

# DESCRIPTIONS OF EXCAVATIONS AND BURIALS AT EL VENADO

by  
**Ana María Boada Rivas**

This document provides detailed descriptions of the excavation units at El Venado and of the tombs and burials they contained. It is available on line as part of the Latin American Archaeology Database: <[www.pitt.edu/~laad](http://www.pitt.edu/~laad)>. It complements the published volume *The Evolution of Social Hierarchy in a Muisca Chiefdom of the Northern Andes of Colombia* by Ana María Boada Rivas (University of Pittsburgh Memoirs in Latin American Archaeology No. 17, 2007), available from University of Pittsburgh Latin American Archaeology Publications: <[www.pitt.edu/~laap](http://www.pitt.edu/~laap)>. Figures referred to here whose numbers have no prefix (Figures 1–50) are included in this document; figures whose numbers have a prefix (e.g. Figure A.14) are found in the published volume.

## Test Pits and Expanded Excavations

Soils of test pits were screened with a 6 mm mesh, unless otherwise noted. Drawings of profiles are schematic cross-sections rather than actual vertical profiles in order to bring features and burials that are not necessarily aligned along the same axis, to the same plane view. Soil color was determined with the Munsell Soil Color Chart.

### **Test pit: TP-1**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 618E, 291N

Excavated area: 4 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: The owner said the area was undisturbed; he found low quality emeralds and sherds in his land. However, it turned out to be the most disturbed part of the zone, and modern debris was found among the prehispanic ceramics 1.0 m deep. This test pit was excavated at different depths to control cultural material disturbance.

Chronology: Undetermined. This test pit was not included in the analysis due to its mixed stratigraphy.

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Test pit: TP-2**

Zone: El Rubí

Coordinates: 569E, 249N

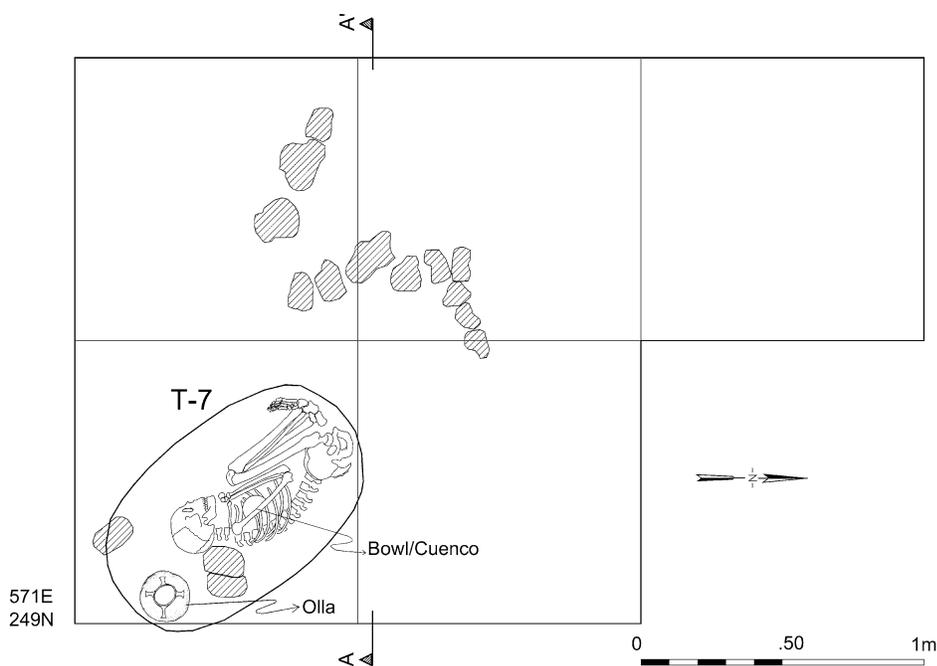
Excavated area: 5 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit was placed very close to a pond that was built at the same time the excavations were carried out. During earth moving, the back hoe uncovered burials, so a test pit was excavated very close to those burials (Figure 1). This test pit yielded Tomb 7 (Figure 2) and a stone alignment of unknown function. Tomb 6, located very close to this pit, was disturbed by the earth moving and was partially recovered.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m) was a dark gray clayey soil (10YR 4/1) with sandy angular gravel (0.02-0.05 m) with prehispanic cultural material. Stratum 2 is a clayish yellow soil (10YR 7/8) with sandy gravel (0.02-0.05 m), culturally sterile.

Chronology: All levels were dated to the Late Muisca period.

TP-002



Profile A-A'/Perfil A-A'

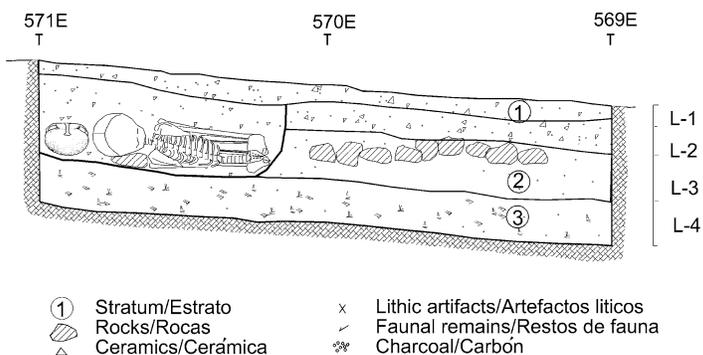


Figure 1. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-002 from El Venado



Figure 2. Excavation of tomb T-7 at test pit TP-002 from El Venado

**Test pit: TP-3**

Zone: El Rubí

Coordinates: 538E, 259N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit yielded a small number of artifacts

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as levels 1 (0.00-0.10), level 2 (0.10-0.20), and level 3 (0.20-0.30), was a dark gray clayey soil (10YR 4/1), very hard to excavate. Level 1 yielded few artifacts; artifact frequency was higher at level 2, decreased in level 3, and no cultural material was recovered below 0.25 m from the surface. Stratum 2 (0.30-0.40 m) was a sterile grayish-brown soil (10YR 5/2) with a clayey texture combined with gravel (0.02-0.05 m).

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, and 3 were dated to the Late Muisca period. This test pit yielded very few sherds and was not included in the analysis.

**Test pit: TP-4**

Zone: El Rubí

Coordinates: 558E, 260N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit was located at the west edge of a pond being built in this area by the time archaeological excavations began. Very few artifacts were found and none were found 0.20 m below the surface.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated in levels 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), and 3 (0.20-0.30), was a dark gray clayey soil (10YR 4/1), that yielded very few sherds. Stratum 2 (0.30 -0.50) is a grayish-brown soil (10YR 5/2) without artifacts.

Chronology: This test pit provided material dated to the Late Muisca period. However, it was not included in the analysis because the test pit yielded very few artifacts without chronological meaning to be assigned to a residential unit.

## *El Venado Excavations and Burials*

### **Test pit: TP-5**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 632E, 279N

Excavated area: Initially a 2 x 1 m and later expanded up to 11.5 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: Excavated in the center of La Esmeralda zone in an area of high artifact density. A small gold figurine 2.5 cm long was found in the surface (Figure 3). The initial test pit yielded a scatter of bones that were originally buried in a tomb which was later emptied to bury another corpse (Tomb 8). As burials usually come in clusters, the excavation was expanded (Figures 4, 5, and 6) and yielded Tomb 13 (Figure 7), post molds from a house, and two features. The detection of features was mainly based on soil texture and softness, because there were small differences in soil composition and color in the 0.70 m deep profile.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was composed of a dark-brown silt loam with a very large quantity of artifacts. Three post molds were identified in this stratum forming a circular structure of 4.5 m in diameter. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was a fine-grained gray soil (10YR 5/1) with large amounts of charcoal and cultural material. Stratum 3, excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.50 m), was a darker grayish-brown soil (10YR 5/2) with a clayey texture of small blocks (0.005-0.100 m) with less cultural material. Stratum 4, excavated as level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), was a dark soil similar to Stratum 3 but with abundant inclusions of angular gravel and no cultural material. Some of the levels were actually excavated in 5 cm levels that later were merged into 10 cm levels for chronological purposes.

Chronology: Level 1 was dated to the Late Muisca period although it also has clear evidence of the Contact period. Levels 2 and 3 were merged and dated to the Early Muisca period. Levels 4 and 5 were merged and dated to the Late Herrera period. Features 1 (FEA 1) and 2 (FEA 2) were dated to the Late Herrera period.



Figure 3. Gold figure recovered during surface collection close to test pit TP-005

El Venado Excavations and Burials

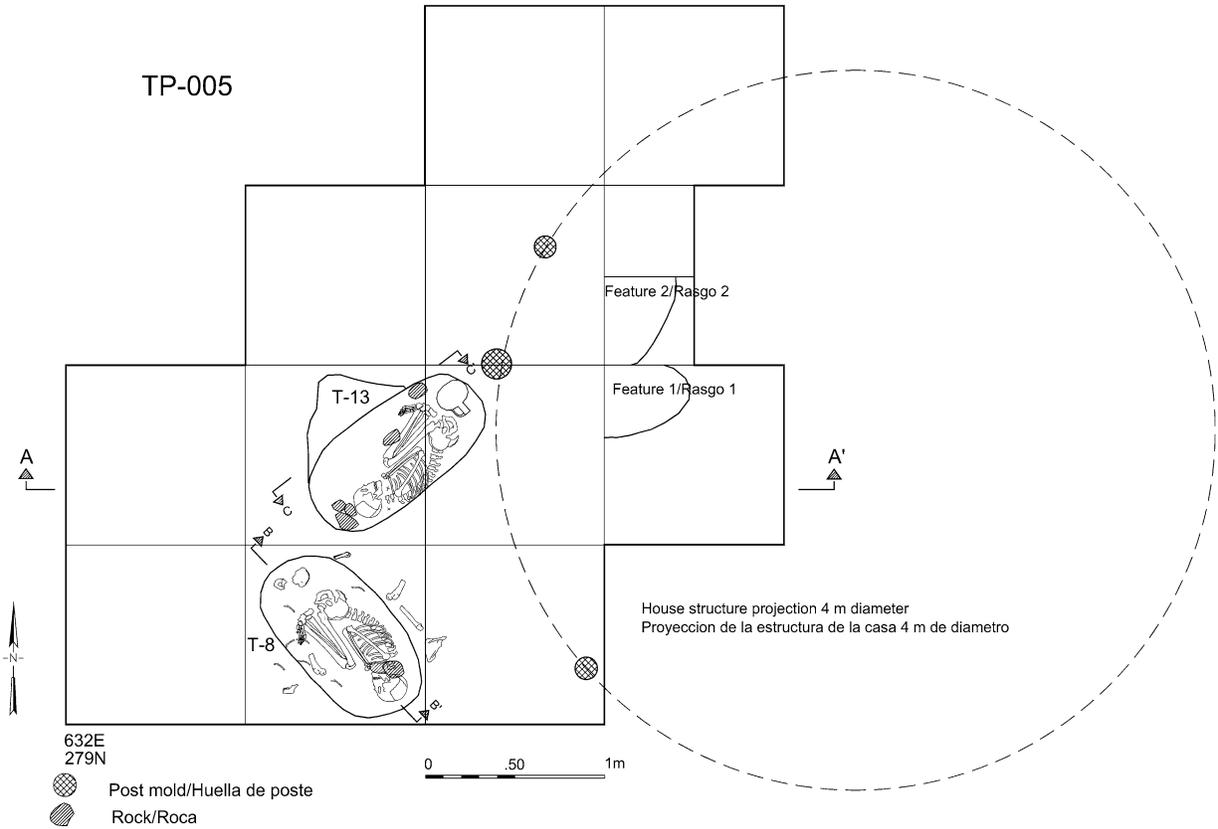


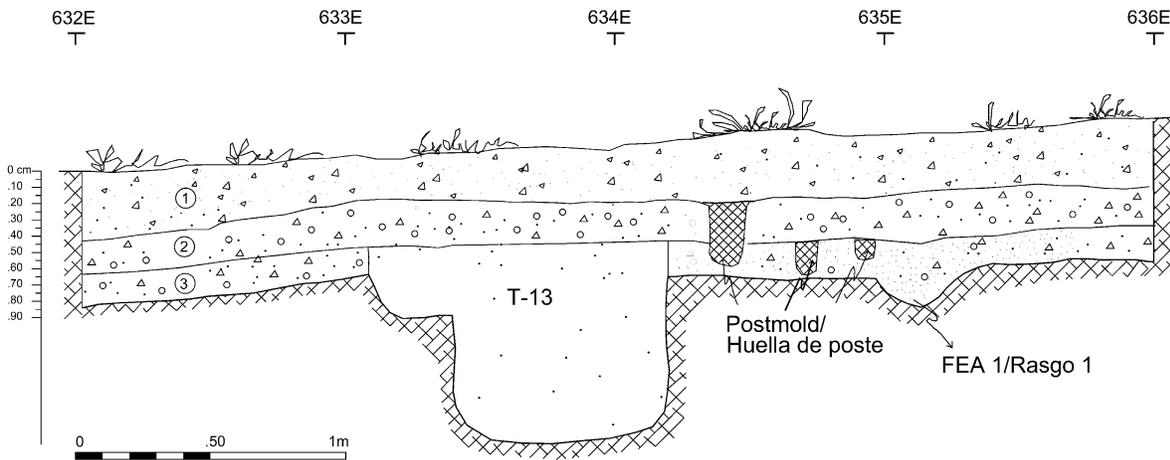
Figure 4. Plan view of test pit TP-5 from El Venado



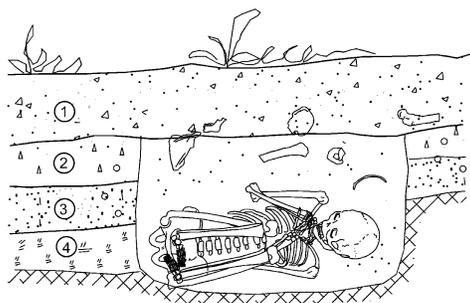
Figure 5. Expanded excavation of test pit TP-005

TP-005

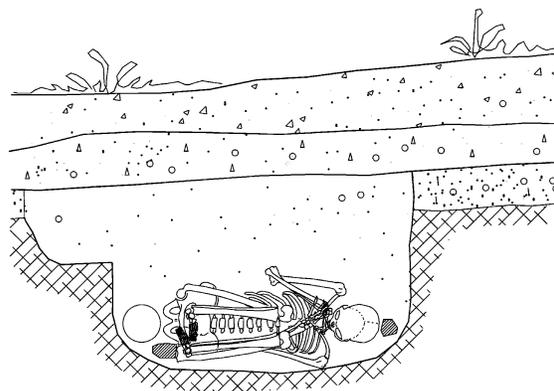
Profile A - A' / Perfil A - A'



Profile B-B' from tomb T-8  
 Perfil B-B' de la tumba T-8



Profile C-C' from tomb T-13  
 Perfil C-C' de la tumba T-13



-  Rock/Roca
-  ① Strata/Estratos
-  Post mold/Huella de poste

Figure 6. Profiles of test pit TP-5 from El Venado



Figure 7. Excavation of tomb T-13 at test pit TP-005 in El Venado

**Test pit: TP-6**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 649E, 249.5N

Excavated area: 6.5 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: The excavation (Figures 8 and 9) yielded three burials (T-9, T-10 [Figure 10], and T-12), one feature (FEA-2), but no post molds were found. The content of the feature and the tombs were screened with a 2 mm mesh.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a 10YR 6/1 gray silt loam with a large quantity of sherds, lithic artifacts, and animal bones. Level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m) were plowed, and level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) was undisturbed. Level 2 had abundant charcoal and cultural material. Stratum 2, excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was composed of a 10YR 3/1 very dark gray clayey soil with small amounts of gravel and a very large quantity of artifacts. Stratum 3, excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.50 m) was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown soil that tended to cluster in small round-shaped clumps (0.005 -0.01 m). This stratum had a low frequency of archaeological material. Stratum 4, excavated as level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), was a soil similar to the one found in stratum 3 but with abundant angular sandy gravel (0.02 to 0.05 m), and no cultural material. Stratum 5, excavated as level 7 (0.60-0.70 m), was composed of 10YR 3/3 dark-brown clayey soil with abundant sandy angular gravel (0.02 to 0.05 m) and inclusions of yellow clayey clumps. No cultural material was found in this stratum.

Chronology: Level 1, 2, and 3 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Muisca period. Level 4 and 5 were merged and dated to the Early Muisca period. Feature 2 (FEA 2) was also dated to the Early Muisca period.

El Venado Excavations and Burials

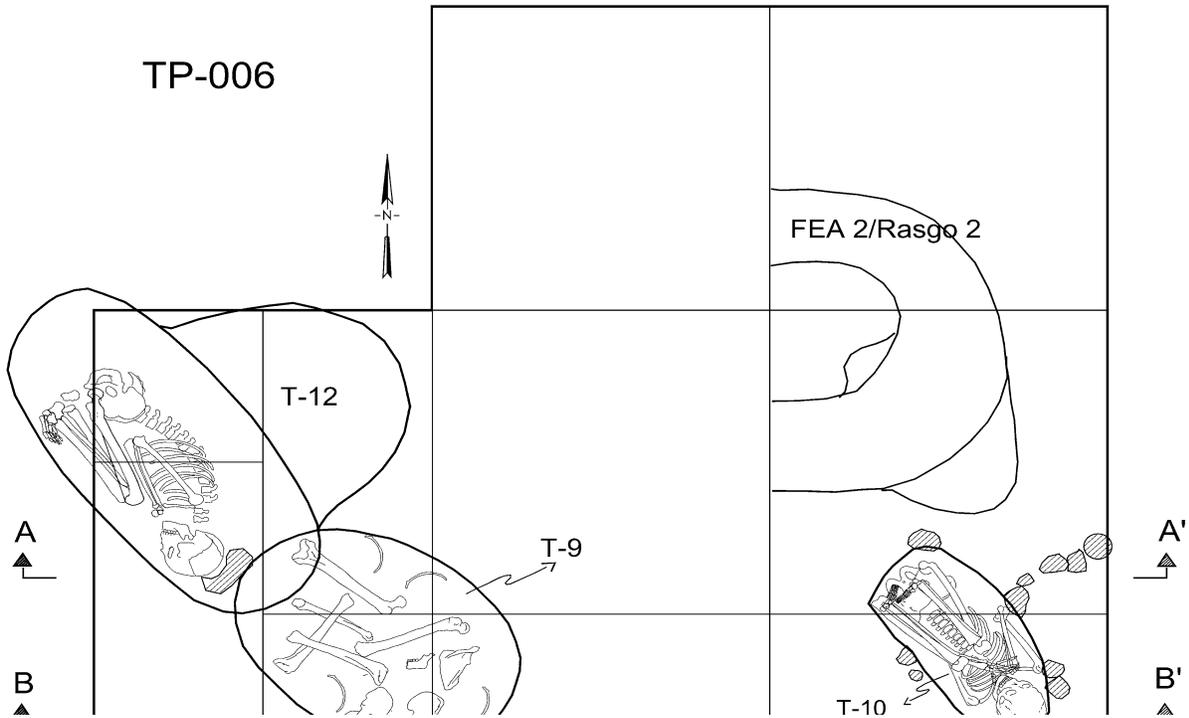
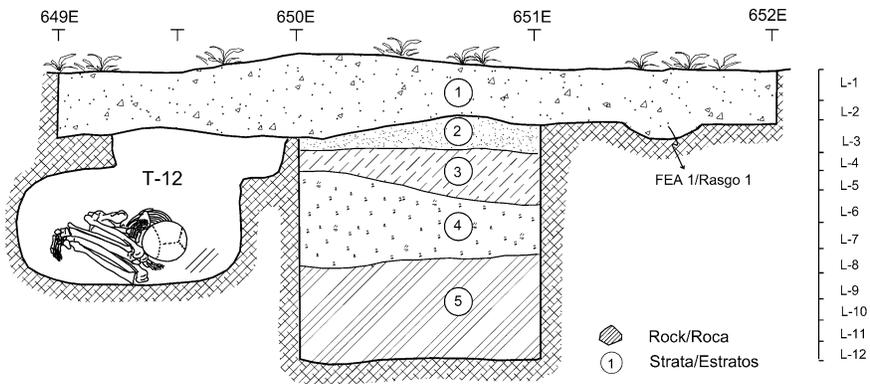


Figure 8. Plan view of test pit TP-6 from El Venado

TP-006  
Profile A-A'/Perfil A-A'



Profile B-B'/Perfil B-B'

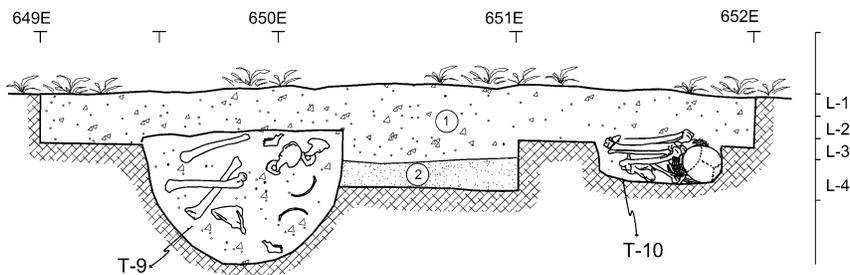


Figure 9. Profile of test pit TP-006 from El Venado



Figure 10. Excavation of tomb T-10 at test pit TP-006 from El Venado

**Test pit: TP-7**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 659E, 249N

Excavated area: 3 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), was a disturbed 10YR 6/1 gray silt loam with abundant cultural material. Stratum 2, excavated as level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m) was a compact soil with abundant sandy angular gravel (0.01-0.10 m) and a moderate quantity of cultural material. Stratum 3, excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.50 m) and level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), was a hard very dark gray soil (10YR 3/1) with no cultural material. Inclusions of 10YR 7/8 yellow clay appeared at the eastern side of the excavation unit. Further excavations were not allowed at this location because it was about time to plant.

