# KOSENIVKA GROUP OF THE CUCUTENI-TRYPILLIA CULTURAL UNITY

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*Keywords:* Cucuteni-Trypillia; Kosenivka local group, Kosenivka, sites, dwellings, pottery, absolute chronology.

## Introduction

The Cucuteni-Trypillia cultural unity comprises several dozen local-chronological groups, which successively replaced one another in the area from the Carpathians to the Dnieper. Their study has spanned over seventy years. During this time, ideas about their origins, connections, and historical destinies have evolved. The largest number of such groups has been identified for the fourth millennium BC. Among them, the Kosenowka group occupies a unique position. This is determined by the fact that its origin is associated with the western part of Cucuteni-Trypillia, but its territory of distribution is in the east, in the interfluve of the Southern Bug and Dnieper. Furthermore, its existence spans the final stages of Trypillia CI and the first half of Trypillia CII. Thus, it also serves as a link between the two stages of Trypillia culture. Finally, its existence falls within the period that researchers associate with the "disappearance" of the Cucuteni-Trypillia cultural complex.

From this list, it follows that the Kosenivka group is of interest from various perspectives. At the same time, a systematic characterization of this group is lacking. This is despite the fact that it was identified back in 1984. Over the past forty years, a history of study of this group has emerged, knowledge of which can help us understand the Kosenivka group. The purpose of this article is to provide as complete a characterization of the Kosenivka group as possible, as well as to examine the historiography of the issue, the topic of origin, internal periodization, and the connections of the Kosenivka group.

## History of investigations and historiography

The eponymous site, located near the village of Kosenivka (Cherkassy region, Ukraine) (fig. 1) has been known since the beginning of the 20th century. Discovered by the peasant Kravchenko, who transferred to the Uman Museum a painted pot, two cups, two bowls, three zoomorphic figurines, a horn hoe, and a copper knife. In 1919, excavations of the sitewere carried out by the First School of Uman. In 1985, K. Shishkin deciphered the aerial photograph and drew up a plan of the site. In 1983-1988, a part of the Trypillia expedition of the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR under the leadership of T. Movsha conducted excavations here, which revealed the remains of 5 aboveground dwellings and 3 utility pits (Бузян 2004).

But the most of the currently known sites of the Kosenivka group (12) were discovered during explorations in the 1960s (Рыжов 2001-2002, 187). The Kosenivka group was identified by T. Movsha in 1984. She considered the sites of Kosenivka, Apolyanka, and Sobkivka as sites of the Zhvanets (Brynzeny) group, which advanced from the Prut-Dniester region to the Gniloy Tikich River basin, that is, representatives of its "Eastern region". Genetically related sites of the eastern region, according to T. Movsha, existed in the following sequence: Kosenivka - Apolyanka - Bagva - Kocherzhyntsy Shulgivka, Rizyno - Kolodyste mounds, Pechera (Мовша 1984, 68). According to T. Mosha, the "Kosenivka v type group" can be closely related to the Varvarovka XV site in terms of its pottery assemblage, but followed it in time. Comparing the pottery assemblages of the Varvarovka XV and Kosenivka sites, T. Movsha concluded that the eastward dispersal of the Trypillian population from the Prut-Dniester region occurred early stage in the Trypillia A period.

T. Movsha also hypothesized that the genetic roots of Kosenivka and Apolianka lead to the site of Berezovskaya Ges (Trypillia BI stage, located on Southern Bug). This conclusion seems incredible to us. After all, the pottery from this site mainly have a incized decoration and have

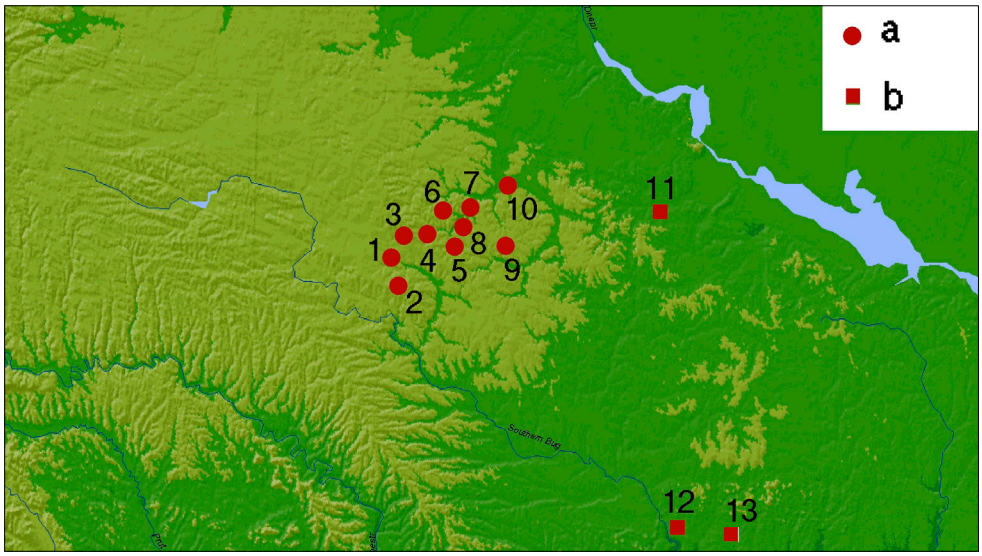



Fig. 1. Map. Sitess of the Kosenivka group and its neighbors.
Legend: a - site; b - places with finds of imports from the Koseniwka group. The numbers on the map indicate: 1 - Sobkivka; 2 - Sharyn; 3 - Kocherzhyntsi; 4 - Kosenivka; 5 - Apolyanka; 6 - Moshuriv II; 7 - Gordashivka II; 8 - Rohy; 9 - Sverdlykove; 10 - Vilkhovets; 11 - Molyukhov Bugor; 12 - Gard; 13 - Pribugske.

nothing in common with the painted Kosenivka ware, appeared near 800 years later (Бурдо 2015, 11-26). T. Movsha also insisted on the synchronicity of the later sites of the Tomashivka and Kosenivka groups, referring to the "ceramic imports and imitations" identified by her, but not yet published (Мовша 1984, 70-71). To the same genetic line as Kosenivka, but of the next chronological stage, corresponding to the Zhvanets (Brynzeny) group, T. Movsha took the sites Sobkivka and Kocherzhyntsi-Shulgivka. The next chronological stage, in her opinion, was represented by the site of Rezyno-Neudobna and the mounds of Kolodyste. Sandraky and Pechera sites complete the "evolution of the sites of this group". At the base of the finds from the barrows from Kolodyste, Volodymyrivka and others mounds in the steppes, T. Movsha considered it possible "to state the assumption that the communities of the Zhvanets (Brynzeny) local group, including the Kosenivka type, had a mound rite of burial" (Мовша 1984, 71-72). T. Movsha later considered the Kosenivka group as an Eastern continuation of the Brynzeny group (Мовша 1990, 57-59).

In modern historiography, the sites of Rohy, Kocherzhyntsy-Shulgivka, and Gordashivka II belong to the Kosenivka group (Рижов 1993); also Kosenivka, Apolyanka, Vilkhovets, Moshuriv II, Sverdlykove (Відейко 2004, 254-255), Sobkivka, Sharyn III (Куштан 2015). Excavations were carried out in Kosenivka (Мовша 1987; Бузян 2004; Круц и др. 2005, 77-82), Vilkhovets (Відейко 2020), Sharyn III (Куштан 2015), Moshuriv II and Gordashivka II (Рыжов 2001-2002). Small studies are also carried out in the sites of Apolyanka, Moshuriv II and Rohy (Videiko et al. 2025). S.M. Ryzhov noted a certain similarity between the pottery from the sites of Moshuriv II, Gordashivka II, Sharyn, Kocherzhyntsy-Shulgivka, and Rohy, referred to by T. Movsha moved to the later phase of the Kosenivka group, with the Kosenivka, but suggested that they all be distinguished as an independent type (Рыжов 2001-2002, 187-192). In our opinion, this type of sites corresponds to the late phase of the Kosenivka group. As a separate type of sites, but not connected with the Kosenivka group, S. Ryzhov singled out the late Trypillia sites from Soutern Bug area, such as Sandraky, Pechera as a separate type, genetically unrelated to the Kosenivka (Рижов 1993, 55; Рыжов 2001-2002, 193-194). Earlier this sites T. Movsha considered as a final for the Kosenivka group.

The position of the sites of the Kosenivka group in the periodization of T. Passek within the limits of the stages of Trypillia C I - C II is contradictory. T. Passek assigned Kosenivka painted pottery to the γ I stage (Passek 1935). T. Movsha, on the one hand, considered the Kosenivka group as part of

the Zhvanets (Brynzeny) group of the Triypillia C II stage (Мовша 1984, 60), but on the other hand, insisted on the synchronicity of the Kosenivka and the later phases of the Tomashevka groups, and considered the sites of Sobkivka and Kocherzhyntsy-Shulgivka to be synchronous with the Zhvanets (Brynzeny) group (Мовша 1984, 71-72). A. Buzyan and O. Yakubenko considered the Kosenivka group as an "Eastern branch" of the Zhvanets (Brynzeny) cultures or groups (Бузян, Якубенко 1990, 58; Товкайло 2019). The Kosenivka site was attributed to the C II stage (Бузян 2004), and the Kosenivka group as a whole to the C I - C II period (Рижов 1993, 54; Відейко 2004, 254-255). S. Ryzhov singled out early and late phases for the sites of the Kosenivka group (Рижов 1993, 54). V. Dergachev attributed it to late Trypillia, i.e. stage C II, the sites of the late phase of the Kosenivka group as the Sharyn III type, and also, following T.G. Movsha, classified the sites of Trypillia C II Sandraky and Pechera as "Sharyn type" on the map (Дергачев 2022, 41, рис. 18), contrary to the opinion of S. Ryzhov about the special status of these sites. T. Tkachuk rightly believes, that the early sites of the Kosenivka group appear at the end of the stage CI and the later ones are synchronous with the beginning of the C II first stage (Ткачук 2011).

**Chacteristics of the Kosenivka group**

The analysis of materials from the Kosenivka sites, taking into account all the studies carried out to date, allow us to clarify their place and chronological position in the structural scheme of the Cucuteni-Trypolie cultural unity. The Kosenivka group is represented only by sites located in the Souterrn Bug - Dnieper interfluve in the basins of the Umanka, Synytsia, Revukha, Mountain Tikych, Gnylyi Tikych, Shpolka, and Yatran rivers. Its territory is bounded in the north by Gnyly Tykych, in the south by the Yatran river, in the west by the Ulych and Kybych rivers, and in the east by Sinyuha and Mountain Tikych.

