

Local variation in the Coffin Texts:

A case study of sentence structure in spell 75

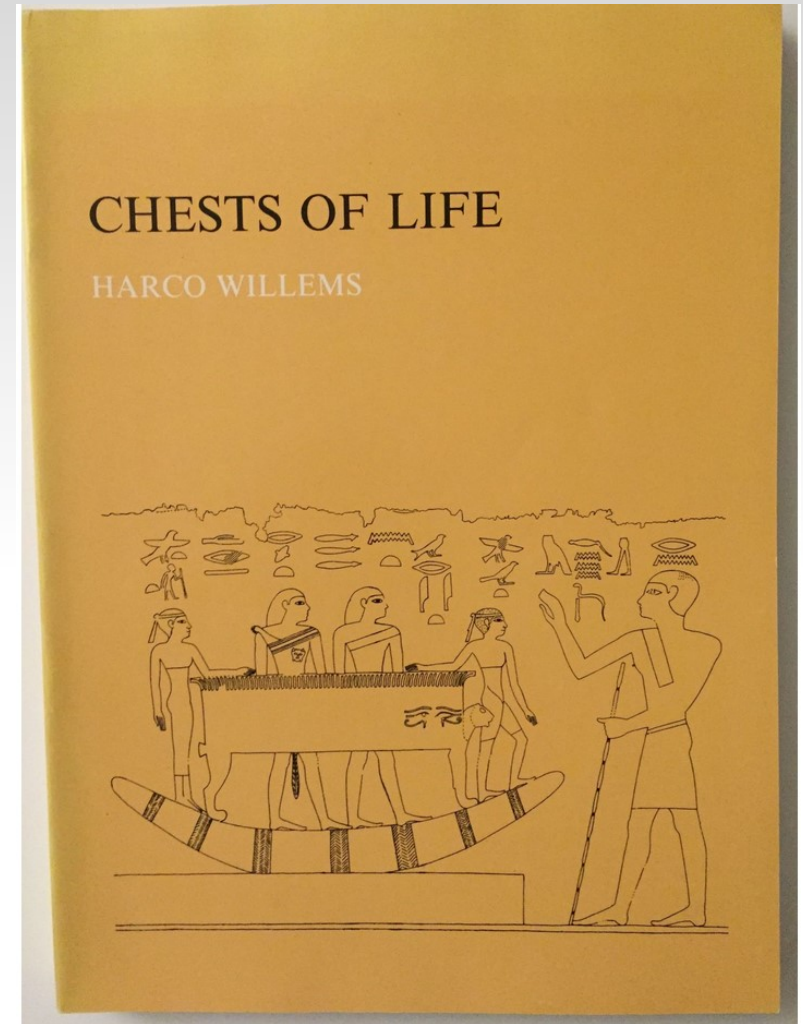
Jorke Grotenhuis



Local variation in spell 75

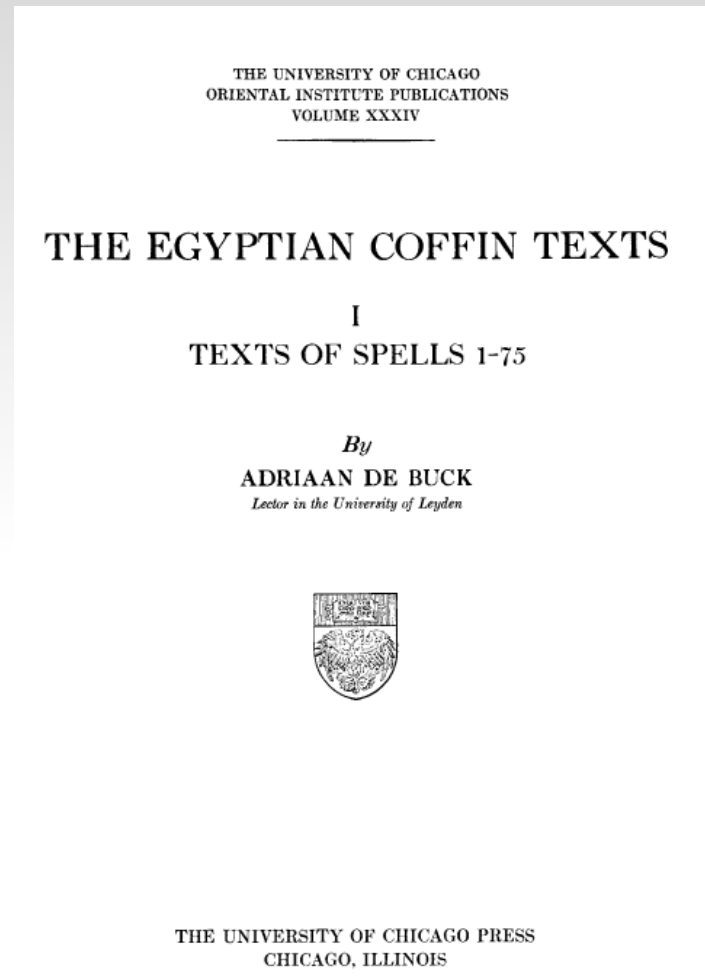
- Coffin texts and terminology
- Local variation
- Method
- Results
- Future

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



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)



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

Local variation

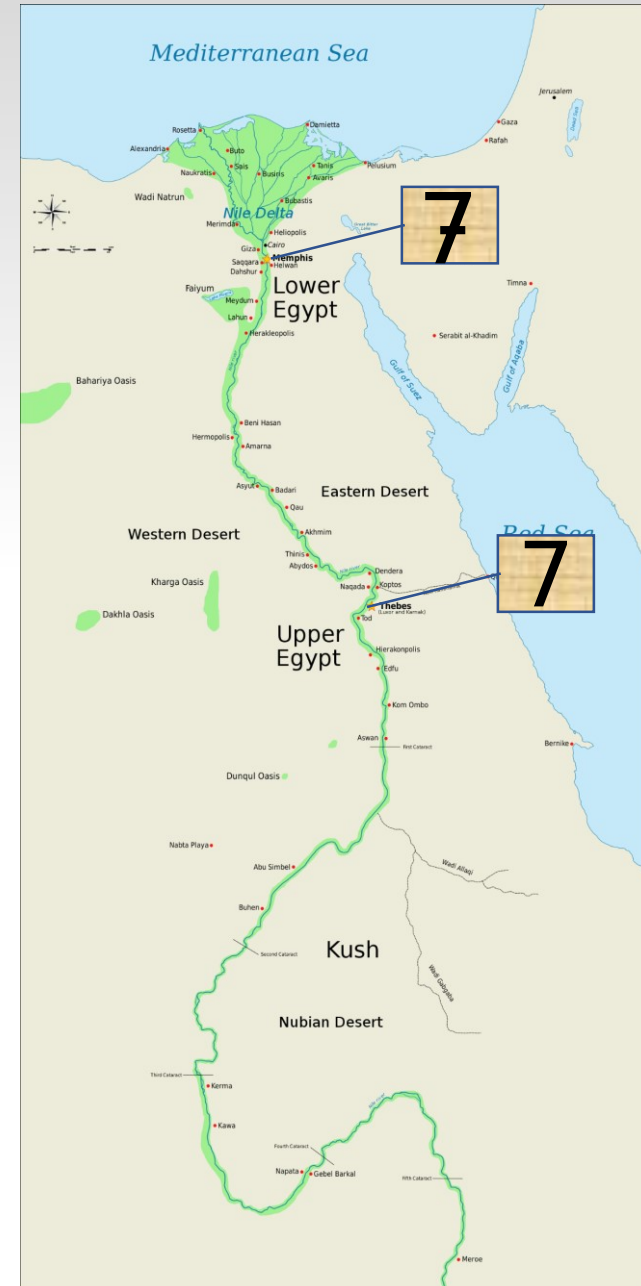
- Personal preference or local variation?

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 584 (beer), 664 (the Henu bark), 767 (Henu), 386 (bark of), 125 (gar), 672 (Happy (one of the)), 707 (to embrace, to), 556 (Apis), 757 (runner), 520 (Happy), 822 (Happy-anx.ty=fy), 728 (Heget (frog)), 360 (ruler), 602 (to rule), and 1094 (to be hungry).

A detailed view of record 60348 is shown in the foreground. It includes fields for Form (ib.kwi), Lemma (ibi), Morphology 1 (Stative), Morphology 2 (1st person singular), Morphology 3, and Morphology 4. It also displays the text 'iw=ib.kwi', the translation 'while I am thirsty', and a spelling image. The interface includes various checkboxes for 'Type of variant' (Lexicology, Spelling, Morphology, Syntax, Subject, Additional verb form, Other...) and 'Editorial remarks' (reconstruction, addition by editor, deletion by editor, lacuna, partial lacuna, ambiguous, point of interest, Other...).

Other windows in the background show a table of records with columns like 'ere Name', 'Gender', 'Sigla', 'Date_dyn', and 'Date', and another window titled 'COFFIN TEXTS - SPELLINGS' with a table of spelling codes like 'M17'D58-N35A-V31A:G43-A50'.

