

CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE MACROBOTANICAL REMAINS FROM CERAMIC VESSELS FOUND AT ȘOIMUȘ – LA AVICOLA (FERMA 2), HUNEDOARA COUNTY

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Abstract: In 2011, a joint team from various cultural institutions (“Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology, Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilisation and National Romanian History Museum) have collaborated in rescue excavations on the A1 highway (Lugoj–Deva). This research uncovered a multi-stratified settlement with occupations dated to the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Medieval periods. The Neolithic period (Vinča culture) is represented by two main layers. Radiocarbon dated the Neolithic occupation between the end of the sixth millennium and the beginning of the fifth millennium BC (Vinča culture, B and C phases). In this study, the contents of twenty-one complete and fragmented ceramic pots were analysed. The infill sediment from these vessels was wet sieved. The soil infill of eleven vessels yielded macrobotanical remains, mainly charred seeds. The context of these pots are as follows: five vessels were discovered in pits, two were found in dwellings, three came from the occupational layers, and one from an unknown context. The archaeobotanical samples recovered consist of fragments of caryopses, chaff of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and einkorn (*Triticum monococcum*) and some seeds of weeds and shrubs.

Cuvinte-cheie: vase ceramice, cultura Vinča, procesare, semințe, carpologie, *Triticum* sp.

Rezumat: În anul 2011, mai multe instituții de cultură (Institutul de Arheologie „Vasile Pârvan”, Muzeul Civilizației dacice și romane și Muzeul Național de Istorie a României) au colaborat în efectuarea de cercetări arheologice preventive pe traseul viitoarei autostrăzi A1 (Lugoj–Deva). Aceste cercetări au adus la lumină o așezare multistratificată, dezvoltată de-a lungul epocii neolitice, bronzului, epocii fierului, perioadei romane și a epocii medievale. Perioada neolitică (cultura Vinča) este reprezentată de două straturi principale. Datele absolute o plasează la sfârșitul mileniului al VI-lea și începutul mileniului V BC (cultura Vinča, fazele B și C). Pentru acest studiu au fost analizate 21 de vase întregi sau fragmentare cu sediment prin cernere umedă. Din aceste 21 de vase, doar din 11 vase a rezultat material carpologic carbonizat. Cinci vase provin din gropi, două vase din locuințe, trei vase din nivelul de locuire și unul este *passim*. Materialul carpologic constă în fragmente de cariopse (boabe de cereale), resturi de spic de grâu (*Triticum* sp.) și alac (*Triticum monococcum*) și câteva semințe de plante ierboase și arbuști.

Between August and November 2011, an archaeological team consisting of specialists from the “Vasile Pârvan” Institute of Archaeology in Bucharest, the Museum of Dacian and Roman civilization in Deva and the National History Museum of Romania in Bucharest carried out preventive excavations on the route of the future A1 Highway (Lugoj–Deva) (Fig. 1). A multi-stratified settlement with various artefact types was uncovered. Most of the finds were attributed to the Neolithic period (Vinča culture), some of them being assigned to the Bronze Age, Iron Age, the Roman and Medieval periods. The settlement is known as *La Avicola (Ferma 2)* findspot, on the administrative territory of the Șoimuș commune, Hunedoara County¹.

The Neolithic settlement consisted of two main layers (the lower layer was characterized by pit houses, ditches, and pits, while the upper layer yielded surface houses, ditches and pits). The two occupational layers were separated by a greyish-brown levelling horizon. Approximately 700 features were identified². The



Figure 1. Geographic map of Romania with the location of the archaeological site of Șoimuș – La Avicola (Ferma 2) (Image by Cristian E. Ștefan).

radiocarbon dates place this settlement between the end of the fifth millennium BC and the beginning of the fourth millennium BC (Vinča, the B and C phases)³.

¹ Dobrescu et alii 2016; Niță et alii 2015; Ștefan 2016; Ștefan et alii 2013; 2015.

² Ștefan 2016.

³ Ștefan 2017.