Local variation in the Coffin Texts:
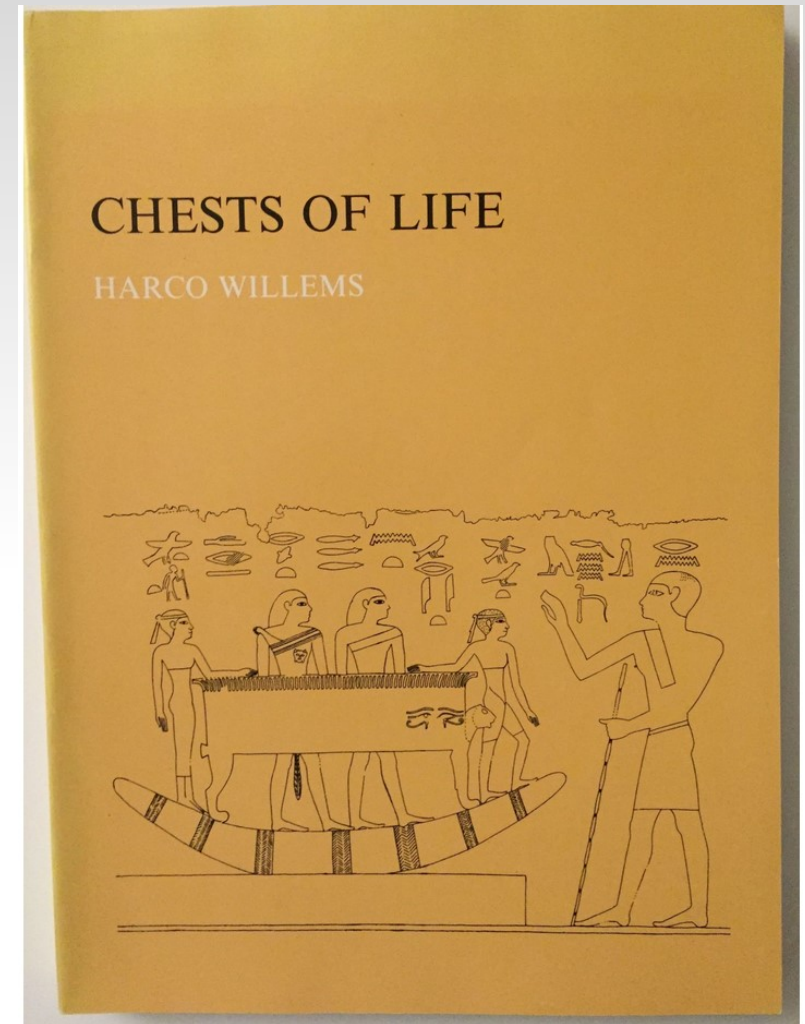## *A case study of sentence structure in spell 75*

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 *gwꜣ* (BM EA 38039)

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)
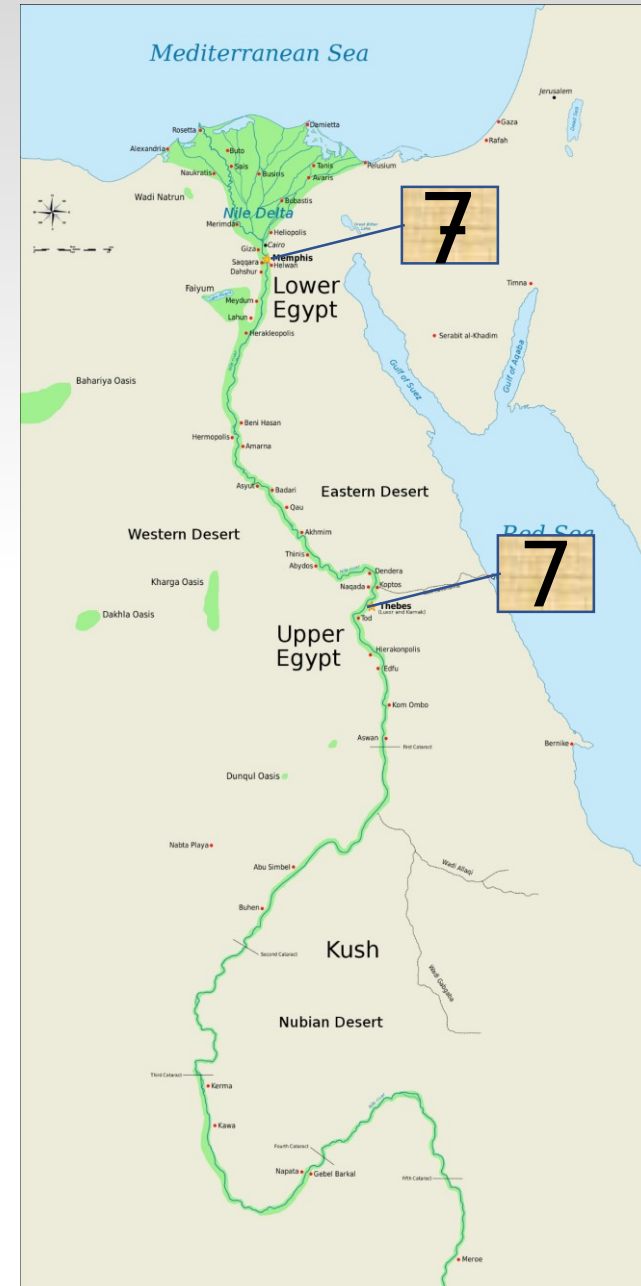
Why Coffin Texts?

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

Method

- Encoding a database

Method

- Encoding a database

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files

Method

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

Method

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

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
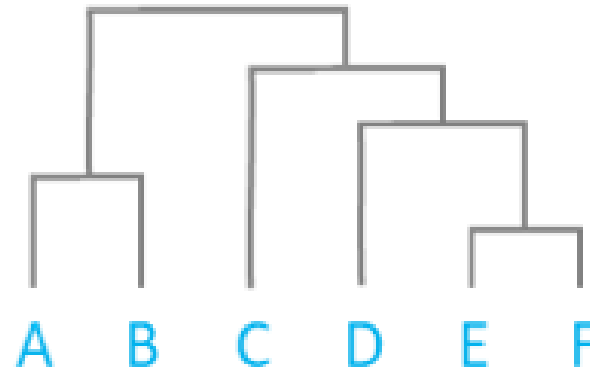- Spells as proteins
- Visualization

Dendroscope 3
by Daniel H. Huson
with contributions from Benjamin Albrecht.
Philippe Gambette, Leo van Iersel,
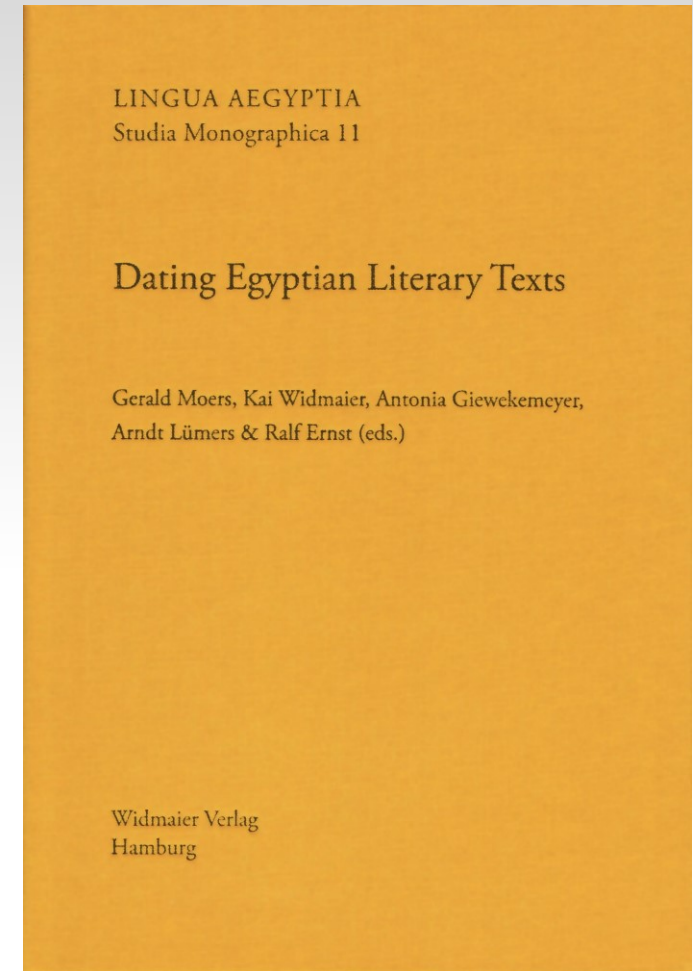Celine Scornavacca and others.

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

Dendrogram

A B C D E F

Method

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

LINGUA AEGYPTIA
Studia Monographica 11

Dating Egyptian Literary Texts

Gerald Moers, Kai Widmaier, Antonia Giewekemeyer,
Arndt Lümers & Ralf Ernst (eds.)

