

# Kyorstovo 1: a new burial ground of the period of Roman influences in North-Western Russia

Yushkova M. A, Kulešov V. S.

Archaeological evidence on the culture of the population of North-Western Russia in the period of Roman influences is extremely scarce (Кулешов, 2005; Juškova, 2006). An exception is the new group of sites of the culture of stone burial grounds with fences (Tarandgräberkultur) recently revealed in the South-West of Leningrad Oblast. The main area of this culture lies throughout what is now Estonia and northern Latvia. It is represented mostly by burial grounds while the settlement-sites are rare. The cemeteries contain collective burials both with inhumations and cremations. The burials are arranged in one or several rows and are encircled by small rectangular stone fences attached to each other. The skeletal remains are found as a rule among layers of stones and limestone chips together with the grave offerings: bronze ornaments (fibulae, rings, bracelets, neck rings), beads, iron utensils (knives, grass cutters, awls) and occasionally weapons (spear and dart heads, shield-bosses).

The culture of stone graves with fences arose from the culture of burials in stone barrows with stone-cists, the sites of which are found in the insular and coastal part of northern Estonia (Шмидехельм, 1955, Fig. 52; Lang, 2007, Fig. 82, 97). In the same region, sites of the transitional type are located: cemeteries resembling in their funerary architecture both stone mounds with cists and burials in stone enclosures (Lang, 2007, Fig. 102). V. Lang proposes to date these sites of the transitional type to a chronological range from the 8<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> century BC to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Lang, 2007, p. 189). Martha Schmiedehelm dated the earliest stone burials with fences to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Шмидехельм, 1955, Fig. 55). According to our preliminary suppositions, the grave goods from the most ancient stone burials with fences date from a period not earlier than the 3<sup>rd</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. The general chronological range for the culture of cemeteries with stone enclosures is possibly from 3<sup>rd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> century BC to 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> century AD. According to the generally accepted attribution, tribal groups

of Baltic Finns are considered as the bearers of the culture of cemeteries with stone fences.

As early as 1986, E. A. Ryabinin excavated two funerary structures pertaining to the culture under consideration at the western edge of the Izhora Plateau. The two burials both were found within the mediaeval cemeteries of Valgovitsy and Velikino (Рябинин, 1987; 1994). In 2005, the first personal and afterwards published communications appeared concerning the discovery of a new burial ground of the culture of cemeteries with fences in the west of the Izhora Plateau near the village of Udosołovo. The cemetery was marked here by surface finds (Сорокин, 2008; Сорокин, Шаров, 2008; Шаров, Сорокин, 2008). In 2008, we received information on the existence of another cemetery of this type near the village of Kyorstovo (Kerstovo) and archaeological excavations were started there (Юшкова, Кулешов, 2010; Юшкова, 2010 а). In addition, information became available about still two other sites with surface finds marking, possibly, destroyed cemeteries: a second cemetery near the village of Kyorstovo and the other in the vicinity of the village of Ratchino (Юшкова, 2010 б). In 2008, in the surroundings of the village of Kopye, three hoards of Roman coins were found. One was transferred to the State Hermitage and the two other – to the G. S. Lebedev Laboratory of Archaeology, Historical Sociology and Cultural Heritage of the Research Institute for Interdisciplinary Social Studies of the St.-Petersburg State University)<sup>1</sup>. Thus

<sup>1</sup> Information on the hoards is published at the site of the Laboratory of Archaeology ([www.nwae.spb.ru](http://www.nwae.spb.ru)) and was presented in O. V. Sharov's paper "Nakhodki fibul rannerim-skoy èpokhi na Severo-Zapade Rossii" (Finds of fibulae of the Early Roman period in North-Western Russia) at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference "The forest and forest-steppe of Eastern Europe during the period of Roman influences and the Great Migration period (ethnocultural contacts)" (Tula – Kulikovo Pole, November 4–8, 2008).

by now, in the west of the Izhora Plateau, a total of nine sites and findspots of hoards of the culture of stone cemeteries with fences are known (Fig. 1).

**The Kyorstovo 1 (Novosyolki 1) cemetery** is situated at the western boundary of the Izhora Plateau, in an agricultural field, 0.7 km north-west from the village of Novosyolki and 1.1 km south-east from the village of Kommunar. The nearest large village still retaining its historical name is Kyorstovo (situated 1.7 km to the north). One and a half kilometres to the north-east from the cemetery, the small Solka River flows, the right tributary of the Luga. The cemetery lies in a ploughed field; it was looted and has been revealed only through surface finds being manifested by no other outer signs (Fig. 2). The surface materials included calcined bones and bronze objects dated to the first centuries AD. The place for starting the excavations was chosen after comparisons of the results of magnetic surveys, drawing a detailed topographical plan and examination of the positions of the unauthorized digging (Fig. 3). The excavations were carried out in 2008 and 2009 under direction of M. A. Yushkova by the Kingisepp Archaeological Expedition of the Institute of the History of Material Culture (IIMK) RAS. The total excavated area is 156 sq. m.

After digging out the ploughed layer 15–20 cm thick, the surface of a stone structure was revealed. The structure was composed of granite blocks up to 60 cm in diameter, limestone slabs and limestone chips. The fill of the structure was dense dark-gray loamy sand containing large amounts of limestone chips and calcined bones. The structure was elongated along the west–east line. The excavation method included layer-by-layer removing of the horizons of stones and limestone chips throughout the entire area of the structure (Fig. 4–7). In the course of extracting the stones, outlines of separate rectangular enclosures were ever more clearly discernible. These were oriented with the longer sides along the north–south axis. These stone enclosures were numbered from I to IV from east to west (Fig. 7).

**Enclosure I** was oval in plan, constructed of granite blocks covered with a layer of chipped limestone in the inside. The dimensions are about 1.2 m in width and about 3.4 m in length. On the eastern side, the enclosure was adjoined by a spot of dark-gray loamy

sand containing numerous pieces of calcined bones (Figs. 6 and 7). Together with this adjoining spot the plan of the burial may be put as a nearly rectangular.

**Enclosure II** adjoined enclosure I from the west. The walls of the enclosure were constructed of large slabs of limestone; the inner space was filled with two horizons of chipped limestone. Dimensions: about 3 m in width by 6.3 m in length. At the base of the enclosure, several pits 5–10 cm deep, filled with dark-gray loamy sand and limestone chips, were uncovered.

**Enclosure III** was constructed of granite blocks with the diameters of up to 60 cm. The boulders formed two layers, the upper covered with limestone chips. The enclosure was 2.3 m wide and 5.6 m long. Possibly, this enclosure had some internal structure, i.e. was partitioned into separate chambers. On the north side, the enclosure was delineated by a band of limestone chips about 1 m wide (Figs. 4, 5).

**Enclosure IV** adjoins enclosure III on the west. It is separated from the latter by a band of chips and limestone slabs lying over them. The northern wall of the enclosure is composed of granite boulders; the southern wall is not preserved. The structure is of a nearly rectangular plan: the width is about 2 m, length – about 6 m. In the southern section of the enclosure, a pit, 0.85 m in diameter and up to 0.85 m deep was uncovered (Fig. 7, pit 1). In the pit were found bones and grave offerings (cf. below). Along the outside of the western wall of the enclosure, up to 3 m west from it, there were pieces of chipped limestone, bones and single artefacts.

During clearing the enclosures were found skeletal remains (both isolated and in aggregations) and grave goods (cf. below). The majority of finds come from the upper horizons of the structures. The most of the osseous materials were found in enclosure II.

Beyond the limits of the structure under consideration, about 2 m northwards, an accumulation of limestone chips, boulders and bones was noticed. To the west of the funerary structure at a distance of 2–3 m, was found an accumulation of chipped limestone, boulders and artefacts. The two aggregations both were revealed in the corners of the excavated area (Fig. 4–7). It is possible that they are external parts of some other mortuary structures (rows of enclosures), located outside the excavation pit to the north and to the west.



**Fig. 1. Map of the situation of the cemetery of Kyorstovo 1 (№ 6) and other sites of the culture of stone cemeteries with enclosures on the Izhora Plateau.** 1 – Valgovitsy, 2 – Velikino, 3 – Udosolovo, 4 – Ratchino, 5 – Kyorstovo 2 (Malli), 6 – Kyorstovo 1, 7 – 1<sup>st</sup> Kopor’ye hoard, 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Kopor’ye hoard, 9 – Yur’ev hoard.

