

# LOGBOOK

Year: 2021

Season: Christmas : New Year

Logbook pages scanned to jpg then combined into a pdf file using <http://smallpdf.com/>

*Juan Corrin, January 2022*





XMAS / NEW YEAR 2021 - 22

①

11/20/21, 11:34 AM

PROSPECCIÓN EXTERIOR

From: sarai\_ram92@hotmail.com,  
To: juancorrin@matienzo.org.uk,  
Cc: vbarraquet@gmail.com,  
Subject: PROSPECCIÓN EXTERIOR  
Date: Tue, Nov 9, 2021 7:11 pm

Buenas noches Juan,

933

En diciembre habrá un grupo para prospección exterior formado por los veteranos Adolfo, Carlos, Andreu y yo.

Querría preguntarte si hay alguna zona por la que no hayáis buscado o si tenéis algún agujero interesante que se quedó en el olvido. La idea sería buscar por la parte exterior más próxima al Tocadome, Novadome y los Abys. Si hubiese alguna entrada superior por ahí facilitaría mucho los trabajos.

Ya me dices alguna cosa, gracias!

Un saludo,

Sarai

From: smith\_peter2004@yahoo.es,  
To: uzueka@aol.com,  
Subject: 1572 and 2997  
Date: Fri, Nov 19, 2021 8:05 pm  
Attachments: 2997.svx (660), 1572.svx (562)

Good evening Juan

On Sunday I went to survey those two small caves on El Naso (or Nanso). Or should I say re-survey them because I think they're the two small caves that appear on Lank's Enaso (one of the names must be right!) area survey, in slightly the wrong place.

Have you heard that the 'old' Catalans Andreu and Adolfo are coming over the long weekend at the beginning of December? I don't know if the new generation also.

And apparently the Madrid club who were re-exploring Codisera are also going to be around, to do one of the big pitches in the cave.

Cheers,  
Pete

39

La Cambera blog: 19/11/2021 (photo of LC219)

Hoy no ha habido suerte

Día de prospección con crios por Monte Llusa

Día tonto de prospección con crios por Monte Llusa

Día tonto de prospección con crios tontos por Monte Llusa.

Lo único que hemos encontrado ha sido una bloquera impenetrable en la que se aprecia una ligera corriente de aire, situada en el fondo de una dolina dentro de un bosque de avellanos.

Hemos optado por irnos y aprovechar para ir a ver un soplaio cercado en mitad de un prao, el cuál vemos cada vez que subimos en coche a Monte Llusa a explorar. Al final no era nada más que lo que veíamos: un soplaio.

De vuelta nos detenemos en la cueva de Villanueva con idea de observar la cantidad de agua que mana de la cueva. Por la boca principal apenas sale agua y hemos podido llegar perfectamente sin pisar agua hasta que irremediablemente te tienes que lanzar al río.

Participantes: Toñín, Gustavo, Adriel y Ayla

5144  
LC219

translupin →



Today there was no luck. Day of prospecting with children in Monte Llusa. Silly day of prospecting with children in Monte Llusa.

Silly day of prospecting with silly children in Monte Llusa.

The only thing we have found has been an impenetrable block in which a slight air current can be seen, located at the bottom of a sinkhole within a hazelnut forest.

We have chosen to leave and take the opportunity to go see a fenced-in blowhole in the middle of a meadow, which we see every time we drive up to Monte Llusa to explore. In the end it was nothing more than what we saw: a blow.

On the way back, we stop at the Villanueva cave with the idea of observing the amount of water that flows from the cave. Barely any water comes out of the main mouth and we have been able to get there perfectly without stepping on water until you inevitably have to jump into the river.

Participants: Toñín, Gustavo, Adriel and Ayla

20/11/21

### Por los bosques de eucaliptos de Monte Llusa

Día de prospección. Probamos hoy a buscar en un bosque de eucaliptos en el que de momento no nos habíamos adentrado. La progresión a través de él no es cómoda, debido a la cantidad de zarzas, escajos y demás maleza típica de estos bosques.

Tras un buen rato de búsqueda infructuosa encontramos una pequeña diaclasa inclinada, obstruida por bloques (LC222).

Se aprecia en su entrada un pozo de unos 4 metros, donde habría que hacer una laboriosa desobstrucción y en la que no se apreciaba corriente de aire alguna. Así que la marcamos, cogemos su posición GPS y continuamos a través del intransitable eucaliptal.

