

THE CERNAVODĀ III CULTURE IN NORTH-EASTERN BULGARIA

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The archaeological investigations on the territory of North-Eastern Bulgaria have so far registered three settlements pertaining to the Cernavodă III culture. The first is situated near the modern village of Mirovtsi, Varna district. The second is by the village of Durankulak, Dobrich district, and is designated in the archaeological literature as Durankulak IIa. The third – located near Koprivets, Rousse district – is provisionally included in the list because its scanty and rather fragmented pottery characteristic of the Cernavodă III culture from the site (Zmeykova 1992; Draganov 1990; Popov, Vajsov 1992; Nikolova 1999, 179-180).

Except for the sites already mentioned, unpublished finds (mainly pottery) belonging to the Cernavodă III culture in North-Eastern Bulgaria are also known from the village of Kragulevo, Dobrich district, and from the place called today "Novite lozya" near Dalgopol, Varna district (Todorova 1984, 61).

Archaeological materials revealing features of the Cernavodă III culture have also been found during underwater investigations carried out in front of the mouth of the Ropotamo river, which flows into the Black Sea. It is the only example known so far of diffusion of the culture along the littoral area south of the Balkan Mountains (Draganov 1990, 162).

SETTLEMENT PATTERN

The available information shows preference for hilly and flat country terrains, rich in springs (Mirovtsi and Koprivets), or places close to bigger water basins (Durankulak IIa). Except for Durankulak IIa, the settlements are of open type (see the map).

STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

The settlement near Mirovtsi reveals the following stratigraphic situation: the continental rock is superposed by a 0,5 m thick layer containing archaeological finds belonging to Early Bronze Age and the Early Middle Ages (7th - 9th century A.D.). Durankulak IIa is situated on the Golemiya Ostrov island on the Durankulak lake. It is a littoral settlement of multi-layer *te//*-type. The archaeological material comes from a badly destroyed layer, found over Late Aeneolithic remains and covered by another layer containing early medieval materials. No sealed complexes have been registered. The settlement near Koprivets reveals layers from the Early and Late Neolithic, a Cernavodă I level and a destroyed layer with the Cernavodă III pottery. The site has also yielded few pottery sherds decorated in a typical Cernavodă II manner (Nikolova 1999, 179-180).

POTTERY

Technological attributes

The pottery from both Mirovtsi and Durankulak IIa is fragmented. Nevertheless, it is possible to distinguish three groups of vessels: fine table, kitchen ware as well as store-vessels (depositories). As it was already pointed out, the Cernavodă III pottery from Koprivets is scanty and therefore is not included in the present study (Pl. XII). The vessels of all the three

groups are made of clay tempered with anorganic admixtures: small pebbles, sand and crushed shells. Ground ceramics is rarely met. The use of organic admixtures, such as chaff, has also been registered.

The vessels of the first group are usually covered with slip of good quality and their surface is evenly black, dark-gray or gray in colour. The slipped surface of some of the vessels is additionally polished. The ware of the other two groups is either smooth or porous rough surface, brown, light-brown, beige, red, gray or black coloured.

Morphological and stylistic attributes

It has already been pointed out that the pottery from Mirovtsi and Durankulak IIa is rather fragmented. There are not enough sherds enabling a full graphic reconstruction of vessels. The archaeological material from Durankulak IIa brings about a further difficulty, since the graphic representations of the sherds from the site were published without a scale (Draganov 1990). Therefore, the typology of pottery is based on entirely preserved vessels and comparative evidence from the neighbouring North-Eastern Bulgaria regions belonging to the area of diffusion of the Cernavodă III culture, or from more distant territories in which the Baden (Boleráz) culture spread.

Some categories of vessels, like cups and jugs, are either entirely missing or represented by unliable to closer specification sherds in the pottery complex registered at the site near Mirovtsi and at Durankulak IIa as well (Draganov 1990, 164, Fig. II/7; Fig. V/5-6). Similar is the situation with the amphora-shaped vessels, whose presence seems to be attested only by some sherds and handles known from the pottery complex of Durankulak IIa (Draganov 1990, 164, Fig. VIII/1, 8, 9, 13, 14).

Several major categories of vessels may be differentiated: plates, bowls, pots and deep store-vessels (depositories).

Types are deduced on account of the body shape and general profile of the vessels within each category. Subtype specification is based on shaping of the mouth rim. The presence of handles is used as a criterion to introduce variants within certain subtypes (Leshtakov 1988).

If the vessels belonging to a certain type are decorated, the type description comments on the decoration as well. Most of the ware from both sites is decorated although the vessels from Durankulak IIa reveal much greater ornamental diversity. The decoration attested is of flutings, incised, stamped, raised or worked out in a combination of some of the listed styles.

A. Plates

The available pottery material makes possible to distinguish two plate types:

Type I. Plates shaped in the form of a turned-down truncated cone. There are two subtypes according to the variation of the mouth rim: Subtype "a" – with a slightly twisted outwards and rounded mouth rim (Pl. I/1-3, 4-8); Subtype "b" – with a twisted outwards and thickened mouth rim (Pl. I/4, 9-10). In view of lack or presence of smooth and horizontal tunnel-handles, variants are recognizable within each of both subtypes (Pl. I/7, 9-10). The decoration of this plate type consists of shallow and fine vertical flutes on the inner (Pl. I/3, 8) and pricked ornament on the outer surface of the vessels (Pl. I/9).

Type II. Plates with conical body and funnel-shaped twisted mouth. Most of the plates of this type reveal well-defined turning line, specially emphasized by decoration of incisions, relief bands etc. Samples of the type are known from both discussed sites. Three subtypes are distinguished within this type. Subtype

"a" shows a twisted outwards and rounded mouth rim (Pl. II/1, 3, 5). The mouth rim of Subtype "b" is twisted outwards and thickened (Pl. II/2, 6). The mouth rim of Subtype "c" is obliquely cut from the inner part of the vessel (Pl. II/4, 7). Most of the samples of the type are decorated. The decoration includes shallow vertical flutes on the inner surface (Pl. II/3), a row of pricks in the turning zone (Pl. II/2), triangular stamps at the same place (Pl. II/4), incised ornamentation in combination with a moon-shaped stamp (Pl. II/5), a smooth plastic band (Pl. II/6), a row of finger prints combined with a relief bud (Pl. II/7).

B. Bowls

The classification of this category of vessels is mainly based on the evidence provided by the pottery complex from the site near Mirovtsi. Bowls are narrower at the mouth compared to the above-discussed plate types. Another characteristic feature of bowls is their body diameter which is equal or close by size to the diameter of the mouth. Three types of bowls are differentiated. All of them are attested in both settlements.

Type I. Bowls with flattened spherical body. Three subtypes are defined according to the variations of the mouth rim. Subtype "a" shows an upright mouth rim (Pl. III/4, 7). Subtype "b" is characterized by a mouth rim twisted inwards (Pl. III/1-3, 5). The presence of tongue-shaped growths functioning as handles in some of the samples allows the introduction of a peculiar variant within this subtype. The last Subtype "c" comprises bowls with an inwards twisted and vertically cut mouth rim (Pl. III/6). The bowls belonging to type I are decorated with notches on the mouth rim (Pl. III/1, 2, 7) and incised triangles hatched in one direction beneath the mouth rim (Pl. III/6).

Type II. Bowls with flattened spherical body and cylindrical neck. The mouth rim is upright and rounded. The available material does not permit definition of subtypes. The type is registered in both settlements (Pl. IV/1, 5-6). The decoration is of vertical flutings on the inner side of the neck (Pl. IV/1) and a combination of notches on the mouth rim with a relief band with pricked ornament at the base of the neck (Pl. IV/5-6).

