

ახალი არქეოლოგიური აღმოჩენები სოფელ მახოში

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ნახევარი საუკუნუს მანძილზე მეტად საინტერესო საველე არქეოლოგიური კვლევა-ძიებანი განხორციელდა სამხრეთ-დასავლეთ საქართველოს ზღვისპირეთში.

ეს განსაკუთრებით ითქმის კლასიკური და ელინიზმის ეპოქის ნეკროპოლების მიმართ. შეისწავლებოდა ადრეშუასაუკუნეების სამარ-ხეხი. ბოლო წლებამდე შემთხვევითი აღმოჩენების ამარა ვიყავით გვიანანტიკური, რომაული ხანის სამარხეულ ძეგლებთან მიმართებაში. ახლა ეს თეთრი ლაქაც თანდათანობით ივსება. მიმდინარე წლის ივნისის თვეში ხელვაჩაურის მუნიციპალიტეტის სოფელ მახოში მიკვლეულ იქნა ახ. წ. III ს-სა და IV ს-ის დამდეგის სამაროვანი. განხორციელდა სადაზვერვო გათხრითი სამუშაოები. შევისწავლეთ ამ ეპოქის ხუთი სამარხი. სამარხები ცალკეულ ჯგუფებადაა განლაგებული. თითქოსდა ისინი საგანგებოდ გაჭრილი ოთხკუთხა განივკვეთიანი 30 სმ სიფართის მქონე თხრილით არიან შემოფარგლული. მიცვალებულები დაკრძალული ჩანან მოხრილ პოზაში მარჯვენა თუ მარცხენა გვერდზე, თავით ჩრდი-ლოეთისაკენ. მოპოვებულია საინტერესო და მრავალფეროვანი მასალა, ესენია: წელშეზნეილი კოლხური ამფორები, სამეურნეო ნაკეთობის ადგილოვრივი თუ რომანიზებული ფორმები. იმპორტული წითელ-ლაკიანი ლანგარი, მინის ჭურჭელი, რომაული მონეტები (მე-3 სამარხში ამათი რიცხვი 41-ს შეადგენს), ვერცხლის სამაჯური, მშვილდსაკინძები და ბეჭდები. რკინის სატევარი, ხიშტისებური იარაღი (მუჯირა) და ცული. ზომიერად იყო წარმოდგენილი მინისა და მინისებური პასტის მძივები, მათ შორის იშვიათი ნიმუშები. გრძელდება სამარხში კაჟის ჩაყოლების ტრადიცია.

დაახლოებით 700 მეტრის მოშორებით მიკვლეულია სამაროვნის თანადროული დასახლების ნამოსახლარების ნაშთებიც.

ახალი არქეოლოგიური აღმოჩენები მახოში მრავალმხრივ მნიშვნე-ლოვანია. სამარხთა თანადროული ოქროს ნივთების აღმოჩენის ფაქტი სოფელ მახოს სხვა ადგილიდან ადრეც იყო ცნობილი, გარდა ამისა, ძეგლი მდებარეობს საყოველთაოდ ცნობილ გონიო-აფსაროსთან ახლოს.

დაგეგმილია მომავალში არქეოლოგიური გათხრების გაგრძე-ლება, როგორც სამაროვნის, ასევე განძის აღმოჩენის ადგილებშიაც.

New Archaeological Reveals in Village Makho

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Interesting excavation works have been conducted along south-western shore of the Georgian Black Sea coastline for last fifty years. One should mention excavations and researches in Pichvnari, Tsikhisdziri, Chakvi, Batumi Fortress and Gonio-Apsaros Fortress. Our national as well as human civilization treasure in general, have been enriched with cultural features of different ages, particularly graves dated back to pre-Ancient, Classic, Greek, and Early Mid ages. Except some spontaneous reveals there has been remained uncovered necropolis of Late Ancient and Roman periods. Archaeological excavations and researches of recent years, particularly the Makho expedition in 2010, have filled in the gap.

Village Makho is situated within Khelvachauri Municipality (Adjara Region, Georgia) on the left bank of the River Chorokhi. Graves were found along a slope hill. A canal was dug on its south part down to the north 14x10m. Here is the plan (see Pic.1)

NO I	1-5; 11-15; 21-25
NW	1-5; 11-15
SO	1, 2; 11, 12; 21, 22
SW	1, 2; 11, 12

There was found only clay pots in graves NO 2-5, 12-15, 22-25 and NW 3-5, 13-15. There was found a 30cm-width canal along the excavated area, which considered surrounding five graves. The excavations were continued southwards along SO 1, 2, 11, 12, 21, 22 and SW 1, 2, 11, 12 taking upper humusive layer. Three other graves were found there. Due to time shortage, because of launching the Pichvnari expedition, the research of the graves was laid up till next year. See the description of the graves below.

Grave 1. North-west down, size: 1.25x0.75x0.65m. There was found so called the Tsebelda-type jug, and a small pot and another jug nearby, also the so called tangerine-type glass beads, and Roman silver and copper coins. There was found a bulb-shape glass vessel at foot area and damaged coins at the right shoulder area (see Pic.2).

