

Contents

List of Figures	vii
List of Plates	x
List of Tables.....	xi
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Position and characteristics of the site	1
1.2. History of research and stratigraphy of the site	2
2. The Characteristics of the Early Bronze Age Necropolis.....	5
2.1. The architecture of the necropolis and graves and burial customs	5
2.1.1. The northern segment of the necropolis	5
2.1.2. The eastern segment of the necropolis	21
2.1.3. The southern segment of the necropolis.....	21
3. Finds from the Graves.....	49
3.1. The northern segment of the necropolis.....	49
3.1.1. Grave 1	49
3.1.2. Grave 2	49
3.1.3. Grave 3	49
3.1.4. Grave 4	50
3.1.5. Grave 5	50
3.1.6. Grave 6	52
3.1.7. Grave 7	52
3.1.8. Grave 8	52
3.1.9. Grave 9	53
3.1.10. Grave 10	53
3.1.11. Grave 11	53
3.1.12. Grave 12	53
3.1.13. Grave 13	53
3.2. The southern segment of the necropolis.....	55
3.2.1. Grave 14	55
3.2.2. Grave 15	55
3.2.3. Grave 16	56
3.2.4. Grave 17	57
3.2.5. Grave 18	58
3.2.6. Grave 19	58
3.2.7. Grave 20	60
3.2.8. Grave 21	60
3.2.9. Grave 22	61
3.2.10. Grave 23	61
3.3. The eastern segment of the necropolis.....	62
3.3.1. Grave 1	62
4. The Analysis of the Necropolis Inventory.....	65
4.1. Cups.....	65
4.2. Bowls.....	65
4.3. Beakers.....	67
4.4. Amphorae	68
4.5. Ember containers.....	68
4.6. Other types of vessels and the remaining finds.....	71
4.6.1. Double-vessel	71
4.6.2. Askos	71
4.6.3. Vessel on a high foot	71
4.6.4. Stone axe	73

5. The Anthropological Analysis and Burial Rites	75
5.1. The anthropological analysis.....	75
5.2. The analysis of the architecture of the necropolis and burial rites.....	75
6. The Dating of the Necropolis.....	81
7. Interpretation of the Necropolis through the Social and Cultural Processes in the Central Balkans in the Early Bronze Age	85
8. Conclusion	95
Bibliography	97
Appendix 1. Wood charcoal from Early Bronze Age funeral pyres in Ranutovac, southeast Serbia	103
Introduction	103
Methodology	103
Selection and processing of the archaeobotanical samples	103
Sorting of the samples and identification of the plant remains	103
Results of the analysis.....	105
Plant remains from flotation samples	105
Hand-collected wood charcoal	106
Discussion	106
The availability of wood in the area of Ranutovac	106
The choice of wood for funeral pyres at Ranutovac	107
Conclusions.....	108
References.....	108
Appendix 2. Characterization of Early Bronze Age pottery fragments from the Meanište site in the village of Ranutovac near Vranje, Serbia.....	111
1. Introduction.....	111
2. Materials and methods	111
2.1. Pottery fragments and preparation for analysis.....	111
2.2. Analytical techniques	112
3. Results and discussion.....	113
4. Conclusion.....	114
References.....	120