

Розділ I. АРХЕОЛОГІЯ ТА ЕТНОЛОГІЯ

УДК 903.2.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18524/2312-6825.2019.30.189291>

Svetlana Ivanova

*orcid.org/0000-0002-3318-8244, Doctor of History
Main researcher, Institute of Archeology
of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
(Ukraine Odessa),
svi1956@gmail.com*

Gennady Toshev

*orcid.org/0000-0001-6712-2828 PhD (History)
Associate Professor of the Department of History of Ukraine
Zaporizhzhya National University
(Ukraine, Zaporizhzhya),
gennadt1951@gmail.com*

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE IN THE MIDDLE DNIESTER AREA (CATACOMB CULTURE)

Summary

The article is devoted to the consideration of the sites of the Catacomb culture, which are located between the Middle Dniester and Prut rivers, as well as on the left bank of the Dniester. Structure of the grave, position of the buried, funeral assemblage, with other sites of this culture from the North-Western Black Sea region are analyzed. The researchers note the infiltration of the population of the Yamna and Catacomb cultures into the Syan River basin, which was reflected in the ritual site Swente (Poland).

Probably, the ways of moving of part of the steppe population to Central Europe in the early and middle Bronze Age could pass through the territory of the Middle Dniester. The proposals concerning the correspondence of civilization experiences of community groups, settling the north-western Black Sea Coast and the Baltic basin, should be treated as an important voice in the possible further discussion. It puts a «Central European perspective» on the Dniester Contact Area of interest to us.

The data of radiocarbon dating of the Catacomb sites of the Middle Dniester region are also analyzed.

Key words: *Catacomb culture, North-Western Black Sea region, radiocarbon dating.*

Світлана Іванова

*доктор історичних наук
провідний науковий співробітник,
Інститут археології НАНУ
(Україна, Одеса)*

Геннадій Тоцев

*кандидат історичних наук
доцент кафедри історії України
Запорізький національний університет
(Україна, Запоріжжя)*

СЕРЕДНЯ БРОНЗОВА ДОБА В АРЕАЛІ СЕРЕДНЬОГО ПОДНІСТРОВ'Я (КАТАКОМБНА КУЛЬТУРА)

Анотація

У Середньому Подністров'ї, на території Ямпільського району (Вінницька область), ще у другій половині ХХ ст. археологи зафіксували концентрацію курганів та курганних могильників. Перші розкопки тут були проведені у 1984 р. На початку ХХІ ст. дослідження були продовжені в рамках українсько-польського проекту «Дослідження початків шляхів балтійсько-понтійського межимор'я: IV–I тис. до Р.Х.» (Koško et al. 2014). В курганах були виявлені поховання різних епох – від енеоліту до раннього залізного віку.

Пам'ятки Середнього Подністров'я традиційно розглядалися в контексті матеріалів Північно-Західного Причорномор'я. Аналіз особливостей поховального обряду та інвентарю курганів розкопаних у 1984–2011 р., дозволив П. Влодарчаку виділити Подільській варіант ямної культури та Подільській варіант культури шнурової кераміки (Włodarczak, 2014: 313–340). Основою Подільського варіанту ямної культури були пам'ятки саме Ямпільської, а також Кам'янської курганних груп.

Авторами статті були розглянуті пам'ятки катакомбної культури, що розташовані у межиріччі Середнього Дністра та Пруту, а також на лівому березі Дністра. Особливу увагу приділено устрою могили, положенню похованого та поховальному інвентарю – на тлі пам'яток

цієї культури в Північно-Західному Причорномор'ї. Це дало можливість зробити висновки щодо відсутності будь-яких підстав у виділенні локального варіанту катакомбної культури, за аналогією з ямною культурою і культурою шнурової кераміки. Проте, даний регіон виявився досить важливим з точки зору можливих зв'язків між населенням степового Причорномор'я і Центральної Європи в ранньому і середньому бронзовому столітті

Дослідники вказують на проникнення в басейн річки Сян населення ямної та катакомбної культур, що відбилося в ритуальному об'єкті Свенте (Польща). Ймовірно, шляхи просування частини степового населення в Центральну Європу в ранньому і середньому бронзовому віці могли проходити через територію Середнього Подністрів'я.

