

VESSELS WITH CONICAL NECK ('KEGELHALSGEFÄSSE') IN THE NORTHEASTERN TRANSDANUBIAN HALLSTATT GROUP¹

Interpreting the Vessels Based on Grave Contexts

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The Northeastern Transdanubian Hallstatt group refers to the cultural unit within the Eastern Hallstatt circle in the Early Iron Age (Ha C–Ha D1 period) that covers the Danube Bend and the eastern part of Western Slovakia, more specifically the land between the rivers Váh and Hron. The present study focuses on this area, where the number of flat cremation cemeteries is high, while burial tumuli are less characteristic. Vessels with conical neck ('Kegelhalsgefässe') are among the most common vessel shapes in the entire Eastern Hallstatt circle. One, two or sometimes even more fragments of them per grave in the research area of the recent survey provide a good basis for analysing their role in the burials. The study of the excavated graves, where sufficient data of the context were also available, suggests three potential functions of the vessels: they either served as urns, were part of a drinking vessel set or were used for cooking or serving some kind of meat dish. The different functions also shed light on the complex network system of the NE-Transdanubian Hallstatt group.

THE RESEARCH HISTORY OF THE NORTHEASTERN TRANSDANUBIAN HALLSTATT GROUP AND THE ASSORTMENT OF THEIR BURIAL PLACES

Although the tumuli are not among the most typical forms of burial in the NE-Transdanubian Hallstatt group, these visually remarkable remains of the Early Iron Age drew the attention first to the separate cultural unit within the Eastern Hallstatt circle that existed on its north-eastern borderland, along the river Danube (Százhalombatta [Czajlik *et al.* 2016, 57] and Süttő [Czajlik/Novinszki-Groma/Horváth 2015, 59, 60]). The first flat cremation cemeteries in Northern Transdanubia were excavated and published in the 1930s and 1950s (Középrépászpuszta [Nagy 1939] and Halimba-Cseres [Lengyel 1959]).

In the first half of the 20th century, Slovak archaeologists concluded that the few Early Iron Age archaeological remains of Southwest Slovakia belong to the Eastern Alpine Hallstatt circle (Budinský-Krička 1947, 15; Eisner 1933, 148–154, 160, 161). The article by Jozef Paulík in 1958 on the two small burial mounds (number 1/57 and number 2/57) and the two cremation graves in Hurbanovo, as well as on the cremation burials of Bajč, Malé Kosihy and Malá nad Hronom drew the attention first to the Early Iron Age material discovered in the southern, lower flow of the tributaries Váh and Hron of the river Danube. These archaeological finds show many similarities with the forms and styles of the NE-Transdanubian material but not with that of the Kalenderberg-group (Paulík 1958, 374, 375).

The similarity between both the burials and the material culture on the northern and southern side of the river Danube implies that they both date back to the first half of the Hallstatt period, to the Ha C–Ha D1 phase. During the excavation of the graves at Chotín in the 1950s, material of the Vekerzug culture from the Late Hallstatt period appeared as well (Dušek M. 1966). The same happened in the cemetery of Modrany, excavated in 1970–1971 (Dušek S. 1976).

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Tibor Kemenczei published his work on the lifespan of the flat cremation cemeteries and the appearance of Vekezug culture material on the right side of the river Danube in 1977 (Kemenczei 1977). In contrast to the northern part of the research area, here the use of flat cremation cemeteries stopped in the Ha D1 period and material of the Vekezug culture was discovered only sporadically in the area around today's Budapest (Pomáz, Szigetszentmárton; Kemenczei 1977, 85).

Jozef Paulík discussed the subject of the graves between the rivers Váh and Hron again in 1975. He named it the 'Középrépáspusztá-group' after the flat cremation cemetery published first from the research area. He came to the conclusion that a large number of flat cremation graves and cemeteries, the strong traditions of the Urnfield period in the material culture as well as the Thraco-Cimmerian (Mezőcsát group) influence from the East were the main characteristics of this particular cultural unit (Paulík 1975, 49–51).

Thanks to the rising number of archaeological sites from the Hallstatt period in the Transdanubian region, it became possible to identify a new cultural division in the second half of the 20th century. Based on the location of the Early Iron Age cemeteries and settlements, Erzsébet Patek divided the Transdanubian region into four units (Patek 1982/1983, 59, 60). She identified three units to the north of Lake Balaton, among them one at the Danube Bend, in the north-eastern part of Transdanubia. It is important to highlight that from a geographical point of view, the two key cemeteries of the earlier research, Középrépáspusztá and Halimba, are not part of the NE-Transdanubian Hallstatt group.

Biba Teržan also split the northern part of Transdanubia into three cultural units in her monograph from 1990. Based on the analysis of the materials from a social viewpoint (Teržan 1990, 159–183) she distinguished a separate group ('Porabje – Rába [Raab] River region'), situated between the Sopron group in the west ('The Neusiedler See region with Burgenland Gradišće and the Danube Plain') and the NE-Transdanubian Hallstatt group in the east ('The Danube Bend').

Archaeological work in the second half of the 20th century confirmed that the flat cremation cemeteries were the most common within the NE-Transdanubian Hallstatt group. Tibor Kemenczei led the rescue excavation of 16 graves at the Tatabánya-Alsó, Vasútállomás site, in 1970 (Groma 2015, 137–139). Although both the modern building constructions and the medieval village disturbed the archaeological site, Éva Vadász and Gábor Vékony managed to excavate 45 flat cremation graves at Tatabánya, Dózsakert (Kisné-Vékony 2002, 7–9; Vékony 1978, 27).² There is also a flat cremation cemetery with 82 excavated graves near the tumuli field in Süttő (Czajlik/Novinszki-Groma/Horváth 2015, 70).³ Out of the 38 cremation graves excavated by Mikuláš Dušek at Nové Zámky in 1957–1958, 29 date back to the Hallstatt period. Susanne Stegmann-Rajtár split the Early Iron Age life of the cemetery into five phases in her work from 2009 (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 114).

In contrast, the number of the excavated and published burial mounds in the research area is significantly lower. Jozef Paulík studied two little tumuli at the Hurbanovo site (Paulík 1958, 362–366). Thanks to Éva Vadász, we know the archaeological context and the material of the second largest tumulus in the southern group at Süttő (Vadász 1983) and the data on the single burial mound near Tata (Vadász 2003). Unfortunately, we only have a few studies on the tumuli from the huge Százhalombatta cemetery and

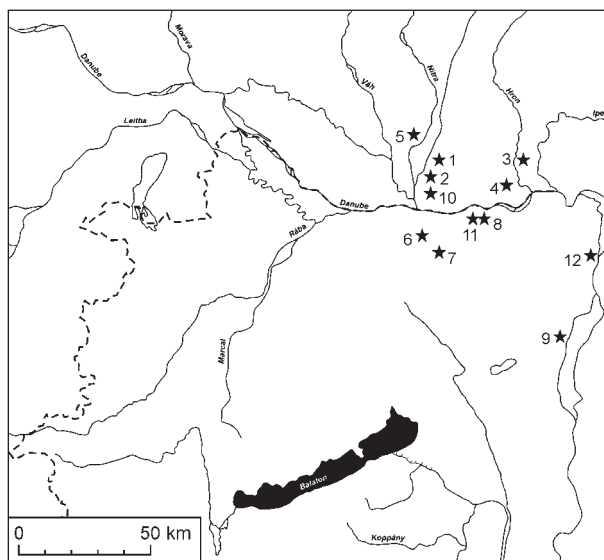


Fig. 1. Map of the cemeteries of the research area. 1 – Bajč; 2 – Hurbanovo; 3 – Malé Kosihy; 4 – Malá nad Hronom; 5 – Nové Zámky; 6 – Tata; 7 – Tatabánya-Alsó, Vasútállomás, and Tatabánya, Dózsakert; 8 – Süttő; 9 – Százhalombatta; 10 – Chotín; 11 – Neszmély; 12 – Budapest-Békásmegyér. Map K. Novinszki-Groma.

² The Tatabánya, Dózsakert cemetery, was the topic of author's final thesis. I would like to thank the Kuny Domokos Museum of Tata for permitting me to use the analysis of a recent paper.

³ The flat cremation cemetery of Süttő was featured in author's PhD. thesis. I am grateful to the Balassa Bálint Museum of Esztergom for helping me with analysing the material.

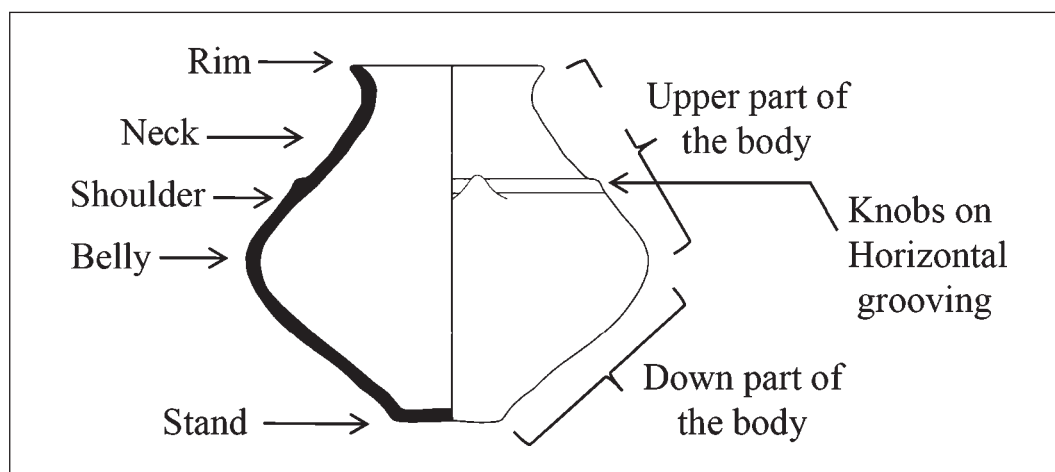


Fig. 2. The typical shape of the big vessels with conical neck. Drawing K. Novinszki-Groma based on Dobiát 1980, 66, fig. 7.

with the inventory of archaeological materials unpublished, it is impossible to include them in my analysis (Holport 1986; 1993).

Seven archaeological sites listed here provide the basis for the analysis in this paper (Fig. 1: 1–5, 7, 8). The graves usually contained vessels with conical neck, and analysing their shape in conjunction with the archaeological context is enough to determine their potential functions.

THE VARYING SHAPES AND DECORATIONS OF THE VESSELS WITH CONICAL NECK OF THE NORTHEASTERN TRANSDANUBIAN HALLSTATT GROUP

'Kegelhalsgefäß' or the vessel with conical neck is a common vessel type in the Eastern Hallstatt circle. These huge pots appear in the materials of both cemeteries and settlements. The most prominent characteristic of this vessel type is the biconical body, where the body is the widest below the shoulder, at the belly. It has an everted rim with a narrow neck, from where the upper part of the body starts widening. The second sharp break in the shape of the pot is at the shoulder, between the upper and lower part of the body. From here, the vessel starts narrowing towards the base. It can be difficult to distinguish between the neck and the shoulder, but a horizontal grooving often helps, as it gives extra emphasis to this part (Fig. 2; Dobiát 1980, 66, fig. 7).

Although a typological classification is not the main aim of this paper, I will discuss the various shapes of the vessels with conical neck of the NE-Transdanubian Hallstatt group briefly in the following. The collection of ceramic materials from the huge tumulus cemetery in Sulm Valley, Austria, is an important source regarding the Eastern Hallstatt circle. In case of the vessels with conical neck, Claus Dobiát had already described the bellied forms with shorter neck earlier, and stated that the vessels from the younger graves are slimmer and their necks are outstandingly long (Dobiát 1980, 68, 69, fig. 9).

