

PONTIC TABLEWARE FROM TROESMIS. THE 1977 EXCAVATIONS*

BY
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Abstract:

In 1977 archaeologists from the Danube Delta Museum carried out a rescue excavation in the civilian settlement of Troesmis. On this occasion, they discovered a substantial amount of Roman pottery. In this article, we present the tableware produced in the Black Sea area. This group was divided into the following categories: Pontic Sigillata; Early Pontic Red Slip; Durostorum Red Slip; Pontic Gray Slip; Unslipped Wares and Late Pontic Red Slip. Pontic tableware dates from the middle of the 1st century AD to the middle of the 4th century. The Late Pontic Red Slip ceramic fragment is from the 5th century, contemporary with the late Roman fortress.

Keywords: *Pontic Tableware; Western Black Sea; Danubian Limes; Troesmis.*

Troesmis is one of the most important military and civilian settlements in the Lower Danube. However, no lasting archaeological research has taken place here, as in the case of the sites from Novae, Durostorum or Noviodunum. The only significant excavations took place in 1977, and in 1980 was published a detailed report.¹ Furthermore, A. Opaïț selectively published the pottery from the Roman era resulting from the aforementioned archaeological researches.² Following the documentation made in the warehouse of the Museum of History and Archeology in Tulcea, we found that in the case of tableware, was published a small number of the discovered exemplars. Thus, we considered appropriate to resume the tableware discovered at Troesmis following the old excavations, to obtain a complete picture on this category of ceramics and to put it in the context of the archaeological realities in the West-Pontic area.

The archaeological site Troesmis is a complex of fortifications, civil settlements and cemeteries, from the early Roman era, the late antiquity and the middle ages. Recent interdisciplinary noninvasive research has pointed out the complexity and historical significance of the entire area.³ The historical importance of the Troesmis settlements also results from the numerous mentions in ancient and even medieval literary sources.⁴

Since the second half of the 19th century, several foreign and Romanian specialists have carried out various researches at Troesmis. It is not our intention to review them since recently it was published a comprehensive research history.⁵ However, some things have to be said about the archaeological research of 1977, as this article presents the tableware discovered following this excavation. It took place in the second half of 1977 and was a rescue excavation. It was used a traditional method in the Romanian archaeology, that of the stratigraphic squares, which they cut from south to north the civilian settlement from the early Roman era. At the same time were discovered artefacts specific to the late Roman or medieval period. The most important archaeological complex investigated was the thermal edifice located to the north of the Eastern Fort.⁶

* This article is an homage to Andrei Opaïț at 70 years.

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¹ SIMION 1980: 153-158; BAUMANN 1980: 159-196; OPAIȚ 1980A: 197-217; VASILIU 1980: 218-229; MĂNUCU-ADAMEȘTEANU 1980: 230-247; OBERLÄNDER-TĂRNOVEANU 1980: 248-288.

² OPAIȚ 1980: 328-366.

³ ALEXANDRESCU, GUGL, KAINRATH 2016; ALEXANDRESCU, OLARIU 2017: 117-148; ALEXANDRESCU, GUGL 2014: 289-306.

⁴ The settlements of Troesmis are mentioned among others by: Ovide (Pont. IV, 9, 78-79), Notitia Dignitatum Orientis (XXXIX, 23, 29, 31), Hierocles (Synecdemos), Procopius (De Aedificiis) or Constantine VII Porphyrogenetos (de Them. 2, 47, 17).

⁵ ALEXANDRESCU, GUGL, KAINRATH 2016: 29-74.

⁶ SIMION 1980: 154-157.

In the literature, there are several articles dedicated to the archaeological site Troesmis, or the random discoveries made here.⁷ We will only mention the works related to Roman ceramics. A. Opaïț published the first article in 1980 in *Peuce* magazine. Here the main functional categories and forms discovered following the archaeological excavations from 1977 are presented selectively. In 2014 is published the monographic volume *Troesmis I*, which includes a significant chapter dedicated to ceramics discovered after field research from 2010-2014, signed by A. Waldner. Also, F. Topoleanu recently published an article about the roman lamps discovered at Troesmis following the old excavations.⁸

In the deposit of the Museum of History and Archeology from Tulcea, there are 283 tableware fragments discovered at Troesmis in 1977. Of these, in the workshops from the Pontic regions were produced 137. To make them easier to classify, they were divided into seven categories, as follows: pontic *sigillata* without decoration, pontic *sigillata* with decoration, Durostorum Red Slip Ware, Early Pontic Red Slip Ware, Pontic Grey Slip Ware, Unslipped Ware, and for the late Roman period there is Pontic Red Slip Ware.

PONTIC SIGILLATA WITHOUT DECORATION

Twenty ceramic fragments fall into the category of undecorated Pontic *sigillata*. They were divided into three forms and represented the earliest products of the Pontic workshops. Form 1 is the most numerous, with 13 specimens, subdivided into four variants, followed by Form 2 with five copies and Form 3 with two shards.

Form 1. Variant A. Plate with vertical rim, low floor, almost horizontal and arched walls. The wall delimits the vertical rim through a small triangular threshold. The upper limit of the rim its thickened, rounded and facing outwards. According to Zhuravlev's typology, based on Crimean pottery, Form 1, Variant A coincides with type 1, 2.1⁹ and 4.1, dated in the last quarter of the first century and the first half of the second century.¹⁰ In Lower Moesia, was produced this type of plates in workshops from the territory of Nicopolis ad Istrum beginning with the middle of the second century.¹¹ In the west Pontic region are found analogies for Form 1, Variant A in Histria,¹² Tomis¹³ or Durostorum,¹⁴ in contexts dated back from the end of first to the middle of third centuries.

Form 1. Variant B. Plate with a lower and annular foot, oblique or almost horizontal walls, slightly arched, vertical rim or somewhat angled, facing outwards. The upper limit of the rim is facing outwards. The boundary between the wall and the rim is marked by a triangular threshold, rounded and more pronounced, compared with variant A. According to Zhuravele's typology, this variant coincides with types 2.2 and 3, dated at the end of first and the beginning of the second centuries.¹⁵ The main Roman sites in the western Black Sea where the presence of Form 2, Variant B was attested, are Slava Rusă,¹⁶ Tomis¹⁷ or Histria.¹⁸ This type of plates also appears in rural areas, in settlement from Fântânele¹⁹ of the Histria territory, or Sarichioi-Sărătura,²⁰ in the region of Argamum. In Moesia Inferior was produced this type of plates in the second and third centuries.²¹

Form 1. Variant C. Plate/bowl with a lower and annular foot. The walls are oblique, sometimes slightly arched and vertical rim. Apart from an obtuse angle, there are no other demarcation elements between the rim and the wall. The existing triangular threshold to the two previous variants completely fades. In Zhuravlev's typology regarding the North Pontic region, this form is not present, but it appears among the dishes produced in the Nicopolitan workshops. Following

⁷ CHIRIAC, BOUNEGRU 1973: 97-101. OPAIȚ 1977: 181-185. MUȘEȚEANU 1984: 235-237 and 631-632.

⁸ TOPOLEANU 2016: 63-116.

⁹ ZHURAVLEV 2010: 41-43, Pl. 11-13.

¹⁰ ZHURAVLEV 2010: 45-46, Pl. 17.

¹¹ SULTOV 1985: 62, Fig. 26.1.

¹² BĂJENARU 2014: 112, Fig. 5.62; SUCEVEANU 2000: 62-65, Pl. 23.2-4, 10-15.

¹³ BĂJENARU 2013: 50, Pl. 3.12-15.

¹⁴ MUȘEȚEANU 2003: 51, Pl. 14.5.

¹⁵ ZHURAVLEV 2010: 43-45: Pl. 14-16.

¹⁶ PARASCHIV, DOBOȘ, POPESCU 2006: 402, Pl. 2.1.

¹⁷ BĂJENARU 2013: 50, No. 16, Pl. 3.16.

¹⁸ BĂJENARU 2014: 112, No. 60-61, Fig. 5.60-61; SUCEVEANU 2000: 69, No. 44, Pl. 25.44.

¹⁹ ANGELESCU 1998: 230, No. 131, Fig. 14.131.

²⁰ MOCANU 2018: 79, No. 13-14, Fig. 87.13-14.

²¹ SULTOV 1985: 62 (type 1c), Fig. 26.3.

Sultov, in Butovo workshops these bowls were widely produced at the end of the second and in the first part of the third century.²² It seems that form 1, variant C, is not very widespread in the west-pontic region. Other specimens appear in Histria, one of them comes from the tumular cemetery, and it has dated between the first and second centuries.²³

Form 1. Variant D. Plate with low and annular base, almost horizontal walls, oblique rim, facing outwards, with rounded upper extremity. The boundary between the wall and the rim is marked by an obtuse angle, without a threshold. In the settlements on the Danube limes, Form 1, Variant D is attested at Durostorum, where was discovered in a household pit dated in the second half of the second century and the first half of the third.²⁴ In the settlements on the Black Sea coast, this type of plate is present in Histria²⁵. In Lower Moesia, in the workshops of Butovo, this type of plate was produced since the second half of the second century.²⁶ This variant of the Pontic dishes with vertical rim does not appear in Zhuravlev's typology for the Crimea.