Widmaier Verlag
Hamburg

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.
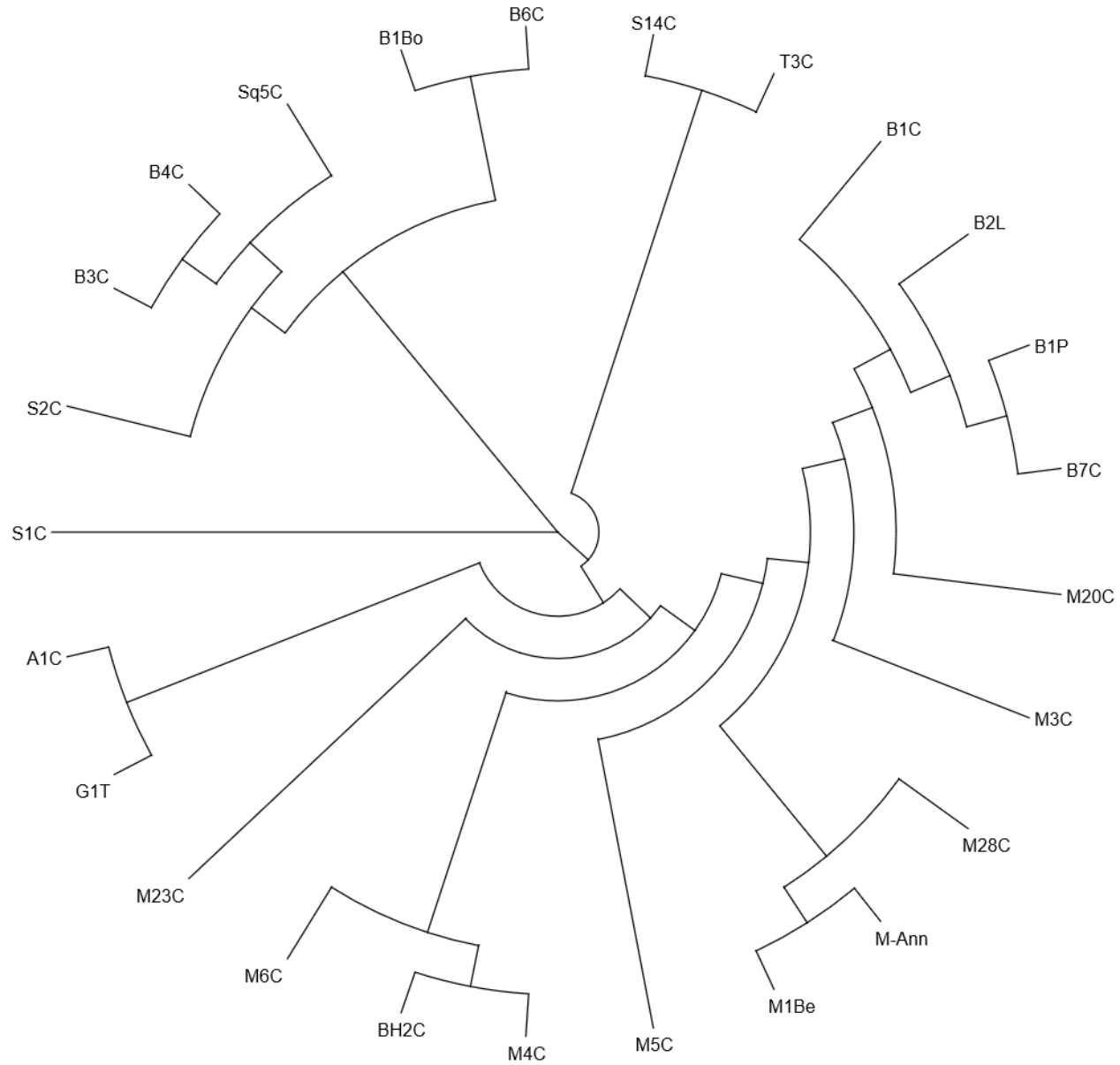
Spell 75