**Sites.** The territory of the spreading of sites of the early phase of the Kosenivka group of stage C I is somewhat smaller than that of the later ones. The early phase is represented by a smaller number of sites, but among them are two megasites Kosenivka with an area of 70 (120?) hectares and Vilkhovets with an oval or circular layout of buildings, as well as the siteof Apolyanka with an area of 10 (19?) hectares. In the later phase of the Kosenivka group of the Trypillia C II stage, both the territory and the number of sites increase (Kocherzhigtsy-Shulgivka (Sobkivka, Dubovaya, Sharyno, Rohy, Palanka II, Bondarka I, Cherpovody I, Zavadivka). The area of this sites does not exceed 2-4 hectares, they are located less compactly than the sites of the early phase. In the later phase, the expansion of the territory took place in the western direction to the left the bank of Southern Bug.

**Dwellings and other objects.** Dwellings in all the sites of the Kosenivka group are represented by the remains of the burnt houses, accumulated by burnt plaster, resulting from the ritual burning of this dwellings. The remains of one house were investigated in Vylkhovets (Videiko 2020). Three different size burnt dwellings were excavated of Kosenivka (Бузян, Якубенко 1990, 62-63). The similar remains were discovered at Sharyn (Куштан 2005). In addition to the remains of adobe dwellings, many of the excavated sites of the Kosenivka group have recorded sunken objects: pits and "pits", which are characterized by intensive filling from scattered fragments of pottery, animal bones, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic statuettes, ceramic spindles, coals and accumulations of ashes. They are clearly visible on the plans of sites drawn up with reference to magnetic surveying, for example in Apolyanka. In Kosenivka, under the remains of dwelling No. 2, a hollow was discovered, defined as an "8-shaped pit-house", the hollow was filled with fragments of pottery and animal bones (Бузян, Якубенко 1990, 61). Such a stratigraphy testifies to the presence of an earlier building horizon in Kosenivka, at least in this part of the settlement.

The pit excavated at the Vilkhovets site also belongs to the construction horizon preceding the construction of the excavated dwelling (Відейко 2020). Fragments of pottery, animal bones, a horn hoe and fragments of figurinees were found in the excavation. Typological differences in the pottery from filling the pit and found in the dwelling have not been recorded (Відейко 2020, 72).

Fragments of pottery, pieces of burnt clay, ash layers, coal inclusions, fragments of zoomorphic and anthropomorphic plastic, animal bones, including calcined ones, were found in the pit from Apolianka (Videiko et al. 2025, 325). A pit was also investigated at the Rohy site, in the filling of which fragments of pottery, pieces of burnt clay, and bones were found (Videiko et al. 2025, 326).

At the Sharyn III sites, in addition to the remains of adobe houses, four large-area depressions were discovered, described by the author of the excavations as "semi-earthen" or "pits". Fragments of pottery were found in the pits, including broken vessels, ceramic spindles, loom tensioners, fragments of anthropomorphic figurines, stone and flint products, pieces of burnt clay (Куштан 2005, 112-113).

**The tools** found in the sites of the Kosenivka group are few and do not form an informative series. The most common finds are stone grinders and graters (Круц и др. 2005, рис. 62/10), and single axes are found (Відейко 2020, рис. 4/10). Arrowheads are among flint products (Рыжов 2001-2002, рис. 4/15; Відейко 2020, рис. 4/3), knife-shaped plates (Відейко 2020, рис. 4/ 4-7, 9, 11), including two "hoards" of long plates of Volyn flint, split from one nucleus, found in dwellings No. 1 and 3 of Kosenivka (Бузян, Якубенко 1990, 59). In a dwelling from Kosenivka, several items made of local, Apolyanka flint were found, including fragments of a scraper knife, end scraper, nuclei (Круц и др. 2005, рис. 62/4-9; 64/1-2).

Single horn hoes (Круц и др. 2005, рис. 64/3) and bones – piercings and specific items – daggers, which were found only in the sites of the late phase of the Kosenivka group (Мовша 1984, рис. 4/4), but are widespread in the sites of the Tripoli C II stage. A wild boar tusk was found in one of the dwellings of the Kosenivka site (Круц и др. 2005, рис. 64/4).

In the Kosenivka group sitws, ceramic weights of a vertical loom were found in dwellings and pits (Рыжов 2001-2002, 191; Куштан 2015, рис. 5/18-19). Ornamental ceramic spindle whorls were found in the ssteof the late phase of the Kosenivka group Sharyn III (Куштан 2015, рис. 5/ 8, 11), Gordashivka II (Рыжов 2001-2002, рис. 4/17; 6/28-29). The ornamented spindles extend precisely to the later phase of Trypillia C II and are generally similar in form and decoration to all sites (Бурдо 2019).

**Pottery assemblage of Kosenivka group**

Pottery is the most numerous and informative category of finds at the sitess of the Kosenivka group. According to technical and typological features, pottery in different sites can vary depending on the types of clay and the use of mineral impurities. In general, three main categories of pottery s can be distinguished:

Category I (painted pottery) – vessels made of thin-structured iron clay, or iron clay and also kaolinite clay, or mixtures of these varieties with the addition of mineral impurities. Note that outcrops of kaolinite clay are widespread on the territory of the Tomashivka and Kosenivka groups in the Bug - Dnieper interfluve. The vessels were covered with a thin layer of light or bright yellow clay, creating a background for painting. Roasting is always oxidizing.

Category II – pottery made of kaolinite or iron clay with abundant mineral admixture (wood, crushed shells, coarse-grained sand, quartz particles, fireclay). The surface is covered with a thin layer of pure clay, or it can be painted in a yellow-hot color. It is similar to pottery of the 1st category, but without painting. Sometimes the painting on the vessels is lost due to the aggressive composition of the soil. It is not always possible to distinguish vessels without painting or with lost painting. Oxidizing roasting.

Category III – pottery with a porous surface, with abundant mineral admixture with recessed and plastic decoration, often reduction firing. Category III pottery predominate in the ceramic ensembles of sites of the late phase of the Kosenivka group.

**Pottery of the I$^{st}$ and II$^{nd}$ categories.** Morphological types of pottery of the I and II categories are diverse and different in the ceramic ensembles of sites of the early and late phases of the Kosenivka group.

Kosenivka is one of the sites of the Kosenivka group, represented by the largest collection of pottery of this type, here the amount of pottery of the I and II categories is 93.7%. According to the nature of the molding mass, several subgroups can be distinguished, and there is no correlation between morphological, stylistic and technological features. About 60% of pottery of categories I and II are made from a mixture of iron clays, and about a third of vessels are made from kaolinite clay. The remaining 40% of pottery of the I and II categories, mainly painted, are made of finely structured clay without impurities. The surface of the vessels is painted with engobe in light yellow or orange color (Круц и др. 2005, 80).

A significant part of pottery of the 1st category is painted with black or dark brown paint, its use as a complement to red paint is very rarely recorded.

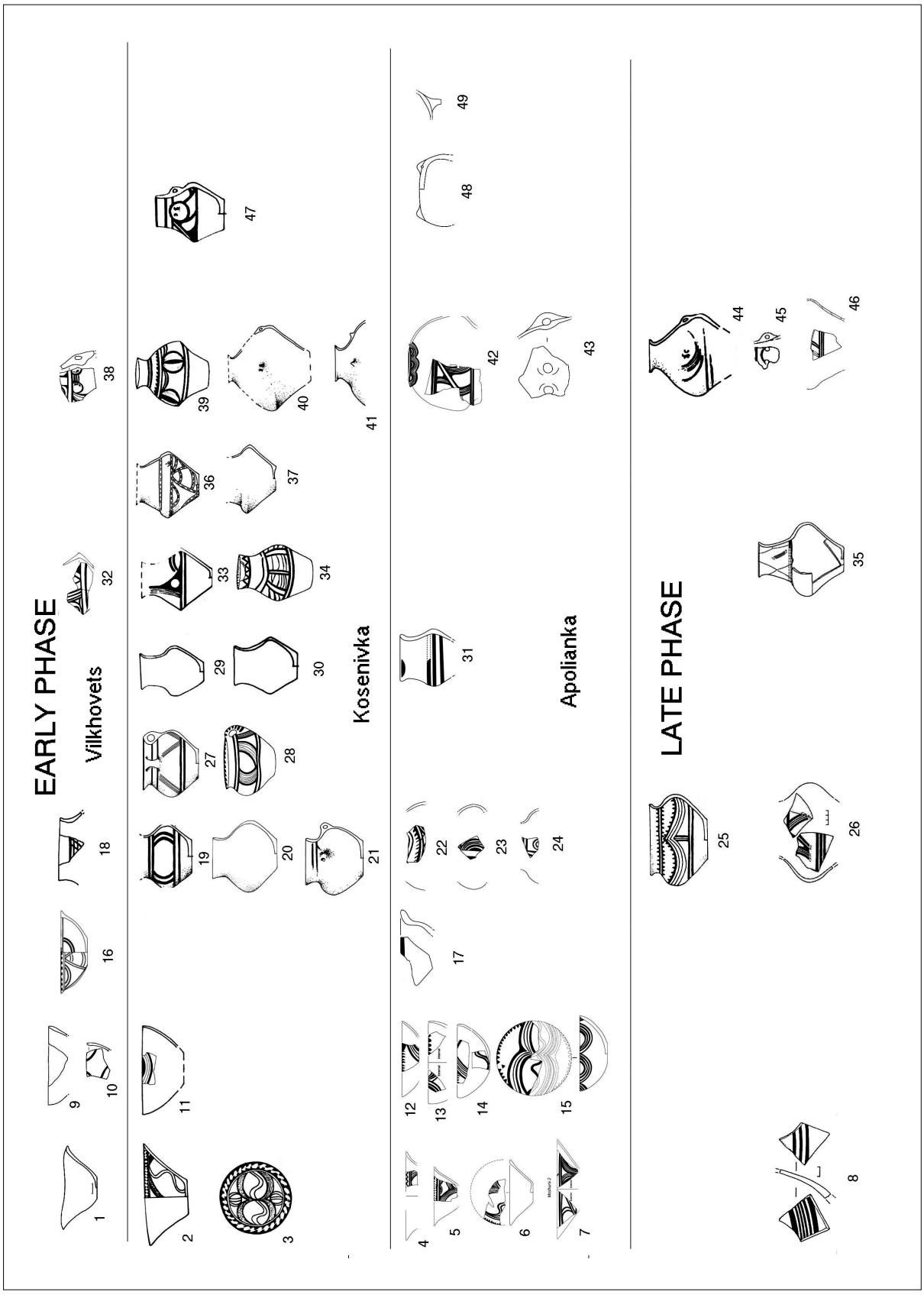



Fig. 2. Morphological types of pottery of the 1st category (painted) of the Kosenivka type sites: 1-8 - conical bowls; 9-15 - hemispherical bowls; 16 - bowls with an "S" profile; 18-26 - pots; 27, 28 - pots with a handle; 29-31 - cups; 32-35 - jugs; 36-46 - sphero-conical vessels; 47 - vessel with a handle; 48 - lid; 49 - vessel on legs.