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 | I,314.a |
| 4 | Amino code: R | 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 | I,314.b |
| 9 | Amino code: R | N | N |
| 10 | text: 1pip bA Sw nTr xpr Ds=f | 1pip bA Sw 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 | I am the spirit of Shu, who came into being (by) him |
| 12 | | | |
| 13 | line: I,314.c | I,314.c | I,314.c |
| 14 | Amino code: X | X | X |
| 15 | text: | | |
| 16 | translation: | | |
| 17 | | | |
| 18 | line: I,316.a | I,316.a | I,316.a |
| 19 | Amino code: X | M | K |
| 20 | text: | xpr[n]=1ps m Ha.w nTr Ds=f | xpr.n=1ps m Ha.w nTr xpr Ds=f |
| 21 | translation: | I have come into being from the body of the god himself. | I have come into being from the body of the god wh |
| 22 | | | |
| 23 | line: I,316.b | I,316.b | I,316.b |
| 24 | Amino code: R | R | M |
| 25 | text: 1pip bA Sw nTr sfg irw | 1pip bA Sw nTr sfg irw | 1pip bA Sw 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. | I am the spirit of Shu, invisible of shape. |
| 27 | | | |
| 28 | line: I,316.c | I,316.c | I,316.c |
| 29 | Amino code: X | X | X |
| 30 | text: | | |
| 31 | translation: | | |
| 32 | | | |
| 33 | line: I,318.a | I,318.a | I,318.a |
| 34 | Amino code: X | X | X |
| 35 | text: | | |
| 36 | translation: | | |
| 37 | | | |
| 38 | line: I,318.b | I,318.b | I,318.b |
| 39 | Amino code: R | R | N |
| 40 | text: xpr.n=1ps m Ha.w n(w) nTr xpr Ds=f | 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 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 | I,318.c |
| 44 | Amino code: R | M | N |
| 45 | text: 1pip imy Dr n nTr | 1pip imy Drw nTr | 1pip imy Dr xpr Ds=f |
| 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 god. | I am the one who is in the side of the one who can |

Method

- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files

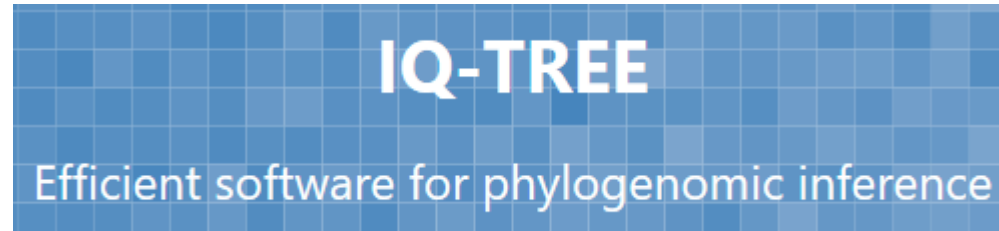
The image shows a large spreadsheet with columns labeled A through K. The rows are densely packed with text, likely representing a database or analysis file. The text is mostly small and difficult to read, but the spreadsheet is filled with data. There are several rows that are highlighted in black, and many other rows have individual cells highlighted in various colors (blue, red, yellow, green, purple, orange). The overall appearance is that of a complex data table or a list of records.

Method

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

Method

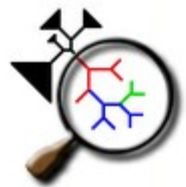
- Encoding a database
- Create analysis files
- Spells as proteins



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



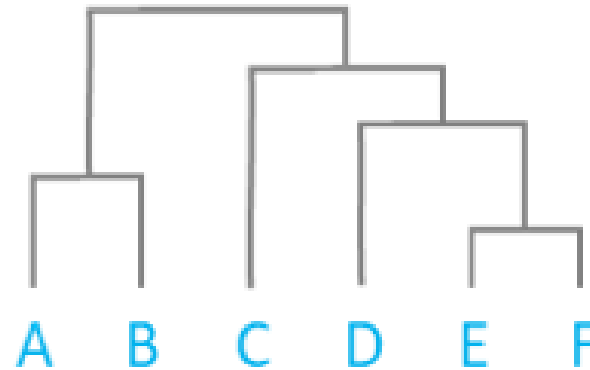
Dendroscope 3

by Daniel H. Huson

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

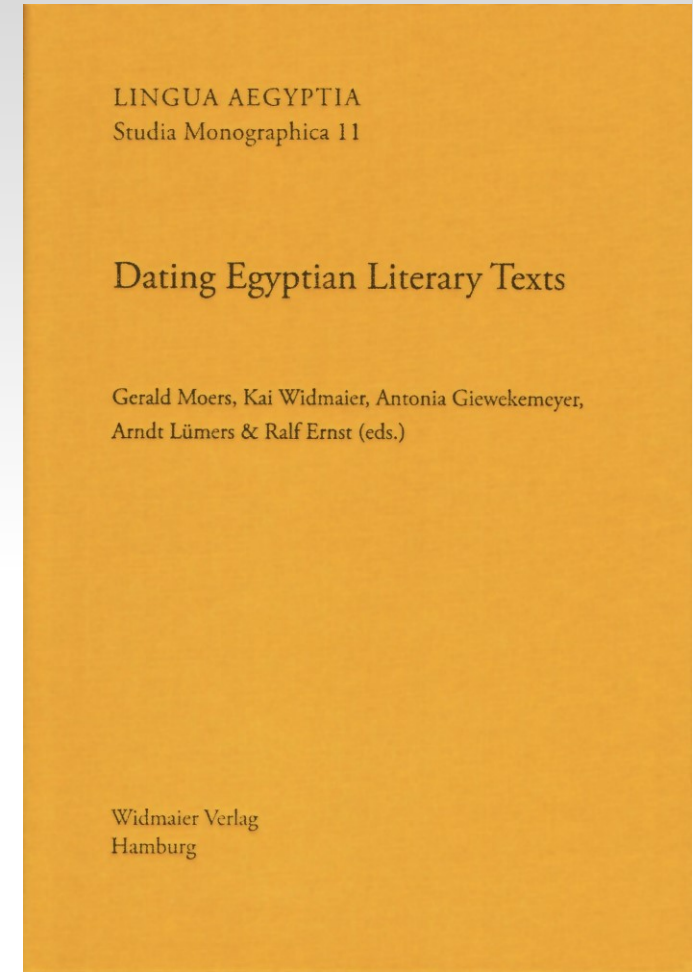
www-ab.informatik.uni-tuebingen.de/software/dendroscope

Dendrogram



Method

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



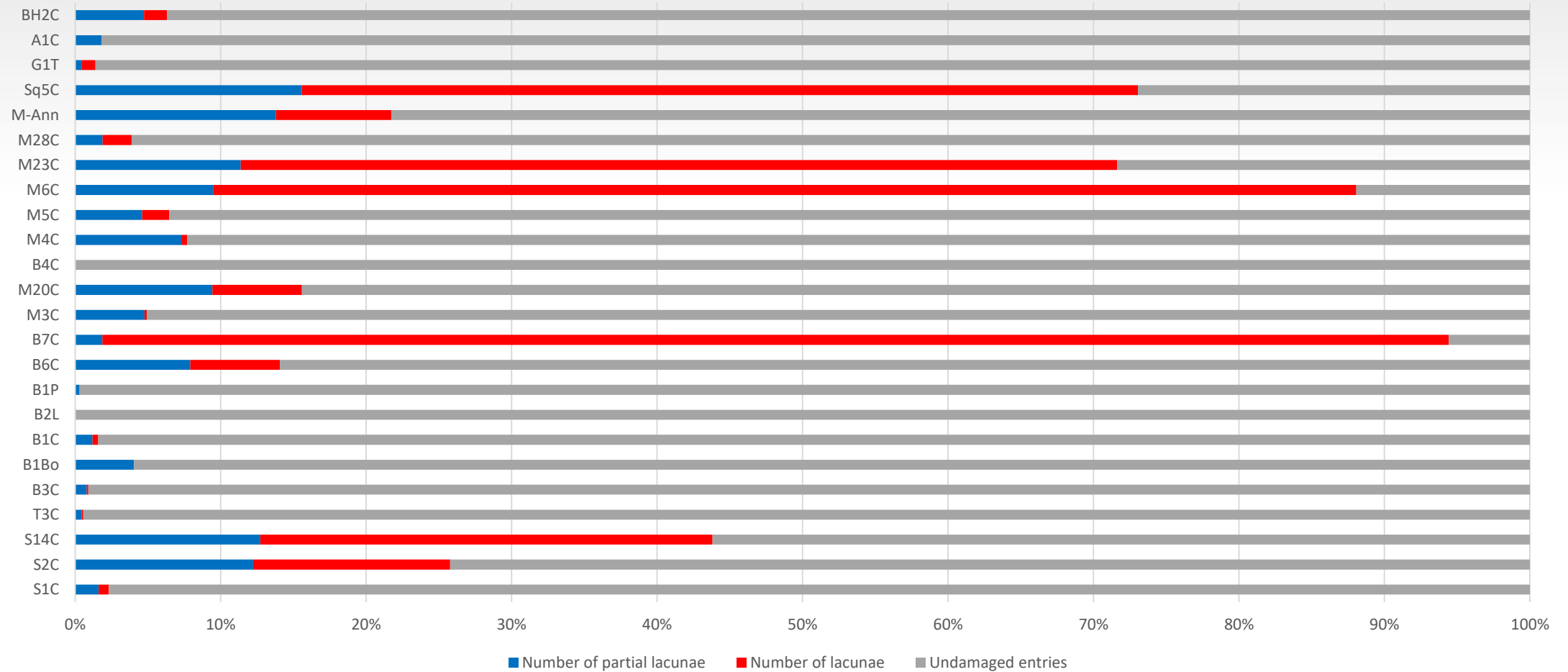
Schweitzer, Simon D. 2013. Dating Egyptian literary texts: lexical approaches. In Moers, Gerald, Kai Widmaier, Antonia Giewekemeyer, Arndt Lümers, and Ralf Ernst (eds), *Dating Egyptian literary texts*, 177-190. Hamburg.

