

SUBACHOQUE VALLEY  
ROCK ART SITES



SITE NUMBER: 9 (CuSubGaPi002)

SITE NAME: El Arrayan

VEREDA: Galdames

FINCA: El Arrayan

OWNER: Manuel Gonzalez

TYPE OF ROCK ART: Red pictographs

ALTITUDE: 3,111 meters per GPS; 2,950 per altimeter

DISCOVERED BY: Harry Marriner (southwest facing group) and Jorge Ruge (south facing group)

DOCUMENTED BY: Harry Marriner and Jorge Ruge 29 May 1997 and Harry Marriner, Jorge Ruge and Ivan Fernando Cuellar 2 June 1997.

**DESCRIPTION AND ORIENTATION:** Two groups of well-preserved red pictographs are located in a small patch of native forest in the center of a steep, cleared field, on the south (facing 180 degrees True) and southwest (facing 225 degrees True) vertical faces of a large box-shaped sandstone rock approximately 5 meters wide at the base by 14 meters long and 6 meters tall. The highest part of the mountain ridge pass is located 300 meters from the site at 3,015 meters altitude (per altimeter). The southwest facing group is a complex, organized, and well-drawn group of parallel lines, zigzag lines, joined lozenge shapes, and a grid form contained in an area 1.5 meters tall by 2.3 meters wide. Many lichens and moss may hide other pictographs. The south facing group, located 7 meters to the east of the southwest facing group, is a small, complex painting 16 cms. tall by 16 cms. wide. A wing-shaped figure with 16 "feather" lines is below 4 "U" shaped forms. Two of the U's have dots inside. A curved line with 11 short lines on the upper side contains other lines on the bottom side forming two boxes joined to each other and the curved line. Fingers may have been used to paint these pictographs.

**OBSERVATIONS AND HISTORY:** The short lines of the south-facing group may be day or time markers and the curved forms may possibly represent lunar phases. This south-facing group of motifs appears to be more recent than the southwest-facing group which is more heavily weathered and not as well preserved.

Nearby is an old trail from Tabio to Subachoque, once used by Tabio Indians to travel to Subachoque, once a Muisca Indian marketplace. The steep field surrounding the site is presently used for planting potatoes and grazing cattle. There is no level spot in the area that would serve for the base for a habitation site except for one small terrace 200 mtrs northeast of the pictographs near a spring on the old trail from Tabio. Cerro Juaica hill, sacred to the Muisca Indians, is located approximately 1.5 kms. to the south of the site.