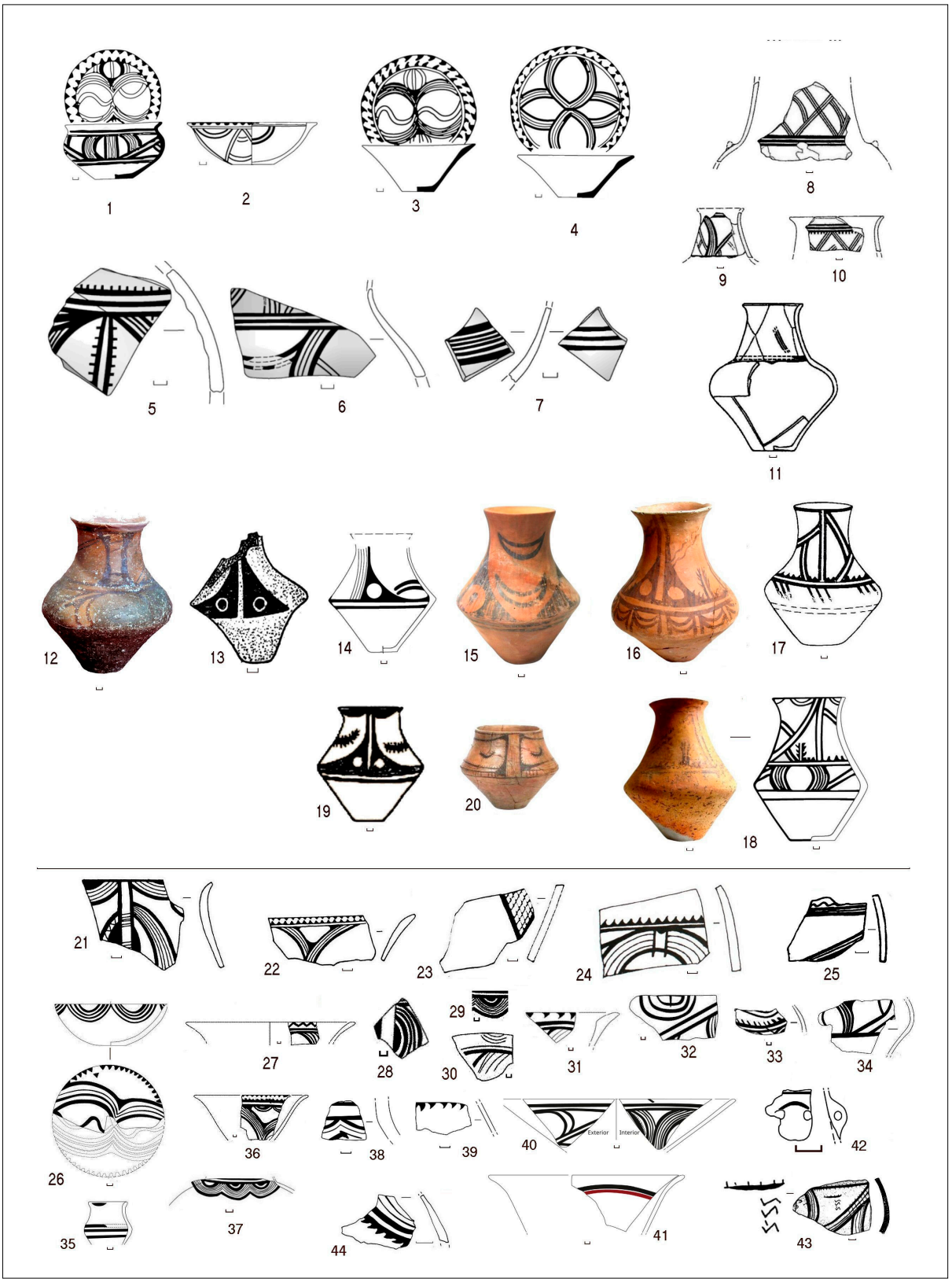


Fig. 3. Painted pottery of the 1st of Kosenivka group:
1-4, 12, 14-18, 21-24 - Kosenivka; 5-11 - Sharyn III; 17, 25 - according to Passek 1935; 19 - Prybuzhany; 20 - Varvarovka VIII; 25 - Hordashivka II; 26-39 - Apolyanka; 40, 41 - Moshuriv II; 42 - Rohy; 43 - Sobkivka; 44 - Vilkhovets (2, 14, 21-24 - according to Круц и др. 2005; 5-11 - according to Куштан 2015; 13, 43 - according to Мовша 1984; 15, 16, 18 - according to Бузян 2004; 19 - according to Гребенніков, Смирнов 2015; 20 - according to Маркевич 1985; 25 - according to Рыжов 2001-2002; 26-42 - according to Videiko et al. 2025; 44 - according to Відейко 2020).

The decor consists of two main elements: two parallel narrow lines and/or a ribbon of thin parallel lines bordered by wider lines. Such tapes are typical for the painting of vessels of the Badrazhy group. Two parallel lines form inclined or wavy ribbons, vertical segments dividing the painting into metopes, arched figures. Such elements were used to decorate vessels of all morphological types. Morphological diversity is characteristic only for pottery assemblages of sites of the first phase of the Kosenivka group, where pottery of the I and II categories make up from 93% to 70%.

Bowls of small and medium size are represented by several types. Cone bowls are divided into two subtypes with a straight or thickened edge of the rim; semi-spherical bowls; S-profile bowls; pots, sometimes equipped with a small handle-ear on the shoulders; pots with a handle; biconical goblets with a smooth or sharp edge; biconical jugs with a sharp edge, rarely with a rounded body; biconical vessels; spherical-conical vessels, some of them with small handles or small conical protrusions. Vessels on legs (fig. 2/49), vessels with a handle on the neck (fig. 2/47) and lids (fig. 2/48) belong to single products. The lid found in Apolianka finds analogies in the monuments of the Brynzeny group (Маркевич 1981, 57, рис. 7/18), but this type of lid is not known in the Badrazhy group.

On conical and hemispherical bowls, the painting in the form of an 8-shaped figure and a wavy line is applied from the inside. A similar plot is also found in the painted bowls from the Varvarovka XV site of the Badrazhy group (Маркевич 1981, рис. 35). Bowls with a similar pattern of painting were found in the sites of the Rypnitsa I type of the Kolomyischyna group (Овчинников 2014, рис. 141/1), the Tomashivka group site of Maidanetske (fig. 6/26) (Шмаглий, Видейко 2001-2002, рис. 42/2; Ткачук 2005, 133, рис. 85; 134, рис. 88) and Chychyrkozivka (Ткачук 2005, 51), Cherkasiv Sad II of the Chechelnyk group (Ткачук 2005, 268). A bowl with such a pattern of painting was found in tryzna No. 1 of the at the Gard cemetery of Usatovo culture (fig. 6/24, 25) together with a pot without decoration (Товкайло 2019, рис. 4-5, 6-7).

The festoon scheme of the painting on the outside of the hemispherical bowls from Kosenivka (fig. 3/2) and Apolianka (fig. 3/26) finds analogies in the decoration of bowls from the site of Petreny group, Lipchany (Ткачук 2005, 257, рис. 6) and Badrazhy group sites Khankauts I, Konovka-Putsita (Ткачук 2005, 348, рис. 5-6).

Triangles, which most often encircle the rims of bowls (fig. 3/26, 31, 39) inside and outside with their tops down or their tops up, are additional elements in Kosenivka-style painting. Such decor on the rims is recorded for bowls, as well as other vessels in the site Badrazhy group of the Konovka-Putsita (Ткачук 2005, 348, рис. 7), in the Chechlynyk (Ткачук 2005, 280, рис. 13) and Petreni (Ткачук 2005, 264, рис. 36) groups, the Bilyi Potyk siteof the Koshylovtsy group (Tkachuk 2016, fig. 5/1, 8, 22, 23), as well as for the hemispherical bowls of the Vykhvatynsky cemetery (Ткачук 2005, 347, рис. 2-3; 383, рис. 1-2).

Sometimes triangles complement the horizontal lines encircling the shoulders of the vessel (fig. 3/26), or border on one side bands of narrow and wide lines (fig. 3/24, 44). On the rims of the bowls, lines of dark triangles directed by their vertices towards each other form a positive image in a positive zigzag line (fig. 3/1, 3, 4). Such zigzags are found in the murals of the sites of the Varvarovka XV group and, Badrazhy group Konovka-Putsita (Ткачук 2005, 316, fig. 21; 347, fig. 1). On some vessels, instead of triangles with ribbons, short vertical strokes are combined (fig. 3/33).

In the paintings of Kosennivka vessels, there are elements of a straight and oblique grid (fig. 3/23; 4/11). The mesh motif is widespread in the paintings of pottery from different sites of the Tomashivka group (Ткачук 2005, 38, 44, 46-47, 52-55, 59-62, 71-76, 78, 80-84, 89, 95-98, 109, 113, 116-123, 126-127, 136-137, 145-146, 148-150), it is occasionally found in the paintings of sites of different local and chronological groups of Trypillia: Chechelnyk (Ткачук 2005, 272, 299) and Badrazhy, at such sites as Valea Lupului, Târgu Ocna-Podei (Ткачук 2005, 305, 360).

Jugs known in Kosenivka and one vessel in Vatutino are a specific type of pottery types of the Kosenivka group. They are similar in shape to cups, but differ in large sizes. Jugs are characterized by a high cylindrical neck, a conical bottom part, and sharp ribs shifted to the lower part. Most of the jugs are painted with scenes that include symbols of the moon, water, and vegetation. In two cases, the decor consists of crossed ribbons.

In the Kosenivka-style painted decor, individual elements that can be considered as symbolic signs are rarely found. The most characteristic, although in general, it is also rarely found in paintings, is lunar symbolism. On a fragment of a vessel from Sobkivka, a horizontal crescent moon with a fringe is depicted above a vertical column of signs made of broken lines, possibly erased "M"-shaped figures. Such signs find analogies in the sign system of the sites of the Zhvanets group and the Brynzeny group (Ткачук 2005, 380-381), the White Potyk, Koshylivtsy group (Tkachuk 2016, fig. 5/2, 6). The most common symbols of the month are concentric horizontal arcs (fig. 3/29, 30).

Vertical semi-ovals that flank the vertical ribbon (fig. 3/21, 28) are a plot that finds analogies in the paintings on the vessels of the sites of the Badrazhy group Varvarovka XV, Khankautsy I, Badrazhy, Konovka-Putsita (Ткачук 2005, 314, 334, 236, 350). In the paintings on the jugs, we can see the image of a horizontal crescent moon and a full moon in the form of a light or dark circle. The painted plot on the jugs combines the symbolism of the moon, vegetation and water (wavy lines) (fig. 3/16). A jug, typical for Kosenivka, was found in burial 19 of mound 4 in the village. The composition of decoration on it is made in a metopian scheme, the lunar symbolism, in addition to the light circles of the full moon and horizontal dark crescents under the crown, includes the image of a lunar crescent in the form of a "caterpillar". A similar symbol is depicted on a cup from the Varvarovka VIII site of the Petrini group (fig. 3/20), on a vessel from the Lypchany site (Ткачук 2005, 258, рис. 9), and is also found in murals of the Varvarovka XV and Konovka-Putsita sites of the Badrazhy group (Ткачук 2005, 314, 350). In the same burial in Prybuzhany, next to the one in Kosenivka, a painted vessel of the Chechelnyk group was found (Гребенніков, Смірнов 2015, 21-23, рис. 5, 6).

The lunar crescent is depicted in the upper part of the spheoconic vessel (fig. 4/11), a close analogy can be considered the painting on the vessel from Varvarovka XV, on which the lunar crescent is red (Ткачук 2005, 313). Inside, a part of the painting representing the waxing and waning moon and two bitriangular figures in the form of "hourglasses" has been preserved on the "S"-shaped bowl (fig. 4/1). A close analogy to the bitriangular figures on the rim of a bowl from Kosenovkea can be found at the site of Badrazhy group, Lomachyntsy-Vyshneva (Movsha 1991, figs. 4, 6). Such compositions are known in the paintings on pottery from Zhvanets site of the Brynzeny group (Ткачук 2005, 377, рис. 23-24). Similar figures with bitriangular elements in the negative are formed in murals in combination with positive narrow ovals on a vessel from the site of Kvitky I of the Kaniv group (Овчинніков 2014, рис. 44/1). The crescent moon with its horns down is depicted on the handle of a spherical vessel from the Rohy site (fig. 3/42). A similar sign on a hemispherical bowl from the Bilyi Potik site of the Koshylovtsi group (Tkachuk 2016, fig. 5.6/4).

Wavy lines are found in the paintings of pottery of the Kosenivka group, which are perceived as a symbol of water (fig. 3/16, 25). Analogies to this element can be found in the paintings on the vessels of the Varvarovka XV and Badrazhy group sites (Ткачук 2005, 318, 325, 349, 352), Bilyi Potik of the Koshylivtsy group (Tkachuk 2016, fig. 5.22/3).

The plant symbols, in the form of a "forked tree", characteristic of the painting of jugs from Kosenivka find analogies in the painting of vessels from the sites of Hryshchyntsi I of the Kaniv local group (Овчинников 2014, рис. 84/3; 85/4, 8, 10), Rypnitsa 6 of the Kolomiyshchyna group (Відейко 2002, рис. 11), Krutukha-Zholob of the Lukashovka local group (Бузян, Якубенко 1988, рис. 2), bilyi Potik of the Koshylivtsi group (Tkachuk 2016, fig. 5.22/7), as well as in the painted decoration of statuettes from Koshylivtsy (Burdo 2014, fig. 21/12, 6).

Data on the decoration of vessels from sites of the late phase of the Kosenivka group are limited. Among the morphological types represented are bowls, pots, jugs, and sphero-conical vessels. The main element of the painting is still a band of thin parallel lines bordered by wide ones. Painted jugs are found in the siteof Sharyn III. They differ in form from those found in Kosenivka, but find analogies in the ceramic complexes of Badrazhy Vehi and Brynzeni III (Маркевич 1981, рис. 40/1, 3, 17, 17, 22; 57/2, 5, 16) and Vykhvatintsy (Дергачев 2022, рис. 8/36-38), although the painting schemes are different. The pattern of painting on the necks of Sharyn III jugs, in the form of intersecting bands of thin parallel lines (fig. 3/8-11), is, on the one hand, close to a similar pattern on one of the jugs from Kosenivka

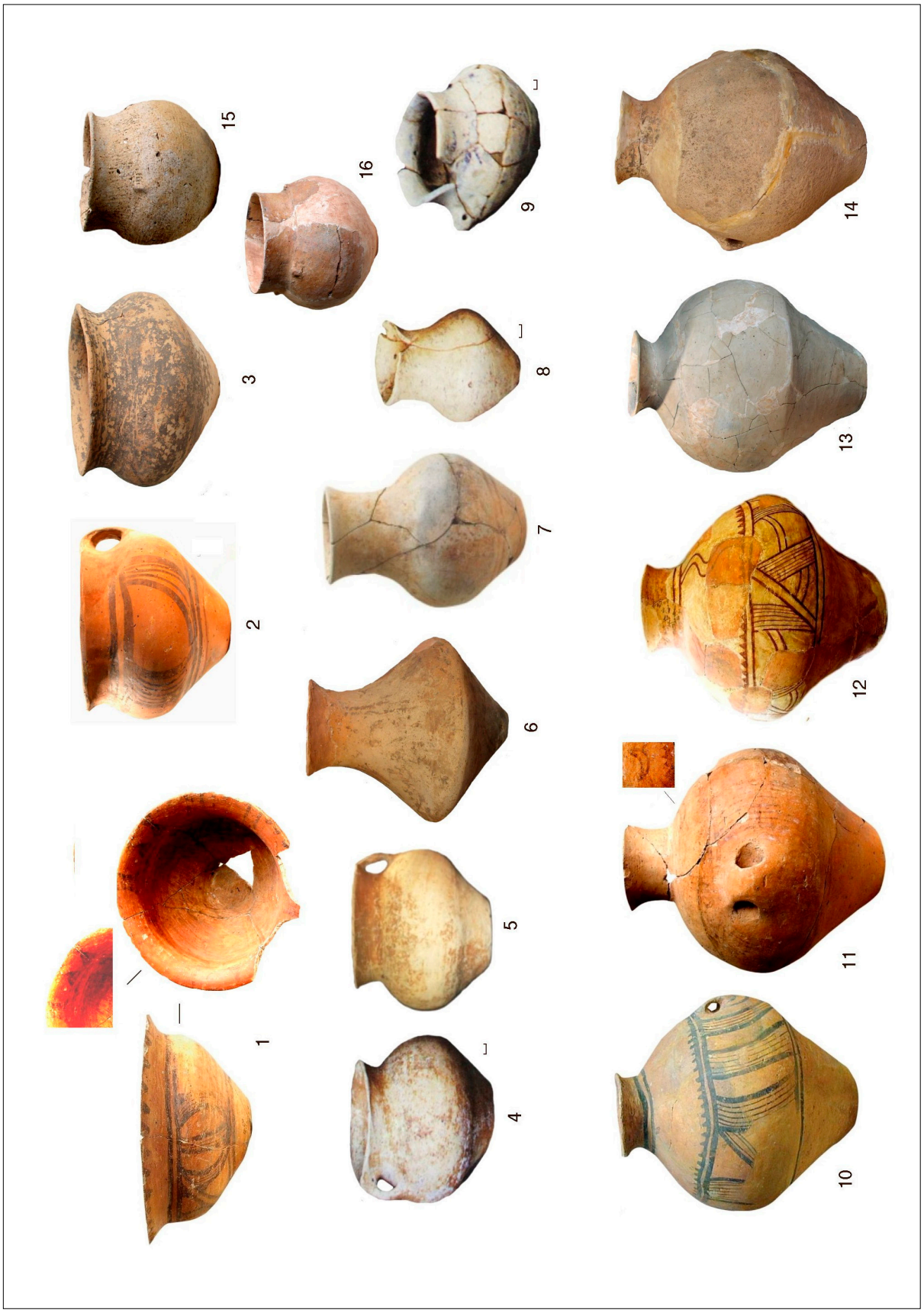


Fig. 4. Pottery of the early phase from Kosenivka group sites: 1-9, 11-14 - Kosenivka (according to Бузян 2004); 10 - Vilkhovets (according to Відейко 2020).

(fig. 3/17), and on the other hand, similar, but not identical, to the Gordineshti painting. The jugs of the Kosenivka group of the late phase, in terms of morphological features and painting system, find analogies in the ceramic assemblages of the sites of Troyaniv, Pavoloch, and Korzhivka-Bashtan in Eastern and Western Volhynia (Дергачев 2022, рис. 22/28-31). A painted pot (fig. 2/25) from the Moshursv II site (Рыжов 2001-2002, рис. 3/1) finds close parallels in its form and painting pattern to the Vykhvatintsy cemetery (Дергачев 2022, рис. 8/41).

Analysis of the painted ornamentation of the Kosenivka group of vessels reveals its uniformity across ceramic assemblages of both the early and late phases. Elements of Kosenivka o painting find the most extensive parallels among pottery from sites of the Trypillia CI stage, primarily in the Badrazhy and partly Tomashivka groups, and, to a lesser extent, in the Petreny, Chechelnyk, Kaniv, and Lukashy groups. Certain similarities can be noted between the paintings of the Kosenivka and Brynzheny groups, and partly also the Vykhvatintsy, group. Thus, the painted pottery of the Kosenivka group indicates a genetic connection and synchronicity with the Badrazhy group, the synchronicity of the early phase of the Kosenivka group with the local-chronological groups of Trypillia CI, and intensive contacts with these groups. Sites of the late phase of the Kosenivka group are synchronous with the Brynzheny group of the Trypillia C II/I stage and the Vykhvatintsy cenetery; however, due to the insignificant proportion of painted pottery, it is impossible to trace connections based on this feature.

**Category III** ("kitchen") ware in the pottery assemblages of sites of the early and late phases of the Kosenivka group demonstrate significant differences. Two subcategories can be distinguished for the early phase: subcategory III 1 – Cucuteni C-type pottery, characteristic of all local chronological groups of the Trypillia C-1 phase (Бурдо 2016, 29-31) and subcategory III 2 – vessels without ornamentation or with inset decoration.

At Kosenivka, category III pottery constitute 6.3%. The vessels are made primarily of kaolinite clay with mineral impurities, most often consisting of grit, as well as crushed shells, coarse sand, and rarely chamotte combined with fine sand and firing was usually reduction. Only two morphological types are represented: bowls, sometimes large, and S-shaped pots. The decoration on the shoulders of the pots in the form of sculptural details, including horns, cylindrical protrusions or small tubercles, is combined with one or two lines of impressions of a small round or triangular stamp, and in one case a cord ornament in the form of a "caterpillar" (fig. 5/6) (Круц и др. 2005, 79-80).

Pottery of subcategories III 1 and III 2 are represented in the pottery assemblages of the early-phase Kosenivka group sites of Apolyanka (7%) and Moshuriv 2 (fig. 5). These sites also contain pots without ornamentation, featuring "horns" and rows of round stamp impressions on the shoulders. A pottery fragment decorated with a dissected bolster was found at Apolyanka (fig. 5/20). Overall, pottery of category III are similar to vessels from the Badrazhy group sites of Varvarovka XV and Badrazhi Vechi (Маркевич 1981, рис. 38; 39/22-26).

Pottery of category III 2 predominate in the pottery assemblages of the late-phase Kosenivka group sites (over 90%). This pottery is characterized by the use of a mixture of kaolinite and ferruginous clay (40%) or ferruginous clay (60%), abundant mineral admixture: gruss, coarse-grained sand, quartz (50-55%); fine-grained sand and quartz grains (20%); chamotte in the form of baked dry clay and kaolin particles (13%); mica or limestone (5% each); shell about 3%; hematite (bloodstone) – about 1%. The surface of the vessels is both rough and smoothed, sometimes there is a lining of the surface of the vessel with pure clay; an archaic technique of processing the surface of the vessel in the form of finger streaks is rarely noted. The firing of the vessels is uniform, high-temperature, in an oxidizing atmosphere of 55-60%, a reducing mode of 40-45% (Ryzhov 2001-2002, 188).

*Subcategory III.1:* "Cucuteni C type" pottery are found only in small quantities at early-phase sites of the Kosenivka group. The molding paste of this pottery is distinguished by abundant mineral impurities in the form of crushed shells, gruss, coarse sand, and quartz grains. Firing is predominantly reductive. The dominant morphological type is pots. Characteristic stylistic features include the processing of the outer surface of the vessels with a tool that leaves parallel stripes, vertical on the rims and horizontal on the body. Recessed decoration in the form of impres-

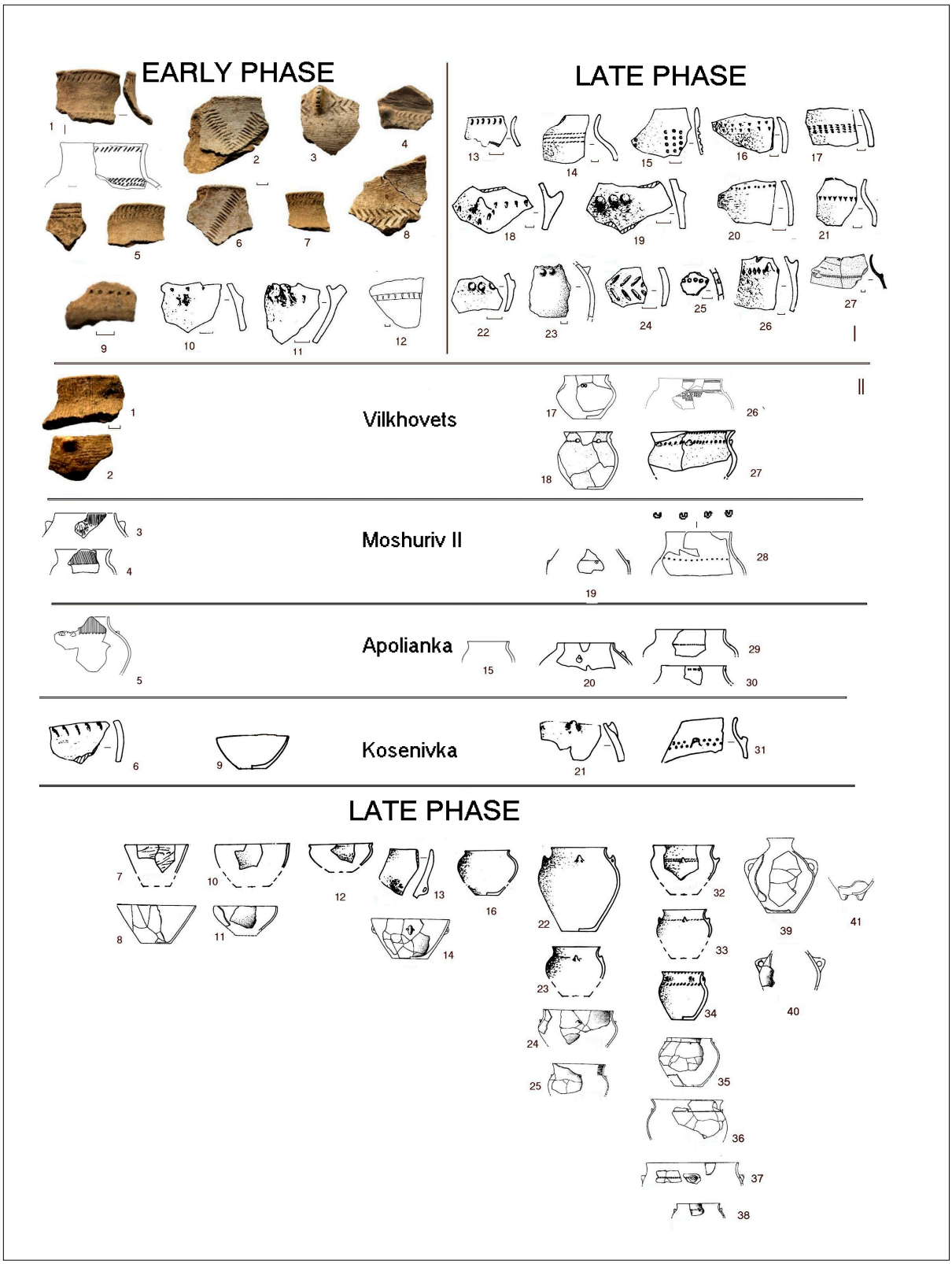



Fig. 5. Pottery of the category III from the Kosenivka group sites:
I. 1-9 - Vilkhovets; 10, 11 - Kosenivka; 12 - Apolyanka; 13-19 - Moshuriv II; 20-22 - Gordashivka II; 24, 25 - Sharyn III; 26, 27 - Kocherzhyntsy-Shulgovka (1-9 - according to Відейко 2020; 10, 11 - according to Круц и др. 2005; 12 - according to Videiko et al. 2025; 13-26 - according to Рыжов 2001-2002; 27 - according to Мовша 1984). II. Morphological types of pottery of III 1 and III 2 categories. 1-6 - pots of III 1 category; 7, 8 - conical bowls. Pottery of III 2 category: 9-11 - hemispherical bowls; 12 - bowls of "S"-shaped profile; 13, 14 - large bowls with eared handles; 15, 16 - pots. 1, 2, 17, 18, 26, 27 - Vilkhovets; 3, 4, 19, 28 - Moshuriv II; 5, 15, 20, 29, 30 - Apolyanka; 6, 9, 21, 31 - Kosenivka; 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 22-25, 32-41 - Sharyn III.

sions of various stamps, combined with plastic details, is located on the shoulders of the vessels. Ceramics of the "Cucuteni C type" are found at sites of the Kosenivka group in single specimens. It is most fully represented at Vilkhovets (fig. 5.I/1-12), where it was found in a pit under the remains of an adobe dwelling. About 30% of the pottery from the pit belongs to the "Cucuteni C" type. The banded surface treatment of the pots is combined with applied knobs and impressions of various stamps: cord impressions in the form of three parallel lines, small punctures, and serrated stamps. On most vessels, the decoration on the rim, neck, and shoulders is made with a stamp of intertwined cord, which forms ribbons of cord segments, rows of crescent-shaped figures, and a horizontal herringbone composition. The vessels of the "Cucuteni C type" from the pit find close analogies in the ceramic complex of the upper layer of the siteof the late phase of the Dereivka culture, Molyukhov Bugor (Котова 2013, рис. 18/5; 26/3, 5; 99/3; 132/2; 138, 141; Нераденко 2017, рис. 22-28; 30-32; 36; 37). Unique decorative elements on the pots from Vilkhovets are plastic details (fig. 5/3), not typical of the Dereivka culture. Fragments of vessels decorated along the shoulders with impressions of an oval or round stamp and horn-shaped protrusions (fig. 5/10, 11) were found.

*Subcategory III 2* is represented at Vilkhovets by a few examples of pots with rounded moldings (fig. 5). The most complete picture of the pottery assemblage of the late phase is provided by the materials from the Sharyn III site (Куштан 2015, 430-432), where category III pottery constitute 93%. Crushed quartz was predominantly used as an admixture, with shells being rare. The firing of the vessels was often uneven, with both reducing and oxidizing firing. A significant portion of the vessels are colored yellow or red. Category III 2 pottery from Sharyn are characterized by a wide variety of morphological types. These include conical and hemispherical bowls, large conical bowls with ear-shaped handles at the top (makotra), "S"-shaped bowls, low pots and pots with elongated bodies, and amphoras with large handles. Rare forms include vessels with legs. Bowls and amphoras are undecorated; an archaic surface treatment technique in the form of finger marks has been recorded for bowls (fig. 5/7). A significant number of pots are also undecorated, but are often equipped with four conical protrusions – horns – on the shoulders. On some pots, the plastic decoration in the form of rounded tubercles and horns on the shoulders is accompanied by lines of small stamp impressions or cord.