- 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
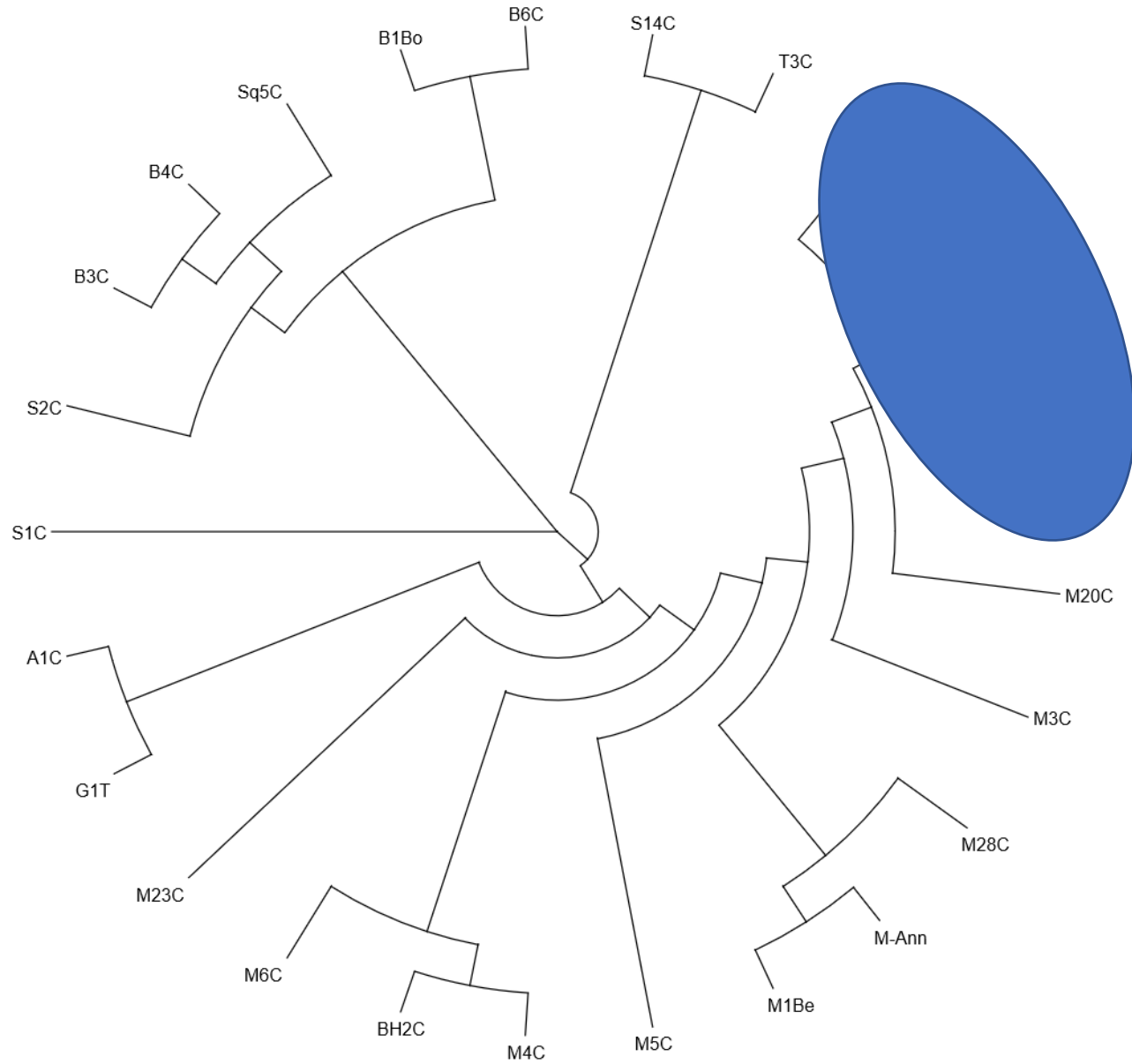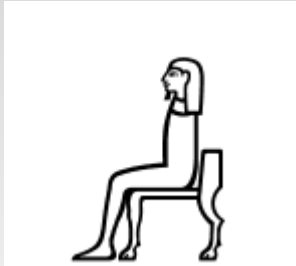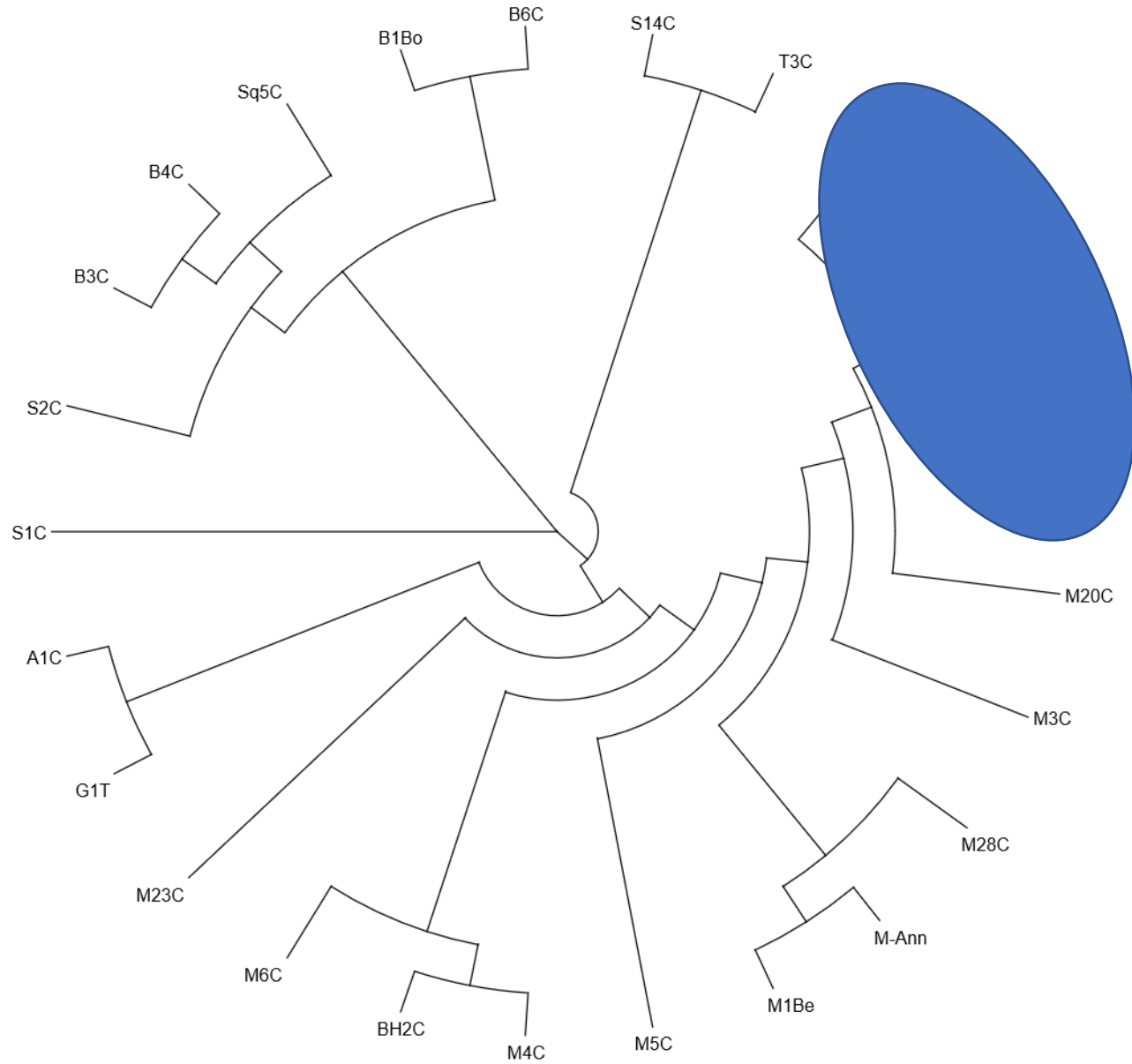- 191 phrases
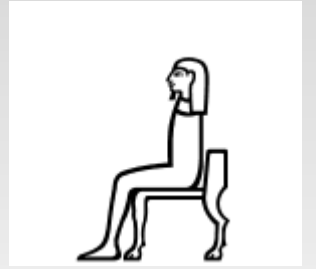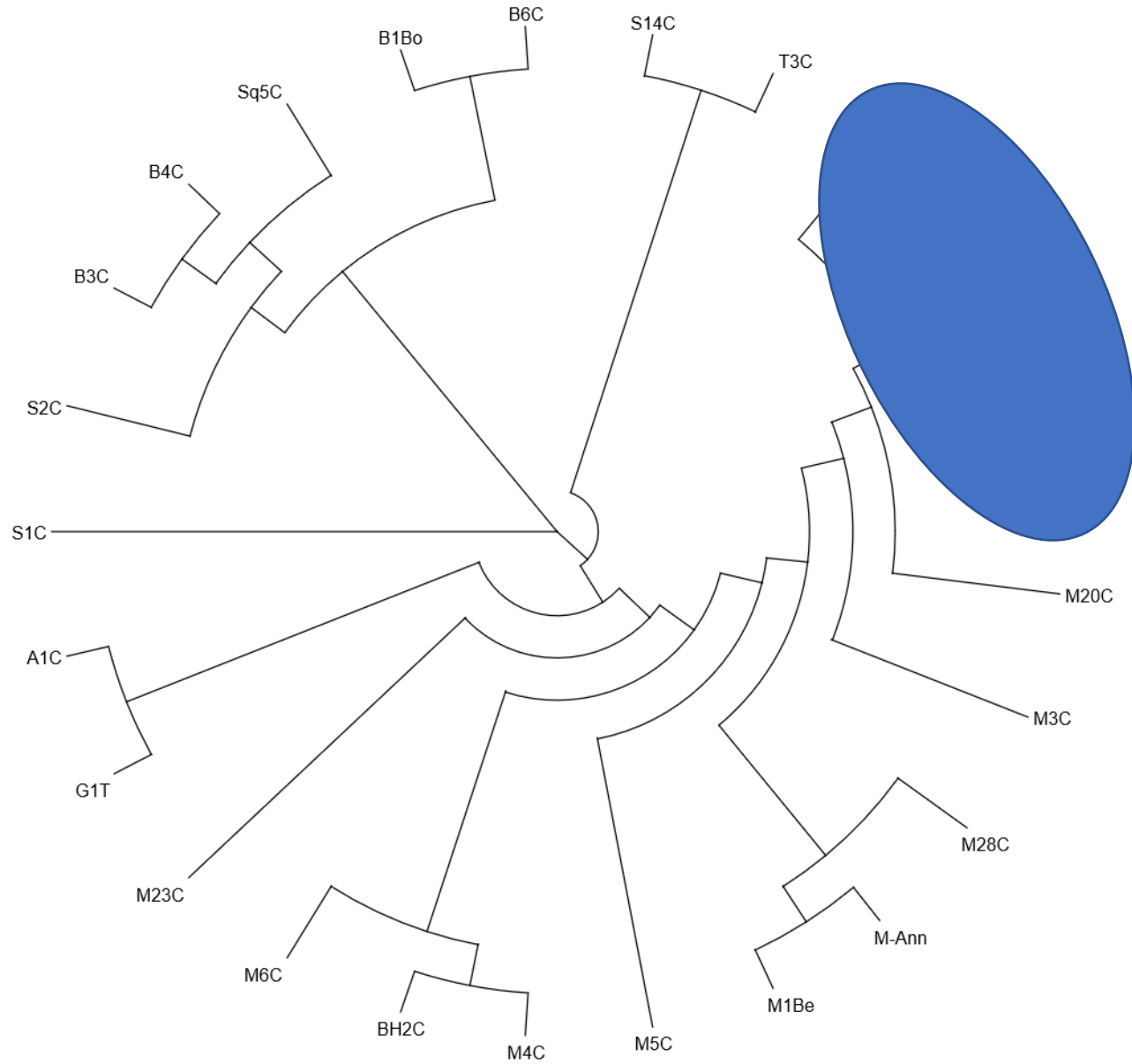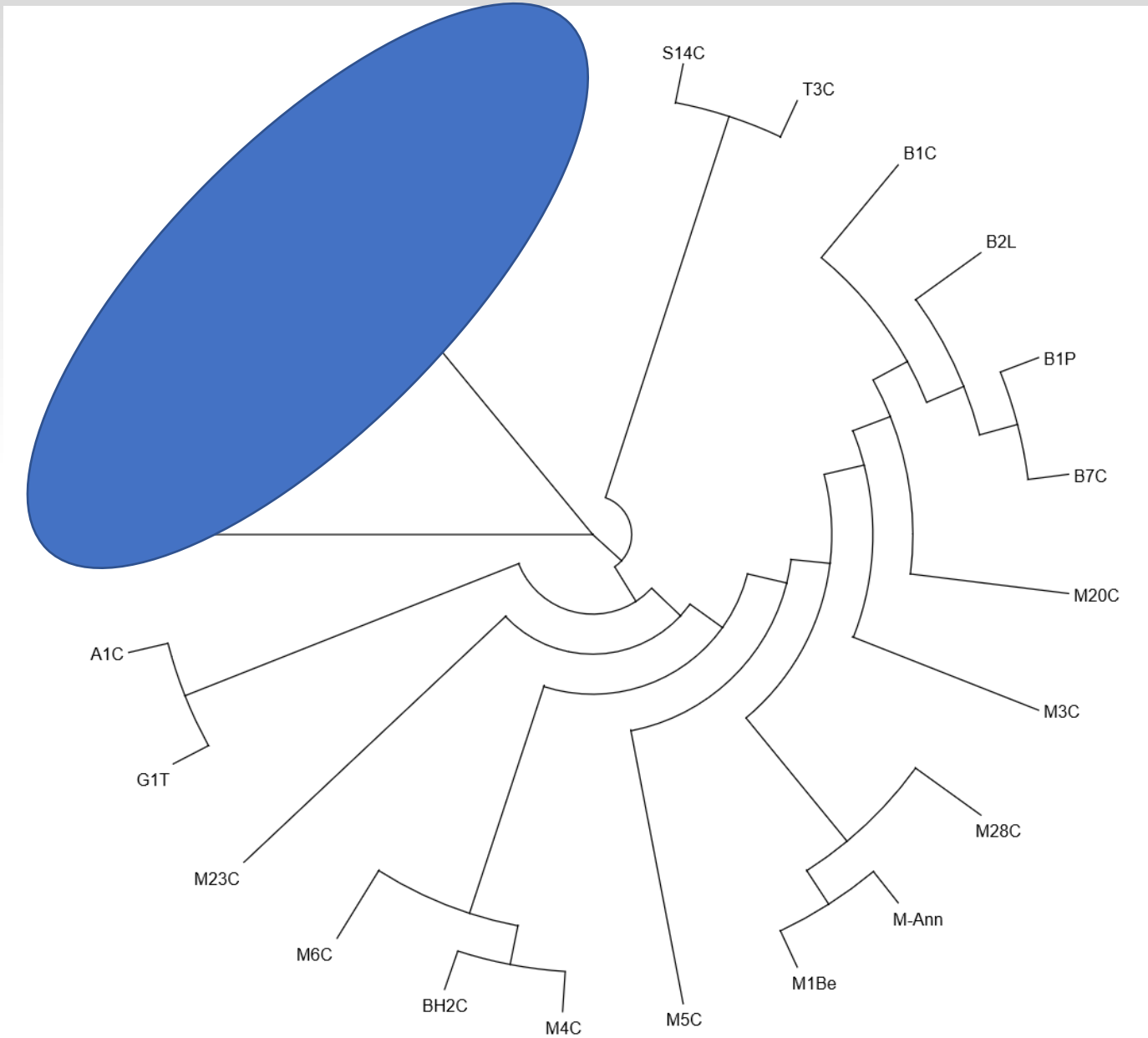
Spell 75

