

CULTURAL IDENTIFICATION OF “THE CORDED MATERIALS” FROM BELORUSSIAN NEMAN RIVER BASIN

VADZIM L. LAKIZA

Results of study of heritage of the Corded Ware Culture in the Nemunas River basin are presented in the article. 2 groups of sites are distinguished by the author: Bershty-Rusakovo group which formation was carried out on the basis of the local late Neolithic Neman culture under strong influence of alien components: “A-horizon” of the Corded Ware, Globular Amphorae, Single Grave, Rzucewo cultures; Podgornaya group of sites with features of the Middle Dnieper Culture.

Keywords: The Late Neolithic, the Early Bronze Age, the Corded Ware Culture, the Neolithic Nemunas Culture, the Middle Dnieper Culture, the Trzcinec Culture.

Darbas skirtas Virvelinės keramikos kultūros palikimui Nemuno baseine. Išskiriamos 2 kultūrinės grupės: Berštų-Rusakovo grupė, kildintina iš vietinės vėlyvosios neolitinės Nemuno kultūros, paveiktos Rutulinių amforų, Ankstyvosios virvelinės keramikos kultūros ir Pamarių kultūros tradicijų, bei Podgornajos grupė, sietina su Vidurio Dnepro kultūra.

Reikšminiai žodžiai: Vėlyvasis neolitas, ankstyvasis žalvario amžius, Virvelinės keramikos kultūra, neolitinė Nemuno kultūra, Vidurio Dnepro kultūra, Tščineco kultūra.

The territory of Belorussian Neman river basin (Fig. 1:A) is a part of Western – Belorussian province. In the east it reaches up to Minsk and Oshmyany hills, in the south joins with Polesye, and covers Grodno, partially Minsk and Brest regions. The largest river of the region is Neman. In the territory of the Western – Belorussian province Neman takes its right inflows: Sula, Berezina, Gavva, Ditva, Lebeda, Kotra, Lososna. Neman’s major left inflows are Svisloch, Ros’, Zelyanka, Shchara, Molchad’, Usha, Servech. The most significant lakes of the Neman river basin are Beloye, Molochnoye, Svityaz, Bershtovskoye, Koldychevskoye.

The history of archeological studying of the given region counts already two hundred years. Hundreds of various sites were open, tens of sites and settlements of Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages were excavated, a number of articles and monographies were written. However for quite a long period of time Corded culture materials from Belorussian Neman river basin haven’t been considered to be the object of a special research.

It was V. Antoniewicz who for the first time wrote about settlement of the Neman river basin from the west by a community that used corded ware. In his

opinion, the culture with corded ware and boat-shaped battle axes appeared here at the end of Neolith and existed till the early Bronze Age (Antoniewicz, 1930, p. 9). However, since the end of 60-ths of 20 century in the Belorussian archeological science we observe the formation of the concept of determining of Bronze Age and its periodization with reference to corded ware sites of the early period of Bronze Age (Исаенко, Чернявский, 1967, с. 158–173). М. М. Charniauski, in his first publications, mentioning some issues on Bronze Age, expressed the opinion, that last. Dobry Bor period of the Neman Neolithic culture coexisted with the population of Bronze Age, in early period of which the Corded Ware culture appeared in the Neman river basin (Исаенко, Чернявский, 1967, с. 159).

The first results in studying of antiquities dated the early period of Bronze Age of Northwest Belarus were brought at the beginning of 70ths of the last century in “Sketches on Archeology of Belarus” (Очерки по археологии Белоруссии, 1970, с. 125–126) and “History of Belarus SSR: in 5 v.” (Гісторыя Беларускай ССР, 1972, с. 42–44). “Corded materials” were associated with the tribes of Baltic or Vistula–Neman cultures (battle axes), and were under

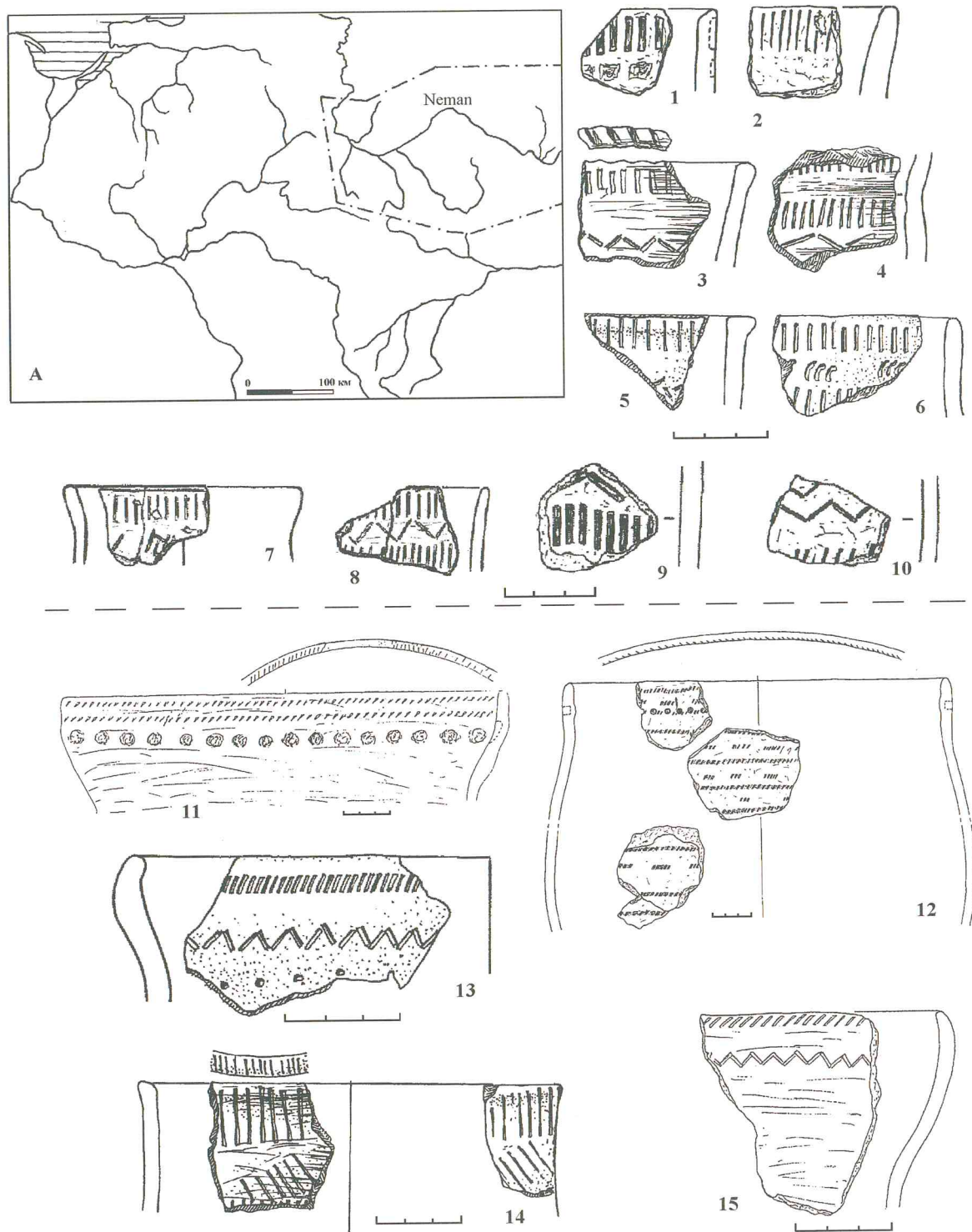


Fig. 1. A – Belorussian Neman river basin is the territory under investigation. The Globular Amphorae culture materials: 1 – Tsyganovka, 2 – Lichitsy 2, 3–6 – Krasnoselsky 5, 7–8 – Dokudovo5, 9–10 – Nesilovichy 5; Dobry Bor type of the Neman Neolithic culture materials: 11 – Podgornaya 4, 12 – Pryrechye 2; Bershty–Rusakovo type materials: 13 – Dobry Bor 1, 14 – Lysaya Gora, 15 – Podgornaya 4.

influence of Neolithic traditions; the determined period of their distribution is between III–II millennia BC. Then V. F. Isaenko also attributed certain antiquities from the Neman river basin to the early period of Bronze Age and bound up them with Vistula–Neman or Baltic culture (Исаенко, 1976, с. 10, 15–21).