*1 pav. Kerstovo 1 (Nr. 6) kapinyno situacijos planas ir kitos akmeninių kapų su aptvarais kultūros vietos Ižoros aukštumoje*



**Fig. 2. General view of the cemetery of Kyorstovo 1.** View from south-west.

*2 pav. Kerstovo 1 kapinyno vaizdas iš pietvakarių*

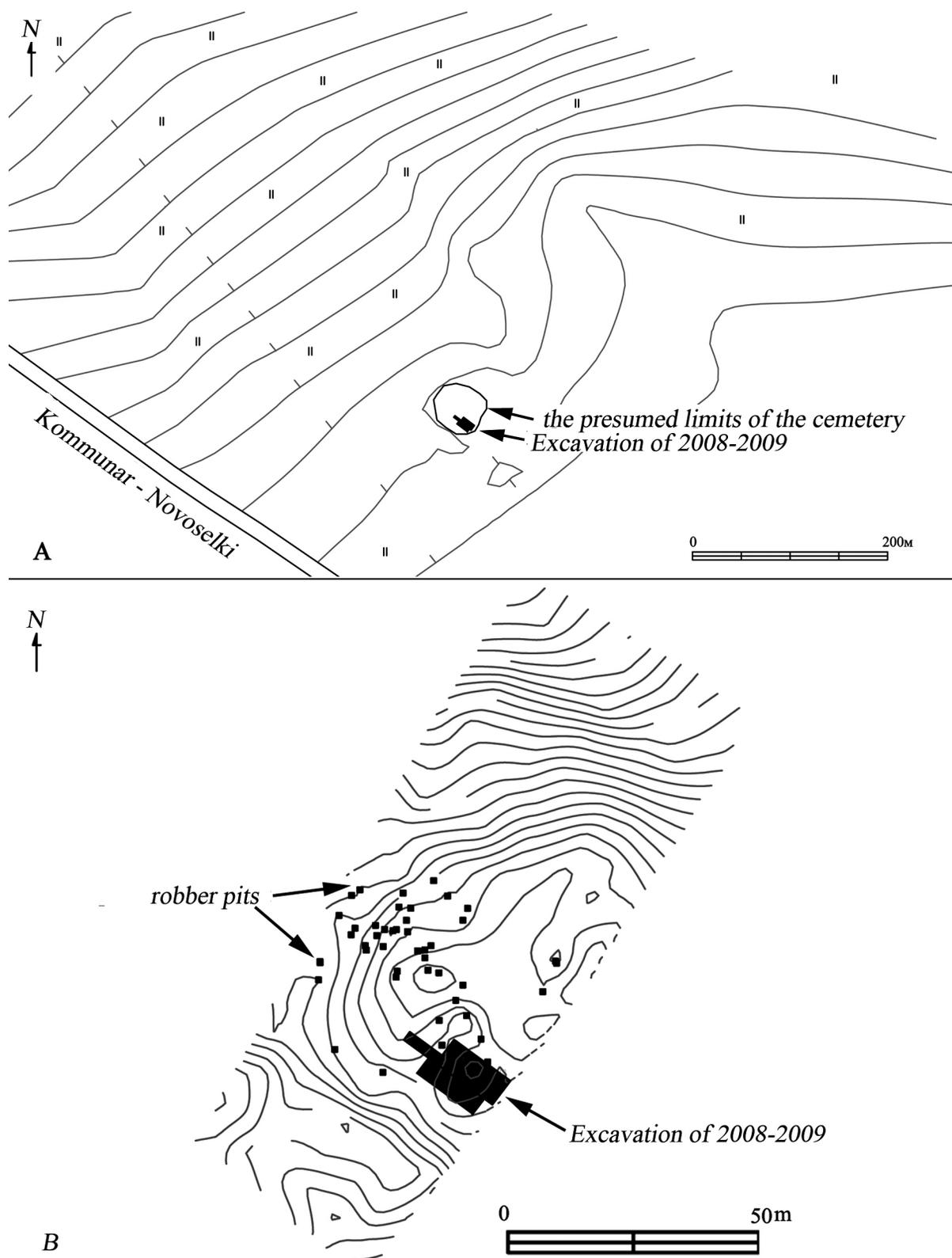


Fig. 3. **Topographic plan (A) and micro-relief (B) of the cemetery of Kyorstovo 1.** System of coordinates and heights is conventional. Surveys of D. G. Gerasimov and A. Yu. Gorodilov. Interval between contour lines: 0.5 m (A) and 0.05 m (B).  
*3 pav. Kerstovo 1 kapinyno topografinis planas (A) ir mikroreljefas (B)*









**The anthropological materials** were examined by I. G. Shirobokov (Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography RAS (Kunstkamera)). The total amount of the fragments is over 24 thousand. Small fragments of calcined bones (with the size of 0.3–9 cm) predominated. The variation of the colour and density of the structure of the bone tissue indicate a rather broad range of thermal treatment of the remains. Among the identifiable skeletal remains, the most representative categories in the order of decrease are: teeth, finger phalanges, other bones of feet and hands, fragments of skull vaults and mandibular bones, fragments of vertebrae, ribs, long bones of arms and legs and patellae.

The minimum number of the buried within the investigated area of the cemetery is 35 individuals. Taking into consideration recorded remains of infants, this number must be increased to 38. Among the deceased, all age-related categories were represented. Through distribution of teeth and separate osseous fragments, the minimum number of the buried within each of the enclosures was defined. In enclosure I, skeletal remains of at least 4 individuals (taking into account bones of an infant) were buried; in enclosure II – 12 individuals; in enclosure III – 8 deceased (taking into account bones of an infant), in enclosure IV – 5 people. In the pit in the southern section of enclosure IV, fragmentary skeletal remains of at least one individual, over 40 years old (maturus), were found. West from enclosure IV (within 3 m from the wall of the enclosure), there were the remains of at least 3 individuals. In the western corner of the excavated area there were skeletal remains of at least 3 people (taking into account bones of a child).

Among the osseous materials, also a group of skeletal remains of **animals and birds** is distinguishable as identified by M. V. Sablin (Institute of Zoology RAS). The animal remains include bones of dog and hare.

Several *fibulae* were found in the excavation area: a heavily-profiled fibula (*kräftig-profilierter Fibel*), 4 eye-brooches (Augenfibeln) and a shield-head brooch. A fragment of yet another eye fibula was found on the surface of the cemetery.

The heavily-profiled fibula (Fig. 13:1; № 08-62<sup>2</sup>)

<sup>2</sup> Here and below, the numbers are specified according to the field inventories of the finds. Finds nos. 08-1–08-77 were found during excavations of 2008, nos. 09-01–09-73 – during excavations of 2009.

A68–69 (here and below the type is specified according to: Almgren, 1897) has a massive bow, a knob (“bead”) at the transition to the foot, a miniature foot of circular cross-section. The catchplate is damaged. The brooch is one-segmented; inside the spiral, an iron axle is preserved. Length 5.8 cm.

The eye fibula (Fig. 10:1; № 08-7) may be attributed to the Prussian series A57-58. It differs in the absence of the eye-pattern, probably due to the poor preservation of the item. The fibula is a one-part example, with a hook for the bowstring, a spiral of 6 coils; the pin is preserved to 1/3; inside the spiral there is an iron axle. The foot is bent relative to the vertical rib. The brooch is ornamented with vertical lines along the edges of the bow and along its central facet, and by transversal streaks in its upper and lower parts. At the transition to the foot there is an encircling fillet. The foot above the fillet is ornamented with a transversal streak and a triangle drawn near the base. Length 7.4 cm, width near the base of the foot is 1.5 cm, in the upper part of the bow – 1.2 cm, the width of the spiral – 2.4 cm.

Another item (Fig. 9:1; № 08-47) also belongs to the Prussian series, type A61. The fibula is made as a single part, with a hook for the bowstring and a spiral of 6 coils; half of the spiral and the pin have not survived. The foot is flat, slightly tapering in the lower section. The bow is ornamented with a vertical fillet. The fillet is displaced from the centre to the edge of the object. The catchplate also is shifted. The foot is ornamented with an eye pattern. Length 7.6 cm, the width of the middle part of the bow – 1.3 cm, the width of the base is 1.9 cm.

Three other finds are derivatives of eye-fibulae.

The first brooch (Fig. 9:3; № 08-50) is decorated with dot lines on the bow (vertical lines on the edges and in the centre, transversal lines above the encircling fillet, and a triangle in the upper part) under the relief fillet. At the base of the foot, the lines form a triangle. The fibula is bent in the cross-section; at the transition to the foot there is a small encircling relief fillet. The technique of fixation of the pin is unclear because of the bad preservation state of the upper part of the bow. Length – 7.3 cm; width near the basement of the foot – 1.2 cm and 1.2 cm in the upper part of the bow.

The second brooch (Fig. 9:2; № 08-49) consists of two segments; a fragment of the spiral with an iron

