



Manufacture and use of boar tusks at Targu Frumos (Iasi County, Romania): Chalcolithic, Precucuteni culture

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The Precucuteni Culture has been confirmed in Romania in the southeast of Transylvania and Moldavia, in the Moldavian Republic (Bessarabia) and in the Ukraine (where it is referred to by the name Tripolye A).

The Chalcolithic site of Targu Frumos (Iasi County, Romania) represents the most extensive settlement of Precucuteni culture, on the territory of Romania. The site comprises three levels of housing, summing up about 80 cm of sediments (4800-4600/4500 BC) (Ursulescu *et al.*, 2005). The settlement was established between the Passage of the Siret River and the Moldavian Plain; it is possible that this location made it a rich habitat for wild animals, particularly for wild boar (*Sus scrofa ferus*).



Geographical position of the archaeological site.



Worked tusks at the site include more of 90 pieces, in different stages of manufacturing, discovered in various archaeological contexts: in houses, in pits, and in stratum. The dispersion of the artefacts (in different stages of manufacturing and use) suggests that in the analysed settlement doesn't existed a special place (workshop) for the boar tusk manufacturing – at least it was not yet archaeologically identified. However, we have to remark many types of objects: utilitarian (scrapers, spatulas, points), and ornamental (plates, pendants).



Fragments of tusks were used as "blanks" for artefacts. Tusk reduction technique used to obtain the "blanks" consist mainly of sagittal, frontal and transversal cleavages. "Blanks" were processed by abrasion, sharpening, perforating.

Based on the results of this study, it may be concluded that the people of Precucuteni settlement from Targu Frumos have developed a technical tradition in the boar (*Sus scrofa ferus*) tusks exploitation (manufacturing and use).

Reference

Ursulescu, N., Boghian, D., Cotiuga, V. 2005. Problemele de la cultura Precucuteni a la lumina des recherches de Targu Frumos (dep. de Iasi). In Spinei, V., Lazarovici, C.M., Monah, D. (Eds.), *Scripta praeistorica. Miscellanea in honorem nonagenarii magistri Mircea Petrescu-Dimbovita oblata*, Ed. Trinitas, Iasi: 217-260.

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