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# ON THE LOCATION OF URCI, MURGI AND THE BAETICA-TARRACONENSIS FRONTIER IN ROMAN HISPANIA

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**Abstract:** This paper is about the location of the ancient settlements of *Urci* and *Murgi*, mentioned in written records attributed to the Roman geographer Pomponius Mela, the historian Pliny the Second and the Greek mathematician Claudius Ptolemy. The investigation, based on these sources, indicates that these Roman towns could not have been located near the existing city of Almería (*Portus Magnus*), nowhere west of *Promontorium Charidemum* (Cape Gata) or in any other places suggested by some contemporaneous historians, atlases and encyclopedias. Rather, the records of the three writers indicate that the settlements existed east of *Charidemum*. It also proposes that, in Pliny's and Ptolemy's time, the frontier between the *Baetica* and *Tarraconensis* Roman provinces followed a line extending from Cape Gata to Villaricos (*Baria*) and, from there, northwest to Cazlona (*Castulo*.) This determination could encourage archaeologists a search for the location of *Urci* around the existing town of Úrcal where Roman vestiges have been recently discovered.

**Keywords:** *Urci*, *Murgi*, *Charidemum Promontorium*, *Baria*, *Portus Magnus*, *Roman Hispania*.

## INTRODUCTION

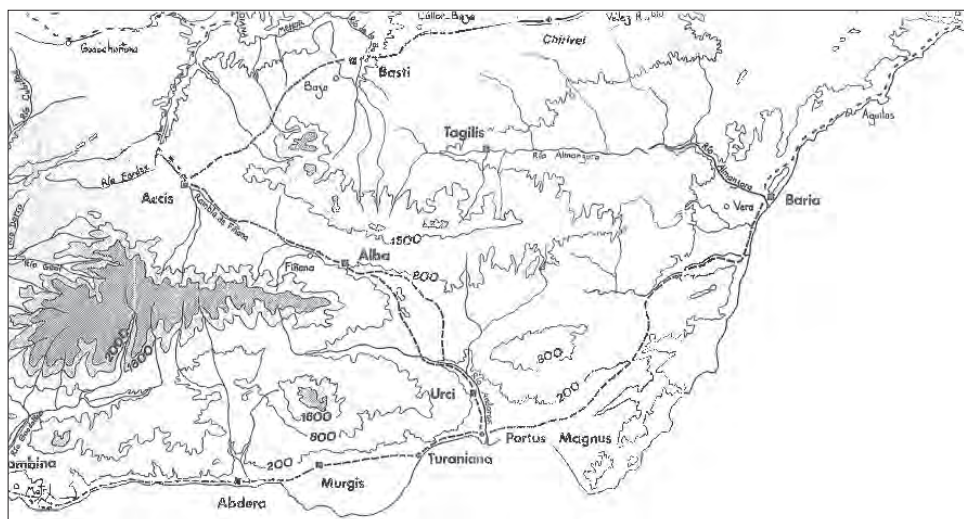
In the Iberian Peninsula, the identification of ancient settlements has often been irrefutable because of the existence of epigraphic vestiges or verifiable written documents, as is the case of *Malaca* (Málaga) or *Gades* (Cádiz). In several other discoveries, the location of settlements found in historical documents has never been geographically identified; examples of these ghost towns are *Fraxinum*, *Bactara* and *Urci*, stages on the Roman road from *Castulo* to *Malaca*. (See Appendix 1). Occasionally, the identification has been wrong as it was based on the discovery of fragmented epigraphical findings or on inscriptions on pillars, milestones or tablets relocated by humans from their initial sites to other locations where they were later found.<sup>1</sup>

Two of the placenames of Roman Hispania whose identifications have been greatly disputed are *Urci* and *Murgi*, cited in historical documents written in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD. Even though humanistic scholars of the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries such as Enrique Flórez and Francisco Pérez Bayer<sup>2</sup> located these towns correctly in the vicinity of *Baria* and on the coast respectively, historians in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, such as Karl Müller, Emil Hübner, the archeologist Eduardo Saavedra y Moragas, the historian José Ángel Tapia Garrido, and professor Rafael Lázaro Pérez<sup>3</sup> have created

<sup>1</sup> VERA 1925, 12.

<sup>2</sup> FLOREZ 1764; PEREZ BAYER 1782.

