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**BRONZE DRINKING HORN TERMINALS FROM KAŠUČIAI CEMETERY
IN THE WESTERN LITHUANIA AS A PART OF LIVELY CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN SOUTHERN CURONIA AND CENTRAL SCANDINAVIA**

(Pl. 1-6)

Introduction

Kašučiai (Kretinga dist.) cemetery in the western part of Lithuania is one of the more important Curonian sites, which has its roots in the West Lithuanian Stone Circles Grave Culture. Kašučiai cemetery is located on the right bank of the river Akmena/Danė (Fig. 1). In the surroundings between Kašučiai and Dubašiai villages is an unfortified settlement of the 1st-3rd centuries and the biggest system of fossil fields in Lithuania. Fossil fields are located on the both banks of the river Akmena/Danė (JABLONSKIS 1981; fig. 2-3, 5; 1988: 1-6, fig. 1-3; KANARSKAS 2001: 3-28, fig. 1; MERKEVIČIUS, NEMICKIENĖ 2003: 190-193, fig. 5-9). Two stone walkways running through the river Akmena/Danė facilitated better communication through this watercourse (JABLONSKIS 1988: 5, fig. 1). According to the data we have today the Curonian site Kašučiai appeared only circa the 7th c. AD.

Kašučiai cemetery was found incidentally and a part of it destroyed, when in 1966-1967, workers were routinely removing gravel. At the time twenty nine different artefacts belonging to the 3rd c.² and to the 7th-9th c. were found (Appendix 1 and n. 2). Among them were two significant bronze openwork drinking horn terminals (Fig. 2: 3-4). These discoveries from yet unknown Curonian site provided the impetus to start archaeological excavations.

In 1969 Efrosinija Radzvilovaitė excavated 22 graves from the 7th-9th c. as well as three additional graves were attributed to the West Lithuanian Stone Circles Grave Culture of the end of the 2nd c. and 3rd c. (RADZVILOVAITĖ 1969). Small scale excavations at Kašučiai cemetery was pursued by Ignas Jablonskis in 1975, where four graves of the 2nd and 3rd c. were found

inside the stone circles (JABLONSKIS 1975)³. I. Jablonskis once again investigated Kašučiai in 1978 in order to make the location of the Roman Iron Age graves and burials of the later periods perspicuous (JABLONSKIS 1978). Only two inhumation graves of the 10th c. were found during the 1978 excavation (JABLONSKIS 1978: 2-10). Viking Age graves were dug into the stone circles, which as typically surround graves of the Roman Period (JABLONSKIS 1978: 2-19).

Most of the unique and rare artefacts from archaeological sites come to museums as loose finds. This unfortunate and sad fact is the rule rather than an exception. It is no different in this case. The bronze drinking horn terminals from Kašučiai cemetery were found accidentally, after damage and disruption of the graves (Fig. 2: 3-4). These, as of yet, unpublished drinking horn terminals from Kašučiai enable us once again look at the chronology of the Curonian heritage and understand that relationships between central Scandinavia, Gotland and Eastern Baltic Sea coast has wide spectrum of diverse aspects.

The bronze openwork drinking horn terminals from Kašučiai is the second pair of artefacts known from the southern Curonian lands or so-called Mėguva land (cf. Fig. 1). A pair of stylistically similar bronze drinking horn terminals are documented at Ēglišķiai-Anduliai/former – Anduln (further Anduliai; Kretinga dist.) cemetery grave CCCXXVIII (Fig. 3: c-d) (BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 20-26, ryc. 3). One more openwork drinking horn terminal is registered at Anduliai cemetery in the grave 487 (Fig. 4: 1) (BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 20-26, ryc. 4). Kašučiai and Anduliai are located quite near each other on the banks of the river Danė/Akmena (Fig. 1).

¹ Name of the river Akmena came from Lithuanian word *akmuo* – stone (PĖTERAITIS 1992: 61, 234). There are huge amount of stones at the surroundings of Kašučiai and Dubašiai villages. The stones were used to set up fossils fields (cairns, baulks and stone walls; cf. JABLONSKIS 1981).

² To the phase C1a-C1b belongs the bronze neck-ring with conical terminals (II group; Kr.M 5291) (MICHELBERTAS

1986: 92-94). Archaeological material from the excavations at Kašučiai cemetery and loose finds are under custody of Kretinga Museum.

³ Four graves have been found inside the stone circles. The bronze eye fibulae similar to Prussian series (A. 59), profiled fibula (A. 92) and fibula with ladder (A. 98) allows the dating of these graves to the phase B2/C1.

Drinking horns terminals from Anduliai (grave CCCXXVIII) and Kašučiai (loose finds) have close stylistic parallels with Valsgårde boat grave 7, where two bronze openwork drinking horn terminals were found in this very richly equipped male grave (Fig. 4: 2-3). Drinking horn terminals found at Valsgårde in the boat grave 7 are unique to Scandinavia and unknown in the Continent, consequently it was hypothesized that these terminals are of the south-eastern Baltic origin and have close parallels with the drinking horn terminal from Anduliai grave 487 (ARWIDSSON 1977: 70-71; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001:21-22). Intensive research of the archaeological material from the Anduliai cemetery⁴ the relationships between Uppland and the southern Curonian lands, as well as the origins of the drinking horn terminals found in this burial site, were discussed thoroughly and indepthly (BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 20-26; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, BLIUJENĖ, WRÓBLEWSKI 2003: 195-199, Abb. 10-12).

Drinking horns as a significant part of Curonian culture

The custom of providing several drinking horns for the afterlife began in Curonian culture at the 5th c. (BEBRE 2003, 21). However, during the 7th-8th c. drinking horns hadn't been very usual to Curonian's. The custom of providing drinking horns in the graves started to increase at the end of the 8th and during the 9th c. Drinking horns were a common feature of Curonian culture till the first half of the 13th c. (SIMNIŠKYTĖ 1998: 216-220, fig. 55-57; BEBRE 2003: 21, 25, 31-33, fig. 3). Usually from one to two or even six drinking horns were placed into male, female and children's graves. Drinking horns usually were placed over the head or in both corners of a coffin or, very rarely, by the side of the deceased. The great majority of drinking horns found in the cremation graves are not burnt (SIMNIŠKYTĖ 1998: 195-196; BEBRE 2003: 31-33).

The majority of Curonian horns have found only with a rim of cylindrical or angular section bent around the top, without any ornamentation (SIMNIŠKYTĖ 1998: 201-209, fig. 25-50; BEBRE 2003: 31-33, fig. 3; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 29-30). All drinking horn terminals found in the Eastern Baltic Sea basin during the Late Migration Period and Early Viking Age have otherwise shape or are without

metal binding at the end of the horn (SIMNIŠKYTĖ 1998: 207-209, fig. 44-50; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 23, appendix; BEBRE 2003: 24-25, fig. 1). Therefore, bronze openwork drinking horn terminals are unusual for Curonians and in general for Balts material culture of the Late Migration Period and Early Viking Age.

In looking for the origin of openwork drinking horn terminals from Kašučiai and Anduliai we should look to the other Curonian artefacts in which openwork pattern were used. Since the 7th-9th c. particularly Curonians used considerably many different items with varied openwork design (Fig. 5: 6-7; 6: 13). The first openwork artefacts in the southern Curonian lands appeared during the 7th c. Still extremely rare to Curonian environment, openwork belt plates were found at Lazdininkai (Kalnalaukis) cemetery in the grave 73 dated to the first half of the 7th c. (BLIUJENĖ, BUTKUS 2002: 88-90, fig. 4).

