



# Bronze age inhumation vessel burials in Moravia and their Central European context

Stanislav Stuchlík



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## Foreword and acknowledgements

Although the first vessel burials were discovered and occasionally published in Central Europe as far back as the last two decades of the 19th century, they typically did not generate significant scholarly interest. The first work focused exclusively on this issue in the Mediterranean appeared at the beginning of the 20th century, whereas a study on these burials in Central Europe was published two decades later. While additional articles appeared in the following years, it wasn't until the beginning of the 21st century that larger studies were released. My preliminary evaluation of this unusual method of burial was published roughly twenty years ago. In this work, I have attempted to produce a more detailed evaluation of this phenomenon and have supplemented it with an inventory of inhumation burials in vessels in Central Europe.

This publication would not have been possible without assistance from a wide range of colleagues who contributed greatly to this work, including the authors of the individual anthropological essays in this book. I am extremely grateful to my colleagues from various institutions for providing specific finds, photographs, plans, drawings and other information on burials; these individual are listed in the footnotes to this work. I must also thank many colleagues who helped me in processing the finds in individual museums and institutions, among whom I will name at least Aleš Drechsler (Comenius

Museum in Přerov), David Rožnovský (South Moravian Museum in Znojmo), Milan Salaš (Moravian Museum in Brno), Klára Šabatová (Institute of Archaeology and Museology, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno), Jaromír Šmerda (Masaryk Museum in Hodonín), František Trampota (Regional Museum in Mikulov) and Blanka Veselá (Institute for Archaeological Heritage in Brno). I am grateful to Jozef Bátor (Institute of Archaeology, Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra), Maria Dobisíková (National Museum in Prague) and Dominica Oravkinová (Institute of Archaeology, Slovak Academy of Sciences in Nitra) for supplementing or clarifying information on particular finds. Special thanks also go to the reviewers of the book, Jozef Bátor and Milan Salaš. Marie Brázdová, Hedvika Břínková and Hoang Anh Nguyen, staff members in the Library of the Institute of Archaeology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno (ARÚB), provided kind assistance as I studied sources and prepared numerous analogous illustrations. Martina Kudlíková, member of the Publishing department of ARÚB, former institute employee Jiří Brenner, who contributed to the final form of most of the drawings, and graphic designer Milan Filip played a key role in the preparation of this book. I am also grateful to David Gaul for the English translation of the work, David Cibulka (ARÚB) for proofreading, and Markéta Kamenská and Zuzana Kopáčová (ARÚB) for technical editing.



## Chapter 1

# Introduction

As birth and death rank among the most important moments in a person's life, the ceremonies and customs associated with these events represent significant occasions in human society for the entire community. These customs changed in different periods of prehistory, and therefore the collection of rituals related to burial represents an extremely important source of knowledge for archaeologists, especially considering that finds of human remains, including a wide range of grave goods, form a large part of the source inventory. The burial rite varied considerably throughout prehistory, including in the Bronze Age. The burial of unburned bodies as well as the cremation of the deceased were continuously practiced, and we also encounter burials of individual persons and even mass graves, and in addition to common cemeteries, burials in various settlement features are likewise very common. Moreover, each of the burial methods listed above has a number of different variations. As such, burial rites have always occupied one of the most prominent places in the study of prehistoric society. In the Early Bronze Age, survivors buried their deceased unburned, but from the Middle Bronze Age they gradually switched to cremation, which became the dominant form of burial from the Late Bronze Age onwards.

Prehistoric burial sites are characterised by a peculiar anomaly, namely the small number of burials of the youngest children, despite the fact that they were always assumed to have had high mortality rates in prehistoric times. In earlier periods, this circumstance was most commonly explained by the assertion that the youngest children in prehistoric periods were not yet considered equal members of society and they were therefore not even buried in

many cases (see, e.g. Neustupný, E. 1983, 23–24; Horská et al. 1990, 81–85); a similar approach is sometimes considered with somewhat older children (e.g. Chochol 1979, 23). However, there are other reasons for the absence of small children at common burial grounds, including speculation that shallow children's burials were destroyed by ploughing. Other explanations included the decomposition of the children's skeletons, burial at other locations, and many other hypotheses. However, British archaeologist E. Scott has questioned the earlier explanation that young children were not provided a customary burial due to their low importance and status. On the contrary, Scott believed that children formed a specific social category, one with which a different burial rite was practised (Scott 1999). This could be confirmed by several children's burials with rich furnishings. The large number of examples includes Proto-Únětice grave 13 with the burial of a child aged 3–4 from Moravská Nová Ves – Hrušky with four vessels, a bone awl and a unique necklace made of bone beads, perforated dog teeth and a copper spiral (Stuchlík, Stuchlíková 1996a, 19, obr. 22: 1–6; tab. IX: 1–6), and the child from grave 17 in Těšetice, who was furnished after death with two vessels, two bronze daggers, a bracelet, a pin, two hair ornaments, a needle and a bone awl (Lorencová, Beneš, Podborský 1987, 34–37, obr. 10b).

However, today, naturally as a result of major advances in archaeology and anthropology, we have much more evidence of child burials, which suggests that this idea, which was so widespread in the past, is valid only to a certain extent. In principle, the same or at least similar standards applied to children's funerals as for adults, but of course there are



**Fig. 1.** Larnax in the museum in the Archaeological Museum of Agios Nikolaos, Greece. Author's archive.



**Fig. 2.** Amman, Jordan. Ceramic case from the Bronze Age on display in the the Jordan Archeological Museum in Amman. Author's archive.

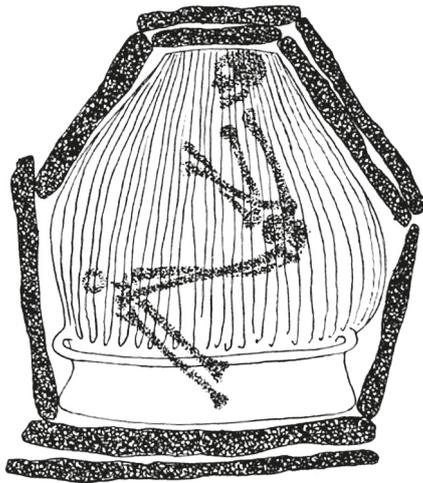
some specific rules, e.g. a smaller grave pit that was not as deep, a selection of grave goods, and other differences. One variant of the child burial rite in Central Europe is inhumation burials in vessels. Despite their small numbers in the Czech Republic, they significantly complement and expand our knowledge of funeral rites, and their study also contributes to the possibility of learning about pan-European contacts and cultural influences.

The Greek term *pithos* (plural *pithoi*) for a large ceramic and typically ovoid vessel is sometimes used for inhumation burials in vessels. This type of pottery was used in civilisations around the Mediterranean Sea and its vicinity in the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages, mainly for the storage and transport of liquids (primarily wine and olive oil) and plant products (most often grains). The vessels typically had a uniform character and their maximum height usually reached (and sometimes exceeded) that of an adult, with somewhat smaller vessels mostly used for transporting goods. The term *pithos* (*pithoi*)

reached a wider awareness when Western European classical archaeologists adopted this name to refer to large containers recovered during excavations of Minoan palaces in Crete and Mycenaean castles on mainland Greece. Storage vessels in the Aegean region are typically richly decorated with various horizontal bands of spirals and meanders and, to a lesser extent, even other motifs. Only the lower parts of large vessels, which were usually sunk into the ground, and smaller vessels used for the transport of goods by sea typically lacked decoration. Large and therefore quite heavy containers were generally furnished with a system of various handles and lugs, which made them easier to move and carry.

These vessels were sometimes secondarily employed for depositing the remains of the deceased, and hence the term *pithos* (*pithoi*) was subsequently also transferred to this form of burial rite. These were burials in which the body of a deceased individual, or a significant part of it, was placed in a large ceramic container instead of in the ground or in a wooden or stone case. Graves of this type appear at both burial grounds and inside settlements. Burials of adults in vessels also commonly occur in the Aegean environment and in several other territories. However, storage vessels large enough to hold adults were not produced in Central Europe in prehistoric times. In other areas, we sometimes also encounter ceramic cases in a different form, including a large tub-like vessel (*larnax*) of an oval and, more rarely, square shape, which was used mainly in the Aegean environment (Fig. 1; Rutkowski 1966; Müller-Karpe 1980, 623, Taf. 93: F1–3), or the placement of the body in two separate parts (Müller-Karpe 1980, Taf. 106: 2). Another form is a ceramic sarcophagus roughly shaped like a human body, which is most commonly found in the Near East, where it is known, for example, from Tell-ed Duweir in Israel (Müller-Karpe 1980, 750, Taf. 118: A1) and in Amman in Jordan (Fig. 2).

In the vast majority of burials, the vessel held just one individual and only in exceptional cases two people, although in some other areas larger numbers of deceased have been occasionally found in a vessel. A very important criterion for the further classification of this form of the burial rite is the type of vessel that was used. Differences are also found in the closure of the vessel. Some vessels are not covered, others are covered with a bowl or a different vessel, a larger fragment of another vessel. Other vessels are sealed with a flat stone or a wooden board. Naturally, the term *pithos* cannot refer to a burial with



**Fig. 3.** Malé Čičovice. Reconstruction of a child inhumation burial in a vessel lined with wooden logs. After Neustupný, J. a kol. 1960, obr. 67.

cremated bones placed in a vessel, because in such a case the vessel is referred to as an *urn*, and we therefore speak of a cremation burial.

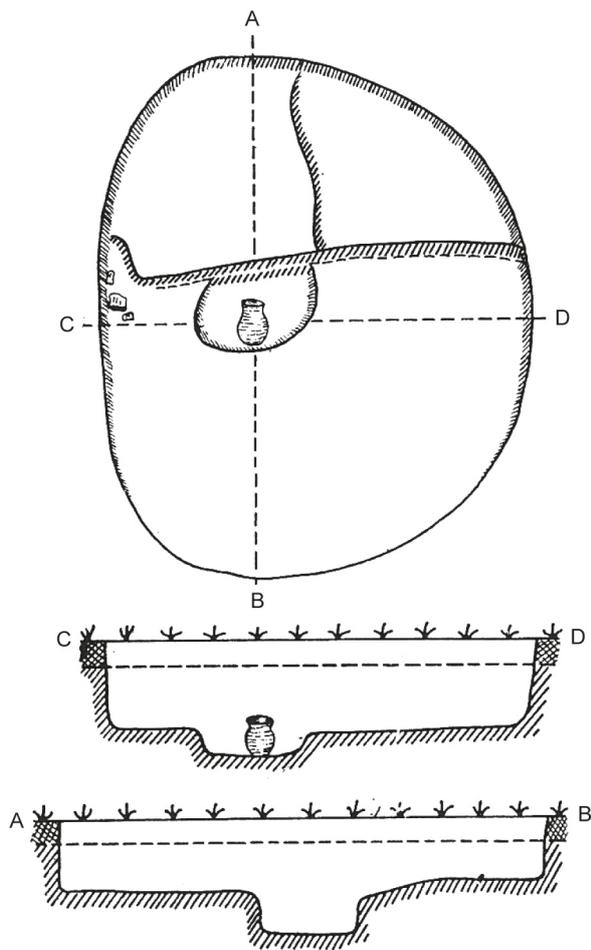
The first evidence of this unusual form of burial was found in Central Europe in Bohemia at the end of the 19th century. These were individual cases captured in Malé Čičovice (Fig. 3; Píč 1893, 346–349), on Slánská hora near Slaný (Schmidt, V. 1895, 625, tab. XXXIV: 3, 12), in Prague-Michle (Kohout 1895, 757–758), Vepřek (Fig. 4; Píč 1897, 180) and Kamýk near Velké Přílepy (Schmidt, V. 1899, 555). When burials of this type were first discovered, members of the archaeological community paid little attention to them. The first researcher to attempt a more detailed evaluation was J. Neustupný, who collected a total of 10 similar graves from seven sites

in Bohemia, including the four locations mentioned above, and classified them all as part of the Únětice culture (Neustupný, J. 1933). During the 20th century, additional inhumation burials in vessels were discovered in Bohemia, so that the latest comprehensive publication on skeletal burials in vessels in Bohemia lists a total of 18 burials from 12 sites, mostly associated with the Únětice culture; one burial is classified as Věteřov and in one case a more precise dating is not stated (Zyková 2010, 102). Unfortunately, the find contexts of some earlier burials of this type are unknown, uncertain or no longer verifiable, so reliable classification of certain cases remains problematic even today.

In southern Germany, the first inhumation burial in a vessel from the Early Bronze Age was found in Kelheim, Bavaria, at the beginning of the 20th century (Behrens 1916, 64), while in central Germany, the first references in the literature to the graves from Leuna (Grimm 1932) and Börnecke (Hofmeister 1934) appeared in the 1930s, but were not clearly pointed out until two decades later by H. E. Mander (1953, 205) and W. Torbrügge (1960, 58). In Slovakia, the first pithos was discovered at a fortified Maďarovec culture settlement in Nitranský Hrádok in 1951 (Knor 1952, 246, obr. 125), others were recorded at the same site after 1957 (Točík 1981a, 46–47) and the oldest discoveries include the burial from Čachtice (Kolník, Paulík 1959, 89, 96, Taf. 1: 11). A more thorough evaluation of this form of the burial rite in Slovakia can only be found in connection with the publication of a burial in a vessel of the Incrusted Pottery culture from Patince in south Slovakia (Fig. 5; Dušek 1960, 206–208, 232, Abb. 12–13; Taf. XLIX: 22, 24).



**Fig. 4.** Vepřek. Storage vessels from child inhumation vessel burials. After Neustupný, J. 1933, obr. 5.



**Fig. 5.** Patince. Plan of the child inhumation burial in vessel.  
After Dušek 1960, Abb. 12.

The first similar Early Bronze Age graves in Hungary were documented at burial grounds in Deszk and Szőreg in the early 1940s by I. Foltiny (1941a; 1941b), while Middle Bronze Age burials from the burial grounds in Tápé and Tiszafüred were published three decades later (Kovács 1975; Trogmayer 1975). The first inhumation burial in a vessel was discovered in Poland only at the very end of the 20th century at the Únětice burial ground in Przesławice (Lasak 1982, 130, ryc. 9; 1988, 16–17, ryc. 10; 38: a–d), and another was discovered ten years later at the large Lusatian culture necropolis in Bachórz-Chodorówka (Gedl 1993; 1994, 325, ryc. 68; tabl. CXX: 8–10). Around the same time, Z. Benkovská pointed out the possibility of their occurrence in Austria when publishing a grave in Mattersdorf belonging to the Litzenkeramik culture (Benkovsky-Pivovarová 1986, Abb. 3–5). We were informed of the occurrence of child inhumation burials in vessels in northern Italy in the 1970s (Perini 1971, 75), about numerous burials in Slovenia in several preliminary publications in the 1980s (Girić 1984, 34–45; Girić 1989), and finds from the Ottoman culture were published in Romania only in the 1990s (Németi 1996, 31).

## History of the inhumation burials in vessels in Moravia

The first finds of Early Bronze Age inhumation burials in vessels in Moravia were made in Mikulov in the 1920s. First, part of a larger pot-shaped vessel (Fig. 6) holding the burial of two small children was discovered in the Kowalski sand pit [Kowalského pískovna] in 1924; four years later, a large storage vessel with the burial of a three-year-old child was found in the 'Vysoký roh' field section. Scholars remained unaware of both of these graves at the time of their discovery, as they were published more than two decades later by Mikulov archaeologist and geologist K. Jüttner (1950). Five years after the discoveries of the burials in Mikulov, another significant find was made in 1933 when, in the continuously investigated Lusatian cremation burial site in Ivaň (Prostějov District), an inhumation burial of a young individual was investigated in a large vessel

covered with a bowl (Fig. 7) with relatively rich furnishings (Fig. 8; Böhm 1936; 1941, 277). Prior to the Second World War, this was essentially the first information in Moravia about this burial rite in professional publications. At the time, thanks to



**Fig. 6.** Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit, 1924. Large vessel fragment from child inhumation burial. Photo by K. Piačková.



**Fig. 7.** Ivaň – 'Přední díly', 1933. Reconstruction of burial from original documentation. Documentation stored in the Comenius Museum in Přerov.



Fig. 8. Ivaň - 'Přední díly', 1933. Ceramic and bronze finds from inhumation vessel burial. After Böhlm 1936, obr. 2.

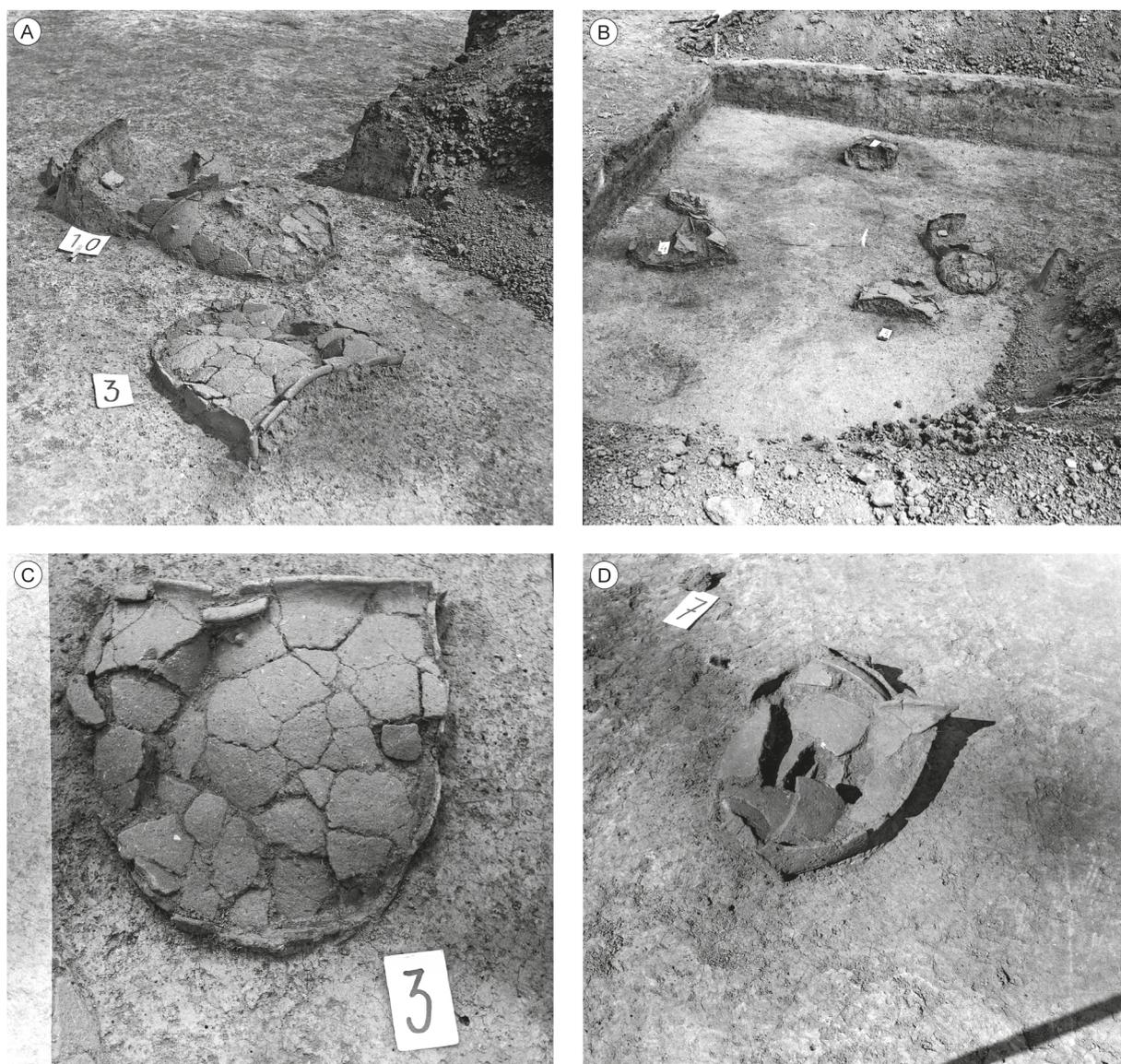


Fig. 9. Hradisko near Kroměříž. Child inhumation burial in storage vessel 3, 7 and 10. After Stuchlík 2023, obr. 44.



Fig. 10. Hradisko near Kroměříž. Ceramics from child inhumation vessel burials. After Spurný 1961, obr. 2; 3.



Fig. 11. Olbramovice – ‘Šestilány’, 1959. Child vessel burial in sand profile. Photo by V. Podborský.

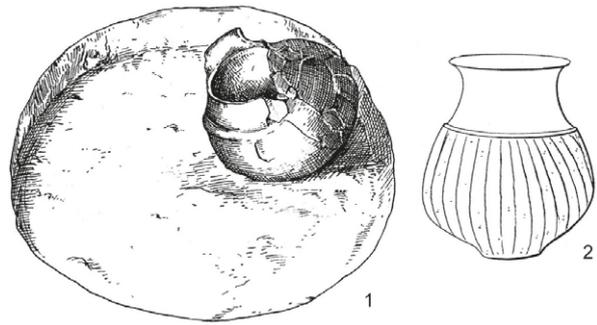
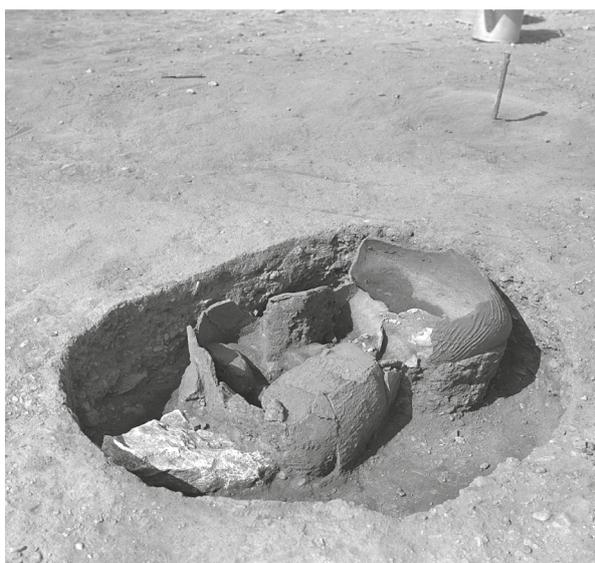


Fig. 12. Blučina – Cezavy, 1960. Child inhumation burial in pit 3/60 and schematic drawing of storage vessel. After Tihelka 1961, tab. 18: 1; 1963, obr. 2.

the work of J. Neustupný (1933), only children’s inhumation burials in vessels from the Early Bronze Age were known, so a similar grave of the Lusatian culture from Ivaň was considered a completely extraordinary discovery, with some researchers even questioning it (Červinka 1938, 83–84).

Additional inhumation burials in vessels were not found until after the Second World War. First, V. Spurný, during his excavation of the fortified settlement of Hradisko near Kroměříž, gradually uncovered a group of 13 storage vessels in 1951 and 1954–1956, some of which were covered with bowls or larger fragments of other vessels (Fig. 9; 10) and several of which even contained numerous ceramic or bronze grave goods. Although no skeletal remains were found in the vessels, based on the higher levels of phosphorus in the contents of the vessels, Spurný interpreted the entire situation as a group of child burials in vessels, dating them to the Middle Bronze Age and attributing them to the Proto-Lusatian culture (Spurný 1961). In 1958, V. Podborský and R. M. Pernička discovered two Věteřov graves during a rescue excavation in Olbramovice, one of which was an inhumation burial in a vessel (Fig. 11; Pernička, Podborský 1959). Just two years later during the systematic excavation of a hilltop settlement on Cezavy Hill near Blučina, K. Tihelka investigated a Únětice culture pithos (Fig. 12; Tihelka 1961, 56, tab. 18: 1; 1963). A clear child inhumation burial made in two vessels was again found in 1977 during an extensive rescue excavation of a Únětice culture burial ground in a gravel pit in Dolní Věstonice (Fig. 13; Měřínský 1980, 180, tab. 12: 1).

Several additional vessel burials were then discovered after the turn of the new millennium. The first of these was the Middle Bronze Age grave of a newborn in a vessel in Olšany – Zlatníška (Prostějov



**Fig. 13.** Dolní Věstonice – gravel pit, 1977. Grave 245 with inhumation vessel burial. Photo by Z. Měřinský.



**Fig. 14.** Olšany – 'Zlatníška', 2001. View of vessel burial in the field. After Fojtík, Dočkalová 2007, obr. 3.

District; Fig. 14), which M. Šmíd investigated during a rescue excavation in 2001 (Šmíd 2002). The next Únětice burial in a vessel covered with a bowl was found in 2005 during a large-scale rescue excavation in Brno-Tuřany (Kos 2006). A storage vessel holding the remains of a small child was uncovered during an excavation of the Věteřov settlement in Pasohlávky in 2006.<sup>1</sup> The most recent positively identified pithos was investigated during the rescue excavation in Vedrovice in 2007 (Humpolová, Salaš 2008; Salaš 2008). A brief evaluation of inhumation burials in Bronze Age vessels in Moravia was published in 2006–2007 (Stuchlík 2006a, 149–151; 2007; Salaš 2008).

In addition to the aforementioned vessel burials, there have been several reports in the literature of unusual field finds with skeletons, which in some cases were interpreted as possible or probable inhumation vessel burials (or this interpretation was made later). The first of these was the discovery in 1945 of two children's skeletons under potsherds of large vessels on Cezavy Hill near Blučina, which were originally dated by the discoverer to the Věteřov period (Dezort 1950). In 1948, the skull of an adult woman was discovered again on Cezavy Hill near Blučina, allegedly inside the lower part of a Věteřov amphora (Tihelka 1950, obr. 13, 14;

Tihelka, Hank 1949, 47, 58, obr. 25c). In 1950, the skull of an adult individual was again discovered at the same site, with some researchers suggesting that it originally could have been deposited in a Velatice culture pot (Tihelka 1961, 59, note 4; Říhovský 1961, 134, obr. 20: 3). Another purported burial in a vessel was discovered by J. Pavelčík in 1951 at the Věteřov hilltop settlement at the Hrádek Bánov site (Pavelčík 1963–1964, 67). The skeleton of an adult individual covered with fragments of large vessels was discovered by V. Šikulová in 1957 during a rescue excavation in Svatobořice (Šikulová 1963–1964). During the test-pitting of a mound from the Early and Middle Bronze Age in Borotice, V. Podborský (1963) discovered a nearly complete large storage vessel, though he did not connect it with inhumation vessel burials at that time. During the rescue excavation of the Věteřov settlement in Hodonice, a child's skull with two cervical vertebrae was discovered in a pot (Rakovská, Stuchlík 1980). The last case in which some similarities with investigated vessel burials could be found was an unusual feature investigated on Dómské návrší (Cathedral Hill) in Olomouc in 1994 (Dohnal 2004, 287, obr. 1E; 5). Recently, A. Hořínková published a new perspective on this find, including previously unpublished analyses (Hořínková 2021).

<sup>1</sup> I thank B. Komoróczy (Institute of Archaeology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno) for providing the find from Pasohlávky for publication and complete documentation.

## Chapter 3

# Origin of the inhumation burials in vessels phenomenon in Moravia

In searching for the origin of this funeral rite, J. Neustupný pointed out two areas in Europe where a greater number of finds have been made. According to J. Neustupný, one of these regions was located in the southeastern part of the Iberian Peninsula, where the settlement centre of the Early Bronze Age Argaric culture was located (Neustupný, J. 1933, 16). Inhumation burials in vessels are very numerous in this region, which is confirmed by the fact that in the late phase of the Argaric culture (El-Argar B), about 80% of the deceased were buried in storage vessels or other large ceramic vessels (Siret, H., Siret, L. 1888; Coles, Harding 1979, 223). Burials in vessels were usually found at settlements, often directly in houses (Siret, H., Siret, L. 1888). This rite was used for both children and adults, and burials containing rich assemblages of metal and ceramic grave goods



**Fig. 15.** La Almoloya, Spain. Richly furnished inhumation vessel burial. After Lull et al. 2001, Fig. 3.

are no exception. For example, one of the graves at the eponymous site (Siret, H., Siret, L. 1888, 42–45; Müller-Karpe 1980, 873, Taf. 453: E) and recently discovered grave 38 in La Almoloya (Fig. 15) were furnished with extraordinary grave goods. In the La Almoloya grave, the skeletons of a woman aged 25–30 and a man aged 35–40 lay in a crouched position in a large vessel furnished with two vessels, gold, silver and copper artefacts, and a large collection of other grave goods (Lull et al. 2021, 331–343, Fig. 3–6). However, the region of the Argaric culture is far from Central Europe, both geographically but also culturally, so the possible transfer of this custom from southwestern to Central Europe is therefore very unlikely and was in fact rejected by J. Neustupný, regardless of the certain similarity of some ceramic forms used in both areas in connection with this burial custom (Neustupný, J. 1933, 16–17). However, in the interwar period, some researchers associated burials in vessels from Germany with the Argaric culture, regardless of the aforementioned geographical and cultural differences (e.g. Grimm 1932). However, this is ruled out by several new theories that connect the settlement of the Argaric culture in Spain with the arrival of a new population from the eastern Mediterranean or Anatolia (Risch 2021), which sheds light on the certain similarity.

The second area where this burial custom was commonly used is the eastern Mediterranean. The origin of the custom of placing the bodies of the deceased in vessels must most likely be sought in Asia Minor, where, according to older literature, burials in clay coffins appeared in the second half of the 4th millennium BC along with the first burials in

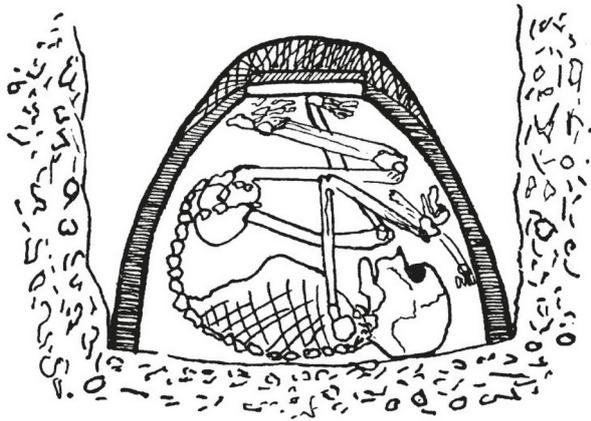


Fig. 16. Unknown site, Egypt. Inhumation burial beneath vessel. After Wood 1910, Fig. on p. 228.

vessels (Primas 1977, 81). One of the first to address this issue more than a century ago was the English researcher W. H. Wood, who, based on excavations in Palestine, reported on child burials in vessels in this territory and surrounding areas (Fig. 16; Wood 1910). Inhumation burials in vessels were also a common form of burial in the following period. One example is the burial site in Assur (Aššur), Iraq, which contained 14 graves from the Middle Assyrian period and 33 graves from the Neo-Assyrian period (Müller-Karpe 1980, 740, Taf. 196: 3, 5), and the roughly equally old necropolis in Gordion in Turkey, which had 43 inhumation graves in vessels (Müller-Karpe 1980, 766, Taf. 179C: 2, 10).

The oldest vessel burials occurred in the Near East at the Tell Hassuna, Tell Hazna and Tell Soto sites (Munčajev et al. 1993, 27–28, ris. 3–34). The first inhumation burials in vessels in Europe appeared in Bulgaria and Macedonia (Kovačevo, Rakitovo, Anzabegovo) in the area of the Struma and Vardar river valleys, probably as early as the 6th millennium BC, and the skeletal remains in a crouched position there belonged to newborns and stillborn children (Bačvarov 2004, 153, Fig. 1: 1–3; 2009, 51–52). Finds of roughly the same age come from central Anatolia from the Tell settlements of Kösk Höyük and Pinarbaşı-Bor (Bačvarov 2009, 56), and several other burials have also been found in the Levant (Gopher, Gophna 1993, 314). In Greek territory, the oldest evidence of existence is represented by several burials at Neolithic burial grounds (Sesklo, Orchomenos, Leukas) and settlements (Thorikos) in Thessaly (Wace, Thompson 1912, 66, 196, 221–222, 228–229; Häusler 1981, 64; Zavadil 2019, 233).

The examples above were followed, with a chronological interval of several hundred years, by other burials in vessels (e.g. Ezero, Durankulak) from the Late Neolithic in southeastern Europe (Todorova 2002, 41–43). From the central region, this form of burial spread to Egypt, where it is documented to a lesser extent around 3000 BC (Fig. 16). From Egypt, it spread to Nubia, where it was used mainly for children's burials (Müller-Karpe 1980, 374). At the same time, it also began to appear in Anatolia (Alişar Höyük, Kültepe, Troy), where burials in vessels represent the predominant form in the local Early Bronze Age (Primas 1977, 81). In the Late Neolithic and Chalcolithic, the practice of this custom continued throughout Southeastern Europe (Bačvarov 2009, 57), and even southern Transdanubia can be considered a marginal area of occurrence of inhumation burials in vessels, where they are represented by numerous instances from Alsónyék, Mórágý and other sites (Zalai-Gaál, Osztaš 2009, 113, Abb. 9; Zalai-Gaál 2010, 217–224, Abb. 2–11; with many additional refs.). However, these Lengyel inhumation burials in Hungary differ from classical vessel burials in that the skulls and, less often, entire skeletons are not placed in vessels, but usually in footed bowl or other types of bowls.

The next step in inhumation burials in vessels occurred in the Aegean region, where relatively rare occurrences appear in Crete in the Early Minoan period, i.e. in the EM II stage (Müller-Karpe 1974, 148; Bouzek 2010, 23). At its end and at the beginning of the Middle Minoan period (EM III – MM I), burials in vessels increased appreciably (Vavouranakis 2014, 200–205) and later in the Middle Minoan period (mainly MM III) they are already frequent (Müller-Karpe 1974, 163; Bouzek 2010, 30). Moreover, they were also practised on the Greek mainland, where child inhumation burials in vessels appear in the Early Helladic period, i.e. in the EH II stage (Bouzek 2010, 37) and are particularly common in the Middle Helladic period (Müller-Karpe 1974, 168). A striking example is the mound with a stone construction at Hagios Ioannis near Pylos in Messenia (Fig. 17), which contained a large number of amphorae, the largest of which were more than two meters high, each containing one or two skeletons (Vermeule 1964, 80, Fig. 15). The complexity of the burial rite is also evidenced by a burial precinct with 13 graves enclosed by a stone wall in Aphidna in northern Attica (Fig. 18). In addition to ordinary graves, there were those that were almost like shaft graves, and in several cases they were burials

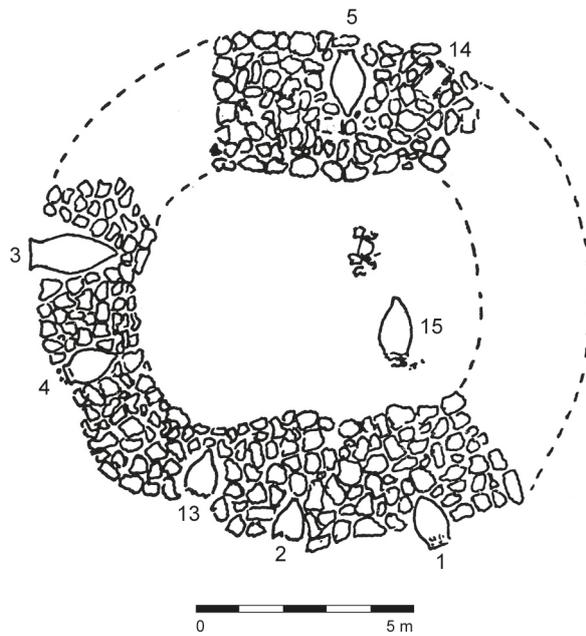


Fig. 17. Agios Ioannis, Greece. Plan of barrow with inhumation vessel burials. After Vermeule 1964, Fig. 15.

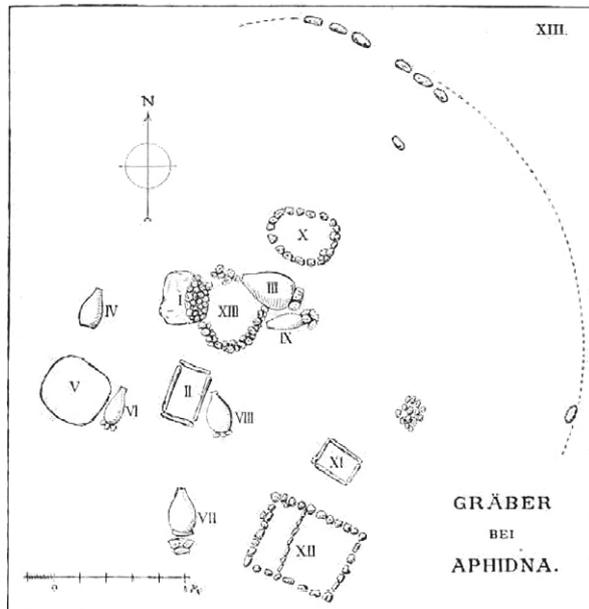


Fig. 18. Aphidna, Greece. Plan of barrow with inhumation vessel burials. After Hielte 2021, Fig. 5.

in vessels (Vermeule 1964, 81). In the surrounding areas, burials in vessels are also documented in Sicily, where we know of several recumbent vessels with a skeleton in a crouched position from Milazzo (Müller-Karpe 1980, 158, Taf. 260: E1), and in Sardinia, where the vessels mostly contain children (Müller-Karpe 1974, 185).

Numerous inhumation burials in vessels occur in Bulgaria during the Bronze Age (Bačvarov 2009, 54–55). A group of seven graves was discovered at the settlement in Nova Zagora, six of which belonged to small children buried in vessels (Kančeva-Ruseva 2000); at the Tell settlement of Kran, five graves with burials of small children or human foetuses in vessels were discovered (Bačvarov 2009, 54), and there is abundant evidence at the Tell settlement of Yunatsite, where 22 of 28 child burials belonged to the Early Bronze Age. Of these, 19 cases involved the burials of one child, and three vessels contained the skeletons of two children (Bačvarov 2009, 54; Mischina, Balabina 2007). In this area, we sometimes also encounter ceramic cases in a different form. An example of this is so-called larnacas, i.e. large, usually richly decorated tub- or chest-shaped vessels, often with ceramic lids, which were used in the Aegean environment (Fig. 1). Quadrangular larnacas, which had four legs, were used only for funerary purposes, while tub-shaped specimens without legs were used for funerary and various household purposes. Another type of burial case is the clay sarcophagus, roughly shaped like a human body, which is occasionally found in the Near East (Fig. 2). Burials in jars also continued into later periods, as is documented by two burials from the 13th century BC at the Israeli settlement of Tell Nami (Wolff 1991, 509, Fig. 18).

Jiří Neustupný's opinion on the Aegean origin of child inhumation burials in vessels in Central Europe (Neustupný, J. 1933, 19) has been accepted today by the vast majority of Central European researchers (Böhm 1941, 228; Dušek 1960, 232; Tihelka 1960, 112; Spurný 1961, 192; Tihelka 1963, 9; Kalicz 1963, 18; Bouzek 1966, 257; Vladár 1973a, 295–297; Primas 1977, 81–83; Kovács 1977, 59; Furmánek, Veličák, Vladár 1991, 285; Girić 1996, 141; Stuchlík 2006a, 150; 2007, 205; Salaš 2008, 147; Jiráň 2008, 70; Zyková 2010, 103–104; Furmánek et al. 2015, 120, etc.). When analysing child burials in vessels in the Söreg group of the Perjamos culture, I. Bóna did not even rule out the possibility that they are a direct manifestation of the old traditions of the population that came from the south (Bóna 1975, 87). Radko Martin Pernička and Vladimír Podborský held a somewhat different opinion, believing that the lack of similar finds in the Balkans and the Carpathian Basin at the time suggested an origin of this custom in the socio-religious ideas of Central European humanity (Pernička, Podborský 1959, 14). A few years later and in connection

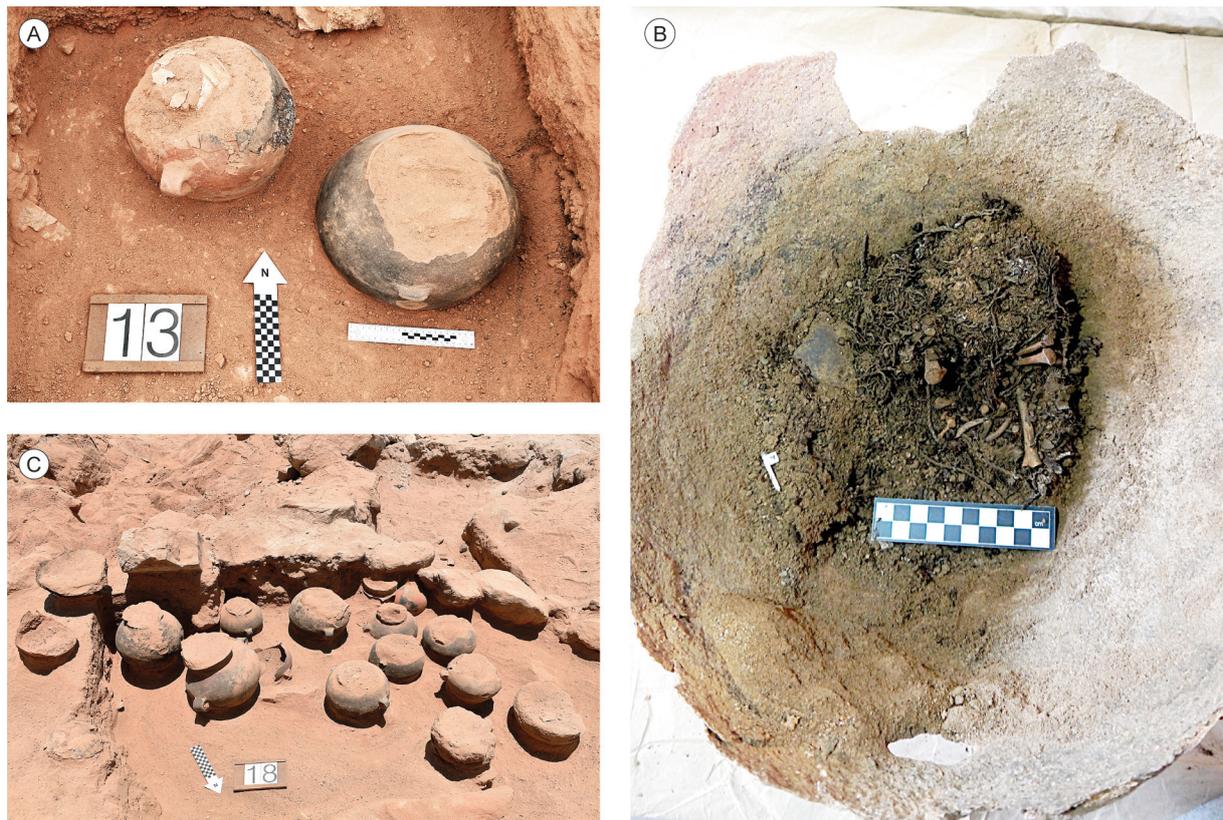


Fig. 19. Puyenca, Peru. Child inhumation vessel burials. Photo by J. Szykulski.

with numerous new finds, V. Podborský also leaned towards the opinion of Aegean origin (Podborský, Vildomec 1972, 90; Podborský 2006, 267–268).

Unlike the vast majority of researchers, only Hungarian archaeologist E. Vékonyne Vadász believed that the custom of burying children in ceramic vessels had a native origin in Central Europe, justifying her opinion by saying that in the Únětice and Maďarovce-Věteřov regions the number of these burials was appreciably higher than in the Carpathian Basin and, according to her, they are mostly older than the finds from Hungary. According to Vadász, inhumation burials in vessels from the Carpathian Basin could therefore not be evidence of the spread of this custom towards Central Europe (Vékonyne Vadász 2001, 14–16). Recently, some researchers have attempted to emphasise the importance of the Eurasian region in the search for the origin of this phenomenon (e.g. Březinová, Jakab, Vladár 2012, 35). Burials in vessels also appeared in Georgia (Bačvarov 2009, 58), in Dagestan, where, for example, a number of these burials were found at the burial ground in Ginč (Gadžiev 1969), and

in Afghanistan (Müller-Karpe 1980, 361, 899–900). However, even a cursory glance at the map betrays the unlikely influence from this area, as this sub-Caucasian region lies east of the Aegean or Anatolian territories, where the oldest evidence of this burial custom comes from. Certain similarities between the two regions can be more easily explained by the fact that this old custom spread to both regions at the same time from the same environment.

The occurrence of inhumation burials in vessels peaked in Central Europe in the Early Bronze Age, and their numbers decreased significantly in the following periods. Nevertheless, the geographical and chronological boundaries of this burial custom are quite extensive. The broad geographical expansion independent of European models is evidenced, for example, by finds from pre-Columbian America, where we know of a number of child inhumation burials in vessels, mainly from Peru (Neustupný, J. 1946, 502). A great deal of evidence comes from Puyenca in southern Peru, where a Polish expedition explored a burial site with a number of children's inhumation burials in vessels (Fig. 19).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> I thank J. Szykulski (University of Wrocław) for the photographs of the graves and information about the site.

The site is dated to the Middle Horizon (600–700 to 1000 AD) and belongs to the Huari culture (sometimes called Wari), or to the Late Intermediate period represented by the Chuquibamba culture according to the applied chronology of the earliest history of Peru (see Farfánová Barriosová 2009, 8). I also saw a demonstration of an inhumation burial in a vessel at the Anthropological Museum in Mexico City, but unfortunately it was not possible to document it.

The long-term continuation of this custom is evidenced by finds from Poland, where in many places burials of children and even unborn human fetuses dating from the 12th to the 17th century were found in vessels (Zawadská-Antosik 1973). Several medieval and modern child burials in vessels have also been discovered in Slovakia, with the oldest being a burial of a child in a vessel from the 14th century in the cemetery in Bohatá (Habovštiak 1961, 462, obr. 13). Eight burials of children in vessels lying on their sides were discovered at the edge of the church cemetery in Krásná. Although the burials were unfurnished,

coins were found in six vessels, two of which actually contained a pair of coins enabling their dating to the period between the 15th and 17th century (Gogová 2004; 2013). Another four burials in vessels from the 16th to 17th century come from a cemetery on the site of the former Great Moravian farmstead in Ducov (Ruttkey 1992, 99). The burial of a premature baby in a painted vessel from the 16th to 17th century was also found during the excavation of a defunct medieval church in Pinciná in central Slovakia (Poláková, Furmánek, Kaczarová 2016, 291–293, obr. 7–9). Dozens of modern vessels were found in the cellars of several houses in Böningheim, Germany, some of which were upside down, others were covered with lids; these jars are mostly interpreted as cases for prematurely born and deceased children (Unger 2002, 86). Perhaps the latest evidence of this phenomenon was captured in Brzeźno (Poland), where a child's burial in a vessel from the second half of the 19th century was discovered at the site of a Roman-era necropolis (Jakimowicz 1929, 273).



# Inhumation burials in vessels from the Early Bronze Age in Moravia

The burial rite in Moravia in the Early Bronze Age was quite uniform, with the vast majority of the deceased being buried in inhumation graves at flat burial grounds. To a small extent, different forms of burial rites also occurred in the surrounding areas during this period, including graves deposited beneath mounds. There are numerous burial mounds in the south Bohemian group of the Únětice culture (Hájek 1954; Chvojka, Menšík 2020) and, to a lesser extent, in central Bohemia, e.g. in Mladá Boleslav (Plesl 1959, 34; 1963, 415) and at several other sites. Known for years, the ‘princely’ mounds in Helmsdorf (Größler 1907) and Leubingen (Höfer 1906) in Germany and in Łęki Małe (e.g. Kowiańska-Piaszykova 1957; 1967) and Szczepankowice in Poland (Sarnowska 1969, 289–315) mostly held the burials of important individuals of the Únětice culture. Several smaller burial mounds were also explored in Eggenburg in Lower Austria. The Únětice grave in the middle of a stone wreath explored in Sudice suggests the possibility of their existence in Moravia as well (Přichystal 2011, 173, Fig. 16), but graves beneath mounds aren’t positively documented until the Věteřov period in the mound in Borotice (Stuchlík 2006a).

The small number of exceptions to the established Early Bronze Age rite are cremation burials, which occurred exceptionally in both the Únětice (Tihelka 1953, 239–240) and Věteřov environments (Stuchlíková 1990, 153). Another still unexplained form is represented by burials in storage pits, which occur at both Únětice and Věteřov settlements and are characterised by great variability. In some cases, only individual bones or incomplete skeletons appear in the pit. Complete skeletons can be deposited in

various ways, but also placed in the ritual crouched position, and pits with a larger number of individuals are no exception, including the unique case of Únětice pit 5/1985 from Cezavy Hill near Blučina, in which, in addition to the usual settlement material, 700 human bone fragments from 11 children and one adult were found (Salaš 1990). The last group consists of burials containing grave goods, making them essentially comparable to ordinary graves. In contrast, burials in houses are very rare and are usually interpreted as building sacrifices. From the Early Bronze Age, we know of building sacrifices from the Únětice longhouse in Březno in Bohemia (Pleinerová 1978, 362, obr. 100) and from the long Věteřov building in Šumice in Moravia (Stuchlík, Stuchlíková 1999, 102, 104, 106, obr. 13; tab. X: 1; Stuchlík 2001, 173–174, obr. 6: 3).

Another not very common variant of the burial rite is children’s inhumation vessel graves found at both settlements and cemeteries, and from a cultural point of view they are represented in the Únětice culture and the Maďarovce-Věteřov culture. The text below is devoted to this form of funeral rite in Moravia and its incorporation into the cultural development of Central Europe.

## 4.1 Únětice culture

In the Únětice culture, five reliable inhumation burials in vessels have been discovered thus far in Moravia; two other cases were discussed, but the circumstances of their discovery are insufficiently conclusive. The order of individual sites is according to the date of their discovery.

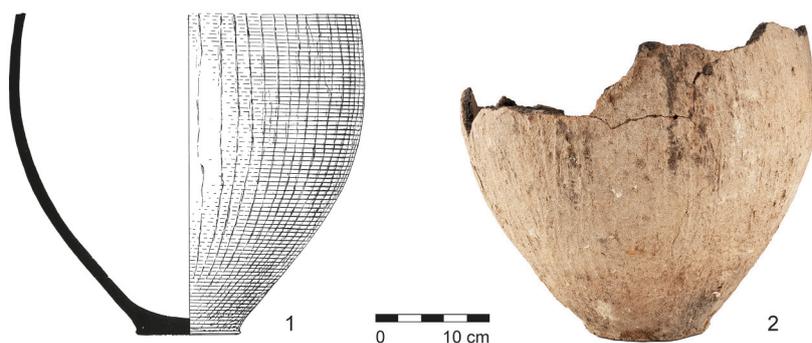
#### 4.1.1 Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit

Although the first Únětice pithos was discovered in June 1924 in the former Kowalski sand pit in Mikulov (Fig. 6), it was not published until a quarter of a century later (Jüttner 1950, 366, obr. 1). The lower part of the storage vessel held the bones of two children, the older of which was approximately six years old, while the younger had died at the age of two. All that remained of the pot-shaped storage vessel covered by a piece of limestone from the Pavlov Hills was a 29-cm-high fragment of its lower part. It is not clear from the original publication whether the entire vessel, the upper part of which was recently destroyed, originally served as the burial case, or whether only the larger fragment of the vessel was used. From a typological perspective, we can only roughly date the vessel (Fig. 6; 20) to the Early Bronze Age, which was essentially done by K. Jüttner (1950), whereas K. Tihelka associated it with the Věteřov group (Tihelka 1960, obr. 30: 9; 1962, 93). In terms of cultural classification, it is important to note that a number of graves containing crouched skeletons, for which a Únětice dating is assumed, were investigated in the past at the sites of the find. After calibration in the OxCal program (version 4.4.4), the newly obtained radiocarbon date of  $3525 \pm 15$  BP correlates to 1925–1868 cal BC (31.3%) and 1851–1772 cal BC (64.1%), which corresponds to the Únětice culture (Šabatová 2021, 69). The given date therefore clearly confirms the connection of the burial in the vessel from the Kowalski sand pit in Mikulov with the Únětice culture.

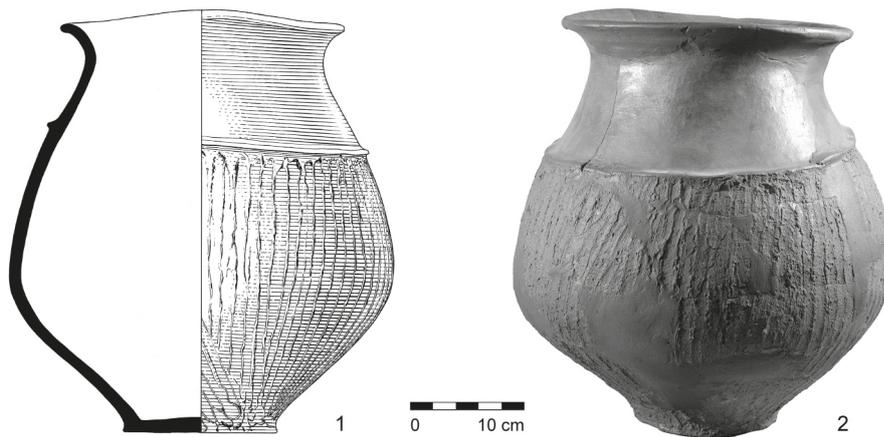
However, the question arises whether this vessel could have held the bodies of two children whose ages, as indicated in the initial publication (Jüttner 1950), were two and six years old. The vessel fragment itself was 29 cm high and the internal maximum diameter was about 30 cm, which is clearly a small space, regardless of whether it was the entire

vessel or only part of it, to accommodate two children at the same time. This would be possible if only the bones themselves were placed in the vessel. Graves with two or more individuals are relatively common in the Únětice culture (Tihelka 1953, 240), be they simultaneous or consecutive burials (Stuchlík, Stuchlíková 1996b, 139–140; Ernée 2015, 77), and are not unusual even at settlement sites (Stuchlík 2010). Far less common is the deposition of bones from two or more individuals in one grave pit, which is documented in a rare case at the Proto-Únětice burial grounds in Moravská Nová Ves – Hrušky (Stuchlík, Stuchlíková 1996a, 73, obr. 12: 2, 3), Němčice na Hané (Fojtík 2006a, 31–32, Fig. on p. 31), in Pavlov na Moravě (Peška 2009, 71–72, tab. 4; 6) and in Quenstedt in Germany (Behrens, Schröter 1981, 171, Abb. 2). An example of the same burial from the classic Únětice culture is grave XI from Březno near Louny (Hnízdová 1955, 302–304, obr. 139; 155; Pleinerová 1960a, 21, obr. 6; 7), and possibly some other similar burials. Good examples are graves from Prague-Miškovice, where detailed phosphate analysis showed that in some cases the bones were placed in the grave pit only after the soft tissues had decomposed, while in another grave pit traces of the process of soft tissue decomposition were detected, but the skeleton was not found and was apparently transferred to another grave (Ernée 2000, 72–73). If the vessel served as a case for the deceased, it cannot be ruled out that it could have been used in the same way to hold bones from another grave.

Unfortunately, even the anthropological evaluation failed to shed much light on this situation. The Regional Museum in Mikulov has the remains of three individuals found in an assemblage of anthropological material from a grave in the Kowalski sand pit: the skull and part of the skeleton of a child aged 8–9, which could be identified with Jüttner's six-year-old child, and fragments of the



**Fig. 20.** Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit, 1924. Large fragment of storage vessel. Drawing after Stuchlík 2007, obr. 6, photo by K. Piačková.



**Fig. 21.** Blučina – Cezavy, 1960. Storage vessel from child inhumation burial in pit 3/60. After Stuchlík 2007, obr. 2.

skeleton of a newborn, which should correspond to the two-year-old child from K. Jüttner's publication. From the third individual, aged 3.5 years, only the lower jaw was preserved, which could correspond to Jüttner's two-year-old child, the three-year-old child from the Mikulov – 'Vysoký roh' burial, or perhaps it is unrelated to our grave (Appendix 1).

#### 4.1.2 Blučina – Cezavy

The second Únětice inhumation burial in a vessel was discovered by K. Tihelka during a systematic excavation of the hilltop settlement on Cezavy Hill near Blučina in 1960. A storage vessel with a curved neck offset by an edge from the roughened body (Fig. 12) was found at the bottom of storage pit 3/60 with a maximum bottom diameter of 125 cm and a depth of 30 cm. According to the professional assessment of M. Stloukal, the vessel contained the bones of a young child, probably an infant (Tihelka 1961, 56, tab. 18: 1; 1962, 50–51; 1963, 6–7). Besides the vessel, charcoals were also found on the bottom of the pit, while ash and additional charcoals were beneath the vessel itself. The rim of the storage vessel extended into the topsoil and was therefore damaged, so it cannot be ruled out that the vessel may have had some kind of cover that was damaged or completely destroyed. The 37-cm-high vessel has a smoothed neck separated from the vertically finger-pressed body by a peripheral relief strip (Fig. 21). Unlike K. Tihelka's illustration (obr. 12; Tihelka 1961, tab. 18: 1; 1963, obr. 2), the vessel does not have a horizontal rim, which is instead somewhat wavy. This type of storage vessel is a common find at settlements from both the early

and later phases of the Únětice culture and usually appears with one or two peripheral strips where the neck meets the body (Ondráček 1958, 17, obr. 1; 1960, 165, obr. 67: 4; 69: 1, 2c; Stuchlík 1972, 87, tab. 17: 11; 19: 8; 40: 9; 69: 3; 108: 1; 113: 4; Geisler, Peška 1990, 512, obr. 4: 10, 11; Čižmář, Salaš 2007, 150, obr. 16: N6). Karel Tihelka dated this vessel to the Únětice–Věteřov period (Tihelka 1961, 59), soon afterwards included it in the catalogue of the Věteřov group (Tihelka 1962, 49–50), and finally, with a high degree of probability, assigned it to the Late Únětice culture (Tihelka 1963). Besides the shape of the vessel itself, the connection with the Únětice culture is confirmed by the location of pit 3/60 among other features with classic Únětice material (Tihelka 1963, 8).

