

Mortero del Crucero – la Calaca – Mazo Chico

Access From Astrana a track in good condition climbing is taken towards Entremazos. This ends by a platform next to the cabins of cerrajas, where if you do not have all-terrain vehicles you can park your cars. Here it is possible to obtain water from a nearby spring. Continue along a track in poor condition, passing between two Mazos (Mazo Grande and Mazo Chico) and up to the Collado de Cruceros, bordering the large depression of Cellagua or Llanalacueva. On the opposite side of the saddle a track descends towards Hoyo Salzoso, whilst to the left continues towards la Fuente Fría y Garma Ciega bordering the depression of Cellagua. A mere 50 m from the previous crossroads on the saddle, following the left, we find the Torca del Mortero del Crucero, which is identifiable because of small tree on its edge whose branches are seen from the track. El Crucero del Polaco opens on the edge of a forest with toreas (holes???), north of the previous cave down a little towards the Hoyo Salzoso. To reach the Calaca we follow the same path on the left. When you approach the area of trees and is parallel to this, turn off about 30 meters down into the forest. The cave opens on the edge of the wooded area at the foot of Pico Tejes Time to walk = 45 minutes To reach the Sima del Mazo Chico climb the track that reaches the col between the two Mazos (Mazo Grande and Mazo Chico) and to our left, on the face of Mazo Chico overlooking the depression of Cellagua the entrance of the cave. If you use the coordinates that we give you will not have problems, and much better if you download the GPS track and use it.

Co-ordinates UTM (Datum ED50):

Mortero del Crucero: 30 T 454842 4787317- Alt 1060m

La Calaca: 30 T 454472 4787255 - Alt 1060m

Sima del Mazo Chico 30 T 454770 4786375 – Alt 1035m

Description Mortero del Crucero –La Calaca (from the Old Grandes Traversias)

The system has three entrances (Now four with Mazo Chico), and all need pitches rigging. The traverse that is described is by entering by Mortero del Crucero or el Crucero del Polaco and leaving by la Calaca. (The system has since been much extended and the bigger traverse is now by Mazo Chico) It is a traverse that has a low level of technicality. It is preferable to enter by La Torca del Mortero del Crucero and exit by La Sima de Calaca, which has previously had the P27 entrance pitch been rigged. Entry by the Crucero del Polaco is more controversial, as although you only need to rig a ramp of 5m the route to the junction with the Mortero del Crucero is confusing at several points.

In the Mortero del Crucero, a grassy ramp precedes two P15's which we descend. After these we come to a room, in which encircles some fill turn to the right and leave the main gallery. The passage is 2mx3m in midsection and sometimes narrower, it shows sediments and a small stream flows through it. Finally, a fossil gallery appears that we climb up into. Following the route of the traverse the gallery ends in a chaos of blocks that we go up to reach a room. In its central part, on the left hand side and at the top of a cone of debris, there starts the first climb (fixed rope), this climb of 4-5m climbs into a bottomless meander that leaves the room by its ceiling (you need to take care at some points). Later we get to the second climb (R3) after which, there are several routes. We must take the one to the right as we go up facing the wall. The route follows an obvious meander with dry

pots. In this way we gain a wide gallery at a point where there appears a large collapsed hole. We go around this by a small climb on the left and then turn to the right on the opposite wall.

We follow the gallery without any problems of getting lost, to an obvious down climb. After passing a section of larger dimensions we get to a small room with a low ceiling which we leave on the left to a crawl in the Rio Negra. Continue along the crawl turning left at all the crossroads, and leave the Rio Negro.

Conversely coming from Calaca, this crawl is not obvious and can be confused with others.

Although you can go up the sandy ramp, it is recommended to follow the Rio Negra by the left wall (big pendants) to avoid confusion and we then arrive in the Sala del Gran Mogollonazo. In this form we continue towards a junction of galleries and where you turn right and immediately start a climb. On the way on towards the Gran Mogollon we must climb to the top of a large block and from this gain another block which leads to a ramp of blocks. From the top of the ramp and we descend along the left hand wall. Later we reach a flat area and cross this to reach a large room with a central shake hole, which we skirt on the left.