Plenty of flat openwork fibulae should be mentioned among the most famous Curonian ornaments of the 8th-9th centuries (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 219-222; BLIUJENĖ 1999: 112-123, fig. 44-46, 50-52). The bronze openwork three part belt spacer isn't common to Curonians, but such kind of belt spacers are known from several Curonian sites of the 7th-9th c. (Fig. 5: 6-7). The bronze sash-like openwork spurs are known from a few Curonians cemeteries (Laiviai, Kretinga dist.; graves 171 and 317 and Palanga, grave 192). The bronze sash-like spurs are known from the graves of the 9th-11th c. (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 156; GINTAUTAITĖ-BUTĖNIENĖ, BUTĖNAS 2002: 53-54). A bronze sash-like spurs similar to the one from Kašučiai grave 25, was found at Laiviai cemetery in the grave 171 dated to the 9th-10th centuries (Fig. 6: 13) (GINTAUTAITĖ-BUTĖNIENĖ, BUTĖNAS 2002: 53-54, fig. 46: 8). The authors of this article are of the opinion, that the sash-like spur might have appear during the 8th c., along with the crossbow animal-head fibulae of type III⁵ (Fig. 6: 1, 9, 13).

Openwork drinking horn terminals from Valsgårde and southern Curonian sites

Openwork drinking horn terminals found at Anduliai (grave CCCXXVIII), Kašučiai cemeteries and Valsgårde boat grave 7 are close stylistically (Fig. 2: 3-4;

⁴ Anna Bitner-Wróblewska, Wojciech Wróblewski and Audronė Bliujienė investigate material of the Anduliai cemetery and are

preparing publication of this extremely important Curonian site.

⁵ According to A. Bliujienė (1999: 104, figs. 34, 35: 2, 36).

3: c-d; 4: 1-3). However, it should be mentioned, that drinking horn terminals from Valsgärde are much more elaborate. The drinking horns terminals from Anduliai grave CCCXXVIII were dated to the mid-7th c. or a bit later (BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 23-26; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, BLIUJENĖ, WRÓBLEWSKI 2003: 195-199, Abb. 10-12).

The circumstances under which the drinking horn terminals from Kašučiai cemetery were found and their uncommonness to the Curonian environment make it complicated and difficult to place them chronologically. However, all the loose finds found at Kašučiai cemetery in 1967 allow us to suppose that they were found in the same part of the cemetery and are chronologically close. Therefore, it is possible to attribute the loose finds of 1967 to the two suppositional male and to the three female graves (Appendix 1). The authors of this paper categorised the artefacts after analysing archaeological materials and records of the earlier excavations at Kašučiai cemetery. The authors believe that such categorisation of the frequency of appearance of the artefacts and their re-occurrence in other Curonian male and female graves of the 7th-9th c.

In our opinion, fibulae are one of the best chronological indicators of Curonian material culture. Though, fibulae attributed to the 7th c. were not found during the routine removing of gravel at Kašučiai cemetery in 1967. Only excavations of 1969 provide all artefacts which indicate coming from the 7th century (graves 8, 11, 21, 22, 23 and loose finds)⁶ (Fig. 7: 5). A concentration of graves with material of the 7th c. and early 8th c. were excavated between in the plots 7 and 8 in 1969 [RADZVILOVAITĖ 1969]. However, the implication is that it is impossible to connect exactly the area excavated in 1969 and the place where loose finds were found in 1967 [JABLONSKIS 1966; RADZVILOVAITĖ 1969].

The authors believe that the following items belong to the suppositional male grave I/1967: two bronze openwork drinking horn terminals, a bronze cylindrical binding of a drinking horn orifice, a bronze trapezium shaped pendant and a small fragment of an iron knife (Fig. 2: 1-2; Appendix 1: 1-5). The bronze cylindrical drinking horn orifice binding belongs to one of the drinking horns. The bronze comb shaped pendant from

suppositional grave I/1967 is still unique in the Curonian material culture (Fig. 2: 1; Appendix 1: 4). This bronze pendant shares common features in shape, ornamentation and even measurement with the Gotlandic antler or bone combs of the VII: 1 period (550-600 AD) (NERMAN 1969, Taf. 37: 394)⁷. The bronze pendant from Kašučiai seems an enough good copy of the trapezium shaped antler combs. The authors believe that perhaps the antler combs in bronze were adjusted and even transformed into specifically shaped amber pendant amulets in the Curonian culture having been influenced by cultural ideas coming from Gotland and central Scandinavia during the 7th c. (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996, 276). It is important to note that the bronze comb shaped pendant-amulets were produced in the Curonian culture in greater quantities only in the 10th-11th c. (GÖTZE 1908: 493-496, 498-500, fig. 12: d-k; NAKAITĖ 1964: 64, fig. 8: 1-6; TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 278).

Grave goods of the suppositional male grave I/1967 from Kašučiai allow us to conclude that openwork drinking horn terminals were placed in the grave between the second quarter of the 7th c. – mid of the 7th c. (Fig. 2; Appendix 1: 1-5). There are close parallels between the Kašučiai drinking horn terminals and the two similar terminals that were placed into Anduliai grave CCCXXVIII around the same time or a bit later (Fig. 3: c-d).

Valsgärde boat grave 7 has recently been dated to the end of the 7th c. – the first half of the 8th c. (680 - 740/750 – *Nordische Stufe IV*) (ARRHENIUS 1983: 63-67, fig. 6; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 23; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, BLIUJENĖ, WRÓBLEWSKI 2003: 195-199, Abb. 10-12). In all respects, the appearance of the drinking horn terminals in both above mentioned graves, might belong to the phase F according to Adalbert Bezzenger, which is synchronised with a horizon of very rich Scandinavian graves containing weapons (610/620 – ca 680) (BEZZENBERGER 1904, I-X; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 25).

It might be that the drinking horn terminals from Kašučiai and Anduliai grave CCCXXVII have some stylistic inspiration to those found in Valsgärde boat grave 7 in Uppland. On the other hand, it might be that

⁶ The good indication of the 7th-8th c. are owl-shaped fibulae (first type), identically terminated brooches and particular fibulae with ladders (Fig. 7: 5) (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 215-216, fig. 101; BLIUJENĖ 1999: 93-94, 111, figs. 23: 1, 42). However, fibulae had only deceased buried in the graves 11 and 21. In the female grave 21 were found: miniature clay pot, necklace strung of 2 amber beads, 3 glass beads and 3 bronze spirals, neck-ring with loop and hook clasp, fibulae with ladders.

⁷ Bone combs haven't been usual item in the Baltic environment (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 275-276, figs. 134-135). Therefore each combs found in the Eastern Baltic region have rank of significant items. Antler combs with bronze sheaths recently were found at Kreivėnai (Šilutė dist.) cemetery in the rich equipped female grave 18 (ŠIMĖNAS 1998: 215-216, fig. 24). The combs from Kreivėnai have close parallels between Gotlandic material of the end of the 6th c. – first half of the 7th c.

the drinking horn terminals found at Anduliai and Kašučiai cemeteries and in Valsgårde boat grave 7 are a separate phenomenon, the inspiration of which originated from the stylistic trends of the Late Germanic Iron Age. Therefore it can be presumed that the phenomenon which provoked the upspring of openwork similar shaped drinking horn terminals was significant and valuable to the Baltic and Scandinavian societies for a good amount of time. This paradigm is a provocation to wonder if the design of these drinking horn terminals had the same meaning in Uppland as it did in the southern Curonian lands. It might be, that the drinking horn terminals for the jeweller of Uppland were just a pretty and unusual design seen somewhere far away. Perhaps the openwork pattern adapted in Curonian drinking horn terminals has a yet unknown symbolic meaning or, for instance, was the manner of showing a schematised boat and crew. There is a huge probability that such openwork design was just an interesting pattern implemented by only two skilful Curonian handicraftsmen. As of today, we don't have a definite answer to these considerations. On the basis of different stylistic expression we presume that two handicraftsmen manufactured drinking horn terminals found at Kašučiai and Anduliai grave CCCXXVII. However, our ideas about the drinking horn terminals from Anduliai grave CCCXXVII come only from the *Katalogblätter of Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte* in Berlin (Fig. 3: c-d).