The primary researcher of primitive monuments of Belorussian Neman river basin, M. M. Charniauski in his later publications considers antiquities of the early period of Bronze Age as "monuments with corded ware from the Neman river basin" and speaks of the difficulty in definition of their cultural belonging (Чарняўскі, 1997, с. 307–311). He emphasizes the impact being made on them by the Corded Ware cultures of the Dnieper river basin and Polesye, but nevertheless, M. M. Charniauski considers the sites of Belorussian Neman river basin to be closer to antiquities of the Corded Ware culture of Southeast Baltic, and to antiquities of Rzucewo or Baltic culture (Чарняўскі, 1997, с. 311).

N. N. Kryvaltsevich, when studying problems of Belorussian Bronze Age, also paid attention to antiquities of Belorussian Neman river basin. In his opinion, the sites with corded ware from this region were strongly influenced by the Baltic Coast, the circle of the Circumbaltic Corded Ware culture; there one can observe presence of some features connected with the culture of Globular Amphorae culture and the Middle Dnieper culture (Крывальцэвіч, 1999, с. 20–21; 2001, с. 259–273).

It should be noted that "corded" materials from Belorussian Neman river basin are of great interest for researchers from Lithuania and Poland. Thus, the basin of Neman should be included in to a zone of spread of the Pamariu (the Bay Coast, the Rzucewo) culture (Чебрешук, Шмит, 2003, рис. 1). However, one can observe a contradiction there. Practically all sites that belong to the Corded Ware culture in the territory of Lithuania and Northeast Poland are considered to be of Late Neolith and are dated from the second quarter of III millennium till the beginning of II millennium BC (Rimantienė, 1999a; Brazaitis, 2003; Czebreszuk, 2001). In Belorussian Neman river

basin such antiquities are traditionally connected to the early period of Bronze Age.

Thus, we single out the problem of identification of "corded materials" available at our disposal that in Belarus were traditionally dated back to the early period of Bronze Age and were among the cultures with corded ware. In this article we shall use the term – a circle of Corded Ware cultures which most definitely discloses the processes that took place in the Neman river basin during the transitive period from Neolith to Bronze Age and in the early period of Bronze Age (from the moment of appearance of "corded" traditions connected to "A-horizon", till the beginning of spread of Trzciniec materials).

At present there is a significant source study base for solving of this problem in the territory of Belorussian Neman river basin consisting of 159 settlements, 5 graves, flint mines and more than 400 separate finds of stone, flint, bone artefacts of work (Лакіза, 2004).

As a result of ordering, classification and analysis of the whole complex of ceramic finds which traditionally were dated back to the early period of Bronze Age, the scheme of division of ware into two groups with determination of several types was presented (Лакіза, 2001; 2004). The ceramics of group 1 belong to the circle of Corded Ware cultures. Sand, crushed stone, chamotte were used as basic admixtures. Surfaces were well floated, expressively scratched inside, outside or on both surfaces. The ware of group 1 vary. There we single out 8 basic forms, 14 types of upper parts of vessels (halos), 5 types of flat bottoms, 9 types of elements and principal grounds of ornamentation (Fig. 3). One can notice domination of stamp and cord impressions and drawn lines.

Fragments of ceramics of group 1 of type 1 are found only in 3 settlements – Lichitsy 2, Parhuty 1, Rusakovichy 7 (Fig. 2:A). These are dense fragments without significant mineral admixtures, with smooth surfaces. The edge of one halo from Lichitsy 2 is decorated with finger pinches, lower the horizontal raised border is made (Fig. 2:2). On two other fragments below the raised border made by finger

