



## Research Report

# The unique Balearic Megalithic “Taulas” (Tables): Paleolithic/Neolithic pre- Iberian lineal scripts found in the Taula complex of So Na Caçana (Menorca Island, Spain)

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**Abstract** - Taulas (or Tables) are Megalithic unique monuments that are found only in Menorca Island (Balearic Is, Spain). Their construction age is uncertain but it is associated to Talayotic culture and it is assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC without solid objective bases: particularly when the only one similar structure found in the World are those of Gobekli Tepe in Antolia (Turkey) constructed about 10,000 years ago. In the present paper, we have found Paleolithic /Neolithic Lineal scripts in the East Taula recint of So Na Caçana Minorca megalithic complex It was established that one of the few cultural features that maintained these scripts in Megaliths, rocks and stones at least in Balearic Islands (Menorca), Iberia, Canary Islands and South Sahara for such a long time could be the Mother Goddess religion. On the other hand, this Megalithic Lineal script could also be Iberian signary precursor: our studies suggest that some of these scripts were included later in the Iberia-Tartessian signary at least. We have used the Iberian relationship with live Basque language for proposed a simple translation of these Megalithic signs in the context of the Mother Goddess religion. Finally, it is postulated that a “green” Sahara migration of climate exiled people in the process of Sahara desertification after 10,000 years BC is responsible for many writing, language and genetic traits of the Mediterranean area, including Canary Islands and Balearic Archipelago, Also, So Na Caçana means in Menorca Island own language “The property of the She-Hunter”.

**Keywords:** Menorca, Minorca, Megalithic Lineal Scripts, Iberian-Tartessian, Taula, Talayot, So Na Caçana, Basque, Iberian, Balearic Is, Sahara, Canary Is., Usko-Mediterranean languages, Gymnesians Is.

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## Introduction

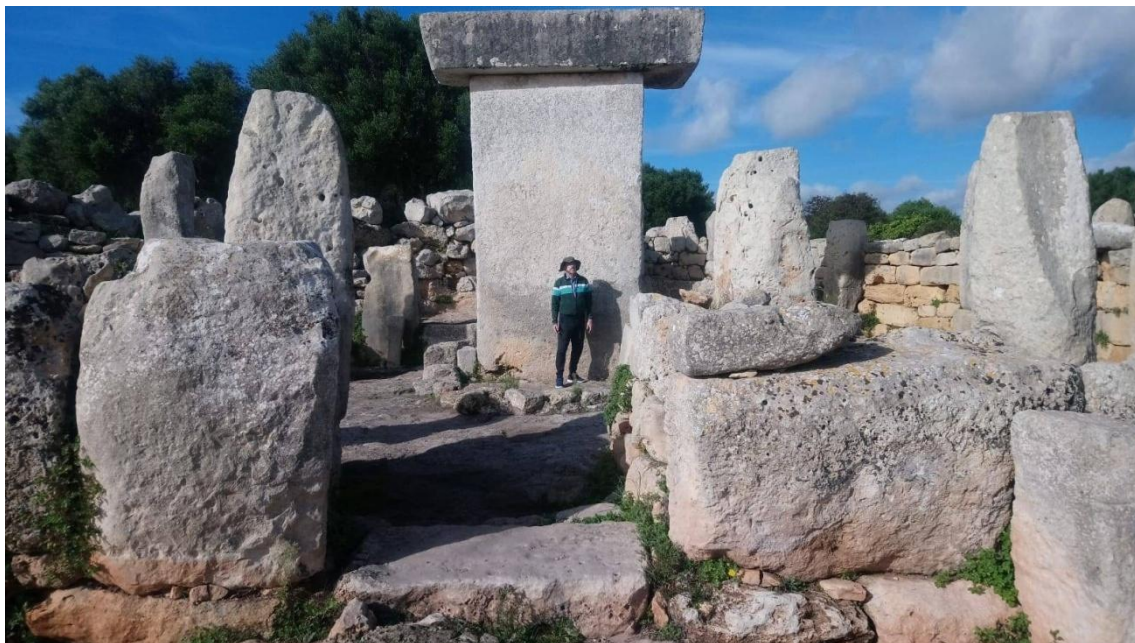
Taulas (Tables, in Menorca language) are megalithic monuments that are found only in Menorca (Balearic Is, Spain) (Lagarda-Mata 2004) (Figs 1, 2). Taula construction age is uncertain but it is associated to Talayotic culture and quite subjectively and is believed that most of them were used and were already built in the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC (Ferrer-Rotger *et al.* 2020). These authors consider more important in the Taula space the Door and not the Taula itself, comparing this Taula recint space (Fig. 3) with both a religious and a living people space with a religious purpose common to false painted or scalped lintels of the doors found in many other places: Etruscan tombs, Egypt, North Africa, etc. We would agree that this is a common sign of Neolithic and Paleolithic Mother religion, and also, we found too late (Iron Age) this mostly subjective dating to Taulas themselves (Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* 2022a). In addition, a deep study on astronomical (Hoskin & Morales-Nuñez 1991) and astronomical, pitagoric and epigraphic study about Taulas is more than worth to be read (Calvo 2020). On the other hand, Iberian Scripts had been found in the Balearic Is. (in both Majorca and Menorca). However, all were studied mostly by a few official scholars (Sabaté-Vidal 2017) and except one from Ciutadella (Minorca) all others were dismissed without solid bases. This opinion needs to be revised for additional and more objective scholars.

In the present paper, we show the first findings of Lineal Megaliths Paleolithic scripts in a Balearic megalithic construction, Taula, the specific megalithic construction of Minorca Island. They were placed on the so called “sacred stones” of the So Na Caçana East Taula recint entrance and performed with an incise instrument (see Figs. 4, 5).

