

# Fortifications and open settlements of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC in the micro-zone of Horodiște-Țipova<sup>1</sup>

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În partea de sud a regiunii Nistrului Mijlociu, în preajma localităților Horodiște și Țipova, raionul Rezina, se conturează un spațiu cu suprafața de cca 6 km<sup>2</sup>, unde au fost evidențiate mai multe situri arheologice, atribuite epocii fierului.

Ca urmare a studierii ortofotoplanurilor, a cercetărilor perieghetice și sondajelor arheologice în această microzonă a fost atestată o „aglomerație” de situri, compusă din șapte fortificații și patru așezări civile (fig. 2), atribuite două orizonturi culturale – hallstattian timpuriu și traco-getic.

Orizontul hallstattian timpuriu, de tip Cozia-Saharna, este reprezentat de o fortificație (citadela de la Horodiște „La Șanț”) și două așezări deschise (Horodiște „Groapa Turcului” și Țipova II). Cel traco-getic este documentat prin șapte fortificații (Horodiște „La Cot”, Horodiște „La Șanț”, Buciușca II, Țipova III etc.) și două așezări deschise (Buciușca IV și Buciușca V).

Dintre fortificațiile traco-getice se evidențiază cea de la Horodiște „La Cot”, care se deosebește de restul prin suprafața considerabilă (cca 28 ha), complexitatea sistemului defensiv, precum și prin poziția strategică pe care o ocupă în microzona Horodiște-Țipova. Plecând de la aceste observații, la nivelul actual de cercetare, se poate presupune că cetatea Horodiște „La Cot” a îndeplinit funcțiile unui „centru” economic, administrativ etc. pentru comunitățile din regiune.

In the southern part of the Middle Dniester region, at a distance of about 5 km south of the Saharna micro-zone, near the villages of Horodiște and Țipova (Rezina District) there is an area of about 6 km<sup>2</sup>, where several archaeological sites attributed to the Iron Age were found.<sup>1</sup>

The Horodiște-Țipova micro-zone is located on the right bank of the Dniester (fig. 1), which in this region is quite steep and rises by about 100-130 m from the riverbed. The territory is segmented by a deep gorge with steep slopes, which starts from the river and continue north-east for a distance of about 1.5 km. Near the village of Horodiște the gorge ramifies, forming a network of canyons which, in turn, outlines a series of cliffs. At the bottom of canyons the Valea Horodiștii and Blănărița

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Fig. 1. Location of the Horodiște-Țipova micro-region.

Fig. 1. Localizarea microzonei Horodiște-Țipova.

streams flow and fall into the Jidauca stream. This river, crossing the Țipova gorge, flows into the Dniester.

As a result of the study of aerial photos, satellite images and field research<sup>2</sup> in this micro-zone an “agglomeration”

<sup>2</sup> This region has attracted the attention of researchers since the second half of the 1940s, when the first field investigations were undertaken by G.D. Smirnov (1946) and T.S. Passek (1947). During this period there were identified two fortified sites attributed to the Scythians, which in spite of the different locations are known by the same name - Horodiște (Смирнов 1949, 196; Пассек 1949, 64). In the repertoires of Getic fortresses compiled in the following years (Златковская, Полевой 1969, 47; Лапушнян, Никулицэ, Романовская 1974, 45; Нінсу 1993, 96-97; Zanoci 1998, 136; Haheu 2008, 72) the information with reference to the fortress discovered by G.D. Smirnov is given. According to “Repertory of archaeological monuments in

of sites consisting of seven fortifications and four open settlements were certified (fig. 2).

## Fortifications

Among mapped fortifications the one of Horodiște “La Cot” stands out due to its location, size and complexity of the defensive system.

The **Horodiște “La Cot”** site (site coordinates: 47°36'50" North, 28°57'32" East) (fig. 2; 3)<sup>3</sup>, with an area of about 28 ha, is located on a promontory/plateau of nearly polygonal shape, located at the eastern edge of the village. The Promontory, with an altitude of 160 m above sea level and 65 m above the surrounding area, is bordered on three sides by gorges with relatively steep slopes. The fortress was fortified all around

Republic of Moldova: Rezina District” (Levițki 1993, 8), as well as the work by M. Kašuba, V. Haheu and O. Levițki (2000, 127), near the village of Horodiște there are two fortifications – Horodiște “La Șanț” (identified by G.D. Smirnov) and Horodiște II (discovered by T.S. Passek). In the repertory compiled by T. Arnăuț (2003, 225-226) there is only one fortification (Horodiște), described with the use of data by G.D. Smirnov, as well as with the use of information received in course of field investigations conducted in 1995. In the last two decades in the Horodiște-Țipova micro-zone several surface investigations were carried out, but their results remain unpublished. In order to verify the information given in the directories and to identify new sites, in 2013 collaborators of the Scientific Laboratory “Thracology” (I. Niculiță, A. Zanoci, A. Niciș, S. Matveev, M. Băț and A. Corobcean) conducted field investigations in the Horodiște-Țipova micro-zone, followed by several surveys (Niculiță et al. 2013b, 26-27; Niculiță, Zanoci, Băț 2014)