Chronology: Level 1, 2, 3, and 4 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Herrera period. Colonial period material came from an old adobe house built close to the test pit and turned down a few years ago.

**Test pit: TP-8**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 669E, 240N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.20 m), was a 10YR 6/1 gray silt loam with a low quantity of artifacts. Stratum 2, excavated as level 2 (0.20-0.30 m), level 3 (0.30-0.45 m), and level 4 (0.45-0.55 m) was a hard clayey soil with small sandy gravel (0.01 -0.03 m), and cultural material. Stratum 3, excavated as level 5 (0.55-0.60 m) and level 6 (0.60-0.65 m), was a hard clayey soil with sandy gravel with little ceramic material. Large gravel without a defined structure was found in the western edge of the excavation unit. Stratum 4, excavated as level 7 (0.65-0.70 m), was a clayey soil with clay inclusions but no artifacts.

Chronology: Level 1 was dated to the Republican period. Level 2 was dated to the Early Muisca period. Level 3, 4, 5, and 6 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Herrera period.

## El Venado Excavations and Burials

### Test pit: TP-9

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 660E, 269N

Excavated area: 3.5 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit was expanded because a burial (T-11) was located at the southeast corner of the excavation (Figure 11).

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was composed mainly of grass roots and a very dark gray soil (10YR 3/1). Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was a very dark gray soil (10YR 3/1) with hard blocks of clay and a moderate quantity of artifacts. Stratum 3, excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.45 m) and level 6 (0.45-0.50 m), had a clayey soil with sandy yellow gravel and few artifacts.

Chronology: This deposit had an unusual large proportion of Orange Burnished sherds in all levels showing no pattern. However, TP-9 also had large proportions of Sandy types at lower levels and small proportions in upper levels. I decide<sup>22d</sup> to date the levels based on relative changes of Sandy types. Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period. Levels 3 and 4 were merged and dated to the Early Muisca period. Material from levels 5 and 6 belong to Tomb 11 so the burial was dated to the Late Muisca period.

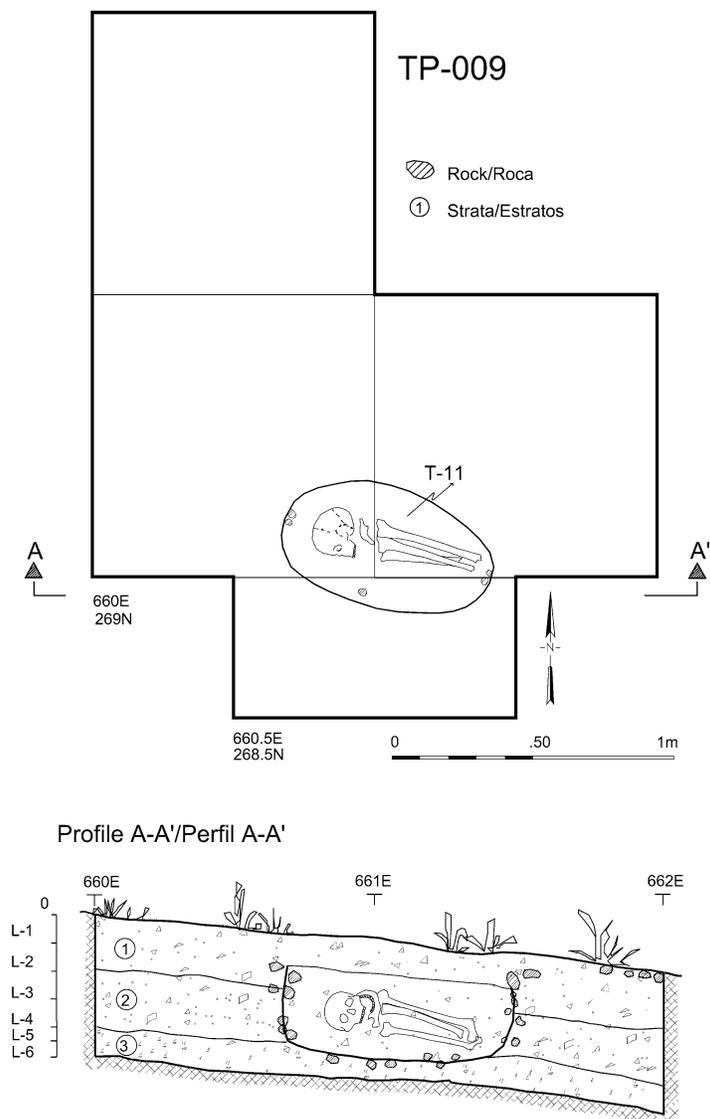


Figure 11. Plan view and profiles of test pit TP-009 from El Venado

## *El Venado Excavations and Burials*

### **Test pit: TP-10**

Zone: El Recuerdo

Coordinates: 808E, 445N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: The surface collection at this location yielded few artifacts and some of them were from early periods.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was a 10YR 5/3 brown sandy loam with few artifacts. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was a compact 10YR 4/3 brown clayey soil with small sandy gravel with no artifacts. Stratum 3 was a sterile 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown hard clayey soil.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Republican period.

### **Test pit: TP-11**

Zone: El Recuerdo

Coordinates: 803E, 440N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: The surface collection yielded few artifacts and some of them were from early periods.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), was a 10YR 4/3 brown sandy loam soil with few artifacts. Stratum 2, excavated as level 2 (0.10-0.20 m) and level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), was a 10YR 4/3 brown soil more compact than the previous stratum and had sandy gravel (0.02-0.05 m), with very few artifacts. Stratum 3, excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was a 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown clayey soil with no artifacts.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, and 3 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Republican period.

### **Test pit: TP-12**

Zone: El Recuerdo

Coordinates: 818E, 455N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was a 10YR 5/3 brown sandy loam soil with few sherds. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), had sandy gravel (0.02-0.05 m) and was more compact than the previous stratum. Stratum 3, excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was a 10YR 3/4 dark yellowish brown hard clayey soil with no archaeological artifacts.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, and 3 were merged into a single cultural deposit and dated to the Colonial period.

### **Test pit: TP-13**

Zone: El Recuerdo

Coordinates: 828E, 465N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.15 m) and level 2 (0.15-0.20 m), was a disturbed 10YR 5/3 brown sandy loam soil with very few artifacts. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was a 10YR 7/6 yellow compact clayey soil with small sandy gravel (0.02-0.05 m) and no cultural material.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Republican period.

**Test pit: TP-14**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 756E, 605N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was a 10YR 6/3 pale brown sandy loam soil with a low frequency of artifacts. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was a dark yellowish-brown sandy loam soil (10YR 4/6) with inclusions of clay with no archaeological material.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged into a single cultural deposit and dated to the Late Muisca period.

**Test pit: TP-15**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 851.2E, 572N

Excavated area: Initially a 2 x 1 m unit and later expanded up to 20.6 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: An expanded excavation which yielded 6 burials (T-22, T-23, T-24, T-27, T-28, and T-30). Tomb 5, excavated in 1989 at the edge of the road, is part of the same household unit. Several post molds forming oval and circular house structures were also found, along with other features in a thick cultural deposit with moderate quantities of cultural material (Figures 12-15).

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.15 m), was a 10YR 6/4 yellowish-brown clayey soil. This level was a cultural deposit with abundant artifacts. Stratum 2, excavated as level 2 (0.15-0.25 m), level 3 (0.25-0.35 m), and level 4 (0.35-0.40 m), was a continuation of the cultural deposit with abundant sherds, lithic artifacts and animal bones. The cultural deposit of the excavation was less deep in certain areas than in others. This stratum was a clayey soil with artifacts and charcoal, very hard to excavate. Some of the features were detected within the deposit, but most of them were detected in stratum 3, where darker spots were contrasted with a light matrix. Stratum 3, excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.50 m) and level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), was a 10YR 8/1 white clayey soil with a small amount of cultural material. A soil sample was taken from 855E, 577N, level 3, and its analysis yielded a basic soil pH 6.52 (Lab No. 5339). A charcoal sample taken from 853E, 576N, level 4 (0.35-0.40 m) was dated 1140 ± 320 AD (GX-22392; 810 ± 320 BP, C-13 corrected  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}} = -23.5\text{‰}$ ). Stratum 4, excavated as level 7 (0.60-0.70 m) and part of level 8 (0.70-0.75 m), was 10YR 4/1 dark gray clayey soil with 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown clay inclusions, without cultural material. Stratum 5, excavated as level 9 (0.75-0.85 m), level 10 (0.85-0.95 m), level 11 (0.95-1.05 m), and level 12 (1.05-1.15 m), was a 7.5YR 5/2 brown clayey sterile soil.

Chronology: Level 1 and level 2 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period. Levels 3, 4, 5, and 6 were merged into one cultural deposit dated to the Early Muisca period. The rest of the levels were considered to be part of tomb fill, so sherds were added to their respective tomb fill chronological assignment.

El Venado Excavations and Burials

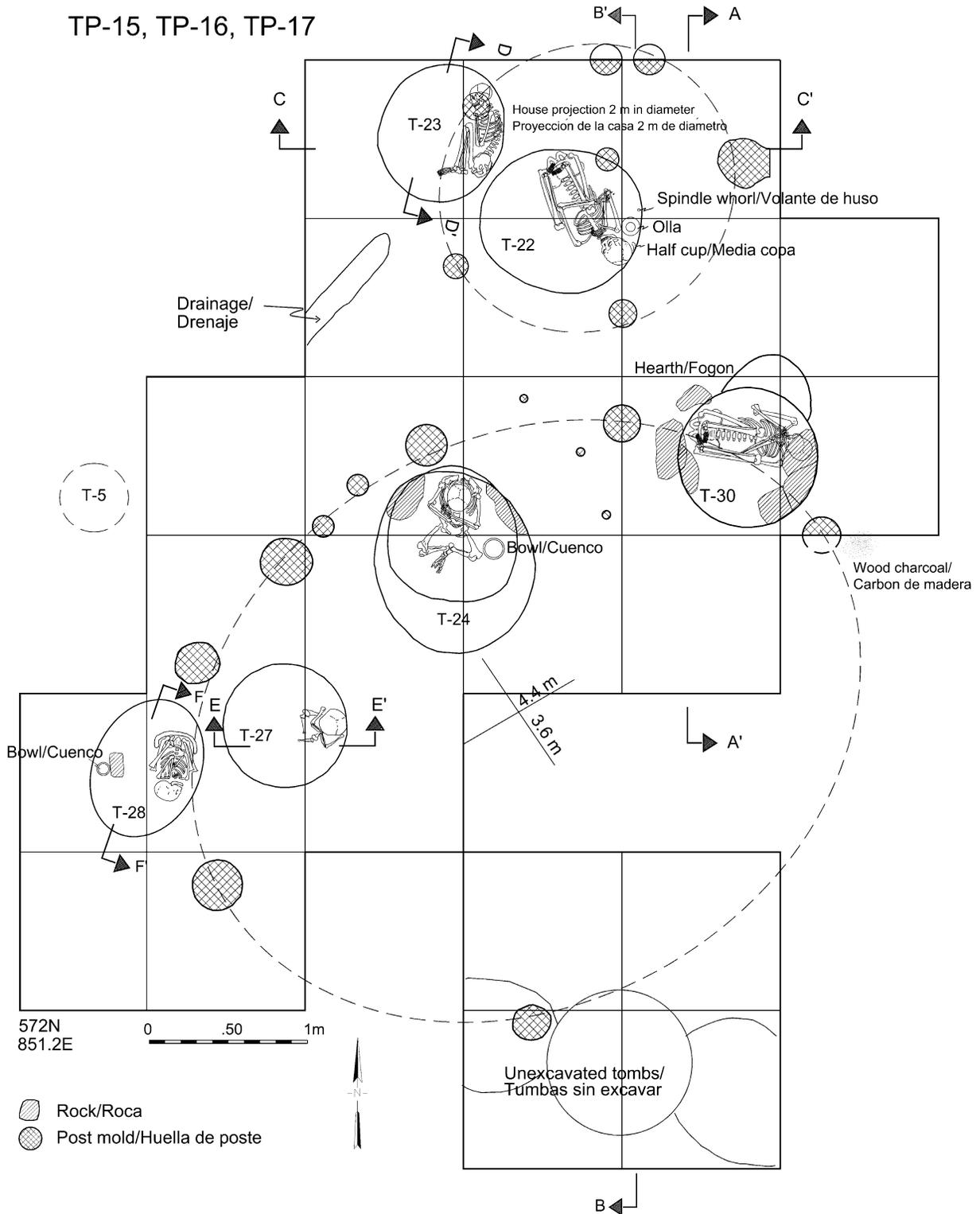


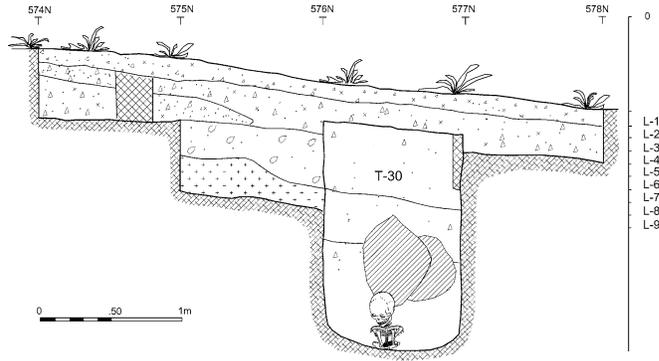
Figure 12. Plan views of test pits TP-15, TP-16 and TP-17 from El Venado

El Venado Excavations and Burials



Figure 13. Expanded excavation of test pit TP-15

TP-15, TP16, TP17  
Profile A-A' / Perfil A-A'



Profile B-B' / Perfil B-B'

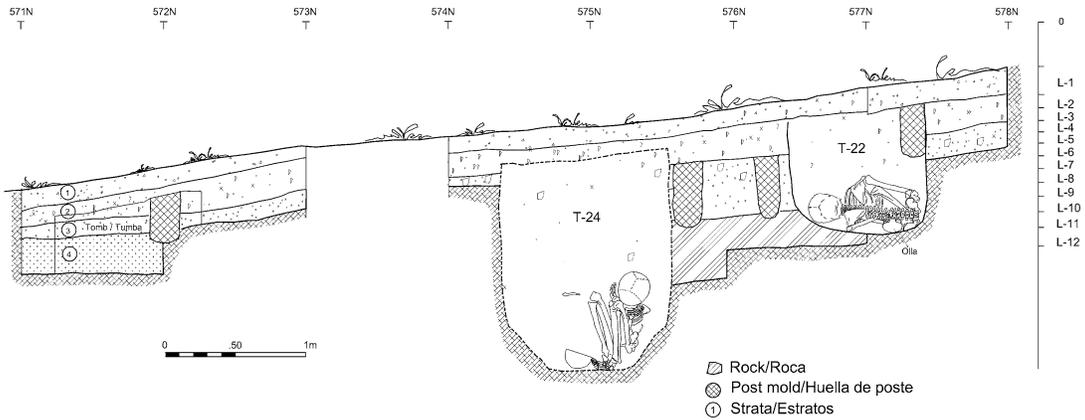


Figure 14. Profiles of test pits TP-15, TP-16 and TP-17 from El Venado

El Venado Excavations and Burials

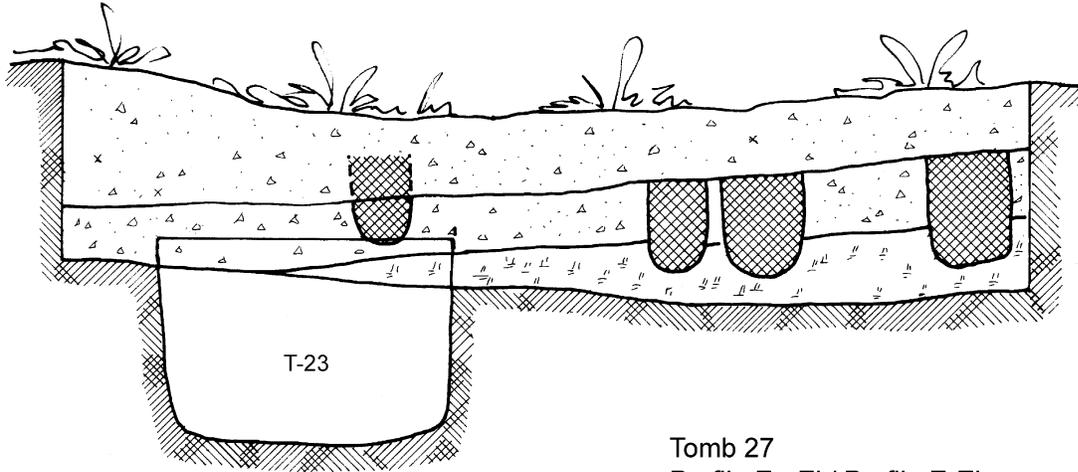
TP - 015  
Profile C - C' / Perfil C - C'

853E  
577.5N  
T

854E  
577.5N  
T

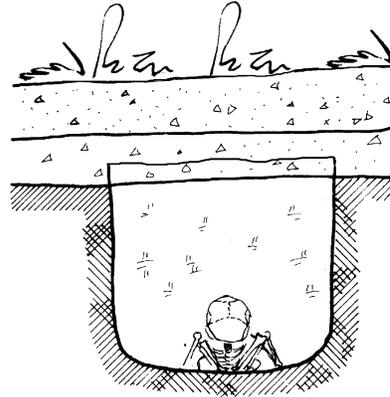
855E  
577.5N  
T

856E  
577.5N  
T

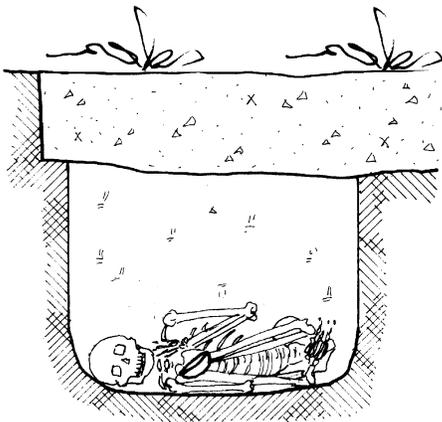


0 .20 .40 .60 .80 1.00 m

Tomb 27  
Profile E - E' / Perfil E-E'

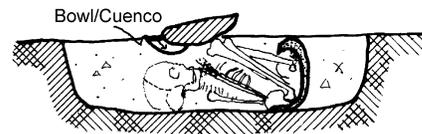


Tomb 23  
Profile D - D' / Perfil D - D'



0 .20 .40 .60 .80 1.00 m

Tomb 28  
Profile F - F' / Perfil F - F'



-  Ash wrapping / envoltorio de ceniza
-  Ceramics / Ceramica
-  Lithic Artefact / Artefacto litico
-  Charcoal / Carbon

Figure 15. Profiles of test pits TP-15, TP-16 and TP-17 from El Venado

**Test pit: TP-16**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 854E, 572N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit was made to recover material from a midden located close to the house structure excavated in TP-15. The test pit yielded half a post mold and three burials that were not excavated due to lack of time (Figures 12-14).

Stratigraphy: The test pit has the same stratigraphy than TP-15.

Chronology: The material was merged to TP-15 and dated following the same criteria used in TP-15.

Test pit: TP-17

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 854E, 571N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit was made to confirm the structure size uncovered in TP-15. Half a post mold from TP-16 was completed in this test pit (Figures 12-14).

Stratigraphy: Has the same stratigraphy of TP-15.

Chronology: The material was merged to TP-15 and dated following the same criteria used in TP-15.

