

TELIȚA - *CELIC DERE*, TULCEA COUNTY. LANDSCAPE STUDIES

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The archaeological assemblage from Telița - *Celic Dere* may be categorically regarded as an exceptional site. It represents one of those rare occasions an archaeologist has to investigate both the settlement and necropolis of a human community. Moreover, the localization of this site in the nearby of the Danube and Black Sea situates it in a space of cultural and ethnic transition, therefore an excellent context in which one may analyze and understand important cultural and ethnic changes of the Iron Age communities from the Lower Danube (6th - 3rd centuries BC). In addition, the coexistence in the necropolis of tumuli graves along flat graves, and of incineration graves along inhumation graves, put forward the possibility to comprehend complex social structure and ritual behaviors.

The site was identified and excavated, between 1985-2001, by Dr. G. Simion. His excavations conducted to the discovery and research of an unfortified settlement, a necropolis of small tumuli and a flat grave necropolis. Due to the complexity of the archaeological *in situ* structures and also to their inventory, found both in the necropolis and settlement, only little information was published (Simion 1995; 1996; 2000; 2003).

Beginning with 2005, the archaeological complexity and historical problematic raised by the Telița - *Celic Dere* site led to a reassessment of the research strategy by a new team¹, conducted by Dr. Valeriu Sîrbu (Sîrbu *et al.* 2007; 2008). The emphasis was taken towards the integration of the excavations' results with information obtained from alternative noninvasive investigations. In order to understand the composite relations developed between the human communities from *Celic Dere* and their natural environment, there were used specific concepts and methods in the field of Landscape Archaeology (Lock 2003; Peterson 1998). In order to develop such complex investigations, large amount of geographic and geological data was processed. In addition, for these analyses, the archaeological map of the region had to be assembled through the integration of published documentation and personal recent field survey works (Fig. 1; 2). Large scale geophysical surveys were used to delimitate the structural assemblages of this site and for the identification of unexcavated features (for example flattened tumuli) (Fig. 5). The spatial management of the entire research was ensured through accurate topographic activities, both in the case of general terrain analyses and also for archaeological documentation (Fig. 4). Innovative databases were developed to include information from older and newer excavations, and everything was integrated in a GIS system (Gaffney, Stancić 1991). New excavations were made to verify and refine the results of the analyses made with non-invasive technologies (Fig. 5c)

Further in this study, the authors will resume the preliminary results of an interdisciplinary analysis. In the beginning, however, few considerations regarding the site's archaeological and cultural problematic will be stated. We will use in the discussion, published results of the archaeological discoveries from Telița - *Celic Dere* from older excavation of G. Simion and also new results from the 2005-2008 research campaigns.

¹ During 2005 – 2008 the following team participated at excavations: V. Sîrbu (Museum of Brăila, Institute of Archaeology "V. Pârvan" Bucharest), G. Simion, G. Jugănar (ICEM Tulcea), D. Ștefan, M. Duțescu, C. Constantin, M. Nicolaescu (Bucharest University).

General presentation

The settlement is located on top of a plateau with three steep slopes, elevated with 30-35m above the Valley of the Celic River, water which borders the site in its southern side. The plateau has a surface of approximately 4,2ha. A small part was excavated by G. Simion (under 5%). No traces of fortification were discovered. The preliminary published results suggest a chronological framework between 6th and 3rd centuries BC, period which corresponds to two different stages in the site existence. The first phase (6th-5th centuries BC) is represented by dwellings half dug in the soil with a round shape and a diameter around 6m. In their upper part they had clay walls with sustaining pillars (Simion 1997, 237, 244-5, fig. 3-4). The end of this habitation had happened probably during a violent fire, as the discovered large quantities of burnt clay walls and ash attest. Furthermore, inside these dwellings, a large quantity of *in situ* inventory was found, suggesting, as well, a violent and rapid end of this habitation level. The ceramic inventory contained: large cooking pots, polished large vessels with long necks used for keeping liquids, porringers and cups with elevated handles (Simion 1997, 238-9, 246-7, fig. 5-6). They represent a mix of a late Babadag tradition with newer influences for the HaD ceramic. In addition, Greek ceramic was discovered, mostly amphorae, like the Chios type, dated at the end of the 6th and first half of the 5th century BC (Simion 1997, 239, 250, fig. 10). Black glazed and painted ceramic fragments were also found. A Corinthian type shard was dated in the beginning of the 5th century BC (Mănuclu-Adameşteanu 1996, 39-46). Some ceramic fragments were interpreted as having connections in the eastern space, in the area of late Černoles culture, the Jabotinsk phase (Simion 1997, 241 with bibliography) being associated with the discovery in the settlement of a bronze axe with flat wings (Simion 1997, 252, fig 10/a). These artifacts, considered in connection with the dwellings' type and some discoveries in the necropolis, pointed to an ethnic presence in this area of a Pre-Scythian community (Simion 1997, 241). The second and most recent habitation level consisted of rectangular surface dwellings with clay walls. Household pits, fireplaces and cooking kilns were also found. Usually these fireplaces were built from yellow clay laid over a layer of small stones and broken pieces of ceramic². For the second period, in the ceramic inventory together with local vessels (Simion 1997, 240, 248, fig.7-8) there were found, many Greek vessels, noticeably, amphorae from Thasos.

