

The Boreal (Mesolithic) peopling in the Carpathian Basin: the role of the peripheries

SZATHMÁRY László

Nyíregyháza, Jósa András Múzeum

ABSTRACT: The author examines the importance of the peripheries of the Hungarian Great Plain in the peopling of the Boreal. After surveying the archaeological evidences he points out that human populations of Mesolithic civilization may have settled down only in the peripheries for a considerable period. The hiatus demonstrated in the central plain can be well explained by palaeoecological arguments.

1) INTRODUCTION

The ecological conditions of the Boreal exerted primary influence on the economics, the dynamism of the populations of Mesolithic civilization in the Carpathian Basin. In the estimations of pollenanalytatics, which, however, called forth the greatest part of the conventional chronological dating, the Boreal continued from 7600 B.C. to 5300 B.C. in the Carpathian Basin (ZÖLYOMI 1952, 1953, 1964, JÁRAI-KOMLÓDI 1966, 1968, 1971, 1982). As this period was marked by warming up (FIBRAS 1949, NILLSON 1983, BERGLUND 1986) population movements and genetic impulses directing from the south to the north may have befallen the Carpathian Basin through the Balkans.

The archaeological evidences, nevertheless, have given proof of a hiatus in the settlement of the central plain of the Basin just in the Boreal (GABORI 1964, 1969, 1981, 1984, VÉRTES 1965, DOBOSI 1972, 1975). Moreover, this phenomenon presented itself in the very period in which a rapid increase of the population of Europe were reconstructed by palaeodemographical analyses (WARD and WEISS 1976, DURAND 1977, BIRABEN 1979). The Boreal deficiency of findings in the plain has raised special difficulties in the examination of the settlement of the early Neolithic civilizations (Körös-Criş and Alföld Linear Pottery), as the evidences for the existence of a local basic population are missing (KALICZ and MAKKAY 1972, 1976, 1977, TROGMAYER 1972, MAKKAY 1982, KACZANOWSKA and KOZŁOWSKI 1987).

Thus, the summarizing of the archaeological evidences of the central plain in the first chapter is followed by a survey of the archaeological information concerning the northeastern, the northern, the northwestern and the western peripheries (Fig. 1 and 2). Whereas, we are not in the possession of competent findings from the southern periphery. In the latter territory it is only the remains of the local development of Romanello-Azilien and Epitardigravettien character in the Iron Gate region of the North-Balkans that can present important proof (NICOLĂESCU - PLOPȘOR and PĂUNESCU 1961, JOVANOVIĆ 1968, BORONEANT 1970, 1973, 1980, NICOLĂESCU-PLOPȘOR 1970, 1980, 1984, SREJOVIĆ 1972, SREJOVIĆ and LETICA 1978, KOZŁOWSKI J.K. and KOZŁOWSKI S.K. 1979, 1982). Thereupon the analysis of the palaeoecological evidences ensues. Before coming to the essentials, however, it is well worth looking over a chronological table concerning the northern peripheries at the start of a period from the end of the Pleistocene and the beginning of the Holocene (Table 1).

Table 1. The absolute chronology in the Pleistocene-Holocene transitional period (B.C.) at the northern regions

Region (Author)	Dryas III	Preboreal	Boreal	Atlantic
Dnester-region (CHERNISH 1973)	9000-	8200-	7500-	6200-
Slovakia (BÁRTA 1980)	8800-	8200-	6800-	5500-
The northern periphery of the Carpathian Basin (KRETIZOI 1957, KORDOS 1977a, 1977b)	8800-	8100-	7000-	5500-
The east of the Great Plain (BORSY 1985)	8800-	8200-	7000-	6000-