Type III. Bowls with truncated conical body and funnel-shaped twisted neck. The turning line is very well defined by some of the samples of the type. Two subtypes are differentiated: Subtype "a" – the mouth rim is slightly twisted outwards and obliquely cut from the outside (Pl. IV/7); Subtype "b" – with an outwards twisted and rounded mouth rim (Pl. IV/2-4). The presence of smooth horizontal tunnel-handles in the zone of turning characterizes a variant of the last subtype (Pl. IV/3). The bowls belonging to type III are decorated with a row of pricks in the area of turning (Pl. IV/2) and incised oblique lines in combination with a relief bud (Pl. IV/8). The type is recorded in both settlements.

C. Pots

Only S-shaped profile type of pots has been identified. The type is registered only in Durankulak IIa. The vessels are decorated with stamped ornamentation at the base of the neck (Pl. V/3) and incised lines sloping to each other on the body (Pl. V/4).

D. Vessels with short cylindrical neck

The presence of smooth tunnel-handles just beneath the mouth rim as well as some other analogies suggest that these vessels might belong to the category of pots. The vessels are attested only in the pottery complex from the site near Mirovtsi (Pl. V/1, 2).

E. Other forms

The group includes the pottery sherds from vessels which functioned as depositories. The main reasons for the attribution of a particular sherd to this group are its rough surface and large wall thickness. Although uncertain, it is rather possible for some of the sherds to have belonged actually to pots category. According to the inclination of the walls towards the mouth, the store-vessels are divided into three sections.

The first section comprises the store-vessels with upright walls. In most of the cases the mouth rim is also upright and rounded (Pl. VI/1-8). The decoration of the vessels consists of notches on the mouth rim (Pl. VI/1, 5), a combination of notches on the mouth rim with a relief band indented by pricks (Pl. VI/ 3, 4, 8), a relief band also indented by pricks along or beneath the mouth rim (Pl. VI/ 6-7), two relief bands indented by pricks in combination with a row of circular stamps, beneath the mouth rim (Pl. VI/2).

The store-vessels with inwards inclined walls are included in the second section. The mouth rim varies from an upright and rounded to a thickened and outwards twisted one (Pl. VII/1-10). All the vessels belonging to this section are decorated. The decoration consists of notches on the mouth rim (Pl. VII/3, 8), notches on the mouth rim in combination with a rectangular stamp beneath it (Pl. VII/9), notches on the mouth rim in combination with incisions or pricked ornament beneath it (Pl. VII/4), notches on the mouth rim in combination with a relief band with pricked ornament beneath the mouth rim (Pl. VII/1, 2, 6, 7), a smooth (unindented) relief band beneath the mouth rim (Pl. VII/5), a relief band with pricked ornament just beneath the mouth in combination with a relief rim in slanting towards the mouth (Pl. VII/10).

The third section includes the store-vessels with slightly convex walls. The mouth rim varies from an evenly cut to a thinned and rounded one. The decoration is mainly incised. It is composed of upright or slanting to each other notches on, or beneath the mouth rim (Pl. VIII/1, 3, 4), notches on the mouth rim in combination with a relief band beneath it (Pl. VIII/2), notches on the mouth rim in combination with a relief band indented by pricks (Pl. VIII/6) or a relief band indented by pricks beneath the mouth rim (Pl. VIII/5).

The three discussed sections of store-vessels are registered in the pottery complexes from both settlements.

F. Handles

The Mirovtsi and Durankulak IIa ware provides evidence of three major types of handles.

Type I. Tunnel-handles. They are met by plates, bowls and other vessels, defined as pots (Pl. V/1, 5; IX/1-5). Some of them, and namely those from Durankulak IIa, are decorated with shallow vertical flutings (Pl. IX/4, 5).

Type II. Vertical arch-shaped handles. The type is attested in both settlements. Some of the samples are decorated with incised ornamentation (Pl. X/1-4).

Type III. Growths functioning as handles. Their shape is either close to conical, or spherical, or rectangular. Samples of this type are known from both settlements (Pl. XI/1, 2, 6, 7).

The decoration of the types distinguished within each of the major categories of pottery vessels has already been described in detail. There are however some unidentified sherds revealing patterns of decoration not mentioned in the above-presented discussion. In this connection, the existence is worth pointing out of the so-called "fishbone ornament" (Pl. XI/4, 8, 9) as well as of the motif comprising incised lines which meet together at different angles (Pl. XI/3, 5).

The discussed pottery forms and decoration from both settlements Mirovtsi and Durankulak Ila find exact analogies in the pottery repertory characterizing the large culture complex of Cernavodă III-Baden (Boleráz). The closest parallels are to be found however within the pottery complex of the Cernavodă III culture, which is only natural, given the territorial closeness of the monuments taken into consideration. All the anorganic admixtures used to temper the clay are the same: sand, small pebbles and crushed shells. The fine table pottery is characterized by plates and bowls uniformly black or grayish-black in colour, covered with good quality and additionally polished slip in some of the cases. The coarse ware (kitchen and store-vessels) consists mainly of vessels with rough and porous surface, red, brown, gray or black in colour.

As far as the vessel forms are concerned, greatest closeness is revealed by the plates and bowls with conical body and funnel-shaped twisted neck, decorated on the inside with shallow fine vertical flutings or with a row of pricks on the outer surface. These vessels are sometimes provided with smooth tunnel-handles. The coarse ware and especially the store-vessels reveal a remarkable uniformity within the group of deeper samples decorated with up to three horizontal bands indented by pricks in combination with incisions on the mouth rim.

The analysis and the suggested classification of pottery from Mirovtsi and Durankulak Ila make possible to draw out the following conclusions:

The plates of Type I are familiar as an entirely preserved form from the settlement Ketegyhaza (Ecsedy 1973, Fig. 15). Subtype "a" finds exact parallels among the plates from Slobozia and Locusteni, both belonging to the area of diffusion of the Cernavodă III culture (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 33/5; Tătulea, Nica 1974, Fig. 4/4, 5).

The plates of Type Ila, decorated with flutings or pricked ornament are exactly paralleled by plates from the Dobrotești, Slobozia, Cernavodă and Locusteni settlements (Morintz, Roman 1968 Fig. 29/5; Fig. 33/3, 4, 6; Fig. 39/10; Tătulea, Nica 1974, Fig. 2/1). The Type Ila and I Ib decorated with flutings and pricked ornament plates reveal also certain closeness to plates found in the settlement Vajuga situated on a high riverside terrace by the Danube in Yugoslavia (Krstić 1986, Fig. 6/1-3; Fig. 10). All the preserved vessels are known from the settlement Brza Vrba near the town of Kovin (Tasić 1975, T. II). Both types I and II plates also find close analogies by form and decoration in the Boleráz pottery, especially in the complex from the Nitriansky Hradok settlement (Baden Ib according to V.Němejcová-Pavúkova) (Němejcová-Pavúkova 1964, Fig. 16/1-4, 7-9, 13, 15-16; Fig. 27/3, 4).

The bowls of Type I are exactly paralleled by bowls from the Malu Roșu-Giurgiu (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 35/1, 14) and Locusteni settlements (Tătulea, Nica 1974, Fig. 2/4). The latter one has yielded an entirely preserved sample of the type. Decoration of incised triangles, similar to the one registered on a bowl belonging to this type (Pl. III/6) is also known from the Celei settlement (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 40/14).

The bowls of Type II are analogous to some of those from Radomir-Vahovo (Alexandrov 1994, Pl. II/3) and Cernavodă settlements (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 37/1; Fig. 39/1).

