

Buried and sometimes found: The human remains from Rock Shelter 1 Carvoeira (Mafra, Portugal)

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1.INTRODUCTION

After more than 100 years of research in the Portuguese Estremadura (Figure 1), the European region with the highest evidence of Bell Beakers, there is still a lot to investigate (Figure 2). There are no burial sites exclusively with Bell Beaker context but evidence of re-use of natural caves, dolmens, *tholoi* and hypogea (Sousa, 2017). Since almost all burial sites were excavated more than 50 years ago, the archaeological record is very imprecise, with mixed funeral depositions and grave goods from the Late Neolithic to the Late Chalcolithic, in sepulchres with extended biographies. Natural caves have been used as a sepulchral spaces since the beginning of intentional burials. In the same territories where dolmens, hypogea and *tholoi* were built, the caves have continued to be used for burials, with the same votive practices used in other type of tombs. This phenomena, named Cave Megalithism (Megalitismo de Gruta) is a concept very well defined in Center and South of Portugal (Gonçalves, 1978).

In 2017, a new necropolis was identified in Mafra – Lisandro (Portugal). It is composed of two small natural rock shelters (1 and 2) (Figure 3). They are located on the rocky slope, about 5 m from the current soil, in the mouth of Lisandro River, very close to the sea. The aim of this work is to present the preliminary results of the study of Shelter 1.

Excavation

-12 artificial stratigraphic layers (+/- 5cm) were excavated. The sediment of each layer was separated and sieved with a small-sized mesh sieve (Figure 4 and 5).

Taphonomy

-In this Carsic complex there were numerous roots, vegetation, bones of recent fauna, stones of different sizes, evidences of runoff and mud. These factors contributed to the fragmentation, disarticulation and dispersion of the osteological material (Figure 6).



Figure 4: Excavation of first plan of Rock Shelter 1.



Figure 5: First plan of Rock Shelter 1 with bones, faunal remains and fragments of ceramic.

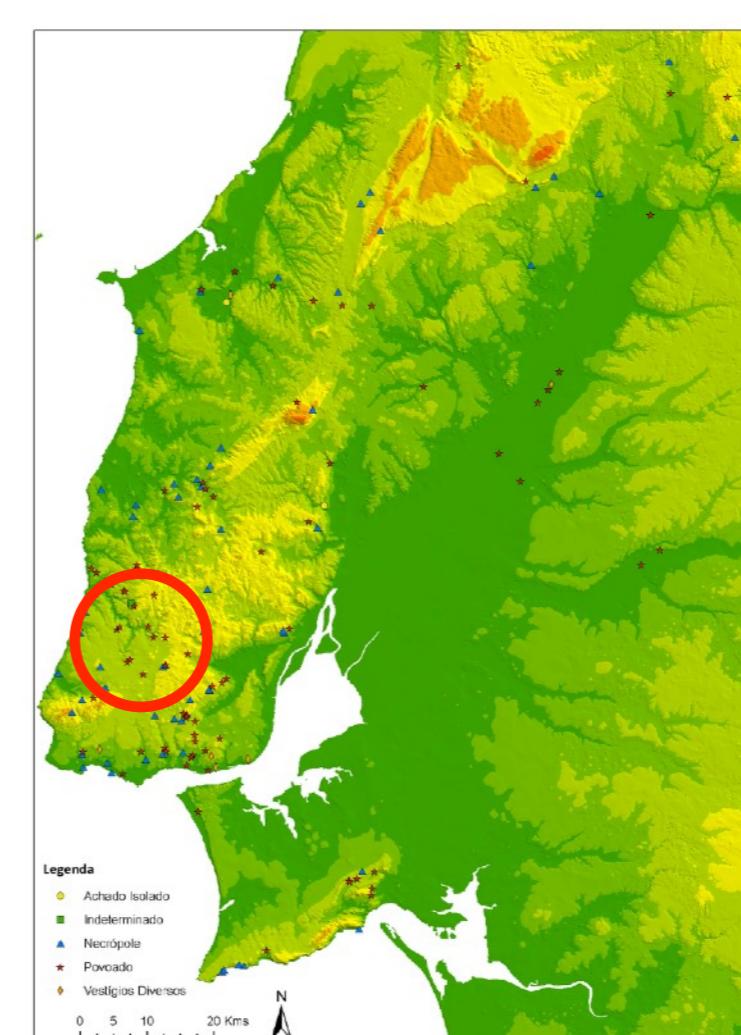


Figure 1: Beaker burials and settlements in Estremadura.

