Roberto M. Dan

ISMEO –The International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies, Ph.D in Archeology

roberto_dan@hotmail.it

ID 0000-0001-7597-9792

ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF URARTU

SOME REMARKS ON THE POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SARD(A)UR(R)IANA MENTIONED BY TIGLATH-PILESER III WITH SARDURIḪINILI[*]

Abstract

Among the various places mentioned in the Assyrian sources in connection with the events that followed the battle of Kištan and Ḫalpi (743 BCE), the toponym Sardaurriana/Sardurriana stands out as particularly enigmatic. Cited in the context of a military campaign in 736 BCE, part of Tiglath-pileser III's broader offensive launched in the aftermath of the 743 BCE confrontation against the coalition led by Sarduri II, son of Argišti of Urartu, and several Syro-Hittite rulers, Sard(a)ur(r)iana is listed among the Urartian fortresses annexed by the Assyrians in the region beyond Mount Nal. This

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article presents a critical reassessment of the available textual evidence-both Assyrian and Urartian-with the aim of exploring the hypothesis that Sard(a)ur(r)iana may correspond to the Urartian fortress Sarduriḫinili, founded by Sarduri II and likely located near the Euphrates, in the area of modern Elâzığ. By examining the historical, geographical, and epigraphic contexts, this study seeks to shed new light on this possible identification and, more broadly, on the Assyrian military operations along the western frontier of Urartu.

Key words: Kištan and Ḫalpi, Tiglath-pileser III, Sarduri II, Urartu, Sard(a)ur(r)iana, Sarduriḫinili.

Introduction

The famous clash that occurred in the area between Kištan and Ḫalpi in 743 BCE remains one of the most significant and pivotal events in the history of the ancient Near East during the first millennium BCE.[1] This battle represented crucial confrontation between the Neo-Assyrian Empire, led by Tiglath-pileser III (744-727 BCE)[2], and a coalition that included Bia/Urartu, commanded by Sarduri II, son of Argišti (756-about 730 BCE)[3], along with several Neo-Hittite states. Among these were Melid, led by Sulumal, and Gurgum, under the leadership

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[1] The images in this article are by Mirjo Salvini, whom I warmly thank and with whom I had the pleasure of travelling through these western lands of Urartu, except for Fig. 1, which was produced by the author of this contribution. I would also like to thank Marie-Claude Trémouille for her valuable suggestions.

[2] Chronological references for the reigns of the Assyrian kings follow **Frahm**. 2017.

[3] Chronological references for the reigns of the Urartian kings follow **Salvini**. 2018, 18.

of Tarḫulara[4]. These factions clashed at a time when the balance of power in the region was shifting, with the Assyrians aggressively expanding their territory, while Urartu and the Syro-Hittite states sought to maintain their independence and territorial integrity. In Urartian documentation, the only direct reference to the battle's aftermath is found in the annals of Sarduri II, where the city of Ḫalpa (URUḫa-al-pa-ni)[5] is mentioned once, albeit briefly (CTU A 9-3 IV, 50'). This reference appears in the context of a military campaign conducted along the western border of the Urartian kingdom, suggesting that the Urartians were defending their territories against Assyrian incursions. The city of Ḫalpa is described as being part of the larger region of Qummuḫ/Qumaḫa, which was a strategically significant area for both the Urartians and their adversaries. Other cities in this region, such as Uita and Parala, which were also attacked by the Urartians, are mentioned as part of this network of frontier strongholds, highlighting the strategic importance of the western border for the security of Urartu. The Neo-Assyrian sources, particularly the annals of Tiglath-pileser III discovered in Nimrud, provide a more detailed account of the

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[4] **Hawkins**. 2000, 285.

