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DATA ON THE MIDDLE COPPER AGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TOPOGRAPHY OF BUDAPEST ENVIRONS*(sites of the Ludanice Culture)*

The research of the last years delineated the basic features of finds coming from the first half of the Middle Copper Age on the territory of Budapest. These features connect the territory of the present capital to the settlement area of S-W Slovakian Ludanice Culture.¹ At the same time the intensive connection of this population with the neighbouring contemporary cultures became also evident.²

The present study aims at presenting known and accessible evidences from Budapest following former researches of the author on finds from Remete cave. By the help of this, our knowledge delineated previously on the Early Middle Copper Age of the capital will be enriched with further details.

I. CATALOGUE OF SITES AND FINDS³

Cave sites

NAGYKOVÁCSI, REMETE-HILL LOWER CAVE⁴
(Fig. 1, site 1)

NAGYKOVÁCSI, REMETE-HILL UPPER CAVE⁵
(Fig. 1, site 2, and Fig. 2)

The cave is situated at about the middle height level of the Remete-hill, 30 m above the Lower Cave. During the excavations of V. G. Csánk in 1969-70, Middle Copper Age pottery fragments were also found⁶ in the Holocene layers of the interior room that were assigned, in the publication of the Palaeolithic finds⁷, to the "Ludanice group of the Bodrogkeresztúr Culture".

Finds⁸: Bowls, double conical (Fig. 2. 8), with cylindrical upper part (Fig. 2. 9), handle and conical bottom (Fig. 2. 1), as well as arched side (Fig. 2. 10). *Milk jug*

(Fig. 2. 3) *Cup with two handles* (Fig. 2. 2) *Barrel-like vessel* (Fig. 2. 4-5, 7) *Mug* (Fig. 2. 6).

NAGYKOVÁCSI, REMETE-HILL ZSOMBOLY-CAVE⁹
(Fig. 1, site 3, and Figs. 3-5)

Close to the eastern end of the gorge valley Ördög-árok (Devil-trough) on the southern slope of Remete-hill at the lower part of limestone cliffs at the altitude 350-380 m a.s.l., amateur-cave-research-team lead by L. Szabó performed excavations in 1971. The cave sediments yielded, among other finds, fragments of Middle Copper Age pottery as well.¹⁰

Finds¹¹: Bowls, biconical (Fig. 3. 5), with cylindrical upper part, (Fig. 3. 6, 8-9), with retracted margin (Fig. 3. 8) and handle (Fig. 3. 1, 3). *Jug*. (Fig. 3. 2) *Cups with two handles*. (Fig. 4. 3, 5, 8, 10; 3. 4) *Hollow-pedestalled bowls*. (Fig. 4. 7, 9) *Miniature vessels*. (Fig. 4. 4, 6) *Round* (Fig. 4. 1) and *oval* (Fig. 4. 2) *clay spoons*. *Barrel-like vessels* (Fig. 5. 2-3, 5-8). *Fragments with knot ornament* (Fig. 5. 1, 4).

BUDAPEST, BÁTORI CAVE¹² (Fig. 1, site 4)

In the cave named after a late Paulican monk opening along the Northern side of the Nagy-Hárshegy close to the peak, a cave-research team lead by György Vajna made excavations at the beginning of the 60-ies. In the cave sediment medieval as well as prehistoric, mainly Early Middle Copper Age pottery finds were found. N. Kalicz observed in the area in front of the cave further signs of Middle Copper Age habitation. The pottery fragments and stone tools collected in course of the research of the cave got lost.¹³ N. Kalicz pointed out a close connection of the pottery with the other sites from Budapest environs.¹⁴

¹ VIRÁG 1995. 61-94.

² VIRÁG 1997. 10-14.

³ The list of sites was prepared first by N. Kalicz, but essential part of the finds could not be published at that time (KALICZ 1966. 16). This will be complemented below together with the site which became known since that time. Our purpose is the collection of finds and information concerning the first half of the Middle Copper Age on the territory of the capital. For sake of a complete view, finds previously published will be mentioned as well, complemented with new evidences and revising the find circumstances. Our catalogue includes data up to know 1998.

⁴ VIRÁG 1997. 5-40.

⁵ MRT 7. Site 12/6. 123.

⁶ MRT 7. 123.

⁷ CSÁNK 1984. 7. Finds were not published by the excavator.

⁸ Pottery fragments in Budapest Historical Museum (BTM) Inv.no: 70.5. 11, 19, 36, 37, 50, 63, 93, 95, 96, 97.

⁹ MRT 7. Site 12/11. 124.

¹⁰ MRT 7. 124. Finds collected by L. Zolnay. The author thank for the possibility of publishing the Copper Age finds. Information on the existence of the material was due to attention by N. Kalicz.

¹¹ Pottery fragments. BTM, uninventorised.

¹² VAJNA 1973

¹³ P. c. by Gy. Vajna.

¹⁴ KALICZ 1966. 16.

OPEN-AIR SETTLEMENT SITES

BUDAPEST, XI. BUDAFOKI Str. 78. (Házgyár)¹⁵ (Fig. 1. site 5. and Figs. 6–7)

In November 1958, sherds and bones coming from a demolished burial were found during the construction of a crane-stand.¹⁶ In course of a small scale rescue excavation, the basement of the crane-stand and its vicinity were investigated and several settlement units observed. In block D/3 the remains of a N-S oriented surface post construction were observed in the length of 6 m,¹⁷ dated by G. Alföldy with the help of the finds of pit D/2 deepened from the same layer.¹⁸ Scattered Copper Age settlement finds were found in the vicinity of the burial, i.e., pit excavated in the 9th block as well.¹⁹

D/2 pit. A bee-hive-shaped unit of approx. 120 cm diameter and 40 cm depth.

Finds²⁰: Bowl (Fig. 7. 5) Cup (Fig. 7. 2) Hollow-pedestalled bowl (Fig. 7. 10)²¹ Cup with two handles, decorated with incised bunch of lines running horizontally on the neck and on the side of the vessel, meeting in zig-zag lines accompanied with small stitches. (Fig. 7. 1)²² Cinder cover (Fig. 7. 7.) Grinding stones, Molluscan shells, 2 pieces of stone blades.

In block no. 9. Remains of a slightly bee-hive form pit with 120 cm diameter, 90 cm depth, its side covered with 1–2 cm thick clay were found. At the depth of –60 cm, the thickness of the clay on the wall was 0,5 cm. A lot of animal bones, some pottery fragments and daub with prints of twigs were found over this clay layer, under this, only some animal bones and fragments of daub came to light. The find assemblage is dated to the Copper Age by a barrel-form vessel.²³

Block 1. (environs of the burial)²⁴ Bowl with retracted rim (Fig. 7. 3) Scoop-form vessel (Fig. 7. 8)

¹⁵ Rescue excavation by G. Alföldy in 1958. HNM Archives 565.B.x., BTM Archives 429–77. Results of the excavation summarised by the excavator (ALFÖLDY 1959. 245.). Fig. 6. was compiled on the basis of the excavation documentation.

¹⁶ For the grave finds, see chapter on burials below.

¹⁷ The western side of the building was disturbed, the eastern side drawn by 7 posts with an average diameter of 40 cm. In N-S the medial axis, remains of 3 major post holes were observed. Identifying them with the central row of posts holding the "szelemen", the width of the house can be estimated for 3,5 m. Its full length is uncertain due to modern age pits at the southern end.

¹⁸ In course of the revision of the finds, fragments of LBC pottery were also found according to which a Neolithic settlement must have existed here as well. LBC fragments were also found from around the grave, from blocks 3 and C as well as mixed in the material of pit D/2. As the long post-structure house is known to occur in LBC context as well, the dating of the construction to Middle Copper Age can be questioned.

¹⁹ Approx. 3 m to the North of the post structure construction, a pugged oven with firing aperture built of stone showing two periods of use was found. No finds came from this oven and the excavator considered it coeval with the surface construction and pit D/2 on the basis of stratigraphical arguments. At the same time the structure of the oven and the medieval shards found over the second layer of the oven render the dating of the unit uncertain.

BUDAPEST, III. BÉKÁSMEGYER, KIRÁLYOK Rd., North of No. 280.²⁵ (Fig. 1. site 7. 1., Fig 8.)

In 1962, V. G. Csánk performed authenticating excavations here. In course of the work Middle Copper Age settlement finds were also found classified by the excavator to the Bodrogkeresztúr Culture.²⁶ Formerly, between 1931–36 F Tompa performed excavations in this area. Among the mixed finds some sporadic pieces of pottery denote also the Middle Copper Age inhabitation of the environs of today's Pünkösdfürdő region. According to our present knowledge, Békásmegyér environs which is extremely rich in prehistoric material in general, was relatively less intensively populated in the Middle Copper Age.

Block VI. pit 'A'. Its diameter was 100 cm, depth 45 cm. Finds: Bowl. Milk-jug.²⁷ (Fig. 11. 3). Cup with two handles (Fig. 8. 8).²⁸

Stray find: bowl fragment²⁹ (Fig. 8. 9)

Pünkösdfürdő environs.³⁰ Stray finds: Bowls with retracted rim and biconical body (Fig. 8. 1–3).³¹ Amphorae (Fig. 8. 4, 7). Vaseform vessel. (Fig. 8. 6) Hollow-pedestalled bowls.³² (Fig. 8. 5)³³

BUDAPEST, III. PUSZTADOMBI Str. 12. (Fig. 1. site 8. and Fig. 9)

On the piece of land lying on the hillside Avar period graves were excavated in 1983. During the excavation of the graves, two Copper Age waste-pits were also opened.³⁴

Pit 1. Diameter: 130 cm, depth: 90 cm. Finds: Milk jug or amphora (Fig. 9. 1).

Pit 2.³⁵ Immediately beside pit 1., another unit was found, with diameter: 130 cm, depth: 115 cm, contain-

²⁰ BTM Inv. no: 62.28.21–25

²¹ ALFÖLDY 1959. Fig. 2.

²² ALFÖLDY 1959. Fig. 3.

²³ BTM Inv. no: 62.28.12. Apart from this, only atypical prehistoric pottery fragments were found.

²⁴ BTM Inv. no: 62.28.3–4.

²⁵ Former Vöröshadsereg rd., Egyetértés Co-operative. CSÁNK 1964. 205. The excavation took place close to the works lead by F Tompa, thus the finds of the former excavations treated as stray finds can also originate from here, i.e., Pünkösdfürdő environs.

²⁶ CSÁNK 1964. 212.

²⁷ CSÁNK 1964. Fig. 5.

²⁸ BTM Inv. no: 63.2.296–297.

²⁹ Found in the material of the 1966 excavations by V. G. Csánk.

³⁰ Most of the finds presented here were found together in the material of old excavations without exact details on origin. BTM Inv. no: 54.8.349, 54.14.3, 54.33.201, 54.13.9, 54.5.28, 54.33.223, 57.30.101. See also footnote 23.

³¹ Found in course of fieldwork on the western side of the territory lying further from the Danube. CSÁNK 1964. 212, Fig. 11. /3.