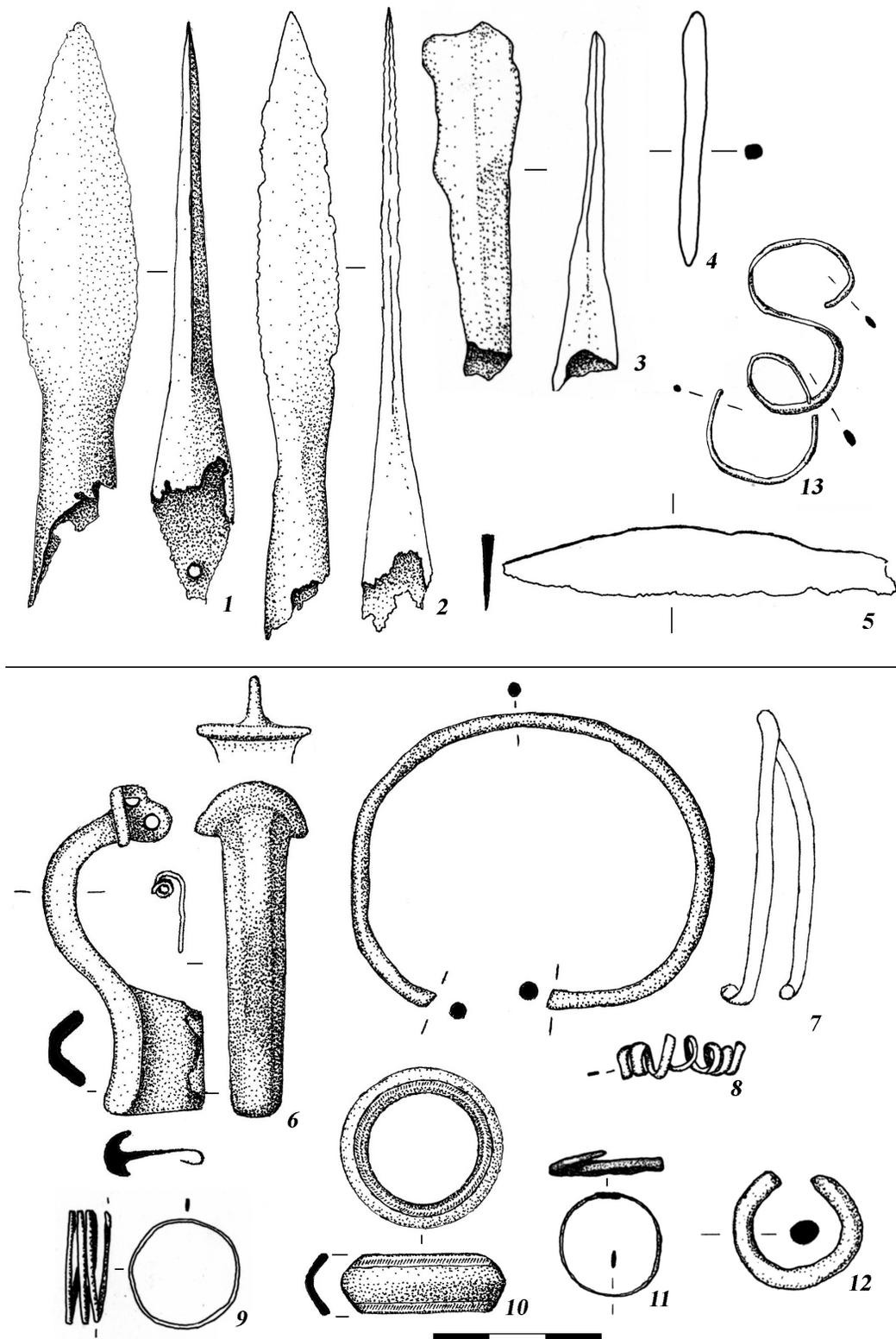


Fig. 8. Individual finds from the ploughed layer (№ 1–5, 13) and from enclosure I (№ 6–12). 1 – № 08-9, 2 – № 08-15, 3 – № 08-76, 4 – № 09-20, 5 – № 08-70, 6 – № 08-52, 7 – № 08-30, 8 – № 08-16, 9 – № 08-28, 10 – № 08-18, 11 – № 08-2, 12 – № 08-55. 1–5 – iron, 6–13 – bronze.

8 pav. Pavieniai radiniai iš ariamo sluoksniu (Nr. 1–5, 13) ir iš I aptvaro (Nr. 6–12). 1–5 – geležis; 6–13 – žalvaris

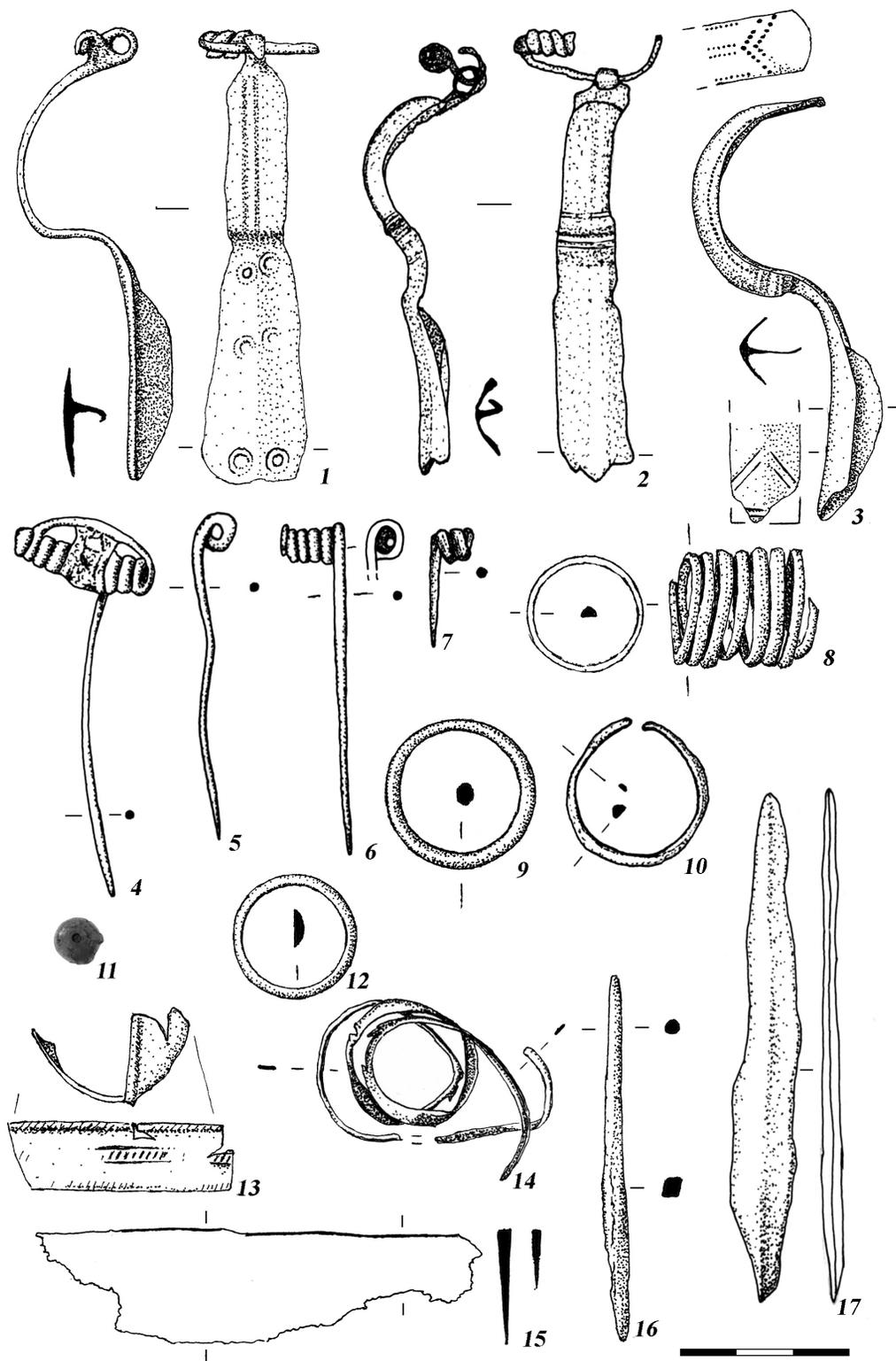


Fig. 9. Individual finds from within enclosure II. 1 – № 08-47, 2 – № 08-49, 3 – № 08-50, 4 – № 08-46, 5 – № 08-53, 6 – № 08-19, 7 – № 08-69, 8 – № 08-54, 9 – № 08-51, 10 – № 08-13, 11 – № 08-1, 12 – № 08-6, 13 – № 08-26, 14 – № 08-25, 15 – № 08-56, 16 – № 08-10, 17 – № 08-39. 1–10, 12–14 – žalvaris, 11 – stiklas, 15–17 – geležis  
9 pav. Pavieniai radiniai iš 2 aptvaro. 1–10, 12–14 – žalvaris, 11 – stiklas, 15–17 – geležis

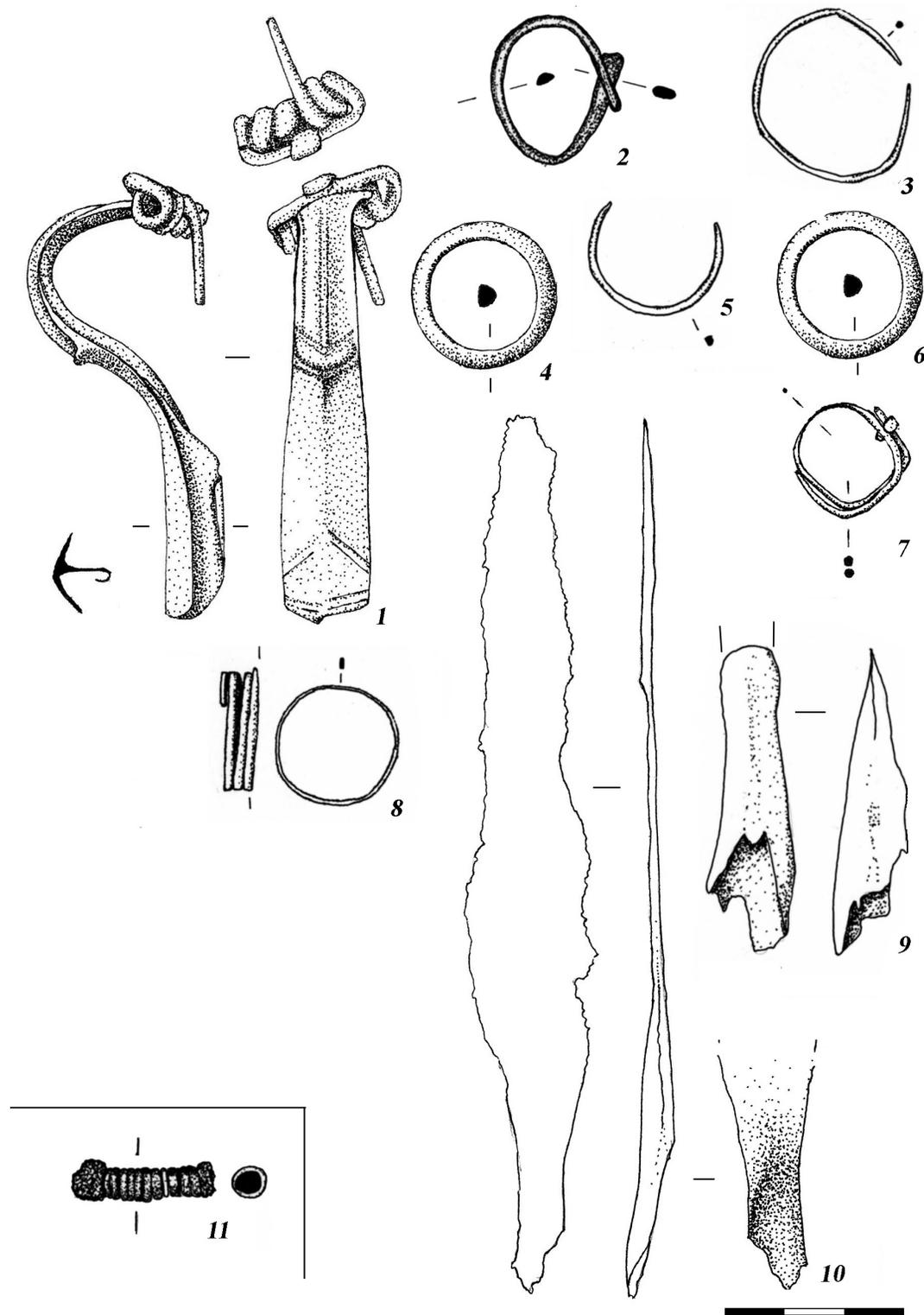


Fig. 10. Individual finds from within enclosure III (1–10), in the area of enclosures II or III (11). 1 – № 08-7, 2 – № 08-12, 3 – № 08-45, 4 – № 08-31, 5 – № 08-32, 6 – № 08-14, 7 – № 08-57, 8 – № 08-24, 9 – № 08-61, 10 – № 08-23, 11 – № 08-64. 1–8, 11 – bronze, 9–10 – iron.