The vessels with longer conical neck help only a little in categorising the cemeteries of NE-Transdanubia. Almost the only exceptions are the huge vessels from grave Nos. 50 and 59 of Süttő, as their necks are notably longer than the body of the pots. This might suggest that these graves date from the later phase of the Ha C–Ha D1 period (Fig. 3).

The five chronological units of the Nové Zámky cemetery, starting from the beginning of the Early Hallstatt period to the beginning of the Late Hallstatt period, provide the best basis for analysing the typological development of the vessels with conical neck within the NE-Transdanubian Hallstatt group. The first three phases (grave No. 18 from the first; graves Nos. 2, 17, 19, 24 and 25 from the second, and graves Nos. 5, 14, 23, 34 from the third phase) represent the classical Ha C–Ha D1 period (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 85, 86). The vessels with conical neck have notable bellies during this period, also meaning that the pots are not twice as high as or even bigger than the width of the break between the shoulder and the belly. Vertical channelling are typical decorative elements on them, since they emphasise the breaks

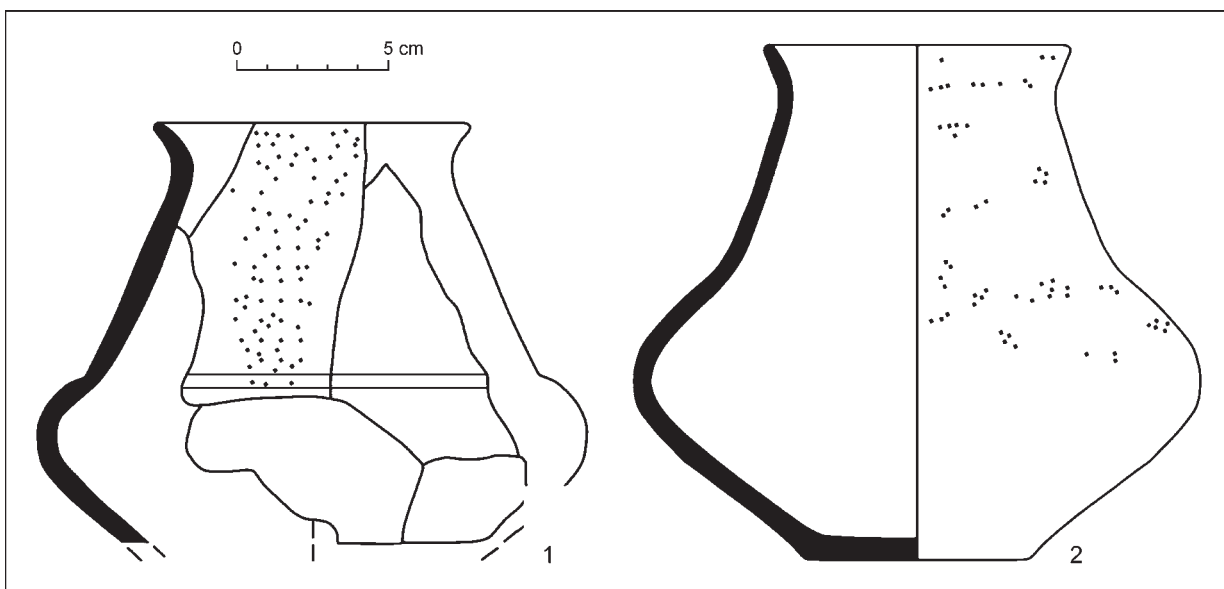


Fig. 3. Big vessels with longer conical neck from the research area. 1 – Süttő, grave No. 50; 2 – Süttő, grave No. 59. Drawing K. Novinszki-Groma.

between each part of the pot, for example between the rim and the neck or between the shoulder and the belly (Fig. 4: 1–3).

Phase IV with graves No. 26 and 29 at Nové Zámky represents the end of the Early Hallstatt period (Ha C2–Ha D1), while graves Nos. 7, 8 and 9 of Phase V date back to the Late Hallstatt period (Ha D; *Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 86, 87). The vessels with conical neck started to get taller and thinner in that period, thus the terms ‘amphora’ or ‘vase’ describe their shapes that had come into fashion. The sharp breaks disappeared from the body of the vessels (Fig. 4: 4, 5). As the cemeteries south of the Danube do not cover the Late Hallstatt period, these types of vessels rarely appear in the graves. Only a few of them were discovered in the burials of Süttő and Tatabánya, Dózsakert site, while the big vessels of grave Nos. 2, 8, 10 and 15 in Tatabánya-Alsó, Vasútállomás site (*Groma* 2015, 140–153, fig. 3: 12; 5: 8; 6: 1; 7: 10), resemble the later variants. This suggests that the cemetery was still in use during the later phase, which is a very important piece of information as the only metal object of this site, a harp-shaped fibula in grave No. 1 dates back to the early Ha C1–Ha C2 periods.

Four decoration techniques were used typically on the vessels with conical neck, discovered in the flat cremation cemeteries of the research area. Horizontal channelling – sometimes even several of them, like in case of the huge vessel from grave No. 35 at Nové Zámky (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 72. pl. XVII: 9) – often emphasise the break between the rim and the neck, or the neck and the shoulder (Fig. 5: 1). The above-mentioned pot has a different channelling on it as well: parallel vertical or crosswise lines run around the shoulder. While horizontal channelling is very typical among the archaeological material of both the flat cremation cemeteries and the burial mounds (see *Appendix*), we only have a few examples for vertical or crosswise channelling decorating the shoulder of the pots from the research area. The examples are from the flat graves Nos. 41, 51 in Süttő (Fig. 5: 2) and one is from the tumulus of Tata (*Vadász* 2003, 90. pl. II: 2).

Knobs are also common decorative elements, usually on the shoulder of the pots. The number of knobs on the vessels from the research area varied from three to six, but mostly they were four, at equal distance from each other. Sometimes they interrupt the horizontal channellings, as we can see on the vessel with a conical neck from grave No. 65 in Süttő, but they also stand alone on the shoulder (Fig. 5: 3). The knobs decorating the lower part of the pots are less common among the finds from the research area. Examples of this are the two vessels from graves Nos. 24 and No. 25 of Nové Zámky, since, as opposed to the pointed variants on the upper part of the pots, their knobs are more like vertical handles (Fig. 5: 5; *Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 69–71, pl. XIII: 7; XIV: 7, 8).

The decorations referred to as ‘repeating motifs’, appear quite often and in various forms on the shoulder of the vessels from the flat cremation cemeteries. Channelled line bundles and impressed lines

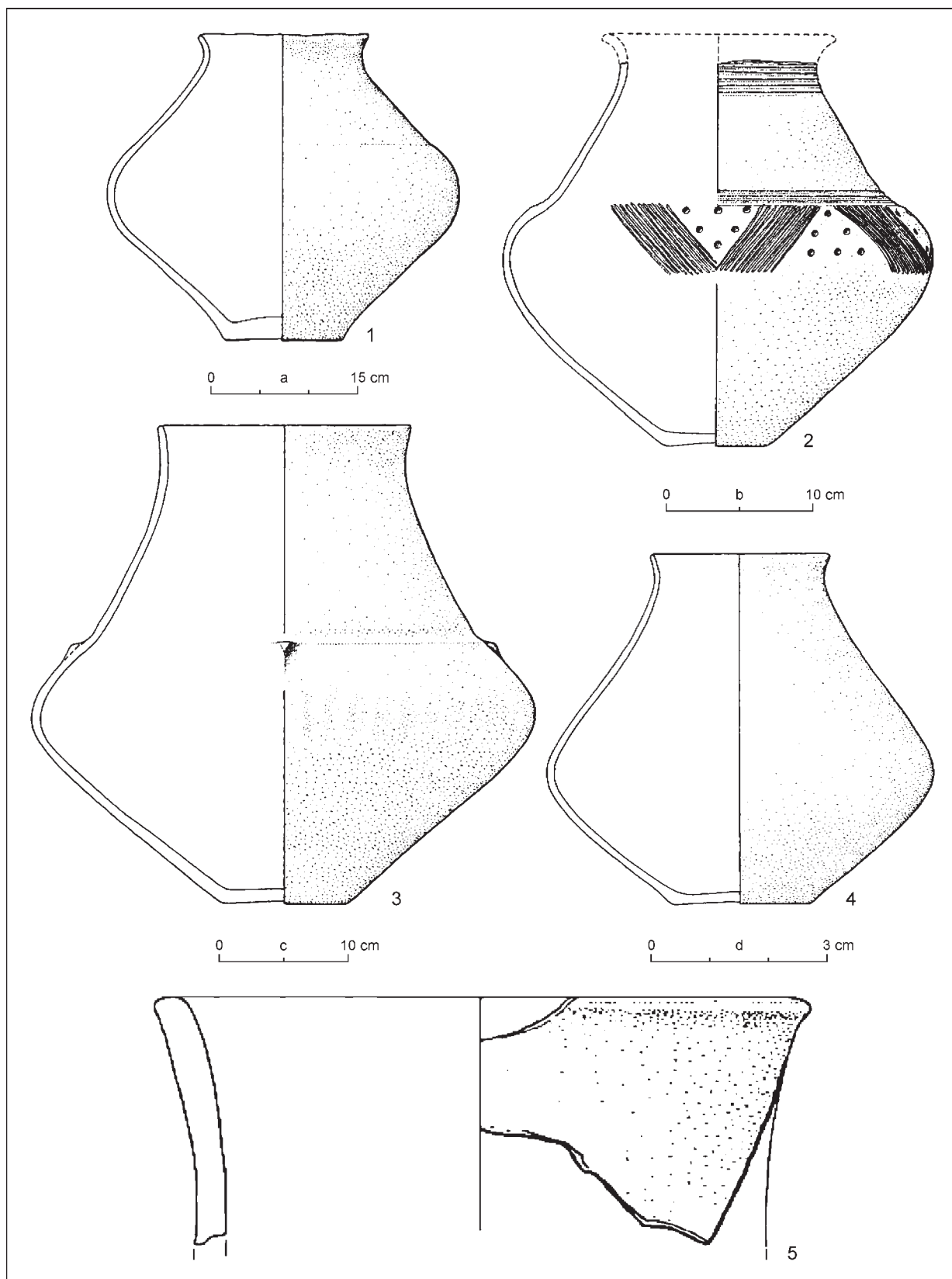


Fig. 4. Formal development of the big vessels with conical neck from the Nové Zámky cemetery. 1 – grave No. 18 (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 67, pl. X: 1); 2 – grave No. 2 (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 61, pl. I: 11); 3 – grave No. 34 (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 71, 72, pl. XVII: 1); 4 – grave No. 26 (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 71, pl. XV: 4); 5 – grave No. 9 (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 63, pl. II: 10). Scale: a – 1, 2;; b – 3; c – 4; d – 5.

