

## Actuaciones 2022

### **Comunicación presentada al European Archaeologist Association Annual Meeting (September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Budapest, Hungary).**

THE HILLFORT OF CAPOTE (EXTREMADURA, SW SPAIN). A MISUNDERSTOOD FORTRESS AMONG THE CELTIBERIANS OF THE IRON AGE.

Luis Berrocal-Rangel, Lucía Ruano, Pablo Paniego, Pablo Sánchez de Oro

#### **Summary**

In 1985, as a result of several surveys conducted by the Autonomous University of Madrid, one of the authors of this contribution identified an archaeological site at El Castrejón de Capote (Extremadura, SW Spain). Here, an important funerary slab, with a Tartessian inscription dated to the 6th century BC, was found. Archaeologists observed a series of buried structures, first interpreted as burial mounds but which, after a series of excavations between 1987 and 1996, were revealed to be the bastions and ramparts of a Late Iron Age settlement. As a result, the competent authorities bought the site and prepared it for visitors but did not organise a proper programme of systematic excavations. Since then, the settlement has not been further dug. Although between 1988 and 2003, archaeologists partially published the site, more than thirty houses and two hundred metres of walls, ditches, and defensive elements remain unpublished, buried again in the preliminary excavation reports. A single isolated exploration in 2007 revealed that Capote hillfort occupied a central place in the geographical structure of the region and that this place is well hidden in the landscape. Would this central position justify its location despite its scant natural defences, limited to the steep slopes of a shallow ravine? If not, how can the enormous defensive structures be explained? As this question could not be previously answered, our aim is to try to answer it by unearthing the grey literature produced as well as the excavation reports. From an updated theoretical and methodological perspective, we believe that applying new technologies to the large areas of the site excavated and to be excavated (GIS analysis coordinated with LiDAR data, analyses of raw materials and photogrammetric reconstructions) could finally reveal the hitherto incomprehensible function of a fortress located in a site of impossible defence.

#### **Keywords**

Celtiberians, Primary sources, archaeology of fortifications, updated technologies, Capote hillfort, Archaeometry.

### **Comunicación presentada al congreso WATER SUPPLY AND WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE METAL AGES de la UISPP (October 11th, Ankara, Turkey).**

WATER SUPPLY STRATEGIES IN THE CELTIBERIAN IRON AGE. THE WATER STRATEGIES IN THE BAETURIA CELTICA.

Luis Berrocal-Rangel, Pablo Paniego, Lucía Ruano

#### **Summary**

In the Second Iron Age, the Sub-Atlantic period was characterised by a significant improvement in climatic conditions, ushering in the so-called “Roman Climatic Optimum” from the 3rd century BC. Rising temperatures and increased rainfall define this period, which coincides with the

beginning of the expansion of the Roman Civilisation and contrasts with previous years—the 5th and 4th centuries BC, a period of greater aridity and thermal amplitude. The protohistoric settlement of the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula shows a singular dynamism between the 5th and 3rd centuries BC: the mysterious "disappearance" of a civilisation with strong Mediterranean components, such as the "Tartessian", and the emergence of a new form of settlement with evident links with the north of the Peninsula, which coincides with the peoples that, centuries later, the Romans would call "Celts". The disappearance of one model and the appearance of the other have been verified with certainty by archaeology, but such changes have been explained in social, economic and even linguistic terms, without paying special attention to the components essential for the habitat, especially water supply. Our research presents a comparative analysis of the water strategies among the late Tartessian peoples and the following Celtic peoples in order to draw conclusions that could allow us to understand the differences and coincidences between both peoples. Likewise, the question is posed as to how water supply was successfully resolved by the newly arrived populations, especially in two centuries of worsening climatic conditions. Both premises are analysed on the postulate that, although the supplanting of populations in the past has been proven, there are no complete replacements in these cultural and historical spheres.

**Comunicación presentada a la 43rd Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG) Conference (December 15<sup>th</sup>, Edinburgh, United Kingdom).**

RETHINKING HOUSES AND HOUSEHOLDS: CAPOTE AND THE SOCIETY OF THE CELTIC BETURIA.

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### **Summary**

The domestic space is designed not only for functional reasons for the human group, but also for social and cultural reasons. The aim of this contribution is to discuss the Late Iron Age domestic architecture of the Southwest of the Iberian Peninsula, taking as a starting point one of the most important archaeological sites of the period: Castrejón de Capote, Badajoz. Between 1985 and 1996, archaeologists partially excavated this site, unearthing more than thirty houses that have hardly been investigated or published. After studying grey literature and old excavation reports, we present the results of our constructional, typological and spatial analyses of these structures, that have allowed us to propose spatial narratives and organisational models for the different phases of occupation of the site. Comparing the results with the data we have from other nearby settlements –Villasviejas del Tamuja, El Raso and La Coraja, for the prehistoric period, and Los Castillejos, Nertóbriga, Fornacis and Mesas de Castelinho, for the early Roman phase–, we seek to better comprehend the social dynamics surrounding houses and household of the Celtic Beturia. With this study of the Iron Age dwellings, our aim is to provide social content to the spaces we analyse, reviewing the archaeological record to discover the nature of the human groups that designed, built, inhabited, reformed and abandoned the domestic structures.