Indented decoration of Category III pottery pots from the late-phase sites of the Kosenivka group at Moshuriv II, Gordashivka, and Kocherzhntsy-Shulgivka is present on no more than 5% of all vessels. Impressions of various stamps predominate, including cord (up to 7%), sometimes intertwined cord ("caterpillar"), fine-toothed, triangular, oval, rhombic, and rectangular stamps, and tubes; notches and a horizontal row of "herringbone" patterns have also been recorded (fig. 5/24). Indented decoration was sometimes supplemented by plastic details in the form of conical or horn-shaped protrusions; rounded tubercles, sometimes grouped in twos or threes. Among the amphoras from Sharyn III (Куштан 2015, рис. 2/8) is a specimen with bent handles (fig. 5/40). Similar amphoras come from the sites of the Troyaniv group Korzhivka-Selisko (Дергачев 2022, рис. 22/32а), the Brynzheny group Costeşti IV and are considered to be the result of a synthesis of the ceramic traditions of the late Trypillia and the FBC (Гавінський, Яковишина 2022, рис. 87/2, 4). Evidence of contacts between the late Trypillia and the FBC is well represented in the sites of the Brynza group, and especially in the local-chronological groups of Trypillia CII in Western and Eastern Volhynia, the border zone of their contact. The pottery assemblage of Volhynia sites contains both direct "imports" of the FBC and examples of syncretic wares, indicating a synthesis of the ceramic traditions of these cultures. The deepened decoration of subcategory III 2 pottery, characteristic of Trypillia C I/1, is also associated with the influence of the FBC (Гавінський, Яковишина 2022, 84, 91-94).

The pottery assemblage of the sites of the late phase of the Kosenivka group is generally characteristic of the initial stage of the late Trypillia CII/1. However, in such local-chronological groups of this period as the Brynzeny, Vykhvatintsy, and Koshylivtsy groups, painted pottery of the first category predominate, while pottery of the third category make up from 10% to 50%. Pottery of the third category from the sites of the late phase of the Kosenivka group generally correspond to such pottery of the Brynzheny group

(Дергачев 2022, рис. 11/49-55). It is represented in small series in the pottery assemblages of the Koshylivtsi group at the sites of Blyshchanka 2 (Конопля 1997, рис. 1/1-2), Bilyi Potik (Tkachuk 2016, fig. 5.12/6-13; 5.13), in the Koshylivtsi layer of the Verteba cave (Kadrow 2013, pl. 109). But the most complete correspondences to the morphological and stylistic characteristics of the pottery of category III of the sites of the late phase of the Kosenivka group are found in the pottery assemblages of the sites of Trypillia CII/1 of the Troyanivka group of Eastern Volyn (Дергачев 2022, рис. 22/33-40, 44-53). For example, subcategory III 2 pottery from the Koshcheyevka-8 site on the Eastern periphery of the Troyaniv group, located in the Irpen River basin, find close parallels in the pottery of the late phase of the Kosenivka group. Only 5% of the fragments at Koshcheyevka-8 belong to Category I pottery, although the painting on them has not survived. Fragments of sphero-conical vessels with indented handles can likely be regarded as "imports" or influences of the Kosenivka group (Кириленко, Лисенко 2015, 58, рис. 22/3-4, 7).

**Figurines**

Anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines of the Kosenivka group were found in the filling of pits or among the ruins of burnt houses. A few, mostly fragmentary anthropomorphic figurines from the sites of the early phase of the Kosenivka group – Kosenivka (fig. 6/4), Apolyanka (fig. 6/1-3), Vilkhovets (fig. 6/6-8) – generally correspond to the types of anthropomorphic sculpture of the final stage of Trypillia C I. The find of figurines with a disk-shaped head with perforation on the edge = of an anthropomorphic figurine with a pierced 'nimbus' around the head] in Vilkhovets indicates that it was precisely during this period that the type of anthropomorphic sculpture appeared, which was called the Vykhvatsy-type figurines and became dominant in the Trypillia CII stage. For stage Trypillia CI, such figurines were recorded at the sites of Varvarovka VIII, Petreni group (Маркевич 1981, рис. 30/3) and Maidanetske, Tomashivka group (Burdo 2014, fig. 18/5-7). A fragment of a figurine (a figurine with a disk-shaped head with perforation on the edge = with a pierced 'nimbus' around the head) at the siteof the Dereivka culture Molyukhov Bugor (Нераденко 2017, 329, фото 3) should be considered as an "import" or an imitation of Trypillian examples of plastic art (fig. 6/5).

Anthropomorphic figurines of the Vykhvatintsy type, although distinguished by certain features, are found in the late-phase Kosenivka group sites of Sharyn III (fig. 6/9-11) and Sobkivka (fig. 6/12).

Zoomorphic figurines have been found at sites of both the early and late phases of the Kosenivka group. Large figurines, probably of bulls, are carefully modeled with naturalistic details, originating from Apolyanka (fig. 6/14, 15) and Kosenivka (fig. 6/16, 17). The modeling of the Kosenivka figurine finds analogies in the Petreny group sites of Trifautsy and Varvarovka VIII (Маркевич 1981, 31). The painting system of the figurine from Apolyanka finds analogies in the zoomorphic figurines from the sites of the Trypillia VII stage Volodymyrivka (Burdo 2004, 350), Konovka-Putsyta, in the decor of zoomorphic bowls, ornithomorphic rattles from the sites of Brynzeny VIII (Маркевич 1985, рис. 70) and Hetmanivka (Кіосак, Денисюк, Поліщук 2014), anthropomorphic figurines of the sites of Brynzeny VIII (Sorokin 2001, fig. 8/1; 9/1), the sites of the Kaniv group Balyko-Shchuchinka (Овчинников 2014, рис. 148/14), Preremozhyntsi (Овчинников 2014, рис. 108/2, 4; 114/10; 117/6), sites of the Kolomiyshchyna II group (an "import" of the Kaniv group?) (Burdo 2014, fig. 14/10).

In one of the dwellings in Kosenivka, among the burnt structures of a house, T. Movsha discovered a unique figurine of a pregnant bear (fig. 6/17). It is made of fine-textured clay, corresponding to the molding mass of painted pottery (Бузян 2004, 252). In terms of modeling, the figurine resembles the bear figurines of the Tomashivka group, but is larger.

Small, rather carelessly sculpted zoomorphic figurines come from the Kosenivka group sites of Rohy (fig. 6/18) and Sharyn VIII (fig. 6/19). A bull figurine from Apolyanka (Videiko et al. 2025, fig. 12/1) is distinguished by its naturalistic details. A zoomorphic figurine from Rohy is similar in modeling (Videiko et al. 2025, fig. 12/2). Several fragmented zoomorphic figurines, presumably bulls, come from the Sharyn III site. One figurine (fig. 6/19) possibly depicts a horse (Куштан 2015, 437, рис. 5/16). Similar zoomorphic figurines were found at the Trojaniv site (Дергачев 2022, рис. 22/15). A zoomorphic figurine (a horse?) was found at the Dereivka culture site of Molyukhiv Bugor. Its modeling is similar to that of the Kosenivka group (fig. 6/20), but it was



Fig. 6. Materials from the Kosenivka group sites:
1-3, 14, 15 - Apolyanka; 4, 13, 17 - Kosenivka; 5, 20-23 - Molyukhov Bugor; 6-8 - Vilkhovets; 9-11 - Sharyn III; 12 - Sobkivka; 13, 27 - Gordashivka II; 18 - Rogy; 19, 29, 30 - Sharyn III; 24, 25 - Gard; 26 - Maidanetske (1-3, 14, 15, 18 - according to Videiko et al. 2025; 4, 16 - according to Круц и др. 2005; 5, 21-23 - according to Нераденко 2017; 17 - according to Бузян 2004; 9-11, 19, 28, 29 - according to Куштан 2025; 25 - according to Товкайло 2019; 26 - according to Шмаглий, Видейко 2001-2002).

molded from clay with a significant admixture of shell (Нераденко 2017, 329, фото 3). This find should likely be viewed as a direct result of the Kosenivka group's traditions. The links between the Dereivka culture and the Kosenivka group are also confirmed by the finds of Kosenivka pottery at the Molyukhiv Bugor site (fig. 6/21-23).

Isolated finds of three-dimensional ceramic symbols in the form of ceramic balls and cones, characteristic of Trypillian sites of the B II-C I stage, were found in Kosenivka and Sharyn III (Куштан 2015, 437, рис. 5/15).

**Radiocarbon dates and absolute dating**

More than 70 of radiocarbon dates have been obtained at different times and in different laboratories for Kosenivka group sites such as Apolyanka, Kosenivka, Vilkhovets, Moshuriv II, Rohy, and Sharyn. At first glance, this is sufficient to reliably date the group. However, in reality, the picture turns out to be more complex.

*Apolyanka*. Two of five samples from the exploration trench at Apolyanka were successfully dated (Müller et al. 2025, 345). These are samples Poz-114541 from the upper part of the pit fill and sample Poz-114172 from the deepest layer of the fill containing finds. The pit filling most likely began around 3700 BC and was completed by approximately 3600 BC (Müller et al. 2025, fig. 16, tab. 1). The long age of the Apolyanka settlement – 145 years, according to radiocarbon dating – can be explained by the presence of nearby natural flint resources. It is located in a ravine that surrounds the Apolyanka settlement from the north and is located only 5 m below the modern surface, as established by field research by P. Shydlovsky. The presence of local processing is confirmed by flint waste collected at the settlement (Шидловський та ін. 2004, 362, рис. 3).

