

The Roman villa of El Ruedo (Almedinilla, Córdoba)

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Introduction

Many Roman villas in Spain have come to light in recent years due to emergency interventions prompted in large part by public works sponsored by the different autonomous governments. This is also the case with the villa of El Ruedo which, unlike many others, could be excavated extensively and is the object of a number of monographic studies which will permit a good knowledge of its structures and cultural sequence and provide a *mise au point* for Andalusian establishments of this kind on topics such as building techniques and architectural planning,¹ architectural decoration,² the iconographic repertory,³ and attitudes to death and funerary rituals.⁴ In this way the villa of El Ruedo is becoming an exception among Roman villas in Spain, and particularly in Andalusia.⁵

The existence of a site here, in the Depresión Priego-Alcaudete, at the very centre of Andalusia (fig.1), had been known for a long time.⁶ However, due to the lack of adequate coor-



Fig.1. Location of site in the Córdoba region of Baetica.

- 1 J. R. Carrillo, "Técnicas constructivas en la villa romana de El Ruedo (Almedinilla, Córdoba)," *AnnArqCord* 1 (1990) 81-107; id., *Análisis arquitectónico de la villa romana de El Ruedo (Almedinilla, Córdoba)* (Tesis doctoral, Universidad de Córdoba 1992).
- 2 R. Hidalgo, "Esquemas decorativos pictóricos de la villa romana de El Ruedo (Almedinilla, Córdoba)," *AnnArqCord* 1 (1990) 109-24; id., "Mosaicos con decoración geométrica y vegetal de la villa romana de El Ruedo," *AnnArqCord* 2 (1991) 325-62.
- 3 D. Vaquerizo, "La decoración escultórica de la villa romana de El Ruedo," *AnnArqCord* 1 (1990) 125-54.
- 4 S. Carmona Berenguer, "La necrópolis tardorromana de El Ruedo," *AnnArqCord* 1 (1990) 155-72; id., "Estudio tipológico de la cerámica funeraria de la necrópolis de El Ruedo," *AnnArqCord* 2 (1991) 371-93; id., "Jarritas a mano de la necrópolis El Ruedo," *Antiquitas* (Priego de Córdoba, 1992) 50-53.
- 5 J. R. Carrillo, "Los estudios sobre las villas romanas de Andalucía: una revisión historiográfica," *AnnArqCord* 4 (1993) 233-58.
- 6 Ramírez de Arellano, *Inventario monumental y artístico de la provincia de Córdoba* (1904) 1238ff; P. Paris y A. Engel, "Fouilles et recherches à Almedinilla (Province Cordoba)," *RA* 8 (1906) 49-92; M. A. Mezquiriz, *Terra sigillata hispanica* (Valencia 1961) I, 449-50, II, láms. 314-15; A. Blanco, "Un retrato de Domiciano," *AEsp* 28 (1955) 280-86.