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The ceramic complex of the neolithic feature 17 of the multilayered site Ratniv-II (Volyn, western Ukraine)

The multilayered settlement of Ratniv-II is situated on the rise of the first terrace above the floodplain of the Chornohuzka river (formerly the Polonka river, left tributary of the Stir river), on the northern outskirts of Ratniv village, Lutsk district, Volyn region. As a result of archaeological research of the settlement in 2014, 50 features were found of differing chronological range from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages. The pottery assemblage coming from the feature 17 at the multilayer site Ratniv-II is quite clear regarding its cultural and chronological affiliation i.e. the middle or so-called Music Note phase of Linear Pottery culture, which dates falls into the second half of the sixth and early fifth millennium BC.

KEY WORDS: Volyn, Ukraine, Linear Pottery culture

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The Linear Pottery Culture in northwestern Ukraine is rather well investigated. The beginning research was laid by Jan Fitske, who researched LBK settlements near the Gliklih's brick factory and the Hnidava tract in the city of Lutsk (G.V. Ohrimenko (red.) 2005, s. 488). The most famous investigations of settlements as for the Linear Pottery culture were the expeditions led by Grigory Okhrimenko (Hnidava, Hirka Polonka, Holyshiv-II and others) (G. Ohrimenko 2001, s. 140). Most of the famous sites are related to the Music Note phase, but there are also settlements of early (Rivne), and late phases (Holyshiv-I). The following article is devoted to the publication of the full set of ceramic structures of multilayered site at Ratniv-II.

The multilayered settlement of Ratniv-II is situated on the rise of the first terrace above the floodplain of the Chornohuzka river (formerly Polonka river, left tributary of the Stir river), on the northern outskirts of Ratniv village, Lutsk district, Volyn region (fig. 1.1, 2). As a result of the 2014 archaeological research of the settlement, 50 objects were found of differing chronological range from the Neolithic (LBK culture) to the Middle Ages (era of Kievan Rus). The Neolithic object (17) was placed in the middle of excavation area (total area of 319.6 m²) (fig. 2.1).

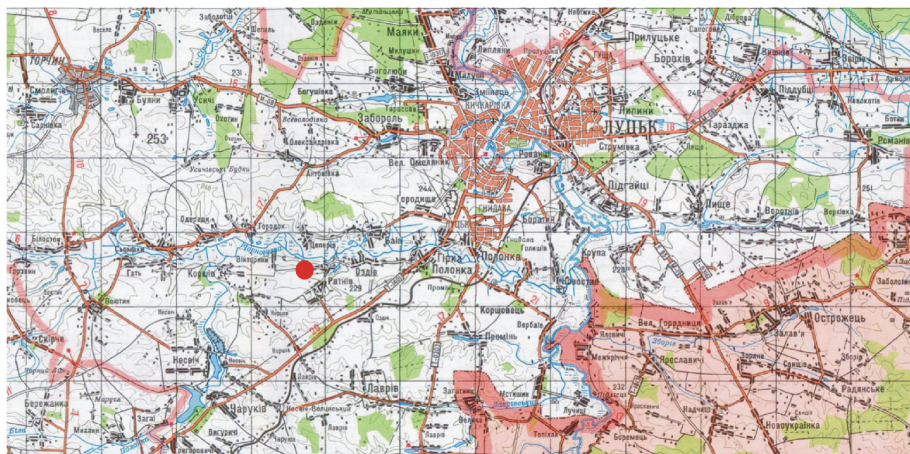
Object 17 is an oval in plan structure, about the size of 5×4 m located the southwest-northeast, leading into a depth of 1.2 m in the mainland soil (loess). There are four pits and two fireplaces singled out within the object (fig. 2.2). The walls of the object are sloping, and in the section (the North-South) pit of the object, it resembles the shape of two truncated cones. The filling of the object is heterogeneous and consists of 9 lithological layers (fig. 1.3). Archaeological LBK was associated with layers 2a, 2a₂, 2a₅ and 2A₃. In addition, in layer 2a₄

animal bones were found, but the origin of this finding raises certain doubts since, apart from it, no other artifacts were found here. Naturally, the formation of layers was not only active as a result of human activity, but also due to the denudation of the walls of the feature, so we can assume that the shape of the feature 17 had a slightly different look. It should immediately be noted that most of the findings are associated with the 2a layer, which covers above the pit. At the bottom of this layer revealed fireplace 2, which is located in the northern part of object 17 and which has an elongated plan for the north-south axis of oval form. Its fill consisted of red-brown sediment (burned loess), fragments of a stucco brownish vessel set vertically up from the bottom and a few animal bones were found. Interestingly, another part of the bottom from the same vessel, was found in the remains from the fireplace 1, which suggests the presence of a complex post-depositional process, which nature it is difficult to explain at this stage of research. In the northeast of fireplace 1, it was dug into the soil.

For the installation of fireplace 1, a shallow 17/1 round hole with a diameter of 0.9 m and a depth of 0.08 m was dug in the center of the pit. The compacted soil at the location of the fire has a reddish-brown color. According to the stratigraphy, the fireplace was located on the site of an ancient pit filling where animal bones found (layer 2a₄) covered with a thin layer of sterile humus sediment (layer 2a₂). Within the walls of the hearth the sherds of pottery and animal bones were recorded. To the east of the fireplace (the incline of the pit 17/1), the remains of charcoal were recorded, which were found among the moulded vessel base, burnt flint flakes and animal bones.

To the west of the pit 17/1, oval-shaped pit 17/2 is located, oriented on a line from northwest to southeast. The western

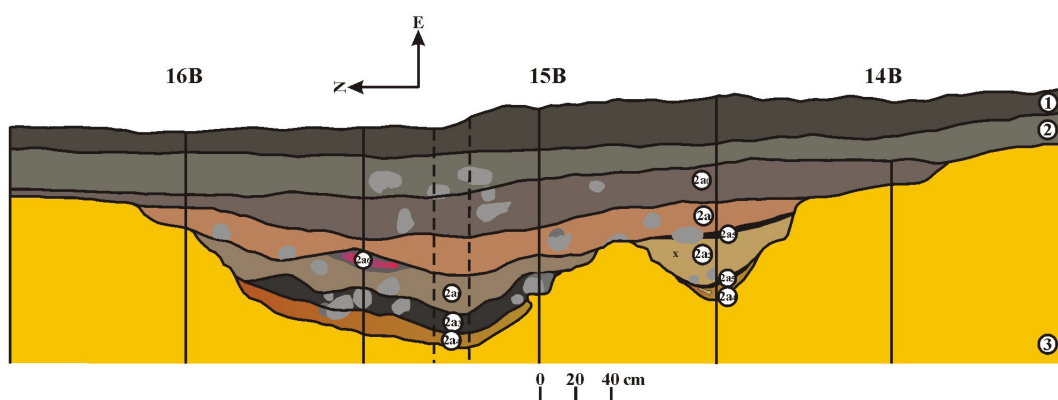
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Fig. 1. Map of Southern part of Volyn region where multilayered site Ratniv-II is situated; 2. Map of Chornohuzka river valley where multilayered site Ratniv-II is situated (The dashed lines represent approximate border settlement); 3. The profile of the site.