Grave 2. Northward down. It was situated westward to Grave 1. At first its size was revealed within: 0.6x0.4x0.65m, but later appeared in wider shape with 1.3m length and 0.75 width very close to Grave 1. The grave was full of broken clay pots

and charcoal pieces. There was found a glass vessel, clay vase on a leg, and a bowl to the north, and a silver fibula, damaged coins, bracelet and ring to the east. It seems that the dead had its hand close to the head. There was found two iron lances, axe, a piece of flint, knife and soars tip to eastward (see Pic.3,4).

Grave 3. North-westward down, size: 1.5x0.8x0.65m. It seems that the person was buried bow on a side. There was found a jaw and bigger tun-shape fibula. Most of items were reveled nearby the head area. There was also found 4 silver and 37 copper coins, and a silver fibula and 4 beads between teeth and coins there. There was a silver ring and piece of flint at the left shoulder. There was a small bowl put into a bigger one together with a couple of glass cups and a bulb-shape glass vessel (see Pic.5).

Grave 4. From north-eastward to south-westward, size: 1.25x0.8x1.15m. There was revealed a Colchian bow amphora and clay jug to the west (see Pic.6).

Grave 5. Round-shape with 70sm diameter, 1.3m depth, no real size was revealed. There was only found bigger pieces of charcoal and stones. It seems they turned brown because of fire. It could be considered as a crematory grave (see Pic.1).

Grave Features. Traditionally, pottery items form a part of the grave features. The Colchian bow amphora has been the only one so far (see Pic.6/2). There has been revealed few clay pots, and one of them remained totally saved.

Next group is formed with clay jugs. Special attention should be paid to the jugs found in graves 1 and 4 (see Pics.2/3; 6/1).

Similar jugs dated back to early mid centuries were revealed in Tsikhisdziri (*Inaishvili, 1993:87, Pic.33/1*), Pichvnari (*Kakhidze, Vickers, Mamuladze, 2000:75, Pic.4, Tab. III/1,2*), Tsebelda (*Trapsh, 1971:133, Tab. XXI/3; Gunba, 1978:68-69, Tab.XXI/3; XXV/3; XXVII/2, etc.*).

A clay vase on a leg found in grave 2 seems rather interesting (see, Pic.3/6). Such vase is innovation for pottery along the eastern Black Sea littoral. Its analogues are revealed in Kapandibi, Ureki, etc.

There was revealed a clay bowl (see, Pic. 3/5). The clay bowl found in grave 3 is absolutely different. Its basement had three feet with a hill in the center (see, Pic. 5/8). It is rather interesting that bowls with similar basement were revealed in graves of Greek period (*Kakhidze, Vashakidze, 2010:30, Pic. 88/6, Tab. 150/8*). They seem to be similar to red gloss features.

Red gloss import vase was found only one item (see, Pic. 5/7).

Most of revealed glass items were cups. One of them is well-preserved (see, Pic.

5/9). The second cup was only partly restored (see, Pic. 3/7). The mentioned features have great many analogues (*Alekseeva, Sorokina, 2007:52, Pic. 36/3; Rutti, 1991:73, Tab. 65/1410, etc.*). S. Isings groups such cups into 106/a group (*Isings, 1957:127*).

The third cup was almost restored (see, Pic. 5/11).

Next group was formed with bulb-shape glass vessels. Similar features were revealed among Rein and Gallia ones (*Kunina, 1984:157*), also in Pitsunda (*Lortkipanidze, 1991:140, Tab. LXXII*) and Village Ureki, Lanchkhuti Municipality, where was spontaneously found well-remained glass vessel. Similarity was also found with glass items of Panticapeon at the Hermitage, Russia. They were considered to originate from one of the biggest workshop of Gallia, first of all the so called "Agrippina's Colony" (*Kunina, 1984:160*). One can widely find simple as well as ornamented (cut, gloss, script) glass features analogues in Germany (*Isings, 1957:121-122, form.103*). The same could be said about France (*Morin-Jan, 1913:95-96, fig.110, 111*).

Among other features here should be mentioned perfume glass revealed in grave 1 (see, Pic. 2/2).

