

# GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF STARČEVO SITES AND ITS LITHIC ASSEMBLAGES INCLUDED IN TĚT PROJECT

## A TĚT PROGRAM KERETÉBEN VIZSGÁLT STARČEVO LELŐHELYEK ÉS KŐESZKÖZ LELETGYŰJTTESEK ISMERTETÉSE

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### Abstract

*In this project samples from 6 archaeological sites in Croatia were analysed (Zadubravlje, Galovo, Virovitica-Brekinja, Đakovo –Ivandvor, Đakovo-Tomašanci and Cernička Šagovina). All of them belong to Starčevo culture. Each site will be presented with its general characteristics, position in relative and/or absolute chronology within Starčevo culture, and settlement composition. Lithic assemblages from sites will be compared to establish differences or similarities in typology and phases of production.*

### Kivonat

*A "Kora-neolitikus közösségek kőeszközeinek archeometriai vizsgálata Prompt Gamma Aktivációs Analízissel – különös tekintettel a radiolaritokra és obszidiánokra" című horvát-magyar együttműködési programban hat koraneolitikus régészeti lelőhely anyagát vizsgáltuk a mai Horvátország területéről. Ezek: Zadubravlje, Galovo, Virovitica-Brekinja, Đakovo –Ivandvor, Đakovo-Tomašanci és Cernička Šagovina. Valamennyi lelőhely a Starčevo kultúrához tartozik. A cikk az érintett lelőhelyek általános jellemzőit és település szerkezeti adatait mutatja be, ezeknek relatív és/vagy abszolút kronológiai helyzetét a Starčevo kultúrán belül. Összehasonlítjuk a kőeszköz leletanyag főbb jellemzőit is, hogy megállapítsuk a különbségeket és hasonlóságokat a tipológia és a készítési fázisok terén.*

KEYWORDS: STARČEVO CULTURE, SETTLEMENT, LITHIC ASSEMBLAGE

KULCSSZAVAK: STARČEVO KULTÚRA, TELEPÜLÉS, KŐESZKÖZ LELETANYAG

### Introduction

In the frames of the project "Archaeometrical research of lithic raw materials for early Neolithic prehistoric communities with the help of Prompt Gamma Activation Analysis, with special regard to radiolarites and obsidian" lithic material from various sites was analysed with PGAA (Prompt Gamma Activation Analysis). Samples of chipped stone artefacts were analysed from 6 Starčevo culture sites. This paper will present general characteristics of those sites.

### Zadubravlje

Zadubravlje is Starčevo culture site about 15 km east of Slavonski Brod in Eastern Croatia. During the construction of the Zagreb-Belgrade motorway in the late 80ies, rescue archaeological excavations were conducted. Area of 6200 m<sup>2</sup> was unearthed, which is only a part of the settlement (Minichreiter 1992). In the east part of the settlement, numerous post holes, big hearth and few features filled with ash were found (Minichreiter 1992, 31). Towards

the central part of the settlement, there were few features with big concentration of lithic material. In the central part of the settlement, there were 3 big features, according to the excavator they were dwelling pits (Minichreiter 1992, 31). In one of those features (feature 9), 4 kilns were found – two cylindrical, and 2 domed. In the vicinity of the feature there was a well. The biggest feature (feature 10) in the very centre of the settlement contained numerous finds (pottery, chipped and polished stone artefacts, millstones and animal bones) (Minichreiter 1992) In 4 features there were lithic assemblages with more than 500 pieces (feature 6, 9, 10, 19). Quantity of 500 and more pieces can be described as workshop assemblage (Balcer 1995). Material from all those features demonstrates characteristic workshop assemblages; although there is no direct evidence of workshop characteristics of the features itself, more likely assemblages represent waste from workshops on surface that were brushed in to features. (Karavanić et. al, in press). Among tool types, simple tools on blades predominate. Geometric microliths are also present, but in very small quantities.



