

In the footsteps of Euthydemus. Preliminary report for archaeological survey in the Baysun District (South Uzbekistan), Season 2018

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ABSTRACT

The extensive archaeological surface survey conducted by the Czech-Uzbek team in the Baysun Mountains (south Uzbekistan) that started in spring 2017 continued a year later, in April and May 2018. Its aim was to detect archaeological sites of the Hellenistic period, as well as to verify the dating and interpretation of already known settlements in the given district and thus to extend and refine the archaeological map of Southern Uzbekistan. This report brings basic overview of the thus gained archaeological data.

KEYWORDS

Baysun Mountains; Darband Wall; surface survey; Bactria; Hellenistic period.

INTRODUCTION

Resuming the effort of the spring field season 2017, the Czech-Uzbek archaeological team continued in April and May 2018 the extensive surface surveys in the surroundings of the village of Darband, Baysun District, south Uzbekistan. Our approach was based on the field walking methods developed in the seasons of 2014–2016 during the survey in the Pashkhurt Valley of the same province (STANČO *et al.* 2015; STANČO 2016). Apart from the systematic survey of selected micro regions – typically small oases in the local river valleys – we also targeted several sites that were already known to archaeologists (e.g. Munchak Tepa(s) in Kofrun, Kapchigay in Darband), some of them even partly (Payon Kurgan) or fully (Kurganzol) excavated in the recent past, if the data on them had been insufficient for proper historical evaluation. The principal goal of the whole two-years-long project was to verify some of the hypotheses of various scholars concerning the exact route of Alexander the Great's army during his Central Asian campaign, and places of related events according to written accounts, as well as to reveal as much as chrono-spatial data on the Hellenistic (or Seleucid and Greco-Bactrian) period in the study region, as possible. Doing so, however, our team documented every archaeological site or anthropogenic feature that we came across without discrimination. This report aims to present an overview of the gained data complemented with only very preliminary historical interpretations.



Fig. 1: Landscape in the foothills of Baysun Tau, mountain of Ketman Chaptý on the left.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

As in the previous field season, our research objectives stemmed from the principal aim of two-year project 'On the Oxyartes' Mountain: detection of forts and refuges of the Alexander the Great period.' Again, we focused on verification of hypotheses of reputable scholars concerning identification of specific geographic features in the Baysun District and its closest neighbourhood as places where particular historical events connected with Alexander the Great's campaign took place. Unlike in the season 2017, we decided to visit more of foothill valley oases and to survey them in a more systematic way. During the extensive survey, all surface pottery was collected, GPS localised, and further analysed, topographic anomalies were documented, and in selected places/areas the metal detector survey was applied on erosive slopes of the presumed archaeological sites. The pottery processing, carried out by Anna Augustinová and Ladislav Damašek, was supervised by Shapulat Shaydullaev. The metal detector survey including further documentation of the finds was entrusted to Tomáš Bek. The metal finds were conserved later during the autumn field season by Matěj Kmošek (Archaeological Institute, Brno), who performed also composition analysis of selected objects. The numerous coin finds were preliminarily identified by Ladislav Stančo (Hellenistic coins) and are further studied and will be published by Jiří Militký (Hellenistic coins) and Vlastimil Novák (Post-Hellenistic coins), both of National Museum, Prague.

It should be kept in mind that the archaeological material presented in this report represents only an illustrative selection of the gained assemblage (of both ceramics and metal objects), the majority of which will be published in the final report of the archaeological works in the Baysun District. Coins are planned to be published in a separate article.

RESEARCH AREA

The research area we focused on, being itself situated generally in the Baysun District of the Surkhan Darya province, was in its geographical extent basically the same in this second season as in the previous one (see **Pl. 5/1**).¹ Unlike in 2017, though, we turned our attention towards the foothill steppe landscape and mountain valleys rather than to their summits and higher plateaus that were studied with rather negative results previously. We stuck with the distribution and numbering of the Survey Areas as it was already established in 2017:²

1. Sarymas
2. Machay Darya valley
3. Susiztag
4. Alamli
5. Darband village
6. Sairob – Rabat Steppe Zone.

The last one could have been further split into the right bank zone of the Sherabad Darya and its left bank, along with the river valley itself, but we decided to keep this topographically homogenous piedmont steppe zone as a whole from Sairob in the west to the villages of Pulkhakim and Pudina in the east. To these we newly added other relevant micro-regions:

7. Akrobat – Kapkagli Auzy (Dekhkanabad District, Kashka Darya Province)
8. Kichik Ura Darya (vicinity of the Bilibaily Village, Dekhkanabad District, Kashka Darya Province).
9. Panjob Valley

In an attempt to verify some of the previous dating, we also visited selected sites outside the above defined geographic region (i.e. Kyz Kurgan Mountain close to the village of Sina, Shurchi; several sites around the town of Sherabad; all Surkhan Darya Province). Thus, our research touched to various degree the territories of the villages of Akrobat, Bilibayli, Chashma-e Miran, Chilonzor, Daganajam, Darband, Dashtigaz, Inkabod, Khatak, Khoja Bulgan, Khoja Dayyak, Kofrun, Loylagan, Machay, Podang, Pudina, Pul'khakim, Panjob, Rabat, Sairob, Sina, Sherabad, and Toda.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

As the previous research was discussed in detail in the first report of this project (Stančo *et al.* 2018, 136–138), we limit ourselves here only to some necessary addenda, omissions, and clarifications. Resuming the long tradition of the Palaeolithic and Neolithic research in southern Uzbekistan, in 2015 the Japanese-Uzbekistani team started excavations of a rock-shelter at the north-eastern foot of Sarymas(k) mountain (accessible through a narrow gorge from the Machay Darya ravine) at the site of Kainar Kamar, and at the same time conducted surface survey of the vicinity of Machay Village targeting predominantly caves and rock-shelters

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- 1 All maps in the report are prepared by L. Stančo, pottery was drawn by L. Damašek and A. Augustinová, metallic finds were documented by M. Kmošek. Photographs were taken by L. Stančo unless otherwise stated.
 - 2 The division into these sub-regions may seem arbitrary, but it is based on specific topography of the individual zones that might have some implications for the density and function of their settlements. This assumption was to be verified by the gained data.

including the famous Teshik Tash, Amir Temur Cave, and Machay Cave. The investigators concluded that these are no longer suitable for further research (NISHIAKI *et al.* 2018). One more archaeological excavation was not mentioned in our last report, in this case that of Bury Kabir underground system dated to High Middle Ages. The site is situated not far from the junction of the roads leading from Sherabad and Darband to Baysun and was studied by the Baysun Expedition (MOKROBORODOV 2007). Viktor Mokroborodov excavated briefly also one of the Munchak Tepas in Kofrun village, but the results of these digs were so far presented only preliminarily at a conference and not fully published (MOKROBORODOV s.d.).

Some additional comments deserve also the investigation of Uzundara fortress. It was shortly investigated by Rtveladze in 1991 and dated first to the Kushan period (RTVELADZE 2002, 103–104). It was already Rakhmanov and Rapin, who in 1997 recognized – based on the surface pottery finds – that this fortress having 13 defensive towers does not belong to the Kushan period, as previously thought, but predominantly to the Hellenistic period (RAKHMANOV – RAPIN 1998, 30). Regular intensive excavations of the Russian-Uzbekistani team lead by N. Dvurechenskaya (RAS, Moscow) started at Uzundara in 2013 and continues regularly till this day revealing every year numerous remarkable finds and contexts (RTVELADZE – DVURECHENSKAYA 2015; DVURECHENSKAYA 2015; 2018; DVURECHENSKAYA *et al.* 2016).

The key site for understanding the presumed defensive system of Bactria – Sogdiana borderlands is the Darband Wall. It was discovered originally by Parfyonov in 1930 (RAKHMANOV – RAPIN 1998, 5) and then again ‘re-discovered’ by Rtveladze as presumably a Kushan structure in 1986 (RTVELADZE 1986). In 1996–2001, Rakhmanov and Rapin – in charge of Darband archaeological team (Darbandskiy arkheologicheskii otryad) – opened several trenches (sections of the wall and excavations of towers) to find out that the massive fortification had been founded in the Greco-Bactrian period, only to be later repeatedly reinforced by the Kushans (RAKHMANOV – RAPIN 2003; RAPIN *et al.* 2006). During this process, members of the team surveyed selectively also various sites and places in the neighbourhood of Darband, but also more remote ones, such as Kapkagli Auzy near Akrabad and Kyz Kurgan in the vicinity of Sina (Shurchi region) (RAPIN 2013, 71, 75).

SURVEY RESULTS

In the following we provide a brief description of the principal investigated sites, both already known and newly uncovered, sorted according to the survey areas defined above.

SURVEY AREA 1: SARYMAS

The only activity in this part of the region was continuation of the metal detector survey (conducted by T. Bek on April 21) of the foot path leading from the village of Darband up to the plateau of Sarymas (see **Pl. 5/2**) that was started in 2017 by T. Smělý (STANČO *et al.* 2018, 140). This second survey focused on the middle part of the ascent and allowed us to broaden the dating of the active use of the path back to the Late Antiquity, since a few coins belonging to the Kushan-Sasanian period have been detected.

SURVEY AREA 2: MACHAY DARYA VALLEY

Resuming our last year survey in this area (**Pl. 5/3**), we re-visited Machay Kurgan, the only site in the Machay valley dated to the early Antiquity, collected more surface pottery and employed

also metal detector survey on the eroded slopes of the hill. Previous dating of the material to the Hellenistic period has been confirmed by a larger body of finds; the same goes for the dating to the High Medieval period. Finds of metal ingots, moreover, suggest that the metal processing most likely took place at this site. We also visited sites reported by local people as 'ancient', situated to the north of the valley, but there was only an old (albeit Pre-Modern) cemetery to be seen. Finally, we walked the valley leading from the west end of the Machay village northward toward the village of Khoja Daryak with only a few scattered ceramic fragments found on the way, but with two sites detected in the latter village itself. Among the material, Medieval, as well as Achaemenid pottery has been preliminarily recognized. We are cautious with a definite dating of the supposedly Achaemenid ceramics since the material differs slightly from what we know from the Sherabad and Surkhan Darya lowlands.

SURVEY AREA 3: SUSIZTAG

Since the summit of Susiztag ridge was to a certain degree surveyed by our team in the last season, we focused now in three brief walks on the foot-paths allowing for reaching the summit from various points at its eastern foothills (**Pl. 5/4**). Our aim here was to detect any structures in order to verify the assumption of N. Dvurechenskaya and her team about a complex fortification system on this mountain ridge stretching from Darband down to Amu Darya (DVURECHENSKAYA 2018, 18). We took gradually three various ways up the eastern slope of the mountain: first directly westward from the village of Sairob, more precisely from the site of Kala-e Hissor on the northern margin of the village; the second ascent started from southernmost periphery of the same village, while the third was situated north of Sairob. As the massive stone walls were reported here by the Russian team (DVURECHENSKAYA 2018, 18), we examined one of these very carefully searching for pottery and metal objects with unfortunately only negative results. We were not able to discover any archaeological material. This fact, along with the condition of the wall itself, which lacks any fill of soil between the stones caused by aeolic redeposition as is so typical of old structures, leads us to certain circumspection about the dating of the walls to the Hellenistic period and its functional connection to the Uzundara fortress itself (DVURECHENSKAYA 2018, 18) unless any relevant archaeological material is published.

Both of the ascents in the direct vicinity of Sairob brought negative results: neither structures nor archaeological material has been discovered there.

SURVEY AREA 4: ALAMLI

No new survey was conducted in this area in 2018, we have to correct, however, wrong description and dating of the pottery assemblage published in our previous survey report. The material in Fig. 11 was labelled as 'Kushan pottery of AL_004, Munchak Tepa' by mistake (STANČO *et al.* 2018, 149, fig. 11). In fact, the pottery belongs to the High Medieval Period.

SURVEY AREA 5: DARBAND

In the Darband village itself, where also our base was situated, we limited our works to verifications of the data published quite recently on the sites of Kapchigay and Sultan Kul' (SVERCHKOV 2005, 13-14).

The former one - Kapchigay - is situated on a small hillock in the northern part of the village just ca. 250-300 m south-east of the entrance to the Machay Darya ravine (**Fig. 2; Pl. 5/2**).

