

VEKERZUG CULTURE AND NEW FINDS OF SCYTHIAN AKINAKAI IN MORAVIA

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The first documented discoveries of Scythian bladed weapons generally coincide with the first discoveries in the Scythian archeology. They belong even to 18th century (e. g. excavations of Litaya Mogyla lead by general Alexey Melgunov in 1763 (Тункина 1998, 12-21)) and the first half of the 19th century (excavations of Kul-Oba and Kekuvatskyi aristocratic barrows in Crimea in 1830, Alexandropol barrow in 1852) (Алексеев, Мурзин, Ролле 1991, 7). Exactly after the excavations of the Kul-Oba the pursuit of spectacular finds begins, there are a lot of officials involved in archaeological research, often without special scientific training (Формозов 1961, 54). However, at the beginning of 19th century Russian Empire formed the first archaeological museums and the first professional archaeologists (Лебедев 1992, 61). In 1846 it Imperial Russian Archaeological Society was founded, but for the first 25 years of its existence the excavations were rarely organized, without any definite plan (Веселовский 1900, 207). Therefore, the first systematic publication of Scythian weapons date back no later than the 1870s and relate primarily to the activities of the scientific center of the Russian Empire – Imperial Archaeological Commission (founded in 1859) and the study of burial mounds like Ostraya Tomakovskaya Mogyla in 1861 and Chertomlyk in 1862-1863 (ДСГ 1872, 59, 74).

However, the second half of the 19th is the time of the first discoveries on the western frontiers of Scythia. At the end of the 1840s, in Lower Silesia, at Plohmühle village (*now* Pło in Strzelin county, Lower Silesian voivodeship, Poland) a sword with a blade fragment was found. Unfortunately, the artifact was lost and now is known only from a sketch made in 1885 (Jahn 1928, 15, fig. 3). In

1882 the famous hoard of jewelry from Vetttersfelde (*now* Witaszkowo in Krosno Odrzańskie county, Lubusz voivodeship, Poland) was discovered, which included a dagger decorated with gold (Furtwaengler 1883, 4). In the late 19th - early 20th century the Catalogue of prehistoric collection of the Budapest Museum was published, which included Scythian swords and daggers from Árdánháza (*now* Ardanovo in Irshava district, Zakarpatska region, Ukraine), Nógrád County and Piliny (Hampel 1876, 23, 49, 129, fig. 7, 34, 127), a burial with a sword in Gyöngyös was excavated in 1907 (Márton 1908, táb. II/5) and a dagger from Szirmabesenyő was discovered (Reinecke 1897, áb. 10). Around the same time of discovery belongs the find from Beregszász (*now* Beregove in Zakarpatska region, Ukraine) in Transcarpathia (Hampel 1893, áb. 3) and unique Scythian dagger found in Serbia from Vršac (*Romanian* Vârșeț) (Milleker 1898, áb. 1).

The interest in Scythian weapons resumed in 1950-1960s and were published several items like akinakes from burial 120 from Szentes-Vekerzug (Parducz 1955, 5, fig. 3, pl. XIII/2), Tarpa (Párducz 1968, 81, tab. XXI/5). Up until the 1970s a lot of strayfinds were introduced into scientific circuit – e. g. pommel from Bodzanowo (Zielonka 1952, ryc. 1), dagger from Łubnice (Bukowski 1977, tab. XII/1.) in Poland, Želiezovce in Slovakia (Bottyán 1955, tab. 36/4), Arad County in Romania (Buzdugan 1976, 240) and Penc (Patay 1955, 68), Tarnabod-Báb (Párducz 1969, táb. VII/1a, 1b) in Hungary. In 1984 Tibor Kemenczei published a special article dedicated to the Scythian bladed weapons from the collection of the National Museum in Budapest: from Timár, Tiszabercel, Tiszadob (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county), Borsod (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county), burial from Nagykáta (Pest county) and Veszprém (Kemenczei 1984, Abb. 1/1, 4, 5; 2/2; 3/2, 3). Already in 2010s *Corpus* was supplemented by finding from

the Museum of Copper in Legnica (Lower Silesian Voivodeship, Poland) (Baron, Miazga 2013, 335, fig. 1) and a rich complex excavated near Bátmonostor in southern Hungary (Bács-Kiskun County) (Gyucha et al. 2015, 181, fig. 4/3).

In 2016 authors of this paper obtained information about three Scythian daggers from the territory of the Czech Republic (Moravia). They were found by unknown persons with the help of metal detectors in the vicinity of Brno, on the territory of *Horákovský hrad* hillfort (Horákov castle), which predates the castle: Čížmář 2004, 119-120). Daggers probably were part of a large collection contained the bronze triple-edged arrowhead with an outer and inner socket of unknown quantity (maybe a few hundred pieces) from which only 26 pieces are officially registered (Horákov No. 1-26; Bartík et al. 2017). Unfortunately, we got only few photographs at our disposal and the drawings we present here were prepared basing on these photos. Furthermore, taking into account the circumstances of obtaining this important information, the measurements were established with a certain degree of approximation.

1. Dagger no. 1 (fig. 1/1) has the pommel in the form of volutes and a narrow segment hilt. The total length of the item is about 27 cm, the blade has a rhomboid cross-section, 15 cm length and 3 cm width. The handle is 6.5 cm long, 2 cm wide, the thickness is 0.5 cm. The height of hilt is 2 cm, the width is 4.6 cm; the pommel' height is 3.9 cm, the width is 6 cm.

2. The total length of the dagger no. 2 (fig. 1/2) is 26 cm, the length of the triangular blade with a rib in the middle is 14 cm, maximum width is 3.8 cm. The handle is expanding to the pommel and is composed of two rollers and recesses (0.7-0.8 cm wide) in the central part; the length of the handle bar is 7.6 cm, the maximum width is 2.1 cm, cylinders thickness is 0.6 cm. The length of the elongated tops tapering outwards is 6 cm, its height is 0.8 cm. The height of butterfly-like hilt is 3.5 cm, its width is 6.2 cm.

3. The total length of the dagger no. 3 (fig. 1/3) is 26 cm, the length of the blade (rhomboid in cross-section) is 17 cm, the width is 2.4 cm. The handle with rounded edges is 6 cm long, its maximum width is 2.2 cm, thickness is 0.5 cm. The pommel of the dagger is subrectangular with a slightly raised ends, its width is 3.5 cm, height is 1.3 cm.

The hilt is slightly rounded in the part closed to the handle and in opposite one has a small notch; hilt' width is 3.7 cm, the height is 1.8 cm.

Dagger no. 2 and the beginning of Middle Scythian period

In our opinion, the dagger no. 2 is the earliest one. Due to its specific features like triangular blade, massive hilt and narrow elongated pommel it could be attributed to the *Vettersfelde* type (Топал 2014, 30; Топал 2016, 279). In the end of 1980s Alexandru Vulpe draw his attention to this series of daggers as an independent typological unit. According to his typology he allocated *Suseni-Măcișeni type* consisting of daggers with straight pommel and massive hilt (Vulpe 1990, 38). Later, Elena Fialko and Yury Boltrik noticed this group of items during the collecting of analogies to their find from Trakhtemirov hillfort (Фіалко, Болтрик 2003, 46). Igor Bruyako appealed to this category of finds as an evidence of the Scythian penetration in Moldova' (Бруяко 2005, 154). Leonid Babenko in his article about compact group of daggers from Kharkiv region used for their description the term *short dagger with a T-shaped handle* (Бабенко 2009, 26). However, *Suseni-Măcișeni type* highlighted by A. Vulpe is defined too broadly and, in our opinion, does not reflect the major structural features of the group – wide massive “kidney-” (or “heart-like”) hilt, narrow long pommel and wide triangular blade. Therefore, one of the authors of the given paper proposed earlier a compromise term *Vettersfelde type*², making an allusion to the most well-known discovery (Топал 2014, 30). Akinakai of *Vettersfelde* type were distinguished from other group of synchronous items as Shumeyko type is by the broader but less elongated blade (about 25 cm), wider kidney-shaped hilt and the narrow elongated pommel. Also, the exclusive sign of *Vettersfelde* daggers could be considered the decoration of the blade with longitudinal incisions.