В статті також проаналізовано дані радіовуглецевого датування катакомбних пам'яток Середнього Подністрів'я. Вони підтверджують співіснування населення ямної та катакомбної культур на певному етапі. З іншого боку, можна говорити про досить раннє заселення Середнього Подністрів'я катакомбними племенами.

Ключові слова: катакомбна культура, Північно-Західне Причорномор'я, радіовуглецеве датування.

Problem situation. The «Podolsky variant» of the Pit Grave culture and the «Podolsky variant» of the Corded Ware Culture were identified by P. Włodarczak ((Włodarczak, 2014: 313–340). Therefore, it is necessary to consider other cultures of the Bronze Age in the Middle Dniester area, such as Catacomb culture.

Analysis of research. Archaeological sites of the Middle Dniester were always considered in the context of the North-Western Black Sea region (Toshev, 1982; Dergachev, 1999; Subbotin, 1999, etc.). Excavations by team of Polish-Ukrainian project added new data and new findings of the Bronze Age of this region (Koško, Potupczyk, Razumow, 2014).

The main idea of the article is consideration of

the cultural and chronological position of the Middle Bronze Age cultures in the Middle Dniester area. Are there local variations of cultures of the Middle Bronze Age, as is known for the Early Bronze Age? On the other hand, it puts a central European' perspective on the Dniester Contact Area of interest to us.

Catacomb culture. In the area in question, CC sites are represented solely by burials. They make up 22 per cent of CC complexes known on the north-western Black Sea Coast (fig. 1). Settlements, as in the steppe zone, are not known. In total, we know of over 30 barrows, containing more than 70 CC burials. These are graves sunk into the barrow mounds of earlier cultures, mostly the YC. The barrows stand in groups or alone on high river banks, uplands or watersheds. In one mound, there are from one to six grave assemblages (Codrul Nou, k. 2). As a rule, they are concentrated in the southern portion of the mound. Usually, the entrance shaft was dug in the lower portion of the mound, with grave chambers pointing towards its centre. No case of imposition of one burial over another has been recorded, which suggests the use of grave markers. Two grave groups can be distinguished, differing in their structure and skeleton arrangement. The first group comprises assemblages with a rectangular entrance shaft and crouched skeletons lying on their back (side). The other group is made up of graves with a circular entrance shaft and an oval grave chamber in which corpses lie

extended on their back. In relation to the adopted division, the burials may be considered as early (group 1) and late (group 2). In terms of number, late assemblages dominate. They were discovered on practically all sites under discussion. A rather compact group of early burials was exposed in the Bezeda and Tețcani barrows, while single ones were recorded in other barrows, too (fig. 2). Their characteristic trait is believed to be the covering of the entrance to the grave chamber with stone slabs. The skeletons of adults and children usually lay crouched on their back, far less often on their left side. As a rule, these were single graves, only rarely double. The orientation of the dead according to the points of the compass varies; generally, a southern orientation with some deviations dominates. The use of ochre, as shown by materials from the Tețcanii and Bezeda site, is very limited. On the bottom of grave chambers, rotten remains of padding are recorded, sometimes accompanied by charcoals. Inventories comprise mostly pot-like vessels, only seldom are they decorated with cord impressions. A rare find is that of a small amphora, bearing a corded and incised ornament (Corjeuți 4/10). Other finds include stone macres, arrowheads, animal tooth ornaments, a bronze awl, adze and beads. In a triple grave (burial 5), barrow 3, Camenca-Ocnița, a rare set was found, which included a fragment of a bronze bracelet and knife with a sharp-ending handle. Rather rare on the scale of the en-

tire north-western Black Sea Coast, this find is strongly believed by the authors of the original publication to be analogous to the goods from Bakhmut sites in eastern Ukraine (Манзуря et al. 1992: 92).

