

THE LOST PHOTOS

Archaeothanatology applied to photo documentation from the 1960s
reveals new data about Mesolithic burials, Sado valley, Portugal

Rita Peyroteo Stjerna, Liv Nilsson Stutz, João Luís Cardoso

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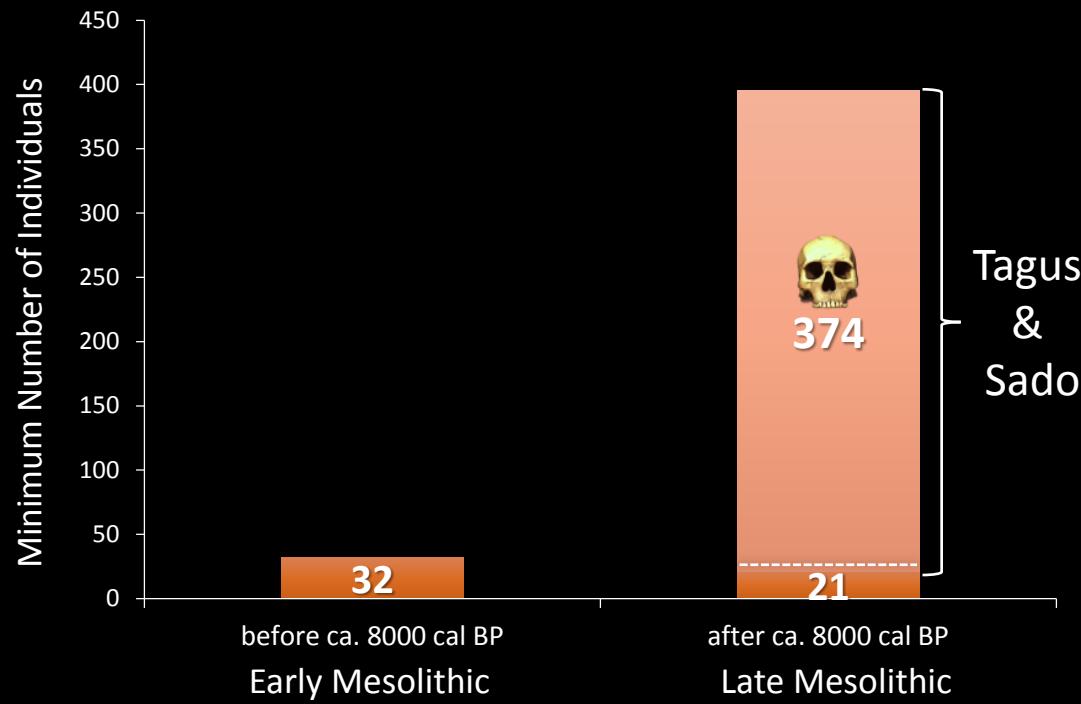
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Iberian Peninsula, Mesolithic Minimum Number of Individuals



