

Local variation in the Coffin Texts:

A case study of sentence structure in spell 75

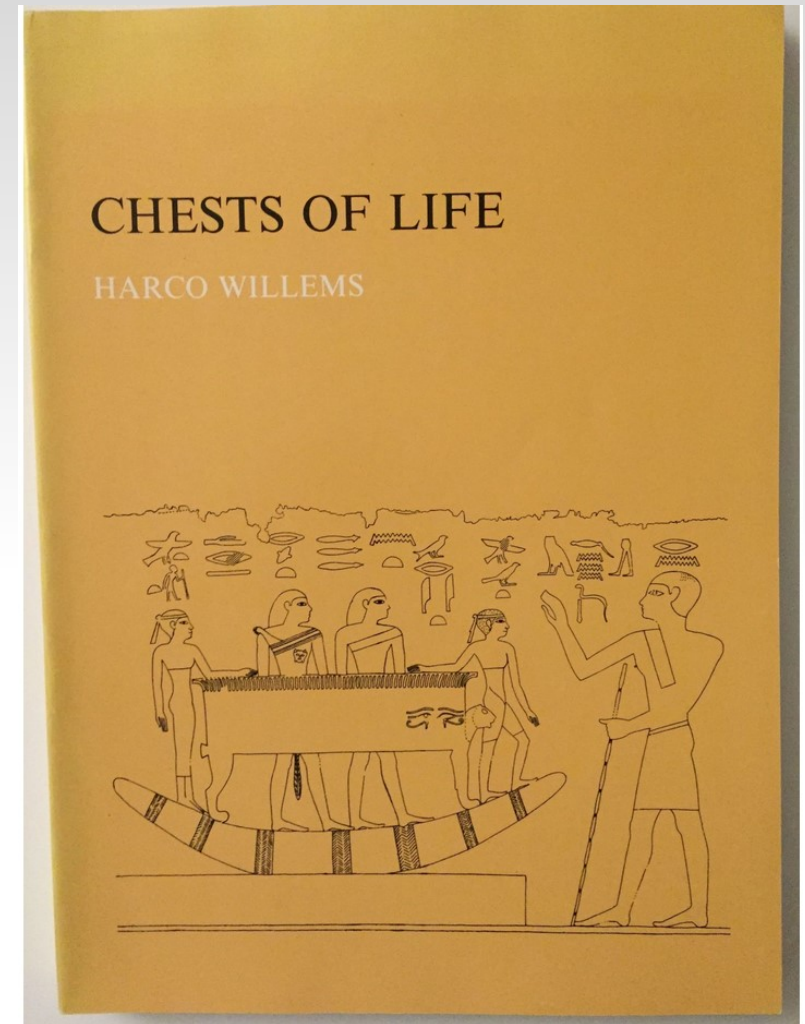
Jorke Grotenhuis



Local variation in spell 75

- Coffin texts and terminology
- Local variation
- Method
- Results
- Future

Coffin text and terminology



Willems, Harco. 1988. *Chests of life: a study of the typology and conceptual development of Middle Kingdom standard class coffins*. Mededelingen en Verhandelingen van het Vooraziatisch-Egyptisch Genootschap "Ex Oriente Lux" 25, Leiden.

Coffin text and terminology

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS
VOLUME XXXIV

THE EGYPTIAN COFFIN TEXTS

I
TEXTS OF SPELLS 1-75

By
ADRIAAN DE BUCK
Lector in the University of Leyden



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Buck, Adriaan de. 1935. *The Egyptian Coffin Texts I: texts of spells 1-75*. Oriental Institute Publications 34. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Coffin text and terminology

- Text in de Buck (CT1, 378a, B2L)



Coffin text and terminology

- Text in de Buck (CT1, 378a, B2L)
- Outer coffin of *gW3* (BM EA 38039)



CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

https://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details/collection_image_gallery.aspx?partid=1&assetid=1613030935&objectid=129018

Local variation

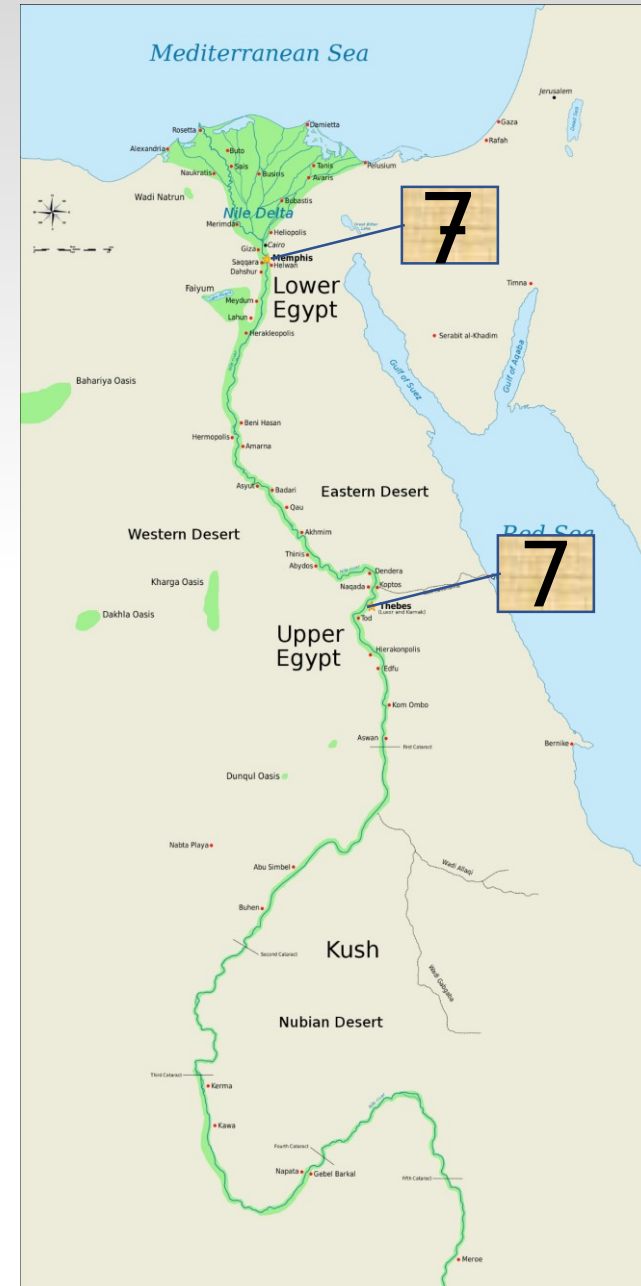
- Personal preference or local variation?

Local variation

- Personal preference or local variation?



Beni Hassan, tomb of Amenemhat, hall, north wall, register 1 (Newberry, plate 315)



Why Coffin Texts?

- Large corpus
- Multiple witnesses from the same and different locations
- Well published by de Buck

Method

- Encoding a database

Method

- Encoding a database

The screenshot displays the FileMaker Pro interface for a database titled 'COFFIN TEXTS'. The main window shows a table with columns: Id main, Lemma, Translation, and Class of word. The table contains records such as:

Id main	Lemma	Translation	Class of word
584	hnq.t	beer	Noun OPronoun
664	hnw	the Henu bark	Noun OPronoun
767	hnw	Henu	Noun OPronoun
386	hny	bark of	Noun OPronoun
125	hp.t	gar	Noun OPronoun
672	hpy	Hapy (one of the	Noun OPronoun
707	hpt	to embrace, to	Noun OPronoun
556	hpw	Apis	Noun OPronoun
757	hjwt.t	runner	Noun OPronoun
520	hpy	Hapy	Noun OPronoun
822	hpy- ^s nh.ty=fy	+Hpy-anx.ty=fy+	Noun OPronoun
728	hq.t	Heget (frog)	Noun OPronoun
360	hq3	ruler	Noun OPronoun
602	hq3	to rule	Noun OPronoun
1094	hqr	to be hungry	Noun OPronoun

The detailed view of record 7037 shows the following information:

- Form: *ib.kwi*
- Lemma: *ibi*, Id Lemma: 104
- Morphology 1: Stative
- Morphology 2: 1st person singular
- Morphology 3: [blank]
- Morphology 4: [blank]
- Id sentences: *iw=ib.kwi*
- Text: 7037
- Translation: while I am thirsty.
- Spelling Glyph code: M17'D58-N35A-V31A-G43-A50
- Spelling image:
- Type of variant: Lexicology, Spelling, Morphology, Syntax, Subject, Additional verb form, Other...
- Editorial remarks: reconstruction, addition by editor, deletion by editor, lacuna, partial lacuna, ambiguous, point of interest, Other...
- Classifier: Sign number

The 'SPELLINGS' table shows a list of records with columns: here's Name, Gender, Sigla, Date_dyn, and Date. The table contains records such as:

here's Name	Gender	sigla	Date_dyn	Date
female	female	S14C	12	
male	male	S1C	12	
male	male	S1Tu	12	
male	male	S2C	12	
male	male	S2P	12	
male	male	S3C	12	
female	female	S3P	12	
male	male	S5C	12	
female	female	S6C	12	
male	male	S9C	12	
male	male	Sq10C	12	
male	male	Sq3Sq	12	
male	male	Sq5C	11-12	
male	male	Sq6C	11-12	
male	male	T1C	11	Mentuh
male	male	T1L	11	Mentuh
male	male	T1NY	11	Mentuh
male	male	T2C	11	Mentuh

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files

	A	B	C
1	Spell 75		
2	Version: S1C		S2C
3	line: I,314.a		I,314.a
4	Amino code: R		X
5	text: r(A) n bA Sw xpr.w m Sw		[r(A) n bA Sw xpr.w m Sw]
6	translation: A spell for the spirit of Shu and becoming as Shu.		A spell for the spirit of Shu and becoming as Shu.
7			
8	line: I,314.b		I,314.b
9	Amino code: R		N
10	text: 1pip bA Sw nTr xpr Ds=f		1pip bA Sw xpr Ds=f
11	translation: I am the spirit of Shu, the god who came into being (by) himself.		I am the spirit of Shu, who came into being (by) himself
12			I am the spirit of Shu, who came into being (by) hin
13	line: I,314.c		I,314.c
14	Amino code: X		X
15	text:		
16	translation:		
17			
18	line: I,316.a		I,316.a
19	Amino code: X		K
20	text:		xpr[n]=1ps m Ha.w nTr Ds=f
21	translation:		I have come into being from the body of the god wh
22			I have come into being from the body of the god wh
23	line: I,316.b		I,316.b
24	Amino code: R		M
25	text: 1pip bA Sw nTr sfg irw		1pip bA Sw nTr sfg irw
26	translation: I am the spirit of Shu, the god invisible of shape.		I am the spirit of Shu, the god invisible of shape.
27			I am the spirit of Shu, invisible of shape.
28	line: I,316.c		I,316.c
29	Amino code: X		X
30	text:		
31	translation:		
32			
33	line: I,318.a		I,318.a
34	Amino code: X		X
35	text:		
36	translation:		
37			
38	line: I,318.b		I,318.b
39	Amino code: R		N
40	text: xpr.n=1ps m Ha.w n(w) nTr xpr Ds=f		Ts,n=1ps m Ha.w n(w) xpr Ds=f
41	translation: after I came to be from the body of the god who came into being (by) himself.		after I was knitted together from the body of the one
42			
43	line: I,318.c		I,318.c
44	Amino code: R		N
45	text: 1pip imy Dr nTr		1pip imy Drw nTr
46	translation: I am the one who is in the side of the god.		I am the one who is in the side of the one who can

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files

The image shows a large spreadsheet with columns labeled A through K and many rows. The data is organized into several sections, with some rows highlighted in various colors (blue, red, yellow, green, purple). The spreadsheet appears to be a detailed data table, possibly representing a database or a set of analysis files. The content is dense and spans the width of the slide.