**Test pit: TP-18**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 649E, 273N

Excavated area: 1 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit was excavated to control stratigraphic depth in a zone that seemed to be promisingly deep but it turned out to have few centimeters deep. Soil was screened with a 4 mm mesh.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated in two levels: level 1 (0.00-0.25 m), was a dark brown silt loam soil with abundant artifacts. Level 2 (0.25-0.30 m) was a more compact silt loam soil than the previous stratum with much less artifactual material. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.30-0.35 m), was a clayey soil with sandy gravel with no archaeological material. Stratum 3, excavated as level 4 (0.35-0.45 m), had a higher frequency of larger angular gravel (0.004 – 0.01 m) and no artifacts were present.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, and 3 were merged and dated to the Early Muisca period.

**Test pit: TP-21**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 614E, 248N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit 9 (Figure 16) was placed close to El Venado creek in an area where the owner said it was undisturbed. Soil was screened with a 4 mm mesh.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a disturbed 10YR 4/1 dark gray silt loam with abundant ceramic sherds, lithic artifacts and charcoal. It was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.15 m) and level 2 (0.15-0.25 m). Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.25-0.35 m) and level 4 (0.35-0.40 m), was a clayey dark soil with no archaeological material. Stratum 3 was a thin lent (0.04 m) located between level 2 and 3, with abundant angular sandy gravel with no archaeological material. Stratum four had a post mold 0.45 m diameter and 0.50 m depth filled with soil and gravel. Only one ceramic fragment was found inside the pit. Stratum 5, excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.50 m), was a hard clayey soil without archaeological material. Stratum 6, excavated as level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), was a clayey sterile soil with yellow sandy angular gravel. Stratum 7, excavated as level 7 (0.60-0.70 m), was a compact 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown clayey sterile soil.

Chronology: All levels were merged in one cultural deposit dated to the Late Muisca period.



Figure 16. Excavation of test pit TP-21. A large post mold can be seen in the northern part of the excavation

**Test pit: TP-22**

Zone: San Antonio

Coordinates: 665E, 550N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit was located close to an area where surface collection yielded moderate frequencies of ceramic sherds.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.25 m), was a 7.5YR 6/2 pinkish-gray clayey soil found in large blocks very hard to break; few artifacts were found. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.25-0.35 m) and level 4 (0.35-0.45 m), was a clayey soil with sandy angular gravel with no artifacts.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Republican period.

**Test pit: TP-23**

Zone: San Antonio

Coordinates: 615E, 549N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit only yielded surface material.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.25 m) was a clayey soil with small angular sandy gravel with no artifacts.

Chronology: This test pit did not yield enough material to be assigned to a chronological period and was withdrawn from the sample.

**Test pit: TP-24**

Zone: San Antonio

Coordinates: 500E, 430N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit was located in an area where surface collections yielded a high artifact frequency.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.15 m), was a 10YR 4/1 dark gray clayey soil with a moderate quantity of archaeological material. Stratum 2, excavated as level 2 (0.15-0.25 m), level 3 (0.25-0.35 m), and level 4 (0.35-0.45 m), was a 10YR 2/1 black clayey soil. Archaeological material decreased substantially in level 3 and very few artifacts were found in level 4.

Chronology: All levels were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period.

**Test pit: TP-25**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 668E, 277N

Excavated area: 3.5 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit was expanded to excavate burials (T-15 and T-18) located at both extremes of the excavation (Figure 17).

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.15 m), was a clayey soil with abundant small sandy angular gravel (0.02-0.05 m). This stratum yielded archaeological material. Stratum 2, excavated as level 2 (0.15-0.25 m) and level 3 (0.25-0.35 m), was a 10YR 4/2 dark grayish-brown compact clayey soil with abundant angular gravel and very few sherds.

Chronology: All levels were merged into a single time period dated to the Late Muisca period.

El Venado Excavations and Burials

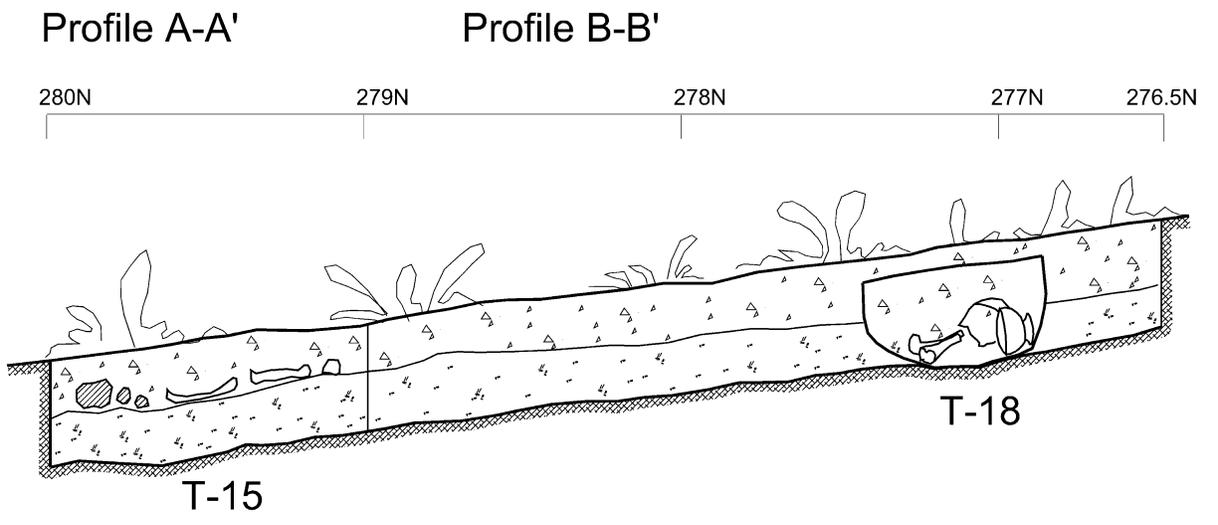
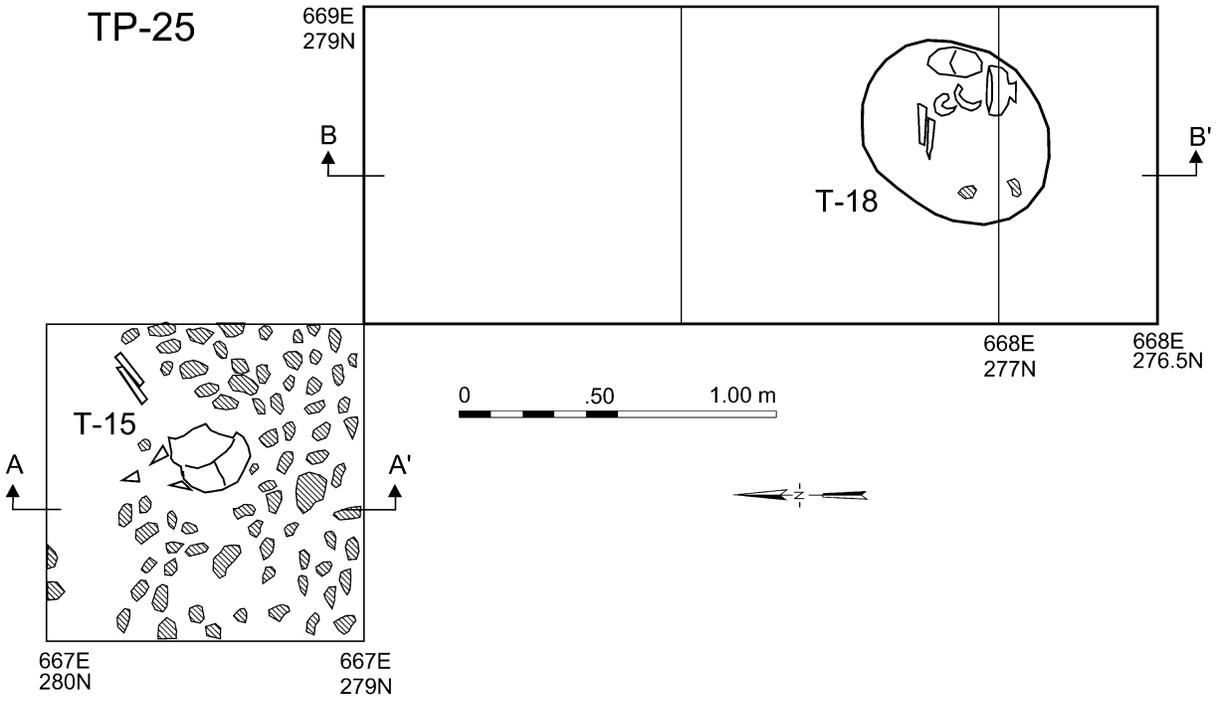


Figure 17. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-25 from El Venado

## *El Venado Excavations and Burials*

### **Test pit: TP-26**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 619E, 318N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m) was highly disturbed by agricultural activities. It is composed by a 10YR 4/2 dark grayish-brown clayish soil forming small clumps (0.05-0.1 m) with moderate frequency of artifacts. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), and level 5 (0.40-0.45 m), was a 10YR 4/2 dark grayish-brown clayey soil with gravel and artifacts. Stratum 3, excavated as level 6 (0.45-0.50 m), was a sterile 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown clayey soil with abundant sandy angular gravel (0.02-0.05 m) and few artifacts.

Chronology: All levels yielded similar proportions and were merged into a single time period dated to the Late Muisca period.

### **Test pit: TP-27**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 815E, 549N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 (0.00-0.40 m) was excavated in 4 levels of 0.10 m each. Is a 2.5Y 5/3 light olive-brown clayey soil with sandy angular gravel and very few artifacts.

Chronology: All levels were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Republican period.

### **Test pit: TP-28**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 688E, 563N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit only yielded modern material and for that reason was not included in the analysis.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10), a layer with abundant grass roots, level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), and level 3 (0.20-0.30 m). This stratum is a 2.5Y 3/3 dark grayish-brown sandy loam soil with abundant modern ceramic material. Stratum 3 excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), level 5 (0.40-0.45 cm), and level 6 (0.45-0.50 m), was a 2.5Y 6/3 light yellowish-brown soil with no artifacts.

Chronology: The material of this test pit was merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Republican period. It was not included in the sample.

### **Test pit: TP-29**

Zone: La Vega

Coordinates: 774E, 475N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: The surface collection yielded high frequencies of artifacts from early period.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.15 m), a 2.5Y 4/1 dark gray clayey soil with artifacts, and level 2 (0.15-0.30 m) with a large quantity of sherds. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.30-0.35 m) and level 4 (0.35-0.40 m), was a 2.5Y 3/2 very dark grayish-brown clayed soil with fewer artifacts.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Early Muisca period. Level 3 was dated to the Late Herrera period.

### **Test pit: TP-30**

Zone: La Vega

Coordinates: 768.4E, 475.3N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was a 2.5Y 5/2 grayish-brown clayey soil with archaeological material. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), and level 5 (0.40-0.50 m), was a 2.5Y 4/2 dark grayish-brown clayey soil with no archaeological material.

Chronology: Level 1 and level 2 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period.

## *El Venado Excavations and Burials*

### **Test pit: TP-31**

Zone: La Vega

Coordinate: 781.5E, 475N

Observations: This test pit was excavated parallel to TP-42 located at El Recuerdo zone. While one part of El Recuerdo had sedimentation taking place, the surface cultural level on the other side was eroding. Modern cultural material has been incorporated into the archaeological record.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.15 m), was a 10YR 3/3 dark-brown clayey soil with artifacts. Stratum 2, excavated as level 2 (0.15-0.20 m), level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was a 10YR 5/3 brown clayey soil with no artifacts. Stratum 3 is a clayey soil with yellow sandy angular gravel also with no artifacts.

Chronology: Level 1 was dated to the Early Muisca period.

### **Test pit: TP-32**

Zone: El Recuerdo

Coordinates: 804E, 481N

Excavated area: 4 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This is an expanded excavation (Figures 18 and 19) made in an area where surface collections yielded early material.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.30 m), was a 10YR 7/4 very pale brown sandy loam soil with artifacts. This stratum was a coluvial deposition. Stratum 2, excavated as level 2 (0.30-0.40 m), was a transitional layer of 10YR 5/2 grayish-brown sandy loam more compact than the former. Stratum 3, excavated as level 4 (0.40-0.50 m), level 5 (0.50-0.60 m), and level 6 (0.60-0.70 m), was a buried prehispanic midden, 10YR 3/1 very dark gray clayey soil with abundant cultural material, particularly ceramics and lithic artifacts. A charcoal sample taken from 805E, 482N, level 5 (0.50-0.60 m depth) of this stratum was dated 1210 ± 150 AD (GX-22393; 740 ± 150 BP, C-13 corrected,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}} = -22.9\text{‰}$ ). A soil sample of pH of 5.44 indicates a very acidic soil (Lab No. 5337).

Stratum 4, excavated as level 7 (.70-.80 m), level 8 (0.80-0.90 m), and level 9 (0.90-1.0 m), was a compact clayey soil with sandy gravel. Artifacts were found at the top of level 8 but no artifacts were found in level 9.

Chronology: Level 1 was dated to the Colonial period. Level 2 and level 3 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period. Level 4 and level 5 were merged and dated to the Early Muisca period and Level 6, level 7 and level 8 were merged and dated to the Late Herrera period.



Figure 18. Expanded excavation of test pit TP-32 from El Venado



Figure 19. Detail of the expanded excavation of test pit TP-32 from El Venado

**Test pit: TP-33**

Zone: El Recuerdo

Coordinates: 799E, 480N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was a 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown silt loam soil with artifacts. This stratum is part of a colluvial deposit formed by erosive process from the hill surrounding the site. Most likely, the hills were deforested and this precipitated the rapid formation of this layer. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), was a transitional 10YR 5/3 brown silt loam soil with a high quantity of artifacts, and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m) also with abundant cultural material. Stratum 3, excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.50 m), was a 10YR 2/1 black clayey soil with lower frequency of artifacts. Stratum 4, excavated as level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), was a lighter clayey soil with sandy angular gravel without archaeological material.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Early Muisca period.

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Test pit: TP-34**

Zone: Chávez

Coordinates: 690E, 238N

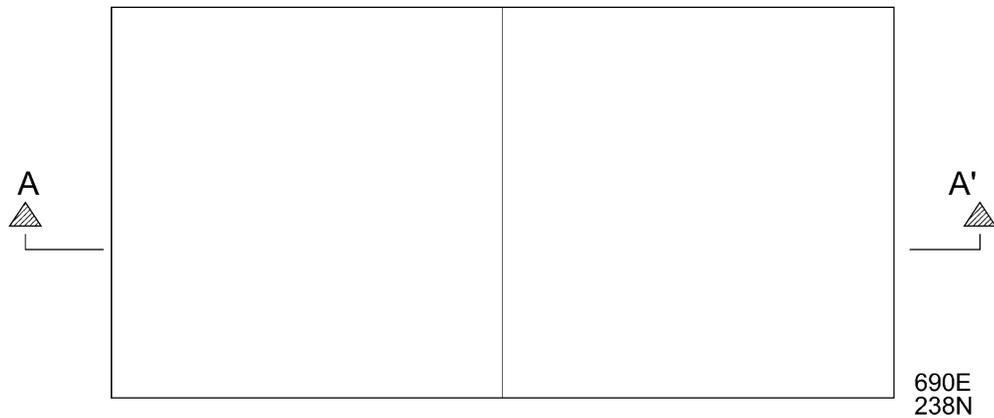
Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was a 2.5Y 4/2 dark grayish-brown sandy loam with archaeological material. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), was a sandy loam with abundant yellow sandy angular gravel with no archaeological material. Stratum 3, excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), level 5 (0.40-0.50 m), and level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), was a 10YR 3/1 very dark gray soil with abundant sandy gravel without archaeological material. The analysis of a soil sample taken from level 4 yielded a basic soil [6.32 pH (Lab No. 5338)]. This stratum coincides with the stratum that contains a buried cultural floor in test pits located north from this zone (Figure 20).

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Colonial period.

**TP-34**

Plan view/Planta



**Profile A-A'/Perfil A-A'**

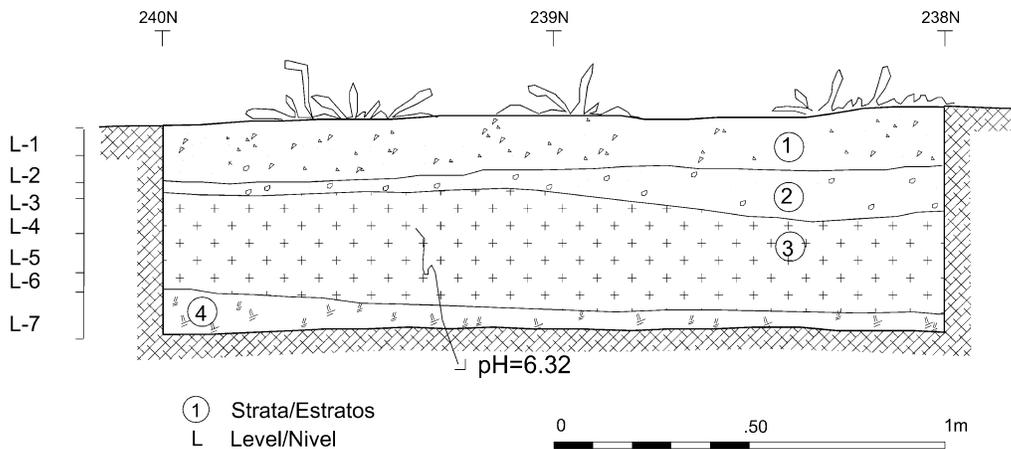


Figure 20. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-34 from El Venado

**Test pit: TP-35**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 840E, 570N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was a 10YR 3/6 dark yellowish-brown clayish soil with a moderate quantity of ceramic sherds. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), was a 10YR 5/4 yellowish-brown clayish soil with small sandy angular gravel that had fewer ceramic fragments. Stratum 3 was a 10YR 6/4 light yellowish-brown sandy bedrock excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.35 m), level 5 (0.35-0.40 m) with few sherds, and level 6 (0.40-0.50 m) with no cultural material.

Chronology: All levels were merged into deposit dated to the Late Muisca Period.

**Test pit: TP-36**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 639E, 308N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: The surface collection yielded early ceramic material at this locus so a test pit was placed to expand surface information.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), and level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), was a 10YR 2/1 black silt loam soil, with abundant archaeological material. Stratum 2, excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.40 m) and level 5 (0.40-0.50 m), was a 10YR 3/1 very dark gray clayey soil with abundant small sandy angular gravel (0.02-0.05 m) and moderate frequency of archaeological material. Stratum 3, excavated as level 6 (0.50-0.60 m) and level 7 (0.60-0.70 m), was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown compact clay soil with no gravel and archaeological material. Stratum 4, excavated as level 8 (0.70-0.80 m), was the 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown bedrock.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, and 3 were mixed and not used for analysis. Level 4 was dated to the Late Muisca period, and levels 5 and 6 were merged and dated to the Early Muisca period.

**Test pit: TP-37**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 855E, 520N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m). It was a 10YR 7/4 very pale brown silt loam soil with archaeological material. Stratum 2, excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.50 m) and level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), is a 10YR 4/3 brown compact clayey soil with a low frequency of archaeological material.

Chronology: All levels were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period.

**Test pit: TP-38**

Zone: San Antonio

Coordinates: 467E, 434N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit was excavated in an area recently opened for agriculture, formerly used for pasture that seemed to be less disturbed.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), and level 5 (0.40-0.50 m). It was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown clayish soil with archaeological material. Stratum 2 excavated, as level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), was a humid 10YR 4/4 dark yellowish-brown clay without archaeological material.

Chronology: All levels were merged into a single deposit dated to the Late Muisca period.

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Test pit: TP-39**

Zone: San Antonio

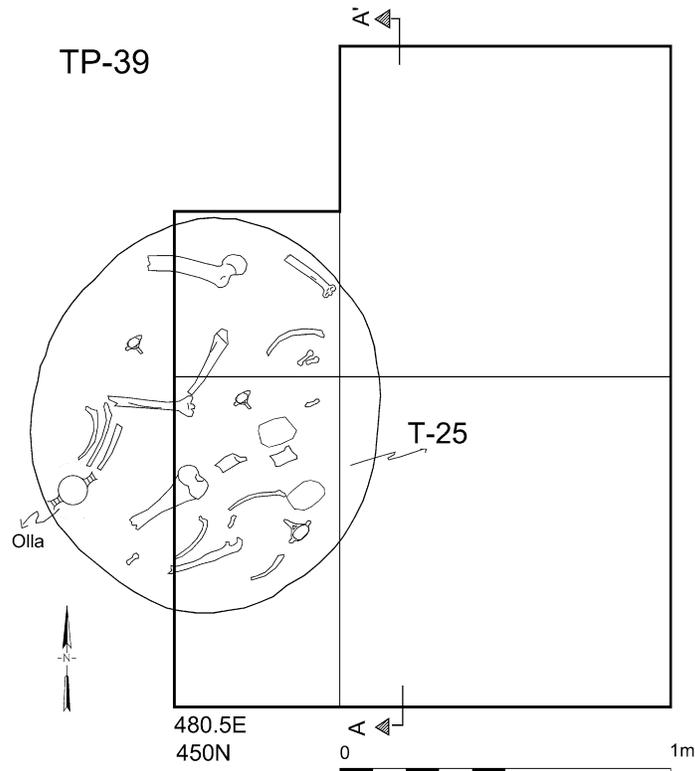
Coordinates: 481E, 450N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: The surface collection yielded moderate frequencies of archaeological material. Tomb 25 was found in this test pit (Figure 21).

