

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT

LOGBOOK

Year: 2024

Season: Whit / Spring

Logbook pages converted from an online *Google Doc*

Juan Corrin, June 2024

Whit 2024 Logbook (pre-summer)



[LOGBOOK HELP](#)

STARTED 11th May 2024

11/5/2024 Email from Guy Simonnot via Pete Smith

J'ai regardé vos explorations du printemps et je voulais te fournir quelques précisions du secteur Arredondo

La torca MCP 5413 correspond au SCD n° 2649 (année 2009).

La torca MCP 1721 : nous l'avons descendue en mai 2023 (-32) et enregistrée sous le n° SCD 3447.

La torca de Tantas noches 4340 a été poursuivie en juin 2023 mais hélas seulement sur 20 m. (SCd n°2106)

Sur le site Karsteau j'ai entré 310 cavités pour le secteur Matienzo Arredondo nord (Linares, Piluca).

http://karsteau.org/karsteau/recherche/entree/recherche_entree.php

Le travail se poursuit et je pourrai vous envoyer les cavités nouvelles qui ne figurent pas sur votre site si vous le souhaitez.

J'ai à nouveau parcouru la zone Linares/Cueto/Azuela.

Au passage j'ai revu la cueva MCP 1147 (29 m, +3). Plus haut je n'ai pas retrouvé aux coordonnées indiquées les site MCP 1148 (VT 22) et MCP 611. j'ai pourtant bien cherché et mon gps était à +-3 m. (mais ma vue faiblit !)

Sur le plateau je suis repassé vers un gouffre (le plus évident de la zone) que j'avais vu en venant depuis Colorao en novembre 2021. Je pensais qu'il était sur Ruesga mais finalement sur la carte il semble être sur Arredondo. J'avais noté P.20/P.30? il correspond manifestement à la torca MCP 5324 (P >10 m). J'envoie une photo (par whatsapp). J'ai enregistré SCD 3637 (Torca de la Valla)

Le site 1153 correspond seulement à une petite dépression terrestre -2 sans cavité apparente.

Non loin de là j'ai trouvé une torca juste en limite de commune, sur le bord est d'une doline. Un soupirail donne sur un puits de 20/25 m. A priori aucun marquage, aucune marque d'équipement.

Coord : 449.529 4793.389 661 m (ETRS 89) Torca del Labio de Hierba.(SCD 3639)

Avec David nous continuons des désobstructions à la torca Discreta (bon c air, on attend Peter) et nous avons ouvert un sumidero très intéressant à Tocornal avec un bon courant d'air soufflant.(P.20 + désob à suivre au dessus d'un nouveau P.20)

=====

I watched your spring explorations and wanted to provide you with some details of the Arredondo sector

Torca **MCP 5413** corresponds to SCD n° 2649 (year 2009).

The torca **MCP 1721**: we took it down in May 2023 (-32) and registered under number SCD 3447.

The torca of Tantas noches **4340** was continued in June 2023 but unfortunately only for 20 m. (SCd n°2106)

On the Karsteau site I entered 310 cavities for the Matienzo Arredondo north sector (Linares, Piluca).

http://karsteau.org/karsteau/recherche/entree/recherche_entree.php

The work continues and I will be able to send you the new cavities which do not appear on your site if you wish.

I hiked the Linares/Cueto/Azuela area again. Along the way I saw the cueva **MCP 1147** (29 m, +3). Higher up, I did not find the sites **MCP 1148** (VT 22) and **MCP 0611** at the coordinates indicated. However, I looked carefully and my GPS was +-3 m away. (but my eyesight is failing!)

On the plateau I returned to a chasm (the most obvious in the area) that I had seen coming from Colorao in November 2021. I thought it was on Ruesga but finally on the map it seems to be on Arredondo. I had noted P.20/P.30? it clearly corresponds to the torca **MCP 5324** (P >10 m). I send a photo (by whatsapp). I recorded SCD 3637 (Torca de la Valla) **Site 1153** corresponds only to a small earthy depression -2 with no apparent cavity.

Not far from there I found a torca just on the edge of the town, on the eastern edge of a sinkhole. A vent opens onto a 20/25 m well. A priori no marking, no equipment mark.

Coord: 449.529 4793.389 661 m (ETRS 89) Torca del Labio de Hierba.(SCD 3639) **new site MCP 5420**

With David we continue to clear obstructions at the torca Discreta (good air, we're waiting for Peter) and we opened a very interesting sumidero in Tocornal with a good current of blowing air. (P.20 + disob to follow above a new P.20)

(These last two are not documented by MCP.)

