

## FUNERARY PRACTICES IN THE NECROPOLISES BELONGING TO THE ANCIENT COMMUNITIES AT ALBURNUS MAIOR

Paul Damian, Mihaela Simion (Romania)

**Key-words:** Roman Period, cremation, bustum.

**Abstract.** *The exploitation and economic site at Roşia Montană evolved and the gentes ex toto orbe romana arrived in here, allured by the mirage of the gold. The fact that in most of the necropolises from Alburnus Maior there are elements that indicate a very heterogeneous funerary configuration might reopen the debate on the means by which the auriferous zone was economically colonized.*

Situated in the centre of the region known as “the auriferous quadrilateral”, within a perimeter in the western Carpathians where the main economic activity is strongly linked, since ancient times, to the exploitation of the auriferous deposits, Roşia Montană (*Alburnus Maior*) occupies a distinctive place among the Roman period sites in the Dacia province (Pl. 1.)

Roşia Montană became known to the scholars of the Antiquity due to the chance discovery, during the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> c. of the wax coated tablets, unique category of artefacts found in rather uncertain conditions, inside the historic mining galleries<sup>1</sup>. Information regarding the ancient gold mining centre was completed over time by a number (about 75) of epigraphic monuments<sup>2</sup>, also brought to light without a certain archaeological context.

An investment mining project in the auriferous perimeter of Roşia Montană has determined a series of actions related to the rescue of the archaeological and historical heritage in the area, as well as a program aiming to present to the public this heritage via an ambitious editorial program and a new museum.

There is neither the place, nor the time of the present topic to allow a review of the various discoveries pertaining to the Roman period which have practically determined in the last few years the reconsideration of the site’s history<sup>3</sup>. Probably the most spectacular domain in which the preventive archaeological researches from Roşia Montană brought an important contribution is the funerary one. The large scale excavations undertaken in the last six years at Roşia Montană (ancient *Alburnus Maior*) made possible a series of clarifications regarding the funerary behaviour of the ancient communities who resided and worked in the area in Roman times. There have been investigated, up to now, five cremation necropolises (Hop-Găuri<sup>4</sup>, Pârâul Porcului/Tăul Secuilor<sup>5</sup>, Tăul Cornii<sup>6</sup>, Țarina<sup>7</sup>, Jig - Piciorag<sup>8</sup>) and two funerary areas (Carpeni<sup>9</sup> and Szekely<sup>10</sup>) comprising more than 1,450 funerary structures. (Pl. 2.)

<sup>1</sup> The number of initial finds must have been over 40, but those identified with certainty to date are 32 (3 having been lost over time, but after publication), the actual pieces being included today in the collections of the museums in Aiud (2 parts of a triptych), Bucharest (2 tablets), Cluj (11 tablets, of which 6 unpublished), Sebeş (one unpublished), Budapest (13 tablets), and those of the Battyaneum Library in Alba Iulia (one tablet) and of the “Timotei Cipariu” Library in Blaj (2 tablets). The unanimously accepted opinion among specialists is that they were placed for safe keeping in inaccessible mine galleries, at a time of crisis, probably related to the Marcomanic incursions into Dacia during 167-170 AD. Tudor 1957, pp. 31-40; Macrea 1969, p. 69; Daicovicu, Piso 1975, pp. 159-163.

<sup>2</sup> IDR III/3, pp. 374-422.

<sup>3</sup> See Alburnus Maior I, Alburnus Maior II, and Alburnus Maior III.

<sup>4</sup> CCA 2001 (2002), pp. 210-211, no. 173/3; pp. 254-257, no. 182; pp. 261-262, no. 185; pp. 262-263, no. 186; pp. 264-265, no. 188; pp. 263-264, no. 187; pp. 265-266, no. 189; CCA 2002 (2003), pp. 254-256, no. 182; CCA 2002 (2003), pp. 105-106, no. 63; Alburnus Maior I, 2003, pp. 45-80; 81-122; 123-148; 149-192; 193-251; 501-505; 505-507; Alburnus Maior II, 2005.

<sup>5</sup> Alburnus Maior I, Bucharest 2003, pp. 31-33, CCA 2004 (2005), 187; CCA 2005 (2006), 158.

<sup>6</sup> Alburnus Maior I, Bucharest 2003, pp. 31-33, CCA 2002 (2003), p. 92-104, Alburnus Maior III.

<sup>7</sup> Alburnus Maior I, Bucharest 2003, pp. 31-33, CCA 2003 (2004), 264-280; CCA 2004 (2005), 187.

Prior to the field researches from Roşia Montană, the archaeological literature upon the cremation graves from the Lower Danube and – sometimes – Thracia provinces was influenced in a significant manner by the typological framework proposed by Milutin Garašanin<sup>11</sup>. Thereby the cremation graves have been directly assigned to this typology without any subsequent interpretation.

The systematic or the rescue archaeological researches undertaken in this type of sites all across Europe have determined – as a direct consequence – the setting up of a standard of the morphological types related to the cremation graves<sup>12</sup>. In the same time, the experimental archaeology focussed, due to the specific problems raised by the interpretation of this type of graves, on the clarification of certain aspects linked to the assignation of the rite variant. Thus, a series of experiments were made in order to reconstruct certain elements of the ritual performed on the cremation moment. Following these experiments and their results, the use of the previous terminology (i.e.: “grave with the pit ritually purified”) becomes at least obsolete, in the absence of further archaeological, scientific and experimental arguments<sup>13</sup>.

The cremation rite is a funerary practice common for most of the traditional societies and implies a process in – at least – two stages. The first one consists of the physical act of the cremation, being the last “chapter” of the ritual performed to expel the deceased from the community of the living ones. The second one is related to the “voyage” of the deceased into the community of the dead ones, being the first “chapter” of the rituals performed to integrate the deceased to his new condition.

Both sequences are rather difficult to be observed by strict archaeological approaches, but there can be identified based on a combined analysis of the information provided both by the heedful archaeological observation and the careful interpretation of the disposal manner for the funerary inventory. On other words, this approach refers to the morphology of the graves, strictly seen as funerary arrangements (structures), together with their internal stratigraphy and the artefacts’ position inside the grave.

This is why, on the current stage of research one can define, following the analysis for the funerary complexes from Roşia Montană, the following technical categories:

**a) graves with cremation on site (the area where the cremation was performed corresponds with the one of the grave itself) - *bustum*.**

On this case one can distinguish two different situations, respectively:

**a.1. *The graves with burned step-pit***

On most cases the pit’s walls are vertical or slightly widened outwards (having a trapezoidal shape in section), the platform is flat and the lower level is rectangular. We could also observe an adaptation of the funerary pit’s layout to the soil’s geomorphologic structure and to the slope’s configuration. Thus there are situations when the pits’ walls are vertical or slightly widened out, but the platform isn’t perfectly flat. These cases are determined by the geomorphologic composition of the layer in which the grave’s pit was dug in, this being the case of the layer containing blocks of grit stone. In other cases the pit was dug on the natural slope, which caused a difference between the levels of the grave’s limits.