¹ According to some researchers, this group acts as a link between the Early and Middle Scythian antiquities (Бабенко 2009, 25-26; Билинский, Шелехань 2014, 173). However, this assumption is based on a cautious approval of I. Bruyako that the part of the strayfinds from Romanian Moldova could be dated back to the first half of the 6th (or even the late 7th) century BC. Nevertheless, the serious reasons for this “low chronology” are still missing (Топал 2014, 29-31).

² Among other things, Hermann Parzinger used once the term *Vettersfelde type* describing the series of golden sheaths from Shumeyko mound, Golden barrow and Ostraya Tomakovskaya Mogyla (Parzinger 1993, Abb. 3).

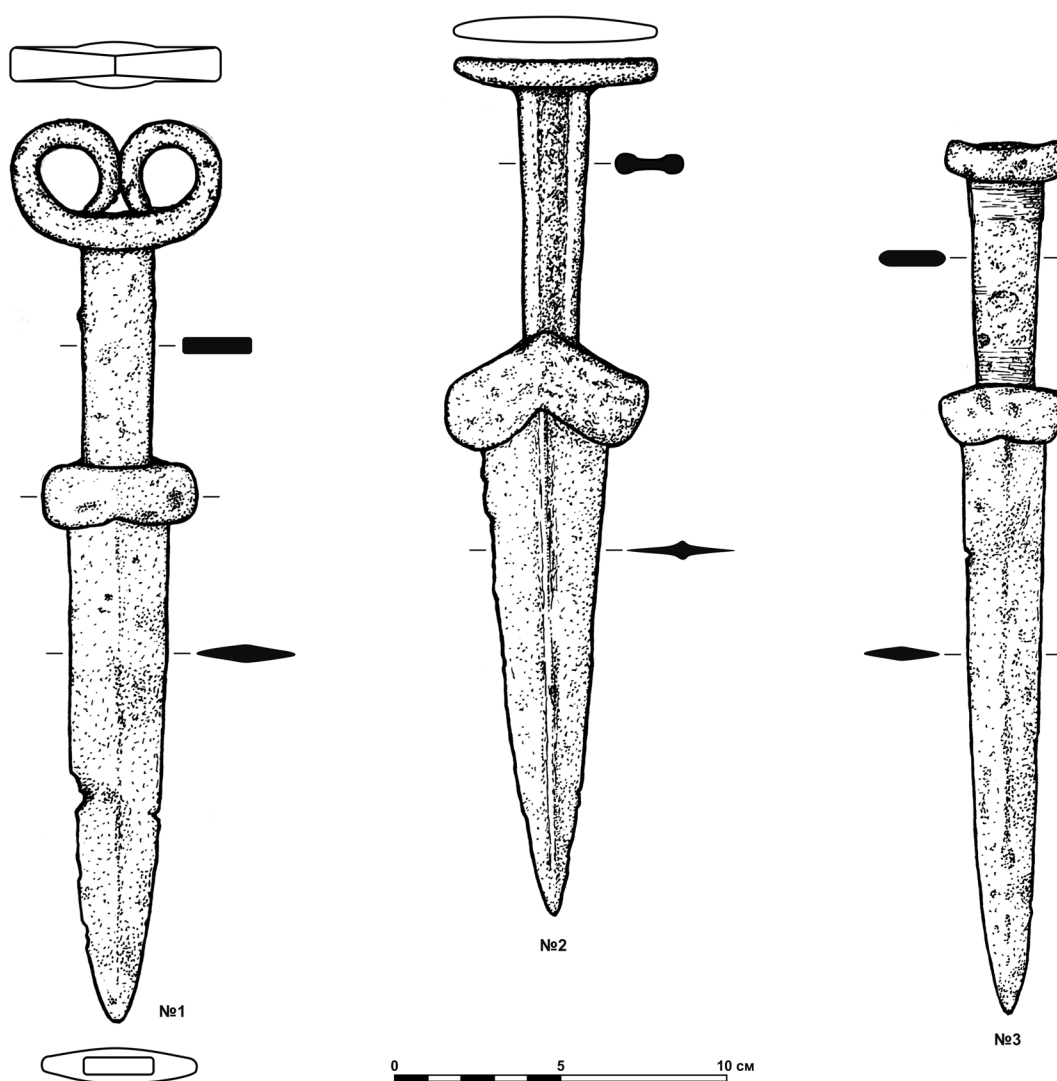


Fig. 1. Daggers from Horákovský hrad.

A large concentration of finds of the daggers of Vetersfelde type could be observed in Carpathian-Dniester region, especially within the mid-Dniester (Bukovina group), Siret-Dniester (Moldavian group) and Eastern Carpathian (Neamț) groups (Топал 2014, 25, рис. 7). On the territory of Neamț group also takes place a big series of strayfinds such daggers: in vicinity of Boureni (Brătianu 1925, fig. 1), Gindăoani (Mitreă 1969, fig. 2), Moțca (Iconomu 2001, 303, 304, fig. 3, 4) and between Văratec and Filioara villages (Mihăilescu-Bîrliba 1964, fig. 2, 3). Another accidental find was discovered near Suseni (Buzdugan 1976, fig. 7/7). In Bukovina region akinakai of Vetersfelde type have been found near Sokirintsy in Chemerivtsi district of Khmelnytskyi region of Ukraine (Гуцал 2004, рис. 1) and Ibănești

in Botoșani County in Romania (Vulpe 1990, Taf. 7/34). Recently one of the authors of this article published two items of this type from the territory of the Republic of Moldova: from Boldurești and Cuhurești de Jos (Топал 2016, 279, рис. 1/1, 2). Such daggers are also known in the Danube region, on the territory of Bulgaria: e.g. strayfind from Profesor-Ishirkovo settlement in Silistra Province (Георгиева, Бъчваров 1994, 59, таб. LIII/1) and Debrene in Dobrich Province (Des Thraces 2006, 100, cat. 145). In the Dniester region one of the daggers of given type is known by a strayfind from Gnilyakovo (*now* Dachnoe) in Odessa region (Диамант, Черненко 1971, 159, 160). After eponymous find in the Lower Silesia from Vetersfelde (Witaszkowo), the dagger from Szirmabesenyő in Hungary could be considered