Spell 75

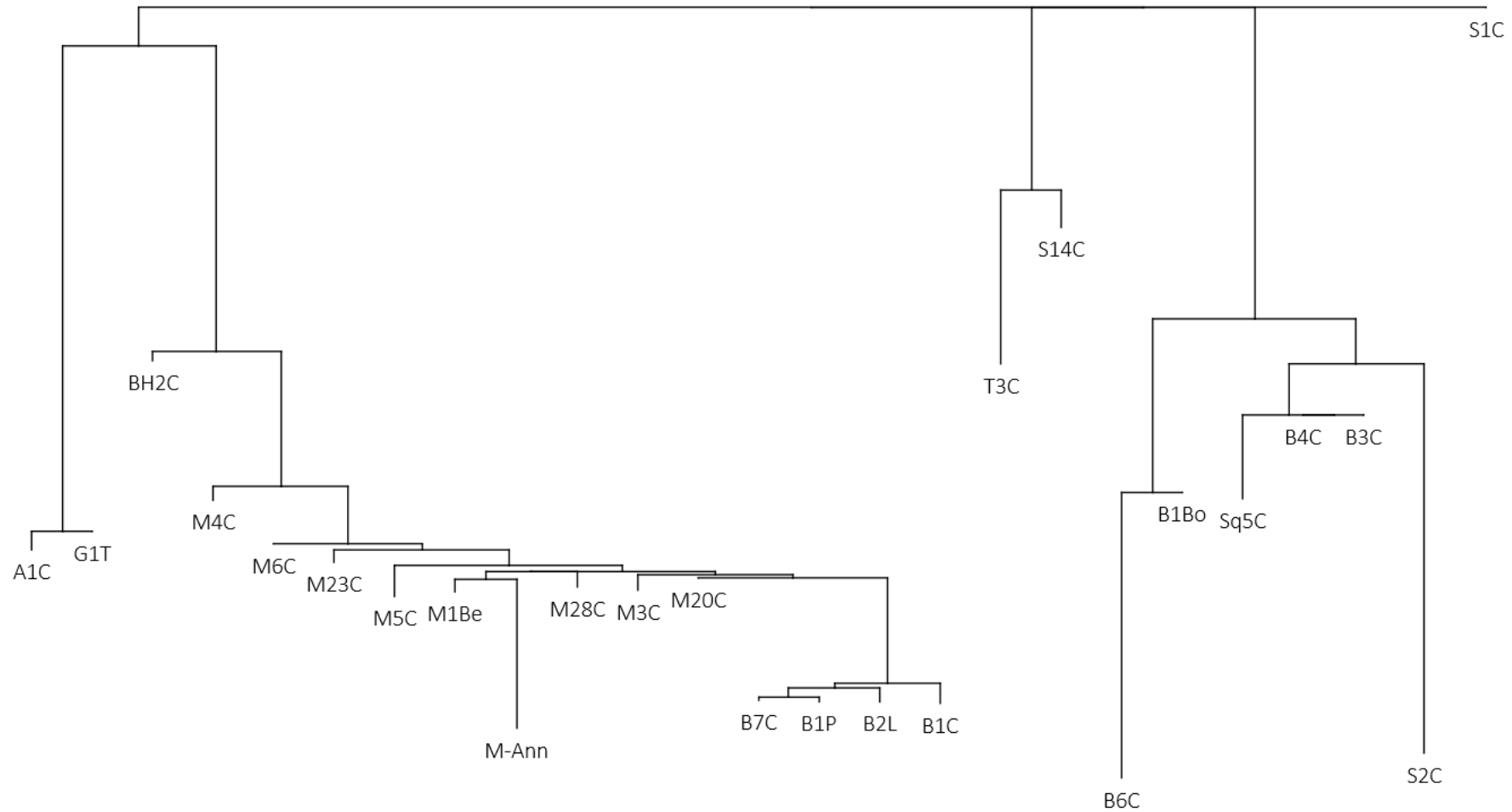
- 24+1 witnesses
 - 8 witnesses from Deir el-Bersheh
 - 8 witnesses from Meir (+1 unpublished, courtesy of Tobias Konrad, Mainz)
 - 3 witnesses from Asyut
 - 1 witness from Beni Hassan
 - 1 witness from Gebelein
 - 1 witness from Aswan
 - 1 witness from the Theban area
 - 1 witness from Saqqara
- 191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