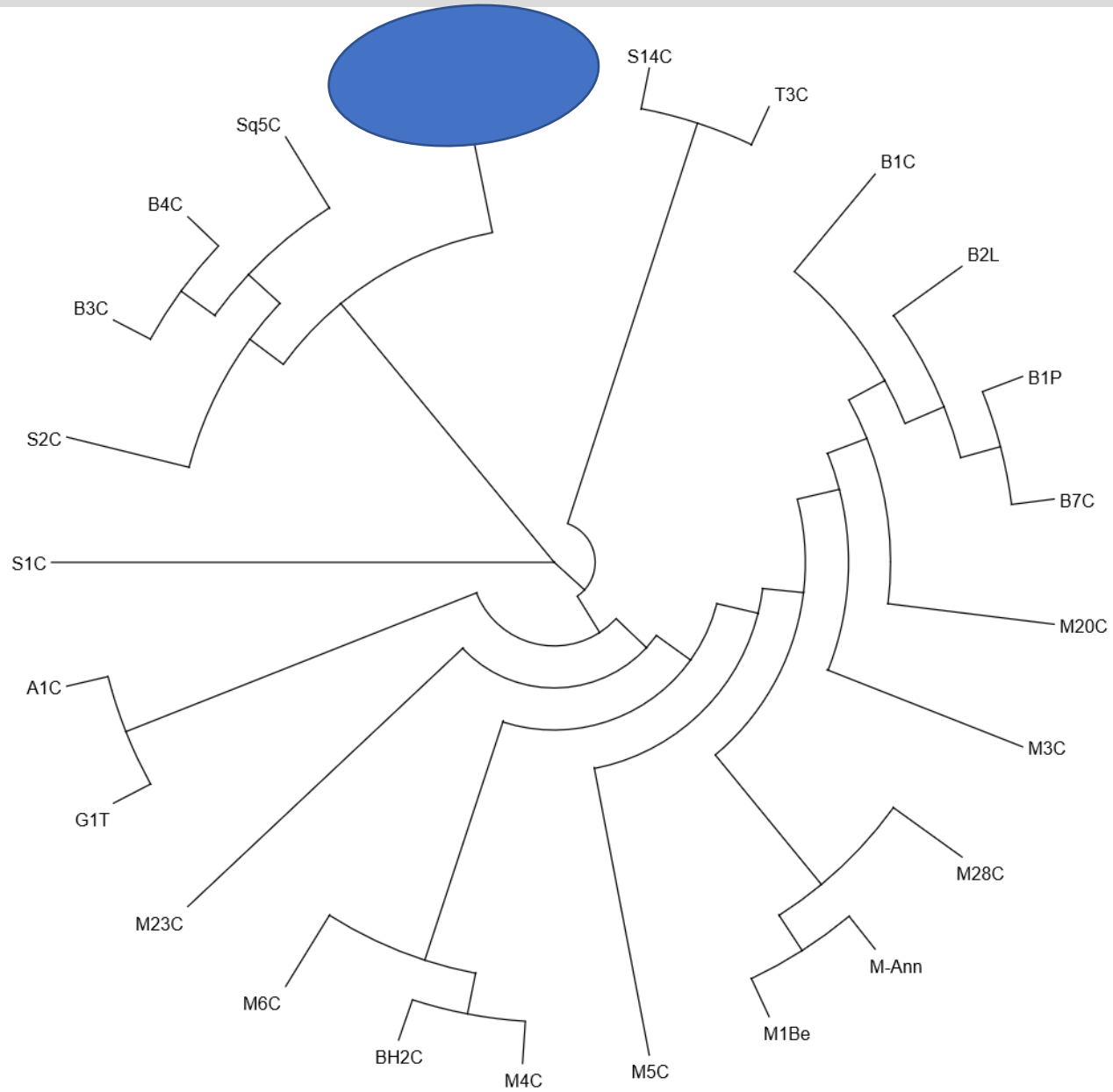Damage to the witnesses
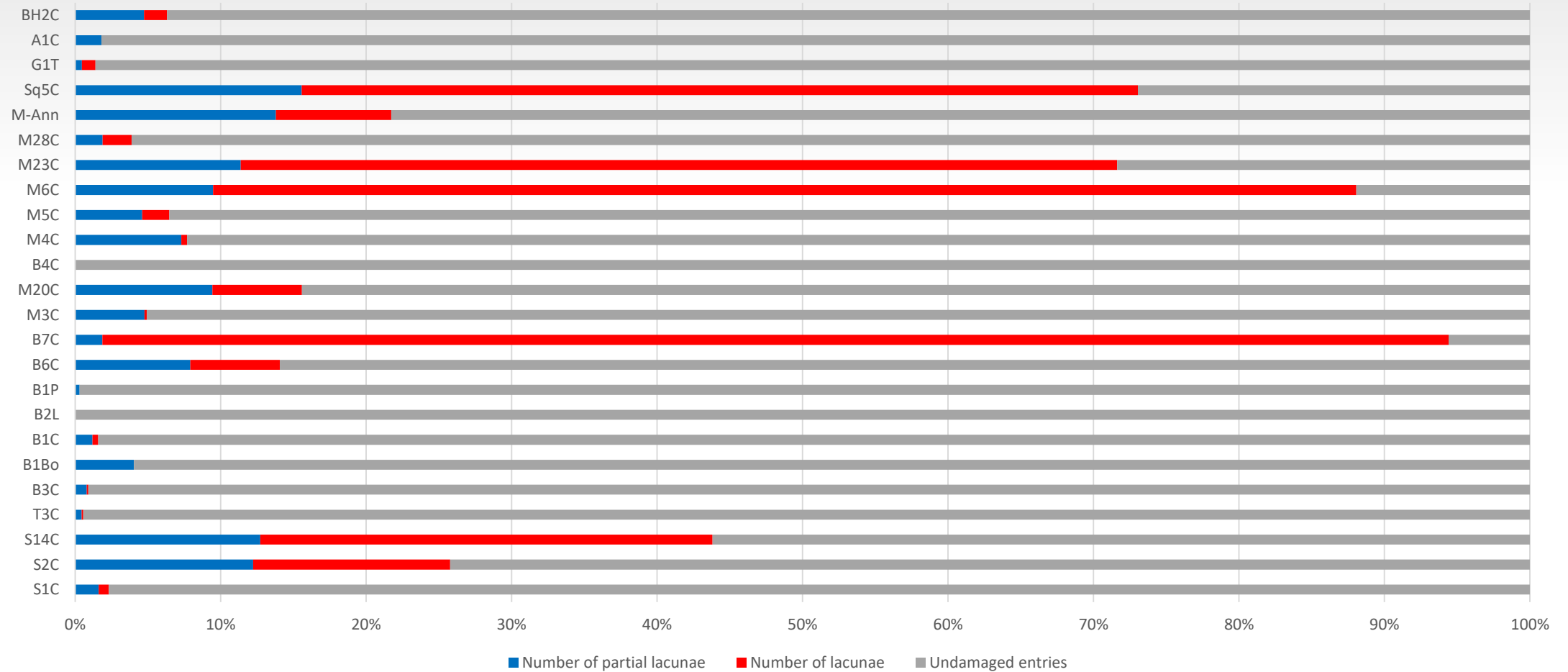
Results