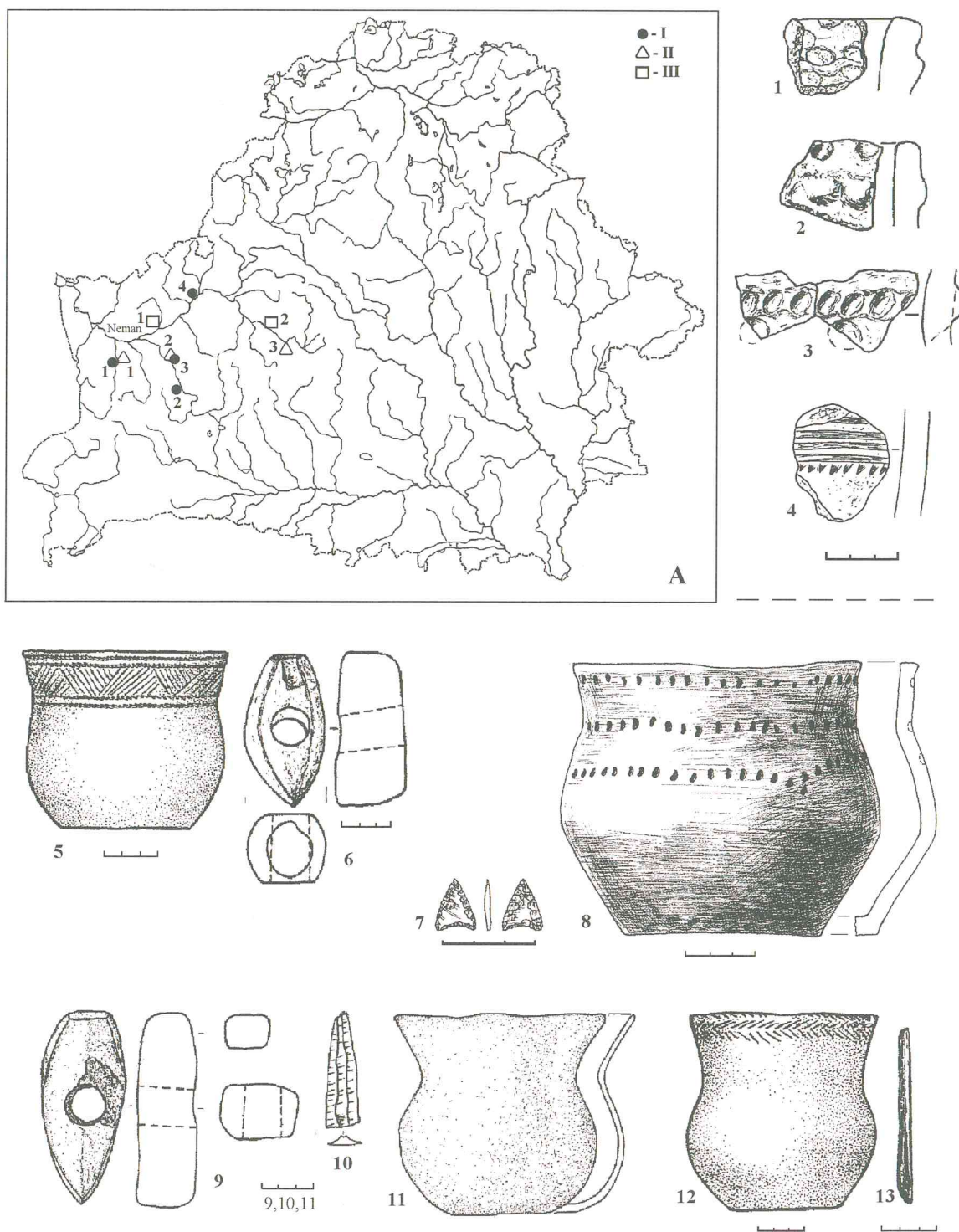


Fig. 2. A – Disposition map of settlements with A-horizon of the Corded Ware culture (△): 1 – Lichitsy 2, 2 – Parkhuty 1, 3 – Rusakovichy 7); disposition map of graves of the Circle of Corded Ware cultures (●): 1 – Krasnoselsk flint mine, 2 – Rusakovo 2, 3 – Parkhuty 1, 4 – Dokudovo 5; disposition map of graves of Trzcinec Culture Circle (□): 1 – Matevchuki 1, 2 – Lysaya Gora. A-horizon of the Corded Ware culture materials: 1 – Rusakovichy 7, 2, 3 – Lichitsy 2, 4 – Parkhuty 1. Materials from the graves: 5, 6 – Rusakovo 2, 7, 8 – Dokudovo 5, 9–11 – Parkhuty 1, 12, 13 – Krasnoselsk flint mine.

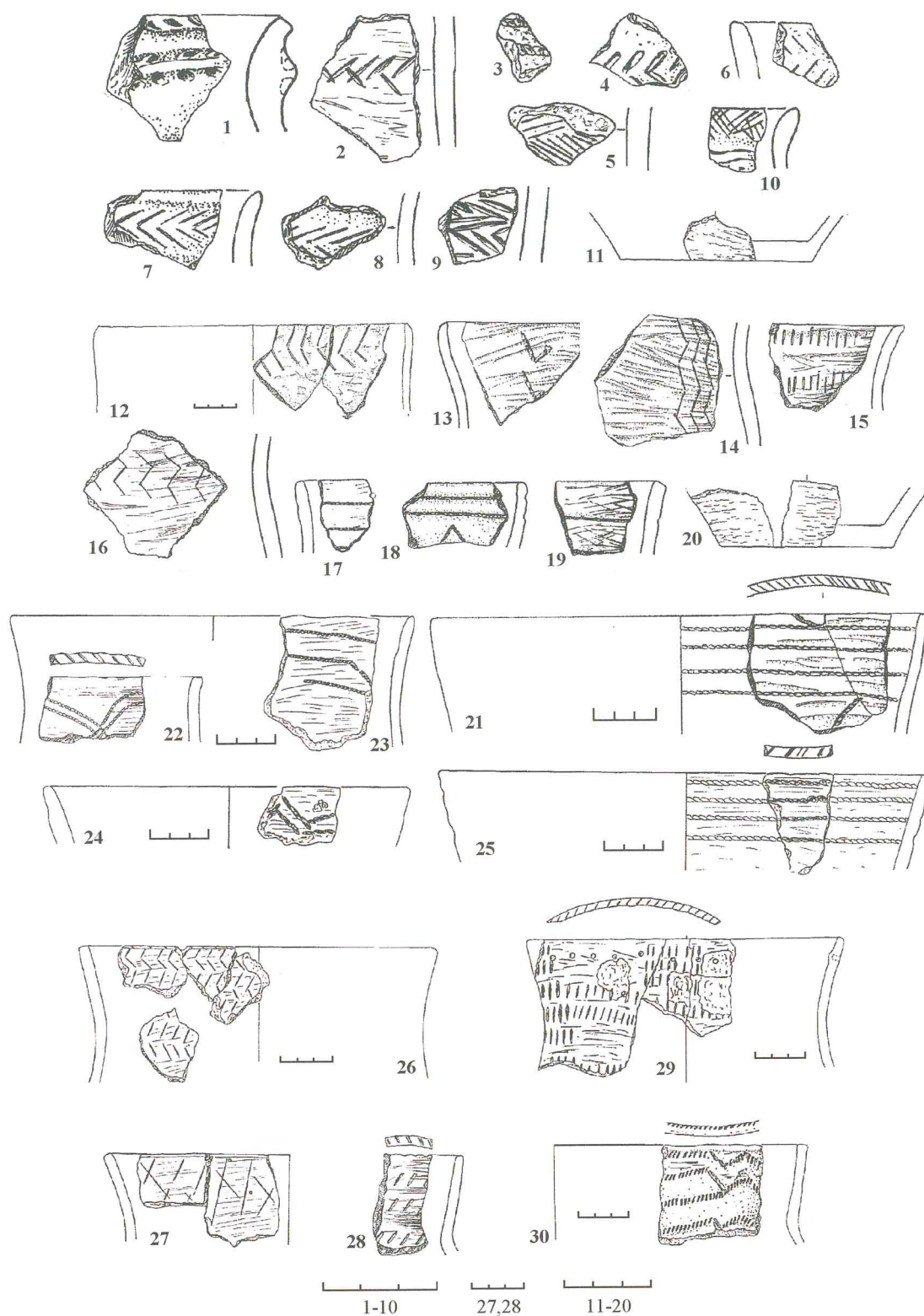


Fig. 3. Bershty-Rusakovo type ceramics: 1-5 - Bershty 2, 6 - Nacha-Plitnitsa, 7-10 - Parkhuty 2, 11-21 - Rusakovo 2, 22-28 - Dobry Bor 1, 29-30 - Podgornaya 4.

pinches, there are drilled cone-shaped holes (Fig. 2:3). Sherds with short-wave mouldings are found in the settlement Rusakovichy 7 as well (Fig. 2:1). The closest analogies to such ceramics are available among antiquities of “A-horizon” of the Corded Ware culture.

Fragments with mineral admixtures (more often with crushed stone, less often with sand) belong to ceramics of group 1 type 2 (Fig. 3; 4). The ceramics is scratched on both, surfaces less often only on one. There are vessels ideally processed, with smooth external surface. The thickness of walls is from 5 up to 10 mm, diameter of mouth – from 9 up to 30 cm. The edges are flat, roundish, cut off inside or to external side. The bottoms, with diameter from 4 up to 10 cm, are flat, sometimes with small rims. The following forms (Fig. 7:1–10) are singled out: 1) ware with S – profile; 2) ware with cone-shaped necks and edges, which are slightly turned inside; 3) ware with high cone-shaped necks; 4) ware with high cylindrical necks; 5) ware with cone-shaped necks and angular belly part; 6) ware with thickened edges, short neck that slightly turns into blowed barrel belly; 7) bowls; 8) cups.

Practically all ware are ornamentated (Fig. 4). If the ornament is absent, the vessel is completely scratched. The basic elements of ornament are corded impressions, stamps, cuttings or drawn lines, pits, finger pinches (Fig. 3). Generally, the upper part of vessels was decorated; frequently the edge of halo was decorated as well. The ornament was settled down in horizontal parallel lines, frequently they lines were doubled, tripled. The motives and compositions of “herring-bone”, zigzags, vertical, horizontal or oblique lines are wide spread.

The similar ceramics can be found in the territory of Northeast Poland and Baltic (Šventoji 1A, Šventoji 4, Abora 1, Icha, Nida, Šarnele). Most close analogies are available among materials from the settlements of Rzucewo culture of Southern and Southeast Lithuania (Margiai 1, Dubičiai 2): almost identical cut and “herring-bone” motives, corded ornamentation, usage of raised border for ornamentation (Rimantienė, 1999b, pav. 14; 1999c, pav. 12:2, 4, 6–11).

One can notice the influence of the Globular Amphorae culture (motives of such decoration as zigzags, vertical prints of rectangular stamps); the similarity with materials of Neman Neolithic culture (almost identical forms of the upper parts of vessels, presence of vessels with S-shaped and high cone-shaped necks, decoration of the top part of vessels, including edges) is observed (Fig. 1).