[5] The toponym Ḫalpi/Ḫalpa has been variously identified in the scholarly literature. It has often been associated with the modern site of Halfeti (**Forrer**. 1920, 79; **Adontz**. 1946, 92; **D'jakonov**. 1951, 42; **Harutjunjan**. 1970, 259; **Melikišvili**. 1960, 429; **Harutjunjan**. 1985, 222), or placed near the lake by Gölbaşı (**Astour**. 1979, 13-14; **Salvini**. 1995, 75; **Hawkins**. 2000, 331; **Salvini**. 2006, 488; **Blaylock**. 2009, 29). Another hypothesis locates it at the mouth of the Merzumen River (**Harutjunjan**. 2001, 507), corresponding to the site of the Rum fortress (**Adontz**. 1946, 92).

battle of Kištan and Ḫalpi[6] and the subsequent events. The main objective of this article is to critically reassess the toponym Sardaurriana/Sardurriana (Sard(a)ur(r)iana)[7], as mentioned in the Assyrian sources in connection with the 736 BCE military campaign that followed the events of 743 BCE-namely, the clashes at Kištan and Ḫalpi-and to explore the hypothesis that this name may correspond to the Urartian fortress of Sarduriḫinili. This stronghold, founded by King Sarduri II and attested epigraphically near the modern site of Bahçecik in the Elâzığ region, likely played a key role in the western defensive system of Urartu, serving as the seat of a Urartian governor responsible for overseeing the frontier regions on the western edge of the kingdom. By combining textual analysis with geographical and historical considerations, the article seeks to clarify the identity and significance of Sard(a)ur(r)iana within the broader context of Assyrian military campaigns and Urartian territorial organization.

TIGLATH-PILESER III AGAINST SARDURI II OF URARTU, 743-735 BCE

Before addressing the specific question of the toponym Sard(a)ur(r)iana, it is necessary to briefly summarize the main phases of the conflict between Assyria and Urartu between 743

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[6] Kištan has been tentatively identified with Keysun, corresponding to modern Çakırhöyük, while the river Sinzi-mentioned again in connection with the events of the clash-has been associated with the Göksu River, the classical Singas (**Astour**. 1979, 15-16).

[7] For the transcription of the toponym, see **Tadmor**. 2007, 125, footnote 20.

and 735 BCE[8]. When Tiglath-pileser III ascended the Assyrian throne, Urartu, under Sarduri II, stood as a formidable regional power and a credible rival to Assyria's renewed imperial ambitions. Many of the smaller Syro-Anatolian kingdoms, which had previously submitted to Assyrian suzerainty, had begun to look to Urartu as a protective alternative. This geopolitical tension culminated in 743 BCE, shortly after Tiglath-pileser's accession, when Sarduri II allied with the rulers of Melid, Gurgum, and Kummuḫ to support Mati'-'el of Arpad in an anti-Assyrian coalition. The decisive confrontation took place between the districts of Kištan and Ḫalpi in the land of Kummuḫ, near the Sinzi River. According to Assyrian annals, Tiglath-pileser's forces won a crushing victory, forcing the coalition into retreat and driving Sarduri to flee alone on horseback during the night-an episode later immortalized in Assyrian royal inscriptions as a symbol of humiliation and defeat. Although Urartu was not the initial target of this campaign, the aftermath set in motion a broader strategy aimed at dismantling its influence. Tiglath-pileser split his forces: one contingent pursued Sarduri, another subjugated Gurgum, Kummuḫ, and Melid, while the third besieged Arpad, which fell after three years in 740 BCE and was transformed into an Assyrian provincial capital. Sarduri, despite the setback, continued to support anti-Assyrian resistance, prompting Tiglath-pileser to take further measures to neutralize Urartu's regional authority. In 739 BCE, the Assyrian army conquered Ulluba which was under Urartian contro-located in the mountainous region north of the Assyrian heartland near

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[8] These events, briefly summarized here, are also discussed in **Novotny**. 2021, 367-370.

