
ONCE AGAIN ON THE ROMAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN BARBARICUM NEAR THE ROMAN DACIA

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ABSTRACT:

This paper is an up-to-date research on the Roman military equipment found in Barbaricum beyond the Dacian *limes* previously dealt with in a lecture published in 1999 in the Proceedings of the 17th Congress of the Frontier Studies.

The discussion of other 10 items gave the opportunity to draw additional conclusions and find more evidence for the already made statements. So, nine pieces (nos. 1-9) were discovered in the autochthonous settlements concentrated in the central part of the historical region of Wallachia (Fig. 1). Among them there are only two weapon accessories (nos. 4 and 8) and the rest of the items (nos. 1-3, 5-7, 9) are belt and baldric fittings. All the military equipment pieces date from the end of the 2nd century AD until c. AD 260. The origin of the items found at Mătășaru (nos. 7-9) is almost certain in Roman Dacia. The others (nos. 1-6) discovered along the roads linking the southern Danubian bank with the main part of Roman Dacia placed inside the Carpathian Mountains probably originate in Moesia Inferior. The earlier piece (no. 10) unearthed in the Vandal settlement at Medieșu Aurit was obviously imported from Dacia Porolissensis.

Both weapon accessories belong to types distributed throughout the Roman Empire. No. 6 is a representative of the eastern variant of the ring-buckles met in Syria, Dacia and Moesia and the rest of the belt and baldric fittings belong to variants diffused only in the Danubian provinces.

REZUMAT: DATE NOI LEGATE DE ECHIPAMENTUL MILITAR ROMAN DESCOPERIT ÎN BARBARICUM, LA GRANIȚELE DACIEI ROMANE

Acest articol reprezintă o nouă cercetare asupra echipamentului militar roman descoperit în Barbaricum dincolo de limes-ul Daciei romane, care a fost anterior prezentat într-o comunicare publicată în 1999 în Actele celui de al 17-lea Congres al Frontierelor Romane.

Discutarea a încă 10 piese a oferit prilejul de a trage și alte concluzii precum și a găsi noi dovezi pentru afirmațiile deja făcute. Astfel nouă piese (nr. 1-9) au fost găsite în așezările autohtone concentrate în partea centrală a regiunii istorice Muntenia (Fig. 1). Printre ele sunt numai două accesorii de arme ofensive (nr. 4 și 8) iar restul (nr. 1-3, 5-7, 9) sunt accesorii de centiron sau diagonală pentru prinderea sabiei. Toate piesele de echipament militar datează de la sfârșitul secolului II p. Chr până la c. 260 p. Chr. Originea obiectelor militare găsite la Mătășaru (nr. 7-9) este aproape sigur în Dacia Romană. Celelalte (nr. 1-6), descoperite de-a lungul drumurilor ce legau sudul Dunării de Transilvania care reprezenta partea centrală a Daciei romane își au originea probabil în Moesia Inferior. Piesa ceva mai timpurie descoperită în așezarea vandalică de la Medieșu Aurit a fost în mod evident importată din Dacia Porolissensis.

Ambele accesorii de arme ofensive reprezintă tipuri răspândite în întregul Imperiu roman. Nr. 6 a făcut parte din varianta estică a cataramelor inelare întâlnită în Syria, Dacia și Moesia, iar restul accesoriilor de centiroane și diagonale aparțin unor variante prezente numai în provinciile romane danubiene.

KEYWORDS: Roman Dacia, Dacian *limes*, Roman military equipment, Barbaricum, Moesia Inferior.

CUVINTE CHEIE: Dacia romană, limes-ul dacic, echipamentul militar roman, Barbaricum, Moesia Inferior.

In 1997 I gave a lecture on the Roman military equipment beyond the Dacian *limes* later published in the Proceedings of the 17th Congress of the Roman Frontier Studies¹.

¹ Petculescu 1999.

The items dwelt on in this paper will be ordered geographically from South-East to North-West. For the objects of different findspots as those published in 1999, it will be given a compendious presentation of the settlements where they were found. For the others, the description of the settlements where they originated is referred to in the above-mentioned article.

The pieces are numbered consecutively and their numbering corresponds to that of the illustrations.

Abbreviations: L = Length; W = Width; H = Height; D = Diameter; T = Thickness; Wt = weight. All the measurements of the items are in mm and in grams respectively. c. = circa. MMB = Muzeul Municipiului București; MNIR-București = Muzeul Național de Istorie a României - București; MNITr-Cluj Napoca = Muzeul Național de Istorie a Transilvaniei Cluj-Napoca; MINAC = Muzeul de Istorie Națională și Arheologie Constanța; MJAP – Ploiești = Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Arheologie Prahova Ploiești; MJ Satu Mare = Muzeul Județean Satu Mare; MJA - Pitești = Muzeul Județean Argeș – Pitești; MJIAZ = Muzeul Județean de Istorie și Artă Zalău.

Lacul Tei (București city).

The site excavated in 1929-1931 by D. V. Rosetti produced a lot of small finds including many Roman imports: two bronze statuettes, fragments of *amphorae* and *terra sigillata*, a Firmalampe, bronze brooches among which



Fig. 1. Roman military equipment in Barbaricum near the Roman Dacia.

a crossbow brooch, 15 coins issues from Marcus Aurelius to Gallienus, most of them in the provincial mints located in Moesia Inferior, Moesia Superior and Thrace. At Lacul Tei there were probably two settlements, one autochthonous dated between the end of the 2nd century AD and c. AD 260 and another one belonging to the Gothic confederation population dated from the 2nd half of the 3rd century AD to the first half of the 4th century AD².

1. Frame buckle belt (Rahmenschnalle)³.

Copper alloy. H 52; W 51. MMB inv. no. 15809.

The rectangular openwork frame of the buckle encloses a cross piece made of two opposite *peltae*, now largely missing. According to von Schnurbein typology of this type of buckles without tongue, it belongs to Rahmenschnallen variant c⁴. I know parallels of no.1 in Dacia province at Bruuiu (Sibiu county) and probably *Micia* (Deva county), in Dacia Libera at Târgșor (Prahova county), in Moesia Inferior probably at *Sucidava* (Pârjoaia, Constanța county), in Pannonia Inferior at *Intercisa* and *Aquincum*, in Pannonia Superior at *Carnuntum*, in Noricum at *Lauriacum* (2 pieces) and *Cetium*, in Raetia at Regensburg, Grossprüfening (5 pieces), Eining (2 pieces), Künzing (2 pieces), Pförring, Kösching and Schäfstall (Donauwörth town) and in Germania Superior at *Nida* (Hedderheim)⁵. So, except for the example from the *Nida* town, all the other representatives of this variant originate in the Danubian frontier provinces. It means that unlike the other frame buckles spread all over the Empire, the c variant was distributed only on the northern frontier from Moesia Inferior to Raetia. The few pieces which could be found outside this area, might result in the usual 3rd century concentration of troops from many provinces to the threatened sectors of the frontier or, when found in civilian contexts as the *Nida* one, from the settlement of some veterans far away from the station where they had served.

2. Baldric terminal plate⁶.

Copper alloy. H 48; W 45. MMB, inv. no. 15808.

Heart-shaped openwork plate provided at its upper part with two stylized volutes arching inwards. It is decorated with lotus buds and crescentic piercings and a row of file cuts on its upper end. The two rivet holes placed towards the ends of the vertical axis of the plate were used for fixing it to the leather baldric terminal.

Similar items were found in Dacia province at Răcari (Dolj county), *Sucidava* (Olt county) a large piece with five fixing rivet holes, *Apulum*, *Porolissum*, and in the former Botăr Collection made of items originating in *Potaissa*, in Moesia Inferior at Novae and in Dobrudja (2 pieces), in Moesia Superior at *Viminacium* (2 examples) and in Pannonia Inferior at *Intercisa*⁷. Besides, a smaller terminal of the same type originates in Șirna (Prahova county) in Barbaricum near the Dacian *limes* (here no. 5). Also I know four other parallels in private collections without any information of their findspots⁸. So, as far as I know, this type of baldric mount had a distribution area limited to the Danubian provinces.

² Rosetti 1932, 13-15; Rosetti 1934, 207; Bichir 1980, 157, 163 fig.6/2-5, 171-173; Bichir 1984, 67/18, 89.

³ Negru and Oța 2004, 325-326, no. 8, pl. 2/8.

⁴ von Schnurbein 1977, 88 c, pl. 166/18.

⁵ Bruuiu: Petculescu 1995, 128, 3rd grave, no.1, pl. 3/1; *Micia*?: unpublished. MNITr-Cluj Napoca, inv.no. 4843; Târgșor: Petculescu 1999, 897, no. 22, pl.2/22; *Sucidava* (Pârjoaia, Constanța county): unpublished. MINAC, inv. no. 46304; *Intercisa*: Mrav 2010, 40, pl. 10, grave 1970/1570, no. 11; *Aquincum*: Zsidi and Poczy 2001, 155, no. 87; *Carnuntum*: Kladnik and Kladnik 1993, 753, fig. 756; *Lauriacum*: Wieser 1999, Katalog, 26 nos. 46- 47, pl. 11/46-47; *Cetium* (St. Polten): Jilek 2005, 172 no. 20, pl. 1/18; Regensburg : von Schnurbein 1977, 88 c, pl. 166/18; Grossprüfening: Fischer 1990, 200, 12.18. 22, pl. 92 B/1 grave; Fischer 1990, 190, 12.16.15, pl. 75 B/1 pit in the civilian settlement; Närr 2015, 298, no. 4-6, fig. 18/4-6 fort; Eining: Gschwind 2004, 335, C 472, pl.50 fort; Gschwind 2004, 335-336, C 473, pl. 50 vicus; Künzing: Fischer 1988, 184, fig. 9/1 grave; Christlein 1976, 81, fig. 36/7 stray find in the vicus; Pförring: Gschwind 2004, 164, note 673, fig. 42/1; Kösching: Gschwind 2004, 164, note 673, fig. 42/2; Schäfstall (Donauwörth town): Czysz and Krahe 1980, 45 fig. 15/7, 59; *Nida* (Hedderheim): Reis 2010, pl. 84/73 stray find inside the town walls.