Activity no.	Description of the itinerary / activity	Finds / Sites found	Date (2018)
1	Surroundings of Sherabad , selective survey of already known sites no. 039 ³ , 017 (Shish Tapa), and 026 (Yalangoyokota Tapa). Surface pottery collected, metal detector survey on the slopes of the sites.	Pottery; metal objects	20 April
2	From Darband along the footpath up to / down from Sari-mask; surveyed by metal detector	Small metal objects	21 April
3	East of the northern end of the Daganajam Village to the road linking Baysun and Sairob; 7 km walking	Negative results. Remains of old stone-build path along the river bank	21 April
4	From the northern end of Sairob westwards up to / down from Susiztag by steep path; 6.1 km (up to 1760 m.a.s.l.)	Negative results	21 April
5	Surroundings of Kurganzol ; metal detector survey	Coins, arrow heads	22 April
6	Kofrun – individual sites Mazarat Tapa, Munchak Tapa 1, Munchak Tapa 2; by car		22 April
7	Kofrun – Munchak Tapa 2, Kul´ Tapa; surface survey + metal detector survey; Karaul Tapa (outside the village to the southwest); by car	Hellenistic pottery found at Munchak Tapa II; pottery and coins (Early Medieval) at Kul´ Tapa	23 April
8	Along the Darband / Sherabad Darya in the villages of Daganajam and Khoja Bulgan ; four modern cemeteries visited; by car	New Hellenistic site (Daganajam Tapa) detected; ceramics collected; otherwise negative results	24 April
9	From Darband along the footpath up to / down from Sari-mask ; surveyed by metal detector	Small metal objects and coins incl. Kushan ones	24 April
10	Sairob – Kala-e Hissar; metal detector survey of the slopes of the site	Small metal objects and coins	24 April
11	From southern end of Sairob westwards up to / down from Susiztag by steep path; 7.66 km walked (up to 2020 m.a.s.l.)	Negative results	24 April
12	Panjob Valley; surface survey + metal detector survey; by car	Newly detected site of Panjob Tapa; ceramics collected (3 rd – 4 th c. AD); rotary quern stone (square); one more site of the same period nearby, metal slag detected; medieval site west of the village	25 April
13	Surroundings of Kurganzol ; metal detector survey	arrow head	26 April
14	Inkabod, Dashtigaz, Pul´khakim, Bodina/Pudina ; surface survey, ceramics collected	Dunya Tapa in Inkabod (Medieval); other villages – negative results	26 April
15	South of Kofrun near the Eriell company base in the steppe; 2.3 km walked	Scatters of ceramics detected, no topographic features	26 April
16	Chilonzor Village – modern cemetery and its surroundings, surface survey; by car	Ceramics on the surface collected (Medieval)	27 April
17	Payon Kurgan ; surface survey, metal detector survey of the slopes	Representative assemblage of the ceramics collected; small metal objects incl. coins detected	28 April
18	Kapkgli Auzy (near Akrobat); ascent by southern foot path; surface survey of the entire southern ridge and metal detector survey / sampling; altogether ca. 18 km walked	Ceramics and small metal objects incl. coins and arrow heads detected; stone structures found (kurgans); Medieval ceramics and stone structures at Jidaily Buloq (spring)	29 April
19	Kapkgli Auzy (near Akrobat) ascent from the west; survey of the structures at Jidaily Buloq incl. metal detector survey; 8.85 km walked	Plentiful ceramics, coins (Medieval)	30 April
20	Kichik Ura Darya valley, Bilbaily Vilage; three sites surveyed: small Chashtepa and a No name tepa, and large Bilbaily Kurgan / Sapol Tapa	Ceramics, glass, and small metal objects incl. coins collected	30 April

3 The numbers were given to the sites by our team during the extensive survey of the Sherabad Oasis in 2008–2011, see STANČO – TUŠLOVÁ 2019.

Activity no.	Description of the itinerary / activity	Finds / Sites found	Date (2018)
21	Daganajam Kurgan; metal detector survey of the slopes	Small metal objects	1 May
22	Kofrun – northern part; surface survey of a few spots – Arab Tapa, Ghisht Tapa; 2.56 km walking	Negative results	1 May
23	Podang and surroundings of the hermitage of Khoja Kochkor Ota	Negative results in Podang; Ceramics (Medieval) and slag collected south of the hermitage	1 May
24	The road beyond the Khatak Vilage to the west into the mountain gorge, visual examination of the terrain, by car.	No results	2 May
25	Iskandar Tapa , metal detector survey	Small metal objects incl. coins (Demetrius) detected	2 May
26	Machay Kurgan , metal detector survey	Small metal objects incl. ingots	3 May
27	North of Machay in the mountains – two small caves and old cemetery; by car Khoja Dagyak Village	Negative results. Ceramics collected at two spots.	3 May
28	Over the pass north of Khoja Dagyak (1680 m.a.s.l.) to the village of Chashma-e Miran ; by car	Two sites surveyed – Mahmadsah and Kurgan; ceramics collected	4 May
29	Darband Wall ; surface survey and metal detector survey of the slopes	Large assemblage of ceramics collected from various parts of the surface; small metal objects incl. coins (Euthydemus, Demetrius, Soter Megas) and arrow heads detected	5 May
30	Daganajam Tapa, surface survey and metal detector survey of the slopes	Ceramics collected; small metal objects found incl. coins (Antiochus, Euthydemus, Demetrius)	5 May
31	Darband Village; surface survey of the sites of Kapchigay and Sultan Kul´	An assemblage of Hellenistic ceramics collected at Kapchigay, and remains of stone architecture?; Sultan Kul´ seems to be destroyed / completely removed	6 May
32	Darband Wall ; metal detector survey of the slopes	Small metal objects detected	6 May
33	South of Kofrun near Eriell base in the steppe; 1.9 km walked	Scatters of ceramics detected, no topographic features	7 May
34	Toda , eastern margin, site of Ak Tapa on the mountain spur	Ceramics collected (Medieval)	7 May
35	North-west of Sairob on the slope of Susiztag, massive stone walls; 9.2 km walked	Negative results	8 May
36	Sina Village, mountain of Kyz Kurgan; surface survey and metal detector survey; the wall of Kafir Kala in the village not found; 1.6 km walked	Limited number of ceramics collected, no metal finds	9 May
37	Darband – gorge; photo documentation of the old stone-build roads	No results	10 May
38	West of the Daganajam Village in the steppe	Medieval site detected, pottery assemblage collected	11 May

Tab. 1: Surface survey progress

Modern asphalt road passes through the centre of the mound dividing it into two halves, the eastern one being slightly more elevated than the western one. The entire hillock is build up with living houses, related small buildings, and mud-brick fences, which makes it difficult to study. Nonetheless, rich archaeological material has been collected from the western part of the site (max. extent of which is ca. 110×100 m), where we were allowed to survey the gardens and courtyards. The eastern part (max. ca. 150×120 m) was so far not studied. Preliminary metal-detector survey did not yield any significant material so far.



Fig. 2: The site of Kapchigay (BA5_24) covered with modern houses, Darband Village.

Due to the small-scale building activities within the gardens, occasional ceramic material was brought to the surface and scattered throughout the courtyard (**Fig. 3**). Additionally, damaged slope at the northwest edge revealed traces of stone-build architecture reaching down to the depth of ca. 2 m (**Fig. 4**). Unfortunately, only very small not build up area between the houses remains accessible for the excavations and even here some recently constructed fundamentals signal further building plans.

We searched in vain for the other published site (Sultan Kul') on the opposite bank of the Darband Darya. According to local inhabitants, the original small, but significantly elevated mound, has been removed quite recently by the plot owner during construction of a large house. Even if carefully checked, the waste earth did not contain any ceramics that would allow us for verification of the dating of this site to the Achaemenid period (SVERCHKOV 2005, 13). People living in the neighbourhood, however, speak about a distinct function of the mound: according to them, it once served as a *dudbon*, i.e. signal point, forwarding messages from the Darband Wall to Kapchigay, as they say. Where they came across such an interpretation, we do not know.

The line of the Darband Wall situated west of the village of the same name was divided to three parts: 1. Northern part, situated to the north of the modern main road (between the road and the steep slope of Sarymas); 2. Central part, to the south of the modern main road (between the road and 'old road'); 3. Southern part (to the south of the 'old road'). Surface finds were collected in correspondance with this division. Apart from the ordinary surface survey

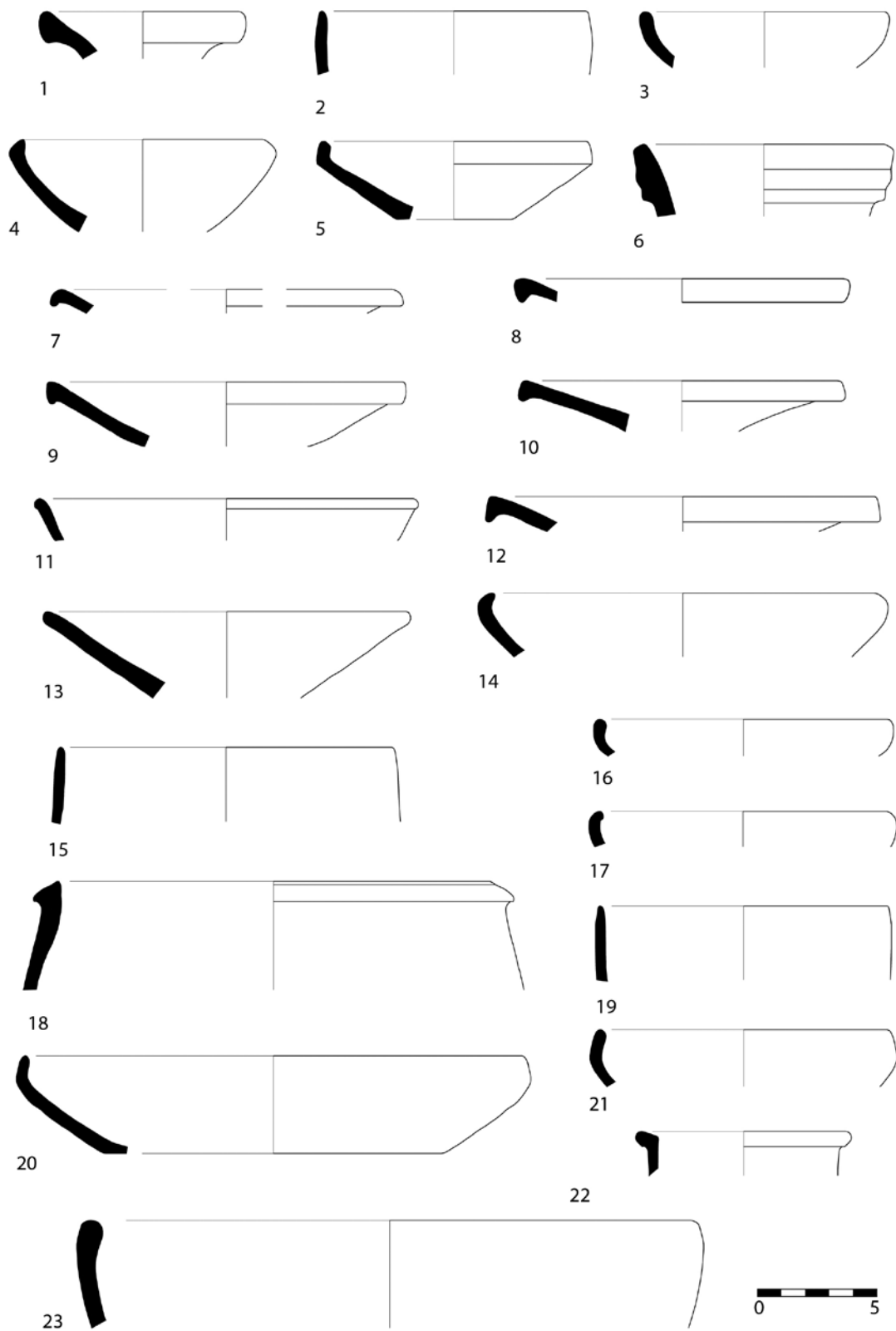


Fig. 3: Ceramic assemblage from the site of Kapchigay (BA5_24), a selection.



Fig. 4 Remains of stone-build architecture, Kapchigay (BA5_24).

that focused on the diagnostic pottery material, metal detectors were employed in order to get at least some general idea of the types and chronology of the non-ceramic material. Both the pottery collection and the metal detecting turned out to be very successful. We collected as many as 300 diagnostic pottery sherds with a prevalence of Hellenistic material (**Fig. 19**). Among the metal objects, there are several coins, mostly Hellenistic (Greco-Bactrian) ones. The results of the survey seem to support dating of the principal functioning of the Darband Wall to the Greco-Bactrian and not the Kushan period.