In terms of all markers (structure, corpse position, inventory), the group of catacombs discussed above corresponds to features encountered in the south, in the steppe zone. The burials of group 2 are more numerous (up to 70%). They are found in barrow mounds together with earlier ones or they make up separate cemeteries. Individual graves dominate with supine extended skeletons. Collective burial 2, barrow 2, Codrul Nou, held four skeletons. In this case, a rare custom of adding the dead to a grave was encountered, with the bones of those buried earlier being moved aside. In grave 4, barrow 3, of the same site, the bones of the deceased were placed as a 'package'. Grave inventories are dominated by pottery, with stone goods being rare: a mace (Corpaci 3/7) and shaft-hole axes (Cotiujeni, 1/1). In the Hancăuți 1/8 burial, next to the skeleton, three hollow-base points were found. Other flint goods were represented by a knife (Dumeni, 1/9). Bronze goods are very rare. A set of beads was discovered in grave 9, barrow 1, on the Dumeni site. Cenotaphs are also known (Duruitoarea Nouă, 2/5; Dumeni, 3/4). 'Catacomb' materials from the forest-steppe zone are fully consistent with better-known materials from the Dniester-Prut interfluvial steppe. On the other hand, isolated

sites in Romanian Moldavia testify to single cases of penetration of the right bank, (Burtănescu, 2002). In the forest-steppe portion of the Dniester drainage basin, the situation is different. However, the presence of only single CC assemblages may be explained by the small range of excavations. So far, the north-westernmost point of the CC area is the site of Święte in the upper Vistula drainage basin on which the traits of both YC and CC have been recorded (Косько et al., 2012). Generally speaking, it must be observed that in CC grave assemblages, in the forest-steppe portion of the Dniester-Prut interfluve, both early (corner entrance shafts, corpse arrangement) and late (oval grave chambers, grave goods) traits occur (fig. 3). This trait co-occurrence can be explained by the prolonged settlement of the area by CC communities. Further, the find of a CC vessel in a YC burial apparently testifies to the co-occurrence of the YC and CC in this zone, (burial 2, barrow 1, Pererîtau, Briceni district) (Курчатова, 2006: 285). Similar cases were recorded on steppe zone sites (Toshev, 2013). In general, they bear out the conclusions of researchers about the co-existence of the late YC and CC in a specific period. A small series of 14C dates for the CC in the north-western Black Sea Coast fits into the interval of 2580–2341 to 2267–1981 BC (Иванова et al., 2012). Relying on materials from the Dniester-Prut interfluve, E. Kaiser dated CC sites to the interval of 2450–1950 BC (2003). Directly for the area

under discussion, 14C dates were obtained for a single assemblage: Prydnistrianskoe 1/I-4 (Goslar et al., 2015), found in a barrow forming part of the Dniester Barrow Site Group. This assemblage is the only to be recorded among those discovered in this group (four Late Eneolithic and Early Bronze mounds were excavated) and among all Yampil barrows as well.

The ‘catacomb’ burial with two skeletons which was excavated on the Pridniestranskoje 1/4 was furnished with a mace head. It has analogies in ‘catacomb’¹ burials from various stages (Клочко, 2006: 105, Fig. 37, 45). Corpse arrangement (crouched on their back and leaning sideways) provides grounds to assign this burial to the final portion of the early ‘catacomb period’. This conclusion is not contradicted either by four dates obtained for human bones and wood (table. 1): 2726–2493 BC; 2633–2495 BC; 2566–2406 BC; 2565–2406 BC (68.2%) (Goslar et al., 2015), which generally fit into the brackets set by the dates mentioned earlier. The forest-steppe materials known so far do not supply any data on direct contacts between the CC and the central European CWC (Włodarczak, 2006; Toshev, 2013).