#### 4.1.3 Dolní Věstonice – gravel pit

An inhumation burial in a vessel was discovered again after a longer break in 1977 during an extensive rescue excavation of the multicultural settlement and the Únětice burial ground in the gravel pit in Dolní Věstonice (obr. 13; Měřínský 1981, 191; Stuchlík 1993, 247, obr. 165: 2; 2007, 206, obr. 3). Oriented approximately in the NW–SE direction, the grave pit had an irregular oval shape with a length of 123 cm, a maximum width of 90 cm, and its bottom was sunk 36 cm below the subsoil level. A vessel lay on its side on the flat bottom of the grave, with a second vessel with the neck removed next to it (Fig. 22). Inside both vessels, which served as burial cases, lay the heavily crouched skeleton of a child on its right side (Fig. 23) in the NW–SE direction (Měřínský 1980, 108, tab. 12: 1; Stuchlík 1993, 247, obr. 165: 2). A large flat stone lay

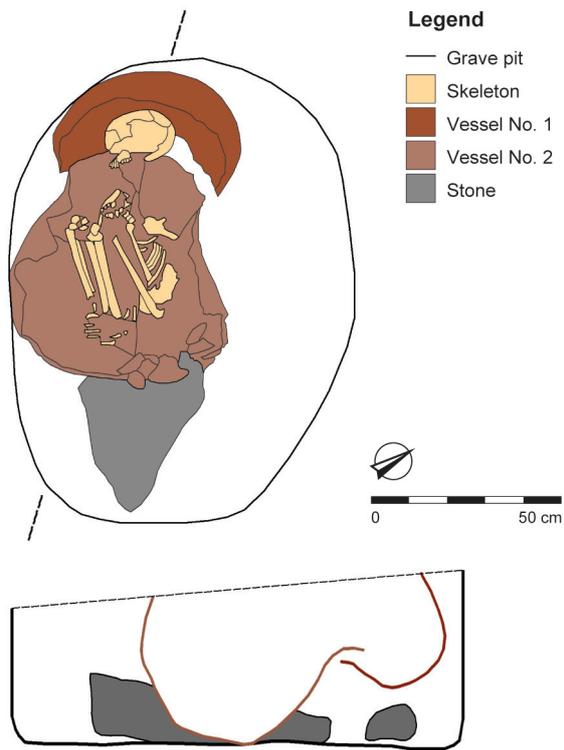


Fig. 22. Dolní Věstonice – gravel pit, 1977. Plan of grave 245 with child inhumation vessel burial. Drawing by S. Stuchlík.



Fig. 23. Dolní Věstonice – gravel pit, 1977. Inhumation burial in two storage vessels in grave 245. Photo by Z. Měřínský.

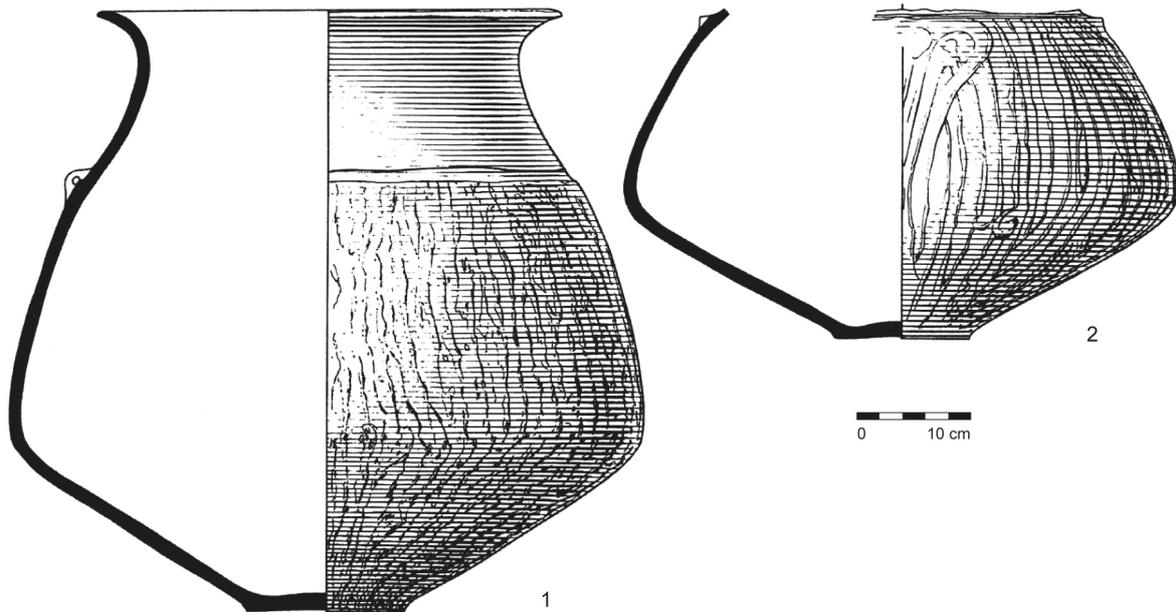


Fig. 24. Dolní Věstonice, 1977. Storage vessel from grave 245. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.

next to the vessels, and two other smaller stones were beneath them. The entire 54 cm-high storage vessel has a smoothed curved neck, which is set off from the heavily concave and vertically fingered-pressed body by an edge lined with a circumferential groove (Fig. 24: 1). There is a small handle below the edge, but their overall number cannot be determined. The type is similar to the storage vessel from Blučina, from which it differs somewhat only in the more pronounced body profiling and in the fact that a groove rather than a strip runs around the body. As mentioned above, this type of vessel is a common find at settlements from both the earlier and later phases of the Únětice culture (Ondráček 1958, 17, obr. 1; 1960, 165, obr. 67: 4; 69: 1, 2c). The second storage vessel with the neck and rim removed has a preserved height of 29.5 cm (Fig. 24: 2) and differs from the previous one only in the relief strip at the interface of the neck. Neither vessel can be used for detailed dating, as they often appear throughout the duration of the Únětice culture and, to a lesser extent, continue into the Věteřov period. However, the location of the grave in the Únětice burial ground eliminates any doubts about its connection to the Únětice culture.

#### 4.1.4 Brno-Tuřany

After nearly thirty years, another pithos was found at the settlement in Brno-Tuřany. Although the site of Brno-Slatina was originally listed in connection with this find (Kos 2006, 137; Stuchlík 2007, 205; Salaš 2008, 126), a new survey of the findspot revealed that it was located in the cadastral area of Brno-Tuřany (Moravcová, Kala 2019, 47). A pot covered with a low bowl was deposited in storage pit 575 at a depth of several dozen cm (Fig. 25; Moravcová, Kala 2019, 47, 163, tab. 32; 60: 5). Part of a child's skeleton was found inside the vessel, and when the material was wet-sieved, additional bones, two bronze beads, and a small bronze spiral were recovered.<sup>3</sup> According to the first anthropological analysis, the skeleton belonged to a newborn, though the sex could not be determined (Moravcová, Kala 2019, 50). According to the latest determination, it is a newborn or mature foetus, the sex of which was genetically determined to be male (Appendix 2).

The burial case was a storage vessel in the form of an S-shaped pot with finger-pressed decoration on the body and a typically offset bottom, 30.4 cm high and 27.2 cm in diameter (Fig. 26–28). The dating

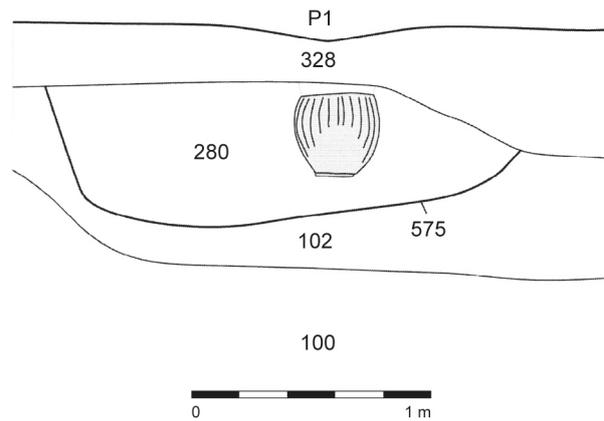


Fig. 25. Brno-Tuřany, 2005. Plan of feature 575 with burial 804. After Moravcová, Kala 2019, tab. 32.

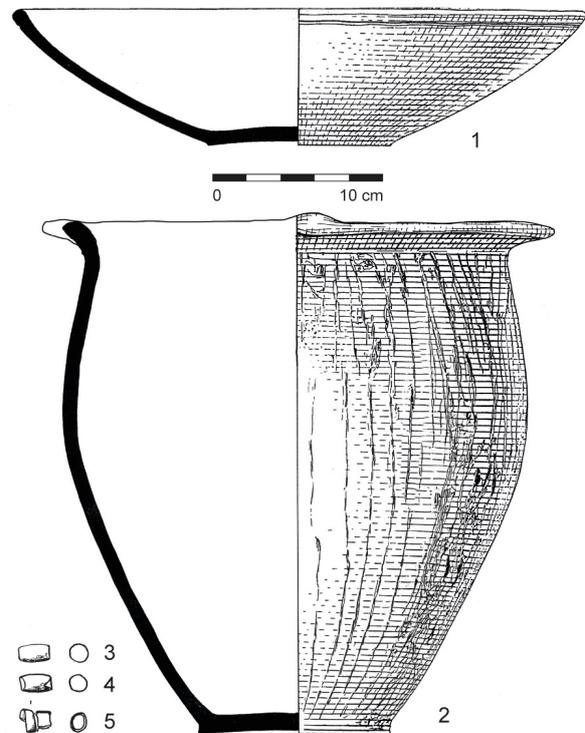


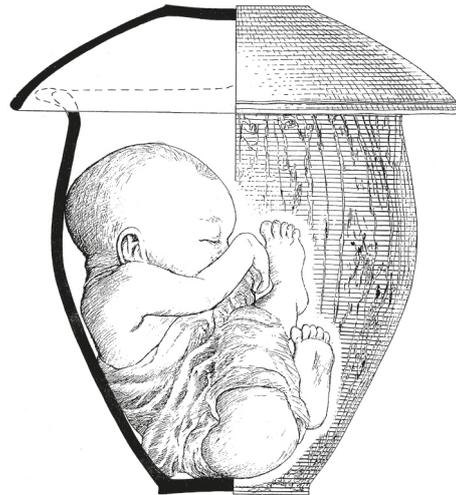
Fig. 26. Brno-Tuřany, 2005. Finds from inhumation vessel burial. Drawing by J. Brenner, M. Filip, D. Parma, S. Stuchlík.

of the feature to the period of the Únětice culture is completely certain (Moravcová, Kala 2019, 93) and this classification corresponds to the overall situation at the settlement and the burial ground. The grave goods from this burial are also consistent with the dating. Pots with an S-shaped profile (Fig. 26: 2; 27) and

<sup>3</sup> I thank D. Parma (Institute for Archaeological Heritage Brno) for searching for and documenting the bronze finds from Brno-Tuřany.



**Fig. 27.** Brno-Tuřany, 2005. Pot from child inhumation vessel burial. Photo by D. Parma.



**Fig. 28.** Brno-Tuřany, 2005. Drawing reconstruction of child inhumation burial. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.

a roughened body occur throughout the entire Únětice culture and into the Věteřov period, at which point they typically also have protrusions on the neck. They are found more often at settlements, but they also appear at burial grounds, sometimes even with flanges on the rim (Stuchlík 1987, 52, obr. 26: 4; 28: 4; tab. III: 11). However, they are of no help for a more precise dating. Most types, including our pot, were also used as storage vessels. In many cases they served for vessel burials, whether these were the majority of burials from Bohemia (Neustupný, J. 1933, obr. 5-7) or Moravian Věteřov burials from Hradisko near Kroměříž (Fig. 10: 5-8; 48; 53: 2; 57: 2; 59) and Hodonice (obr. 41: 9). A flat bowl with a groove below the rim clearly has a Únětice profile (Fig. 26: 1). Forms decorated in this way are characteristic of the Moravian-Austrian group of the Únětice culture, where they occur predominantly at settlements (Stuchlík 1981, 20-21; Čižmář, Salaš 2007, 148, obr. 16: N8, N11; 17: N4); they appear far less frequently at burial grounds and are very rare finds in other areas (Ondráček 1962, 70, obr. 50: 5; Stuchlík 1987, 47, obr. 25: 9; tab. I: 1). Cast bronze barrel-shaped beads (Fig. 26: 3, 4) are known in relatively large numbers from many Únětice culture burial grounds in Bohemia (Hájek 1954, 124), Moravia and Slovakia, where their occurrence can be counted on from the beginning of the classical phase (Točík 1964, 143; Stuchlík 1987, 65, obr. 27: 8). The last object, a small bronze spiral (Fig. 26: 5), is a very common find in the Únětice culture, but is useless for dating, as this product was popular throughout the entire Bronze Age.

#### 4.1.5 Vedrovice – Zábřdovice

The latest evidence comes from Vedrovice, where feature 1, which was actually just a large ceramic storage vessel sunk in the intact loess, was disturbed in 2007 (Fig. 29; Salaš 2008). The vessel held a large part of the skeleton of an eight-year-old child whose sex could not be determined (Jarošová 2008, 166). Based on the position of the individual bones in the vessel, it can be assumed that the child was placed in the burial case in a heavily crouched position with their head up. The vessel without a preserved rim had an ovoid body covered with somewhat irregular but mostly vertical finger-pressed decoration, and the high curved neck was separated from the body by a relief strip (Fig. 30: 2). Potsherds from the storage vessel came from an almost complete bowl with a round wall and a horizontally cut rim widened into three lobes and with a horizontal handle below the rim (Fig. 30: 1). The vessel was apparently used without its rim, as no rim sherds were found and the covering bowl remained nearly intact (Salaš 2008, 128-129). A cylindrical bone bead (Fig. 30: 4) and a ring-shaped bone pendant (Fig. 30: 3) were also found at the very bottom of the vessel.

The burial can be dated by using the storage vessel with a preserved height of 64 cm, which belongs to the same type as the vessels from Blučina 1960 (Fig. 21), both vessels from Dolní Věstonice (Fig. 24) and, e.g. a storage vessel from Großweikersdorf in Austria (Scheibenreiter 1953, Taf. 34: 5). Unlike them, the body is not globular, but rather ovoid in shape, and the maximum body diameter is shifted to the upper

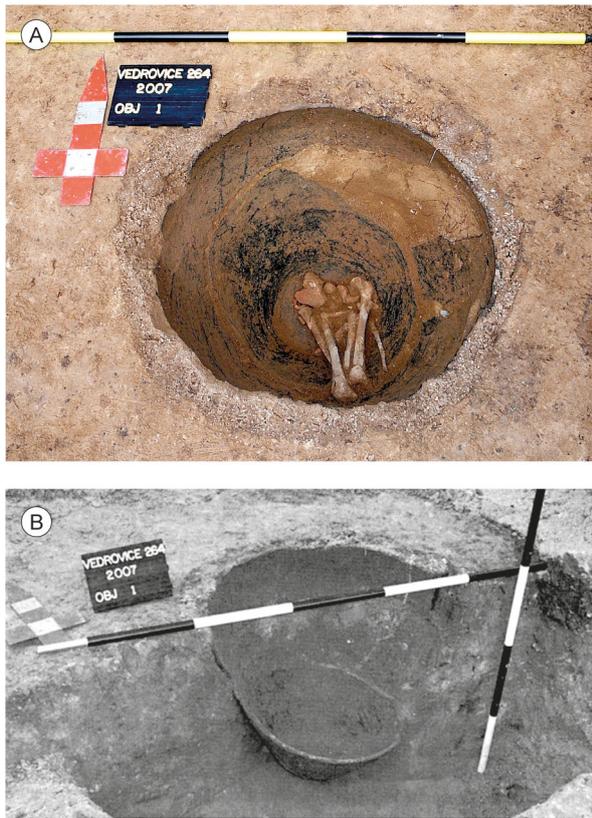


Fig. 29. Vedrovice – Zábřdovice, 2007. View of child inhumation vessel burial. After Salaš 2008, obr. 7; 8.

third (the vessels above have a maximum diameter in the lower third of the body). The large bowl with a rim diameter of 36 cm has a simple shape with a rounded wall and a straight-cut rim, below which there are longitudinal lobe-shaped protrusions in three places and one horizontal handle below the rim (Fig. 30: 1). Similar bowls, mostly with a widened rim, are a classic product of the Maďarovce-Věteřov culture (Tihelka 1960, 50; Ondráček, Stuchlíková 1982, tab. 11: 1; 49: 2; Točík 1964, 31; Neugebauer 1977, 70). Simple shapes, or with only a slightly widened rim, appeared at the end of the development of the Únětice culture (Stuchlík 1980, 18, obr. 20: 10; 21: 2; 1987, 46, obr. 25: 8; 31: 8). The most important trait for dating is the horizontal handle, which appears on bowls only in the latest horizon of the Únětice culture, where it is known from Horní Věstonice, Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit (Stuchlík 2006b, 175, obr. 5: 4), Šardičky (Procházka, Chleborád, Kalousek 1927, obr. 36: 3) and from the Austrian burial ground in Roggendorf (Scheibenreiter 1958, Abb. 5: 7).

Bone pendants with a central perforation (Fig. 30: 3) are found in large numbers in the Danube region in both decorated and undecorated versions in

the Straubing and Adlerberg cultures (Hundt 1958, Taf. 7: 5, 15–17; 11: 21–48, 51; Ruckdeschel 1978a, 192–195, Abb. 17: 1–7) and in the Unterwölblig culture (Neugebauer, Neugebauer 1997, Taf. 447: 101: 6, 7; 491: 5; 501: 5; 517: 415: 4, 5; 526: 7, etc.). The disc from Vedrovice, which also has a small hole in the body, was studied in detail by M. Salaš, who pointed out two other similar Moravian specimens from Rebešovice (Ondráček 1962, 12, 80, obr. 40: 4) and Slavkov (Horálková-Enderová, Štrof 2000, 24, tab. 6: 3). Similar rings without a second hole are listed from Bohemia and we are aware of one amber artefact from Únětice (Ryzner 1880, 364–365, tab. XVI: 14) and, recently, three artefacts from Kolín (Kosová, Ernée et al. 2024, 201, tab. 101: 6). Analogous rings with a pair of holes were found in Únětice (Ryzner 1880, 364–365, tab. XVI: 10), Polepy (Dvořák 1926, 35, tab. 8: 19), Velké

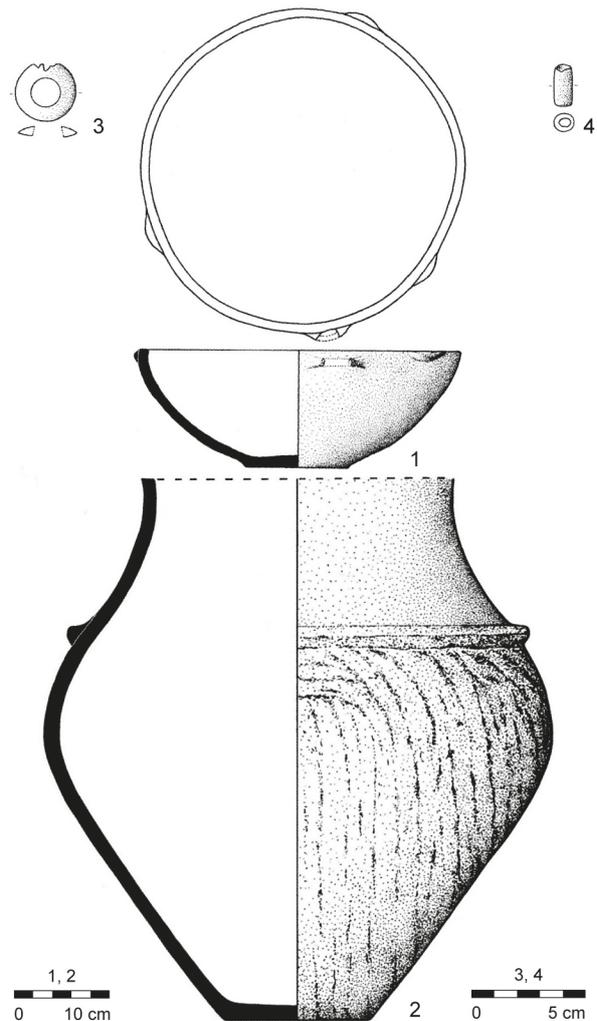


Fig. 30. Vedrovice – Zábřdovice, 2007. Finds from child inhumation vessel burial. After Salaš 2008, obr. 9.

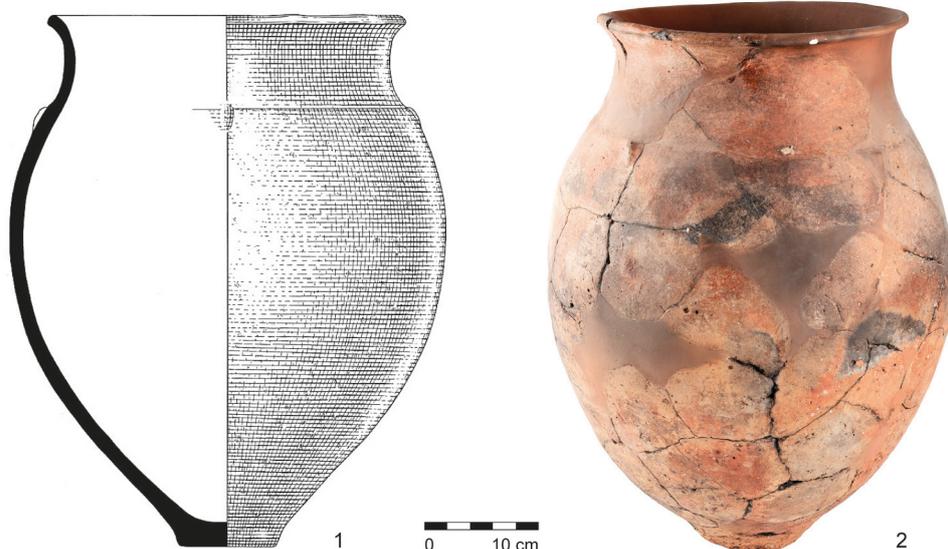
Žernoseky (Moucha 1961, 8, tab. II: 8) and recently one more at the Únětice cemetery in Mikulovice in Bohemia (Ernée, Langová et al. 2020, 73, obr. 296: 3; tab. 106: 87/2). According to M. Salaš, these artefacts from the late phase of the Únětice culture were found near the head and were therefore very likely pendants worn on the neck (Salaš 2008, 139–140). A ring from Mikulovice found by the waist of a 12–14-year-old child could have had a different function (Ernée, Langová et al. 2020, 442).

A 20-mm-long bone bead (Fig. 30: 4) was studied in detail by M. Salaš, who pointed out the long-term occurrence of these forms (Salaš 2008, 137–138), which appeared mostly in short versions. Longer bone beads are rare, and one of the few examples is a bead just under 10 mm long from the Late Únětice burial ground in Slavkov (Horálková-Enderová, Štrof 2000, 29, tab. 23: 5). Somewhat larger beads were also found at the Nitra burial site in Branč (Vladár 1973b, tab. VI: 11; XXV: 1) and two elongated beads were likewise found at the Straubing culture burial site in Kronwinkl in Bavaria (Ruckdeschel 1978a, 201, Abb. 17: 11; 1978b, Taf. 25: 14–15). The majority of the long beads are not made of bone, but are tooth shells, which are also known from the necropolises of the Epi-Corded Ware sphere (Vladár 1973b, obr. 94; tab. V: 23; XV: 10; XVIII: 8; XIX: 16; Točík 1979, Taf. LXI: 8; Bátora 2000, 369, Taf. 26: 14–22; 36: 1) and Únětice (Tihelka 1953, 281, obr. 18: 2; Chropovský 1960, Taf. XI: 1; XIV: 1; XVII: 9) and Hurbanovo burial grounds (Točík 1979, LXXXIX: 24).

## 4.2 Věteřov group

### 4.2.1 Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’

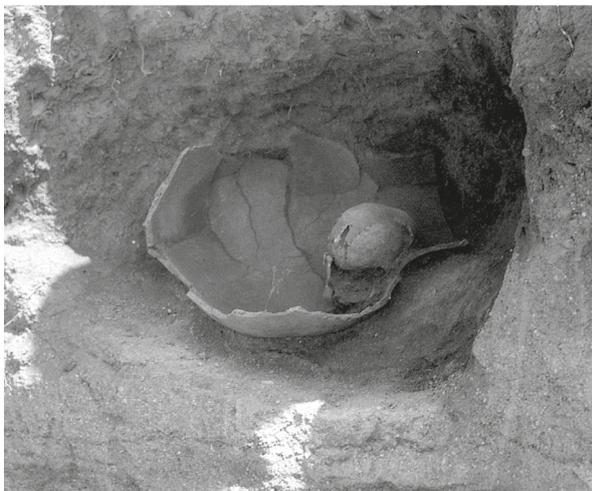
The first Věteřov group inhumation burial in a vessel in Moravia was the grave from Mikulov discovered by K. Jüttner at the ‘Vysoký roh’ site in 1928 (Fig. 31), but not published for more than 20 years (Jüttner 1950, 366, obr. 2). A large storage vessel covered with a piece of limestone was found in the intact sandy subsoil at a depth of 40 cm. The vessel was filled with black soil and the remains of the skeleton of a child around the age of three. No other finds from the Early Bronze Age are known from the immediate vicinity. Unfortunately, we do not have a more precise anthropological determination of the skeletal remains, because the skeleton could not be found in the museum (Appendix 1). The storage vessel has a smoothed, low, curved neck, which is divided from the finely roughened ovoid body with a flat bottom by an edge from which four short vertical strips extend (Fig. 31). The vessel is 48.5 cm high and the diameter of the rim is 32.8 cm, which are dimensions that permit a small child to be placed inside. In terms of typology, this is characteristic Maďarovce-Věteřov pottery, which we know in minor variations from a number of Moravian (Tihelka 1960, 48, obr. 33: 3; 1962, tab. VII: 7; XXII: 13, 15; Rožnovský 2019, tab. 143: 22), Slovak (Točík 1964, tab. LI: 20) and Austrian settlements (Preinfalk et al. 2015, Abb. 99). The same storage vessel also held a child’s burial at Slánská hora near Slaný (Schmidt, V. 1895, 625, tab. XXXIV: 12).



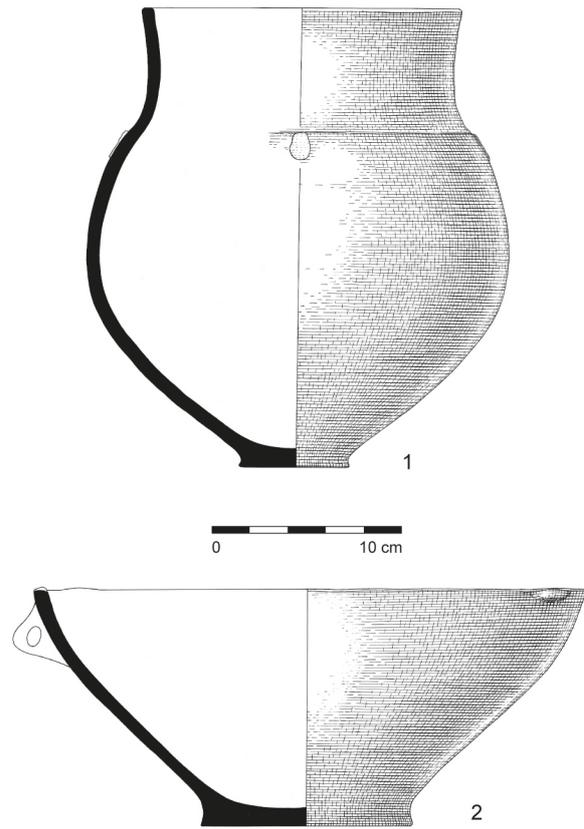
**Fig. 31.** Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’, 1928. Storage vessel from inhumation vessel burial. Drawing after Stuchlík 2007, obr. 4, photo by K. Piačková.

#### 4.2.2 Olbramovice

In 1958, i.e. 20 years after the discovery of the first burial in Mikulov, V. Podborský and R. M. Pernička uncovered an oval-shaped pit measuring 95 × 55 cm and 115 cm deep during a rescue excavation in Olbramovice. Inside, a storage vessel lay in an inclined to horizontal position, its mouth covered by a bowl (Fig. 11; 32; Pernička, Podborský 1959, 6–8, tab. II; III: 2–4; Podborský, Vildomec 1972, 90, tab. XXXVIII: 13, 14). This vessel held the skeleton of a child in the age of 6–7 years (Lorencová 1959, 23). The only grave goods were a small piece of chert deposited in the storage vessel. The storage vessel has a globular body set off from the conical, slightly open neck by an edge, below which there are traces of four broken-off vertical protrusions (Fig. 33: 1; 34: 1). In terms of morphology, it has the same structure as Věteřov amphorae (Tihelka 1962, tab. VII: 8;



**Fig. 32.** Olbramovice – ‘Šestilány’, 1958. Inhumation vessel burial. After Pernička, Podborský 1959.



**Fig. 33.** Olbramovice – ‘Šestilány’, 1958. Storage vessel and bowl from child inhumation vessel burial. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.

Dohnal 2004: tab. 11: 7; Rožnovský 2019, tab. 109: 22; 135: 10), from which it differs only in dimensions. Our vessel is 48.6 cm high, with a rim diameter of 33.6 cm. This is a common form at Věteřov settlements, and in addition to the variant with individual protrusions, variants supplemented with two or three protrusions sometimes appear (Tihelka 1960, 48, obr. 12: 10; 32: 5; 33: 4; 1962, tab. III: 2; VII: 7; Rožnovský 2019, 56, tab. 104; 124: 9; 136: 10). The deep bowl with a flat rim and slightly rounded walls has a strap handle under the rim and three lengthwise knobs on the rim (obr. 33: 2; 34: 2). The brown to brownish-black surface is roughly smoothed. Its height was 12.5 cm and the diameter of the rim, 29 cm, was less than the diameter of the rim of the storage vessel. This is a very simple form that has many analogies at Věteřov settlements in various sizes and with walls that are conical or curved in various ways (Tihelka 1960, obr. 9: 7; 24: 10; Ondráček, Stuchlíková 1988, 13, obr. 5: 4; 6: 2; 9: 9; Rožnovský 2019, tab. 57; 66: 1–3; 95: 23; 108: 12).



Fig. 34. Olbramovice – ‘Šestilány’, 1958. Storage vessel and bowl from child inhumation vessel burial. Photo by S. Stuchlík.

#### 4.2.3 Pasohlávky

During a rescue excavation in Pasohlávky in 2006, a separate pit was discovered a few dozen metres from the Věteřov settlement. The cauldron-shaped pit had a circular ground plan with a diameter of 50 cm and a preserved depth of 33 cm. A storage vessel placed in the pit contained the bones of a child around the age of 18 months (Appendix 3). The dimensions and shape of the pit clearly indicate that it was dug specifically to hold a ceramic burial case (Fig. 35; 36). The storage vessel with a globular body and an edge below the unpreserved neck had pairs of vertical relief strips in five places. The vessel was preserved only to a height of roughly 30 cm and the diameter of the bottom was 34 cm (Fig. 37). This is the same variant of the storage vessel that was found in Borotice (see below Fig. 40: 2) and Olbramovice (Fig. 33: 1; 34: 1), only in this case the exact profiling of the neck is not known. One type of these amphora-like storage vessels has a cylindrical neck, as was the case with the vessel from Borotice, while the other type with a slightly curved neck was found in Olbramovice.

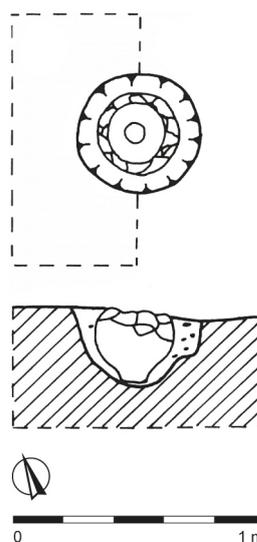


Fig. 35. Pasohlávky – ‘U Vodárny’, 2006. Grave plan. Author’s archive.



Fig. 36. Pasohlávky – ‘U Vodárny’, 2006. Child inhumation vessel burial. Photo by B. Komoróczy.

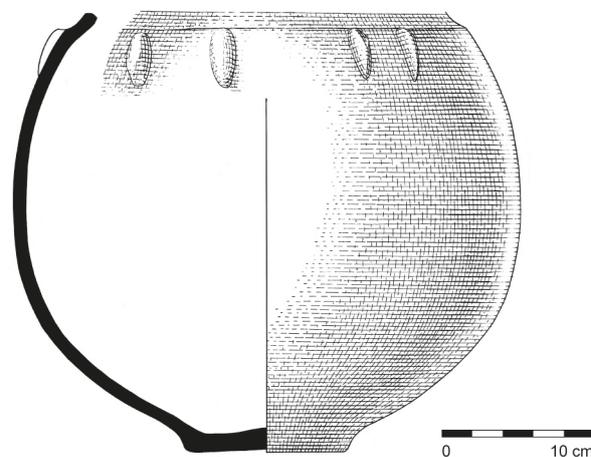


Fig. 37. Pasohlávky – ‘U Vodárny’, 2006. Storage vessel from burial. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.



Fig. 38. Borotice – ‘Nad Dvorem’, 1962. Barrow 1. Photo by M. Havelka.

The storage vessel from Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’ differs from them somewhat in that it has a slender ovoid body, a slightly curved neck and a slightly everted rim (Fig. 31). All three forms are characteristic manifestations of Věteřov ceramics. The storage vessel from Pasohlávky differs from both in that the body is more bulbous in shape. We encountered a similar globular body profile and a slightly offset bottom in several vessels from Cezavý Hill near Blučina (Tihelka 1960, obr. 12: 10; 33: 4). The number of vertical cordons also differs. While the vessels from Mikulov and Olbramovice had four individual cordons below the rim, the vessel from Pasohlávky has five pairs of short cordons running from the main cordons, of which only two pairs have survived. Similar cordons, whether individually, in pairs or trios, appear quite commonly on various types of Věteřov pottery (Tihelka 1960, obr. 8: 10; 12: 10; 24: 8; 27: 8; 33: 2; 1962, tab. VII: 8; XVII: 2; XXIV: 17).

#### 4.2.4 Borotice

During the test-pitting of a Middle Bronze Age barrow cemetery in Borotice in 1963 (Podborský 1963), a cluster of potsherds from an amphora-shaped storage vessel was discovered near the centre of relatively prominent mound 1 (Fig. 38; 39) and among them were six more fragments of a bronze ring twisted from wire. Nearly the entire vessel with a preserved height of about 44 cm and a rim diameter of 23–24 cm could be reconstructed from potsherds (Fig. 40: 2). The vessel and the ring (Fig. 40: 1) are probably the remains of grave 1, in which the skeleton was not preserved (Stuchlík 2006a, 33–35, obr. 17; 18). This is nothing unusual, because bones were always preserved in very

poor condition in the forest soil of the barrow cemetery in Borotice and in a number of graves they were not preserved at all or only in the form of miniature fragments. The dimensions of the storage vessel were large enough for the burial of a child.

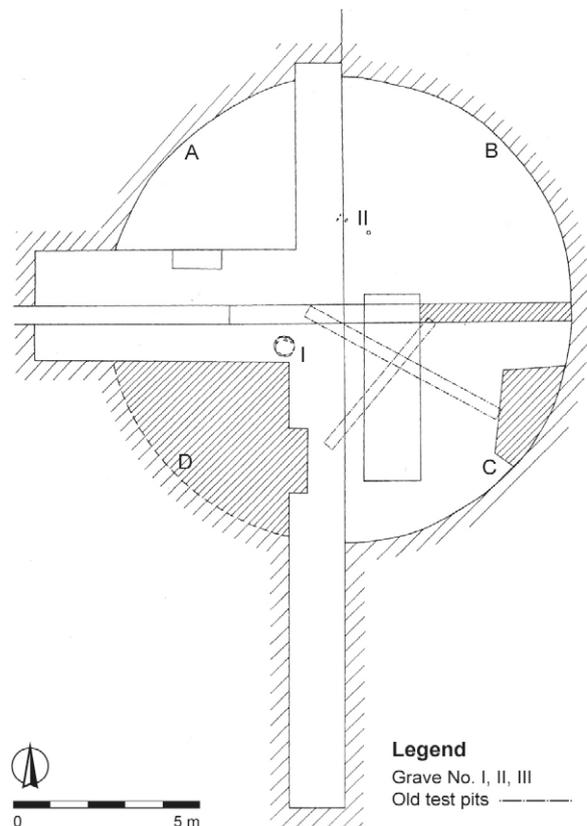
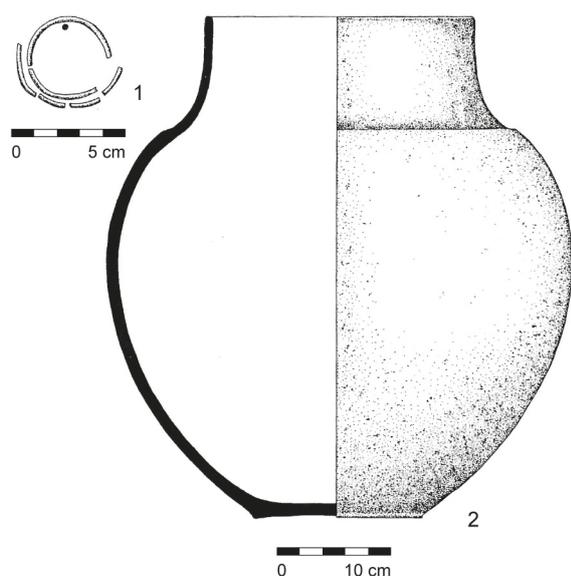


Fig. 39. Borotice – ‘Nad Dvorem’, 1962. Plan of barrow 1 with child inhumation vessel burial. After Stuchlík 2008, obr. 17.

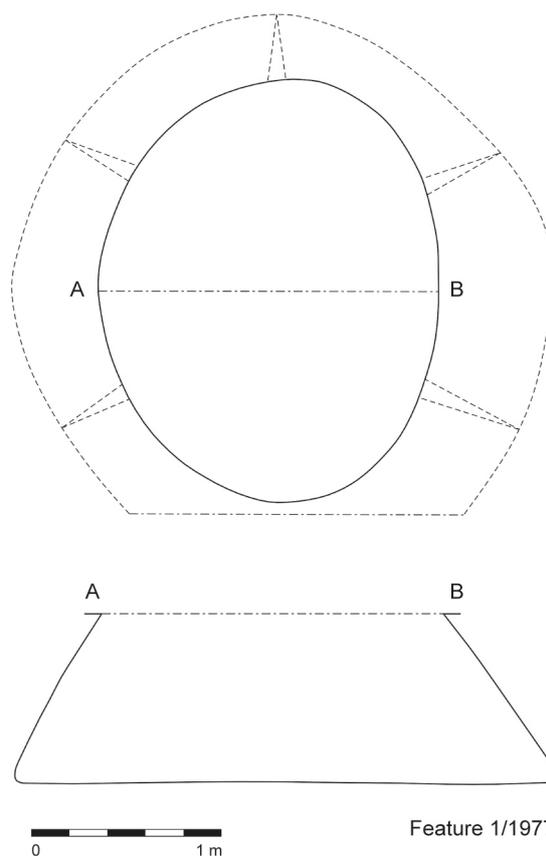


**Fig. 40.** Borotice – 'Nad Dvorem', 1962. Storage vessel and bronze bracelet from grave 1. Drawing by S. Stuchlík.

We find numerous analogies for the storage vessel (Fig. 40: 2) in the Věteřov material from Blučina, Věteřov (Tihelka 1960, obr. 12: 5, 10; 32: 5; 33: 1, 4) and many other sites. A vessel of this type appeared in a somewhat slimmer form in Olbramovice, where it also served as a case for the burial of a small child (Fig. 32: 1; 34: 1; Pernička, Podborský 1959, Taf. III: 3; Stuchlík 2006a, obr. 137: 3), and with a slightly curved neck in Hodonice (Rožnovský 2019, tab. 104). These storage vessels are not useful for precise chronological determination, as they occur throughout the entire duration of the Věteřov group. The fragments of a wire ring (Fig. 40: 1) could be remnants of a bracelet, the diameter of which corresponds to the wrist of a small child. Bronze bracelets were also found in several storage vessels with burials at Hradisko near Kroměříž (see below Fig. 52: 3; 53: 3; 58: 3). But due to its simple shape, this bronze object is unusable for precise dating.

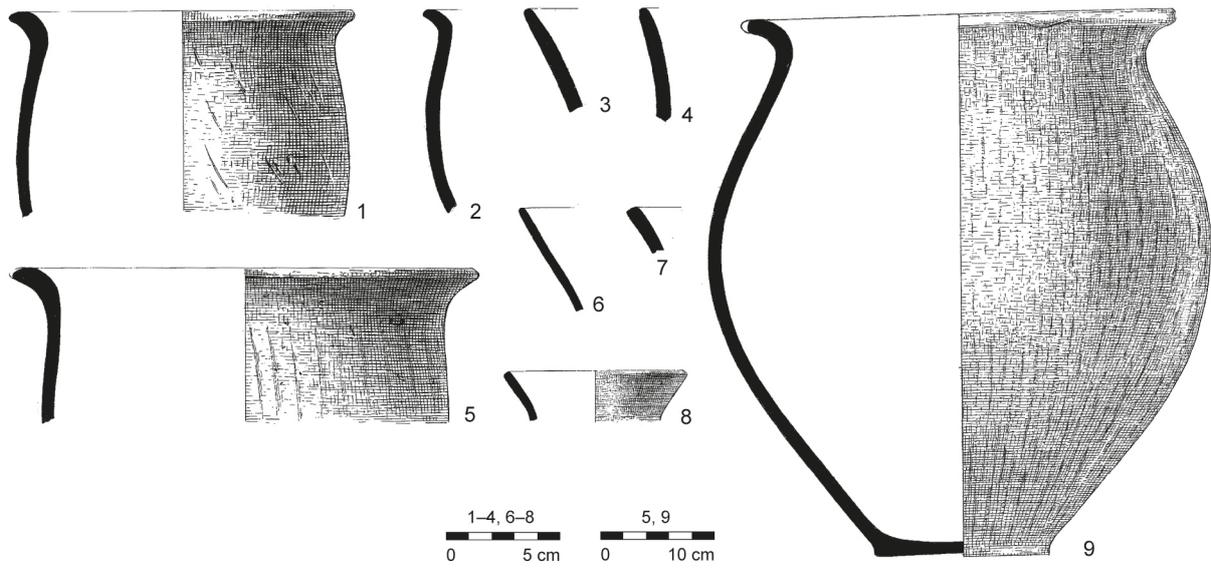
#### 4.2.5 Hodonice

Less obvious evidence of this burial rite was captured during a rescue excavation of the Věteřov settlement in Hodonice in 1977. A concentration of fragments was discovered in a large pot-shaped vessel at the bottom of a common settlement pit with a circular ground plan (Fig. 41; 42: 9), with the fragments including a skull with two cervical vertebrae (Rakovská, Stuchlík 1980). The pit fill contained common finds, i.e. a large amount of pottery, daub, fragments of stone underlays, chipped

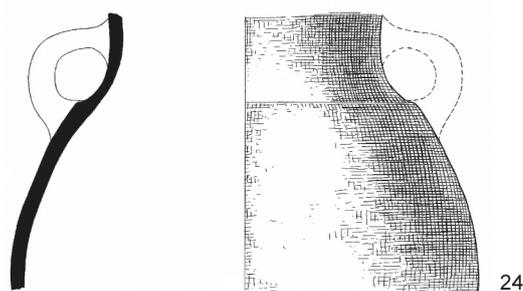
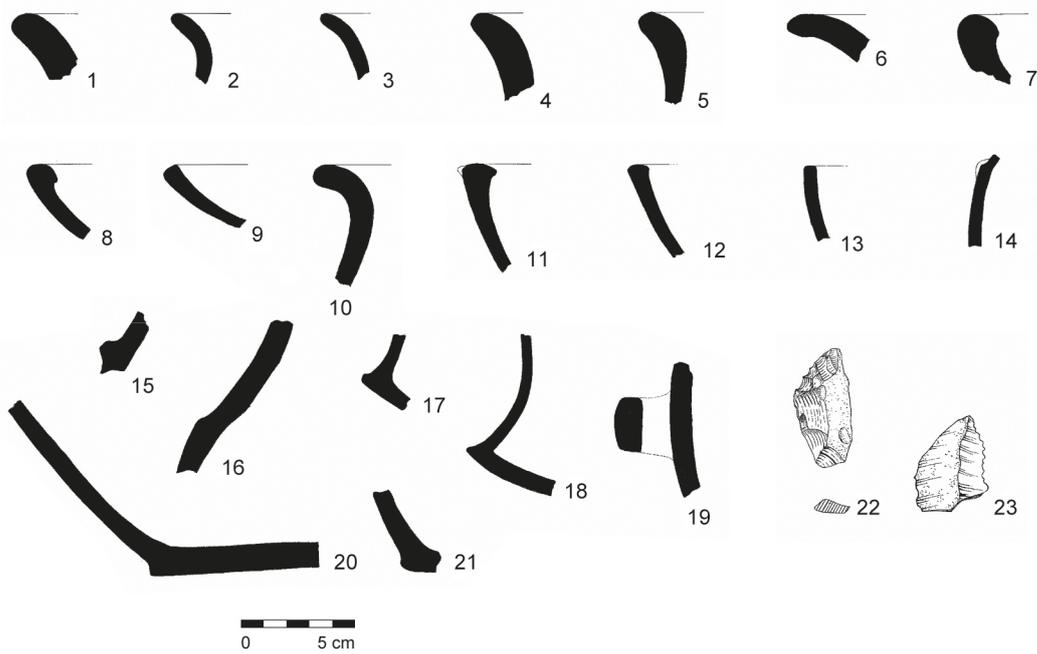


**Fig. 41.** Hodonice – brickyard, 1977. Plan of feature 1. Author's archive.

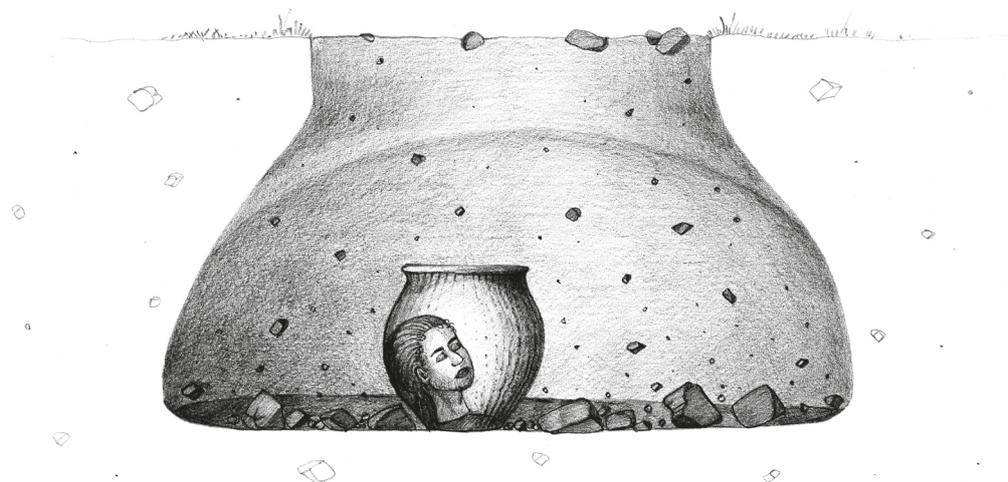
industry, animal bones and river mussel shells (Fig. 42: 1–8; 43). J. Chochol identified these as the remains of a 7–8-year-old child, with the circumstances indicating a violent death either by decapitation or the shattering of the skull, though it is impossible to determine which came first (Appendix 4). The case for holding the skull was a 47.2-cm-high egg-shaped pot with a curved neck and a roughened body (Fig. 42: 9; 44), the rim of which has a diameter of 37.4 cm. The pot is an entirely common Early Bronze Age form that is often encountered in several similar variants at Únětice (Stuchlík 1972, 82), Věteřov (Tihelka 1960, obr. 10: 3; 24: 6; Ondráček, Stuchlíková 1982, tab. 25: 2; 44: 7; Navrátil 2021, tab. 6A: 1; 21A: 10) and also Maďarovce culture settlements (Točík 1964, tab. XXX: 15, 17; XL: 10). These pots are not very useful for refining the dating. However, the overall chronology of the settlement in Hodonice clearly supports a Věteřov dating, and this is also confirmed by the ceramic material from the backfill of the settlement feature (Fig. 42: 1–8; 43). Pots of the same type were used as cases for holding inhumation burials in the Únětice culture in



**Fig. 42.** Hodonice – brickyard, 1977. 1–8 – Pottery from fill of feature 1; 9 – storage vessel from a child burial in feature No. 1. Drawing by B. Ludikovská, J. Stuchlíková.



**Fig. 43.** Hodonice – brickyard, 1977. Pottery from feature 1. Drawing by B. Ludikovská, J. Stuchlíková.



**Fig. 44.** Hodonice – brickyard, 1977. Drawing reconstruction of the burial of a skull in a vessel. After Rožnovský 2012, obr. 3: 3.

Bohemia (Fig. 4: 2; Neustupný, J. 1933, 14–15), in Brno-Tuřany (Fig. 26) and in all cases at Hradisko near Kroměříž (see below e.g. Fig. 47: 2; 49; 50: 2; 54: 2; 58: 2; 59; 60).

#### 4.2.6 Hradisko near Kroměříž

A completely unique situation in Moravia is represented by the discovery at the well-known fortified settlement of Hradisko near Kroměříž (Fig. 45–60), which was also mentioned in the literature in the past as Postoupky – Hradisko and today is a local part of Kroměříž. At the site, where the first excavations had been conducted since 1880 (Stuchlík 2021, 88, obr. 18, here with additional refs.), V. Spurný conducted extensive systematic archaeological excavations in 1949–1956. In 1951 and subsequently in 1954–1956, 13 large Věteřov storage vessels were gradually discovered in the Old Lusatian necropolis (Fig. 9; 10). Twelve of these were preserved more or less completely, while the existence of a 13th burial is evidenced only by a large number of potsherds found together with the potsherds of a bowl in the backfill of oval Lusatian pit 55 (Fig. 46; Spurný 1961, 186–187, obr. 1). Although no human bones were found inside the storage vessels, an analysis of their contents revealed a larger or even large amount of phosphorus (most notably in the vessels from burial 4 and 9), indicating the original presence of decomposed animal tissue in the vessels. The absence of children's bones in the storage vessels would also be explained by the complete or almost

complete decomposition of human and animal bones at the entire settlement. A third supporting argument for the use of the storage vessels as cases for the burial of children is suggested by the bronze objects and a cup inside or next to the vessels and their covering with bowls or the bottom of another vessel (Spurný 1961, 190). The finds from Hradisko near Kroměříž are held at the Kroměříž District Museum and have only recently undergone a new processing.<sup>4</sup>

Václav Spurný dated the burials from Hradisko near Kroměříž to the Middle Bronze Age between the Věteřov and oldest Lusatian settlement and culturally linked them to the Pre-Lusatian (Proto-Lusatian) phase (Spurný 1961, 192–193). Dating the burials to the Věteřov group is already indicated by the character of the settlement of the site, but this is clearly confirmed by the storage vessels used for children's burials. S-shaped pots with a curved neck and a roughened body were used for a long time, which is evidenced, among other things, by the Únětice burial from Brno-Tuřany (Fig. 26: 2; 27) and certain storage vessels used in Bohemia (Fig. 4: 2). They commonly appear in two basic versions: pots with an S-shaped profile without protrusions, and pots of the same shape, most often supplemented with three to five protrusions on the neck. Only pots with protrusions on the neck are represented in the graves at Hradisko near Kroměříž. However, the first specimens with protrusions on the neck can be found already in the latest period of the Únětice culture (Stuchlík 1987, 79, obr. 23: 19), but they occur in

<sup>4</sup> I thank P. Daňhelová and L. Pělučová (Kroměříž District Museum) for their help in locating the finds from Hradisko near Kroměříž and for providing photographic and drawing documentation.



Fig. 45. Hradisko near Kroměříž. View of findspot. Photo by S. Stuchlík.

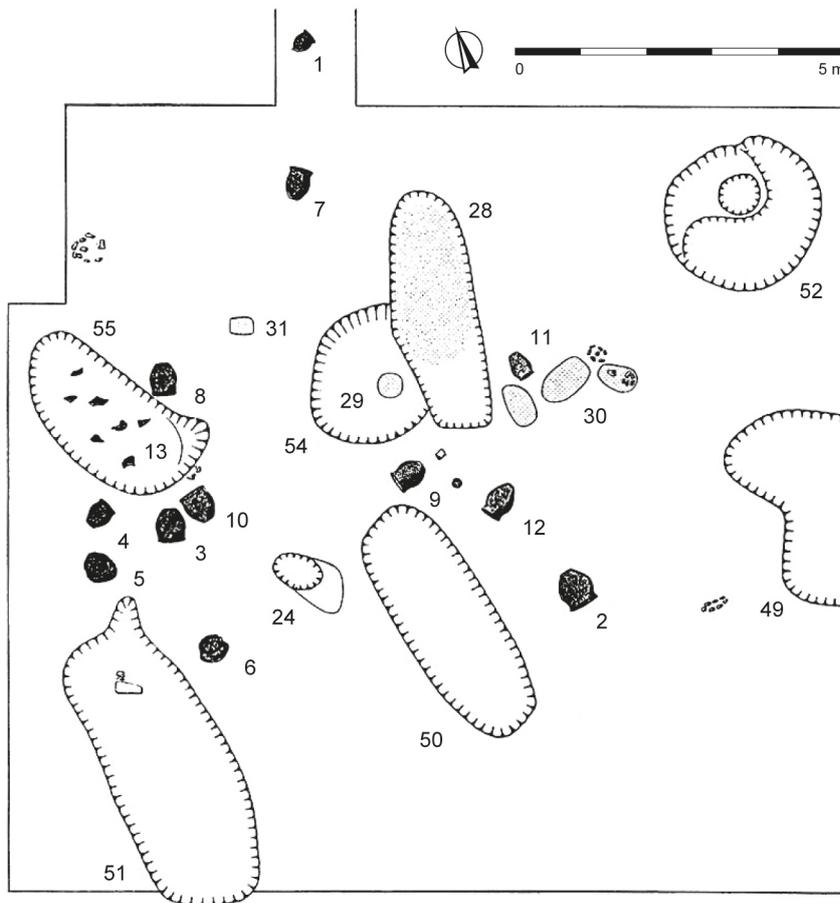


Fig. 46. Hradisko near Kroměříž. Plan of cemetery. After Spurný 1961, obr. 1.

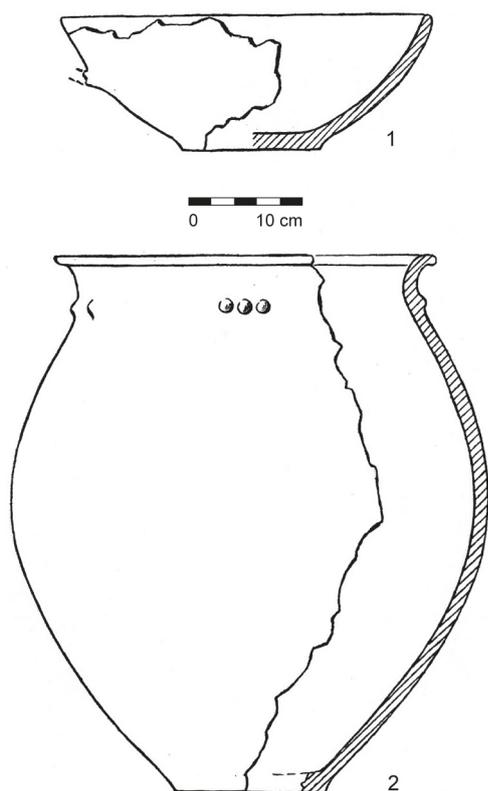


Fig. 47. Hradisko near Kroměříž. Drawing reconstruction of vessels from burial 1. After V. Spurný.

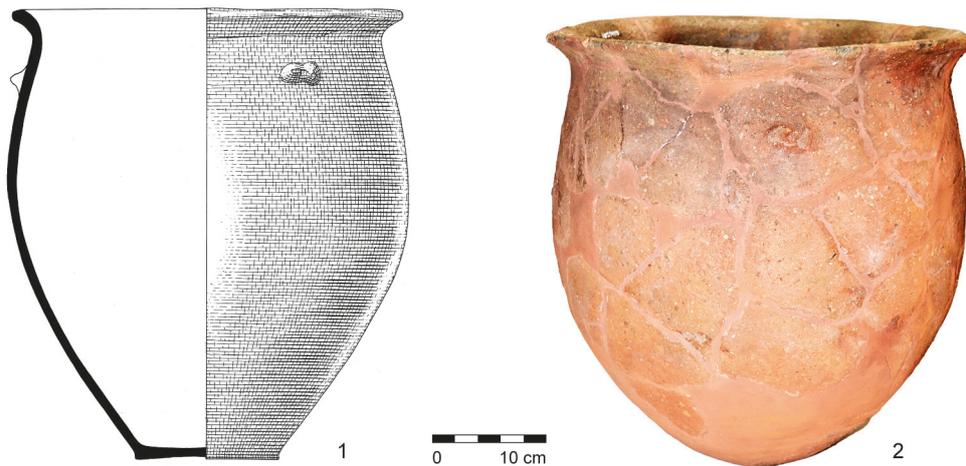
much greater numbers in the Mad'arovce-Věteřov period (Ondráček, Stuchlíková 1982, tab. 13: 3; 17: 18; 26: 13; 40: 13; 41: 1; 1988, 9, obr. 5: 5; 8: 5; Stuchlík 1992, Abb. 13: 5; Navrátil 2021, tab. 1: 1; 6A: 1; 11A: 1; Lauer mann 2003, Abb. 60: 5; 14). Even so, this type of vessel is characterised by considerable variability. The first variant was represented

at Hradisko by storage vessels with four individual protrusions, which appeared in grave 9 (Fig. 56: 1; 57: 1) and 10 (Fig. 58: 2; 59). The second variant was a storage vessel from grave 7 with four pairs of protrusions (Fig. 54: 2; 55: 1) and another from grave 8, for which the exact number of pairs could not be determined. The third variant was represented by a vessel from grave 1 decorated with four trios of protrusions (Fig. 47: 2). Another variant features doubled protrusions, which were present three times on a vessel from grave 3 (Fig. 49) and four times on vessels from grave 2 (Fig. 48), 6 (Fig. 52: 2; 53: 2) and 12 (Fig. 59; 60). The last variant was found in grave 4, which held a larger fragment of a storage vessel decorated with four tripled protrusions (Fig. 50: 2; 51: 2). Although protrusions appeared on the potsherds from the unreconstructable storage vessel from grave 13, their type and number could not be identified. Only in the case of another unreconstructable storage vessel from grave 5 was it not possible to distinguish whether it was a vessel with or without protrusions. These characteristic storage vessels, be they with or without protrusions, are some of the most common finds at most settlements and also in the cultural layers at Hradisko near Kroměříž (Mikulková, Parma 2010, obr. 13–15).