These pits’ dimensions vary between 1.42–3.60 m in length, 0.92–1.95 m in width, the layer containing the cremation remains being laid evenly, usually on the lower level. On the platform there can be found traces of charcoal mixed with ashes and burnt bones. In some cases the lower level is marked with stones set on its contour.

***Case study – Grave no. 198 from the Pârâul Porcului/Tăul Secuilor necropolis (Pl. 3)***

Rectangular pit, with slightly bent walls, flat bottom; stepped pit; length = 2.20 m; width = 1.35 m (upper level); length = 0.47 m; width = 0.40 m (lower level); depth = 0.55 m. Orientation: NW–SE. The pit was burned (discontinuous burning – 0.04 m thick – on the side walls).

The cremated bones are laid in a compact layer on the lower level, without being separated from the remains of the pyre (consistent deposit of charcoal, carbonized beam fragments and cremated bones). The

<sup>8</sup> CCA 2003 (2004), 262-264, 264-267, CCA 2004 (2005), 297-298.

<sup>9</sup> Alburnus Maior I, 2003, pp. 387-431, 433-446, 447-467.

<sup>10</sup> Alburnus Maior I.

<sup>11</sup> Garašanin 1968, pp. 5-35.

<sup>12</sup> Bechert 1980, pp. 253-258; Nierhaus 1969, pp. 250-253; Bridger 1993, pp. 349-420.

<sup>13</sup> Binford 1963, pp. 98-110; Gaitzsch, Werner 1993, pp. 17-40; McKinley, 1994, pp. 339-342.

layer's thickness ranges between 0.16-0.19 m. Burn marks, a thin layer of charcoal, ashes and fragments of burnt bones – larger than any discovered in other funerary complexes so far – have been observed on the platform. The grave's inventory was laid either directly on the cremated remains, or on the lower level's limit – on the filling (on the platform) –, after which the complex was “sealed”.

**Inventory:** ceramics: two cups with leg, two plates, two lamps; glass: one *unguentarium*; iron: seven spikes, two nails, three tacks, one unidentified iron object.

**a.2. The graves with burned rectangular pits.**

This type of pit usually has smaller dimensions and has two sub-types, according to their profiles:

- a) with walls slightly widened out and a flat bottom (trapezoidal in section);
- b) concave pits.

The former type is predominant and most graves discovered in the analysed necropolises fit to this description.

The walls and the pit's bottom have – in most cases – an orange-red burned crust of variable thickness (1–4 cm), according to the intensity of the fire they were subjected to, the soil's characteristics and different external factors (like atmospheric conditions, volatile substances or the quantity of wood used in the cremation process). In some cases the burn on the walls isn't consistent or continuous. The layer of cremated remains on the pit's bottom also had a variable thickness (from 1–2 cm up to 30–40 cm).

Case study – **Grave no. 200 from Pârâul Porcului/Tăul Secuilor necropolis** (Pl. 4.)

Rectangular pit with slightly bent walls, trapezoidal shape in cross-section and a flat bottom. length = 1.80 m; width = 0.98 m; depth = 0.30. Orientation: NE–SW. The pit was burned (discontinuous burning, 0.03-0.04 m thick).

The cremated bones mixed with charcoal are laid on the lower level, in a layer 0.06-0.12 m thick. There have not been observed any traces of intermediary treatment of the cremated remains, which were deposited without being separated from the remains of the pyre (consistent deposit of charcoal, ash fragments and minute cremated bones fragments laid evenly on the pit's bottom). The grave's inventory was laid either directly on the cremated remains, after which the complex was sealed.

**Inventory:** ceramics: three pitchers, one *turibulum* and three lamps; iron: one spike, two nails and three tacks.

**b) Structures for the disposal of the incinerated bones, separated or not from the remains of the funerary pyre (graves which do not correspond to the place where the body was cremated) – graves with burning at *ustrinum*.**

Also in this case one can distinguish the following two distinctive situations:

**b.1.** A first case is the one when the cremated remains – possible subjected to an intermediary treatment of partial separation from the burnt wood – were laid directly in the pit, after which the funerary complex was covered.

Case study – **Grave no. 132 from Tăul Cornii necropolis** (Pl. 5.)<sup>14</sup>

An irregular pit, with slightly bent walls, having a concave shape in cross-section; uneven bottom. Length = 2.00 m; width = 0.90 m; depth = 0.51 m; orientation: NV–SE. Not burnt pit.

The fragments of cremated bone are laid – without being separated from the pyre's remains (compact level of charcoal, fragments of burnt bones, ashes and filling earth). The thickness of the cremation remains' level is 0.24 m, being evenly distributed on the pit's bottom.

**Inventory:** ceramics: one *turibulum*, one cup, one lid, one lamp; iron: three spikes, three nails and four tacks.

**b.2.** The second situation is the one of the *graves with the cremation remains deposited in certain types of recipients*. There have been defined two sub-types of such recipients: the ceramic (urns) recipients and the stone (*cistae*) recipients<sup>15</sup>.

Case study – **Grave no. 237 from Pârâul Porcului/Tăul Secuilor necropolis** (Pl. 6.)

Rectangular pit, with slightly bent walls; having a concave shape in cross-section. Length = 1.52 m;

<sup>14</sup> *Apud* Alburnus Maior III, pl. 106.

<sup>15</sup> With a special remark that this type of burial, namely the one in *cista* is a rare one among the graves found in the necropolises from *Alburnus Maior*, in comparison with the other described types.

width = 0.90 m; depth = 1.08 m; orientation: NNE–SSW. Grave with the cremated remains laid in an undecorated stone *cista* with a ridged cover (L= 1.04 m, w = 0.56 m; h = 0.30 m). Unburnt pit.

Inside the *cista* was not identified any distinct layer of cremated remains, due to the taphonomic conditions (the recipient's filling consisted of water and mud), with the exception of a tooth. The complex's inventory was distributed inside the *cistae* (coin, *unguentarium*), as well as outside.

**Inventory:** ceramics: two lamps; glass: two *unguentaria*; bronze: coin; iron: six spikes, three nails, one tack and one unidentifiable object.

The presence of external structures or layouts of the graves' pits is one of the characteristics of these necropolises. Thus we came across both the simple form of the girdle, as well as that of the funerary precinct. Also, on a certain number of cases was observed the presence of the tumular arrangements (especially in the Pârâul Porcului/Tăul Secuilor necropolis).

In conclusion, on all the necropolises from Roşia Montană are present the following elements:

- a) *bustum* incineration graves with step-pit;
- b) the tumular structure of certain exterior layouts;
- c) the combination of the *busta* and *ustrina* variants within the same funerary site.
- d) the frequent presence of exterior layouts – stone rings.

The typology of incineration graves within the Roman necropolises dating from the imperial period in the Danubian provinces<sup>16</sup> has consecrated the variant of Mala Kopašnica–Sase<sup>17</sup> classification (types I, II and III) for this category of grave types. In Roman Dacia, such funeral complexes have been researched at Cinciş<sup>18</sup> and in the Boteş – Corabia necropolises<sup>19</sup> etc. South of the Danube, the presence of this ring type structures in such associations is a characteristic of the necropolises in the east of Moesia Superior, with instances such as Zavoj<sup>20</sup> (near Pirot), Namanjci (Sveti Nicola)<sup>21</sup>, Rudnik<sup>22</sup> etc. Particular significance must be given to the association between step-pits and tumular layouts with or without ring type structures within the necropolis at Pârâul Porcului/Tăul Secuilor, Tăul Cornii, Hop Găuri and Jig - Piciorag. In the provinces of Moesia Inferior and Thracia, *bustum* graves seem to form the dominant rite starting with the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Step-pit graves<sup>23</sup>, in connexion with tumular layouts, are a constant presence both in the necropolises of Greek towns and in those pertaining of the Roman towns in Dobroudja<sup>24</sup>. Such funerary complexes have been researched in the necropolises at Noviodunum<sup>25</sup>, Carsium<sup>26</sup>, Histria<sup>27</sup>, Tomis<sup>28</sup>, Callatis<sup>29</sup>, Capidava<sup>30</sup> etc.

On the present territory of Bulgaria over 200 burial sites from the Roman age were identified, counting approx. 1000 tumuli<sup>31</sup>. Likewise, a similar archaeological situation is that recorded in the part of former Moesia Inferior province laying nowadays in Dobruja. We must mention the fact that in these provinces, unlike the situation recorded in Pannonia, Dalmatia, Macedonia and part of Moesia Superior, this type of grave appears in connection with tumular layouts of various dimensions, with or without elaborated funerary

<sup>16</sup> Identified under the generic term *Illyricum*.

<sup>17</sup> Garašanin 1968, pp. 5-34.

<sup>18</sup> Floca, Valea 1965, pp.163-194.

<sup>19</sup> Floca 1941, pp. 93-95; Wollmann 1996, pp. 225-226.

<sup>20</sup> Pejić 1992, pp. 50-79.

<sup>21</sup> Jovanović 2000, p. 208

<sup>22</sup> Jovanović 2000, p. 208

<sup>23</sup> Classified by P. Alexandrescu under the JaaVI type according to the analysis of the tumular necropolis at Histria. Alexandrescu 1966, pp. 133-294.

<sup>24</sup> Barbu 1977, pp. 204-214.

<sup>25</sup> Simion 1998, pp. 172-175, p. 188, fig. 13.

<sup>26</sup> Buzdugan *et al.* 2002, pp. 425-456.

<sup>27</sup> Alexandrescu 1966, p. 205

<sup>28</sup> Barbu 1971, pp. 46-49; Lungu, Chera 1986, pp. 89-111.

<sup>29</sup> Preda 1965, pp. 233-235, fig. 2/1, 2/2.

<sup>30</sup> Cheluță–Georgescu 1979, pp. 179-182.

<sup>31</sup> Vulčeva 1998, p. 644.

constructions. Although some funerary monuments of this type are also present in Moesia Superior<sup>32</sup>, the association between the *bustum* graves and the tumular configuration of the funeral monument seems to be characteristic of those in Moesia Inferior and Thracia. In fact, in a classification, A. Jovanović considers that the *busta* tumular graves with step-pit represent a distinct category, namely that of “Thracian” grave type<sup>33</sup>. According to this author, the system represents the Romanised version of the old burial traditions specific of Thracian–Dardanian–Missian<sup>34</sup> cultural horizon. The statistic analysis undertaken upon the elements which pertain of the funeral rite, namely of the cremation system, in the funeral incineration complexes dating from the Roman period that have been researched so far on the territory of Moesia Inferior indicate a percentage of 64% for the *bustum* grave type<sup>35</sup>. A similar situation is recorded in Thracia, with the mention that the percentage of graves with on site cremation is slightly higher (67%)<sup>36</sup>.

The configuration that resulted from the mapping of the tumular graves with step-pit indicates their grouping along the main watercourses. These nuclei were associated by some researchers with the administrative structures in the Roman period, where the former aristocracy of Thracian origins, in a context historically linked with the reorganization of the Balkan Peninsula<sup>37</sup>, asserted itself once more.

The western limit of the expansion of the *busta* type burials of “Thracian” origins seems to be that marked by the Južna Morava valley. Other possible nuclei are located in the Struma valley (with notable examples at Pautalia<sup>38</sup> and Kadin Most<sup>39</sup>), along the lower valley of the river Iskŭr (region of Sofia, Samokov), as well as along the valley of the Iantra and its affluents, around present-day localities Veliko Tŕrnovo, Džuljunica<sup>40</sup>, Krušet<sup>41</sup> and Strajica<sup>42</sup>, as well as in the zone of Butovo. The most frequent occurrences of this type of burial in connection with tumular graves is recorded in the area described by the hydrographical basin of the Mariža (Stara Zagora–Augusta Traiana<sup>43</sup>, Mericleri<sup>44</sup>, Plovdiv–Philippopolis<sup>45</sup>, Kabyle<sup>46</sup> etc.).

It is interesting to note the fact that for the above mentioned examples, regardless of the geographic position, all these sites are dated between the last quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and the first years of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

The fact that in most of the necropolises from Alburnus Maior there are elements that indicate a very heterogeneous funerary configuration might reopen the debate on the means by which the auriferous zone was economically colonized.

<sup>32</sup> Gračanica (Ulpiana) — tumular grave, *busta*, with step-pit, dating from the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD – first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. Likewise, burials of this type have been researched in the Južna Morava valley, in the region near Niš (Brestovac and Nozrena). Tumular complexes from the Roman period, so far left uninvestigated, were signalled in the same region at Krupak, Staničenje, Blato, Kalna, Knez Selo, Malošišta etc. Jovanović 1981, p. 15; Jovanović 2000, p. 207. The tumuli in the Niš region are situated, from the point of view of the ancient ethnic configuration, in the region dominated by anthroponyms of Thracian origins. Papazoglu 1969, p. 160.

<sup>33</sup> Jovanović 2000, pp. 207-208, fig. 21.5.

<sup>34</sup> Jovanović 2000, pp. 207-208, fig. 21.5.

<sup>35</sup> Vulčeva 1998, p. 651, fig. 3.

<sup>36</sup> Vulčeva 1998, p. 651, fig. 3.

<sup>37</sup> This complex phenomenon can be accounted for by the new direction adopted by imperial politics, namely reorganizing the administrative and military structures, a direction initiated by Trajan and finalised by his successor, Hadrian. For this problem see Suceveanu, Barnea 1991, *passim*; Gerov 1988, pp. 116-126, 137-189, all with their respective adjacent bibliographies.

<sup>38</sup> Jovanović 2000, pp. 207-208, fig. 21.5.

<sup>39</sup> Jovanović 2000, pp. 207-208, fig. 21.5.

<sup>40</sup> Jovanović 2000, pp. 207-208, fig. 21.5.

<sup>41</sup> Jovanović 2000, pp. 207-208, fig. 21.5.

<sup>42</sup> Pissarew 1977, pp. 201-205.

<sup>43</sup> Jovanović 2000, pp. 207-208, fig. 21.5.

<sup>44</sup> Aladzov 1965, pp. 77-128.

<sup>45</sup> Plovdiv, Concev 1960 p. 21.

<sup>46</sup> Getov 1982, p. 40.

The exploitation and economic site at Roșia Montană evolved and the *gentes ex toto orbe romana* arrived in here, allured by the mirage of the gold, transforming the area into a structure suggestively described by Vasile Pârvan as “Californian cities of international civilisation”.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

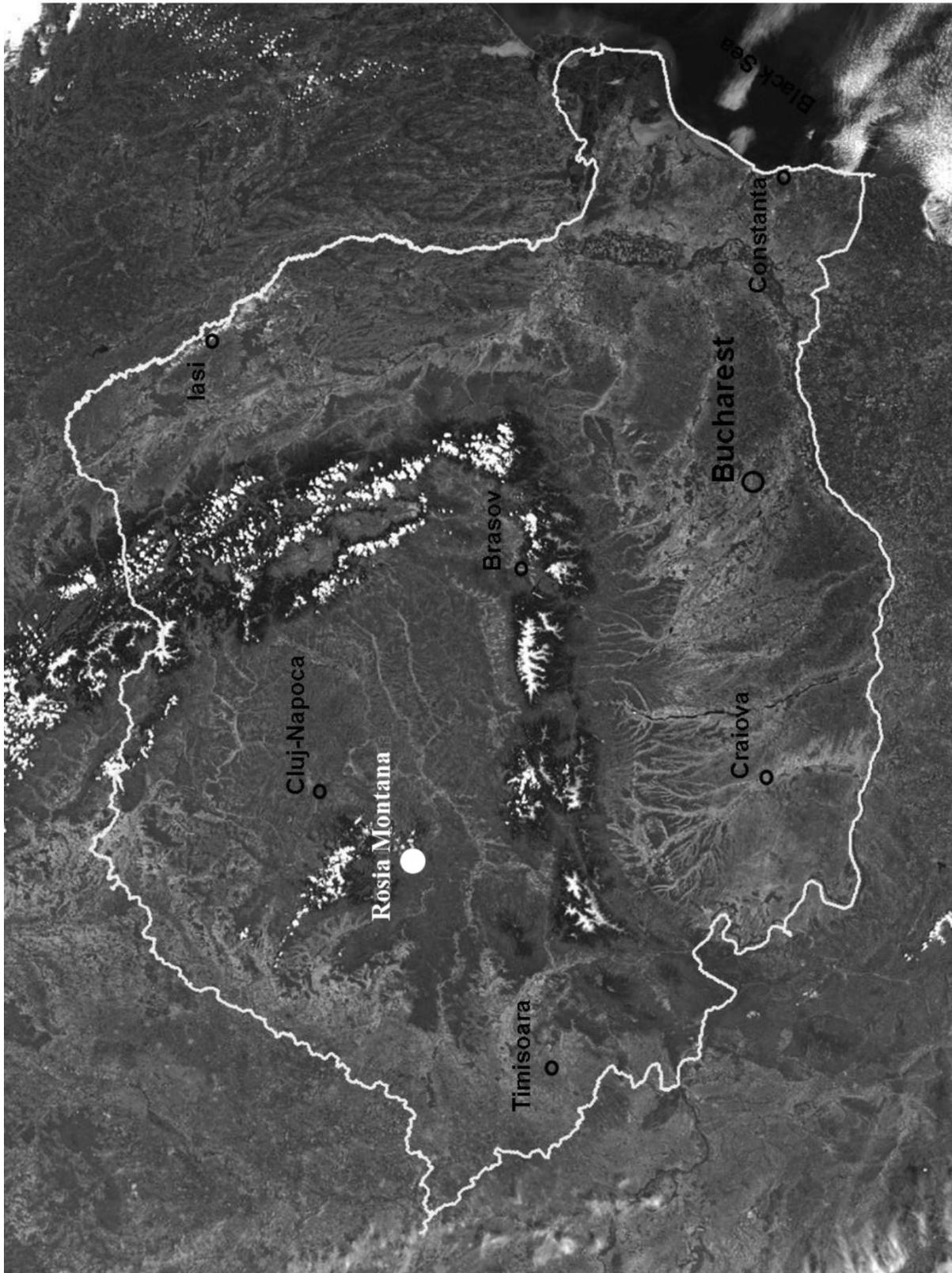
- Aladzov 1965 = D. Aladzov, *Tracorimski mogilen necropoli pri c. Mericleri*, in *IzvestijaSofia*, 28, 1965, p. 77–122.
- Alexandrescu 1966 = P. Alexandrescu, *Necropola Tumulară*, Histrionica II, Buc. 1966, p. 133–294.
- Barbu 1977 = Vasile Barbu, *Necropole de Epocă Romană în orașele Pontului Stâng; Caracteristici tipologice*, *Pontica*, 10, 1977, p. 203–214.
- Bechert 1980 = T. Bechert, *Zur Terminologie provinzialrömischer Brandgraber*, in *A K*, 10, 1980, p. 253–258.
- Binford 1963 = L. R. Binford, *An Analysis of Cremations from Three Michigan Sites*, in *Wisconsin Archeologist*, 44, 1963, p. 98–110.
- Bridger 1993 = C.J. Bridger, *Burial Practices in Roman Britain, a survey of grave treatment and furnishing*, in *Britannia*, 24, 1993, p. 349–420.
- Buzdugan et alii 2000 = C-tin Buzdugan, D. Popovici, Lia Bătrâna, A. Bătrâna, A. Murat, *Cercetări preliminare din necropola tumulară de la Hârșova*, *CAMNI*, XI/2, 1998–2000, p. 425–456.
- Cheluță-Georgescu 1979 = N. Cheluță-Georgescu, *Cercetări efectuate în necropola romană (Capidava-1978)*, *Raport preliminar*, in *MCA*, 13, 1979, p. 179–182.
- Concev 1960 = D. Concev, *Traco-rimskiat necropol v jloiztoinia krei na Philipopol*, in *GodisnicPlodviv*, 4, 1960, p. 121–147.
- Crăciun, Moga 2003 = Cristina Crăciun, V. Moga, *Cercetări de teren și sondaje*, in *Alburnus Maior I*, p. 33–42.
- Daicoviciu, Piso 1975 = H. Daicoviciu, I. Piso, *Sarmizegetusa și războaiele marcomanice*, in *ActaMN*, 12, 1975, p. 159–163.
- Floca 1941 = O. Floca, *Sistemele de înmormântare din Dacia Superioară romană*, in *Sargetia*, 2, 1941, p. 1–116.
- Floca, Valea 1965 = O. Floca, M. Valea, *Vila rustica și necropola de la Cinciș*, in *ActaMN*, 2, 1965, p. 163–194.
- Gaitzsch, Werner 1993 = W. Gaitzsch, A. Werner, *Rekonstruktion einer Brandbestattung vom Typ Bustum aufgrund archäologischer Befunde aus Siedlungen der Jülicher Lössbörde*, in STRUCK M. (éd.), *Römerzeitliche Gräber als Quellen zu Religion, Bevölkerungsstruktur und Sozialgeschichte*, *Archäologische Schriften des Instituts für Vor- und Frühgeschichte der Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz*, 3, p. 55–67.
- Garašanin 1968 = M. Garašanin, *Razmatraja o necropolama tipa Mala Kopašnica–Sase*, in *God. CBI*, IV, 1968, p. 5–35.
- Getov 1982 = L. Getov, *Trakiski moghilen necropol ot rimscata epoha pri Kabyle*, in *Kabyle*, I, Sofia 1982, p. 40–78.
- Gerov 1988 = B. Gerov, *Landownership in Roman Thracia and Moesia (1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> Century)*, Amsterdam.
- Jovanović 1981 = A. Jovanović, *Tumuli iz antičkog perioda u Srbiji i na Kosovu*, in *Starinar*, 31, 1980 (1981), p. 1–15.
- Jovanović 2000 = Al. Jovanović, *Romanization and ethnic elements in burial practice in the southern part of Pannonia Inferior and Moesia Superior*, in *Burial Society*, p. 204–215.
- Lungu, Chera 1986 = V. Lungu, C-tin Chera, *Contribuții la cunoașterea complexelor funerare de incinerare cu ”rug-busta” de epocă elenistică și romană de la Tomis*, *Pontica*, 19, 1986, p. 89–111.
- Macrea 1969 = M. Macrea, *Viața în Dacia Romană*, Bucharest, 1969.
- McKinley 1994 = J.I. McKinley, *Bone fragment size in British cremation burials and its implications for pyre technology and ritual*, in *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 21, 1994, p. 339–342.
- Nierhaus 1969 = R. Nierhaus, *Römerzeitliche Bestattungssitten im nördlichen Gallien. Autochtones und Mittelmeerlandisches.. Bemerkungen zu einem kurzlich erschienenen Buch*, in *Helinium*, 9, 1969, p. 245–262.