(Foto) LC222

Al poco rato y cerca de un conjunto de dolinas alineadas, miradas en jornadas anteriores, encontramos una fractura (LC223) que no es más que una continuación de la diaclasa encontrada anteriormente. Tiene un pozo de 6 metros que también precisa de desobstrucción, pero mucho menos laboriosa. Tomamos sus coordenadas y la marcamos como pendiente. (Foto) LC223. Torca 3 Voltios y medio

Ya de vuelta decidimos echar un vistazo por los praos contiguos a la Copica Escarlata (LC193) y aprovechamos para descender la Torca de las Gafas (LC194), la cual nos cuesta encontrar debido al crecimiento de la vegetación que se había encargado de tapar las bocas. Nos amarramos a un eucalipto y descendemos. Se trata de un pozo de 3 metros sin continuación que recibe un aporte de agua estacional y que puede estar relacionado con un aporte de agua por filtración que aparece en la Copica Escarlata en el Pozo de la Alcachofa.

Participantes: Toñín y Gustavo

### Through the eucalyptus forests of Monte Llusa.

Prospecting day. Today we tried to search in a eucalyptus forest that we had not yet entered. The progression through it is not comfortable, due to the amount of brambles, scabs and other weeds typical of these forests. After a long time of unsuccessful searching, we found a small inclined joint, obstructed by blocks (LC222). At its entrance there is a well of about 4 meters, where a laborious unblocking would have to be done and in which no air current was appreciated. So we mark it, take its GPS position and continue through the impassable eucalyptus forest. (Photo) LC222

After a short while and near a set of aligned sinkholes, looked at in previous days, we found a fracture (LC223) that is nothing more than a continuation of the joint found previously. It has a 6-meter well that also requires unclogging, but much less laborious. We take its coordinates and mark it as slope. (Photo) LC223. Torque 3 Volts and a half

On our way back, we decided to take a look around the meadows adjacent to the Copica Escarlata (LC193) and took the opportunity to descend the Torca de las Glasses (LC194), which we found hard to find due to the growth of the vegetation that had been in charge of covering the mouths. . We tie ourselves to a eucalyptus and descend. It is a 3-meter well without continuation that receives a seasonal contribution of water and that may be related to a contribution of water by filtration that appears in the Copica Escarlata in the Well of the Artichoke.

Participants: Toñín and Gustavo

### Centro de tratamiento de neumáticos en Ribamontán al Monte

Tantos paseos por Monte Llusa y desconocíamos que se había instalado un centro de tratamientos de neumáticos.

Esta es la imagen que nos encogió las retinas por unos momentos cuando descendimos al fondo de una dolina en Ribamontán al Monte. Sin más palabras. Menos mal que la pequeña torca que encontramos en dicha dolina (LC224 Torca Glasgow), con una boca de 2x1 metros, solo tiene 3 metros de altura y no continúa. (Fotos x 2) LC224 Torca Glasgow

Optamos por revisar unos praos situados a la derecha de la Copica Escarlata, cerca de la Torca Michelin, (LC192) pero lo único que encontramos es una pequeña surgencia impenetrable (LC221) así que, tomamos dirección hacia un eucaliptal que es cruzado por la fractura en la que se encuentran LC222 y LC223 encontradas en la jornada anterior. Rápidamente en un hoyo, también llena de basura, microondas incorporado, encontramos una pequeña grieta (LC225 Cueva de la Buena Onda) con un murete en su entrada presumiblemente para que no entren las cabras. (Foto) LC225 Cueva de la Buena Onda A la derecha de la entrada parte un meandro muy estrecho que aspira aire, así que la marcamos y la dejamos pendiente de desobstruir.

Un poco más a la izquierda en una pequeña dolina y tras apartar todo tipo de vegetación aparece escondida una pequeña grieta (LC226 Torca del Gusnardo) que también pide desobstrucción y por la que que emana una corriente de aire nada desdeñable. Ya tenemos intriga para toda la semana.

Participantes: Toñín y Gustavo



### Tyre treatment center in Ribamontán al Monte

So many walks through Monte Llusa and we were unaware that a tyre treatment center had been installed. This is the image that shrunk our retinas for a few moments when we descended to the bottom of a doline in Ribamontán al Monte. Without another word. Luckily, the small torca that we found in said doline (LC224 Torca Glasgow), with a mouth of 2 x 1 meters, is only 3 meters high and does not continue. (Photos x 2) LC224 Torca Glasgow.