Next group of the Makho Features were formed with clothes. There were revealed fibulas in two graves. One of them was fully restored (see, Pic. 3/1). Another one was a bit smaller (see, Pic. 5/6). Similar fibulas have had great many analogues. Similar fibula was found among grave features revealed in one of destroyed graves in Village Kapandibi, nearby Village Makho. The same could be said about grave 73 in Tsikhisdziri (*Inaishvili, 1993:89, Tab. XXXIV/3*). Here should also be mentioned Ureki (*Lekvinadze, 1975:199, Pic. 1, d, e, i*) and Pitsunda (*Tolordava, 1977:4*) among the Black Sea littoral, and Chkhorotsku (*Apkhazava, 1979:9, 104-106*) and Tsebelda and KIdeeti (*Trapsh, 1971, Tab. L1,1; Voronov, Yuschin, 1979:196, Tab. 9/29; Gamkrelidze, 1982:12, 14, 16, 17; Lomtadze, 1957:69-70, Tab. XII/1,3*) among Colchian Regions, and also in eastern Georgia (*Apakidze, Nikolaishvili, Melitauri, Sikharulidze, Sadradze, Dzneladze, Davlianidze, Gavashvili, Iremashvili, Bibiluri, Glonti, 1982:8-9*). The Makho features have had worth analogues in north Black Sea littoral and Europe that could not be stated here (*Ambroz, 1966:251-252, Tab. II/6-8; Tab. III/2, 6-8; Vyazmitina, 1972:131, Pic. 65/6, 8, 11, 59, 85, 366; Tab. 20/4; 157/11; 176/4*). Part of scientists date such fibulas back to 2nd-3rd cc AD (*Apkhazava, 1979:9; Gamkrelidze, 1987:104-105; Trapsh, 1971:171-178, Tab. 17.6, 9, 14*) but others consider them 3rd-4th cc AD (*Voronov and others, 1979:184-187, 189, 191, 193, 197, Pic. 2, 24, 46, 50-51; Apakidze and others, 1982:8, 9; Gamkrelidze, 1982:12, 14, 16, 17*).

There are two silver rings revealed there. One was well-preserved (see, Pic. 3/3), another was a bit damaged (see, Pic. 5/5).

There was revealed only one silver bracelet. Its narrowed ends were crossed in four lines like vine, thus made it available to widen its size (see, Pic. 3/4).

The Makho bracelets have great many analogues throughout ancient times. They have been revealed in several regions of Georgia, particularly in Kapandibi, Ureki (*Khoshtaria, 1955*), Chkhorotsku (*Khoshtaria, 1941:71, Tab.I*), Bori (*Ugreldize, 1967:57, Tab. 1/49*), Sokhta (*Slanov, 1976:176, Tab. XXII, 21*), Aghayan (*Mirianashvili, 1983:63, Tab. 1/b*), Armaziskhevi Graves (*Apakhidze and others, 1982:98-99, Tab. 1XXXVIII, 3, 3/a*), and also in Armenia (*Esayan, A. Kalantaryan, 1976:35-36, Tab. III, 1*), North Caucasus, Crimea, Russian steppes and forests (*A. Simonenko, I. Marcenko, N. Limberis, 2008, Tab. 83/11*).

Beads were mainly made of glass and glass-type pasta of tangerine shape (see, Pic. 2/1), one was yellow (see, Pic. 5/1), and rest three ones were black (see, Pic. 5/1). Other black round-shape beads had white and gray stones of different size (see, Pic. 5/2). There was only one tun-shape bigger bead with blue rings over brown background and yellow zigzag strips at the edges and light blue one at the centre (see, Pic. 5/3). Similar beads were revealed along lower Danube on the Zolotobalkovski grave (*Vyazmitina, 1972:33-34, Pic. 13.4*). Beads decorated with coloured thread were spread in later Greek period Mokena (*Vyazmitina, 1972:33-34, Pic. 13/4*), and Halschtadt culture (*Kisa, 1908:870*).

Small part of funeral items form iron made tools, particularly iron lances (see, Pic. 4/2). Tradition of keeping iron soear was preserved at that period. There were revealed two iron lances in the first grave and one in another. There was also revealed a knife and axe (see, Pic. 4/1).

It is rather interesting there have been revealed flint and obsidian tools there (see, Pic. 3/2, 5/4). This ancient tradition seems to be popular in south-western Georgian Black Sea littoral during ancient and early mid centuries. Flint tools had been appeared among funeral items since ancient times. It was believed that flint was useful in next world to get fire (*Vyazmitina, 1972:190, Pic. 40/6, p.120, Pic. 19/5*).

There was also revealed Charon Oboli there. Six coins were silver, and the rest were copper. Silver coins were cut in Caesarea in Cappadocia in honour of Roman Emperor Septimus Severus (193-211). Copper coins were cut at different Roman treasures in honour of Emperor Probus (277-282) and Emperor Diocletian (284-305). Similar coins were found in Pichvnari (*Dundua, 1975:342, 364, 365*).

The expedition revealed remains of ancient settlements on land premise of one of the group member workers David Sharadze. The premise is situated 700m eastward to the graves. Most of revealed items were brown plane amphora hands. Some of them were decorated with notches. There were also revealed some basements there. There was collected some fragments of a pitcher. There were dozens of broken pieces and a kind of wretstone. Another worker Otar Sharadze confirmed existence of broken pottery in the premise of well-known Makho golden treasure was found. There was revealed pitcher mouth and body fragments dated back to Roman times (see, Pic. 7).

All abovementioned researched graves dated back to 3rd century AD.

It could be concluded that preliminary investigation filed works revealed rather interesting results. It is important to note that list of graves of south-western Georgian Black Sea littoral dated back to Classic, Greek and Early Mid centuries were enriched with monuments of Late Ancient and Roman times. It is essential to highlight that quite rich treasure spontaneously revealed in Village Makhi, Gonio, and Tsikhisdziri prove significant role of south-western Georgia in process of formation of Lazika Kingdom. Here should be noted that the monument is situated on the left bank of the River Chorokhi nearby well-known Gonio-Apsaros Fortress. Besides Makho, similar features were spontaneously found in villages Kapandibi, Zanakidzebi, and Ureki. It is intended to continue archaeological excavations in Village Makho in future.

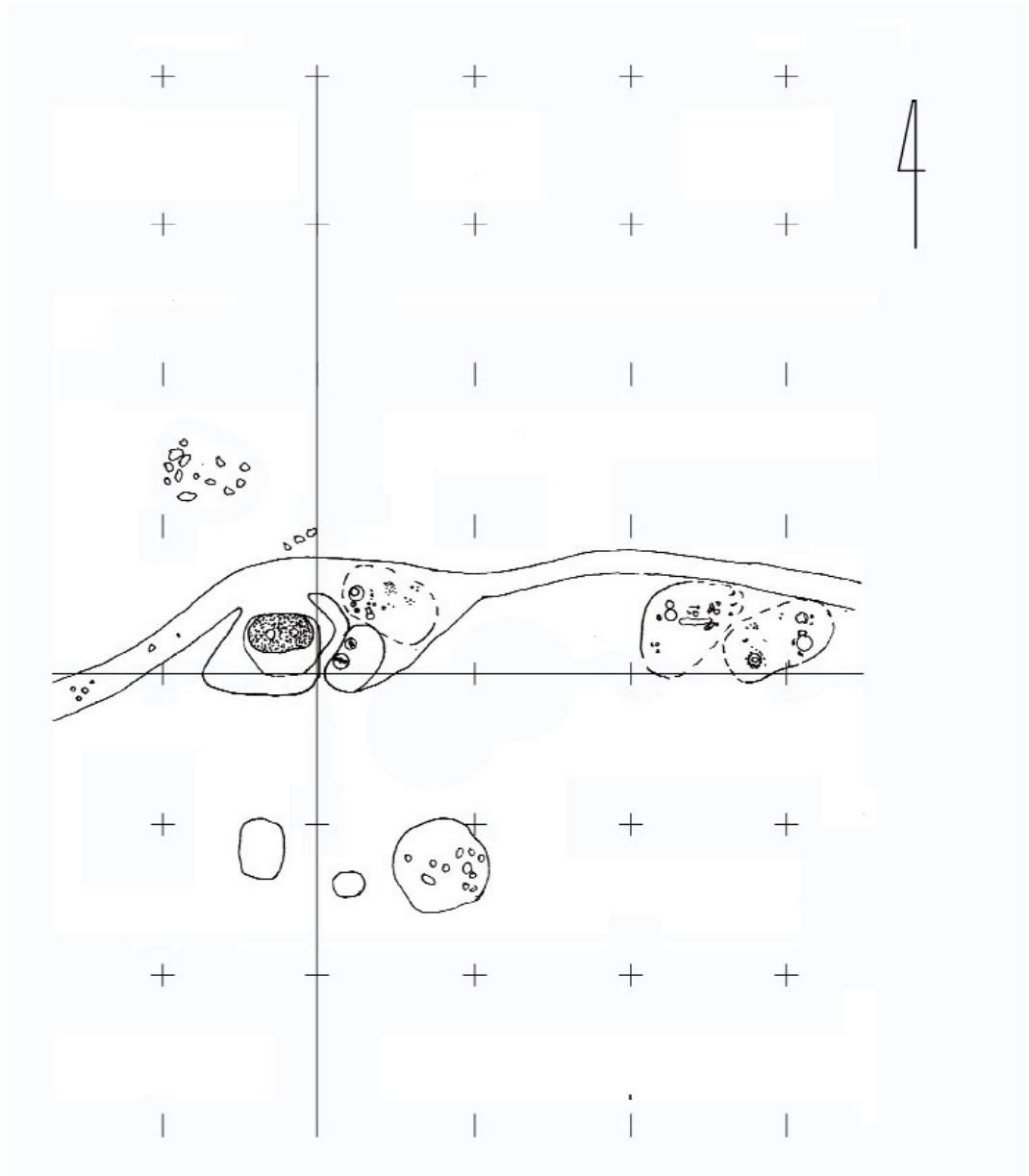


Fig. 1

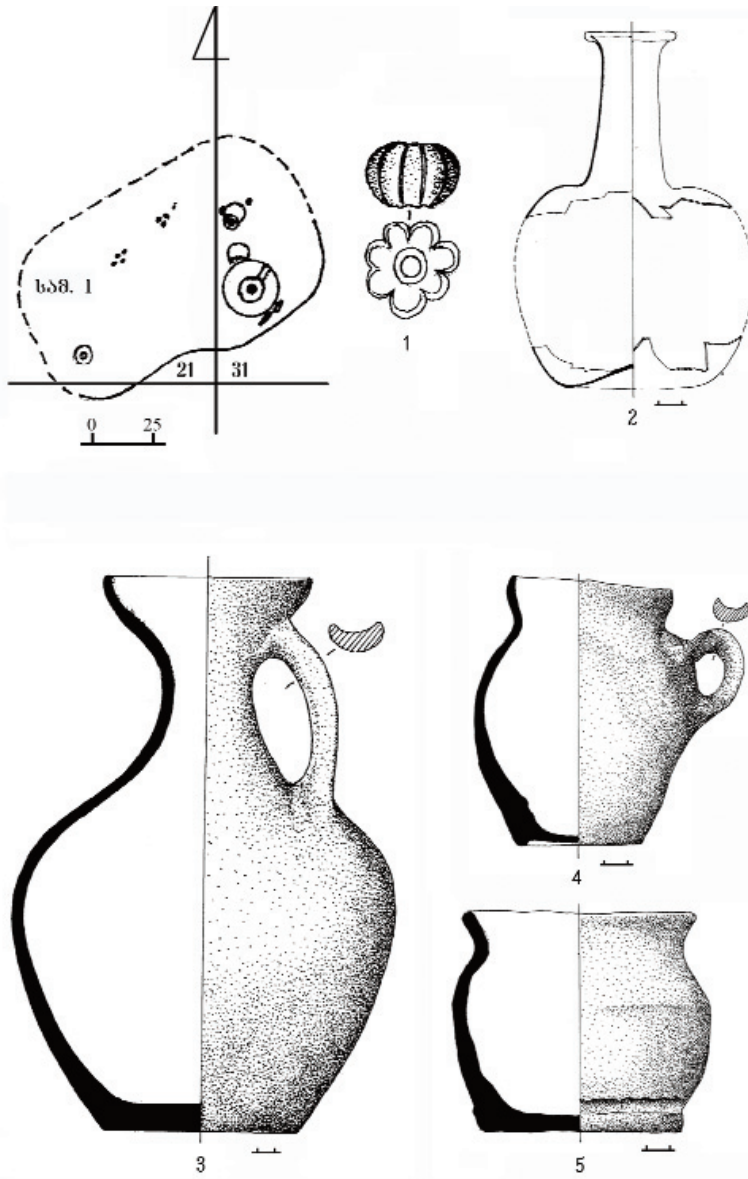


Fig. 2

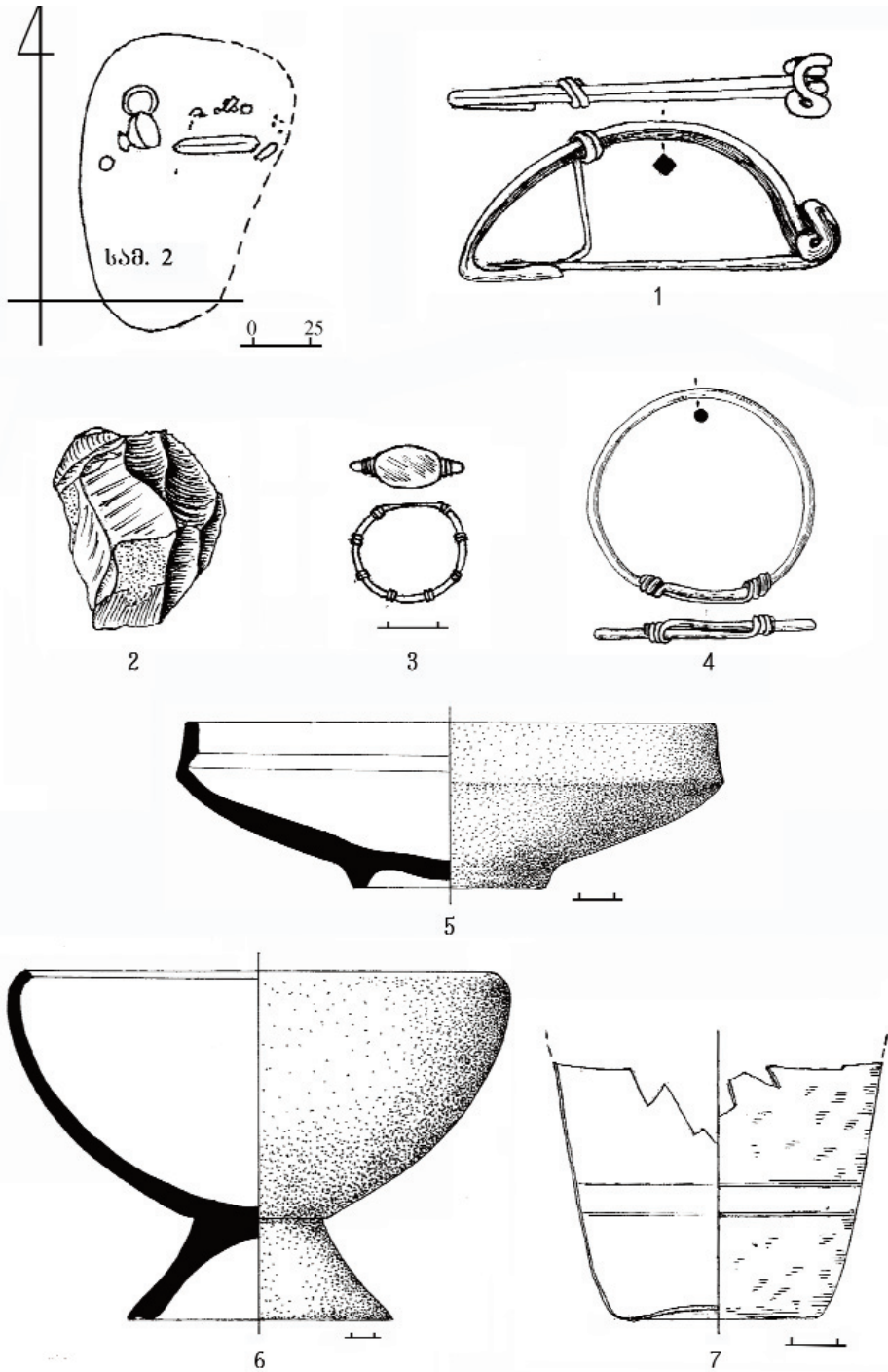


Fig. 3