The necropolis is located at 300m north from the settlement plateau. No precise limit between the two different areas has been yet identified. Inside the necropolis G. Simion excavated all the visible mounds and many flat graves. Published information proposes for the necropolis, a general chronology between 6th and 3rd centuries BC. We refer here as chronological markers to the fragment of amphora stamp of Rhodes type dated in the last quarter of the 3rd century BC found in the embankment of Tumulus I, located at the bottom of the necropolis slope, and to the arrowheads with two wings and long rod discovered in Tumulus IX (Simion 2000, 72) dated in the 6th century BC. The diameters of these mounds varied from 3 to 15 m and the height from 50 cm to 2 m. The main architectural elements of the mounds are the broken stone embankment and the large stone outer ring. The tumuli were built above large rectangular or oval pits. In *Celic Dere* there were found under the same architectural constructions, both inhumation graves (the majority) (Simion 2000, 70) and graves with the cremated bones deposited in urns covered with leads or with the burnt bones deposited directly in pits covered with stones (Simion 200, 70, fig.7-6).

Incineration with the burnt bones deposited in large pits under tumuli, accompanied by rich inventory could be dated in the second stage of the necropolis (5th -3rd centuries BC) (Simion 2003, 248). Inhumation graves in large pits under tumuli were made regularly in *decubitus* position and usually contained a slab of sandstone deposited near the feet of the

² This situation was also documented in the excavations from 2006, when two fireplaces were discovered in Surface 16 from the settlement area, one of them, belonging, probably, to a cooking kiln

deceased (Simion 2000, 78, fig.6/2). Double inhumation was also documented, as well as partial inhumation (Simion 2000, 70). There were discovered inhumations in crouched position under tumuli without stone architecture and with poor funerary inventory (Simion 2003, 249, 252, fig. 1/d).

Flat graves were excavated by G. Simion especially in the southeastern side of the tumuli necropolis. They did not exhibit any differences regarding rite, inventory and chronology in comparison with the tumuli graves. Some graves were rather difficult to categorize as they use the same funerary architectural elements (deep pit, large stones covering) as the tumuli graves, but they differentiate themselves through their smaller diameters (2-3m). They were considered by G. Simion as flat graves (Simion 2003, 252, fig. 2b). Nevertheless, the covering of large stones was elevated 30 – 50cm above the level from where the pit was dug and excepting the size we do not find enough arguments to consider them as flat graves.

During 2006-2008 excavation campaigns, flat graves without stone coverings were researched in the Surfaces 33 – 34 (Fig. 4) (Sîrbu *et al.* 2008, 322, 408, pl.70). Here, in a rather small area, both inhumations in extended position and incineration in urns deposited in pits or incinerations with the bones deposited directly in pits, were found. Excepting the regular graves, other complexes were documented: pits with vessels and stone arrangements. These contexts may be connected with ritual activities performed in the necropolis.

The graves inventory contained weapons, harness items, adornments, dress accessories and ceramic. In the inhumation graves, the ceramic vessels are usually deposited on the bottom of the pit, in the nearby of the deceased feet. The personal effects were discovered in their functional position (Simion 2000, 71). We emphasize the presence of Greek imported wares and also of the gray clay vessels imitated after Greek shapes (Sîrbu *et al.* 2007, 480, pl. 76). Among the discovered items, of great interest are considered to be the eastern type artifacts belonging to Pre-Scythian and Scythian cultures. For the 6th - 5th centuries BC, the funerary inventories contained iron daggers of *akinakai* type, arrowheads with two wings and long rod, bronze spinners (Simion 2003, 250, 255, fig. 4). For the later period, the third quarter of the 5th century to 4th century BC, graves contained three wings bronze arrowheads without rod, typical Scythian *akinakai*, spearheads and harness gear (Simion 2003, 256-7, fig. 5-6)

The cultural mixture of inventory and rituals in Telița - *Celc Dere* needed an extensive analytical exercise and also a revaluation of the old results with newly available technologies and theoretical approaches.

Geological and Geographical Assessments

The site is located 20km South-West from the modern city of Tulcea, 14km south of the Danube, in a hilly relief, in what can be named the central part of Northern Dobruja.

Northern Dobruja has five main relief unities: Măcin Mountains, The Niculițel Plateau (or the Niculițel Hills), the Nalbant Hollow, the Tulcea Hills and the Babadag Plateau (Fig. 1). The archaeological complex from Telița - *Celc Dere* is localized in the eastern part of the Niculițel Hills, on the Valley of Celc River.

Niculițel Hills are characterized by ridges orientated from north to south which are crossed over by many small rivers. This area has, in fact, in the context of the entire central Dobruja region, a quite abundant rainfall average. The geographical unit of Niculițel Hills is delimited in the eastern side by the river Telița and in the west by the river Tăița. In modern times, the circulation in the Niculițel Hills is made exactly along these valleys. For example the county roadways 229A Cataloi-Telița and 22 between Cataloi and Mihail Kogălniceanu villages use the valley of the river Telița. Other river valleys used for modern access in the region are Tăița and Alba (Fig. 2).