28/4/2024 Jim and Mark

Digging in the left hand hole at [site 3302](#). Got in about 5m. Goes off to the right with tree roots. Passage continues very small, but could be dug once the wildlife moves house. (Possible ferret?).

0039 Coquisera Report from Piezo group (1/6/2024)

Sábado 11 de mayo de 2024, entramos Rafa, Juan y Ángel a revisar dos puntos en la zona más alejada de la exploración:

- a- Topografía en la Gabarra y revisión de la escalada pendiente: Atravesamos el pasamanos que realizaron Nacho y Susana, hicimos la topografía de la Gabarra y la rampa descendente colgada encima de la escalada Muelle. La rampa, según ya describieron Susana y Nacho, acaba en un punto dónde se puede hacer una escalada muy fácil sin material de ayuda. Instalamos las cuerdas de la rampa, pero quedaron olvidadas las cuerdas de progresión. Dejamos pendiente revisar un agujero a unos 5 a 7m en el que no se ve el final. La cuerda es necesaria para proteger el ascenso, cualquier movimiento falso encauza el descenso hasta la parte del Hall Zabala.
- b- Desobstrucción del paso del tigre: con las cuñas expansivas, abrimos el suficiente paso para acceder al Tigre. Al otro lado un pequeño camino sin continuación, acaba en un meandro impenetrable. Entre las dos desobstrucciones en el paso del Tigre, hay una escalada de 10m con evidente corriente de aire. El sitio no es muy amplio, en forma de meandro ascendente. Parece que arriba se abre un poco. A la vertical del paso no pudo acceder Ángel. El ancho del paso es insuficiente para, aun estando de pie, poder colocarse en la vertical de la escalada. Al no ver claro emplear el tiempo para explorar en este punto, se optó por desmontar la cuerda de 40m que da acceso, que estaba instalada con MMS.

Para continuar con la escalada de la Gabarra, o con la topografía y revisión de la Bañera, se dejó el material en el Hall Zabala.

Por Ángel San Juan

Saturday, May 11, 2024, Rafa, Juan and Ángel went in to check two points in the area furthest from the exploration:

A - Topography on the Gabarra and review of the pending climb: We crossed the handrail that Nacho and Susana made, we did the topography of the Gabarra and the descending ramp hanging above the Muelle climb. The ramp, as Susana and Nacho already described, ends at a point where you can make a very easy climb without aid material. We installed the ramp ropes, but the progression ropes were forgotten. We left pending checking a hole about 5 to 7m away in which the end cannot be seen. The rope is necessary to protect the ascent, any false movement channels the descent to the Hall Zabala part.

B- Unobstructing the tiger's passage: with the expanding wedges, we open enough passage to access the Tiger. On the other side, a small path without a continuation ends in an impenetrable meander. Between the two clearings at Tigre Pass, there is a 10m climb with obvious draft. The site is not very wide, in the shape of an ascending meander. It seems that at the top it opens a little. Ángel could not access the vertical step. The width of the step is insufficient to, even while standing, be able to position oneself on the vertical of the climb. Since it was not clear to use the time to explore at this point, it was decided to dismantle the 40m rope that provides access, which was installed with MMS.

To continue with the climbing of the Gabarra, or with the topography and review of the Bathtub, the material was left in the Zabala Hall.

By Ángel San Juan

#3754 Discovery of possible Bronze Age skull

(edited report - original in the 2024 Whit archive)

Dr A. G. Latham and Mr C. S. Camm.

This small cave at the base of a small overhanging cliff in the left side of the Bencano Valley had been seen in an earlier visit by members of the Matienzo Project. It was relocated in April-May of 2024 and was thought worthy of another visit. A peculiarity showed up in the deposits just inside the entrance in the floor that consisted of large blocks of mainly limestone with much finer sand in, and over the blocks. A scrape with the hands showed a limited area of about 1 square metre of a very thin interstratification of soil. The two main types of deposit did not seem to suggest natural causes, and two of us thought that the blocks might have been placed there in some earlier time to prevent bears from using it as den. On the second occasion, the largest block was moved back to reveal a human skull at about 10 – 15 cm depth. No teeth or mandible was evident, but it was recognisably modern. As this is evidently a burial, more related skeletal may be found. The two of us, Latham and Camm, stopped any further activity. We returned the skull to its original place, in order to consult with more informed colleagues about actions and protocols.

A return was made with Mr Peter Smith and Mr Andy Quin and the find reported to Cultura.

#0107 11/6/2024 Possible survey blunders

About a decade ago, meticulous surveying by Paul 'Footleg' Fretwell with forward and back bearings has led to some batches in the 4VS being double counted for length in Survex. The length needs to be recalculated when the extent of the issue is known (probably quite small).

Whit / Pre-summer logbook closed 21/6/2024

MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT