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Results of excavation at the Roman Period site in Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz district

ABSTRACT

In the Late Roman and the Early Migration Periods, i.e. the 4th and the early 5th centuries AD, in the Polish Western Carpathians, especially in the Sącz Basin, the adjacent Sącz Beskid Mts and Wyspovy Beskid Mts as well as in the Krosno-Jasło Basin, a significant intensification of settlement is observed. The area has been investigated through archaeological surface surveys and excavations; in the Sącz region, five sites have been excavated with the results published to date. This text presents the results of test excavation at yet another site, Podegrodzie 7, Nowy Sącz district. In the feature investigated there a rare jug ornamented with glossed triangles, several storage vessels of the *Krausengefäße* type, as well as some organic remains were discovered. Palaeobotanical analysis has shown that common barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was the predominant species cultivated by the inhabitants of this territory. The radiocarbon date obtained from a charcoal sample corresponds to the chronology of the site determined by the ceramics typology. The results of the excavation at Podegrodzie 7 site are complemented with a map presenting the location of settlement in that area in the Late Roman and the Early Migration Periods.

KEYWORDS

Carpathians, Late Roman Period, Early Migration Period, North Carpathian group, jug, *Krausengefäße*



I. THE LATE ROMAN PERIOD AND THE EARLY MIGRATION PERIOD IN THE POLISH WESTERN CARPATHIANS

In the Late Roman Period and the Early Migration Period, i.e. the 4th and the early 5th centuries AD, settlement intensified distinctly in the Polish Western Carpathians, covering mid-mountain basins as well as the mountainous Beskid area. Significant transformation of culture and population followed the disappearance of the Púchov culture and the Early Roman Period settlement, the latter explored only to a small extent. Surface surveys and excavations have brought relatively rich data on settlement in the Late Roman and the Early Migration Periods, especially in the mid-mountain Sącz Basin, the surrounding mountains – Sącz Beskid and Wyspowy Beskid (Tunia 1977; 1980; Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1978; 1980; 1993). Settlement traces recorded there can be linked to the North Carpathian group identified by Karol Pieta in the adjacent Carpathian area of Slovakia (Pieta 1991). No traces of Roman Period sites have been found in the Orawa-Nowy Targ Basin west of the Sącz Basin, except for a hoard of unspecified 4th-century coins from Nowy Targ (Kunisz 1985, catalogue no. 1660). A small number of finds has been documented to the west, in the valleys of the Raba River (Reyman 1936, 155, catalogue no. 17) and the Skawa River (Valde-Nowak 2014, 483–489). According to the current state of research Late Roman and Early Migration communities do not seem to have been attracted by the Polish Carpathians west of the Sącz Basin. East of the Sącz Basin, not intensive settlement has been noted in the valleys of the Biała Dunajcowa and the Ropa Rivers, as well as in the Gorlice Depression – a mid-mountain basin between the Jasło Foothills and the Low Beskid Mts in the south and the Ciężkowice Foothills in the north. Dense settlement in the Late Roman and the Early Migration Periods has been recorded further east, in the Jasło-Krosno Basin (Madyda-Legutko 1995, Map 1; Madyda-Legutko, Poleski, Krąpiec 2005, 310–312, Fig. 1).

The identification of the Late Roman and Early Migration Periods sites in the Sącz Basin and the surrounding mountainous region has resulted primarily from surface survey carried out by Krzysztof Tunia during his research on prehistoric and early historic settlement in the Sącz Basin¹. The investigation uncovered a considerable number of settlement traces of that chronology.

1 K. Tunia, The Polish Archaeological Record (AZP) – no. 112-62, 112-63, 112-64, 113-62, 113-63, 114-61, 114-62.

Several sites were excavated there too; settlement remains were recorded at site 20 in Nowy Sącz-Biegonice (Cabalska, Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1990, 163–214), sites A and C in Moszczenica Wyżna (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1978), site A in Rytro (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1993), site A in Piwniczna (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1980) and site I “Lipie” in Stary Sącz (Jodłowski 1988, 5–13). The excavated site in Piwniczna within the Sącz Beskid Mts, is the southernmost settlement from the Late Roman and the Early Migration Periods in that area, situated at 602 m above sea level, the highest location in the Polish Carpathians (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1980, 143, Fig. 1 and 2). All those sites lie in the southern (right-bank) Dunajec River basin in the Nowy Sącz district.

In the northern (left-bank) Dunajec River basin, surface survey has identified numerous traces of Late Roman and Early Migration Periods settlement too, whereas only one location – site 7 in Podegrodzie in the Nowy Sącz district, has been excavated so far. A small number of archaeological finds from those periods has also been documented at site 9 in Podegrodzie, explored by the authors of this text in 1983, 1984, 1986 and 1988 (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1985, 26–28; 1986, 43–44; Madyda-Legutko 1988, 35; 1990, 35–38).

This article centres on interesting artefacts from the site 7 in Podegrodzie, unpublished to date.

II. SITE 7 IN PODEGRODZIE, NOWY SĄCZ DISTRICT

The village of Podegrodzie is located in the central Sącz Basin on the left bank of the Dunajec River valley and on the Podegrodzie Foothills, slopes of the Wyspowy Beskid Mts surrounding the site from the south (Lach, Mrówka 2014). The foothills slopes, which descend toward the Dunajec River valley to the south, have good solar irradiance and quite fertile soil. The slopes are cut by numerous streams. Site 7 in Podegrodzie lies on the left bank of one of those rivulets – the Barcynka, approx. 320 m above sea level and approx. 20 m above the flat bottom of the Dunajec River valley. The site takes up an unspecified area on the slope descending south-west toward the Barcynka Stream (Fig. 1) and toward a local road, where Ignacy Ciągło’s farm stood in the first half of the 20th century (Fig. 2) (Staško 1937, 46–48), on the record parcel no. 240 (or 239/2) in the “Barcynka” hamlet (called “Kąty” in the cadastral plan from 1847).

The site was discovered by Franciszek Kotula, an ethnographer, in 1951. Kotula notified Adam Krauss, an archaeological expert at the Ministry of Culture and Art then responsible for the provinces of Kraków, Rzeszów and