Form 2. Hemispherical bowl, with a low, annular floor, arched walls to the point where it acquires a vertical appearance. The rim is sharp, vertical. In some cases, a horizontal groove made by incision marks the boundary between the rim and the wall. They are found in all early Roman settlements in the West Pontic area because they were produced in all three workshops in the territory of Nicopolis ad Istrum.²⁷ Form 2-specific bowls also occur in Durostorum.²⁸ In Tomis, on the Black Sea coast, were attested the hemispherical bowls dated between the second and third centuries.²⁹ At Histria were discovered a large number of specimens in archaeological deposits dated between the first century and the end of the second century,³⁰ but also in settlement of Fântânele.³¹ At Troesmis, on the Danube line were discovered a large number of hemispherical bowls.³² Sarichioi-Sărătura is another indigenous rural settlement in which was attested the presence of dishes specific to Form 2.³³

Form 3. Miniature cup/bowl, with a flat base, sloping walls, almost vertical in some cases and slightly arched. The rim is vertical and sharp. A triangular threshold in section marks the boundary between it and the vessel walls. Typologically, Zhuravlev classified these bowls in types 29 and 30, and regarding A. Suceveanu's typology, they coincide with a part of the vessels classified in type 18. At Aegyssus were discovered two specimens following a rescue excavation carried out near the late Roman fortification.³⁴ In Histria were found numerous exemplars, dated to the end of the first century and during the following.³⁵ In rural settlements, a specimen was discovered by V. H. Baumann at Sarichioi-Sărătura in 1989.³⁶ The bowls/cups specific to form 3 is also found as a funerary inventory, in Tomis³⁷ and in an early Roman tomb from Slava Rusă.³⁸ In Lower Moesia, the Pavlikeni workshops have produced these types of cups since the middle of the 2nd century.³⁹

PONTIC SIGILLATA WITH DECORATION

The category of pontic *sigillata* with decoration includes 16 ceramic fragments. The decoration on the pontic *sigillata* is of three types: the most numerous is the one made in the barbotine technique, but there are also specimens

²² SULTOV 1985: 64-65, Fig. 27.5.

²³ SUCEVEANU 2000: 78, Pl. 29.1-2.

²⁴ MUȘEȚEANU 2003: 93, Pl. 29.299.

²⁵ SUCEVEANU 2000: 79-80, Pl. 30.14-15.

²⁶ SULTOV 1985: 65: Pl. 28.4.

²⁷ SULTOV 1985: 67. Pl. 30.2.

²⁸ MUȘEȚEANU 2003: 110, Pl. 15.22.

²⁹ BĂJENARU 2013: 51, Pl. 3.21-22; BĂJENARU, DOBRINESCU 2008: 192, Pl.5/M9/1.

³⁰ BĂJENARU 2014: 113, Fig. 5.68, 70; SUCEVEANU 2000: 15-18, Pl. 2.IV/1-9.

³¹ ANGELESCU 1998: 232, Pl. 16.162,164.

³² WALDNER 2016: 264-265, Fig. 8.K182-K188.

³³ MOCANU 2018: 72-73, Pl. 5.23.

³⁴ NUȚU, COSTEA 2010: 151-152, Pl. 2.6-7.

³⁵ BĂJENARU 2014: 108: Fig. 3.22-23; SUCEVEANU 2000: 73-74, Pl. 27.20-26.

³⁶ MOCANU 2018: 72-73, Pl. 5.24.

³⁷ BĂJENARU 2013: 50, Pl. 3.17-18.

³⁸ PARASCHIV, DOBOȘ, POPESCU 2006: 403, Pl. 2.3.

³⁹ SULTOV 1985: 68, Fig. 31.2.

decorated with low-relief shapes or decoration made by incisions in raw fabric. We divided the pontic *sigillata* with decorations of Troesmis into six distinct forms.

Form 1. Bowl with a low and annular floor, vertical and curved walls, oblique rim, thickened and oriented outwards. On the outer surface of the wall, was made decoration in the barbotine technique, which shows vegetal motifs. In the West Pontic region, both the shape of the bowl and the decorative motif is widely spread. They were discovered in settlements such as the villa rustica from Niculițel,⁴⁰ at Troesmis,⁴¹ Aegyssus,⁴² Hârșova,⁴³ Durostorum,⁴⁴ but also on the seaside, at Histria.⁴⁵ On the territory of Lower Moesia, the bowls of form 1 are among the products of the Nicopolitan workshops, starting with the middle of the second century.⁴⁶

Form 2. Plate with an annular floor, sloping walls, vertical and slightly arched inwards rim. Its upper extremity is oblique and oriented outwards. The decoration with vegetal motifs is on the outer surface of the rim. In addition to the archaeological sites where Form 1 was attested, plates specific to Form 2 were found at Noviodunum.⁴⁷ North of the Danube, in Oltenia, was certified more specimens.⁴⁸ This type of dishes was produced in Lower Moesia, in the workshops from Nicopolis ad Istrum, dated in the 2nd and 3rd centuries.

Form 3. The bowls are identical in shape with the plates specific to Form 2. The main differences are the higher height of the bowls of Form 3 and the arrangement of decorative motifs on the outer surface of the wall. Two fragments studied are decorated with the lanceolate leaf, and one has decoration made with other vegetal figurines. The spread area and the chronological interval in which they were in circulation coincide with that of Forms 1 and 2.

Form 4. Bowl with a flat base and annular foot. At the bottom, the wall is oblique, and at the top, it becomes vertical and slightly arched. The bowl has a bitronconic appearance. The rim is thickened and horizontal, facing outwards. Unlike the previous shapes, the bowl specific to Form 4 it is decorated with an applique that has the appearance of a decorative handle. Although, the shape has featured in common with that of the plates specific to Form 2, the applied decoration it is rarely found in the West-Pontic region. In the civil settlement of Troesmis was discovered a single ceramic fragment, dated in the second century and during the 3rd one.

Form 5. The bowl has a short, annular foot, with a high wall, vertical and slightly arched inwards. The rim is oblique and oriented outwards. The ceramic fragment framed in Form 5 is the only one that has an incised decoration, made with cogwheel and arranged on the outer surface of the wall. Pottery with this type of decoration is scarce in the West-Pontic area, but it appears in early Roman settlements in Oltenia.⁴⁹ In the repertoire of workshops in the Nicopolis ad Istrum area, bowls decorated with cogwheel on the outer surface are dated in the 2nd – 3rd centuries.⁵⁰

Form 6. Plate with a flat floor, sloping walls, slightly arched, wide and horizontal rim. The body shape is oval, and at both ends, the edge is oversized. These are imitations of the Dragendorff 39 plateaus. At Troesmis were discovered two fragmentary specimens. The decoration is located on the upper part of the rim in the case of both samples. One is decorated with embossed zoomorphic figurines while the second it is decorated with vegetal motifs. These types of plateaus were manufactured in workshops identified on the territory of the Lower Moesia province. The centres in Nicopolis ad Istrum produced relief-decorated plates dating back to the 3rd century.⁵¹ A second centre in which a substantial amount of low-relief decorated plateaus has been produced is Durostorum.⁵² In the western-

⁴⁰ MOCANU 2014: 75, No. 153; 76, No. 159-160; Pl. 21.153,159; 22.160.

⁴¹ WALDNER 2016: 256, Fig. 5.K80-83,K86.

⁴² NUȚU, COSTEA 2010: 150, No. 1, Pl. 2.1.

⁴³ BOUNEGRU 1988-1989: 105-106, Pl. 3.8-12.

⁴⁴ MUȘEȚEANU 2003: 124, Pl. 42.1-4.

⁴⁵ SUCEVEANU 2000: 84, No. 8-9, Pl. 32.8-9.

⁴⁶ SULTOV 1985: 66, type 1c, Pl. 29.1.

⁴⁷ BAUMANN 2010: 177, Fig. 4.10.

⁴⁸ POPILIAN 1976: 50, Pl. 18-20.

⁴⁹ POPILIAN 1976: 54-55, Pl. 23.252.

⁵⁰ SULTOV 1985: 64-65, Pl. 28.8.

⁵¹ SULTOV 1985: Pl. 51.1-3.

⁵² MUȘEȚEANU 2003: 33-40, Pl. 8-10.

Pontic area, we can find other analogies for these plateaus in the necropolis of Tomis,⁵³ at Aegyssus,⁵⁴ Noviodunum or Niculițel-Capaclia.⁵⁵

EARLY PONTIC RED SLIP

The Pontic tableware with red slip was classified based on the findings from a villa rustica in Niculițel, investigated between 2009 and 2011.⁵⁶ For similar tableware from the civilian settlement of Troesmis, we will follow this classification. Regarding the Pontic tableware with red slip, we have identified seven distinct forms, and some of them have several variants.

Form 1. Bitronconic bowls, with horizontal rim, flared to the outside, delimited by the walls by a prominent groove. The walls of the vessel are arched, and the base is low and annular. Some of the exemplars have a slot on the upper rim (for a lid?). The diameters of these containers vary between 20 and 30 cm. In the civil settlement of Troesmis were discovered seventeen ceramic fragments. This form is found in many ancient Roman sites in the West Pontic region, both in urban areas and in rural settlements. Apart from Troesmis, this type of bowls appears in Halmyris⁵⁷ and Histria.⁵⁸ They were discovered in rural settlements from the territory of Noviodunum⁵⁹ or Ibida. Form 1 specific bowls date from the end of the 2nd century to the middle of the 4th century.

