

## THE TYPOLOGY OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN ȚARA OAȘULUI

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**ABSTRACT** — In this region, situated in the NW part of the country, the rural settlements are dominant. In order to establish a typology several criteria have been taken into account: the demographical size, the placement of the areas, the structure and the texture of the areas, the function of the settlements and, finally, the socio-economic potential. According to this potential there are 5 categories of rural settlements: 1) with a potential between 50–75 points; 2) 30–50 points; 3) 21–30 points; 4) 11–20 points; 5) up to ten points. The values have been obtained by using the bonus method. With the highest value are the seats of the communes, and between these Turț, Bixad, Orașu Nou and Vama are to be mentioned especially. The last category (up to ten points) are less viable settlements.

„Țara Oașului” is situated in the NW extremity of Romania, in the N part of Satu Mare County (occupying 1/6 of its territory). With a varied natural background which has as dominant elements the low Mountains of Oas and the Oas Depression, is an ancient romanian territory (Fig. 1).

„Țara Oașului” concentrates 36 rural settlements organised from the administrative point of view in 12 communes. (Fig. 2) The defining components of the rural settlements are interdependent and harmonious both at spatial levels and their inner structures, open to potential future optimization.

In our view, the type represents a model established by abstractization which reflects the general and essential conditions of a geographical phenomenon or component at one time.

Usually the multicriterial method is used in geography. Using this method and after the classification, abstractization, and generalization operations one can observed types which point out, qualitatively and quantitatively, the studied phenomena way of manifestation at the scale of some variable territory. When the unicriterial method is adopted the type can be substituted with the class, or the class can be the most simple type. From a conceptual point of view, the theoretical approach is important and is, usually, subordinated to the aim for which the analysis are done. The intensity and the number of indicators which define the simple typology depends on the dimension, the number of the investigated elements (in our case the number of settlements) and the followed aim. Nowadays the aims are ment to provide the territorial practice with detailed analysis. For the establishing of the simple typologies the following criteria are taken into account:

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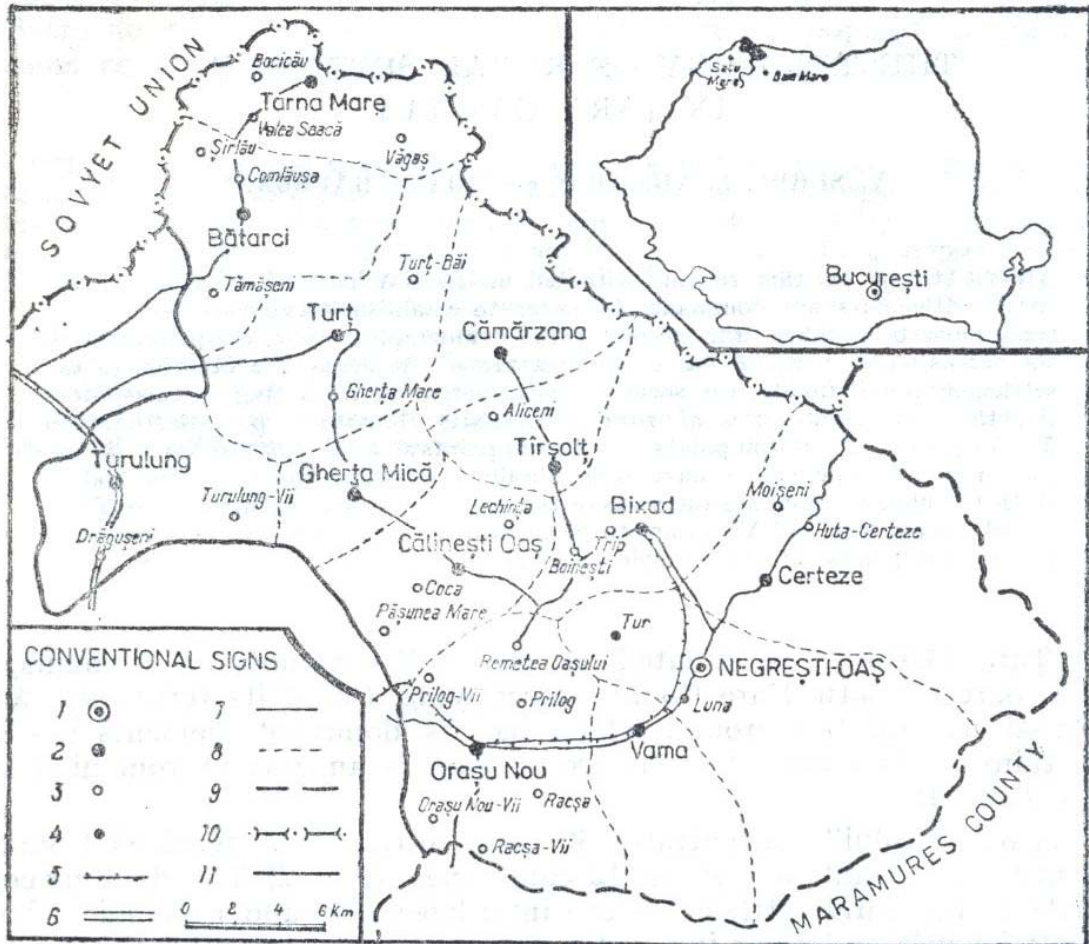