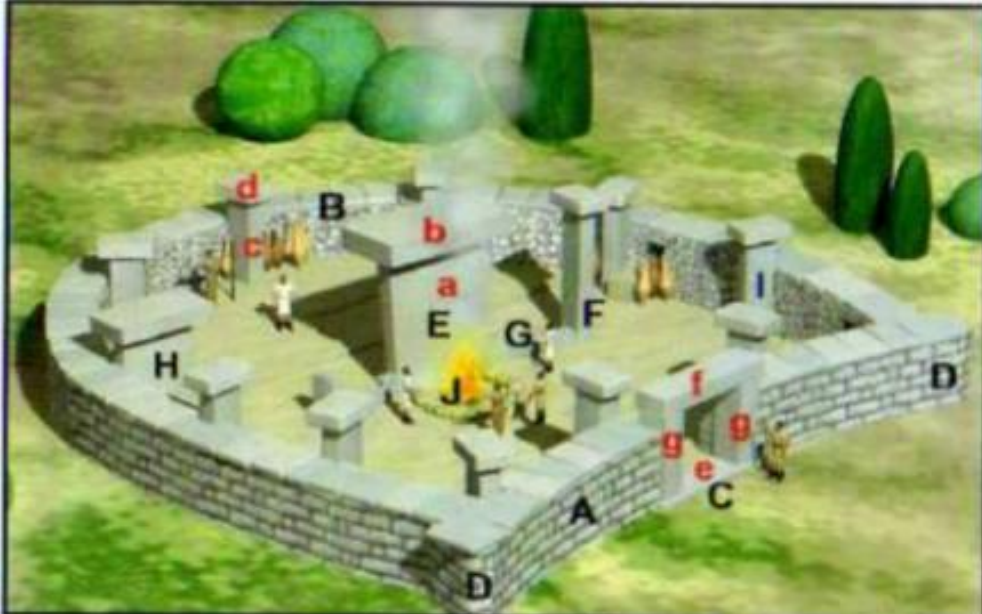


**Fig. 1.** Placing of So Na Caçana megalithic complex with Taulas in Menorca Island (Balearic Islands, Spain).

At least two taulas have been described and studied. Paleolithic-Neolithic lineal scripts in stones were found in the East Taula. These “sacred stones” were brought from other places and are rolling oval-stones of 40x30 cm measure. They have a even surface and the material is altogether different from neighboring stones. Scrips are incised on surface.



**Fig. 2.** Photograph of a typical well preserved Taula at Torralba d'En Salord (Menorca). Dimensions are compared with AAV (180 cm high).

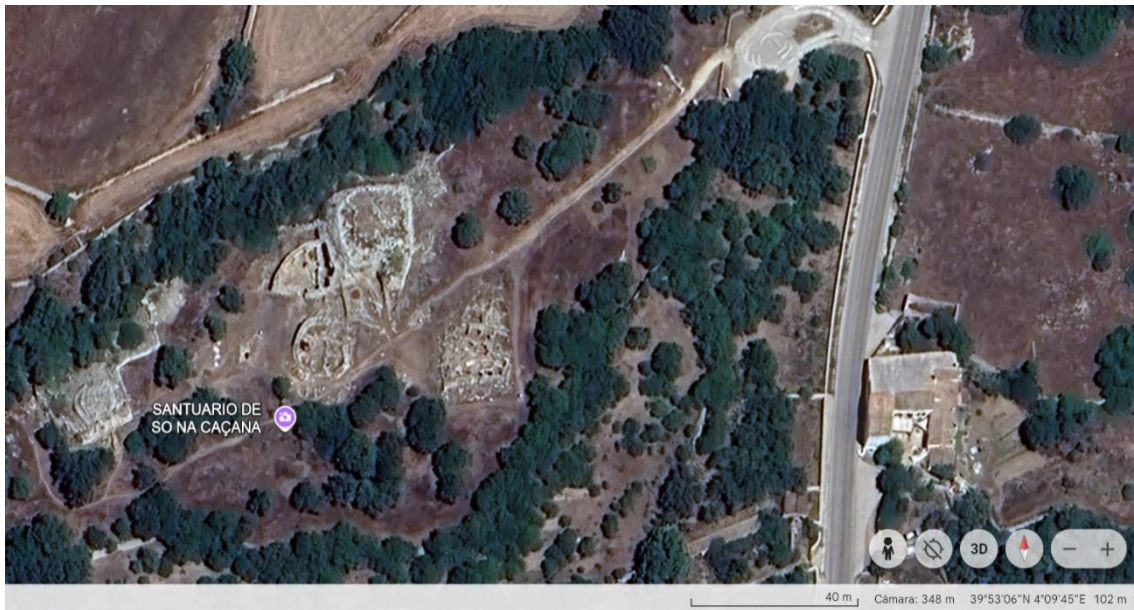


**Fig. 3.** Diagram of a Taula ground as interpreted by [Lagarda-Mata](#) and [Nicolas-Mascaro](#) (2004). Drawing by Felipe Sánchez-Cuenca Alomar.

**A:** Façade. **-B:** Apse. **-C:** Door (facing South). **-E:** Taula. **-F:** Free-standing pillar that usually accompanies the Taula (see resemblance to Gobekli Tepe, Turkey, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%B6bekli\\_Tepe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%B6bekli_Tepe)). **-H:** Pillar of the enclosure, to the left of the Taula, **-I:** Normal pillar of the enclosure (attached to the wall or embedded in it). **-J:** Possible ceremonial hearth. **-a:** Supporting stone or pillar of the taula. **-b:** Stone-capitol or capital of the taula. **-e:** Door threshold. **-f:** lintel.



**Fig. 4.** Entrance to East Taula of So Na Caçana, Alayor, Manorca Island (Spain). Vertical stone (A) is broken and horizontal slab. or capitel (B) is on the floor before and close vertical stone and partially shaded (C) Studied sacred stone with Lineal megalithic scripts. (D) Free standing pillar. See also [Fig. 6](#)



**Fig. 5.** Aerial view of So Na Caçana Megalith complex at the Alayor city limits, Menorca (Balearic Islands, Spain) (Image taken from Google Earth).

## Material and Methods

A Sony Camera Cybershot 14.1 Megapixels Carl-Zeiss lens Vario-Tessar and Sony Xperia G3112 cellular phone camera were used for photograph work. Magnification of photographs and computational analyses of rocks have been performed with Adobe Illustrator 2020 and Mac OS images visualizer. All photographs were taken by Antonio Arnaiz-Villena (AAV), and Marcial Medina (MM) and they may be used under complete citation of paper and permission, as law permits. The left entrance “Sacred Stone” at the So Na Caçana complex was found to contain Lineal Megalithic Scripts after meticulous search of the place (see **Figs. 7-11**).

### **Transcription and translation proposal bases: equivalences of Iberian-Tartesian Signary, Lineal megalithic scripts and Basque language (Arnaiz-Villena 2000)**

We have followed a methodology which is similar to that proposed by Greenberg and Ruhlen (**Ruhlen 1994**). Our premises for approaching these Usko-Mediterranean languages are:

1) Languages may correctly be classified, and decipherment approached with 10-20 "diagnostic" cognates (i.e. the personal pronouns and other frequently used cognates like plant names, family generics and tools and common life terms existing in Neolithic and pre-Neolithic societies). We use phonology and semantics similarities.

2) Most of the written ancient Mediterranean languages studied previously by us (i.e. Iberian-Tartessian, Etruscan, Linear A and others) refer to an apparently common religion (Poulianos 1969; Arnaiz-Villena & Alonso-García 1998; 2001; Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* 2001). This decipherment has been possible to the Basque-Spanish translation of words found in the above-mentioned extinct languages and showing a Basque correspondence. The topics found in this religion are: the Mother (Ama= mother, in Basque (B.)), the way of the Zen (dead, in B.) towards another life, going through The Door or Atan (B.). The flames (Kar, B.), which make the dead to be afraid, etc.

