

## Dragomelj – an Urnfield period settlement as part of the Podgorica-Dragomelj twin settlement and remains from the Early Iron Age

### Dragomelj – naselje iz obdobja kulture žarnih grobišč kot del podgoriško-dragomeljskega somestja in starejšeželeznodobni drobci

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#### Izvleček

V prispevku so predstavljeni rezultati raziskav naselja iz obdobja kulture žarnih grobišč v Dragomlju kot severnega dela naselbinske celote s Podgorico. Ob slabo ohranjenih ostalinah bivalnih hiš in stavb drugih namembnosti se naselje odlikuje po številnih predilno-tkalskih pripomočkih in raznovrstni lončenini, kar ga skupaj z radiokarbonskimi datacijami uvršča v horizont naselij Rogoza–Orehova vas, tj. v 12. in 11. st. pr. n. št. V tem obdobju je dragomeljski del naselja z dokumentirano predilno in tkalsko dejavnostjo ter s tezavriranim depojem I bakrenih in bronastih polizdelkov komplementaren z metalurško-proizvodnim podgoriškim delom južno od Pšate.

Po nekajstoletni vrzeli brez vidnih ostankov poselitve je v Dragomlju dokumentiranih 180 bronastih predmetov v sekundarni legi, ostankov depoja II tipa San Francesco (Bologna)–Šempeter, ki poleg drugih drobnih najdb dokazujejo poselitev v starejši železni dobi, v 7. oz. 6. st. pr. n. št., tudi severno od Pšate.

**Ključne besede:** Dragomelj; pozna bronasta doba; nižinska naselbina; predilna in tkalska dejavnost; starejša železna doba; depo

#### Abstract

The article presents the results of the investigations at Dragomelj, where habitation remains from the Urnfield period represent the northern part of a twin settlement together with the southern part at Podgorica. The unearthed residential and other buildings were poorly preserved, but did reveal numerous spinning and weaving implements, as well as a variety of pottery. Together with radiocarbon dates, they place the settlement in the Rogoza–Orehova vas horizon of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. They also show that its inhabitants engaged in spinning and weaving activities, as well as storing a hoard of copper and bronze semi-products (Dragomelj I hoard) as a complement to the metallurgy and production-oriented part at Podgorica, south of the Pšata stream.

After a centuries-long gap with no discernible traces of human presence, the area was again in use in the 7<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> century BC. Evidence of this includes 180 bronze objects found in a secondary context. They are the remains of another hoard (Dragomelj II hoard), of the Bologna, San Francesco–Šempeter type. Together with other artefacts, it proves Early Iron Age use of the area also north of the Pšata.

**Keywords:** Dragomelj; Late Bronze Age; lowland settlement; spinning and weaving activities; Early Iron Age; hoard



Fig. 1: Aerial view of the archaeological site east of Dragomelj (eastward view prior to the excavations).  
 Sl. 1: Letalski posnetek območja arheološkega najdišča vzhodno od Dragomlja (pogled z zahoda pred izkopavanji).

The rescue investigations conducted between 1997 and 2001 at Dragomelj, in advance of the motorway construction between Ljubljana and Maribor, covered a roughly 12,500 m<sup>2</sup> large area. The excavated remains include a lowland settlement from the Urnfield period and poorly preserved habitation remains from the Early Iron Age.<sup>1</sup> The Late Bronze Age (LBA) settlement is the northern part of a twin settlement together with that excavated at Podgorica, south of the Pšata stream. Both sites were most densely inhabited during the Urnfield period.<sup>2</sup> Documented in the fertile fields east of Dragomelj (Fig. 1) was a disturbed topsoil followed downward by a variously preserved uniform cultural layer and underlying geology of yellowish clay with rare pockets of gravel deposits.<sup>3</sup> The remains of residential buildings were discernible as cuts into the underlying geology. These sunken features comprised postholes for the wooden posts of LBA houses, storage pits, refuse pits and other large pits of unknown function (Fig. 2).

<sup>1</sup> Many results of these investigations are summarized from the comprehensive publication in Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 49–125. The site also revealed habitation remains from the Late Stone Age, the Roman period and the Early Middle Ages (ib., 29–49, 125–139).

<sup>2</sup> See Vojaković in this volume, Fig. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 25–29, Fig. 26–32; Verbič 2022.

## SETTLEMENT FROM THE LATE BRONZE AGE

### Houses and other settlement structures

Most postholes were fairly regularly round or oval, with diameters ranging from 25 to 50 cm. They only survived to shallow depths as the top parts were predominantly destroyed. Many had packing stones along the perimeter. The postholes most frequently formed groups. However, the substantial number of postholes and the fact that not all could be identified and documented often made it impossible to reliably connect them into floor plans of rectangular buildings. Moreover, some groups of postholes (and pits of other functions) suggest initial construction, repair and rebuilding of houses of different sizes and orientations on the same spots, which significantly hinders the identification of the original building plans.

The distribution of postholes allows us to identify the plans of 16 houses (Fig. 2). They had different orientations: NE–SW (Houses 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 16), NW–SE (Houses 5, 7 (Fig. 3), 8, 9, 10, 15) and N–S (Houses 4, 6, 11 (Fig. 4), 14). A slightly irregular fan-like arrangement of five houses in the central part of the excavation area (Fig. 2: Houses 8–12) suggests they were positioned around a central area, possibly a communal space or courtyard. The settlement



Fig. 2: Dragomelj. Plan of the site with sunken and other features from the Urnfield period and the Early Iron Age.

Sl. 2: Dragomelj. Načrt vkopov v geološko osnovo ter drugih struktur iz obdobja kulture žarnih grobišč in iz starejše železne dobe.



Fig. 3: Dragomelj. Houses 7 and 6 (the latter in the background), view of their postholes from the northwest.

Sl. 3: Dragomelj. Jame za stojke ter označena domnevna tlorisa hiš 6 (desno) in 7 (levo).

would thus appear to be a dispersed village with individual houses or clusters of houses spaced 15–20 meters apart (e.g., Houses 1–2, Houses 3–4, Houses 6–7, groups of three Houses 8–10 and 11–13, and Houses 14–15).

However, the hypothesis of relatively rare and scattered houses is challenged by the fact that the highest density of postholes and other settlement pits mostly corresponds with the areas of small depressions or unevenly sunken sections of the underlying geology, as shown in Fig. 3. This indicates an originally considerably denser habitations, of which only the deepest parts have survived. The large areas without sunken features therefore more likely represent destroyed sections of the settlement rather than communal spaces or courtyards.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the sixteen identified house plans, concentrations of postholes in Dragomelj indicate further houses and associated outhouses (such as storerooms, stables and enclosures). The presumed multi-phase nature of these buildings, combined with their abundance, makes it dif-

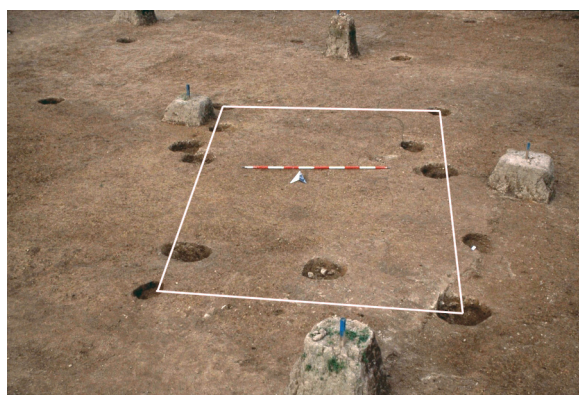


Fig. 4: Dragomelj. House 11, northward view of its postholes.

Sl. 4: Dragomelj. Jame za stojke in označen domnevni tloris hiše 11.

ficult to precisely reconstruct their appearance (Fig. 2). We can conclude that the settlement at Dragomelj included more than 20 LBA houses in the excavated part.

Comparing the habitation remains from Dragomelj with those of contemporary settlements reveals marked similarities with nearby Podgorica<sup>5</sup> and more distant Rogoza in the Podravje region.<sup>6</sup> Houses there also show different orientations

<sup>4</sup> Also cf. Gruškovnjak 2024, 114–116, Fig. 12: there is a considerable and clear difference between the locally elevated area east of Dragomelj, which has been heavily damaged in recent times, and the lower-lying area east of Podgorica, where fluvial sediments are much better preserved.

<sup>5</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022, 30–61, Fig. 18; Vojaković in this volume.

<sup>6</sup> Črešnar 2010, 59–70, App. 2–3; Črešnar 2022, 103–117, Fig. 86–89.

and an arrangement in clusters of houses and outhouses that together form farmsteads. A somewhat similar picture is observable in the contemporary settlement at Orehova vas in Podravje, where houses are more densely arranged (in three clusters) than at Dragomelj, Podgorica and Rogoza.<sup>7</sup> A considerably denser arrangement that is dissimilar to that of Dragomelj has been documented in the partly contemporary settlement at Pince in the Prekmurje region.<sup>8</sup> Significantly different is the settlement excavated at Pobrežje near Maribor, which is partly contemporary in its beginning, but mainly later than Dragomelj, and where houses are arranged in a dense, almost rectilinear grid.<sup>9</sup> Also significantly different are the proto-urban settlements at Ormož and at Tribuna in Ljubljana.<sup>10</sup> The beginnings of these three settlements coincide with the decline of that at Dragomelj. They also share the orientation of houses that largely respects a dense grid of rectilinear pathways – streets – within which the large houses are oriented parallel or perpendicularly to one another.

The size of the houses ranges from 10 to 21 m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>11</sup> Their lengths vary between 3.8 and 6.4 meters, their widths from 2.4 to 3.9 meters. The sizes of the contemporary houses at Podgorica, Orehova vas and Rogoza are partly similar; most houses were of a similar size, though some were larger and exceeded 30 m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>12</sup>

Some of the houses contained the remains of hearth bases (Houses 4, 8, 9, and 13), House 5 also fragments of a firedog (*Pl. 5: 4*). Such firedogs are rare among the settlement finds from the Urnfield period.<sup>13</sup> Considering that all that remains of the houses at Dragomelj is the lower parts of their sunken features, it is likely that most or all were originally fitted with hearths. The limited number of diagnostic finds from House 5 and its immediate vicinity (*Pl. 5: 1–5*) reflects the generally poor preservation of household items.

### The Dragomelj I hoard of metal semi-products

The hoard comprising 13 biconical and 39 plano-convex ingots was buried at the western edge of the excavated part of the settlement (*Fig. 2*).<sup>14</sup> The biconical ingots indicate its dating to Horizon 3 of the south-eastern Alpine hoards, which corresponds to Ha B1. With over 86 kg of copper and copper alloy semi-products, it complements the casting activities at nearby Podgorica<sup>15</sup> and shows that the twin settlement served as a collection, production and exchange centre on the transport routes from the chalcopyrite and polymetallic ore deposits in the eastern and southern Alps towards the south.

### Spinning-weaving implements

The implements used in spinning and weaving are among the more interesting artefacts from Dragomelj. The conditions at the site did not allow for the preservation of organic remains, including those related to these two activities. Spindle whorls as parts of distaffs and ceramic loom weights are thus the only surviving evidence of textile production. Almost all were unearthened outside their original context either in the topsoil or in the LBA cultural layer.<sup>16</sup>

There were altogether 18 loom weight preserved either complete or in fragments.<sup>17</sup> They come in two basic forms: four-sided pyramidal weights with a quadrangular base (selection in *Pl. 4: 2–7, 11–12, 25, 27, 29*) and conical weights (*Pl. 4: 1, 13, 23*), the latter being less numerous. Loom weights are common finds in the earlier and contemporaneous LBA settlements of the Oloris-Podsmreka and Rogoza-Orehova vas horizons, but are usually

<sup>7</sup> Grahek 2021, 31–36, Fig. 1.

<sup>8</sup> Kerman 2018, 47–55, Fig. 30a–b.

<sup>9</sup> Kramberger, Črešnar 2021, 57–59, Fig. 2.

<sup>10</sup> Dular, Tomanič Jevremov 2010, 88–94, Fig. 100, 102, 105; Škvor Jernejčič, Vojaković 2020, 139–142, Fig. 2–3, Tab. 1; Vojaković 2023, 536–542, Fig. 4, Tab. 1.

<sup>11</sup> Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 78, Fig. 101.

<sup>12</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022, 30–61, Fig. 18; Grahek 2021, 33–34, Fig. 2; Črešnar 2010, App. 3.

<sup>13</sup> Grahek 2015, G235, G673, G700 (Orehova vas); Kramberger, Črešnar 2021, Pl. 13: 6 (Pobrežje).

<sup>14</sup> Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 93–113, G1226–G1277; for more details on the Dragomelj I hoard, see Turk, Heath, Zuliani in this volume.

<sup>15</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022, 48–51, 60–66, G101, G166–G171; see Vojaković in this volume.

<sup>16</sup> The only exception is the fragments of three rings (*Pl. 4: 30–31, 33*) found among the numerous pottery sherds and pieces of charcoal and daub on the ground surface (SE 33 and SE 110) in Grid Squares 93 and 94 (*Fig. 2: XI*). Considering the spindle whorl and loom weights unearthened in the cultural layer nearby (*Pl. 4: 28–29*), these rings are seen as implements of the spinning-weaving Area XI.

<sup>17</sup> Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 91, G632, G711, G747, G789, G801, G972–G977, G994, G1081–G1082, G1158–G1161.

found in smaller numbers than at Dragomelj.<sup>18</sup> The greatly predominant form is pyramidal, as evidenced at Oloris, Podgorica, Podsmreka, Rogoza, Orehova vas, Krog (Pod Kotom – sever), Nedelica near Turnišče, Sodolek and Šmarna gora.<sup>19</sup> The complete loom weights range from 35 g (*Pl. 4: 27*) to 150 g (*Pl. 4: 12*), with a concentration around 80 g and 105 g. This indicates that a single weight held multiple warp threads (the weights found together and presented in *Pl. 4: 11–13* thus weigh 107 g, 150 g and 67 g, the nearby ring (*Pl. 4: 14*) weighs 172 g). The proposed weight for a single warp thread is approximately 40 g, meaning that the loom weights would have supported between one and four threads each.<sup>20</sup> Dragomelj revealed no large ceramic weights, while one is known from Rogoza and many from Oloris.<sup>21</sup>

Dragomelj also yielded twenty spindle whorls, either complete or in fragments. Although not numerous, they show great variety in shape and size (selection in *Pl. 4: 9,16–17,19–22,24,26,28*). They include two exceptionally small whorls (*Pl. 4: 28*) and two that bear decoration.<sup>22</sup> Similarly as loom weights, ceramic spindle whorls are common finds in the contemporary settlements of the Urnfield period, such as Rogoza and Orehova vas,<sup>23</sup> whereas they are very rare at nearby Podgorica.<sup>24</sup> The spindle whorls weigh between 4 g (*Pl. 4: 28*) and 33 g (*Pl. 4: 22*), most of them between 22 and 26 g. We can thus infer they were primarily used for spinning yarn of shorter wool fibres, rather than raw wool or longer plant fibres.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>18</sup> In the settlements in Slovenia dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC, the largest number of ceramic weights (31 examples) came to light at Oloris in Prekmurje (Dular, Šavel, Tecco Hvala 2002, *Pl. 2: 3; 9: 1; 22: 14–16; 23: 2; 24: 13–14; 28: 5–10; 29: 1–8; 33: 11; 44: 19; 54: 20; 59: 13; 65: 1–5*).

<sup>19</sup> Cf. previous note; Vojaković, Novšak 2022, G291, G292; Murgelj 2013, G833, G862, G917, G960–G961, G1048, G1061; Črešnar 2022, 98–102, G27, G102, G634, G713, G980, G1047–G1048, G1051–G1052, G1106, G1167; Grahek 2015, G213, G280, G460, G505–G506, G540, G702, G982; Kerman 2011, G72, G317–G318; Šavel, Sanković 2013, G77, G364, G450–G453 in G846; Kavur 2018, G376, G590, G613–G621; Murgelj, Nadbath 2014, *Fig. 20.6: 19*.

<sup>20</sup> Belanová Štolcová, Grömer 2010, 17, *Fig. 3.10*.

<sup>21</sup> Črešnar 2022, G1047; Dular, Šavel, Tecco Hvala 2002, *Pl. 22: 15–16; 28: 6–10; 29: 3,7–8; 65: 4–5*.

<sup>22</sup> Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 91, G749, G524, G1080.

<sup>23</sup> Črešnar 2022, 99–101; Grahek 2015, G332–G333, G345, G455, G535, G549, G703, G979–G981 etc.

<sup>24</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022, G94.

