

TYPOLOGY OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR OF TÂRNAVA MARE BETWEEN BLAJ AND COPȘA MICĂ

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ABSTRACT: *The human settlements located between Blaj and Copșa Mică constitute a veritable system of settlements located in the Târnavei Mari corridor, a corridor that represents a transport axis for the flow of matter, energy and information in the east-west direction.*

Keywords: *villages; number of inhabitants; rural functions; valley corridor;*

Introduction

From Blaj to Copșa Mică there is a valley corridor created by the Târnava Mare river. Within this corridor, which has an appreciable width, it is easy to identify the meadow and the wide terraces, which from ancient times represented an important element of locating the population. At the same time, the valley of Târnava Mare constituted a geographical axis that determined the concentration and dispersion of the flow of human energy in the east-west direction. These features determined the emergence of numerous local communities, which over time created a special material and spiritual culture.

Problem Description

In time and space, localities appear and disappear due to the change in the conditions that generated them. Traces of habitation date back to antiquity, in the Daco-Roman era, the vestiges from Micăsasa being known, but most of the villages in this geographical area appeared during the Middle Ages. This moment coincides with the occupation of Transylvania by the Hungarians (thirteenth century) and the administrative organization of the new

territories, when many of these communities are documented.

For the present study, we analyzed rural settlements belonging to two territorial administrative units, namely: Valea Lungă commune with the villages: Valea Lungă (communal center), Glogoveț, Lunca and Lodroman, Micăsasa commune with the villages: Micăsasa (communal center), Țapu and Chesler. Currently, these localities located between the cities of Blaj and Copșa Mică typologically fall into several categories that we will analyse in the following.

Obtained results

The analysis of the relationship between physical-geographical conditions and rural settlements, which can be approached on a local scale, highlights morphological site types.

According to the location, there are several categories of villages: the villages located on the slope glacis (Țapu), with a low slope and optimal conditions for agricultural processing of the land; the villages located on the lower course of the tributaries (Lunca, Valea Lungă), where the valleys open to the Târnava Mari corridor, offered shelter conditions and limited possibilities for practicing agriculture due to the steep slopes

and the presence of landslides occupying important areas; villages positioned on the middle course of some secondary tributaries (Șeica Mică) where the local geological and morphological conditions determined the formation of small basins that offered good possibilities for cultivating the land and ancestral settlements (Chesler, Glogoveț), located in the upper course of some secondary tributaries, which have optimal microclimate conditions, but restrictive spatial development due to slopes with medium slope, landslides; the dejection cone site (Micăsasa), where the extended space, the corridor microclimate are factors that were the basis of the early appearance of settlements.

The circular hydrographic network imposed by the presence of the Tăuni gas dome, imposed the appearance of village hearth alignments along the Tăuni and Lodroman streams, here it is about the villages of Valea Lungă and Tăuni along the Tăuniului valley and Lodroman and Lunca along the Lodroman stream valley. The two tributaries located on the right side of Târnavă Mari have their sources in the area of the buttonhole of the Tăuni dome.

The shape of the settlements refers to the outline of the hearths, respectively to the demarcation line that can be established from the rural territory. It is therefore clear that the form depends on the concrete way of grouping the households in the hearth, i.e. on the structure of the settlement. This is also conditioned by a series of physical factors (the degree and way of fragmentation of the relief), historical-social, administrative demographic, etc.

Depending on the peculiarities of the relief and the possibilities of adapting to it, within the analyzed region, villages with elongated hearths (Valea Lungă, Chesler), tentaculars (Șeica Mica), were identified in the analyzed region, the ramification being imposed by the hydrographic network and tentaculars with a bifurcation located either in the middle part, or in one of the extremities (Țapu, Glogoveț). Due to the configuration and morphometry of the relief, but also the historical-demographic evolution, most rural settlements have a slightly irregular shape (fig. 1).

The structure highlights the degree of concentration or dispersion of houses within the hearth of the village. In the analysed



Fig. 1. Morphological types of sites

area, we find that the hearths generally fall into the open type. The common feature of these localities is the arrangement between the households or the built components of some generally agricultural uses. In villages where the ethnic German population predominated in the past, a higher degree of housing compaction within the hearth is observed.

The texture of the hearth highlights the spatial arrangement of the street frame. The correlation between the shape of the hearth and the texture reveals the existence of a regular texture determined by the positioning of the hearths along some hydrographic arteries.

From a demographic point of view, it can be observed that all the rural settlements, except the commune residences, belong to the category of small villages, and these are medium-sized villages (fig. 2), whose number of inhabitants varies between 59 (Chesler) and 1719 (Valea Lungă).

The characteristic functional typology is

that of villages with a predominant cereal profile and less animal husbandry.

A large part of the inhabitants are involved in the production activities specific to the neighboring towns (Blaj and Copșa Mică), having to resort to the daily commute.

Conclusions

The specific conditions of the natural framework of the Târnava Mare corridor determined an ancient and intense population so that human communities developed and united, creating an important material and spiritual culture. The spatial and demographic evolution of each individual settlement was conditioned by the proximity of neighboring cities and the road and rail transport systems that follow the river's axis. Against this background, there is a migration of the inhabitants towards the communal centers and urban areas and an acute depopulation of the villages located on the middle and upper courses of the tributaries of the Târnava Mare.

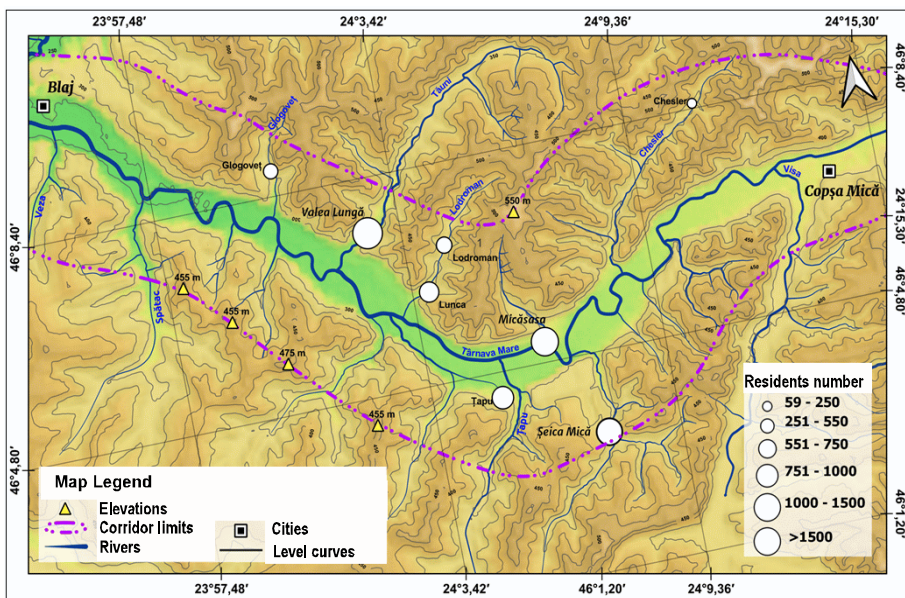


Fig. 2. Demographic structure

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