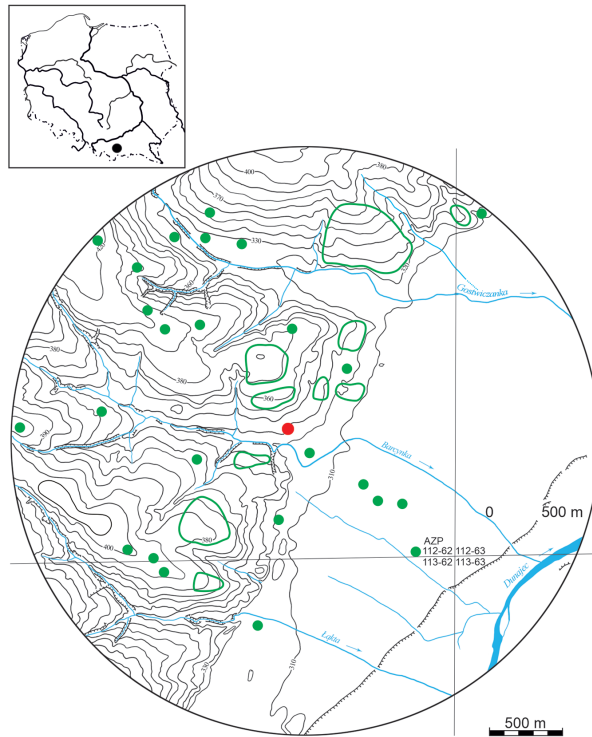


FIG. 1. Location of the site no. 7 in Podęgródzie, Nowy Sącz distr. against the background of the Late Roman and Early Migration period settlement. ● - site no. 7 in Podęgródzie, ● - settlement points with the number of 1-15 pottery fragments. According to the surface survey by Krzysztof Tunia



FIG. 2. Podęgródzie, Nowy Sącz distr. Approximate location of the excavation unit within the site Podęgródzie 7 (A) and the location of the former Ignacy Ciągło's farm (B)

Stalinogród², of fragments of pottery (“grey ware”) found in a field. Inspection made on 29 August 1953 revealed two fragments of “late Roman” pottery, including one piece of grey ware, near Ignacy Ciągło’s house, as well as a dozen fragments of pottery and daub in Ciągło’s nearby field Osiki. As a result, test excavation was carried out in the Osiki field by Marek Gedl, a student and subsequently an archaeology professor at the Jagiellonian University, on 9 and 10 October 1953 (short notes on the exploration: Leńczyk 1962, 2, 3; Woźniak 1962, 267, 268).³

An excavation unit 2.5 x 2.5 m, documented as “test pit I”, was made 78.28 m + 10 m north of a corner of Ignacy Ciągło’s stable (Fig. 3), where a concentration of 9 pottery fragments, including a fragment of grey ware, and stone and daub had been recorded on the surface of the field. After removing the humus layer to the depth of 20 cm, a roughly circular feature, 1.6 m in diameter, described in field documentation as “concentration 1”, was uncovered in the centre of the unit (Fig. 4: 1). The shape of the feature profile can be described as semi-circular (Fig. 4: 2). The feature reached the maximum depth of 90 cm below ground level. Its fill contained a large amount of daub, charcoal, burnt stones and fragments of pottery.

The circular shape suggests that the feature was a utility pit used for unspecified purposes. The material in its fill seems to have come from a nearby dwelling, destroyed most probably by the fire – an accidental or deliberate.

III. POTTERY. GENERAL REMARKS

The topsoil part of the feature contained 9 pottery fragments, including one piece of grey ware and 7 pieces of storage vessels. Beneath, the researchers uncovered a jug preserved in its entirety and large fragments of storage vessels,

2 In 1953, for political reasons, the name of the city of Katowice was changed to the city of Stalinogród, and the Katowice province was renamed to Stalinogród province. In 1956, the names Katowice and Katowice province (nowadays - Śląsk province) returned.

3 Materials from the exploration in Podegrodzie in 1953 are kept at the Old Collections Department and the Main Cataloguer’s Department of the Archaeological Museum in Kraków, the documentation being part of the latter museum section. The authors would like to thank the Director of the Archaeological Museum in Kraków for the opportunity to publish those finds.

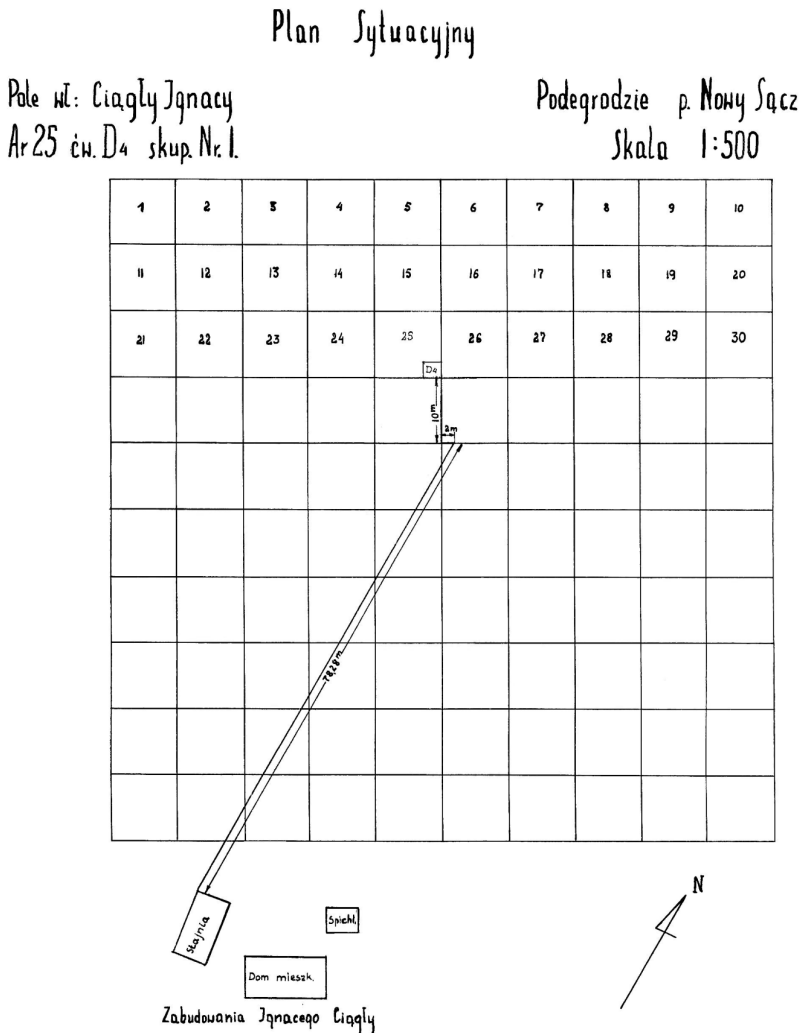


FIG. 3. Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 7. Location of the excavation unit according to field documentation

their rims shaped like a flange (*Krausengefäße*). Four storage vessels were identified, although small pottery pieces could have come from other vessels.