Results

Results

Results
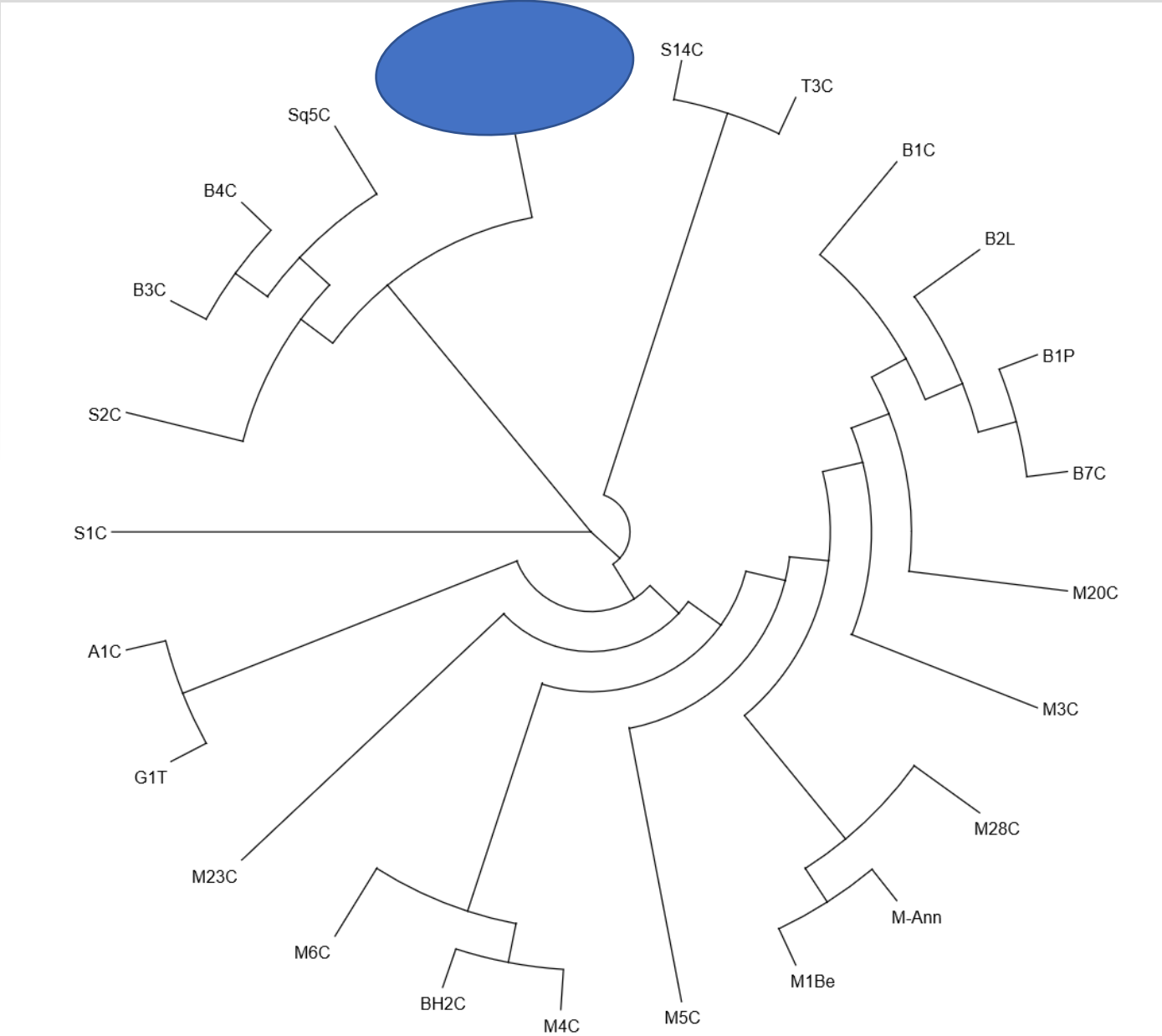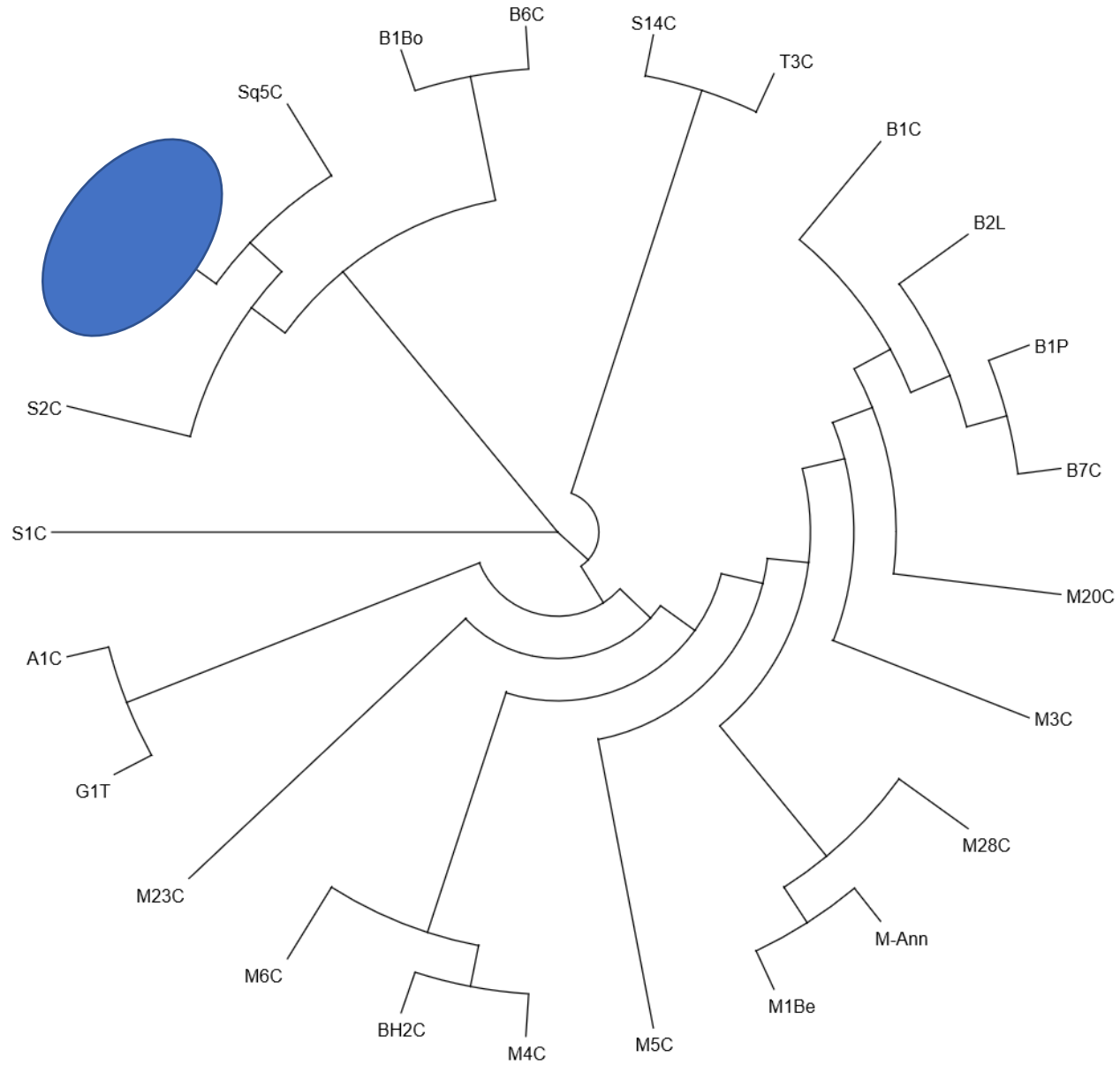