Conclusions. «Catacomb» materials from the forest-steppe zone are fully consistent with better-known materials from the Dniester-Prut interfluvial steppe. This is only natural as the protracted conquest of territories

¹ Most sites were excavated in the 1980s; it cannot be ruled out that peculiar catacomb assemblages located on mound edges were not noticed at that time [Harat et al., 2014].

Table 1

**Results of C14 dating for CC from Middle Dniester area
(Goslar et al., 2015)**

Site	BP	BC (68.2%)
Pidlisivka 1/4 (?) Ki-16675	3810 ± 80	2436–2139
Pidlisivka 1/4 (?) Poz-38531	4120 ± 35	2858–2621
Pridniestranskoje 1/4 Poz-66218 (wood)	4105 ± 40	2851–2580
Pridniestranskoje 1/4 Poz-66219 (bone)	4070 ± 35	2834–2499
Pridniestranskoje 1/4 Poz-66220 (bone)	3940 ± 40	2548–2348
Pridniestranskoje 1/4 Poz-66732 (bone)	3940 ± 35	2548–2348

lying further north originated in the south and south-east, with the Prut drainage basin being conquered more intensively. It was there in fact that a site concentration was recorded on the left bank of the Prut. On the other hand, isolated sites in Romanian Moldavia testify to single cases of penetration of the right bank (Burtănescu, 2002). A similar situation can be observed further south, in the steppe zone.

The proposals concerning the correspondence of civilization experiences of both community groups, settling the north-western Black Sea Coast and the Baltic basin, should be treated as an important voice in the necessary discussion. It puts a central European' perspective on the Dniester Contact Area of interest to us.

Acknowledgements for translation to Piotr T. Żebrowski.

Список використаних джерел і літератури

1. Burtănescu, 2002 – Burtănescu F. Epoca timpurie a bronzului între Carpați și Prut cu unele contribuții la problemele perioadei premergătoare epocii bronzului în Moldova, Biblioteca Thracologica, XXXVII, București. 2002. 594 p.
2. Goslar et al., 2015 – Goslar T., Klochko V., Kosko A., Włodarczak P., Zurkiewicz D. Chronometry of Late Eneolithic and ‘Early Bronze’ cultures in the Middle Dniester area: investigations of the Yampil Barrow Complex // *Baltic-Pontic Studies*. Vol. 20. Poznan, 2015. S. 256–291.
3. Harat et al., 2014 – Harat K., Potupczyk M., Razumow S. Charakterystyka źródeł archeologicznych pozyskanych w latach 1984–1993 // *Archaeologia Bimaris*. Vol. 6, Poznan, 2014. S. 45–204.
4. Kosko et al., 2014 – Kosko A., Potupczyk M., Razumow S. (Eds) Naddniestrzańskie kompleksy cmentarzysk kurhanowych społeczności z pierwszej połowy II tysiąclecia przed Chr. w okolicach Jampola, obwód Winnicki. *Archaeologia Bimaris* vol. 6. Poznan, 2014. 424 s.
5. Toshev, 2013 – Toshev G. In the West of the Catacomb Area // *Baltic - Pontic Studies*. Vol. 18. Poznan, 2013. P. 72–85.
6. Włodarczak, 2006 – Włodarczak P. Kultura ceramiki sznurowej na Wyzynie Maiopolskiej. Krakow, 2006. 346 s.
7. Włodarczak, 2014 – Włodarczak P. Sekwencja czynności obrzdownych: problem korespondencji tradycji fune ralnych kultury jamowej i kultury ceramiki sznurowej na Wyzynie Podolskiej // *Archaeologia Bimaris*. Vol. 6. Poznan, 2014. P. 313–340.
8. Дергачев, 1999 – Дергачев В.А. Особенности культурно-исторического развития Карпато-Поднестровья. К проблеме взаимодействия древних обществ Средней, Юго-Восточной и Восточной Европы // *Стратум плюс*. 1999. №2. С. 169–221.
9. Иванова et al., 2012 – Иванова С.В., Островерхов А.С., Савельев О.К., Остапенко П.В. Очерки истории и археологии Днестро-Бугского междуречья. Киев, 2012. 300 с.
10. Ключко, 2006 – Ключко В.І. Озброєння та військова справа давнього населення України. Київ, 2006. 336 с.
11. Косько et al., 2012 – Косько А., Ключко В., Ольшевський А. Ритуальний об’єкт населення причорноморської культурної спільноти доби ранньої бронзи на р. Сян // *Археологія*. 2012. № 2. С. 67–75.
12. Курчатов, 2006 – Курчатов С. Исследования курганов эпохи бронзы на Среднем Пруте // *Revista arheologica. Serie noua*. 2006. №2 (1–2). С. 263–292.

