

## A pit with depositions of cups from the first period of the Iron Age from Alba Iulia

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Archaeological research carried out on the site of Alba Iulia *Recea* (*Monolit*) was conducted by the National Museum of Unification between 2003 and 2009, leading to the excavation of a site with many settlement phases and a rich archaeological material<sup>1</sup>. The site is located on the left side of the county road Alba Iulia-*Pâclișa*, on the first terrace of the Mureș River and on the slope that connects it with the second terrace of the river. On this paper we wish to present a feature with depositions of cups discovered in 2004.

The settlement from the first period of the Iron Age from Alba Iulia develops on the first terrace of the Mureș River (Plate I/1) and has the characteristics of a terrace settlement, most probably different areas of the terrace being used successively. A culture layer to be attributed to this period has not been recorded within the researched settlement, the features being delimited in a black soil, or the yellow sterile soil. In the black soil were discovered also features and materials dated to other historical periods, as are those belonging to the HaA1, the Basarabi culture, the Roman and post-Roman periods. Ceramic materials which may be attributed to the Gáva culture were encountered also in this black soil, yet the number of ceramic fragments is quite scarce. A great number of features from the first period of the Iron Age were affected, to a greater or lesser extent, by subsequent habitations, being discovered features superposed by those belonging to the Roman and Migration ages. We must underline the presence of ceramic materials and other pieces, for example a hair pin with head in shape of vessel (*Vasenkopfnadeln*), in dwellings from the Migration Age. The feature which constitutes the subject of this work is located nearby the western habitation area, area where were observed successive habitations from HaA until HaC. Nearby there are no other features or archaeological materials to be attributed to the Gáva habitation.

### Description of the discovery

The feature was discovered in trench 26 A (pit 1). It has a circular form with a diameter of 3.1 m. It was identified at a depth of 0.45 m and deepens until 0.95 m bellow the actual stepping level. At -0.45 m were discovered 5 cups with their mouth downwards, four of them being grouped one next each other, while the last was deposited near them, also with the mouth downwards (Plate I/2, 3a, b). Inside the pit were discovered numerous ceramic fragments, a fragmentary anthropomorphous representation, bone fragments, river stones, daub fragments. The filling of the pit is a soil pigmented with ash and wood charcoal. A part of the ceramic and bone material presents traces of secondary burning. Nearby the feature a socketed axe was discovered; most probably it belonged to a feature.

The inventory of the pit indicates its special handling. Due to noticed secondary burning on part of the inventory, including the ceramic one, we assume the practice of some rituals which necessitated a purification of the inventory that may be considered as offerings. We must mention that, while restoring the ceramic material, it was noticed the existence of some fragments from the same recipients which do not show traces of secondary burning next to fragments which present different phases of secondary burning. Similarly, the anthropomorphous representation discovered within the feature was

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<sup>1</sup> I want to thank my colleagues from the museum for support during archaeological research. Discoveries span from the Early Bronze Age to the XI<sup>th</sup> century AD. The site is known in the scientific lexicon as *Dealul Furcilor – Monolit* but we consider that it is much more useful using the name of Alba Iulia-*Recea*. Preliminary reports were published by Moga et al 2004, 35-36; Moga et al. 2005, 51-53; Moga et al. 2006, 72-73; Moga et al. 2007, 65-67. On different occasions, materials and archaeological contexts were published, and references were made to various discoveries from the site. We notice here some of these works: Moga, Ciobanu 2004; Moga 2005; Bounegru, Ota 2006; Lascu 2006; Bălan 2009; Ciugudean 2009; Ciugudean 2011; Lascu/ Gheorghiu 2009, Gheorghiu/ Lascu 2011.

fragmented before deposition, either during the „purification” of the inventory, or when this was laid in the pit. Taking into account the presence of fragmentary recipients we may assume either the intentional deposition of only a part of the inventory either gathering from the „purification spot” and deposition in the pit of only a part from the used material. After deposition of this fragmentary inventory, the pit was „sealed” with whole cups deposited with the mouth downwards.

### Archaeological inventory

*Anthropomorphous figurine* (Plate I/4)<sup>2</sup>, discovered fragmentary (only the lower part is preserved). In the front it is decorated with four incised lines which appear around the waist. The lower part is decorated with the motif of „small fir”<sup>3</sup>, which covers it wholly.

The piece was broken before its deposition, maybe intentionally, in connection with practices performed during deposition. From the first period of the Iron Age, in the intra-Carpathian area, anthropomorphous statuettes were discovered, for example at the sites of Măgura Uroiului<sup>4</sup>, Racoș<sup>5</sup>, Teleac<sup>6</sup>. Intended breakage of the head was assumed for representations from the first period of the Iron Age<sup>7</sup>. Such were considered the finds from: Grănicești<sup>8</sup>, Krivče, Lissičniki<sup>9</sup>, Racoș<sup>10</sup> and Râpa<sup>11</sup>.

*Socketed axe* made of bronze (Plate I/5), discovered in a fragmentary state, only the lower part is preserved. Dimensions: length of blade = 4 cm, width = 3,2 cm, weight = 1,3 cm.

From the point of view of shape, the socketed axe falls within the Fizeșul Gherlii-Sângiorgiu de Pădure series, dated to HaB2<sup>12</sup>, where it has analogies, in deposits from Fizeșul Gherlii II<sup>13</sup>, Sângiorgiu de Pădure<sup>14</sup>, Cămin<sup>15</sup>, Sîmbriaș<sup>16</sup> or in discoveries from Șoimușu Mic<sup>17</sup> and from Vița<sup>18</sup>.

### Ceramic material

Biconical vessels with the upper part having a tronconical shape and delimited from the body by a well marked shoulder. Fragments are decorated on the body with vertical grooves (Plate II/5, 6; III/1). Rim shards coming from biconical vessels discovered within the pit, belong most probably also to this type (Plate II/1, 2).

In the scientific literature it was mentioned that the origin of shape is to be searched within discoveries from the environment of Igrîța, Lăpuș, or Piliny cultures<sup>19</sup>. Morphological changes are mentioned for pieces from HaC and HaD, a fact which determines also the appearance of changes in all types of used vessels<sup>20</sup>. It corresponds to the type *Ia* from the typology proposed for the ceramics from the Teleac<sup>21</sup> fortified settlement, to type 2 of the biconical vessel from the typology proposed for ceramics from the settlement of Mediaș<sup>22</sup> and to the variant *A* of biconical vessels from the typology proposed for

<sup>2</sup> Lascu 2006, 136, fig. 2/3.

<sup>3</sup> László 1995, 86.

<sup>4</sup> Ardeu/ Bălos 2002, 69, Pl. XIII.

<sup>5</sup> Sirbu 1999, fig. 2/4, 5; 3/1, 5-7.

<sup>6</sup> Vasiliev 1985-1986, fig. 2/12-14; Vasiliev et al. 1991, fig. 28/13.

<sup>7</sup> Sirbu 1999, 159.

<sup>8</sup> László 1994, fig. 13/2.

<sup>9</sup> Maleev 1992, fig. 5.

<sup>10</sup> Sirbu 1999, 159, fig. 2/4; 3/1, 5.