⁶ Negru and Oța 2004, 325, no. 6, pl. 2/6.

⁷ Răcari: Tudor 1965, 246, no. 9, fig. 7/9; *Sucidava* (Olt county): Tudor *et alii* 1960, 480, fig. 2/8; *Apulum*: Ciugudean 2017, 385, no. 57, pl. 8/5; Porolissum: Gudea 1989, 672, pl. 220/7; Botăr Collection: Ardevan and Russu 1979 and unpublished photograph provided by M. Bărbulescu; *Novae*: Genčeva 2000, 73, no. 10 pl. 7/7; Dobrudja: unpublished, former private collection, now kept at MNIR București; *Viminacium*: Redžić 2013, 253, no. 621 copper alloy, no. 623, silver; *Intercisa*: Radnóti 1957, 238, no. 149, pl. 47/14.

⁸ Appels and Laycock 2007, 80, figs. AA 11.11-13; Hermann Historica 64, 2012, 140, no. 3419.

Străulești (București town).

The excavations of two neighbouring sites, Măicănești and Nucu, probably belonging to the same settlement, produced besides the usual native ceramic, also Roman imports: brooches, a bronze lamp and 10 coins issued from Commodus to Gordian III, five of them struck in the provincial mints located in Moesia Inferior and Thrace. According to the small finds it seems that the settlement dates c. AD 200 and c. AD 250/60 even if Bichir supposed that it lasted during the whole 3rd century AD⁹.

3. Baldric *phalera*¹⁰.

Copper alloy. D 75; T 8; Wt 75. MMB, inv. no. 95696.

Openwork *phalera* with a central circular plate decorated with five outward-facing *peltae* and lotus bud piercings making smaller internal inward-facing *peltae*. On the rear face of the central plate there is a shallow elongated recess with circular cross-sectioned rivets at each end passing through holes to reach the front face. The now visible rivet ends on the front face of the *phalera* were almost certainly covered together with the whole central plate by a white metal foil when the item was in use. As the recess fits to the bottom of the characteristic attachment eye of the baldric *phalerae* it is also indicative for the function of no. 3.

Phalerae with outward-facing *peltae* are quite common¹¹ but I don't know pieces similarly decorated to no.3.

Militari (București city).**4. Scabbard slide¹².**

Bone. L c. 100. MMB.

Rectangular slide with two transverse holes for binding cords above and below the fully enclosed aperture to receive the baldric. The upper tongue is missing and the lower one is only vestigial. Above the lower end there is a cylindrical knob. As from the usual tongues one is missing and the other one isn't functional, it results that the attachment of the slide to the scabbard was made only by cords passing through the transverse holes.

No. 4 belongs to Khisfine type, variant a, characterised by the fully enclosed aperture¹³. As the variant a of Khisfine type is spread all over the Empire I think appropriate to mention only the similar pieces discovered in the Lower Danubian provinces at *Drobeta*, *Novae* and *Singidunum*¹⁴.

Șirna (Prahova county).

A couple of small finds dated in the 3rd century AD were discovered in the autochthonous settlement: two bronze brooches of type Almgren group VII, series I and a coin issued for Philippus Arabs by the mint from Deultum in Thrace¹⁵.

5. Baldric terminal plate¹⁶.

Copper alloy. L 38.5; W 39; T 1.2-1.7; Wt 9.1. MJIAP – Ploiești, inv. no. 9809.

Smaller terminal plate almost identically shaped to no. 2 save for the volutes on the upper part arching outwards. At the upper end there are not visible file cuts probably due to the wear of the item.

Terminal plates were usually fixed to the baldrics by three rivets, or five for the larger ones as those from *Sucidava* and *Potaissa*. However the pieces from Militari, Șirna, and the bronze one from *Viminacium* had only two rivets, making apparently a less firm attaching system. So, it seems that they had similar, probably later, chronology or were manufactured in the same production centre.

⁹ Bichir 1980, 173-174; Bichir 1984, 67-68, nos. 20-21, 90-91.

¹⁰ Constantiniu and Panait 1968, 67, fig. 10/2.

¹¹ As for example the piece no. 7.

¹² Schuster and Negru 2006, 85, II. 2.2, pl. 46/1 unscaled photograph and without measurements.

¹³ Miks 2007, 308-313, Vortafel F/17, pls. 234-235.

¹⁴ Drobeta: Petculescu 1983, 460, no. 22, fig. 5/22; *Novae*: Miks 2007, 853 B207/1, pl. 235; Dyczek 2016, 87, 92 fig.7 is most probably the same as the one published by Miks; *Singidunum*: Miks 2007, 784, B 29/1, pl. 234; Vujović 2013, 37, pl. 1/3.