³² TOMPA 1934–1935. 13. t. 15.

³³ Stray find from the Petrőczy collection. In the inventory notes of the BTM, the site is mentioned as "settlement pit under the Adria Insurance Co".

³⁴ Excavation by M. Nagy. (NAGY M. RégFüz 1984. 68.) The author is grateful for the permission of publication rights.

ing Copper Age shards, animal bones, stones and pieces of daub. *Finds: Bowls with retracted rim (Fig. 9. 6, 8) and biconical body (Fig. 9. 7). Milk jug, or amphora (Fig. 9. 4) Hollow-pedestalled bowl. (Fig. 9. 9) Scoop-like vessel (Fig. 9. 11)*

Stray finds: Milk jug, or amphora. (Fig. 9. 2) Bowls with biconical body (Fig. 9. 3, 5) Hollow-pedestalled bowl (Fig. 9. 10)

BUDAPEST, RÁKOSPALOTA, KOSSUTH L. Str.³⁶ (Fig. 1. site 11. and Fig. 10)

Stray finds³⁷: Double conical bowl (Fig. 10. 1) Jug (Fig. 10. 5). Amphorae (Fig. 10. 3-4) Large vessels (Fig. 10. 2, 6)

BUDAPEST, RÁKOSPALOTA, BOGÁNCS Str. 3.³⁸ (Fig. 1. site 12. and Fig. 10)

Stray find: Hollow-pedestalled bowl. (Fig. 10. 7)

BURIALS, GRAVE FINDS

BUDAPEST, XI. BUDAFOKI Str. 78. (Házgyár)³⁹ (Fig. 1. site 5. and Fig. 7)

Remains of a burial site were found in November 1958 while building the basis of a crane stand. The archaeologist G. Alföldy arriving to the spot, could only observe the traces of a Copper Age double burial and collect the associated sherds and bones. According to the workers the two skeletons were lying side by side in contracted position on their left side facing east. In front of the heads a small vessel was placed per each. Behind the skeleton laid in the north remains of a larger vessel were found.⁴⁰ The burial pit was oval in the form of a bee-hive, the margins partly destroyed while picking the finds from it. According to the workers its upper diameter was about 120-130 cm, its lower diameter about 160-170 cm, depth from the soil substrate 90 cm. The skeletons and the finds appeared at -50 cm.⁴¹ *Finds: Mug.⁴² (Fig. 7. 6) Cup. (Fig. 7. 4)⁴³*

³⁵ The western side of the pit was destroyed earlier while making the basement of the fence.

³⁶ Rescue excavation by R. Schreiber in 1963. The author is thankful for the permission of publishing the material. The site was mentioned first by N. KALICZ ArchÉrt 1966. 16.

³⁷ BTM Inv. no: 80.6.1-2, 80.6.4-6, 80.6.8,

³⁸ Rescue excavation by M. Nagy, 1973. Attention of the author on the finds was drawn by R. Schreiber.

³⁹ See footnote 15.

⁴⁰ Excavation documentation in BTM Archives, Inv. no: 492-77 1. The fragments listed in the inventory as belonging to the 'destroyed grave' used to belong to different kinds of vessels among which the fragments of the large vessel mentioned by the workers could not be identified. Mixed in the material of the pit, there were some LBC fragments identified by the author.

⁴¹ On the basis of the find circumstances and the finds it is possible that this was not a regular grave but a burial of the deceased in a settlement pit. This hypothesis is corroborated by the form of the pit and the animal bones and pottery fragments found in it.

BUDAPEST, XI. GELLÉRT-HILL SOUTHERN SLOPE (Fig. 1. site 6. and Fig. 11)

Two milk jugs were found here in 1904, during the construction of a water plant. They were mentioned first by F. Tompa.⁴⁴ I. Kutzian presented them together with a barrel-form vessel while summarizing of the Gellért-hill prehistoric finds.⁴⁵ The find circumstances are unknown, but the complete vessels probably originated from a burial. *Finds: Milk jugs.⁴⁶ (Fig. 11. 5, 7) Barrel-form vessel.⁴⁷ (Fig. 11. 6)*

BÉKÁSMEGYER, KOSSUTH L. RESORT BEACH, BUVÁTI WATER-SPORTS CENTRE.⁴⁸ (Fig. 1. site 7 2)

Approx. 1000 m north from Pünkösdfürdő, immediately near the river Danube V. G. Csánk excavated Middle Copper Age burials in 1962, regarded as belonging to the Bodrogkeresztúr Culture.

Grave 1. In the water-pipe ditch planted in E-W direction across the area, remains of a disturbed inhumation burial were found, according to subsequent observations, in contracted position. Grave-goods comprised a spherical segment form bowl⁴⁹ lying beside the skull. (Fig. 11. 4)

Grave 2. (III/N pit) skeleton in contracted position, lying on left side, oriented towards S-W. Large size stones were observed above the grave pit. The upper part of the skeleton (from the lower arms upwards) was disturbed by a pit of the Baden Culture. Fragments of the pottery sherds could be, nevertheless, found. Grave-goods: Biconical bowl, small bowl, obsidian blade. It was lying on its original place at the left shoulder.⁵⁰

Stray find. Close to this site, on the river bank washed out by the Danube a complete flower-pot-form vessel was found, probably also from a burial.⁵¹

BUDAPEST, XVII. CSABAI Str. 50. (Fig. 1. site 9, Fig. 11)

An inhumation burial with grave-goods was found during the construction of a water pipeline in 1968. The skeleton was destroyed, F. Kőszegi surveying the works, could only deduct that the body was probably laid in contracted position. The environs of the grave was surveyed by V. G. Csánk but no further burials

⁴² ALFÖLDY 1959. Fig. 1. BTM Inv. no: 62.28.1

⁴³ BTM Inv. no: 62.28.2

⁴⁴ TOMPA 1936. 9; Ibid. 1942. 39-40, VI. t. 1-2.

⁴⁵ KUTZIÁN 1948. 6, I. t. 1-3.

⁴⁶ KUTZIÁN op.cit. I. t. 1-2.

⁴⁷ KUTZIÁN op.cit. I. t. 3.

⁴⁸ Descriptions are given on the basis of the publication, CSÁNK 1964. 210-211.

⁴⁹ CSÁNK 1964. Fig. 10/ 5. BTM Inv. no: 66.1.1

⁵⁰ The finds could not be identified in the BTM collection, their description is known from the publication only.

⁵¹ CSÁNK 1964. 211.

were found.⁵² *Grave goods*: complete cup with two handles, with omphalos on the bottom, knots perpendicular to the handles. Horizontal bunch of linear ornaments, on the neck under this, bunches of lines incised in triangle, under the rim, simple incised triangles. (Fig. 11. 1). Bowl with two handles. (Fig. 11. 2)

BUDAPEST, RÁKOSCSABA –ÚJTELEP, HUNYADI Str. 3. (Fig. 1. site 10., Fig. 12)

Several skeletons in contracted position were found during the digging of a cellar here in 1929. In course of the rescue work J. Hillebrand could only collect the grave-goods but no data on the burials as well as the number of graves were given.⁵³ *Grave goods*: Bowls with retracted rim⁵⁴ (Fig. 12. 3) and in the form of a reverse truncated cone, with handle.⁵⁵ (Fig. 12. 4) Jugs.⁵⁶ (Fig. 12. 1–2) Barrel-shaped vessels.⁵⁷ (Fig. 12. 5–7) Copper knife⁵⁸ (Fig. 12. 8)

II. EVALUATION

Settlement features

12 sites are currently known from the first half of the Middle Copper Age on the territory of Budapest.⁵⁹ Most of these sites were not surveyed systematically thus the occurrence of finds can only be evaluated from a topographical point of view. According to the recent observations, settlements as well as burials were always found close to living waters, in stream valleys or flood-free elevations. Apart from lower lying settlements close to the river bank, the neighbouring caves along the Ördög-árok valley were also occupied (e.g. Remete-hill caves, Bátori cave).

Survey of relatively large areas was only performed at the site Budafoki street and the Békásmegyer sites. On these localities the occurrence of finds and archaeological units was low compared to the site surveyed denoting low settlement intensity and transitional character of the settlements.⁶⁰ This feature is also reflected by the sites close to Budapest where the possibility of opening large surfaces was feasible.⁶¹ Similar phenomenon was encountered at Békásmegyer surveyed on a larger area. The pits found at Budafoki and Pusztadombi streets, respectively, also yielded poor find material though the small surface investiga-

ted and the small-size units render this problem hard to decide on adequately.

A more marked intensity was observed in the case of cave sites where the accumulation of more abundant material could be observed in some cases.

It is, however, difficult to decide whether the finds were accumulated during repeated visits to the cave or during a longer period of occupation.

The reason for occupying these caves, sometimes difficult to access it, is also not known, yet. Looking at the open-air sites with transitional character and low intensity we can suppose a more mobile way of life and husbandry on this region with repeated returns snuggling occasionally in the caves as well. In case of cave settlements aspects of defence might also be considered which can only be decided on after shading light on their connection with the Balaton-Lásinja Culture. Notably, it is not known as yet how the factors resulting in the formation of the Balaton-Lásinja Culture were asserted on considerable parts of Transdanubia. It is clear that the Lengyel type of development was replaced by a different culture with reminiscences of the Lengyel precedings. At the same time in the environs of Budapest and the NE parts of Transdanubia the Ludanice Culture carries on local development of the Late Lengyel traditions with some influences of the Balaton-Lásinja Culture. On the basis of these seemingly mutual contacts it is not very likely that the occupation of the caves was motivated by defence aspects. It is more likely that the reason for the emergence of this type of settlement was rooted in the subsistence system.

The same image was unfolded in the case of sites which became known from NE Transdanubia. Though open-air sites are known here in majority compared to the cave sites, but according to the topographical surveys and small-scale excavations, only a minor portion of the finds came from these (open-air) settlements.⁶²

The open-air sites of some elevated plateaux are exceptions from these which show, similar to the cave sites, higher intensity.⁶³ The special significance of cave sites is also stressed by the fact that in a considerable part of the caves (e.g. Remete cave, Bátori cave,⁶⁴ Remete-hill Zsomboly-cave), the most intensive period of habitation was just occurring during the treated period of the Middle Copper Age.

The interior structure of the settlements and the character of the archaeological features is also inade-

⁵² CSÁNK 1973/2. 257–258.

⁵³ The finds were first published by J. HILLEBRAND 1934. 328–330. Mentioned several times by TOMPA 1942. 40. Detailed description was given by P. PATAY: PATAY 1961. 18–19.

⁵⁴ PATAY 1961. IX. t. 3.

⁵⁵ PATAY 1961. IX. t. 4.

⁵⁶ PATAY 1961. IX. t. 1–2.

⁵⁷ PATAY 1961. IX. t. 5–7.

⁵⁸ PATAY 1961. IX. t. 8.

⁵⁹ Their number may change by the evaluation of sites found after 1998., e.g. II. Corvin square.

