

TERRA SIGILLATA ITALICA FROM CALADINHO (REDONDO, PORTUGAL)

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Resumo

Pretende-se com o presente trabalho dar a conhecer o pequeno conjunto de terra sigillata de tipo itálico documentado no sítio do Caladinho (Redondo). Este conjunto encontra-se associado a uma ocupação de curta duração, de características muito particulares, correspondente a um fortim com funções de vigilância do território. O conjunto de importações permite, em nossa opinião, situar a ocupação essencialmente no último quartel do séc. I aC, sendo abandonado com a instalação definitiva do Mundo Provincial Romano.

Palavras-chave: Ocupação romana, Cronologia, Marcas de oleiro, Terra sigillata itálica.

Abstract

This paper presents a small set of *terra sigillata Italica* recovered during the excavation of Caladinho (Redondo, Portugal) between 2010 and 2013. This assemblage suggests a short occupation for this small, fortified watch-tower meant to provide surveillance over the surrounding landscape. This set of imports permits us to place the occupation of this tower in the last quarter of the 1st century B.C.E., coinciding with the colonization and pacification of this region by the Romans.

Keywords: Roman colonization, Chronology, Pottery stamps, Terra sigillata italica.

Reg: All right, but apart from the sanitation, the medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, the fresh-water system, and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?

“The Life of Brian”, Monthly Pyton, 1979

1. THE SITE OF CALADINHO AND HIS TERRITORY

The site of Caladinho (Mataloto, 2002, p. 179) is located in the northern end of a prominent and naturally defensible ridge line. Its deployment grants the site vision over the central plain of Redondo to the west and the south slope of the *Serra d’Ossa* to the north (Fig. 1-2). Visible features and surface finds extend in a relatively narrow band at the top of the ridge near a large outcropping of the bedrock (Fig. 3).

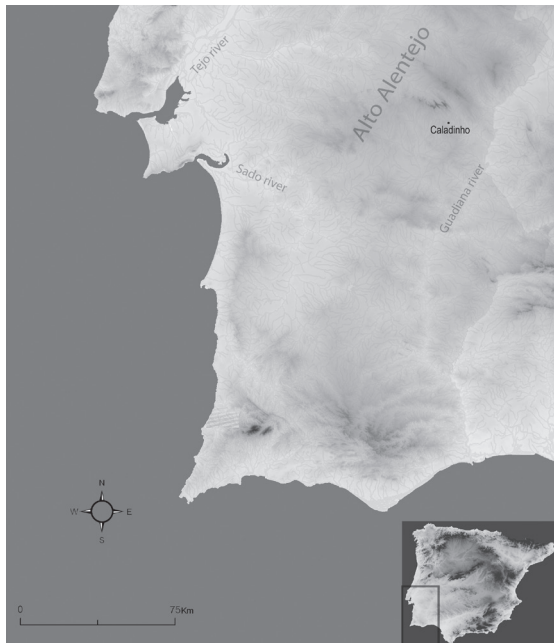


Fig. 1 – Caladinho’s location at the Iberian southwest.

The work thus far carried out at Caladinho has documented a rectangular building with approximately 42.5 m² (8,5mx5m) of total area, generally oriented N-S (Fig. 4). The thickness of the walls suggests that the structure was originally a tower with two floors. Internally the tower is subdivided into 4 distinct

rooms. The largest room possessed a quadrangular plan, and occupied half of interior area (room 4). The three smaller rooms include hallways or passages (rooms 1 and 3) and a storage area under a stairs to the upper floor (room 2), which was reached only from the outside.

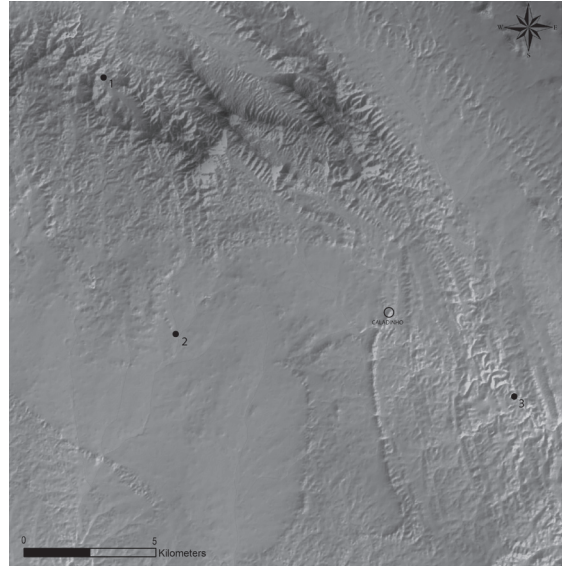


Fig. 2 – Caladinho’s location on the southern slope of Serra D’Ossa. 1 – “Fortim” das Cortes; 2 – “Fortim” do Almo; 3 – “Fortim” do Castelinho.