Ryc. 1. Lokalizacja wielokulturowego stanowiska Ratniv II na tle południowej części Wołynia; 2. Dolina rzeki Czarnohuzka z lokalizacją stanowiska Ratniv II (linie przerywane wyznaczają przybliżony zasięg osady). 3. Profil stanowiska

part of the pit is situated in the main pit. The finds in this feature are available.

Next item, pit 17/3 is recorded north of pit 17/2. The feature is oval in plan, and oriented along a north-south line. Due to the impact of bioturbation, the boundaries of the pit did not fully remain. There were no findings associated with this pit.

Pit 17/4 is the largest feature 17. It has an irregular oval shape, and is oriented on a line from northwest to southeast, with a length of 3.1 meters, and a width of 1.7 meters. The up-

per part of the pit is covered by a sterile layer of gray-brown sediment (layer 2a₁), above which layers 2a and 2a₆ are traced with fire 2. Filling in pit 17/4 consisted of loose black humus (layer 2A₃), saturated with sherds of potteries, flint flakes and animal bones. Thus, the observation of the stratigraphy and analysis of materials found during the research leads to the conclusion that the facility was built and used by a group of people within a short period of time. Formation of the same layers as noted above, should be associated with the technical processing of excavation and influence of natural factors.

ANALYSIS OF THE CERAMIC COMPLEX

Traditionally, ceramic complex LBK is divided into two functional types of cookware – kitchenware and tableware (some Ukrainian researchers identify as a third, intermediate type – G. Ohrimenko 2001, s. 140). Cookware produced mostly from clay paste containing admixture, detritus, and organic matter, and as for the manufacture of tableware quality clay without visible admixture was used. The total number of pottery fragments found as the result of research of Neolithic objects is 102 items (excluding collapse fragments of vessels). It is estimated that the farm used no more than 45–50 flat-base vessels. Apparently, the coastal areas of the river Chornohuzka served as raw material for the manufacture of ceramics where silt loam and loess were exploited. It is interesting that at that time the population of Ratniv village used loess and loam for household needs.

This publication uses the LBK ceramic typology system, which was developed by Polish archaeologists based on the study material from the settlement Tarhovisko – 9.10 (A. Zastawny, B. Grabowska 2014). According to their research, LBK ceramic systems are divided into 5 main types of cookware – spherical bowl, conical bowls, high bowls, pots and necked vessels. The last type of pottery is not represented in the ceramic complex of Ratniv-II site, as it relates to the earlier so-called the Zofipole phase of LBK.

Some questions arise as to the fragments of the bottom of the vessels, which reach a thickness of 2.5 cm. This ware is made of fairly dense clay paste containing organic admixture and debris. It is possible that this vessel could be used as a frying pan, to which, in fact, traces of black soot were found on the surface. The above finding can also serve as an additional argument for the separation of another type of cookware.

Types of ornamentation of pottery are also quite elaborated by chosen experts from Poland and therefore they are

acceptable to analyze the collections found in feature 17. Ornamentation of the following types is characteristic for both types of pottery:

A – engraved ornamentation in linear arrangements, with subtypes **A1** – straight lines (fig. 2, 3.1–3), **A2** – arched lines (fig. 3.4, 5) and **A3** – angular lines (fig. 3.6, 7);

B – engraved ornamentation in linear-point arrangements, with subtypes: **B2** – straight lines, finished with points (fig. 4.1–4), **B3** – straight, with points on lines (fig. 5.1–3), **B4** – arched, with points on lines (fig. 6.1, 2). We can also introduce the following subtype **B6** – angular, with points on lines (fig. 7.1, 2);

C – notched ornamentation, with subtype **C2** – vertical notches (fig. 7.3);

E – Decoration by relief: knobs – circular or oval with hollow, with a subtype of **E1** – with a single hollow (fig. 8.1, 2, 9.1–3);

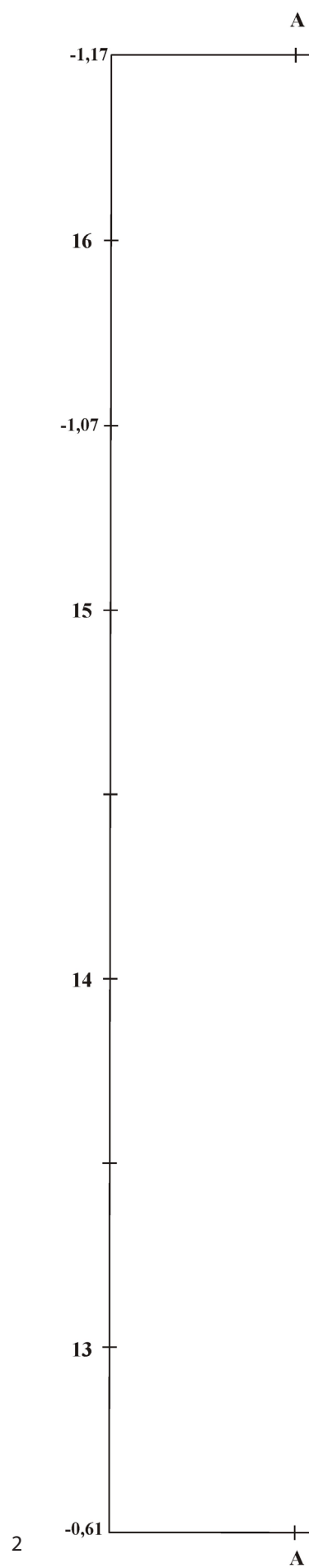
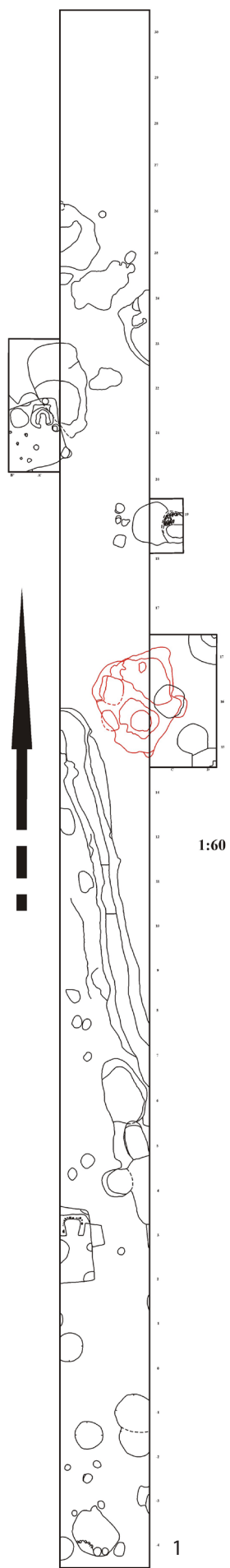
F – Decoration by relief: Knobs – circular or oval without hollow, a subtype of **F1** – single (Fig. 10.1–3). We can also introduce the following type **F4** – single knob without hollow, combined with points on the straight lines (fig. 11.1);