SURVEY AREA 6: SAIROB – RABAT STEPPE ZONE

By far the largest geographically more or less homogenous landscape unit that was subject to our survey in 2018 was the steppe zone stretching to the east and south-east from the Susiztag foothill as far as the rocky ridges of Jetym Kalyas and Takasakyr (Pl. 5/5). This unit can be further sub-divided into several distinctive areas a special position among which is held by the valley of Sherabad Darya (another name for the river called Darband Darya / Machay Darya further upstream). It can be perceived as the main south-north communication corridor leading from the Sherabad Oasis in the south to Darband and beyond to Kashka Darya.

Sub-area 6_1: Sherabad Darya Valley

As we were well aware of the riverside location of the sites of Munchak Tapa (in the village of the same name), and Kapchigay in Darband, we intended to look for other analogically sit-

uated settlements in those parts of the river valley that were suitable for artificial irrigation, which would allow for forming of a micro-oasis. We targeted the present-day micro oases of Daganajam and Khoja Bulgan, where present-day houses are typically located on the second river terrace, while the first alluvial terrace is reserved for orchards and gardens due to the danger of seasonal flooding. Several elevated places had been detected in satellite imagery as having high potential for past human occupation. All of them are situated on the right bank of the river (**Pl. 5/6**). During the field work, verifying sites between the Darband–Baysun road in the north and Baysun–Sayrob road running through Khoja Bulgan in the south, most of these mounds turned out to be of natural origin with no traces of human presence. The only exception was the site that was given the name of Daganajam (or Dakhna-e Jom) Tepa. This hillock, reportedly used as a children graveyard in the recent past, has the size of 85 m (NNW-SSE) × 44 m (NE-SW) and its elevation above the surrounding terrain level reaches 4–5 m (**Fig. 5**), its surface area is 0.35 ha, more precisely 3492 sq.m. The direct distance to Munchak Tepa in the south is 10.1 km (10.8 km using the road with descent of ca. 100 m), while to Kapchigay in the north it is 8.3 km (9.8 km using the road with altitude difference of 200 m). Altogether 35 pottery fragments were collected dated exclusively to the Hellenistic period (**Fig. 6:11–13**). Employing of the metal detector survey of the erosive slopes brought to light six Hellenistic coins (belonging to Antiochus I, Euthydemus I, and Demetrius I). Consequently, Daganajam Tepa represents a so far unknown Hellenistic rural site with unclear function. Only future research may answer the fundamental questions concerning the site's precise dating and its function within the structure of Hellenistic fortification system in the Bactria-Sogdiana borderlands. Thus, trial excavations are planned for the next research season.



Fig. 5: Daganajam Tepa (BA5_09), view from the north.

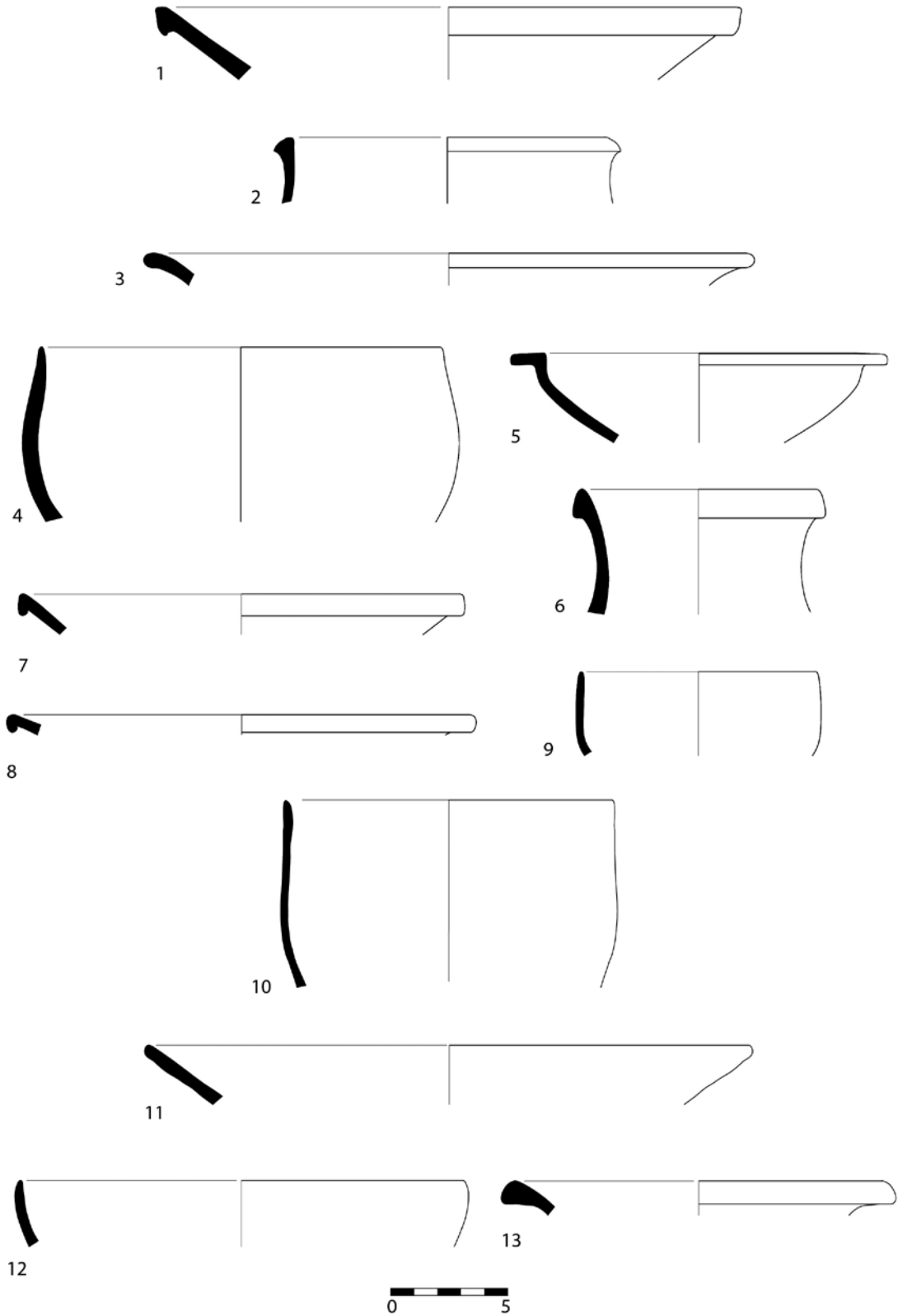


Fig. 6: Ceramic assemblage from the sites of Munchak Tepa I (BA5_6), (nos. 1, 2), Munchak Tepa II (BA5_7), (nos. 3-10), and Daganajam (BA5_9), (nos. 11-13), selection.



Fig. 7 Daran-e Darvazasi (BA5_29) in the satellite image of GoogleEarth/Digital Globe.



Fig. 8 Daran-e Darvazasi (BA5_29) from southeast.

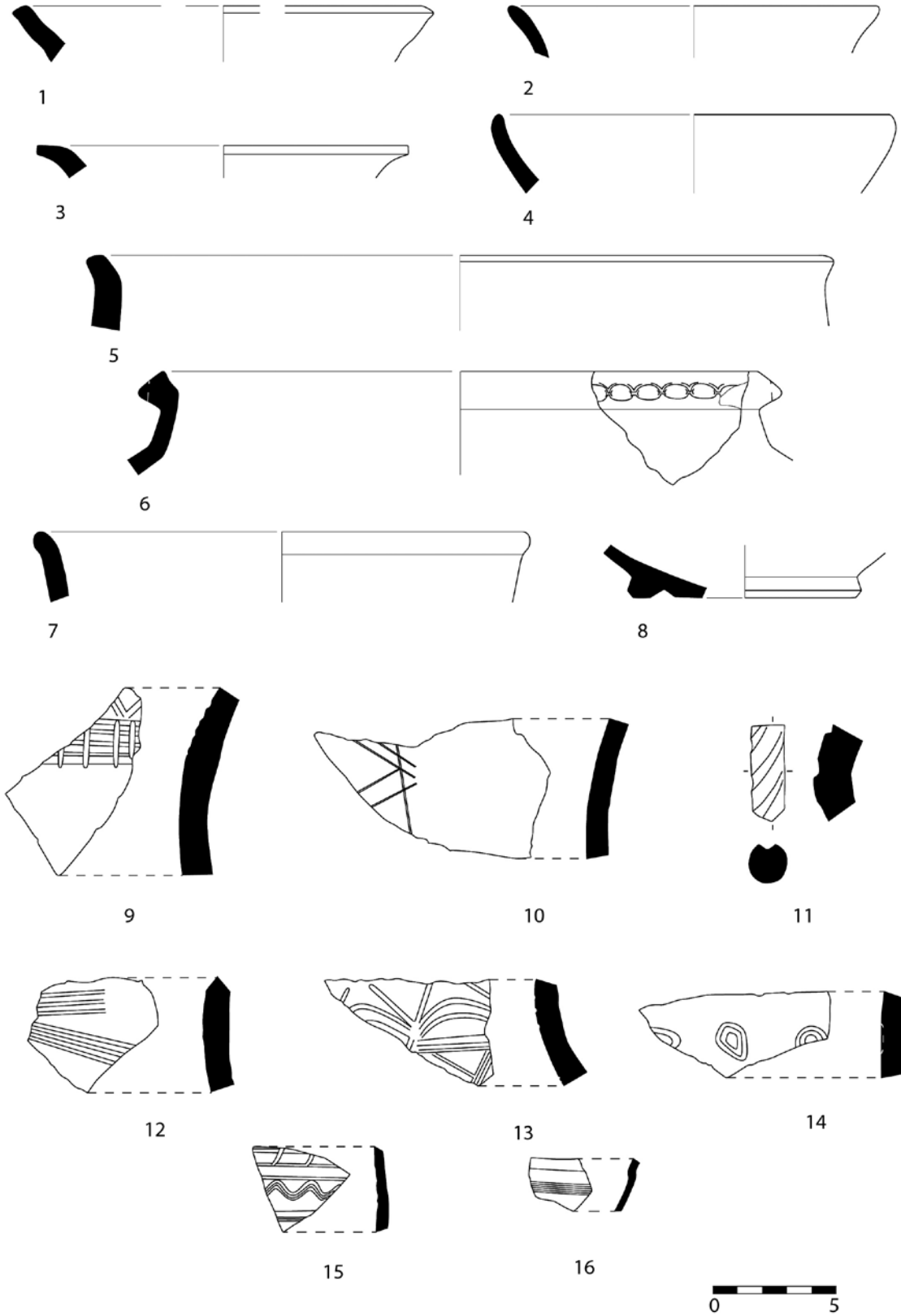


Fig. 9 Ceramic assemblage from the site of Daran-e Darvazasi (BA5_29), selection.

In the neighbourhood of Daganajam Tepa, but situated outside of the modern village itself, we were able to detect fundamentals of a rectangular structure (ca. 50×25 m) with an obvious inner disposition consisting of two parts (20×20 and 25×25 m) that are further subdivided into several rooms (**Fig. 7**). The site called by locals Daran-e Darvazasi is situated almost 800 m from the river of Sherabad Darya at the passage through rocky ridges (**Fig. 8**). Several rounded pits around the structure may indicate the existence of an old *karez* (i.e. subsurface water-bringing) system. All 21 diagnostic fragments of pottery that were collected from the surface of the site are dated to the High and Late Medieval periods (**Fig. 9**).

In addition to the newly detected sites in the Sherabad Darya river valley, our team surveyed also the so-called Kala-e Hissor in present day village of Sairob. The flat summit of the 25 m high natural hillock situated in the north-western outskirts of the village is ca. 100 m long (N-S) and 30 m wide (E-W) (**Fig. 10**). Even if far from the river (Sherabad Darya runs at least 5 km to the east from here), the site controls a rich water source located in the very centre of the Sairob Village, presently - in form of a fish pond - perceived as a holy place and located next to centuries old plane trees. Satellite imagery clearly shows a rich vegetation cover around the water spring and further to the east as far as Sherabad Darya. Just west of the Kala-e Hissor site starts one of the ascent footpaths leading up the Susiztag ridge (see above *Survey Area 3. Susiztag*). All 30 pottery fragments collected from the site, including also some glazed ware, dates to the High Medieval period - more precisely to the last Pre-Mongol phase (**Fig. 11**). The dating is also corroborated by the earlier published one (SVERCHKOV 2005, 14). Our metal detector survey helped us to detect five Medieval coins and 25 other metal tools and implements, such as arrow heads, jingle bells, ingots, and belt fittings) belonging to the Medieval period (**Fig. 12**). All these objects along with the rest of the 286 metal artefacts found by the Czech-Uzbek team in both Spring and Autumn of 2018 will be published in an analytic catalogue in the near future.