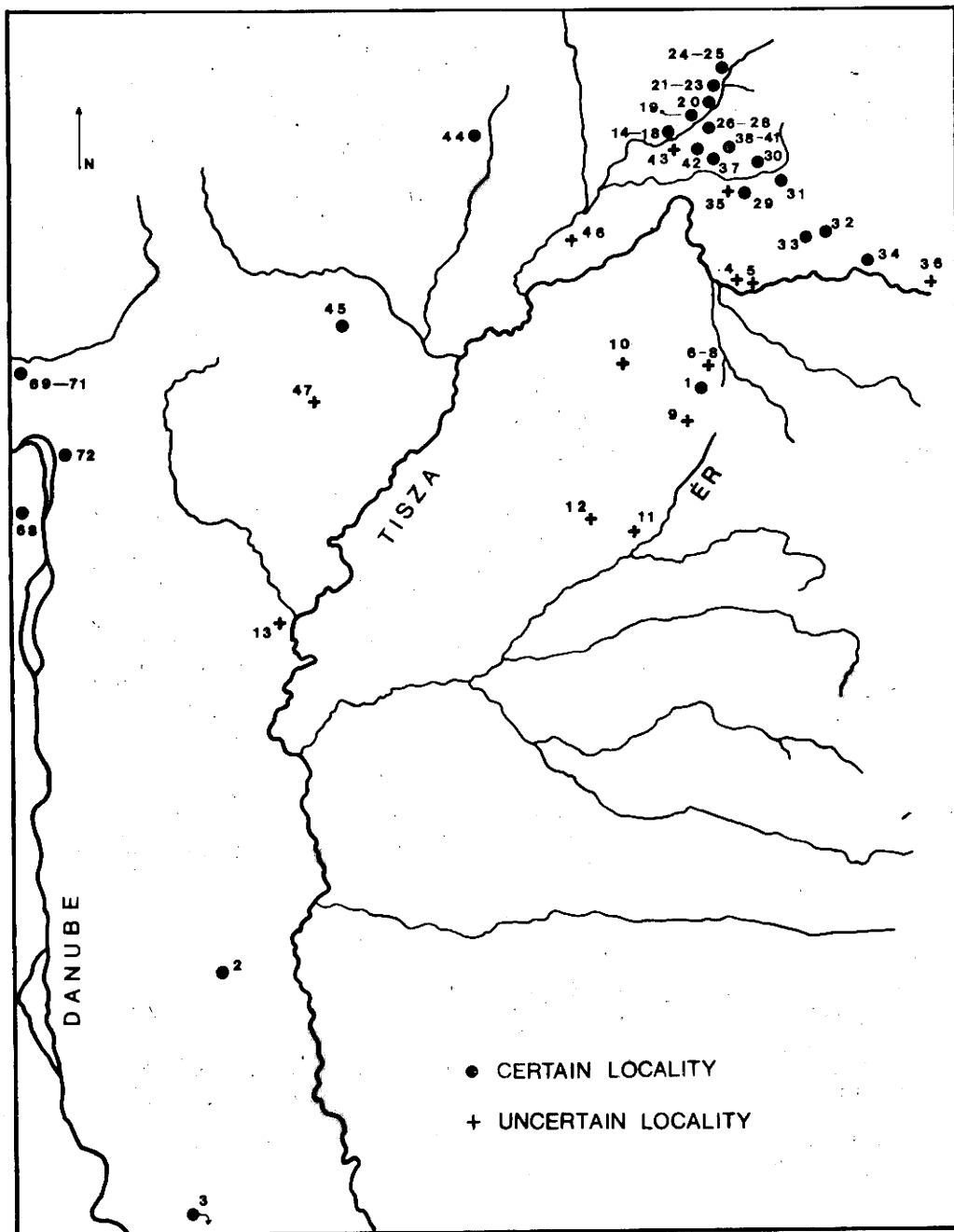


Fig. 1. The Mesolithic (Preboreal and Boreal) localities in the eastern regions

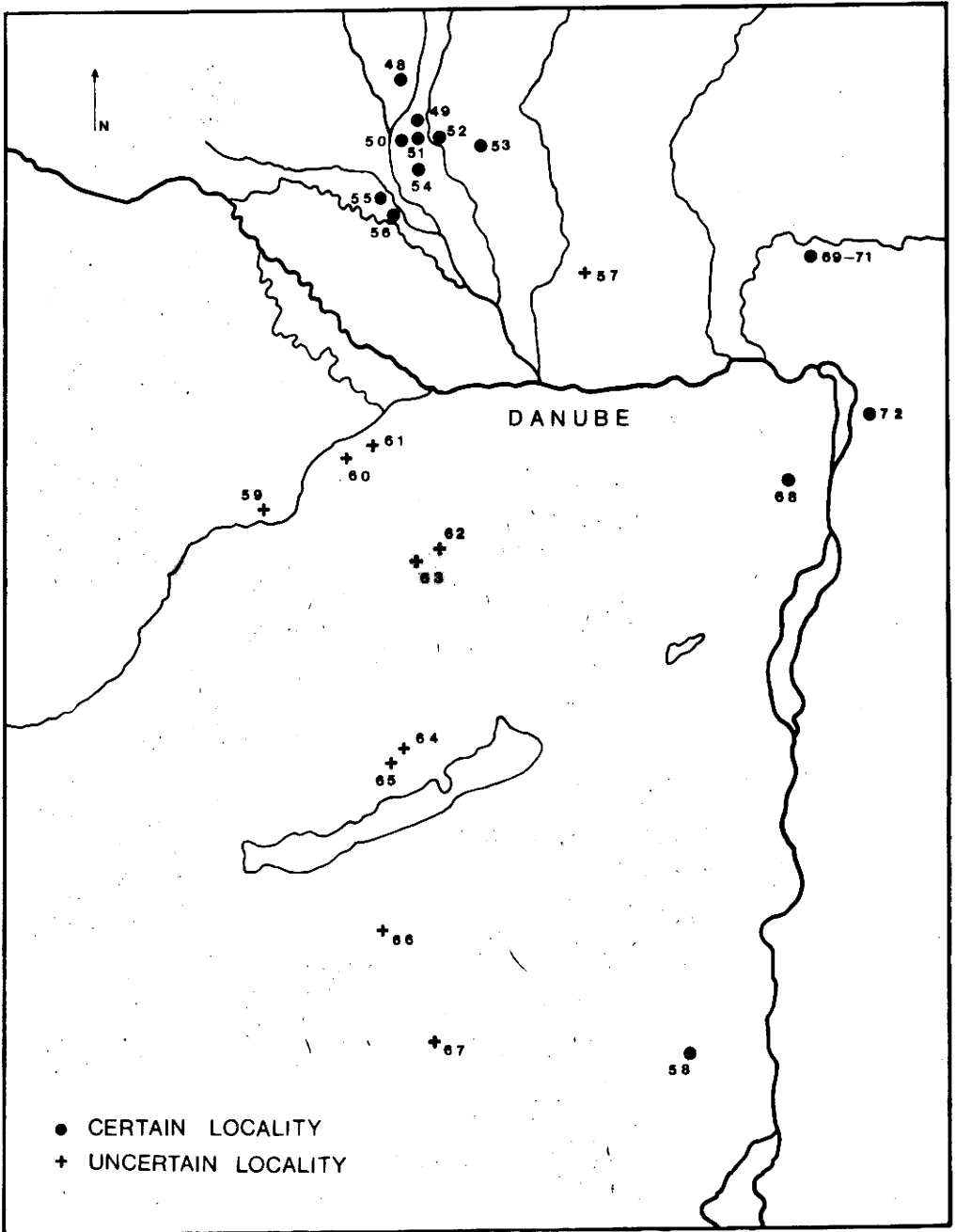


Fig. 2. The Mesolithic (Preboreal and Boreal) localities in the western regions

2) ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCES

a) The Hungarian Great Plain

As regards the central plain territory of the Carpathian Basin the first figure speaks for itself: Mesolithic remains are virtually missing. The three settlements which seem to be authentic take positions close to the peripheries (Ciumești II, Hajdukovo-Peres and Bačka Palanka) and can be dated to the Boreal or the early Atlantic. The lithic industry was of an atypical Tardenoisien character.

- 1) Ciumești II (NICOLAESCU-PLOPȘOR 1964, PĂUNESCU 1964, COMȘA 1973)
- 2) Hajdukovo-Peres (BRUKNER 1967)
- 3) Bačka Palanka (BRUKNER 1967)

The lithic industry of the further findspots only suggests to belonging to the Mesolithic cultures.

- 4) Tarpa-Márki farm (SZATHMÁRY 1977, 1978, DOBOSI 1983)
- 5) Tarpa-Kishegy-Szipa bank (SZATHMÁRY 1977), (Fig. 3)
- 6-8) Berea I, IX, XVI (NICOLAESCU-PLOPȘOR 1964, PĂUNESCU 1964, COMȘA 1973)
- 9) Valea lui Mihai (NICOLAESCU-PLOPȘOR 1964, COMȘA 1973)
- 10) Hugalj-Érpatak (HILLEBRAND 1925)
- 11) Nagyléta (SZATHMÁRY 1978)
- 12) Hajdúbagos-Pasture (SZATHMÁRY 1978)
- 13) Tószeg-Áldozó hill (HILLEBRAND 1925)

However, it is striking how much the localities suspectable of being of Mesolithic character become more dense alongside the former bed of the river Ér, as if constituting a transitional area (through the Upper Palaeolithic - Mesolithic findspots at Tarpa) towards the northeastern periphery.

b) The Northeastern Periphery

The most important archaeological relics of the Mesolithic of the Carpathian Basin are known from the region of the rivers Uzh (Uh) and Latoritsa (Latorica) (Zakarpatskii Region, Soviet Union), where systematic researches started in the second half of the 1970's mainly by MATSKEVOÏ and his colleagues. As a result it came to light that this region was intensively populated from the Dryas III to the Atlantic. As we can conclude from the archaeological, stratigraphic, palaeofaunistic and vegetation-historical data of 30 localities a variegated Mesolithic lithic industry rooted, in most cases, in local Palaeolithic traditions developed in the inner foreground of the Carpathians (CHERNISH 1981, MATSKEVOÏ 1987a) The list of the localities is as follows:

- 14) Kamyanitza I - Blizhniĭ bereg (MATSKEVOÏ 1978, 1987a, 1987b, 1987c, MATSKEVOÏ and BONDAR 1979, ALEKSANDROVOKIÏ and MATSKEVOÏ 1986, CHERNISH 1981)
- 15) Kamyanitza II - Visokiĭ bereg (MATSKEVOÏ 1978, 1985b, 1987a, 1987b, 1987c, ALEKSANDROVOKIÏ and MATSKEVOÏ 1986, CHERNISH 1981)
- 16) Kamyanitza III - (MATSKEVOÏ 1985a, 1987a)
- 17) Kamyanitza IV - (MATSKEVOÏ 1978, 1987a, CHERNISH 1981)
- 18) Kamyanitza V - (MATSKEVOÏ 1985a, 1986, 1987a, 1987b, 1987c, ALEKSANDROVOKIÏ and MATSKEVOÏ 1986, MATSKEVOÏ and GUNEVSKIÏ 1986)
- 19) Nevitskoe I - (MATSKEVOÏ and ARTYUKH 1974, CHERNISH 1981)
- 20) Perechin I - (PENYAK 1980, MATSKEVOÏ 1987a)
- 21-23) Konoplevtsy I-III (MATSKEVOÏ 1987a)
- 24) Steklyannaya guta I (MATSKEVOÏ 1987a)
- 25) Steklyannaya guta II (MATSKEVOÏ 1987a)
- 26-28) Vorochevo I-III (MATSKEVOÏ 1987a, 1987b)
- 29) Mukachevo VI (MATSKEVOÏ 1986, 1987a)
- 30) Chinadievo I (MATSKEVOÏ and ARTYUKH 1974, CHERNISH 1981)
- 31) Svalyava I (PENYAK 1980, MATSKEVOÏ 1987a)
- 32-33) Velikiĭ Rakovets I-II - Vinogradar kolkhoz (MATSKEVOÏ and ARTYUKH 1975, CHERNISH 1981)
- 34) Khust I (MATSKEVOÏ 1975, MATSKEVOÏ and ARTYUKH 1974)
- 35) Mukachevo VIII - Vysokaya gora (MATSKEVOÏ et al. 1976)
- 36) Glubokoe I - Kholmitskaya gora (MATSKEVOÏ and BONDAR 1979, MATSKEVOÏ 1986, 1987a)
- 37) Dibrovka I (POTUSHNYAK 1980, MATSKEVOÏ 1987a)
- 38-41) Serednee I-IV (MATSKEVOÏ et al. 1976, MATSKEVOÏ 1986, 1987a)
- 42) Uglya I - Malaya ugolka (MATSKEVOÏ 1975, MATSKEVOÏ and ARTYUKH 1975, CHERNISH 1981)
- 43) Uzhgorod I - Radvanska gora I (SOVA 1964, MATSKEVOÏ 1987a)

Two of the findspots are of primary importance. The older period is represented most entirely by the material of the locality Kamyanitza V (18) of Preboreal-Boreal age. While the

main characteristic features of the younger period can be best studied on the finds dug up at the locality Kamyanitza I (14) dating back to the Boreal-early Atlantic. The materials of most of the findspots occupy their positions between these two extreme varieties. They are close to each other chronologically and at the same time they are different typologically. The material remains of the findspots No. 16, 19-24, 26-34 can be included rather in the older phase and perhaps the localities No. 35 and 36 may still belong here. While the finds of the localities No. 15, 17, 25, 37-42 fit better into the younger phase and probably the findspot No. 43 also represents this latter phase. In the course of the two mentioned phases significant changes must have ensued in the lithic industry. The proportion of the forms characteristic of the end of the Palaeolithic (e.g. high scarpers, blunt-backed blades, burins etc.) were decreasing, parallelly, the proportion of the forms (blades) pointing ahead towards the Neolithic were growing. The increasing frequency of the more geometric-like stone implements made of blades must have been accompanied by a microlithisation tendency. The population followed a Preneolithic way of living (hunting, fishing and gathering) and usually settled down on the terraces of rivers. The heterogeneity of the lithic industry can be probably explained by both the adjacency and the mutual affects of the populations reaching different levels of development and representing different stages of civilization (MATSKEVOI 1987a). The fairly articulated biogeographical scenery of Carpathian Ukraine (ANUCHIN 1956, ADAMENKO and GRODETSKAYA 1987) may have especially promoted the coexistence of populations marked by different ecological requirements (cf. KOZŁOWSKI J. K. and KOZŁOWSKI S.K. 1979). The same conditions may have been very probably responsible for another phenomenon, namely, in the Neolithic cultures of the early Atlantic (Körös-Criş, Plained Pottery and Linear Pottery cultures) the course of transformation and the tendency of reduction which characterised the lithic material did not break, but continued in compliance with the former tendencies (Oyakovo-Mondichtog, Rivne-Kismezé, Zastavnoe-Malaya Gora, Kholmitsy-Karan, Velikaya Dobron'-Zolotoi Grob, Tarnovtsy, Orikhovtsy). It is obvious that in the central plain the same process cannot be studied for lack of considerable Boreal population and lithic industry. Accordingly, the stone implement material of the Körös (Atlantic) group is rather poorish (BÁCSKAY 1975, cf. KACZANOWSKA and KOZŁOWSKI J.K. 1987).