Form 2. The bowls that fall into this shape have features in common with those of the previous form. The difference is given by the rim, which is vertical and by the sharp, prominent triangular threshold, which marks the boundary between the vessel wall and the upper edge. Diameters vary between 20 and 30 cm. In the studied sample, we identified eight fragmentary specimens. Unfortunately, we do not know such findings from precise chronological contexts, which would undoubtedly demonstrate whether this form is an evolution of the previous shape, whether it is contemporary with it or even earlier. Regarding the appearance of this form, we can notice the probable influence of the pergamenian workshops (the late series classified by Hayes). In west-pontic area tableware that can be framed in this form is attested at Histria, in a context dated to the second and third centuries,⁶⁰ and five such shreds were discovered at Niculițel, in a relatively similar chronological context.⁶¹

Form 4. The bowls have sloping walls, the small rim it is slightly turned towards the outside of the vessel, the floor is flat, and the foot is annular, short, and massive. The diameters of the containers can reach 30 cm. In the sample from Troesmis, we identified 14 ceramic fragments specific to Form 4. The bowls framed in this shape are the faithful imitation of the dishes Form Hayes 1 and especially Hayes 2, produced by the workshops from Çandarlı.⁶² Until now, the identification of this form has been made exclusively based on the study of some ceramic samples discovered at Niculițel⁶³ and in the territory of Ibida. Some bowls with similar features are present in Histria.⁶⁴ Specimens specific to Form 4 were in circulation from the end of the second century until the first decades of the fourth century.

Form 7. Plate with horizontal rim, flared outwards, with two handles applied in relief. The walls are arched; the base is short and annular. We identified no less than 12 fragmentary specimens. According to our knowledge, this form appears in Ibida and Niculițel,⁶⁵ in contexts dated in the second and third centuries. Plates of this shape appear in the North Pontic area⁶⁶, but also the province of Lower Moesia as a product of Nicopolitan workshops during the second

⁵³ BĂJENARU 2013: 42-44, Pl. 1.

⁵⁴ NUȚU, COSTEA 2011: 152-153, Pl. 3.11-13.

⁵⁵ BAUMANN 2008: 230-231, Pl. 16.68-76.

⁵⁶ MOCANU 2014: 71-74, Pl. 19-20.

⁵⁷ TOPOLEANU 2000: 80/173-174, Pl. 20.173-174; OPAITȚ 1991: 138/47, Pl. 74.7.

⁵⁸ SUCEVEANU 2000: 65/type17, Pl. 23.7.

⁵⁹ BAUMANN 1980A: 376-379, Pl. 13-16.

⁶⁰ SUCEVEANU 2000: 62/12, Pl. 22.12.

⁶¹ MOCANU 2014: 73, Pl. 19.146.

⁶² HAYES 1972: 318-320, Fig. 63-64.

⁶³ MOCANU 2014: 73, Pl. 20.148.

⁶⁴ SUCEVEANU 2000: 52-53, Pl. 18.4.

⁶⁵ MOCANU 2014: 74, Pl. 20.150.

⁶⁶ KNIPOVICI 1952: 305-306/type 18, Fig. 5.4; ZHURAVLEV 2010: 51-52, Fig. 22.141.

century.⁶⁷ This plate is also found in Dacia, in Napoca.⁶⁸ The chronological interval specific to this type of dishes is framed between the beginning of the second century and the end of the third century.

Form 8. Bitronconical bowls, with sloping walls, strongly thickened and arched rim towards the inside, probably annular base. Fourteen fragmentary specimens come from the civil settlement of Troesmis. We divided them into three variants, according to the shape of the rim. Eleven ceramic fragments are framed to Variant A; two belong to Variant B and one only to Variant C. This form is relatively well represented in the western-Pontic territory, being discovered in the rural settlement of Niculițel, dated to the end of the second and in the third centuries,⁶⁹ and in the settlements on the coast, where the presence of these bowls is prevalent.⁷⁰ They are widespread in the western and northern Pontic region.⁷¹ Form 8 dishes were in circulation, especially in the coastal settlements, from the last part of the second century until the first decades of the fourth century.

Form 9. Bowl with a high, vertical rim, delimited on the outer surface of the wall by a prominent, triangular threshold. The walls of the vessel are arched, and the foot is annular. We have identified no less than twenty ceramic fragments specific to Form 9. This type of bowl is a larger-scale imitation of the Atlante H3 form produced at Çandarlı.⁷² The presence of these containers on the territory of Dobrogea is sporadic. The specimens known so far have been discovered in Niculițel⁷³ and Histria, dated during the second and third centuries.⁷⁴ Even if the discoveries from Histria were dated a little earlier, Form 9 is probably specific to the third century and the first half of the fourth century.

Form 10. Plate that has a short and annular floor. The wall is horizontal; the rim is oblique and thickened. A groove with unclear functionality is present on the rim upper surface. The diameters of the studied pieces are between 19 and 29 cm. I divided the three ceramic fragments discovered in the civil settlement from Troesmis into two variants. Two of them are framed to Variant A, and only one to Variant B. The only known specimens to date in the West Pontic area are those from Troesmis, identified both after the 1977 excavations and as a result of recent surface research.⁷⁵ Form 10 – specific plates are most likely dated to the second and third centuries.

DUROSTORUM RED SLIP

In the past years, some scholars have identified a particular category of tableware in the Lower Danube region and the west-Pontic coastline. So far, the workshops in which this type of pottery was produced have not been located. Still, there is sufficient evidence of their existence on the territory of the province of Moesia Inferior, more precisely in the southwest of Dobrogea, in the Durostorum area. The characteristics of Durostorum Red Slip tableware are fine, beige or grey-orange fabric and red-brown slip. A. Opaïț identifies this type of pottery for the first time following the research carried out in the civil settlement of Troesmis.⁷⁶ Subsequently, C. Mușețeanu identifies two categories of fabric for tableware produced at Durostorum, and one of these categories coincides with the ceramics identified by A. Opaïț.⁷⁷ P. Dyczek calls this type of pottery “Lower Danube Kaolin Wares”,⁷⁸ and C. Băjenaru presents in a recent article a workshop in which this type of pottery was produced, discovered in Castelu, in the south of Dobrogea.⁷⁹ In the sample of tableware from Troesmis that we studied, we identified six ceramic fragments in the Durostorum Red Slip category, and they were divided into four shapes.

Form 1. Bowl with a high, massive and annular foot. The walls of the vessel are oblique and arched to the point where the body acquires a hemispherical appearance. The rim is massive, vertical and delimited by the wall through a

⁶⁷ SULTOV 1985: 64/type 5, Pl. 27.4.

⁶⁸ RUSU BOLINDEȚ 2007: 225, Pl. 51.188-190.

⁶⁹ MOCANU 2014: 74, Pl. 20.151.

⁷⁰ SUCEVEANU 2000: 35/Type 7, Fig. 10.1-6.

⁷¹ KNIPOVICI 1952: 315/tip4, Fig. 11.3-4.

⁷² HAYES 1972: 321, Fig. 64.

⁷³ MOCANU 2014: 74, Pl. 20.152.

⁷⁴ SUCEVEANU 2000: 61, No. 6, Pl. 22.6.

⁷⁵ WALDNER 2016: 272, Fig. 11.K273-K277.

⁷⁶ OPAIȚ 1980: 342.

⁷⁷ MUȘEȚEANU 2003: 35.

⁷⁸ DYCZEK 2016: 239-256.

⁷⁹ BĂJENARU 2018.

triangular threshold. Judging by the size of the rim and the thickness of the wall, we are probably dealing with large-size bowls. The chronological interval in which these bowls circulated dates back to the second and third centuries.

Form 2. The plate has a short annular foot and arched walls. In the upper third the wall acquires a horizontal appearance. The rim is sharp and vertical. These plates were probably of medium and large size and are dated to the second and third centuries.

Form 3. The bowl has a short, annular foot. The walls are arched so that the body of the vessel acquires a hemispherical appearance. The two fragments can be two different variants. The first of them has a sharp rim, modelled next to the wall, without demarcation elements. In the case of the second variant, the upper edge is strongly thickened and slightly flared inwards. Like the previous forms, these bowls are dated to the second and third centuries.

Form 4. The bowl has a small, thin and annular foot, the walls curved so that in the upper half it acquires a vertical appearance. The rim is composed of a vertical phalanx extremely small in size and a horizontal band, wide, as the outer limit arched down, which can also fulfil the role of a handle. The specific chronological interval for these bowls is in the second and third centuries.

PONTIC GRAY SLIP

Table pottery with grey, brown or black slip is known in the region of the Danube limes, from Pannonia and Dacia to the mouth of the Danube and the area of the west-pontic seacoast. According to information from previous research, the origin of this ceramic category is in the traditions of the local population present in these regions before the Roman expansion. The source of the grey tableware from Pannonia or Moesia Superior is in the local pottery of Celtic tradition.⁸⁰ For the West-Pontic region, the origin of grey pottery is identified in the specific cultures of the Getic population.⁸¹ Over these traditions of potters from the Lower Danube area and the west-Pontic coast was overlapped the influence of pottery workshops from the Hellenistic world. At Troesmis, following the ancient excavations, only four ceramic fragments with grey briefs were discovered. They were divided into three forms.

Form 1. Bowl/cup. This shape was established based on two ceramic fragments discovered in the civilian settlement of Troesmis. Unfortunately, the diameters of the two specimens could not be reconstructed. Therefore we cannot say with certainty whether it is an open shape (bowls) or a closed shape (cup). We also do not know if the foot is flat or annular. The wall is oblique, and the rim is short and vertical, slightly rounded at the upper extremity. A triangular threshold marks the boundary between the wall and the top edge. One of the two ceramic fragments has decoration in the barbotine technique. Given the context from which the ceramic pieces come, the proposed chronological interval coincides with the second and third centuries.