<sup>3</sup> The location and dimensions of the site named Horodiște are mentioned by T. Arnăuț (2003, 225). But the description of its defensive system is taken from the work by G.D. Smirnov (Смирнов 1949, 196), which refers to another fortress – Horodiște “La Șanț”. The first localization of the fortification on a orthophotomap was made by A. Vartic (2007, 28, fig. 1). Orthophotomaps and the mention that near the village of Horodiște a Getic-Dacian fortress once existed are found in some blogs that promote the rocky landscape of the Horodiște-Țipova micro-zone (<https://manastireatipova.wordpress.com/2009/07/22/defileuri-pitoresti-de-la-tipova-horodiste-ounoua-directie-de-cercetare/>).



Fig. 2. Orthophotomap of the Horodiște-Țipova micro-region (fortifications: 1 - Horodiște „La Cot”; 2 - Horodiște „La Șanț”, 3 - Horodiște II; 4 - Buciuşca II; 5 - Buciuşca III; 6 - Țipova III; 7 - Țipova IV; open settlements: 8 - Horodiște „Groapa Turcului”; 9 - Țipova II; 10 - Buciuşca IV; 11 - Buciuşca V) (by Google Earth Pro).

Fig. 2. Ortofotoplanul microzonei Horodiște-Țipova (așezări fortificate: 1 - Horodiște „La Cot”; 2 - Horodiște „La Șanț”, 3 - Horodiște II; 4 - Buciuşca II; 5 - Buciuşca III; 6 - Țipova III; 7 - Țipova IV; așezări civile: 8 - Horodiște „Groapa Turcului”; 9 - Țipova II; 10 - Buciuşca IV; 11 - Buciuşca V) (după Google Earth Pro).



with a “rampart” with a total length of about 2.5 km, doubled on the west side with a ditch. On the east and south sides the defensive line is wavy, forming a kind of “bastions”. On the eastern edge of the plateau about 21 “bastions” could be traced and on the southern edge they are watched clearly at the eastern end, where their number goes up to 12. As a rule, they have arched shape in plan, with an opening of about 10-12 m. The Remains of the bastions now are presented as a wall of about 3 m width at the base and about 0.4 m height (fig. 4; 5). The same “bastions” were found on the eastern side of

the Thraco-Getic fortress of Saharna Mare (Niculiță et al. 2013, 223-224, fig. 13-14), as well as in the sites of Saharna “La Șanț” I, Saharna “La Vile”, etc. (Niculiță et al. 2014, 27-29).

On the northern side, where the slope of the promontory is smoother, there was found a wall of 108 m length, about 4 m width at base and a height of 0.3-0.5 m. On the northwest slope, which is also gentler, another wall was identified, with a length of 80 m, a width of 4 m and height of 0.3-0.4 m (fig. 4).



Fig. 3. The promontory near the Horodiște village. View from the north.

Fig. 3. Promontoriul din preama satului Horodiște Vedere dinspre nord.

