A SCYTHIAN AGE SUNKEN CIRCULAR STRUCTURE IN THE VICINITY OF HAJDÚBÖSZÖRMÉNY (HUNGARY)

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31577/szausav.2019.suppl.1.1>

Keywords: Carpathian Basin, Middle Iron Age, Scythian Age, Vekerzug culture, settlement, semi-subterranean circular structure, yurt, bronze arrowhead, clay spindle whorl, ceramics

A Scythian Age sunken circular structure in the vicinity of Hajdúböszörmény (Hungary)

The Hajdúsági Museum of Hajdúböszörmény conducted a research excavation in Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-szállás, where a Scythian Age settlement was found in 2017. The primary purpose of this paper is to represent a sunken circular settlement structure of the Vekerzug culture and its relative problems. The authors distinguished three main structure types: those without any post-holes (type-A), those with one post-hole in the center (type-B) and those with multiple post-holes (type-C). The origin, direction and time of their geographical distribution requires further research.

INTRODUCTION

Fig. 1. Hajdúböszörmény in Hungary.

The Great Hungarian Plain (the so called Puszta/Alföld) has very rich Scythian Age assemblages (Chochorowski 1985; Kemenczei 2009; Párducz 1973).¹ Since the last decade of the 19th century at least 200 burial places and more than 3000 graves had been disturbed by different earthworks, yet only in a few cases were settlements mentioned (e.g. Tiszavasvári, Dózsa-telep – Lengyel 1960, 20).² As a result of this, in the middle of the 1980's archaeologists knew almost nothing of the settlements of the Scythian Age population of the Alföld (Chochorowski 1985, 130–133).

For decades, researchers explained this phenomenon with the nomadic lifestyle of the people, based primarily on the preserved written documents. As the contemporary Ionian historian Herodotus writes: "... for they who have neither cities founded nor walls built, but all carry their houses with them and are mounted archers, living not by the plough but by cattle, and whose dwellings are upon cars, these assuredly are invincible and impossible to approach" (Herodotus, 4.46).

¹ This culture is known as the Scythian Age Alföld/Vekerzug group, or Vekerzug Culture in scholarly literature. Its research was largely based on finds unearthed from cemeteries, hoards and sporadic finds, while settlements have been hardly known until now (Kemenczei 2009; Scholtz 2010b).

² Based on the recent data of the archeodatabase of the Hungarian National Museum, 802 Scythian Age sites – 183 cemeteries, 61 burials, 212 settlements – are known in Hungary (<https://archeodatabase.hnm.hu>). This data should be handled cautiously as the system has several failures – incorrect chronological data of the sites – and deficiencies. Furthermore, the sites of other counties are still being processed.

SCYTHIAN AGE SETTLEMENTS

Due to the preventive excavations and extensive field walking surveys of the last three decades, settlements dating to the period were brought to light one after the other (Cseh 2006; Czifra 2006; Kemenczei 2009; Scholtz 2007b; Veres 2007). The new finds, not only help archaeologists to describe the inner structure of individual settlements, but also provide an opportunity to reconstruct the regional settlement structure, as well as the house building techniques of the Vekerzug Culture (e.g. Almássy 2001; Cseh 1990; Gyucha 2001; Istvánovits 1997; Némethi 1999; Scholtz 2001; 2010b; Veres 2007). Communities of the Vekerzug Culture lived in flat, hamlet-like settlements built along watercourses, on high terraces above the floodplain.³ These settlements generally consist of adventitiously built semi-subterranean structures, outdoor ovens, pits, ditches and wells.⁴ In most cases there is little sign of detailed settlement planning on these partly excavated sites (Czifra 2016; 2019, 246; Lantos 2011). Unfortunately, at present no fully excavated Scythian Age settlement has been known in the Carpathian Basin.