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files
- Spells as proteins

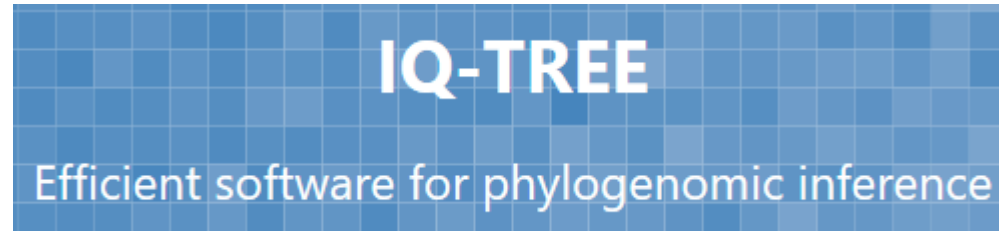
Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files
- Spells as proteins

```
>S1C
RR--R--RRRMRRMRRRRRRMRMMRMRMR--R-RMR-MRRRRRRRRMR--MRRRMRRRM-M--RRRRR--RRRRR-MM-----RRRR--R-R
>S2C
RN-MR--RMRKR--RRMRMKRKKKMKRKR--R-RKR-RRRRMMRRRRRRMRMRMR--MMK--MMM--RN-----RMNM-KKMMMMM-MMR--RM-
>S14C
-N-KM--NNRR-RRNNRMMRRNRNLK--MM-N-RL-----KNMRRRRKR--RRRRR-RR--RRR-----
>T3C
-R-NK--NNRR-MRNNNRKRNNRNILRRKN-M-NIM-RRMRNLNMNRRLNRNRLMRIRMK--NPRM----RNHRNKMLL-----RRRN--M-M
>B3C
-D-LNRRDDNL-NNDDKNLNLMLNRRINNLK-DMDRNRNRKMMNDDNKNRMIMMRIMKKHRLR--DMKDRRRMNDNDLK-----MNDDR-N
>B1Bo
-M-ILMNDDMI-KKCMLNNIKILRNHRRIDMKDDR-NRLKKIKCDRMRHLRNRHKLKRN--MKLCMRMKNDRKDNRII-----KNNMRR-N
>B1C
-K-NINNCKRH-LDCKIKRDDDDDRNNMRNC-RRMRRNRNRNDKRRKRNRDRDRGLRRLNN--CLNRNMNRDNIDRRNR-----NDRDNND-N
>B2L
-L-NHNRCRLG-RDRRNLRDDDDDRNNRNC-RRRRNRNRNRNDNLNRNRNRDKCREDRRLNDN--CINRNNRMRMDRRNRH-----NCRKNND-K
>B1P
-D-NNNCIRE-NDDDDRDDDDDRNNKRNC-RRKRRNRNRNRDRDNNMKRDLCRRNIRRNDN--CHNRNNRDRKDRNR-----NCRDNMD-N
>B6C
-DMHGRNDDNQ-NNMDDNKHLHNRGNNHD-D-DHN-KRI-LNLCDNDRDGIRCRQNHIGRKL--NGNC----KDLLDNRHG-----LKKLMKN-N
>B7C
-----NRR-----NL-INND-N
>M3C
-R-NDDRNR--RCRNRIRGCNCRDRRRN-R-NRR-NRRNRDQRRRDNRKRCDRRTRN--CNR-----CCDRCI-G-----DCRHDND-N
>M20C
-R-NDDNNQRD-RCRCNRHRNCRRRRRN-R-NRR-NRRNRQRRRDNR-----RNR--CDDR-----CNNRCDNE-----DCRNDND-N
>B4C
-DK-----
>M4C
-R-NR--RRRC-RCRRHRRNRRCRHRDRNQ-R-NGR-RRRRHDI-----
>M5C
```

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files
- Spells as proteins



L.-T. Nguyen, H.A. Schmidt, A. von Haeseler, B.Q. Minh (2015) IQ-TREE: A fast and effective stochastic algorithm for estimating maximum likelihood phylogenies..
Mol. Biol. Evol., 32:268-274. <https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msu300>

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files
- Spells as proteins
- Visualization



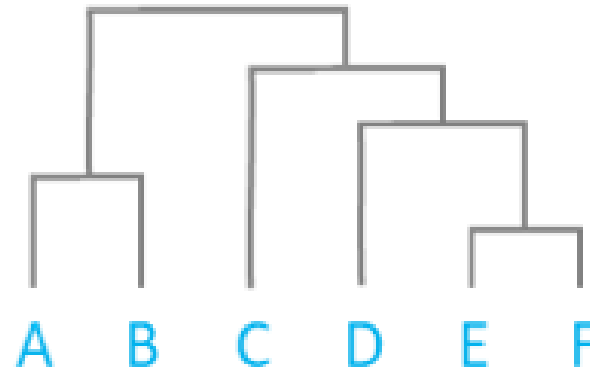
Dendroscope 3

by Daniel H. Huson

with contributions from Benjamin Albrecht,
Philippe Gambette, Leo van Iersel,
Celine Scornavacca and others.

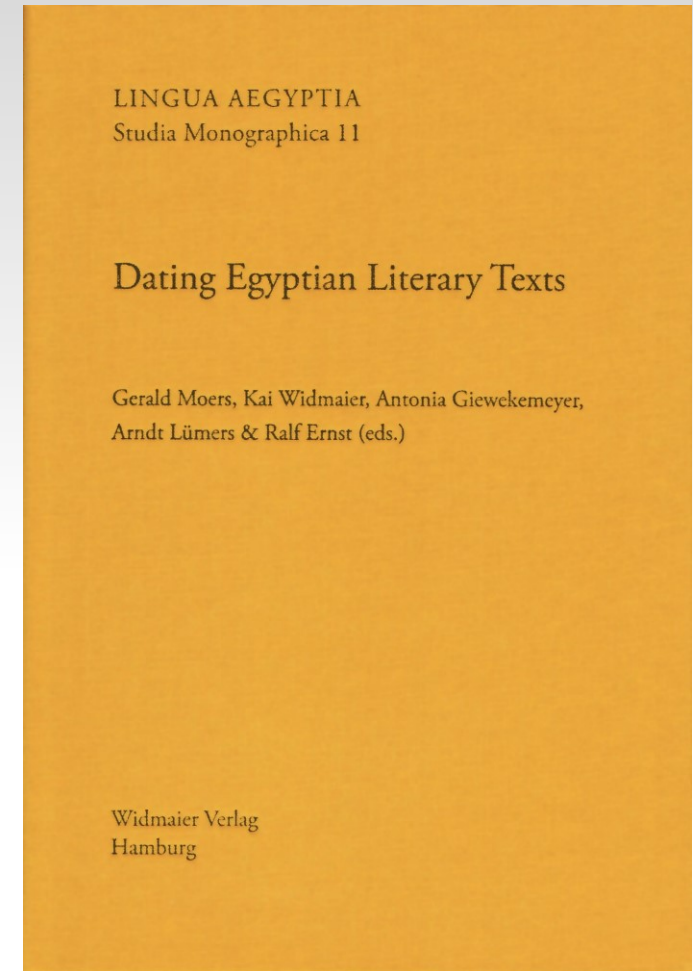
www-ab.informatik.uni-tuebingen.de/software/dendroscope

Dendrogram



Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files
- Spells as proteins
- Visualization



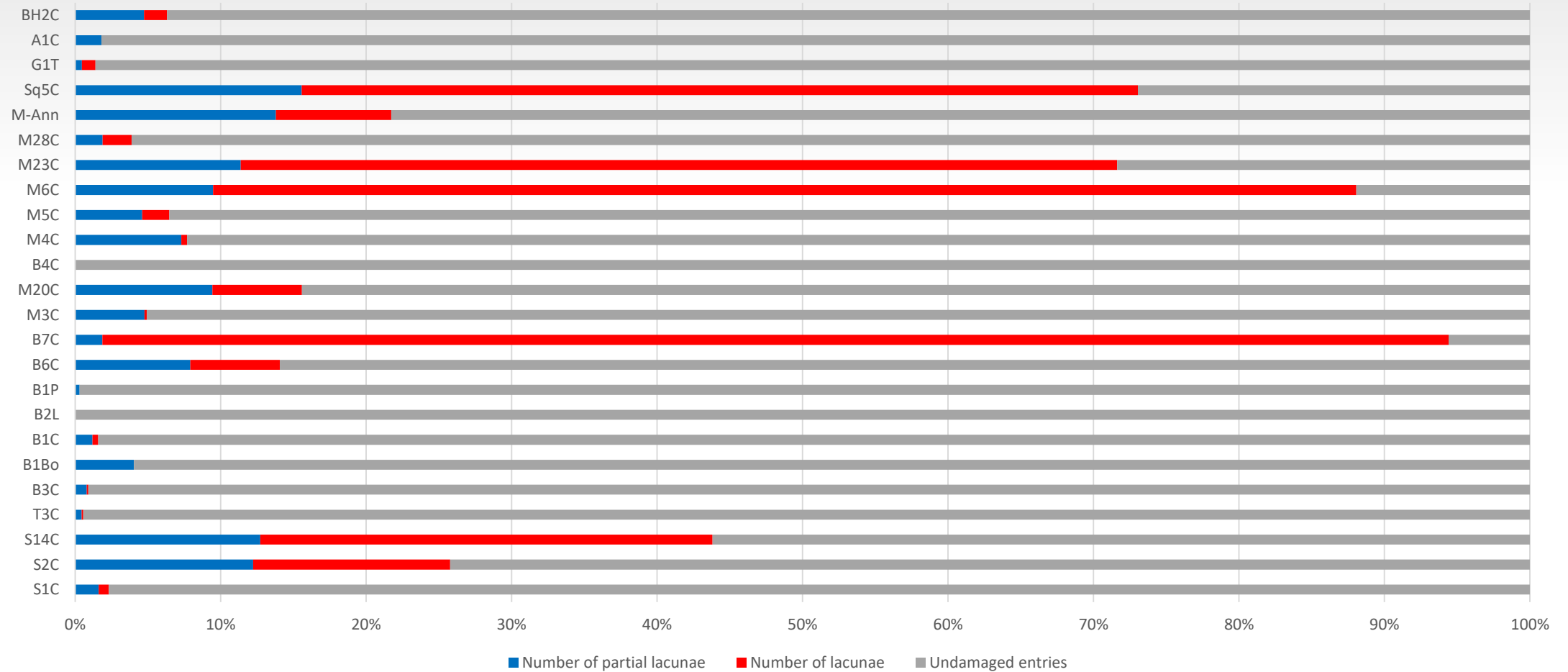
Schweitzer, Simon D. 2013. Dating Egyptian literary texts: lexical approaches. In Moers, Gerald, Kai Widmaier, Antonia Giewekemeyer, Arndt Lümers, and Ralf Ernst (eds), *Dating Egyptian literary texts*, 177-190. Hamburg.