Sesostris II – Sesostris III

Results

Results

Results
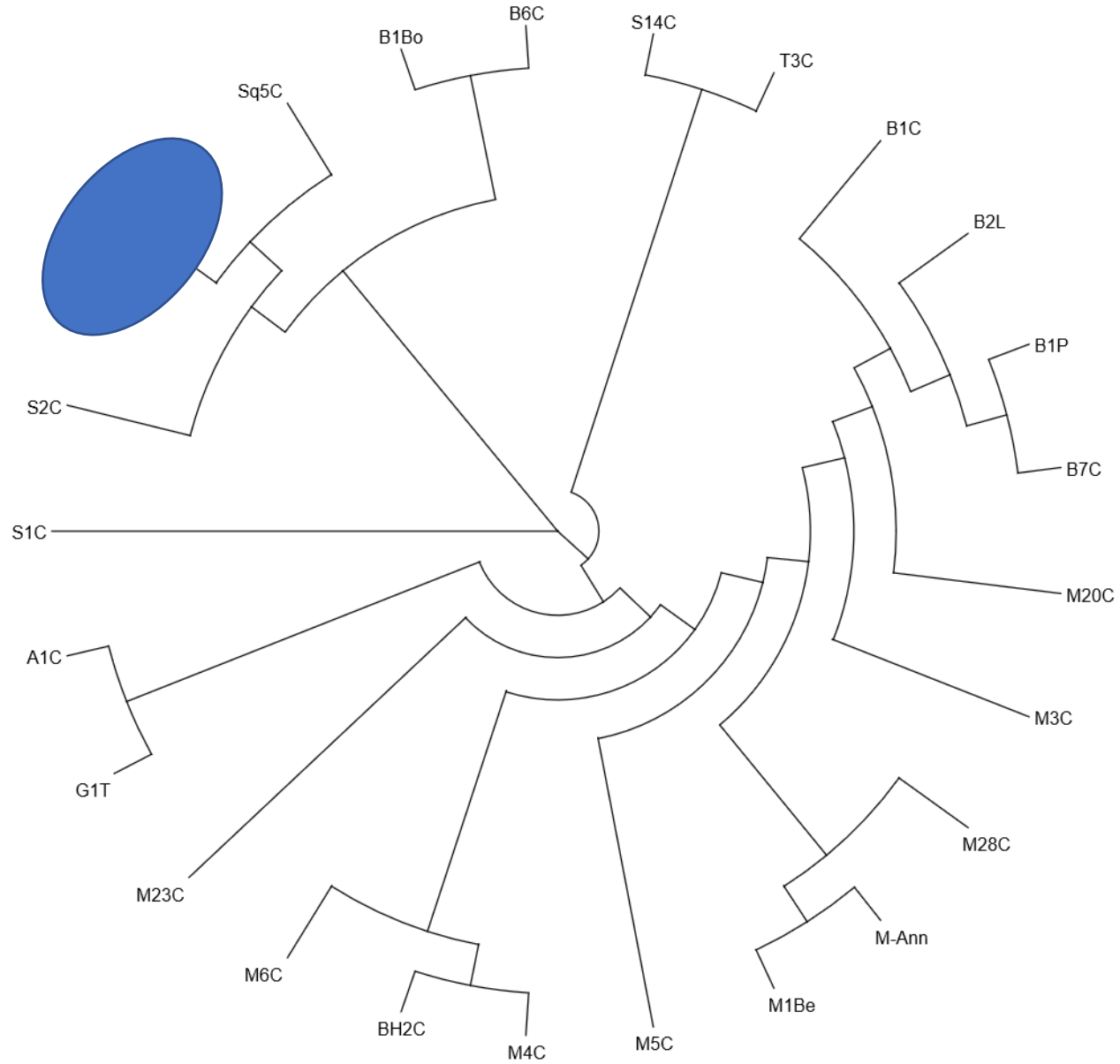

Late 11th dynasty – early 12th dynasty.
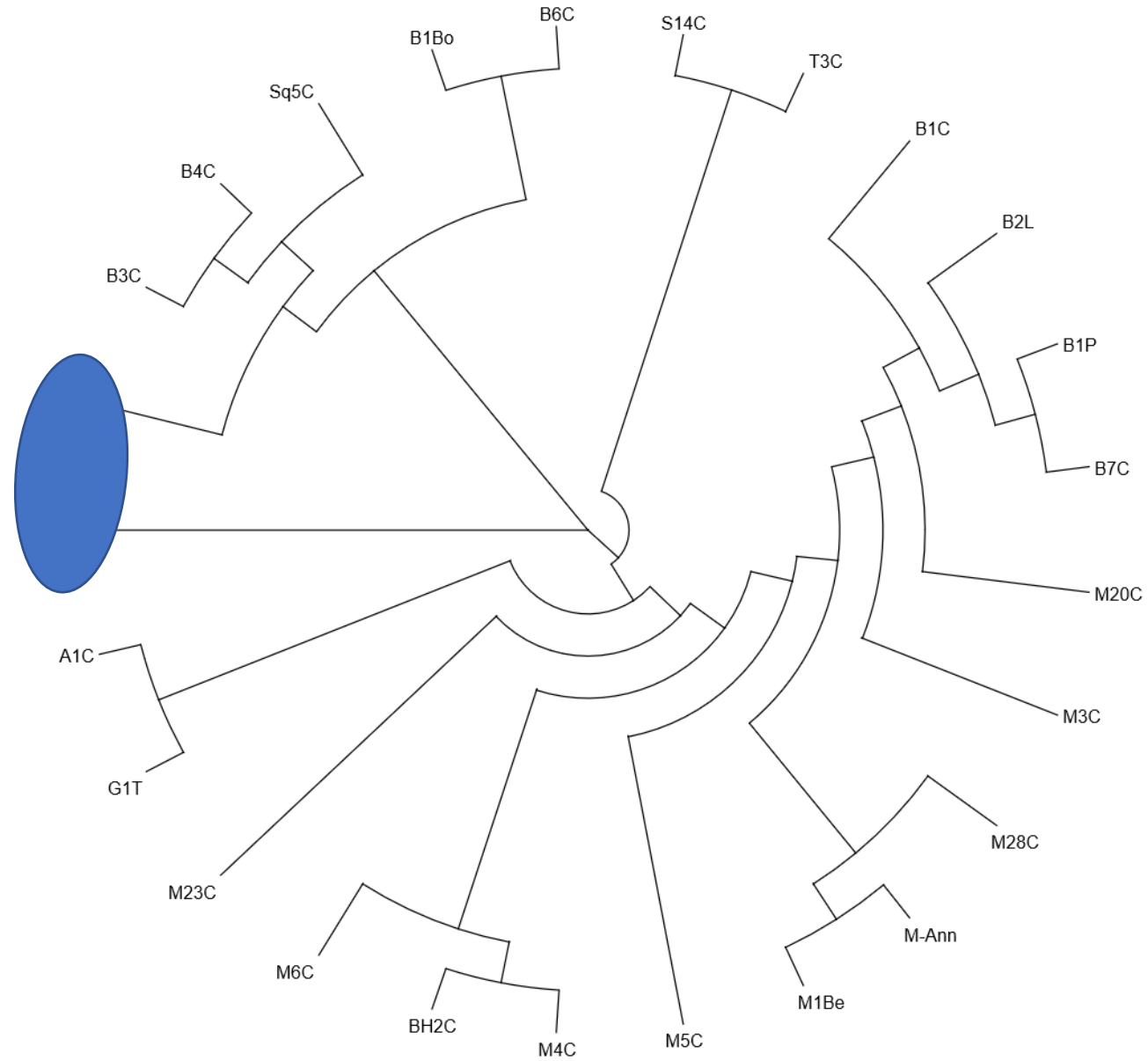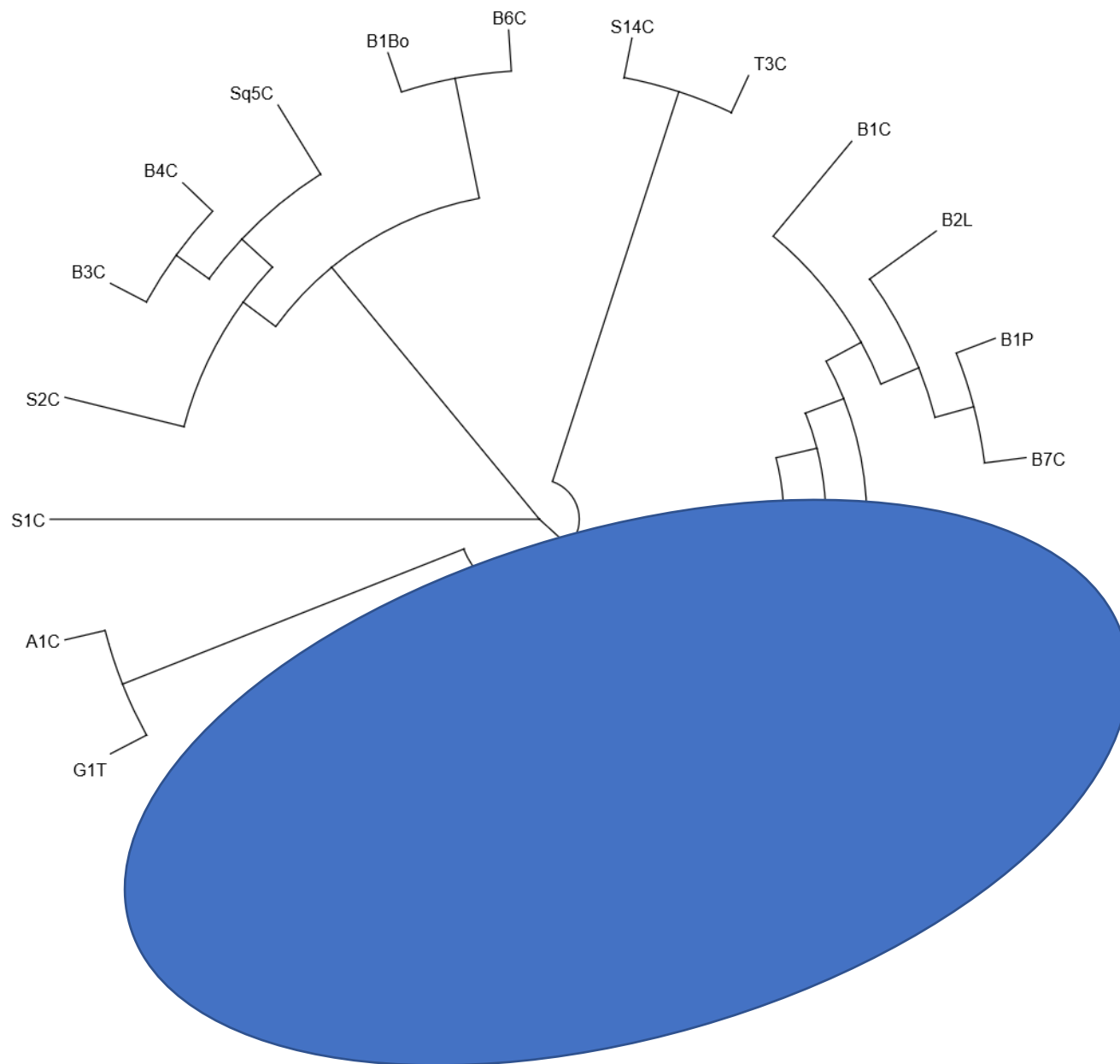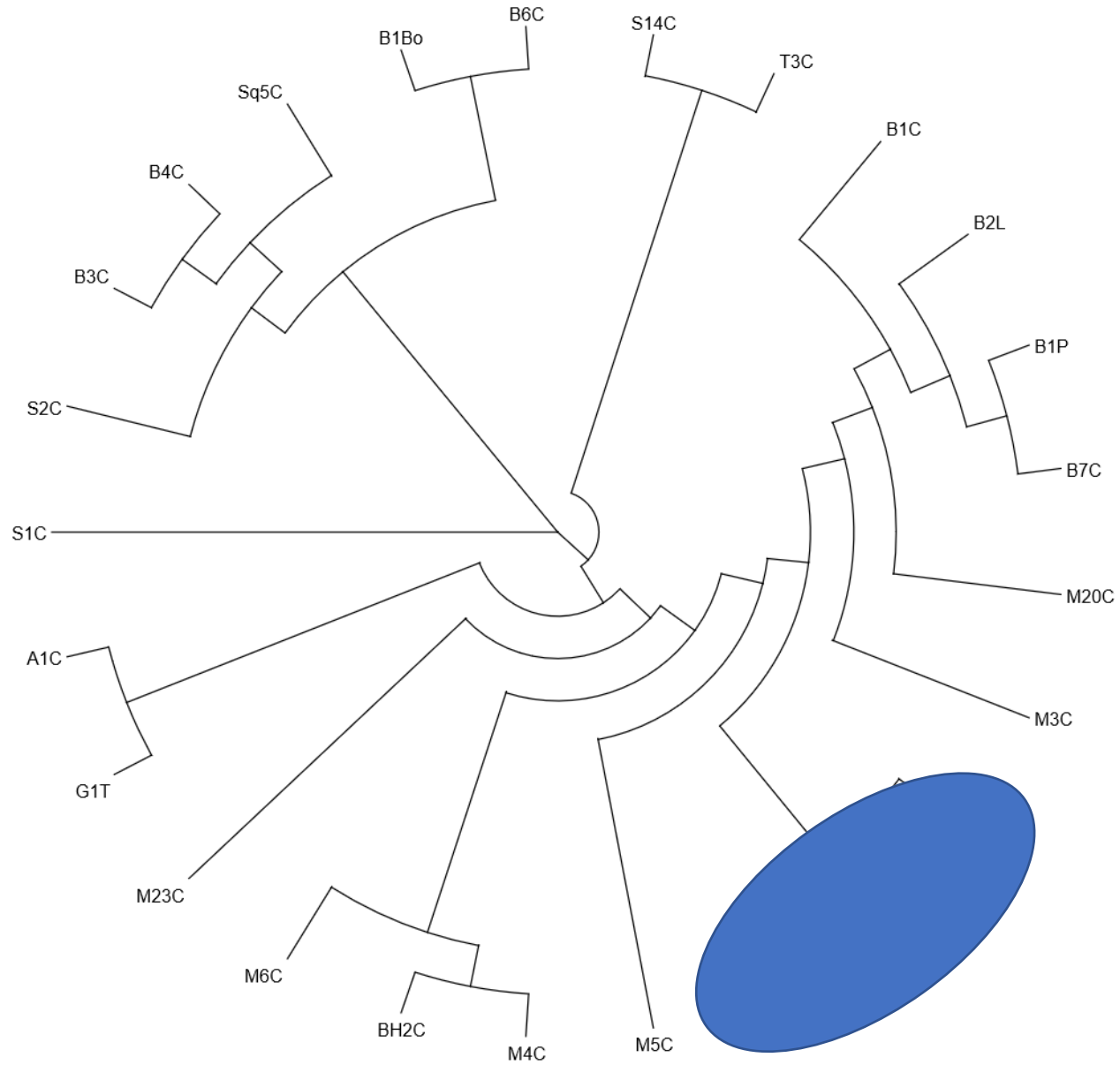
Incised cursive