<sup>11</sup> Dumitrașcu 1974, fig. 3.

<sup>12</sup> Rusu 1963, 194-195.

<sup>13</sup> Petrescu-Dimbovița 1977, 142, fig. 346/1.

<sup>14</sup> Petrescu-Dimbovița 1977, 143, fig. 351/2.

<sup>15</sup> Bader 1978, Pl. LXXXII/1, 2, 4.

<sup>16</sup> Zrinyi 1979, Pl. CXIX/3.

<sup>17</sup> Crișan 1993, 247, Pl. IX/13.

<sup>18</sup> Marinescu 1979, 129, Pl. II/7.

<sup>19</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 80.

<sup>20</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 80.

<sup>21</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 80.

<sup>22</sup> Pankau 2004, 53.

discoveries from Moldavia<sup>23</sup>. It is the variant of the biconical vessel the most widely spread in the discoveries from the first period of the Iron Age from Transylvania.

Shard from the rounded body of a biconical vessel, slightly oblong towards the bottom, made of semi-fine paste, having as temper crushed shards, tile coloured. It is the only variant of the biconical vessel on which decoration with grooves does not appear. Decoration consists of delicate incised lines illustrating a „fish skeleton” (Plate III/4).

It corresponds to variant *Ib3* from the typology proposed for ceramics from the fortified settlement from Teleac<sup>24</sup>. Within the above mentioned fortification this variant was discovered in all three habitation levels, existing differences concerning decoration of vessels from the first level, in comparison with those from levels II and III<sup>25</sup>. This shape has analogies in discoveries from Augustin-*Tipia Ormenişului*<sup>26</sup>, Limba-Şesul *Orzii*<sup>27</sup>, Mediaş-*Cetate*<sup>28</sup>, Teleac<sup>29</sup> and in discoveries from Hungary<sup>30</sup>.

Cups with rounded body, slightly bent rim, made of fine or semi-fine paste. The temper used in the realization of this form is sand, rarely being noticed pieces which have in their composition crushed shards. Vessels present traces of high quality firing. Colour of vessels varies from brickly to black. Exterior and interior surface of vessels is well polished. Finds of this variant are not decorated (Plate III/10). They have the handle beneath the rim (Plate III/11) and flat bottom.

It corresponds to type *VIb* from the typology proposed for ceramics from the Teleac site<sup>31</sup> and to type *E* of cup from the typology proposed for discoveries from Moldavia<sup>32</sup>. Within the scientific literature the antecedents of the shape are mentioned in the Late Bronze Age<sup>33</sup>. The form has analogies in discoveries from the intra-Carpathian area from Augustin-*Tipia Ormenişului*<sup>34</sup>, Cernatu<sup>35</sup>, Limba-Şesul *Orzii*<sup>36</sup>, Mediaş-*Cetate*<sup>37</sup> and *Gura Câmpului*<sup>38</sup>, Porumbenii Mari<sup>39</sup>, Teleac<sup>40</sup>, Tilişca<sup>41</sup>, and in Moldavia at Grăniceşti<sup>42</sup>. It was mentioned that for the fortified settlement from Teleac, this form is intensively used in levels I and II and only rarely in level III<sup>43</sup>.

Cups with cylindrical neck have outcurved rim and short, bellied body, delimited by a well marked shoulder. They are made of fine or semi-fine paste, the temper used being sand. Vessels present traces of high quality firing. Colour of vessels varies from brown to black. Exterior and interior surface of vessels is well polished. They are not decorated (Plate III/7), there existing also pieces embellished with inclined grooves (Plate III/3, 9).

It corresponds to type *VIId2* from the typology proposed for ceramics from the Teleac site<sup>44</sup>, to type 3 and 4 of cups from the typology proposed for the site from Mediaş<sup>45</sup> and to type *Ca* of cups from

<sup>23</sup> László 1994, 75-77.

<sup>24</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 81.

<sup>25</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 81.

<sup>26</sup> Ursuţiu 2006, Pl. XXX//8.

<sup>27</sup> Rustoiu/ Ciută 2001, fig. 5/2.

<sup>28</sup> Pankau 2004, Pl. 29/1.

<sup>29</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, fig. 29/15; 32/8-10.

<sup>30</sup> Kemenczei 1982a, Pl. 3/2-5; Kemenczei 1984, pl. CXXXI/17; CXXXII/14, 16, 17; CXXXIII/16.

<sup>31</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 88.

<sup>32</sup> László 1994, 82.

<sup>33</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 88.

<sup>34</sup> Ursuţiu 2006, Pl. VIII/6; IX/7, 9.

<sup>35</sup> Székely 1966, Pl. IV/13.

<sup>36</sup> Rustoiu/ Ciută 2001, fig. 7/2.

<sup>37</sup> Pankau 2004, Pl. 29/20.

<sup>38</sup> Pankau 2004, Pl. 42/2.

<sup>39</sup> Székely 1966, Pl. VI/16.

<sup>40</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, fig. 29/3; 38/1-5.

<sup>41</sup> Lupu 1989, Pl. 4/9.

<sup>42</sup> László 1994, fig. 36/3-5.

<sup>43</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 88.

<sup>44</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 89-90.

<sup>45</sup> Pankau 2004, 64-68.

the typology proposed for discoveries from Moldavia<sup>46</sup>. The shape has analogies in discoveries from BrD - HaA in Igrîța<sup>47</sup>, Susani<sup>48</sup> and Deva-Viile Noi<sup>49</sup> and *Cimitirul Ceangăilor*<sup>50</sup> and from the first period of the Iron Age in Augustin-Tîpia Ormenișului<sup>51</sup>, Mediaș-Cetate<sup>52</sup> and *Gura Câmpului*<sup>53</sup>, Sighișoara-Dealul Viilor<sup>54</sup>, Teleac<sup>55</sup>, Tilișca<sup>56</sup> and in Moldova at Grănicești<sup>57</sup>.

Cups with oval body, the mouth has a generous indentation in the area of the handle (Plate IV/1-3, 5). Within specialized literature this form is named „kidney cup”<sup>58</sup>. They are made of fine or semi-fine paste, the temper used in the realization of this form is sand. Colour of vessels varies from brown to black. Firing is of high quality. Exterior and interior surface of vessels is well polished. They are not decorated (Plate IV/1, 3) or are decorated with concentric grooves on the inside (Plate IV/2). Finds have an over elevated handle (Plate IV/2, 5) or one placed beneath the rim (Plate IV/1, 3). We mention that no ceramic fragment to correspond to the variant *c1* of kidney cups from the typology proposed for the Teleac site was found within ceramics from Alba Iulia.