A detailed transcription and translation hypotheses are found in (Arnaiz-Villena 2000, download chapter; Arnaiz-Villena and Alonso García 2001; Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* 2001).

3) Most of these deciphered "Usko-Mediterranean" languages refer to the following matters:

A. Religion and after death (90%).

B. Accountancy related to food-storage and other topics.

This skewed thematic writing may be due to those writings have been better preserved in sanctuaries and/or palaces, and not in normal living people housing (the latter being constructed with more perishable materials). Also, Neolithic and pre- Neolithic societies may have used written words as a magic or totemic sense related to permanent keeping of possessions and also to securing a proper and pleasant after death life; casts of clerks (related or not to religion) could have further driven this tendency in order to keep up with privileges. In addition, it is obvious that primitive societies felt less secure than nowadays more complex ones; this could have led people to find religion and food register to be essential.

There are groups of words that are found in the different languages (Arnaiz- Villena 2000), i.e.: Atinas (B.), the door of darkness. Other idiomatic expressions preserved in 1090 both ancient Iberian and Basque are shown in chapter 7, section 2.6 of the same reference.

5) Beginning and ending of words in Iberian- Tartessian signary are problematic and unless meaning is known, it is very difficult to define them. Only known and repeated meanings (in several languages) are taken as sound cognate identification.

6) Common and proper names are almost impossible to distinguish. Many proper names come from a common name like in English "Rose" and also in Mediterranean languages like Basque (for males, Bilebai= Circumcision; Gurutz= Cross; Eztegu= Wedding; Lor= Flower; Aintza= Glory; Sein= Innocent; Lin= Linen; Ama=Mother; Edur= Snow; Gentza= Peace; Deunoro= Saints; Bakarr= Loneliness) and Spanish (for females: Azucena= White Lily; Gloria= Glory; Cruz= Cross; Flor= Flower; Inocencio= Innocent; Lino= Linon; Nieves= Snows; Paz= Peace; Santos= Saints; Soledad= Loneliness. Ancient societies tended to name people with common names (Great Bear, Eagle, Sitting Bull), as it is well known with North American Indians.

7) Basque language has remained with little modifications throughout time, because invasions have not modified this and other Basque society characteristics (Collins 1989). Basque language was much more widespread than its present-day limits (Venemann 2003; Intxausti 1992).

### **Transliteration and translation hypothesis of Usko-Mediterranean languages including Iberian**

Iberian-Tartessian, Etruscan and Minoan Linear A have been transliterated and a translation proposed, as referred in (Poulianos 1969; Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* 1999; Arnaiz-Villena 2000). Basque-Spanish cognate meanings have provided the basis for the translation. Berber has been distinguished from the Arab contamination by comparison with Basque (Sota *et al.* 1976; Keretxeta 1990), Iberian-Tartessian (see Chapter 7, of Arnaiz-Villena 2000) and Arab (Corriente-Cordoba 1977). The ancient Lybic scripts were studied from (Chabot 1940a; 1940b; 1941; Harden 1971); some of them were written in Punic characters. Directions of the scripts were generally vertical and only assessed by the sense of meaning (Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* 1999). Etruscan texts were taken from D'Aneusa (1997). Hittite, Sumerian, Eblaic, Elamite, Ugaritic, Egyptian and Guanche texts were taken from the transliterated references of the most recognized World specialists (see references list of Arnaiz-Villena 2000, chapter 9 pages 210, 245, 246 and see Arnaiz-Villena & Alonso-Garcia 2001).

### **Results and Discussion**

The findings of Megalithic Lineal Sripits in So Na Caçana megalithic complex are described (Figs 6-11)



**Fig. 6.** So Na Caçana Taula capitel stone (first) and vertical broken pillar of Taula with an enigmatic half-circle engraving (see also [Calvo, 2022](#); [Lagarda-Mata & Nicolas-Mascaro 2004](#))



**Fig. 7** "Sacred stones" are marked with black circles. Their material is different to that of the Taula recint stones.

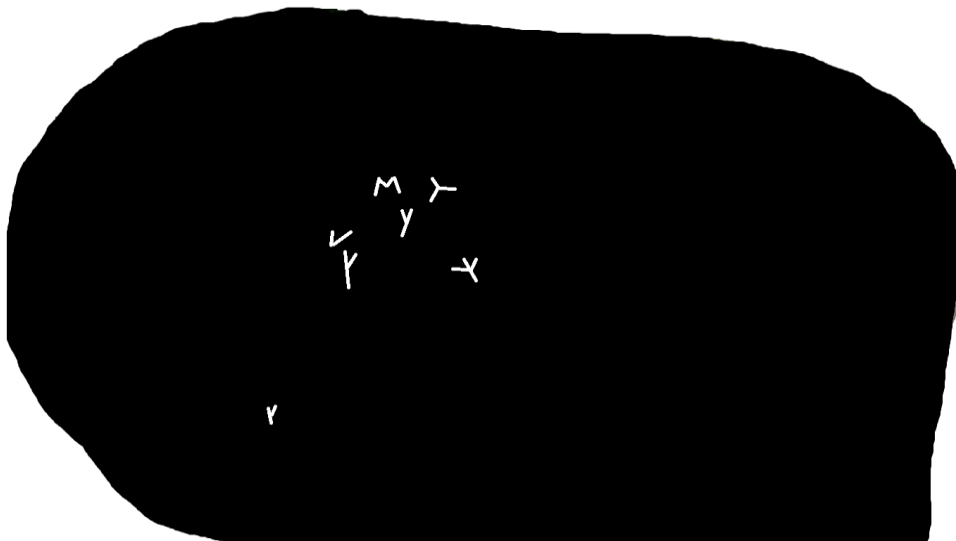




**Fig. 8b.** Another perspective of 7A stone



**Fig. 8c.** New perspective of 7A “sacred stones” 7A and 7B were brought from outside the complex, probably from South to So Na Caçana and had some particular ritual function. Scripted Megalithic signs had different sizes, mostly less than 0.6 cm and proposed meaning was about deads and the Mother religion (see following photographs)

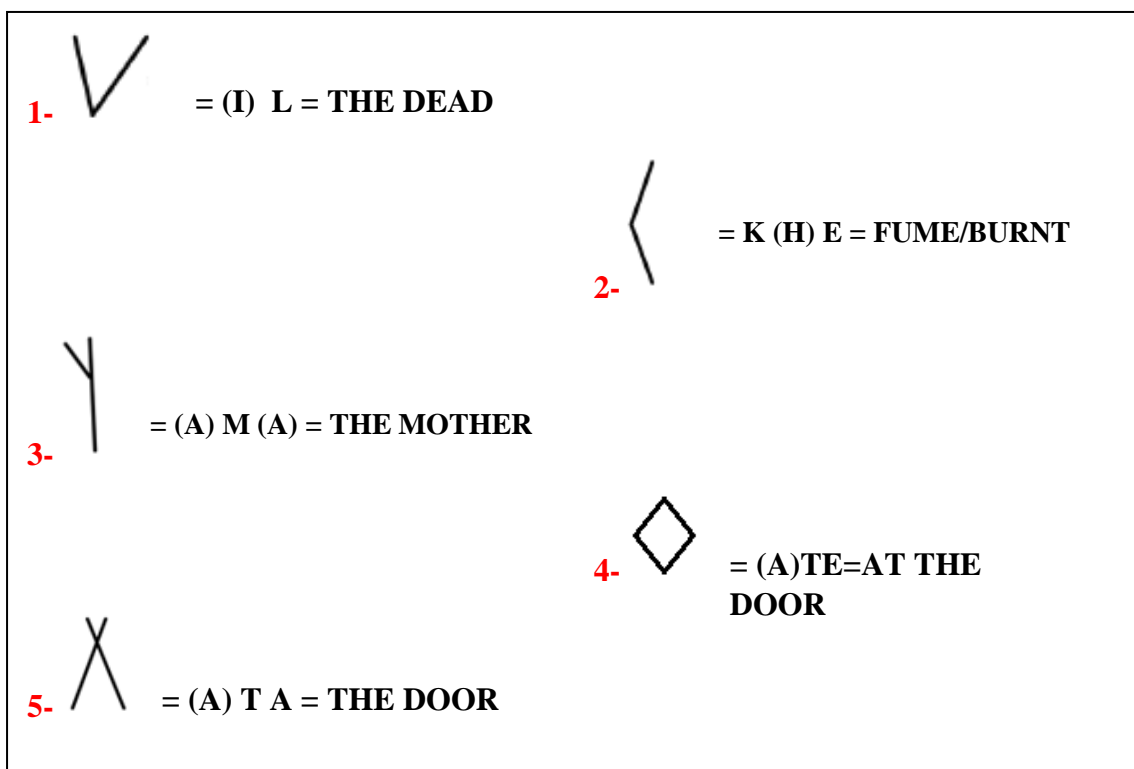


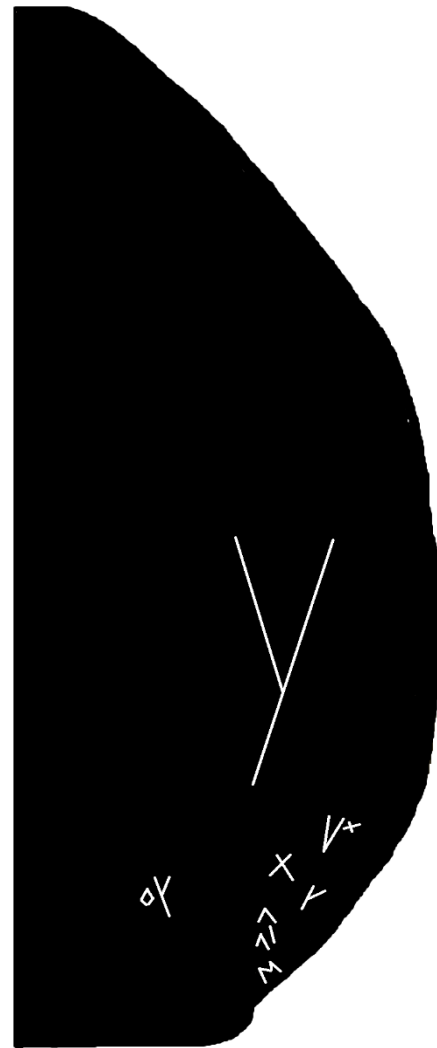
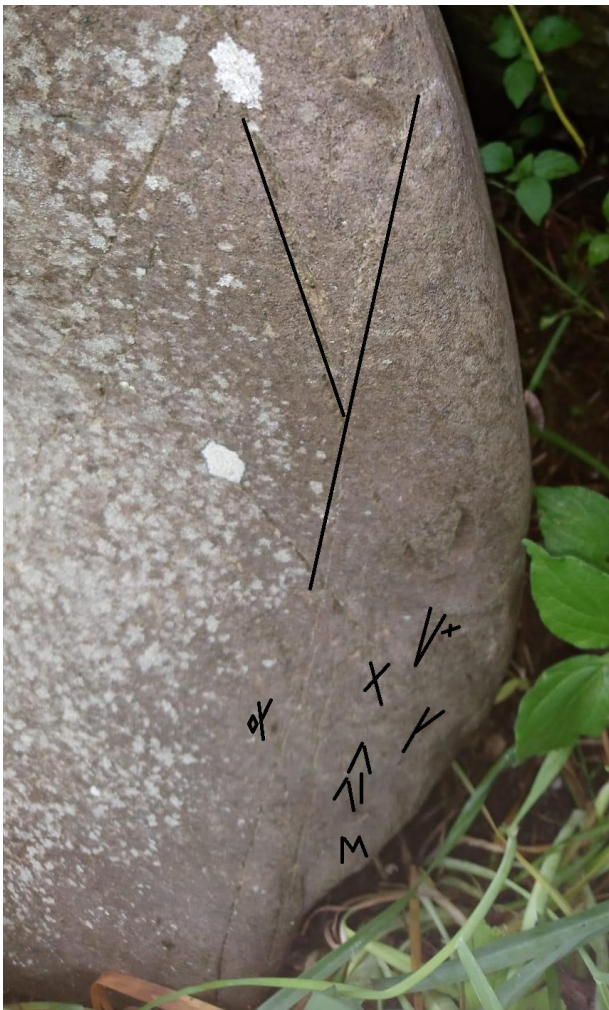
**Fig. 9.** Lineal Megalithic Scripts or Iberian inscriptions found in a polished rock in “So Na Caçana”, Menorca, Spain. 7A from **Fig.7** interpretation of scripts transcription and translation of some signs found in this rock is put forward as follows (see Appendix **I**). Not all signs shown are proposed for translation, nor all found signs are shown. The same applies for the following figures of this stone 7A. However, all signs had already been seen in Canary Islands, Sahara Desert and Iberia ([Arnaiz-Villena 2021](#), [2022a](#), [2022b](#)).

1-		= (I) L = THE DEAD
3-		= (A) M (A) = THE MOTHER
2-		= S = S (U) = THE FIRE OR DEAD BURNT REMAINS









**Fig. 10.** Lineal Megalithic Scripts or Iberian inscriptions found in a polished rock in “So Na Caçana”, Menorca, Spain. An interpretation of scripts transcription and translation of some signs found in this rock is put forward as follows (see Appendix I and Material and Methods section). More scripts are found, mostly repeated are not highlighted (Stone 7A).





**Fig. 11.** Lineal Megalithic Scripts or Iberian inscriptions found in the polished 7A stone in “So Na Caçana”, Menorca, Spain. An interpretation of scripts transcription and translation of some signs found in this rock is put forward as follows (see Appendix I and Material and methods section). Other signs are present all over the stone, but they are not highlighted (Stone 7A)

<p>1-  = (A) M (A) = <b>THE MOTHER</b></p>	<p>2-  = BA = (A) BA = <b>PRIEST</b></p>
<p>3-  = (A) T A = <b>THE DOOR</b></p>	<p>4-  = S(U)=FIRE(DEAD BURNT REMAINS)</p>
<p>5-  = (I) L = <b>THE DEAD</b></p>	<p>6-  = (A)TE=AT THE DOOR</p>

### **Lineal Megalithic rock scripts from Africa, Europe and Mediterranean Area**

A difference should be point out between Paleolithic and Megalithic rock scripts. Megalithic ones are found in a Megalithic context even if in small stones far from Megaliths (not older than 7,000 years BP, see [Arnaiz-Villena et al. 1999, 2015, 2019b, 2021, 2022a](#), and [Muñoz- Gambero 2019](#)). Whether they represent syllables/letters of writing pointing out events, space/time measuring and /or symbols is not known. It is premature any kind of classification since the variety of scripts, their support and support size etc is overwhelming. They are found throughout Iberia and also recorded all over the World like South Africa ([von Petzinger 2017](#); [Henshilwood and D’Errico 2011](#)). For example, [Pichler \(2003\)](#) thinks that Vinca script is borderline between structured writing and symbols and they are spread throughout Balcanic Peninsula and Romania. The support of both Paleolithic and Megalithic lineal signs varies from small to bigger stones (intentionally polished or not) and cave or orthostate walls. In the schematic figures showed in the present paper, some examples of ancient language lineal writing are shown from Africa, Mediterranean Area and Europe. In addition, Greek and Latin alphabets are also lineal. Latin and Geek were written in minor case only at Middle Age.

**1-** Lineal Megalithic/Paleolithic signs/lines may have a variety of purposes or representations. Some authors have proposed: sky, planets, stars representations, space/time representations or others, including letters/syllables or symbols/events. Some are painted, other incised or picketed; the latter are relatively more common in Megalithic scripts.

**2-** Man is “writing” or creating handmade lineal figures on stones /rocks and other supports, which sometimes have intentionally been polished since Paleolithic times: at least 70,000 years BP (Blombos Cave, South Africa). Von Petzinger signs are over the World mainly in caves and are dated 40,000 years ago. Man had an early contact worldwide.

**3-** Megalithic script is named because it is associated to megalithic structures, although not exclusively. Von Petzinger “symbols” and/or writing is extended worldwide in Paleolithic caves and other rocks.

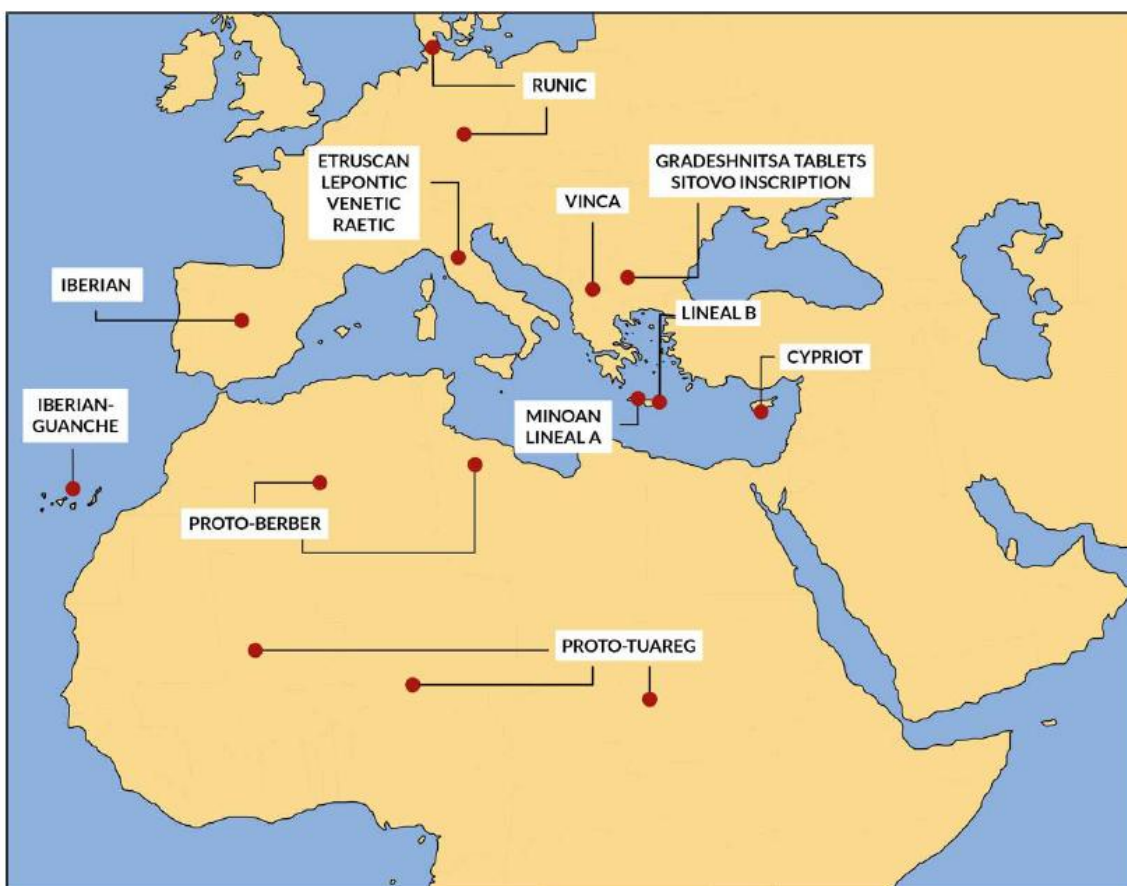
**4-** Canary Islands incise or picketed lineal writing exists mixed with transcribed and translated meaning signs (Ibero-Guanche or Latin inscriptions and Lybic ones). Other African/European/Mediterranean lineal scripts existed (see [Fig. 12](#)).

5- Fuerteventura Island contains in addition many small or bigger stones and rocks all over its territory. Timing in which these stones were incised by man is not known, we are only referring to a kind of stone crafting. However, we do not discard that they were made by man several thousand years ago.

6- Some Paleolithic/Megalithic scripts are mixed with clear Iberian semi-syllabary signs. They may reflect the evolution of more ancient Megalithic scripts to lineal writings like those detailed in [Fig. 12](#) and others.

7- Writing concept should be redefined whenever more precise data and dating be available.

8- WE PROPOSE THAT SOME OF THESE SIGNS WERE LATER INCLUDED INTO THE IBERIAN-TARTESSIAN SIGNS. (Appendix I)



**Fig. 12.** Map showing examples of ancient Lineal Writings of Europe, Mediterranean Area, North Continental Africa and Canary Islands main locations. Also, Iberian phrases and signs have been found in the Middle of Sahara Desert, 200 km Southwest of Tamanrasset, Algeria ([Arnaiz-Villena et al. 2019b, 2021](#))

### **South Iberia Megaliths: Mother Goddess and Deads Religion**

Alberite Dolmen complex in Villamartín (Cádiz, Andalusia, Spain) is dated in about 5000 years BC ([Arnaiz-Villena et al. 2013](#)). Andalusia and South Portugal (Algarve) contain many of the most ancient Megaliths dated up until now in the World. Atlantic Eurafrikan façade Megalithic culture started about V millennium BC, increasing up to III millennium BC. Its cause may be due to funeral and religious reasons that could follow a social change ([Lacalle-Rodríguez 2019](#)). The Megalithism aims seem to follow the same regional characteristics and identical use that frequently extended similarly to other regions by unknown reasons. Religion seems to be the main cohesive element on the Megaliths similarity among regions. In Europe, Megaliths building starts with Neolithic and finishes about in Bronze Age. Atlantic Europe (and probably Africa) started to bury deads in megaliths (big stones) in a group or in single burials: in all cases cult to Mother Goddess and sky bodies was manifested ([Lacalle-Rodríguez 2019](#)). Menhirs, cromlech and dolmens are found, with the exception of Malta dolmenic temples and Menorca (Balearic Islands, Spain) "Taulas" (big square stones in a simple table shape) in which buildings are out of rule found. Malta is particularly intriguing by these and other prehistoric findings having the most crowded prehistoric (Bronze Age) "cart-ruts" constructions, probably built for measuring space and time following or according to sky bodies ([Arnaiz-Villena et al. 2018; 2019a; 2020](#)). Funeral dolmens are constructed with a big stones slabs corridor ending at a circular chamber ("tholos") also built with big stones. Big stones constructions at Malta Temples of more than hundred tons or other Iberian Megaliths defy transport and handling construction management that existed on Neolithic times according to our knowledge. Coasts of North Atlantic Ocean, Europe, North Africa and possibly Canary Islands ([Medina & Arnaiz-Villena 2018a, 2018b](#)), North, South and East Mediterranean, including Middle East, all harbour these Megalithic constructions. Caucasus Mts. region also has them. However, all of them are more recent than those of southern Iberia, British Isles and French Britain. Asia, America and Oceania also have megalithic constructions ([Lacalle-Rodríguez 2019](#)). Sub-Saharan Africa, Ethiopia, Madagascar and other African areas also show megaliths ([Lacalle-Rodríguez 2019](#)). Megaliths may have spread all over the world together with a cult to deads within the Mother Goddess religion. Thus, all our Megaliths (Cumbres Mayores) "Iberian-Tartessian" signs found are proposed to be referred to Ama = the mother (Basque, B.),

Ata= the entrance to another dimension or death (B.), As = darkness (B.), Bake = peace (B.), Il = death (B.), Ke = smoke, burnt corpse (B.), etc.

On the other hand, 40% of world discovered dolmens are in South Korea (consult “Dolmen” in Encyclopedia Britannica). Göbekli Tepe (Turkey) is possibly the most ancient megalithic complex found. Alberite Dolmen is 7000 years old and probably one of the first dolmens constructed in Atlantic/Mediterranean area.

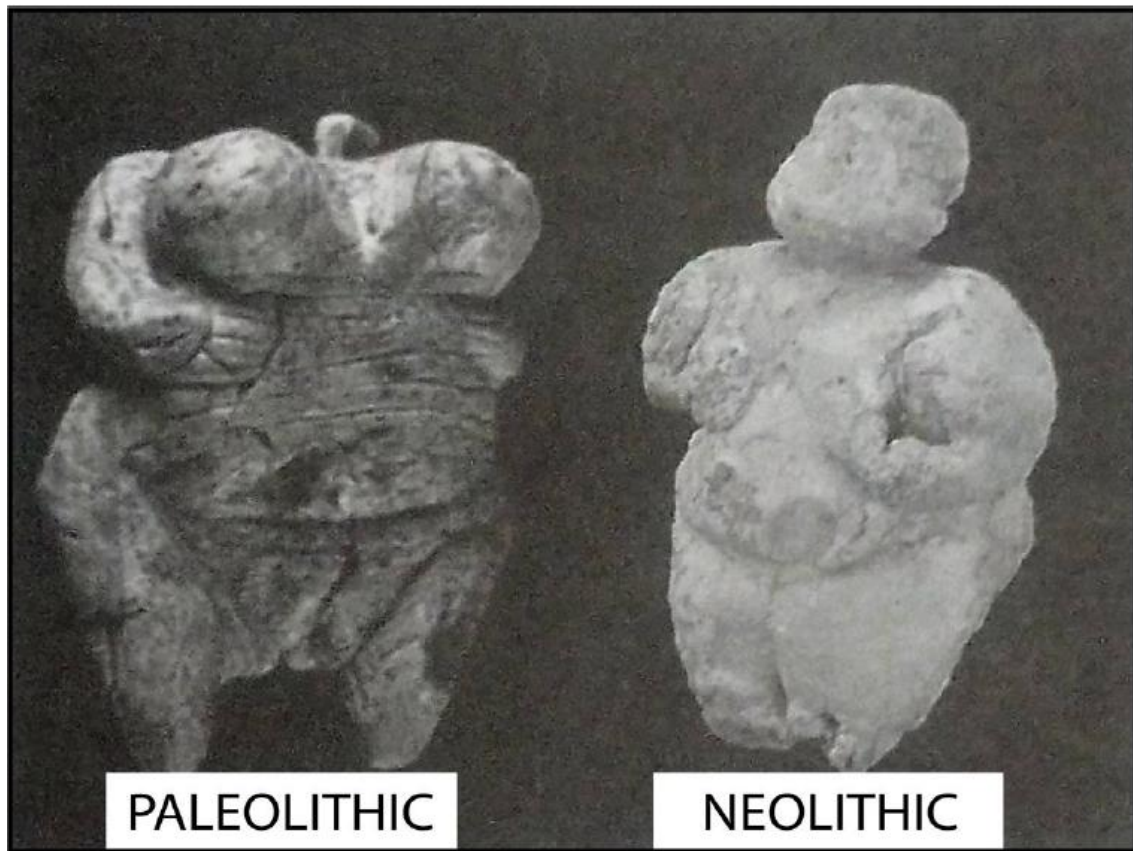
### **The relationship of Paleolithic and Neolithic a Mother Goddess Religion with Paleolithic and Neolithic (Megalithic) Lineal Scripts**