The ceramics of group 1, type 2 is found in 144 sites. They represent practically all left-bank and right-bank areas of Belorussian Neman river basin. The most expressive ceramic materials are found in settlements Bershty 2 (Fig. 3:1–5) and Rusakovo 2 (Fig. 3:11–21).

The ware with admixtures of chamotte (very seldom a small amount of sand or crushed stone admixture added) belong to ceramics of group 1 type 3. Surfaces are generally smooth, sometimes with traces of floating. An expressive horizontal scratching is observed only in few fragments of ware from the southern Neman river basin (Dobry Bor 1, Rusakovo 2). Thickness of walls is from 6 up to 10 mm, diameters of the upper parts of vessels are from 13 to 36 sm. Edges are generally roundish, seldom flat or slightly sharp. Vessels mass of clay contains crushed stone as well as chamotte, vessels distinguishout by their thickened roundish edges. Bottoms are flat, thick, without rims. The following forms (Fig. 7:11–13) are singled out: 1) ware with S – profile; 2) ware with thickened edges, short, turned back necks which smoothly goes into a belly; 3) tulip-like vessels.

The ceramics of group 1 type 3 was decorated with various linear and corded prints, wound cord (“caterpillar”) stamps (Fig. 5; 6). The linear ornament prevails. The ware were decorated across the whole surface – from edges to bottom. Bottoms were frequently decorated as well. Motives of horizontal herring-bone, herring-bone and zigzags, vertical and slanting linear prints were spread. Bottoms were decorated with motives of concentric circles, circles and parallel lines from rectangular stamps (Fig. 5:11, 12).

The most close analogies to such ceramics are among materials of Pripyats variant of the Middle

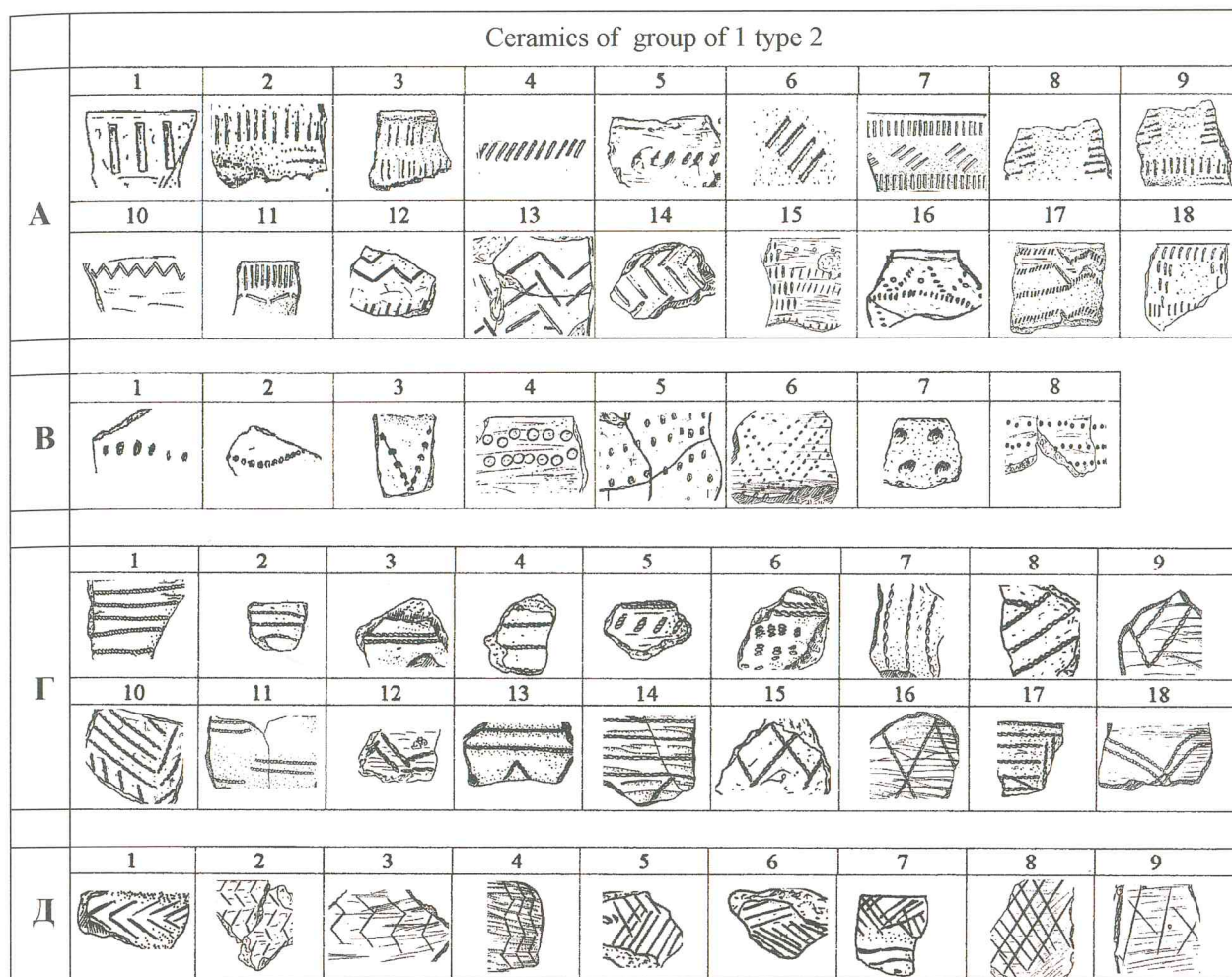


Fig. 4. Motifs and elements of decoration of Bershty–Rusakovo type ceramics (group 1 type 2).

Dnieper culture, in particular in the sites Staryie Yurkovichy 1 and Ozernoye 1. Practically identical technology (usage of chamotte, scratching of surfaces), distribution of ware with S – profile, and thickened edges, short neck, identical decoration is observed (Крывальцэвіч 1999, с. 8–12). The features that can be connected with traditions of the Globular Amphorae and Neman Neolithic cultures are also observed.

The ceramics of group 1 type 3 is found in 15 settlements (Fig. 5:A). All of them are from the headwaters of Neman and Shchara and belong to the territory of the southeast Neman river basin. The most significant ceramic material of this type is found in the settlement Podgornaya 4 (Лакіза, 2003) (Fig. 5).

It is impossible to exclude from consideration flint and stone implements of work, even in view of difficulties in their exact cultural – chronological identification. It speaks that ways and methods of processing of flint products and their basic types for a long time practically were not exposed to changes; and almost all settlements in the territory of the Neman river basin were multicultural. However, some technological features of implements, their typology – analysis, presence of materials from closed complexes, allow us to consider a part of flint axes, scrapers, crescent knives, and especially triangular arrowhead tips to be “corded” materials. Shaft-hole axes are also a significant category of finds. In result of their classification, 6 basic types (types A, 1, 2, 3,