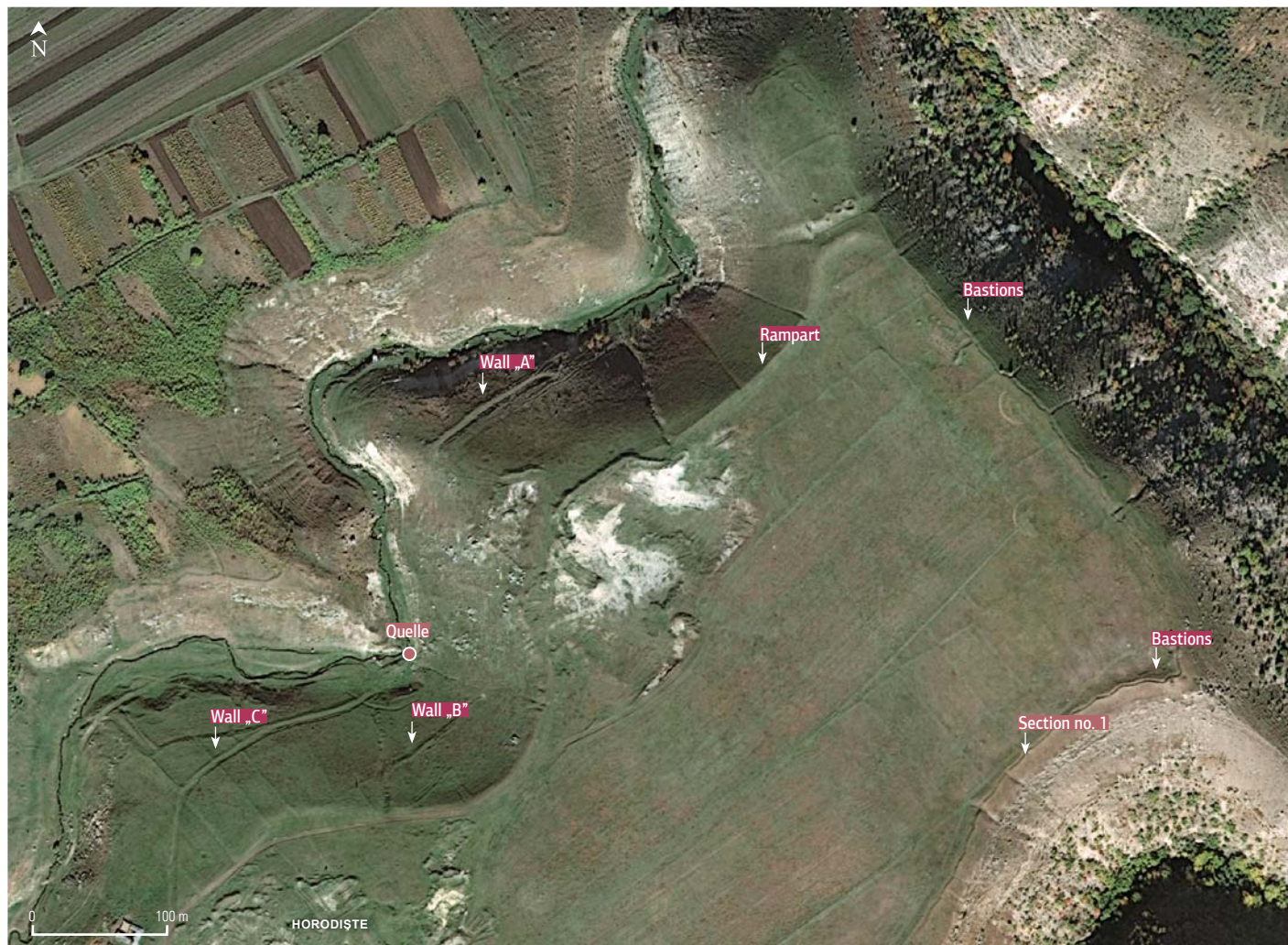


Fig. 4. Horodiște „La Cot”. Orthophotomap tracing anomalies of the defensive line on the northern, eastern and southern sides (by <http://geoportal.md/>).

Fig. 4. Horodiște „La Cot”. Ortofotoplan cu fixarea anomaliilor liniei defensive de pe laturile de nord, est și sud (după <http://geoportal.md/>).





Fig. 5. Horodiște „La Cot”. Remains of the defensive system on the east side at present.

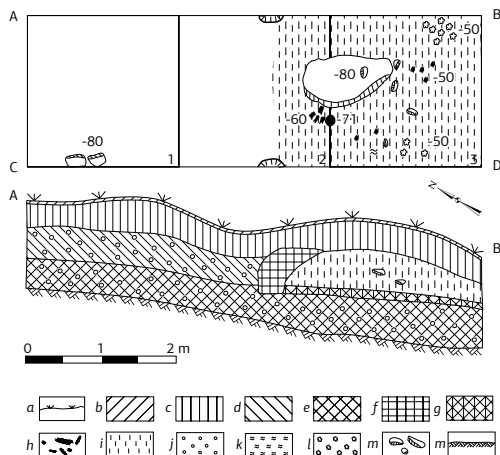
Fig. 5. Horodiște „La Cot”. Vestigiile actuale ale sistemului defensiv de pe latura de est.

On the northwestern side, at the bottom of the ravine currently there is a spring whose waters flow into nearby stream (Valea Horodiștii). From this stream goes downhill a wall of a length of 275 m, width at base of about 4 m and height of 0.3 to 0.4 m, which rises up near the wall of the fortress inner area, forming together a gateway of about 6 m width. Presumably, this defensive construction was intended to protect the access to the water source (fig. 4).

In order to clarify the technique and the period of construction of the “bastions” at the eastern end of the defensive line, on the southern side an archaeological excavation 6x2 m was carried out (fig. 4; 6).

Remnants of the defensive construction were found at a depth of 0.5 m from the current ground surface and represent debris composed of clayey soil mixed with ash, fragments of charred wood and pieces of burnt clay. It had a concave shape and attested in an area that was the width of 2.7 m and a maximum thickness of 0.55 m. In the debris there were found a single large stone (1.2x0.6x0.3 m) and several small pieces of limestone (0.15x0.10x0.05 m). Also among the ruins, at a depth of about 0.7 m a beam charred *in situ* was found. It was in an upright position, having a length of 0.3 m and a diameter of 0.15 m. Many pieces of carbonized wood were discovered near it (fig. 6/3).

