

Map 95 Tylos

Compiled by D.T. Potts, 1995

Introduction

The map can show few ancient toponyms, hydronyms and ethnonyms. Rather, it is dominated by the modern names of archaeological sites at which important finds of Greco-Roman origin, or of a Greco-Roman-related nature, have been made. The reason is quite simply that this area lay largely beyond the ken of ancient authors such as Strabo, Pliny and Ptolemy, whose works show little familiarity with the landscape. Theophrastus' works contain important detail on the natural history of ancient Bahrain, but no toponyms apart from Tylos. The city of Gerra (possibly modern Thaj) was reasonably familiar to a number of authors, but the precise locations of minor settlements and tribes were not. In many cases it is particularly difficult to be certain whether or not an east Arabian toponym or ethnonym falls within the limited scope of Map 95, and I have therefore listed most unlocated toponyms in the Directory for Map 4.

The most recent studies of the geomorphology of coastal Arabia reveal evidence of very minor fluctuations in sea level during the later Holocene era. Around Bahrain, for example, sea levels may have been slightly lower in the last centuries B.C. and first centuries A.D. than they are today, with the consequence that the shoreline near the great mound of Qalat al-Bahrain was further north than at present. Along the coast of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates (Map 95, inset), sea level fluctuations during the Iron Age and Hellenistic periods are thought to have eroded the margins of a series of coastal lagoons, which resulted in "coastal" settlement being situated at points well inland from the modern shoreline (Sanlaville 1987, 216, 218). Along most of the lower Gulf coast, however, it would be impossible—in the absence of detailed, local studies—to represent graphically the shoreline of the Classical through Late Antique periods with any confidence. For this reason I have not attempted to modify the course of the Gulf coast, but have left it as it appears on modern maps.

Rather, the more pressing problem is to come to terms with the mass of toponyms and ethnonyms preserved in the ancient literary sources relating to this area, for which nothing but the most speculative identifications exist. Although scholars such as Forbiger (1844), Sprenger (1875), Schnetz (1920), von Wissmann (1967; RE articles), Groom (1994) and myself (1990) have proposed a number of identifications, none has been confirmed by epigraphic evidence, and in the absence of further evidence they can only be considered conjectural.

Directory

Names

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
C3	<i>Abu Saybi</i>	HR	BAH	Herling 1993, 163
B3	<i>Ain Jawan</i>	R	BAH	Potts 1993a
C3	<i>al-Hajjar</i>	HR	BAH	Herling 1993, 163
A2	<i>al-Hinna</i>	H	SAU	Potts 1990, 102
C3	<i>al-Khobar</i>	HR	SAU	Potts 1990, 216-17
C3	Arados/ Tylos Minor?/ Athrotradus? Ins.	HR	Muharraq BAH	Sprenger 1875.147, 154, 155; Potts 1990, 125-27
inset	Asabon M.	HR	Hajar Mts. OMN / UAE	Sprenger 1875.140, 141, 143, 323; RE Suppl. 11 Zeeritai, col. 1352; Groom 1994, 203

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
B4	Asabon Pr. = Maketa Pr.	HR	SAU	Potts 1990, 57-58
inset	<i>ash-Sha'ba</i>	R	UAE	Mouton 1992, 171-73
	<i>Asimah</i>			
	Athrottradus? Ins.= Arados			
	Ins.			
B4	Attene/ Chattenia	HR	around Hofuf SAU	Sprenger 1875.149, 160, 170, 183, 185; RE Suppl. 11 Zamareni, col. 1335
inset	<i>Bidya</i>	R	UAE	Mouton 1992, 170-71
C3	Capeus? Sinus	HR	Qatif bay	Sprenger 1875.149
	Carra? = <i>Thaj</i>			
D4	Catharrei/ Cataraei Chattenia = Attene	HR	QAT	Sprenger 1875.149
C3	<i>Dammam</i>	HR	SAU	Potts 1990, 100, 216
C3	<i>Darin</i>	HRL	SAU	Sprenger 1875.152; Beaucamp 1983
C3	<i>Dhahran</i>	HR	SAU	Potts 1990, 53-56
inset	<i>Dibba</i>	R	UAE	Potts 1990, 332
C4	Eualenoi	L	BAH	Potts 1990, 308-309
	<i>Gerra? = Thaj</i>			
B2	Gerraius? Sinus	HR	Jubayl harbor	von Wissmann 1967, 500; RE
inset	<i>Ghallah</i>	RL	UAE	Mouton 1992, 181-82
inset	Hiera Heliou Pr.	HR	OMN	Forbiger 1844, 737; Groom 1994, 200
B4	<i>Hofuf</i>	HR	SAU	Potts 1990, 86-87, 218
B3	<i>Jabal Berri</i>	RL	SAU	Potts 1990, 203-204
B4	<i>Jabal Kenzan</i>	HR	SAU	Potts 1990, 66-67
C3	<i>Janussan</i>	HR	BAH	Herling 1993, 163-64
inset	<i>Jazirat al-Ghanam</i>	L	OMN	Mouton 1992, 183-85
inset	<i>Jazirat Hulayla</i>	RL	UAE	Kennet 1994
C3	<i>Karranah</i>	HR	BAH	Herling 1993, 164
	Macaе = Mykoi			
inset	Maketa/ Asabon Pr.	HR	Ras Musandam OMN	Sprenger 1875.143; Potts 1990, 301; Groom 1994, 203
inset	<i>Mleiha</i>	HR	UAE	Mouton 1992
inset	Mykoi/ Macaе	C/ HR	OMN / UAE	Potts 1985, 81-85; 1990, 14, 300-301, 323
inset	Omana?	HR	ed-Dur UAE	Potts 1990, 274-91, 306-10
B2	Persicus Sinus			See Map 3
C3	<i>Qalat al-Bahrain</i>	HRL	BAH	Lombard 1993
B3	<i>Qatif</i>	HRL	SAU	Potts 1990, 208-12
D4	Taboca	HRL	Qatar	Schnetz 1920, 400
inset	<i>Tell Abraç</i>	RL	UAE	Potts 1994
A3	<i>Thajl</i>	HRL	SAU	Schnetz 1920, 399-400; RE Suppl. 11
	<i>Gerra?/ Carra?</i>			Uranios, cols. 1282, 1287; Potts 1990, 85-97; 1993
	§ Gerraioi			
	§ Carrei			
C3	Thilouanoi	R	BAH	Potts 1990, 145-49
C3	Tylos Ins. Tylos Minor? Ins.= Arados Ins.	HR	Bahrain	Potts 1990, 125-44

