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**Archaeological Reconnaissance in Southeastern Campeche, México:  
2001 Field Season Report**  
*With an Appendix by Nikolai Grube*



**Research Year:** 2001  
**Culture:** Maya  
**Chronology:** Classic  
**Location:** Yucatán, México  
**Site:** Campeche

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## **Abstract**

The project represented the third season of reconnaissance works in an archaeologically little known region of central Maya Lowlands. Among the newly recorded sites, mainly pertaining to the Classic period, there are four major centers with large architectural complexes, and several caves with vestiges of ritual activities. The location and basic characteristics of the sites were registered and some surface pottery was collected. Urban cores of three major sites were mapped with a total station. A number of sculpted monuments were also found, including three stelae with well-preserved reliefs and hieroglyphic inscriptions, which contain important data on regional political history.]

## **Resumen**

El proyecto representó la tercera temporada de trabajos de reconocimiento en una región poco conocida, desde el punto de vista arqueológico, de las tierras bajas mayas centrales. Entre los nuevos sitios registrados, que fundamentalmente datan del período Clásico, hay cuatro importantes centros con grandes complejos arquitectónicos y varias cuevas con vestigios de actividad ritual. Se registró la ubicación y las características básicas de los sitios, y se practicaron algunas recolecciones de alfarería en superficie. Los núcleos urbanos de tres sitios de importancia se mapearon con una estación total. También se hallaron diversos monumentos esculpidos, entre ellos tres estelas con relieves en buen estado de preservación e inscripciones jeroglíficas, que contienen datos de importancia acerca de la historia política de la región.

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I am indebted to my field collaborators and friends, topographers José Guadalupe Orta Bautista and Pascual Medina Meléndrez, and geographer Rubén Escartín Adam (*Dirección de Registro Público de Monumentos y Zonas Arqueológicos*, INAH), for their competent and patient work, mostly accomplished in very unfavorable circumstances; my special thanks go to Pepe Orta, who assisted me throughout the field season. Pedro Francisco Sánchez Nava, Director of *Registro Público de Monumentos y Zonas Arqueológicos*, INAH, helped us in a variety of ways, while Luis Alberto López Wario, Director of Salvamento Arqueológico (INAH), provided an excellent field vehicle. José Rodríguez de la Gala Méndez, Director of *Reserva de la Biosfera de Calakmul*, supported our surveys at Champerico and El Gallinero, with both an additional vehicle and personnel. Important aid was received from Lieutenant Colonel Alfonso Cristóbal García Mélgar, Commandant of the 25 C.I.N.E. of the Mexican Army at Xpujil, Campeche, as well as from the authorities of *Municipio de Calakmul*. Kathe Lawton, Assistant Director of Middle American Research Institute (M.A.R.I.), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, put at my disposal interesting archival data on former archaeological research in southeastern Campeche. María Isabel García López, of *Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia*, México, assumed the task of analyzing the surface ceramics collected at various sites. Nikolai Grube, of the University of Texas, Austin, drew the stelae of Champerico and Zapote Bobal and prepared a separate report on their iconographic and inscriptional contents (see [Appendix](#)). Tomaž Podobnikar, Krištof Oštir and Tatjana Veljanovski, of the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana, offered their support in the preparation of maps and final elaboration of this report. I owe my gratitude to all of them, as well as to many collaborators and informants in southeastern Campeche, who made possible our fieldwork.

## Introduction

This project represented a continuation of the reconnaissance works carried out in 1996 and 1998 in the extreme southeast of the Mexican federal state of Campeche, i.e. in central parts of the Yucatán peninsula, where some of the most extensive blanks on the archaeological map of the Maya area still persist. The archaeological data available for the territories extending between the so-called Río Bec and Chenes regions, and between the Candelaria river valley and the border with Belize and Quintana Roo (the so-called Petén campechano), are still extremely poor (cf. Adams, 1981:213ff). Until the intensive research in the area of Calakmul began, in the early 1980s (cf. Folan, 1994; Folan *et al.*, 1995; Morales, 1987; Carrasco, 2000), Ruppert and Denison's monumental work (1943) was practically the only source of information on some archaeological sites in southeastern Campeche, but these were—according to Ruppert himself (*ibid.*:1)—only a few of the largest and best preserved ones. The information on some additional sites reported afterwards (Ruz, 1945; Müller, 1960) is so scanty that they cannot even

be identified in the field. Indeed, only two decades ago Adams (1981:216) affirmed that the sites in the area, except for El Palmar (Thompson, 1936), "were all found by Ruppert and his Carnegie Institution surveys of the 1930s".

The 1996 and 1998 surveys, sponsored by the Mexican *Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia* (INAH), represented a first attempt to improve the situation (Šprajc *et al.*, 1996; 1997a; 1997b; Šprajc, 1998a; 1998b; Šprajc and Suárez, 1998a; 1998b). Thanks to the FAMSI grant, the fieldwork continued in 2001. The reconnaissance accomplished so far covered the area between the relatively well known Río Bec region to the north and the border with Guatemala to the south, and between the border with Belize and Quintana Roo to the east and the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve to the west. The territory (approximately between 89°09' and 89°30' of W longitude, and between 17°49' and 18°15' of N latitude), which at the time of Ruppert's expeditions was almost without permanent population, began to be colonized about three decades ago by settlers originating from various Mexican states. Even if the region is still sparsely populated, the recent human activity, particularly the slash-and-burn cultivation, which continues to be the most common agricultural technique in the area, has reduced considerable extents of tropical forest and has also contributed to the destruction of archaeological vestiges. On the other hand, and more importantly, the archaeological sites in the area are threatened by systematic and professional looting, which is growing alarmingly and normally results in irretrievable loss of important archaeological data and irreparably damaged architectural structures. It can thus be affirmed that the surveys carried out so far helped rescue a considerable amount of significant archaeological information.

The objective of the 2001 surveys was to complete the reconnaissance of the area mentioned above, where all the land is allotted to *ejidos* (rural communities enjoying usufruct rights to the land held in common). The goal was largely attained, though a few allegedly large sites could not be visited, because the local authorities or landowners were unwilling to show us the way. On the other hand, since we received information on some important sites located to the west, within the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, and reportedly threatened by looters' incursions, we decided to inspect them; this work was very rewarding (three major sites were surveyed and mapped; see below) but required some time and resources, so that later we were not able to verify some last-minute reports on a few sites located within the *ejido* area. Hopefully, this can be done in the following season.

Throughout the 2001 field season, which lasted from March 10 to May 21, I was assisted by the INAH topographer José G. Orta Bautista, while geographer Rubén Escartín Adam and topographer Pascual Medina Meléndrez joined us during the last three weeks, when selected sites were mapped with a total station. We normally worked about 12 hours a day, interrupting the fieldwork only occasionally, to go to Xpujil or Chetumal for gasoline, supplies, or because diverse matters had to be arranged with regional authorities. We moved from village to village to collect information on archaeological sites and visit them. Field surveying, if it did not take a whole day, was normally done in the morning, while in the afternoon the fieldwork for the next day had

to be prepared: we looked for further informants, moved to another village, talked to the people, found lodging and arranged everything necessary for the next day fieldwork.

The course of the works was hindered by an accident that occurred on March 27: while searching for a reported site in the jungle near the village of El Tesoro, I cut my left knee with an unfortunate machete stroke and had to be transported to the Xpujil medical station and later to the General Hospital of Chetumal. As I did not take sufficient rest, my recovery was very slow and in fact I was not able to walk or drive normally till the end of the field season. However, thanks to my collaborators' efforts, particularly Pepe's skills and enthusiasm, the work did not suffer too much.

### **Notes On Methods And Techniques**

Considering environmental peculiarities of the Maya Lowlands (dense tropical vegetation), archaeological reconnaissance works in the area must depend heavily on the data provided by local informants (*cf.* Ashmore, 1981:60f; Harrison, 1981:261). The application of remote sensing techniques so far has not rendered useful results. Available aerial photographs are in the scale 1:80,000, which hardly allows identification of archaeological sites. Radar satellite images of the central Yucatán region were examined at the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Ljubljana, Slovenia: a number of field-surveyed archaeological sites in southeastern Campeche, whose characteristics and exact geographical coordinates were known, were located on the images, but no common properties were detected. Analyses of optical satellite imagery are still under way.

The fieldwork methodology followed the practice established already in the 1996 and 1998 surveys and justified in the first report (Šprajc *et al.*, 1996; 1997b:30ff). According to what has been extensively argued elsewhere (*ibid.*; *cf.* Harrison, 1981:261; Nalda, 1989:4, 24), a project aimed at recording the totality of archaeological features visible on the surface would be either prohibitively expensive or impossible to accomplish in any reasonable time-span, particularly if we consider the vastness of the territory and its environmental characteristics, as well as the high density of archaeological remains, which was found to be comparable to the one observed in other parts of central Maya Lowlands. Major sites that can be classified as centers (*cf.* Ashmore, 1981:55ff; Willey, 1981:391f) were therefore given priority in the reconnaissance work. Such strategy should by no means be considered as reflecting an "elitist" approach, but was rather dictated by the necessity of recovering, in the first place, the information that is, due to the looters' interests, in the most imminent danger of disappearance. While it is to be hoped that detailed surveys of smaller areas selected on the basis of pertinent sampling procedures will be carried out in the near future, representing a complement rather than a substitute for nonprobabilistic methods (*cf.* Ashmore, 1981:60f), it would be unwise, at this stage of research, to apply such strategy instead of trying to rescue in the whole territory as much information as possible about those sites, structures and objects that are facing the greatest risk of being destroyed, mutilated or stolen by looters.

Exact location of every concentration of archaeological remains identified in the field was determined, employing a portable GPS navigator. Basic characteristics of archaeological features, their extent and peculiarities of natural environment were recorded, pertinent photographs were taken and samples of available surface material were collected. Selected sites were mapped during the final stage of the field season.

About 30 formerly unknown archaeological sites were recorded, but it should be pointed out that these are rather arbitrary units which, due to the lack of data at this stage of research, should be considered as having only a vague relationship with prehispanic reality. If several concentrations of archaeological remains were not far from each other, they were often assumed to form a single site, but the proximity in space does not necessarily indicate relationship in organizational terms; and inversely, some neighboring sites recorded as separate may have been parts of a single territorial unit (the problem of site definition and delimitation in the research area is extensively discussed in Šprajc *et al.*, 1996; 1997b:31ff).

Given the scope and limitations of the project, the information on the recorded sites is not uniform and detailed enough to allow any of the elaborate rank ordering systems proposed so far to be applied consistently and comprehensively. For the data at hand, a relatively simple method devised by Harrison (1981:269) for classifying sites with architecture in southern Quintana Roo seems to be more appropriate. According to his criteria, a "small" site is limited in extent and consists of structures not exceeding three meters in height, a "medium" site has a large number of small mounds, or fewer structures ranging up to 10 m in height, while a "large" site includes more structures of which at least one is higher than 10 m.