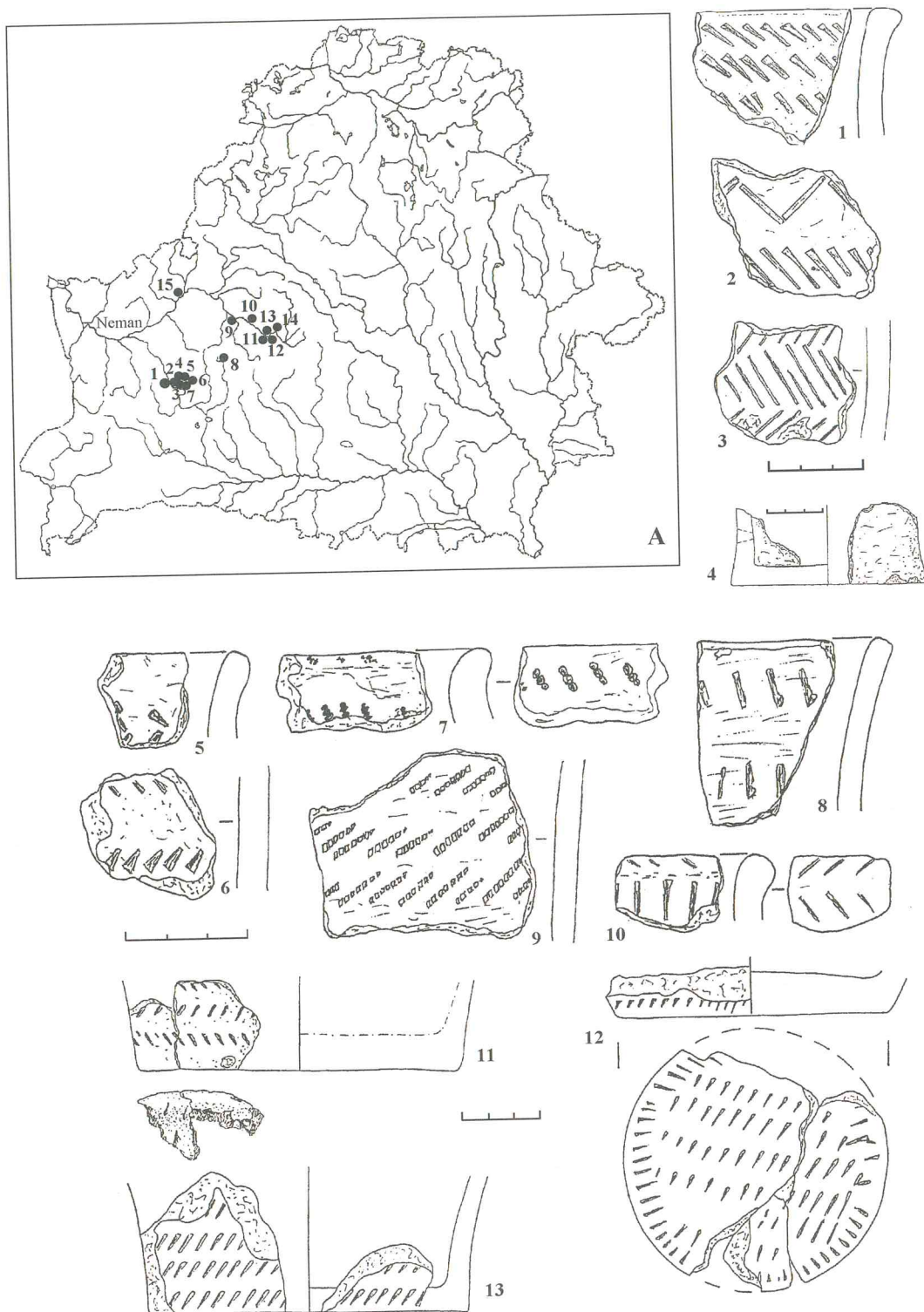


Fig. 5. A – Disposition map of Podgornaya – type settlements (1 – Rusakovo 2, 2 – Dobry Bor 1, 3 – Dobry Bor 2, 4 – Dobry Bor 3, 5 – Podgornaya 3, 6 – Podgornaya 3a, 7 – Podgornaya 4, 8 – Stary'e Voikovichy 1, 9 – Eremichy 3, 10 – Lysaya Gora, 11 – Rusakovichy 1, 12 – Rusakovichy 7, 13 – Rusakovichy 9, 14 – Kutets, 15 – Dokudovo 5. 1–13 – ceramics of group 1 type 3 from the settlement Podgornaya 4.

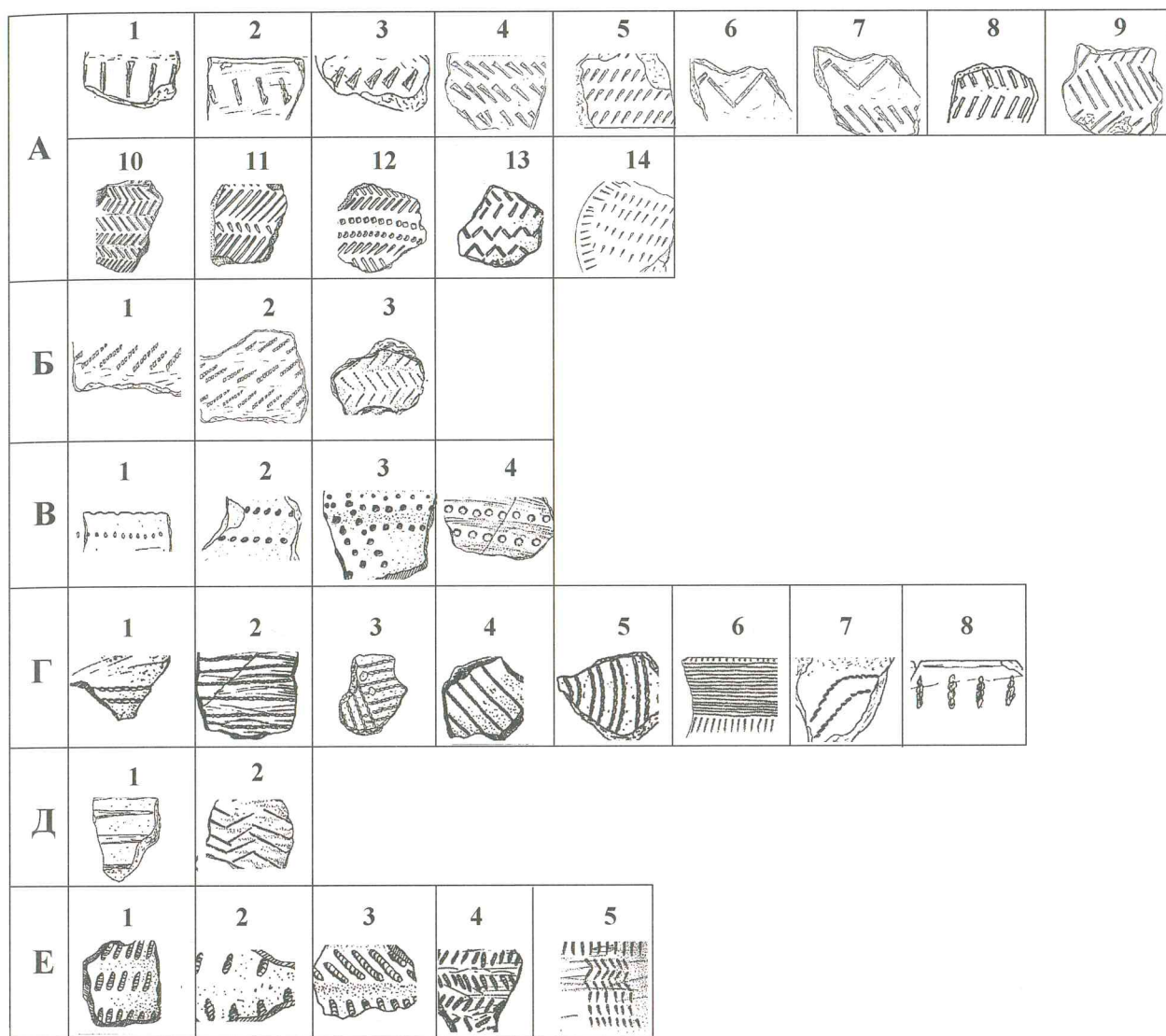


Fig 6. Motifs and elements of decoration of Podgornaya group ceramics (group 1 type 3).

