# The Northern Black Sea as a communication crossroad: Burial finds of the 3rd c. BC to the 3rd c. AD from the north Pontic region

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I hereby declare that the work submitted is mine and that where I have made use of another's work, I have attributed the source(s) according to the Regulations set in the Student's Handbook.

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## Abstract

This dissertation was written as part of the MA in Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Studies at the International Hellenic University. The aim of the dissertation thesis is to examine and study societies inhabiting the northern Black Sea area in a time span between the 3$^{rd}$ century BC and the 3$^{rd}$ century AD. The goal of the study will be accomplished through the presentation of elite burials that have been uncovered in the above-mentioned area. Burial findings that have been mainly uncovered are precious drinking cups, cast bronze cauldrons, iron and bronze tripods/rods with zoomorphic terminals, weapons, and gold jewelry. In these findings, elements of the Greek and south-eastern Mediterranean world, such as images of Greek pantheon deities, floral motives, and semi-precious stones are encountered with Animal Style features, that characterize the decorative preferences of the indigenous societies.

The proposed period from the 3rd century BC to the mid–3rd century AD is considered a crisis epoch due to the recorded destructions in Greek cities as well as in indigenous settlement organizations. The most representative burial type for the Hellenistic and Roman periods are the kurgan mounds, while by the mid-first century BC, the image becomes more complicated with the addition of flat burial grounds and necropolises. Selected burial complexes will be presented, representing the geographical and chronological frame mentioned. Then, the presented catalogue will be based on the different categories of objects, each category organized in chronological order. Similar (or non-similar) characteristics among objects and/or decorative systems will be discussed, and thus will lead, through this comparative method to the contact networks responsible. The material evidence consists of burial findings published in detail in the English language.

Keywords: Northern Black Sea, elite burials, jewelry,

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**Preface**

The study is based on material evidence, mainly minor objects, coming from excavated burials. The findings have been published in English by renowned experts, thus allowing me to gain access to a field area that has been previously negotiated mainly in Russian. My interest stems from dealing with minor art objects and tools made of iron and copper alloys which date mainly to the late Roman and early Byzantine periods. Consequently, the study that follows advances my understanding and broadens my interests in scientific method and research in this particular field.

# Contents

**Introduction**

The northern Black Sea coast and its hinterland has always been, due to its geographical location, a region of contact between the steppe peoples, who lived mainly in a pastoral way and the inhabitants of the coastal areas engaged in agriculture, fishing, handicrafts and trade. After the first Greek colonies were established there in the 7th and 6th centuries BC, the region came into direct contact with the Mediterranean world, one of the consequences of which was its inclusion in the common circle of Greek and Roman literary traditions[1].

## 1. Geographical settings

By referring to the area as "the North Pontic region," contemporary scholars, historians, and archaeologists[2] mean that part of the ancient world that lies between the Tyras River and the lower reaches of the Volga and Don rivers and stretches to the shores of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, which was considered to be the northernmost edge of what was known as the Greek world. Greeks founded their colonies, built towns, and interacted with the local populations here during the 7th and 6th centuries BC. As a result, this remote part of the Greco-Roman world served as a constant meeting place for people of many identities[3].

The northern Black Sea coast and its hinterland have always been, due to its geographical location, a region of contact between the steppe peoples, who lived mainly in a pastoral way, and the inhabitants of the coastal areas engaged in agriculture, fishing, handicrafts, and trade. After the first Greek colonies were established there in the 7th and 6th centuries BC, the region came into direct contact with the Mediterranean world[4].

The Dniester in the west, the Volga in the east (the main water barriers), the border of the forest-steppe region in the north, the coastal line and mountain ridges of the Crimea, and the North Caucasus in the south will all be referred to as the North Black Sea region (Fig. 1-2). This vast area is divided into five main regions: the Kuban region (from the rivers Don and Many in the north to the Uplands of the North Caucasus in the south, as well as from the

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[1] Mordvintseva 2013, 203.

[2] Mordvintseva 2019, 179-190, with references to Tolstoy – Kondakov 1889–1899; Kondakov [et al.] 1891; Rostovtzeff 1922; 1929; 1931. Ernst 1927; 1931; 1937; Shults 1952; Artamonov 1948, 59; Lobova 1956, 15; Vysotskaya 1987; Ol'khovskiy – Khrapunov 1990; Koltukhov 1991; 1999; Puzdrovs'kiy 1992. Polin 1992; Zuev 1999; Zaytsev 2003, 46; 2004; Mordvintseva – Lysenko 2016.

[3] Mordvintseva 2016, 381-382.

[4] Mordvintseva 2013, 203.

Kuban delta in the west to the Stavropol Upland in the east), the Lower Volga (between the lower course of the Don and the left bank of the Volga, with the zone of desert and semi-desert serving as the southern border), the Crimea, the Lower Don (the right bank of the middle and lower course of the Don, including its delta and the numerous tributaries on the right, as well as basins of the rivers Sal and Many), the Lower Dnieper (between the Dniester and the Donetsk Upland on the right bank of the Severskij Donets), and the Upper Dnieper[5].

The distinctiveness of the northern Black Sea region was determined by its different geographical areas and its proximity to the steppes that extended far up to the north and east. Greek coastal colonies of the northern Black Sea littoral served at least in the beginning as a meeting point between the native populations and the colonists as well as their different cultural, social, and religious elements[6].

## 2. Overview of the historical development of the Northern Black Sea area

The northern Black Sea coast holds a unique place among the several areas where the Greeks colonized. Geographically, it was surrounded by the lands of nomadic peoples who were able to go far into the steppes. The Dniester, Southern Bug, Dniepr, Don, and Kuban Rivers, as well as the Kerch Strait, which served as a trading route deep into barbarian territory, were all key locations where Greek colonies were situated, allowing Greeks to keep watch over these land and water highways[7].

The oldest information in the ancient Greek literary tradition about the northern shores of the Black Sea comes from Homer and his reference to the Cimmerians[8], while a little later Aristeas mentioned the Scythian people of Issedones[9]. Hesiod, in the *Theogonia*, mentions the two great rivers that are in the western and eastern parts of Euxine, the Istros (Danube) and the Phasis[10]. Nomadic tribes controlled the steppe area of Crimea and the entirety of the steppes up to the border of the wooded steppe, whose southern border was at the same latitude as modern-day Kiev. The Scythians, who were themselves divided into numerous

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[5] Mordvintseva 2016, 382.
[6] Mordvintseva 2017, 233-234.
[7] Butyagin, 2007, 8-9.
[8] Hom., *Od.* 11.14.
[9] Aristeas, fr. 2.
[10] Hesiod, *Theog.* 341-342.

tribal divisions with the Royal Scythians being the most notable, first settled there in the 7th century BC. Later, the steppe region came under the influence of the Sarmatians[11].

## 2.1. Colonization of the Northern Black Sea

In the 7th century BC, the contacts of the Greeks with the region of northern Euxine became closer and their trips there were more frequent. The reason for this was the establishment of the two Megarian colonies, Chalcedon and Byzantium, at the entrance to the Black Sea and one more, Herakleia, in the southern Black Sea. Miletos followed the path of the Megareans, founded Abydos on the Hellespont, and went even further, establishing colonies on the southern (Sinope[12], Amisos[13], Trapezus[14]), eastern (Phasis[15]), and western (Histria[16], Apollonia[17]) coasts of the Euxine. The Milesians then turned to the North. In the final quarter of the 7th century BC archaeological evidence suggests that they founded the first Greek colony of northern Euxine, on the peninsula of Berezan, which is now an island. In this archaic settlement, whose Greek name is unknown in today's research (it is assumed that it is the colony of Borysthenes), pottery of Ionic origin from that period, but even older, has been found[18]. A settlement that has since been completely destroyed emerged at the same time in the Don Estuary close to Taganrog[19]. The desire to establish trade contacts with the barbarians and gain access to metal sources appears to have been the driving force for the early colonies. The metal processing remnants discovered in the early strata of Berezan provide evidence for this. The widespread takeover of the fertile lands subsequently evolved into the main justification for colonization[20].

In the 6th century, most of the Greek colonies of northern Euxine were founded, mainly by the Milesians: Olbia (possibly with the participation of Chios)[21], Nikonion[22], Kepoi[23],

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[11] Butyagin, 2007, 10.
[12] Doonan 2003, 1379-1402.
[13] Atasoy 2003, 1331-1377; Tsetskhladze 2019, 28, Table 6.
[14] Drews 1976, 19-29.
[15] Lordkipanidze 2003,1297-1329; Tsetskhladze 2019, 31, Table 6.
[16] Avram 2003, 279-340; Tsetskhladze 2019, 30, Table 6.
[17] Nedev, Panayotova 2003, 95-156; Tsetskhladze 2019, 28, Table 6.
[18] Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 538-540; Tsetskhladze 2019, 11-13, 29, Table 6.
[19] Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 551; Kopylov 2000, 1-11; Tsetskhladze 2019, 31.
[20] Butyagin, 2007, 10; Tsetskhladze 2011, 197-212; Ivantchik 2017, 7-25.
[21] Kryžickij, Krapivina, Lejpunskaja, Nazarov 2003, 390-488; Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 534-538; Tsetskhladze 2019, 30, Table 6.
[22] Sekerskaya 2007, 471-506.
[23] Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 555-556; Kuznetsov 2003, 895-897; Tsetskhladze 2019, 15, 31, Tables 4, 6.

Phanagoria (from Teo or Abdera (?))[24], Hermonassa[25] and, in Crimean peninsula, Kerkinitis (some place its foundation at the beginning of the 5th century)[26], Pantikapaion (again with the possible participation of Chios)[27], Nymphaeon (according to a point of view was founded by Samos and not by Miletos)[28], Tyritake[29], Myrmekion[30], Kimmerikon[31], Theodosia[32] and others. It is not certain whether the small towns of eastern Crimea, such as Tyritake, Myrmekion and Kimmerikon, were founded by settlers who came from Miletus itself or from Pantikapaion, the main Milesian colony in the region[33].

The colonization of the 6th century was followed by the founding of other cities, the most important being that of Chersonesos, in the second half of the 5th century, or, according to some researchers, even earlier[34]. Concerning its establishment, it is accepted that it was founded by the Doric Herakleia[35], a colony of the Megareans, although the existence of an older Ionian settlement is not excluded, as it happened in the case of Herakleia itself.

### 2.2. Causes of Colonization in the Northern Black Sea

The reasons that led the Greeks to leave their ancestral homes and come so far to establish colonies have been a matter of debate for many decades. Their movement is today attributed to a set of factors (trade, search for arable land, population growth, search for minerals, external dangers, internal political or social strife) and is first and foremost related to the metropolis itself[36].

The question of trade is a big one and has been discussed at length, with the main focus being on the existence or not of pre-colonial Greek trading posts, especially in the places where cities were later founded. The key word in this research is the term "ἐμπόριον", which

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[24] Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 556-558; Kuznetsov 2000-2001, 65-76; Tsetskhladze 2019, 15, Table 4.

[25] Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 558; Finogenova 2003, 1007 - 1046; Tsetskhladze 2019, 15, 29, Tables 4, 6.

[26] Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 540-541; Kutaisov 2003, 563-602.

[27] Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 544-546; Tolstikov 2003, 713-715; Tsetskhladze 2019, 30, Table 6.

[28] Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 546-547; Sokolova 2003, 764-767; Tsetskhladze 2019, 30, Table 6.

[29] Zinko 2007, 827-829.

[30] Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 547; Vinogradov, Butyagin, Vakthina 2003, 803-818; Vinogradov 2008, 49; Butyagin 2011, 44; Tsetskhladze 2019, 30, Table 6.

[31] Golenko 2007, 1057-1082, 1060.

[32] Katyushin 2003, 645-650.

[33] Butyagin, 2007, 10.

[34] Zolotarev 2003, 603-644; Treister, Vinogradov, 1993, 541-544; Tsetskhladze 2019, 29, Table 6.

[35] Burstein 1976, 12-18; Erçiyas Deniz Burcu 2003, 1403-1431; Tsetskhladze 2019, 29, Table 6.

[36] Tsetskhladze 1998, 65-66; Tsetskhladze 2011, 197-206; For a meticulously detailed and thorough discussion see Manoledakis 2018, 193-206.

is often found in ancient sources. It is, however, certain that, in the case of Northern Euxine, early pottery (of about 635-625) has been found in areas outside the known city colonies, such as, for example, at the Temir Gora site on the Kerch peninsula, in Taganrog and, in Berezan[37].

Trade is no longer considered the main factor of Greek migration, but it maintains an important role among the set of causes of the second colonization. The search for arable land is one of the main causes of colonization, which in turn is due to other factors. O. P. Guiraud and K. J. Beloch both held the view that the newly founded settlements had initially an agricultural character and their subsequent development had been connected and dependent on the autochthonous populations[38]. In favor of the commercial character of the second colonization were E. Meyer's and Claude Mossé's arguments supporting the predominance of the commercial interests of the colonists[39]. The thesis of the commercial nature of the colonization movement in the case of the Black Sea littoral was extensively used in research during the pre-Revolutionary Russian historiography by V. V. Latyschev, M. I. Rostovtzev, E. R. Shtern, and other scientists[40]. In support of Meyer's argument, a thorough analysis of Greek colonization was written by Zhebelyov, who asserted that its primary drivers were the economic changes that occurred in the 8th and 7th centuries BC[41]. R. Yu. Vipper and A. I. Tyumenev expressed a combination of the concepts put forward by Meyer and Beloch having the opinion that commercial colonization began in the 8th century prior to the agricultural one dating from the 7th century BC[42]. The idea of the 'two-way colonization process' was quite popular in the 1950s and 1960s. A. A. Iessen, its founder, demonstrated the colonization's economic emphasis (1947), expressing the idea that the establishment of Greek settlements throughout the Black Sea region depended on not only the socioeconomic standing of the metropolis but also the level of the local populace, as this was a requirement for the development of commercial connections with the Greek colonists. Comparable views are also held by contemporary archaeologists[43].

Drought, population growth, but also the loss of agricultural land due to invaders, all lead to the search for fertile land in safe territory. In the case of the Crimea, both the Megarians of

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[37] For a discussion in Petropoulos 2003, 39-52; Petropoulos 2005, 39-52; Manoledakis 2018, 203-206.
[38] Petropoulos 2003, 34-35 with references to Beloch 1912, 229-233; Guiraud 1893, 78-86.
[39] Petropoulos 2003, 34 with references to Meyer 1893, 433-484.
[40] Petropoulos 2003, 37-38 with references to Meyer 1893, 433-484.
[41] Petropoulos 2003, 38.
[42] Petropoulos 2003, 37-38 with references to Vipper 1918, 30 ff; Tyumenev 1924, 43 ff.
[43] Petropoulos 2003, 38-39 with references to Iessen 1947, 89; Manoledakis 2018, 192-193.

Herakleia and the Milesians managed to find and appropriate the most fertile areas of the peninsula, at the western and eastern ends respectively. As for the case of Miletus and other Ionian cities, the expansion of the Lydian and, later, the Persian Kingdom also played an important role in the migration. Finally, internal conflicts, although not a confirmed cause of mass migration to the Black Sea, should not be ruled out. Evidence of internal political and social problems during the late 7th and 6th centuries BC exist for Miletos, as well as for Herakleia of the 5th century[44]. Consequently, there can be no single explanation for such a multifaceted phenomenon. Each polis community had its own population, resources, and political structure, as well as its own set of experiences and incentives. So, even though it might have begun as a single incident for a single set of factors, it expanded in each direction for various factors associated with the unique characteristics of each area of development.

The economy of the city colonies was based mainly on land cultivation, animal husbandry, fishing, and trade. The system of distribution of the hundreds of western Crimean lots found in the countries of Chersonesos, Kalos Limen, and Kerkinitis, for example, shows how developed this field was. The colonists made sure to choose the most fertile lands for growing wheat and grapes. Wineries and their warehouses found in western Crimea, as well as in various cities and settlements of the Bosporan Kingdom, show that wine production, especially in the first post-Christian centuries, was systematic and, apparently, profitable. Crimean goods, mainly wheat and later wine, were exported. In addition to trading with foreign peoples, the colonists also traded with Greek cities. A very large number of commercial amphorae found in the Northern Black Sea region come from cities such as Herakleia, Sinope, Rhodes, Thassos, Chios, and Lesbos[45].

Trade relations between metropolitan Greece and the north Pontic colonies, especially Crimean cities, were close throughout Antiquity, and there is no shortage of disagreements on this topic in recent research. The prevailing opinion about the amount of wheat production from the city of Chersonesos and its wider territory during Antiquity and especially during the first half of the 3rd century BC and Roman times, in recent years has been disputed[46]. On the contrary, the Bosphoran Kingdom was the main exporter of Crimean wheat during Antiquity[47].

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[44] Greaves 2007, 9-21; Saprykin 2004, 195.
[45] Monakhov, Kuznetsova 2017, 59-99; Vnukov 2017, 100-138; Rempel, Doonan 2020, 137-143.
[46] Stolba 2005, 298-321; Klenina 2015, 43-45.
[47] Tsetskhladze 1998, 65-66; Tsetskhladze 2008, 47-62; Braud 2007, 62-64.

### 2.3. The Bosporan Kingdom

During the first quarter of the 5th century BC, probably around 480, some city-colonies on the Kerch Peninsula, in eastern Crimea, created a union, the original nature of which we do not know, with Panticapaion as its capital. Power was seized by the Archaeanactid dynasty, about which very little is known. In the third quarter of the century, in 438/7, the Archaeanaktids were displaced by the Spartokids, probably of Thracian or Iranian origin, who established their own powerful and long-lived dynasty. The boundaries of the Borporan Kingdom since then were constantly expanding and at the height of its power, under Leukon I (beginning of the 4th century BC) they included the city of Tanais in the North, the entire peninsula of Taman and Sindiki in the East and probably they reached beyond Theodosia in the West. The relations of Leukon with Athens were particularly close, as the Kingdom was at that time the main supplier of wheat for the Greek city[48].

Around the same time as the establishment of the Spartokids in the Bosporan Kingdom, it seems that the presence of Athens was felt in the region. The Crimean city of Nymphaion, even though it was geographically within the territory of the Bosporan Kingdom, was a member of the Athenian League. In addition, the Athenian lists mention Crimean cities such as Tyritake (also in the Bosporus territory), Dandaki (about which, however, we are not entirely sure whether it was in the western Crimea or on the Taman' peninsula), and Kerkinitis. It is believed that these references to the Crimean cities in the Athenian catalogs are not unrelated to the so-called Pontic campaign of Pericles[49].

The Maeotian nomads and the Scythians' armed forces helped the Bosporan Kingdom grow into the greatest in the area during antiquity. When Leukon's son Pairisades I came to power in 344 BC, he carried on his policies. Only after his death in 311 BC did things get worse when his middle son Eumelos rebelled against Satyros II, the legitimate heir, and Paerisades Pritan, their younger brother. This dispute amongst the heirs quickly got worse. Satyros II and Pritan died shortly after Eumelos was defeated in a significant battle on the Thasis River, but Eumelos was still able to capture control of the Bosporan Kingdom. The Scythians had to cede control of the steppes to the Sarmatians in the 3rd century BC. Small kingdoms were established in Crimea in place of Greater Scythia, with the capitals located in the Scythian

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[48] Butyagin, 2007, 11.
[49] Mattingly 1996, 151-157, 151, footnote 3; Tsetskhladze 1997, 461-466; Tsetskhladze 2008, 47-62; Demir 2001, 529-540; Surikov 2001, 341–366; Gallo 2013, 159-160.

Neapolis (Simferopol) and the lower Don River valley. Olbia was severely damaged in 331 BC as a result of a campaign led by Alexander the Great's general Zopirion. It appears that the city was under siege as a partner of the Scythians, who were the target of the campaign. Although the siege was lifted and the Macedonian forces were wiped out, the city was unable to recover from the effort, and a protracted period of instability resulted. All of the Greek colonies on the northern Black Sea coast were in a condition of crisis in the 3rd and 2nd century BC as a result of the waning demand for Pontic grain in mainland Greece and the unsteady situation in the steppes as the Crimean and Dniepr Scythian kingdoms escalated their pressure on the Greek cities. Chersonesos lost the majority of its territory in western Crimea, Olbia was in threat of invasion by nomadic tribes, and the people of the *chora* were prepared to aid the invaders whenever it was subjected by the Scythian monarch Sciluros[50].

### 2.4. The Kingdom of Pontus and the north Euxine

Only after Mithridates VI Eupator, King of Pontus, ascended to the throne of Pontus, did a solution becomes apparent. His goal was to unify all of the Greeks in the ancient *oikoumene* under his reign. In order to accomplish this, he dispatched his commander Diophantus in 110 BC to assist Chersonesos. After that, Diophantus was successful in persuading the ruler of the Bosporan Kingdom to leave his realm to Mithridates. Mithridates governed the entire northern Black Sea Coast with the aid of his sons and generals, bringing Greek cities there for the first time into a single state. The Pontus king had an effective foreign policy. He zealously recruited barbarians into the military while also defending the rights of the neighborhood's Greek settlers. The Bosporans sought to break away from Mithridates because of the failed campaigns against Rome, but he invariably subdued them. The monarch made the Bosporan Kigdom his main center of operations after the kingdom of Pontus was defeated in the Third Mithridatic War to get ready for a new conflict with Rome. In 63 BC, economic problems and a flood of barbarians sparked an uprising in Phanagoria and Pantikapaion that forced Mithridates to commit suicide[51].

After being freed from the danger of the Kingdom of Pontus, Rome would include the Crimean cities in its territory and set up colonies, but preferred another policy. The cities of the northern shores of the Black Sea were never officially part of the Roman state in

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[50] Hind 1994, 495-506; Butyagin, 2007, 12-14; Petropoulos https://www.academia.edu/20284387/ History_of_the_Kingdoms_of_Bosporus_and_Pontus, 31-33, 44-45.
[51] Butyagin, 2007, 14; Petropoulos, 43-46; Saprykin 2007, 202-207.

Antiquity, despite the settlement of their guards. The Romans simply wanted to have absolute control over the region, so they chose as their pawn the Bosporan Kingdom, to which they gave enough leeway for movement and autonomy, but forbade the Kingdom to exercise foreign policy without their approval. All cities of Crimea were now under the control of the Bosporan Kingdom and the Bosporan Kingdom was under the control of Rome. One of the obligations of the Kingdom towards Rome, was the protection of the region from the Scythians and Sarmatians raiders, as well as the provision of soldiers, while later, from the 2nd c. AD, an annual tax payment was added[52].

## 2.5. Northern Euxine and Rome

The politics pursued by Chersonesos on the one hand and Panticapaion, the capital of the Bosphoran Kingdom, on the other, have always been different. The kings of the Bosporan Kingdom were loyal to Rome because of the threat of arms. The successors of Mithridates Eupator, ostensibly loyal to Rome, did not forget his exploits and were willing to defect. Chersonesos, no longer able to withstand the oppression of the Bosporan Kingdom, especially under Pharnakes (63-47 BC), who succeeded Mithridates Eupator, asked Rome for its freedom. It seems that Pharnakes had reason to be cruel to it, as it was one of the first cities to abandon Mithridates in his struggle against Rome. Julius Caesar, after an embassy from Chersonesos, granted their request in 46 BC and temporarily exempted them from the Bosporan Kingdom, with the only obligation now being direct obedience to Rome.

It seems, however, that after the death of Caesar, in 44 or 42 BC, the Bosporan Kingdom controlled Chersonesos again, following Antony's decision[53]. Pharnakes was initially loyal to Rome but soon showed disobedience. He clashed with Caesar at Zela in 47 BC and was defeated. It is not entirely certain whether as early as 47 BC, when Pharnakes was defeated by the Romans, Asander was officially on the throne of the Bosporan Kingdom, however, it seems that he was officially recognized by Antony, 44 BC or later, as one of the most active and successful of its kings. During his reign, he faced barbarian raiders from the East and the North and displayed great building work. After his death, Queen Dynamis (17 BC – 12 AD?), daughter of the previous king Pharnakes and granddaughter of Mithridates Eupator was left alone on the throne. The attempt of usurper Scribonius, who invoked his descent in order to succeed Asandros, failed. Rome, looking for a loyal vassal in the region, supported Polemon,

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[52] Treister 1996, 174-180.
[53] Rostovtsev 1918, 41-43.

king of Pontus, and sent him to Panticapaion, in order to marry Dynamis, who was forced to accept him under Rome's threats of war in case of disobedience, although Polemon did not live long as king in the Bosporan Kingdom[54].

Rome had many interests in the Crimea region, both economic and strategic. Although Rome may not have turned Crimea into a province, always wanted to have it under complete control, as far as that was possible. With this in mind, Roman garrisons began to be sent to the Crimea lands, as early as the middle of the 1st century AD. Their purpose was to maintain order, fight piracy, and repel barbarian raids. The land forces were supported by navies, based in the Danube delta area. The sphere of Crimean control peninsula was divided into two sectors: the eastern Crimea, the Bosporan Kingdom, was under the supervision of the eastern province of Bithynia - Pontus, while the area of Chersonesos and the southern coasts were under the supervision of the governor of Moesia. This division also refers to the different treatment enjoyed by each side: Rome's policy towards the Bosporan Kingdom was no different from the treatment of the other vassal states and peoples of the East. On the other hand, Chersonesos, like Olbia, was treated as a free city-state[55].

The maintenance of order was especially necessary for the eastern Crimea, in the lands of the Bosporan Kingdom, where distant descendants of Mithridates Eupator and would-be successors and imitators were a constant problem for the Senate. Mithridates VIII (otherwise known as II or III, 38/39 or 39/40 – 41/42 or 44/45 AD?) first supported Rome and then rebelled against it in the middle of the 1st c. AD, under Claudius (41-54), which was repeated by Sauromakis I (93/94-123/124 AD) in the first half of the 2nd century. Again, for this period, as well as for the period of arrival of Polemon, traces of Roman soldiers were found in Panticapaion, which show that their presence there extended up to the 2nd century AD[56].

## 2.6. The northern Black Sea in the Imperial period

Evidence for the stationing of Roman units in various regions of western Crimea, especially during the 2nd century AD, are the epitaph or votive inscriptions and the seals. Thus, parts of legions or auxiliary units are known to have passed through Chersonesos, Charakas, Symvolon Limenas, and several other less important locations. Apart from Rome, the kings of the Bosporan Kingdom, as well as the rest of the North Pontic cities, also had to

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[54] Rostovtsev 1919, 88-109; Treister 1996, 177-178; Ivantchik, Tokhtas'ev 2008, 165.
[55] Zubar 1996, 184.
[56] Treister 1996, 178-179; Saprykin 2000, 47-52.

face the problem of the movement and migration of the people. As early as the 2nd pre-Christian century, the Sarmatians had made their appearance, who were sometimes friendly and sometimes hostile towards the Crimean cities. The Sarmatians, according to a recent study, did not appear in the area of northern Euxine before the 2nd century BC, they are distinguished from the Sauromates who are attested by older sources and do not settle in the Crimea before the 1st century AD[57]. It seems that with the passage of time the Sarmatians mixed with the local Scythians and a new culture mixture was created, the exponents of what today's researchers usually call "Late Scythians" (first post-Christian centuries). Another mixing of cultures in the Crimea may have preceded: according to M. Rostovtsev, the Bosphoran Kingdom, already in pre-Christian times, had mutated from Greek to Greek-Iranian, a view that has been argued that such an effect is not proven and that its character remained Greek until about the 3rd century AD[58].

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[57] Vinogradov 2003, 217-226.
[58] Rostovtzeff 1922, 113-146; Saprykin 2004, 207-210.

## 3. Burial complexes of barbarian elites across the different regions of the North Black Sea

The examination of the burial assemblages of the northern coast of the Black Sea during the time period from the 3rd century BC up to the 3rd century AD offers valuable information about the various relationships and contacts between the Greek cities and centers of Greco-Roman culture and the native population groups, which are variously identified as barbarian peoples and barbarian tribes.

The burial ensembles of notable members of the population have been the focus of analysis and interpretation in the research field that has been developed for the study of the northern Black Sea region in antiquity, taking for granted the fact that the ensembles serve as a fundamental testimony to the networks of relationships between various population groups. In this situation, the funerals of notable people are seen as symbols of their unique social and political roles within a single system, which take precedence over ethnic, linguistic, religious, or even national affiliations[59].

The specific composition of the artifacts revealed in the burials, in a broad area like the northern Black Sea littoral, and in a single time frame, is a fundamental requirement for studying the funeral assemblages and considering them as a single reference system for producing conclusions. The objects with these shared characteristics that make up the reference system include silver and bronze vessels, imported items from the East, Chinese mirrors, military equipment, and items decorated with the characteristic animal style of the indigenous nomadic people, as well as various types of jewelry and other accessories for clothing and appearance in general. A few selected funeral assemblages will be examined in the following section in further detail focusing primarily on clothing and appearance accessories, and jewelry[60].

The summary presentation of the distinguished burials of the Northern Black region in the considered reference period includes a diagram of the evolutionary trends of their formation in the different spatial units of the Northern Black Sea, which has been defined by scholars, since the area is examined as a system analyzed into geographic sub-regions, namely in the regions of Lower Volga and Lower Don, Kuban, lower Dnieper, and Crimea.

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[59] Morvintseva 2016, 384-387.
[60] Morvintseva 2016, 386.

### 3.1. The Lower Volga and the Lower Don

The Lower Volga and Lower Don regions are located at the northeastern end of the northern Black Sea region, at a particularly long distance from the Greek cities (Fig. 3-4). The archaeological sites of the Hellenistic and Roman times are represented by burials in kurgan mounds, which are usually interpreted as monuments of the Sarmatians, while the archaeological sites located in the lower Don and dated to the middle of the 1st century BC are identified as monuments of the Maeotians[61]. The burials of the elites are located in the same necropolises as the burials of the common people, with the difference that the highest mounds are chosen for the distinguished burials, while for the rest of the population, the burials are made in the already existing mounds. Elite tombs are enriched with additional elements such as niches/hiding places for the placement of grave goods[62].

In the middle of the 2nd century BC rich burial assemblages appear that offered special gifts such as swords in gold sheaths, quivers with gold fittings, precious drinking cups, gold arm-rings, gold plaques once embroidered on clothes, belt plaques – single or paired – , wooden plates of elongated proportions cladded with gold leaf and decorated with carved zoomorphic images, and are attributed to warriors. The wealth of female burials with gold plaques embroidered on clothes, gold plaques, gold temple pendants, finger-rings, and less often gold torques, arm, and foot-rings, and gold-coated mirrors bearing anthropomorphic and zoomorphic decoration is equally well testified[63].

Burial finds from the second half of the 2nd to the first half of the 1st centuries BC, namely belt plaques and buckles, Animal Style objects, sword- sheaths, silver drinking cups, parts of horse harnesses, gold funerary wreaths, silver tableware prove a wide range of communications and contacts between various peoples inhabiting the Eurasian steppe belt, the Kuban region, and the Greek settlements. A considerable percentage of the elite burial goods were manufactured in the workshops of the Greek cities of the North Black Sea Coast, the Bosporan workshops, and the Mediterranean[64].

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[61] Morvintseva 2016, 382.
[62] Morvintseva 2016, 388-389.
[63] Morvintseva 2016, 388-389.
[64] Morvintseva 2016, 389.

### 3.2. The Kuban

The Kuban region stretches along the shores of the Azov Sea (Lake Maiotis) and the flow of the Kuban River (Fig. 3-4). Archaeological sites of the Hellenistic period are mainly represented by settlements and kurgan mounds located along the right bank of the Kuban, while from the 1st century BC onwards a certain removal of sites is observed since important archaeological sites were relocated from the right bank of the Kuban to the region between the Kuban and the Laba river[65].

During the Hellenistic era the most well-attested grave goods, both in male and female burials, were elaborate drinking vessels, tripods/rods with zoomorphic terminals, iron and bronze weapons, horse fittings (phalerae) decorated with floral motifs and figures of Greek deities, multi-turn torques, and gold bracelets with zoomorphic endings. Gold brooches with polychrome glass inlays and filigree decorations were the most notable finds of male burials and have been interpreted as evidence of social wealth and power. Based on the above-mentioned findings influences and contact directions can be traced between the Kuban elites and the Bosporan kingdom, the Lower Volga and Lower Dnieper regions as well as Asia Minor[66].

In the 1st century BC, fine necklaces of eastern Mediterranean origin appear among jewelry of local artistic production in female elite burials. Male burials no longer contain polychrome brooches, multi-turn torques, and bracelets with animal-shaped endings. Belt buckles made from precious metals were found instead, together with roman tableware of imported and local origin[67].

In the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD elite graves were located on the left bank of the Kuban, near the borders with the Bosporan kingdom. Male burials, apart from gold jewelry included weaponry and horse fittings with gold decorative elements, while female graves contained jewelry of Bosporan provenance[68].

### 3.3. The Lower Dnieper

Archaeological sites of the Lower Dnieper region comprise settlements, burial grounds, and kurgan mounds stretching along the lower reaches of the river ( Fig. 3-4). From the 3rd to

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[65] Morvintseva 2016, 391.
[66] Morvintseva 2016, 391-392.
[67] Morvintseva 2016, 392-393.
[68] Morvintseva 2016, 393.

the 1st centuries BC the funerary complexes of the elite are represented by votive hoards and rare burials in kurgan mounds. New kurgan and flat necropolises appear in the 1st century BC, while from the mid-2nd century AD onwards there is a decrease in the number of burials[69].

The Hellenistic funerary votive hoards contain jewelry and dress decorative elements characteristic of female burial rite, while hoards attributed to male funeral rites are characterized by the presence of helmets Montefortino, swords, arrow- and spearheads, horse harnesses, silver drinking cups, and bronze *situlae*, mostly found in an intentionally damaged condition. The Kamenka burial complex is the only one that can be attributed to a distinctive funeral including gold plate eye and mouth face covers[70].

Fine jewelry of Mediterranean provenance, prestige objects, silk cloth, lacquerware, and mirrors from China, mirror supports, fans, and toilet flasks from the Near East, bronze and silverware of roman provenance and influence, and a single case of gold leaves from a funerary wreath appear in kurgan burials, dated in the 1st century AD. From the middle of the 2nd century AD, elite burials became more infrequent with grave goods limited to objects of bosporan and roman provincial provenance[71].

### 3.4. The Crimea

The archaeological sites of the Crimea (3rd century BC – mid–3rd century AD) comprise settlements, flat burial grounds, kurgan necropolises, and sanctuaries, situated mainly along the western coast and its southwestern part (Fig. 3-4). These sites are known as Scythian in scientific literature based on the discovered material remains which have been attributed to Scythian populations who moved to Crimea as a result of the supposed Sarmatian conquest[72].

The number of sites, settlements, and their respective necropolises increased from the 2nd century BC. Burials in kurgan mounds as well as burials in the Mausoleum of Neapolis Scythica present the main funeral assemblages of the elite. The most characteristic findings from the male burials are the gold plate covers for the eyes and mouth, gold plaques and pendants, sets of belt fittings and gold and silver brooches, and weapons. The jewelry from the funeral assemblages attests to Greek influences, while the weapons, brooches, and belt fittings denote contact with La Tène cultures. In the mid-1st century BC, the burial from the

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[69] Morvintseva 2016, 393-394.
[70] Morvintseva 2016, 394.
[71] Morvintseva 2016, 394.
[72] Morvintseva 2016, 394-395.

Nogajčik Barrow in eastern Crimea shows remarkable differences from the burials attributed to Scythians, since fine jewelry of eastern Mediterranean origin, high-quality vessels made of silver and glass, and animal-style objects, have been interpreted as belonging to a different population, the Sarmatians[73].

Distinguished elite burials are attested from the 1st century AD in southwestern Crimea, where gold funeral wreaths, eye- and mouth-gold plate covers, finger rings, belts with gold fittings, imported vessels, and cosmetic utensils have been unearthed[74].

During the first centuries AD, the funerary assemblages of the elites in kurgan mounds as well as in flat necropolises contained gold funeral wreaths, eye- and mouth-gold plate covers, lamps, perfume flasks, lacquer boxes and silk, Roman metal and glass vessels, and alabaster flasks demonstrating the various contacts of the Crimea region with the Near East, the Greek and Roman world, distant China and local centers of production. On the contrary, from the 2nd century AD onwards, the elite burial complexes decrease in number, while their burial goods are indicative of the relations with the nearby areas of the Bosporan kingdom, the southwestern and central Crimea, the Don delta, and the Kuban region[75].

[73] Morvintseva 2016, 395.
[74] Morvintseva 2016, 395-396.
[75] Morvintseva 2016, 396.

## 4. Burial assemblages

A set of four selected funeral assemblages will be presented in this chapter, namely the burials of Grave no. 3 from the Memzay-I Burial Ground, the Nogajčik royal grave, grave 1 from the Luchistoe-2 necropolis, and the grave no. 1047 from the Ust'-Al'ma necropolis. Pieces of jewelry from the above-mentioned burials will constitute the catalogue of the next chapter sorted by different types of jewelry, each type in chronological order starting from the earlier according to the chronology of each funeral assemblage.

### 4.1. The Memzay burial

Near the settlement of Mezmay in the Apsheronsk District of the Krasnodar region, the Mezmay-I Burial-ground (mainly of flat graves) is located on the northern slopes of the Central Caucasus at a height of around 800 m above sea level (Fig. 5). The Grave No. 3 ensemble, which contained the remains of a warrior of high social standing and aristocratic origin, has so far proven to be the most intriguing of the assemblages that have been researched. In addition to the warrior burial, this funeral complex also contained horse graves and a wide variety of grave goods, the quantity, and caliber of which make the complex exceptional not just for the Northern Caucasus but also for the entire North Pontic region[76] (Fig. 6).

The burial pit had an uneven oval shape running from northwest to southeast. It was 3,80 m broad, 4,3 m long when measured along the axis of a stone cist, and 2,6 m deep above the present-day ground level. Small shattered stones and exceptionally dense soil were put together to fill the pit. Large boulders and fragments of stone slabs filled the pit starting at a depth of 1,2 meters; the deeper the in-fill, the more compact it was. There are three levels to this grave pit's vertical structure. Before construction on this structure began in antiquity, a layer of turf around the pit that was up to 15 cm deep was removed. Unworked stones of various sizes were piled end to end around the pit's outer border at this level. The grave pit's walls slanted downhill, beginning at the level of the outer stone 'ring,' creating a small ledge in the process. Large stones were found in the in-fill at a depth of around 1,2 meters, between which horse bones were discovered at varying depths.

A pit with an irregular shape that was 1,7 m by 3,5 m in size and that stretched along the SE-NW axis was formed when the walls of the pit sank very sharply in the vicinity of the

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[76] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev, 2012, 281-334;

bottom. An open cist consisting of stone slabs of various lengths and thicknesses piled carelessly up against one another on their narrow edges was at the bottom of the hole[77].