Spell 75

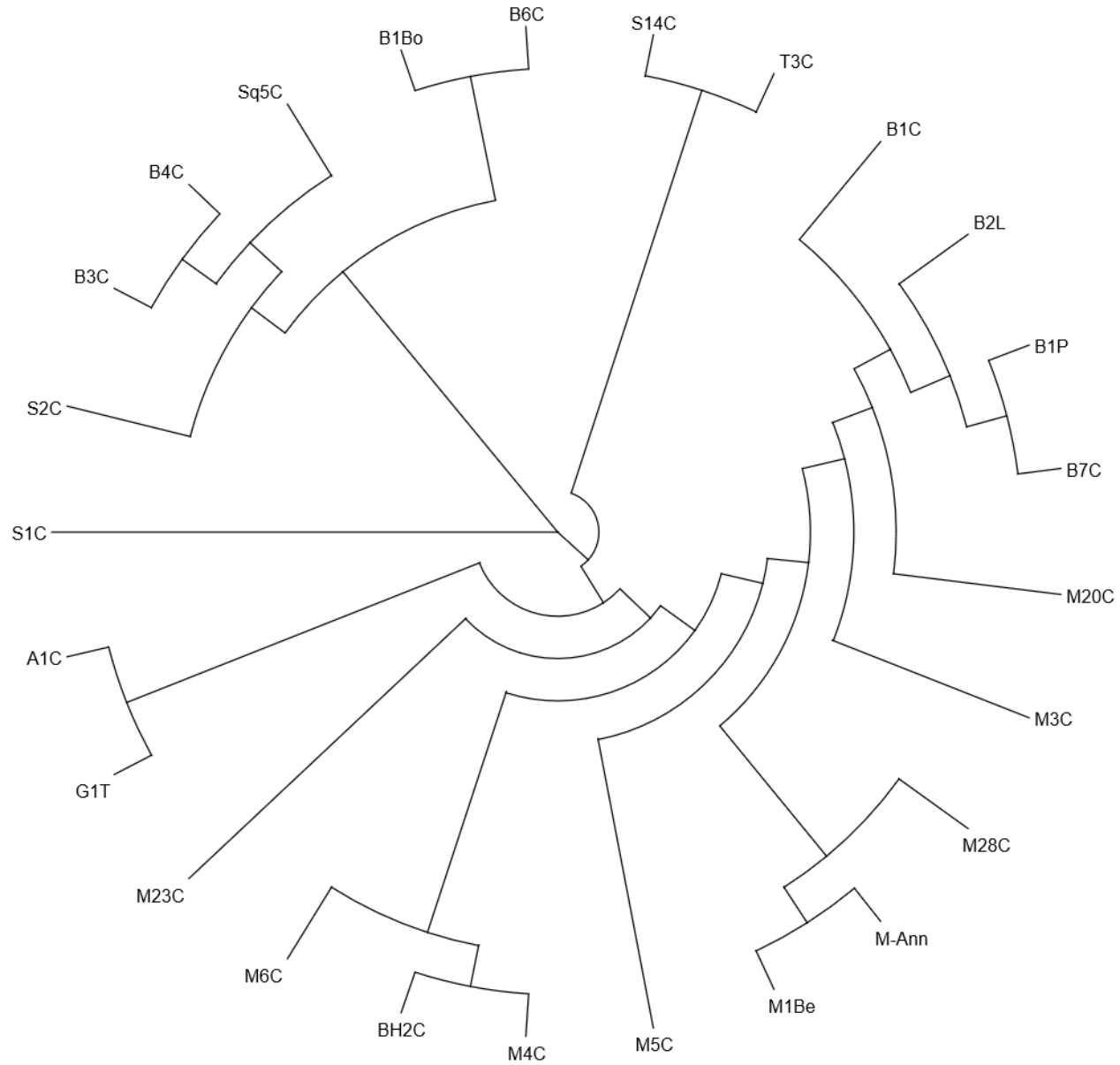
- 24+1 witnesses
 - 8 witnesses from Deir el-Bersheh
 - 8 witnesses from Meir (+1 unpublished, courtesy of Tobias Konrad, Mainz)
 - 3 witnesses from Asyut
 - 1 witness from Beni Hassan
 - 1 witness from Gebelein
 - 1 witness from Aswan
 - 1 witness from the Theban area
 - 1 witness from Saqqara
- 191 phrases

Spell 75

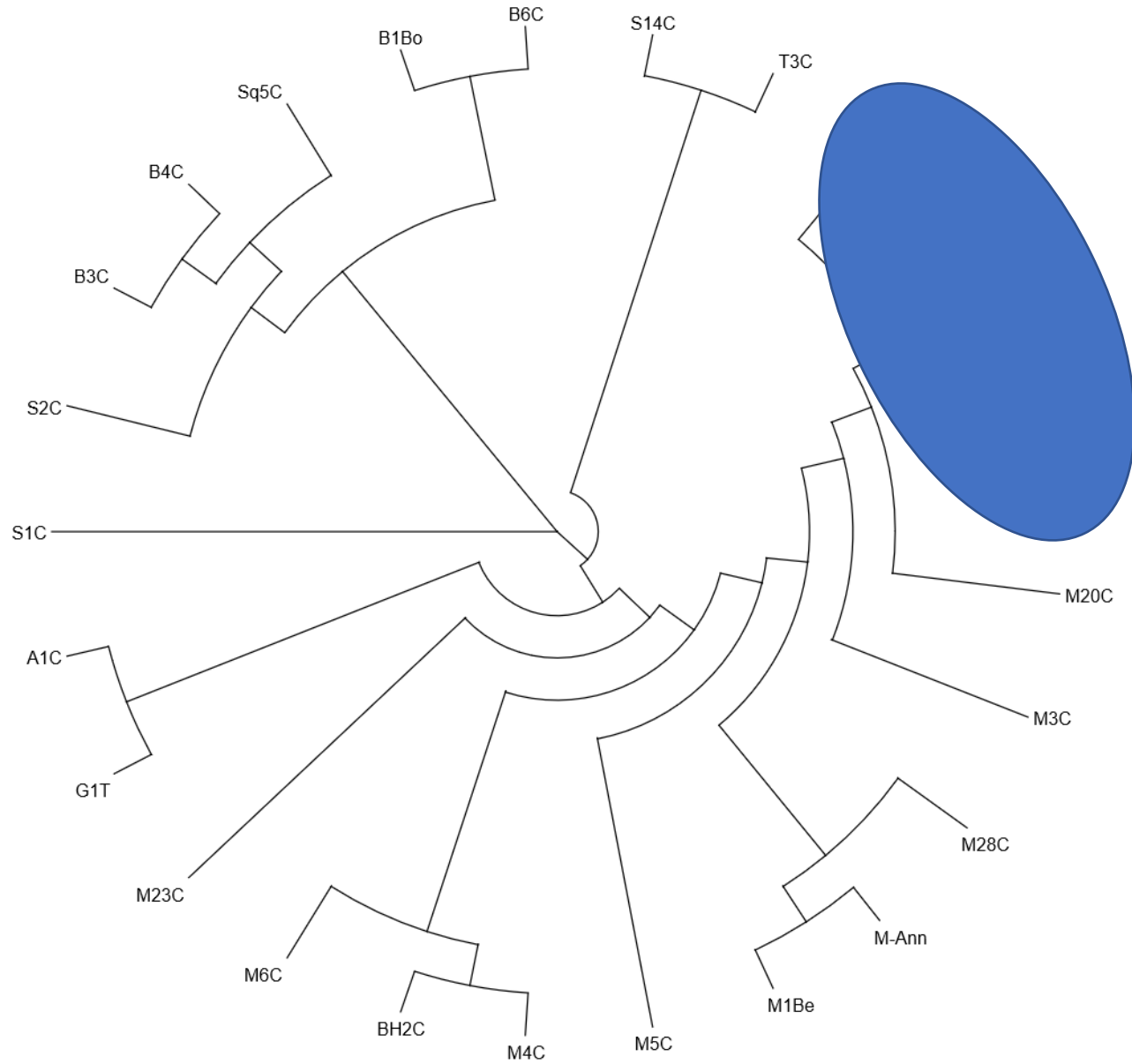
Damage to the witnesses



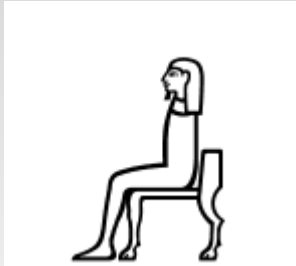
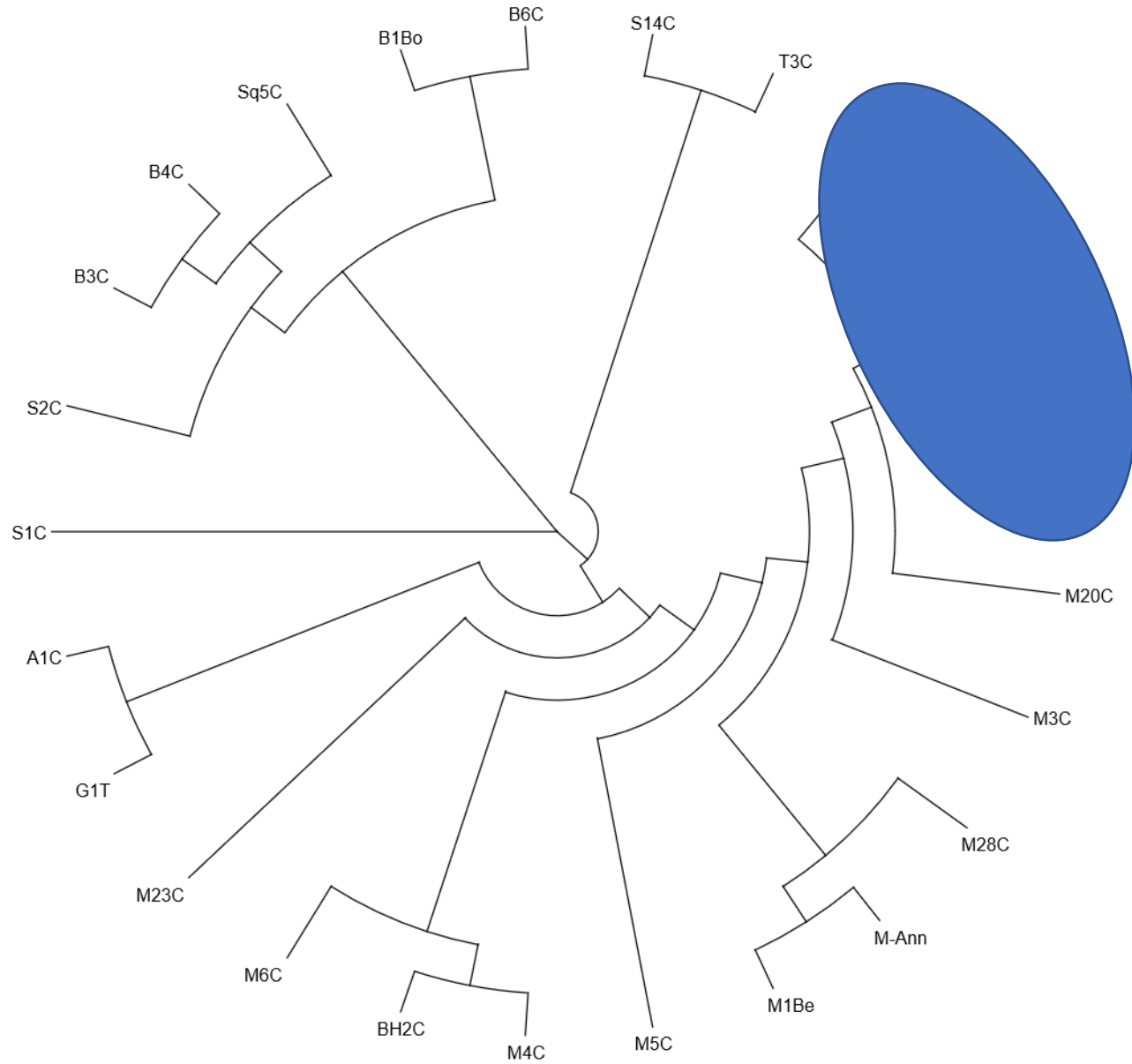
Results