¹⁵ Bichir 1984, 46, 76, no. 96; Olteanu *et alii* 2007; Cociș and Bărcă 2020, 155, no. 23, pls. 2/9, 5/34.

¹⁶ Olteanu *et alii* 2007, 91-92, fig. 27/6.

Târgșor (Prahova county).

6. Ring-buckle¹⁷.

Copper alloy. W 13; T 2. D (reconstructed) c. 76. MJIAP – Ploiești.

Fragmentary broad, thin ring with moulded profile.

Parallels are met in Roman Dacia at *Apulum* (7 pieces), Obreja (Alba county), *Micia*, *Porolissum* (2 pieces), Gherla, Romita (2 pieces), *Romula* and *Cumidava* (Râșnov, Brașov county) (2 pieces)¹⁸. Besides, this kind of buckles is clearly represented on three statues of soldiers depicted in camp dress from *Apulum* and *Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegethusa*¹⁹. Also I know similar ring-buckles in Moesia Superior at *Viminacium* (7 pieces) and Zavičajni (2 pieces), and in Arabia, probably at *Bostra*²⁰.

So, I think there is a distinct ring-buckle variant characterised by the broad, thin ring with moulded profile, distributed in the Oriental and Lower- and Middle Danubian provinces. Quite recently it was argued that the ring-buckles most probably originate in the similarly shaped Parthian/Sassanid belt buckles²¹. Consequently it seems that the Roman eastern variant of ring-buckles was adopted directly from the Iranian prototypes and was diffused by the Danubian troops which fought against the Sassanian armies during the 3rd century AD.

Mătășaru (Dâmbovița county).

7. Baldric *phalera*²².

Copper alloy. L 70; W 30; T 2; D (reconstructed) c. 80. Wt 29.94. MJA-Pitești, inv. no. 829/1073.

Fragmentary openwork *phalera* decorated with four radiating outward-facing *peltae* and spokes. Even if *phalerae* decorated with peltate motifs are common, I know only one close parallel, an almost identical item, discovered in the baths of the legionary fortress at *Novae* in Moesia Inferior²³. The *Novae* example is provided with the characteristic rear-attachment eye identifying it as a baldric *phalera*. Thus it is a reasonable assumption that the Mătășaru *phalera* was a baldric mount as well. And, having an identical rare decoration, it's probable that both *phalerae* were manufactured in the same production centre located in Moesia Inferior, perhaps even at *Novae*.

8. Box scabbard chape²⁴.

Iron. L c. 42; W c. 46.

Fragmentary rectangular chape with side walls slightly curving inside. As its upper part is missing, one can't state if it was decorated with the usual crescentic piercings. The bottom is perforated by two massive rivets, unparalleled to the other Roman chapes. So, if they originated in the manufacturing process of the item and not in its repairing, it could mean that the chape was a barbarian reproduction of a Roman prototype.

Roman iron chapes are quite rare due, at least partly, by the small survival rate of the objects made of relatively thin iron sheets. Accordingly, I know only few iron rectangular chapes: in Dacia province at *Cumidava* (Râșnov, Brașov county), in Pannonia Superior at *Carnuntum*, in Raetia at Künzing, in Germania Superior at Saalburg (2 pieces) and Dietikon, in Britannia at Caerleon²⁵, in Syria at *Dura Europos* and in Barbaricum at Vimose²⁶.

¹⁷ Lichiardopol 1996, fig. 4/6.

¹⁸ *Apulum*: Ciugudean 2011, 100-101, pls. 1/6, 2/4, 3/1-5; Obreja: Protase 2002, 144, grave no. 210, pl. 69/210; *Micia*: Barbu et alii 2020, 132-133, no. 4, fig. 6/3; *Porolissum*: Gudea 1989, 669, pl. 235/2-3; Gherla: Protase et alii 2008, 254, pl. 44/1; Romita: Matei and Bajusz 1997, pl. 93/1-2; *Romula*: Babeș 1970, fig. 11e, p. 186, grave 138; *Cumidava*: Unpublished, 2010 and 2019 excavations by the author in the *praetentura sinistra* of the auxiliary fort.

¹⁹ *Apulum*: Radu 1968, 438-441, fig. 2a; Ciugudean and Ciugudean 2000, 343, figs. 3-4; *Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegethusa*: Petculescu 1983, 456, fig. 6.

²⁰ *Viminacium*: Redžić et alii 2013, 37-38 graves 1 and 2, 41, nos. 1a copper alloy, 2a silver, pl. 1/1a, 2a; Redžić 2013, 99-101, nos. 155 a, 157 a, 158, 159 a, 160 a; Zavičajni: Redžić 2013, 99, nos. 151-152; *Bostra*: Fischer 2012, 127, fig. 139.

²¹ James 2004, 249-250; Hoss 2015.