<sup>3</sup> MÜLLER 1883; HÜBNER 1893; SAAVEDRA 1872; TAPIA 1981; LÁZARO 2001, 5.



Map Source: Sillières, Pierre, *Les Voies de Communication de l'Hispanie Méridionale*, Bordeaux: De Boccard, 1990, Fig. 18.

confusion by locating *Urci* in or near the city of Almería at El Chuche or Pechina and *Murgi* west of *Portus Magnus*. Several encyclopedias also disagree on the location of *Urci*. The 1920 edition of *Enciclopedia Espasa* indicates two different possible sites: the port of Águilas or near the city of Almería; the 1993 fifth edition of *Enciclopedia Sopena* places it at El Chuche; the 1970 *Diccionario de la Lengua Española de la Real Academia* locates it at Pechina and the electronic edition of *Encyclopedia Britannica* did so first at Pechina although currently places it in the area of Villaricos.<sup>4</sup> These errors have been replicated in the authoritative *Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World*, ed. R.J.A. Talbert (2000), even if a question mark was added in the map on the erroneous location of *Urci*.<sup>5</sup>

The locations of *Urci* and *Murgi* on the Barrington's Atlas have in turn been replicated in the Pleiades project (<https://pleiades.stoa.org/places/266085>), and since the Pleiades coordinates are now used in a large number of databases, the error continues to exist.

### ANCIENT DOCUMENTS CITING URCI

The references cited in this paper have been transcribed *ad litteram* from the sources researched. Specifically, Mela's *De chorographia* from Gunnar Ranstrand, ed., 1971; Pliny's *Natural History*, translated by H. Rackham, 1969, fellow of Christ's College, Harvard University Press, Cambridge; and Ptolemy's *Cosmographia*, translated from Greek into Latin in 1508 by *apud Henricum Petrum Mense Martio* found in the Wm. L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. It is important to state that the Greek geographer Strabo describes the coast of *Hispania* for the first time in Book 3 of his *Geographica*, citing the approximate location of settlements, without mentioning *Urci*, most likely because the place was not an important geographical point at the time when his work was written in the late 1<sup>st</sup> century BC or early 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.<sup>6</sup>

**Pomponius Mela.** The first written testimony about

*Urci* appeared c. AD 43 in the work of Roman geographer Pomponius Mela's *De chorographia*. Mela, describing the southern coast of Hispania from east to west, wrote: *in illius oris ignobilis sunt oppida et quorum mention tantum ad ordinem pertinent, Urci in sinu quem urcitanum vocant, extra Abdera, Suel, Ex, Maenoba, Malaca, Salduba, Lacippo, Barbesula...*<sup>7</sup> that is, "*Urci* is located in an indentation of the coast called *urcitanum*, after which is *Abdera* (Adra) *Suel* (Fuengirola)...."

**Pliny.** The Roman historian Pliny, in his work *Naturalis Historia* completed in the year 77 AD, mentioned *Urci* when he describes the coast of the province of *Hispania Tarraconensis* from west to east. Pliny wrote: *oppida orae proxima Urci, adscriptumque Baeticae Barea, region Bastitania, mox deinde Contestania, Carthago Nova colonia...*<sup>8</sup> that is, "the settlements near the coast are *Urci* and *Baria* which is ascribed to *Baetica*, in the district of *Bastetania*, next after which is *Contestania* and the colony of *Carthago Nova* (Cartagena)."

**Ptolemy.** The Greek geographer Ptolemy mentions *Urci* in the Second Book of his *Geographia*, written c. AD 150. The work is divided into three books. Book II has seventeen chapters with chapter IV giving the coordinates of the place names of the province of *Baetica* and chapter VI those of *Tarraconensis*. A column after each site indicates the longitude or angle on a 0 point of reference (prime meridian) set by Ptolemy on the Fortunate Islands (in the Atlantic Ocean) on a scale of time of 15 degrees, equal to an hour. The second column shows the degrees of latitude of the geographical sites. Ptolemy begins chapter IV describing the province of *Baetica* from its eastern border at the *Ana* (Guadiana) river. He then writes: *Hinc descripta linea iuxta Tarraconensem Ispaniae versus Balaricum pelagus fine habet 12 - 37 1/2*;<sup>9</sup> that is, "the province extends from that line (Guadiana River) until the end of the Balearic Sea where the province of *Hispania Tarraconensis* begins on longitude 12 and latitude 37 1/2." After describing the coast from west to east, Ptolemy's text, transcribed *ad litteram* from the source researched, describes the end of *Baetica*: *Reliqua pars provinciae versus hyemale solis ortum penes Balaricum pelagus fine*

<sup>4</sup> ENC. ESPASA 1920, 1403; ENC. SOPENA 1933, 1233; DIC. LENGUA ESPAÑOLA, 1970, 1315; ENC. BRITANNICA, 2024.

