment could be used to remove the sterile ground.

Consequently we limited to surface research. This kind of research is not available every year. They are possible only when the Danube, which constantly erodes the island, reaches a dwelling. During some years the water swipes all the archaeological debris and oozing in the space between the dwellings. Thus we can only find rare ceramic fragments.

¹⁹ Șandor-Chicideanu 2003, p. 88.

²⁰ Șandor-Chicideanu 2003, p. 88 și Pl. 196/V1 și V2.

²¹ Nica 1987, fig. 9/12.

²² Nica 1993, p. 22.

²³ Motzoi-Chicideanu 2004.

²⁴ Crăciunescu 1992, pp. 43–47.

²⁵ Crăciunescu 1992, Pl. 5/1.

²⁶ Crăciunescu 2006, p. 143–159.

²⁷ Crăciunescu *et alii* 2010, p. 99–110.

In 2009 we had the possibility to dig three squares from a dwelling which was $9,30 \times 5,75$ m in size. We couldn't entirely dig this dwelling due its large size and insufficient personnel on the island at that time.

The three squares produced a large amount of ceramic material among which two pyraunos pots fragments. One of the fragments is made of a paste with lots of sand in the mixture and the other one is made of a paste which contains crushed ceramic fragments²⁸.

In the Gârla Mare – *La dune* necropolis archaeological research are being carried out for three years now: 2010, 2011 and 2013. In tomb nr 10/2013 a whole pyraunos pot was found. This is brown in color, except a small area which is almost black, a sign it was placed on a funeral pyre. The pot's opening is oval and positioned at an angle to the horizontal. It has a conical neck, bi-conical body and two handles tracks descending from the rim to the shoulder of the piece. On a side it has three holes horizontally placed and a fourth one placed lower. On the opposite side it has a larger half round opening. The pot itself is conical and placed at an angle towards the rest of the pot, having a smaller size. It's height is 11,7 cm, the rim's diameter is 9 cm and the base is 9,5 cm. The depth of the middle pot is 6,9 cm.

Another settlement of the Žuto Brdo – Gârla Mare is situated at Gârla Mare – *km river 836,4*, right on the Danube's shore. Unfortunately this settlement was destroyed a few decades ago, when the area was exploited for gravel. For this exploitation to be possible the soil that covered the gravel layer was gathered in large piles using a bulldozer's blade. Thus the archaeological layer was destroyed or mostly compromised. Only a smaller portion remained, near the gravel sorting station. Here I was able to draw, in 2010, a 2 m wide and 10 m length section.

Although the bulldozers were also used here, the culture layer was only partially destroyed in the southern area, towards the Danube. Consequently we were able to retrieve some materials, without discovering any archaeological complex.

First analyzing these materials I discovered fragments of large sized pyraunos pots. In square no. 2, at 0,7 m depth, I found a brown colored pyraunos pot fragment. This pot was made using a paste containing gravel. Two more fragments linked together was discovered in the third square, at 0,8 m depth. They were made out of a paste mixed with crushed ceramic fragments. The fragment of this kind of pot was also discovered in square no. 7, at 0,7 m depth. These fragments came from three large size pots.

For the middle and late Bronze Age only pyraunos pots with double walls are known for the Iron Gates eastern area. Same situation is valid for Banat area.

As I mention before, there are 2 different types of pots, according to size: large ones, similar to those used in food preparation and miniature ones. According to this it is obvious that the large size pots are common for settlements like in Izvoarele, Gârla Mare – *island*, Ostrovul Mare – *km river 865* and Gârla Mare – *km 836,4*. In three of these settlements we found pieces from two pots while at Gârla Mare – *km 836,4* pieces from three different pots, provided that research of these four sites was carried out on a limited surface.

The small size pots are common in necropolis such as those from Balta Verde, Ostrovul Mare and Gârla Mare. While in necropolis from Balta Verde and Gârla Mare the number of discovered tombs is no larger than 20, in Ostrovul Mare their number must have been significantly larger, about 90 according to an estimation I recently made²⁹.

This fact is also reflected in the discoveries number: one pot in Gârla Mare and Balta Verde and four pots in Ostrovul Mare.

²⁸ Crăciunescu *et alii* 2010, p. 100 și Pl. I/2.

²⁹ Crăciunescu 2013.