²² Bichir 1984, pl. 52/6.

²³ Genčeva 2000, 72, no. 8, pl. 7/3.

²⁴ Bichir 1984, pl. 56/1-2. As the item could not be found in the museums from Pitești and Târgoviște where the small finds from Mătășaru are kept, it means that it was already destroyed by the corrosion or simply lost.

²⁵ Caerleon: Scott 2000, 391, no. 10, fig. 95.

²⁶ *Cumidava*: Unpublished, excavations by the author in the *praetentura sinistra* of the auxiliary fort; *Carnuntum*: Gschwind 2007, 617-618, fig. 1; Künzing: Fischer 1991, 142, no. 18, fig. 9/18; Saalburg: Oldenstein 1976, 115, 244, nos. 133, 135,

9. Belt mount²⁷.

Copper alloy. L 32; W 26; T 1.5-2.5; Wt 7.36. MJA-Pitești, inv. no. F 813/1057.

Small rectangular, almost square, openwork plate decorated with four pierced lotus bud motifs. It has two rivet holes placed towards the ends of the vertical axis.

Mounts of this type were quite frequent in Roman Dacia especially in military contexts but also in civilian settlements. Thus, close parallels of no. 9 originate at *Potaissa* (3 pieces), Poiana Izvorul Lișca (Turda, Cluj county), *Porolissum* (3 pieces), Buciumi (Sălaj county) (2 pieces), *Apulum*, *Napoca*, Valea Chintăului (Cluj-Napoca, Cluj county), Războieni-Cetate (Ocna Mureș, Alba county) (2 pieces), Bumbști (Gorj county), Răcari (Dolj county) (2 pieces), Cioroiu Nou (Dolj county), *Romula*, *Cumidava*²⁸. I also know unpublished similar mounts at *Cumidava* (2 pieces), *Potaissa*, in Pappasoglu Collection made of items from Oltenia region and in MNITr- Cluj Napoca a piece without recorded findspot. Moreover, in Roman Dacia there are fewer examples differing in some respects from standard type: they are provided at their lower end with a suspension ring and/or have a couple of apertures at their sides, or have three fixing rivets. As they represent distinct variants of this otherwise very unitary type of mounts, I didn't consider them in this context. Parallels of no. 9 are in Moesia Inferior at *Chersonesos*, Barboși (Galați county) and *Novae*, in Moesia Superior at *Viminacium* (3 pieces) and Zavičajni and in Syria at *Dura Europos*²⁹. Finally, two other mounts without recorded find spots are kept in private collections³⁰.

The front face of no. 9 lacks any of the poor decorations found on the other examples: grooves near the upper and lower ends and sometimes on the horizontal axis, triangular file cuts on the edges. If its flatted face is not the result of excessive wear, which looks anyway unlikely, it means that it is a cheap item, perhaps intended to be sold in Barbaricum.

The three pieces from *Potaissa* legionary fortress are evidence for the dating of this type of mounts between c. AD 180 and c. AD 260. Consequently it seems they have the same chronology as the similarly sized and shaped openwork mounts decorated with peltate motifs sometimes found in association with ring-buckles.

Medieșu Aurit (Satu Mare county).

10. Belt plate³¹.

Copper alloy. L 49; W 31; T 2. MJ Satu Mare.

Narrow rectangular plate with one surviving trefoiled terminal. The central circular projection of the terminal is pierced by a rivet hole. The rectangular body of the plate is decorated with three longitudinal grooves.

Close parallels are met in Dacia Porolissensis at *Porolissum* (5 pieces), Ilișua (Bistrița-Năsăud county), *Napoca*, Polus (Cluj-Napoca town, Cluj county)³². Consequently, no. 10 was imported from this province, most probably from *Porolissum*, the important Roman centre situated at c. 60 km distance from the Vandal settlement at Medieșu Aurit.

The narrow belts with their corresponding elongated plates were replaced in Roman Dacia after the Marcomannic Wars by broader belts provided with varied larger mounts or only studs³³. Thus, the production

pl. 21/133, 135; Dietikon: Ebnöther 1995, 194, 298, no. 1377, pl. 69; *Dura Europos*: James 2004, 158, no. 582, fig. 91/582; Vimose: Engelhardt 1869, 35, pl. 10/88.

²⁷ Unpublished. Discovered in the settlement.