c) The Northern Periphery

Since the Eger industry (VÉRTES 1951, 1965) has turned out to be older than the Mesolithic (GÁBORI 1981, 1982, 1984), two doubtful and two indisputable localities can be registered in this region. Consequently, those findings which may be possibly in connection with the Eger industry (VÉRTES 1951), 1965, SAÁD 1959, 1964, ROZSNYÓI 1963, DOBOSI 1972, 1975, 1976, HELLEBRANDT 1973, TÓTH 1973) require to be reviewed. The four findspots are as follows (Fig. 1):

- 44) Barca I (PROŠEK 1959)
- 45) Répáshuta-Rejtek I (VÉRTES 1954, 1956, JÁNOSSY 1961)
- 46) Streda nad Bodrogom (BÁNESZ 1961, BÁRTA 1972)
- 47) Demjén-Hegyeskőbérc (DOBOSI 1976)

The most representative lithic industry is known from the findspot Barca I, in which the criteria of an industry of Beuron-Coincy character can be recognised, which is of the same age as the Komornica culture (KOZŁOWSKI J.K. 1973, KOZŁOWSKI J.K. and KOZŁOWSKI S.K. 1979, KOZŁOWSKI S.K. 1981, VALOCH 1981). The findspot Demjén of doubtful position is worthy of attention chiefly because in the northern periphery here may be found the only analogy of the stone packed founded houses known from the localities Kamyanitza V and I (DOBOSI 1976, cf. MATSKEVOI 1987a).

d) The Northwestern and the Transdanubian Periphery

The findings should be more expedient to be divided into three units: those coming from West-Slovakia, from Transdanubia and from the Danube-bend. Of these the most characteristic is the West-Slovakian microlithic industry of Preboreal-Boreal age, which can be found in the vicinity of Sered. This represents a variant of the Chojnice-Pienki culture, developed on maglemose traditions (cf. BÁRTA 1973, 1980, KOZŁOWSKI 1973, VALOCH 1981). At the same time, however, this can also be interpreted as an eastern facies of the Beuron-Coincy culture (KOZŁOWSKI J.K. and KOZŁOWSKI S.K. 1979, KOZŁOWSKI 1981, cf. DOLUKHANDOV et al. 1980). Altogether nine certain and one uncertain localities are known (Fig. 2):

- 48) Kopčany (JASNÁK 1930, BÁRTA 1972, 1981)
- 49) Sered-Mačanské vršky (BÁRTA 1954, 1957, 1981, VENCL 1969)
- 50) Veľ'ka-Mača (BÁRTA and BÁNESZ 1971, BÁRTA 1972, 1981)
- 51) Dolná Streda (BÁRTA 1959, 1965, 1981)
- 52) Šoporna-Štrkovec (BÁRTA and BÁNESZ 1971, BÁRTA 1972, 1981)
- 53) Sládečkovec (BÁRTA 1972, 1981)
- 54) Galanta-Mostová (BÁRTA 1960, 1972, 1981)
- 55) Čierna voda (BÁRTA and BÁNESZ 1971, BÁRTA 1972, 1981)
- 56) Tomášikovo-Dyňový field (BÁRTA 1955, 1972, 1981)

57) Dvory nad Žitavou (BÁRTA 1972, 1981)

In the Transdanubian region it is the findings of Szekszárd-Palánk (58) which can be dated most reliably (B.C. 8300-500). The archaeological remains of this settlement give evidence about the Preboreal and the Boreal periods from the end of the Dryas (VÉRTES 1962, 1965). Owing to the doubtful stratigraphical conditions only heterogeneous lithic industries are known from the further Transdanubian localities:

- 58) Szekszárd-Palánk (VÉRTES 1962, 1965)
- 59) Szil-Perlaki hill (FIGLER A. oral communication) (Fig. 3)
- 60) Koroncó-Bábota (GALLUS 1942, VÉRTES 1965)
- 61) Koroncó (GALLUS 1942, VÉRTES 1965)
- 62) Románd-Templomföld (GALLUS 1942, VÉRTES 1965)
- 63) Bakonytamási (GALLUS 1942, VÉRTES 1965)
- 64) Vöröstó (LACZKÓ 1929a, 1929b, MÉSZÁROS 1948, VÉRTES 1965)
- 65) Mencshely (LACZKÓ 1929a, 1929b, MÉSZÁROS 1948, VÉRTES 1965)
- 66) Pamuk (PUSZTAI 1957, VÉRTES 1965)
- 67) Kaposhomok (PUSZTAI 1957, VÉRTES 1965)