The stylistic inspiration the Curonians and Upplanders received from other cultures was adapted to the drinking horn terminals in Kašučiai, grave I/1967, Anduliai, grave CCCXXVII and Valsgårde boat grave 7, but did not continue into the 8th c. (Fig. 2: 3-4; Fig. 3: c-d). However, these drinking horn terminals once again allow to presume a close and lively contact between southern Curonian lands and Uppland, and Gotland during the 7th c. (NERMAN 1958: 174-182; PETRENKO, URTĀNS 1995: 16-19; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 20-27; BLIUJENĖ, BUTKUS 2002: 83-96; MICKEVIČIUS 2004: 105-107).

One more atypical bronze openwork drinking horn terminal was found in Anduliai, grave 487 (Fig. 4: 1). Grave goods from Anduliai grave 487 were widely discussed and dated to the mid of the 7th or a bit later (BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 22-27;

BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, BLIUJENĖ, WRÓBLEWSKI 2003: 195-198]. The drinking horn terminals from Kašučiai provide an opportunity once again to evaluate chronological and stylistic aspects of the openwork drinking horn terminals found in grave 487.

The grave goods of Anduliai grave 487 include crossbow animal-headed fibula (type III or *Gabelfibeln* after E. C. Graf Oxenstierna) among others artefacts (OXENSTRIERNA 1940: 238; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 25, fig. 4: c; BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, BLIUJENĖ, WRÓBLEWSKI 2003: 198, Abb. 11: c). This type of crossbow animal-headed fibulae had been wide spread in the southern Curonian lands during the 8-9th c. (VAITKUNSKIENĖ 1978: 44-45, map 31: 1; TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 208-210; BLIUJENĖ 1999: 104, figs. 34, 35: 2, 36). The biggest concentration of this fibulae type is from Anduliai, Genčiai, 1st site, and Palanga⁸ cemeteries (OXENSTRIERNA 1940: 252). To a lesser degree such fibulae are found in male's graves of the 8th-9th c. in other southern Curonian cemeteries (Kiauleikiai, Kašučiai, Girkaliai, Laiviai and Lazdininkai [Kalnalaukis]).

The crossbow animal-headed fibulae (type III) is a part of the Curonian animal style, which inspired the development of the so-called Baltic animal style [BLIUJENĖ 2000: 131-138, figs. 7-18; 2001: 207-219, figs. 2-20]. The Baltic animal style incorporates the main Curonian achievements in developing various zoomorphic expressions of the transition times from the Late Migration Period into the Early Viking Age and link up stylistic ideas and trends of the Late Germanic Iron Age. The complete grave goods of each grave from Anduliai, Genčiai – 1st site, Palanga⁹ and Kašučiai cemeteries allow the dating of crossbow animal-headed fibulae (type III) not earlier than the 8th c. (Fig. 5-6). Animal-headed fibulae of this type vanished at the end of the 9th c. The location of the Anduliai, Genčiai 1st site, Palanga, Kiauleikiai and Kašučiai sites allows us to suppose that the manufacturing of stylistically close or identical animal-headed crossbow fibulae and another artefacts was concentrated at several places of different levels of subordination and importance (Fig. 1).

Therefore it is possible to date Anduliai grave 487 not earlier as the first half of the 8th c. or a bit later. Such dating corresponds with the second part of *Nordische Stufe IV* (680-740/750). The elaborate openwork

⁸ Material from Genčiai 1st site and Palanga cemeteries are still not published.

⁹ Most of the graves from Palanga cemetery, which includes crossbow animal head (type III) are enough uniform (Nos. 50, 52, 55, 58, 78b, 86, 129, 192, 209, 245, 243, 309 and 338).

Besides, silver or bronze crossbow animal-headed fibula among grave goods of these inhumation burials should be mentioned one edged sword, one-two socketed spearheads, socketed axe, scythe, knife, bits, whetstone, different belt sets, drinking horns and sometime separate amber beads or amber comb shaped pendant.

drinking horn terminal from Anduliai grave 487 is still unique in the Baltic cultural environment of the first half of the 8th c. (Fig. 4: 1). Quadrangular openwork fibulae might have been the inspiration to adjust the pattern into this drinking horn-terminal (BITNER-WRÓBLEWSKA, WRÓBLEWSKI 2001: 22-23). The development of openwork patterns in the Eastern Baltic Region and in Curonian culture was related to impacts coming from the Continent and Scandinavia (TAUTAVIČIUS 1996: 219-221; BLIUIENĖ 1999: 112-114]. The Olsztyn group made a big enough influence the development of the particular Curonian shaped open-work patterns. Relating to this, we should note graves 147, 177 from Tumiany (former Daumen, (Olsztyn dist, Poland) cemetery, which have similar design openwork spacer plates (KULAKOV 1990, figs. 52, 57: 2).

Diverse relationships between Scandinavia and the Eastern Baltic region according to the archaeological material and written sources during the 8th-9th c. were much more intensive than before (MICKEVIČIUS 2004: 107-112). Archaeological material of Anduliai allows us to suppose that this Curonian site together with Lazdininkai (Kalnalaukis) was the most important centre of Mėguva land. The role of Kašučiai in this interchange still is not as evident. On the other hand, archaeological material in the southern Curonian lands allows us to maintain that distribution of different artefacts as well as interchange of cultural ideas and stylistic trends was intensive enough to spread along the river Danė/Akmena. (Fig. 1).

Conclusions

Kašučiai cemetery in the western part of Lithuania is one of the more important Curonian sites, which has genesis in the West Lithuanian Stone Circles Grave Culture, is located on the right bank of the river Akmena/Danė. Curonian site Kašučiai appeared circa the 7th c.

Bronze openwork drinking horn terminals along with twenty nine other artefacts from Kašučiai cemetery were found as loose finds in 1967. The artefacts found at Kašučiai cemetery can be attributed to the two suppositional male and three female graves. The bronze openwork drinking horn terminals are attributed to suppositional grave I/1967. Grave goods of the suppositional male grave I/1967 from Kašučiai allow us to conclude that open worked drinking horn terminals were placed into the grave between the second quarter of the 7th c.-mid of the 7th c.

Drinking horn terminals from Kašučiai are the second pair of artefacts known from southern Curonian lands or so-called Mėguva land. A pair of stylistically similar bronze drinking horn terminals from Anduliai cemetery grave CCCXXVIII exist and are dated to the mid-7th c. or a bit later. Unusual drinking horn terminals

from two Curonian sites are located close to each other on the banks of the river Danė/Akmena.

Two stylistically similar openwork bronze drinking horn terminals are known from a rich male grave at Valsgårde boat grave 7 in Uppland, which was recently dated to the end of the 7th c. – the first half of the 8th c. (680-740/750 – *Nordische Stufe IV*). It may be that the drinking horn terminals from Kašučiai and Anduliai grave CCCXXVII have some stylistic inspiration to those found at Valsgårde in boat grave 7. On another hand, it might be that the drinking horn terminals found at Anduliai and Kašučiai cemeteries and in Valsgårde boat grave 7 are a separate phenomenon, but the origin of these items was inspired by similar stylistic trends of the Late Germanic Iron Age.

One more openwork drinking horn terminal is registered in Anduliai cemetery in grave 487. The bronze openwork quadrangular fibulae might have been the stylistic inspiration to the drinking horn terminals found at Anduliai grave 487. Therefore the openwork drinking horn terminal was placed in the grave 487 not earlier than the first half of the 8th c. or a bit later. Such dating corresponds with the later phase of *Nordische Stufe IV* (680-740/750).

Drinking horn terminals from Kašučiai (grave I/1967) and Anduliai graves CCCXXVIII and 487 once again demonstrate lively connections between southern Curonian lands and central Scandinavia and Gotland during the 7th-8th c.

Appendix 1. Loose finds found at Kašučiai cemetery in 1967

Finds typical to males

Artefacts attributed to the suppositional male grave I/1967 (Fig. 2: 1-4)

1. Bronze openwork drinking horn terminal; length 6.1 cm, orifice diameter 1.1 cm (Kr.M GEK 5312).
2. Bronze openwork drinking horn terminal; length 6.0 cm, orifice diameter 1.0 cm (Kr.M GEK 5313).
3. Bronze cylindrical drinking horn orifice binding; diameter 6.2-7.4 cm (Kr.M GEK 5311).
4. Bronze comb shaped pendant; fragment, length 7.4 cm, height 4.0 cm (Kr.M GEK 20665).
5. Fragment of the knife; length 6.2 cm, blade width 2.0 cm (Kr.M GEK 5320).

Chronology: the second quarter of the 7th c.-mid of the 7th c.

Artefacts attributed to the suppositional male grave II/1967

6. Bronze crossbow fibula with poppyseed-shaped terminals, type Ia; length 15.1 cm, foot width 2.5 cm; broken (Kr.M GEK 5295; BLIUIENĖ 1999: 108, fig. 38).
7. One-edged blade sword without cross guard;

- length 79.0 cm, blade width 4.7 cm (Kr.M GEK 5317).
8. Fragment of iron ridding bits with three-joined or two-joined mouthpiece; rings diameter 7.6-7.8 cm, middle part didn't survived (Kr.M GEK5322).
 9. Fragment of socketed lancet shaped spearhead; length of the fragment 20 cm, width 2.6 cm (Kr.M GEK 5318).
 10. Fragments of two D shaped bronze belts buckles; length 3.5 cm and 3.6 cm (Kr.M GEK 5314-5315).
 11. Socked axe, miniature; length 11.5 cm, blade width, ferrule diameter 2.7 cm (Kr.M GEK5319).

Chronology: the end of the 8th c.-9th c.

Finds typical to females

Artefacts attributed to the suppositional female grave III/1967

12. Bronze crossbow fibula with eight ringlets, covered with decorated silver plates; length 8.4 cm, width of spring axle 11.4 cm; foot width 3.2 cm (Kr.M GEK 5294; BLIUJENĖ 1999: 83, fig. 15).
13. Bronze neck-ring with round thickened terminals; diameter 23 cm, terminals diameter 1.3 (Kr.M GEK 5292).
14. Bronze cruciform pin with hemisphere-shaped knobs (type II) and chain fragments. Head was covered with white metal plate (fragment); length of the fragment 16.7 cm, head width 10.2 cm (Kr.M GEK 5297).
15. Bronze semicircular shaped pendant was covered with white metal plate and embellished with inlays of two blue glasses; length 9.0 cm, height 6.8 cm (Kr.M GEK 5301).

Chronology: the 8th c.

Artefacts attributed to the suppositional female grave IV/1967

16. Fragment of bronze pin with triangular head (type III) and system of the pendants. Semicircular shaped pendant; length 9.8 cm; width 6.4 cm. Rectangular shaped pendant; length 9.8 cm, width 5.0 cm. 17 rows of chains terminating with seven mapleseed-shaped pendants. Head of the pin and pendants were covered with white metal plates (except mapleseed pendants); pin length 10.8 cm, width of the head 6.7 cm (Kr.M GEK 5296, 5299, 5300, and 5302).

17. Bronze bracelet with massive flaring terminals; end width 5.4 cm, diameter 7.2-8.3 cm (Kr.M GEK 5303).
18. Bronze spiral finger ring with flaring frontal part; diameter 2.1-2.7 cm (Kr.M GEK 5309).

Chronology: the 8th c.-beginning of the 9th c.

Artefacts attributed to suppositional female grave V/1967

19. Bronze neck-ring with round thickened terminals (fragment); one end is twist with wire; (Kr.M GEK 5293).
20. Bronze cruciform pin (type IV, subtype A) with semicircular shaped pendant (length 6.5 cm, width 5.5 cm) and a chain fragment. Head of the pin and pendant were covered with white metal plates; pin length 30.8 cm, width of the head 11 cm (Kr.M GEK 5298).

Chronology: the end of the 8th c.-9th c.

Finds which impossible to determinate to males or females graves

21. Amber bead conical shaped; diameter 1.3-1.3 cm, h 1.0 cm (Kr.M GEK 5311).
22. Bronze spiral finger ring; diameter 2.2-2.8 cm (Kr.M GEK 5304).
23. Bronze spiral finger ring; diameter 2.1-2.5 cm (Kr.M GEK 5305).
24. Bronze spiral finger ring with flaring frontal part; diameter 2.1-2.6 cm (Kr.M GEK 5306).
25. Bronze spiral finger ring; fragment; diameter 2.1-2.5 cm (Kr.M GEK 5308).
26. Bronze spiral finger ring; fragment, diameter 2.6-2.8 cm (Kr.M GEK 5307).
27. Bronze spiral finger ring with flaring and thickened frontal part; diameter 2.2-3.0 cm (Kr.M GEK 5310).
28. Fragment of bronze spiral finger ring; diameter 1.9-2.4 cm (Kr.M GEK 5323).

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Abbreviations

Publications

AL – Archaeologia Lituana, Vilnius.

LA – Lietuvos archeologija

Museums

Kr.M – Kretinga Museum, Kretinga

LII R – Lithuanian institute of history, Archive, Vilnius.

LNM – Lithuanian National Museum, Department of Archaeology, Vilnius.

MVF – Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, Berlin, Staatliche Museen Berlin – Preussischer Kulturbesitz.

dist. – district

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BRĄZOWE OKUCIA ROGÓW DO PICIA

ZNALEZIONE NA CMENTARZYSKU W KAŠUČIAI W ZACHODNIEJ LITWIE,

JAKO ŚWIADECTWO ŻYWYCH KONTAKTÓW MIĘDZY POŁUDNIOWĄ KURONIA I ŚRODKOWĄ SKANDYNAWIĄ

(STRESZCZENIE)

Ciałopalne cmentarzysko w Kašučiai (północno-zachodnia Litwa), jest jednym z najważniejszych stanowisk kurońskich, sięgającym swoją genezą schyłkowych faz zachodnioliteńskiej kultury cmentarzysk z grobami w obstawach ogródkowych. Położone jest na prawym brzegu rzeki Akmena/Danė. Cmentarzysko w Kašučiai zostało odkryte przypadkowo w latach 60-tych XX w. podczas eksploatacji zwirowni. Najstarsze z odkrytych wtedy zabytków mogą być datowane na VII w. n.e.

W wyniku badań ratowniczych, prowadzonych w Kašučiai w 1967 r. odkryto (na terenie skrajnie zniszczonym) dwadzieścia dziewięć zabytków wydzielonych, wśród których znajdowały się dwa dolne okucia rogów do picia, analizowane przez Autorów niniejszego artykułu.

Według ich domysłów, przedmioty te pochodziły z dwóch przypuszczalnych grobów męskich oraz trzech rekonstruowanych grobów kobiecych. Dwa brązowe, dolne okucia rogów do picia, zostały przez Autorów tego artykułu przypisane do domniemanego grobu I/1967. Według ich opinii oba zabytki, o charakterystycznym ornamentem ażurowym, zostały złożone do grobu między drugą ćw. VII w. a połową tego samego stulecia.

Ażurowe okucia rogów do picia z Kašučiai są drugą tego typu parą zabytków brązowych, znanych z południowej Kuronii (lub inaczej mówiąc z rejonu tzw. Ziemi Mėguva). Inna para zabytków, będąca najbliższymi analogiami dla okuć z Kašučiai została znaleziona jeszcze w XIX w. w grobie CCCXXVIII w b. Anduln/Anduliai – cmentarzysku zlokalizowanym także w dorzeżu Akmena/Danė. Datowane są one na połowę VII w., lub też na czasy nieco późniejsze. Warto podkreślić jest to, że zarówno okucia rogów z Kašučiai, jak i z Anduln/Anduliai pochodzą z granic późniejszej, historycznej Ziemi Mėguva.

Trzeba także zaznaczyć, że kolejna para bardzo podobnych, dolnych brązowych zakończeń rogów do picia, wykonana w ornamentyce ażurowej, znana jest też

ze szwedzkiego (Uppland – środkowa Szwecja) cmentarzyska kurhanowego w Valsgårde (grób nr 7). Ten niezwykle bogaty pochówek łodziowy datowany jest ostatnio na schyłek wieku VII, bądź też na początki następnego stulecia (chronologia tożsama z tzw. skandynawską *Nordische Stufe IV*, wyznaczającą chronologię między latami 680 a 740/750).

Autorzy tego artykułu sądzą więc (wbrew ostatniej opinii A. Bitner-Wróblewskiej i W. Wróblewskiego 2001), że zarówno okucia rogów do picia z Kašučiai jak i z Anduln/Anduliai (grób CCCXXVII) miały swoje wcześniejsze inspiracje w przedmiotach znalezionych w kurhanie łodziowym Valsgårde 7. Sądzą przy tym, że inspiracje te sięgają tzw. południowoskandynawskiego *Late Germanic Iron Age*, który może być synchronizowany z wczesną fazą okresu Vendel, czyli VI–VII w. n.e.

Pozostaje jeszcze kwestia dolnego okucia rogu do picia, znalezionego w Anduln/Anduliai w grobie 487. Autorzy przypuszczają, że inspiracją dla jego ażurowej ornamentyki mogą być znane z południowo-wschodnich pbrzeży Bałtyku zapinki o podobnej stylistyce wzoru. Z tego też powodu skłonni są datować moment złożenia tego zabytku do ziemi nie wcześniej niż na pierwszą połowę VIII w., lub też okres nieco późniejszy. Według ich opinii chronologia taka korespondowałaby ze skandynawską *Nordische Stufe IV*, datowaną na lata 680–740/750.

Podsumowując swoje rozważania na temat analizowanych znalezisk Autorzy dochodzą do wniosku, że niezależnie od dotychczasowych dyskusji, zarówno dwa brązowe okucia rogów do picia z rekonstruowanego przez nich grobu I/1967 z Kašučiai oraz dolne okucia rogów do picia z pobliskiego cmentarzyska w Anduln/Anduliai (groby: CCCXXVIII i 487), stanowią niewątpliwe świadectwo intensywnych kontaktów między południową Kuronią a środkową Skandynawią i Gotlandią w ciągu VII–VIII w.

(tłumaczył Wojciech Wróblewski)

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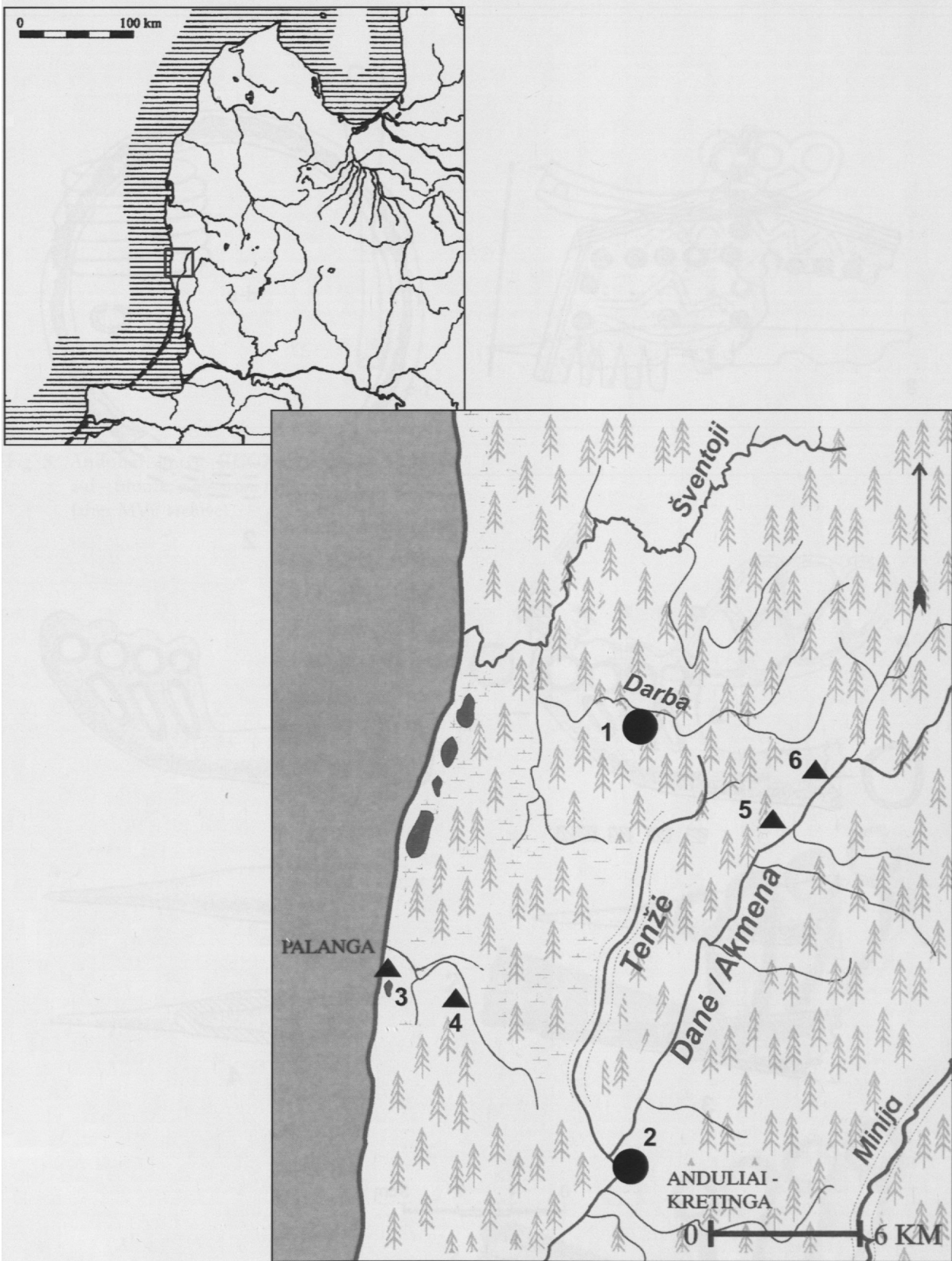