²⁸ *Potaissa*: Fodorean 2018, 268, no.5, pl. 70/5; Bajusz (ed) 2005, 552, no.3, fig. 43/95/3; Botar Collection: Ardevan and Russu 1979 and unpublished photograph provided by M. Bărbulescu; Poiana Izvorul Lișca: Nemeti 2004, 93, no. 55, pl. 5/55; *Porolissum*: Gudea 1989, 644, pl. 206/32, 36-37; Buciumi: Chirilă et alii 1972, pl. 76/7-8; *Apulum*: Bounegru and Ota 2010, 439, no.3, fig. 5/3; *Napoca*: Crișan 1996, 386, no.2, fig. 7/6; Valea Chintăului: Alicu 1994, 547, no.6, pl. 15/3; Războieni-Cetate: Nemeti 2004, 90, nos. 19-20, pl. 2/19-20; *Tibiscum*: Nemeth 1991, 209, no. 36, fig. 3/36; Benea 1995, 166, pl. 13/3; Mehadia: Bozu 2000, 224, nos. 1.14-15, pl. 2/1-2; Bozu 2001, 148, no.14, pl. 1/12; Bumbști: Florescu et alii 1957, 116, pl. 2/10; Răcari: Tudor 1965, 246, fig. 7/2; Amon 2004, 242, no. 28, pl. 36/10; Cioroiu Nou: Bondoc 2010, 50, no. 84b, pl. 29/84b; *Romula*: Amon 2004, 251, no. 36, pl. 36/9; *Cumidava*: Gudea and Pop 1971, 59, pl. 57a/1.

²⁹ *Chersonesos*: Kostromichyov 2011, 136, no.49, fig. 27/5; Barboși: Sanie 1981, 175, no.13, pl. 50/6; *Novae*: Genčeva 2009, pl. 5/5; *Viminacium*: Redžić 2013, 221-222, nos. 511a, 512a; 514; Zavičajni: Redžić 2013, 222, no. 515; *Dura Europos*: James 2004, 80, no.96.

³⁰ Appels and Laycock 2007, 75, nos. AA8.27-AA8.28.

³¹ Ghindele 2014.

³² *Porolissum*: Gudea 1989, 643, nos. 1, 3-4, 8-9, pl. 206; Ilișua: Protase et alii 1997, pl. 77/9, *Napoca*: Diaconescu 2012, 135, no. 2.2.2.4, pl. 12/2; Polus: Alicu (ed) 2008, 32, no. 98.

³³ Petculescu 1995, 123, 128-131, 137-138.

of such plates seems to be no later than c. AD 180. However, a similar slim belt plate with differently shaped trefoiled terminals and decorated with ring and dot later motifs found at Medieșu Aurit dates after the Marcomannic Wars, meaning that the narrow belts were used in this settlement probably during the first half of the 3rd century AD³⁴.

Discussion.

The 10 items dealt with in this paper don't essentially alter the general picture resulting from the analysis of the 29 roman military small finds in Barbaricum considered in 1999³⁵. However, an up to date inquiry of the topic has offered the opportunity to draw additional conclusions and find more evidence for the already made statements.

All but one of the pieces presented in this paper, the same as most of those published in 1999, were discovered in settlements concentrated in the central part of the historical region of Wallachia and especially in the territory of today's town of Bucharest (fig. 1). Among them, there are only two arms accessories, a slide and a chape of scabbards found at Militari and Mătășaru respectively, where there were already known some of the few Roman weapons discovered in the autochthonous sites of Chilia-Militari culture³⁶. The other seven military artefacts are belt and baldric fittings. And, so far, among the 39 Roman military pieces discovered beyond the Dacian *limes* there isn't any cavalry equipment item.

All the military items found in Wallachia date from the end of the 2nd century AD until c. AD 260, the duration of the types they belong to and also of the settlements where they were discovered.

The origin of Roman military equipment unearthed at Mătășaru located c. 50 km away from the so-called "limes Transalutanus" is almost certain in Roman Dacia. Yet, the other military items were discovered in settlements positioned along the rivers making the natural roads linking Moesia Inferior to the main part of Roman Dacia placed inside the Carpathian Mountains. As in the respective settlements there were discovered a lot of provincial coins minted in Moesia Inferior, Thrace and even Moesia Superior, it means that these roads were controlled by the troops of Moesia Inferior and/or were heavily used also by the southern Danubian tradesmen which could sell some personal equipment items to the local dwellers.

The Medieșu Aurit belt plate imported from Dacia Porolissensis is earlier than the rest of the equipment found beyond the south-eastern part of the Dacian *limes*. However, considering its parallel decorated with ring and dot later motifs, it is probable that it was used during a longer period of time, perhaps until the middle of the 3rd century AD³⁷.

If both weapon accessories belong to types distributed throughout the Roman Empire, the situation of the belt and baldric fittings is different. So, the frame buckle belt of von Schnurbein variant c was distributed almost exclusively in the Danubian provinces and the eastern ring-buckle variant is attested in Syria, Dacia and Moesia so far. The baldric and belt mounts seem to have had more limited diffusion arias: the variant of baldric terminal plates from Tei and Șirna is met in the Lower- and Middle Danubian provinces; for the Mătășaru *phalera* I found only one almost identical example at *Novae* in Moesia Inferior and for the Străulești *phalera* none; the variant of squarish belt mounts from Mătășaru, widely spread in Dacia, is also met in Moesia Inferior, Moesia Superior and at Dura Europos where it certainly belonged to the equipment of a Danubian soldier quartered in the town; the Medieșu Aurit plate seems to represent a variant of narrow belt plates manufactured in Dacia Porolissensis. And even if I could not compile all the information concerning the personal equipment found outside Roman Dacia and the evidence on the small finds grows exponentially, it is unlikely that the general picture of the diffusion of these fittings will change dramatically. Consequently, it results that during the 3rd century AD the Danubian provinces of the Roman Empire represented a distinct distribution area of personal equipment characterised by a profusion of new variants of belt and baldric fittings.