It corresponds to type *Vic2* from the typology proposed for ceramics from the Teleac site<sup>59</sup> and to variant *2b* from type 5 of cups from the typology proposed for the site of Mediaș<sup>60</sup>. The shape has analogies in discoveries from Bogata-Bercul Țărcilor<sup>61</sup>, Limba-Șesul Orzii<sup>62</sup>, Mediaș-Cetate<sup>63</sup>, Sîncrăieni-Teleac<sup>64</sup>, Teleac<sup>65</sup>, Tilișca<sup>66</sup>, Sighetul Marmației<sup>67</sup> and Remetea Mare *Gomila lui Pituț*<sup>68</sup> and in Hungary at Szentes-Belsőecser IV Téglyagyár<sup>69</sup>, in discoveries BzD – HaA from Lazuri<sup>70</sup> and in discoveries HaA from Hungary, as it is that from Hódmezővásárhely-Solt-Palé<sup>71</sup>. For the fortified settlement from Teleac is mentioned the appearance of this shape beginning with the level II, its usage continuing also in the level III<sup>72</sup>. A fragment from a cup with the recessed rim was discovered in the settlement of Bernadea, being considered a „barbarisation” of the kidney vessel<sup>73</sup>. Shape’s development continued, with some modifications, in the horizon of the Scythian cemeteries from Transylvania, such a piece being discovered in the necropolis from Alba Iulia-Tolstoi<sup>74</sup>. We wish to mention that there has not been discovered pieces to correspond to variant *C1* of cups from the typology proposed for the Teleac settlement<sup>75</sup>. As it can be noticed from analogies offered for cups with the recessed rim from the Alba Iulia site, this artefact does

<sup>46</sup> László 1994, 81.

<sup>47</sup> Emödi 1980, fig. 5/4.

<sup>48</sup> Stratan/ Vulpe 1977, pl. 4/1-3; 5/4; 6/97-99; 7/14-22, 68, 78; 8; 9/47, 63-66, 71-77; 10/27, 28, 33, 37, 40, 50-52; 20; 21; 22; 23; 24; 25/202-206.

<sup>49</sup> Andrițoiu 1992, Pl. 62/7, 10.

<sup>50</sup> Andrițoiu 1992, Pl. 62/13-19.

<sup>51</sup> Ursuțiu 2006, Pl. IX/2, 4.

<sup>52</sup> Pankau 2004, Pl. 9/7, 8; 11/8; 27/5, 6; 28/19; 35/3-7.

<sup>53</sup> Pankau 2004, Pl. 41/9, 10; 45/4.

<sup>54</sup> Boroffka/ Boroffka 2006, fig. 1086/1.

<sup>55</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, fig. 38/11, 13, 14.

<sup>56</sup> Lupu 1989, Pl. 2/2.

<sup>57</sup> László 1994, fig. 35/3, 4.

<sup>58</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 88; Pankau 2004, 64-68.

<sup>59</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 88-89.

<sup>60</sup> Pankau 2004, 64-68.

<sup>61</sup> Berciu/ Berciu 1945, fig. 16/3, 11.

<sup>62</sup> Rustoiu/ Ciută 2001, fig. 6/2; 7/3.

<sup>63</sup> Nestor/Zaharia 1961, fig. 2/1a, 1b; Zaharia 1965, fig. 6/1, 4; Pankau 2004, Pl. 9/9, 10.

<sup>64</sup> János/ Kovács 1967, Pl. XXII/141.

<sup>65</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, fig. 39/5, 6, 9-11.

<sup>66</sup> Lupu 1989, Pl. 1/8.

<sup>67</sup> Horedt 1966, fig. 8/1.

<sup>68</sup> Gumă 1993, Pl. XXXVI/11.

<sup>69</sup> V. Szabó 1996, Pl. 10/6.

<sup>70</sup> Marta 2007a, Pl. IV/3.

<sup>71</sup> V. Szabó 1996, Pl. 37/8; 39/9; 45/1.

<sup>72</sup> Vasiliev et al 1991, 89.

<sup>73</sup> Ursuțiu 2002, 78-79, Pl. CV/3.

<sup>74</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 89, note 452.

<sup>75</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 88-89, fig. 39/1, 2, 4.

not offer an exact dating, being discovered in Hungary beginning with HaA and in Transylvania until HaC and in the Scythian necropolis from Alba Iulia *Tolstoi*.

Flat cup, whose height is two times smaller than the maximum diameter, has an umbo and over elevated handle (Plate IV/4). At the mid of the height it has a shoulder that divides the body of the vessel into two approximately equal halves. It is made of fine paste, with sand amongst its components. It has black colour. Exterior and interior surface is thoroughly made.

It corresponds to variant *VIe* from the typology proposed for the fortified settlement from Teleac<sup>76</sup> and to variant *A* of cups from the typology proposed for discoveries from Moldavia. Within Teleac fortification were discovered finds in the habitation levels II and III<sup>77</sup>. Shape's antecedents were mentioned in BrD - HaA<sup>78</sup>. The shape has analogies in discoveries from BrD - HaA at Igrîța<sup>79</sup> and Susani<sup>80</sup> and from the first period of the Iron Age from Augustin-*Tipia Ormenișului*<sup>81</sup>, Ciceu-*Corabia*<sup>82</sup>, Dej<sup>83</sup>, Limba-*Șesul Orzii*<sup>84</sup>, Sighișoara-*Dealul Viilor*<sup>85</sup>, Sîncrăieni-*Teleac*<sup>86</sup>, Teleac<sup>87</sup>, Tilișca<sup>88</sup>, and from Moldova at Grănicești<sup>89</sup>.

Calotiform bowls, without having the recessed rim, made of fine or semi-fine paste, colour of the vessels varying from bricky to black. In general, exterior surface is well polished, existing finds that have the exterior surface carelessly made. The vessels' rim is simple, undecorated (Plate V/2; 4; VI/1; 3) or crested (Plate VI/2).

It corresponds to type *IVa* from the typology proposed for the archaeological site from Teleac<sup>90</sup>. The shape has analogies in discoveries from Teleac<sup>91</sup>, Tilișca<sup>92</sup> and Baciu<sup>93</sup>. From the point of view of chronology it is a shape that has a long evolution along time, surviving also in the Late Hallstatt<sup>94</sup>.

Bowls with the incurved rim, made of semi-fine or fine paste, the colour of the vessels varying from bricky to black. In general, exterior surface is well polished. The rim of the vessels is simple (Plate V/1; 5) or decorated with grooves (Plate V/3).

It corresponds to type *IVb* from the typology proposed for the Teleac fortification<sup>95</sup>, to variant *1* of bowls, from the typology proposed for the site of Mediaș<sup>96</sup> and to type *A* of bowls from the typology proposed for discoveries from Moldavia<sup>97</sup>. This shape has analogies in discoveries from the intra-Carpathian area from Augustin-*Tipia Ormenișului*<sup>98</sup>, Baciu<sup>99</sup>, Ciceu-*Corabia*<sup>100</sup>, Limba-*Șesul Or-*

<sup>76</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 90.

<sup>77</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 90.

<sup>78</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 90.

<sup>79</sup> Emödi 1980, fig. 6/24; 23/198.

<sup>80</sup> Stratan/ Vulpe 1977, Pl. 7/59-60; 18/213.

<sup>81</sup> Ursuțiu 2006, Pl. VIII/9; IX/5.

<sup>82</sup> Vasiliev 1995, fig. 8/1.

<sup>83</sup> Vasiliev 1995, fig. 8/6.

<sup>84</sup> Rustoiu/ Ciută 2001, fig. 7/1.

<sup>85</sup> Boroffka/ Boroffka 2006, fig. 1086/2.

<sup>86</sup> János/ Kovács 1967, Pl. XXII/135.