The jug, 16 cm high, its mouth being 6.2 cm in diameter, was formed on a pottery wheel from clay with a small amount of fine-grained mineral admixture. It has smooth surfaces, a slightly flaring cylindrical neck, a biconical

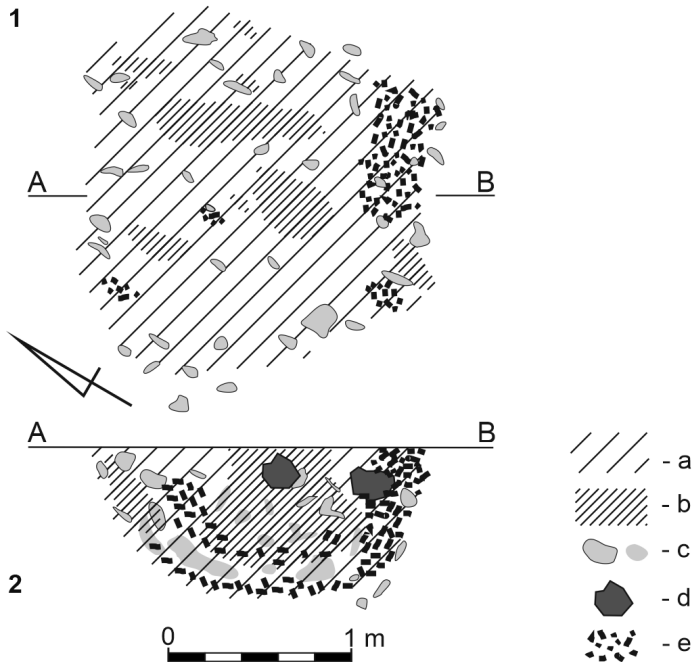


FIG. 4. Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 7. Drawings of the excavated feature. 1 - floor plan, 2 - profile (a - clay soil; b - pit filling; c - clay lump; d - burned stone; e - charcoal). Drawing made on the basis of field documentation

body and a semi-circular handle. The upper part of the body is decorated with triangles in the gloss technique; the handle is ornamented with small incisions (Fig. 5).

The storage vessels were made of clay with the addition of coarse-grained and medium-grained crushed stones. One vessel is grey (Fig. 6), two are brick-red (Fig. 7, 8), one is dark brown (Fig. 9). The flange-like rims lean inward in the grey and brick-red vessels, the reconstructed diameter of their mouth being 28–38 cm. The upper parts of their spheric bodies are ornamented with two strips of wavy lines; on one damaged vessel, a single strip has survived, and some of its shards are burnt secondarily (Fig. 8). The storage vessel with a coarse dark brown surface very differs from the other items with its clay mass and thinner walls (Fig. 9). This ceramics is analogous to the specimens that were first identified at sites A and C in Moszczenica Wyzna, Nowy Sącz district and defined as group VI (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1978, 114, 133).

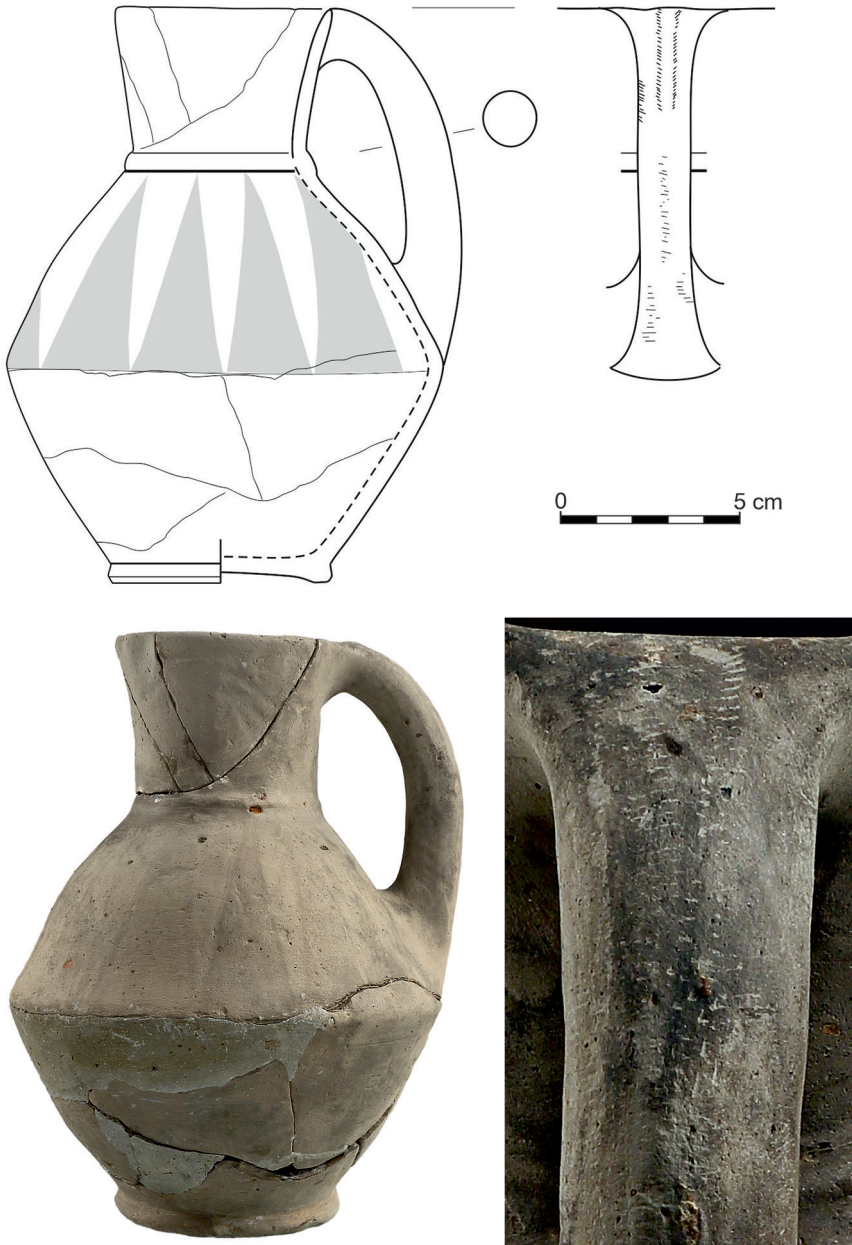


FIG. 5. Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 7. Jug from the excavated feature (Drawing by U. Potyrała, photo by A. Susuł)



FIG. 6. Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 7. Storage vessel of the *Krausengefäße* type from the excavated feature (Drawing by U. Potyrała, photo by A. Susuł)



FIG. 7. Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 7. Storage vessel of the *Krausengefäße* type from the excavated feature (Drawing by U. Potyrała, photo by A. Susuł)

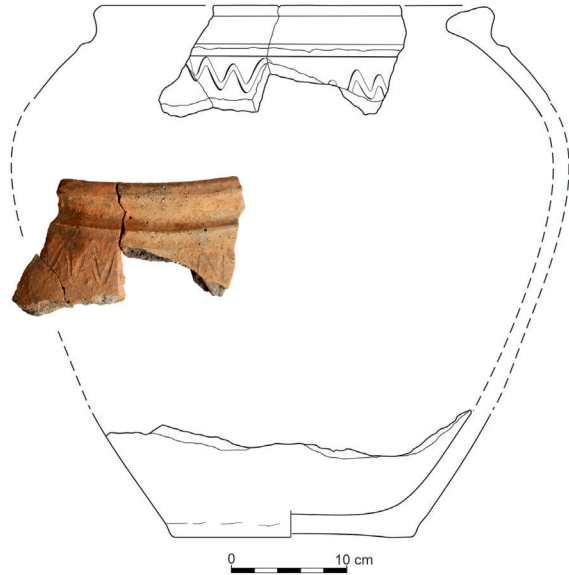


FIG. 8. Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 7. Storage vessel of the *Krausengefäße* type from the excavated feature (Drawing by U. Potyrała, photo by A. Susuł)