⁶⁰ In case of the Békásmegyer settlement it is a striking fact that among the large number of finds from the excavations by F

Tompa, finds from the first half of the Middle Copper Age appear in very small number only. The same can be said about the authenticating excavations by V. G. Csánk as well.

⁶¹ VIRÁG 1992. 23–28.

⁶² VIRÁG 1992. 23–28.

⁶³ Perőcsény; Jancsi-hill: considerable number of finds was found at this locality already during the field survey, opposed to the flat low-lying localities. MRT 9. 286.

⁶⁴ VAJNA 1973. 153.

quately known. On the basis of the current data, the occurrence of shallow bee-hive form pits with a diameter of cca. 100–130 cm seems to be general. Provided the dating of the Budafoki street house given by G. Alföldy is correct, this is the first and only house, with wooden bar structure so far on the territory of Budapest, which can be dated to the first half of the Middle Copper Age. Its occurrence however is not without parallels as several versions of large houses with wooden posts are known on the sites of coeval age from the territory of Transdanubia and SW Slovakia, respectively.⁶⁵

Burials

Burials were found in identical geographical environment as the settlements. In those cases where it could be ascertained, single (Budapest–Budafoki street; Budapest–Csabai street) or a small group of burials close to each other (Budapest–Békásmegyér) were found. On the basis of large surface excavations as well as the authenticating surveys following the discovery of single burials we can not hypothesise the occurrence of large cemeteries on the territory of the capital. Due to small surface excavations the relation of burials to settlements can only be deduced from indirect data.⁶⁶ It should be noted that settlement finds were never found near the graves which can also be a result of small scale excavations. It is though believed that settlements and cemeteries were separated which seems to be corroborated by experiences at Békásmegyér where features of settlement were separated from the graves by a distance of 800 m. The observations made at the site of Budafoki street where burials were found in the vicinity of settlement units denote a rather irregular burial into pits on the settlement. The special features of this burials were also stressed by the double burial. From the sites of comparable age, there are further instances of special burials known as well from the vicinity of settlement features.⁶⁷ The graves observed so far contained skeletons in contracted position. The deceased were lain on their left sides (Budapest–Békásmegyér⁶⁸; Budapest–Budafoki street⁶⁹). Their orientation cannot be ascertained yet, due to the low number of instances known. Skeletons oriented approx. W–E were observed at Békásmegyér (SW–NE) and others oriented in opposite direction (at Budafoki street: E–W). The graves contained 1–2 pieces of pottery as grave-goods placed close to the head or the upper part of the body

(Budapest–Békásmegyér⁷⁰; Budapest–Budafoki street⁷¹) Apart from placing vessels in the grave, we have data on putting copper knife and obsidian blade into the grave as well. In one of the Békásmegyér graves, an long obsidian blade of 6 cm was found at the left shoulder of the skeleton.⁷² Copper knife is known from Rákoscsaba–Újtelep, but no data are available on its position within the grave.⁷³

The finds

Pottery technology

The characteristic pottery of the period is typically of good quality, carefully tempered, the surface often polished or pressed. The ratio of pottery with rough surface is insignificant. Even the surface of large vessels is often pressed or superficially polished. The temper used comprise mixed sand, small pottery grit, rarely small pebbles or stone grit. The colour of the pottery is typically brownish, frequently of a light brown shade.

Types of vessels. The types found on settlements and in the burials show no differences.

Bowls with retracted rim and biconical form are frequently occurring on most localities. Several versions are known from strongly inverted rim to ones with almost straight-cut rim. The profile of their body is typically rounded, but pieces with a sharp fraction line are also occurring. The characteristic form of the upper part is low, the lower part is deep and of conical form, sometimes slightly concave. Bowls with conical lower part occur also with low cylindrical upper part as well. The low upper part can be concave or convexly arched. The only element of ornamentation applied on the bowls is a variety of knots, placed mainly on the shoulders of the vessels.

The type *bowl with handle*, in the form of a spherical segment or truncated cone is also frequent. The rising rim at the starting point of the bulky handle starting from the rim is very characteristic. Pieces with straight-cut rim appear as well less frequently. The handle placed at the shoulder of the vessel is less frequent (Fig. 8.3). On the basis of the complete handled bowls have found so far, the most frequent type has two handles placed on the opposite sides of the vessel (Fig. 11.2, 4).

Sherds of bowls, mainly those with retracted rims and biconical form might also belong to *hollow-pedestalled bowls* as well. This type is represented in the material of the sites in the capital by several pedestal fragments comprising bell-form (Fig. 4.9., Fig. 8.5., Fig. 10.7) and conical form (Fig. 7.10) items

⁶⁵ E.g.: LICHARDUS-VLADÁR 1968; VIRÁG 1990; PAVÚK-BÁTORA 1995. NÉMETHI 1994.

⁶⁶ NEVIZÁNSKY 1985. 60; VIRÁG 1992. 27.

⁶⁷ VIRÁG 1992. 25–29. with further references

⁶⁸ CSÁNK 1964. 211.

⁶⁹ ALFÖLDY HNM Archives, 565. B.x.

⁷⁰ CSÁNK 1964. 210.

⁷¹ ALFÖLDY HNM Archives, 565. B. x.

⁷² CSÁNK 1964. 211.

⁷³ PATAY 1961. 22.

as well. The lower part of the pedestal part is always arched outward. The reticulated ornamentation of the upper part of the pedestals is also characteristic.

Jugs can be found frequently and considered as leading types. Their characteristic form is bulky, typically inarticulate, with wide mouth and two bulky handles starting from the rim. At the starting points of the handles, the rim is often raised. Perpendicular to the handles, on the flare arch of the jug knots were applied as ornaments. Apart from the jugs with raised margin, less frequently forms with straight-cut rim can also be found.

A characteristic type appearing on most localities is the *cup with two handles*, occurring in two versions; a) wide, low b) high slender form. The rim is raised at the starting point of the handles at most exemplars. Some pieces with incised ornaments appeared as well on the territory of Budapest (Fig. 7. 1, Fig. 11. 1), but the unornamented pieces seem to be more frequent.

A relatively rare type (but characteristic element of the type spectrum is the *amphora* with short arched neck) flared body with bulky handles starting from the rim and set in the arch of the neck. A characteristic representative of this type is a fragment found among the Békásmegyer finds (Fig. 8. 7). This type of vessels can be represented by some of the bodyshreds of flared vessels with knot as well.

The characteristic Middle Copper Age type, the barrel-form vessel can also be represented by bodyshreds supplied with handle or knot on their shoulder or upper part. Handles and knots are known on the complete exemplars in opposite pairs (Fig. 12. 6)

The rare presence of *vase-form vessels* with outwardly arched rim and flared body among the Budapest finds is proved by an item from Békásmegyer (Fig. 8. 6).

Other types of pottery finds comprise *clay spoons* supplied with round or oval head and the *cinder cover*.

Ornamentation: On most of the vessel types, knot ornaments of different form were applied only, typically placed at the flare of the vessel. Circular rounded or plug-like knots are frequent, and the horizontal oval form is also characteristic. These can also be pressed in the middle (Fig. 7. 1-2). The application of horizontal floppy knots on the refraction line can mainly be observed on bowl fragments.

In the Budapest assemblage, incised bunches of lines are seldom encountered among the ornaments, observed only on cups with two handles so far.

Most of the sites dated to the first half of the Middle Copper Age are represented by very scarce assemblage, only the cave sites yielded a higher amount of characteristic pottery fragments. Though the general features of each site are difficult to determine, we can still make some general statements on the con-

nections of the finds.⁷⁴ On the basis of the finds in the cave settlements we can demonstrate a close connection to NE Transdanubian finds, coming mainly of caves as well, where the observed leading types were similar to the Budapest situation, bowls with retracted rim and biconical forms and the bulky jug. In case of the bowls and the jugs, a characteristic feature is the raised rim over the handles. Amphorae and barrel-like vessels with handle set on the rim appear as well. In the technology of making pottery, the polishing of the surface and the use of fine grit temper is typical. All these characteristic features can also be observed on the low-lying settlements on the Buda slope as well, mainly at Békásmegyer and among the Pusztadombi street find where retracted rim and biconical form bowls also dominate the assemblage and amphora-like vessels were also found. An essentially lower number of finds are known on the Pest side. The first half of the Middle Copper Age is represented only by the burial assemblages of two sites and some sporadic settlement finds here. Due to the lack of evidences, it is impossible to draw finite conclusions. Some apparently different features, however, can be pointed at. The more intensive Bodrogkeresztúr connections of the sites East of Budapest were mentioned earlier, reflected also in the finds of the Pest side, mainly the burial assemblages. The sporadic occurrence of Ludanice type finds, dominating in Budapest environs and the NE parts of Transdanubia can be spotted to the East of the Danube and North of the Alföld region.⁷⁵ On the same territory, i.e. the Northern margin of the Alföld and the Gödöllő hills, the sporadic occurrence of classical Bodrogkeresztúr Culture features can be followed till the Danube.⁷⁶ In the region of the Gödöllő hills, several sites with mixed Ludanice and Bodrogkeresztúr features were also observed. At Tarnabod, for example, the presence of incised and dotted ornaments, bowls with decorated with rhombus-form reticulated pattern occur together with bell-form pedestals, jugs with rims raised at the handle, bowls with retracted rim, etc.⁷⁷ Among the Nagytarcsa grave-goods. Apart from wide bulky milk-jugs and bowl with retracted rim, typical flat bowl of Bodrogkeresztúr character and longish milk jugs were equally found.⁷⁸ Flower-pot shape vessels, cups with cylindrical neck, a bulky jug

⁷⁴ For the typological analysis of similar assemblages: VIRÁG 1995. 1997.

⁷⁵ PATAY 1961. 58-59, XXIII. t. 10-13; KALICZ 1966. 17; KÁLLAY 1988. 21-48.

⁷⁶ Bag-Peresmalom dűlő: PATAY 1961. 5, X. t. 1; Tura: ibid. 1958. 18; Hatvan: ibid. 1961. 89, XXXIII. t. 2; Vác-Pogányvár: fragments with net-pattern, Vác-bank of the Danube: longish milk jug, flat bowl: STEFAITS 1975. 10.

⁷⁷ KALICZ 1966. 4-5.

⁷⁸ VIRÁG 1983. XLV-XLVI. t.

and a tub-form vessel pointing at Ludanice formal analogies mainly were found at Pécel occurring together with classical Bodrogkeresztúr jugs.⁷⁹ The best parallels of the Rákoscsaba grave-goods are known from NE Transdanubia and Budapest environs, but one of the jugs in the assemblage can be fit also into the forms of the Bodrogkeresztúr Culture (Fig. 12. 1). The two-handled cup and hemispherical bowl of the burial assemblage from Csabai street presented here point at Bodrogkeresztúr analogies both in form and ornamentation. A bunch of parallel lines around the neck, knots set on the flare perpendicular to the handles and the bunches of lines joining in a triangle belong to the characteristic features of this culture.⁸⁰ A close connection with the Bodrogkeresztúr Culture can be traced in the form of the bowl with handle, though the rim here is slightly raised in the case of the Budapest specimen.