<sup>87</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, fig. 38/12, 15-19, 24, 25.

<sup>88</sup> Lupu 1989, Pl. 4/6, 10, 11.

<sup>89</sup> László 1994, fig. 35/1, 2.

<sup>90</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 84.

<sup>91</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, fig. 34/1-15; 18-20; 45/12.

<sup>92</sup> Lupu 1989, Pl. 3/6.

<sup>93</sup> Kalmar 1987, fig. 3/2-4.

<sup>94</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 84.

<sup>95</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, 84-86.

<sup>96</sup> Pankau 2004, 61-62.

<sup>97</sup> László 1994, 71-72.

<sup>98</sup> Ursuțiu 2006, Pl. XI/6, 7; XII/7, 9, 16, 18; 13/1, 3, 5; XIV/1, 3, 7, 8, 10.

<sup>99</sup> Kalmar 1987, fig. 3/1.

<sup>100</sup> Vasiliev 1995, fig. 7/2; 8/5; 11/1; 14/1; 15/8, 9.

zii<sup>101</sup>, Mediaș-Cetate<sup>102</sup>, Gura Câmpului<sup>103</sup> and Str. Târnavei<sup>104</sup>, Sighișoara-Dealul Viilor<sup>105</sup>, Șimleul Silvaniei-Observator<sup>106</sup>, Șona<sup>107</sup>, Teleac<sup>108</sup>, Tilișca<sup>109</sup>, and from Moldova at Cucorăni<sup>110</sup>, Grănicești<sup>111</sup>, Siliștea Nouă<sup>112</sup> and Volovăț<sup>113</sup>. Bowls with the incurved rim do not change significantly as far as shape of the vessel is concerned, chronological value being given by the decoration present on the vessels.

Bowls which have outcurved rim, made of semi-fine paste, have as temper pebbles or crushed shards. The inside colour of vessels is black, and exterior surface varies from light brown to black. To all pieces of this variant was noticed a high quality firing. They are decorated with concentric grooves on the interior surface of the rim (Plate VI/5, 6).

It corresponds to type *IVd* from the typology proposed for the Teleac fortification<sup>114</sup>, to type 3 of bowls from the typology proposed for the settlement of Mediaș<sup>115</sup> and to variant *C* of bowls proposed for ceramics from Moldavia<sup>116</sup>. This shape has analogies in discoveries from Augustin-Tîpia Ormenișului<sup>117</sup>, Baciu<sup>118</sup>, Mediaș-Gura Câmpului<sup>119</sup>, Reci<sup>120</sup>, Sighișoara-Dealul Viilor<sup>121</sup>, Șimleul Silvaniei-Ștrandul Termal<sup>122</sup>, Teleac<sup>123</sup>, in Moldova in Grănicești<sup>124</sup> and in Hungary in Poroszló-Aponihát<sup>125</sup>.

There have also been discovered fragments from the upper side of sack type vessels, decorated with knobs (Plate VI/8 – 10, VII/ 1- 3). They are made of rough paste, having as temper crushed shards. Colour of vessels is brickly. Inside the feature were discovered also fragments from the lower part of some recipients (Plate VII/4-8), one of these being decorated with concentric grooves (Plate VII/5).

Out of the feature were recuperated also three fragments from vessels of small size. A first piece is represented by a fragment decorated with vertical grooves on the body and a horizontal groove on the neck (Plate III/2), made of fine, black paste. A fragment coming from a miniature bowl (Plate III/8) is made of fine, black paste. Another fragment coming from a miniature bowl, decorated with protuberances on the body (Plate VI/7), is made of semi-fine paste.

Analyzing the ceramic inventory from the feature from the point of view of present shapes and decorations, we notice that elements that can indicate a very early dating are missing. The ceramic material has very good analogies in discoveries from the first and second level of Teleac settlement. The fragment of socketed axe discovered nearby the feature has analogies in the series of deposits from Fizeșul Gherlii – Sângiorgiu de Pădure, dated to HaB2. We consider that the discovery is to be dated somewhere in the interval included between the middle of HaB1 phase and the middle of HaB2 phase.

<sup>101</sup> Rustoiu/ Ciută 2001, fig. 6/3.

<sup>102</sup> Zaharia 1965, fig. 3/1-10; Pankau 2004, pl. 1/11; 7/3-6; 8; 9/1; 11/1-6; 14/5-7; 16/3, 4; 19/9, 10; 25/4-10; 26/1-6, 8; 28/3-13; 29/7-15; 34/5-15.

<sup>103</sup> Pankau 2004, Pl. 40/2-15; 41/1, 3-6; 44/5-8, 10, 11.

<sup>104</sup> Pankau 2004, Pl. 48/5.

<sup>105</sup> Boroffka/ Boroffka 2006, fig. 1082/5.

<sup>106</sup> Sana 2006, Pl. 5/1, 3; 6/6.

<sup>107</sup> Vasiliev 1995, fig. 4/3; 6/1.

<sup>108</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, fig. 29/7; 30/2, 4; 34/17; 35/1, 5-22, 35/16; 45/3, 4, 9.

<sup>109</sup> Lupu 1989, Pl. 1/6, 12/1.

<sup>110</sup> László 1994, fig. 55.

<sup>111</sup> László 1994, fig. 20; 21; 22; 23/9-13.

<sup>112</sup> László 1994, fig. 58/2-8.

<sup>113</sup> Ignat 1978, fig. 7/6; 9/7.

<sup>114</sup> Vasiliev et al 1991, 86.

<sup>115</sup> Pankau 2004, 62.

<sup>116</sup> László 1994, 72.

<sup>117</sup> Ursuțiu 2006, Pl. XII/11; XV/11; XVI/4; XXVII/5, 6, 9.

<sup>118</sup> Kalmar 1987, fig. 4/7.

<sup>119</sup> Pankau 2004, Pl. 41/7.

<sup>120</sup> Székely 1966, Pl. III/7 (Reci); VI/11 (Porumbenii Mari).

<sup>121</sup> Boroffka/ Boroffka 2006, fig. 1082/4.

<sup>122</sup> Sana 2006, Pl. 6/1.

<sup>123</sup> Vasiliev et al. 1991, fig. 31/7; 36/1-6.

<sup>124</sup> László 1994, fig. 23/5-8.

<sup>125</sup> Patay 1976, Pl. 2/8.

### **Conclusions**

For very few discoveries, references could be made as far as utility of the inventory deposited in the pit is concerned, one of the cases being the discovery from Lazuri, discovery associated with brewing<sup>126</sup>. As we mentioned, the feature is distinguished by the large number of pottery fragments from small vessels used for drinking and dining, and by a small number of fragments of vessels used to store and serve. G. V. Szabó realizes a typology of features starting from the utility of recipients deposited in pits. From this point of view, the presented feature falls within the series of discoveries in which drinking and serving recipients dominate. Within this category are included deposits from Battonya, Debrecen, Igrici and Tiszapüspöki<sup>127</sup>. Ritual pits with depositions of vessels are frequent in discoveries from the first period of the Iron Age from the area of the Gáva culture, and the number of recipients deposited in pits varies very much<sup>128</sup>.