Urartu's southern border-and annexed it as a new province called Birtu. Commemorative inscriptions and reliefs on Mount Illimmeru celebrated this campaign as a demonstration of Assyria's invincibility. By 736 BCE, Assyrian forces had also seized several Urartian border fortresses near Mount Nal, further eroding Sarduri's western defences. With the realignment of Gurgum, Kummuḫ, and Melid as compliant vassals once more, and the shifting allegiance of the eastern kingdom of Mannea, Tiglath-pileser had effectively isolated Urartu. This paved the way for a direct campaign in 735 BCE, when the Assyrian king marched across the Taurus Mountains and besieged Sarduri's capital, Ṭušpa (modern Van). Although the city, strategically perched atop an inaccessible promontory above Lake Van, could not be taken, Assyrian inscriptions boast of a great victory and the erection of the royal image before its gates. Even though Sarduri remained in power, the campaign had long-lasting consequences: Assyria absorbed key Urartian cities and fortresses, dismantling the latter's regional network of influence. The smaller states that had once seen Urartu as a counterbalance to Assyria were now left with no viable alternative but to reaffirm their loyalty to Tiglath-pileser, who had successfully reasserted imperial dominance across both western and eastern fronts. Particularly relevant for the purposes of this contribution are the Urartian military centres that were attacked in 736 BCE. During this campaign, several Urartian fortresses appear to have been involved in the conflict, although their exact locations and identities remain somewhat uncertain. The Assyrian texts refer to these engagements in general terms: while they provide valuable insight into the broader military and political context, details concerning specific Urartian fortifications remain speculative. In

this regard, it should also be considered that many of these accounts may incorporate literary *topoi* commonly found in Assyrian royal inscriptions, intended to glorify the king and amplify the scope of his victories. The image of Sarduri fleeing alone on horseback after the defeat at Kištan and Ḫalpi, or the portrayal of the Urartians being routed at the foot of their own capital, Ṭušpa, despite the city not being captured, should not be interpreted as strictly objective reports. Rather, they likely reflect stylized narrative conventions designed to symbolize the total humiliation of the enemy and the inevitability of Assyrian supremacy. Such literary constructs complicate the historical reconstruction of events and require a cautious and critical analysis of the sources-especially when attempting to correlate these narratives with archaeological data and topographical identifications. This article seeks to address the complexities inherent in interpreting these events by examining both Assyrian and Urartian sources, comparing their divergent perspectives, and proposing new hypotheses regarding the geographical and political implications of these confrontations. Special attention will be given to the re-evaluation of the key sites mentioned in the Assyrian texts-particularly the enigmatic toponym Sard(a)ur(r)iana -with the aim of offering new insights into the historical geography of the region.

THE ASSYRIAN CONQUEST OF THE ELEVENTH URARTIAN FORTRESSES NEAR MOUNT NAL (736 BCE)

Turning now to the specific case of the events that occurred in 736 BCE, it is worth highlighting the particular relevance of the brief but significant references in the Assyrian inscriptions concerning the campaign led by Tiglath-pileser III against the

western territories of Urartu, near the Euphrates River. This phase of the conflict, though often overlooked in broader historical narratives, provides critical insight into the progressive dismantling of Urartian frontier defences and the strategic logic that guided Assyrian expansion in this border zone. The mention of multiple Urartian fortresses, including the enigmatic Sard(a)ur(r)iana , within the context of this campaign suggests a targeted effort to neutralize key strongholds and consolidate Assyrian control over the area extending beyond Mount Nal, at the western edge of the Urartian kingdom. According to the Assyrian inscriptions, the details of this campaign are recorded as follows:

"(…) *For a distance of seventy leagues, I proudly marched through the extensive land of Uraṛṭu, from one end to the other (lit. "from above to below"), and I had no opponent (therein). I annexed to Assyria the land Ulluba in its entirety, the cities of Bitirru, Parīsu, Tašuḫa, Manṭun, Sardaurriana, Diulla-ana-Nal, Sikibsa, Aššurdāya, Babutta, Lusia, (and) Tapsia, fortresses of the land Uraṛṭu that (are located) behind Mount Nal (…)*" (RINAP 1: 39, ll. 24b-25b).