On the basis of the scanty evidence collected and presented here we can risk the following hypotheses concerning the cultural affiliation of the Northern territories in the Middle Copper Age. Infiltration of the Bodrogkeresztúr Culture can be followed well, even by the sporadic finds, along the valleys of the rivers Zagyva, Tápió, Galga, and Tarna. On the territories to the East of the Danube, the Gödöllő hills and the foothill region of the Cserhát Mts., the characteristic features of the culture appeared; its traces could be followed till the line of the Danube, around Vác. At the same time, on the same territory the traces of the sporadic presence of Ludanice Culture were equally found.

It seems that the Ludanice Culture was in contact with the Bodrogkeresztúr Culture to the east of the rivers Danube and Ipoly around Vác and the Gödöllő hills (Nagytarcsa, Pécel, Rákoscsaba-Újtelep) as well as the foothill region of the Mátra Mts. (Tárnabod). These fractions of the Bodrogkeresztúr Culture had left their tribal quarters along the Tisza river and infiltrated these regions along the river valleys. To the North of these sites, the characteristic "milk jug" of the Bodrogkeresztúr Culture is known from Ludanice itself which can be evaluated as an import product.

The sporadic occurrence of Ludanice type finds denote the population of the Northern hills and mountainous region by these people. This idea, raised by the Hungarian research⁸¹ and maintained as most likely even today is represented by J. Pavúk, who also argued for the north-Hungarian presence of Ludanice Culture.⁸² The Mónosbél and Füzesabony finds occurring in the area of the Bükk Mts., far from the tribal quarters of the Ludanice Culture are connected from typological point of view to the circle of finds around Budapest, in respectively NE Transdanubia and SW Slovakia. The natural endowments of the territory is also similar to those of the settlement environment of the Ludanice Culture as known so far, still it takes a lot of further studies to ascertain the independent presence of this culture till the Bükk Mts. unambiguously.⁸³

The connections of the territory of the capital with the Transdanubian Balaton-Lásinja Culture are marked, in the first place, by the appearance and frequency of bowls with biconical form and inverted rim. The continuation of preceding Late Lengyel traditions can be demonstrated in the occurrence of clay spoons, pedestal bowls, amphorae and barrel-shaped vessels.⁸⁴

III. SUMMARY

The data published in the present study were aimed at completing our knowledge on sites known from the beginning of the Middle Copper Age from the territory of the capital. Together with the finds of the Remete-cave, a cultural entity can be clearly delineated connected most to the Ludanice Culture. There are, however, shades of difference attestable on the two banks of the Danube. On the basis of characteristic features and their frequency of occurrences among pottery finds, the Buda side is more intensively connected to the Balaton-Lásinja Culture while the Pest side is more closely related to the Bodrogkeresztúr Culture. The strengthening of these observations based on very scarce finds on the eastern bank need further arguments and further archaeological evidences.

⁷⁹ KÓVÁRI 1980. III. t.

⁸⁰ E.g.: PATAY 1961. VII. t. 3.

⁸¹ KALICZ 1966. 17.

⁸² PAVÚK 2000. 15-21.

⁸³ The evaluation of the cultural position of the region can be expected from the discovery of new find assemblages.

⁸⁴ VIRÁG 1997. 13.

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ADATOK BUDAPEST KÖZÉPSŐ RÉZKORÁNAK TOPOGRÁFIÁJÁHOZ
(A *Ludanice kultúra lelőhelyei*)

Az utóbbi évek kutatásai során a leletanyag összegyűjtésével és vizsgálatával körvonalazódtak Budapest területén a középső rézkor első feléből származó leletek meghatározó jellegzetességei, amelyek a DNy-szlovákiai Ludanice kultúra települési területéhez kapcsolják fővárosunk térségét.¹ Ugyanakkor kimutathatóvá vált, hogy ebben az időszakban az itt élő népesség a vidék kedvező geográfiai adottságainak köszönhetően igen intenzív kapcsolatokat tartott fenn a környező kultúrákkal.²

A jelen tanulmányban közzétett adatokkal igyekeztünk teljessé tenni a főváros területén és közvetlen környezetében ismeretes középső rézkor első felére keltezhető lelőhelyek bemutatását, s ezen keresztül megkíséreltük a korábban felvázolt további kép árnyalását.

Az eddig ismertté vált, főként kis felületen kutatható 12 lelőhely³ alapján a temetkezések és a nyílt színi települések víz közelében, patak völgyekben, ármentes szárazulatokon, helyezkedtek el (1. kép). A településekre vonatkozó megfigyelések¹⁵⁻³⁸ a kissé nagyobb felületen átkutatott lelőhelyek esetében (Budafoki út, Békásmegyér) is kis intenzitású, átmeneti megtelepedésre utalnak. A gödrök és szórványos leletek alapján ismertté vált települések belső szerkezetéről nagyobb feltárások hiányában nincs értékelhető in-

formációnk. Kétségesse vált, bár egyértelműen nem zárható ki a Budafoki úti oszlopvázás épület rézkori keltezése is.¹⁸ A budai hegyek víz közeli barlangjainak valamivel gazdagabb leletanyaga alapján a középső rézkorban az ÉK-Dunántúlhoz hasonlóan előszeretettel létesítettek barlangi telepeket is.^{4-14, 62, 64}

A temetkezésekre vonatkozó eddigi adatok alapján a vizsgált területen kevésbé valószínűsíthetők nagyobb kiterjedésű temetők. A megállapítható esetekben magányos, vagy néhány egymás közelében lévő temetkezést tártak fel.^{39-58, 66-73}

A most közzétett anyaggal és a Remete-barlang leleteivel együtt jól körvonalazható a főváros körzetében fellelhető és a Ludanice kultúrához leginkább kötődő kulturális egység, amelynek kapcsolataiban árnyalatnyi különbségek ismerhetők fel a Duna két oldalán. A kerámialeletek alapján megfogható jellegzetességek előfordulása, gyakorisága alapján úgy tűnik, hogy a budai oldal lelőhelyein inkább a Balaton-Lasinja, míg a pestin a Bodrogkeresztúr kultúrával való kapcsolatok intenzívebb hatása érvényesülhetett.^{74, 76-84}

A jelenleg elérhető, meglehetősen gyér forrásanyag alapján levonható következtetések, illetve feltételezések megerősítésére természetesen csak az információk további gyarapodásával nyílhat lehetőség.

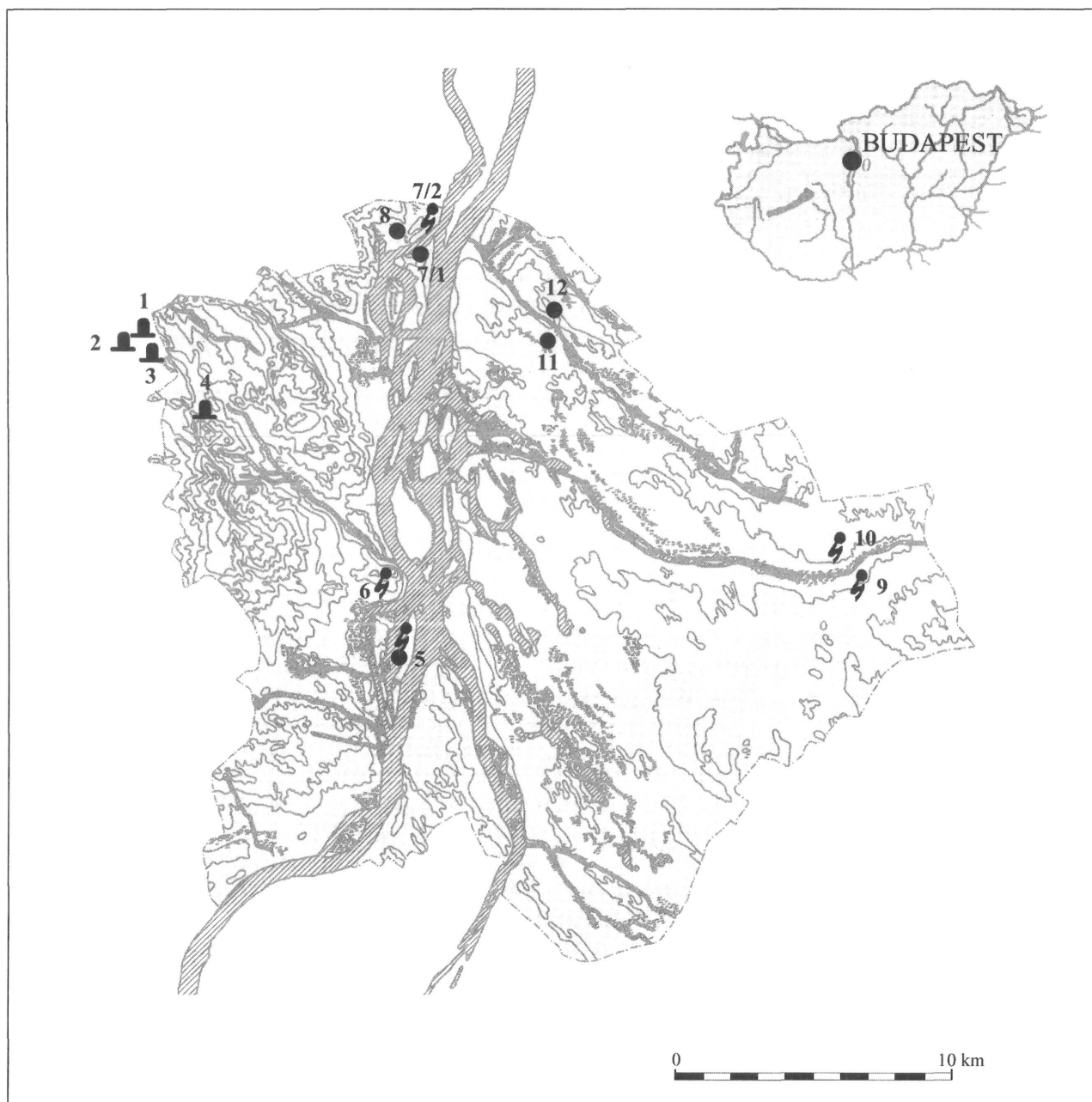


Fig. 1. Sites of the Ludanice Culture in Budapest: 1. Nagykovácsi, Remete-hill Lower cave; 2. Nagykovácsi, Remete-hill Upper cave; 3. Nagykovácsi, Remete-hill Zsomboly-cave; 4. II. Bátori cave; 5. XI. Budafoki street 78; 6. XI. Southern slopes of Celléri-hill; 7/1. III. Békásmegyér, Királyok rd.-Pütkösárfürdő environs; 7/2. III. Békásmegyér-BUVÁTI; 8. III. Pusztadombi str; 9. XVII. Csabai str. 50; 10. XVII. Rákoscscaba, Újtelep, Hunyadi str; 11. XV Rákospalota, Kossuth L. str; 12. XV Rákospalota, Bogács str. 3.