13. Манзура et al., 1991 – Манзура И., Клочко В., Савва Е. Каменские курганы. Кишинев. 1991. 135 с.
14. Субботин, 1999 – Субботин Л.В. Северо-Западное Причерноморье в эпоху ранней и средней бронзы. Стратум плюс, Кишинев. 1999. № 2. С. 350–387
15. Тошев, 1987 – Тошев Г.Н. Средний период бронзового века Юго-Запада СССР. (депонирована в ИНИОН АН СССР 19.06.1987 г., № 29903). 227 с.

References

1. Dergachev, 1999 – Dergachev V.A. Osobennosti kulturno-istoricheskogo razvitiya Karpato-Podnestrovia. K probleme vzaimodeystviya drevnikh obschestv Sredney, Yugo-Vostochnoy i Vostochnoy Evropy [Features of the cultural and historical development of the Carpathian–Dniester region. On the problem of interaction between ancient societies of Central, South–eastern and Eastern Europe]. Stratum plus. 1999. № 2. S. 169–221. [In Russian].
2. Ivanova et al. 2012. – Ivanova S. V., Ostroverkhov A. S., Savelyev O.K. Ocherki istorii i arheologii Dnestro–Bugskogo mezhdurechya [Essays on the history and archeology of the Dniester–Bug interfluvium]. Kiev, 2012. 300 s. [In Russian].
3. Klochko, 2006 – Klochko V.I. Ozbroyennya ta viyskova sprava davnego naselennya Ukrainy [Arms and military affairs of the ancient population of Ukraine]. Kyiv, 2006. 336 s. [in Ukrainian].
4. Kosko et al., 2012. – Kosko A., Klochko V.I., Olszewski A. Ritualniy ob'ekt naselennya prichernomorskoyi kulturnoyi spilnoty doby rannoyi bronzy na r. Sian [Ritual Object of the Black Sea North Region Cultural Community of the Early Bronze Age in the San River Region]. Arheologia. 2012. №2. S. 67–75. [in Ukrainian].
5. Kurchatov, 2006 – Kurchatov S. Issledovaniya kurganov epohi bronzy na Srednem Prute [Investigations of the Bronze Age mounds on the Middle Prut]. Revista arheologica. Serie noua 2006. №2 (1–2). S. 263–292. [In Russian].
6. Manzura et al., 1991. – Manzura I., Klochko V., Savva E. Kamenskie kurgany [Kamensk' kurgans]. Chishinau. 1991. 135 s. [In Russian].
7. Subbotin, 1999 – Subbotin L.V. Severo-Zapadnoe Prichernomor'ye v epokhu ranney i sredney bronzy [North-Western Black Sea in the Early and Middle Bronze Age]. Stratum plus, Chishinau. 1999. No. 2. S. 350–387 [In Russian].

8. Toshev, 1987 – Toshev G.N. Sredniy period bronzovogo veka Yugo-Zapada SSSR. [The middle period of the Bronze Age of the South–West of the USSR. (held in the archives of INION of Academy of Sciences of the USSR. 19.06.1987 g., no. 29903). 227 s. [In Russian].

Статтю подано до редакції 20.02.2019 р.