The cist was about 3,2 meters long, 1,2 meters broad, and 0,6 meters high. A layer of charcoal that was up to 0,05 m thick had been spread across the earthen cist's floor. A wooden coffin that roughly matched the inside dimensions of the cist was placed on top of the charcoal. The cist's in-fill was made up of a mixture of earth, rocks, and slab fragments that had crushed various artifacts and human skeleton bones. The adult skeleton was set up with its head facing northwest and was in the supine position. The skull had been turned southward with the "face" portion looking towards the chest. The center of the cist had a sizable empty space due to the trunk's minor pelvic bending. The majority of the deceased's head, feet, and chest area were where the grave goods were concentrated[78].

Two bronze helmets, iron chainmail, swords, spearheads, short spears and arrows, a battle axe, bronze, glass, and pottery vessels, gold jewelry—including bracelets, brooches, a torque, a ring, beads, and plaques—, a bronze mirror, an iron staff with zoomorphic representations, and many other artifacts—were also discovered. The burial's proposed dating spans from the late 3rd to the early 2nd century BC, while the necropolis itself is thought to have been in use during the Late Hellenistic and Early Roman periods[79].

### 4.2. The royal grave of the Nogajčik burial

The burial complex is dated to the early 1st century BC, to the time of Mithridates Eupator, and it is a unique example in terms of richness and composition for the whole northern Pontic region (Fig. 7). Based on its components the burial can be compared with the 3rd – early 1st centuries BC so-called ritual hoards. The grave is considered the richest and most remarkable grave from Sarmatian times in Crimea[80] (Fig. 8).

The grave's burial rite is the following: A wooden sarcophagus painted in white, blue, and lilac colors was used for the inhumation. The sarcophagus was lined with a carpet or a comparable cloth that was primarily red in color. The bottom of the coffin, especially the central area, was stuffed with incense sticks. Fabric embroidered with various gold appliqué covered the top of the sarcophagus[81] (Fig. 9).

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[77] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 287.
[78] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 287-288.
[79] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 288-290.
[80] Mordvintseva 2005, 275-285.
[81] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 197, 200.

The body in the tomb was that of a woman between the ages of 35 and 40, standing 1,70 m tall (Fig. 10). Her head was covered with gold appliqué, which could have been a headdress. Nearby, a set of earrings. The neck was wrapped in torque. The torque's ends, which have animal motifs on them, were at the back. On top of it, a necklace and a brooch pin were affixed. The deceased's chest was adorned with stone, glass, and gold beads. Two of the dead woman's clothes were made of silk. Both of the dead woman's hands, which were adorned with huge armlets, were placed in silver cups. Bracelets made of gold wire, small black glass, and jet beads adorned the feet. The bracelets decorated with figures of Eros and Psyche emerging from a four-petaled open flower are the most stunning objets d'art uncovered in Barbarian Crimea. The combination of small beads of agate, black glass beads with crossed white bands, green round beads, and small golden rings decorated with granulation is another decorative characteristic of the 2nd-1st century BC. The earrings consist of the well-known Hellenistic type of central disk and pendants. A gold U-shaped band with tiny granulation, known as an "Isis-crown" is marking the upper inlay. Both the finger-rings are of Hellenistic type in shape. Their frames can be dated to the 3rd-2nd centuries BC. One has gold inlay with the image of a relief female deity, and the other has an inlaid glass intaglio of reddish-brown color. The necklace belongs to the well-known type of Hellenistic jewelry with a simple chain and elaborate ends. Other important jewelry pieces are various pendants, flagon-shaped ones of a tiny size. Another unique item is the characteristic dolphin-shaped fibula belonging to the type of two-needled brooch[82].

### 4.3. The Luchistoe-2, Grave 1 burial

In the Luchistoe-2 necropolis, which is so far the only known archaeological site in Southern Crimea with burial structures of the Early Roman period, the excavation of Grave 1, a flat grave of stonework walls covered with stone slabs, offered an important example of a burial with numerous grave goods and a complex stratigraphy characteristic of the rituals performed in regard of it[83] (Fig. 11-15).

Analysis of the archaeological material in conjunction with information about the location of the necropolis and data from epigraphic documents and ancient literary tradition

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[82] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 200-203.
[83] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin, 2016, 199-205.

leads to the conclusion that the burial-ground was located in 'Taurica', the territory between the Greek polis of Chersonesos and the Bosporan kingdom[84].

The burial chamber of this tomb was roughly rectangular in plan and its floor measured 0,80 × 2,05 m. The stonework of its walls had been placed right up against the walls of the pit and it was up to 60 cm wide. The walls consisted of stone slabs of varying size and with rounded edges and the walls were all the same height (*c*. 75-85 cm). A different material had been used for the cover of the grave – thin slabs of sandstone brought in from elsewhere. Originally the complex had contained only the remains of the deceased, grave goods, thin layers of the earth 'echoing' the shapes within the funerary structure (covering of the floor (?), the walls, and cover of the tomb), and also certain fragments of pottery vessels and pieces of charcoal which had turned up between some of the layers in the course of rituals accompanying the actual burial[85] (Fig. 15).

The remains of the deceased had almost completely rotted away. Pieces of the skull were discovered in the soil removed from the pit, the extraction of which had made the southern edge of the complex collapse. It was established that the published grave contained the burial of a woman of high social status (probably a priestess) dated from the late 1st or early 2nd century AD. Starting out from the positions in which these bones and items of jewelry were found it can be suggested that the deceased had been lying with her head pointing S or SW and that her arms were arranged straight along her sides (the left hand was in the thigh area, while the right was slightly less close to the body), while the feet were in the north-western quarter of the burial chamber. When the burial was investigated, a total of 283 artifacts were found. In general, the apparel is distinguished by a large number of beads (particularly beads fashioned from semi-precious stones), fibulae and rings, earrings, bracelets, and pendants. The upper limit of the date range for such objects is the first half of the 1st century AD. Yet the time when the absolute majority of the artifacts from Grave No. 1 were in use is most probably the turn of the 1st century AD[86] (Fig. 16-17).

### 4.4. The Ust'-Al'ma Grave No. 1074 burial

The Ust'-Al'ma necropolis, which is located on the shore of South-Western Crimea near the mouth of the river Al'ma next to a Late Scythian settlement of the same name, has had

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[84] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin, 2016, 199-200.
[85] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin, 2016, 206-209, fig. 6-7.
[86] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin, 2016, 209-214, 248-249, fig. 6-7.

more than a thousand funeral complexes ranging from the 1st century BC to the mid-3rd century AD excavated. The majority of these remains are found in earthen catacombs along the route that leads to Ust'-Al'ma, an ancient fortified village. In the Ust'-Al'ma necropolis, a grave with a side chamber was found (Grave No. 1074) during the 2015 excavations. The deceased, a male between the ages of 25 and 35, had had numerous wounds during his life that may have been caused by strikes he took while fighting.

The usage of an unusual style of burial structure (a grave with a side chamber) and the sparse but high social status grave goods (a funeral wreath, face coverings, and a sword) reveal the unique status of the person interred at Grave No. 1074[87].

The grave's entrance pit measured 1,05-1,18 × 2,62-2,75 m and was 1,56-1,60 m below the present-day surface; its axis was oriented SE-NW. Its dimensions were slightly greater than those of the Ust'- Al'ma necropolis's other entrance pits with side chambers that have been discovered there. The side chamber was dug through a deep marly soil and measured 2,26 × 0,76-0,85 m to the northeast of the entry pit. Steps between 48 and 50 cm high were used to create the fall into the side chamber. An adult male's body had been prepared for burial on the side-chamber floor; he was resting there with his head pointing northeast and his body in the supine position[88] (Fig. 18).

Traces of a burial wreath in the form of gold trefoils were discovered on the skull and all around it. A mouth guard in the shape of an oval gold plate was placed over the teeth. Two gold eye coverings with relief images of eyes stacked one on top of the other were discovered by the right collarbone and beneath the shoulder blade. An iron belt buckle was found among the pelvic bones. An iron sword and iron knives were found next to the deceased's right thigh bone and right-hand bones. Four ribbon parts made of thin gold leaf with jagged edges were found on the thigh bones, across the sword's blade, and in between them. The burial complex is part of a set of 'Barbarian' elite funerals with gold funeral wreaths and face-coverings that dates from the middle or last quarter of the 1st century AD to the first third of the 2nd century AD (eye- and mouth-covers)[89].

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[87] Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, 43.
[88] Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, 44-49.
[89] Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, 49-51.

## 5. Catalogue of finds

The following catalogue consists of eighty-three (83) objects and group of objects organized in categories such as helmets, wreaths, headdresses, face part covers, earrings, necklaces, pendants and beads in one group, brooches and fibulae, bracelets, finger rings, belt buckles, plaques and a bronze mirror.

### 5.1. Helmets

**1.** Bronze Helmet with cheek-plates (**Fig. 19**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave No 3.

Dimensions: Height: 17 cm, Width: 16,7 cm, Length: 19,9 cm.

The helmet was restored from several fragments. It is forged and made out of two parts linked with rivets along an overlapping join along the line of the "sagittal suture", which turns horizontal at the back part of the neck. Arc-like slits thickened around the edges form the front part over the eyebrows. Relief coiled sheep horns decorate the sides of the helmet, the nose-guard has been reconstructed. For the hinged fastening of the cheek plates, loops on the inside of the sides have been soldered in place. The cheek-plates feature forged geometric ornamentation and are constructed of a thin sheet of bronze. A row of small, round holes is incorporated into the cheek-plate edge, most likely to allow for the sewing of a covering[90].

**2.** Bronze Helmet with cheek plates (**Fig. 20**).

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave No 3.

Dimensions: Height: 17 cm, Width: 17,5 cm, Length: 21,6 cm.

A forged metal helmet that is made of two overlapping portions riveted together at the "sagittal suture" line. Iron oxides survived in a little hole that was formed at the top of the helmet. The low-hanging neck guard is highlighted in relief, and its border curves outward. The nose-guard resembles a triangle. The bottom edge of the helmet has been fashioned to resemble a low ridge and turns outward. Triple ridges made of chased embellishment are present on the helmet's top. A horizontal frieze in the shape of a zigzag is present lower down. The cheek plates are fashioned from a thin sheet of bronze that has been shaped and has holes along the edge. The exterior features chased ornamentation. It has a hinged fastening[91].

**3.** Helmet fragments (**Fig. 21**)

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[90] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 316, Fig. 15, *1*; 17, *3*
[91] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 316, Fig. 15, *2*; 17, *1*

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave No 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: 2 - 3 cm, Length: 2 - 5 cm.

Several forged bronze helmet fragments with geometric relief ornamentation. Their overall form was impossible to reconstruct[92].

**4.** Cheek plate of a helmet (**Fig. 22**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave No 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: 7,5 cm, Length: 10,5 cm.

Bronze cheek plate, that has been forged and has a hinge for fixing. It has geometric stamping on it[93].

**5.** Bronze helmet (**Fig. 23**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave No 3.

Dimensions: Height: 19,8 cm, Width: cm, Length: 25,5 cm.

A helmet made of bronze that was formed from a single sheet. It features a hemispherical crown, a detailed neck-guard, and a little visor. A frontlet with volutes at each end and relief work on the front part adds decoration. The neck-guard has a broad central curve and lower sections on either side. The face portion has a low, visor-like descent. The ridge-forming lower edge is twisted inward. Figured cheek-plates were attached to the sides of the helmet with loops so they could be changed, and some of these cheek-plate parts remained. Sunken stones had already done significant damage to the helmet when it was discovered, which explains why the upper portion of the helmet did not survive. Helmets of this type are known as "pseudo-Attic" and the category is subdivided into two variants – with and without a crest. Finds of iron helmets with a crest in context were made in burials dating from the end of the 4th or the 3rd century BC. Helmets of this kind without a crest have been recorded in the north-western Pontic region, in the lower reaches of the Don, and in the Northern Caucasus. Among the published specimens only the helmet from Gevani comes from an assemblage, of which the date can be determined as the 3rd century BC[94].

**6.** Bronze helmet (**Fig. 24**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave No 3.

Dimensions: Height: 22 cm, Width: cm, Length: 26 cm.

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[92] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 316, Fig. 17, *2, 5*

[93] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 317, Fig. 17, *6,*

[94] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 294, 325, Fig. 14, *1*, 17, *4*

An extremely fragmented bronze helmet. Made from a single piece of bronze, it has a relatively flat crown with a curved-conical shape, a relief-marked neck guard, and a horizontal lower edge without any protruding components underneath it. A ledge in the shape of two arcs that branches out from the piece coming down over the nose divides the higher portion of the crown from the lower one. The sides of the helmet had no ledge. The nose-borders guards and the arcs over the eyes are relief-marked. The edges of the cheek plates, which are composed of a thin sheet of metal, are not flat but rather rounded. The sections sticking out on the sides of the cheek-plates are marked out in relief and are hinged. Although this helmet is a Type V Chalcidian helmet with movable cheek plates and a nose guard, it was formerly categorized as an Attic type in Russian and former Soviet Union literature, starting with the work of B. Rabinovich. That interpretation has just lately been discussed. The Laba and Belaya Rivers and their tributaries are the places where this form of headgear is found in abundance outside of the Kuban River. The majority of the helmets were discovered in abandoned facilities. The earliest helmets are from the 4th century BC, while the last are most likely from the first. With reference to those from Olympia, E. Kunze and G. Plug developed the typology of these helmets. The Mezmay specimen fits either Plug's Type V or Kunze's Group VII. For instance, similar helmets were unearthed in burials dated in the 4th century BC at Akhul-Abaa in Sukhumi during excavations conducted in 1979 and 1985[95].

### 5.2. Wreaths

**7.** Gold trefoil leafs (**Fig. 25**)

Provenance: Ust' Al'ma Necropolis, warrior burial 1074.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: 2,9-3,3 cm, Length: 4,4-4,6 cm (trefoil).

An assemblage of gold leaves in the shape of a trefoil, in very bad condition of preservation, was founded in a warrior burial from the Ust' Al'ma Necropolis. The trefoils, located mostly around the skull formed a golden burial wreath[96].

### 5.3. Headdress-Diadem

**8.** Gold plaques, tubes and pendants for decoration of a headdress (**Fig. 26**)

Provenance: Nogajčik royal grave.

[95] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 294, 325, Fig. 14, *2*,
[96] Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, 49, fig. 1, 6, 5, 1, 9.

Dimensions: Hemispherical plaques: Diameter 0,6 cm.  Corrugated tubes: Diameter 0,3 cm. Triangular plaques: 0,7X0,7 cm, 0,6 X 0,45 cm. Disc-shaped pendants: Diameter of the disc 1,2 cm. Leaf-shaped pendants: 1,1 X 1 cm

A hundred and eight gold items, sixty-seven hemispherical plaques, fourteen corrugated tubes, eight triangular plaques, nine disc-shaped pendants and ten pendants in the shape of a leaf were inserted onto an organic material to comprise  a headdress[97].

### 5.4. Face part covers

**9.** Mouth cover (**Fig. 27**)

Provenance: Ust' Al'ma Necropolis, warrior burial 1074.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: 2,8 cm, Length: 8,1 cm.

Oval-shaped gold plate serving as a mouth cover. It has been preserved over the teeth of the deceased's skull[98].

**10.** Eye covers (**Fig. 28**)

Provenance: Ust' Al'ma Necropolis, warrior burial 1074.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: 2,3 – 2,4 cm, Length: 4,1 cm.

Two semi-circular gold eye covers with relief images depicting eyes arranged one on top of the other, were discovered by the right collarbone beneath the shoulder blade[99].

### 5.5. Earrings

**11.** Pair of earrings (**Fig. 29**)

Provenance: Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: 5,2 cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

The earrings consist of the well-known Hellenistic type of central disk and pendants. From a thin sheet of gold, a base plate with an uneven shape was carved out. After that, this base was soldered with round closures for inlays made of 2 mm-wide strips. The upper cloison was set in a frame and an oval agate inlay was added. A rod, possibly topped with a bead at one point in the past, was soldered onto the top of that inlay. A ring with little beads of granulation was attached around the rod. The Isis crown, a figured band that is 2 mm wide and has fine granulation beads with a diameter of 0,5 mm soldered to the front edge, serves as the base

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[97] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 206, fig.  4, 12-13, 5, 5-9.
[98] Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, 49, fig. 1, 7, 5, 2, 6, 8.
[99] Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, 49, fig. 1, 8, 5, 3, 8.

for the higher inlay. Two volutes with curled top and bottom edges have been soldered as adornment beneath this U-shaped ring. Five holes were cut in the centre between the volutes and inside the four twisted scrolls, into which wires holding beads were placed. The beads are composed of translucent green glass at the edges and red cornelian in the middle. Round convex caps with notches along part of their edges serve as the wires' ends. An elaborate composite inlay may be seen in the lower cloison. In the centre, there is a large beryl stone in a setting. Round it, there is an inlay in the shape of a ring encrusted with triangles of black and white glass, which have been arranged between an inner and outer gold hoop. There is fine granulation around the top of the outer hoop. At the back of the base-plate two side loops – also made of wire – have been soldered on and a hook of forged wire: one end of it is pointed and the other spread into a flat plate, which is cut so as to form two bands in its bottom quarter. Small loops are formed when these bands are turned towards the front of the earring. A granulation rosette with one bead in the centre and six others circling it is soldered onto the front of each. The loops have been threaded with a thin wire that has a capping at each end. The ends of the wire curve round toward the back of the earring, and a figure of a little amphora with attachments in the form of a flower hangs from the wire. The flower's outlines are adorned with ribbed wire. The amphora's neck terminates in a hollow rod to which a large bead was once fastened. A base that is attached to the body has a lower portion that is shaped like a cube. This base has come off one earring. From the side, loops were suspended framed inlays made of beryl and green translucent glass. On the rear of each, a wire loop was welded, and three chains of two different sorts were joined to each loop: 1. fashioned of lengthy wire loops (2 or 4 links) ending in beads of green glass and red cornelian. 2. built from wire pieces with loops created by twisting them. Two rings with fine granulation have been fused onto them at each joint, and three wire pendants are affixed to the lower loop, where little beads may have once been set[100].

**12.** A pair of ring-shaped earrings (**Fig. 30**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two ring-shaped, silver earrings. They were manufactured using either cast wire that was sectioned round or cast metal that was later hammered flat. The second end has been given a looped shape, and one of the ends has been bent around to form a hook. A triangular-

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[100] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 206-207, fig. 4, 14, 6, 1-2.

sectioned dip in the earring's profile on the exterior of the base gives it a zoomorphic appearance. The thick section of the sub-pyramidal shape in the loop is oriented towards the top of the earring. Similar earrings were found on Crimea's main mountain range, on the southern slopes of its central part.  The design of the earrings' fastening suggests that they were made around the 1st or 2nd century AD[101].


### 5.6. Necklaces, pendants, beads

**13.** Part of a torque (**Fig. 31**).

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: 17 cm, Width: 17,5 cm, Length: 21,6 cm.

Part of a torque. Three tubes that were manufactured from a rolled sheet of gold and soldered together create a torque, part of which has been preserved until today. Torques of this well-known type, dated in the Hellenistic period, were made from parts joined together by hinges. Similar examples were found in the Taman peninsula, the Kuban valley, and the central foothills of the Caucasus as well as the Siberian Collection of Peter the Great. The manufacturing element of using hollow tubes in goldsmithing torques, bracelets, or temple rings is characteristic of the regions of the Asiatic Bosporus and the Kuban valley[102].

**14.** Necklace (**Fig. 32**).

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length:  31 cm, Length of pendants: 1,4 cm.

The necklace belongs to the well-known type of Hellenistic jewelry with a simple chain and elaborate ends. Exact parallels can be found among objects from the necropolis of Taranto and some other localities of the 3rd – early 2nd century BC. The necklace is made of three chains that are connected by soldered links every three loops (loop-in-loop). 36 pendants are used to embellish the bottom row. Each side's final three links have been attached to a rod, which has been put through three flat hooks that have been soldered onto a decorative plate. In one instance, the configuration has two extra loops built in to keep the hooks in place. Each base plate is made out of a thin metal plate that has been cut. An oval garnet inlay is put in a band that has been soldered at a 90-degree angle to the base plate in the centre of it. Around the inlay, there is an extra design in the form of volutes formed of ribbed wire with slanted notches. Two lines of ribbed wire with straight notches support the volutes. The same wire-

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[101] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 225-226, Fig. 9, 9-10.
[102] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 317, 330, Fig. 13, *2*.

based ovolos are positioned directly beneath the two lines. A thin coating of gold was used to shape the inside outlines of the "eggs." A loop that can be linked to a garment or clasp has been affixed to the base-plate's rear[103].

**15.** Torque with animal-shaped ends (**Fig. 33**).

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Diameter: 14 cm, Length: cm.

A torque that has ends bearing animal motifs on them. The part of the torque with the animal-shaped ends was found worn at the back part of the deceased's neck.  A hammered rod with a diameter of 6 mm and three coils of twisting serves as the foundation for this piece of jewelry. The torque's coils had initially been close to one another. The torque's coils are currently being dragged apart by their own weight, and its current height is 14 cm from top to bottom. There are decorative terminals with animal representations at both ends of the torque. Each terminal is made up of two rods facing opposite directions. A series of three fantastical animals is shown on each. It is difficult to categorize these images because none of them fit the typical categories of legendary animals seen in Classical art, yet we could call them griffins. The fact that each figure was specifically marked out by the artisan with unique signs is important in any effort to decode the subject. This enables us to think of them as a representation of the three spheres of the universe and the torque as the ultimate representation of the cosmos. Only the front of the creatures' bodies' trunks has been ornamented with unique-shaped frames, some of which feature inlays. Some of the inlays were apparently never put, based on the condition of the unfilled cavities. The square, circular, and egg-shaped sockets have been filled with identical round dark-blue glass beads. A coral (?) inlay may be seen in one of the tear-shaped clasps. Engraving has been used to complete the amazing creatures' wings and muzzles[104].

**16.** Amulet pendant (**Fig. 34**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: 3,3 cm.

Amulet pendant in the form of a long barrel-shaped bead made of chalcedony, with three gold facings; two cap-facings for each end respectively and a central one, made from a thin gold ring-shaped strap decorated with filigree. The side coverings are ornamented with ten-petal

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[103] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 207-208, Fig. 4, 15, 5, 2-4.
[104] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 208, 210-212, fig. 4, 16, 7, 1-5.

rosettes[105]. All three facings terminate in loops from which the amulet bead would have been suspended. The type has been recorded from the Hellenistic period to the first centuries AD. Similar amulets have been found in a burial from the Kuban valley dating to the 1st century AD, and in another burial from a mound in the Krasnodar area. According to relative evidence from the funerary assemblage of the mausoleum at Scythian Neapolis, a date in the last quarter of the 2nd century BC can be possibly assigned to the finding[106].

**17.** Pendant (**Fig. 35**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm, Diameter: 1,8 cm.

Gold coin of Sinope which was used as a pendant. Head of Athena in a helmet facing right on the Obverse.  Nike with a wreath, a star to the left, and traces of a monogram to the right on the Reverse. A ring for the suspension of the coin as a pendant, made from a flat gold bar has been inserted into a hole that has been drilled in the edge of the coin. The coin is from a posthumous issue of Alexander III of Macedonia and dates from 275-250 BC. Gold staters of posthumous Alexander and Lysimachus issues were found in rich burials in the Bosporus and at Olbia. In several cases, gold staters were used for the manufacturing of various types of jewelry. Apart from the Memzay example, similarly, a finger ring with a gold stater was found in a Scythian burial in the Stavropol Area[107].

**18.** Flagon-shaped pendant (**Fig. 36**).

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: 2,1 cm, Diameter of the body: 2,8cm, Diameter of the rim: 1,8 cm, Length: cm.

Two loops have been soldered onto the sides of this small vessel's spherical, squat body, which allows it to be hanged from. Three bands of ornamentation have been welded onto the flagon's shoulders. Two rows of twisted wire "plaits" are soldered between two rows of smooth wire in the upper and bottom rows, respectively. A row of heart-shaped cavities arranged around the body's core are filled with a progression of green, bright blue, and dark blue fragments of an opaque material. Strips of a thin gold sheet that are soldered on at right angles frame the inlays. On the base of the flagon, there is repoussè ornamentation. Concentric circles have been stamped from the inside, and a little circle has been applied with

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[105] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 307, Figs. 11, 16; 19, 1.
[106] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 289, 307, 329, Fig. 11, 6.
[107] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 289, 309, 330-331, Figs. 11, 14; 20, 1.

a "puncher-pipe" on the exterior. Pierced dots have been used to adorn the small circle's center and the middle concentric circle. The little vessel's lid is flat with two loops soldered to its sides as well. An inlay of dark-blue glass in the shape of a circle decorates the center of the lid. A strip of gold that has been soldered on at an angle serves as the closure for the inlay. A "wave" pattern, created by gently twisting wire, surrounds the inlay. Large granulation beads have been set in the pattern's S-shaped curls. A similar design has been imprinted around the edge of the lid using a tubular "puncher-pipe" with a dot in the center, as seen on the base of the little flagon[108].

**19.** Three lunula-pendants (**Fig. 37**).

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Three lunula–shaped silver pendants. The pendants have small round holes for their suspension. They bear filigree decoration. The pendants were oval in shape, and slightly faceted, and their ends did not meet and were riveted. The ends of two of the pendants had later been bent in close to the center forming a thicker section. The eyelets and the filigree decoration had been soldered in place opposite the intervals between the ends of the pendants, "up against each other", at the top edge. In all instances, the filigree was arranged in the shape of small pyramids formed from 4 soldered drops of metal[109].

**20.** Gold bead (**Fig. 38**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: 2 cm, Width: cm, Length: 2,6 cm.

Gold bead decorated with triangular motifs in granulation. The barrel-shaped bead is made of two molded halves embossed using a hard model. The join line of the two almost hemispheric halves is covered by a decorative band consisting of a bar with ribs and two smooth wires between which are arranged three twisted wires with two strands each. Three triangular motifs on each part, formed by rows of granulated decoration mark the edges of the decorative band on both sides. A ring fashioned from a smooth bar has been soldered into position along the hole of the bead and the edge of the hole has been turned outwards. Around the ring, a row of granulation has been soldered, and three triangles made of granules

[108] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 215, fig. 4, 23, 9, 4-5.
[109] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 226-228, fig. 10, 1-3.

are up against it. Similar beads with a granulated decoration of triangles and rhombi have been attested at Hellenistic and roman sites in the Kuban Valley[110].

**21.** Jet beads (**Fig. 9**)[111].

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: 0,5 cm, Width: 0,5 cm, Length: 0,6 cm.

Fifteen beads made of jet "with 18 facets"[112].

**22.** Beads of black glass

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: 0,5 cm, Width: 0,5 cm, Length: 0,6 cm.

65 beads "with 18 facets" of black glass[113].

**23.** Tear-shaped beads made from various materials

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Tear-shaped beads: one made of agate (length: 0,7 cm, diameter: 0,4 cm); one made of coral (length: 1 cm, diameter: 0,6 cm); one made of polychrome glass (length: 1,2 cm, diameter: 0,6 cm)[114].

**24.** Jet bead

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm, Diameter: 0,8 cm

A spherical jet bead[115].

**25.** Cube-shaped beads

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: 0,50 cm, Width: 0,5 cm, Length: cm.

Twelve cube-shaped beads made of brown haematite[116].

**26.** Round beads

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: 0,52 cm, Width: cm, Length: cm, Diameter: 0,78 cm

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[110] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 305, 330, Fig. 11, 13.
[111] General view on this figure's burial plan. The same applies to cat. numbers 22-26.
[112] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 212, fig. 4, 18.
[113] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 212, fig. 4, 18.
[114] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 212, fig. 8, 46-48.
[115] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 212, fig. 8, 8.
[116] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 212, fig. 8, 22.

Seven round beads in the shape of small gold boxes with inlays of transparent glass and hemispherical in shape: 2 yellow ones, 3 dark bluish-green, 1 pale green one and 1 dark-red one. Each bead is pierced through with two holes[117].

**27.** Faience bead (**Fig. 39**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1[118].

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

A turquoise bead made of Egyptian faience in a rounded and ribbed shape. In terms of shape, it is comparable to 16g type of Egyptian faience beads. The majority of these objects date from the 1st or 2nd century AD[119].

**28.** Glass bead (**Fig. 40**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

A fragmentary bead made of opaque or translucent turquoise glass decorated with the 'eye' pattern. The eye pattern is formed by the superimposition of three opaque white discs alternating with two translucent light-brown and one opaque dark-blue one. Judging by the profiles of the fragments, the beads were transversely compacted or elongated barrel-shaped, yet the characteristics of this bead are hard to define. The type that offers the nearest parallel is type 53c of the multicolored beads found in contexts from the 4th century BC or those from the end of the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD[120].

**29.** Barrel-shaped bead (**Fig. 41**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

A bead of transparent yellow glass in a barrel shape. Due to its monochromatic hue, the bead can be compared with Type 23 single-color glass beads. This type of artifact has been discovered in complexes dating from the late 1st century BC to the 3d century AD[121].

**30.** Glass bead of flat discoid shape (**Fig. 42**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

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[117] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 212, fig. 8, 12.
[118] In the grave, 215 beads were found of no less than 27 different types (according to the classification elaborated by E. M. Alekseeva)
[119] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 235, Fig. 12, 7
[120] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 235, Fig. 14, 1.
[121] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 235-236, Fig. 14, 2.

A glass bead of flat discoid shape in a transparent yellowish hue. In terms of its shape and color, it can be related to Type 32 for beads of a single-color glass. The only comparative example according to the existing typology comes from a complex dated to the second half of the 3rd century AD[122].

**31.** Three rounded beads (**Fig. 43**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Three rounded glass beads in a transparent, cloudy brown hue. Similar examples are included in type 19 of monochromatic tinted glass beads and are dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD[123].

**32.** Five rounded beads (**Fig. 44**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Five glass beads of a rounded shape in a transparent yellowish hue. In terms of shape and color, they can be related to Type 17 for glass beads of a single color with characteristic examples dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD[124].

**33.** Two glass beads with internal gilding **(Fig. 45)**

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two glass beads of rounded shape, made of transparent colorless glass with internal gilding. They can be related to Type 16 for beads that contain an inner metal band correlated with the early centuries AD[125].

**34.** Eight tubular glass beads (**Fig. 46**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Eight long glass beads of tubular shape, made of transparent colorless glass with internal gilding. They can be related to Types 4 and 33 of beads that contain an inner metal band correlated mainly with the Hellenistic period and the 1st and 2nd centuries AD[126].

**35.** Thirteen uncut rods for rounded glass beads (**Fig. 47**)

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[122] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 236-237, Fig. 14, 3.
[123] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 237, Fig. 14, 4, 5.
[124] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 237, Fig. 14, 6.
[125] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 237, Fig. 14, 7.
[126] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 237, Fig. 14, 8,9.

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Thirteen uncut rods for glass beads of a rounded shape in a transparent yellowish hue. Each rod can produce 2 to 5 beads. They can be related to Type 13 for glass beads that contain an inner metal band found in complexes dating from the 1st or early 2nd centuries AD, but were most usual in the second half of the 1st century AD[127].

**36.** Eleven uncut rods for rounded beads (**Fig. 48**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Eleven uncut rods for glass beads of a cylindrical shape in a transparent yellowish hue.  Each rod can produce 1 to 5 beads. They can be related to Type 32 for glass beads that contain an inner metal band mostly found in burial assemblages of Roman dating, specifically from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD[128].

**37.** Jet bead (**Fig. 49**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

A barrel-shaped jet bead compacted transversely, forming partly a truncated cone and partly a bi-conical shape. It could be related to Type 9c for beads made of jet, usually found in contexts of the 1st-2nd centuries AD[129].

**38.** Two jet beads (**Fig. 50**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two jet beads of a rounded shape compacted transversely. They can be related to jet beads of Type 2e reported from contexts of the 1st-3rd centuries AD[130].

**39.** Jet bead (**Fig. 51**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

A jet bead of a rounded shape compacted transversely. The shape is more complex in its details; the bead is crooked on one side and has a slight faceting near the holes that go

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[127] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 237, Fig. 14, 10,11, 13.
[128] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 237, Fig. 14, 12.
[129] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 237, Fig. 14, 14.
[130] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 238, Fig. 14, 15, 16.

through it. It has an irregularly shaped hole that appears to get somewhat smaller in the middle. With reservations, it can be likened to Type 2g jet beads, which have been found in contexts from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD and possibly the 3rd century AD as well[131].

**40.** Ten cornelian beads (**Fig. 52**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Ten long and barrel-shaped cornelian beads. They have a small, truncated cone-shaped hole through them. It was pierced from one side. They are comparable to Type 3a cornelian beads, which are the most prevalent in contexts from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD[132].

**41.** Cornelian bead (**Fig. 53**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

A long, bi-conical, and elongated cornelian bead. It has a small, truncated cone-shaped hole through it. It was punctured from one side. At the hole's two ends, it is possible to see marking grooves. Alekseeva's list does not contain these beads[133].

**42.** Three cornelian beads (**Fig. 54**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Three long and barrel-shaped cornelian beads. They have narrow holes through them, drilled from both sides. At the opening of the hole, marker grooves can be seen. They are comparable to Type 36 cornelian beads, which are common in contexts from the Hellenistic and Roman times[134].

**43.** Seventeen cornelian beads (**Fig. 55**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Seventeen spherical, "transversely compressed" cornelian beads. They have a small, truncated cone-shaped hole through them. One side was used for the drilling. They are analogous to Type 2a cornelian beads and are particularly common in contexts from the 1st and 2nd century AD[135].

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[131] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 238, Fig. 14, 17.
[132] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 238, Fig. 14, 18-21, 23.
[133] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 238, Fig. 14, 22.
[134] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 238, Fig. 14, 24.
[135] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 238, Fig. 14, 25-28.

**44.** Two cornelian beads (**Fig. 56**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two rounded, "transversely compressed" cornelian beads. They have a wide, truncated cone-shaped hole through them. It was penetrated on both sides. They are comparable to Type 26 cornelian beads discovered in contexts from the 1st and 2nd century AD[136].

**45.** Fragment of a cornelian bead (**Fig. 57**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

A transversely compacted part of a rounded bead of cornelian. It has a small hole through it. Both sides have been bored with it. It is comparable to Type 2c cornelian beads unearthed in contexts from the first centuries BC and AD[137].

**46.** Forty-seven rock crystal beads (**Fig. 58**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Forty-seven rounded beads of rock crystal. They have a narrow through-hole, which has been drilled from one end. They are comparable to Type 2a rock-crystal beads, which are particularly common in contexts from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD[138].

**47.** Quartzite (?) bead (**Fig. 59**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

A rounded, "transversely compressed" quartzite (?) bead. Without doing any additional labor, a natural geode was used for the hole in it; the geode had several crystals inside of it. This type of bead is not on Alexeeva's list of beads[139].

**48.** Amber bead (**Fig. 60**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

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[136] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 238, Fig. 14, 29, 30.
[137] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 238-239, Fig. 14, 31.
[138] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 239, Fig. 14, 32-39.
[139] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 239, Fig. 14, 40.

A small, cylindrical-shaped amber bead. It is pierced with a cylindrical hole. It has been documented in contexts ranging from the 4th century BC to the 4th century AD, but primarily in the 1st to 4th centuries AD, and is comparable to amber beads of Type 7[140].

**49.** Two amber beads (**Fig. 61**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two flat, elongated amber beads. They are pierced by a cylindrical through-hole. They are comparable to amber beads of Type 5, which are the most common for the 1st through 3rd centuries AD[141].

**50.** Amber bead

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

An amber bead that has been "transversely compressed" and is biconical in shape. It is punctured with a cylindrical hole. Although specimens from the 3rd and 4th centuries AD predominate, it can be compared to amber beads of Type 13 found in contexts from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD[142].

**51.** Two barrel-shaped amber beads (**Fig. 62**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two barrel-shaped amber beads "transversely compressed". They are pierced by a cylindrical through-hole. They are comparable to Type 5 amber beads and are most frequently found in contexts from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD[143].

**52.** Seventy-one amber beads (**Fig. 63**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Seventy-one amber beads of irregular shape. They consist of faceted beads, some with a truncated pyramid shape, rounded and drop-shaped beads, and beads with a flattened cone, pyramid, oval, or drop shape. They are comparable to Type 44 amber beads and are most

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[140] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 239, Fig. 14, 42.
[141] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 239, Fig. 14, 44.
[142] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 239.
[143] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 239, Fig. 14, 43, 50.

frequently found in contexts from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD as well as those from the turn of the 1st century[144].

**53.** Amber bead (**Fig. 64**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Amber bead that has the form of a truncated cone (?). It has a hole through it that is round (?). It is comparable to Type 10 amber beads found in contexts from the late 2nd or early 3rd century[145].

## 5.7. Brooches, fibulae

**54.** Brooch with a rock-crystal inlay (**Fig. 65**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: 4,8 cm, Length: 5,8 cm.

Brooch adorned with a rock-crystal inlay. The brooch's base is made of an oval gold plate with two low, embossed ridges that have been chased around them. A ribbed wire is attached to the edge with solder. A ring of ribbed wire with a lower diameter has been soldered on between the ridges. A piece of ribbed wire arranged in the shape of a U has been soldered onto the outer ridge as relief embellishment (in imitation of a wreath). The inner ridge contains decorative S-shaped scrolls composed of single ribbed wire soldered to it in the style of a wave pattern. The fibula's center is occupied by a tall mount, the upper edge of which has been cut out in the shape of a zigzag and is encircled by ova-shaped pieces of ribbed wire. A row of "plaits" (composed of two rows of twisted smooth wire made up of two strands), a ring of smooth wire, a row of small rings formed of one ribbed wire, a ring built from a thin ribbed bar, a row of small rings, and a ring of smooth wire are used as decoration on the mount's sides. A rock-crystal bead with channels drilled through it from both ends has been inserted into the mount. A ring made of "plaited" wire adornment has been soldered around the mount in between two rows of fine wire. According to A. K. Ambroz's classification, this brooch is an example of the Group 8, Type 1 oval polychrome brooches that are fastened with two pins and include a rock-crystal inlay. Brooches in the form of discs belong within this group according to M. Yu. Treister and Type II, Variant 3 of I. I. Marchenko. Treister's estimations showed that this shape was the most typical of the fibula-brooches found in the

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[144] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 239, Fig. 12, 8-12; 14, 46-49, 51-63.
[145] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 240, Fig. 14, 41.

Kuban valley. When it comes to the unique characteristics of the decoration and its components (central high mount, wire arranged around the edge, half beads used as inlays, etc.), this piece of jewelry shares a lot in common with the collection of brooches from the region on the north bank of the Kuban River[146].

**55.** Fibula in the shape of a "Heracles Knot" (**Fig. 66**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: 2,2 cm, Length: 4,2 cm.