G – Decoration by relief: Knobs-elongated, a subtype of **G2** – vertical (fig. 11.2);

J – Impressed ornamentation: fingertips impressions (fig. 11.3, 4; 12.1–3). The latter type may also add subtype **J1** – fingertips impressions, combined with straight lines (fig. 13.1) and **J2** – stamps impressions (fig. 13.2).

In the complex there are also ceramics without ornamentation (fig. 14.1–6; 01/08/15). Thus, part of one of the vessels was used as a ceramic scraper (fig. 15.1).

Of course, in the illustrations that accompany these types of ornamentation, are mostly fragmented pieces of tableware, therefore there are some problems with the correctness of the conclusions, so naturally this topic requires additional study and clarification.



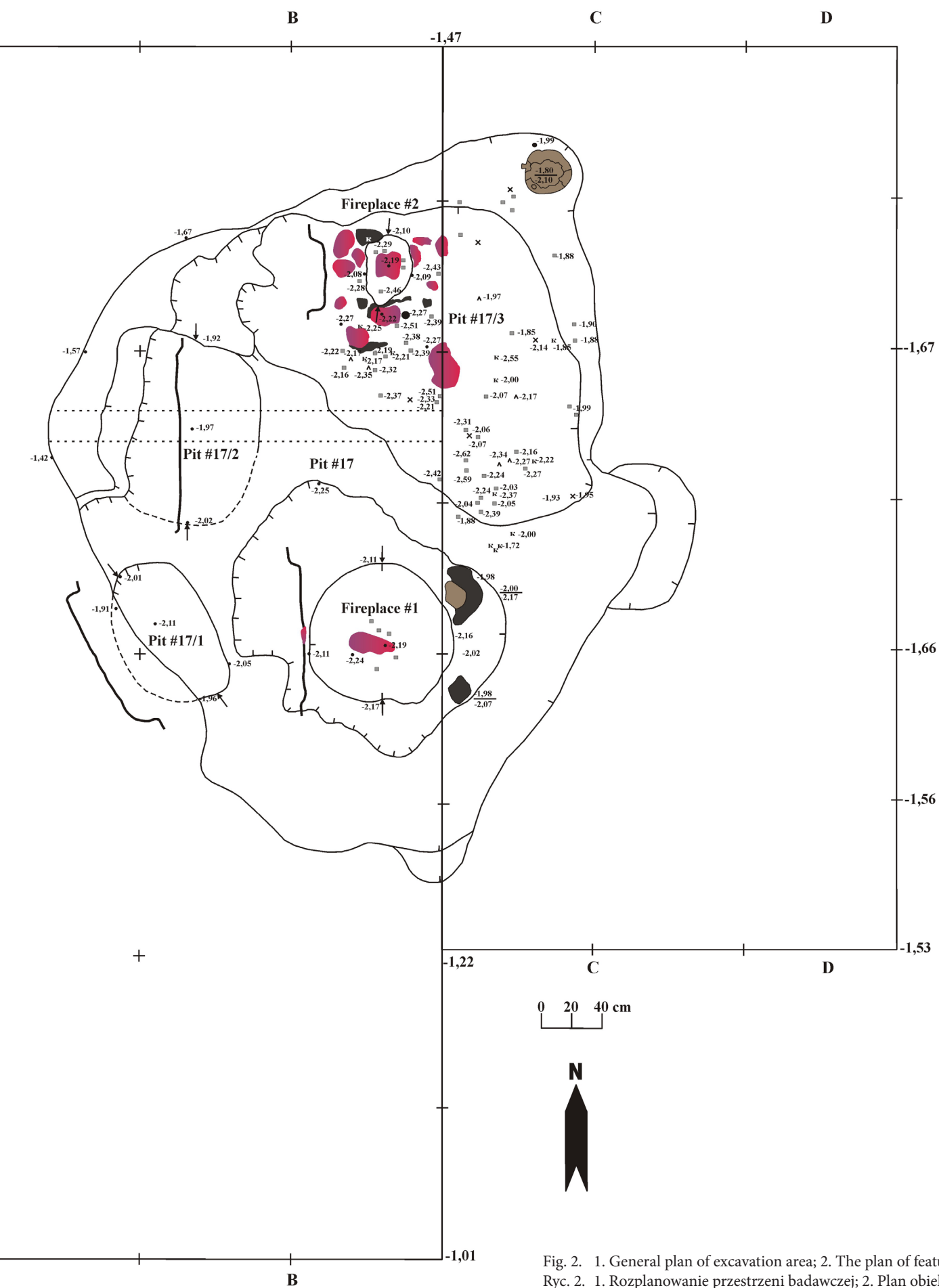


Fig. 2. 1. General plan of excavation area; 2. The plan of feature 17
Ryc. 2. 1. Rozplanowanie przestrzeni badawczej; 2. Plan obiektu 17