Spell 75

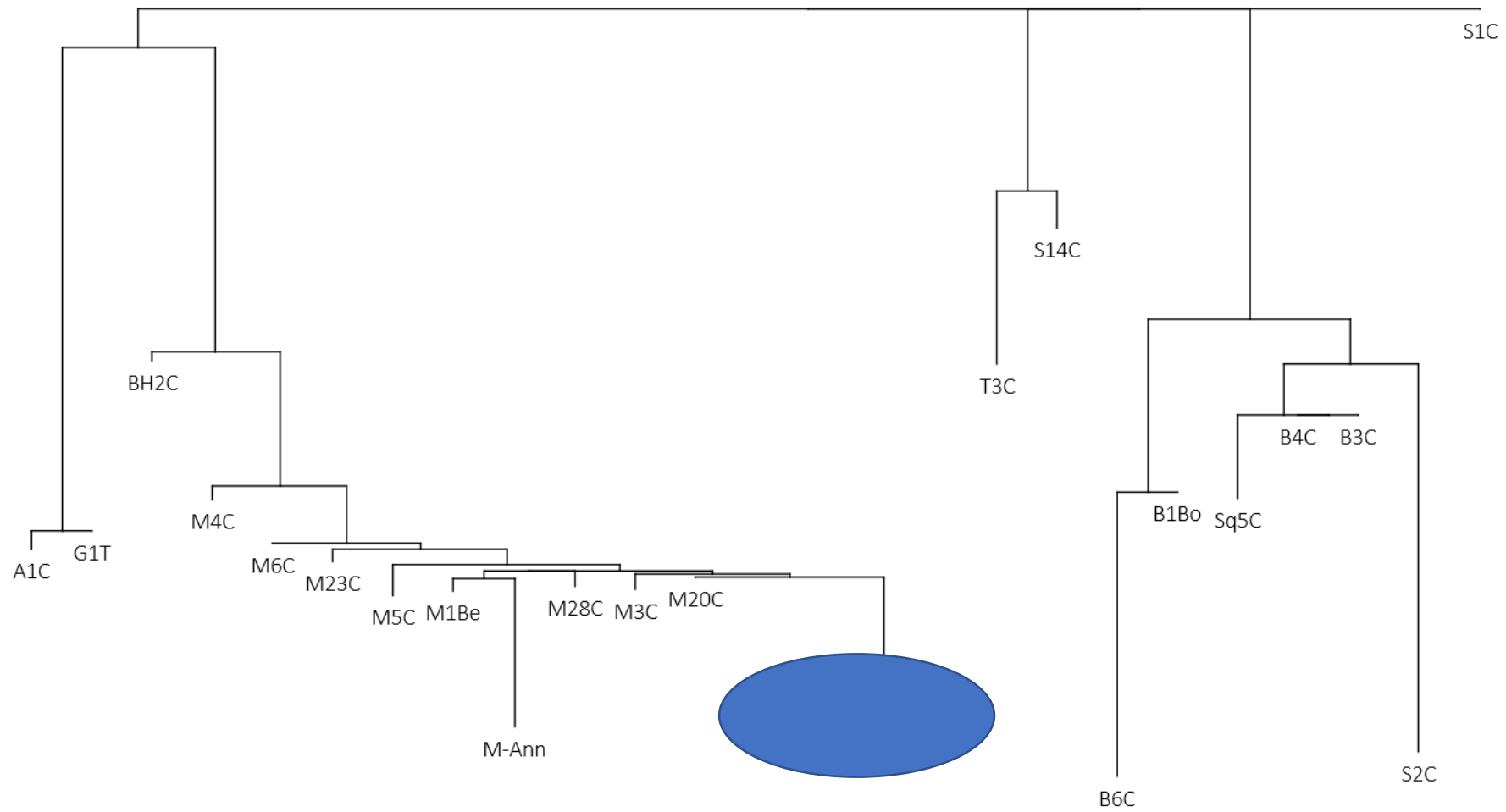
Damage to the witnesses



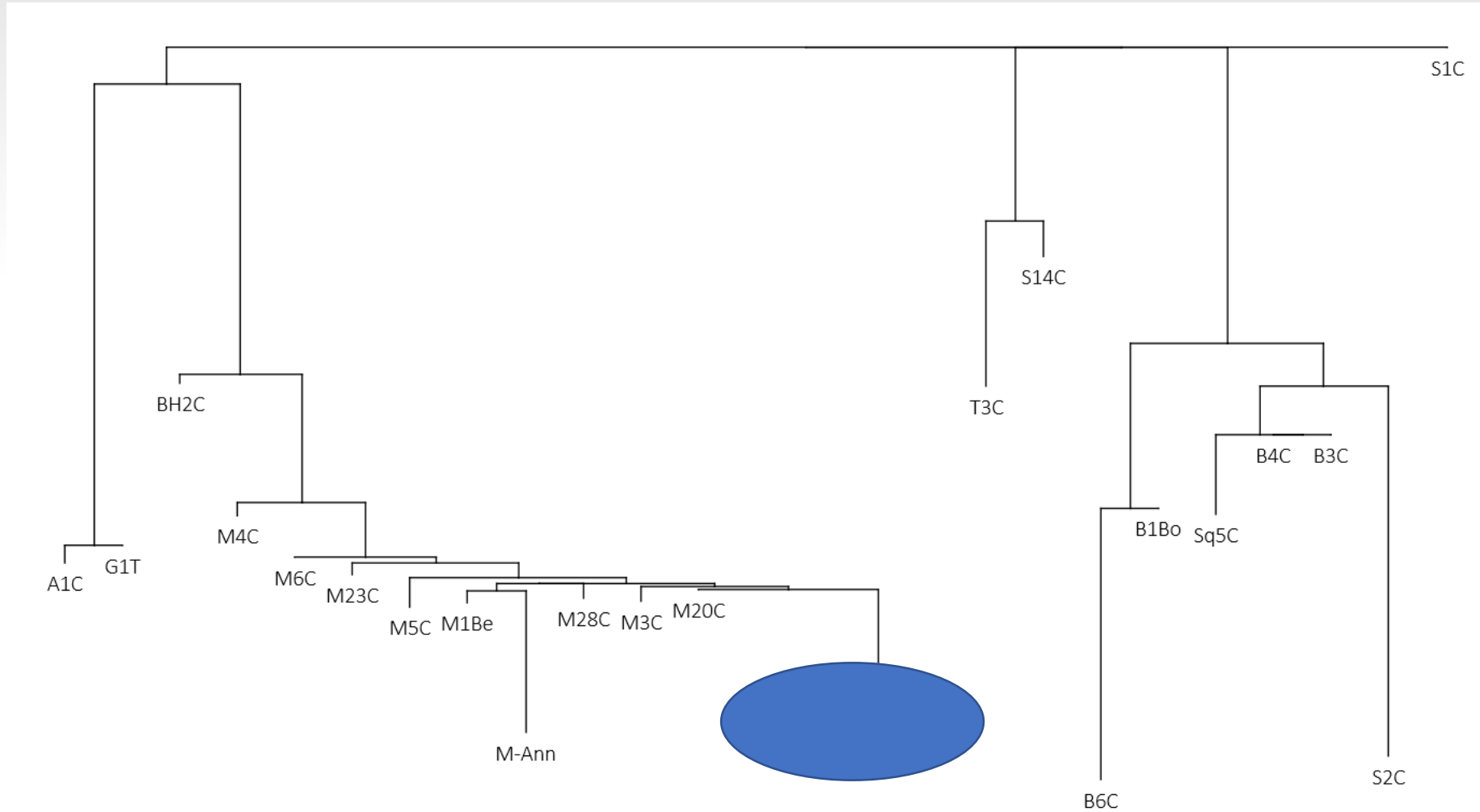
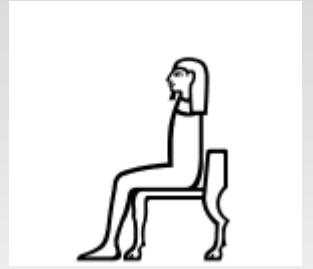
Results