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³⁴ Petculescu 1999, 899, no. 29.

³⁵ Petculescu 1999, 899-900.

³⁶ Petculescu 1999, 895, nos. 1-7 Mătășaru. 898, no. 24 Militari.

³⁷ Petculescu 1999, 899, no. 23.

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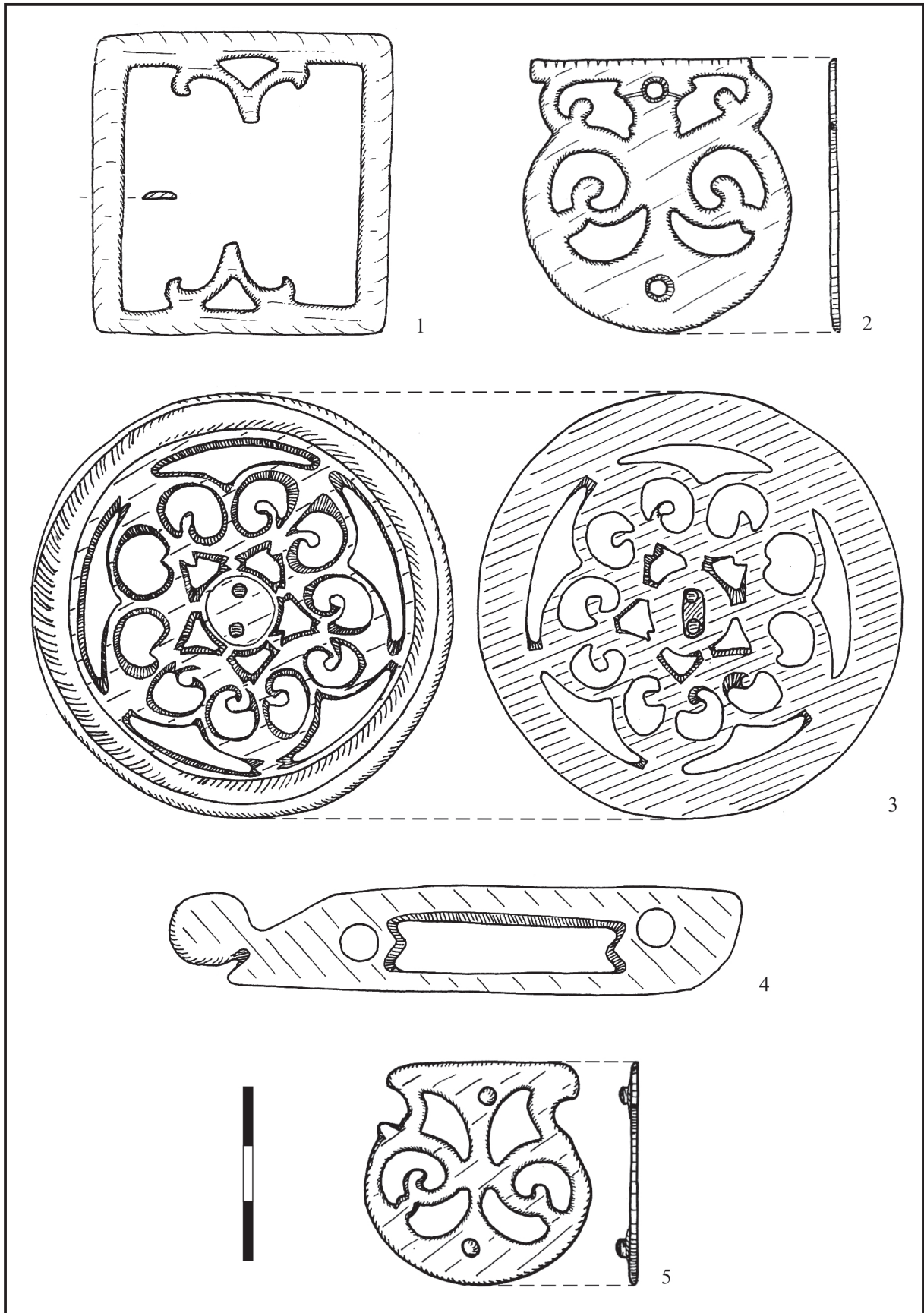
Lista ilustrațiilor

Fig. 1. Echipament militar roman în Barbaricum din apropierea Daciei Romane.