In the well-known passage from the annals of Tiglath-pileser III, the Assyrian king claims to have marched "for a distance of seventy leagues (*bēru*) through the extensive land of Uraṛṭu, from one end to the other (lit. 'from above to below')," annexing a series of fortified sites. This statement clearly reflects an imperial literary *topos*, intended to emphasize total domination and the unimpeded mobility of the Assyrian army deep within enemy territory. The Akkadian term bēru, which renders the

Sumerogram KASKAL.GÍD, refers to an itinerary unit equivalent to approximately 10-12 kilometres, or a "double hour of march". The total distance of seventy *bēru* would thus correspond to a notional journey of 700-840 kilometres, a clearly hyperbolic or symbolic figure meant to signify the comprehensive traversal of the Urartian realm rather than to record an exact geographical distance. The use of such standardized itinerary measures in royal inscriptions serves propagandistic aims, projecting imperial reach and logistical prowess through formulaic and evocative expressions. Particularly interesting is the list of fortresses attributed to the Urartians, including Bitirru, Parīsu, Tašuḫa, Manṭun, Sard(a)ur(r)iana, Diulla-ana-Nal, Sikibsa, Aššurdāya, Babutta, Lusia, and Tapsia, all of which are said to be located behind Mount Nal, according to the Assyrian texts[9]. Mount Nal is usually considered to have been part of Urartian territory, at least during the time of Tiglath-pileser III[10]. Currently, the westernmost extent of Urartian expansion, which can be reconstructed through archaeological and epigraphic evidence, is defined by the natural boundary of the Euphrates River (Fig. 1). The Assyrians, claiming to have entered Urartian territory, would have necessarily used the ford on the Euphrates near Izolu/Habıbuşağı, where a fortress[11] and an Urartian rock-cut inscription (CTU A 9-4; Fig. 2) were located, though the latter is now submerged due to the construction of the Karakaya Dam.

[9]For a discussion of these toponyms and the issues related to the organization of the Assyrian provinces established by Tiglath-pileser III along the northern frontier, see **Yamada**. 2018.

[10] **Levine**. 1972-1975, 13.

[11] **Serdaroğlu**. 1977, 29-30, pl. 14, figs. 38-39; **Özdoğan**. 1977, 82-83, pls. 61, 75 (Site n° P 52/2); **Işık**. 1987.

These circumstances lead us to believe that Mount Nal could be situated just before or just beyond the course of the Euphrates, and might be identified with some of the reliefs located in the southern part of the modern Elâzığ province. This hypothesis is further supported by an analysis of the Urartian city names. While most of these toponyms are *hapax legomena*[12] and thus difficult to pinpoint geographically with the current state of research, some observations can be made about two particular toponyms. Specifically, the name Diulla-ana-Nal, a *hapax legomenon*, could be literally translated as "the city of Diulla on the (Mount) Nal", which seems to echo the Urartian practice of associating fortified centres with a prominent mountain, likely to differentiate places with similar names. This is comparable to other Urartian toponyms, such as Arṣuniunu in front of Mount Ura, Rusaḫinili in front of Mount Qilbani, Rusaḫinili in front of Mount Eiduru, and NA₄.ANŠE in front of Mount Quria. The second toponym, Sard(a)ur(r)iana, will be specifically discussed in the next section of this text.

SARD(A)UR(R)IANA AS SARDURIḪINILI: A NEW INTERPRETATION

The toponym Sard(a)ur(r)iana, mentioned in the texts related to Tiglath-pileser III's activities after the battle of Kištan and Ḫalpi, has not received particular attention regarding its geographical location and its clear connection to the Urartian

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[12] Babutta is also mentioned in the correspondence from the reign of Sargon II as a city near Kumme (**SAA V**: 117.8), described as a city-state situated between Kumme and Ukku. Tapsia (Tabsia) is attested both in the inscriptions of Adad-Nirari II (**RIMA II**: A.0.99.2, l. 95) and Tiglath-pileser III (**RINAP 1**: 39, l. 27; 49, obv. 12'), and was likewise located near Kumme (**Radner**. 2012, 256).