The building is constructed simply of unmortared stone and earthen walls, and it has a quite regular plan, with an internal dimension of 22 Roman feet by 11 Roman feet. The perimeter walls, especially the north, east, and south, are thick (0.90m to 1m), required to support such a multi-story building on a very steep slope. We surmised that the second story was constructed of mud bricks. Two extant mud bricks were recorded during excavation of room 4, and a collapsed mud brick wall with the bonding clay still preserved was observed during the excavation of the entrance of the structure. The roof should have been constructed of perishable materials, or even stone slabs, since no fragments of *imbrices* or *tegulae* were documented during excavation.



Fig. 3 – Caladinho’s location on the northern top of a long ridge.

Another structure, this one featuring a single large space, room 5, was documented in front of the tower (Fig. 4). This second structure has similar dimensions but less robust architecture, indicating that should have had only a single floor. This building – rectangular in plan and approximately 8m x 5m (about 27x17 Roman feet) – was arranged perpen-

dicularly to the tower. Next to this was documented another building, composed of at least two separate compartments.

This third structure has not yet been fully defined, but it appears to have been constructed in a similar manner and so should also have only one floor.

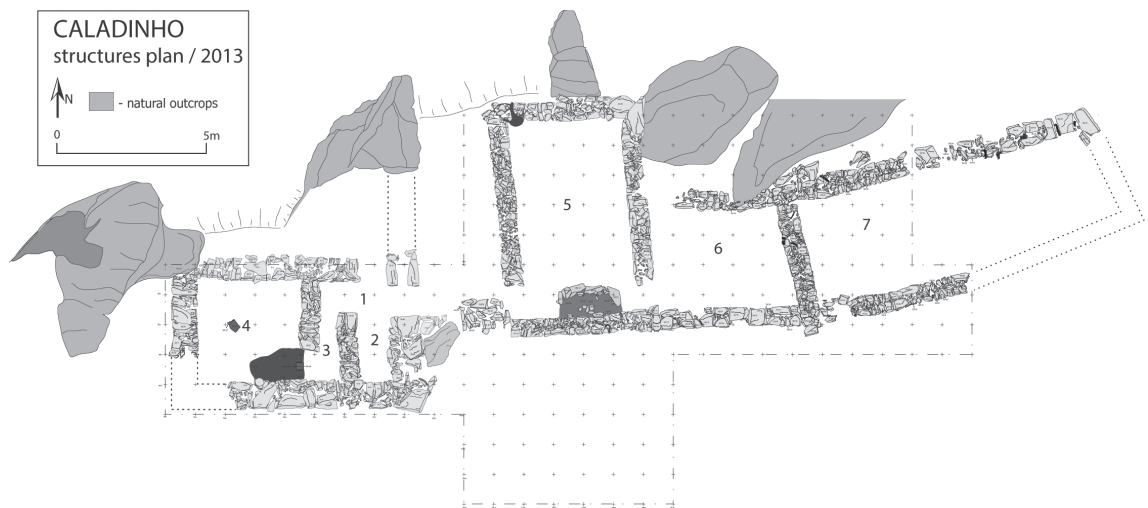


Fig. 4 – Caladinho’s structures plan, by the end of 2013 campaign.

2. THE *TERRA SIGILLATA ITALICA* FROM CALADINHO

By the end of the fourth season of excavations in 2013, 7570 potsherds were recovered from Caladinho’s tower and surrounding structures. Of these, 1176 are residual Chalcolithic material incorporated into the walls and floors of the structure. The remaining 6394 sherds represent the primary occu-

pational assemblage of the site. Imported finewares make up roughly 2% of this assemblage. Italian type *terra sigillata* (ITS), while represented by only fifty-eight sherds (twenty-six of which are diagnostic), are essential to understanding Caladinho since they provide excellent chronological and cultural anchors for the site’s brief occupation. This brief occupation, which spans only the last decades of the first century B.C.E., is further bolstered by the presence of some

sherds of Campanian black gloss ware, a number of Late Republican/Early Imperial amphorae, and comparable materials from nearby sites. Together, this assemblage suggests an occupation that was as

short-lived as it was isolated, yet occupants who still sought to imported Roman material culture rather than indigenous products.