Fig. 1. Țara Oașului. The settlements. 1. Towns; 2. Seats of the commune; 3. Villages; 4. Places included in towns; 5. Rail-ways; 6. National ways; 7. County ways; 8. Commune limits; 9. County limits; 10. Country frontier; 11. Region limit.

A). The demographical size of the rural settlements; B). The placement of the areas; C). The structure of the areas; D). The form and the texture of the areas; E). The function of the settlements.

A). From the demographical point of view (number of inhabitants) these 36 settlements are divided into four principle classes (table 1).

1). *Small rural settlements* (under 500 inhabitants): represent 1/4 of the sum total but they hold only 4.4% of the population in „Țara Oașului”. The majority of them have 300–400 inhabitants and they were constituted on the demographical „swarming” phenomenon: Șirlău, Prilog-Vii, Orașu Nou-Vii, Racșa-Vii, Pășunea Mare, Turulung-Vii, Aliceni. In this category is to be observed the very small settlements subcategory, under 250 inhabitants, but which comprises only two villages: Turț-Băi and Văgaș.

2). *Middle rural settlements* (501–2000 inhabitants): represents almost 2/5 of the sum total and holds only 1/4 of the population (settlements with 1500–2000 inhabitants are fewer). The middle-superior subcategory



Table 1

## Classification of the rural settlements from the demographical size

N° of categories	Categories and subcategories	The number of rural settlements in each categ. & subcateg.	Percentage from the sum total of the settlements (%)	The number of inhab. in each categ. & subcateg.	Population percentage of the each categ. & subcateg. from the sum total population %
I	very small and small rural settlements:	9	25.0	2,737	4.4
	a) very small (<250 inhab.)	2	5.5	150	0.2
	b) small (251-500 inhab.)	7	19.5	2,587	4.2
II	middle rural settlem. (501-2.000 inhab.)	14	38.9	15,669	25.6
	a) middle inferior subcateg. (501-1000 inhab.)	5	13.9	3,864	6.3
	b) middle superior subcateg. (1.001-2.000 inhab.)	9	25.0	11,805	19.3
III	large rural settlem.	11	30.5	32,079	52.4
	a) 2.001-3.000 inhab.	6	13.9	14,926	24.4
	b) 3.001-4.000 inhab.	5	5.5	17,153	28.0
IV	very large rural settlements (> 4.000 inhab.)	2	5.5	10,676	17.6
T O T A L		36	100%	61,161	100%

(1001–2000) has a share three times greater than the middle-inferior subcategory of the sum total population. None of the seats of the commune is to be found in this category.

3). *Large rural settlements* (2001–4000 inhabitants): even if it represents only 30% of the sum total settlements in the region it concentrates more than a half of the population. Excepting Racșa, all of them are seats of the communes: Orașu Nou, Tarna Mare, Bătarci, Călinești-Oaș, Tîrșoț, Cămărzana, Gherța Mică, Turulung, Certeze; Vama.

4). *Very large rural settlements* (over 4000 inhabitants): there are only two of these but concentrate almost 1/5 of the population: Turț (5943 inhabitants) and Bixad (4733 inhabitants). A great percentage of the population (70%) is concentrated in large and very large settlements. As far as the number of the settlements is concerned there is an equilibrium between the categories.

B). *The placement of the areas*, being organized as a territory to meet the needs of the work force, is influenced by a series of geographical elements as relief and drainage. A concentration of the settlements is to be observed in the contact zone of the main relief features (vulcanic knob — depressions). According to the placement of the areas there are four categories:

- 1). Rural settlements with the areas on glacises;
- 2). Rural settlements with the areas on slopes;
- 3). Rural settlements with the areas on terraces, river flats and on depressions, colline relief;
- 4). Rural settlements with the areas on plains.
  - 1). The first category has four subcategories:
    - a). Rural settlements with the areas on glacises (and some dry deltas) and on the contact zone with the Oaș Depression. These settlements are placed exactly on the marginal strip of the Depression: Moșieni, Huta-Certeze, Certeze, Vama, Orașu Nou, Boinești, Trip, Bixad;
    - b). Rural settlements with the areas on the contact zone between the glacises and the river flats (of the most important streams): Tirșoț, Cămărzana, Gherța Mică, Gherța Mare, Turț.
    - c). Rural settlements with the areas on the contact zone between the glacises, the NW plain of the region and the most important valleys: Tarna Mare, Valea Seacă, Comlăușa, Coca, Bătarci.
    - d). Rural settlements with the areas only on glacises, are small excepting Călinești-Oaș and Racșa — (Racșa-Vii, Turulung-Vii, Aliceni, Șirlău).