Map of the Iberian Peninsula

Atlantic Ocean

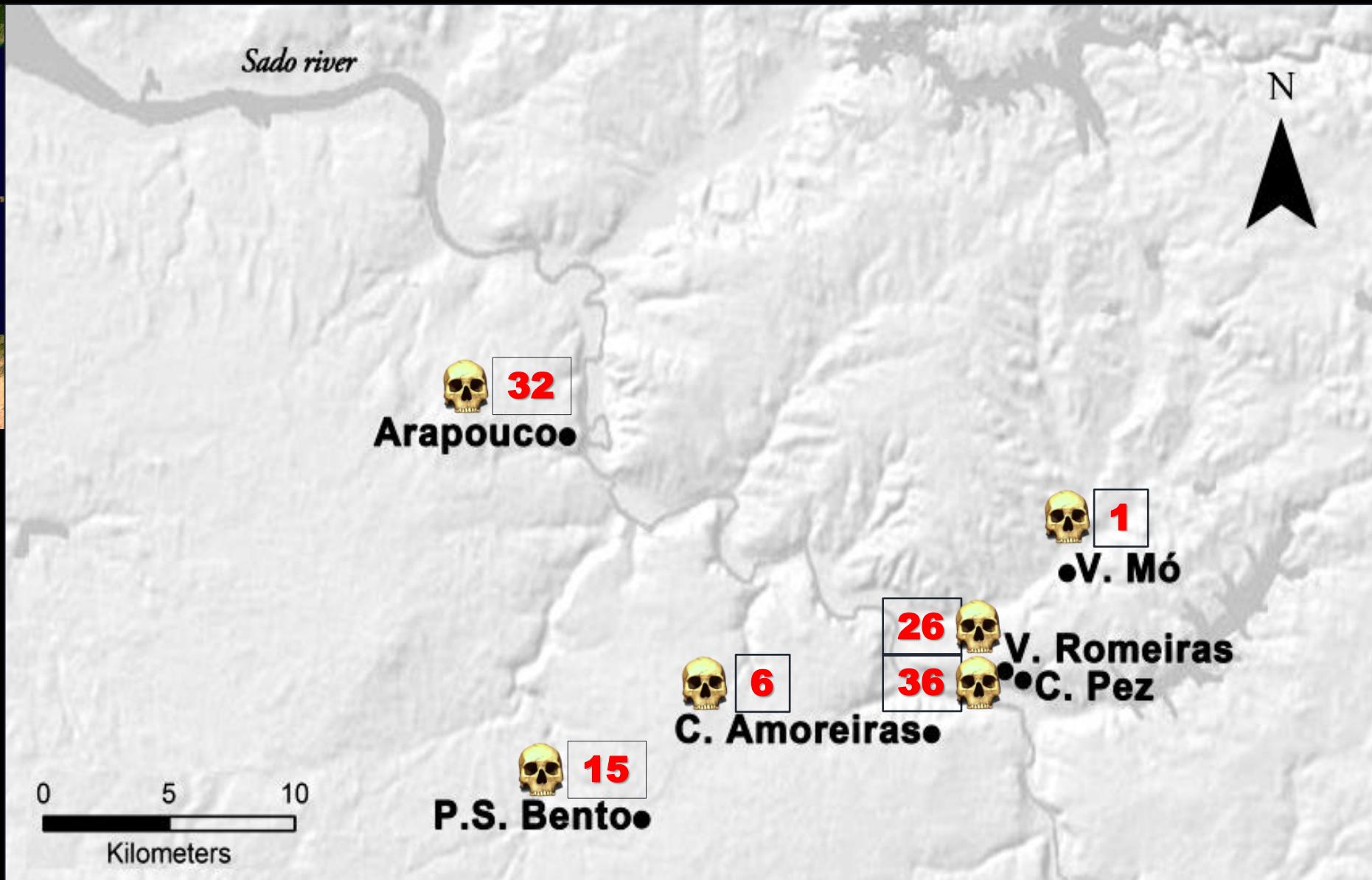


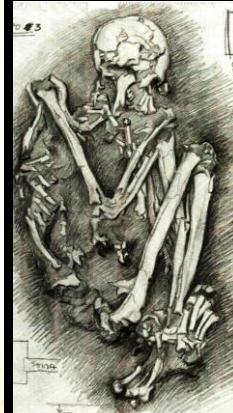
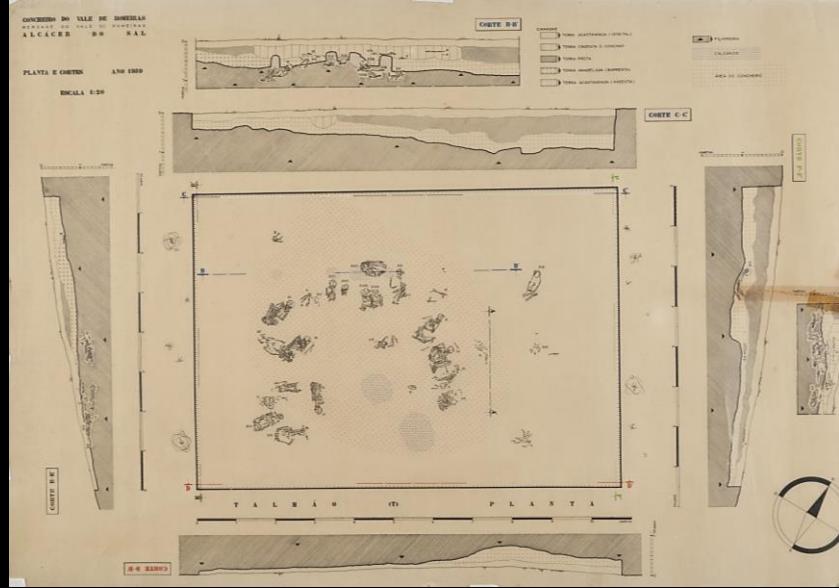
Sado valley