At the north end of the debris, in the east and west profiles (fig. 6/1, 2) there were found traces of two postholes with a diameter of 0.4 m, 0.1 m deep, filled with baked soil mixed with burnt pigments of charred wood. Among the ruins, fragments of Thracian-Getic



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Legend: a. modern ground surface; b. chernozem mixed with vegetation; c. chernozem; d. gray soil; e. brown soil; f. burnt soil; g. soil burnt to red; h. fragments of burnt wood; i. loamy soil mixed with ash and fragments of burnt wood; j. gravel; k. ash; l. fragments of burnt clay; m. stones; n. sterile layer.

pottery and animal bones were discovered. Under the debris, throughout its width there is a soil layer with thickness of about 0.1 m, burnt to red (fig. ??) (Niculiță, Zanoci, Băț 2014, 235-236, fig. 3).

Based on archaeological situation attested in the southern part of the excavation, it can be assumed that the investigated debris represents ruins of a defensive line. This was probably built of two rows of posts. The first was documented through pits shown in profile, the second – through the charred beam *in situ*. If one takes into consideration the distance between rows of about 0.6 m, to which about 0.2-0.3 m thick beams is added,



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Fig. 6. Horodiște „La Cot”. Section no. 1. Ruins of a defensive structure on the south side: 1 - plan and profile of the section; 2 - vertical stratigraphic profile of the debris of the wall; 3 - fragments of charred wood.

Fig. 6. Horodiște „La Cot”. Secțiunea nr. 1. Ruinele construcției defensive de pe latura de sud: 1 - planul și profilul secțiunii; 2 - profilul stratigrafic vertical al dărâmurii zidului; 3 - fragmente de lemn carbonizat.

then it is clear that the defensive construction had a total width of about 1.0-1.2 m. The space between the rows of beams was filled with earth and stones, well compacted. It is possible that the construction outside was coated with clay, as suggested by clay fragments discovered in the debris. As a result of a violent destruction, the defensive construction collapsed on the south side (toward the edge of the promontory), what caused burning the soil to red (ancient ground surface), on which it has fallen.

The “walls” similar by the technique of construction and by size were used in the Thraco-Getic fortifications of Saharna Mare (Niculiță et al. 2013a, 223-237, fig. 9-14, 18, 21), Butuceni (Niculiță, Teodor, Zanoci 2002, 31, 32, fig. 14, 19-22, foto 3), Mășcăuți “Dealul cel Mare” (Zanoci 2004, 46, fig. 4-8), etc.

Based on the method of building of the defensive system and the characteristics of fragments of pottery discovered in the filling, the fortification of Horodiște “La Cot” can be also attributed to the Thraco-Getic communities.

Along with fortress of “La Cot”, the access through gorges in the vicinity of villages Horodiște and Țipova was controlled by five fortifications located nearby, on the northern, southern and eastern sides of the canyons.

The fortress of **Horodiște “La Șanț”** (site coordinates: 47°37'07" North, 28°57'37" East) (fig. 2; 7)<sup>4</sup> is located at the northeastern extremity of the Horodiște “La Cot” fortification, at a distance of about 850 m east of the village Horodiște, Rezina District<sup>5</sup>. The fortress, with an area of 0.6 ha, is located on a promontory of a nearly polygonal shape formed by the junction of two gorges. As a result of studying orthophotoplans and field research three defensive lines were attested on the promontory area (fig. 2; 7).

The first was built in the place, where the “La Șanț” promontory is connected with the plateau fortification “La Cot”. Its remains, actually a wall, can be traced over a length of 48 m. At present it has a width of about 14 m at the base and a height of about 2 m. In front of the wall there was dug a ditch with an opening of about 6 m and a depth of approximately 1.2 m (fig. 7; 8/1).

The second line of defense was attested on the western, northern and eastern sides. It was located on the edge of the promontory and represented a small wall of about 3 m width and a height of about 0.3 m (fig. 7/2).

Thus, by means of these arrangements the promontory was fortified on all sides: the available (southern) side was fortified with a “wall” and ditch, and the sides protected of natural geographic factors and a defensive

<sup>4</sup> The site was discovered in 1946 by G.D. Smirnov, who made a general description of the defensive system and noted that on the territory of the inner space of the fortress fragments of hand modeled pottery (“Scythian”) and of Greek amphorae were collected (Смирнов 1949, 196).

<sup>5</sup> Here and below, the distances between the settlements are given in a straight line (after [www.geoportal.md](http://www.geoportal.md)), disregarding the actual driveways.





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construction of smaller proportions, probably a wooden “wall” filled with earth and gravel<sup>6</sup>.

The third defensive line was found in the center of the site, placed perpendicular to the promontory at a distance of 52 m north of the first one. It is represented by a small wall with a length of 60 m, which rises to about 0.3 m above the modern ground surface and has a width of about 3.2 m at the base (fig. 7/2; 8/2).

In order to investigate the structure of this defensive line and the content of the cultural layer around it, there was made an excavation having the dimensions of 10×2 m (fig. 9/1).



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Fig. 7. Horodiște “La Șanț”. 1 - View of the headland from the southwest; 2 - orthophotomap of the site (by <http://geoportal.md/>).  
Fig. 7. Horodiște “La Șanț”. 1 - Vedere a promontoriului dinspre sud-vest; 2 - ortofotoplanul sitului (după <http://geoportal.md/>).