<sup>5</sup> BARRINGTON 2000, 27.

<sup>6</sup> HAMILTON 1903.

<sup>7</sup> MELA 2. 95.

<sup>8</sup> PLINY 3. 1.

<sup>9</sup> PTOLEMY 2. 4. 4.

*habet lineam quae a dicto Charidemi Promontorio extenditur usque ad finem: in quo Baralia civitas 11½ – 37<sup>1/0</sup>. Oram vero littoris a Menralia civitate usque Baria urbem bastuli tenant.* Ptolemy states that the coast extends towards the winter rising sun where the Balearic Sea ends at Cape Gata and places the city of *Menralia* (*Murgi*?) on the coastline. Thus, the line *Charidemum-Menralia-Baria* marked at that time the border where *Baetica* ended and *Tarraconensis* began.

The last sites at the eastern end of *Baetica* cited by Ptolemy are:

<i>Sexi</i>	9 1/2	37° 1/2
<i>Selambina</i>	10 1/2	37° 1/2
<i>Abdara</i>	10 1/2	37° 1/6
<i>Portus Magnus</i>	11 1/3	37° 1/12
<i>Charidemum Promontorium</i>	11 1/2	36° 1/2 1/3. <sup>10</sup>

It is apparent that *Charidemum* is located east of *Portus Magnus* and that *Murgi* is not placed anywhere in *Baetica*. Karl Wilhem Müller erred when he suggested that Ptolemy made a mistake placing *Portus Magnus* in *Baetica*.<sup>11</sup> He couldn't have been mistaken because the limit of *Baetica* was to the east at *Charidemum Promontorium*. For the same reason, it is correct for Ptolemy not to mention *Urci* as a settlement of *Baetica* (as professor Lázaro Pérez questions).<sup>12</sup>

In Chapter VI, Ptolemy begins to describe the *Tarraconensis* province, writing *Post Betice finem Bastitanorum maritimorum Urci 12 – 37<sup>1/3 1/12</sup> Costestanorum maritimorum Lucentum*.<sup>13</sup> The geographer mentions *Urci* as the first settlement of *Hispania Tarraconensis* after the end of *Baetica* with the following coordinates:

*Urci* 12 – 37° 1/3 1/12

clearly placing the settlement to the east and north of *Portus Magnum*.

### THE BAETICA/TARRACONENSIS FRONTIER

As *Urci* was the first settlement of the province of *Hispania Tarraconensis*, the identification of the borderline between *Baetica* and *Tarraconensis* must be determined. From Ptolemy we know that the interprovincial frontier started at *Charidemum*, extending from there to *Murgi* and *Baria*. From *Baria*, the interprovincial line must have followed a contour with *Urci* to the south and *Castulo* (Cazlona) to the northwest. At the beginning of the Roman occupation of Hispania there were two regions: *Hispania Citerior* and *Hispania Ulterior*. After the end of the *Numantia* war c. 134 AD the border was determined by a commission of ten senators, leaving *Carthago* in the province of *Hispania Citerior* and *Baria* in *Hispania Ulterior*. From there, the line went north to *Castulo*, to the river Tajo west of Toledo, and farther on to the confluence of the rivers Duero and Esla.<sup>14</sup> There is no doubt that the interprovincial border was first at *Carthago Nova* for Pliny wrote: *longitudinem universam eius prodidit*

*Agrippa 475, sed cum termini Carthaginem usque procederent*<sup>15</sup> that is, “the total longitude of *Baetica* is 475 miles but this was when its limit was at *Carthago Nova*.” The regions were changed to provinces (*Hispaniae Tarraconensis* and *Hispaniae Baetica* respectively) after *Caesar Augustus* reorganized the territory. The frontier was then shifted west in order, it is believed, to overpower the highway robbers around *Castulo* using military forces (although it is more plausible that the true intention was to gain control of the rich mining region of the high Guadalquivir river). This loss of territory of *Baetica* took place at the time *Castulo* in the north and *Urci* in the south were defined as two border points of *Tarraconensis*, with *Acci* (Guadix) and *Mentesa* (La Guardia de Jaén) within the province, and *Iliberri* (Granada) and *Tucci* (Martos) in *Baetica*.<sup>16</sup> It is most likely that the contour of this new frontier followed the road along which the ore from the deposits of the mining region of *Castulo* was transported to *Baria* for shipment to Carthage in North Africa and Sicily.<sup>17</sup>