**Fig. 1:** Map of the archaeological localities with radiolarite involved in the project

**1. ábra:** A program során vizsgált radiolaritos horvátországi régészeti lelőhelyek

Features with workshop assemblages are dated to 5930 – 5040 cal BC: feature 6, 5720-5530 (68,2%; Z-2921); feature 9, 5720-5530 (68,2%; 2922); feature 10, 5930-5740 (55,5%; 2923) (Krajcar-Bronić et al. 2004). Zadubravlje represents well elaborated settlement with all infrastructure required– pottery workshops, clay extraction pits, food storage, production of stone tools (Minichreiter 1992).

### **Galovo**

Starčevo site Galovo is situated in town Slavonski Brod (Eastern Croatia). Systematic archaeological

excavations are carried out since 1997. So far, 2500 m<sup>2</sup> is excavated. Part of the site was destroyed by the brickyard activities. (Minichreiter 2007). On the site, numerous features (working and dwelling pits etc.) were unearthed. In two features, 4 burials were found; Two male, and one female. Male and female burial from feature 9 are missing head, and male from the feature 15 was buried without the face. According to <sup>14</sup>C dates, three phases of the settlement can be distinguished. First phase from 6100-5700 BC, second phase around 5700, and third phase around 5300-5000 BC (Minichreiter 2007, 197; Minichreiter & Krajcar Bronić 2006). There was intense production on the site of pottery,

fabric, food and stone tools, both chipped and polished. It can be securely determined that the first and the second phases of production of flakes, blades and bladelets were carried out at the site, which has been corroborated by the presence of cores and of the artefacts with a cortex. Small number of tool types was documented. Within the analysed material predominant tools are simple retouched blades. Geometric microliths are, as well as in Zadubravlje present in small quantities (Šošić 2007) Tools in general comprise small part of the assemblage. Some of the blades retain sickle gloss.

### **Cernička Šagovina**

Cernička Šagovina is Starčevo culture site near Nova Gradiška in Western Slavonia. According to pottery, it belongs to late phases of Starčevo culture, but no absolute dates are made. Excavated part of the site is around 50 m<sup>2</sup>. Lithic assemblages consist of 41 pieces, mostly retouched or used blades.

### **Virovitica – Brekinja**

Virovitica-Brekinja is the most western Starčevo site analysed in the project. Starčevo culture settlement was excavated on area of 5400 m<sup>2</sup>. According to archaeological material this site belongs to later phases of Starčevo culture. The planned road route passes over the periphery of the Neolithic settlement, which stretches east of the route. Thus in excavations mostly the working zones and fences with various purposes were identified. Only one residential structure (a pit dwelling) was unearthed, but it was only partly excavated due to the fact that a larger part of the structure was outside the expropriation line (Sekelj-Ivančan & Balen 2006, 71). Lithic assemblage consists of 300 pieces, and indicates low-scale, but present production activity on the site. Again, most of the tools are simple retouched blades, there are more scrapers than on other sites, and also small quantity of geometric microliths.

### **Đakovo-Tomašanci**

The archaeological site of Tomašanci – Palača is located on the route of the motorway Beli Manastir – Osijek – Svilaj, in the vicinity of Đakovo. Among the remains of the material culture most dominant are pottery vessels, mainly of a reddish or ochre colour, often adorned with barbotine or dark paintings. Rounded pots and vessels on foot predominate among all shapes (Balen et al. in press). Few working or dwelling pits were investigated, as well as numerous postholes that were probably forming constructions elements and fences (Balen et al. in press). According to the material, this site also belongs to later phases of Starčevo culture. Lithic assemblage is not

numerous (56 pieces) and indicates no on-site production activity. Simple retouched blades predominate among tools.

### **Đakovo-Ivandvor**

Ivandvor is Starčevo site located on the route of the motorway Beli Manastir – Osijek-Svilaj in the vicinity of Đakovo. Only one feature was analysed so far, and it reveals characteristics of later phases of Starčevo culture. (Gerometta 2009). Lithic assemblages indicate some workshop activities, but not as intense as in Galovo and Zadubravlje. As on other Starčevo culture sites between the Sava and Drava rivers, industry is based on blades, and simple retouched blades predominate among tools.

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