The feature is located to the eastern side of the habitation from the western area, other features or ceramic materials being not discovered, fact which determines us to consider that we are not facing an area with ritual depositions, but only an isolated feature, or at least this is what was preserved for us until today. Out of the ceramic material deposited in the pit it is to be remarked the quite great number of drinking and eating vessels, such as cups and bowls. The ceramic material from the pit was used and then broken, and the whole cups deposited were carefully laid not to break. The special inventory is marked by the five cups which at the end of „ceremony” were deposited empty, with their mouth downwards. A special attention was paid also to the anthropomorphous figurine and the socketed axe which were fragmented, only their lower part being deposited in the pit.

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<sup>126</sup> Marta 2007a.

<sup>127</sup> V. Szabó 2004b, p. 86, Pl. 11, 12.

<sup>128</sup> We mention only some of discoveries: Limba-Şesul Orzii (Rustoiu/ Ciută 2001, p. 120-125), Porumbenii Mari (Nagy/ Körösfői 2010), Tăşad (Chidioşan 1979, p. 87-89), Teleac (Vasiliev et al. 1991), etc.

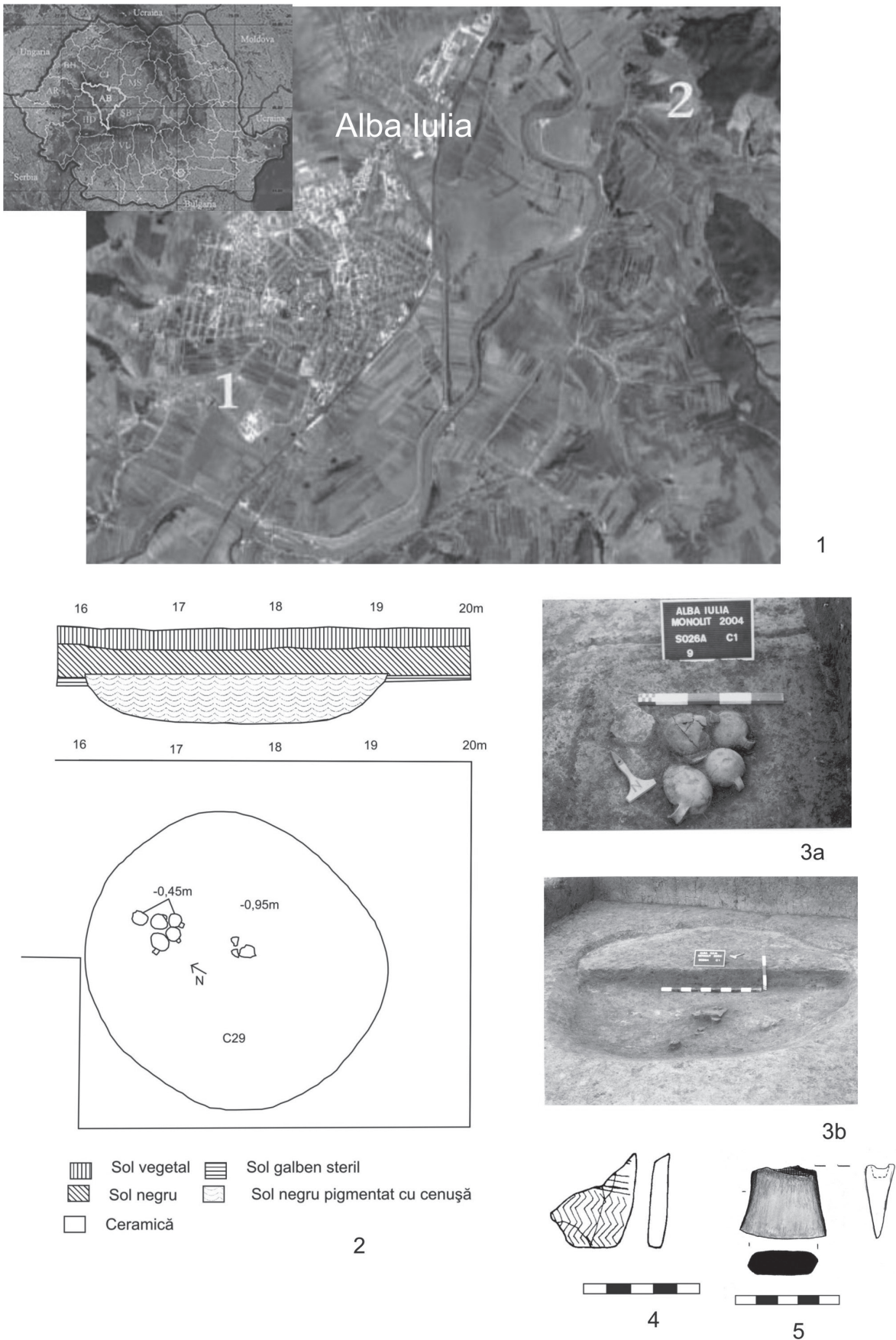


Plate I. 1. Location of the settlements from Alba Iulia-Recea and Teleac; 2, 3 (a, b) Exposure of the finds and cross section of the pit (drawing and photo); 4. Anthropomorphic statuette; 5. Socketed axe made of bronze.



*A pit with depositions of cups from the first period of the Iron Age from Alba Iulia*