c. 11 shell middens
6 w/ burials
MNI c. 113



Sado river





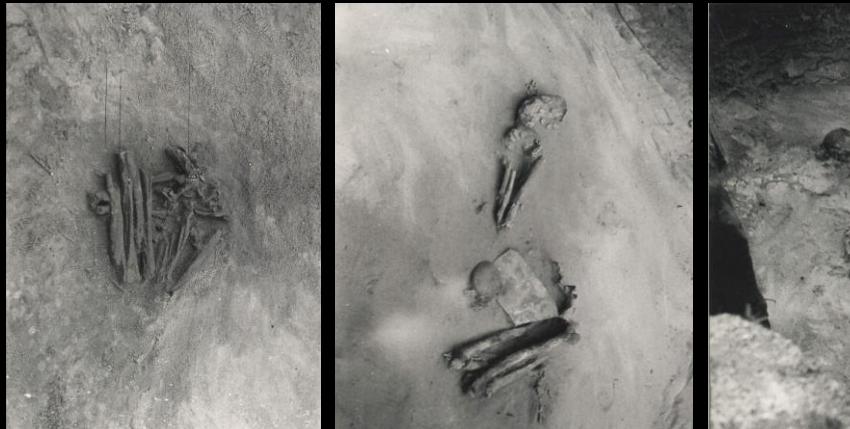
Sado valley shell middens 1950s-1960s

Archives of the National Museum of Archaeology, Lisbon

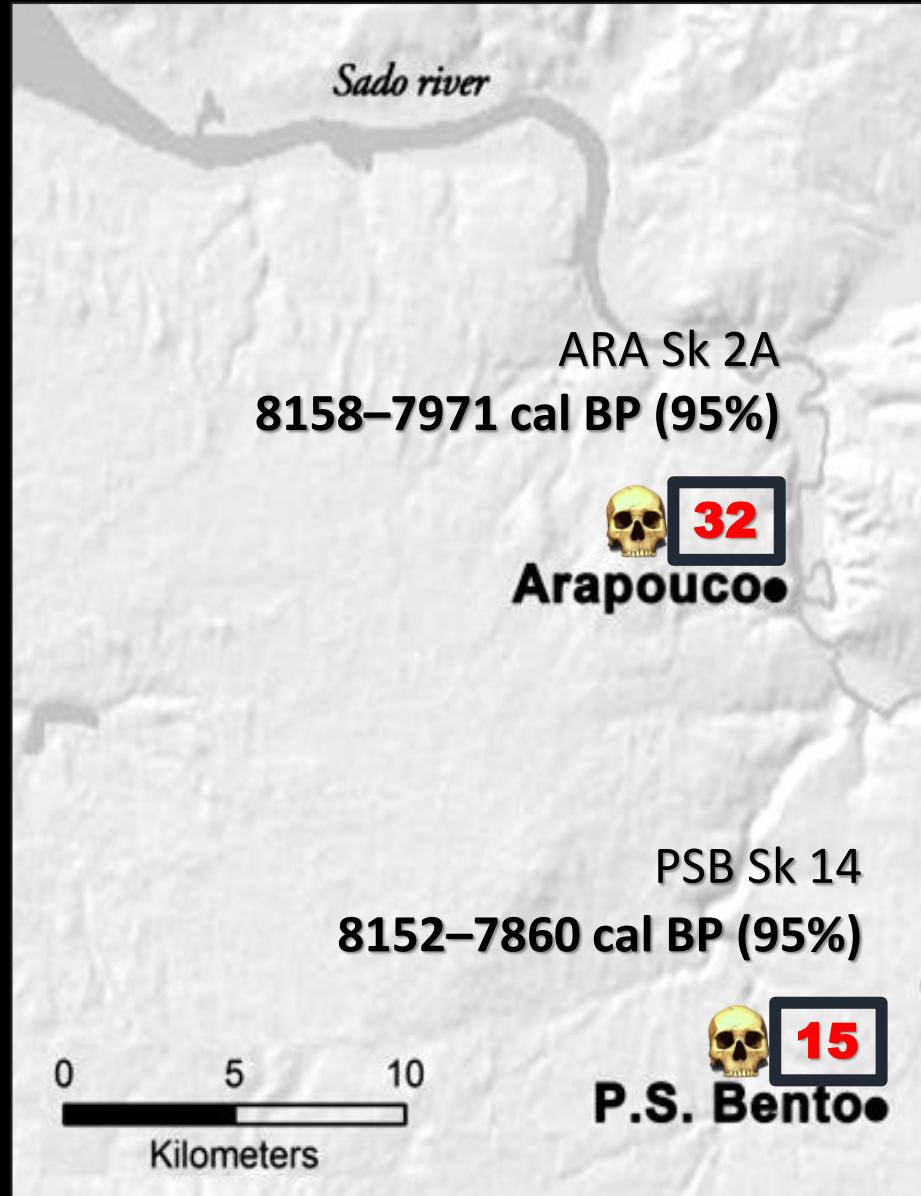
Arapouco, 1962



THE LOST PHOTOS



Poças de S. Bento, 1960





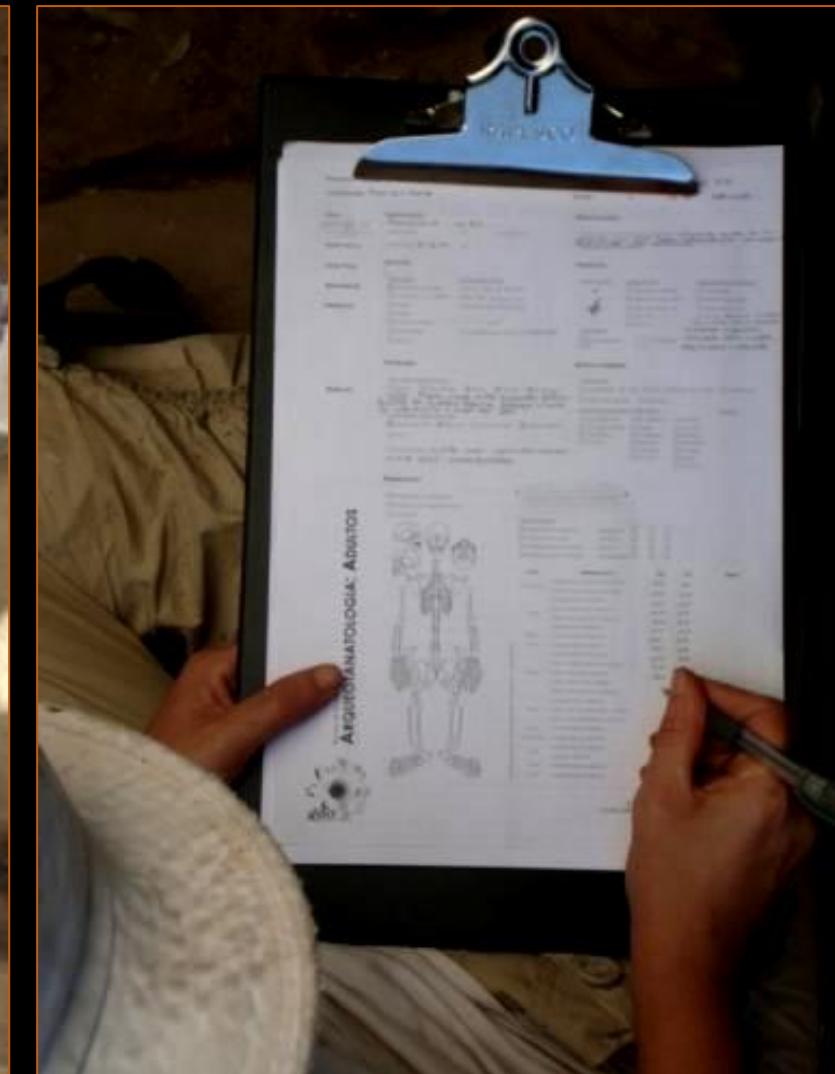