The map in [Figure 1](#), showing the location of all the sites recorded during our three survey seasons, employs different symbols for the three categories, applicable to the sites with architectural remains, and another one for caves. The sites surveyed in 2001 are marked in red. Some of them had actually been recorded in the 1996 or 1998 seasons (El Tesoro, Felipe Angeles, El Gallinero, Veintiuno de Mayo: Šprajc *et al.*, 1996; 1997a; 1997b; Šprajc and Suárez, 1998a; 1998b), but in 2001 additional groups were found and information expanded. El Palmar, discovered by Thompson (1936), and Aktunkin, reported by García Cruz (1991), are also included. The sites of Icaiché and La Misteriosa (or Misterioso) had been known before our work started, but scarce or no data on their location and characteristics had been published (Lundell, 1933:169; M.A.R.I., 1940; Ruppert and Denison, 1943:29; Müller, 1959:38, 50).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A few other sites lying in the area of our surveys had been mentioned previously, but do not appear in Figure 1, shown above, since they have not been verified in the field. We did not manage to find Nochebuena (Ruppert and Denison, 1943:28) and Las Escobas (Ruz, 1945:109). The ruins near Placeres (Morley, 1937:pl. 179; M.A.R.I., 1940; Ruz, 1945:109; Müller, 1959:57), a former chicle station, are now in the *ejido* El Carmen, but the locals were unwilling to take us there; while we were told of a carved stela and some large mounds, it may also be recalled that a stucco façade was taken away from this site years ago (Mayer, 1988; Freidel, 2000).

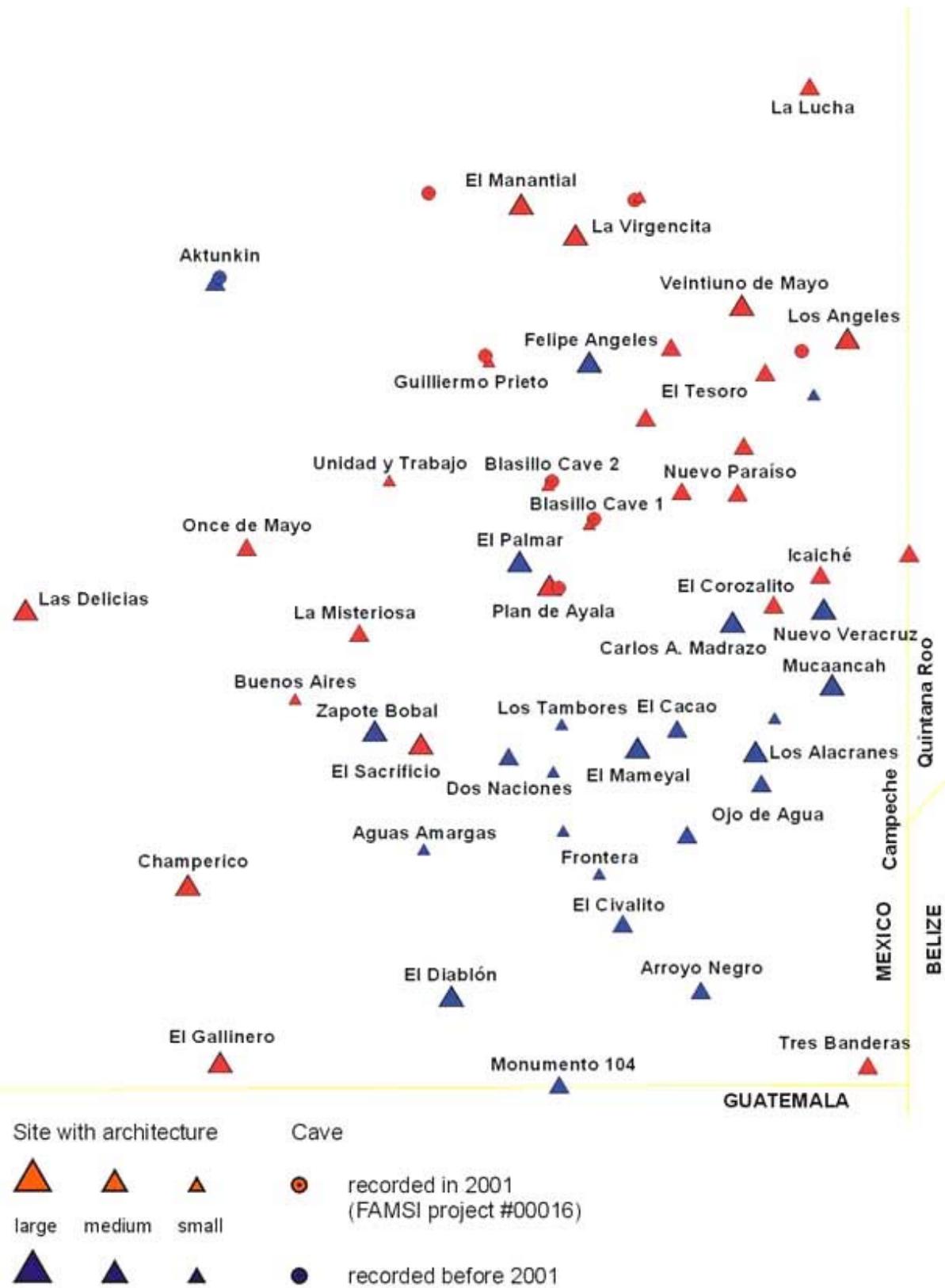


Figure 1. Location of archaeological sites in southeastern Campeche, México.

Urban cores of three large sites were surveyed with a total station. The resulting maps include both contours and conventionally represented structures (Figure 2, Figure 5, Figure 14 and Figure 25, see [\\*\\*NOTE](#) below). Given the limited scope of the project and the fact that only the core areas were mapped, no comprehensive systems of structure designation have been elaborated. In order to facilitate further references, only major structures or compounds have been numbered sequentially. Contour altitudes above sea level are based on GPS readings, but may be in error of up to  $\pm 50$  m approximately. True north and local magnetic declination, determined on the basis of both astronomically referenced and magnetic azimuth readings along a number of sightlines at each site, are also indicated; possible errors are estimated to be less than  $\pm 5'$ .

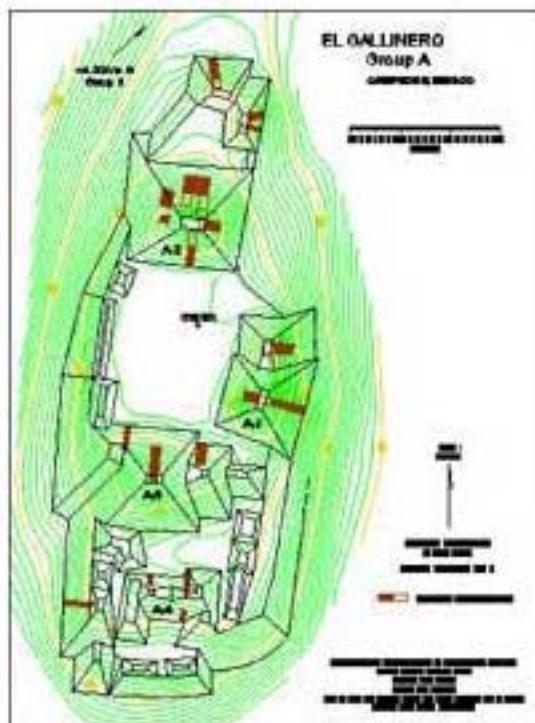
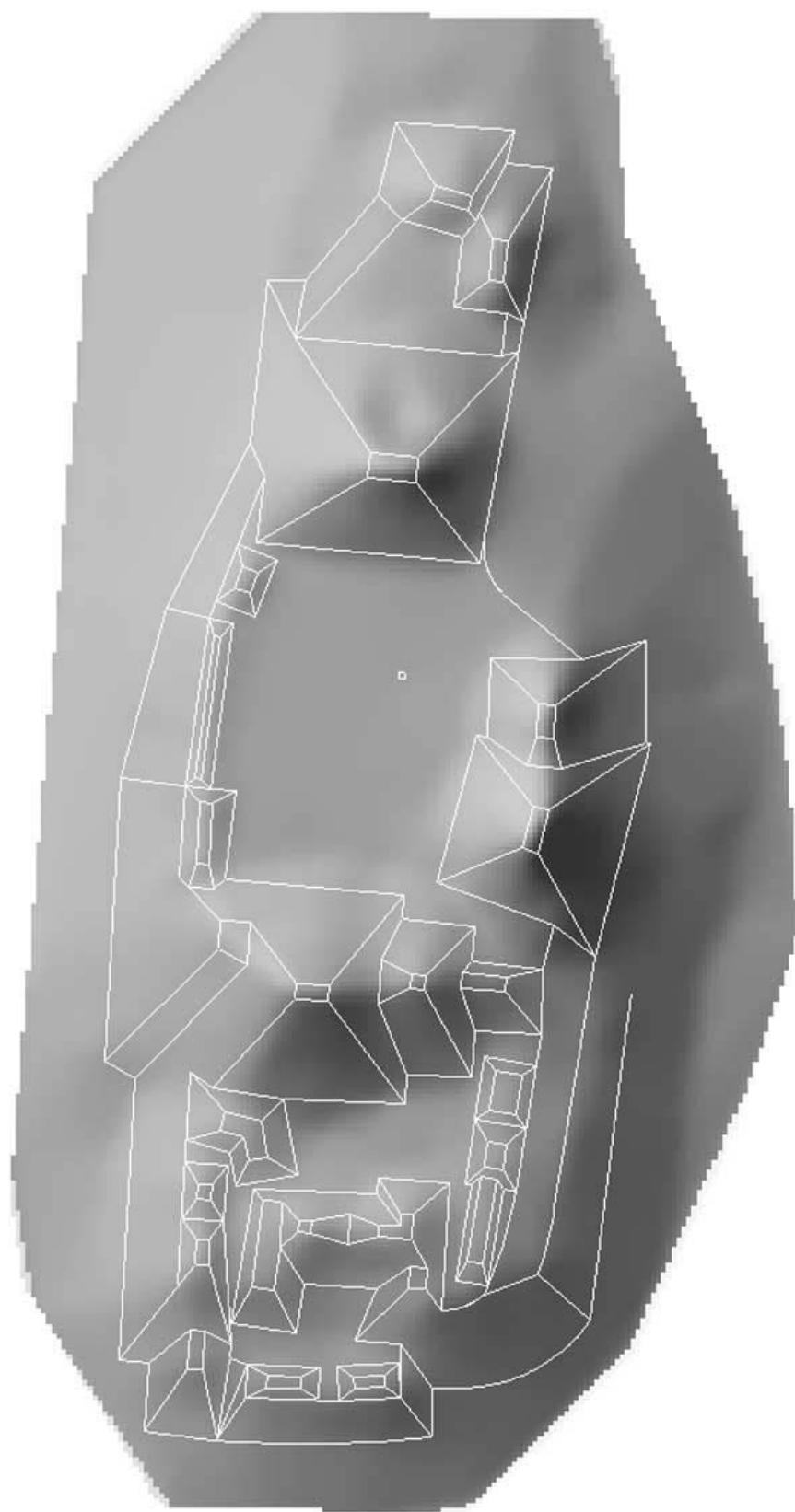


Figure 2. El Gallinero, map of Group A.