Semi-subterranean structures

The semi-subterranean structures of the Vekerzug Culture are generally characterised as single-roomed features of rectangular shape, with rounded corners, vertical or slightly inclining walls, elevated (or uneven) base and two or more postholes.⁵ Their size ranges between 10–18 m² and fireplaces or ovens are not common features within these structures.⁶ Beside these general structures, sunken circular features have been recovered on more than 20 sites (Table 1; Pl. V). Based on the evidence from these collective sites, we have found that these structures can be found on the whole territory of the Vekerzug Culture. Research suggests that the highest concentration of such features can be detected in the surroundings of Nitra and Szolnok (Miroššayová 2018, fig. 4; Romsauer 1998).⁷

Archaeologists interpret these circular structures as yurt-like houses, sheilings, or round-houses (Rundhütte, e.g. Elisavetovskoje house 5 – Marchenko/Zhitnikov/Yakovenko 1988; Czifra 2016; 2019; Sinical/Tel'nov 2014).⁸ It is the opinion of Andrea Vaday that the circular structures from Salgótarján, Industry Park II, could have been workshops, economic buildings, storage or working pits (Vaday 2003, 33). Unfortunately, a typology of these settlement features with particular regard to shape, depth and size has not yet been created at this stage (Cattani 1994, 213). The primary purpose of this paper is to present a newly unearthed Scythian Age sunken circular structure from the vicinity of Hajdúböszörmény county Hajdú-Bihar, Hungary.

HAJDÚBÖSZÖRMÉNY, JUHÁSZ-SZÁLLÁS, PARTOS-CSÁRDA

The Hajdúsági Museum of Hajdúböszörmény conducted a research excavation during the summer of 2017, to determine the exact extent and condition of the Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-szállás, also known as Partos-csárda archaeological site (Fig. 1; Pl. I). The focus of the project was to gain as much data as possible on the previously known archaeological site, where a vast Roman-style amphora came to light

³ The elevation of the Scythian Age archaeological sites of our county (Hajdú-Bihar) ranges between 109–111 m above the Baltic Sea level.

⁴ Beside the semi-subterranean houses above ground constructions with plastered floors were reported from Tiszalök, Prison (Scholtz 2007b, 54), and Salgótarján, Industry Park II (Vaday 2003, 33).

⁵ At present, two reconstructions are known of such Vekerzug buildings (Szolnok, Zagyvart – Cseh 1990, fig. 5 and Nyíregyháza, Manda-bokor – Istvánovits 1997, fig. 69).

⁶ The remnants of fixed dome ovens or hearths were unearthed in some circular residential buildings, while the presence of burned traces on the floors of other dwellings may suggest the use of portable heating installations, such as braziers (Kashuba/Levitski 2012, 573).

⁷ One could hypothesise that their sporadic occurrence could be explained by the lack of research or recovery in certain areas.

⁸ Currently, very little is known about Scythian yurts. A well-known wall-painting from the Anthesterius grave in Kerch shows how the yurts of Scythian times might have looked (Rolle 1989, fig. 88). Similarly, the internal detail of a contemporary yurt – Kidin-Hutrans yurt, c. 600 BC – can be seen on the bronze bowl from Arjan (Iran). David Stronach suggests that these type of yurts could have been brought to Iran at the time as the Persians first entered the region, around the beginning of the first millennium BC (Stronach 2004, 11, fig. 3; 4).

in the middle of the 1960s (Nepper/Máté 1972).⁹ The site is located north of Hajdúböszörmény, east of Hajdúvid, on the right bank of the Vidi-ér (Vidi-stream; Pl. I: 1). Traces of the settlement were found on a small sand hill on the western shore of the one-time waterlogged floodplain, Partos-rét. The elevation ranges between 109–111 m above the Baltic Sea level. During the investigation, 12 archaeological features – eight beehive shaped pits, two postholes, a house and one ditch – were uncovered on an area of 660 m² (Pl. I: 2, 3). Due to the lack of datable artefacts only three features – 6–8 – can be securely dated to the Middle Iron Age. The small size of the excavation area further limits the data regarding the structure of the settlement.

Table 1. Scythian Age sunken circular structures in Hungary.