We opted to review some meadows located to the right of the Copica Escarlata, near Torca Michelin, (LC192) but the only thing we found is a small impenetrable upwelling (LC221) so we headed towards a eucalyptus forest that is crossed by the fracture in which are LC222 and LC223 found in the previous day. Quickly in a hole, also full of garbage, with a built-in microwave, we found a small crack (LC225 Cueva de la Buena Onda) with a wall at its entrance, presumably so that goats do not enter. (Photo) LC225 Cueva de la Buena Onda

To the right of the entrance there is a very narrow meander that sucks air, so we mark it and leave it pending to unblock. A little further to the left in a small sinkhole and after removing all types of vegetation, a small crack appears hidden (LC226 Torca del Gusnardo) that also calls for unobstruction and through which a not inconsiderable air current emanates. We already have intrigue for the whole week.

Participants: Toñín and Gustavo

From: m.e.lacambera@gmail.com,

To: Uzueka@aol.com,

Subject: Last caves

Date: Sun, Nov 21, 2021 7:01 pm

Coords of last 3 blog posts.

Hi Juan.

I send you the coordinates of the last caves that we have located in Monte Llusa and that do not appear in memory.

LC219	5144	Impenetrable	x:0448602 y:4803977 z:198
LC220	5145	Under exploration	x:0447497 y:4802978 z:144
LC221	5146	Impenetrable upwelling	x:0447306 y:4803299 z:144
LC222	5147	Sin continuación	x:0449010 y:4804473 z:346
LC223	3 Voltios y medio	Under exploration	x:0448963 y:4804454 z:343
LC224	Torca Glasgow	Sin continuación	x:0449882 y:4803591 z:303
LC225	Cueva de la Buena Onda	Under exploration	x:0448984 y:4803980 z:284 - 5078
LC226	Cueva del Gusnardo	Under exploration	x:0448987 y:4804049 z:306

Best Regards  
Gustavo

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La Cambera

LC	MCP	description	x	y	z
LC219	5144	Impenetrable ↑210	448602	4803977	198
LC220	5145	Under exploration	447497	4802978	144
LC221	5146	Impenetrable upwelling ↑61	447306	4803299	144
LC222	5147	Sin continuación	449010	4804473	346
LC223	5148	3 Voltios y medio. Under exploration ↑340	448963	4804454	343
LC224	5149	Torca Glasgow. Sin continuación. ↑307	449882	4803591	303
LC225	5078	Cueva de la Buena Onda. Under exploration 272	448984	4803980	284
LC226	5150	Cueva del Gusnardo. Under exploration. ↑285	448987	4804049	306

From: m.e.lacambera@gmail.com,

To: uzueka@aol.com,

Subject: Re: Caves LC219 - LC226

Date: Wed, Nov 24, 2021 7:06 pm

Hi Juan

The coordinates of the LC220 and LC221 are correct.

Regarding the LC225, it is located in a doline where garbage has been thrown. There is a microwave in a tree.

Best Regards  
Gustavo

El lun, 22 nov 2021 a las 12:50, Juan Corrin (<uzueka@aol.com>) escribió:

Hola Gustavo,

Attached are the map around Garzón and Cierrolinos and a screenshot of your coordinates.

1: The map shows 6 of the 8 holes. Two holes, LC220 and LC221, appear to have wrong coordinates. These coordinates put them northwest of Hornedo! (Perhaps each x value should start with 449...?)

2: Site LC225 appears to be site 5078. <http://www.matiencocaves.org.uk/descrip/5078.htm> Do you agree?

Saludos

Juan

NOT  
WRONG



## La Cambera Blog 27th November 2021

### Desobstrucción 27 noviembre, 2021

Hoy teníamos poco tiempo de actividad, así que el día lo hemos consumido completamente desobstruyendo la LC226 (Cueva del Gusnardo). Su entrada es una fuerte pendiente de exiguas dimensiones y está situada en una fractura con dirección suroeste y por ella sale una más que apreciable corriente de aire.

Justo cuando conseguimos deslizarnos y posarnos en el suelo de la cueva, se hace la hora de irnos y comienza a llover con violencia. Solo nos da tiempo a certificar que la cueva continúa y que para seguir hay que deshacerse primero de un bloque caído que interrumpe el paso.

Hay probabilidades de haber encontrado algo que sigue.

Participantes: Toñín y Gustavo

### Clearing November 27, 2021

Today we had little activity time, so the day was completely consumed by unclogging LC226 (Cueva del Gusnardo). Its entrance is a steep slope of small dimensions and it is located in a fracture with a southwesterly direction and a more than appreciable air current comes out of it.

Just when we manage to slide down and land on the cave floor, it is time to leave and it begins to rain violently. We only have time to certify that the cave continues and that to continue we must first get rid of a fallen block that interrupts the passage.

There is a chance that you have found something that follows.

Participants: Toñín and Gustavo

\$150

## La Cambera Blog 28th November 2021

### LC226 Cueva del Gusnardo 28 noviembre, 2021

A pesar del día de lluvia, granizo, viento y frío, no nos hemos podido resistir a salir de exploración. El día anterior tras una desobstrucción de 4 horas, justo cuando nos teníamos que ir y habíamos conseguido introducirnos en la Cueva del Gusnardo, aparecía un bloque que tapaba el paso para poder proseguir y nos dejaba con la miel en los labios y la duda de si la cueva continuaba.

Una vez en su boca comprobamos que su estrecha entrada, que para poder superarla hay que tumbarse y deslizarse como si se tratara de un tobogán, se ha convertido en un tobogán de barro líquido. Ha estado toda la semana lloviendo sin parar. La sensación al colarnos por la embarrada rampa de entrada es como si la cueva nos engullera. Paso del Esfínter.

Comenzamos a picar el bloque y vemos que la cueva prosigue por una galería descendente. A los pocos metros nos encontramos un nuevo paso, que tenemos que desobstruir. Tras este aparece otro.

La cueva se desarrolla a través de una fractura rectilínea con fuerte pendiente. El avance es desordenado, debido a la gran cantidad de galerías de diferentes longitudes y tamaños que van apareciendo, y al estado caótico que presenta la galería principal (Galería de la Entropía) con grandes bloques caídos y que han quedado descansando de forma inestable. Realmente nos movemos por un antiguo techo que colapsó en su día.

[LC226. Photo lc226-cueva-del-gusnardo-2.jpg Galería de la Entropía]

Llegamos a un punto donde aparecen de forma clara dos opciones. Una por la que circula un pequeño curso de agua formada por las numerosas filtraciones y otra por donde circula una notable corriente de aire.

Elegimos seguir el pequeño curso de agua y tras bajar una rampa muy pronunciada, que nos obliga a instalar una cuerda de apoyo, este desaparece miserablemente entre unos pequeños bloques. Por aquí no hay continuación.

[LC226 photo lc226-cueva-del-gusnardo-4.jpg]

Volvemos hacia atrás y recorremos unas cuantas pequeñas galerías que acaban finalmente confluyendo en la Galería de la Entropía, pero que a su vez nos dejan unas cuantas posibles continuaciones a revisar. Se acerca la hora de salir y empezamos el regreso, no sin antes volver a echar un vistazo para confirmar que la corriente de aire se desvía por donde creemos y que se convierte en la próxima candidata a visitar.

Participantes: Toñín y Gustavo

### LC226 Cave of Gusnardo November 28, 2021

Despite the day of rain, hail, wind and cold, we could not resist going out exploring. The day before after a 4-hour unobstruction, just when we had to leave and we had managed to enter the Cueva del Gusnardo, a block appeared that blocked the passage to be able to continue and left us with honey on our lips and the doubt of whether the cave continued. Once in its mouth we verify that its narrow entrance, which in order to overcome it you have to lie down and slide as if it were a slide, has become a liquid mud slide. It has been raining non-stop all week. The sensation when we sneak down the muddy entrance ramp is as if the cave is engulfing us. Sphincter Pass.

We begin to chop the block and we see that the cave continues through a descending gallery. A few meters later we find a new step, which we have to unblock. After this appears another. The cave develops through a

↗





rectilinear fracture with a steep slope. The progress is disorderly, due to the large number of galleries of different lengths and sizes that are appearing, and the chaotic state that the main gallery (Gallery of Entropy) presents with large fallen blocks that have been resting unstably. We really move through an old roof that collapsed in its day.

[LC226. Photo lc226-cave-of-gusnardo-2.jpg Gallery of Entropy]

We come to a point where two options appear clearly. One through which circulates a small watercourse formed by the numerous seeps and another through which a notable current of air circulates. We choose to follow the small watercourse and after going down a very steep ramp, which forces us to install a support rope, it disappears miserably between some small blocks. There is no continuation around here.

[LC226 photo lc226-cave-of-gusnardo-4.jpg]

We go back and we go through a few small galleries that finally converge in the Gallery of Entropy, but which in turn leave us a few possible continuations to review. The time to leave is approaching and we begin the return, but not before taking a look again to confirm that the air current is diverted where we think and that it becomes the next candidate to visit.

Participants: Toñín and Gustavo

12/30/21, 9:34 AM

Exploraciones en Vallina

**From:** vbarraquet@gmail.com,

**To:** juancorrin@matienzo.org.uk,

**Subject:** Exploraciones en Vallina

**Date:** Wed, Dec 29, 2021 8:33 pm

**Attachments:** gal\_blanca.3d (22K), gal\_blanca\_Planta.pdf (310K), gal\_blanca\_3d.lox (321K), topo\_vallina\_vivac\_punta\_12\_3d.lox (313K), topo\_vallina\_vivac\_punta\_12.3d (26K)

Buenas Juan,

Como van las fiestas?

Te paso las topografías que hicimos el puente de diciembre.

En la galería blanca que descubrimos en octubre, seguimos trabajando al final donde hay una corriente de aire y un sonido de agua. Topografié todo lo descubierto y seguí la topografía hasta el tocadome, al día siguiente hice una poligonal desde el punto de enlace C29 (corresponde al punto 2011 de tu survex). Ver archivo Gal\_blanca.3d

También topografié hasta el meandro al E de la New York, donde tras una desobstrucción mis compañeros encontraron un meandro muy interesante con corriente de aire que se debe seguir desobstruyendo. Adjunto la poligonal que la inicié en el Punto de enlace A1 (parte de esta topografía ya te la envié)

Estoy acabando la memoria y el plan de trabajo para el próximo año, cuando lo tenga te lo paso.

Agradecería que me pasaras el survex de vallina.

Espero que acabes de pasar buenas fiestas y un feliz año 2022.

Saludos

(Translation →)



Good Juan,

How are the parties going?

I'll give you the topographies that we did on the December bridge.

In the white gallery that we discovered in October, we continue working at the end where there is a current of air and a sound of water. I surveyed everything discovered and followed the topography until I touched, the next day I made a traverse from the C29 connection point (corresponds to the 2011 point of your survey). See file Gal\_blanca.3d

I also surveyed up to the meander to the E of New York, where after an unobstruction my colleagues found a very interesting meander with a draft that should continue to be unblocked. I am attaching the traverse that I started at Link Point A1 (part of this topography I already sent you)

I am finishing the memory and the work plan for the next year, when I have it I'll pass it on to you.

I would appreciate if you could pass me the survey de vallina.

I hope you just had a good holiday season and a happy new year 2022.

0733

## Matienzo Christmas 2021 Logbook

### 18th December 2021 Di & Si :1900

After arriving in the happy valley we had time for a quick evening trip, so we went to check out **1900** round the corner from Arenal. Using the chisel bit in the drill the passage was enlarged, but not quite enough to squeeze through to the continuation, which the original description mentioned is 'nearly walking height' I suspect this is a bit of an exaggeration! We'll have a return to continue with this one.

### 19th December 2021 Di & Si :1686, 4802, 4803, 4804

We intended to walk up to top of the ridge from Seldesuto, but being behind schedule after picking up the exped gear from Pete Smith we deviated from our original plan. It was a lovely sunny day for a walk and on our way round we inspected **1686** which is indeed a short rift which becomes too narrow after a couple of metres.

**4802**: A clamber down reveals that the way on is a tiny slot. **4803**: A 3m descent the way on is too narrow and choked. **4804**: A 6m descent onto some rotting carcasses the way on being too tight.

### 20th December 2021 Di & Si :2798, 1449, <sup>NEW</sup> 5140, <sup>NEW</sup> 5141, 0810

Another beautiful and warm winters day, so we went for a walk to the top of Mullir fully laden with gear. We descended **2798** as we were passing and it also looks to be the highest cave in Matienzo. Belayed around boulders to descend 3m to a sloping floor which splits, a steep slope closes down after 5m. A second loose shaft directly below the entrance pitch was descended for 5m which also is choked at the bottom.

We then continued to where the undescended 20m shaft of **1449** should be, but it couldn't be located. During the search a hole was spotted near the top of the cliff above the general area where 1449 has been marked on the map, there turned out to be 2 new caves both accessed from above. The first **5140**, 14m long, a hands and knees crawl briefly rises to standing height before a squeeze into an animal's bedroom containing a large dinner plate sized nest of straw which luckily was unoccupied, the cave ends here in a 20cm slot. The second **5141** and the one spotted from below, was a similar length but walking height, it also seemed to be an abandoned animal's home containing a similar nest.

We moved on to **0810**, where we set about enlarging the very tight 3m squeeze onto the second pitch head.

2798 - surveyed length 15m

5140 - surveyed length 14m - 30T 454833 4795478 805m

5141 - surveyed length 14m - 30T 454842 4795464 805m

### 21st December 2021 Di & Si :2134

On paper **2134** seemed a very promising lead, however after several rounds of caps the 'flake' stopping progress turned out to be bedrock and the way on being a drainpipe sized tube. A dud and very disappointing.