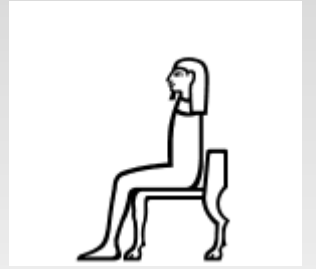
Results



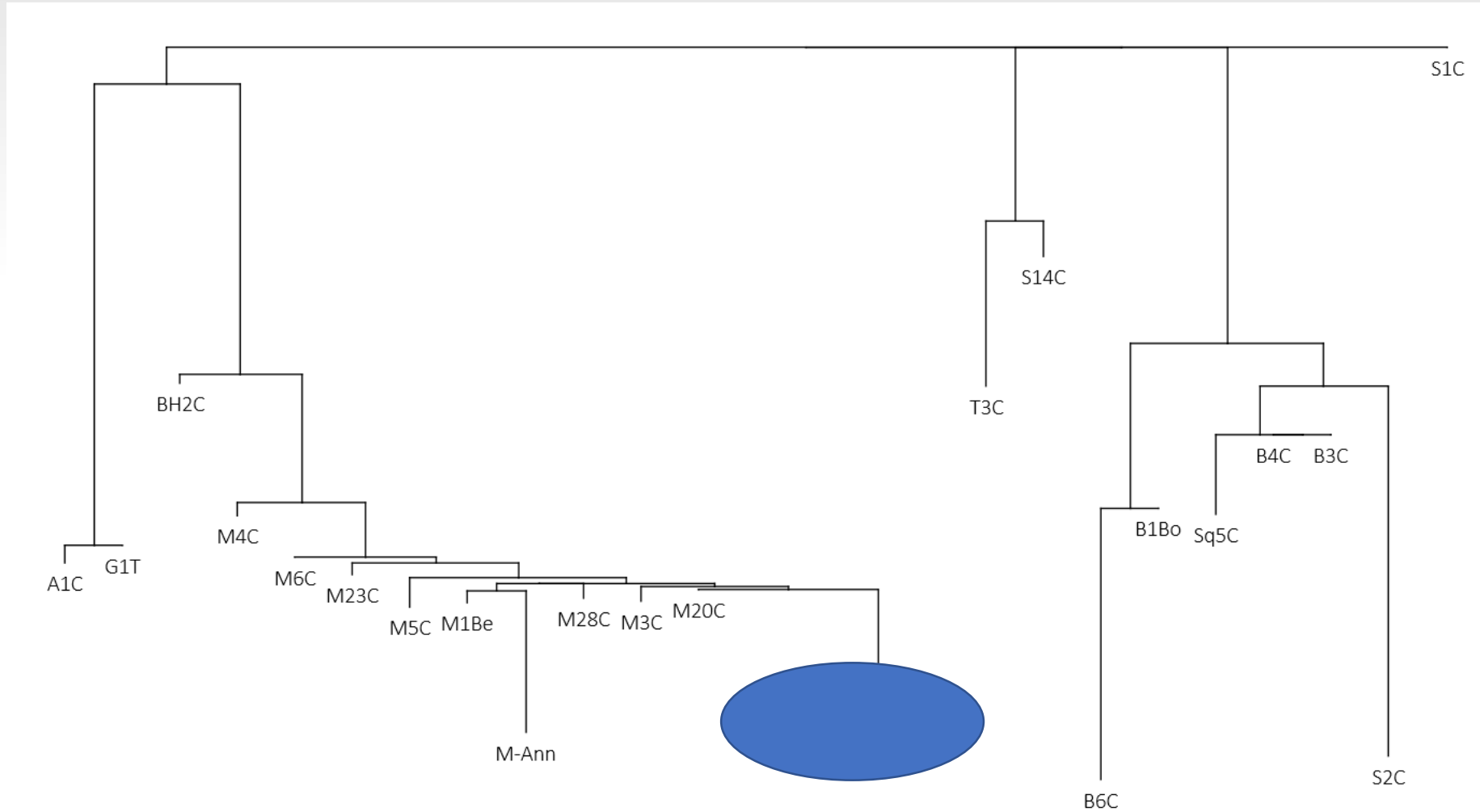
Results



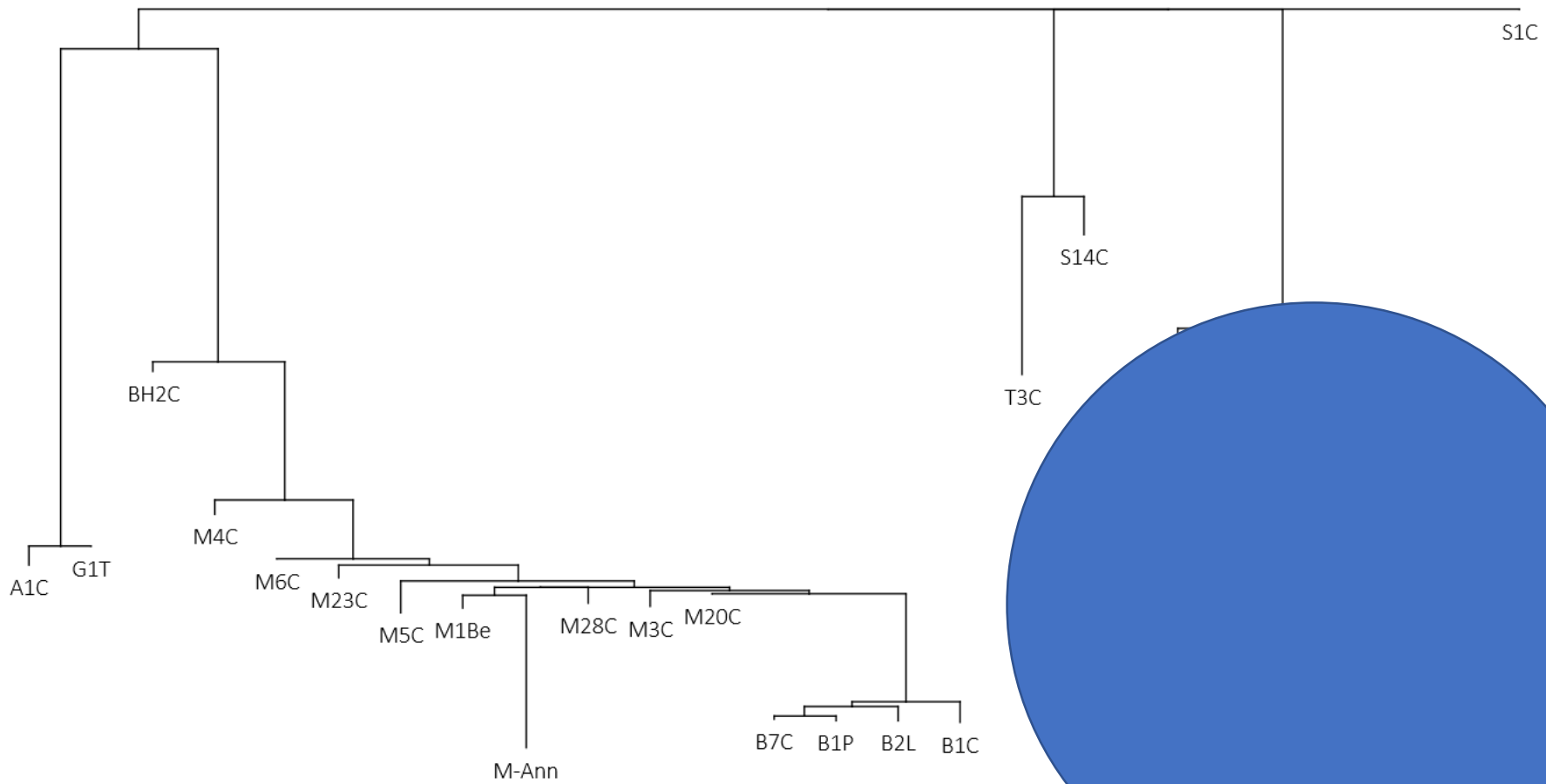
Results



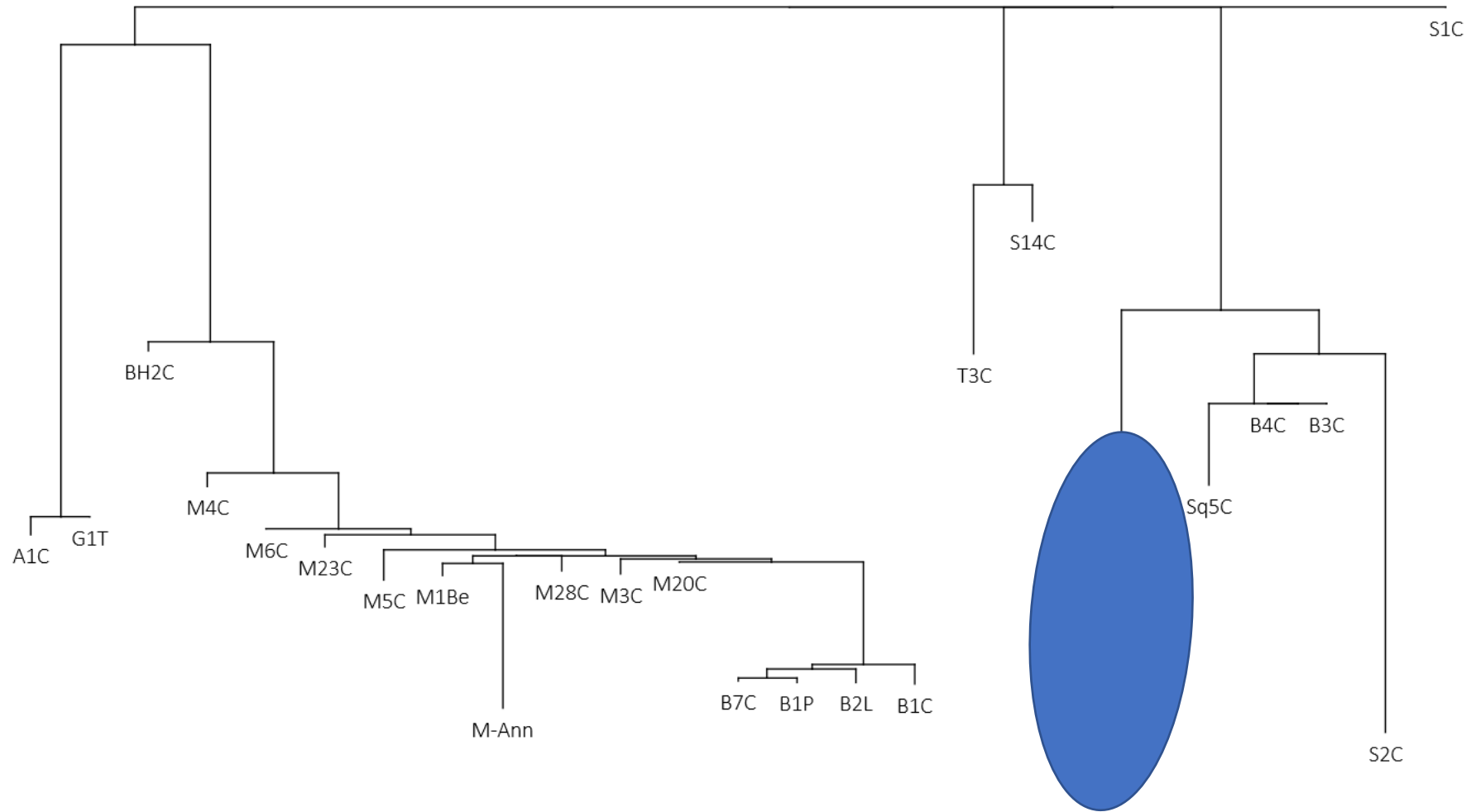
Sesostris II – Sesostris III



Results



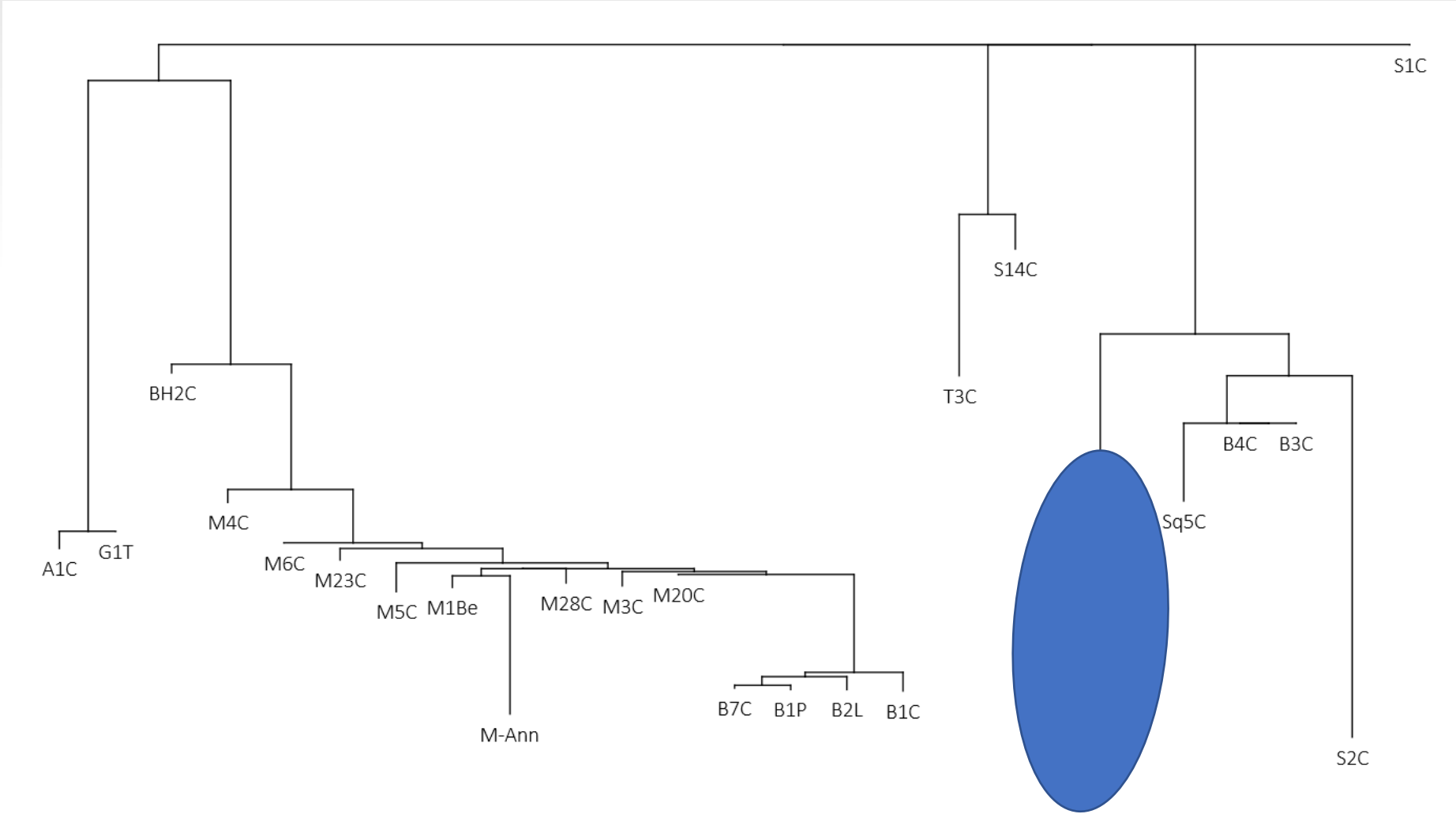
Results



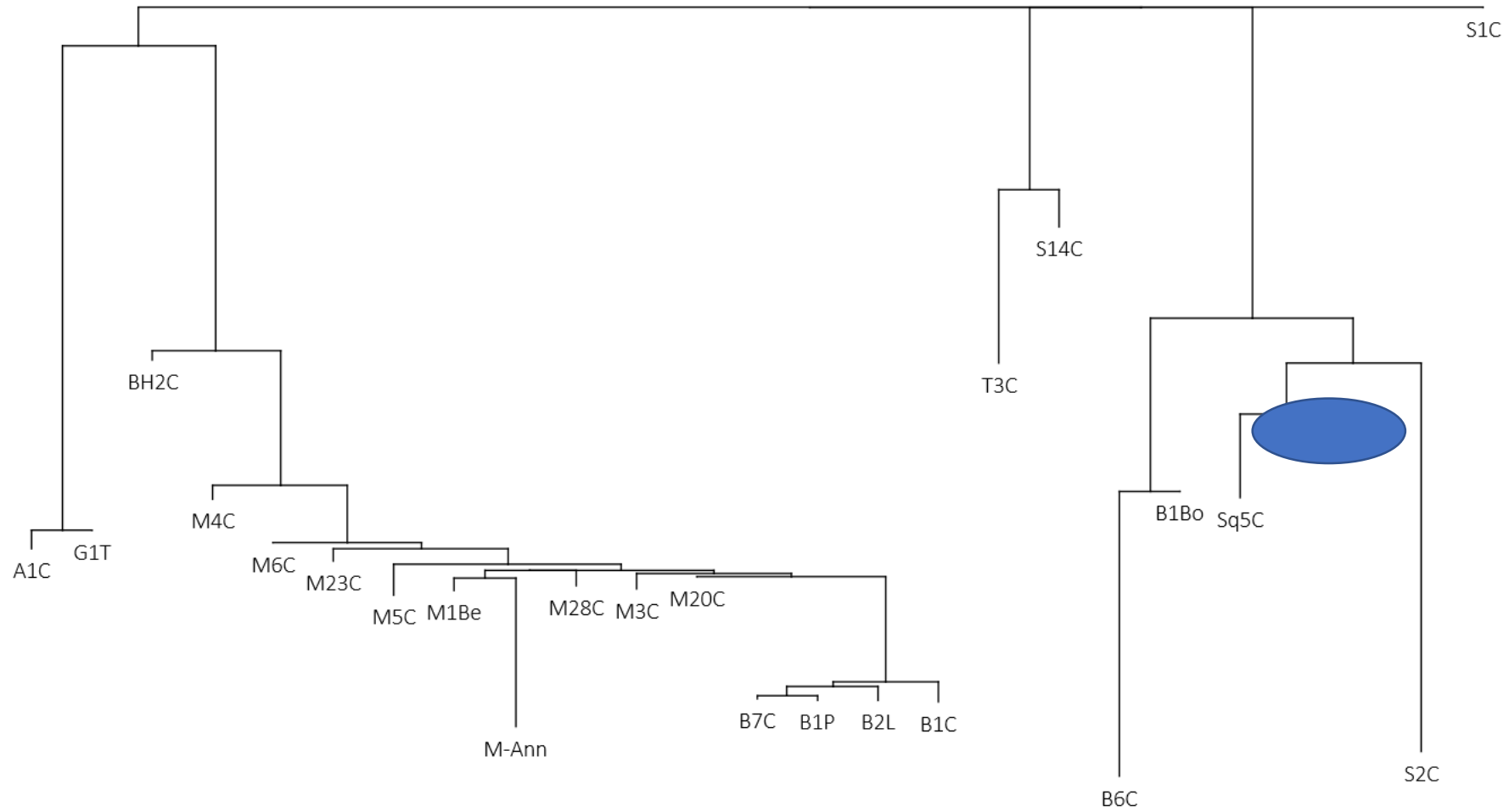
Late 11th dynasty – early 12th dynasty.