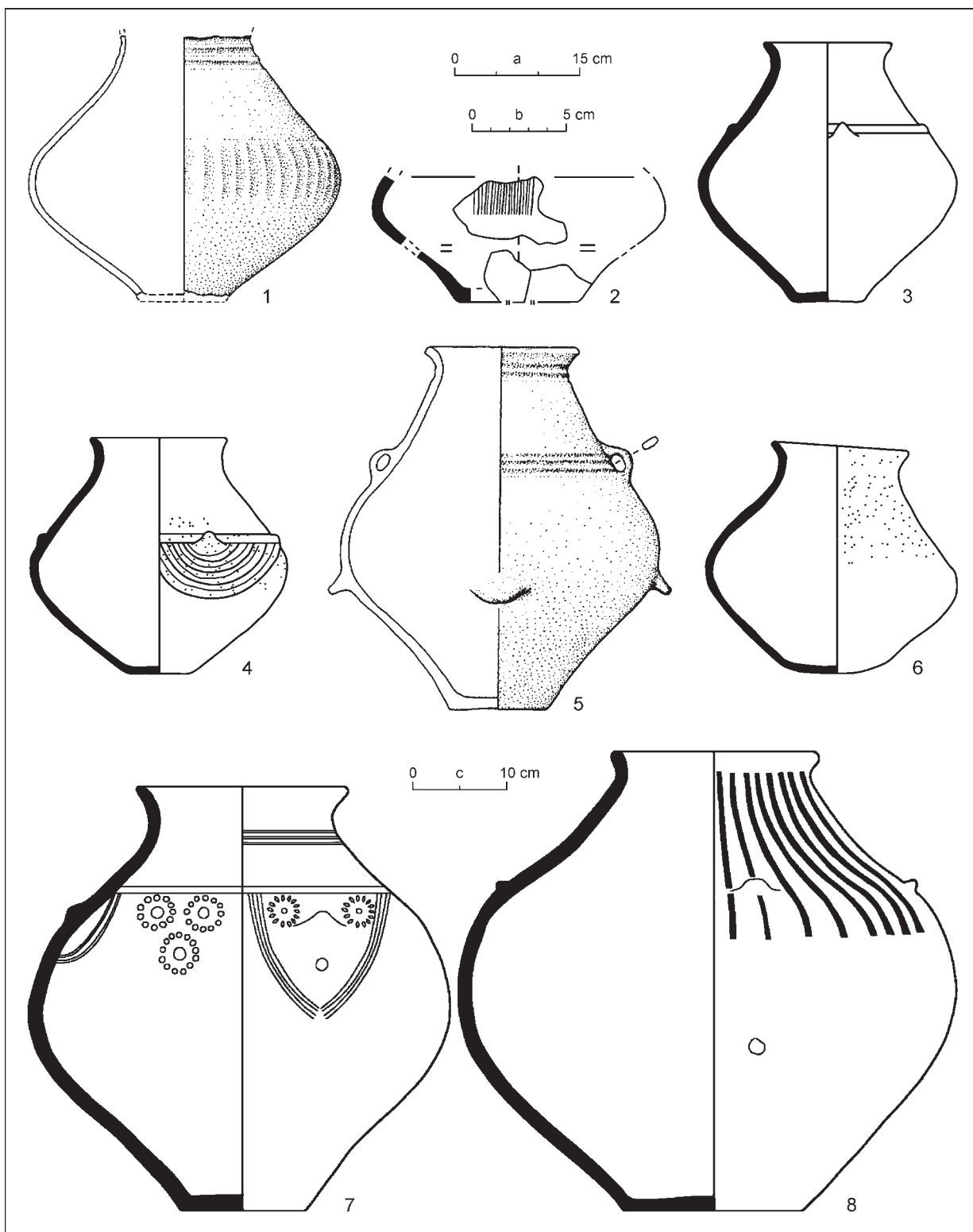


Fig. 5. The various decorations of the big vessels with conical neck. 1 – horizontal channelling, Nové Zámky, grave No. 35 (*Stegmann-Rajtár 2009*, 72, pl. XVII: 9); 2 – vertical or crosswise channelling/ribs on the shoulder, Süttő, grave No. 51 (drawing K. Novinszki-Groma); 3 – knobs on the shoulder, Süttő, grave No. 65 (drawing K. Novinszki-Groma); 4 – simple 'repeating motifs', Süttő, grave No. 12 (drawing K. Novinszki-Groma); 5 – knobs on the lower part of the pot, Nové Zámky, grave No. 24 (*Stegmann-Rajtár 2009*, 69, pl. XIII: 7); 6 – graphite-painted/gleaming surface on the upper part of the vessel, Süttő, grave No. 24 (drawing K. Novinszki-Groma); 7 – complex 'repeating motifs', Tatabánya, Dózsakert, grave 'X' (drawing K. Novinszki-Groma); 8 – graphite-painted motifs, Tatabánya, Dózsakert, grave No. 37 (drawing K. Novinszki-Groma). Scale: a – 1, 5; b – 2; c – 3, 4, 6–8.

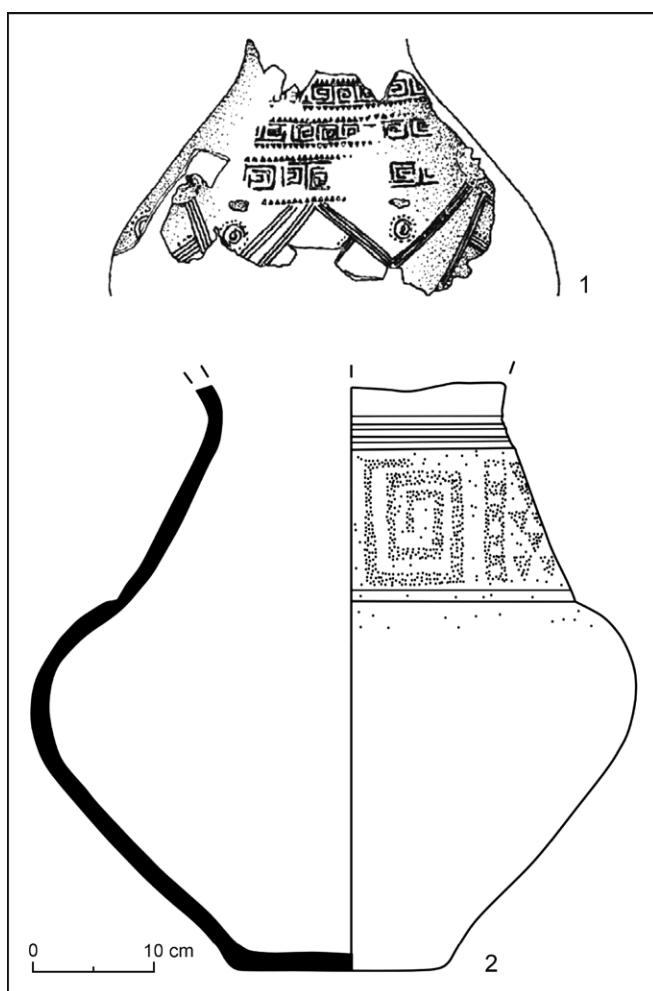


Fig. 6. Examples of graphite-painted geometric motifs in the research area. 1 – Süttő, old tumulus excavations (Vadász 1986, 252, pl. 2: 1); 2 – Süttő, grave No. 2 (drawing K. Novinszki-Groma).

danubian Hallstatt group had a few complex geometric patterns, such as meander motifs and volutes painted with graphite. These variants were discovered mostly in the burial mounds, for example in the old tumulus in Süttő that was excavated in the 1920s and 1930s (Fig. 6: 1; Vadász 1986, 252, pl. 2: 1), but similar decorative elements can be found in the material from burial mound No. 109 of Százhalombatta as well (Holport 1993, 26, 27, fig. 4: 2, 4; 5: 2).⁴ Meanwhile, from the flat cremation cemeteries only one vessel with conical neck has a graphite-painted, complex geometric motif. Meander motifs alternate with chessboard-like square and triangle motifs on the neck of the vessel from grave No. 2 of the Süttő flat cemetery (Fig. 6: 2).

While the above-mentioned decorative elements can be found on vessels with conical neck from both the tumuli and the flat cremation cemeteries, one type of protuberant decoration is exclusive among the finds of the burial mound. Animal protomes – bulls and birds – decorate the shoulder of the big vessels from the tumuli. They are often placed at the same distance from each other, just like the knobs on the vessels from the flat, cremation burials. Our examples include the finds of the old excavations in Süttő (Vadász 1986, 252, pl. 2: 1; 3), as well as the material of tumuli No. 117 and No. 109 in Százhalombatta (Fig. 7; Holport 1993, 26, 27, fig. 6–9).

It is clear from the material of both the tumuli and the flat cremation graves that the size of the vessels with conical necks varied (see *Appendix*). The smallest vessels are no higher than 20 centimetres. They were often discovered together with larger biconical vessels, for example at the Tata tumulus, where

of dots make up one section, and they often have knobs on the shoulder. The pattern is repeated around the upper part of the vessel. We can find a wide variety of motifs, from the simpler ones, such as three grooves around the knob (found in the flat cremation grave No. 12 of Süttő; Fig. 5: 4) to the more complex and artistic variants, like on the finds of grave 'X' of Tatabánya, Dózsakert site (Fig. 5: 7) and grave No. 3 at the Tatabánya-Alsó, Vasútállomás site (Groma 2015, 144, fig. 4: 4). The same decoration technique appears in the tumuli materials, for example on two vessels with conical neck from the Süttő burial mound, as they have knobs with channelled lines under them and graphite-painted zigzags and triangles decorating them (Vadász 1983, 27, fig. 13).

It is important to discuss the fourth type of decorations, the graphite painting. This decorative element is more common among the vessels from the burial mounds, with the exception of the pot from grave No. 37 of Tatabánya, Dózsakert, where vertical lines cover the neck and the shoulder (Fig. 5: 8). It is more common among the finds of the flat, cremation cemeteries that the upper part or even the whole surface of the vessel is graphite-painted for a gleaming appearance (Fig. 5: 6). This technique maybe interpreted as an imitation of metal vessels, found exclusively in the rich tumuli, for example in Fehérvárcsurgó in Northern Transdanubia (Vágó 2015, 189).

It is worth mentioning that sometimes the vessels with conical neck of the NE-Trans-

⁴ The material of the Százhalombatta burial mound revealed traces of red-black painting over the graphite painting.

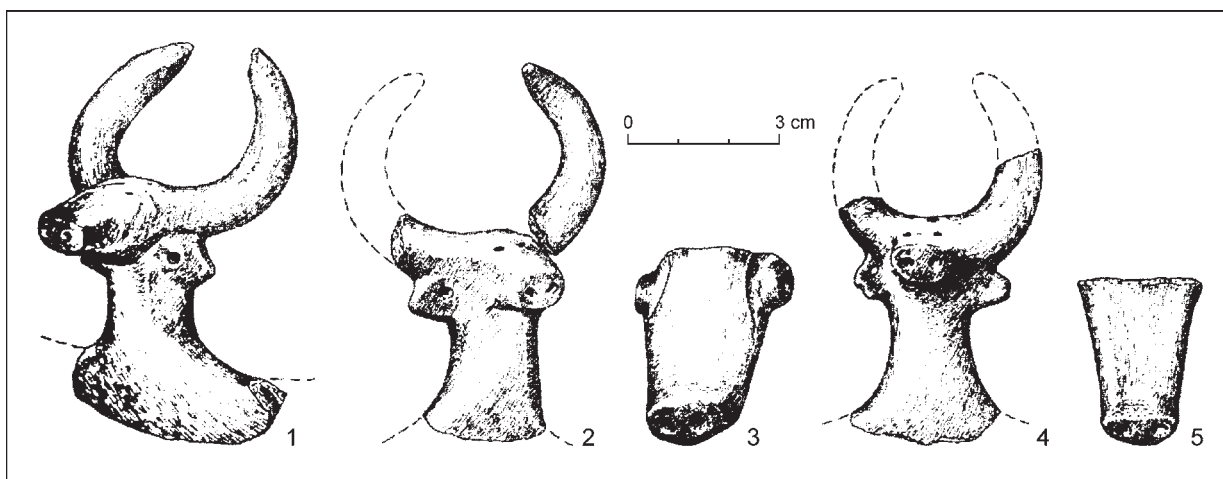


Fig. 7. Animal protomes from tumulus No. 117 in Százhalombatta (Holport 1993, 26, 27, fig. 6).

a little, 17.3 cm pot was excavated along two 31.8 cm pieces (Vadász 2003, 90, pl. II: 1, 2; III: 3). Most of the big pots with conical neck are middle-sized, their heights varying between 20 and 40 centimetres. The largest vessels are over 40 cm. Two pots from the Süttő tumulus are the tallest, with 54.4 and 53 cm respectively (Vadász 1983, 27, fig. 13), but there were 48.1 cm (grave No. 1 of Süttő), 47.8 cm (grave No. 2 of Süttő) and 46 cm (grave No. 17 of Nové Zámky; Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 65–67, pl. IX: 1) tall vessels in the flat cremation graves.