CALADINHO MATRIX ("Tower") -2010/12

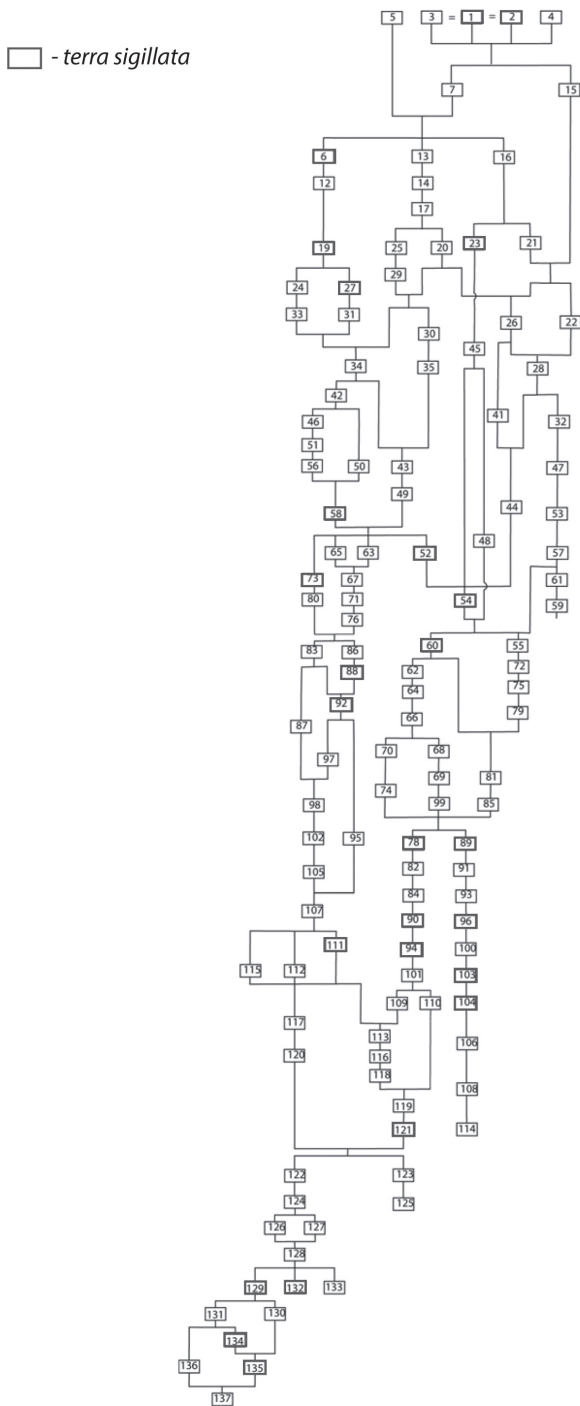


Fig. 5 – Caladinho’s tower Matrix (2010-202).
SU with Terra Sigillata italica.

2.1. *Terra Sigillata Italica* and Caladinho's stratigraphic sequence

Examples of ITS were documented throughout the excavated area, but the majority of sherds of this type were particularly concentrated in the main building, the tower (Fig. 5). The tower's stratigraphy, from its base to the modern surface level, contain primarily the remains of the collapsed upper floors or the tower or abandoned occupational surfaces. The ceramic materials recovered from the tower are generally very fragmented, and as a result we have registered only a single complete form. This makes the typological assignment of some fragments quite difficult and others uncertain. Nevertheless, the distribution of ITS throughout the tower's stratigraphy corresponds with a short period of use and abandonment. Some fragments of a large *patera*, with thick foot type *Consp.* B1, were found among the lowest layers of the site in unit [129] but also near the modern surface level in units [2] and [23]. As a result of this and other similarly distributed materials in the stratigraphic sequence, we consider that the artifact assemblage of Caladinho, including the ITS, resulted from a single, brief period of use and abandonment, and that these materials do not establish any chronological differentiations within the stratigraphic sequence.

2.2. The forms, functions, and chronology (Fig. 6-7)

The majority of identifiable forms are cups or bowls of *Consp.* 14.1, but we have also identified some *Consp.* 8.1, 24.1 and more doubtfully *Consp.* 7.1 and *Consp.* 26. In a slightly smaller number we found plates or larger plates and platters of *Consp.* 10.3, 12.1, and 12.2. While the cups or bowls, like *Consp.* 14.1 or 8.1 can be assumed as an individual vessel the large platters have probably been used for serving large, communal portions. It is common that cups and plates/platters appear in similar percentage, as we have at Caladinho (Genin, 2009, p. 361). Three sherds from three different stratigraphic units (discussed briefly above in section 2.1) represent

what is most probably an example of one of these large platters since they match the *Consp.* B1 foot type (Fig. 7, top). The first sherd, n. [2]1, was found near the surface during the first season of excavation. The second, n. [23]2, was recovered during that same season but at a lower stratigraphic unit. The last piece, n. [129]1, was only recovered in the third season, and it provided the link between the other sherds. Together, they form the ring foot of a very large platter with rouletting on the interior base (see Fig. 7). Their distribution within the stratigraphy is hard to explain, since the first two were included in collapse layers, and the last one was part of the first dirt floor of the room 4, at a level of almost 2m deeper than the other sherds from this same vessel. Were the upper ones included in the first floor walls? Were they part of the floor of the upper room? It is hard to be sure, but we surmise that their distribution indicates that the site had a short occupational life and a quick, even sudden, collapse.