Results

Results

Results
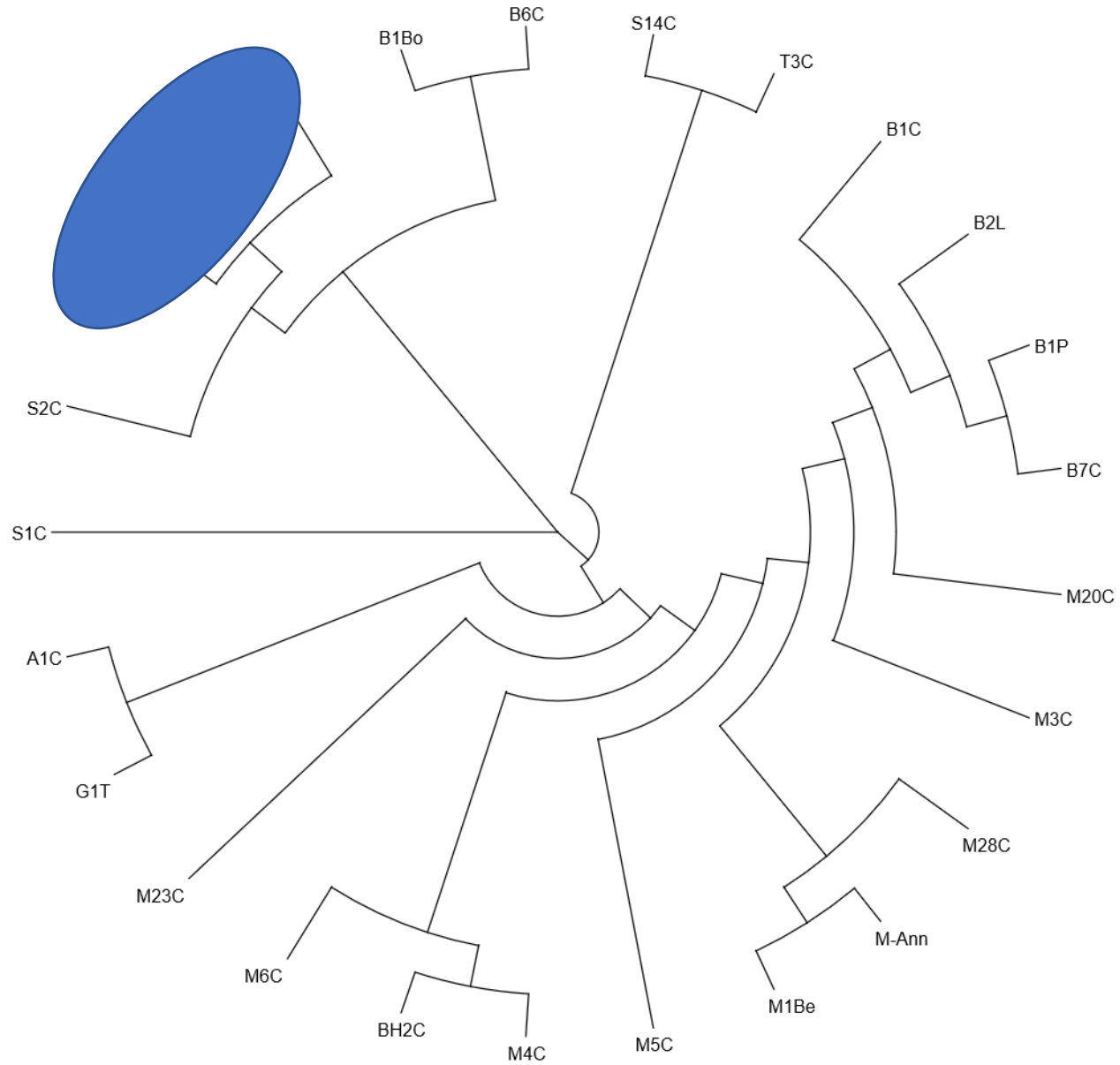
Results
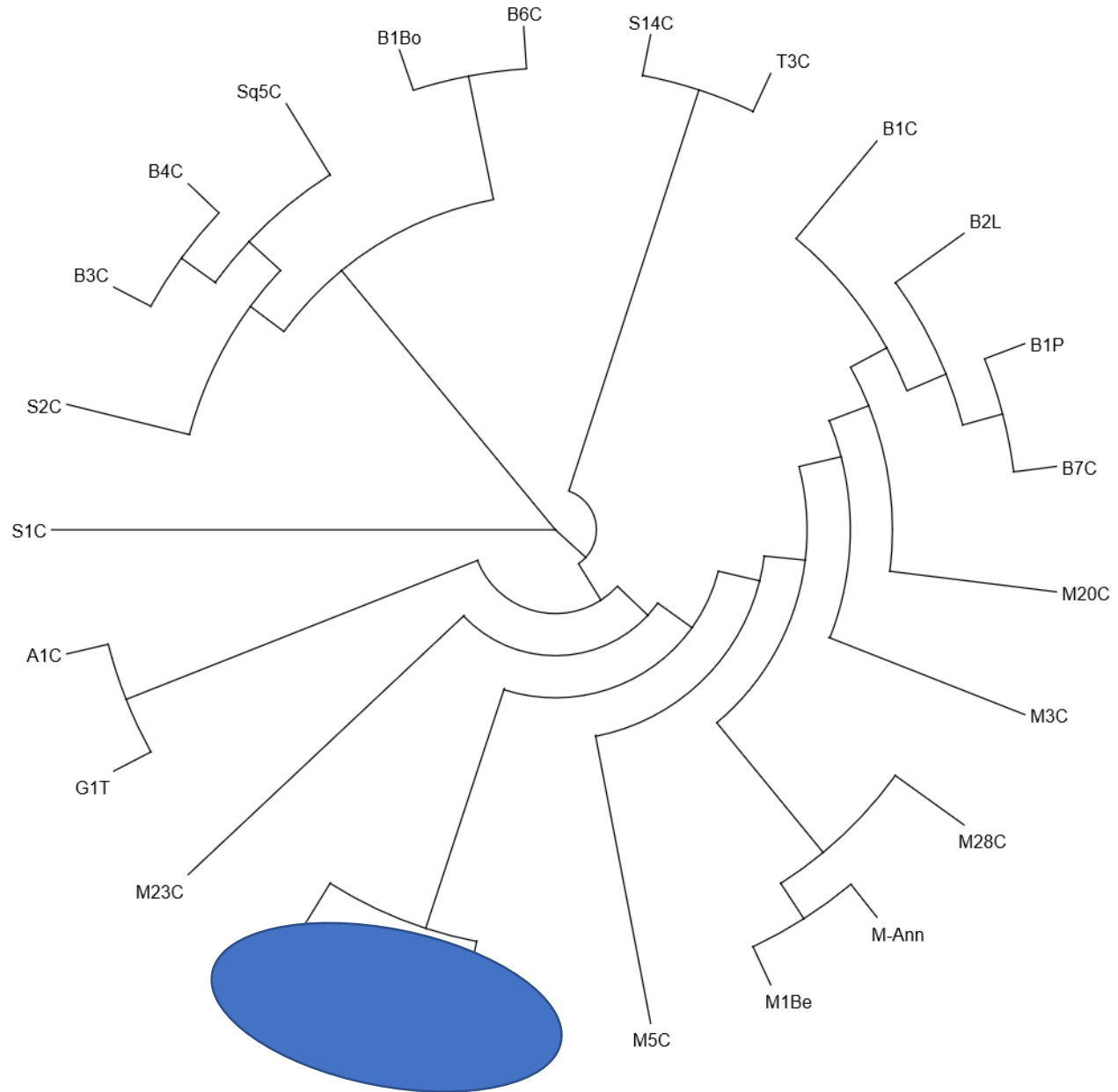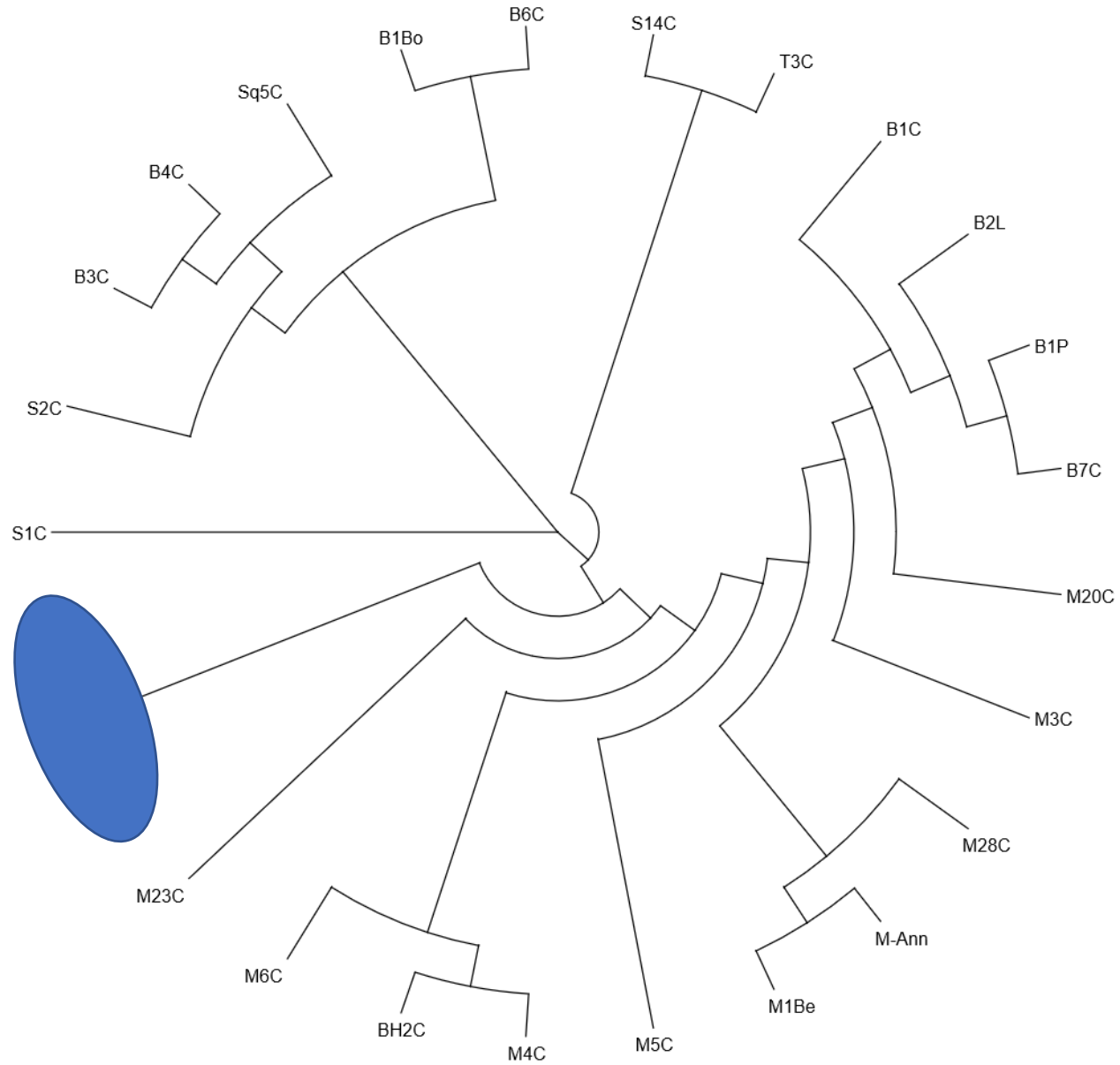