Most and closest analogies to the bowls of Type III come from the Lower Danube region – from the Slobozia, Malu Roșu-Giurgiu (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 33/1; Fig. 35/4, 10) and the Locusteni settlements (Tătulea, Nica 1974, Fig. 2/6, 10, 11). Similar samples are also known from Radomir-Vlahovo settlement (Alexandrov 1994, Pl. II/5, 6). The same bowl type is often

met in the pottery complex of the Baden (Boleráz) culture, and particularly in the one from the Nitriansky Hradok settlement (Němejcová-Pavúkova 1964, Fig. 17/4-13). It is worth noting that the type represents an inherited form from the ware of the Cernavodă I (Ulmeni) culture. This is well illustrated by vessels from the territory of Romania (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 14/2) as well as from the Durankulak IIA settlement which has also yielded some archaeological material characteristic of the Cernavodă I (Ulmeni) culture (Draganov 1990, Fig. VI/4, 8). Similar bowls are known from the settlement Hotnitsa-Vodopada which is synchronous with the same culture (Ilčeva 1996, Tabl. XVII/4). In contrast to the hereditary form, the decoration of the bowls belonging to Type III is typical for the ornamental style of the Cernavodă III-Boleráz pottery and consists of shallow vertical flutings on the inside, a row of pricks on the outside or a combination of both. The synthesis of an older form and this particular style of decoration clearly indicates a new chronological position and cultural attribution, namely the beginning of the Early Bronze Age and the Cernavodă III-Baden (Boleráz) culture complex. Similar conclusion may be drawn out if referred to the plates with conical body and funnel-shaped twisted mouth, decorated with flutings and pricked ornament.

The category of pots (C) is represented in the complexes from both Mirovtsi and Durankulak IIA by a single type, namely the S-shaped profile. Identical pots are known from the settlements Oltenița-Renie (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 26/6, 12) and Cernavodă (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 29/19).

The vessels with short cylindrical neck and smooth tunnel-handles (D) are registered only at Mirovtsi. An entirely preserved sample of this category is known from the Brza Vrba settlement (Tasić 1975, T. II/1). Close parallels are also known from Slobozia (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 32/1, 2, 3) and Radomir-Vahovo (Alexandrov 1994, Pl. II/1).

The category of vessels described as "other forms" (E) predominantly consists of depositories which are divided into three sections. Those of the first section are analogous to vessels from Malu Roșu-Giurgiu, Cernavodă and Celei (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 35/15; Fig. 39/4; Fig. 40/1, 4, 8). Oltenia and the Middle Danube region have also yielded exact parallels from the Locusteni (Tătulea, Nica 1974, Fig. 1/1, 2, 10-17; Fig. 2/18-21, 23-31) and Vajuga settlements (Krstić 1986, Fig. 11/3). An entirely preserved sample is known from the Brza Vrba settlement (Tasić 1975, T. I/4). Good parallels from the area of diffusion of the Baden (Boleráz) culture are known from Nitriansky Hradok (Němejcová-Pavúkova 1964, Fig. 23/1, 2, 4).

The vessels of the second section are closely paralleled by samples from Dobrotești, Slobozia (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 29/1, 2; Fig. 33/18, 20) and Locusteni (Tătulea, Nica 1974, Fig. 2/22). The store-vessels from Vajuga also reveal great similarity (Krstić, 1986, Fig. 11/1, 2, 4). The Brza Vrba settlement has yielded an entirely preserved sample (Tasić 1975, T. I/2). Identical vessels are known from Nitriansky Hradok in the area of diffusion of the Baden (Boleráz) culture (Němejcová -Pavúkova 1964, Fig. 22/1-5, 20-24).

The store-vessels with slightly convex walls of the third section find close parallels in the pottery from Malu Roșu - Giurgiu and Locusteni (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 35/8, 14; Tătulea, Nica 1974, Fig. 1/8). Brza Vrba is once again the settlement which has yielded an entirely preserved sample (Tasić 1975, T. II). Vessels of the kind are also registered in the pottery complex of the Baden (Boleráz) culture (Němejcová -Pavúkova 1964, Fig. 23/3, 8).

Smooth, flutings or decorated with incisions tunnel-handles are attested both in Mirovtsi and Durankulak IIA. The Cernavodă III pottery complex yields numerous exact parallels (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 32/1-6; Fig. 35/2; Fig. 39/25).

The so-called "fishbone ornament" in pottery decoration is well-known and rather popular within the area of the whole culture complex Cernavodă III–Baden (Boleráz) (Morintz, Roman 1968, Fig. 30/12; Fig. 37/19; Krstić 1986, Fig. 11/2; Tasić 1975, T. II; Němejcová-Pavúkova 1964, Fig. 22/10, 12; Fig. 23/8).

To summarize the above-presented discussion, it may definitely be stated that the pottery from Mirovtsi and Durankulak Iia is best and most fully paralleled by the pottery from synchronous settlements in the Lower Danube region – Dobrotești, Slobozia, Malu Roșu – Giurgiu and Cernavodă. This fact proves that the Lower Danube, North-Eastern Bulgaria and the western Black Sea littoral formed during the Early Bronze Age I the area of diffusion of one and the same particular culture, that is the Cernavodă III culture.

Close analogies are also to be found out between the pottery from Mirovtsi, Durankulak Iia and settlements Locusteni, Vajuga, Brza Vrba and Radomir–Vahovo settlements. It must promptly be pointed out that the published archaeological material from Locusteni has been interpreted as belonging to a local Oltenian variant of the Cernavodă III culture. The material from the Jevisovice, Bratislava, Ketegyhaza, Brza Vrba and Radomir–Vahovo settlements reveals contacts with the Cernavodă III as well as with the Baden (Boleráz) cultures (Alexandrov 1994, 117-119).

It is noteworthy that the ceramic vessels from Mirovtsi and Durankulak Iia reveal analogies with 9 of the 15 main types of Boleráz pottery attested in South-Western Slovenia (Němejcová-Pavúkova 1964, Fig. 27/3-4, 6-12). On the contrary, it is much more difficult to find out close forms and decoration patterns in the pottery from settlements situated south of the Balkan Mountains.

Shallow vertical flutings are very rarely met as a decoration pattern on the plates at Tell Ezero. Only two sherds which come from building horizons XIII-XI are known so far. Similar is the situation with the so-called "fishbone" ornament (Němejcová-Pavukova 1964, Fig. 5/1, 2; Georgiev, Merpert 1979, Tabl. 166; Tabl. 167/type 3).

Tell Karanovo reveals much the same situation. Several pits have yielded sherds of flutings plates, bowls decorated with pricked ornament and other types of fluted vessels similar to those from Durankulak Iia and Mirovtsi (Hiller, Nikolov 1997, T. 146/23, 24; T. 161/4, 6; T. 148/7, 16, 21).

The situation at Tell Yunatsite is somewhat different. The fluted decoration of vessels coming from building horizons XVII-XVI considerably differs from the one on the pottery from Durankulak Iia and Mirovtsi. Decoration of flutings occurs at Tell Yunatsite only on the outer surface of the vessels. It consists of vertical flutings grouped in 7-8 bunches on the body and horizontal flutings on vessel's neck (Katincharov, Mazanova 1993, 156, Fig. 7/1, 10). An ornamental pattern of the kind has not been attested in the pottery either from Mirovtsi or Durankulak Iia.

The pottery from both settlements reveals some close parallels to the one from Sitagroi and particularly Sitagroi IV in North-Western Macedonia. Similarities mainly concern bowls and deep vessels. All the three defined bowl types find close parallels in Sitagroi IV (Sherratt 1986, Fig. 13.5/1, 5, 6; Fig. 13.6/1, 3, 7, 9; Fig. 13.4/2, 5;). However, it ought to be pointed out that fluted decoration is met there usually on the outer surface of the vessels. The deep vessels (depositories) from Mirovtsi and Durankulak Iia parallel some of those from Sitagroi IV/Va only by form and not by decoration (Sherratt 1986, Fig. 13.16/1, 3, 4; Fig. 13.7/1, 5).