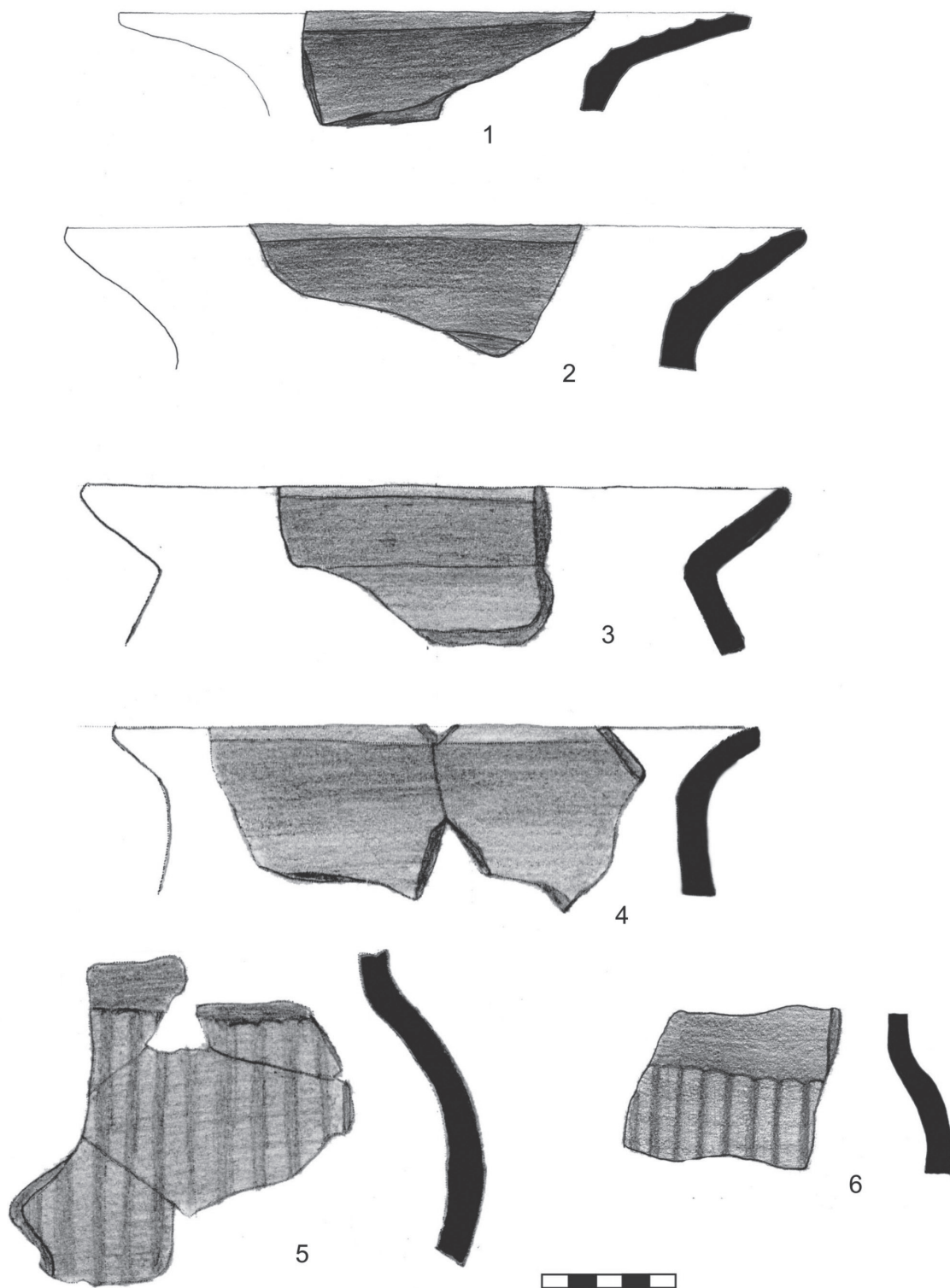


Plate II. Pottery from pit.

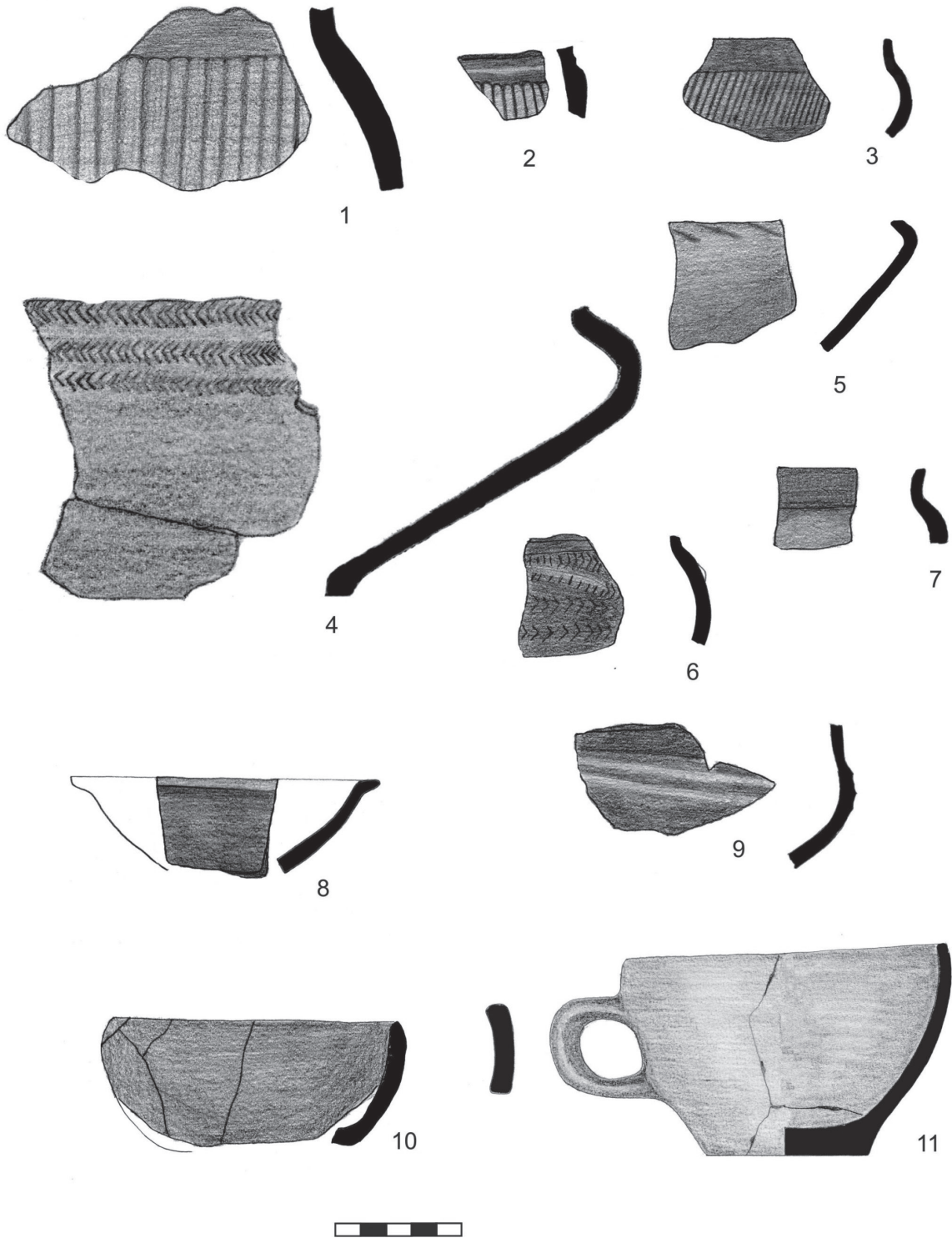


Plate III. Pottery from pit.