Fibula in the shape of a "Heracles Knot". A wire-forged fibula made of silver. The wire creates the catch-plate loop on one side. Pins for the two-pin fastening once existed on the opposite (since broken off). The wire has lost some of its length. The brooch is covered with a plate that is worked in relief in the shape of an eight, with the wire's ends enclosed. The Heracles knot motif is replicated in relief on the ornamental plate. The raised dot ornamentation was created using a chasing method from the reverse. Among the Kuban region's antiquities, brooches in the form of a figure-of-eight or a "Heracles Knot" are well recognized. This type of jewelry has been discovered in assemblages from Boikoponura (early 2nd century BC), Karstovyi (early 3rd century BC), Chernyshevo (early 3rd and early 2nd century BC), and a lucky find near the settlement of Starokorsunskaya. Marchenko singled out the Type V brooches that he had previously identified from Boikoponura and Karstovyi, dating them to the first part of the 2nd century BC. In the category of open-work brooches, Treister classified the fibulae from Karstovyi, Chernyshevo, and Boikoponura as belonging to the sub-group of fibulae in the shape of a figure of eight. He then researched the prevalence of this motif in 3rd and 2nd century BC Hellenistic jewelry. Following closely behind Marchenko, it is possible to limit the time period during which this shape was used to the first half of the 2nd century BC thanks to the discovery of such brooches in assemblages that have been well-dated due to the presence of Hellenistic pottery, including an unguentarium, as in the case of Karstovi[147].

**56.** Brooch pin (**Fig. 67**)

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Diameter: 5 cm, Length: cm.

Ten tiny rings have been etched into the lower end of a circular plate that serves as the brooch's base. A small piece of wire has been soldered onto them in the front. There are no

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[146] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 301, 328, Fig. 12, 19,2.
[147] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 289, 307, 329, Fig. 11,6, 20,4.

signs of any more rings along the rest of the edge, which is smooth. Ribbed wire has been soldered onto the plate's edge all the way around. Decoration in the form of "waves" with granulation beads at each wave's crest decorates the middle. A row of ribbed wire is wrapped around this ornament. An inlaid piece of green transparent glass that serves as the flower's heart and is held in place by the setting's "claws" that are soldered at an angle to the base plate has been soldered in the middle of the piece. The "claws" are formed of ovolos-shaped segments of thin ribbed wire. The base-plate has six rows of "rope" soldered on underneath them: Between two rows of smooth wire, the rows have notches on them that are organized in various directions (creating a chevron pattern). The flower's petals are made of a single gold plate and are trimmed with ribbed wire, the same wire that was used to create the "rolling waves" pattern, which is not obscured by the flower and can still be seen clearly. Six inlay closures are fashioned along the brooch's edge from a band of thin gold that is welded to the brooch plate at a 90-degree angle. Only one of the brooch's inlays was missing when it was first found. There are currently just four garnet inlays remaining, three of which are drop-shaped, and one of which has been crafted into the shape of an ivy leaf. There are miniature "caps" created from a thin sheet of gold and adorned at the top with a small ring made of ribbed wire and a bead of granulation between the inlays, which have pieces of ribbed wire between them that have been soldered on. Nine holes, which were obviously inserted after the brooch was produced, have been punched into the edge of the piece, by the first row of ribbed wire. A soldered-on pin, made of thick forged wire, has been attached at the back to secure it in place[148].

**57.** Dolphin-shaped fibula (**Fig. 68**)

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: 7,8 cm.

Dolphin-shaped fibula belonging to the type of two-needled brooch. The dolphin's head is fashioned from a single forged plate, and the eyes and fins were added by multiple stages of external engraving. Convex pupils with engraving have been added to the eyes' pupils. The lower edge of the mouth has been embellished with notches. The plate's end is designed as a series of "claws," each of which is surrounded by a ring of ribbed wire. The side fins were produced separately and attached to pegs using special holes that had been created for that purpose. The bottom of the dolphin's head has a rectangular plate soldered to it with a

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[148] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 208, fig. 4, 17, 6, 3.

vertical bar sticking out of it, to which the spring of an iron double pin clasp has been attached on a bronze axis. Transparent rock crystal has been used to create the dolphin's body. The tail-end of the cap has been attached to the end of the crystal body, which has been placed into a ring-clip with gold-plated "claws" around its edge. Two halves—an upper and a lower one—that have been connected together and are separating along the sides make up the tail. Traces of the two parts being soldered together can be seen where the tail is placed into its slot. There is a little ring of ribbed wire where the cap and the ring-clip connect. The bottom of the cap has been soldered with a holder for the two pins in the form of a gold-plated strip. In the clasp-holder, iron pin fragments have survived[149].

**58.** Fibula Brooches (**Fig. 69**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two brooches were discovered in the burial complex: one had a round plate with an embossed design; the other had an ornithomorphic plate. The first item is a thin bronze leaf of circular shape that has a representation probably stamped onto a firm model. Most likely, a pin fastener in the shape of a bow was soldered onto it from the rear. A ring of dots surrounding a narrative composition framed the beautiful field of the plate. A standing woman, facing left, occupies its center. The standing figure is shown with her left leg bowed at the knee and leaning on her right foot. She has her hair styled in a complicated manner. A chiton that has been gathered under the breast covers her entire body. The woman's feet are covered with tall boots. Her left arm is hanging by her side and has a tiny bend in it. She is holding a curved bow in her left hand, and she is holding the bowstring quite near to the inside of her forearm. Something sticks out from behind the figure's back, possibly a quiver or a bow case. It's unclear exactly where the right hand is supposed to go. A short animal with straight legs and a rightward-pointing silhouette may be made out to the right of the main figure (perhaps a dog?). There is a difficult-to-define compositional feature to the left of the shown person. The most likely candidate is a stone altar with tall flame tongues rising above it. She is the goddess Artemis, judging by her features (bow and bow case, dog, altar). The image is clearly comparable to the type "Artemis Dadophora (torch-bearer) armed" and is a member of the group "Artemis in a short chiton." The marble relief from the time of the Antonine emperors (Rome, Capitoline Hill) has a representation that is most similar to this one

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[149] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 226-228, fig. 4, 43, 15, 3.

in terms of composition, with a stone altar to the goddess' right and a dog to her left. The reverses of copper coins from the city of Patrai (Peloponnese, Akhaia) from the imperial era—from the second half of the 1st century to the beginning of the 3rd century—also feature a similar motif (Nero, Domitian, Hadrian, Lucius Verus, Commodus, Caracalla). According to experts, the statue of Artemis Laphria depicted on the coins is the one mentioned by Pausanias (VII, 18, 6) and was created in the middle of the 5th century BC by sculptors from Naupactus, Menaechmus, and Soidas. Augustus "acquired" it in Aetolia and then presented it to the people of Patrai. The brooch is a variation of the "basic" Type I brooches from Group 8 of A. K. Ambroz's categorization, which are spherical brooches with a spring or "hinge" made of a wire loop. They were discovered in the necropoleis of Greek cities in the North Pontic region of Central, North-Western, South-Western, and Eastern Crimea (Scythian Neapolis, Bitak, Belyaus, Ust'-Al'ma, Zolotoe), as well as along the Kuban River. According to Ambroz, they were modeled after pieces of Greek jewelry. Circular-plate brooches first appeared in the Cimmerian Bosporus in the 3rd century BC. Although there have been discoveries of representations that were created in the Animal Style, in the shape of a beast of prey presented in a ring shape, Greek divinities featured most commonly on the plates of brooches from the Crimea. A syncretic image of Aphrodite-Artemis was used for the decoration of medallions and diadems from Gorgippia and its environs at the end of the 1st century AD and in the first half of the second, according to M. Yu. Treister, who noted that finds of medallions (including brooches) with a depiction of a bust of Artemis are concentrated in Chersonesos Taurica and "Barbarian" burials in the South. Here is the first mention of the motif on the brooch from Luchistoe-2. From the Hellenistic era onward, the plates of brooches were typically fastened with a two-pin fastener or a fibula of a Middle La Tene type (2nd-1st centuries BC). The brooches created in the early centuries AD typically had a fibula fastening of the "bow-shaped" variety soldered on. As a result, the brooch should only be dated to the 1st century AD[150].

The second brooch is made of a brass plate that has been hammered flat, sliced out, and bent into the shape of a bird with folded wings and a highly diagrammatic tail. In the Odessa Museum is a similar brooch in the form of a "sitting dove"[151].

**59.** Bow-Shaped Fibulae (**Fig. 70**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

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[150] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 216-217, Fig. 8,8,9, 15,3.
[151] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 217-218, Fig. 8,8.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Five bow-shaped, wire single fibulae, featuring a straight back, a high, narrow catch plate, and a four-coil spring with a bowstring at the bottom. Two of the fibulae had soldering traces visible on their backs. They had obviously served as brooch fastening. A fragmented bronze-wire single fibula with a spring and a bowstring at the top (something found very infrequently in "bow-string" fasteners) may also fall under the "bow-shaped" category. Part of its spring and pin have survived. A "model" of the entire fastener was created using that part and a piece of another fibula found in the burial. They are primarily unique to Crimea and are very prevalent in the southwestern region of the peninsula. They can also be found in the lower Dnieper River and in the Kuban region. They date from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD[152].

**60.** Eleven fibulae with a scroll at the end of the lamellate catch (**Fig. 71**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Eleven fibulae with a scroll-decorated plate-type catch, a smooth triangle-shaped plate-type curved on the back, and a 4-coil spring. Regarding their material, structure, and decorative back and scroll finishing, they differ slightly from other varieties. The majority of the fastenings are bronze, although one was manufactured of white metal. Four examples have a bowstring at the top, and seven have one at the bottom. Five of the fibulae have an S-shaped scroll, two have a spiral one, and the scroll has broken off on the other four. The fastenings are categorized as belonging to Group 13 by Ambroz, Variants 2 (small and with an S-shaped scroll) and 3 (small with a spiral scroll) at the end of the catch-plate, to Group 8 by Series 1 (small North-Pontic region fibulae with a smooth curve), and to Shapes 2 (with an S-shaped scroll and a ribbon-shaped back) and 3 (spiral scroll) by V. V. Kropotov. Similar fibulae are frequently encountered in Crimea, particularly in the Cimmerian Bosporus, the Tanais region to the northeast of the Sea of Azov, and the Kuban River Valley. The late 1st century and early 2nd century AD are included in the time frame[153].

**61.** Two bronze fibulae with a button at the end of the catch-plate (**Fig. 72**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two bronze fibulae with a "button"-decorated lamellate catch-plate, a 4-coil spring, and a bow-string at the top. A fastener features a line of "stamped" bead ornamentation on the

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[152] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 218, Fig. 8, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 2-5, 7.
[153] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 218-219, Fig. 8, 10-15, 9, 1-5.

outside of its wide concave back. The second fibula has a lamellate back and design in the shape of three lengthways lines that have been "stamped" into position on the exterior. By Ambroz, these fasteners are categorized as Variants 4a and 4b in Group 12 ("sprung fibulae with a smooth shape and a button at the end of the lamellate catch-plate"), and by Kropotov, they are categorized as Variant 2 (large, with a shape that has a high smooth curve and a wide convex lamellate back) in Group 9 ("with a button at the end of the catch-plate"). They were common in the lower parts of the Volga, the Northern Caucasus, the Kuban region, the lower reaches of the Dnieper, and the Crimea. Some academics argue that they entered the Crimean foothills from the Cimmerian Bosporus. Ambroz assigned this type of fibula to the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD, a date accepted by several scholars[154].

**62.** Hinged Fibula (**Fig. 73**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

The bronze (?) fibula, is bow-shaped and hinged. Large and cast, the back features three rows of raised ledges in relief and a high ridge profile at the top. The attachment for the hinge is formed by riveting and turning outward the upper portion of the rear. A ridge with diagonal notches decorates the horizontal portion of the upper half of the back. The catch-plate has a "bi-conical button" at the end and is lamellate. Iron makes up the hinge's axis. Iron "buttons" have been used to secure it along the edges (one has been lost). The fastening is a "classical" variation of the Early Roman hinged bow-shaped fibulae of the "Aucissa" type, and it corresponds to Type 22b2 - M. Feugere, Type 29 - E. Ettlinger, Type 5.2.1 - E. Riha, and Type 10.1.a1 - M. Marine Isidro, according to classifications created for various areas of the Roman Empire. "Aucissa" fibulae were mostly employed as clasps by the soldiers and became widespread after the Roman Army. Given this, military contacts can be used to explain why a sizable percentage of these artifacts were found outside of the Roman territory. On the other hand, it has been documented that these fibulae were also used by the civilian population in Roman provinces, including women. This suggests that they may have expanded due to trade connections. As an illustration, numerous similar fasteners have been found in female tombs in the necropolises of Northern Italy, leading to some enlightening discoveries. The 'classic' kind of fibulae first appeared between 10 and 30 BC, although the first half of the 1st century AD saw the greatest distribution of them. Before Claudius's reign came to an end, these

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[154] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 219, 221, Fig. 9,6-7.

fasteners were no longer produced in large quantities (AD 41-54). Researchers have also observed that the chronology determined from burial complexes with the "Aucissa" fibulae from the North Pontic region and the dates commonly recognized for the territory of the Roman Empire disagree[155].

### 5.8. Bracelets

**63.** Penannular bronze bracelet (**Fig. 74**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm, Diameter: 4,2 cm.

A penannular bronze bracelet with a flat rhomboid design forming a stylized snake's head is crafted from a forged bronze bar. Similar instances have been discovered at Late Scythian culture sites in Crimea, the Kuban valley, and the lower Don, whose dates range from the 6th century BC to the 1st century AD. However, as is typical for bracelets from late assemblages, the snake's head on the Mezmay bracelet lacks any graphic features in its portrayal, allowing exclusion from late counterparts[156].

**64.** Gold bracelet with "tied ends" (**Fig. 75**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm, Diameter: 7,5 cm.

'Tied ends' bracelet made of gold. Thick, twisted, joined-together ends of the forged wire were separated to create the bracelet. Beginning in the 3rd century BC, bracelets of this type were discovered in the Western Pontic region and on the Greek islands. They were common in the cultures of the La Tene range and the Late Scythian culture of Crimea in the 2nd and 1st century BC. In the early centuries AD, both the populace of Classical cities in the North Pontic region and the barbarian borders favoured this bracelet design[157].

**65.** Pair of armlets (**Fig. 76**)

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Diameter: 10,3 cm, Thickness: 1,7 cm, Length: cm.

The most beautiful artifacts discovered in Barbarian Crimea are bracelets decorated with depictions of Eros and Psyche rising from a four-petal open flower. Another ornamental element that is typical of the 2nd to 1st century BC is the combination of small agate beads,

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[155] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 221-225, Fig. 9,8.
[156] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 316, 327-328, Fig. 9, 11.
[157] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 305, 328, Fig. 11, 2.

black glass beads with crossing white bands, green round beads, and little golden rings embellished with granulation. On the base plate of the bracelet, a multifaceted natural crystal was fixed; it was a yellow transparent stone that was only a little radioactive. The bracelet was placed on the left arm. The setting for the stone was modified to fit its shape and was pentagonal in shape. The base plate was rectangular and "box-shaped" in plan. On the short sides of the "box," a loop made of small plates had been soldered. The bracelet's foundation was a half-ring-shaped hollow pipe made from two plates soldered together longitudinally. Ribbed wire (also known as "bead" embellishment) was used to hide the soldering connections. Numerous holes had been drilled on both sides of these and along the pipe's edges, through which wire threads had been inserted and pearl beads had been strung closely together. This was interrupted three times by a string that included a series of green stone round beads, miniature rings that were embellished with three rows of granulation, and barrel-shaped beads that were either black glass or agate with a white stripe running across them. Figured representations of Eros and Psyche had been put into the hollow pipe's two ends, along with plugs that had been created from wax models and polished with cutting tools. Despite having different models for each representation, they were all identical in terms of details. The depiction showed the mythical creatures emerging from a flower with four petals that had unfolded and were bending downward. Standing to the left, Eros wrapped his left arm around Psyche's shoulders while placing his right hand on her chin. He had a complicated hairdo that featured a middle part and was pulled back into a plait that was knotted at the nape of his neck. His hair curled over his face. While her left arm was extended, Psyche's right arm was wrapped around Eros' waist. She had a chiton on that was fastened beneath her breasts. Her hair was pulled back into a ribbon-like knot at the nape of her neck after being twisted into a rope. One and the same cloak was wrapped around both figures. In order to create a cross pattern, little wire rings with threaded pearls had been placed through them and soldered onto the backs of the figures. Small pipes that had been soldered onto an inlay of green beryl in the composition's center received the fine wires that had been placed into them. The right arm bracelet was like the bracelet on the left arm, despite a few slight variations in the design. The oval-shaped base plate served as the centerpiece. On it, a cabochon of citrine (a yellow quartz kind), had been mounted. While the little rings that held

the crossed wires in place were still present on one of the pair of figures, they were missing from the other figure[158].


**66.** Anklets (**Fig. 77**)

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: 6 cm, Diameter: 9,1 cm, Thickness: 1,7 cm, Length: cm.

Two bracelets made of gold wire turned for 3,5 rounds, adorned the feet[159].

**67.** Bracelets with Ends in the Shape of Snakes' Heads (**Fig. 78**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two bronze bracelets are created from a piece of thick wire that is oval in section and has rhomboid riveted ends shaped like stylized snakes' heads. Large-scale and closely spaced punching has been utilized to depict the reptiles' teeth-filled mouths on their "heads," on their sides at the "front." The upper jaws extend beyond the lower ones and are bigger. The eyes of the snakes are represented on the outside of their heads by two pairs of concentric, incised lines that are curved and tightly spaced; a jagged stamp was used to carve out the lines. Six rows of rhombi have been formed from crossing sloping lines that embellish the snakes' "bodies." Except for the innermost row, the five "front" rows' centers of the rhombi each have circles with dots in them. These decorative elements come to a close in limited, transverse incised stripes. Five circles, each carrying a dot, are positioned across from the "front" rows of the rhombi in the "body" to fill the field of each of these. The "necks" of the snakes have transverse carved lines and narrow stripes to define them. In graves of the Late Scythian archaeological civilization of the Crimea dating from the 1st to the 3rd century AD, bracelets with snake-like ends are frequently found. The earliest examples, according to observations made by T. N. Vysotskaya, are from the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD. She classified all bracelets with snake-like heads in Type IX regardless of any extra embellishment. The bracelets from Luchistoe-2, which date from the first or first half of the 2nd century AD, share formal characteristics with Type V bracelets, according to A. V. Trufanov's classification system. It will be possible to determine a more precise time period for the artifacts described here by comparing finds of bracelets with a similar design from Burial 191 of the Belbek IV necropolis and Grave 144 of the Sovkhoz-10 necropolis. A red-slip

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[158] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 215-219, 236-238, fig. 10.
[159] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 219, fig. 3, 56-57, 12, 8-9.

plate from the "Pontic" Group with a stamp in the shape of a rosette dating from the last quarter of the 1st century AD or the beginning of the 2nd century is among the "narrowly dated finds" at the first of these sites, and a red-slip jug is among the "narrowly dated finds" at the second site[160].

**68.** Bracelets with Knobs at the Ends (**Fig. 79**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two bracelets with bi-conical "knobs" at the ends and round wire sections. Beginning in the 5th century BC, similar objects have been discovered in necropolises in the North Pontic region and Eastern Europe. They are within Type II of T. N. Vysotskaya's classification. The 1st century and the beginning of the 2nd century marked the peak of their dissemination[161].

**69.** Bracelet with Thickened Ends (**Fig. 80**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

A bronze bracelet made of wire that is circular in shape and has thick ends. Five to six rows of rhombic incised lines that produce sloping and intersecting lines are used to embellish the ends. It's possible that the bracelet's embellished portions were restrained by transverse carved lines. Using a stamp in the shape of a very narrow pipe, small circles with a dot in the middle are thoroughly etched in the centres of the rhombic shapes. In the 1st century AD, this style of decoration was common. Vysotskaya's classification places it in the Type V category. Gold, silver, and bronze specimens have all been discovered. The numerous discoveries of bronze bracelets of this sort in the necropolises of Classical cities and communities in the North Pontic region, as well as from "Late Scythian" and "Sarmatian" burial grounds, have been the subject of many publications. During the excavation of wealthy burials in the Ust'-Al'ma necropolis of the 1st century AD, bracelets of a similar form but made of gold were discovered[162].


*5.9. Finger rings*

**70.** Temple ring (**Fig. 81**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

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[160] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 229-230, Fig. 12, 1,2.
[161] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 230, Fig. 12, 3, 4.
[162] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 230, Fig. 12, 5.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm, Diameter: 2,4 cm.

A three-twisted wire temple ring in gold. Cast knobs are attached to the ends of the rib, which has an incised zigzag line as embellishment. In the Kuban valley, temple rings coiled with several spirals of gold, silver, and bronze wire are frequently discovered in the graves of barbarians. These graveyards include both plain graves and burial mounds. They were particularly prevalent in 2nd and 1st century BC sites. The distinctive thicker, biconical section of the temple ring is one of its ends and is embellished with a zigzag line running along its rib. In the Kuban Valley, bracelets dating from the 3rd to the early 1st century BC have knobs of this type. Similar temple rings were discovered in Burial 2 in Mound 1 close to the 2nd-century BC village of Razdol'naya[163].

**71.** Finger ring (**Fig. 82**)

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm base-plate 3.35 X 2.37 cm, Internal diameter of the ring – 1.8 X 1.65 cm.

Both the finger-rings are of Hellenistic type in shape. Their frames can be dated to the 3rd-2nd centuries BC. One has gold inlay with the image of a relief female deity, and the other has an inlaid glass intaglio of reddish-brown colour. The finger ring's mount is hollow. The section has a setting that resembles a slightly concave lens. Near the top, the base-plate widens slightly. There are two etched lines around the inlay's closure. A mauve-coloured glass inlay in the shape of an oval lens is located in the centre. The glass's bubbles can be seen within, and the edges of the stone and the carving's components have been worn smooth. The engraving on the stone shows a woman's head in profile, looking to the left. A ridge of hair that runs over the forehead is knotted at the nape of the neck. A diadem-crown with ribbons is located above it[164].

**72.** Finger ring (**Fig. 82**)

Provenance: The Nogajčik royal grave.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm base-plate – 2 X 1,25 cm, inner diameter 1,8 cm.

The setting on this finger ring is hollow. The shank is shaped like a concave-convex lens in section. A seam connecting the shank's inner and outer sides can be seen around the inner edge of the shank. The core inlay, which resembles a plate with high relief impression and

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[163] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 294, 327, Fig. 11,15.
[164] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 224, 226, fig. 4, 30, 9, 8.

engraving, is removable. It features an image of a frontal female head. Straight parts of the hair are brushed upwards. On the forehead, a wreath is placed. Earrings in the shape of a little circle with a triangular pendant are worn in the ears. At the neck, there is jewelry that appears to be a torque with outwardly curved ends[165].

**73.** Two hollow rings with an oval plate (**Fig. 83**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Two hollow rings with an oval plate that are similar in size, construction, and material. One of these has a thin-walled hollow silver leaf shank that is about triangular in section and widens toward the inlay's placement before becoming a part of it (soldered from two parts: an outer convex one and an inner "flat" one). A white-grey bulk fills the lowest portion of the setting and the base. When such a finger ring is put together, the inlay is positioned on top of the "filler" and secured in place by clinching the setting's edges. The inlay is round in shape and semi-oval in section; it was cast from dark-blue translucent glass. The second specimen was discovered in a severely fragmented condition. Only the outer, convex portion of the shank was still intact, along with some fragments of the inlay and "filler"[166].

**74.** Five solid bronze finger rings with a shank broadening out smoothly towards the plate (**Fig. 84**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Five solid bronze finger rings with a shank broadening out smoothly towards the plate with glass inlays. On the basis of the manufacturing method, they can be split into two versions. Variant 1 includes three items, all of which have single-piece shanks with inlay settings. The rings have a semi-oval cross-section and get wider as they get closer to the settings. The changeover to the plates is seamless. The edges of the settings are pressed together to secure the inlays in place, and/or they are placed on top of a pale/light paste[167]. Two finger rings with composite settings for the inlays serve as variant 2's representation. Their shanks and the upper portions of the settings appear to have been made from a single blank (the setting walls show a discernible "seam," suggesting that they may be made of two halves soldered together such that they overlap). Pieces of metal from inside the ring were soldered together to create

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[165] Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, 226, fig. 4, 46, 9, 7.
[166] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 231, Fig. 10, 4,5; 15,4.
[167] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 231-232, Fig. 10, 6, 11-13; 11, 9.

the basis of the chambers in the settings. The rings have spherical sections for the majority of their length, but towards the setting, they have rectangular sections with rounded sides (riveted). Flat, dark-blue translucent glass fragments from a vessel's walls were used to create the inlays. There are signs of cold working on the exterior of both inlays (polished stripes). They were apparently supported at the bottom by spherical metal pieces that had been maybe soldered to the inside surfaces of the settings' walls[168].

**75.** Six solid finger rings with a prominent round or oval plate (**Fig. 85**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Bronze-made solid finger rings with prominent round or oval plates that had glass inlays. It appears as though the inlay shanks and settings were made out of a single piece. The shanks had a portion that was semi-oval and widened toward the setting. Most of the rings had semi-spherical, translucent, light-coloured glass inlays. In the North Pontic region, this particular style of finger ring was the most prevalent. There are records of both bronze and silver examples. They span a wide time period from the 1st to 3d centuries AD[169].

**76.** Nine Finger Rings with a Plate-like Shank and a Composite Plate soldered on to it (**Fig. 86**)

Provenance: Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Nine finger rings with a plate-like shank and a composite plate soldered onto it, which had been made from bronze and white metal. The shanks were made from narrow plates, the ends of which were joined together. The plates consisted of no less than three elements: the setting, made of a specially bent strip of metal semi-oval in section, usually with an "overlap" join; the hoop pressed close against it and soldered onto it, more often than not made of wire with an end-to-end" join; the glass inlay rounded, semi-oval or segment-shaped in section. On the basis of how the setting is made and the inlay is secured in place, this style of ring can be further divided into two variants. Variant 1 counts five bronze finger rings, where the inwardly curved, smooth edges of the settings hold the inlays firmly in place. The shank and the plate are put together using three separate techniques. In the first one, which counts two examples, the rounded metal plate soldered onto the ends of the shank from above, to which the metal components of the plate are then soldered, holds them in place after being riveted,

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[168] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 232, Fig. 10, 12, 13.
[169] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 232-233, Fig. 10, 7-10, 14; 11, 10.

linked "end to end," and soldered. The inlays are made of clear glass that is either lilac or brown in colour. In the second, of one example, the ends of the shank have been riveted and flattened to form semi-oval surfaces joined "end to end" with the plate attached to them by being soldered on from above. The inlay is of dark-blue transparent glass. In the third one, of two examples, above the ends of the shank oval parts of the plate are joined and soldered together with an overlap. Metal elements of the pate are soldered onto the top piece. The inlays are made of dark-blue transparent glass. In the remaining examples of Variant 2, the inlays are secured in place by the "teeth" at the setting's edge and, conceivably, by a paste or solder that resembles glass. One specimen is composed of bronze, and the other is bi-metallic with a silver shank. Semicircular metal pieces linked "end to end" on top of the ends of the shanks are secured in place by the plate soldered on from above. The rings holding the inlays in place are formed of wire that is roughly rectangular in section, and the settings for the inlays have "teeth" along their upper edge (wolf tooth design). The inlays are made of clear, dark-blue, or colourless glass[170].

### 5.10. Belt Buckles

**77.** Belt buckle (**Fig. 87**)

Provenance: Ust' Al'ma Necropolis, warrior burial 1074*.*

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: 3,2 cm, Length: 7,6 cm.

The iron belt buckle is made of a long almost rectangular frame with a narrow part in the middle and a moveable tongue. It was found among the pelvic bones. A long, nearly rectangular frame with a small section in the center and a movable tongue make up the iron belt buckle[171].

### 5.11. Plaques

**78.** Three round plaques, sewn onto garments (**Fig. 88**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

This type of plaque was common in Sarmatian Culture burials in the Volga, Don, and Kuban valleys, especially in the last decades BC and the first centuries AD. They could typically be counted in the hundreds per burial (if it had not been looted). Three little plaques being

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[170] Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, 233-234, Fig. 10, 15; 11, 1-8; 15, 8.
[171] Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, 49, fig. 1, 10, 3, 6.

present in an intact assemblage is remarkable for a burial of a barbarian. It's worthwhile to note that a case similar to this was discovered in the Volga-Don graveyard on Mound 27, dating from the second half of the 2nd century BC, where, in addition to a significant number of plaques for sewing onto the clothing of varied forms, three small ones with a raised part in the middle were discovered[172].

**79.** Four round plaques as ritual "Buttons" (**Fig. 89**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Four round plaques as ritual "Buttons". Four circular plaques with loops on the back and a raised semicircular part in the centre, shaped like pieces of jewelry, have been discovered in assemblages from the lower Volga River dating from the 2nd to 1st century BC. Although in some instances it would seem that they were made for rings or earrings, it is not always possible to determine with certainty what they were intended for. However, the idea that the Mezmay finds were employed as buttons cannot be ruled out[173].

**80.** Three conical plaques (**Fig. 90**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Three plaques that are conical with a hole in the centre, are produced by forging a sheet of gold into the shape of a cone with a tiny edge. There is a large round hole in the centre of the plaques, and there are indications of iron oxides on both the interior and exterior of the plaques. They had most likely been fixed to an iron base. A ring of ribbed wire is used to embellish the edge of the hole and the base of the cone on one of the plaques. These items are often fashioned of bronze and covered in sheet gold. They are conical in shape, have a hole in the middle, and may have a rather wide edge. They are frequently referred to as "tassel-holders." However, it's most likely that they were used to embellish specific bridle components worn on a horse's forehead. The Oguz Burial-mound, Babina Mogila, Melitopol Burial-mound, Burial No. 29 in the Gaimanova Mogila group, Chertomlyk Burial-mound, ceremonial hoards from Balakleya, and Yanchokrak are only a few of the assemblages from the North Pontic region that contain this type of plaque. These items have occasionally been discovered right there on a horse's head. These pieces for adorning harnesses in the late period are characterized by their wide border around the edge and squat shape. The three

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[172] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 331, Fig. 11, 12.
[173] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 331, Fig. 11, 8-11.

plaques of this type found in the Mezmay assemblage correspond to the three horse graves positioned in the grave's entrance pit[174].

**81.** Two gold plaques for sword decoration (**Fig. 91**)

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: 1,8, 2,9 cm, Length:1,9, 4 cm.

A small circular gold plaque and a rectangle plaque made to resemble Kuban region polychrome brooches. Their distinguishing characteristics include ribbed wire embellishment in the form of a wave pattern, polychrome bead inlays, and ribbed wire that has been welded on at the edge. On the edge of the rectangular plaque, a soldered ribbed bar has been attached. A multi-layered mount that is attached to its centre has big triangle-shaped cut-outs along its upper edge that are surrounded by ribbed wire. There is a long, rectangular inlay of striped agate in the mount. Wire has been soldered into place at the mount's base. Wave-pattern ornamentation made of ribbed wire has been soldered around the inlay. Relief has been used to emphasize the wave-pattern decoration's interior regions even more. To enable sewing onto clothing, holes have been drilled along the plaque's margins. The circular plaque has polychrome inlay. Its base was made from a sheet of gold that had been carved out, and it had a rectangular hole in the middle that was sealed off at the front with an inlay. The edge has 1,9 turns of ribbed wire soldered on it. A bead of clear purple glass with alternating blue and white stripes was secured into the centre of a rectangular laminated multi-layered mount that had been welded onto it. There were holes drilled in the mount opposite the bead holes. The mount was encircled by ribbed wire where it had been welded to the plate. It was surrounded with vorticose and counter clockwise scrolls of ribbed wire that had been soldered on. The scrolls' core coils were painted with a dark-blue glass paste. The fact that these objects were employed to adorn weapons places them in a class of their own that has only been mentioned in the Mezmay assemblage thus far[175].

**82.** Four ribbon pieces with jagged edges (**Fig. 92**)

Provenance: Ust' Al'ma Necropolis, warrior burial 1074.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

Four ribbon pieces with jagged edges that had been fashioned from thin gold leaf and put out in a line were found across the sword's blade, on the thigh bones, and between them. The fragments' lengths were 8,3 cm, 11,6 cm, 8,8 cm, and 9,9 cm, and their widths were 1,8-1,9

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[174] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 331-332, Fig. 11, 3-5.
[175] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 305, 309, 311, 332, Fig. 11, 1, 7, 20,3.

cm. It can be assumed that previously there had been two stripes and that they had perhaps been attached to a garment or a strap given the shape of the fragments, the little hole through the end of each, and the uneven spots that could be seen at the borders that resembled tears. The two plate-like ribbons had afterward, for no apparent reason, been split in half. It's also important to note that the little gold leaf strips had been evenly distributed near the thigh bones that they had been wound around. Given that the body was decaying and the clothing was falling apart, it is inconceivable to think that this was the consequence of natural occurrences. Contrarily, it appears that both of the thigh bones had been purposefully wrapped in gold "ribbons," and that this had happened while the bones were already visible after the flesh had rotted. After the burial had taken place and the entrance pit had been filled in, certain post-burial rituals had apparently been performed in the instance of Grave No. 1074, according to observations made during fieldwork. In order to achieve this, a tunnel had been dug into the southern portion of the entrance pit, the stone partition's slabs had been taken apart and removed, and the burial had been reopened. The dead man's thigh bones were wrapped in two pieces of a gold plate that had previously, obviously, been a part of the dead man's clothing after the burial chamber had been breached and cleaned of soft tissue as a result of the corpse's decomposition. The remaining two ones had been set respectively across the sword's blade and in the space between the thigh bones[176].

### 5.12. Bronze Mirror

**83.** Bronze mirror (**Fig. 93**).

Provenance: Mezmay-I Burial-ground, Grave no. 3.

Dimensions: Height: cm, Width: cm, Length: cm.

A bronze mirror, in the shape of a flat round disc, with a palmette-shaped appliqué and a handle made of a goddess figurine. The mirror's handle design is reminiscent of goddess-shaped handles found on bronze mirrors made in Greece and Italy throughout the Archaic and Classical eras. Palmettes are another common addition to their appliques. A Scythian grave from the end of the 6th century BC that was discovered near the village of Annovka, not far from Olbia, had one of these mirrors. However, the portrayal's aesthetic is very different from that of its Classical predecessors. The nose, which is depicted in relief and is roughly triangular in shape, can only be made out with difficulty because the deity's facial features have barely

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[176] Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, 50-52, 54, fig, 1,9, 5,4, 7, 10.

been defined. There is a raised ridge, probably meant to represent a torque, on the deity's neck. The hip line of the figure is surrounded by a ridge that looks similar. Style-wise, this statue is similar to bronzes from Koban. It appears that the handle in this instance was produced in local bronze-casting workshops in reference to classical models[177].

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[177] Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, 307, 332-333, Fig. 10,1, 18,4.

## 6. Conclusive remarks (based on comparative analysis of selected material)

Every area of the North Pontic region exhibited the distinctive prestige artifacts that distinguished the elite burial complexes throughout the Hellenistic period (between the 3rd and the middle of the 1st century BC). Gold polychrome brooches from the Kuban and gold eye- and mouth-pieces from the Crimea; other items as well are associated with warrior burial complexes.

The Kuban elite complexes (for example cat. numbers 1-6, 13, 16-17,20, 54-55, 63-64, 70, 78-81, 83 from the Memzay-I Burial -ground, Grave No 3) show, on the one hand, a degree of Hellenization of the ruling class of society (this is especially seen in the choice of a brooch as one of the specific insignia). However, many aspects of the artistic legacy (such as the persistence of Animal Style) strongly link the Kuban aristocracy to Scythian, or more broadly, Iranian culture. Some distinguishing characteristics also suggest that Transcaucasia played a role in the development of the elite complexes in the Kuban region[178].

As is evidenced from the findings of the Memzay warrior burial, Hellenistic-south eastern Mediterranean influences and also regional preferences are both discerned. The example of the brooch with the rock crystal inlay (cat. number 54) has similar parallels from the Kuban region[179], while affiliations of strong Hellenic tradition are attested in the brooch in the shape of the "Heracles Knot" (cat. number 55). The "Heracles Knot" is a well-known motif adorning various pieces of jewelry as it is seen in the gold necklace from the tomb Γ of Sedes[180], the gold necklace from Pydna[181], the central motif of the golden diadem from the antechamber of King Philip's II tomb (II) in Aigai (modern village of Vergina)[182], and the central motif of an Eros with open wings inside a "Heracles Knot" from the diadem of Sedes tomb Γ[183]. Two necklaces with finials in the shape of the Heracles Knot from Amphipolis[184], a golden diadem from the same site[185], and four diadems bearing the motif in an exquisitely ornate manner currently in the collections of the National Archaeological Museum[186] and the Benaki

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[178] Morvintseva 2016, 399-400.

[179] Peschanyj Barrow 1, burial 10, (Kuban) Mezmay burial 3

[180] Kotzias 1937, 878-879, fig. 9-10; Despoini 1996, 214, fig. 26-27.

[181] Bessios 2000, 713.

[182] Andronikos 1989, 192, 196-197, fig. 158-159; Despoini 1996, fig. 30-31.

[183] Kotzias 1937, 876-878, fig. 6-8; Ignatiadou, Tsigarida 2011, no. 14.

[184] Despoini 1996, 244, 255, fig. 123, 162.

[185] Despoini 1996, 214, fig. 25.

[186] Amandry 1953, 118, no. 264, fig. 48; Amandry 1963, 244; Kaltsas 2010, 62, 86, nos. 3, 11; Despoini 1996, 215, fig. 28-29

Museum[187] also testify to the strong tradition of the motif. A piece of jewelry in the form of braiding with Herakles Knot, which was found in a burial chamber set into the city wall of Chersonessos, offers also evidence for the popularity of the type in the Black Sea region[188].

A number of extravagantly rich burials emerged in the eastern portion of the North Pontic region in the 1st century BC, including Nogajčik Barrow (the Crimea), the Zubov-Vozdvizhenskaya group's graves (the Kuban), Kalinovka Barrow 55, and Kosika (the Lower Volga). These complexes include luxurious items, jewelry, and imported vessels with Mediterranean provenance, that attribute a cosmopolitan effect to the Northern Black Sea region[189].

Taking under consideration for example the pair of earrings in the type of central part and pendant, and the chain necklace from the burial of the Nogajčik Barrow (cat. numbers 11, 14), on the grounds of typology it is well understood that we have a case of high-quality jewelry products based on a strong classical tradition, which was commonly used by the elites of the unified Hellenistic and Roman world.