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown soft dark soil with archaeological material; level 2 (0.10-0.20 m) was a 10YR 4/1 dark gray clayey soil with abundant ceramic material. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown clay. Level 3 had low frequency of archaeological material and level 4 had no cultural material.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period. Level 3 was dated to the Early Muisca period.



**Profile A-A'/Perfil A-A'**

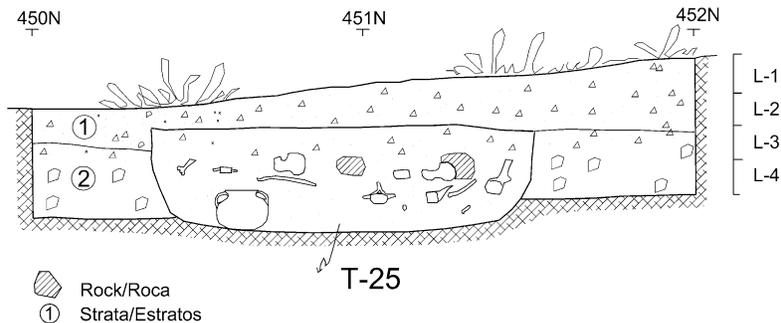


Figure 21. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-39 from El Venado

## El Venado Excavations and Burials

### Test pit: TP-40

Zone: Chávez

Coordinates: 693E, 250N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit yielded Tomb 29 (Figure 22).

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.15 m), level 3 (0.15-0.25 m), and level 4 (0.25-0.35 m), was a 10YR 5/3 brown colluvial sediment with early prehispanic sherds and modern ceramic material. Stratum 2 was a buried prehispanic cultural floor excavated as level 5 (0.35-0.45 m), level 6 (0.45-0.50 m) and level 7 (0.50-0.60 m). It was a 10YR 4/2 dark grayish-brown clayey soil with small angular white gravel (0.02-0.05 m). Stratum 3, excavated as level 8 (0.60-0.70 m), level 9 (0.70-0.80 m), and level 10 (0.80-0.90 m), was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown clayey soil with no archaeological material.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Colonial period. Levels 5 and 6 were dated to the Late Herrera period.

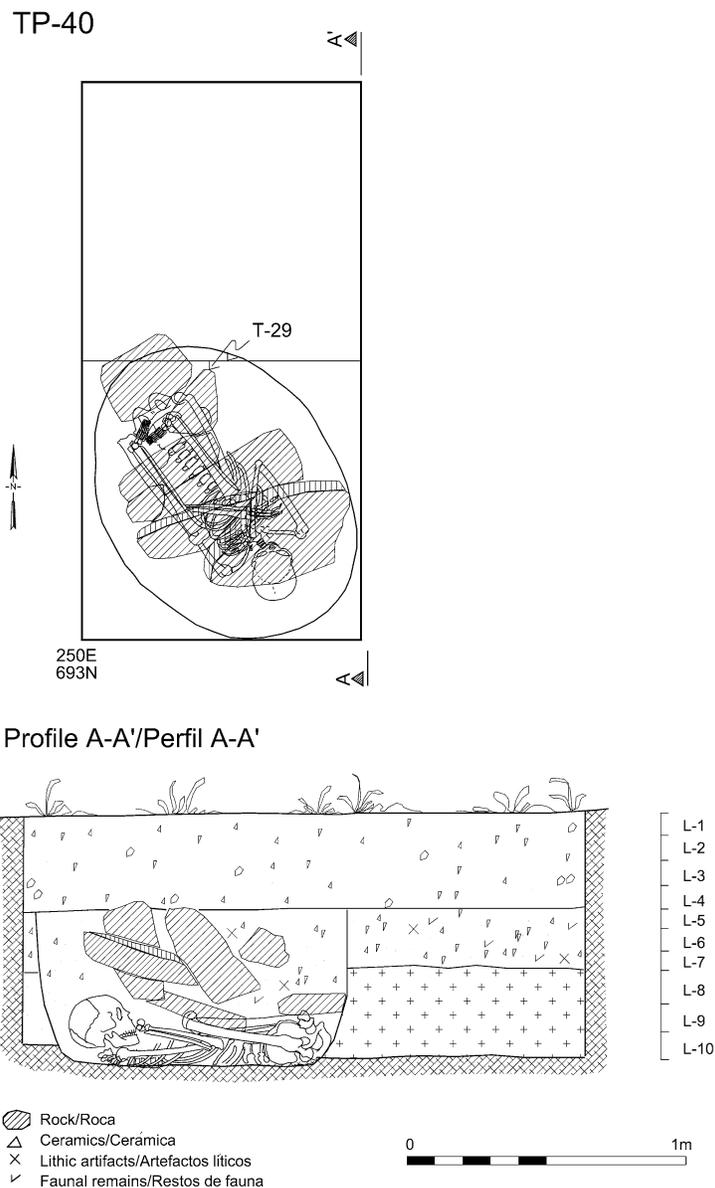


Figure 22. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-40 from El Venado

## El Venado Excavations and Burials

### Test pit: TP-41

Zone: Chávez

Coordinates: 700E, 260N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit yielded Tomb-26 (Figure 23)

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), was a 10YR 5/2 grayish-brown clayey soil with no artifacts. Stratum 2 was a buried cultural deposit with a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown clayey soil with small angular gravel (0.02-0.04 m). Stratum 2 was excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.45 m) and level 6 (0.45-0.55 m), which had a moderate frequency of archaeological material, level 7 (0.55-0.65 m) without artifacts, and level 8 (0.65-0.70 m) with very few sherds. The analysis of a soil sample from this level yielded a very acidic soil (pH 5.35 Lab No. 5342). Tomb 26 was detected at the base of stratum 2. Stratum 3 had a 10YR 4/3 brown clayey soil without archaeological material.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 were merged and dated to the Colonial period. Levels 5, 6, 7, and 8 were merged and dated to the Late Herrera period.

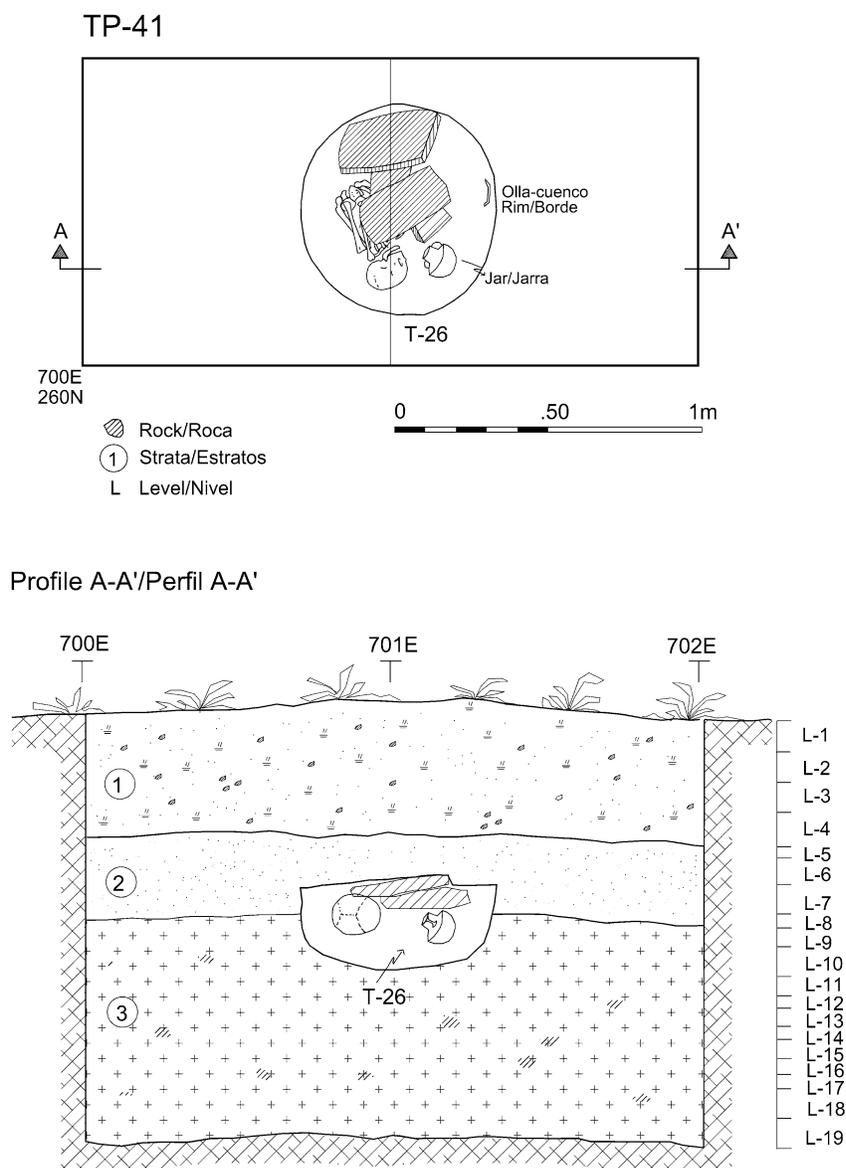


Figure 23. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-41 from El Venado

## *El Venado Excavations and Burials*

### **Test pit: TP-42**

Zone: El Recuerdo

Coordinates: 785E, 475N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown silt loam soil with small traces of charcoal. Excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), level 3 (0.20-0.25 m), all of them with low frequencies of ceramic material, and level 4 (0.25-0.35 m), which has larger frequencies of ceramic sherds. Stratum 2 was a 10YR 4/3 brown transitional more compact clayey soil, excavated as level 5 (0.35-0.45 m) with a high quantity of sherds, and level 6 (0.45-0.55 m) with small angular gravel, abundant charcoal traces, ceramic sherds, lithic artifacts, and bone fragments. Stratum 3 was a 10YR 4/3 brown compact clayey soil combined with very small gravel and lighter clay patches, excavated as level 7 (0.55-0.65 m) with moderate frequency of artifacts, and level 8 (0.65-0.75 m) with very few artifacts. Level 9 (0.75-0.85 m) and level 10 (0.85-0.95 m) had no artifacts. Stratum 4 excavated as level 11 (0.95-1.05 m) was a 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown clayey soil with abundant gravel and no archaeological material.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 had mixed stratigraphy and were withdrawn from the analysis. Levels 5, 6, 7, and 8 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Early Muisca period.

### **Test pit: TP-43**

Zone: El Recuerdo

Coordinates: 805E, 485N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a 10YR 5/3 brown compact silt loam soil with charcoal traces and coke and moderated artifact density. Stratum 1 was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m). Stratum 2 was a buried prehispanic cultural deposit of a 10YR 3/2 grayish-brown silt loam soil; this stratum was excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.50 m) that had an increase in artifact frequency and charcoal; level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), which yielded higher frequency of archaeological material, level 7 (0.60-0.70 m), and level 8 (0.70-0.75 m). Level 8 a 10YR 3/1 very dark grayish-brown soil with small sandy angular gravel had fewer artifacts. Stratum 3 was a 10YR 6/6 brownish-yellow clayey soil with gravel that did not yield artifacts.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Republican period. Levels 3, 4 and 5 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period. Levels 6, 7 and 8 were dated to the Late Herrera period.

### **Test pit: TP-44**

Zone: El Cebollal

Coordinates: 739E, 398N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), was a 10YR 4/4 dark yellowish-brown clayey soil with few artifacts; level 2 (0.10-0.20 m) had the same type of soil but with small sandy gravel (0.02-0.05 m) and very few artifacts. Stratum 2 was a 10YR 4/3 dark-brown clayey soil with abundant sandy gravel, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) with no artifacts. Stratum 3 excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.40 m) was a clayey compact soil with lesser gravel and no artifacts.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Colonial period.

## *El Venado Excavations and Burials*

### **Test pit: TP-45**

Zone: El Recuerdo

Coordinates: 806E, 485N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Coordinates: Stratum 1 was a disturbed 10YR 6/4 light yellowish-brown silt loam soil with moderate frequency of artifacts; it was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m). Level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m) were less disturbed and also had artifacts and charcoal traces. Stratum 2 was a cultural floor excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.50 m). It is a transitional 10YR 5/2 grayish-brown compact clayey soil with a high frequency of artifacts. Stratum 3 also, part of a cultural floor, was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown clayey soil, excavated as level 6 (0.50-0.60 m) and level 7 (0.60-0.70 m) with decreasing artifact frequency. Stratum 3 excavated as level 8 (0.70-0.80 m) was a dark clayey soil with small sandy gravel and no artifactual material.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Colonial period. Levels 3 and 4 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period. Levels 5 and 6 were merged and dated to the Early Muisca period. Level 7 was dated to the Late Herrera period.

### **Test pit: TP-46**

Zone: El Recuerdo

Coordinates: 804E, 483N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, a 10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown silt loam soil with few artifacts, was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), and level 3 (0.20-0.30 m). Stratum 2 was excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.40 m) a transitional 10YR 4/4 light yellowish clayey soil with a high artifact frequency. Stratum 3 was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown soil with lower amounts of artifacts, excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.50 m) and level 6 (0.50-0.60 m). Stratum 4 was a compact clayey soil with small sandy gravel without artifacts. It was excavated as level 7 (0.60-0.70 m). Intercalated in Stratum 4 is Stratum 5, a compact clayish soil without gravel. Stratum 6 has the same characteristics as stratum 4.

Chronology: Level 1 was dated to the Republican period. Levels 2 and 3 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period. Levels 4, 5, and 6 were dated to the Early Muisca period.

### **Test pit: TP-47**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 805E, 580N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), and level 3 (0.20-0.25 m), was a 10YR 6/6 brownish-yellow clayey soil with few artifacts. Stratum 2 is a 10YR 7/6 brownish-yellow clayey soil with abundant gravel without artifacts.

Chronology: Level 1 was dated to the Republican period. Levels 2 and 3 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period.

### **Test pit: TP-48**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 789.4E, 578N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, was a 10YR 5/3 brown clayey soil with charcoal and a few artifacts, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), level 3 (0.20-0.25 m) and level 4 (0.25-0.30 m).

Chronology: All levels were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Republican period.

**Test pit: TP-49**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 629E, 320N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was a 10YR 2/1 black silt loam with high density of archaeological material. Stratum 2 was a 10YR 3/1 very dark gray clayey soil with yellow clayey spots and abundant gravel and with scant archaeological material in the first three centimeters of level 3. It was excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m).

Chronology: All three levels were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Muisca period.

**Test pit: TP-50**

Zone: San Antonio

Coordinates: 614E, 528N

Excavated area 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, 5YR 5/2 reddish gray compact clay with sandy gravel, was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), and had very few artifacts, and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m) without artifacts. Stratum 2 was a 5YR 5/4 yellowish-red clayey soil with black and white clay spots and abundant gravel but no archaeological material.

Chronology: Level 1 dated to the Republican period.

**Test pit: TP-51**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 650E, 258N

Excavated area: 3.75 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This is a patch with very high density of artifacts. This test pit yielded a feature (FEA 1), a burial (T-36) and a post mold (Figures 24 and 25). Soil was screened with a 4 mm mesh and fills from the feature and the tomb were screened with a 2 mm mesh.

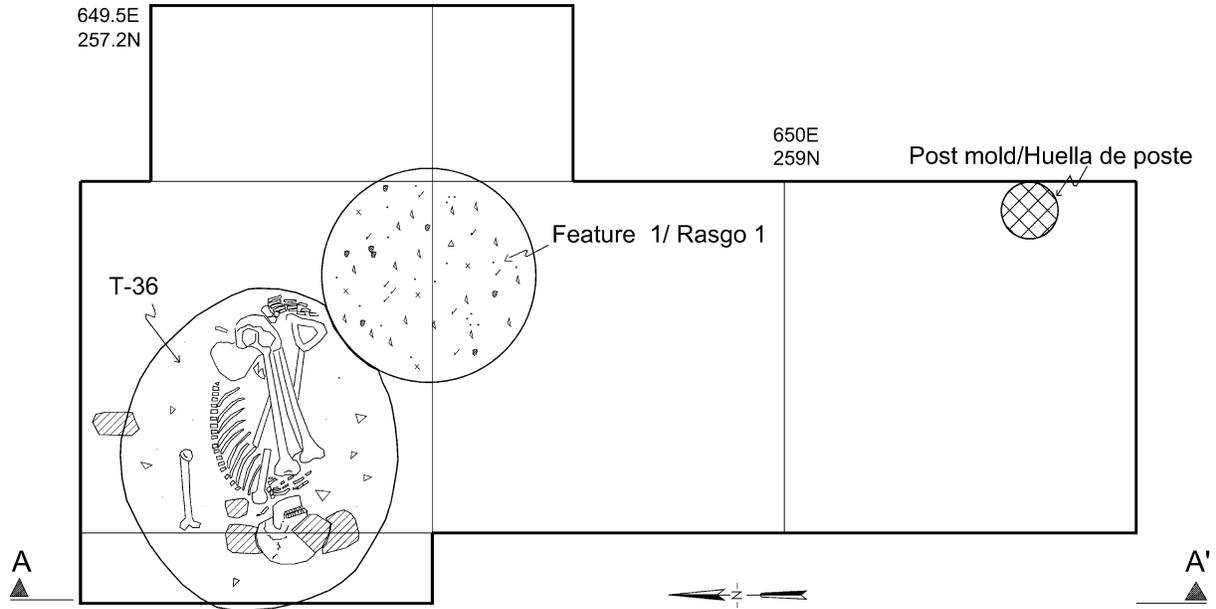
Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown loam silt with high frequencies of archaeological material and charcoal, was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.20 m). In this level a feature full of debris and Tomb 36 were detected; level 2 (0.20-0.30 m) was less disturbed and a post mold was found at the base of the level; and level 3 with no disturbance. Stratum 2 was a dark clayey soil with abundant gravel and very few artifacts on the first centimeters, although it had abundant charcoal.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Early Muisca period. Level 3 was dated to the Late Herrera period.

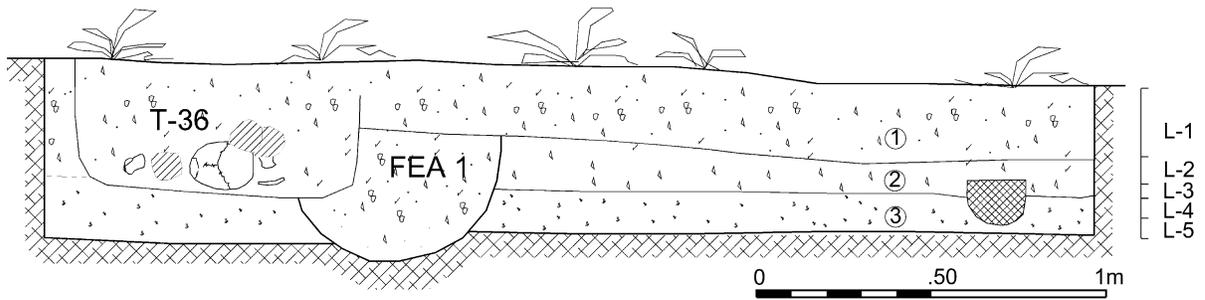
Feature 1 (FEA-1) was dated to the Early Muisca period.

