

Povelyanovo – a site of the Varna culture

Stanimir Parvanov ^a

^a Department of Archaeology, Faculty of History, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", 15 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd, 1504 Sofia, Bulgaria; stynyto@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the Povelyanovo site, which was found during construction works in April 1970. It is located on the northwestern shore of the Beloslav Lake and geographically falls into the area of Varna Culture. The site wasn't examined by archaeological excavations and the only known material comes from the dredging works. This makes the material non-stratified, without any data usable for stratigraphic analysis.

There is only one known short notice about the site, with no material published. A problem occurs with the demarcation of the materials, because except for the pottery, the tools can be dated back to either Late Eneolithic or Early Bronze Age, because of their close technological characteristics. The ceramics were stored in the collection of Varna Archaeological Museum and have not been handled or published until now. The pottery is highly fragmented and in a very poor condition due to the long stay in the lake waters. Still, its amount allows technological, typological and ornamentation analyses, which show full similarity with the known pottery of the other Eneolithic sites from the Varna lakes area. According to given parallels, the chronological position of Povelyanovo settlement could be II phase of the Varna Culture, with a possibility of existence in phase III. There are some examples, whose features could define them in earlier stage of the development of the Culture, but for now it is dangerous to conclude that the settlement was inhabited during phase I.

KEYWORDS

Povelyanovo settlement, Varna lakes region, Late Eneolithic pottery, Varna culture

Introduction

Povelyanovo site is located in the region of Varna lakes (fig. 1.1; 2). Geographically, the region falls into the Varna Culture, which is dated back to Late Eneolithic period – middle and second half of the fifth millennium BC (Slavchev 2017, 252). Varna lakes is a common term which unites Varna lake (the east one) and Beloslav lake (the west one) (fig. 1). From their area, nine eneolithic settlements – 8 of which are found under present day water level and one is located on the first non-overflow west terrace of Beloslav lake (Ivanov 1993, fig. 1; Иванов 1972) and 3 cemeteries are known to this point (Slavchev 2017, 254). Out of them, only 2 settlements and 2 cemeteries have been studied archaeologically (Иванов 1972; 1987; Ivanov 1993, 21-22; Славчев 2012, 11-14; Тодорова-Симеонова 1971). The other ones are known only by the removal of material, by construction or dredging activities in or around the lake shores (Мароч 1961a; 1961b; 1973). The submerged settlements have been considered for long to be pile dwellings since they have been found at a depth of up to 8,5 meters below present day level of lake waters and a large number of wooden stakes, some of which with impressively preserved size, has been found (Иванов 1981). Today, it would be more objectively to accept that they had a coastal nature and were located on the first overflow terrace of the lake, on a relatively sloping terrain and remained below the lake water after the sudden rise of the water level (Ivanov 1993, 24-25).

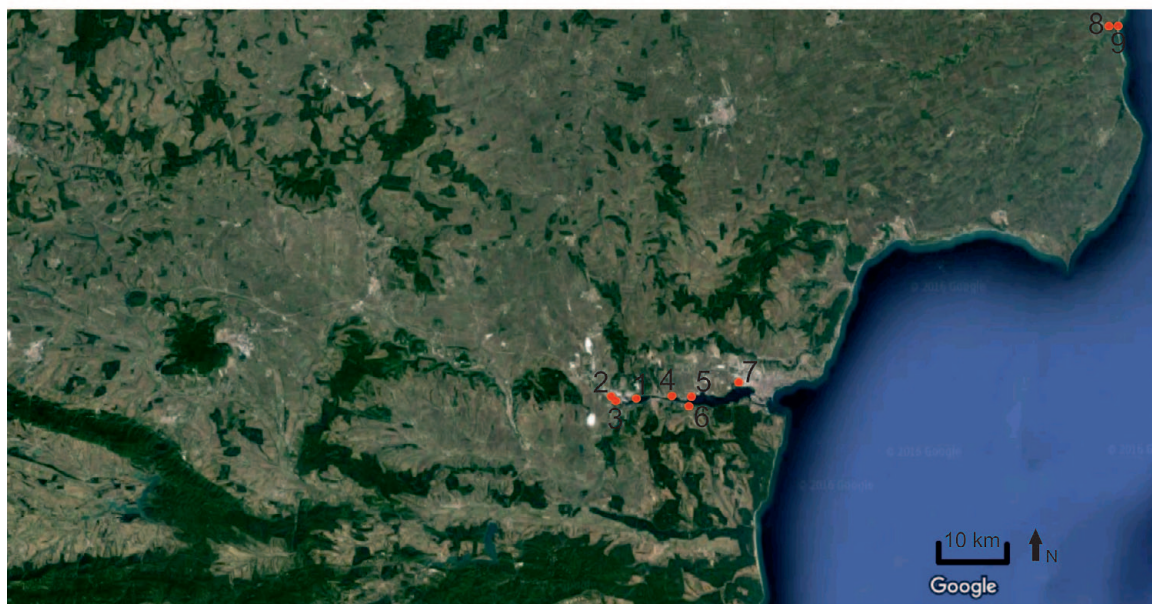


Fig. 1. Map of the Varna lakes and the sites from the Varna Culture, used for the comparative analysis: 1. Povelyanovo; 2. Devnya cemetery; 3. Devnya settlement; 4. Strashimirovo; 5. Ezerovo; 6. Arsenal; 7. Varna I cemetery; 8. Durankulak cemetery; 9. Durankulak settlement mound (figure by S. Parvanov)

Обр. 1 Карта на Варненските езера и използваните за сравнителен анализ обекти от култура Варна: 1. Повеляново; 2. Некропола Девня; 3. Селището Девня; 4. Страшимирово; 5. Езерово; 6. Арсенала; 7. Некропола Варна I; 8. Некропола Дуранкулак; 9. Селищна могила „Големия Остров“ при с. Дуранкулак (изготвил С. Първанов)

The settlement of Povelyanovo is one of the few ones, the material of which, or even part of it, has not been handled and published until now. Regardless of the difficulties of processing and the enormous uncertainties due to the fragmentary nature of the material and retained information, there is a pressing need for complementing the characteristics of the population inhabiting this region and for giving a little more data about the pottery characteristics of Varna Culture.

Site description

Povelyanovo is located on the northwestern shore of the Beloslav lake, and its name comes from its close vicinity to the Povelyanovo railway station (fig. 1.1; 2). The known information about it comes from the only one short notice for the settlement (Ivanov 1993, 23). The site was found during construction works by the Mizia dredger in April 1970. In the area of the site are conducted dredging works by the dredger “Skitia” again in December 1975 and January 1976. After that, the site wasn’t examined by archaeological excavations and the only known material comes from these dredging works. The information stored on

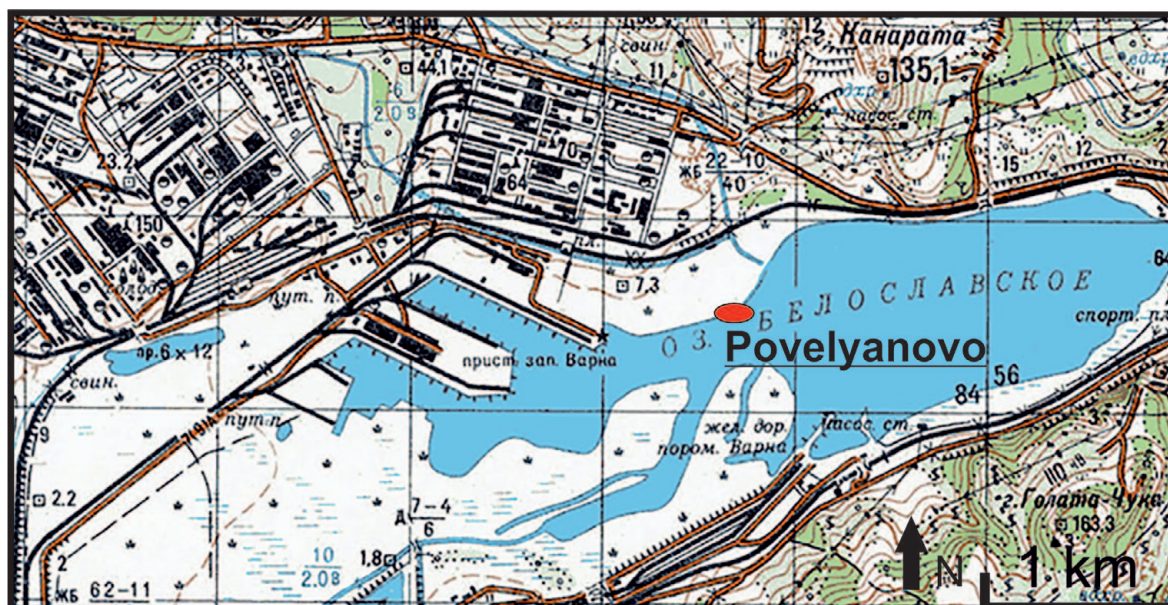


Fig. 2. Topographic map with the exact position of the settlement (figure by S. Parvanov)

Обр. 2. Топографска карта с точното местоположение на селището
(изработка С. Първанов)

the situation about the material discovery and exact location is very scanty. According to the company that completed the dredging, the materials were found in an about 200 m long area. The cultural layer begins 2 m below the present day water surface and ends at 6,50 m. There are two chronological groups of material, which are dated in Late Eneolithic and Early Bronze Age. No data are available on any construction horizons or at least the relative thickness of the layers from both ages.

It can be defined as a settlement, because together with the pottery, wooden posts and tools from various raw materials were found. A very little part of the ceramic fragments show traces of dragging. Along with this, the materials were found in a 200-meter long area, which indicates that the material found originates from the settlement but has not been brought up to this place from any of the other settlements.

Pottery analysis

The non-stratified material precludes the possibility to handle the material on a layer basis and to define any typological development and possible relative dating. Ceramics from the Eneolithic was found along with the Early Bronze Age one and their distinction is not difficult due to their quite different technological and typological features. This is not the case, however, of the tools made of various materials, which, due to their similar characteristics, can be related to both ages. That is why, Eneolithic pottery is the main focus of this paper.