Incised cursive

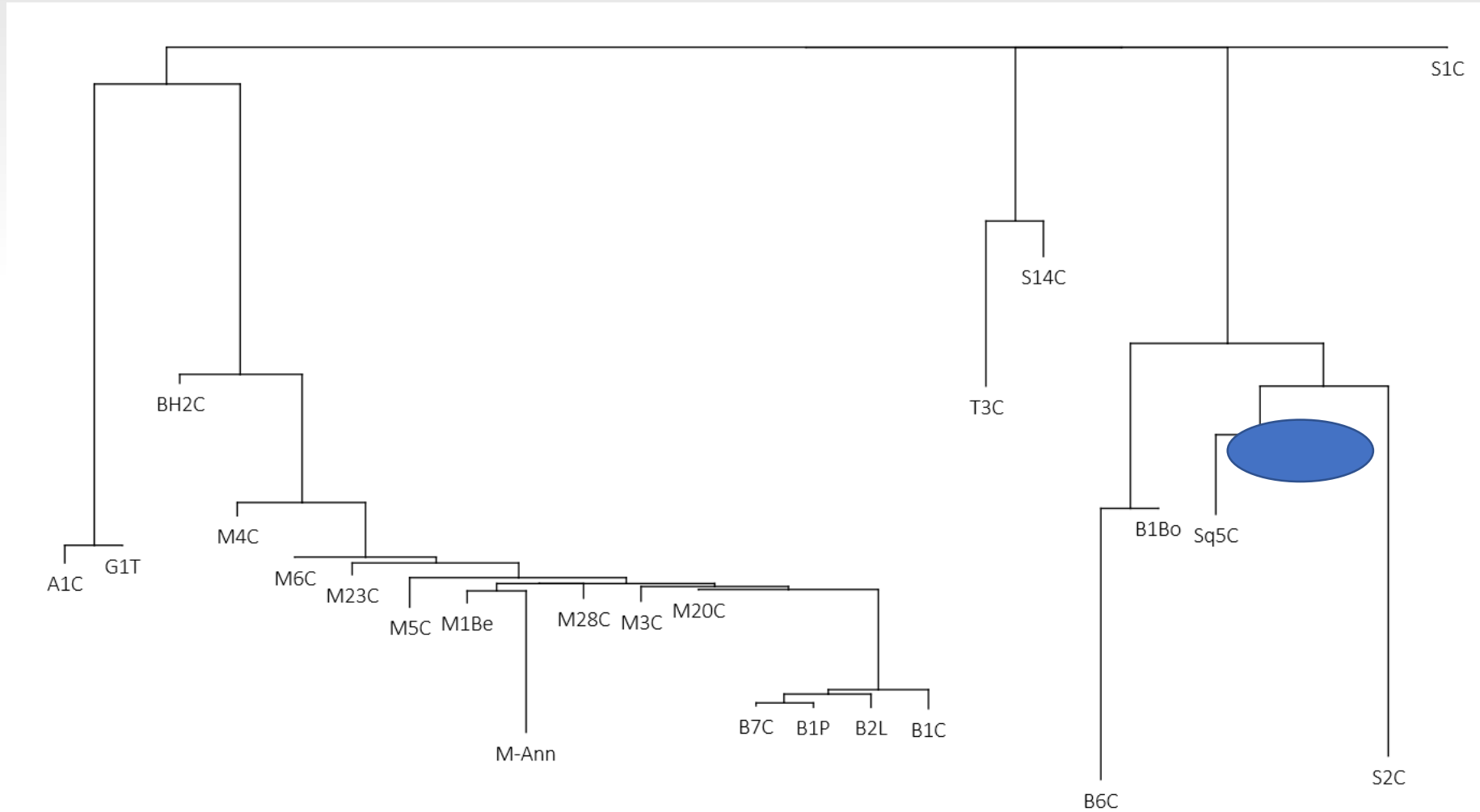
Results



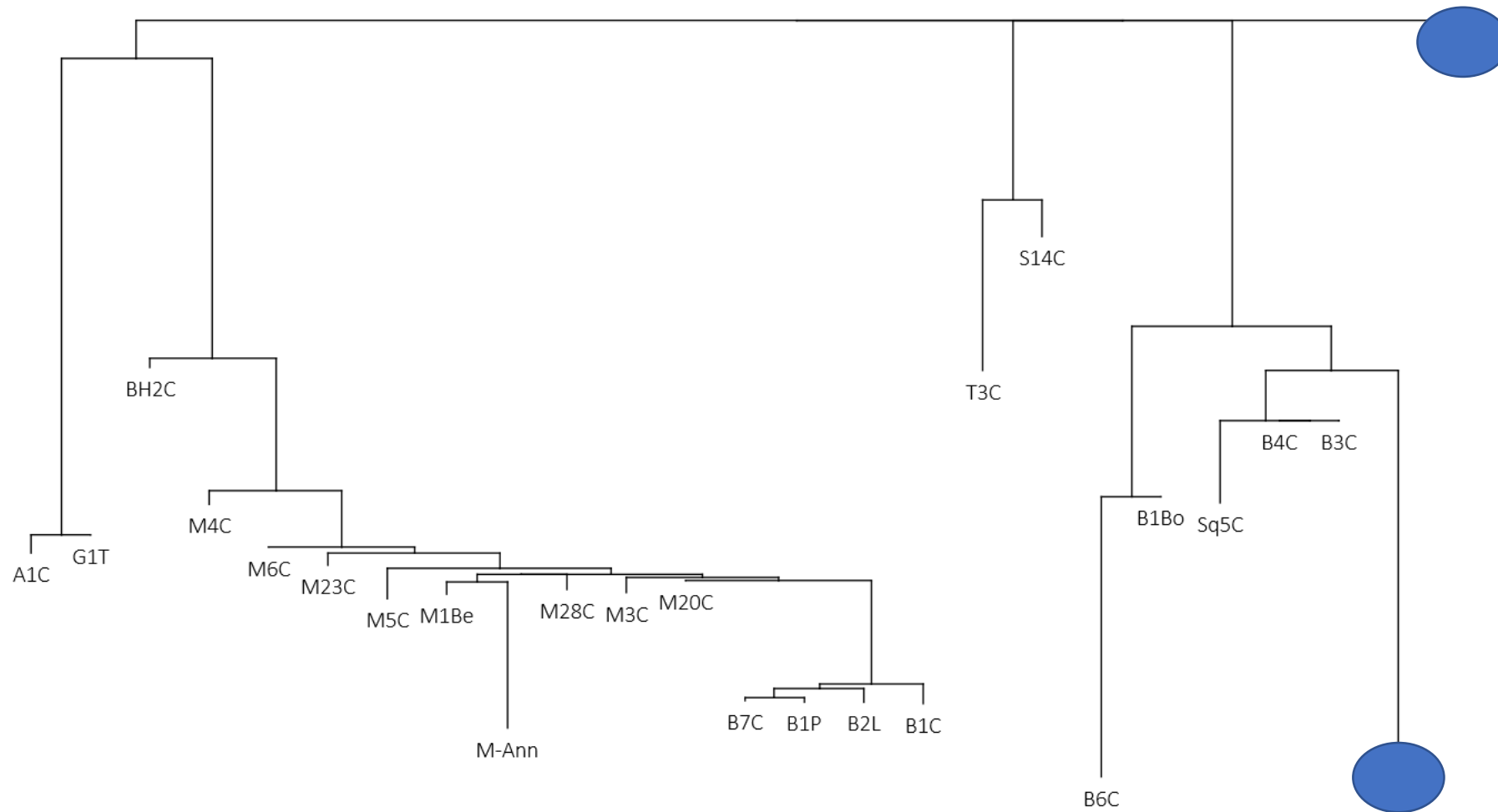
Results



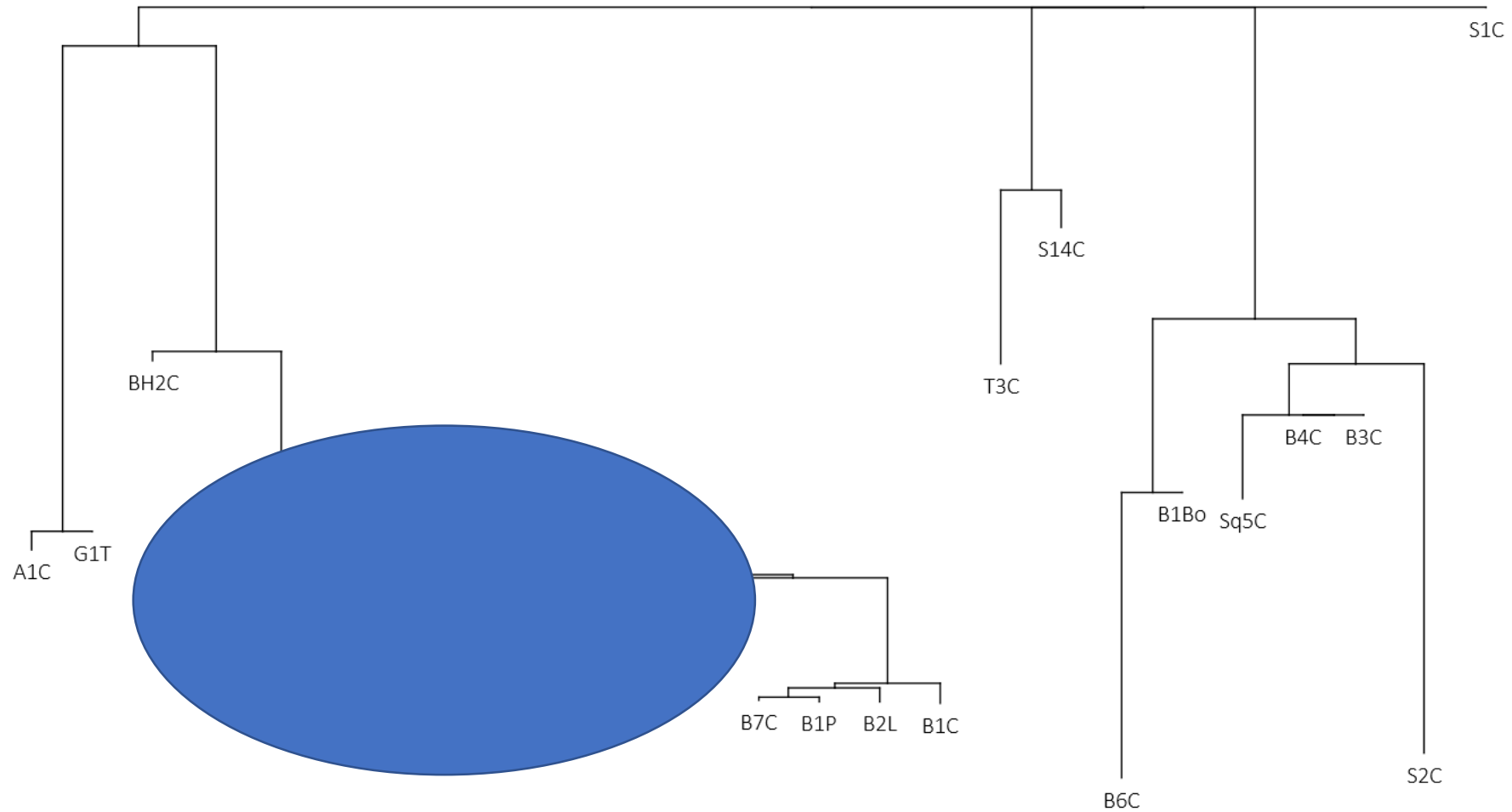
Results



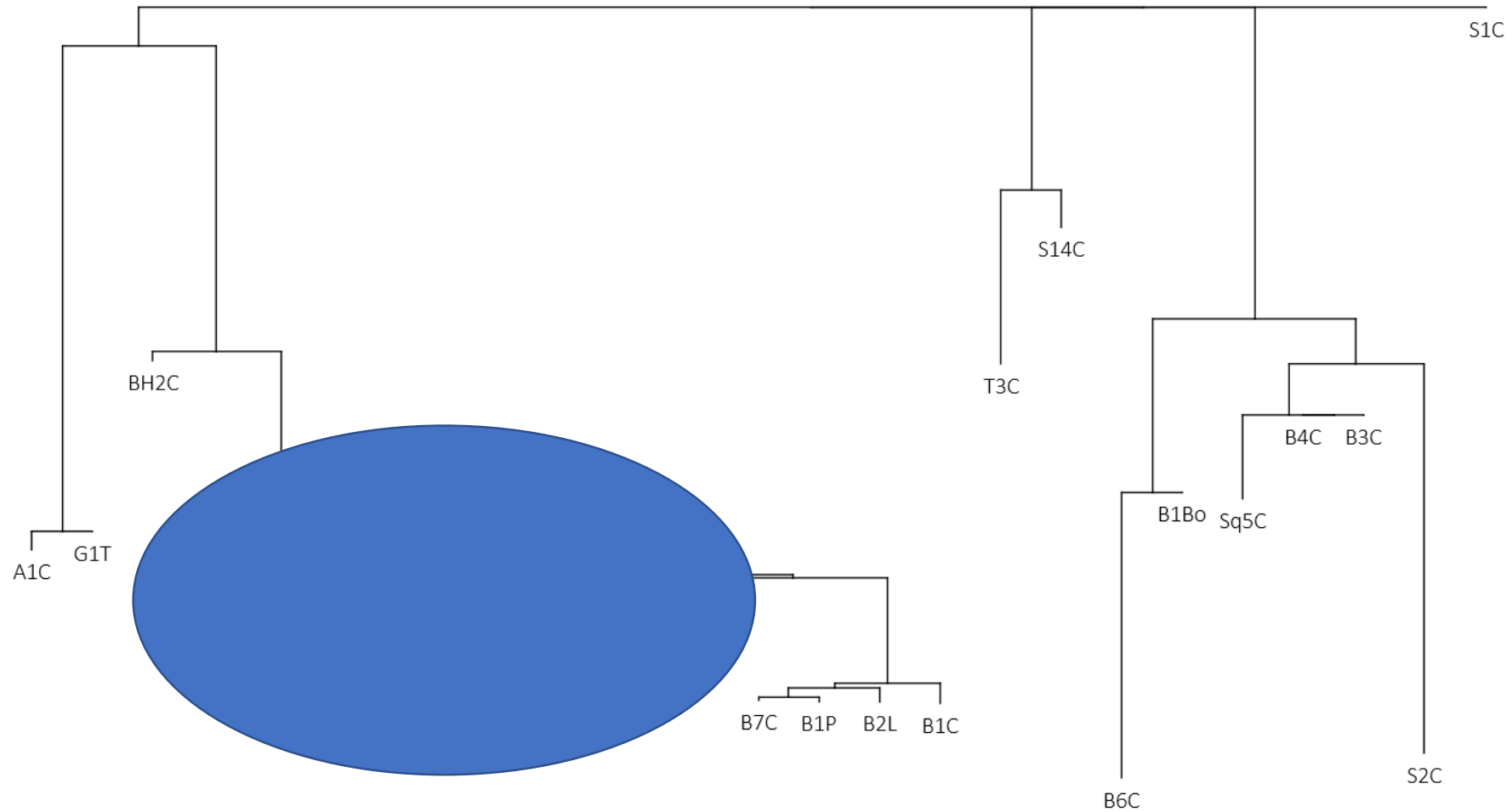
Results