Form 2. The plate has a short and annular foot; the walls are arched, the rim is horizontal, wide, and oriented outwards. The end of the upper edge is provided with a vertical triangular threshold. Some specimens have two small, S-shaped handles, opposed and attached to the outer surface of the rim. These plates have diameters over 25 cm. They are dated to the second and third centuries. Apart from the Troesmis specimen, similar ceramic fragments are present in the rural settlement of Sarichioi – Sărătura.⁸²

Form 3. The bowl has a short, annular foot. The walls of the vessel are oblique and slightly arched. The rim is delimited on the outside by two horizontal incised lines and is sharply bent inwards. The diameter of these bowls is around 15 cm. This type of dish is dated the same as the two previous shapes. A specimen with the full profile is identified among the ceramics from Sarichioi – Sărătura.⁸³

Unidentifiable Form. A foot fragment of a plate discovered in the civilian settlement of Troesmis is decorated with a plantapedis-shaped stamp. A. Opaiț published this piece and dated it in the first half of the second century.⁸⁴

⁸⁰ NAGY 2017: 7-10.

⁸¹ OPAIȚ 1980: 348.

⁸² MOCANU 2018: 74, Pl. 8.40.

⁸³ MOCANU 2018: 74, Pl. 8.41.

⁸⁴ OPAIȚ 1980: 359/86-87, Pl. 17.1-2.

UNSLIPPED WARES

In the West Pontic region, both in the early Roman era and in the late Roman period, there was a category of table ceramics without briefs. They are very rare, and at Troesmis we have identified two such specimens. These are small bowls that have a short, annular foot, and the wall is arched to the point where it becomes vertical. The dishes are identical in shape with specimens in the categories pontic *sigillata* and early pontic red slip. From a chronological point of view, we consider that this type of bowl is encountered in the third century but also the first half of the fourth century.

LATE PONTIC RED SLIP

Few fragments of late Roman pottery have been discovered in the civil settlement of Troesmis. Among them is the floor of a Pontic bowl specific to the fifth century. According to Domzalski's typology, it belongs to Form 3, bowls identical to the one at Troesmis were discovered in the north of the Black Sea at Tanais.⁸⁵ This form is also found in other Roman settlements in the West Pontic region, such as Ibida.⁸⁶

Pontic tableware was first reported at the end of the 19th century by H. Dragendorff, who established the main features of this group, based on specimens discovered in the northern Black Sea.⁸⁷ The primary influence in the appearance of Pontic *Sigillata* is attributed to Italic pottery,⁸⁸ which enters the Pontic basin since the second century BC.⁸⁹ In addition to the Italic *sigillata*, Pontic tableware has a shared repertoire of forms with Eastern *Sigillata* B, which penetrates the Pontic region, especially in the second half of the first century AD. During the second and third centuries, in addition to micro-Asian workshops, the influence of Western craftsman is noticeable, especially those in the Middle Danube area (Pannonia and Upper Moesia). All the imported cultural elements overlapped with the traditions of the ceramic workshops of the Getic population. Thus, Pontic tableware has a complex background both culturally and in terms of its production techniques.

The substantial amount of pontic tableware is an indication that there were several workshops in which it was produced. The best-known workshops to date are those in Lower Moesia, such as those in Pavlikeni, Butovo, Hotnia, Durostorum or Novae. Their appearance coincides with the organization of the Lower Danube limes as a result of Trajan's wars against the Dacians. All these workshops began to produce in the early second century. For the Pontic *Sigillata* specific to the first century, the workshops are unknown until now. There are two theories that these production centres could be located in the Crimea or the southern Black Sea region. If we take into account that so far no such workshops have been discovered in Crimea, and the commonality with Eastern *Sigillata* B, the location of the workshops in the southern Black Sea seems plausible.

Compared to the main regions where tableware was produced in the Roman Empire, certain specific features developed in the Pontic region. The technique of making the decor best highlights these. Unlike other areas, in the Pontic workshops, the decoration was widely used in the barbotine technique. At the same time, moulded pottery is scarce, which is explained by the minimal number of moulds discovered so far. The lack of manufacturer stamps is another feature of Pontic tableware. The decoration by stamping is quite used (especially the plantapedis stamps), but the marks with the names of craftsmen are missing. All this offers an element of uniqueness to the tableware produced in the Pontic region.

From a historical perspective, Pontic tableware was in circulation between the second half of the 1st century AD and the beginning of the 4th century. The tradition of Pontic workshops is continued in late antiquity by the existence of Late Pontic Red Slip pottery, found mainly in the northern Black Sea,⁹⁰ but also present in the late Roman settlements of Scythia.⁹¹ Another element to consider is the area of distribution of Pontic pottery. Traditionally, the diffusion of Pontic tableware is a regional one, the export being limited to the neighbouring provinces. However, there are discoveries of Pontic tableware in remote regions such as North Africa.⁹²

⁸⁵ ARSENEVA, DOMZALSKI 2002: 426-427, Fig. 8-11.

⁸⁶ MOCANU 2011: 229-230, Pl. 2.6.

⁸⁷ DRAGENDORFF 1980: 19-22.

⁸⁸ ZHURAVLEV 2008: 90-93.

⁸⁹ MOCANU 2016: 121.

⁹⁰ ARSENEVA, DOMZALSKI 2002: 424.

⁹¹ MOCANU 2011: 229-230.

⁹² KENRICK 1985: 273.

Pontic tableware accounts for almost half of the total of this category of pottery discovered in the civilian settlement of Troesmis, as a result of archaeological excavations in 1977. Typologically, the most common group is Early Pontic Red Slip, which represents 64 per cent, followed by Pontic *Sigillata* with 26 per cent. The other categories, such as Durostorum Red Slip, Pontic Gray Slip or Late Pontic Red Slip, have a presence under five per cent.

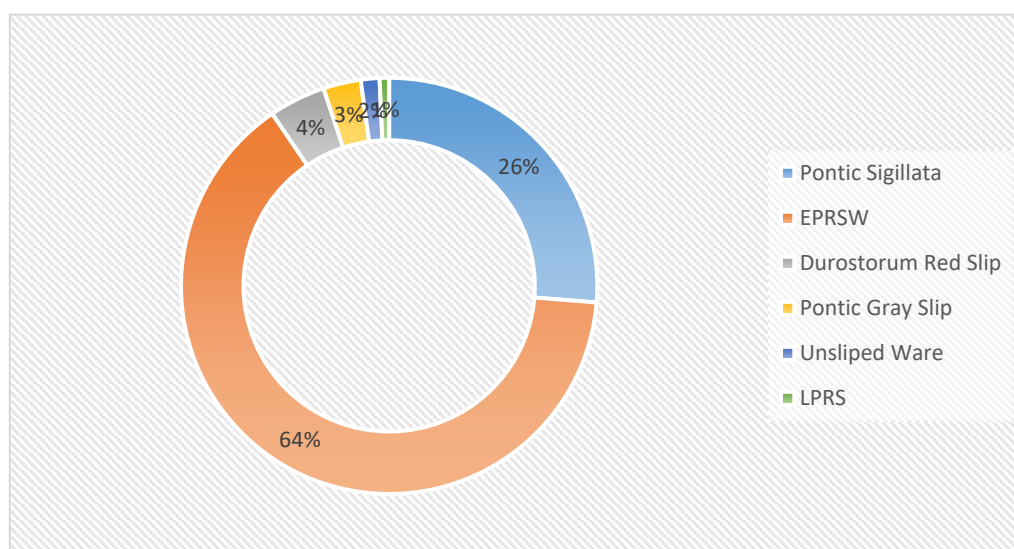


Fig. 1. Percentage distribution of Pontic tableware.

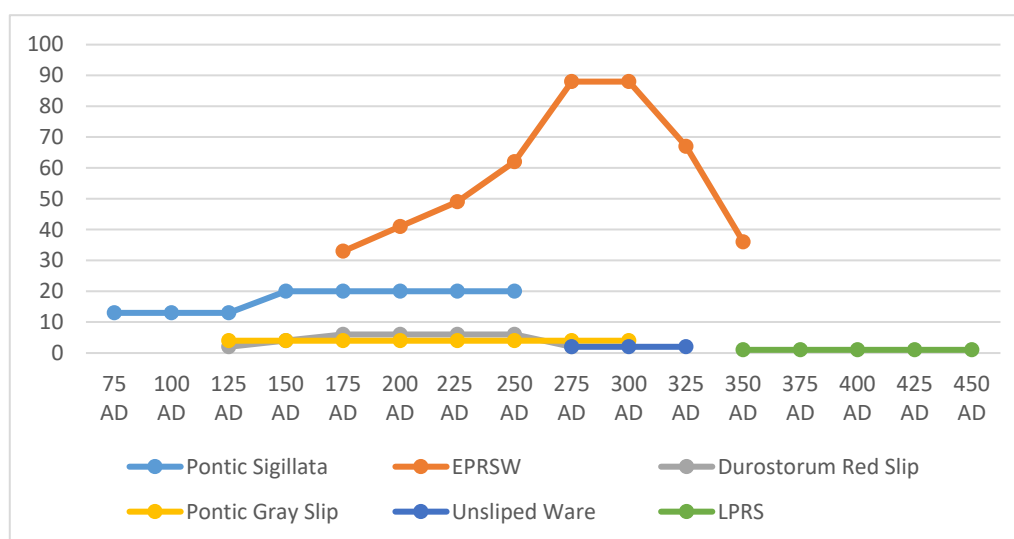


Fig. 2. Typochronological distribution of Pontic tableware.

