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LEXICON OF THE GREEK AND ROMAN CITIES

CEPHALAE - CHALCIDICE

LEXICON OF THE GREEK AND ROMAN CITIES AND PLACE NAMES IN ANTIQUITY

Ca 1500 B.C. - Ca A.D. 500

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Walker, *Griechische und römische Portraits*, Stuttgart 1999.

A. Delahaye

Cesernia/Ceserina/Cessernia/Ceserma/Cersenia, Italia, refers to a settlement placed between the ancient cities of Blanda and Buxentum. F. La Greca places Cesernia at the site of Sapri-Vibo (Lucania). Tarlano proposes the Roman villa at La Secca near Castrocucco. Other proposed locations so far are Capo La Timpa, near Maratea, and the Isle of Santo Janni (Santoianni). The place name is referred to in the segment grid 6B1 of the *Tabula Peutingeriana*. The distance among settlements is not correctly drawn on the ancient map. The toponym is also mentioned in the anonymous Cosmography of Ravenna of the 7-8th century as Cessernia/Cersenia (Geogr. Rav. IV 32): *Item iuxta mare Gallicum est civitas quae dicitur Bibona Balentia, item Tanum Tempsa Clampetia Cerellis Laminium Blandas Cessernia Buxentum Bellias Pestum Silarum Surentum Stabium Sarnum.* Guido of Pisa (*Geogr*. 74) mentioned in the 12th century the settlement among other cities of the Tyrrhenian coast: *quod Tyrrenum civitas est Bibona Valentia, Tenno, Tempsa, Clampetia, Herculis, Cerellis, Laminium, Blandas, Cesernia, Veneris, Buxonia, Bellia, Herculia, Pestum quae est destructa nunc*…

I.E.M. Edlund Berry, A.M. Small, DARMC, R. Talbert, Sean Gillies, Tom Elliott, and Jeffrey Becker, *Cesernia: a Pleiades place resource*, Pleiades: A Gazetteer of Past Places, 2023, https://pleiades.stoa.org/places/452297 (accessed: 02 october 2023); I.E.M. Edlund Berry, A.M. Small, DARMC, R. Talbert, Sean Gillies, Tom Elliott, and Jeffrey Becker, *Isola S. Janni: a Pleiades place resource*, Pleiades: A Gazetteer of Past Places, 2023, https://pleiades.stoa.org/places/452345 (accessed: 02 October 2023); F. La Greca, *L'area del Golfo di Policastro in epoca greco-romana. Storia*, in A. Capanno, A. La Greca, A. Migliorino, *Temi per una storia di Torraca,* Centro di promozione culturale del Cilento, Acciaroli 2010; K. Miller, *Cesernia*, in *Itineraria Romana: Römische Reisewege an der Hand der Tabula Peutingeriana*, Stuttgart 1916; J.A. Talbert (ed.), *Cesernia in Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World, with Map-by-Map Directory*, Princeton-Oxford 2000; F. Tarlano, *Maratea, archeologia di un paesaggio costiero: un quaadro diacrónico*, Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio della Basilicata. https://www.ancientportsantiques.com/wp-content/uploads/Documents/PLACES/ItalyWest/Maratea-Tarlano2021.pdf (accessed: 02 October 2023]).