	Site	Other	Type	Literature
1.	Bükkaranyos	more than 1	B	unpublished
2.	Döge	2	B	unpublished
3.	Dunavecse	more than 10	A, B, C	Lantos 2011
4.	Ebes, Zsong-völgy	more than 1	B	Dani 2004 unpublished
5.	Ecser	more than 1	B	unpublished
6.	Endrőd 19, feature 37	1	B	Cattani 1994
7.	Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-tanya, feature 6	1	B	Bálint/Scholtz/Scard
8.	Hajdúböszörmény	1	B	unpublished
9.	Hajdúnánás, feature 8	1	B	unpublished
10.	Halmaj	more than 10	A, B, C	unpublished
11.	Jászfelsőszentgyörgy, Túróczi-tanya	1(?)	B	Cseh 2006
12.	Ludas, Varjú-dűlő	more than 1	B	Domboróczki 2004
13.	Nagykálló, Industry Park, feature 734	more than 1	B	Scholtz 2010a
14.	Nyírparasznya	more than 1	A, B, C	Czifra et al. 2017
15.	Salgótarján, Industry Park II	more than 6	A, B, C	Vaday 2001
16.	Szikszó, Hell	more than 1	A, B	unpublished
17.	Szolnok, Besenyszög	1(?)	B	unpublished
18.	Szolnok, Papp-tanya	1(?)	B	unpublished
19.	Szolnok, Zagyvart (Alcsi)	1(?)	B	Cseh 1999
20.	Tiszalök, Prison	more than 1	A, B	Scholtz 2007a
21.	Tiszapüspöki, Karacs-Háromág-dűlő, feature 140	2	B	Csányi/Cseh/Tárnoki 1999
22.	Törökszentmiklós, Kenderpart, feature 22	3	B	Cseh 2001a
23.	Vecsés, site 4, feature 96	2	B	unpublished
24.	Vecsés, site 67	3	B	Rácz 2004

Features

Feature 6

An oblong-shaped, semi-subterranean house (?) covering an area of 284 x 342 cm (Pl. II). Its discolouration appeared rather faintly in the sandy ground, with the different moisture retention abilities of the feature being the only indication of an archaeological phenomenon. The walls of the structure were slightly arched, its plastered floor uneven. The greatest depth from the excavated surface was 18–20 cm. A posthole was uncovered in the center of the feature, with a diameter of 28 cm and depth of 45 cm. The whole feature was filled in with a black humus mixed with small daub fragments. On the north-western side of the structure, an oval feature with a plastered base was uncovered: probable the entrance of the structure (Pl. II: 3).

Find assemblages: hand-made and wheel-thrown ceramics (Pl. III; IV), bronze arrowhead (Pl. IV: 9), clay spindle whorl (Pl. IV: 7), animal bones (including dog) and daub fragments.

Feature 8

The oval shape of the posthole appeared rather ambiguously on the sandy surface, 2.3 m eastward from feature 6. No artefacts were recovered from the fill of the feature, which had slightly inclining sides and a round base. It measured 43 cm in diameter and 26 cm deep from the excavated surface (Pl. II: 4).

⁹ The site has historical connections with the adjacent site Hajdúvid, Lenin utca 5. (present day Áron Gábor street), where a vast Roman-style amphora was recovered. The archaeological investigation was undertaken between July 7th and August 2nd 2017, under the leadership of Marianna Bálint. The artefacts can be found in the Hajdúsági Museum, Hajdúböszörmény. The vast Roman-style amphora is still unpublished.

Feature 9

The oval shape of the posthole appeared rather ambiguously on the sandy surface, 1.5 m eastward from feature 6. No artefacts were recovered from the fill of the feature, which had slightly inclining sides and a round base. It measured 45 cm in diameter and 26 cm deep from the excavated surface. The almost identical design of the two postholes, alongside the close proximity of 1.9 m between the two, indicates that they were part of the same structure.

Discussion

Though the number of Scythian Age burials discovered in Hungary to date is close to three thousand and their coverage is at a satisfactory level, it is difficult to summarise the results of the research on settlement during this era. The publication of the settlements – despite preliminary archaeological reports and presentations of prominent settlement phenomena – is still pending in most cases. This is especially true in Hajdú-Bihar county, where aside from the announcement of Scythian burials and sporadic artefacts (Fodor 2011; 2013; 2015; Hágai/Németi 2015; Kemenczei 2009; Nepper 1968), publications dealing with the settlements of the era have scarcely appeared (Berettyóújfalu, Nagy-Bócs-dűlő – Dani *et al.* 2006; Ebes, Zsong-völgy – Dani 2004, Polgár, Csőszhalom-dűlő – Raczky 2004; Polgár, Homok-dűlő – Veres 2003).

The archaeological material and chronological distribution of the site

The materials of the Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-szállás site, show a combination of cultures (Pl. III; IV). Alongside the characteristic objects of the surviving Late Bronze Age Gáva population, the presence of elements of the Scythian culture suggest that the composition of the Vekerzug Culture was certainly not straightforward.