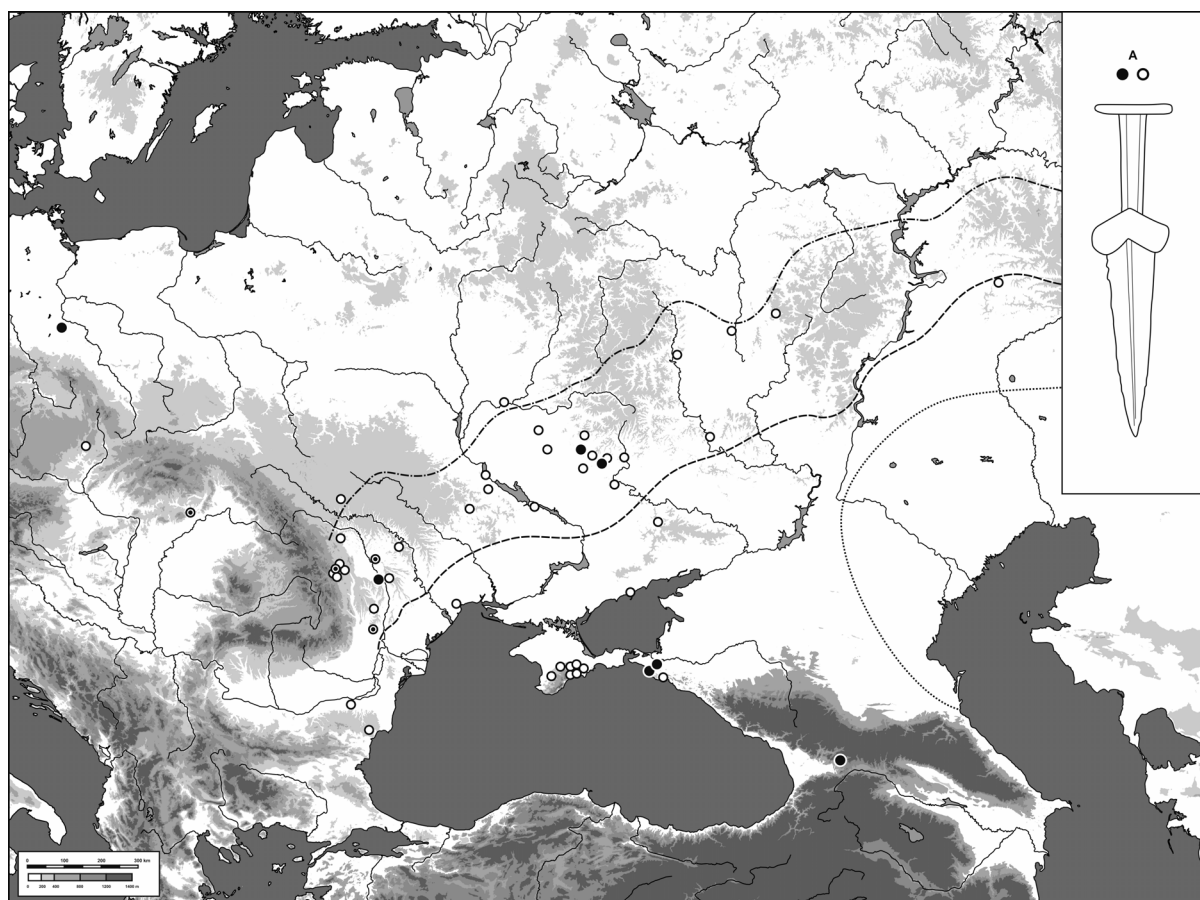


Fig. 2. Distribution of akinakai of Vetersfelde type (A).

one of the most western findings of this type (Reinecke 1897, *áb.* 10).

There are four strayfinds of this type on the right bank of Dnieper river, among them are – three from Cherkassy region: Staroselye, Horodyshe district (Галанина 1977, таб. 33/9), former Kanev uezd (county) (Ковпаненко 1981, 106, рис. 60/8), Novoselitsa, Chigirin district (Сиволап, Шелехань 2014, 211, рис. 1/2) and one from Poltava region, Burty in Kremenchug district (Кракало, Кулатова 1998, 168). A much larger number of daggers type of Vetersfelde type is presented on the left bank of the Dnieper – there are few strayfinds discovered at Mena in Chernihiv region (Яковенко, Покотило 1979, 90), Gadyach in Poltava region (Кулатова 1995, рис. 1), Romny (Билинский, Шелехань 2014, рис. 1/19) and Khmelyovka, Krasnopolye district (Кулатова 1990, 49) in Sumy region. At least six esemplars were provided from the territory of the Kharkiv region – from Verkhniy Saltov (Либеров 1962, рис. 6/3), Bogolyubovo in Bogodukhov dis-

trict, Kharkov, Shelestovo in Krasnokutsk district (Бабенко 2009, 19-21, рис. 1/1-3) and two finds from the Verkhniy Bishkin in Pervomaiskiy district (Билинский, Шелехань 2014, рис. 1/13-14). The Pontic steppe gave us strayfinds from Maryino in Donetsk region (Дубовская, Подобед 1993, рис. 54/2) and Berdyansk in Zaporizhia region (Болтрик 2014, рис. 6/3). A series of strayfinds were discovered in forest-steppe to the East of the Don river: in Pavlovsk, Voronezh region (Медведев 1999, рис. 51/5), Chernigovka, Zadonsk district of Lipetsk region (Клоков 1996, рис. 5/7), Tambov, Inozemnaya Dukhovka (Ворошилов 2006, рис. 1/5) and Novyi Valovay, Pachelma district in Penza region (Максимов, Поллеских 1971, рис. 1/3). The most eastern finding of the dagger of Vetersfelde type could be considered the item found at Buzuluk in Orenburg region (Денисов 2010, рис. 2/1).

There is also a series of items found in Crimea, for example, from Belogorsk Museum, found, according to the locals in a small mound at Karabi

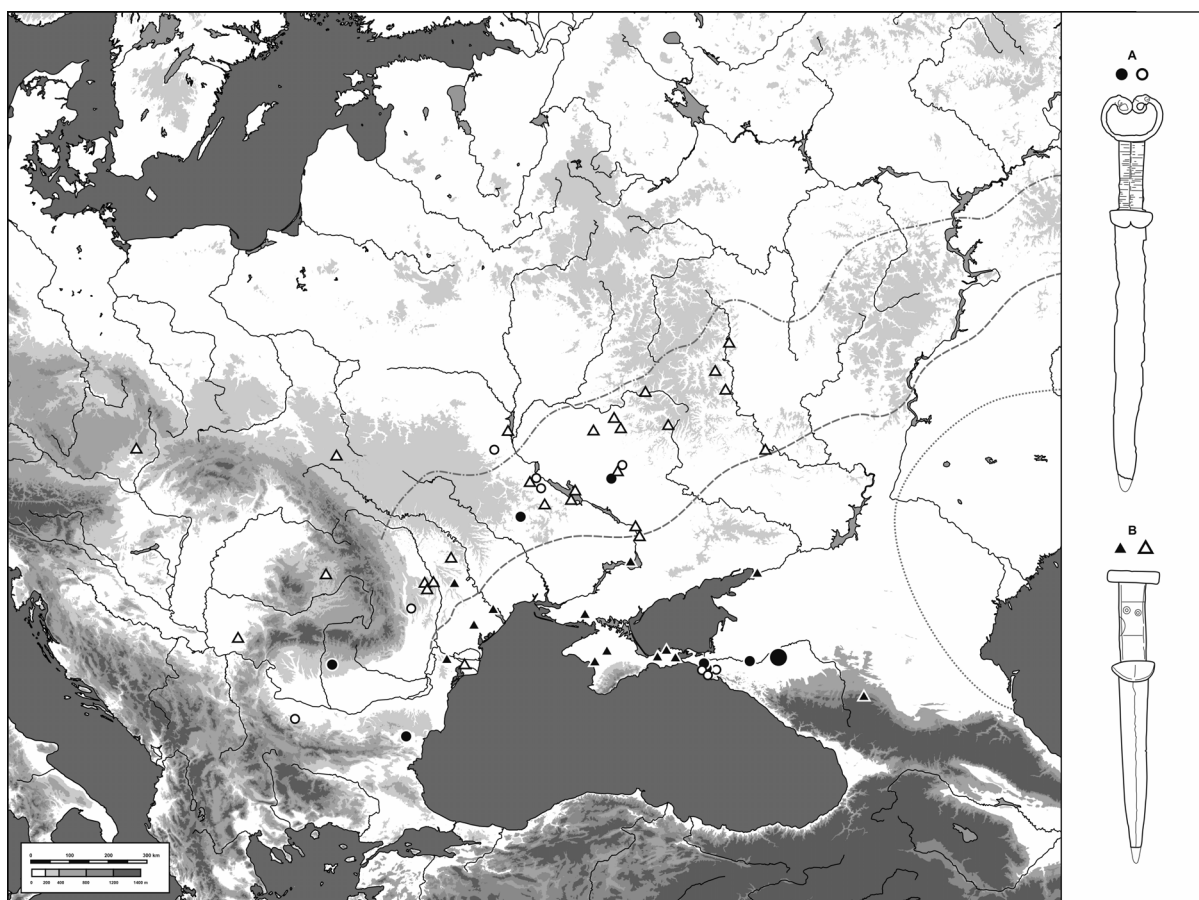


Рис. 3. Distribution of akinakai of Găiceana type (A) and akinakai with segment hilt (B).