**Figure 3. Digital surface model of El Gallinero, Group A (elaborated by Tomaž Podobnikar).**

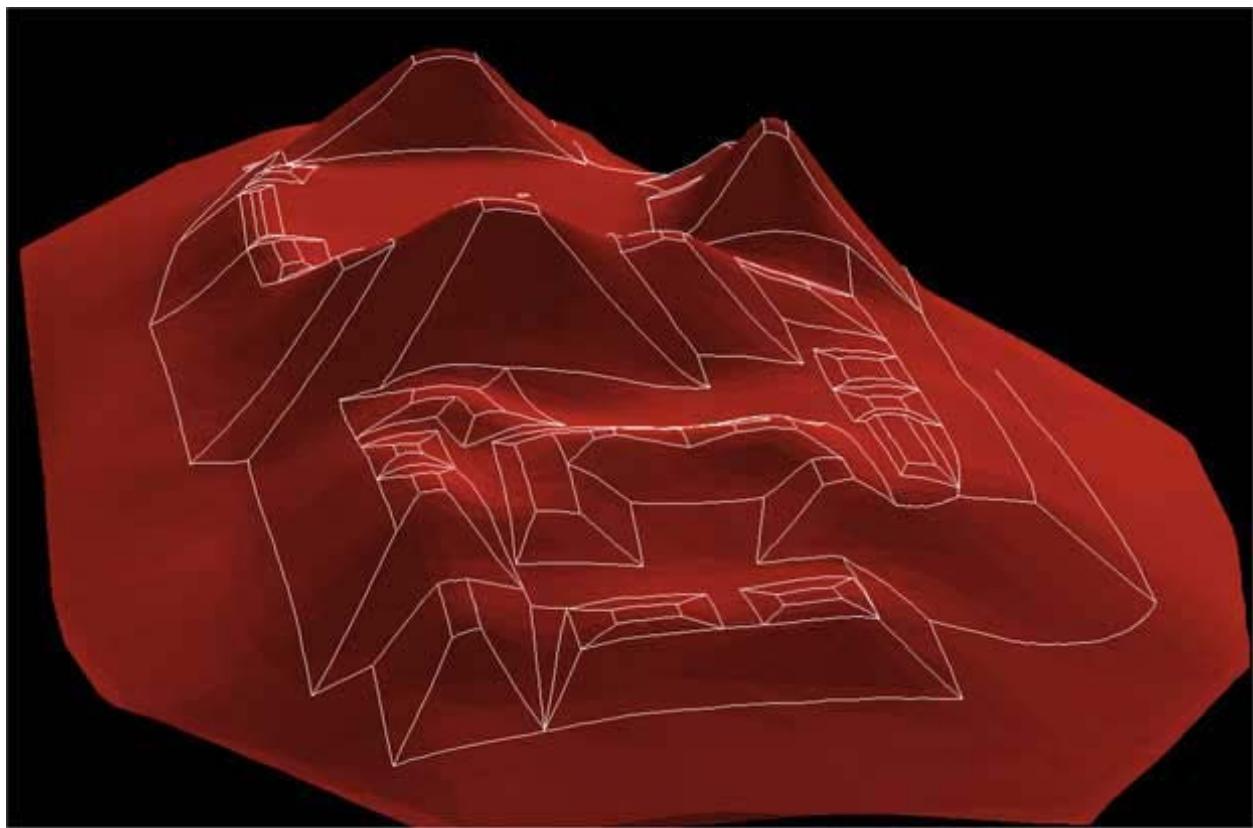


Figure 4. Perspective view on El Gallinero, Group A, looking north (digital model by Tomaž Podobnikar).

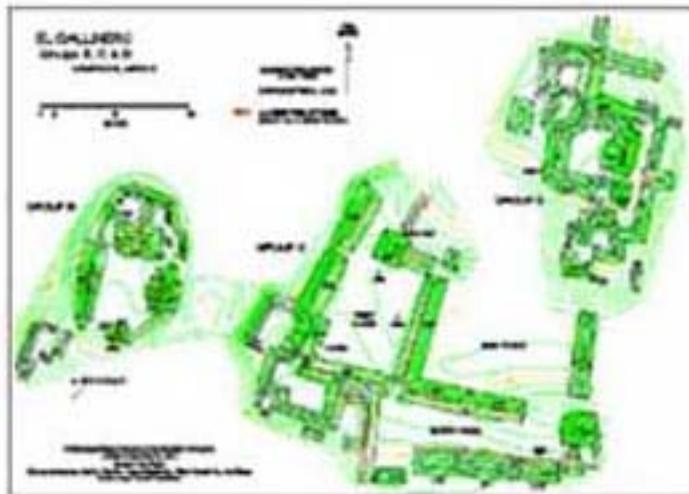
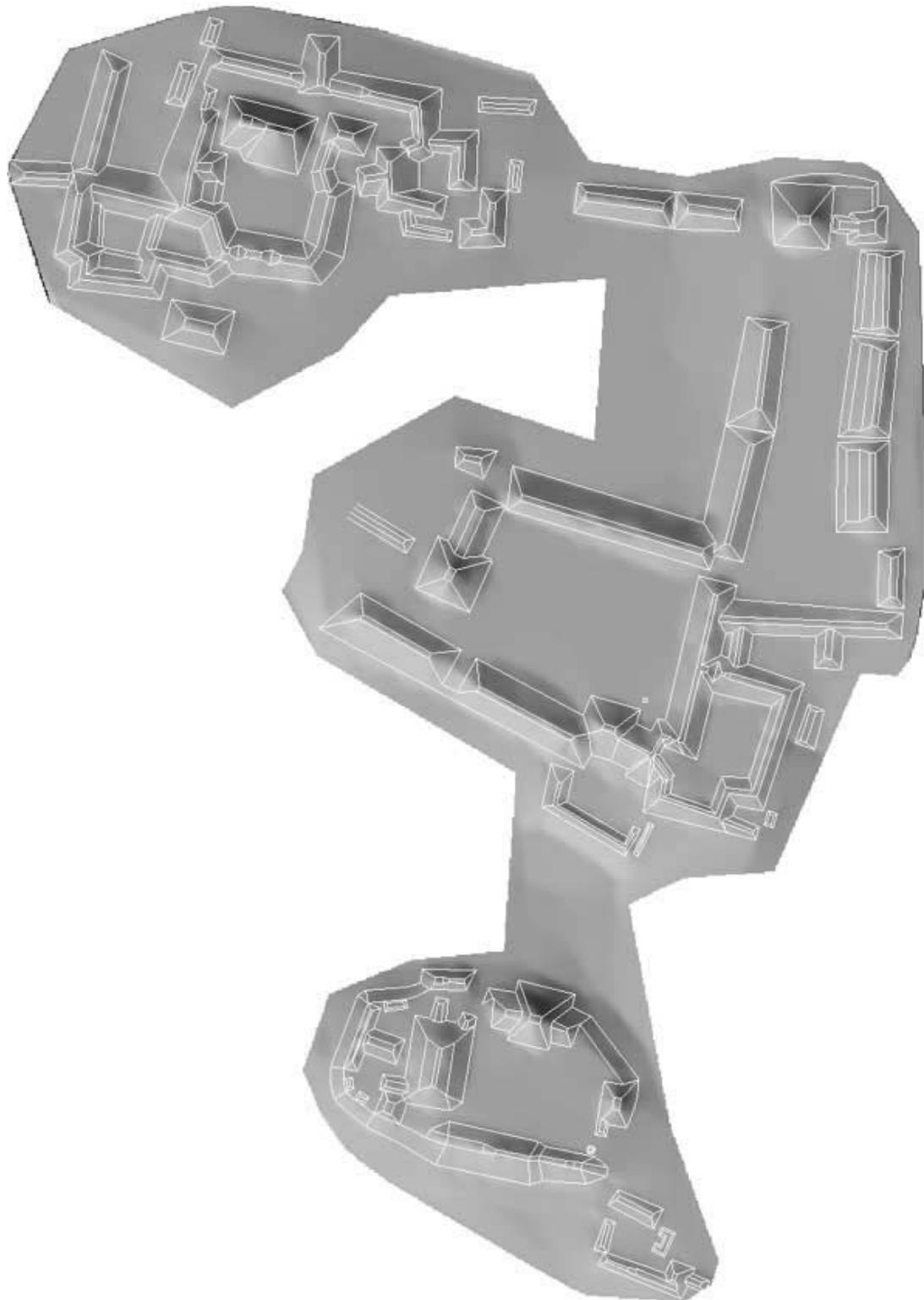


Figure 5. El Gallinero, map of Groups B, C and D. (\*requires Autodesk® Express Viewer)

### **Important note**

The web version of this report does not include precise data on the location of archaeological sites, in order not to make this information readily available to potential looters. Therefore, the map in [Figure 1](#), shows neither geographic features nor the coordinate grid. The information on exact location of particular sites has been omitted also in the text and site maps. All these data, including a geographically referenced map of sites based on a satellite image, are incorporated in the printed version of the report, which is on file at FAMSI.

**\*\*NOTE:** The maps of particular sites are in an AutoCAD format, which requires the Autodesk® Express Viewer. With the software installed you will be able to pan across and zoom into selected areas of the maps by right clicking your mouse and using the features in the menu. Click on the button below for the latest version of Autodesk® Express Viewer from Autodesk.com.



**Figure 6. Digital surface model of El Gallinero, Groups B, C and D (elaborated by Tomaž Podobnikar).**

## Comments On Particular Sites

### *El Gallinero*

The site, named after a nearby ranch, was first visited and hastily inspected in 1998 (Sprajc and Suárez, 1998a; 1998b:105f). It lies in the tropical forest, in the southeastern part of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, near the border with Guatemala. We mapped four major architectural groups ([Figures 2-6](#)), but have not managed to determine the overall extent of the site. One more group with monumental architecture is located about 1 km east of Group B, but the site apparently continues also to the south: in 1998, Nikolai Grube (personal communication, 1998 & 2001) visited a site named La Toronja and located practically on the borderline, hardly more than 1 km south of El Gallinero Group A. Apparently the same site had been noted in 1938-39 by the *Comisión Mixta de Límites México-Guatemala*: their map mentions "ruinas mayas notables" near a control point, whose coordinates correspond to those of La Toronja (*Límites México-Guatemala* 1938-39).<sup>2</sup>

Group A, composing a complex elongated in a roughly north-south direction, is situated on a natural elevation in the immediate vicinity of a large *bajo* swamp, which extends to the west. The retaining walls of the platform supporting the structures rise several meters high above natural ground on all sides except the north, giving the complex an acropolis-like appearance. The height of Structure A-1, including the platform on which it sits, is about 15 m. All major structures are transected by looters' trenches and tunnels (indicated on the map, [Figure 2](#)). The one penetrating Structure A-3 at its northwest base perforated a wall with remnants of red paint ([Figure 7](#)). Fragments of red painted plaster can also be seen on a wall exposed by looters on the northern slope of Structure A-2. It should be pointed out that the site was systematically plundered in a relatively recent past. In order to give an idea about the location and number of looters' trenches and tunnels, they are indicated on the maps in [Figure 2](#) and [Figure 5](#), but only in Groups A and B; their distribution in other groups is comparable. In fact, we have not seen a single sizeable mound without at least one trench.

Group B is located approximately 200 m northeast of Group A. Most buildings are, again, situated on an artificially leveled natural elevation. Like in Group A, the highest structure (B-1) is on the east side of the main plaza, while two other large buildings are on its north and south flanks ([Figure 5](#) & [Figure 6](#)). There is a badly eroded stela leaning upon the south slope of Structure B-2; its maximum length and width are 4 m and 1.05 m, respectively. Traces of relief survive on the upper face, and of a few glyph blocks on the left narrow side, but no particular iconographic or glyptic element can be distinguished ([Figure 8](#)). In a tunnel excavated by looters far into Structure B-1, some Aguila Orange ceramic fragments of the early Classic Tzakol complex were found; the plunderers reached the outer face of an early stage of the building and continued their excavation into the fill of the later stage, uncovering part of the early façade with apron molding decoration.