Fig. 10: Site of Kala-e Hissor in Sairob (BA5_01).

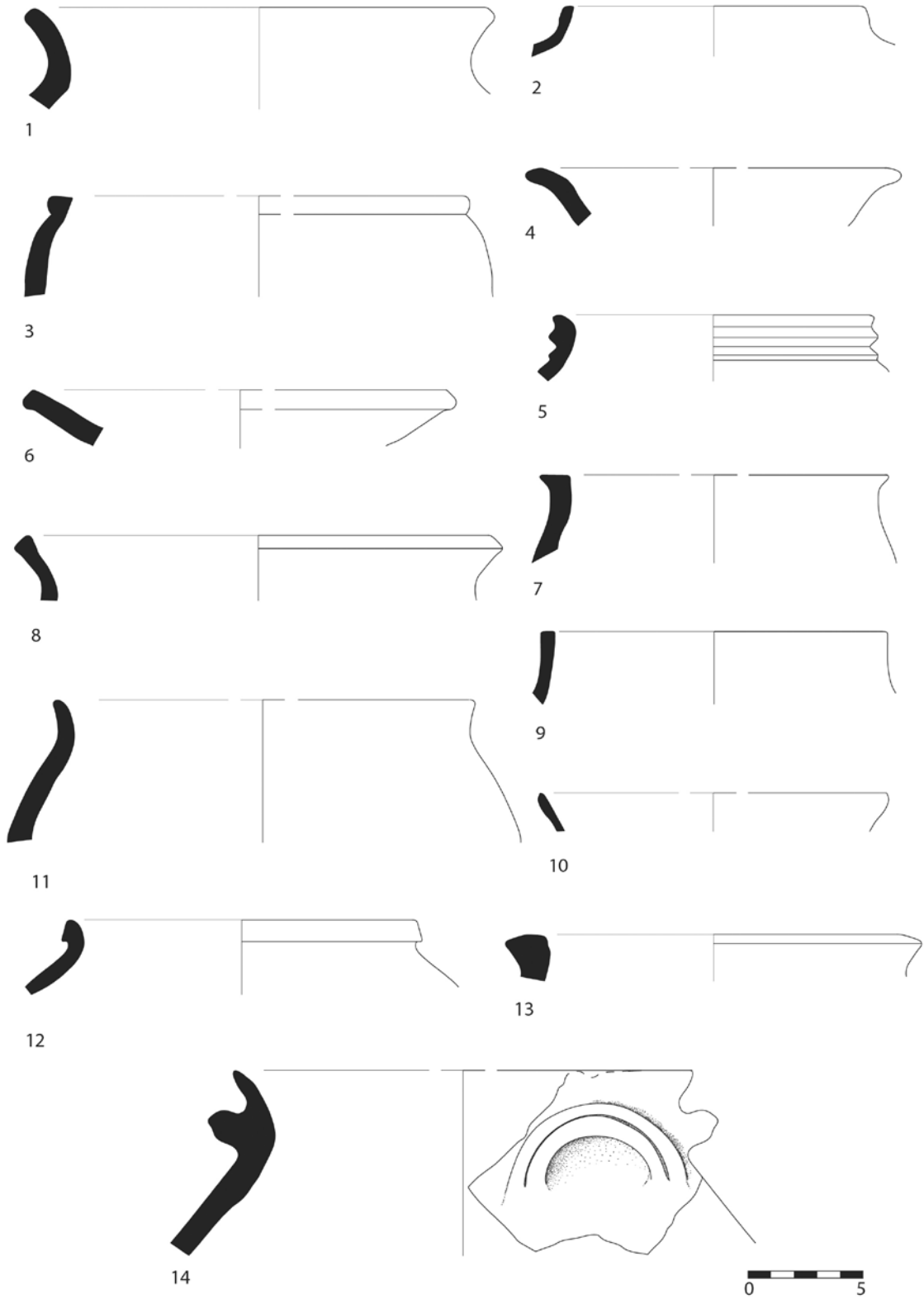


Fig. 11: Pottery assemblage of the High Medieval period from the site of Kala-e Hissor in Sairob (BA5_01).

Sairob - Kala-e Hissor

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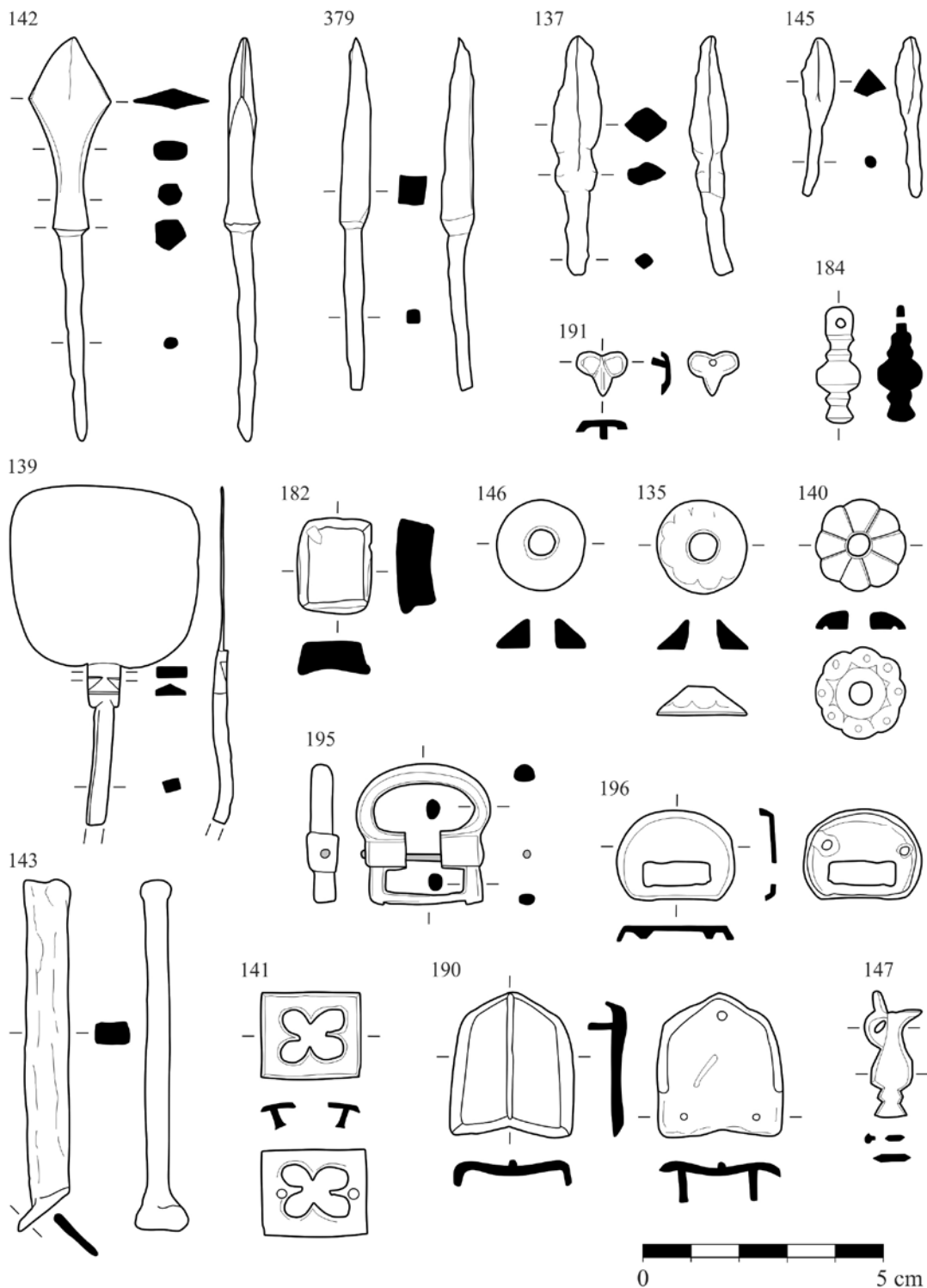


Fig. 12: Metal tools and implements from the site of Kala-e Hissor (BA5_01), Sairob.

The Sairob area is closely related not only to the Sherabad Darya valley itself, but also to the south-western micro region of Panjob / Gazak valley (see *Survey Area 9: Panjob Valley* below). In the future, attention should be paid to the remaining parts of the Sairob – Munchak micro oasis and also to the village of Gilla Kamar to the north of them. These were, as far as we know, not surveyed yet. The last site preliminarily studied in the river valley was a small tepa in the village of Chilonzor, some 15 km to the south of Sairob. Just west of the main road Darband – Sherabad (M39), there is a Pre-Modern cemetery with a small mound in its northern part, the Chilonzor Tepa (**Fig. 13**). Pottery (21 diagnostic fragments) collected and dated at the hillock and around shows a predominantly High Medieval occupation at this site. Just across the road, human skeletal remains have been recently unearthed during the construction works of the water tunnel under the road. A handful of ceramic fragments found at this place are dated to the Early Medieval period.



Fig. 13: The site of Chilonzor Tepa in Chilonzor (BA5_20), photo by A. Augustinová.

Sub-area 6_2: Rabat, Kofrun and around

The other part of the Sairob – Rabat steppe zone is situated outside of the Sherabad Darya river valley, more precisely to the east of it (**Pl. 5/7**). Again, the settlements here are to be found predominantly in the valleys of small and/or seasonal water streams. Beside our effort to detect new, so far unknown archaeological sites, we strove to get more data on the sites that were in one way or another studied already, but not sufficiently published.

The first micro-region that was studied here, were the surroundings of the village of Rabat, south of Baysun. Since almost no archaeological material has been published so far from the most prominent site in this area, that of Payon (or Tuman) Kurgan (BA5-18) (ABDULLAEV 1999; 2001; 2002), we decided to collect the surface material in order to prove or disapprove the dating to the Hellenistic period. Altogether 44 diagnostic pottery fragments were gained allowing us to be sure about the Late Hellenistic / Yue-zhi (and the Kushan) dating, but not about the Early Hellenistic one. This was corroborated by four coins found at the site, none of which was of early Hellenistic date. It would be very important to compare the full results

of the excavations at the site with the material culture of the nearby, repeatedly researched Rabat necropolis dated to the turn of era (ABDULLAEV – ANNAEV 2001).

In the close proximity to Payon Kurgan, but on the other side of the road, there is a small tepa used recently as a cemetery (BA5-03). It is dated by the surface material (22 diagnostic fragments) to the High Medieval period.

Our attention was paid especially to the village of Kofrun and its environs, since earlier surveys led to the discovery of several archaeological sites in the Kofrun oasis. Consequently, we visited altogether 11 sites / find spots with archaeological material in and at the outskirts of the oasis. In the central part of Kofrun village, there are two sites situated close to each other, but on the opposite banks of the dry riverbed of Khangarasa. In accordance with the previous research, we call them Munchak tepa 1 (eastern bank) and Muchak Tepa 2 (western bank). Munchak Tepa 1 – a high but rather small mound (Fig. 14) – was formerly dated to the Kushan period (MOKROBORODOV s.d.), while our survey brought to light material belonging to the Greco-Bactrian period, too (Fig. 6:1-2). The same dating applies also for the twin-site of Munchak Tepa 2 (Fig. 6: 3-10), which is unfortunately only poorly preserved due to the water erosion caused by the seasonal stream (Fig. 15). What portion of its former surface has been washed away, it is difficult to say.

Besides the Hellenistic material, there are some hints at an earlier human presence in this area, since pottery scatters situated to the south of Kofrun show some Achaemenid features. Beside some few Late Kushan fragments, Early Medieval period was attested at the central site of Kul' Tepa (BA5_8), while the High Medieval period prevailed at the largest site of the oasis, that of Mazaristan Tepa (BA5_2), with some more pottery scatters in the steppe to the south of Kofrun. Ceramic of this period was collected also at Munchak Tepa 1.