Hand-made ceramics

The excavation yielded numerous artefact assemblages, none of which were overly colourful. Almost one hundred percent of the excavated material consists of hand-made and wheel-thrown pottery. Typology was made more difficult by their fragmentation, with no intact pots or complete pot profiles recovered from any of the features. Nonetheless, the sherds represent all four major vessel types of the Vekerzug Culture: large, double-cone-shaped vessels, high-handled cups (Pl. III: 2, 4, 5), bowls with inverted rims (Pl. III: 1, 12) and barrel-shaped pots (Pl. III: 3, 6, 7, 10, 11). Some of the latter were ornamented with two or three horizontal raised or indented markings, with finger impressions (Pl. III: 3, 7, 10).¹⁰ Chamotte temper was characteristically used. The extensive collection of pottery types shows characteristics of the preceding periods in the Carpathian Basin, their best analogies known from the Nyírség and Northern-Alföld region (Scholtz 2008, 193; 2012).

Ember covers/stainers

Integral elements of Scythian kitchenware are the round, ember covers and stainers. A fragment of, mostly truncated, cone or hemispherical-shaped ceramic densely pierced with small holes was found in Hajdúböszörmény (Pl. III: 9). This distinctive pottery appeared first in the Late Bronze Age, though it is more often found in the assemblages of the Vekerzug Culture (Patay/Scholtz/Scard 2017, 470), as well as in the finds of the Celtic groups living together with, side-by-side or even outliving the Scythians (Sajópetri). Finding out their true function requires further research.

Lids

In Scythian settlements – sometimes in funerals – we encounter an increasing number of flat, disc-shaped, hand-moulded clay objects of different sizes (Pl. III: 8). They are seemingly multifunctional and could be used as lids or coversant baking sheets. Their material is coarse and tempered using chamotte, with colours varying between reddish-yellow, reddish-brown and greyish-brown. The wall of the clay covers is usually 0.9 to 2.2 cm thick. Similar disc covers can be found in the Scythian-Hallstatt mixed materials in both the Scythian Age Kushtanovice group and Celtic archaeological material (Czifra *et al.* 2017; Kemenczei 2009).

¹⁰ Though there are vessel fragments that can be evaluated archaeologically, several rim and body fragments hold information only in the form of decoration and shape.

Wheel-thrown ceramics

Amongst the vessels finely levigated, wheel-thrown items were also recorded (Pl. IV: 1–6, 8, 10). Research agrees that this new pottery production technique – one of the leading inventions of prehistory – was spread in the eastern part of the Carpathian Basin by the communities of the Vekerzug Culture (Czifra/Kreiter/Pánczél 2015; Kemenczei 2001, 34), though, to date, no pottery kiln has been recovered (Scholtz 2010b). Analogies of the main pottery types can often be found in the material of both grave goods and settlements within the whole territory of the Vekerzug Culture. The earliest wheel-thrown potteries appeared at the end of the 7th century BC, belonging to the well datable Alsótelekes cemetery (Patay/Kiss 2001–2002), and existed until the end of the culture in the middle of the 4th century BC (Kemenczei 2009).

Clay spindle whorl

The numerous, usually ornamented spindle whorls are evidence of spinning and weaving (Pl. IV: 7). The majority of the spindle whorls recovered are coarsely-made, and are fairly uniform in size (Bottyan 1955, 53). We find them both in settlement features as well as in graves, both male and female. The spindle whorl recovered from our site has a dark grey, hand-made, biconical, undecorated form and represents the most common type of the Vekerzug Culture (Chochorowski 1985).

Bronze arrowhead

The bronze, three-winged arrowhead recovered (Pl. IV: 9) is of the type long-used throughout the whole Scythian Period (Vasiliev A2c–d type – Vasiliev 1980, 74). It appeared in the Carpathian Basin in the 2nd half of the 7th century BC (burial 208, Csanytelek, Újhalastó – Kemenczei 1994, 93, 98) and was in use during the whole 6th–5th centuries BC (Hellmuth 2010; Kemenczei 1994; Kozubová 2009; Tóth Farkas 2018).