For the smaller size pots we can distinguish two sub types according to the shape and the aspect of these pots. These two sub types are common for the necropolis in Ostrovul Mare. The first sub type is represented by a vessel whose body is bulging in the middle. This doesn't have ventilation holes, like one of the pots from Ostrovul Mare and, probably, that from Balta Verde has. The other sub type is represented by a piece discovered in the necropolis from Ostrovul Mare, Gârla Mare and Balta Verde. These pots have ventilation holes.

For this sub-type we have, for the moment, two options. The first option is represented by pots which usually have three holes on a single side, while on the other side they have a half-round opening, such as the seen at Gârla Mare. For the other option the holes are placed on both sides.

Pyraunos pots discovered in necropolis are smaller in size and mimic probably, those usually used in households. It is possible that their presence only in certain graves to have a specific meaning.

For further assumptions we have to gather more data regarding the age and gender of the cremated people in those graves. In the same time we have to notice that this kind of pot has not been seen in necropolis from Orsoja³⁰, where we have more than 340 graves, Cârna – *Grindul Tomii*, although here we have over 100 graves, or necropolis from Korbovo totaling nearly 50 graves.

From what is known so far, these type of pots have not been seen neither in necropolis from Liubcova, western Žuto Brdo – Gârla Mare culture area, which has 66 tombs.

Increasing the research area both in necropolis and settlements of this culture, especially in the west of this area, will lead to gathering more data relevant to the presence and utility of this type of pot.

Pyraunos pots continue to exist during the Iron Age in Oltenia but also on a larger area. The type of pot with supports (legs) has been discovered within the Vârtop³¹ group but it is also mentioned during the discoveries from the first Iron Age on Ostrovul Banului³² Island.

There is category of artifacts less known in this area and whose meaning hasn't been yet determined.

Clay plates are known in North East Muntenia and South Moldova, within the Gumelnița³³ culture.

These plates are rhomboid. They are decorated and pierced on both diameters and are smaller in size the pieces I am going to present. These rhomboid plates are considered of being used in religious rituals.

In the west side of the country, the clay plates are mentioned in some papers³⁴, but their utility hasn't been mentioned. In order to determine this category of artifacts from archaeological literature, one must show a lot of attention to details because errors can occur while establishing the ceramic category they belong to.

It is the case of the pot's lid from Ostrovul Mare³⁵ considered a clay board³⁶, some clay plates from Rogova³⁷ and Orevița Mare³⁸ considered pots lids. Ever since they were published I

³⁰ Filipov 1976.

³¹ Berciu 1939, Fig. 199; Lazăr 2005, Pl. XXX/2.

³² Morintz/Roman 1969, p. 411.

³³ Pandrea 2001, p. 105–113.

³⁴ Șandor-Chicideanu 2003, p. 89.

³⁵ Crăciunescu 1980, Fig. 10.

³⁶ Șandor-Chicideanu 2003, p. 89 și pl. 180/4.

³⁷ Șandor-Chicideanu 2004, p. 107–108 și Pl. XLI/1,2.

³⁸ Crăciunescu 2003, p. 62 și Pl. XX/3; Crăciunescu 2004, p. 138 și Pl. XLI/3.

had some doubts regarding the possibility that the pieces from Rogova and Orevita Mare could be leads.

I believe even then that they can be plates but I made no assumption regarding their utility. The confusion or the uncertainty of establishing the role of these pieces is common also in the materials from Socodor where the author considered some ceramic fragments to be pieces of oven-pots³⁹ or he mentioned them as being flat ceramic fragments of rectangular shape with alveolate belt on the edge⁴⁰.

In neither of the archaeological sites from Oltenia hasn't been discovered a board which still has three corners for us to establish whether they were rectangular or square in shape. The thickness of the plates varies between 1 to 3 cm but it seems was enough to store high heat. The way these plates were used has been revealed to me by some old practice, now no longer in use. It was custom to heat a tile or a brick and then be placed on some body parts to treat cold or hypothermia. Talking about archaeological discoveries I have to mention that these clay plates are common for Verbicioara and Gârla Mare cultures and they were used to heat up resting spaces. More accurate I consider they were used to heat up their bedding while sleeping when the room temperature dropped significantly.