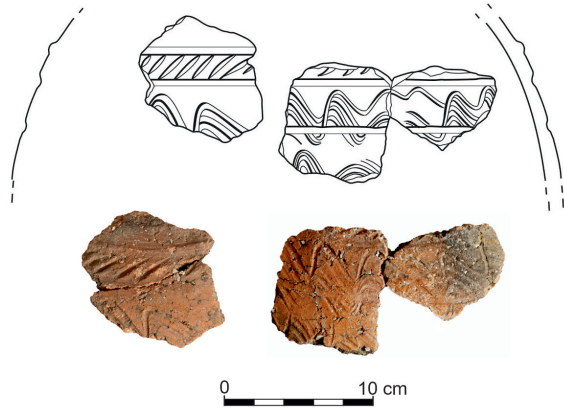


FIG. 9. Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 7. Storage vessel of the *Krausengefäße* type from the excavated feature (Drawing by U. Potyrała, photo by A. Susuł)

IV. A JUG

Wheel made jugs are infrequent elements of sets of vessels found at settlements in the Sącz Basin and the Sącz Beskid Mts in the Western Carpathians. Two variants of jugs have been distinguished according to their proportions and the shape of their handle in that region. One variant, represented by the jug from Podegrodzie, has a semi-circular handle, a slightly flaring cylindrical neck and

a biconical body. The other variant has a cylindrical neck, a spheric body and a handle bent at the right angle with a small channel inside. The latter type is known only from the Sącz Beskid Mts – the settlements at site A in Moszczenica Wyżna and at site A in Rytro, Nowy Sącz district (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1978, 130, Fig. 9d–f; Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1993, 62–64, Tables XIX: a, XX: a).

A jug with proportions similar to those of the Podegrodzie vessel, with a short cylindrical neck, a low shoulder and a handle circular in cross section, originally reaching the rim, has been recovered from the settlement at site 20 (excavation unit 14) in Nowy Sącz-Biegonice from phase C2 to the Early Migration Period (Fig. 10: 2) (Cabalska, Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1990, 183, 200, 208, Fig. 13e; Madyda-Legutko 1996, 73, Table XVII: 7). The neck of the vessel is ornamented with slightly thickened vertical bands of clay applied between two horizontal bands. The same settlement (excavation unit 103) has yielded a fragment of a biconical body, probably part of a jug (Fig. 10: 5), decorated with the motif of hanging triangles outlined with a shallow engraved line, their surface covered with engraved parallel lines (Cabalska, Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1990, 191, 202, Fig. 20a).

In this context, it is worthwhile to note fragments of jugs recovered from the settlement at sites 59–60 in Sanok, Sanok district dated to phases C2–D (Bulas *et al.* 2019, 77–78). In feature 1010/59, a biconical jug ornamented richly with zigzag lines in its upper part (Fig. 11: 2) was accompanied by indistinctive pieces of other vessels made on a pottery wheel and by shards of vessels formed by hand (Bulas *et al.* 2019, Fig. 15:8; the data from M. Okońska-Bulas⁴). Fragments of other jugs with more or less rounded biconical bodies were found in that settlement together with ceramics defining their chronology. A fragment of a small jug with a rounded body accompanied by a vessel with a multiple-faceted body in feature 80/59 (Bulas *et al.* 2019, Fig. 15: 2, 7; Bulas 2019, 62, Fig. 2: 2, 3) dated from phase C3. In feature 300/59, fragments coming probably from three jugs accompanied by a handmade bucket-shaped vessel and handmade pots in a late style (Bulas *et al.* 2019, Fig. 15: 1, 5; Bulas 2019, 63, Fig. 2: 4) have been dated to the Early Migration Period.

The vessels described above are stylistically reminiscent of a jug with engraved ornament found at the layered cemetery at site 4 in Rajbrot, Bochnia district, in the Wiśnicz Foothills (Fig. 11: 1), dated to the Early Migration Period (Biborski, Zagórska-Telega 2009, 435, Fig. 4:4).

4 The authors wish to thank Magdalena Okońska-Bulas for the information.

Apart from the Sącz region and the Sanok Basin, fragments of jugs (large semi-circular handles), are known from the Late Roman Period settlements in Rogi, Krosno district (Pohorska-Kleja 1981, Fig. 3: 5) and in Lesko, Lesko district (Barłowska 1984, Table VIII: 4; Madyda-Legutko 1996, Table XVII: 9).

Smooth wheel made jugs with diverse proportions, metric qualities, morphological elements and shapes of the handles are relatively frequent finds at sites of the Przeworsk culture. They have been recovered from such locations as settlements in Igołomia, Kraków district, site 1 (Dobrzańska 1990b, 39–40) and in Jakuszowice, Kazimiera Wielka district, site 2 (Rodzińska-Nowak 2006, 109–113), as well as from layered cemeteries (Szydłowski 1974, Tables CV–CXIII, CLXXXIX–CXCII; 1977, 61–62). However, biconical jugs similar to the Carpathian vessels are quite rare. Jugs from the Przeworsk culture are usually given late chronology – phases C3–D, though recent research has shown that they were produced already in phase C1 of the Younger Roman Period (cf. Rodzińska-Nowak 2006, 175).

In terms of style, jugs that are the most reminiscent of the items from the West Beskids Mts have been found in the “pottery depot” at site 3 in Bessów, Bochnia district, dated to phases C1a–C2 of the Younger Roman Period (Fig. 11: 3) (Okońska 2018, 361, 362, 370, Fig. 14: 1–3, 6). Similar vessels come from the settlement at site 1 in Igołomia (Fig. 11: 4) (Dobrzańska 1990a, Table LXIII: 5, LXXVI: 22; 1990b, 39). Apart from the Przeworsk culture, numerous jugs of diverse types, including items with a sharp shoulder, were produced in the final phases of the Černjachov culture (C3 and D1) (Magomedov 2001, 51, Fig. 43: 1–10; 2011, 376, Fig. 6: 5–8; Petrauskas 2011, 404, 407, Fig. 7, 9; Tejral 2011, 30, 31, Fig. 5, 6). Jugs with sharp shoulders have also been documented among pottery in barrows of the Carpathian Barrows culture (Vakulenko 2010, 107, Fig. 58: 1–3). Similar vessels have been recovered from barrows A and B in Łukawica, Lubaczów district, attributed to that cultural unit (Kokowski 1988, Fig. 7a, 8a).

