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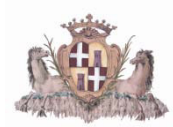
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Tipiditappi



*Sughero d'albero fatto a pezzetti,
tipi di tappi , quelli che vuoi.
Tagliali lunghi, tagliali stretti,
tipi di tappi, fatti da noi.
Taglialo bene, taglialo tondo,
tipi di tappi, quanti ne vuoi.
Tappi di sughero per tutto il mondo,
tipi di tappi fatti da noi.*
(Cecchi-Tognolini, Filastrocche e Canzoni)

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERIZATION AND CORK OAK PRESENCE BY TOPONYMS IN SARDINIA: AN ETHNOECOLOGICAL APPROACH.

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Phyto-toponymy sources can represent a useful ethnoecological instrument to retrace environmental history of places, like conservative milestones of local memory and linguistic relicts. Plant names could help in investigating land use changes phenomena as well as local glossaries of traditional knowledge and uses of environmental resources by local communities.

This work analyzes cork oak toponyms in Sardinia aiming at (i) resuming the ecological gradient of environmental factors behind vernacular names of place, (ii) testing a methodology to evaluate if conservative meaning of plant names respects the potential vegetation of Cork Oak as dominant forest species and (iii) actual land use.

Toponyms database of Autonomous Region of Sardinia has been used as fundamental information for the study. Database place names come from several cartographic sources overlaying, gathering and merging records from different maps with vernacular names verified from historical cartography.

Results show that phyto-toponyms related to Cork Oak presence are distributed all over the island, from 0 up to 1,000, with highest record between 300-400 meters a.s.l. (17% of total), especially under lower meso-mediterranean - lower sub-humid (36%) and lower meso-mediterranean - upper dry (17%), both weak euoceanic bioclimatic conditions. The 42% of the toponyms falls in the two potential vegetation series for cork oak in Sardinia: *Violo dehnhardtii-Quercetum suberis* and *Galio scabri-Quercetum suberis*. Concerning actual land use cover, the toponyms are included in broadleaves forest (16%), Mediterranean maquis (14%), garrigue (8%) and in various agricultural land use classes.

Records have been also clusterized concerning mean value of spatial density/square km per each historical sub-region of Sardinia, landscape morpho-toponyms and vernacular roots, in order to explore and to identify common local uses and shared traditions in cork oak toponymy.

Keywords: *cultural landscape; vernacular names; Sardinia; Q. suber; ethnoecology;*