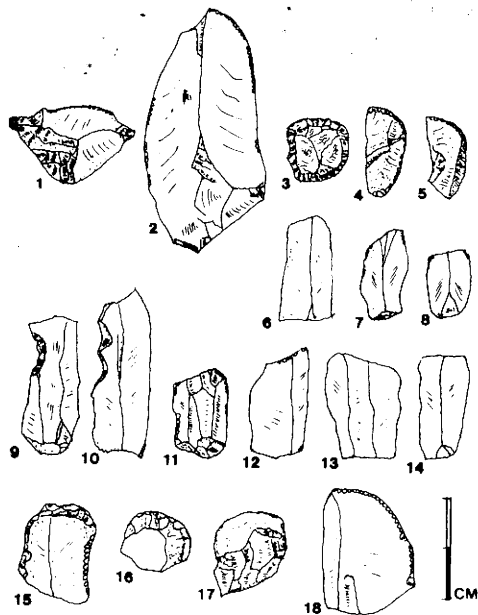


Fig. 3. The stone implements from Tarpa-Kishegy-Szipa bank (1-5) and from Szil-Perlaki hill (6-18) localities

It seems as if in the region of the Danube-bend a separate group can be outlined. There are merely typological arguments at our disposal, however, for the classification. The remains in the neighbourhood of Hont seem to be more archaic than the finds from Szekszárd (Swidry influences). The relics of Sződliget, on the other hand may be younger than the Szekszárd remains. Nevertheless, the classification does not seem so distinct if the large-scale variagated collection of finds represented by the localities Kamyanitza I and V in Carpathian Ukraine is regarded to be the standard (cf. MATSKEVOI 1987a). The findspots are as follows:

- 68) Remete cave (GÁBORI 1958, VÉRTES 1965)
- 69) Hont -Templom hill (GÁBORI 1956a, 1964, VÉRTES 1965)
- 70) Hont -Vár hill (GÁBORI 1964, VÉRTES 1965)
- 71) Hont -Csitár (GÁBORI 1964, VÉRTES 1965)
- 72) Sződliget (GÁBORI 1956b, 1964, VÉRTES 1965)

Summing up the archaeological evidences it emerges that no serious arguments can be advanced for the peopling of the central plain in the Preboreal and the Boreal. Actually it is

only the northeastern and northwestern regions from which we have had positive proof for the Carpathian Basin having been an intensively populated territory just before the Atlantic. Moreover, these two regions also represent disjunct areas. At the bottom of this influence of the dynamics of the former and the contemporaneous outside of the Carpathian Basin may presumably have worked (KOTZKOWSKI J.K. and KOTZKOWSKI S.K. 1979, MATSKEVOI 1987a, STOCZKOWSKI 1987). This factor may also play a great part in the judgement of the autochthony of the early Atlantic (early Neolithic) cultures (cf. SZATHMÁRY 1982a, 1982b, 1984). Moreover, also the relatively autonomous development of the northern periphery (deserted an eastern and a western part) can be estimated. The southern periphery may not have afforded good opportunity for settling in this period. Populations may have been rather drawn northward out of the central plain. That is why actually significant population historical hiatus may have been effected between the northern and the southern peripheries of the central plain of the Carpathian Basin.

3) PALAEOECOLOGICAL EVIDENCES

The tendencies of the environmental changes preceding the Boreal are worthy of being looked over from the direction of the Balkans for the post-Pleistocene alterations can be pointed out from times earlier there. According to vegetational-historical analyses the presence of dry and warm steppe can be reconstructed in Thessaly in the 11th and 10th millennia B. C. (JACOBSEN 1974, BOTTEMA 1974). This condition can be registered even in the region of the Lower Danube (LEROI-GOURHAN et al. 1967, MATTEESCO and PROTOPOPESCU-PAKE 1968-69), however, even in later times, it cannot be discerned at all in such refuges as, for instance, the Iron Gate region, which provided greater chances for successions free of confrontations (cf. BÖKÖNYI 1969, 1972, 1976, 1978, GIGOV 1969, 1972, POP et al. 1970, CÂRCIUMARU 1971, 1973a, 1973b, 1973c, 1978, MISIĆ et al. 1972, BOLOMEY 1973a, 1973b, CÂRCIUMARU and PĂUNESCU 1975, CLASON 1980).

In the Carpathian Basin, however, the process of the thickening of close forests gathered momentum under cooler and drier climate conditions in the Preboreal period. In the mountainous parts it was the pine and the birch species first of all that dominated in the plant associations, while in the central plain continental steppes with scattered forest areas emerged (ZÖLYOMI 1952, 1958, JÁRAI-KOMLÓDI 1966, 1968, 1982).