2). In the second category there are:

- a). Settlements with the areas on glacises and on slopes: Prilog-Vii, Orașu Nou-Vii, Lechința;
- b). Settlements with the areas only on slopes, are the smallest and the less viable; Văgaș, Turț-Băi.

3). The settlements with the areas on terraces, depressions colline relief and, a little, on river flats are: Prilog and Remetea Oașului.

4) As for Bocicău, Pășunea Mare, Turulung and Drăgușeni they are situated on the plain.

C) As far as the structure of the areas is concerned there are five major types:

1) Settlements with collected structure, situated frequently on the outskirts of the Oaș Depression or on the plain or at the contact with it: Certeze, Huta-Certeze, Vama, Orașu Nou, Remetea Oașului, Bocicău, Turulung, Șirlău, Drăgușeni. This category, but with some discontinuity



zones in the areas, makes the transition to the following type (Prilog, Tarna Mare, Comlăușa, Tămășeni);

2) Settlements with collected-dispersed structure of the area are: Moișeni, Bixad, Boinești, Gherța Mică, Gherța Mare, Turț, Valea Seacă. (it is collected in the middle and dispersed on the outskirts);

3) Settlements with dispersed structure and with some concentration nucleus: Călinești-Oaș, Tîrșolt, Coca, Bătarci, Turulung-Vii, Prilog-Vii, Racșa-Vii, Orașu Nou-Vii;

4) Settlements with dispersed-dissipated structure are the smallest and are placed in high relief energy regions: Văgaș, Turț-Băi;

5) Settlements with complex structure — Cămărzana — with collected structure, discontinuity areas in the middle part and dispersed-dissipated in the rest.

D) Four types are to be mentioned in this category:

1) The settlements with linear texture are predominant and there are three sub-categories:

a) — settlements with simple linear texture: Prilog-Vii, Coca, Pășunea Mare, Turulung-Vii, Bocicău, Șirlău, Tămășeni, Drăgușeni;

b) — settlements with linear-tentacular texture: Huta-Certeze, Moișeni, Racșa-Vii, Orașu-Nou-Vii, Remetea Oașului, Boinești, Gherța Mare, Tarna Mare, Turulung;

c) — settlements with linear-rectangular texture: Prilog, Certeze (with parallel streets that are perpendicular on a central line).

2) Settlements with rectangular texture (but with tentacles): Vama, Bixad;

Table 2

The socioeconomic and natural potential

No	The settlement	POTENTIAL						
		Demographic	Endowment	Communication	Area's relief	Hydrologic	Industrial	General
1	Certeze *	7	16	4	3	2	4	36
2	Huta Certeze	3	10	4	2	2	-	21
3	Moișeni	3	8	2	2	2	-	17
4	Vama *	8	18	12	3	3	6	50
5	Orașu Nou *	5	18	12	3	3	15	56
6	Racșa	5	9	1	2	2	-	19
7	Racșa-Vii	1	3	2	2	1	-	9
8	Orașu Nou-Vii	1	5	2	2	1	-	11
9	Prilog	2	7	2	3	2	-	16
10	Prilog-Vii	1	2	1	1	1	-	5
11	Remetea Oașului	2	6	4	2	2	-	16
12	Călinești Oaș *	6	19	4	2	3	2	36
13	Lechința	3	6	2	2	2	-	15
14	Coca	2	4	2	3	3	-	14
15	Pășunea Mare	1	2	2	2	3	-	10
16	Bixad *	10	26	8	3	2	22	71
17	Boinești	4	11	4	3	3	-	25
18	Trip	3	8	4	3	2	-	20
19	Tîrșolt *	6	17	4	2	3	1	33
20	Aliceni	1	4	1	3	1	-	10
21	Cămărzana *	7	15	4	2	3	1	32
22	Gherța Mică *	7	18	4	2	3	2	36
23	Turț *	12	30	4	2	2	25	75
24	Gherța Mare	4	10	4	2	2	-	22
25	Turț-Băi	1	1	1	1	1	-	5
26	Tarna Mare *	5	15	2	3	2	4	31
27	Bocicău	2	6	2	2	1	-	13
28	Valea Seacă	3	8	4	2	1	-	18
29	Văgaș	1	-	1	1	1	-	4
30	Bătarci *	6	17	4	3	2	4	36
31	Comlăușa	3	8	4	3	2	-	20
32	Șirlău	1	3	1	3	1	-	9
33	Tămășeni	2	6	2	2	1	-	13
34	Turulung *	7	17	4	2	3	3	36
35	Drăgușeni	3	7	4	2	2	-	18
36	Turulung-Vii	1	3	2	3	1	-	10