In the past, however, there were also other options to cross over the landscape (Tilley 1994). Some roads could have followed the hills' ridges, especially those which are long and flat and offered in this way the possibility to minimize circulation effort and also to allow the

traveler to find his direction in the forests. There were more secure against flooding or than the routes through the marshes of river valleys.

Landscape Analysis

Today, the site from Telița - *Celice Dere* seems isolated, in a remote and wild region, not immediately connected with the major roads of the area. How did, however, the site contain the remains of eastern ethnic groups, and how did arrive here so numerous Greek imports from the Black Sea and Mediterranean area? What were the resources that allowed these communities to prosper along centuries?

The most obvious interpretation is that of a major circulation road which must have existed in the vicinity of the site. We mention that the crucial pass over the Danube from Isaccea is only at 17km NW (in bird's flight) from Telița - *Celice Dere*. This place was used along ages, as a passing point across the Danube.

Analyzing the relief in the micro region of Telița - *Celice Dere* with the help of slope calculations³ (Fig. 2, 3) we noticed that the easiest way to cross the Niculițel Hills from north to south, so from across the Danube, towards southern Dobruja, is to follow a ridge route which passed exactly in the nearby of *Celice Dere* settlement. In fact, the settlement is localized exactly in the single point where this ridge-route crosses over the Valley of Celice River. The settlement may be associated in this way with the existence of a road pass. The point where the settlement was identified, a plateau elevated more than 30m above the Valley of Celice River, is located in the western vicinity of the only place where, from a topographical point of view, two long ridges crossing the entire Niculițel Hills meet.

Today, this route is used only as a forest road by the local communities living now in the area to circulate across the hills. It is however, one of the main forest roads which has a mark and is signalized in the terrain. The significance of this road north-south may be proven by the existence on its route of an impressive fortress with stone walls (no 2, in Fig. 2), dated in the second Iron Age, on the peak of Edirlen. The site's fortification was excavated by G. Simion, but only briefly mentioned (Simion 1993, 134 fig. 10). The localization of this fortress along the discussed route has for sure great importance in sustaining the significance of this road. In fact, in this point, at Edirlen, the north-south road meets an east-west road, which uses also the hills ridges. The reason for the localization of the fortress from Edirlen can be connected with this important crossroad and also with the topographical advantages of the hill, which offers visibility in the entire area of the Niculițel Hills, from the Danube till the Nalbant Hallow.

The analysis of the micro region around the Celice River Valley and, in a larger context, of the Niculițel Hills, allowed the underling of complex conditions which concluded with the appearance in a particular place of the settlement and necropolises from Telița - *Celice Dere*. In this area we have already noticed a higher average rainfall than in other parts of Central Dobruja, condition for the existence of many rivers with small, but stable flow, which cross over, especially the southern part of the Niculițel Hills. Sedimentary rocks from Triassic, generally sandstones, but also limestone, and volcanic rocks (basalt, porphyries, granites) are to be found in the nearby or in underground as sources for the building material used in the tumuli funerary architecture (stone embankment and outer ring). Finally, the location of the Telița - *Celice Dere* site, may be connected with the geomorphologic structure of the terrain which allows a good circulation across a ridge route, an almost continuous saddle developed on a northwest-southeast direction. This road must be seen as linked with two other transversal pathways, one passing

³A theoretical resume of GIS principles and methods as understood by the present article authors, together with bibliography may be found in Ștefan, Duțescu 2005.

along the Celic River Valley and another, located more to the south, connecting the sites from Edirlen, in the nearby of Trestinic peak, towards Valea Teilor.

Further in our analysis, we have to investigate if this network of pathways represented more than the result of a local context. The discoveries from Telița - *Celic Dere* designated a place where northern and southern influences interlaced in more than a regional cultural mixture. It was therefore naturally to follow the role of this community in an extended geographic and historic context.

Since the beginning of their foundation, the Greek colonies from the Black Sea attracted the barbarian communities in a complex system of relations, with commercial and cultural-social implications. For Northern Dobruja, Histria and Orgame were the reference points. Commercial exchanges between colonies and the barbarian environment of Northern Dobruja and Southern Bessarabia implied the existence of a secure road along which, people and merchandise may travel all year long. The analysis of the discoveries from the 7th - 3rd centuries BC (Fig. 1) suggest from the beginning, the existence of a generic road from southeast towards northwest, from Orgame towards Southern Bessarabia, crossing over Danube at Isaccea⁴. On both sides of Danube, in the nearby of Isaccea, we know the archaeological sites dated in the 6th - 5th centuries BC from Novoselskoe (Brujako, Novitki 1997, 113-168), Giurgiulești (Levițki, Haheu 1999, 121-134), Tichilești (Bauman 1995, 227-232; Simion 2003, 79-80) and Isaccea (Simion 2003b, 113-128).