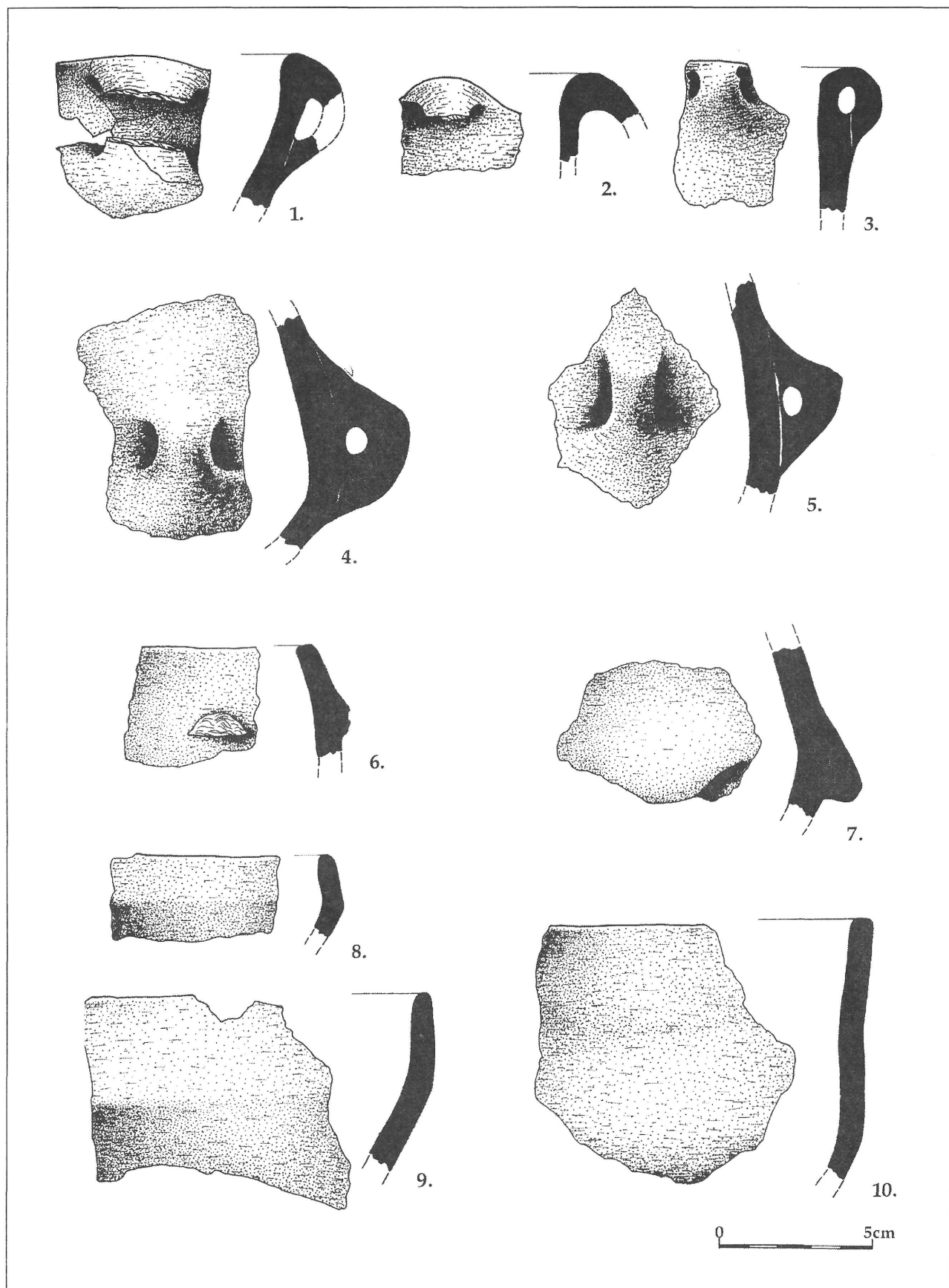


Fig. 2. 1-10. Nagykovácsi, Remete-hill Upper cave

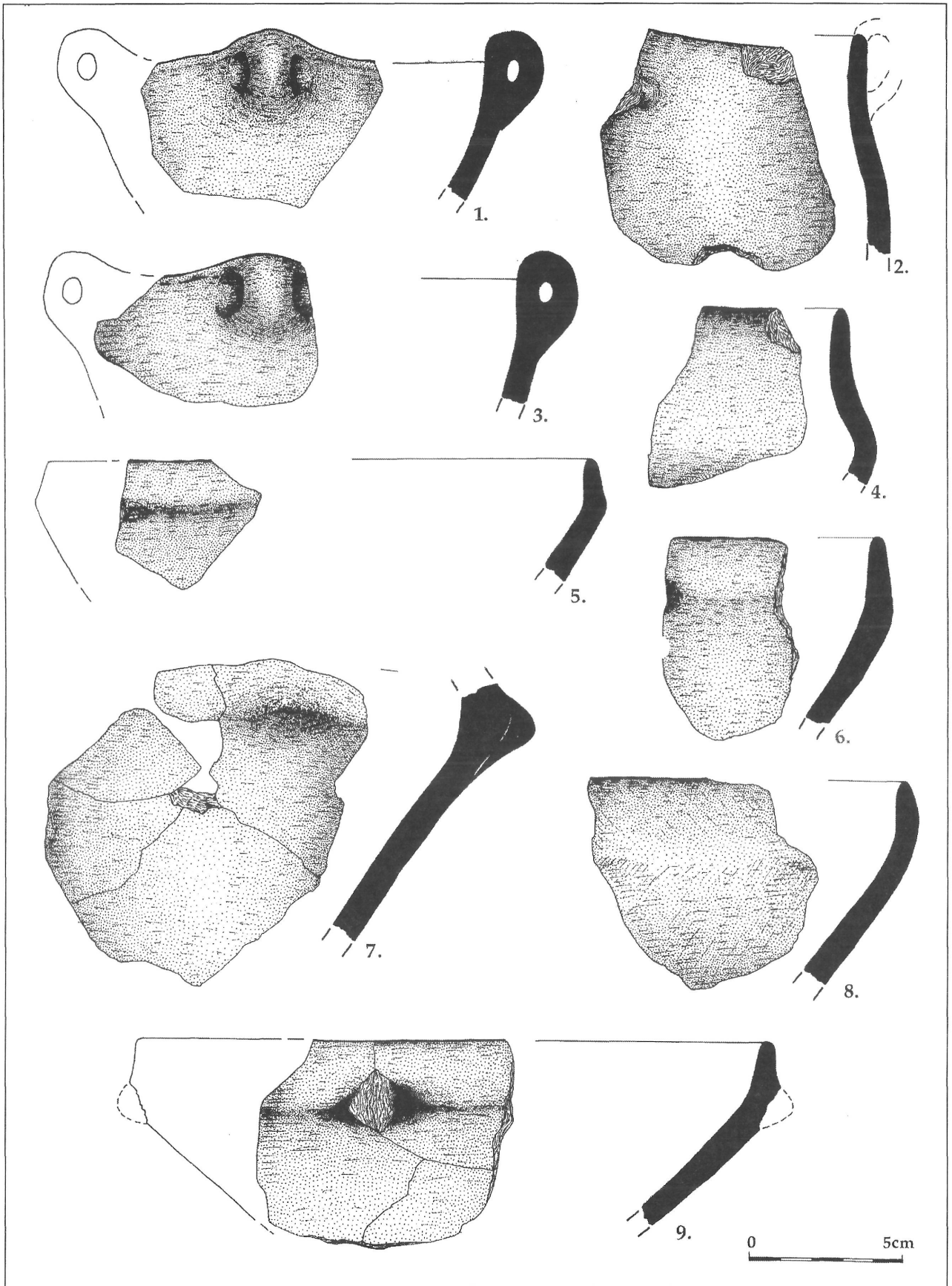


Fig. 3. 1-9. Nagykovácsi, Remete-hill Zomboly-cave

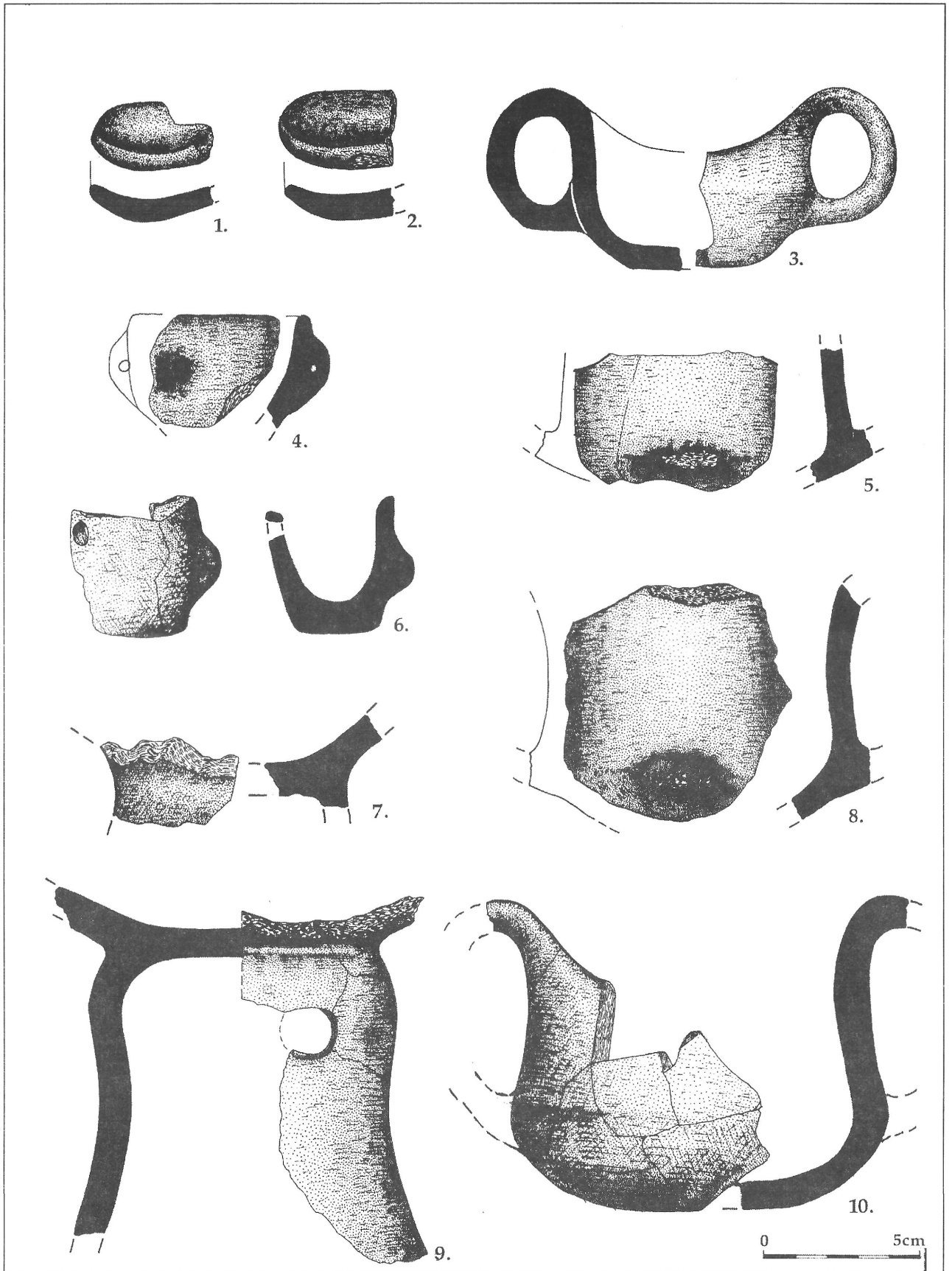


Fig. 4. 1-10. Nagykovácsi, Remete-hill Zsomboly-cave

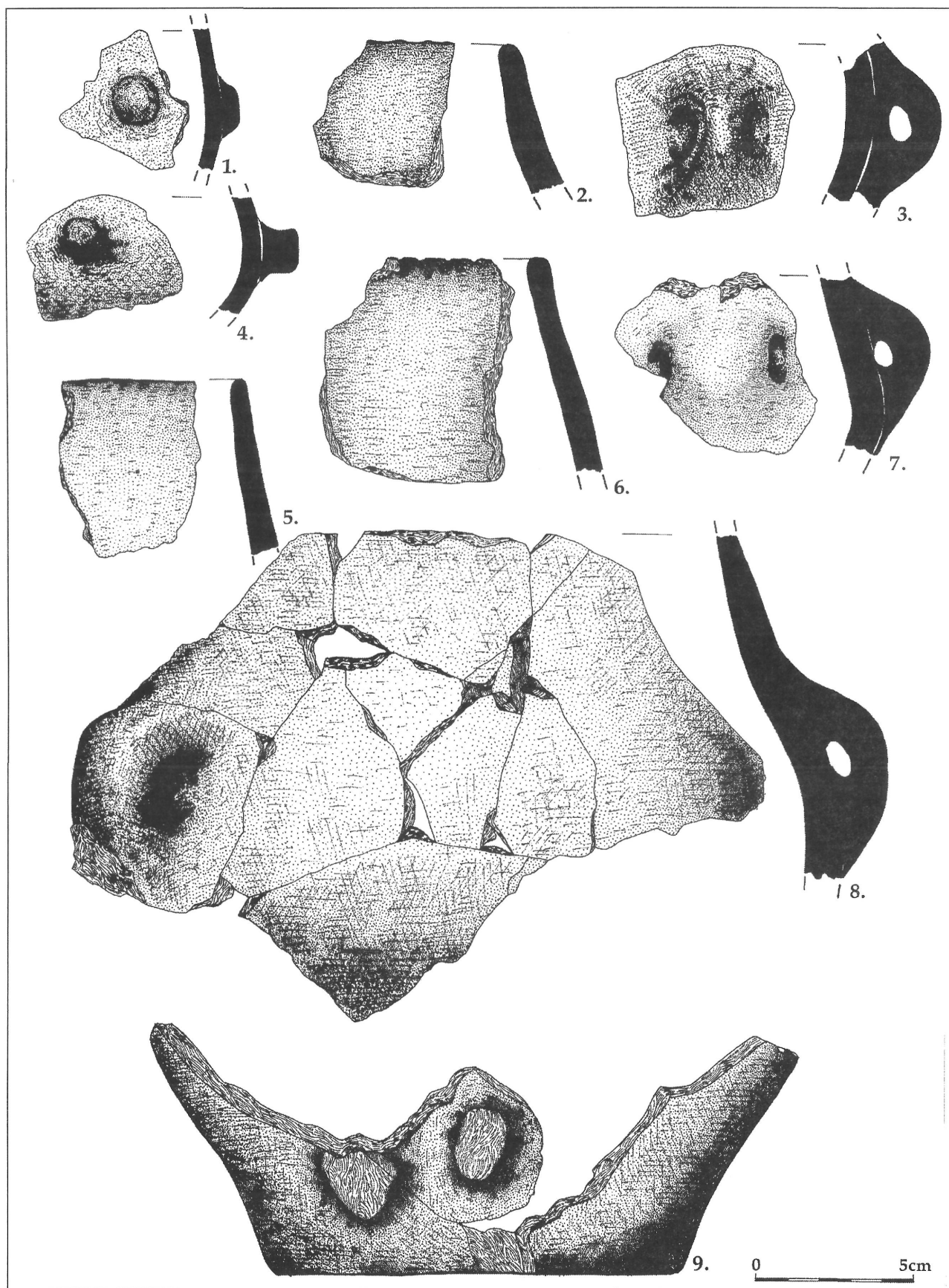


Fig. 5. 1-9. Nagykovácsi, Remete-hill Zomboly-cave