- Papazoglu 1969 = Fanula Papazoglu, *Srednjobalkanska plemena u predrimsko doba*, Sarajevo, 1960.  
 Pejic 1992 = P. Pejic, *The Roman Cemeteries in the Surroundings of Pirot*, Pirot, 1992.  
 Pissarew 1977 = A. Pissarew, *Ausgrabungen zur rettung eines Grabhügels bei der Stadt Stragiza, Bezirk V. Tirnovo*, in *Godišnik na muzejite ot Severnata Bulgarija*, 3, 1977, p. 201–204.  
 Preda 1961 = C. Preda, *Archaeological Discoveries in the Greek Cemetery of Callatis-Mangalia (IV<sup>th</sup>–III<sup>rd</sup> Centuries Before our era)*, in *Dacia NS*, 5, 1961, p. 275–303.  
 Simion 1998 = G. Simion, *Nécropoles des bouches du Danube, Pratiques, Rituels funéraires et ethnicité (VI<sup>e</sup> s. av. J.-C. –II<sup>e</sup> s. ap. J.-C.)*, in *Nécropoles et pouvoir*, p. 1998, p. 167–190.  
 Suceveanu, Barnea 1991 = Al. Suceveanu, Al. Barnea, *La Dobroudja romaine*, Bucharest, 1991  
 Tudor 1957 = D. Tudor, *Răscoale și atacuri barbare în Dacia Romană*, Bucharest, 1957.  
 Vulčeva 1998 = Darina Vulčeva, *Tumular Burials in Thrace and Moesia Inferior and the tumuli in other European Provinces*, in *The Thracians World*, p. 644–653.  
 Wollmann 1996 = V. Wollmann, *Mineritul metalifer, extragerea sării și carierele de piatră în Dacia Romană*, Cluj-Napoca, 1996.