4, 5) (Fig. 8) are determined. Their spread on the Neman river basin can be connected to "A-horizon" of the Corded Ware culture, the earliest axes of the type A testify to this fact. The other types are widely known among antiquities of the Circle of Corded Ware cultures of the second half of III millennium to the beginning of II millennium BC.

Thus, the most determining force for cultural identification of "corded" materials is allocated to ceramics, and to a lesser extent to flint and stone implements. Moreover, in the process of dating of

these materials nowadays, we can use 17 radiocarbon dates, including new: Podgornaya 4 – 4270±40 BP (Poz-1731) (Józwiak 2003, p. 164), Parhuty 1 – 3965±40 BP (Ki-6212) (Lakiza, 1999, p. 19–29; Чебрешук, Шмит, 2003), Rusakovichy 7 – 3830±190 BP (Ki-9279), Podgornaya 4 – 3504±70 BP (IGSB-734) (Лакіза, 2003, с. 54). The search of analogies, comparison of ceramics of group 1 (types 1, 2, 3) and its accompanying artefacts with materials of archaeological cultures of Central and Eastern Europe, their dating have shown the impossibility of further

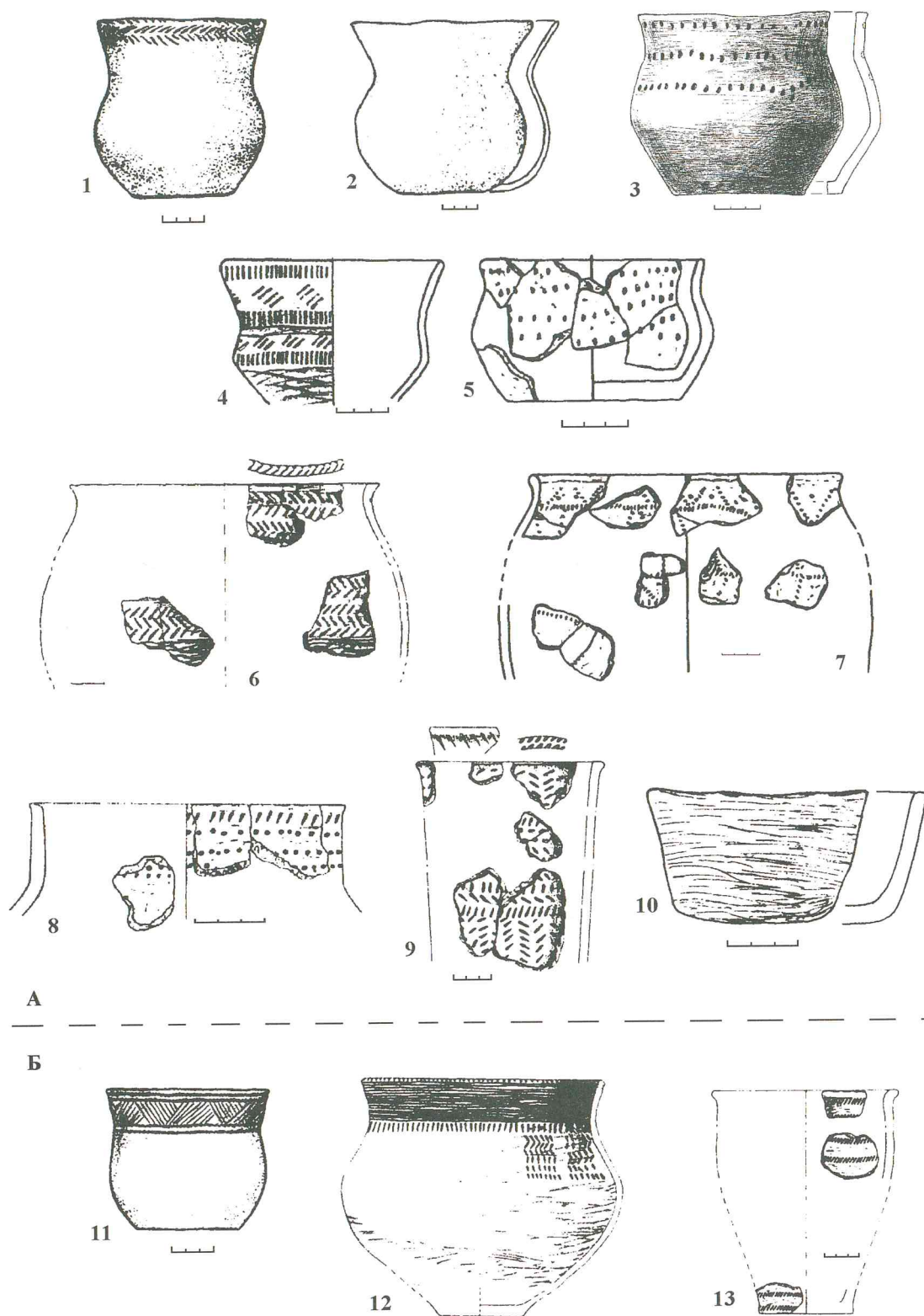


Fig. 7. Basic patterns of ceramics: A – Bershty–Rusokovo type, A – Podgornaya type. 1 – Krasnoselsk flint mine, 2 – Parkhuty 1, 3, 5, 7, 10 – Dokudovo 5, 4 – Dobry Bor 1, 6, 13 – Lysaya Gora, 8, 9 – Rusakovichy 9, 11, 12 – Rusakovo 2.

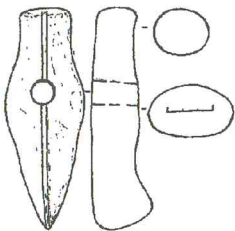
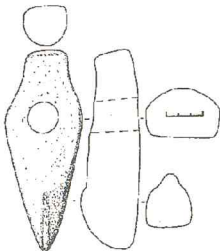
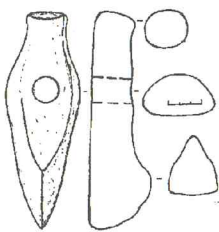
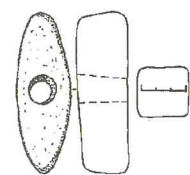
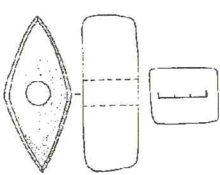
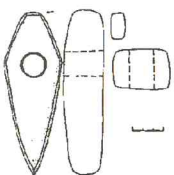
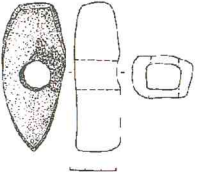
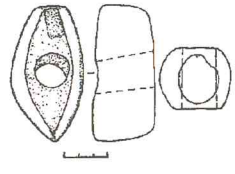
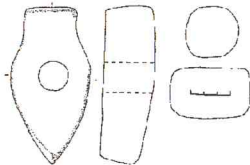
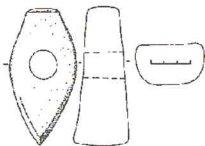
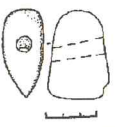
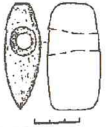
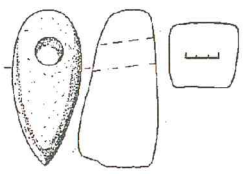
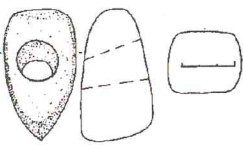
	Stone shaft-hole axes		
	a	б	в
type A			
type 1			
type 2			
type 3			
type 4			
type 5			

Fig. 8. Stone shaft-hole axes typology.

studying the ceramics of group 1 from Belorussian Neman river basin within the framework of one culture or its variant. It is necessary when using of the term “sites with corded ware of the Neman river basin” to distinguish: 1) group of sites of Bershty–Rusakovo type; 2) Podgornaya group of sites with features of the Middle Dnieper culture.