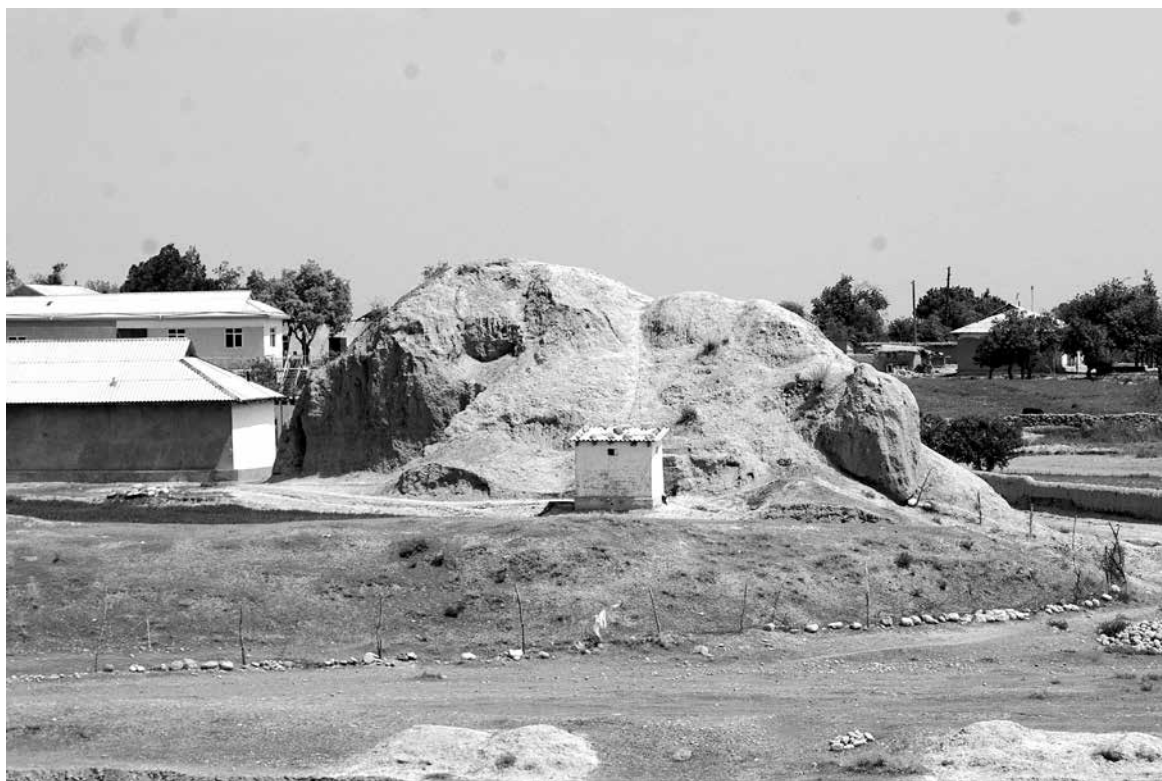


Fig. 14: The site of Munchak Tepa 1 (BA5_6) in Kofrun, view from the west.



Fig. 15: The site of Munchak Tapa 2 (BA5_7) in Kofrun, view from the southeast.

Sub-area 6_3: To the east of Baysun

Dunya Tapa in the village of Inkabod revealed large number of pottery fragments dating from the High Middle Ages.

SURVEY AREA 7: AKRABAT – KAPKAGLI AUZY

The summit of the peculiar geological formation of Kapakli Auzy with characteristic steep slopes in the west, east and south and gentle inclination in the north, was surveyed in two successive days by both extensive walking of a group of people and a metal detector survey at selected points (**Pl. 5/8**). With regard to the topography of this mountain formation, we focused primarily on the highest points, the edges above the steep cliffs providing the greatest natural protection, access routes, and then on the surroundings of the only major water source – the spring of Jidayli Buloq in its south-western part. It was in the neighbourhood of this spring where we detected remains of an oblong stone enclosure. Altogether, seven concentrations of archaeological material were documented on the Kapkagli Auzy. Among them, the earliest – Antique – material comes from DK6-01 (i.e. the above-mentioned enclosure), while DK6-03 most probably belongs to the Late Kushan / Kushan – Sasanian period. Otherwise, the material from the massive has been dated predominantly to the High Medieval Period (esp. DK6-07).



Fig. 16: Kapkagli Auzy massif, general view from the south, photo by A. Augustinová.

SURVEY AREA 8: KICHIK-URA DARYA

In order to better understand the communication possibilities between historical Bactria and Sogdiana, we took two different roads connecting the Darband area and the Kichik-Ura Darya valley. Additionally, we briefly surveyed a few sites in the latter (**Pl. 5/9**). Our main aim was to compare archaeological material from both sides of the mountain range (i.e. of what is traditionally assumed to be a border) and to get an idea about communication corridors between the two regions. Using satellite imagery, several topographically significant locations had been identified and later verified during the field work. The sites were situated in or around the villages of Bilibayli (DK7-01-03) and Chashmaimiron (DK7-04-06). The earliest surface pottery finds have been dated very preliminarily – since we do not possess any relevant comparative assemblage – to the transitional period between the Greco-Bactrian and Kushan period, in other words in the Yue-zhi period (DK7-03-05). Only further comparative analysis may confirm the proposed chronology and exclude the possibility of an earlier (Greco-Bactrian) date. The rest of the ceramic material point to the Medieval, especially High Medieval (attested at 5 out of 6 sites), period as the settlement heyday in the upper Kichik Ura Darya valley. In this respect, it corresponds very well to the situation in the Baysun area.

SURVEY AREA 9: PANJOB VALLEY

One of the last valleys in these parts that were so far not visited by the Czech-Uzbek team is that of Panjob, which is situated southwest of Sairob (**Pl. 5/10**). This track following the brook of Gazak (which should be perhaps more appropriate name for this valley / micro-region) makes it possible – as one of a few options – to cross the Kugitang mountain chain and its northern promontories (Karyshatu, Kul’bat Tau) in the east-west direction. Suitable rather for pack animals, it is slightly more difficult than the road of Khatak situated just a few kilometres to the south. Our targets here were not pre-determined by study of satellite imagery. Instead we followed local topography by way of simple direct visual observation on the spot. Doing so, we discovered four places with densely scattered ceramic fragments, Among them BA5_13 which was given the name of Panjob Tepa (**Fig. 17**) was the most pronounced one also

from the topographical point of view. Situated near the bottom of the valley (Gazak Say), this rather small tepa provided rich archaeological material, including a rotary quern-stone square in its outlines (perhaps unfinished?), and plentiful pottery of the Kushan-Sasanian period. Pottery of the same period was also discovered on the nearby natural hill (BA5_11), where we also found traces of metal working (large quantities of slag). Two other sites were detected to the west of the village, several hundred meters from the mouth of the Panjob gorge. Pottery scatters were distributed both at the bottom of the valley (first terrace, BA5_12), and on the elevated hillocks to the north of it (BA5_10). At this place, several kurgan-like features of unknown date were constructed on summits of these hillocks. This area has obviously high potential for the future surface survey.



Fig. 17: Site of Panjob Tepa 2 (BA5_13), view from the north.

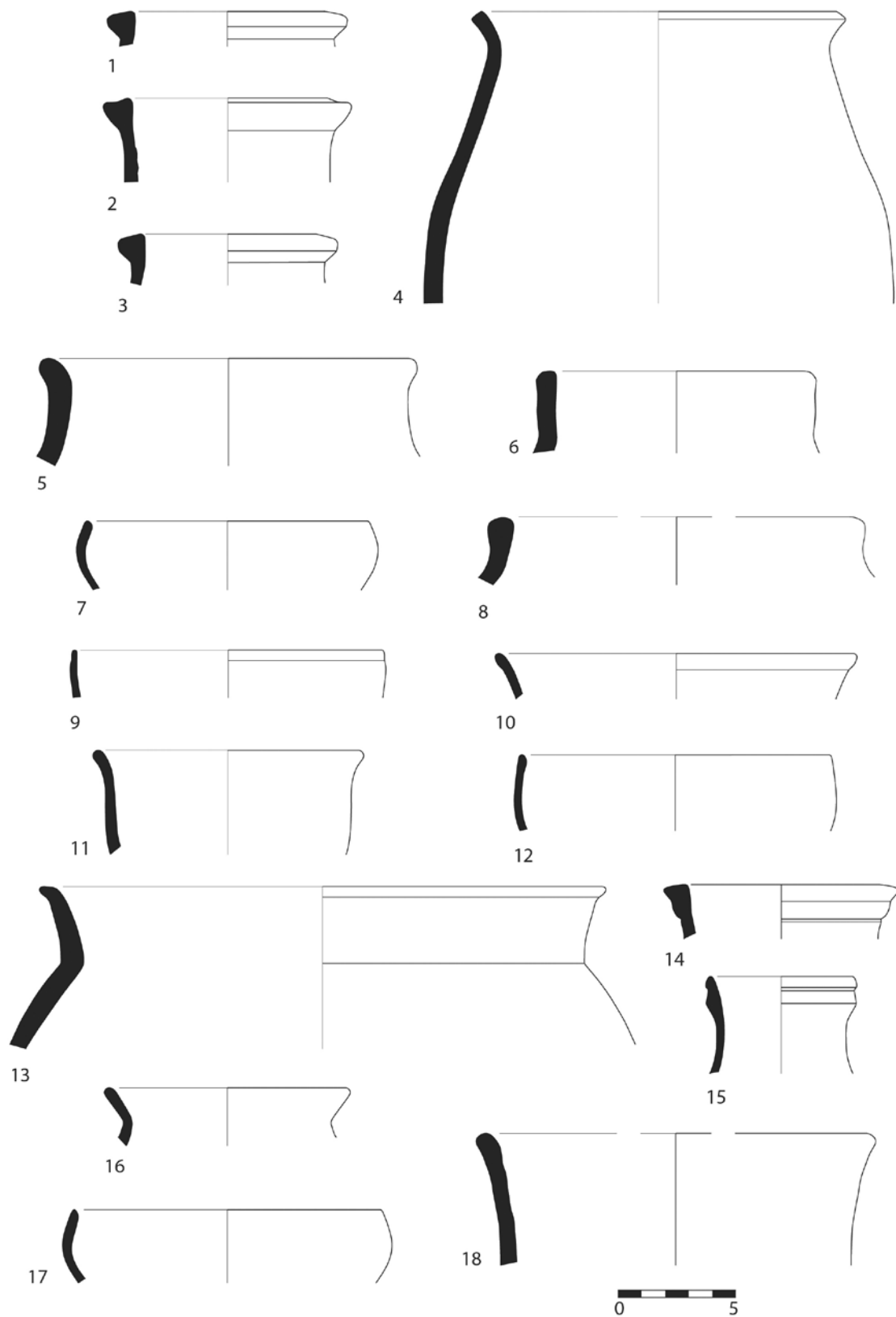


Fig. 18: Pottery assemblage of the Kushan-Sasanian period from the site of Panjob Tepa (BA5_13).

OVERVIEW OF THE GAINED DATA⁴

Site code	Name	Modern place	Survey Area	District	LAT	LONG	ELEV. m.a.s.l.	Pottery	Coins	Dating
	Ghisht Tapa	Kofrun	6	Baysun	38.099756	67.247360	857	0	0	??
AL_001	No name	Alamli	4	Baysun	38.120291	66.851869	1735	1	0	ANT (1)
AL_002	Dunya Tapa	Alamli	4	Baysun	38.123426	66.855550	1709	5	0	EMA (2)
AL_003	Kara Tash	Alamli	4	Baysun	38.144833	66.841415	1745	6	0	LMA (6)
AL_004	Munchak Tapa - Central Mound	Alamli	4	Baysun	38.138592	66.839708	1769	19	0	ANT (8), PMO (10)
AL_005		Shurob	4	Baysun				17	0	PMO (17)
AL_006		Alamli	4	Baysun				0	0	---
AL_007	Munchak Tapa (cemetery)	Alamli	4	Baysun	38.137768	66.840214	1101	39		LKU (24), PMO (15)
BA5-01	Kala-e Hissor	Sairob	5	Baysun	38.079739	66.964970	1044	30		HMA (30)
BA5-02	Mazarat Tapa	Kofrun	5	Baysun	38.087935	67.257670	833	45	0	LKU (2), HMA (43)
BA5-03	No name (Mazar Tapa)	Tuman Kurgan / Payon Kurgan	5	Baysun	38.156751	67.196129	1062	22	0	HMA (22)
BA5-04	Buloq below Karaul Tapa	Kofrun	5	Baysun	38.063569	67.258861	768	4	0	??
BA5-05	Karaul Tapa	Kofrun	5	Baysun	38.065972	67.256693	817	11	0	EMA (1), PMO (1)
BA5-06	Munchak Tapa 1	Kofrun	5	Baysun	38.084717	67.248264	823	45	0	HELL (9), HMA (10)*
BA5-07	Munchak Tapa 2	Kofrun	5	Baysun	38.085163	67.249733	821	49	0	HELL (49)
BA5-08	Kul Tapa	Kofrun	5	Baysun	38.090651	67.252314	832	29	2	EMA
BA5-09	Daganajam Tapa	Daganajam	5	Baysun	38.139941	67.041210	944	35		HELL (35)
BA5-10	No name	Panjob	9	Baysun	37.994399	66.880127	1046	37		EMA
BA5-11	No name	Panjob	9	Baysun	38.006126	66.970445	867	35		KU-SA

* 26 fragments have not been dated yet.