Typology and functions

Of the more than 20 Scythian Age sites excavated thus far, at least 40 circular semi-subterranean structures have been unearthed in Hungary (Table 1; Pl. VI): some without any postholes (type-A: Pl. VI: 1, 2), some with one posthole in the center (type-B: Pl. VI: 3, 4), and some with multiple postholes (type-C: Pl. VI: 5, 6). They can be found throughout the majority of the territory of the Vekerzug Culture, both in its homeland and their adjacent regions, in Slovakia (Dvory nad Žitavou: Paulík 1957; Stránska: Mirošayová 2018, fig. 4; Rusnák 2007) and in Romania (Németi 1999). These structures are characterised by round or oval ground-plans, vertical or inclining sides and slightly uneven bases. Postholes are mainly discovered central to the structure (Hajdúböszörmény, Halmaj) or around the perimeter of the ground structures (Dunavecse, Nyírparasznya). Rarely has any inner fireplace or hearth being observed in these sunken features.¹¹ Although the interpretation of such rounded settlement features is highly complex, it is very probable that some of them reflect on the, so far unknown, aspects of domestic architecture of the Vekerzug Culture (Czifra 2019). In the Carpathian Basin semi-subterranean circular constructions first appeared in Late Bronze Age – Urnfield-, Gáva-, Kyjatice-Culture – and Early Iron Age – Basarabi-, Mezőcsát-Culture – settlements (Ha A–Ha C periods).¹² Hungarian researchers generally interpreted these structures as ancillary constructions (Domboróczy 2004; Hellebrandt 2015; Kemenczei 2009; Lantos 2011; Szabó 2004; Vaday 2003), whilst, on the contrary, similar circular features are often interpreted as houses by eastern European archaeologists (Kashuba/Levitski 2012).¹³ Finally, one must be keep in mind that similar constructions can be found in large numbers in Celtic settlements in the Great Hungarian Alföld (Czifra 2019).

To date, numerous investigators have dealt with the geographical distribution and cultural-chronological context of the above mentioned features (Czifra 2019; Kemenczei 2009; Mirošayová 2018; Romsauer

¹¹ According to ethnographic data, people did not light fires in small tents to prevent them from igniting. This may explain why archaeologists cannot find any traces of fires in buildings smaller than 2.5–3 m in diameter.

¹² As well as rectangular, above ground medium and large-sized houses of the local Late Bronze Age cultures, rounded, semi-subterranean structures are also unearthed on many sites. These rounded features vary in size and contain additional features and can most probably be interpreted as economic buildings (Matuz 1997).

¹³ The analysis of the Hallstatt period house-building techniques between Carpathians and Danube showed that the tradition of building circular pit-houses has been introduced in the North-West Pontic as early as in the Ha A period, from the milieu of Hallstatt (“Carpathian-Danubian”) population. In the Early Scythian period, with the direct participation and under the influence of the communities of Basarabi cultural complex, the circular pit-houses appeared here among the local forest-steppe communities (Kashuba/Levitski 2012).

1998). Recently, their occurrence in stage Ha B–Ha C has been monitored in a wide zone south and east of the Carpathian Mountains, through the forest-steppe territory to the Dnieper's right bank. Their origin is sought in the Carpathian-supra-Danubian territory in stage Ha A, whence they spread eastwards (*Kashuba/Levitski 2012, 574, 576; Miroššayová 1998*).

Based on the analysed data, it is correct to say that the different types of circular structures – type A–C – were found near the rectangular houses of the settled, Late Bronze Age–Iron Age farming population in the Carpathian Basin. The Early and Middle Iron Age livestock keepers who arrived from the northern coast of the Black Sea also used them beside or instead of the yurt, i.e. as a permanent or periodic residential building; as a dwelling for poor people; an occasional tent or a building for summer grazing. Some of them may have been used for storage, whilst other parts in which spindle whorls and additional small postholes were found could be defined as economic structures, such as a looming house (Halmaj, Sátorajka újhely).¹⁴ The recently published Siberian rock carvings enable us to create a picture of contemporary settlements and major residential and economic buildings (*Kubarev/Ceveendorzh/Jacobson 2005*). Though the distance between the Hungarian and Inner Asian Scythian Age sites exceeds thousands of kilometers, we must use the comparative data to gain further understanding of these former buildings, until such a time we find a similar visual source in our area.¹⁵

¹⁴ Further, more detailed research is needed to determine the origin and function of the building types (Pl. V–VII).

¹⁵ The authors owe their thanks to I. Bacskai, Sz. Czifra, E. Miroššayová, D. Topal, M. Tóth Farkas and V. Sinica for their generous help in the publication of this paper. Drawings were made by M. Bálint, P. Szőke and E. Kövér. Photos were taken by M. Bálint, T. Horváth and I. Bacskai. The plates were made by R. G. Scholtz.