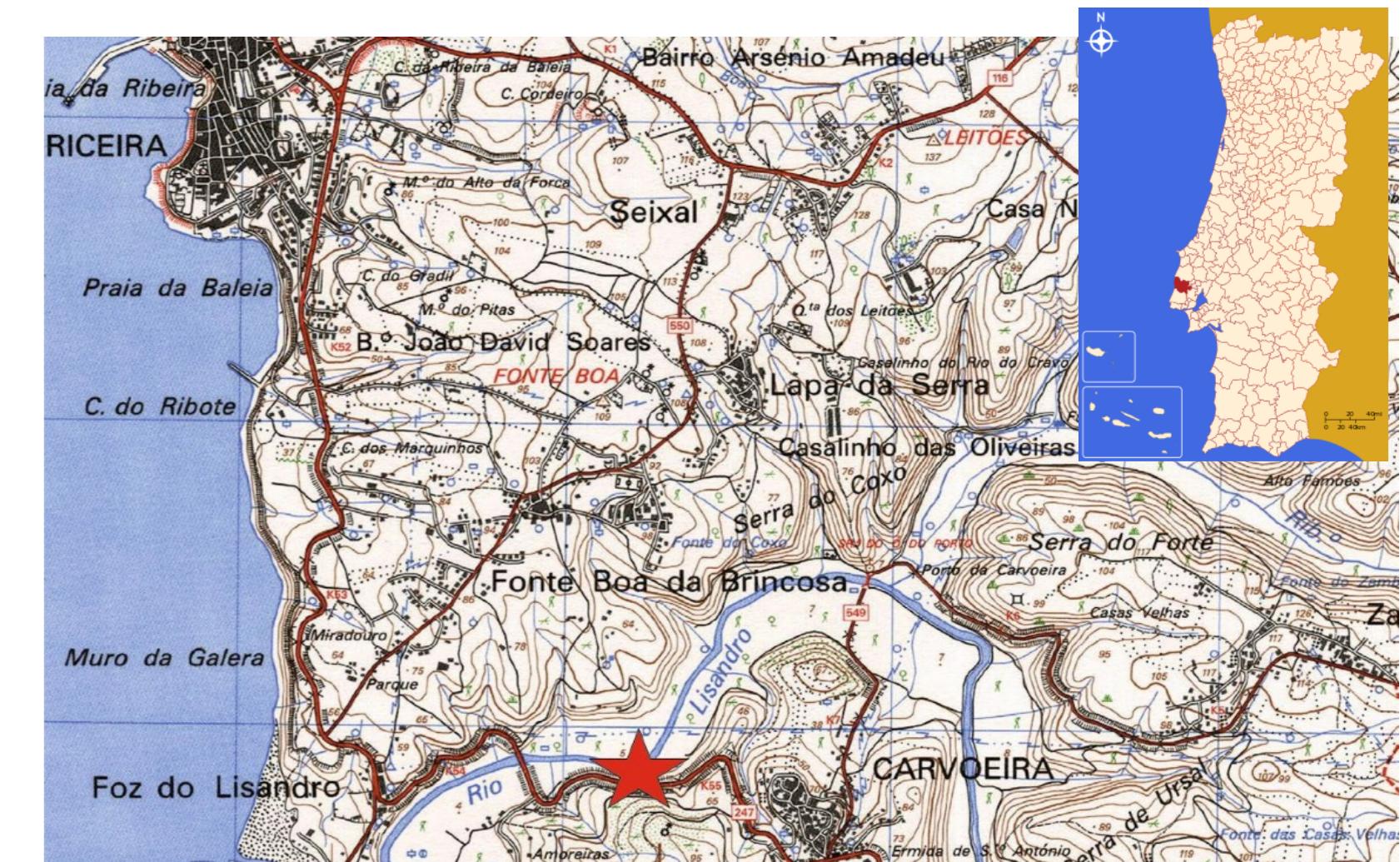


Figure 2: Location of archeosite C.M of Portugal letter 388 1/25 000.



Figure 3: Location of the shelter 1 and 2- (North view) on the national road of 247.