4 The following table contains not only sites surveyed in 2018, but also significant ones studied in 2017.

Site code	Name	Modern place	Survey Area	District	LAT	LONG	ELEV. m.a.s.l.	Pottery	Coins	Dating
BA5-12	No name	Panjob	9	Baysun	37.992522	66.880430	1022	28		EMA, HMA
BA5-13	Panjob Tepa	Panjob	9	Baysun	38.005073	66.974929	851	57		KU-SA
BA5-14	steppe near the Ertiell Base 1	Kofrun	5	Baysun	38.043824	67.301230	785	32	0	ACH
BA5-15	Sufi Bobo Kabriston	Pul`Khakim	5	Baysun	38.175418	67.369999	1000	6	0	??
BA5-16	Dunya Tepa	Inkabod	5	Baysun	38.177233	67.284408	1077	35	0	HMA
BA5-17	steppe near the Ertiell Base 2	Kofrun	5	Baysun	38.041339	67.302729	788	18	0	HMA
BA5-18	Payon Kurgan	Tuman Kurgan / Payon Kurgan	5	Baysun	38.159003	67.190708	1067	44	4	HELL, YUE, KUSH
BA5-19	No name	Chilonzor	5	Baysun	37.939701	67.040321	689	10	0	EMA
BA5-20	Chilonzor Tepa	Chilonzor	5	Baysun	37.940181	67.038634	696	23	0	HMA
BA5-21	Darband Wall North	Darband	5	Baysun	38.213075	66.972561	1217	71		HELL
BA5-22	Darband Wall Centre	Darband	5	Baysun	38.208658	66.973709	1200	36		HELL
BA5-23	Darband Wall South	Darband	5	Baysun	38.205587	66.976333	1170	55		HELL
BA5-25	steppe near the Ertiell Base 3	Kofrun	5	Baysun	38.042921	67.304373	778	7		HMA
BA5-26	steppe near the Ertiell Base 4	Kofrun	5	Baysun	38.044218	67.301617	788	6		HMA
BA5-27	Ak Tepa (at Toda)	Toda	5	Baysun	38.227459	67.144479	1632	22		HMA, LMA
BA5-28	Daganajam (private house)	Daganajam	5	Baysun	38.142370	67.041782	939	1		EMA (1)
BA5-29	Daran-e Darvazasi	Daganajam	5	Baysun	38.131599	67.028569	962	21	0	HME, LMA
BA5-30	Kurganzol	Rabat	5	Baysun	38.096225	67.184215	910	0	3	HELL
BA8-01	Khoja Kochkor Ota	Podang	8	Baysun	38.284585	67.239891	1950	16	0	EMA, HMA
BU-001	Busgalakhana	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.229209	66.898553	1230	3		HMA (3)
DA 001	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21947268	67.02834554	1073	5		PMO

Site code	Name	Modern place	Survey Area	District	LAT	LONG	ELEV. m.a.s.l.	Pottery	Coins	Dating
DA 002	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.20935279	67.018823	1023	35		ANT (4), EMA (1), HMA (25), LMA (1), PMO (6)
DA 003	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21852611	67.027965	1052	13		HMA (2), PMO (10)
DA 004	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21857749	67.028202	1050	7		LMA (7)
DA 005	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21806946	67.0243018	1044	2		PMO
DA 006	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21839518	67.02249304	1056	1		LMA
DA 007	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21566444	67.02137783	1036	3		PMO
DA 008	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21924569	67.02838569	1063	6		PMO
DA 009	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21947268	67.02834554	1073	1		PMO
DA 010	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21920605	67.02839415	1051	13		PMO
DA 011	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21813333	67.03027187	1040	2		PMO
DA 012	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21349546	67.02227587	1031	7		EMA, PMO
DA 013	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21820592	67.02957122	1033	11		PMO
DA 014	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.1762069	67.03503052	1088	1		HMA
DA 015	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21811196	67.02581194	1048	1		HMA
DA 016	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.21826325	67.02577179	1041	21		HMA, PMO
DA 017-1	Darband	Darband	5	Baysun				1		HMA
DA5-24	Kapchigay Tepa	Darband	5	Baysun	38.216822	67.031297	1073	52		HELL
DA5-25	Sultan Kul'	Darband	5	Baysun	38.212498	67.017227		0		??
DA-SA_001	Path Darband - Sarimask	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.223444	67.000295				KUSH, HMA
DK6-01	Kapkagly Auzy - Jidayli Buloq	Akrabat	7	Dekhkanabad	38.309239	66.796688	1479	62		ANT, HMA?
DK6-02	Kapkagly Auzy - around Jidayli Buloq	Akrabat	7	Dekhkanabad	38.306708	66.795566		10		??
DK6-03	Kapkagly Auzy - 03	Akrabat	7	Dekhkanabad				11		LKU-SA

Site code	Name	Modern place	Survey Area	District	LAT	LONG	ELEV. m.a.s.l.	Pottery	Coins	Dating
DK6-04	Kapkgli Auzy - abandoned structure	Akrabat	7	Dekhkanabad				6		??
DK6-05	Kapkgli Auzy - 05	Akrabat	7	Dekhkanabad				3		HMA
DK6-06	Kapkgli Auzy - 06	Akrabat	7	Dekhkanabad				1		??
DK6-07	Kapkgli Auzy - top	Akrabat	7	Dekhkanabad	38.296714	66.809778	1724	57	0	HMA
DK7-01	Chash Tepa / Chashna Tepa	Bilibayli	8	Dekhkanabad	38.340627	66.837276	1239	7		EMA, HMA
DK7-02	No name Tepa	Bilibayli	8	Dekhkanabad	38.339017	66.840464	1235	6		HMA
DK7-03	Bilibayli Kurgan (or Sapol Tepa)	Bilibayli	8	Dekhkanabad	38.337928	66.841074	1248	62		HMA, YUE-ZHI
DK7-04	Mahma Shah	Chashmaimiron	8	Dekhkanabad	38.397746	66.963995	1481	15	0	YUE-ZHI
DK7-05	Kurgan?	Chashmaimiron	8	Dekhkanabad	38.411522	66.986269	1543	46	0	YUE-ZHI, MA
DK7-06			8	Dekhkanabad				5		HMA
MA_001	No name	Machay	2	Baysun	38.267465	67.034759	1397	1		LMA
MA_009	No name	Machay	2	Baysun	38.2625197	67.03645905	1489	1		EMA
MA_050	Urochische Gamuz	Machay	2	Baysun	38.27528291	67.03422947	1469	2		HMA
MA_075	No name	Machay	2	Baysun	38.25579649	67.03933463	1439			???
MA_077	No name	Machay	2	Baysun	38.260585	67.03672	1461	4		PMO
MA_080	No name	Machay	2	Baysun	38.267886	67.033508	1360	1		HMA
MA_084	Urochische Gamuz	Machay	2	Baysun	38.275036	67.035295	1455	1		HMA
MA_093	Sary Shato	Machay	2	Baysun	38.285163	67.030333	1611	101		EMA (101)
MA_094	Khojatarshnoy Ota	Machay	2	Baysun	38.32799192	67.076898	1312	56		LKU (5), EMA (13), HMA (11), LMA (1), ME (26)
MA_097	No name	Machay	2	Baysun	38.30788482	67.03670607	1352	1		HMA
MA_105	Machay Kurgan	Machay	2	Baysun	38.330862	67.076973	1343	191		HELL (5), KUS (16), HMA (152)
MA_106	Machay - in the gardens	Machay	2	Baysun	38.333594	67.077287	1286	1		LMA

Site code	Name	Modern place	Survey Area	District	LAT	LONG	ELEV. m.a.s.l.	Pottery	Coins	Dating
MA_109	Machay - in the gardens	Machay	2	Baysun	38.333954	67.077363	1289	1		EMA
MA_112	Machay - in the gardens	Machay	2	Baysun	38.337412	67.080643	1289	2		??
MA_113	Machay - in the gardens	Machay	2	Baysun	38.337563	67.080951	1288	1		??
MA_120	No name	Sairob	6	Baysun	38.09109553	66.99203781	967	1		HMA
MA_121	No name	Machay	2	Baysun	38.311431	67.037352	1286	3		EMA (3)
MA_146	No name	Vicinity of Kay-nar Kamar	2	Baysun	38.301431	67.009057	1249	16		LMA (16)
MA_149	No name	Vicinity of Kay-nar Kamar	2	Baysun	38.301283	67.008474	1254	6		EMA (6)
MA_151	No name	Vicinity of Sary Shato Pass	2	Baysun	38.291628	67.026723	1545	4		LMA (4)
MA_152			2	Baysun				2		HMA
MA_153			2	Baysun				1		MA
MA_154	No name	Khoja Dagyak	2	Dekhkanabad	38.358647	67.011724	1538	20	0	EMA, HMA, LMA, PMO
MA_155	No name	Khoja Dagyak	2	Dekhkanabad	38.353620	67.007403	1462	21	0	ACH, PMO
SA_001	No name	Darband	5	Baysun	38.199158	67.033194	1089	1		HMA
SA_005	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.23396867	66.97912734	1716	1		HMA
SA_006	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.22157452	66.98136815	1761	1		HMA
SA_008	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.22848951	66.97887068	1810	1		LMA
SA_009	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.23352661	66.979646	1731	9		HMA (9)
SA_011	Machay - in the gardens	Machay	2	Baysun	38.333922	67.077647	1284	1		HELL
SA_012	Machay - in the gardens	Machay	2	Baysun	38.33389	67.077926	1282	1		HMA
SA_013	Machay - in the gardens	Machay	2	Baysun	38.337412	67.080643	1289	1		LMA
SA_014	Machay - in the gardens	Machay	2	Baysun	38.337563	67.080951	1288	1		LMA
SA_029	Sarymas - old farm	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.266685	66.94935	1648	6		LMA (6)

Site code	Name	Modern place	Survey Area	District	LAT	LONG	ELEV. m.a.s.l.	Pottery	Coins	Dating
SA_038	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.225456	66.987194	1712	1		LMA
SA_043	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.225694	66.998535	1605	1		HMA
SA_050	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.25421013	67.00874328	1894	1		HELL
SA_053	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.25171694	67.011387	1899	18		LMA (18)
SA_055	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.25684	67.011926	1887	1		HMA
SA_058	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.252182	67.014276	1868	2		HMA
SA_062	No name	Sarymas	1	Baysun	38.249421	67.005871	1791	11		PMO (11)
SA_065	No name	Karamas	1	Baysun	38.26756971	66.945351	1762	34		EMA (1), HMA (7), PMO (24)
SA_136	No name	Karamas	1	Baysun	38.26689137	66.94417857	1766	1		LMA
SA_187	No name	Machay	2	Baysun	38.25548678	67.039959	1438	5		LMA (5)
SA_193	No name	Machay	2	Baysun	38.301367	67.008824	1254	1		HMA
SA_218	No name	Karamas	1	Baysun	38.266481	66.944058	1755	6		HMA (4), LMA (2)
SU_002	No name	Susiztag	3	Baysun	38.156343	66.942357	1835	1		LMA
SU_005	No name	Susiztag	3	Baysun	38.14683812	66.95326095	1517	1		LMA
SU_006	No name	Susiztag	3	Baysun	38.15312237	66.93534874	1691	1		LMA
SU_008	No name	Susiztag	3	Baysun	38.15467394	66.93738437	1743	2		??
SU_043	No name	Susiztag	3	Baysun	38.157272	66.94134163	1841	1		??
SU_057	No name	Susiztag	3	Baysun	38.164265	66.922717	1494	2		HMA
SU_060	No name	Susiztag	3	Baysun	38.12158973	66.92373117	1871	2		HMA
SU_065	No name	Shurob	4	Baysun	38.17854007	66.92815271	1293	1		HMA
SU_067	Rock-shelter	Susiztag	3	Baysun	38.123789	66.929213	1717	1		LMA

CONCLUSIONS

The second field season of the surface survey of the Czech-Uzbek team in the Baysun District brought to light a large quantity of new archaeological data on both previously known and newly detected archaeological sites. Altogether ca. 50 spots with archaeological material were studied revealing 236 metal finds and 1318 pottery fragments. During the process, three new Hellenistic sites were confirmed. Among other preliminary results, we should mention that a) in accordance with the opinion generally shared in research community, the border line between Bactria and Sogdiana led along the Kugitang and Baysun Tau mountain ridges, as attested by the complex system of fortifications; b) the Darband Wall was built and used predominantly in the Greco-Bactrian period; c) Kapkagli Auzy, Sarymas(k), Susiztag, and Kyz Kurgan, that were formerly interpreted as places of refuge, yielded no evidence confirming this assumption; d) and the same goes for the ramparts in the vicinity of Uzundara. We can conclude that our research attested that the foothills of the Baysun Tau were permanently settled for the first time in history from the Seleucid period onwards. We lack any evidence of the Achaemenid settlements here. Last but not least, we gained plenty of data on the routes across the region.

