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Založila in izdala/Published by: Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete, Univerza v Ljubljani/
Ljubljana University Press, Faculty of Arts
(znanstvena.zalozba@ff.uni-lj.si; www.ff.uni-lj.si)

Za založbo/For the publisher: Prof. Dr. Roman Kuhar, dekan Filozofske fakultete

Naslov uredništva/Address of Editorial Board: Oddelek za arheologijo, Filozofska fakulteta,
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Spletni naslov/Website: <https://revije.ff.uni-lj.si/DocumentaPraehistorica>

ISSN 1408-967X (Print)
ISSN 1854-2492 (Online)



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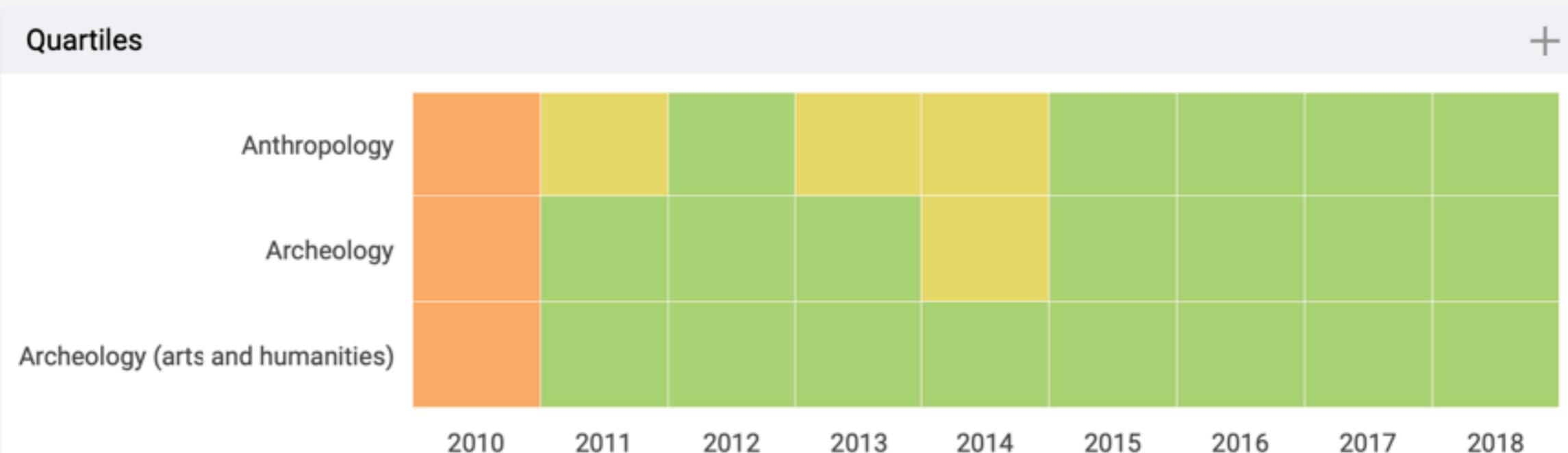
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Subject Area and Category	Arts and Humanities Archeology (arts and humanities)	
	Social Sciences Anthropology Archeology	H Index
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Publication type	Journals	
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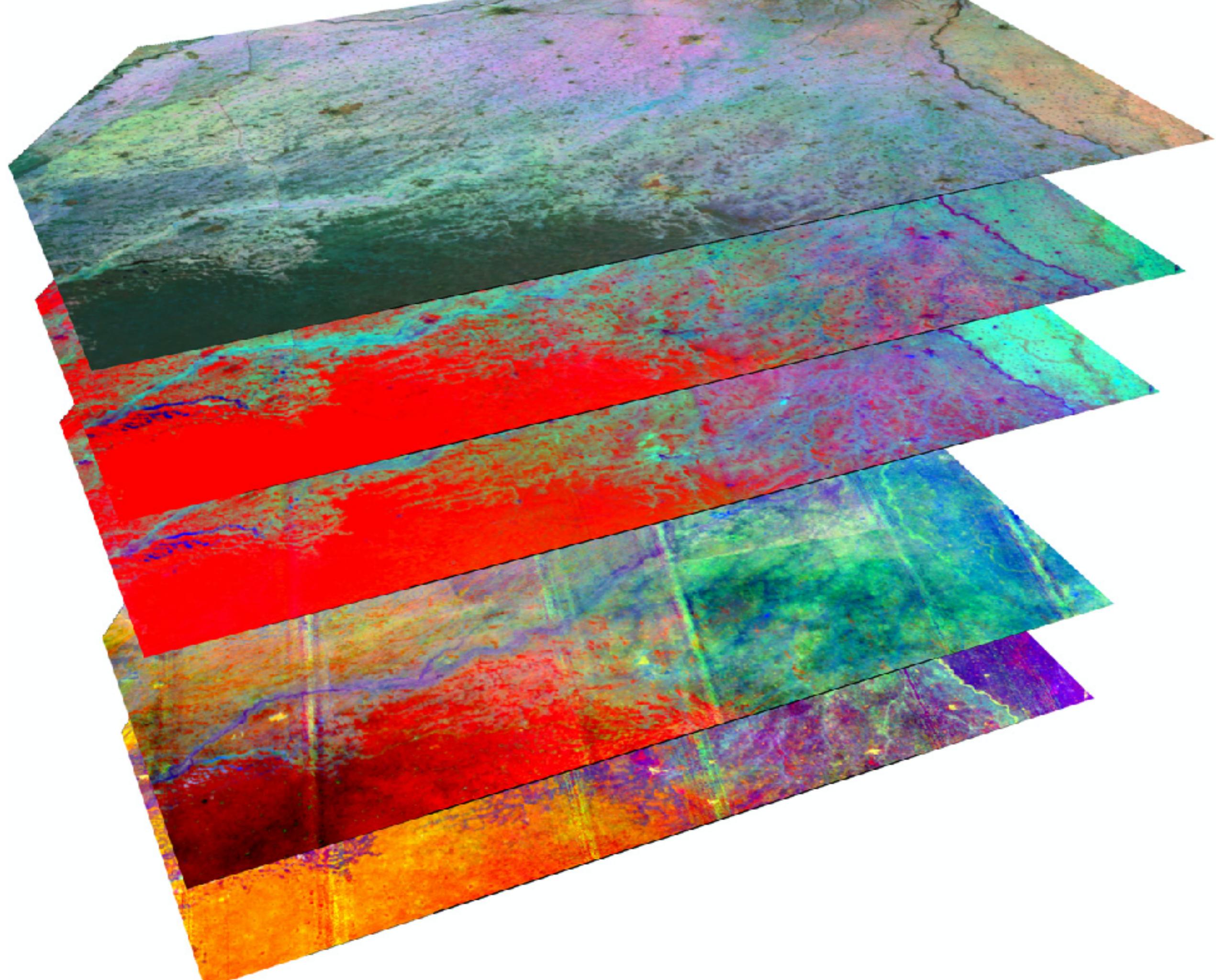




