

# Csomorkány – A medieval village and its changing environment

## Csomorkány – Ein mittelalterliches Dorf und der Wandel seiner Umgebung

## Csomorkány – Un village médiéval et les transformations de son environnement

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Csomorkány was located in a marshland environment on the bank of the Brook Cirják connecting with the River Maros (Fig. 1).

Data originating from charters and archeological findings prove the existence of a human settlement in the area having favourable natural conditions as far back as the 10<sup>th</sup> century. According to archeological findings and an aerial photo taken in 1970 the extension of the medieval Csomorkány could be determined as an 2.25 x 2.25 (km) area. The village developed to a borough surrounded by rampart during the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Béres 2000). In the course of the Turkish campaign in 1596 the village was completely destroyed, therefore natural and semi-natural ecotopes have been able to regenerated since then in a great extent.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the area could be characterized by large scale extensive livestock keeping. The units of a traditional medieval landscape (villages, unutilized lands, vineyards, orchards etc.) mostly were disappeared. The anthropogene elements of the landscape's present structure and dynamics were formed almost entirely by the land use (plough-lands, system of detached farms, reclaimed wetlands) of the last 200–250 years. Altogether only greater units of the settlement-system, roads of greater importance and the total absence of forests were inherited to present generations.

The aim of the study was to investigate local and historic landscape aspects of the former settlement, Csomorkány.

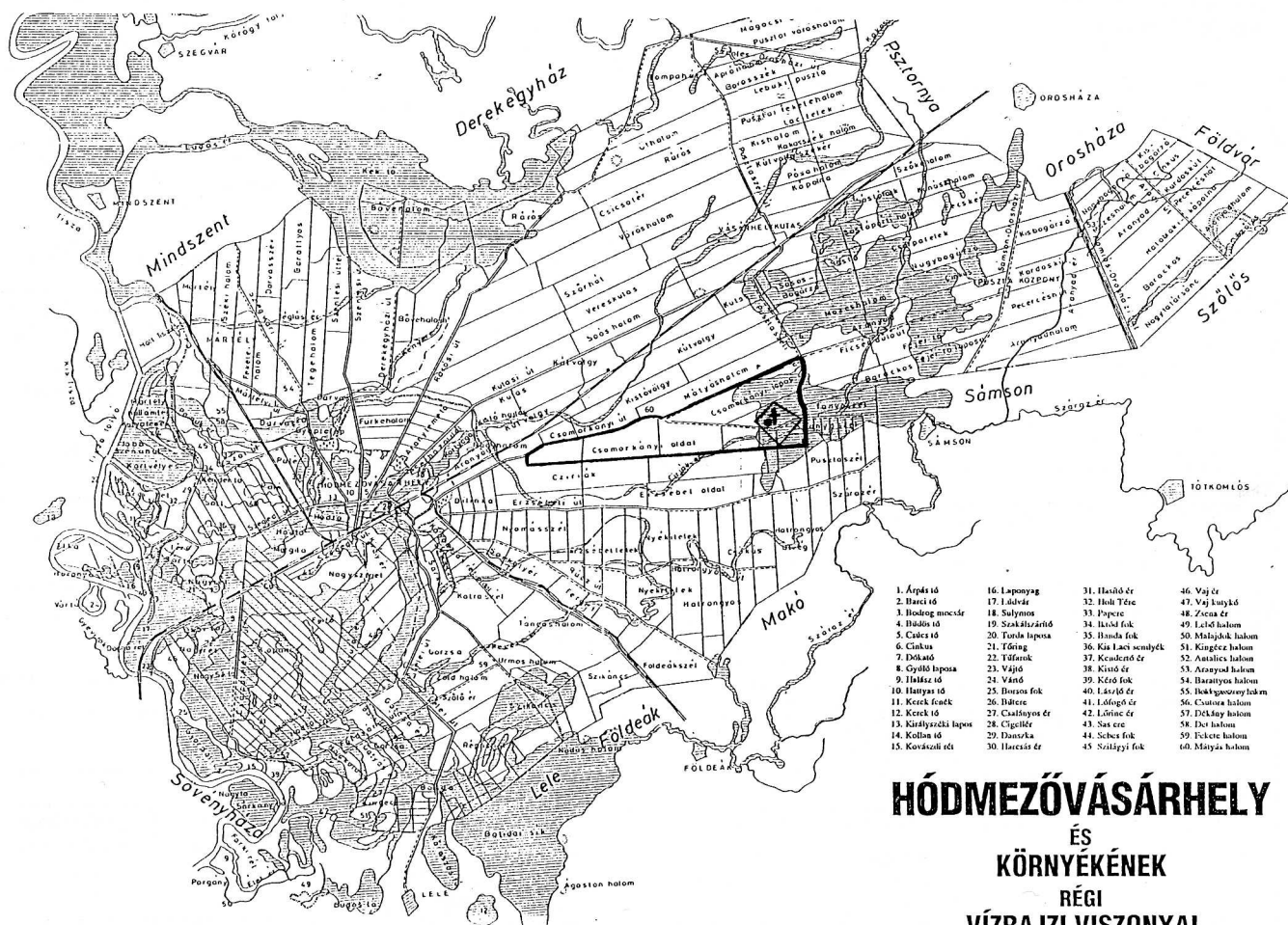


Fig. 1. The studied area.