There was no developed typology of the pottery assemblage of Varna culture to relate the Povelyanovo material to and it was therefore necessary to prepare such typology. For the classification of the pottery types, most useful and suitable is to use main principles, methods and terms from important contributions of pottery analysis from the synchronous and neighbouring culture KGK VI, made by V. Petrova (Петрова 2003), N. Todorova, P. Leshtakov and T. Kuncheva-Russeva (Todorova, Leshtakov, Kuncheva-Russeva 2003), V. Voinea (Voinea 2005) and P. Georgieva (Георгиева 2003). It is required to have parallels

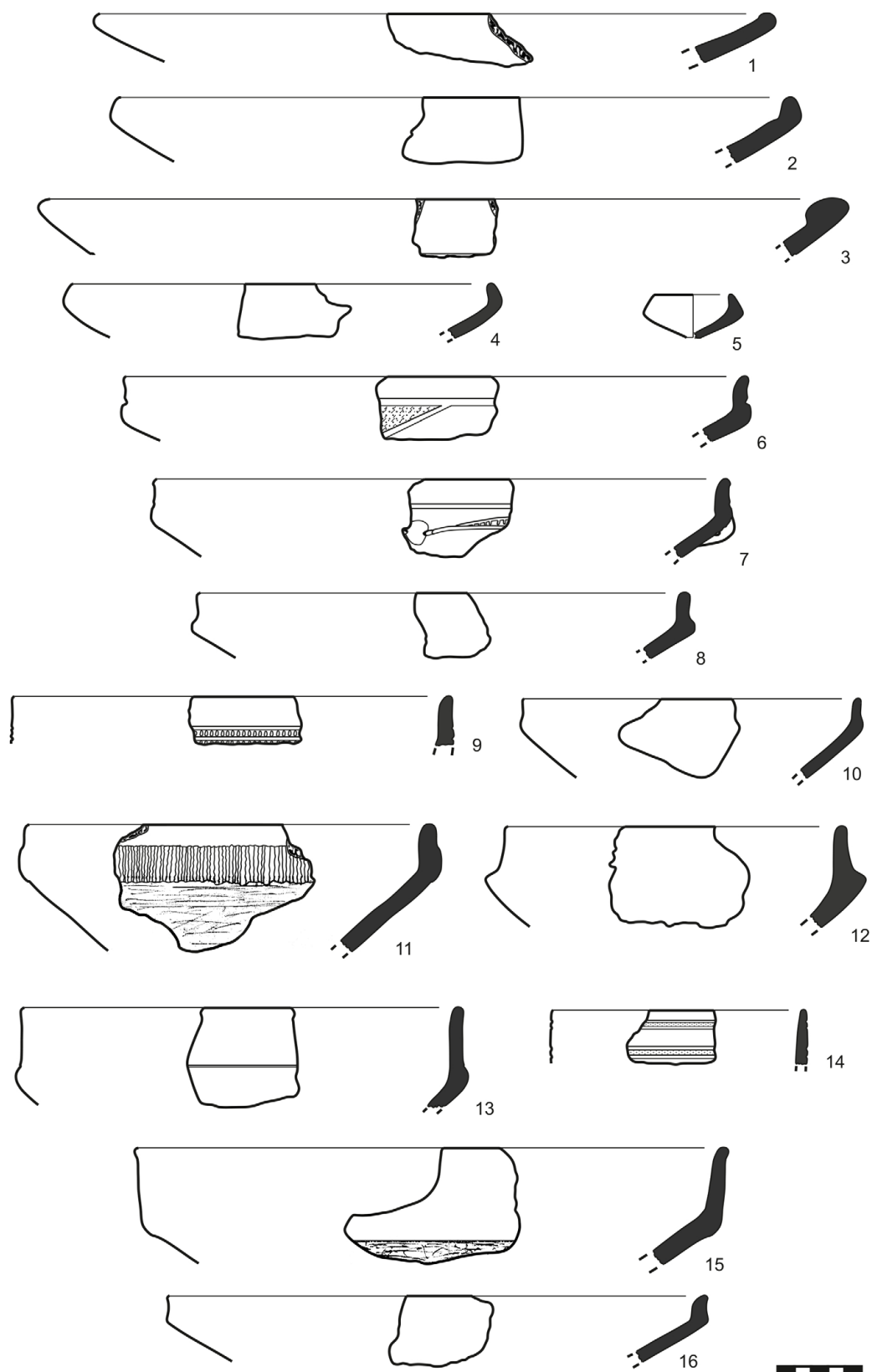


Fig. 3. Pottery from the settlement: dishes of various types (drawings by S. Parvanov)
Обр. 3. Керамика от селището: паници от различни типове (рисунки С. Първанов)

from the other known sites from the Culture to define the settlement in a chronological aspect and to establish whether it displays the same pottery characteristics. For this purpose, the most important site is Durankulak necropolis (hereinafter referred to as Durankulak), in which a huge collection of vessels is known, which were dated according to the synchronous building horizons in Durankulak tell, and for now it is the only site from the Culture in which the three phases are known (fig. 1.8-9). From the sites in the area of the lakes there is still no ceramic complex fully researched and published, but still important for the comparative analyses are Ezerovo, Strashimirovo, Devnya settlement, Devnya and Varna I cemeteries, and also Arsenala, the pottery assemblage of which is already examined but still not published (fig. 1).

Data about technological features of the pottery

The material was highly fragmented and in a very poor condition due to the long stay in the lake waters and the samples were heavily washed, in some occasions covered with salt, stuck with water plants and shells of mollusks and it was very hard in the most cases to distinguish any traces of graphite decoration. This made the technological analyses of the pottery difficult, but for now, the general trends could be noted:

Among the fragmented material similar fragments are very often found where the same traces are visible at the same place in the biscuit. These represent thin stripes or fissures, highly visible for various reasons. Their specific location and the orientation of lines allows establishing the method of manufacture of a given vessel. The indications are that the dishes, the biconical bowls and the three-component vessels were made by separate parts in a mould and then stuck to each other. Seemingly, the same typological samples sometimes show different traces that should indicate a different method of sticking the separate parts of the vessel and therefore a different technological method. Data were obtained in terms of their attachment to the vessel bottom, which was always made separately and attached at the end. The samples from the groups of dishes and bowls in most cases have a well burnished, sometimes polished, less often smoothed surface in black, grey or rarely brown color. Rarely but it happens that the bottom part of the dishes and the bowls is roughened by scratches. The clay paste was made of well purified grey clay, with low to medium concentration of small limestone admixtures and sand, and grog in some cases. The vessels from the groups of pot-shaped and vase-shaped vessels show indications of having been made by linear band technique but some samples of the pot-shaped and lidded vessels have been clearly made out of separate parts as there are visible traces of sticking. The rough pottery from the settlement displays rough, roughly smoothed or roughed outer surface. The clay paste seems to be roughly puddled, with medium to high concentration of sand and limestone admixtures of relatively large size. Traces of organic temper may be seen but they are very rare. The samples without slipware are also rare. Interesting are the lidded vessels that, by the characteristics of the clay and the wall thickness are referred to the rough ceramics but their external surface is most often carefully smoothed or burnished.

Classification of the pottery types

Typology of the ceramic forms follows, the vessel height dependencies used being made on the basis of possible reconstructions and the illustrated items being a representa-

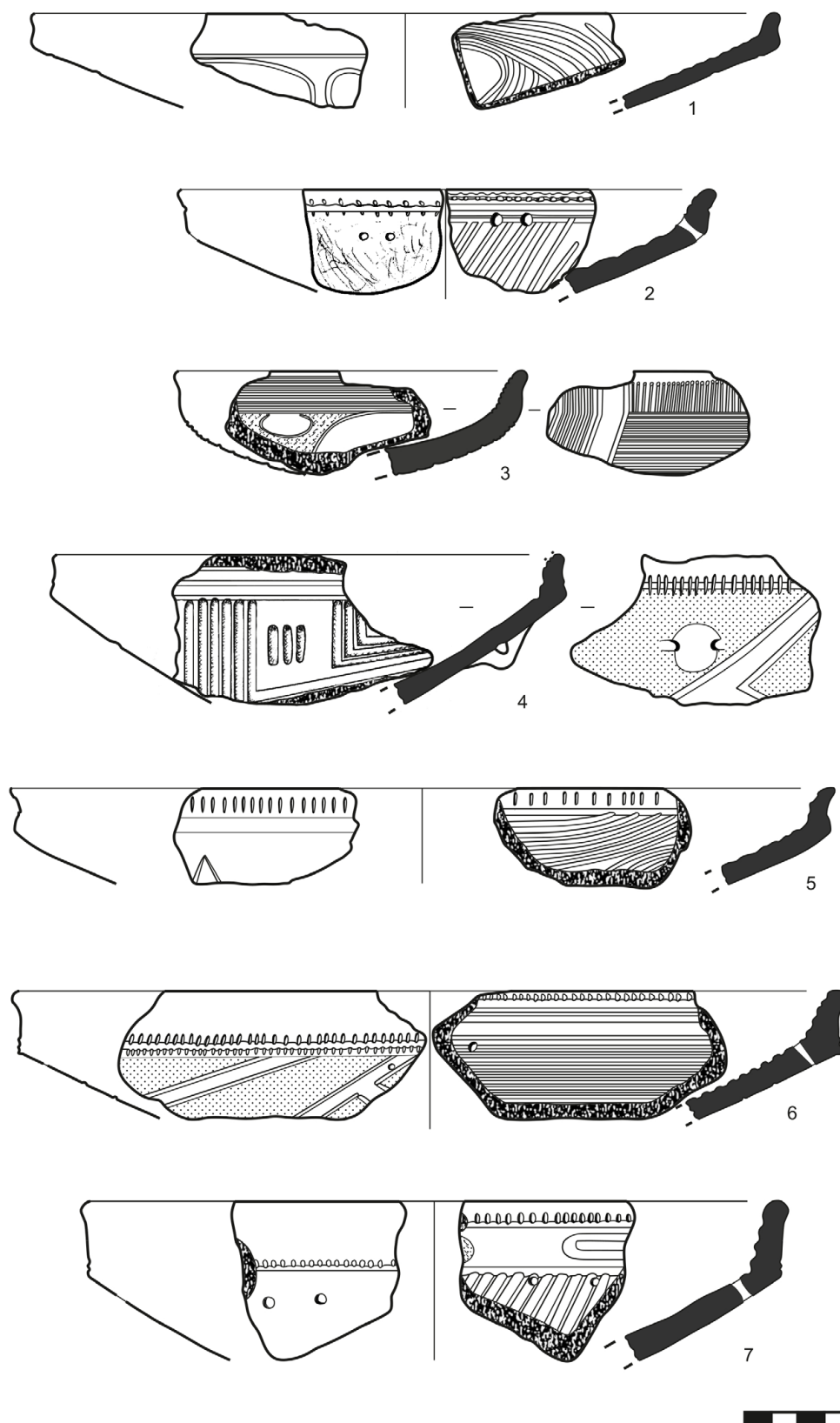


Fig. 4. Pottery from the settlement: dishes (lids ?) with incised decoration on both sides (drawings by S. Parvanov)

Обр. 4. Керамика от селището: паници (капаци ?) с врязана украса от 2-те страни (рисунки С. Първанов)

tive sample of the entire material:

1. **Open vessels**, conditionally called **dishes**, the height of which is less than half of the maximum diameter. The maximum diameter is at the mouth or at the transition but in the second case, the differences between the mouth diameter and the transition diameter are very small.