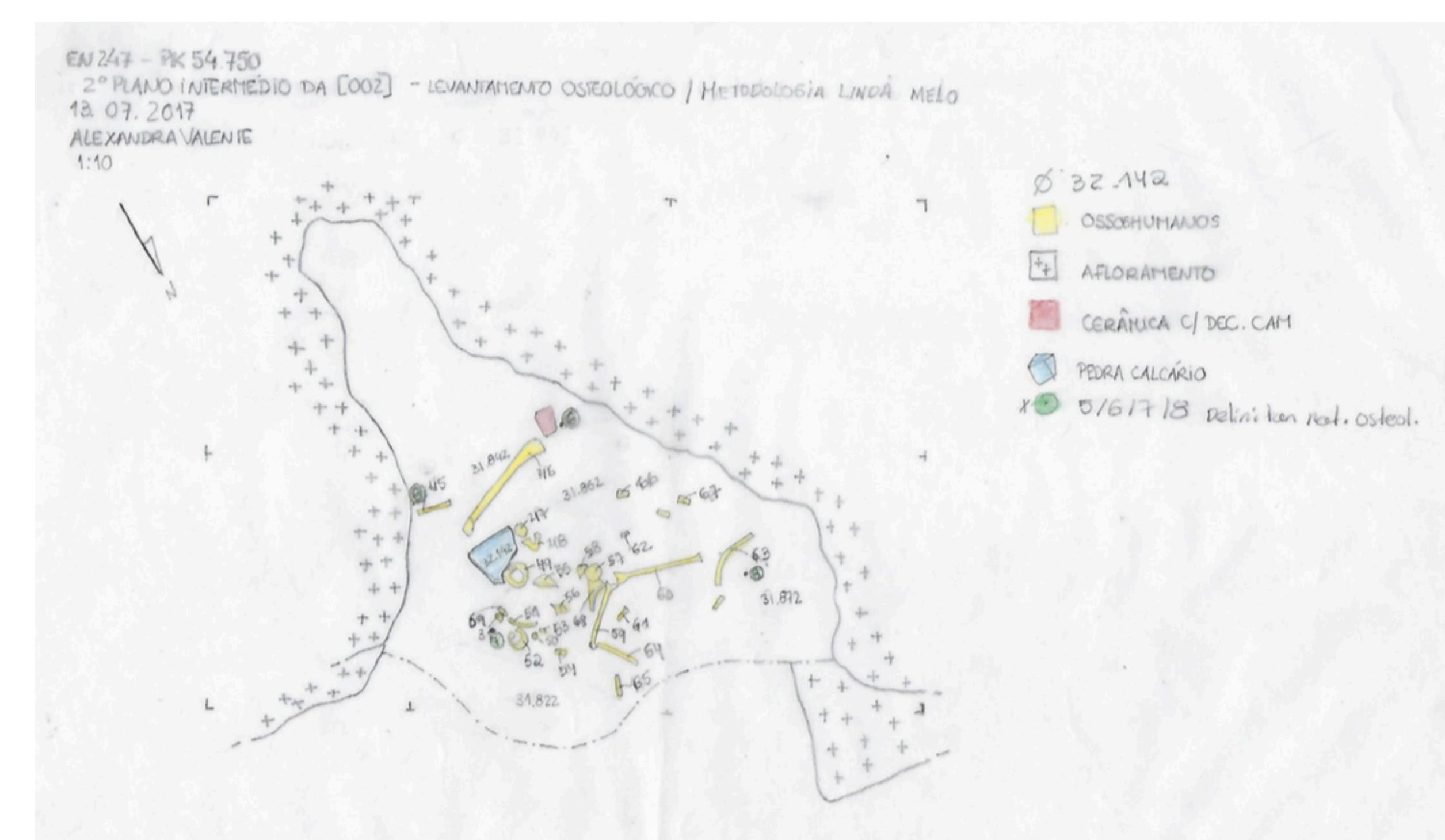


Figure 6: Drawing of first plan of Rock Shelter 1.

2.METHODS

In the laboratory, bones and teeth were cleaned with appropriate material and identified. For sexual diagnosis and age at death, were followed the recommendations of Ferembach *et al.*, (1980) and Alqhatani *et al.* 2010. For teeth identification was teeth used the FDI nomenclature. Dental traits were analyzed based on the methodology of Turner *et al.* (1991) using the ASUDAS protocol and (Cunha *et al.*, 2012). Dental wear was registered according with Smith, 1984 (with the modifications by Silva, 1996), caries according to Lukacs (1989) and calculus deposits, according to Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994).

3.RESULTS

Despite the fragmentation of the bones, were identified 223 bone pieces and 27 teeth of non-adult individuals without anatomical articulation. They correspond at least four individual (MNI) based on the presence of four lower central right incisors (FDI=41). Some dental traits were observed (Table 1) such as: Shoveling, *hipothrophic roots* (Figure 7), labial convexity, and parastyle. Pathologies were not identified neither in bones nor teeth. Associated with the bones were identified fragments of Maritime Bell beaker vessel and ivory buttons with V- perforations (Figure 8 and 9).

