The Roman villa of El Ruedo
(Almedinilla, Cordoba)

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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 coord-

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