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# Amber, beads and social interaction in the Late Prehistory of the Iberian Peninsula. An update

Carlos Odriozola\*<sup>1</sup>, Ana Sousa<sup>2</sup>, Rui Mataloto<sup>2</sup>, Rui Boaventura<sup>2</sup>, Marco Andrade<sup>2</sup>, Rodrigo Villalobos García<sup>3</sup>, José ángel Garrido Cordero<sup>1</sup>, José María Martínez Blanes<sup>4</sup>, Miguel ángel Avilés<sup>4</sup>, Joan Daura<sup>5</sup>, Montserrat Sanz<sup>6</sup>, and José Antonio Riquelme<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dpto. de Prehistoria y Arqueología. Universidad de Sevilla – Spain

<sup>2</sup>UNIARQ -Universidad de Lisboa – Portugal

<sup>3</sup>Universidad de Valladolid – Spain

<sup>4</sup>Instituto de Ciencia de MAteriales de Sevilla -CSIC – Spain

<sup>5</sup>Universidad de Barcelona – Spain

<sup>6</sup>Universidad Complutense de Madrid – Spain

<sup>7</sup>Universidad de Córdoba – Spain

## Abstract

The identification of archaeological amber has been used in Iberian prehistory to evidence long-distance exchanges and engage Iberia in networks that connect western Europe with central and northern Europe, the emergence of social complexity, and the consolidation of trade networks. However, until now, no comprehensive analytical study of the Iberian amber has been produced to support any of the interpretive models currently in use.

This paper approaches the analysis of Iberian Peninsula amber artefacts by considering their provenance (based on FTIR characterization), chronology, and spatial relationship with other exotica. Our work increases the number of analyzed artefacts to 156 (24%), out of the c. 647 currently known for the Iberian Peninsula.

Based on these new data and a review of Murillo-Barroso and Martín-Torres (2012), this overview outlines amber consumption patterns from the 6th to 2nd millennia BCE and demonstrates long-distance amber exchange connecting Iberia with the Mediterranean region from the Neolithic period onwards.

**Keywords:** amber, FTIR, Iberia, provenance, Prehistory

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\*Speaker