Especially the pair of earrings with inlaid stones and amphora-like pendant from Nogajčik (cat. number 11) bears many resemblances with numerous examples found in the necropolis of Tarentum[190], a similar pair with long chains from the British Museum[191], some with inlaid cabochons, pendants and chains from the Munich and Hamburg museums[192], a pair from Thracian Anchialos[193], and earrings also from Crimea and Romania from the mid and later 1st century AD[194]. Also, the amphora pendant interesting as a paradigm of cross-cultural contacts is an earring from Taxila, now in the National Museum of Pakistan[195].

The chain necklace (cat. number 14) belongs to this broad category of necklaces with a chain in a form of a strap and pendants of various forms and materials, with very prominent pieces of jewelry the gold necklaces from the 4th century BC kurgan burials of Pavlofsky Kurgan at the eastern end of the Yuz Oba ridge[196] and Burial Chamber I of the Great Bliznitsa

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[187] Amandry 1953, 120, 131, fig. 71; Despoini 1996, 215-216, fig. 31-32; Jackson 2017, 24, fig. 5.
[188] Trofimova 2007, no 37, pp. 123-125.
[189] Morvintseva 2016, 397.
[190] Tonkova 2015, 710 with reference to Schojer 1986, 132-134, no. 79.
[191] Tonkova 2015, 710 with reference to Deppert-Lippitz 1985, S. 287, Taf. XXXI.
[192] Tonkova 2015, 710 with reference to Deppert-Lippitz 1985, S. 287, Abb. 218-219.
[193] Tonkova 2015, 710-711, fig. 6.
[194] Tonkova 2015, 711 with reference to Mordvintseva, Treister 2007, A 202. 3, Taf. 35, A 235.2, Taf. 38, A 297.2, Taf. 42, B 2.2, Taf. 7, 50
[195] Belaňová 2016, 118-121 with further paradigms, fig. 4 with reference to Marshall 1951, III Pl. 190, no. 2, fig. 5-6.
[196] Trofimova 2007, no 158, p. 264.

Kurgan[197]. Similar necklaces from the burial Z of Derveni[198], the necklace from the Ganymedes treasure at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York[199], and another one at the National Archaeological Museum from the Stathatos Collection also offer testimony to the resilience and the strong popularity of the type[200].

The flagon-shaped pendants of the Nogajčik burial (for example cat. number 18) continue the tradition of necklaces composed of vase-shaped pendants of a round or more pointed form. Gold necklaces with rounded pendants have been unearthed at Aiani[201] silver ones have come to light at Sindos[202] and Pydna[203], while glass items of the type come from Delos, Rhodes, and Amathous[204]. They are uncommon discoveries; the majority of them were made in eminent locations, including the palace of Hurrian Nuzi[205], the tomb of Pharaoh Thutmose III's wives[206], the tomb of Pharaoh Amenhotep II[207], the palace of the Assyrian capital Nimrud[208], elite graves in Lydia[209], the tomb of the Karian satrap Maussollos[210], an elite burial in Gezer[211], the burial of a priestess in Sindos, the burial of a rich lady (possibly also a priestess) in Vani[212], a ritual site in Kuban[213], and elite burials in Thrace[214]. It is highly likely that all of the individuals involved in these discoveries were either ex officio or designated priests and priestesses. In the case of the heads of state, these vessels can only be seen as tools associated with their labor or sacrificial duties[215].

Finally, it is of great interest that even in the most exquisite and original in terms of form

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[197] Trofimova 2007, no 163, p. 274.

[198] Despoini 1996, 250; Themelis, Touratsoglou 1997, 126 with paralles, Table 24, 140.

[199] Richter 1937, 294, fig. 2; Pandermalis, 2004, 123, fig. 5a; Picón , no. 197, pp. 170, 440.

[200] Despoini 1996, 252, fig. 151-152.

[201] Ignatiadou 2012, 624, with reference to Karamitrou-Mentessidi 2008, 125, 126.

[202] Ignatiadou 2012, 625, fig. 2.10.

[203] Ignatiadou 2012, 625 with reference to Bessios 2010, 171.

[204] Ignatiadou 2012, 625 and footnote 34.

[205] Ignatiadou 2012, 621, and footnote 3 with reference to Barag 1970, 140 no 15 figs 14 A-B.

[206] Ignatiadou 2012, 621, and footnotes 4-5 with reference to Ars vitraria, 12, "button-based goblet" (Ch. Liliquist) and Barag 1970, 181-182.

[207] Ignatiadou 2012, 621, 625, and footnote 6 with reference to Nolte 1968, 55 pl. II.6.

[208] Ignatiadou 2012, 621, 623, 625 and footnote 7 with reference to Oates 2001, 245 fig. 155.

[209] Ignatiadou 2012, 623, 625 and footnote 10 with reference to Özgen & Özturk 1996, cat. nos 65 and 66; Von Bothmer 1984, 110-111.

[210] Ignatiadou 2012, 623, 625 and footnote 19 with reference to Ignatiadou 2004, 184-191, tall calyx cups 1 and 2.

[211] Ignatiadou 2012, 623, 625 and footnote 13 with reference to Macalister 1911, 292-293 fig. 154, 156, grave no 4; Shefton 1993, esp. 182; Shefton 2000, esp. 277-278.

[212] Ignatiadou 2012, 623, 625 and footnote 14 with reference to Vani I, 282-283 nos 215, 216; Gagošidze & Saginašvili 2000, esp. 72, Abb. 2, 3.

[213] Ignatiadou 2012, 623, 625 and footnote 15 with reference to On the Edge of Oikoumene, cat. no 615.

[214] Ignatiadou 2012, 623, 625 and footnote 16 with reference to Gold of the Thracian Horsemen, cat. no 361.

[215] Ignatiadou 2012, 625-626.

piece of jewelry, the dolphin-shaped fibula (cat. number 57), impact from the Hellenistic tradition is discerned in the dolphin motif, particularly widespread in various types of adornments as in the case of a golden necklace with dolphin finials from Vatheia Euboea, dated to the end of the 2nd century BC[216] and also a similar one in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York[217].

The Crimean elite complexes show arguably the highest level of Hellenization of the power elite. In the 1st century AD, the necropolises of the ancient cities of the Bosporan kingdom, Chersonesos and Olbia, as well as in the barbarian periphery closest to them, are frequently adorned with golden wreaths and eye and mouthpieces. These artifacts were also found in the 1st century AD Greek graves in Syria (Dura-Europos) and Romania. The gold trefoil leaves and the mouth and eyepieces from the Ust'-Al'ma Grave No. 1074 (cat. numbers 7, 9-10) at the Necropolis of Ust' Al'ma document well this prevailing tendency. The trilobate leaves (cat. number 7) have their parallels in the golden wreath from Pelina[218], the wreath from Thracian Anchialos[219], similar wreath leaves from Macedonian tomb groups, as well as from burial complexes from Tarentum of the late 3rd and 2nd century BC, and the main burials in tombs I and II in Artyuhovsky kurgan[220]. Magnificent prototypes for these wreaths are examples from the royal necropolis of Aigai[221] and tomb D of the Derveni necropolis[222] of the 4th century BC. The eye (epophtalmia) and mouthpieces (epistomia)[223] comprise usual funerary finds in elite burials of the 1st and 2nd centuries AD[224] from funerary complexes in the cities of the Bosporan Kingdom, like Gorgippia[225], as well as Crimean burial grounds[226].

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[216] Despoini 1996, 255, fig. 165-166; Tsigarida 1997, 140, no. 138.

[217] Oliver 1966, 277, fig. 15.

[218] Tonkova 2015, 714, fig. 24 with reference to Miller 1979, 44-45, 62, Pl. 28 b, c

[219] Tonkova 2015, 702, 714, fig. 1b, 8.

[220] Tonkova 2015, 714.

[221] Andronikos 1989, 191, fig. 154; Despoini 1996, 26, 209, no. 2.

[222] Themelis, Touratsoglou 1997, 110, Δ1, Table 22.

[223] For mouthpieces see Despini 1998. Laslett 2020, 74-75 and footnote 197. For the early evidence dated to the Iron Age see Misailidou-Despotidou 1998, 266 (Nea Philadelphia); Chrysostomou 2016, 76 (two examples at Archontiko) For chronological and geographical distribution in Macedonia see Karamitrou-Mentesidi 1988, 20 (Aiani); Kottaridi 2009, 149 (Aigai); Tsimbidou Avloniti 2007, 170 (Aghios Athanasios); Chrysostomou, Chrysostomou 2009, 481 (Archontiko); Misailidou-Despotidou 1996, 443 (Nea Philadelphia); Kottaridi 2004, 545 (Paliomelissa); Soureif 1995, 272 (Toumba Thessaloniki); Soureif 1996, 433 (Toumba Thessaloniki); Soureif 1998, 198 (Toumba Thessaloniki).

[224] For a discussion on the golden covers that appear in funerary contexts during the Late Hellenistic and Roman periods in the North Pontic region see Porucznik 2021, 863-889.

[225] Mordvintseva 2016, Pl. XX, 1,2, Gorgippia Tomb II, sarcophagus 2.

[226] Mordvintseva 2016, Pl. XX; The Crimea: 3 – Magarach Barrow 1, burial 13; 4, 9 – Ust'-Al'ma catacomb 820; 5 – Ust'-Al'ma catacomb 735; 6 – Ust'-Al'ma catacomb 777; 7 – Ust'-Al'ma catacomb 92, burial 28; 8 – Ust'-Al'ma catacomb 612.

Similar sets have also been attested from Syria and Romania[227].

Taking under consideration the numerous fibulae from the Luchistoe-2 burial, we find that all the attested types, disc-shaped, bow-shaped, with a scroll at the end of the lamellate catch, with a button at the end of the catch-plate, and the hinged "Aucissa" type, they belong to well-known general roman types according to dated classifications, and are very widespread in burials from Crimea, Chersonesos Taurica, South-Western Crimea, and the Cimmerian Bosporus, the valley of the Kuban River, the Northern Caucasus and the lower reaches of the Volga river.

Further modifications in the artifacts discovered in the elite burial complexes happened throughout the 1st century AD, and this fact affected the Lower Dnieper and the Crimea in the North Black Sea region. Despite some regional variations, almost all elite burials from the 1st to the first half of the 2nd century AD contain prestige items from the complete opposite side of the world, such as Chinese silk, lacquer boxes, bronze mirrors, and other uncommon items, in addition to Roman and provincial Roman imports. The lacquer boxes and silk, which originated in the East and made their way to the Crimea via the Eurasian steppes, may have been intended for commerce with Rome[228].

The majority of the elite graves from this era are located close to Greek cities in Tanais, Chersonesos (necropolises in the south-western Crimea, foremost Ust'-Al'ma cemetery), and Olbia (Sokolova Mogila). The Greek towns of the North Black Sea and the Roman Empire, the centres of ancient culture, came to dominate all regions of the North Pontic Barbaricum politically and economically. After the middle of the 2nd century AD, elite graves are scarce almost everywhere.

Consequently, archaeological contexts that have been discovered in every section of the North Pontic territory and can be interpreted as burial complexes for social elites, offer valuable testimony for the social structure of their originating communities, the various economic and political contacts. The research of elite graves revealed the main trajectories of the inhabitants of the North Pontic region with their international contacts. Every area of the North Pontic region exhibited distinctive prestige artifacts that distinguished the elite burial complexes throughout the Hellenistic period (between the third and the middle of the first century BC), characterized by a certain level of Hellenization. This is seen from the designs

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[227] Mordvintseva 2016, 399.
[228] Mordvintseva 2016, 397.

and creative legacy of precious metal jewelry, which frequently features Greek decorative themes and God imagery. A variety of extravagant burials first arose in the eastern North Pontic region in the second half of the first century BC that included imported jewelry of Mediterranean provenance. After Mithridates Eupator fell, the North Black Sea region entered the sphere of Roman foreign policy objectives. Since then and during the first centuries AD, the elites' graves throughout the North Pontic region have a very similar appearance. Notable items such as silver and bronze vessels with Roman and regional Roman provenance, jewelry of Mediterranean affiliations, and objects of eastern Asiatic provenance are found among the grave goods. As a result, although the region of the North Black Sea served as a remote perimeter for the Greco-Roman civilization, the major civilizations of the East and the West came into contact via its territory.

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***Other resources:* Magazines, journals and newspapers, Web-sites**
https://colorsandstones.eu/female-burials/nogaichik-barrow-sarmatian-grave-from-crimea/
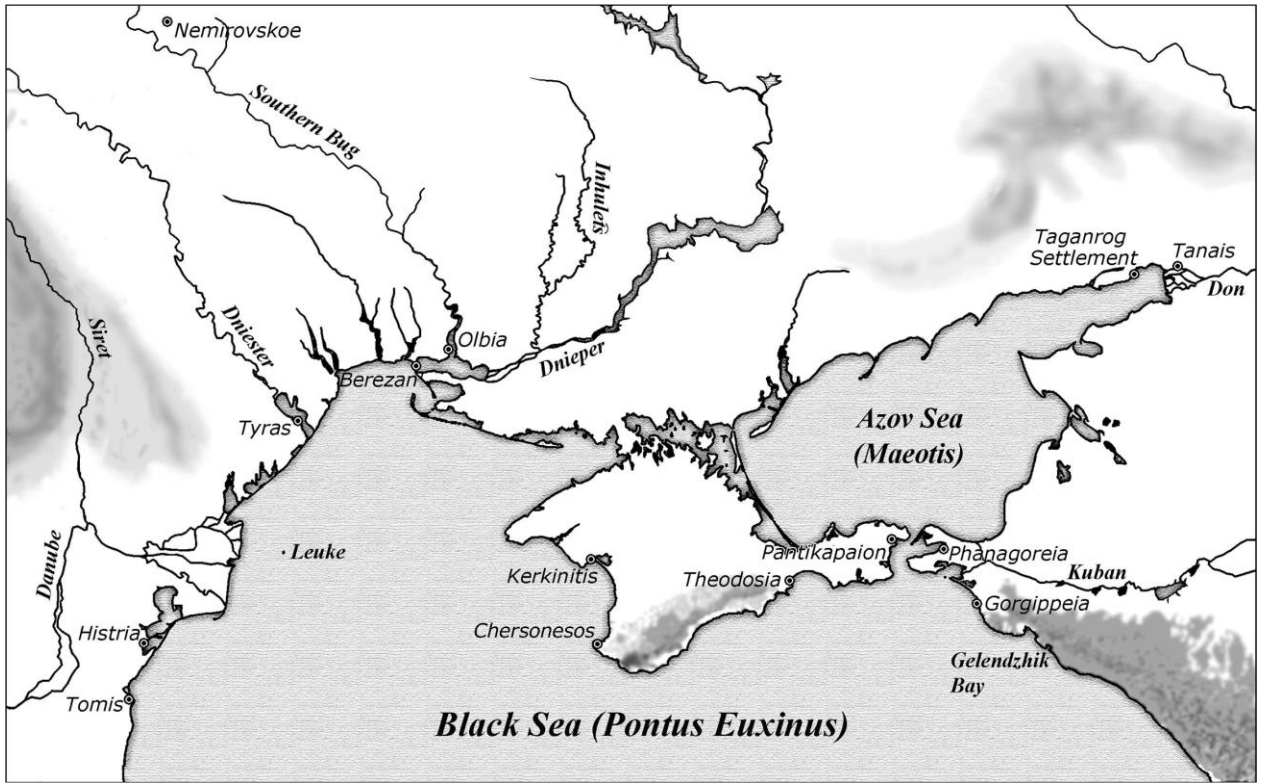
**Figures**



**Figure 1:** The Northern Black Sea region (Kozlovskaya 2017, Map 1).
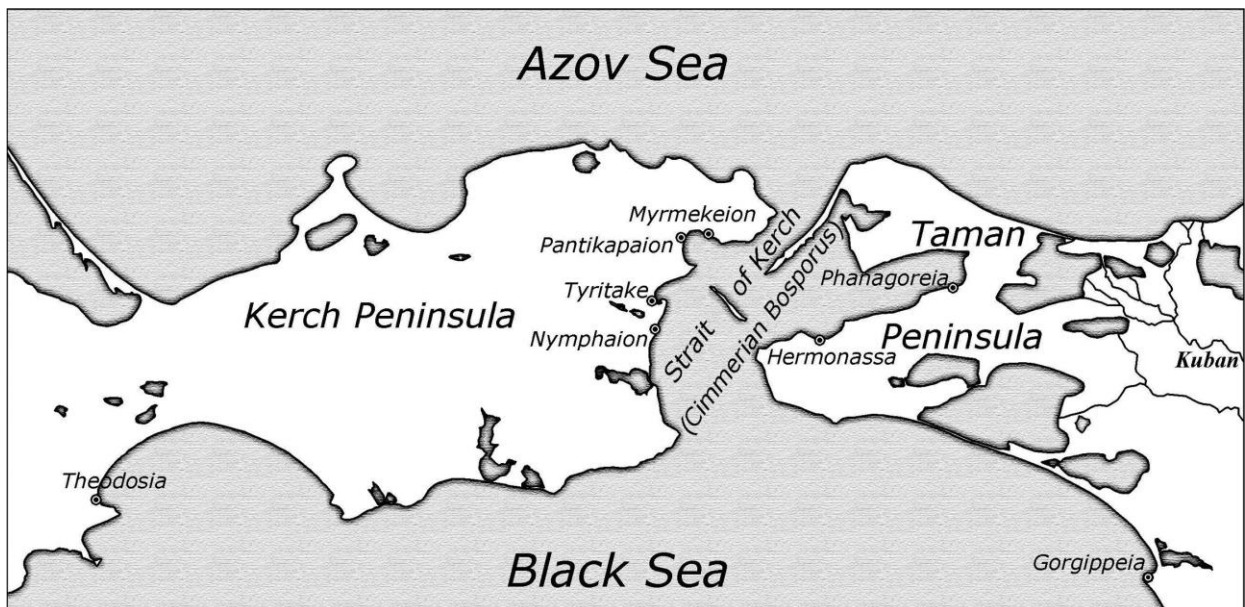


**Figure 2:** The Bosporus (Kozlovskaya 2017, Map 2).
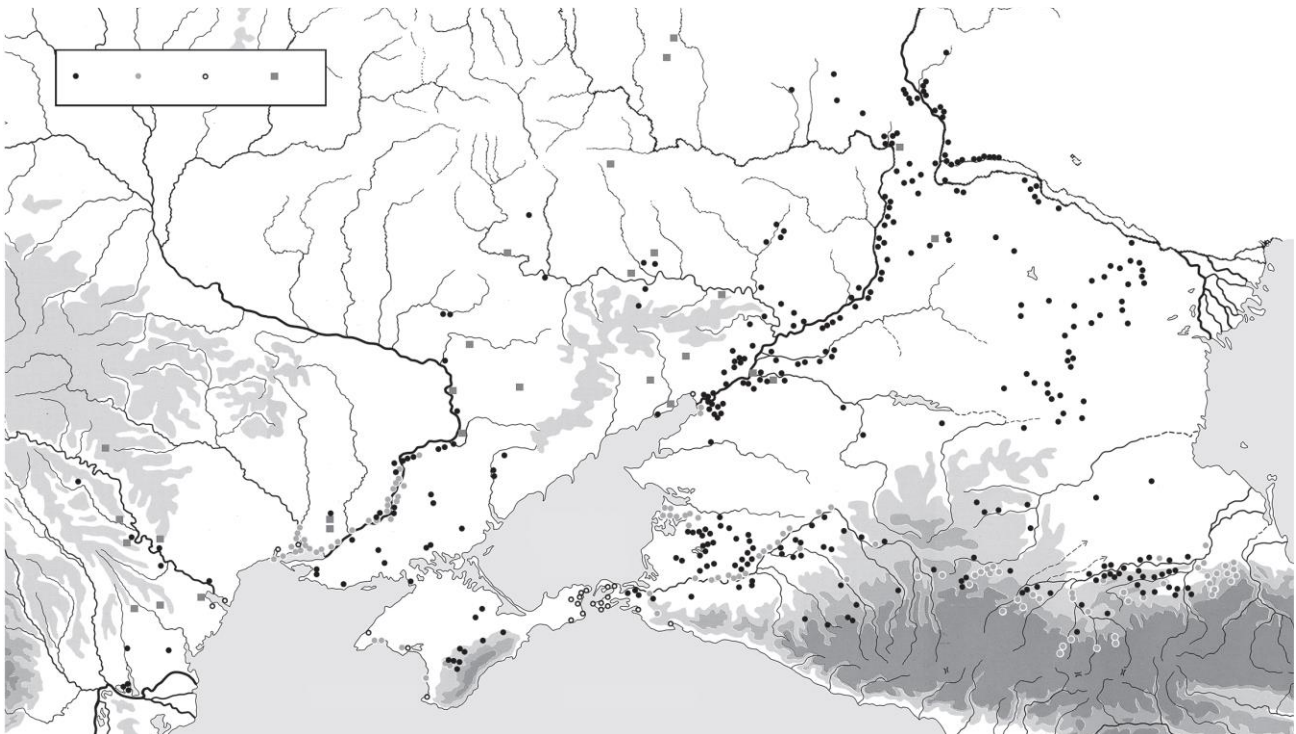
**Figure 3:** Map of the archaeological monuments in Eastern Europe (the 3rd to 1st century BC): *1* – kurgans; *2* – settlements and burial sites with inhumation graves; *3* – Greek cities and necropoleis; *4* – "ritual deposits." (Mordvintseva 2017, Fig. 9.3).
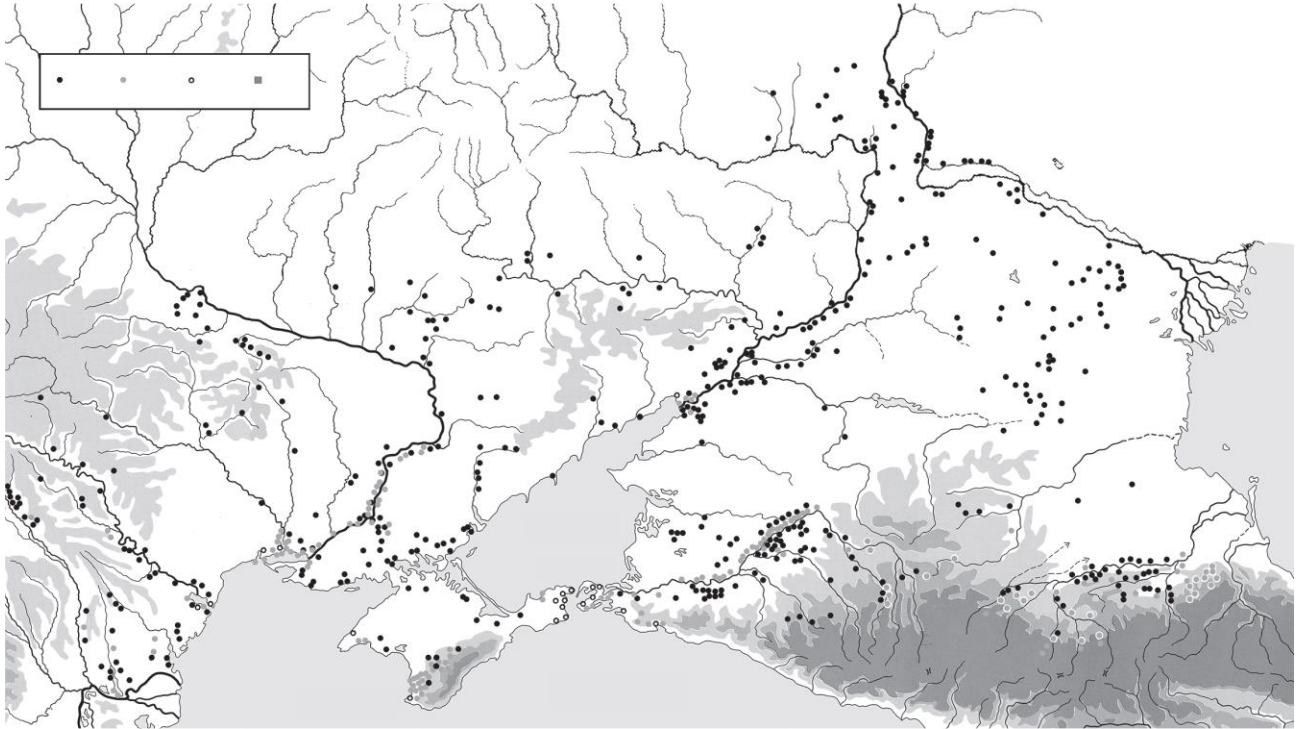
**Figure 4:** Map of the archaeological monuments in Eastern Europe (the 1st to 3rd century AD): *1* – kurgans; *2* – settlements and burial sites with inhumation graves; *3* – Greek cities and necropoleis; *4* – "ritual deposits." (Mordvintseva 2017, Fig. 9.4).
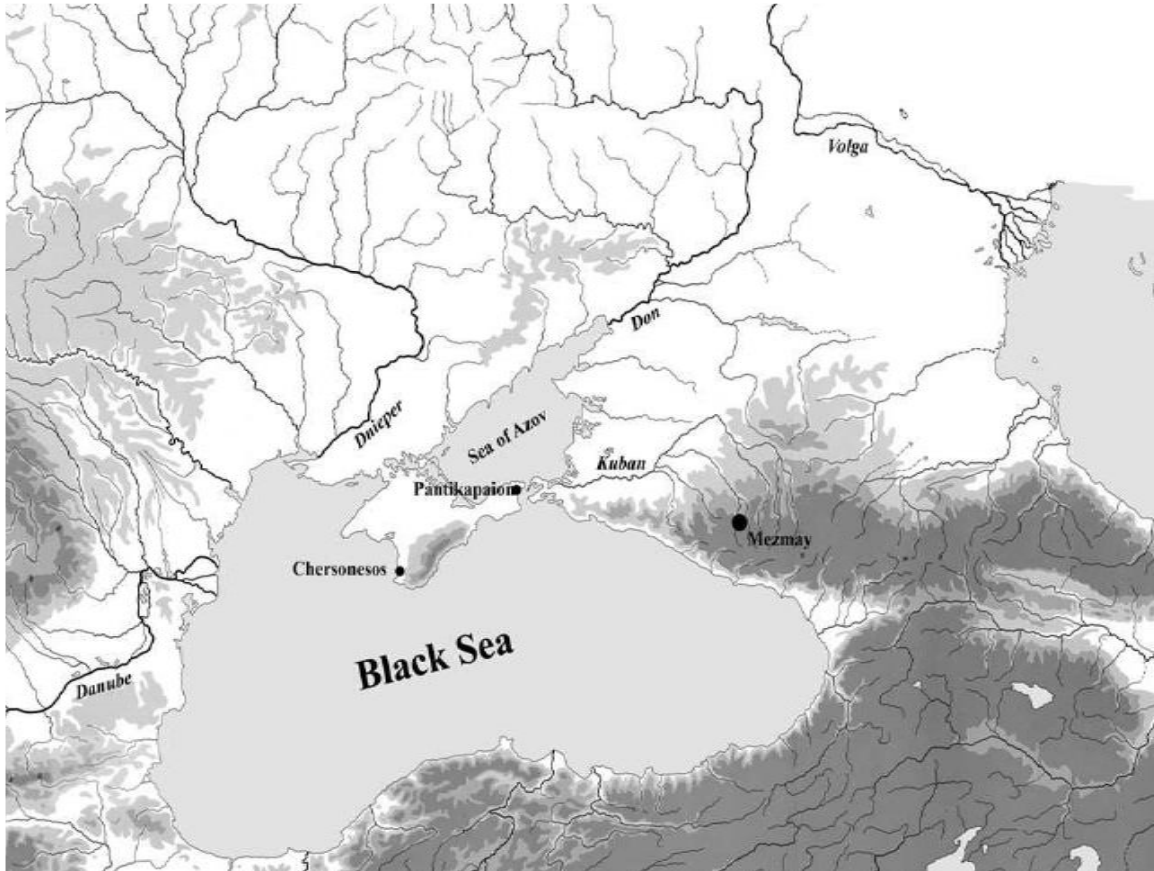
**Figure 5:** Site of the Mezmay-1 Burial-ground on a map of the northern Caucasus (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Fig. 1).
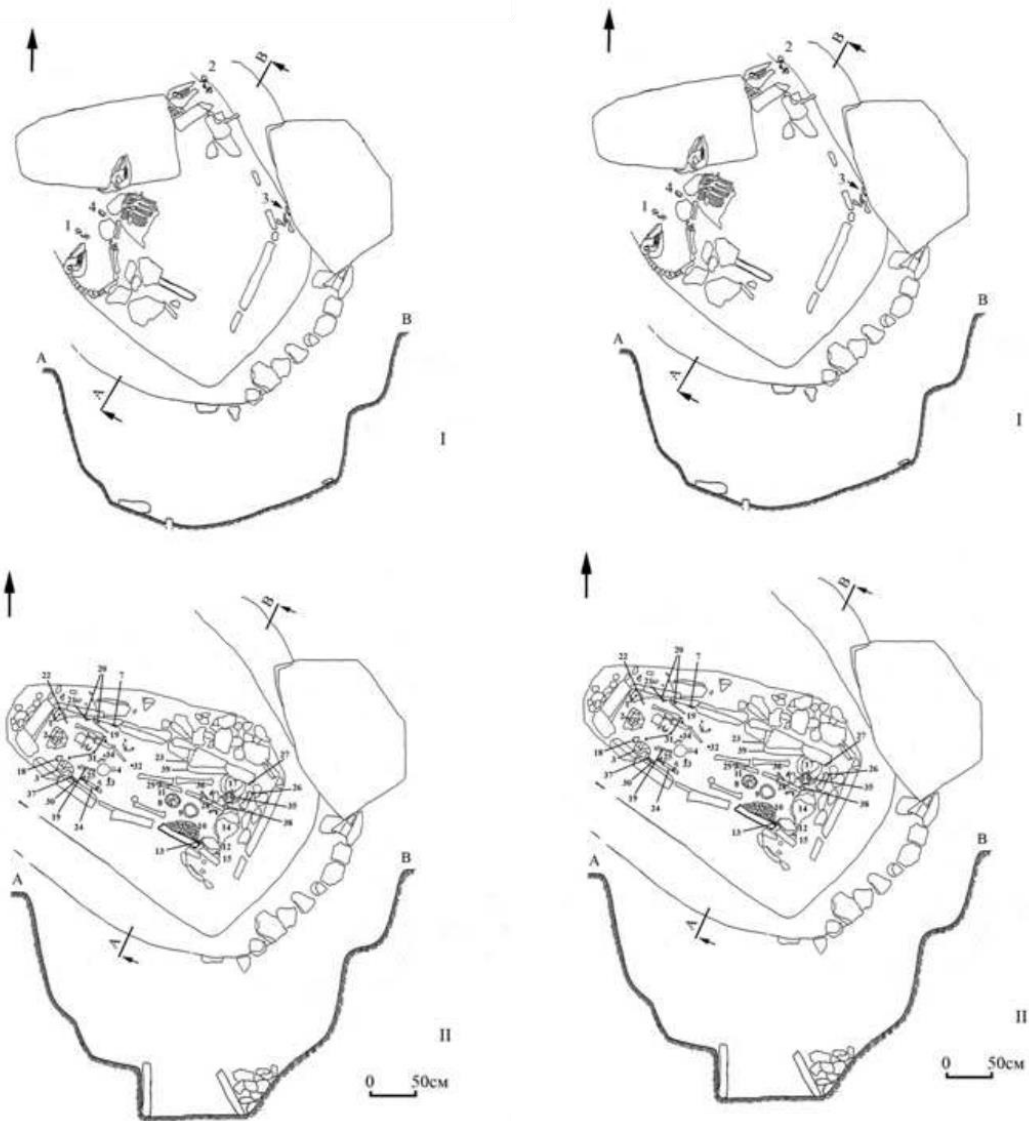
**Figure 6:** Mezmay-1 Burial-ground, Grave No. 3. Plan of level 2. 1. Horse burial No. 1; 2. Horse burial No. 2; 3. Horse burial No. 3; 4. Cow burial. Mezmay-1 Burial-ground Plan of level 3. 1. Bronze helmet; 2. Bronze helmet; 3. Glass bowl; 4. Bronze mirror; 5. Rectangular gold plaque; 6. 3 gold plaques for sewing on to garments; 7. Sword; 8. Bowl; 9. Bowl; 10. Chain mail; 11. Sword; 12. Grey-clay jug; 13. Spear-heads for long and short spears; 14. Jug; 15. Grey-clay kantharos; 16. Red-clay kantharos; 17. Bronze basin; 18. Glass skyphos; 19. Gold oval ibula; 20. Gold plaques with a hole in the centre; 21. Black-gloss kantharos; 22. Gold temple ring; 23. Bronze jug; 24. Sword with a bronze handle; 25. Gold bracelet; 26. Boar's skull; 27. Spear-heads for long and short spears; 28. Tripod; 29. Gold carved plaque; 30. axe; 31. Four gold buttons; 32. Gold bead; 33. Chalcedony pendant with gold facings; 34. Medallion made from a gold coin; 35. Iron tongs; 36. Bone knife; 37. Gold plaque; 38. Hand-moulded censer; 39. Article made of horn, (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Fig. 2. I., 2. II).

