

A heritage to be preserved: toponymy and microtoponymy in Tuscany

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Presenter

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The Microtoponymy In Tuscany Project

Tuscany area: 23,000 km² (8,880 sm)

Hill	66,5%
Mountain	25,1%
Plain	8,4%

Large part of Tuscany is hilly

Traditionally, tuscan landscape is indeed related to hills, and the society based on sharecropping was here rooted



Contemporary sources

Official topographic map
Istituto Geografico
Militare
(more than 200,000
name places are here
included)

scale 1:25,000



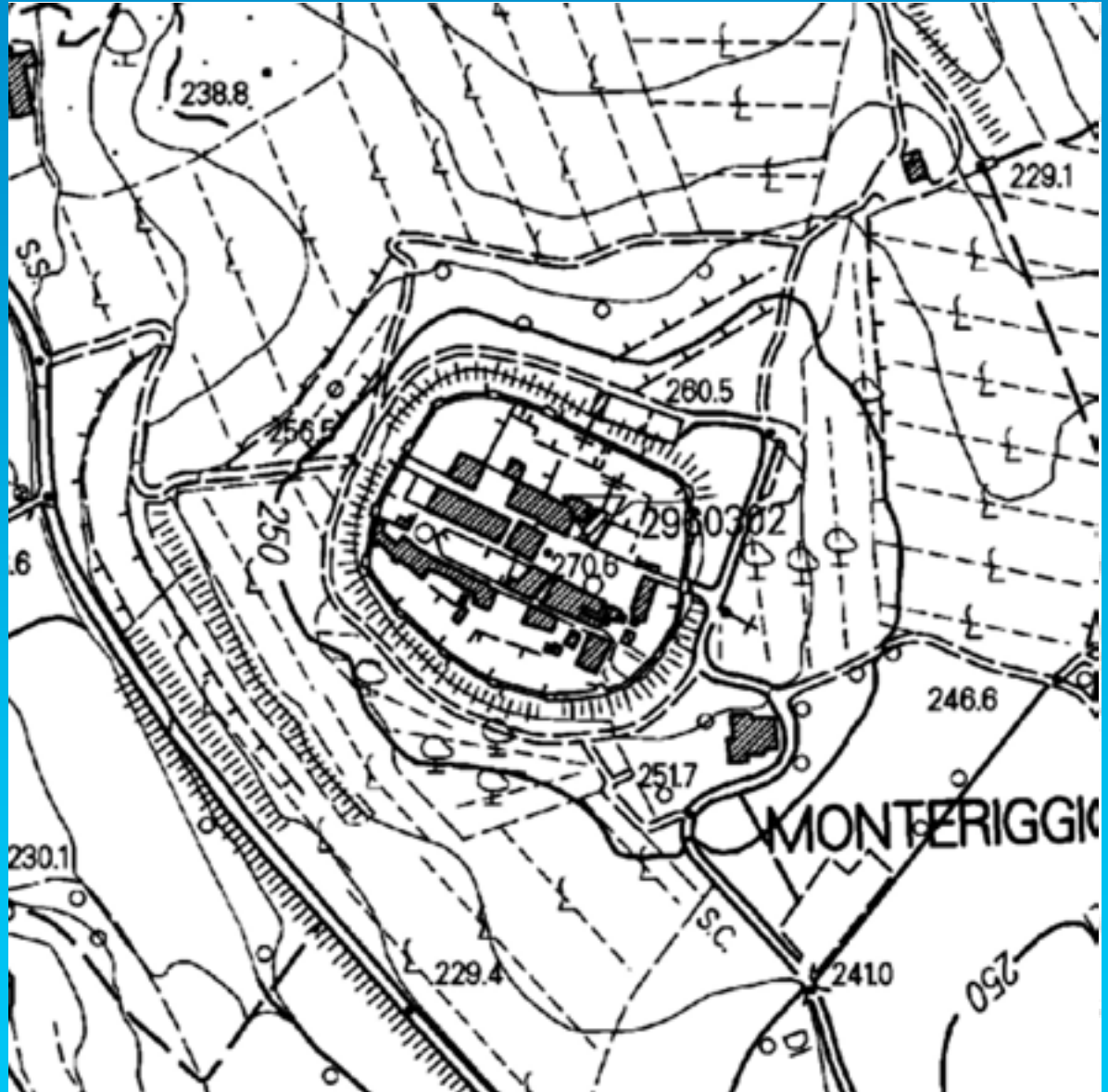
Contemporary sources

Cadastral maps
(over 102,000 name-places are here recorded)