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<sup>2</sup> I wish to thank Ian Graham for kindly calling my attention to this map.



**Figure 7. El Gallinero, looters' trench in Structure A-3, looking south.**



Figure 8. El Gallinero, stela at Structure B-2, looking north.

Group C consists predominantly of elongated mounds flanking three large plazas and a few smaller courtyards. On the West Plaza there is a badly deteriorated round altar in

front of Structure C-4, and a stela broken in two parts behind it, with traces of relief on the surface. Two more badly weathered stelae are lying in front of Structures C-5 (West Plaza) and C-10 (South Plaza); the former has on one side remnants of glyph blocks eroded beyond recognition ([Figure 9](#)). A special significance of Structure C-9, which encloses the South Plaza from the east, is suggested by remains of stone lintels, jambs or stelae scattered at its northwest base: their faces must have been elaborately sculpted, since they were all sawn off by looters ([Figure 10](#) and [Figure 11](#)).



Figure 9. El Gallinero, stela in front of Structure C-5, looking southeast.



Figure 10. El Gallinero, Structure C-9, looking southeast.



Figure 11. El Gallinero, a stone block with sawn off faces at the northwest base of Structure C-9.



Figure 12. El Gallinero, Structure D-1, east side.

Group D is located just north of the East Plaza of Group C. Structure D-1 is the largest one and occupies a central place. Parts of the walls of the upper structure are exposed, having remnants of stucco ([Figure 5](#) and [Figure 12](#)). A weathered stela, with badly eroded glyph blocks visible on one side, is lying at the west base of Structure D-4 ([Figure 5](#) and [Figure 13](#)).

The surface pottery collected at El Gallinero pertains largely to the Late Classic Tepeu complex. The site, whose overall extent and configuration are not known yet, obviously deserves further study. Its significant place in regional hierarchy is indicated not only by the number and size of monumental structures, plazas and courtyards, but also by the presence of sculpted monuments. It should be recalled that the site was systematically looted and that a number of such monuments may have been taken away: all that remain are either too deteriorated to have any commercial value, or were left because their sculpted faces had been sawn off.



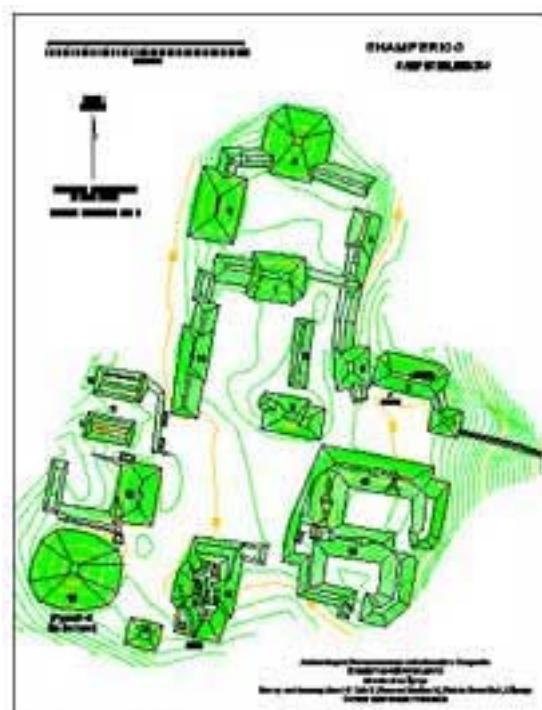
Figure 13. El Gallinero, stela at the west base of Structure D-4, looking north.

### ***Champerico***

Located in the southeastern part of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve forest, the site owes its name to the *aguada* lying less than a kilometer away to the east. The core area, situated on a natural elevation, consists of a number of plazas and courtyards distributed along a roughly north-south axis. Structure 13 at the southwest extreme is the highest mound, rising about 17 m above natural ground ([Figure 14](#), [Figure 15](#), [Figure 16](#)).

A few structures have partially exposed architectural elements. On the west side of Structure 6, a wall with remnants of stucco, pertaining to a collapsed room, is visible, while on its east side the looters reached a doorway and removed its lintel. The north structure of the ball court (Structure 11a) preserves in its upper part a low wall running east-west ([Figure 14](#)). Particularly interesting is Structure 15, which is actually a

compound of buildings erected on a basal platform. The upper part of Structure 15a exhibits a number of standing walls; there is a partially collapsed vaulted room on the east side, and remains of another one to the west; inner faces of the walls have remnants of stucco plaster, while some cornice stones with sloped exterior surface can be seen on the façade ([Figure 17](#)). A north-west alignment of stones is preserved also on Structure 15b.



**Figure 14.** Map of Champerico.

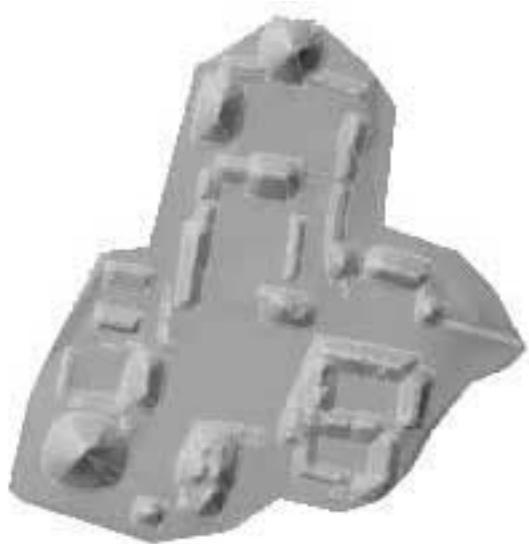


Figure 15. Digital surface model of Champerico (by Tomaž Podobnikar).

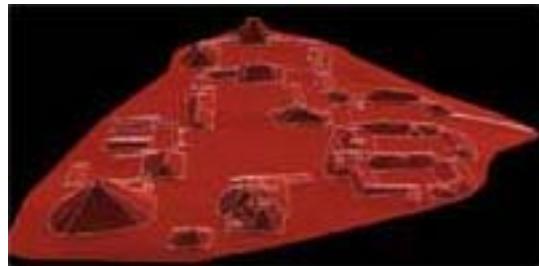


Figure 16. Perspective view on Champerico, looking north (digital model by Tomaž Podobnikar).

According to local informants who took us there, the site is haunted, particularly the largest mound (Structure 13), supposedly because a powerful *brujo* is buried in it; they said that even looters have so far been frightened away by terrifying events happening there. Indeed, while they have not spared any major mound of the site, Structure 13 exhibits only a relatively shallow trench on its slope, suggesting they did not get very deep into the structure. We thus considered that, by naming it the Pyramid of the Sorcerer, we confer an appropriate honor upon its unknown protector.



Figure 17. Champerico, Structure 15a, looking southwest.

Whatever the reason was, it does seem that, fortunately, the looters did not succeed in finishing their job at Champerico. Several carved monuments are still around, attesting to the importance of the site. One of them, Stela 1, was hauled about 700 m to the east and then left in a callejón (dirt road cut through the forest). In fact, this is the lower part of a broken stela with relatively well preserved relief and a portion of hieroglyphic text ([Figure 18](#)). Stela 2, also a fragment, was found in front of Structure 2, surrounded by dried wooden poles, which suggest that someone had moved or attempted to move the monument from its original position, but fortunately left it there, with the carved surface turned upwards. We raised it to take photos of the relief and inscriptions, which are somewhat eroded ([Figure 19](#)). Stela 3 is standing in vertical position in the upper central part of the same Structure 2: the carved surface looking south is in its central portion largely effaced, apparently as a consequence of looters' excavation, but the inscription is rather well preserved ([Figure 20](#)). A few meters east of Stela 3, a stone block with a few glyphs is—apparently in a secondary position—built in a wall exposed by looters and facing north ([Figure 21](#)). A round altar is also partially exposed at the south base of Structure 2, just east of Stela 2. About the iconographic and epigraphic contents of Stelae 1, 2 and 3 and the hieroglyphic block, see Nikolai Grube's report in the [Appendix](#).



**Figure 18. Champerico, Stela 1.**



Figure 19. Champerico, Stela 2.



Figure 20. Champerico, Stela 3, south face.



Figure 21. Champerico, Structure 2, hieroglyphic block in a wall on the north side.

Another stone monument was noted at the west base of Structure 15, protruding from the profile of a looters' trench that continues as a tunnel into Structure 15a ([Figure 14](#)). Upon removing some debris that covered it, having fallen from the adjacent structure, we realized it was, again, the upper part of a stela with relatively well-preserved relief. Due to its position, only a skyband running along the upper rim could be identified, and

photographs at a low angle could be taken only ([Figure 22](#)), as it was impossible to clear away more material: for that purpose an appropriate excavation and restoration work would be needed to prevent the structure from destabilizing. After protecting the sculpted surface with leaves, branches and earth, we concealed the monument again under a layer of stone debris. A plain stela is standing, still in vertical position but half buried in the ground, in the upper part of this compound, between Structures 15a and 15b ([Figure 23](#)).

Low mounds were seen at several spots in the neighborhood of the core area. The surface pottery belongs to the Classic. At a distance of about a kilometer in a northeasterly direction, the terrain descends to a large, seasonally flooded *bajo*.



**Figure 22. Champerico, stela at the west base of Structure 15, looking north.**



Figure 23. Champerico, stela between Structures 15a and 15b, looking south.

### ***Los Angeles***

The largest concentration of monumental structures, covering a surface of at least 10 hectares, is located a few kilometers south of the village Los Angeles, on slightly elevated terrains used by the inhabitants of this *ejido* for slash-and-burn cultivation. A number of plazas, courtyards and structures up to 15 m high were seen, including two badly weathered stelae, but a thorough inspection was not possible because in April, when we visited the site, the area was covered with trees and scrubs cut down for burning. We planned to return to the site to map it, but due to early rains the vegetation did not dry appropriately and was not burnt until after we had decided to survey other sites, which took us so much time and resources that we were not able to accomplish the work at Los Angeles.

Around the core area, within a radius of at least 3 km, both smaller clusters of sizeable ruins and extensive concentrations of low mounds are distributed. Upon the ridge of a hill about 300 m southeast of the main group, there are at least two structures about 10 m high. On the eastern edge of the village of Los Angeles there is a pyramidal structure rising about 10 m above the floor of a plaza to the west, the sides of its base being about 30 m long; a number of lower mounds, up to 5 m high, surround the pyramid, including an elongated structure to the north, running in a roughly east-west direction. In fact, low mounds are scattered throughout the village and around it; at least in a northeasterly direction their distribution is virtually continuous over a distance of more than 2 km. Approximately 2.5 km away in that direction, there is a quadrangle whose south structure, with a height of 6-7 m, has partly exposed its north wall built of finely cut stones. Another group is situated at a short distance south of the village; apart from low

mounds there are two pyramidal structures: one, about 13 m high, has a wall exposed on its east side, while the other one, a 100 m to the southeast, is about 10 m high and exhibits two vaulted rooms exposed and damaged by looters, with remains of stucco plaster on inner walls.

Possibly the sites recorded as El Tesoro and Ventiuno de Mayo (Šprajc and Suárez, 1998a; 1998b:107f; additional groups of structures were found this year at both sites) were outliers of Los Angeles, pertaining to the same territorial unit, or "micropattern", in Willey's (1981:395) terms.