### ASCRPTION OF BARIA TO TARRACONENSIS

*Baria* has been identified north of *Charidemum* with the village of Villaricos from epigraphic vestiges, in particular a pedestal with the inscription:

<sup>(1)</sup> *IM(peratori) CAES(ari) / M(arco) IULIO. PHILI(p)/PIO FELICI / AUGUSTO. PONT(ifici) / MAX(imo) TRIB(unicia) POT(estate) / IL CO(n)S(uli) P(atri) P(atricae) / RES. PUBLICA / BARIENSIUM / DEVOTA NUMI/NI MAIESTATI/QUE EIUS*  
 “To the Emperor Caesar Marco Iulio Philippo, Pío Felix, Augustan Pontiff, Maximum Tribunal Authority, Consul, Father of the Homeland, the Baria Municipality Devoted to his Numen and Majesty.”

(1) Source: Hispania Epigraphica. CIL II 5947

The settlement was located on the left bank of the Almanzora river when the border was shifted west from *Carthago Nova* to the line *Charidemum-Murgi-Baria* by *Augustus* but it remained ascribed (*adscriptumque* wrote Pliny) to *Baetica*, perhaps to safeguard the commercial rights that the city enjoyed when it belonged to this province before the frontier was modified, especially the mining activity of the rich silver deposits of nearby Sierra Almagrera and the mineral loads transported from *Castulo* to be exported by sea.

### THE LOCATION OF MURGI

The location of *Murgi* must also be determined before identifying the probable location of *Urci*, especially because Ptolemy places this site as the first settlement of the *Tarraconensis* after the end of *Baetica* at *Murgi*. Some sources, including the Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World, have placed Pliny's *Murgi* at Ciavieja, west of *Portus*

<sup>10</sup> PTOLEMY 2. 4. 4.

<sup>11</sup> MÜLLER 1883.

<sup>12</sup> LAZARO 2001, 11.

<sup>13</sup> PTOLEMY 2. 6. 16.

<sup>14</sup> TOVAR 1974, 10

<sup>15</sup> PLINY 3. 1. 17.

<sup>16</sup> TOVAR 1974, 10.

<sup>17</sup> BLAZQUEZ 2012, 1, 423.

Magnus<sup>18</sup> which implies having the *Baetica-Tarraconensis* border some 38 kilometers west of this settlement. This cannot be true. Pliny, describing the land from east to west wrote: *In eo prima Hispania terrarium est Ulterior appellata, eadem Baetica, mox a fine Murgitano Citerior eademque Tarraconensis ad Pyrenaei iuga*,<sup>19</sup> and on paragraph eight: *Murgi Baetica finis*<sup>20</sup> that is: “The first land of Hispania is called *Ulterior*, that is *Baetica*, and then, from the end of the *Citerior*, that is *Tarraconensis*, at *Murgi* extends to the Pyrenees. *Murgi* is the boundary of *Baetica*.”

The question is solved if we consider that *Murgi* is today’s Mojácar on the line *Charidemum-Baria*, as some historians have done. However, the discovery in 1872 of a limestone slab near El Ejido with the inscription:

(<sup>2</sup>) *L(ucius) AEMILIVS DAPHNVS SEVIR  
THERMAS / SVA OMNI IMPENSA  
MVNICIPIBUS MURG(itanis) / DEDIT ET QVODIE  
EAS DEDICAVIT DENARIOS SIN[g]LOS  
CIVIBVS ET INCOLIS EPVLVM DEDIT / [q]  
VAMDIV VIXISSET EODEM DIE*

*DATVRVM [se] DENARIOS SINGVLOS EISDEM PROMISIT / ET IN  
[tute] LAM EARVNDEM THERMARVM QVAMDIU IPSE VIXISSET  
DENARIOS CL POLLICITVS EST*

“Lucio Emilio Dafno, Sevir, donated, entirely at his own cost, to the council members of Murg... the thermal baths and on the day of the inauguration also donated monies to the citizens and inhabitants, holding a splendid banquet; promising them that, while he was alive, would give the same amount the same day and that for the care and maintenance of the baths he would donate, also for life, one hundred and fifty denarii annually.”