El Venado Excavations and Burials

TP-51



Profile A-A'



- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Rocks/Rocas                         | Faunal remains/Restos de fauna |
| Ceramics/Ceramica                   | Charcoal/Carbon                |
| Lithic artifacts/Artefactos liticos | L Level/Nivel                  |
| Stratum                             |                                |

Figure 24. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-51 from El Venado



Figure 25. Excavation of tomb T-36 at test pit TP-51 from El Venado

**Test pit: TP-52, TP-53, and TP-54**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 639.8E, 260.1N

Excavated area: 4 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: These three test pits actually form one expanded excavation but they were excavated at different times and recorded as three separate test pits (Figure 26). The excavation unit was oriented 350E because it was placed in a potato field and the best way to minimize crop damage was to align the test pits with the potato beds. Soil was screened with a 4 mm mesh; TP-52 and the content of the feature were screened with a 2 mm mesh.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown silt loam with abundant archaeological material and charcoal. It was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.25 m), which was plowed, and level 2 (0.25-0.35 m) better preserved. Stratum 2 was a 10YR 3/1 very dark gray clayey soil forming small crumbs. Level 3 (0.35-0.36 m) was a thin layer with scant ceramic material, and level 4 (0.36-0.45 m) a pre-ceramic occupation, with abundant lithic artifacts and burned and fractured bones that were not analyzed in this study. This level yielded a hearth filled with cracked fire rocks, charcoal, lithic artifacts and burned animal bones (Figure 26). A trace of a post mold detected in this level actually belonged to the Early Muisca period. Stratum 3 is a dark clayey soil with abundant angular gravel.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, and 3 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Early Muisca period. Level 4 was dated to a pre-ceramic period. A sample of charcoal taken from the hearth was dated 649 ± 125 BC (GX-22394; 2645 ± 125 BP C-13 corrected  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}} = -23.4\text{‰}$ ).

El Venado Excavations and Burials

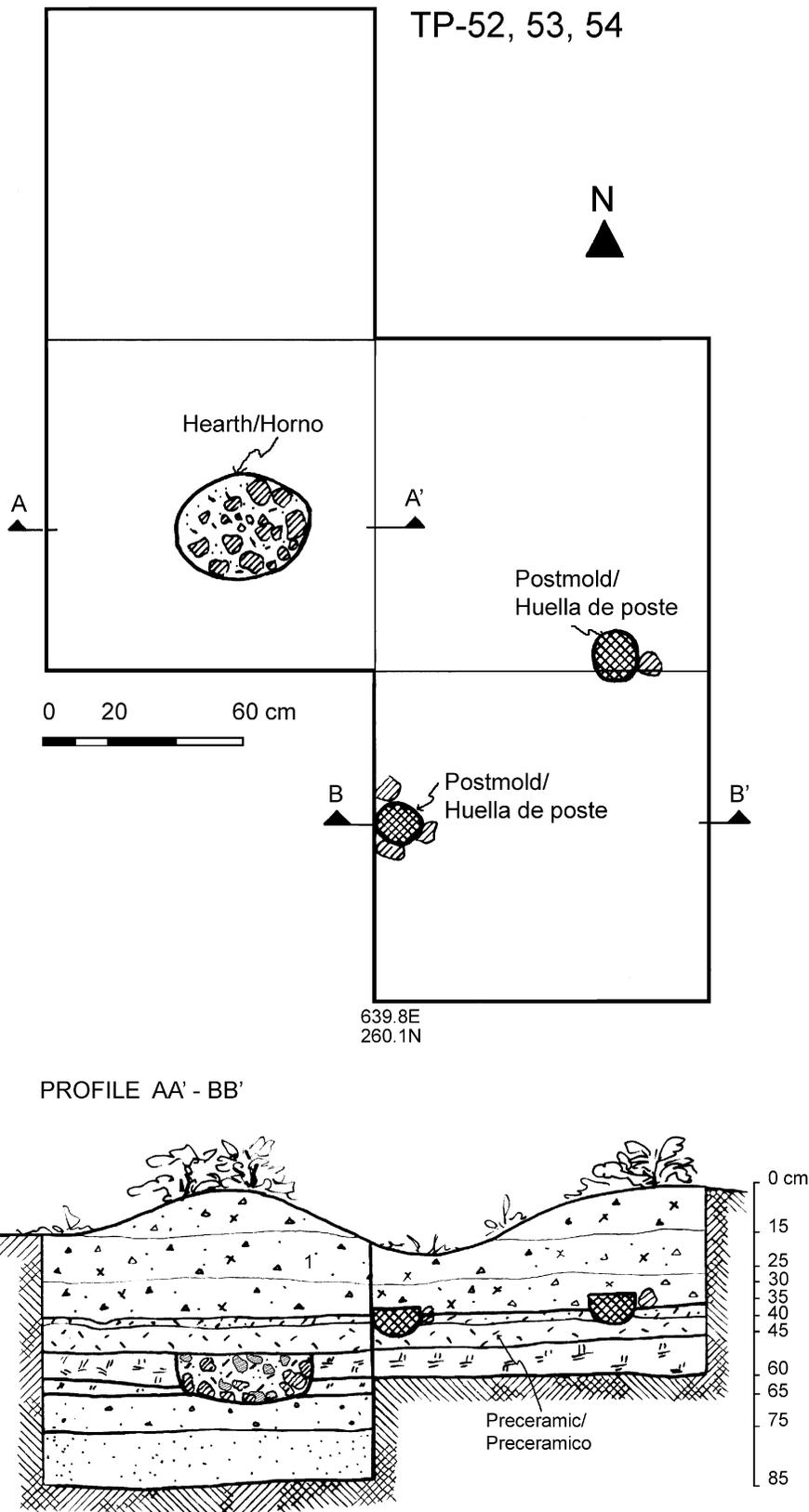


Figure 26. Plan view and profile of test pits TP-52, TP-53, and TP-54 from El Venado

## *El Venado Excavations and Burials*

### **Test pit: TP-55**

Zone: El Cebollal

Coordinates: 749E, 593N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: Soil was screened with a 4 mm wire mesh.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.20 m) with few artifacts, and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m) without artifacts, was a 10YR 4/4 dark yellowish-brown clayey soil. Stratum 2 was a 10YR 4/3 dark-brown clayey soil with abundant gravel, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) with no artifacts. Stratum 3 excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.40 m) was a clayey compact soil with less gravel and no artifacts.

Chronology: Level 1 was dated to the Colonial period.

### **Test pit: TP-56**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 649E, 288N

Excavated area: 6 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This is an expanded excavation (Figures 27 and 28) carried out in La Esmeralda zone few meters away from TP-72. This excavation yielded one post mold, two burials (T-17 and T-20), and evidence of the earliest ceramic occupation of the site. Time for planting required closing the excavation earlier than planned, but excavations yielded suitable information regarding the stratigraphy of earlier occupations. Soil was screened with a 4 mm wire mesh.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was composed by level 1 (0.00-0.20 cm) a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown plowed silt loam soil with a high frequency of artifacts. Level 2 (0.20-0.30) was more compact than level 1 and less disturbed. A large quantity of charcoal was found in this level along with artifacts. Stratum 2, was excavated as level 3 (0.30-0.35) and level 4 (0.35-0.40), and was a 10YR 4/1 dark gray silt loam soil with a high density of sherds. Stratum 3, excavated as level 5 (0.40-0.45), was a 10YR 4/1 dark gray clayey soil with abundant gravel. There were ceramic sherds, animal bones and lithic artifacts in this level. Stratum 4, excavated as level 6 (0.45-0.50), was a silt loam soil with small round clumps (0.005-0.01 m) without gravel and cultural material. Stratum 5, excavated as level 7 (0.50-0.55) and level 8 (0.55-0.60), was a lens of clayey compact soil with ceramics and charcoal. This cultural material seems to be part of burial 17. Stratum 6 is a clayey layer with sandy angular gravel (0.02-0.05 m) with no cultural material.

Chronology: Level 1 was dated to the Early Muisca period. Levels 2, 3, 4, and 5 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Herrera period.

El Venado Excavations and Burials

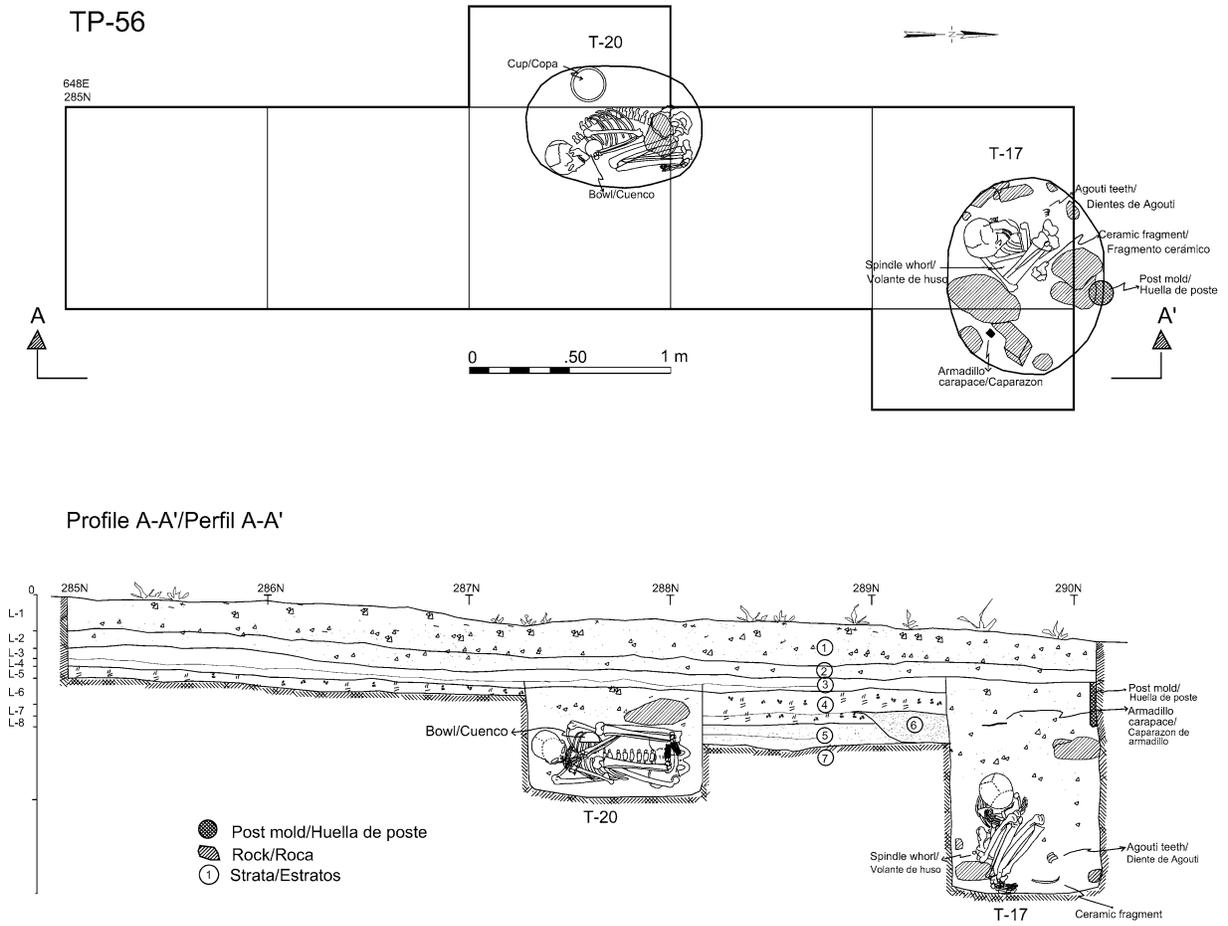


Figure 27. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-56 from El Venado



Figure 28. Excavation of tomb T-20 at test pit TP-56 from El Venado

**Test pit: TP-57**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 640E, 300N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: Soil was screened with a 4 mm wire mesh.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a deep 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown silt loam with abundant archaeological material. It was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.20 m), which was a plowed 10YR 4/1 dark gray silt loam soil with abundant archaeological material. Level 2 (0.20-0.30 m), level 3 (0.30-0.40 m), level 4 (0.40-0.45 m), level 5 (0.45-0.50 m), level 6 (0.50-0.55 m), level 7 (0.55-0.60 m), and level 8 (0.60-0.65 m) had unusual small ceramic fragments. The size of the fragments suggests that this test pit was mostly composed by eroded material. Stratum 2 was a lens of fine-grained clayey soil without archaeological material. Stratum 3, excavated as level 9 (0.65-0.75 m), and level 10 (0.75-0.85 m) were a 10YR 3/4 very dark gray clayey soil with gravel and no archaeological material. Stratum 4, excavated as level 11 (0.85-1.00 m), was a 10YR 3/3 dark brown clay without gravel and culturally sterile.

Chronology: This test pit was particularly difficult to date. The small size of the ceramic fragments and an inconsistent pattern in the distribution of ceramic type proportions indicate mixing levels. This test pit was withdrawn from the sample.

**Test pit: TP-58**

Zone: Chávez

Coordinates: 698E, 240N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: Soil was screened with a 4 mm wire mesh.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a 10YR 4/1 dark gray colluvial deposition of sandy loam. It was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) with few sherds; level 2 (0.10-0.25 m) yielded a post mold (0.30 m in diameter) with stones in the base, likely a modern feature. Level 3 (0.25-0.35 m) had the continuation of the post mold. Ceramic material appeared within the feature but not in the rest of the area of the level. Stratum 2, excavated as level 4 (0.35-0.45 m), was a 10YR 2/1 black clayey soil with gravel. No cultural material was found.

Chronology: All levels were merged and dated to the Colonial period.

**Test pit: TP-59**

Zone: Chávez

Coordinates: 700E, 258N

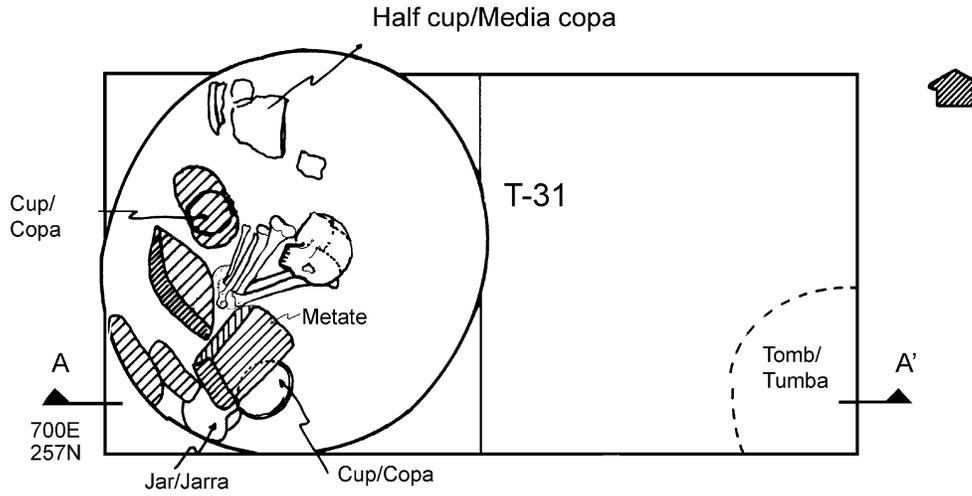
Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit yielded a burial (T-31) (see Figure 29). Soil was screened with a 4 mm wire mesh.

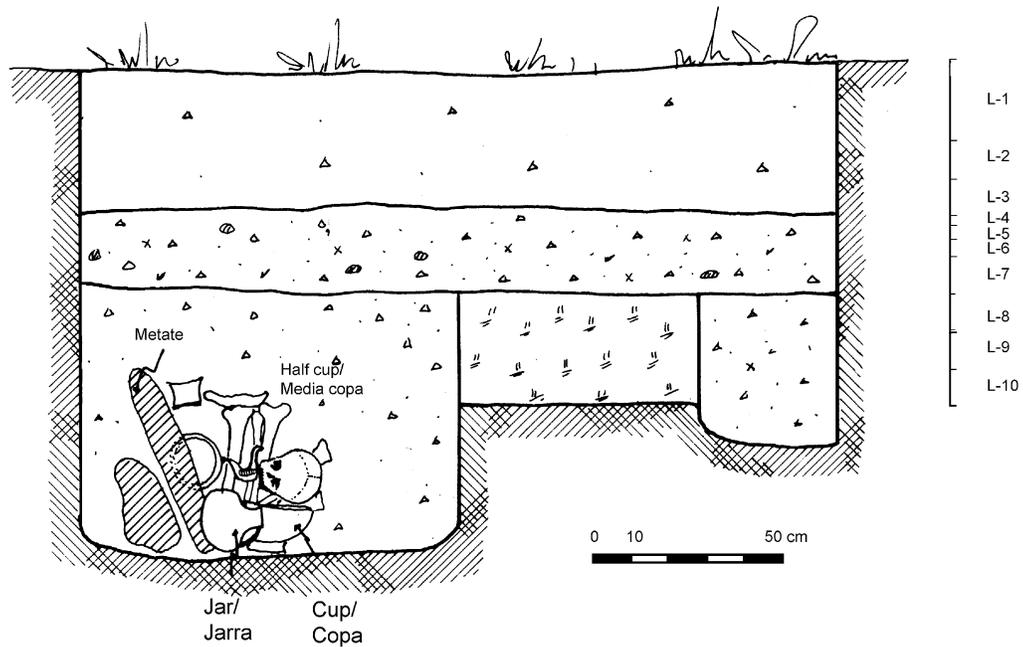
Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a coluvial deposition of 10YR 5/2 grayish-brown silt loam with scant cultural material, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.20 m), level 2 (0.20-0.30 m), and level 3 (0.30-0.40 m). Stratum 2 was a 10YR 4/1 dark gray clayey soil with abundant charcoal and cultural material. It was excavated as level 4 (0.40-0.43 m), level 5 (0.43-0.45 m), and level 6 (0.45-0.50 m). Tomb 31 was detected at the base of level 6. Another tomb was also detected but was not excavated due to lack of time. Stratum 3 was a 10YR 3/1 very dark gray clayey soil with abundant gravel and no archaeological material. It was excavated as level 7 (0.50-0.60 m), level 8 (0.60-0.70 m), level 9 (0.70-0.80 m), and level 10 (0.80-0.90 m).

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 were merged and dated to the Republican period. Levels 5, 6 and 7 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Herrera period. Ceramic material found in levels 8, 9, and 10 belonged to the tomb fill.

TP-59



Profile A -A' / Perfil A - A'



- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| △ Ceramic/Ceramica                     | ⋯ Charcoal/ Carbon |
| x Lithic artifacts/ Artefactos liticos | ⊗ Rocks/ Rocas     |
| ✓ Animal bone/ Hueso animal            | L Level/ Nivel     |

Figure 29. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-59 from El Venado

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Test pit: TP-60**

Zone: Chávez

Coordinates: 698E, 259N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: This test pit yielded three burials (T-32, T-33, and T-34) (Figures 30 and 31). Soil was screened with a 4 mm wire mesh.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a coluvial deposition of 10YR 5/2 grayish-brown silt loam with cultural material. Excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.20 m), level 2 (0.20-0.30 m), level 3 (0.30-0.40 m), level 4 (0.40-0.45 m), and level 5 (0.45-0.50 m). Stratum 2, a buried cultural floor, was a 10YR 4/1 dark gray clayey soil with abundant archaeological material. This stratum was excavated as level 6 (0.50-0.55 m), level 7 (0.55-0.60 m), level 8 (0.60-0.65 m), level 9 (0.65-0.75 m), level 10 (0.75-0.80 m), level 11 (0.80-0.90 m), and level 12 (0.90-1.00 m). At the base of level 9 burials T-32 and T-33 were detected. Tomb 34 was also detected at level 7. Stratum 3, excavated as level 13 (0.10-1.10 m), was a 10YR 3/1 very dark gray clayey soil with abundant gravel and no cultural material.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 did not present a clear pattern of ceramic type proportions and were withdrawn from the sample. Levels 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Herrera period. Charcoal recovered from inside a cup, a grave good from T-33, was dated 940 ± 60 AC (Beta-103685; 1010 ± 60 BP).