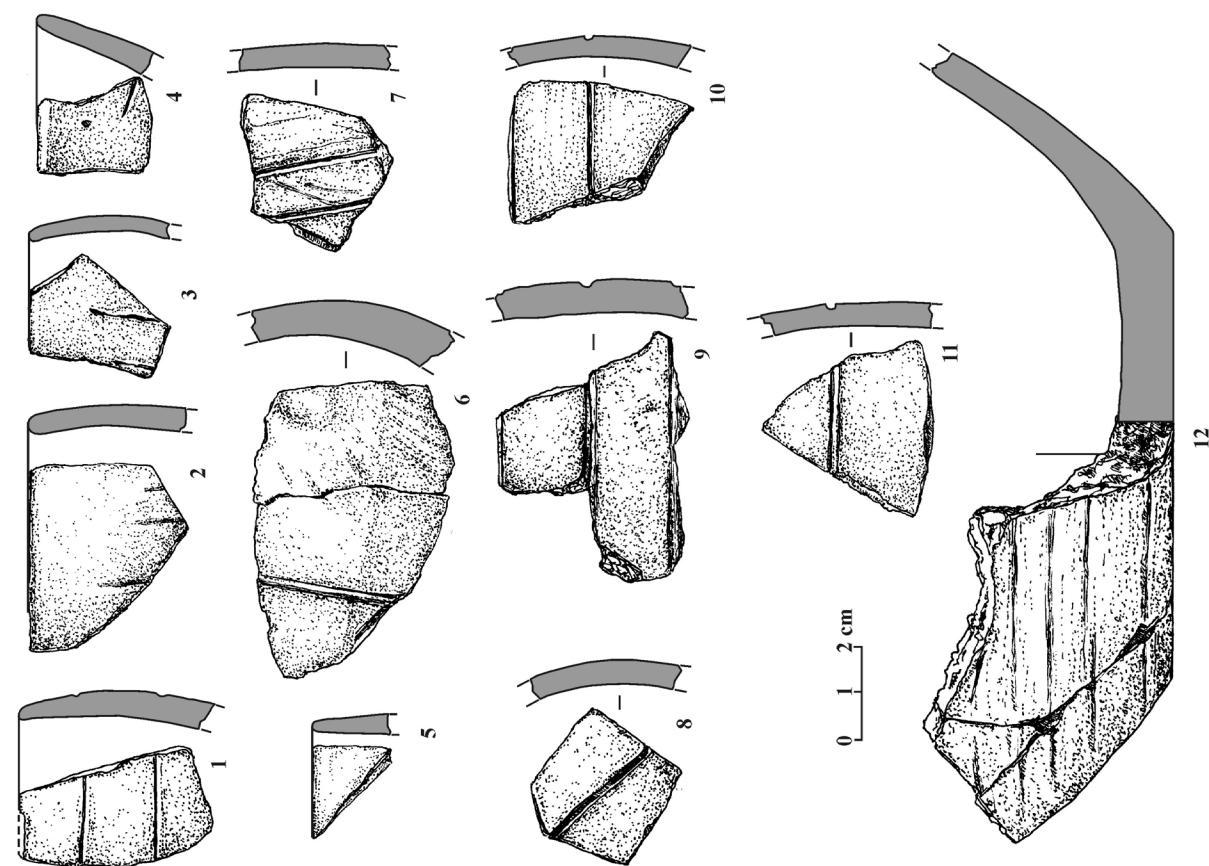


Fig. 3. Pottery ornamentation in type A1 (1-12)
Ryc. 3. Ceramika zdobiona w typie A1(1-12)

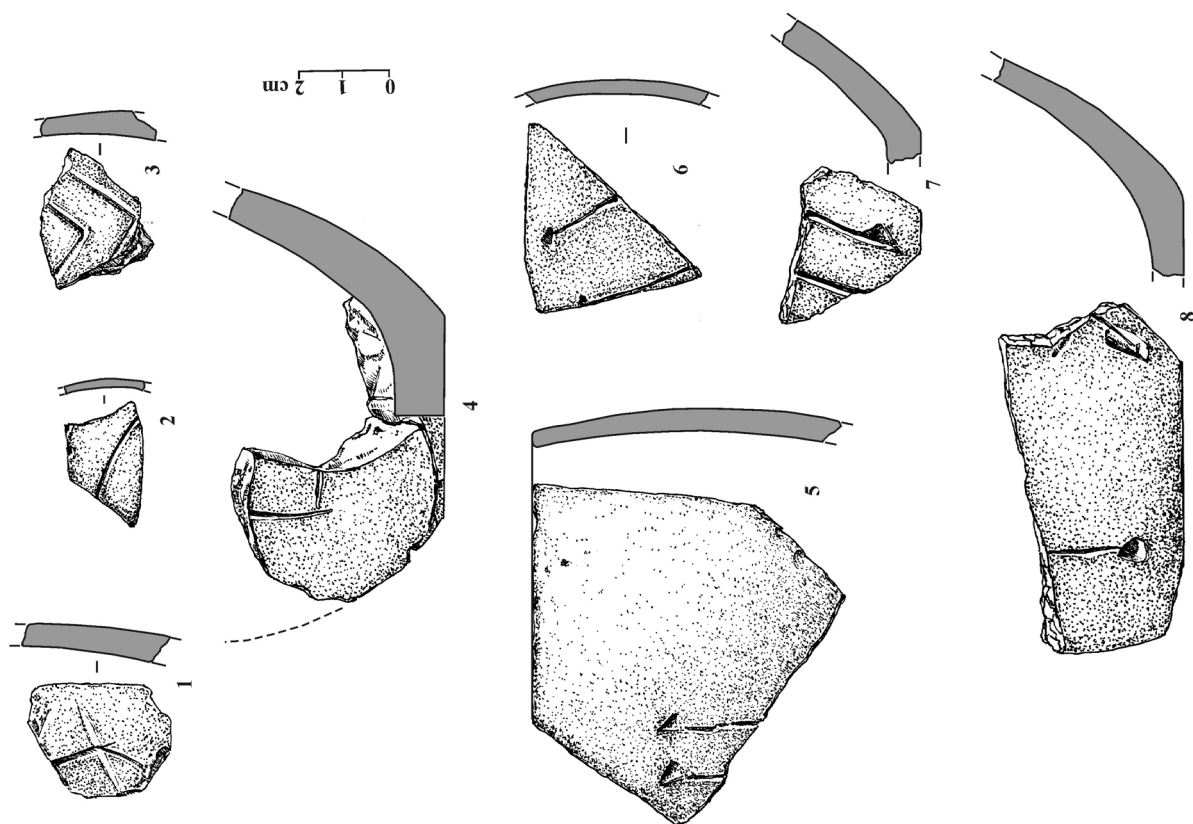


Fig. 4. Pottery ornamentation: type A2 (1, 2), type A3 (3, 4), type B2 (5, 6, 7, 8)
Ryc. 4. Ceramika ornamentowana: typ A2 (1, 2), typ A3 (3, 4), typ B2 (5-8)