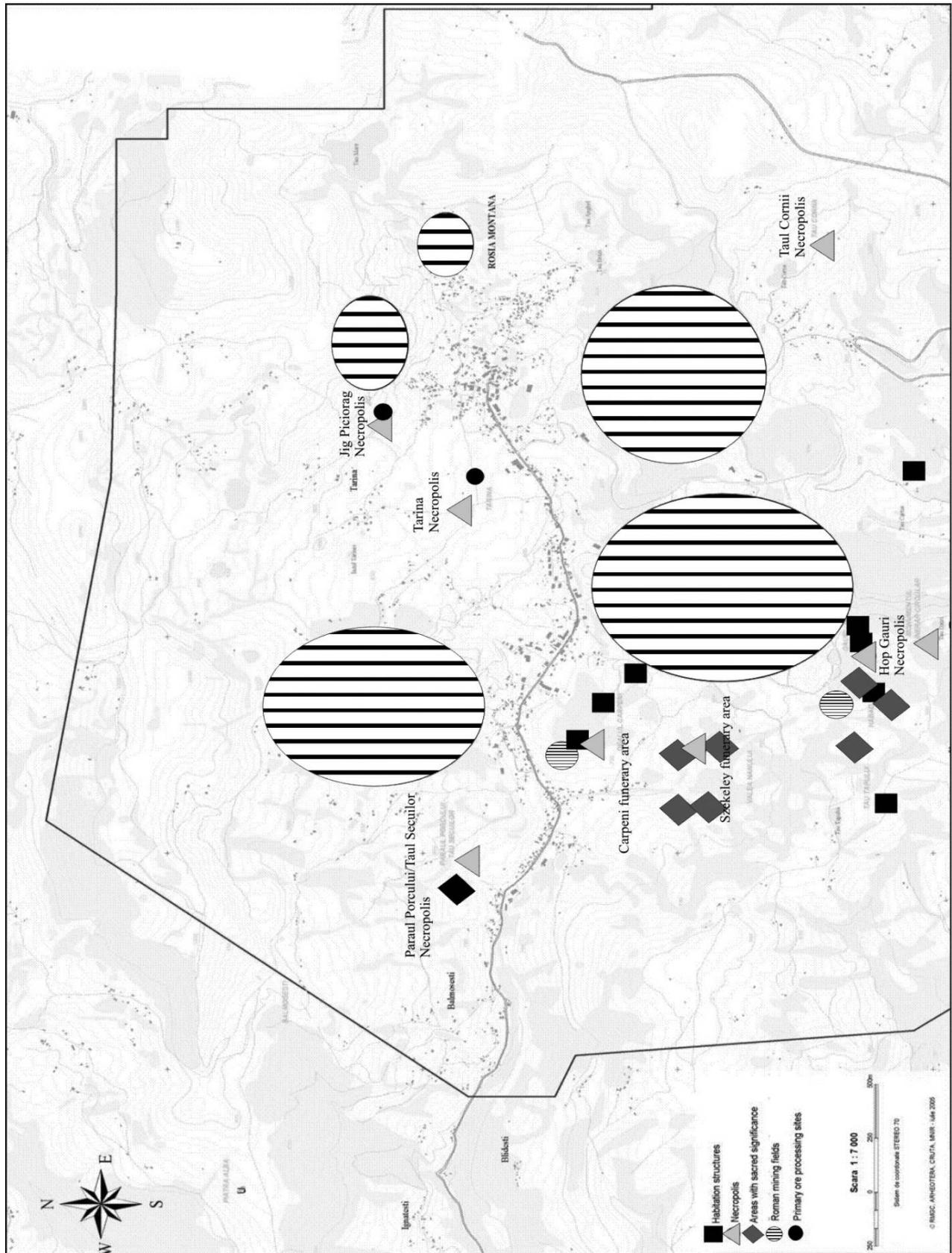
### ABBREVIATIONS

- Alburnus Maior I = *Alburnus Maior*, vol. I (coord. P. Damian), Bucharest, 2003.  
 Alburnus Maior II = *Alburnus Maior*, vol. II, (Mihaela Simion, V. Apostol, D. Vleja, Monumentul funerar circular / The Circular Funeral Monument), Bucharest, 2004.  
 Alburnus Maior III = *Alburnus Maior*, vol. III, (coord. P. Damian in collaboration with Adela Bâltâc, S.I. Cociș, V. Moga, Adriana Pescaru, Mihaela Simion, Christina Știrbulescu, O. Țentea, V.V. Zirra, Necropola Romană de la Tăul Corna), Bucharest, 2006.  
 AK = *Archäologisches Korrespondenzblatt*, Mainz.  
 Britannia = *Britannia. A journal of Romano-British and kindred studies*, Londres.  
 Burial Society = *Burial Society and Context in the Roman World* (ed. Jh. Pearce, M. Miller, Manuela Struck), Oxford, 2000.  
 God. CBI = *Godišnjak za balkanološka istraživanja*, Sarajevo.  
 GodisnicPlodviv = *Godisnic na Plondivsckia arheologiceski muzej*.  
 Helinium = *Helinium. Rev. consacrée à l'archéol. des Pays-Bas, de la Belgique et du Grand Duché de Luxembourg*.  
 IDR III/3 = *Inscriptiones Daciae Romanae- Inscriptiile Daciei Romane, III/3: Dacia Superior. Zona centrală (teritoriul dintre Ulpia Traiana, Micia, Apulum, Alburnus Maior, Valea Crișului)* (I. I. Russu, in collaboration with Oct. Floca and V. Wollmann), Bucharest, 1984.  
 Nécropoles et pouvoir = *Nécropoles et pouvoir. Idéologies, pratiques et interprétations. Actes du colloque Théories de la nécropole antique, Lyon 21–25 janvier 1995* (ed. Sophie Marchegay, Marie-Thérèse Le Dinahet et J.-F. Salles), Paris, 1998.  
 The Thracians World = *The Thracian World at the Crossroads of Civilizations II (Proceedings of the Seventh International Congress of Thracology), Constanța–Mangalia–Tulcea 20–26 May 1996*, (ed. P. Roman), Bucharest 1998.

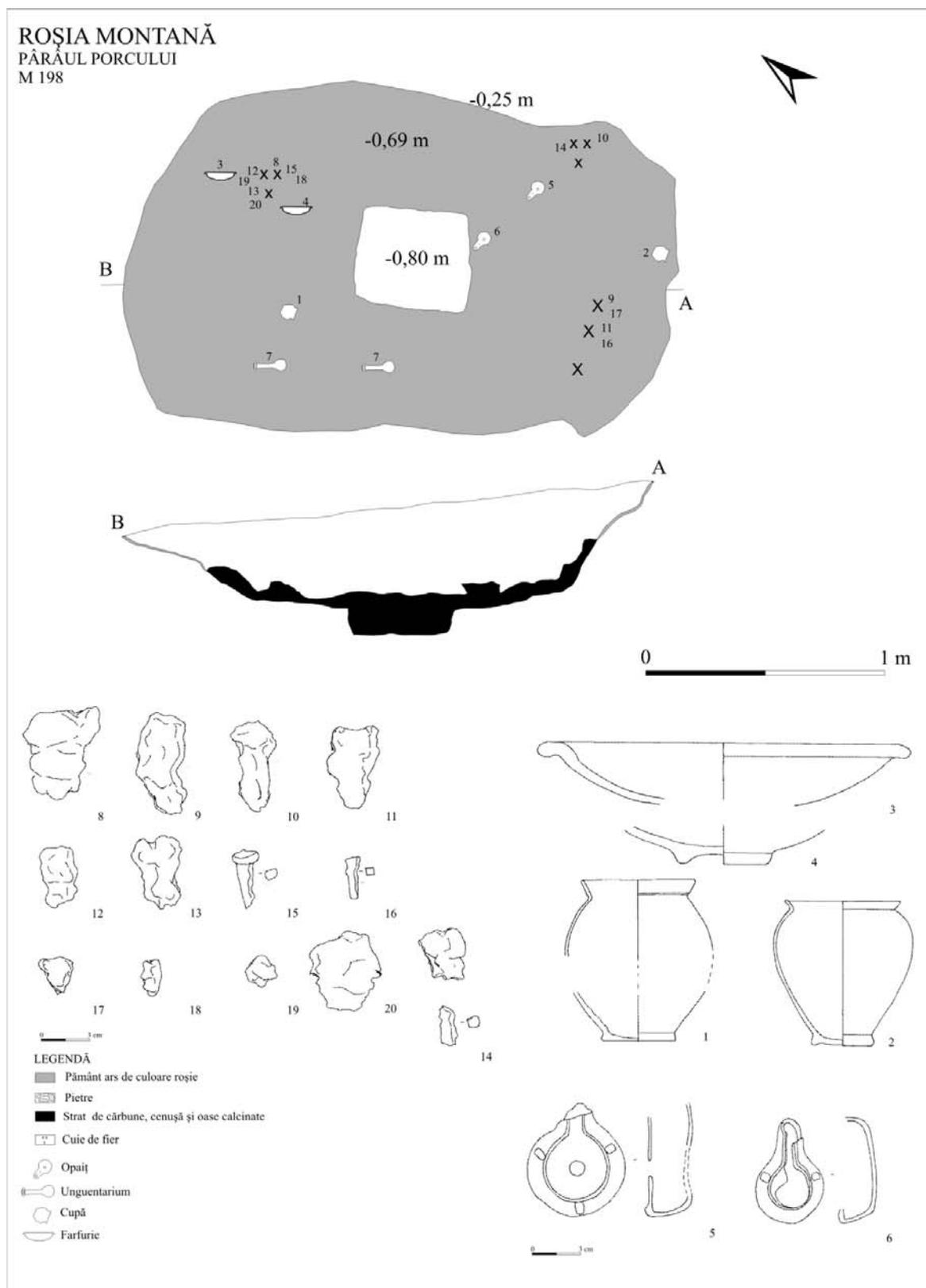
Mihaela Simion  
 National History Museum of Romania  
 E-mail: [myrnas@yahoo.com](mailto:myrnas@yahoo.com)  
 Paul Damian  
 National History Museum of Romania  
 E-mail: [paul@mnir.ro](mailto:paul@mnir.ro)