Another interesting feature of Los Angeles are water wells. Unlike *chultuns*, intended for collecting rainwater, these vertical shafts, approximately square in horizontal section and built of roughly cut stones, were dug to reach the underground water table. The two we visited, located at short distances from the modern village contained water at a depth of less than 5 m, attesting to the existence of an impermeable soil layer relatively close to the surface. Local farmers found these wells about ten years ago, cleaned them out and used them for water supply during periods of drought ([Figure 24](#)).

### ***Las Delicias***

The site is located upon a prominent natural elevation, west of the village Ley de Fomento Agropecuario and within the territory of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. The highest building, Structure 2, rises about 30 m high above natural ground on its south side ([Figure 25](#), [Figure 26](#), [Figure 27](#)).

The site has been named after the nearest, recently abandoned village located several kilometers to the east. While no standing architecture is preserved, the monumental size of the mounds indicates this is not the site reported by Karl Ruppert as Delicia and recorded on Section IV of the Tulane map of the Maya area (M.A.R.I., 1940; cf. Müller, 1960:30), since a short note in the corresponding Card Index mentions "only low mounds", while the coordinates given there fall far away, about 12 km to the east. The "good small aguada" mentioned on the same card and "aguada Delicia" referred to in Ruppert and Denison (1943:2, 42) may be identical to the one near the abandoned village Las Delicias.



**Figure 24.** Los Angeles, two ancient Maya water wells, with woodwork added in modern times.

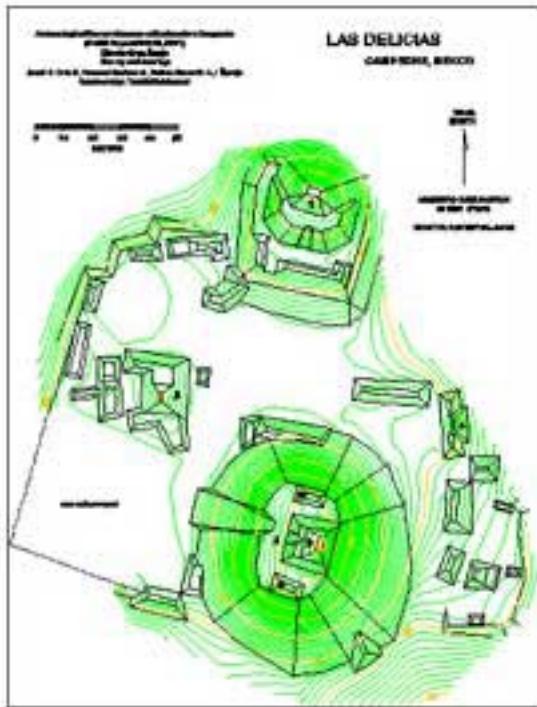
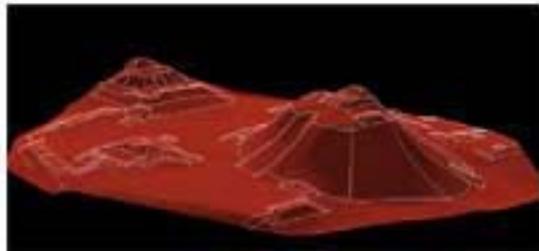


Figure 25. Map of Las Delicias. (\*requires Autodesk® Express Viewer)



Figure 26. Digital surface model of Las Delicias (by Tomaž Podobnikar).



**Figure 27. Perspective view on Las Delicias, looking northeast (digital model by Tomaž Podobnikar).**

Structure 1 of Las Delicias, actually a group of buildings erected on a massive, roughly rectangular platform, is located on the northern extreme of the artificially leveled hilltop and overlooks a plaza to the south, from where the upper part of the platform may have been accessed. The central pyramidal building upon the platform apparently had an inset stairway on its south side, leading to a landing in front of the highest part of the structure. The ruins of the northern face of the building merge with the steep slope of the hill.

South of the central plaza is Structure 2, a massive pyramidal mound topped by a triadic group and facing west. Remains of badly ruined inset stairways can be seen on the west sides of the pyramidal base and of the upper Structure 1b. Some Tzakol sherds were found in a looters' trench excavated in the elongated mound abutted to the northern slope of Structure 2. However, the triadic complex suggests that the building itself, rather similar to Structure 59 of Nakbé, Guatemala, may date to the Late Preclassic (*cf.* Hansen, 1998:77ff, Fig. 19b). In southeastern Campeche, another triadic group had been found earlier at Mucaancah (Šprajc *et al.*, 1996; 1997a:8f, Fig. 3; 1997b:39ff, Fig. 8).

Structure 2 overlooks a plaza to the west; the latter's southwestern part is built on an artificial platform, with retaining walls rising steeply from the slopes of the hill. Lower mounds are distributed west of the central plaza and east of Structure 2 ([Figure 25](#), [Figure 26](#), [Figure 27](#)).

There is a small *aguada* about 300 m to the northeast; according to the locals, it does not retain water throughout the year. Low terrains (*bajos*) extend north and east of the site.

### ***El Manantial***

Two groups of relatively large mounds are situated approximately 5 km east of the village of El Manantial, on gently elevated lands used by the ejido for slash-and-burn agriculture. One group is dominated by a pyramidal structure, whose height is 16 m on its east side, where the slant of the ruin apparently merges with naturally sloped ground, but a few meters less on its west side, where it overlooks a plaza flanked by elongated

mounds and forming a square with sides of about 60 m ([Figure 28](#)). At least ten more long mounds, up to 5 m high, enclose plazas and courtyards to the east and south, extending over a surface of about 3 hectares. Some 80 m south of the highest mound, remains of a stairway can be seen on the eastern side of an elongated mound, which encloses the west side of a plaza.



**Figure 28. El Manantial, Northeast Group, main building, looking west.**

The other group, lying approximately 500 m to the southwest and covering a similar surface as the first one, has a 13 m high pyramidal mound on the east flank of a plaza, which is about 120 m long in the east-west direction. Low mounds extend to the east and southeast. The landowner had also seen two *chultuns* in the area.

### ***Other sites with architecture***

The sites with architectural remains inspected in southeastern Campeche all share some common properties. Structures are regularly arranged in patio groups, while clusters of groups are largely structure-focused or group-focused (cf. Ashmore, 1981:51ff, Figs. 3.5 & 3.6). Elaborate patio groups often have a major structure on the east side, exhibiting the configuration labeled Plaza Plan 2 by Becker (1971; 1991). Large courtyards or plazas are present at major sites. *Chultuns* are commonly found within the sites and aguadas nearby.

While the symbols on the map in [Figure 1](#) indicate both the sites' locations and their categories, some additional remarks do seem in order. The site of Plan de Ayala, situated near the village of the same name, has been classified as "large", since it has a 13 m high structure dominating a plaza to the south, surrounded by other sizeable mounds; however, this complex of what were apparently ceremonial and high-rank residential buildings was likely under the control of El Palmar, a very large center whose urban core is just 2 km away to the northwest (Thompson, 1936). The site of El Corozalito, where a plain (or effaced), about 4 m long stela was found ([Figure 29](#)), is situated about a few kilometers west of the core area of Nuevo Veracruz (Sprajc *et al.*, 1996; 1997a:10; 1997b:45) and may have belonged to the latter's polity. Similarly, the numerous architectural clusters composing the site of El Sacrificio (named after the nearby village) must have been but outliers of a major center called Zapote Bobal ([Figure 1](#); Sprajc and Suárez, 1998a; 1998b:106f). These assumptions are at least in accordance with Willey's (1981:394f) proposal, based on the existing settlement studies, that the area with a five-to-six kilometer radius around a major center can be considered as belonging to a single community or "micropattern".



Figure 29. Stela at El Corozalito, looking east.

Since Zapote Bobal is located approximately 8 km south of the village Ley de Fomento Agropecuario, which was founded on the place of an abandoned chicle camp named La Misteriosa, it is interesting to note that Lundell (1933:169) mentions "a large ruin called Misterioso", with "numerous standing stelae". According to what the inhabitants of Ley

de Fomento told us, however, there are only small mounds in the vicinity of the village. Neither could Ruppert's expeditions confirm Lundell's report: at the "aguada of Misterioso" they only found low mounds, instead of buildings and stelae, but later they were informed "the ruins were in a ramonal beyond a logwood swamp, several kilometers south of the aguada visited" (Ruppert and Denison, 1943:29); it is thus not impossible that the reports they received, as well as Lundell's description, actually referred to Zapote Bobal, where a large concentration of monumental structures and a stela was found in 1998 (Šprajc and Suárez, 1998a; 1998b:106f).<sup>3</sup> Nonetheless, the name La Misteriosa has been kept for the site that is closer to the former *chicle* camp with that name, but this site includes not only the mounds mentioned by Ruppert and Denison (1943:29) and located around the village of Ley de Fomento Agropecuario, but also another group visited this year, consisting of structures up to 10 m high and lying about 2.5 km south of the village.

## Caves

At the foot of a hill, south of the village of El Manantial, there is a narrow opening in the ground, allowing access to an almost vertical, a few meters deep shaft leading to an extensive cave system with a water stream, which at the time of our visit was reduced to shallow ponds, but becomes abundant during the rainy season, when the sound of the running water can be heard—according to local informants—even out of the cave. Walking for a distance of about 100 m, we saw large amounts of pottery fragments (recollected sherds are being analyzed), many of them partially covered with calcareous tufa sediments, and also a chert spear point.

Similar in shape, but apparently smaller and with no permanent water in it, is the cave located on the slope of a hill about 4 km east of the village La Virgencita de la Candelaria. A carved rock is lying at the entrance, but no particular motif has been recognized ([Figure 30](#)). Tzakol ceramic sherds, an obsidian core and some human bones were found in the interior of the cave. The nearby elevation has low mounds in the upper part, while a few kilometers away, in and around the village of La Virgencita de la Candelaria, there are major concentrations of prehispanic structures. This site, only hastily visited at the end of the field season, is apparently quite large; a mound lying some 500 m southeast of the village is about 10 m high, but was half destroyed a few years ago, when a public company used it as a quarry for extracting stones needed in the reconstruction of bridges along the road from El Manantial to La Virgencita. The vandalism has been formally denounced to the INAH authorities.

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<sup>3</sup> Interestingly, a handwritten note (probably Ruppert's) on the card of Misterioso, in the Tulane map Index (M.A.R.I., 1940), says: "This apparently is not the Misterioso of which Lundell wrote (but did not visit) as he said there was a large slate monument on side of largest mound [...]" The stela at Zapote Bobal was found at the foot of one of the highest structures (Šprajc and Suárez, 1998b:106).



Figure 30. Carved rock at the entrance to the Cave of La Virgencita.

A cenote-like cave (but without water) is located about 3 km south of the village Veintiuno de Mayo, just north of the road leading to El Tesoro. Its diameter and depth are about 25 m and 20 m, respectively. A low wall built of roughly cut stones and oval in shape, its minor axis being about 15 m long, is partly preserved on the bottom of the cave, surrounded by a passage at a lower level. Ceramic fragments are scattered throughout the cave's bottom, even if fallen debris must have covered a considerable part of its original surface. There are prehispanic mounds in the neighborhood. According to local informants, a structure about 15 m high was completely demolished some ten years ago, during the construction of the road from Veintiuno de Mayo to El Tesoro. Around the indicated spot on the road, about 100 m south of the cave, we saw large amounts of fine pottery fragments. The site may well have been an outlier of Los Angeles, whose main architectural group lies approximately 2 km away to the northeast (*v. supra*).