From where the room ends, and before the start of the rise to another, we must go up between the blocks to where a rope falls and climb an R3. Then follow without difficulty up a room, where the

should be a rope up the P27, that we had previously installed, it descends the largest of the three shafts that form the entrance to the Calaca.

Entering by the Crucero del Polaco, you down climb a slippery ramp for about 5m, to get to a room, you go up to the roof to take a bedding plane. After this we descend a muddy area to another room with a collapse that we skirt, finally to link with the area of the climbs as described at the beginning.

Material and rigging

You need a rope protector on the P40 in Mazo Chico 2025

To descend the Torca del Mortero del Crucero you need a rope of about 35-40 m and at least 3 anchors. For The Calaca a rope of 35 m is required. The cave is not rigged for double rope technique. Ideally, we enter by the Mortero del Crucero by rigging two pitches, although it is also feasible, and more comfortable for derigging later, to just equip the ramp and the head of the first P15, and then descend the next pitch without a rebelay. Ensure that you have already rigged the P27 of the Calaca where the rope, tied two beech trees, hangs free to the bottom of the shaft. All the climbs inside are equipped although it would not hurt to bring some spare rope to replace worn out ones.

Recommendations

It is preferable to enter by the Mortero del Crucero not only because the installation and removal of the ropes is simpler, but because there is less chance of route-finding errors. Attention should be paid when skirting the collapse that follows the meandering coming of the climbs. It would be desirable to ensure passage with a rope. Overall, despite the existence of a labyrinthine area as is the great Mogollon, travel is easy and obvious if directions are followed.

Zona de Unión: Mortero del Crucero – Mazo Chico

The zone explored during these years is by following the river that passes a few meters from the base of the pitch of the Mortero del Crucero. Following the river downstream, by a gallery of medium size, we reach a small hole after which a narrow section stopped the advance of our predecessors. Beyond this, in 1996 we explored almost a kilometer of new galleries, which ended in an impenetrable siphon. With something above it, where a small room with a low ceiling, and a strongly draughting narrow passage stopped our exploration. That was the narrowness that entertained us for three consecutive seasons. After the narrowing, Sixteen meters long, the gallery returns to take

considerable size. A short ramp leads back to the river, on the other side of the siphon which years ago stopped our progress. We follow the river, with more narrow passages, but without actually making progression uncomfortable. At one point, the river is lost, and the gallery becomes smaller. Soon however regains comfortable dimensions, leaving the right hand a gallery after a few meters becomes clogged with sand. Just beyond we meet the river again (which has traveled this stretch along a parallel impenetrable narrow gallery). We thus arrive at an inlet **1**, wherein the gallery gains considerable height, and with passages hanging on the left that lead nowhere. In the main gallery **2**, the river plunges into a narrow side gallery to the left. We move through it more than a hundred meters, sometimes dragging, reaching the old siphon. After advancing several meters with very little space between the water and the ceiling, we reach the gallery that ends at the Pozo del Café Liégeois, already in la sima del Mazo Chico.

1:- If we follow the inlet upstream it soon divides into two. The gallery on the left, closes, amounts to be impracticable, with no draught or running watery. By contrast, the ramp on the right leads to a room where a waterfall rushes down a shaft about 25 feet high. At the base of it you can see the presence of newts and leeches, which leads us to suppose, given the situation, the waterfall is but a loss of stream flowing through the depression Llanalacueva. Beyond the room, left a narrow bedding

plane becomes a very narrow gallery, airless. On the right, a short branch brings us to a new cascade, definitely too finally.

2:- If we follow the main gallery as fossil advance for floor covered with sand, medium size. A chimney with an inlet indicates the presence of a small upper gallery followed to a point where you can see roots, grass and leaves, the gallery occupied by a plug of unstable blocks that prevent progression (subsequent surveys being allowed us to find a gap just above, very narrow, whose physical union has not been tried for not contributing anything to the system). Further, a ramp of sand descends to puts us at a point where there is a slight draft and the stream is filtered by a narrow passage that becomes impracticable. Above it, there is a labyrinthine network of small tubes (except some specific point) not going anywhere.