Based on the poor discoveries I compiled a short repertoire of them:

Crt No.	Site	Point	Settlement/ Necropolis	Culture
1.	Cârna	<i>Rampă</i>	settlement	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
2.	Gârla Mare	<i>Km. fl. 836,4</i>	settlement	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
3.	Orevița Mare	<i>Măroi</i>	settlement	Verbicioara
4.	Ostrovul Mare	<i>Km. fl. 865</i>	settlement	Žuto Brdo-Gârla Mare
5.	Rogova	<i>La cazărmi</i>	settlement	Verbicioara
6.	Vierșani		settlement	Verbicioara

Discoveries from Cârna – *Rampă*⁴¹ and another one from South Danube from Orsoja⁴² shows us a oval or round shaped board, foreseen with perforations. The pieces are found broken therefore it is difficult to establish they shape, especially the one from Cârna The piese from Orsoja it is the only one to have been discovered inside a necropolis.

In Rogova as I have mentioned before, I partially researched a large settlement belonging to the Verbicioara⁴³ culture. In the layer belonging to the first phase of this culture two similar plates were found. One of them is not very well made from coarse material (Pl. V/2) and the other one is made of good quality paste and has a straight edge (Pl. V/1).

In another settlement belonging to this culture, which I have studied at Orevița Mare, I found another square or rectangular⁴⁴ (Pl. V/3) board. Such discoveries are not unique because a similar piece was discovered in Vierșani⁴⁵, Gorj County, in the northern area of this culture. As a result was research was made in settlements from this culture fragments of this type of pieces were found. Their frequency is not big but it is possible that fragments from these plates were confused with fragments of cornered edge lip bowls.

³⁹ D. Popescu 1956, p. 57, Fig. 16/2; p. 77, Fig. 35/5.

⁴⁰ D. Popescu 1956, p. 46–47, Fig. 9/6.

⁴¹ Șandor-Chocodeanu 2003, p. 89 și Pl. 126/1.

⁴² Bonev 1988, Fig. 26.

⁴³ Crăciunescu 2004.

⁴⁴ Crăciunescu 2003, Pl. XX/3.

⁴⁵ Calotiu 1994, Fig. 6/6.

The first dwelling belonging to the Žuto Brdo – Gârla Mare culture I have ever studied was from Ostrovul Mare⁴⁶. Among various materials found here I've also discovered a fragment of a clay plate⁴⁷. The fragment (Pl. VI/2) was manufactured pretty sloppy from a coarse paste and had a square or rectangle shape. The craftsman who made the board did not insist on making the perfect flat surface.

The settlement from Gârla Mare – *km fluvial 836,4*, although investigated only through a single section, provided two fragments of clay tiles (Pl. VI/3–4) as well as other Žuto Brdo – Gârla Mare materials. This fragment confirms this type of artifact in this settlement.

The Gârla Mare Island came to the attention of archaeologists from the Iron Gates Region Museum from many years. Many materials gathered from the beach island were published over the years⁴⁸. Access to these materials is totality random due to the fact that over the archaeological layer we have a sterile layer of 3–4 m. Only when the Danube's waters erode this sterile layer we can make observations about this site belonging to the Žuto Brdo – Gârla Mare culture.

In such a year we had the opportunity to observe and dig few squares from a dwelling revealed by the Danube's waters. From this dwelling comes a brown color clay tile fragment (Pl. VI/1). It was made from a paste which contained fine crashed ceramics fragments⁴⁹ and had a quadrilateral shape. Large sized pyraunos pots were commonly used in dwellings from Bronze Age for food preparation and less for heating. My personal opinion is that this type of pot was usually used when a small group of individuals traveled at a certain distance from the settlement. We must take into consideration the situation when, from different reasons, food had to be prepared in open spaces without proper hearths.

Is normal to only have large size pots discovered for Verbicioara culture, which are common for settlements, because within this culture we didn't discovered necropolis that normally contain small sized pyraunos pots.

Small sizes pyraunos pots, only discovered in tombs, have more a religious symbol or they can define the deceased personality. Thus we can make more assumptions only when I will know more information about the age, sex and medical history of the individuals buried with this kind of pots.

Clay tiles are the artifacts that only received more statistic, peripheral attention, and their utility has never been mentioned. It is probable that when they were discovered among various ceramic fragments there were considered to be auxiliary pieces or fragments of pieces within that period dishes.

My personal opinion is that their role was different, being used for children or elders comfort, especially during the cold season, but also in treating adults when needed.