<sup>6</sup> Similar “walls” were found on the edges of the promontories of Horodiște “La Cot”, Saharna Mare (Niculiță et al. 2013a, 223-237, fig. 9-14, 18, 21), etc.



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Fig. 8. Horodiște „La Șanț”: 1 - view of the defensive line no. 1 from the south; 2 - view of the defensive line no. 3 from the south.

Fig. 8. Horodiște „La Șanț”: 1 - vedere dinspre sud a liniei defensive nr. 1; 2 - vedere dinspre sud a liniei defensive nr. 3.

As a result of archaeological investigations remains of the defensive construction were certified at a depth of about 0.4 m from the modern ground surface, representing a concave lens of 2.4 m width at the base, with the maximum thickness of 0.35 m (fig. 9). It was composed of gray soil mixed with ash, burnt clay fragments and stones with the dimensions between 0.4×0.3×0.15 m and 0.2×0.1×0.05 m. Probably, a part of debris of the defensive line is also an accumulation of stones (with dimensions between 0.25×0.20×0.10 m and 0.85×0.40×0.20 m) found in the southern part of the excavation.

In the debris of the defensive construction a bronze awl (fig. 10/1) and 11 fragments of pottery of the Cozia-Saharna type (fig. 10/7) were found ( Niculiță, Zanoci, Băț 2014, 242-243, fig. 8), which have many analogies in the settlements of Saharna Mare/“Dealul Mănăstirii” (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 59/13; 67/1-13), Alcedar III (Кашуба 2000, рис. XIII/4) or Saharna “Țiglău” (Niculiță, Nici 2008, fig. 3/11).

The Cultural layer around the defensive construction reaches a thickness of about 0.4-0.5 m and contains materials typical for both, early Hallstatt culture of Cozia-Saharna and Thraco-Getic culture.

Early Hallstatt materials are represented by fragments of bowls, pots and cups (fig. 10/7-11; Niculiță, Zanoci, Băț 2014, 243, fig. 9), frequently found in the settlements of Cozia-Saharna culture in the Middle Dniester region (Niculiță, Nici 2012, fig. 9/3, 10/5; Niculiță et al. 2012, fig. 37; 41/4).

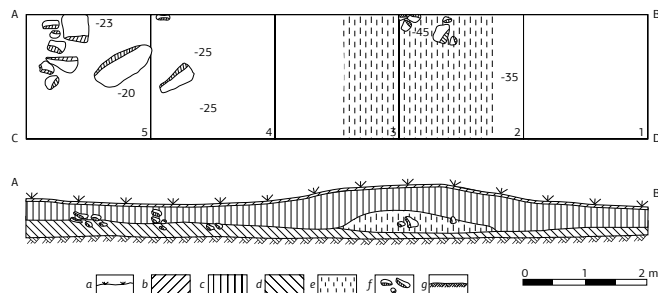
From the layer of Thraco-Getic habitat come: a belt set composed of an iron buckle (fig. 10/2) and a plaque (fig. 10/3), a grindstone (fig. 10/4), two spindle-whorls (fig. 10/5, 6), and a rich and varied assortment of pottery modeled by hand (Niculiță, Zanoci, Băț 2014, 245, fig. 10-12). The pottery discovered in the site of Horodiște „La Șanț” is similar to that found at the Thraco-Getic monuments of Butuceni (Niculiță, Teodor, Zanoci 2002, fig. 94/1), Saharna Mare (Niculiță, Zanoci, Arnăuț 2008, fig. 127/8), etc.

Thus, as a result of surface researches and archaeological surveys conducted in Horodiște „La Șanț” one can assume, with a certain degree of probability, that during the early Hallstatt period in the north of the promontory there was a “citadel” of polygonal shape with dimensions of 60×57 m (S = 0.34 ha), fortified on all the sides with an artificial defensive system.

In the next phase (the Thraco-Getic habitat layer) the settlement occupies the entire surface of the promontory (0.6 ha), being fortified on the southern side by a “wall” with adjacent ditch, and on the remaining sides – by a wooden “wall” filled with earth, rubble and gravel.

The **Horodiște II** fortification (site coordinates: 47°36'58" North, 28°57'18" East) (fig. 2; 11)<sup>7</sup> is located at a distance of 300 m east of the outskirts of the Horodiște village, opposite (west) the “La Cot” fortress.

<sup>7</sup> The site was discovered in 1947 by T.S. Passek (Пасек 1949, 64), who indicated in this place an open settlement, attributed to the Căcuteni-Tripolye culture, and a Getic (“Scythian”) fortification.



Legend: a. modern ground surface; b. chernozem mixed with vegetation; c. chernozem; d. gray soil; e. loamy soil mixed with ash and fragments of burnt wood; f. stones; g. sterile layer.



Fig. 9. Horodiște „La Șanț”. Defensive line no. 3. Section no. 1/2013: 1 - plan and profile of the section; 2 - vertical profile of the defensive structure.