*Vylkhovets*. Four isotopic determinations obtained from samples (animal bones) taken from pit 1 and made in the Kyiv Laboratory gave dates that fall within the first half of the 3rd millennium BC – between 2800-2400 BC (Відейко 2020). Such dating of the Kosenivka group site looks clearly rejuvenated. The reason for this is probably to be seen in the location of the settlement on the territory of the Ukrainian Crystalline Shield, where rivers are fed by sources with an increased content of radioactive substances. This may affect the dating results if samples of animal bones were used, the composition of which has changed accordingly, in particular, a reduced content of collagen has been repeatedly recorded in the laboratory. A similar effect was observed in this region, for example, for the settlement of stage II near the village of Nebelivka, which yielded a series of rejuvenated dates dating back to the end of the 3rd millennium BC. The solution is to use other materials for dating or to date large series of bone samples with subsequent rejection of inconsistent results. A series of 10 isotopic dates obtained for another settlement of the Kosenivka group – Sharyn III – generally falls within the range of 3600-3100 BC, and, according to the researcher of the site, it should be dated to 3300-3200 BC (Куштан 2015, 438, табл. 1). Given the fact that Vilkhovets (according to archaeological data) is an earlier site, the site should quite likely date before 3500 BC. This conclusion is not contradicted by the isotopic dating of the Eneolithic horizon of Molyukhov Bugor in the interval 3950-3550/3500 BC (Нераденко 2017, 479), the connection with which was established on the basis of analogies in the decor of kitchen ware and the presence of "imports" of painted pottery from the Kosenivka group sites in it.

*Kosenivka*. There are about forty dates in total, of which 15 were made in the Kyiv laboratory on unspecified animal bones from house 3. The date KIA-56328 indicates the range of existence of the house in the interval 3761-3633 BS. The rest of the dates were made in Poznań and other laboratories outside Ukraine. Animal bones (9 dates) and human remains (14 dates) found among the ruins of House 6 were used as samples (Fuchs et al. 2023, table 3). They cover a significant period of about 800 years between the end of 5 (starting with 4200 BS) and the second half of 4 thousand BC (up to 3374 inclusive), which is clearly more than the time of the existence of the settlement. As a result, the researchers who studied human remains from dwelling 6 settled on the period between 3715-3635 and 3585-3500 BS, in the title of the article – 3700-3600 BS (Fuchs et al. 2023).

*Moshuriv II*. Three largely concordant dates were obtained in the Poznań Laboratory. They come from the area outside the burnt house investigated in Moshuriv 2. The sample material included the bones of a cow or horse, as well as another cow. The bones were dated between 3756 and 3516 BCE (68.3%) or most likely between 3695 and 3625 BCE (Müller et al. 2025, fig. 17, tab. 2).

*Rohy*. Three dates were also obtained in the Poznań laboratory. The samples were obtained from different depths of the pit fill. The samples included the bones of large mammals and a cow. According to the dates, the pit was filled between 3765 and 3483 (68.3%) or, on average, between 3713 and 3539 BCE (Müller et al. 2025, fig. 17, tab. 2).

*Sharyn III*. For the absolute dating of the settlement of Sharin III at different times, 18 dates were extracted from the Kiev and Poznan laboratories (Куштан 2015, табл. 1; Shatilo 2022, Appendix 2.

List of 14C dates. In a number of images, brushes were used critters (including burnt ones), mortar, ceramics. The chronological range 3353-3167 BCE was found behind the brushes. The objects were given dates of 3520-3170, 3495-3095 and 3630-3100 cal BC. The date for the Sharin III site is in the range of 3500-3100 cal BC. Among them, the interval 3300-3200 cal BC looks the most promising. It is important to note that the dates collected in Poznań span a slightly longer period and extend into 3 thousand BCE (Shatilo 2022, appendix 2, list of 14C dates).

In our opinion, based on the dates obtained to date, the most likely dating for the Kosenivka group is between 3600 and 3200 BC. The example of radiometric dating of the Kosenivka group clearly demonstrates that a large number of dates does not translate into quality dating when the samples are so diverse: from the bones of various animals and humans to fragments of pottery and plasterwork from dwellings. This is a common problem for dating Cucuteni-Trypillia sites, regardless of the phase to which they are assigned (Videiko 2024). In this case, the use of archaeological dating, taking into account imports, could help clarify the matter.

**Radiocarbon dating vs. archaeological dating**

The radiometric chronology of the Kosenivka group settlements, when compared with the archaeological chronology derived from the study of ceramic assemblages, raises several questions. Dates were previously obtained from sites in the Tomashivka group (Müller et al. 2016, list 1), and these dates, if shown above, overlap with the dates of the Kosenivka group sites. This means that the early Kosenivka group sites must have coexisted at this region with the later sites of the Tomashivka group. Ideas on this issue, based on some archaeological finds, have been previously expressed, for example, by T. Tkachuk (Ткачук 2011, рис. 4). We are dealing with a situation where radiocarbon dating cannot always be reliably confirmed by archaeological sources.

Theoretically, the Maidanetske and Apolyanka pottery assemblages could have some items, imported from each other. To date, the only such product is the fragment of bowl from Maidanetske (Шмаглій, Відейко 2001-2002, рис. 42/2). The real distance between the Kosenivka and Maidanetske sites, however, does not exceed 35 km along modern roads. At the same time, dozens of ceramic samples imported from the Dniester and Southern Bug interfluve, from sites of the Chechelnytskyi group, have been found at Maidanetske. This suggests that distance was not a barrier to the exchange of pottery. On the other hand, a small amount of kaolin ceramics, typical of the Tomashivka group, was found among the vessel fragments from Apolyanka. However, in this case, we may also be talking about raw materials for pottery production that were commonly available in this region. Imports from the Kosenivka group have not yet been discovered at the Talyanki site (Tomashivka group, ntar 25 km distance), although more than 50 houses have been explored there. An overlap of radiocarbon dates from the Kosenivka group was previously noted even for the Nebelivka site of stage Trypillia BII (Müller et al. 2022), where not a single fragment of ware from the Kosenivka group sites was found. Similarly, Nebelivka-type ceramics have never been found at Kosenivka group settlements. Nebelivka is located only about 25 km from the Sverdlikovo site, which belongs to the Kosenivka group, so distance was not an barrier to the exchange. It looks, that as in many other cases, we are dealing with a problem that most likely arose due to the chaotic selection of samples for dating (Videiko 2024). The small number of probably imports collected in the sites of the Kosenivka group, and their fragmentation makes it impossible to conduct a definitive comparison of archaeological finds.

The relative chronology of the Tomashivka and Kosenivka groups can also be determined by comparing kitchen pottery. Based on this, the Talne 3 settlement can be considered earlier. Later settlements include Apolyanka and Moshuriw 2 of the Kosenivka group, which is supported by the fact that their ceramic assemblages include kitchen pottery with vertical lines on the neck (fig. 5/1-6; 6/13, 18, 20), which was widespread in the previous stages. The fact that such vessels with scratches were not found at the Rohy site (fig. 5) suggests its later existence. This hypothesis is supported by a collection of painted tableware from this site, which differs in a number of features (fig. 5/5, 7, 10, 15) from those found at the Apolyanka and Moshuriv II sites. Apolyanka's earlier date within the Kosenivka group is also supported by a collection of anthropomorphic figurines with archaic features, not assigned to the CII stage. It can also be argued that the synchronicity of the

Kosenivka and Tomashivka groups still lacks sufficiently reliable archaeological evidence. Moreover, evidence from the Kosenivka group settlements is particularly lacking.

The Kosenivka, Apolyanka, and Moshuriv II sites can be synchronized with the Vilkhovets site thanks to a collection of vessels and figurines. They can be assigned to the early phase of the Kosenivka group, the final stage of the Trypillia CI, and dated to 3700-3600 BC. The latest in the group, based on archaeological materials and radiocarbon dating (Кушпан 2015), should be the settlement of Sharyn (3300-3200 BC), the first half of the Trypillia CII stage.

**Conclusions**

Systematization of excavation materials from the Kosenivka group sites also yielded several interesting conclusions. The Kosenivka group, which emerged in the region of megasites at the end of their heyday, is of significant interest for studying the process of their disintegration, as well as the "disappearance" of Trypillia in this region. It is represented by both megasites (at the beginning of their existence) and small settlements. The latter predominate during the Trypillia CII stage. In our opinion, based on the dates obtained to date, the most likely dating for the Kosenivka group is between 3600 and 3200 BC.

The study of the Kosenivka group ceramic assemblages has yielded results that allow us to understand the interactions during this interesting period between various groups of Cucuteni-Trypillia, as well as those of other cultures, from the Dnieper in the east and the Prut in the west, as well as Eastern Volyn in the north to the rapids of the Southern Bug in South. The period of this interaction spans approximately 400 years.

The painted pottery of the Kosenivka group settlements primarily attests to this interaction and mutual influence of the ceramic traditions of different local-chronological groups within the Cucuteni-Trypillia cultural complex. Early-phase settlements of the Kosenivka group have documented contacts with the Badrazhy, Chechelyk and probably Tomashivka groups, while late-phase sites have documented contacts with the Brynzeny and Vykhvatintsy groups, as well as with the Dereivka (Molyukhov Bugor) and Usatovo cultures (Gard cemetery). These examples demonstrate the diversity and breadth of external contacts among one of the Trypillia groups located on its eastern border.

The new vector of connections for the Kosenivka group, which has been determined with considerable precision, was the Northern. A significant transformation of ceramic traditions is observed in the ceramic assemblages of the Kosenivka group settlements during the transition from the early to the late phase. At the Trypillia CII stage, category I pottery (painted), although accounting for 5%-7%, generally retain the characteristics of the early phase. Subcategory III 2 ceramics, which predominates in the late-phase sites, cannot be directly derived from the ceramic traditions of the Trypillia C I sites (i.e., Cucuteni C pottery). At the same time, in terms of morphological and stylistic features, subcategory III 2 pottery is close to the ware of the Trojaniv and Khoryv groups in Volyn, which formed under the strong influence of the FBC. These connections should probably be taken into account in the future studies of the pottery assemblages of the Trojaniv and Horodsk groups. Thus, subcategory III 2 pottery record a Northward reorientation of the ceramic tradition of the late phase of the Kosenivka group of the Trypillia C II stage. This may also indicate the route the Trypillia population may have taken after 3200 BC, when the later settlementsites of the Kosenivka group ceased to exist.

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## Grupul Kosenivka al complexului cultural Cucuteni-Trypillia

*Cuvinte-cheie:* Cucuteni-Trypillia, grupul local Kosenivka, Kosenivka, aşezări, locuinţe, ceramică, cronologie absolută.