(2) Source: Hispania Epigraphica, CIL II 5489 and a white marble altar stone in a nearby location found in 1876 that read: MARTI DOMINO RESPVBL(ICA) MVRG<sup>21</sup>

suggest that a city called *Murgi* may have existed at Ciavieja. Although it is plausible that a settlement whose name started with the letters *murg*... existed at Ciavieja, these findings don’t confirm that the vestiges are from the city cited by Pliny. The term *murgi* was not uncommon in Roman *Hispania*; for example, Ptolemy identifies a *Murgis* of the Turdorum between *Detunda* (Nerja) and *Saldua* (Marbella) with coordinates 8 – 1/2 37° 1/3,<sup>22</sup> and a *Lacnimurgi* in *Lusitaniae* in 8 – 1/3.<sup>23</sup> Another *Laci(ni)murga* was identified in Cerro Cogolludo (Badajoz) in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>24</sup>

Pliny clearly stated when writing about *Murgi* in Book III, I, 16: *Baetica longitudo nunc a Castulensis oppida fine*

*Gadis CCC et a Murgi maritima ora XXV p. amplior*,<sup>25</sup> that is, “at present the length of *Baetica* from the frontier of the

town of Cazlona to Cádiz is 250 miles, and from the sea-front of *Murgi* 25 additional miles.” Here, the ancient historian defines *Murgi* as a coastal town while Ciavieja is not on the seashore but on an inland plane where there is no distinct geographical mark to demarcate the frontier between the provinces of *Baetica* and *Tarraconensis*. Thus, rather than at Ciavieja, it would have been plausible for Pliny to measure the extension of the province from Mojácar, on the line *Charidemum-Baria*, frontier that was later corroborated by Ptolemy.

## THE ANTONINE ITINERARY

Some contemporary historians have also attempted to place *Urci* near *Portus Magnus* by computing the miles between stages found in the Antonine Itinerary written at the close of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The Itinerary consists of records of distances between *mansiones* (stations) counted in Roman miles. Route V covering the road between *Castulo* and *Malacca* is of interest in this study for it names *Urci* as one of the stages.

For some historians, specifically Eduardo Saavedra, Pierre Sillières, Lázaro Pérez and Cano García<sup>26</sup> the case of locating *Urci* at or near *Portus Magnus*, after placing the interprovincial frontier between *Tarraconensis* and *Baetica* at Ciavieja some 25 miles to its west, seems clear by counting the distances in miles between stations. Nevertheless, these distances are far from being trustworthy. Pierre Sillières, professor of Roman History at the University of Toulouse who conducted painstaking research of archives, aerial photography and on-the-field work, agrees that there are frequent differences between the data in the Itinerary and those found in his calculations, due to translation and/or copy errors from the original document. For example, the distance between *Carteia* (San Roque) and *Baelo* (Tarifa) is short by at least 50 miles.<sup>27</sup> In Route V, the actual distance between *Murgi* and *Saxetanum* along the coastal stretch of the Route is 80 kilometers as the crow flies while the Itinerary lists just 38 Roman miles (56 kms.),<sup>28</sup> which is clearly insufficient. When comparing the distances given by Pliny in his *Natural History* with those of the Itinerary, Sillières again notices that the difference in miles between *Murgi* and *Gades* is short by at least 20 miles, implying that the border from which it was calculated should have been farther to the east.

Sillières concludes that the distances between stations in Route V between *Castulo* and *Malaca*, that lists *Urci* as a stage, are clearly erroneous or at least doubtful.<sup>29</sup> Furthermore, Rout V doesn’t include a station at *Abdera* (Adra), an important settlement on the road from *Portus Magnus* to *Malaca*<sup>30</sup> (See Appendix 2).

<sup>18</sup> BARRINGTON ATLAS 2000, 27.

<sup>19</sup> PLINY 3. 1. 6.

<sup>20</sup> PLINY 3. 1. 6.

<sup>21</sup> FITA 1910, 57, 121.

<sup>22</sup> PTOLEMY 2. 3. 13.

<sup>23</sup> PTOLEMY 2. 4. 16.