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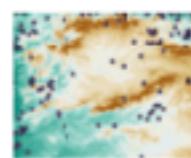
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Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani

ISSN (tiskana izdaja): 1408-967X

ISSN (spletna izdaja): 1854-2492

years (95% probability)" (*Denaire et al. 2017.1106*), based on two (!) ^{14}C dates (plus one outlier and two old charcoal dates, another date arbitrarily put to Phase IVa1, as shown above), seem to be neither overcautious nor overcritical but self-evident, even when neglecting the fact that the stylistic phases are found by a CA with its inherent statistical dating errors, consisting of inventories from several sites and different functional and social contexts, with individual filling histories, which makes typochronological divisions at this fine-grained level highly improbable. Even more, further OxCal mathematical artefacts become visible: (1) for unknown reasons the given estimates for the duration (e.g., "probably for 5–35 years (68% probability)" for phase IIb; *Denaire et al. 2017.1104*) are evidently too short, even the sum of the upper boundaries of the 68%-ranges lying slightly below the estimated overall duration (Tab. 5), and (2) there is a correlation between the number of ^{14}C dates per phase and their length according to Bayesian modelling. Using the means of the modelled boundaries between phases for calculation of durations (Tab. 5) the correlation is clearly significant (Spearman's rank correlation coefficient: $r_s = 0.8857$, $n = 6$, $p = 0.01$; Fig. 5); using the above mentioned modelled phase lengths, r_s is even higher (Tab. 5). Oxcal seemingly distributes the dates more or less evenly along the plateau of the IntCal13 curve. Using even numbers of dates per phase would not cure the fault but produce equal phase lengths. A robust estimate of phase lengths in the plateau, using the IntCal13 curve, is mathemat-

ticits of the present calibration curve as well as a lack of awareness of mathematical artefacts in Bayesian modelling on the other, are far from being 'robust chronologies', as claimed by Bánffy *et al.* (2018). A patchwork of contradictory chronologies for different parts of the Danubian sequence in different regions and even at single sites (as shown in Fig. 2) is no chronological model of any explanatory value. The conclusion of the authors concerning the greater effectiveness of "*our collective efforts ... if the strengths of the various approaches reviewed in this paper were to be applied more regularly and more systematically*" (Bánffy *et al.* 2018.131) can only be underlined. Bayesian statistics will provide a highly valuable instrument for absolute chronology once the main requirements are fulfilled: a precise calibration curve, better control of factors influencing dates, better knowledge of mathematical properties – presently this instrument only produces an illusion of robustness.