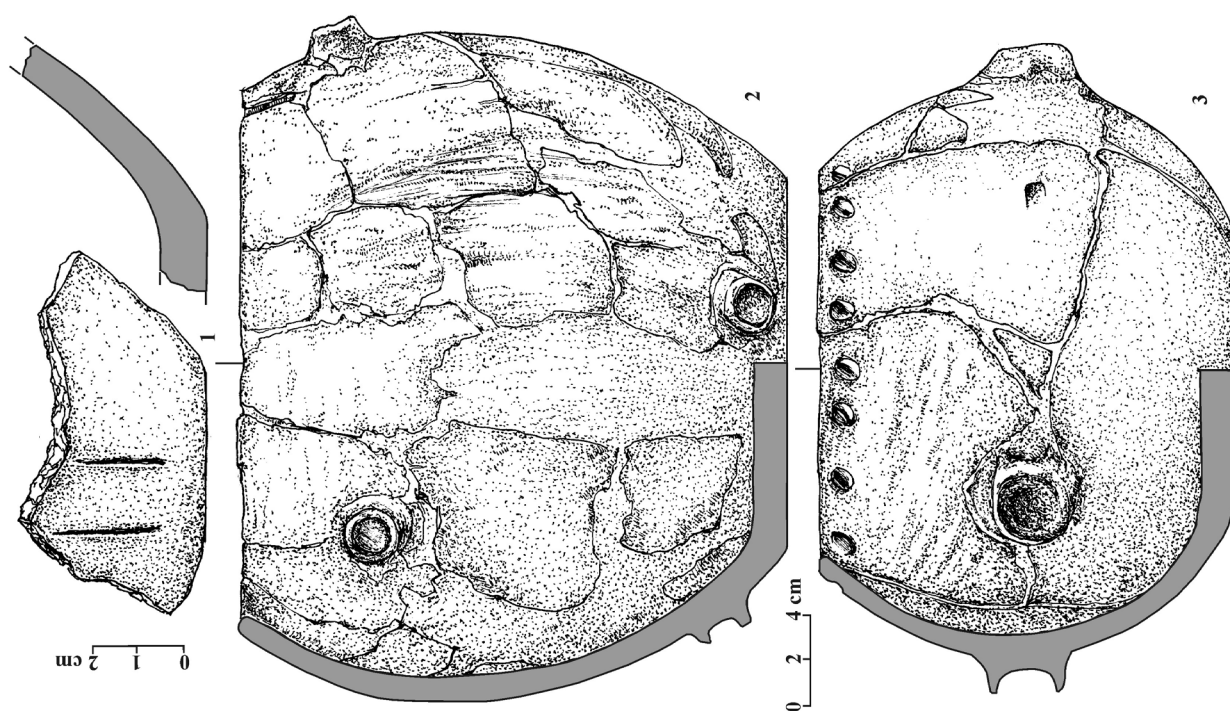


Fig. 6. Pottery ornamentation: type C2 (1), type E1 (2, 3)
Ryc. 6. Ceramika ornamentowana: typ C2 (1), typ E1 (2, 3)

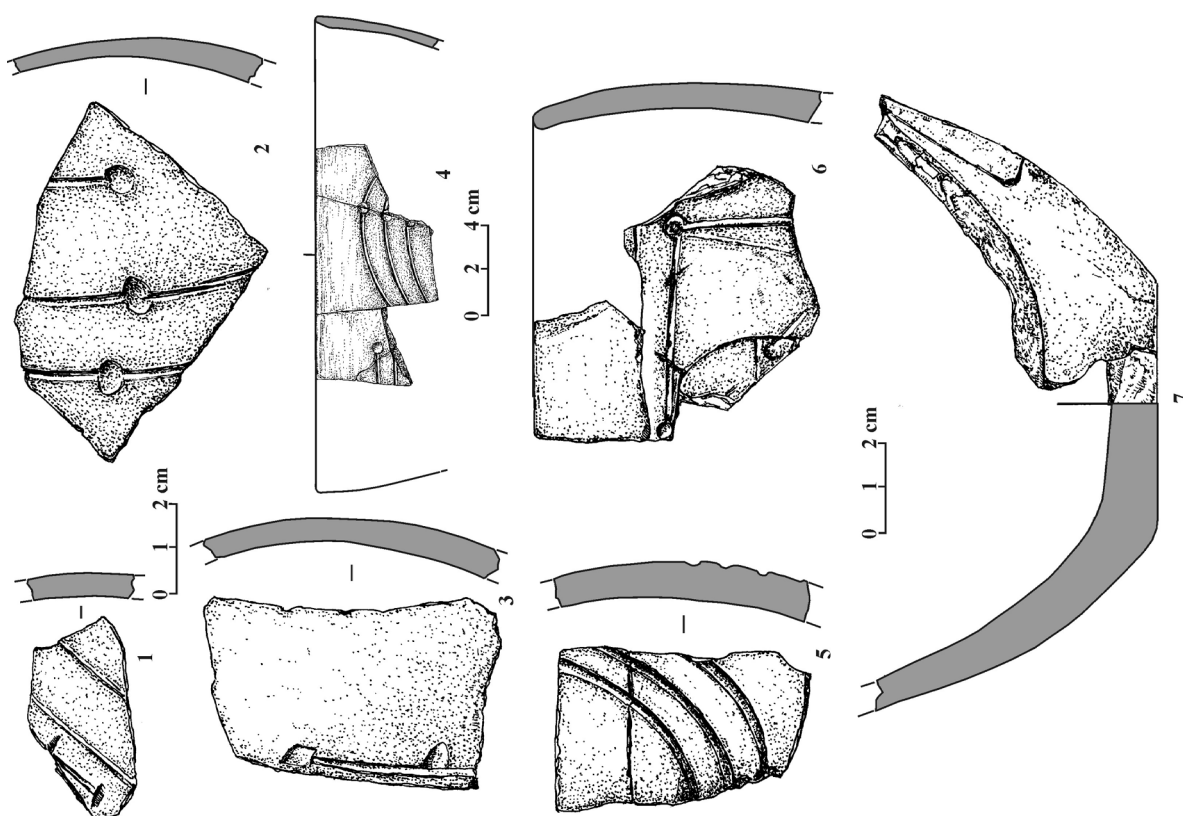


Fig. 5. Pottery ornamentation: type B3 (1-3), type B4 (4, 5), type B6 (6, 7)
Ryc. 5. Ceramika ornamentowana: typ B3 (1-3), typ B4 (4, 5), typ B6 (6, 7)