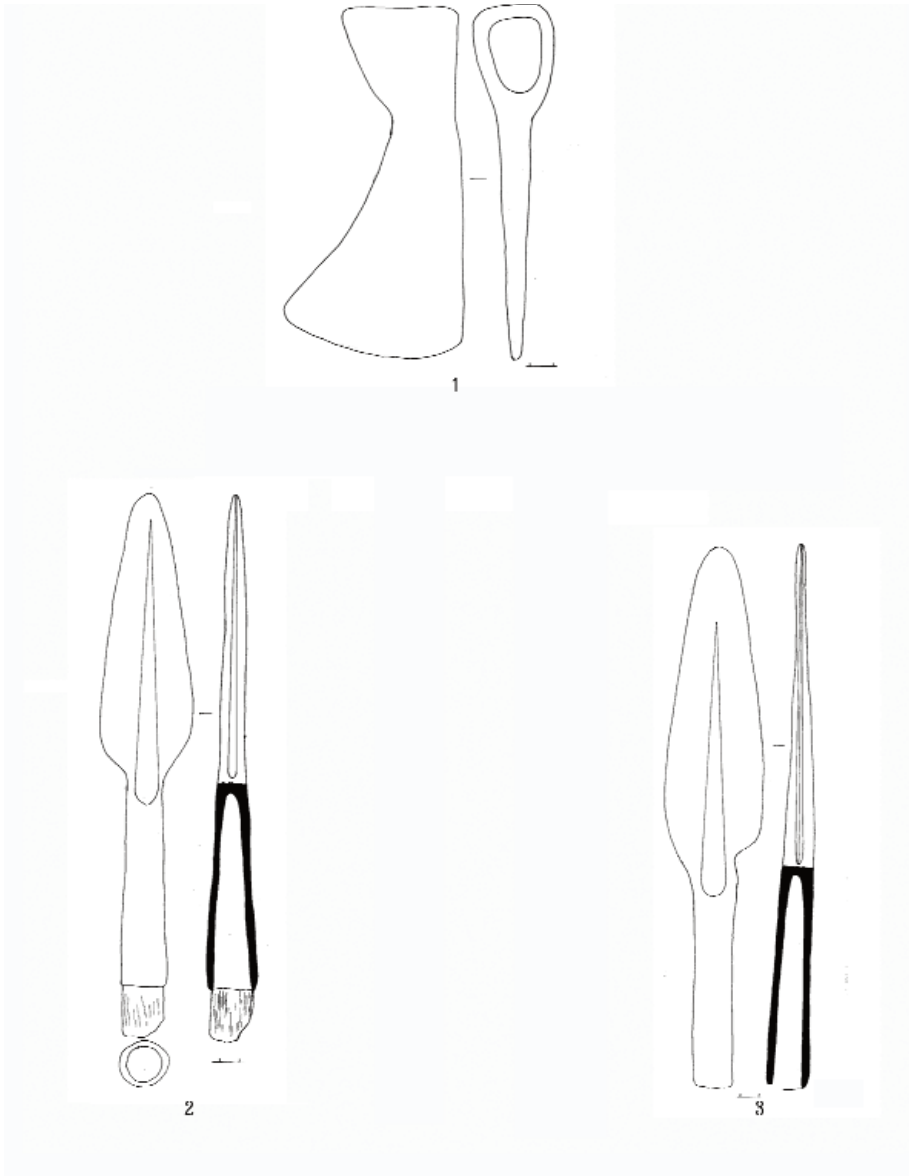


Fig. 4

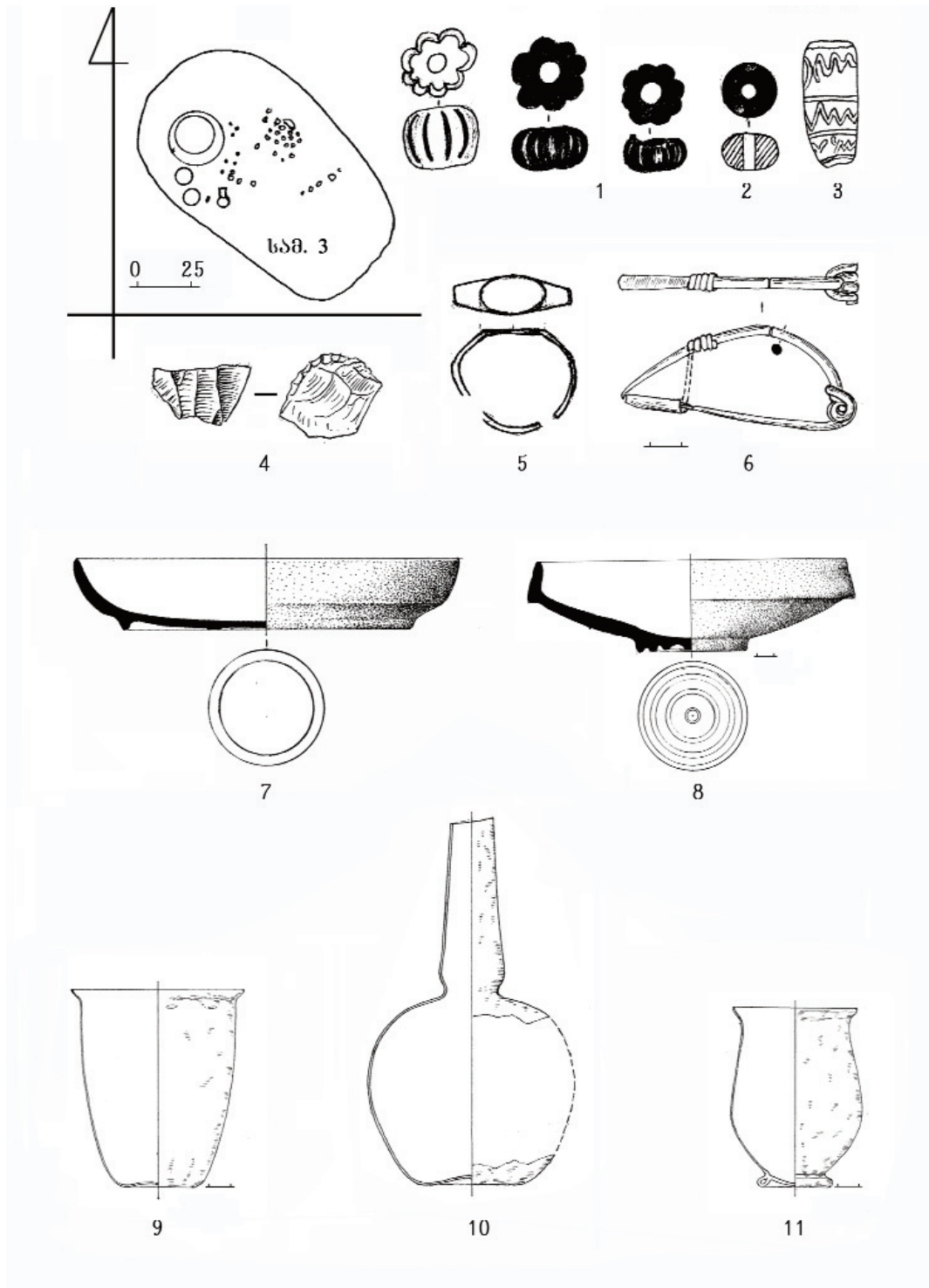


Fig. 5

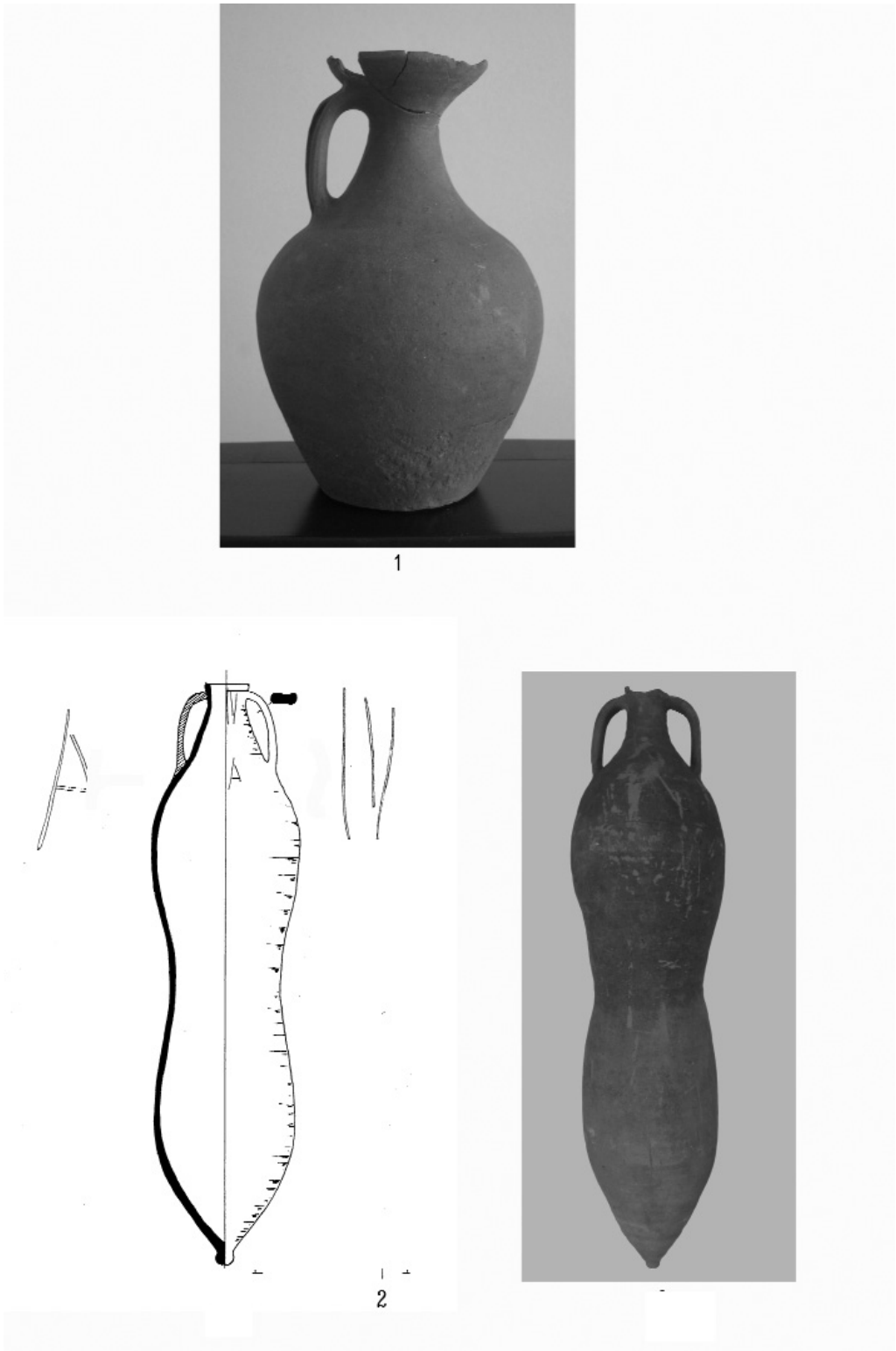


Fig. 6

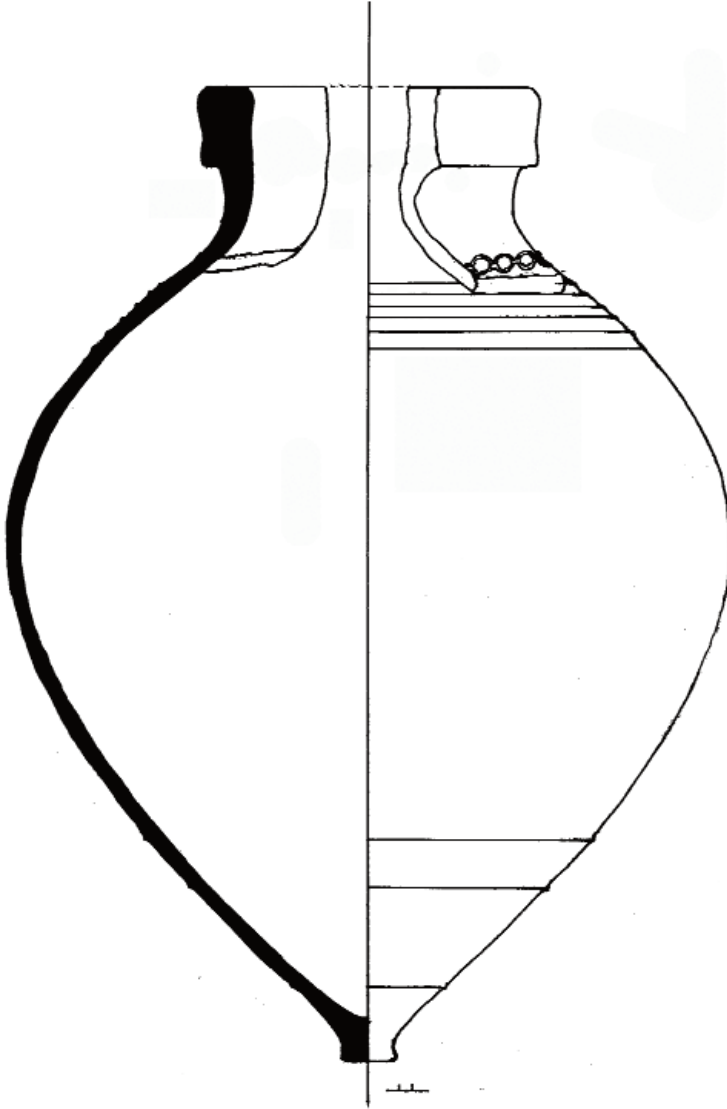


Fig. 7

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