1.1 *Conical dishes with a mouth rim thickened from inside* (fig. 3.1-3). There are three methods of thickening, with slightly thickened semi-circular rim, with a heavily thickened rim slightly rounded from outside and with a wide elliptically thickened rim. Same were also found at Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 4.9-11), Strashimirovo (Maproc 1973, Fig. 4.4-5, 8) and in grave 838 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 138.6).

1.2. *Conical dishes with a mouth bent to inside* (fig. 3.4-5). They may have a rounded or pointed biconical transition. Similar ones were also found at Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 6.5), Strashimirovo (Maproc 1973, Fig. 4.1, 3), hor. V of Durankulak tell (Georgieva 2014, Fig. 4.1-4) and in grave 318 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 53.9).

1.3. *Conical dishes with a cylindrical ledge*. Two subtypes are distinguished depending on the ledge height:

1.3.1. *with a low cylindrical ledge* where the ledge height is less than 1/4 of the total vessel height (fig. 3.6-12). There is a wide variety in terms of shaping the details and their combinations. There are absolutely identical samples known from Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 3.4, 8; 7.6), Strashimirovo (Maproc 1973, Fig. 4.1, 12), hor. IV and V of Durankulak tell (Georgieva 2014, Fig. 5. 1, 4), in graves 287, 871, 946 from Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 35.18; 141.8; 155.7) and in graves 18 and 24 from the Devnya cemetery (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Tabl. XII.6, 17).

1.3.2. *with a high cylindrical ledge*, where the ledge is higher than 1/4 of the total vessel height (fig. 3.13-15). There are similar ones from Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 7.9) and in grave 831 from Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 138.9).

1.4. *Conical dishes with S-shaped ledge*. One of the most typical shapes for the period and the region. There is also a wide variety in the S-shaping way and also in the different shaping of the details. Therefore, four subtypes may be distinguished depending on the S-shaped ledges and the ledge height:

1.4.1. *dishes with a low ledge* (fig. 3.16). They have slightly expressed S-shape. Similar dishes were found in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 5.9), and in grave 1057 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 189.14), and in grave 25 of Devnya (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Tabl. XII.13).

1.4.2. *dishes (lids ?) with a low ledge* that have slight differences in the ledge shaping but the most common feature of which is the presence of incised decoration on both their inner and outer surfaces (fig. 4.1-7). They display similar shaping of the ledge as the above subtype but the S-shaping is more pronounced in most cases. Also, it is not clear whether they had the function of dishes or lids as the preserved inner surface of most of them is covered with incisions. Absolutely identical samples were discovered in the other settlements from the region of the lakes - in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 2.4; Taf. 15.1-9), Strashimirovo (Maproc 1973, Tabl. V. 6, 7), as well as in grave 26 of Devnya (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Tabl. XII.24).

1.4.3. *dishes with medium height ledge* (fig. 5.1-6). They are extremely common and the S-shaping is achieved by an outward curved mouth, and various variants of shaping the mouth rim and the transition are observed. The variants available here have their very exact analogues in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 3.5, 6; 5.7, 10, 21, 22; 7.8, 10,

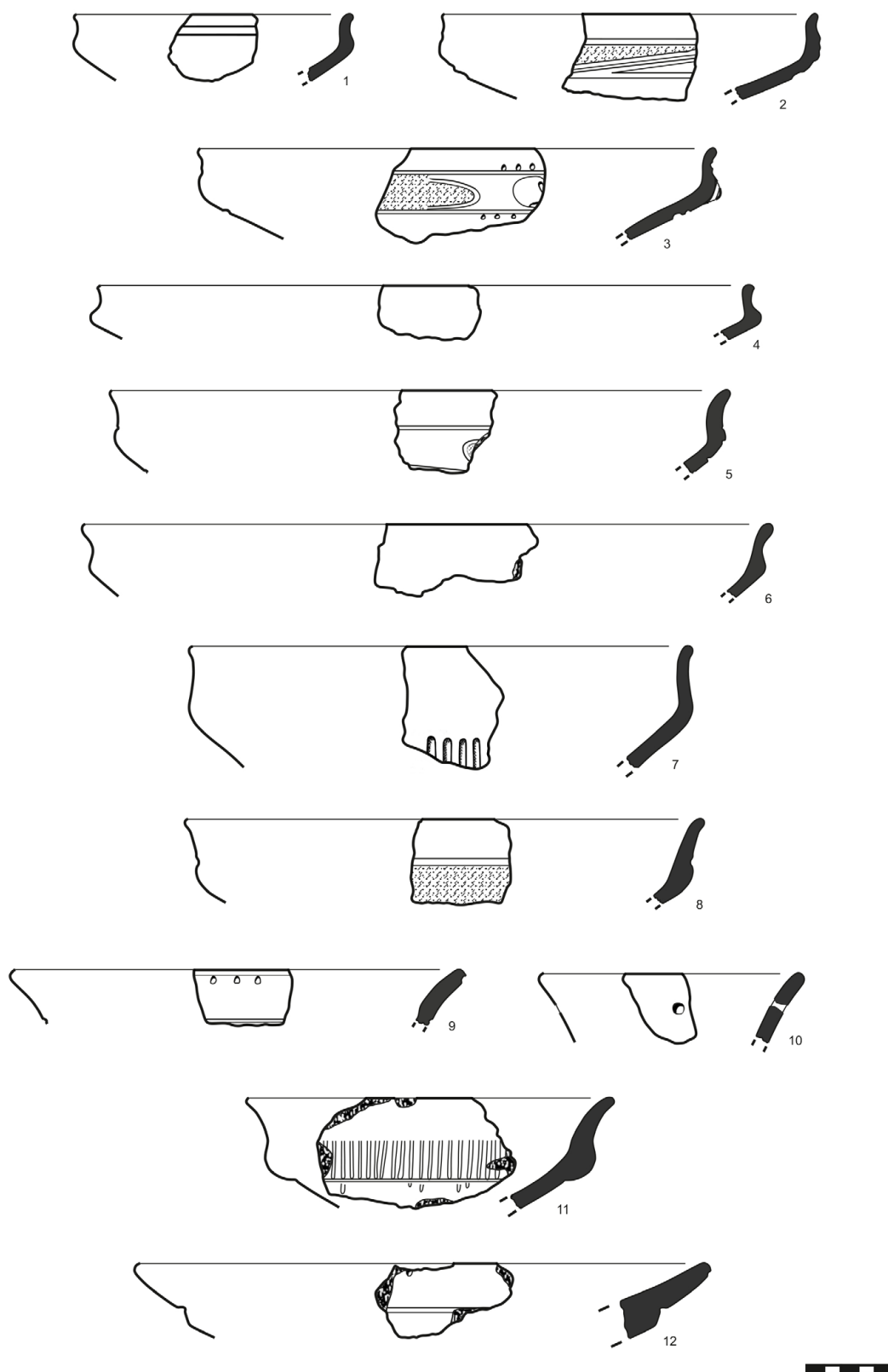


Fig. 5. Pottery from the settlement: dishes with S-shaped ledge (drawings by S. Parvanov)

Обр. 5. Керамика от селището: паници със S-образно профилиран перваз
(рисунки С. Парванов)

11), Strashimirovo (Maproc 1973, Fig. 4.1, 10), hor. IV and V of Durankulak tell (Georgieva 2014, Fig. 5.3, 5, 2), as well as in graves 6, 7 and 16 of Devnya (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Tabl. XI.5; XII.19, 10) and in Durankulak where a large amount of these dishes was found but exact parallels may be indicated from graves 427, 800 and 1164 (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 63.11; 136.1; 191.9).

1.4.4. *with a high S-shaped ledge*, where the ledge is higher than 1/4 of the total vessel height (fig. 5.7). Smooth S-shaping with slightly outward curved mouth. Similar ones were found in graves 249, 350 and 455 from Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 24.6; 48.1; 72.22) and in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 7.13), the latter having a similarly shaped ledge but shorter in proportion to the bottom part.

1.5. *Dishes with an outward curved ledge*. All samples have a relatively high ledge and four subtypes are known depending on the curving degree and the detail shaping:

1.5.1. *with a slightly curved conical ledge* (fig. 5.8). With a slightly outward curved mouth and similar to those of Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 3.21; 5.8) and in grave 1129 from Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 188.7), displaying some differences in the mouth and transition shaping.

1.5.2. *with a moderately curved, slightly concave ledge* (fig. 5.9-10). The second sample may rather have proportions of a bowl. They do not have exact parallels in the other lake settlements but there are similar vessels in Durankulak, a good example is that one of grave 298 (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 36.9).