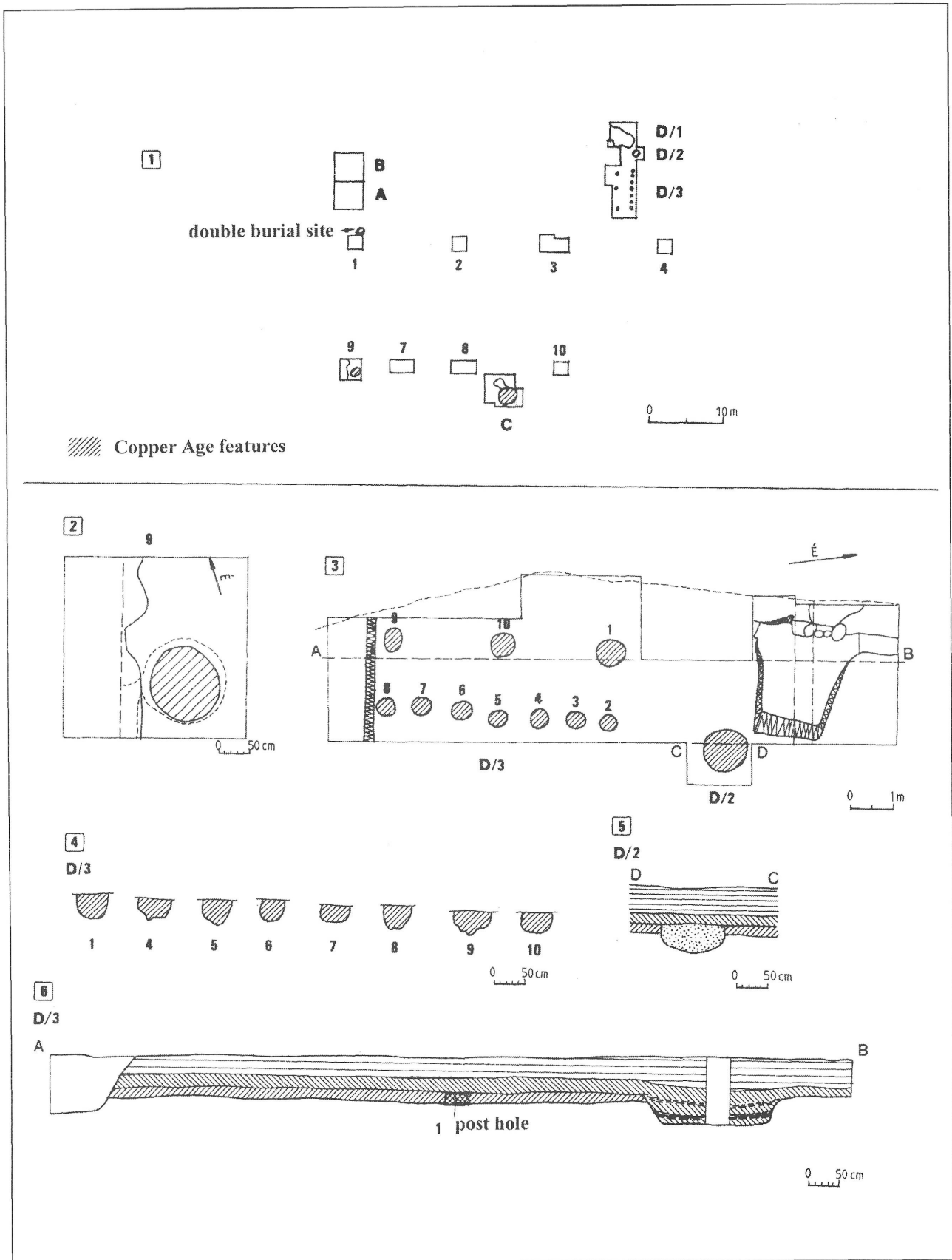


Fig. 6. 1-6. XI. Budafoki street 78. (After G. ALFÖLDY 1958. HNM Archives 565.B.x.) 1. Comprehensive plan of the excavation units; 2. Plan of block 9; 3. Plan of post construction in block D/3, plan of unit D/2; 4. Section of the posts in the construction; 5. Section of unit D/2; 6. Section of block D/3.