<sup>25</sup> Črešnar 2022, 101. Also cf. the exceptional collection of 2,200 Iron Age spindle whorls from the hillfort at

Ceramic rings served either as hearth pot stands or loom weights.<sup>26</sup> For the examples from Dragomelj, the latter function is more likely given that they were found in direct proximity to other weaving implements (*Pl. 4: 8,10,14–15,18,30–33*). Of the 33 recovered rings, only nine were complete or well-preserved.<sup>27</sup>

The relatively numerous loom weights at Dragomelj occasionally appear in groups of three or four (*Pl. 4: 1–4,5–7,11–13*). We observed altogether eleven groupings of weights, spindle whorls and rings – loom weights across the excavation area (cf. *Fig. 2: I–XI* and *Pl. 4: I–XI*). Most were near houses (Grouping II near House 11, III near House 9, V near House 12, VIII near House 5, X near House 4, XI near Houses 1 and 2), while some appear to be located away from any building remains (Groupings I, VI and IX). The latter confirm the poor preservation or even destruction of the residential and other buildings at Dragomelj,<sup>28</sup> as it is difficult to imagine an activity requiring a dry environment not taking place indoors.<sup>29</sup> With this in mind, we can conclude that the reconstructed floor plans of houses and additional roofed structures (*Fig. 2*) are incomplete, and further structures may be expected in areas with groupings of textile-related implements.<sup>30</sup>

The groupings of weights, spindle whorls and rings between Houses 7–12 (*Fig. 2: II–VI*) suggest the existence of a special spinning-weaving area. This may in turn hint at a possibility that the textile production at Dragomelj, during the Urnfield period, exceeded self-sufficiency and was rather an artisanal activity that produced a surplus intended for trade.<sup>31</sup>

Molpir near Smolenice, where the most common weights are likewise concentrated between 6 and 26 g (Belanová Štolcová, Grömer 2010, 12–13, *Fig. 3.5*). Spindle whorls of these weights are suitable for producing woolen threads with a thickness between 0.3 and 0.7 mm (Grömer 2010, 90–97).

<sup>26</sup> Cf. e.g., Teržan 1996, *Fig. 7: 8–13*; Črešnar 2022, 101.

<sup>27</sup> Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 91–92, G898, G981–G982, G1090–G1092, G1206, G1208–G1209.

<sup>28</sup> Cf. Note 4 above.

<sup>29</sup> Cf. Grömer 2010, 227–228. Artisanal activities in the partially contemporary settlement at Tribuna in Ljubljana – during its Phase I in the 11<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> century BC – were mostly carried out within the houses (Škvor Jernejčič, Vojaković 2020, 139–142, *Fig. 2–3, Pl. 1–2*; Vojaković 2023, 536–542, *Tab. 1, Fig. 4*).

<sup>30</sup> Cf. Harding 2000, 258–260.

<sup>31</sup> Karina Grömer, specialist in prehistoric textile production, distinguishes between the self-sufficient concept of *Haushandwerk* and *Heimindustrie*, which was

## Pottery

The pottery unearthed at Dragomelj includes a few sherds that indicate the site was already inhabited in the Middle Bronze Age, or in the early part of the LBA at the latest.<sup>32</sup> Most of the 36,000 documented pottery sherds, however, date to the Early and transition to the Late Urnfield period.<sup>33</sup> A selection of chronologically and culturally diagnostic pottery from this time is presented below (*Pl. 1–3, 5*).

### Large jars

These vessels (*Pl. 1*) were likely primarily used for storing different grains.<sup>34</sup> Most of the well-preserved examples were found in storage pits, the size of which corresponded with the size of the individual jars (*Fig. 2, 5*). Only two of the seven such jars were located inside houses (Houses 2 and 3), while others were presumably placed under a roof in immediate proximity to the houses (Houses 5 and 9) or in spots where postholes – similarly to those near spinning and weaving implements – were so scarce or damaged that it was not possible to identify any buildings.

They come in two basic shapes. The first comprises biconical jars with either a rounded (*Pl. 1: 1*) or a sharp upper-to-lower body junction (*Pl. 1: 2,3,8*). They are the largest vessels found at Dragomelj, with a height ranging from 40 to 50 cm and a diameter between 40 and 60 cm. The preserved sherds show an everted rim, sometimes with facets on the interior. Parallels come from the contemporary Urnfield period settlements of the Podravje region, such as Rogoza, Spodnje Hoče, Pobrežje and Brinjeva gora.<sup>35</sup> Parallels from burial contexts also come from Podravje, more precisely the Ruše I and Pobrežje cemeteries,<sup>36</sup> as well as

also intended for trade and can be observed in a few cases in central Europe from the Middle Bronze Age onward (Grömer 2010, 227–232).

<sup>32</sup> Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 53–55, Fig. 61.

<sup>33</sup> Mixed among the LBA pottery (cf. Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 80–93) are several sherds from the Early Iron Age (*ib.*, 113–116).

<sup>34</sup> Kramberger, Janežič, Novšak 2021, 19, Note 6.

<sup>35</sup> Črešnar 2010, 35–38, Fig. 15: L5–L7, Pl. 1: 1; Kramberger, Janežič, Novšak 2021, G2 (the storage jar from Spodnje Hoče has a cylindrical neck, but is very similar to the jar in *Pl. 1: 1* in its rounded biconical form and height); Kramberger, Črešnar 2021, 65–66, Fig. 7: Pi3; Oman 1981, Pl. 2: 2.

<sup>36</sup> Müller-Karpe 1959, Pl. 108C; 109K: 5; 111J: 4; 114A: 1; 114L; 115D: 4; Pahič 1972, Pl. 1: 15; 2: 1; 5: 1; 19: 1; 27: 1; Koprivnik, Teržan 2021, Pl. 7: 4; 11: 4.



*Fig. 5:* Dragomelj. Storage pit and cattle mandible in Pit SE 1115 east of House 9.

*Sl. 5:* Dragomelj. Shrambni lonec in spodnja čeljustnica goveda v jami 1115 vzhodno od hiše 9 med izkopavanjem.

from Dobova in the Posavje region and the urn-field cemetery at Dvorišče SAZU in Ljubljana.<sup>37</sup>

The second form comprises jars with an evenly rounded, more or less globular body, short neck and a vertical or slightly everted rim (*Pl. 1: 4–7,9–10*). This form was in use longer. Parallels come from contemporary settlements at nearby Podgorica,<sup>38</sup> those in the Podravje region (Rogoza, Pobrežje, Brinjeva gora and Orehova vas),<sup>39</sup> as well as at Pince near Lendava and Oloris near Dolnji Lakoš in the Prekmurje region.<sup>40</sup>

Standing out among the large jars is an example with an inverted rim and a pair of grips at maximum diameter (*Pl. 1: 11*). Roughly similar jars can be found among the urns from the cemeteries at Dobova and Dvorišče SAZU in Ljubljana.<sup>41</sup> Parallels are also among the settlement finds of the Oloris-Podsmreka horizon.<sup>42</sup>

### Jars and beakers

The most common form among the pottery from the Dragomelj settlement are high oval jars (*Pl. 2: 2–3,5–6*). They commonly have a slightly

<sup>37</sup> Stare 1975, Pl. 22: 8; 23: 7; 35: 2; Stare 1954, Pl. 54: 1; Puš 1971, Pl. 26: 8; Puš 1982, Pl. 12: 7; 24: 1; also cf. Škvor Jernejčič 2014, 29–30, Fig. 4.17, 4.18.

<sup>38</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022, G108.

<sup>39</sup> Črešnar 2010, 33, Fig. 14: L2–L3; Kramberger, Črešnar 2021, 63, Fig. 6: Pi2; Oman 1981, Pl. 2: 1; 14: 1; Grahek 2015, 33, Fig. 27: L1.

<sup>40</sup> Kerman 2014, Fig. 1.12: 4, 8; Pit SE 302, dated to the 12<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> century BC; Dular, Šavel, Tecco Hvala 2002, 145, Fig. 4: L1–L2, 5: L6.

<sup>41</sup> Stare 1975, Pl. 60: 1; Puš 1971, Pl. 24: 1.

<sup>42</sup> Dular, Šavel, Tecco Hvala 2002, 145, Fig. 4: L2 first two examples; also cf. Škvor Jernejčič 2014, 48–50.

everted rim, elongated oval body and decoration consisting of different impressions on the lip and cordons with impressions on the body. Parallels from the Urnfield culture settlements come from Šmarna gora, Brinjeva gora, Orehova vas and Rogoza.<sup>43</sup> Some were also unearthed in cemeteries, where they were predominantly used as urns, for example at Dobova, Žadovinec, the Ruše I and II cemeteries,<sup>44</sup> and in the urnfield cemetery in Ljubljana.<sup>45</sup>

Less numerous are the oval-ovoid jars with an inverted rim (*Pl. 2: 7*). Their parallels are relatively rare, known from Rogoza and among the later finds from Pince.<sup>46</sup> As urns, they are also known in the cemeteries at Gorice (Prekmurje) and Dobova (Posavje).<sup>47</sup>

Beakers differ from the jars above in their size, as well as a shorter and more ellipsoid or biconical body (*Pl. 2: 1,4*). Parallels come from the contemporary settlements at Podgorica, Šmarna gora, Pince and Rogoza,<sup>48</sup> as well as from contemporary cemeteries at Dobova, Žadovinec, Pobrežje, Ruše I and Ruše II.<sup>49</sup>

The biconical beakers (*Pl. 2: 8–11*) have parallels in contemporary settlements at Orehova vas and Pince.<sup>50</sup> They also frequently occur as grave goods in the earliest part of the Late Urnfield period, unearthed in the cemeteries in Ljubljana, Dobova, Žadovinec, Ruše, Pobrežje and Brinjeva gora.<sup>51</sup>

A vessel of an interesting form is a jar with a conical upper part and a rounded carination at

the lower-to-upper body junction (*Pl. 2: 12*). The disposition of the two surviving handles suggests there were originally three or four. Such vessels are particularly common in the Podravje region and the lower Posavje region, documented in the settlements at Orehova vas, Pobrežje and Rogoza,<sup>52</sup> as well as in the cemeteries at Hajdina, Pobrežje, Brinjeva gora, Žadovinec and Dobova.<sup>53</sup> They are dated to the initial horizon of the Late Urnfield period.

### Dishes

Two primary forms of dishes have been identified, one with a more or less inverted rim and rounded shoulder (*Pl. 3: 14–19*) and the other with a straight (*Pl. 3: 9–13*) or slightly everted rim (*Pl. 3: 7–8*). These dishes most typically bear two types of decoration, namely oblique grooves on the rim (*Pl. 3: 16*) and horizontal faceting at maximum diameter (*Pl. 3: 18–19*).

Dishes with an inverted rim are among the most widespread vessel types of the LBA, appearing as early as the Rogoza-Orehova vas horizon. We thus only offer a limited list of parallels, unearthed in settlements. The geographically closest come from Podgorica, Tribuna in Ljubljana and Šmarna gora in the Ljubljana basin.<sup>54</sup> They are also frequent at Orehova vas, Rogoza, Spodnje Hoče, Pobrežje and Brinjeva gora in Podravje,<sup>55</sup> as well as in the late phase at Pince in Prekmurje.<sup>56</sup>

Less numerous from the contemporary settlements are the parallels for the dishes with an everted rim, known from Rogoza, Orehova vas, Pobrežje and Brinjeva gora in Podravje.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Murgelj, Nadbath 2014, Fig. 20.5: 1; 20.6: 1; Oman 1981, Pl. 1: 12; 7: 2; Grahek 2015, 34–35, Fig. 27: L3–L4; Črešnar 2010, 34–35, Fig. 14: L4; 18: b–c.

<sup>44</sup> Stare 1975, Pl. 46: 6; 56: 1; Pavlin, Bavec 2017, Pl. 2: 4; Müller-Karpe 1959, Pl. 114M; Črešnar 2006, 121, Fig. 27: L9–L10.

<sup>45</sup> Puš 1971, Pl. 30:7; Puš 1982, Pl. 1: 1–2; cf. Škvor Jernejčič 2014, 50–52, Fig. 4.44.

<sup>46</sup> Črešnar 2010, 33–34, Fig. 14: L2 – G551; Kerman 2014, Fig. 1.12: 5.

<sup>47</sup> Plestenjak 2010, G99; Stare 1975, Pl. 6: 15; 8: 5.

<sup>48</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022, G99; Murgelj, Nadbath 2014, Fig. 20.6: 2; Kerman 2014, Fig. 1.12: 2, 13; Črešnar 2010, 27, Fig. 9: Sk2b.

<sup>49</sup> Stare 1975, Pl. 16: 5; 18: 16; 22: 2; 26: 4; Pavlin, Bavec 2017, Pl. 3: 2; Pahič 1972, Pl. 24: 9; Müller-Karpe 1959, Pl. 108N: 3; Črešnar 2006, 123, Fig. 27: L14.

<sup>50</sup> Grahek 2015, 36–37, Fig. 30: amphorae; Kerman 2014, Fig. 1.12: 2–3.

<sup>51</sup> Puš 1982, Pl. 23: 10; Stare 1975, Pl. 12: 2; 15: 7; 25: 10; 60: 6; Pavlin, Bavec 2017, Pl. 1: 5; 2: 1; Müller-Karpe 1959, Pl. 108O: 1; 108P: 2; 110C: 2; Črešnar 2006, 119, Fig. 25; Pahič 1972, Pl. 3: 3; 6: 1; 15: 18; Koprivnik, Teržan 2021, Pl. 6: 7; 7: 5; 8: 1–2 etc.

<sup>52</sup> Grahek 2015, 36–37, Fig. 30: G169; Kramberger, Črešnar 2021, 74, Fig. 9: A2; Črešnar 2010, 30–31, Fig. 13: A1c.

<sup>53</sup> Müller-Karpe 1959, Pl. 117: 38; Pahič 1972, Pl. 5: 10; 15: 14; 22: 3; 26: 9; 29: 4; Koprivnik, Teržan 2021, Pl. 1: 17; 3: 2; Pavlin, Bavec 2017, Pl. 2: 7; Stare 1975, Pl. 4: 8; 5: 13; 12: 5; 29: 10; 32: 1; 42: 10; 50: 1,9; 57: 7.

<sup>54</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022, G70, G72, G80–G85, G105, G153–G163; Vojaković 2023, Pl. 1: 2–5; Murgelj, Nadbath 2014, Fig. 20.4: 3–4; 20.5: 6–7; 20.6: 3–6.

<sup>55</sup> Grahek 2015, 39–40, Fig. 33; Črešnar 2010, 23–24, Fig. 8: Sk 1–4; Kramberger, Janežič, Novšak 2021, G1; Kramberger, Črešnar 2021, 76–77, Fig. 10: S5; Oman 1981, Pl. 3: 5,17,20; 4: 8,10; 5: 2; 8: 1–13; 10: 6,8.

<sup>56</sup> Kerman 2014, Fig. 1.18: 17–18.

<sup>57</sup> Črešnar 2010, 15–16, Fig. 6: So 1–6; Grahek 2015, 39, Fig. 31: Sk 4, Sk 6; Kramberger, Črešnar 2021, 76–77, Fig. 10: S4; Oman 1981, Pl. 5: 1,3–4.

