

# SOUTH GAULISH *TERRA SIGILLATA* IN AMMAIA (SÃO SALVADOR DE ARAMENHA, MARVÃO): TYPOLOGICAL AND STRATIGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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## Abstract

This article summarizes our work on the imports of South Gaulish *terra sigillata* from the town of *Ammaia*, in the southern part of the province of *Lusitania* and within the geo-sphere of the provincial capital, *Augusta Emerita*. The assemblage available was fully studied: it includes the assemblages from the excavations of the early 20th century, the excavations of the years 1990 and 2000, as well as the sets of excavations of the RadioPast Project (2008-2011). The subject is analysed with regard to its typological concerns, but mainly with respect to its stratigraphical evolution: *Ammaia* presents excellent levels from Claudian-Neronian, Flavian, Flavian-Antonine eras and finally between AD 125-150. The empirical data from the first and last stages are particularly important, given the scarcity of stratigraphical information across the Iberian Peninsula, especially concerning the Julian-Claudian period.

## Resumo

Este artigo resume o nosso trabalho sobre as importações de *terra sigillata* sudgálica na cidade de *Ammaia*, na metade meridional da província da *Lusitania* e na esfera geo-económica da capital provincial, *Augusta Emerita*. O conjunto, estudado na sua totalidade, engloba as coleções das escavações de início do século XX, os conjuntos das escavações dos anos 1990 e 2000, bem como os conjuntos das escavações do Projecto RadioPast (2008-2011). O problema é analisado na sua totalidade, mas sobretudo na sua evolução estratigráfica, com fases de excelente qualidade para as épocas cláudio-neroniana, flávia, flávia-antonina e 125-150 d.C.. Os dados da primeira e última fases são particularmente importantes, em face da escassez de informação estratigráfica na Península Ibérica, sobretudo em relação aos momentos júlio-cláudios.

## Keywords

South Gaulish *terra sigillata*; *Ammaia*; *Lusitania*, stratigraphical evolution; statistics.

## Palavras-chave

*Terra sigillata* sudgálica; *Ammaia*; *Lusitania*; evolução estratigráfica; estatística.

## 1. Introduction

*Ammaia* is located in the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula, 10 km away from the border between Portugal and Spain, on the northwest part of the São Mamede mountain: a region known as the High Alentejo, ranging between 400 and 700m asl. It is situated on the left bank, midway up the Tagus valley, and is some 200 km distant from the sea and another 100 km from the capital of *Lusitania*, *Augusta Emerita* (Fig. 1 and 2). The city of *Ammaia* falls within the southern half of the Roman province of *Lusitania*, in its hinterland, at the start of the Central Meseta (Ribeiro, 1991: maps 1 and 4).

Here, some kilometres away from *Ammaia*, the river Sever begins its journey to its confluence at the left bank of the Tagus river, which last is the longest in the Iberian Peninsula. Being a region rich in its geology and mining, notably concerning lead, silver and rock crystal, it was described by Pliny in the 70s of the 1st century AD, in his account on the extraction of rock crystal in the *iugis ammaiensibus* (Guerra, 1995: PLIN. 37,24).

An Augustan origin for the city has been proposed by several authors, such as S. Pereira (2005: 45; 2009: 61, 131), from an archaeological perspective. He argues from the presence of Italian *terra sigillata* and 14 *denarii* (from a funerary context) collected at the construction of the road to Spain. These, according to the author, can have a Late Augustan date.