Two caves were visited in the *ejido* Blasillo. Cave 1 has a wide entrance, a steep descent to a large room a few meters below and some lateral passages. In the main space there are remains of a construction built of roughly cut stones, abutted to a cave wall and forming a short tunnel ([Figure 31](#)). According to the preliminary results of ceramic analyses, one fragment found in the cave is of the Repollo Impressed type pertaining to the Middle Preclassic Mamón complex, while others are early Classic types of the Tzakol ceramic sphere. Some low mounds, less than 5 m high, are 350 m away in a southwesterly direction.



**Figure 31. Blasillo, Cave 1, remains of a masonry structure.**

Cave 2 of Blasillo is smaller, but no less interesting. Upon entering through a narrow opening and descending steeply for a few meters, we reached a small room, rather humid and inhabited by bats, and observed a number of broken ceramic vessels put on an earthen ledge, possibly artificial, and giving the appearance to be practically *in situ* ([Figure 32](#)). No fragment was taken away, in order not to disturb the context, and the locals were strongly advised to adopt the same attitude and wait until the cave is

explored in detail. On the surface immediately south of the entrance there are two mounds about 4 m high.

A cave similar to Cave 1 of Blasillo is situated near the architectural group of Plan de Ayala (*supra*). Classic-period Tzakol and Tepeu 2 sherds were found, as well as remains of a wall that may have enclosed a space at the lowest level of the cave. Another cave, also with Tepeu pottery and surrounded by a number of low mounds, was visited in the ejido Guillermo Prieto.

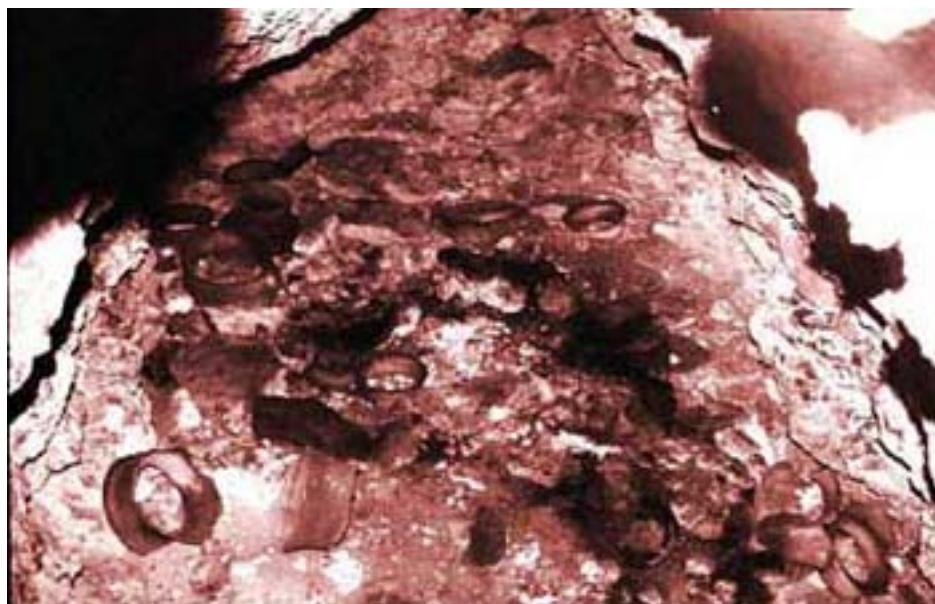


Figure 32. Blasillo, Cave 2.

### Concluding Remarks

Like Harrison's (1981:262) method of site location in Quintana Roo, ours was also "by nature nonsystematic and biased in favor of larger sites"; nonetheless, it can be said that our knowledge on the archaeological vestiges in southeastern Campeche, south of the Rio Bec region, has improved notably. Although the analysis of the field data has not concluded, and even if the project could not have major explanatory ambitions, the results of the reconnaissance work accomplished so far do allow some preliminary generalizations.

All the archaeological sites known so far in the area of reconnaissance pertain to the Maya culture, largely to the Classic period (ca. A.D. 250-900), though vestiges of earlier occupation, including Late Preclassic monumental architecture, have also been found (*cf.* Šprajc *et al.*, 1996; 1997a; 1997b; Šprajc and Suárez, 1998a; 1998b). The surveys,

in spite of their limitations, have revealed that the density of archaeological sites in southeastern Campeche is comparable to the one observed in other parts of central Maya Lowlands. Most of the recorded sites have architectural remains, representing relics of structures and spaces that had residential, religious, administrative and other functions; as noted before (Šprajc *et al.*, 1997a:11; 1997b:45), monumental architecture and urban patterns seem to share certain characteristics with the Petén, on the one hand, and with northern Belize, on the other. In addition, some interesting caves were also inspected, with archaeological features suggesting their predominantly ritual use; the area is evidently promising for further studies, which should contribute to the understanding of the relationship between the caves, settlement patterns and the Maya world view (*cf.* Bassie-Sweet, 1996; Brady, 1997).

Although standing architecture is rarely preserved, the size and characteristics of architectural and other remains at several sites suggest they were important centers in regional political hierarchy. As noted at the beginning of this report, a rather simple rank ordering method has been adopted for classifying the sites with architecture as "large", "medium" and "small". Due to the criteria employed, a relatively large number of sites have been classified as "large" ([Figure 1](#)); since they all include "special purpose structures", they can also be defined as "centers" (Ashmore, 1981; Willey, 1981:391ff), but the nature of archaeological vestiges encountered allow only some of them to be characterized as major foci of regional territorial organization. Apart from El Palmar, which has long been known (Thompson, 1936), Los Alacranes, Mucaancah, Los Angeles, El Gallinero, Champerico, Zapote Bobal and Las Delicias must have been important centers during the Classic period. Another interesting detail is that, concerning their location with regard to natural environment, these sites can be added to the long list of Maya centers situated, characteristically, on the edges of large *bajos* or seasonally flooded swamps, apparently as a result of agricultural advantages offered by such placement of a settlement (*cf.* Harrison, 1981:273; Folan *et al.*, 1995:311; Fedick, 1996; Adams, 1999:39f, 154).

While little can be said, at this point, about macrostructural level of territorial organization in the area, the epigraphic data that have been recovered do contain some specific information concerning the issues of this kind. The interpretation of the texts on the stelae of Los Alacranes, for example, has revealed not only the emblem glyph of this polity but also some facts about the nature of its relationship with Calakmul and other centers in the early Classic central Lowlands (Martin and Grube, 2000:21, 104; David Stuart, personal communication, 1998). Comparable information has been found in the inscriptions on the stelae of Champerico and Zapote Bobal (see Grube's report in the [Appendix](#)). Considering that the objects with hieroglyphic inscriptions are among the preferred targets of looters' activity, the fact that these kinds of data have been rescued may be viewed as one of the particularly important results of the reconnaissance project.

## **Appendix – A Commentary on the Stelae and Inscriptions from Zapote Bobal and Champerico, Campeche by Nikolai Grube**

Zapote Bobal is located approximately 8 kms south of the ejido Ley del Fomento Agropecuario and was first visited by Ivan Šprajc in 1998 (Šprajc and Suárez Aguilar, 1998b:106-107). In September, 2001 the site was visited and the inscription on Stela 1 was recorded by a team consisting of Antonio Cuxil Cojtí, Simon Martin and Nikolai Grube.

### **Zapote Bobal Stela 1**

Dimensions:

max. Height: ca. 2.50 m  
max. Width: 1.45 m  
max. Thickness: ca. 0.40 m

The stela is broken into two parts of almost equal size. The lower fragment (ca. 1.30 m height) is still in its original position. The upper part broke off and now lies a few meters west of the lower fragment.

The stela is carved on the front and back side. The front carries a complex scene that includes a figure seated cross-legged on a large mask. The figure is holding a ceremonial bar. The upper fragment shows another seated figure with both arms stretched out.

The hieroglyphic text on the back side is composed of fourteen large glyph blocks arranged in seven lines within double columns. The text begins with a Calendar Round date of which only the day coefficient of 10 can be read. Even though the date is so eroded it can still be placed in the Long Count because of the half period glyph that follows. The only plausible Long Count placement for this date is 10 Ajaw 8 Sak 9.18.10.0.0 (Aug. 13, 800). What follows is the verb **u-CHOK-wa [CH'AAJ]**, *u chokow ch'aaj* "he scatters drops". This is followed by two glyphs which either provide the name of the individual or a toponym for the location where the ritual took place. In A4 and B4 follows a 3 K'atun ch'aho'm title. The glyph in A5 is eroded, but B5 includes the common **b'a-ka-b'a, b'aah-kab'** "first of the world" title.

The text continues on the lower fragment with further titles. Two **K'UHUL-?-AJAW** compounds suggest that Zapote Bobal either had its own emblem glyph, or that the site was associated with a place that carried a double emblem glyph (La Milpa?). Unfortunately, the main signs of the emblem compounds are too eroded for recognition. The text ends with a **u-6-TAL-la yo-OON(?)-ni**, *u wak-tal yoon* "the sixth of his family" statement. These counts refer to the position of a lord in relation to a particularly important ancestor.

The site of Champerico was first visited by Ivan Šprajc in March, 2001 and was visited by Antonio Cuxil, Simon Martin and Nikolai Grube in August.

## Champerico Stela 1 ([Figure 1](#) and [Figure 2](#))

Dimensions:

max. Height: 1.74 m  
max. Width: 1.33 m  
max. Thickness: 0.38 m

Stela 1 is carved only on its front face. The front is divided into a glyph panel (on the left side) and a figural scene to the right. The top of the monument and large parts of the right side are broken off. The central and top areas of the carving are heavily eroded.