THE LOST PHOTOS



1.
**What is the potential
for archaeothanatology
on old collections?**

2.
**What does
archaeothanatology
bring that cannot be
achieved with common
sense archaeology?**

ARCHAEOTHANATOLOGY



P. S. Bento 2011, Photos by R Peyroteo Stjerna

ARCHAEOTHANATOLOGY

taphonomic theory
+
processes of decomposition

Chaîne opératoire

human remains
archaeological context

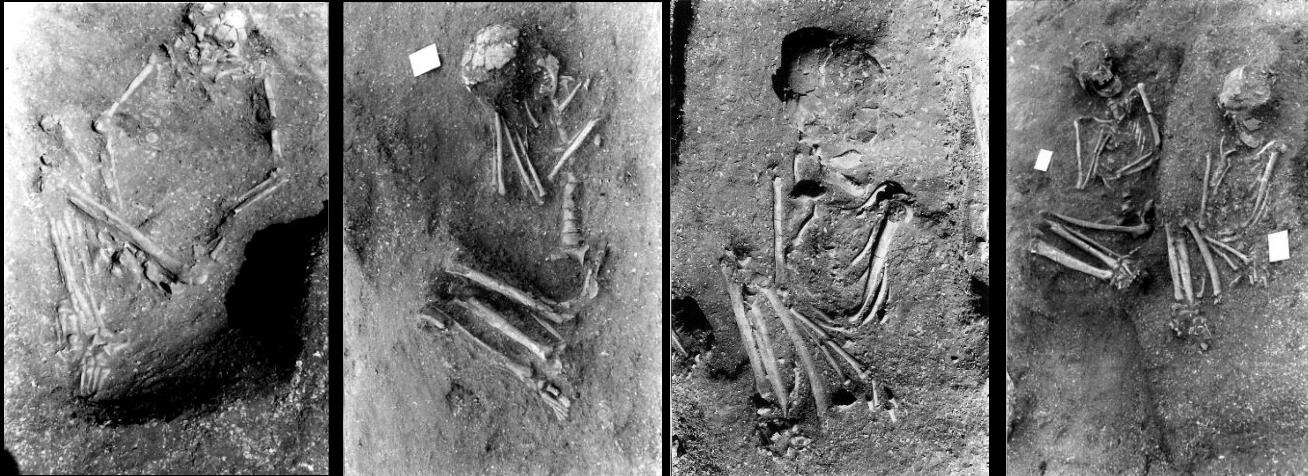
original
funerary context



Duday 2009. *Lectures in Archaeothanatology*
Nilsson Stutz 2003. *Embodyed Rituals*

Illustration by S. Berglund, Peyroteo Stjerna 2016b

Arapouco, 1962



What's in common?



Poças de S. Bento, 1960

What's in common?