THE ORIGIN OF THE VESSELS WITH CONICAL NECK IN THE EARLY IRON AGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

In the research area, the Vál group of the Late Bronze Age Urnfield culture preceded the Early Iron Age Hallstatt culture. The most recent publication is on the Békásmegyer cemetery, which provides an excellent summary of the state of research in the area. It provides further confirmation that Northeastern Transdanubia, as well as the eastern part of Western Slovakia is rich in excavated and published cemeteries of the Urnfield culture. Besides the smaller and disturbed burial place, the 326 graves in Chotín uncovered by Mikuláš Dušek in 1957, Neszmély with its 200 graves published by Erzsébet Patek in 1961 and the 329 graves in Békásmegyer provide a good basis for analysing the main vessel shapes of the Late Bronze Age in the research area and studying their role in burial context (Fig. 1: 10–12; Kalicz-Schreiber/Kalicz/Váczi 2010, 13, 14).

The analysis indicates two main types of vessels. One has a cylindrical or conical neck, separated from the protruding shoulder by a sharp break, while the lower part of the pot has a rounded biconical shape (Fig. 8: 1, 2). The other falls under the category of 'amphora'. It has a cylindrical or conical neck, but the body is rounder. A small foot serves often as the base of the pot and it usually has two little handles on the shoulder (Fig. 8: 3, 4). Vertical channelling lines often decorate the shoulders of both types (Kalicz-Schreiber/Kalicz/Váczi 2010, 248–251; Patek 1961, 65–72).

Even though the big pots of the Urnfield culture share many similarities with the vessels with conical neck of the Early Iron Age, there are also a few differences between the main types. The earlier variants discovered in the burials of the Hallstatt culture are more similar to the big pots of the Mezőcsát group of the Great Hungarian Plain, from the transitional period from the Late Bronze to the Early Iron Age (Ha B3/Ha C1 phase; Fig. 8: 5). Erzsébet Patek conceived that the origin of the vessels with conical neck of this cultural unit goes all the way back to the local Late Bronze Age (Gáva and Kyjatice cultures), with the additional Southeastern Alpine and Italian influences (Patek 1993, 19, fig. 10; 11).

Cremation is predominant in the Urnfield culture with almost no exceptions, however there are no strict rules regarding the treatment of the human remains in the pit. We have examples for both the urns containing the cremated remains and the remains being scattered on the bottom of a pit (Kalicz-Schreiber/

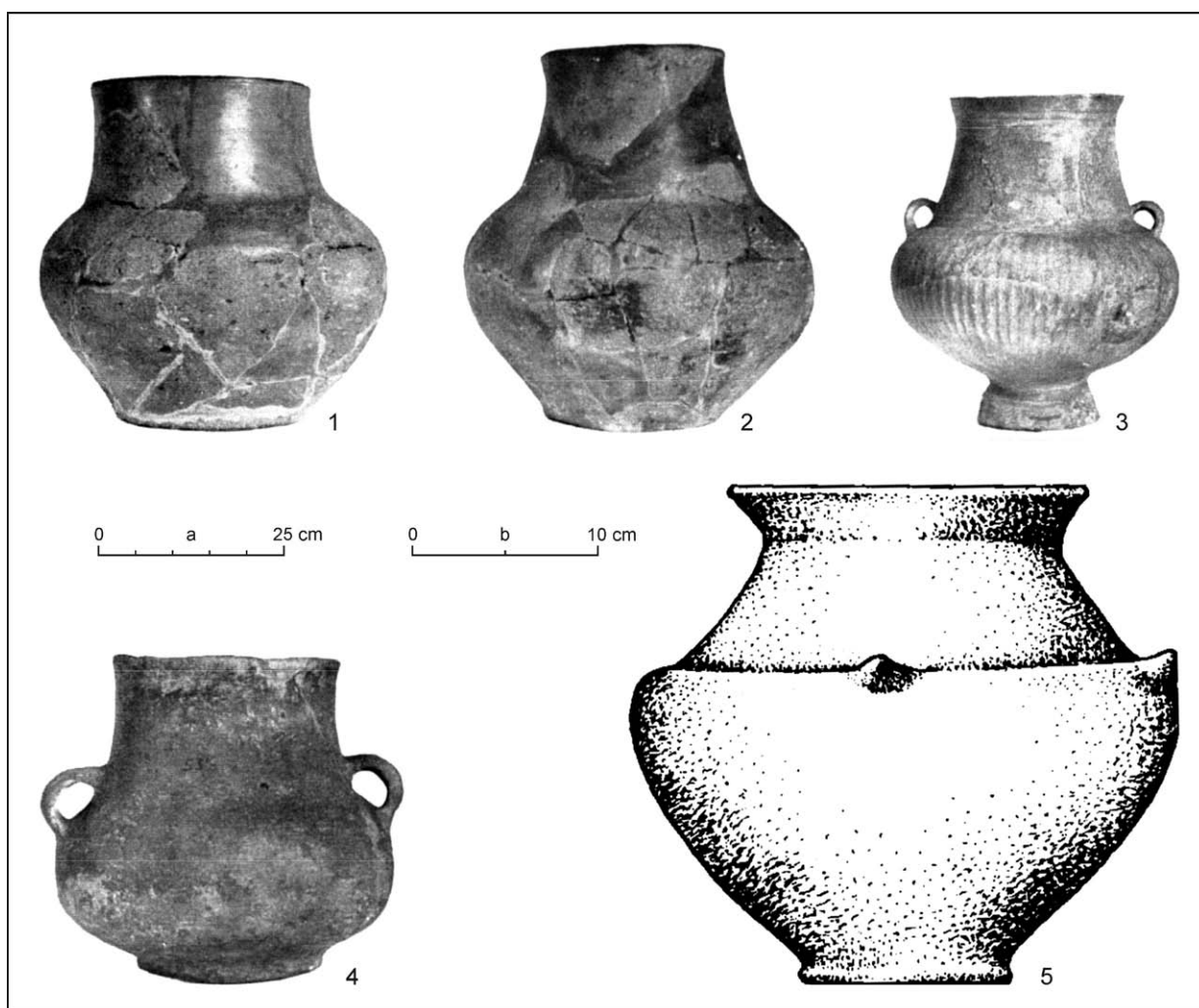


Fig. 8. The most common shapes of the big vessels of the Urnfield culture. 1, 2 – big vessel with conical or cylindrical neck, Neszmély, grave No. 51 (Patek 1993, 46, pl. VIII: 4, 5); 3, 4 – ‘amphora’, Neszmély, grave No. 53 (Patek 1993, 46, pl. VIII: 7, 8); 5 – big vessel with conical neck of the Mezőcsát group, grave of Boconád, Gosztonyi-tanya (Patek 1993, 69, pl. 2: 5). Scale: a – 1–4; b – 5.

Kalicz/Váczi 2010, 17). The most common types of urns are the vessels with conical or cylindrical neck and the amphorae (Kalicz-Schreiber/Kalicz/Váczi 2010, 248, 249). As grave No. 103 at the Békásmegyer site shows, the urns contained not only the cremated human remains but also the burnt personal belongings of the deceased. Buttons, a belt buckle, rings, hair rings and pieces of bronze wires were found next to the cremated remains in the two-handled amphora from the grave (Kalicz-Schreiber/Kalicz/Váczi 2010, 70, 71, fig. 146; 147; pl. 49: 2, 6–11).

Besides their role as urns during the Urnfield culture, grave contexts suggest that the vessels were part of other burial practices as well in the Late Bronze Age. Nevertheless, the amphora from grave No. 119 of Békásmegyer is an urn. It was found together with three cups and fragments of a bowl around it, as well as a little amphora and two small bowls in it (Kalicz-Schreiber/Kalicz/Váczi 2010, 83, fig. 178; 180; pl. 57: 1–7). The fragmented bigger bowl probably served as a cover, and the other vessels suggest that the bigger amphora had a part in eating and drinking practices.

A unique burial practice of the Mezőcsát group in the Ha B phase of the Late Bronze Age was inhumation of the body. This means that in these cases the vessels with conical neck did not serve as urns. The graves often contained bones of animals – mostly that of sheep in the north-eastern part of the Great Hungarian Plain –, placed around or inside these big vessels (Patek 1990, 70).

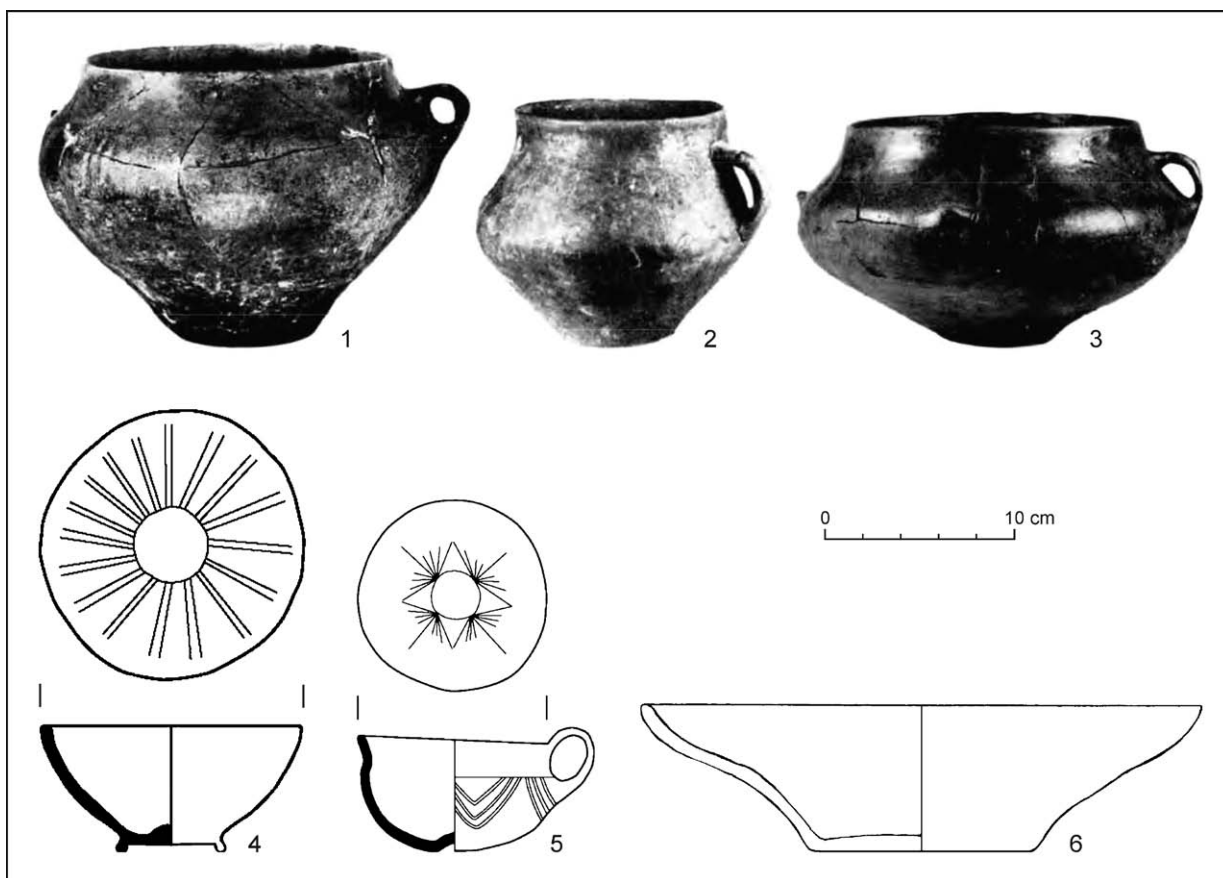


Fig. 9. Vessel types serving as urns in the Early Iron Age graves of the research area. 1–3 – deep biconical bowls: 1 – Hurbanovo, tumulus No. 1/57 (Paulík 1958, 363, pl. III: 7), 2 – Hurbanovo, tumulus No. 2/57 (Paulík 1958, 365, pl. IV: 1), 3 – Bajč, cremation grave (Paulík 1958, 366, fig. 4: 1); 4 – footed cup, Tatabánya-Alsó, Vasútállomás, grave No. 3 (Groma 2015, 144, fig. 4: 6); 5 – handled cup, Tatabánya, Dózsakert, grave No. 16 (Novinszki-Groma 2018, 123, pl. III: 4); 6 – conical bowl, Süttő, grave No. 20 (drawing K. Novinszki-Groma). Without scale – 1–3.

