

Early and Middle Bronze Age settlement at Dimovo, Vidin region (Northwestern Bulgaria) (Abstract)

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The settlement in Mogilata locality at Dimovo, Northwestern Bulgaria, is situated on a hill overlooking the river Leshtarski Dol at its confluence with Archarska River. It occupies an area of 1.5 decares on the highest part of the naturally fortified hill, 30-40 m above the river. The Bronze Age settlement is situated on top of a Chalcolithic settlement, and in the Late Antiquity a fortress was built on top of it. At the foot of the hill, on the left bank of Archarska River, there was a Neolithic settlement, and to the east of it, a Roman Period villa rustica and a cemetery (fig. 1). All these sites were seriously damaged by modern anthropogenic activities. For this reason, in 2008 the stratigraphy of a modern trench on the top of the hill was inspected. The cultural layers are up to 1.40 m thick. The lowermost one, 0.60-0.70 m thick, dates from the end of the Chalcolithic and is covered by a 0.20 m thick sterile layer of brown soil. Above it, there is a layer of grey soil, 0.20-0.30 m thick, that contained ma-

terials from the Bronze Age. Late Antiquity materials were found in the modern topsoil. In the latter period, the hill was fortified with a wall of worked blocks (Александров, Христова 2008, 123). Despite the fact that they cannot be distinguished in the stratigraphy of the modern trench, two periods could be identified based on the collected ceramic materials from the Bronze Age. The earlier is related to phase II of the Coțofeni culture and is represented by shapes that are diagnostic of the culture: bowls, cups with high handle, jugs, and a few sherds with corded decoration (figs. 2-4). The layer dates from the Early Bronze Age II (the first half of the 3rd mill. BC). Fewer, but sufficiently revealing, are the materials from the Middle Bronze Age, represented by deep bowls, decorated with thin incised lines, and by cups and kantharoi with ornithomorphic handles, typical of phase III of the Verbicioara culture, dated to the first half of the 2nd mill. BC (figs. 5-6).