1. Nature of the burials: **primary** (and individual)

diagnostic criteria

- **labile joints in articulation**

eg. foot phalanges

often poorly preserved/ unclear in documentation

- Maintenance of general **anatomical integrity** of the body

2. Space of decomposition: **filled**

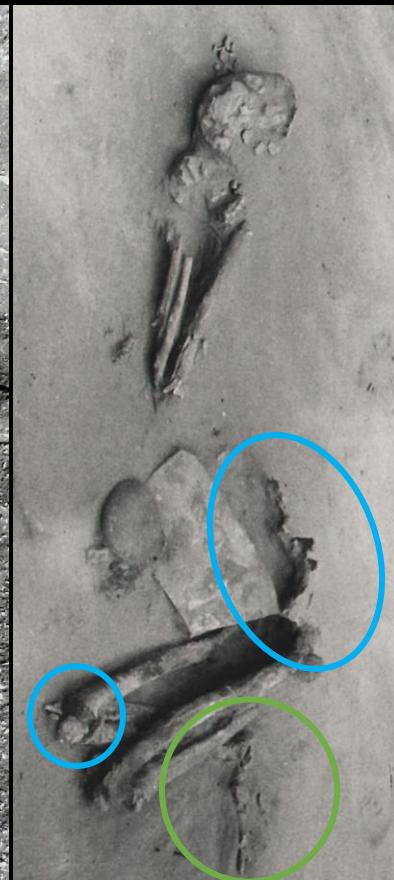
diagnostic criteria

- **bones maintained in place even if original position was unbalanced**

eg. os coxae, bones of hand/feet, patellae



ARA Sk2A



PSB Sk VII-A



ARA Sk3A

What's in common?

3. **Initial position** of the cadaver in the feature



Trunk

Arapouco: On the back – mostly

P. S. Bento: On the side (R/L)

Upper limbs

In flexion at elbow joint – always



Lower limbs

In flexion at hip and knee joints – always

Feet towards buttocks



Lost Photos: Archaeoethnological Analysis

What's in common?