scale 1:2,000

CTR Tuscany
(over 105,000 name-places)

scale 1:10,000 and
1:2,000



Historical sources

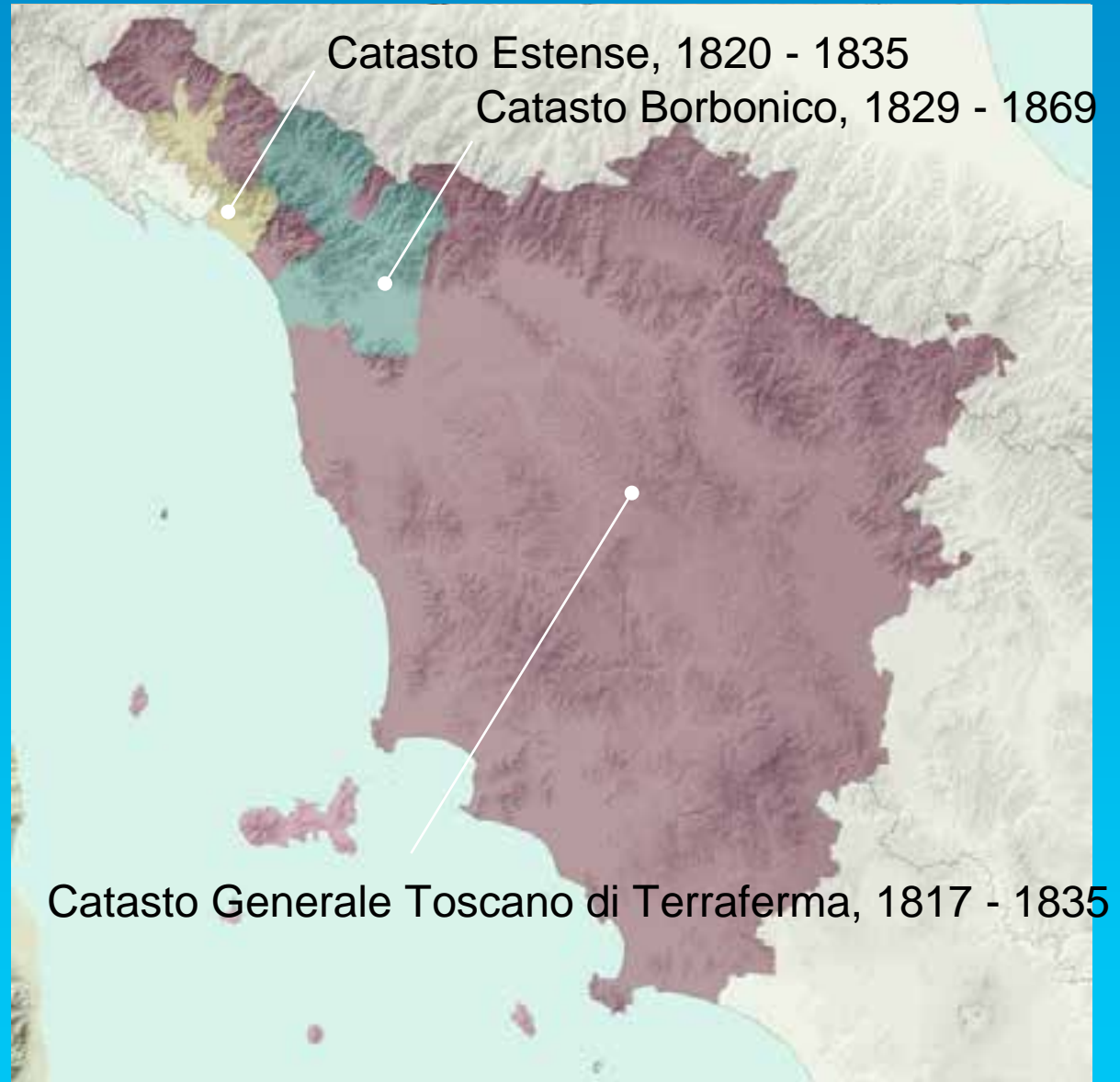
Three historic sources:

1817-1869

12,000 cadaster maps

100,000 circa name-places are here recorded

scale 1:2,500



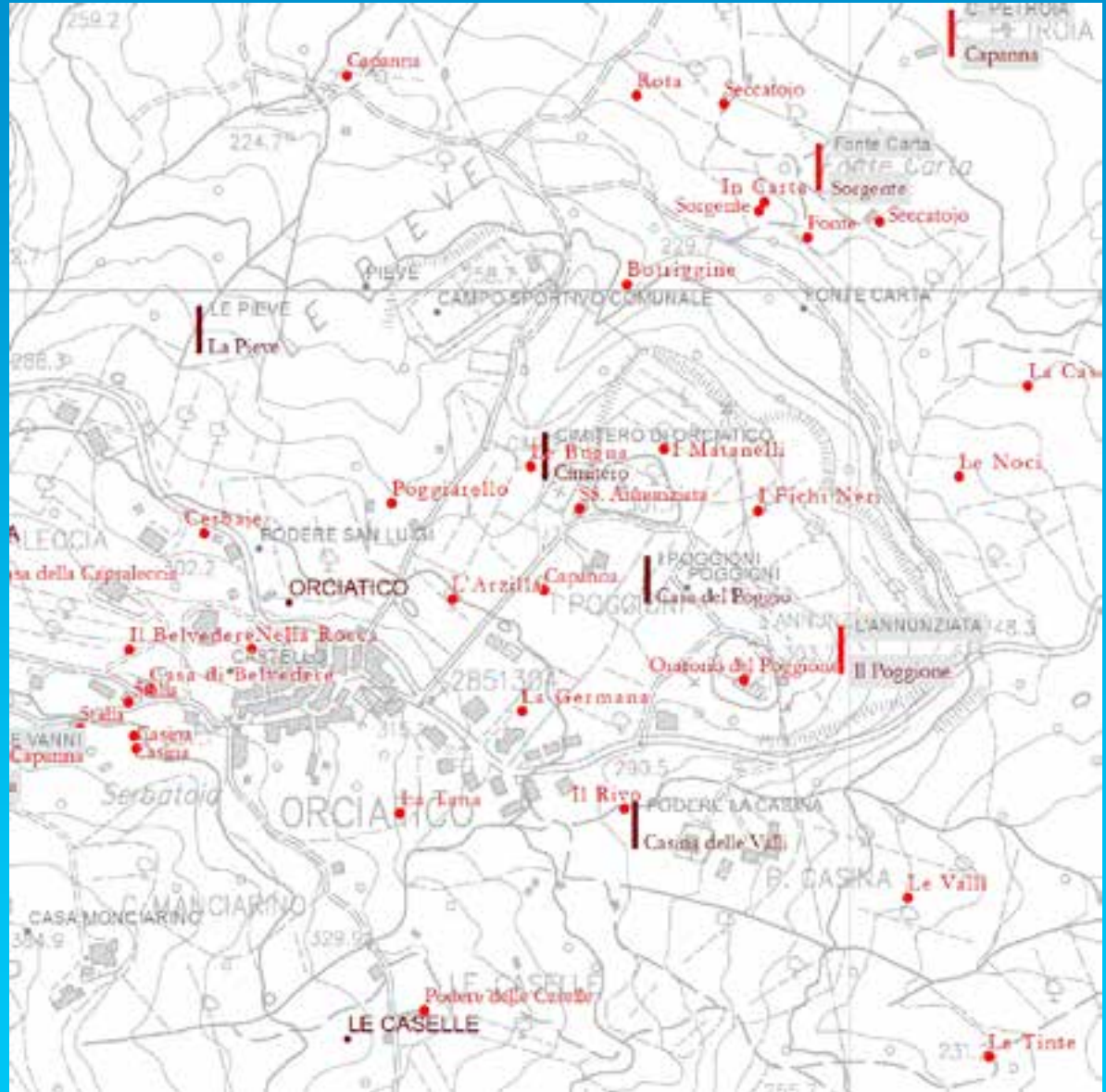
Old and new names: geodatabase logical structure