THE ROLE OF THE VESSELS WITH CONICAL NECK IN THE GRAVES OF THE NORTHEASTERN TRANSDANUBIAN HALLSTATT GROUP

Thanks to the careful excavation and precise publication of numerous burials, we can work out the potential role of the vessels with conical neck discovered in the Early Iron Age graves of the research area. At least three definable main functions will be discussed in the following.

The graves of the Northeastern Transdanubian Hallstatt group contained only a small amount of cremated human remains. Therefore, it is very difficult to decide at times whether the remains were placed in one or sometimes even multiple urns (see *Appendix*), or were simply scattered in the bottom of the pits. However, the vessels with conical neck in all the larger cemeteries served as urns. The Nové Zámky burial place is perhaps the most important, since out of the total 37 vessels, the function of 12 as urns is verifiable. Among these burials, grave No. 16 is special, because despite the vessels being highly fragmented, the place of the human remains suggests that the two additional pots and four bowls on top of the vessel with conical neck also contained cremated human remains (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 65, 66). It is unlikely that the seven vessels were all used as urns, but it suggests the possibility of a burial custom, in which the objects were placed in the pit first, and only then were the human remains scattered in it.

There are many examples from the research area where the cremated human remains were placed into an urn, but into a different vessel type instead of the vessel with conical neck. Usually, these were deep, biconical bowls with or without a handle. The burial context of the old excavations, conducted in the area of today's Slovakia, proves that these huge bowls served as urns, as the small burial mound No. 1/57 in Hurbanovo also suggests. The deep bowl found there contains not only a larger amount of cremated human bones, but two

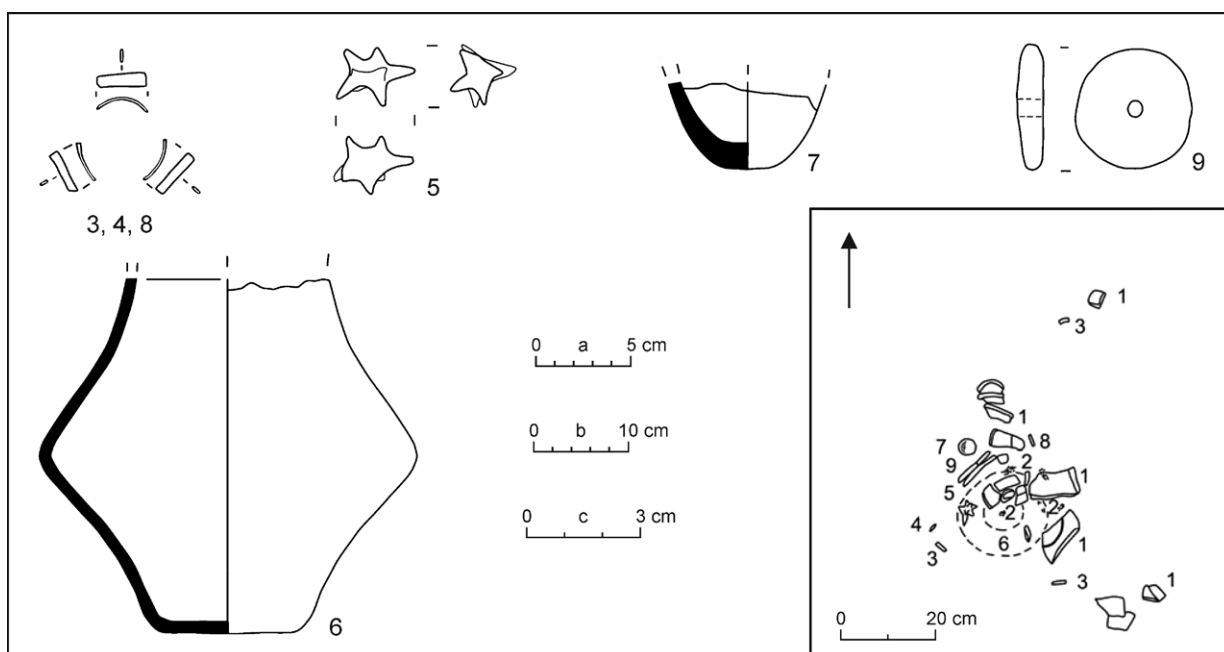


Fig. 10. Early Iron Age big vessel with conical neck serving as an urn, containing the personal belongings of the deceased. Süttő, grave No. 44. Drawing K. Novinszki-Groma, based on the documentation of É. Vadász. Scale: a – 3–5, 8, 9; b – 6; c – 7.

bronze beads as well (Fig. 9: 1; *Paulík 1958*, 362–364, fig. 1; 2: 1, 2). It is worth mentioning that fragments of a vessel with conical neck were also found in the burial. The context was very similar in the small tumulus No. 2/57 in Hurbanovo: the deep, biconical bowl contained human remains and the fragments of a harp-shaped iron fibula, while the vessel with conical neck was empty (Fig. 9: 2; *Paulík 1958*, 364–366, fig. 2: 3–6; 3). A different bowl covered the urn, both discovered inside the bigger vessel.⁵ Our third example is the flat, cremation grave at Bajč. The human remains were again placed into a deep, biconical bowl, while the vessel with conical neck was found empty during the excavation (Fig. 9: 3; *Paulík 1958*, 366, 367, fig. 4).

In the flat cremation graves of the research area, only a few other vessel types were used as urns. Sometimes the vessels are unique in some way, like the pedestal cup with rich inner decoration from grave No. 3 of the Tatabánya-Alsó, Vasútállomás site (Fig. 9: 4; *Groma 2015*, 144, fig. 4: 6) or a uniquely shaped handled cup that is similar to the Early Iron Age material of Silesia from grave No. 16 of Tatabánya, Dózsakert (Fig. 9: 5; *Novinszki-Groma 2018*, 123, pl. III: 4). Sometimes the urns are simpler vessels, such as the bowls with inverted rim in grave 'B' or No. 8 at Tatabánya, Dózsakert, or a conical bowl in grave No. 20 of Süttő (Fig. 9: 6).

Just like in the case of several graves from the Late Bronze Age Urnfield culture the burnt or unburnt objects and the human remains were placed into urns during the Hallstatt period as well. Grave No. 44 of Süttő is quite special, since a star-shaped clay figure, a clay spindle whorl, pieces of jewellery made of bronze sheets and a miniature vessel were found between the fragments of a vessel with conical neck (Fig. 10).

The presence of animal bones in the graves of the Hallstatt culture in NE-Transdanubia and in the eastern part of Western Slovakia varies from cemetery to cemetery (*Novinszki-Groma 2017*, 166, fig. 8). Most of the time they are part of the material, but we can find them only in a few graves. Tatabánya, Dózsakert, is the richest cemetery in that regard (see *Appendix*). There, the animal bones are often placed inside or around the vessels with conical neck. Sometimes a cup or a little bowl is inside the big vessel as well. The context suggests that the vessels with conical neck stored some kind of meat dish, implying the influence of the Mezőcsát group.

Graves in the western areas of the Eastern Hallstatt circle often contain drinking sets. These sets consist of a larger mixing pot, from which the drink was transferred into another, similarly large serving

⁵ It has to be mentioned that covering the urn with another bowl is not as common in the Hallstatt period as it is in the Urnfield culture, but we know about the practice from cases where a deep bowl or a big pot with conical neck served as an urn.

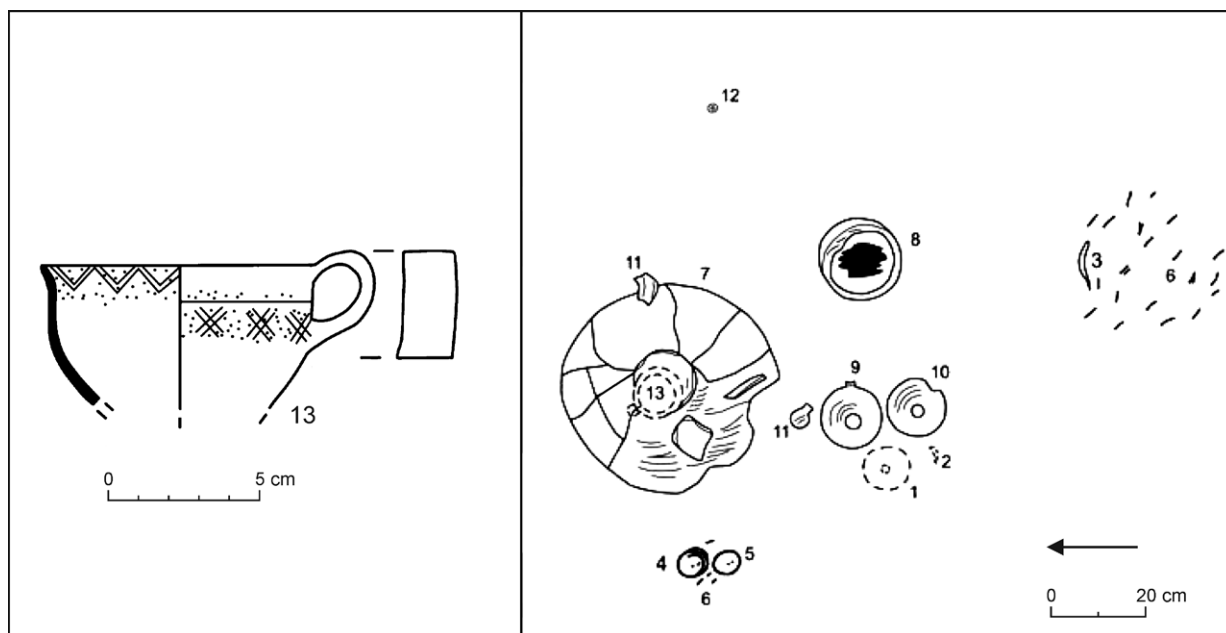


Fig. 11. Big vessel with conical neck with a handled cup inside, Süttö, grave No. 19. Drawing K. Novinszki-Groma.

vessel by using a handled cup. During this process, the drink passed through a sieve, thus the drink was already filtered when it was poured from the serving pot into the little bowls or cups, which were used for consumption. It seems that the big vessels with conical neck were often used as the mixing pots in this system (Kaus 1980, 37). The beverage consumed from these drinking sets was most likely some kind of wine – probably served with herbs and spices. The wine was probably produced in the part of the Eastern Hallstatt circle that is now Austria and Transdanubia, as evidenced by the grape stone find from burial mound No. 1 in Zagersdorf (Kaus 1980, 37, 38; Rebay 2002, 57, fig. 4).

