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# ANALISYS OF THE FOOD REMAINS FROM THE AVARIAN AGE POT OF BAKONSZEG-KÓRÓGY

**Ferenc Gyulai**

## Material and method

Above of the animal bones a half-toppled pot was found next to the right foot of the avarian age deseased at the rescue excavations of Bakonszeg-Kórógy, in 2013. The position of the vessel concludes that it was a food deposit. There were not any kind of burnt marks on the vessel. Darker organic origin spots were observed on the removed soil sample from the pot. The weight of the soil sample before levigation was 1150 g.

Under the invetigations the not too solid, dry soil sample was put to deionised water for three days. The sample which has slowly soften colloid-size mudbutton was flotated over an 0,25 mm size sieve. The residual material was dried on room temperature.

## Results and there assessments

After the flotation the dried, residual material was analysed by Zeiss V20 stereo binocular microscope. After the investigations the following organic and non-organic remians were identified: pottery fragments (Pl. 1/1–4) animal bones (Pl. 1/5–9), barley hulled grain (Pl. 1/10) and two food remains (Pl. 1/11–12). Strong fragmentation describes all of the material. Because of the bad preserved barley grains it has been unable to identify as a two- or multi-rowed barley. The result of the archaeobotanical analyses of the avarian age samples so far, the barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) was the most characteristic grain type of the avarian in the Carpathian-basin.

Cereals are rare but foodremains only the rarest case come up from inhumation graves. These archaeobotanical remains are well-known from settlement excavations. Food remains from archaeological excavation are occuring in several forms (flour, porridge, bread residues) or stick to objects (on the surface of metal objects, on the inside wall, rim, buttom of ceramic pots and fragments).[1] This result because of a carbonized process with gentle heat effects, in an oxygen pour environment. The analysis of the samples has been worked with macroscopical, microscopical and chemical procedures if there size and quantaty allows.

The number of the traceable compound groups were low from the foodremains, which leads back to the thermal effects and the age of the materials. The macroscopical researches are dominant in the invetigations of porridge and bread.[2] Because of the strong fragmentation of the foodremains in our example the microscopical or chemical analysis were quationable. According to the macroscopical investigations this grain made of fine moderately grist. Trace of lactic acid fermentation was not observed on the surface. In this point of view the two fragments

[1] GYULAI 2010.

[2] WÄHREN 1989.

were remains of boiled or roasted graingrist. One of the fragments surface's was typical lustrous because the fatty acids salt's secession, which is an atribution of meat porridge remains.

Similar structure of food remains were found in several cases. The three vassels's soil samples of grain and porridge fragments from a late neolitic (Gorzsa-group) pit (Tiszasziget-Agyagbánya 32 find-place) next to the longhouse central post-hole were identified as sacrifed deposits.[3] Lately very similar food remains were determined from avarian age features.

Food remains were found from the levigated soil samples of the grave pottery of the early avarian age cemetery of Szervár-Oromdűlő.[4] The more than one thousend pecies of small, carbonized porridge fragments from only dozen grave pottery's soil samples are important evidences of grain crops useage.[5] Obviously it was a favorite food items. This means generally widespread consumer habits and burial rituals. Grater or lesser holes enmeshes the surface on the fragments, which created by the dough kneading of the several lightness milled grains (flour, grist) or the porridge mixing. Did not observe any bubbles or bladders related to the leavening. The carbonized or charcoal state concludes heat effets. It is possibly that the fragments had got into the vessels in a burnt form or warm state than put the vessel in to the grave. This suggets, stong browning was observed in fifteen of one hundred fragments from one grave, but not any carbonized pieces. Not excluted that the heat of the warm state food placed to the vessel conserved them. However between the samples from the same cemetery other remains's structure and compositon (millets baked in cereal grain grist) was more visionable, and there size was remarkably bigger.