*Rezumat:* Complexul cultural Cucuteni-Trypillia este considerat, în prezent, de cercetători un conglomerat de grupuri cronologice locale (denumite în continuare *grupuri*) de situri. Astfel, pentru prima jumătate a mileniului IV a. Chr., au fost identificate peste o duzină de asemenea grupuri. Prin urmare, o sarcină importantă este studierea acestor grupuri, stabilirea originilor, conexiunilor şi locului lor în cadrul complexului cultural Cucuteni-Trypillia. Siturile grupului Kosenivka sunt situate între râurile Bugul de Sud şi Nipru, într-o regiune ocupată anterior de megasiturile culturii Trypillia, ce au aparţinut grupului Tomashika. Cu grupul Kosenivka se asociază megaaşezările

cunoscute aici, Kosenivka şi Vilkhovets, care în sistemul de periodizare cuprind finalul etapei CI şi începutul etapei CII. Grupul Kosenivka a fost identificat în urmă cu peste patruzeci de ani, dar până acum a lipsit o caracterizare sistematică a particularităţilor lui culturale, ceea ce făcea dificilă înţelegerea locului acestuia în cadrul complexului cultural Cucuteni-Trypillia. Scopul acestui articol este de a oferi o astfel de caracterizare, pe cât e posibil, şi de a examina istoriografia problemei, originea, periodizarea internă, cronologia şi relaţiile grupului Kosenivka cu alte grupuri ale complexului cultural Cucuteni-Trypillia.

*Lista ilustraţiilor:*

Fig. 1. Hartă. Siturile grupului Kosenivka şi ale vecinilor săi. Legendă: a - sit; b - locuri cu descoperiri de importuri din grupul Kosenivka. Literele de pe hartă indică: a - sit; b - locuri cu descoperiri de importuri din grupul Kosenivka. Numerele de pe hartă indică: 1 - Sobkivka; 2 - Sharyn; 3 - Kocherzhyntsi; 4 - Kosenivka; 5 - Apolyanka; 6 - Moshuriv II; 7 - Gordashivka II; 8 - Rohy; 9 - Sverdlykove; 10 - Vilkhovets; 11 - Molyukhov Bugor; 12 - Gard; 13 - Pribugske.

Fig. 2. Tipuri morfologice de ceramică din categoria I (pictată) din siturile de tip Kosenivka: 1-8 - străchini conice; 9-15 - străchini semisferice; 16 - străchini cu profil în „S"; 18-26 - oale; 27, 28 - oale cu toartă; 29-31 - cupe; 32-35 - ulcioare; 36-46 - vase sfero-conice; 47 - vas cu toartă; 48 - capac; 49 - vas pe picior.

Fig. 3. Ceramică pictată din grupul Kosenivka: 1-4, 12, 14-18, 21-24 - Kosenivka; 5-11 - Sharyn III; 17, 25 - după Passek 1935; 19 - Prybuzhany; 20 - Varvarovka VIII; 25 - Hordashivka II; 26-39 - Apolyanka; 40, 41 - Moshuriv II; 42 - Rohy; 43 - Sobkivka; 44 - Vilkhovets (2, 14, 21-24 - după Круц и др. 2005; 5-11 - după Куштан 2015; 13, 43 - după Мовша 1984; 15, 16, 18 - după Бузян 2004; 19 - după Гребенніков, Смирнов 2015; 20 - după Маркевич 1985; 25 - după Рыжов 2001-2002; 26-42 - după Videiko et al. 2025; 44 - după Відейко 2020).

Fig. 4. Ceramică din faza timpurie a grupului Kosenivka: 1-9, 11-14 - Kosenivka (după Бузян 2004); 10 - Vilkhovets (după Відейко 2020).

Fig. 5. Ceramică de categoria a III-a din siturile grupului Kosenivka: I. 1-9 - Vilkhovets; 10, 11 - Kosenivka; 12 - Apolyanka; 13-19 - Moshuriv II; 20-22 - Gordashivka II; 24, 25 - Sharyn III; 26, 27 - Kocherzhyntsy-Shulgovka (1-9 - după Відейко 2020; 10, 11 - după Круц и др. 2005; 12 - după Videiko et al. 2025; 13-26 - după Рыжов 2001-2002; 27 - după Мовша 1984). II. Tipuri morfologice de ceramică din categoriile III 1 şi III 2. 1-6 - oale din categoria III 1; 7, 8 - străchini conice. Ceramică din categoria III 2: 9-11 - străchini semisferice; 12 - străchini cu profil în formă de „S"; 13, 14 - străchini mari cu mânere-urechiuşe; 15, 16 - oale. 1, 2, 17, 18, 26, 27 - Vilkhovets; 3, 4, 19, 28 - Moshuriv II; 5, 15, 20, 29, 30 - Apolyanka; 6, 9, 21, 31 - Kosenivka; 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 22-25, 32-41 - Sharyn III.

Fig. 6. Materiale din siturile grupului Kosenivka: 1-3, 14, 15 - Apolyanka; 4, 13, 17 - Kosenivka; 5, 20-23 - Molyukhov Bugor; 6-8 - Vilkhovets; 9-11 - Sharyn III; 12 - Sobkivka; 13, 27 - Gordashivka II; 18 - Rogy; 19, 29, 30 - Sharyn III; 24, 25 - Gard; 26 - Maidanetske (1-3, 14, 15, 18 - după Videiko et al. 2025; 4, 16 - după Круц и др. 2005; 5, 21-23 - după Нераденко 2017; 17 - după Бузян 2004; 9-11, 19, 28, 29 - după Куштан 2025; 25 - după Товкайло 2019; 26 - după Шмаглий, Видейко 2001-2002).

## Косеновская группа культурного комплекса Кукутень-Триполье

*Ключевые слова:* Кукутень-Триполье, Косеновская локальная группа, Косеновка, поселения, жилища, керамика, абсолютная хронология.

*Резюме:* Культурный комплекс Кукутень-Триполье ныне рассматривается исследователями как совокупность локально-хронологических групп (далее групп) памятников. В рамках первой половины IV тыс. до н.э. их выделено более десятка. Поэтому важной задачей является изучение этих групп, установление из происхождения, связей и места в системе Кукутень-Триполья. Поселения косеновской группы расположены в междуречье Южного Буга и Днепра, в регионе, где ранее существовали мега-поселения культуры Триполье, принадлежащие к томашевской группе. С косеновской группой связаны последние из известных мега-поселений – Косеновка (укр. Косенівка) и Ольховец (укр. Вільховець). В системе периодизации она охватывает финал стадии С1 и начало стадии С2. Косеновская группа была выделена более сорока лет тому назад, однако до сих пор отсутствовала системная характеристика ее культурных особенностей, что затрудняло понимание ее места в системе групп трипольской культуры. Цель статьи – дать, по возможности, такую характеристику, а также рассмотреть историографию вопроса, темы происхождения, внутренней периодизации и связей косеновской группы.

*Список иллюстраций:*

Рис. 1. Карта. Поселения косеновской группы и ее соседи. Условные обозначения: a -поселения; b - места находки импортов с поселений косеновской группы. Цифрами на карте обозначены: 1 - Собкивка; 2 - Шарин; 3 - Кочержинци; 4 - Косенивка; 5 - Аполянка; 6 - Мошурив II; 7 - Гордашивка II; 8 - Роги; 9 - Свердликове; 10 - Вильховець; 11 - Молюхов Бугор; 12 - Гард; 13 - Прибугское.

Рис. 2. Морфологические типы керамики I категории (расписной) с поселений косеновского типа: 1-8 - конические миски; 9-15 - полусферические миски; 16 - миски с профилем в форме «S»; 18-26 - горшки; 27, 28 - горшки с ручкой; 29-31 - кубки; 32-35 - кувшины; 36-46 - сфероконические сосуды; 47 - сосуд с ручкой; 48 - крышка; 49 - сосуд на ножках.

Рис. 3. Расписная керамика косеновской группы: 1-4, 12, 14-18, 21-24 - Косенивка; 5-11 -Шарин III; 17, 25 - по Passek 1935; 19 - Прибужаны; 20 - Варваровка VIII; 25 - Гордашевка II; 26-39 - Аполянка; 40, 41 - Мошурив II; 42 - Роги; 43 - Собкивка; 44 - Вильховец (2, 14, 21-24 - по Круц и др. 2005; 5-11 - по Куштан 2015; 13, 43 - по Мовша 1984; 15, 16, 18 - по Бузян 2004; 19 - по Гребенніков, Смирнов 2015; 20 - по Маркевич 1985; 25 - по Рыжов 2001-2002; 26-42 - по Videiko et. al. 2025; 44 - по Відейко 2020).

Рис. 4. Керамика ранней фазы косеновской группы: 1-9, 11-14 - Косенивка (по Бузян 2004); 10 - Вильховець (по Відейко 2020).

Рис. 5. Керамика III категории с поселений косеновской группы. I. 1-9 - Вильховець; 10, 11 - Косенивка; 12 - Аполянка; 13-19 - Мошурив II; 20-22 - Гордашивка II; 24, 25 - Шарин III; 26, 27 - Кочержинцы-Шульговка (1-9 - по Відейко 2020; 10, 11 - по Круц и др. 2005; 12 - по Videiko et al. 2025; 13-26 - по Рыжов 2001-2002; 27 - по Мовша 1984). II. Морфологические типы керамики III 1 и III 2 категорий: 1-6 - горшки III 1 категории; 7, 8 - конические миски. Керамика III 2 категории: 9-11 - полусферические миски; 12 - миски с профилем в форме «S»; 13, 14 - крупные миски с ручками-ушками; 15, 16 - горшки. 1, 2, 17, 18, 26, 27 - Вильховец; 3, 4, 19, 28 - Мошурив II; 5, 15, 20, 29, 30 - Аполянка; 6, 9, 21, 31 - Косеновка; 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 22-25, 32-41 - Шарин.

Рис. 6. Материалы косеновской группы: 1-3, 14, 15 - Аполянка; 4, 13, 17 - Косенивка; 5, 20-23 - Молюхов Бугор; 6-8 - Вильховец; 9-11 - Шарин III; 12 - Собкивка; 13, 27 - Гордашивка II; 18 - Роги; 19, 29, 30 - Шарин III; 24, 25 - Гард; 26 - Майданецкое (1-3, 14, 15, 18 - по Videiko et al. 2025; 4, 16 - по Круц и др. 2005; 5, 21-23 - по Нераденко 2017; 17 - по Бузян 2004; 9-11, 19, 28, 29 - по Куштан 2025; 25 - по Товкайло 2019; 26 - по Шмаглий, Видейко 2001-2202).

15.03.2026

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