Fig. 9. Horodiște „La Șanț”. Linia defensivă nr. 3. Secțiunea nr. 1/2013: 1 - planul și profilul secțiunii; 2 - profilul vertical al construcției defensive.





Fig. 10. Horodiște „La Șanț”. Finds from the debris of the “wall” (1, 7) and from the cultural layer (2-6, 8-11).

Fig. 10. Horodiște „La Șanț”. Descoperiri din dărâmătura „zidului” (1, 7) și din stratul cultural (2-6, 8-11).

It is located on a promontory with an altitude of 155 m above sea level, of a triangular shape, formed by a deep canyon, at the bottom of which a stream flows. Both on the orthophotoplan and directly at the site a “wall” was detected, which currently has a width of about 3 m at the base and a height of about 0.3 m. The “wall” with a length of about 280 m surrounds the site, giving the inner space a trapezoidal shape with an area of about 0.5 ha.

The **Buciușca Fortress II**<sup>8</sup> (site coordinates: 47°36'42" North, 28°58'49" East) (fig. 2; 12) is located on the right bank of the Dniester, at a distance of about 2.2 km south of the village of Buciușca and about 0.57 km north of the village of Țipova. The site is located on a ledge of the hill with an altitude of about 150 m above sea level (120 m from the Dniester), bounded on the east by the river bed and on the south by a deep gorge. The inner area of the fortress, with an area of about 0.9 ha, has a triangular shape and was reinforced all around with a defensive line. Following the study of orthophotoplans and the field investigations, remains of the defensive construction could be watched on a total length of about 380 m. They represent a “wall” of about 3 m width at the base and of a height of 0, 2-0.3 m.



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Fig. 11. Horodiște II: 1 - orthophotomapping (by <http://geoportal.md/>), 2 - view of the headland from the east.

Fig. 11. Horodiște II: 1 - ortofotoplan (după <http://geoportal.md/>); 2 - vedere a promontoriului dinspre est.

<sup>8</sup> Although the site is located closer to the village of Țipova, Rezina District, it was given the name of Buciușca II because it is located, in terms of cadastral division, on the land of this village. The name “Buciușca” without number was given to a fortification located north of the village. For details see: Niculiță, Zanoci, Băț 2012, 17-19.



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Fig. 12. Buciușca II: 1 - orthophotomap (by <http://geoportal.md/>), 2 - view of the headland from the west.

Fig. 12. Buciușca II: 1 - ortofotoplan (după <http://geoportal.md/>); 2 - vedere a promontoriului dinspre vest.

The fortification of **Buciușca III** (site coordinates: 47°37'16" North, 28°57'32" East) (fig. 2; 13) is located about 2.2 km southwest of the village of Buciușca and about 0.8 km northeast of Horodiște, opposite (northwest) the site of Horodiște "La Șanț". The fortress is situated on a promontory with absolute altitude of about 145 m, formed by the confluence of two canyons. According to geospatial data and field research it was established that the site was surrounded all around by a defensive line, which now represents a "wall", barely visible on the modern ground surface. Total length of the "wall" is about 250 m, its width at the base is about 3-4 m, and the height is between 0.2 and 0.4 m. On the northern side the "wall" is arched (curved) to the outside. The inner space enclosed by the defensive line is estimated at 0.5 ha.

The site of **Țipova III** (site coordinates: 47°36'40" North, 28°57'50" East) (fig. 2; 14) is located at a distance of about 0.85 km northwest of the village of Țipova, opposite (southeast) the fortress of Horodiște "La Cot". The fortress is situated on a ledge of the hill, of about 155 meters altitude above sea level, formed by a gorge. The inner area of about 6 ha has a semi-oval shape. Both on the orthophotoplan and on the modern ground surface a small "wall" could be traced, that surrounds the site all around. The "wall", with a length of about 1.15 km, has a width of about 3 m at the base and a height of 0.3-0.4 m, sometimes amounting to 0.8 m.

The fortress of **Țipova IV** (site coordinates: 47°36'17" North, 28°59'04" East) (fig. 2; 15) is on the eastern end of the Țipova village, on a relative altitude of about 125 m and steep bank of the Dniester. Currently the site area





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Fig. 13. Buciuşca III: 1 - orthophotomap (by <http://geoportal.md/>), 2 - ruins of the defensive system.

Fig. 13. Buciuşca III: 1 - ortofotoplan (după <http://geoportal.md/>); 2 - ruinele sistemului defensiv.



Fig. 14. Țipova III. View of the headland from the northeast.

Fig. 14. Țipova III. Vedere a promontoriului dinspre nord-est.



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Fig. 15. Țipova IV: 1 - View of the headland from the northeast, 2 - ruins of the defensive system (by <http://www.prospect.md/>).

Fig. 15. Țipova IV: 1 - Vedere a promontoriului dinspre nord-est; 2 - ruinele sistemului defensiv (după <http://www.prospect.md/>).

is affected by local farms. Remains of the defensive system are represented by a wall of about 4 m width at the base and a height of about 0,5-0,7 m, which can be seen only from the southeast and northwest sides.