Fig. 1. South-eastern Baltic region and Curonian territory between the rivers Danė/Akmena and Šventoji or so-called Mėguva land during the 7th and 8th c.: ● – prior sites; ▲ – other sites 1 – Lazdininkai (Kalnalaukis); 2 – Ēglišķiai-Anduliai; 3 – Palanga; 4 – Kiauleikiai; 5 – Genčai 1st site; 6 – Kaščiai (after A. Bitner-Wróblewska, W. Wróblewski 2001 and V. Žulkus 2004 with addition of A. Bliujienė)

PLANSZA 2

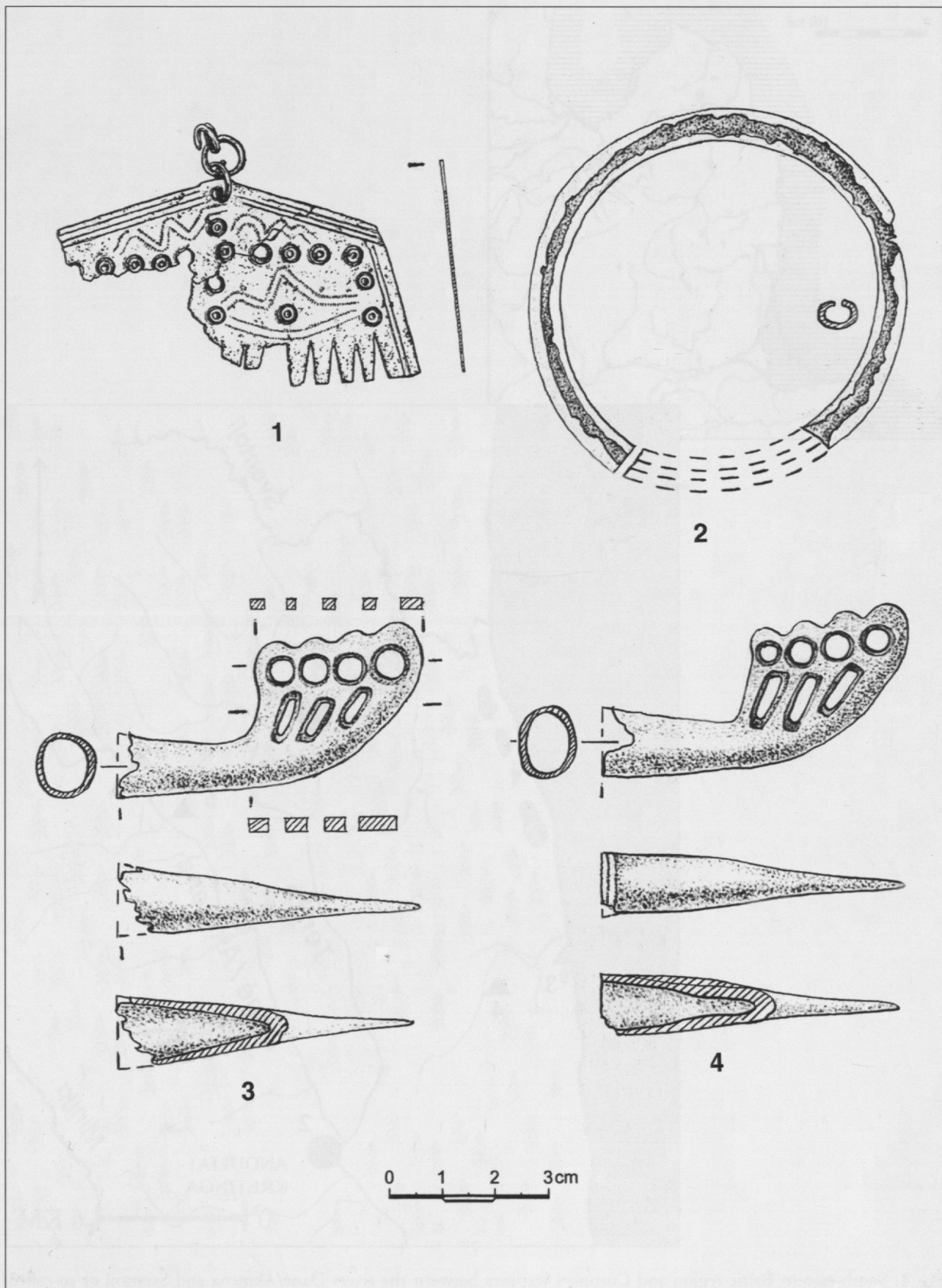


Fig. 2. Loose finds from Kašučiai cemetery found in 1967 or artefacts attributed to suppositional male grave I/1967 (bronze; drawings by N. Budžinskis (2-4) and V. Truklickas (1))

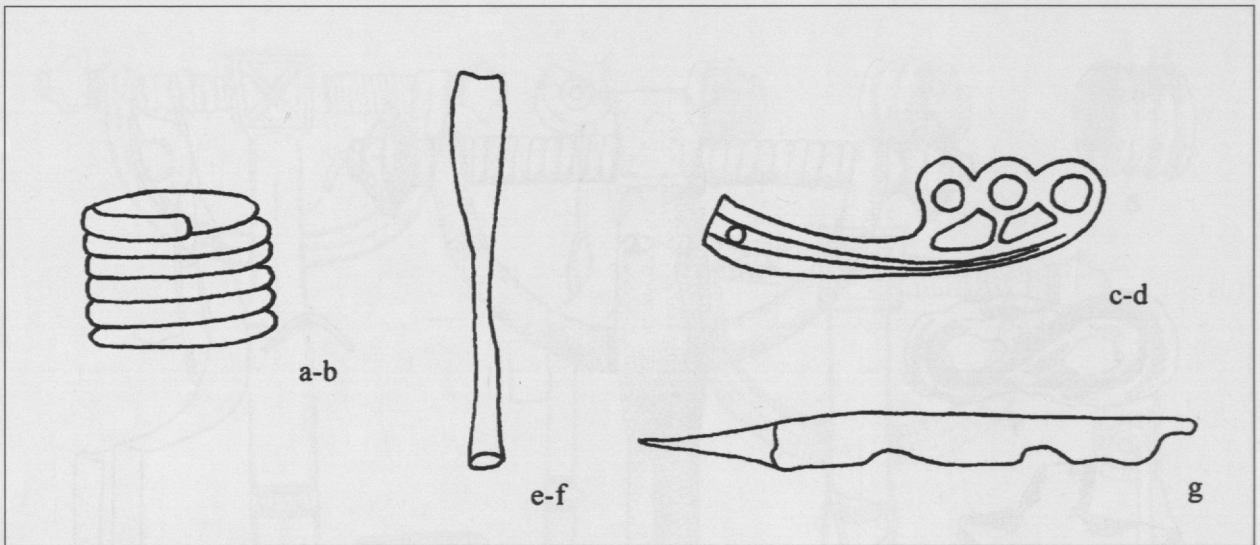


Fig. 3. Anduliai grave CCCXXVII:
a-d – bronze; e-g – iron; no scale
(after MVF archive)