1.5.3. *with a moderately curved, S-shaped ledge* (fig. 5.11). They have an outward curved mouth and a thickened transition. They do not have exact parallels from the other settlements from the lakes but there are similar ones in Durankulak grave 279 (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 34.1) presenting small differences in the transition shaping.

1.5.4. *with a sharply curved conical ledge* (fig. 5.12). Based on the fragment preservation degree, the sample could be referred to another type of vessels but it is very similar to a large amount of vessels from Durankulak, relevant examples being those from graves 375 and 673 (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 53.16; 117.6). If judged by the parallels, this vessel should have had a high foot.

2. Closed two-component vessels conditionally called **bowls**, the height of which is greater than half of the maximum diameter at the transition and smaller than same diameter.

2.1. *Biconical bowls*. Depending on the upper part height, the curving degree, the type of the outer profile line and the detail shaping, the following subtypes were distinguished:

2.1.1. Bowls with a sharply inward curved upper part where the ledge height is less than 1/3 of the total vessel height (fig. 6.1). The upper part profile line is straight. We find similar ones in Ezerovo, with small differences in the detail shaping (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 3.19; 5.1, 7), hor. V of Durankulak tell (Georgieva 2014, Fig. 6.1), as well as in grave 4 of Devnya (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Tabl. XI.9) and in Durankulak, where they are very common but often having a concave upper part - from graves 420 and 1099 (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 57.12; 183.7).

2.1.2. *Bowls with an upper part of medium height* where the ledge height is more than 1/3 but less than 1/2 of the total vessel height (fig. 6.2). They differ from the above subtype by the upper part that is higher and less curved inward. Similar dishes were found in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 7.21), in grave 9 of Devnya (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Tabl. XI.11), and in grave 446 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 63.25), all of them displaying a transition of different type.

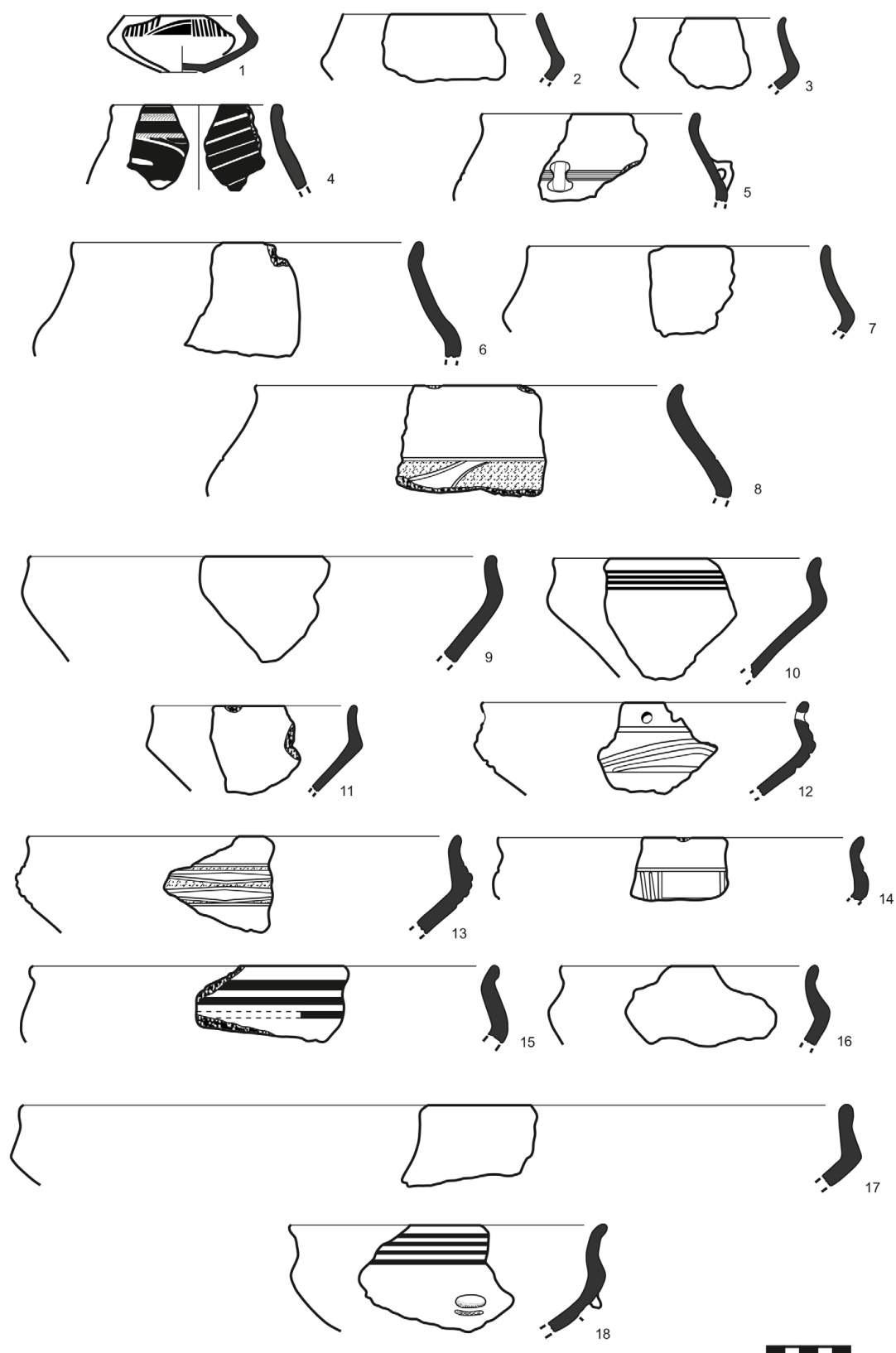


Fig. 6. Pottery from the settlement: biconical and S-shaped bowls (drawings by S. Parvanov)

Обр. 6. Керамика от селището: купи с биконична или S-образна форма
(рисунки С. Първанов)

2.1.3. *Bowls the upper part height of which is more than 1/3 but less than or equal to 1/2 of the total vessel height* (fig. 6.3-4). The upper part profile line is an inward protuberant curve, the mouth is vertical or slightly curved outwards. The shape is very typical to the period and has its exact or similar analogues in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 7.1, 19), in grave 4 of Devnya (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Tabl. XI.17), and in graves 275 and 620 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 32.25; 106.10). It should be noted that the variety of variants in Povelyanovo is more limited than that in the other sites.

2.1.4 *Bowls of approximately similar sizes of both parts or upper part height is slightly less than 1/2 of the total vessel height, a sharply curved outwards mouth and the upper part profile line is straight or sometimes slightly convex outwards* (fig. 6.5-6). Absolutely identical samples were found in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 6.13), and in grave 311 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 38.3).

2.1.5. *Deep and large bowls* where, based on a possible reconstruction, the upper part height is more than 1/3 but less than 1/2 of the total vessel height (fig. 6.7-8). They have a vertical or outward curved mouth and the profile line of the upper part is inwards protuberant. They are identical to vessels from Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 3.14), and from grave 754 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 130.4), the latter of which is also an exact replica of the specimen (fig. 6.8).

2.2. *Bowls with S-shaped profile*. They have a conical lower part and an S-shaped ledge. They are also one of the shapes that are most common and typical to the Culture. As the number and the variety of specimens is relatively large, depending on the ledge shape, three subtypes can be distinguished:

2.1.2. *Bowls with a short conical, slightly concave ledge and outward curved mouth* (fig. 6.9-15). The ledge has a soft and smooth profile and has various variants in terms of the mouth and transition shaping. The ledge shaping is very similar to some specimens of the subtype 1.4.3. Here, they are usually more curved inwards and the mouth is more curved outwards as a rule. However, examples are sometimes found that can be referred to both subtypes by the ledge shape and are close to both groups based on the possible reconstruction of the vessel height. An example is (fig. 6.13). The bowls have a large number of parallels in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 5.14, 22; 2.7, 10), hor. IV of Durankulak tell (Georgieva 2014, Fig. 6.3), the settlement of Devnya (Иванов 1972, Tabl. I.2) and in grave 699 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 119.16) and similarity of the various variants is observed in all cases.

2.2.2. *Bowls with a longer conical ledge and outward curved mouth* (fig. 6.16-17). They differ from the above subtype by the sharper profile and emphasized details. Same shapes were also found in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 2.2; 4.15, 16) and in grave 1129 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 188.6).

2.2.3. *Bowls with a cylindrical or slightly sloping sidewards ledge and a clearly emphasized sharply outward curved mouth* (fig. 6.18; 7.1-2). They differ from the above two subtypes by their short middle portion between the outward curved mouth and the transition. They have good parallels in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 5.24) and in grave 559 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 92.6).

2.3 *Barrel-shaped bowls* (fig. 7.3-4). They have a spherical elongated body and the mouth is often curved outwards at different degrees. Same were also found in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 6.18), and in graves 455 and 537 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 72.16; 88.10), only displaying some differences in the mouth shaping.

3. Closed two-component vessels whereby the maximum diameter is smaller than

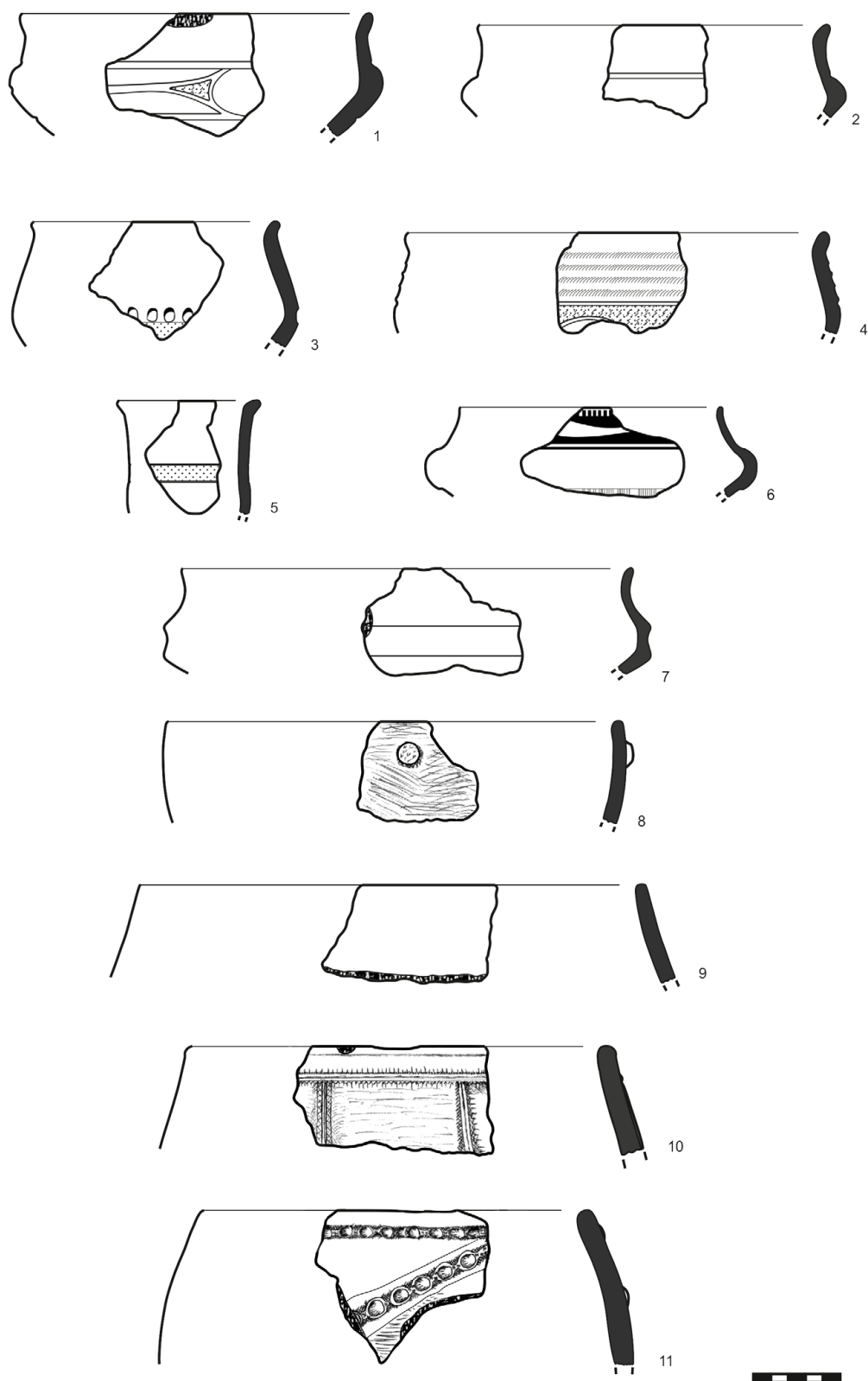


Fig. 7. Pottery from the settlement: bowls and pot-shaped vessels of various types
(drawings by S. Parvanov)

Обр. 7. Керамика от селището: купи и гърневидни съдове от различни типове
(рисунки С. Парванов)

1/2 of their height, conditionally called **cups**. At this moment, only one type is available.

3.1. *A cup with a cylindrical or slightly inward curved upper part, slightly curved shoulders and a conical lower part* (fig. 7.5). The cup has a clearly outwards curved mouth and does not have any very exact analogues in the other settlements from the lakes, as such, a specimen from Ezerovo may be noted (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 7.16) where the upper half is curved inwards and we know a large number of similar vessels from Durankulak, a good example being those from graves 292 and 556 (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 35.13; 93.3) but usually their mouth is not so sharply curved outwards.

4. **Three-component deep closed vessels** with a conical upper part, with a protuberant variously shaped belly and a conical lower part. We call them **bowls** conditionally as their height is greater than the half of the maximum diameter (at the belly) but is less than same diameter.

4.1. *Bowls with a conical, slightly concave upper part, a rounded belly and a conical lower part* (fig. 7.6). The mouth is vertical or curved outwards. So far, exact analogues may be only noted from Arsenala (unpublished data) and from Durankulak grave 662 (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 113.2), although differences are found in the belly size, proportions and shape.

4.2. *A bowl with a conical upper part, a bicylindrical transition point and a conical lower part* (fig. 7.7). The upper part profile line is sharply curved inwards. Parallels were only found in Strashimirovo (Maproc 1973, Fig. 4.19) and from the Devnya settlement (Иванов 1972, Tabl. I.7). Both specimens have their upper part cylindrically shaped without or with inward curved mouth.

5. **Deep two-component vessels**, the height of which is greater than the maximum diameter located at the most convex part of the vessel, conditionally called **pot-shaped** vessels. There is no fully or well preserved sample. The specimen strong fragmentation only allows for drawing information from their upper part, the shaping of which is divided into two subtypes. Judging by the similar specimens known from the other sites, the vessels from this group usually have a different body shape but currently, a more detailed classification is not possible. Also, it is difficult to indicate many parallels due to the lack of many examples from the rough ceramics group in the other published sites. In addition, the indicated parallels from the cemeteries have similar formal features but are much smaller in size and have different technological characteristics.

5.1. *Pot-shaped vessels without a neck* (fig. 7.8-11). They are most often closed but open forms are also met. We find a similar profile of vessels from Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 8.14), in grave 20 of Devnya (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Tabl. XII.11) and in graves 514 and 1039 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 83.11; 173.18).

5.2 *Pot-shaped vessels with a neck*. In terms of the type of the neck could be distinguished three subtypes:

5.2.1. *with a short cylindrical neck* (fig. 8.1). There are similar shapes found in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 8.9).

5.2.2. *with a short conical neck* (fig. 8.2). Vessels with a similar neck and body profile were also found in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 8.3, 10) and in grave 674 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 118.12).

5.2.3. *with a long conical neck* (fig. 8.3-4). There are two specimens without a preserved mouth but they both have a cylindrical belly. A similar one was found at Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 8.7).

6. **Deep closed three-component vessels** conditionally called **vase-shaped vessels** (fig. 8.5-6). Judged on the basis of the examples known from other sites, these have a high

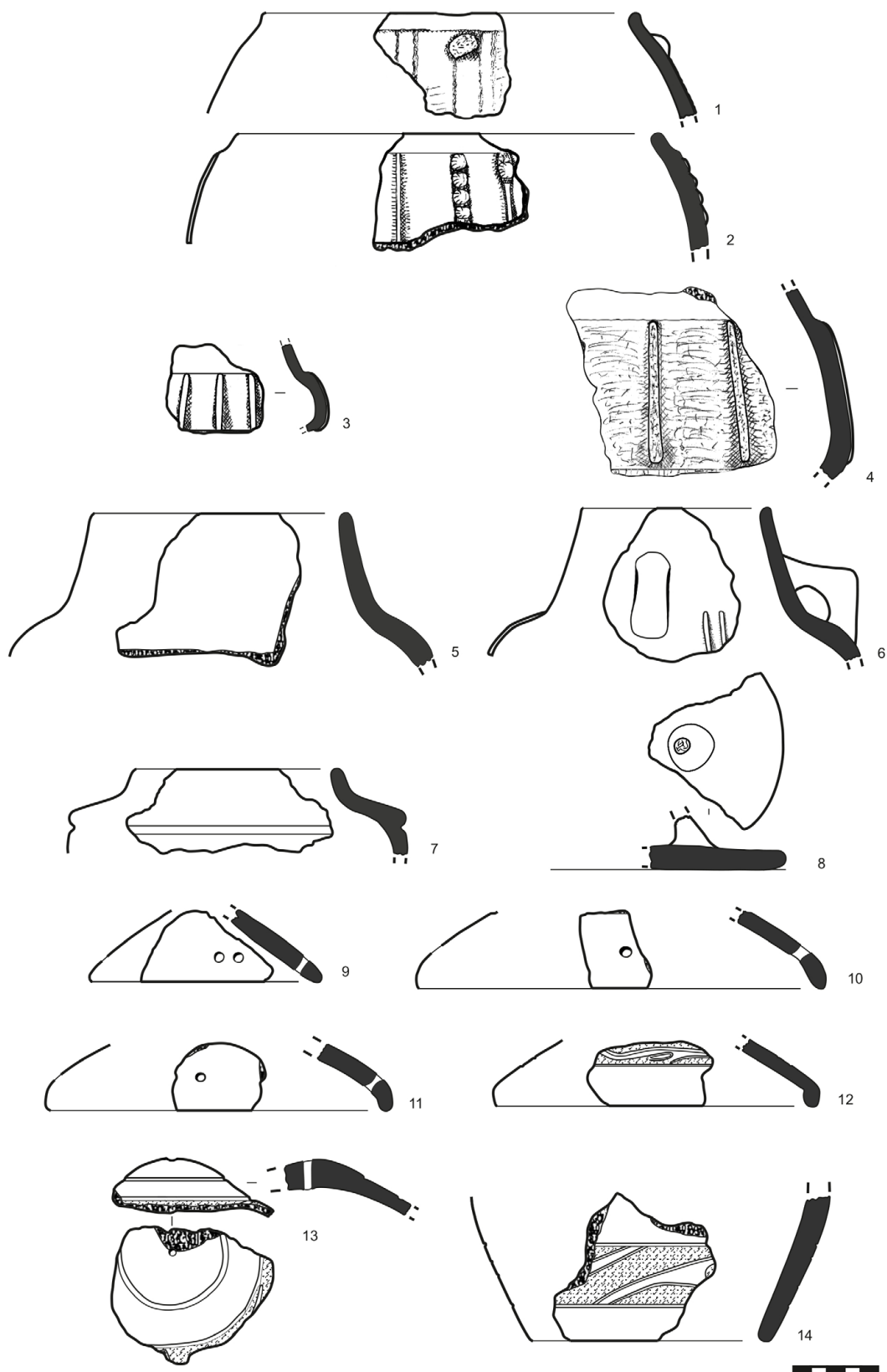


Fig. 8. Pottery from the settlement: vessels from various groups – pot-shaped, vase-shaped, storeyed, lids and a stand (drawings by S. Parvanov)

Обр. 8. Керамика от селището: съдове от различни групи – гърневидни, вазовидни, етажовидни, капаци и подставка (рисунки С. Първанов)

neck, a spherical belly and a conical lower part. Unlike the fourth group of this classification, their height is greater than their maximum diameter (of the belly). The specimens are few in number and are highly fragmented and parallels may be indicated only on the basis of the neck and the upper belly shaping. Similar ones were found in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 8.5) and in grave 799 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 139.14).