king Sarduri II, son of Argišti[13]. However, it is plausible to hypothesize that Sard(a)ur(r)iana could correspond to Sarduriḫinili, a fortress founded by the king during his reign. From a philological and linguistic perspective, the Assyrian form Sardurriana (or Sardaurriana) can plausibly derive from the Urartian Sarduriḫinili, meaning "foundation of Sarduri". In Assyrian sources, toponyms of foreign origin were frequently adapted according to the phonological and morphological patterns of Akkadian. The Urartian suffix -ḫinili, commonly indicating a foundation or city associated with a royal figure, has been interpreted as conveying the idea of "belonging to" or "founded by". It is possible that, in Akkadian, this notion was rendered through a possessive or adjectival construction, perhaps reflected in the form Sard(a)ur(r)iana, which could be understood as denoting "the place of Sarduri". The variation Sardaurriana could reflect a vowel assimilation or scribal variant, both common phenomena in the transmission of foreign names within Neo-Assyrian texts. These transformations illustrate a broader pattern of adaptation and reinterpretation of Urartian toponyms within the Assyrian administrative and historiographic tradition. An Urartian inscription discovered near Karakoçan/Bahçecik (CTU A 9-18; Fig. 3), in the western part of Urartian territory, refers to a fortress called Sarduriḫinili. The short text refers:

"*For the god Ḫaldi, his (or, resp., the) Lord, Sarduri, son of Argišti, built this tower temple, and he built a fortress to perfection. He gave it the name "Sarduriḫinili". (6) Sarduri says: I installed here Zaiani as governor. He shall*

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[13] On this, see **Dan**. 2020, 114, 201.

administrate(?) the region up to the city Miliṭia, up to the city Qu[maḫa], up to the city Niḫiria, up to the land Ar[me?], up to the land Ḫašime [. . .]". (CTU A 9-18.)

The discovery of this text in a secondary context near an Urartian road-station suggests that the site of Karakoçan/Bahçecik was not a royal city, given its small size. The inscription mentions the construction of a temple dedicated to the god Ḫaldi and the building of a fortress, named Sarduriḫinili. This fortress, located near the Euphrates, appears to be a military outpost rather than an urban centre. The small size of the site at Karakoçan/Bahçecik suggests that it could not correspond to a royal city of great importance, such as a capital. The inscription also states that Sarduri II appointed a governor named Zaia(ni) to manage the fortress, which controlled a vast territory reaching Malatya, located across the natural border of the Urartian kingdom, the Euphrates River[14]. This geographical context indicates that Sarduriḫinili was located near the Euphrates and could indeed correspond to the fortress of Sard(a)ur(r)iana mentioned in the Assyrian texts. Its proximity to the river and its role in Sarduri II's defensive system support the identification of Sard(a)ur(r)iana with Sarduriḫinili. After Sarduri II's defeat at Kištan and Ḫalpi, Tiglath-pileser III likely captured Sard(a)ur(r)iana, which, according to this interpretation, would correspond to Sarduriḫinili. Furthermore, it

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[14] Recently, the name of this governor has been identified on two bowls that surfaced on the antiquities market. These bowls bear a short inscription referring to the 'city of Zaia' (**Işık**. 2018, 21-22, figs. 6-7).

seems more probable that Sardurihinili[15] corresponds to the fortress of Balu/Palu[16], rather than Palin/Bağın[17], another significant fortress in the same area. Palu is more likely to be the site due to its strategic importance and location in relation to the Euphrates. At the site, a rock inscription of Minua (CTU A 5-5; Fig. 4) was found, annalistic in nature, which mentions military activities in the region and against Malatya[18]. The inscription refers to construction works at the site of Šebeteria[19], although it is unclear whether this name should be associated with Palu itself or with another settlement. In any case, the inscription does not mention the construction of a fortified centre, but only a possible sanctuary/shrine (*iarani*) dedicated to Ḫaldi. At Bağın, a stele of Minua (CTU A 5-8; Fig. 5) mentions the appointment of an official named Titia, probably a member of the royal family who also had a centre named after him[20], as governor in the same area of Elâzığ, which would later come under the administration of Zaia. Therefore, Bağın was probably already an important Urartian centre even before Sarduri II. The issue concerning the territorial location of the Sardurihinili mentioned in the Bahçecik inscription does not undermine the proposal to associate Sardurihinili with the Sard(a)ur(r)iana mentioned by Tiglath-pileser III. The identification of

