

# ANTHROPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF A BRONZE AGE SKELETON FROM SĂUCEȘTI (BACĂU COUNTY)

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The article refers to a female skeleton, estimated to be 40–60 years old at the moment of death, belonging to a Bronze Age grave – Monteoru culture, excavated in 1973, in the southern brink of the Morărița plateau, in the Săucești village, Bacău County. The skeleton presents an interesting case of two depressed cranial vault fractures, associated with a ‘parry’ fracture of the right forearm. The location, severity and mainly the predominance of this type of blows in other cases of female skeletons belonging to the Monteoru culture, lead to the idea of domestic violence rather than intertribal wars, as it has been asserted in the archaeological literature for a long time.

## INTRODUCTION

The skeleton under analysis belongs to a Bronze Age grave, dated in the Monteoru culture, being found by chance – and afterwards investigated through a sounding excavation. The grave, belonging to a Bronze Age necropolis destroyed by the locals, was found in 1973, in the southern brink of the Morărița plateau, in the Săucești village, Bacău County (Figure 1e), during the investigation of a carpic cemetery (Căpitanu 1976: 151–182; Căpitanu, V. Ursachi 1979: 137, note 6). The skeleton laying crouched, with the head towards west, had as inventory a cup, a bronze needle, a *Lockenring* and two fragments from a miniature vessel<sup>1</sup>, which were attributed by mistake to the phase/ceramics style Monteoru Ic2 (Căpitanu 1976: 151–153), being rather typical to the phase/ceramics style Monteoru Ic1–Ib.

## STATE OF PRESERVATION AND REPRESENTATION

The skeleton is rather poorly preserved and displayed due to the fact that some of the bones were not recovered from the field. Also, the bones show deposits of calcareous crust from the wrapping soil and the lack of some parts because of

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<sup>1</sup>The last two pieces of the inventory were identified while cleaning the osteological materials in our laboratory.