3. Grave design

3.1. Small pit (enough to contain the body)

diagnostic criteria

- Wall effects

3.2. Uneven/sloping floor

diagnostic criteria

- Transfer of body weight
R←→L

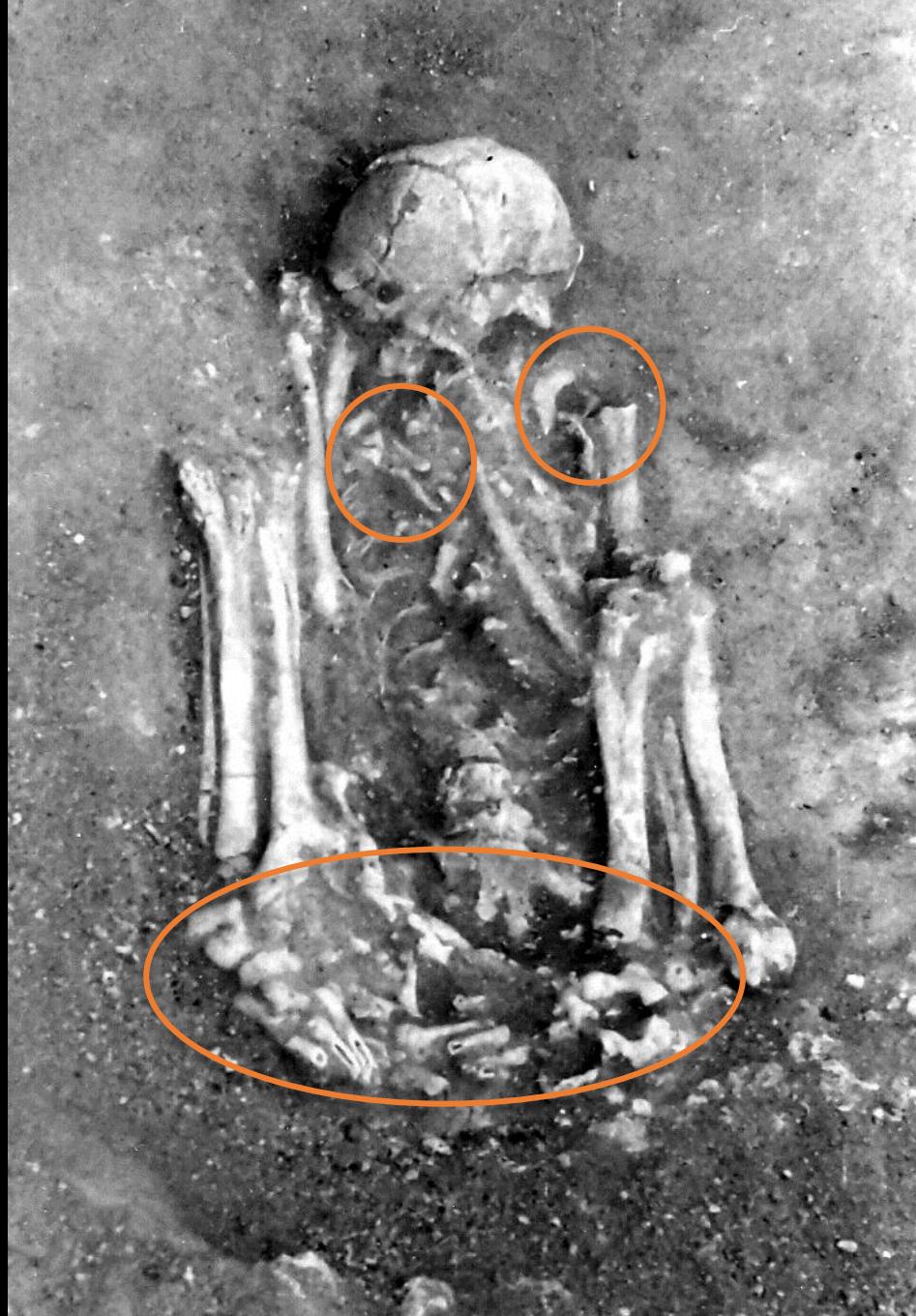


ARA 3A



ARA 2A

What's unusual?