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[15] On the possibility that the Sardurihinili mentioned in the Bahçecik inscriptions could correspond to Palu or Bağın, see also **Payne – Sevin**. 2001, 116-118 and **Dan**. 2012a, 229.

[16] For this site, see **Danışmaz**. 2024, with earlier literature.

[17] On this site, see **Burney**. 1957, 52, fig. 15.

[18] On the Urartian sites in the region and the road connecting Ṭušpa with Malatya/Miliţia, see **Dan**. 2012b.

[19] On this toponym, see **Dan**. 2022, 165.

[20] On the centre of Titiahinili, mentioned in an inscription of Rusa II, son of Argišti (CTU A 12-1, V 4), see **Dan**. 2020, 116.

Sard(a)ur(r)iana with Sarduriḫinili allows for a better understanding of the dynamics of the Assyrian conquest and the annexation of Urartian territories. The location of Sarduriḫinili, not far from the Euphrates and within Urartian territory, fits perfectly within the geographical context of the Assyrian campaign, confirming the historical narrative of Assyrian expansion after the battle.

Conclusions

The analysis of the Assyrian inscriptions concerning the aftermath of the battle of Kištan and Ḫalpi, particularly those relating to Tiglath-pileser III's campaigns between 743 and 735 BCE, highlights the strategic efforts of the Neo-Assyrian Empire to dismantle the western defensive system of Urartu. Among the most significant outcomes of these campaigns was the conquest of a group of Urartian fortresses located "behind Mount Nal", a region broadly corresponding to the western periphery of the Urartian kingdom, near the Euphrates River. Within this framework, the toponym Sard(a)ur(r)iana emerges as a particularly meaningful case, both due to its onomastic link to King Sarduri II and its inclusion among the conquered strongholds. This study has proposed that Sard(a)ur(r)iana may correspond to the Urartian fortress Sarduriḫinili, a site known from a royal inscription found near Bahçecik in the Elâzığ region. The inscription, although discovered out of context, refers explicitly to the foundation of a fortress by Sarduri II and to its administrative function in overseeing a broad frontier territory reaching the Euphrates and beyond. The strategic position of Sarduriḫinili, likely along the western border of Urartu, makes it a plausible candidate for the Sard(a)ur(r)iana

mentioned in the Assyrian records. This identification is supported not only by onomastic parallels but also by geographic and geopolitical considerations. The proximity of the site to key river crossings, such as the Izolu/Habıbuşağı ford, and its relation to other Urartian and Assyrian landmarks mentioned in the texts, suggests that the Elâzığ region was a contested frontier zone, targeted by the Assyrians during their systematic advance toward the Urartian heartland. Furthermore, the presence of figures such as Zaia(ni) and Titia in inscriptions from this area underscores the administrative complexity and importance of these local strongholds within the broader framework of Urartian territorial control. Although uncertainties remain due to the fragmentary nature of the sources and the limited archaeological visibility of some sites, the identification of Sard(a)ur(r)iana with Sarduriḫinili offers a coherent and historically grounded hypothesis. It contributes to a more nuanced understanding of the dynamics of Assyrian-Urartian interaction in the mid-8th century BCE, shedding light on both the symbolic and strategic dimensions of Assyrian imperial expansion. Future archaeological investigations in the Elâzığ region, combined with a renewed critical reading of the textual corpus, may provide further confirmation-or necessary revision-of this proposal.