7. Deep closed multi-component vessels (fig. 8.7). Their height is greater than the maximum diameter and their body is modeled by sequential adhesion of several alternating conical and spherical parts. This specific group is known in the literature as **lidded (also storeyed or floor-like) vessels**. These are usually vessels of large size and are the main form of storage vessels. Due to the strong fragmentation, it is difficult to identify any types. These vessels are one of the most typical forms of Varna Culture and are found in huge amounts in any site, thus, it is not necessary to indicate any analogues on the basis of their upper part only (which in most cases only shows differences in the ledge shaping).

8. Lids. By their appearance, they are most often close to the differently sized flat dishes. They differ from them by the treatment of their inner surface. The maximum diameter of the lids is usually at the mouth or at the transition to the ledge and is almost always 1-2 cm greater than the diameter of their mouth. Three subtypes may be distinguished on the basis of the form, the presence or absence of a ledge and the ledge shape:

8.1. Flat lids (fig. 8.8). They have a flat shape and a slightly upward curved mouth. Even there are no published similar findings from the lakes so far, they are available also in the other sites (unpublished data). At present, a very exact analogue from the horizon XII of Golyamo Delchevo may be indicated (Тодорова и др. 1975, Табло 77.12).

8.2. Conical lids without a ledge (fig. 8.9). Sometimes, one or two openings are located a little above the mouth. They are similar to those from Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 4.8), from Devnya cemetery (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Tabl. XI. without a specified number) and in Durankulak where they are a common finding and their exact analogues would be those from graves 330 and 826 (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 41.13; 137.15, 18).

8.3. Conical lids with a low ledge (fig. 8.10-13). The ledge is shaped in various ways, most often rounded or slightly cylindrical with a tapered or rounded transition point. One or two openings are frequent again at the very transition point or a little above and there is also a case of openings at the very lid dome (fig. 8.13). Many similar specimens were found in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 4.12), Strashimirovo (Мапроц 1973, Table 6.5, 6), in grave 9 of Devnya (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Taf. XI.10), in grave 251 of Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 26.8) and even in grave 43 of Varna Cemetery I (Славчев 2012, Fig. 5.1).

9. Stands (fig. 8.14). Ceramic items having served to placing vessels on them. Although the size of the available specimens are sufficiently large, allowing for the identification of the shape, no specific details can be identified on their basis on the overall appearance and proportions of the stands. Yet, the preserved fragments reasonably indicate that the stands had a circular cross-section. There are 3 fragments from Povelyanovo. The shape is very common in the cemeteries of Durankulak and Varna I but rarely found in settlements, and, besides Arsenala (4 fragments, unpublished data), there are ones found in Ezerovo only (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Taf. 13.11).

Decoration analysis

In terms of decoration, the most commonly preferred technique is the incised ornamentation. Chip carving, known as decoration type “Ezerovo” (Todorova, Tončeva 1975,

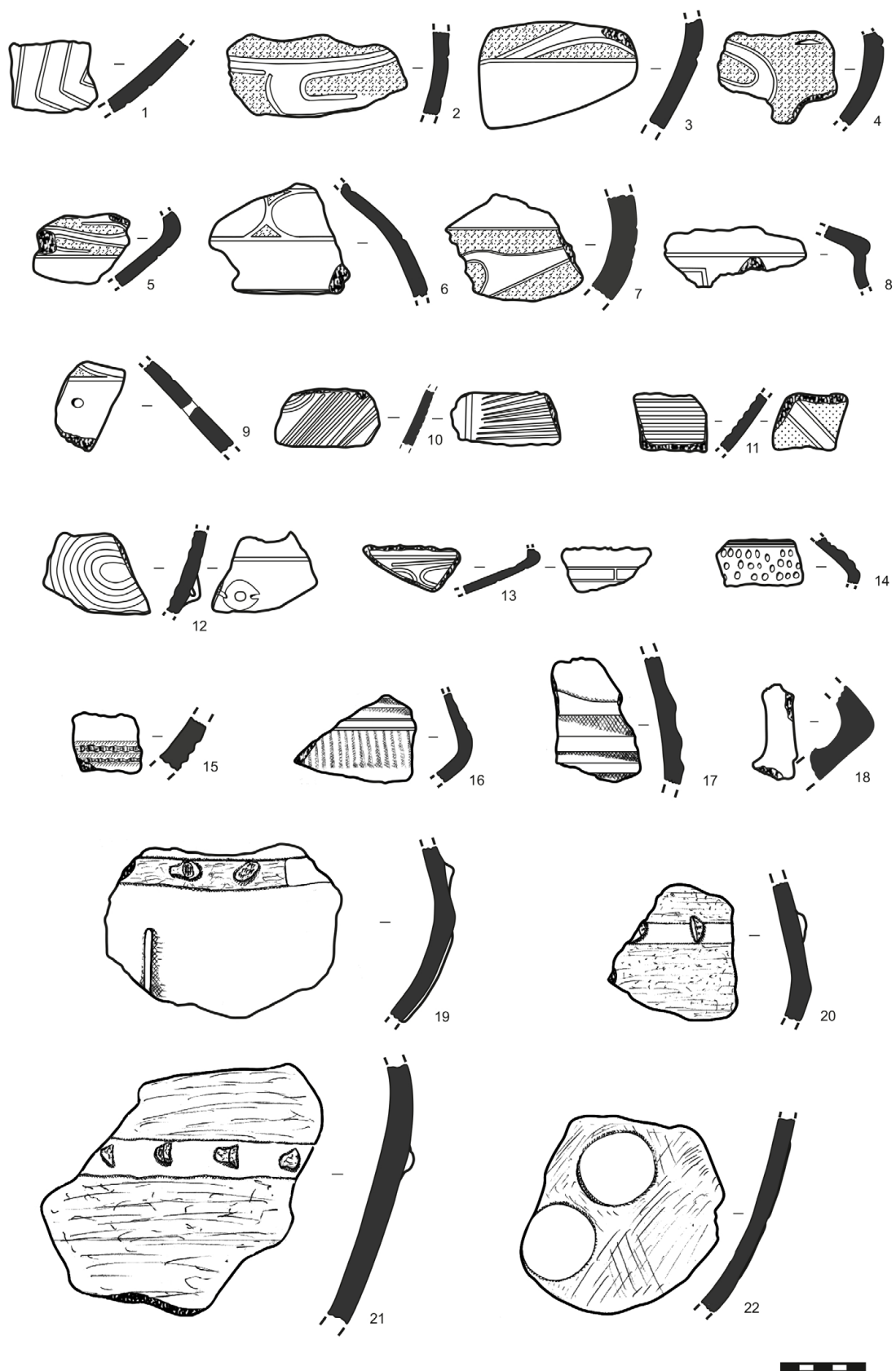


Fig. 9. Pottery from the settlement: examples with decoration (drawings by S. Parvanov)
Обр. 9. Керамика от селището: образци с украса (рисунки С. Първанов)

32) that is always in combination with incised decoration is also frequent and found on both the fine and the rough vessels (fig. 9.2-7). These techniques are found on most types of vessels, and also occur in combination with other techniques. Due to the material fragmentation, it is difficult to speak of complete compositions but the frequent occurrence of a belt composition of two incised lines, most commonly on the transition areas or the shoulders of dishes and bowls and also on lidded vessels is impressive (fig. 3.6-7; 5.2-3, 8; 6.8, 12-14; 7.1-2). Same are very typical for the other examined sites (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 6.10, 12; Maproc 1973, Table VI.7, 8; ИВАНОВ 1972, Table 2.6; Georgieva 2014, Fig. 5.5). A round compositions by incisions and chip carving are found often on the lids (fig. 8.11-13), with very good parallels from the other sites (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Taf. 13.4-7, 9,10, 12-14; Славчев 2012, Fig. 5.1; Maproc 1973, Table VI.5; Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 41.13). The motives are still more fragmented and most of them can be analyzed by comparison to those from other sites. The most typical motive is an indented spiral meander (fig.7.1; 8.4; 9.5,7). It is typically presented by a combination of incised lines and chip carving, most commonly in a negative but also presented in a positive. This motive is found in various versions also observed in other sites in the lakes (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 4.6; Taf. 13.10, 15; Maproc 1973, Table V.2) and Durankulak (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 43.12; 131.11). An interesting case are the flat dishes with incised decoration on the inner surface (fig. 4; 9.10-12). The incisions are either narrow and shallow or wide and deep, resembling grooves. The inner incisions are often combined with rows of triangle impressions on the inner mouth rim. Similar incisions may be found on the bottoms too (fig.10.1-3). The decoration on the outer surface is poorer - either depressions only or with a combination of them and incised decoration and smoothed fields in order to apply paints. Thin or deep vertical parallel grooves are observed on the transition points of some dishes or at the lower part of the vessels that reach their bottoms (fig. 5.7, 11; 10.4-5). Impressions, found rarely, are with round shape, usually wide and deep, in one horizontal line (fig. 7.3; 9.14). Horizontal or vertical channels are found also, located most often in the most upper part of the vessels, alone or in combination with another technique (fig. 6.4; 7.4; 9.15-16). The graphite decoration is poorly preserved and the only one whole preserved composition consist in parallel horizontal lines on the upper part of the dishes, biconical or S-shaped bowls (fig. 5.1; 6.12, 15, 18), with sure analogues from Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 3.18; 7.14) and Devnia cemetery (Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Taf. XI.18; XII.14). It is not possibly to identify other ones at present but the aforementioned indented spiral meander depicted in positive or negative type is frequent as a motive (fig. 6.4; 7.6), as the same was also found in Ezerovo (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 10.7). There are few examples also, which are decorated with graphite on the inner surface (fig. 6.4; 10.6). There are cases of fields or sections, most often surrounded by incised lines, where no slipware was applied and the surface was only smoothed and probably painted after firing (fig. 3.4; 4.4, 6; 7.3, 5). Due to the long stay in the lake water, no traces of paint were preserved both in these cases and the chip carving, and are very rarely observed in the incised lines in the form of white paste. The decoration on the pot-shaped vessels is frequent and is only plastic. an embossed line on the mouth or slightly below it (fig. 7.11; 8.2), vertical ribs (fig. 7.10; 8.3-4; 9.17), thin strips of barbotine (fig. 8.1) and raised buds arranged in a horizontal line (fig. 9.19-21). Bud-like round or elliptical handles with horizontal or vertical openings are found at the dishes and the bowls, usually located at the very transition point or a little below or above it (fig.3.7; 5.3; 6.5, 18). Linear banded handles are found in the vase-shaped vessels (fig. 8.6).