A dating to the Věteřov group is also confirmed by bowls from Hradisko near Kroměříž, which were found in five graves. In all cases, these were shapes with a rounded wall and a slightly widened, horizontally cut rim. Similar bowls appear from the final stage of the Únětice culture and even more frequently in the Věteřov-Mad'arovce culture (Ondráček, Stuchlíková 1982, tab. 27: 2, 3, 5; 34: 25–26, 29; 36: 13; 40: 3–5). A bowl found in grave 4 had



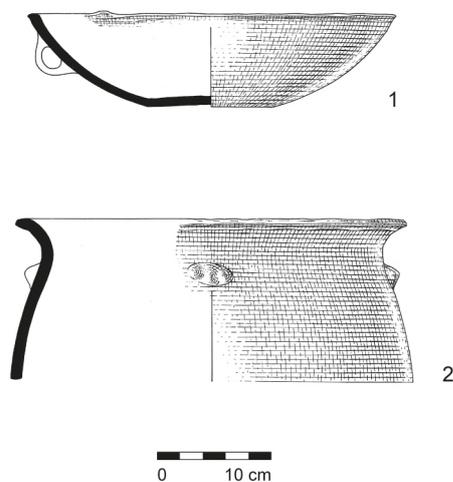
Fig. 48. Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel from burial 2. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík, photo from Kroměříž District Museum archive.



**Fig. 49.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel from burial 3. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík, photo from Kroměříž District Museum archive.

a handle below the rim supplemented with several lobes (Fig. 50: 1; 51: 1), while bowls from grave 1 (Fig. 47: 1), 6 (Fig. 52: 1; 53: 1) and 7 (Fig. 54: 1; 55: 2) had only remnants of handles, and the last vessel from grave 13 could not be reconstructed. The ceramics from Hradisko included the bottom of a storage vessel used in grave 10 to cover a vessel with a burial (Fig. 58: 1) and a grave good in the form of a cup with a conical body and a handle on the rim from grave 9 (Fig. 56: 2; 57: 2), which, however, have no practical significance for a more precise dating. The remaining finds from the graves are fragments of two bronze bracelets from grave 6 (Fig. 52: 3; 53: 3) and 10 (Fig. 58: 3). In both cases, these are fragments of multiple spiral armlets made of a rod with a lenticular cross-section, which in the later part of

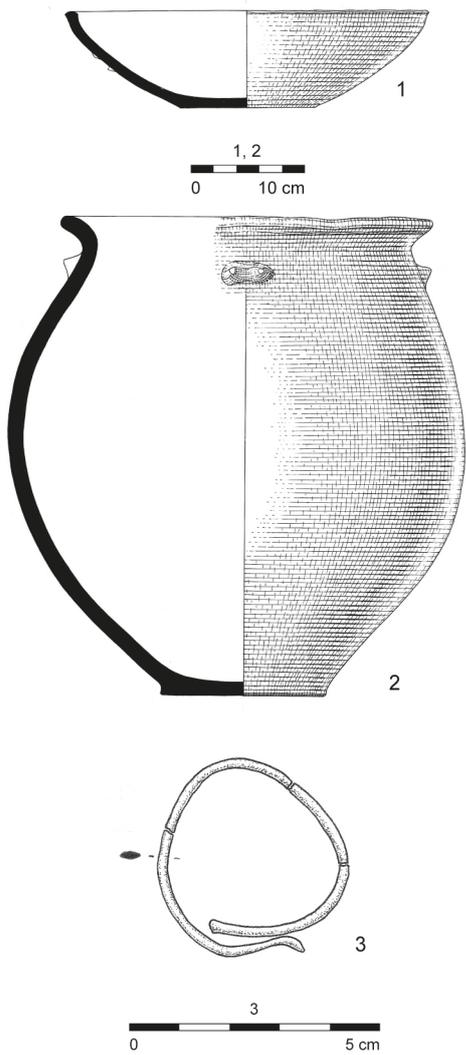
the Early Bronze Age appear mainly in hoards (Torbrügge 1960, 55; Ondráček 1962, 79; Moucha 2005, 92, 104, 140, 145–146, Taf. 58: 1–5; 92: 3–5; 121: 1–5; 152: 5, 6; 164: 5–7). In the graves of the advanced Únětice culture, bracelets with a larger number of threads are also found in rare instances (Ondráček 1962, 79, obr. 40: 11). However, most of them have only one or two threads and, like specimens with many threads, are dated to phase BA2 (Stuchlík 1987, 58, obr. 27: 13). Apart from Hradisko, they are still unknown from the Věteřov group, which can probably be explained by the small number of graves. Their occurrence in this period is confirmed by finds in Maďarovice graves from Jelšovce (Bátora 2000, 412, Abb. 647: 85B; Taf. 25: 9).



**Fig. 50.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Larger fragment of storage vessel and bowl from burial 4. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.



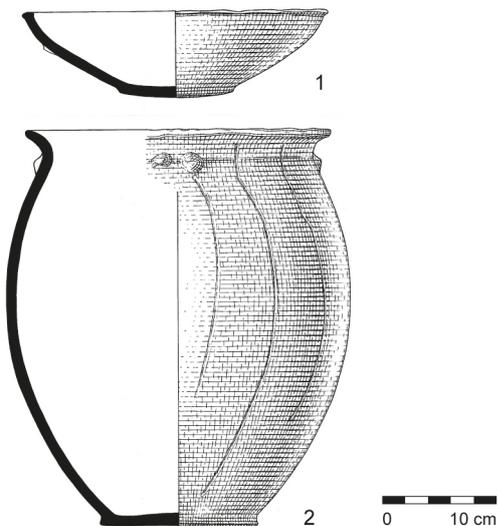
**Fig. 51.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Larger fragment of storage vessel and bowl from burial 4. Photo from Kroměříž District Museum archive.



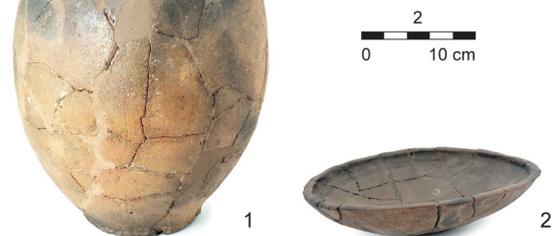
**Fig. 52.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel, bowl and bracelet from burial 6. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.



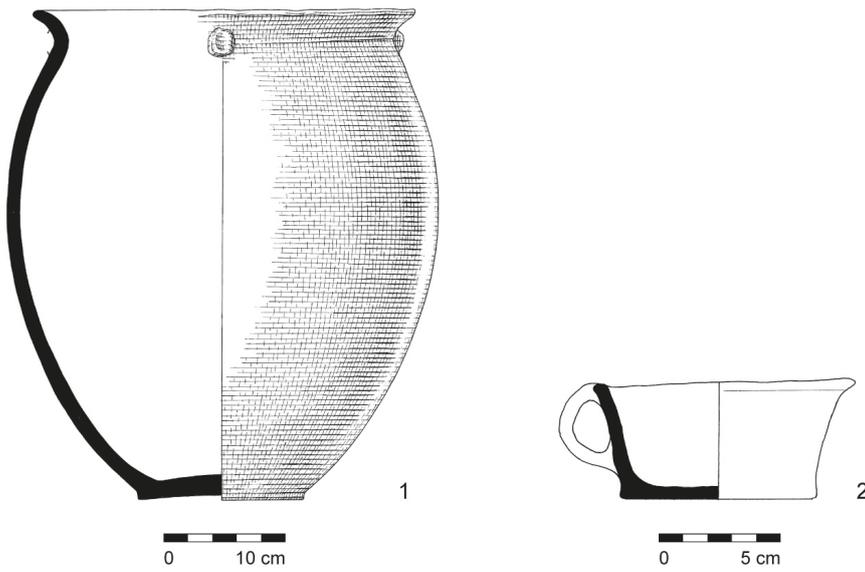
**Fig. 53.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel, bowl and bracelet from burial 6. Photo from Kroměříž District Museum archive.



**Fig. 54.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel and bowl from burial 7. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.



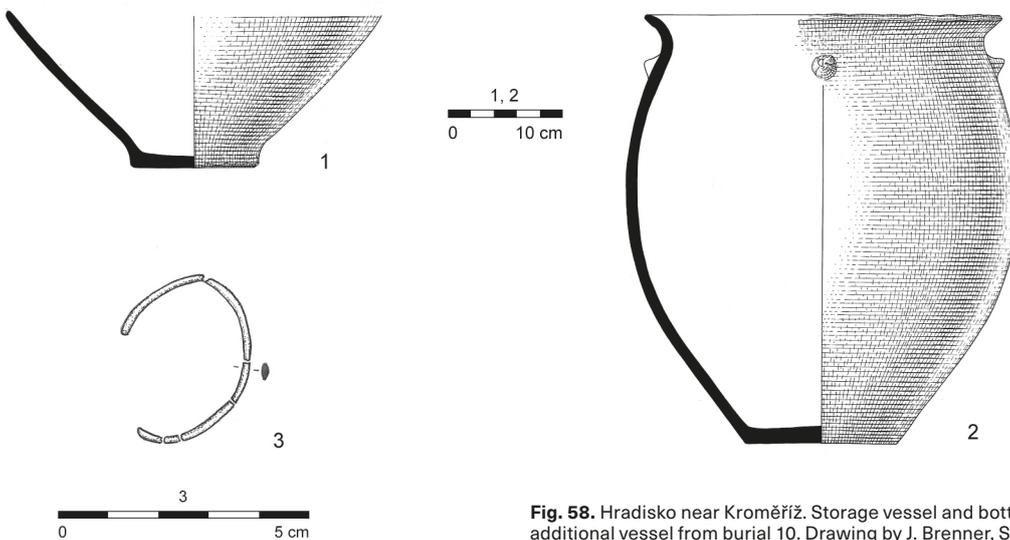
**Fig. 55.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel and bowl from burial 7. Photo from Kroměříž District Museum archive.



**Fig. 56.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel and cup from burial 9. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.



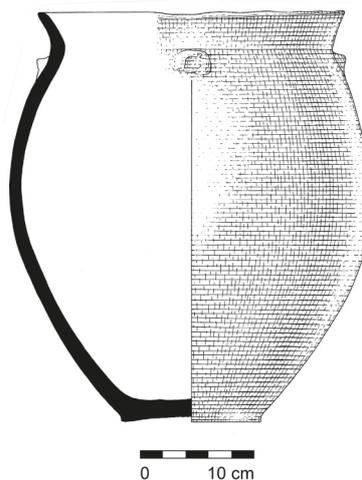
**Fig. 57.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel and cup from burial 9. Photo from Kroměříž District Museum archive.



**Fig. 58.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel and bottom of additional vessel from burial 10. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.



**Fig. 59.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel from burial 10. Photo from Kroměříž District Museum archive.



**Fig. 60.** Hradisko near Kroměříž. Storage vessel from burial 12. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.

## Chapter 5

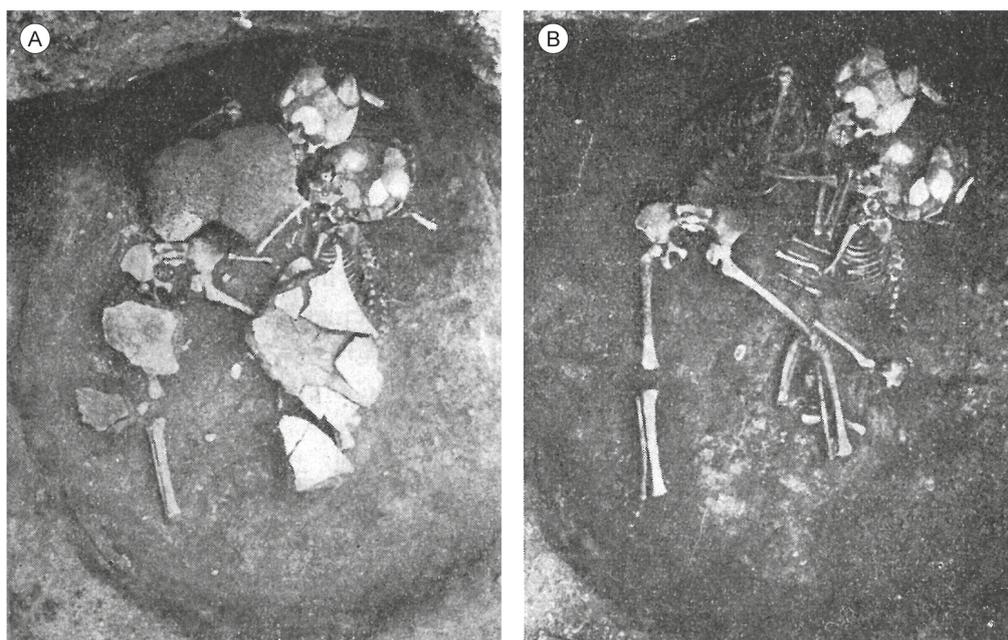
# Uncertain and unlikely vessel burials

In the past, a number of researchers also included several other finds of a funerary nature in the category of inhumation vessel burials, which, despite sharing certain common elements with pithos graves, cannot be considered true vessel burials.

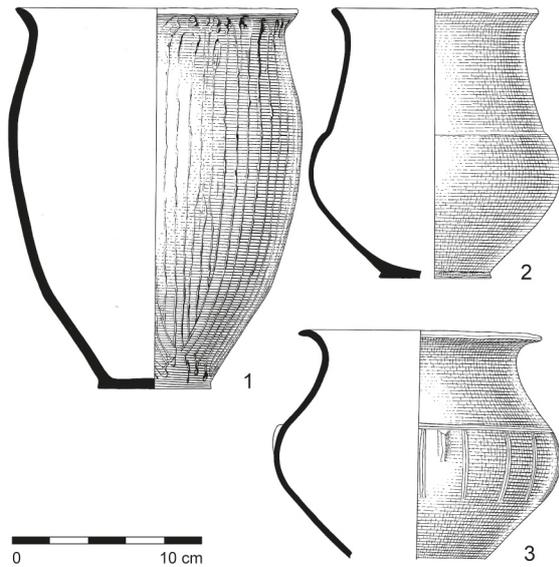
The first was discovered in 1945 by J. Dezort on Cezavy Hill near Blučina in a pit of a regular shape with a diameter of 120 cm and a depth of 80 cm (Dezort 1950). Two anthropologically unidentified child skeletons lay facing each other on a 10-cm-thick ash layer covering the bottom of this pit. The skeleton of the older individual was covered by fragments of a large storage vessel, the skeleton of the younger individual by potsherds from a decorated vessel,

and above both skeletons were potsherds from an amphora-shaped vessel and a jug (Fig. 61: A). The skeleton of the smaller child was laid in a more or less crouched position on its side, while the skeleton of the older child was in a stretched position (Fig. 61: B). The upper part of this individual's body rested partially on his stomach and his lower limbs maintained this position completely, with his right leg resting on the legs of the smaller child (Dezort 1950, obr. 1, right).

The find situation was originally associated with the Věteřov group (Dezort 1950, 367; Tihelka 1960, 110; 1962, 17). The torso of a larger pot-shaped storage vessel with a vertically finger-pressed



**Fig. 61.** Blučina – Cezavy, 1945. A – double grave of children covered with sherds of large vessels; B – double grave of children after removal of ceramics. After Dezort 1950, obr. 1.



**Fig. 62.** Blučina – Cezavy, 1945. Ceramics from children's double grave. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.



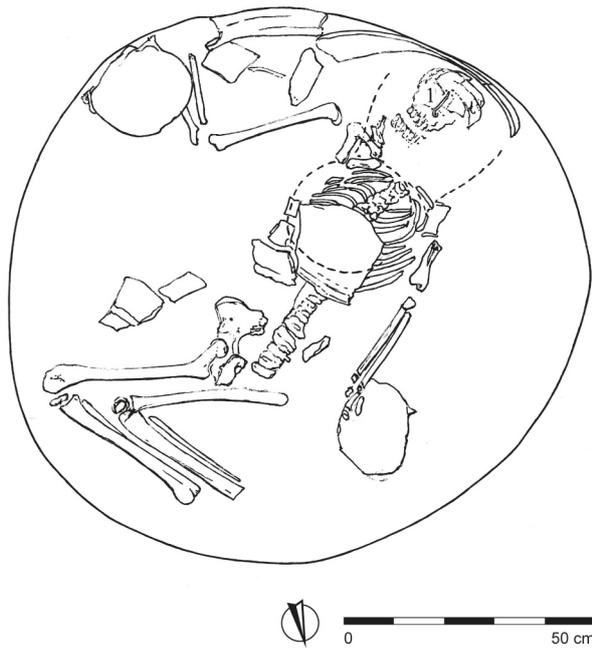
**Fig. 63.** Svatobořice – 'Písky', 1957. View of Únětice pit with skeleton covered with ceramics. Photo by V. Šikulová.

surface (Fig. 62: 1) can only be roughly classified as belonging to the Early Bronze Age. The vessel with a curved neck and a body decorated with vertical grooves and ribs (Fig. 62: 3) is actually a low, wide mug occurring mainly in the late phase of the Únětice culture (Stuchlík 1980, 19, obr. 24: 1; tab. VII: 2; 1987, 48, obr. 30: 6; Lorencová, Beneš, Podborský 1987, 124–126, obr. 6b: 3; 13b: 1; 24b: 3), but to a lesser extent can also appear in the Věteřov

group (Tihelka 1960, 36). A fragment of a slender amphora-shaped vessel without preserved handles (Fig. 62: 2) may come from a jug with one handle or from a two-handled amphora. Similar forms appear in the Late and Final Únětice culture (Stuchlík 1987, 77, obr. 23: 11, 13) and also continue briefly into the early period of the Věteřov group (Ondráček, Stuchlíková 1988, 11, obr. 3: 8; 7: 5). However, the pronounced offset of the pot's bottom suggests that it belongs to the Únětice culture. An unambiguous classification to the Únětice culture is confirmed mainly by a jug from this assemblage (Dezort 1950, obr. 3, right), though unfortunately this artefact could not be found in the museum. The mentioned dating is also supported by other jugs with a curved neck divided by an edge from the globular body with a maximum diameter in its lower part from the classical and mainly postclassical phase of the Únětice culture from Cezavy Hill near Blučina (Stuchlík 1972, 92, obr. 35: 11, 13; 37: 6; 57: 12; 1985, 139, obr. 3: 2, 5), Prasklice (Stuchlík 2004, 151–152, obr. 1: 1), Hrádek (Čižmář, Salaš 2007, 141–145, obr. 15: N1) and a number of other sites, so we can connect this find with the Únětice culture.

Two storage pits with skeletons, designated as H1 and H2, were discovered by V. Šikulová during a rescue excavation in 1957 on the 'Písky' field in Svatobořice. Feature H1 was very similar to the situation found in 1945 at the Cezavy Hill site near Blučina. In a regular pit with a circular ground plan and a diameter of 118 cm, a skeleton lay at the bottom at a depth of 150 cm in an irregularly crouched position on its right side in a SW–NE direction. A skull with a bronze pin was covered by the torso of a large storage vessel, the chest by a potsherd of a second storage vessel, and above the remaining part of the skeleton were fragments of two amphorae, a pot, and a bowl (Fig. 63). The left arm rested along the body, while the right arm was bent in front of the body, reaching all the way to the wall of the pit (Fig. 64; Šikulová 1963–1964). The skeleton from the excavation was transferred to the Moravian Museum, where unfortunately the skeletons from both investigated features were mixed up (Appendix 5). One skeleton (H1) belonged to a child around the age of 13 years, while the bones of the second individual (H2) were from a woman approximately fifty years old. Using <sup>14</sup>C dating, we were able to connect the skeleton from H1 with the Únětice culture, and the burial can be dated to the later phase of this culture.

The ceramics could not be found in the Masaryk Museum in Hodonín and only poor-quality copies



**Fig. 64.** Svatobořice – ‘Písky’, 1957. Plan of pit with inhumation burial. Drawing by J. Brenner, V. Šikulová.

made by the author of the excavation are available.<sup>5</sup> Storage vessels with a smoothed neck separated from a body that features horizontal and mostly diagonal finger-pressed decoration with three grooves (Fig. 65: B) are common forms in the later phase of the Únětice culture (Stuchlík 1972, 87, tab. 73: 4; 98: 5; 106: 12; 107: 1; 108: 2; Geisler, Peška 1990, 512, obr. 1: 6; 4: 12; Čižmář, Salaš 2007, 148–150, obr. 15: N10). The second storage vessel differs from it only minimally, with three grooves at the junction of the neck and body (Fig. 65: E). This is also confirmed by potsherds from an amphora-shaped vessel with handles on the lower part of the curved neck (Fig. 65: C), which we know from the classical and mainly postclassical phases of the Únětice culture (Stuchlík 1972, 94–95, tab. 35: 15; 39: 2, 3; 41: 13; 66: 10; Čižmář, Salaš 2007, 145, obr. 15: N9; 16: N3; 17: N2), though they can appear even in the earlier Věteřov phase (Ondráček, Stuchlíková 1988, 11, 7, obr. 7: 5). The second amphora differs only slightly from the previous vessel, with handles on the lower part of the neck with a somewhat slimmer profile (Fig. 65: A). The S-shaped pot with a roughened surface (Fig. 65: D) is not suitable for more precise dating, because it occurs throughout the Bronze Age

with only small variations, though the indentation of the bottom clearly confirms a Únětice dating. A deep bowl with a roughly finger-pressed and smoothed curved neck bridged by a strap handle (Fig. 65: F) is not very suitable for accurate dating. Similar forms are encountered relatively frequently at Early Bronze Age settlements (Stuchlík 1972, 79). The collection of finds is completed by a bronze pin with a head coiled into an eyelet (Fig. 66), which, however, is not chronologically sensitive, as it occurs throughout the entire Bronze Age (Říhový 1979, 143–145).

In the scholarly literature, some researchers clearly classified the collection from Blučina from 1945 and, similarly, the assemblage from the pit in Svatobořice as inhumation vessel burials (e.g. Primas 1977, 121; Zyková 2010, 102), others considered these skeletal finds only as a related variant of burials in vessels (Neustupný, J. et al. 1960, 213; Vladár 1973a, 297; Stuchlík 2007, 199), and still others were inclined to reject this possibility outright (Pernička, Podborský 1959, 16–17; Salaš 2008, 123, 125). The two burials mentioned above cannot be considered child inhumation vessel burials, because the deceased were not placed inside vessels and the pottery fragments only partially covered the bodies.

Therefore, the burials from Cezavy Hill near Blučina from 1945 and from Svatobořice cannot in any way be considered real pithos-type graves. In both cases, these are secondary burials of one or two individuals deposited in a settlement pit, which differ from ordinary burials in the settlement in that the torsos of the deceased were covered with one or several larger vessels. A particularly suitable analogy for the burial of two children from Blučina 1945 is the settlement pit from Prague-Běchovice containing the skeletal remains of two children aged 5–6 and 7–9 years, laid one behind the other in a crouched position (Petrišćáková, Světlík, Varadzin 2020, 64, obr. 5; 12; 13). Large fragments of two storage vessels were used to cover them, and an incomplete jug and a bottomless Únětice cup were also found nearby (Petrišćáková, Světlík, Varadzin 2020, obr. 12; 13). Unlike the cases above, the feature from Svatobořice did not contain a small child, but an individual around the age of 13 (Appendix 5), which is not consistent with the usual child vessel burials. In contrast, all three burials are connected by the fact that fragments of storage vessels

<sup>5</sup> I thank the author of the research, V. Šikulová, for her letter from 28 September 2007 with xerox copies of the pottery from the pit, photographs of the pit, and the drawing plan of the pit in Svatobořice.

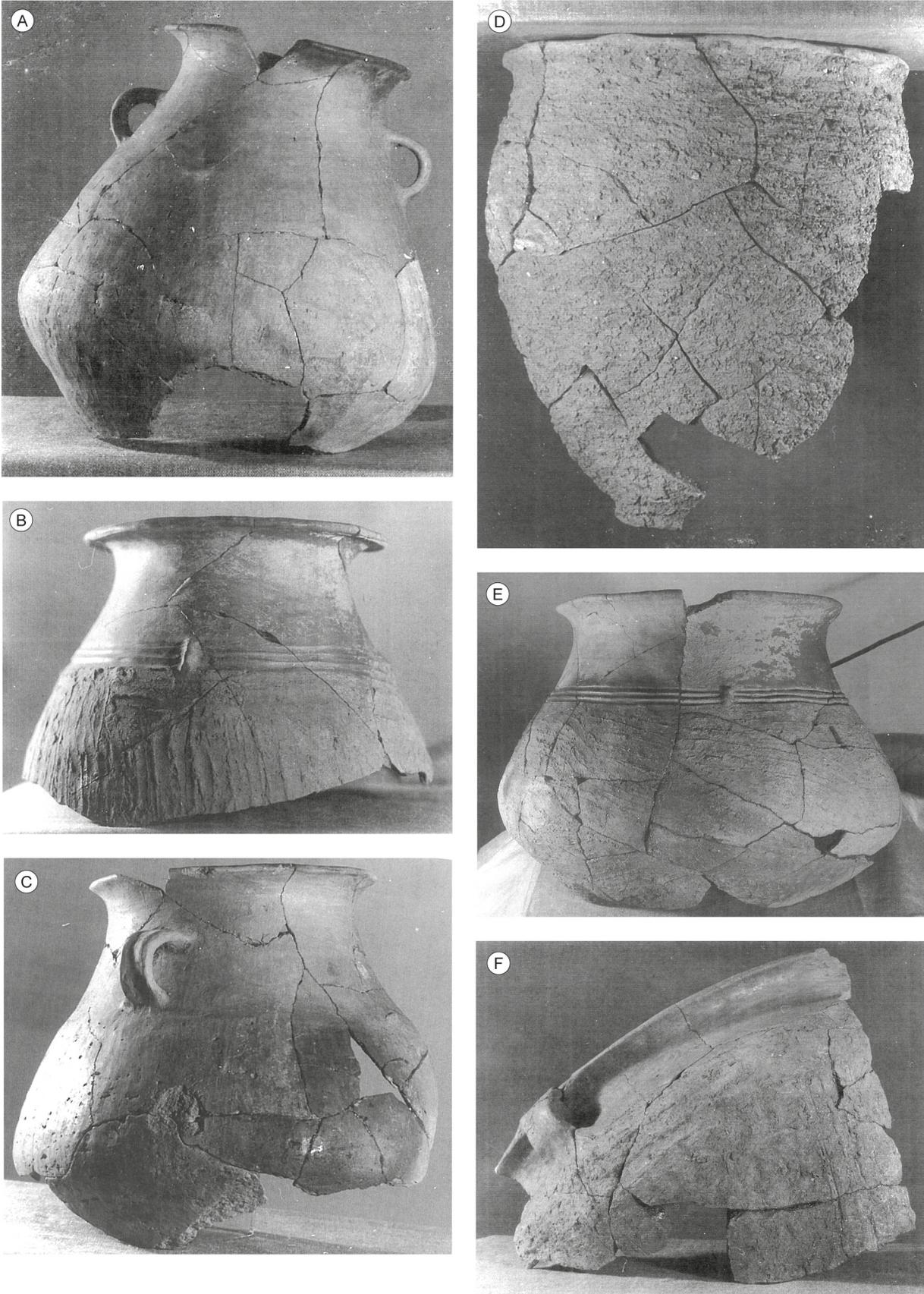
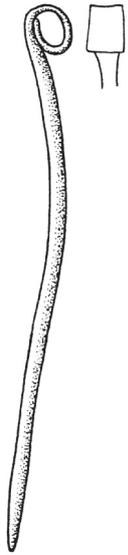


Fig. 65. Svatobořice – 'Pisky', 1957. Ceramics from pit with inhumation burial. Photo by V. Šikulová.



**Fig. 66.** Svatobořice – 'Písky', 1957. Bronze pin from pit with burial. After Řihovský 1979, Taf. 43:982.

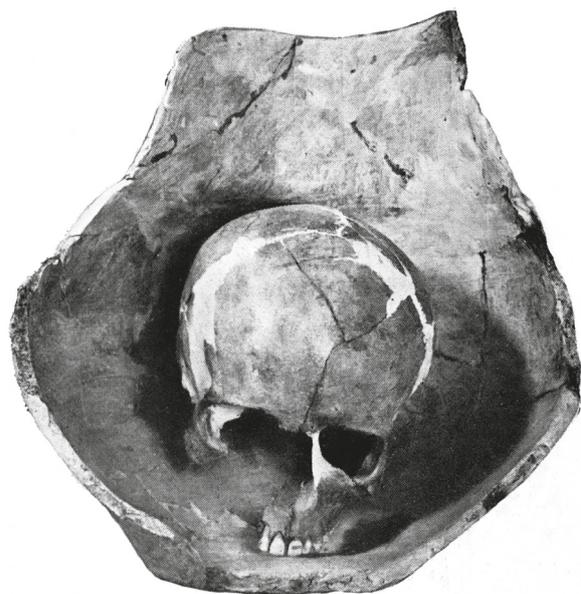
were used to cover the individuals. It is also possible that another burial in Zelená Street in Prague-Bubeneč, where J. Neustupný stated that a child's inhumation burial was covered with a burnt storage vessel (Neustupný, J. 1933, 15), is of the same nature. However, similar burials have also appeared sporadically in other cultures. One similar example is a Baden culture pit in Šárovce, Slovakia, containing the skeleton of an adult in a crouched position, with a dog skeleton lying next to it and large pieces of a storage vessel covering the human skeleton (Novotný 1958, 610). A similar case is represented by another Eneolithic burial from Bánov (see below Fig. 68), which is discussed in the following text. An analogous situation was also discovered at the Tumulus culture burial ground from the Middle Bronze Age in Tápé, Hungary, where in grave 229-230 a child's skeleton lay in a crouched position and was subsequently covered by several fragments of large vessels (Trogmayer 1975, 56, 148, Fig. on p. 57).

However, we probably cannot completely disregard a certain similarity with inhumation vessel burials. At the Kusura cemetery in Turkey, in addition to regular burials in vessels, several graves were found in which the skeletons were covered with fragments of the same vessels which, when intact, served as cases for vessel burials (Müller-Karpe 1974, 693). This situation raises the question of interpretation. For example, grave 7 at the Mušov cemetery contained fragments of a storage vessel under the hand (Stuchlík 1987, 8, obr. 2: B; 25: 12; tab. XIV: A), and grave 20 held part of a pot placed under the feet of the individual (Stuchlík 1987, 16,

obr. 11: C; 28: 4; tab. XI: A). A similar situation is documented in a damaged grave from Pasohlávky, where a large fragment of a Únětice storage vessel was found at the feet of the skeleton (Jelínková 1983, 73, obr. 36: 1; Stuchlík ed. 2002, 155, obr. 8).

The question is whether these finds are connected with the general decrease in grave goods and their replacement by settlement ceramics at the end of the Únětice culture (Stuchlík 1987, 74; 2006b, 220), or whether they represent a specific form of burial. The latter possibility would make them comparable to graves from Blučina (Fig. 61; 62), Svatobořice (Fig. 63–66), Prague-Běchovice (Petrišćáková, Světlík, Varadzin 2020, obr. 12; 13) and possibly also Prague-Bubeneč (Neustupný, J. 1933, 15).

The situation on Cezavy Hill near Blučina, discovered during a systematic excavation in 1948, also appears to be quite problematic. A human skull without a lower jaw found in sector III was to have been placed inside a partially preserved handleless amphora (Fig. 67), and next to it stood a flat, quadrangular stone resembling a stela. According to the anthropological assessment by J. Pavelčík, the skull belonged to a woman aged 25–30 years (Tihelka 1950, obr. 13; 14; 1957, 20, obr. 8: a, b; 1962, 27; Tihelka, Hank 1957, 33–34, tab. VIb). However, the find context was not convincing enough, because the skull rested on a fragment of the lower part of the amphora and other fragments were discovered next to the amphora on top of it. The situation was



**Fig. 67.** Blučina – Cezavy, 1948. Assumed vessel burial. After Tihelka 1957.

probably interpreted quite cautiously in the first publication for these reasons, that *the skull was perhaps buried in a vessel, probably already incomplete* (Tihelka, Hank 1949, 47, 58, obr. 25: c). Anthropologist J. Jelínek also believed that the skull had an artificially enlarged occipital foramen, which, according to him, was related to the removal of the brain (Jelínek, J. 1959, 93), though this anthropological assessment is now widely questioned. Unfortunately, the amphora could not be found in the Moravian Museum, which significantly complicates conclusions regarding this find. Without an accurate determination of the size of the vessel, it is impossible to reliably comment on the question of whether placing the skull in the vessel would be possible. In addition, the determined age of 25–30 years is also a problematic issue, because we do not yet have a single reliable inhumation vessel burial in the Czech lands belonging to an adult. We can agree with the dismissive opinion of most researchers regarding this burial (e.g. Salaš 2008, 123–124).

The occurrence of separate skulls is not unusual at burial grounds or even at Early Bronze Age settlements. In the graves in Blišany, Hrdly, Louny and Nová Ves near Kralupy in Bohemia, the skulls mostly were placed with the occipital part in a bowl or possibly in a mug (Pleinerová 1960b, 513; 514, obr. 5; 22; 23). In Klobuky near Slaný, in addition to the skeletons of an adult man, woman, and child, six separate skulls were found (Felcman 1902, 46–49; Moucha 2010, 12, obr. 6). In Moravia, five skulls were found in a Únětice grave at the Kobylnice cemetery (Tihelka 1953, 24). Similarly, separate skulls were found in settlement features in Prague-Kobylisy, Bílina, Hlubočepy, Roztoky and other sites in Bohemia (Hnízdová 1953, 740). In Moravia, we can mention the Únětice settlements in Sobůlky and Šatov (Vrbaš, Kříž 1899, 61; Stuchlík 1972, 61) and the Věteřov settlements in Blučina, Mikulov and Pavlov (Stuchlíková 1990, 148, obr. 4: 5). According to P. Jelínek, the finds of individual skulls at the turn of the Early and Middle Bronze Age are unique, but more or less characteristic evidence of religious rituals, which are also confirmed, in addition to the above cases from the Únětice culture, by the Věteřov and Maďarovce discoveries from Blučina, Hodonice, Nitra and Vráblí (Jelínek, P. 2018).

However, the deposition of a skull in an amphora appears to be quite problematic. The double-handled amphora published by P. Jelínek is not the vessel in which the skull was originally to have been deposited (Jelínek, P. 2018, 38, obr. 1), because

K. Tihelka described it as being found in an amphora without handles (Tihelka 1949, 58). The vessel in the published photograph (Fig. 67; Tihelka 1957, obr. 8: b) also corresponds in profile to a handleless amphora, and, moreover, it does not seem very likely that the skull of an adult woman would fit into the vessel. The amphora could not be located in the museum, so it is impossible to comment reliably and unequivocally on this matter. We are therefore not sure whether the skull was originally in the vessel or whether it was secondarily placed on a larger fragment of the vessel, which seems much more likely. Some researchers considered the part of the vessel with the skull to be a pithos (Tihelka 1957, 22; 1960, 111; Zyková 2010, 102), as a parallel to this custom (Neustupný, J. et al. 1960, 213; Vladár 1973a, 297) or evidence of certain religious rituals (Jelínek, P. 2018, 38). However, in no case can we evaluate this situation as the remains of a child's inhumation vessel burial, because the skull belonged to an adult woman aged 25–30 years, and, moreover, the deposition in the vessel itself appears to be highly problematic.

Another unclear case was reported from the hilltop Věteřov settlement in Bánov, where a burial in a vessel was discovered during a rescue excavation in 1951 at the bottom of a trench dug through a rampart. An Eneolithic (Baden – Bošáca) and only partially preserved vessel with a tunnel handle was to have contained the skeleton of an individual aged approximately 15–18 years (Fig. 68). The accompanying jugs and pots were originally classified by J. Pavelčík as Maďarovce (Pavelčík 1952a, 481–482), later as Věteřov pottery (Pavelčík 1963–1964, 68). According to J. Pavelčík, the skeleton was in very poor condition and was covered by fragments of a vessel, while elsewhere he states that it was folded in a very crouched position so that the remains of the skull were at the bottom of the vessel, while the ends of the long bones were sticking out. All the bones belonged to the same individual, who was to have been placed in the vessel only after the soft parts of the body had decomposed (Pavelčík 1963–1964, 67). According to the site report (Pavelčík 1952b), the vessel with a tunnel handle used as a case for the individual and another smaller vessel at the bottom can only be roughly classified as Eneolithic. Next to the vessel with human bones lay the remains of a wooden beam and, a little further away, the larger fragments of three S-shaped pots with protrusions on the necks, three small jugs, and a small weight. Although the finds cannot be verified, the sketch in the site report (Pavelčík 1952b) indicates that the

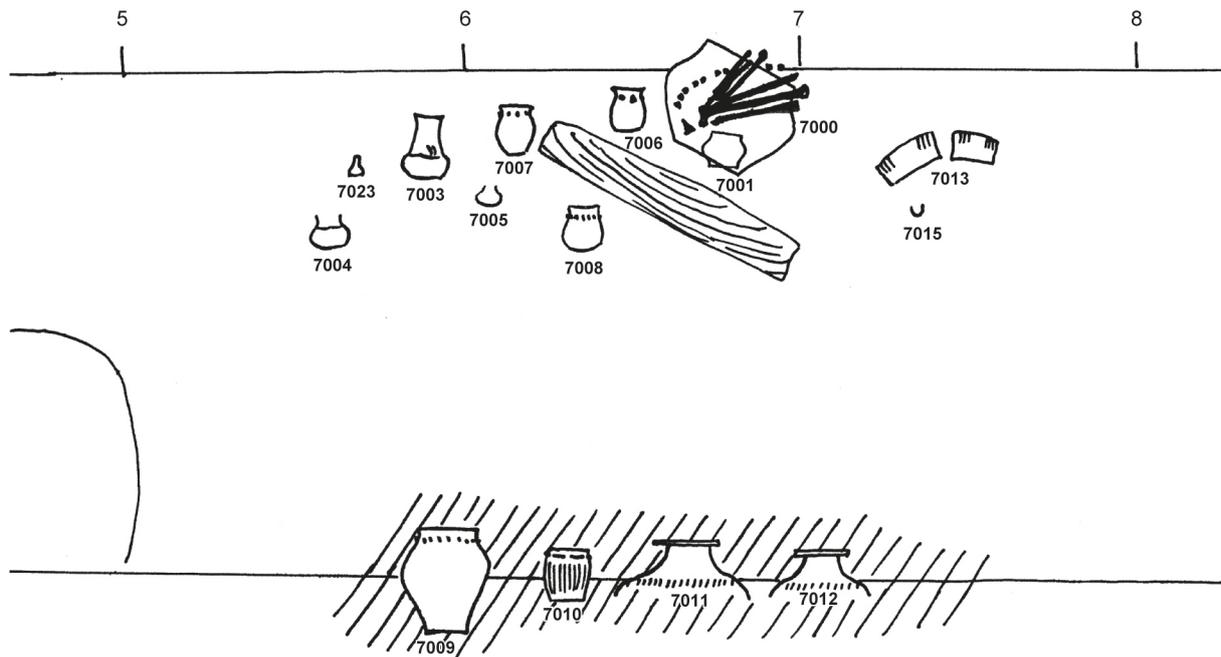


Fig. 68. Bánov – Hrádek, 1951. Field documentation of alleged vessel burial. After Pavelčík 1952b.

Věteřov pottery was located at such a great distance from the human bones (Fig. 68) that they cannot be considered a common find unit. K. Tihelka considered the situation in Bánov unclear and did not address it at all (Tihelka 1962, 13). Based on an evaluation of the circumstances of the discovery, it is not possible to consider a Věteřov or Early Bronze Age inhumation vessel burial in this case, which was already pointed out by M. Primasová, who linked this burial to the Bošáca culture (Primas 1977, 82).

The situation recorded by V. Dohnal during test-pitting on *Dómské návrší* (Cathedral Hill) in Olomouc in 1994 and designated as a Věteřov cremation grave is at least equally uncertain (Dohnal 2004, 287, obr. 1E; 5). The object was placed in a pit sunken into the Věteřov cultural layer, and a group of potsherds and several stones from it remained nearby. According to V. Dohnal, the cremation remains, preserved in the form of fine whitish ash, were found in a partially reconstructed amphora covered by a bowl-shaped vessel. Both vessels were placed in a large pot covered by an inverted larger bowl. The grave included fragments of two other bowls and perhaps the bottom of a small vessel and possibly a spindle whorl (Fig. 69; 70). According to the expert opinion of F. Kašpárek (see Hořínková 2021, 32), the ashy clay from the amphora contained four times more phosphorus than soil samples from the surrounding area.

There is no doubt about the Věteřov affiliation of the assemblage (Dohnal 2004, 287; Hořínková 2021, 23–28). We have already mentioned several times the dating of S-shaped pots (Fig. 69: 7) to the Early Bronze Age. The more conclusive form is the two-handled amphora with handles at the bottom of the neck (Fig. 69: 6), which is based on Late Únětice prototypes (Stuchlíková 1984, 36–37), but for the more developed form from Olomouc we find analogies only among Věteřov pottery from Moravia (Ondráček, Stuchlíková 1988, 11, obr. 3: 8; 4: 4; 7: 5; Stuchlík 2002 ed., obr. 12: 15) and Austria (Lauer mann 2003, Abb. 49: 7; 8; 50: 6; 71: 3; Benkovsky-Pivovarová 2006, Abb. 5: 6) or Maďarovce pottery in Slovakia (Točík 1964, tab. LVIII: 4, 8). However, they also appeared several times in other assemblages from Olomouc (Dohnal 2004, tab. 9: 15; 16: 4). Bowls (Fig. 69: 1–2, 4) are also characteristic Věteřov pottery forms. Another typical representative of Věteřov pottery is a fragment of a vessel on lobe-like feet (Fig. 69: 3). The only item that seems somewhat foreign in the assemblage is a larger fragment of an amphora with a curved neck, which is significantly offset from the bulbous body on a low foot (Fig. 69: 5). The similarity with the low feet on a mug and bowl from the Únětice assemblage from Slatinky in the Prostějov region (Stuchlíková, Šmíd 1990, obr. 2: 7; 3: 3) has already been pointed out by A. Hořínková (2021, 25), while V. Dohnal, on

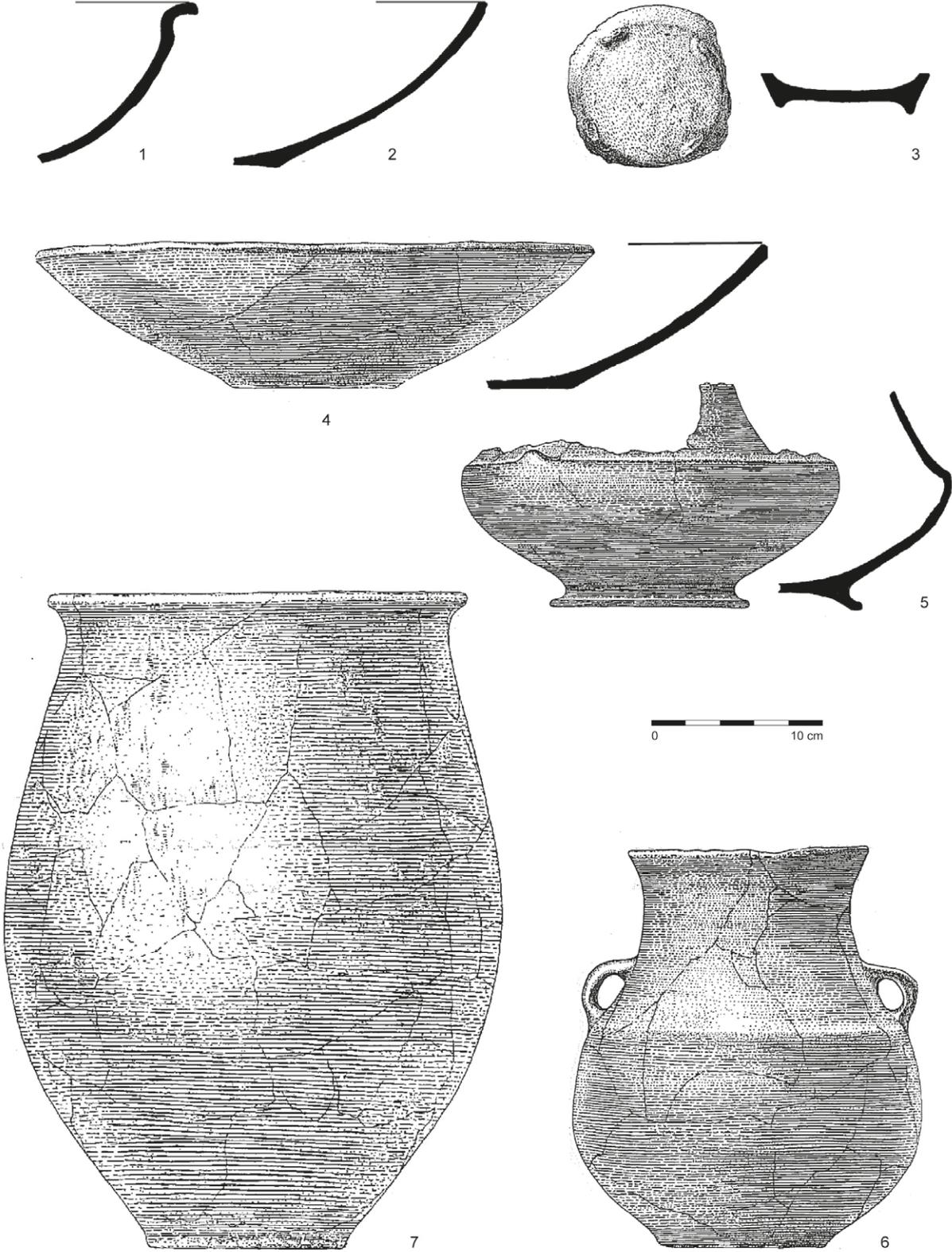
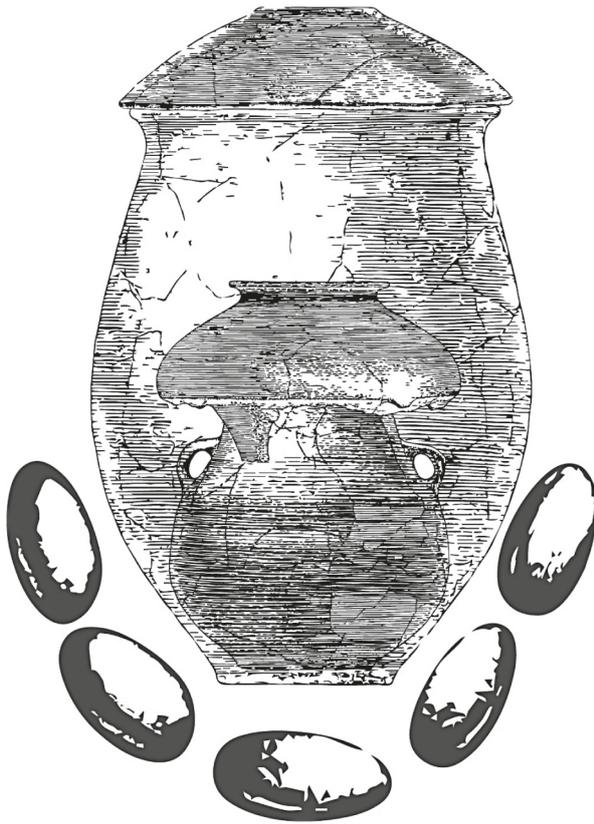


Fig. 69. Olomouc – Dómské návrší. Finds from feature. After Dohnal 2004, obr. 5; Hořinková 2021, obr. 2.



**Fig. 70.** Olomouc – Dómské návrší, 1994. Drawing reconstruction of feature. After Hořínková, obr. 4.

the other hand, compared them with Tumulus and Proto-Lusatian finds (Dohnal 2004, 287). Important models from the Carpathian Basin in the Makó culture (Kalicz 1984, Taf. XX), the Nagyrév culture (Schreiber-Kalicz 1984, Taf. XLVI: 8; XLVIII: 5) and especially in the Perjmos culture (Bóna 1975, Taf. 93: 1, 3–5, 10; 96: 16; 111: 1, 2) and Vatina (Girić 1984, Taf. XII: 2, 8, 11) were pointed out by J. Stuchlíková and M. Šmíd when evaluating ceramic finds from Slatinky (Stuchlíková, Šmíd 1990, 21–22).

The covering of a large pot with a bowl (Fig. 70) is highly reminiscent of the burials from the group of large pot-shaped storage vessels from Hradisko near

Kroměříž. The essential difference is that the vessels from Hradisko had a sufficient amount of free space, while the interior of the pot from Olomouc was partially filled with other vessels, so there was not enough space left to hold a possible body. The suggested hypothesis on the existence of an inhumation burial in a vessel in Olomouc was quickly rejected (Hořínková 2021). There are essentially two options for interpreting this situation. One is the cremation grave assumed by V. Dohnal (2004, 287), an interpretation that cannot be unequivocally rejected, because the first cremation graves begin to appear in the Věteřov area and, considerably more frequently, in the Maďarovce environment. On the other hand, it is likely that at least small fragments of burnt bones would have been preserved in the vessel. The fourfold amount of phosphorus (Dohnal 2004, 287; Hořínková 2021, 32) indicates the original presence of organic material, though it is uncertain whether these are human or animal remains. The special arrangement of the vessels is also reminiscent of a situation known from the Věteřov settlement in Mušov, where a group of three barrel-shaped mugs covered with a bowl and the entire assemblage then with the bottom of a large vessel was found. This assemblage was interpreted as a mass find of pottery (Geisler, Stuchlíková 1986, 133–134, obr. 8), or more specifically as a hoard with drinking equipment (Palátová, Salaš 2002, 33–34, 109, obr. 3; tab. 7B: 1, 2; 8A: 1–7). Similarly, at the Únětice settlement of Gerwisch near Magdeburg in Germany, a smaller storage vessel was placed upside down in a large damaged pot, and another storage vessel and two pots were also upside down (Böttcher 1982, 173, Abb. 1). The author assumed that the vessels could have been used to store food, but at the same time he did not rule out the ritual significance of this assemblage (Böttcher 1982, 175). It is not possible to decide unequivocally whether Olomouc was a ceramic hoard or an agricultural nature, but it is certainly not a pithos and most likely not even a cremation burial.

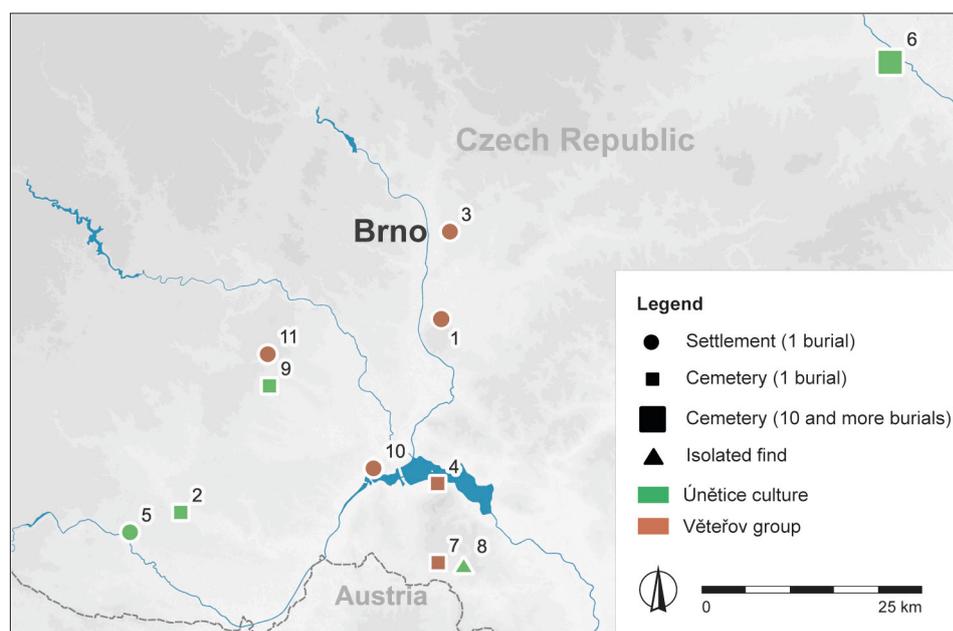


## Description of inhumation burials in vessels from the Early Bronze Age

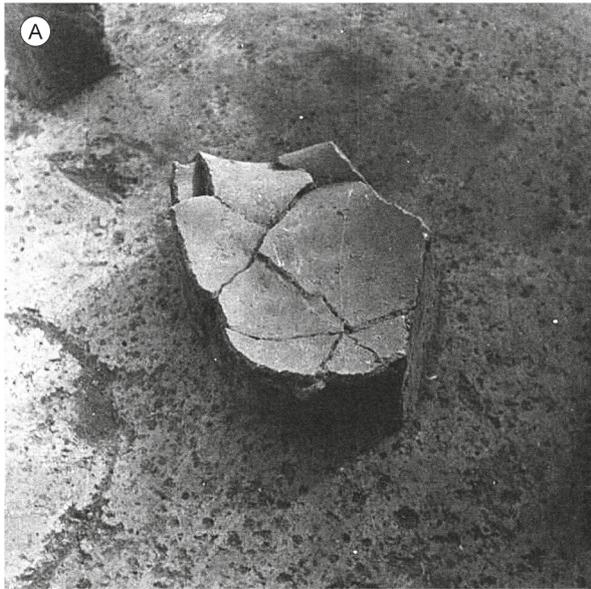
From the Early Bronze Age, we record inhumation vessel burials at 11 sites in Moravia (Fig. 71), five of which belong to the Únětice culture (Cezavy Hill near Blučina, Brno-Tuřany, Dolní Věstonice, Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit, Vedrovice) and six to the Věteřov group (Borotice, Hodonice, Hradisko near Kroměříž, Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’, Olbramovice, Pasohlávky). The total number of inhumation vessel burials in Moravia is 23, of which five belong to the Únětice culture (Blučina, Brno-Tuřany, Dolní Věstonice, Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit, Vedrovice) and 18 can be associated with the Věteřov group. In this group, one vessel burial was found at five sites (Borotice, Hodonice, Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’,

Olbramovice, Pasohlávky), while a smaller burial ground with a total of 13 such burials was located at Hradisko near Kroměříž.

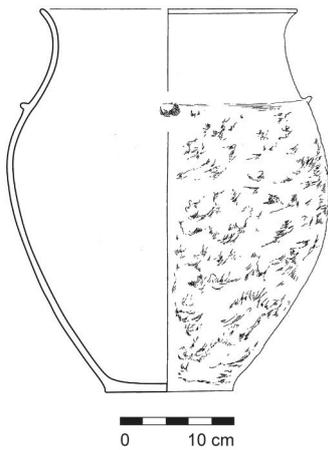
The vast majority of burials from Bohemia can be associated with the Únětice culture (Kamýk, Liběchov, Malé Čičovice – Fig. 3, Platiště nad Labem – Fig. 72; 73, Prague-Michle, Prague-Miškovice, Prague-Třeboradice, Slaný, Tursko, Vepřek – Fig. 4; 74, Vrbčany). With considerable confidence, we can also attribute the find from Rooseveltova Street in Prague-Bubeneč, which was originally associated with the Knovíz culture, to the Únětice culture (Spurný 1947/1948, note 26 on p. 19). This is a Únětice pot-shaped storage vessel (Fig. 75),



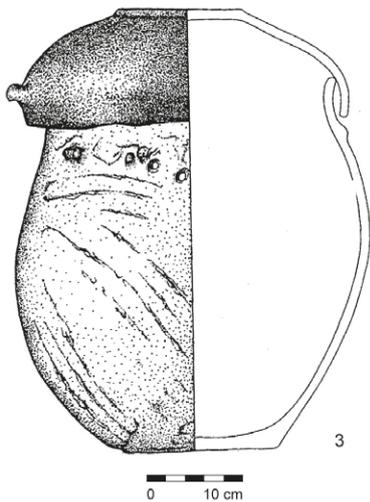
**Fig. 71.** Map of distribution of inhumation vessel burials from the Early Bronze Age in Moravia. 1 – Blučina; 2 – Borotice; 3 – Brno-Tuřany; 4 – Dolní Věstonice; 5 – Hodonice; 6 – Hradisko near Kroměříž; 7 – Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit; 8 – Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’; 9 – Olbramovice; 10 – Pasohlávky; 11 – Vedrovice. Author M. Filip.



**Fig. 72.** Plotišť nad Labem. Probably inhumation vessel burial. Photo by V. Vokolek.



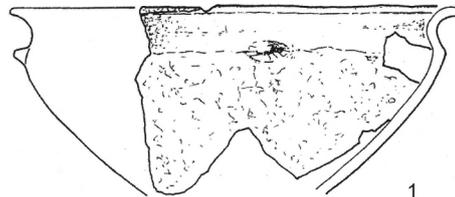
**Fig. 73.** Plotišť nad Labem. Storage vessel from probably inhumation vessel burial. After Kosová et al. in print.



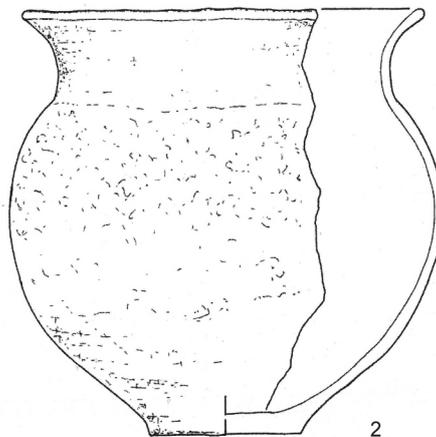
**Fig. 74.** Vepřek. Pot with bowl from inhumation vessel burial. After Lička, Lutovský 2006, Abb. 28:3.



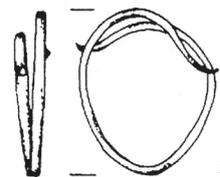
**Fig. 75.** Prague-Bubeneč. Large vessel that contained a child inhumation burial. Photo by I. Kyncl.



1, 2  
0 10 cm



3  
0 5 cm



**Fig. 76.** Wojkowice (Poland). Pot, bowl and bronze bracelet from child inhumation vessel burial. After Gralak 2007, ryc. 90: 1, 2; 118: 2.

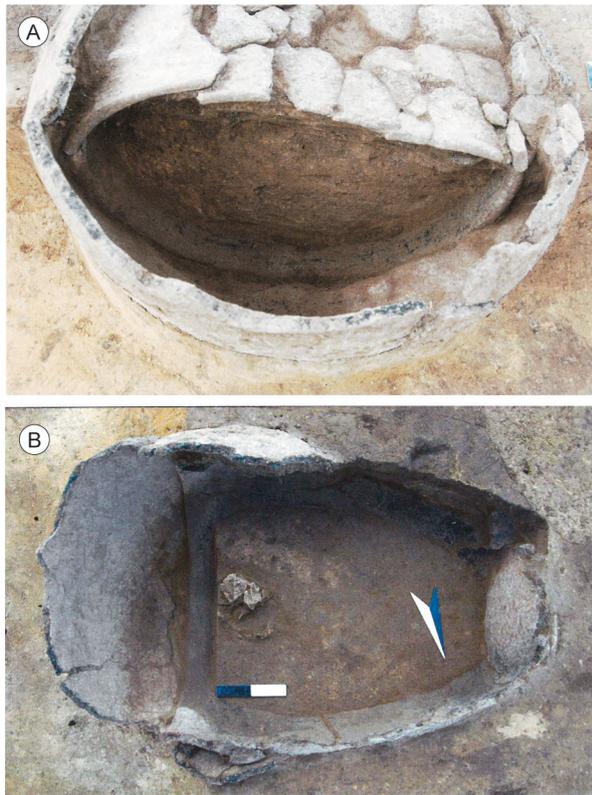


Fig. 77. Oechlitz (Germany). Child inhumation vessel burial. After Moser 2017b, Abb. 3; 4.

which J. A. Jíra<sup>6</sup> identified with certain doubts as belonging to the Knovíz culture, but a dating to the Early Bronze Age is clear. In total, we can assign 19 burials from 13 sites in Bohemia to the Únětice culture, of which 13 were at eight burial grounds, four burials were at three settlements, and two burials are lacking further find contexts. The list of Únětice vessel burials is supplemented by one additional grave find from Przesławice (Lasak 1988, 16–17) and one settlement feature from Wojkovice (Fig. 76; Gralak 2007, 248, ryc. 75: 448-I-98; 76) in Poland, and the last case without a find context from Laa an der Thaya in Austria (Lauermann 2003, 167). We can connect nine sites in Germany with the Únětice culture, four of which are at burial grounds (Börnecke, Oechlitz – Fig. 77, Quedlinburg – Fig. 78, Schiepszig), two in settlements (Eulau, Güsten) and three sites have no preserved details (Haldensleben, Leuna, Striegnitz).

