

## Documenta Praehistorica

[Current](#) [Archives](#) [Announcements](#) [About](#)  
Search[Home](#) / [Archives](#) / [Vol 45 \(2018\)](#) / [Articles](#)

## Redefining the role of metal production during the Bronze Age of south-eastern Iberia. The mines of eastern Sierra Morena

**Luis Arboledas-Martínez**

University of Granada, Department of Prehistory and Archaeology

**Eva Alarcón-García**

University of Granada, Department of Prehistory and Archaeology

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4312/dp.45-11>

**Keywords:** Bronze Age; South of the Iberian Peninsula; Prehistoric mining; Copper; Silver; Archaeo-mining surveys; Excavation; Lead isotope analysis.

### Abstract

Researchers have traditionally paid little attention to mining by Bronze Age communities in the south-east of the Iberian Peninsula. This has changed recently due to the identification of new mineral exploitations from this period during the archaeo-mining surveys carried out in the Rumbiar and Jándula valleys in the Sierra Morena Mountains between 2009-2014, as well as the excavation of the José Martín Palacios mine (Baños de la Encina, Jaén). The analysis of the archaeological evidence and the archaeometric results reveal the importance of mining and metallurgical activities undertaken by the communities that inhabited the region between 2200 and 900 cal. BC, when it became one of the most important copper and silver production centers during the Late Prehistory of south-eastern Iberia.

### Downloads

### Author Biographies

**Luis Arboledas-Martínez, University of Granada, Department of Prehistory and Archaeology**

Luis Arboledas-Martínez (PhD 2007, University of Granada) is a contract researcher in the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology of the University of Granada (Spain). His research has focused on the study of ancient mining and metallurgy in the Western Mediterranean from a Landscape Archaeology perspective. This includes a variety of areas ranging from archaeo-mining and the metallurgy of ancient mining landscapes to the social-territorial organization and cultural promotion of mining heritage.

**Eva Alarcón-García, University of Granada, Department of Prehistory and Archaeology**

Eva Alarcón-García (PhD 2010, University of Granada) is a contract researcher in the Department of Prehistory and Archaeology of the University of Granada (Spain). Her research interests include gender archaeology and daily life activities during the Bronze Age. She has carried out archaeological fieldworks in different sites in the south of Iberia

UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA  
FACULTY OF ARTS

---

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

# Documenta Praehistorica XLV





PDF

Published  
2018-12-29

#### How to Cite

Arboledas-Martínez, L., & Alarcón-García, E. (2018). Redefining the role of metal production during the Bronze Age of south-eastern Iberia. The mines of eastern Sierra Morena. *Documenta Praehistorica*, 45, 138-153. <https://doi.org/10.4312/dp.45-11>

More Citation Formats

#### Issue

[Vol 45 \(2018\)](#)

#### Section

Articles

Authors who publish with this journal agree to the following terms:

1. Authors are confirming that they are the authors of the submitting article, which will be published (print and online) in journal **Documenta Praehistorica** by Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Aškerova 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia). Author's name will be evident in the article in journal. All decisions regarding layout and distribution of the work are in hands of the publisher.
2. Authors guarantee that the work is their own original creation and does not infringe any statutory or common-law copyright or any proprietary right of any third party. In case of claims by third parties, authors commit their self to defend the interests of the publisher, and shall cover any potential costs.
3. Authors retain copyright and grant the journal right of first publication with the work simultaneously licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#) that allows others to share the work with an acknowledgement of the work's authorship and initial publication in this journal.
4. Authors are able to enter into separate, additional contractual arrangements for the non-exclusive distribution of the journal's published version of the work (e.g., post it to an institutional repository or publish it in a book), with an acknowledgement of its initial publication in this journal.
5. Authors are permitted and encouraged to post their work online (e.g., in institutional repositories or on their website) as it can lead to productive exchanges, as well as earlier and greater citation of published work.

## Language

[English](#)

[Slovenščina](#)

## Information

[For Readers](#)

[For Authors](#)

[For Librarians](#)

Ljubljana University Press, Faculty of Arts  
(Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani)

Print ISSN: 1408-967X  
Online ISSN: 1854-2492

Platform &  
workflow by  
OJS / PKP