\* communal centres



3) *Settlements with complex texture represent a combination of some other types*: Oraşu Nou, Cămărzana, Gherţa Mică, Turţ, Bătarci;

4) *Settlements with irregular texture, sometimes even sinuous*: Racăş, Călineşti-Oaş, Lechinţa, Trip, Turţ-Băi;

The structure and the texture of the settlements in this geographical space are adapted to four situations:

- the existence of plane surfaces in the areas,
- the relation between the area and the estates,
- the evolution of property's forms in the area, associated with land price,
- the tendency to attract this habitat to the main traffic lines.

The relationships between the areas and the estates, from the texture point of view, are conditioned by the morphology of the relief microforms of the estates. Where the junction between the area and the estate is made by accentuate slopes a great discontinuity is to be mentioned (Şirlău, Turulung-Vii) while, where the area relief has a continuity the inlet is gradual (Gherţa Mică, Călineşti-Oaş).

A tendency of organizing the areas along the main roads is to be mentioned: Huta-Certeze, Certeze, Vama, Boineşti, Valea Seacă, Com-lăuşa.

E) As far as the *functional structure* is concerned a dominance of the agricultural rural settlements is to be mentioned. There are four main types:

1). — rural settlements with a dominant agricultural function, category which includes small and very small villages (Văgaş, Turţ-Băi, Păşunea Mare, Şirlău, Aliceni, Turulung-Vii) and middle and large villages from the non-cooperativized zones (Racăş, Moişeni, Huta-Certeze, Cămărzana);

2) — rural settlements with agricultural-mining function: Tarna Mare, Turţ, Gherţa Mare (1/3 of the population is occupied in the mining industry);

3) — rural settlements with agricultural-industrial and public services function — are seats of the communes with well developed domestic industry and with tertiary endowments: Bixad, Oraşu Nou, Vama;

4) — rural settlements with agricultural-administrative function and complementary, public services or tourism: Bătarci, Călineşti-Oaş, Turulung.

As to achieve the complex typology by which one can observe the characters of each habitat we have used the bonus method. We have taken into account: the demographic potential, the area's relief potential, the hydrologic potential and the industrial potential.

The demographic and the endowing criteria have been decisive in the classification of the 36 settlements (table 2).

From the point of view of the general potential the rural settlements in „Ţara Oaşului” are spaces out on large value scales: from 4 (Văgaş), to 75 (Turţ). There are five value classes:

1) — rural settlements with values from 50 to 75: Turț, Bixad, (71 points), Orașu Nou (56) and Vama (50). These are seats of the communes with a large population, with diversified endowments and an obvious evolution towards the urban;

2) — rural settlements with a potential between 30 and 50 points, all of them seats of the communes: Tarna Mare, Cămărzana, Tîrșoț, Bătraci, Certeze, Gherța Mică, Călinești-Oaș, Turulung;

3) — the third class with a potential between 21 and 30 points includes the viable rural settlements but with medium demographic potential and with simple endowments: Boinești, Gherța Mare, Huta-Certeze;

4) — rural settlements values from 11 to 20. Are medium sized, small villages, with a slow evolution (Orașu Nou-Vii, Prilog, Bocicău etc.);

5) — the fifth class includes the rural settlements with a potential up to ten points: Turulung-Vii, Șirlău, Racșa-Vii, Prilog-Vii, Turț-Băi, Văgaș which have simple endowments and less viable.

**REZUMAT** — Tipologia așezărilor rurale din Țara Oașului. În această regiune, situată în nord-vestul României, așezările rurale sînt predominante. În scopul stabilirii tipologiei lor s-au luat în considerare mai multe criterii: mărimea demografică, amplasarea vetrelor, structura, forma și textura vetrelor, funcțiile așezărilor, iar în final potențialul socioeconomic și natural, distingîndu-se cinci categorii de așezări rurale. În ordine, acestea sînt: cele cu potențial între 50—75 de puncte; între 30—50 de puncte; 20—30 de puncte; 10—20 de puncte și sub 10 puncte. Valorile menționate au fost obținute prin metoda bonității, aceasta punînd în evidență potențialul ridicat al centrelor de comună, între care se remarcă localitățile Turț, Bixad, Orașul Nou și Vama, în timp ce categoria de așezări cu mai puțin de 10 puncte este puțin viabilă.