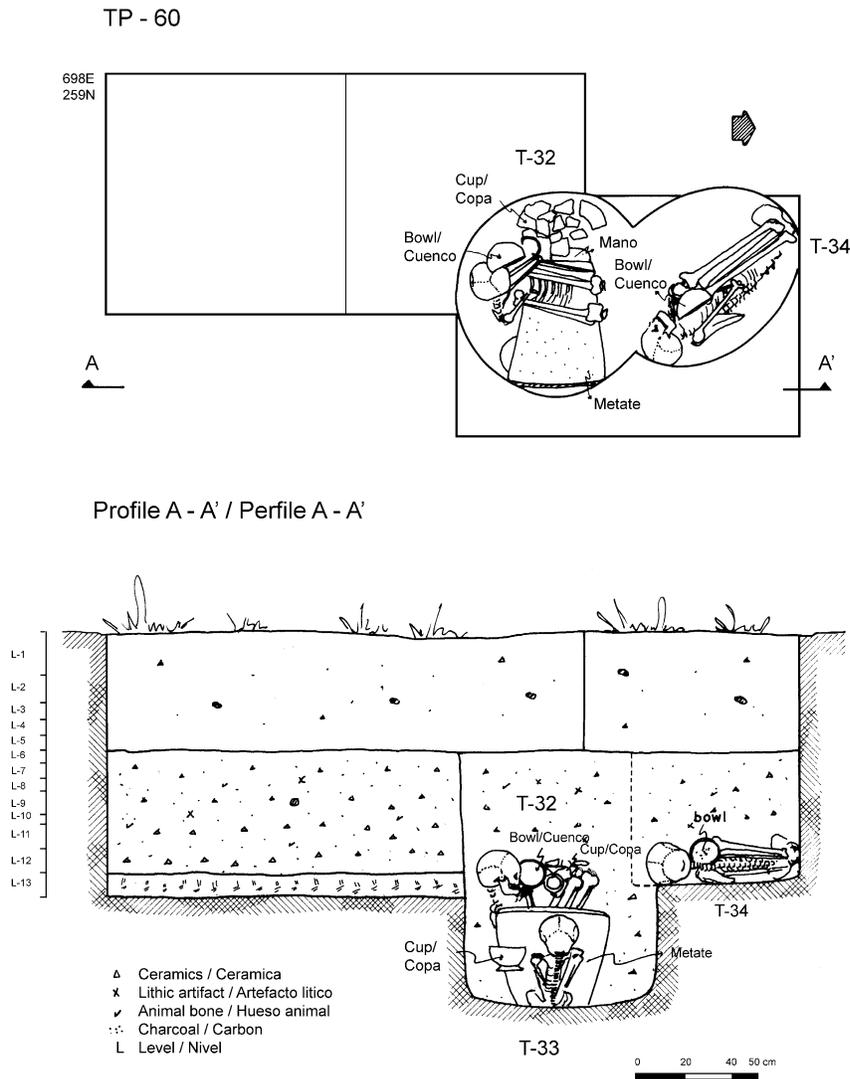


Figure 30. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-60 from El Venado



Figure 31. Excavation of tomb T-32 of test pit TP-60 from El Venado

**Test pit: TP-64**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 843E, 590N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a coluvial deposition of 10YR 6/4 light yellowish-brown silt loam with cultural material, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.15 m). Stratum 2 is a 10YR 5/8 yellowish-brown silt loam soil with gravel, excavated as level 3 (0.15-0.25 m), level 4 (0.25-0.35 m), level 5 (0.35-0.45 m) and level 6 (0.45-0.55 m). Levels 5 and 6 were culturally sterile.

Chronology: All levels were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Muisca period.

**Test pit: TP-65**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 764E, 610N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: Surface collections at this zone yielded high densities of cultural material. However, test pits did not produce such abundant material in subsurface levels.

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a 10YR 6/3 pale brown silt loam excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) with few artifacts, level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), level 4 (0.30-0.40 m) and level 5 (0.40-.50 m).

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Muisca period.

**T**

**est Pit: TP-66**

The ceramic material from this test pit was misplaced and the classification was not made.

**Test Pit: TP-67**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 855E, 550N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a coluvial 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown silt loam with few artifacts, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.18 m). Stratum 2 was a sandy loam with gravel without cultural material, excavated as level 3 (0.18-0.28 m) and level 4 (0.28-0.38 m).

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period.

**Test pit: TP-68**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 815E, 615.8N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a coluvial deposition of 10YR 6/2 light brownish-gray silt loam with cultural material, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m), level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), and level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), which yielded a large quantity of sherds. Stratum 2 was a 10YR 6/4 light yellowish-brown compact soil with scant cultural material. Stratum 3 was a 10YR 5/3 brown clayey soil with gravel but no artifacts.

Chronology: Level 1 was dated to the Colonial period. Levels 2 and 3 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period.

**Test pit: TP-69**

Zone: Abejas

Coordinates: 815 E, 611.5N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, was a coluvial deposition of a 10YR 6/2 light brownish-gray silt loam with cultural material, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.17 m). Stratum 2 was a 10YR 6/4 light yellowish-brown compact soil excavated as level 3 (0.17-0.27 m), with a large quantity of artifacts, and level 4 (0.27-0.32 m). Stratum 3 is a 10YR 5/3 brown compact clayey soil with gravel, excavated as level 5 (0.32-0.42 m) and level 6 (0.42-0.52 m). No artifacts were found in this stratum.

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Colonial period. Levels 3 and 4 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period.

**Test pit: TP-70**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 579E, 311N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a 10YR 3/1 very dark gray silt loam with abundant cultural material, excavated as level 1 (0-0.15 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.15 m). Stratum 2 was a 10YR 4/2 dark grayish-brown clayey soil with gravel and few artifacts excavated as level 3 (0.15-0.25 m) and level 4 (0.25-0.35 m). Stratum 3, was a 10YR 5/3 brown soil with abundant gravel and no artifacts, excavated as level 5 (0.35-0.45 m) and level 6 (0.45-0.55 m).

Chronology: All levels were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Republican period.

## *El Venado Excavations and Burials*

### **Test pit: TP-71**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 590E, 309N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a 2.5Y 2.5/1 black silt loam soil with cultural material excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m). Stratum 2, was a 5Y 7/4 pale yellow soil with abundant gravel (0.02-0.05 m), excavated as level 2 (0.10-0.22 m) without cultural material. Stratum 3 was a 5Y 2.5/1 black clayey soil with no gravel and no archaeological material; it was excavated as level 3 (0.22-0.32 m) and level 4 (0.32-0.43 m). Stratum 4 was a 5Y 7/4 pale yellow soil with abundant gravel and culturally sterile, excavated as level 5 (0.43-0.48 m). Stratum 5 was a clayey soil 5Y 4/1 dark gray without gravel and cultural material, excavated as level 6 (0.48-0.58 m) and level 7 (0.58-0.63 m). Stratum 6 was a 5Y 8/6 yellow clayey soil with gravel and no archaeological material, excavated as level 8 (0.63-0.70 m). Stratum 7 was a 5Y 5/3 olive clayey soil without gravel and archaeological material, excavated as level 9 (0.70-0.75 m).

Chronology: Level 1 was dated to the Republican period.

### **Test pit: TP-72**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 657.5E, 287N

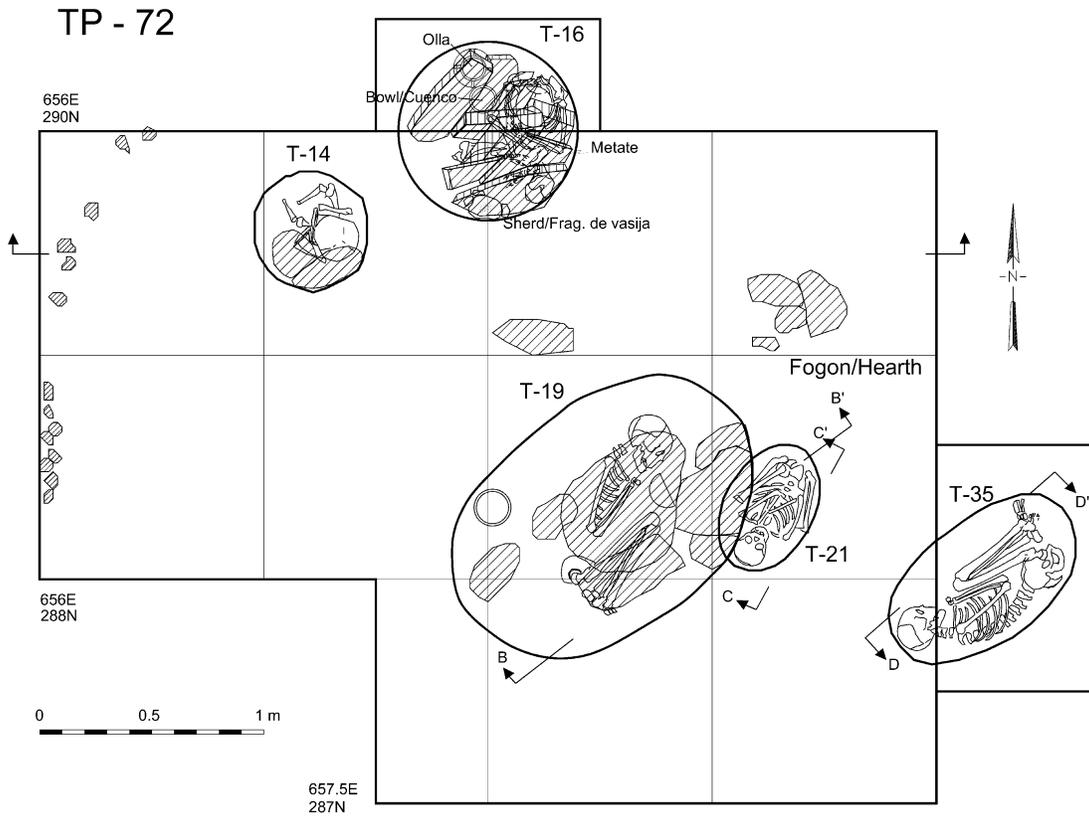
Excavated area: 11.5 m<sup>2</sup>

Observations: Surface collection yielded high proportions of Herrera type compared to other parts of the zone. This is an expanded excavation which yielded five burials (T-14, T-16, T-19, T-21 and T-35) and an open hearth (Figures 32 and 33).

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1, excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m), was a 10YR 3/2 very dark grayish-brown silt loam with moderate amounts of cultural material. Tomb shafts were easily detected in the profiles of this stratum. Stratum 2, excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m), was a small lent (0.10 m thick) of angular gravel (0.02-0.05 m). Stratum 3, excavated as level 4 (0.30-0.40 m), level 5 (0.40-0.50 m), and level 6 (0.50-0.60 m), was a 10 YR 7/6 yellow clayey soil combined with gravel (0.02-0.05 m). Very low frequencies of archaeological material were found in level 4. Stratum 4, excavated as level 7 (0.50-0.60 m) and level 8 (0.60-0.70 m), was a more compact 10YR 3/1 very dark gray soil culturally sterile.

Chronology: Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Late Herrera period.

El Venado Excavations and Burials



Profile A-A'/Perfil A-A'

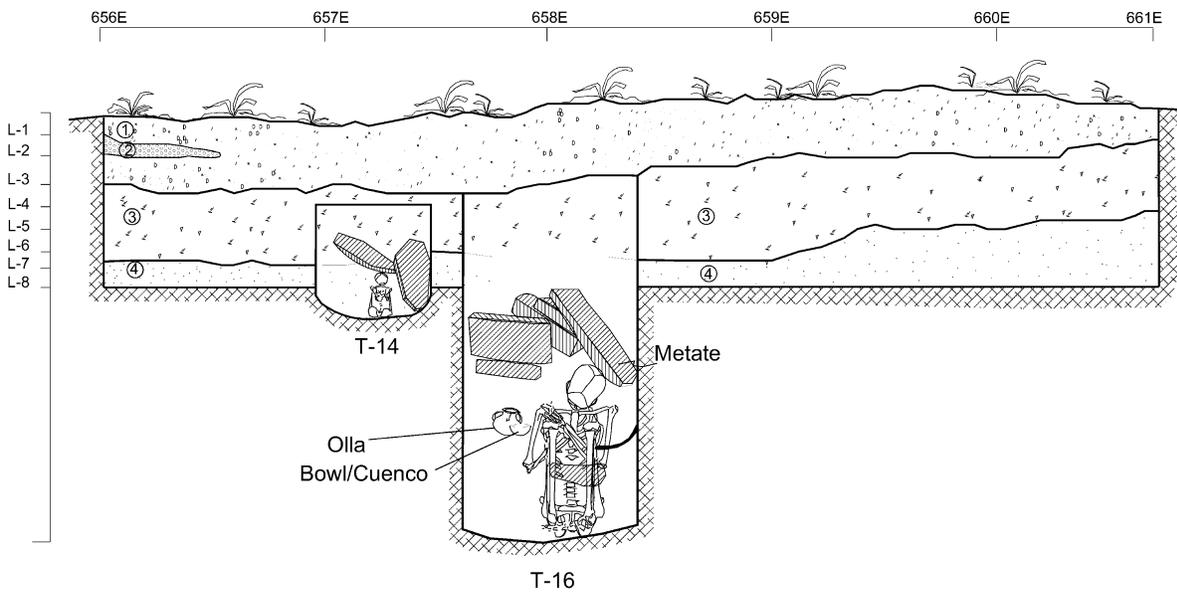
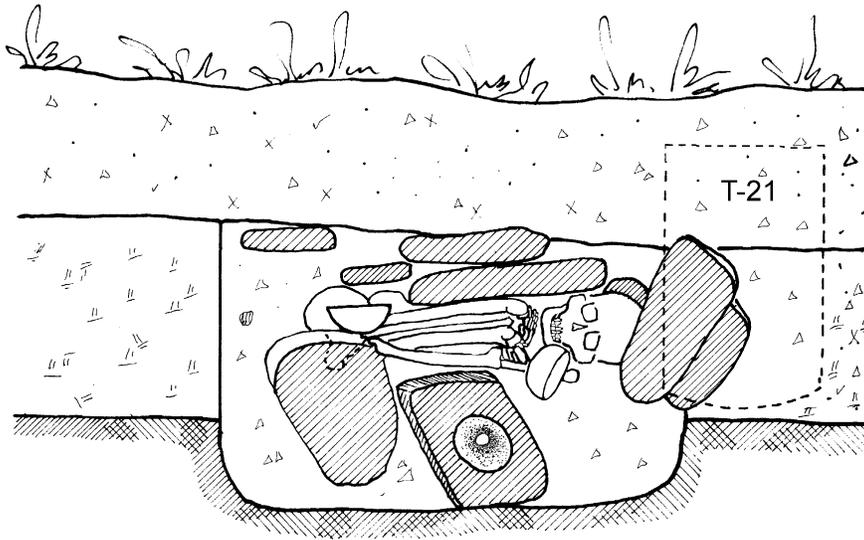


Figure 32. Plan view and profile of test pit TP-72 from El Venado

El Venado Excavations and Burials

TP - 72  
Tomb 19  
Profile B - B' / Perfil B - B'

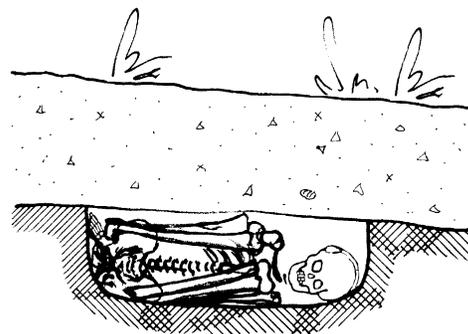


0 .20 .40 .60 .80 1.0 m

Tomb 21  
Profile C - C' / Perfil C - C'



Tomb 35  
Profile D - D' / Perfil D - D'



0 .20 .40 .60 .80 1.0 m

Figure 33. Profiles of tombs T-19, T-21, and T-35

## *El Venado Excavations and Burials*

### **Test pit: TP-73**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Coordinates: 681E, 270N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a 5YR 3/1 very dark gray silt loam with artifacts. It was excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.18 m). Stratum 2 was a 10YR 8/3 very pale brown clayey soil with abundant gravel, excavated as level 3 (0.18-0.30 m) and level 4 (0.30-0.35 m), and no archaeological material. Stratum 3 was a 10YR 4/3 dark-brown clayey soil without archaeological material, excavated as level 5 (0.35-0.45 m). Stratum 4 was a 10YR 7/6 yellow clayey soil with abundant gravel and no archaeological material, excavated as level 6 (0.45-0.55 m) and level 7 (0.55-0.65 m).

Chronology: Levels 1 and 2 were merged and dated to the Late Muisca period.

### **Test pit: TP-74**

Zone: San Antonio

Coordinates: 684E, 618N

Excavated area: 2 m<sup>2</sup>

Stratigraphy: Stratum 1 was a coluvial deposition of 10YR 6/4 light yellowish-brown silt loam. Excavated as level 1 (0.00-0.10 m) and level 2 (0.10-0.20 m) with moderate amount of artifacts. Stratum 2 was a 10YR 5/6 yellowish-brown clayish soil with few artifacts in level 3. It was excavated as level 3 (0.20-0.30 m) and level 4 (0.30-0.40 m).

Chronology: Levels 1, 2 and 3 were merged into a single cultural deposit dated to the Colonial Period.

## **TOMBS**

### **Tomb Number: T-1**

Zone: Chávez

Test Pit:

Coordinates: 675E, 225N

Tomb shape: Oval shaft

Tomb depth: 0.60 m

Tomb length: 0.70 m

Tomb width: 0.45 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: Two rectangular sandstone slabs (about 0.40 x 0.20 m), three additional irregular small sandstones and a ceramic fragment were covering the body and the feet.

Characteristics: This burial was detected on the profile of the road (Figure 34). Because the skeleton was exposed, bones were very fragmented and some of them were missing.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: Adult

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its left side

Body orientation: 200° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One vessel fragment

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

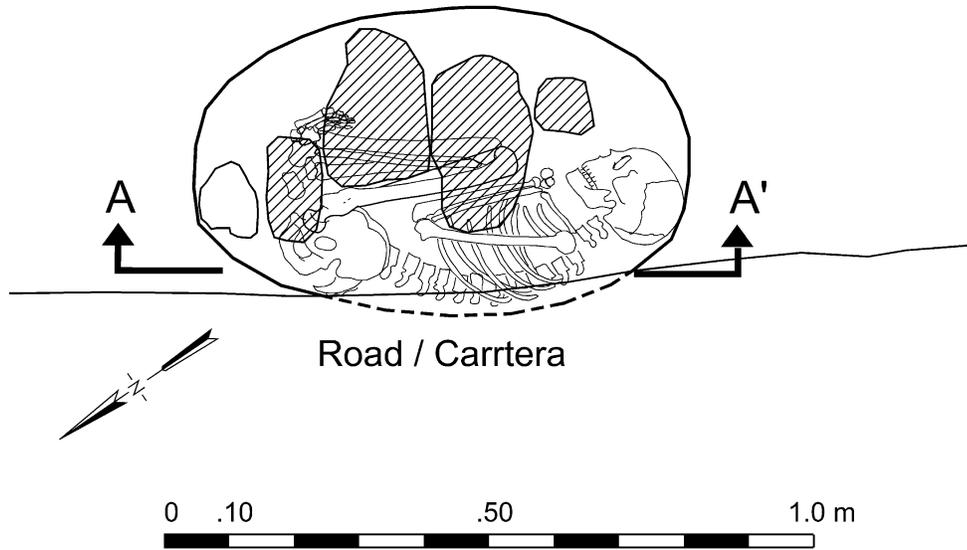
Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Near the feet

Chronology: Late Herrera period

# El Venado - Tomb 1 / Tumba 1



## Profile A -A' / Perfil A - A'

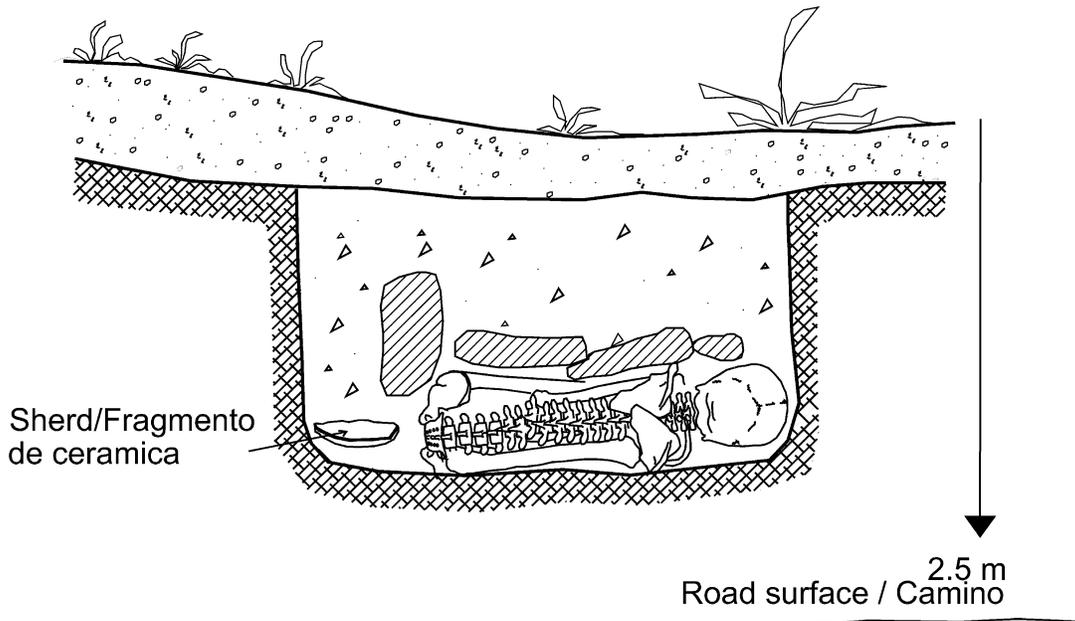


Figure 34. Plan view and profile of tomb T-1 from El Venado

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-2**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit: Near TP-005

Coordinates:

Tomb shape: Oval shaft (?)