Yayla mountain in the upper part of Main range of Crimean Mountains (Колтухов 2008, 246-247, рис. 2/1). In addition to this, another exemplar of Vetterfelde dagger was discovered in Crimean Mountains, which is now stored in Bakhchysarai Museum. It was found in 1971 not far from Glubokiy Yar village of Bakhchysarai district (Сыч 2014). Also, there are known three finds discovered in the foothills of the Internal ridge of Crimean Mountains – from the vicinity of Staryi Krym, Topolyovka, Zuya in Belogorsk district and Voron in Sudak district (Скорый, Зимовец 2014, 20, 22-24). It is noteworthy that on the one of the Scythian statues of Crimea is visible the image of a dagger that could be identified as a Vetterfelde type dagger: due to such features as wide kidney-shaped hilt, triangular blade, long narrow pommel two-part handle. This statue was found near Nadezhda village (Ольховский, Евдокимов 1994, рис. 53) and could be dated back to 6th-5th (Попова 1976, 110), late 6th - early 5th (Шульц 1967, 227) or likely to the 1st half of 5th century BC (Ольховский, Евдокимов 1994, 30).

Unfortunately, in spite of a representative sample, only a few items belong to the reliably dated complexes. The eponymous hoard from Vetterfelde-Witaszkowo (Furtwaengler 1883, 4-11) was unanimously dated back to the “turn of 6th-5th centuries BC” (Ростовцев 1925, 399, 410; Schefold 1938, 8, 14, 36, 62; Онайко 1966, 160; Bukowski 1977, 197-198; Алексеев 1991, 47; Алексеев 2003, 198). Agapia burial is rather referred to the 1st half of the 6th century BC and later (Mihăilescu-Bîrliba, Untaru 1971, 441, fig. 1-2). The dagger from Comarna burial ground probably comes from a burial of 5th century BC (Nițu 1953, 8-9, fig. 3). In Măcișeni, besides the akinakes (Palade 1964, fig. 1, 2), there have been found various iron objects destroyed by rust (Palade 1964, 487), so it could be assumed that it was a disturbed grave (Vulpe 1990, 40). This type also includes a dagger from destroyed mound near Năvirneț village in actual Republic of Moldova, Fălești district (Donici 1928, 323, fig. 2). Burial Mound no. 13 from Kirikovka also contained this type of sword (Мелник 1902, 686, fig. 131) and

refers to the time of “no later than the 6th century BC” (Черненко 1981, 39-40). In addition, there is a funeral complex (albeit disturbed) with that type from Lyubotin burial ground (Бабенко 2009, 21, рис. 1/4). The dagger type of Vetersfelde type is known in Kuban region, one item was found among the materials of Vladimirovskaya cemetery, which was generally dated back to the late 7th - early 5th centuries BC (Шишлов и др. 2007, рис. 3/3). A similar dagger (however it is distinguished by three-part handle of Kelermes type) was discovered in burial 4 near Modinakhe, in Georgia, and could be dated back to the 7th-6th centuries BC (Mehnert 2008, 61, Taf. 33/5; Apakidze 2009, 440, Taf. 259/3). Proceeding from the foregoing, it can be concluded that the Vetersfelde type could appear as early as the beginning of the 6th century BC³, but its main period of existence refers, rather, to the 2nd half - late 6th century BC. In addition, finds of Vetersfelde daggers as part of funeral complexes are concentrated in three main regions: the left bank of Dnieper river (forest-steppe part), Western Kuban and the Eastern Carpathians (fig. 2).

Daggers no. 2 and 3 and the end of the Middle Scythian period

Daggers No. 1 and No. 3 from Horákovský hrad, as well as items from Vršac in Vojvodina, Serbia (Milleker 1898, 407) and Ardanovo (Árdánháza) in Ukraine (Hampel 1876, 22, 23, fig. 7) are distinguished by a small hilt in a shape of a “segment”, which may indicate the 2nd half of the 6th - 1st half of 5th centuries BC (Бабенко, Шелехань 2015, 83, 88). Relative rarity of akinakai with “segment” hilts did not allow Anna Melyukova in the 1950s to argue their chronology reasonably (Мелюкова 1964, 55). However, over time, the lifetime of this type of Scythian hilt was determined within the framework of 6th-5th centuries BC (Фодор 1969, 253) or exclusively 5th (Евдокимов, Мурзин 1984, 78). An impressive series of swords and daggers with a “segment” hilt (55 ex.) was recently considered in detail by Ukrainian scholars, which tried to limit its dating to “the 2nd half of 6th - 1st

half of 5th century BC” (Бабенко, Шелехань 2015, 83, 88). At the same time, it is remarkable that akinakai with a segment-like hilt from burials are characteristic for the steppes of Pontic region and Crimea, while strayfinds occur are discovered mainly in the forest-steppe between Don and Bug rivers and in the Eastern Carpathians.

In addition, a very significant group of swords with a segment-shaped hilts (or in the form of a “Thracian shield” according to A. Vulpe) (Vulpe 1990, 58) is distinguished by the presence of a high pommels with antennae forming an almost regular circle and are decorated with bird heads – e. g., from 5th mound at Cepari (Vulpe 1990, 59, Taf. 15/75), Găiceana (Mihăilescu-Bîrliba 1976, 109-110, fig. 1), the ruined burial near Kirovo (Супруненко 2002, 248, fig. 1), “Staroseletskaia Ekonomiia” (Бобринский 1887, 147, таб. VII/5) and Gamarna (Мелюкова 1964, таб. 20/13). Once, the akinakai with such pommels in Scythian Animal style were separated by A. Melyukova from the swords with simple antennae pommels (Мелюкова 1964, 55). Also A. Vulpe researched separately the swords and daggers with zoomorphic pommels (Vulpe 1990, 57-64). The Romanian archaeologist placed the swords of Găiceana type into the last typological group (Formengruppe V) and dated back to the 2nd half of 6th - 1st half of 5th century BC (Vulpe 1990, 60). Our observations on the funeral complexes containing similar items rather confirm this chronology, although most of them tend, nevertheless, to the beginning and the 1st half of the 5th century BC. Geographically, finds of daggers of Găiceana type practically do not go beyond the forest-steppe area, concentrating in three main regions: among them is Carpathian-Danube, the forest-steppe of Dnieper (mainly the right bank of the river), and the Caucasus (Kuban region) (fig. 3).

Akinakai on Lusatian territory

There are known five Scythian akinakai on the territory of Poland, but only four⁴ are attributed to the North-Western group which belonged to Lusatian area (fig. 4). The earliest one can be considered a bimetallic akinakes, accidentally

³The fact that experiments on the development of this type of daggers could be carried out in Archaic (Early Scythian) period may be evidenced by the discovery of a bimetallic dagger from Łubnice (Bukowski 1977, таб. XII/1). The bronze handle of this akinakes consists of mushroom-shaped pommel and the kidney-shaped crosshair, and the wide triangular blade is decorated with longitudinal notches, like the third of all daggers of Vetersfelde type.