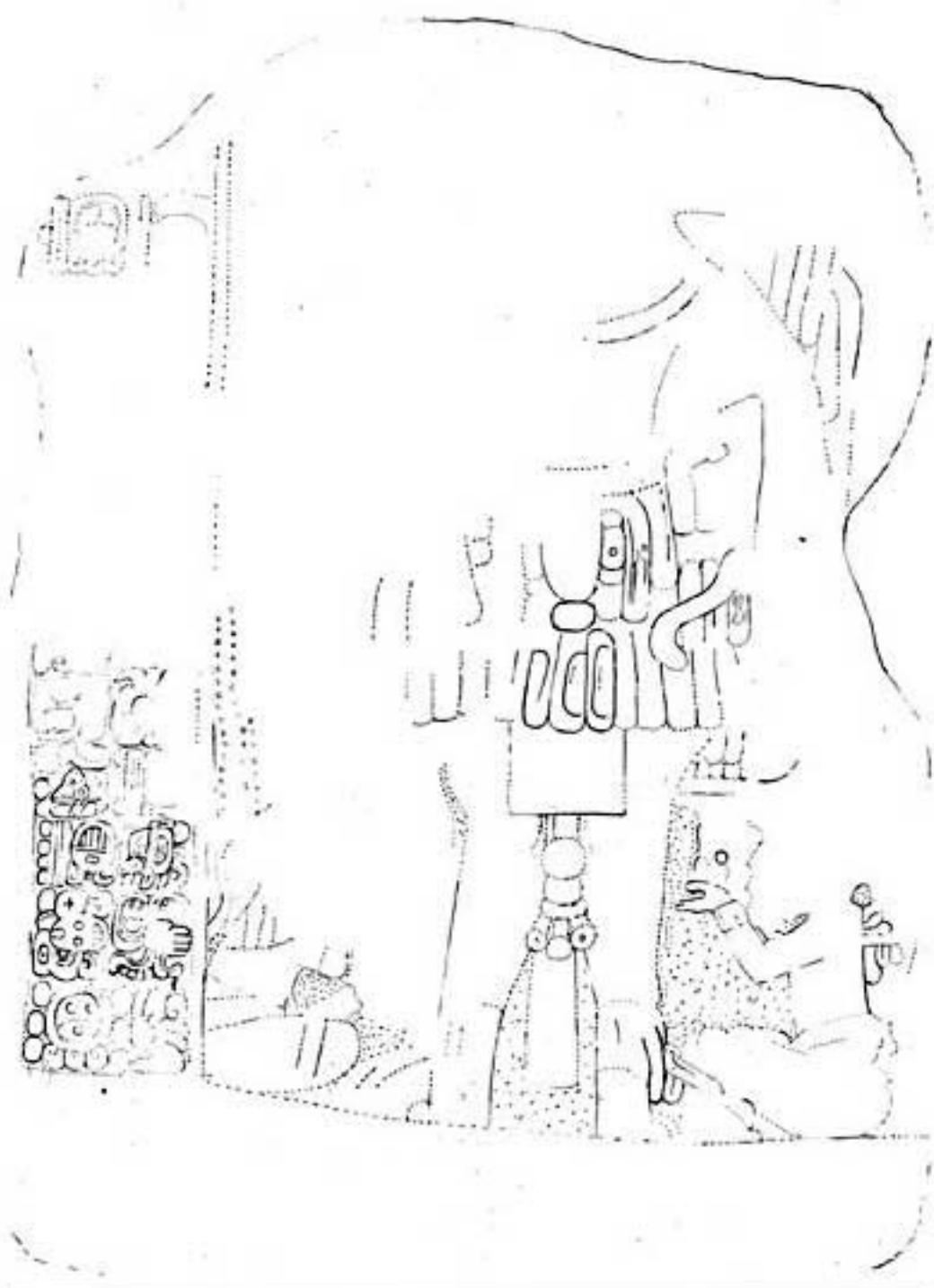
The scene shows a standing figure dressed in the typical costume of Maya rulers. He carries a mask and a series of celts on his belt. In his left hand he seems to hold a K'awiil scepter of which only the lower end—the serpent head—can be distinguished. With the right hand the ruler scattered blood or incense. Although the right hand itself cannot be seen any more, three parallel rows of incised dots leave no doubt that scattering of a sacred substance was the main theme of the stela.

Two bound captives are seated to the left and right of the ruler's feet. The left captive can only be distinguished by a few remaining outlines, while the right captive has his hands raised and seems to present some kind of offering or gift to the ruler.

The hieroglyphic inscription runs in a single double column from top to bottom and ends with the Calendar Round date 3 Ajaw 3 Sotz'. The preceding hieroglyph i-K'AL-TUUN-wi i k'alaaw tuun "and then he tied the stone" leaves no doubt that this date was the final date of the stela and that this was the round date for which the ruler conducted the scattering ritual. The CR date can thus be calculated as 3 Ajaw 3 Sotz' 9.9.0.0.0 (May 7, 613). The preceding phrase begins with a distance number of 19.?17. This DN connects the 9.9.0.0.0 K'atun ending with the date of the accession of the ruler shown, as is made clear by the two hieroglyphs following the DN: JOY-ji-ya TI'-AJAW-li-wa, joyjiy ti' ajawil "since he had acceded into kingship". Fortunately, the accession date can be reconstructed. On the very top of the glyph column another Calendar Round date can be read. The Tzolk'in is 11 Ak'b'al, the Haab is eroded, but it is clear that the coefficient must have been between 6 and 10. If the DN is 19.11.17, it connects with 11 Ak'b'al 6 Muwaan, 9.8.0.6.3 (December 21, 593). This then was the date of the accession of the ruler shown, and 9.9.0.0.0 was the first K'atun ending which he celebrated during his reign.

The whole accession phrase must have occupied all of the now eroded space between the 11 Ak'b'al 6 Muwaan date and the Calendar Round. It is very likely that this was the same ruler as the one who erected Stela 3. The names found on Stela 3 have no counterpart on Stela 1. It is very likely that the names were written in the part of the text which is broken off. The accession phrase ends with a unique glyph preceding the DN, which shows a small turtle complete with all its body parts resting on a split bird head. This unusual compound is preceded by a number one. The fact that this same

compound is also found on Stela 3 after a long nominal sequence suggests that this could be a local toponym for Champerico.



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Figure 1. Preliminary drawing of Champerico Stela 1.

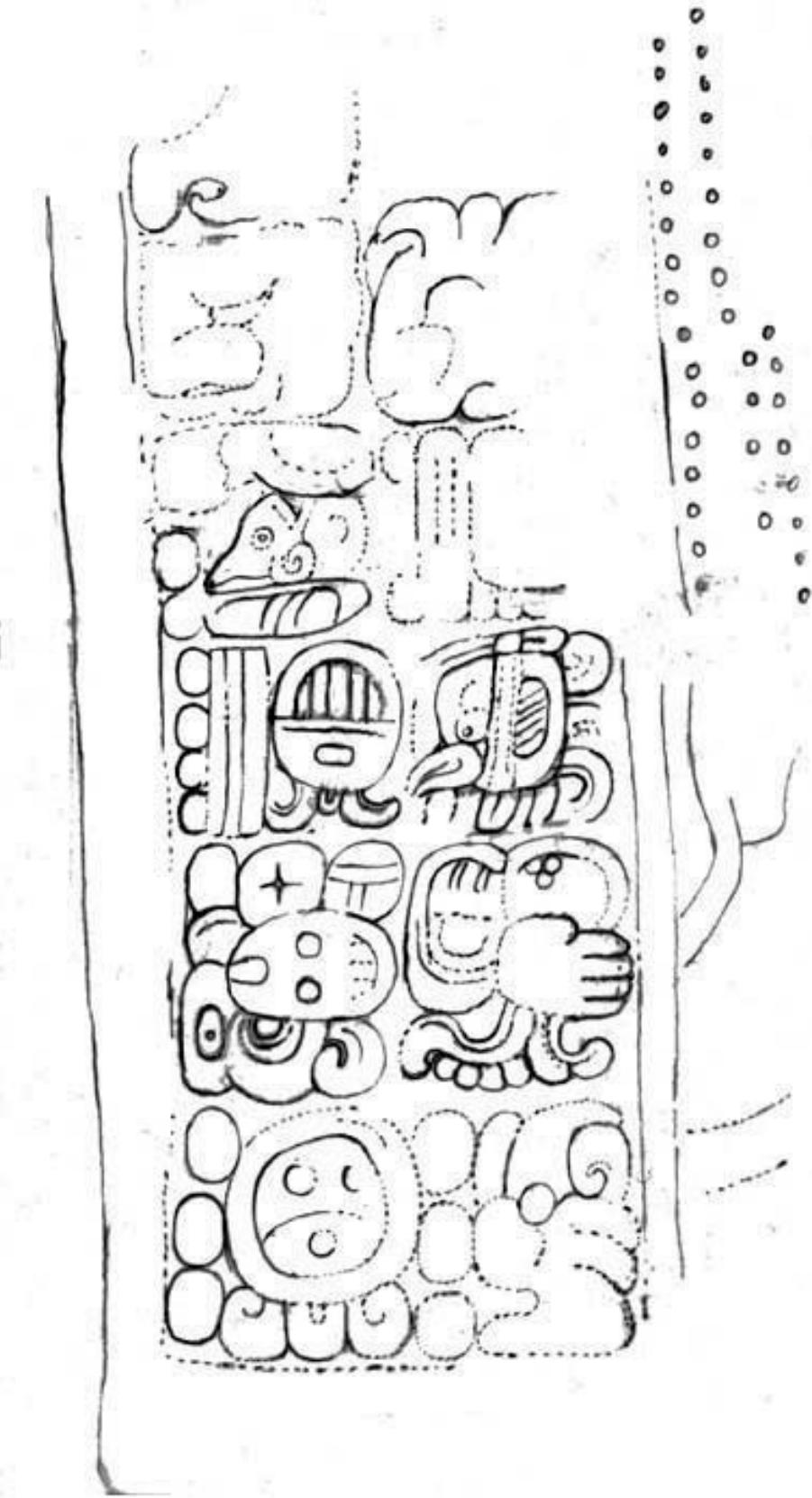


Figure 2. Champerico Stela 1, preliminary drawing of the lower part of the inscription.

## Champerico Stela 2

Dimensions:

max. Height: 1.72 m  
max. Width: 1.44 m  
max. Thickness: 0.37 m

Only the upper fragment of Stela 2 is preserved. Given the proportions of the figure shown on the front side, the stela originally must have measured between 2.00 and 2.50 m. Stela 2 is carved only on the front side. It shows a standing figure facing towards the right of the viewer holding a plate. The figure is richly dressed and carries a large headdress with a central mask with feathers emanating from it. The figure is flanked by three areas of hieroglyphs. There is a single row of hieroglyphs behind the back of the figure, to the viewer's left. This column begins with a Calendar Round date, which suggests that this is where the text was meant to start. Unfortunately, apart from the day sign 2 Ik' there is nothing else of the date or the verbal phrase that can be read.

Another area of hieroglyphs is placed in front of the face in the upper right of the stela. Although many of the hieroglyphic signs can be identified, the text as a whole remains opaque. It is possible that the text contains information about a royal woman because of the repeated occurrence of the **IX(IK)** female head. This text continues under the outstretched hand of the figure which holds the plate. These final six glyph blocks include titles such as 5 Kalo'mte' and K'atun Ajaw.

Finally it should be mentioned that there is a small incised scribal signature introduced by a 'lu-bat' glyph in the recessed area behind the back of the figure.