<sup>24</sup> ESPAÑA-CHAMORRO 2018, 31, 49–72.

<sup>25</sup> PLINY 3. 1. 16.

<sup>26</sup> SAAVEDRA 1872, 3; SILLIERES 1990; LAZARO 2001, 3; CANO 2013, 23.

<sup>27</sup> SILLIERES 1990, 23.

<sup>28</sup> SILLIERES 1990, 24.

<sup>29</sup> SILLIERES 1990, 179.

<sup>30</sup> BLAZQUEZ, see Appendix 2.

## LOCATION OF URCI, MURGI AND THE FRONTIERS OF THE BAETICA AND TARRACONENSIS PROVINCES

The preponderance of written historical evidence found in this investigation points to the area near *Baria* on the left margin of the river Almanzora as the most probable location of *Urci*, precisely because the records of the ancient historians researched show that the western frontier of *Baetica* was on the line *Charidemum-Murgi-Baria* and that *Urci* was the first placename of the *Tarraconensis* province, on the right side of the border. *Murgi*, a settlement on the coast on the border line, corresponded to today's Mojácar, not at Ciavieja west of *Portus Magnus*. The interpretation of the written records of the sources researched follows:

### From Pomponius Mela's *De chorographia*

Mela placed *Urci* in a *sinus* of the coast called *Urcitanum*, followed by *Abdera* to its west, without mentioning *Portus Magnus*. The defining question is whether this indentation of the shoreline was to the east or to the west of *Promontorium Charidemum*. The *sinus* must have necessarily been located east of *Charidemum*, for Ptolemy located *Urci* east of the promontory. In fact, sailing towards the area from the east, it is evident that the sierra that ends at *Charidemum* forms a natural mountain range aligned north to south, suitable to be the division line between the *Balearicum Pelagus* (Mar Balear) and the *Iberian Mare* (Mar de Alborán) and, therefore, an appropriate geographic landmark to define the boundary between the provinces of *Baetica* and *Tarraconensis*. The indentation could have been formed by the estuary of the river Almanzora. Estuaries of some rivers were called *sinus* in Latin; for example, Pliny wrote: *Tanaim ipsum Scythae sinum vocant*,<sup>31</sup> that is: "the river Don is called *sinus* by the Scythians (natives)."

In ancient times, the estuary formed by the Almanzora river was extensive. The historian Pareja Muñoz, in his book '*Urci, Ciudad Perdida en la Historia*,' writes that "geographers from Bremen University have determined, after drilling the bed of the Almanzora river's mouth, that the indentation of the coast extended five kilometers north from the current shore, and had a width of one and a half kilometers."<sup>32</sup>

### From Pliny's *Naturalis Historia*

Pliny knew very well the *Tarraconensis* because he had been procurator of this province. He wrote that the frontier between *Baetica* and *Tarraconensis* was first at *Carthago-Nova* before it was shifted west to *Murgi*,<sup>33</sup> adding that *Murgi* was a settlement on the sea-front (*maritima ora*).<sup>34</sup> He described clearly the border line writing that *Murgi* was on the coast and that *Barea* was ascribed to *Baetica*.<sup>35</sup>

### From Ptolemy's *Geographia*

Ptolemy wrote that the frontier of the *Tarraconensis*

province with that of *Baetica* was where the Balearic Sea ended at *Promontorium Charidemum* in coordinates 11 ½ – 36° ½ 1/3,<sup>36</sup> adding that after the end of *Baetica*, the first settlement was *Urci* in coordinates 12 – 37° 1/3 1/12,<sup>37</sup> that is, east and north of *Charidemum*.

## CONCLUSION

The evidence of Mela's and Pliny's written records were later corroborated by Ptolemy. Placing *Urci* near *Portus Magnus* and *Murgi* to its west cannot be sustained. Pliny mentioned *Urci* as a settlement of *Hispania Tarraconensis*, not of *Baetica* that had its border at *Murgi* where this province ended. Undoubtedly, he provided the length of *Baetica* measuring it from the seafront city of *Murgi* on the frontier line, as counting the miles from Ciavieja on a plain far from the coast would have been most improbable.

Ptolemy located *Urci* as the first settlement of the *Hispania Tarraconensis* province, east of the *Baetica's* frontier which he placed on the *Charidemum-Murgi-Baria* line. The river Almanzora must have been the waterway marking the southern contour of the border line from *Charidemum* to *Castulo*. Along its basin must have run the road for the transportation of ore from *Castulo* to *Baria* for shipment abroad. This highway would have connected *Castulo* and *Baria*, via *Tugia*, *Basti*, *Tagili* and *Urci*.