Small fat Paleolithic figurines (**Fig. 14**) have been found throughout all Europe and Mediterranean Area (including Canary Islands, in Fortaleza de Ansite, and other places). [Gimbutas \(1991\)](#) attributed these fat goddesses to a “Religion of the Mother” that was widespread in the area. Neolithic figurines are an extension of Paleolithic ones (**Fig. 13**). However, this “Mother religion” which we have been used to propose transcriptions and translations hypotheses from Basque/Iberian equivalences: Ama = the mother (Basque, B.), Ata= the entrance to another dimension or death (B.), As = darkness (B.), Bake = peace (B.), Il = dead (B.), Ke = smoke, burnt corpse (B.), Aka = dead (B.), and others. It was a female-driven religion and society ([Gimbutas 1991](#); [Arnaiz-Villena 2000](#); [Arnaiz-Villena & Alonso-García 2001](#); [2007](#)), which covered Europe and North Africa at least after thousands of years BC.

It is difficult to maintain such a wide extension like the map shows in **Fig. 14** (at least) during thousand years without many commercial or other types of contacts or a wide geographical political religious unit having a Mother Goddess basic religion. This culture goes together with Lineal Megalithic Scripts which are sometimes admixed with Iberian-Tartessian scripts ([Leisner & Leisner 1943](#); [Cerdán et al. 1952](#); [1975](#); [Sousa et al. 2020](#); [Arnaiz-Villena et al. 2022b](#)). Our proposed religious and funerary meaning for these simple inscriptions suggests that Mother Goddess Religion remained from Paleolithic to Neolithic (Megalithic) times and that both religion and scripts have evolved conjointly. Iberian-Tartessian initial scripts may have appeared in the middle of Megalithic Lineal Scripts like at Cumbres Mayores Neolithic complex and San Bartolomé Dolmen ([Leisner & Leisner 1943](#); [Cerdán et al. 1952](#); [1975](#); [Sousa et al. 2020](#); [Arnaiz-Villena et al. 2022b](#)). On the other hand, an older Lineal Paleolithic Script has been recorded and solidly dated in South Africa by Henshilwood group at Howiesons Poort ([Henshilwood & Dubreuil](#)



2011; Wadley 2015; Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* 2021). Dates are back to 100,000 to 60,000 years old.



**Fig. 13.** At left, Paleolithic figurine from Hohle Fels, Germany, 40,000 years BP. At right, Neolithic figurine from Catal Hüyük, Turkey, 8,000 years BP. These Paleolithic and Neolithic figurines are found in the context of Mother Goddess religion which was extended throughout Europe, Atlantic and Mediterranean areas, and Africa. These figurines are found in the Mediterranean Area, Europe, Canary Islands and Africa. This extension goes in parallel with the Lineal Megalithic and Paleolithic scripts that may have given rise to the Iberian-Tartessian scripts ([Appendix I](#)). Mother Goddess Religion and religious lineal rock writings may be different faces of the same culture. Figures taken from [Piquero \(2017\)](#).

Mother Goddess Religion manifestations are worldwide shown on the 5 continents and may be a strong cohesion force that joined other cultural traits like our studied Paleolithic/Neolithic Lineal writings, and Iberian-Tartessian and other ancient languages writings ([Arnaiz-Villena et al. 2021](#)). A wide review on Mother Goddess Religion can be obtained in [Gimbutas \(1991\)](#), [Graham \(1996\)](#), [Campbell \(2013\)](#), [Piquero \(2017\)](#) and [Lacalle-Rodríguez \(2019\)](#).

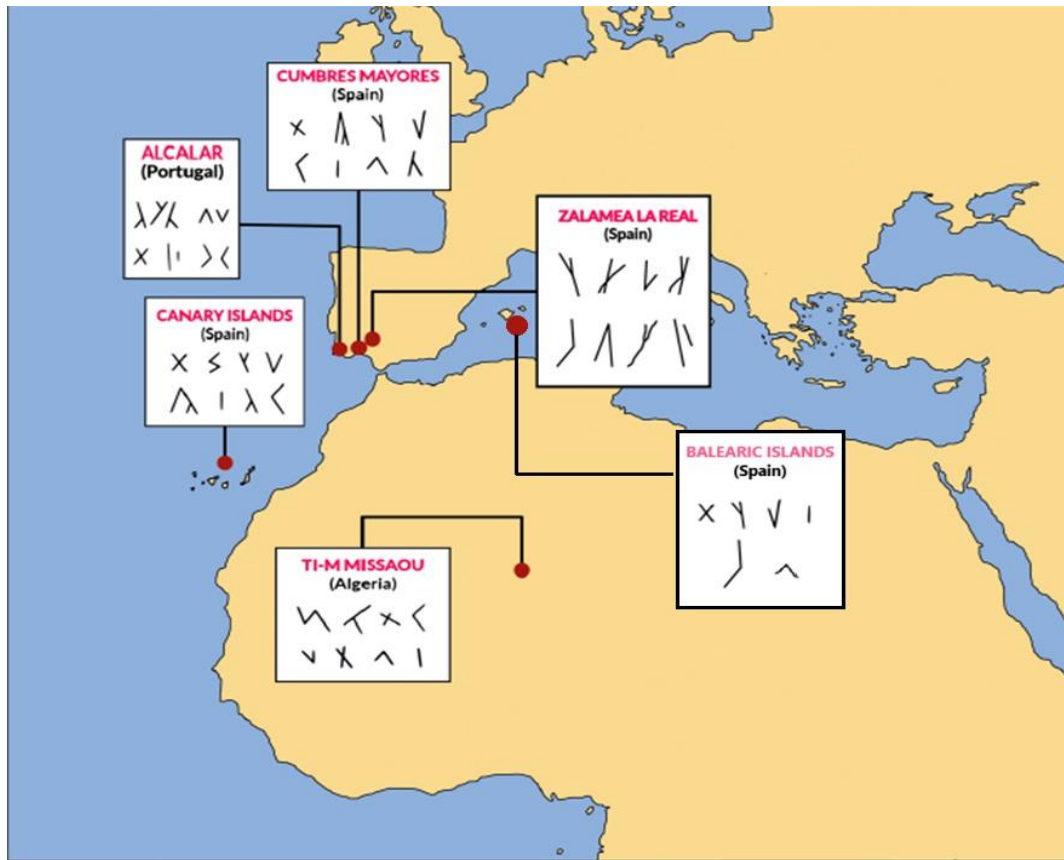
### **The Iberian-Tartessian semi-syllabary: a brief history and origins (Bellón 2015)**