⁴The sword, found in the south-eastern Poland near Rozbórz (Przeworsk County, Subcarpathian Voivodeship), tends towards to the Western Ukrainian subgroup, which consists of several addressless finds from the Lviv museum and a strayfind from Dubno district of the Rivne region (Khanenko's collection).

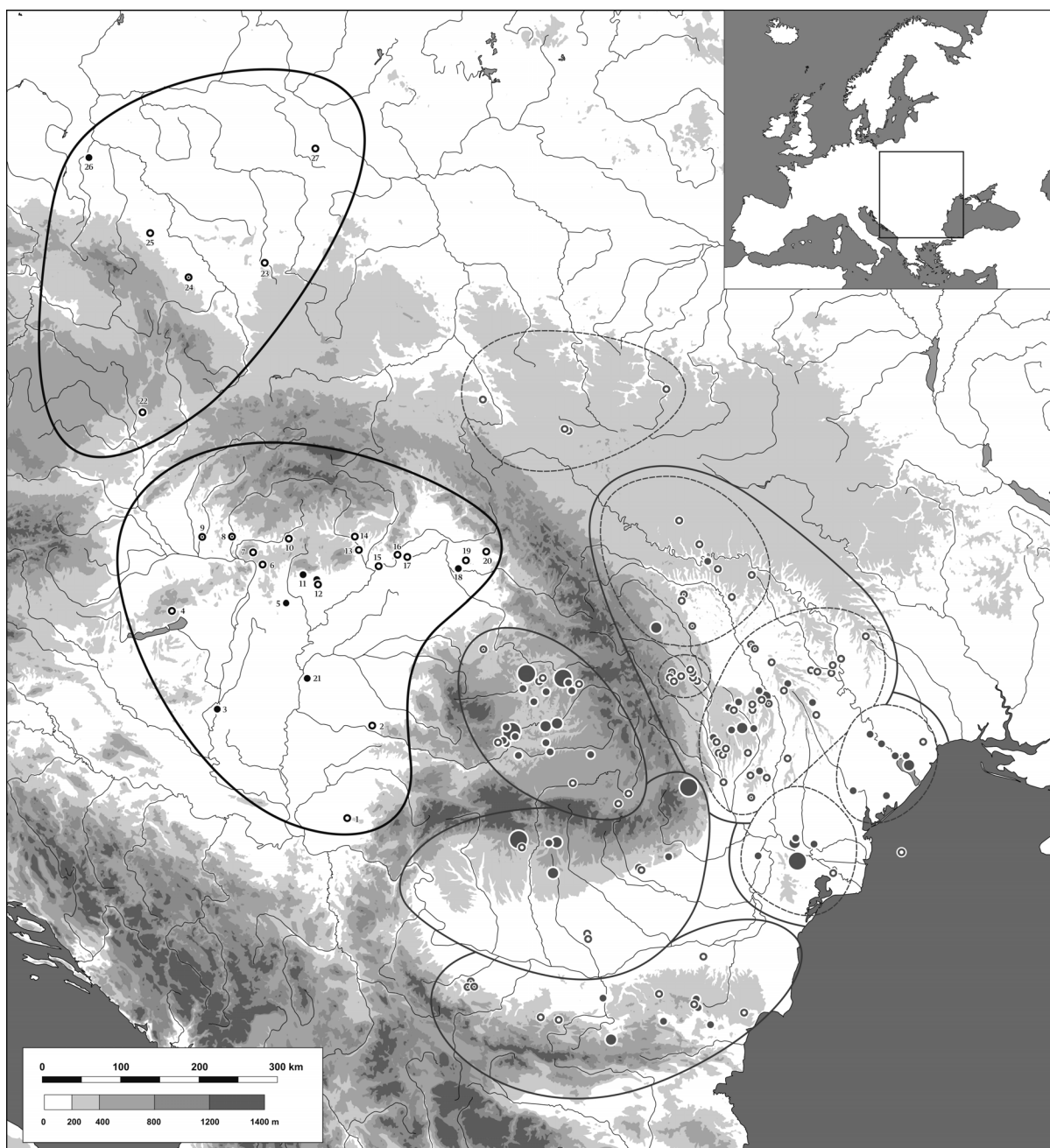


Fig. 4. Distribution of Scythian swords and daggers in the Lusatian and Vekerzug areas: 1 - Vršac (Vârșeț); 2 - Arad; 3 - Bátmonostor; 4 - Veszprém; 5 - Nagykáta (Egreskáta); 6 - Penc; 7 - Nógrád; 8 - Želiezovce (Zseliz); 9 - Nové Zámky; 10 - Piliny; 11 - Gyöngyös; 12 - Tarnabod; 13 - Szirmabesenyő; 14 - Borsod; 15 - Tiszadob; 16 - Timár; 17 - Tiszabercel; 18 - Tarpa; 19 - Beregove (Beregszász); 20 - Ardanovo (Árdánháza); 21 - Szentés; 22 - Horákovský hrad; 23 - Łubnice; 24 - Plo; 25 - Legnica; 26 - Witaszkowo (Vettersfelde); 27 - Bodzanowo.

discovered near the village Łubnice (fig. 5/25) in Wieruszów County, Łódź Voivodeship, in central Poland (Gedl 1980, 31, Taf. 7/49). Its characteristic bronze handle with mushroom-shaped pommel and kidney-shaped hilt allow it to be attributed to the Gudermes type of the 7th century BC. E. In this case, the rejection of “frame technology” in the design of the handle may indicate a time

of later production time in comparison with the Caucasian samples. To the Early Scythian period also belongs the handle of the Kelemes type from Plo (fig. 5/30) (Bukowski 1977, tab. XIV/4). The strayfind from Legnica (fig. 5/29) (Baron, Miazga 2013, 335, fig. 1) and the “ceremonial” akinakes from Vettersfelde (fig. 5/23) (Furtwaengler 1883, Taf. III) are dated back to the Middle Scythian pe-

riod. The dagger from Legnica is of the Shumeyko type and the main period of its existence could be determined within the 2nd-3rd quarter of the 6th century BC. The Vetersfelde type, to which the famous eponymous “golden” sword belongs, is “genetically” related to the Shumeyko type and dates somewhat later, within the 2nd half of the 6th century BC. The Vetersfelde Treasure which contained this sword, apparently, is dated back to the end of existence of the Vetersfelde type, while it is noted that the sword occupies the oldest part of the chronological framework (Алексеев 2003, 197). By the Middle Scythian period, probably, should also be attributed the discovery of a bronze hilt from Bodzanowo (fig. 5/24) (Bukowski 1960, 258). The sword or dagger from Bodzanowo was initially decorated with sculptural images of animals (bears?) and, apparently, echoes with the pommels of the akinakai in the form of opposing heads of predators of the 2nd half of the 6th century BC in Eurasia (mainly of Siberian origin).

Akinakai in Vekerzug culture

The main concentration of the swords and daggers of Scythian time in the area of Vekerzug culture falls on the northern foothill part (fig. 4). On the territory of Hungary, there are still unknown complexes with Early Scythian akinakai, moreover, all exemplars that could be attributed to the Early period were discovered accidentally. E. g. in Borsod county (*now* Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén) a bronze dagger (fig. 5/1) of Siberian appearance was found. It is usually attributed to the early antiquities of Tagar culture (Гавлик 2004, 166) and even dated back to the 1st half of the 7th century BC⁵ (Kemenczei 1991, 74). Another early Scythian item was discovered near Tiszabercel (fig. 5/20) in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county (Kemenczei 1984, 36, Abb. 3/3) and refers to bimetallic daggers of the *Posmuş type*⁶ of the 2nd half of the 7th century BC (Топал 2015, 70; Козубова, Скаков 2016, 89). The chronological position of the dag-

ger from Nové Zámky “mixed-rite cemetery” in Nitra region in Slovakia (fig. 5/19) is not quite clear: it is known only from the schematic drawing by Mikuláš Dušek (Dušek 1961, Taf. VI/7). According to other sources, this is a fragment of an iron sword with a bronze handle of the “Posmuş type” (Stegmann-Rajtár 2009, 58).