2134 - surveyed length 26.2m



22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 Di & Si :0353, 0229, 4178, 0895, 0250

0353 was an undescended shaft due to the entrance being too narrow, this was swiftly rectified and an 8m descent in a 2m x 1m shaft to where at the base what appears to be caveable passage can be seen through a 20cm slot. This was worked until the drill battery ran out.

Being another glorious day and the hottest so far, we continued to the slope at the end of the mushroom field to have another go at relocating 0229, which yet again remained elusive. However, the resurgence 0895 was found by following a hosepipe up the hill and entrance photos taken of 4178. On a small flat meadow 'a shaft which is too narrow' was found in the grass which could be 0250, this was very close to a narrow 3m long cave behind a large bush, the roof comprising of limestone lintels over a grike and looks like a construction so could be an old cold store.

0895 - 30T 453324 4798607 339m

0250 - 30T 453220 4798523 286m

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 Di & Si :0353

Returned to 0353 to cap the constriction at the base of the shaft. A school boy error, Si had forgotten to place the small 3<sup>rd</sup> piece of capping mat onto the front of the rods which prevents the main mat from slipping off, during the first shot the inevitable happened. The capping mat ended up below the constriction, so four holes already loaded with nine caps each had to be fired with only a 20cm square of mat and a tackle bag for protection! Anyway, this nearly opened the hole so after much chiselling the constriction was squeezed through, the mat retrieved and the way on was found to be a too small 10cm rift for at least 3.5m. Bummer.

0353 - surveyed length 17.8m

24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Di & Si :0904

MATIENZO IN THE JUNGLE!

Yet another fine day so we decided to check out the trail from Cruz Usano heading up to Mullir. Once past the meadow and into the trees it's well marked with red paint but a little overgrown. On the way we went looking for 0904 which turned out to be a considerable bushwhack off of the path through thick undergrowth, the Mantienzo jungle really does seem worse than the Mulu rainforests of Borneo – even at Christmas! Eventually the cave was located 90m away from its original position and right on the permit border. A fine 43m shaft was descended with a small ledge halfway, unfortunately heavily calcified it closed at the bottom where a plethora of bones littered the floor including an old dog collar. Returning to the surface a character-building thrash back to the path through the jungle in the dark ensued!

0904 - surveyed length 48.8m - 30T 455787 4794611 497m

24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Big Steve & Badger: 4892

Digging.

25<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Di & Si :1900

Di had a nice Christmas day swim in the Comellantes resurgence, then after a mooch round the Agua entrance we moved on to 1900. The very tight constriction was passed into a body length flat out section, to the left a stal grill blocks progress and to the right a tube is far too tight. Definitely not 'nearly walking height' and not really worth a return!

26<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Di & Si :2080, 2081

2080 was checked and doesn't look very promising, however 2081 was dug open and indeed what seems to be a good looking 10m shaft to a ledge and then disappears out of sight! The cave was draughting in well.

27<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Di, Si & Chris Scaife :2081 Torca Del Muérdago

A considerable amount of gardening on the way down the entrance shaft of 24m, which was split by a ledge at 8m and another rebelay 6m lower. Landing in a fine passage, NE and up a slope chokes after 12m whilst downslope the



floor drops away in a partially choked rift. A bolt traverse reaches a good place for a descent in two pitches of 7m and 10m. At the foot of the pitch the only way out of a small chamber containing a few bones is through a dig in the floor where a large block had to be pulled out. A wriggle and a drop down a vertical slot reaches a tight hammered out pitch head to a p4. The cave opens out festooned in popcorn calcite with a 4m diameter 15m deep pit, traversing round the top of this a good passage is reached but ends all too soon in an aven and a short crawl.

After a grand day's exploring we started to make our way out, Si going first then Chris and Di last, due to the loose nature of the pitches we were going up them one at a time and keeping well out of the way at the bottom. This turned out to be a really good plan as when Chris was going up the entrance slope at the top of the first pitch, a massive coffee table sized slab right over the pitch head slipped by 5cm and threatened to bring the whole thing down blocking the shaft – this was the one we thought was solid! After a tense period of time with Di hiding at the bottom of the entrance series unable to ascend, Chris holding the beast in place, Si managed to levitate back into the cave to lasso the boulder and tie it off on the surface. Phew, as Chris commented it was a 'varied day out'!!

### 27<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Big Steve & Badger : 4892

Digging.