Pl. I. Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-szállás, geographical location on the 2nd military survey (1853) and complex map of the excavation.

Pl. II. Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-szállás. 1–3 – feature 6; 4 – feature 7.

Pl. III. Selection of the archaeological finds from feature 6. Hand-made pottery.

Pl. IV. Selection of the archaeological finds from feature 6. 1–6, 8, 10 – wheel-turned pottery; 7 – clay spindle whorl; 9 – bronze arrowhead.

Pl. V. Map of sites with Scythian Age sunken circular structures (drawing R. G. Scholtz; after *Miroššayová 2018*). 1 – Bajč; 2 – Čaka; 3 – Dvory nad Žitavou; 4 – Chotín; 5 – Šaľa; 6 – Veľký Cetín; 7 – Stránska; 8 – Budkovce; 9 – Michalovce (?); 10 – Bükkaranyos; 11 – Döge; 12 – Dunavecse; 13 – Ebes, Zsong-völgy; 14 – Ecser; 15 – Endrőd, site 19; 16 – Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-tanya; 17 – Hajdúböszörmény; 18 – Hajdúnánás; 19 – Halmaj; 20 – Jászfelsőszentgyörgy, Túróczi-tanya; 21 – Ludas; Varjú-dűlő; 22 – Nagykálló, Industry Park; 23 – Nyírparasznya; 24 – Salgótarján, Industry Park II; 25 – Szikszó, Hell; 26 – Szolnok, Besenyszög; 27 – Szolnok, Papp-tanya; 28 – Szolnok, Zagyvapart (Alcsi); 29 – Tiszalök, Prison; 30 – Tiszapüspöki, Karancs-Háromág-dűlő; 31 – Törökszentmiklós, Kenderpart; 32 – Vecsés, site 4; 33 – Vecsés, site 67.

Pl. VI. Scythian Age sunken circular structures. 1, 2 – Type-A (Chotín and Dvory nad Žitavou; after Paulik 1957; Romsauer 1998); 3, 4 – Type-B (Bajč and Szolnok; after Cseh 1999; Točík 1964); 5, 6 – Type-C (Nitra and Nyírparasznya; after Czifra 2019; Romsauer 1993).

Pl. VII. Reconstructions of Scythian and Sarmatian yurts and yurt-like structures. 1 – Lisaja Gora; 2 – Crimea; 3 – Pantikapea (after *Sinica/Tel'nov* 2014).

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Zahĺbená kruhová stavba zo skýtskeho obdobia v okolí Hajdúböszörmény (Maďarsko)

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Súhrn

Múzeum Hájdušági v Hajdúböszörmény uskutočnilo v lete 2017 výskum, ktorý určil presný rozsah a stav archeologickej lokality Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-szállás, tiež známej ako Partos-csárda (obr. 1). Počas výskumu bolo na ploche s rozlohou 660 m² odkrytých 12 archeologických objektov – osem úlovitých jám, dve kolové jamy, dom a jedna priekopa (tab. I: 2, 3). V dôsledku nedostatku datovateľných predmetov môžu byť do strednej doby železnej s istotou datované len tri objekty – č. 6–8: kruhová stavba a dve kolové jamy. Primárnym cieľom tohto článku je predstaviť tieto novoobjavené sídliskové objekty zo skýtskeho obdobia vekerzugskej kultúry (tab. I: 2). Napriek fragmentárnosti poskytnú nálezy dôležité údaje pre presnejšie pochopenie osídlenia strednej doby železnej a histórie stavby domov v skúmanom regióne.

Kruhová sídlisková stavba s charakteristickým konštrukčným prvkom – centrálnym stĺpom – je výrazným príkladom pozostatkov predskýtskeho–skýtskeho domu (8.–3. stor. pred n. l.). Tento jurtovitý variant (tab. II; VII) možno pozorovať v celom teritóriu vekerzugskej kultúry (tab. V). Určenie veku a funkcie týchto sídliskových objektov je problematické. Podľa trojhranného bronzového hrotu šípu a charakteristického keramického materiálu, ako aj podobných kruhových stavieb (napr. Törökszentmiklós, Kenderpart, obj. 22; *Cseh 2001*, obr. 2) je možné lokalitu Hajdúböszörmény datovať do 6.–5. stor. pred n. l., teda do zlatého veku vekerzugskej kultúry. Keďže ani jeden z odkrytých objektov neobsahoval materiál keltského pôvodu, je pravdepodobné, že obyvatelia osady sa s prisťahovalectvom Keltov nestretli.

