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## **Human remains from the artificial cave of São Pedro do Estoril II (Cascais, Portugal)<sup>1</sup>**

The present paper gives the results of the anthropological study of the human remains from the artificial cave of São Pedro do Estoril II (2300-2500 B.C.). These chalcolithic remains were fragmentary and incomplete, which made their analysis difficult.

### **Introduction**

The artificial cave of São Pedro do Estoril II (SPE II) is located near the Lisbon - Cascais marginal road on a small Peninsula, which expands into the ocean, near to the beach of São Pedro do Estoril (figure 1) (Leisner *et al.*, 1964).

This chalcolithic hypogeum belongs to a necropolis composed of at least 2 caves built very close to one another (15m) on the cliff above the ocean. Since the coast line has suffered many alterations in the last 5000 years, the hypothesis cannot be excluded of the existence of more caves that are now destroyed or partially collapsed (Gonçalves, 1992/94). This necropolis was identified by Leonel Ribeiro in April of 1944; both caves were excavated during the summer of that year. All the recovered remains were given to the Museum Condes Castro de Guimarães, where they are housed to this day. Twenty years later the report with the results of the excavation was published (Leisner *et al.*, 1964). Then in 1990 the Museum requested an anthropological study of the human bones.

Figure 1: Location of the Hypogeu of São Pedro do Estoril II.



<sup>1</sup> This paper was presented on the VIIIth Congress of the European Anthropological Association. Madrid (Spain), 7-10/9/1992, and revised in 1997/8.