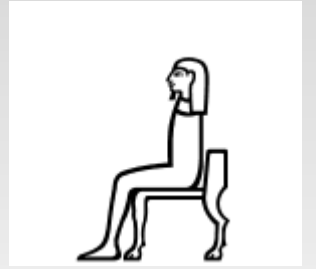
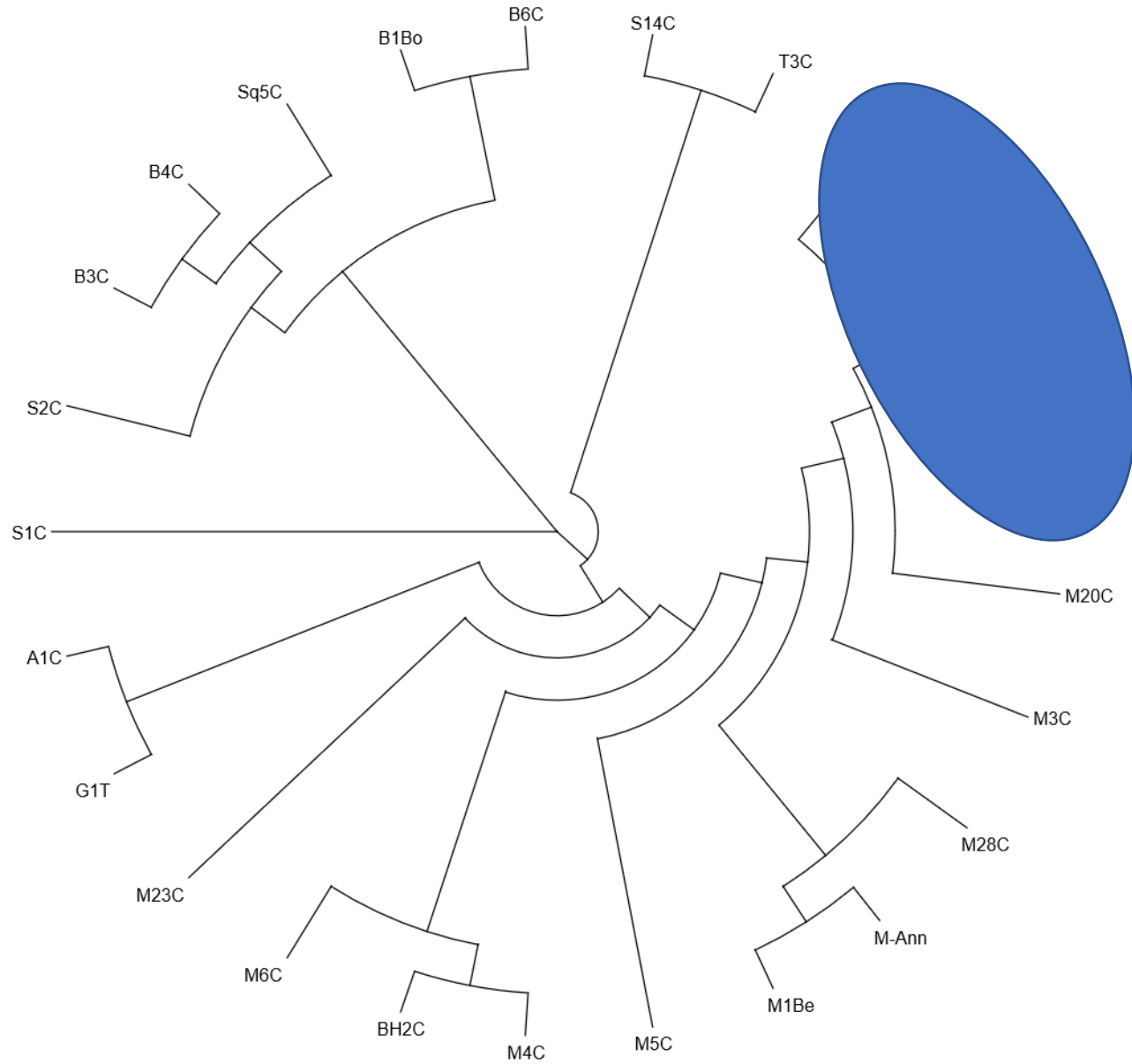
Results