In the flat cremation grave No. 17 of Süttö (Fig. 11) or grave No. 25 of Nové Zámky (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 69–71, fig. 7), cups with a handle or little bowls laid in the vessels with conical neck, which did not contain human remains. This suggests that the smaller vessels were probably used for scooping or drinking. The material of the Süttö tumulus supports the idea that here the vessels with conical neck were part of a drinking set, often found in the male graves of the Hallstatt culture. The big pots served as a container of the beverage, while the eight bowls with inverted rim were used for drinking (Nebelsick 2016, 25, 26, fig. 1: 1,6; 1: 1,8).

To complete the list of potential functions of the big vessels with conical neck in the NE-Transdanubian Hallstatt group, it is important to mention that the grave contexts suggest a complex burial ceremony in case of both the tumuli and the flat, cremation graves (Kaus 1980, 37). This means that the big vessels with conical neck had different functions, e.g. they contained originally some kind of beverage, but during the burial ritual, the cremated human remains were placed into them, turning the pots into urns.

CONCLUSION

During the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages, cremation was the dominant burial practice in the western part of the Carpathian Basin. The human remains were often placed into vessels with cylindrical or conical neck discovered in the material of several cultural units (Patek 1961, 65). Based on the recent observations, this is the case for the graves of the NE-Transdanubian Hallstatt group extending over the eastern part of Western Slovakia, specifically the area between the rivers Hron and Váh.

Vessels with conical or cylindrical neck already appear in the material of the Late Bronze Age Urn-field culture, which preceded the Hallstatt group in the research area. Most of these vessels, however, have a different shape than the Early Iron Age variants. Similar pots were found in the graves of the Mezőcsát group on the Great Hungarian Plain, meaning that they were most likely the direct antecedents of the basic vessel types of the Hallstatt culture.

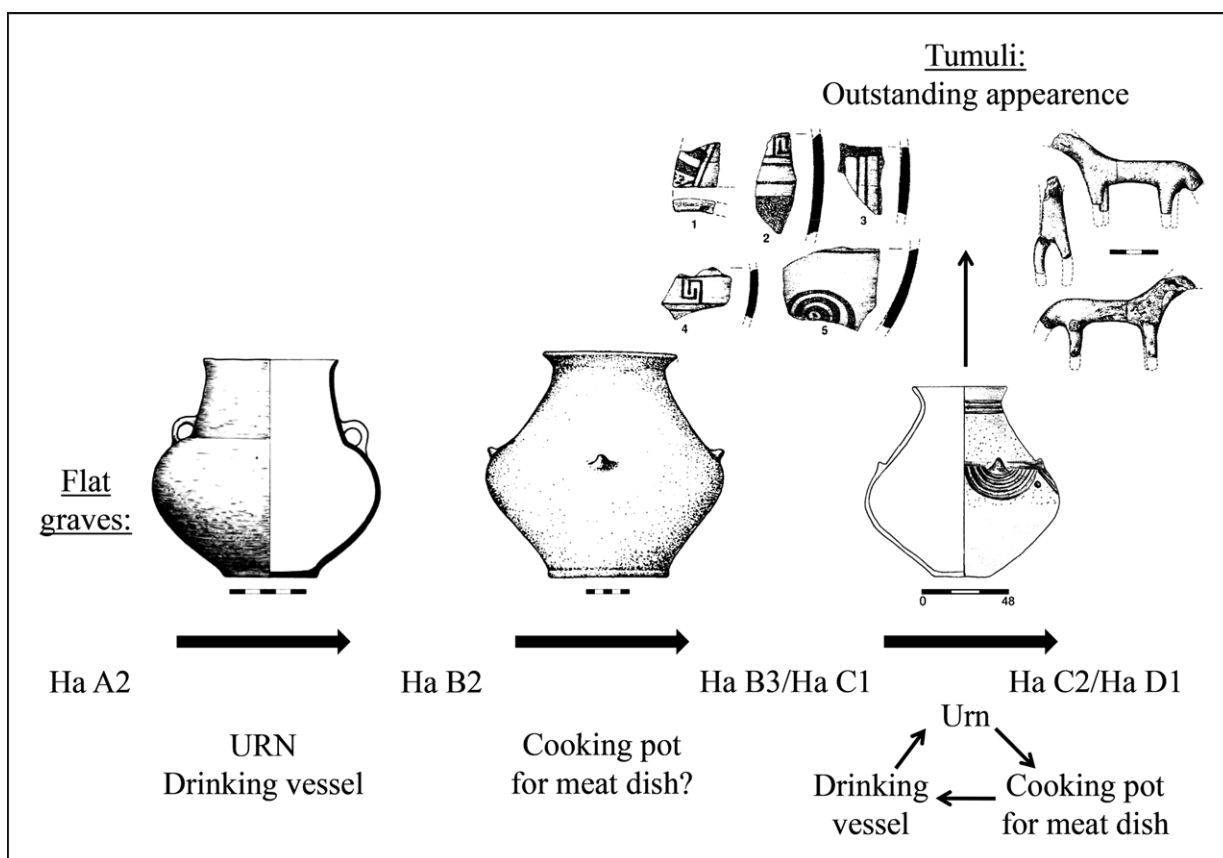


Fig. 12. Development of the big vessels with conical neck and the change in their functions in the graves of NE-Transdanubia from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age. The 'amphora' of the Urnfield culture is from grave No. 287 in Békásmegyer (Kalicz-Schreiber/Kalicz/Vácz 2010, 166, fig. 420; pl. 124: 6), the big vessel with conical neck of the Mezőcsát group is from grave No. 22 in Füzesabony, Kettőshalom (Patek 1993, 63, pl. 6: 6), the big vessel with conical neck of the Hallstatt culture is from grave No. 33 in Süttő (drawing K. Novinszki-Groma), the painted geometric motifs are from the fragments discovered in tumulus No. 109 in Százhalombatta (Holport 1993, 26, 27, fig. 4: 1–5), the animal protomes are from tumulus No. 109 in Százhalombatta (Holport 1993, 26, 27, fig. 9).

The only tumulus field where both the archaeological contexts and the inventory are public is Süttő, but unfortunately this is not the case for Százhalombatta. The other two sites – Tata and Hurbanovo – have one or two smaller burial mounds. These circumstances make it difficult to compare the vessels with conical neck from the tumuli and the flat cremation graves, thus we can only make some observations. There are no clear differences between the main forms, the variants of the Ha C–Ha D1 period occur in both burial types. The sizes and the main decoration techniques are also similar, but we have to highlight the use of complex painted geometric motifs – like meanders or volutes – and protomes, as they were part of the archaeological material only from the tumuli.

The main aim of the recent research was to discover the functions of the vessel types from the graves. Sometimes the big pots were found empty, without any other object around them, suggesting that they only had a one-time role. However, different contexts indicate three functions, which are the following:

1. urn: contained the cremated human remains and sometimes parts of personal accessories;
2. liquid container: cups or small bowls inside the big vessels suggest that they were filled with some kind of drink when placed into the grave;
3. cooking or serving pot for some meat dish: animal bones inside or around the vessels suggest this function.

It is also possible that one vessel had a mixed role, changing its function in the course of the burial ceremony.

The vessels with conical neck from the flat cremation graves fulfilled all three identified functions, but in the case of the tumuli, they either served as urns or seemed to be part of a drinking set. The animal

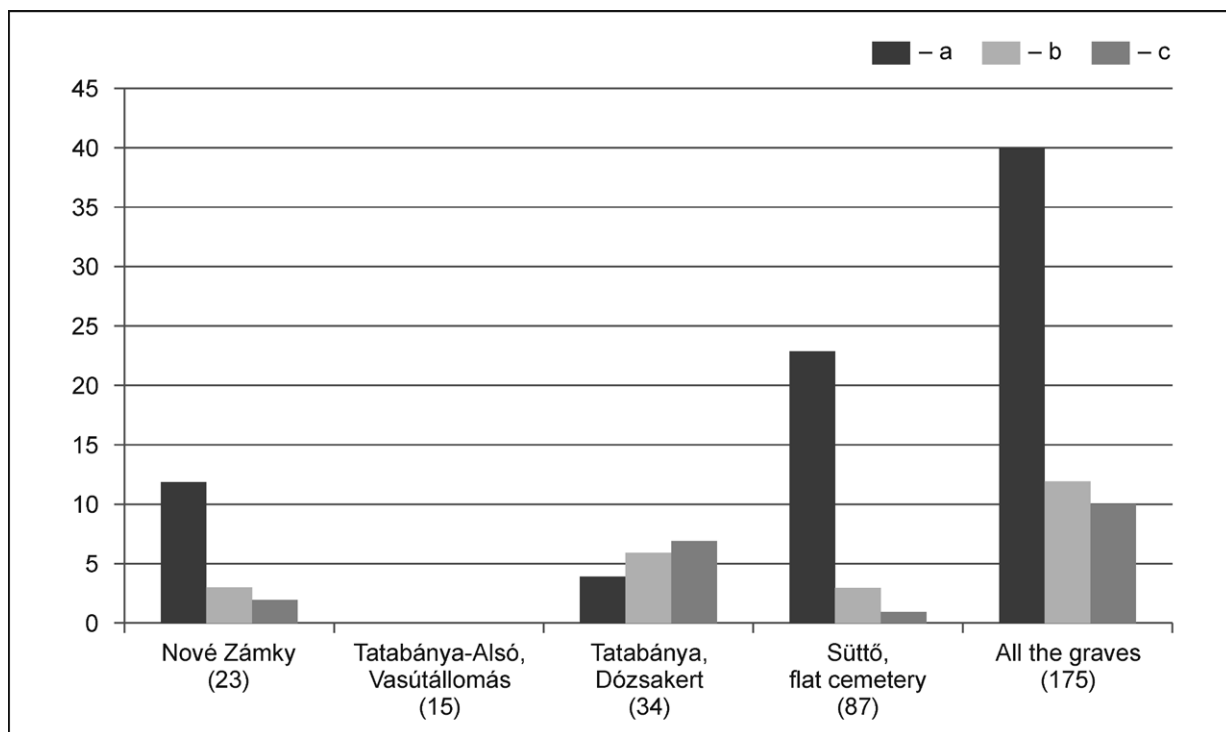


Fig. 13. The diagrams show the different functions of the big vessels with conical neck in the cemeteries of the research area. The numbers sign all the vessels per cemetery and total number of the big vessels with conical neck in the cemeteries of the research area. Legend: a – urn; b – part of a drinking vessel set; c – container of a meat dish.

bones were often placed inside or around the big pots in the inhumation graves of the Mezőcsát group, suggesting that the influences from the east are either missing or less defining in the burials of the elite. However, we have to be careful with this statement because of the small number of burial mounds in the research area (Fig. 12).

At the same time, the analysis of the vessels with conical neck in the grave contexts revealed that there are noticeable differences between each flat cremation cemetery. In some places the vessels functioned usually as urns (Nové Zámky), while in others (Tatabánya, Dózsakert) they were rather used for cooking or as a serving pot of a meat dish. This means that each community had their own distinct burial practices, even though, based on the other aspects, they all belonged to the same cultural unit of the NE-Transdanubian Hallstatt group.