A significant part of the complex are the ring-shaped stalks decorated with 1 or 2 in-

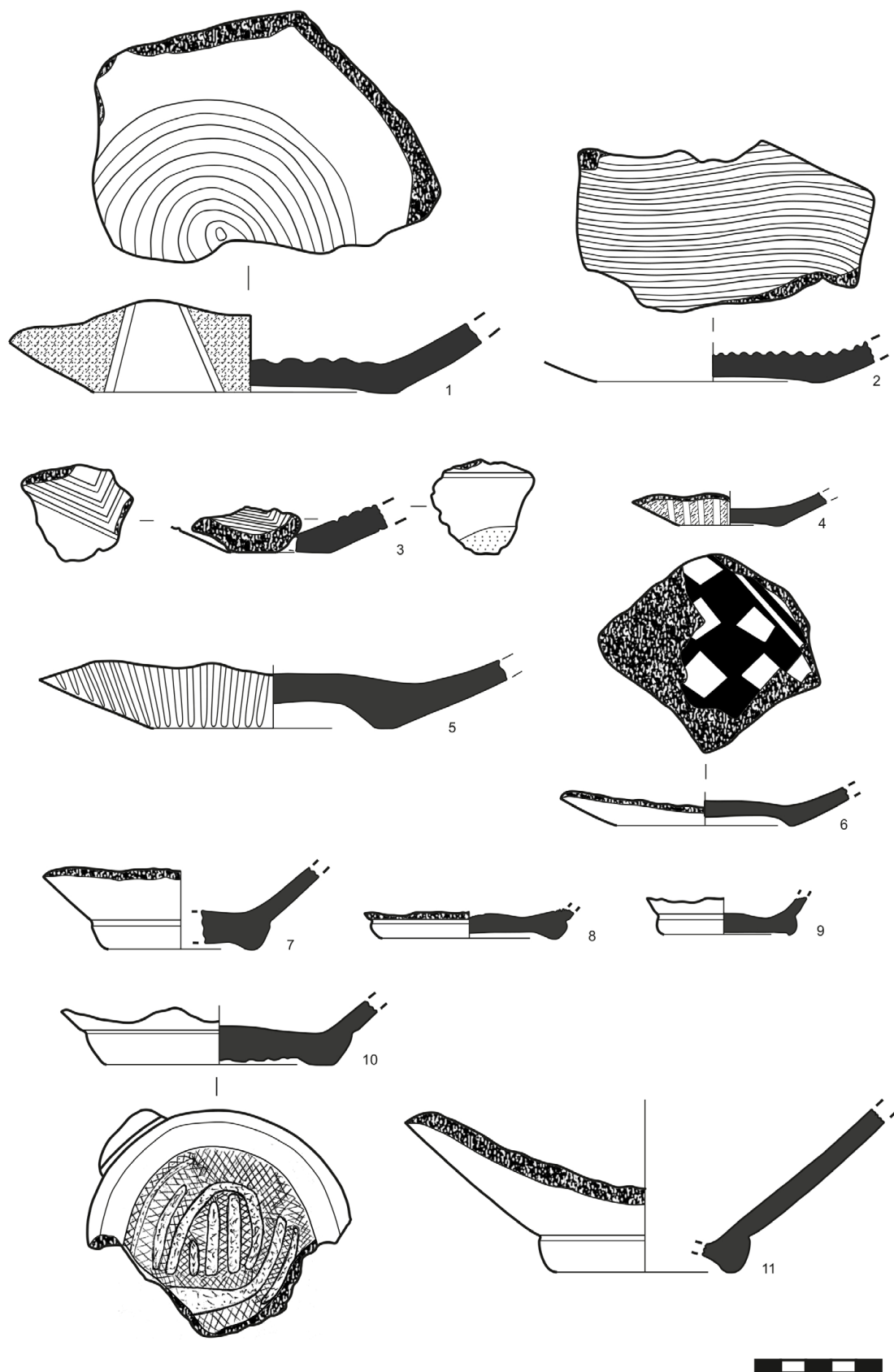


Fig. 10. Pottery from the settlement: bottoms of vessels (drawings by S. Parvanov)
Обр. 10. Керамика от селището: дъна от съдове (рисунки С. Първанов)

cised horizontal lines, between which there may be decoration of chip carving (fig. 10.7-11). These stalks present one of the most characteristic feature of the culture and were found on every site (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 5.14-16; 18-22; Мaпpoс 1973, Fig. 4.22, 23; ИВАНОВ 1972, Tabl. 2.5; Тодорова-Симеонова 1971, Taf. XI.8; XII.14, 19, 20; Georgieva 2014, Fig. 3.2; Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 140.3; 165.12). Their parallels found demonstrate that these were mostly applied on the S-profiled dishes and bowls.

Conclusions

The ceramic displays all the features known to us from the other sites of the Varna Culture. The smooth, soft profiling of the shapes, the frequent outward curved mouths and the thickened transition points, the ring-shaped stalks and the frequent chip carving decoration are all trends occurring in the ceramic complexes of the other settlements. Apparently, there is almost full overlapping of the diversity in the ceramic types. The parallels found very rarely differ in terms of shapes and details, and as size, they only differ from those found in the cemeteries. Obviously, the basis for comparison is not equal, the most ceramics having been found in Ezerovo and Durankulak and the least in Strashimirovo and Devnya settlement. The lack of a large number of parallels with the settlements of Strashimirovo and Devnya is apparently due to the little amount of known material from them because even the few analogies with these sites show full similarity with those from Povelyanovo. Similarities with the KGK VI ceramic complex are also present but a further more detailed comparison of similarities and differences is needed that is not subject to this study.

Chronological position

In terms of the relative chronology, there are several sites which will make possible the determination of the chronological position of Povelyanovo. In Durankulak, most of the analogous vessels are chronologically placed in the phase II, or II-III of Varna culture and some of them find good parallels also in the III phase, most of them representing forms which are equal characteristic for the two phases. In Golyamo Delchevo tell, which is located near to the lakes in the area of Longoz, H. Todorova notes special attention of examples, which according to her are vessels with an appearance that is typical to the Varna Culture, explicitly known to not being manufactured locally, they differ, in terms of technology and style from the local pottery and are product of the trade with the Circum-Pontic region (Тодорова и др. 1975, Tabl. 55.27; 58.2, 24, 25; 68.6; 75.1-8; 77.29, 32). She notes that they begun to appear in the VIIIth construction horizon, continued to the XIIIth one and are relatively reduced thereafter (Тодорова и др. 1975, 39, 50, 90, 107). The period of these exact building levels is phase II of Late Eneolithic (Тодорова и др. 1975, Sch. 2, 13). The shown vessels find very good analogues from Povelyanovo and given the fact that they are from surely dated stratigraphic complexes, this allows a more exact relative dating of the settlement. Based on these findings and the specific similarities with ceramics from Golyamo Delchevo, Ezerovo is dated back in the phase II and the beginning of phase III (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, 45), and in its majority, the ceramic repertoire is completely identical to that of Povelyanovo. It is important to note that the pottery of Povelyanovo displays no similarities with that of the settlements of Kozareva Mogila and Sozopol located south of the lakes and referred to the final phase of the Late Chalcolithic (Георгиева 2003, 214-238; Georgieva 2014, 217-236; Draganov 1995, 225-241). The view that both settlements are dated back to

the period after the existence of the sites from Varna Culture north of the Balkan Mountains has been known long ago (Draganov 1995, 235-236; Георгиева 2003, 222). In this respect, the material of Povelyanovo fits into the overall picture and does not alter the established views.

However, there are samples within the material that could be dated earlier. Their individual features bring them in a lower chronological position but even in a lower quantity, they are found in later phases. The dishes with a high cylindrical or slightly S-shaped ledge (1.3.2. – fig. 3.13-15 and 1.4.4 – fig. 5.7) are one of the characteristic forms for phase I of Late Eneolithic (Petrova 2007, 55, Fig 1.8, 10; 2.2, 7; Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 48.1; 138.9). But there are some similar examples from Ezerovo, Arsenala (unpublished data) and Durankulak (phase II-III), so the shapes may have been maintained longer than the phase I (Todorova, Tončeva 1975, Abb. 7.9, 13; Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 24.6; 65.2; 72.22). The dishes with different type of ledge bent outwards (1.5.2, 1.5.3, 1.5.4. fig. 5.9-12), however, do not have any exact parallels, both among the settlements from the lakes and from the building horizons of Golyamo Delchevo. They are present as early as in the middle Eneolithic - the Hamangia IV Culture, being even ones of its distinctive features (Todorova 2002a, Abb. 122.21, 25; 123.4, 5; Петрова 2008, Таб. 5.1; 7.7; 9.6, 8; Slavchev 2003, Abb. 2; 8.2). Without any significant changes in the shapes themselves, but with huge differences in the decoration, they continued their development in Phase I of the Varna Culture (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 32.1, 5; 36.9; 52.6; 122.5). The first one stopped its development in this form after phase I and the other two were maintained in a similar form to phase II, although significantly reduced in number (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 34.1; 131.4). The cup from 3.1 type (fig. 7.5) is also very characteristic for Hamangia IV (Slavchev 2003, Abb. 9.2; Петрова 2008, Таб. 4.8; Todorova 2002a, Abb. 119.21, 22), finding very good and numerous analogues from phase I of Varna Culture (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 46.2; 93.3), but again in smaller quantity, it could be seen in the later phases (Todorova 2002b, Tabl. 35.13; 113.6). However, there is no sign that could be definitely related to the Middle Eneolithic Hamangia IV Culture and if these cases are earlier, they should be placed in Phase I of the Varna Culture where they find most numerous and exact parallels in the Durankulak cemetery.