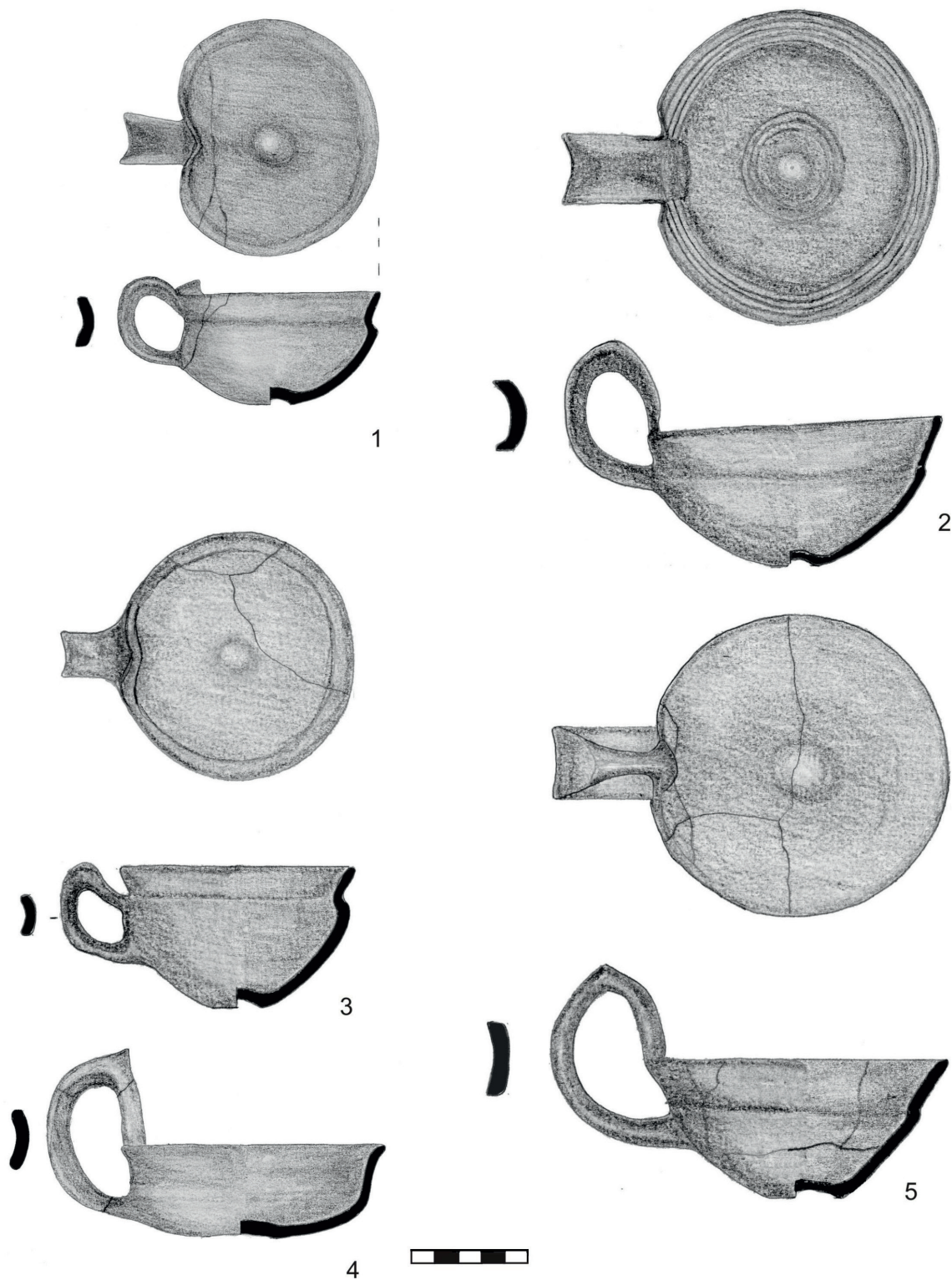


Plate IV. Pottery from pit.

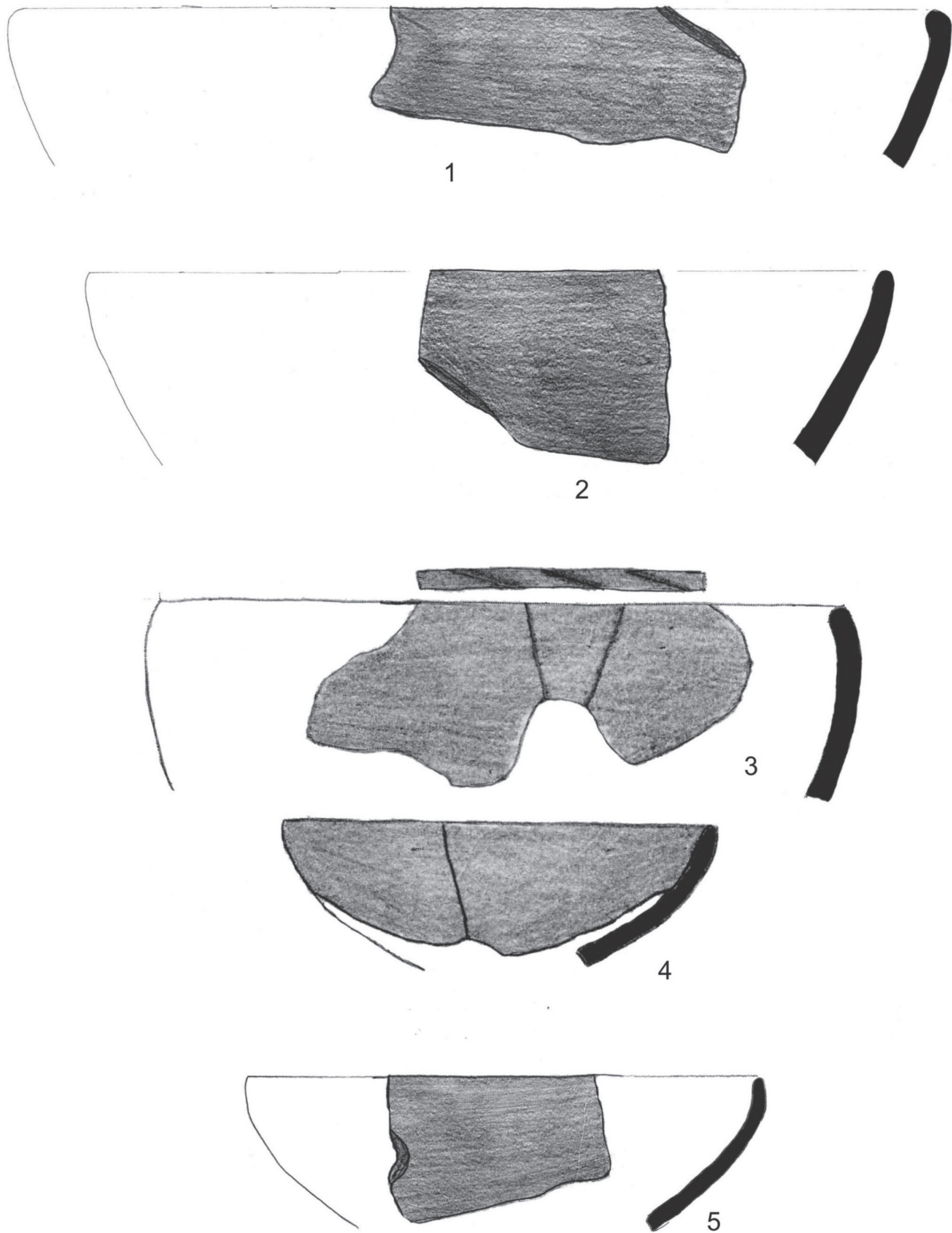


Plate V. Pottery from pit.