For the 7th-5th centuries BC this pathway could have used the ridges which originate in the Nalbant Hallow and continue on a long saddle towards northwest. This ridge route was controlled by the community located in the settlement of Telița - *Celic Dere* in the cross-point with the Valley of Celic River. The northern end of this road could be located in the place where the Măcin Hills descend in the Danube Meadow, in front of the small valley called Tichilești, not far from the modern village of Revărsarea. This is the location of another important archaeological assemblage. On a plateau shaped by the Tichilești Valley there was identified a fortified settlement from the First Iron Age belonging to Babadag I - III phases (Simion 2003, 79-98; Jugănaru 1996). For the chronological period between the end of the first Iron Age and the 3rd century AD another settlement is known (Bauman 1995, 229-230; Simion 2003, 79-80), unfortified, located in the nearby of the previous settlement with Babadag type discoveries, towards north. In the 6th - 5th centuries, the unfortified settlement was accompanied by an inhumation necropolis (Bauman 1995, 230-2). One may recognize in the Revărsarea - Tichilești site many of the archaeological features encountered in the Telița - *Celic Dere* site: ceramic vessels *post* Babadag III, ceramic fragments with influences from the sub Carpathian area (Bârsești and Ferigile), Greek ceramic, Greek archaic amphorae, ceramic decorated in a typical North-Pontus style, Glasinac fibulae. In the necropolis from Revărsarea - Tichilești there were excavated graves similar as structure, rite and inventory with some graves from Telița - *Celic Dere*. We regard as interesting the fact that the single Corinthian ceramic fragments known in Northern Dobruja were discovered at Orgame, *Celic Dere* and Tichilești (Mănucu-Adameșteanu 1996, 39-46) staking out the route of the previously discussed road.

For the subsequently chronological period (the 4th - 3rd centuries BC) a considerable growth in the number of archaeological discoveries is noticeable in all the North and Northeastern Dobruja. The western and northern shores of the Razelm Lake became in this period crowded with settlements and funerary contexts in an almost continuous chain: Jurilovca (Canarache 1957, 380-1), Sălcioara (Mănucu-Adameșteanu M., Mănucu-Adameșteanu Gh. 1996, 104-105), Enisala (Simion 1971, 63-130; Lazurcă, Mănucu-Adameșteanu 1980, 146-156), Babadag (Morintz 1986, 60; Lungu 1994, 135-7, no. 1), Sarichioi (Avram 2006, 64-6), Sabangia (Lungu 1996, 139, no. 13), Agighiol (Andrieșescu 1937, pl. 13-27; Berciu 1969a, 33-76; 1969b),

⁴ For Isaccea in pre-Roman times see Bauman 2008, 190, with bibliography.

Sarinasuf (Lungu 1994, 139, no. 14), Murighiol (Bujor 1955, 571-580; 1956, 242-252; 1958, 125-142; 1971, 131-134). There are as well known settlements and necropolises dated in the 4th – 3rd centuries BC in the nearby of the Danube, on its right bank at Beștepe (Simion 2003, 135-146), Malcoci (Canarache 1957, 377; Bauman 1975, 34-5, 40-1, no. 8, 10, 11, 29-30; Lungu 1994, 138, no. 9), Mahmudia (Bauman 1975, 41, no. 31; Canarache 1957, 377; Lungu 1994, 138, no. 8), Tulcea (Lungu 1996, 47-102), Parcheș (Bauman 1995, 36, no. 15) and Isaccea (Lungu 1994, 137, no. 6; Topoleanu 1984, 187-206). There are also known discoveries on the left bank of the Danube in Novoselskoe (Vančugov, Brujako, Sîrbu, Niculiță 1999, 223-278; Vančugov, Niculiță, Sîrbu, Cojocar 1999, 117-134), Orlovka - Cartal (Vančugov, Sîrbu, Niculiță, Bârcă 1999, 135-222; Vančugov, Niculiță, Sîrbu, Cojocar 1999, 117-134), Giurgiulești (Armăuț 1999, 135-145).

Other archaeological discoveries (from 4th – 3rd centuries BC) are known for the interior of the investigated area, disposed on the same direction southeast – northwest: Zebil (Irimia, 1983, 140, no. 18), Mihai Bravu (Lungu 1994, 138-9, no. 11), Nalbant (Bauman, 1995, 37-40, no. 18, 22, 25), Valea Teilor (Canarache 1957, 377) and Telița (Cantacuzino, Simion 1962). Two large settlements were identified in field surveys in the nearby of the Telița – *Celice Dere* site (no. 3, 6, in Fig. 2). They contained local ceramic fragments mixed with Greek Hellenistic ceramic, among which amphorae fragments (Simion 1995a, 250). More discoveries dated in this period are to be noted in Revărsarea – *Tichilești*, in the northern segment of the analyzed pathway (Bauman 1995, 232-5). A rich and diverse sample of amphorae stamps was discovered at approximately 2km northwest, on the roadway which goes to Rachelu (Lungu 1994, 139). In this period the possible routes to travel from north towards the Black Sea shores multiply. Along to the previously described pathway (Tichilești, Telița - *Celice Dere*, Nalbant) other routes were active too, most probably, on the direction Parcheș – Telița – Nalbant - Slava Rusă (Opaiț 1991, 21; Lungu 1994, 139, no. 16). The connection between these two major routes was accomplished on the Valley of Celice River as the presence of the two previously described settlements from Hellenistic times suggest and on the ridge pathway, previously discussed, located 1,5km to the south than the valley of Celice which connected the Alba Valley (Valea Teilor) with Telița Valley. The cross-point between this east-west route and the north-south one was located in the nearby of Edirlen fortress (Simion 1993, 134, fig. 10). At least a variant of the Central - Northern Dobruja road was used in the Roman Times. Its' most possible route could be Parcheș – Telița – Nalbant - Ibida, suggested by the discovery of *miliari* stones from Maximinus at Parcheș – Saon Monastery (ISM V, 250bis) and Ibida (Slava Rusă) (ISM V, 223)⁵. In fact, this road was only the northern segment of the major inner province road which linked *Noviodunum*, Ibida, *Ulmum* and further south, *Tropaeum Traiani*.