10 pav. Pavieniai radiniai iš 3 aptvaro (1–10) ir iš 2 ir 3 aptvarų (11). 1–8, 11 – žalvaris; 9–10 – geležis

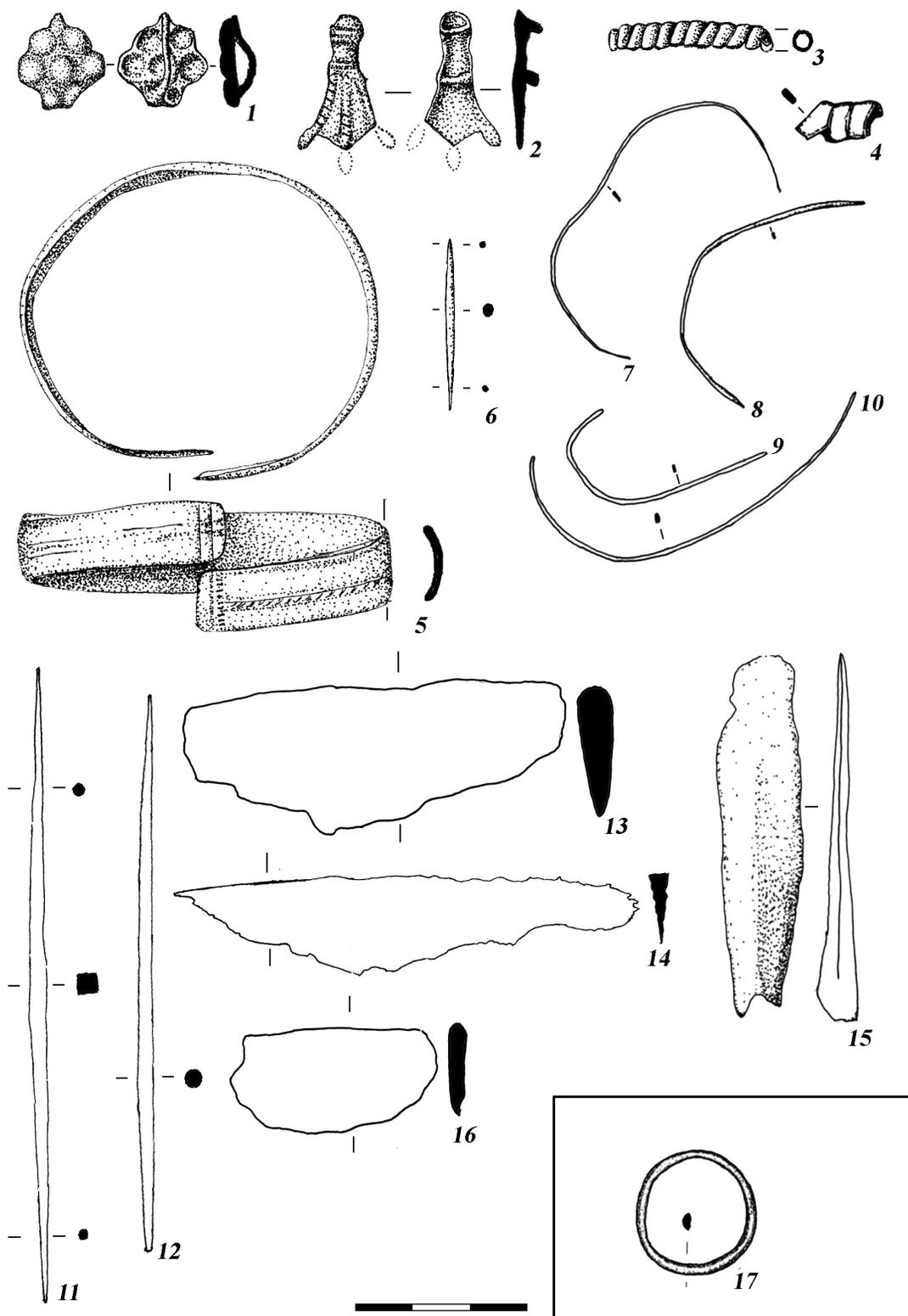


Fig. 11. Individual finds from within enclosure IV (1–16), in the area of enclosures III or IV (17). 1 – № 08-29, 2 – № 08-42, 3 – № 08-58, 4 – № 09-45, 5 – № 08-44, 6 – № 08-67, 7 – № 08-41, 8 – № 08-11, 9 – № 09-65, 10 – № 09-62, 11 – № 08-43, 12 – № 08-8, 13 – № 09-33, 14 – № 08-20, 15 – № 08-17, 16 – № 09-70, 17 – № 08-66. 1–10, 17 – bronze, 11–16 – iron.

11 pav. Pavieniai radiniai iš 4 aptvaro (1–16) ir iš 3 ir 4 aptvarų (17). 1–10, 17 – žalvaris; 11–16 – geležis

axle is preserved. The state of preservation is rather poor; it is possible to discern a pattern of transversal lines at the transition to the foot. Bent in cross-section. Length – 7.2 cm. Width at the upper part of the bow is 1.2 cm, near the base of the foot – 1.1 cm.

The third fibula (Fig. 14:9; № 08-71) is remarkable by its large size and belongs to a group of large eye-fibulae characteristic of north-eastern Estonia. Only its middle part has survived – the lower part of the bow and the upper part of the foot. The transition to the foot is marked with a profiled fillet; above and below the latter an ornamentation of lines forming a triangle is drawn; similar vertical lines decorate the edges of the foot. Above the lines there are fine incisions. The fibula is bent in cross-section. The length of the preserved part is 6.9 cm, the width – up to 2.8 cm. The total length supposedly was no less than 15 cm.

Another type of fibulae is represented by a lamellar scuted brooch, trihedral concave-convex bow gradually passing into the foot (Fig. 8:6; № 08-52). It is a derivative of A123/124. Catchplate has two holes, in one of which remains of an iron axle are discernible. A small fragment of the pin also is preserved. Length 5.7 cm, width of base of the head plate – 1.4 cm, width of the base of the foot is 0.9 cm.

Separately were found spirals and pins of fibulae, in several items the iron axles were preserved (Fig. 9:4–7; 11:4; №№ 08-19, 46, 53, 64, 69, 09–3, 45).

**Bracelets** are represented by five items.

Lamellar-scuted bracelets (2 items; Fig. 9:13; 11:5; №№ 08-44, 26) are ornamented with slit horizontal lines along the edges and a double line in the centre. Between the central lines, incisions are drawn. One of the bracelets is completely preserved, its ends are ornamented with three transversal lines. Diameter 6.0 cm, the width of the blank 1.3 cm.

Two other objects (Fig. 8:7; 14:10; №№ 08-30, 72) are open-loop bracelets made from blanks of round cross-section. The completely preserved item has a diameter of 6.4 cm, the diameter of the blank up to 0.35 cm.

The fifth bracelet (Fig. 13:3; № 09-32) is also an open-loop one. It was made from a convexo-concave blank; unornamented.

Complete **finger-rings** include 18 items of several types.

A closed wide-troughed finger-ring of convexo-concave cross-section, decorated at the edges with a double line with incisions (Fig. 8:10; № 08-18).

Closed rings with a flattened, circular or segmental cross-section (Fig. 9:9, 12; 10:4, 6; 11:17; 13:8; №№ 08-6, 14, 31, 51, 66, 09-38;) belonging to group 1, forms 1, 2, 5 according to Ch. Beckmann's typology (Beckmann, 1969).

Spiral rings made from narrow flattened blanks coiled 3–7 times (Fig. 8:9,13; 9:8,14; 10:8; 13:6; 14:5; №№ 08-24, 25, 28, 54, 09–57, 58;) belonging to group 6, form 33 according to Ch. Beckmann's typology (Beckmann, 1969).

Rings in the form of an opened loop including items with the terminals overlapping one another (Fig. 8:11, 12; 10:2; 13:4; №№ 08-2, 12, 55, 09-11, 64).

**Temple rings** (9 items) are made from round or flattened blanks and have needle-like terminals (Figs. 9:10; 10:5, 7; 11:7, 8, 9, 10; 13:7; №№ 08-11, 13, 32, 41, 57, 60, 09-21, 62, 65); one is coiled 1.5 times and fixed with a shackle.

Four **spacer-beads** have been found (Fig. 8:8; 11:3; №№ 08-16, 58, 37, 65).

The collection from the cemetery includes two **clothing plaques** (with loops on the reverse side for sewing onto clothing). One is shaped as a rosette formed by seven relief elements. Diameter 1.4–1.6 cm (Fig. 11:1; № 08-29). The second plaque is of an elongated form representing a tridactylous membranous bird's foot; length 2.4 cm; on the reverse side there are two loops (Fig. 11:2; № 08-42).