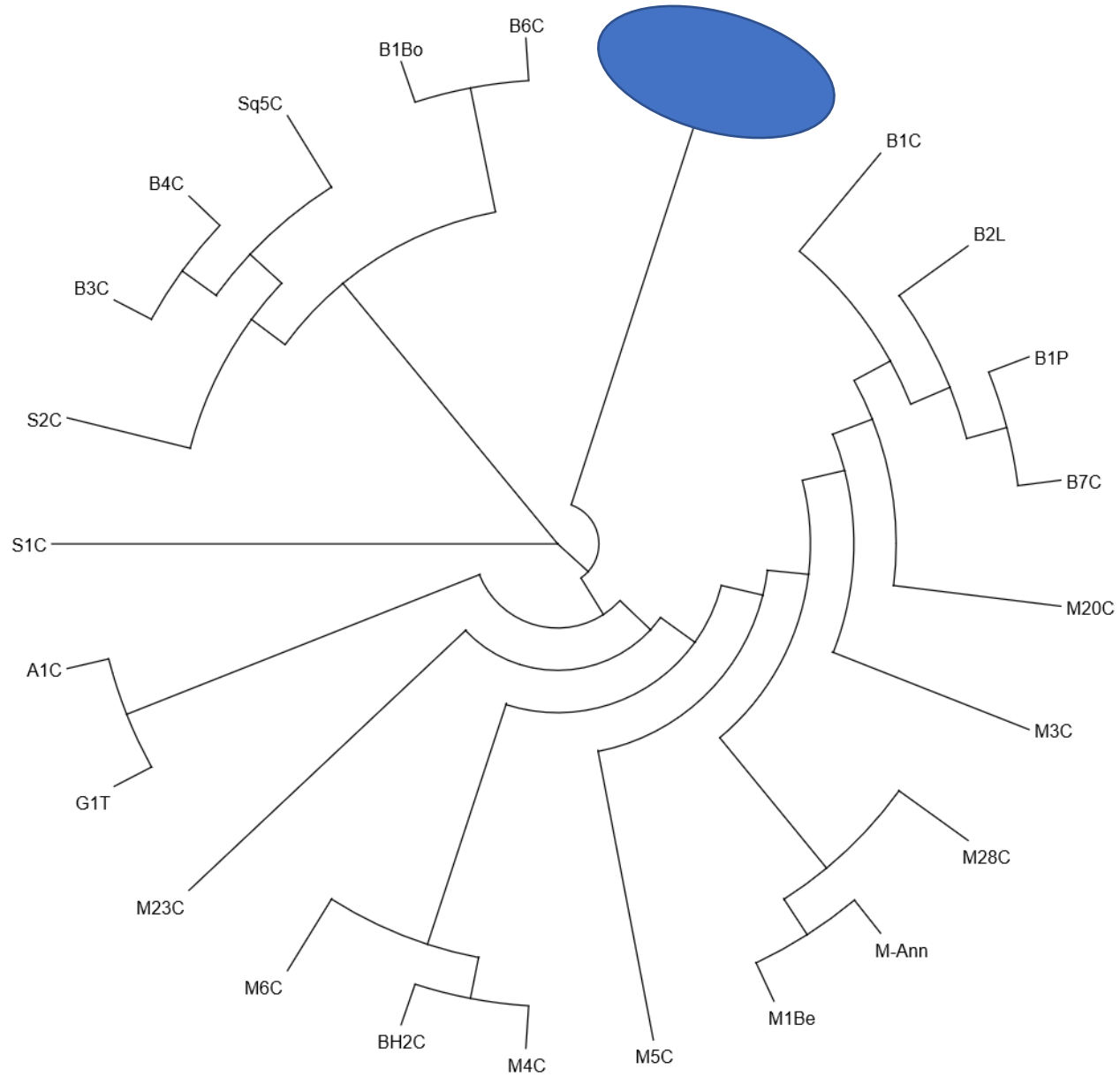
Results
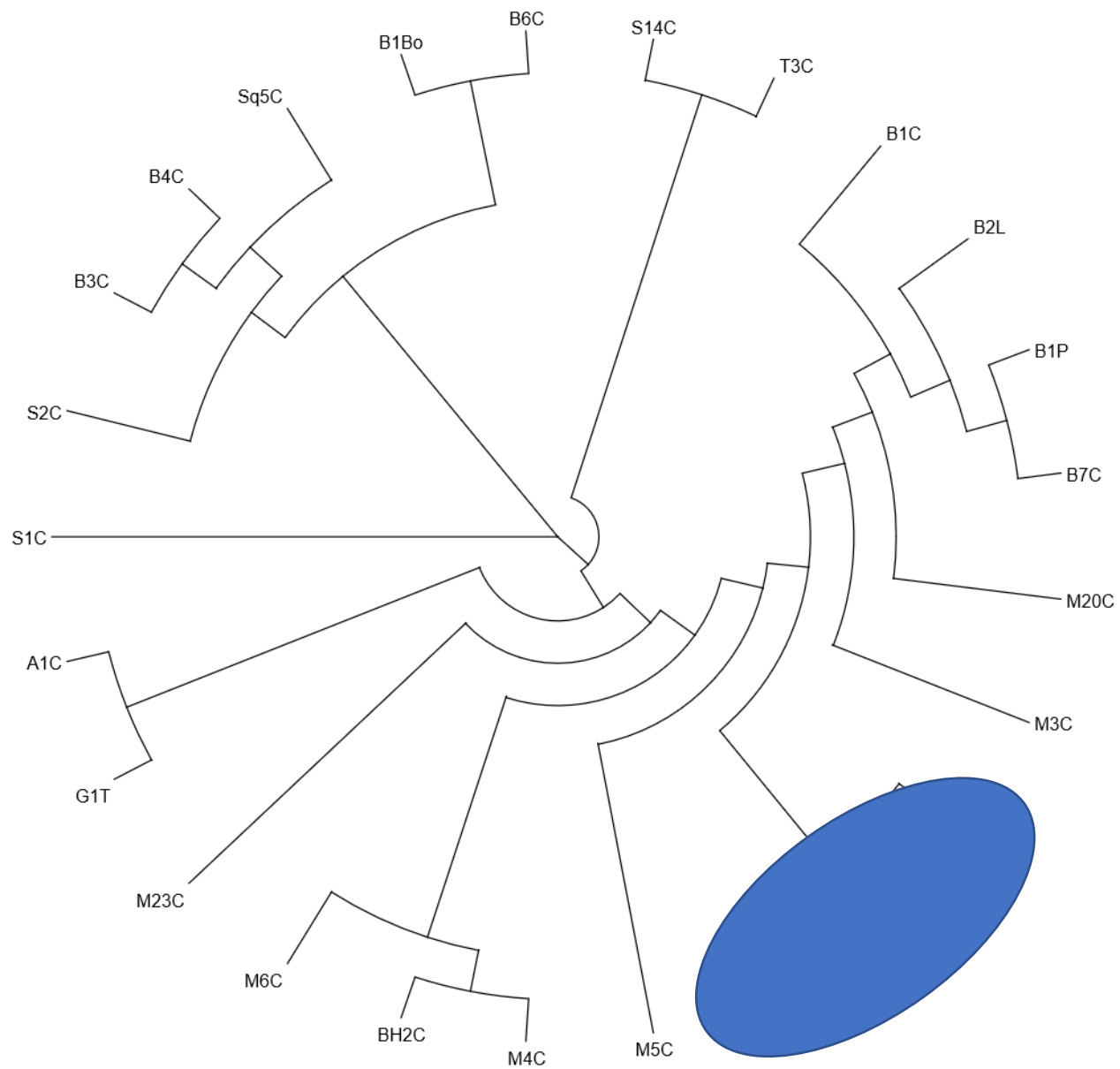
Results

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