The earliest of the tableware discovered at Troesmis is the Pontic *Sigillata*, which dates between the middle of the first century AD and the middle of the third century. *Sigillata* Pontica predates the establishment of the 5th Macedonica Legion at Troesmis. Pontic Gray Slip and Durostorum Red Slip date from the beginning of the 2nd century to the end of the 3rd century. The appearance of these two groups coincides chronologically with the arrival of the legion at Troesmis, and the beginning of the production of tableware in the Lower Moesia Province. The Early Pontic Red Slip appears towards the end of the 2nd century after the legion left for Potaisa and is attested until the middle of the 4th century. This is the chronological interval to which corresponds the most significant amount of pottery, from which we can conclude that the maximum expansion of civilian settlement at Troesmis dates from the departure of the 5th Macedonica legion until the end of the third century or even the beginning of the fourth century. The Late Pontic Red Slip ceramic fragment is a chance discovery related to the fortress of late antiquity.

CATALOGUE

*Pontic Sigillata without decoration***Form 1, Variant A**

1. Fragmentary plate. Rim and the upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 18666. Hp: 3.9.
Orange clay (5 YR 6/8) with lot of small limestone particles and silvery mica in composition, orange slip (5 YR 7/8) on interior surface and reddish-brown (5 YR 4/8) on outside.
2. Fragmentary plate. Rim and the upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 16440. Hp: 3.4.
Orange clay (5 YR 6/6) with limestone and sand particles, reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8).
Forma 1, Varianta B
3. Small fragmentary plate. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21761. Dm: 12, Hp: 2.
Bright brown fabric (7.5 YR 5/6), brown slip (7.5 YR 4/6).
4. Small fragmentary plate. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19802. Dm: 13, Hp: 2.
Orange clay (5 YR 7/8) with impurities in composition, bright reddish-brown slip (5 YR 5/8), average quality.

Form 1, Variant C

5. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 22518. Dm: 18, Hp: 3.3.
Orange clay (7.5 YR 6/8), yellow-orange slip (7.5 YR 7/8).
The outer surface, immediately under the rim, is decorated with incision made by cogwheel.
6. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21580. Hp: 3.9.
Yellow-orange clay (7.5 YR 8/8) with small limestone particles, orange slip (5 YR 6/8). The outside rim surface has a reddish-brown slip (5 YR 4/6).

Form 1, Variant D

7. Fragmentary plate. The entire profile is preserved.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 2415. Dm: 22, H: 3.
Orange clay (5 YR 6/8) with limestone particles, bright reddish-brown slip (5 YR 5/8). The footplate is without slip.

Form 2

8. Small fragmentary bowl, upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19875. Dm: 17, Hp: 4.4.
Dull orange clay (7.5 YR 7/4) with some impurities in composition, reddish-brown slip (5 YR 4/6).
9. Small fragmentary bowl, upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21568. Dm: 18, Hp: 4.2.
Brown clay (7.5 YR 4/3) with fine limestone particles, dark brown slip (7.5 YR 3/4).

Form 3

10. Fragmentary cup. Rim and the upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 20978. Dm: 10, Hp: 2.6.
Bright reddish-brown clay (5 YR 5/8) with limestone, orange slip (5 YR 6/8).
11. Fragmentary cup. Rim and the upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 18658. Hp: 4.8
Orange clay (5 YR 6/8), bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/8).
Pontic sigillata with decoration

Form 1

12. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19798. Dm: 16, Hp: 3.8.

Orange clay (5 YR 6/8) with fine limestone particles, reddish-brown slip (5 YR 4/6). The outside surface has barbotine style decoration with vegetal motifs.

13. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19798. Hp: 3.2.

Orange clay (5 YR 6/8), bright reddish-brown slip (5 YR 5/8). On the outside surface has barbotine style decoration with vegetal motif.

Forma 2

14. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 22292. Hp: 3.3.

Light yellow-orange fabric (7.5 YR 8/6) with few particles of limestone, bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/8). The outside surface is decorated with vegetal motifs in barbotine style.

15. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 18798. Hp: 3.

Orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/8), bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/8). The outside rim surface has barbotine style decoration with vegetal motifs.

Forma 3

16. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19538. Hp: 4.7.

Dull orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/4), with some impurities in his composition, reddish-brown slip (5 YR 4/6). On the outside surface has decoration in barbotine style with vegetal motifs.

17. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper part. Almost entire profile.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 4235. Dm: 15, Hp: 5.5.

Bright reddish brown fabric (5 YR 5/8), bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/8). The outside surface is decorated with vegetal motifs in barbotine style.

18. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 16744. Dm: 18, Hp: 4.7.

Orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/6) with limestone and other impurities in composition, reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8). The outside surface is decorated in barbotine style with vegetal motifs.

Form 4

19. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19877. Hp: 2.9.

Bright reddish brown fabric (5 YR 5/6) with some impurities in composition. Reddish-brown slip (5 YR 4/8). On the outside surface under the rim is applied a small handle.

Form 5

20. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 20956. Dm: 16, Hp: 4.8.

Orange fabric (5 YR 6/6), reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/6). The outside surface is decorated by incision with toothed wheel.

Form 6

21. Fragmentary plate. Complete profile.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 9409. Hp: 3.6.

Bright brown fabric (7.5 YR 5/6) with small limestone fragments, dull reddish-brown slip (5 YR 5/4). The upper part of the rim is decorated with zoomorphic motifs.

22. Fragmentary plate. Rim and the upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 16581. Hp: 1.6.

Orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/8) with some impurities, low quality bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/8). The exterior upper part of the rim has vegetal motifs decoration.

Early Pontic Red slip ware**Form 1**

23. Fragmentary bowl. Almost complete profile.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19641. Dm: 23, Hp: 7.5.
Orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/6) with silvery mica and other impurities, low quality bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/8).
24. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21990. Dm: 25, Hp: 6.3.
Dull brown fabric (7.5 YR 6/3) with limestone, silvery mica and others impurities, low-quality yellow-orange slip (10 YR 7/8).
25. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and the upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21917. Dm: 30, Hp: 7.
Dull orange fabric (7.5 YR 7/3) with limestone and other impurities low quality dull yellow-orange slip (10 YR 7/4).
26. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 9405. Dm: 26. Hp: 6.5.
Dull orange fabric (5 YR 7/3) with limestone particles, reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/6). On the outside the slip is applied on the upper part only.
27. Large fragmentary bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21933. Dm: 36, Hp: 5.
Yellow-orange fabric (7.5 YR 7/8) with some limestone particles, low quality bright reddish-brown slip (5 YR 5/8).

Form 2

28. Fragmentary bowl. Almost complete profile.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21952. Dm: 20, Hp: 6.1.
Bright brown fabric (7.5 YR 5/6) with limestone and other impurities, low-quality orange slip (5 YR 6/6), applied on the upper part only on outside surface.
29. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21910. Dm: 24, Hp: 5.8.
Bright brown fabric (7.5 YR 5/8) with small limestone particles, low-quality reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8).
30. Large bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21862. Dm: 28, Hp: 3.7.
Orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/6) with limestone particles and other impurities, bright yellowish-brown slip. The outside rim is decorated by incision made whit cogwheel.

Form 4

31. Large size bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19505. Dm: 30, Hp: 4.7.
Yellow-orange fabric (7.5 YR 7/8) with small limestone particles and lots of silvery mica. Low-quality reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8) also with silvery mica.
32. Large bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 17674. Dm: 28, Hp: 4.9.
Bright yellowish-brown fabric (10 YR 6/8) with fine limestone particle, reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/6).
33. Large size bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 22257. Dm: 30, Hp: 5.6.
Bright reddish brown fabric (5 YR 5/8) with lots of limestone particles and other impurities, reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8).
34. Large bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19579. Dm: 29, Hp: 5.
Orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/8) with limestone and silvery mica, low-quality reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8).

Form 7

35. Plate. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 4554. Dm: 22, Hp: 3.4.
Yellow-orange fabric (7.5 YR 7/8) with insertion of limestone and silvery mica, low-quality reddish-brown slip (5 YR 4/6).
36. Plate. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 9431. Dm: 28, Hp: 3.6.
Bright reddish brown fabric (5 YR 5/8) with limestone particles and other impurities, low quality bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/8).
37. Plate. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 20868? Dm: 29, Hp: 2.5.
Orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/8) with few insertions of limestone and silvery mica, bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/8).

Form 8, Variant A

38. Bowl. Almost entire specimen, missing foot.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 16368. Dm: 24, Hp: 6.4.
Yellow-orange fabric (7.5 YR 7/8), with few limestone particles, low-quality reddish-brown slip (2.5 4/8). Tow horizontal grooves made by incision are placed on the outside surface, under the rim.
39. Medium size bowl. Almost entire specimen, missing foot.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 16291. Dm: 22, Hp: 5.7.
Low-quality light yellow-orange fabric (10 YR 8/4) with many large size limestone particles in his composition, dull orange slip (7.5 YR 6/4), poor preservation.
40. Medium size bowl. Almost entire specimen, missing foot.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 9408. Dm: 24, Hp: 5.5.
Orange clay (7.5 YR 6/8) with fine particles of limestone and silvery mica, reddish-brown slip (5 YR 4/6).
41. Medium size bowl. Almost entire specimen, missing foot.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19632. Dm: 23, Hp: 6.2.
Yellow-orange fabric (10 YR 8/6), low quality bright reddish-brown slip (5 YR 5/8).