*A pit with depositions of cups from the first period of the Iron Age from Alba Iulia*

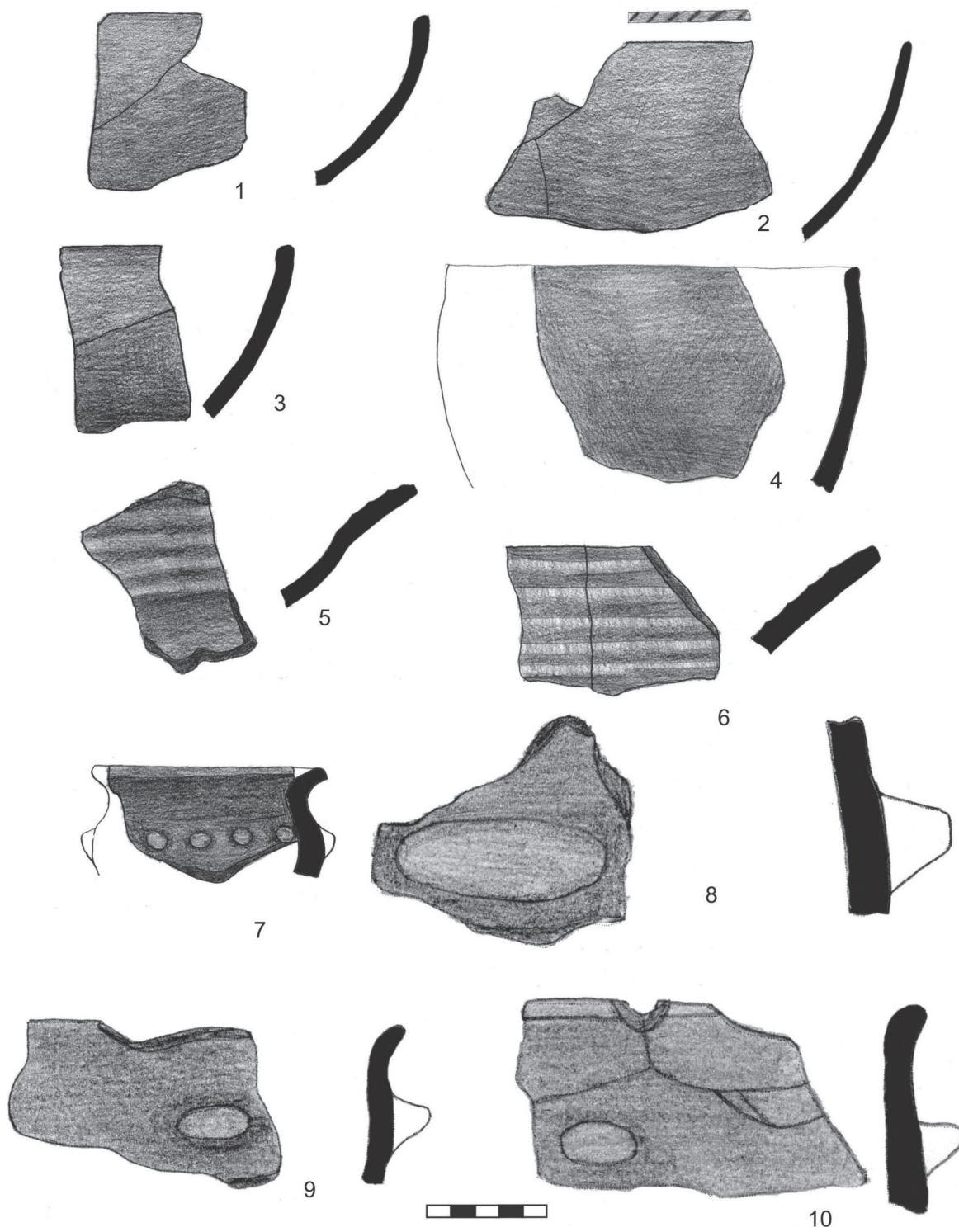


Plate VI. Pottery from pit.

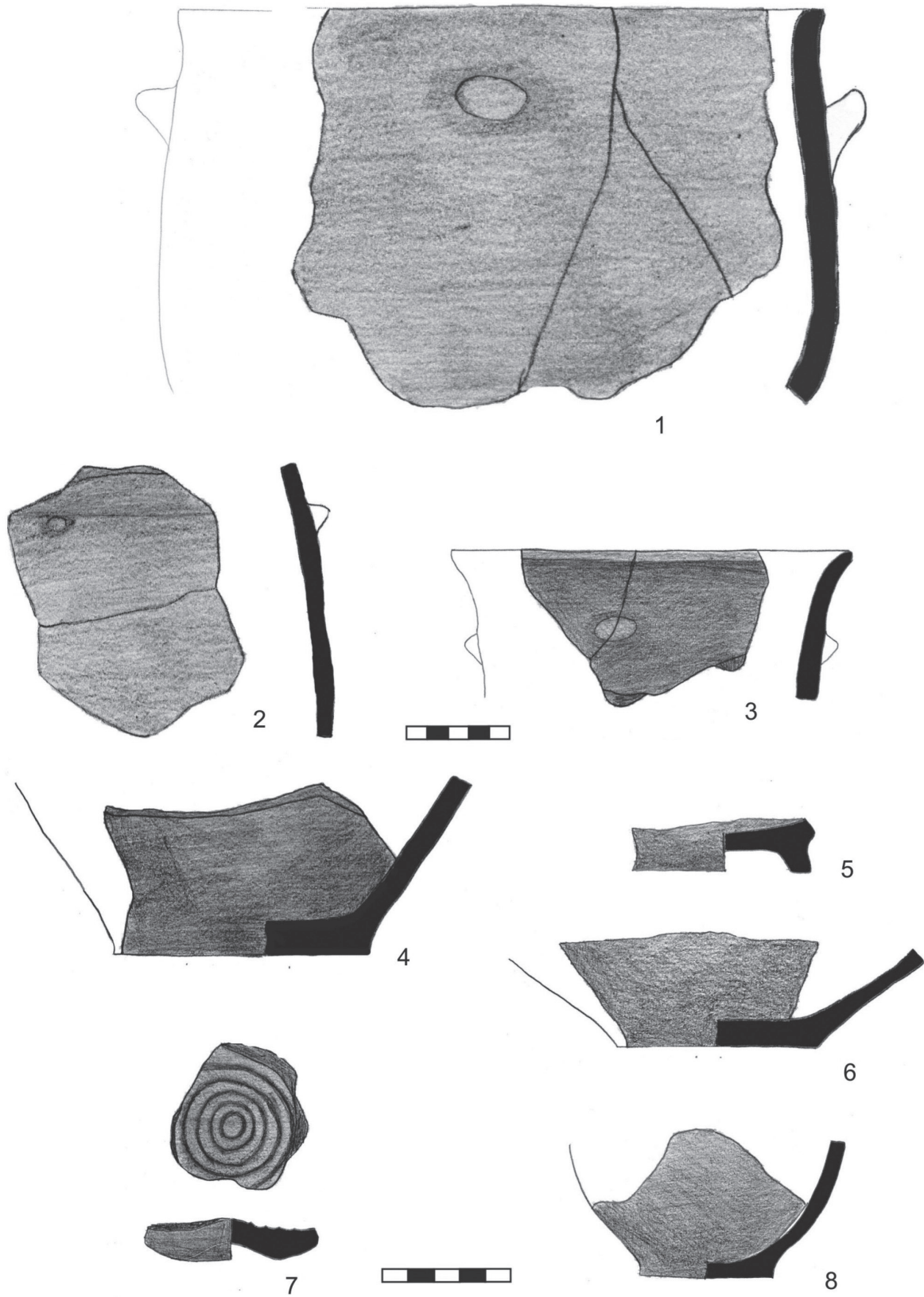


Plate VII. Pottery from pit.