### 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Di & Si :<sup>NEW</sup>5142, <sup>NEW</sup>4659, 2453, 5143, 2081 Torca Del Muérdago

Two days previously Di had spotted what could be a new cave **5142** this turned out to be a 6m choked shaft. Moving onto **4659** there isn't any real prospects here but we surveyed it whilst we were there. Walking past but not descending **2453** the location was checked as accurate. Close to this cave a depression with a walk in rift in the bottom of it **5143** was inspected, a steep descent inside the entrance chokes after 5m.

Not being able to put it off any longer, we returned to **2081** to try and deal with the mess left from the previous day. Two scaffold tubes were pinned to stabilise the blocks over the first pitch, the gaps which had appeared around them were back filled and packed. All in all it's now a much happier place to be!

5142 - surveyed length 6m      30T 452170 4793989 590m

4659 - surveyed length 20m

5143 - surveyed length 11m      30T 452139 4794061 597m

### 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Di, Si & Chris Scaife :2081 Torca Del Muérdago

Everyone was pleased with the state of the entrance, although descending the entrance shaft series one at a time is still highly recommended. A swift descent to the aven at the end of the previous days exploration where Simon climbed up 10m, unfortunately to find what looked like a high level passage closes up and back in the direction we have come the aven ascends steeply and seems very likely to connect to the rift at the top of the second pitch.

We then descended the 15m pit at the base of the tight pitch, where up a short slope a way down a parallel 6m shaft was excavated. At the bottom of this yet another good looking horizontal sandy passage also choked up too soon.

The last lead of the day was a squeeze under the base of the tight pitch which lead to a crawl and another pitch! This was 10m deep with two too tight rifts at the bottom. An uneventful exit was made from the cave.

### 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Di & Si :2081 Torca Del Muérdago

We went to thoroughly check if any other higher-level ways on could be seen from the bolt climb, they were all alcoves so the climbing rope was pulled through. Moving onto the pitch found at the end of the previous day, traversing over the top of it to a ledge a hole at the top of it was excavated. This revealed another tightish pitch 0.5 - 0.75m wide which drops into one of the too tight rifts from the neighbouring shaft, more digging is required to enter this. However, this is guarded by a huge wall of steeply overhanging mega death choss above the opening, which is topped by some big precarious looking boulders, it all appears to be very loosely attached to the wall and 'ready to go'. Maybe this could be brought down safely with a long crow bar, maybe not. Attempts to climb up and over it were thwarted when seemingly good hand and foot holds kept giving way.

On the way out, at the wriggle above the tight pitch where a boulder had to be winched out to allow progress, a portable hammond organ and microwave sized boulders which we had been squeezing over slid as Di was passing, who had to hold them in place whilst Si caught up. This section is now looking rather unstable, luckily we had



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derigged all of the lower pitches so a return is not necessary.  
Another eventful exit from the cave!

### 31<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Di & Si :2081 Torca Del Muérdago

The final lead in Mistletoe pot was climbing up to the roof above the second pitch and traversing at this level. The first major obstacle was tiptoeing past three very large sleeping rhinos wedged in the top of the rift and are seemingly levitating, luckily they were sound asleep. The roof traverse continued with deep holes in the floor and the rock becoming increasingly poor, necessitating excavating a hole in the wall to try and find hard limestone for each bolt placement. Eventually the rope, drill battery, bolts and available time all ran out together, the passage and rope ending at a deep 5m diameter shaft 10-15m deep with the roof tunnel continuing on the other side. The rock here is incredibly poor, resembling a cross between Manchego and crumbly Lancashire cheeses, so making a belay to descend the pitch is going to be interesting. The traverse so far has consumed 67m of rope and 12 bolts. An uneventful exit was made from the cave.

### 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 Di & Si :2081 Torca Del Muérdago

The 15m pit at the end of the traverse above the second pitch was finally dropped after much gardening, placing two high bolts and gaining the far side of the shaft which provided a suitable free hang. The walls of this shaft largely comprise of massive sheets of detached calcite crust so carefully tiptoeing down and up the rope is highly recommended. At the base a short climb down back under the way we came enters a roomy chamber, the rift from the passage above drops in down the left hand wall and so does any falling debris. Where you step down into this chamber was a pile of half-buried bones, as this is right where a caver would tread and any debris would roll to, we decided to move them to a safer location in the chamber. It is guessed that these are the remnants of a bear.