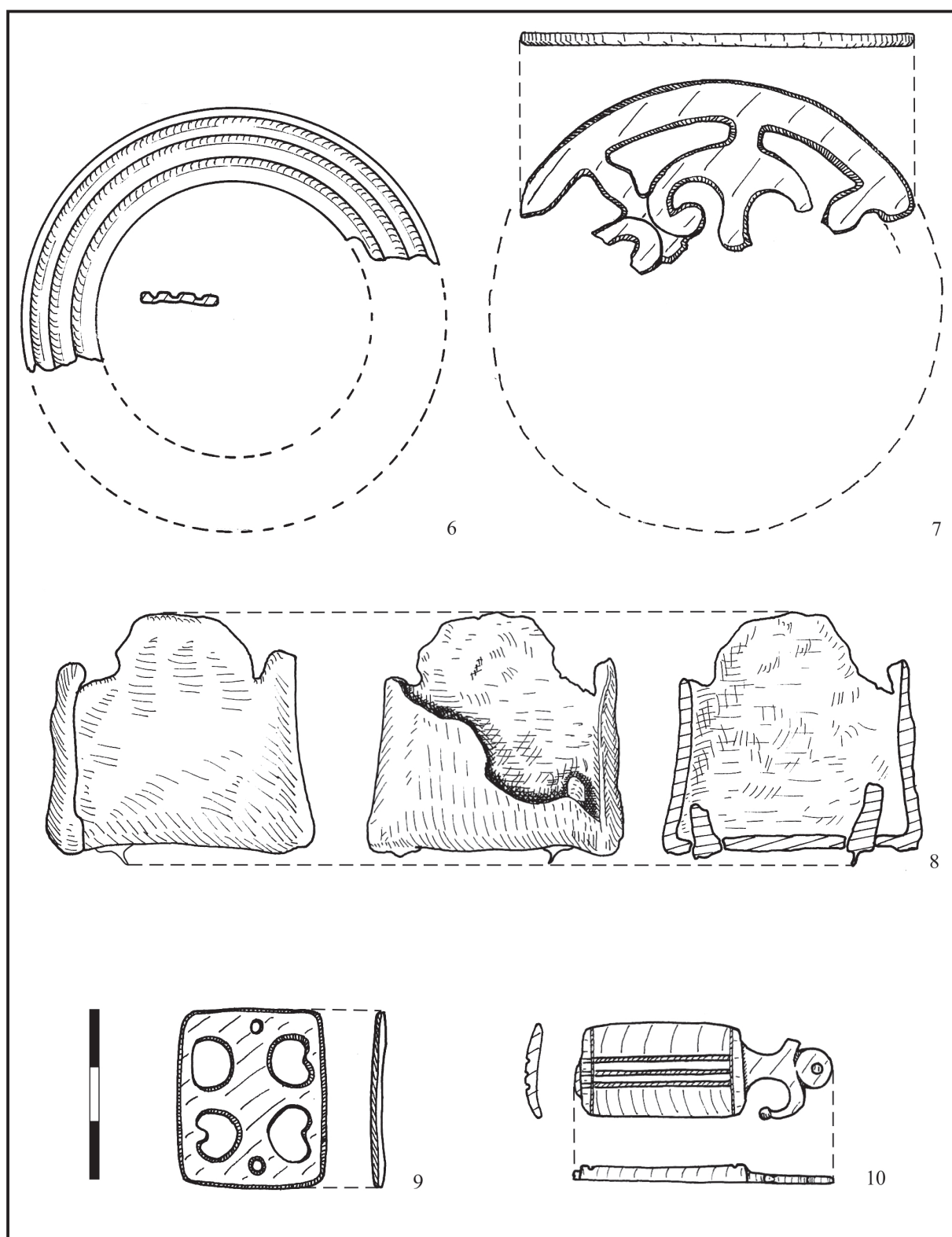
Pl. 1. 1-2. Tei (după Negru și Oța 2004); 3. Străulești (după fotografii nepublicate de A. Rațiu); 4. Militari (după Schuster și Negru 2006); 5. Șirna (după Olteanu et alii 2007). 1-3, 5. Aliaj de cupru; 4. Os. 1-3, 5. Scara 1:1; 4. Scara aproximativ 1:1.

Pl. 2. 6. Târgșor (după Lichiardopol 1996); 7-9. Mătășaru (8 după Bichir 1984); 10. Medieșu Aurit (după Ghindele 2014). 6-7, 9-10. Aliaj de cupru; 8. Fier. 6-10. Scara 1:1.

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Pl. 1. 1-2. *Tei* (after Negru and Oța 2004); 3. *Străulești* (after unpublished photographs by A. Rațiu); 4. *Militari* (after Schuster and Negru 2006); 5 *Șirna* (after Olteanu et alii 2007). 1-3, 5. Copper alloy; 4. Bone. 1-3, 5. Scale 1:1; 4. Scale about 1:1.



Pl. 2. 6. Târgșor (after Lichiardopol 1996); 7-9. Mătușaru (8 after Bichir 1984); 10. Medieșu Aurit (after Ghindele 2014).
6-7, 9-10. Copper alloy; 8 Iron. 6-10 Scale 1:1.