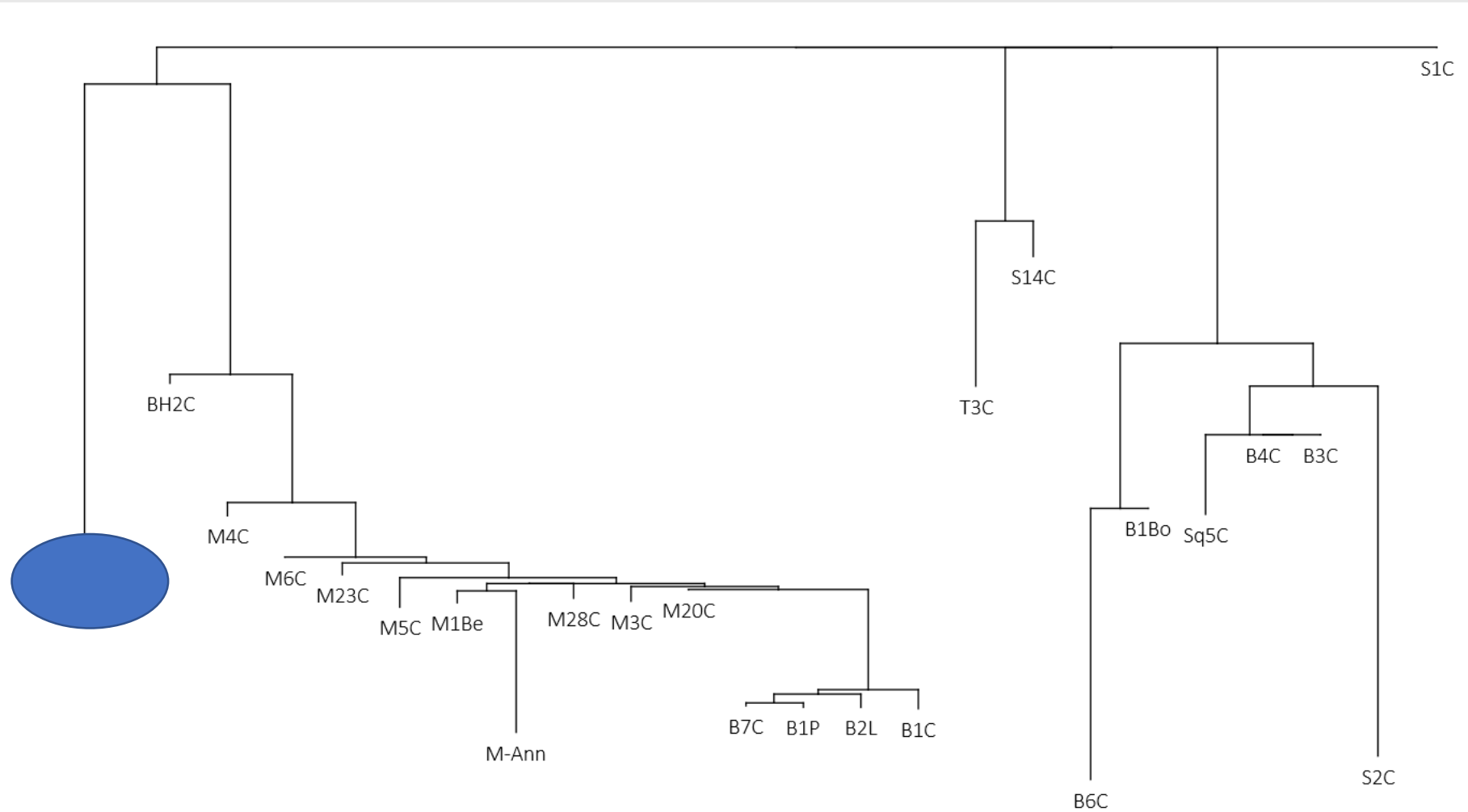
Results



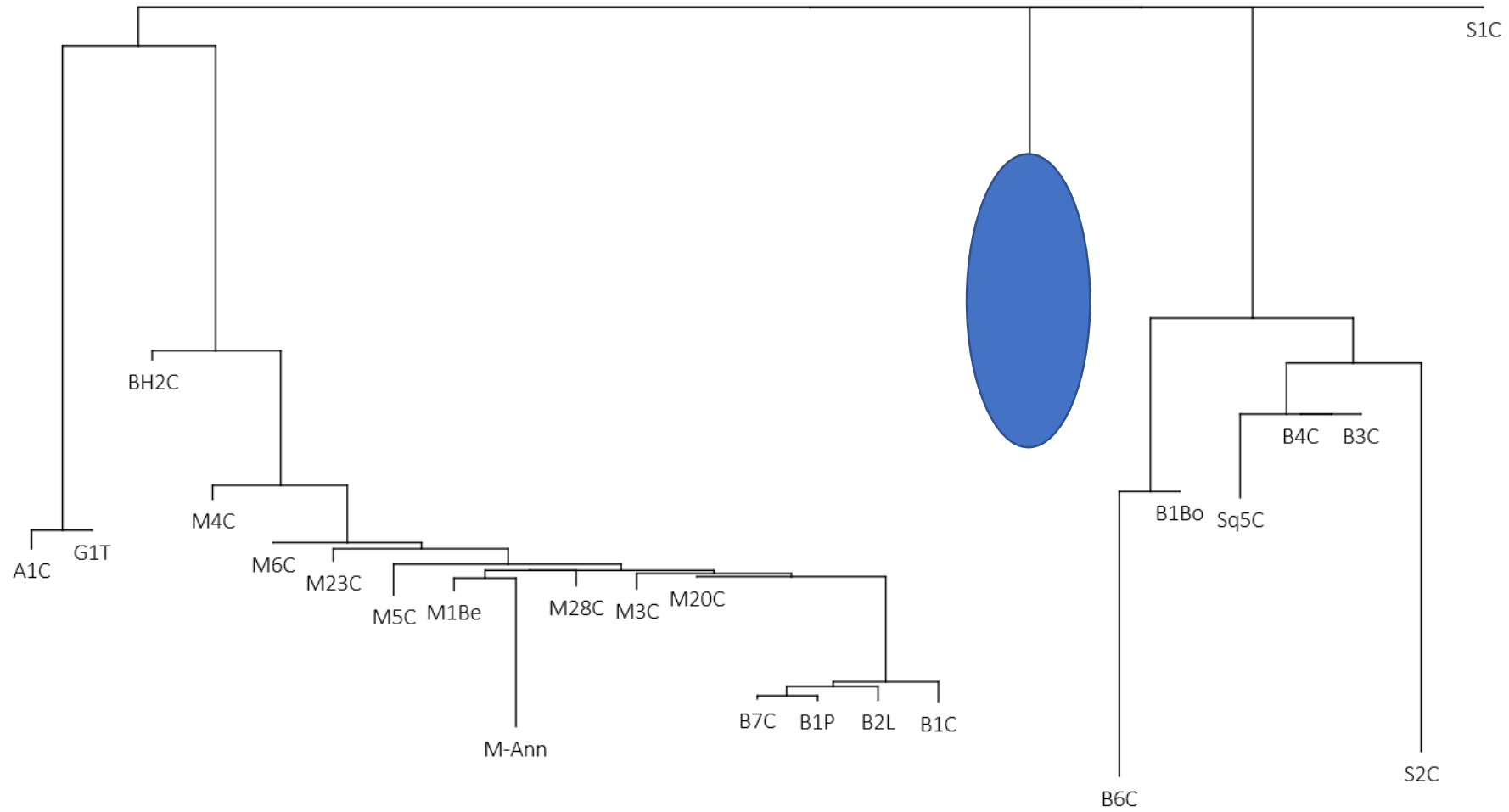
Results



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 has a common ground between the witnesses
- 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