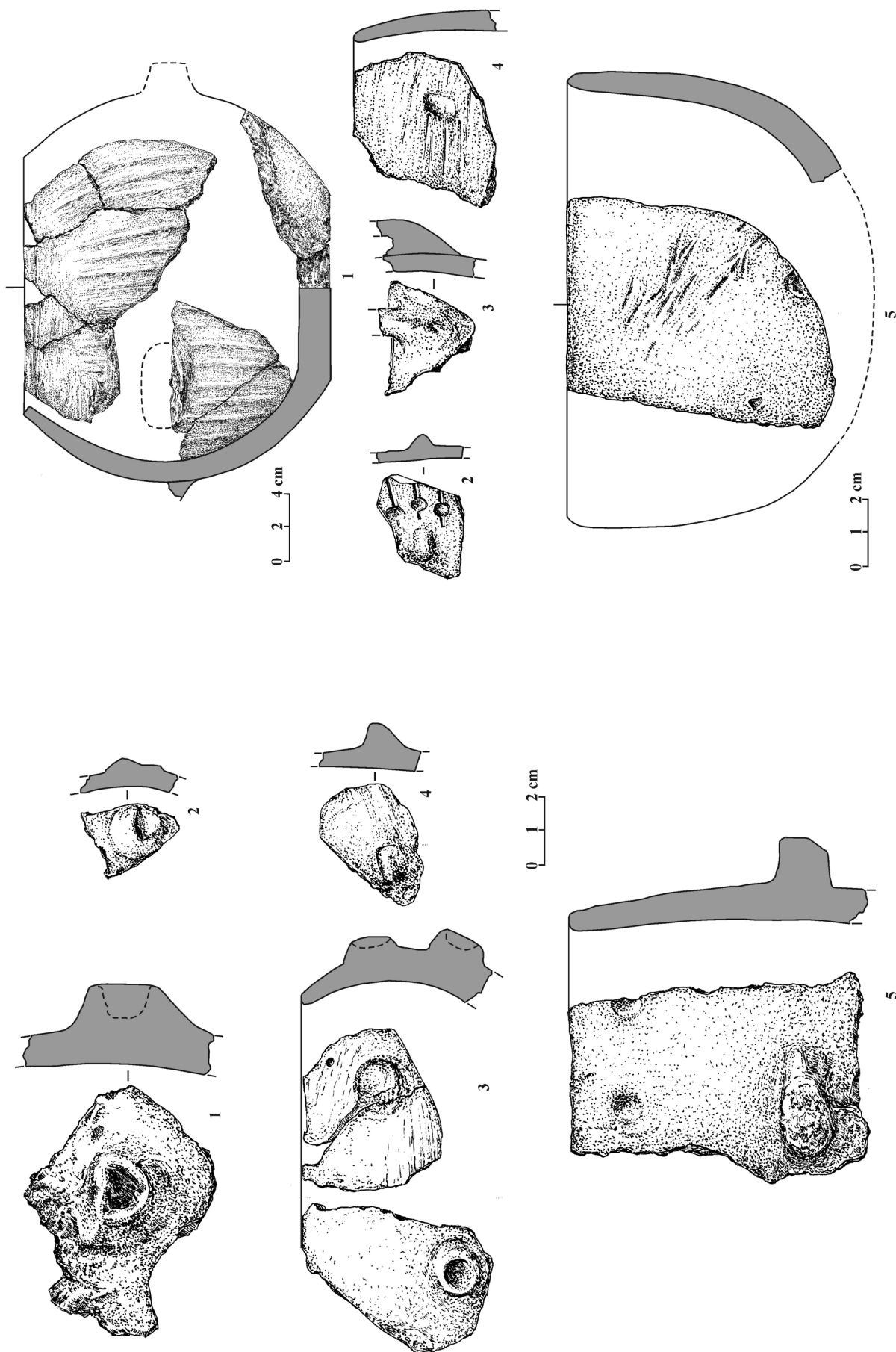


Fig. 7. Pottery ornamentation: type E1 (1-3), type F1 (4, 5)
Ryc. 7. Ceramika ornamentowana: typ E1 (1-3), typ F1 (4, 5)

Fig. 8. Pottery ornamentation: type F1 (1), type F4 (2), type G2 (3), type J (4, 5)
Ryc. 8. Ceramika ornamentowana: typ F1 (1), typ F4 (2), typ G2 (3), typ J (4, 5)

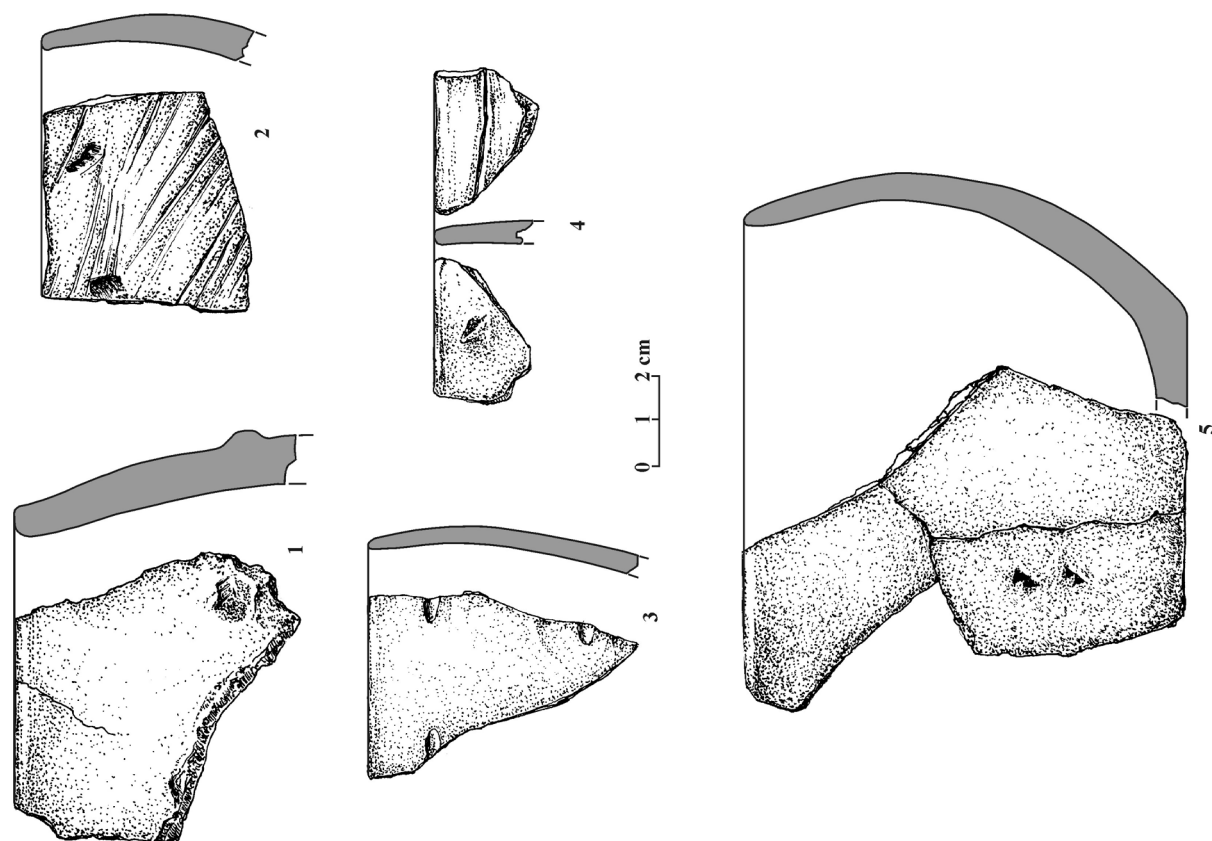


Fig. 9. Pottery ornamentation: type J (1-3), type J1 (4), type J2 (5)
 Ryc. 9. Ceramika ornamentowana: typ J (1-3), typ J1 (4), typ J2 (5)

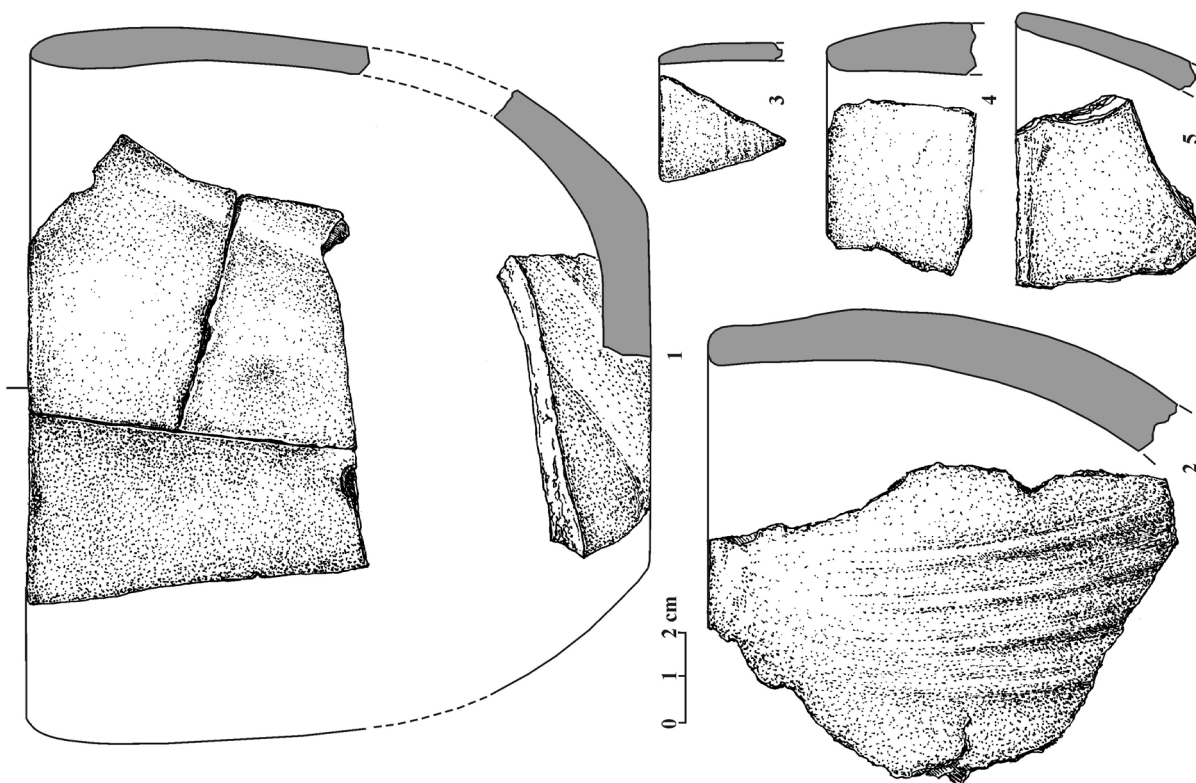


Fig. 10. Undecorated pottery (1-5)
 Ryc. 10. Ceramika niezdobiona (1-5)

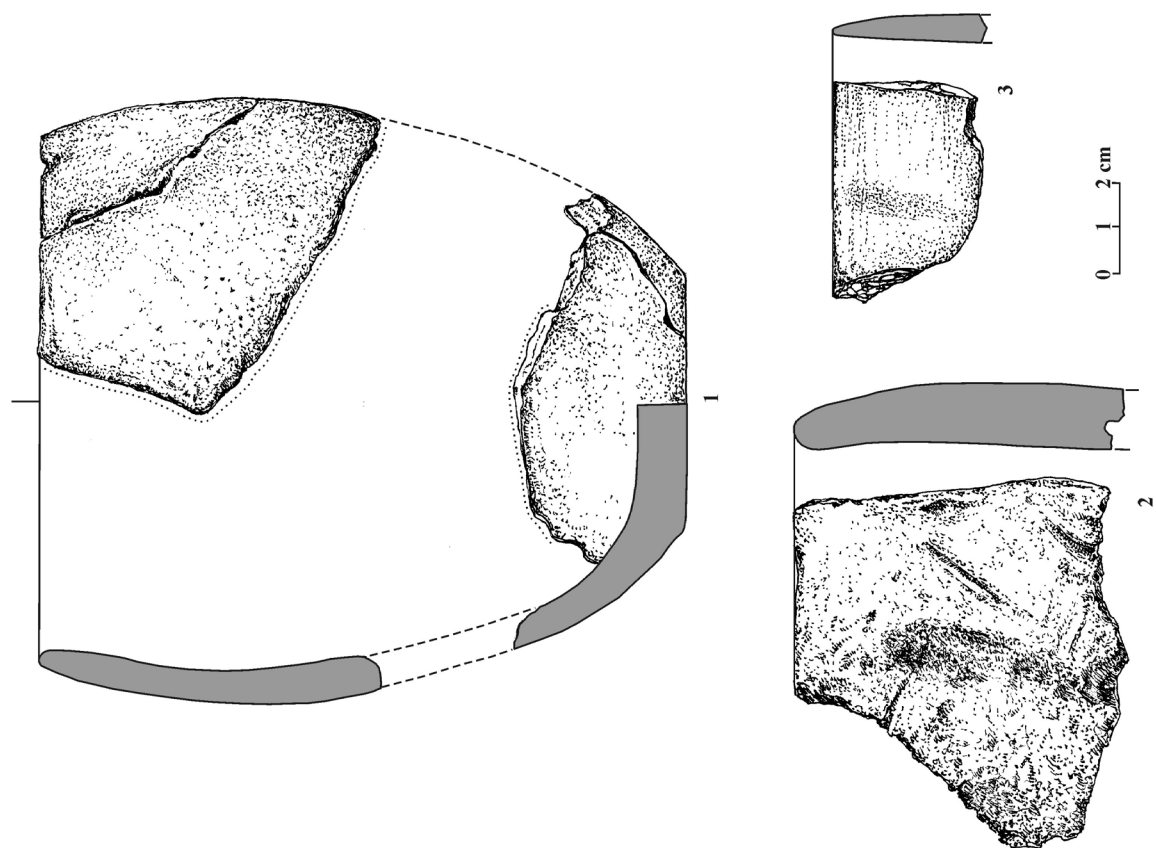


Fig. 11. Undecorated pottery (1-3)
Ryc. 11. Ceramika niezdobiona (1-3)

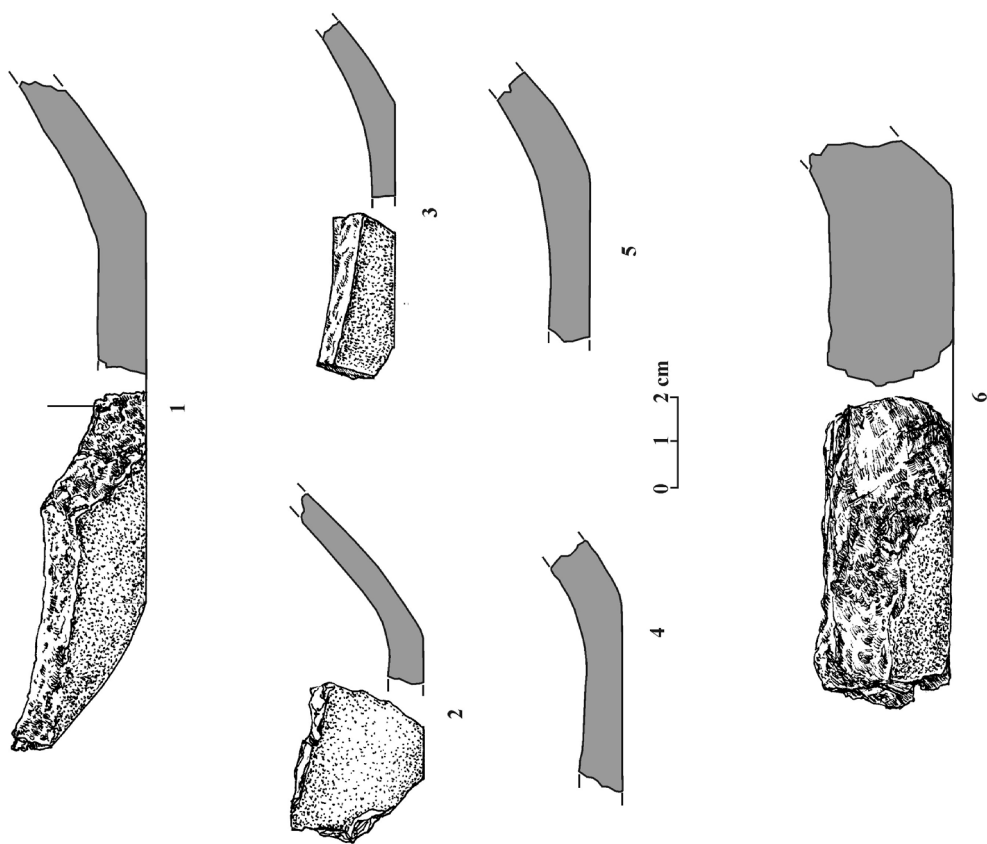


Fig. 12. Pottery bases (1-6)
Ryc. 12. Dna naczyń (1-6)

CONCLUSION

The pottery complex of feature 17 of multilayer site Ratniv-II is quite clear cultural and chronological affiliation – middle or so-called the Music Note phase of Linear Pottery Culture, which dates fall into the second half of the sixth and early fifth millennium BC. As for the similarities, they are widely known as in Western Ukraine (Holyshiv and Hnidava – G. Ohrimenko 2001; Tadani – O. Lenartowicz 2012; Mezhyrich – M. Dębiec,

T. Saile, O.L. Pozihovs'kij 2014) and beyond: Opoj (Slovakia) (K. Hladiková, K. Piatničková 2009); Kruszyn 3/10 (object A42) (S. Rzepecki 2014); Brzhezze-17 (objects 63, 67, 90, 158, 238, 294, 301) (A. Czekaj-Zastawny 2014); Chlewiska-132 and Wiktoryn-2 (Poland) (S. Rzepecki 2013); Dănceni-I, Rogojeni-II, Singerei-I (Moldova) (O.V. Larina 1999) and other countries.

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Neolityczny kompleks ceramiki z obiektu 17 z wielokulturowego stanowiska Ratniv II (Wołyń, zachodnia Ukraina)

Streszczenie

Wielokulturowe stanowisko Ratniv II na Wołyniu (region łucki) zajmuje pierwszą terasę nadzalewową rzeki Czarnehuzka. W wyniku przeprowadzonych w 2014 roku badań archeologicznych na osadzie odkryto 50 obiektów o zróżnicowanej chronologii – od neolitu po wczesne średniowiecze. W centrum przebadanego obszaru natrafiono na interesujący obiekt – nr 17, który stał się podstawą niniejszego artykułu.

Była to owalna konstrukcja o wymiarach 5×4 m oraz miąższości 120 cm, w ramach której odnotowano również 4 jamy i 2 paleniska.

W wypełnisku obiektu natrafiono na ceramikę kultury ceramiki wstęgowej rytej, która mieści się w standardzie środkowej lub tzw. nutowej fazy tej kultury, a datować ją można na 2. poł. VI i początek V tys. p.n.e. Szerokie analogie do tego zespołu znajdujemy zarówno na terytorium zachodniej Ukrainy, jak i na obszarach sąsiednich (m.in. Słowacja, Polska, Mołdawia).