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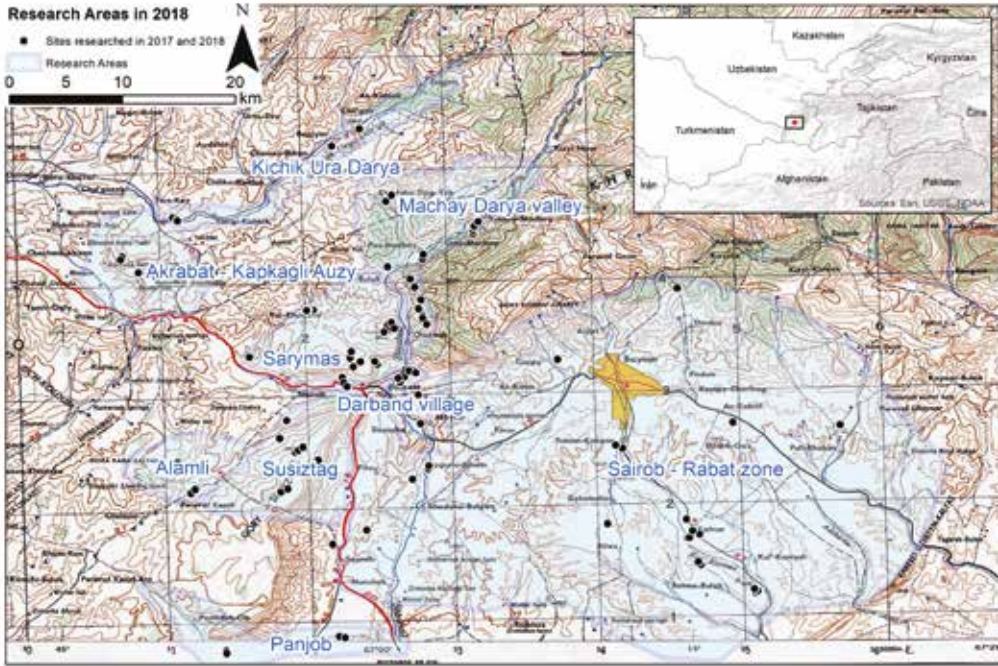
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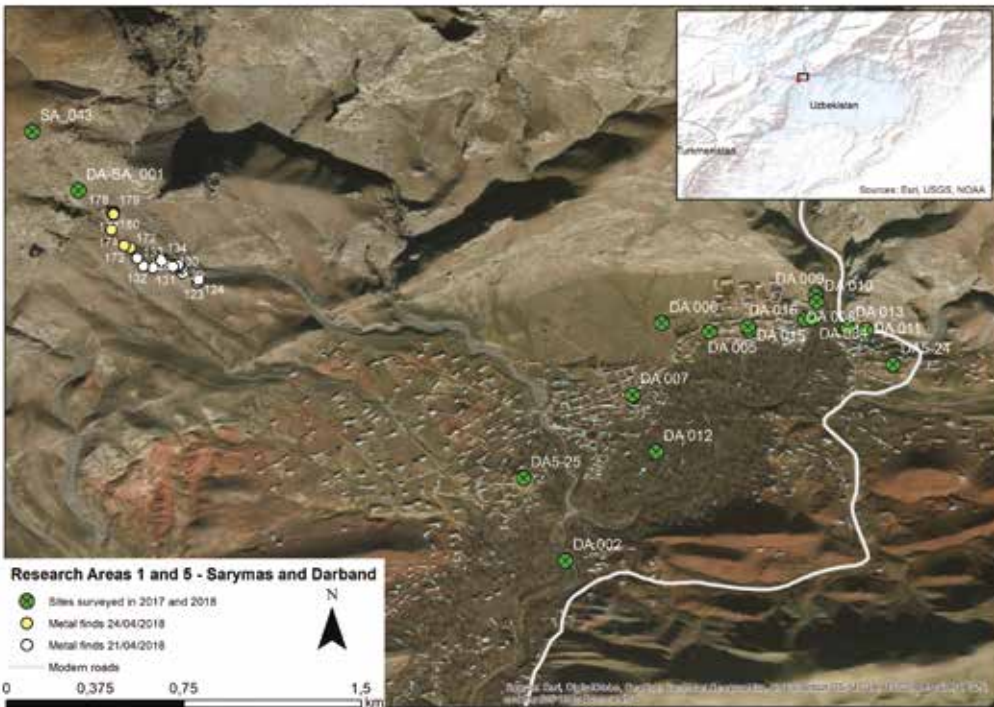
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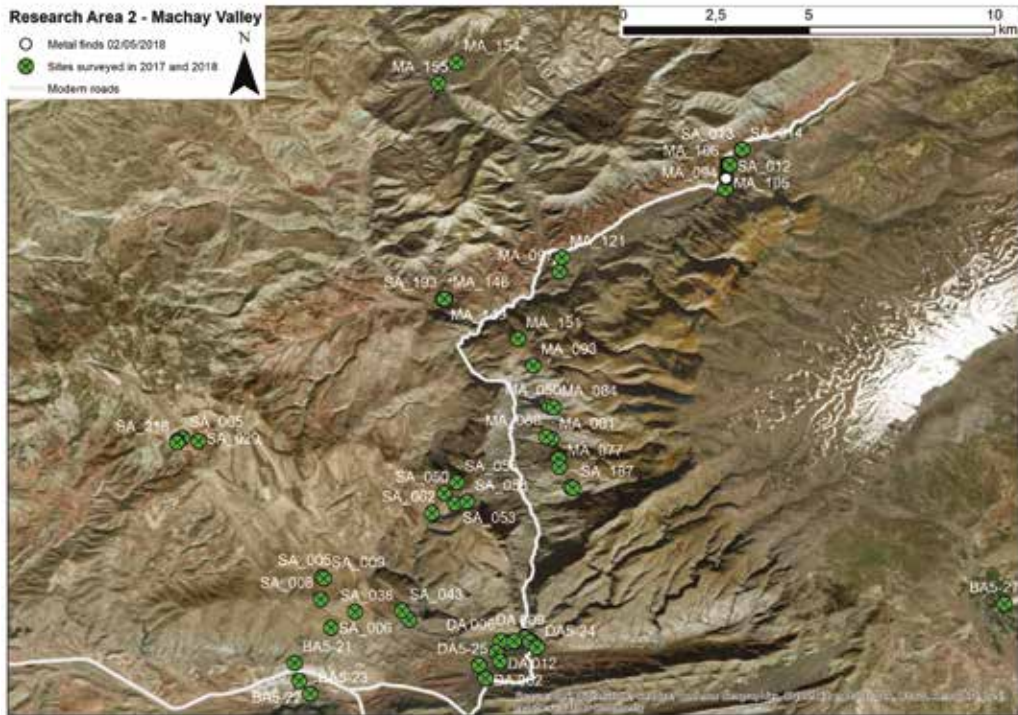
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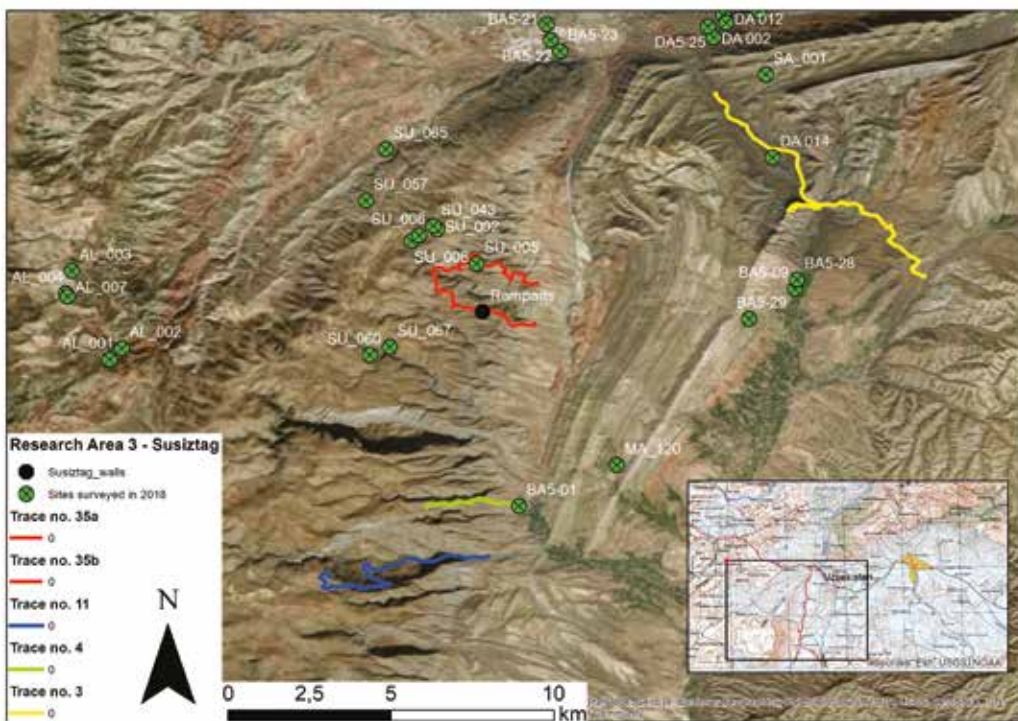
Pl. 5/1: Research areas in Baysun Tau foothills in 2018.



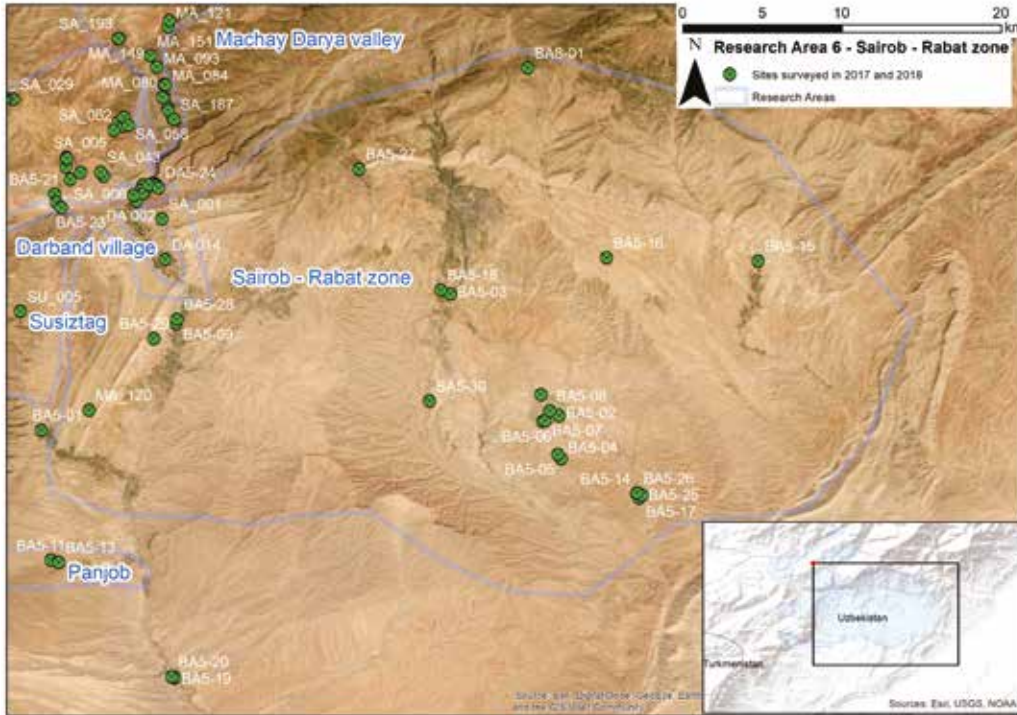
Pl. 5/2: Research areas 1 and 5 (Sarymas and Darband) with all sites studied in 2017 and 2018 indicated.



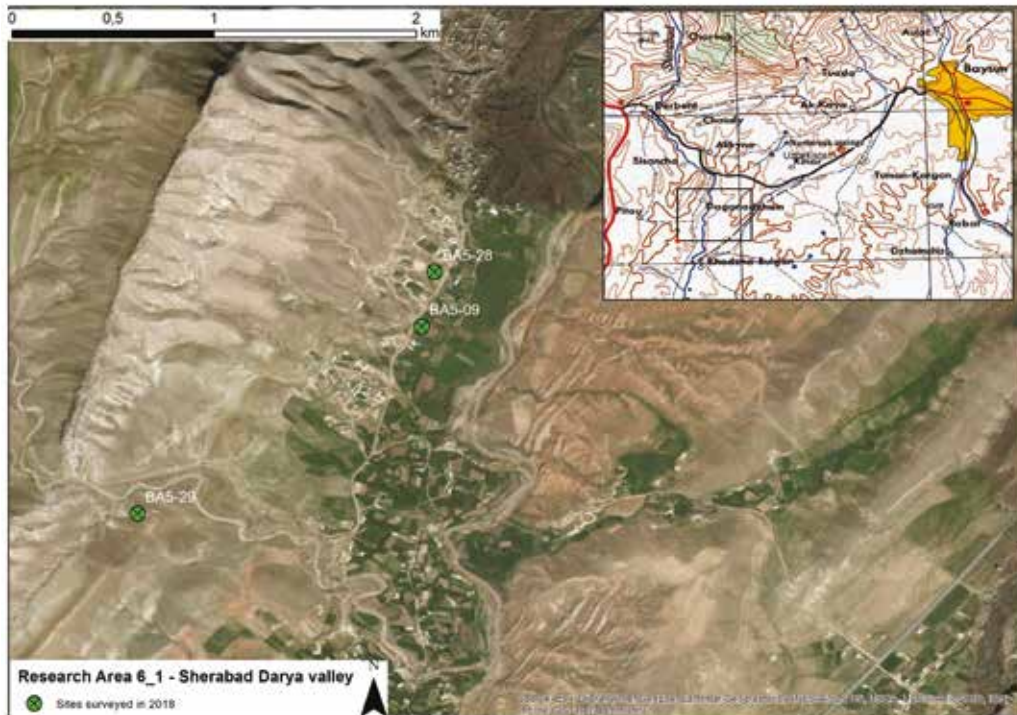
Pl. 5/3: Research area 2 (Machay Valley) with all sites studied in 2017 and 2018 indicated.



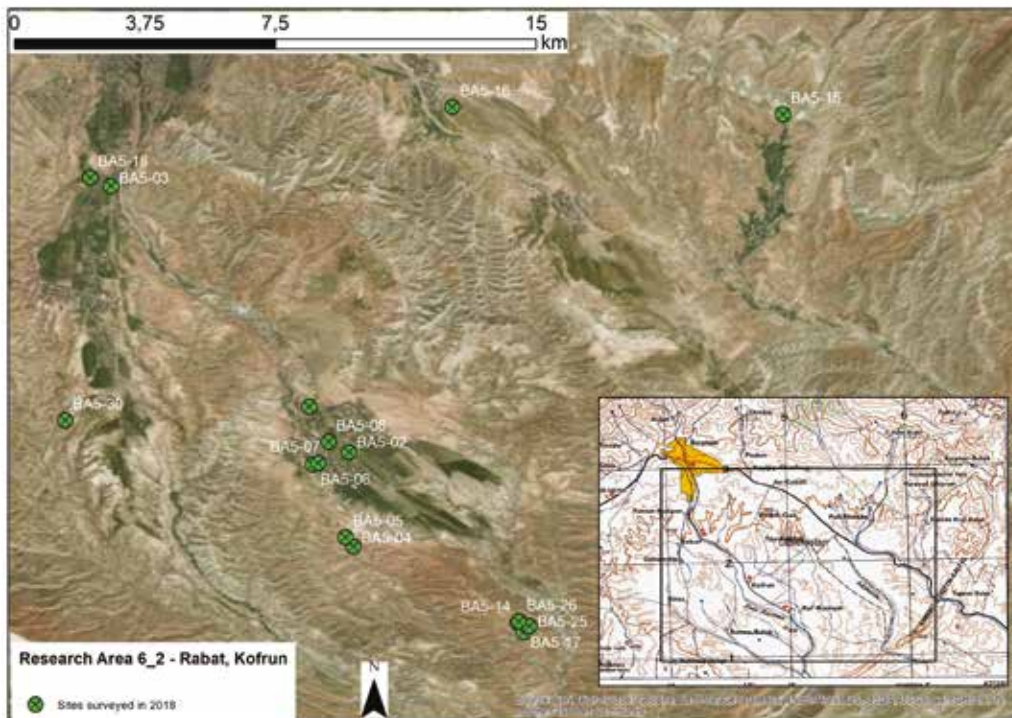
Pl. 5/4: Research area 3 (Susiztag) with all sites studied in 2017 and 2018 indicated.



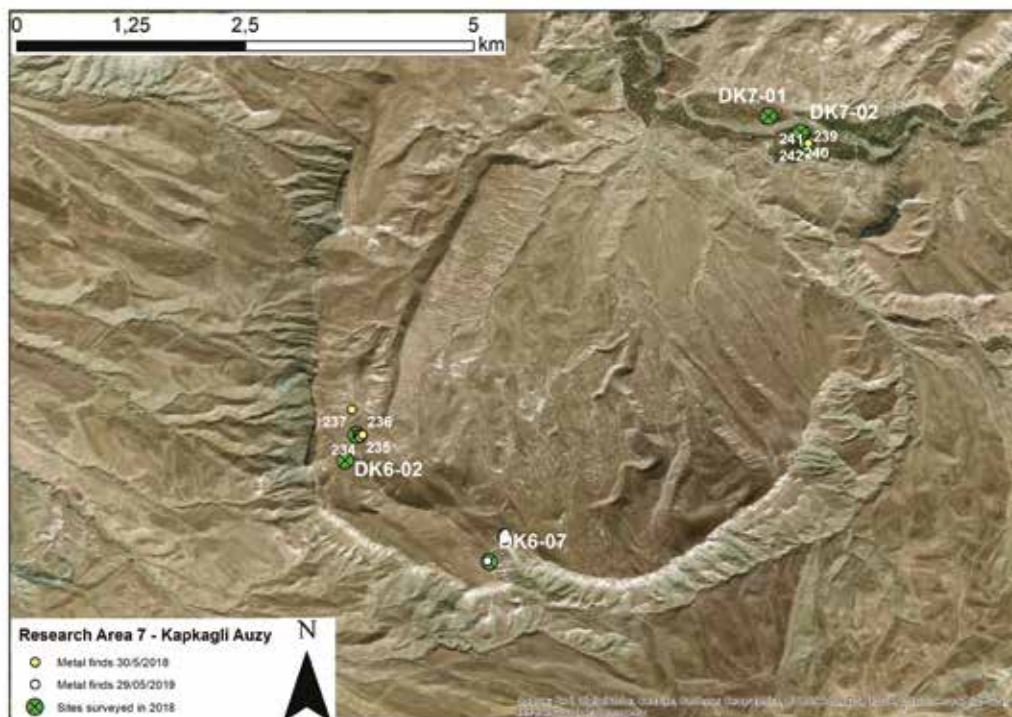
Pl. 5/5: Research area 6 (Sairob - Rabat Steppe Zone) with all sites studied in 2017 and 2018 indicated.



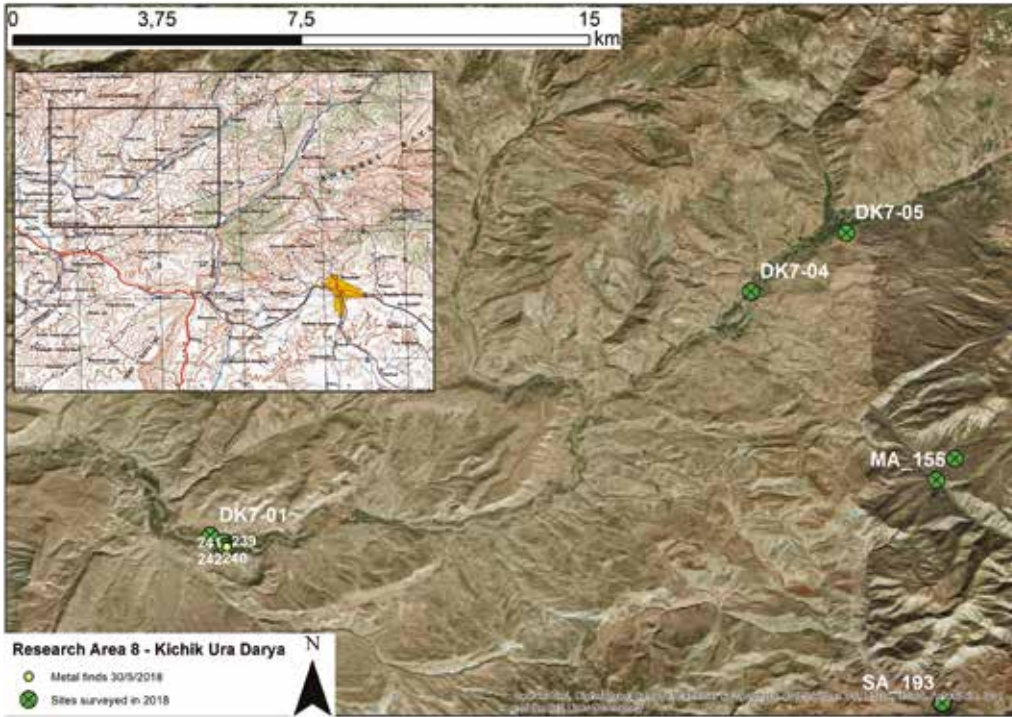
Pl. 5/6: Research area 6_1 (Sherabad Darya Valley), detail of Daganajam Village area with sites studied in 2018 indicated.



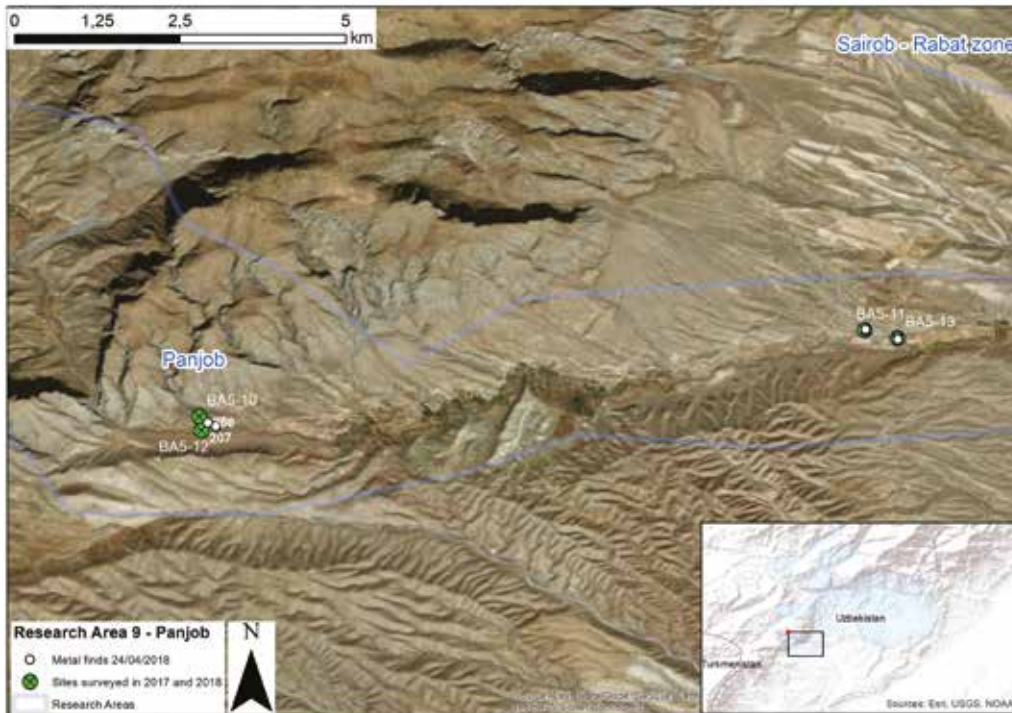
Pl. 5/7: Research area 6_2 (Rabat, Kofrun and around) with all sites studied in 2018 indicated.



Pl. 5/8: Research area 7 (Akrabat - Kapkagli Auzy) with all sites studied in 2018 indicated.



Pl. 5/9: Research area 8 (Kichik-Ura Darya) with all sites studied in 2018 indicated.



Pl. 5/10: Research area 9 (Panjob) with all sites studied in 2018 indicated