Form 8, Variant B

42. Small plate, complete profile.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 9379. Dm: 12, H: 3.9.
Bright reddish brown fabric (5 YR 5/8) with insertion of fine limestone particles, very low-quality reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8).
43. Fragmentary bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 19680. Hp: 5.
Yellow-orange fabric (7.5 YR 7/8) with limestone and silvery mica, very low-quality reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8).

Form 9

44. Small bowl. Almost complete exemplar.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 20965. Dm: 14, H: 6.3.
Bright brown fabric (7.5 YR 5/6), burned imperfectly, with lots of impurities in his composition, bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/8), applied only on the upper third.
45. Bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21063. Dm: 26, Hp: 5.8.
Yellowish orange fabric (10 YR 7/8) with limestone insertion, reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8).
46. Bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 22919. Dm: 24, Hp: 8.5.
Orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/8) with limestone particles, low-quality reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8).
47. Bowl. Rim and upper wall.
Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 18660. Dm: 28, Hp: 6.4.
Bright reddish brown fabric (5 YR 5/8) with insertion of limestone and other impurities, bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/8).

48. Bowl. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 16376. Dm: 24, Hp: 5.4.

Orange fabric (5 YR 6/8) with lots of limestone particles and silvery mica in his composition, reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8).

Form 10, Variant A**49.** Medium size plate. Complete profile.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 9388.

Orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/8) with fine limestone particles in composition, reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8). Four concentric grooves lie on the inner surface.

50. Large plate. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 22613.

Orange fabric (7.5 YR 6/8) with some limestone particles, reddish-brown slip (2.5 YR 4/8).

Form 10, Variant B**51.** Medium size plate. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 22011. Dm: 24, Hp: 2.5.

Bright brown fabric (7.5 YR 5/8) with few limestone particles, bright brown slip (2.5 YR 5/6).

Durostorum (?) Red Slip Ware

Form 1**52.** Bowl. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1997. Inventory no. 17673. Hp: 4.4.

Light grey fabric (10 YR 8/2) with oxide of iron and other impurities, bright reddish-brown slip (5 YR 5/8).

Form 2**53.** Bowl. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21687. Hp: 3.5.

Light grey fabric (10 YR 8/2) with some impurities in his composition, bright reddish-brown slip (5 YR 5/8).

Form 3**54.** Bowl. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 22391. Hp: 3.1.

Light grey fabric (7.5 YR 8/2) with traces of iron oxide and small limestone particles, bright reddish-brown slip (5 YR 5/8).

55. Bowl. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 16299. Hp: 3.

Light yellow-orange fabric (7.5 YR 8/3) with some impurities in his composition, low-quality reddish-brown slip (5 YR 4/8).

Form 4**56.** Medium size bowl. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 20970. Dm: 21, Hp: 2.4.

Light yellow-orange fabric (7.5 YR 8/3) with lots of impurities in his composition, reddish-brown slip (5 YR 4/8), partially applied on both sides.

57. Medium size bowl. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 16748. Hp: 1.8.

Light yellow-orange fabric (7.5 YR 8.3) with traces of iron oxide, reddish-brown slip (5 YR 4/8).

Pontic Grey Slip Ware

Form 1**58.** Bowl/cup. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21701. Hp: 4.8.

Olive grey fabric (10 Y 4/2) with iron oxide and limestone particles, olive black slip (5 Y 3/2). Decoration with vegetal motif is present on the outside surface.

59. Bowl/cup. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1977. Inventory no. 21702

Olive grey fabric (10 Y 4/2) with iron oxide and limestone particles, olive black slip (5 Y 3/2).

Form 2**60.** Bowl. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1997. Inventory no. unreadable. Dm: 26. Hp: 4.5.

Olive grey fabric (10 Y 4/2) with iron oxide, limestone particles and other impurities in his composition, olive black slip (5 Y 3/2).

Form 3**61.** Bowl. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1997. Inventory no. 18453. Hp: 3.5.

Dark olive fabric (5 Y 4/4) with limestone particles and other impurities, light grey slip (10 Y 7/1) with lots of silvery mica.

Unidentifiable Form**62.** Large size plate/bowl. Floor with tow stamps.

Troesmis 1997. Inventory no. 9430.

Grey slip (10 Y 5/1) with iron oxide and limestone particles in his composition, greyish olive slip (7.5 Y 4/2). In the interior surface, they were applied two parallel *plantapedis* stamps.

Unslipped Wares

Form 1**63.** Medium size bowl. Rim and upper wall.

Troesmis 1997. Inventory 16301. Dm: 24, Hp: 3.3.

Dull yellow-orange fabric (10 YR 7/4) with small fine particles of limestone and shards in his composition.

64. Small size bowl. Almost complete profile.

Troesmis 1997. Inventory no. 19532, Dm: 10, Hp: 3.6.

Yellow-orange fabric (7.5 YR 7/8) with silvery mica and fine particles of limestone in his composition.

*LATE ROMAN TABLEWARE.****Pontic Red slip ware*****Form 3****65.** Large size plate/bowl. Floor fragment.

Troesmis 1997. Inventory no. 4552.

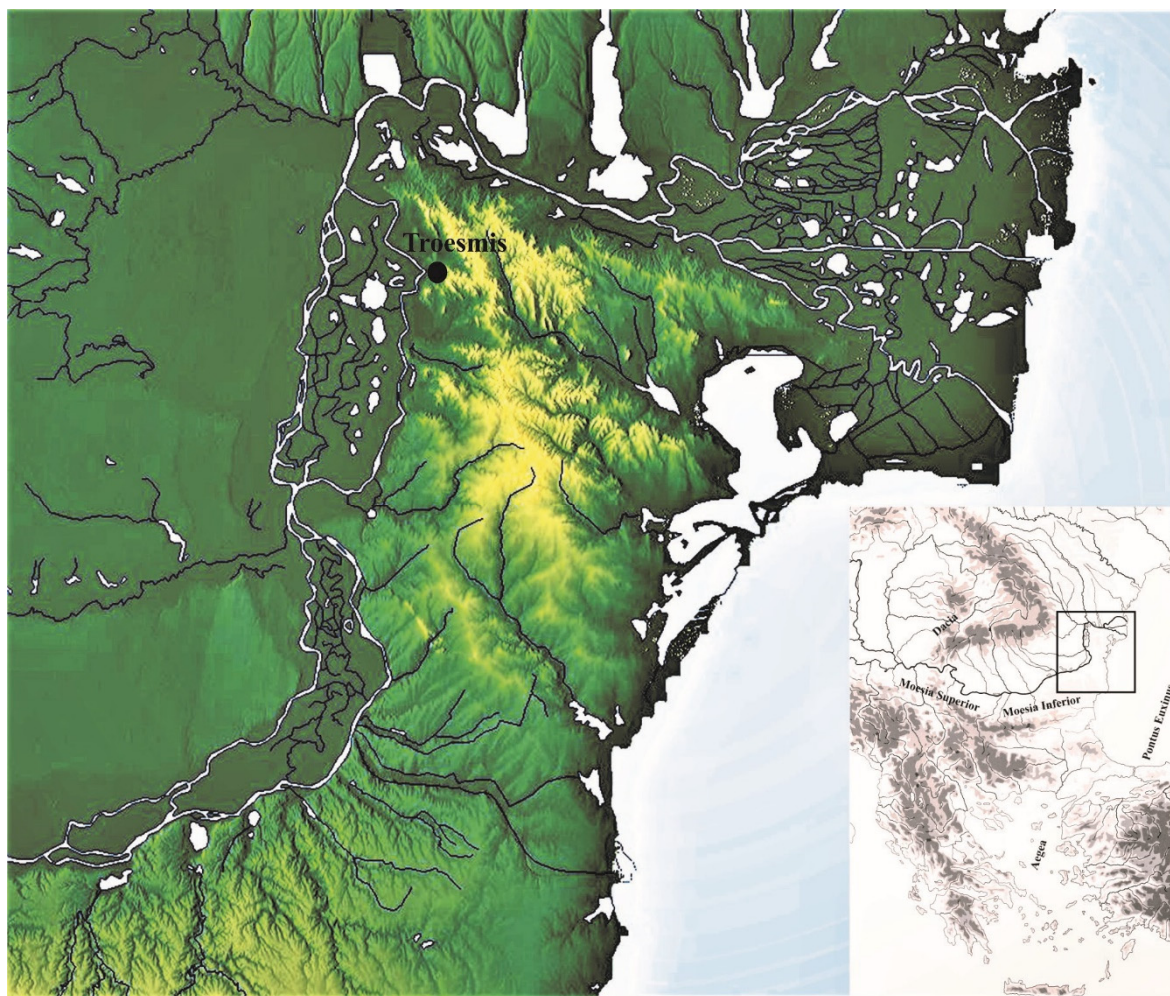
Dull reddish brown fabric (5 YR 5/4), same slip (5 YR 4/4). On the inner surface is present a geometrical decoration made by incision.