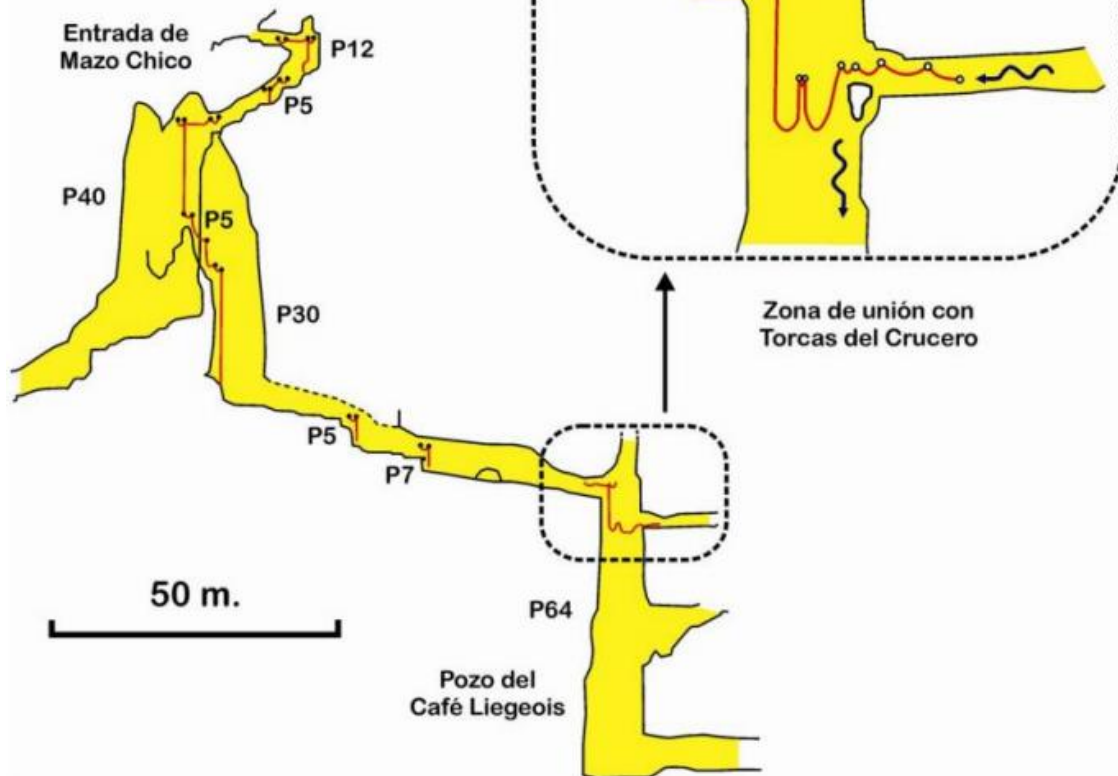
Ficha Técnica (datos A.E.R.)

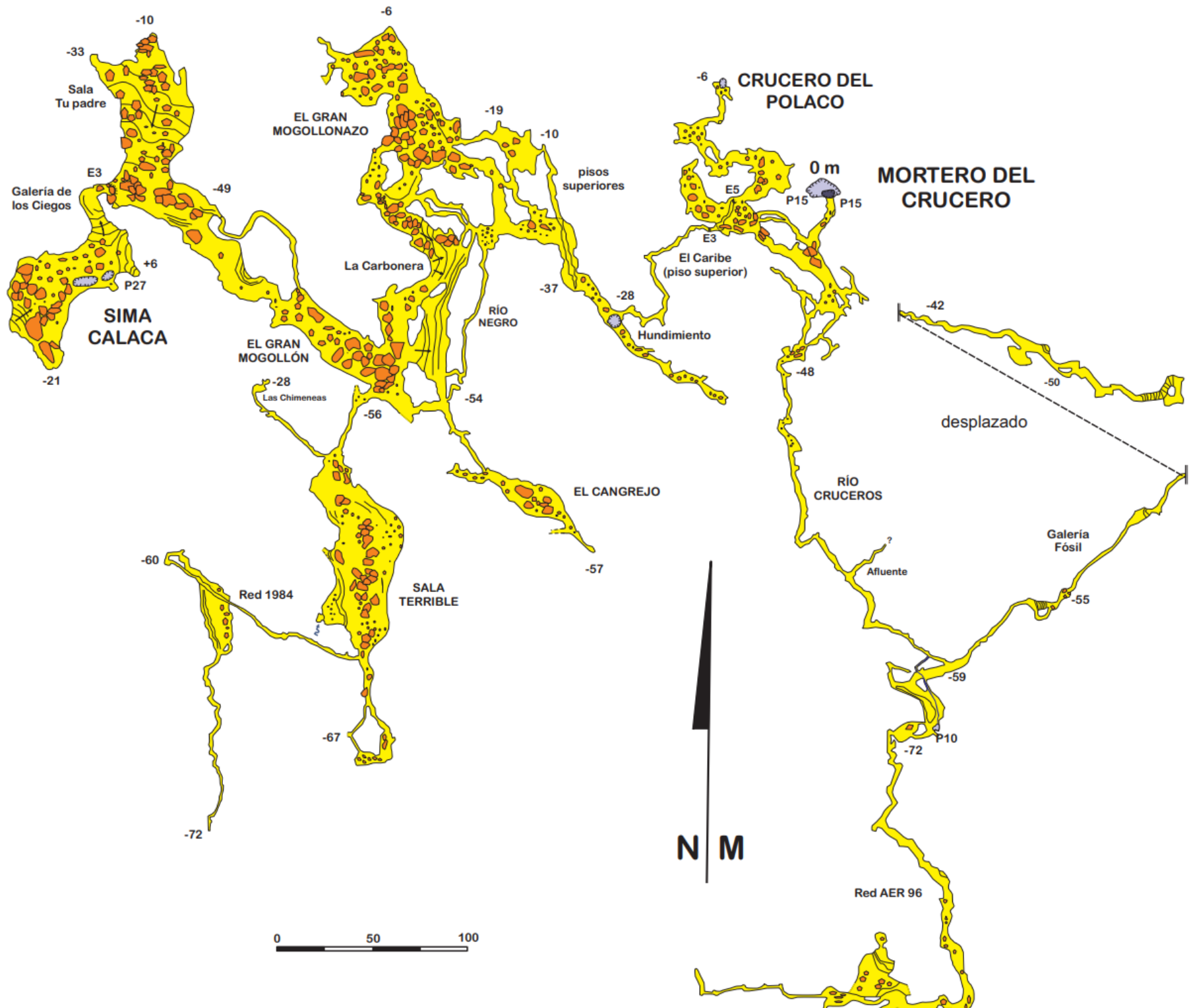
Obstáculo	Anclajes
P 12	2 parabolts + pasamanos 6 m + 1 Longlife y parabolts
P 5	2 parabolts + pasamanos de 3 m. + 2 anclajes en "P"
P 40	2 parabolts + pasaman. de 7 m. + 2 Longlife cadena y anilla
P 5	2 parabolts + 1 Longlife. Cuerda fija de 9 m.
P 30	
P 5	2 anclajes en "P"
P 7	2 anclajes en "P"
P del Café	2 parabolts + pasamanos + 2 Longlife + cuerda fija + 2 parabolts y cadena + cuerda
Liégeois	fija +2 Long-life + pasamanos + Longlife + pasamanos + natural

Sima del Mazo Chico

Soba (Cantabria)
-España-

AER/SCP
Alzado parcial





SISTEMA DEL MORTILLANO
CRUCERO -CALACA- CRUCERO DEL POLACO - MAZO CHICO

SOBA (CANTABRIA) ESPAÑA
TOPOGRAFÍA: SEII 84-95, AER 96-2005
COTAS CON RESPECTO AL MORTERO DEL CRUCERO
EDICIÓN VIANA 2014