Finishing the review of the bronze objects, of note is the find of a **needle** tapering in the middle part and with sharp ends. Length 2.9 cm (Fig. 11:6; № 08-67).

Iron ornaments are represented by a **circle clasp** (the ring is of one and a half coils; diameter 3.8 cm) with a pin (Fig. 13:15; № 09-6).

The finds included also 12 **dart-points and spear-heads**; all of them are incompletely preserved. The heads are socketed and with a lens-shaped or rhomboid cross-section of the blade.

Three finds are the best-preserved specimens.

Socketed spearhead with the length of the blade about 11.5 cm and the total length of 14.5 cm (Fig. 10:10; № 08-23).

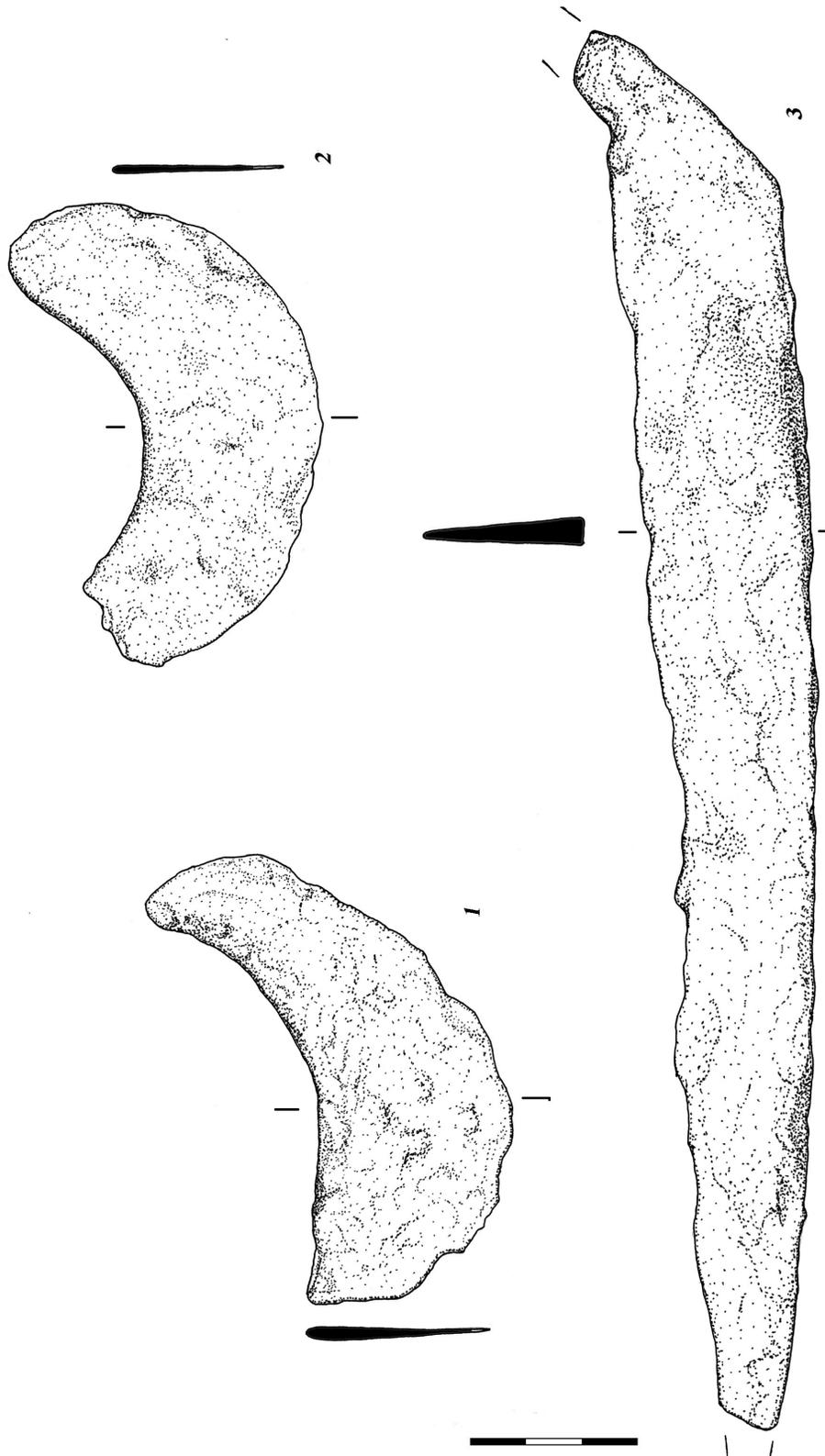


Fig. 12. **Individual finds from within enclosure IV.** 1 – № 09-49, 2 – № 09-46, 3 – № 09-69. 1–3 – iron.  
12 pav. Pavieniai radiniai iš 4 aptvaro. 1–3 – geležis

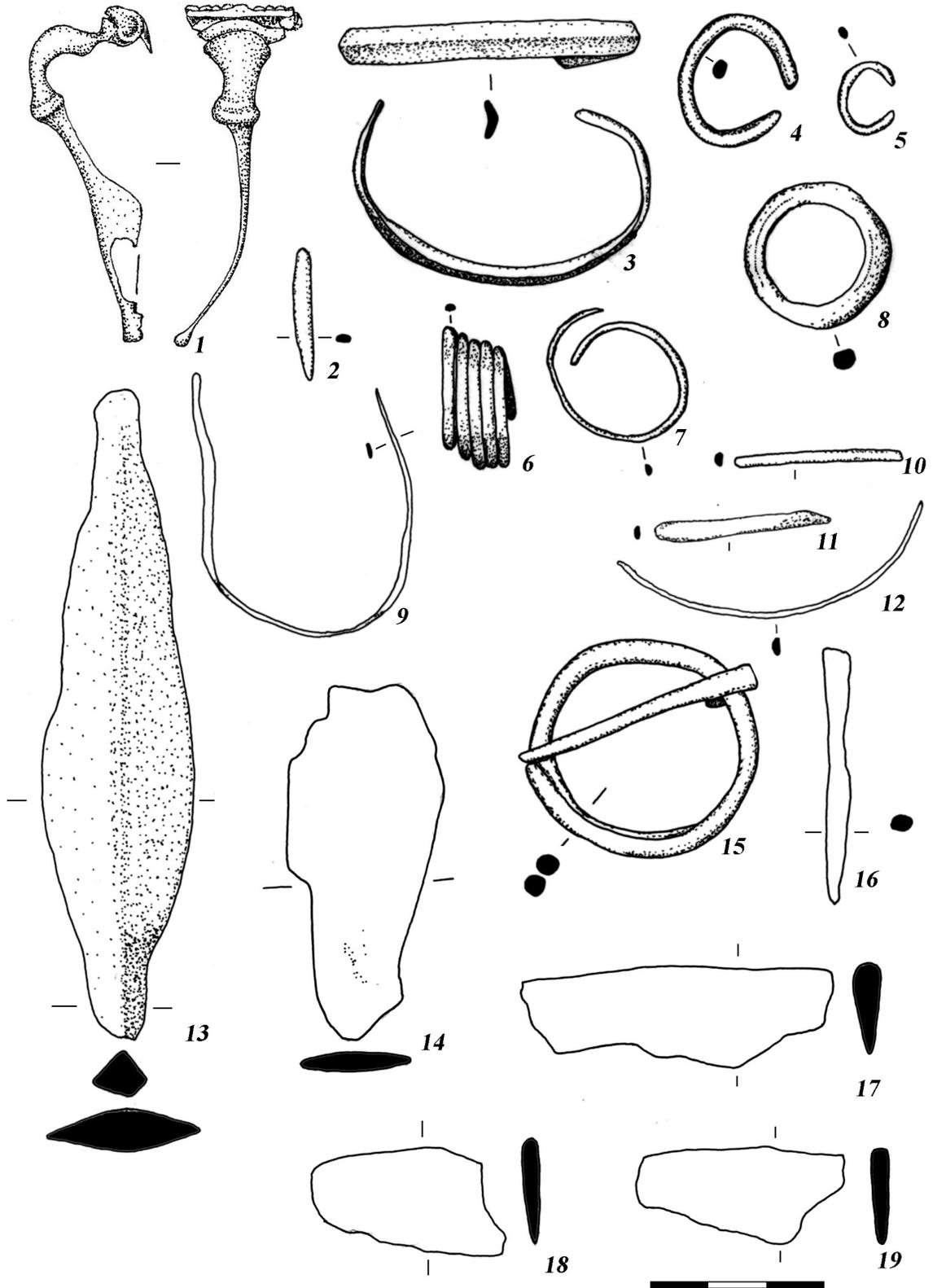


Fig. 13. Individual artefacts found west of enclosure IV (within 3 m from it).

1 – № 08-62, 2 – № 09-44, 3 – № 09-32, 4 – № 09-11, 5 – № 09-64, 6 – № 09-57, 7 – № 09-21, 8 – № 09-38, 9 – № 09-60, 10 – № 09-68, 11 – № 09-4, 12 – № 09-1, 13 – № 09-55, 14 – № 09-30, 15 – № 09-6, 16 – № 09-10, 17 – № 09-50, 18 – № 09-02, 19 – № 09-14. 1–12 – žalvaris; 13–19 – geležis.

