

*Archaeology of the Second Punic War: the battlefield at Baecula (208 B.C.)*

Since the year 2001, the Andalusian Centre of Iberian Archaeology have been working on a research project focused on the archaeological analysis of the Second Punic War in the Guadalquivir Valley (Jaén, Spain). The 'Baecula' Project is currently funded through the Research & Development National Plan (Ministry of Science and Innovation) and the Department of Culture of the Andalusian Regional Government

A brief review of the locations related with this section of the Guadalquivir River Valley in connection with the Second Punic War, cited by Roman authors such as Polibio or Tito Livio, reflect the geopolitical importance of the region. Iberian *Oppida*, such as *Castulo*, *Iliturgi*, *Orongis*, and most probably *Amtorgis* and *Ilorci*, would follow *Carthago* in order of importance, according to the Roman writers themselves. Furthermore, while in other regions of the Iberian Peninsula the conflict is centred around certain cities, such as Sagunto or the aforementioned *Carthago*, in the Guadalquivir Valley the dynamics of the events seems to correlate with a series of confrontations pursuing the control of the rich mining area of Sierra Morena, located to the north of the Guadalquivir river.

Our experience has enabled us to document the battlefield, camp structures and materials (*militaria*) thanks to a sampling technique for archaeological prospecting and excavation. The study of the scene of *Baecula* (208 B.C.) is one of the few examples of battlefields of the Second Punic War archaeologically investigated in Europe.