APPENDIX

The following report sheets present the most important data on the big vessels with conical neck from the research area. If *the height is written in italics*, it means that the pot could not be fully restored. In these cases, the real heights have to be more than the reported number. The following codes indicate the different decorations: 0 – no decoration; 1 – horizontal channelling; 2 – vertical or crosswise channelling; 3 – knobs; 4 – ‘repeating motifs’ made up of channelled lines, impressed dots and graphite-painted motifs; 5 – graphite painting on the surface; 6 – geometric motifs painted with graphite; 7 – animal protomes. I also specified the functions of the big vessels with conical neck. I indicated if it was used as an urn in the grave or another type of ceramics played this role. I documented the existence of small cups or bowls inside the big vessels with conical neck that were most likely part of a drinking set. I also determined the presence of animal bones inside or around the big vessel, suggesting that it probably served as a container of a meat dish (Fig. 13).

The sources of data are the following: Bajč, Hurbanovo, Malé Kosiň, Malá nad Hronom (Paulík 1958, 361–368); Nové Zámky (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 60–73); Tata tumulus (Vadász 2003, 90); Tatabánya-Alsó, Vasútállomás (Groma 2015, 140–153); Tatabánya, Dózsakert (unpublished research of the author); Süttő flat cremation cemetery (unpublished research of the author); Süttő tumulus (Vadász 1986, 27).

Appendix. Data on the big vessels with conical neck from the research area.

Grave/big vessel	Height [cm]	Decoration	Urn	Type of the Urn	Vessel inside	Animal bones
Name of the site: Bajč						
No. 1/1	25.5	3	X	deep bowl	X	X
Name of the site: Hurbanovo						
Flat grave 68/56/1	35	3	X	X	X	X
Flat grave 68/56/2	17	3, 4	X	X	X	X
Flat grave 68/56/3	6	0	X	X	X	X
Flat grave 68/56/4	7.5	0	X	X	X	X
Flat grave 74/56/1	28.5	0	X	X	X	X
Tumulus 57/1/1	–	5	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
Tumulus 57/1/2	–	0	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
Tumulus 57/2/1	36.5	0	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
Name of the site: Malé Kosihy						
No. 1/1	28.5	1, 4	X	X	X	X
Name of the site: Malá nad Hronom						
No. 1/1		0	X	X	X	X
Name of the site: Nové Zámky						
No. 2/1	39	1, 4	X	X	X	X
No. 5/1	18.8	4, 5	✓	pot	X	X
No. 6/1	–	0	X	X	X	X
No. 9/1	–	0	X	X	X	X
No. 11/1	24	3	X	X	X	X
No. 13/1	15	0	X	X	X	X
No. 14/1	35.2	1	✓	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 16/1	–	0	✓	2 pots, 4 bowls	X	X
No. 17/1	46	3	✓		X	X
No. 18/1	31.5	1	X	deep biconical bowl, pot	X	X
No. 19/1	33.6	1, 4	X	X	✓	X
No. 21/1	18.4	0	✓	–	X	X
No. 22/1	16	0	X	X	X	X
No. 23/1	18	1, 3, 4, 5	✓	–	X	X
No. 24/1	45.6	1, 3, 5	✓	–	X	✓
No. 25/1	40	1, 3, 4	X	big vessel with conical neck	✓	X
No. 25/2	–	3, 4	✓	–	X	X
No. 26/1	27.2	0	✓	–	X	✓?
No. 29/1	29.2	0	✓	–	X	X
No. 34/1	32.6	1, 3	✓	–	✓	X
No. 35/1	33	1, 2	✓	–	X	X
No. 37/1	15	0	X	X	X	X
No. 37/2	12.3	0	X	X	X	X
Name of the site: Tata						
Tumulus/1	31.8	1, 2, 4	✓	–	X	X
Tumulus/2	31.8	1, 2	X	big vessel with conical neck	X	X
Tumulus/3	17.3	5	X	big vessel with conical neck	X	X
Name of the site: Tatabánya-Alsó, Vasútállomás						
No. 2/1	7.8	3	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 2/2	21	0	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X

Appendix. Continuation.

Grave/big vessel	Height [cm]	Decoration	Urn	Type of the Urn	Vessel inside	Animal bones
No. 3/1	–	1, 3	X	cup	X	X
No. 5/1	28	0	X	X	X	X
No. 6/1	–	3, 4	X	X	X	X
No. 7/1	14.2	3, 4	X	X	X	X
No. 8/1	34.2	3	X	X	X	X
No. 8/2	21	0	X	X	X	X
No. 9/1	37.2	1, 3	X	X	X	X
No. 10/1	36.2	0	X	little bowl	X	X
No. 11/1	–	0	X	X	X	X
No. 12/1	–	0	X	X	X	X
No. 13/1	–	0	X	X	X	X
No. 15/1	25.5	0	X	X	X	X
No. 15/2	15.4	5	X	X	X	X
Name of the site: Tatabánya, Dózsakert						
'A/1	36	5	✓	2 more deep biconical bowls	X	X
'A/2	–	4	X	big vessel with conical neck, 2 more deep biconical bowls	X	X
'B/1	2.8	1, 3	X	bowl with inverted rim	✓	✓
'X/1	34	1, 3, 4	X	X	X	X
No. 1/1	–	0	✓	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 3/1	–	1, 3	X	X	X	X
No. 5/1	32	1	X	X	✓	✓
No. 6/1	20.6	1, 4, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 8/1	47	1,3	✓	bowl with inverted rim	X	✓
No. 9/1	30.4	1,3,4	✓		X	X
No. 11/1	29.1	0	X	X	X	X
No. 11/2	–	1,3,5	X	X	X	X
No. 12/1	–	1, 3	X	X	X	X
No. 13/1	35	1, 3	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 14/1	29.3	1, 3	X	X	X	X
No. 15/1	40	1, 3, 4, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 16/1	41	3, 5	X	handled cup	X	X
No. 17/1	53.5	1, 2, 3	X	X	✓	✓
No. 17/2	15.9	0	X	X	X	X
No. 19/1	42.2	1, 3	X	X	X	X
No. 21/1	41.5	1, 3, 4, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 23/1	41	5	X	X	X	X
No. 24/1	37.7	0	X	X	X	X
No. 24/2	–	1, 4, 5	X	X	X	✓
No. 25/1	44.2	1	X	pot, bowl, little pot	✓	X
No. 26/1	41.8	1, 3, 5	X	deep biconical bowl	X	✓
No. 28/1	39.5	1, 3, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 28/2	8.9	5	X	X	X	X
No. 34/1	–	0	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 36/1	26.3	5	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 37/1	36.8	3, 4, 5	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 38/1	30.5	5	X	X	X	X

Appendix. Continuation.

Grave/big vessel	Height [cm]	Decoration	Urn	Type of the Urn	Vessel inside	Animal bones
No. 39/1	37.5	5	X	X	✓	X
No. 40/1	24.5	0	X	deep biconical bowl	✓	✓
Name of the site: Süttö (tumulus)						
Tumulus/1	53	1, 3, 4, 5	X	X	X	X
Tumulus/2	54.5	1, 3, 4, 5	X	X	X	X
Name of the site: Süttö, Sáncföldék (flat cremation cemetery)						
No. 1/1	48.1	1, 3	✓	big vessel with conical neck, bowl with omphalos	X	X
No. 1/2	–	1, 2	✓	big vessel with conical neck, bowl with omphalos	X	X
No. 1/3	–	1	X	2 big vessels with conical neck, bowl with omphalos	X	X
No. 2/1	47.8	1, 6	X	X	X	X
No. 2/2	–	0	X	X	X	X
No. 2/3	–	1, 3, 4	X	X	X	X
No. 4/1	41.8	1, 4	✓	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 5/1	13.5	1	X	X	X	X
No. 7/1	25	1, 4	X	X	X	X
No. 8/1	32.2	0	X	skeletal	X	X
No. 10/1	37.6	1	X	X	X	X
No. 11/1	39.2	1, 3, 5	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 11/2	44.2	3, 4, 5	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 12/1	26.4	1, 3, 4	X	skeletal	X	X
No. 13/1	34	3	X	skeletal	X	X
No. 14/1	–	0	✓	–	X	X
No. 15/1	–	0	X	X	X	X
No. 15/2	–	0	X	X	X	X
No. 16/1	39.8	1, 3, 4, 5	✓	big vessel with conical neck	X	X
No. 16/2	–	1, 3, 4, 5	✓	big vessel with conical neck	X	X
No. 17/1	–	0	X	X	✓	X
No. 17/2	12.5	1, 3, 4, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 17/3	5.5	4	X	X	X	X
No. 19/1	38	3, 4	X	deep biconical bowl, bowl with inverted rim	X	X
No. 20/1	17.4	1, 4	X	bowl	X	X
No. 21/1	16	0	✓		X	X
No. 22/1	11.8	3	X	X	X	X
No. 23/1	38.1	3	X	X	X	X
No. 24/1	25.2	5	X	skeletal	X	X
No. 25/1	–	0	✓	–	X	X
No. 26/1	–	0	X	X	X	X
No. 27/1	33.5	1, 3	X	X	X	X
No. 28/1	17	2, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 29/1	31.4	0	X	skeletal	X	X
No. 30/1	–	1	✓	–	X	X
No. 31/1	–	1, 4	X	X	X	X
No. 31/2	19	5	X	X	X	X
No. 32/1	31	3, 5	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 33/1	40.5	1, 3, 4, 5	X	deep biconical bowl	X	✓
No. 34/1	–	0	X	X	X	X

Appendix. Continuation.

Grave/big vessel	Height [cm]	Decoration	Urn	Type of the Urn	Vessel inside	Animal bones
No. 35/1	—	1	X	X	X	X
No. 36/1	17	0	X	2 bowls	X	X
No. 41/1	—	2, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 43/1	—	0	✓	—	X	X
No. 44/1	18.8	0	✓	—	X	X
No. 46/1	—	1, 4	X	X	X	X
No. 48/1	20	3, 4, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 48/2	—	4, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 50/1	—	0	X	X	X	X
No. 50/2	13.5	1, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 51/1	—	2, 5	✓	—	X	X
No. 53/1	—	1, 3, 5	✓	—	X	X
No. 54/1	36.5	1, 3, 4, 5	X	little bowl	X	X
No. 55/1	37.4	0	✓	pot	X	X
No. 56/1	5	3	X	X	X	X
No. 57/1	16	5	✓	big vessel with conical neck	X	X
No. 57/2	—	1, 4	✓	big vessel with conical neck	X	X
No. 58/1	34	5	X	X	X	X
No. 58/2	—	1, 4	X	X	X	X
No. 59/1	16.8	5	X	X	X	X
No. 59/2	—	1, 3, 4, 5	X	X	X	X
No. 60/1	6.7	1, 4	X	partly skeletal (skull)	X	X
No. 60/2	17.5	5	X	partly skeletal (skull)	X	X
No. 61/1	7.5	0	X	X	X	X
No. 62/1	—	3, 5	✓	fragments	X	X
No. 63/1	17.5	1	X	fragments	X	X
No. 63/2	7.3	1, 3	X	fragments	X	X
No. 64/1	—	1, 3, 4, 5	✓	—	X	X
No. 65/1	29.2	1, 3	X	fragments	X	X
No. 66/1	10.9	0	X	X	✓	X
No. 67/1	15.5	0	X	little bowl	X	X
No. 68/1	28.6	1, 3	✓	bowl, mug	X	X
No. 68/2	12.3	1, 3, 4, 5	X	big vessel with conical neck, bowl, mug	X	X
No. 69/1	38.2	1, 3, 5	✓	big vessel with conical neck, pot	X	X
No. 69/2	30	1, 3, 4, 5	✓	big vessel with conical neck, pot	X	X
No. 74/1	3.4	1, 2, 5	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 74/2	13	2, 4, 5	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 76/1	31.5	0	X	X	X	X
No. 76/2	6.5–6.7	5	X	X	X	X
No. 77/1	—	0	X	X	X	X
No. 78/1	26	0	X	bowl with inverted rim	X	X
No. 79/1	—	3	✓	fragments	X	X
No. 80/1	29.2	5	✓	deep biconical bowl, 2 bowls with inverted rim	✓	X
No. 81/1	—	1, 4, 5	X	partly skeletal (pieces of skull)	X	X
No. 82/1	28.8	1, 3, 4	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 82/2	10	0	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X
No. 82/2	6.5–7	0	X	deep biconical bowl	X	X

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Nádoby s kónickým hrdlom (“Kegelhalsgefäße”) v halštatskej skupine severovýchodného Zadunajska

Interpretácia nádob na základe hrobových kontextov

Katalin Novinszki-Groma

Súhrn

Veľké nádoby s kónickým hrdlom patria medzi najtypickejšie formy nádob vo východnom halštatskom okruhu. Analýza materiálu nájdeného na väčších pohrebiskách, ktoré sa využívali dlhšie obdobie – ako napríklad Kleinklein v údolí Sulmu v Rakúsku (*Dobiat 1980*, 66–73) alebo Nové Zámky na Slovensku (*Stegmann-Rajtár 2009*, 73–76) – nám umožňuje načrtnúť celkový typovo-chronologický vývoj týchto veľkých nádob. Kým formy s výrazným vydutím sú charakteristické pre staršiu časť doby halštatskej (HC–HD1), veľké nádoby s vyšším hrdlom a hrnce bez ostrých zlomov profilu prišli do módy na začiatku stupňa HD.