Back at the top of the shaft, Si had a quick look of what lay beyond the continuing high level traverse, another similar depth pitch dropping into what may be a chamber was seen. Fortunately, another uneventful exit was made from the cave.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022 Di & Si :0810

Some two weeks earlier we had left a stash of gear in the 0810 shakehole ready for pushing this cave, which now needed retrieving. Due to an underestimation of how many spare bolts had been left (zero) we only had two with us to descend the big pitch. Luckily, we had already installed bolts for the main y-hang so with two well placed deviations, a bolt 4m below the y-hang in the main shaft and lassoing a block on the big ledge, a single descent was made to the bottom.

An interesting cave with loads of small parallel shafts which all seem to interconnect or are blind. As previously described the way on is a calcited 15cm wide 3m long slot with a big drop on the other side. As we only had the bolting drill five extra deep capping holes were fired making good progress, with a big drill and sufficient battery power this constriction could be passed after a good capping session and well worth while dragging all the kit up the hill to do it.

0810 - surveyed length 61m

### 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 Di & Si :2081 Torca Del Muérdago

Returning to drop the next shaft on the traverse at the top of the second pitch. This was a 13m descent into a chamber, with a large old calcite flow blocking progress and the rift back to the bear bone pit was also choked. So, back at the top of the pitch Si continued the crazy rope traverse through a squeeze, over the top of the chamber and very fragile false floors, another squeeze up to emerge into caveable passage. Around 100m of passage in very friable rock passing three undescended holes ended abruptly at a window into a large drippy 3m diameter 38m shaft, 15m up and 23m down. Retreating back, a side passage was surveyed which also had a small slot overlooking the shaft. Whilst trying to get a shot the distoX2 was seemingly sucked out of Si's hand and disappeared into the void, we suspect that the impending Perihelion must have somehow had an influence on this unfortunate situation! Returning to get the kit we dropped the shaft, the last rope being only just long enough to retrieve the smashed up disto. A short climb down gave a view of another pitch of around 15m with water flowing down it and the passage gaining in size. Can't believe we have to wait until Easter to continue this exploration!



The entrance was derigged, which needs 40m rope and 7 maillons/hangers. The traverse was left rigged as was the final pitch down the dribbly aven. Gear left in the cave: Traverse = 45m, 22m, 57m (approx. 15m cut off) total 109m rope & 26maillons/hangers, 1 sling & maillon. Smashed disto pitch = 28m rope & 3 maillons/hangers.

Notes:

- Due to the very friable nature of the rock throughout this cave and several near misses, it is highly recommended that entrance pitches are descended one at a time from the surface and calling rope free only when well out of the way at the bottom, as anything falling down the entrance will hit a descending potholer.
- The rope traverse passes numerous sections of large loose and very dubious rock, so careful and delicate caving is required along its length as hand & foot holds can and have regularly broken off.
- During the exploration we were blessed with continuous excellent dry and sunny weather, so it is unknown how the stability of the entrance and the entrance pitches would be affected by heavy rain. This should be closely inspected upon the next visit before descending.

2081 - surveyed length 560m

**3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 Big Steve & Pete Smith :4892**

Digging

**4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

After three weeks of fantastic weather and wall to wall sunshine, it pissed it down all day on our final full day, we weren't that desperate caving in the rain!

**5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 Di, Si, Big Steve and Susie: 4892**

A final quick trip on the way to the ferry. Big Steve had been unable to fire his last capping hole from his previous trip, as our gear was available we obliged and chiselled off a load of loose rock as well. After yesterday's heavy rain the water level was 20cm below the last capping hole and seemed quite deep, apparently this is usually dry.

What an all-round full on and absolutely awesome trip to Matienzo!!!

**From:** big\_stevemartin@hotmail.com,

**To:** uzueka@aol.com,

**Subject:** 4892 Rincon Flood Resurgence.

**Date:** Thu, Jan 6, 2022 12:08 pm

3 digging/capping sessions over Christmas and New year 2022.

24/12 Big Steve and Tony Radmall (Badger)

27/12 Big Steve and Badger

3/1/2022 Big Steve and Pete Smith.

3 sessions capping and rock removal from the left hand wall of slot down to deep sounding water went well and good progress made.

Last session it was draughting out on a cool day but had to end due to capping problems.

A quick trip was made before catching the ferry by Simon Cornhill to fire caps left from 3rd.

Heavy rain all day on the 4th brought the water level up by a meter and the actual resurgence was in full spate.

Big Steve.



6/1/22

Coordinates for **0726 Charcas** from "Llambriales Carlos"

43.320346 3.592512 = 0.451.957 4.796.560 Alt 336m

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## **MATIENZO CAVES PROJECT**