Appendices 1–6 are available at
<http://dx.doi.org/10.4312/dp.46.13>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Detlef Gronenborn for critical discussion and linguistic support, and thanks to Bernhard Weninger for his helpful and inspiring review. There was no funding needed nor claimed for defending my prior results.

‘Robust chronologies’ or ‘Bayesian illusion’? Some critical remarks on the use of chronological modelling

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Mainz, DE
strien@uni-mainz.de*

Appendices 1–6

Appendix 1

```
Plot()
{
  Sequence()
  {
    Boundary("Start");
    Phase("earliest")
    {
      Phase("southeast")
      {
        Phase("Apc")
        {
          R_Date("OxA-15426", 6272, 37);
        };
      };
    };
  };
}
```

```
R_Date("OxA-15426", 6272, 37);
};

Phase("Kleinhadersdorf")
{
  R_Date("VERA-2170", 6135, 35);
};
};

Phase("Eilsleben")
{
  R_Date("OxA-1624", 6140, 90);
  R_Date("OxA-1625", 6030, 100);
  R_Date("OxA-1626", 6070, 100);
  R_Date("OxA-1627", 6190, 90);
};
```

14C Age(BP)	cal BC	Lab index	Material for dating	δ¹³C	site	description of dated material	culture	
1	3870±30	2465-2211	Ле-10388	charcoal	Dubokray I	Western edge of the site, charcoal accumulation	Zhizhetskaya culture	
2	3520±30	1929-1753	Ле-10415	charcoal	Dubokray I	Square E/1, charcoal accumulation	Zhizhetskaya culture(?)	
3	3690±50	2268-1938	Ле-9537	charcoal	Dubokray I	Charcoals accumulation in the central part of the site, near big stones	Zhizhetskaya culture	
4	3770±50	2397-2031	Ле-9538	charcoal	Dubokray I	Charcoals accumulation in the central part of the site, near big stones	Zhizhetskaya culture	
5	3660±40	2190-1926	Ле-2838	wood	Dubokray I	Wood from the layer with cultural remains of Zhizhetskaya culture, sq. K/9	Zhizhetskaya culture	
6	3720±40	2275-1980	Ле-2840	wood	Dubokray I	Wood from the layer with cultural remains of Zhizhetskaya culture, sq. K/9	Zhizhetskaya culture	
7	3140±40	1501-1297	Ле-2839	wood	Dubokray I	Wood from the layer covered construction remains of North-belorussian culture, sq. K/9	North-belorussian culture	
8	2640±40	896-777	Ле-2837	wood	Dubokray I	Wood from the peat layer covered construction remains of North-belorussian culture, sq. K/9		
9	4000±85	2868-2287	Ле-9536	wood	Dubokray IV	pile №1	Wooden	Zhizhetskaya culture
10	4080±40	2863-2489	Ле-2999	charcoal	Dubokray V	Charcoal from cultural layer in south-western part of the site	Zhizhetskaya culture	
11	4430±60	3338-2917	Ле-3891	wood	Dubokray V	Wooden fragments from cultural layer in the central part of the site	Usviatskaya culture	
12	4720±40	3635-3374	Ле-3003	charcoal	Dubokray V	Wooden fragments from cultural layer in the central part of the site	Usviatskaya culture	
13	4090±50	2871-2490	GrA-21165	food crust	Dubokray V	Pottery decorated by traced lines (№323-2/110-4)	Pottery similar to pottery of southern Europe farming Neolithic communities	
14	4150 ± 50	2881-2581	GrA-21163	food crust	Dubokray V	Pottery decorated by traced lines, analogical to pottery of southern agricultural cultures (№323-2/110-2)	Pottery similar to pottery of southern Europe farming Neolithic communities	
15	4155 ± 45	2882-2600	GrA-21168	food crust	Dubokray V	Pottery decorated by traced lines put in curvilinear decor, analogical to pottery of southern agricultural cultures (№247-2/37,33, 20)	Pottery similar to pottery of southern Europe farming Neolithic communities	
16	4155±45	2882-2600	GrA -20689	food crust	Dubokray V	Pottery decorated by traced lines, analogical to pottery of southern agricultural cultures (№323-2/110-1)	Pottery similar to pottery of southern Europe farming Neolithic communities	
17	4820±130	3947-3351	Ле-6280	food crust	Dubokray V	Pottery of Usviatskaya culture (285-4/155)	Usviatskaya culture	
18	6000±800	6751-3096	Ле-6281	food crust	Dubokray V	Pottery decorated by roundish impressions (№239-5/556)		

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