An important objective of our research was to assimilate the site from Telița – *Celice Dere* in a complex environment, both natural and human made. The integration of all the archaeological information about this region makes this site, a component of a system, not an isolated item. In this way the result of its excavation may be better interpreted and the characteristics of the material culture, better explained.

Topographical Analysis

Since 2005, the most important part of the documenting process of the Telița – *Celice Dere* site has been the detailed and accurate topographical recording of the relief, archaeological structures and trenches. Different strategies and instruments were used accordingly to particular situations⁶. The idea was to integrate the site in a larger geographical area and to develop GIS

⁵ Regarding the roman roads issue see Bărbulescu, Căteia 1998, with bibliography.

⁶ The three strategies as defined in Stefan, Dutescu 2005 are related to required resolution of the spatial analyzed entity (region, site surroundings and archaeological contexts).

analyses in a single system. Therefore we mixed in a homogeneous system of coordinates, cartographic information from various sources: paper maps, GPS recordings, SRTM digital elevation models, aerial photographs, total station measurements, site drawings.

Great attention was given to the exact recording of the position, shape and structure of all the tumuli excavated by G. Simion. On the plan we measured, until now, 60 excavated funerary structures with stone ring (the ring was preserved during archaeological excavations 1985-2001). Analyzing the site plan (Fig. 4) one may notice that the necropolis is localized at 300m north from the settlement, on the same hill massif. The tumuli are mainly organized along the central ridge of the hill slope, and towards its eastern side on a 300m length east-west. The necropolis covers a 3,4ha surface, its northern limit being in the point where the slope becomes steeper and the ridge narrower. As the slope analysis pointed out, the access road to which the settlement was connected should have passed exactly on this ridge, so we may consider a spatial relation between the ancient road and the mounds. Even if this phenomenon was attested for Greek and Roman necropolises⁷, there is little information about its appearance in other cultures. The tumuli appear to be structured in two main groups. The northern group is localized in the pick of the slope and the second, at the bottom of the eastern slope, in a flatter area. Inside these groups, the mounds are grouped in alignments or in satellite configurations (smaller mounds gathered around a larger one).

The apparent division of the necropolis in two different groups could be as well, the result of the more advanced erosion affected the mounds localized on the slope. In order to validate this, geophysical prospecting were undertaken beginning with 2008 in this area.

Geophysical Analyses

Among the non-invasive methods used for analyzing the site of *Celic Dere* interesting results were obtained using geophysical equipments, in our case a Bartington gradiometer, sensitive to magnetic anomalies (Scollar *et al.* 1990; Smekalova *et al.* 2005, 461-482). With its help we were able, first of all, to identify unexcavated mounds and also to understand the characteristics of the terrain, either in terms of natural features or modern interventions.

In Fig. 5, one can see a plot of the magnetic survey realized for a 40 x 40m surface. One may notice in the northwestern margin of the plot, the traces of an excavated tumulus - T38 (no. 1, in Fig. 5b), researched in 1997 by G. Simion. The 1997 excavated soil from T38, deposited around it, appeared also in the plot as a highly magnetic area of 3m around the tumulus. Nine meters south of T38 the survey identified an anomaly which proved to be an unexcavated tumulus, T44. It appeared as an oval shaped nonmagnetic area of 5m diameter, surrounded by magnetic soil. Considering these elements, we were able to mark the excavation surfaces in such a way that the profiles did not cover entirely the centre of the mound, and thus, the possible dead would be only touched by the profile, but not completely hidden inside it. In the image there is also visible a natural relief element, a valley, passing south to tumulus T44. Its color is very light, therefore nonmagnetic, meaning that the water swept in time the vegetal soil, bringing the native rock which is nonmagnetic, closer to the surface. In this way it became clear, that the mound, even if very flat, was built in a slightly elevated point in the terrain, above a small valley.

In September 2008, after analyzing the magnetic survey results, excavations were made in the area of the anomaly indicating a flat tumulus. Tumulus 44 was unearthed, but the excavations were not completed. The tumulus had a 5m broken stone embankment, an outer ring built from large block of limestone. It was built above a large pit. In its upper part, fragments from wheel and hand- made vessels were discovered (Figure 5c).

Conclusions

⁷ For example the necropolis at Orgame (Lungu 2000, 101-118), Histria (Alexandrescu 1966, 133-294).