Mine

Grid	Location	Period	Material	Reference
B4	N Jabal Kenzan SAU	HR	Salt	Potts 1990, 56-58

Unlocated Toponyms

Name	Period	Probable Location	Reference
Attaioi	R	SAU	Sprenger 1875.168; von Wissmann 1967, 501
Biavana	R	SAU	Sprenger 1875.184, 271
Calingi	R	SAU	Sprenger 1875.291
Capsina	R	UAE	Sprenger 1875.166, 280; Groom 1994, 200-201
Gattaei	HR		von Wissmann 1967, 500
Istriana	R		Sprenger 1875.190
Kabana/ Kauana	R		Sprenger 1875.167; Groom 1994, 204
Kadara	R		Sprenger 1875.168, 176
Murannimal fl.	R	R. Hofuf? SAU	Sprenger 1875.291; RE Suppl. 11 Uranios, col. 1287, Zamareni, col. 1334
Ravana/ Rouana	R		Sprenger 1875.281; Groom 1994, 203
Sarkoe	R		Sprenger 1875.168, 175

Bibliography**Beaucamp 1983**

J. Beaucamp and C. Robin, "L'évêché nestorien de Mâšmâhîg dans l'archipel d'al-Bahrayn (V^e-IX^e siècle)," in D.T. Potts (ed.), *Dilmun: New studies in the archaeology and early history of Bahrain*, pp. 171-96, Berlin, 1983.

Forbiger 1844

A. Forbiger, *Handbuch der alten Geographie aus den Quellen bearbeitet*, vol. 2, Leipzig, 1844.

Groom 1994

N. Groom, "Oman and the Emirates in Ptolemy's map," *AAE* 5 (1994) 198-214.

Herling 1993

A. Herling and J.-F. Salles, "Hellenistic cemeteries in Bahrain," in U. Finkbeiner (ed.), *Materialien zur Archäologie der Seleukiden- und Partherzeit im südlichen Babylonien und im Golfgebiet*, pp. 161-82, Tübingen, 1993.

Kennet 1994

D. Kennet, "Jazirat al-Hulayla - early Julfar," *JRAS* Ser. 3.4.2 (1994) 163-212.

Lombard 1993

P. Lombard and M. Kervran, "Les niveaux 'hellénistiques' du Tell de Qal'at al-Bahrain. Données préliminaires," in U. Finkbeiner (ed.), *Materialien zur Archäologie der Seleukiden- und Partherzeit im südlichen Babylonien und im Golfgebiet*, pp. 127-60, Tübingen, 1993.

Mouton 1992

M. Mouton, "La péninsule d'Oman de la fin de l'Âge du Fer au début de la période sassanide (250 av.-340 ap. JC)," diss., Université de Paris I, 1992.

Potts 1985

D.T. Potts, "From Qadê to Mazûn: Four notes on Oman, c. 700 BC to 700 AD," *Journal of Oman Studies*, 8 (1985) 81-95.

Potts 1990

D.T. Potts, *The Arabian gulf in antiquity, vol. 2: From Alexander the Great to the coming of Islam*, Oxford, 1990.

Potts 1993

D.T. Potts, "The sequence and chronology of Thaj," in U. Finkbeiner (ed.), *Materialien zur Archäologie der Seleukiden- und Partherzeit im südlichen Babylonien und im Golfgebiet*, pp. 87-110, Tübingen, 1993.

Potts 1993a

D.T. Potts, "The sequence and chronology of Ayn Jawan," in U. Finkbeiner (ed.), *Materialien zur Archäologie der Seleukiden- und Partherzeit im südlichen Babylonien und im Golfgebiet*, pp. 111-26, Tübingen, 1993.

Potts 1994

D.T. Potts, "South and Central Asian elements at Tell Abraq (Emirate of Umm al-Qaiwain, United Arab Emirates), c. 2200 B.C. - 900 A.D.," in A. Parpola and P. Koskikallio (eds.), *South Asian Archaeology 1993*, vol. 2, pp. 615-28, Helsinki, 1994.

Sanlaville 1987

P. Sanlaville, R. Dalongeville, J. Evin and R. Paskoff, "Modification du tracé littoral sur la côte arabe du Golfe Persique en relation avec l'archéologie," in *Déplacements des lignes de rivage en Méditerranée* (Editions du CNRS), pp. 211-22, Paris, 1987.

Schnetz 1920

J. Schnetz, *Arabien beim Geographen von Ravenna*, Tübingen, 1920.

Sprenger 1875

A. Sprenger, *Die alte Geographie Arabiens als Grundlage der Entwicklungsgechichte des Semitismus*, Bern, 1875.

von Wissmann 1967

H. von Wissmann, "Zur Kenntnis von Ostarabien, besonders al-Qatîf, im Altertum," *Le Muséon* 80 (1967) 489-512.