**Figure 7:** Site of the Nogajčik barrow (Mordvintseva 2005, fig.1).
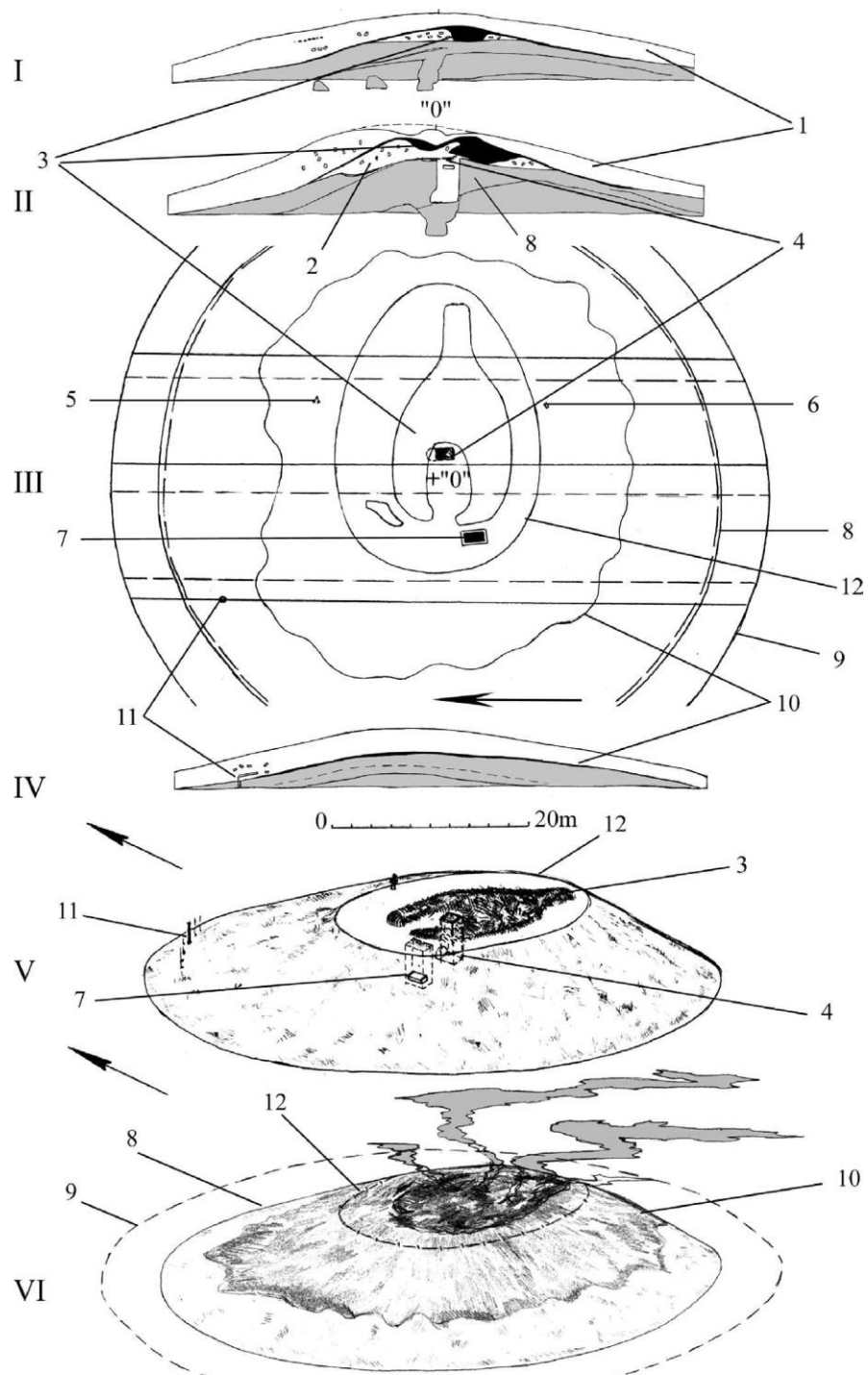
**Figure 8:** The Nogajčik royal grave, Stratigraphy of the burial mound No. 5 (Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, fig. 1).
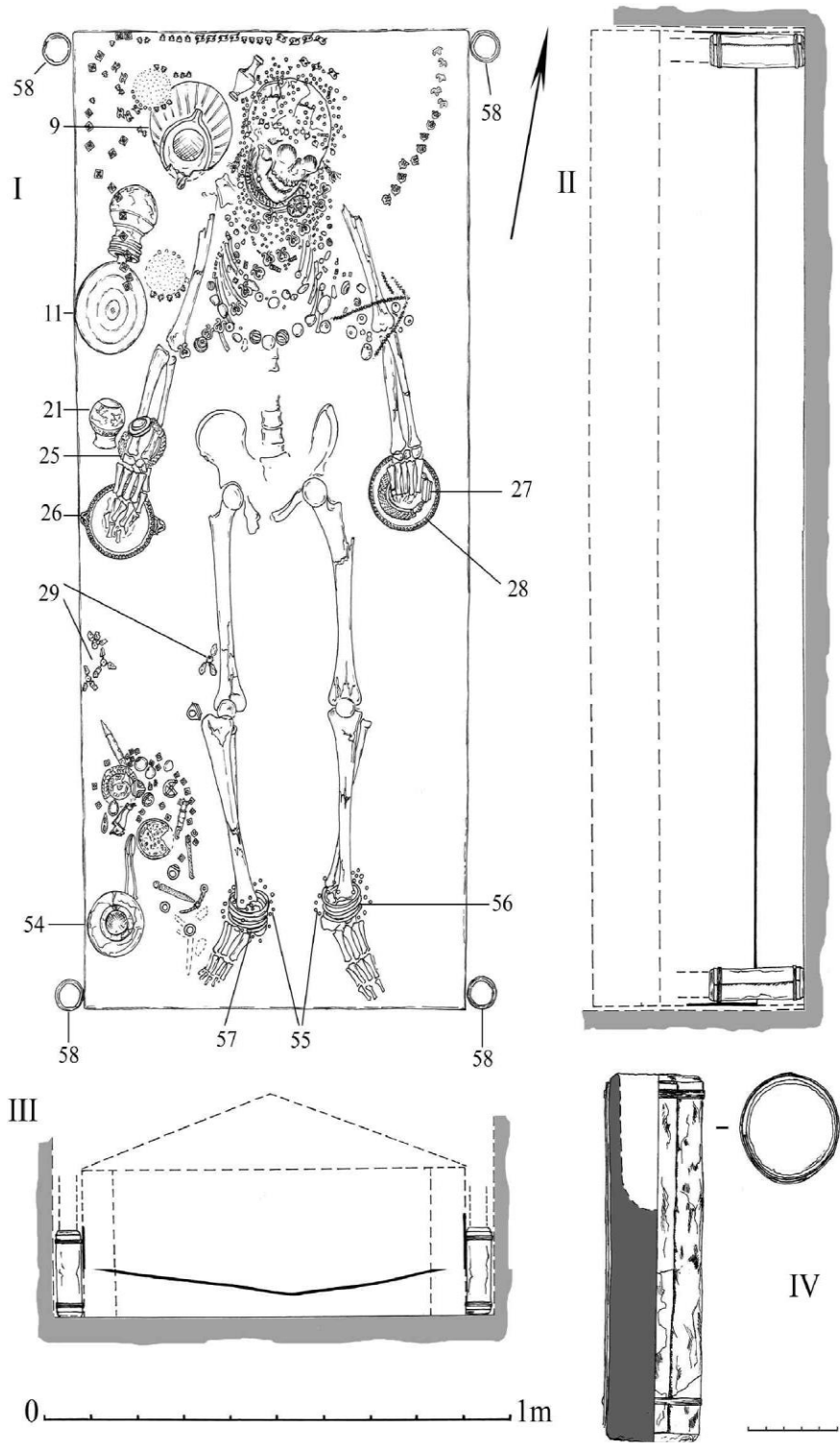
**Figure 9:** The Nogajčik royal grave (Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, fig. 3).
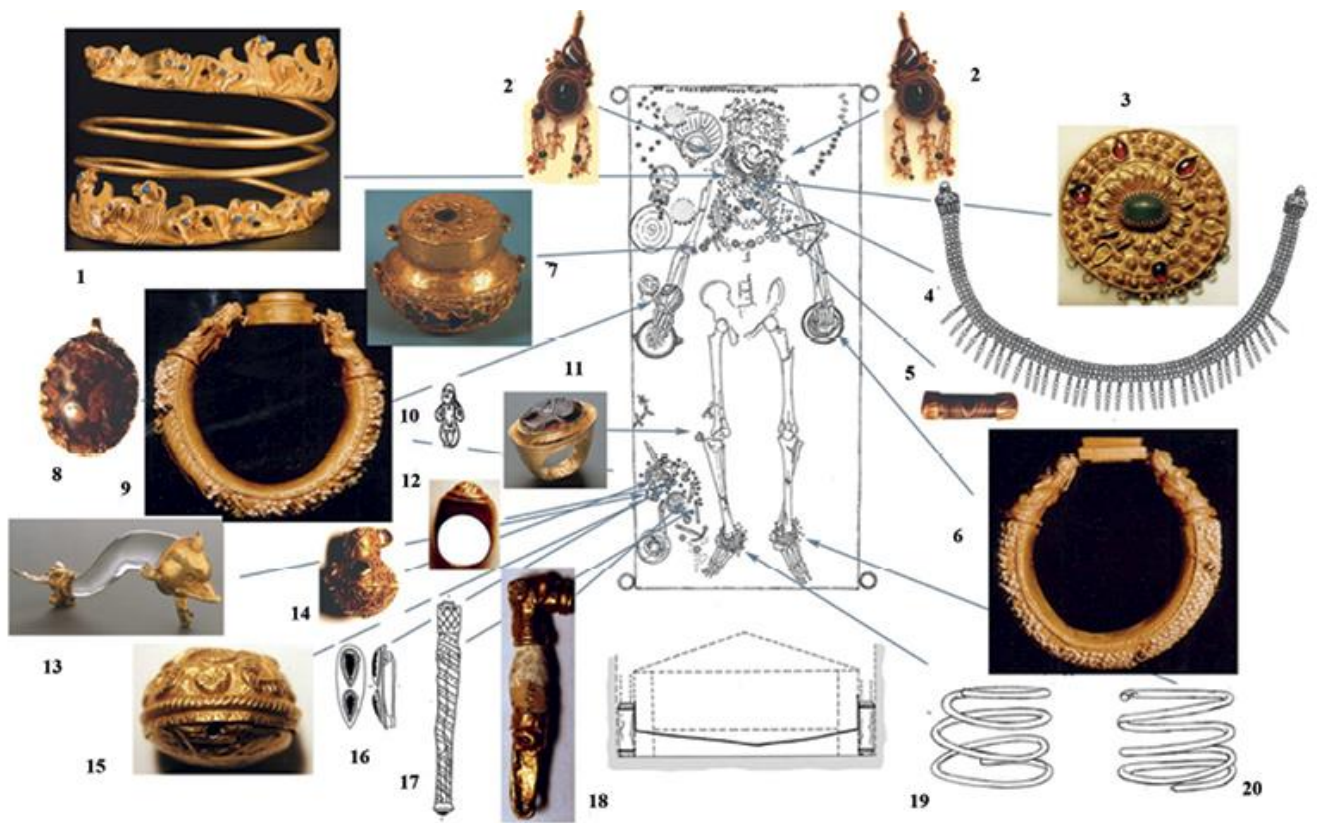
**Figure 10:** The Nogajčik royal grave (https://colorsandstones.eu/female-burials/nogaichik-barrow-sarmatian-grave-from-crimea/)
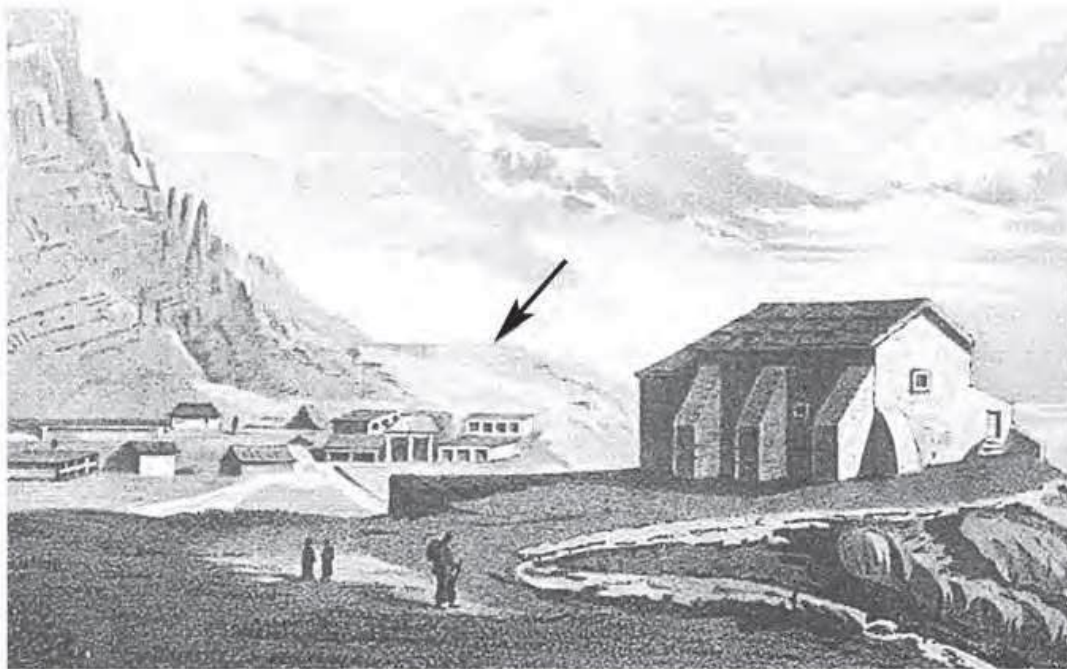
**Figure 11:** Site of the Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 1).
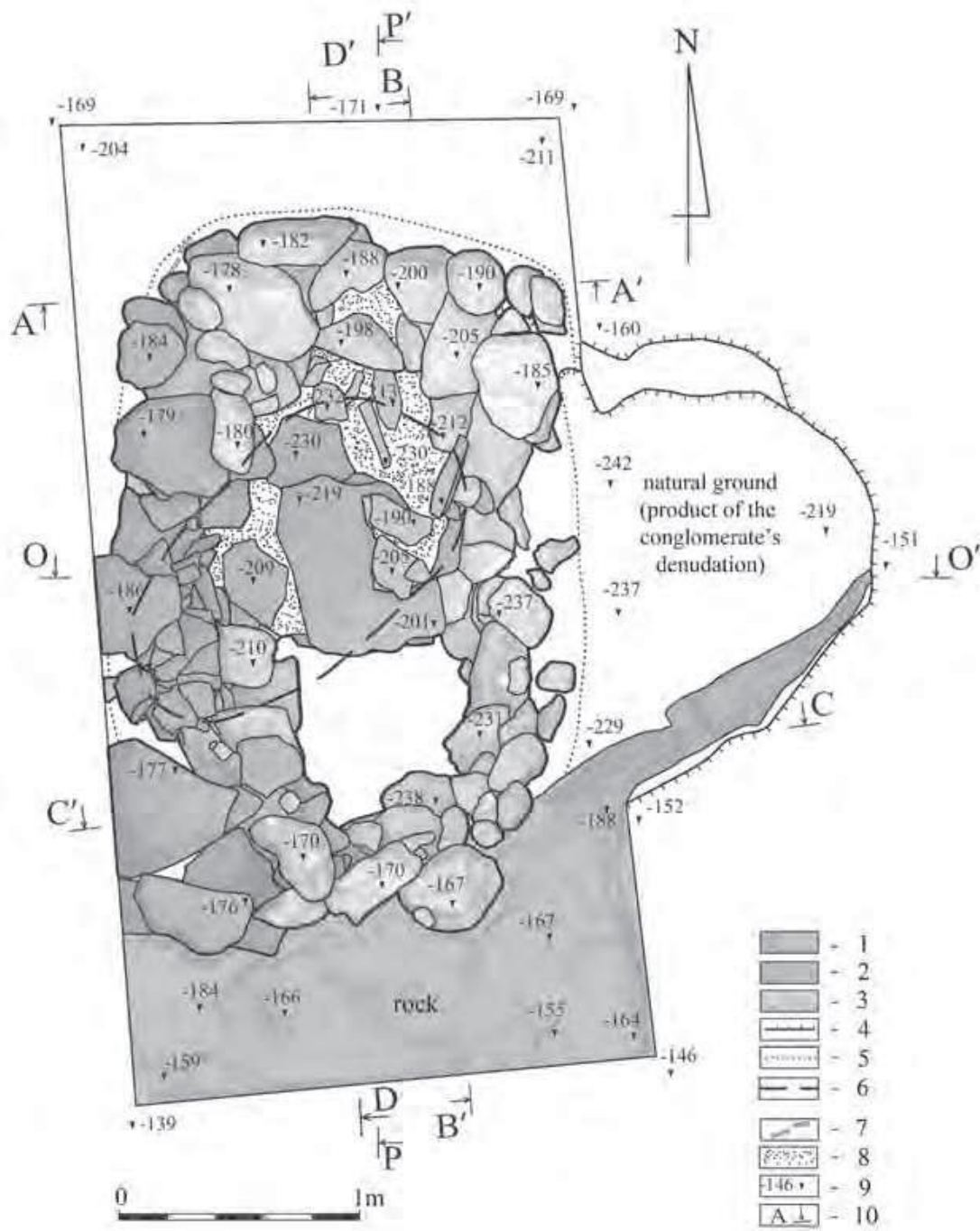
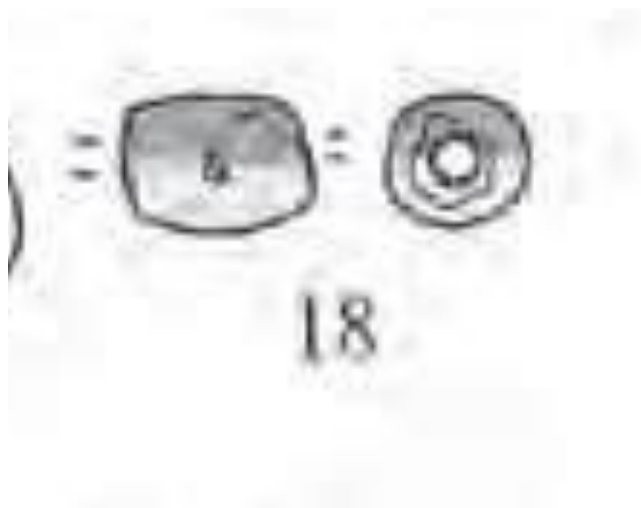**Figure 12:** Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 2).
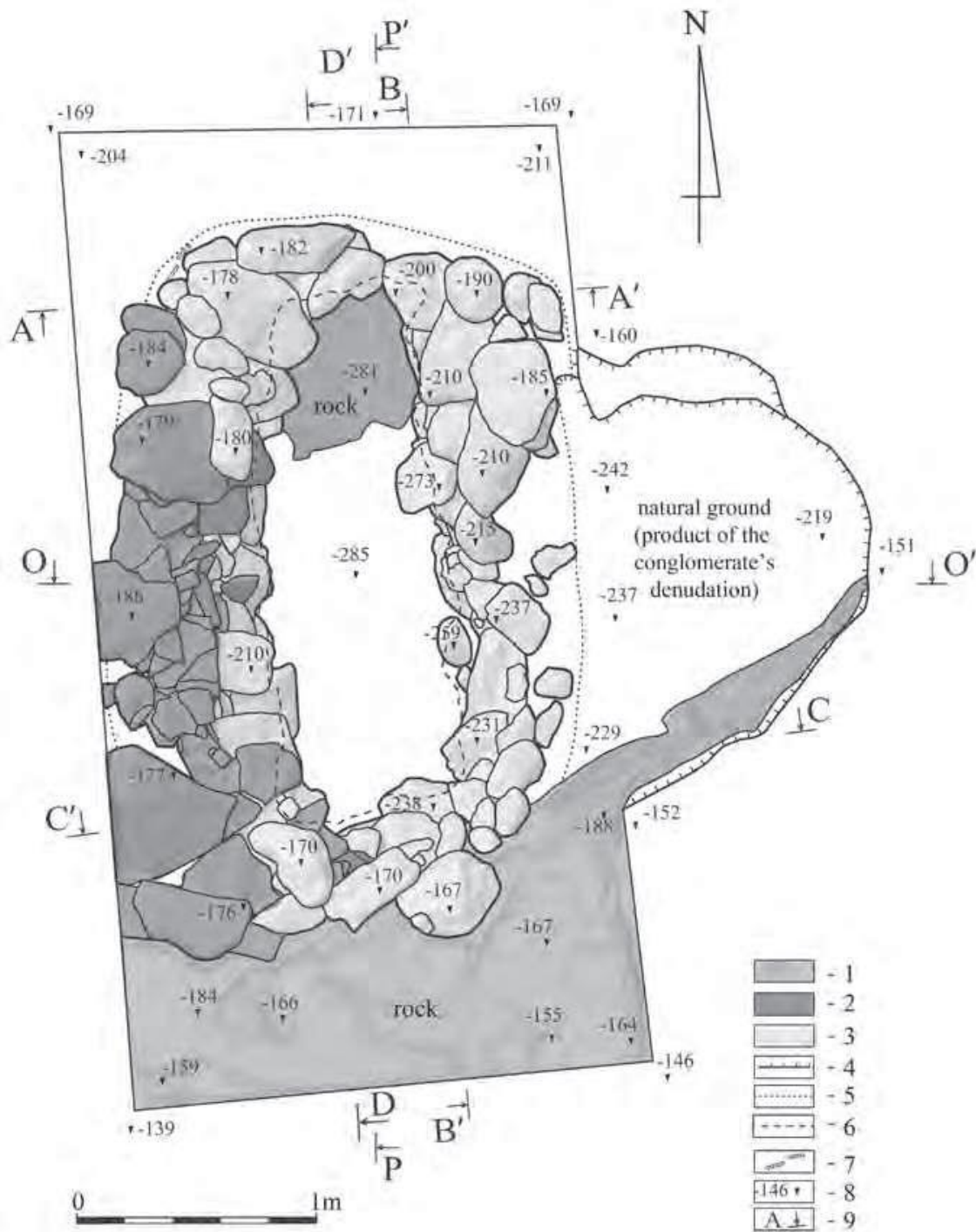
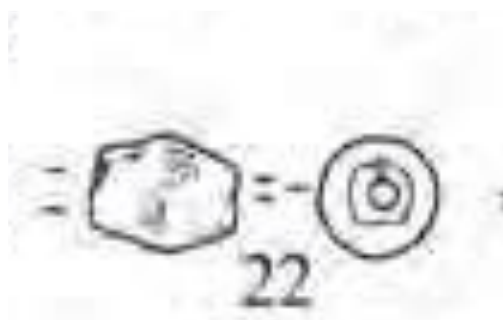**Figure 13:** Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 3).
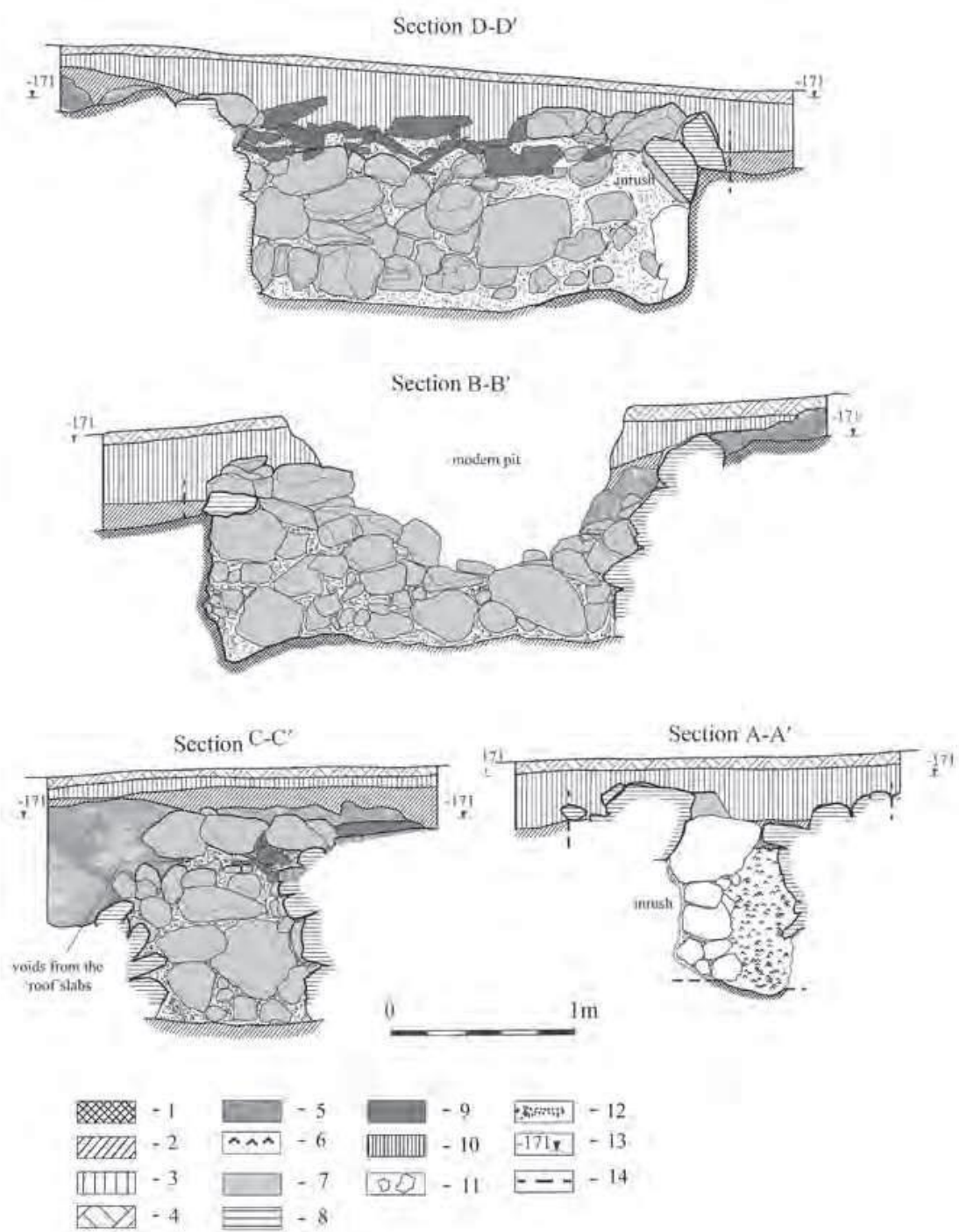
**Figure 14:** Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 4).
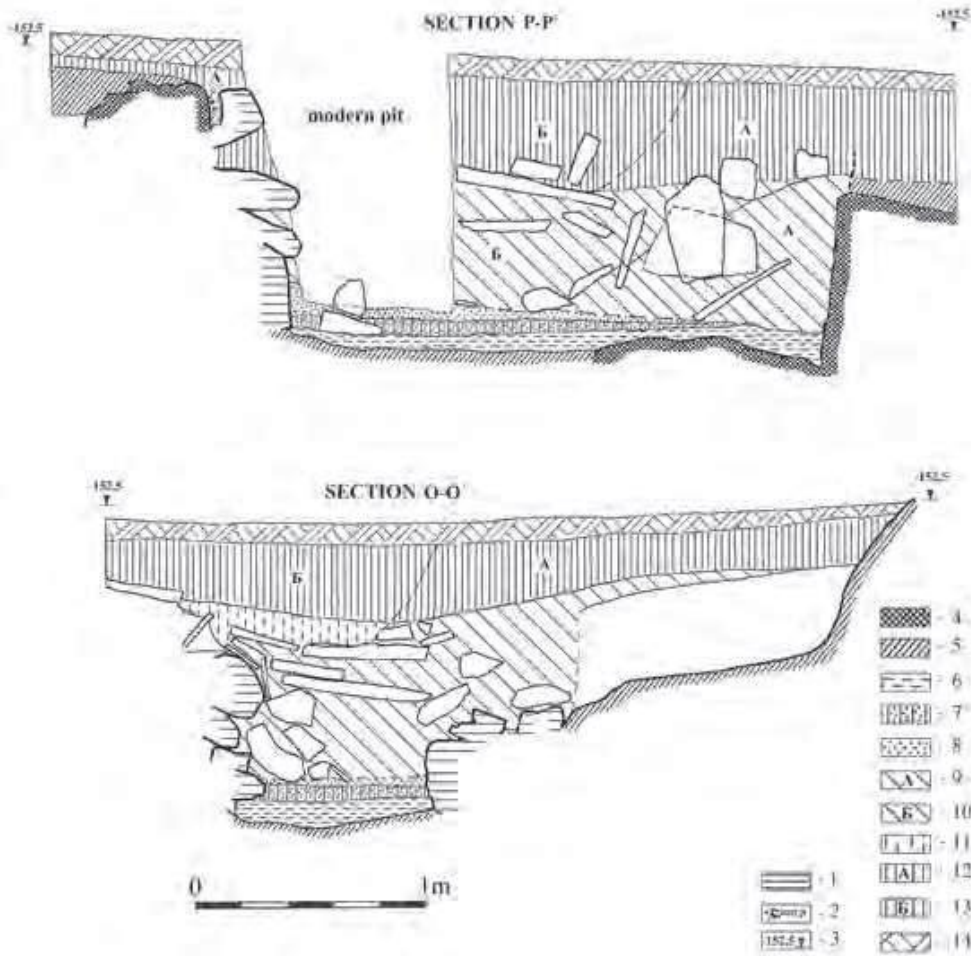
**Figure 15:** Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 5).
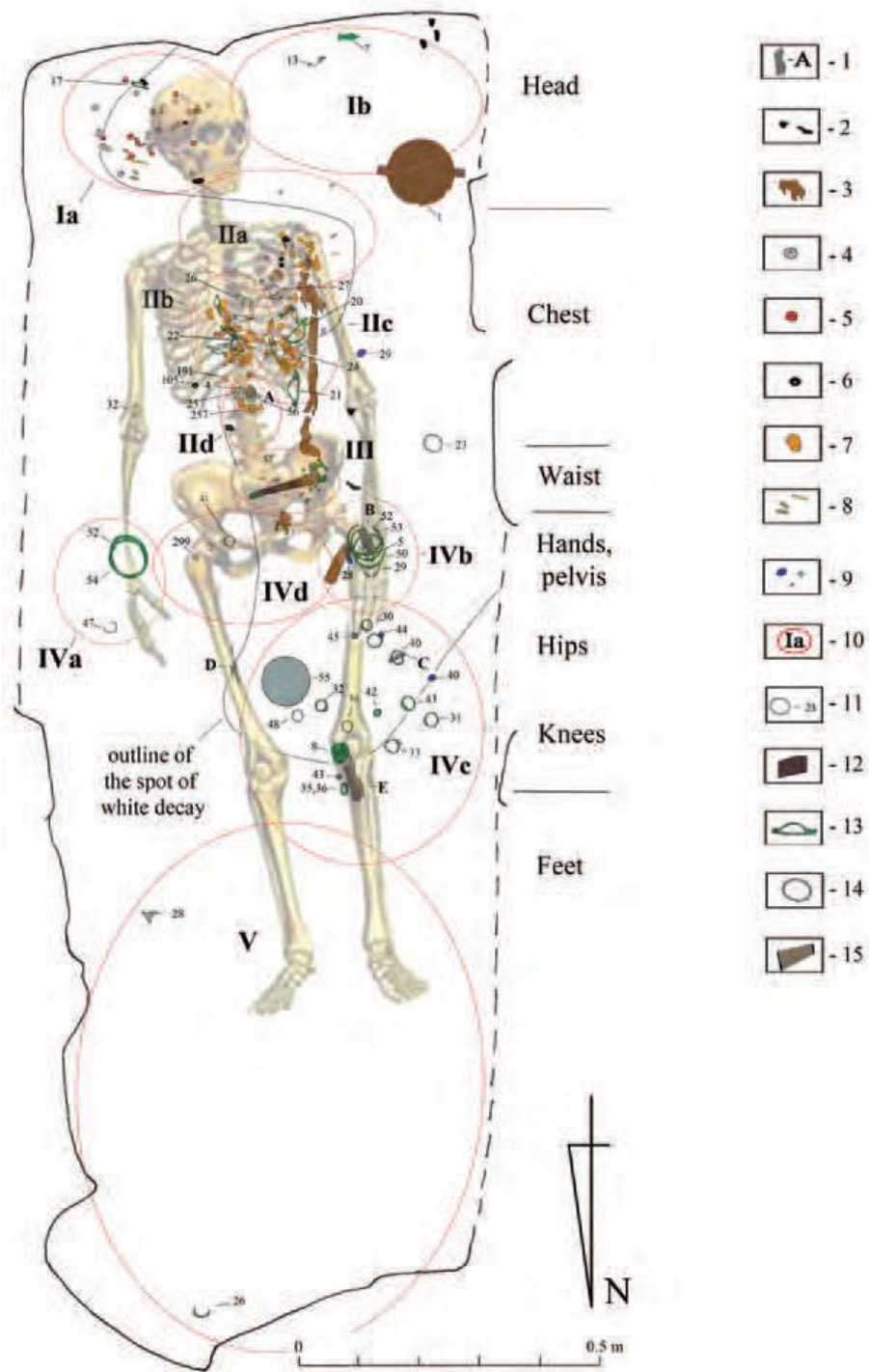
**Figure 16:** Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 6).
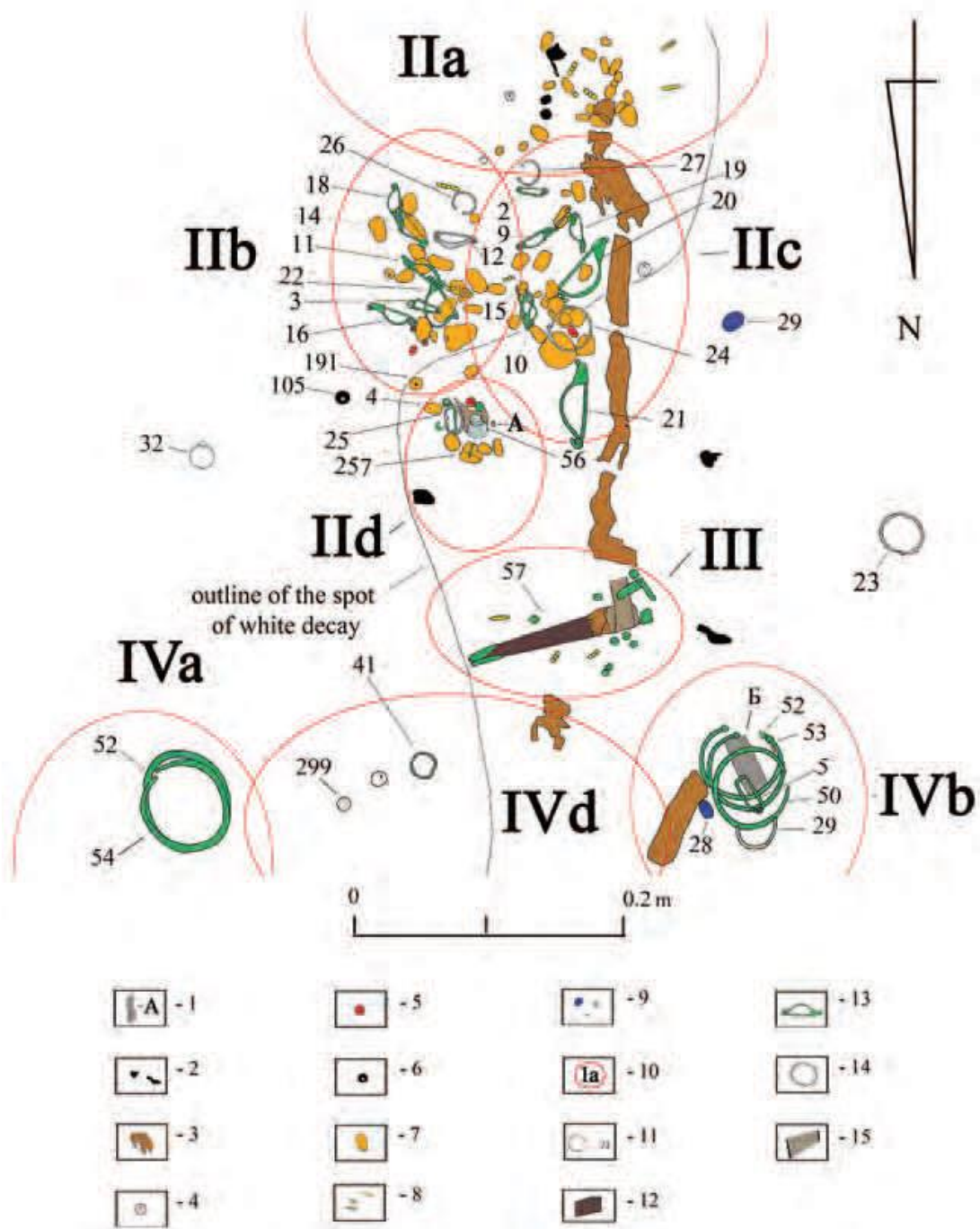
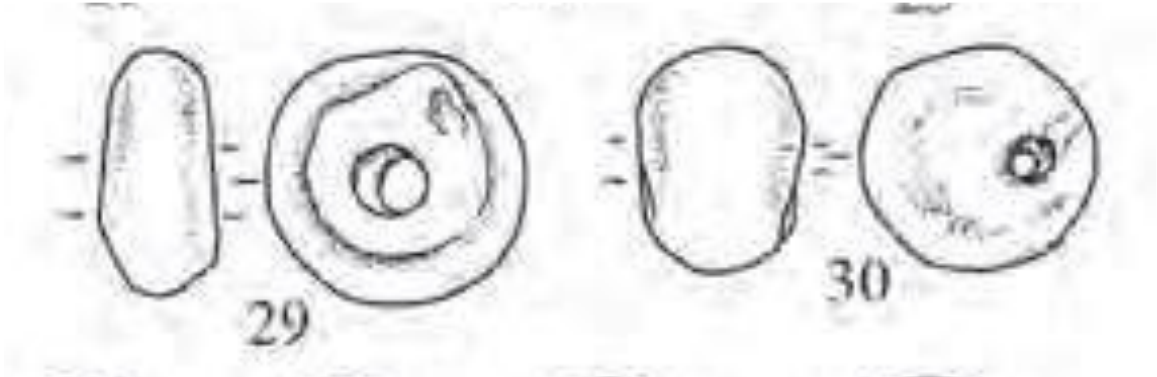**Figure 17:** Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 7).
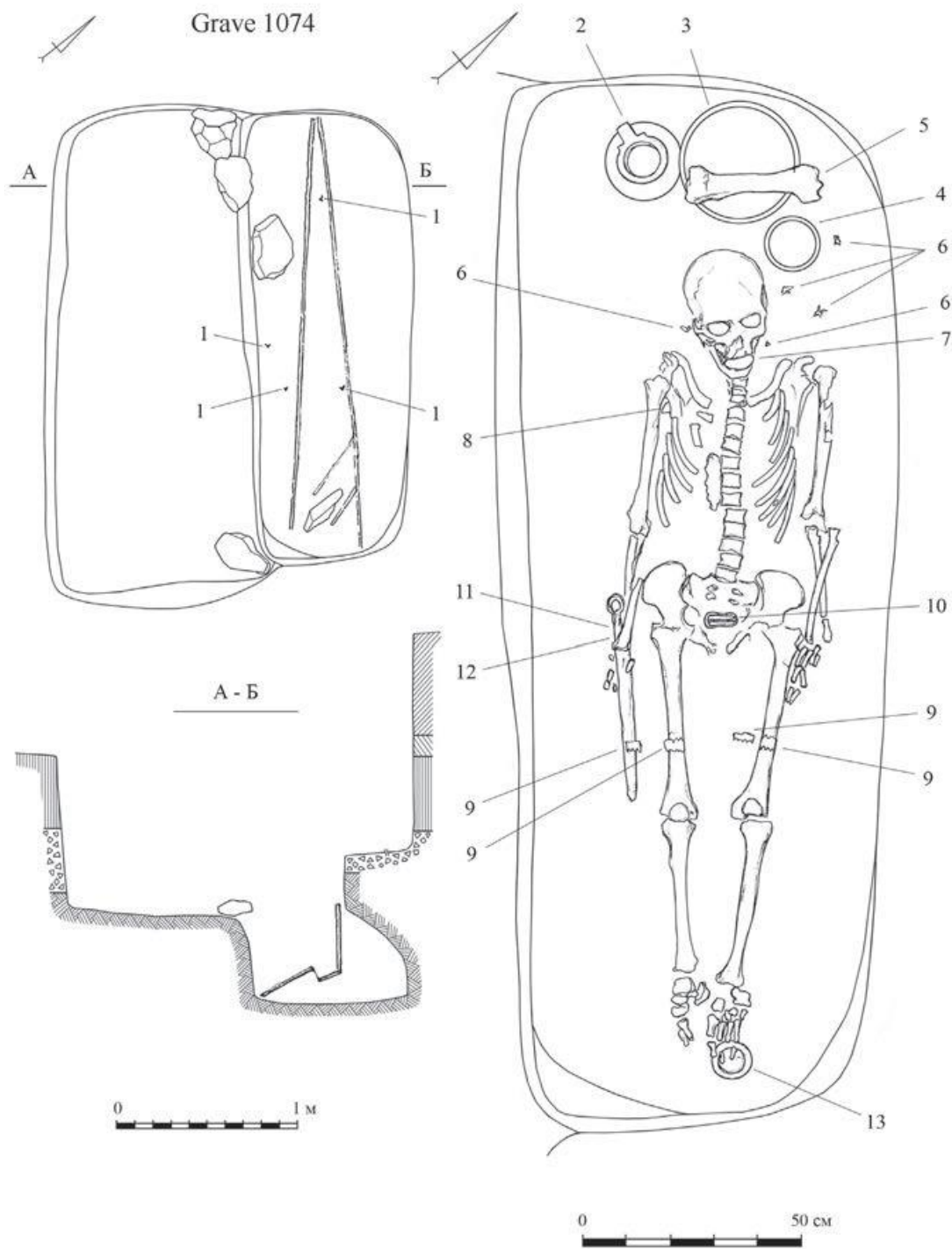
**Figure 18:** Ust' Al'ma Necropolis, Burial No. 1047 (Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, fig. 1).
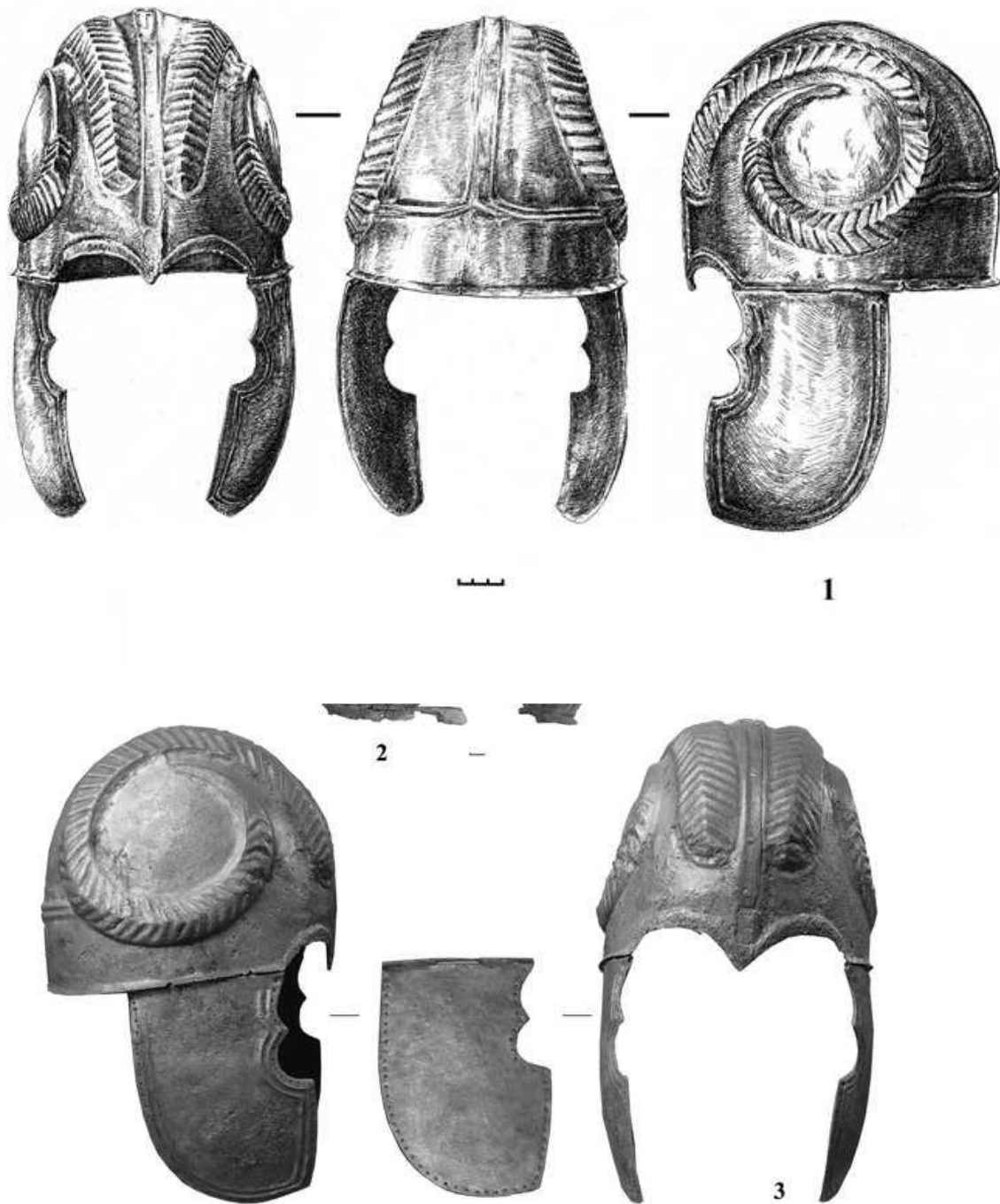
**Figure 19:** Bronze Helmet with cheek-plates, Mezmay-I Burial-ground **(**Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Figs. 15, 1; 17, 3).
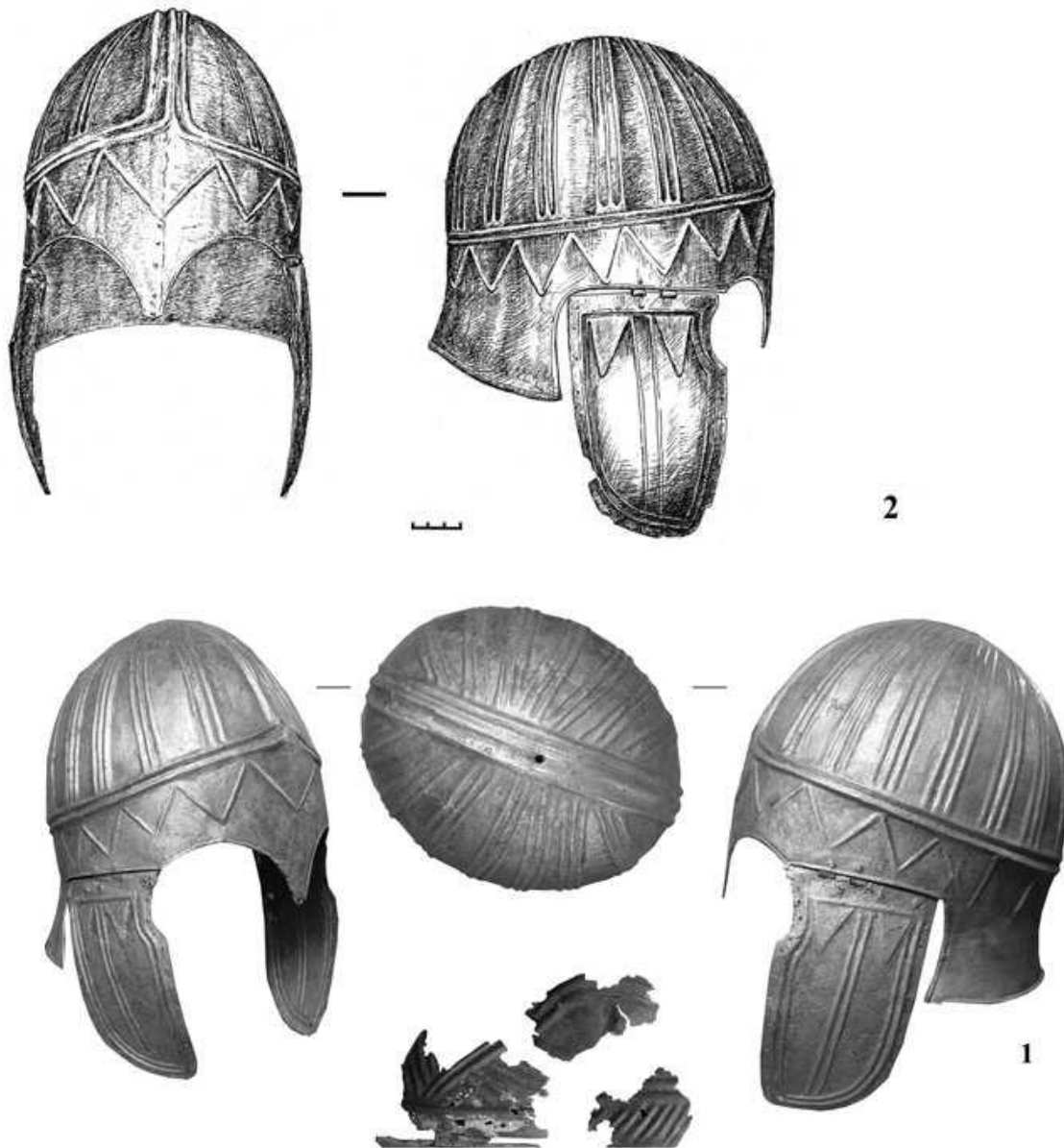
**Figure 20:** Bronze Helmet with cheek-plates**,** Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Figs. 15, 2, 17, 1).