This study presents how the use of alternative methods of investigation may enhance the quality of the archaeological data interpretation. The excavation is no longer the unique way to uncover the past realities. The localization of the site of Telița – *Celic Dere* along one of the most important route which connected the Northern Dobruja with the area around Babadag - Razelm - Sinoe lakes, where the Greek colonies stood, brings the site into a new light.

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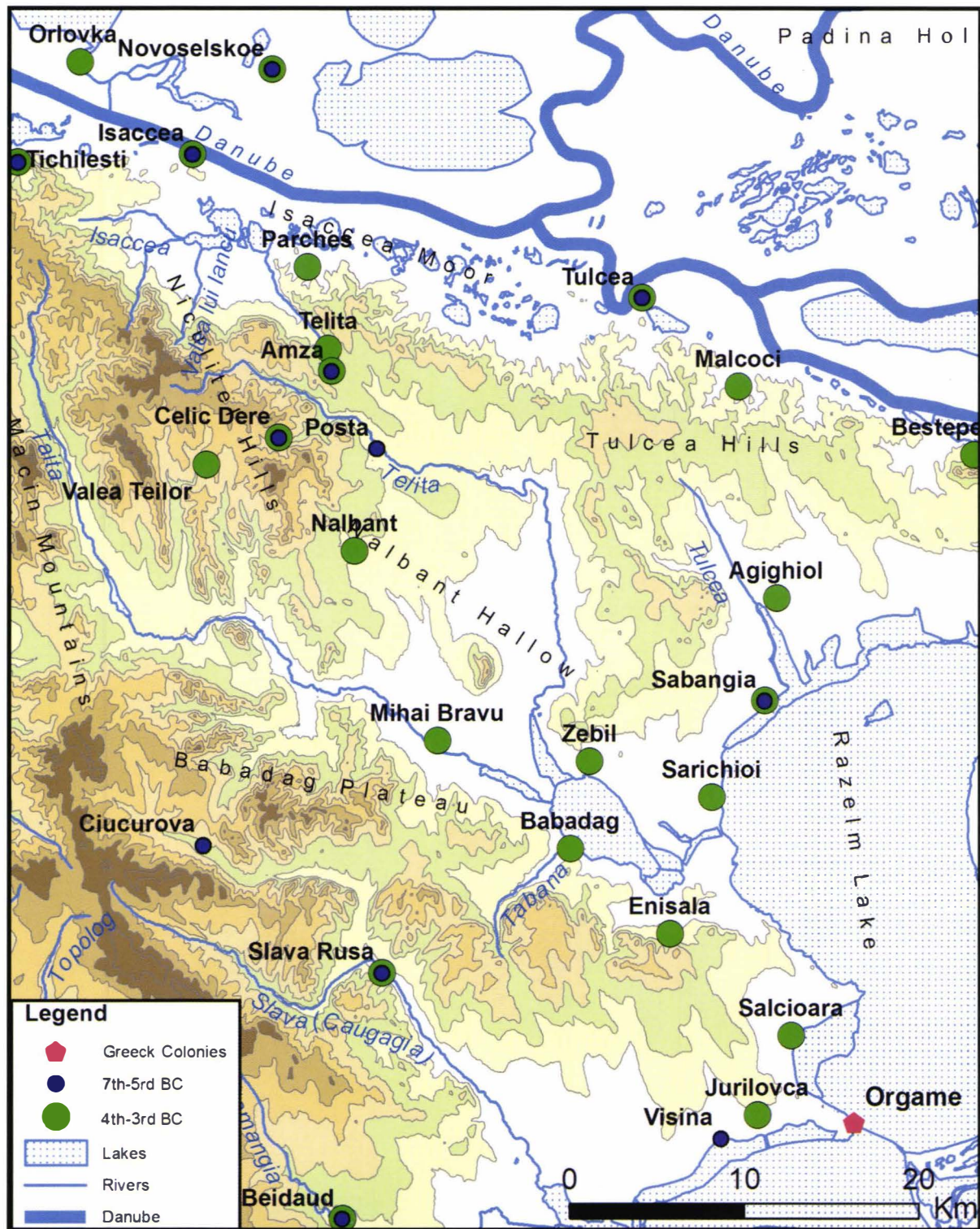


Figure 1. Northern-Dobrogea. Relief and 7th-3rd centuries BC Archaeological Discoveries Map