Most of these forms are thought to have been produced during the middle Augustan period, in the last quarter of the first century B.C.E. and the beginning of the first century C.E. (Ettlinger; *et al.*, 1990, p. 76). The only apparent exception is the form *Consp.* 26 that seems to correspond to a form in use since the beginning of the 1st century C.E. (Ettlinger; *et al.*, 1990, p. 98). This assemblage fits mainly in the so-called Haltern I Service. Some forms, like *Consp.* 26 and perhaps *Consp.* 24, are instead associated with the later Haltern II Service. Other forms corresponding to this service, like the plates *Consp.* 18 and 20 and the cups 22 and 23, are absent at Caladinho although they are commonly found in Lusitanian cities of the first decade of the 1st century C.E. (Viegas, 2003, p. 101; Jérez Linde, 2005, p. 41). Thus it appears that Caladinho was abandoned in the early years of the 1st century C.E., probably at the first decade, before the introduction of these slightly later forms of the Haltern II Service.

The ITS from Caladinho share some similarities with the assemblage excavated from Castelo da Lousa (Carvalho; Morais, 2010). At Castelo da Lousa, the assemblage contains plates and bowls

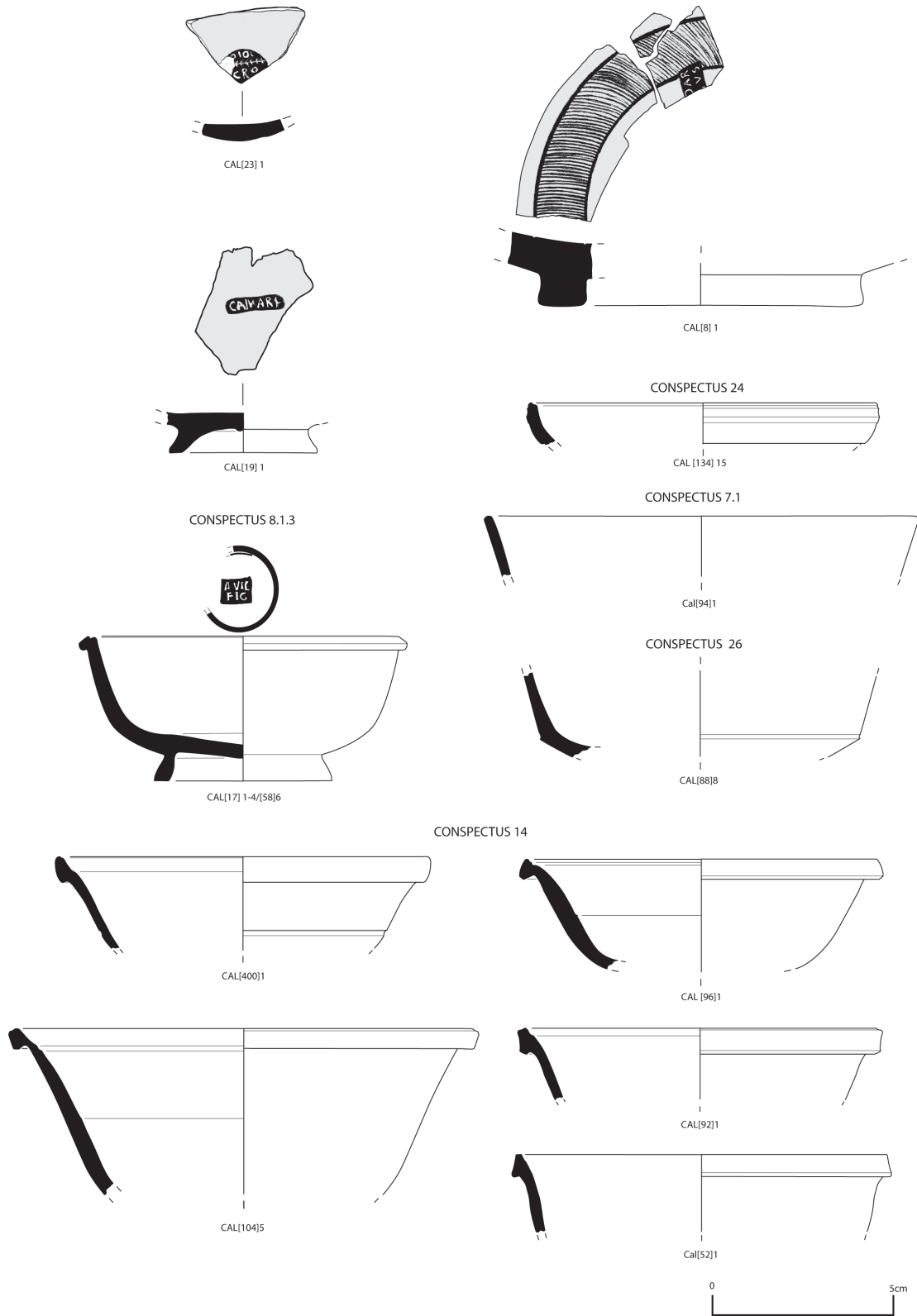


Fig. 6 – Caladinho's Terra Sigillata italic type – forms and stamps.

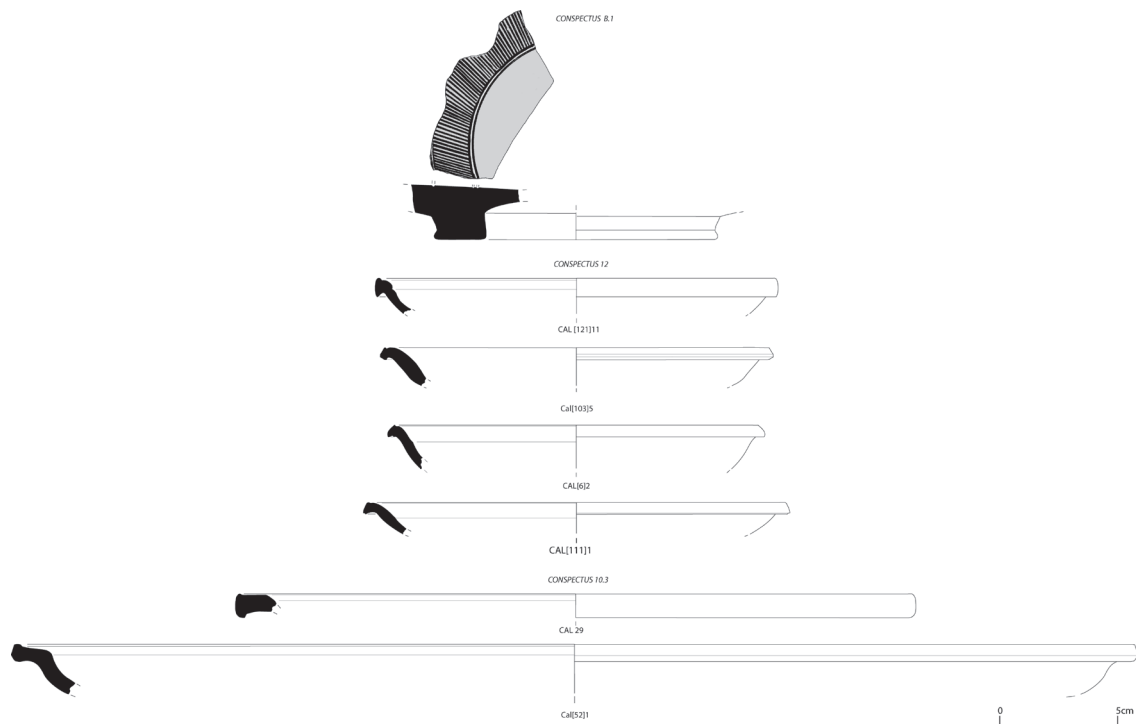


Fig. 7 – Caladinho’s *Terra Sigillata italic* type.

with a single example of a decorated cup. In general the ITS assemblages are similar, with cups mainly form *Consp.* 14.1, but *Consp.* 11 represents the majority of the large plates/platters at Castelo da Lousa, and this form has not been documented at Caladinho. On the other hand, plates/platters of *Consp.* 12 are well represented in both sites. Thus the ITS from both sites mainly correspond to the “Classic” phase of Goudineau (1968, p. 377), even if Castelo da Lousa has some additional forms from the slightly earlier “Archaic” phase (Carvalho; Morais, 2010, p. 139).

2.3. The potters’ stamps from Caladinho

Four stamped ITS fragments have been found and provide more evidence to support the proposed chronology. The first of these, n. [8]1, is the most important for the site’s chronology. It is the base of a small bowl of form *Consp.* B1.2 with a radial internal stamp that reads *DAR/[E]US* (Fig. 8). Examples from workshop of *Dareus* are not well known. Only two others of this type are cited by OCK. Nevertheless,

these come from secure contexts, and the stamp is thought to have been produced between 30 to 20 B.C.E. Vessels with this stamp appear to have originated in Lyon and were intended for the legions stationed on the German *limes* (OCK, 2000, p. 724). Its presence at a small tower in the central Alentejo, far from the Empire’s northwestern border, perhaps suggests a connection between these towers and the region’s legionary garrison.

Another stamp, this time on the interior of a small ITS cup of form *Consp.* 8.1, was excavated from Sector 1 during the first season. The vessel was broken into several pieces when discovered, and is catalogued as nn. [17]1, [17]2, [17]3, [17]4, and [58]6. This last fragment was uncovered during the second season of excavation in a substantially deeper SU, suggesting that the cup broke before or during the tower’s collapse or otherwise suffered some post-depositional disruption. The stamp is set in a rectangular frame surrounded by an incised circle (Fig. 6). It reads *AVIL / FIG* which we expand to *Avil(ius) / fig(ulus)* (Fig. 9). H. Dressel records this