All other swords and daggers of Tisza region can be reliably attributed to the Middle Scythian period. The beginning of the period is the date for the stray finds of Shumeyko type from Piliny (fig. 5/6) in Nógrád county (Kemenczei 1984, Abb. 1/2), Timár (fig. 5/4) in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county of Hungary (Kemenczei 1984, 36, Abb. 1/1) and Arad county⁷ (fig. 5/3) in Romania (Buzdugan 1976, 240, fig. 4/5). Akinakes from Szirmabesenyő (fig. 5/2) in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county (Reinecke 1897, áb. 10) could be considered one of the most western finds of the Vetersfelde type (except of the eponymous one). At the same time, it is characterized by the archaic three-part handle of the “Kelermes type”, which probably indicates an earlier dating of this dagger, rather than accepted for the bulk of these akinakai like the “2nd half of the 6th century BC” (Топал 2016, 281).

There are only two Hungarian complexes with single-edged swords of the *Nógrád type* (or *Tiszadob-Cepari* after A. Vulpe) which could have chronological determination, according to T. Kemenczei. Among them are the burial of Gyöngyös (fig. 5/10) (Márton 1908, táb. II/5) and Tarpa (fig. 5/13) (Párducz 1968, Tab. XXI/5). Part of the findings from Gyöngyös (Heves county) was accidentally discovered during plowing and was defined by L. Marton as grave goods of an incineration (e. g. bronze zoomorphic finials and bells, iron spearheads and bits etc.) (Kemenczei 2009, 168-169). Others findings, in particular a single-edged sword attributed to burial No. 7, were identified during the excavating of additional trenches, as a result of which a dozen more burials were discovered. The rest of things (iron axe, chisel, spoon, bronze bracelets) are listed as strayfinds (Márton 1908, 37-38, Kemenczei 2009, 169). Therefore, the dates of the sword from Gyöngyös are based on the general analysis of all these chronological indicators regardless of the conditions of the findings (Бруяко 2005, 279). T. Kemencei dates back

⁵ This accuracy of dating (due to the references of T. Kemenczei) comes from Alexey Terenozhkin’s hypothesis about the “Karasuk origin” of the Scythian akinakes and the idea of closing up the Karasuk and Early Scythian antiquities. However, even now, after a quarter of a century, hardly anyone will dare to date back the Podgornov stage of Tagar culture (with which, most likely, a whole series of West Siberian products of Carpathian-Danube region is connected) more accurate than in the limits of 7th-6th centuries BC.

⁶ Such identification can be questioned on the basis of unusually “gracile” elongated pommel, which is not characteristic of Posmuş type. However, this may indicate its later dating, for example, in the late 7th - early 6th centuries BC.

⁷ It is sometimes associated with the vicinities of the Pecica and Horia villages of Arad county (Vulpe 1990, 43).

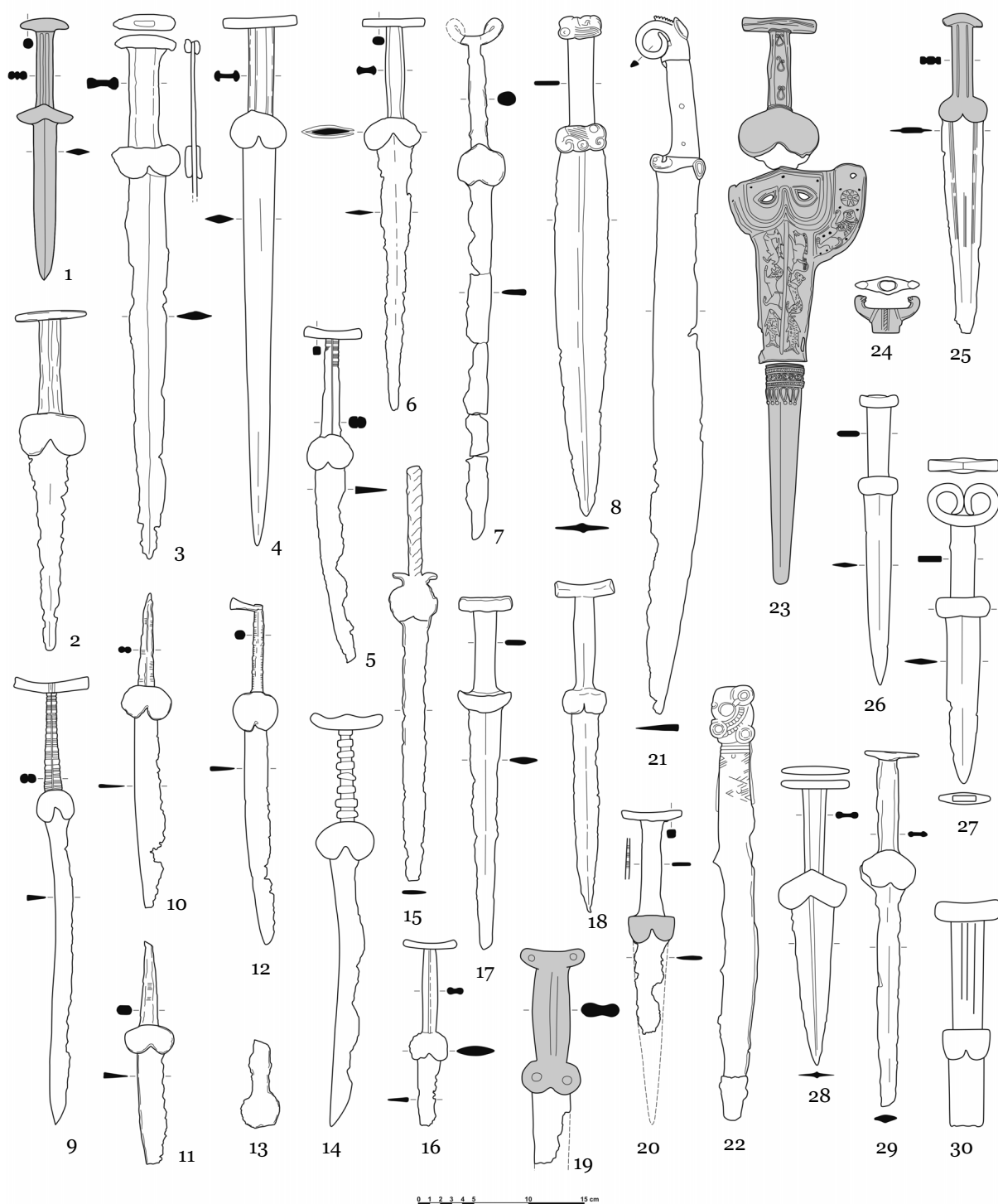


Fig. 5. Scythian swords and daggers in the Lusatian and Vekerzug areas: 1 - Borsod; 2 - Szirmabesenyő; 3 - Arad county (Horia or Pecica); 4 - Timár; 5 - Tiszadob; 6 - Piliny; 7 - Bátmonostor, grave.; 8 - Veszprém; 9 - Nógrád; 10 - Gyöngyös, gr. 7 (1907); 11 - Tarnabod-Báb; 12 - Nagykáta, grave (1904); 13 - Tarpa, burial mound.; 14 - Beregove; 15 - Tarnabod (grave?); 16 - Želiezovce; 17 - Ardanovo; 18 - Vršac; 19 - Nové Zámky (cemetery?); 20 - Tiszabercel; 21 - Penc; 22 - Szentés-Vekerzug, gr. 120; 23 - Vettersfelde hoard; 24 - Bodzanowo; 25 - Łubnice; 26-28 - Horákovský hrad; 29 - Legnica; 30 - Plo.

the complex of Gyöngyös (basing on finials decorated in Animal style and horse harness) to the 2nd half of the 6th - early 5th century BC (Kemenczei 1991, 75). J. Chochorowski is convinced that the sites like Gyöngyös or Mishkolc-Diósgyőr correspond to the late phase of the Mezőcsát culture of the HaB₃ period (Chochorowski 1987, 165). This attempt met the resistance of I. Bruyako, who believes that most of the chronological indicators of Gyöngyös tend not to the preceding epoch (s. c. Thracian-Cimmerian horizon), but to the next after it (after an appreciable break) – i.e. belongs to the early stage of the Vekerzug culture on the turn of the 7th-6th centuries BC (Бруяко 2005, 283).

Burial with a fragment of the handle of a single-edged sword from Tarpa (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county) was attributed by Hungarian researchers to the 7th-6th centuries BC on the basis of a bronze phalera (Párducz 1968, 82; Kemenczei 1991, 75). There is no explanation for the fact that a proper “Celtic” bowl typical for LaB (sic!) was found along with a sword of Nógrád type (Bottyán 1955, tab. 17/11) in Nagykáta (*former* Egreskáta in Pest county) burial (Kemenczei 2009, 37). Apparently, it should be considered nothing more than a historiographical issue, since the upper permissible limit of the Scythians’ stay in Tisza region is considered to be the 5th century BC (Бруяко 2005, 277; Бруяко 2014, 43).

Recently was discovered the third well dated burial with a single-edged sword of Nógrád type – near Bátmonostor (fig. 5/7) in Bács-Kiskun county. It is characterized by the pommel decorated with volutes (Gyucha et al. 2015, 181, fig. 4/3), which is generally rare for Tisza region. In addition to the sword, the burial in a square pit with pillars was accompanied by the rich inventory. Among the items are a gray-clay jug, bronze decorations, a bronze arrowhead, three iron axes, a flat iron “winged” adze, iron spearheads, etc. (Gyucha et al. 2015, 181-182). Due to the grave goods, according to the authors of the discovery, the burial can be attributed to the 2nd half of 6th - turn of 5th-4th centuries BC. However, C¹⁴ analysis makes it possible to “cut off” the entire 5th century BC (Gyucha et al. 2015, 189), leaving the late 6th century BC as the upper limit for this complex. Other artifacts from the Alföld territory are represented by stray finds – e. g. sword from Nógrád county (fig. 5/9) (Hampel 1876, 49, fig. 34), Tiszadob (fig. 5/5) in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg (Kemenczei

1984, 39, Abb. 3/2), from Tarnabod (fig. 5/15) (Párducz 1969, táb VII/2) and Tarnabod-Báb (fig. 5/11) (Párducz 1969, táb. VII/2) in Heves county in Hungary, Želiezovce⁸ (fig. 5/16) (Bottyán 1955, tab. 36/14) in Levice district of the Nitra region in Slovakia and Beregove (fig. 5/14) (Hampel 1893, áb. 3) in Transcarpathian Ukraine. Generally, they are similar to the bulk of single-edged akinakai of Nógrád type, although the handle of the sword from Želiezovce is oval in cross-section (Kemenczei 2009, 177), while the sword of Tarnabod is decorated with oblique parallel incisions and the hilt at the top is provided with unusual protrusion (Kemenczei 1991, 75).

It could be assumed that Nógrád type of Scythian akinakai appeared on the base of Shumeyko type, which distributed widely at the turn of the Early and Middle Scythian period. This is indicated by such features of Nógrád type, characteristic for the Shumeyko type, like the narrow elongated blade (often triangular), massive kidney-shaped hilt, two-part handle (and its decoration with transverse incisions), and the narrow elongated pommel. Akinakai Nógrád type as the swords and daggers of the Shumeyko type, probably, appear in the late 7th-early 6th century BC, and were used in fact until the end of the 6th century BC. There were used and some other types of single-edged swords in this milieu closer to the Late Hallstatt time. Among them are swords with zoomorphic hilts in the Scythian animal style from Penc (fig. 5/21) (Patay 1955, 68, XVII) and burial No. 102 of Szentes-Vekerzug cemetery⁹ (fig. 5/22) (Párducz 1955, 5, fig. 3, pl. XIII/2).

⁸ Perhaps, the akinakes from Želiezovce was found in a destroyed burial, from which come such finds like the cross-shaped plaque decorated in Scythian Animal style and the arrowheads (Kemenczei 2009, 177, Taf. 184/1-6). According to Yu. Polidovich, the plaque from Želiezovce belongs to the first (early) group of the 2nd half of the 6th century BC (Полідович 2000, 38-39).

⁹ A similar design of the hilt (in the shape of a head of a bird of prey) is shown on other fighting knives – e. g. on the knives from the burial No. 17 of Csárdaszállás cemetery (Havassy 2001, 134, Kat. 21), Velký Grob (Studeníková 1987, 38, Abb. 11.), Nyíregyháza-Manda-bokor (Istvánovits 1997, 78, kat. XI/7) and Mikulovice (Frolík, Sedláček 2015, 32, obr. 8). Despite the absence of clear chronological reference points in the burial No. 120 from Szentes, the items from Nyíregyháza and Mikulovice, due to their context and analogies could be dated to the late 6th - early 5th century BC (Kozubová 2013, 105). Besides that, a similar knife was found in the Caucasus region, in burial of the 1st Alleroy burial ground (Виноградов 1972, рис. 45/1).

Other finds of akinakai from the territory of the Vekerzug culture, apparently, should be attributed to the finale of the Middle Scythian period. A two-edged dagger from Veszprém (fig. 5/8) (Kemenczei 1984, Abb. 2/2) and a one-edged sword from Penc from Pest county (Kemenczei 1984, Abb. 3/1) are decorated in a same realistic manner characteristic of the Animal style of the end of the Middle Scythian period. The hilt of the “machaira from Penc” is realized in the shape of a beak of a bird of prey, and the image of the head of the “griffin” from the pommel (with a curved beak and a long ear) was repeated on the hilt. The decoration of the hilt and the pommel of the dagger from Veszprém was constructed in a same way – i.e. one of the images is turned upside down in any position of the dagger, which is typical, for example, for the “griffin daggers” of the 2nd half of the 6th century BC from Urals and Siberia to North China. The manner these two items were produced also brings them closer to the akinakai of *Găiceana type* (after A. Vulpe) of the 2nd half of the 6th - 1st half of the 5th century BC.

Most likely, the first Scythian akinakai reach Alföld (at least its northeastern part) in the Early Scythian period, not later than the turn of the 7th-6th centuries BC (foremost bronze and bimetallic items). Nevertheless, the bulk of Scythian swords and daggers belong to the Middle Scythian period. It is quite possible that the first funeral complexes in the territory of modern Hungary are associated already with the transition period from

the Early Scythian period to the Middle Scythian one at the early 6th century BC (e. g. Gyöngyös and Tarpa). Then, the strayfinds of akinakai of Shumeyko and Vetersfelde types (including the dagger No. 2 from Horákovský hrad) are strictly connected with the beginning of Middle Scythian period of the 1st half of the 6th century BC. The burial from Bátmonostor and a series of swords of Nógrád type (of the whole 6th century BC) are also associated with that period of time. Close to the end of Middle Scythian period (at early 5th century BC) appear swords and daggers decorated in Scythian Animal style and akinakai with segment-shaped hilts like daggers No. 1 and No. 3 from Horákovský hrad. Thus, the finds from the Horákovský hrad significantly expand the geography of the Middle Scythian akinakai, until now completely unknown in the Czech Republic. In the period between the two proposed dates for the akinakai from Horákovský hrad, we are dating a major decline of the Moravian Hallstatt cultures (Horákov and Platěnice cultures) at the latest in Ha D2-early (Parzinger 7a). It is explained by the expansion / military expeditions of Vekerzug or other Eastern cultures in Moravia and Bohemia (Golec, Čermáková, Fojtík 2017), which corresponds to the situation in Poland. Moreover, this discovery in Moravia allows to connect Lusatian and Vekerzug areas of distribution of Scythian weaponry and could outline the probable pathways of bladed weapons far to the west of the main territory of the Scythians.