The Podegrodzie jug is ornamented with glossed triangles in the upper part of its body (Fig. 5). Ornamentation of that kind has been recorded on wheel made vessels found at settlements in the Sącz Basin and the Sącz Beskid Mts. Feature 5/80 at site A in Rytro, Nowy Sącz district, contained shards decorated with smoothed lines forming the motif of hanging triangles (Fig. 10: 3, 4) (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1993, Table XIII: j, k). The ornament of triangles filled densely with parallel lines is known from a piece of a jug from site 20 in Nowy Sącz-Biegonice (Fig. 10: 5) (Cabalska, Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1990, Fig. 20 a). The area covering biconical jugs has also provided

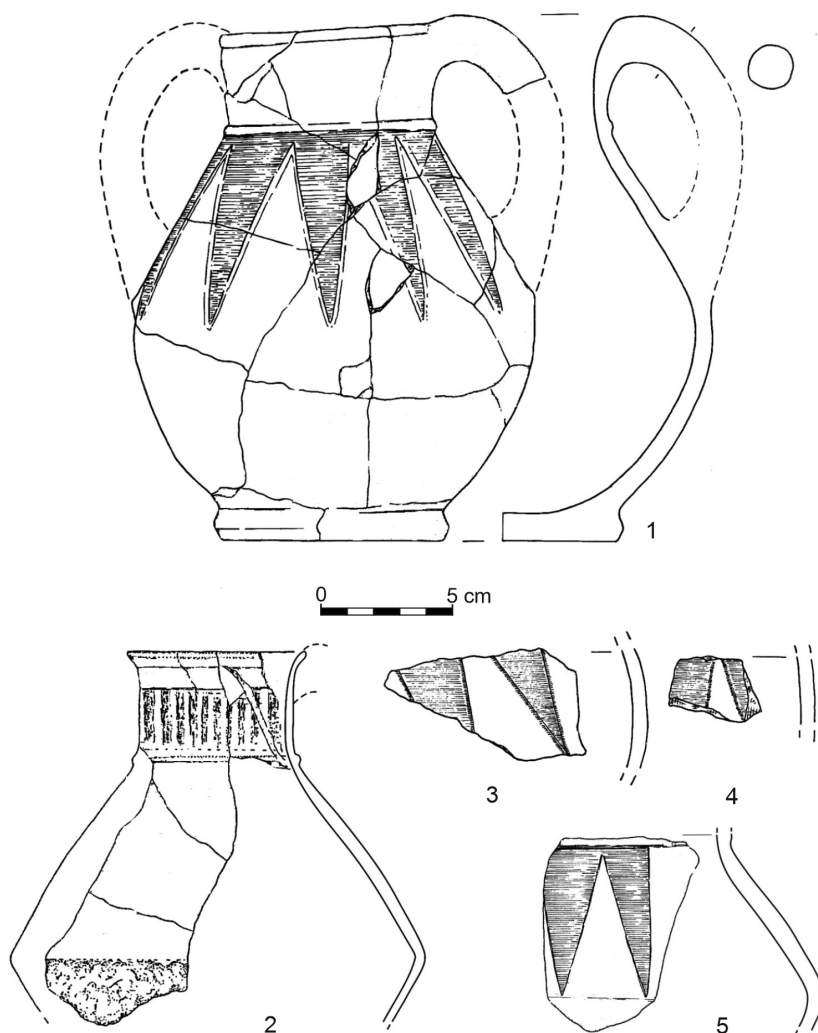


FIG. 10. 1 – Rytko, Nowy Sącz distr., site A, feature no. 14/81 (Madyda-Legutko Tunia 1993); 2 – Nowy Sącz-Biegonice, site 20, excav. unit no. 14 (Cabalska, Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1990); 3, 4 – Rytko, Nowy Sącz distr., site A, feature no. 5/80 (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1993); 5 – Nowy Sącz-Biegonice, site 20, excav. unit no. 103 (Cabalska, Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1990)

two-handle vessels whose upper parts are decorated with glossed or delicately engraved triangles, e.g. a vessel from feature 14/81 at the settlement in Rytko, site A (Fig. 10: 1) (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1993, 31, Table XXXIII: a).

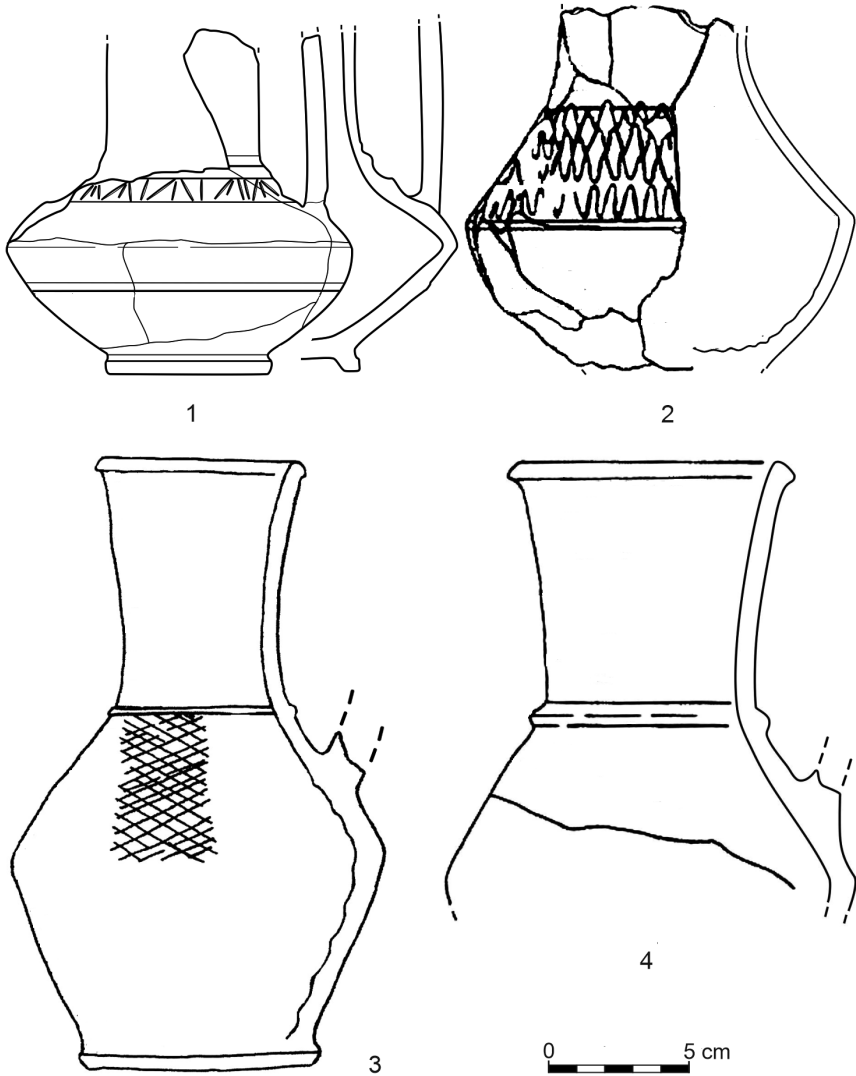


FIG. 11. 1 – Rajbrot, Bochna distr., site 4 (Biborski, Zagórska-Telega 2009); 2 – Sanok, site 59-60, feature no. 1010/59 (Bulas *et. al.* 2019); 3 – Bessów, Bochnia distr., site 3 (Okońska 2018); 4 - Igołomia, Kraków distr., site 1 (Dobrzańska 1990a)