**Figure 21:** Fragments of forged bronze helmets**,** Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Fig. 17, 2, 5).

**Figure 22:** Forged bronze cheek-plate, Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Fig. 17, 6).
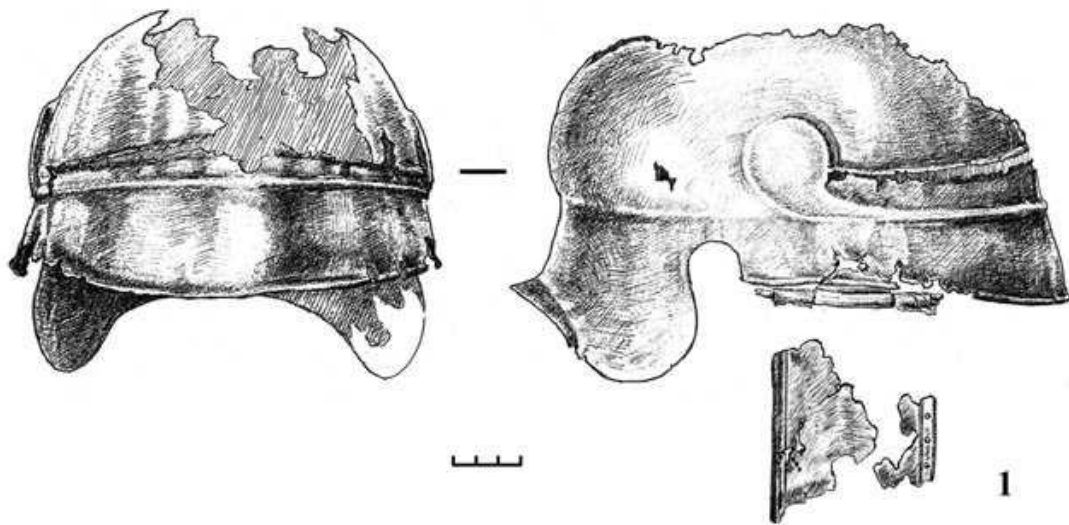
**Figure 23:** Bronze helmet, Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Fig. 14, 1).
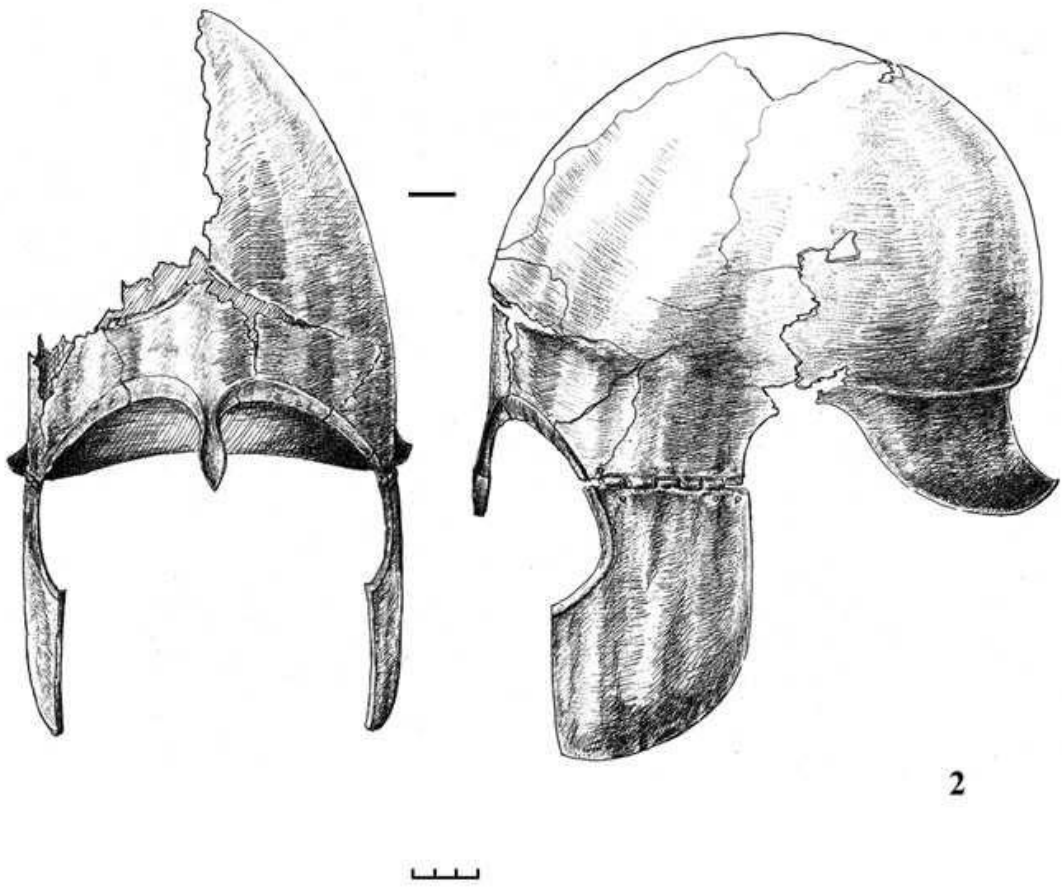
**Figure 24:** Bronze Helmet, Mezmay-I Burial-ground Mordvintseva (Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Fig. 14, 2).
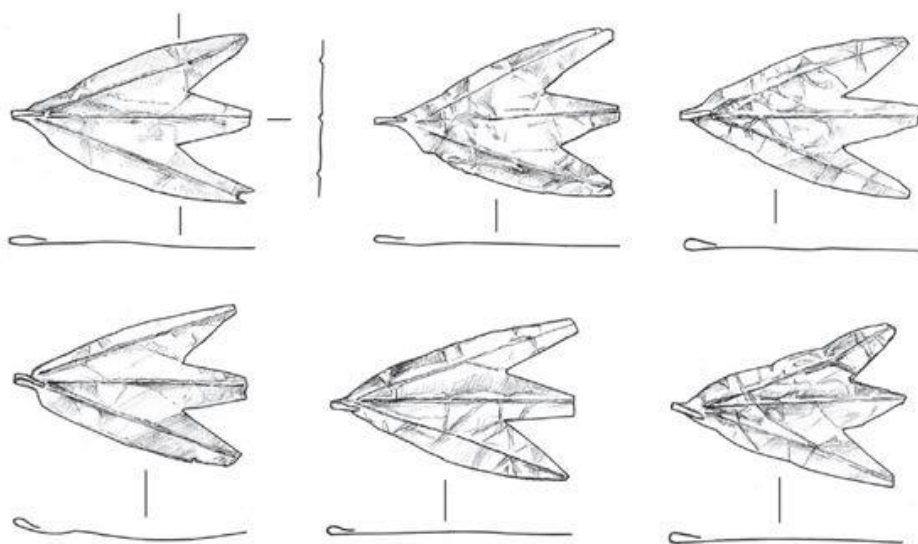
**Figure 25:** Gold trefoil leaves, Ust' Al'ma Necropolis (Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, fig. 1, 6, 5, 1, 9).
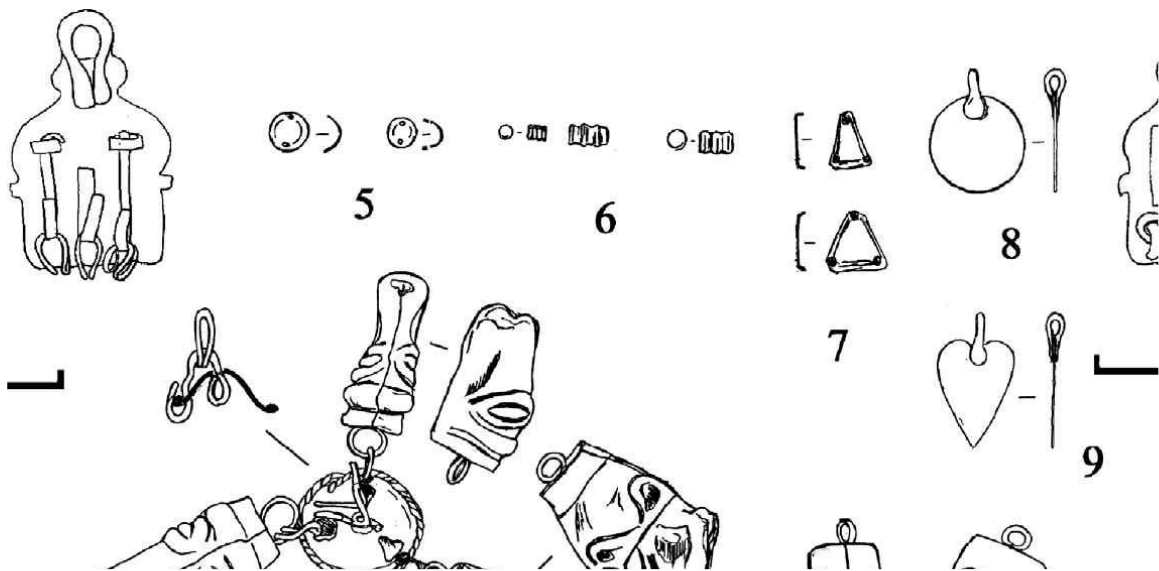
**Figure 26:** Items of a headdress, Nogajčik royal grave (Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, fig. 5, 5-9).
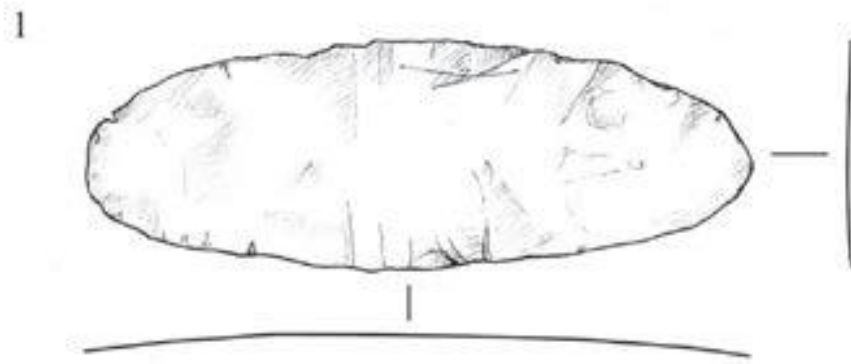
**Figure 27:** Mouth cover, Ust' Al'ma Necropolis (Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, fig. 1, 7, 5, 2, 6, 8).
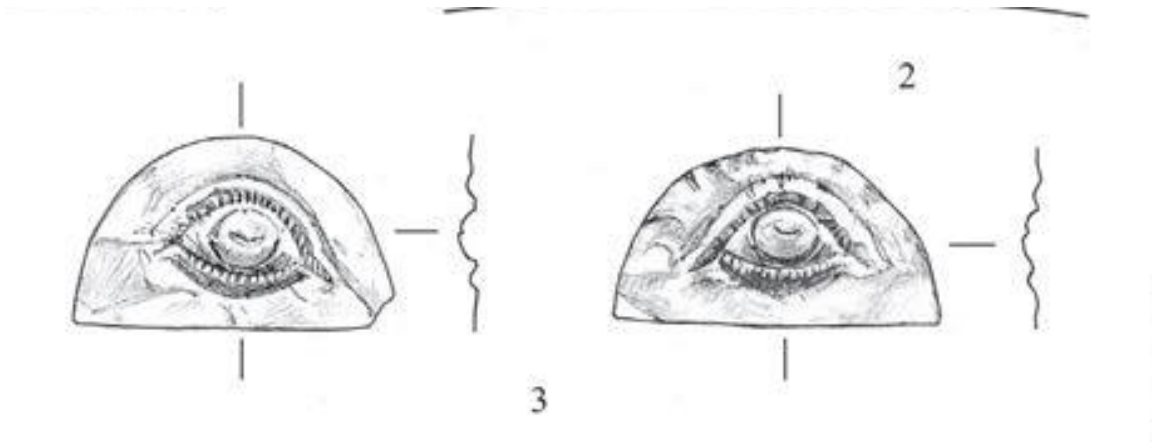
**Figure 28:** Eye covers, Ust' Al'ma Necropolis (Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, fig. 1, 8, 5, 3, 8).

**Figure 29:** A pair of earrings**,** Nogajčik royal grave (Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, fig. 6, 1 and https://colorsandstones.eu/female-burials/nogaichik-barrow-sarmatian-grave-from-crimea/).
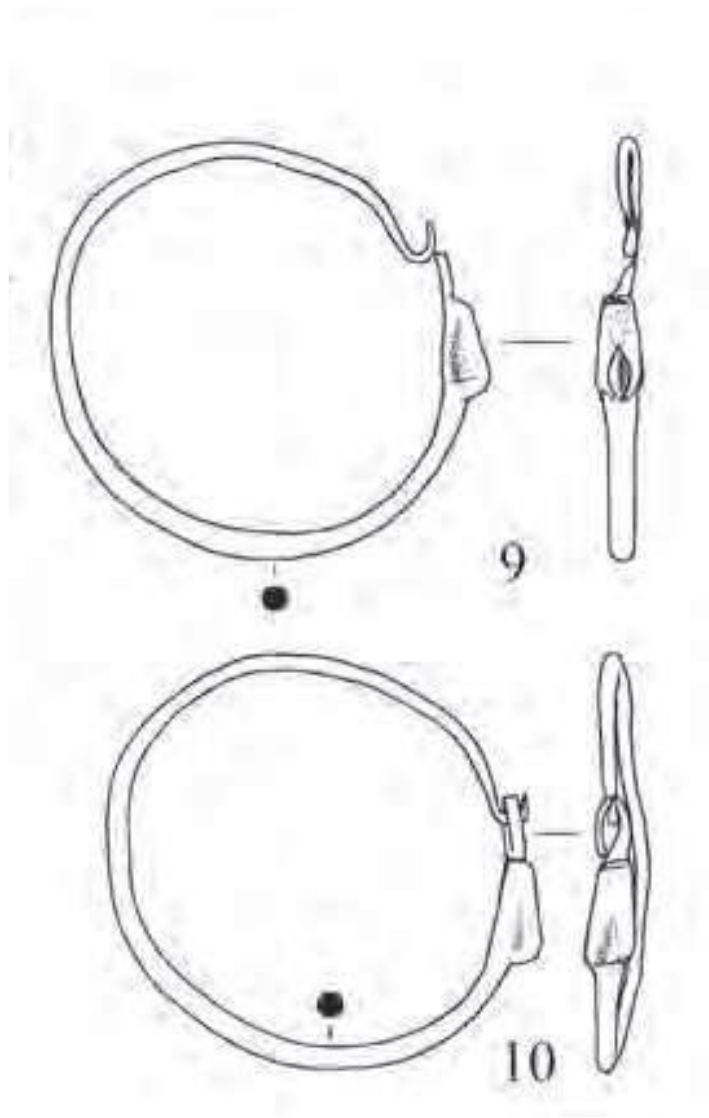
**Figure 30:** A pair of ring-shaped earrings, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 9, 9-10).
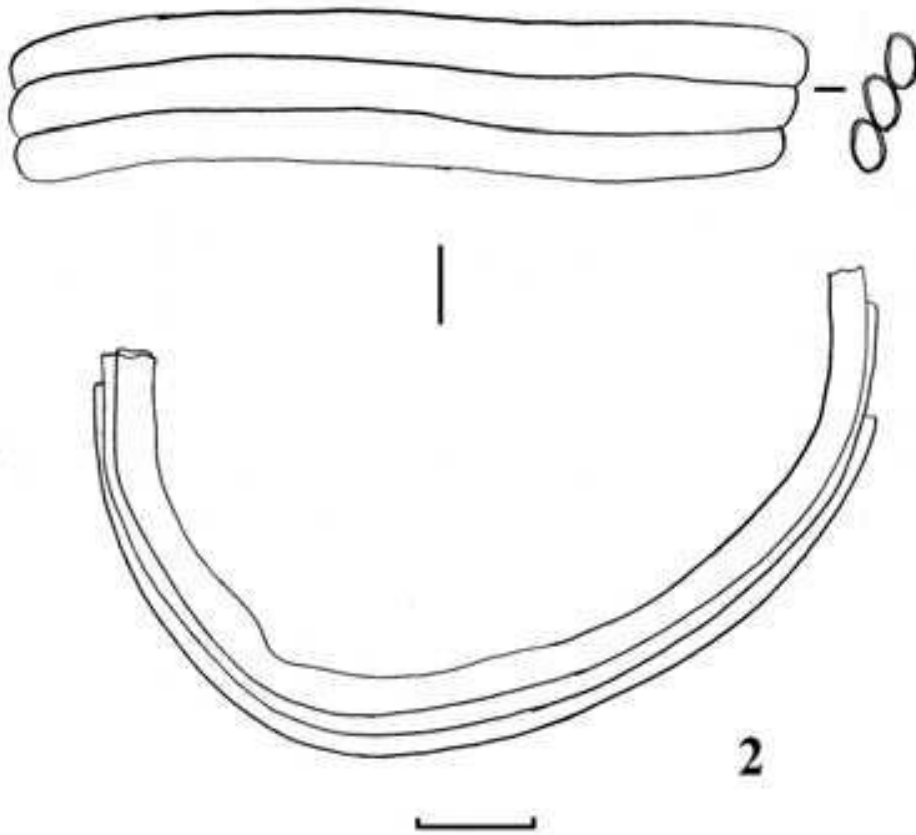
**Figure 31:** Fragment of a torque**,** Mezmay-I Burial-ground **(**Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 13, 2)*.*
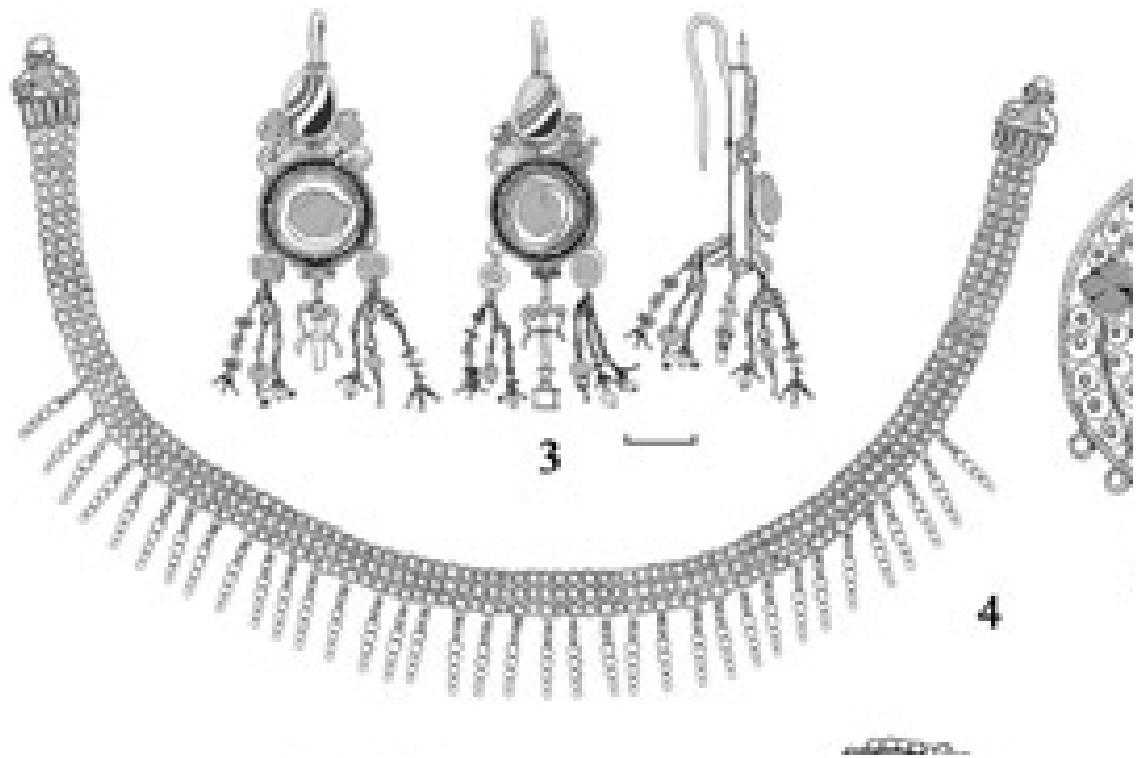
**Figure 32:** Necklace, Nogajčik royal grave (Mordvintseva, 2005, fig. 2, 4).
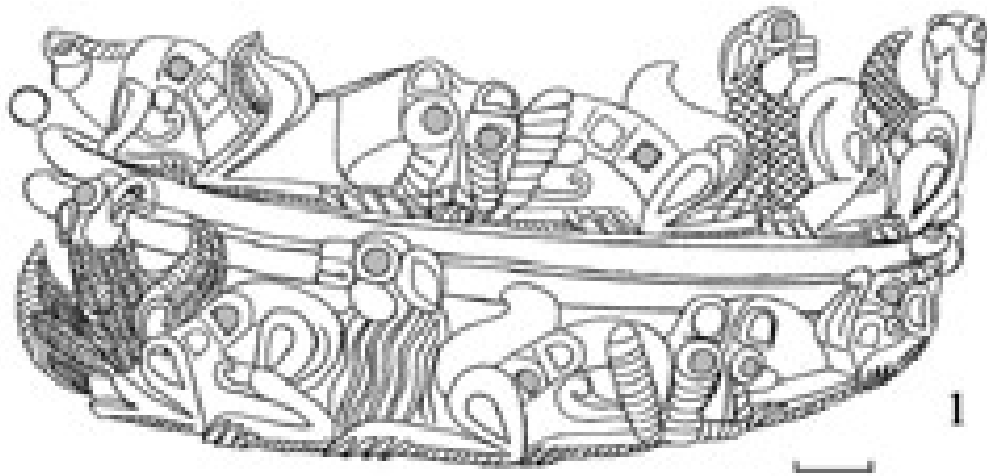
**Figure 33:** Torque with animal-shaped ends, The Nogajčik royal grave (Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, fig. 7, 1 and https://colorsandstones.eu/female-burials/nogaichik-barrow-sarmatian-grave-from-crimea/).
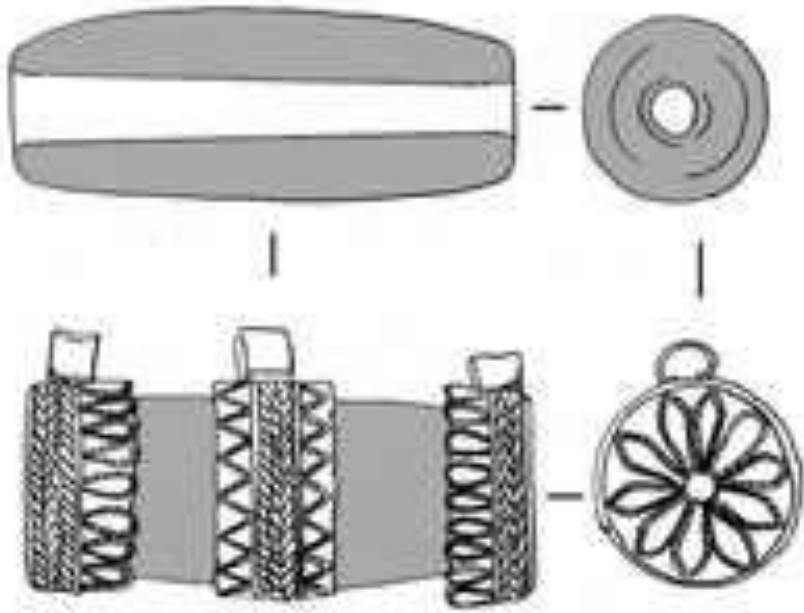
1a    1b

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**Figure 34:** Long Bead, Mezmay-I Burial-ground Mordvintseva (Mordvintseva,Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Fig. 11, 6, 19, 1).
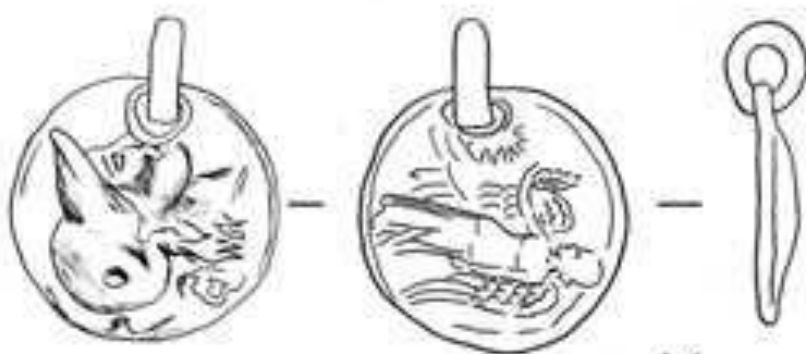
**Figure 35:** Pendant, Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Fig. 11, 14; 20, 1).
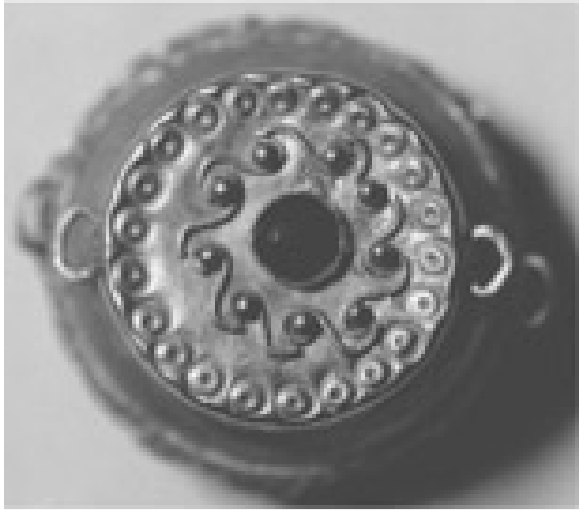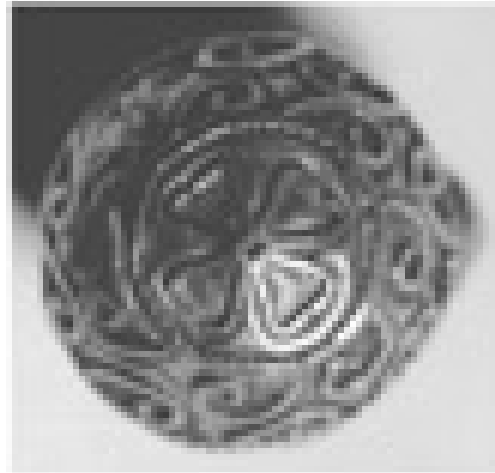
**Figure 36:** Flagon shaped pendants, The Nogajčik royal grave (Mordvintseva 2005, fig. 4, 2).
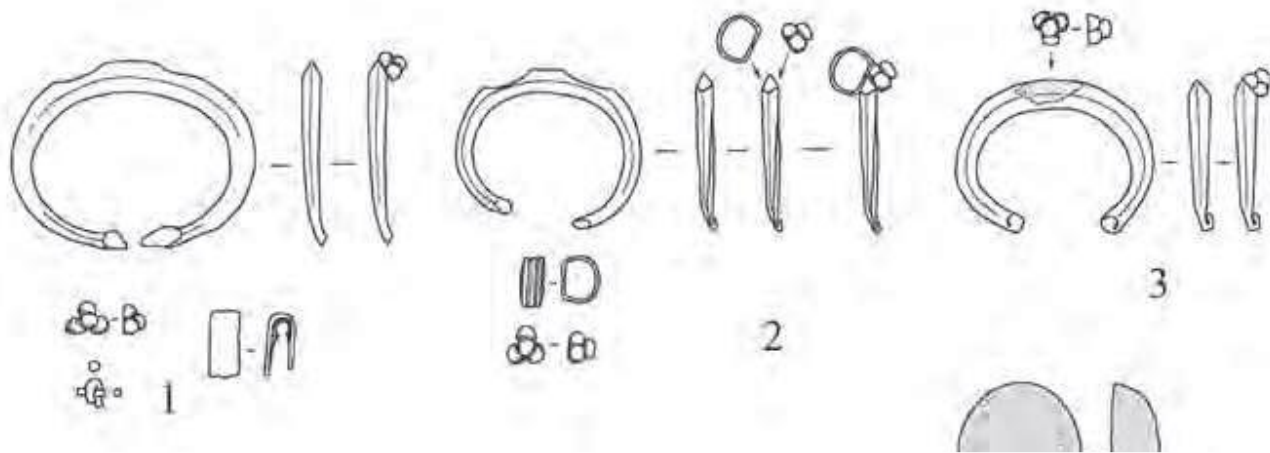
**Figure 37:** Three lunula-pendants, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, Fig. 10, 1-3).
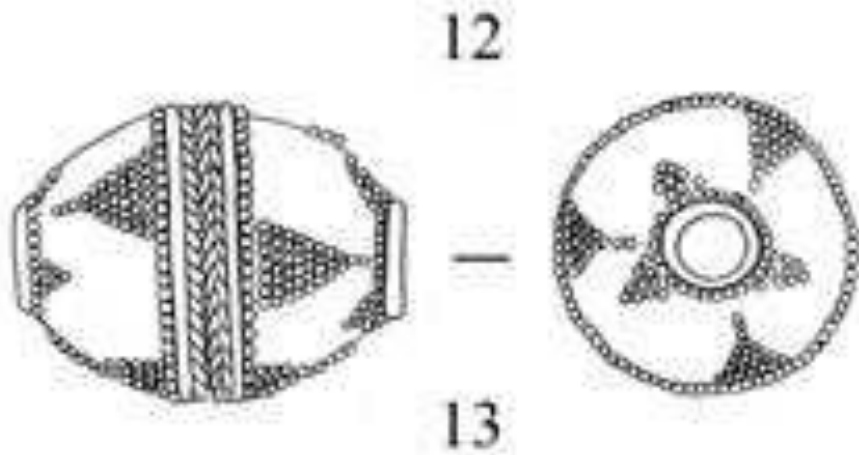
**Figure 38:** Gold bead**,** Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 11, 13).
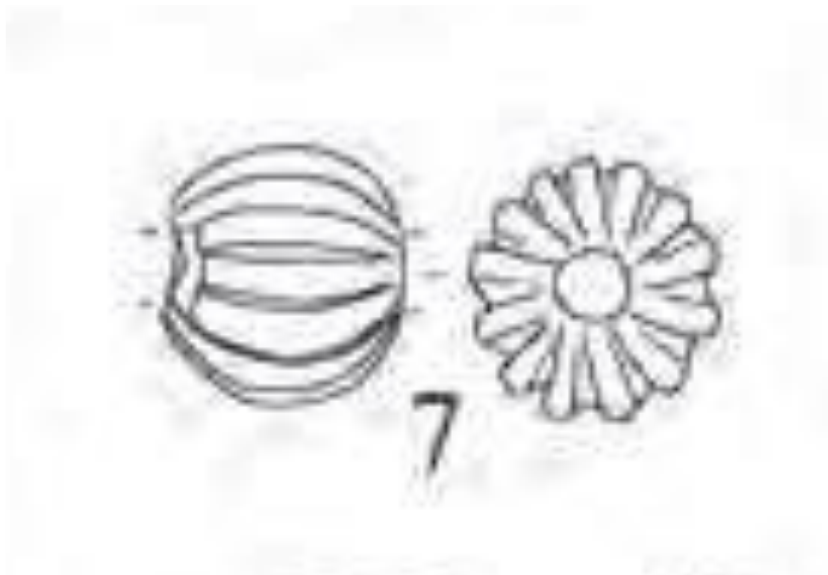
**Figure 39:** Faience bead, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, Fig. 12, 7).
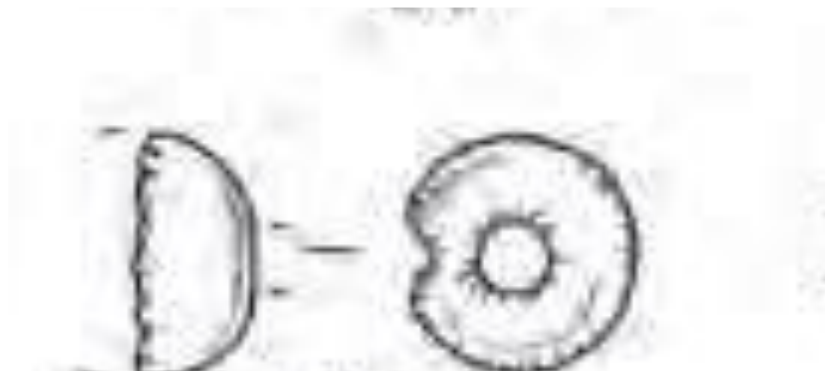
**Figure 40:** Glass bead, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period; Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 1).