Tomb depth: 0.20 m

Tomb length: unknown

Tomb width: unknown

**Tomb diameter:**

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: This skeleton was disturbed in 1989 by a bulldozer that was working in the area. The bulldozer disturbed the tomb severely and only parts of the skeleton were recovered. The cranium was missing. This tomb was not included in the analysis.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: Adult

Cranial deformation:

Body position: Fetal on its right side

Body orientation: 145° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Fractured and incomplete.

Ceramic grave goods: unknown

Lithic grave goods: unknown

Bone grave goods: unknown

Shell grave goods: unknown

Gold grave goods: unknown

Glass Grave goods: unknown

Location of grave goods: unknown

Chronology: unknown

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-3**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit:

Coordinates: 625E, 275N

Tomb shape: Oval shaft

Tomb depth: 0.40 m

Tomb length: 0.75 m

Tomb width: 0.55 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: This skeleton was disturbed in 1989 by a bulldozer working in the area. The bulldozer sliced the skeleton and all that was left from it was a thin bone layer. This tomb was disturbed in front of us so the information recovered is believed to be accurate to be included in the analysis.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: Adult (given the size of bone remains)

Cranial deformation: Unknown

Body position: Fetal on its right side

Body orientation: 136° clockwise from north

Body treatment: Ash plaster wrapping the entire body with the external surface sprinkled with red ocher.

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Glass grave goods: 6 Chevron beads, 3 tubular blue beads, and 6 disc-shaped green beads.

Location of grave goods: In the neck

Chronology: Late Muisca - Early Colonial period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-4**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit:

Coordinates: 645E, 255N

Tomb shape: Circular shaft with a chamber

Tomb depth: 0.70 m

Tomb length: 1.20 m (of the chamber)

Tomb width: 0.65 m (of the chamber)

Tomb diameter: 1.10 m (shaft)

Additional structures: Two rectangular sandstone slabs appear above the bones.

Characteristics: The skeleton appears disarticulated but a fractured cup appears in situ (Figures 35 and 36). This burial was disturbed by the natives in early times judging by the position of the skeleton and the grave goods.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Female

Age: Adult

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Disarticulated

Body orientation: unknown

Body treatment: Traces of ash plaster and red ocher covered the bones.

Preservation: Fair

Ceramic grave goods: One jar (Figure A.14b), one cup (Figure A.17c), and one anthropomorphic bead.

Lithic grave goods: One disc-shaped stone spindle whorl

Bone grave goods: Two deer bones, and one guinea pig mandible

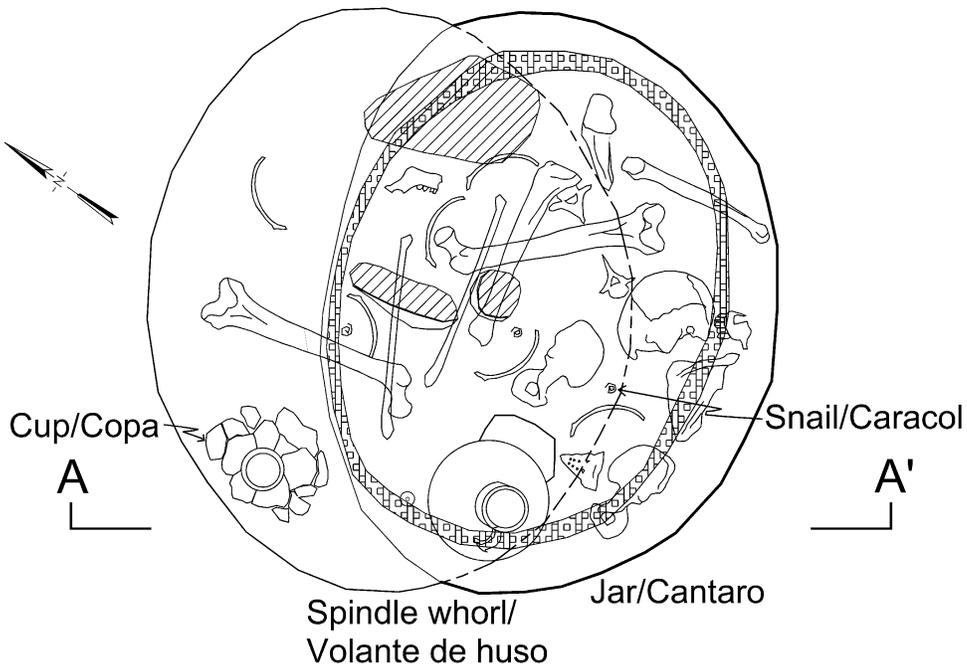
Shell grave goods: Two large terrestrial snails and one small terrestrial snail

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Unknown

Chronology: Late Muisca period

## EL VENADO - TUMBA 4



### Profile A - A' / Perfil A - A'

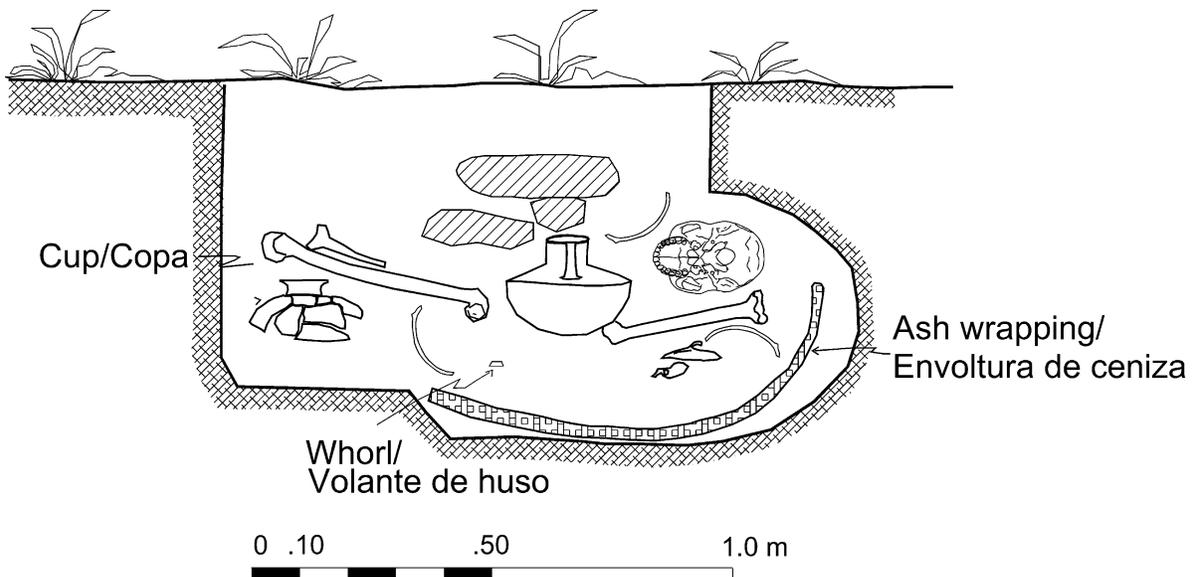


Figure 35. Plan view and profile of tomb T-4 from El Venado

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*



Figure 36. Excavation of tomb T-4 from El Venado

**Tomb Number: T-5**

Zone: Abejas

Test Pit: TP-15

Coordinates: 851.5E, 575.5N approximately

Tomb shape: unknown

Tomb depth: 0.30 m

Tomb length: 0.50 m

Tomb width: unknown

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: One small sandstone was placed in front of the individual's face.

Characteristics: This burial was uncovered in the profile of the road side made by a bulldozer. The cranium was fractured and the rest of the skeleton was being washed out and rolling-down the slope through a drainage ditch. The scapula, ribs and vertebrae were still in place. The information was collected in 1988 during a surface survey project (Boada, Therrien, and Mora 1989). This tomb was not included in the analysis.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: Infant

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal seated

Body orientation: Not recorded

Body treatment: None

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods:

Chronology: Muisca period (unknown if Early Muisca or Late Muisca period)

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-6**

Zone: El Rubí

Test Pit:

Coordinates: 573E, 273N (approximately)

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 0.40 m

Tomb length: 0.70 m

Tomb width: 0.55 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: This tomb was practically disturbed when a bulldozer was building a pond. Part of the skeleton was recovered.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: 5 years old

Cranial deformation:

Body position: Fetal on its right side

Body orientation: 130° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One Oiba Orange Burnished ware cup from Santander (Figure 37).

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Beside the cranium

Chronology: Late Muisca period

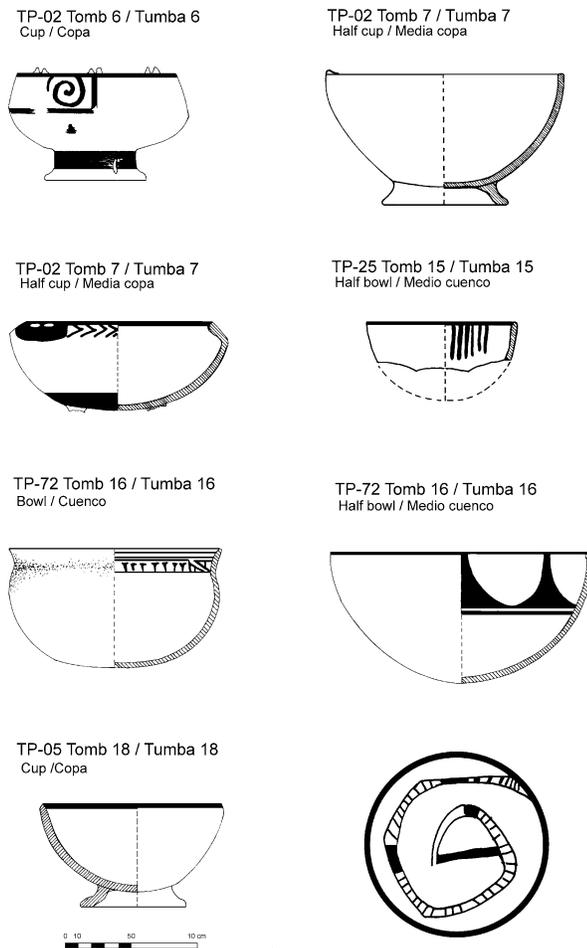


Figure 37. Illustrations of vessels found in tombs from El Venado

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-7**

Zone: El Rubí

Test Pit: TP-002

Coordinates: 570.5E, 249.5N

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 0.40 m

Tomb length: 0.90 m

Tomb width: 0.60 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: The structure of the tomb was very difficult to identify (see Figures 1 and 2)

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: 18 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its left side

Body orientation: 140° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One Gray Temper small *olla* with four handles (Figure A.15b). One half-cup (Figure 37) of Gray Temper ware with a missing base and with external painted decoration; with charcoal in its interior. One half-cup of Orange Burnished ware without decoration (Figure 37).

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: One *olla* and one decorated half-cup located near the skull, one undecorated half-cup placed under the arm.

Chronology: Late Muisca period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-8**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit: TP-005

Coordinates: 633.5E, 279.5N

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 0.70 m

Tomb length: 1.03 m

Tomb width: 0.61 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: Four small rocks located near the neck.

Characteristics: This tomb had been previously used for another burial disturbed when the new burial was placed. The excavation unit was filled with remains of the disturbed skeleton. The original buried individual was identified as skeleton 8A while the second skeleton found in situ was named 8B (see Figures 4 and 6).

Number of individuals: 1 (I did not include the other one as part of the burial)

Sex: Female

Age: 31 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its left side

Body orientation: 120° clockwise from north

Body treatment: Covered with a thin layer of red ocher.

Preservation: Very good

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods:

Chronology: Early Muisca period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-9**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit: TP-006

Coordinates: 649.8E, 249.9N

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 1.00 m

Tomb length: 0.90 m

Tomb width: 0.60 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: This tomb has a loam silt fill rich in carbonized plant remains, and abundant ceramic sherds and animal bones. Human bones were found very disturbed but given that no other corpse was buried it was considered as the burial of the skeleton found (see Figures 8 and 9).

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Female

Age: 23 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Disarticulated

Body orientation: Indeterminate

Body treatment:

Preservation: Very good although several bones were missing.

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods:

Chronology: Early Muisca period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-10**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit: TP-006

Coordinates: 651.6E, 249.9N

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 0.40 m

Tomb length: 0.64 m

Tomb width: 0.52 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: There was no indication of changes in the soil's texture until the bones were found (Figure 10). Figures 8 and 9 show a plan view and a profile of T-10.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Male

Age: 42.2 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal dorsal

Body orientation: 125° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None

Preservation: Fair

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: Two beads carved as birds and one bell-shaped no bigger than 2 cm (Figure 38).

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: One disc-shaped bead (one cm in diameter and 5 mm thick), one canine-shaped, and one anthropomorphic figure similar to those found in La Belleza (Santander) (Figure 38).

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Around the neck

Chronology: Early Muisca period



Figure 38. Beads found in tomb T-10 at test pit TP-006 from El Venado

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-11**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit: TP-009

Coordinates: 661E, 269.1N

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 0.40 m

Tomb length: 0.93 m

Tomb width: 0.42 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: The tomb was filled with hard clay with gravel. Figure 11 shows a plan view and a profile of T-11.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Male

Age: Adult

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal dorsal

Body orientation: 260° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None

Preservation: Very bad

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods:

Chronology: Late Muisca period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-12**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit: TP-006

Coordinates: 649.2E, 250.5N

Tomb shape: Shaft with a chamber

Tomb depth: 0.68 m

Tomb length: 0.94 m

Tomb width: 0.56 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: The fill had abundant cultural material such as sherds, faunal remains and lithics. There was a rock placed below the head of the corpse (Figures 8 and 9).

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Female

Age: 36.5 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its left side

Body orientation: 160° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None

Preservation: Good

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods:

Chronology: Late Muisca period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-13**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit: TP-005

Coordinates: 633.8E, 280.5N

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 0.80 m

Tomb length: 0.95 m

Tomb width: 0.58 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: The fill of the tomb was rich in cultural material (e.g. sherds, lithics, carbonized plants, and faunal remains [see Figure 7]). Figures 4 and 6 show a plan view and a profile of T-13, respectively.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Female

Age: 34.2 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its left side

Body orientation: 230° clockwise from north

Body treatment: Partial ash plastering covering hips and feet.

Preservation: Good

Ceramic grave goods: One small *múcura* with an anthropomorphic decoration in the neck (Figure A.14a and Figure 39).

Lithic grave goods: One necklace composed of five black rounded carved stone beads (Figure 40); 12 tubular black glass beads; 1 glass black bead with the shape of a barrel; 6 rectangular glass beads; 4 disc-shaped green glass beads. All are of European origin.

Two stone flakes without traces of use.

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: Forty six disc-shaped shell beads (5 mm in diameter and 1 mm thick). Probably came from the north coast.

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: One necklace in the chest, *Múcura* at the feet. Stone flakes close to the cranium.

Chronology: Late Muisca period-Early Colony.



Figure 38. Beads found in tomb T-10 at test pit TP-006 from El Venado

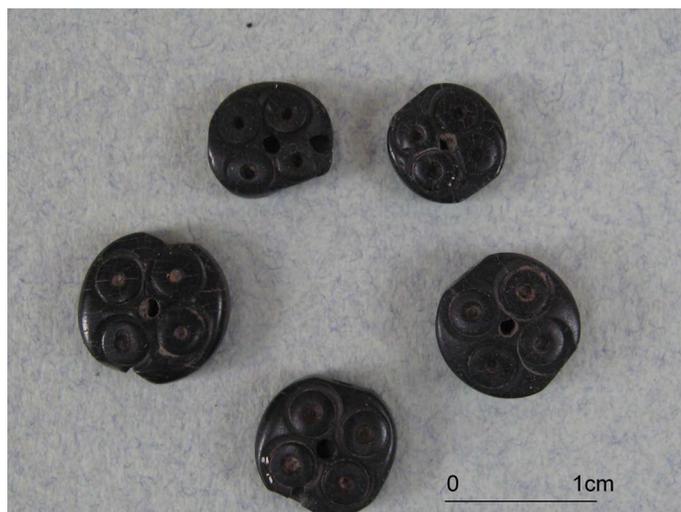


Figure 40. Beads found in tomb T-13 at test pit TP-005 from El Venado

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-14**

Zone: Chávez

Location: TP-72

Coordinates: 657.6E, 289.6N

Tomb shape: Circular shaft

Tomb depth: 0.50 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 0.55 m

Additional structures: Two rectangular slabs (0.31 x 0.15 x 0.09 m and 0.23 x 0.15 x 0.05 m) closing the tomb and another one standing in the south side of the tomb (Figure 32).

Characteristics: the fill of this tomb was dark silt loam with sherds and charcoal debris.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: 6 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal seated

Body orientation: Zenith

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One fragment of a body vessel of Gray Temper ware

Lithic grave goods:

Bone grave goods:

Shell grave goods:

Gold grave goods:

Location of grave goods: Near the feet

Chronology: Late Herrera period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

Tomb Number: T-15

Zone: La Esmeralda

**Test Pit: TP-25**

Coordinates: 666.5E, 279.5N

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 0.14 m

Tomb length: ?

Tomb width: ?

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: The skeleton was buried within a fill mixed with gravel (Figure 17).

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: 4 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its right side

Body orientation: 210° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None

Preservation: Poor. The skeleton is incomplete

Ceramic grave goods: One half-bowl of Gray Temper ware with interior decoration (Figure 37)

Lithic grave goods: One broken bead

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Bowl close to the cranium. Bead located in the neck.

Chronology: Late Muisca period

**Tomb Number: T-16**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Location: TP-72

Coordinates: 658E, 290N

Tomb shape: Circular shaft

Tomb depth: 1.55 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 0.78 m

Additional structures: Eleven rectangular sandstone slabs located half way in the shaft, close to the body

Characteristics: This is a very deep tomb with several good graves. Figure 32 shows a plan view and a profile of T-16, respectively.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Male

Age: 41.2 years

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal seated

Body orientation: Zenith

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One small *olla* of Gray temper ware (Figure A.15d and Figure 41) with 4 handlers; one bowl with out curved rim, white slip and red painted motifs (Figures 37 and 42). Its origin is unknown. One Gray temper bowl fragment ware containing charcoal (Figure 37). One cup Orange burnished ware with a beige slip in the interior surface (Figure A.17a). This kind of vessels and designs are very similar to those found in Sutamarchán. It is unknown if this vessel was locally made or foreign.

Lithic grave goods: One thin polished rectangular *metate* (0.40 m x 0.50 m x 0.025 m).

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: *Olla*, bowl and cup located close to the cranium. The bowl fragment was at the feet. The *metate* was above the head.

Chronology: Late Herrera period



Figure 41. Olla found in tomb T-16 at test pit TP-72 from El Venado



Figure 42. Bowl of foreign origin found in tomb T-16 at test pit TP-72 from El

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-17**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Location: TP-56

Coordinates: 649.9E, 289.9N

Tomb shape: Oval shaft

Tomb depth: 1.10 m

Tomb length: 0.93 m

Tomb width: 0.64 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: 4 irregular rocks located at the feet of the body.

Characteristics: This was a deep tomb with a post mold toward the north inside the shaft (see Figure 27).

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Male

Age: 48.5 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal seated

Body orientation: Zenith

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Not very good

Ceramic grave goods: One vessel fragment

Lithic grave goods: One spindle whorl

Bone grave goods: A carapace of armadillo. Six agouti teeth

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Carapace in the mid shaft. Teeth close to the knees. Spindle whorl located in the thorax, and the ceramic fragment near the feet.

Chronology: Late Herrera period

**Tomb Number: T-18**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit: TP-25

Coordinates: 668.5E, 277N

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 0.45 m

Tomb length: 0.65 m

Tomb width: 0.50 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: This burial has been disturbed and the skeleton is not complete (Figure 17). Few bones of another skeleton (18B) were also found in this tomb. However, the presence of bones from this second skeleton is likely intrusive.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: 4 years old

Cranial deformation: None

Body position: Fetal (no more details could be identified)

Body orientation: 130° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Regular

Ceramic grave goods: One cup of Orange Burnished ware with interior painted decoration similar to those found in Sutamarchán (Figure 37).

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Cup near the cranium

Chronology: Late Muisca period

## *El Venado Excavations and Burials*

### **Tomb Number: T-19**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Location: TP-72

Coordinates: 658.5E, 288.3N

Tomb shape: Oval shaft

Tomb depth: 0.85 m

Tomb length: 1.10 m

Tomb width: 0.90 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: Four stone slabs located at the entrance of the tomb. There were also four slabs located at one side dividing this tomb from T-21 (Figure 43).