Results

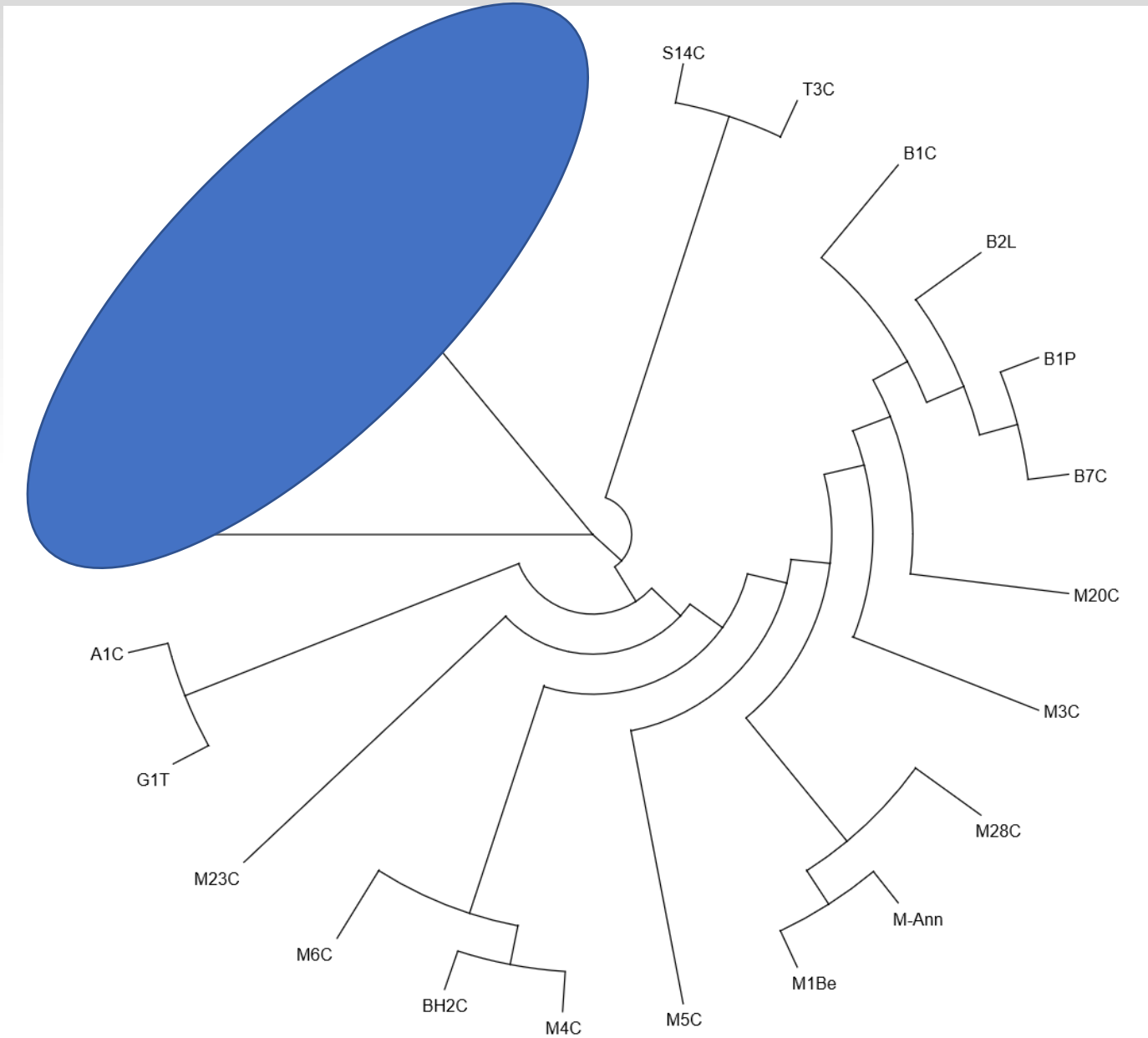


Results

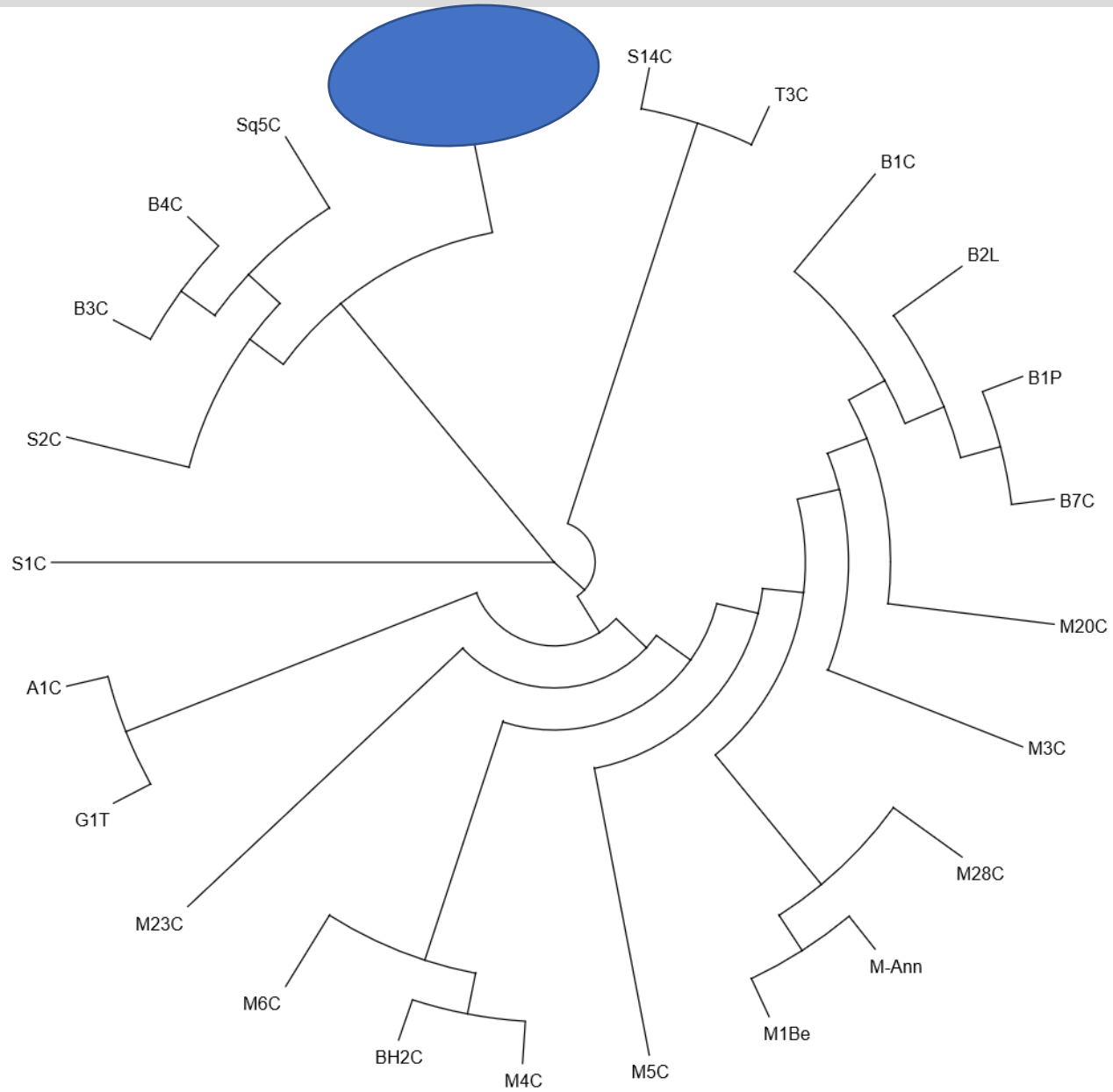


Sesostris II – Sesostris III

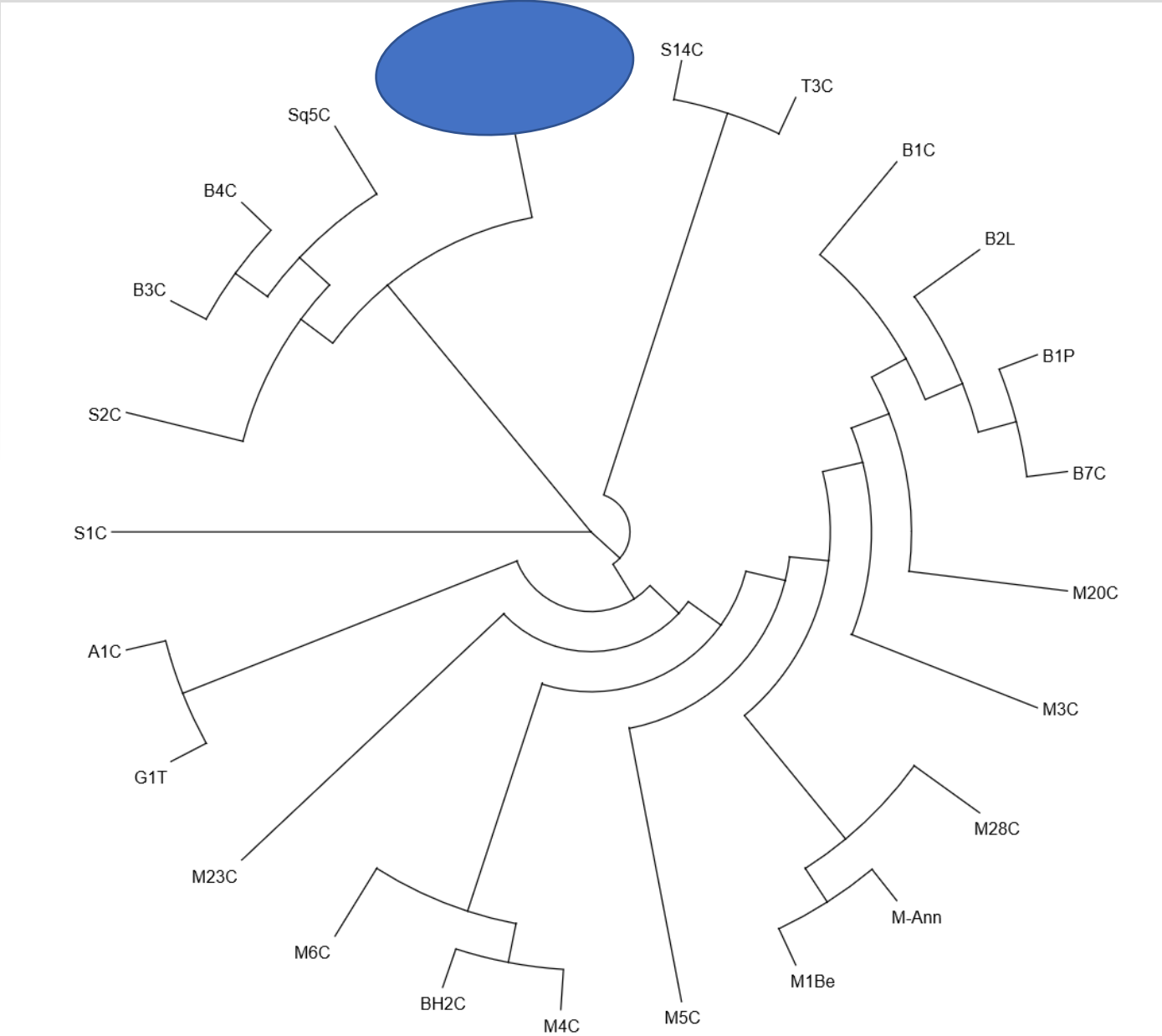
Results



Results



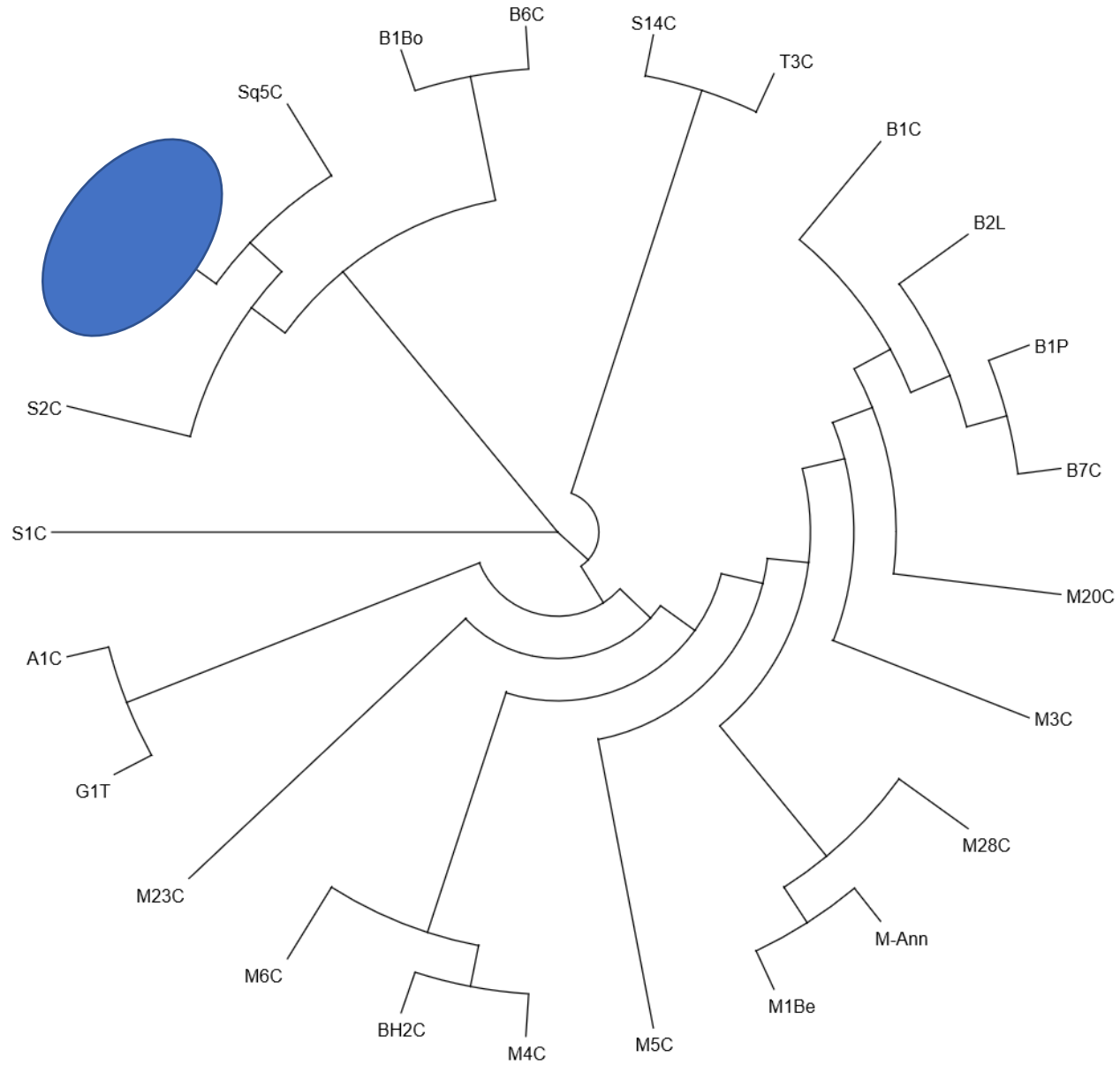
Results



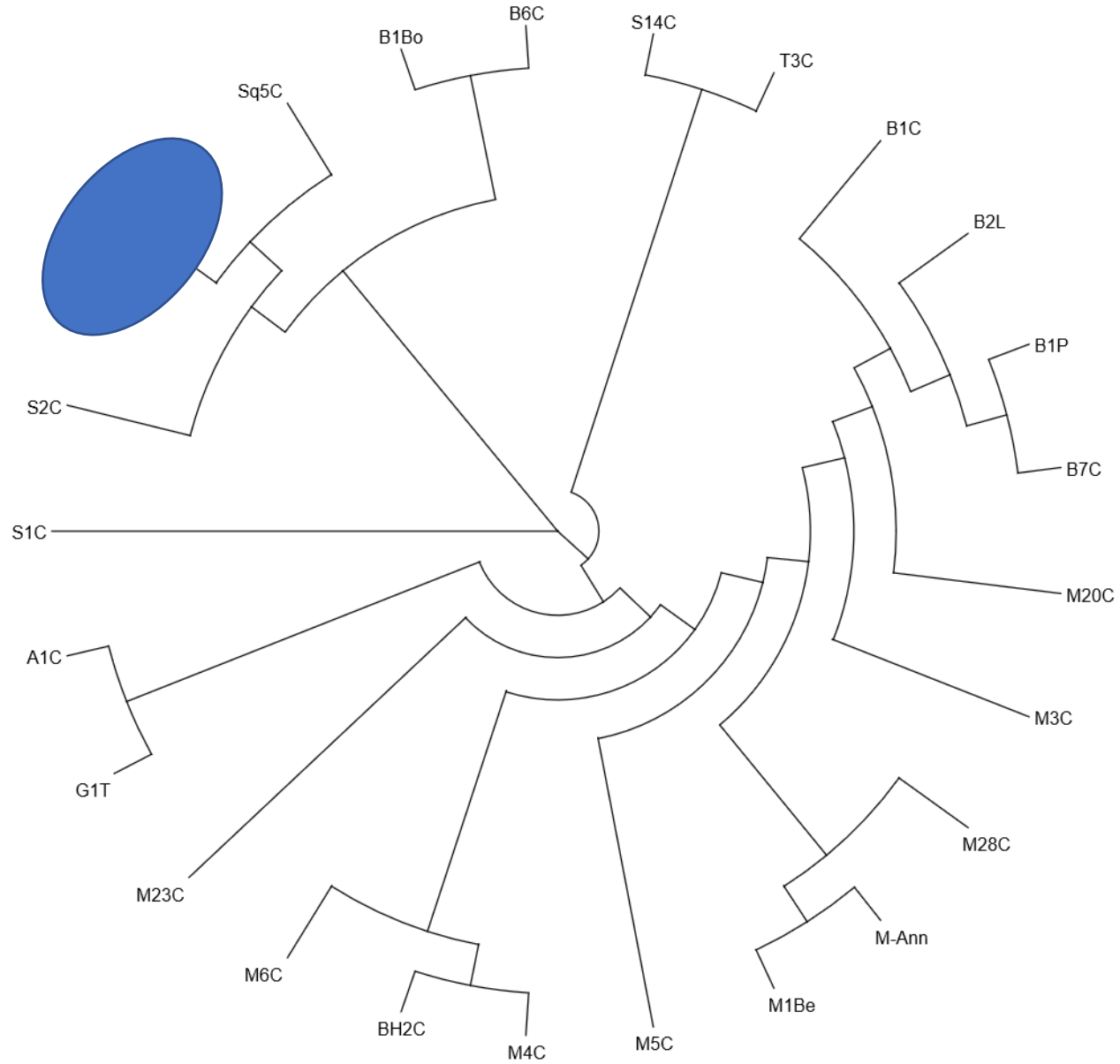
Late 11th dynasty – early 12th dynasty.