Na základe analyzovaných dát rozlišujú autori tri hlavné typy: bez kolových jám (typ A; tab. VI: 1, 2), s jednou kolovou jamou uprostred (typ B; tab. VI: 3, 4) a s viacerými kolovými jamami (typ C; tab. VI: 5, 6; tab. 1). V Karpatskej kotline sa zahĺbené kruhové stavby po prvýkrát objavili na sídliskách neskorej doby bronzovej – v kultúre popolnicových polí, gávskej a kyjatickej kultúry, a na sídliskách staršej doby železnej – v basarabskej a mezőcsátskej kultúre (fázy HA–HC).

Maďarskí bádatelia vo všeobecnosti interpretovali tieto stavby ako pomocné stavby: jurtovité domy, koliby, dielne, hospodárske stavby, zásobné alebo pracovné jamy (*Domboróczi 2004; Hellebrandt 2015; Kemenczei 2009; Lantos 2011; Szabó 2004; Vaday 2003*), zatiaľ čo východoeurópski archeológovia interpretujú podobné kruhové stavby ako domy (*Kashuba/Leviatski 2012*).

Možno dúfať, že časom bližšie pochopíme presnú chronológiu týchto stavieb a sídlisk vďaka výsledkom výskumov, ktoré budú v blízkej budúcnosti pokračovať.

Obr. 1. Hajdúböszörmény v Maďarsku.

Tabela 1. Zahĺbené kruhové stavby zo skýtskeho obdobia v Maďarsku.

Tab. I. Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-szállás, zemepisná poloha v rámci druhého vojenského mapovania (1853) a komplexná mapa výskumu.

Tab. II. Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-szállás, 1–3 – objekt 6; 4 – objekt 7.

Tab. III. Vybrané archeologické nálezy z objektu 6. V ruke vyrábaná keramika.

Tab. IV. Vybrané archeologické nálezy z objektu 6. 1–6, 8, 10 – na kruhu vytáčaná keramika; 7 – hlinený praslen; 9 – bronzový hrot šípu.

Tab. V. Mapa lokalít so zahĺbenými kruhovými stavbami zo skýtskeho obdobia (kresba R. G. Scholtz, podľa *Miroššayová 2018*). 1 – Bajč; 2 – Čaka; 3 – Dvory nad Žitavou; 4 – Chotín; 5 – Šaľa; 6 – Veľký Cetín; 7 – Stránska; 8 – Budkovce; 9 – Michalovce (?); 10 – Bükkaranyos; 11 – Döge; 12 – Dunavecse; 13 – Ebes, Zsong-völgy; 14 – Ecser; 15 – Endrőd, nálezisko 19; 16 – Hajdúböszörmény, Juhász-tanya; 17 – Hajdúböszörmény; 18 – Hajdúnánás; 19 – Halmaj; 20 – Jászfelsőszentgyörgy, Túróczy-tanya; 21 – Ludas; Varjú-dűlő; 22 – Nagykálló, priemyselný park; 23 – Nyírparasznya; 24 – Salgótarján, priemyselný park II; 25 – Szikszó, Hell; 26 – Szolnok, Besenyszög; 27 – Szolnok, Papp-tanya; 28 – Szolnok, Zagyvartarján (Alcsi); 29 – Tiszalök, väzenie; 30 – Tiszapüspöki, Karancs-Háromág-dűlő; 31 – Törökszentmiklós, Kenderpart; 32 – Vecsés, nálezisko 4; 33 – Vecsés, nálezisko 67.

Tab. VI. Zahľbené kruhové stavby zo skýtskeho obdobia. 1, 2 – typ A (Chotín a Dvory nad Žitavou; podľa *Paulík 1957; Romsauer 1998*); 3, 4 – typ B (Bajč a Szolnok; podľa *Cseh 1999; Točík 1964*); 5, 6 – typ C (Nitra a Nyírparasznya; podľa *Czifra 2019; Romsauer 1993*).

Tab. VII. Rekonštrukcie skýtskych a sarmatských jurt a jurtovitých stavieb. 1 – Lisaja Gora; 2 – Krym; 3 – Pantikapea (podľa *Sinica/Teľnov 2014*).

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