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⁴⁶ Crăciunescu 1980.

⁴⁷ Crăciunescu 2006, p. 147 și Pl. XI/4.

⁴⁸ Crăciunescu 2009, p. 91–104.

⁴⁹ Crăciunescu *et alii* 2010, p. 103 și Pl. V/3.

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BRONZE AGE PYRAUNOS POTS AND CLAY PLATES DISCOVERED IN OLTENIA (Abstract)

Pyraunos vessels are found on a large space in Europe, including Hungary, Serbia, Romania and Macedonia. Such discoveries, for Romania are known in Transylvania, Banat, Oltenia and Muntenia. Pyraunos vessels are found in normal size crop in Verbicioara discoveries and settlements Țuto Brdo – Gârla Mare and in the form of miniatures in cemeteries of Țuto Brdo – Gârla Mare culture. East of the Iron Gates there are 13 archaeological resorts of the two mentioned cultures where such puts occur. Large pieces were used in the preparation of food and the small parts there were pieces found in the graves inventory in Țuto Brdo – Gârla Mare culture.

Clay plates were flat and had a rectangular or square shape. In very rare cases were decorated. Such pieces were used to heat bedding and treating diseases. Five archaeological resorts with such discoveries were registered.

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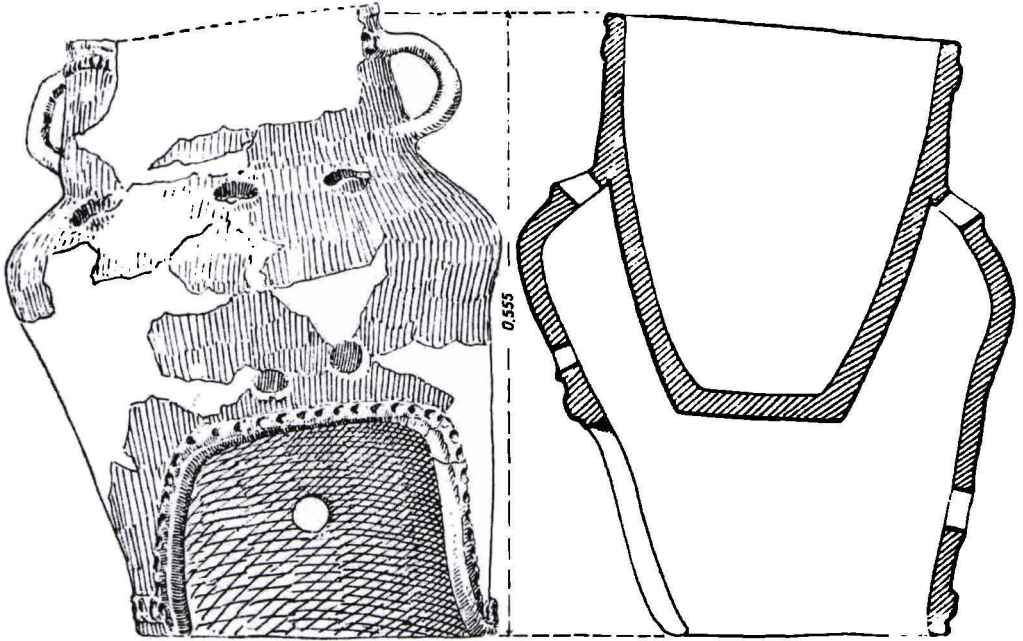
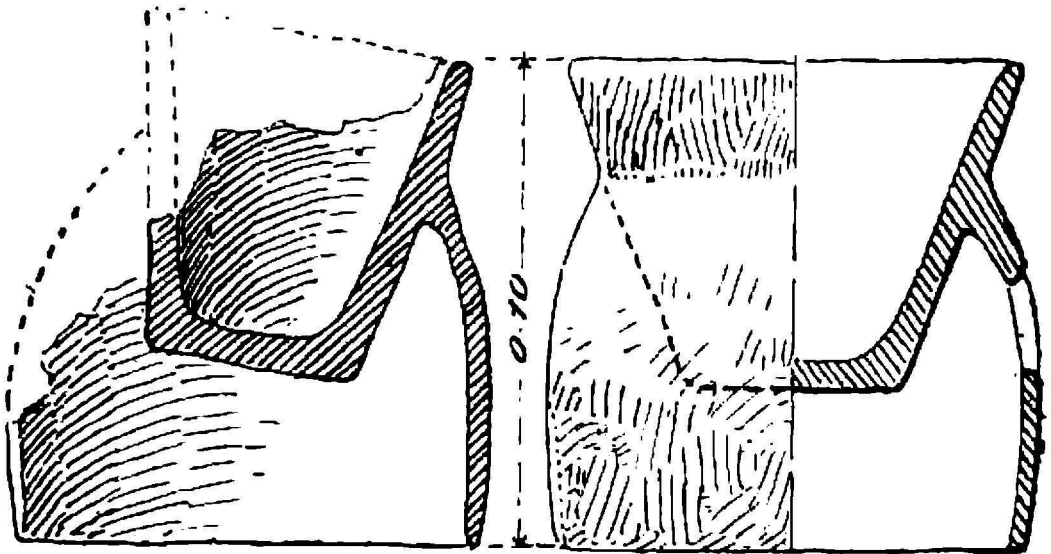