Characteristics: Figures 32 and 33 show a plan view and profile of T-19, respectively.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: Adult

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its left side

Body orientation: 80° clockwise from north

Body treatment:

Preservation: Not very good

Ceramic grave goods: One Orange Burnished half-cup painted on the interior (Figure A.17e). One half-bowl of Gray Tempered ware.

Lithic grave goods: Two sandstone slabs; one of them (0.28 x 0.44 X 0.11 m) has a conical perforation 0.16 m in the largest diameter (Figure 44) and 0.05 in the smallest located in the middle. The other one (0.24 x 0.41 x 0.14 m) did not have any modification. A third one is a fire-cracked hearth stone.

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: The cup was to the left side of the feet. The bowl was in front of the chest. The stones were below the body. The hearth stone was close to the cranium.

Chronology: Late Herrera period



Figure 43. Excavation of tomb T-19 at test pit TP-72 from El Venado



Figure 44. Sandstone with conical perforation found at tomb T-19 from El Venado

**Tomb Number: T-20**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Location: TP-56

Coordinates: 649.1E, 287.7N

Tomb shape: Oval shaft

Tomb depth: 0.50 m

Tomb length: 0.80 m

Tomb width: 0.62 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures:

Characteristics: The fill was a soft silt loam with abundant charcoal and sherds. Figure 27 shows a plan view and a profile of the tomb. Figure 28 shows the excavation of tomb T-20.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Female

Age: Adult

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its right side

Body orientation: 160° clockwise from north

Body treatment:

Preservation: Not very good

Ceramic grave goods: One bowl of Gray Temper ware and one half-cup of Burnished Orange ware (Figure 45).

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Bowl close to the neck. Cup on the back of the body.

Chronology: Late Herrera period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

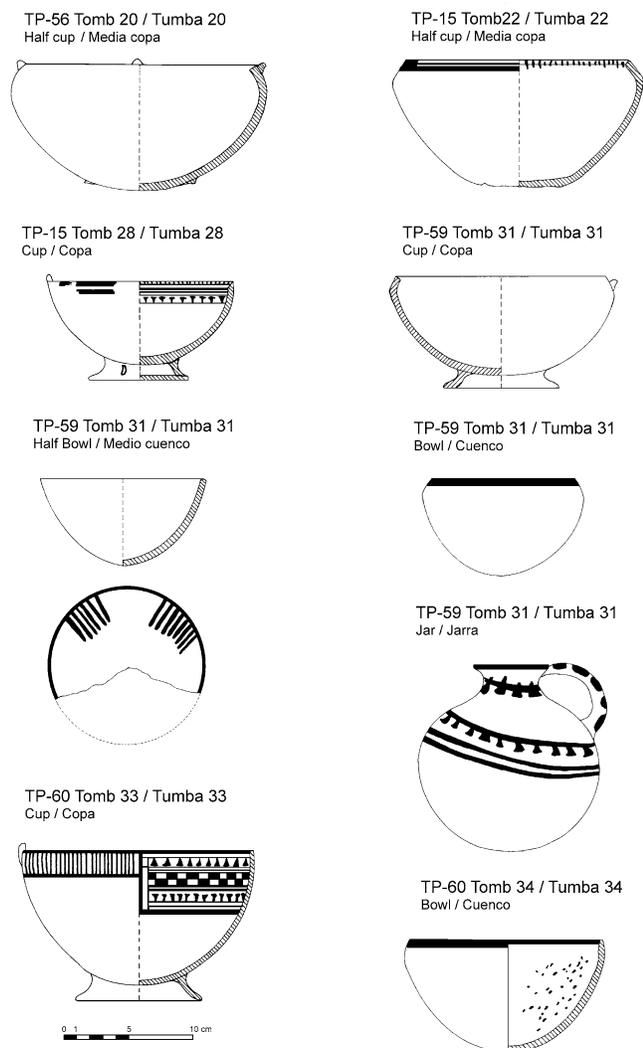


Figure 45. Illustrations of vessels found in tombs from El Venado

**Tomb Number: T-21**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Location: TP-72

Coordinates: 659.2E, 288.3N

Tomb shape: Oval shaft

Tomb depth: 0.80 m

Tomb length: 0.55 m

Tomb width: 0.38 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures:

Characteristics: Tomb structure difficult to detect. Figures 32 and 33 show a plan view and a profile of T-21, respectively.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: 4 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its dorsal side

Body orientation: 225° clockwise from north

Body treatment:

Preservation: Not very good

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods:

Chronology: Late Herrera period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-22**

Zone: Abejas

Test Pit: TP-15

Coordinates: 854.6E, 576.9N

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 0.75 m

Tomb length: 1.07 m

Tomb width: 0.94 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: The tomb fill has sherds and charcoal. Figures 12 and 15 show a plan view and a profile of T-22.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Male

Age: 23.5 years

Cranial deformation:

Body position: Fetal on its dorsal side

Body orientation: 120° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One *olla* with two handles (Figure A.15e) probably from the south area of Sabana de Bogotá; one half-a-cup locally made (Figure 45).

Lithic grave goods: One spindle whorl

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Whorl and *olla* to the right of the cranium. Cup located below the skull.

Chronology: Late Muisca period

**Tomb Number: T-23**

Zone: Abejas

Test Pit: TP-15

Coordinates: 853.7E, 577.5N

Tomb shape: Circular

Tomb depth: 0.65 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 0.90 m

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: A post mold of a round structure was detected in the shaft of the tomb. Figures 12 and 15 show a plan view and a profile of the tomb.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Female

Age: 17.5 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its right side

Body orientation: 30° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One bowl of Gray Temper ware

Lithic grave goods: Two green disc-shaped stone beads about 3 mm in diameter.

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Bowl in the thoracic area, beads in the neck.

Chronology: Late Muisca period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-24**

Zone: Abejas

Test Pit: TP-15

Coordinates: 854.2E, 575N

Tomb shape: Circular

Tomb depth: 1.48 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 1.10 m

Additional structures: The shaft curves inward close to the bottom. Figures 12 and 14 show the plan view and the profile of the tomb, respectively.

Characteristics: The tomb's fill yielded ceramic fragments coming from the cultural floor.

Number of individuals: one

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: Adult

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal seated

Body orientation: Zenith

Body treatment: None

Preservation: Very poor

Ceramic grave goods: One bowl of Gray Temper ware locally made

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Near the feet

Chronology: Late Muisca period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-25**

Zone: San Antonio

Test Pit: TP-39

Coordinates: 480.5E, 450.9N

Tomb shape: Circular

Tomb depth: 0.32 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 1.10 m

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: The burial appears to be disturbed. The skeleton was disarticulated and some bones did not appear. Grave goods, however, were in place (see Figure 21).

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: Adult

Cranial deformation:

Body position: Unknown (disarticulation of the body seems to have taken place sometime after the body was buried)

Body orientation: Unknown

Body treatment: Unknown

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One Gray Temper ware small *olla* (Figure A.15c) with four handles

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: One bone needle (Figure 2.14)

Shell grave goods: One terrestrial snail

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: *Olla* in the west side of the tomb; the needle and the snail were recovered from the tomb's fill. Since the tomb was disturbed, it was assumed the needle and the snail were constituted grave goods.

Chronology: Late Muisca period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-26**

Zone: Chávez

Location: TP-41

Coordinates: 701E, 260.5N

Tomb shape: Circular shaft

Tomb depth: 0.30 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 0.65 m

Additional structures: Three stone slabs at the entrance of the tomb. Two rectangular slabs (0.29 x 0.12 x 0.07 m and 0.31 x 0.18 x 0.05 m), and another smaller irregular rock (0.14 x 0.12 x 0.07 m).

Characteristics: Figure 23 shows a plan view and a profile of T-26.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: 6 months old

Cranial deformation: ?

Body position: Fetal on its right side

Body orientation: 165° clockwise from north

Body treatment: The body was wrapped in a thick layer composed mostly by ashes. A red ochre pigment was sprinkled over the body.

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One small jar ([*cántaro*] Figure A.2c); one large *olla-cuenco* rim of Gray Temper ware (Figure A.16), and one vessel fragment of Gray Temper ware.

Lithic grave goods: One flake

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Jar and *olla-cuenco* fragment located on the right side of the cranium. Flake close to the face

Chronology: Late Herrera period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-27**

Zone: Abejas

Test Pit: TP-15

Coordinates: 853E, 573.9N

Tomb shape: Circular

Tomb depth: 0.60 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 0.70 m

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: Figures 12 and 15 show a plan view and a profile of the tomb

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: 4 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal seated

Body orientation: Zenith

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Very poor

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: One long quartz

Bone grave goods: Two canine beads; two long bones drilled used as beads.

Shell grave goods: One marine snail

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: All located in the neck

Chronology: Late Muisca period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-28**

Zone: Abejas

Test Pit: TP-15

Coordinates: 852E, 573.5N

Tomb shape: Oval

Tomb depth: 0.25 m

Tomb length: 0.95 m

Tomb width: 0.73 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: One irregular rock placed in the mouth of the tomb.

Characteristics: A very superficial interment located close to the road. Figures 12 and 15 show a plan view and a profile of the tomb.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: 1 year old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal dorsal

Body orientation: 205° clockwise from north

Body treatment: Partial ash plaster around the pelvis and feet

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One cup from Bajo Valle de Tenza with charcoal in its interior (See Figure 45).

Lithic grave goods: 9 disc-shaped stone beads as part of the necklace; 4 clear quartz (Figure 46).

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: A necklace with 295 disc shaped (4 mm in diameter) marine beads, and 4 resin beads.

Two marine snails (*Oliva* spp.) and one terrestrial snail (*Pleikochelus* spp.)

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Cup close to the wall of the tomb; necklace around the pelvis; snails in the chest, and the quartz near the cranium.

Chronology: Late Muisca period

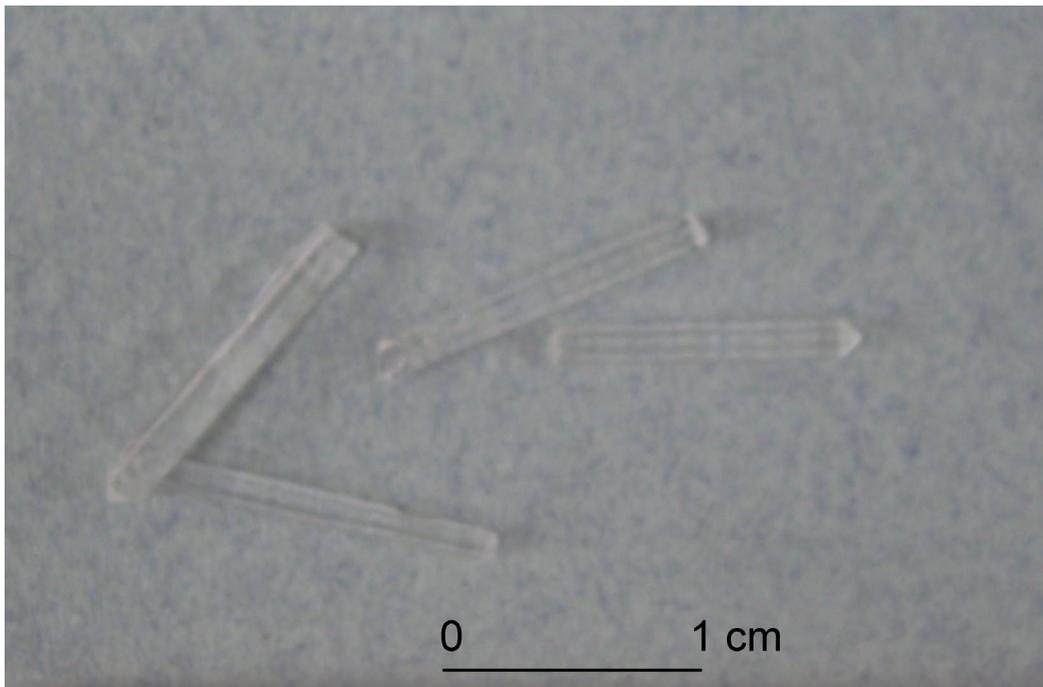


Figure 46. Quartz found in tomb T-28 at test pit TP-28 from El Venado

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-29**

Zone: Chávez

Location: TP-40

Coordinates: 693.5E, 250.5N

Tomb shape: Oval shaft

Tomb depth: 0.55 m

Tomb length: 1.08 m

Tomb width: 0.80 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: Seven sandstone slabs were located at the entrance of the tomb

Characteristics: The identification of the shaft was very difficult. Figure 22 shows a plan view and a profile of the tomb.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Male

Age: 21.6 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its dorsal side

Body orientation: 130° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: °Poor

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods:

Chronology: Late Herrera period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-30**

Zone: Abejas

Test Pit: TP-15

Coordinates: 855.7E, 575.5N

Tomb shape: Circular shaft

Tomb depth: 1.60 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 0.95 m

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: The shaft shape was affected by natural rocks. Figures 12 and 14 show a plan view and a profile of T-30.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Female

Age: 28.5 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal dorsal

Body orientation: 165° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None

Preservation: Poor. Very fragmented and some bones could not be recovered.

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods:

Chronology: Early Muisca period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: TN-31**

Zone: Chávez

Location: TP-59

Coordinates: 700.5E, 257.5N

Tomb shape: Circular shaft

Tomb depth: 0.80 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 1.05 m

Additional structures:

Characteristics: Figure 29 shows a plan view and a profile of the tomb.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: Cohort 20-24 years

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal seated

Body orientation: Zenith

Body treatment: Body with complete wrapping of an ash layer

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One jar neck (Figure A.2a and Figure 47) of Mosquera Crushed Rock ware. One half a cup of Gray Temper ware; one jar of Grey Temper ware (Figure 45); one jar (*cántaro*) of Burnished Orange ware (Figure A.17b); one bowl of Grey Temper ware (Figure 45); and one cup of Burnished Orange ware (Figure 45).

Lithic grave goods: One hearth rock with firing evidence, and one metate.

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: The jar neck and the half-cup were located at the right side of the cranium. The jar, the bowl, and the cup were placed at the right side of the feet.

Chronology: Late Herrera period

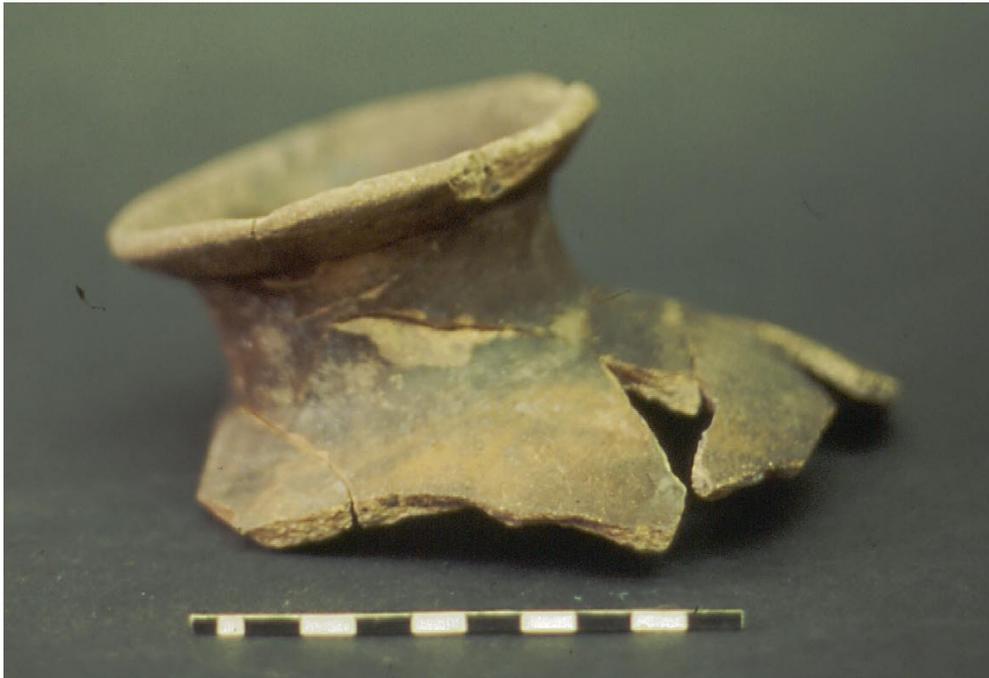


Figure 47. Jar neck found in tomb T-31 at test pit TP- 60 from El Venado

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-32**

Zone: Chávez

Location: TP-60

Coordinates: 698.9E, 260.9N

Tomb shape: Circular shaft

Tomb depth: 0.90 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 0.80 m

Additional structures:

Characteristics: Tomb 32 was placed over T-33 in the same grave. Figure 30 shows a plan view and a profile of the tombs. Figure 31 shows a picture of the excavation of tomb T-32.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: Adult

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal seated

Body orientation: Zenith

Body treatment: Body with a complete wrapping of an ashy layer

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One bowl of Burnished Orange ware with red painted decoration on the interior surface (Figure A.10c and Figure 48). One broken cup of Burnished Orange ware containing charcoal (Figure A.17b).

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Bowl located on the right side of the cranium. Cup placed on the right side of the pelvis.

Chronology: Late Herrera period



Figure 48. Bowl found in tomb T-32 at test pit TP-60 from El Venado

**Tomb Number: T-33**

Zone: Chávez

Location: TP-60

Coordinates: 698.8E, 260.9N

Tomb shape: Circular shaft

Tomb depth: 1.05 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 0.80 m

Additional structures: A well furnished sandstone rectangular metate was dividing this tomb from burial T-32.

Characteristics: Tomb 33 was found below T-32 (see Figure 30).

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Indeterminate

Age: Cohort 45-55 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal seated, although inclined because of the other burial placed over it.

Body orientation: Zenith

Body treatment: The body was completely wrapped by an ashy layer 5 to 6 cm thick.

Preservation: Poor. All distal epiphyses did not preserve

Ceramic grave goods: One cup of Guatavita Grey Temper ware from Sabana de Bogotá (Figure 45) containing charcoal. This sample was collected for dating.

Lithic grave goods: A necklace composed of 3 disc-shaped green beads about 5 mm in diameter, and 3 tubular green beads like those from Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Figure 49). A rectangular polished metate and a mano (Figure 50).

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: Four gold beads made out of a thin-hammered lamina rolled into a tub (were part of the necklace). Two of them had incised anthropomorphic faces.

Location of grave goods: The cup was placed near the right arm. The necklace was placed in the neck.

The metate was covering the body. The mano was placed at its feet.

Chronology: Late Herrera period. The charcoal found in the cup dated  $740 \pm 60$  AD (without calibration) (Beta-103685  $1010 \pm 60$  BP).



Figure 49. Beads found in tomb T-33 at test pit TP-60 from El Venado



Figure 50. Metate found in tomb T-32 at test pit TP-60 from El Venado

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-34**

Zone: Chávez

Location: TP-60

Coordinates: 689.9E, 261.5N

Tomb shape: Oval shaft

Tomb depth: 0.55 m

Tomb length: 0.80 m

Tomb width: 0.65 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: The soil surrounding the skeleton was very compact. Figure 30 shows a plan view and a profile of the tomb.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Female

Age: Cohort 45-55 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its left side

Body orientation: 130° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None visible

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: One bowl of Gray Temper ware containing charcoal (Figure 45)

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods:

Chronology: Late Herrera period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-35**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Location: TP-72

Coordinates: 659.2E, 288N

Tomb shape: Oval shaft

Tomb depth: 0.30 m

Tomb length: 0.85 m

Tomb width: 0.65 m

Tomb diameter:

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: Figures 32 and 33 show a plan view and a profile of T-35, respectively.

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Male

Age: 32.7 years

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its left side

Body orientation: 225° clockwise from north

Body treatment:

Preservation: Poor

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: None

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods:

Chronology: Late Herrera period

*El Venado Excavations and Burials*

**Tomb Number: T-36**

Zone: La Esmeralda

Test Pit: TP-51

Coordinates: 650.8E, 257.3N

Tomb shape: Circular shaft

Tomb depth: 0.40 m

Tomb length:

Tomb width:

Tomb diameter: 0.90 m

Additional structures: None

Characteristics: The fill had abundant archaeological material (sherds, animal bones and carbonized plant remains). Figure 24 shows a plan view and a profile of the tomb. Figure 25 shows a picture of the excavation of tomb T-36

Number of individuals: 1

Sex: Female

Age: 42.2 years old

Cranial deformation: No

Body position: Fetal on its right side

Body orientation: 80° clockwise from north

Body treatment: None

Preservation: Good

Ceramic grave goods: None

Lithic grave goods: None

Bone grave goods: One animal femur (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Shell grave goods: None

Gold grave goods: None

Location of grave goods: Close to the neck

Chronology: Early Muisca period