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The pre-Roman elements of the Sardinian lexicon

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I

Introduction

The aim of this work is to increase our understanding of the linguistic prehistory of pre-Roman Sardinia. Traces of extinct languages spoken in Sardinia before its romanization are preserved in the toponymy and lexicon of the modern Sardinian language varieties, which descend from Latin. This study focuses on the lexical evidence. It consists of five parts, corresponding to the research objectives that will allow us to shed light on the nature and affiliation of the languages of pre-Roman Sardinia.

- Part I provides an overview of the history of research on the pre-Roman languages of Sardinia (§ 1) and establishes a methodology for the analysis and interpretation of the lexical evidence (§ 2).
- Part II presents and discusses the relevant lexical evidence, organized by semantic field (§ 3 – 7).
- Part III examines the lexical evidence for structural properties of pre-Roman Sardinian, specifically in the phonological (§ 8) and morphological (§ 9) domains.
- Part IV aims to uncover the linguistic affiliation of pre-Roman Sardinian, by evaluating a number of previously proposed hypotheses on this topic (§ 10), and by analyzing the geographic distributions of pre-Roman cognates found within and outside Sardinia (§ 11).
- Part V summarizes and synthesizes the findings into an updated view of our understanding of the linguistic prehistory of Sardinia, and proposes possible further avenues of research (§ 12).