13 pav. Pavieniai radiniai iš 4 aptvaro vakarinės dalies. 1–12 – žalvaris; 13–19 – geležis

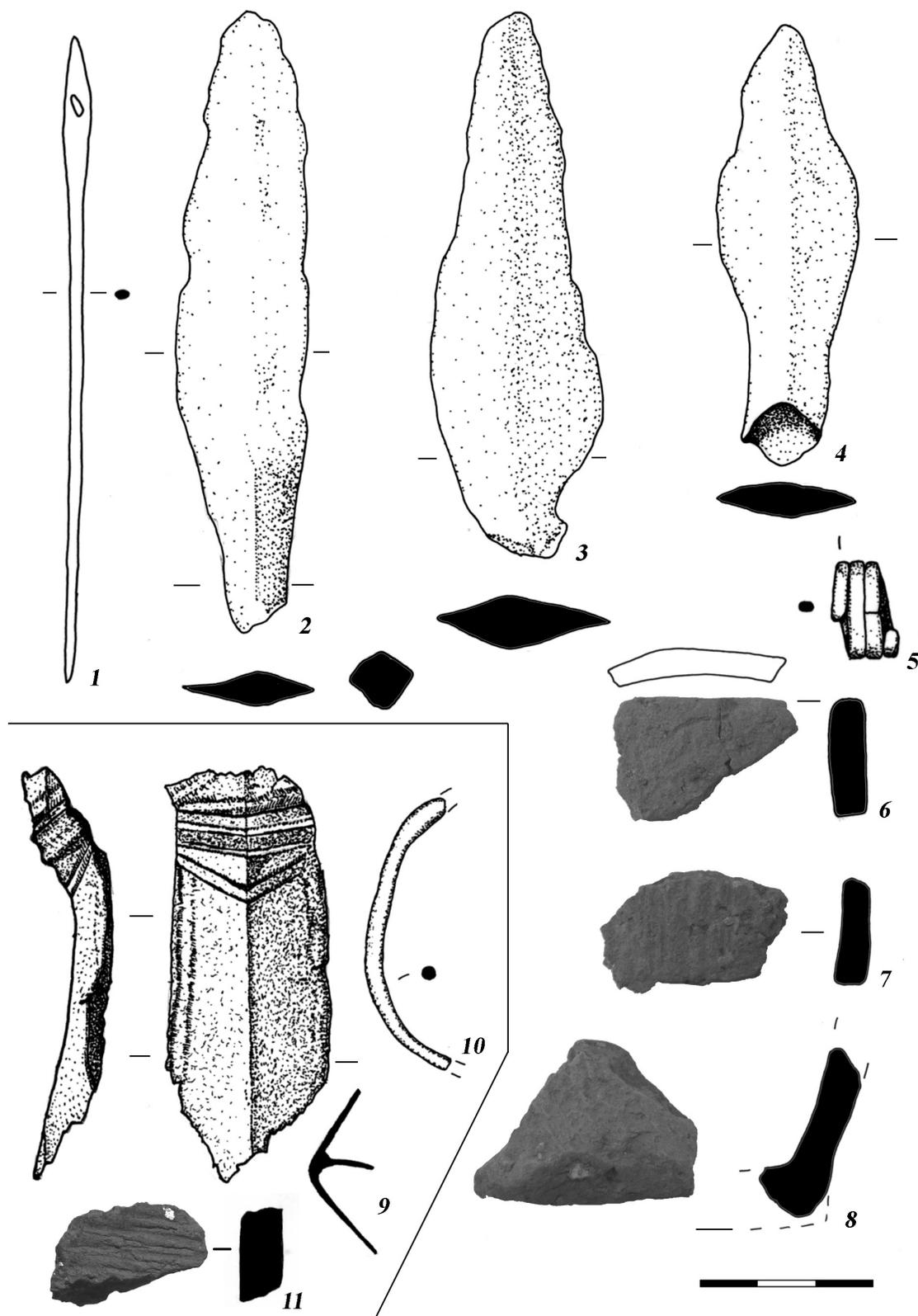


Fig. 14. Individual artefacts found in the western corner of the excavated area (№ 1–8) and surface finds (№ 9–11). 1 – № 09-56, 2 – № 09-29, 3 – № 09-43, 4 – № 09-54, 5 – № 09-58, 6 – № 09-22, 7 – № 09-51, 8 – № 09-13, 9 – № 08-71, 10 – № 08-72, 11 – № 08-73. 1–4 – iron, 5, 9–10 – bronze, 6–8, 11 – pottery.

14 pav. Pavieniai radiniai iš tiriamo ploto vakarinio kampo (Nr. 1–8) ir paviršiaus radiniai (Nr. 9–11). 1–4 – geležis; 9–10 – žalvaris; 6–8, 11 – molis

Socketed point (Fig. 8:1; № 08-9). The blade is of rhomboid cross-section and laurel-leaf shape tapering in its rear third; length of the blade 6.5 cm, maximum width 2.1 cm. The socket is partly broken off; in its rear area there is a hole for fixing the shaft. Total length 10.2 cm.

Socketed point (Fig. 8:2; № 08-15;). The blade is lens-like in cross-section and of a lancet-like shape expanding in the middle part. The socket is partly broken off. Length of the blade is 7.0 cm; total length 11 cm.

The other three objects are preserved only in their upper part; their blades are of rhombic cross-section, with the preserved length of the blades 8.5 cm (Fig. 14:3; № 09-43), 8 cm (Fig. 14:2; № 09-29) and 9.5 cm (Fig. 13:13; № 09-55).

The other fragments of the points cannot be typologically defined (Fig. 8:3; 9:17; 10:9; 11:15; 13:14; 14:4; №№ 08-17, 39, 61, 76, 09-30, 54).

There were two *razors* (Figs. 12:1, 2; №№ 09-46, 49) found at the site. The razors have blades of a crescent shape up to 3.5 cm wide. M. Schmiedehelm and U. Salo call these objects “disc knives” (Шмидехельм, 1955, с. 82, 151).

The agricultural tools include a *grass chopper* (Russian *kosar'*; Estonian *vikatmuga* or “knife-scythe” according to the terminology of S. Laul and E. Tõnison), or a sickle-shaped knife of variant Б according to R. S. Minasyan (Минасян, 1978, р. 78, Fig. 2, Б). The tool has survived almost intact; the length of the cutting part is no less than 22 cm; the tang is protruding at an angle of about 135°, broken off (Fig. 12:3; № 09-69).

*The knives* are preserved only fragmentarily; their backs are straight, slightly curved or humped (Figs. 8:5; 9:15; 11:13; 14; 16; 13:17, 18; №№ 08-5, 20, 36, 48, 56, 70, 74, 09-2, 9, 14, 33, 50, 70, etc.).

*Awls* (6 items) are pointed at the two ends and of a round or square cross-section (Fig. 8:4; 9:16; 11:11, 12; 13:16; №№ 08-8, 10, 43, 75, 09-10, 20). One of the tetrahedral objects is twisted in the middle part of the preserved cross-section. Two items have survived completely with the lengths of 9.6 and 11 cm.

There was found *one sewing needle* 11 cm long (Fig. 14:1; № 09-56).

The collection includes a *gold-glass bead* (Fig. 9:11; № 08-1). Gold-glass beads are typical finds at cemeteries with enclosures in north-eastern Estonia.

*Pottery* is represented by few fragments. In the western corner of the excavated area at least nine fragments of a single vessel were uncovered (Fig. 14:6–8; №№ 09-13, 18, 22-26, 51, 61). The vessel had a straight rim and a flat bottom. The fragments of the upper part of the vessel have a smooth surface and those of the wall – hatched; the surface of the near-bottom part is grid-patterned. The belonging of the sherds to a single vessel was defined on the basis of the similarity of the clay of the fragments. One hatched fragment of the vessel was found on the surface of the cemetery (Fig. 14:11; № 08-73).

In the Appendix, the plan of the findspots is discussed. It is noteworthy that within the confines of each enclosure, practically all the categories of artefacts are represented – ornaments, household utensils and weaponry.

**Surface finds.** The cemetery itself was revealed due to the surface materials collected by local residents in the field. Afterwards the site was subjected to purposeful destruction which yielded additional finds. The objects obtained from the site before carrying out archaeological investigations (145 items in all) were given to assistants of the Kingisepp Archaeological Expedition of IIMK RAS.

These finds included 57 fibulae attributed to two groups: eye brooches (Augenfibeln – group III according to O. Almgren) and profiled fibulae (group V according to O. Almgren). The eye fibulae (38 items in total) belong to all the three series: the main (8 items) – A46, A50, A51, A52, A53; Estonian (20 items) – A55, A56; the Prussian series (10 items) – A58, A59, A61; in addition, there are two pins from eye fibulae. Profiled fibulae are represented mostly by brooches (19 items) with laminar or bulk scuted shield-heads – derivatives of A124–125 (14 items), with a tapering foot A100 (1 item) and A109 (4 items). The collection includes bronze closed rings (20 items), bracelets (8 items), a clothing plaque in the form of a seven-segment rosette and a bimetal strap point. Iron objects are heads of javelins and spears (32 items); these are mostly well preserved and are close to types V and VI according to V. Kazakevičius and particularly to types IV, V and X according to P. Kaczanowski (Казакявичюс, 1988, Fig. 19, fig. 21; Kaczanowski, 1995, Tab. VI:3–8, tab. X: 4–5). Also there are socketed axes (2 items),

knives with a straight or a slightly curving back (9 items), sickle-shaped knives (3 items).

**Chronology of the cemetery** (on the basis of finds from the excavations) is based on the dates of some fibulae of other archaeological cultures (Wielbark, Dollkeim/Kovrovo, Lithuanian burial grounds, etc.), chronology of the closest group of sites of stone burials with fences, i.e. cemeteries in north-eastern Estonia; dates of imports from the Upper Volga and Volga-Kama regions.

The most ancient finds from the excavation include a profiled fibula of A68/69 type (Fig. 13:1). It is possibly dated to phase B1–B2a (Щукин, 1994, Fig. 24; Wołagiewicz, 1995, s. 43). Eye fibulae of the Prussian series A57–58, A61 are dated to phases B2 and B2/C1–C1a (Щукин, 1994, Fig. 24; Wołagiewicz, 1995, S. 43–44; Nowakowski, 1996, S. 49).