Three other inhumation vessel burials from Germany belong to the Straubing culture (Diesenbach,

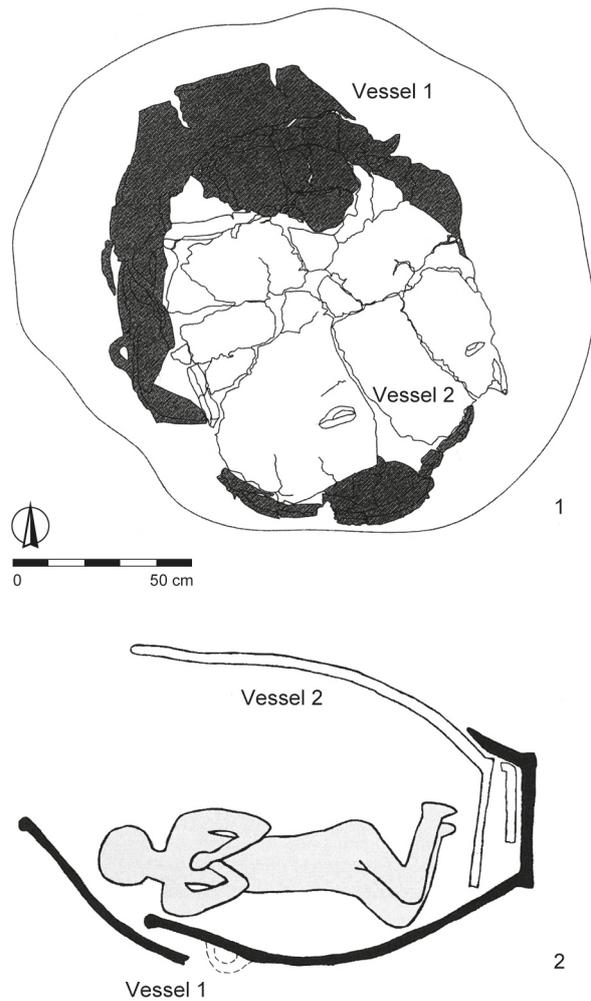


Fig. 78. Quedlinburg (Germany). Child inhumation burial in two vessels. After Selent 2006, Abb. 20.

Kelheim, Mintraching). And while an inhumation burial from Salzburg, Austria, is also geographically close to the Straubing region, this discovery was also considered to be related to the Böhheimkirchen region (Moosleitner 1993, 10) or was dated to the Middle Bronze Age (Probst 1999, 238), though with considerable probability, at least in our opinion, it is not a feature from the Bronze Age. The latest find from Ostbevern (Fig. 79; 80; Stapel 2008) is located in western Germany, in an area where Final Eneolithic Beaker cultures were still present at the beginning of the Bronze Age. The last example of vessel burial from Mattersburg belongs to the 'Litzengeramik' culture (Benkovsky-Pivovarová 1986, Abb. 3–5).

6 I thank H. Nedvěďová (Prague City Museum) for detailed information about the find from Prague-Bubeneč and for providing a photograph of the hoard.



**Fig. 79.** Ostbevern (Germany). Child inhumation burial in two vessels. After Stapel 2008, Fig. on p. 128.



**Fig. 80.** Ostbevern (Germany). Child inhumation burial in two vessels. After Stapel 2008, Fig. on p. 128.

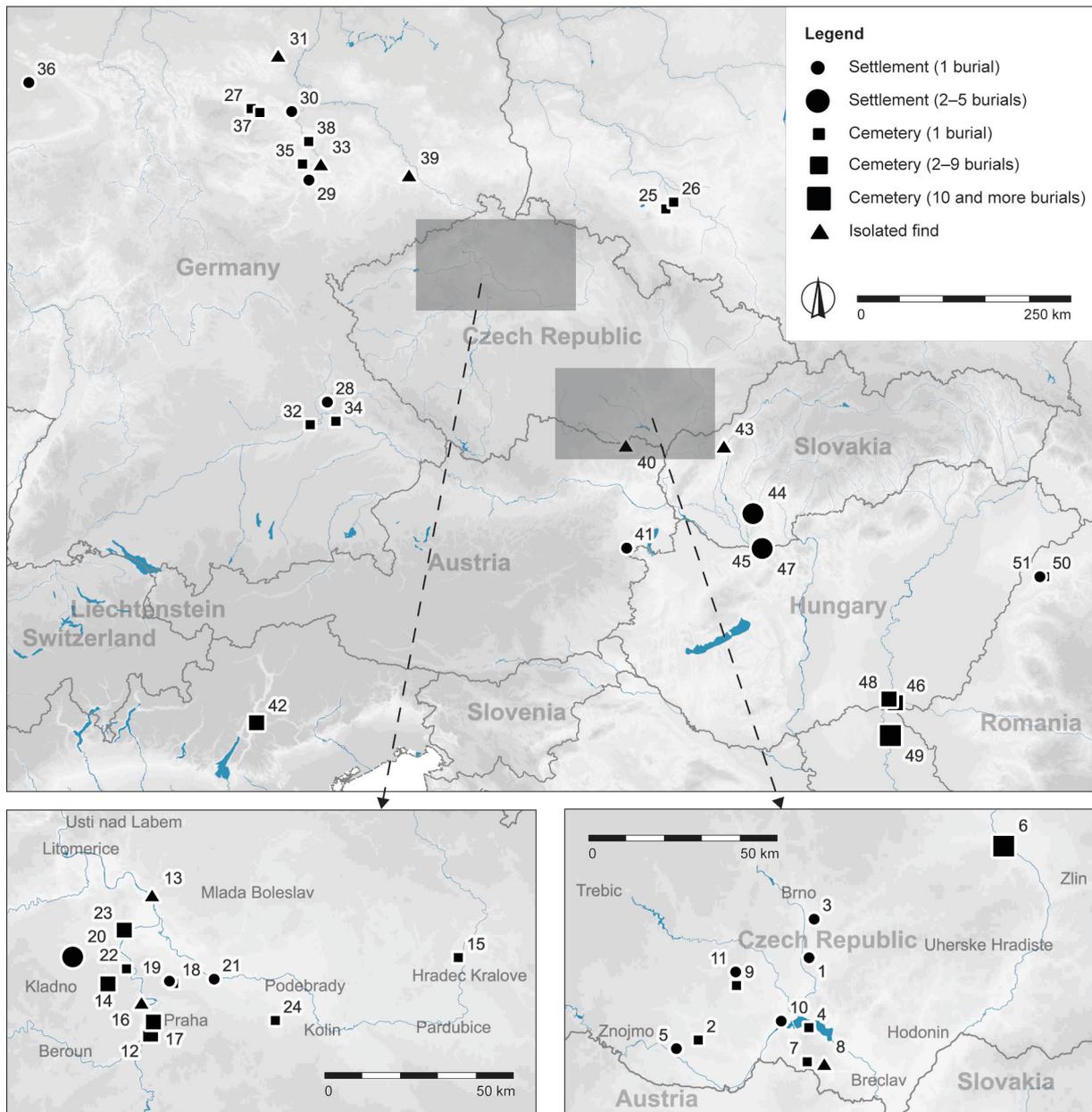
Apart from the Moravian finds, only a Bohemian burial from the hilltop settlement in Toušeň is dated to the Věteřov group (Špaček 1982, 135). In Slovakia, burials from Nitrianský Hrádok and Čachtice appeared in Maďarovce settlements, while finds from the Slovak village of Patince (Fig. 5; Dušek 1960, 206–208, 232, Abb. 12; 13; Taf. XLIX: 22, 24) and the Hungarian site of Dunaalmás – Fogtorok (Vékony Vadász 2001) come from the area of the Encrusted Pottery culture of northern Pannonia. The remaining burials from the Hungarian burial grounds in Deszk (Foltiny 1941a) and Söreg (Foltiny 1941b) and several dozen burials in Ostojićevo, Serbia (Girić 1989), can be associated



**Fig. 81.** Romagnano (Italy). Child inhumation burial in vessel 13. After Perini 1975, Fig. 14.

with the Perjamos culture, which is also known as the Maros culture (Girić 1981, 53–54), the Mureş culture (Soroceanu 1991), and several other similar names. The graves from the northern Italian cemetery in Romagnano are related to the local Polada culture group (Fig. 81; Perini 1971; 1975). The complete list of inhumation vessel burials is missing finds made at Ottomány sites in Pir (Székely 1966, 127) and Sălacea (Németi 1996, 31) in northwestern Romania.

In terms of cultural affiliation, we can associate a total of 34 burials from 19 sites in Moravia, Bohemia, Germany, Austria and Poland with the Únětice culture in Central Europe (Fig. 82). We can assign 25 burials from nine sites in Moravia, Bohemia and Slovakia to the Maďarovce-Věteřov culture. They are heavily represented in the Maros (Perjamos) culture, where their total number reached 60–61 or even 109–110 at two burial sites in Hungary and one in Slovenia. In other Central European cultures, inhumation vessel burials occurred only in much smaller numbers. A total of seven burials were recorded at one site in the Polada culture of northern Italy, four burials at two Encrusted Pottery culture settlements in Slovakia and Hungary, three cases have been published from the Straubing culture in Germany, two burials in the Ottomány culture in Romania, and one find each from the Litzenkeramik culture in Austria and from Germany from the area where Eneolithic Beaker cultures still existed at the beginning of the Bronze Age.



**Fig. 82.** Map of distribution of inhumation vessel burials from the Early Bronze Age in Central Europe. 1 – Blučina; 2 – Boroticce; 3 – Brno-Tuřany; 4 – Dolní Věstonice; 5 – Hodonice; 6 – Hradisko near Kroměříž; 7 – Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit; 8 – Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’; 9 – Olbramovice; 10 – Pasohlávky; 11 – Vedrovice; 12 – Kamýk; 13 – Liběchov; 14 – Malé Čičovice; 15 – Plotiště nad Labem; 16 – Prague-Bubeneč; 17 – Prague-Michle; 18 – Prague-Miškovice; 19 – Prague-Třeboradice; 20 – Slaný; 21 – Toušeň; 22 – Tursko; 23 – Vepřek; 24 – Vrbčany; 25 – Przecławice; 26 – Wojkowice; 27 – Börnecke; 28 – Diesenbach; 29 – Eulau; 30 – Güsten; 31 – Haldesneben; 32 – Kelheim; 33 – Leuna; 34 – Mintraching; 35 – Oechlitz; 36 – Ostbevern; 37 – Quedlinburg; 38 – Schiepzig; 39 – Strieglitz; 40 – Laa an der Thaya; 41 – Mattersburg; 42 – Romagnano; 43 – Čachtice; 44 – Nitriansky Hradok; 45 – Patince; 46 – Deszk; 47 – Dunaalmás; 48 – Szőreg; 49 – Ostojičevo; 50 – Pir; 51 – Sálacea. Author M. Filip.

### 6.1 Settlement or cemetery

There is a considerable lack of uniformity in the find contexts of most inhumation vessel burials. In the Únětice culture in Moravia, they appeared twice at a settlement (Blučina and Brno-Tuřany) and twice at a burial site (Dolní Věstonice and Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit). A rare find from Vedrovice can with great probability also be classified as a settlement

burial. There was another pit near the feature with the skeleton, but due to the absence of finds, it is unclear whether it was chronologically related to the inhumation burial. However, the settlement character of the site is also indicated by a cluster of Únětice pits investigated in 1964 (Salaš 2008, 141).

The situation in the Věteřov group is similarly inconsistent: finds were made at two settlements

(Hodonice and Pasohlávky) and also at two burial grounds (Borotice and Olbramovice). However, the situation in Pasohlávky is somewhat unusual: although the burial was located in a settlement, the distance to the nearest feature was nearly 40 m. In Olbramovice, two graves were discovered ca 100 m apart during a small rescue excavation (Pernička, Podborský 1959; Podborský, Vildomec 1972, 90), so it is very likely that both graves are part of one disturbed and largely destroyed or not yet investigated burial ground. A vessel burial was found in a Věteřov barrow in Borotice (Stuchlík 2006a, 33–35, obr. 17; 18), and the only Central European analogy is the Únětice grave from Börnecke in Germany (Hofmeister 1934), which was also discovered at a barrow cemetery. The graves at Romagman were surrounded by stones that could be the remains of small burial mounds (Perini 1975, 306). Inhumation vessel burials in barrows are also known from the Greek sites of Aphidna (Fig. 18; Hielte 2021) and Hagios Ioannis (Fig. 17; Vermeule 1964, 80, Fig. 15). The situation was more complicated at Hradisko near Kroměříž: although 13 burials in storage vessels were found at a fortified settlement, based on their distribution over a relatively small area (approximately 12 × 8.5 m), we can assume that they formed smaller, separate burial grounds (Fig. 45; Spurný 1961, 193, obr. 1). This is highly reminiscent of the situation in southern Europe, where burials in storage vessels were sometimes a sizeable component of large cemeteries or formed separate groups of graves within necropolises or even entire smaller cemeteries. The latest Věteřov burial from Mikulov at the ‘Vysoký roh’ site is an isolated find, and it is impossible to say whether this is a burial or settlement site.

Overall, burials in vessels in Early Bronze Age Moravia have been found at five settlement sites and four burial grounds, and if we were to add Hradisko near Kroměříž, the number of burial grounds would also increase to five. The difference in the number of graves is much more significant, because there are still five in the settlements, but in the cemeteries, thanks to the large group of graves from Hradisko near Kroměříž, the total number of vessel burials is 17.

We know of a total of 51 sites with pithos burials from Central Europe,<sup>7</sup> of which, according to our data, 25 are funerary and 18 are settlement sites, and, in addition, eight other burials have been

discovered for which the detailed contexts of their discovery are not preserved. However, this ratio is not as clear-cut as it seems at first glance. The group of 13 burials from Hradisko near Kroměříž represents a smaller, separate burial ground located within the area of the fortified settlement. When classifying settlements, we must take into account that in addition to the aforementioned Hradisko, there are two other fortified settlements with vessel burials, namely the Maďarovce settlement of Nitrianský Hrádok in Slovakia and the Ottomány settlement of Salacea in Romania. In addition to the hillforts, vessel burials also appeared at the hilltop (albeit unfortified) settlements at Slanská hora near Slaný and at Hradištek near Toušim. The situation on Cezavy Hill near Blučina is unique in that it is a fortified Věteřov settlement, but the vessel burial itself belongs to the Únětice culture, for whose population Cezavy was only a hilltop settlement.

To date, 25 vessel burials have been found at 18 settlements in Central Europe, and the find contexts of another eight burials are unknown. At 25 burial grounds, two of which are barrow cemeteries, we have 105 or 106 graves, as two or three graves are mentioned in the literature from Szöreg (Bóna 1975, 87; Girić 1984, 38). At the Ostojićevo burial ground, we consider only the 54 graves mentioned in older publications (Girić 1984, 45; 1989, 239–240), even though more recent literature also mentions as many as 103 burials (Girić 1996, 140), which would bring the total number up to 154–155.

In addition to eight sites without further details, there are 18 settlements and 25 burial grounds where pithoi have been found, which would indicate an essentially even representation. However, according to the finds known thus far, we know that from the Maros culture and the Polada culture, inhumation vessel burials come only from funerary sites, and, conversely, in the Encrusted Pottery culture, they occurred only at settlements. However, a look at the total number of pithoi at individual sites reveals a significant predominance at burial sites. Of the total number of 137–138 or even 186–187 pithoi, eight are isolated finds and 25 come from settlements, while 105–106 were found at burial grounds, and if we take into account the maximum reported number of 103 burials from Ostojićevo, their number would even increase to 154 or 155.

<sup>7</sup> The term ‘Central Europe’ is understood in a very broad sense and its borders are extremely flexible. The Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and often Slovenia are typically included in this territory. From the perspective of our work, we assign to Central Europe one more site from northern Italy (Romagnano) and two sites from north-western Romania (Pir, Sălacea), which lie on the border of the defined areas and have close ties to the Central European region.

## 6.2 Grave forms

Information concerning the form of grave pits is preserved for only two graves. In Dolní Věstonice, the Únětice pit had an irregular oval shape measuring 123 × 90 cm (Fig. 13; 22; 23), while the Věteřov pit in Olbramovice had an oval shape measuring 99 × 55 cm (Fig. 11; 32). The grave pits from Dolní Věstonice and Olbramovice have dimensions that would rank among the smallest at most Early Bronze Age burial grounds, a situation that is also found at other sites. The Únětice grave from Przesławice, Poland, measured 110 × 100 cm (Lasak 1988, 16), the irregularly circular pit in Quedlinburg, Germany, had a diameter of 125 cm (Fig. 78; Selent 2006, 121), in Oechlitz the dimensions were 85 × 54 cm (Moser 2017b, 374) and in Schiepzig 70 × 60 cm (Moser 2017a, 79). The remains of a storage vessel in Wojkowice, Poland, measured 66 × 41 cm (Gralak 2007, 248, ryc. 75: 489-I-98). This character is also clearly confirmed by burials from the settlements in Pasohlávky (Fig. 35; 36) and Vedrovice (Fig. 29), because in both cases the pit for placing the burial case only slightly exceeded the dimensions of the vessel itself.

Information on how the storage vessels are deposited is not often provided in the literature. Logically, two basic positions can be assumed: a standing vessel or one lying on its side. Standing vessels were to have occurred on Cezavy Hill near Blučina (Fig. 12), Pasohlávky (Fig. 35; 36) and Vedrovice (Fig. 29). At least according to the reconstruction, a vertical position was recorded in Bohemia at Malé Číčovce (Fig. 3), but in this case, as the published drawing reconstruction suggests, the vessel was placed upside down. A standing vessel is also mentioned at the German settlement of Güsten (Deffnert, Pape, Selent 2006, 125, Abb. 2; Selent 2009, 235, Abb. 39; 40). Burials in standing storage vessels are also apparently confirmed by cases in which the vessel was found in a more or less slanted position, which was probably the result of post-depositional transformations. A similar deposition was recorded in burial 6 at Hradisko near Kroměříž and in Olbramovice (Fig. 11; 32), where the position is quite difficult to determine. An oblique position is also reported for the second burial from Vepřek (Píč 1896, 180, obr. 2 on p. 180; Neustupný, J. 1933, 14, obr. 5: 2, 3) and also for grave 15 from the same site (Lička, Lutovský 2006, 38–40, Abb. 28; Taf. IV; IX: 3, 4). Three standing storage vessels were also briefly mentioned at the Ostojićevo cemetery (Girić 1996, 140).

More often, vessels were identified in the horizontal position, which is clearly documented in the

Dolní Věstonice gravel pit (Fig. 13; 22; 23). Burial 3 (Fig. 9: 1, 3), 5 and 7 (Fig. 9: 4) from Hradisko near Kroměříž were also deposited in the same way. In Central Europe, a horizontal position was also determined at the burial ground in Plotiště nad Labem (Fig. 72), Prague-Miškovice (Ernée 2015, 44, Abb. 27; Taf. 48: C), at the Polish settlement in Wojkowice (Gralak 2007, 248, ryc. 75: 489-I-98), at German sites in Oechlitz (Moser 2017b, 374, Abb. 2–5), Ostebevern (Fig. 79; 80; Stapel 2008, 128), Quedlinburg (Fig. 78; Selent 2006, 121–123), Schiepzig (Moser 2017a, 79, Abb. 2; Damrau et al. 2019, 147, Abb. 2; 15; 16) and also in burial 2 from Nitrianský Hrádok (Točík 1978a, Taf. CXXVI: 2, 3; 1978b, Plán 67: 2; 1981b, 27). All the vessels were lying in a horizontal position (Perini 1975) at the Italian burial site in Romagnano (Fig. 80). Nearly all the storage vessels at the Ostojićevo cemetery were also set horizontally (Girić 1984, 44). All burial vessels in the mound at Aphidna in Greece rested in a horizontal position (Fig. 18; Hielte 2021, 306), and we also often encounter them in the Near East environment, where they appeared in large numbers, e.g. in the large necropolises of Babaköy (Müller-Karpe 1974, 858–859) and Yortan (Müller-Karpe 1974, 867) and at the settlement in Alişar Höyük (Schmidt, E. F. 1932, Fig. 235; 237; 238).

The use of stones to line an inhumation vessel burial remains thus far undocumented in Moravia. The only exception would be the Věteřov feature from Olomouc (Fig. 70), which, however, is not a true inhumation burial in a vessel. And yet, the use of stone is not uncommon in other areas. In Bohemia, two of the three graves in Vepřek had stone linings (Píč 1896, 180; Lička, Lutovský 2006, 38–40, Abb. 28), as did one burial in Kamýk (Schmidt, V. 1899, 555), another in Malé Číčovce (Fig. 3; Píč 1893, 346) and also the grave from Slánská hora near Slaný (Schmidt, V. 1895, 625). Stones served to protect a vessel in Schiepzig, Germany (Damrau et al. 2019, 147). Most of the vessels with child burials at the Romagnano cemetery in Italy were also lined with stones (Fig. 81), and in some cases one could even speak of a perimeter wreath that surrounded the entire space of the grave pit (Perini 1971, 75; 1975, 298–299). A larger number of stones formed the fill of a common grave in Vrbčany measuring 200 × 120 × 145 cm with the burial of a woman in the central part, in the corner of which stood a storage vessel with the inhumation burial of a small child (Dvořák 1933, 60). However, the stones were not primarily related directly to the child's burial in the vessel.

At settlements, storage vessels with a child's burial appeared twice in a common storage pit, as was the case in the Únětice burial on Cezavy Hill near Blučina (Fig. 12) and the Věteřov burial in Hodonice (Fig. 41). The Únětice burial from Vedrovice (Fig. 29) and the Věteřov burial from Pasohlávky (Fig. 35; 36) were set in a small pit dug specifically for the burial vessel. Burials placed in ordinary settlement pits are also reported from Prague-Třeboradice (Turek, Král 1998, 34, obr. 1) and from Disenbach in Bavaria (Torbrügge 1959, 185). Mad'arovce burials from Nitranský Hrádok were mostly sunk into cultural layers (Točík 1981b, 46–47). A different situation emerged for Encrusted Pottery culture graves, as the burial from Patince in Slovakia was placed in a pit in front of a furnace in a house (Fig. 5) and the burial from the Dunaalmás-Fogtorok settlement in Hungary was similarly situated, located in a house beneath the hearth (Vékonyné Vadász 2001, Taf. 5: 3–6). These cases may be reminiscent of the Aegean-Anatolian region, where burials of adults and children very often occur in yards or under the floor inside houses (Müller-Karpe 1974, 703). A child's burial in a vessel was found in an unused furnace at Nustell, Syria (Weiss 1994, 113).

### 6.3 Deposition of the deceased

Information about the manner in which buried individuals were placed is very limited, and we have even fewer plans or photographs showing the position of the deceased. The skeleton in Únětice graves in Dolní Věstonice was placed in horizontally set storage vessels in a crouched position on its right side in the NW–SE direction (Fig. 22; 23). In Vedrovice, the body of a child was placed in a standing storage vessel, originally in a heavily crouched position with the head up (Salaš 2008, 133). The well-preserved skeleton in a pot-shaped vessel from Brno-Tuřany was only partially excavated and the rest of the bones were discovered during soil flotation (Moravcová, Kala 2019, 47). According to a loose reconstruction, a crouched position can be assumed (Fig. 28). No information is available on the position of the child from Cezavy Hill near Blučina. Similarly, information on the burial of two children from the Kowalski sand pit in Mikulov has not been preserved. In Moravia, the joint burial of two individuals is a completely unique case, though we occasionally encounter joint burials of two or more individuals in other regions. In Central Europe, the focus of our study, two newborns appeared

only in grave 2 in Romagnano (Perini 1975, 303, 306, Fig. 18). Of the total of 22 vessel burials at Tell Yunatsite in Bulgaria from the Early Bronze Age, three vessels contained the remains of two individuals (Bačvarov 2009, 54; Mischina, Balabina 2007). Multiple burials also appear in Anatolia, e.g. at Babaköy (Müller-Karpe 1974, 858–859) and Gordion, where a burial of two adults appeared in one case and a burial of an adult and a child was also found (Müller-Karpe 1980, 766).

Even less knowledge has been preserved about the burial of children in the Věteřov group. The child's position was not recorded in greater detail in burials at the 'Vysoký roh' in Mikulov and Olbramovice. All that remains of the skeleton of the child in Pasohlávky are fragments of the skull and small fragments of the ribs, femurs and fibulae, thus preventing a determination of the position of the deceased child. Moreover, no skeletal remains were preserved in the presumed vessel burials in Borotice and Hradisko near Kroměříž. The burials of children in storage vessels at Hradisko near Kroměříž is only indirectly documented by the concentration of storage vessels in a small area and the higher phosphorus content in these storage vessels. In storage vessels 4 and 9, the phosphorus content was noticeably high, while in the others the percentage of phosphorus was elevated. Considering that the environment of the entire site is unfavourable for the preservation of all prehistoric bones, the decomposition of the bones of small children (or infants) is highly likely (Spurný 1961, 190). The interpretation of the storage vessels as burial cases is also strengthened by the occurrence of bronze and ceramic grave goods. We can probably assume a similar situation in Borotice, where the forest soil significantly contributed to the decomposition of bones, so that in many graves no bones were preserved at all. We only have certain information about the burial from the Věteřov pit in Hodonice, in which a concentration of potsherds from a large storage vessel was found at the bottom of a settlement pit with conical walls, and among them lay the skull and two cervical vertebrae of a 7–8-year-old child. In this case, only a skull with two cervical vertebrae was apparently buried in the pit (Fig. 44; Rožnovský 2019, 37, 45, tab. 25), which could be reminiscent of the discovery of the remains of the skull of a newborn found in Hodonice at the end of the 19th century (Palliardi 1895, 126).

We have roughly the same amount of information about the position of the deceased in other areas. In Bohemia, the position is recorded only for

a burial at Hradištko in Toušeň, where the child was to have been buried in a crouched, sitting position (Špaček 1982, 135), which can be interpreted as a crouched position. The position of the burial from Malé Číčovice was not described in the original publications (Píč 1893, 346; Neustupný, J. 1933, 14), but a schematic reconstruction is published in the synthesis of Czechoslovak prehistory, where a child is depicted sitting in a crouched position in an upside-down storage vessel (Fig. 3; Neustupný, J. et al. 1960, obr. 67). From German burials, the position of the infant from Ostbevern is recorded in a crouched position on the right side (Fig. 79; 80; Stapel 2008, 128, Fig. on p. 128), the child from Eulau lay in a crouched position on the right side in the W-E direction (Selent 2009, 230–234, Abb. 30–38) and the reconstruction of the burial in Quedling indicates that the deceased was laid in a crouched position (Fig. 78; Selent 2006). An unusual position is mentioned in Kelheim, where a 6–7-year-old child was to have rested in a crouched position with his head down (Ruckdeschel 1978a, 269; 1978b, 79–80). A child from an unspecified location in Egypt is similarly depicted (Fig. 16; Wood 1910), although in this case we should remain somewhat cautious. In Laa an der Thaya, a child's skull was found in a vessel with the face turned towards the south (Lauer-mann 2003, 167). The skeleton in grave 7 at the Romagnano cemetery lay in a crouched position, and in grave 8, the head was at the bottom of the vessel (Perini 1975, 298–299, Fig. 7; 8). It is stated for burial 2 and 3 from Nitranský Hrádok that the skull was in the upper part of the vessel (Točík 1981b, 27, 74). We know that the skeleton lay on its left side in the rich burial in Szöreg (Foltiny 1941b, 70, Abb. XXII: 40; Bóna 1975, 87, Taf. 122: 5, 6). The position on the left side corresponds to the customs of the Maros culture, as their burial rite involved the practice of burying deceased males on their left side. The following are a few clarifying notes on the burial rite at the Ostojićevo burial ground. According to the customs of the Maros (Perjamos) culture, skeletons were mostly laid in a crouched position on their sides with their heads at the mouth of the vessel, with boys lying on their left sides in the N-S direction, while girls rested on their right sides in the S-N direction, and the faces of both boys and girls were always directed towards the east (Girić 1996, 140).

## 6.4 Vessels used for burials

Three types of ceramic storage vessels were used as burial cases for children in Moravia during the Early Bronze Age. The first type is pot-shaped storage vessels with an S-shaped profile and a roughened surface, which appeared in Únětice and Věteřov burials. They appeared in several variants, namely simple forms that occur throughout the entire Early Bronze Age, and forms with several protrusions on the neck, which began to appear from the latest period of the Únětice culture. In the Únětice culture, this pot was used as a case for a burial in Brno-Tuřany (Fig. 26) and a large fragment from the Kowalski sand pit in Mikulov (Fig. 6; 20) is apparently also a remnant of this type of storage vessel. They were used much more frequently in the Věteřov group, where they are recorded in various designs in all graves at Hradisko near Kroměříž (Fig. 10: 5–8; 47–60) and they were also excavated in Hodonice (Fig. 42: 9). The vast majority of children in Bohemia were buried in this type of pottery (Fig. 4: 2; 74; 75; Neustupný, J. 1933, 15, obr. 5–7; Lička, Lutovský 2006, Abb. 28: 2; Taf. IX: 3; Ernée 2015, Abb. 27). A similar storage vessel with a somewhat more arched body was also used for the burial of a newborn in Wojkowice, Poland (Fig. 76: 2; Gralak 2007, 248, ryc. 90: 1; 92).

The second basic type is storage vessels with a curved, smoothed neck separated from a bulbous body with a roughened surface, which occur in three basic variants in the Únětice culture. The first has a neck set off from the body by a more or less pronounced edge, the second has one to three circumferential grooves at this interface, and the third variant has a neck that is separated from the body by one or two relief bands. They are represented on Cezavy Hill near Blučina (Fig. 21) and in Dolní Věstonice (Fig. 24: 2) in the version with one relief band separated from the arched, finger-pressed body, and it was used in Vedrovice in a somewhat taller, slimmer form without a preserved rim (Fig. 30: 2). The second storage vessel from Dolní Věstonice has a smoothed neck separated from the finger-pressed body by only a simple edge (Fig. 24: 1).

The third type is amphora-shaped storage vessels with a smoothed and more or less cylindrical neck that is separated by an edge from a finely roughened bulbous body. These vessels were used as cases only in the Věteřov group. They were found in a simpler version in Borotice (Fig. 40: 2), while the specimens from Olbramovice (Fig. 33: 1; 34: 1) and Pasohlávky (Fig. 37) have an edge further enhanced with short vertical bands. The storage vessel from

Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’ is also of a similar type, differing from the previous forms in its slimmer ovoid body and a more heavily curved neck (Fig. 31).

In the Central European area, a two-handled amphora from Prague-Třeboradice (Turek, Král 1998, obr. 1), a two-handled storage vessel from Kelheim (Ruckdeschel 1978b, 79–80, Taf. 22: 5) and a beaker from Striegnitz (Billig 1958, Abb. 24) are also mentioned from the area of the Únětice culture and related groups. In Nitrianský Hrádok, classical Maďarovce amphorae with handles on the lower part of the neck were used in burial 4 and 5 (Točík 1978a, Taf. LXIX: 16; LXX: 8); an amphora with handles on the body in burial 2 (Točík 1978a, Taf. CXXVI: 2); burial 3 was placed in an S-shaped pot with three protrusions (Točík 1978a, Taf. CXXXVIII: 13); and the last burial – burial 1 – was in an amphora-shaped storage vessel (Knor 1952, obr. 125) of a type similar to those in Olbramovice and Pasohlávky.

In more distant cultural areas, local ceramics were usually used for these burials. An Austrian burial of the Litzenkeramik culture from Mattersburg was placed in a typical globular vessel decorated with characteristic cord impressions (Benkovsky-Pivovarová 1986, 188, Abb. 3–5). Children in the Encrusted Pottery culture in Patince (Dušek 1960, Taf. XLIX: 24) and Dunaalmás (Vékony Vadasz 2001, Taf. 5: 6) were buried in pots with an S-shaped profile, i.e. in vessels similar to those in many Únětice and Věteřov burials. Child burials in Romagnano, Italy, were generally placed in conical to barrel-shaped vessels decorated with several horizontal circumferential cordons (Fig. 81; Perini 1975, Fig. 19: 1–3, 5). In the Polada culture, conical vessels, sometimes decorated with cordons, are occasionally found (e.g. Rageth 1974, Taf. 40–50), but an exact analogy for vessels with inhumation burials can be found in the Swiss cemetery at Sitten-Petit Chasseur (Probst 1999, Fig. on p. 145). However, a completely unusual form for the Polada culture is a bulbous vessel with a conical neck separated by a relief cordons supplemented with breast-like protrusions from problematic grave ‘a’ (Perini 1975, 302, Fig. 19: 4). In the Maros culture, there was considerable variability in the choice of vessels for burials. The most commonly used were tall, slender pots (Girić 1996, Taf. I: 3, 4) or biconical vessels with handles extending from the rim (Girić 1996, Taf. I: 2, 5) and, to a somewhat lesser extent, several other forms (Girić 1996, Taf. I: 1, 6).

There are also significant differences in the size of vessels used to hold inhumation burials in the Early

Bronze Age. The smallest vessel was only 23 cm high and was found with a child burial of the Encrusted Pottery culture in Patince (Fig. 5; Dušek 1960, 178, Taf. XLIX: 24); the second smallest vessel, 24.4 cm high, comes from Maďarovce burial 3 in Nitrianský Hrádok (Točík 1978a, Taf. CXXXVIII: 23; 1981b, 74). Only slightly larger is the Únětice vessel from Prague-Michle (Neustupný 1933, 15) and the Polada culture pot from grave 13 in Romagnano (Perini 1975, 301, Fig. 19: 1), which reach a height of 28 cm. In Moravia, the smallest vessels are represented by an S-shaped pot from Brno-Tuřany, 30.4 cm high (Fig. 26), and a storage vessel of a similar shape from burial 7 in Hradisko near Kroměříž, the height of which ranged from 34.2 to 35 cm (Fig. 54: 2; 55: 1). However, the smallest vessels raise the question of whether a child’s body could actually have been placed in them. Unfortunately, these are often old finds without documentation or from which the field observations are largely incomplete, which is further complicated by the poor preservation of most skeletons of newborns. A likely interpretation of this problem is that in some cases an incomplete body, or perhaps only a part of it, was placed in the vessels. A second possibility is that these were secondary burials, when only bones without soft tissues were placed in the vessel.

On the other hand, the largest vessel used for holding a child’s burial is the Únětice storage vessel from Vedrovice, which, even without the unpreserved rim, is 64 cm high (Fig. 30: 2). Also belonging to the Únětice culture are two vessels, 60 cm high, which come from Prague-Michle (Neustupný, J. 1933, 15) and Przesławice, Poland (Lasak 1988, 17, ryc. 38: b). Two other vessels with a height of 54 cm found in Dolní Věstonice (Fig. 24: 1) and in Eulau (Selent 2009, 230–234, Abb. 30–38) have the same dating. The dimensions of the storage vessels produced in Central Europe are probably a clear explanation for why adult burials in storage vessels are not found in Central Europe, despite being quite common in the Aegean, Anatolian and also in the Pyrenean regions.

According to known data on completely preserved or reconstructed vessels, the most frequently used were vessels 30–40 cm high, which appeared in 14 cases, and 12 burials were placed in vessels 40–50 cm high. Storage vessels of other dimensions are less numerous, so vessels with a height in the range of 20–30 cm appeared five times, vessels with a height in the range of 50–60 cm occurred in four cases, and only once was a vessel exceeding 60 cm used (Vedrovice).

## 6.5 Burial covers

We can most likely assume that all vessels with child inhumation burials originally had their necks covered. Although the use of organic materials is highly likely, it is difficult to detect in the field and has not yet been recognised anywhere in Central Europe. This possibility is mentioned in the scholarly literature only from Babylon (Müller-Karpe 1980, 737). In addition, inhumation burials in vessels with a brick covering the neck (Müller-Karpe 1980, 766, Taf. 179: C10) or even with an asphalt lid, as was the case in Assur (Müller-Karpe 1974, 740, 837), have also been found in the Near East. Moreover, a significant share of burials in our territory have been secondarily disturbed, making the solution to this issue all the more complex.

The most common option is covering the storage vessel with a bowl (Zyková 2010, obr. 1; 3). Among the Únětice burials in Moravia, the storage vessels from Brno-Tuřany (Fig. 27; 28) and Vedrovice (Fig. 30) had their necks covered with a large bowl. Similarly, in the Věteřov group, bowls protected the amphora from Olbramovice (Fig. 33: 1; 34: 1) and the storage vessels from burial 1 (Fig. 47), 4 (Fig. 50; 51), 6 (Fig. 52; 53) and 7 (Fig. 54; 55) at Hradisko near Kroměříž. In all cases, these were bowls with conical or slightly rounded walls. Bowls also covered storage vessels at the Bohemian sites of Liběchov (Neustupný 1933, 15, obr. 7), Slaný (Schmidt, V. 1895, 625) and Vepřek (Píč 1896, 180;), in Wojkowice in Poland (Fig. 76: 1; Gralak 2007, 248, ryc. 90–92), Diesenbach (Torbrügge 1959, 185; Taf. 52: 14–16) in Germany, and in Nitrianský Hrádok in burial 2, 3 (Točík 1978a, Taf. CXXXVI: 2, 3; CXXXIII: 23, 24; 1981b, 27, 74) and 5 (Točík 1978a, Taf. LXX: 8, 10; 1981a, 163) and at Laa an der Thaya in Austria (Lauermaun 2003, 167). In the third examined burial in Vepřek – burial 15A – the pot-shaped storage vessel was covered by a bowl with a slightly inverted rim and a horizontal handle (Fig. 74; Lička, Lutovský 2006, 39–40, Abb. 28; Taf. IX: 3, 4; Zyková 2010, Fig. 3). The bowl from grave 14 in Przesławice, Poland, had an S-shaped neck and the diameter of the rim was 44 cm, which is significantly less than the diameter of the rim of the storage vessel itself, which measured 57 cm (Lasak 1988, 16–17, ryc. 38: a, b). According to the author of the excavation, this bowl, together with two other smaller bowls, was placed in the storage vessel after it was broken, and the skeleton was partially lying on the bowl (Lasak 1988, 97, ryc. 10). The sealing of burial vessels is also depicted from the Ostojićevo cemetery (Girić 1996, Taf. I: 1). According

to the scholarly literature, the storage vessel at the Romanian burial site in Piru was covered with a decorated lid (Székely 1966, 127), but unfortunately there is no detailed information or images for the grave, so it is not certain whether this is an actual lid or another type of vessel used as a lid.

The second option is to place the inhumation burial in two storage vessels placed neck-to-neck (Zyková 2010, obr. 1). In Dolní Věstonice, two storage vessels were lying in a horizontal position, one with its neck removed (Fig. 13; 22; 23). A similar arrangement of two storage vessels with their necks facing each other is also reported in the literature from Vepřek in Bohemia (Píč 1896, 180). This modification was recorded somewhat more frequently in Germany, where it is documented in Börnecke (Hofmeister 1934), Quedlinburg (Fig. 78; Selent 2006, 121–123, Abb. 1–4) and the same modification also appeared in the German settlement in Ostbevern (Fig. 79; 80; Stapel 2008, 128). However, placing the skeleton in two storage vessels is not exclusive to Central Europe, as it is also known from other regions as well (Müller-Karpe 1980, 740, Taf. 106: 5). A larger number of burials in two storage vessels are known, e.g. from the Aegean environment (Müller-Karpe 1980, Taf. 93: F6–6; 106: 5), where they more commonly hold adults. An illustrative example is a group of eight burials from Alişar Höyük (Alishar Hüyük) in Turkey, where in all eight cases the skeleton lay inside a pair of large pot-shaped vessels with their necks placed together (Schmidt, E. F. 1932, Fig. 235; 237; 238). However, they also occurred in Mesopotamia (Müller-Karpe 1980, 623, Taf. 106: 5) and specifically in Babylon (Müller-Karpe 1980, 737, Taf. 93F: 5–65). In Germany, we also encountered burials in which the pair of vessels had a somewhat different arrangement. In the Oechlitz cemetery, a pot in a small grave pit held a second pot that contained a child's burial (Fig. 77; Moser 2017b, 374, Abb. 2–5). In Striegnitz, a beaker was placed in a larger vessel that held human bones (Neumann 1929, 96, 106, Taf. IX: 4; X: 21).

The neck of the storage vessel in burial 10 from Hradisko near Kroměříž was protected only by the lower part of another vessel, probably also a storage vessel (Fig. 58: 1). This grave arrangement is also not unique, because in addition to the Moravian find, it was also found in Kelheim (Ruckdeschel 1978b, 79–80) in Germany, in symbolic burial 4 in Nitrianský Hrádok (Točík 1978a, Taf. LXIX: 16; 1981a, 161) and is mentioned once in the Hungarian settlement of Dunaalmás-Fogtorok (Vékonyiné Vadász 2001,

Taf. 5: 3–6). The covering of the lower half of the storage vessel is also mentioned at the Ostojićevo cemetery (Girić 1996, 140). It is interesting to note that the Middle Bronze Age storage vessel from Olšany was covered in the same way (Fig. 14; 85; 89).

The third group is represented by burials in which the vessel was not closed with ceramics, but with a stone slab. In Moravia, only the Věteřov burial at the ‘Vysoký roh’ site in Mikulov belongs to this category. In this case, the storage vessel was covered by a larger limestone slab (Jüttner 1950, 366). A similar arrangement was discovered twice in Bohemia: in Vrbčany, where the storage vessel was covered by a slab of gneiss (Dvořák 1933, 60), and in Prague-Třeboradice, where a flat sandstone slab measuring 28 × 27 cm was placed on a two-handled amphora without bone finds (Turek, Král 1998, 33, obr. 1). Vessels with burials were commonly covered with stones in other areas as well. Richly furnished pithos III from Aphidna, Greece, was covered by a large limestone slab (Fig. 18; Hielte 2021, 295). Stones covering the neck of the vessel are quite common in the Near East, as evidenced by a number of burials in Turkish cemeteries in Babaköy (Müller-Karpe 1974, 858–890), Gordion (Müller-Karpe 1980, 776, Taf. 179: C2) and Jordan (Müller-Karpe 1974, 867). Several storage vessels with a neck covered by a single large stone or even an entire structure made of a larger number of stones were discovered at Alişar Höyük (Schmidt, E. F. 1932, 72).

In connection with overlapping vessels, it is hard not to notice that the diameter of the rim of some bowls is much smaller than the diameter of the rim of the vessel they are meant to overlap. Among Moravian burials, this is most striking in burial 13 from Hradisko near Kroměříž, where the storage vessel had a rim diameter of about 40 cm, the bowl 30 cm. However, both vessels are preserved only in potsherds, and therefore measurement error cannot be ruled out. Among the complete vessels, the amphora-shaped storage vessel from Olbramovice had a rim diameter of 33.6 cm, while the conical bowl had a rim diameter of 29 cm (Fig. 33; 34). The larger rim diameter of the vessel compared to the covering bowl (34.6 cm to 32.6 cm) is also noted in burial 4 from Hradisko near Kroměříž (Fig. 50; 51). In many cases, the rim diameters of the vessels and bowls are more or less the same, which we observe at Hradisko near Kroměříž in burial 1 (33 cm to 33 cm; Fig. 47), 6 (33.5 cm to 32.5–33.5 cm; Fig. 52; 53), 7 (26 cm to 26–27 cm; Fig. 54; 55) and 9 (31.5–33 cm to 32 cm). We also encountered this disparity in

Przesławice, where the amphora had a rim diameter of 57 cm, the bowl a diameter of 44 cm (Lasak 1988, 16–17, ryc. 10; 38: a, b), which the author explained by its subsequent placement in a storage vessel (Lasak 1988, 97). It therefore seems likely that in some cases the bowl was inserted into the neck of the ceramic container or into its interior, which was already depicted by J. L. Píč in connection with the burial from Vepřek (Píč 1896, Fig. on pp. 179–180; Sklenář 2006, Abb. 8). An analogy for a similar find situation can also be found in the Aegean area (Müller-Karpe 1980, Taf. 106: 3).

We found a suitable size for a vessel and a bowl that allowed for their easy overlapping among the pottery from a burial in Brno-Tuřany, where the storage vessel had a rim diameter of 27.2 cm, the bowl a diameter of 34 cm (Fig. 27; 28). A similar situation is observed in one of the burials in Vepřek, which has a vessel with a rim diameter of 29 cm and a bowl with a diameter of 32 cm (Fig. 74), or in Wojkowice, Poland, where the diameter of the rim of the storage vessel was approximately 35.8 cm and the diameter of the bowl was 40.4 cm (Fig. 76: 1, 2; Gralak 2007, ryc. 90).

## 6.6 Grave goods

Individuals buried in vessels in the Early Bronze Age in Central Europe tend to have only very modest furnishings. Of course, we cannot consider the ceramic vessels in which the deceased were buried, or the bowls, the bottoms of other vessels, or the stone slabs with which burial storage vessels were covered as grave goods. Food gifts could have been a specific form of grave goods, but unfortunately no attention was paid to them in the past. For the largest group of children of infant or newborn age, we can only assume food gifts made from plant materials, i.e. in the form of flat cakes or porridge, which are virtually undetectable by archaeological methods. Meat-based gifts are already considered for older children, but they have not received adequate attention. One of the few exceptions is the burial of an eight-year-old child from Vedrovice, in which bones from a domestic pig were found at the bottom of the storage vessel alongside the remains of a human skeleton (Salaš 2008, 130, 132). Two sheep bones from grave 15A in Vepřek are reported from other locations (Lička, Lutovský 2006, 40, 59), though the interpretation of the animal bones as the remains of a meat gift for newborns seems rather dubious (Salaš 2008, 145). Ten mussel shells could

possibly represent the remains of a meat offering from the Únětice burial of a newborn from Prague-Michle (Kohout 1895, 757–758), but unfortunately this is an old discovery for which no detailed find context has been preserved.

From Únětice graves in Moravia, no grave goods were found in Blučina, Dolní Věstonice, and Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit. The child buried in Brno-Tuřany was furnished with two bronze beads and a small bronze spiral, which we can consider to be part of a single necklace (Fig. 26: 3–5). Another Únětice grave from Vedrovice contained a bone pendant and a bone bead (Fig. 30: 3, 4). Of the five known graves, only two contained grave goods (i.e. 40%). Compared to ordinary Únětice graves, the furnishings of Únětice burials in vessels is considerably more modest. In Moravia, the number of looted graves in a cemetery often exceeds 50%, but even so, their average content significantly outweighs the grave goods of children's burials in vessels. At the Late Únětice cemetery in Mušov, 64.52% of the graves contained ceramics and 48.39% held bronze objects (Stuchlík 1987, 36–37); in Těšetice, there were an average of 2.02 vessels and 1.97 bronze grave goods per grave (Lorenková, Beneš, Podborský 1987, 116).

The situation with Věteřov burials in jars is even more evident. Of these, the graves from Hodonice, Mikulov – 'Vysoký roh', Pasohlávky and burial 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13 from Hradisko near Kroměříž were not furnished. The burial from the barrow in Borotice contained a simple bronze bracelet (Fig. 40: 1), the burial from Olbramovice only one piece of flint. Of the 13 graves in Hradisko near Kroměříž, modest grave goods were found in only three burials: in grave 6 a bronze bracelet (Fig. 52: 3; 53: 3), in grave 9 a somewhat atypical cup (Fig. 56: 2; 57: 2) lying upside down 30 cm from the storage vessel, and in grave 10 bronze wires, which are probably the remains of a bracelet (Fig. 58: 3). Of the 18 known Věteřov graves, only five contained grave goods, i.e. 27.78%. If the Věteřov dating of the cup from grave 9 were challenged, the percentage of furnished graves would drop to just 22.22%. At the only Věteřov burial ground in Borotice that has been investigated so far, roughly half of the graves contained some kind of grave good (Stuchlík 2006a, 148), which is a significantly lower share than in the Únětice culture. However, compared to common Věteřov graves, the furnishings of Moravian vessel burials are clearly more modest.

The situation is similar throughout Central Europe, which differs significantly from the situation in the El-Argar culture, where burials in vessels contain numerous ceramic, metal and other grave goods and, in several cases, exceptionally rich furnishings. Grave goods are missing from the majority of Early Bronze Age vessel burials. We can consider three pieces of flint from Slánská hora (Schmidt, V. 1895, 625), ten shells from Prague-Michle (Kohout 1895, 758) and a drilled deer tooth from grave 13 in Romagnano (Perini 1975, 301, Fig. 15: 2) as truly modest grave goods. The burials from Börnecke (Hofmeister 1934) and Čachtice (Kolník, Paulík, 1959, 89, tab. 1: 11) each contained one vessel. Bronze grave goods are represented only by a bracelet from Kamýk (Schmidt, V. 1899, 555), a fragment of a bronze ring from Malé Čičovice (Píč 1893, 348–349), three fragments of a bronze spiral from Patince (Dušek 1960, 207, Taf. XLIX: 22) and a bronze bracelet from Wojkowice (Fig. 76: 3; Gralak 2007, 233, ryc. 118: 2; 119).

Only several burials were more richly furnished, including the burial from Przesławice with two bowls (Lasak 1988, 17, ryc. 38: c–d) and grave 30 from Deszko with two mugs (Foltiny 1941a, 76–77, Tab. IV: 5–7). The burial from Eulau, which contained two shells and two bronze pins (Selent 2009, 230–234, Abb. 30–38), and one of the burials at the settlement in Dunaalmás-Fogtotok, which was equipped with a smaller mug and several fragments of a bronze artefact (Vékonyné Vadász 2001, Taf. 5: 3–6), had combined grave goods. Compared to common graves at Early Bronze Age cemeteries, burials with two vessels or one vessel and one bronze artefact rank among the more modestly furnished. The lone burial with rich furnishings was grave 189 of the Maros culture from Szöreg, in which 129 bronze discs and 46 shells were found (Foltiny 1941b, 41, 70, Abb. XXII: 40). Also attributed to the Maros culture is the large necropolis in Ostojicevo, of which we know that one to three vessels were found in several graves and that two burials also contained bronze ornaments (Girić 1996, 140). In Central Europe, it was only in this culture that the furnishings of vessel burials could approach the average furnishings of ordinary graves.

Of the total number of more than 150 or even 180 burials in Central Europe, we have at least some information about the possible furnishings for roughly only 82 of them. About 61 of these burials were unfurnished, i.e. 74.39%. A single grave good was found in 15 burials, with the caveat that we

consider one necklace (two bronze beads and one spiral) from Brno-Tuřany, ten shells from Prague-Michle, and three pieces of flint from Slánská hora as one grave good (representing a total of 18.99%). Four children were furnished with two grave goods, amounting to a mere 4.88%, and three or more artefacts were found in only two burials (2.44%). We must take into account that some of the graves (especially those that were unfurnished) were disturbed and some grave goods may not have been identified. But even under these circumstances, it is quite evident that children buried in vessels have significantly more modest furnishings compared to the other graves.

### 6.7 Age of the deceased

The age of individuals buried in vessels usually did not exceed seven or eight years. In the Únětice culture, a newborn is mentioned from 1960 in a burial on Cezavy Hill near Blučina (Tihelka 1963, 6). In Brno-Tuřany, the deceased was originally determined as a newborn, but according to a more recent anthropological assessment, it was a newborn or a mature foetus approximately 10.5 lunar months old (Appendix 2). The only information recorded about the Únětice grave from Dolní Věstonice was that it was the burial of a small child (Měřínský 1980, 108), but a more precise determination is not possible because the skeleton is currently untraceable. In Mikulov, at the Kowalski sand pit site, the vessel was to have contained the skeletons of children aged 2 and 6 (Jüttner 1950, 366). In a more recent anthropological analysis, K. Piačková determined the age of the older child to be 8–9 years; the younger child was considered a newborn. The assemblage also contained bones from a third individual aged 4–5 years, for whom it cannot be ruled out that they could have been recently mixed in or that they could possibly be a child from the Věteřov burial in Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’ (Appendix 1). The skeleton from the Late Únětice grave in Vedrovice (Salaš 2008, 135–140) belonged to an eight-year-old child (Jarošová 2008, 166, 175).

Of the Věteřov burials in vessels, L. Horáčková thought that the child buried in Pasohlávky was about 1.5 years old (Appendix 3), and in Mikulov at the ‘Vysoký roh’ site, the skeleton was probably that of a three-year-old child (Jüttner 1950, 366). The remaining two burials belonged to somewhat older children, and in Olbramovice the child was 6–7 years old (Lorencová 1959), while the skull from

Hodonice, according to anthropological determination, came from a child aged seven to eight years old (Appendix 4).

The sex of the vast majority of buried individuals is unknown. In Moravia, the only exception is a Únětice newborn from Brno-Tuřany, whose gender was genetically determined to be male (Appendix 2). The second case is a Únětice grave from Przeslawice in Poland, in which a girl aged 8–10 was buried (Lasak 1988, 16), though no further details are provided.

Knowledge of the age of children from the Věteřov group was strongly influenced by burials from Borotice and Hradisko near Kroměříž, where no skeletons were preserved at all. In the case of a group of 13 storage vessels from Hradisko near Kroměříž, the likelihood that these are inhumation vessel burials is only indirectly supported by the elevated levels of phosphorus in the vessels, as well as the almost complete absence of other bones at the settlement and the existence of several bronze objects inside the vessels. With few exceptions, bones were also not preserved in the forest soil of Bronze Age burial mounds in Borotice (Stuchlík 2006a). Moravian sites are no exception in this regard, as we have encountered similar situations in other areas. In Slovakia, a skeleton was not preserved in Čachtice (Kolník, Paulík 1959, 89, 96, tab. 1: 1) and two burials from Nitrianský Hrádok also did not contain skeletal remains. A. Točík considered them symbolic (Točík 1981a, 46–47), but it is more likely that these are vessel burials in which the children’s skeletons were not preserved. Skeletal remains were absent in Prague-Třeboradice (Turek, Král 1998, 34, obr. 1), Güsten in Central Germany (Deffner, Pape, Selent 2006, 125), Schiepzig (Moser 2017a, 79) and Diesenbach in Bavaria (Torbrügge 1960, 58), where the find contexts in all cases resembled pithos-type burials.

Knowledge of the age and gender of children buried in vessels in other areas is equally inconclusive, which is again largely influenced by the fact that in many cases these are old excavations in which little attention was paid to anthropological identification. With many burials, age determination is limited to simply the identification of a child. Children designated as newborns, infants, or with a specified age of approximately 12–18 months appeared in Kamýk (Schmidt, V. 1899, 555), Prague-Michle (Kohout 1895, 757–758), Slaný (Schmidt, V. 1895, 625), in two graves in Vepřek (Píč 1896, 180; Dobisíková, Velemínský 2006, 71), Wojkowice in Poland (Gralak 2007, 248), Ostbevern in

Germany (Stapel 2015, 12), in grave 54 in Deszk (Foltiny 1941a, 94) and C1 and C2 in Dunaalmás (Vékonyne Vadász 2001) in Hungary, and in five graves (3, 7, 8, 13, and 'a') in Romagna, Italy (Perini 1971, 75; 1975). Grave 2 in Romagnano was unusual in that it contained the bones of two infants, with R. Perini suggesting the possibility that it could be the burial of twins (Perini 1975, 306), which is unfortunately not substantiated.

Somewhat older children, up to about the age of five, are represented by finds in Prague-Miškovice (Stránská 2015, 177), Prague-Michle (Kohout 1895, 757–758), Vepřek (Píč 1896, 180), in grave 5 in Romagna (Perini 1975, 297) and Pir in Romania (Székely 1966, 127). Children aged six are reported from Eulau (Selent 2009, 230–234) and Oechlitz (Moser 2017b, 374) in Central Germany, a child aged 6–7 from Kelheim in Bavaria (Ruckdeschel 1978a, 269, 307; 1978b, 79–80). The oldest include a girl from the Únětice culture aged 8–10 buried in grave 14 in Przeclawice, Poland (Lasak 1988, 16–17), and a child from a Únětice burial in Quedlinburg, who was to have died at the age of 10 (Selent 2009, 219).

Of the total number of approximately 150 to 180 known inhumation vessel burials from Central Europe, at least an approximate age determination is available for only 37 children. For the sake of simplicity, we will divide children into three basic categories: 0–1.5 years (newborns), 1.5–6 years, and older children aged 6–10 years. Of the 37 individuals listed, 22 were under 1.5 years old (59.46%), nine died between the ages of 1.5 and 6 years (24.32%), and the remaining six identified individuals were somewhat older, over the age of six years (16.22%). In other cases, only a general description was provided – child. This is also consistent with preliminary information about burials in vessels from Ostojićevo, which indicate that the vast majority were burials of newborns and children aged one to two years, and only a few burials contained skeletons of 6–10-year-old children (Girić 1996, 140).

## 6.8 Cause of death

The cause of death is not listed for most deceased children, which is understandable given their poorly preserved skeletons. We can assume that it was mostly a natural death caused by illness. Only in the Věteřov burial from Hodonice was it determined that the violent death of a 7–8-year-old child occurred either by decapitation or by fragmentation of the brain, probably with a sharp-edged stone,

although it was not possible to determine which procedure occurred first (Appendix 4). A. Lorencová also noted with a 6–7-year-old child from Olbramovice, as well as with an adult from a second grave, traces of unhealed wounds from a blunt object or cuts on the skull (Lorencová 1959, 22–26), which V. Podborský explained as the consequences of ritual anthropophagy (Podborský, Vildomec 1972, 90) or as evidence that the child was exposed to pre- and postmortem violence (Podborský 2006, 267). However, M. Stloukal did not consider the conclusions on both of these findings to be sufficiently unambiguous (Stloukal 1990, 159). In other areas, no information has yet appeared in the scholarly literature about violent marks on skeletons placed in vessels.

