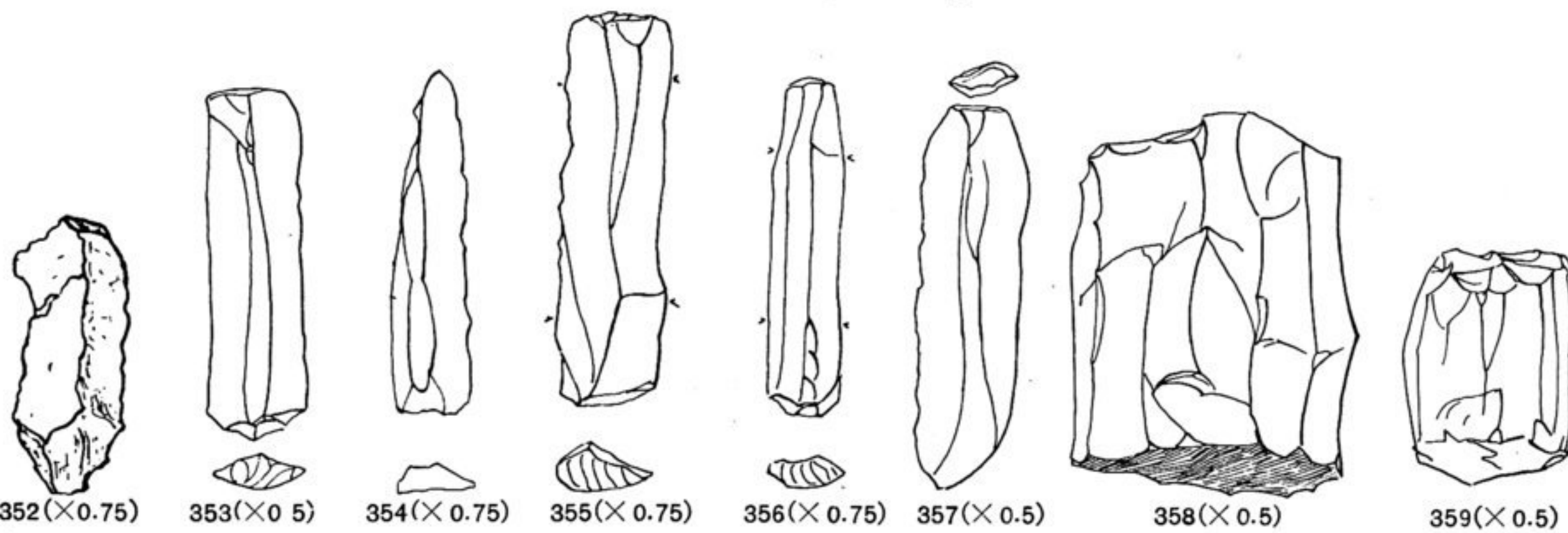
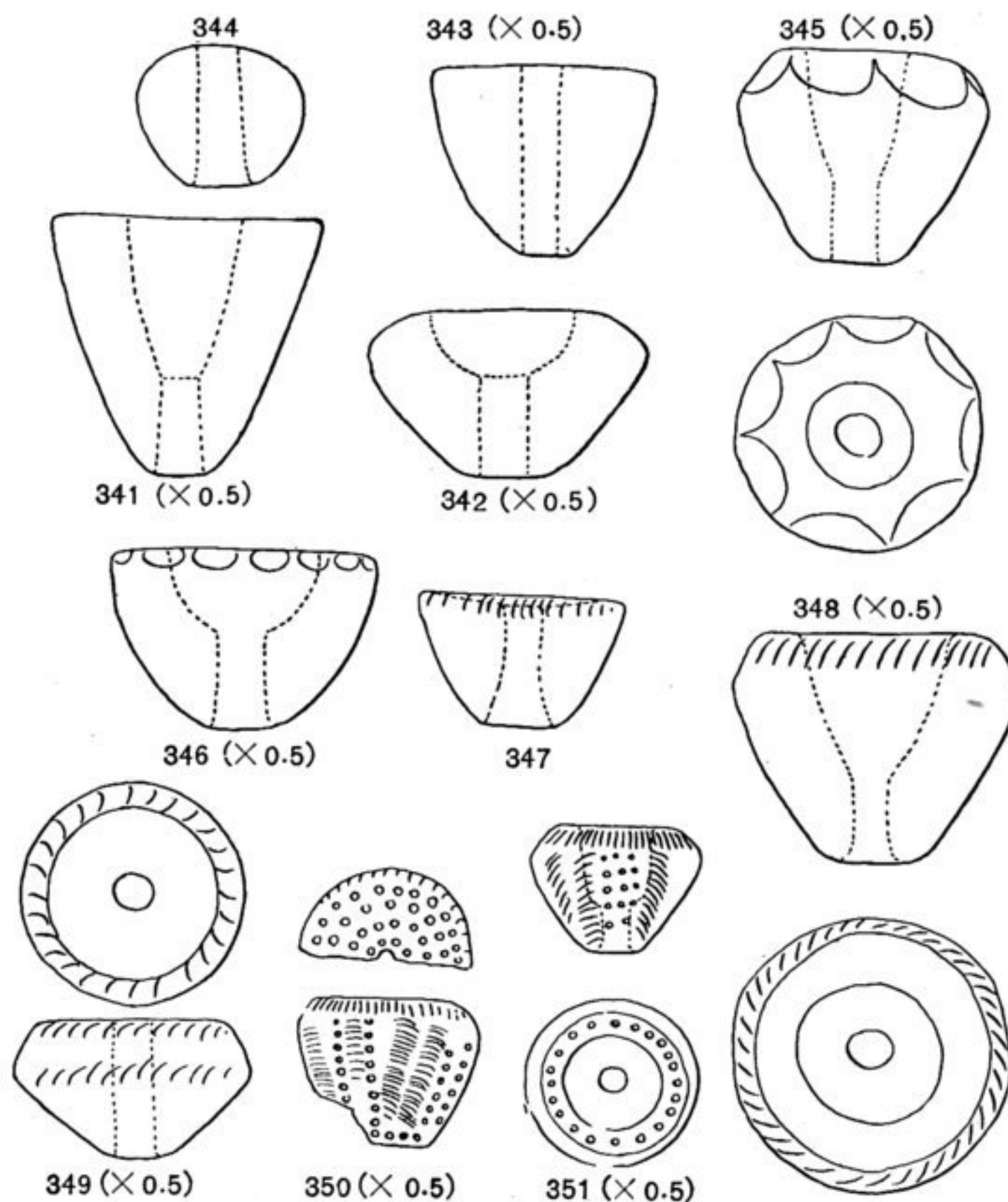