No vessels ornamented with triangles analogous to those on jugs from the Polish Western Carpathians have so far been recorded within the Przeworsk culture. A similar motif – triangles placed in the upper part of the body, has only been identified on a jug recovered from the layered cemetery in Dobrodzień-Rędzina, Olesno district (Fig. 12: 1) (Szydłowski 1974, Table CVI). Ornament of triangles with their apexes pointing upward also decorates jugs of the Černjachov culture (Fig. 12: 2) (Magomedov 2001, Fig. 43: 3), a vessel with two handles at a settlement in Šebastovce-Barca within Košice in south-eastern Slovakia (Fig. 12: 3) (Lamiová-Schmiedlová 1969, 471, Fig. 43: 19; Luštiková 2013, Table VI: 80), one of two-handle vessels of the Carpathian Barrows culture (Vakulenko 2010, Fig. 59: 3), and a jug from barrow A in Łukawica, Lubaczów district (Fig. 12: 4) (Kokowski 1988, Fig. 7a). The ornament consisting of triangles has also been noted on the upper part of a vessel from the 4th-century Mătăsaru cemetery in Muteni in Romania, the area of the Militari-Chilia culture (Fig. 12: 5) (Gh. Bichir 1984, Table XV: 6).

The dating of the settlements comprising the vessels decorated with triangles indicates that the ornament was characteristic mainly of the early phase of the Migration Period, possibly as a trace of similarly decorated upper parts of vessels of the Wielbark culture already at the beginning of the Younger Roman Period. The style could have gained popularity when the Wielbark population moved south-east (Wołągiewicz 1993, Plate 46, 48).

The jug from Podegrodzie has a handle decorated with small incisions. Ornamented handles of jugs have not been recorded in the Polish Western Carpathians to date. A zigzag line on jugs formed on a pottery wheel has been documented at settlements on the Danube River, such as Wien-Leopoldau in Austria (Fig. 12: 6) (Tejral 1990, 81, Fig. 28: 4–6) and Velké Němčice in the Břeclav district in southern Moravia (Peškař 1983, Fig. 2: 5), dating from the second half of the 4th century and the 5th century, when elements of the nomad culture associated with the Huns began to be present on the middle Danube River.

V. STORAGE VESSELS

Storage vessels with a flange-shaped rim from site 7 in Podegrodzie represent a kind of pottery found frequently at settlement sites from the Late Roman and the Early Migration Periods in the Polish Western Carpathians (Madyda-Legutko 1995, Table V, Map 6; 1996, 83–91; Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 2020,

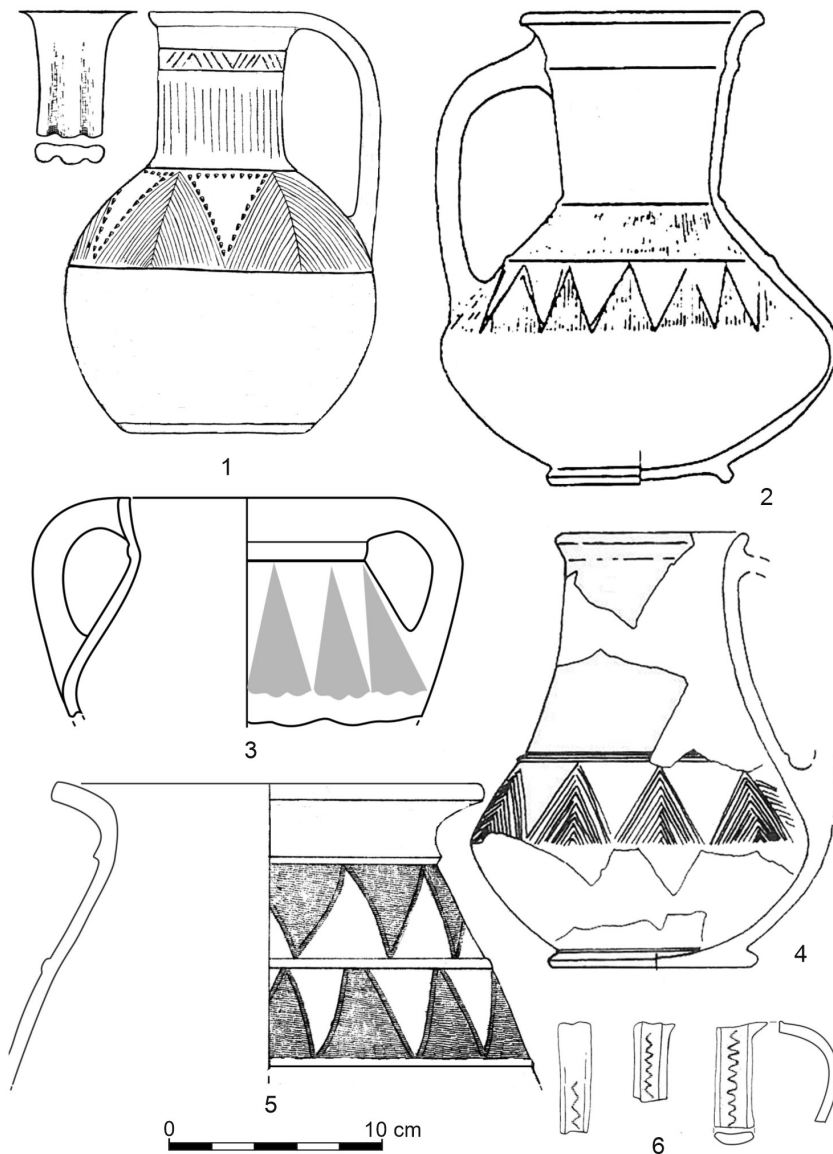


FIG. 12. 1 – Dobrodzień-Rędzina, Olesno distr. (Szydłowski 1974); 2 – Petrikivcy, West Ukraine (Magomedov 2001); 3 – Koszyce-Šebastovce-Barca site, Slovakia (Luštková 2013); 4 – Łukawica, Lubaczów distr., barrow A (Kokowski 1988); 5 – Mătășaru, Muntenia, Romania (Gh. Bichir 1984); 6 – Wien-Leopoldau, Austria (Tejral 1990)

292, Fig. 6, 9, 10; 2021, 291–300; Wilk 2005, 305–372). Items like those have also been documented in the Sącz Basin, both at sites discovered during surface survey and at excavated settlements, such as site 20 in Nowy Sącz-Biegonice (Cabalska, Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 1990, 205–206) and site I “Lipie” in Stary Sącz (Jodłowski 1988, 5–13). A whole series of storage vessels has been identified at settlements in the Sącz Beskid Mts (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 2020, 292, Fig. 6: 1–2, 9: 1–5, 10: 1; 2021, 293–296).