### Open settlements

The site of **Horodiște “Groapa Turcului”** (site coordinates: 47°37'58" North, 28°58'24" East) (fig. 2)<sup>9</sup> is located about 1.7 km east of the Horodiște village and about 1.9 km southwest of the Buciușca village, on the northern side of the gorge. From the settlement surface fragments of pottery characteristic for the Cozia-Saharna culture are known (Кашуба 2000, 367, рис. XLVI/15, 16).

The **Țipova II** settlement (site coordinates: 47°35'59" North, 28°59'26" East) (fig. 2)<sup>10</sup> is located about 550 m southeast of the Țipova village, on a high and steep bank of the Dniester. The northern part of the site is wooded, the rest is agricultural land. As a result of field research there were collected fragments of pottery characteristic for the Cozia-Saharna culture.

The **Buciușca IV** settlement (site coordinates: 47°37'18" North, 28°57'38" East) (fig. 2) is located north-east of the Buciușca III fortress, in its immediate vicinity, on the northern side of the gorge. Currently the

<sup>9</sup> Currently the settlement is situated on the land of the village of Buciușca. It was identified in 1967 by V. Verina. The localization and a brief description of the site was made by V. Larușnean, I. Niculiță and M. Romanovskaia (Лапушнян, Ницулицэ, Романовская 1974, 18)

<sup>10</sup> It was discovered by V. Bobrakov. In 1992 it was investigated by O. Levițki (1993, 10), whom we thank for permission to publish the information about this site.

settlement is affected by agricultural works. As a result of research on the surface fragments of Thraco-Getic pottery were collected.

The **Buciușca V** settlement (site coordinates: 47°37'04" North, 28°58'04" East) (fig. 2) is located about 0.8 km southeast of the previous one, on the northern side of the Țipova gorge. From the site surface, which is currently affected by agricultural works, fragments of Thraco-Getic pottery were found.

## Conclusions

Considering the older publications, archival materials and results of field investigations and archaeological surveys, at present we can see the existence of two cultural horizons – Early Hallstatt and Thraco-Getic – in the Horodiște-Țipova micro-zone in the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC.

The Early Hallstatt horizon is represented by a fortification (the citadel from Horodiște “La Șanț”) and two open settlements (Horodiște “Groapa Turcului” and Țipova II). According to materials collected from these sites, the early habitation layer in the Horodiște-Țipova micro-zone can be attributed to the communities of the Cozia-Saharna culture dated from the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> c. – the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> c. BC (Кашыба 2011, 54).

To the Thraco-Getic horizon currently seven fortifications and two open settlements (Buciușca IV and Buciușca V) can be attributed.

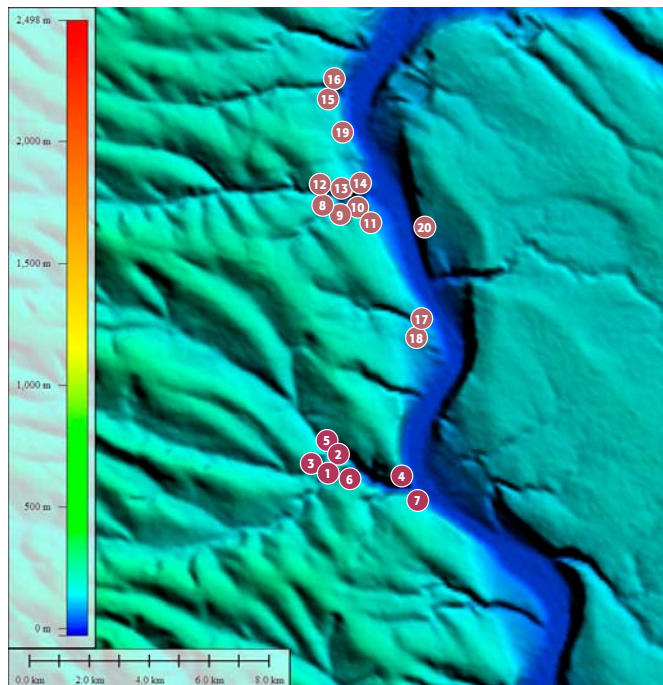
Among the fortresses there is one of Horodiște “La Cot”, which differs from the others by a large area (about 28 ha), the complexity of its defensive system and its strategic position in the Horodiște-Țipova micro-zone. The fortress is located at a distance of about 1,8 km from the right bank of the Dniester, an access to it is possible only through the Țipova gorge, which is controlled at the entrance by the fortified sites of Buciușca II and Țipova IV. Also, the site of Horodiște “La Cot” is protected from the north and northwest by the fortifications of Buciușca III, Horodiște “La Șanț” and Horodiște II, and from the south – by Țipova III.