### Bowls

The poorly preserved and very small sherds make distinguishing between dishes and bowls difficult, hence only three sherds have been identified as belonging to bowls (*Pl.* 3: 4–6). Similar vessels are known from contemporary cemeteries in Ljubljana, Dobova, Pobrežje, Ruše I and II, and Brinjeva gora.<sup>58</sup> As at Dragomelj, bowls are also rare at Rogoza and Pobrežje settlements.<sup>59</sup>

### Cups

The sherds ascribed to cups include those that indicate carinated examples (*Pl.* 3: 1–3). Parallels come from the earliest habitation phase at Tribuna in Ljubljana, at Šmarna gora, Brinjeva gora, Orehova vas, Pobrežje, Rogoza and Pince.<sup>60</sup>

### Baking lids

Some sherds also belong to baking lids (*Pl.* 5: 6), or to handles (*Pl.* 5: 7–8) that may belong to baking lids based on the parallels from contemporary settlements at Podgorica, Rogoza, Orehova vas and Šmarna gora.<sup>61</sup>

## The Podgorica-Dragomelj twin settlement and similar settlements from the Late Bronze Age

The nine radiocarbon dates available for the settlement indicate two chronological horizons within the Urnfield period. The first one spans from the mid-13<sup>th</sup> to the late 12<sup>th</sup> century BC, the second one from the mid-12<sup>th</sup> to the early 10<sup>th</sup> century BC (*Fig.* 6).<sup>62</sup>

The pottery shows some elements that could already date to the transition from the Middle to the LBA. These include trapezoidal handles with a knee-shaped bend (*Pl.* 5: 12) and a triangular handle (*Pl.* 5: 11).<sup>63</sup> A similar date may be suggested for the rare examples of round groove-encircled knobs (*Pl.* 5: 18)<sup>64</sup> and body sherds with applied knobs enclosed with concentric (semi)circular or horseshoe-shaped grooves (*Pl.* 5: 16, 19), with parallels in the settlements of the Oloris-Podsmreka horizon.<sup>65</sup>

It is thus likely there was at least limited settlement of the Dragomelj area before the 12<sup>th</sup> century BC. The chronologically relatively consistent assemblage of pottery and the range of radiocarbon dates within two standard deviations (2 $\sigma$ ), however, suggests the main occupation of the settlement was limited to roughly a century and a half at most, from the mid-12<sup>th</sup> to the late 11<sup>th</sup> century BC (*Fig.* 6).<sup>66</sup> Within this span, the four early C14 dates and the five slightly later ones are evenly distributed across the excavation area and do not allow us to clearly identify earlier or later habitation areas.<sup>67</sup> The LBA radiocarbon dates from Dragomelj and their ranges are very similar to those from nearby Podgorica and from the contemporary settlements at Rogoza and Orehova vas in Podravje.<sup>68</sup> In addition to the striking similarities in pottery, this aspect confirms the place of Dragomelj and Podgorica within the Rogoza-Orehova vas horizon in the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>63</sup> Cf. Cardarelli 1983, 96, *Pl.* 18: 113; 24: 17–18; 25: 4; 26: 8.

<sup>64</sup> E.g., Kerman 2014, 48, *Fig.* 1.15.2–4; Kerman 2018, 70–71, G210, G653, G1526–G1528 (Pince near Lendava); Leghissa 2014, 335, *Fig.* 19.5.4 (Svetje near Medvode); Svetličič, Turk, Turk 2024, 59, G97, G554, G573 (Kamna Gorica near Ljubljana).

<sup>65</sup> Murgelj 2013, 37, G1122.

<sup>66</sup> Also cf. the select modelled dates from Dragomelj in Črešnar, Teržan 2014, *Fig.* 30.

<sup>67</sup> The earliest LBA date (*Fig.* 6: Anal. No. Gro 10022) comes from the upper part of the cultural layer in Sector B, in the southernmost part of the excavation area, where buildings were poorly preserved. Also coming from this part of the excavation area are the radiocarbon dates for a fireplace (PN 133; *Fig.* 6: Anal. Nos. Gro 10025 and Kiel 21321), which are more credible; the first date may be the result of the old wood effect (see Kim et al. 2019).

<sup>68</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022, 64–66, *Fig.* 88; Vojaković in this volume, *Fig.* 9; Črešnar 2010, 72–73, *Fig.* 37; Grahek 2014, 255–273, *Fig.* 14.1.12–14.1.24; Grahek 2015, 345–348, *Fig.* 42–56.

<sup>69</sup> Črešnar, Teržan 2014, 689–695; Teržan, Črešnar 2021, 562–567, *Fig.* 3.

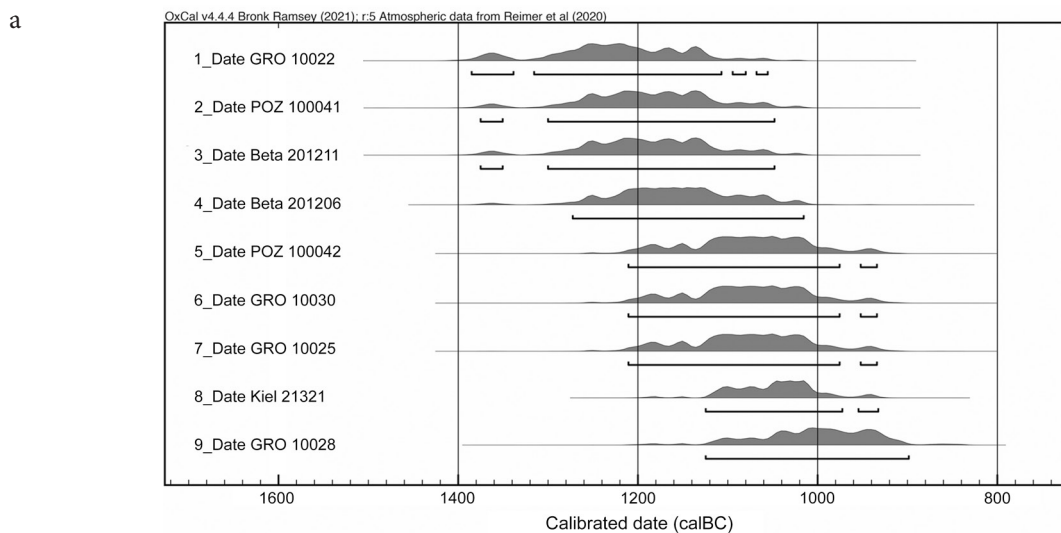
<sup>58</sup> Puš 1971, *Pl.* 48: 5; Puš 1982, *Pl.* 4: 6; 7: 10–11; 10: 1; Škvor Jernejčič 2021, 130–132, *Fig.* 12–13, with Grave 278 containing two such bowls radiocarbon dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century BC; Stare 1975, *Pl.* 25: 15; 45: 9; 59: 9; Pahič 1972, *Pl.* 1: 9; 3: 6; 6: 5; 9: 1, 11, 13 etc.; Müller-Karpe 1959, *Pl.* 108L: 1–2; 108K: 2–3; 108M: 2; 109D: 1; 109E: 1 etc.; Črešnar 2006, 118–119, *Fig.* 24; Koprivnik, Teržan 2021, *Pl.* 12: 10, 12.

<sup>59</sup> Črešnar 2010, 28, *Fig.* 9: Sk 3b, *Pl.* 18: 10; Kramberger, Črešnar 2021, 80, *Fig.* 11: Sk 1, Sk 3.

<sup>60</sup> Vojaković 2023, *Pl.* 1: 13–14; Murgelj, Nadbath 2014, *Fig.* 20.5: 5; Oman 1981, *Pl.* 12: 5; Grahek 2015, 37–38, *Fig.* 30: G950; Kramberger, Črešnar 2021, 81–82, *Fig.* 11: Skd 1; Črešnar 2010, 20–21, *Fig.* 7: Sv 1; Kerman 2014, *Fig.* 1.18: 7–8, 15.

<sup>61</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022, G63; Črešnar 2010, 39, 43, *Fig.* 16, 21: R2f; Grahek 2015, 40; Murgelj, Nadbath 2014, *Fig.* 20.4: 5–6, 10; 20.5: 10–12; 20.6: 8, 11.

<sup>62</sup> Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 140–143, *Fig.* 168, 178–186.



b

| Lab sample no. /<br>Št. lab. vzorca | SU / SE                                                                                                         | sector/sq. /<br>sektor/kv. | <sup>14</sup> C age / <sup>14</sup> C<br>tarost (BP) | Calibrated date /<br>Kalibriran datum<br>(1σ – 68.3%)                               | Calibrated date /<br>Kalibriran datum<br>(2σ – 95.4%)                                                         |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GRO 10022                           | <b>388:</b> LBA layer (upper part) /<br>poznobronastodobna plast<br>(zgornji del)                               | B/1                        | 2990 ± 40                                            | 1283 (49.1%) 1187 cal. BC<br>1181 (10.0%) 1156 cal. BC<br>1148 (9.2%) 1127 cal. BC  | 1386 (9.0%) 1339 cal. BC<br>1316 (84.1%) 1108 cal. BC<br>1095 (1.2%) 1081 cal. BC<br>1069 (1.1%) 1056 cal. BC |
| POZ 100041                          | <b>916:</b> posthole in House 7 /<br>jama za kol v hiši 7                                                       | 19/456                     | 2970 ± 40                                            | 1260 (68.3%) 1123 cal. BC                                                           | 1376 (2.9%) 1351 cal. BC<br>1301 (92.6%) 1049 cal. BC                                                         |
| Beta 201211                         | <b>1266:</b> posthole in House 15 / jama<br>za kol v hiši 15                                                    | 26A/592                    | 2970 ± 40                                            | 1260 (68.3%) 1123 cal. BC                                                           | 1376 (2.9%) 1351 cal. BC<br>1301 (92.6%) 1049 cal. BC                                                         |
| Beta 201206                         | <b>534:</b> pottery and daub<br>concentration in House 9 /<br>zgostitev keramike in glinenega<br>ometa v hiši 9 | 20/493                     | 2950 ± 40                                            | 1224 (63.5%) 1109 cal. BC<br>1092 (2.6%) 1085 cal. BC<br>1065 (2.2%) 1059 cal. BC   | 1273 (95.4%) 1016 cal. BC                                                                                     |
| POZ 100042                          | <b>1697:</b> posthole near House 5 / jama<br>za kol v bližini hiše 5                                            | 23A/421                    | 2890 ± 40                                            | 1155 (2.1%) 1149 cal. BC<br>1126 (66.2%) 1007 cal. BC                               | 1211 (92.7%) 976 cal. BC<br>953 (2.8%) 935 cal. BC                                                            |
| GRO 10030                           | <b>396:</b> posthole in House 3 /<br>jama za kol v hiši 3                                                       | 12/179                     | 2890 ± 40                                            | 1155 (2.1%) 1149 cal. BC<br>1126 (66.2%) 1007 cal. BC                               | 1211 (92.7%) 976 cal. BC<br>953 (2.8%) 935 cal. BC                                                            |
| GRO 10025                           | <b>PN 133:</b> fireplace in the LBA layer /<br>kurišče v poznobronastodobni plasti                              | B/2                        | 2890 ± 40                                            | 1155 (2.1%) 1149 cal. BC<br>1126 (66.2%) 1007 cal. BC                               | 1211 (92.7%) 976 cal. BC<br>953 (2.8%) 935 cal. BC                                                            |
| Kiel 21321                          | <b>PN 133:</b> fireplace in the LBA layer /<br>kurišče v poznobronastodobni plasti                              | B/2                        | 2872 ± 23                                            | 1109 (10.4%) 1092 cal. BC<br>1085 (11.9%) 1065 cal. BC<br>1059 (45.9%) 1007 cal. BC | 1125 (92.0%) 973 cal. BC<br>955 (3.4%) 933 cal. BC                                                            |
| GRO 10028                           | <b>327:</b> posthole in House 4 /<br>jama za kol v hiši 4                                                       | 14/204                     | 2840 ± 40                                            | 1048 (68.3%) 930 cal. BC                                                            | 1125 (95.4%) 899 cal. BC                                                                                      |

Fig. 6: Dragomelj. Radiocarbon dating of the habitation remains from the Late Bronze Age (from Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 178–186, Fig. 168).

Sl. 6: Dragomelj. Radiokarbonske datacije naselbinskih ostalin iz pozne bronaste dobe (po Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 178–186, sl. 168).

At least 16 houses were identified at Dragomelj, arranged in several relatively dense clusters of residential and associated buildings (Fig. 2). These may indicate a series of crop and animal husbandry farmsteads forming a dispersed village, such as were established in the neighbouring settlement at Podgorica, south of the Pšata, as well as at Rogoza and Orehoval vas in Podravje.<sup>70</sup> Almost nothing is known of animal husbandry, as a single reliably identified animal bone was found, belonging to cattle (Fig. 5).<sup>71</sup> The charred plant remains provide more insight, indicating the cultivation of barley, vetch, lentil, oats and millet.<sup>72</sup> Of other activities, the numerous ceramic loom weights and spindle whorls suggest that spinning and weaving were highly important.

From this perspective, the economic activities in the Podgorica-Dragomelj twin settlement appear complementary. The Podgorica part revealed considerable remains of metallurgical activities, but no evidence of textile production. The metallurgical activities, which required copious amounts of water and posed an increased fire hazard, were conducted south of the Pšata and away from the Dragomelj part, where inhabitants practised spinning, weaving and possibly storage of large quantities of food. Furthermore, we can see the location of the Dragomelj I hoard – of copper and bronze semi-products – as a storage area for materials needed in the metallurgical processing at a safe distance from unauthorized access.<sup>73</sup>

The seemingly enigmatic appearance of the Dragomelj-Podgorica twin settlement, with a self-sufficient village life contrasted with the indications of metallurgical activities, becomes clearer when taking a closer look at the surviving remains of all the activities taking place here. This reveals a complementary economic unit with metallurgic work conducted at Podgorica, while textile production and storage facilities for metalworking and other materials existed at Dragomelj. The Podgorica-Dragomelj twin settlement thus represented a large functional agglomeration with diverse subsistence and artisanal strategies.

To some extent, a similar dual functionality is observable at Rogoza in Podravje, where dispersed habitations forming a village is combined with



Fig. 7: Dragomelj. Pit SE 1774 from the Early Iron Age.  
Sl. 7: Dragomelj. Starejšeželeznodobna jama 1774 med izkopavanji.

the find of a copper plano-convex ingot similar to those in the Dragomelj I hoard.<sup>74</sup>

Among the settlements with pottery that indicates occupation contemporaneous with Dragomelj, we should mention that at Pince near Lendava,<sup>75</sup> where as many as nine radiocarbon dates fall within the 12<sup>th</sup> and even 11<sup>th</sup> centuries BC (1σ range). Similarly, select radiocarbon dates from nearby Šmarna gora and the first phase of the settlement at Tribuna,<sup>76</sup> the latter also supported by funerary finds, indicate that both settlements in the Ljubljana area were inhabited throughout the LBA. This evidence also suggests that the settlements, such as at Pince, were most intensely inhabited within the Oloris-Podsmreka horizon, but continued to exist at least into the early part of the Rogoza-Orehoval vas horizon. Settlements such as Dragomelj-Podgorica, Orehoval vas and Rogoza were inhabited in the 12<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> centuries BC and abandoned in the late 11<sup>th</sup> or early 10<sup>th</sup> century BC. In contrast, there are other settlements and cemeteries with numerous parallels in the pottery finds to Dragomelj, such as Ruše, Dobova and Ljubljana, which continued to be inhabited or used as burial grounds during the Late Urnfield culture. There are rare settlements from the transitional time of the 12<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> century BC in central and eastern Slovenia,<sup>77</sup> but do show settlement concentrations in Dravsko polje, central Ljubljana basin, lower Posavje and Prekmurje.

<sup>74</sup> Črešnar 2010, 52–55, Fig. 27; Črešnar 2022, 55, G636.

<sup>75</sup> Kerman 2014, Fig. 1.19; 1.23; 1.25–1.32; 1.34; Kerman 2018, 89, Fig. 53.

<sup>76</sup> Murgelj, Nadbath 2014, 352–354; Vojaković 2023, 535–536, Fig. 1.

<sup>77</sup> Črešnar, Teržan 2014, 689–695, Fig. 31; Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 111–113, Fig. 146.

<sup>70</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022; Vojaković in this volume; Črešnar 2010, 59–71, App. 2–3; Grahek 2021, 31–36, Fig. 1.

<sup>71</sup> Toškan 2022, 152, Fig. 90.

<sup>72</sup> Tolar 2022, 146; Tolar, Pavlin 2022, 112–116, Tab. 2.

<sup>73</sup> Cf. Turk, Zuliani, Heath and Vojaković in this volume.

In contrast to the regionally oriented pottery characteristic of the Rogoza-Orehova vas horizon, parallels for the items in the Dragomelj I hoard, biconical ingots in particular, suggest supra-regional connections. A similar observation can be made for the objects made in the moulds unearthed at Podgorica,<sup>78</sup> whose distribution is linked with the long-distance exchange of copper and bronze semi-products (Dragomelj), as well as finished products (Podgorica) reaching from the eastern Alps to central Italy.<sup>79</sup>

It is clear that the Podgorica-Dragomelj twin settlement played an important intermediary role in this network of connections, likely functioning as a trade hub. This interpretation is complemented by the two foundries and moulds from Podgorica, which show the twin settlement was not merely a centre of exchange, but also a production site. The settlement dynamics observed in the neighbouring sites and cemeteries show that this role at the transition to the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC was increasingly taken over by the settlement in Ljubljana.<sup>80</sup>

## SETTLEMENT REMAINS FROM THE EARLY IRON AGE

### Settlement structures

Only rare finds unearthed at Dragomelj date to the Early Iron Age. They include a pit containing a serpentine fibula (SE 1774; Fig. 2, 7) and a stone paving (SE 1689; Fig. 2).<sup>81</sup> Both are located in the part of the site previously covered by the local road from Dragomelj to Mala Loka, under which the prehistoric layers were better preserved. The pit contained burnt remains and in them several undiagnostic pottery sherds, a bow fragment of a serpentine fibula with a hole for inserting either a rosette or wings (Pl. 5: 25), as well as the jawbone of a domestic pig.<sup>82</sup> The missing rosette/wings of the fibula hinders a precise identification of its type, though it certainly dates to a span of the late 7<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>83</sup>

<sup>78</sup> Cf. Vojaković in this volume.

