



TOSSAL DE LA CALA CASTELLUM

History of the Roman castellum of Tossal de La Cala

The first news about the Tossal de la Cala deposit corresponds to 1853, when the cartographer Federico de Botella y de Hornos indicates that on the top of La Cala there are ruins of a town where there are Roman medals, lead and, above all, a large amount of fragments of pitchers and other vessels.

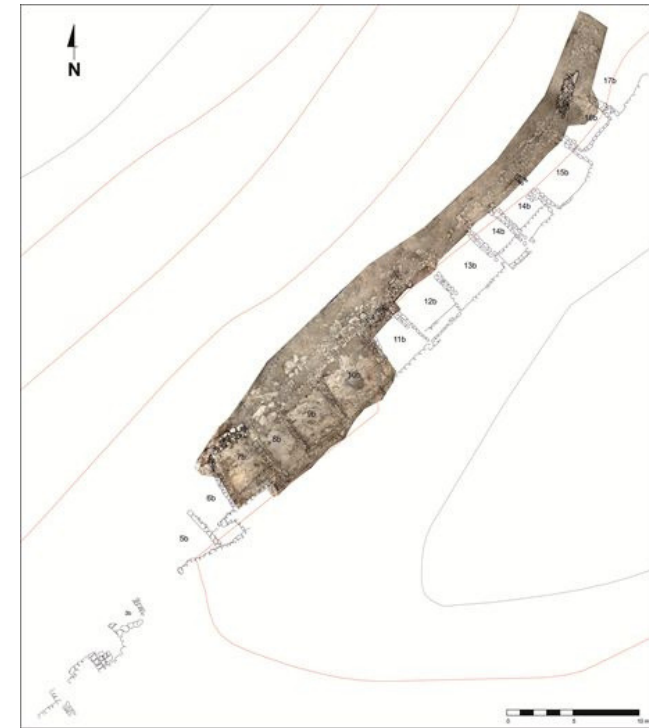
The first excavations were made in 1943 by Father Belda accompanied by the German archaeologist Adolf Schulten; in 1956 Miquel Tarradell and Alejandro Ramos carried out an emergency excavation, having built the path to the top and, in 1984, F. García Hernández delimited its archaeological area.



In 2013, when the First Archaeological Excavation Campaign was launched by the University of Alicante, the wall of the Roman castellum was discovered and the repetitive constructions were documented in size and distribution, taking as a measure the pes monetalis (the "Roman foot").) offering recognizable constructive patterns in Roman republican architecture. They found ceramics of italic origin (amphoras, kitchen utensils, tableware ...) and metal objects identified as belonging to the Roman army, as well as bone stili, surgical bronze probes, coins and a weight for the raising of walls.



The written documentation and the material confirm the foundation, at the beginning of the 1st century a. of C., of a castellum of half hectare of surface. Its inhabitants were soldiers immersed in a strictly Roman warlike situation which does not prevent to recognize the existence of Iberians in the enclave, as troops of aid of the Roman army.



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