Old name	Present-day name	Dynamic
PODERI BASSI	PODERI BASSI	The name was and still is found
Paganella	N.A.	The name was and is no more found
N.A.	Villa Azzurra	The name was not and is found
POGGIO AL BÀCIO	Mazzetta	The name was and is found but is different

Sources integration in a brand-new cartography

The analysis applied to the Orciatice area (near Volterra, Pisa)

- **DARK RED, CAPITAL LETTERS**
the name was and still is found
- **Brilliant Red And Serif Letters**
the name was and is no more found
- **GREY CAPITAL LETTERS**
the name was not and is found
- **Red and dark-red lines**
evidence the toponymy change between the hystorical sources and the present-day maps



Toponymy Density in Tuscany

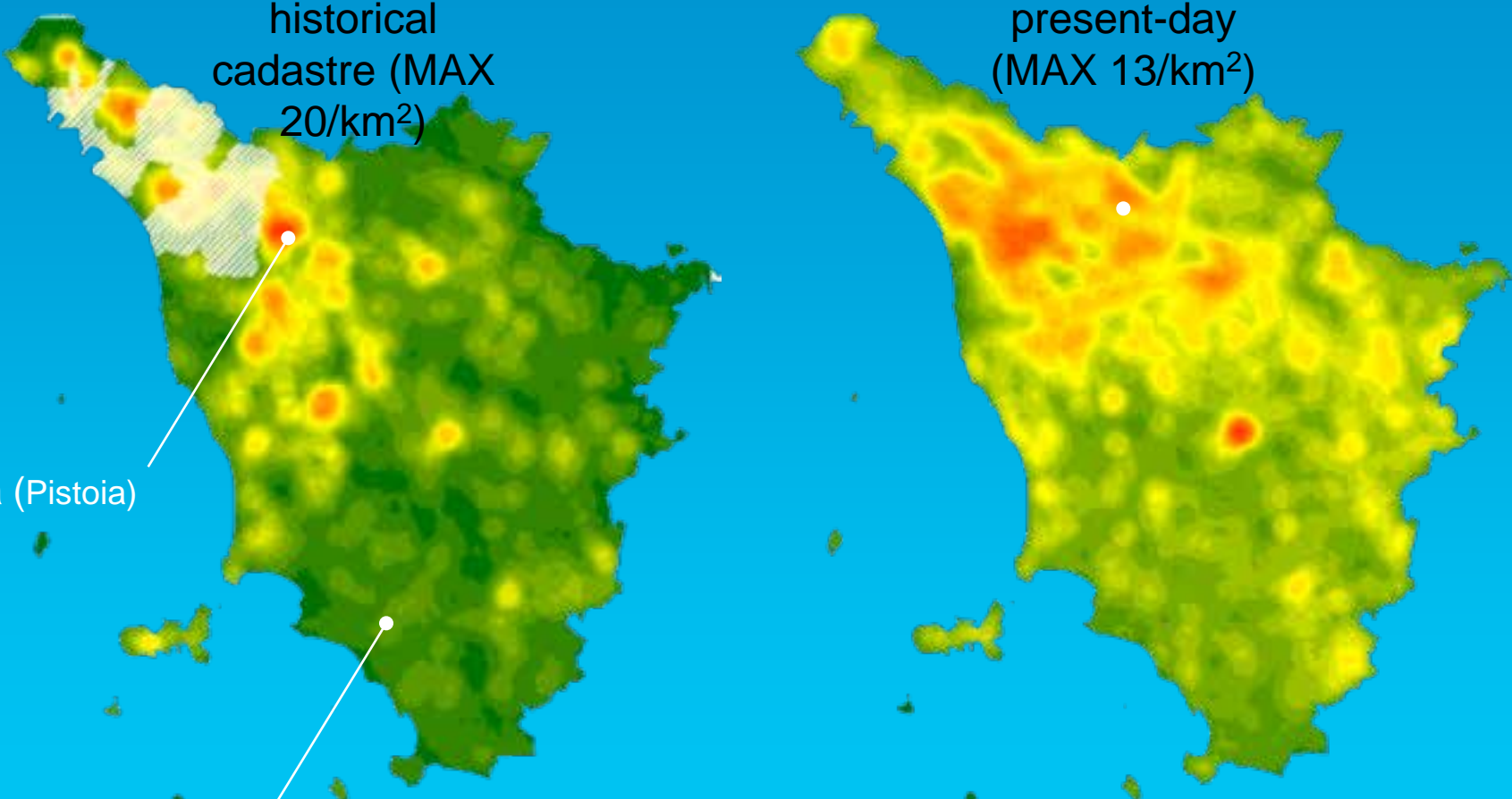
place-names
density in
historical
cadastre (MAX
20/km²)