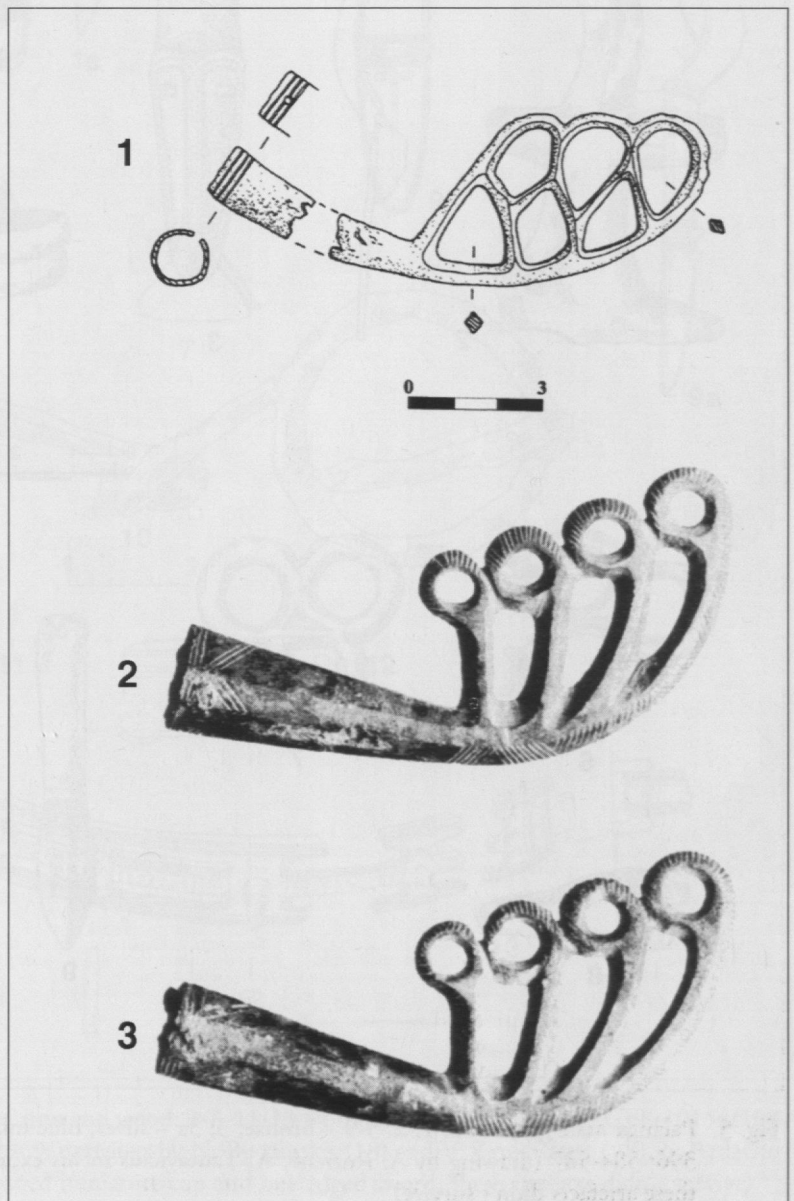


Fig. 4. Drinking horn terminals from
Anduliai grave 487 (1) and Vals-
gårde boat grave 7 (2, 3) – bronze
(after A. Bitner-Wróblewska,
W. Wróblewski 2001)

PLANSZA 4

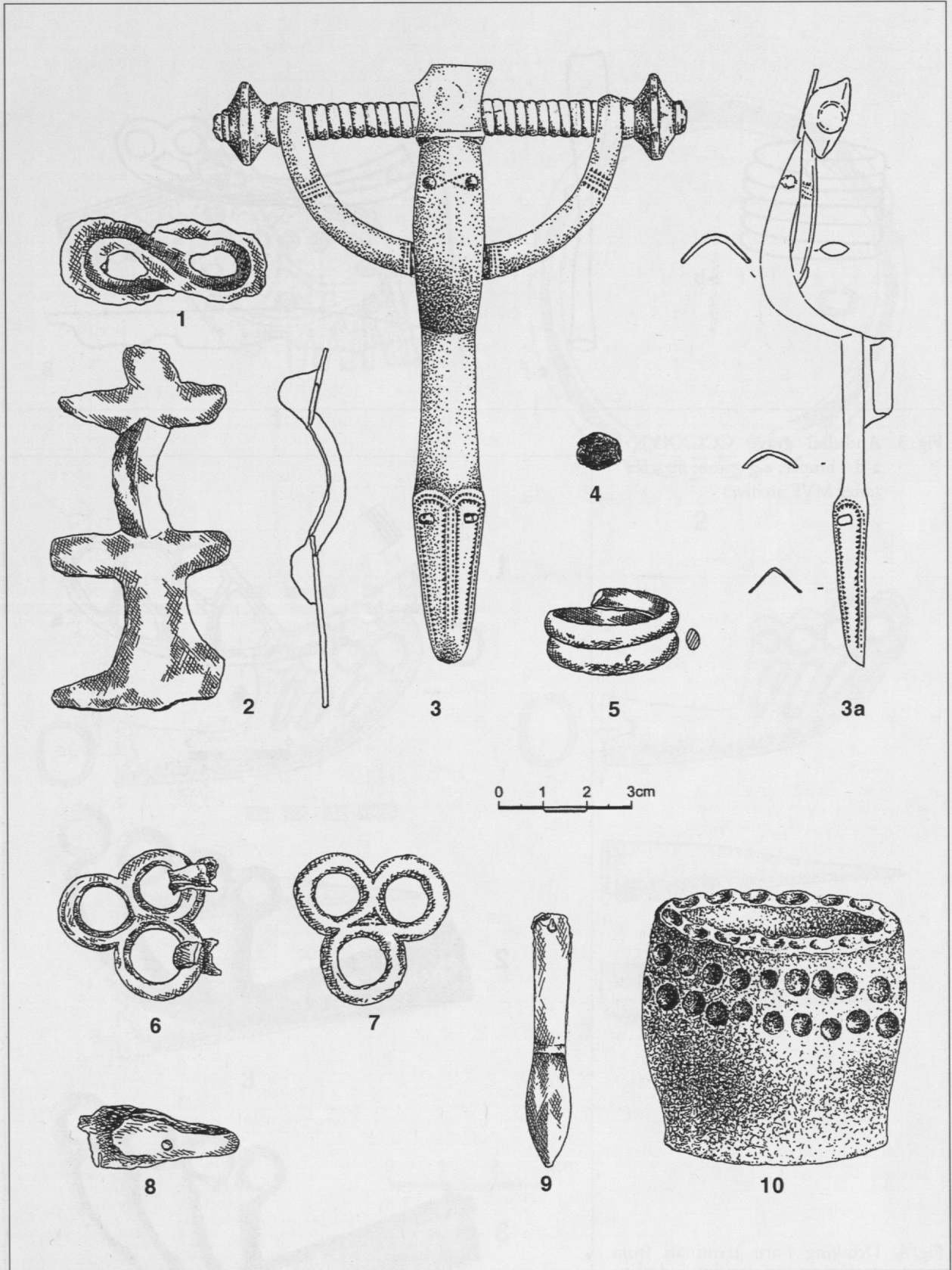


Fig. 5. Palanga male grave 78b: 1, 2, 5-9 – bronze, 3, 3a – silver, blue inlay and iron; 4 – amber; 10 – clay; LNM AR 396: 584-587 (drawing by A. Ruzienė. A. Tautavičius in his excavation report mentioned iron bits and spur, these artefacts didn't survive)