Table 1: Dental traits frequencies of teeth recovered from Rock Shelter 1

Dental traits	FDI	Nº	Frequency %
Shoveling (+=ASU 3-6)	11;12;21;22	10	40%
Hipothrophic roots	11;21	3	66%
Labial convexity (+=ASU 2-4)	21	2	50%
Parastyle (+=ASU 1-5)	16	1	100%



Figure 7. Upper central incisors (FDI=11;21) with "Hipothrophic roots" of Rock Shelter 1.



Figure 8. Fragment of maritime bell beaker vessel of Rock Shelter 1.

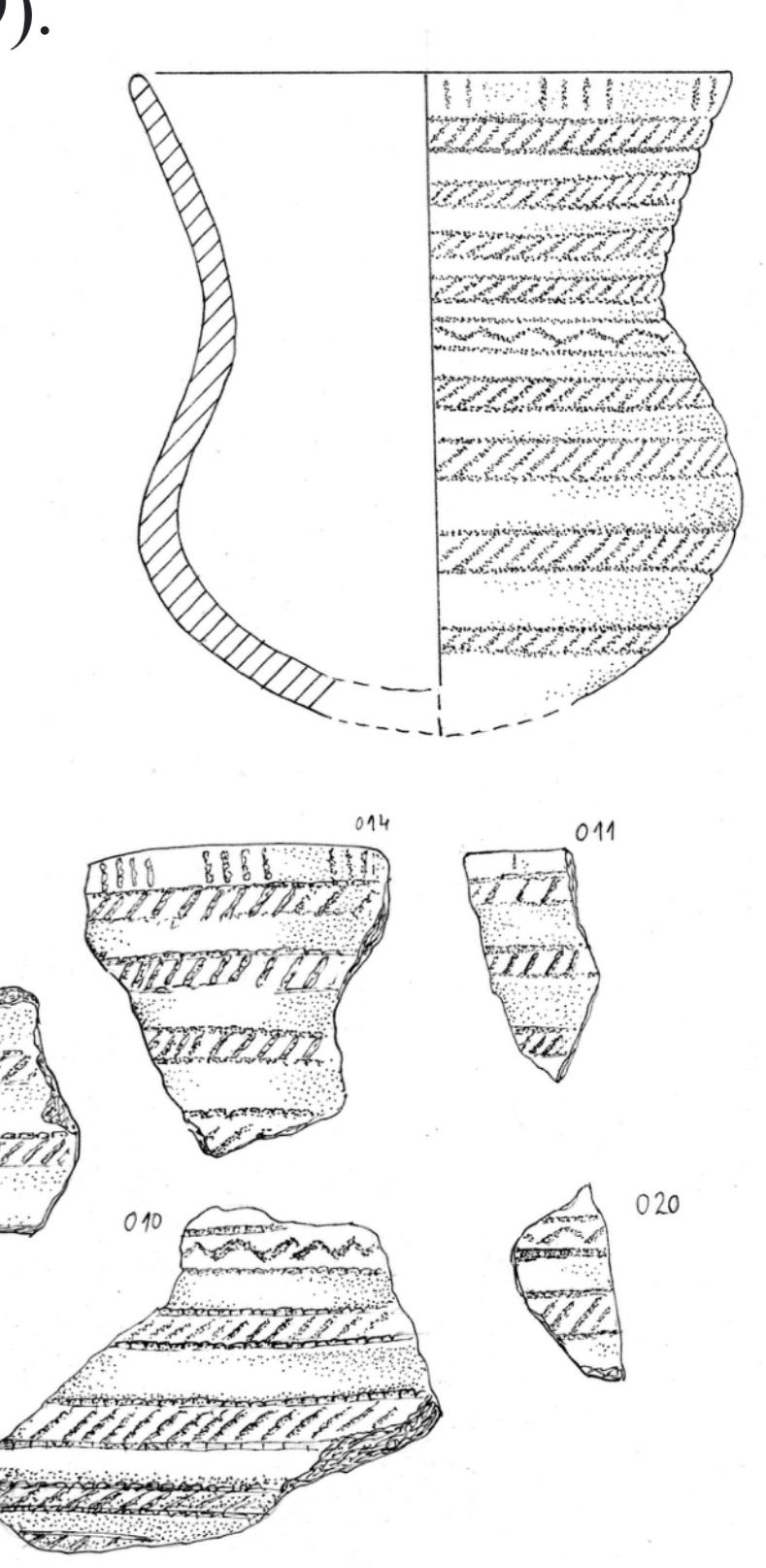


Figure 9. Maritime bell beaker vessel of Rock Shelter 1.

4.FINAL REMARKS

-These data are a contribute to the knowledge of the funerary practices of the human communities that lived along the Atlantic coast of the nowadays portuguese territory during the Chalcolithic.

REREFERENCES

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