The other types of the fibulae found – large eye-brooches and shield-head fibulae – are typical to the culture of stone cemeteries with fences (Fig. 9:1–3; 10:1; 14:9). The chronology of this culture practically has not been revised since the summarizing work of M. Schmiedehelm was published (1955). Basing on the appendices to this monograph (inventory lists of finds and plans of their findspots at the burial grounds of Tojla, Pada, Jābara B and Jābara C), we examined the quantity of associated finds of various categories of grave goods within the confines of single funerary enclosures (only finds from the inside of an enclosure were taken in account). As a result, several horizons with associated finds have been distinguished and their dating proposed (Юшкова, 2010 б). According to this working scheme, the large fibulae, which are derivatives from eye fibulae and shield-head brooches, are distributed at the second and third stages dated summarily to phases B2–C2a. However, taking in consideration the absence of other objects typical to the third stage (enamelled fibulae of the Türsamäe type, ladder brooches and lamellar bracelets with rounded terminals) among the materials from the cemetery of Kyorstovo 1, it seems that the chronological range of the specified large eye fibulae and shield-head ones can be limited to phases B2–B2/C1.

Direct parallels to the rosette-plaque and bird's foot plaque (Fig. 11:1, 2) can be found in the areas of the Dyakovo (basin of the Upper Volga, Mologa and

Moskva Rivers) and Pyanobor (or Cheganda; basin of the Middle Volga and the Kama region) cultures. The nearest sites where plaques of such a type have been found are the burial sites of the Mologa/Sheksna region: the “mortuary house” in kurgan 2 of Kurevanikha XX and one of the “mortuary houses” at the cemetery of Chagoda I (Башенькин, 1995, Fig. 2:8, 4:14, 5:7). In the Mologa/Sheksna region and in the Kama region these plaques are dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC – 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (Башенькин, 1995, с. 9–15; Генинг, 1988, Fig. 4).

Summarizing the available information, it seems possible to propose the general dating of the cemetery under consideration to phases B2 – B2/C1 (last third of the 1<sup>st</sup> – the turn between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD according to M. B. Shchukin). On the basis of the dates of the grave offerings it is difficult to draw definite conclusions as to the chronological sequence of the enclosures.

#### THE GENERAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE CEMETERY OF KYORSTOVO 1

The set of grave goods from Kyorstovo 1 is very similar to that from sites of north-eastern Estonia and south-western Finland. Typical artefacts are the eye and shield-head fibulae, bronze bracelets, rings, spacer-beads, iron knives, a gold-glass bead and ceramic fragments. Such finds as razors and the grass-chopper also have parallels at cemeteries of north-eastern Estonia. In Estonia, three razors have been found (the cemeteries of Jabara B, Purtse Matka and Türgsal). In two of the cases, the razors were found in association with eye fibulae (Hausmann, 1896, Taf. 1:42; Шмидехельм, 1955, с. 82, 151, Fig. 40:6). In Finland, crescent-shaped razors have been encountered in two complexes: Käsämäki and Saramäki (Salo, 1968, S. 158–159, Taf 22:2, Taf. 26:5). A grass-chopper similar to the find from Kyorstovo was found at the cemetery of Jabara B, in north-eastern Estonia, in enclosures together with eye fibulae of the Prussian series (Шмидехельм, 1955, с. 75–77; Laul, Tõnison, 1991, S. 90, Joon. 5). A sewing needle similar to the Kyorstovo one was uncovered at the cemetery of Pada, in north-eastern Estonia (Шмидехельм, 1955, Fig. 27:9). No parallels for the iron circle clasp have

been so far found among materials from other burial grounds.

In more eastern regions of the Finno-Ugric world, finds of imported objects at stone cemeteries with fences are extremely rare. In the cemetery of Kyorstovo 1, imports are represented by two seven-segmented rosette-plaques and a bird's foot plaque. Their parallels are found in the areas of the Dyakovo (basin of the Upper Volga, Mologa and Moskva Rivers) and Ryanobor (Cheganda) cultures (basin of the Middle Volga and the Kama region) (Генинг, 1988, Fig. 4). The closest analogues to these plaques have been uncovered at burial sites of the Mologa-Sheksna region (Башенькин, 1995, p. 9–15).

A peculiar feature of the cemetery of Kyorstovo 1, as compared with the materials from the eastern Baltic region, is an abundance of objects associated with the men's militarized subculture: spear and dart heads and axes. At cemeteries with fences in Estonia, finds of spears and darts are untypical (Lang, 2007, p. 216). An exception is only single spearheads uncovered at the burial grounds of Kohtla-Järve I (Шмидехельм, 1955, Fig. 32:4), Virunuk (Laul, 2001, Joon. 66), Vijmsi (Lang, 2007, Fig. 139:1). In addition, in Estonia there are known such single finds as a shield-boss (fragmentary) from the cemetery of Pada, an umbo and a shield handle at the cemetery of Jabara E (Шмидехельм, 1955, Fig. 30:11, 12, fig. 26:2, 3). Besides, in Estonia and Latvia, weaponry of the Roman period was found in hoards. These finds amount to no less than four in Estonia (Jaanits at al., 1982, Joon. 190, 191; Lang, 2007, p. 247, fig. 151) and five in Latvia (Urtāns, 1977, lpp. 244, att. 46:1–21, 47:4–6, 49:27–34, 51:10–14, 52:26, 57:1–24). The almost complete absence of weapons in burials throughout the Estonian territory is possibly explained by the fact that in the precedent culture of burials in stone cists, from which the culture of burials with fences takes its origins, it also was untypical to put weapons into the graves (Lang, 2007, p. 160). In stone burial grounds

in Finland, which seemingly must not be attributed to the culture of cemeteries with fences but represent a closely kindred cultural group, the presence of swords, heads of spears and darts, shield-bosses and axes is a common practice (Salo, 1968, Taf. 1–8, 13–23, 25–28, 30, 32–34, 37, 40, 43–46, 48–50).

The mostly widespread hypothesis on the ethnical belonging of the population of the stone cemeteries with fences, is that it was constituted by bearers of the Baltic-Finnish linguistic community (Напольских, 1997, с. 7; Кулешов, 2005, с. 190). This populace was the ancestors of certain Baltic-Finnish tribes known already in the later mediaeval period. The bearers of the local group of the culture of stone burial grounds with fences in the west of the Izhora Plateau possibly were the ancestors of the Votians. This supposition was first proposed by E. A. Ryabinin (1994; 2001, s. 15). The maximum area of settlement of the Votians, recorded by the mid – 19<sup>th</sup> century, remarkably coincides with the area of distribution of the sites (burial grounds, hoards and settlements) of the Roman period at the western and north-western edges of the Izhora Plateau. Among the Baltic-Finnish group of languages, the closest to the Votic language are Baltic-Finnish idioms of North-Eastern Estonia (now dialects of the Estonian) suggesting a direct genetic relation of the ancient Votians with the ancient Baltic-Finnish populace of north-eastern Estonia. Concerning the latter, two original tribal names are reconstructed: *\*viro* and *\*vakja/\*vatja*. The first ethnonym has survived until now in the historical name of eastern and north-eastern Estonia: *Virumaa* and in the Finnish *virolaiset* – “Estonians”. At the same time, the development of the variant *\*vakja* has resulted in the name of a tribal territory in the western and northern Lake Chudskoye region – *Waiga* in the “Livonian Chronicles” of Heinrich the Latvian (13<sup>th</sup> century), while *\*vatja* has developed to the Votian endoethnonym *vadja/vatja* (from which correspondingly the ancient Russian Vod' of chronicles is derived).

## APPENDIX.

### Findspots

(Fig. 7; cf. also the analysis of the artefacts through categories)

On the surface of the burial ground, before the beginning of the excavations, a fragment of an eye fibula (№ 08-71), a fragment of a bronze bracelet (№ 08-72) and a potsherd (№ 08-73) were found. In the ploughed layer, were found fragments of bronze spiral finger-rings (№ 08-3,21), fragmentary narrow thin bands (№ 08-4,27); iron objects: fragments of a knife (№ 08-5), socketed javelin-heads (№ 08-9, 15, 76), a knife with a humped back (№ 08-70), an awl (№ 09-20).

In enclosure I were found bronze objects: a closed wide-troughed finger-ring (№ 08-18), a spiral finger-ring with three coils (№ 08-28), a finger-ring in the form of an open hoop with overlapping terminals (№ 08-2), a spiral spacer-bead with two and 6.5 coils (№ 08-16, 37), a trihedral shield-head fibula (№ 08-52). During excavation of a spot of dense dark-gray loam sand, east of the enclosure, were found a bracelet in the form of an open loop made from a blank of round cross-section (№ 08-30), an open ring made from a blank of round cross-section (№ 08-55) and a fragment of a plaque (?) (№ 08-63).

In enclosure II, were found bronze artefacts: an eye-brooch of the Prussian series (№ 08-47), 2 eye-fibulae of the Estonian series (№ 08-49, 50), a complete spiral with the pin and the bow of a fibula (№ 08-46), fragments of spirals with the pin of a fibula (№ 08-53, 69), fragment of a band bracelet in the form of an unclosed ring with overlapping terminals (№ 08-26), a shackle with a fragment of a bow (№ 08-22), closed finger-ring of round cross-section (№ 08-51), a spiral finger-ring with 7.5 coils (№ 08-54), fragmentary finger-rings (№ 08-33, 59), temple rings (№ 08-13, 60), as well as a fragment of the point of a spear or a javelin (№ 08-39), a knife with a slightly curved back (№ 08-36), a knife with a straight back (№ 08-56), a fragment of an iron tetrahedral awl (№ 08-10) and a gold-glass bead (№ 08-1). West of the enclosure, at the boundary with the next (third) enclosure, were found the pin of a fibula (№ 08-19), a closed finger-ring of segmental cross-section (№ 08-6) and a spiral finger-ring with four coils (№ 08-25).