(e) USEFUL OBJECTS OF STONE, CLAY, AND BONE.

FROM MIDDLE, LOWER, AND UPPER STRATA, NORTH KURGAN, CULTURES I AND II.

*Whorls of clay.*—It is difficult to make any essential distinction between the whorls of the middle and lower strata in respect to form, technique, and ornamentation. For that reason I do not mention in detail the points at which they were found. The most favored form is the conical, with and without raised edges, and with a deep impression on the upper side of the whorl, as in N.K. 96 (fig. 341) and N.K. 67 (fig. 342). More rare is the conical form with convex top like N.K. 102 (fig. 343); and other simpler forms are not lacking, as N.K. 191 (fig. 344).

The technique of decoration is restricted to impressions of the finger and finger-nails, as well as to pricked-in points. In so far as we can judge from the abundant material thus far obtained, the technical differences in the whorls of the middle strata were due to the instruments used to impress the patterns—a point to make the dots and a knife or a pin-shaped instrument for fine short strokes. Whether these differences indicate a marked progress in the technique can not, of course, be determined from the material in hand. The line pattern is for the most part too fine and too closely compressed to have been made with



the finger-nail. In the whorl N.K. 196 (fig. 345; plate 42, fig. 11), from the lower strata, the impressions on the edge are made with the finger; but in the better-formed ones of the middle strata (N.K. 51; fig. 346; plate 42, fig. 6), they are