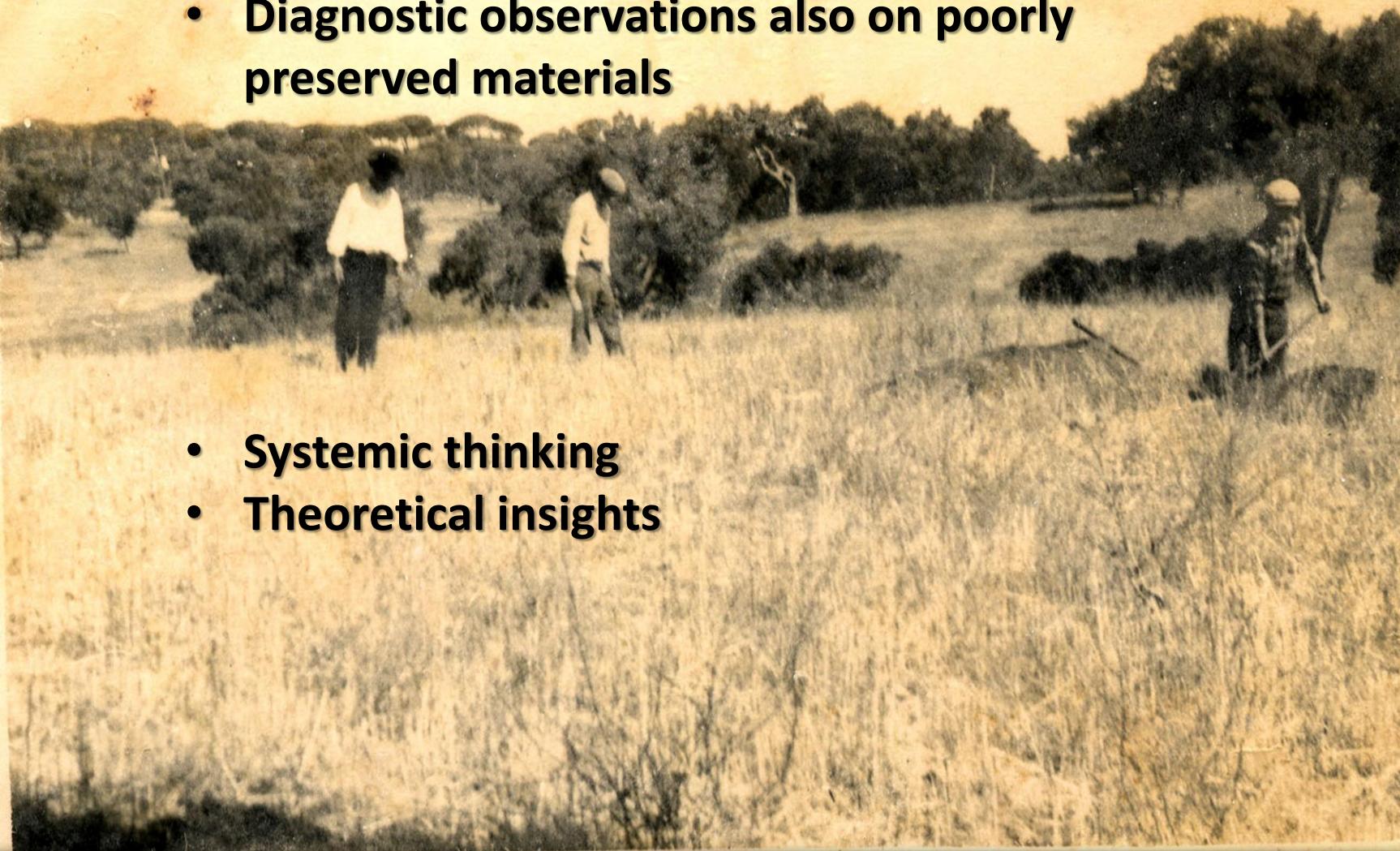


Arapouco, unknown

What does archaeothantology bring:

- **Systematic description**
 - **Diagnostic observations also on poorly preserved materials**

- **Systemic thinking**
 - **Theoretical insights**



ADM/2/2/14/1-3/8

São dois: um na herdade de Pózinho, outro na Quinta de Baixo (na certa Quinta de D. Rodrigos).

a) Concheiros de Portancho. A jusante do monte do mesmo nome, na margem esquerda do Sado, num local conhecido por "barreira das ribeiras, numa encosta. A oeste de S. Romão.

b) Concheros de

do meu marge
dade do mesm
dades da extrem
^o
de ~~Monteiras~~, m
Porto da Confus
Sado. A lata

G'ome's
ver Anai
no Forte, t

21/4/953 Posit de espécie n.º 12. En vista
dista espécie formada exclusivamente
por una especie planicularia del género
Isocladus, o Isocladus sp., con
cuerpos lacerados. Existe también a espesores
de centímetros de grueso, una especie a vista de
trompo de madera, Sphaerodiscus sp. o Isocladus sp., los
más gruesos tienen apariencia de círculos o
hechitos o bolas.

28/4/85
Achada contínua e de fundo, ostensivelmente
descendente a longos, contínuos, os restos
de hastes apagadas, $N = 13$. Contínuo, se a foz
de decréscimo e expandido $11\frac{1}{2} \times 2,5$, o
tudo a altura total da fúrcula, com 1,5
cm. resto de fúrculas e apagadas ≈ 16 em
contínuo, suas calos de costela, se revestindo
superiormente em varas alternas, contínuo, se
descoverta a lheira. Pôsteriormente, se angulos
ou fúrcas a trincadas, formando form N.

23/4/953
Conselho se a cavar os terrenos de laudos
empresariais e area de fundo de casarios da
vila de São Paulo. Fazendo-se como a unica
das espécies de plantas que tem de serem utilizadas
dividida em duas ou tres classes.
Nasceram no peltado das caldeiras
de muros 12 mts. fôr e um
serviço que deve servir de



Todos os engelhos, compreendem
idos comunitários e os a preços aceitáveis;
e os zelos. Fazem sair bem de manutenção,

Thank you!

References

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