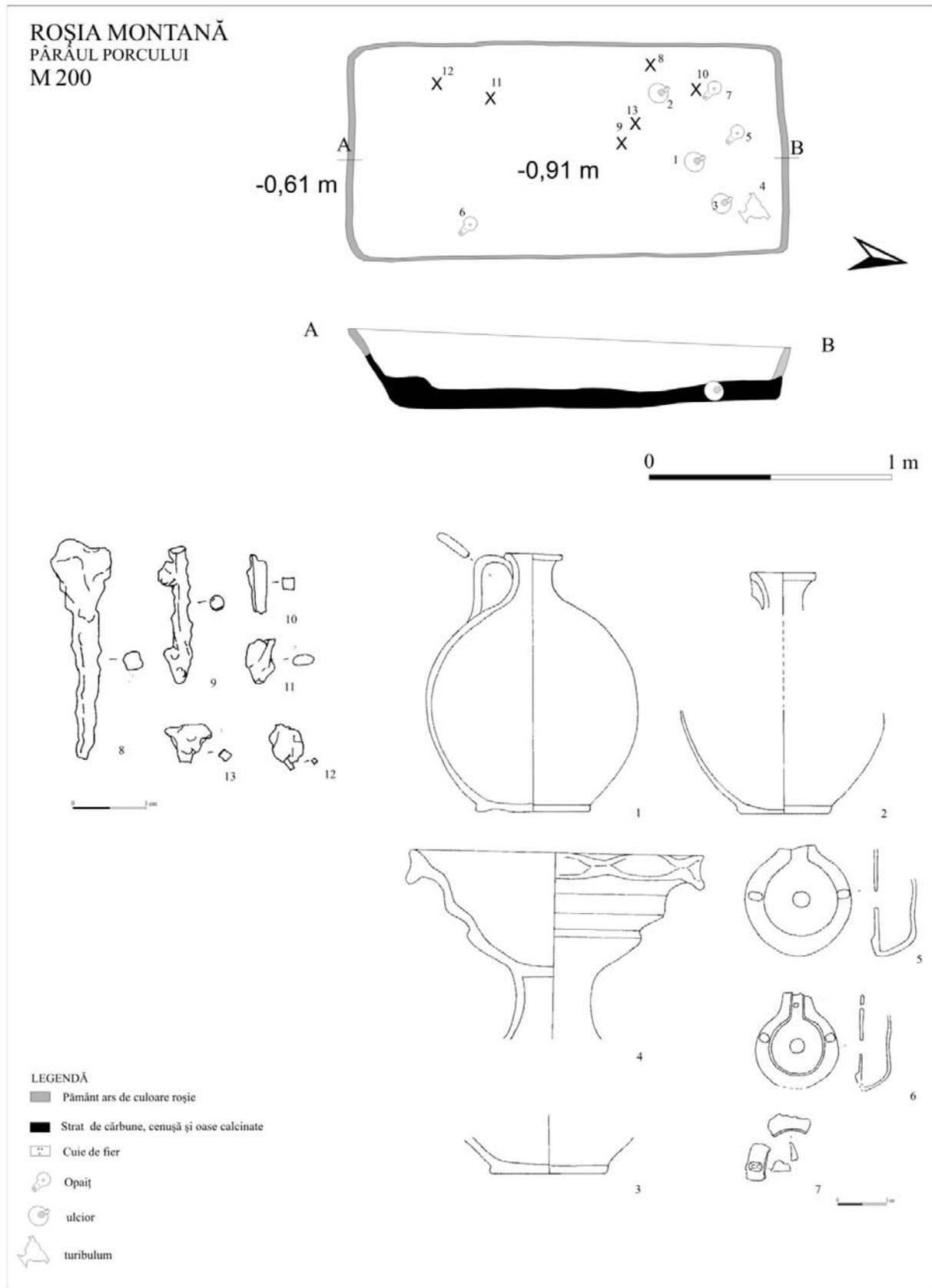
Pl. 1. Localization of the Roşia Montană site, Alba County.