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A. López García

Cesero/**Cessero** (nowadays Saint Thibéry), is a small village in the lower Hérault valley nestled at the foot of the small volcanic chain called "Les Mons Ramus", located at the confluence of the Hérault and its tributary of the Tongue. The region was called Cessero until the 9th century AD, when the Benedictine abbey was built in honor of Tiberius, son of the Roman governor of the city of Adga, martyred at the age of ten in 303. The town called Saint Thibéry has been named after the abbey.
According to the author of a study on the origin of the name, which has been published in a cantonal journal with limited circulation, Cessero would be a Gallic word *KER ROSS*, supposedly derived from Dacian, which would have led to believe that Cessero had received this name due to its location in a damp place, or near a damp place where chickweed grew.
The presence of basalt rocks forming the base of the *oppidum* seems to indicate that the word *Cessero* is composed of the root *KER* meaning "rock", used reduplicated as it is frequent in ancient names with orographic or hydrographic meaning and formed from Pre-Indo-European roots, and the toponymic suffix *O-ONEM* (Massal 1979, p. 158). The prototype would therefore be *KER LER O, KER KER ONEM*, and the first meaning would have been: "site built and inhabited on rocks" (Massal 1979, p. 159).
This interpretation is justified by the discoveries of excavations carried out on this site by Couloma and Claustres (1943) and adopted by Massal (1979, p. 159). Couloma and Claustres showed that the people of the Chalcolithic and Iron Age chose this place to settle, probably because of its excellent defensive position and its proximity to two rivers which allowed them to have easy access to food and water supplies in this place where no groundwater exists.
Another explanation of the name is presented by J. Untermann (1973). He stated that this evokes the ethnic "Cessetani" in Catalonia, which could derive from a place name and is related to the legend *KESE*, which appears on the pre-Roman coins of Tarragona. The suffix *ERO* could be considered a variant of *ERRE*, which is known through *BAETERRAS* and *SETERRAS*.
Archaeological excavations have revealed that the *oppidum* of Cessero had been inhabited since the Iron Age (Louis, Taffanel, 1955, 151-152).
Around the 7th and 6th centuries BC, the Ligurians and the Iberians settled on the edge of the Languedoc coastline. According to the sources cited by Aviénus, the Ligurians or Elysiques would be installed in the lower plains of Aude, Orb and Hérault, from Cape Leucate to Cape d'Agde (Barruol 1973, p. 52). According to the same sources, the Oranus, a river near the Etang de Thau, would be the border between the Iberian territory and the Ligurian territory (Barruol 1973, p. 52, note 14).
After the Ligurians and Iberians had been installed, Greek navigators took up residence in the region of the lower Hérault valley and established trading posts in Agde, Monédière-Bessab, Florensac (Mont-Jouy), Valros (le Pirou), Cessero. The excavations by Coulouma and Claustres in 1942-1943 at the Cessero site revealed, in addition to prehistoric and indigenous pottery, Ionian and Attic ceramics.
Later, the Volques settled in the region occupied today by Languedoc. The *Volcae Arecomici* had as limits the Rhône and the Hérault; the Volcae Tectosagi occupied the territory extended between Toulouse and the Hérault river.
During Antiquity, Cessero was of great importance (Untermann 1973, p. 164) for its location near the Araur River (Hérault), which made it possible to watch over the passage of this watercourse from the *Via Domitia* and, previously, from the *Via Heraklia*. Pliny ranks Cessero among the *oppida latina* and considers it a *mansio* on one of these paths (*Nat. Hist.* 50.3, 100.4). Ptolemy indicates that the route to Rodez came from this city.
The name of Cessero is found in the *Table of Peuringer* (also known as *Tabula Peutingeriana* or *Peutinger Table*), an illustrated *itinerarium* showing the road network of the Roman Empire, on the Apollinarian vases and in the *Itinerary from Bordeaux to Jerusalem* (aka *Itinerarium Burdigalense* or *Hierosolymitanum*), the older know Christian *itinerarium*.
A necropolis was discovered during excavations in 1972 (Fiches, Massal, 1972). Considering the coins as well as the numerous vases and potteries coming from Graufesenque, the necropolis can be dated between 25-125 AD.
According to Pliny, three ancient routes crossed the territory of Cessero: the *Via Herculea*, the *Via Domitia* and the Mercadale route. The *Via Herculea* (also called *Via Heraklea*) was used during the first invasions and the first movements of migratory peoples. It owes its name to Heracles, who followed it on one of his journeys during which he accomplished one of his famous exploits. Its