144 sites met not only in western, northwestern but also in southwestern areas of the Neman river basin are included in to the **group of sites of Bershty–Rusakovo type**. This group was named after two settlements on which excavations were carried out and where the most expressive material was found. These settlements are Bershty 2 (Kotra river) and Rusakovo 2 (Shchara river). Concentration of sites of Bershty–Rusakovo type is observed in the territory of North-western and Western Neman river basin. Taking into account presence of almost exact analogies in Southern Lithuania (Margiai 1), its territory can also be included in the group Bershty–Rusakovo.

Formation of group of Bershty–Rusakovo type was carried out on the basis of local Neolithic traditions (Dobre Bor type of the Neman culture) under strong influence of alien components: “A-horizon” of the Corded Ware, Globular Amphorae, Single Grave, Rzucewo cultures from the north and north-west. We cannot exclude the participation in this process, but in later phase, of some traditions of the Middle Dnieper culture either.

These processes of cultural interaction took part on Belorussian Neman river basin ambiguously. Archeological materials demonstrate the dominating role of Neman Neolithic population in course of its Dobrobor period. Early influence of corded traditions of “A-horizon” (Lichitsy 2, Rusakovichy 7, Parhuty 1) was spread almost within the whole territory of Neman river basin, but it was not significant. Rare fragments of ceramics and presence of stone axes of type A – is the proof of the fact. Influence of Single Grave culture which was basically spread in the Central Europe was insignificant, too. Some fragments of such ceramics were found in the settlements Dobry Bor 1, Parhuty 2, Rusakovicy 9. The Globular Amphorae culture played a more significant role in

ethnocultural processes on the Neman river basin at this time. Its monuments and materials were found not only on the left-bank inflows of Neman, on its Upper part, but also on its right bank (Lokno 1, Dokudovo 5) (Fig. 1:1–10).

The strongest impact on the group Bershty–Rusakovo was made by Circumbaltic circle environment of Circle of Corded Ware culture. Various materials of a significant part of sites of the Neman river basin testify to this fact, including graves in Krasnoselskaya flint mine (Fig. 2:12, 13), graves in the settlements Parhuty 1 (Fig. 2:9–11) (Lakiza, 1999) and Dokudovo 5 (Fig. 2:7, 8), and also ceramics of group 1 type 2 (Fig. 3; 4). Judging by technological, morphological and ornamental features of ceramics, some types of flint and stone products, and also by topographical conditions of arrangement of settlements and graves, these antiquities from Belorussian Neman river basin are very closely bound up with the Pamarių (Rzucewo) culture. That’s why in a meantime, before a new material is found, we can use a wider term – the group of sites of Bershty–Rusakovo type with features of the Pamarių (Rzucewo) culture.

The group Bershty–Rusakovo is dated back to the second half of III millennium – the first quarter of II millennium BC and belongs to late Neolithic and the period of transition from Neolithic to Bronze Age.

Among **Podgornaya group of sites with features of the Middle Dnieper culture** are 15 sites (Fig. 5:A). They are concentrated in territories from the Upper Neman (Rusakovichy 1, Rusakovichy 7, Rusakovichy 9, Kutsets) up to the mouth of the Usha river (Eremichy 3), and also in the Upper Shchara (group of settlements near v. Podgornaya and v. Dobry Bor, settlement Rusakovo 2) in the territory of Southeastern Neman river basin. The most significant materials (generally ceramics of group 1 type 3) (Fig. 5; 6), almost exact analogies which are available among antiquities of the Middle Dnieper culture, are found in the course of research of the settlement Podgornaya 4 on the right bank of Shchara (Fig. 5). Therefore, for the given group the name – Podgornaya group of sites is also accepted.

It was formed on the basis of local Neolithic traditions (the latest, remnant, of Neman Neolithic culture) and groups of sites of Bershty–Rusakovo type, at participation of antiquities of the Polesye Corded Ware culture (group) and under strongest influence of the Pripyats variant of the Middle Dnieper culture.

Search of analogies and comparison of "corded" materials with sites of Podgornaya group (for example, flint ground axes of type 3, stone shaft-hole axes of type 2, ceramics of group of 1 type 3) demonstrated their greatest similarity to antiquities of Pripyats variant of the Middle Dnieper culture. However, presence of differences in manufacture of ceramics, in some types of flint and stone products, and also difference in local Neolithic cultures within the environment where the named antiquities in the Neman river basin and Northern Polesye were formed, gives us the basis for singling out of Podgornaya group of sites (to which the grave in settlement Rusakovo 2 also belongs to) (Fig. 2:5, 6).

The Podgornaya group is dated back to the period from the end of the first quarter till the beginning of the third quarter of II millennium BC. The outlined chronological frameworks of antiquities of this group determine also the beginning of Bronze Age on Belorussian Neman river basin – the end of the first quarter of II millennium BC.

Translated by Marina Lakiza

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VIRVELINĖS KERAMIKOS KULTŪROS PALIKIMO IDENTIFIKAVIMAS BALTAUSIJOS PANEMUNIUIOSE

Vadim L. Lakiza

Santrauka

Baltarusijos panemunių archeologiniai tyrinėjimai prasidėjo XIX amžiuje. Nuo to laiko buvo atrasta šimtai įvairiausių archeologijos paminklų, ištirta dešimtys akmens, žalvario ir geležies amžių stovyklaviečių ir gyvenviečių, parašyta nemaža straipsnių ir monografijų. Tačiau ilgą laiką Virvelinės keramikos kultūros palikimas n buvo specialiai tyrinėjamas.

Straipsnyje naudojamas terminas „virvelinių kultūrų ratas“, autoriaus nuomone, įgalina geriausiai atsiskleisti procesams, vykusiems Panemuniuose pereinamoju laikotarpiu iš neolito į žalvario amžių ir ankstyvajame žalvario amžiuje (nuo Virvelinės keramikos kultūros tradicijų, siejamų su „A-horizontu“, pasirodymo iki Tščineco kultūros paplitimo).

Šiuo metu tyrinėtojai gali remtis didele šaltinių baze iš Baltarusijos Panemunių. Ją sudaro 159 gyvenvietės, 5 pavieniai palaidojimai ir daugiau nei 400 pavienių akmeninių, titnaginių bei kaulinių dirbinių (Lakiza, 2004).

Išanalizavęs, suklasifikavęs ir susisteminęs visą

keramikos radinių kompleksą, anksčiau sietą su ankstyvuju žalvario amžiumi, autorius sukūrė keramikos klasifikacijos schemą, kurioje buvo atskirtos dvi grupės su keliais išskirtais tipais grupių viduje (Lakiza, 2001; 2004). Pirmosios grupės keramika siejama su Virvelinės keramikos kultūra. Puodų molio masė dažniausiai buvo liesinama smėliu, grūstu granitu, šamotu. Indų paviršiai buvo gerai išlyginami ir pastebimai brūkšniuojami viduje, išorėje arba abėjuose paviršiuose. Pirmosios grupės indai išsiskiria savo įvairumu. Aiškiai išskirtinos 8 pagrindinės formos, 14 pakraštėlių tipų, 9 ornamentikos elementų tipai (3 pav.).