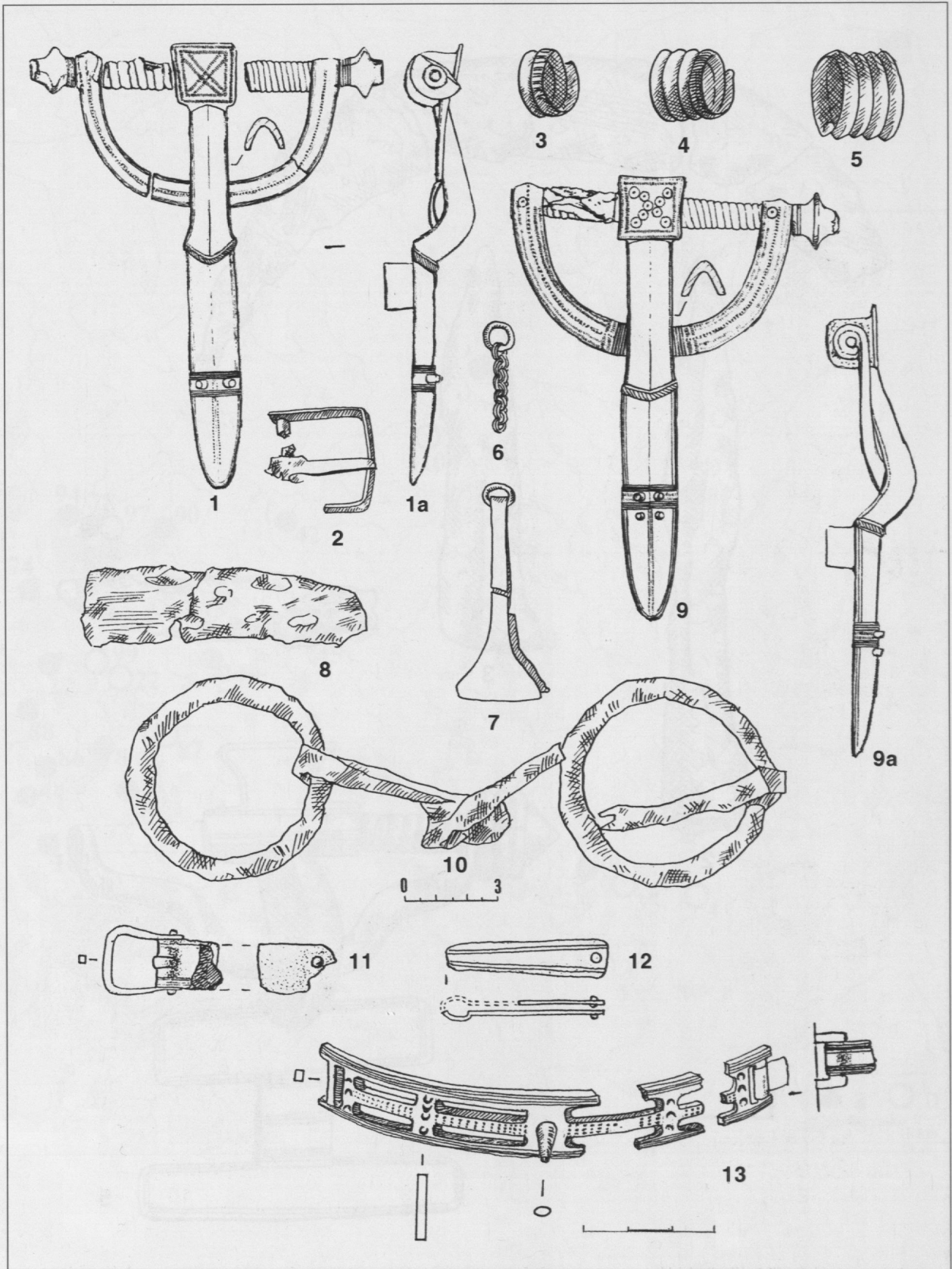


Fig. 6. Kašučiai male grave 25: 1, 9 – bronze, iron and wood; 2-7, 11-13 – bronze, 8, 10 – iron; Kr.M GEK 10154/108-112, 20664 (after E. Radzvilovaitė 1969; drawings by N. Budžinskis (13) and V. Truklickas (1, 8). E. Radzvilovaitė in her excavation report mentioned miniature cup and one edged sword, these artefacts didn't survive)

PLANSZA 6

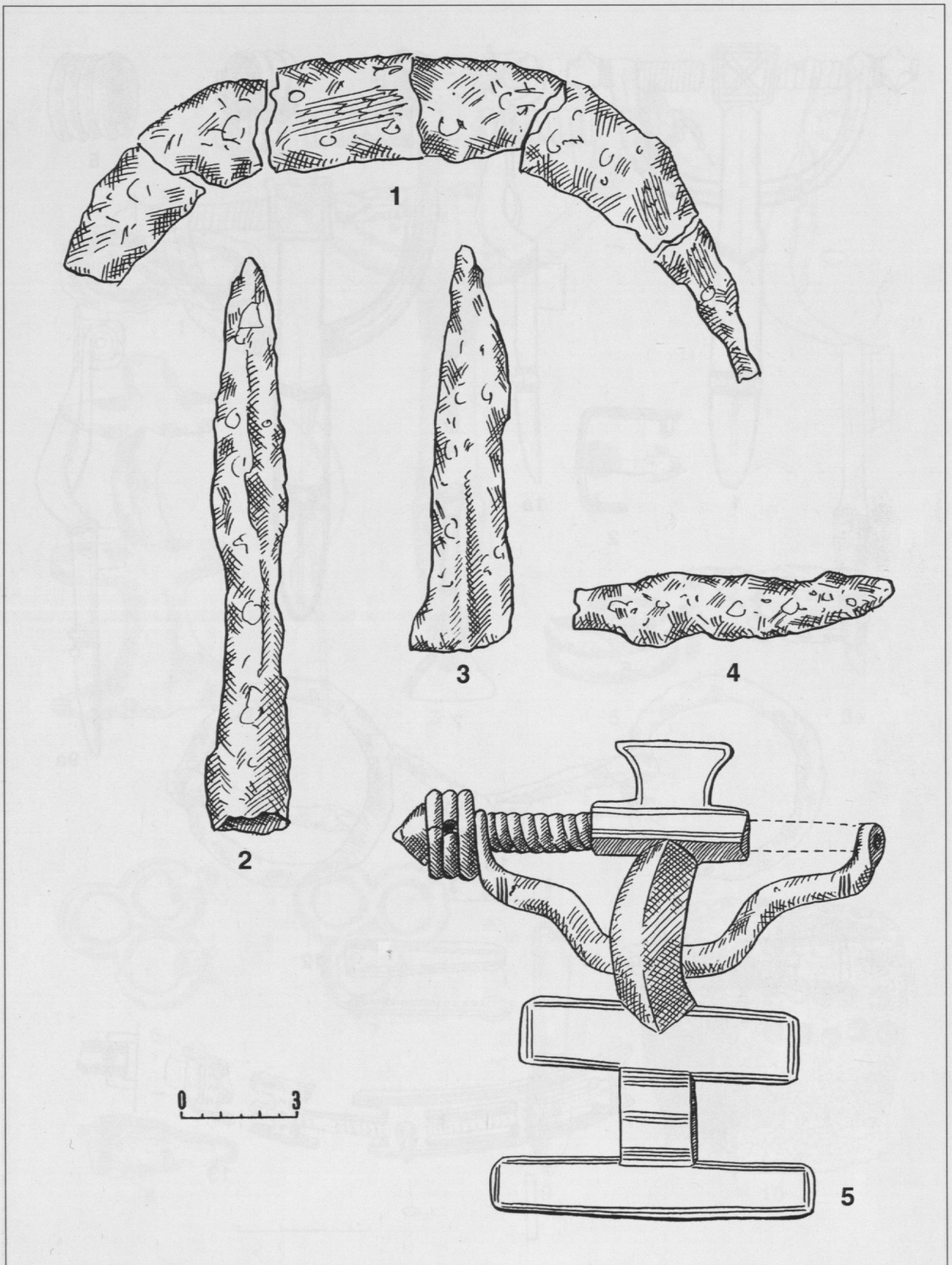


Fig. 7. Kašučiai male grave 11: 1-4 – iron; 5 – bronze and iron; Kr.M GEK 10154/42-48 (after E. Radzvilovaitė 1969; E. Radzvilovaitė in her excavation report mentioned two bronze bindings of drinking horns orifice, miniature of socketed axe and whetstone, these artefacts didn't survive)