In the Boreal starting from the 7th millenium B. C. there ensued a turning-point in climate-history during which xerophilous vegetation occupied the plains in the region north of the Duna-Száva line. This warming up meagre in rainfall was equally favourable to the development of xerophilous deciduous forests (*Quercus*, *Lilia*, *Ulmus*). According to ZÖLYOMI (1952, 1953, 1958, 1964)'s pollen-spectra of prime importance the increase of their proportion was accompanied by the decrease in the proportion of the *Pinus*.

In the plain territories the succession promoted the emergence of climate-zonal steppe. In the peripheries, however, changes took place more moderately. They may have been more slow and more conservative and may not have represented so significant change in the vegetational history as in the plain (ANDREÁNSZKY 1954, SOÓ 1959, LOŽEK 1967, 1980, CÂRCIUMARU 1971, 1973a, 1973b, 1978, 1984, POP et al. 1970, PĂUNESCU 1979, PĂUNESCU et al. 1976, KORDOS 1981a, 1981c, CHAPMAN 1981, BERGLUND 1986, KRIPPEL 1986). The swampy areas in the central plain became shallow, dried out, as it is shown by the missing of pollen-analytical phase V (CSINÁDY 1954, 1959, 1960, BORSY-né and BORSY 1955, VOZÁRY 1957, ZÖLYOMI 1958, MIHÁLTZ and MIHÁLTZ-FARAGÓ 1965, JÁRAI-KOMLÓDI 1966, 1968). According to SOÓ's phytogeographical observations (SOÓ 1931, 1959, 1965) the forests were characteristic of the tide lands and the peripheries only in the central plain (*Populeto-Salicetum* and *Querceto-Ulmetum*). In the expanded and unintermitted steppe areas (*Stipa-Festuca-Chrysopogon*) mixed oak-forests which were actually peculiar to the Atlantic could also develop (JÁRAI-KOMLÓDI 1969, 1971, 1982).

The results of the faunistical examinations regarding the Boreal cannot be generalized. Palaezoological observations refer to a warmer and drier climate than the former had been (KREITZOI 1957, 1969, BÖKÖNYI 1962, 1969, 1972, 1976, 1977, 1978, RĂDULESCU and SAMSON 1962, KREITZOI and VÉRTES 1965, BOLOMEY 1973a, 1973b, JÁNOSSY and KORDOS 1976, KORDOS 1977a, 1977b, 1979, 1981a, 1981b, 1981c, FÜKÖH 1979, 1980, 1987, CLASON 1980, VÖRÖS 1981, 1987, KROLOPP and VÖRÖS 1982, FÜKÖH and KROLOPP 1985, WILMS 1987).

The last important sand-blows in the plain, namely in the Nyírség and in the territory between the rivers Danube and Tisza, also happened in the Boreal. These regions must not have exercised long-lasting attraction to the contemporary populations (SÜMEGHY 1955, KÁDÁR 1956, BORSY 1961, 1965, 1962, 1971, 1977, 1980, 1985, 1987, MAROSI 1967, BORSY et al. 1981, 1982a, 1982b, NAGY J.-né 1982, SOMOGYI 1982, 1984).

The post-Pleistocene hydrogeographic alterations comprised two essential factors. One was the sinking of the marginal territories of the Hungarian Great Plain (namely, Szatmár, Jászság, Bodrogköz, Rétköz), and the rising of the water-parting area of the Nyírség. The other factor was the westward shift of the Danube-bed. At the beginning the river Tisza only left

its Pleistocene bed in the Ér-valley (SÜMEGHY 1944, PAPP 1956, 1960, SOMOGYI 1960, 1961, 1962, 1967, 1971, 1982, 1984, BORSY et al. 1969, IHRIG 1973). According to recent investigations this latter riverbed-change started in the Upper Pleniglacial (at about 17-16 000 B. C.) and manifested in a process shaded by recurring moments. The river Szamos followed the valley of the Ér still for 4000 years at least thereupon. Later the Ér-bed was gradually turning into the downflow area the Kraszna region only. The alteration of the Tisza-bed, which continued until the Atlantic, was accompanied by the occlusion and periodical renewal of the north-south directed Pleistocene riverbeds of the Eastern-Plain (Topl'a Ondava, Uzh-Uh, Laborec, Latorica-Latorista). During the Boreal, besides the always changing branches of the river Tisza, it was the Ancient-Tisza in the Ér-valley that may have supplied the continuous need for water. In spite of its reduced water output this may have been the only scenery of the survival of the end-Pleistocene vegetation and fauna (cf. BORSY 1979, 1980, BORSY et al. 1982a, BORSY and FÉLEGYHÁZI 1982, 1983, BORSY and LÓKI 1982). That is why the settlements alongside the Ér deserves attention (Fig. 1). In fact, the territories suitable for settling may have remarkably decreased (cf. KLÉH and SZÜCS 1954, SÜMEGHY 1955, LÁNG 1960, STEFANOVITS 1963, BULLA 1964, BORSY 1977).