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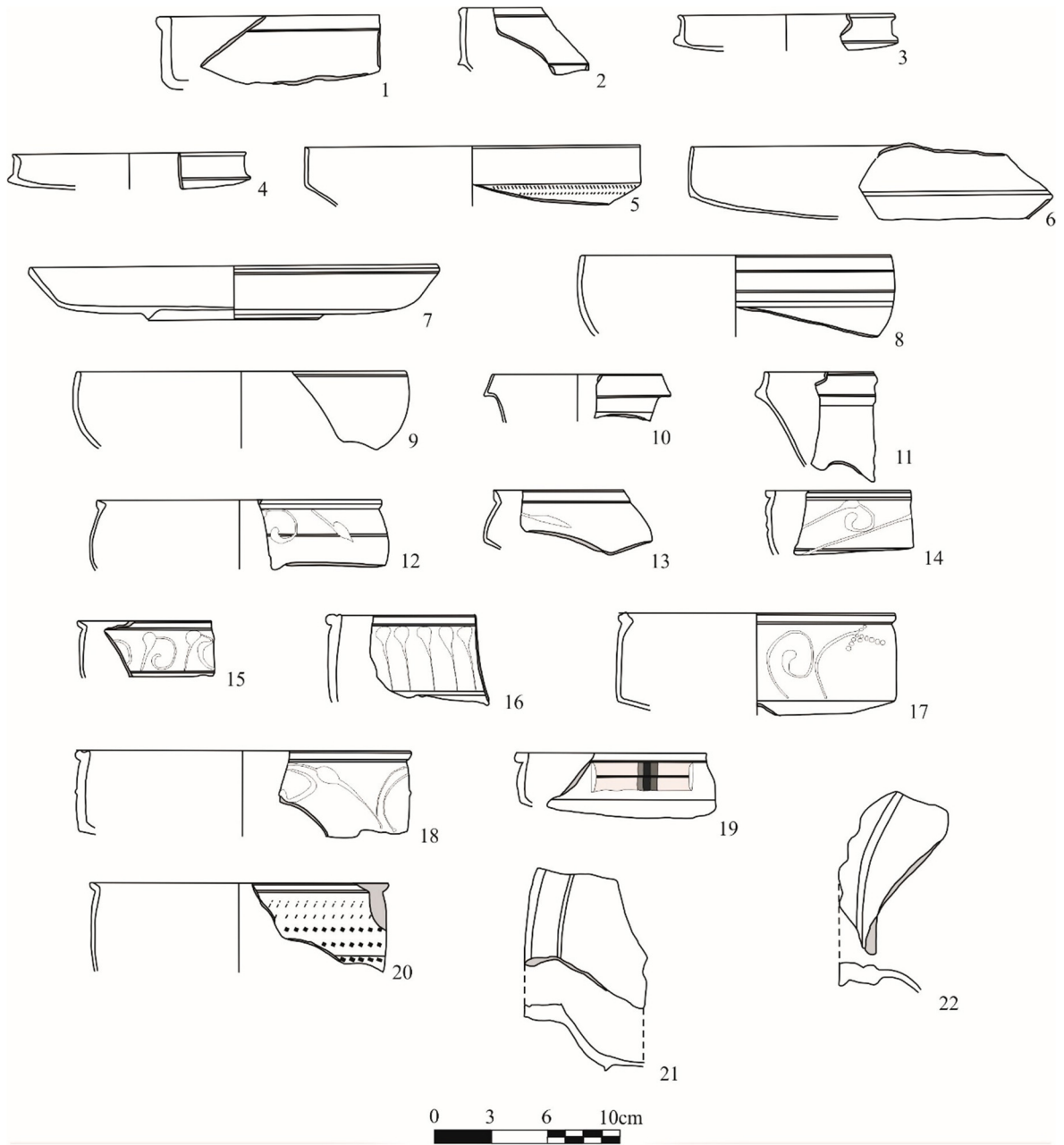
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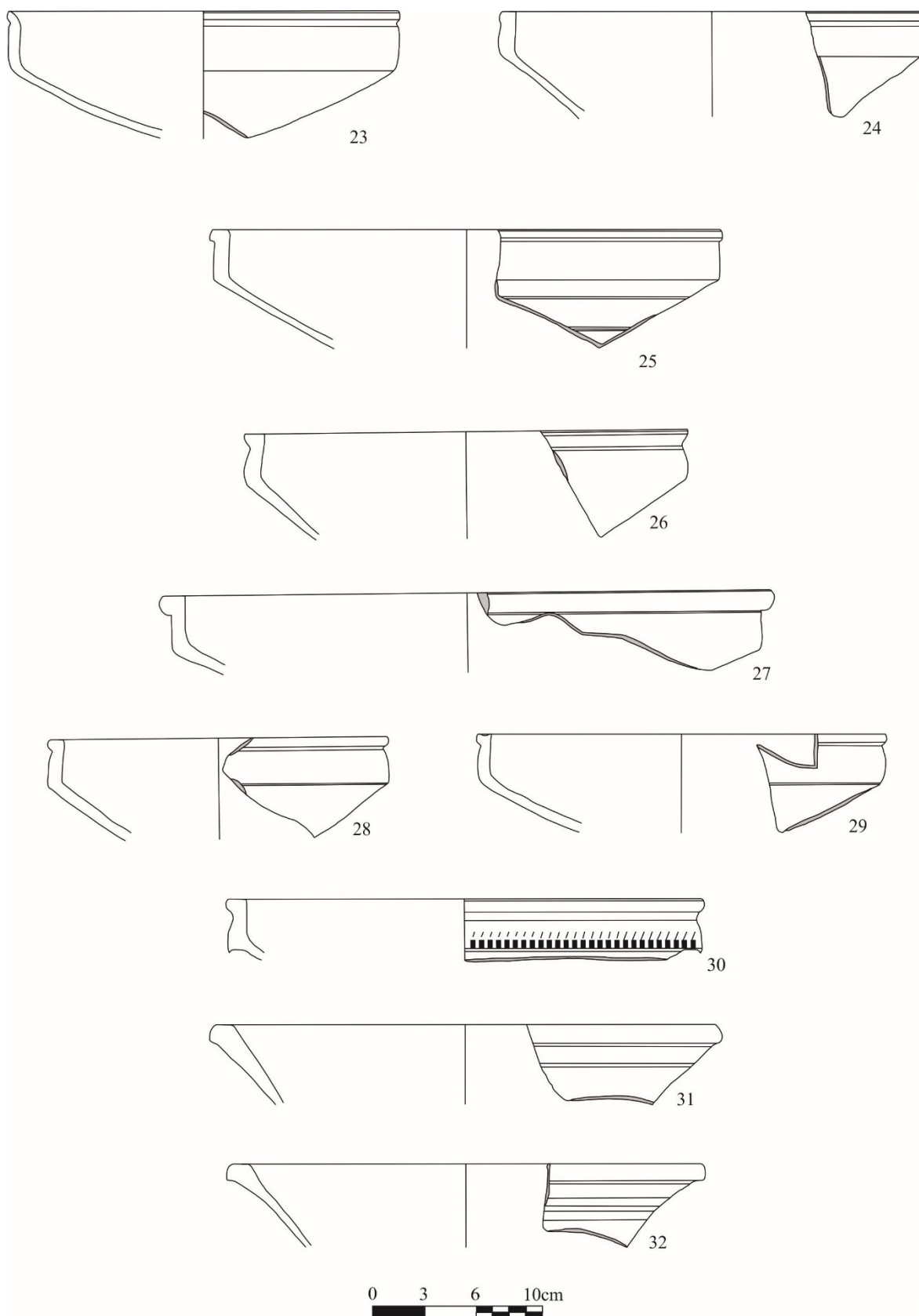
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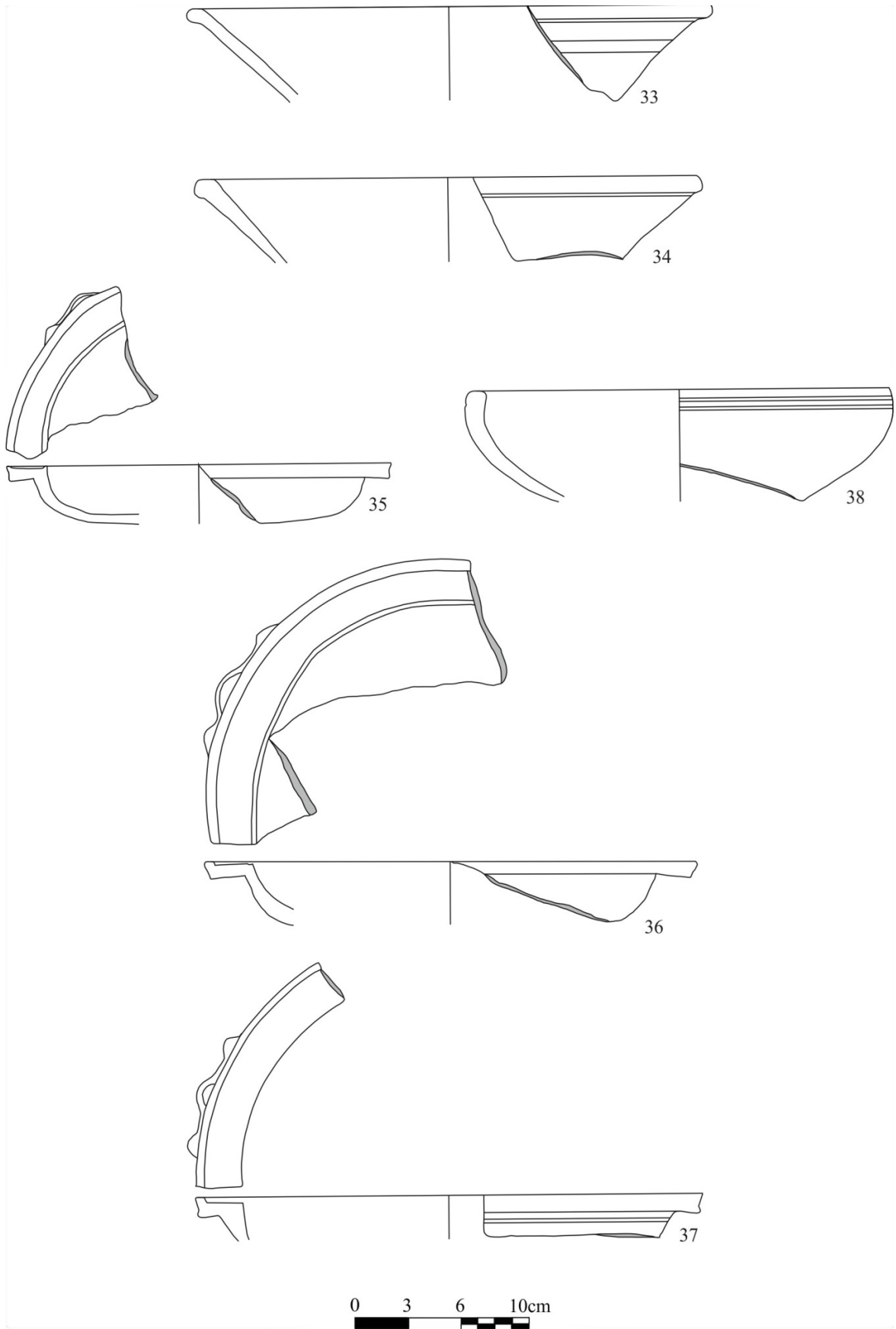
Pl. I. Map of Dobrudja.