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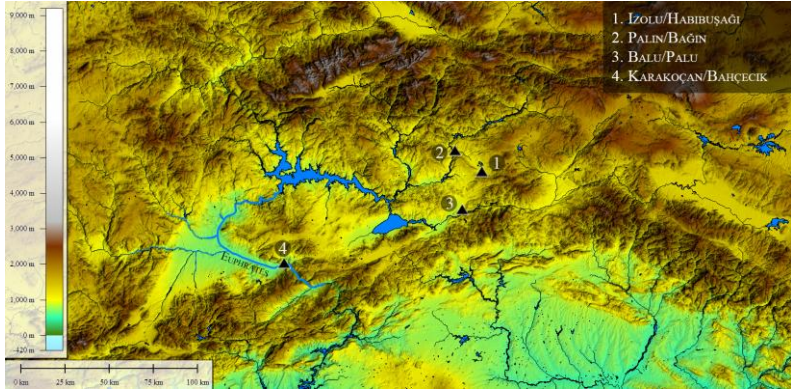
Figures

Fig. 1. The course of the Euphrates at the limits reached by the territorial expansion of the Urartians west of Lake Van, and the sites and inscriptions mentioned in this text.
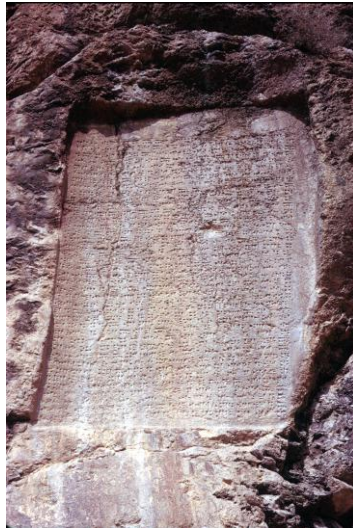

Fig. 2. The rock inscription of Sarduri II, son of Argišti, located near Izoli/Habıbuşağı (CTU A 9-4), close to a ford on the Euphrates River, is now submerged beneath the waters of the artificial reservoir created by the construction of the Karakaya Dam.
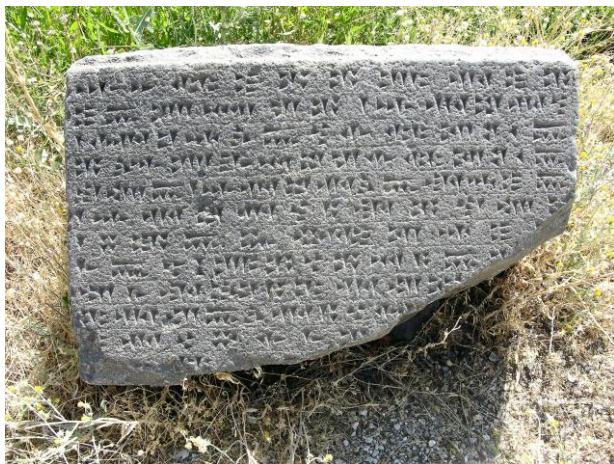
Fig. 3. The inscription on a fragmentary stone block of Sarduri II, son of Argišti, from Karakoçan/Bahçecik (CTU A 9-18).

Fig. 4. The stele with the inscription of Minua, son of Išpuini, found near the site of Palin/Bağın (CTU A 5-8) and preserved in the Elâzığ Museum.

Fig. 5. The rock inscription of Minua, son of Išpuini, at the summit of
the site of Balu/Palu (CTU A 5-5).

