

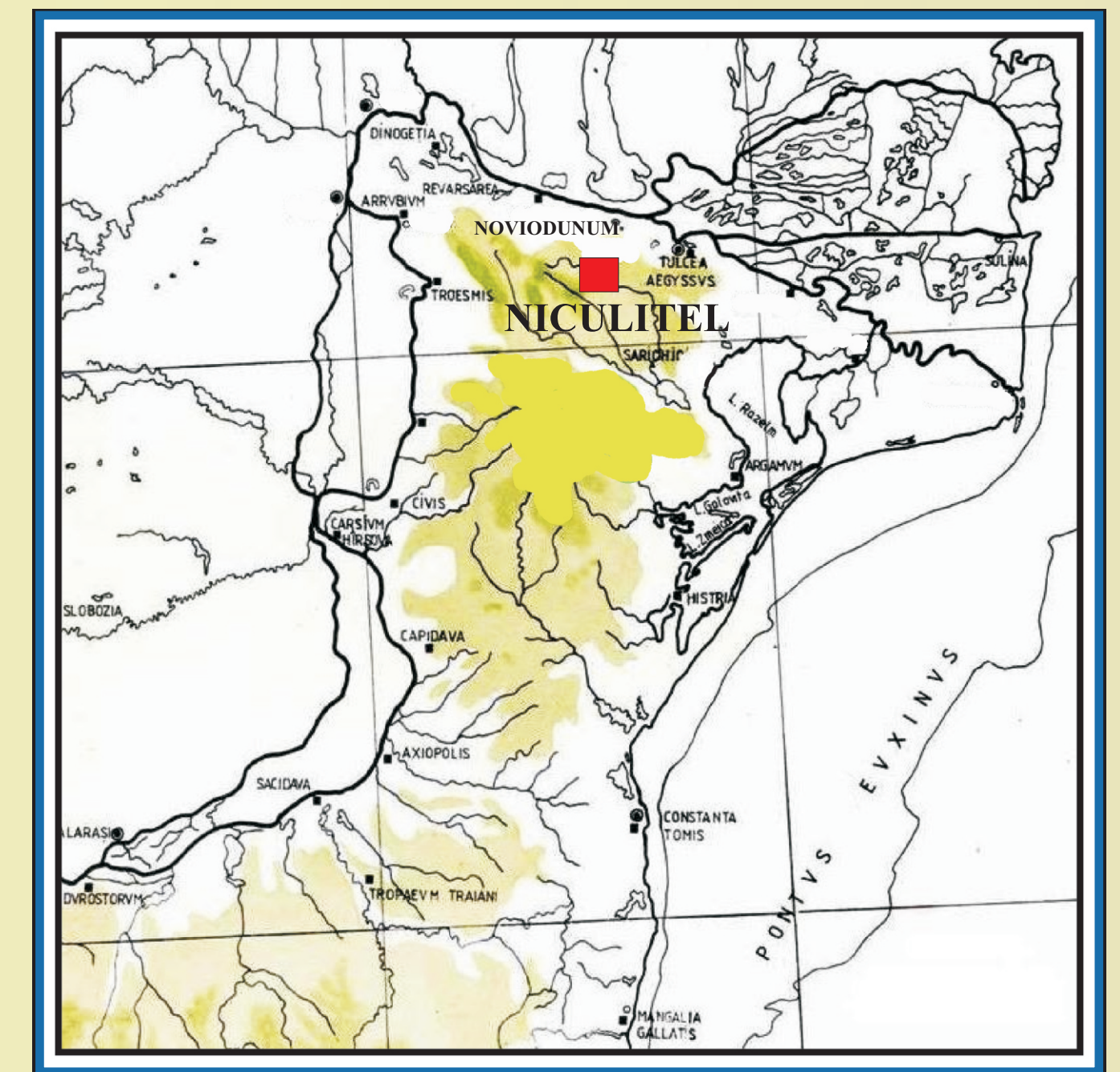


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Niculitel is located in the North of Tulcea county (Dobrudja, South-East Romania) a few kilometers from the River Danube, near the ancient city Noviodunum. During the Antiquity, this area belonged to the northern side of the province Moesia Inferior (between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD). Between 2009 and 2011 salvation archaeological researches were conducted in the north side of the today village, revealing an early Roman *villa*, which functioned starting with first half of the 2nd century and last until mid. 3rd, when the entire area was destroyed by the Carpien and Gothic invasions.