The visibility analysis (after Global Mapper) established that from the Horodiște “La Cot” the possibilities to supervise the left bank and the valley of the Dniester, both upstream and downstream, are low (fig. 16/2). Instead, it had direct eye contact with all the fortifications located in the Horodiște-Țipova micro-zone. The same analysis showed that the mission to control territories in the east and the basin of the Dniester River belonged in the main to the sites located on the high bank of the river – Buciușca II and Țipova IV<sup>11</sup> (fig. 16/3). Also through these fortifications it was possible to establish visual contact with the sites of Buciușca, Saharna “Hulboaca” and Ofatinți from the so-called Saharna micro-zone<sup>12</sup> (fig. 16/4).

<sup>11</sup> From these fortifications one could oversee east of the Dniester area to a distance of 8 km, down the river – up to 5 km and upstream – up to 7 km.

<sup>12</sup> About the location of fortifications from the Saharna micro-zone see the study by I. Niculiță, A. Zanoci, and M. Băț from this collection of papers (p. 21-46).





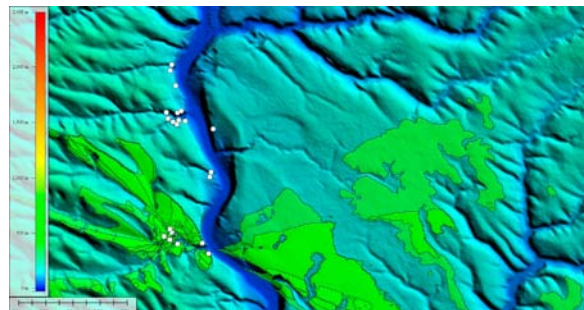
1

*Horodiște-Țipova micro-region:*

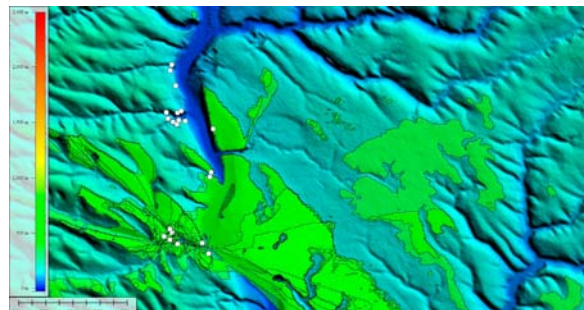
- 1 - Horodiște „La Cot”;
- 2 - Horodiște „La Șanț”;
- 3 - Horodiște II;
- 4 - Buciușca II;
- 5 - Buciușca III;
- 6 - Țipova III;
- 7 - Țipova IV

*Saharna micro-region:*

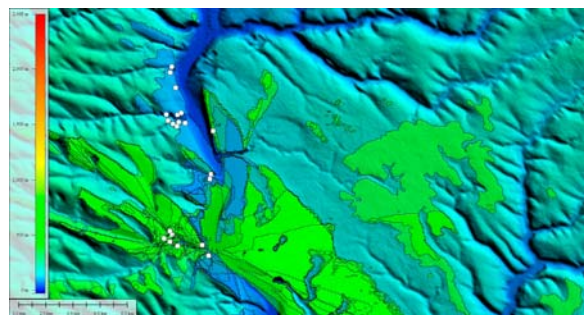
- 8 - Saharna Mare;
- 9 - Saharna „La Șanț”;
- 10 - Saharna „La Șanț” I;
- 11 - Saharna „La Șanț” II;
- 12 - Saharna Mică;
- 13 - Saharna; „Dealul Grimidon”;
- 14 - Saharna „La Vile”;
- 15 - Stohnaia III;
- 16 - Stohnaia IV;
- 17 - Saharna „Hulboaca”;
- 18 - Buciușca;
- 19 - Saharna „La Revichin”;
- 20 - Ofatinți



2



3



4

Fig. 16. 1 - Map of fortifications of the Horodiște-Țipova and Saharna micro-regions; 2 - 25 km visibility range for sites no. 1-3, 5, 6; 3 - 25 km visibility range for sites no. 1-7; 4 - 25 km visibility range for sites no. 1-7, 17, 18, 20.

Fig. 16. 1 - Harta fortificațiilor din microzonele Horodiște-Țipova și Saharna; 2 - raza de vizibilitate de 25 km pentru siturile 1-3, 5, 6; 3 - raza de vizibilitate de 25 km pentru siturile 1-7; 4 - raza de vizibilitate de 25 km pentru siturile 1-7, 17, 18, 20.

Thus, taking into consideration the compact arrangement of the fortifications and open settlements in the Horodiște-Țipova micro-zone, it can be presumed the existence in this area there of an community, where the fortress of Horodiște “La Cot” served as the administrative “center”. The time of its functioning still remains uncertain. However, if one takes into consideration that most fortified sites and open settlements in the Middle Dniester region (Niculiță, Zanoci, Băț 2013, 296-297) functioned the Thraco-Getic period, it can be assumed that the community of Horodiște-Țipova lived here around the same time. But it reaches its peak of development in the 4<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BC, as well as the neighboring communities in the area the existing village of Saharna (Niculiță, Zanoci, Băț 2013, 297-299).

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