**Mytho-Geography on the *Tabula Peutingeriana***

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*Abstract:*

The Greek colony Trapezus is located in Pontic Asia Minor in the south-eastern angle of the Black Sea littoral, whereas the Tabula Peutingeriana locates it on the north-eastern coast. Instead of trying to trace this error back to the naval campaign of Marcus Agrippa (14 BCE) and the world map in the Porticus Vipsania, it should rather be explained by the tradition that situates Trapezus in or adjacent to Kolchis. Since around 500 BCE, this hard-to-access country was identified with the legendary kingdom of Aia, reached by the Argonauts on their quest for the Golden Fleece. While the Greek mainstream tradition soon chose a location on the Phasis, many cities competed with their claims of occupying the site of Aia. Around 400 BCE, Xenophon encountered a virtual Kolchis that had been extended into the area of the Pontic mountains, to include Trapezus and Kerasus on its margins. At a later stage, the name of the Sannoi, the mountain-dwellers neighbouring Dioskurias-Aia, migrated from northern Kolchis to the neighbourhood of Trapezus and superseded the name of the local Drilai, at least in the Greek literary tradition. The implication seems to be the same as the fact that the Tabula Peutingeriana locates Trapezus in the north-eastern ‘recess’ of the Black Sea at the foothills of the Greater Caucasus: Trapezus had appropriated Dioskurias’ claim to continuing Aia and even replaced Dioskurias-Aia in a cartographical tradition that is pictured on the Tabula Peutingeriana.

**Fig. *1***: Satellite image showing the effect of sedimentation up to 30 km offshore along the coast from Gonio to Ochamchire. Photograph (2007) by courtesy oft he European Space Agency (ESA): <https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2007/05/Georgia>.

**Fig. *2***: Ancient Kolchian Littoral from Apsaros to Herakleia. [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/553e6ebae4b06fb7f1cd64df/t/5e9b65d6c8159d101827bb4a/1587242477982/Coskun+for+FS%2C+fig.+1+-+Kolchian+Coastline.png](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/553e6ebae4b06fb7f1cd64df/t/5e9b65d6c8159d101827bb4a/1587242477982/Coskun%2Bfor%2BFS%2C%2Bfig.%2B1%2B-%2BKolchian%2BCoastline.png)

**Fig. *3***: The Phasis / rioni / Kvirila, The Araxes / Aras and the Riverscape of Kolchis-Iberia-Armenia. [Black Sea - Map 02 — Dr. Altay Coskun](http://www.altaycoskun.com/black-sea-map-02)

**Fig. *4***: Tabula Peutingeriana, Segment X, ed. Weber: <https://www.tabula-peutingeriana.de/tabula.html?segm=9>

**Fig. *5***: Tabula Peutingeriana, Segment XI ed. Weber: <https://www.tabula-peutingeriana.de/tabula.html?segm=a>

**Fig. *6***: Tabula Peutingeriana, Segment IX ed. Weber: <https://www.tabula-peutingeriana.de/tabula.html?segm=8>

**Fig. *7***: Tabula Peutingeriana, Segment XII ed. Weber: <https://www.tabula-peutingeriana.de/tabula.html?segm=b>