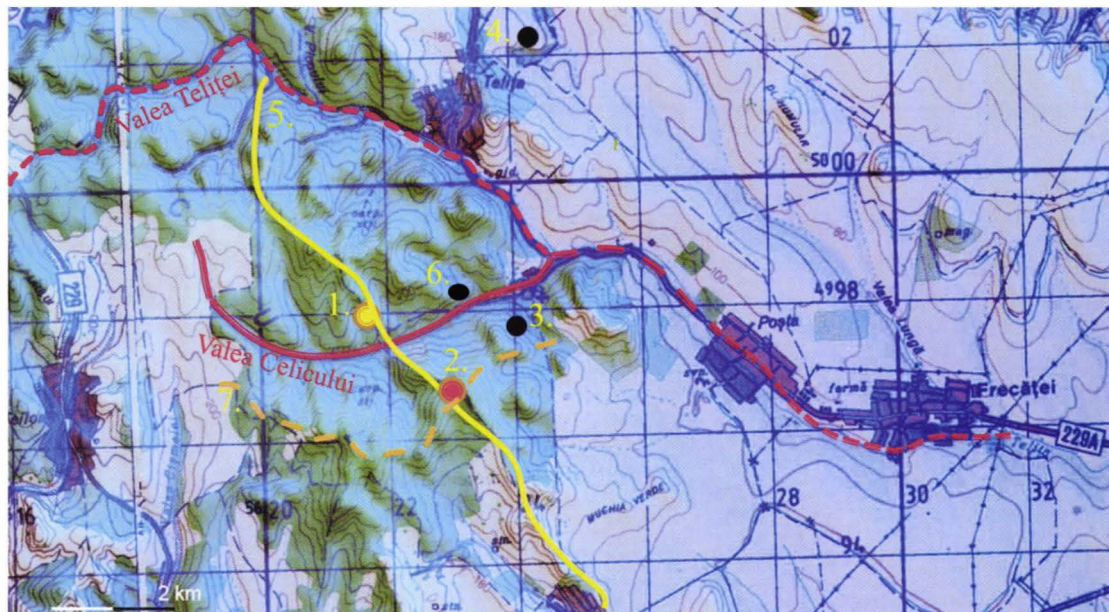


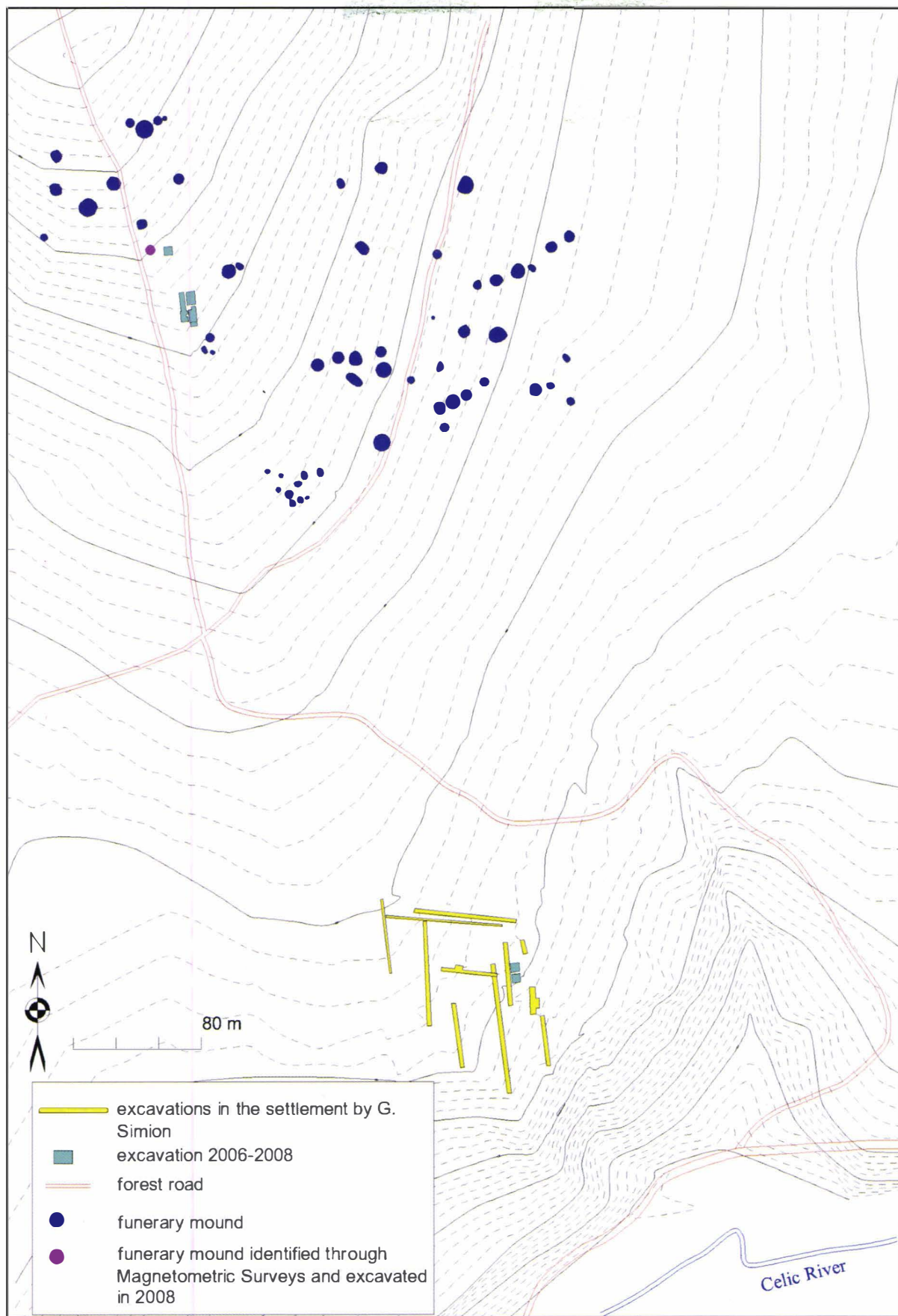
Figure 2. The map of the region around Celic Valley.