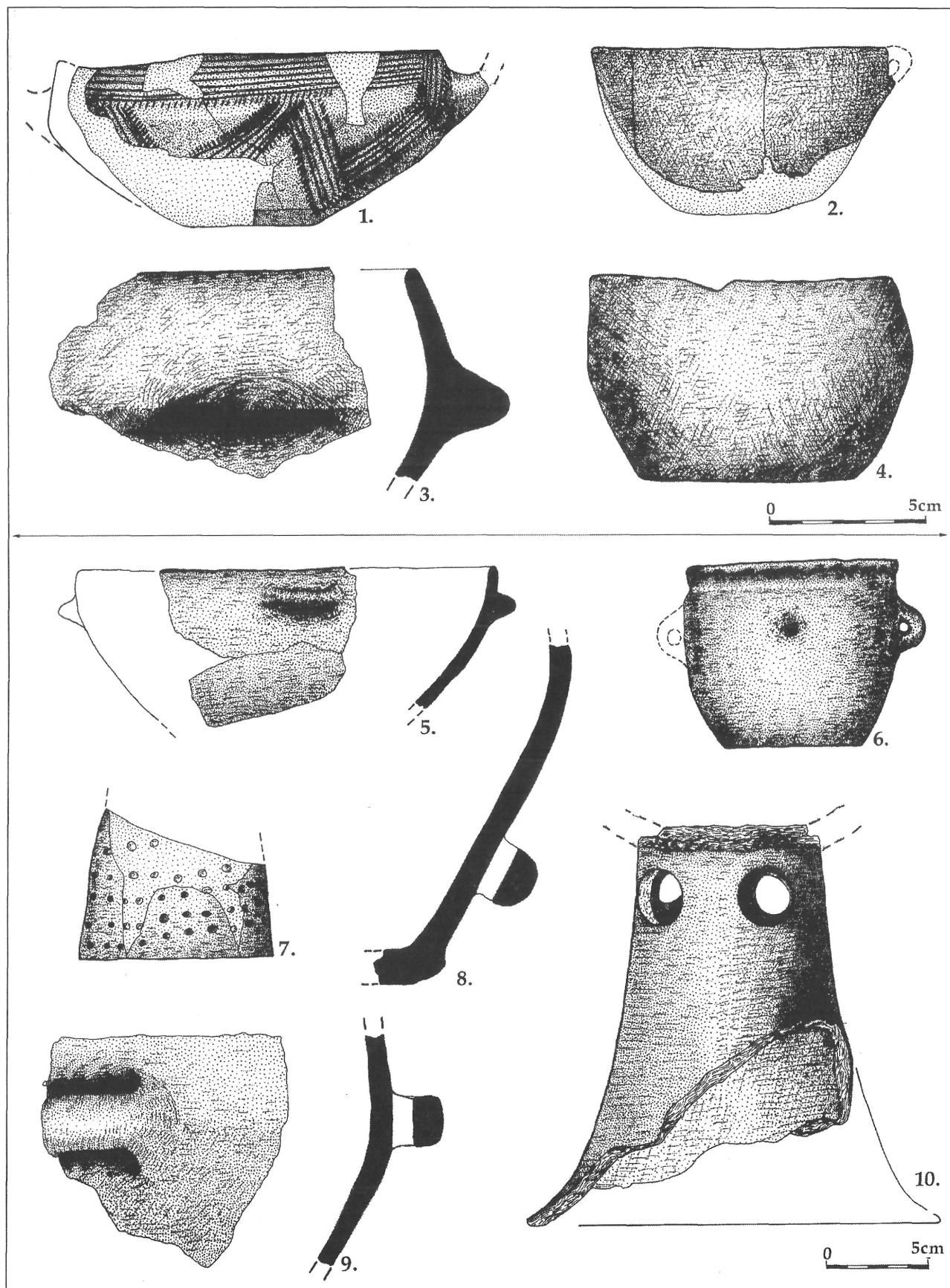


Fig. 7. 1-10. XI. Budafoki street 78. 4, 6. grave goods; 3, 8. stray find from the environs of the grave; 1-2, 5, 7, 10. unit D/2; 9. block 9.

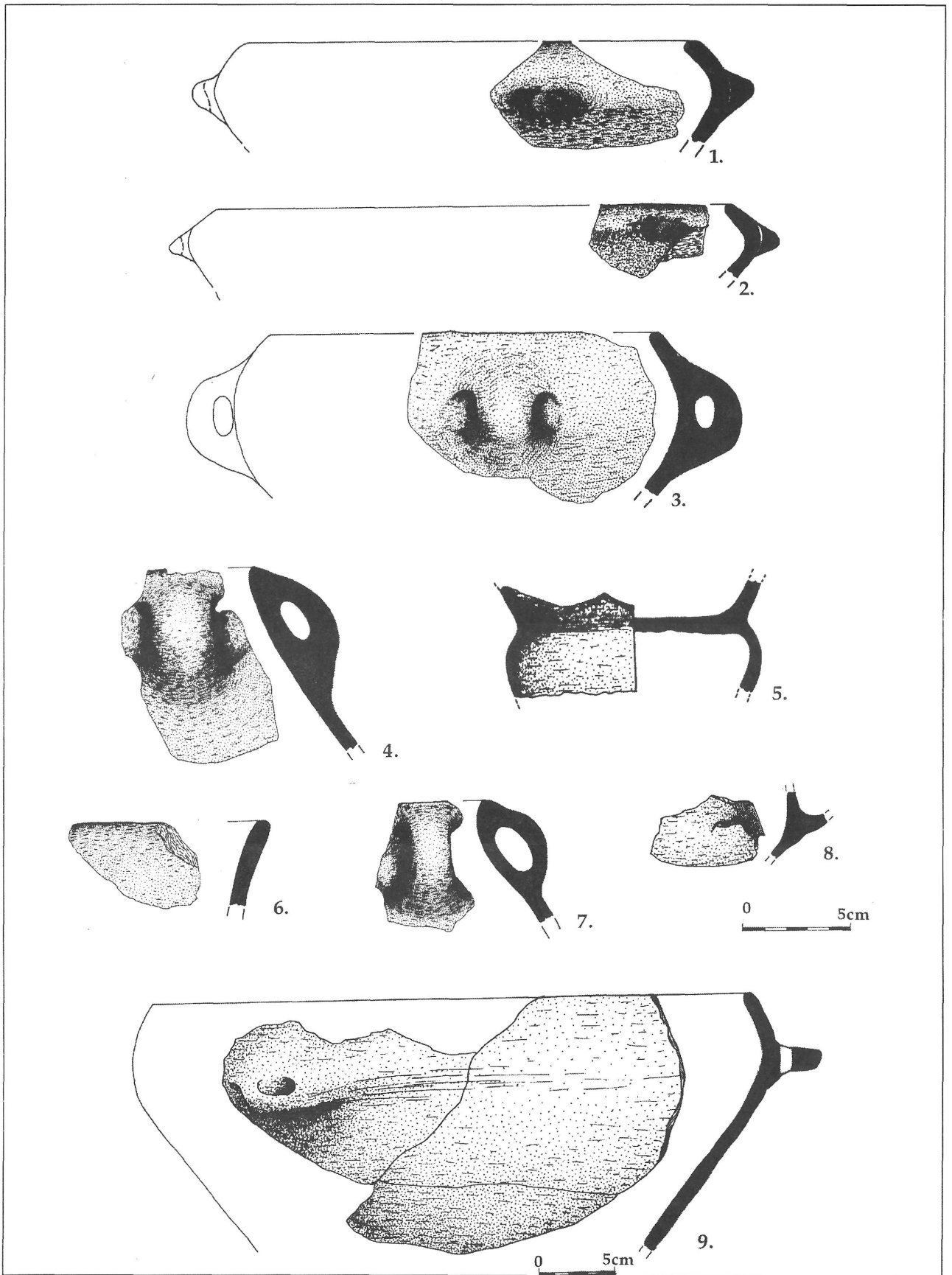


Fig. 8. 1-9. III. Békásmegyér: 1-7. Pütkösdűrdő environs; 8-9. North of Királyok rd. 280.

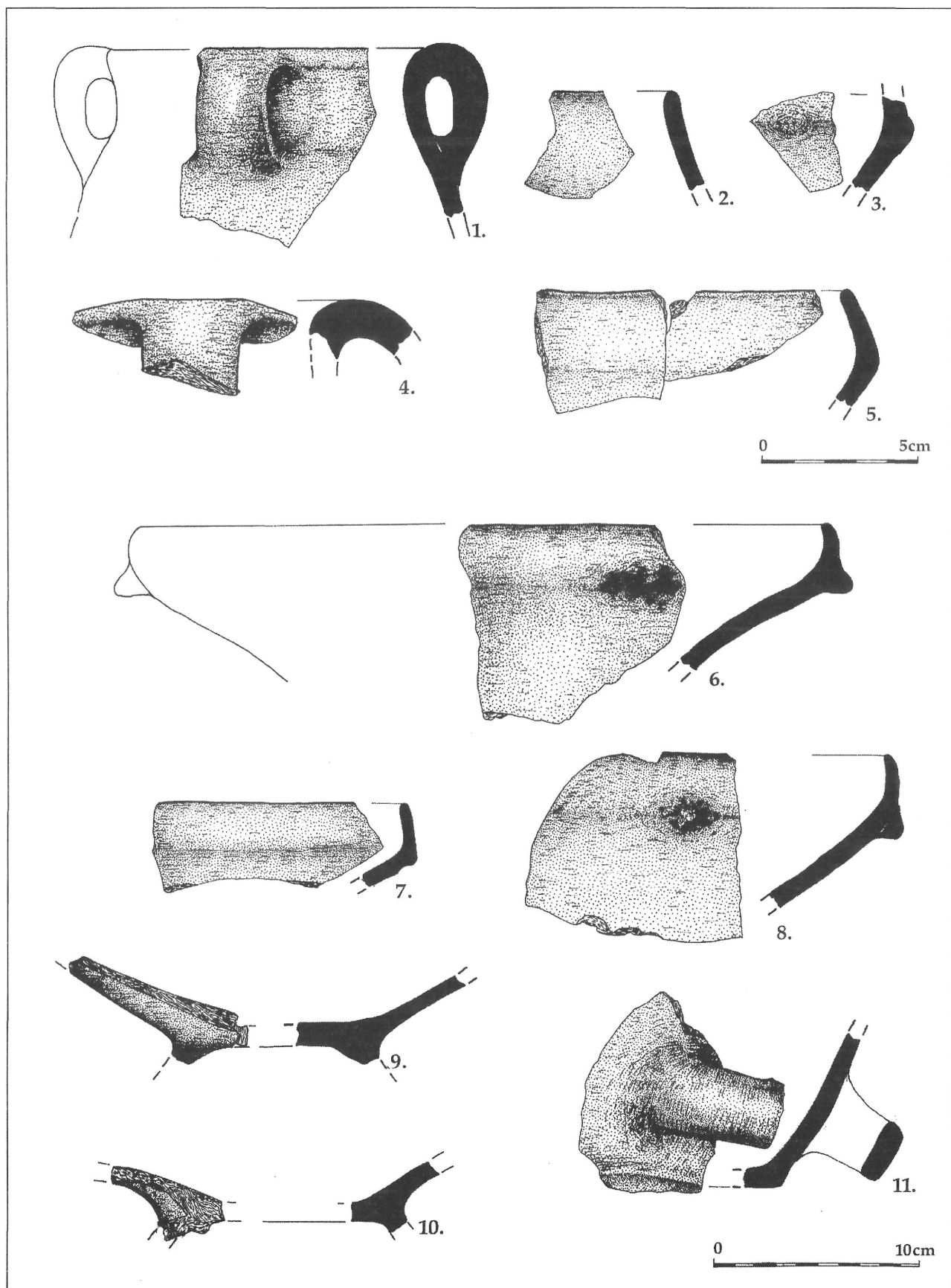


Fig. 9. 1-10. III. Pusztadombi street 12. Pit 1: 4, 6-9, 11.; Pit 2: 2-3, 5, 10. stray finds