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Cultura Vekerzug și noi descoperiri de akinakes-uri scitice în Moravia

Cuvinte-cheie: epoca fierului, akinakes, pumnal, cultura scitică, cultura Vekerzug, cultura Lausitz, perioadă scitică medie.

Rezumat: În anul 2016 autorii lucrării de față au obținut informații despre trei pumnale scitice de pe teritoriul Moraviei. Ele au fost găsite de către persoane necunoscute cu ajutorul detectoarelor de metale în apropierea orașului Brno, lângă așezarea fortificată Horákovský hrad. Pumnalul nr. 2 este cel mai timpuriu și, datorită caracteristicilor sale (cum ar fi lama triunghiulară, o gardă masivă riniformă și o măciulie alungită și îngustă), poate fi atribuit tipului Vetersfelde din a doua jumătate a secolului al VI-lea a. Chr. Pumnalele nr. 1 și nr. 3 se caracterizează prin gărzi mici, în formă de scut tracic, detalii ce ar putea încadra aceste piese în perioada mijlocul secolului VI - mijlocul secolului al V-lea a. Chr. Anterior, spadele și pumnalele scitice, nu erau cunoscute pe teritoriul Republicii Cehe, astfel încât descoperirile de la Horákovský hrad vin să extindă aria de răspândire a akinakesuri-lor, mai ales, pentru perioada scitică medie. Mai mult ca atât, descoperirile respective din Moravia permit conectarea zonelor culturilor Lausitz și Vekerzug de distribuție a armelor scitice cu lamă și ar putea schița căile de răspândire a armelor nomazilor timpurii la vest de teritoriul lor de origine.

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Fig. 1. Pumnale de la Horákovský hrad.

Fig. 2. Distribuția spadelor și pumnalelor akinakai de tip Vetersfelde (A).

Fig. 3. Distribuția akinakai de tip Găiceana (A) și akinakai cu grada în formă de scut tracic (B).

Fig. 4. Distribuția spadelor și pumnalelor scitice în arealul culturilor Lausitz și Vekerzug: 1 - Vršac (Vârșeț); 2 - Arad; 3 - Bátmonostor; 4 - Veszprém; 5 - Nagykáta (Egreskáta); 6 - Penc; 7 - Nógrád; 8 - Želiezovce (Zseliz); 9 - Nové Zámky; 10 - Piliny; 11 - Gyöngyös; 12 - Tarnabod; 13 - Szirmabesený; 14 - Borsod; 15 - Tiszadob; 16 - Timár; 17 - Tiszabercel; 18 - Tarpa; 19 - Beregove (Beregszász); 20 - Ardanovo (Árdánháza); 21 - Szentés; 22 - Hrad Horákovský; 23 - Łubnice; 24 - Plo; 25 - Legnica; 26 - Witaszkowo (Vetersfelde); 27 - Bodzanowo.

Fig. 5. Spadele și pumnalele scitice în arealul culturilor Lausitz și Vekerzug: 1 - Borsod; 2 - Szirmabesený; 3 - județul Arad (Horia sau Pecica); 4 - Timár; 5 - Tiszadob; 6 - Piliny; 7 - Bátmonostor, mormânt; 8 - Veszprém; 9 - Nógrád; 10 - Gyöngyös, mormântul 7 (1907); 11 - Tarnabod-Bab; 12 - Nagykáta, mormânt (1904); 13 - Tarpa, tumul; 14 - Beregove; 15 - Tarnabod (mormânt?); 16 - Želiezovce; 17 - Ardanovo; 18 - Vršac; 19 - Nové Zámky (necropola?); 20 - Tiszabercel; 21 - Penc; 22 - Szentés-Vekerzug, m. 120; 23 - tezaurul Vetersfelde; 24 - Bodzanowo; 25 - Łubnice; 26-28 - Horákovský hrad; 29 - Legnica; 30 - Plo.

Культура Векерзуг и новые находки скифских акинаков в Моравии

Ключевые слова: железный век, акинак, кинжал, скифская культура, культура Векерзуг, лужицкая культура, среднескифский период.

Резюме: В 2016 г. стало известно о трех кинжалах с территории Моравии, которые относятся к скифскому времени. Они были обнаружены при помощи металлодетекторов в окрестностях г. Брно, в местечке Горакровский град. Наиболее ранним, по нашим представлениям, является кинжал №2. По ряду признаков – широкий треугольный клинок, массивное перекрестье и узкое вытянутое навершие – его можно отнести к типу Феттерсфельде второй половины – конца VI в. до н.э. Кинжалы №1 и №3 отличает небольшое перекрестье «сегментовидной» или «усеченно-бабочковидной» формы, что может указывать на вторую половину VI – первую половину V в. до н. э. Находки из Гораковского града значительно расширяют географию среднескифских акинаков, до этого момента совершенно неизвестных на территории Чехии. Более того,

массовое обнаружение этих изделий в Моравии позволяет определенным образом соединить лужицкий и векерзугский ареалы распространения скифского вооружения и наметить пути проникновения клинкового оружия далеко на запад от основного ареала скифов.

Список иллюстраций:

Рис. 1. Кинжалы из Гораковского града.

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Рис. 4. Распространение скифских мечей и кинжалов в ареале лужицкой культуры и культуры Векерзуг: 1 - Вршац; 2 - Арад; 3 - Батмоноштор; 4 - Веспрем; 5 - Надьката; 6 - Пенц; 7 - Ноград; 8 - Жельезовце; 9 - Нове Замки; 10 - Пилинь; 11 - Дьёндьеш; 12 - Тарнабод; 13 - Сирмабешеньё; 14 - Боршод; 15 - Тисадоб; 16 - Тимар; 17 - Тисаберцаль; 18 - Тарпа; 19 - Берегово; 20 - Арданово; 21 - Сентеш; 22 - Гораковский град; 23 - Лубнице; 24 - Пло; 25 - Легница; 26 - Феттерсфельде; 27 - Бодзаново.

Рис. 5. Мечи и кинжалы скифского времени в ареале лужицкой культуры и культуры Векерзуг: 1 - Боршод; 2 - Сирмабешеньё; 3 - жудец Арад; 4 - Тимар; 5 - Тисадоб; 6 - Пилинь; 7 - Батмоноштор, погр.; 8 - Веспрем; 9 - медье Ноград; 10 - Дьёндьеш, погр. 7 1907 г.; 11 - Тарнабод-Баб; 12 - Надьката, погр. 1904 г.; 13 - Тарпа, кург.; 14 - Берегово; 15 - Тарнабод (разруш. погр.); 16 - Жельезовце; 17 - Арданово; 18 - Вршац; 19 - Нове Замки (могильник?); 20 - Тисаберцаль; 21 - Пенц; 22 - Сентеш-Векерзуг, погр. 120; 23 - Феттерсфельде; 24 - Бодзаново; 25 - Лубнице; 26-29 - Гораковский град; 30 - Пло.

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