## Champerico Stela 3 ([Figure 3](#))

Dimensions:

max. Height: not recorded  
max. Width: not recorded  
max. Thickness: not recorded

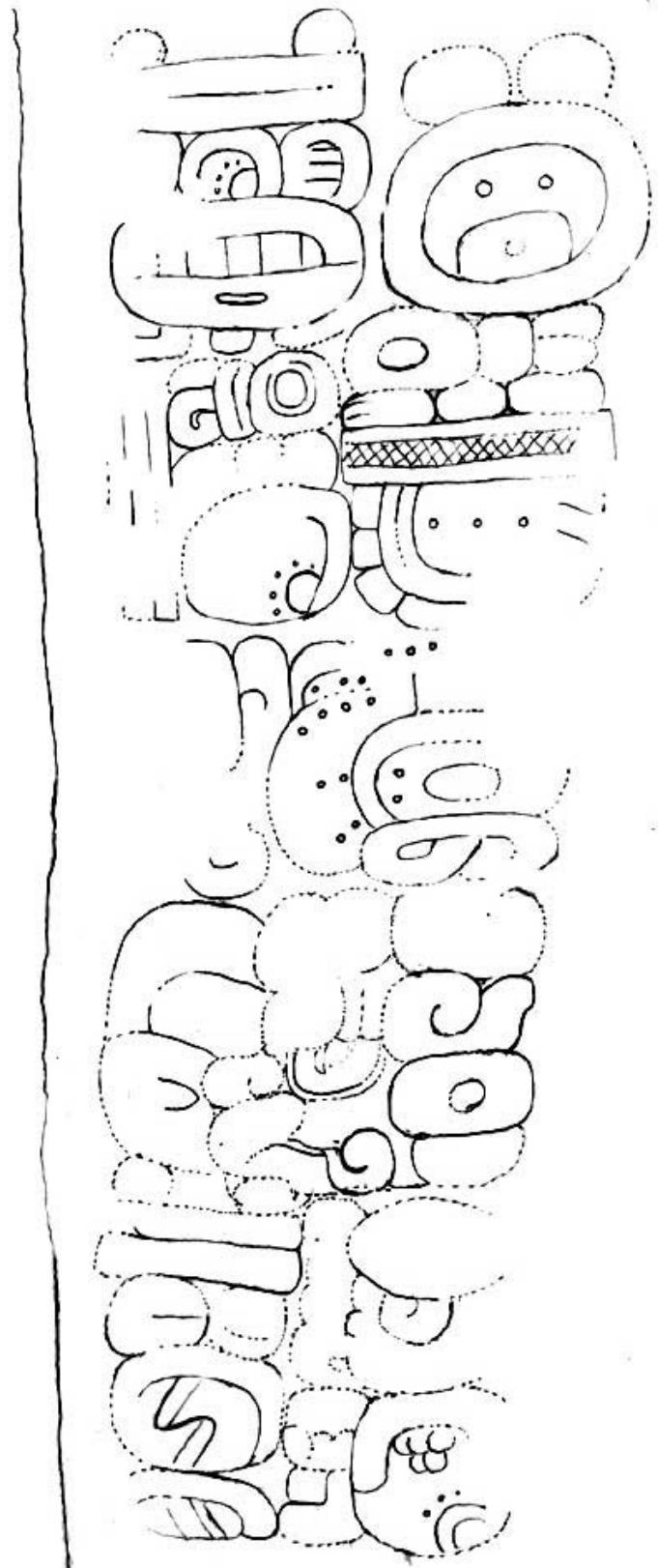
Champerico Stela 3 is the largest monument at the site and is still standing in a collapsed room of one of the principal structures at the site. The stela is carved only on its front side. As with Stela 1, there is a long hieroglyphic inscription on the left side of the stela, arranged in a single double column. The central area of the front side as well as the left side carry the image of a standing figure with two seated or kneeling minor figures next to the feet. The central figure as well as the headdress and some carving

above the figure – probably a sky band or a celestial bird – are almost completely effaced. A few incised hieroglyphs can still be recognized in the recessed area to the left of the principal figure.

The main text on the left side began with an Initial Series date of 9.8.10.0.0 4 Ajaw 13 Xul (July 1st, 603). Although the actual glyphs are almost totally effaced, enough survives of the outlines to see the Initial Series Introductory Glyph and the period glyphs. The date can be reconstructed because of a distance number of 12 K'atun that connects the starting date with an earlier 'half period' date 2 Ajaw 18 Sak, 8.16.10.0.0 (Dec. 12, 366). The opening Initial Series also included a full Lunar Series and ended with a half period expression. The event described for the 9.8.10.0.0 date is a scattering (*chok ch'aa*) **u-KAB-ji-ya, u kabjiiy** "under the supervision of", followed by the nominal phrase of the current lord and a toponym. The lord's name possibly includes a **CHAAK** logogram as well as a second still opaque compound. The toponym is the same 'turtle over split bird' with prefixed number one which also is found on Stela 1. This was most likely the ancient toponym for Champerico.

After the distance number of 12 K'atun and the mention of the early 8.16.10.0.0 half period date there are two heavily eroded glyphs and probably the name of an early lord ([Figure 3](#)). His name is followed by a **12-TZ'AK-li-AJAW** statement, "12<sup>th</sup> lord in sequence", and two further hieroglyphs. It is possible that the hieroglyph before the "12<sup>th</sup> lord in sequence" expression is that of the ruler at 8.16.10.0.0, and that this ruler was the 12<sup>th</sup> successor of a lineage founder whose name is probably in the following hieroglyphs. Alternatively, the name before the "12<sup>th</sup> lord in sequence" expression could have been that of a local god, and the 9.8.10.0.0 king may have been the 12<sup>th</sup> successor of the lineage founder. If that is the case, an average reign at Champerico would have been one K'atun, which comes close to the average duration of reigns at many other Maya centers. This would also imply that the local tradition recorded the founding of the lineage of Champerico in 8.16.10.0.0.

Obviously, the lord who erected Stela 3 was the same as the lord who acceded at 9.8.0.6.3 and who celebrated the 1st K'atun ending during his reign with the erection of Stela 1.



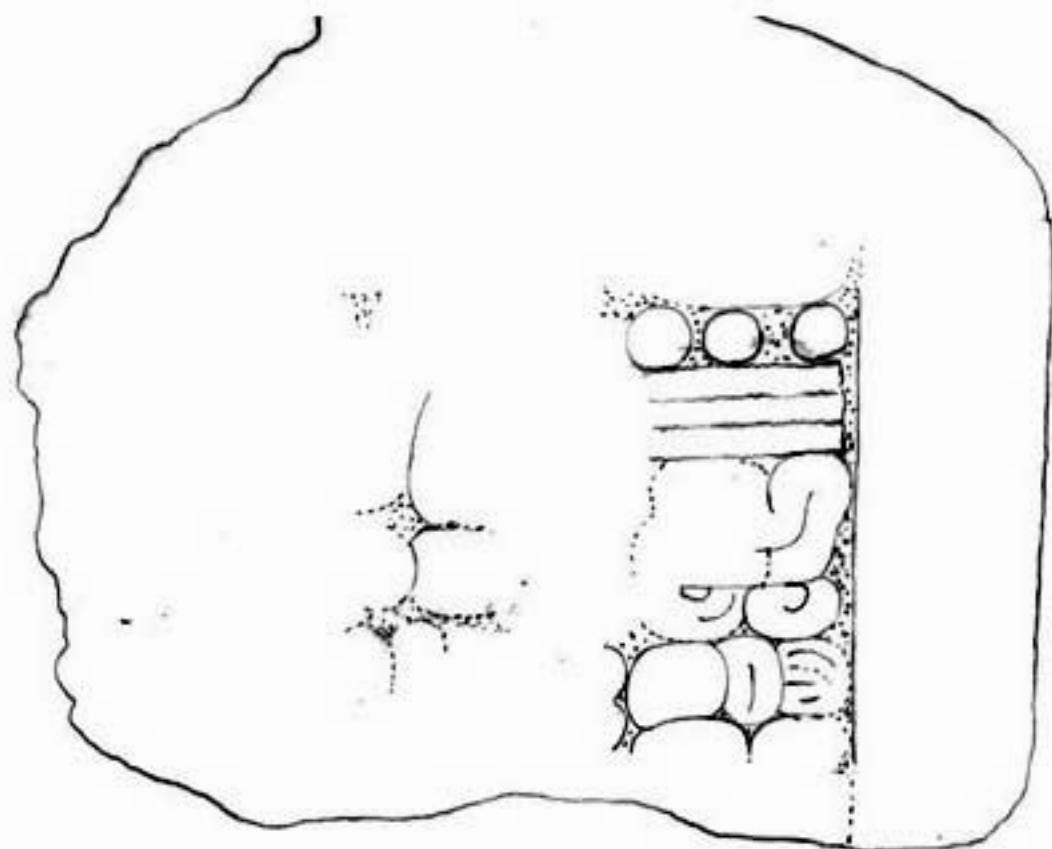
**Figure 3.** Preliminary drawing of the text passage that refers to the 8.16.10.0.0 date on Champerico Stela 3.

### **Champerico Hieroglyphic Block 1 ([Figure 4](#))**

Dimensions:

max. Height: not recorded  
max. Width: not recorded  
max. Thickness: not recorded

Glyphic Block 1 was found reused in a wall of the same structure which houses Stela 3. The block was part of a larger monument. Only the remains of approximately six glyph blocks can be faintly recognized. One glyph block records a distance number of 18 days.



**Figure 4. Preliminary drawing of Champerico Hieroglyphic Block 1.**

## List of Figures

**\*\*NOTE:** The maps of particular sites are in an AutoCAD format, which requires the Autodesk® Express Viewer. With the software installed you will be able to pan across and zoom into selected areas of the maps by right clicking your mouse and using the features in the menu. Click on the button below for the latest version of Autodesk® Express Viewer from Autodesk.com.

[Figure 1.](#) Location of archaeological sites in southeastern Campeche, México.

[Figure 2.](#) El Gallinero, map of Group A. (\*available for download to view in [Autodesk® Express Viewer](#))

[Figure 3.](#) Digital surface model of El Gallinero, Group A (elaborated by Tomaž Podobnikar).

[Figure 4.](#) Perspective view on El Gallinero, Group A, looking north (digital model by Tomaž Podobnikar).

[Figure 5.](#) El Gallinero, map of Groups B, C and D. (\*available for download to view in [Autodesk® Express Viewer](#))

[Figure 6.](#) Digital surface model of El Gallinero, Groups B, C and D (elaborated by Tomaž Podobnikar).

[Figure 7.](#) El Gallinero, looters' trench in Structure A-3, looking south.

[Figure 8.](#) El Gallinero, stela at Structure B-2, looking north.

[Figure 9.](#) El Gallinero, stela in front of Structure C-5, looking southeast.

[Figure 10.](#) El Gallinero, Structure C-9, looking southeast.

[Figure 11.](#) El Gallinero, a stone block with sawn off faces at the northwest base of Structure C-9.

[Figure 12.](#) El Gallinero, Structure D-1, east side.

[Figure 13.](#) El Gallinero, stela at the west base of Structure D-4, looking north.

[Figure 14.](#) Map of Champerico. (\*available for download to view in [Autodesk® Express Viewer](#))

[Figure 15](#). Digital surface model of Champerico (by Tomaž Podobnikar).

[Figure 16](#). Perspective view on Champerico, looking north (digital model by Tomaž Podobnikar).

[Figure 17](#). Champerico, Structure 15a, looking southwest.

[Figure 18](#). Champerico, Stela 1.

[Figure 19](#). Champerico, Stela 2.

[Figure 20](#). Champerico, Stela 3, south face.

[Figure 21](#). Champerico, Structure 2, hieroglyphic block in a wall on the north side.

[Figure 22](#). Champerico, stela at the west base of Structure 15, looking north.

[Figure 23](#). Champerico, stela between Structures 15a and 15b, looking south.

[Figure 24](#). Los Angeles, two ancient Maya water wells, with woodwork added in modern times.

[Figure 25](#). Map of Las Delicias. (\*available for download to view in [Autodesk® Express Viewer](#))

[Figure 26](#). Digital surface model of Las Delicias (by Tomaž Podobnikar).

[Figure 27](#). Perspective view on Las Delicias, looking northeast (digital model by Tomaž Podobnikar).

[Figure 28](#). El Manantial, Northeast Group, main building, looking west.

[Figure 29](#). Stela at El Corozalito, looking east.

[Figure 30](#). Carved rock at the entrance to the Cave of La Virgencita.

[Figure 31](#). Blasillo, Cave 1, remains of a masonry structure.

[Figure 32](#). Blasillo, Cave 2.

## Appendix Figures by Nikolai Grube

[Figure 1](#). Preliminary drawing of Champerico Stela 1.

[Figure 2](#). Champerico Stela 1, preliminary drawing of the lower part of the inscription.

[Figure 3.](#) Preliminary drawing of the text passage that refers to the 8.16.10.0.0 date on Champerico Stela 3.

[Figure 4.](#) Preliminary drawing of Champerico Hieroglyphic Block 1.

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