The eight-year-old child from Vedrovice, apart from some signs of common diseases, was in good health and the cause of death could not be determined (Jarošová 2008, 166, 175). The eighteen-month-old child from the Věteřov burial in Pasohlávky probably suffered a more serious, probably infectious, illness in the first months of life (Appendix 3), though this did not appear to be the immediate cause of death.

## 6.9 Reason for inhumation vessel burials

Clarifying the reasons for burying young children in vessels is complex and to this day there is no clear explanation for this phenomenon. M. Primasová suggested that Central European burials reflect a special variant of the treatment of children in the burial rite (Primas 1978, 84). The child buried in Olbramovice was thought to have been a victim of ritual anthropophagy (Podborský, Vildomec 1972, 90). The deposition of children in vessels is considered evidence of cult practices, where the burial was explained as a sacrifice to protect the settlement, or it could have been related to a fertility cult (Furmánek, Veliačik, Vladár 1991, 285). The dead child is placed in a storage vessel in a symbolic return to the mother's womb, which is represented here by the ceramic vessel (Turek, Král 1998, 36; Vachût 2005, 94; Salaš 2008, 147). The hypothesis that the pot symbolises the female womb (Bačvarov 2004, 152) could be confirmed by two containers from burials from Alişar Höyük, whose shoulders were decorated with protrusions in the form of a female bust (Schmidt, E. F. 1932, 72). A similar explanation was also given for two burials in vessels from Patince and Dunaalmás in the area of the Encrusted Pottery culture, which were placed inside huts, in one case in front of a furnace (Dušek 1960, 206–208, Abb. 12)

and in the second case beneath the hearth (Vékony Vadasz 2001, Taf. 5: 3–6). A pithos under a house floor near the furnace appeared already at Tell Karanovo in Bulgaria (Bačvarov 2004, 154, Fig. 2). With its hollow space, the furnace is also sometimes considered a symbol of motherhood (Becker 2002, 212; Biedermann 2008, 259) and hence would also represent a return to the womb. The interpretation with the furnace is based more on a medieval setting and its use for a prehistoric situation is not entirely clear. In addition, both burials face the usual problem of insufficient information. We don't know for certain whether it was actually a furnace with a hollow space or merely an open hearth.

M. Salaš has already pointed out a certain contradiction between these ideas. Symbolic returns to the maternal womb, represented by a ceramic vessel and probably associated with the idea of rebirth, are quite understandable with the youngest children, i.e. newborns and infants (Salaš 2008, 147). So far, it has been possible to determine with some certainty at least the approximate age of 36 children buried in containers in Central Europe, of whom 21 were newborns and infants, while the group of older children from 18 months to approximately 10 years consisted of a total of 15 individuals. However, the question remains whether older children were also buried in vessels for the same reason. The lack of an answer raises yet another question: why in one cemetery are most children buried in the usual way in a regular grave pit, while some are in a ceramic vessel? Do children buried in the vessel have closer ties to the Aegean region, and why was this possible relationship not reflected in the form of the burial rite in adults?

However, the large number of burials in vessels in the Mediterranean region, where burial sites with more than a hundred of these burials are not an exception (e.g. Babaköy and Yortan in Turkey; Müller-Karpe 1974, 858–859, 867), seems to suggest that at least in this area it was a completely common variant of the burial rite. Due to the climatic conditions of the time with a lack of water, wood was more scarce. It is therefore understandable that in

the Aegean and Anatolian environments, wooden coffins were not used very often and were replaced by various ceramic cases including sarcophagi, larnacas and storage vessels. At the turn of the 2nd millennium, climatic conditions gradually began to improve and the availability of water increased, but vessels continued to be used for burials. In Central Europe, coffins made from the trunks of large trees are very common finds in Early Bronze Age burial grounds. For example, at the cemetery near Rebešovice, they appeared in 62.5% of the graves (Ondráček 1962, 57) and at many other cemeteries, mainly from the later part of the Early Bronze Age, their number approaches 50% (Lorenková, Beneš, Podborský 1987, 107–110). The custom of using ceramic vessels for burying the dead spread from its original areas to Central Europe. At least in the case of small child burials, it seems that ceramic vessels may have served as a substitute for wooden coffins, as their manufacture was probably easier compared to the laborious task of hollowing out tree trunks for coffins. Moreover, we can also consider the possibility that new vessels did not have to be made for the burial, but previously used storage vessels could have been used. Sufficient attention has not yet been paid to a study of this aspect. However, storage vessels were not used for adult burials, which can be explained simply by the fact that storage vessels of such large dimensions were not produced in Central Europe at that time.

Burials in storage vessels expand the spectrum of forms of burial rites in the Early Bronze Age. At the same time, sometimes even at the same site, burials in settlement pits, burials without coffin, and burials in coffins can appear. For children, the range of burial rites expands to include burials in vessels. It is therefore not necessary to see every burial in a vessel as a manifestation of special ritual customs. In the Mediterranean, storage vessels were sometimes used as temporary dwellings, and the burial of the deceased in storage vessels was explained by the fact that the burial case of the dead was to be adapted to their dwelling while alive (Bahník et al. 1974, 476–477).

## Inhumation vessel burials in the Middle Bronze Age

To date, the only inhumation vessel burial from the Middle Bronze Age in Moravia was investigated in Olšany near Prostějov in 2001 (Šmíd 2002, 203). At the bottom of settlement feature 503B – an irregular oval measuring 270 × 200 cm (Fig. 83) – was a storage vessel in the shape of a handle-less amphora with the burial of a newborn, which was closed by the lower part of a coarser vessel with a finger-pressed surface (Fig. 84; 85). The lower third of the storage vessel was sunk into the bottom of the feature (Fig. 14), with the bottom of the vessel 163 cm below the subsoil, i.e. at a total depth of 213 cm from the current terrain. The find situation was interpreted as a settlement pit used secondarily to deposit a child's burial in a vessel very soon after it was dug (Fojtík 2015, 193, tab. 51). The pit fill yielded a large number of potsherds, a bronze awl and a large collection of osteological material (Fig. 86–88; Fojtík 2006b, 41; 2015, 193–199, tab. 51–60; Fojtík, Dočkalová 2007). The storage vessel contained the complete skeleton of a newborn baby (in an anatomical position) that had died shortly after birth (Fig. 89; Dočkalová 2015).

Of the greatest importance for dating the burial from Olšany is the amphora, which served as the case for holding the child, and of course also the pottery from feature 503B. Analogous forms for this amphora (Fig. 84: 1) can be found, e.g. in the mass find of pottery from Želešice and in graves from burial mounds in Bošovice and Suchohrdly, which mostly belong to the later phase of the Tumulus culture (Říhovský 1982, tab. 17: 21; 19D: 1; 23: 4, 9; 25A: 4; Stuchlík 1990, 140, Fig. 3: 12). We can count on their first appearance as early as the middle phase of the Tumulus culture, which is convincingly documented by analogous

finds from Némčice (Červinka 1926, tab. III: 13) and Jiříkovice (Říhovský 1982, tab. 6D: 3). The bottom part of a large storage vessel with a vertically finger-pressed surface (Fig. 84: 2) covering an amphora has no chronological significance. A dating to the middle phase of the Tumulus culture is also confirmed by other ceramics from the pit in which the vessel burial was deposited. The assemblage contains several pottery forms that were traditionally associated with the late or final phase of the Tumulus culture. This is usually how mugs (Fig. 86: 2–4), or jugs with a grooved body (Říhovský 1982, 20, tab. 2: 1, 4–7; 14B: 1; 18: 12; 31A: 4, 5) are dated, although the first similar vessels appeared already in the middle phase of the Tumulus period in Šatov (Stuchlík 1979, tab. 39: 10). Cups with different neck profiles (Fig. 86: 5, 6; 88: 3–5) were also previously associated primarily with the late phase of the Tumulus culture, especially in connection with low, wide forms (Říhovský 1982, 17, tab. 10: 2, 8; 11: 2–4, 7, 11–13; 17: 6, 9, 18). However, their development is much longer, because their use began in an earlier period (Stuchlík 1979, tab. 2: 9; 8: 7) and continued fluidly into the middle phase of the Tumulus culture, meaning they do not rank among chronologically sensitive forms.

Another characteristic Tumulus culture motif is a line of punctures in the shape of a grain of cereal (Fig. 86: 2, 4, 5; 87: 5, 7; 88: 3) or decoration in the form of hatched triangles below the neck (Fig. 85: 3). However, both elements lack any great chronological sensitivity, as they occurred throughout the duration of the Tumulus culture. Another important element for dating is the 'hourglass' ornament (Fig. 88: 1), which we encountered in Přítluky and Křižanovice from the early phase of the

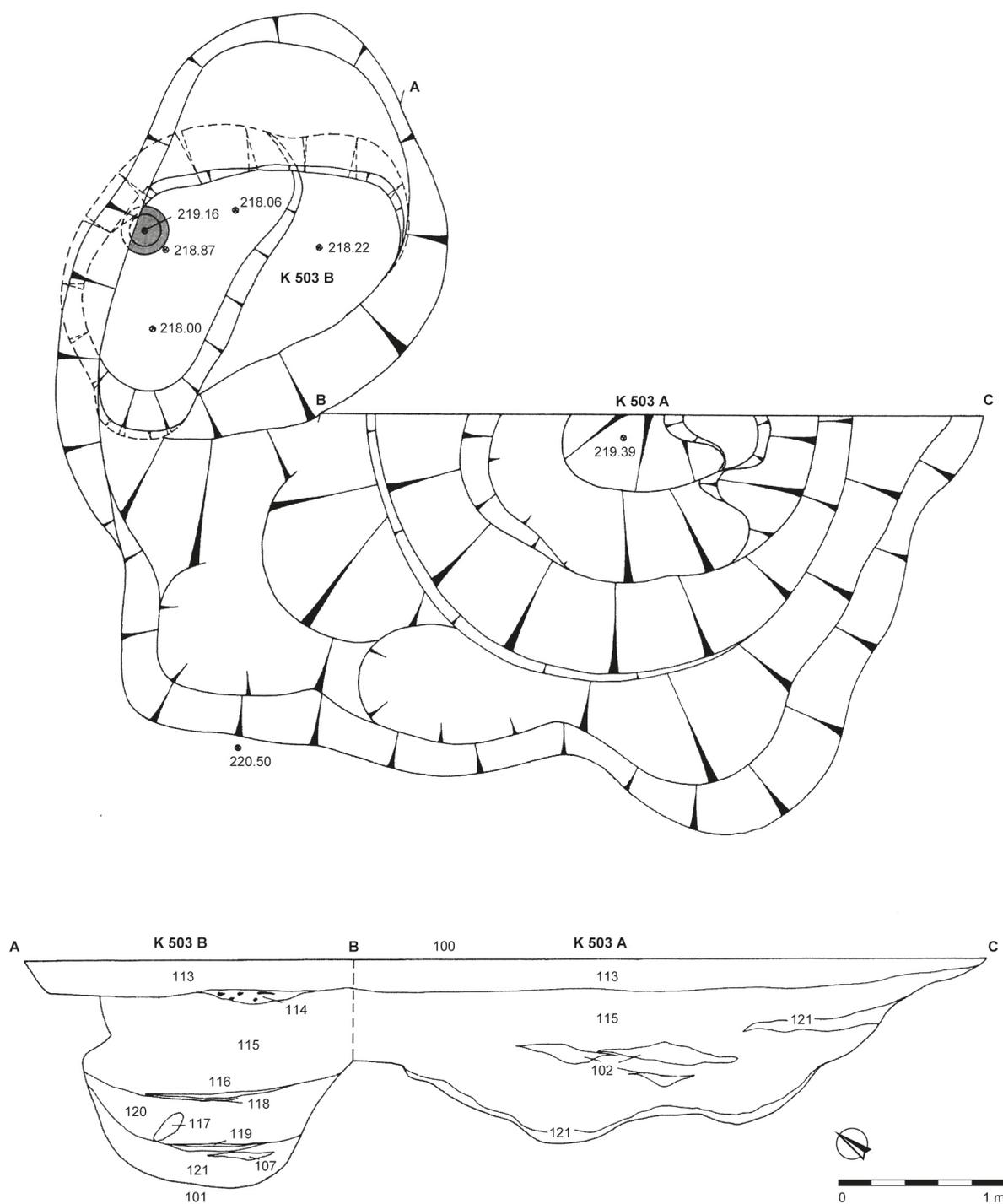


Fig. 83. Olšany – ‘Zlatníška’, 2001. Plan of feature 503B with inhumation vessel burials. After Fojtík, Dočkalová 2007, obr. 2.

Tumulus culture (Stuchlík 1992, 34, Abb. 21: 11; 22: 9), but even more frequently in the following period (Willvonseder 1937, Taf. 16: 2; 17: 2; Podborský 1964, Fig. 15: 8). Other numerous ceramic forms, such as conical vessels (Fig. 88: 2), variously profiled bowls (Fojtík 2015, tab. 59: 1–3), vessels with relief cordons under the neck (Fojtík 2015,

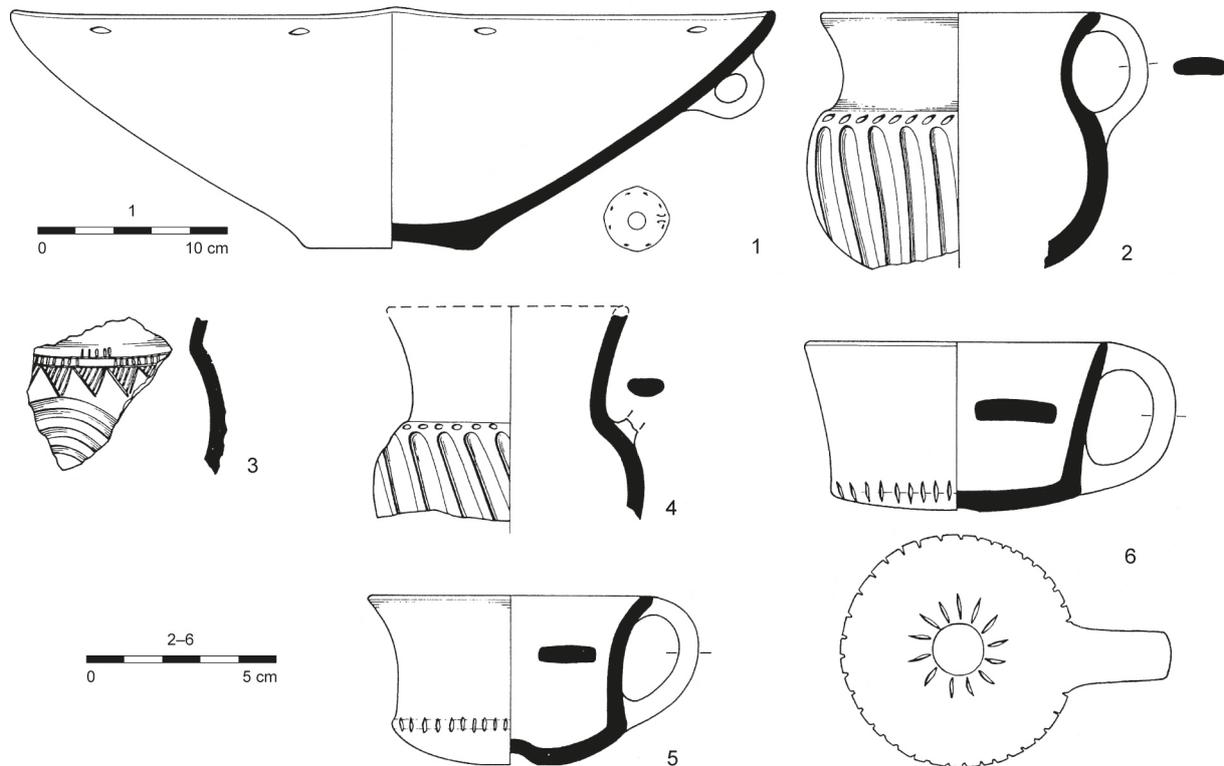
tab. 58: 1, 3, 4; 60: 1, 2), vessels with protrusions (Fojtík 2015, tab. 56: 15–17; 58: 5) or with dimples on the body (Fojtík 2015, tab. 56: 12, 14), a bronze awl (Fig. 87: 2), the deliberately cut off epiphysis of a cattle bone (Fojtík 2015, tab. 57: 6, 7) and certain other artefacts are not important for a more precise chronological determination.



**Fig. 84.** Olšany – 'Zlatníska', 2001. Amphora and bottom of vessel from inhumation vessel burial. Photo from Museum and Gallery in Prostějov archive.



**Fig. 85.** Olšany – 'Zlatníska', 2001. Amphora and bottom of pots from inhumation vessel burial. Photo from Museum and Gallery in Prostějov archive.



**Fig. 86.** Olšany – 'Zlatníska', 2001. Selection of finds from feature 503B. After Fojtík, Dočkalová 2007, tab. I.

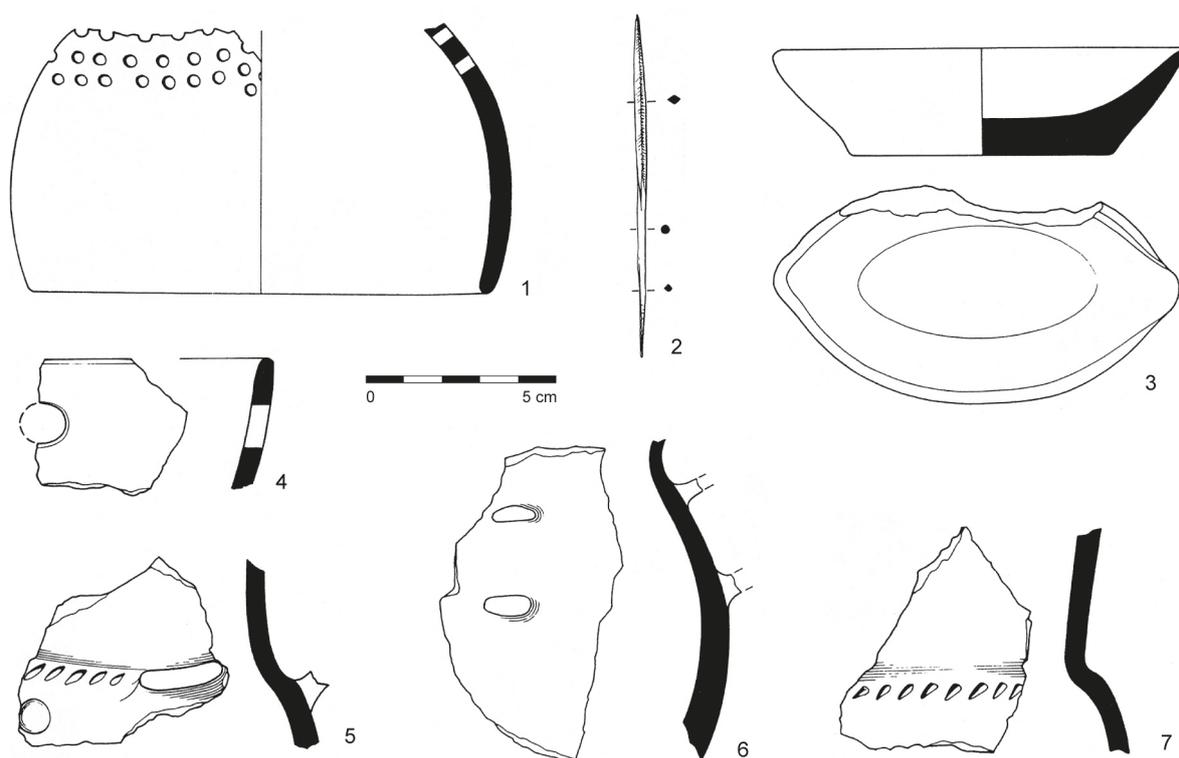


Fig. 87. Olšany – ‘Zlatníška’, 2001. Selection of finds from feature 503B. After Fojtík, Dočkalová 2007, tab. III.

An important indicator for the chronological classification of this assemblage is a bowl with lengthwise holes beneath the rim (Fig. 86: 1). In Moravia and Lower Austria, these ceramic types are relatively rare and were already associated with the postclassical period of the Věteřov group (Podborský 1964, 44, obr. 16: 16; Neugebauer 1977, 69, Taf. 19: 1, 2), but we encounter them more often in the early and middle phases of the Tumulus culture (Stuchlík 1979, 144–146). Their origin is most often sought in Bavaria, where they are mostly found in the fully developed Tumulus culture (Hundt 1957, 36, Abb. 3; 1962, 46, Abb. 2: 9; 3). Similar finds from Bohemia were pointed out by V. Moucha (Moucha, Trnka 1959) and E. Čujanová-Jílková (1967, Abb. 10: 27; 11: 1, 4, 6), who generally dated them to the early part of the Middle Bronze Age. In Moravia, their occurrence in the post-classical phase of the Věteřov group is evidenced by several artefacts from Bulhary, Bezměřov and Hradisko near Kroměříž, while their presence in the early and middle phase of the Middle Danube Tumulus culture is represented by artefacts from, e.g. Jiříkovice, Morkůvky, Těšetice and other southern Moravian sites (Stuchlík 1984, 180–182).

Noteworthy is the relatively high number of certain less common objects in feature 503B. One of these is a fragment of a vessel with holes in the walls (Fig. 87: 1), which resembles sieves with perforated walls, from which it differs in the absence of a bottom. Similar artefacts are found throughout Central Europe from the Neolithic to the protohistorical period. We already know them from the settlements of the Únětice culture (Ondráček 1960, obr. 67: 5), but they are much more common at the end of the Early Bronze Age in the environment of the Maďarovce-Věteřov culture (Tihelka 1960, obr. 19: 1; Ondráček, Stuchlíková 1982, tab. 8: 8; 15: 8; Točík 1978a, Taf. LXXXVI: 4; CXI: 26; CXVII: 16; CXXV: 28; CLXXXVII: 22; Lauer mann 2003, Abb. 46: 82; 48: 70; 118: 8). K. Tihelka (1960, 61–62) considered them to be cult objects, while K. Willvonseder (1937, 209) and I. Bóna (1975, 132, 154) were inclined to believe that they were covers to protect the fire, and this opinion has recently become more prevalent. Tub-shaped vessels (Fig. 87: 3), which have a long history of occurrence, are also less common finds in a large part of Europe, and several Moravian examples date to the Middle Bronze Age. Their origin is thought to be in the Aegean area (Spurný 1988, 37).

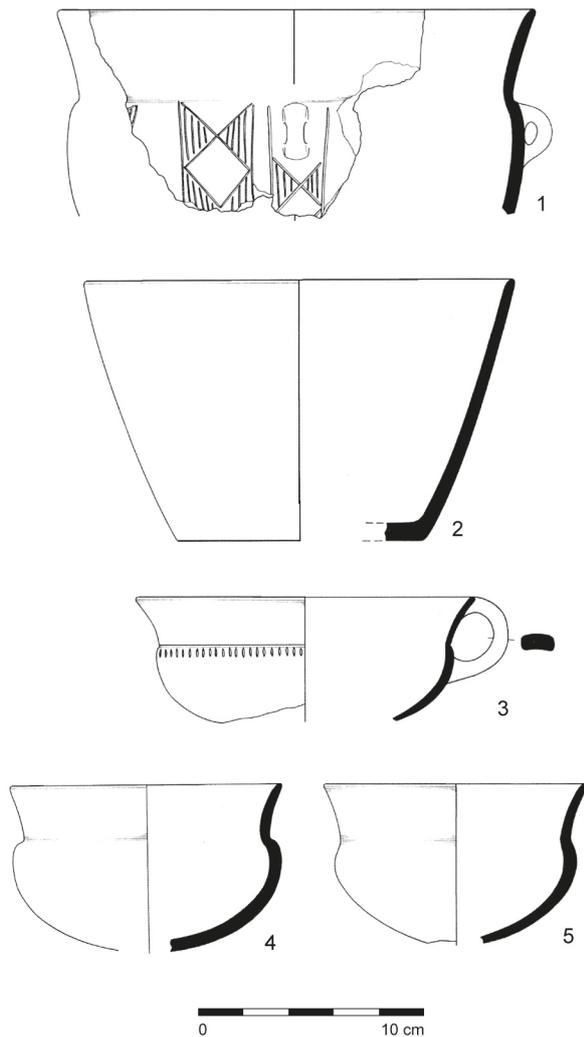


Fig. 88. Olšany – ‘Zlatníška’, 2001. Selection of finds from feature 503B. After Fojtík, Dočkalová 2007, tab. II.

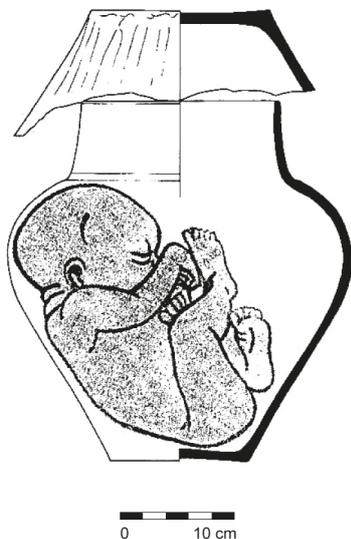


Fig. 89. Olšany – ‘Zlatníška’, 2001. Reconstruction of child inhumation vessel burial. After Fojtík, Dočkalová 2007, obr. 3:2.

Based on an evaluation of the ceramics, settlement feature 530B from Olšany, and hence also the inhumation vessel burial placed at its bottom, can be dated to the middle phase of the Middle Danube Tumulus culture in phase B – B2/C1 (essentially the same dating also appeared in all the works of P. Fojtík; e.g. Fojtík, Dočkalová 2007, 61, 64; Fojtík 2015, 193, 199).

In contrast to the Early Bronze Age with its clearly defined inhumation burial rite and the Urn-field culture period with the nearly exclusive cremation of the dead, the Middle Bronze Age was characterised by an unusually wide variability in burial practices. Essentially, both flat burial grounds and barrow cemeteries occurred simultaneously, and graves could contain both inhumation and cremation burials, with a range of other variants appearing for each method (Stuchlík 2006a, 153–154). Inhumation vessel burials were previously considered in Central Europe to be characteristic only of the Early Bronze Age, and the pithos from Olšany could be considered a complete exception. Several other cases have been published in recent literature from the environment of the Tumulus cultures in the Carpathian Basin. The geographically closest find is reported from the Carpathian Tumuli culture settlement in Nitra, where in 2007 a complete human skull, two cervical vertebrae, and the radius bone of a right arm were found in pit 4. The authors of the publication stated that large pieces of a vessel in which the skull was originally to have been deposited were found at the bottom of the pit (Březinová 2009, 52; Březinová, Jakab, Vladár 2012, 27, obr. 4). Based on the anthropological determination, the bones belonged to a 14–17-year-old woman whose skull bore traces of fatal injuries (Březinová, Jakab, Vladár 2012, 28–35, obr. 7–9). A pot-shaped vessel (Březinová, Jakab, Vladár 2012, obr. 5: 1, left) with a rim diameter of 20 cm was to have served as the burial case. The circumstances of the discovery of this burial are not sufficiently conclusive, and, moreover, due to the age category of 14–17 years, the deceased does not fit into the category of child inhumation vessel burials.

When the burial of a newborn in a vessel from the Maxglan site in Salzburg, Austria, was published, some researchers considered its similarity to Bömekirchen pottery and, at the same time, suggested the possibility of dating it to the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (Moosleitner 1993, 10), or even directly to the Middle Bronze Age (Probst 1999, 238). Unfortunately, only a larger bottle-shaped vessel decorated with reliefs cordons was depicted from the

B: H 488

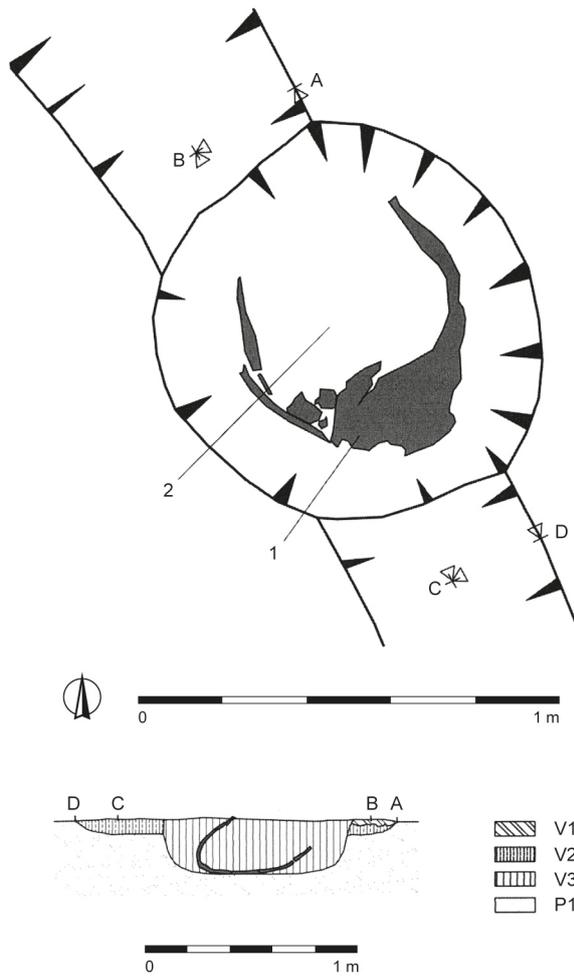


Fig. 90. Vliněves. Pit with inhumation vessel burial disturbing earlier ring ditch. After Limburský et al. 2018, obr. 181B: H 488.

grave (Moosleitner 1993, Abb. 2), which, however, has no analogies in the Early or Middle Bronze Age, and its classification into the Eneolithic seems much more likely. It is probably not even possible to consider this burial a pithos from the Middle Bronze Age.

We can clearly consider recently published grave 488 located in the area of the earlier Únětice burial ground in Vliněves in central Bohemia to be an inhumation vessel burial (Limburský et al. 2018, 252–254). The grave pit with a burial in a vessel disrupted an earlier circular groove with a maximum diameter of 9.8 m, a width of 50 to 90 cm, and a depth of 10 to 30 cm (Fig. 90). The ring groove was dated to the Middle Bronze Age based on an incomplete vessel and a bronze target-shaped pendant (Limburský et al. 2018, 250, obr. 179; 180: 1, 2; tabela 14: 34). Grave 488 had only a small grave pit with a roughly circular plan 90 cm in diameter and

25 cm deep. A larger pot-shaped vessel with a relief cordon with depressions at the interface of the neck and body lay in an inclined position (Fig. 91: 1). Fragments of the skull and long bones of a child of Infans I age were found in the vessel along with a small bronze annular ornament (Fig. 91: 2). Although the burial was located in a Únětice burial ground, corresponding analogies for the pot-shaped vessel with a relief cordon are found only at Tumulus culture sites (Čujanová-Jílková 1964, 10, obr. 3: 1, 3, 6, 7; 1970, Abb. 12: 5, 10; 84: 11). The bronze ornament is described in the publication as an annular pin with a catch (Limburský et al. 2018, 253, obr. 181: 2; tabela 14: 34), but it is probably a fragment of a smaller wire spiral ornament. Moreover, the dating to the Middle Bronze Age is clearly confirmed by the radiocarbon date from the grave, i.e.  $3208 \pm 27$  BP (Limburský et al. 2018, 254). After the find from Olšany, this is the second reliable child inhumation vessel burial in the Czech lands.

Several vessel burials were identified at a Tumulus culture burial ground with 365 graves in Tiszafüred – Majoroshal east of the Tisza River in Hungary. Grave 35 contained a 70-cm-high pot-shaped vessel with double protrusions below the offset neck, as well as skull fragments, a mug with a handle, two bronze rings and a bronze bracelet (Kovács 1975, 12, Pl. 4: 35: 1–3). In grave 84, a 57.5-cm-high pot-shaped

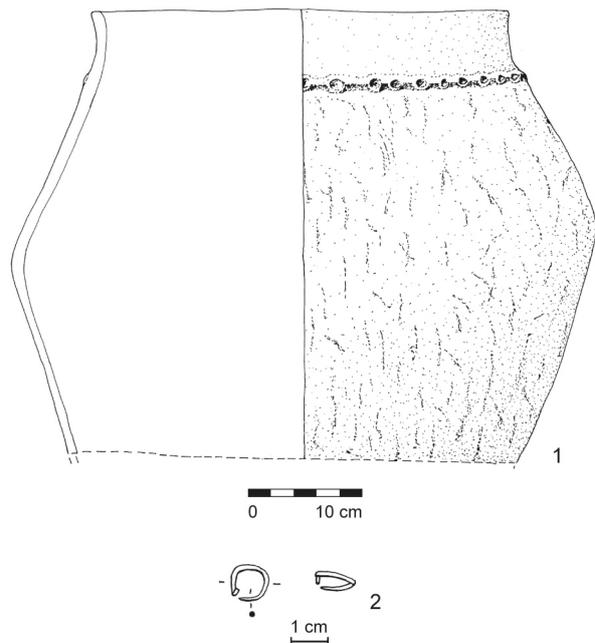
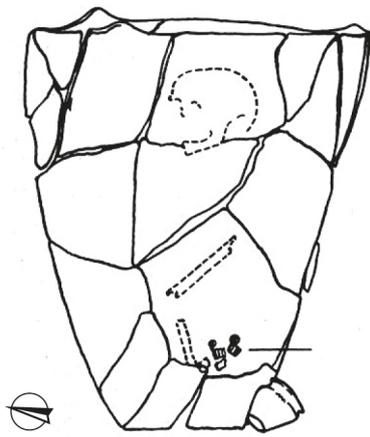


Fig. 91. Vliněves. Finds from child inhumation vessel burial. After Limburský et al. 2008, obr. 181B: 1, 2.



**Fig. 92.** Tiszafüred (Hungary). Child inhumation vessel burial. After Kovács 1975, Fig. 18.

vessel with a relief rim with dimples below the rim held a complete child's skeleton with the skull near the rim, and the burial also included a mug with a handle and two simple bronze rings (Kovács 1975, 15, Pl. 8: 84: 1–3). In grave 132, a smaller mug with a handle, two bronze bracelets with engraved decoration, and two clay beads were found among ashes scattered over an area of 30 × 60 cm (Kovács 1975, 20, Pl. 11: 132: 1–5). Grave 218 held a slender, 65-cm-tall ovoid pot with lobes on the rim, covered by a bowl with lobes on the rim. Next to fragments of a child's skeleton, a mug with a handle and four bronze finger-rings with spirals were found in the pot (Fig. 92). An even smaller pot with handles over a curved neck lay next to the large pot (Kovács 1975, 27, Fig. 18; Pl. 21: 218: 1–5). However, a careful inspection of the ground plan of the Tiszafüred necropolis (Kovács 1975, plan after the text) reveals that grave 35, 84 and 132 are the only ones in the burial ground designated as pithoi, while grave 218 is marked as a grave with scattered ashes, despite being clearly described in the text as a pithos. In contrast, grave 132, which is marked as a pithos on the plan, must be classified as the remains of a cremation burial according to the description in the text. Based on the composition of the finds and the existence of unburned bones, only grave 35, 84 and 218 can be considered as inhumation vessel burials, while grave 132, which did not contain a large vessel but only burnt bones, must be regarded as a cremation burial (Kovács 1975, 12, 15, 20, 27). All three inhumation burials in vessels are located in the northern part of the necropolis.

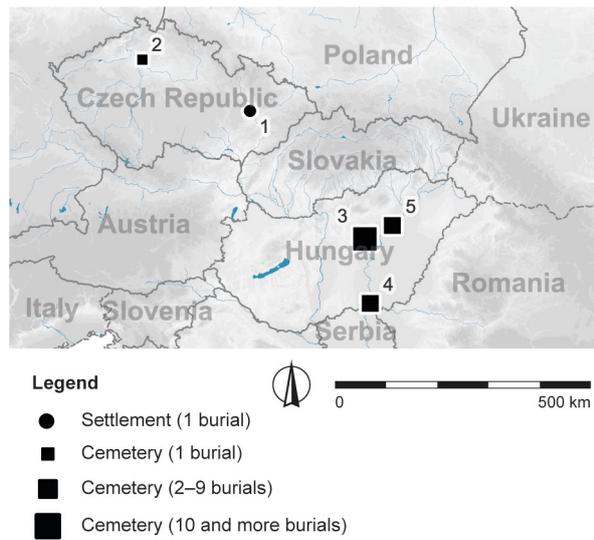
Two more child inhumation vessel burials were discovered at another large necropolis with more than 600 graves in Tápé, which lies west of the Tisza River

in south-central Hungary. In grave 3, a 55-cm-high ovoid amphora with two handles and protrusions on the body was lying on its side, with its mouth facing east. The vessel held the bones of a newborn and grave goods consisting of an S-shaped mug, a bowl with lobes on the rim, and small bronze fragments (Trogmayer 1975, 9, 148, Taf. 1: 3: 1–3; Farkas, Lip-tak 1975, 240). In grave 79, the skull of an infant was found among the sherds of a 70-cm-high ovoid pot with four protrusions below the rim, which was placed on its side with the mouth facing north (Trogmayer 1975, 27, 148, Taf. 8: 79). Both inhumation vessel burials are located roughly in the central part of the burial ground (Trogmayer 1975, Übersichts-karte).

Another 14 inhumation vessel burials were discovered in a large necropolis with 292 graves in Jánoshida roughly 75 km east of Budapest (Csányi 2016, 109). The burial site has only been published provisionally to date and unfortunately no further details are provided. In Hungary, many Tumulus culture burial grounds of various sizes have been investigated, including Maklár with 151 graves, Rákóczi-falva with 67 graves, and Letkés with 55 graves, which have also not yet been published in greater detail. As other Tumulus culture sites are also located in northern Serbia, it cannot be ruled out that in addition to the two burials known thus far from Tápé, three from Tiszafüred and 14 from Jánoshida, additional skeletal burials in vessels could be discovered in the future.

Minimal information has been published (including the age of the buried individuals) for drawing more general conclusions about the nature of inhumation vessel burials from the Middle Bronze Age, with the only exception being the completely preserved skeleton from Olšany belonging to a child who died shortly after birth (Fojtík, Dočkalová 2007, 64, obr. 3, 4; Dočkalová 2015, 224). Bone fragments from the skull and long bone fragments from the Vliněves burial belonged to a child of infans I age (Limbuský et al. 2018, 254). In the Hungarian burial grounds in Tápé, both graves point to infants (Trogmayer 1975, 148), whereas in Tiszafüred all three graves are marked only as child burials (Kovács 1975, 12, 15, 27). The burial site from Jánoshida has only been published provisionally, so unfortunately we do not know the anthropological determination.

All inhumation vessel burials from the Middle Bronze Age that have been anthropologically identified so far belong to children. The literature also includes the discovery of a woman aged 14 to 17 from Mostní Street in Nitra, whose skeleton contained a skull, two



**Fig. 93.** Map of distribution of inhumation vessel burials from the Middle Bronze Age in Central Europe. 1 – Olšany; 2 – Vliněves; 3 – Jánoshida; 4 – Tápé; 5 – Tiszafüred. Author M. Filip.

cervical vertebrae and an incomplete radius bone of the right arm (Březinová, Jakab, Vladár 2012). However, from the perspective of age, this case does not fit into the category of child inhumation vessel burials, and the circumstances of the burial itself do not appear to be entirely convincing.

The burial from Olšany can be reliably dated to the Middle Bronze Age, thanks to the large assemblage of pottery from the settlement pit and the amphora-like storage vessel itself used to hold the burial. However, the buried child, placed in an amphora-like storage vessel and covered with the bottom of another vessel, was not furnished with any grave goods. Only a small, incomplete ring made of bronze wire was found with the child buried in a larger storage vessel in Vliněves (Fig. 91: 2; Limburský et al. 2018, 254, Fig. 181: 1, 2; Tab. 1: 2; 14: 34). Of the two graves at Tápé, burial 79 was unoccupied and burial 3 contained a mug, bowl, and miniature bronze fragments (Trogmayer 1975, 9, Taf. 1: 2–13). In Tiszafüred, grave 35 contained a mug, two bronze rings and a bronze bracelet (Kovács 1975, 12, Pl. 4: 35), grave 84 a mug and two bronze rings (Kovács 1975, 12, Pl. 8: 84), and grave 218 contained a pot, mug, a bowl and four bronze spiral finger-rings

(Fig. 92; Kovács 1975, 27, Fig 18; Pl. 21: 218). We do not have specific data on the grave goods from the preliminarily published necropolis in Jánoshida. Of the five graves from Tápé and Tiszafüred, only one was unfurnished, while the remaining four contained one to three vessels and one to four bronze artefacts. Compared to both burials from this country, the graves from Hungary are appreciably richer in grave goods, but their furnishings cannot be compared to ordinary graves in cemeteries.

We also have minimal information about the actual form of burials. In Olšany, the amphora with a burial was standing and covered by the bottom of another vessel (Fig. 14). In Vliněves, the vessel lay in an oblique position with the mouth to the northwest (Fig. 90; Limburský et al. 2018, 250, Fig. 179; 181). In Tápé, both vessels lay in a horizontal position and the mouth of one burial case faced north, the other east, while in Tiszafüred, the storage vessel in grave 218 stood upright (Fig. 92; Kovács 1975, 27, Fig. 18).

In the Czech lands, only two child inhumation vessel burials are recorded from the Middle Bronze Age, from Olšany in Moravia and Vliněves in Bohemia. Two other cases from neighbouring areas reported in the literature (Nitra, Salzburg – Maxglan) do not meet the criteria for inclusion in this category. The centre of occurrence of this form of burial rite is in Hungary, where we know of two burials from the burial grounds in Tápé (Trogmayer 1975, 9, 27), three from Tiszafüred (Kovács 1975, 12, 15, 27) and 14 from Jánoshida (Csányi 2016, 109). The total number of two burials from Bohemia and Moravia and 19 from Hungary (Fig. 93) is significantly lower than the approximately 150–180 burials from the Early Bronze Age. The figures clearly indicate that this method of burial was no longer very popular in central Europe during the Middle Bronze Age. There is also a noticeable difference compared to the areas from which this custom arrived. A good example is the ancient city of Ashur in Iraq, where more than two dozen burials deposited in vessels from the Middle Assyrian period (16th–12th century BC) were discovered (Müller-Karpe 1980, 740). The situation was similar in Babylon (Müller-Karpe 1980, 737) and also at a number of equally ancient sites.

## Inhumation vessel burials in the Late Bronze Age

Two features from the Late Bronze Age in Moravia were interpreted in the past as inhumation vessel burials, specifically the Lusatian burial from Ivaň from 1933 and the discovery of a human skull placed on potsherds of a Velatice vessel on Cezavy Hill near Blučina from 1950. The grave of a young girl placed in a storage vessel in Ivaň (Prostějov District) (Böhm 1936; 1941, 277) became the third discovered burial in a vessel in Moravia, after two Early Bronze Age finds from Mikulov. In the small Lusatian burial ground, a number of cremation graves were gradually rescued during ploughing and clay extraction in the first half of the 20th century, which brought common examples of the burial customs of the Lusatian culture (Červinka 1902, 216; Gottwald 1909, 72, Fig. 22; Červinka 1939, 17), and



**Fig. 94.** Ivaň. Drawing reconstruction of child inhumation vessel burial. After Parma, Stuchlík 2017, obr. 7: B.

the last graves were discovered here in 1961 after a short break (Peškař 1962, 59–60). A grave discovered in May 1933 held a large storage vessel covered with a bowl (Fig. 7). The storage vessel contained the skeleton of a child around the age of 12, two smaller vessels and two bronze artefacts, while two other vessels stood outside the burial (Fig. 8).

Based on information from the finders, museum conservators V. Šlezr and R. Nitsche, J. Böhm (1936) assumed that the skeleton of a child was placed in a crouched position in a large vessel furnished with grave goods represented by a small two-handled amphora, a small handle-less amphora, a mug, a bronze pin and a bronze spiral (Fig. 94), while there was also a medium-sized, handle-less amphora and a large bowl-shaped cup next to the storage vessel. In contrast, I. L. Červinka, based on the museum reconstruction of the grave, expressed doubts as to whether the body of a twelve-year-old individual could fit in the vessel and, moreover, he was struck by the absence of verdigris from the pin, while green traces of patina were preserved on the finger. He explained the situation by saying that the Lusatian cremation grave was located above a grave from the Early Bronze Age with a skeleton lying in a crouched position on its right side, and that the two graves were subsequently mixed up (Červinka 1938, 83–84). Unfortunately, it is no longer possible to reliably determine whether the skeleton that was used for the reconstruction of the grave in the museum exhibition in Přeřov is the original skeleton, and it is therefore not possible to verify the age or sex of the buried individual or other circumstances of the discovery (Parma, Stuchlík 2017, 217; Drechsler 2023, 27). Jaroslav Böhm's opinion, on the

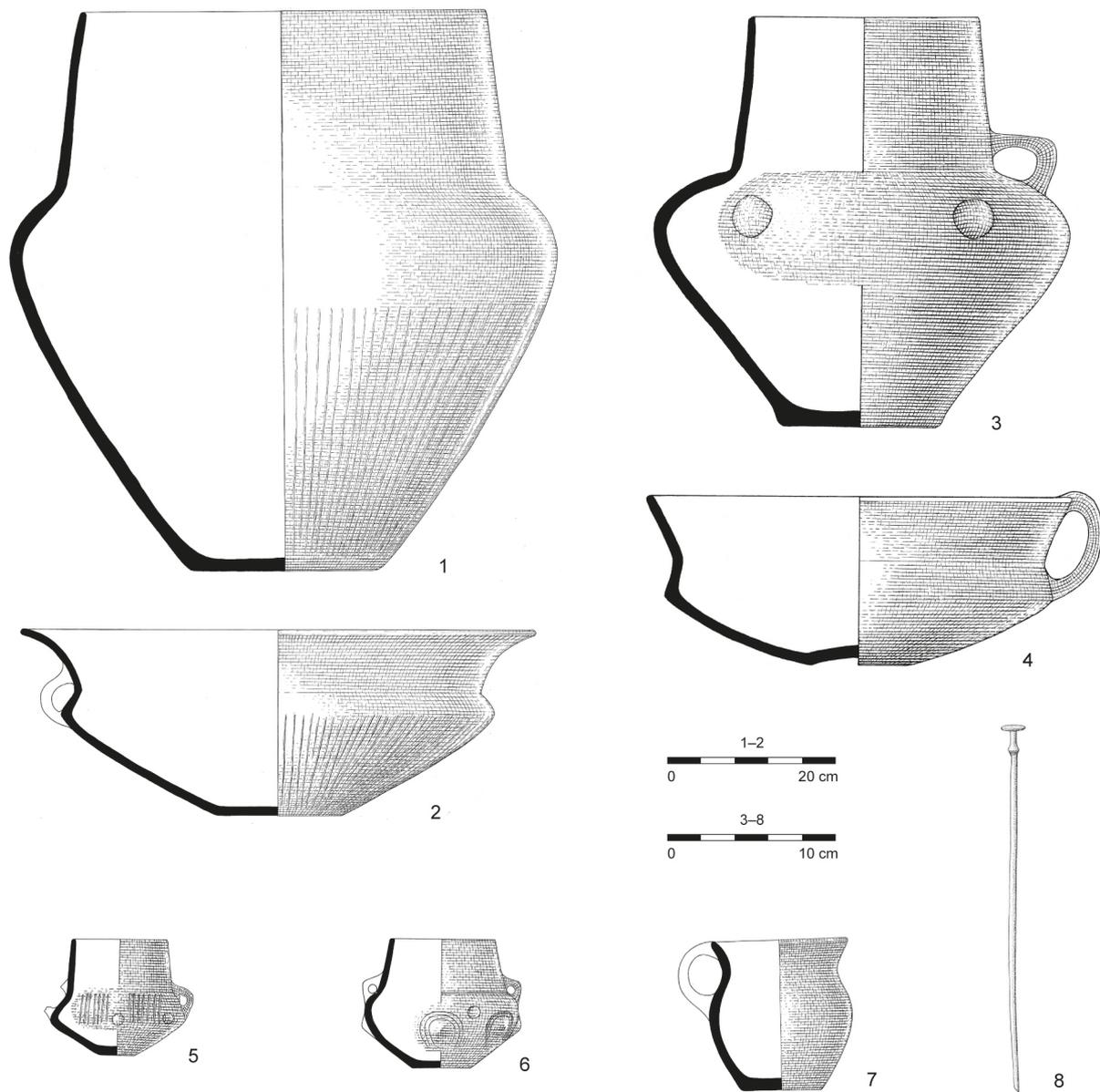


Fig. 95. Ivaň. Finds from child inhumation vessel burial. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík.

other hand, is supported by the fact that only Lusatian cremation graves are recorded at the burial site, no inhumation graves from the Early Bronze Age.

The handle-less amphora, as well as other ceramic and bronze finds, reliably allows the inhumation burial to be classified in the Late Bronze Age. A large undecorated and handle-less amphora-shaped storage vessel (Fig. 95: 1; 96: 1; 97), used as a case for the deposition of a burial, represents a completely common form in the Lusatian phase of the Lusatian Urnfield culture. Similar artefacts are known from a number of later graves of the Middle Danube Tumulus culture from Bošovice and Velké Hostěradky

(Říhovský 1982, tab. 20B: 11; 25A: 4) and Němčice na Hané (Červinka 1926, tab. III: 13), but they are mainly characteristic of the older phase of the Middle Danube Urnfield culture (Říhovský 1963, 74–77, Fig. 11A: 3; 11B: 2; 12B: 4) and the earlier phase of the Lusatian Urnfield culture (Nekvasil 1978, 109, obr. 12: 2; 21: 13). The same vessel was also used as a case for the deposition of a child's inhumation burial at the Polish burial ground of Bachórz – Chodorówka (see below Fig. 99; 100: 3; Gedl 1994, 27, tabl. CXX: 10). These handle-less amphorae were frequently used in cremation burials as urns (Dohnal 1974, Taf. 1A: 1; 2: 1; Nekvasil 1982,



Fig. 96. Ivaň. Finds from child inhumation vessel burial. Photo by A. Juchelková, S. Stuchlík.

tab. 29: 15; 44: 11; 45: 13; 58: 14) and sometimes similar, but somewhat taller and slimmer vessels also appeared (Dohnal 1977, table on p. 120 – No. 240; table on p. 121 – No. 248; Nekvasil 1982, tab. 182: 8). Bowls with a curved neck bridged by one or two handles and with a grooved body (Fig. 95: 2; 96: 2) also appear quite commonly in the older period of the Lusatian Urnfield culture (Nekvasil 1982, tab. 27: 12; 88: 11; 89: 1; 218: 1). Bowls that have handles on the lower part of the neck are rarer (Nekvasil 1978, Fig. 23: 12; 1982, tab. 28: 6; 259: 1). Small amphorae decorated with various protrusions, groups of vertical grooves and depressions are also very common finds (Fig. 95: 5; 96: 5, 6; Nekvasil 1978, 109, obr. 18: 1–4; 22: 2, 3; 1982, tab. 17: 20; 52: 6; 144: 11; 177: 8, 9; 191: 2; 199: 9; 235: 7, 8; Štrof 1993, obr. 207: 1, 2). The smaller mug with a handle over the neck (Fig. 95: 7; 96: 7) is not a common form, but it also appears in the earlier phase (Nekvasil 1982, tab. 46: 18; 225: 17; Juchelka 2014, obr. 1: 4). This dating is also supported by Moravičany-type pins (Fig. 95: 8), which are dated to the earlier phase of the Urnfield culture (Říhový 1979, 106; Taf. 30: 570–582; 31: 584–601).

The Late Bronze Age dating is also supported by the two vessels standing next to the storage vessel with the skeleton. A medium-sized, two-handled amphora with impressed dimples on the shoulders (Fig. 95: 3; 96: 2), decorated or undecorated, is

a characteristic form in the early phase of the Lusatian Urnfield culture (Dohnal 1974, Taf. 1: 8–9; Nekvasil 1978, obr. 13: 1; 18: 14; 1982, tab. 64: 21; 156: 9; Šabatová, Vitula 2002, tab. 33: 9). Similarly, a large



Fig. 97. Ivaň. Storage vessel covered by a bowl. Photo by A. Juchelková.



**Fig. 98.** Blučina, 1950. Velatice pot. Drawing by J. Brenner, S. Stuchlík, photo author's archive.

cup with a domed bottom and a handle spanning a curved neck (Fig. 95: 4; 96: 3) is found in slightly different variants mostly in the early phase of the Lusatian Urnfield culture (Dohnal 1974, Taf. 2: 5; Nekvasil 1982, tab. 222: 4; 311: 2; 339: 2; Šabatová, Vitula 2002, tab. 6: 6).

The grave goods and the skeleton represent a collection characteristic of the early phase of the Lusatian Urnfield culture, and the finds from Ivaň is also fully comparable to the furnishings of contemporary cremation graves. For example, cremation grave 710 from Moravičany had a similar assemblage (Nekvasil 1982, tab. 189: 1–8). There is probably no doubt that the discovery from Ivaň represents a child's pithos burial, regardless of the fact that according to earlier information it is a child of somewhat older age (which, unfortunately, can no longer be verified today).

Some researchers cited a find from Cezavy Hill near Blučina from 1950 as the second case of an inhumation vessel burial. In an older Věteřov ditch with the remains of more than a hundred individuals, a human skull reportedly lay on potsherds of a Velatice pot-shaped vessel (Fig. 98) and other sherds were to have been found in its vicinity (Tihelka 1969, 13, Pl. LIII: 1). The data and interpretations surrounding these finds differ in a number of details. Although the skull was discovered in 1950, the first mention of it in the literature appeared only in 1961 in the form of a small note about a child's inhumation burial in a pot (Tihelka 1961, 59). Jiří Říhový reported on this find at the same time, stating that the skull from burial 70 lay on a broken two-handled pot-shaped vessel in the control block between sectors III and VII, so it could originally have been buried inside the vessel (Říhový 1961, 134, obr. 20: 3). Another short mention by K. Tihelka two years later

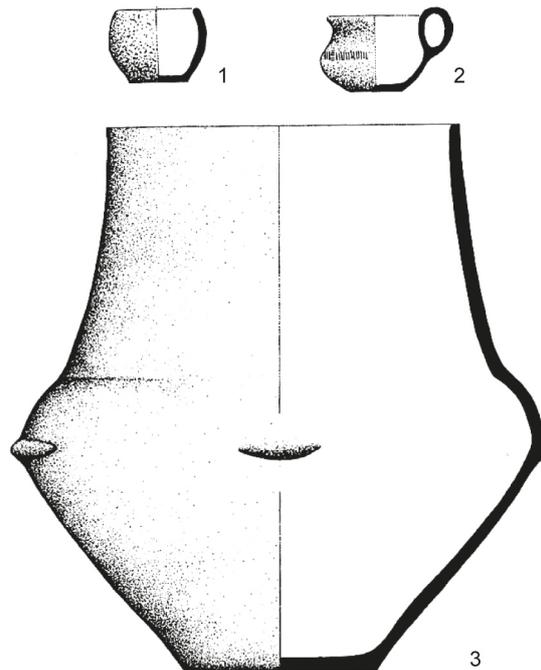
notes that the child's bones were found on the sherds of a vessel that was reportedly lying on its side (Tihelka 1963, 8). In a more detailed publication of the Velatice finds from Cezavy Hill near Blučina, only the skull of burial 70, which was found under half of a Velatice pot, is again mentioned, so it could originally have been placed inside the vessel (Tihelka 1969, 13, Pl. LIII: 1).

The precise chronological classification of the Blučina pot is not entirely clear, since similar forms are not sufficiently conclusive for an exact chronological or cultural classification. Given the circumstances of the discovery, we can assume it is the very beginning of the early phase of the Middle Danube Urnfield culture (Říhový 1963, 138). However, the burial of a skull in a vessel is highly problematic. The skull has not been anthropologically analysed and there is only the assessment by K. Tihelka that it belongs to a child (Tihelka 1963, 8). However, in a later work, the same author states that bones of an adult individual were found among the stones near the skull (Tihelka 1969, 13). However, the truth is that a child's skull could not have been placed in the relatively small vessel, which, after reconstruction, has a height of 22 to 22.3 cm and a rim diameter of 15 cm, especially when we consider that the inner diameter of the neck is not even 13 cm. According to the assessment by anthropologist L. Horáčková, only the head of a newborn or a human foetus would fit in the vessel (Stuchlík 2007, 203, 207). The only possible explanation that can be accepted is that the skull was secondarily deposited on fragments of an already broken pot or came into proximity of the vessel only by chance, similar to the situation of the skull found in 1948 on a fragment of a Věteřov amphora.

The Late Bronze Age burial rite is highly uniform



**Fig. 99.** Bachórz – Chodorówka (Poland). Reconstruction of inhumation vessel burial. After Szybowicz 1995, Fig. on the book cover.



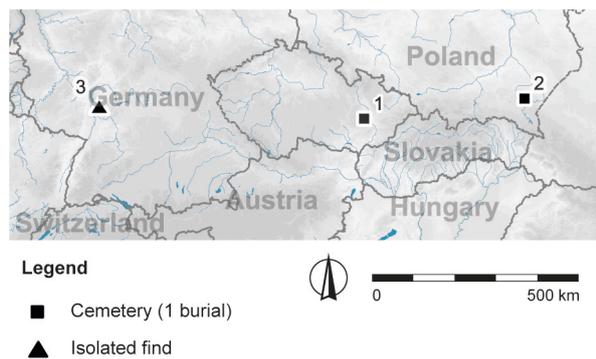
**Fig. 100.** Bachórz – Chodorówka (Poland). Ceramics from inhumation vessel burial. After Gedl 1994, tabl. CXX: 8–10.

in our territory, with the deceased being almost exclusively cremated and remains being placed in pit or urn graves. Inhumation burials occur only in settlements as secondary burials in settlement features (e.g. Bouzek, Koutecký 1980; Plesl 1988) or in the form of sacrifices at some hilltop and fortified sites such as Cezavy Hill near Blučina, Klentnice, Hradisko near Kroměříž and Skalka near Velim (e.g. Říhový 1955; Tihelka 1969; Hrala, Šumberová, Vávra 2000; Salaš 2023). The only place in our surrounding area where the burial of unburned bodies was practiced somewhat more often is the border area in Poland between Upper Silesia and Lesser Poland (Gedl 1964, 116; 1991, 6). We encounter them only very rarely at Moravian burial grounds (Parma, Stuchlík 2017), so the inhumation burial in vessel from Ivaň represents a complete exception in the Czech lands.

In the case of the skull found in Blučina in 1950, we can clearly rule out the possibility that it is a pithos-type burial, given the age of the deceased individual and the uncertain circumstances of the find. If this is not a case of accidental displacement of the skull, one could consider the deposition of the head of the deceased on the sherds of a broken vessel, as was the case with the discovery of the skull on a Věteřov amphora on Cezavy Hill near Blučina in 1948 (Fig. 67).

In our territory, only the grave from Ivaň can be

considered a true inhumation vessel burial. There are some uncertainties surrounding the skeleton, which unfortunately cannot be verified today (Parma, Stuchlík 2017, 217; Drechsler 2023, 27). However, the existence of inhumation vessel burials in the Late Bronze Age is documented by grave 781 from the large burial ground with at least 780 graves at Bachórz – Chodorówka in Poland, which belongs to the Tarnobrzeg group of the Lusatian culture in southeastern Poland. The grave contained a 39-cm-high handle-less amphora covered with a flat sandstone slab holding the skeleton of a small child around eight years old (*infans I*), who had a small barrel-shaped cup and another small cup with a handle near his skull, while a cow vertebra lay at the bottom of the vessel (Fig. 99; 100; Gedl 1993; 1994, 21–22, 325, ryc. 68; tabl. CXX: 8–10; Szybowicz 1995, 160). In the Lusatian culture in Poland, we encounter inhumation graves somewhat more often than in Moravia, which is confirmed, among other things, by the fact that in the Upper Silesian-Lesser Poland group of the Lusatian culture there was essentially a biritual burial rite (Gedl 1964, 24–26, 116, map 1) and, for example, a total of 12 skeletal graves were found in the Bachórz – Chodorówka necropolis itself (Gedl 1994, 20). However, this is the only pithos in all of Poland from the Late Bronze Age that can be linked to the earliest phase at this burial site. The



**Fig. 101.** Map of distribution of inhumation vessel burials from the Late Bronze Age in Central Europe. 1 – Ivaň; 2 – Bachórz – Chodorówka; 3 – Bensheim – Auerbach. Author M. Filip.

obvious uniqueness of this grave and its difference from the usual rite is also indirectly confirmed by its location on the northeastern edge of the burial ground (Gedl 1994, 21, ryc. 3; 68). It is also worth noting the important fact that the burial site itself belongs to the Tarnobrzeg group of the Lusatian culture, but the ceramics from the mentioned grave do not represent the typical pottery of this group, as they are much closer to early Lusatian ceramics from Slovakia or to the ceramics of the Kietrz IIa phase in the Upper Silesian group (Gedl 1993, 88).

In Central Europe, in addition to Ivaň in Moravia, this burial custom is also documented by a grave at the Bachórz – Chodorówka burial ground in southeastern Poland and the discovery of a rare find in Bensheim – Auerbach in Hesse. There, a foetus about eight months old was found in a ceramic vessel (Probst 1999, 281), about which unfortunately we do not know any details. The mentioned burials make us recall V. Spurný's information that J. A. Jíra discovered a child's skeleton in a Knovíz jar in Prague-Bubeneč in 1909 (Spurný 1947/48, 19, note 26). The mentioned vessel was referred to by J. A. Jíra with some doubts as Knovíz pottery. In fact, it is a Únětice S-shaped storage vessel (Fig. 75), which was used many times as a case for many inhumation burials in Bohemia and Moravia.

At the time of the discovery of the grave from Ivaň, J. Böhm ruled out its connection to burials in vessels from the Early Bronze Age (Böhm 1936, 88), which he justified by its different cultural and chronological position and also by its unusually rich furnishings, which significantly differed from the poor burials from the Early Bronze Age. He was certainly also influenced by the fact that at that time the first burials from Moravia had not yet

been published. Thanks to new discoveries from the Middle Bronze Age in Olšany, Vliněves in Bohemia (Fig. 90; 91; Limburský et al. 2018, 252–254) and especially in the Hungarian burial grounds in Tápé (Trogmayer 1975, 9, 27, 148, Taf. 1: 3: 1–3; 8: 79), Tiszafüred (Fig. 92; Kovács 1975, 12, 15, 27, Fig. 18; Pl. 4: 35: 1–3; 8: 84: 1–3; 21: 218: 1–5) and Jánoshida (Csanyi 2016, 109), we can consider the survival of this burial custom into the early phase of the Late Bronze Age to be at least probable. This is also confirmed by the existence of two other burials from the Urnfield period in Bachórz-Chodorówka in Poland and Benheim-Auebach in Germany.

The age of the deceased is also inconsistent, as a twelve-year-old child was buried in Ivaň, an eight-year-old child in Bachórz-Chodorówka, and an eight-month-old foetus in Benheim-Auerbach. The age difference between individuals from the burials is appreciably greater than it was in the Early or Middle Bronze Age. A relatively small vessel, 39 cm high, was used in the Polish burial (Fig. 99; 100: 3), but according to an anthropological assessment, the bones were placed in the vessel only after the soft parts of the body had decomposed (Szybowicz 1995, 160). We pointed out above the impossibility of a new anthropological determination of the skeleton from Ivaň. The burial of a premature human foetus from Benheim-Auerbach is also without analogies (Probst 1999, 281).

Unlike inhumation vessel burials from the Early Bronze Age, burials from the Late Bronze Age are characterised by a higher number of grave goods. The grave inventory of the young individual from the grave in Ivaň was composed of seven objects – five ceramic vessels and two bronze grave goods (Fig. 8; 95; 96). The child from the Polish site of Bachórz – Chodorówka was not as richly furnished, but even two smaller vessels (Fig. 100: 1, 2; Gedl 1994, 323, tabl. CXX: 8, 9) represent at least average grave goods compared to the usual content of these burials in the Early Bronze Age. There is only brief mention of the German burial from Benheim – Auebach in the literature (Probst 1999, 281), so we have no information about its layout and possible furnishings.

Inhumation vessel burials from the Urnfield period are documented thus far in Central Europe by only three finds (Fig. 101), representing only a very modest survival of a variant of the burial rite that had previously been so important in the Early Bronze Age. Their rare occurrence also significantly differs from the original areas from which this custom spread to our territory. From the Neo-Assyrian

period (10th–7th century BC), a total of 46 burials have been published, e.g. from the well-known ancient city of Ashur in Iraq alone, of which 33 cases involved a skeleton placed in a single pot, and in another 13 burials the skeleton was placed in a pair of pots (Müller-Karpe 1980, 740, Taf. 106: 3, 5).



## Conclusion

Burials in ceramic vessels is an old custom that we encountered in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions as early as the 6th millennium BC and which probably reached its greatest expansion in the Bronze Age. From there, this custom gradually spread through southeastern Europe and the Carpathian Basin to Central Europe, where its oldest evidence first appeared in the Early Bronze Age. In the original areas, ceramic vessels were used for the burial of both adults and children, but in Central Europe, including in the Carpathian Basin, only children are found in the vessels. In Central Europe, the first child inhumation vessel burials were discovered at the end of the 19th century in Bohemia (Malé Číčovce, Slaný, Prague-Michle, Vepřek), at the beginning of the 20th century in southern Germany (Kelheim), and in the 1930s in central Germany (Leuna, Börnecke). In Hungary (Deszk, Szöreg), similar graves were discovered in the 1940s, in Slovakia in the 1950s (Nitranský Hrádok, Patince), while in Austria (Mattersdorf) and Poland (Przesławice) this form of burial rite wasn't discovered until the 1980s. While the first two child inhumation vessel burials from the Early Bronze Age were discovered in Moravia in 1924 and 1928 in Mikulov, they were not published until 1950, while the Lusatian inhumation vessel burial examined in Ivaň in 1933 was published in 1936.

In addition, several unusual finds made in the past have been compared by some researchers to (or directly identified as) inhumation vessel burials. These include the burial of two small children covered with large fragments of storage vessels from Cezavy Hill near Blučina (Fig. 61; 62) and a similar burial of a thirteen-year-old individual from Svato-bořice (Fig. 63–66). We know of analogous burials

in Bohemia from Prague-Běchovice (Petrišćáková, Světlík, Varadzin 2020, 64, obr. 5; 12, 13) and from Prague-Bubeneč (Neustupný, J. 1933, 15). In these cases, the bodies of the deceased were not placed in a vessel, but fragments of vessels merely covered the burial. Similarly, the skull of an adult woman found under uncertain circumstances in a large fragment of a Věteřov amphora (Fig. 67) on Cezavy Hill near Blučina cannot be considered evidence of a child inhumation vessel burial. The skeleton of a young individual from Bánov lay in an Eneolithic vessel (Fig. 68) and even the presence of several Věteřov vessels from the surrounding area does not allow this burial to be classified as Early Bronze Age. At the Věteřov settlement in Olomouc, an amphora and large fragments from several other vessels were stored in a large pot covered with a bowl (Fig. 69, 70), so there was not enough space left inside the vessel to place the body.

From a cultural point of view, most inhumation vessel burials from the Early Bronze Age can be dated to the period of the Únětice culture, which in Moravia applies to the graves from Blučina (Fig. 12; 21), Brno-Tuřany (Fig. 25–28), Dolní Věstonice (Fig. 13; 22–24), Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit (Fig. 6; 20) and Vedrovice (Fig. 29; 30). In Bohemia, we can classify 18 burials from 12 sites in this way (Fig. 3; 4; 72–75), as can nine graves from Germany (Fig. 77; 78), two burials from Poland (Fig. 76) and one grave from Austria. Another large group is represented by burials from the very end of the Early Bronze Age or from the turn of the Early and Middle Bronze Age, to which we can assign the Věteřov finds from the Moravian sites of Borotice (Fig. 38–40), Hodonice (Fig. 41–44), Mikulov – 'Vysoké roh' (Fig. 31), Olbramovice (Fig. 11; 32–34), Pasohlávky (Fig. 35–37)

and a burial site with 13 burials from Hradisko near Kroměříž (Fig. 9; 10; 45–60), one burial in Bohemia and six burials from two sites in Slovakia. They occurred three times in the Straubing culture, four burials appeared at two settlement sites of the Encrusted Pottery culture (Fig. 5), seven burials were found in one burial site of the Polada culture (Fig. 81) and two sites in the Ottomány culture. These burials are documented by one find each in the Litzenkeramik culture and in the environment of surviving beaker cultures in Germany (Fig. 79; 80). They appear in the greatest numbers in the Perjamos culture, where at least 60 (other data indicate 109) burials were found at three burial grounds.

Child inhumation vessel burials were found at 17 settlements in the Early Bronze Age, 25 sites indicate a somewhat more frequent occurrence in burial grounds, and for the remaining eight cases we do not have more detailed information about their find contexts (Fig. 82). In terms of the number of individual burials, this difference is highly significant. To date, 23 burials have been discovered at settlements, but the number in burial grounds has reached 103 or even 153 burials, ambiguous figures influenced by the Hungarian Szöreg necropolis, where two or three burials are reported (Bóna 1975, 87; Girić 1984, 158) and mainly by the only provisionally published Serbian burial ground of Ostojićevo, for which preliminary publications indicate 54 or 103 inhumation vessel burials (Girić 1984, 45; 1989, 239; 1996, 140). The maximum number from all sites could reach up to 184 burials.

The method by which the deceased children are deposited in the vessels is recorded in only a small number of cases. Burials in a crouched position are prevalent, which is largely in accordance with the burial customs of the individual cultures. The storage vessels were captured in the ground several times in a vertical position, but somewhat more often in a horizontal position. The use of stones has not yet been documented in Moravia, although it appears in other areas.

Pot-shaped storage vessels with an S-shaped profile were used as burial cases, which appeared in the Únětice culture (Brno-Tuřany, probably Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit) and Věteřov group (Hodonice, Hradisko near Kroměříže), often also in Bohemia and Germany. Únětice burials were also placed in storage vessels with a curved, smoothed neck and a roughened body (Blučina, Dolní Věstonice, Vedrovice). Other Věteřov burials were placed in amphora-shaped storage vessels with a smoothed neck offset by an edge from the finely roughened

body (Borotice, Olbramovice, Pasohlávky, Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’). In the Early Bronze Age, the burial case was covered with bowls (Brno, Hradisko, Olbramovice, Vedrovice), a second storage vessel (Dolní Věstonice), the bottom of a storage vessel (Hradisko) or a stone slab (Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’). Most of the Únětice and Věteřov burials did not contain any grave goods and only rarely did one (Brno, Borotice, Hradisko, Olbramovice) or two objects (Vedrovice) appear, the same situation that is found throughout Central Europe.

In the Únětice culture in Moravia, six children appeared in five burials, three of whom were newborns, in two cases the age was stated to be 8–9 years, and in one case the individual was simply identified as a child. The Věteřov children from the burials in vessels were 1.5 years old, three years old, twice 6–10 years old, and at two sites the bones were not preserved. In all of Central Europe, it was possible to determine at least the approximate age of only 37 children, of whom 22 were under 1.5 years old, nine were between 1.5 and six years old, and six individuals lived to be 6–10 years old. The cause of death has not been reliably determined for any individual, and only in two cases was evidence of violence recorded (Hodonice, Olbramovice), though this is mostly questioned.

For now, the reasons for burying children in vessels remain unexplained. Sometimes this phenomenon is explained as a sacrifice or associated with a fertility cult. The dead child was placed in a ceramic vessel, which is interpreted by some researchers as a symbolic return to the mother’s womb. And while this act seems understandable for the youngest children, a question arises with older children that were also placed in vessels for the same reasons. From the Mediterranean, where burials of children and adults in vessels were frequent and probably an entirely common variant of the funeral rite, this form of burial reached Central Europe. In our territory, burials in coffins hollowed out of large tree trunks were quite common in the Early Bronze Age, and therefore the most likely explanation is that in Central Europe, children were buried in ceramic vessels instead of wooden coffins. The absence of adult burials in vessels is completely understandable considering the size of the storage vessels in our territory.

In the Middle Bronze Age, the number of child inhumation vessel burials in Central Europe decreased significantly (Fig. 93). In Moravia, we have one burial from Olšany in the Prostějov

region, one case is known from Vliněves in Bohemia, and 19 burials from three burial grounds of the Tumulus culture are documented in Hungary (Jánoshida, Tápé, Tiszafüred). The other two burials mentioned in the literature (Nitra, Salzburg – Maxglan) do not meet conditions for inclusion in this category. The furnishings of burials from Moravia and Bohemia are represented by only one small bronze object (Vliněves), while Hungarian burials are richer compared to the Early Bronze Age and usually contain one to three vessels and one to four metal artefacts.

Their decline in the Late Bronze Age is even more significant, because from this period we record only three inhumation vessel burials (Fig. 101), which were found at the Lusatian settlement in Ivaň in Moravia (Fig. 7; 8; 94–97), at the Lusatian burial site in Bachórz – Chodorówka in Poland (Fig. 99; 100) and under an unknown find context in Benheim in Germany. In the academic literature, the

discovery of a skull and other bones found near or perhaps among the sherds of a Velatice pot from Cezavy Hill near Blučina (Fig. 98) was sometimes considered a pithos, but as the circumstances of the discovery are completely inconclusive, burial in the vessel cannot be considered.

The burials from Ivaň and Bachórze – Chodorówka contain significantly richer bronze furnishings compared to the Early and Middle Bronze Age, while the find context has not been published for the German discovery. Cremation of the dead was widely practiced during the Urnfield period, so the three inhumation vessel burials are strikingly different from the widespread cremation graves. This differs significantly from the Aegean and especially the Near East, where this method of burial continued to be used (e.g. Müller-Karpe 1980, 737, 740). This form of burial rite did not completely disappear even in subsequent periods, as it was still practiced to a lesser extent in the Middle Ages and even in the modern period.

**Catalogue of child inhumation vessel burials  
from the Bronze Age in Moravia**

## Early Bronze Age

### I.1 Blučina – Cezavy (Brno-Country District), hilltop settlement

The excavation in 1960 uncovered the lower part of storage vessel pit 3/60, with a depth of 30 cm and a maximum diameter at the bottom of 125 cm. On the flat bottom of the pit stood a storage vessel (1) with a curved neck offset by a cordon from the roughened body (Fig. 12). This vessel contained the bones of a young child, which, according to the anthropological determination by M. Stloukal, was probably an infant (Tihelka 1961, 56, tab. 18:1; 1962, 49–50; 1963; Stuchlík 2007, 205, obr. 2). In addition to the vessel, charcoals were also found on the bottom of the pit, while ash and additional charcoals were found beneath the vessel. As the rim of the storage vessel reaching up to the topsoil was damaged, it is not possible to assess whether a possible cover on the vessel was damaged or destroyed.

#### Description of finds:

1. An irregular storage vessel with an everted rim and a curved neck offset by a distinctive cordon from the globular body with a finger-pressed surface and a flat, slightly offset bottom. The surface is brown, in places brownish-grey, smoothed inside and on the neck, roughened on the body. Height 36.6–38 cm; Ø rim 25.4 cm; Ø bottom 13.8 cm (Fig. 21; Moravian Museum in Brno).

### I.2 Borotice – ‘Nad Dvorem’ (Znojmo District), burial ground

During the test-pitting of a barrow burial ground from the Early and Middle Bronze Age in Borotice, V. Podborský (1963) investigated barrow 1

in 1962. The relatively distinctive mound had a diameter of 11 m and a height of 40 cm (Fig. 38); the full excavation of the mound was completed in 1990 (Stuchlík 2006a, 33–35, Fig. 17; 18). There was a faint depression roughly in the centre of the mound, and to the east of it were the remains of a cross-shaped trench of unknown origin.

Near the middle of the barrow in sector D, small sherds were scattered at a depth of 0–20 cm. A cluster of potsherds from an amphora-like vessel (1) was found at a depth of 16 cm near the centre of the barrow. The concentration of potsherds also continued in the following layer down to the level of the subsoil, where several fragments of a bronze ring from wire with a round cross-section (2) were found among the potsherds. The vessel and the ring are apparently evidence of a burial from which the skeleton has not survived (Fig. 39).

#### Description of finds:

1. Half of a large vessel with a cylindrical neck that is curved in its lower part and is offset from the globular body by an edge. The bottom is slightly offset. The surface is slightly rough, brownish-black, in places with light brown spots. Height 44 cm; Ø rim 23–24 cm; Ø bottom 15 cm (Fig. 40: 2; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; without inv. No.).
2. Six fragments of a bronze ring wound from wire of a round cross-section. Ø ring ca 35 mm; Ø wire – 2 mm. Held at: South Moravia Museum in Znojmo (Fig. 40: 1; South Moravia Museum in Znojmo; without inv. No.).

### 1.3 Brno-Tuřany (Brno-City District), settlement

During an extensive rescue excavation in the 'Švédské šance' land section in Brno-Tuřany, P. Kos investigated a large Únětice culture settlement in 2005. The most interesting finds included large feature 575 with an inhumation burial (burial 804) of a child in a pot (Fig. 25; Kos 2006; Salaš, Stuchlík 2011, 243, obr. 74). The inhumation vessel burial (burial 804) was uncovered in the southwest part of a clay pit (feature 575) at least 70 m long at a depth of several dozen centimetres below the surface (Moravcová, Kala 2019, 47, 163, tab. 32). Although the site of Brno-Slatina was originally listed for this find (Kos 2006, 137; Stuchlík 2007, 205), a new survey of the findspot revealed that it was located in the neighbouring cadastral area of Brno-Tuřany (Moravcová, Kala 2019, 47).

A pot with a curved neck (1) and an ovoid finger-pressed body was used as the burial case. The storage vessel was covered by a flat bowl (2), fragments of which appeared at the level of the neck and shoulder of the pot-shaped vessel and partly at the level of the vessel body's widest diameter. After uncovering the remnants of the bowl, only part of the child's skeleton was removed; other fragments were obtained by wet-sieving the contents of the storage vessel, during which two additional bronze beads (3), a bronze spiral (4) and unidentifiable burnt skeletal remains were found. According to the anthropological determination, this was the skeleton of a newborn whose gender could not be identified, nor was the exact position and orientation of the body determined (Moravcová, Kala 2019, 50). According to a more recent assessment, this was a child who died at birth or a mature foetus whose gender was genetically determined as male (Appendix 2).

#### Description of finds:

1. A nearly complete pot with a rounded, everted rim, a curved neck, and an ovoid body with a flat and slightly concave bottom. Two (originally four) lobes appear on the rim. The surface is black inside, smoothed, outside brown, black in places near the rim, vertically fingered-pressed. Height 30.4 cm; Ø rim 27.2 cm; Ø bottom 11.2 cm (Fig. 26: 2; 27; Institute for Archaeological Heritage Brno; inv. No. 82/05-280/69).
2. Partially filled flat bowl with rounded walls and a flat, slightly concave bottom. There is a groove below the rim. The surface is black and smoothed. Height 8.2 cm; Ø rim 34 cm; Ø bottom 10.8 cm (Fig. 26: 1; 27; Institute for Archaeological Heritage Brno; inv. No. 82/05-280/70).
3. Two barrel-shaped bronze beads. Length 7 mm; Ø 4.5 mm (Fig. 26: 3, 4; Institute for Archaeological Heritage Brno; inv. No. 82/05-280/70).
4. Partially preserved bronze wire spiral. Length 10 mm; Ø 6 mm (Fig. 26: 5; Institute for Archaeological Heritage Brno; inv. No. 82/05-280/70).

### 1.4 Dolní Věstonice – gravel pit (Břeclav District), burial ground

Grave 245 was investigated during a rescue excavation of the Únětice burial ground in Dolní Věstonice in 1977. Oriented roughly in the NW-SE direction, the grave pit had an irregular oval shape with a length of 123 cm, a maximum width of 90 cm, and its bottom was sunk 36 cm below the subsoil level. On the flat bottom of the grave pit (Fig. 13; 22-23) lay a storage vessel (1), the neck of which was inserted into a second storage vessel without a neck (2). Inside both vessels, which served as a coffin, lay the heavily crouched skeleton of a child on its right side in the NW-SE direction (Měřínský 1980, 108, tab. 12: 1; 1981, 193; Stuchlík 1993, 247, obr. 165: 2; 2007, 206, obr. 3). A large stone lay next to the vessels and two other smaller stones were beneath them.

#### Description of finds:

1. Large storage vessel with a heavily everted rim and a curved neck divided by a distinctive edge from the globular body, the widest part of which was in its lower third. One small handle is preserved on the edge. The surface of the neck is smoothed and the body has an irregular vertical finger-pressed treatment. Height 54 cm; Ø rim 21 cm; Ø bottom 14 cm (Fig. 24: 1; Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno).
2. A large storage vessel with a broken-off rim and neck and a globular biconical body with a flat bottom. A relief cordon is visible at the interface of the neck and body. The surface has an irregular vertical finger-pressed treatment. Preserved height 29.5 cm; Ø bottom 12 cm (Fig. 24: 2; Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno).

### 1.5 Hodonice – brickyard (Znojmo District), settlement

In 1977, during a rescue excavation of the Věteřov settlement in Hodonice, oval-shaped storage pit 1 with a diameter of 182-225 cm with conical walls and a flat bottom was discovered at a depth of

90 cm, with a diameter of 290 cm (Fig. 41). The fill was a homogenous, blackish-brown humus-like soil. At the bottom was a concentration of potsherds from a large pot-shaped vessel (1), next to which was a skull with two cervical vertebrae (Rakovská, Stuchlík 1980; Stuchlíková 1990, 148; Stuchlík 2007, 207; Jelínek, P. 2018, 38, obr. 2; Rožnovský 2019, 37, 45, obr. 25). The pit contained a large amount of pottery, several pieces of daub, three fragments of grinding slabs, four pieces of chipped industry, animal bones and river shells (Fig. 42: 1–8; 42).

J. Chochol (Appendix 4) identified these as the remains of a 7–8-year-old child, with all circumstances indicating a violent death either by decapitation or the shattering of the skull (though it is impossible to determine which came first). It can also be assumed that some kind of head cover was worn, which affected the skull in two transverse parallel stripes across the crown.

#### Description of finds:

1. A large massive pot with a symmetrical body. A small protrusion (originally probably three) emerges from the rounded, obliquely everted rim; the indistinctly offset bottom is slightly concave. Inside the surface is smooth, brownish-grey with grey-black spots; the outside surface is brownish-grey with a faint, vertical, finger-pressed treatment. Height 47.2 cm; Ø rim 37.4 cm; Ø bottom 15 cm (Fig. 42: 9; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27209).

Selection of finds from pit:

2. Fragment of an amphora with an edge between the curved neck and the arched body, with a strap handle on the lower part of the neck. Max. Ø body 21 cm (Fig. 43: 24; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27143).
3. Fragment of the upper part of a large pot with a rounded everted rim from which a small protrusion extends. Preserved height 13.5 cm; Ø rim 38 cm (Fig. 42: 5; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27144).
4. Fragment of the upper part of a smaller pot with a slanted, everted rim, a curved neck and a round body. Preserved height 9 cm; Ø rim 15 cm (Fig. 42: 1; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; A 27145).
5. Potsherd from the body of a massive vessel with a horizontal handle (Fig. 43: 19; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 146).
6. Potsherd from a bowl with a round wall and a straight inverted rim from which a protrusion

extends. Ø rim 40 cm (Fig. 43: 11; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27147).

7. Potsherd with an edge at the interface of the neck and body from a large massive vessel with a roughened surface (Fig. 43: 16; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27148).
8. Potsherd from a smaller pot with a slanted, everted rim, a curved neck and a round body (Fig. 42: 2; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27149).
9. Potsherd from a bowl with a round wall and a straight inverted rim (Fig. 43: 12; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27152).
10. Potsherd from a low bowl with a round wall and a straight, slightly inverted rim (Fig. 43: 13; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27153).
11. Potsherd from the funnel-shaped neck of a larger thin-walled vessel (Fig. 42: 6; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27159).
12. Potsherd from large smoothed cup with a sharply carinated body (Fig. 43: 18; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27163).
13. Potsherd from the lower part of a large massive vessel with a slightly concave bottom offset from the body. Ø bottom 15 cm (Fig. 43: 20; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27167).
14. Potsherd from the funnel-shaped neck of a small vessel. Ø rim 8 cm (Fig. 42: 8; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo, inv. No. A 27170).
15. Potsherd from the sharply profiled body of a large cup. Ø body 32 cm (Fig. 43: 17; South Moravian Museum in Znojmo; inv. No. A 27180).

## I.6 Hradisko near Kroměříž (today Kroměříž, Kroměříž District), burial ground at fortified settlement

During an excavation in the southern foreground of the fortified settlement in Hradisko near Kroměříž (Fig. 45), 13 large storage vessels were discovered (Fig. 9; 10), the first of which was found in 1951, while the others were gradually unearthed in the years 1954–1956. Václav Spurný dated them to a period later than the classical phase of the Věteřov group and associated them with the Proto-Lusatian culture (Spurný 1961, 193). Although the storage vessels did not contain skeletons or other bones, an analysis of the earthy fill of the pots showed an elevated and, in some cases, an unusually high phosphorus content, most likely the result of the decomposition of animal tissues, i.e. probably human bodies (Spurný 1961, 189–190). All of the storage

vessels are different variations of common pots with an ovoid body and a curved neck decorated with pointed protrusions, with their height in the range of 39–45 cm, with the exception of storage vessel 7, which was only 34 cm high. Other finds were made near eight storage vessels, namely bowls that had one handle each, in one case two. Bowls with a rim diameter of 32–33 cm covered the storage vessels, and in one case the bottom of a vessel was used for this purpose. One cup with a conical wall and three small bronze ornaments was found.

The storage vessels were arranged in three unequally sized groups. The north group was made up of only vessels 1 and 7 (Fig. 9: D). The east group was composed of four vessels / storage vessels 2, 9, 11 and 12. The large west group had a total of seven vessels / storage vessels 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 (Fig. 9: A–C), and potsherds from pit 58, which are remnants of the last unreconstructable vessel / storage vessel 13 (Fig. 46). The maximum distance between storage vessel 1 from the north group and storage vessel 2 from the east group was 10 m. The same difference was also found between storage vessel 1 and storage vessel 6 from the west group (Stuchlík 2006a, 139, obr. 131; 2007, 206, obr. 5).

As the area north and northwest of the group of 13 storage vessels could not be investigated, it is unclear whether all the burials were recorded. Moreover, a group of potsherds discovered next to Lusatian cremation pit grave 30 were reconstructed into a storage vessel and a bowl, though it is not clear whether both vessels (and perhaps also a third bronze bracelet) were remnants of another vessel burial.

### Burial 1

Burial 1 discovered in 1951 belonged to the north group of storage vessels (Fig. 46). The storage vessel (1) lay on its side just below the surface at a depth of 19 cm. Only its lower part, 50 cm below the surface, was preserved, while the upper part was destroyed by ploughing, with only a cluster of potsherds remaining. The vessel did not extend into the subsoil. Fragments of a bowl (2) that apparently covered the mouth of the vessel were also found in the cluster of potsherds.

1. Storage vessel with a rounded rim, a curved neck and an ovoid body. Four groups of three projections appear on the neck. The vessel could not be reconstructed, and all that exists is a drawing reconstruction by V. Spurný. Height ca 45 cm; Ø rim ca 33 cm (Fig. 47: 2; Kroměříž District

Museum; V. Spurný's No. 211; the vessel could not be located and the drawing and description are taken from the description and drawing reconstruction by V. Spurný).

2. Bowl with a round wall, an everted and horizontally cut rim, flat bottom and a remnant of a handle beneath the rim. The vessel could not be reconstructed, and all that exists is the drawing reconstruction by V. Spurný. Height ca 12 cm; Ø rim ca 33 cm (Fig. 47: 1; Kroměříž District Museum; V. Spurný's No. 210; the vessel could not be located and the drawing and description are taken from the description and drawing reconstruction by V. Spurný).

### Burial 2

Storage vessel 2 belonging to the east group of storage vessels was found east of pit 50 (Fig. 46) lying on its side in the loess subsoil at a depth of 50 cm below the surface, with the neck facing towards the southeast. The vessel had broken up into large pieces and its bottom was sunk into the subsoil to a depth of 19 cm.

1. A nearly complete storage vessel with an everted rim, a curved neck, and a barrel-shaped body with a slightly concave bottom. Pointed projections appear in four places on the neck, twice as pairs and in two cases as the only remaining projection of an original pair. The inside of the vessel is smoothed, the outer surface is roughened; the rim, neck and shoulders are brown to brownish-black. The body is light brown. Height 42.5–43.5 cm; Ø rim 29.5–31.5 cm (Fig. 48; Kroměříž District Museum; V. Spurný's No. 926; inv. No. AH 21959).

### Burial 3

Storage vessel 3 from the west group was found south of pit 55 between vessel 10 and vessel 4 and 5. It lay at a depth of 30 cm below the surface, on its side and with the mouth facing south (Fig. 9: A, C; 46). The vessel was broken into large potsherds and no finds were identified in the soil inside. The lower part of the vessel was sunk 19 cm into the subsoil.

1. Irregularly refitted storage vessel with an everted rim, a curved neck and an arched ovoid body with a slightly offset bottom. The inside surface is rough (originally smoothed), brown, outside light brown, roughened. Three pairs of projections are found below the neck. Height 41.2 cm; Ø rim 35 cm (Fig. 49; Kroměříž District Museum; V. Spurný's No. 927; inv. No. AH 21960).

#### Burial 4

Vessel 4 belonging to the west group of storage vessels lay to the south of feature 55 and its mouth was facing south (Fig. 9: B; 46). The storage vessel (1) was heavily corroded and broken into large potsherds, which were found 20 cm below the surface, with the bottom of the vessel sunk 3–4 cm into the subsoil. The neck of the storage vessel was covered by the bottom of a bowl (2), fragments of which were also found inside the storage vessel. Two undeterminable small burnt bones were also found inside the vessel. As the storage vessel lay in the topsoil, the connection between the bones and the vessel cannot be proven.

1. Fragment of the upper part of a storage vessel with an everted rim, a curved neck and round shoulders. Two groups (originally perhaps four) of projections with three points are preserved on the neck. The surface inside is brownish-black, smoothed; the outer surface is brown and roughened. Preserved height 14.4 cm; Ø rim 34.6 cm (Fig. 50: 2; 51: 2; Kroměříž District Museum; V. Spurný's No. 928; inv. No. AH 21976).
2. Large bowl with somewhat inverted and straight-cut rim, round wall and a slightly concave bottom. Two vertical handles are attached below the rim (one is plaster). One lobe (originally three or four) is preserved on the rim. Originally smoothed, the surface is now abraded, mostly brown, in places brownish-black or light brown. Height 8.4 cm; Ø rim 32.6 cm (Fig. 50: 1; Kroměříž District Museum; V. Spurný's No. 928; inv. No. AH 21975).

#### Burial 5

Burial 5 was part of the west group of storage vessels and was found south of pit 55 (Fig. 46); originally classified as cremation grave 28. The storage vessel was found at a depth of 25 cm below the surface and its lower part was sunk 8 cm into the subsoil. It apparently lay on its side, but all that remains of the storage vessel is heavily corroded potsherds from the body; the rim and bottom are missing and were perhaps destroyed by ploughing.

1. Although the vessel could not be reconstructed, the potsherds suggest that it had an ovoid shape, the inside walls were smoothed and the bottom was somewhat offset. The dimensions could not be determined (Kroměříž District Museum; V. Spurný's No. 929; the vessel could not be found, and the description is taken from V. Spurný).

#### Burial 6

Burial 6 belonged to the west group of storage vessels and was found at the southern edge of the burial ground, at the eastern edge of Lusatian pit 51 (Fig. 46). A group of potsherds, including a large fragment of the body, was found at a depth of 23 cm beneath the surface. After the potsherds were collected, it was found that a pit with a diameter of 30 cm was dug into the subsoil (the pit had a darker colour than the loess subsoil). The rim of a massive storage vessel (1) tilted somewhat on its side was discovered just below the surface of the pit. The neck of the storage vessel contained fragments of a bowl (2), on the bottom of which lay fragments of a bronze bracelet (3).

1. A partially filled large, massive storage vessel with a rounded and everted rim, curved neck and ovoid to globular body with a flat bottom. On the neck, two irregularly spaced pairs of distinctive pointed protrusions are preserved from the original four pairs. The surface inside is brown, smoothed; the outer surface is brown. Height 43.6 cm; Ø rim 33.5 cm (Fig. 52: 2; 53: 2; Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 930; inv. No. AH 22035).
2. Larger bowl with somewhat inverted and straight-cut rim, round wall and a slightly offset flat bottom. A trace of a broken-off handle appears in one place below the rim. The surface is originally smoothed, now abraded; the inside mostly brown, in places brownish-black; the outside is brown. Height 7.6–8.8 cm; Ø rim 32.5–33.5 cm (Fig. 52: 1; 53: 1; Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 930; inv. No. AH 22034).
3. Four fragments of a bracelet from a bronze bar of a lens-shaped cross-section twisted into a ring with crossing terminals. Ø bracelet ca 38–40 mm; bar width 3.5–4.2 mm; bar thickness 1.5 mm (Fig. 52: 3; 53: 3; Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 930; inv. No. AH 23112).

#### Burial 7

Burial 7 belonged with burial 1 to the north group of storage vessels (Fig. 9: D; 46). The vessel (1) was found at a depth of 50 cm below the surface and its lower part was sunk 4 cm into the subsoil. The storage vessel lay on its side and its rim faced north. Potsherds from a small bowl (2) were found in the neck of the storage vessel. No finds were recorded inside the storage vessel.

1. Storage vessel with a rounded and everted rim, a curved neck and an ovoid body with a slightly offset flat bottom. The neck has four pairs of

pointed protrusions, from which only a single protrusion remains from one pair. The body has irregularly placed oblique shallow grooves. The inside surface is brown and smoothed, the outer surface is roughened; the rim, neck and shoulders are brown to brownish-black. The body is light brown. Height 34.2–35 cm; Ø rim 26 cm (Fig. 54: 2; 55: 1; Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 931; inv. No. AH 22064).

2. Smaller bowl with slightly inverted and straight-cut rim, round wall and a slightly offset and mildly convex bottom. A trace of a broken-off handle or projection is found in one place below the rim. The surface is originally smoothed, now abraded; the inside is brown to brownish-black, the outside is brown with black spots. Height 7–8 cm; Ø rim 26–27 cm (Fig. 54: 1; 55: 2; Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 931).

#### Burial 8

Vessel 8, which belonged to the west group of storage vessels, was found to the north of feature 55 (Fig. 46). The storage vessel (1) was discovered at a depth of 34 cm below the surface and its bottom lay on the subsoil without any signs of having been embedded in it. The vessel was fragmented and the neck faced south. No finds were recorded in the soil inside the storage vessel or in the surrounding area.

1. Unreconstructed storage vessel with an everted rim, a curved neck and an arched body. Among the potsherds are remnants of two bottoms, and it cannot be ruled out that one of them came from the bowl that covered the vessel. The potsherds also included a fragment with a pair of projections. The surface is brown and roughened. Ø rim 32 cm. One bottom Ø 13 cm, second bottom Ø 14 cm (Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 932; inv. No. AH 22064/1).

#### Burial 9

Storage vessel 9 belonged to the east group and was found between feature 54 and 50 (Fig. 46). The vessel (1) was fragmented into potsherds, which were found at a depth of 48 cm beneath the surface. The storage vessel was covered with a bowl (2) and 30 cm to the northeast was an atypical cup set bottom side up (3).

1. A large storage vessel with a rounded, obliquely everted rim, a curved neck and an ovoid body with a slightly offset flat bottom. Four round relief projections on the neck have prominent vertical dimples. The inside of the vessel is dark brown,

smoothed, the outer surface is roughened; the rim, neck and shoulders are brown to brownish-black. The body is light brown. Height 39.7–41.3 cm; Ø rim 31.5–33 cm (Fig. 56: 1; 57: 1; Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 933; inv. No. AH 22066).

2. Bowl with a conical wall and a broad rim that is cut off horizontally and from which lobes extend. A strap handle is just below the rim. The surface is smoothed both inside and outside. Ø rim 32 cm (Kroměříž District Museum; V. Spurný's number 933; the vessel could not be located and the drawing and description are taken from the description and drawing reconstruction by V. Spurný).
3. Cup with everted rim, conical wall and flat bottom. A strap handle extends from the rim to the wall of the body. Height 5.4 cm; Ø rim 10.5 cm (Fig. 56: 2; 57: 2; Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 937; without inv. No., description and drawing by P. Daňhelová).

#### Burial 10

Vessel 10 (1) from the west group of storage vessels was found to the south of feature 55 (Fig. 46). The vessel was found at a depth of 32 cm below the surface and its lower part was sunk 16 cm into the subsoil. It was broken into large potsherds and its mouth faced north. A large number of potsherds from another large storage vessel were found near the neck (2). A small bronze ring lay in fragments inside the storage vessel (3).

1. Large and nearly half-filled storage vessel with a rounded and everted rim, a curved neck and an ovoid body with a slightly offset flat bottom. Four distinctive pointed protrusions are irregularly spaced on the neck. The inside of the vessel is dark brown, smoothed, the outer surface is roughened; the rim, neck and shoulders are brown to brownish-black. The body is light brown. Height 39 cm; Ø rim 32–32.6 cm (Fig. 58: 2; 59; Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 934; inv. No. AH 22067).
2. Bottom of a large storage vessel with a broad, funnel-shaped wall and flat bottom. The surface inside is brown, smoothed; the outer surface is brownish-red and roughened. Preserved height 14.5 cm; Ø bottom 11.5 cm (Fig. 58: 1; Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 934).
3. Fragments from a small bronze ring with a diameter of ca 35 mm. The bar was made from thin wire of a lens-shaped 3 × 1.5 mm cross-section (Fig. 58: 3; Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 934).

### Burial 11

Burial 11 belonged to the east group of storage vessels and was placed between Lusatian cremation grave 28 and 30 (Fig. 46). All that remained of the storage vessel (1) was a group of potsherds found at a depth of 30 cm beneath the surface, with the lower part sunk 18 cm into the subsoil; the vessel's neck faced south. No finds were recorded inside the storage vessel or in its immediate vicinity. Storage vessel 11 is depicted in V. Spurný's publication (Spurný 1961, obr. 2: 2), but the vessel could not be reconstructed. The depicted vessel was probably a storage vessel from a different burial or even one from a different site.

1. Despite the fact that it could not be refitted, it was determined from the heavily worn potsherds that the vessel had a curved neck, an ovoid body and individual relief projections below the neck. The dimensions could not be determined (Kroměříž District Museum; V. Spurný's number 935; the vessel could not be found, and the description is taken from V. Spurný).

### Burial 12

The storage vessel (1) belonged to the east group and was found to the east of feature 50 (Fig. 46). The storage vessel was fragmented into individual potsherds, which were found 40 cm below the surface. The lower part of the vessel lay on the subsoil without extending into it; the neck faced towards the southwest.

1. Large storage vessel with a rounded and everted rim, a curved neck and an ovoid body with a slightly offset and concave bottom. Four relatively distinctive pairs of projections are found just below the neck. The surface is brown to brownish-red, in places greyish-black, inside smoothed, outside rough. Height 37.2 cm; Ø rim 27.6 cm; Ø bottom 12.6 cm (Fig. 60; Spurný's inv. No. 936).

### Burial 13

Burial 13 was completely destroyed by Lusatian pit 55, which was located in the space of the west group of storage vessels (Fig. 46). The feature contained a larger number of potsherds from an unconstructable storage vessel (1) and bowl (2), which were scattered about the entire pit.

1. The large storage vessel could not be reconstructed, but the heavily corroded potsherds suggest that it had an everted rim, an ovoid form and relief projections below the rim. The Ø of the rim was probably over 40 cm (Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 941; inv. No. AH 22186 – AH 22235).

2. The large bowl could not be reconstructed, but the smoothed potsherds from the inner side suggest that it had conical, slightly convex walls and a horizontally widened rim. The Ø of the rim was probably around 30 cm (Kroměříž District Museum; Spurný's inv. No. 942; inv. No. AH 22178 – AH 22185).

## I.7 Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit (Břeclav District), burial ground

Inhumation graves in a crouched position were found in three sand pits behind the houses on Horní nádražní Street (later Kl. Gottwalda Street, today Piaristů Street) in Mikulov. The lower part of a storage vessel (1) investigated behind house No. 14 in 1924 contained the bones of two children, but no grave goods (Fig. 6). The storage vessel was covered with sandstone from Pavlovské vrchy (Jüttner 1950; Tihelka 1960, obr. 30: 9; 1962, 93, Stuchlík 2007, 207, obr. 6).

According to K. Jüttner (1950, 366), the older child was perhaps six years old, the younger two years old. A new analysis indicates that the anthropological collection contains the skeletal remains of a child aged 8–9 years, the lower jaw of a child aged 4–5 years, and the bones of a newborn. The child aged 8–9 can probably be identified with the six-year-old child, the bones of the newborn with the two-year-old child originally identified by K. Jüttner. The third individual was apparently added to the collection by mistake in the museum, and it cannot be ruled out that it could be the child from the Mikulov – 'Vysoký roh' burial (Appendix 1).

### Description of finds:

1. Lower part of a large storage vessel with an ovoid body and a slightly offset flat bottom. The body is smoothed inside, finger-pressed and light brown on the outside. Preserved height 29 cm; Ø bottom 9.4 cm (Fig. 6; 20; Regional Mikulov in Museum; inv. No. 942; new inv. No. A/M 909).

## I.8 Mikulov – 'Vysoký roh' (Břeclav District), solitary find

In December 1928, a landowner on the southwestern slope of 'Vysoký roh' east of Mikulov, found a storage vessel (1) lying in intact sand at a depth of about 40 cm. The vessel was filled with black soil and the skeletal remains of a young child, perhaps three years of age. A new anthropological analysis

suggests that the bones of the third individual from the Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit could belong to the child from the Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’ burial (Appendix 1). The storage vessel was covered with a sandstone slab (Jüttner 1950, 366, obr. 2; Tihelka 1960, obr. 30: 8; 1962, 93, tab. XXI: 13; Stuchlík 2006a, 142, obr. 146; 2007, 206, obr. 4; 2021, 112, obr. 62). No evidence of settlement from the Early Bronze Age is documented in the vicinity of the burial.

**Description of finds:**

1. Large storage vessel with a rounded rim and a low, curved neck offset by an edge from the ovoid body with a flat bottom. Four short vertical cordons extend from the edge. The surface is brownish-red, smoothed inside and on the neck, lightly rough on the body. Height 48.5 cm; Ø rim 32.8 cm, Ø bottom 11 cm (Fig. 31; Regional Mikulov in Museum; inv. No. IV 788; new inv. No. A/M 901).

**I.9 Olbramovice – ‘Šestilány’ (Znojmo District), burial ground**

Radek Martin Pernička and Vladimír Podborský (Pernička, Podborský 1959, 6–8, tab. II; III: 2–4; Podborský, Vildomec 1972, 90, 199, tab. XXXVIII: 13–14; Stuchlík 2006a, 142, obr. 137: 2–3; 2007, 206) investigated two graves in the newly opened sand pit in Olbramovice in 1957–1958. One contained the skeleton of an adult male in a crouched position furnished with a Kýtěnov-type axe-hammer. The second grave pit investigated in the spring of 1958 roughly 100 m from the first grave had an oval shape with dimensions of 99 × 55 cm and a depth of 115 cm. A storage vessel (1) covered with a bowl (2) lay in the pit (Fig. 11; 32) at an oblique angle approaching horizontal. The remains of a 6–7-year-old child (Lorencová 1959, 23) and a fragment of chert (3) were found in the storage vessel.

**Description of finds:**

1. Large storage vessel with a rounded rim and a conical, slightly funnel-shaped neck offset by an edge from the globular body with an offset flat bottom. Traces of four broken-off vertical projections appear on the edge. The surface is brown, in places beige-brown to brownish-black; inside, the surface is smoothed on the neck and on the cordon below the neck. The body is roughened with faint lines or narrow grooves in places. Height 48.6 cm; Ø rim 33.6 cm (Fig. 33: 1; 34: 1; Municipal Museum in Moravský Krumlov; inv. No. 1956).

2. Larger bowl with straight, in places rounded, rim, slightly round wall and a distinctively offset flat bottom. One strap handle is under the rim, three lengthwise projections are on the rim. The surface is roughly smoothed, brown to brownish-black. Height 12.5 cm; Ø rim 29 cm, Ø bottom 11–11.2 cm (Fig 33: 2; 34: 2; Municipal Museum in Moravský Krumlov; inv. No. 1957).
3. Fragment of chert.

**I.10 Pasohlávky – ‘U Vodárny’ (Břeclav District), settlement**

During a rescue excavation in 2006, B. Komoroczy investigated part of a Věteřov settlement with 15 features with relatively low density. Separate pit 804 (Navrátil 2021, 36–37, obr. 25) was discovered somewhat to the side, ca 55 m from the nearest feature. The cauldron-shaped pit had a circular ground plan (Fig. 35; 36) with a diameter of 50 cm and a preserved depth of 33 cm. The dimensions of the pit only slightly exceeded the maximum diameter of the storage vessel placed inside of it. The vessel contained the bones of a child around the age of 18 months (±3 months) (Appendix 3). The feature can be dated to the Věteřov group (Stuchlík 2007, 207; Navrátil 2021, 36–37, tab. 54: B).

**Description of finds:**

1. Storage vessels with neck offset from globular body by an edge from which pairs of short vertical cordons extend in five places. The cordons are preserved in only two places, while the others are broken off and remain only as traces. The rim and upper part of the neck are not preserved. The surface is brown, in places brownish-red to black, finely rough. Preserved height 30 cm; Ø bottom 10.5 cm (Institute of Archaeology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno; inv. No. 71822–9685/06; Fig. 37).

**I.11 Vedrovice – Zábrdovice (Znojmo District), settlement**

Two features were uncovered in front of the garage of house No. 264 in the western part of the built-up area of Zábrdovice during a rescue excavation in May 2007 (Stuchlík 2007, 207; Humpolová, Salaš 2008; Salaš 2008). Feature 1 was a separate ceramic storage vessel (1), of which only the lower half was preserved in the original position, i.e. sunk into the loess and subsequently sand subsoil (Fig. 29).

The upper part of the vessel, originally rising above the covered level of the subsoil, was damaged and removed as the pavement was pulled up. All that remained of this part of the vessel were several potsherds, including several belonging to a bowl (2). No rim sherds were found from the storage vessel, and according to M. Salaš (2008) it is possible that the storage vessel was used without its rim.

The skeleton of a child was deposited in the ceramic storage vessel in a heavily crouched position, according to the anthropological processing of I. Jarošová from a child around the age of eight. The skull and several bones from the torso and an arm were disturbed and thrown out of the burial as the ground was being lowered. The lower limbs, including the pelvic bones, were conserved *in situ* in the lower half of the vessel, where some bones of the torso and upper limbs (e.g. both shoulder bones) were also found, which, after the decomposition of the soft tissues, had fallen and sunk into the pelvic part of the skeleton (Jarošová 2008). The arrangement of the bones suggests that the child's body was originally placed in the vessel in a heavily crouched position with its head up (Salaš 2008, 133). Two grave goods were found at the bottom of the vessel beneath the leg and pelvic bones: a bone bead (3), a bone pendant (4), and a fragment of the sacrum of a domestic pig.

### Description of finds:

1. Taller storage vessel with an ovoid body and a curved neck without a preserved rim divided from the body by a distinctive relief cordon. The surface of the body is coarse, in places roughened by an irregular finger-pressed treatment, mostly brown with grey to black spots, smoothed on the neck, dark brown to greyish-brown. Preserved height 64 cm; Ø bottom 13 cm (Fig. 30: 2; Moravian Museum in Brno; without inv. No.).
2. Bowl with round wall with a horizontally cut and slightly inverted rim from which lengthwise lobes extend in three places; a horizontal bar-shaped handle is attached below the rim. The surface of the bowl is smoothed, greyish-brown to black, and the surface of the bottom is roughened. Height 12 cm; Ø rim 36 cm; Ø bottom 11 cm (Fig. 30: 1; Moravian Museum in Brno; without inv. No.).
3. Flat bone pendant in the shape of an annulus, the body profile is slightly asymmetrically wedge-shaped, sharp on the periphery. There are remnants of three holes in the top part of the roof-shaped surface, with the middle one being the largest. Outer Ø 28 mm; inner Ø 13–14 mm; thickness 5 mm (Fig. 30: 3; Moravian Museum in Brno; without inv. No.).
4. Cylindrical bone bead with sharp irregular ends. Length 20 mm, outer Ø 10 mm (Fig. 30: 4; Moravian Museum in Brno; without inv. No.).



## Middle Bronze Age

### II.1 Olšany u Prostějova u Prostějova – ‘Zlatniska’ (Prostějov District), settlement

An excavation of a multicultural site at ‘Zlatniska’ in Olšany u Prostějova in 2001 captured a Middle Bronze Age settlement (Šmíd 2002, 203, obr. 11–12). Feature 503B merits special attention here (Fig. 83; Čižmář, Geislerová 2006, 241–242; Stuchlík 2007, 207).

Pit 503B had an irregular oval shape with dimensions of 270 × 200 cm, with the longer axis in the W–E direction. The walls of the pit tapered towards the bottom, though in some places they even expanded. Several layers were identified in the fill of the pit. To a depth of 50 cm, the fill consisted of brown soil with daub (context 113), below this was daub destruction (context 114), followed by a thick layer of greyish-brown silty soil with lumps of clay and daub (context 115), a thin grey ashy layer (context 116) and a layer of charcoals (context 118). Another thick layer consisted of light brown silty soil with charcoals and lumps of daub (context 120) with a lens of loess (context 117), below it was a thin layer of soggy daub (context 119) and the lower part of the pit was filled with greyish-brown clay mixed with loess (context 121). The cauldron-shaped bottom of the feature reached a depth of 194 cm below the subsoil (244 cm below the current surface). At the bottom of the feature stood an amphora covered by the lower part of a coarser vessel (Fig. 14; 85). The bottom of the amphora was sunk by about one-third of its height into the bottom of the pit and reached a depth of 163 cm below the subsoil. In a partially hollow space inside the vessel was the complete skeleton of a human newborn buried in an anatomical position. The pit fill yielded a large number of

potsherds, a bronze awl, daub and a large collection of osteological material (Fojtík 2006b, 41; 2015, 193–199, tab. 51–60; Fojtík, Dočkalová 2007).

#### Description of finds:

1. Large handleless amphora with a neck slightly conically inverted and sharply offset from the ovoid body with a slightly concave bottom. The surface is smoothed and brown with brownish-black spots. Height 31.8 cm; Ø rim 17 cm; Ø bottom 11.6 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 180572; Fig. 84: 1).
2. Lower part of large pot-shaped vessel. The surface inside is brown and smoothed, outside ochre with grey spots and a vertical finger-pressed treatment. Preserved height 11.7 cm; Ø bottom 15 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 180573; Fig. 84: 2).

#### Description of selected finds from pit 503B:

3. Large fragment of a pot with a conical, funnel-shaped neck separated from the globular body with a vertical handle attached just below the edge. Hour-glass decoration on the shoulders is placed in vertical cordons with points facing each other. The surface is brown and smoothed. Preserved height 13 cm; Ø rim 21.2 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171204; Fig. 88: 1).
4. Part of a low cup with a curved neck bridged by a strap handle and a concave bottom. The edge between the neck and bottom is highlighted by vertical lines that also surround the concave bottom. The surface is smoothed, brownish-grey, inside light brown. Height 4.2 cm; Ø rim 7.2 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171205; Fig. 86: 5).

5. Larger fragment of a low cup with a conically funnel-shaped neck divided by the carination from the nearly straight lower part. The neck is bridged by a strap handle and the small bottom is slightly concave. The edge is decorated with vertical lines. The surface is smoothed and brown, inside grey. Height 4.2 cm; Ø rim 8 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 71206; Fig. 86: 6).
6. Larger fragment of a cup with a curved neck separated from the globular body by an edge; the neck is bridged by a strap handle. Below the edge is a line of 'cereal grain' strokes and the body is almost entirely covered with vertical grooves. The surface is smoothed and brown, inside greyish-brown. Preserved height 7.1 cm; Ø rim 6.3 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171207; Fig. 86: 2).
7. Larger fragment of a cup with a curved neck separated by an edge from the truncated hemispherical body. The neck is bridged by a strap handle and beneath the edge is a line of 'cereal grain' strokes. The surface is smoothed, brown to brownish-black. Preserved height 5.7 cm; Ø rim 15.3 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171208; Fig. 88: 3).
8. Low bowl with conical wall, slightly concave bottom and handle above the rim. Eight lengthwise perforations appear below the rim, which is drawn in four places into lengthwise projections. The smoothed surface is brown to brownish-black. Height 12.4 cm; Ø rim 40.4 cm; Ø bottom 9 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171209; Fig. 86: 1).
9. Larger fragment of pot-shaped fumigator with a slightly inverted base and with a perforation in the body. The surface is smoothed and brown. Preserved height 6.9 cm; Ø rim 12 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171210; Fig. 87: 1).
10. Larger fragment of a cup with a conically everted rim sharply offset from the hemispherical body. The surface is smoothed and brownish-grey. Preserved height 7.5 cm; Ø rim 12.1 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171211; Fig. 88: 4).
11. Larger fragment of a cup with a conically everted rim sharply offset from the hemispherical body. The surface is smoothed and brownish-grey. Preserved height 7.2 cm; Ø rim 11.6 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171212; Fig. 88: 5).
12. Larger fragment of a vessel with funnel-shaped walls and a flat bottom. The surface is smoothed, ochre to orange. Height 11.6 cm; Ø rim 19.2 cm; Ø bottom 11 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171213; Fig. 88: 2).
13. Oval tub-shaped vessel with massive funnel-shaped walls and a flat bottom. The surface is roughly smoothed, brownish-grey. Height 2.8 cm; Ø rim 10.5 cm; Ø bottom 11 cm (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171214; Fig. 87: 3).
14. Larger fragment of a cup with a conically everted neck and a globular body with a remnant of a handle on the shoulders. Below the edge is a line of 'cereal grain' strokes and the body is covered with oblique grooves. The surface is smoothed and greyish-black, inside also greyish-black. Preserved height 5.6 cm; (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171221; Fig. 86: 4).
15. Fragment of a vessel with a conical wall with the remnant of a round hole. Surface is smoothed, brown (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171218; Fig. 87: 4).
16. Potsherd from vessel with a conical neck separated by an edge from the globular body with a remnant of a handle on the shoulders. Beneath the edge is a line of 'cereal grain' strokes, still lower is a circular depression. The surface is smoothed, brown, inside brownish-grey (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171220; Fig. 87: 5).
17. Potsherd from vessel with a funnel-shaped neck distinctively offset from the rounded body and with a line of 'cereal grain' strokes. Surface is smoothed, brown (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171223; Fig. 87: 7).
18. Potsherd from vessel with everted rim sharply offset from globular body. Beneath the neck are two lines of fine vertical grooves, below these a cordon of suspended hatched triangles; the body features three arcuate grooves. The surface is smoothed, brownish-grey (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171224; Fig. 86: 3).
19. Potsherd from vessel with everted neck and globular body with remnants of a vertical handle. The surface is smoothed, brownish-black (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 171258; Fig. 87: 6).
20. Bronze bar awl with one quadratic terminal and the other with a round cross-section. Length 90 mm, (Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 180493; Fig. 87: 2).

## Late Bronze Age

### III.1 Ivaň – ‘Přední díly’ (Prostějov District), burial ground

A Lusatian culture cremation grave was gradually rescued on parcel No. 494 in the ‘Přední díly’ fiend in Ivaň. The extraordinary discovery involves the burial of a young individual in a large vessel found in May 1933 and which is dated to the Lusatian phase of the Lusatian Urnfield culture (Böhm 1936; 1941, 277; Filip 1948; Parma, Stuchlík 2017, 217, obr. 7; Drechsler 2023). The grave (Fig. 94) discovered at a depth of 80 cm below the surface was composed of a large group of vessels (Fig. 7; 8; 95; 96). The large storage vessel (1) was covered with a large bowl (2), next to which stood a medium-large two-handled amphora (3) and a larger bowl-shaped cup with a handle (4). Although the storage vessel and bowl were broken by the pressure, it was still possible to observe that the vessel held the skeleton of a child around the age of twelve in a crouched sitting position. In addition to the skeleton, the storage vessel also held a small two-handled amphora (5), another amphora (6), a mug with a handle (7), a bronze pin (8) near the chest and a small spiral (9) near an arm. Jaroslav Böhm dated the grave to the early phase of the Lusatian culture (Böhm 1936, 89).

#### Description of finds:

1. Large handleless amphora with a conical neck sharply offset from the globular body, the greatest diameter of which is in the upper part of the vessel. The body is roughened, with a finger-pressed treatment in the lower part. Height 66.5 cm; Ø rim 47.3 cm (Fig. 95: 1; 96: 1; Comenius Museum in Přerov; inv. No. 7151; new inv. No. 783/64/1).
2. Bowl with an everted rim and a curved neck sharply offset from the slightly rounded body. A handle stretches from the lower part of the neck to the widest part of the body. The lower part of the body is finger-pressed, the upper part graphite coated. Height 19.7–22.3 cm; Ø rim 61 cm (Fig. 95: 2; 96: 2; Comenius Museum in Přerov; inv. No. 7152; new inv. No. 125/64/1).
3. Amphora with a conical neck sharply offset from the globular body with a flat bottom. The edge is bridged by two handles and four shallow dimples are pressed into the shoulders. The surface is smoothed and brownish-grey. Height 24.5 cm; Ø rim 13.8 cm; (Fig. 95: 3; 96: 3; Comenius Museum in Přerov; inv. No. 7153; new inv. No. 125/64/8).
4. Cup with everted rim, a high conically curved neck with a round wall and a concave bottom. A strap handle bridges the neck. The surface is smoothed, brownish-grey, in places with black spots. Height 10.1 cm; Ø rim 25.4 cm (Fig. 95: 4; 96: 4; Comenius Museum in Přerov; inv. No. 7154; new inv. No. 125/64/5).
5. Small amphora with a conical neck and round body with six projections lined by a trio of horseshoe-shaped grooves with flat dimples between them. Two handles are attached where the neck meets the body. The surface is dark grey, smoothed. Height 7.5 cm; Ø rim 6 cm (Fig. 95: 6; 96: 5; Museum and Gallery in Prostějov; inv. No. 7155, new inv. No. 1618/63/1(2)).
6. Small amphora with a conical neck and a biconical body with a flat bottom. At the widest part of the body there are six protrusions with groups of seven lines on the shoulders between them. Two

- handles are attached where the neck meets the body, one of which is broken off. The surface is smoothed and graphite coated. Height 7 cm; Ø rim 5.4 cm (Fig. 95: 6; 96: 6; Comenius Museum in Přerov, inv. No. 7156; new inv. No. 1618/63/1(3)).
7. Smaller mug with an everted rim, a curved neck and an oval body. The neck is bridged by a strap handle. Height 9 cm; Ø rim 8 cm (Fig. 95: 7; 96: 7; Comenius Museum in Přerov, inv. No. 7157; new inv. No. 1618/63/1(1)).
  8. Pin with nail-like head and ribbed neck. Length 218 mm (Fig. 95: 8; Comenius Museum in Přerov; not found; description after Böhm 1936; drawing after Říhový 1979).
  9. Bronze spiral (finger-ring?). Diameter 25 mm (Comenius Museum in Přerov; not found; description after Böhm 1936).

## Unconfirmed inhumation vessel burials from the Bronze Age in Moravia

### IV.1 Bánov – Hrádek (Uherské Hradiště District) – hilltop settlement

According to J. Pavelčík, a vessel burial was discovered on a flat stone in the Mad'arovec layer during a rescue excavation of the hilltop settlement at Hrádek in Bánov in 1951 (Fig. 68). Jan Pavelčík identified small jugs and pots accompanying the burial as Mad'arovec pottery, though he regarded the actual vessel used for the burial as an outdated Eneolithic form. The skeletal remains of the individual around the age of 15 years were in very poor condition (Pavelčík 1952a, 482–483). Jan Pavelčík elsewhere stated that the vessel belonged to the Baden culture (Bošáca type) and that beneath potsherds from this vessel lay the skeletal remains of an individual 15–18 years of age in a very 'crouched' position. All the bones belonged to the same individual, who was to have been placed in the vessel only after the soft parts of the body had decomposed (Pavelčík 1963–1964, 67). According to the illustration in the find report (Pavelčík 1952b), the vessel with a tunnel handle used as a case for the deceased and another smaller vessel at the bottom can be classified as Eneolithic. Next to the vessel were remains of a wooden beam and, a little further away, the larger fragments of three pots with protrusions on the necks, three small jugs, and a small weight. The pots with protrusions and the small jugs can positively be associated with the Věteřov group.

### IV.2 Blučina – Cezavy, 1945 (Brno-Country District), hilltop settlement

In 1945, J. Dezort conducted a rescue excavation at the Cezavy Hill site near Blučina. The pit had a roughly conical shape with a depth of 80 cm and a bottom diameter of 120 cm. The skeletons of two children facing each other were found in a 10-cm-thick ashy layer at the bottom of the pit (Fig. 61: 2). The skeleton of the larger individual (Fig. 61: 1) was covered by fragments of a large storage vessel (1), the smaller skeleton by potsherds of a decorated vessel (3), and above both skeletons were also potsherds from an amphora-like vessel (2) and small jugs (Dezort 1950, obr. 3, right). The skeleton of the smaller child was buried in a more or less crouched position on its side, while the skeleton of the older child was in a stretched position (Fig. 61: 2). However, the lower half was lying with its back up and one limb was resting on the feet of the smaller child (Dezort 1950, obr. 1; Tihelka 1962, 17). Several researchers regarded the burial as a pithos type (Tihelka 1960, 111; 1963, 8) or as an uncertain burial (Stuchlík 2007, 203, 206).

#### Description of finds:

1. Large fragment of a storage vessel with an everted rim, a curved neck and an ovoid body with an offset bottom. The body is smoothed inside, vertically finger-pressed on the outside. Height 40.7 cm (Fig. 62: 1; Moravian Museum in Brno).
2. Part of a thin-walled vessel with a curved neck offset by an edge from the globular body with an offset bottom. The surface is brownish-red, smoothed. Height 29 cm (Fig. 62: 2; Moravian Museum in Brno).

3. Part of a vessel with an everted rim, a curved neck and a globular body. Vertical fringes and vertical protrusions extend from three horizontal grooves at the junction of the neck and body. The surface is smoothed, yellowish-brown. Preserved height 25 cm (Fig. 62: 3; Moravian Museum in Brno).
4. Jug with curved neck separated by an edge from the biconical body with a handle on the lower part of the neck. The shoulders are decorated with fringes (Dezort 1950, 368, obr. 3, right; the jug couldn't be found at the Moravian Museum).

### IV.3 Blučina – Cezavy, 1948 (Brno-Country District), fortified settlement

During a systematic excavation in sector III on Cezavy Hill near Blučina in 1948, a human skull without the lower jaw was found inside a partially preserved handleless Věteřov amphora. The top of the head was facing southwest (Fig. 67). A flat stone that was to have stood next to the amphora was carved into the shape of an irregular rectangle. Although three burnt stones and small charcoals were found near the skull, there were no traces of heat on the skull. According to the assessment by J. Pavelčík, the skull belonged to a woman around the age of 25–30 years (Tihelka, Hank 1949, 47, 58, obr. 25c; Tihelka 1950, obr. 13; 14; 1951; 1957, 20, obr. 8a, b; Jelínek, J. 1957, 88; Tihelka, Hank 1957, 33–34, tab. VIb; Tihelka 1962, 27). Unfortunately, the amphora (1) could not be found in the Moravian Museum. Jan Jelínek (1959, 93) believed that the skull had an artificially enlarged foramen magnum resulting, in his opinion, from the removal of the brain. Several researchers regarded the situation as a pithos type burial (Tihelka 1960, 111; 1963, 8), others as the burial of a skull in a vessel (Jelínek, P. 2018, 37–38, obr. 1), and some labelled it as an uncertain burial (Stuchlík 2007, 203, 206).

#### Description of finds:

1. Half of a handleless amphora with a smoothed surface and with an edge between the neck and the body and projections below the edge. Height 31 cm, Ø bottom 13 cm; neck height 10 cm (Fig. 67; Moravian Museum in Brno; not found; description after Tihelka 1951).

### IV.4 Blučina – Cezavy, 1950 (Brno-Country District), hilltop settlement

During a systematic excavation on Cezavy Hill near Blučina in 1950, a skull and a humerus bone were found in a ditch in the control block between sectors III and VII. The bones of a hand lay among the stones nearby. Near these bones lay half of a Věteřov pot (1), while fragments of a skull mixed with potsherds were 10 cm lower (depth 110 cm). It is possible that the skull was originally buried in the pot (Tihelka 1961, 59, note. 4; 1969, 13, Pl. LIII: 1). According to J. Říhovský, the skull lay on the broken pot-shaped vessel (1) of burial 70, and could therefore have originally been placed inside the vessel (Říhovský 1961, 134, obr. 20: 3). Given the size of the vessel, it can be ruled out that the skull was originally placed inside the vessel, and its position on the potsherds of the vessel was apparently completely accidental (Stuchlík 2007, 203, 207).

#### Description of finds:

1. Reconstructed pot with everted and rounded rim, curved neck, ovoid body with a roughened and vertically grooved surface and a slightly offset flat bottom. The neck is bridged by two strap handles; between them on the rim are two indistinct lobes. The surface is brown, in places brownish-grey. Height 22–22.3 cm; Ø rim 15.6 cm; Ø bottom 8.5 cm (Fig. 98; Moravian Museum in Brno; not found; description after Říhovský 1961).

### IV.5 Olomouc – Dómské návrší (Olomouc District), settlement

During test-pitting on Dómské návrší (Cathedral Hill) in Olomouc in 1994, V. Dohnal investigated a feature that he identified as a Věteřov cremation grave (Dohnal 2004, 287, obr. 1E; 5; 2021). The alleged grave contained several vessels that were deposited in the pit dug into the Věteřov layer. A group of potsherds remained in the grave, with several stones in the immediate vicinity (Fig. 70). According to V. Dohnal, the cremation remains in the form of fine whitish ash were found in a partially reconstructed amphora (2) covered by a bowl-shaped vessel (3). Both vessels were placed in a large pot (1) covered by an inverted larger bowl (4). The grave included fragments of two other bowls (5, 6) and perhaps the bottom of a small vessel (7) and possibly even a whorl (8). According to the anthropological determination of F. Kašpárek (Hořínková 2021, 32), the ashy soil

from the amphora contained four times more phosphorus than soil samples from the surrounding area.

#### Description of finds:

1. Large pot-shaped storage vessel with an S-shaped neck and a roughened ovoid body with the widest part in the centre. Height 46 cm (Fig. 69: 7; Regional Museum in Olomouc, inv. No. A 85719).
2. Amphora with everted rim, curved neck offset from the barrel-shaped body by an edge and with two handles on the lower part of the neck. Height 29 cm (Fig. 69: 6; Regional Museum in Olomouc; inv. No. 85720).
3. Large fragment of an amphora-like vessel with a curved neck offset by an edge from the truncated globular body with a bottom with a foot-like offset. Height 13.5 cm (Fig. 69: 5; Regional Museum in Olomouc; inv. No. A 85721).
4. Wide-open bowl with slightly everted rim, round wall and flat bottom. Height 8.8 cm (Fig. 69: 4; Regional Museum in Olomouc; inv. No. A 85722).
5. Fragment of a bowl with an everted rim and a curved neck. Preserved height 10 cm (Fig. 69: 1; Regional Museum in Olomouc; inv. No. 85724).
6. Fragment of bowl with round wall and slightly concave bottom. Height 10 cm (Fig. 69: 2; Regional Museum in Olomouc; inv. No. 85723).
7. Bottom of vessel with traces of wall and with four low lobular feet. Ø bottom 8 cm (Fig. 69: 3; Regional Museum in Olomouc; inv. No. 85718).
8. Biconical whorl with small central perforation. Ø 4.5 cm (Regional Museum in Olomouc; without inv. No.).

### IV.6 Svatobořice – ‘Písky’ (Svatobořice-Mistřín; Hodonín District), settlement?

Two features were uncovered in the ‘Písky’ field in Svatobořice in 1957, one of which (H1) was practically destroyed and the second (H2) was investigated by V. Šikulová (1963–1964). Skeletons were preserved from both of the features. Radiocarbon dating made it possible to date one of the skeletons (H2) to the Únětice culture. The round pit (H1) with a diameter of 118 cm had a depth of 150 cm and was filled with dark grey soil. Just above the flat bottom was a layer composed of large fragments of large vessels, most of which were turned so that the outer side faced upwards (Fig. 63). Beneath the potsherds lay the skeleton of an individual roughly 13 years of age (Appendix 5) in an irregularly crouched position in

the SW–NE direction. The severely bent lower limbs formed acute angles at the knees. The left arm lay alongside the body, while the right arm was pulled back, bent at the elbow to a right angle, and the fingers reached to the edge of the pit (Fig. 64). The skull was covered by half of the storage vessel (2), a bronze pin (1) lay near the skull and part of another storage vessel (3) lay on the chest. The rest of the body, with the exception of the tibias and the right arm, was covered with potsherds from two amphorae (4, 5), a pot (6) and a bowl (7). Several researchers regarded the situation as a pithos-type burial (Primas 1977, 121; Zyková 2010, 102), while others deemed it to be an uncertain burial (Stuchlík 2007, 203, 206).

#### Description of finds:

1. Bronze pin with curved shaft with a round cross-section and a head hammered and wound into an eyelet. Length 83 mm, Ø wire 3 mm (Fig. 66; Masaryk Museum in Hodonín; not found).
2. Large fragment of a storage vessel with a curved neck divided by three grooves from the globular body. The grooves are interrupted by three vertical protrusions. The surface is light brown with grey spots, smoothed on the neck, horizontally and obliquely finger-pressed on the body. Preserved height 33.5 cm; Ø rim 31.5 cm (Fig. 65: 2; Masaryk Museum in Hodonín; not found).
3. Upper part of a storage vessel with horizontally everted rim and curved neck divided by three grooves from the globular body. The grooves are interrupted by four symmetrically spaced vertical protrusions. The outer surface is ochre brown, the inside dark grey, the neck is smoothed, the body finger-pressed both horizontally and vertically. Preserved height 20 cm; Ø rim 22.7 cm (Fig. 65: 5; Masaryk Museum in Hodonín; not found).
4. Amphora with everted rim, a curved neck and a globular body with its maximum diameter in the lower third of the vessel. On the lower part of the neck are two strap handles, between them are two pointed protrusions. The surface is yellowish-brown, smoothed, the fabric finely levigated. Preserved height 27.5 cm; Ø rim 16.5 cm (Fig. 65: 1; Masaryk Museum in Hodonín; not found).
5. Amphora with everted rim and curved neck offset from the globular body by an indistinct edge. Two slightly grooved strap handles are attached to the lower part of the vessel. The surface is yellowish-brown, smoothed, the fabric finely levigated. Preserved height 22 cm; Ø rim 17 cm (Fig. 65: 3; Masaryk Museum in Hodonín; not found).

## Catalogue

6. Large fragment of a pot with an everted rim, a slightly curved neck, an ovoid body and an offset bottom. Four lobular projections extend from the rim. The surface is coarsely roughened, brownish-red, smoothed inside. The coarse fabric is tempered with small stones and the vessel is over-fired. Height 29 cm (Fig. 65: 4; Masaryk Museum in Hodonín; not found).
7. Fragment of a deep bowl with a curved neck bridged by a wide strap handle. The surface inside is grey, the outside is light brown, smoothed inside and on the neck, the body is both vertically and horizontally finger-pressed. Preserved height 20 cm (Fig. 65: 6; Masaryk Museum in Hodonín; not found).

## Part V

# Inventory of inhumation vessel burials in Central Europe

## V.1 Early Bronze Age in Central Europe

(The inventory also includes uncertain and unconfirmed finds – unnumbered)

### CZECH REPUBLIC

#### Moravia

(more detailed information is in the catalogue of burials from the Early Bronze Age in Moravia – Parts I–III)

- Bánov – Hrádek** (Uherské Hradiště District), hilltop settlement
1. **Blučina – Cezavy 1960** (Brno-Country District), hilltop settlement
  - Blučina – Cezavy 1945** (Brno-Country District), hilltop settlement
  - Blučina – Cezavy 1948** (Brno-Country District), fortified settlement
  2. **Borotice – ‘Nad Dvorem’** (Znojmo District), barrow burial ground
  3. **Brno-Tuřany** (Brno-City District), settlement
  4. **Dolní Věstonice – gravel pit** (Břeclav District), burial ground
  5. **Hodonice – brickyard** (Znojmo District), settlement
  6. **Hradisko near Kroměříž** (today Kroměříž, Kroměříž District), burial ground at fortified settlement
  7. **Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit** (Břeclav District), burial ground
  8. **Mikulov – ‘Vysoký roh’** (Břeclav District), solitary find
  9. **Olbramovice – ‘Šestilány’** (Znojmo District), burial ground
  - Olomouc – Domské návrší** (Olomouc District), settlement

10. **Pasohlávky – ‘U Vodárny’** (Břeclav District), settlement
- Svatobořice – ‘Písky’** (Svatobořice-Mistřín; Hodonín District), settlement?
11. **Vedrovice – Zábrdovice** (Znojmo District), settlement

#### Bohemia

12. **Kamýk** (Velké Přílepy; Prague-West District), burial ground  
Two heavily damaged inhumation vessel burials with remnants of skeletons on the bottom of the storage vessels were found at the Únětice burial ground in Kamýk near Velké Přílepy. In the first grave, the storage vessel lined with stones contained the remains of a very young child. The second storage vessel, which has not been preserved, contained the remains of a child burial and a bronze bracelet. The bracelet could not be identified in the National Museum in Prague (Schmidt, V. 1899, 555; Neustupný, J. 1933, 14).
13. **Liběchov** (Mělník District), solitary find  
A storage vessel covered with a bowl was found in Liběchov. The storage vessel with four projections below the neck has a height of 36 cm and a mouth diameter of 29.5 cm. Although the find is missing a detailed context, the overall arrangement suggests an inhumation vessel burial (Neustupný, J. 1933, 15, obr. 7).
14. **Malé Čičovice** (Prague-West District), burial ground  
Two inhumation vessel burials were discovered at the burial ground. Mikuláš Dušek lists two other vessel burials that were to have been investigated by L. Hájek (Dušek 1957, 849). This is probably

imprecise information concerning the original graves presented by J. L. Píč and J. Neustupný.

Grave 1. Only information on a storage vessel with a skeleton disturbed by ploughing was preserved (Píč 1893, 346; Neustupný, J. 1933, 14).

Grave 10. Grave 10 was found near the grave 1. The upper part of the storage vessel lined with stones was destroyed by ploughing (Fig. 3). Fragments of the skull, hand and foot are all that remained of the poorly preserved child's skeleton with milk teeth. A fragment of a bronze ring was also found near the skull (Píč 1893, 348–349; Neustupný, J. 1933, 14; Neustupný, J. et al. 1960, obr. 67).

**15. Plotiště nad Labem** (local part of Hradec Králové, Hradec Králové District), burial ground  
Inhumation grave 43. At the Únětice burial ground in Plotiště nad Labem, half of a solitary storage vessel was found lying on its side in the SE–NW direction at a depth of 37 cm (Fig. 72). The second half of the vessel was destroyed by ploughing. According to V. Vokolek, this was a child inhumation vessel burial (Vokolek 1993, 38; Kosová et al. in print). The skeleton has not been preserved (it could have been destroyed by ploughing) and only a fragment of a bone was found inside the vessel. The storage vessel had a height of 52 cm and a rim diameter of 34.6 cm (Fig. 73).

**16. Prague-Bubeneč** (Prague-City District), solitary find  
Josef Antonín Jíra discovered a child burial in a Knovíz vessel in Rooseveltova Street (previously Bučkova Street) in 1909. The find is held at the Museum of Prague under inv. No. P 6073 (Spurný 1947/48, 19, note 26). Hana Nedvěďová from the Museum of Prague reports that several finds were erroneously mixed. This concerns a large pot-shaped storage vessel with an S-shaped profile, a roughened surface and protrusions on the neck (Fig. 75; inv. No. P 6073; new inv. No. A0001293), which typologically corresponds to vessels used in the Early Bronze Age for holding inhumation burials, and the larger fragment of a bowl (inv. No. J 1360), in which unpreserved human bones were allegedly found.

**Prague-Bubeneč** (Prague-City District), solitary find

The private collection of S. Hlavsa contains a Únětice culture storage vessel with traces of burning that was found in Zelená Street. The storage vessel allegedly covered a child inhumation burial (Neustupný, J. 1933, 15).

**17. Prague-Michle** (Prague-City District), burial ground

Two inhumation vessel burials were reportedly discovered at a Únětice culture burial ground in 1893. The first contained a globular vessel 28 cm high with several bones from a newborn and 10 river shells. The second grave contained a vessel 60 cm high with the bones of a roughly five-year-old child (Kohout 1895, 757–758; Neustupný, J. 1933, 15).

**18. Prague-Miškovice** (Prague-City District), burial ground

During the excavation of the Únětice burial ground, a total of 44 graves from the Proto-Únětice to the classical Únětice phase were investigated. Grave 36, which can be considered a pithos, was also discovered at the burial ground. In the grave pit of unknown shape lay a broken storage vessel on its side with its rim to the southeast, and a fragment of the temporal bone of a child under the age of two was found in it. The S-shaped storage vessel with protrusions below the neck was 38 cm high and the rim diameter was 34 cm (Ernée, Müller, Rasmann 2009, 361; Erneé 2015, 44, 62, 77, 187, Abb. 27; 106; Taf. 16–18; 48: C).

**19. Prague-Třeboradice** (Prague-City District), settlement

In a flat-bottomed Únětice pit, a two-handled amphora covered with a flat sandstone slab measuring 28 × 27 cm was placed in a depression near the west wall. No evidence of inhumation or cremation burial was found in the vessel or in the surrounding area. The overall arrangement suggests that it could have been an inhumation vessel burial from which no bones have been preserved (Turek, Král 1998, 34, obr. 1).

**20. Slaný – Slánská hora** (Kladno District), hilltop settlement

At the hilltop settlement of the Únětice culture on Slánská hora in Slaný, a large standing storage vessel lined with four basalt stones and covered with a deep bowl was found. The remains of an infant's skeleton and three flints were found at the bottom of the vessel (Schmidt, V. 1895, 625, tab. XXXIV: 3, 12). The vessels are missing today (Neustupný, J. 1933, 14).

When publishing a group of burials in vessels from Hradisko near Kroměříž, V. Spurný drew attention to two other cases that V. Moucha was to have investigated in 1956 and 1958 (Spurný 1961, 192, note 13). Only the burial from 1958 could be verified. At the end of the rescue excavation in 1958,

V. Moucha discovered a settlement feature (hut?), which he could only partially investigate. The feature had a length of 250 cm and a depth of 50 cm. A conical pit dug into the feature (depth 35 cm) was filled with potsherds and fragments of animal bones. A storage vessel with a child inhumation burial was placed in the pit; the mouth of the storage vessel was covered by an inverted bowl (Moucha 1958, 3).

**21. Toušeň – Hradištko** (Prague-East District), hilltop settlement

A large storage vessel holding the burial of a child in a crouched sitting position was discovered during a rescue excavation at the Toušeň hilltop settlement in 1979. The burial is considered to be Věteřov group (Špaček 1982, 135).

**22. Tursko – Těšina** (Prague-West District), burial ground

Grave 7 comprising only a storage vessel was discovered at the Únětice burial ground in Tursko. For the most part crumbled, the vessel contained the skeleton of a children with no grave goods (Felcman 1909, 242; Neustupný, J. 1933, 14).

**23. Vepřek** (Mělník District), burial ground

Two inhumation vessel burials were discovered at the Únětice burial ground in Vepřek at the end of the 19th century. The first grave contained a storage vessel with the remains of the skeleton of a child around the age of six months; the storage vessel was covered with a bowl (Píč 1896, 180, 179, obr. 1; Neustupný, J. 1933, 14, obr. 5: 1; Sklenář 2006, 13, Abb. 8). Near the previous grave, two storage vessels, 38 and 40 cm high, lay in a slanted position, their rims facing each other, and everything was lined with stones. The skeleton of a child around the age of two was found inside (Píč 1896, 180, 180, obr. 2; Neustupný, J. 1933, 14, obr. 5: 2, 3; Sklenář 2006, 13, Abb. 8).

The third vessel burial was investigated in 1992 and labelled grave 15A. An S-shaped storage vessel (height 37 cm, rim Ø 29 cm) lined on the bottom by flat pieces of limestone lay in a slanted position in an unrecognisable grave pit. On the bottom of the vessel covered by a bowl with an inverted rim (height 11 cm, rim Ø 32 cm) was the burial of an infant (Fig. 74; Lička, Lutovský 2006, 38–40, Abb. 28; Taf. IV; IX: 3, 4; Dobisíková, Velemínský 2006, 71).

**24. Vrbčany** (Kolín District), burial ground

Grave IV with a 200 × 120 × 145 cm grave pit filled with stones was uncovered at the Únětice

culture burial ground. The skeleton of a woman buried in a sitting position was found in the middle of the grave and in the southeast corner, at a depth of 60 cm, stood a large storage vessel covered with a gneiss stone. The 38-cm-high contained the poorly preserved skeleton of a small child (Dvořák 1933, 60).

**POLAND**

**25. Przeclawice** (Wrocław District), burial ground

While excavating the Únětice culture burial ground with 51 graves in Przeclawice in 1975–1978, I. Lasak investigated one child's grave, which she interpreted as a child vessel burial.

Grave 14 had a grave pit approximately round in shape with dimensions of 110 × 100 cm and a depth of 100 cm. Potsherds from a storage vessel (height 60 cm, rim Ø 57 cm) appeared at a depth of 74 cm. Inside this vessel was the skeleton of a young girl aged 8–10 in a heavily crouched position on her left side in the SW–NE direction with her face towards the west. Part of the skeleton lay on potsherds of a large bowl (height 24.5 cm, rim Ø 44 cm); behind her back were fragments of a flat bowl (rim Ø 17 cm) and a smaller bowl (height 3.8 cm; rim Ø 9 cm). The author of the excavation interpreted the situation as a child vessel burial (Lasak 1982, 130, ryc. 9; 1988, 16, 17, 51, ryc. 10; 38: a–d).

**26. Wojkowice** (Wrocław District), settlement

The rescue excavation of the Únětice culture settlement in Wojkowice in 1998–2000 also captured a group of burials in settlement features, including an inhumation vessel burial (489-I-98). The lower part of the oval-shaped pit measuring 68 × 41 cm, 24 cm deep and oriented in the direction of NNW–SSE has been preserved in the subsoil. Preserved in the pit is part of a horizontally placed storage vessel with a curved neck offset by an edge from the globular body (Fig. 76: 2; Gralak 2007, ryc. 90: 1; 92), which was covered by a bowl with a curved neck and a sharply offset body with projections on the edge (Fig. 76: 1; Gralak 2007, ryc. 90: 2; 91). The storage vessel contained a bronze wire bracelet (Fig. 76: 3; Gralak 2007, ryc. 118: 2; 119) and the incomplete skeleton of an infant (Gralak 2007, 248, ryc. 75: 448-I-98; 76; 90–92; 118: 2; 119).

**GERMANY**

**27. Börnecke** (Harz District), barrow cemetery

A grave with two pot-shaped storage vessels on their side and a small cup were found at a depth of one metre in a Únětice culture barrow. The skull

of a very young individual was found inside a storage vessel (Hofmeister 1934; Mandera 1953, 205; Probst 1999, 54).

**28. Diesenbach** (Regensburg District), settlement

A 115-cm-deep pit discovered at the Straubing culture settlement in 1952 contained a large vessel with two handles covered by a deep bowl with a single handle (Torbrügge 1959, 185, Taf. 52: 14–16; 1960, 58).

**29. Eulau** (Burgenland District), settlement

A circular pit with a diameter of 120 cm and a depth of 30 cm was uncovered at the edge of the Únětice culture settlement in 2003. The pit contained potsherds from a large storage vessel (height 54 cm, rim Ø 34.5 cm) with a smoothed neck, finger-pressed body and small handles below the neck (Selent 2009, 230–238, Abb. 30–38). The vessel was broken into two parts, with one of these covering a skull. The well-preserved skeleton belonged to a six-year-old child laying in a crouched position on its right side in the W–E direction. Two shells were found in front of the body, behind the back a bronze pin with a conical head and an eyelet, and another pin of the same type lay to the north of the storage vessel (Selent 2009, 230–234, Abb. 30–38).

**30. Güsten** (Saale District), settlement

An Únětice settlement pit with a complete standing storage vessel was investigated in 2006. Although no skeleton was found in the storage vessel, it is likely that the child's bones had completely decomposed and hence this could have been a vessel burial (Deffnert, Pape, Selent 2006, 125, Abb. 2; Selent 2009, 235, Abb. 39, 40).

**31. Haldensleben** (Börde District), solitary find

An inhumation vessel burial without a more detailed find context is published in older literature. The site is listed under the original name of Neuwaldensleben. However, it is uncertain whether the vessel contained a skull and unspecified children's bones or just the skull (Primas 1977, 121; Probst 1999, 54; Selent 2009, 237).

**32. Kelheim – 'Winzerer Feld'** (Kelheim District), burial ground

Four Straubing culture graves were discovered at the beginning of the 20th century, of which two were cremation, one inhumation and one an inhumation vessel burial (Behrens 1916, 64; Torbrügge 1960, 58; Ruckdeschel 1978b, 79–80, Taf. 22: 5).

Grave 1. A large two-handled storage vessel with a low neck separated by a relief cordon from the globular body was found in 1912. The storage vessel was covered with the lower part of a similar vessel. Inside the vessel was a 6–7-year-old child in a crouched position with its head down (Ruckdeschel 1978a, 269, 307; Ruckdeschel 1978b, 79–80).

**33. Leuna** (Merseburg District), solitary find

Paul Grimm mentions a child inhumation burial in a Únětice storage vessel from Leuna in Central Germany and points to ties to the El-Argar culture (Grimm 1932, 23; Mandera 1953, 205; Probst 1999, 54).

**34. Mintraching** (Regensburg District), burial ground

Grave 17 investigated at the Straubing culture burial ground contained the burial of a small child in a vessel (Schröter 1973, 16; Ruckdeschel 1978a, 117; Probst 1999, 61). No find context is provided for the burial.

**35. Oechlitz** (Saale District), burial ground

A vessel burial was captured at the Únětice culture burial ground with 18 graves. The 85 × 54 cm grave pit held an incomplete pot on its side, into which a second pot was inserted (Fig. 77). The skull of a child up to the age of six was inside the vessel, but no other bones were preserved (Moser 2017b, 374, Abb. 2–5).

**36. Ostbevern – Schirl** (Warendorf District), settlement

The burial of an infant in a crouched position on its right side in two pot-shaped vessels on their sides was discovered in 1982. The lower part of the body was in the smaller vessel, the upper part in the larger vessel (Fig. 79; 80). The child's age was perhaps two months (Stapel 2008, 128, Fig. on page 128). The burial was discovered in an area in which Late Eneolithic cultures survived.

**37. Quedlinburg** (Harz District), burial ground

An Únětice culture settlement and a group of five graves dating to the same period were investigated in 2003. Grave 4 had a circular ground plan with a diameter of 125 cm and contained two storage vessels set horizontally inside each other (Fig. 78). One of the vessels had a neck separated from the body by a relief cordon with dimples and four handles; the second vessel had lengthwise

projections at this interface. A ten-year-old child was buried inside the vessels. The burial has a radiocarbon date of 2140–1880 BC, which is before the beginning of the late phase of the Únětice culture (Selent 2006, 121–123, Abb. 1–4; Selent 2009, 215–223, Abb. 14–26).

**38. Schiepzig** (Salzmünde, Saale District), burial ground

A child burial in a vessel was discovered in a group of six graves at the Únětice settlement and burial ground in Schiepzig. A vessel lay on its side and was lined with stones in a pit with an indistinct fill and dimensions of 70 × 60 cm. The Únětice storage vessel without a rim had a roughened surface and a relief cordon with dimples around its perimeter. Unfortunately, the skeleton was not preserved (Moser 2017a, 79, Abb. 2; Damrau et al. 2019, 147, Abb. 2; 15; 16).

**39. Striegnitz – Trogen** (Meißen District), solitary find

A beaker with a protrusion containing bones was placed inside a larger Únětice culture vessel. The large vessel without a preserved neck and with a double relief cordon above the widest part of the body has a preserved height of 26.4 cm. The beaker with a protrusion on the edge dividing the curved neck from the conical body has a height of 21 cm (Neumann 1929, 96, 106, Taf. IX: 4; X: 21; Bilig 1958, 56, Abb. 24)

**AUSTRIA**

**40. Laa an der Thaya – Äußeres Gerichtsfeld** (Mistelbach District), solitary find

An Únětice culture storage vessel discovered in an oblique position during deep ploughing at a depth of 20 cm in 1980 had its rim facing west and its mouth covered with a bowl. A child's skull facing south lay inside the storage vessel. Potsherds from additional vessels were found beneath the storage vessel (Lauer mann 2003, 167).

**41. Mattersburg** (Mattersburg District), settlement

Among the potsherds of a disturbed vessel standing in an oblique position, animal bones and the poorly preserved bones of a non-adult (juvenile) individual were found in 1969. The large vessel with a conical neck and a globular body (height 48.6 cm; rim Ø 29.6 cm) belongs to the Litzenkeramik culture (Benkovsky-Pivovarová 1986, Abb. 3–5; Probst 1999, 130).

**Salzburg – Maxglan** (Salzburg District), settlement

The burial of a newborn (grave 70) was discovered at the settlement in a vessel covered with a larger potsherd during an excavation in 1992. According to F. Moosleitner, the vessel is similar to Böheimkirchen pottery and the potsherd is from the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (Moosleitner 1993, 10, Abb. 2) and E. Probst dated the burial to the Middle Bronze Age (Probst 1999, 238, obr. on page 239). Unfortunately, the literature shows only a complete vessel that in all likelihood does not belong to the Bronze Age.

**ITALY**

**42. Romagnano** (Novara District), burial ground

During the rescue excavation of the Polada culture cemetery in Romagnano in northern Italy in 1970, a total of 17 graves were investigated, of which seven were disturbed child inhumation burials in vessels covered with stones, six in sector III and one in sector IV (grave 2). Six of the child burials involved newborns (Perini 1971, 84–95; 1975), while one (grave 5) was the burial of a 4–5-year-old child (Perini 1975, 297, Fig. 5).

Grave 3 – The burial was set next to the rocky wall. Several bones from a newborn were found in the horizontally placed vessel. Vessel (height 29 cm; rim Ø 26 cm) decorated with relief cordons (Perini 1975, 296–297, Fig. 4; 19: 5).

Grave 5 – The burial was set next to the rocky wall. The horizontally placed vessel was covered and lined with stones. The skull of a child 4–5 years old lay in the vessel. Larger conical vessel with an inverted rim and a body decorated with horizontal relief cordons (Perini 1975, 297–298, Fig. 5; 19: 3).

Grave 7 – A greater number of potsherds from a horizontally placed vessel covered with stones. The bones of a newborn buried in a crouched position were found among the potsherds. The bones of a child in the age of 7–8 years were also found nearby (Perini 1975, 298–299, Fig. 7).

Grave 8 – A larger number of potsherds from a vessel covered and damaged by stones were found near the rock wall. Although the vessel had crumbled, the position of the lower part indicates that it had been set horizontally. Among the potsherds were the bones of a newborn apparently buried with its head towards the bottom of the vessel (Peroni 1975, 299, Fig. 8).

Grave 13 – The vessel was turned with its mouth towards the rock wall and was covered by stones, which also surrounded the vessel on three sides. Among the potsherds were the bones of a newborn, and a perforated deer tooth was found by the

skull (Fig. 81). Vessel (height 28 cm; rim Ø 26 cm) with two holes below the rim and a body decorated with horizontal relief cordons (Perini 1971, 94–95, Fig. 50; 1975, 301–302, Fig. 13; 14; 15: 2; 19: 1).

Grave 'a' – Parts of a vessel remained in the collapsed wall, and numerous small bones of a newborn baby were found among them. Large vessel (height 42 cm; rim Ø 24 cm) with a conical neck divided from the globular body by a relief cordon with three breast-shaped projections (Perini 1975, 302, Fig. 19: 4).

Grave 2 (sector IV) – Potsherds from a horizontally-placed vessel with its mouth towards the south and surrounded by larger stones. Several bones from two newborns were found among the potsherds. Reconstructed barrel-shaped vessel (height 40 cm; rim Ø 39 cm) decorated with horizontal relief cordons (Perini 1975, 303–304, Fig. 17; 18; 19: 2).

## SLOVAKIA

### 43. Čachtice (Nové Město nad Váhom District), without find context

A probable grave in which a large vessel (not preserved) that reportedly held a skeleton was discovered in 1958. A small Maďarovce culture jug was found by a foot of the skeleton. The grave unit was partially lined with large, flat stones (Kolník, Paulík 1959, 89, 96, Taf. 1: 11; Benkovsky-Pivovarová, Chropovský 2015, Teil 1, 54, Taf. 25: B1).

### 44. Nitriansky Hradok (local part of Šurany, Nové Zámky District), fortified settlement

Five vessel burials were captured at the Maďarovce culture fortified settlement in Nitriansky Hradok. Anton Točík interpreted three of these as real graves and two as symbolic burials (Točík 1981a, 46–47), whereas other publications consider only three vessel burials (Furmánek et al. 2015, 120; Bátorá 2018, 120).

Burial 1. The first inhumation vessel burial was investigated in 1951 by A. Knor. A Maďarovce amphora with a child's skeleton at the bottom was embedded in the top layer of the ditch with Baden ware (Knor 1952, 246, obr. 125).

Burial 2 – sector G/18. An amphora with a height of 37.8 cm and two handles on the widest part of the body, covered with a bowl with a single handle 7 cm high, was found in the horizontal position in the Maďarovce layer at a depth of 68–80 cm. A child's skull was found in the mouth of the amphora, with additional bones occurring in its immediate vicinity and nearby. The burial did not contain any grave goods (Točík 1981b, 27; 1978, Taf. CXXVI: 2, 3; Plan 67: 2).

Burial 3 – sector H/22. A 24.4-cm-high handleless pot with three projections on the shoulders and with its mouth facing south lay at a depth of 125 cm. The mouth of the pot was covered with a single-handled bowl with a height of 7.3 cm and a rim diameter of 19.2 cm. The vessel held the remains of a skeleton of a small child with the skull in the upper part; without grave goods (Točík 1981b, 74; 1978 Taf. CXXXVIII: 23, 24).

Symbolic burial 4 – sector D/4. A 34.5-cm-high amphora with two handles on the lower part of the neck covered with the lower part of a pot-shaped storage vessel stood in the Maďarovce layer at a depth of 160–200 cm. No skeleton was found and the situation was designated as a symbolic child grave (Točík 1981a, 161; 1978, Taf. LXIX: 16).

Symbolic burial 5 – sector D/6. A 42-cm-high amphora with two handles on the bottom of the neck covered by a 4 cm-high bowl with a profiled rim on the neck stood in the Maďarovce layer at a depth of 160 cm (Točík 1981a, 163; 1978, Taf. XVII: 4; LXX: 8, 10).

### 45. Patince (Komárno District), settlement

The lower part of sunken hut IV with a flat bottom and a smaller depression in the middle was uncovered on the outskirts of a North Pannonian culture burial ground investigated in 1956. An inhumation vessel burial was deposited in the pit in front of a kiln (Fig. 5). A 23-cm-high pot-shaped vessel with a curved neck and an ovoid body served as the burial case. The vessel held a child's skeleton and part of the skull of an adult individual along with fragments of a bronze spiral from a necklace. The hut was evidently abandoned immediately after the deposition of the burial (Dušek 1957, 849; 1959, 488, obr. 203; 1960, 206–208, 232, Abb. 12, 13; Taf. XLIX: 22, 24; Vladár 1973a, 295, Abb. 37, 38; Bóna 1975, 204).

### Spišský Štvrtok (Levoča District), fortified settlement

From the acropolis of the Ottomány settlement, two inhumation vessel burials and one pit grave with the cremated remains of an animal sacrifice were mentioned in the literature as evidence of cult ceremonies (Furmánek, Veličák, Vladár 1991, 285; Březinová, Jakab, Vladár 2012, 36; Bátorá 2018, 274, 283, etc.). Based on a new professional analysis, we can state that there were three vessels with burnt bones and in all mentioned cases these were the cremated bones of a child or an animal of medium size – a goat or a sheep (Vladár 1976, 218).

In Spišský Štvrtok, it is not possible to speak of an inhumation vessel burial, which also appeared in works by J. Jakab (2004, 305) and J. Vladár (1976, 218; Březinová, Jakab, Vladár 2012, 36).

**Šarovce** (Levice District), settlement

The literature presents an inhumation vessel burial from Šarovce without more detailed find circumstances (Novotný a kol. 1986, 691; Furmánek, Veliáčik, Vladár 1991, 282; Březinová, Jakab, Vladár 2012, 36). It cannot be ruled out that this was the burial described by B. Novotný during the publication of Eneolithic sites. It would therefore be an inhumation burial of an adult in a crouched position in a half-filled pit, which was covered with large pieces of a storage vessel, with the skeleton of a dog found next to it. However, the pit fill contained only potsherds from Baden culture pottery (Novotný a kol. 1986, 618). As such, it is highly unlikely that the burial from Šarovce can be considered an inhumation vessel burial from the Early Bronze Age.

**Vráble** (Nitra District), enclosed settlement

During the excavation of the Maďarovce settlement surrounded by a ditch in Vráble, a pot-shaped vessel holding the skull of a young woman was discovered at the bottom of feature 137. A small, two-handled amphora and a decorated conical lid were also found nearby (Bátora, Tóth, Rasman, 2015, 132, obr. 9; 10: 3, 4; Jelínek, P. 2018, 39, obr. 4). The skull has not yet undergone anthropological analysis (I thank Dr. J. Bátor for the information). Given that the skull was tentatively identified as belonging to a young woman, it is highly unlikely that this find is a pithos burial.

**HUNGARY**

**46. Deszk 'A'** (Szeged District), burial ground

Of the total of 83 graves investigated at the Perjamos (Maros) culture Deszk A burial ground, four were inhumation vessel burials (Foltiny 1941b, 88; Bóna 1975, 87, Taf. 92: 1, 2, 5-7; Girić 1984, 37).

Grave 1 had a depth of 30 cm and held a 40-cm-high pot-shaped vessel with a child burial (Foltiny 1941a, 70, 89, Abb. 1; Bóna 1975, 87, Taf. 92: 9).

Grave 18 was 30 cm deep and contained a 42-cm-high globular vessel covered by a bowl and which held unburnt bones (Foltiny 1941a, 75, 90, Abb. 5: 1, 2; Bóna 1975, 87, Taf. 92: 5).

Grave 30 was 20 cm deep, and human bones and two mugs were found among the potsherds of a vessel (Foltiny 1941a, 76-77, 91, Tab. IV: 5-7; Bóna 1975, 87, Taf. 92: 1, 2, 6-7).

Grave 54 was only 10 cm deep and the bones of an infant were found on the lower part of a large pot (Foltiny 1941a, 81, 94; Bóna 1975, 87).

**47. Dunaalmás-Fogtorok** (Komárom-Esztergom District), settlement

Three child inhumation vessel burials were discovered at an Encrusted Pottery culture settlement. In two cases (burials C/1, C/2) these were individual vessels at a depth of 60-70 cm, with the mouths facing north. The feet of the infants buried in them were facing the bottom of the vessel (Vékonyé-Vadász 2001, tab. 5: 1, 2). The third burial was deposited in the dwelling beneath the hearth; the child was buried in a pot covered with the bottom of another vessel along with a smaller mug and several fragments of a bronze artefact (Vékonyé-Vadász 2001, tab. 5: 3-6).

**Kelebia** (Kiskunhalas District), burial ground

M. Girić mentions a larger number of inhumation vessel burials at the Vatyá culture burial ground in Kelebia in south-central Hungary (1984, 44; Girić 1989, 240). Although he mentions 25 horizontally placed vessels in a later work, Girić approaches their classification a little more cautiously, stating that data on bones are rare, the bones are imperfectly cremated or that the bones are poorly preserved (Girić 1996, 139). But this is apparently imprecise information, since the burial ground with 126 graves from the Early Bronze Age had 99 cremation graves, while a smaller part was made up of 23 inhumation graves with a crouched skeleton and three graves contained dog skeletons (Zalotay 1957, 63). Three other disturbed graves identified at the burial ground (5, 6, 43) with fragmented urns and scattered bones (Zalotay 1957, 5, 24) somewhat recalled inhumation vessel burials. However, all three graves contained only burnt bones. Elemér Zalotay does not mention any inhumation burials in vessels in his initial publication of the burial ground (Zalotay 1957), nor does I. Bóna in his subsequent detailed publication of the site (Bóna 1975, 59-60, 113, Plan 13-17; Taf. 58-75). Under these circumstances, the existence of inhumation vessel burials cannot be reliably assumed at the burial ground in Kelebia.

**48. Szöreg** (town quarter in Szeged, Szeged District), burial ground

Two or three inhumation vessel burials are listed from the Perjamos (Maros) culture burial ground in Szöreg with 229 graves (Bóna 1975, 87; Girić 1984, 38), but the literature specifically provides information only for rich grave 189.

Grave 189. Specific information is available only for 220-cm-deep grave 189. A skeleton lay on its left side in a vessel preserved only in potsherds. Grave goods were represented by 129 small bronze discs and 46 *Columbella rustika* shells (Foltiny 1941b, 41, 70, Abb. XXII: 40; Bóna 1975, 87, Taf. 122: 5, 6).

## SERBIA

### 49. **Ostojićevo** (Čoka District), burial ground

During the excavation of the Maros culture burial ground with 172 graves in the northern Serbian town of Ostojićevo, 54 child inhumation vessel burials were discovered (Girić 1984; 1989, 239; Soroceanu 1991, 138). A later publication even lists 103 vessel burials. The vast majority of graves were those of children in the age of 1–2 years with very poorly preserved skeletons, and only several graves contained burials of children in the age of 6–10 years. The majority of storage vessels lay horizontally (only three stood vertically). The skeletons were buried in a crouched position with the head at the rim of the vessel in the N–S (boys) or S–N (girls) direction. The orientation of the burials was E–W in only three cases, twice W–E. Several graves contained grave goods in the form of one to three vessels and only in two cases were bronze ornaments found (Girić 1996, 140).

## ROMANIA

### 50. **Pir** (Satu Mare District), burial ground

One burial of a child in the age of 3–5 years was discovered at the Ottomány culture burial ground; the child was buried in a vessel covered with a decorated lid, but no detailed find circumstances are known. The grave was investigated in 1948–1952 prior to the systematic excavation by Z. Székely in 1953–1954, during which 31 graves were investigated (Székely 1966, 127; Némethi 1996, 31; Bader 1998, 44).

### 51. **Sălacea** (Bihar District), fortified settlement

One inhumation vessel burial was discovered in northwest Romania on the grounds of the Sălacea fortified Ottomány culture settlement (Némethi 1996, 31; Bader 1998, 80).

## V.2 Middle Bronze Age

(The inventory also includes unconfirmed finds, which are listed without a number)

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### 1. **Olišany u Prostějova** (Prostějov District), settlement

More information in the catalogue of finds from Moravia (Part II.1).

### 2. **Vliněves** (part of Dolní Beřkovice, Mělník District), burial ground

An unclosed circular trench (feature 4300) with a diameter of ca 10 m was identified at the Únětice burial ground in Vliněves. Grave 488 was sunk into its northeast sector (Fig. 90). The grave pit had an irregular round ground plan view with a diameter of 90 cm with nearly perpendicular walls and a flat bottom at a depth of 25 cm. A larger fragment of a vessel with a relief cordon with depressions at the interface of the neck and body lay in an inclined position in the NW–SE direction (Fig. 91: 1). The vessel, which had a rim diameter of 36 cm, contained fragments from a skull and long bones and a small bronze wire ring with a round cross-section (Fig. 91: 2). Based on a radiocarbon date of  $3208 \pm 27$  BP, the grave can be attributed to the Middle Bronze Age Tumulus culture (Limburský et al. 2018, 252–254, 424, obr. 179; 181: 1, 2; tab. 1: 2; 14: 34).

## AUSTRIA

### **Salzburg – Maxglan** (Salzburg District), settlement

The burial of a newborn (grave 70) was discovered at the settlement in a vessel covered with a larger potsherd during an excavation in 1992. According to F. Moosleitner, the vessel is similar to Böhheimkirchen pottery and the potsherd is from the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (Moosleitner 1993, 10, Abb. 2), whereas E. Probst dated the burial to the Middle Bronze Age (Probst 1999, 238, Fig. on page 239). Unfortunately, the literature shows only a complete vessel that in all likelihood does not belong to the Bronze Age.

## SLOVAKIA

### **Nitra – Mostná Street** (Nitra District), settlement

Pit (grave) 4 was uncovered at the Middle Bronze Age settlement in Nitra in 2007. The vessel discovered at the bottom of the feature was to have contained a human skull, two cervical vertebrae and a fragment of a radius bone. Signs of their intentional separation

from the body and heat treatment are visible on the bones. The bones belonged to a 14–17-year-old woman (Březinová 2009, 52; Březinová, Jakab, Vladár 2012, 27–35; Jelínek 2018, 38, obr. 3). The age of the buried individual rules out the classification of the feature as a child inhumation burial.

## HUNGARY

### 3. Jánoshida (Jászapáti District), burial ground

A total of 278–281 graves are listed from the biritual burial ground from phase B C of the Middle Bronze Age excavated in Jánoshida in 1974–1979. Of the cremation graves, 106 were in urns and 34 in pits; the remaining 141 were inhumation, of which 14 were inhumation vessel burials (Csányi 1980, 154; 2016, 109; 2017, 202). Unfortunately, the literature does not provide more detailed information on pithos-type burials.

### 4. Tápé (town quarter in Szeged, Szeged District), burial ground

Two inhumation vessel burials (Trogmayer 1975) were also found among the 661 graves at the Tumulus culture burial ground in Tápé.

Formed by a large storage vessel on its side, grave 3 held the bones of an infant, a mug, a bowl and miniature fragments of bronze. Large vessel (height 55 cm; Ø of rim 19,5 cm) with a cylindrical neck and ovoid body with four protrusions, two handles and two protrusions on the widest part of the body (Trogmayer 1975, 9, 148, Taf. 1: 3: 1–3; Farkas, Lipták 1975, 229, 240).

Grave 79 contained a tall storage vessel on its side with its mouth facing north. The skull of an infant was found inside. Tall, slender storage vessel (height 70 cm; rim Ø 47 cm) with four protrusions on the rim (Trogmayer 1975, 27, 148, Taf. 8: 79).

### 5. Tiszafüred – Majoroshalom

(Kunszentmárton District), burial ground

Of the 365 graves at the Tumulus culture burial ground in Tiszafüred, three were inhumation vessel burials (35, 84, 218), and problematic grave 132 was also considered to be a pithos (Kovács 1975).

Grave 35 at a depth of 34 cm contained a large pot-shaped vessel with protrusions below the neck, skull fragments, a mug with a handle, two bronze rings and a bronze bracelet. Pot-shaped vessel (height 70 cm; rim Ø 26 cm) with a curved neck separated by an edge with protrusions from the body (Kovács 1975, 12, Pl. 4: 35: 1–3).

Grave 84 at a depth of 85 cm was composed of a large vessel that contained a complete child's

skeleton with the skull at the rim; the burial also included a mug with a handle and two bronze rings. Pot-shaped vessel (height 57.5 cm; rim Ø 35 cm) with a relief band with depressions beneath the rim (Kovács 1975, 15, Pl. 8: 84: 1–3).

Grave 218 at a depth of 45 cm was composed of a large vessel covered by a bowl. The large vessel contained a mug with a handle, four bronze finger-rings and fragments of a child's skeleton. In addition to the large vessel, the grave also included a two-handled vessel (Fig. 92). Large, slender vessel (height 65 cm; rim Ø 44 cm) with four lobes on the rim; flat bowl (height 12 cm; rim Ø 42.5 cm) with lobes on the rim (Kovács 1975, 27, Fig. 18; Pl. 21: 218: 1–5).

Grave 132 was also designated as a pithos. A smaller mug with a handle, two bronze bracelets and two ceramic beads (Kovács 1975, 20, Pl. 11: 132: 1–5) were found among the ashes scattered over an area of 30 × 60 cm, making it likely that this was a cremation grave.

## V.3 Urnfield culture

(The inventory also includes unconfirmed finds, which are listed without a number)

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### 1. Ivaň (Prostějov District), burial ground

More information in the catalogue of finds from Moravia (Part III.1).

**Blučina – Cezavy** (Brno-Country District), hilltop settlement

More information in the catalogue of finds from Moravia (Part I.1).

**Prague-Bubeneč** (Prague-City District), solitary find

Josef Antonín Jíra discovered a child burial in a Knovíz vessel in Rooseveltova Street (previously Bučkova Street) in 1909. The find is held at the Museum of Prague under inv. No. P 6073 (Spurný 1947/48, 19, note 269). The vessel holding the burial belongs to the Únětice culture (Fig. 75; see the Early Bronze Age inventory – Part V.I: 16).

## POLAND

### 2. Bachórz – Chodorówka (Przemyśl District), burial ground

At the Lusatian burial ground in Bachórz – Chodorówka dated to stage B D – Ha B with at least 780 graves, several inhumation graves and one

inhumation vessel burial (Gedl 1993; 1994, 325) were discovered along with common cremation burials.

Grave 781. A handleless amphora with four protrusions on the widest part of the body was covered with a flat sandstone slab, on which lay smaller stones and charcoals. The 28-cm-high amphora (Fig. 100: 3) held the unburnt skeleton of a ca eight-year-old child with its face turned towards the east (Fig. 99). Next to the child was an S-shaped mug with a handle across the neck (Fig. 100: 2) and a handleless mug (Fig. 100: 1; Gedl 1993, Abb. 2-4; 1994, 325, ryc. 68; tabl. CXX: 8-10; Szybowicz 1995, 160)

### GERMANY

#### 3. **Bensheim – Auerbach** (Bergstraße District), solitary find

An inhumation vessel burial was found in the local Auerbach section of Bensheim in Hessen in June 1961. A vessel contained an unburnt human foetus around the age of eight months (Probst 1999, 281).

## Appendix 1

# Anthropological evaluation of skeletons from Mikulov

Kristína Piačková

The Regional Museum in Mikulov should hold the skeletal remains of children buried in vessels from two sites. In 1924, a vessel with the burial of two children was found in the Kowalski sand pit in the built-up area of Mikulov, in 1928 a vessel with one child at the 'Vysoký roh' site in the Sedlec cadastral area east of Mikulov (Jüttner 1950, 365–366). Over the years, the recording and storage of these skeletal remains have been called into question, thus complicating their positive assignment to individual find units. While the vessels from the aforementioned sites are available in the museum, skeletal remains are only recorded from the Kowalski sand pit site, and even then in a questionable composition.

### Mandible (N 57)

The mandible represents the fully developed deciduous dentition. The jaw is broken in two in front of the left canine. Four teeth of the deciduous dentition are preserved: on the right side, both deciduous molars (m1, m2), on the left side, a canine and the first molar (c, m1). The other teeth fell out postmortem, with no signs of alveolar bone resorption evident on the floor of the alveoli. The alveoli for permanent molars (M1, M2) are open and the crowns of molars can be seen in them. The first molar (M1) is in the early crown development phase, with neither the root nor the neck yet developed (they can be observed through the disrupted inner side of the mandible bone wall). The second molar (M2) is in the stage of initial crown mineralisation, with incomplete mineralisation of the occlusal surface. Based on the degree of development of the crowns of the

permanent molars, the age of the deceased child can be estimated at 3.5 years (Ubelaker 1978; Alqahtani, Hector, Liversidge 2010).

### Skull and part of postcranial skeleton (N 58)

The skull of the individual is in a fragmentary state; the calvaria is post-depositionally deformed and the facial part is broken into several parts. The jaws are in a state of mixed dentition. The deciduous dentition is already in a worn state and is in the phase of initial root resorption. The upper jaw has permanent incisors (I1, I2) with unclosed root canals, the permanent first molar (M1) is fully erupted and the second molar (M2) is just below the alveolar ridge, before eruption. The lower jaw is broken into two parts with a missing section in the area of the premolars (or deciduous molars). The development of teeth in the lower jaw corresponds to that in the upper jaw. The missing lower deciduous canines are likely related to their loss during the child's lifetime.

Preserved from the postcranial skeleton is a fragment of the left ulna without the distal end, half of the right radius with the distal end, a fragmentary left tibia, a fragment of the neck of the left femur, and fragments of the pelvis, vertebrae, and ribs.

Based on the state of dentition development, it can be argued that the child died roughly at the age of 9 years (Ubelaker 1978; Alqahtani, Hector, Liversidge 2010). An estimation of the age from the length of the tibia (*tibia sin.*, 195 mm) confirms this conclusion (Stloukal, Hanáková 1978).

## Fragments of the skull and postcranial skeleton of a newborn (N 59)

The skull consists of fragments of a paired frontal bone with parts of the orbits, a larger fragment of the occipital bone, and small, indeterminate skull fragments, probably from the parietal bones. The molar crown is also present.

Preserved from the postcranial skeleton are the long bones of the forearm and left tibia, the right scapula, and part of the right clavicle. Fragments of five ribs are also preserved, including the left first rib.

The size and condition of the skeletal remains suggest that it is a newborn. The results of regression equations based on the lengths of long bones work with the foetal age of the fetus in weeks from conception. The best preserved radius (*radius dx*, 55 mm) corresponds to a foetal age in the range of 37–42 weeks, which is the period around birth (Scheuer, Musgrave, Evans 1980). The crown of a tooth in the early stage of mineralisation corresponds to this age (Alqahtani, Hector, Liversidge 2010).

## Conclusion

The anthropological analysis indicates the presence of three individuals: a newborn, a child aged 3.5 years, and a child aged around the age of 9 years. According to inventory numbers from the time of K. Jüttner's work at the museum, the burials in the vessel from Kowalski sand pit can be considered to be a 9-year-old individual (N 58) and a newborn (N 59). Both individuals are marked with the older inventory number IV 46, which is associated with the discovery of a vessel (A/M 909) at the given site. However, the new age determination does not match the description published in an article from the 1950s (Jüttner 1950, 366). According to K. Jüttner, the older child should have been 6 years old on account of a 'fully developed first molar in the lower and upper jaws, while the second was still hidden in the alveolus', which agrees with the result of the new anthropological investigation, though the age of the individual has been increased. However, a significant discrepancy appears with the second child, who was newly identified as a newborn. According to K. Jüttner, 'the child already had all his milk teeth, and hence was about 2 years old.' It is impossible to explain how a newborn, whose delicate bones and lack of erupted milk teeth cannot be confused with a two-year-old child, was assigned the same inventory number (Jüttner 1950, 366).

The third individual (N 57), represented only by the mandible with deciduous teeth, is not labelled with any older inventory number. The only clue is that it was placed in the same bag as the aforementioned individuals. According to anthropological analysis, the individual was 3.5 years old. According to published descriptions by K. Jüttner, this find could belong to either the 'two-year-old' child from Kowalski sand pit or the 'three-year-old' child from Sedlec (though the inventory cards state that the Sedlec find should be marked with the number IV 188). However, the possibility that this individual came from completely different find circumstances and ended up in the same bag by accident cannot be ruled out (Jüttner 1950, 366).