In the A. Sherratt's opinion, flutings, tunnel-handles and some vessel forms (for example: cups with high band-handles) appear in the pottery of Sitagroi IV as innovations. They are considered an influence of the Baden culture. The influence most probably penetrated the region along the river valleys of Struma and Vardar (Sherratt 1986, 446). Sitagroi IV has yielded a few 14 C dates (Nikolova, Gorsdorf 1998, Tabl. 1). According to them, the beginning of the life in the settlement may be dated ca. 3380/3350 B.C. (Nikolova, Gorsdorf 1998, 15).

The settlement Dikili-Tash is situated only a few kilometers apart from Sitagroi, not far from the Struma river valley. The pottery of Dikili-Tash IIIA also reveals close similarity to the one from the discussed two settlements. However, so far as the bowls of Type II are concerned, their parallels from Dikili-Tash IIIA are decorated with vertical flutings on the body (Séfériadès 1983, Fig. 44-46). The horizontally placed and undecorated tunnel-handles from the Macedonian site are analogous to the handles belonging to Type I (Séfériadès 1983, Fig. 49). The settlement Dikili-Tash IIIA is synchronized with the Early Bronze Age I-Thessalian Early Bronze Age I-Ezero XIII-Cernavodă III-Baden (Boleráz) (Séfériadès 1985, 235, Tabl. IV).

PERIODIZATION AND CHRONOLOGY

According to their pottery complexes and the above-quoted analogies, the Mirovtsi and Durankulak IIA settlements may be attributed to the large chronological horizon including the Cernavodă III-Baden (Boleráz)-Ezero XIII-XI-Yunatsite XVII-XVI-Sitagroi IV-Dikili-Tash IIIA cultures. The discussed settlements picture the development of the Cernavodă III culture in the territory of modern Bulgaria and particularly in its north-eastern part. The beginning of Durankulak IIA may be dated to the transitional stage between the cultures Cernavodă I (Ulmeni) and Cernavodă III (Renie II). The life within the settlement continued during the classical as well as the later phases of the Cernavodă III culture (Draganov 1990, 170, 172-174). The Mirovtsi settlement must have come into being only during the classical period of the Cernavodă III culture. This dating is suggested by the pottery typical for the period which includes plates and bowls with conical bodies and funnel-shaped twisted mouths decorated with flutings and pricks. In contrast to Durankulak IIA, the site has not yielded any material which might be dated by form or decoration during the Cernavodă I (Ulmeni) or the early phase of Cernavodă III (Renie II) culture.

Since it marks a new situation, the topography of the Mirovtsi, Durankulak IIA and Koprivets settlements earns a special discussion. Instead of the typical for a Cernavodă III settlement position, Mirovtsi and Koprivets are not situated in the close vicinity of the Danube but rather far inland. Except for being distant from the river, Durankulak IIA is moreover the single.

The Cernavodă III settlement is the only so far known in the Black Sea littoral zone (see the map). The also unpublished finds from North-Eastern Bulgaria taken into account show that all the above-mentioned sites seem to mark a move of tribes, which were the bearers of the Cernavodă III culture south of the Danube, to the interior part of modern North-Eastern Bulgaria and to the coastline. On the other hand, it is rather peculiar the fact that no settlements belonging to the culture have been registered so far in the Bulgarian part of the Lower Danube region, which is maybe due only to unsatisfactory state of research.

The available archaeological material from the Mirovtsi, Durankulak IIA and Koprivets settlements is still insufficient to present an overall picture of the Cernavodă III culture in North-Eastern Bulgaria. Therefore, it is impossible to detect and point out now the local peculiarities and to postulate a particular variant of this culture. Meanwhile, the archaeological evidence is of

prime importance to prove the presence of tribes as bearers of the Cernavodă III culture in North-Eastern Bulgaria. It makes it also possible to trace back which of the pottery forms and decoration patterns were later adopted by the bearers of the Ezerovo II culture whose presence, together with that of the bearers of the Pit culture, is registered in the territory of North-Eastern Bulgaria during the Early Bronze Age II (Toncheva 1981; Zmeykova 1988; Panayotov 1989).

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ABBREVIATIONS

Arheologija= Arheologija. Arheologičeski Institut i Muzeji pri BAN, Sofija.

Balcanica=Balcanica. Annuaire de l'Institut des Étude Balkaniques, Belgrade.

BARInternational series=British Archaeological Reports, Oxford.

BCH=Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique, École Française d'Athènes, Paris.

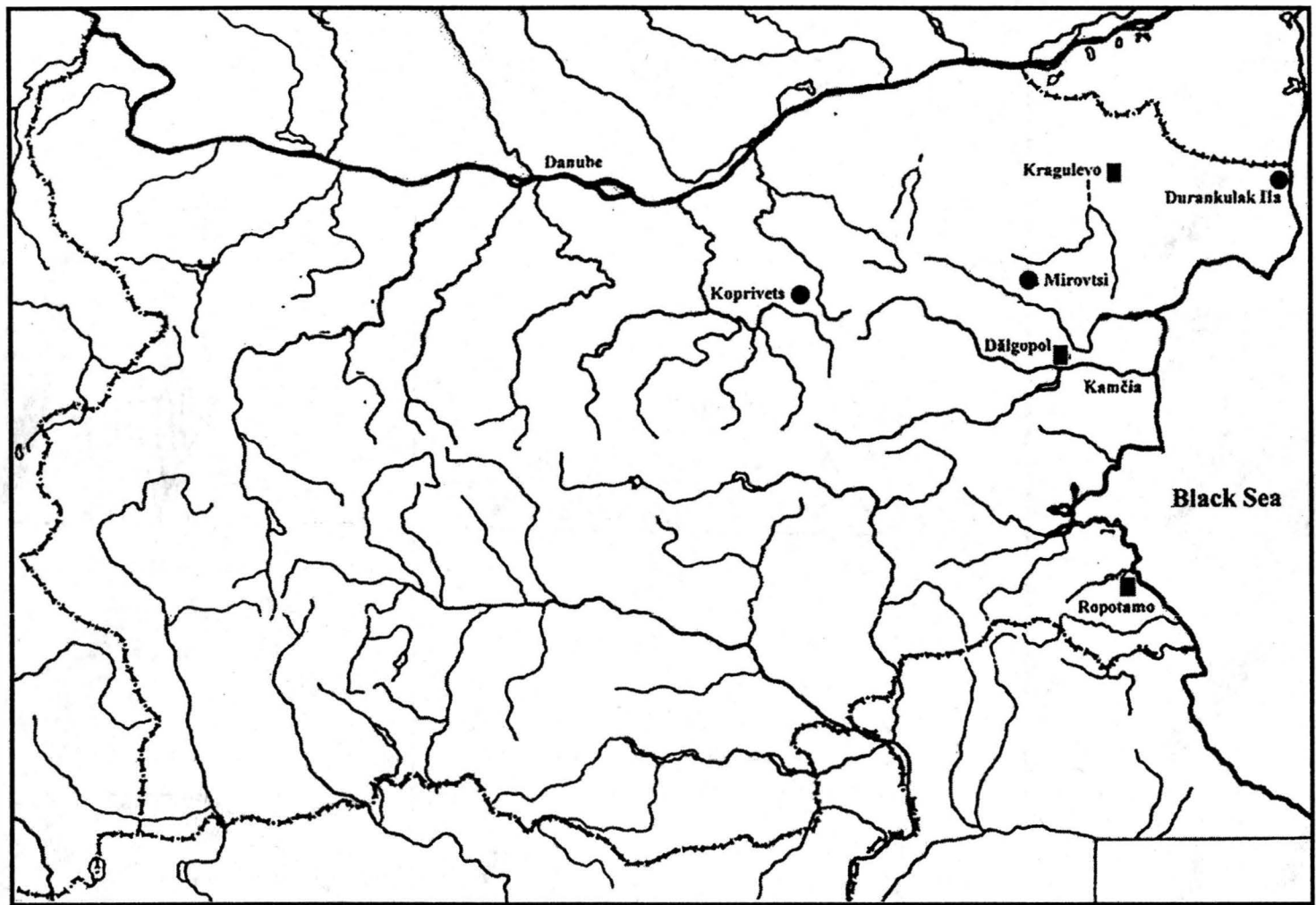
Dacia, N. S.=Revue d'archéologie et d'histoire ancienne, Bucarest.