The extreme ecological conditions in the Boreal outlined above may not have been favourable for human settling in the central plain. So much the more that in this region human adaptation of this character was unprecedented, which, on the other hand, may have also impeded the immigration from the neighbouring peripheries. Therefore the Preboreal-Boreal hiatus in the central plain seems to be justified by palaeoecologically, as well.

Moreover, it should not be an extreme conclusion, if we assume a general northward migration which concerned the central plain from two (western and eastern) directions dissimilarly. Hereby the Boreal civilizations developing independently in the northeastern and northwestern peripheries, respectively, can be well interpreted. Besides, the depopulation of the southern periphery also seems to be reasonable. Similarly, the local development of the Iron Gate region could be also well explained by the "repulsive" adaptation factors which exerted their influence from the direction of the central plain.

Owing to its various ecological profile the periphery could further on preserve the Palaeolithic reminiscences on one hand, and was capable of receiving new components on the other hand. Accordingly, the northern peripheries in the nature of a refuge may have, to a greater extent, ensure the coexistence of both local and immigrant components of different adaptation preliminaries and of different civilization profiles. This is why it is rather difficult to range the lithic industry of the Carpathian Basin among the cultures of the neighbouring territories, which could develop less disturbed. This is a specific feature of the Carpathian Basin. Therefore the hiatus of the central plain can be also discerned through the evaluation of the structure of findings of the peripheries.

It seems obvious that a climatic change which may have moderated the drawing-away between the populations of the southern and of the northern peripheries of the Carpathian Basin may have only took place at the beginning of the Atlantic. However, this population movement of the Atlantic brought in newer Balkan elements into the Carpathian Basin. As a consequence, an entirely altered kind of difference came about between the northern and the southern regions of the central plain.

Those anthropological arguments which regarded the definite difference between the Körös-Criş culture and the Alföld Linear Pottery culture registered this very condition (NEMESKÉRI 1961, FARKAS 1975, SZATHMÁRY 1982b, 1983a, 1983b, 1984, 1986).

A peremterületek jelentősége a Kárpát-medence boreális kori (mezolitikus) népességtörténetében

SZATHMÁRY László

A szerző az Alföld peremvidékeinek jelentőségét vizsgálja a boreális kori népességtörténetben. A régészeti adatok áttekintése után megállapítja, hogy csak a peremvidékeken telepedhettek meg huzamosabb ideig mezolitikus népességek. A központi síkságon érzékelhető településtörténeti hiátuszt paleoökológiai (klimatológiai, paleontológiai, faunisztikai, geomorfológiai és hidrogeográfiai) érvekkel indokolja. A boreális kor szélsőséges környezeti feltételei ugyanis nem kedvezhettek a folyamatos megtelepülések létrejöttének az Alföldön. Ez a körülmény a peremterületekről történő bevándorlást is háttérbe szoríthatta. Annál is inkább, mert az ilyen jellegű humán adaptációnak nem voltak előzményei a Kárpát-medencében. A népességek inkább a peremterületek lankái, völgyei mentén mozogva találhattak korábbi adaptációjuknak megfelelőbb életteret. E gyors felmelegedéssel jellemezhető időszakban a népmozgás döntően északi irányú lehetett. Paleoökológiai szempontból tehát magyarázható az északkeleti és az északnyugati peremterület kiemelkedő lelőhelyrűsége. Ezekben a régiókban a változatos biogeográfiai adottságok refúgiumszerűen biztosíthatták a különböző adaptációs előéletű, eltérő civilizációs profilú, lokális és immigráns összetevőkből kialakuló néprészek egymás mellett élését. Ezért nehéz besorolni az itteni köesz-

kőzipart a környező területek kiegyensúlyozottabb fejlődést mutató kultúráiba. Az Alföldi hiátusz kialakulásának következményei tehát a peremterületek leletstruktúráinak megítélésén keresztül is érzékelhető. A síkvidék településtörténeti hiátusza az északi és a déli peremterület népességtörténetének atlantikumig tartó, viszonylag független fejlődését sugallja. Feltételezhető, hogy az atlantikum eleji csontvázletelek archaicitásában kimutatható hasonló jellegű regionális eltérést egyrészt a déli neolitikus migrációk (Körös kultúra), másrészt az északi peremvidék boreális kori előzményei (és az AVK kialakulása) magyarázzák.

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Dr. SZATHMÁRY László
 Jósa András Múzeum
 H-4401 NYÍREGYHÁZA
 Benczúr tér 21. Pf. 57.