Pirmos grupės 1 tipo keramikos fragmentai buvo aptikti tik 3 gyvenvietėse – Ličičių 2, Parchutų 2 ir Rusakovičių 7 (2:A pav.). Pačios artimiausios analogijos tokiai keramikai randamos Virvelinės keramikos kultūros „A horizonte“. Pirmos grupės 2 tipo keramika aptikta 144 gyvenvietėse, beveik visuose Baltarusijos Panemunių rajonuose, tiek kairiajame, tiek ir dešiniajame krantuose. Išraiškiausiai keramikos kompleksai

buvo surinkti Berštų 2 (3:1–5 pav.) ir Rusakovo 2 (3:11–21 pav.) gyvenvietėse. Pirmosios grupės 3 tipo keramika, kurios molio masė liesinta šamotu, buvo aptikta 15 gyvenviečių. Visos jos yra pietrytinėje panemunių dalyje, Nemuno ir Ščiaros aukštupiuose. Ryškiausias šio tipo keramikos kompleksas buvo surinktas Podgornajos 4 gyvenvietėje (Jlakiza, 2003) (5:1–13 pav.).

Svarbi radinių grupė yra akmeniniai kirveliai. Juos klasifikuojant buvo išskirti 6 pagrindiniai tipai (A, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (8 pav.). Kad jų paplitimas sietinas su Virvelinės keramikos kultūros „A horizontu“, patvirtina ankstyviausi A tipo kirveliai. Kiti kirvelių tipai buvo plačiai paplitę Virvelinės keramikos kultūrose nuo 3 tūkst. pr. Kr. 2-osios pusės iki 2 tūkst. pr. Kr. pradžios.

Ateityje vartojant terminą „Baltarusijos Panemunių Virvelinės keramikos paminklai“ autorius siūlo išskirti 1) Berštų ir Rusakovo paminklų grupę, 2) Podgornajos paminklų grupę, turinčią Vidurio Dnepro kultūros bruožų.

Berštų ir Rusakovo paminklų grupė (144 gyvenvietės). Grupė taip pavadinta pagal tyrinėtą gyvenvietę, kuriose buvo surinkta išraiškingiausia medžiaga: Berštų 2 prie Katros upės ir Rusakovo 2 prie Ščiaros upės. Berštų ir Rusakovo tipo gyvenvietės koncentruojasi šiaurės vakarinėje ir vakarinėje Baltarusijos Panemunių dalyse. Kadangi Pietų Lietuvoje yra aptinkama analogiškos medžiagos, Berštų ir Rusakovo grupės teritorijai galima priskirti ir Pietų Lietuvą.

Berštų ir Rusakovo grupė susiformavo vietinių neolitinių tradicijų (neolitinės Nemuno kultūros Dobryj Boro tipas) pagrindu, joms stipriai sąveikaujant su atkeliavusiais komponentais: VKK „A horizontu“, Rutulinių amforų kultūra, Pavienių kapų kultūra, Pamarių kultūra. Neatmetama, kad kiek vėliau šiame procese dalyvavo ir Vidurio Dnepro kultūros elementai.

Berštų ir Rusakovo grupė datuojama 3 tūkst. pr. Kr. 2-ąja puse – 2 tūkst. pr. Kr. pirmuoju ketvirčiu ir priskirtina vėlyvajam neolitui bei pereinamajam laikotarpiui iš neolito į žalvario amžių.

Podgornajos paminklų grupė su Vidurio

Dniepro kultūros bruožais (15 gyvenviečių). Šios grupės gyvenvietės susikonglomeravusios Nemuno aukštupyje iki Ušos ir Gaujos upių, taip pat Ščiaros aukštupyje. Išraiškingiausia medžiaga, daugiausia 1 ir 3 tipo keramika (5 pav.), kurios beveik tikslios analogijos yra Vidurio Dnepro kultūros gyvenvietėse, buvo surinkta tyrinėjant Podgornajos 4 gyvenvietę Ščiaros dešiniajame krante.

Podgornajos paminklų grupė susiformavo vietinių vėlyvojo neolito Nemuno kultūros grupių ir Berštų ir Rusakovo grupės pagrindu, jas veikiant Polesės Virvelinės keramikos kultūrai ir stipriai veikiant Vidurio Dnepro kultūros Pripetės variantui.

Podgornajos grupė datuojama laikotarpiu nuo 2 tūkst. pr. Kr. 1 ketvirčio pabaigos iki 2 tūkst. pr. Kr. 3 ketvirčio pradžios. Šios paminklų grupės chronologinius rėmus apibrėžia žalvario amžiaus pradžia Baltarusijos Panemuniuose – 2 tūkst. pr. Kr. 1 ketvirčio pabaiga.

ILIUSTRACIJŲ SĄRAŠAS

1 pav. 1. A – Baltarusijos Panemuniai – tyrimų teritorija. Rutulinių amforų kultūros medžiaga: 1 – Cyganovkos, 2 – Ličičių 2, 3–6 – Krasnoselsko 5, 7–8 – Dokudovo 5, 9–10 – Nesilovičių 5; neolitinės Nemuno kultūros Dobryj Boro tipo gyvenvietės: 11 – Podgornajos 4, 12 – Prirečės 2; Berštų ir Rusakovo tipo gyvenvietės: 13 – Dobryj Boras 1, 14 – Lysaja Goros, 15 – Podgornaja 4.

2 pav. A – gyvenviečių su VKK „A horizontu“ medžiaga paplitimo žemėlapis (△): 1 – Ličičių 2, 2 – Parchutų 1, 3 – Rusakovičių 7; VKK rato kapinynai (●): 1 – Krasnoselsko titnago kasyklos, 2 – Rusakovo 2, 3 – Parchutų 1, 4 – Dokudovo 5; Tščineco kultūrinio rato palaidojimai (□): 1 – Matevčiukų 1, 2 – Lysaja Gora.

VKK „A horizontu“ medžiaga: 1 – Rusakovičių 7, 2, 3 – Ličičių 2, 4 – Parchutų 1. Radiniai iš palaidojimų: 5, 6 – Rusakovo 2, 7, 8 – Dokudovo 5, 9–11 – Parchutų 1, 12, 13 – Krasnoselsko titnago kasyklos.

3 pav. Berštų ir Rusakovo tipo keramika: 1–5 – Berštų 2, 6 – Nočia, Plitnicos slėnis, 7–10 – Parchutų

2, 11–21 – Rusakovo 2, 22–28 – Dobryj Boro 1, 29–30 – Podgornajos 4.

4 pav. Berštų ir Rusakovo tipo keramikos ornamentikos elementai ir motyvai (1 grupės 2 tipas).

5 pav. A – Podgornajos grupės gyvenviečių paplitimo žemėlapis: 1 – Rusakovo 2, 2 – Dobryj Boro 1, 3 – Dobryj Boro 2, 4 – Dobryj Boro 3, 5 – Podgornajos 3, 6 – Podgornajos 3?, 7 – Podgornajos 4, 8 – Staryje Voikovičių 1, 9 – Jeremičių 3, 10 – Lysaja Goros, 11 – Rusakovičių 1, 12 – Rusakovičių 7, 13 – Rusakovičių 9, 14 – Kuteco, 15 – Dokudovo

5. 1–13 – 1 grupės 3 tipo keramika iš Podgornajos 4 gyvenvietės.

6 pav. Podgornajos grupės keramikos ornamentikos motyvai ir elementai (1 grupės 3 tipas).

7 pav. Pagrindinės keramikos formos: A – Berštų ir Rusakovo tipas, A – Podgornajos tipas. 1 – Krasnoselsko titnago kasyklos, 2 – Parchutų 1, 3, 5, 7, 10 – Dokudovo 5, 4 – Dobryj Boro 1, 6, 13 – Lysaja Goros, 8,9 – Rusakovičių 9, 11, 12 – Rusakovo 2.

8 pav. Akmeninių pentinių kirvelių tipologija.

Iš rusų kalbos vertė Tomas Ostrauskas

Vadim Leonidovich Lakiza
Institute Of History of NAS of Belarus
220072 Minsk, Akademicheskaya str.1-309
tel. (017) 2 84 13 22, fax. (0172) 84 18 70
E-mail: lakvadim@yandex.ry