Incised cursive

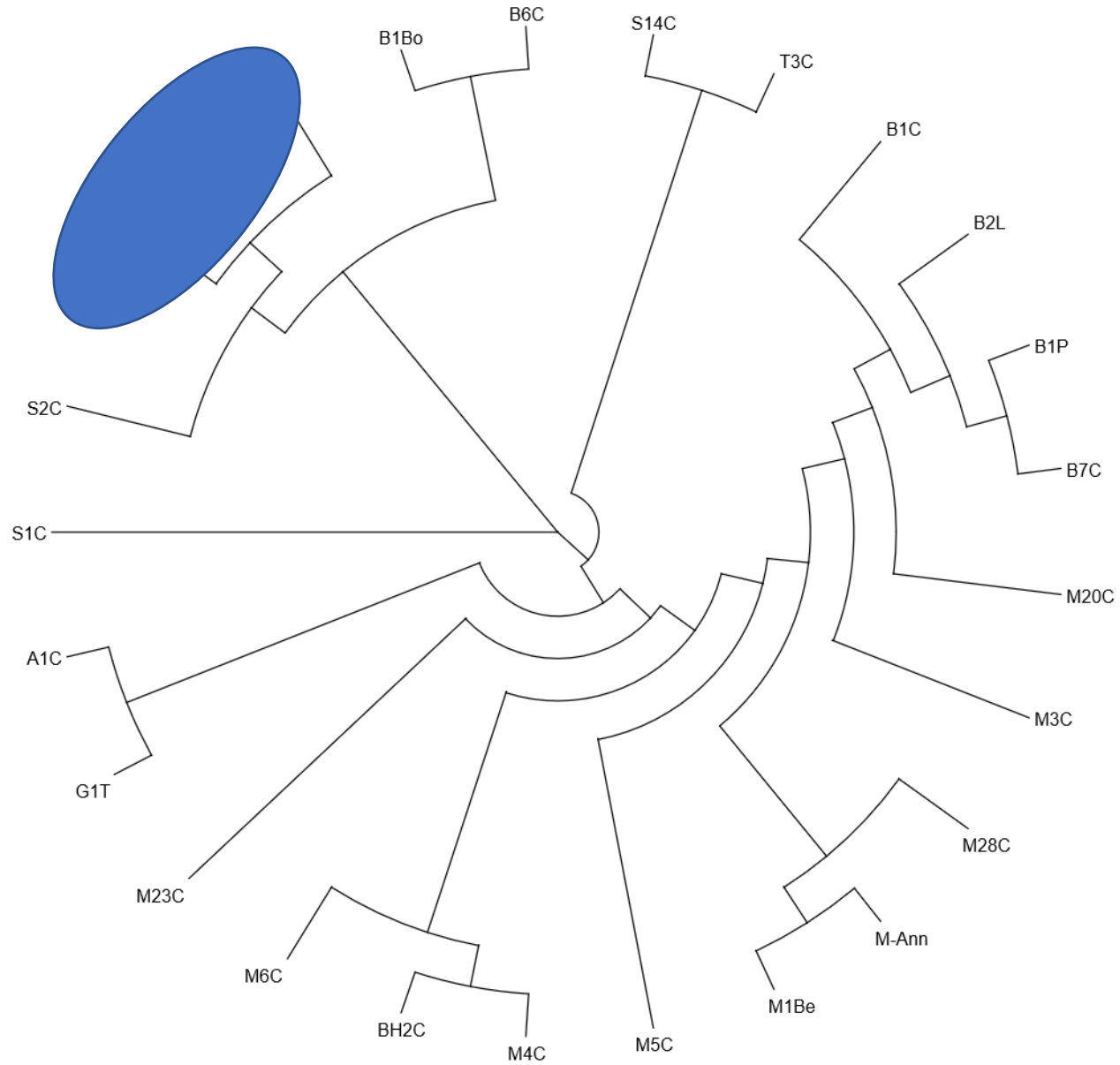
Results



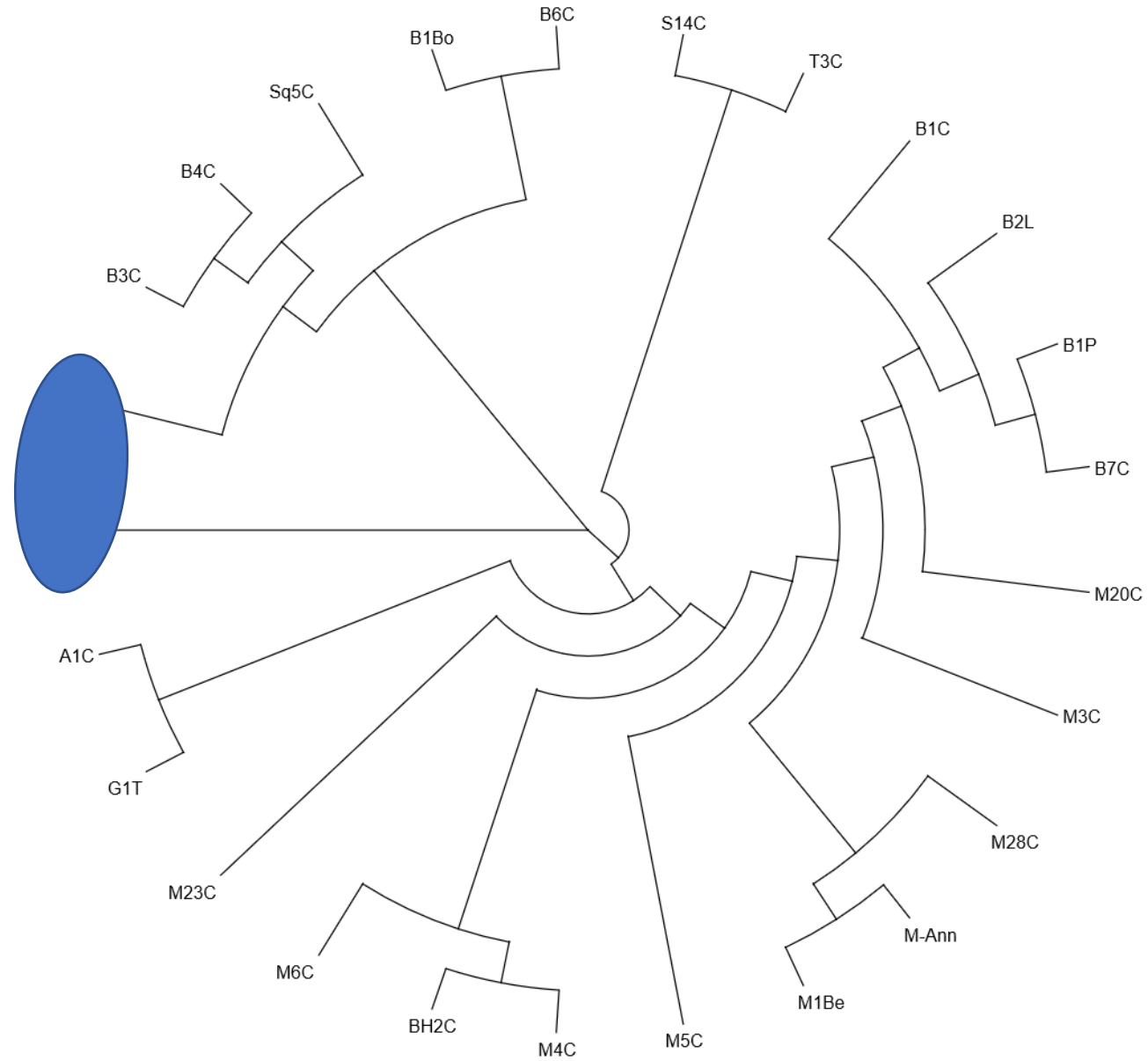
Results



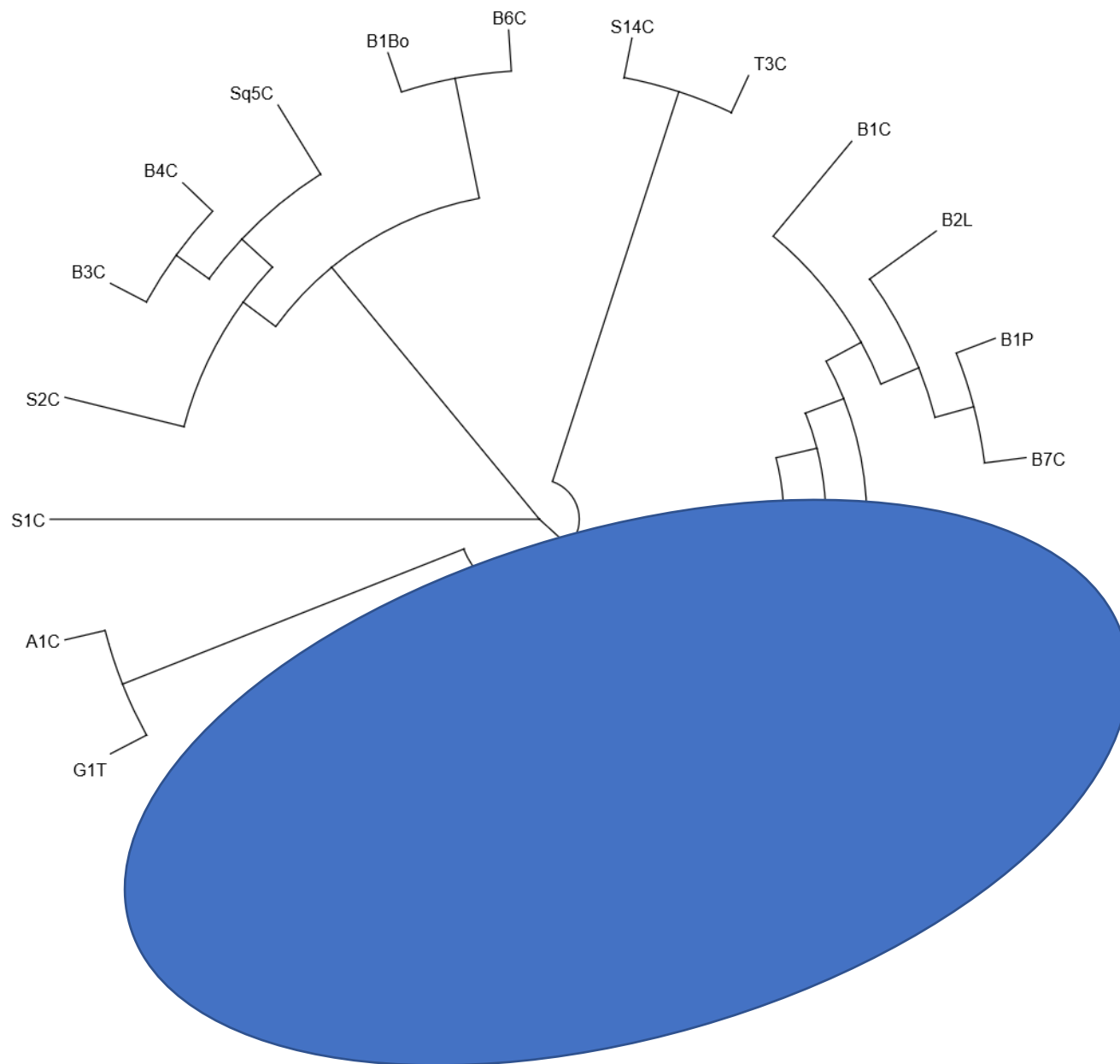
Results



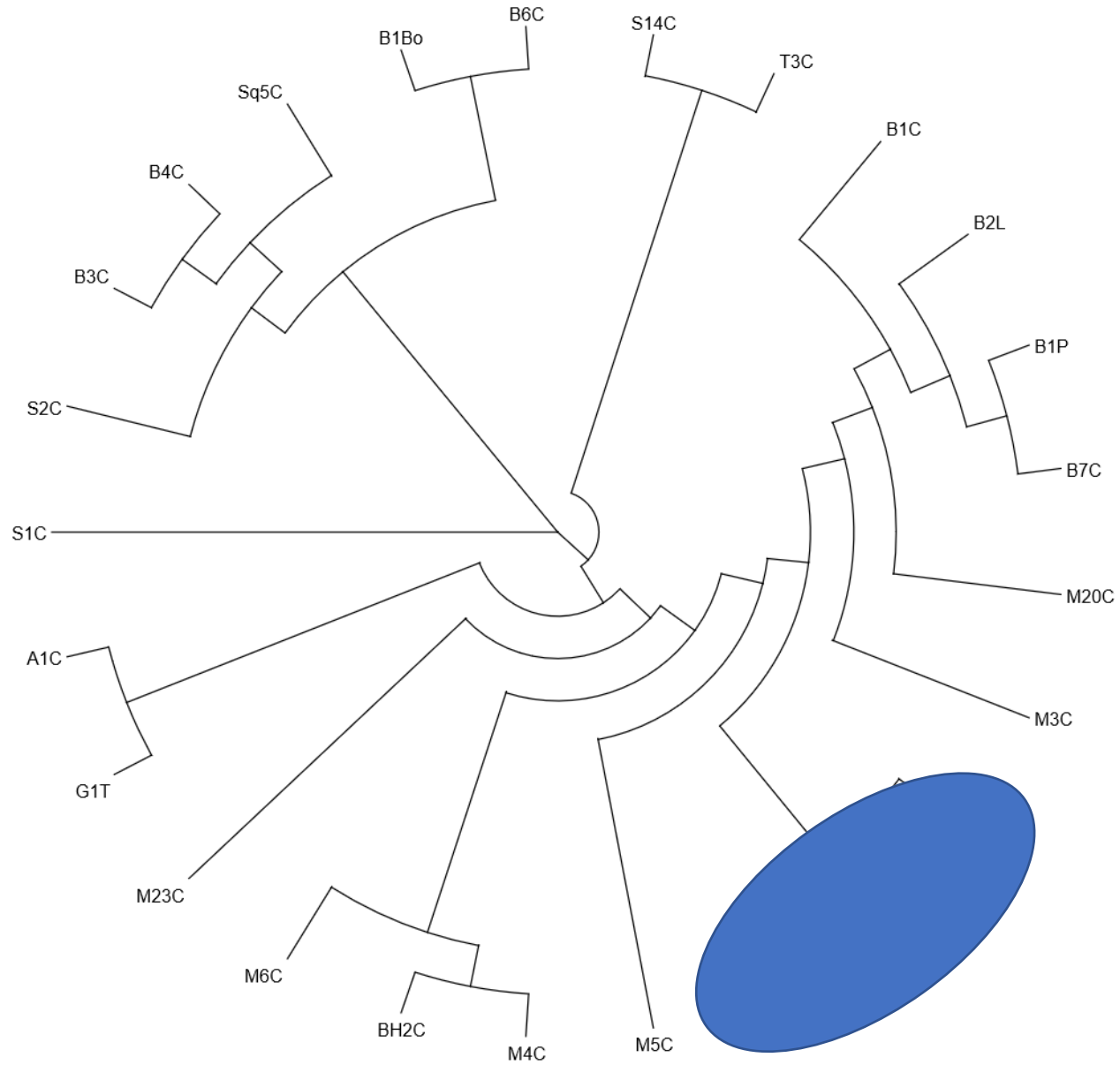
Results



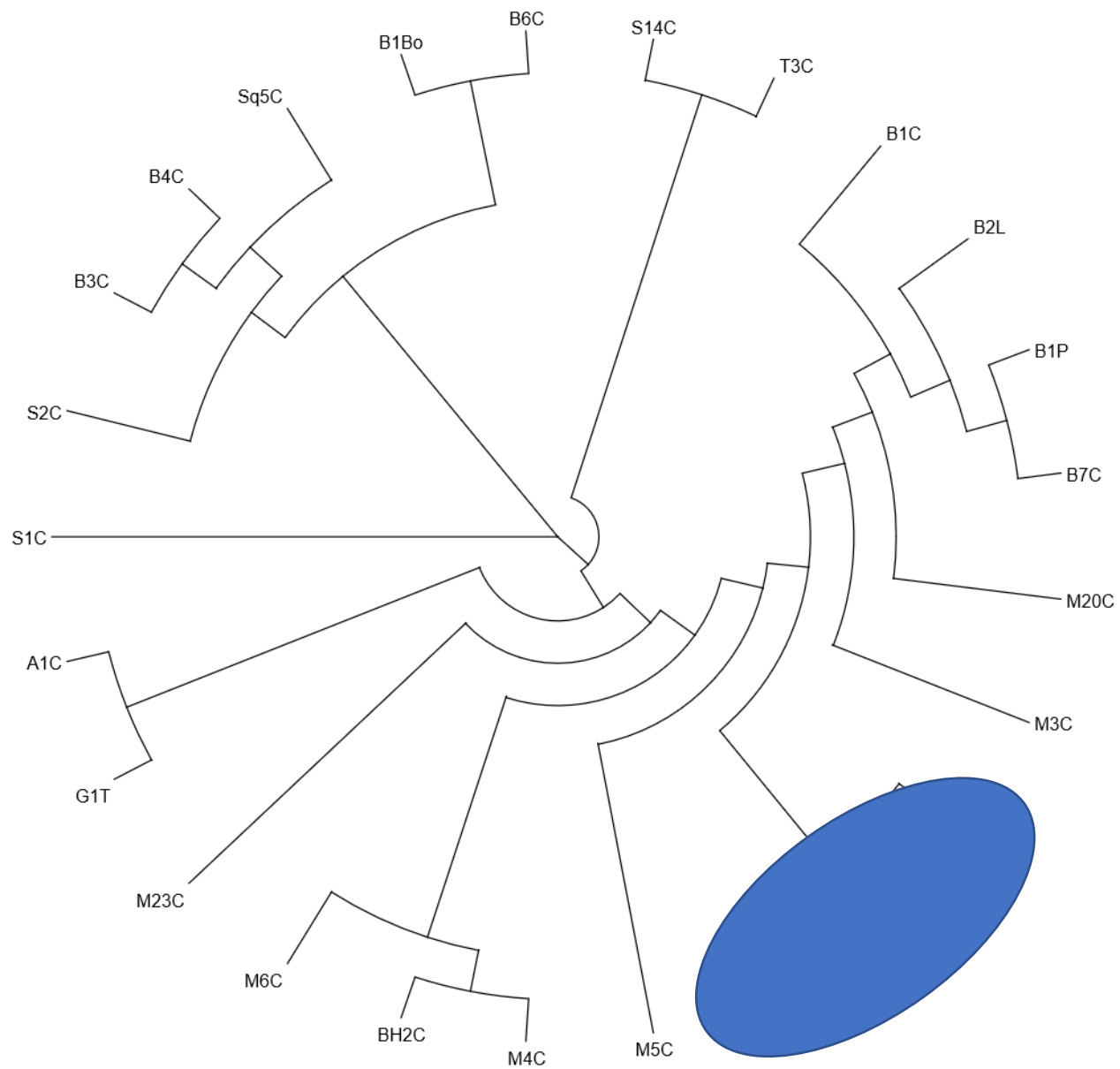
Results



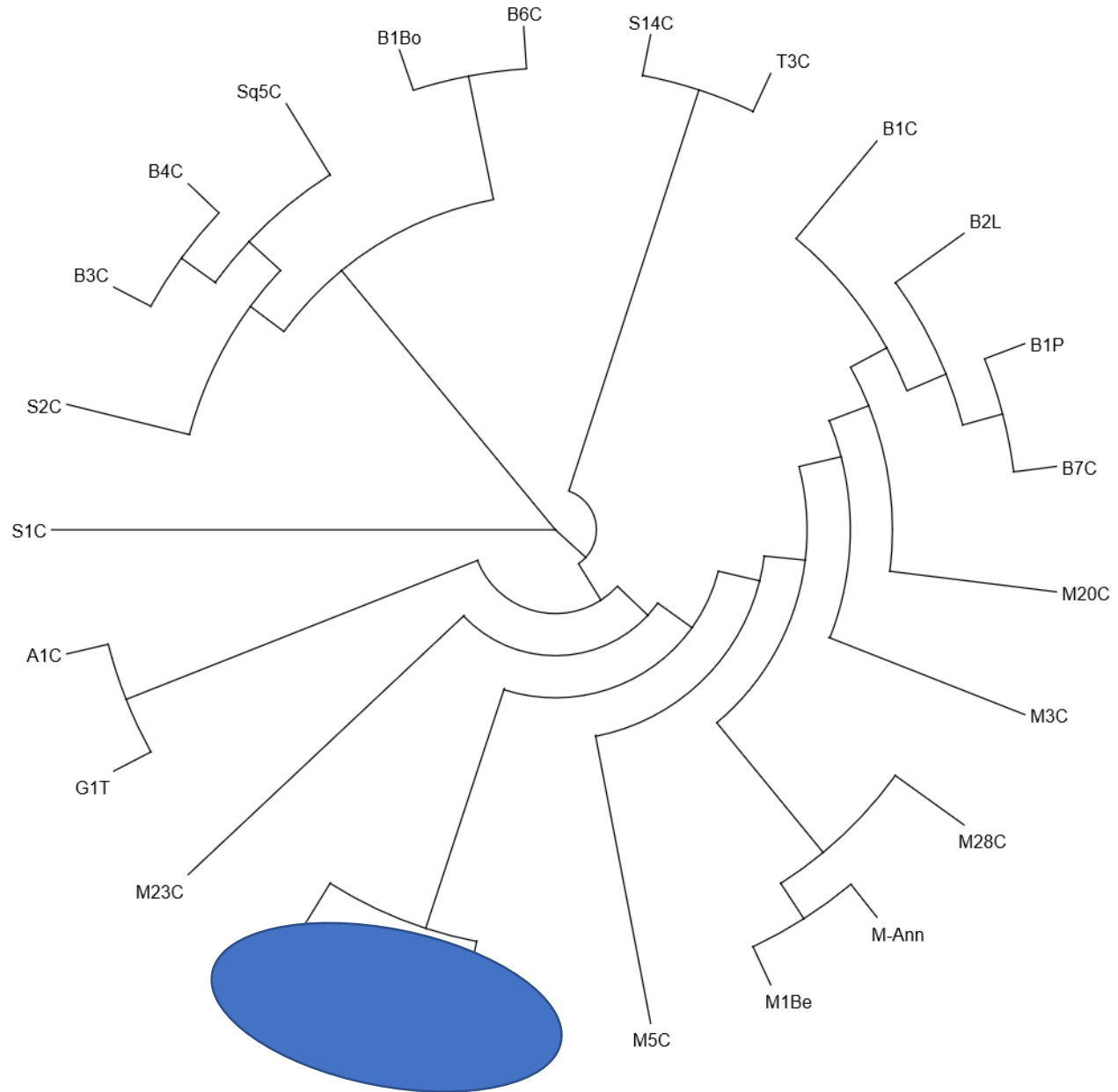