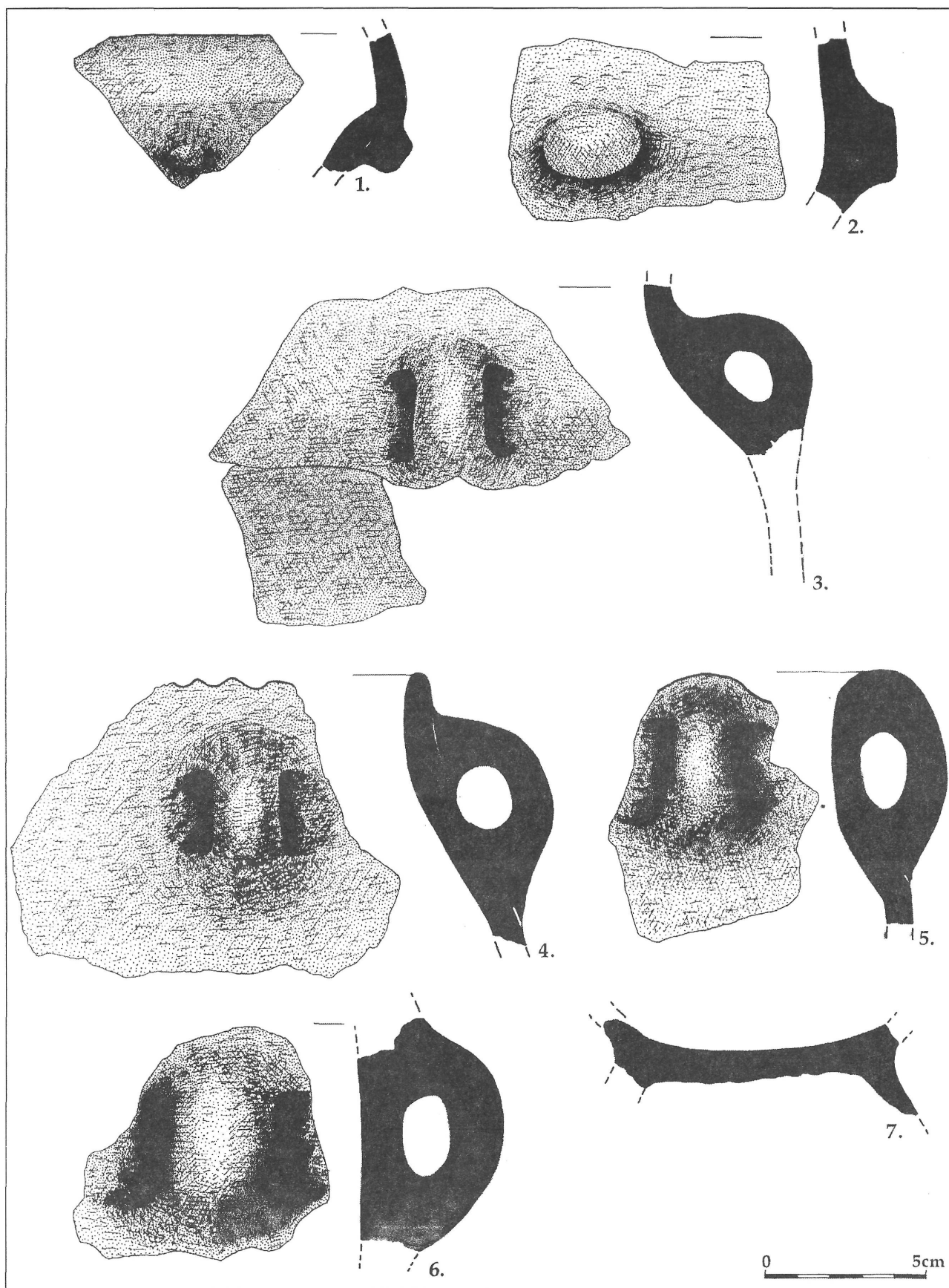


Fig. 10. 1-6. XV Rákospalota, Kossuth L. str.; 7. XV Rákospalota, Bogács str. 3.

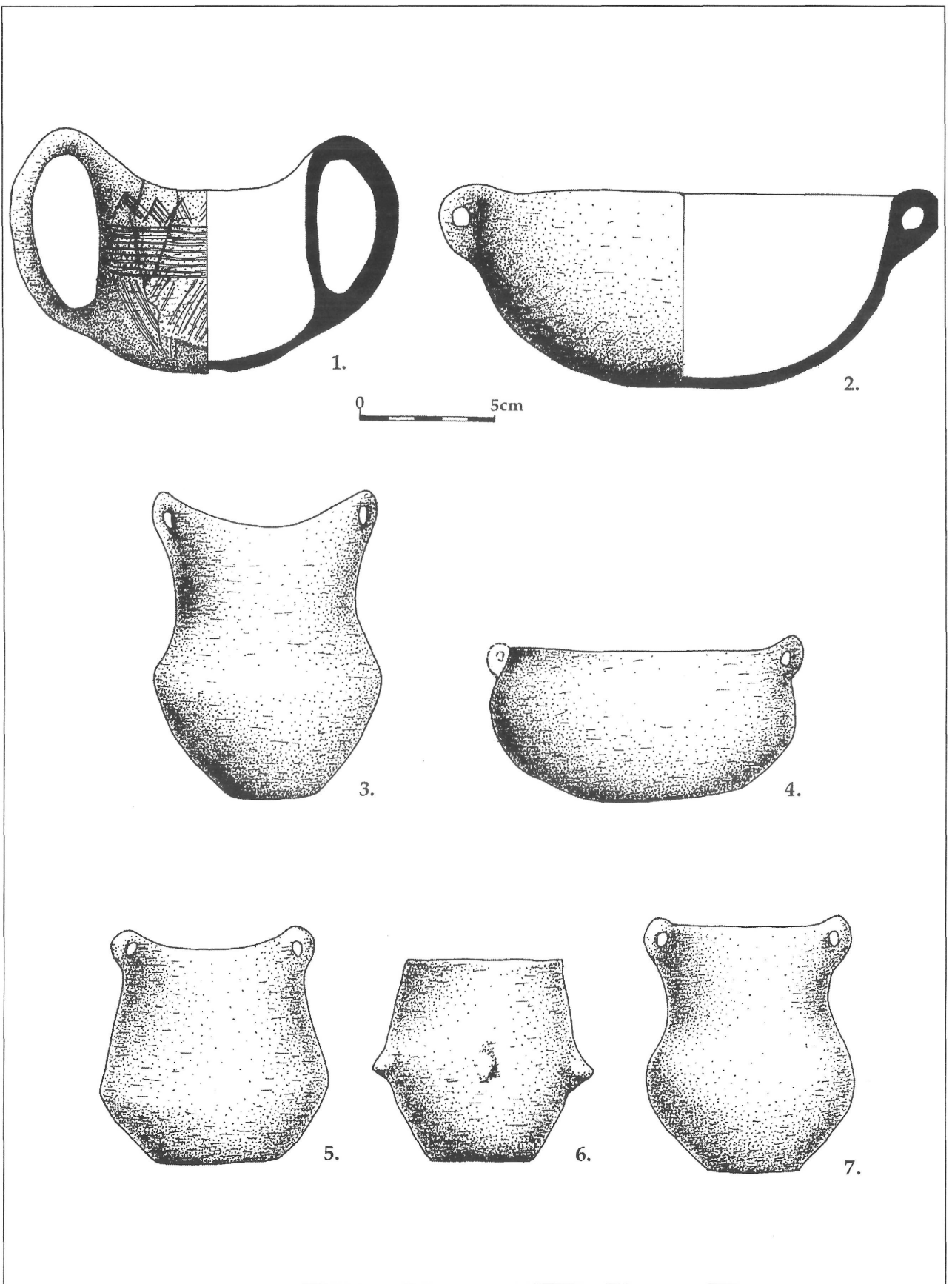


Fig. 11. 1-2. XVII. Csabai str. 50; 3. III. Békásmegyér, North of Királyok rd. 280; 4. III. Békásmegyér - BUVÁTI; 5-7. XI. Southern slope of Gellért-hill

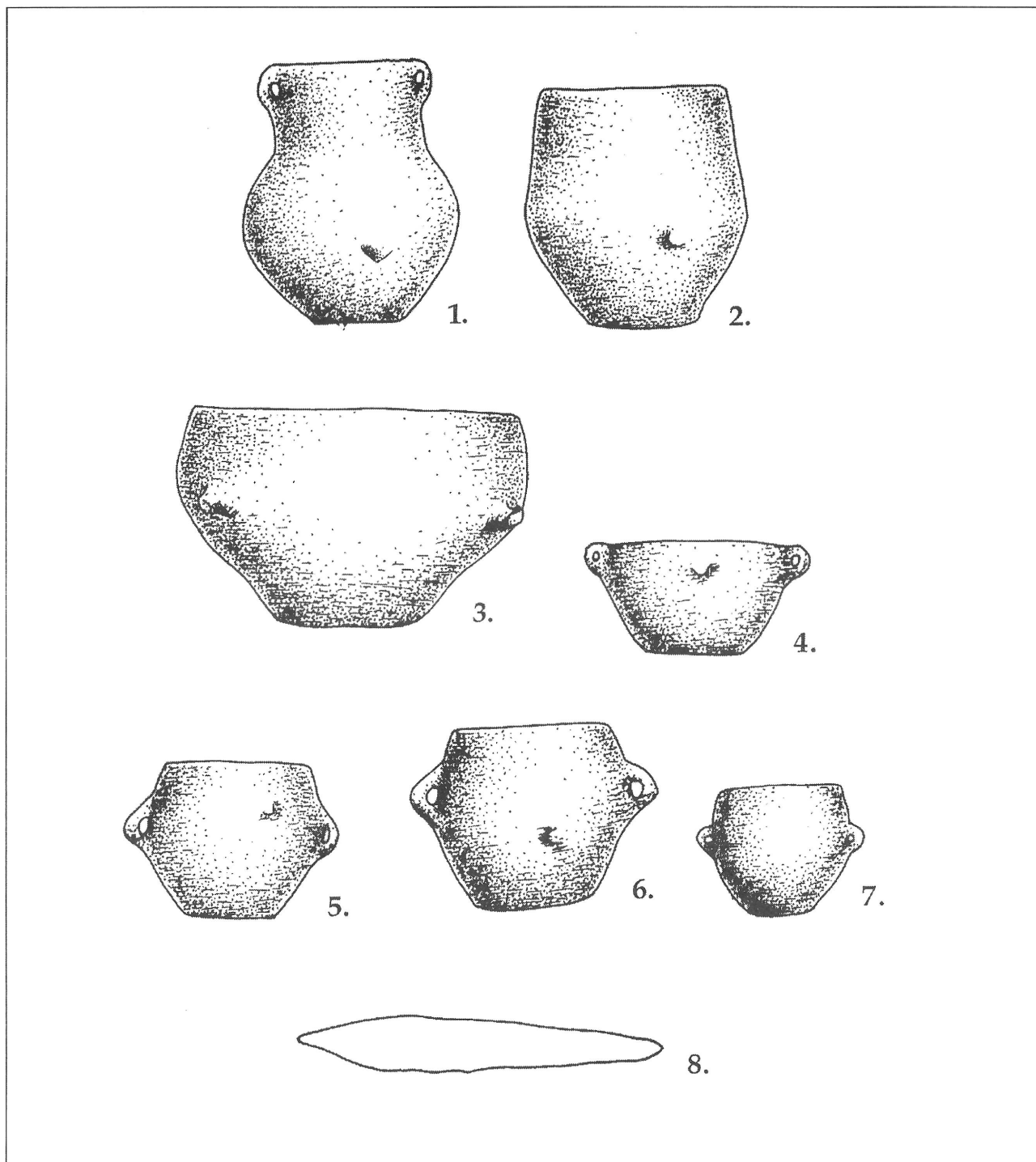


Fig. 12. 1-8. XVII. Rákoscaba, Újtelep