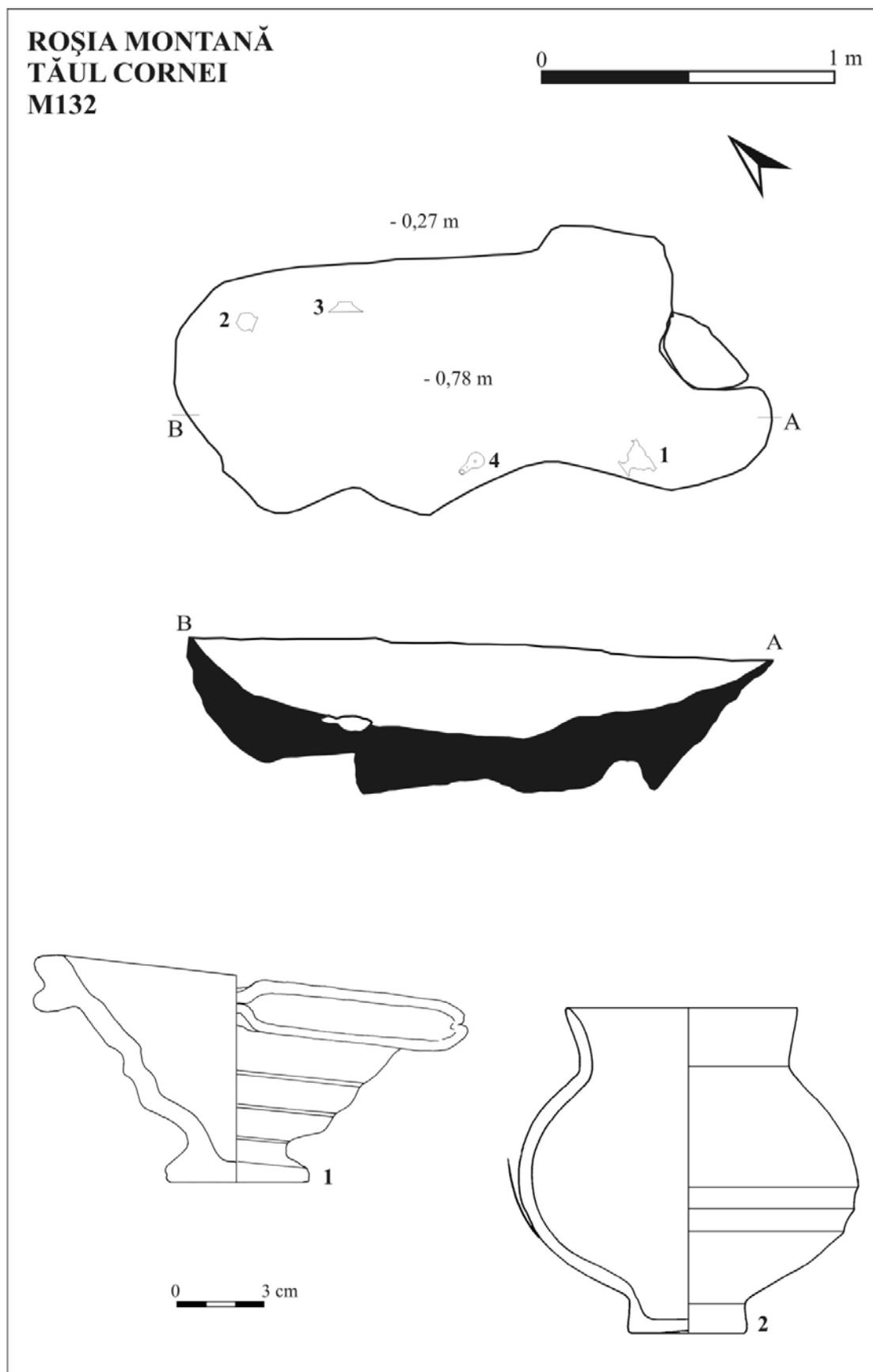
Pl. 2. Archaeological sites identified on the territory of Roșia Montană commune, Alba County.



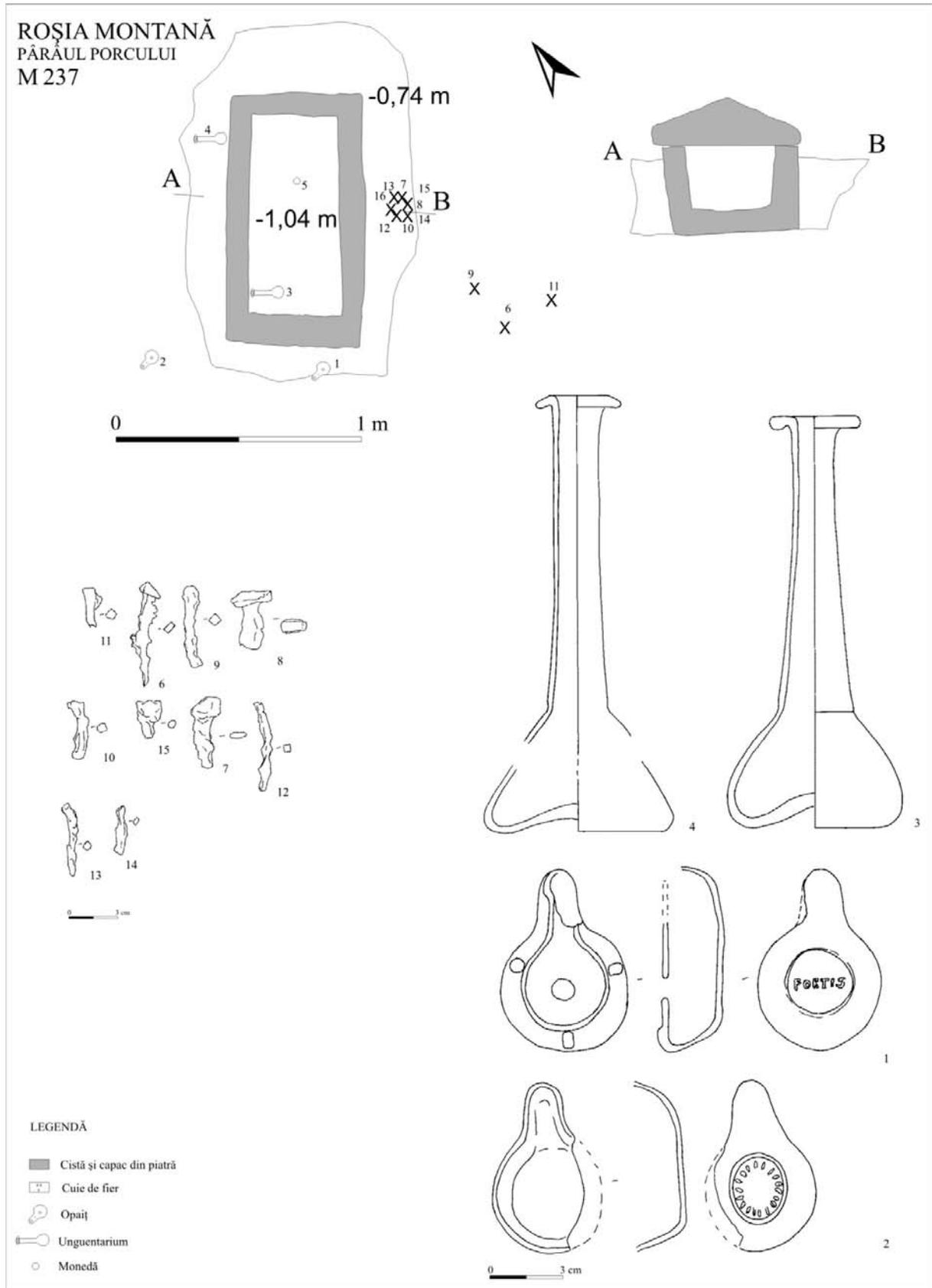
Pl. 3. Grave no. 198 from the Pârăul Porcului / Tăul Secuilor necropolis.



Pl. 4. Grave no. 200 from the Pârâul Porcului / Tăul Secuilor necropolis.



Pl. 5. Grave no. 132 from the Tăul Cornii necropolis.



Pl. 6. Grave no. 237 from the Pârâul Porcului / Tăul Secuilor necropolis.