Ռոբերտո Մ. Դան, *ISMEO – Միջերկրածովյան և Արևելյան
ուսումնասիրությունների միջազգային ասոցիացիա, պ.գ.թ.,*
**Ուրարտուի արևմտյան սահմանին. որոշ դիտարկումներ
Սարդ(ա)ուր(ո)իանայի և Թիգլաթպալասար II-ի կողմից հի-
շատակված Սարդուրիխինիլիի հնարավոր նույնականացման
մասին**

Ամփոփում

Քիշթանի և Խալփիի (Ք.ա. 743 թ.) ճակատամարտերից հե-
տո տեղի ունեցած իրադարձությունների հետ կապված՝ ասորես-
տանյան աղբյուրներում հիշատակված տարբեր տեղանունների

23

թվում Սարդաուրրիանա/Սարդուրիանա տեղանունն առանձնանում է իր կարևորությամբ։ Ք. ա. 736 թ. ռազմական արշավանքի համատեքստում հիշատակված այս տեղանունը կապված է Թիգլաթպալասար II-ի լայնածավալ հարձակման հետ, որը սկսվել էր Ուրարտուի զահակալ Սարդուրի Արգիշթորդու գլխավորած դաշինքի և մի քանի սիրիա-խեթական կառավարիչների Ք. ա. 743 թ. բախումից հետո։ Սարդ(ա)ուր(ր)իանան հիշատակված է Ուրարտուի այն բերդերի թվում, որոնք ասորեստանցիները գրավել էին Նալ լեռան հակառակ կողմում գտնվող շրջանում։

Հողվածում քննության է առնվում գրավոր աղբյուրների թե՛ ասուրական, թե՛ ուրարտական քննադատական վերլուծությունը՝ նպատակ ունենալով ուսումնասիրել այն կանխավարկածը, ըստ որի Սարդ(ա)ուր(ր)իանան կարող է համապատասխանել Սարդուրի II-ի կողմից հիմնադրված Սարդուրիխինիլիին, որը, ամենայն հավանականությամբ, գտնվել է Եփրատի մերձակայքում՝ ժամանակակից Խարբերդի շրջանում։ Պատմական, աշխարհագրական և գրավոր աղբյուրների հիման վրա արված այս հետազոտությունը նպատակ ունի նոր լույս սփռել վերը նշված տեղանունների հնարավոր նույնացման, ինչպես նաև՝ ուրարտական տերության արևմտյան սահմանագոտու մերձակայքում ասորեստանցիների ռազմական գործողությունների վրա։

Բանալի բառեր՝ Քիշքան և Խալպի, Թիգլաթպալասար III, Սարդուրի II, Ուրարտու, Սարդ(ա)ուր(ր)իանա, Սարդուրիխինիլի։

Роберто М. Дан, *ISMEO - Международная ассоциация Редиземноморских и Восточных исследований, к.и.н.,* **На западной границе Урарту: некоторые замечания о возможной идентификации Сард(а)ур(р)ианы, упоминаемой Тиглатпаласаром III, с крепостью Сардурихинили**

Резюме

Среди различных топонимов, упоминаемых в ассирийских источниках в связи с событиями, последовавшими за битвами при Киштане и Халпи (743 г. до н. э.), особое значение приобретает название Сард(а)ур(р)иана (или Сардуриана). Этот топоним фигурирует в контексте военной кампании 736 г. до н. э., являющейся частью широкомасштабного наступления Тиглатпаласара III, начатого после столкновения с коалицией, возглавляемой царём Урарту Сардури II, сыном Аргишти, и рядом сиро-хеттских правителей.

Сард(а)ур(р)иана упоминается среди урартских крепостей, захваченных ассирийцами в районе по ту сторону горы Нал. В данной статье проводится критическая переоценка имеющихся письменных источников - как ассирийских, так и урартских - с целью изучения гипотезы, согласно которой Сард(а)ур(р)иана может быть тождественна крепости Сардурихинили, основанной Сардури II и, по всей видимости, расположенной вблизи Евфрата, в районе современного Харберда (ныне Элязыг, Турция).

Настоящее исследование, опирающееся на исторические, географические и эпиграфические данные, стремится пролить новый свет на возможную идентификацию этих двух названий, а также на характер ассирийских военных операций в западной приграничной зоне Урарту.

Ключевые слова: Киштан и Халпи, Тиглатпаласар III, Сардури II, Урарту, Сард(а)ур(р)иана, Сардурихинили.