Tento príspevok sa zameriava na veľké nádoby s kónickým hrdlom z hrobov halštatskej skupiny SV Zadunajska, osídľujúcej územie ohybu Dunaja v Maďarsku a oblasť medzi južnými časťami údolí Hrona a Váhu (prítokov Dunaja) na Slovensku. V tejto oblasti už bolo vykopané a publikované množstvo pohrebísk popolnicových polí, datovaných do neskej doby bronzovej, a pohrebísk halštatskej kultúry staršej doby železnej (obr. 1). Zároveň sa tu objavuje v porovnaní s plochými žiarovými pohrebiskami nachádza len málo mohylových hrobov.

Pohrebiská nachádzajúce sa severne od rieky Dunaj na skúmanom území sa používali až do konca stupňa HD, na rozdiel od pohrebísk v južných oblastiach, kde sa používali do fázy HD1. Preto sa do prezentovanej analýzy dostal

len hrobový materiál z obdobia HC–HD1. V súlade s vyššie uvedenou typo-chronológiou v analyzovanom materiáli prevládali varianty veľkých nádob s kónickým hrdlom s výraznejším vydutím. Podobné tvary boli objavené už v hrobách popolnicových polí z neskorej doby bronzovej, ktorá v tejto oblasti predchádzala halštatskú kultúru. Formy nádob zo staršej doby železnej sa ešte viac podobajú nádobám mezőcsátskej skupiny fázy HB3 z Veľkej maďarskej nížiny, čo ukazuje na vplyvy z východu.

Analýza odhalila štyri typické techniky výzdoby veľkých nádob s kónickým hrdlom v skúmanej oblasti: horizontálne žliabkovanie, pozostávajúce z jednej alebo viacerých línií, ktoré zvýrazňujú hrdlo alebo plecia nádob; tri až šesť výčnelkov v rovnakej vzdialenosti od seba väčšinou na pleciach; „opakujúce sa motívy“ tvorené zväzkami žliabkovaných línií a vtlačenými jamkami, ktoré často zdobia hrdlá alebo plecia; a tuhovanie v hornej časti nádob, ktoré im dodáva lesklý vzhľad. Zatiaľ čo uvedené techniky sú charakteristické pre materiál z plochých žiarových pohrebísk, zložité geometrické motívy (ako meandre alebo volúty) maľované grafitom alebo vystupujúce zvieracie protómy boli takmer bez výnimky objavené v mohylách.

Hlavnou výskumnou otázkou bola funkcia veľkých nádob s kónickým hrdlom z hrobov zo staršej doby železnej v skúmanej oblasti. Hrobové kontexty umožnili rozlíšiť tri potenciálne funkcie nádob, ktoré mohli slúžiť ako:

1. urny, ktoré obsahovali spoločné ľudské pozostatky, niekedy spolu s osobnými predmetmi zosnulého;
2. nádoby na tekutiny – v takom prípade sa vnútri alebo neďaleko veľkej nádoby našla malá šálka alebo miska;
3. nádoby na varenie alebo servírovanie mäsového pokrmu – vtedy boli v blízkosti veľkých nádob objavené zvieracie kosti.

Prvú a druhú funkciu možno pozorovať už v materiáli hrobov popolnicových polí, zatiaľ čo tretiu možno pripísať vplyvu skupiny Mezőcsát, kde veľké hrnce v kostrových hrobách mohli tiež plniť rovnakú úlohu. Ďalším dôležitým zistením je, že účel veľkých nádob s kónickým hrdlom sa na jednotlivých pohrebiskách v rámci halštatskej skupiny severovýchodného Zadunajska líšil.

Obr. 1. Mapa pohrebísk v skúmanej oblasti. 1 – Bajč; 2 – Hurbanovo; 3 – Malé Kosihy; 4 – Malá nad Hronom; 5 – Nové Zámky; 6 – Tata, 7 – Tatabánya-Alsó, Vasútállomás, a Tatabánya, Dózsakert; 8 – Süttő; 9 – Százhalombatta; 10 – Chotín; 11 – Neszmély; 12 – Budapest-Békásmegyer. Mapa K. Novinszki-Groma.

Obr. 2. Typický tvar veľkej nádoby s kónickým hrdlom. Kresba K. Novinszki-Groma podľa *Dobiat* 1980, 66, obr. 7.

Obr. 3. Veľké nádoby s kónickým hrdlom v skúmanej oblasti. 1 – Süttő, hrob 50; 2 – Süttő, hrob 59. Kresba K. Novinszki-Groma.

Obr. 4. Vývoj veľkých nádob s kónickým hrdlom na pohrebisku v Nových Zámkoch. 1 – hrob 18 (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 67, tab. X: 1); 2 – hrob 2 (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 61, tab. I: 11); 3 – hrob 34 (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 71, 72, tab. XVII: 1); 4 – hrob 26 (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 71, tab. XV: 4); 5 – hrob 9 (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 63, tab. II: 10). Mierka: a – 1, 2; b – 3; c – 4; d – 5.

Obr. 5. Rôzna výzdoba veľkých nádob s kónickým hrdlom. 1 – horizontálne žliabkovanie, Nové Zámky, hrob 35 (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 72, tab. XVII: 9); 2 – vertikálne alebo šikmé žliabkovanie/lišty na pleciach, Süttő, hrob 51 (kresba K. Novinszki-Groma); 3 – výčnelky na pleciach, Süttő, hrob 65 (kresba K. Novinszki-Groma); 4 – jednoduché „opakujúce sa motívy“, Süttő, hrob 12 (kresba K. Novinszki-Groma); 5 – výčnelky v dolnej časti nádoby, Nové Zámky, hrob 24 (*Stegmann-Rajtár* 2009, 69, tab. XIII: 7); 6 – tuhovaný/lesklý povrch v hornej časti nádoby, Süttő, hrob 24 (kresba K. Novinszki-Groma); 7 – zložité „opakujúce sa motívy“, Tatabánya, Dózsakert, hrob „X“ (kresba K. Novinszki-Groma); 8 – tuhované motívy, Tatabánya, Dózsakert, hrob 37 (kresba K. Novinszki-Groma). Mierka: a – 1, 5; b – 2; c – 3, 4, 6–8.

Obr. 6. Príklady tuhovaných geometrických motívov v skúmanej oblasti. 1 – Süttő, starší výskum mohýl (*Vadász* 1986, 252, tab. 2: 1), 2 – Süttő, hrob 2 (kresba K. Novinszki-Groma).

Obr. 7. Zvieracie protómy z mohyly 117 v Százhalombatte (*Holport* 1993, 26, 27, obr. 6).

Obr. 8. Najbežnejšie formy veľkých nádob s kónickým hrdlom v kultúre popolnicových polí. 1, 2 – veľká nádoba s kónickým alebo valcovitým hrdlom, Neszmély, hrob 51 (*Patek* 1993, 46, tab. VIII: 4, 5); 3, 4 – „amfora“, Neszmély, hrob 53 (*Patek* 1993, 46, tab. VIII: 7, 8); 5 – veľká nádoba s kónickým hrdlom skupiny Mezőcsát, hrob z lokality Bóconád, Gosztonyi-tanya (*Patek* 1993, 69, tab. 2: 5). Mierka: a – 1–4; b – 5.

Obr. 9. Typy nádob slúžiacich ako urny v hrobách staršej doby železnej v skúmanej oblasti. 1–3 – hlboké dvojkonické misy: 1 – Hurbanovo, mohyla 1/57 (*Paulík* 1958, 363, tab. III: 7), 2 – Hurbanovo, mohyla 2/57 (*Paulík* 1958, 365, tab. IV: 1), 3 – Bajč, žiarový hrob (*Paulík* 1958, 366, obr. 4: 1); 4 – šálka na nôžke, Tatabánya-Alsó, Vasútállomás, hrob 3 (*Groma* 2015, 144, obr. 4: 6); 5 – šálka s uchom, Tatabánya, Dózsakert, hrob 16 (*Novinszki-Groma* 2018, 123, tab. III: 4); 6 – kónická misa, Süttő, hrob 20 (kresba K. Novinszki-Groma). Bez mierky – 1–3.

Obr. 10. Veľká nádoba s kónickým hrdlom zo staršej doby železnej, slúžiaca ako urna a obsahujúca osobnú výbavu zosnulého. Süttő, hrob 44. Kresba K. Novinszki-Groma, podľa dokumentácie É. Vadászovej. Mierka: a – 3–5, 8, 9; b – 6; c – 7.

Obr. 11. Veľká nádoba s kónickým hrdlom so šálkou s uchom vnútri, Süttő, hrob 19. Kresba K. Novinszki-Groma.

Obr. 12. Vývoj veľkých nádob s kónickým hrdlom a zmena ich funkcie v hrobách v SV Zadunajsku od neskorej doby bronzovej do staršej doby železnej. „Amfora“ kultúry popolnicových polí z hrobu 287 v Békásmegyeri (*Kalicz-Schreiber/Kalicz/Váczi* 2010, 166, obr. 420; tab. 124: 6), veľká nádoba s kónickým hrdlom skupiny Mezőcsát z hrobu 22

vo Füzesabony, Kettőshalom (*Patek 1993*, 63, tab. 6: 6), veľká nádoba s kónickým hrdlom halštatskej kultúry z hrobu 33 v Süttő (kresba K. Novinszki-Groma), maľované geometrické motívy sa našli na fragmentoch objavených v mohyle 109 v Százhalombatte (*Holport 1993*, 26, 27, obr. 4: 1–5), zvieracie protómy z mohyly 109 v Százhalombatte (*Holport 1993*, 26, 27, obr. 9).

Obr. 13. Diagramy ukazujú rozličnú funkciu veľkých nádob s kónickým hrdlom na pohrebiskách v skúmanej oblasti. Čísla označujú počet nádob na jednotlivých pohrebiskách a celkový počet veľkých nádob s kónickým hrdlom na pohrebiskách v skúmanej oblasti. Legenda: a – urna; b – časť picieho servisu; c – nádoba na mäsový pokrm.

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