Results



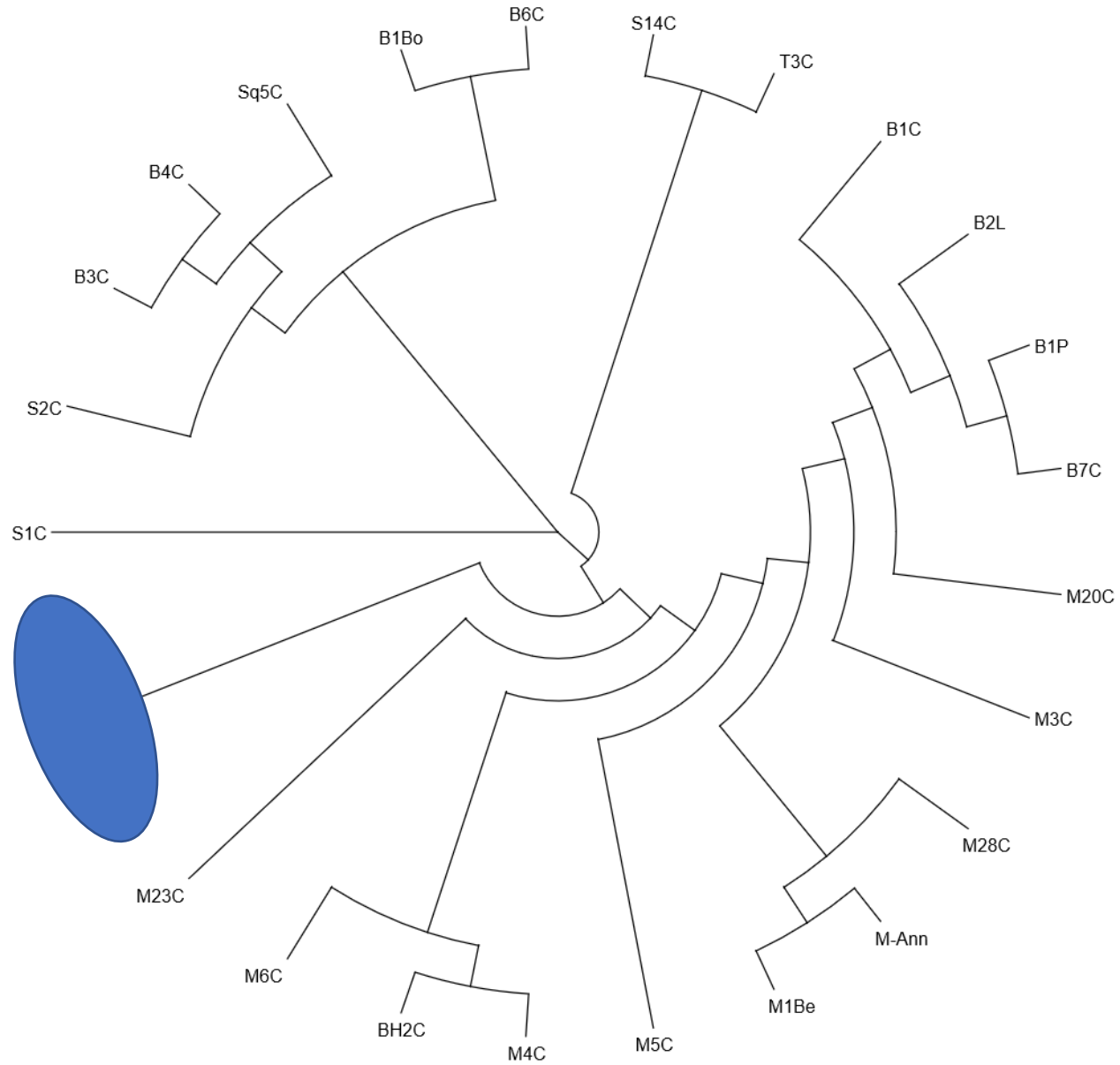
Results



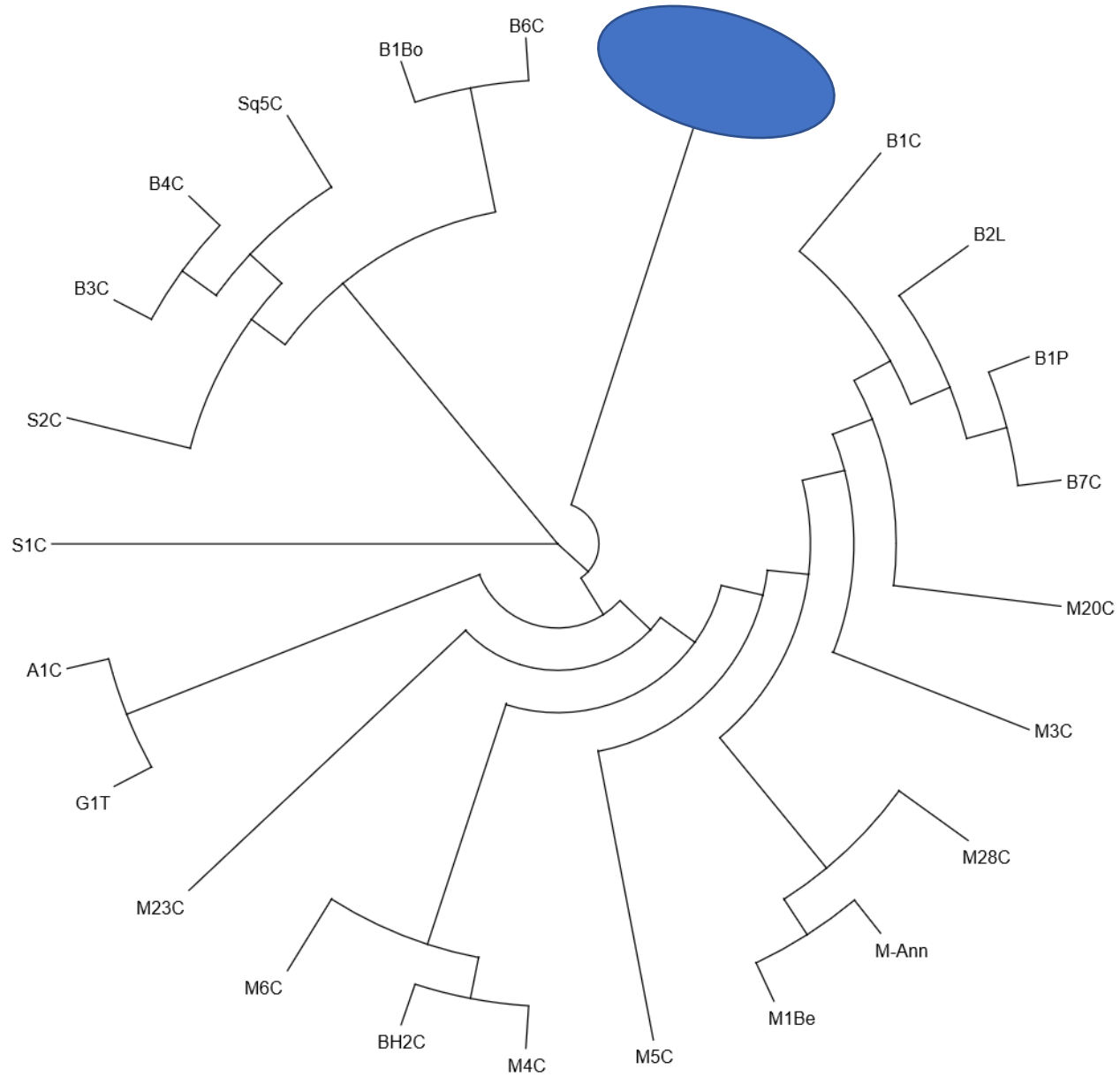
Results



Results



Results



Results

- There are many fuzzy borders
- There seem to have been 3 major variations of this spell
- There seem to have been at least two workshop traditions in Bersheh
- Meir is vague, but there is some common ground
- The coffins from Aswan and Gebelein seem to share a common origin

Future

- Analyzing more spells using the same method, and comparing the results
- Analyzing the verbal system used in the spells
- Analysis of spelling of verbal forms