### SKELETAL PRESERVATION DIAGRAM

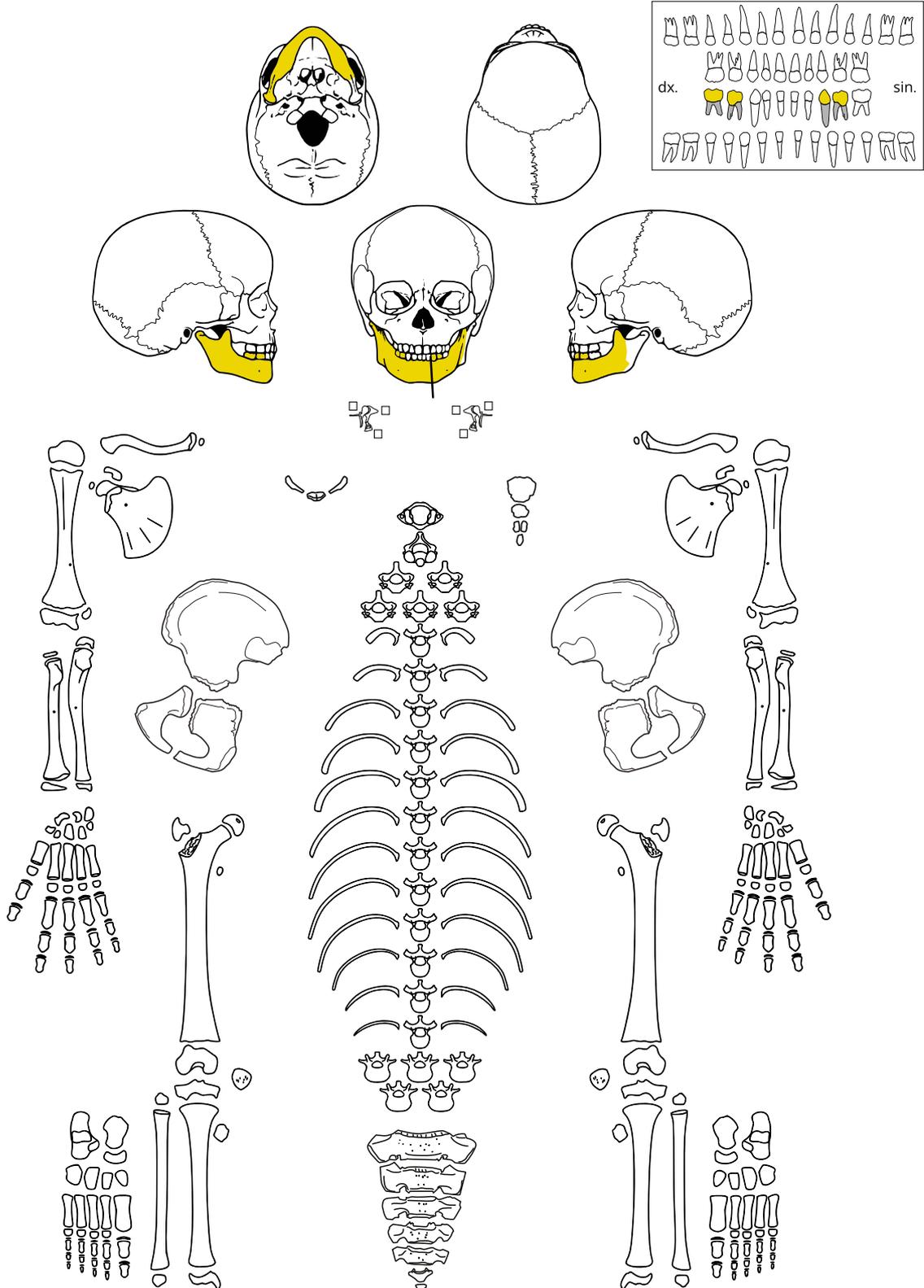
Inv. No.: N 57

Estimated Age: 3.5 years

Site: Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit (?)

Estimated Sex: undetermined

- Preserved
- Side/order cannot be determined
- Unobservable
- Resorption/crown growth



## SKELETAL PRESERVATION DIAGRAM

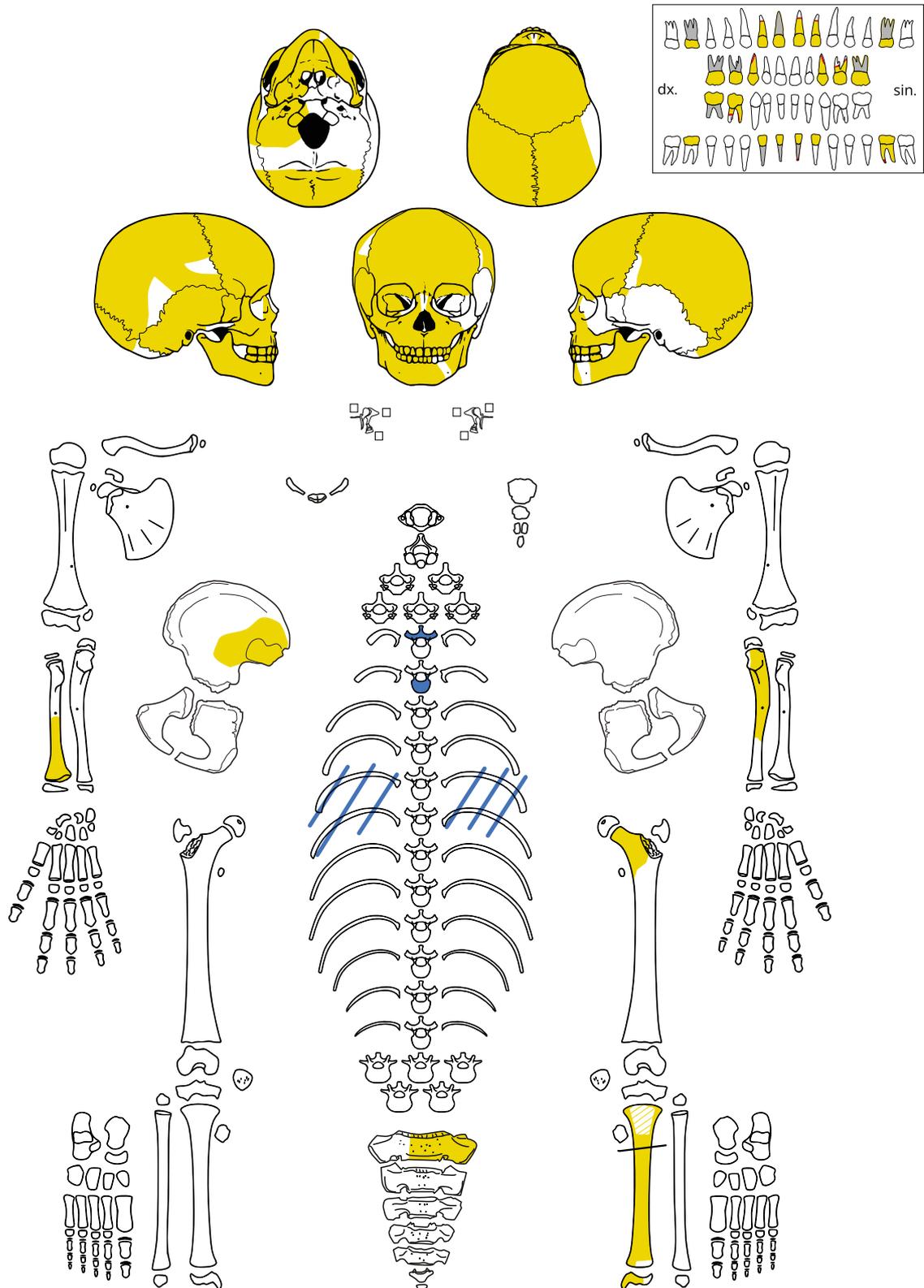
Inv. No.: N 58

Estimated Age: 9 years

Site: Mikulov – Kowalski sand pit

Estimated Sex: undetermined

- Preserved
- Side/order cannot be determined
- Unobservable
- Resorption/crown growth



# SKELETAL PRESERVATION DIAGRAM

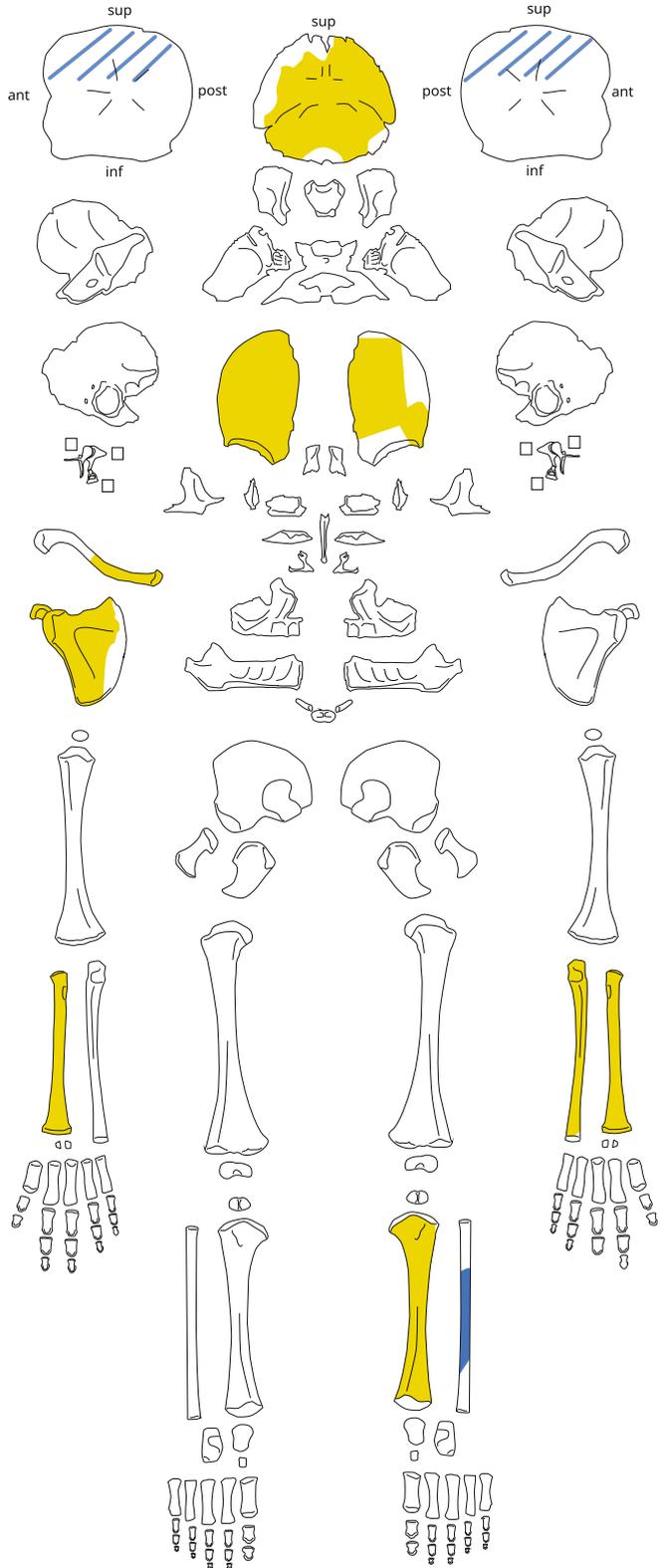
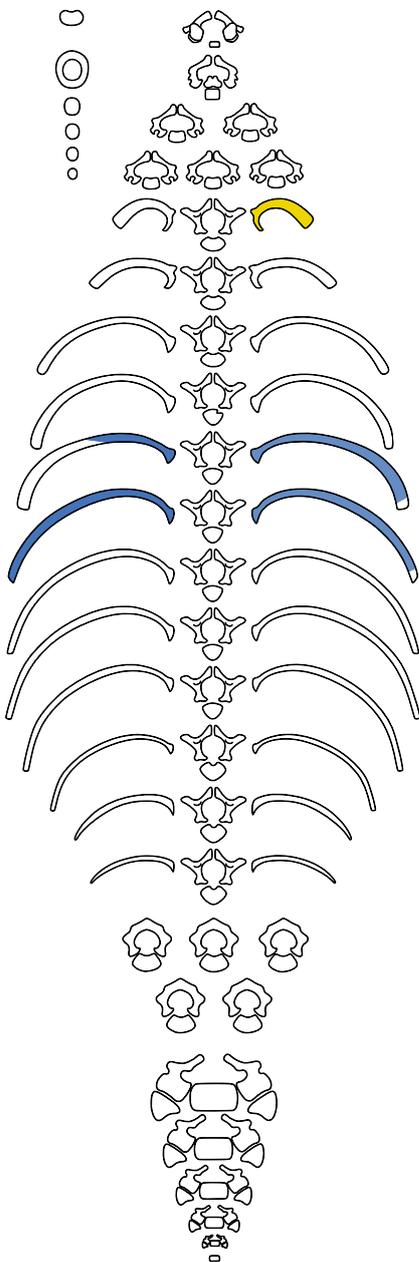
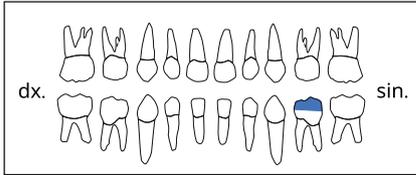
Inv. No.: N 59

Site: Mikulov - Kowalski sand pit

Estimated Age: 37-42 weeks

Estimated Sex: undetermined

- Preserved
- Side/order cannot be determined
- Unobservable
- Resorption/crown growth



## Appendix 2

# Anthropological analysis of the skeletal remains of a newborn from the Brno-Tuřany CTP B2 Site

Eva Drozdová, Lenka Falk

During the rescue archaeological excavation conducted by the Institute for Archaeological Heritage in Brno at the Brno-Tuřany site, the skeletal remains of a well-preserved small child were discovered.

## Methods

The anthropological analysis was conducted by means of a morphological analysis of the discovered bones.

The age of the newborn was determined based on the dimensions of the preserved bones, using the descriptions and dimensions given in the publication by Fazekás and Kósa (1978) and the stage of dental development according to Ubelaker (1978).

Data on the development of the child's skeleton is based on Čihák's anatomy (2003).

The sex of the child was established genetically. aDNA was isolated from samples using two extraction procedures: using the purification kit and its corresponding MinElute™ PCR Purification

Kit (Qiagen) protocol with a decalcification and lysis step optimised in LBMA – based on the works of Yang et al. (1998) and Anderung et al. (2008), and the QIAmp® DNA Investigator Kit (Qiagen) using a protocol specifically optimised for isolation from bones and teeth (QIAmp® DNA Investigator Handbook 2020). Genetic sex determination was performed via rtPCR using fluorescently labelled probes (TaqMan® Copy Number Assays Protocol, Thermo Fisher Scientific) by detecting the SRY gene (Hs01026408\_cn, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Furthermore, amplification of the *AmelX* and *AmelY* genes for making amelogenin was performed (Mannucci et al. 1994).

## Grave 801, clay pit, profile P1 K575

This is an almost perfectly preserved skeleton of a newborn or mature foetus. The bones correspond to the developmental stage of a newborn's skeleton (Fig. A.1).



**Fig. A.1.** Very well-preserved skeleton of a newborn from the Brno-Tuřany CTP-B2 H801 site. Photo by E. Drozdová.

**Skull:**

Although most of the skull bones were reconstructed, postmortem deformation prevented the skull from being reassembled. Because this is a newborn, most of the bones are not yet fused, which is why the individual bones were found separately.

**Preserved bones:**

1. The *ossa frontalia* dx. a sin. – *sutura frontalis* is open, and therefore the *fonticulus anterior* is open (an open anterior fontanelle is a typical sign of newborns and infants and closes around the 18th month) (Fig. A.2).
2. The *ossa parietalia* – *os parietale* sin. is preserved in its entirety and is only cracked. The *os parietale* dx. is heavily damaged; a reconstruction of the upper half of the bone and about five fragments of this bone have been preserved.
3. The *os occipitale* – the *squama occipitalis* is preserved. The unfused *partes laterales* and *pars basilaris* were found separately (they fuse between the 4th and 7th years of a child's life).
4. *Ossa temporalia* – both bones from the right and left sides are present. The bones are preserved in their entirety, with only slightly damaged scales. The *anulus tympanicus* is located on the *meatus acusticus externus*, i.e. the *pars tympanica* is still in the state of a bony ring (as is typical for newborns).



**Fig. A.2.** Detail of the unfused frontal bones with an open anterior fontanelle of a boy from the Brno-Tuřany 801 CPT-B2 grave. Photo by E. Drozdová.

5. *Os sphenoidale* – undamaged. Almost all parts have been preserved (the bone is not yet fused in a newborn): the *corpus ossis sphenoidalis* together with the *sella turcica* and the *ala minor ossis sphenoidalis* dx. and sin. *Ala major ossis sphenoidalis* dx. and sin. + three fragments of the *processus pterygoidei* are found on their own.
6. Only small pieces of the *ossa zygomatica* dx. and sin. are preserved from the facial part.
7. *Maxilla* – the *maxilla* dx. with a damaged *processus alveolaris* is preserved. The unerupted milk teeth are preserved on their own – not a single one remains in the dental alveoli. The *processus frontalis* and part of the *processus alveolaris* are preserved from the *maxilla* sin. As was the case on the right side of the jaw, the teeth fell out postmortem.
8. *Mandibula* – not fused (typical for newborns, the mandibular symphysis disappears only at one year). Both halves of the lower jaw are preserved. The majority of the milk teeth fell out postmortem. The uncut base of the M2 sin. is in the dental alveoli.
9. Teeth preserved in loose form (they fell out postmortem due to jaw damage): all teeth are deciduous – these are the rudiments of crowns of teeth that have not yet erupted.

Teeth of the upper jaw: i1dx., i1 sin., i2 sin., m1 dx., m1 sin.

Teeth of the lower jaw: i1 sin.?, m1 dx., m1 sin.,

The broken rudiment of the crown of m<sup>2</sup> has been preserved and it is impossible to discern whether it is a tooth from the right or left side and whether it comes from the upper or lower jaw.

**Post-cranial skeleton**

1. *Vertebrae*: unfused, with only half of the vertebral arches preserved, ca 30 pieces. Half of the atlas is also present. Eight vertebral bodies were preserved.
2. *Costae*: entire ribs with their heads have been preserved, five ribs on the right, four ribs on the left; four fragments of bodies are also present.
3. The *scapula*: dx. is preserved undamaged; the left scapula is not preserved.
4. *Humerus*: the undamaged bodies with lightly abraded ends are preserved from both bones. The length of the right humerus body is 63 mm, 62 mm on the left side.

## Appendix 2

5. *Radius*: dx. preserved undamaged, length 48.5 mm. Sin. – the distal half of the bone body is preserved.
6. *Ulna*: bones from dx. and sin. were preserved in undamaged form. Length of right bone je 56 mm, length of left bone is 56 mm.
7. *Os coxae*: both of the *os ilia* are preserved undamaged; the width of the right *os ilium* is 33 mm, the width of the left is 31 mm. Of the pelvic bones, the *os ischii* dx. and sin. bones are also preserved, both slightly abraded (the pelvic bones are not fused as a whole, as this process begins around the age of 6).
8. *Femur*: bones on both sides are preserved undamaged. The length of both the right and left femur is 70 mm.
9. *Tibia*: bones on both sides are preserved undamaged. The length of the right tibia is 62 mm, the left 61 mm.
10. *Fibula*: both fibulae were preserved with relatively heavily abraded ends.
11. *Ossa metacarpi* and *metatarsi*, *phalanges digitorum manus* and *pedis*: Nine small bones of the hands and feet have been preserved, but they are tiny and cannot be distinguished from one another. These are the metacarpal and metatarsal bones and parts of the fingers and toes.

Grave No.	Sex	Age	Body length
801 Tuřany CTP-B2	Male	Newborn	49–56 cm

Tab. 1. Basic characteristics of investigated skeleton.

The sex of the child cannot be reliably determined anthropologically because the sexual characteristics on the skeleton are not yet developed (they assume their definitive form after puberty). The sex was therefore determined genetically and came out as male (Y chromosome was present) (Tab. 1).

In terms of age, it is clearly a newborn or a mature foetus, approximately 10.5 lunar months old. Age was determined based on dentition development (Ubelaker 1978) and the length of the long bones of the postcranial skeleton (Fazekas, Kósa 1978).

There are no visible anomalies on the bones.

For children under two years of age, the length of the body when lying down is determined, not the height of the body. The child's body length was estimated based on the dimensions of several bones, e.g. the length of half of the mandible, the width of the zygomatic bone, the length of the frontal bone, and the length of the long bones of the lower limbs (Fazekas, Kósa 1978) (Tab. 2). The results indicate

that the length of the body was 49–56 cm, which is the normal length of a newborn, which is around 50 cm for modern newborn children.

The bones are remarkably well preserved, given that this was a newborn.

Bone	Bone dimension (mm)	
	Dx.	Sin.
<i>Humerus</i>	63	62
<i>Ulna</i>	56	56
<i>Radius</i>	48.5	–
<i>Os ilium</i>	33	31
<i>Femur</i>	70	70
<i>Tibia</i>	62	61
$\frac{1}{2}$ mandible	50	–

Tab. 2. Dimensions of long bones measured on the studied skeleton of a child. For long bones, the greatest length of the diaphysis was measured (without unfused and, especially, unpreserved epiphyses). For the *ilium*, the width of the *ala ossis ilii* was measured, while half of the length of the mandible was used in the calculation.

## Conclusion

The skeletal remains of a young child (H801) were discovered at the Brno-Tuřany CTP B2 site. The fact that the skeletal remains were so exceptionally well preserved made it possible to make an anthropological evaluation of their development. The child from grave 801 died during childbirth or shortly thereafter. Based on the development of the skeleton and the length of the long bones, this was a newborn or a mature foetus, the sex of which was genetically determined to be male. The dimensions of four bones were used to estimate the length of the body at 49–56 cm. No developmental anomalies, pathological changes, or traces of injury were observed on the skeletal remains.

## Appendix 3

# Anthropological evaluation of skeleton from Pasohlávky

Ladislava Horáčková

## Pasohlávky – ‘Lag. Resort’

Macroremains of sample No. 047, fill of vessel K 804  
23/6/2006  
Inv. No. 71822–9800/06

## Material

The discovered storage vessel contained small fragments of the flat skull bones of a child (part of the frontal, parietal, sphenoid and occipital bone), the left petrous part of the temporal bones was preserved, from the right temporal bone only part of the inner ear labyrinth. The complete deciduous dentition was erupted, the inner lower incisors were abraded over the entire biting surface, the canines and first molars (m1) had only part of the roots formed, and only the crown was formed for the second molars (m2). Of the teeth of the permanent dentition, the damaged, developing crowns of the first molars have been preserved. The postcranial skeleton was preserved only in the form of two small rib fragments and fragments of the femur and fibula.

## Methods

The biological age of the child at death was determined based on a combination of individual methods of anthropological analysis. The state of development of the deciduous dentition (Ubelaker 1987) correlated with the age determined using the reconstructed length of the femoral diaphysis (Stloukal, Hanáková 1978) and morphometric features on the left temporal bone – the tympanic ring was beginning to close, an opening (foramen of Huschke) is visible on the emerging tympanic plate – Scheuer, Black (2000).

## Paleopathology

The upper left internal incisor had an intermittent hypoplastic groove (horizontal linear enamel hypoplasia) on the outer side of the crown – (Reid, Dean 2000).

## Conclusion

The small skeletal fragments belonged to a child around the age of 18 months ( $\pm 3$  months).

Given the hypoplastic groove on the enamel of one of the incisors, it is very likely that the child suffered (apparently in the first months of life) a more serious, probably infectious, disease.

## Appendix 4

# A skull from a Věteřov group feature in Hodonice

† Jaromír Chochol

The find contained fragments of a skull, the mandible and the first two cervical vertebrae, as well as two animal bone fragments: part of the cranium of a puppy and the rib of an adult sheep (determination by L. Peške).

Although parts of the skull show significant postmortem deformation, the surface is practically free of decay and corrosion.

### Characteristics

The cranium is long (M1 = 185 mm?), narrow (M8 = 135 mm?), high (M17 = 145 mm?), dolichocranic (I1 = 73?), hypsicranic (I2 = 78.4?), acrocranic (I3 = 107.4?) and metriometopic (I13 = 68.1?). Face low (M40 = 94 mm), narrow (M45 = 108 mm?), mesoprosopic (I38 = 87?) and leptomandibular (I62 = 92.4), upper face low (M48 = 55 mm), mesenic (I39 = 50.9?) with high orbits (I42 = 86.5) and a mesorrhine nose (I48 = 50). Due to deformation, metric data is for reference only.

Skull relatively gracile, finely modelled on the surface. The vertical outline is elongated pentagonoid, in the occipital outline a high arch with converging walls and a single arched base. Glabella only slightly arched, forehead arched, parietal profile flat, occiput elongated, cranial sutures open. Very faintly grooved (probably functional) impressions parallel in front of the coronal suture and in front of the parietal eminence. The frontal bone in the right half is pierced by an irregular hole, from which star-shaped cracks radiate towards both temples, the crown and the orbit. Further disruption above the right orbit at the root of the nose (cleft fissure in the upper roof of the orbit and in the right zygomatico-maxillary region), in the parietal and especially occipital region, and in the left temporal region.

The face is square, orthognathic, not yet very clearly modelled. The orbits are high and round, the bridge of the nose is moderately wide and shallow, the nose is not very prominent, the zygomatic bones are close together. The body of the mandible is medium high with a more pronounced chin triangle, the rami are perpendicular, short and wide, the angles are slightly everted. The lower jaw broken at the level of the right canine, the left ramus broken off. Teeth in the mixed stage, functional wear of milk teeth moderate, permanent teeth imperceptible. Scissor bite.

Only the first two cervical vertebrae are preserved from the postcranial skeleton: incomplete synostosis of the atlas, the axis is disrupted.

### Conclusion

Remains of an older child (age stage infans III, 7–8 years). Nordoid-Mediterranean features (correspond to the dolichocranial variant of the Czech Knovíz group of skeletal finds – perhaps they are members of the Tumulus culture group). It can be assumed that some kind of headgear was worn, which affected the skull in two transverse parallel stripes across the crown. All circumstances point to a violent death, either by decapitation or by shattering of the neurocranium (probably by a sharp-edged stone), though it cannot be determined which of these came first. Nevertheless, it is apparent that the head was buried with soft parts, muscles and ligaments, connected to the lower jaw and cervical vertebrae.

## Appendix 5

# Svatobořice – ‘Písky’ (‘Krásenská’ field) 1957: Anthropological evaluation

Zdeněk Tvrdý

The collections of the Anthropos Institute of the Moravian Museum include two skeletons from SvatoBořice, which were recorded as belonging to the Únětice culture. The remains of a nonadult individual (inv. No. A166) are labelled as grave No. 1 (hereinafter H1); the tag inside the box reads: ‘Svatobořice, Krásenská field, 1957’. The remains of an adult individual (inv. No. A8351–8381) are labelled as grave No. 2 (hereinafter H2); the tag reads: ‘Svatobořice, Krásenská field’, without further details or the year of the find. The unclear marking and ambiguous identification based on the drawing from the field documentation made it impossible to say with certainty which of the skeletons belonged to the individual from V. Šikulová’s research, though nonadult individual H1 seemed more likely.

<sup>14</sup>C dating of both skeletons was recently performed with the aim of clarifying the situation. Whereas a dating to the Early Bronze Age was confirmed for individual H1, a calibrated date to the Late Neolithic was obtained for individual H2. As such, the results of the dating confirm the assumption that the individual found by V. Šikulová in 1957 (Šikulová 1963–1964) is evidently nonadult individual H1, who will be described in the following text. The <sup>14</sup>C dates were acquired within a project and will be published elsewhere.

## Methods

The bones were previously washed, refitted and conserved. Some of the child’s foot bones were mixed with adult bones and also in a bag with animal bones. According to M. Roblíčková, the animal bones belonged to at least two cows and one sheep/goat).

The basic anthropological determination of the human skeletal remains was performed using standard methods assessing morphological and metric features on the bones (Stloukal et al. 1999). Methods for identifying the sex of children’s skeletons are not highly reliable due to undeveloped sexually dimorphic traits and therefore the sex was not determined for individual H1. The age estimate is based on methods evaluating changes on the bones and teeth, which, however, could be influenced by a large number of different factors, including the rate of individual development of the child and the effect of stress factors and diet. As such, the estimate represents the biological age, which can differ from the chronological age. The estimated age of children tends to be relatively precise, though as age increases it becomes more difficult to estimate the age, which is why a broader category (one to two decades) is used for adult individuals. Once an individual reaches the age of 50, a more precise age determination is virtually impossible. The method of evaluating the length of the diaphyses of the long bones was used to estimate the age of individual H1 (Stloukal, Hanáková 1978). Pathological changes on bones were assessed with the use of palaeopathological literature, in particular the publication of L. Horáčková, E., Strouhal and L. Vargová (2004) and J. E. Buikstra (2019).

## Results

### Grave No. 1 (H1):

Partially damaged postcranial skeleton of a child (Fig. A.3). The bones are eroded in places, especially at the edges. They have a yellowish-brown colour.

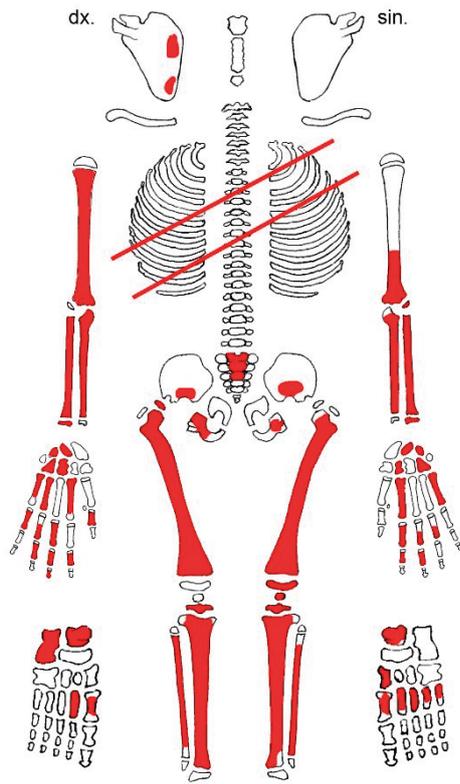


Fig. A.3. Grave H1 – preservation of skeleton. Author Z. Tvrđý.

### Axial skeleton

Two damaged thoracic vertebrae and the arches or parts of ten other thoracic and lumbar vertebrae have been preserved. The damaged S1 and the bodies of S3 and S4 are available from the sacrum.

The ribs are mostly fragmented (11 larger pieces from both sides and 17 fragments).

### Upper limbs

Scapulas – a damaged right acromion and two fragments of the bodies have been preserved.

Humeri – right nearly complete (without distal epiphysis), distal half of diaphysis available from left; the break is old and could have occurred on fresh bone (surface layer flaked at edges). The capitulum of the humerus is connected to the diaphysis by a hardened sediment.

Radii – complete diaphyses and distal epiphyses have been preserved.

Ulnae – the complete diaphysis is available on the right, the proximal end of diaphysis is damaged on the left.

Carpal bones – *os lunatum*, *triquetrum*, *capitatum* preserved on both sides, *os hamatum* preserved on right side, *os trapezoideum* preserved on left side.

Metacarpal bones – MC I, II, IV, V on the right, II, V on the left.

Phalanges – 7 proximal, 5 medial and 1 distal.

### Lower limbs

Pelvic bones – the ischium is damaged on the right, part of the ilium from the area of the bottom of the greater sciatic notch (*incisura ischiadica major*) has been preserved, on the left are available part of the body and three fragments of the ilium.

Femurs – on the right, the head and nearly complete diaphysis and part of the distal epiphysis have been preserved; on the left, the diaphysis is damaged at the ends and the distal epiphysis is available.

Patellae – the damaged left patella is available.

Tibiae – both diaphyses, damaged at the ends, and all epiphyses have been preserved. On the dorsal side of both diaphyses is a very pronounced groove (*sulcus popliteus*) extending below the level of the *foramen nutricium*.

Fibulae – diaphyses without distal ends are available, the distal part has heavily concave sides; the right fibula is curved.

Tarsal bones – damaged calcanei and right talus have been preserved.

Metatarsals – on the right a fragment of MT I has been preserved, complete MT III; all left MT, partially damaged, are available.

**Physical load:** Muscular relief is visible on the bones, in some places quite pronounced (e.g. *linea aspera* on femurs, *interosseous margin* on ulna and radius, *sulcus popliteus* on tibiae).

**Sex:** indeterminable

**Age:** the length of the diaphyses corresponds to an age around 13 years  $\pm$  1 year (H1 = 225 mm, R1 = 173 mm, U1 = 193 mm, F1 = 328 mm, Ti1 = 274 mm).

**Pathological finds:** Longitudinal grooves and fine grooves are present on the inner sides of the ribs, probably the result of inflammation (*periostitis*). Porosity probably caused by hypervascularisation is present on the first sacral vertebra, on the vertebral arches and calcaneus bones. The right femur has porosity in the neck area – *cribra femoralis* (the left femur cannot be evaluated; Fig. A.4); it is the evidence of physiological stress, caused probably by anemia. The right fibula is curved, which could be either physiological condition or caused by metabolic bone disease (rickets, scurvy) or mechanical stress.



Fig. A.4. Grave H1: femur dx. – *cribra femoralis*. Photo by Z. Tvrđý.

## Conclusion

The postcranial skeleton of a child around the age of 13, whose bones have traces of heavy physical activity and evidence of physiological stress caused most usually by anemia, vitamin deficiency or infectious diseases. The fracture of the left humerus may have occurred perimortem – at the time of death or shortly after.



# Kostrové pohřby v nádobách v době bronzové na Moravě a jejich souvislosti ve Střední Evropě

Zrození a smrt patří k nejdůležitějším okamžikům v životě člověka, takže obřady a zvyky s nimi spojené představují v lidské společnosti významné události pro celou komunitu. Pohřební ritus byl proto při studiu pravěké společnosti vždy jeden z nejsledovanějších jevů. V počátcích doby bronzové pozůstalí své zemřelé pohřbívali nespálené, ale od střední doby bronzové se přecházelo ke spalování mrtvých, které od mladší doby bronzové naprosto převládlo. Převážná většina pravěkých pohřebišť se obvykle vyznačuje zvláštní anomálií, a sice malým počtem pohřbů nejmenších dětí, což není v souladu s předpokládanou velkou úmrtností dětí v pravěku. V současnosti však máme k dispozici, díky výraznému pokroku v archeologii a antropologii, mnohem početnější doklady o dětském pohřbívání svědčící, že tento v minulosti silně akcentovaný nesoulad platí jen v omezené míře. Zvláštní variantu dětského pohřebního ritu představují ve střední Evropě rovněž kostrové pohřby v keramických nádobách. Na našem území nejsou sice zastoupeny příliš početně, ale významně doplňují a rozšiřují naše znalosti o pohřebním ritu a zároveň jejich studium ve velké míře přispívá k poznání celoevropských kontaktů a kulturních vlivů. Pro kostrové pohřby v nádobách se v odborné literatuře někdy používá z řečtiny převzatý termín pithos (v množném čísle pithoi) podle řeckého označení velkých keramických nádob většího vejčitého tvaru.

V egejském prostředí a v některých dalších oblastech se v nádobách vedle dětských běžně vyskytly rovněž pohřby dospělých jedinců, ve střední Evropě se však v pravěku nevyráběly zásobnice takové velikosti, aby do nich bylo možné uložit tělo dospělé osoby. V jiných oblastech se někdy setkáme

s keramickými schránkami i v odlišné podobě, příkladem je velká vanovitá nádoba většinou oválného a vzácněji čtyřhranného tvaru (tzv. larnak – larnax), někdy i s poklopem nebo nožkami, která se používala hlavně v egejském prostředí (obr. 1). Jiným příkladem je keramický sarkofág mající přibližně tvar lidského těla, s nímž se můžeme setkat nejčastěji na Blízkém východě (obr. 2). U převážné většiny pohřbů obsahovala keramická schránka pohřeb jedné osoby, jen vzácně dva jedince, a v některých jiných oblastech se výjimečně v zásobnici vyskytly dokonce i větší počty zemřelých.

Ve střední Evropě byly první doklady této neobvyklé formy pohřbívání zjištěny na konci 19. století v Čechách. Šlo o jednotlivé případy zachycené v Malých Čičovicích (obr. 3), na Slánské hoře u Slaného, v Praze-Michli, Vepřeku (obr. 4) nebo Kamýku u Velkých Přílep. Během 20. století byly v Čechách objeveny další kostrové pohřby v nádobách, které souhrnně zveřejnil J. Neustupný (1933). V poslední souborné publikaci o kostrových pohřbech v nádobách v Čechách je uvedeno celkem 18 případů spojených s únětickou kulturou, jednou je pohřeb klasifikován jako věteřovský a jednou není přesnější datování konstatováno (Zyková 2000, 102). V jižním Německu se na první kostrový pohřeb v nádobě narazilo na počátku 20. století v bavorském Kelheimu, zatímco ve středním Německu se první zmínky o podobných hrobech z Leuny a Börnecke objevily až ve třicátých letech, ale jednoznačně na ně upozornili až o dvě desetky let později H. E. Mandra (1953, 205) a W. Torbrügge (1960, 58). První kostrové pohřby v nádobách na Slovensku byly rozpoznány na opevněném maďarovském sídlišti v Nitrianskom Hrádku v letech 1951 až 1957 (Knor 1952, 246;

Točík 1978–1981), další pohřeb z Čachtic v roce 1958 (Kolník, Paulík 1959, 89, 96) a zevrubně byla tato forma pohřebního ritu zpracována v souvislosti s objevem dalšího pithosu z Patinců v roce 1957 (obr. 5; Dušek 1960, 206–208, 232). Kostrové pohřby v době v Maďarsku se dočkaly prvního zveřejnění na počátku čtyřicátých let 20. století (Foltiny 1941a; 1941b), zatímco podobné hroby ze střední doby bronzové byly v Maďarsku objeveny až v sedmdesátých letech (obr. 92; Kovács 1975; Trogmayer 1975), tedy ve stejné době jako pohřby ze starší doby bronzové z Romagnana v Itálii (obr. 81; Perini 1971).

Na Moravě byly první kostrové pohřby v nádobách prozkoumány již v roce 1924 v Kowalského pískovně v Mikulově (obr. 6) a v roce 1927 v trati „Vysoký roh“ v Mikulově, ale zveřejnění se dočkaly až po II. světové válce (Jüttner 1950). Pohřeb stejného druhu z období popelnicových polí byl objeven v roce 1933 v Ivani na Prostějovsku (obr. 7; 8; Böhm 1936) v rámci běžného popelnicového pohřebiště. Další starobronzové kostrové pohřby v nádobách byly nalezeny až po II. světové válce uvnitř opevněného sídliště na Hradisku u Kroměříže (obr. 9; 10; Spurný 1961), v Olbramovicích (obr. 11; Pernička, Podborský 1959), na Cezavách u Blučiny (obr. 12; Tihelka 1961), v Dolních Věstonicích (obr. 13; Měřínský 1980, 108) a o něco později na dalších nalezištích. Potvrdit existenci stejného druhu pohřbívání ve střední době bronzové na Moravě umožnil až nález dětského skeletu na sídlišti v Olšanech na Prostějovsku v roce 2001 (obr. 83–89; Šmíd 2002).

Při hledání původu tohoto pohřebního zvyku zvažoval J. Neustupný v roce 1933 dvě možné alternativy (Neustupný, J. 1933, 16). Tou první je jihovýchodní část Pyrenejského poloostrova, kde byl tento zvyk značně rozšířen a objevují se tam pohřby dospělých i dětí. Charakteristickým představitelem je v nedávné době objevený hrob 38 v La Olmoloja (obr. 15; Lull a kol. 2021, 331–343, Fig. 3–6). Tuto možnost však J. Neustupný odmítl s ohledem na různé odlišnosti. Druhou oblastí, kde byl tento pohřební obyčej běžně využíván a odkud se rozšířil i do střední Evropy, je území východního Středomoří. Jako jeden z prvních se uvedenou problematikou v tomto regionu zabýval před více než 100 lety anglický badatel W. H. Wood, který na základě výzkumů v Palestině a okolních oblastech informoval o dětských pohřbech v nádobách (obr. 16; Wood 1910). Nejstarší pohřby tohoto typu se vyskytovaly na blízkém východě na tellových nalezištích Tell Hassuna, Tell Hazna, Tell Soto (Munčajev a kol. 1993, 27–28, ris. 3–34). Na evropském území se první kostrové

pohřby v nádobách objevily v Bulharsku a Makedonii (Kovačev, Rakitovo, Anzabegovo) v oblasti údolí řek Struma a Vardar patrně již v 6. tisíciletí před n. l. – tamní kosterní pozůstatky ve skrčené poloze patřily novorozencům nebo mrtvě narozeným dětem (Bačvarov 2004, 153, Fig. 1: 1–3; 2009, 51–52). Následně se tato forma pohřebního ritu vyskytovala na rozsáhlém území v egejské oblasti a je doložena na Krétě, na řecké pevnině, v Egyptu, Anadolii a v sousedních oblastech.

Názor J. Neustupného o egejském původu kostrových pohřbů v nádobách ve střední Evropě (Neustupný, J. 1933, 19) dnes přijímá převážná většina středoevropských badatelů. V meziválečném období někteří badatelé pohřby v nádobách z Německa, bez ohledu na geografické i kulturní rozdíly, spojovali s el-argarskou kulturou (např. Grimm 1932). Před objevem kostrových pohřbů v nádobách v Bulharsku rovněž R. M. Pernička a V. Podborský hledali původ tohoto zvyku spíše ve společensko-náboženských představách středoevropského lidstva (Pernička, Podborský 1959, 14), později se však V. Podborský ztotožnil s teorií egejského původu (Podborský, Vildomec 1972, 90). Na rozdíl od většiny badatelů se pouze maďarská archeoložka E. Vékonyé Vadász (2001) domnívala, že tento zvyk má ve střední Evropě domácí původ. Kostrové pohřby v keramických nádobách se však objevily i v jiných oblastech, čehož jsou názorným příkladem pohřby z Peru (obr. 19), a v menší míře přežívaly i v následujících obdobích, dokonce až do středověku a novověku (např. Zawadzka-Antosik 1973; Ruttkay 1992; Gogová 2004).

Na Moravě většina kostrových pohřbů v nádobách patří do starší doby bronzové a jen po jednom případě se vyskytly ve střední (Olšany – obr. 14; 83–88) a mladší době bronzové (Ivaň – obr. 7; 8; 95; 96). Únětickou kulturu reprezentují pohřby z Mikulova – Kowalského pískovny (obr. 6; 20), Blučiny – Cezav (obr. 12; 21), Dolních Věstonic – štěrkovny (obr. 13; 22–24), Brna-Tuřan (obr. 25–28) a Vedrovic (obr. 29; 30). Věteřovskou skupinu zastupují pohřby z Mikulova – „Vysokého rohu“ (obr. 31), Olbramovic (obr. 11; 32; 33), Pasohlávek (obr. 34–36), Borotic (obr. 37–39), Hodonic (obr. 40–43) a skupina 13 pohřbů z Hradiska u Kroměříže (obr. 44–59). Někteří badatelé mezi pohřby typu pithoi řadili i další objevy, které však nesplňovaly všechna kritéria typická pro tuto formu pohřebního ritu. Jde o nejasné nebo zcela nepravděpodobné pohřby z Blučiny – Cezav v roce 1945 (obr. 60; 61), Svatobořic – „Písků“ (obr. 62–65), Blučiny – Cezav z roku 1948 (obr. 66),

Bánova (obr. 67) nebo Olomouce – Domského návrší (obr. 68; 69). Z mladší doby bronzové jde o nález lebky na střepech hrnce na sídlišti na Cezavách u Blučiny v roce 1950 (obr. 98).

Ze starší doby bronzové je na Moravě 11 nalezišť s kostrovými pohřby v nádobách, z nichž pět patří únětické kultuře a šest věteřovské skupině. Celkový počet pohřbů činí 23, z nichž pět připadá na únětickou kulturu a 18 můžeme spojit s věteřovskou skupinou. Ve střední Evropě (obr. 82) můžeme do únětické kultury zařadit rovněž většinu pohřbů z Čech, Německa (Börnecke, Eulau, Güßten, Haldensleben, Leuna, Oechlitz, Quedlinburg, Schiepszig, Striegnitz), Polska (Przesławice, Wojkowice) a rakouský pohřeb z Laa an der Thaya. S okruhem maďarovsko-věteřovské kultury lze kromě moravských a slovenských lokalit (Čachtice, Nitrianský Hrádok) spojit pravděpodobně i český pohřeb z Toušeni. Zbývající německé pohřby náleží kultuře straubinské (Diesenbach, Kelheim, Mintraching) nebo přežívajícím eneolitickým pohárovým kulturám (Ostbevern). Rakouský pohřeb z Mattersburgu patří kultuře s tzv. Litzenkeramik. V Karpatské kotlině se kostrové pohřby v nádobách objevily ještě několikrát v kultuře s inkrustovanou keramikou (Patince, Dunaalmás) a ve velkém počtu v kultuře Perjamos, nazývané též Maros nebo Mures (Deszk, Söreg, Ostojićevo). Zbývajících sedm pohřbů z Romagnana v Itálii souvisí s kulturou Polada a poslední dva pohřby z Rumunska (Pir, Sălacea) s kulturou otomanskou.

Ve starší době bronzové se na Moravě dosud objevily pohřby v nádobách na pěti sídlištech a čtyřech pohřebištích, a pokud bychom přidali ještě Hradisko u Kroměříže, kde na sídlišti tvořily malou samostatnou skupinu nejméně 13 hrobů, zvýšil by se počet pohřebišť rovněž na pět. Ze střední Evropy známe celkem 51 nalezišť s pithoi, z nichž podle nám známých údajů je 25 funerálních a 18 sídlištních lokalit, a kromě toho bylo objeveno ještě dalších osm pohřbů, u nichž se nepodařilo bližší nálezové okolnosti zjistit. Na 18 sídlištech se ve střední Evropě dosud prozkoumalo 25 pohřbů v nádobách a na 25 pohřebištích, z nichž ve dvou případech jde o mohylníky (Borotice, Börnecke), se objevilo přibližně 105 až 155 hrobů. Přesný počet hrobů neznáme, protože z pohřebišť v Szöregu a Ostojićevu jsou uváděny různé počty pohřbů.

Podrobnější údaje o celkové úpravě jsou k dispozici jen u malého počtu kostrových pohřbů v nádobě. V případě umístění v hrobech jde vždy o nápadně malé hrobové jámy (70 × 60 až 123 × 90 cm). Zajímavé

je uložení zásobnic z Pasohlávek (obr. 35; 36) a Vedrovic (obr. 29), kde byla vyhloubena jáma jen pro pohřební schránku. Nepočtené informace máme o způsobu uložení zemřelých. Keramické schránky s pohřbem jsou ve vertikální poloze, jak máme doloženo na Cezavách u Blučiny (obr. 12), Pasohlávkách (obr. 34; 35) a Vedrovicích (obr. 28) a rovněž u některých pohřbů v Čechách a Německu (Güßten). Stojící zásobnice byla zjištěna také v Malých Čičovicích, ale zde byla postavena dnem vzhůru (obr. 3). Častěji se podařilo rozpoznat keramickou nádobu v horizontální poloze, což bylo jednoznačně zdokumentováno v Dolních Věstonicích (obr. 3; 22; 23), na Hradisku u Kroměříže (obr. 9: c, d), Plotišti (obr. 72), na několika německých nalezištích (Oechlitz, Ostbevern, Quedlinburg – obr. 77–80), v Nitrianskom Hrádku a v horizontální poloze byly také všechny pohřby v Romagnanu (obr. 81), z dalších oblastí jsou zastoupeny ve velkém počtu na Sicílii nebo v Turecku. Uložení ve skrčené poloze na pravém boku je spolehlivě doloženo jen v Dolních Věstonicích (obr. 22; 23), zatímco ve Vedrovicích bylo tělo dítěte uloženo ve stojící zásobnici původně v silně skrčené poloze hlavou vzhůru (Salaš 2008, 133). Ojedinelý případ představuje pohřeb v Kelheimu, kde se našlo dítě ve skrčené poloze hlavou dolu (Ruckdeschel 1978a, 269). S umístěním dvou dětí do jedné nádoby lze počítat v Kowalského pískovně v Mikulově, pohřby dvou jedinců v jedné nádobě máme ve střední Evropě doloženy rovněž v Romagnanu (Perini 1975, 303, 306, Fig. 18) a v egejském prostředí například na tellu Junacite v Bulharsku (Bačvarov 2009, 54) nebo běžně třeba v Anatolii.

V úněticko-věteřovském prostředí byly jako schránky pro pohřby použity tři typy zásobnic. Prvním jsou hrncovité zásobnice s esovitou profilací a zdrsněným povrchem, které se objevily v únětických (např. obr. 16) a mnohem častěji ve věteřovských pohřbech (např. obr. 10: 5–8; 47–60). Druhým typem jsou únětické zásobnice s prohnutým vyhlazeným hrdlem odděleným od baňatého těla se zdrsněným povrchem hranou (obr. 24: 1) a jednou až třemi obvodovými rýhami případně jednou nebo dvěma plastickými lištami (obr. 21; 24: 2; 30: 2). Třetím typem jsou věteřovské amforovité zásobnice s vyhlazeným a více nebo méně válcovitým hrdlem, které je odděleno hranou od jemně zdrsněného baňatého těla (např. obr. 31, 33, 34, 37, 40). Na jiných územích se setkáváme s místní keramikou. Značné rozdíly jsou i ve velikosti zásobnic. Nejmenší nádoba sloužící jako schránka měla výšku pouhých 23 cm (Patince), na Moravě 30,4 cm (Brno), zatímco

největší zásobnice z Vedrovic byla vysoká i bez dochovaného okraje 64 cm (obr. 30: 2) a druhé dvě největší nádoby s výškou 60 cm pocházejí z únětických nalezišť Praha-Michle a Przesławice.

S velkou pravděpodobností můžeme předpokládat, že všechny nádoby s dětskými kostrovými pohřby měly hrdlo původně nějakým způsobem uzavřeno. Nejčastější možností je překrytí zásobnice mísou, což představují pohřby z Brna (obr. 27), Vedrovic (obr. 30) a Hradiska u Kroměříže (obr. 47; 50; 52; 54). Překrytí mísou známe i z Čech, Německa, Polska, Rakouska a dalších oblastí. V této souvislosti si nelze nevděkovat skutečnosti, že u některých pohřbů je průměr krycí mísy menší než průměr překrývané nádoby. Jinou možností je uložení dvou zásobnic hrdly k sobě, což dokládá pohřeb z Dolních Věstonic (obr. 22; 23) nebo několik pohřbů z Německa (obr. 78–80) a celá řada pohřbů z egejského prostředí (Müller-Karpe 1980, 740, Taf. 93). U třetího způsobu uzavírá zásobnici torzo podobné nádoby, jak to vidíme u pohřbu 10 z Hradiska u Kroměříže (obr. 58) a stejným způsobem jsou uzavřeny i nádoby v Kelheimu, Nitrianskom Hrádku nebo v Dunaalmási a Ostojićevu. Zásobnici z „Vysokého rohu“ v Mikulově překrývala vápencová deska (Jüttner 1950, 366) a podobná situace byla zdokumentována i na několika nalezištích v Čechách, v Aphidně v Řecku a na řadě pohřebišť v Turecku.

Jedinci pohřbení v nádobách měli ve starší době bronzové ve střední Evropě jen velmi skromnou výbavu. Dítě z Brna-Tuřan bylo vybaveno dvěma bronzovými korálky a drobnou spirálkou, která byla součástí náhrdelníku (obr. 26:). V dalším únětickém hrobu z Vedrovic byl nalezen kostěný závěsek a kostěný korálek (obr. 30: 3, 4). Pohřeb z mohyly v Boroticích obsahoval jednoduchý bronzový náramek (obr. 40: 1), u dvou pohřbů z Hradiska se našly náramky (obr. 52: 3; 53: 3) a u jednoho atypický koflík (obr. 56: 2; 57: 2). Z celkového počtu více než 150 nebo dokonce 180 pohřbů ve střední Evropě máme přibližně jen u 82 z nich aspoň nějaké údaje o jejich případné výbavě. Stejně chudě jsou vybaveny pohřby v nádobě i v jiných oblastech střední Evropy. Jedinou výjimku představoval hrob 189 kultury Perjamos v Szöregu, v němž se našlo 29 bronzových terčíků a 46 ulit (Foltiny 1941b, 41, 70, Sbb. XXII: 40).

Věk jedinců pohřbených v nádobách na Moravě obvykle nepřevyšoval sedm až osm let, ale převážnou část tvoří novorozenci. Znalosti o věku dětí z věteřovského období jsou ovšem silně ovlivněny pohřby z Borotic a Hradiska u Kroměříže, kde byly kosterní pozůstatky kompletně rozloženy.

Z celkového počtu cca 150 až 180 známých kostrových pohřbů v nádobách ze střední Evropy je k dispozici alespoň přibližné určení věku pouze u 37 dětí. Z nich bylo 22 ve stáří do 1,5 roku, devět zemřelo ve věku 1,5 až 6 let a starších šesti let bylo šest jedinců. V ostatních případech byla uvedena pouze obecná charakteristika – dítě. U převážné většiny pohřbených jedinců nemáme určeno pohlaví. Jedinou výjimku představuje únětický novorozenec z Brna-Tuřan, u něhož se genetickou cestou podařilo zjistit mužské pohlaví (Drozdová, Falk 2025). Druhým případem je únětický hrob z Przesławic v Polsku, v němž naopak byla pohřbena dívka ve věku 8–10 let (Lasak 1988, 16), ale bližší okolnosti nejsou uvedeny. U většiny zemřelých dětí neznáme příčiny úmrtí, což je u špatně dochovaných koster malých dětí naprosto pochopitelné. Pouze u věteřovských pohřbů z Hodonic a Olbramovic bylo uváděno násilné usmrcení (Chochol 2025; Lorencová 1959, 22–26), avšak M. Stloukal závěry k oběma uvedeným nálezům nepovažoval za dostatečně přesvědčivé (Stloukal 1990, 159).

Pohřbívání malých dětí v nádobách bylo vysvětlováno mnoha různými teoriemi. Středoevropské pohřby odrážejí zvláštní variantu zacházení s dětmi v pohřebním ritu (Primas 1977, 84). Dítě pohřbené v Olbramovicích se mělo stát obětí rituální antropofagie (Podborský, Vildomec 1972, 90). Ukládání dětí do nádob bylo považováno za doklad kultovních praktik, kdy pohřeb byl vysvětlován jako oběť na ochranu osady, případně mohl souviset s kultem plodnosti (Furmánek, Veliačik, Vladár 1991, 285). Mrtvé dítě je vloženo do zásobnice, což je chápáno jako symbolické vrácení do matčina lůna, které je nahrazeno keramickou nádobou (Turek, Král 1998, 36; Vachůt 2005, 94; Salaš 2008, 147). Velké množství pohřbů v nádobách ve středomořské oblasti, kde nejsou výjimkou ani pohřebišť s více než stovkou takových pohřbů, spíše naznačuje, že přinejmenším ve středomořské oblasti šlo o zcela běžný způsob pohřebního ritu. Zdá se, alespoň v případě pohřbů malých dětí, že keramické nádoby mohly posloužit jako náhrada za dřevěné rakve, protože jejich výroba byla patrně snadnější než náročné vydlabávání kmene stromů. Dospělé osoby se ve střední Evropě v zásobnicích vůbec nepohřbívaly, což lze jednoduše vysvětlit tím, že v žádné středoevropské kultuře se v tomto období nevyráběly nádoby takových rozměrů, aby do nich bylo možno tělo dospělého jedince vložit.

V mnohem menší míře se kostrové pohřby v nádobách objevují i ve střední době bronzové. Na Moravě známe zatím pouze jeden takový pohřeb

z Olšan u Prostějova (obr. 83–85; 89), který patří do středního období mohylové kultury. Velkou bezúhelnou amforu s vejčítým tělem s kostrou novorozence překrývalo torzo velké hrncovité nádoby a vše bylo uloženo na dně rozsáhlého sídlištního objektu. U pohřbu se nenašly žádné milodary, ale jáma obsahovala značné množství keramiky (obr. 86–88). Kromě Moravy byly objeveny středobronzové pohřby v nádobách ještě ve Vliněvsi v Čechách (obr. 90; 91) a na třech velkých nekropolích v Maďarsku (obr. 93), kde se zjistily dva pohřby v Tápé (Trogmayer 1975), tři v Tiszafüredu (obr. 92; Kovács 1975) a 14 dalších hrobů v Jánoshidě (Csányi 2017, 202). S mohylovou kulturou byly spojovány další dvě lokality, a to nález lebky a několika dalších kostí dívky ve věku 14–17 let, nádoby v sídlištním objektu v Nitře (Březinová 2009, 52) a pohřeb novorozence v nádobě ze Salzburgu, který byl datován do starší (Moosleitner 1993, 10, Abb. 2) nebo střední doby bronzové (Probst 1999, 238). V případě z Nitry jde o pohřeb dospělé ženy s nejasnými okolnostmi a pohřeb s neznámými nálezo- vými okolnostmi ze Salzburgu patrně nepatří do střední doby bronzové, takže oba uvedené zmínky neodpovídají našim kritériím.

Všechny kostrové pohřby v nádobě ze střední doby bronzové patřily dětem, a to většinou novorozencům. Moravský nález z Olšan neobsahoval žádné milodary a u pohřbu z Vliněvsi (obr. 91) se našel pouze drobný bronzový kroužek. Maďarské pohřby měly poněkud bohatší výbavu, protože z pěti hrobů z Tápé a Tiszafüredu pouze jeden neobsahoval žádné milodary, zatímco ve zbývajících čtyřech hrobech se vyskytly jedna až tři keramické nádoby

a jeden až čtyři bronzové předměty (obr. 92). K hrobům z Jánoshidy nemáme bohužel k dispozici konkrétní informace. Ve srovnání s oběma pohřby z našeho území jsou hroby z Maďarska na milodary znatelně bohatší, avšak ani jejich výbavu nelze srovnávat s běžnými hroby na maďarských pohřebištích.

Jen zcela výjimečně máme kostrové pohřby v nádobě doložené v období kultury popelnicových polí. V roce 1933 byl objeven na běžném lužickém pohřebišti v Ivani na Prostějovsku pohřeb asi dvanáctiletého dítěte ve skrčené poloze, které bylo uloženo v amforovité zásobnici překryté mísou s prohnutým hrdlem (obr. 7, 8; 94; Böhm 1936). Hrob byl bohatě vybaven milodary, které představovaly bronzová jehlice, prsten, dvě malé amforky a hrnek uvnitř amfory, dále větší amfora a větší šálek vně amfory (obr. 95; 96). Někteří badatelé považovali za pithos rovněž v roce 1950 na Cezavách u Blučiny zjištěný nález lebky a hrnce (obr. 98; např. Tihelka 1969, 13). Lebka se však na střepy z hrnce dostala náhodně a do poměrně malého hrnce by se nevešla. Další kostrové pohřby v nádobě z mladší doby bronzové (obr. 101) se objevily pouze na lužickém pohřebišti v Bachórzi v Polsku, kde se našel kostrový pohřeb asi osmiletého dítěte (obr. 99; 100; Gedl 1993), a v Bensheimu v Hesensku, kde byl nalezen lidský plod starý asi osm měsíců (Probst 1999, 281). Kostrové pohřby v nádobách můžeme v období popelnicových polí považovat za určité doznívání pohřebního zvyku používaného mnohem častěji v počátcích doby bronzové. Situace ve střední Evropě se tak podstatně liší od egejské a hlavně blízkovýchodní oblasti, kde se tento způsob pohřbívání používal v tomto období běžně (Müller-Karpe 1980, 737, 740).



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