<sup>79</sup> Cf. Turk, Zuliani, Heath in this volume.

<sup>80</sup> Škvor Jernejčič 2014; ead. 2021; Škvor Jernejčič, Vojaković 2020; Vojaković 2023.

<sup>81</sup> Many results of the excavations of the Early Iron Age remains are summarized from the comprehensive publication in Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 113–125.

<sup>82</sup> Toškan 2022.

<sup>83</sup> Tecco Hvala 2014, 126–129, 144–146, 150–152, Fig. 3a: 5–12; 5: 1–3; Maps 4 and 8 (Type IIIa4 or Va).

Found some 30 meters further south (Grid Square 148) was a pedestal fragment of a bowl with horizontal grooves (Pl. 5: 26), which closely resembles the pedestal bowl found in Grave 1 at nearby Podgorica.<sup>84</sup> Scattered across the excavation area were individual pottery sherds of a very coarse-grained fabric and a hardness level of 5 (very hard). The shapes of these usually small sherds do not significantly differ from the usual vessel forms of the Urnfield period. They include body sherds with cordons, tongue-shaped grips with impressions, as well as some rim and base sherds.<sup>85</sup> They were found in recently disturbed topsoil or in cultural layers, but not in the pits dug into the underlying geology. These modest finds suggest a settlement (or cemetery?) in this area in the second half of the 7<sup>th</sup> and/or the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC.

### The Dragomelj II hoard from the Early Iron Age

The most significant indication of Early Iron Age habitation at Dragomelj is a hoard of 180 bronze objects (selection in Pl. 6–7). Ploughing activities in the area disturbed the hoard and dispersed its contents across an area of 70×30 meters, with a concentration in a 3×3-meter large spot (Fig. 2). Its composition, closely similar to that of the Hallstatt hoards of the Bologna, San Francesco–Šempeter type,<sup>86</sup> and its distribution show that these bronze items undoubtedly formed part of a hoard. The objects were not found *in situ*, making it impossible to reconstruct the original structure and number of items.

Some of the items were already unearthed during a metal-detector survey in 1995, but most were recovered during the rescue excavations in 2000. Their main characteristic is extreme fragmentation. Many items bear clearly visible cut marks that are often parallel to the fractures (e.g., Pl. 6: 6, 8, 7: 2–3, 6, 8–10, 14), which indicate intentional breaking into smallest possible fragments. The hoard comprises the following items: two fragments

<sup>84</sup> Vojaković, Novšak 2022, 70, G175 (with parallels); see Vojaković in this volume.

<sup>85</sup> Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 115–116; a distinctly Early Iron Age form can be identified, for example, in the rim of a large storage jar and a pedestal vessel (ib., G527, G608).

<sup>86</sup> Turk 2018.

of ring jewellery (ribbed bracelet<sup>87</sup> and knobbed torc<sup>88</sup>; *Pl.* 6: 1–2), five fragments of winged axes (*Pl.* 6: 3–6),<sup>89</sup> one fragment of a socketed axe (*Pl.* 6: 7),<sup>90</sup> 32 fragments of shaft-hole axes (*Pl.* 6: 8–16, 7: 1–9),<sup>91</sup> 97 fragments of axe blades or flat ingots (*Pl.* 7: 10–16), a pin fragment, ten fragments of sheet metal, four fragments of bar ingots (*Pl.* 7: 19–21),<sup>92</sup> a rectangular ingot with a trapezoidal section (*Pl.* 7: 18) and 27 unidentifiable fragments, possibly ingots or pieces of raw material (*Pl.* 7: 17).

Another characteristic of the Dragomelj II hoard is the heavy wear of the fractures. More than two-thirds of its 180 items have worn or very worn fractures. This is another point of similarity with the hoards of the Bologna, San Francesco–Šempeter type,<sup>93</sup> which were deposited over an extended period that concluded deep into the Early Iron Age.<sup>94</sup> In short, Dragomelj II belongs to this group because of its composition that includes numerous shaft-hole axes,<sup>95</sup> the highly fragmented condition of its contents and the heavy wear of the fractures. The Bologna, San Francesco–Šempeter type hoards are found in settlements, composed exclusively of

bronze objects, as is the case at Dragomelj, and are present in central and western Slovenia, the Kvarner hinterland and north-eastern Italy.<sup>96</sup>

Both the Podgorica and Dragomelj parts of the twin settlement show an approximately 300-year gap without clear archaeological traces after the end of the LBA settlement, followed by habitation traces dating to the transition from the Early to the Late Hallstatt period, i.e., the late 7<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. Continuity from the LBA is only discernible in the great number of bronze shaft-hole axes in the Dragomelj II hoard, with a broad usage spanning between the 11<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> centuries BC<sup>97</sup> – precisely the span missing in other habitation finds from Dragomelj. In this respect, the Dragomelj II hoard is similar to the ‘long-duration’ hoard from Šempeter near Gorica, which contains items datable from the 13<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>98</sup> It is important to emphasize that the Dragomelj I and II hoards, with the deposition for Dragomelj I ending around 1000 BC at the latest and for Dragomelj II around 600 BC, were located less than 10 meters apart (*Fig. 2*). The secondary position of most items in Dragomelj I<sup>99</sup> and of all items in Dragomelj II shows this was a highly disturbed part of the site. The answers regarding the possible settlement continuity from the LBA to the Iron Age likely lie in these disturbed and even more in the unexplored areas west of the motorway.

The time gap between the two hoards remains enigmatic. Their almost identical location suggests that people were also present at Dragomelj during the transition from the Bronze to the Early Iron Age, a time for which we lack clear evidence with the exception of the shaft-hole axes. The reason for the hoards’ proximity thus remains as yet unexplained.

*Translation: Andreja Maver*

<sup>87</sup> Such bracelets or anklets are common in the graves of women of the Dolenjska Hallstatt group (e.g., Gabrovec et al. 2006, *Pl.* 41: 1–2; 47: 8–11; 49: 2–3; 78: 11; 94: 4; Tecco Hvala 2012, 299–309, *Fig.* 111: 12–14; Tecco Hvala 2017, 37, 41, *Pl.* 9: 1; 14A: 3–4).

<sup>88</sup> Parallels come from the rich burials of women of the Stična and Serpentine phases in Dolenjska (Tecco Hvala 2012, 270–272, *Fig.* 101: 7–10).

<sup>89</sup> Three of the axes have a saddle-shaped widening at the body-blade junction (*Pl.* 6: 3, 5–6). This typological feature is characteristic of axes from the Early Hallstatt period in the eastern Alps and the Apennine peninsula (for Hallstatt and Hallein type axes, cf. Mayer 1977, 167–168, 177–178; for the Treviso type axes and those with a saddle-shaped body-blade junction, cf. Carancini 1984, 115–118); in Slovenia for the hoards from Šempeter (Furlani 1996, *Pl.* 134: 36, 42–43) and Mengeš (Pavlin, Turk 2014, 43, *Pl.* 7: 1).

<sup>90</sup> Socketed axes are rare in the hoards similar to the Dragomelj II hoard (Furlani 1996, 83, *Pl.* 132: 27; Pavlin, Turk 2014, 43–44, *Pl.* 1: 2–3; Pavlin et al. 2024, *Pl.* 1: 9).

<sup>91</sup> Cf. e.g., Trampuž–Orel, Heath 1998; Pavlin, Turk 2014, 44–49, *Fig.* 10; Turk, Svetličič 2018, 28–30, *Fig.* 3; Nanut 2018, 139–148, *Fig.* 11; Pavlin et al. 2024, *Pl.* 1–4.

<sup>92</sup> Select parallels: Furlani 1996, *Pl.* 135: 50, 52, 54–57 (Šempeter); Pavlin, Turk 2014, 49, *Pl.* 6: 15, 18 (Gobavica nad Mengšem I); Nanut 2018, 150, *Pl.* 1: 31 (Dolenje Ravne).

<sup>93</sup> Pavlin, Turk 2014, 50–52, *Pl.* 1–2; Turk 2018, 399; Pavlin et al. 2024, 184.

<sup>94</sup> Turk 2018, 402–403, *Fig.* 3; Pavlin et al. 2024.

<sup>95</sup> In its relatively varied composition, the Dragomelj II hoard is similar to that found at Jelenov klanec in Kranj and to the Gobavica nad Mengšem I hoard (Pavlin et al. 2024, *Tab.* 2).

<sup>96</sup> Turk 2018, 399, *Fig.* 3; Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 124, *Fig.* 154.

<sup>97</sup> Carancini 1984, 198–231; Furlani 1996, 84–85; cf. Pavlin et al. 2024, 184–185, for the shaft-hole axes of a similar time span in the recently published hoard from Jelenov klanec in Kranj; cf. Turk, Svetličič 2018, 28–30, *Fig.* 3: 1–2, for the hoard from Gorenje near Kranj and the early appearance of bronze shaft-hole axes in Slovenia as early as the 11<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> century BC.

<sup>98</sup> Furlani 1996, 81–86.

<sup>99</sup> Cf. Turk, Heath, Zuliani in this volume.

## CATALOGUE

The catalogue presents the typologically and chronologically diagnostic artefacts selected from the total of 778 pottery items from the Bronze Age, as well as a selection of the bronze items from the Dragomelj II hoard dating to the Early Iron Age (Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022). All artefacts are kept in the Narodni muzej Slovenije.

Pottery: basic definition, decoration, surface colour (using the *Munsell soil color charts* 1990), fabric grain size (see Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 1922, 219–220) and hardness (using the Mohs hardness scale). All pottery is hand-built, the surface is usually smoothed. Metal: basic definition and description, surface wear, special features and material. Numbers with the prefix 'G' refer to the catalogue numbers of objects in the primary publication (Turk, Svetličič, Pavlovič 2022, 298–495).

Abbreviations / Okrajšave:

b. = base / dno

d. = diameter / premer

frg = fragment / odlomek

h. = height / višina

inv. no. = inventory number / inventarna številka

l. = length / dolžina

r. = rim / ustje

GS = grid square / kvadrant

SE = stratigraphic unit / stratigrafska enota

th. = thickness / debelina

w. = width / širina

wt = weight / teža

## Plate 1

1. Jar with a high conical neck and two grips; two parallel grooves on the shoulder; red-yellow; coarse-grained; hard (4); h. 48.6 cm, r. d. 35 cm, maximum d. 61.4 cm, b. d. 16.4 cm; SE 57, GS 148, Inv. No. P 27163; G659.
2. Jar; light red-yellow; coarse-grained; hard (4); r. d. 21.2 cm, maximum d. 41 cm, h. 38.5 cm; SE 9, GS 98, 121, Inv. No. P 27011; G554.
3. Jar with two grips; brown exterior, yellow-brown to very dark grey-brown interior; coarse-grained with abundant grog; hard (3); h. 37.5 cm, b. d. 15 cm; SE 548, GS 810, Inv. No. P 27027; G468.
4. Jar; rim and body frg; cordon with impressions; surface not preserved; red-yellow exterior, red-yellow and dark brown (mottled) interior; medium-grained with individual large mineral inclusions; hard (3); r. d. 29.2 cm, l. 6.1 cm, w. 7.8 cm; SE 520, GS 494, Inv. No. P 27025; G911.
5. Jar; body frg with a grip; cordon with impressions; grey to light brown exterior, very dark grey interior; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 12.6 cm, w. 22.2 cm; SE 600, GS 640, Inv. No. P 26475; G1129.
6. Jar; rim and body frg; cordon with impressions; surface not preserved; red-yellow; coarse-grained; hard (4); d. 29 cm, l. 13 cm, w. 14.3 cm; SE 394, GS 178, Inv. No. P 26662; G639.
7. Jar; rim and body frg; cordon with impressions; surface coarsely smoothed; red-brown; coarse-grained with abundant grog; hard (4); r. d. 30 cm, h. 16 cm; SE 548, GS 810, Inv. No. P 27028; G 467.
8. Jar; rim and body frg with a handle; red; very coarse-grained; hard (3); d. 25 cm, h. 11 cm; SE 57, GS 148, Inv. No. P 26915; G658.
9. Jar; rim and body frg; surface not preserved; (mottled) pale brown and dark grey exterior, red-yellow interior; medium-grained; hard (3); r. d. 28 cm, l. 12.3 cm, w. 9.2 cm; SE 74, GS 184, Inv. No. P 26928; G656.
10. Jar; rim and body frg; surface not preserved; red; very coarse-grained, hard (3); r. d. 25.6 cm, h. 18.4 cm; SE 57, GS 148, Inv. No. P 26921 in P 27164; G657.
11. Jar with two grips; surface is preserved in traces; brown to red-brown; medium-grained; hard (4); reconstr. h. ca. 26 cm, maximum d. 34 cm, r. d. 20 cm; SE 520, GS 403, 403A, Inv. No. P 27029; G764.

## Plate 2

1. Jar; rim frg; surface not preserved; red-yellow; coarse-grained; hard (3); d. 12 cm, l. 3.5 cm, w. 5.3 cm; SE 7, GS 121d, Inv. No. P 26862; G577.
2. Jar; rim frg; very dark grey-brown exterior (in traces), dark grey interior; coarse-grained; hard (3); l. 7.3 cm, w. 6.7 cm; SE 520, GS 403a, Inv. No. P 26442; G757.
3. Jar; rim frg; light yellow-brown exterior, very dark grey interior; medium-grained; hard (3); d. 12 cm, l. 5 cm, w. 5.2 cm; SE 520, GS 405b, Inv. No. P 26974; G723.
4. Jar; rim and body frg; thin impressions on the lip and cordon with impressions on the body; red-brown exterior, light brown interior; medium-grained; hard (3); d. 16 cm, h. 8 cm; SE 57, GS 148, Inv. No. P 26918 in P 26919; G662.
5. Jar; rim and body frg; impressions on the lip and cordon with impressions on the body; (mottled) light yellow-brown to dark grey-brown; medium-grained with individual large mineral inclusions; hard (3); d. 22 cm, h. 13.4 cm; SE 1013, GS 587, Inv. No. P 27024; G1086.
6. Jar; rim and body frg; cordon with impressions with one preserved applique or grip; red-yellow exterior, dark grey-brown interior; medium-grained with individual large mineral inclusions; hard (4); l. 17 cm, w. 9.7 cm; SE 1456, GS 534, Inv. No. P 26386; G1021.
7. Jar; rim and body frg; two appliques with an impression; brown to dark brown exterior, dark red-grey to black interior; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 16 cm, w. 20 cm, r. d. 18 cm, h. 16 cm; SE 520, GS 544, Inv. No. P 27048; G1030.
8. Jar with two handles; surface preserved in traces; red brown to dark red-grey exterior, yellow-brown interior; medium-grained; hard (3); r. d. 9 cm, maximum d. 12 cm, h. 9.5 cm; SE 1232, GS 525, Inv. No. P 26436; G1022.
9. Jar; rim with a handle, body and base frg; yellow-red to red-brown; medium-grained; hard (3); r. d. 17 cm, maximum d. 20 cm, h. 12 cm; SE 520, GS 528, Inv. No. P 26435; G1028.
10. Carinated vessel; body frg with a handle; brown; fine-grained; very hard (5); l. 6.4 cm, w. 4.7 cm, handle w. 2.4 cm, th. 1.1 cm; SE 270, GS 242, Inv. No. P 26565; G1203.
11. Carinated vessel; body frg with a handle; five horizontal grooves flanked by a series of impressed dots above and below; very dark grey-brown; medium-grained; very

hard (5); l. 5.6 cm, w. 11.2 cm; SE 520, GS 408a, Inv. No. P 29235; G730.

12. Jar with a long neck and three or four handles on the shoulder; body and base edge frg; red-brown exterior, dark red-grey interior; medium-grained; hard (4); d. 13.5 cm, h. 21.5 cm, l. 3 cm, w. 6.7 cm; SE 57, GS 148, Inv. No. P 26916; G660.