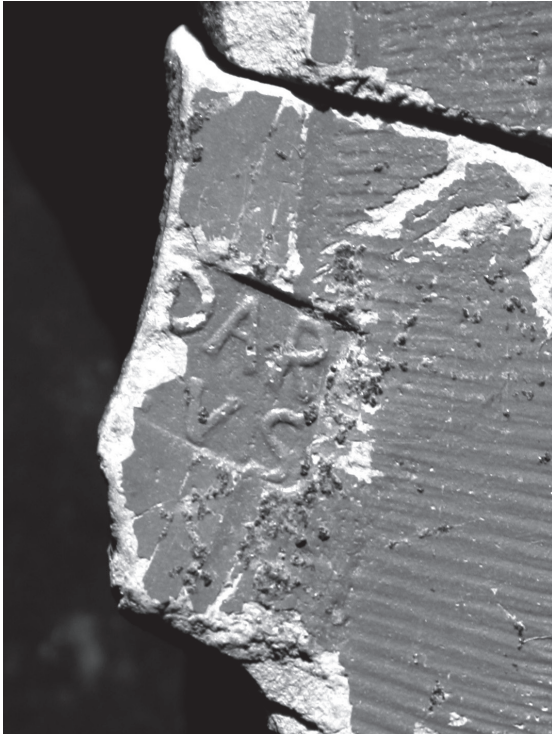


Fig. 8 – Stamp of DAREVS from Caladinho, n. CAL[8]1.

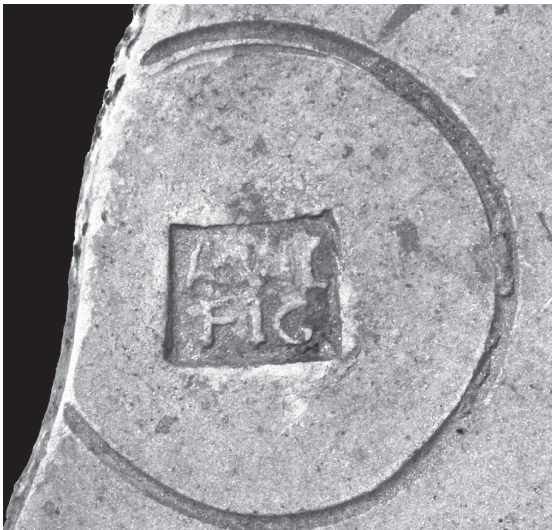


Fig. 9 – Stamp of AVIL/FIG from Caladinho, n. CAL[58]6.

stamp among other *instrumentum domesticum* in his addition to the *CIL* (XV, 5047; Dressel, 1899) but it is not included in the most recent edition of the *Corpus Vasorum Arretinorum* (OCK, 2000). Stamps of *Avilius* are relatively common, and many different examples are known, but none exhibit the title

FIG that we read as *figulus* (“potter”) or perhaps as *figlinae* (“pottery workshop,” but most often used to denote a place for the production of bricks). The other examples of *Avilius*’s stamps date to between 20 B.C.E to 40 C.E. which suggests that this example dates to this period also (OCK, 2000, p. 371). Further narrowing the potential dates of production, stamps which include the title *figulus* were produced only briefly between 30 to 15 B.C.E. (OCK, 2168, 2398). Indeed, this stamp may be among the first produced in the workshop of *Avilius* in the years surrounding 20 to 15 B.C.E.

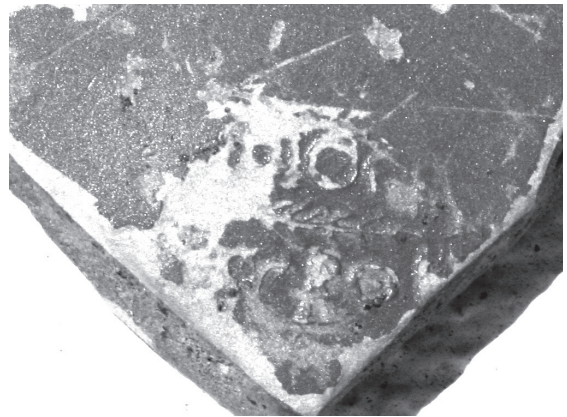


Fig. 10 – Stamp of DIO/SCRO from Caladinho, n. CAL[23]1.

The third stamp is placed on a small sherd, n. [23]3, probably the bottom of a small cup or bowl, but no trace of the foot survives to provide a typological identification. The stamp is circular shaped and divided into two registers separated by a laurel branch. The top line is badly damaged, and the bottom line is also missing at least part of one letter. It reads, perhaps, *DIO / SCRO* which we expand to *Dio(medes) / Scro(fula)* (Fig. 10). Stamps from the workshop of *A. Vibius Scrofula* are well known, although a potter by the name of *Diomedes* is not recorded on any other stamp from *Scrofula*. This workshop is thought to have produced *terra sigillata* between the years 20 to 5 B.C.E. (OCK, 2411).



Fig. 11 – Stamp of *CAMUR F(?)* from Caladinho, n. CAL[19]1.