**Figure 41:** Barrel-shaped bead, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 2).
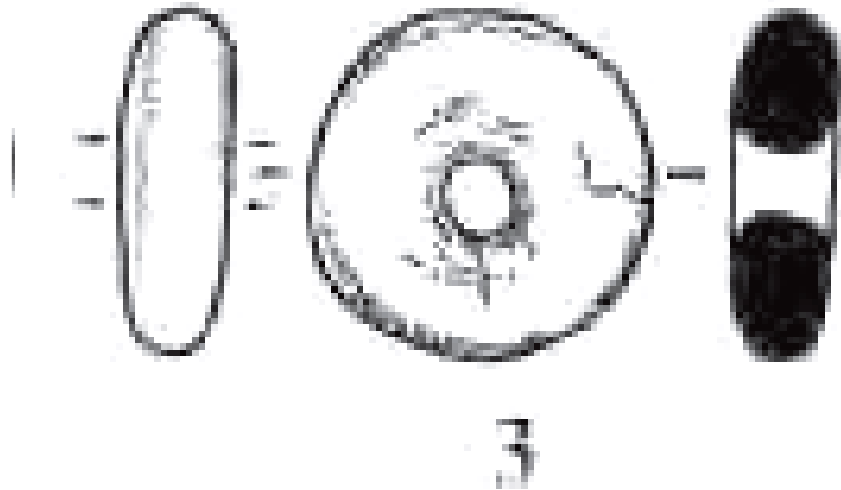
**Figure 42:** Long flat bead, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 3).



**Figure 43:** Three rounded beads made of transparent cloudy brown glass, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 4, 5).

**Figure 44:** Five rounded beads made of transparent cloudy brown glass, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 6).



**Figure 45:** Two rounded beads made of transparent colourless glass, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 7).
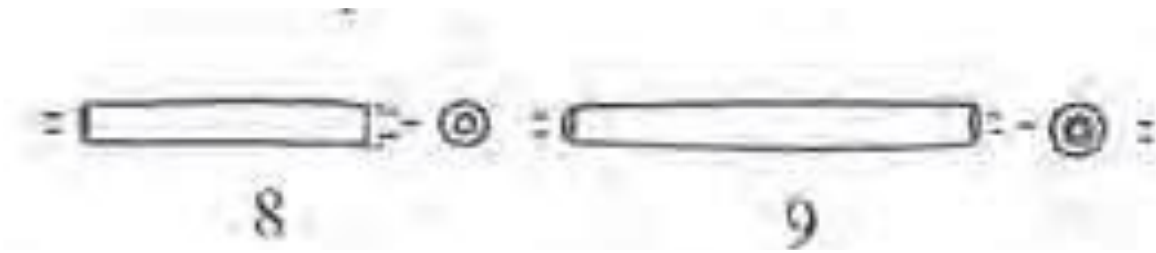
**Figure 46:** Eight long cylindrical beads made of transparent colourless glass, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 8, 9) .
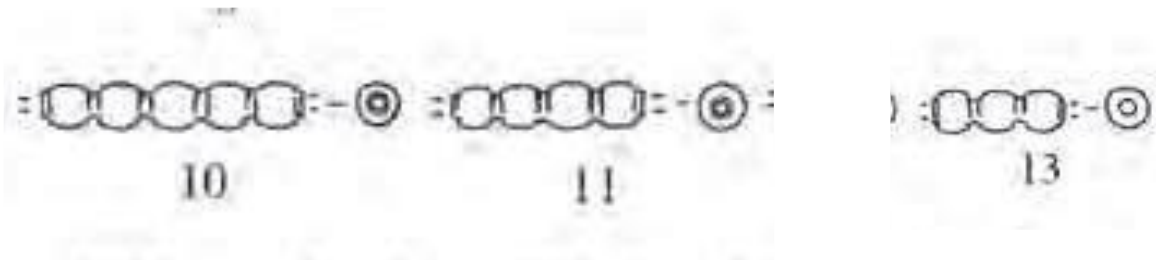


**Figure 47:** Uncut rods for rounded beads, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 10, 11, 13).
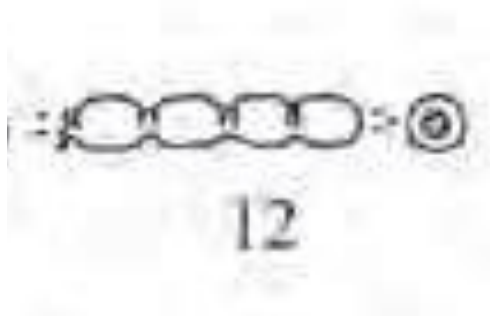


**Figure 48:** Uncut rods for rounded beads, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 12).
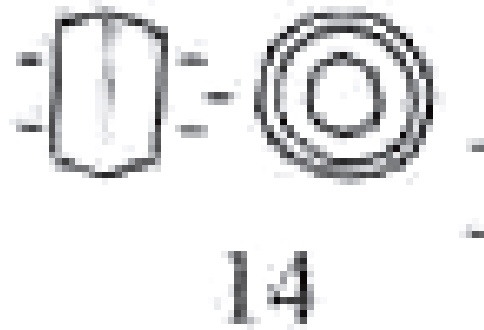
**Figure 49:** Jet bead, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 14).
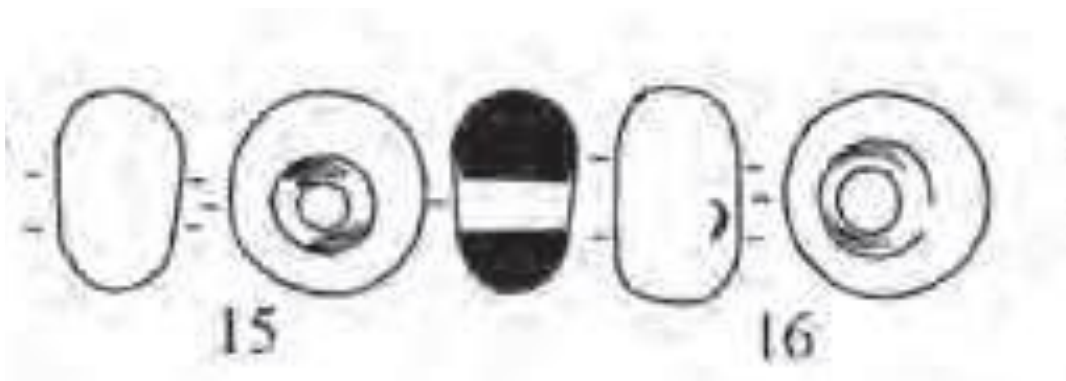


**Figure 50:** Jet beads, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 15, 16).
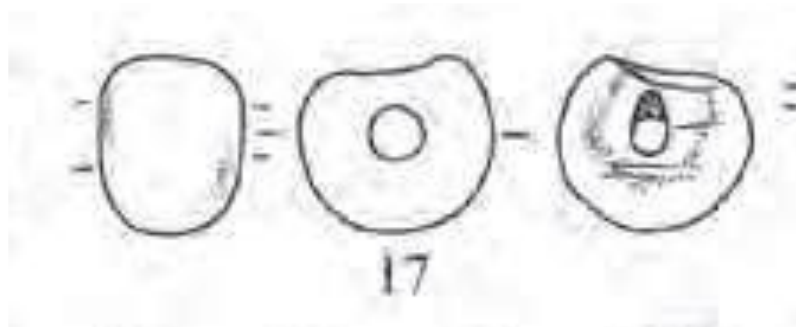
**Figure 51:** Jet bead, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 17).
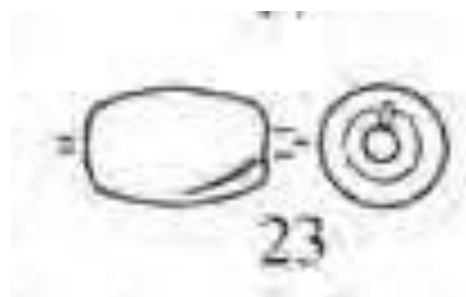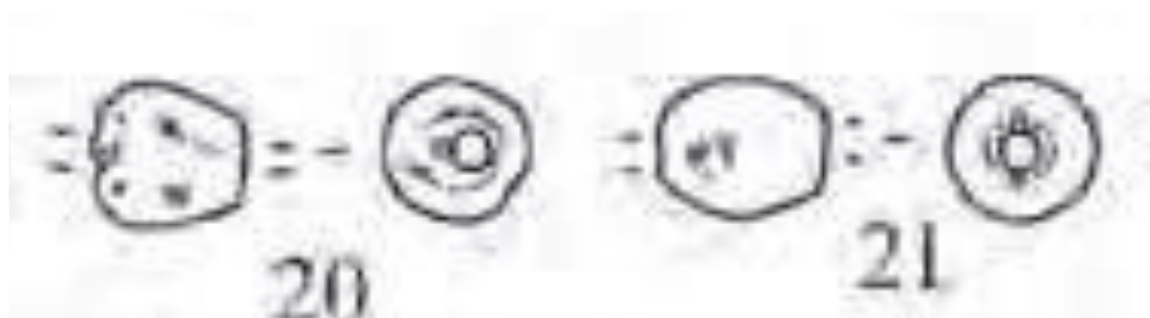


**Figure 52:** Cornelian beads, barrel-shaped and elongated, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 18-21, 23).

**Figure 53:** Cornelian bead, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 22).
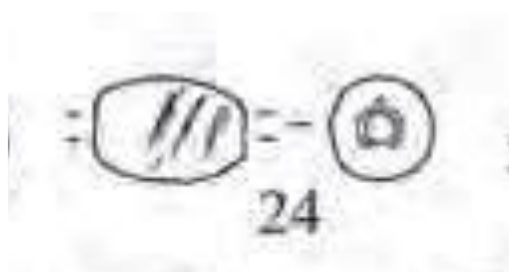


**Figure 54:** Cornelian beads, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 24).
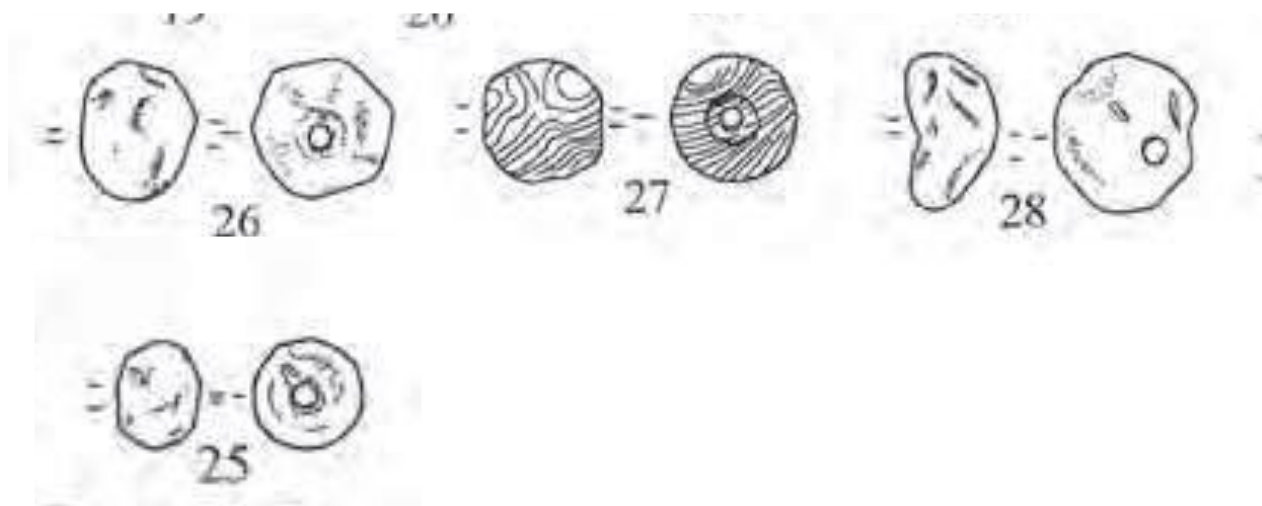


**Figure 55:** Cornelian beads, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 25-28).

**Figure 56:** Cornelian beads, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 29, 30).
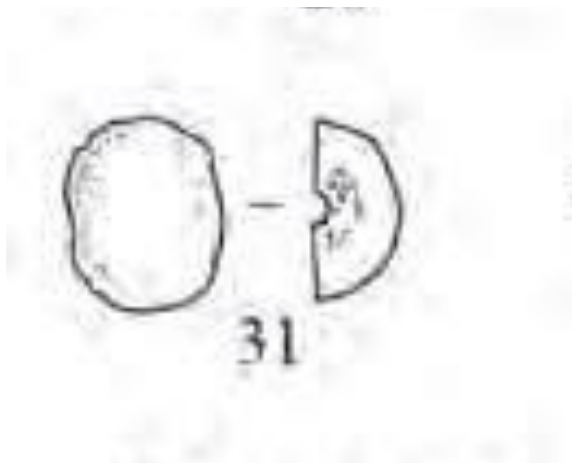


**Figure 57:** Cornelian bead fragment, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 31).
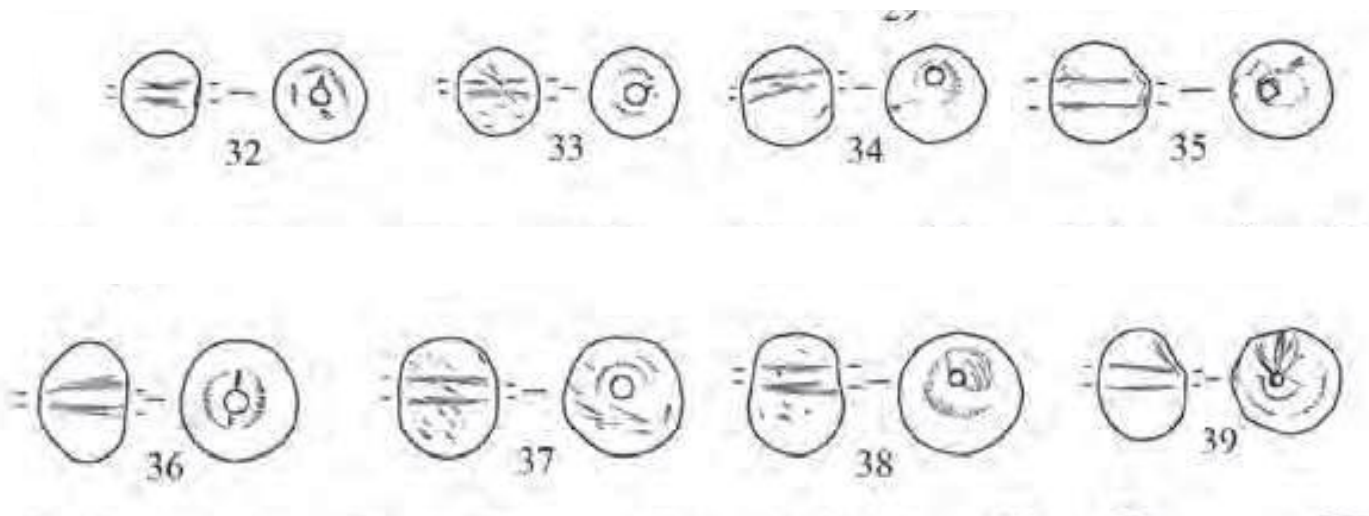
**Figure 58:** Forty-seven beads of rock crystal, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 32-39).
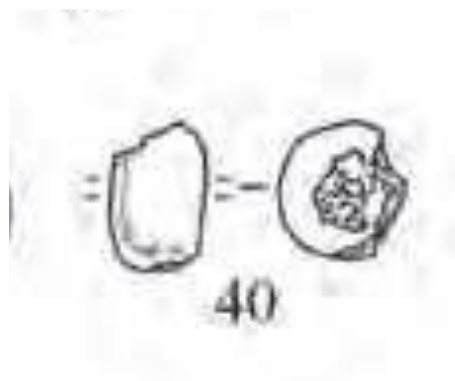


**Figure 59:** Quartzite bead, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 40).
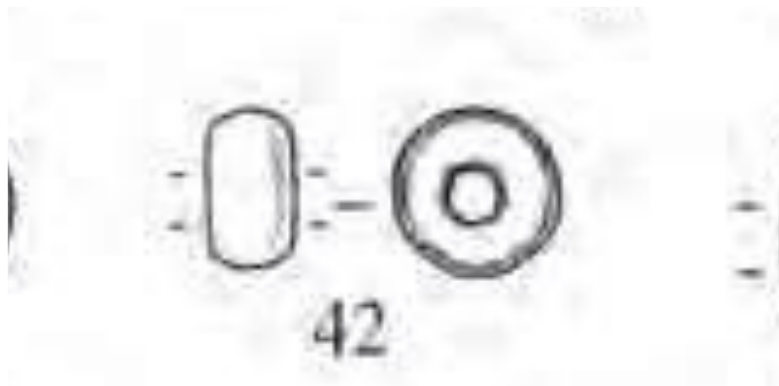
**Figure 60:** Amber bead, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 42).
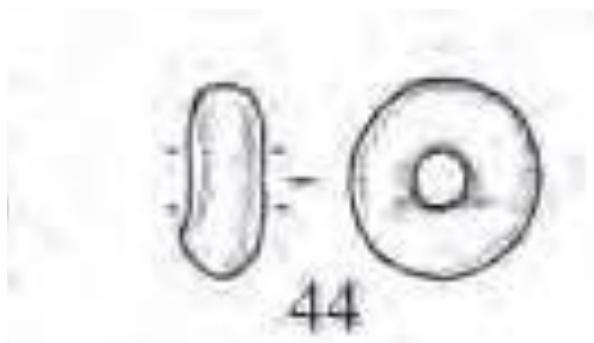


**Figure 61:** Two amber beads, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 44).



**Figure 62:** Two amber beads, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 43, 50).
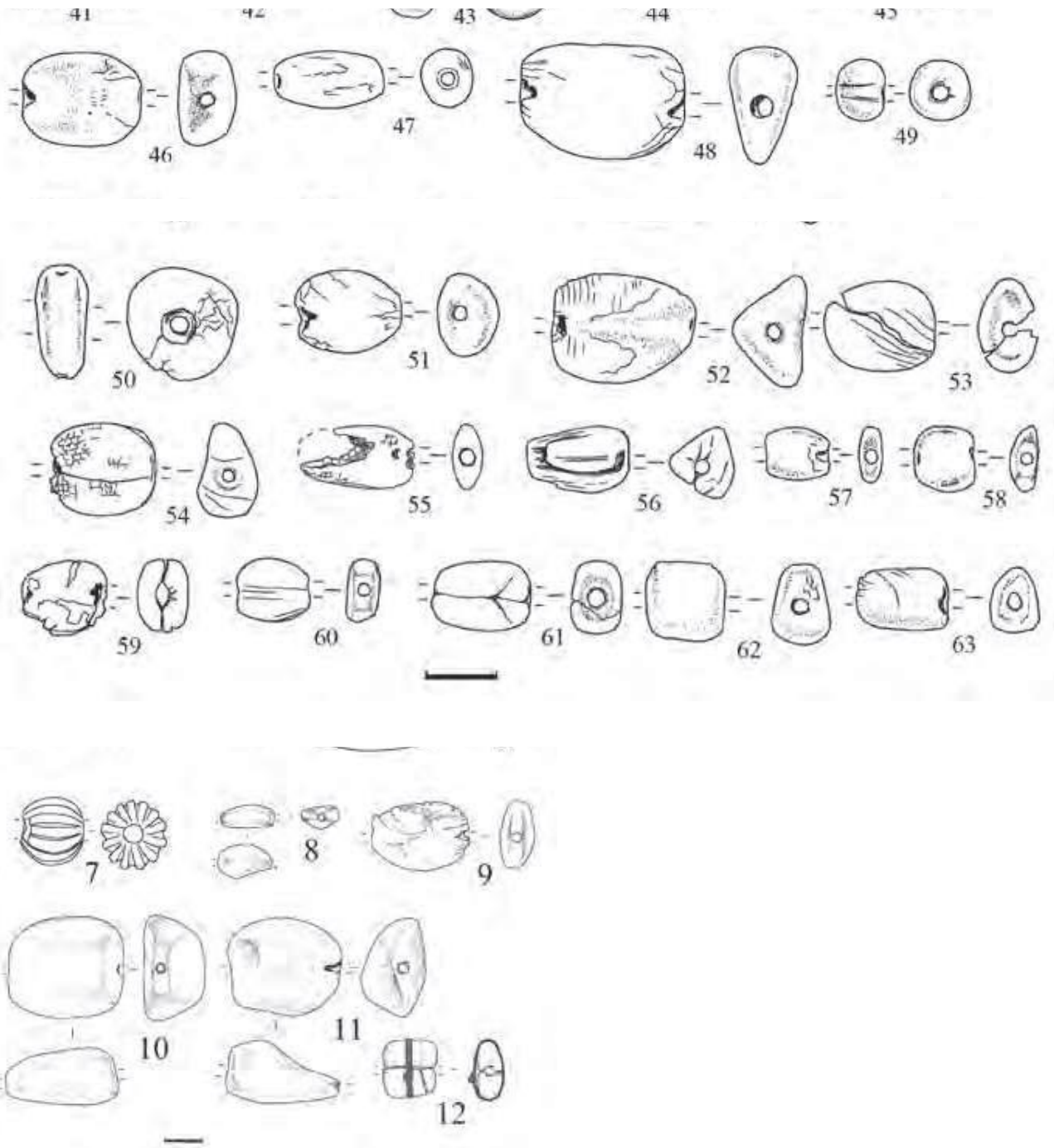
**Figure 63:** Seventy-one amber beads, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 12, 8-12; 14, 46-49, 51-63).

**Figure 64:** Amber bead, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 14, 41).
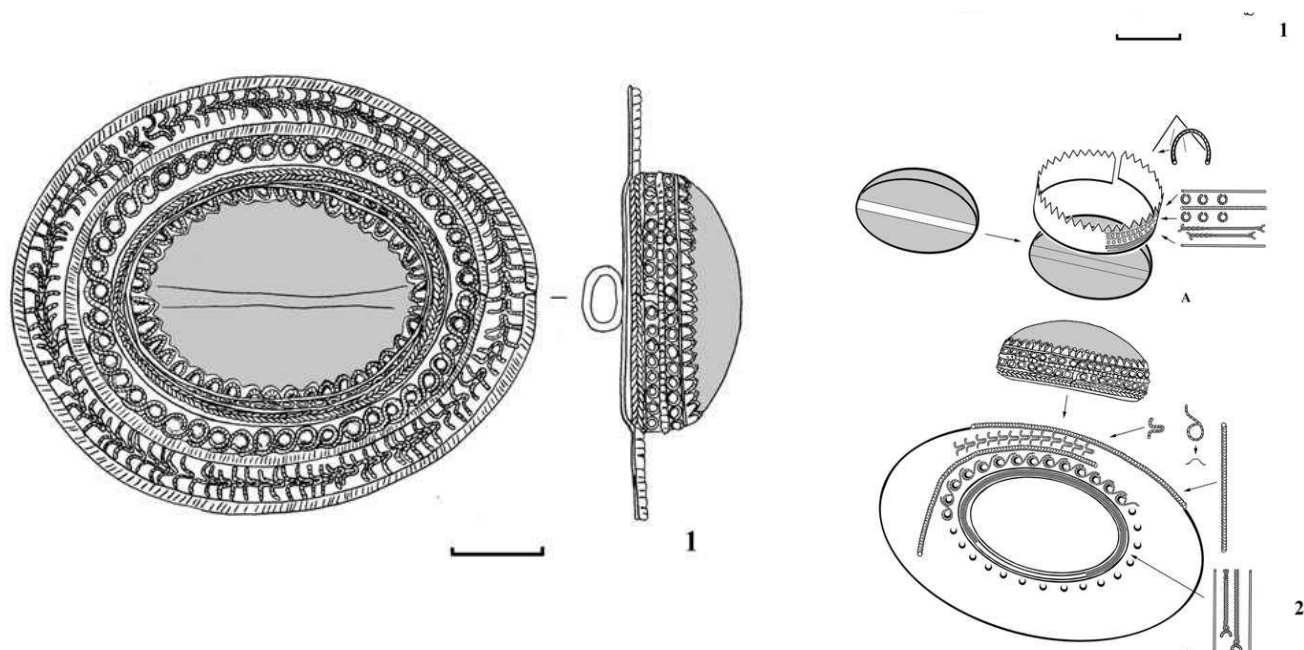


**Figure 65:** Brooch with a rock-crystal inlay, Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 12).
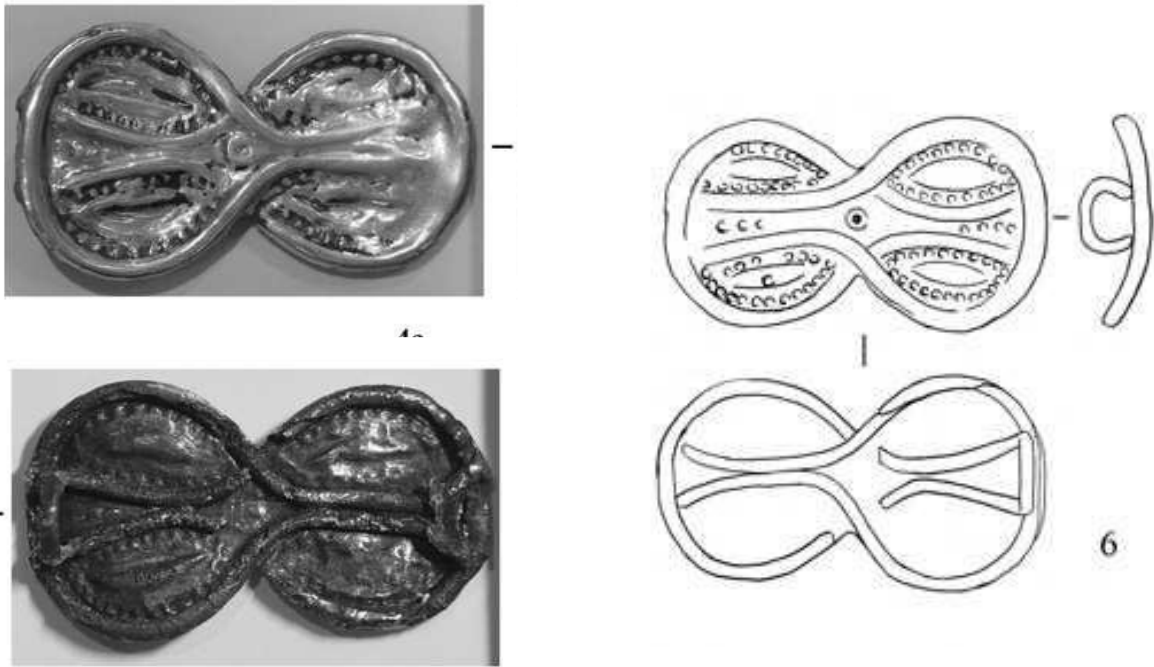
**Figure 66:** Brooch in the shape of a figure-of-eight or a "Heracles Knot", Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 11, 6, 20, 4).



**Figure 67:** Brooch-pin, The Nogajčik royal grave (https://colorsandstones.eu/female-burials/nogaichik-barrow-sarmatian-grave-from-crimea/ and Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, fig. 6, 3).

**Figure 68:** Dolphin-shaped fibula, The Nogajčik royal grave (https://colorsandstones.eu/female-burials/nogaichik-barrow-sarmatian-grave-from-crimea/).



**Figure 69:** Two brooches : 1) with a round plate, decorated with an embossed motif); 2) with an ornithomorphic plate,. Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 8,8,9; 15, 3).
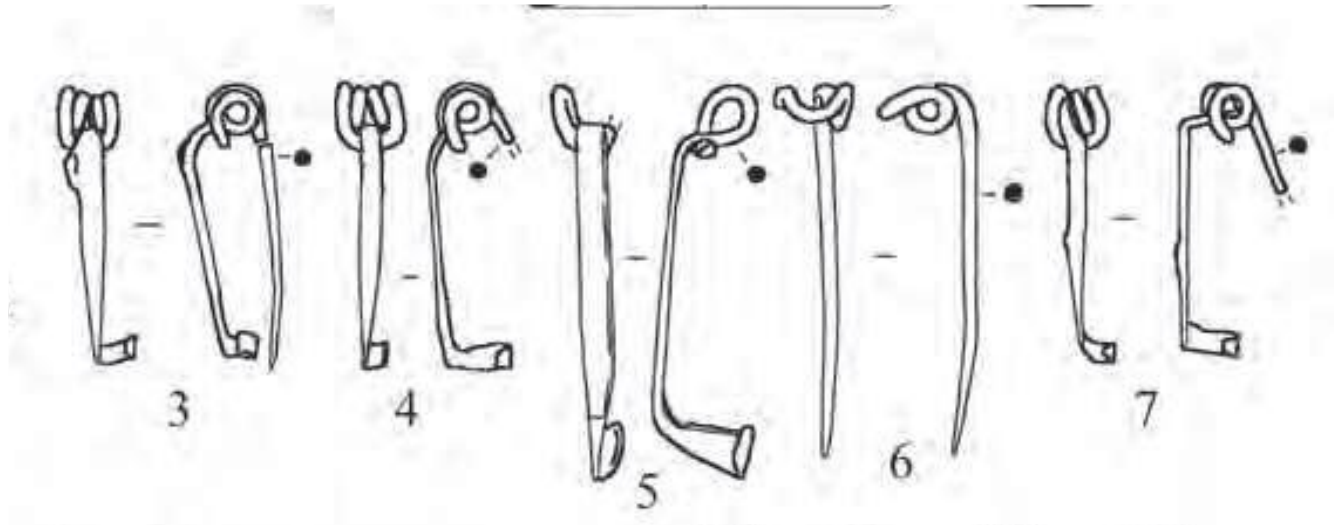
**Figure 70:** Bow-Shaped Fibulae, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 8, 3-7).
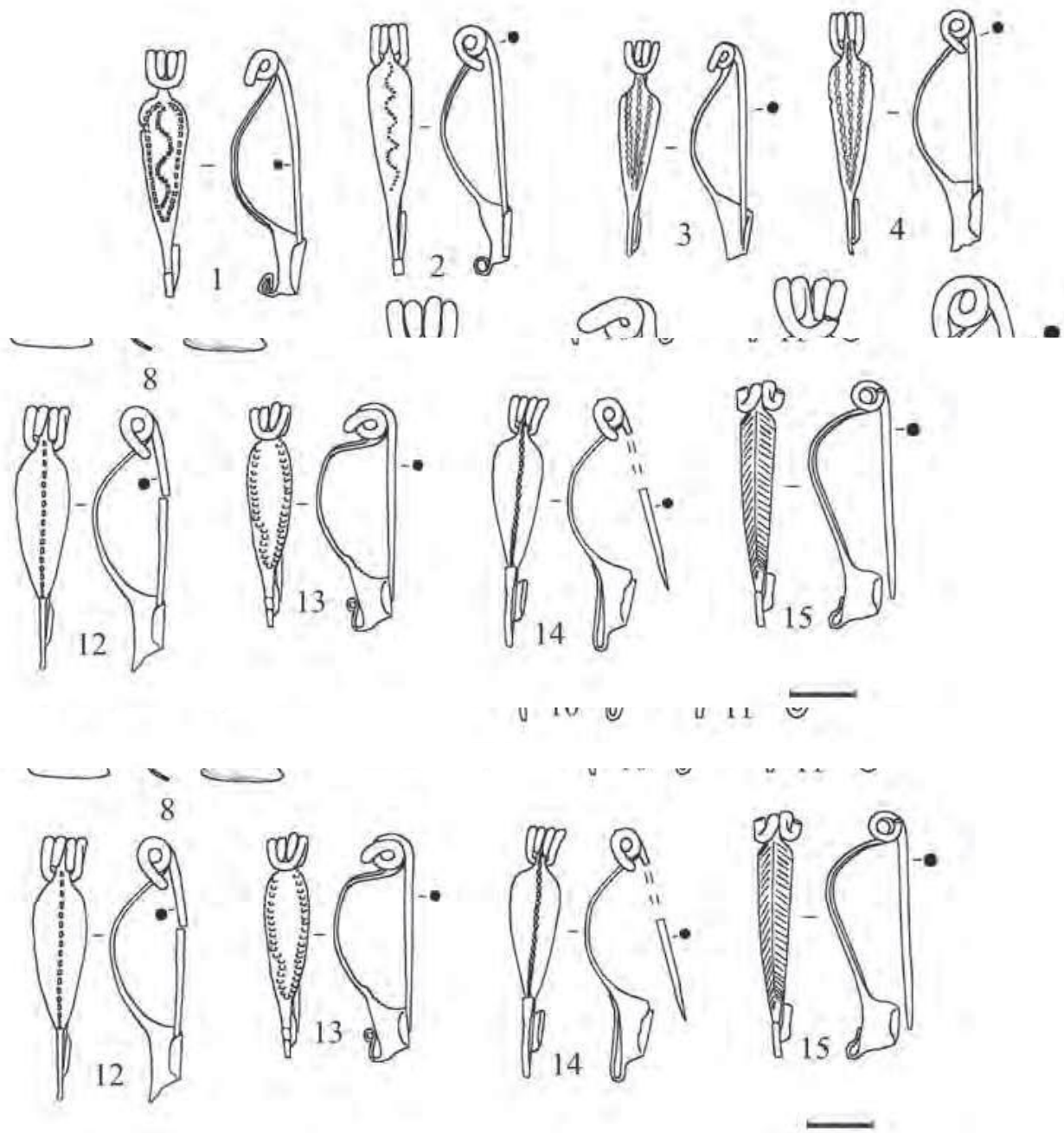
**Figure 71:** Fibulae with a Scroll at the End of the Lamellate Catch, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 8, 10-15; 9, 1-5).
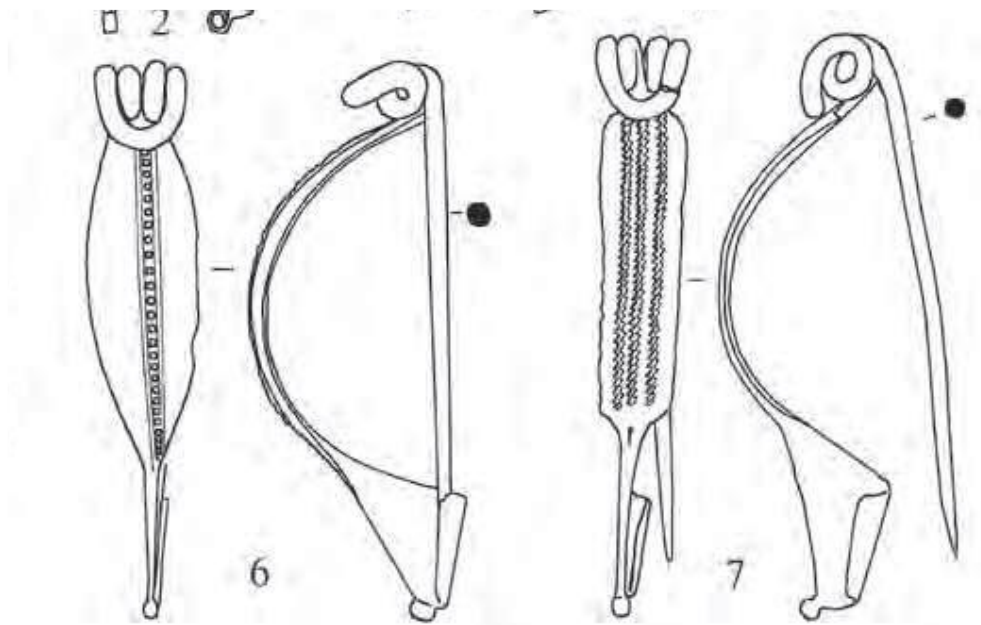
**Figure 72:** Fibulae with a Button at the End of the Catch-Plate, Luchistoe-2 necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 9, 6, 9, 7).
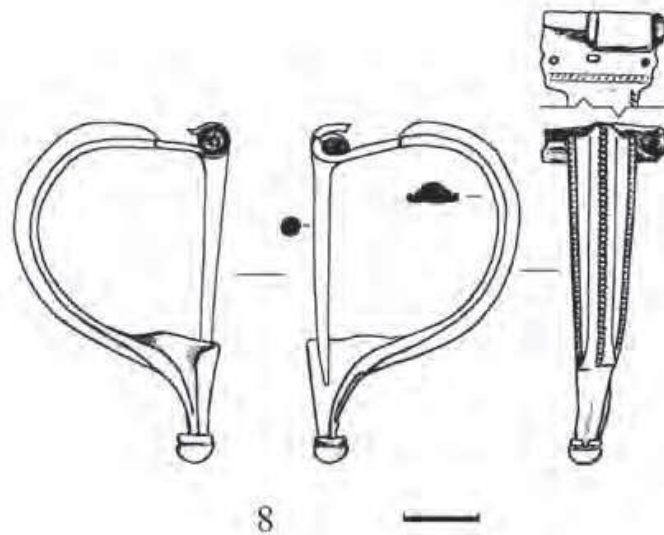


**Figure 73:** Hinged Fibula with a Button at the End of the Catch-Plate, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 9, 8).
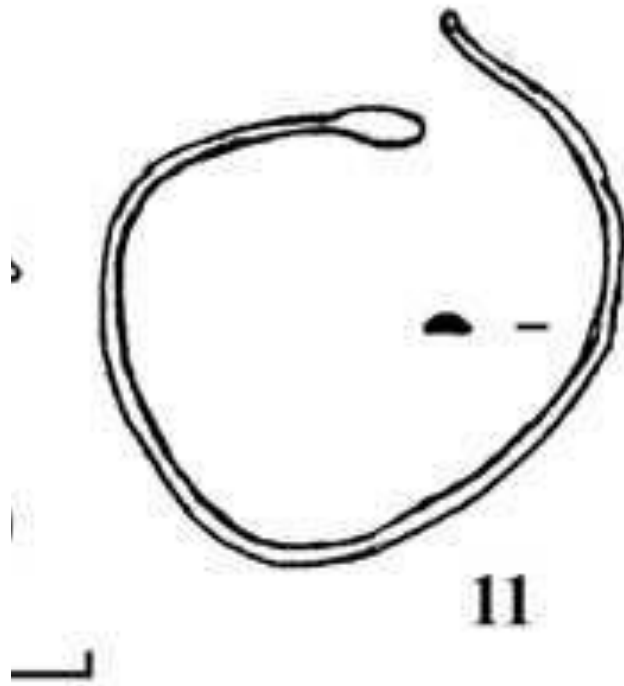
**Figure 74:** Penannular bronze bracelet**,** Mezmay-I Burial-ground **(**Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 9, 11).
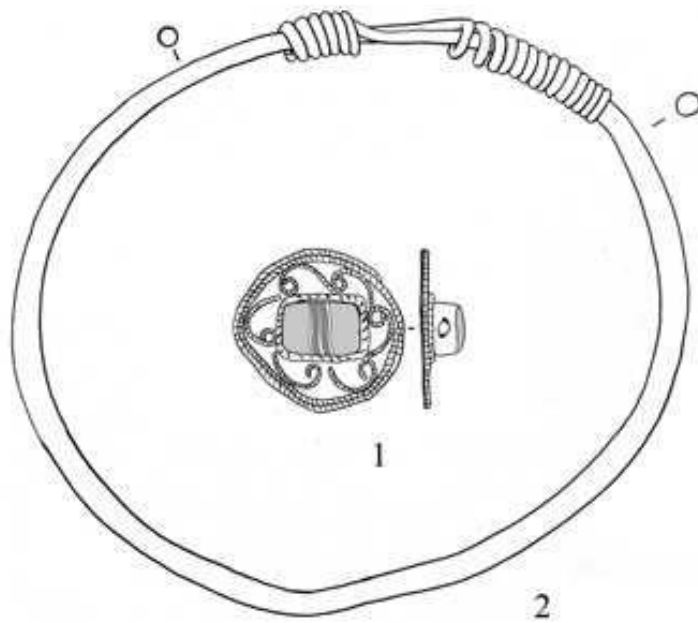


**Figure 75:** Bracelet with "tied ends", Mezmay-I Burial-ground **(**Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 11, 2).