With *Baria* on the left bank of the Almanzora river, *Urci* must have been located to its north but close enough to the estuary to be described as a town or frontier outpost near the sea (*oppida orae proxima*, as Pliny wrote). It is provoking to venture that *Urci* (pronounced oor-kee) was at or near today's town of Úrcal (pronounced oor-kahl) where Roman vestiges have recently been unearthed; mainly a Roman villa on the site of what seems to be an entire settlement.<sup>38</sup> Consequently, archaeological research should be focused in the area of Úrcal to search for the lost city.

In summary, the results of this research don't support the premise that *Urci* was located anywhere near *Portus Magnus* but that the site was to the north of *Baria*. *Murgi* could not have been located west of *Portus Magnus* but on the site of today's Mojácar. The research also corroborates that the frontier between *Baetica* and *Tarraconensis* in Pliny's and Ptolemy's time was on the line *Charidemum-Murgi-Baria* (Cape Gata-Mojácar-Villaricos).

## APPENDIX 1

### Names of Geographical Sites

Latin	Current
<i>Abdera</i>	Adra
<i>Acci</i>	Guadix
<i>Alba</i>	Abla
<i>Ana</i>	Guadiana (river)
<i>Bactara</i>	Villanueva de las Torres (?)
<i>Baelo</i>	Tarifa
<i>Baria</i> or <i>Barea</i>	Villaricos

<sup>31</sup> PLINY 6. 5. 17.

<sup>32</sup> PAREJA 1991, 103.

<sup>33</sup> PLINY 3. 1. 16.

<sup>34</sup> PLINY 6. 5. 6.

<sup>35</sup> PLINY 6. 5. 17.

<sup>36</sup> PTOLEMY 2. 4. 2.

<sup>37</sup> PTOLEMY 2. 3. 6.

<sup>38</sup> RUBIO 2005, 1–5.

<i>Balearicum</i>	
<i>Pelagus</i>	Balearic Sea
<i>Basti</i>	Baza
<i>Carteia</i>	San Roque
<i>Carthagho Nova</i>	Cartagena
<i>Castulo</i>	Cazlona
<i>Caviculum</i>	Torrox
<i>Charidemum</i>	
<i>Promontorium</i>	Cape Gata
<i>Detunda</i>	Nerja
<i>Fraxinum</i>	Los Castellones de Ceal (?)
<i>Gades</i>	Cádiz
<i>Iberian Mare</i>	Alborán Sea
<i>Iliberri</i>	Granada
<i>Lacinimurgi</i>	Cerro Cogolludo (Badajoz)
<i>Maenova</i>	Vélez Málaga
<i>Malaca</i>	Málaga
<i>Mentesa</i>	La Guardia de Jaén
<i>Menralia</i>	Mojácar (?)
<i>Murgi</i>	Mojácar
<i>Numantia</i>	Numancia
<i>Portus Magnus</i>	City of Almería
<i>Promontorium</i>	
<i>Charidemum</i>	Cape Gata
<i>Salduba</i>	Marbella
<i>Selambina</i>	Salobreña
<i>Sexi/Saxetanum.</i>	Almuñecar
<i>Suel</i>	Fuengirola
<i>Tagili</i>	Tíjola
<i>Tucci</i>	Martos
<i>Tugia</i>	Toya

## APPENDIX 2

### Route V of the Antonine Itinerary

<i>Castulone to Tugia</i> .....	35
<i>Tugia to Fraxinum</i> .....	16
<i>Fraxinum to Bactara</i> .....	24
<i>Bactara to Acci</i> .....	32
<i>Acci to Alba</i> .....	32
<i>Alba to Urci</i> .....	34
<i>Urci to Turaniana</i> .....	16
<i>Turaniana to Murgi</i> .....	12
<i>Murgi to Saxetanum</i> .....	38
<i>Saxetanum to Caviculum</i> .....	16
<i>Caviculum to Maenova</i> .....	34
<i>Maenova to Malaca</i> .....	12
	301 miles

Source: Blázquez, Antonio. *Nuevo Estudio sobre el Itinerario de Antonino*. Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes (Alicante, 2006).

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