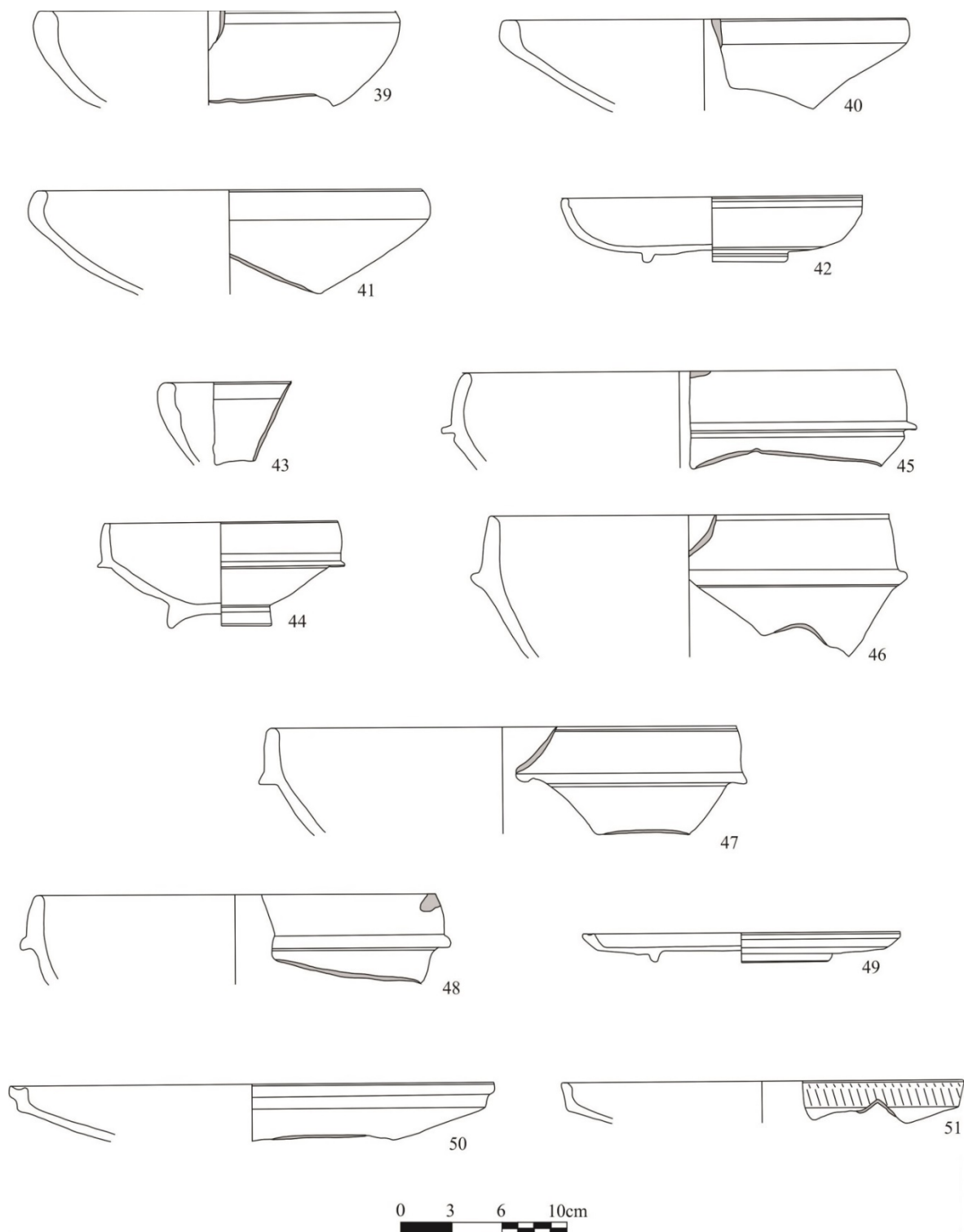
Pl. II. Pontic Sigillata.



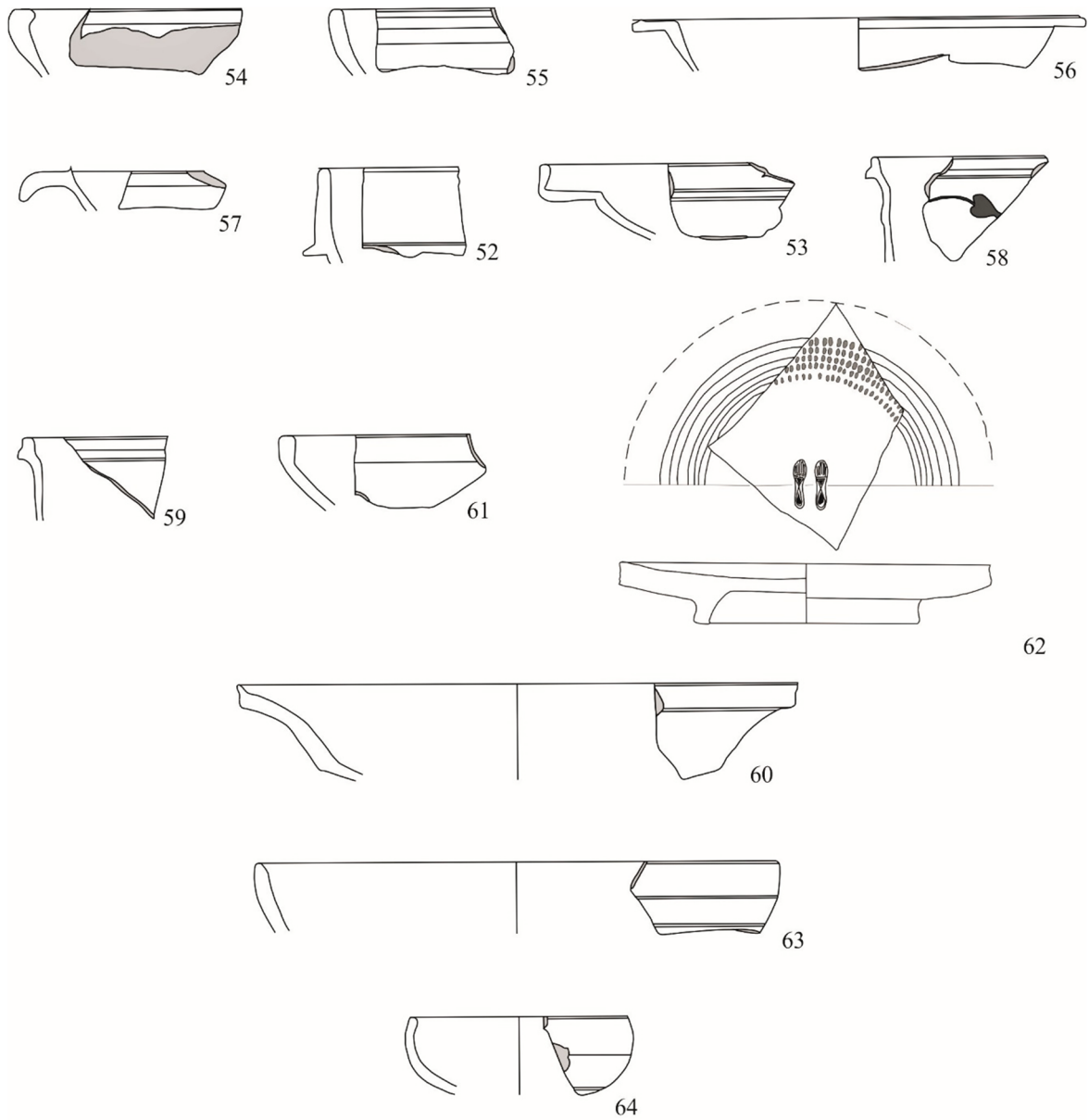
Pl. III. Early Pontic Red Slip.



Pl. IV. Early Pontic Red Slip.



Pl. V. Early Pontic Red Slip.



Pl. VI. Early Pontic Red Slip (52-57); Pontic Gray Slip (58-61); Unslipped Wares (63-64).