There are two curious cases that also could be earlier and are more related to the KGK VI Culture. These are the bowl with a bycylindrical transition point (4.2 type – fig. 7.7), dated back to the phase I and the early phase II (Hiller, Nikolov 2005, Taf. 135.7; Тодорова и кол. 1983, Таб. 62.18) and a case of the incised “ladder” type decoration (fig. 3.9), that is a specific feature of the Karanovo V Culture but is also found in the beginning of the Late Eneolithic in Thrace (Hiller, Nikolov 2005, Taf. 128.6; 130.11, 13). They both find good parallels among KGK VI but are a rare finding in the area of the lakes or in Durankulak.

Conclusions

The samples described above are interesting, on one hand, due to their own characteristics that make them better fit an earlier stage of the Late Eneolithic and on the other, due to their absence so far in the other sites from the lakes. The availability of materials from surely stratified complexes from settlements belonging to the Varna Culture phase I would contribute to the specific situation but their current lack creates particular difficulties in making any general conclusions. Therefore, it is important to note that samples with supposed earlier features are available here but currently, only on the basis of unstratified single samples, which on the other hand could be seen in less amount in later phases also, it

is dangerous to conclude that the settlement was inhabited during phase I. In any case, the situation is interesting and worthy to be discussed in more details but needs more points of references for more sure conclusions to be made. There will be more clarity following the complete processing of the ceramic complexes from the other settlements from the lakes when a more serious comparative analysis will be possible. Also, processing of a material from the Culture with a clear stratigraphic position such as that of the Durankulak tell horizons would give a clearer idea on the specific situation. At this moment, given the certain stratified parallels from Durankulak and Golyamo Delchevo, we believe that it is objective to accept the dating of the ceramic material and the Povelyanovo settlement respectively, in the phase II of the Varna Culture, with a possibility of existence in phase III, or at least in its early stage.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments to Vladimir Slavchev and Olga Pelevina (Archaeological Museum of Varna) for allowing me to proceed the pottery from the settlement, examine unpublished materials from the lakes and also for the helpful conversations and sharing of ideas. Acknowledgments also to Petya Georgieva (Sofia University) for precious advices and huge help during the work.

References

- Георгиева, П. 2003. За края на енеолита в Западното Черноморие. *Добруджа* 21, 214-238.
- Иванов, И. 1972. Енеолитно селище и гробове от бронзовата епоха при град Девня. *Известия на Народния Музей – Варна* VIII (XXIII), 246-253.
- Иванов, И. 1981. Наколните селища – истина и загадка. *Фар* 81, 286-291.
- Иванов, И. 1987. Подводни археологически проучвания на селище – Арсенала. *Археологически открития и разкопки през 1986 г.*, София, 281-283.
- Маргос, А. 1961a. Към въпроса за датирането на наколните селища във Варненското езеро. *Известия на Варненското Археологическо Дружество* XII, 1-4.
- Маргос, А. 1961b. Открити следи от нови наколни селища във Варненското езеро. *Известия на Варненското Археологическо Дружество* XII, 128-131.
- Маргос, А. 1973. Праисторическо наколно селище Страшимирово-1. *Известия на Народния Музей – Варна* IX (XXIV), 267-284.
- Петрова, В. 2003. Класификация на керамични съдове от къснохалколитната култура Караново VI в Тракия. *Археология* 2, 15-27.
- Петрова, В. 2008. Постройка 1. Керамичен комплекс. В Николов, В. (ред). *Праисторически солодобивен център Провадия-Солницата. Разкопки 2005 – 2007 г.* София: Национален археологически институт и музей – БАН, 244-268.
- Славчев, В. 2012. Керамиката като извор за погребалните практики през късния халколит (по данни от гроб № 43 от Варненския некропол). *Colegium historicum* 2, 11-26.
- Тодорова, Х., Иванов, Ст., Василев, В., Хопф, М., Квита, Х., Кол, Г. 1975. *Селищната могила при Голямо Делчево* (Разкопки и проучвания 5). София: Издателство на БАН.

- Тодорова, Х., Василев, В., Янушевич, З., Ковачева, М., Вълев, П. 1983. *Овчарово* (Разкопки и проучвания 8). София: Наука и изкуство.
- Тодорова – Симеонова, Х. 1971. Късноенеолитният некропол край град Девня – Варненско. *Известия на Народния Музей – Варна VII (XXII)*, 3-40.
- Draganov, V. 1995. Submerged Coastal Settlements from the Final Eneolithic and the Early Bronze Age in the Sea around Sozopol and Urdoviza Bay near Kiten. In Bailey, D., Panayotov, I. (eds.) *Prehistoric Bulgaria* (Monographs in World Archaeology 22). Madison Wisconsin: Prehistory Press, 225-241.
- Georgieva, P. 2014. Opportunities for Tracing Influences of the Balkans on Anatolia during the End of the Fifth and the Beginning of the Fourth Millennium BC. *Bulgarian e-Journal of Archaeology* 4.2, 217-236.
- Hiller S., Nikolov, V. 2005 (eds). *Karanovo band IV.2 tafeln. Die Ausgrabungen im Nordsüd-Schnitt, 1993-1999*. Wien: Phoibos.
- Ivanov, I. 1993. A la question de la localization et des etudes des sites submerges dans les lacs de Varna. *Pontica XXVI*, 19-26.
- Petrova, V. 2007. Ceramic assemblage of the late chalcolithic Karanovo VI culture in Thrace. Phases I and II. *Acta Terrae Septemcastrensis VI*, 53-72.
- Slavchev, V. 2003. Charakteristik der Keramik von Schicht VII aus dem Tell "Die Große Insel" bei Durankulak, Nordostbulgarien. *Добруджа* 21, 145-175.
- Slavchev, V. 2017. On the South and Southwest boundaries of the Varna Culture. In Manolakakis, L., Coudart, A., Schlanger, N. (eds) *European Archaeology. Identities & Migrations/ Archéologie européenne. Identités & Migrations. Hommages à Jean-Paul Demoule*. Leiden: Sidestone Press, 251-263.
- Todorova, H. Tončeva, G. 1975. Die äneolithische Pfahlbausiedlung bei Ezerovo im Varna-see. *Germania* 53, 30-46.
- Todorova, H. (ed.) 2002a. *Die prahistorischen Graberfelder von Durankulak* (Durankulak, Band II, Teil 1). Sofia-Berlin: Deutsches Archäologisches Institut.
- Todorova, H. (ed.) 2002b. *Die prahistorischen Graberfelder von Durankulak* (Durankulak, Band II, Teil 2). Sofia-Berlin: Deutsches Archäologisches Institut.
- Todorova, N., Leshtakov P, Kuncheva-Russeva, T. 2003. Late Chalkolithic Pottery from Sudievo Tell, Nova Zagora District. In Nikolova, L. (ed.) *Early Symbolic Systems for Communication in Southeast Europe* (British Archaeological Reports 1139). Oxford: Archaeopress, 241-289.
- Voinea, V. 2005. *Ceramica complexului cultural Gumelnița – Karanovo VI. Fazele A1 și A2*. Constanța: Ex Ponto.

Повеляново – обект от култура Варна

Станимир Първанов

(резюме)

Главната цел на изследването е да представи керамиката от селището при Повеляново и чрез нейния анализ да се потърси мястото му в контекста на останалите обекти от района на Варненските езера, както в културен, така и в хронологически аспект. Селището се намира на северозападния бряг на Белославското езеро, което по географски признак попада в ареала на култура Варна. Тя е датирана в късния халколит и най-общо обхваща втората половина на V хил. пр. Хр. До този момент от региона са известни 9 енеолитни селища и 3 некропола, отнасящи се към култура Варна. Селищата дълго време са смятани за наколни, но днес е по-приемливо да се дефинират като крайбрежни обекти, разположени на първата заливна тераса на езерото.

За селището при Повеляново и обстоятелствата за неговото откриване знаем твърде малко. Открито е при строителни дейности без да са провеждани археологически проучвания. Материалът от селището към момента не е изследван и публикуван. Независимо от възникналите трудности при обработката и огромните неясноти поради откъслечния характер на запазената информация, налице е остра нужда от допълване на характеристиките на населението, обитавало така дискутирания в литературата регион.

Керамиката е много фрагментирана и зле запазена, но могат да се направят общи наблюдения върху технологическите ѝ характеристики. Впоследствие е предложена обща типология на керамичните съдове, базирана основно на тяхната форма. Поради липсата на сигурен хронологически контекст са приведени паралели от познатите обекти от култура Варна, задаващи относително-хронологична рамка на проучвания керамичен комплекс. Най-общо е представена и орнаментацията на керамичните съдове, която е трудна за анализиране и интерпретация поради фрагментарността на материала.

В керамиката са налице всички характеристики, познати ни от останалите обекти от култура Варна. Очевидно има почти пълно припокриване на типовото разнообразие, както при керамичните типове, така и при декорацията на съдовете. Относно хронологическата позиция на материала и респективно на самото селище, най-важни са данните от некропола при Дуранкулак и селищната могила Голямо Делчево. От некропола повечето аналози са от II и III фаза. В Голямо Делчево, между VIII и XIII стр. хор., са открити точни паралели на керамични съдове от селищата от езерата (в това число и на Повеляново). Тяхното хронологическо място е II фаза на късния енеолит. Важно е да се спомене, обаче, че някои от образците биха могли да се отнесат и към по-ранна фаза. Въпреки това, на базата на единични нестратифицирани екземпляри, е рисковано да твърдим, че селището е обитавано през I фаза. Към момента отнасяме датването на керамичния материал и съответно селището от Повеляново към II фаза на култура Варна.