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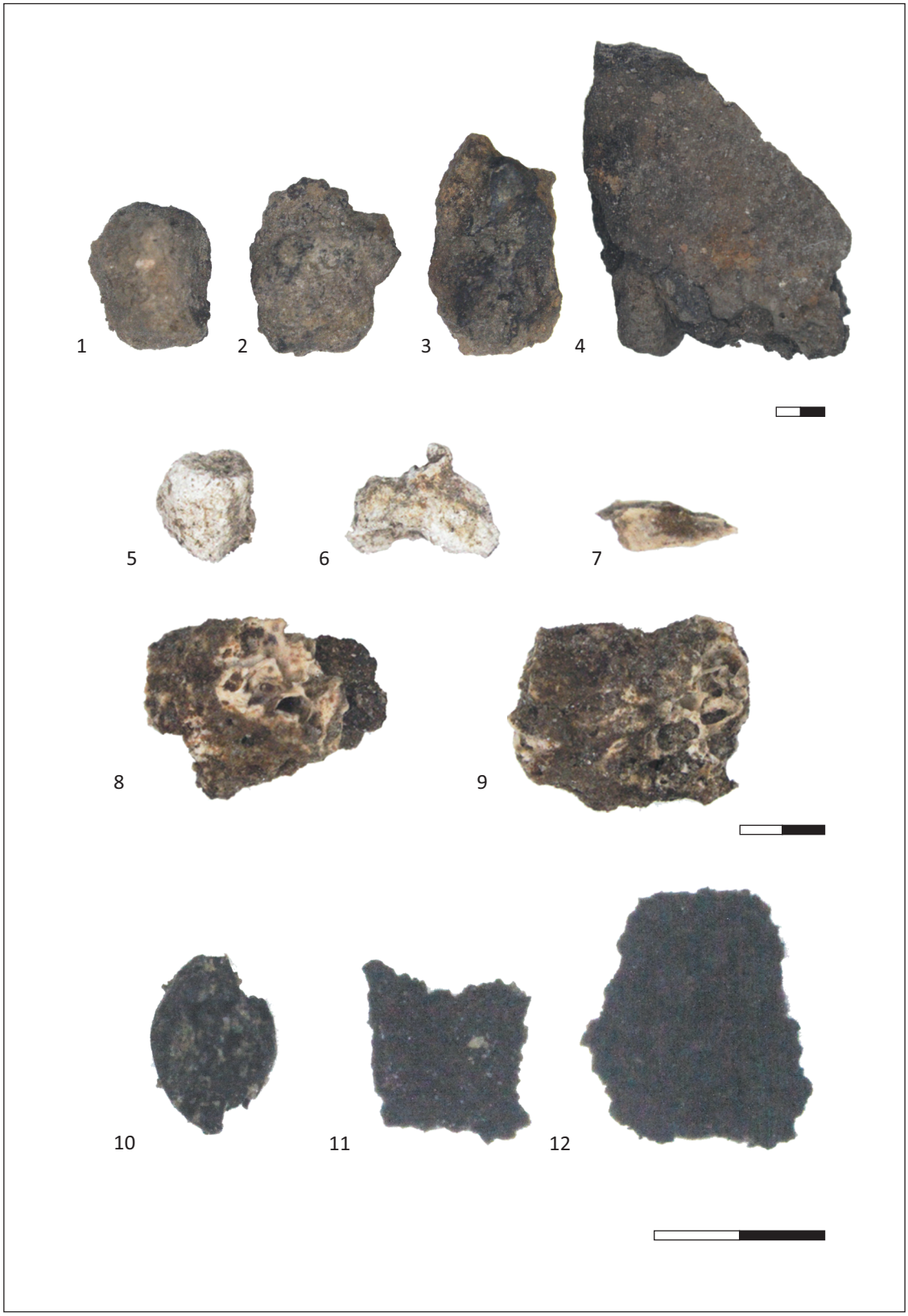
[3] PETŐ ET ALII 2012.
[4] Excavation of Gábor Lőrinczy in 1990.
[5] GYULAI 2010.




Pl. 1. 1–4. Ceramic fragments; 5–9. Animal bones; 10. Barley grain; 11–12. Food remains.