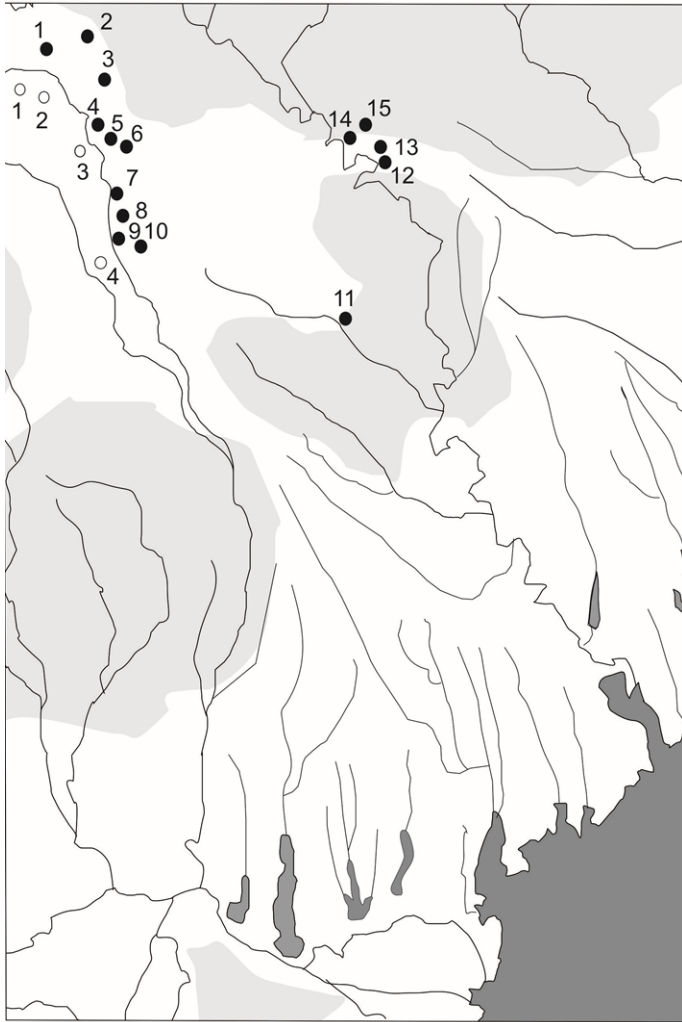


Fig. 1. Catacomb culture sites in the drainage basins of the middle course of the Dniester and Prut rivers (above the Budzhak steppe zone);
1 – Medveja; 2 – Cotiujeni; 3 – Corjeuți; 4 – Tețcani; 5 – Bezeda; 6 – Hancăuți; 7 – Corpaci; 8 – Cuconești Vechi; 9 – Dumeni; 10 – Duruitoarea Nouă; 11 – Codrul Nou; 12 – Cuzmin; 13 – Ocnîța; 14 – Prydnistrianske; 15 – Pidlisivka; Prut western bank: 1 – Corlăteni; 2 – Slobozia Hănești; 3 – Iacobeni; 4 – Glăvănești-Vechi