Eurasia Antiqua= Eurasia Septentrionalis Antiqua, Berlin (Helsinki).

Relations thraco-illyro helléniques=Relations thraco-illyro helléniques. Inst. Roum. de Thracologie, Bucarest.

SlovArch=Slovenska Archeologia, Bratislava.

Thracia Pontica=Thracia Pontica, Sofija.



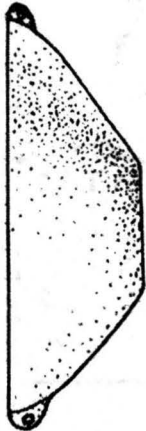
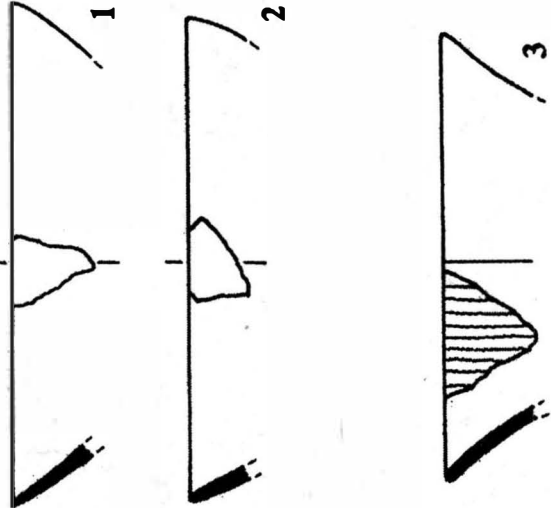
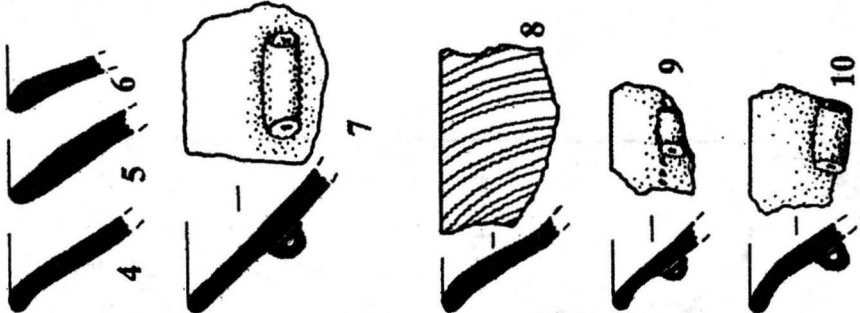
■ unpublished finds (pottery)

● sites

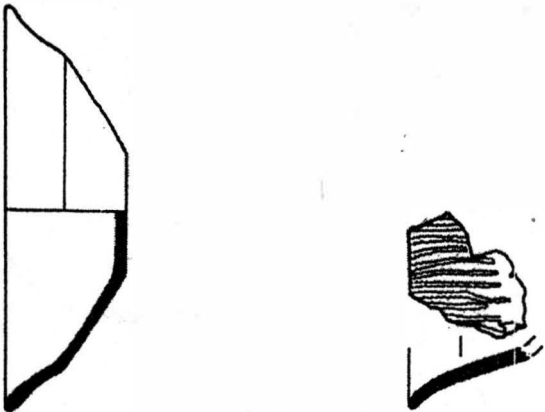
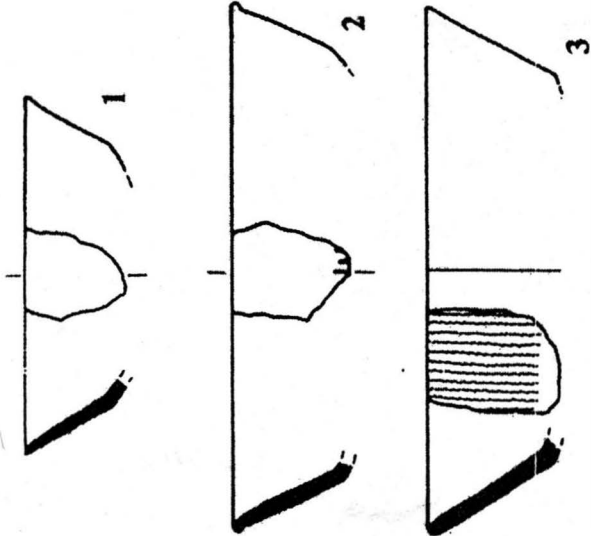
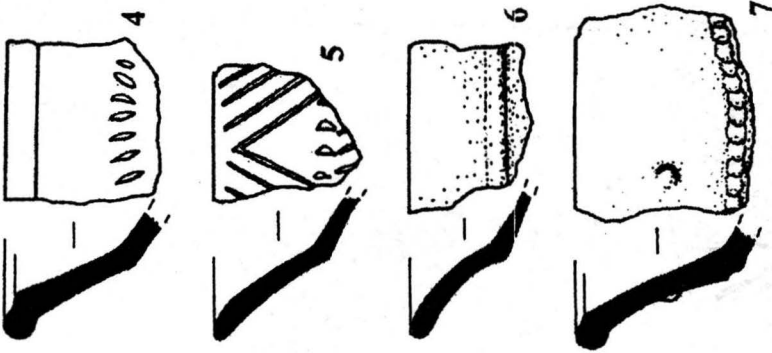
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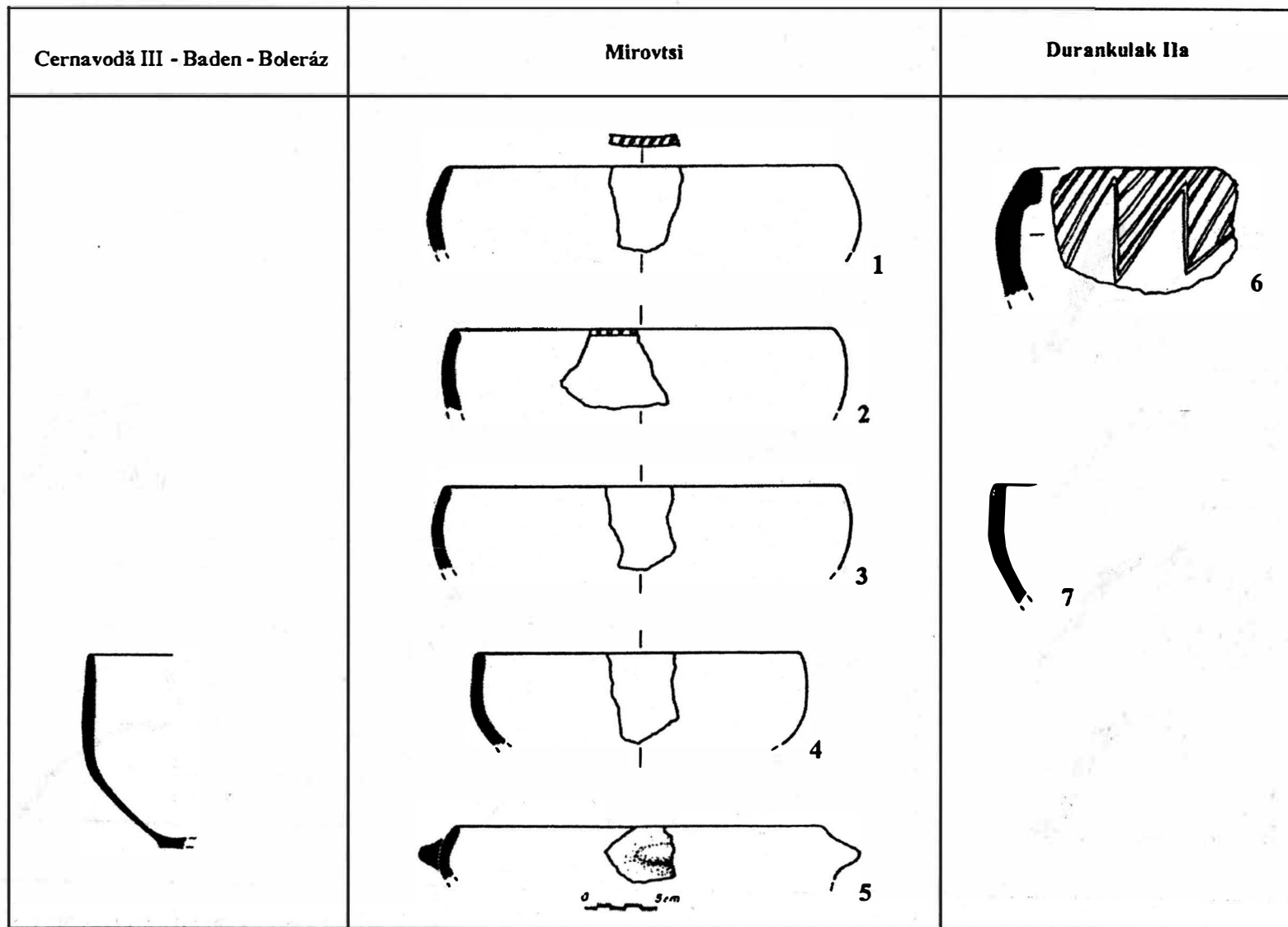
Map of diffusion of the Cernavodă III culture in North-Eastern Bulgaria.