### Plate 3

1. Carinated cup; body frg; surface not preserved; very pale brown exterior, black core; fine-grained; hard (3); l. 3.4 cm, w. 3.3 cm; SE 7, GS 126 b, Inv. No. P 26881; G579.
2. Carinated cup; body frg; cordon with impressions; surface not preserved; red-brown exterior, red-yellow interior; coarse-grained; hard (4); l. 4.2 cm, w. 3 cm; SE 7, GS 203, Inv. No. P 26500; G701.
3. Carinated cup; rim frg; surface not preserved; pale brown exterior, very dark grey interior; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 2.6 cm, w. 3.7 cm; SE 360, GS 181, Inv. No. P 26664; G641.
4. Bowl; rim and body frg with a handle; red-yellow; fine-grained; very hard (5); l. 5.8 cm, w. 4.8 cm; SE 520, GS 497, Inv. No. P 23899; G928.
5. Bowl; rim and body frg with a handle; brown exterior, yellow-brown interior; medium-grained; hard (3); d. 13 cm, l. 12.6 cm, w. 9 cm; SE 59, GS 157, Inv. No. P 26931; G648.
6. Bowl; rim frg; brown to dark brown exterior, red-brown interior; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 4.2 cm, w. 4.9 cm; SE 520, GS 403 a, Inv. No. P 26460; G763.
7. Rim frg of a dish or bowl; shallow impressions on the lip; brown exterior, red-brown interior; medium-grained; hard (3); l. 3.5 cm, w. 4.8 cm; SE 516, GS 803, Inv. No. P 26597; G497.
8. Rim frg of a dish or bowl; brown exterior, dark brown interior; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 3.4 cm, w. 4 cm; SE 520, GS 474, Inv. No. P 26487; G793.
9. Dish; rim frg; very dark grey-brown exterior, black interior; fine-grained; very hard (5); l. 4.7 cm, w. 5.5 cm; no data, Inv. No. P 26598; G502.
10. Rim frg of a dish; surface is smoothed, preserved in traces; brown exterior, light yellow-brown interior; very coarse-grained; very hard (5); l. 7.7 cm, w. 4.2 cm; SE 7, GS 64, Inv. No. P 26640; G516.
11. Rim and body frg of a dish; oblique grooves; dark brown; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 3.1 cm, w. 4 cm; SE 502, GS 499, Inv. No. P 23823; G837.
12. Dish; rim frg; red-yellow; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 4.7 cm, w. 10.4 cm, d. 24 cm; SE 520, GS 404a, Inv. No. P 26973; G722.
13. Rim frg of a dish; dark grey; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 4.4 cm, w. 5 cm; SE 502, GS 498, Inv. No. P 23816; G839.
14. Rim and body frg of a dish with a perforated grip; oblique grooves; very dark grey to black; coarse-grained; hard (4); l. 3.1 cm, w. 4.1 cm; SE 201, GS 233, Inv. No. P 26531; G1178.
15. Dish; rim and body frg; very dark grey; medium-grained; hard (4); d. 19.5 cm, l. 6 cm, w. 9.5 cm; SE 616, GS 592, Inv. No. P 23928; G1093.

16. Dish; oblique grooves; light yellow-brown; medium-grained; hard (4); r. d. 18 cm, b. d. 6.5 cm, h. 8.5 cm; SE 520, GS 547, Inv. No. P 28349; G1029.

17. Dish; surface preserved in traces, smoothed; dark grey-brown exterior, brown interior; fine-grained; hard (3); d. 19 cm, h. 9 cm, b. d. 3.5 cm; SE 594, GS 461, Inv. No. P 27015; G999.

18. Dish; rim and body frg; faceted shoulder; brown; medium-grained; very hard (5); d. 20 cm, l. 7.3 cm, w. 14.5 cm; SE 7, GS 135, Inv. No. P 26802; G528.

19. Dish; rim and body frg; faceted shoulder; surface not preserved; red-yellow; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 4.2 cm, w. 5.7 cm, d. 20 cm; SE 386, GS 181, Inv. No. P 26665; G643.

### Plate 4

1. Loom weight; red-yellow; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 4.3 cm, w. 3.6 cm, h. 5.3 cm, wt 59 g; SE 1144, GS 643, Inv. No. P 23979; G1160.
2. Loom weight; red-yellow; fine-grained with individual large mineral inclusions; hard (3); h. 5.8 cm, d. 4.7 cm, wt 89 g; SE 616, GS 643, Inv. No. P 23990; G1161.
3. Loom weight; frg; dark brown; coarse-grained; hard (4); l. 5 cm, w. 4 cm, h. 5.1 cm, wt 81 g; SE 706, GS 653, Inv. No. P 23977; G1159.
4. Loom weight; dark brown; coarse-grained; hard (4); l. 4.5 cm, w. 4.5 cm, h. 6.2 cm, wt 86 g; SE 706, GS 644, Inv. No. P 23978; G1158.
5. Loom weight; frg; surface not preserved; brown; coarse-grained; hard (4); h. 2.4 cm, w. 3.2 cm; SE 520, GS 516, Inv. No. P 23843; G976.
6. Loom weight; frg; surface not preserved; red-brown; medium-grained; hard (3); h. 2.2 cm, w. 4.4 cm; SE 520, GS 516, Inv. No. P 23842; G975.
7. Loom weight; frg; surface not preserved; red-yellow; fine-grained; hard (3); h. 2.4 cm, w. 3.5 cm; SE 520, GS 517, Inv. No. P 23849; G977.
8. Ring – loom weight; frg; surface not preserved; red-yellow; medium-grained; hard (3); l. 11.8 cm, th. 4.4 cm; SE 520, GS 516, Inv. No. P 23853; G982.
9. Spindle whorl; frg; dark grey-brown; fine-grained; hard (4); h. 1.3 cm, w. 2.4 cm; SE 520, GS 494, Inv. No. P 23845; G980.
10. Ring – loom weight; frg; surface not preserved; red-yellow; medium-grained; hard (3); l. 6.5 cm, w. 3.3 cm; SE 520, GS 494, Inv. No. P 23856; G983.
11. Loom weight; red-yellow; fine-grained; hard (4); h. 6 cm, w. 5 cm, wt 107 g; SE 520, GS 497, Inv. No. P 23839; G972.
12. Loom weight; red; medium-grained; hard (4); h. 7.5 cm, w. 5 cm, wt 150 g; SE 520, GS 497, Inv. No. P 23840; G973.
13. Loom weight; very dark grey; medium-grained; hard (4); h. 4.4 cm, w. 5.2 cm, wt 67 g; SE 520, GS 497, Inv. No. P 23841; G974.
14. Ring – loom weight; faceted; dark red-brown; fine-grained; very hard (5); d. 8 cm, th. 3.4 cm, wt 172 g; SE 520, GS 497, Inv. No. P 23855; G981.
15. Ring – loom weight; frg; surface not preserved; pale brown; medium-grained; hard (3); l. 3.4 cm, th. 3.3 cm; SE 520, GS 497, Inv. No. P 23854; G984.

16. Spindle whorl; red-yellow; coarse-grained; hard (4); d. 3.6 cm, h. 2.7 cm; SE 502, GS 500, Inv. No. P 23834; G896.
17. Spindle whorl; dark brown; fine-grained; hard (4); d. 3.1 cm, h. 1.9 cm; SE 502, GS 509, Inv. No. P 23835; G895.
18. Ring – loom weight; faceted; dark brown-grey; medium-grained; hard (4); d. 8.2 cm, th. 2.5 cm, wt 175 g; SE 502, GS 479, Inv. No. P 23833; G898.
19. Spindle whorl; frg; surface not preserved; light brown; fine-grained; hard (3); l. 2.7 cm, w. 1.7 cm, h. 2.2 cm; SE 502, GS 480, Inv. No. P 23799; G897.
20. Spindle whorl; red-yellow, very dark grey core; medium-grained; hard (3); d. 3.6 cm, h. 2.8 cm; SE 520, GS 431, Inv. No. P 26492; G802.
21. Spindle whorl; red-yellow; medium-grained; hard (3); d. 3.4 cm, h. 2 cm; SE 520, GS 431, Inv. No. P 26493; G803.
22. Spindle whorl; dark grey-brown; medium-grained; hard (3); d. 3.7 cm, h. 3.7 cm, SE 520, GS 403 b, Inv. No. P 26995; G748.
23. Loom weight; surface not preserved; light brown; medium-grained; hard (4); h. 5.5 cm, w. 4.8 cm, wt 75 g; SE 520, GS 403A, Inv. No. P 29234; G747.
24. Spindle whorl; pale brown; fine-grained; hard (4); d. 3.2 cm, h. 2 cm; SE 7, GS 211, Inv. No. P 26507; G710.
25. Loom weight; frg; surface not preserved; red-yellow; fine-grained with individual large mineral inclusions; hard (4); l. 3.8 cm, w. 3.8 cm, h. 4.1 cm; SE 7, GS 201, Inv. No. P 26502; G711.
26. Spindle whorl; frg; red-yellow; fine-grained; hard (3); h. 3 cm, w. 3.2 cm, SE 7, GS 184, Inv. No. P 26940; G693.
27. Loom weight; preserved up to the hole; red-yellow, very dark grey core; coarse-grained; hard (3); h. 4.5 cm, w. 2.7 cm, wt 35 g; SE 7, GS 184, Inv. No. P 26930; G692.
28. Spindle whorl; brown; fine-grained; hard (4); d. 2 cm, h. 1.2 cm; SE 7, GS 93 b, Inv. No. P 26882; G630.
29. Loom weight; frg; round impression below the hole; brown; fine-grained; hard (4); l. 3.8 cm, w. 3 cm; SE 1, GS 94, Inv. No. P 26829; G632.
30. Ring – loom weight; frg; surface not preserved; red-yellow; fine-grained; hard (3); l. 4.8 cm, h. 3.3 cm, th. 2.2 cm; SE 033, GS 93 d, Inv. No. P 26844; G561.
31. Ring – loom weight; frg; surface not preserved; red-yellow in grey-brown; fine-grained; hard (3); l. 6.8 cm, h. 3.7 cm, th. 3.1 cm; SE 033, GS 93, Inv. No. P 26845; G560.
32. Ring – loom weight; frg; surface not preserved; brown-yellow; fine-grained; hard (3); l. 5 cm, h. 3.7 cm, th. 2.4 cm; SE 7, GS 93, Inv. No. P 26899; G631.
33. Ring – loom weight; surface not preserved; red-yellow; fine-grained; hard (3); d. 10.8 cm, h. 4 cm, th. 3.9 cm; SE 110, GS 93, Inv. No. P 26851; G569.
4. Firedog; frg; yellow-red; coarse-grained, very crumbly; hard (4); h. 16.6 cm, w. 15.4 cm; SE 520, GS 412, Inv. No. P 27019; G805.
5. Jar; brown; coarse-grained; hard (3); h. 28 cm, b. d. 15 cm; SE 520, GS 411, Inv. No. P 27020; G804.
6. Baking lid; rim and body frg; cordon with impressions; red-brown exterior, red-yellow interior; very coarse-grained with abundant grog; hard (4); d. 30 cm, l. 14.5 cm, w. 11 cm; SE 520, GS 404A, Inv. No. P 26972; G754.
7. Large handle of a baking lid; frg; surface not preserved; red-yellow; very coarse-grained; hard (4); l. 10 cm, w. 3.1 cm, th. 1.7 cm; SE 502, GS 459, Inv. No. P 23756; G890.
8. Large handle of a baking lid; frg; brown; fine-grained; hard (4); l. 8 cm, w. 4.7 cm, th. 2 cm; SE 520, GS 403C, Inv. No. P 26993; G753.
9. Handle of a vessel; brown; medium-grained with individual large grog pieces; hard (3); l. 4.3 cm, w. 2 cm, th. 1 cm; SE 168, GS 148, Inv. No. P 26937; G652.
10. Knee-shaped handle of a vessel; frg; surface not preserved; very dark grey; fine-grained; hard (3); l. 3.9 cm, w. 1.7 cm, th. 1.6-2 cm; SE 520, GS 404C, Inv. No. P 26990; G735.
11. Knee-shaped handle of a vessel; frg; surface not preserved; yellow-red; very coarse-grained; hard (4); l. 4.2 cm, w. 3.1 cm, th. 1.5 cm; SE 502, GS 449, Inv. No. P 23723; G877.
12. Trapezoid handle of a vessel; frg; red; coarse-grained; very hard (5); l. 6.4 cm, w. 4.9-5.7 cm, th. 1.1 cm; SE 502, GS 459, Inv. No. P 23757; G872.
13. Body frg with a tunnel-shaped handle of a vessel; light brown; medium-grained; very hard (5); l. 5.9 cm, w. 7.3 cm, handle w. 3 cm; SE 502, GS 488, Inv. No. P 23805; G868.
14. Body frg with a twice perforated grip of a vessel; surface not preserved; red-yellow; medium-grained; hard (3); l. 2.7 cm, w. 4 cm; SE 520, GS 405A, Inv. No. P 26454; G774.
15. Body frg with an ear-like handle of a vessel; surface not preserved; dark grey-brown; fine-grained; hard (3); l. 2.2 cm, w. 3.5 cm; SE 502, GS 420, Inv. No. P 23682; G869.
16. Body frg of a vessel with a knob applique enclosed with concentric grooves; very dark brown exterior, very dark grey interior; coarse-grained; hard (4); l. 12.8 cm, w. 9.6 cm; SE 394, GS 178, Inv. No. P 26663; G640.
17. Body frg of a vessel with a knob applique; red-yellow; coarse-grained; hard (3); l. 4.2 cm, w. 5.3 cm; SE 7, GS 64, Inv. No. P 26644; G521.
18. Body frg of a vessel with an incision-encircled knob applique; surface not preserved; grey-brown; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 3.1 cm, w. 3.3 cm; SE 502, GS 456, Inv. No. P 23734; G857.
19. Body frg of a vessel with concentric grooves; red-yellow exterior, grey-brown interior; coarse-grained; hard (3); l. 4.6 cm, w. 4.2 cm; SE 80, sek. 11/14, GS 185/202, Inv. No. P 26934; G654.
20. Body frg of a vessel with a handle; chevron impressions and two impressed dots; brown exterior, dark brown interior; medium-grained; very hard (5); l. 9.4 cm, w. 8.8 cm; SE 1156, GS 483, Inv. No. P 23859; G903.
21. Body frg of a vessel; five parallel grooves flanked by impressions; surface preserved in traces; very dark grey;

#### Plate 5

1. Rim and body frg of a jar; red-brown exterior, very dark grey interior; medium-grained; hard (3); l. 5.3 cm, w. 5.7 cm; SE 520, GS 412, Inv. No. P 29850; G792.
2. Body frg of a vessel; knob applique; black exterior, red-yellow interior; medium-grained; hard (4); l. 3.4 cm, w. 4.4 cm; SE 520, GS 402, Inv. No. P 27018; G799.
3. Base frg of a vessel; yellow-brown; coarse-grained; hard 4; l. 3 cm, w. 5.5 cm, h. 2.8 cm; SE 520, GS 412, Inv. No. P 26490; G800.

- fine-grained; hard (3); l. 4.7 cm, w. 3.8 cm; SE 502, GS 457, Inv. No. P 23743; G843.
22. Body frg of a vessel; chevron incisions; surface not preserved; dark grey-brown exterior, red-yellow interior; fine-grained; hard (3); l. 6.1 cm, w. 3.7 cm, SE 520, GS 544, Inv. No. P 26379; G1047.
  23. Body frg of a vessel with a part of a handle; vertical incisions; brown; medium-grained; very hard 6; l. 3.4 cm, w. 4.4 cm; SE 520, GS 497, Inv. No. P 23915; G964.
  24. Body frg of a carinated vessel; two preserved hatched triangles; very dark grey; fine-grained; hard (4); l. 2.1 cm, w. 2.3 cm; SE 1623, GS 532, Inv. No. P 26381; G1024.
  25. Serpentine fibula; bow frg with a hole, bronze; l. 1.5 cm. SE 1774; Inv. No. P 22891; G1278.
  26. Frg of a pedestal vessel; horizontal grooves; surface not preserved; red-yellow; medium-grained; hard (3); d. 14 cm, l. 6 cm, w. 5.3 cm, h. 4.6 cm; SE 7, GS 148, Inv. No. P 26938; G690.