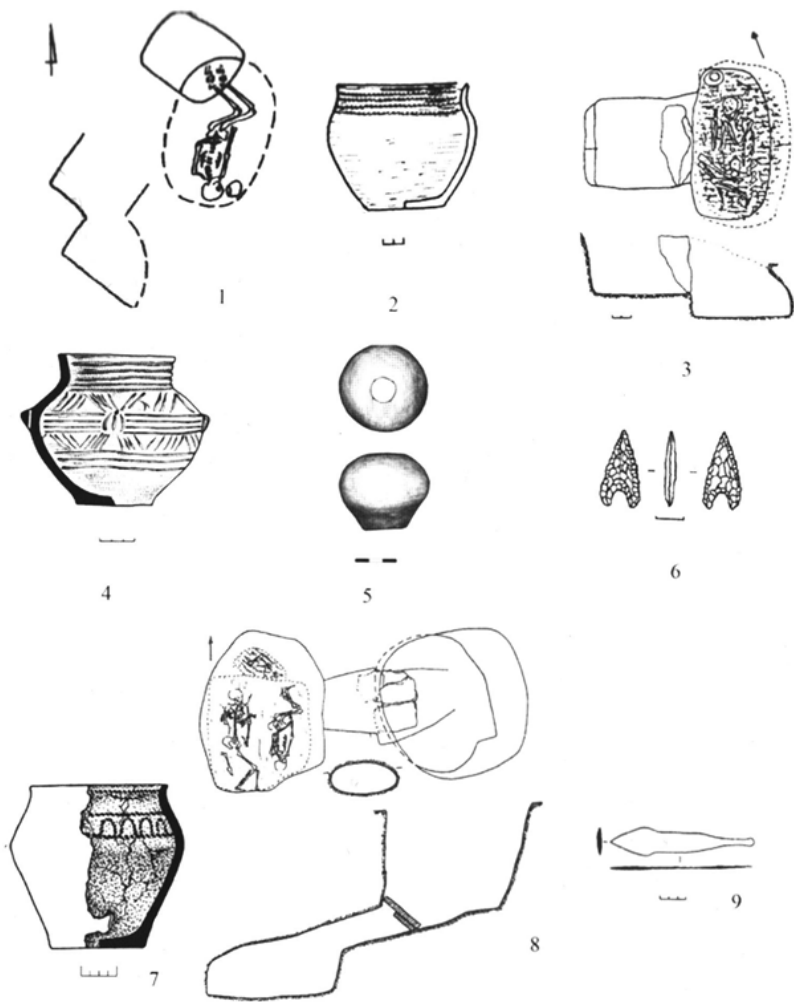


Fig. 2. Complexes and artifacts of the 1-st (early) stage
 1-2 – Medveja, 4/6; 3-4 – Corjeuți 4/10; 5 – Prydnistryanske 1/4;
 6 – Cuzmin, 2,5; 7 – Duruitoarea Nouă 3/2; 8 -9 – Ocnița 3/5

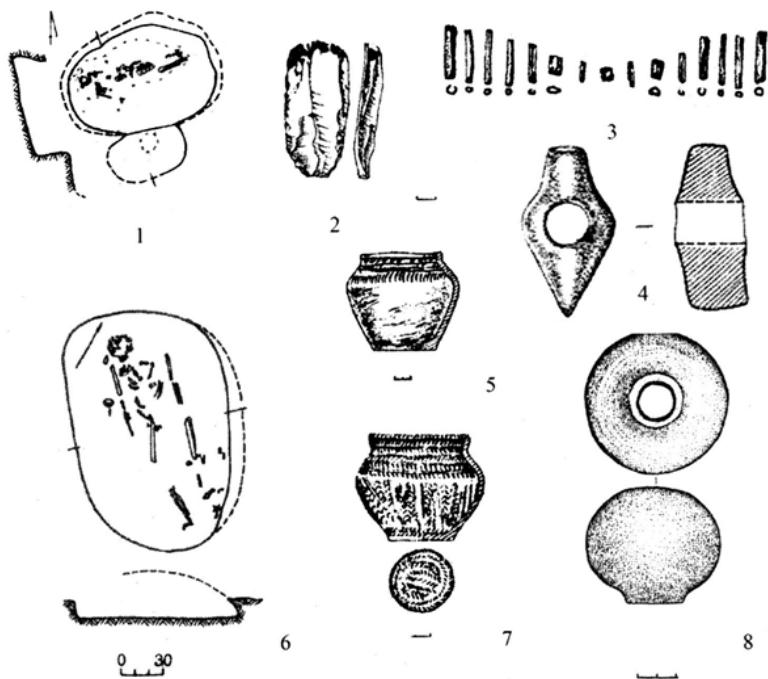


Fig. 3. Complexes and artifacts of the 2-st (late) stage.
 1-3 – Dumeni 1/9; 4, 4 – Cotiujeni 1/1; 5 – Dumeni 1/4; 7 – Duruitoarea
 Nouă 1/4; 6,8 – Corpaci 3/7