place-names
density in the
present-day
(MAX 13/km²)

Pescia (Pistoia)

Braccagni (Grosseto)

Lower  Higher



Variance of Toponymy density

Variance between the historical and the present-day Tuscany cartography



Toponymy and landscape in Tuscany



1954



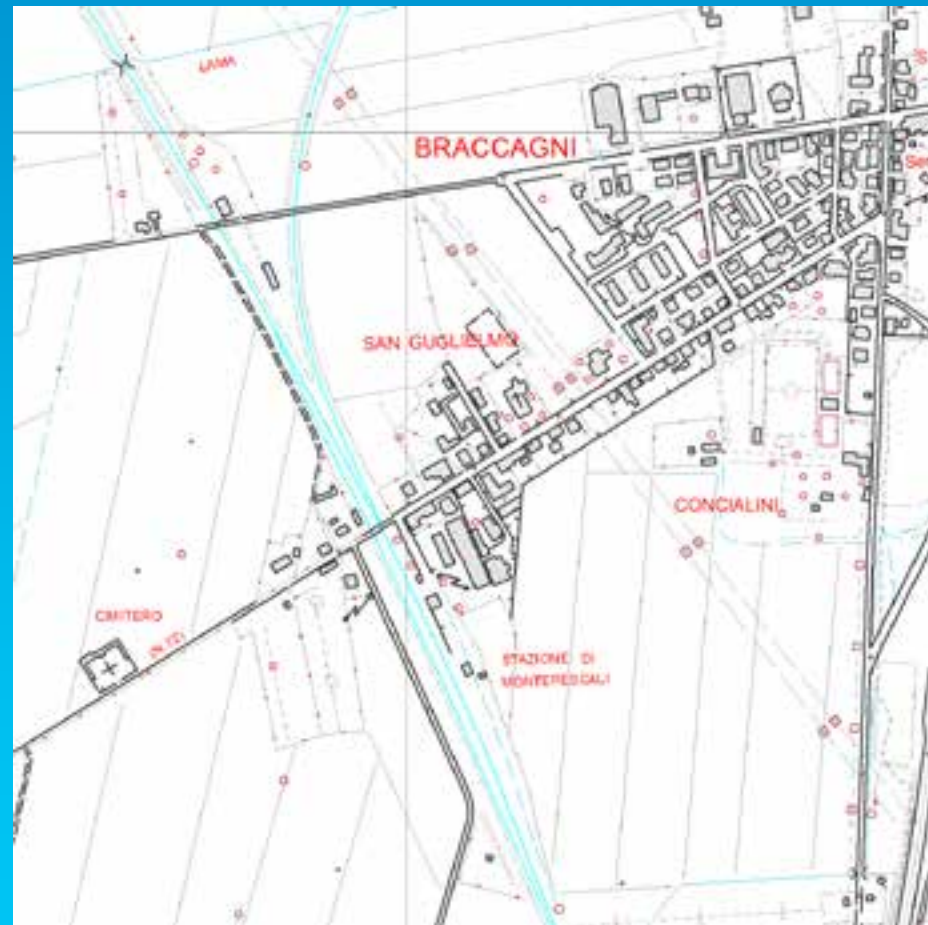
Pescia

2014

Toponymy and landscape in Tuscany



1829



Braccagni

2010

- **Preserving toponymy means preserving the identity of a territory, its memories, its character, its history**
- **Observing place-names' changes that occurred in Tuscany between the first half of the Nineteenth century and the present day, it is possible to understand how the society has changed meanwhile**