**Figure 76:** Bracelets, The Nogajčik royal grave, Pair of bracelets with figurines of Eros and Psyche, 1st C BCE – 1st C CE (https://colorsandstones.eu/female-burials/nogaichik-barrow-sarmatian-grave-from-crimea/).
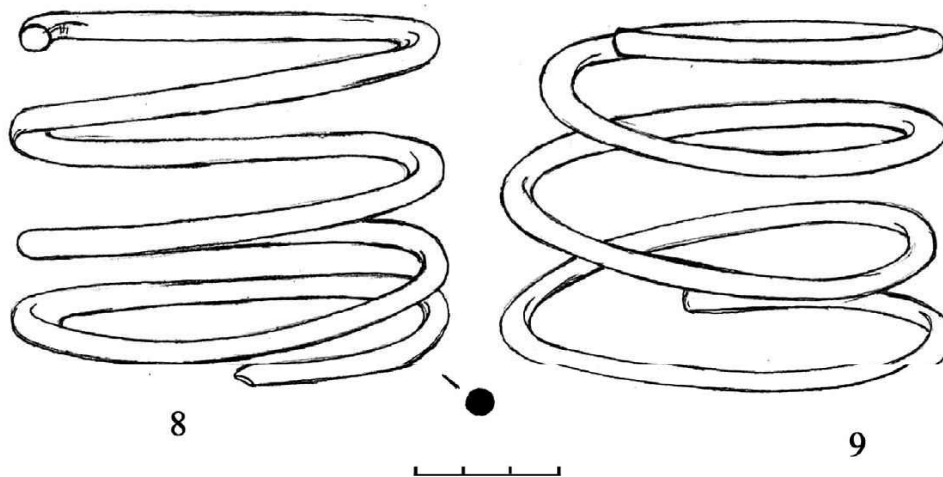


**Figure 77:** Bracelets, The Nogajčik royal grave (Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, fig. 12, 8-9).
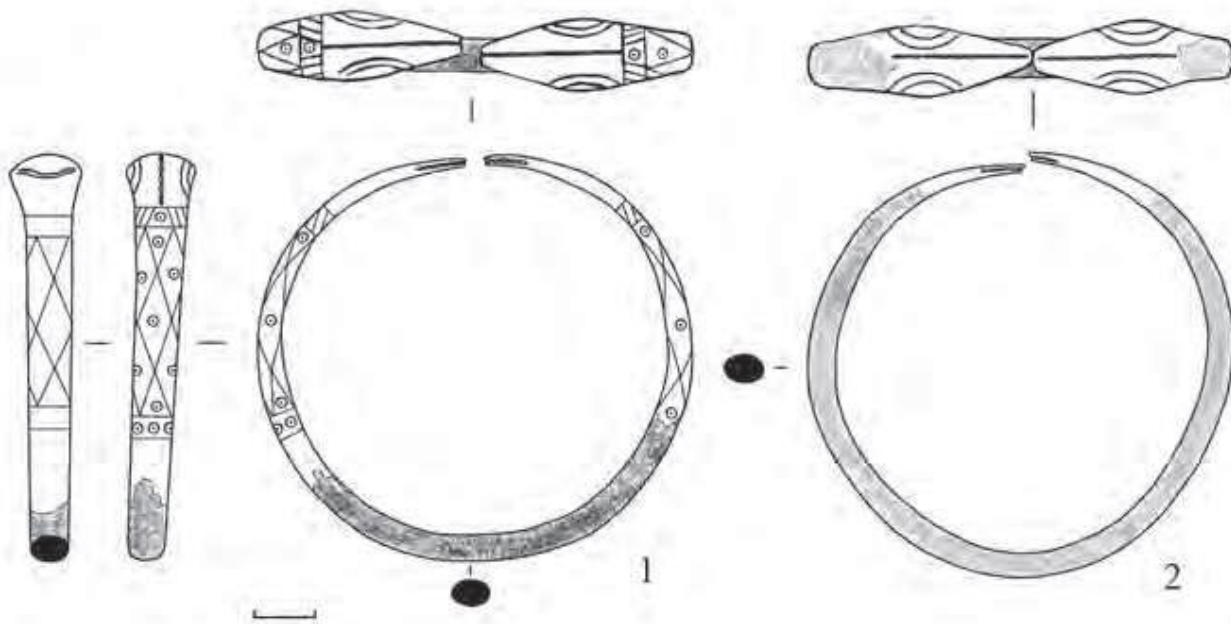
**Figure 78:** Two bracelets with Ends in the Shape of Snakes' Heads, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 12, 1, 2).
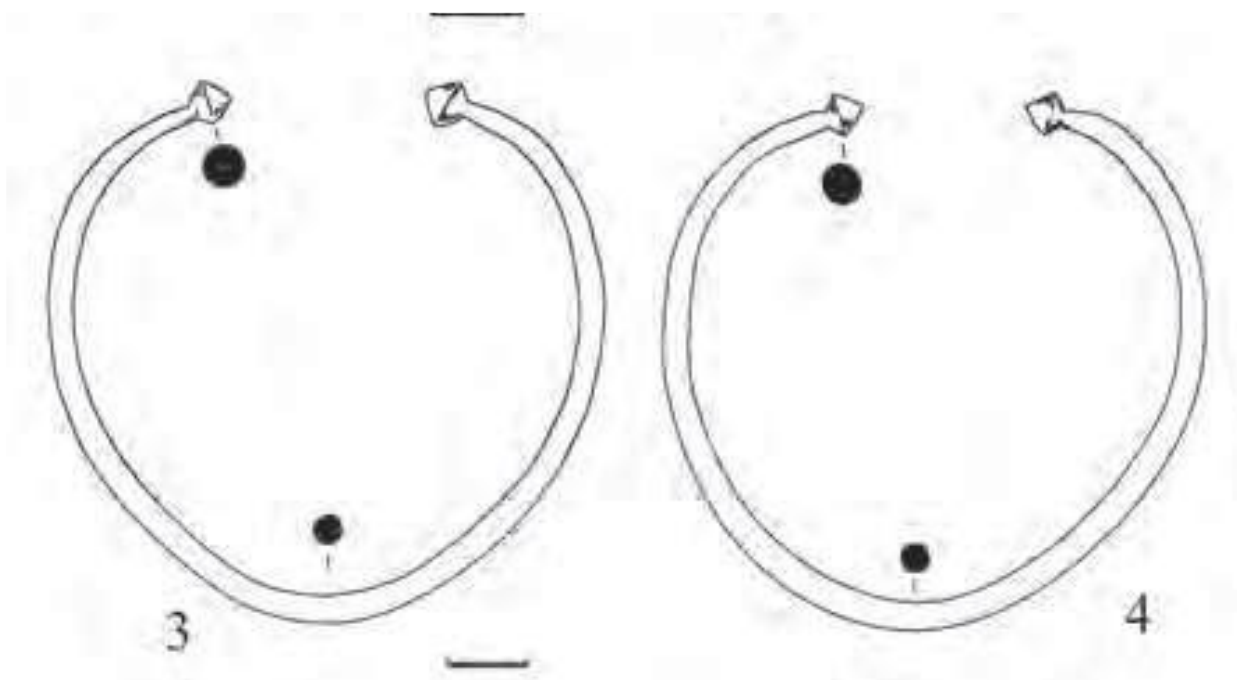
**Figure 79:** Two bracelets with Knobs at the Ends, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, , Masyakin fig. 12, 3, 4).
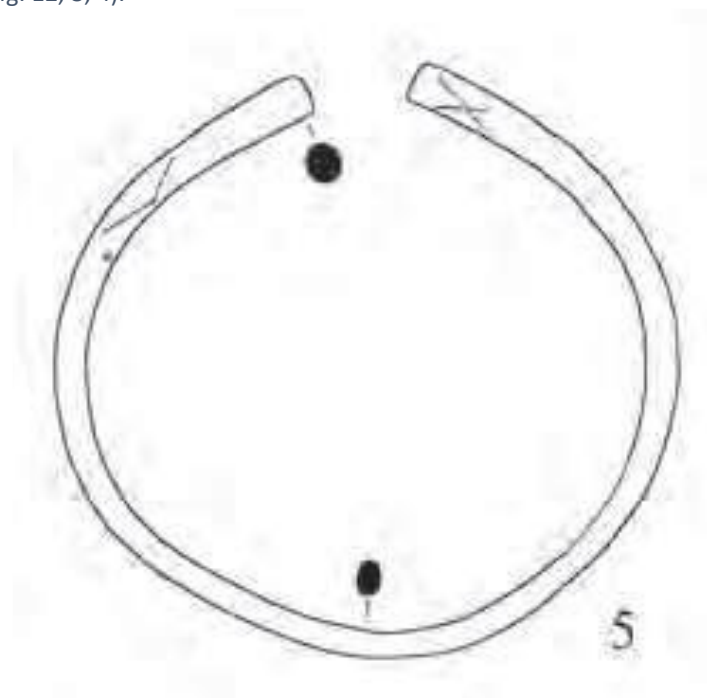


**Figure 80:** Bracelet with Thickened Ends, Luchistoe-2 necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 12, 5).
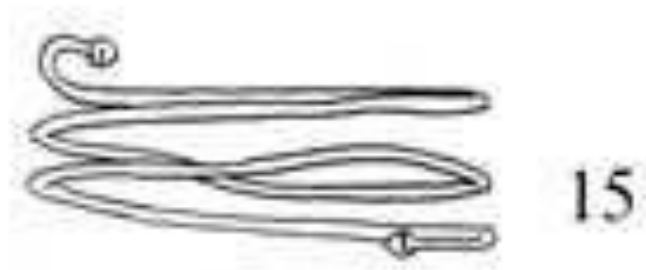
**Figure 81:** Temple ring, Mezmay-I Burial-ground **(**Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 11, 15).
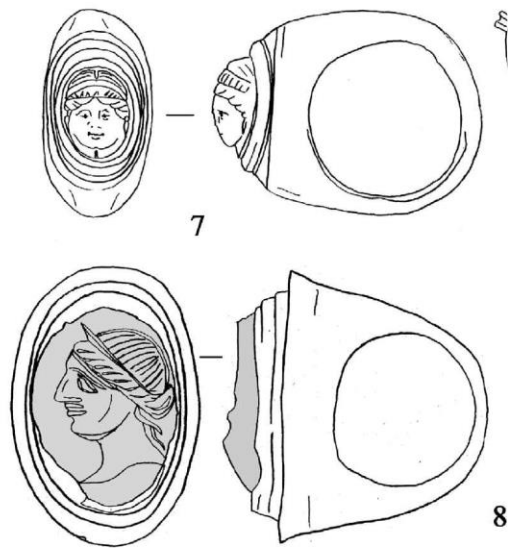


**Figure 82:** Finger-rings, The Nogajčik royal grave (Mordvintseva, Zaitsev 2003, fig. 9, 7, 8).
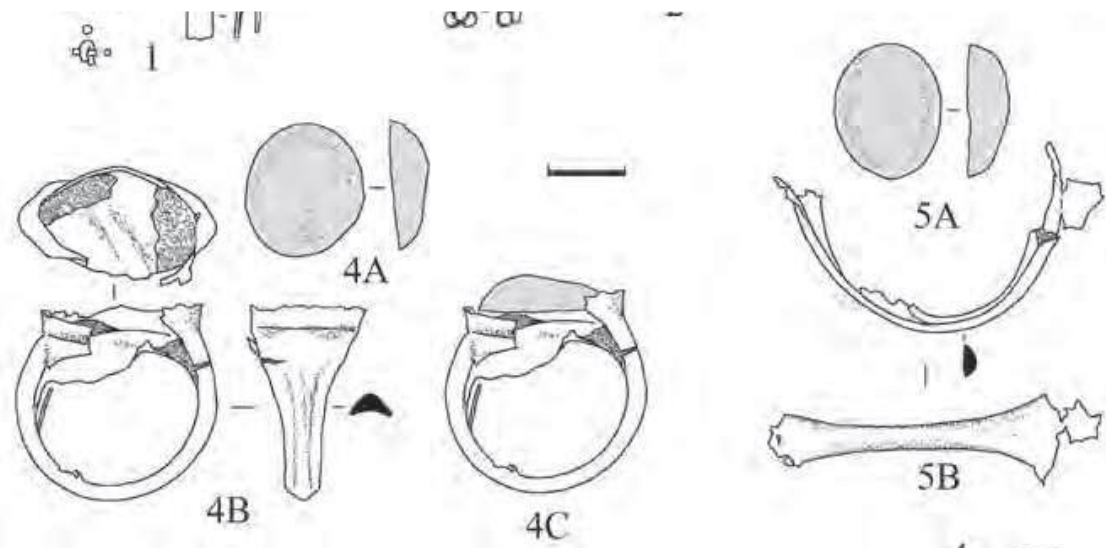
**Figure 83:** Two hollow Rings with an Oval Plate, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 10, 4, 5; 15, 4).
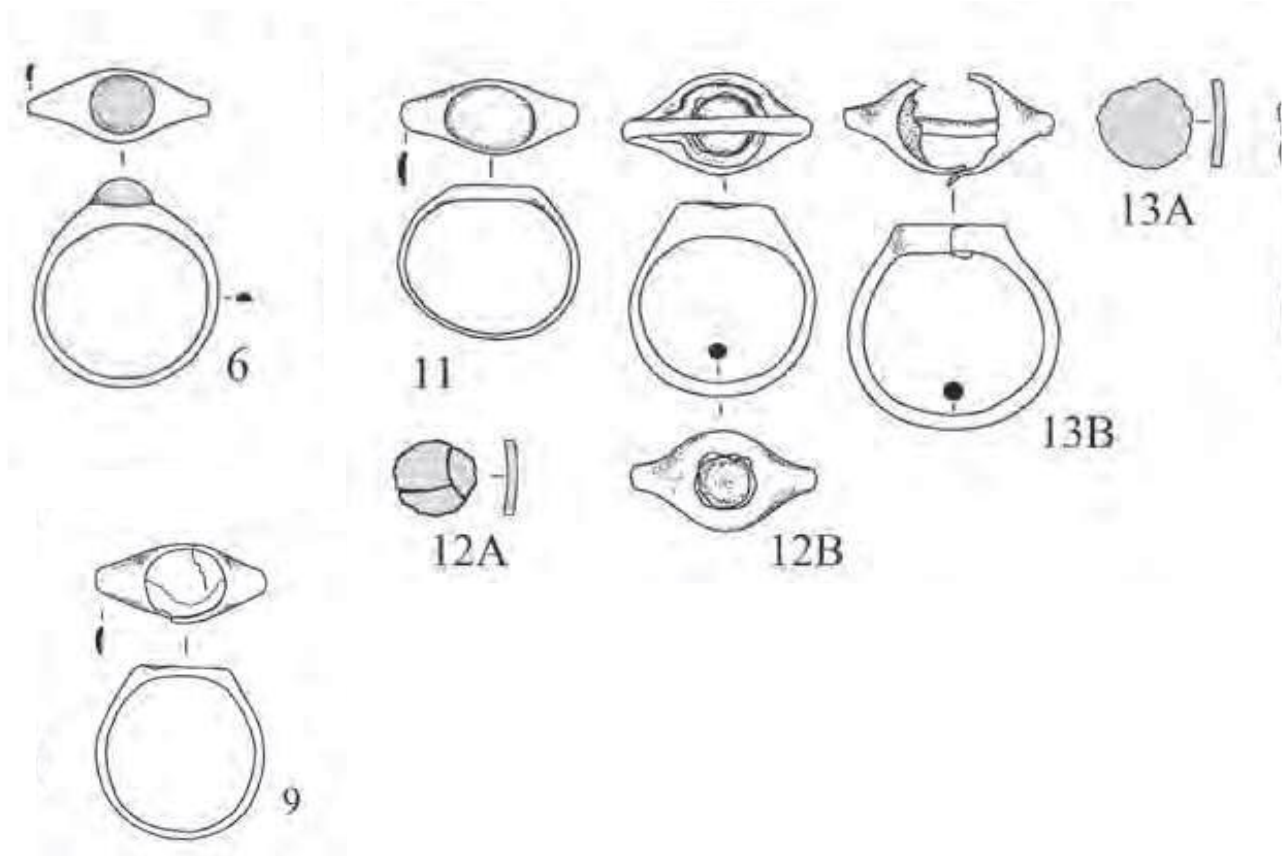


**Figure 84:** Five bronze finger rings with glass inlays, Luchistoe-2 necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 10, 6, 11-13; 11, 9).
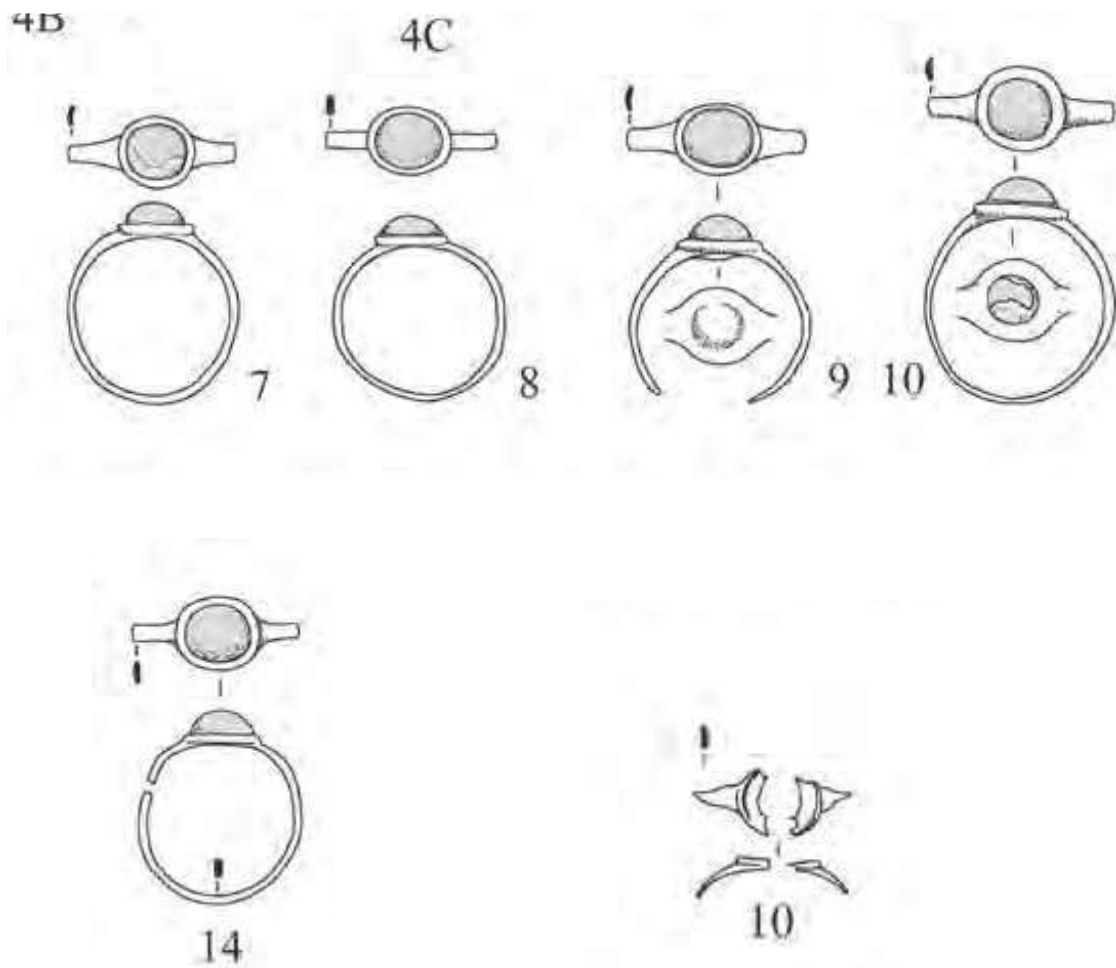
**Figure 85:** Six bronze Solid Finger Rings with a Prominent Round or Oval Plate, Luchistoe-2 necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 10, 7-10, 14; 11, 10).
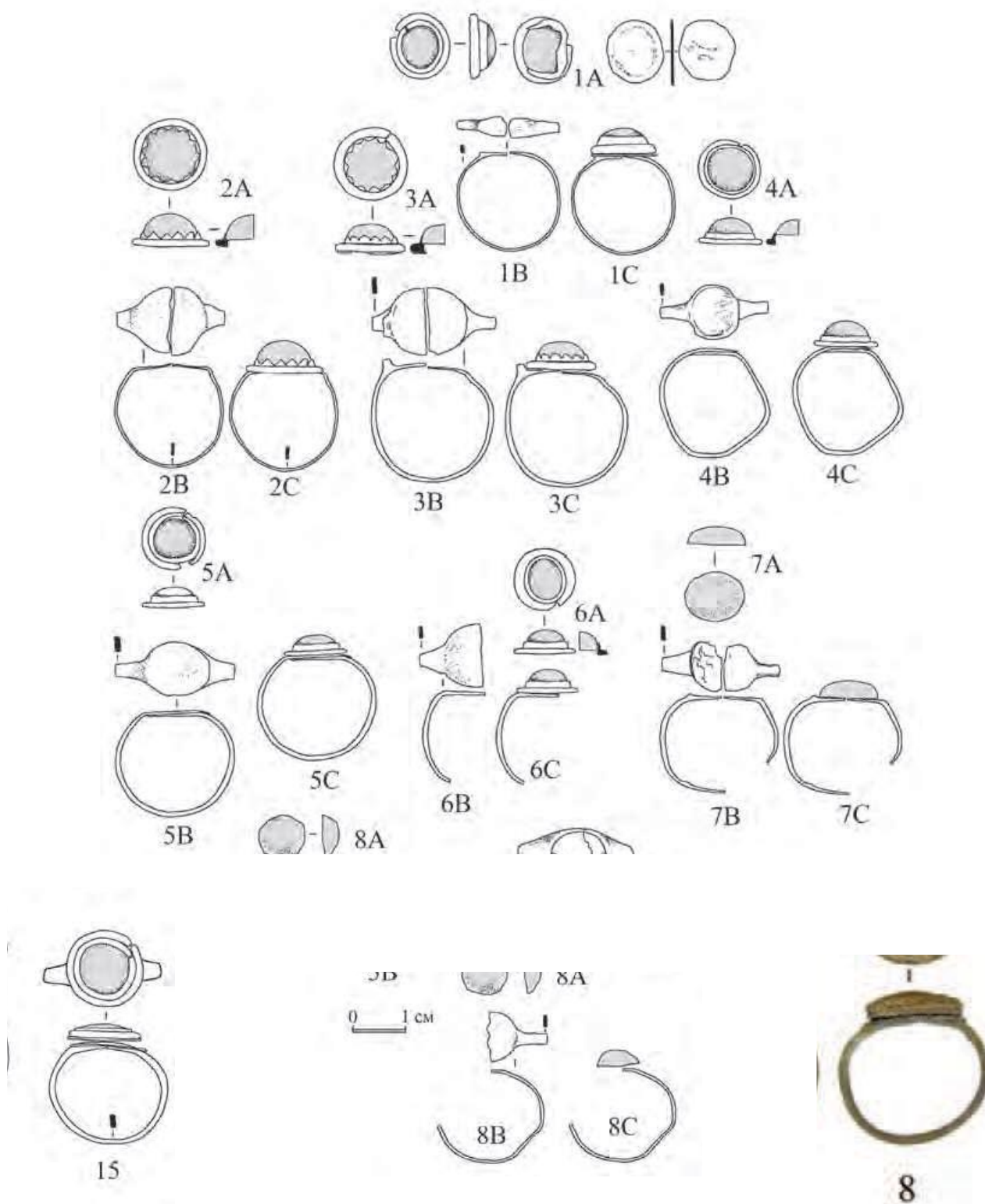
**Figure 86:** Nine Finger Rings with a Plate-like Shank and a Composite Plate Soldered on to it, Luchistoe-2 – necropolis of the Roman period, Grave 1 (Mordvintseva, Lÿsenko, Masyakin 2016, fig. 10, 15; 11, 1-8; 15, 8).
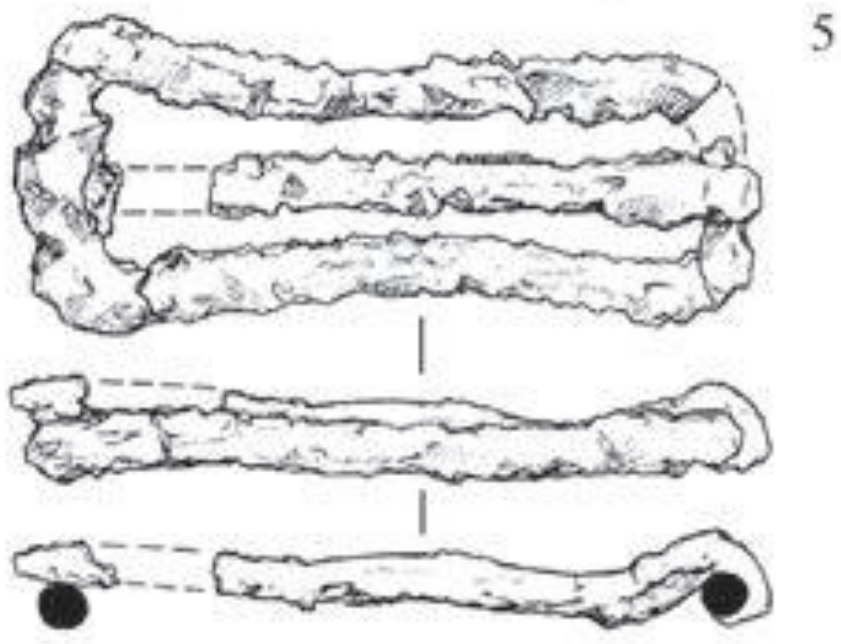
**Figure 87:** Belt buckle, burial from the Ust' Al'ma Necropolis (Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, fig. 1, 8).
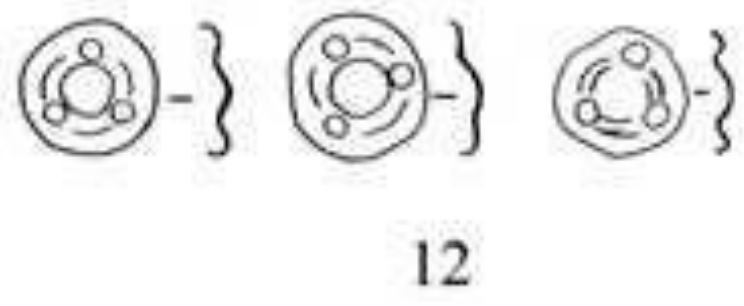


**Figure 88:** Round plaques sewn on to garments, Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 11, 12).
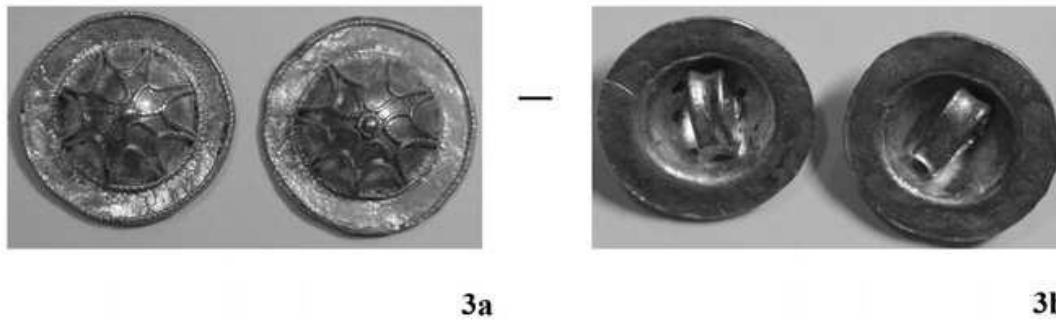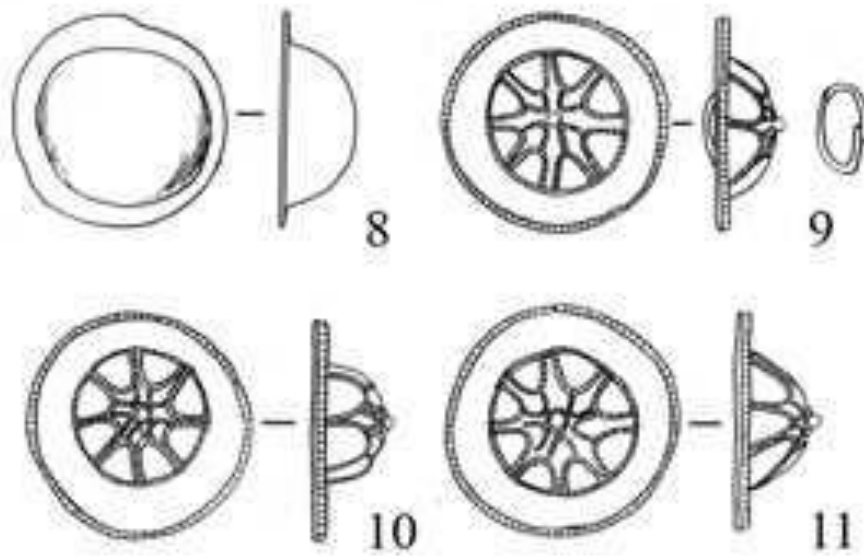
**Figure 89:** "Buttons", Mezmay-I Burial-ground **(**Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, Fig. 11, 8-11, 19, 3).
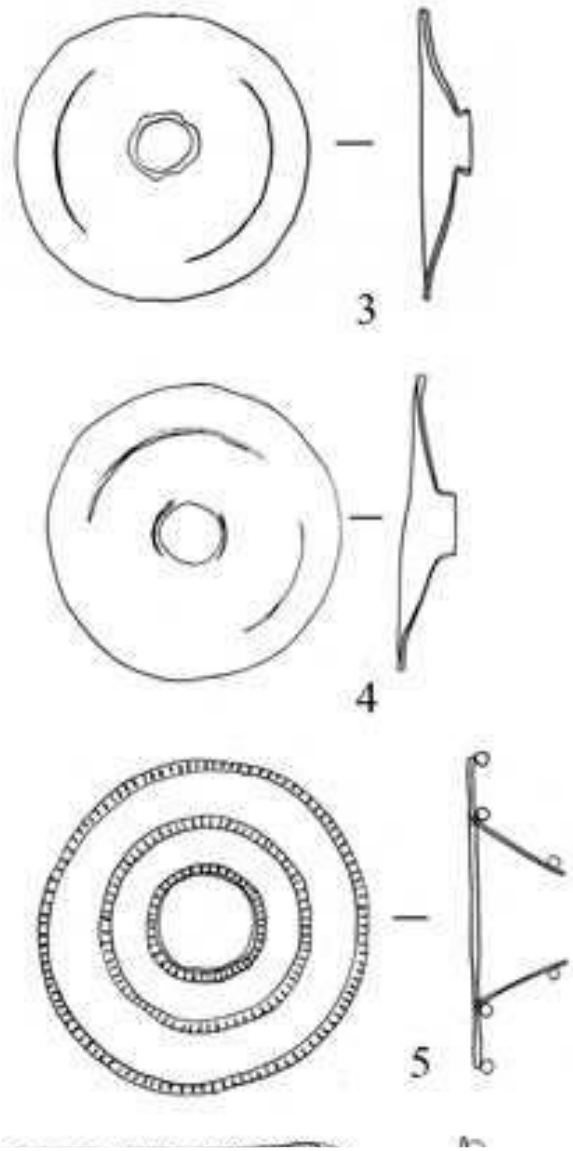
**Figure 90:** Conical plaques with a hole in the middle, Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 11, 3-5).

**Figure 91:** A rectangular plaque**,** Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 11, 7, 20, 3).
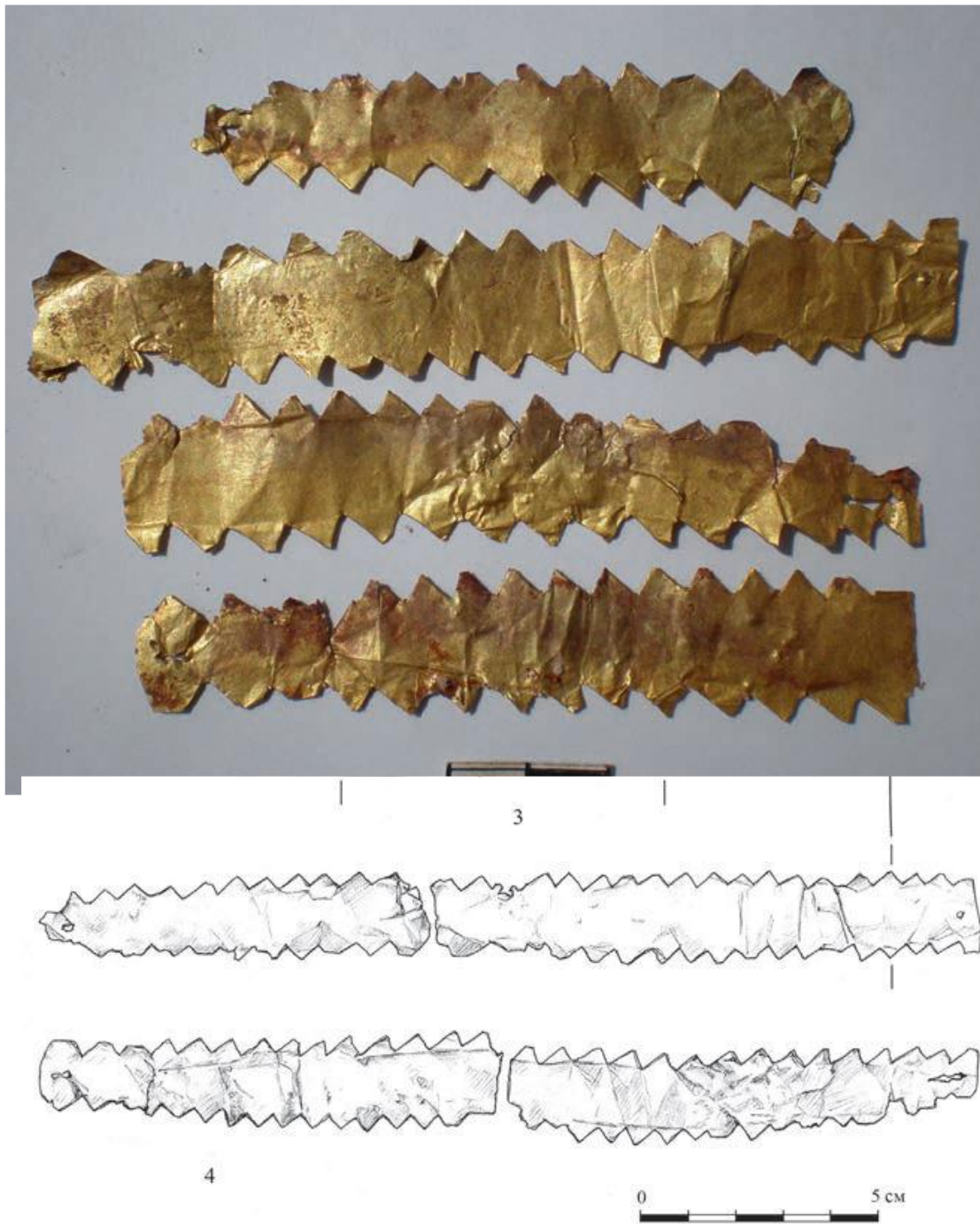
**Figure 92:** Four ribbon fragments**,** Burial from the Ust' Al'ma Necropolis (Trufanov, Mordvintseva 2017, fig, 1,9, 5,4, 7, 10).
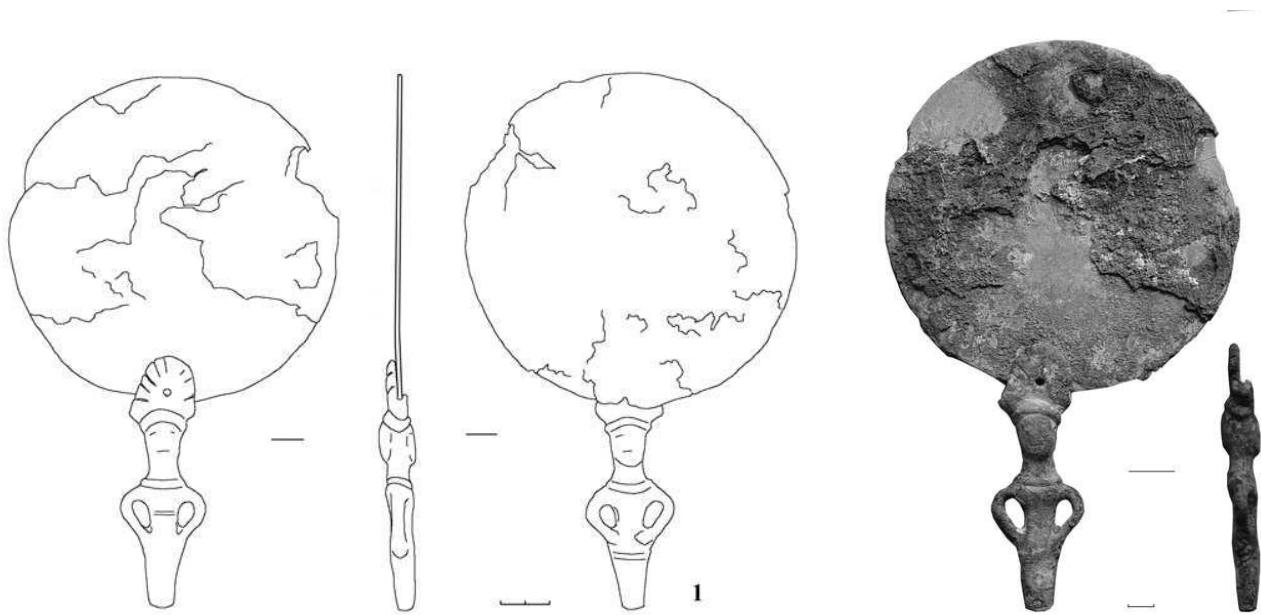
**Figure 93:** Mirror, Mezmay-I Burial-ground (Mordvintseva, Shevchenko, Zaïtsev 2012, fig. 10, 1; 18).