#### Plate 6

1. Frg of a ring jewellery; two large and one small knob, round-sectioned; bronze; l. 2.4 cm, th. 0.6 cm, th. 0.4 cm, wt 3.3 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22927; G1285.
2. Frg of a knobbed torc; parting line along the edges; bronze; l. 1.6 cm, d. 1.7 cm, wt 11.2 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22882; G1286.
3. Frg of a winged axe; one side surface with wings and widened shoulder; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 4.4 cm, w. 2.5 cm, wt 108 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19239; G1299.
4. Frg of a winged axe; one side surface with wings; bronze; l. 3.8 cm, w. 2.9 cm, wt 65.6 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22849; G1298.
5. Frg of a winged axe; one side surface with part of the wings and widened shoulder; fractures worn; bronze; l. 3.1 cm, w. 1.7 cm, wt 31.5 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22920; G1300.
6. Frg of a winged axe; one side surface with part of the wings and widened shoulder; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 2.9 cm, w. 2.2 cm, wt 37.3 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22916; G1301.
7. Frg of a socketed axe; socket-blade junction; fractures worn; bronze; l. 3.9 cm, w. 2.8 cm, wt 81 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22862; G1297.
8. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end with both side surfaces and an unpronounced butt extension; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 5.9 cm, w. 4.4 cm, wt 113 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22855; G1305.
9. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end with one side surface and a butt extension; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 3.5 cm, wt 59.8 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. 19263; G1304.
10. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end with both side surfaces and missing butt extension; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 4.4 cm, w. 3.9 cm, wt 89 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19228; G1303.
11. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end with both side surfaces, one with a parting line; fractures worn; bronze; l. 4 cm, w. 3.1 cm, wt 94 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19236; G1310.
12. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end with one side surface, visible parting line; fractures worn; bronze; l. 3.5 cm, w. 2.1 cm, wt 47.5 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22835; G1309.

13. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end with one side surface, visible parting line; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 3.1 cm, w. 2.8 cm, wt 41.2 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22866; G1306.
14. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end with both side surfaces, one with a parting line, and a raised hammer-like butt; fractures worn; bronze; l. 4.1 cm, w. 2.5 cm, wt 98.5 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22940; G1307.
15. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end with a small part of one side surface and missing butt extensions; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 2.6 cm, w. 2.1 cm, wt 28.9 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22860; G1308.
16. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end; fractures worn; bronze; l. 2.3 cm, w. 2 cm, wt 15.4 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22885; G1311.

#### Plate 7

1. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end – blade junction with one side surface; bronze; l. 5.3 cm, w. 6.2 cm, wt 199.3 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22893; G1329.
2. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end – blade junction with both side surfaces, one with a poorly visible parting line, the other with a triangular impression; faces show cut marks, one also a small square impression; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 5.1 cm, w. 4.5 cm, wt 174 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19223; G1325.
3. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end – blade junction with one side surface that bears a triangular impression; one face shows cut marks; bronze; l. 3.8 cm, w. 3.3 cm, wt 86.2 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22919; G1326.
4. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end – blade junction with missing side surfaces; one of them very worn; bronze; l. 3.4 cm, w. 3.9 cm, wt 86.2 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22846; G1333.
5. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end – blade junction with one side surface; fractures worn; bronze; l. 3.3 cm, w. 2.7 cm, wt 66 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19237; G1331.
6. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end – blade junction with both side surfaces, one with a parting line; fractures partly worn; bronze; l. 5.9 cm, w. 4.1 cm, wt 222 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19212; G1327.
7. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end – blade junction with one side surface that shows a parting line; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 2.8 cm, w. 2.8 cm, wt 63.6 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22876; G1330.
8. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end – blade junction with one of the faces showing cut marks; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 2.9 cm, w. 2.3 cm, wt 48 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19224; G1332.
9. Frg of a shaft-hole axe; haft-end – blade junction with both side surfaces, one of the faces shows cut marks; fractures unevenly worn; bronze; l. 6.2 cm, w. 4.4 cm, wt 168 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19238; G1328.
10. Frg of an axe; blade with both side surfaces, one face shows cut marks; bronze; l. 5.8 cm, w. 5.6 cm, wt 156 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19209; G1335.
11. Frg of an axe; blade with blunt cutting edge and both side surfaces, one of them showing a parting line; fracture worn; bronze; l. 7.3 cm, w. 5.2 cm, wt 166 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19222; G1349.

12. Frg of an axe; blade with part of the cutting edge and one side surface; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 3.6 cm, w. 1.7 cm, wt 14.3 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22868; G1356.
  13. Frg of an ingot; two side surfaces, one of them with a parting line; bronze; l. 3.2 cm, w. 1.9 cm, wt 25.3 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22843; G1423.
  14. Frg of a flat ingot; one side surface and one of the faces showing a cut mark; fractures worn; bronze; l. 3.2 cm, w. 2.7 cm, wt 34 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19251; G1363.
  15. Frg of a flat ingot; one side surface and one face showing a triangular incision; bronze; l. 4.2 cm, w. 2.5 cm, wt 34 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 19219; G1366.
  16. Frg of a flat ingot; three preserved side surfaces; one fracture very worn; bronze; l. 4.5 cm, w. 4 cm, wt 57.4 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22854; G1359.
  17. Frg of a bronze object, possibly an ingot; fractures very worn; l. 3 cm, w. 1.8 cm, th. 1.4 cm, wt 32.4 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22952; G1449.
  18. Trapezoid ingot; bronze; l. 3 cm, w. 2 cm, th. 1.3 cm, wt 40.2 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22847; G1448.
  19. Frg of a trapezoid ingot; fracture very worn; bronze; l. 2.7 cm, w. 1.4 cm, th. 1.2 cm, wt 28.1 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22848; G1447.
  20. Frg of a trapezoid ingot; two side surfaces; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 2.2 cm, w. 1.4 cm, th. 0.8 cm, wt 9.7 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22873; G1446.
  21. Frg of a bar ingot; fractures very worn; bronze; l. 2.5 cm, w. 1.4 cm, th. 0.6 cm, wt 14.3 g; Hoard II; Inv. No. P 22955; G1434.
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## Dragomelj – naselje iz obdobja kulture žarnih grobišč kot del podgoriško-dragomeljskega somestja in starejšeželeznodobni drobci

### Povzetek

Z zaščitnimi izkopavanji smo pri Dragomlju (*sl.* 1) raziskali ravninsko naselje iz pozne bronaste dobe – kulture žarnih grobišč (KŽG) in skromne poselitvene sledi iz starejše železne dobe. Naselje je severni del sočasne celote z naseljem v Podgorici južno od reke Pšate. Pod slabo ohranjeno kulturno plastjo so se pojavljali v geološko plast vkopani ostanki jam za stojke ter shrambnih in odpadnih jam (*sl.* 2).

### NASELBINA IZ POZNE BRONASTE DOBE

#### Bivalne stavbe in druge naselbinske strukture

Jame za stojke so tvorile skupine jam, ki jih predvsem zaradi slabe prepoznavnosti pogosto ni bilo mogoče povezati v tlorise stavb. Pri teh skupinah številnih stojk sklepamo tudi na gradnje, popravila in ponovne gradnje hiš različnih velikosti in usmerjenosti na istem mestu. To močno otežuje prepoznavanje njihovih prvotnih tlorisov.

Glede na pogojno rekonstruirane tlorise 16 hiš (*sl.* 2) je njihova usmerjenost različna, od smeri SV–JZ (hiše 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 16) in SZ–JV (hiše 5, 7 (*sl.* 3), 8, 9, 10, 15) do usmerjenosti S–J (hiše 4, 6, 11 (*sl.* 4), 14). Pahljačasta usmeritev petih hiš v osrednjem delu izkopnega polja (hiše 8–12)

nakazuje njihovo razmestitev okrog osrednjega območja, morda nekakšnega dvorišča. Na prvi pogled gre za razpršeno vaško poselitev, pri kateri sta bili posamezna hiša oz. skupina hiš oddaljeni 15–20 metrov od sosednje skupine hiš.

Podoba redke in razpršene razmestitve hiš je močno omajana ob dejstvu, da so se največje zgostitve jam za stojke in drugih naselbinskih jam ujemale z območji manjših depresij, neravnih poglobitev površine geološke osnove (*sl.* 3). To nakazuje prvotno mnogo bolj zgoščeno poselitev, ki se je ohranila le v globlje ležečih delih naselja. Pri obširnih predelih brez naselbinskih jam je torej mnogo verjetneje, da gre za uničene dele naselja, ne pa morebitna dvorišča.

Primerjava s sočasnimi naselji pokaže veliko podobnost z naseljema v bližnji Podgorici in v podravski Rogozi, kjer so hiše prav tako različnih usmeritev, a se razvrščajo v skupine hiš in drugih objektov, ki predstavljajo gospodarske enote. Delno primerljivo razmestitev hiš je opaziti tudi v sočasnem podravskem naselju Orehova vas, kjer so hiše v treh poselitvenih skupinah razmeščene bolj gosto kot v Dragomlju, Podgorici in Rogozi. Velikosti dragomeljskih hiš se gibljejo od 10 do 21 m<sup>2</sup> ter so primerljive z velikostjo sočasnih hiš iz naselij Podgorica, Orehova vas in Rogoza, a so bile med temi tudi posamezne večje hiše.

V nekaterih hišah (4, 8, 9 in 13) so bili odkriti ostanki spodnjih delov ognjišč, v hiši 5 pa je bila

fragmentirana ognjiščna koza (*t.* 5: 4). Ker so ohranjeni le spodnji deli vkopanih konstrukcijskih elementov hiš, je verjetno, da so bila ognjišča nekoč v večini hiš ali celo v vseh hišah.

### **Depo s kovinskimi polizdelki Dragomelj I**

Na zahodnem robu izkopnega polja je bil zakopan depo I iz Ha B1 (gl. tu članek Turk, Heath, Zuliani). Z več kot 86 kg bakrenih in bronastih polizdelkov je komplementaren z livarskimi dejavnostmi v Podgorici.

### **Predilno-tkalski pripomočki**

Predilno-tkalski pripomočki so bili večinoma odkriti brez ohranjenega konteksta. Med 18 utežmi za statve so zastopane štiristrane piramidaste uteži (*t.* 4: 2–7, 11–12, 25, 27, 29) in manj številne stožčaste uteži (*t.* 4: 1, 13, 23). Uteži so v drugih naseljih horizontov Oloris-Podsmreka in Rogoza-Orehova vas večinoma manj številne kot v Dragomlju. V celoti ohranjene keramične uteži so kot obtežilni deli statvenih niti težke med 35 g (*t.* 4: 27) in 150 g (*t.* 4: 12). Na posamezne uteži statev je bilo verjetno navezано večje ali manjše število osnovnih statvenih niti (skupaj najdene uteži na *t.* 4: 11–13 tako tehtajo 107 g, 150 g in 67 g, bližnji svitek (*t.* 4: 14) pa 172 g). Glede na predlagano težo za eno statveno nit 40 g so uteži verjetno obteževale od ene do štiri niti. V Dragomlju niso bile odkrite masivne keramične uteži, kakršne se v nekaj primerih pojavljajo v Rogozi in Olorisu.

Odkritih je bilo 20 celih ali fragmentiranih keramičnih vretenc za obtežitev preslice (*t.* 4: 9, 16–17, 19–22, 24, 26, 28). V sočasnih naseljih so keramična vretenca pogosta najdba, a se v bližnji Podgorici pojavljajo le izjemoma. Po teži med 4 g (*t.* 4: 28) in 33 g (*t.* 4: 22) so med lažjimi. Verjetno so bila namenjena izdelavi preje iz krajših volnenih vlaken, ne pa preje iz surove volne ali daljših rastlinskih vlaken.

Keramične svitke so uporabljali kot ognjiščne podstavke za posode ali kot uteži za statve. Ta druga namembnost je verjetna v primerih, ko so bili odkriti v neposredni bližini drugih tkalskih pripomočkov (*t.* 4: 8, 10, 14–15, 18, 30–33).

Uteži za statve se v nekaj primerih zgoščajo v skupine (*t.* 4: 1–4, 5–7, 11–13). Če na izkopnem

polju opazujemo vse zgostitve uteži, vretenc in svitkov, naštejemo 11 mest njihovih zgostitev (*sl.* 2: I–XI in *t.* 4: I–XI). Večina jih je v bližini hiš, nekatere pa delujejo oddaljeno od ostankov stavb (zgostitve I, VI in IX). Prav zgostitve predilno-tkalskih pripomočkov zunaj hiš nakazujejo slabo ohranjenost in celo uničenost arheoloških sledov bivalnih in drugih stavb v Dragomlju. Težko si je namreč predstavljati, da bi dejavnost, ki zahteva suho okolje, potekala na odprtem. Tudi s tega vidika so tlorisi rekonstruiranih bivalnih hiš (*sl.* 2) pomanjkljivi in jih predvidevamo tudi na mestih z zgoščenimi sledovi predilno-tkalskih dejavnosti.

Za strnjene predele pojavljanja uteži, vretenc in svitkov med hišami 7–12 (*sl.* 2: II–VI) se zdi, da označujejo nekakšno predilno-tkalsko območje. V obdobju KŽG bi tekstilna dejavnost v Dragomlju lahko preseгла lokalno samozadostnost in se približala obrtni dejavnosti, namenjeni tudi izmenjavi.

### **Keramično posodje**

Maloštevilni odlomki keramike nakazujejo poselitev že v začetku pozne bronaste dobe (*t.* 5: 11, 12, 16, 18, 19), večina pa sodi v čas starejše in prehoda v mlajšo KŽG (*t.* 1–3). Lonci različnih velikosti, sklede, skodele in skodelice izkazujejo oblikovne sorodnosti s posodjem iz naselij horizonta Rogoza-Orehova vas, predvsem iz bližnje Podgorice, s Šmarne gore, iz najstarejše poselitvene faze na Tribuni v Ljubljani, iz podravskega Rogoze, Pobrežja, Brinjeve gore in Orehove vasi, a tudi s prekmurskih Pinc pri Lendavi.

### **Podgoriško-dragomeljsko “somestje” in primerljive naselbine iz pozne bronaste dobe**

Na podlagi devetih radiokarbonskih datacij se v dragomeljskem naselju v času KŽG nakazujejo dva časovna horizonta, prvi v razponu od sredine 13. do konca 12. st. pr. n. št., drugi pa od sredine 12. do začetka 10. st. pr. n. št. (*sl.* 6).

Skromne sledi človekove prisotnosti je zaslediti že pred 12. st. pr. n. št., a je glede na kronološko enovitost večine lončenine ob razumevanju časovnega razpona radiokarbonskih datacij v obsegu dveh standardnih deviacij (2  $\sigma$ ) zelo verjetno, da je naselje živelo krajše obdobje v razponu od

sredine 12. do konca 11. st. pr. n. št. Štiri starejše in pet mlajših datacij C<sup>14</sup> je enakomerno razporejenih po celotnem izkopnem polju in ni mogoče prepoznati starejših ali mlajših območij poselitve. Radiokarbonske datacije so zelo podobne tistim iz bližnje Podgorice ter iz sočasnih podravske naselij Rogoza in Orehova vas. Poleg izjemnih podobnosti v keramičnem gradivu sta tudi s tega vidika Dragomelj in Podgorica sestavni del horizonta Rogoza-Orehova vas.

Rekonstruirane hiše bi lahko tvorile gospodarstva, kakršna so ugotovljena tudi v sosednjem naselju Podgorica južno od Pšate ter v Rogozi in Orehovi vasi v Podravju. Ob upoštevanju številnih najdb keramičnih uteži in vretenc je bila pomembna predilno-tkalska dejavnost. Zogleneli rastlinski ostanki kažejo na pridelavo ječmena, grašice, leče, ovsa in prosa.

Gospodarske dejavnosti v podgoriško-dragomeljskem "somestju" se v obdobju KŽG dopolnjujejo: v Podgorici so močni sledovi metalurških dejavnosti, v Dragomlju pa predilno-tkalske dejavnosti. Tod so morda tudi shranjevali večje zaloge živil. Tukajšnji depo I z bakrenimi in bronastimi polizdelki lahko opazujemo kot varno skladišče predmetov, namenjenih metalurški predelavi.

Na prvi pogled enigmatično dvojno naselje Dragomelj - Podgorica z njunimi dejavnostmi, z metalurško v Podgorici ter tekstilno in metalurško-skladiščno v Dragomlju, deluje kot komplementarna gospodarska celota. Somestje torej tvori večjo funkcionalno aglomeracijo z raznovrstnimi preživetvenimi in obrtnimi strategijami.

Primerjave za dvokonične ingote iz dragomeljskega depoja I in za podgoriške kalupe so v nasprotju z lokalno obarvanostjo poselitve, kot jo predstavlja keramični inventar, nadregionalne. Njihov doseg je povezan z izmenjavo bakrenih in bronastih polizdelkov (Dragomelj) ter končnih izdelkov (Podgorica) na dolge razdalje od vzhodnih Alp do osrednjega dela Apeninskega polotoka.

V tej mreži povezav je imelo podgoriško-dragomeljsko naselje pomembno posredniško in izmenjalno vlogo. Metalurški območji s kalupoma iz Podgorice dokazujeta tudi proizvodno vlogo dvojnega naselja.