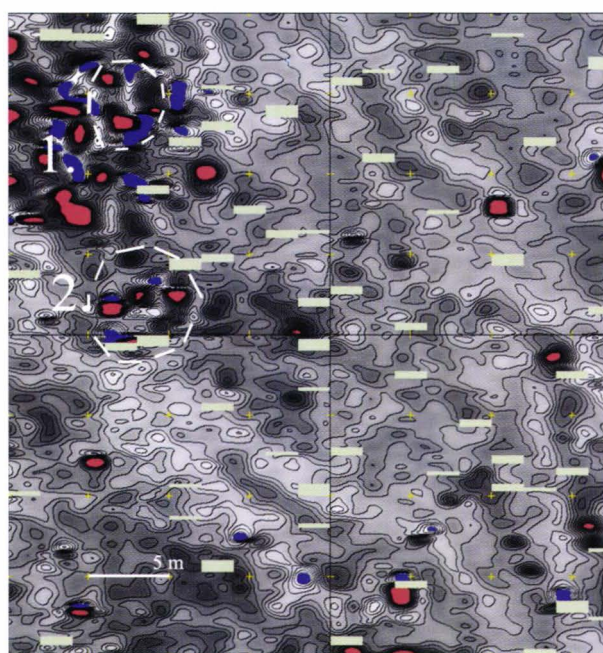
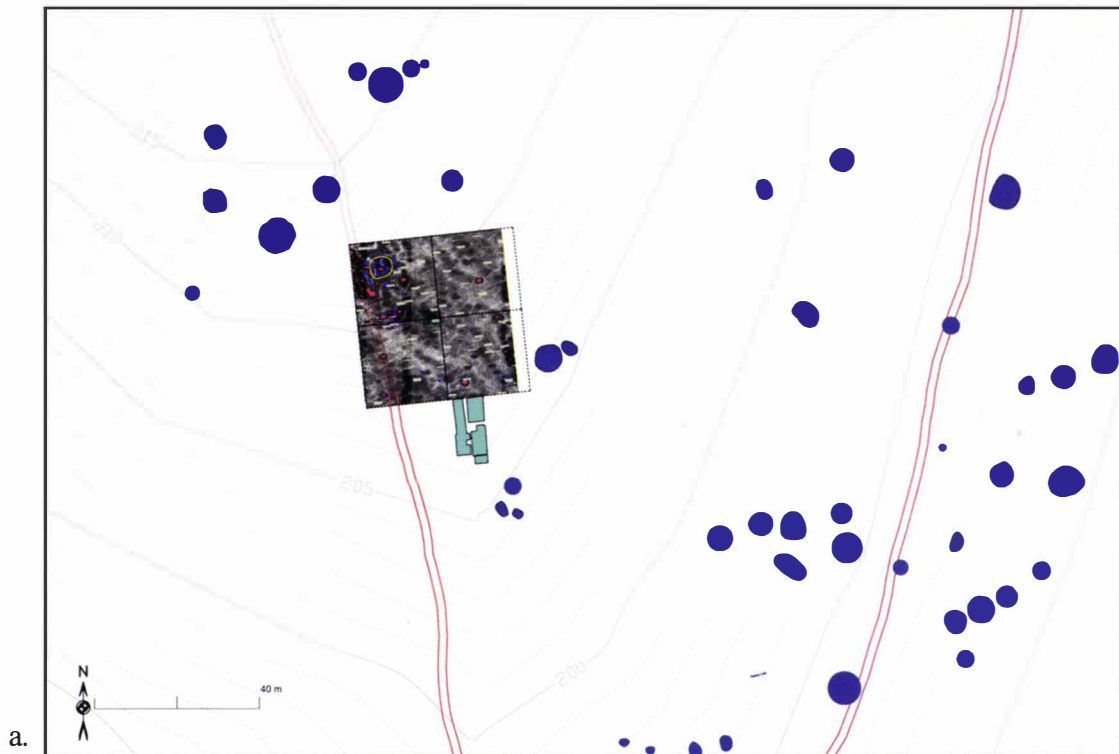
1. The site Telița - *Celic Dere*; 2. The fortress from Edirlen; 3 and 6. 4th-3rd centuries BC settlements; 4. The tumulus grave from Telița; 5. The possible route of the north-south road passing near Telița - *Celic Dere* site; 7. The possible route of the road east-west passing near Edirlen.



Figure 3. Three-dimensional model of the relief around the Celic Valley. View from south-east.

1. The site Telița - *Celic Dere*; 2. The fortress from Edirlen.





Magnetic NonMagnetic



Figure 5. Telița - *Celic Dere*.

a. The Necropolis map. Detail with the position of the magnetic survey plot presented in fig. 5b.

b. Magnetic Survey plot. 1. Tumulus 38 excavated

by G. Simion in 1997; 2. Tumulus 44, identified with the help of magnetic analyses;

c. Photo of the Tumulus 44 after excavating the first layer of soil, view from south-west.