The fourth and final stamp is well-preserved *in planta pedis* on the interior base of a small Italian *terra sigillata* bowl, n. [19]1. The stamp is very hard to read, since the text contains several ligatures (Fig. 11). We read this stamp as *CAMUR F(?)* and expand this to *Camur(ius) F(igulus?)*, a name attested in ITS productions found in Lusitania (Jerez Linde, 2005, p. 65, fig. 20 n. 31). Like the others discussed above, this vessel was probably produced during the first decades of the first century C.E.

While our reading of this stamp rests primarily on comparable ITS stamps from Mérida and other sites in the western Mediterranean (Jerez Linde, 2005, p. 65, fig. 20 n. 31; OCK, 514-6), other readings are possible. For example, it may be related to the round-cornered stamps produced in the workshop of *C. Murrius* (OCK, 1203-1044; *CIL* XV.5359.1-7). Thus while we prefer to read this stamp as one belonging to the workshop of *Camurius* attested by *comparanda* from Lusitania, it is quite possible that this represents a particularly illegible example of a stamp of *C. Murrius* (Dressel, 1899, p. 731, 5359). If the stamp is of *Camurius* or *C. Murrius*, then it likely dates to the same period as the other stamps from Caladinho or perhaps slightly later. Regardless, since this stamp was recovered from an upper layer, it could be the an intrusive artifact resulting from an isolated visit to the site in the decades after it had been abandoned, and right after the Roman villa of Azinhalinho, situated at the bottom of the hill, had been occupied.

Besides this last stamp, which perhaps has a later chronology, the other stamps reinforce the pro-

posal that the site was occupied at the last quarter of the 1st century B.C.E. until the very first years of the 1st century C.E. Other un-stamped ITS sherds reinforce this chronology. Among these are two ITS rims and fragments of the bases of ITS cups. The rims are both of form *Consp.* 7.1. These fragments, catalogued as n. [90]1 and n. [94]1, are small rims of undecorated bowls or cups with slightly sloping walls. Sherds nn. [92]1, [96]1, and [104]5 are the bases and walls of form *Consp.* 14.1 cups. Each of these possesses a high foot with a base that rises higher than the bottom of the vessel's wall. Their narrow hanging lips are also distinctive. Both *Consp.* 7 and 14 forms are thought to have been produced during the middle Augustan period during the last decades of the first century B.C.E. and the beginning years of the first century C.E.

2.4. Amphorae and other imported ware at Caladinho at the end of the 1st century B.C.E.

The set of amphorae from Caladinho is composed mainly of productions from the Guadalquivir basin. The majority of these amphorae fragments were collected on the surface of the site, and only a few were documented during the excavation. These have already been published as Haltern 70 type (Mataloto, 2002, p.180; Williams; Mataloto 2011, p. 24; Mataloto; Williams; Roque, 2014, p. 33).

Further work with the artifact assemblage has allowed us to identify some smaller specimens which may correspond to Ovoid 4 type amphorae (Fig. 12, CAL[100] 1). These seem to have been produced prior to Haltern 70 amphorae, particularly in early Augustan contexts (for more on the state of the matter see Garcia Vargas; Almeida; Gonzalez Cesteros, 2011, p. 217).

From the same provenance we have identified some amphorae of the forms Dressel 7-11 (Fig. 12-8, CAL[300]61, CAL[301]120), Dressel 1C (Fig. 12-7), and *mortaria* of the form 2 of Santarém (Arruda; Viegas, 2004, p. 344) or the 1st Series proposed by Inês Vaz Pinto and Rui Morais (Morais; Pinto, 2007, p. 238).