Naselja, kot so Dragomelj - Podgorica, Orehova vas in Rogoza, živijo v 12.–11. st. pr. n. št. in zamrejo ob koncu 11. ali v začetku 10. st. pr. n. št. V naseljih oz. na grobiščih, ki izkazujejo številne primerjave s keramičnim gradivom iz Dragomlja (Ruše, Dobova, Ljubljana), se po drugi strani poselitev oz. pokopavanje v mlajši KŽG nadaljuje.

## SLEDOVI POSELITVE IZ STAREJŠE ŽELEZNE DOBE

### Naselbinske strukture

Med redkimi ohranjenimi sledmi iz starejše železne dobe sta jama s kačasto fibulo in kamnito tlakovanje (*sl.* 2, 7). Odlomka fibule zaradi neohranjenih krilc oz. rozet ni mogoče natančneje uvrstiti (*t.* 5: 25), a sodi v čas med koncem 7. in razponom 6. st. pr. n. št.

Posamezni keramični odlomki, npr. del noge keramičnega ciborija z vodoravnimi žlebovi (*t.* 5: 26), odkriti v ornici ali v kulturni plasti, ne pa v jamah, vkopanih v geološko osnovo, kažejo na močno uničeno naselbinsko poselitev, morda pa na grobišče (?) v razponu druge polovice 7. oz. v 6. st. pr. n. št.

### Starejšeželeznodobni depo Dragomelj II

Ostanki depoja II s 180 bronastimi predmeti (izbor na *t.* 6–7) so z oranjem popolnoma razmešeni na območju obsega 70 × 30 metrov in zgoščeni na ožjem območju obsega približno 3 × 3 metrov (*sl.* 2). Vpogled v prvotno stanje depoja tako glede lege predmetov *in situ* kot glede njihovega prvotnega števila ni mogoč.

Osnovna značilnost predmetov je izredna fragmentiranost. Na številnih so vidne sledi udarcev, najpogostejše vzporednih s smerjo odlomljene površine (npr. *t.* 6: 6,8, 7: 2–3,6,8–10,14), zato sklepamo na namerno razbijanje. V depoju II so zastopani odlomki uhatih (*t.* 6: 8–16, 7: 1–9) in plavutastih sekir (*t.* 6: 3–6), tulaste sekire (*t.* 6: 7), rezil sekir ali ploščatih ingotov (*t.* 7: 10–16), obročastega nakita (*t.* 6: 1–2), igle, pločevine, paličastih ingotov in ingotov trapezastega preseka (*t.* 7: 18–21).

Odlomljene površine so pri predmetih iz depoja II močno obrabljene. Poleg sestave se tudi po tem depo II uvršča med depoje tipa San Francesco (Bologna)–Šempeter. Gre za depoje dolgega trajanja, katerih deponiranje se konča globoko v starejši železni dobi. Depoji tega tipa so naselbinski depoji, v katerih so tako kot v Dragomlju zastopani izključno bronasti predmeti. Razširjeni so v osrednji in zahodni Sloveniji, v zaledju Kvarnerja in v severovzhodni Italiji.

Tako v podgoriškem kot v dragomeljskem delu "somestja" je po približno tristoletni vrzeli brez jasnih arheoloških sledi poselitev izpričana na prehodu iz starejšega v mlajši halštatski čas, tj. ob koncu 7.

oz. v razponu 6. st. pr. n. št. V Dragomlju je edina prepoznavna kontinuiteta iz pozne bronaste dobe veliko število bronastih uhatih sekir v depoju II, s širokim časovnim razponom rabe med 11./10. in 8./7. st. pr. n. št. – prav tisto časovno vrzeljo, ki je ne prepoznamo med drugim dragomeljskim naselbinskim gradivom. Depoja I in II, pri katerih konec deponiranja pri prvem datiramo najpozneje v čas okoli leta 1000 pr. n. št. in pri drugem okoli leta 600 pr. n. št., sta odkrita v oddaljenosti manj kot 10 m drug od drugega (*sl. 2*). Glede na sekundarno lego večjega dela predmetov iz prvega in vseh predmetov iz drugega depoja gre za

močno uničen del najdišča. V teh uničenih delih in predvsem v neraziskanih predelih zahodno od trase avtoceste je iskati odgovor na vprašanje o morebitni kontinuiteti iz poznobronastodobne v železnodobno poselitev.

Časovna razlika med depojema ostaja enigmatična. Njuna skoraj identična lokacija bi lahko pomenila, da so v Dragomlju določene dejavnosti potekale tudi na prehodu iz bronaste v železno dobo, v času, ko zanje razen uhatih sekir iz drugega depoja nimamo drugih prepoznavnih datacijskih opor. Vprašanje o razlogih za nenavadno bližino obeh depojev torej ostaja odprto.

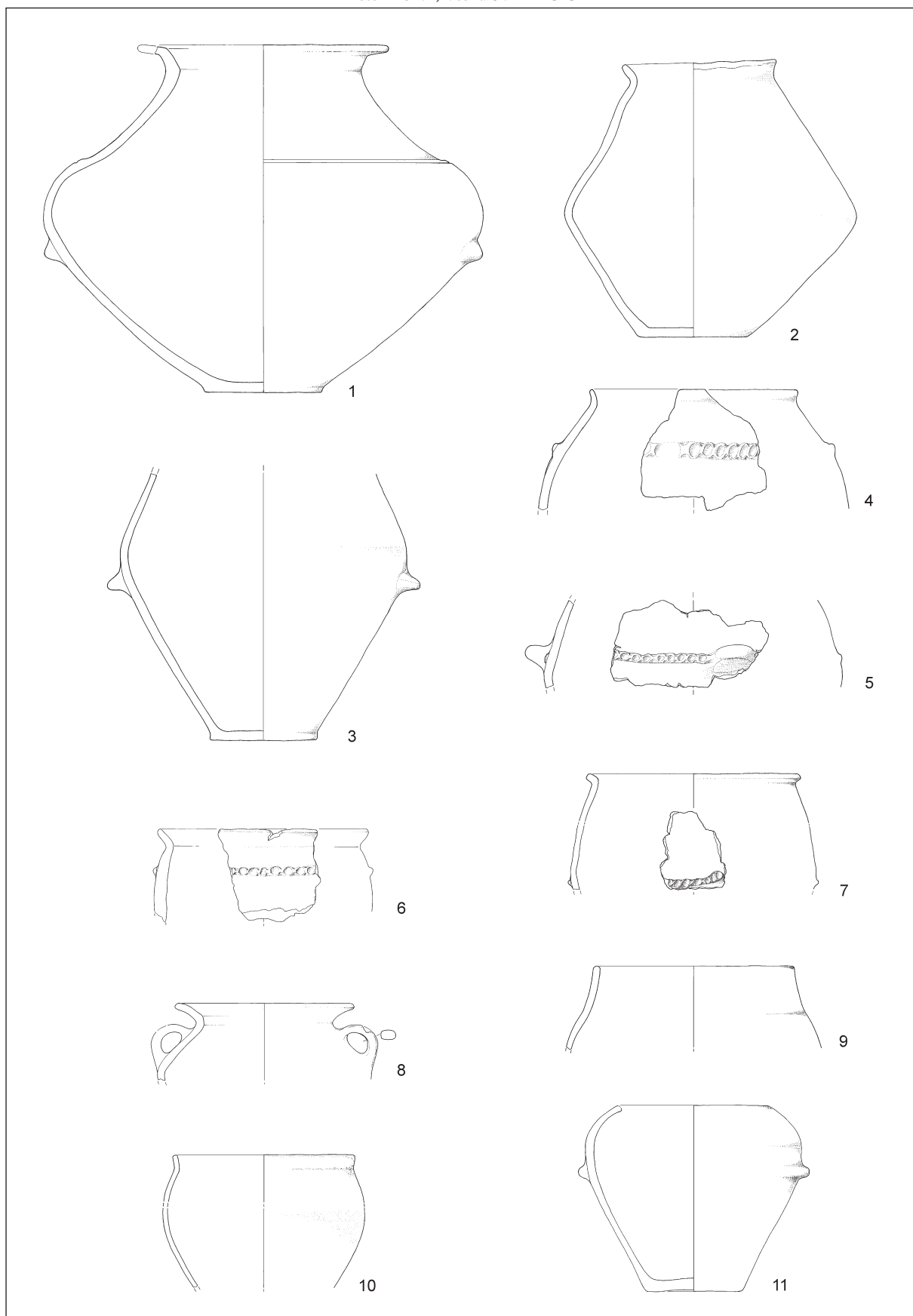
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*Illustrations:* – *Fig. 1* (photo: Damjan Snoj). – *Fig. 2* (elaborated by: Nives Zupančič, Vanja Celin). – *Fig. 3–5, 7* (photo: Aleš Ogorelec). – *Fig. 6* (elaborated by Elena Leghissa). – *Pl. 1–7* (drawing: Uroš Stiškovski, Vesna Svetličič, Ida Murgelj). *Slikovno gradivo:* – *Sl. 1* (foto: Damjan Snoj). – *Sl. 2* (računalniška izdelava: Nives Zupančič, Vanja Celin). – *Sl. 3–5, 7* (foto: Aleš Ogorelec). – *Sl. 6* (računalniška izdelava: Elena Leghissa). – *T. 1–7* (risbe: Uroš Stiškovski, Vesna Svetličič, Ida Murgelj).

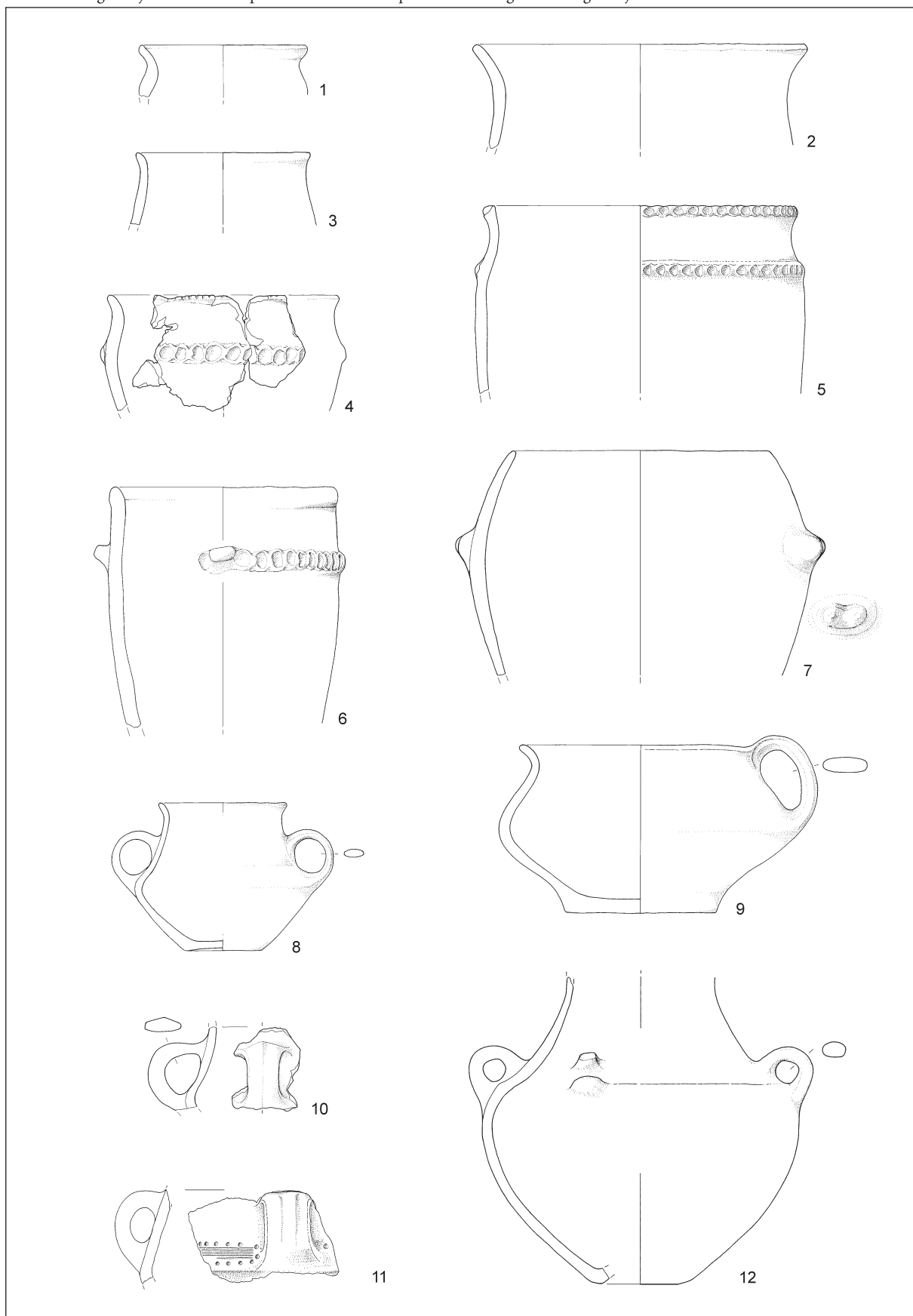
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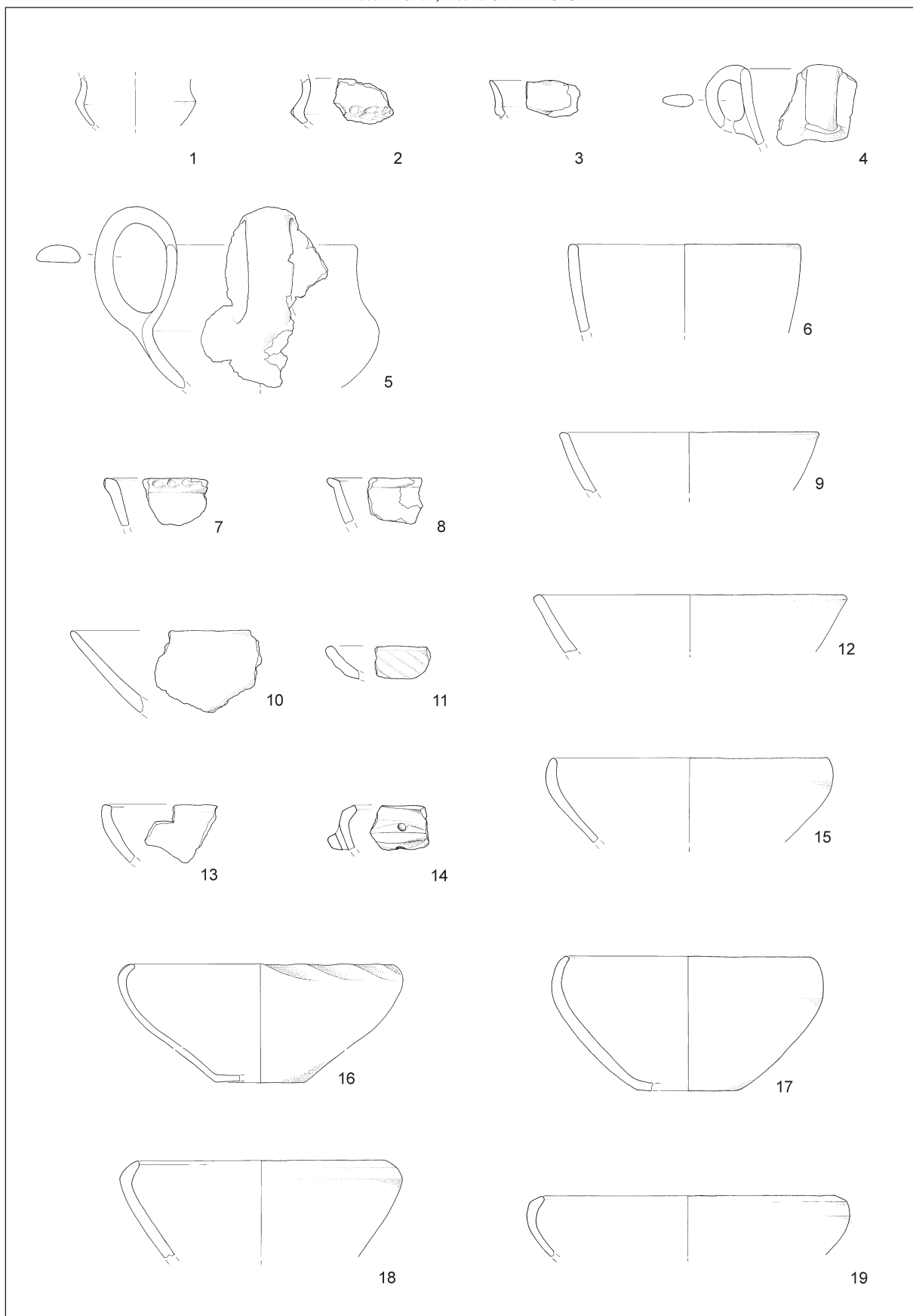
Pl. 1: Dragomelj, pottery. Scale = 1:8.

T. 1: Dragomelj, keramika. M. = 1:8.



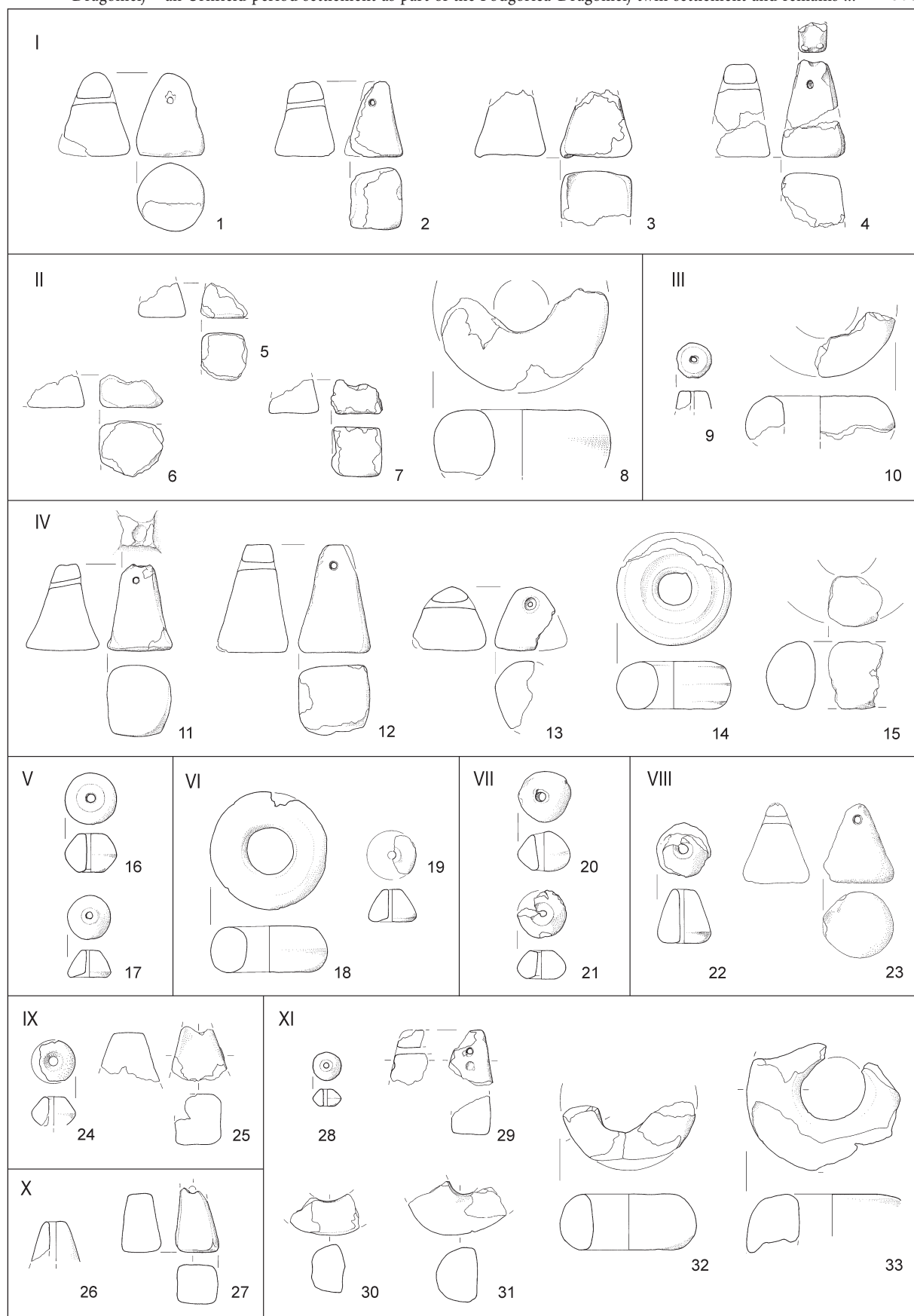
Pl. 2: Dragomelj, pottery. Scale = 1:4.

T. 2: Dragomelj, keramika. M. = 1:4.



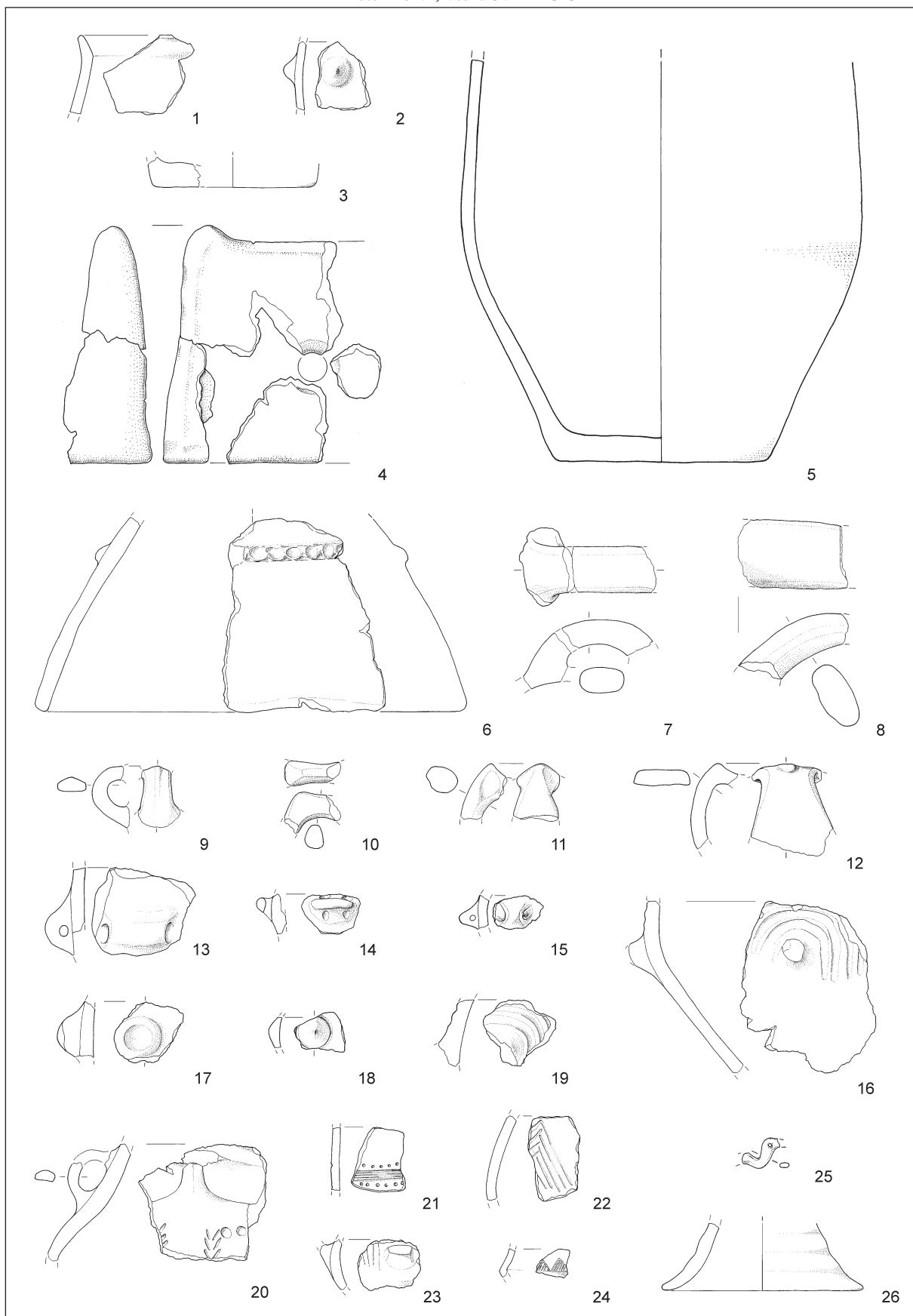
Pl. 3: Dragomelj, pottery. Scale = 1:4.

T. 3: Dragomelj, keramika. M. = 1:4.



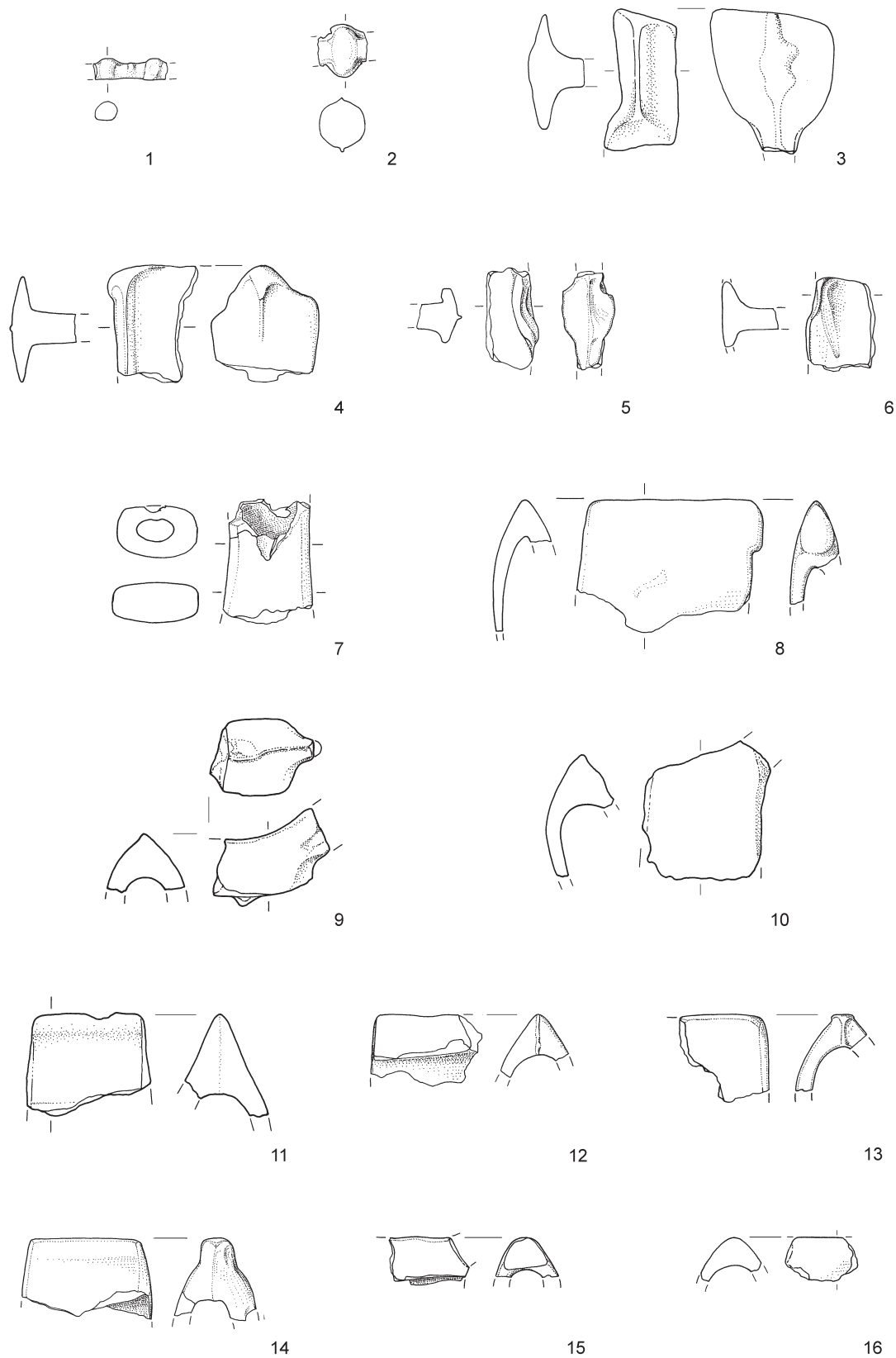
Pl. 4: Dragomelj, pottery. Scale = 1:4.

T. 4: Dragomelj, keramika. M. = 1:4.



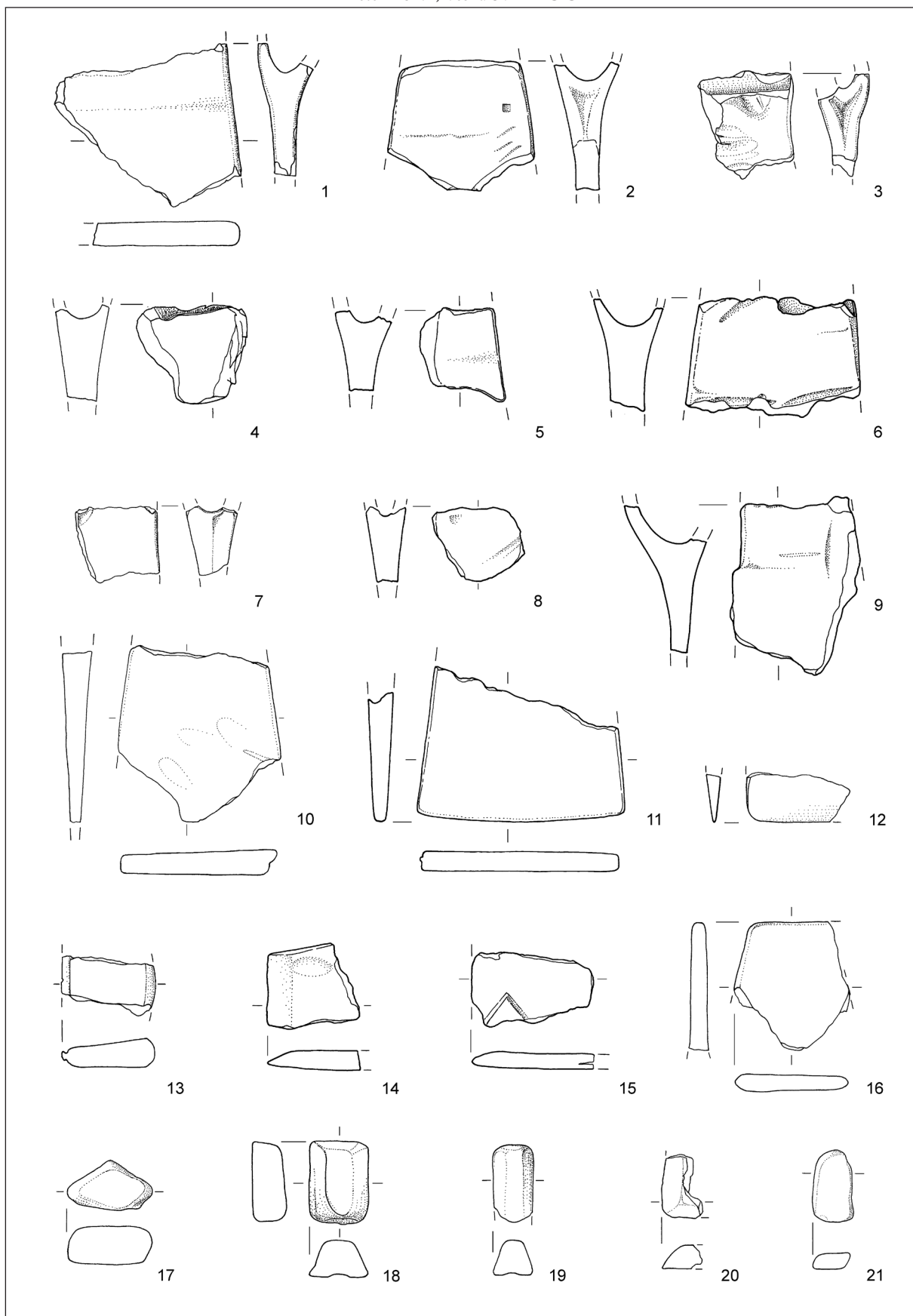
Pl. 5: Dragomelj, 1–24, 26 pottery, 25 bronze. Scale 1–24, 26 = 1:4; 25 = 1:2.

T. 5: Dragomelj, 1–24, 26 keramika, 25 bron. M. 1–24, 26 = 1:4; 25 = 1:2.



Pl. 6: Dragomelj, bronze. Scale = 1:2.

T. 6: Dragomelj, bron. M. = 1:2.



Pl. 7: Dragomelj, bronze. Scale = 1:2.

T. 7: Dragomelj, bron. M. = 1:2.