In enclosure III were found an eye fibula (№ 08-7), an unclosed finger-ring with overlapping tapering ends (№ 08-12), closed finger-rings with segmental cross-section (№ 08-14, 31), a triple-coiled spiral finger-ring (№ 08-24), temple rings (№ 08-32, 57), fragments of narrow thin bands (№ 08-45); iron objects: a fragmentary knife (№ 08-48), a socketed

spear-head (№ 08-23), a fragment of a javelin or spear head (№ 08-61). A fragment of a spiral covered with oxides of iron (№ 08-64) and a fragment of a finger-ring (№ 08-68) related with enclosures II or III were found during sieving of the soil.

In enclosure IV were found a bronze rosette-plaque (№ 08-29), a clothing plaque in the form of a bird's foot (№ 08-42), fragments of spiral finger-rings (№ 08-40, 09-42, 52, 62, 65, 66, 67), temple rings (№ 08-11, 41), a band bracelet in the form of an unclosed ring with overlapping ends (№ 08-44), a spiral spacer-bead with 10.5 coils (№ 08-58), a needle (№ 08-67; found during sieving of the soil), a spiral of an eye brooch (№ 09-45), two crescent-shaped iron razors (№ 09-46, 49), iron awls of tetrahedral (№ 08-43) and round (№ 08-8) cross-sections, a fragment of a knife with a slightly curved back (№ 08-20), small fragments of knives (№ 09-33, 34, 35, 47, 70, 73), a whetstone (№ 08-38). North of the enclosure was found a spear or javelin point (№ 08-17). During sieving of the deposits were found a spacer-bead (№ 08-65) and an annular finger-ring (№ 08-66) also related with enclosure III or IV. In the pit were found a grass-chopper (№ 09-69), a knife fragment (№ 09-70) and two unidentifiable iron objects (№ 09-53, 71).

West of enclosure IV (at a distance less than 3 m from the western wall of the enclosure) were found bronze objects: a heavily profiled fibula (№ 08-62), a closed finger-ring of segmental cross-section (№ 09-38), a five-coil spiral finger-ring (№ 09-57), fragments of unclosed finger-rings (№ 09-1, 4, 11, 64, 68), a flattened blank for an unclosed bracelet (?) (№ 09-60), a needle fragment (№ 09-44), a temple ring (?) (№ 09-21), a bracelet (№ 09-32), fragments of an unidentifiable object of bronze (№ 09-37) and objects of iron: an circle clasp (*šulgamo*) with the pin (the ring is of one and a half coils) (№ 09-6), a spearhead (№ 09-55) and a fragment of a spearhead (№ 09-30), a fragment of an awl (?) (№ 09-10), fragments of knives (№ 09-2, 5, 14, 31, 48, 50), a fragment of handmade pottery (№ 09-36).

In the western section of the excavation were found a spiral finger-ring (№ 09-58), three points of spears or javelins (№ 09-29, 43, 54), a sewing needle (№ 09-56), knife fragments (№ 09-12, 40), sherds of a handmade vessel with gridded and hatched patterns (№ 09-13, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 51, 61), a fragment of some bronze object (№ 09-27) and two fragments of handmade pottery (№ 09-18, 36).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Almgren O., 1897. Studien über Nordeuropäische Fibelformen der ersten nachchristlichen Jahrhunderte mit Berücksichtigung der provinzialrömischen und südrussischen Formen. Stockholm.
- Beckmann Ch., 1969. Metallfingerringe der römischen Kaiserzeit im freien Germanien. In: *Saalburg Jahrbuch*, XXVI, S. 7–106.
- Jaanits L., Laul S., Lõugas V., Tõnisson E., 1982. Eesti esiajalugu. Tallinn.
- Juškova M., 2006. North-Western Russia before its Settling by Slavs (8<sup>th</sup> Century BC – 8<sup>th</sup> Century AD). In: *The Slavization of the Russian North. Mechanisms and Chronology*. Ed. by Juhani Nuorluoto. *Slavica Helsingiensia*, 27. Helsinki, p. 141–154.
- Kaczanowski P., 1995. Klasyfikacja grotów broni drzewcowej kultury przeworskiej z okresu rzymskiego. Kraków.
- Lang V., 2007. The Bronze and Early Iron Ages in Estonia. Tartu.
- Laul S., Tõnisson E., 1991. Muistsete sirpide ja vikatite kujunemisloost eestis. In: *Muinasaja teadus*, I. Arheoloogiline kogumik. Tallinn, p. 75–91.
- Nowakowski W., 1996. Das Samland in der römischen Kaiserzeit und seine Verbindungen mit dem römischen Reich und der barbarischen Welt. Veröffentlichung des Vorgesellschaftlichen Seminars Marburg. 10. Marburg–Warszawa.
- Salo U., 1968. Die frühromische Zeit in Finnland. Suomen muinaismuistoyhdistyksen aikakauskirja. 67. Helsinki.
- Urtāns V., 1977. Senākie depoziṭi Latvijā. Rīga.
- Wołagiewicz R., 1995. Lubowidz. Monumenta archaeologica Barbarica. T. 1. Kraków.
- Башенькин А. Н., 1995. Культурно-исторические процессы в Молого-Шекснинском междуречье в конце I тыс. до н. э. — I тыс. н. э. In: *Проблемы истории Северо-Запада Руси. Славяно-русские древности*. Вып. 3. СПб., с. 3–29.
- Генинг В. Ф., 1988. Этническая история Западного Приуралья на рубеже нашей эры. Пьяноборская эпоха III в. до н. э. — II в. н. э. Москва.
- Казакявичюс В., 1988. Оружие балтских племён II–VIII веков на территории Литвы. Вильнюс.
- Кулешов В. С., 2005. Памятники культуры Tarandgräber на северо-западе Европейской части России. In: *Альманах молодых археологов*. СПб., с. 183–198.
- Минасян Р. С., 1978. Классификация серпов Восточной Европы железного века и раннего средневековья. In: *АСГЭ*, 19. Ленинград, с. 74–85.
- Напольских В. В., 1997. Введение в историческую уралистику. Ижевск.
- Рябинин Е. А., 1987. Об исследовании средневековых могильников в Ленинградской области. In: *Известия Академии Наук Эстонской ССР*, 36/4. Таллин. с. 408–410.
- Рябинин Е. А., 1994. К проблеме этногенеза восточных славян. In: *Проблемы этнической истории и межэтнических контактов прибалтийско-финских народов*. СПб, с. 23–29.
- Рябинин Е. А., 2001. Водская земля Великого Новгорода. СПб.
- Сорокин П. Е., 2008. Находки римского времени на Северо-Западе России. In: *Археология и история Пскова и псковской земли. Материалы LIII заседания*. Псков, с. 312–324.
- Сорокин П. Е., Шаров О. В., 2008 а. О новых находках римской эпохи на Северо-Западе. In: *Археологическое наследие Санкт-Петербурга Древности Ижорской земли*. Вып. 2. СПб, с. 167–201.
- Шаров О. В., Сорокин П. Е., 2008 б. Комплекс находок римского времени у деревни Удосоново Ленинградской области. In: *Вестник Санкт-Петербургского Университета*. Сер. 2, вып. 4, с. 162–169.
- Шмидехельм М. Х., 1955. Археологические памятники периода разложения родового строя на северо-востоке Эстонии. Таллин.
- Щукин М. Б., 1994. На рубеже эр. СПб.
- Юшкова М. А., 2010 а. Могильник Керстово 1 – уникальный памятник эпохи римских влияний на Северо-Западе России. In: *Вестник Санкт-Петербургского Государственного Университета*. СПб.: Издательство СПбГУ. Сер. 2, вып. 3, с. 46–52.
- Юшкова М. А., 2010 б. Новая группа памятников культуры могильников с каменными оградками (die Tarandgräberkultur) на западе Ижорской возвышенности. In: *Диалог культур и народов средневековой Европы*. СПб.: Дмитрий Буланин. С. 316–329.
- Юшкова М. А., Кулешов В. С., 2010. Кёрстово 1 – новый могильник эпохи римских влияний на северо-западе России. In: *Лесная и лесостепная зоны Восточной Европы в эпоху римских влияний и Великого переселения народов*. Тула. Конф. 2, вып. 1, с. 231–253.

## **KERSTOVO 1: NAUJAS ROMĖNIŠKŲJŲ ĮTAKŲ LAIKOTARPIO KAPINYNAS ŠIAURĖS VAKARŲ RUSIJOJE**

Marija Juškova, Viačeslav Kulešov

### **Santrauka**

Straipsnyje aptariama Kerstovo (Kiorstovo) kapinyno, priklausančio vadinamųjų akmeninių kapinynų su aptvarais (*die Tarandgräber*) kultūrinei grupei, medžiaga. Kapinynas yra Ižoros aukštumos vakariniame pakraštyje, ariamame lauke. Kapinynas buvo suardytas, jame aptikta degintinių žmonių kauliukų, įvairių atsitiktinių daiktų, skiriamų geležies amžiaus vadinamajam romėniškųjų įtakų laikotarpiui.

Tyrimų metu aptiktos keturios akmenų konstrukcijos – aptvarai, kuriuose galėjo būti palaidota apie 35–38 žmo-

nes su įvairiomis įkapėmis. Tarp jų aptikta labai profiliuotų (A 68-69 tipo) prūsų serijos akinių segių, juostinių apyrankių, žiedų, įvairių papuošalų dalių, ginklų (ietigalių), darbo įrankių (peilių tiesiomis ir lenktomis nugarėlėmis, ylių), kitų buities daiktų. Pagal įkapes Kerstovo kapinynas datuojamas B2–B2/C1 periodu, t. y. I m. e. a. paskutiniu trečdaliu – II–III a. riba.

Etniniu požiūriu kapinynas skiriamas Baltijos finougramams (vodų tautelės protėviams).

*Įteikta 2011 m. balandžio mėn.*