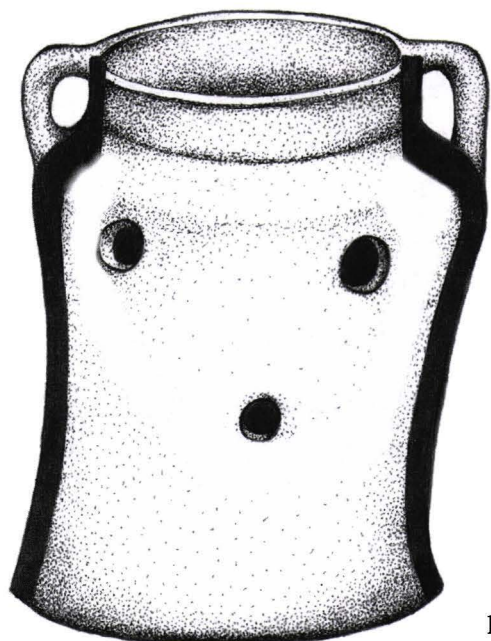
Abb. 6. — Verbicioara. Herdgefäß.

1



2

Pl. I — Pyraunos pots from Verbicioara (1) after Berciu, 1961; Balta Verde (2) after Berciu/Comşa 1956.



1



2

0 1 2 3cm

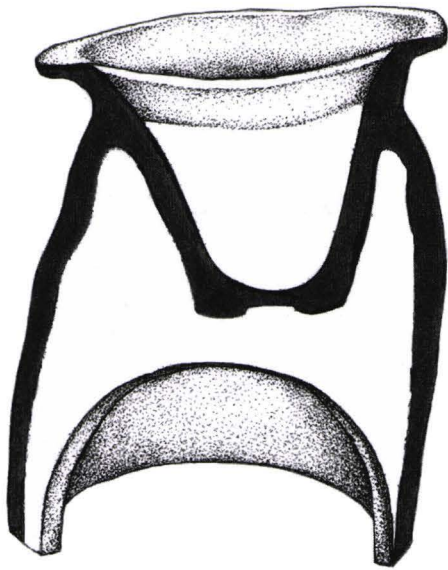


3

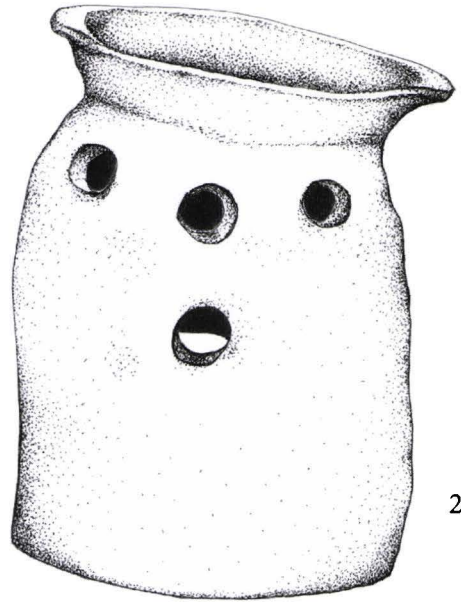
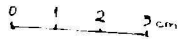


4

Pl. II – Pyraunos pots from Ostrovul Mare – Bivolării(1-4).