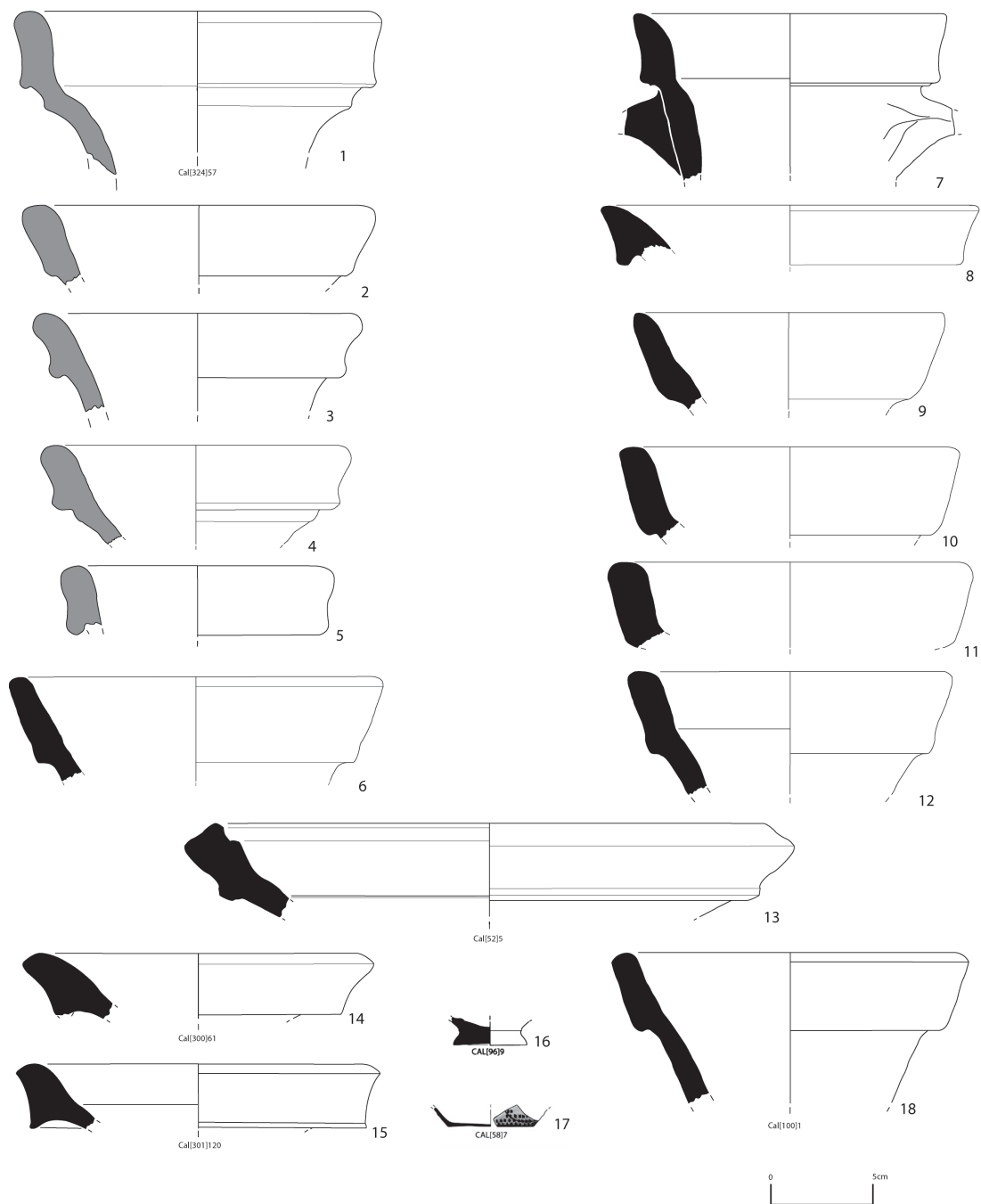


Fig. 12 – Caladinho’s amphorae (nn. 1-12, 14-15, 18); *Mortarium* from *Baetica* (n. 13); “Thin walled” pottery (nn. 16-17); Amphorae from Lusitania (nn. 1-5); From *Baetica*: Guadalquivir valley (nn. 6-12; 18); Cadiz bay (nn. 14-15); Surface finds (nn. 1-12).

At Caladinho we have also recovered examples of the first Roman amphora produced along the western façade of the Iberian Peninsula (Fig. 12, 1-5). While only very few of these early Roman amphorae

have been documented at Caladinho, they were all recovered from the deeper, more secure levels of the site. These amphorae have a collar-shaped, slightly out-turned rim and commonly possess small grooves

under the rim. The examples from Caladinho each have a rim of a diameter between 12 to 18 cm.

We have also recovered three sherds of Campanian black gloss ware, but only two of these were diagnostic. Both appear to have originated at the end of the black gloss industry. The first black gloss sherd, n. [70]1, is a rim from a large platter, form Lamboglia 5/7 from Circle B, produced in a buff, clean, cream-colored fabric with a very fine, matte black slip. The second sherd, n. [314]1, is a ring-footed base with a large stamp on the interior center of the vessel (Alves; *et al.*, 2014, p.120). The stamp is a diamond with four radial arms terminating in the shape of petals. This stamp appears to be common on Cales productions of black gloss *paterae* from the latter half of the first century B.C.E (Pedroni, 2000, p. 197). The fabric of this sherd is a uniform grey with few inclusions and sharp, concave, glass-like breaks, and the slip is brown and not well preserved. This fragment appears to be from Group 2 of the grey paste black gloss imitation on the south of Portugal. Examples of this imitation black gloss have been documented with the same stamp at Santarém (Alves; *et al.*, 2014, p. 117). It is probable that this sherd from Caladinho was produced in southern Baetica at the end of the first century B.C.E. (Alves, *et al.*, 2014, p. 121).

3. CONCLUSIONS

Taken together, these artifacts suggest that Caladinho was built during the latter half of the first century B.C.E. and occupied perhaps as late as the first decade of the first century C.E. Given the nature of the rest of the artifact assemblage and the architectural remains, it seems likely that the primary occupation of Caladinho lasted only a single generation at the very most. The short-lived use of Caladinho and other sites like it in the area indicates that their role in the landscape was limited to the negotiation of colonial power in the central Alentejo. Caladinho was abandoned at the same moment when the structure of the new *provincia* of *Lusitania* was established and the agricultural and mineralogical

exploitation of the surrounding rural landscape was fully accomplished.

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