Cernavodă III - Baden - Boleráz	Mirovtsi	Durankulak IIa
		

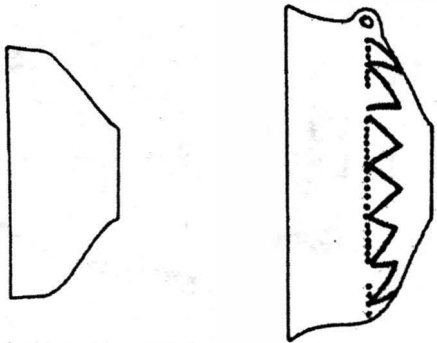
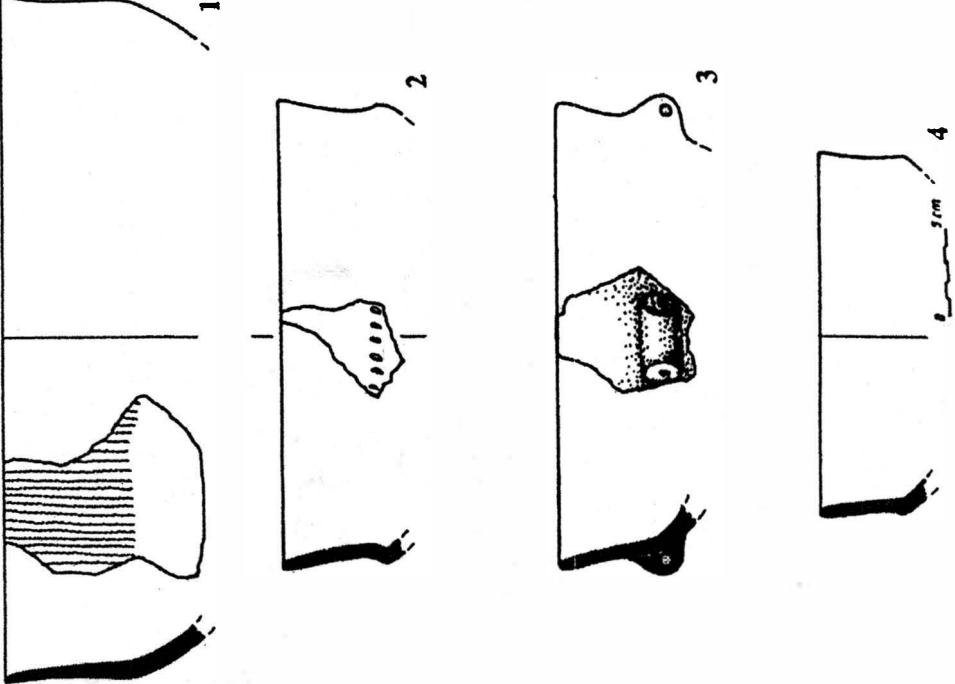
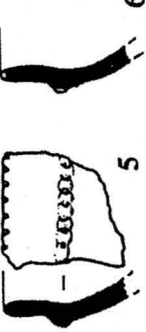

Tabl. I

Cernavodă III - Baden - Boleráz	Mirovtsi	Durankulak IIa
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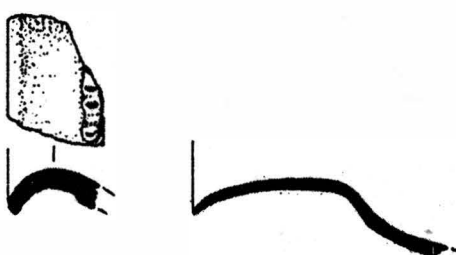
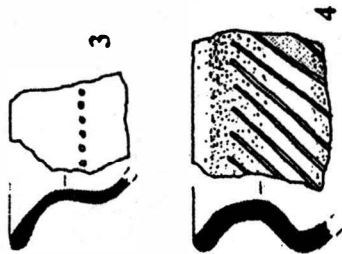
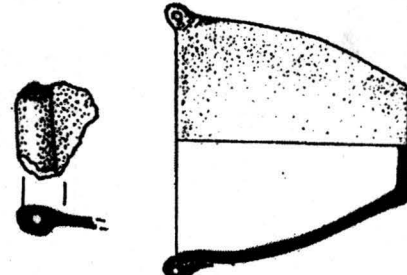

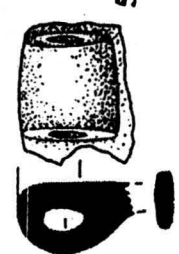
Tabl. II



Tabl. III

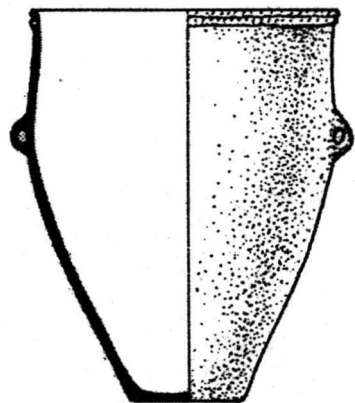
Cernavodă III - Baden - Boleráz	Mirovtși	Durankulak IIa
		
		

Tabl. IV

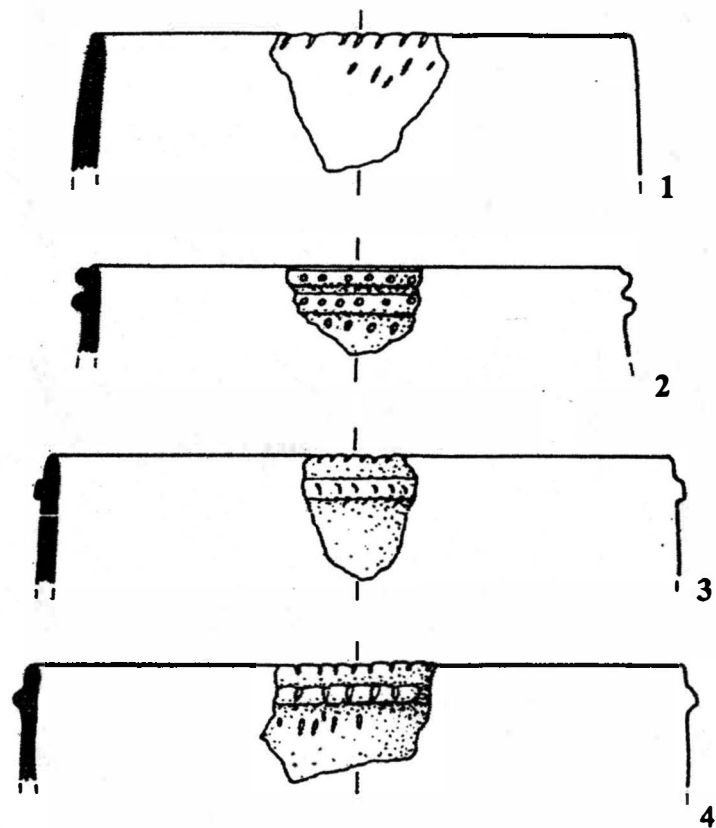
Cernavodă III - Baden - Boleráz:	Mirovtsi	Durankulak IIa
		
		

Tabl. V

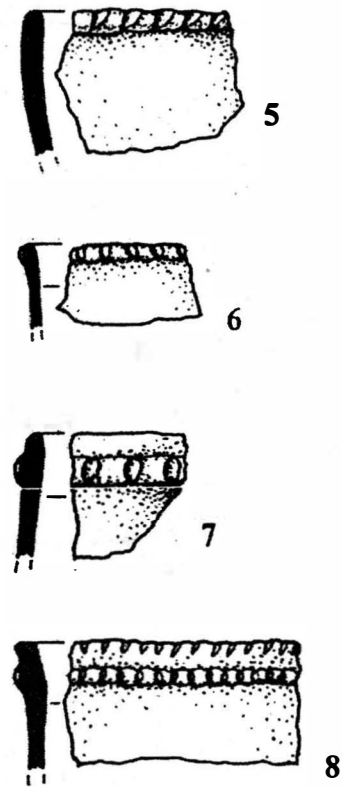
Cernavodă III - Baden - Boleráz



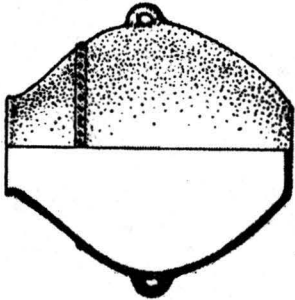
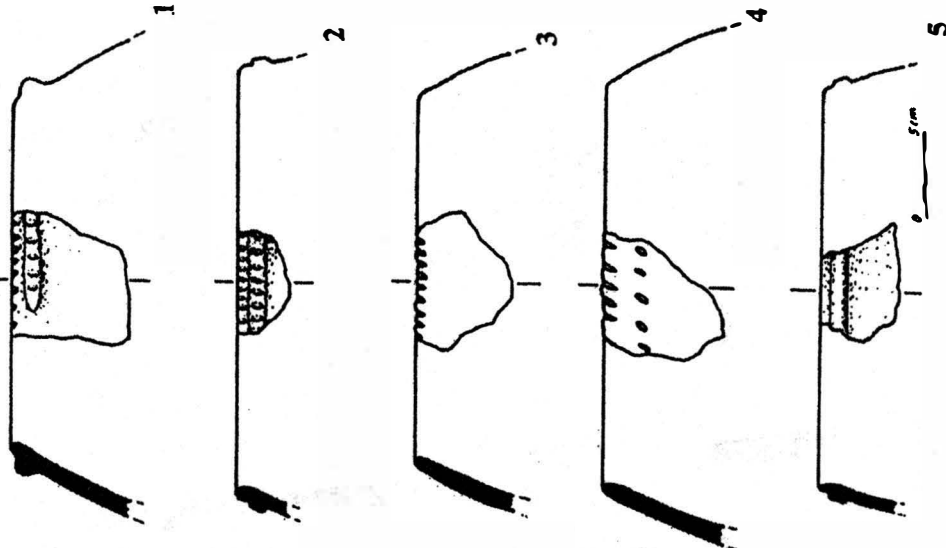
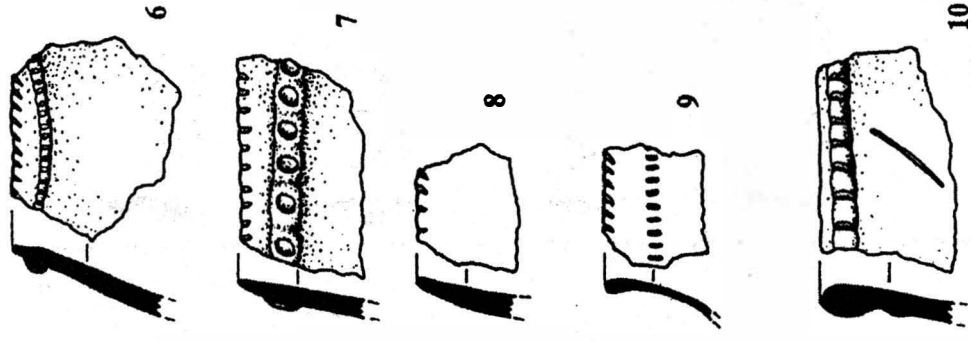
Mirovtsi



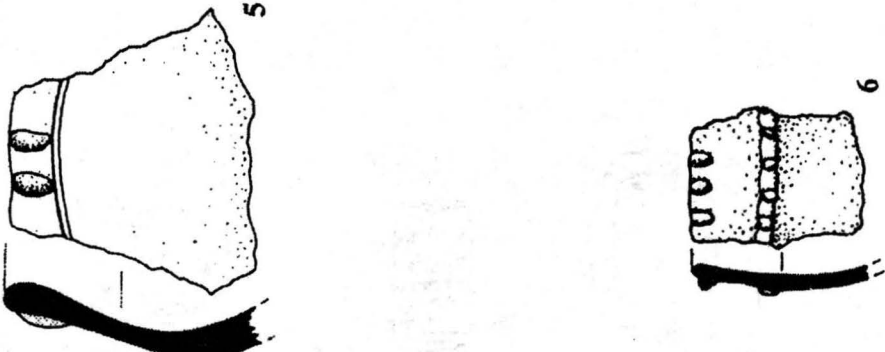
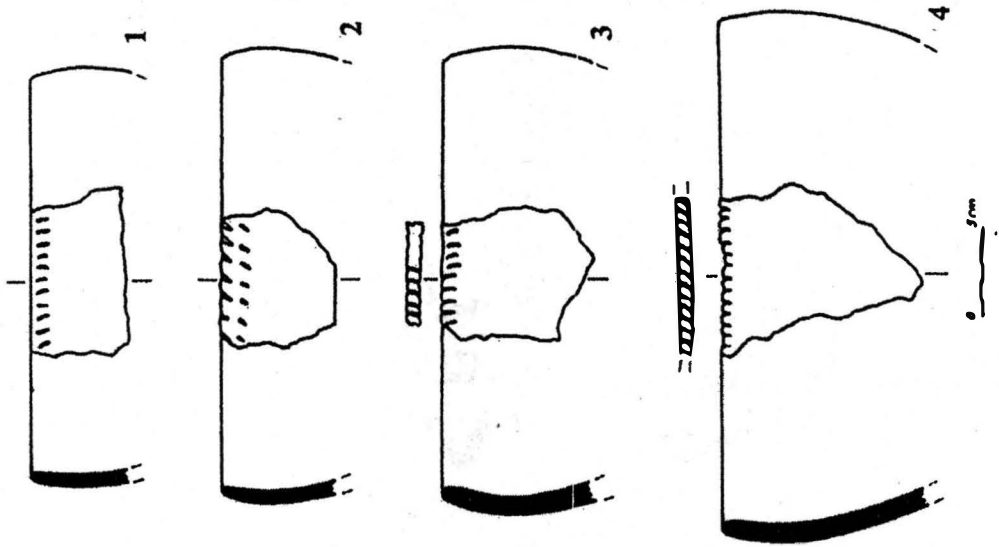
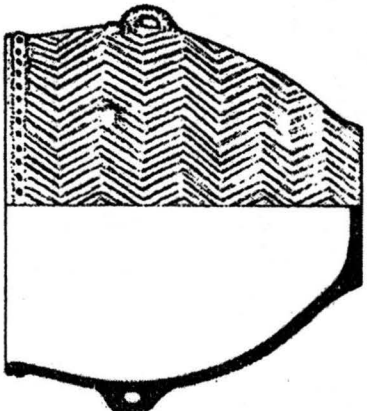
Durankulak IIa









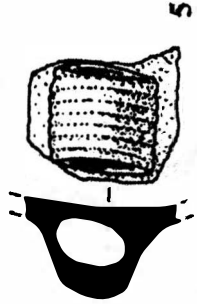
Tabl. VI

<p>Cernavodă III - Baden - Boleráz.</p> 	<p>Mirovtsi</p> 	<p>Durankulak Ila</p> 
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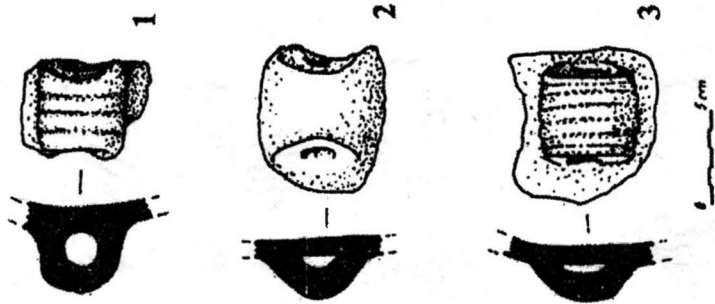
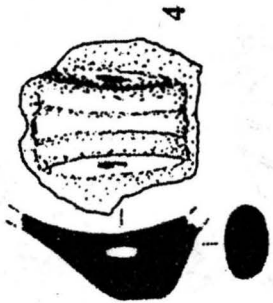
Tabl. VII

<p>Durankulak IIa</p>	
<p>Mirovtsi</p>	
<p>Cernavodě III - Baden - Boleráz</p>	



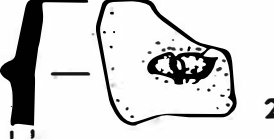

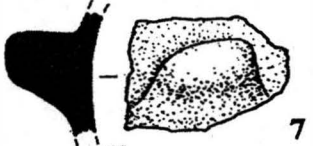

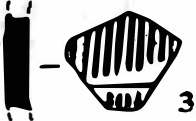

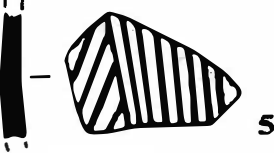


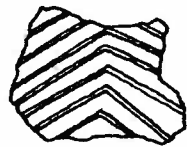
Tabl. VIII

Cernavodă III - Baden - Boleráz	Mirovtsi	Durankulak IIa
	  	  

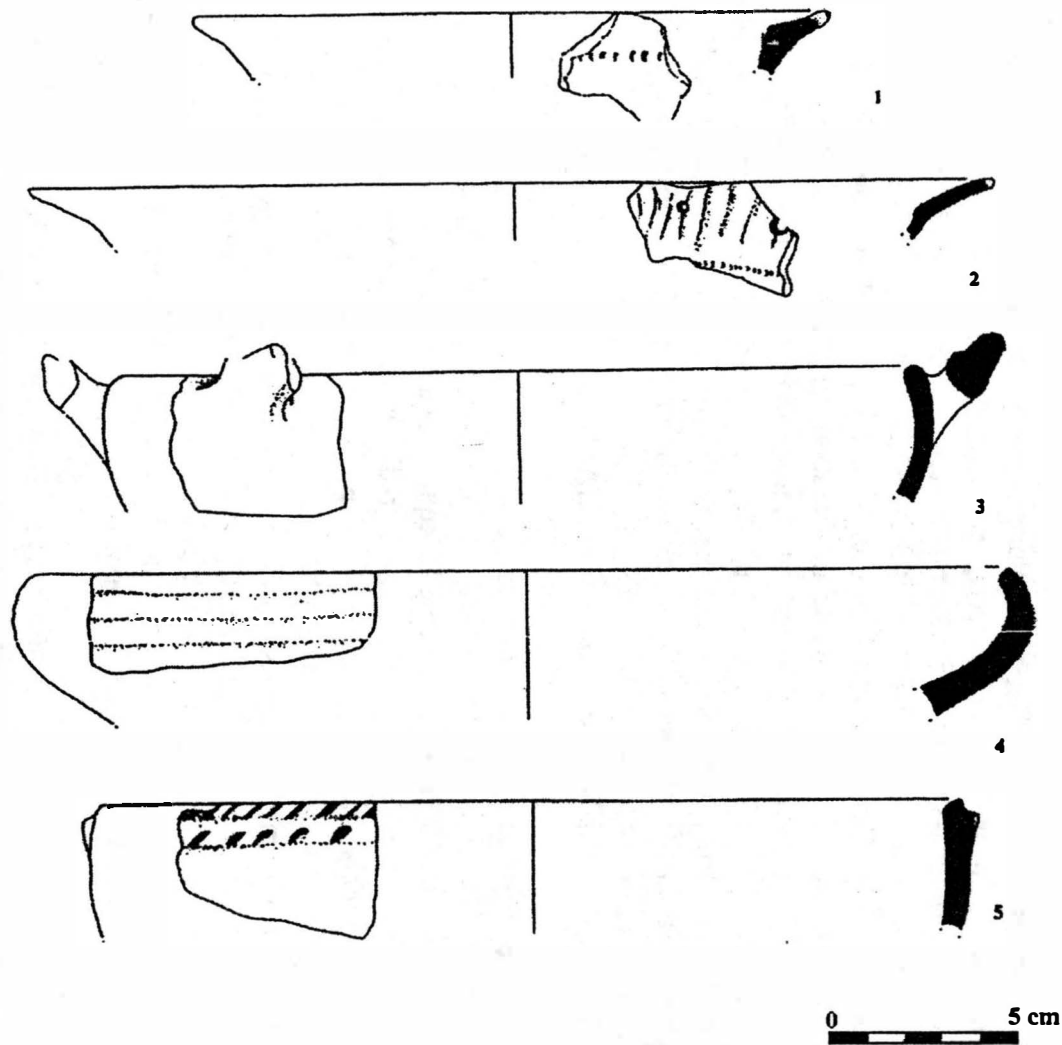
Tabl. IX

Cernavodă III - Baden - Boleráz	Mirovtsi	Durankulak IIa
		

Tabl. X

Cernavodă III - Baden - Boleráz	Mirovtși	Durankulak IIa
	 	 
	   	 

Tabl. XI



Tabl. XII. Cernavodă III culture. Koprivets pottery. Ref. Nicolova.