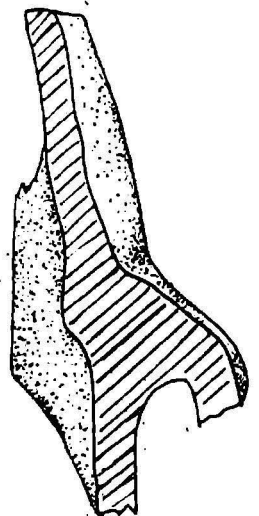
1



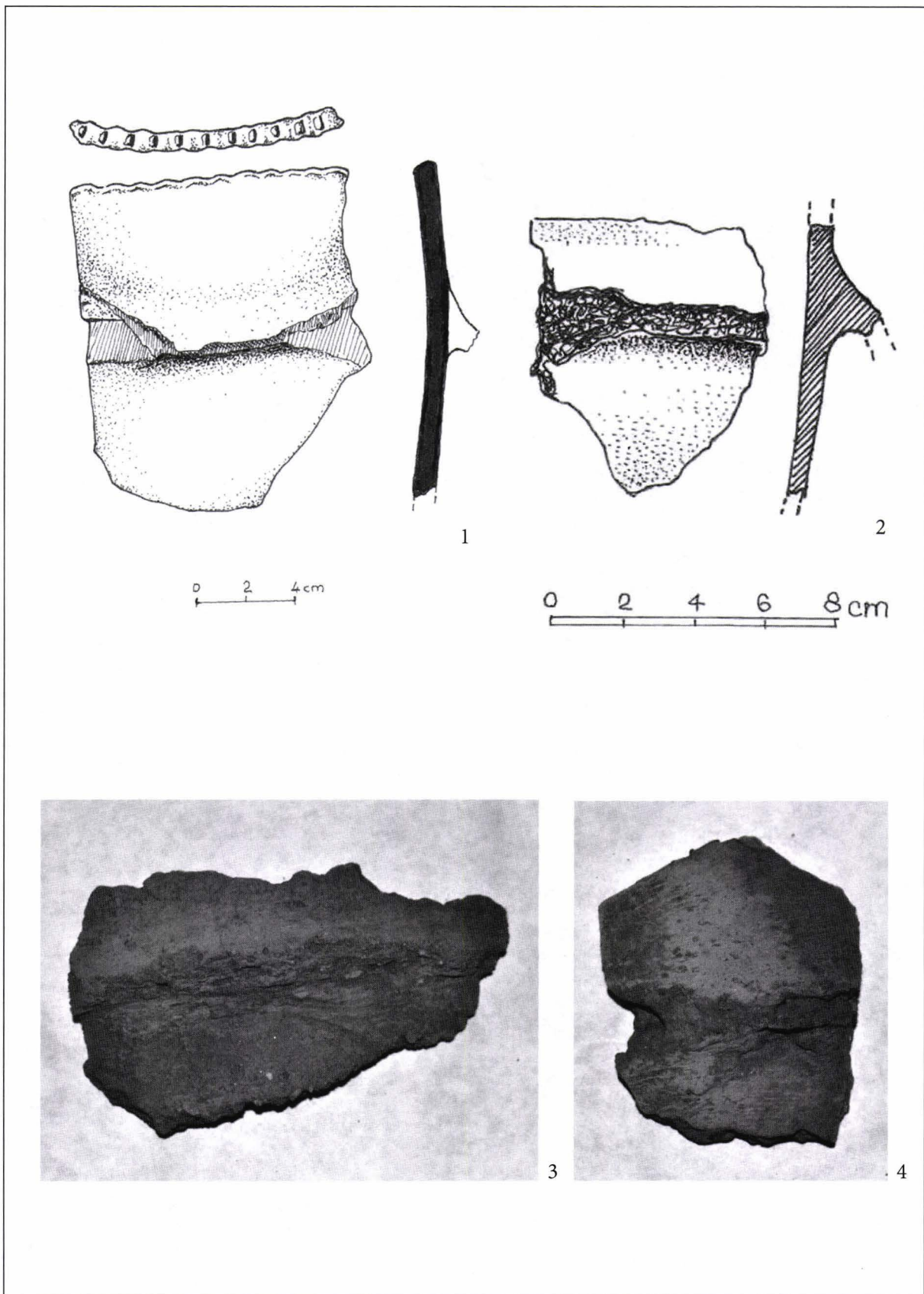
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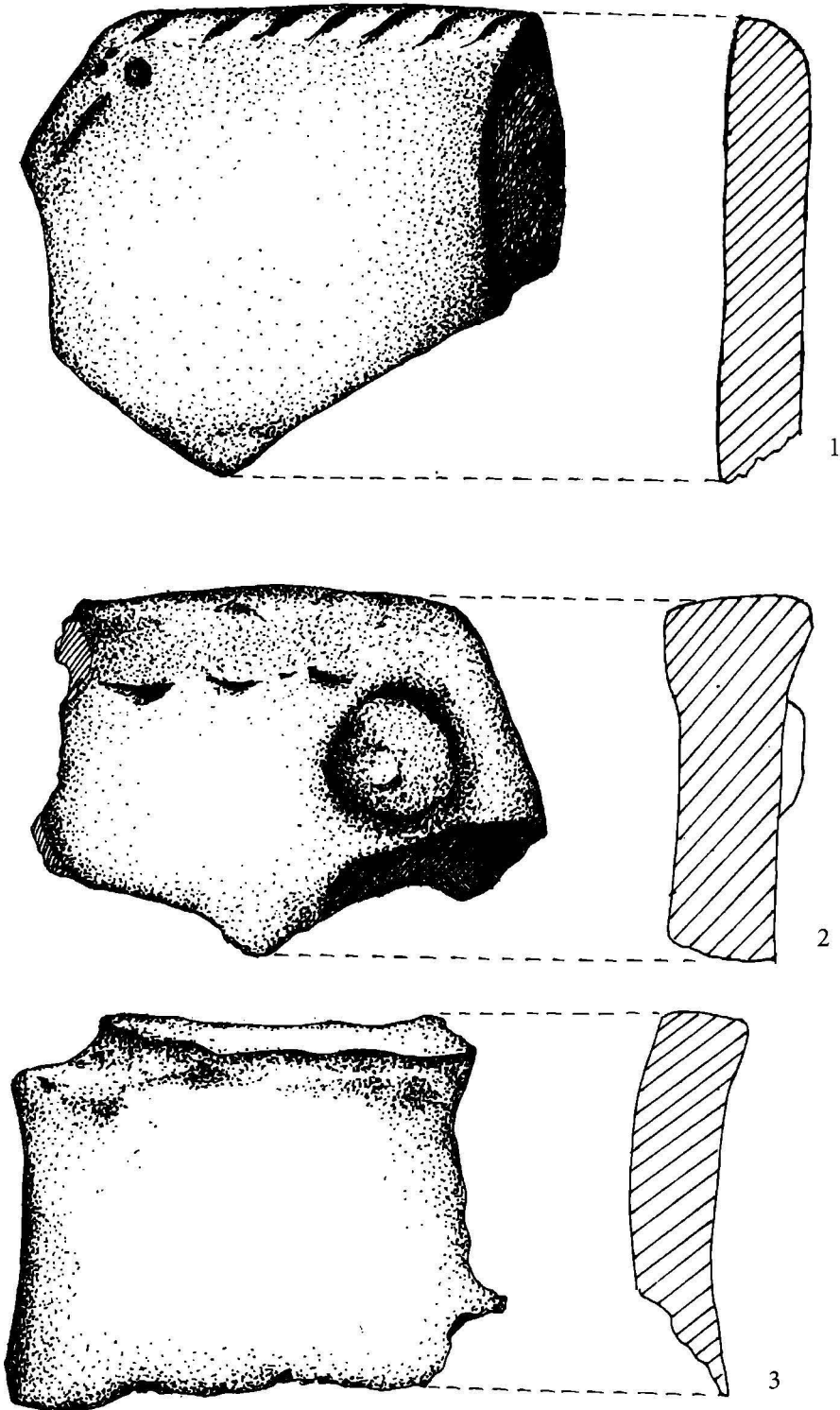
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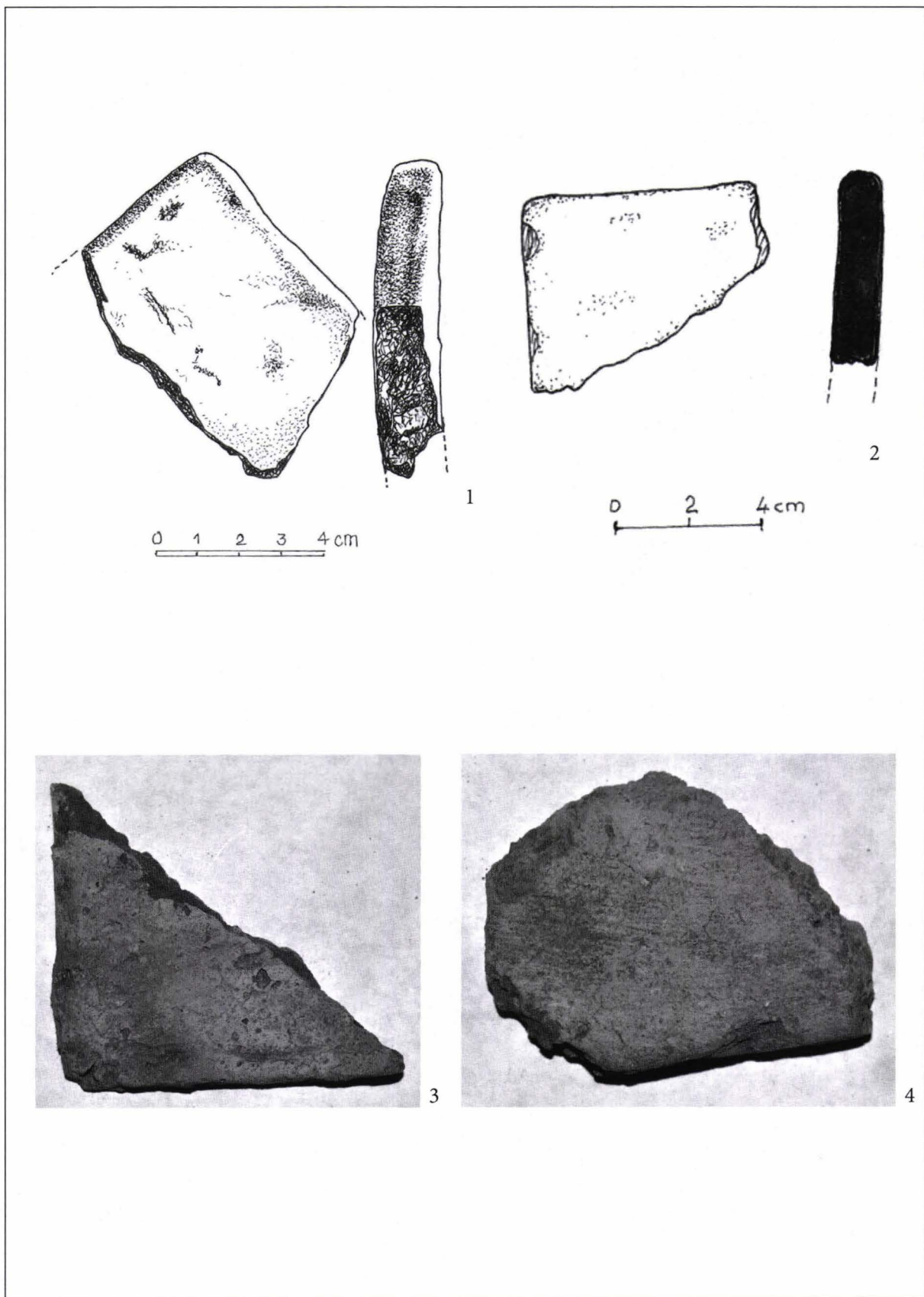
Pl. III – Pyraunos pots from Gârla Mare – *La dune* (1–2); Pyraunos pot fragment from Izvoarele (2) after Crăciunescu 1992.



Pl. IV – Pyraunos pots fragments from Ostrovul Mare – *km. river.* 865 (1) after Crăciunescu 2006; Gârla Mare – *Insulă* (2) after Crăciunescu *et alii* 2010; Gârla Mare – *Km. fl.* 836,4 (3–4).



Pl. V – Fragmentary clay boards from Rogova (1-2) after Crăciunescu 2004; Orevița Mare (3) after Crăciunescu 2003.



Pl. VI – Fragmentary clay boards from Gârla Mare – *Insulă* (1) after Crăciunescu *et alii* 2010; Ostrovul Mare – *Km. river. 865* (2) after Crăciunescu 2006; Gârla Mare – *Km. river. 836,4* (3–4)