MOESIA INFERIOR AND THE BALKAN PENINSULA

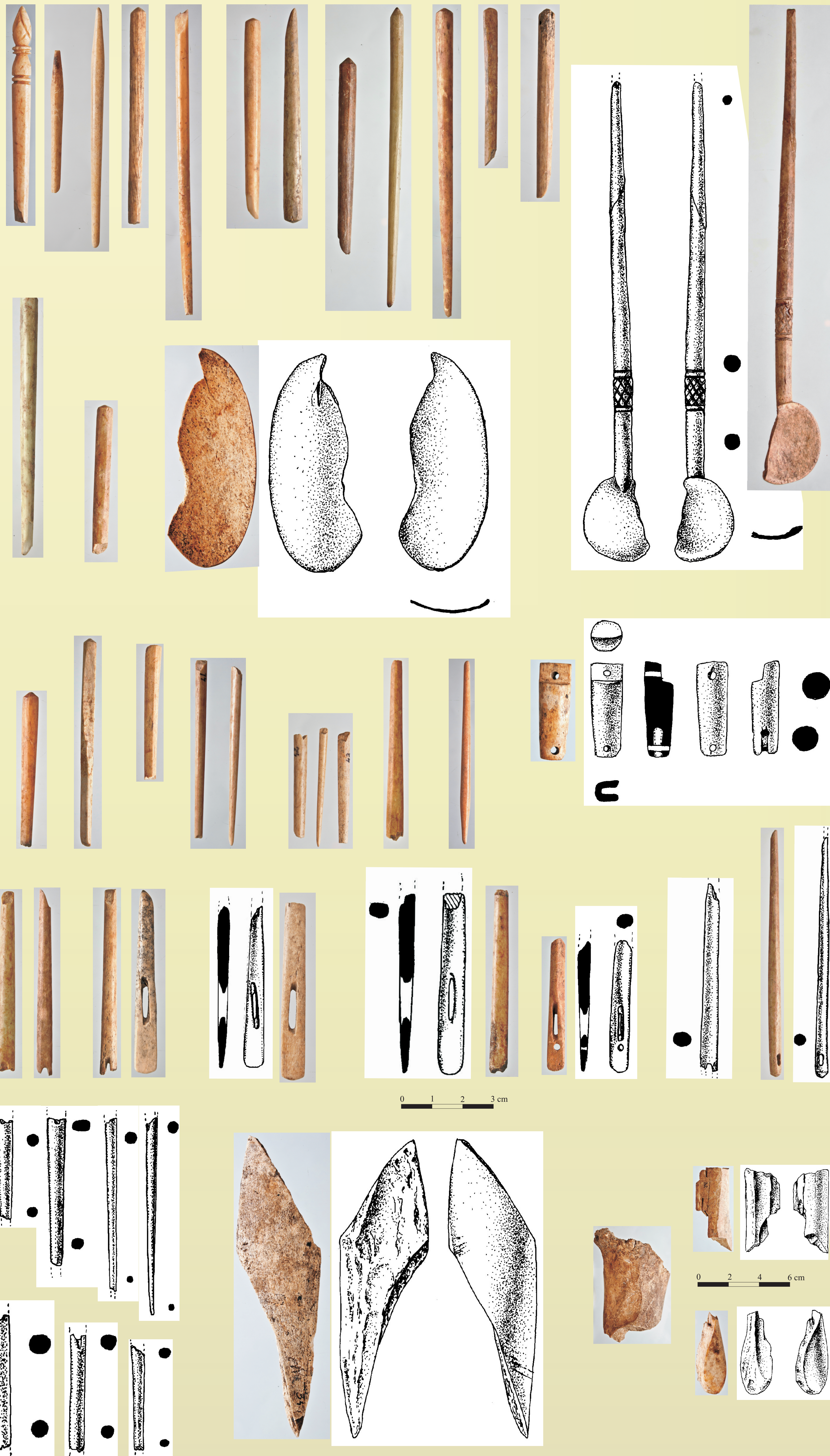
The archaeological material is highly diverse.

The pottery confirms imports from the south Pontic area as well as from Aegean and western provinces of Empire. Apart from *amphorae* (Zeest 94, Zeest 104 105, Zeest 84 85, Dressel 24, Dressel 2 5, Cretane 4, Berenice MR 3, Berenice MR 5, Kapitän II, Berenice 298 299, Carthage LR 2), fragments of *vasa escaria* were discovered (Eastern *sigilatta*, Western *sigilatta*, south Moesian pottery manufactured in the slurry technique, Çandarli ware), *vasa potatoria* (discus jugs, oenochoe), *thuribula* and lamps. Discovered glass vessels were mainly plates, bowls, *unguentaria* and flasks characteristic for 2nd-3rd AD.

In the north-eastern part of the *villa* a workshop for processing iron functioned. In this area, along with a significant amount of iron slag and lumps, a hearth (furnace) was discovered.

Chronologically, the settlement belongs to the 2nd-3rd AD time frame, its final moment of functioning being around 3rd century AD, influenced by the Carpi-Gothic attacks. In the area, a series of coins were unearthed, the earliest from Antoninus Pius, while the majority being issued during the Severan dynasty (Septimius Severus, Caracalla, Geta).

The bone artefacts are of a noteworthy variety comparing with similar finds from the region.



NICULITEL ON THE MAP OF DOBRUDJA (SE ROMANIA)

Local workshops most likely produced the 50 bone objects (hairpins, needles, spoons), some of these still in the manufacturing process.

Although bone artefacts are frequent discoveries in the archaeological contexts in this area, we know little data about the local workshops. Several bone finds discovered in this villa are discarded objects during various processing stages.

From the typological point of view, the bone artifacts may be divided in:

Hair Pins (*acus crinalis*)

- Type I*: with complex decorated end (1 ex.)
- Variety A: pine-shape decorated end (1 ex.)
- Variety B: parallel circular incisions decorated end (1 ex.)
- Type II*: with round end (3 ex.)
- Type II*: with conical end (6 ex.)
- Type IV*: with convex end (7 ex.)
- Type V*: with straight cut-end (1 ex.)

Sewing needles

- Type I*
- Variety A: single hole (2 ex.)
- Variety B: double hole (1 ex.)
- Type II*: 8 -shape hole (7 ex.)

Spoons (2 ex.)

Miscellaneous: cylinder-shape with drilled holes (junction fragment?)

Raw/Discarded fragments