Storage vessels with a flange-shaped rim have been recovered not only from the Polish Carpathians, but also from settlements in the mountainous, Carpathian part of Slovakia, in Orava, Liptov, Spiš and further east, near Prešov (Benediková, Pieta 2018, 177; Lofajová-Danielová, Furman 2019, Table I:1; Pieta 1991, Fig. 5: 11; 2003, 156–158, Fig. 6: 22, 24; Giertlová-Kučerová, Soják 2005, 122, Fig. 8: 7, 8; 9: 1, 2; 10: 3, 4; 14: 2, 5–7; Lamiová-Schmiedlová, Tomášová 1999, 99–100, Tables III: 17, 18, VI: 3–5, VII: 1, XI: 6).

In terms of technology and style, vessels like those are characteristic of Late Roman and Early Migration periods pottery not only in the Western Carpathians, but also in the area of the Przeworsk culture, i.e. further to the north.

In the Polish Western Carpathians, storage vessels were kept in dwellings (feature 5/81 at site A in Rytro; feature 3 at site A in Piwniczna; feature 9 at site C in Moszczenica Wyżna) or sunk into the ground nearby (feature 1 at site C in Moszczenica Wyżna; presumably in Nowy Sącz-Biegonice) (Madyda-Legutko, Tunia 2021, 293–296, Fig. 1: 1–22). They were also stored in earth pits; for example, a pit with a trapezoidal profile (feature 4/65), site 1 in Świerchowa, Jasło district, contained fragments of at least 4 storage vessels and other pottery (Szałapata 1966, 35, Fig. 2, 3a, 3c, 4b, 4e).

VI. CHRONOLOGY

General knowledge of Roman Period settlement in the Sącz Basin as well as excavation at site 9 in Podegrodzie, in the vicinity of site 7 discussed here, show that the area was settled already in the Early Roman Period (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 48–50). Site 9 has not provided ceramic material with chronology so late as that of site 7, but it has brought an iron fibula (Fig. 13: 5) similar to fibulas of 166 Almgren type, dated to phases C1b–C2, an iron arrowhead (Fig. 13: 3), an oval iron buckle with a slightly thickened frame – group H, type 11 (Fig. 13: 4), dating presumably from the Late Roman Period (Madyda-Legutko 1996, 93, 94, Table XXIX: 2) and a short series of wheel made pottery (Fig. 13: 1, 2).

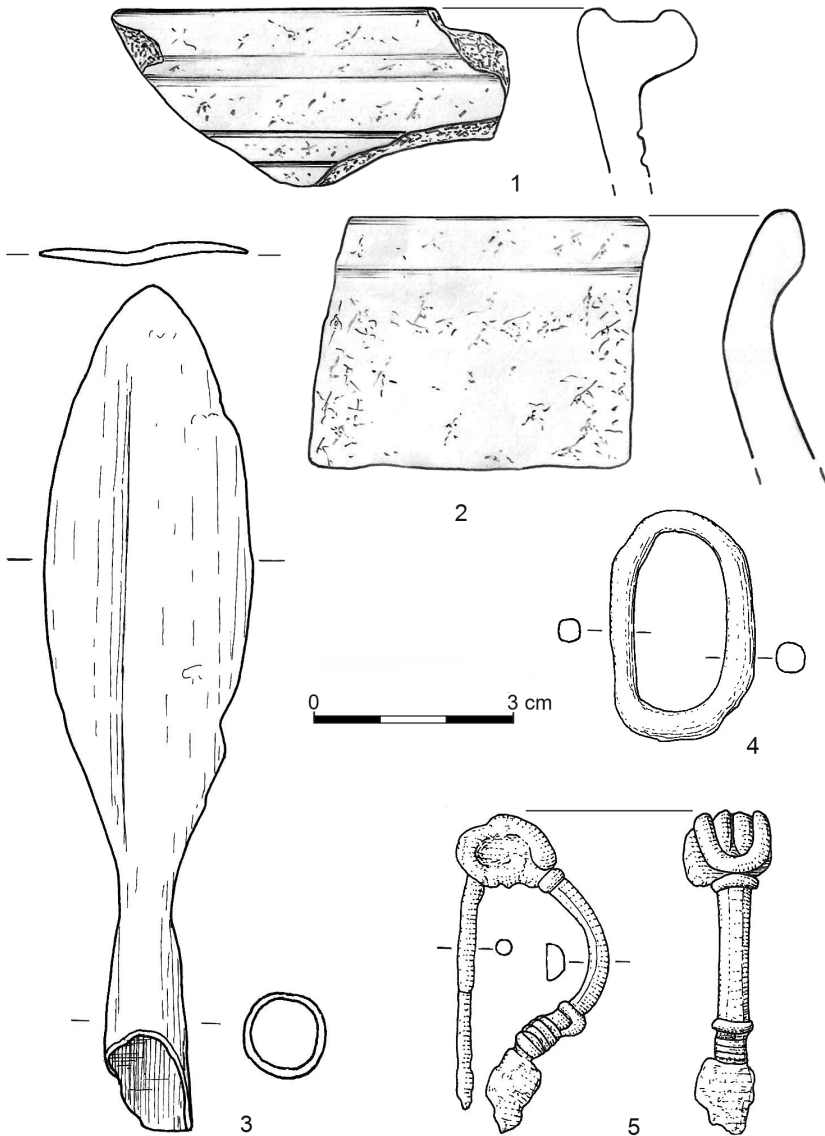


FIG. 13. 1-5 – Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 9 (Madyda-Legutko 1996)

The chronology of settlements in the Sącz Basin and the Sącz Beskid Mts in the Roman Period is defined primarily by wheel made pottery. The excavated settlements in the Sącz Basin (site 20 in Nowy Sącz-Biegonice) and in the Sącz Beskid Mts (sites A and C in Moszczenica Wyzna, site A in Piwniczna, site A in Rytro) should be dated to the end of the Late Roman Period and mainly to the Early Migration Period, i.e. the 4th and the early 5th centuries AD. The dense settlement in the Sącz region as indicated by surface survey may be given the same time frame. The settlement at site 7 in Podegrodzie was inhabited at that very time.

In order to validate and specify the chronology based on the analysis of typology, a sample of charcoal from the analysed feature at Podegrodzie 7, described as Poz-119648, has been sent to radiocarbon measurement and dated to 1745 ± 30 BP. After calibration, the most probable date for that charred wood seems to be 309–353 AD (Fig. 14). Assuming that the charcoal came from a dwelling, it can be assumed that the structure was still used at the turn of the 4th and 5th century AD. Naturally, this should be confirmed by further radiocarbon dating.

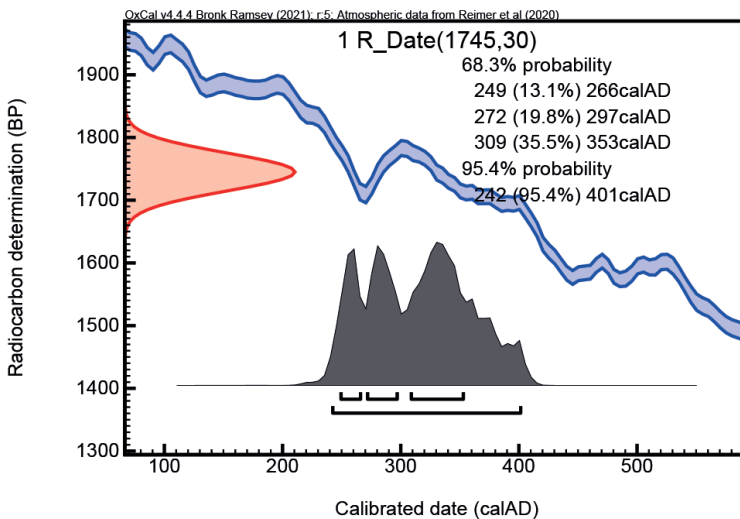


FIG. 14. Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 7. Calibrated ¹⁴C date – Poz-119648. The calibration was made with the OxCal software - OxCal v4.4.4 Bronk Ramsey (2021); r5; Atmospheric data from Reimer *et al.* (2020)

VII. DAUB AND CHARCOAL

Six samples of daub and twelve samples of charcoal from the described site have been sent to palaeobotanical analysis.⁵ Plant imprints and burnt grains (Table 1) in the daub have helped to identify 11 taxa of cereal and wild plants, while the examination of the burnt fragments of wood has defined 4 taxa of trees (Table 2). The results conform with the general picture of plant cultivation and flora in the Polish Carpathians in the Roman Period (Lityńska-Zajac 2004). The main species sown in the fields was common barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), like at other Carpathian settlements from the Late Roman and the Early Migration Periods, including nearby sites A and C in Moszczenica Wyżna, Nowy Sącz district (Lityńska 1985) and site A in Rytro, Nowy Sącz district (Lityńska-Zajac 1993). The analysis has also identified some specimens of common millet (*Panicum miliaceum*), a fragment of a wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) and a relatively large amount of oat (*Avena* sp.), though this plant could equally have been cultivated or wild. The remains of other species from the Podegrodzie site extend the range of plants known from the Carpathians in the Late Roman and the Early Migration Periods (Table 1). Among the taxa identified in the charcoal sampled at Podegrodzie 7, remains of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and of silver fir (*Abies alba*) are predominant (Table 2), like at other archaeological sites in the Sącz region from that time. These two species, oak in particular, reflect the intentional choice of the best kinds of wood to be used in building.

VIII. THE SETTLEMENT NETWORK OF THE PODEGRODZIE REGION IN THE LATE ROMAN AND THE EARLY MIGRATION PERIODS

In this text, prehistoric settlement is discussed for the vicinity of the site 7 in Podegrodzie, on area approx. 11.4 km², located on the southern slopes of the Wyspowy Beskid Mts and the Dunajec River valley (Fig. 1). The analysis has shown a distinct tendency to settle higher-lying areas, preferably gentle

5 The material from site 7 in Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz district, has been analysed by Agata Sady-Bugajska. The authors are grateful for her palaeobotanical analysis that has provided useful data on prehistoric vegetation in the Carpathians.

TABLE 1. Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 7. Analysis of the plant impressions on the daub (burnt clay). Sum of 6 samples. Made by Agata Sady-Bugajska

Taxon	Number of impressions
oat [owies] <i>Avena</i> sp.	11 grains 4 grain fragm. 1 spike fragm. 1 spikelet fragm.
oat (?) [owies (?)] cf. <i>Avena</i> sp.	11 grains 9 grain fragm. 1 spikelet
common barley [jęczmień zwyczajny] <i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	27 grains 3 spikelets 1 spikelet fragm. 2 rachis spike fragm.
common barley (?) [jęczmień zwyczajny (?)] cf. <i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	4 grains 2 grain fragm. 1 spike rachis fragm. 2 spikelet rachis fragm.
wheat [pszenica] cf. <i>Triticum</i> sp.	1 grain fragm
common millet [proso zwyczajne] <i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	4 grains 2 burnt grains 2 grain fragm. 1 glume
common millet (?) [proso zwyczajne (?)] cf. <i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	2 grains
cereals not specified [zboża nieokreślone] Cerealia indet.	42 grains 7 grain fragm.
brome grass [stokłosa] <i>Bromus</i> sp.	1 burnt grain (in imprint)
brome grass (?) [stokłosa (?)] cf. <i>Bromus</i> sp.	3 grains
Fescue (?) [kostrzewa (?)] cf. <i>Festuca</i> sp.	1 grain 1 spikelet fragm.

grasses (panacea) undefined [trawy (wiechlinowate) nieokreślone] Poaceae indet.	12 grains 1 grain fragm.
cereals/grasses undefined [zboża/trawy nieokreślone] Cerealia indet./ Poaceae indet.	5 grains
mallow [ślaz] <i>Malva</i> sp.	1 fruit
sow thistles [mlecz] <i>Sonchus</i> sp.	1 fruit
tiny vetch [wyka drobnokwiatowa] <i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	1 husk
vetch (?) [wyka (?)] cf. <i>Vicia</i> sp.	2 husk fragm.
black medick [lucerna nerkowata] <i>Medicago lupulina</i>	2 fruits
goosefoots (?) [komosa (?)] cf. <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	1 seed
dicotyledonous plants [dwuliścienne] Dicotyledones	3 leaf fragm.

TABLE 2. Podegrodzie, Nowy Sącz distr., site 7. Analysis of the charcoals. Made by Agata Sady-Bugajska

Taxon	Number of fragments
silver fir (?) [jodła pospolita (?)] cf. <i>Abies alba</i>	14
coniferous [iglaste]	17
oak [dąb] <i>Quercus</i> sp.	92
maple [klon] <i>Acer</i> sp.	5
maple (?) [klon (?)] cf. <i>Acer</i> sp.	1
undefined [nieoznaczone]	1

hillsides or flat upland with a sunny southern exposure. The inhabited zone clearly ignores the flat bottom of the valley rising 5–6 m above the river. The settlement area remains practically outside the high water level, except

catastrophic floods. In this respect, the Dunajec River is the most dangerous mountain river flowing through the northern slopes of the Polish Carpathians; it determines the rise of the upper Vistula River (Lach, Mrówka 2014). The results of the studies on the climate and fluvial processes in the upper Vistula River basin – concerning the times of our interest – are not clear. It seems that these were times of unstable climate, manifested i.a., in frequent occurrence of extreme events, especially floods (Starkel 2004; Madyda-Legutko, Rodzińska-Nowak 2021, 427–431). This seems to be one of important factors for the settlers who preferred to inhabit higher ground. Historical data, too, show a negative influence of the swelled Dunajec River on settlement in the low-lying areas (Stamirski 1962).

The settlement in the Podegrodzie region recognized during the archaeological investigations corresponds to the distribution of prehistoric populations in highlands as defined in the literature (Tunia 1989; 2004). The local community in the Late Roman and the Early Migration Periods – in archaeology known as the North Carpathian group – relied on agriculture, mostly on cereal growing. The settlement and economic activity centred in the areas that were the most suitable for farming and stock breeding, which shows that the settlers knew their mountain environment well and were capable of its rational exploitation.

(Translated by Anna Skucińska)

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