Velázquez studied in XVIII century the question about the Iberian signs that appeared in Iberian coins stating in Iberian language the name of the city where coins were produced. In XIX century, Aloiss Heiss and Jacobo Zóbel de Zangróniz proposed syllable phonology to certain Iberian signs. Also, Emil Hubner published a collection of all known Iberian texts by then. Then in 1922, Manuel Gómez-Moreno, who knew several classic languages and much of numismatics, started a deep study of all known Iberian scripts. At the same time, other scholars published on Iberian scripted lead tablet from Serreta of Alcoy (Alcoy Mts., Alicante, Spain). It was written in an enigmatic Greek-Iberian alphabet which is considered a very ancient form in which Greeks wrote (Wikipedia April 2022; [https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yacimiento\\_arqueologico\\_de\\_La\\_Serreta](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yacimiento_arqueologico_de_La_Serreta).)

Many translations have been proposed but there is no unanimity; it is strange that Greeks (eastern Mediterraneans) were using these mixed Iberian/Greek scripts in very old times being a semi-syllabary older than alphabet. A West to East transfer may have occurred. However, this led forward to Gomez-Moreno to launch his proposal of Iberian-Tartessian semi-syllabary in 1925 (Appendix I). Only 7 signs (syllables) to the so-called Iberian (South-East) were added by him. The others had been already added by Heiss, Zóbel and other authors. Surprisingly, in his dissertation at the Royal Academy (1942) he put forward the possible relationship of Iberian and Basque language, when all Spanish Kings and reputed Kings official chronicle writers had asserted the relationship or even identity between Iberian and Basque. Koldo Mitxelena and Antonio Tovar doubted about Iberian and Basque relationship in the 2nd part of the 20th century and opened the door to a group of university scholars that have been dismissing in the last 60 years approximately such a relationship with furious attacks to its defenders. Orduña-Aznar and Ferrer i Jane have shown that Basque and Iberian numerals and counting system are equivalent and the Basque-Iberism is now re-established again after a few years dismissed (Ferrer i Jane 2009; Orduña-Aznar 2005; 2013).

It is clear that a semi-syllabary like Cretan Lineal A and Iberian-Tartessian are more ancient than an alphabet (Moorhouse 1995). Also, it has been published a proposal of dictionary of Basque-Iberian names based on a phonologic and semantic methodology (Arnaiz-Villena and Alonso-García 2007), related Iberian and Basque to some Mediterranean languages: the Usko-Mediterranean languages (Arnaiz-Villena 2000) and postulated that Lineal Megalithic Scripts or even Paleolithic ones (Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* 2021) are precursors of Iberian and other Mediterranean lineal languages (Figs. 12, 14)

## Conclusions on So Na Caçana Taula sacred stone: Paleolithic/Megalithic Lineal signs.



**Fig. 14.** Rock scripts included in Iberian-Tartessian semi-syllabary (Appendix I) are found in a wide extension area including Cumbres Mayores (Huelva, Spain), Alcalar (South Portugal), Canary Islands (Spain) and Ti-m Missaou (Algeria, Sahara Desert), Meinorca at the Baearic Is). These scripts which may be found in a megalithic context (5000-3000 years BC) (Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* 2020; 2021; 2022). So Na Caçana site has been added at Menorca, Balearic Archipelago (Spain)

### The Iberian-Tartessian signs and the Balearic Islands (also named “Gymnesians Islands” in antiquity) (see Appendix I)

A few inscriptions have been bound in both Majorca and Menorca Is. (Sabate-Vidal, 2017).

1. An Iberian ceramic piece found at Pollença-Alcudia (Majorca) and another campaniform ceramic also found at the same place were identified. These two pieces have been later discovered as scripted with Iberian-Tartessian signs. They were later declared false because of the lack of similarity with some others previously found in Iberia and other prejudices and a very few scholars of officialism also because the arbitrary dogma that they had established about or evolution in a previous time and place of the Iberian-

Tartessian signary. However, for us, the signs transcribed as “Ka” and as “Ba” in campaniform ceramics are clear. Signs were also very small (0.6 cm some of them).

2. Also lead coins (apparently Heracles with his stick figure) have been found, one in a Talayot monument similar and close to So Na Caçana one in Menorca and 19 lead coins found in Majorca. They were first assigned to Iberian-Tartessian and later doubtfully to Latin scripts without translation in both ones.

3. Another inscription found in a lead tablet in Can-Picafort and Ferrutx Cape (Majorca) was determined as Iberian and later with no basic evidence declared “false”. Also, a doubt is raised about whether the signs are Iberian or not.

4. Thus, the only finding accepted by the 3 official expert scholars in Iberian-Tartessian scripts is the “sgraffito” from Benitrám, Ciutadella, Menorca.

However, we have demonstrated (see above) that the Megalithic-Lineal scripts found in Iberia, Canary Islands and Africa may well be predecessor of Iberian and other scripts (Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* 2019b; Arnaiz-Villena *et al.* 2021). These precursor Megalithic-lineal scripts (Figs 12, 14) have also been found in Menorca Talayotic Monument (the Taula recint of So Na Caçana) and that many more may exist if looked for. Pichler (2003) had an extensive study of these Megalithic scripts in stones in Canary Islands but had not time to study them, although we recognize them as important,

### Meaning of So Na Caçana in Menorca language

Romance languages have been evolving in parallel from a common or a group of similar languages related to Iberian and Basque languages: the Usko Mediterranean languages (Arnaiz-Villena 2000). Catalan, Castillian (Spanish for most of the World), Balearic, Valencian, Portuguese, Alicante, Menorcan, Majorcan, etc., have been changing with time. Nebrija Castillian or Spanish, Ponpeu Fabra Catalan and Batua Basque, for example, are for us artificially constructed languages. Lately, it is an attempt to impose Ponpeu Fabra Catalan to the Balearic and Valencian Spanish Autonomous regions in order to construct a non-extant “Catalan Countries”, i.e.: in Menorca while people speaks at home their own language they are forced to study Catalan as their mother tongue, So Na Caçana cannot be translated from Catalan and means in Menorca language: So=Property (Son in Catalan), Na (Used for feminine personal names), Caçana (it was probably “She –Hunter” ,a nick name related to it or a personal name). Translation results” The Property of the She-Hunter” or similar.

## Conclusions

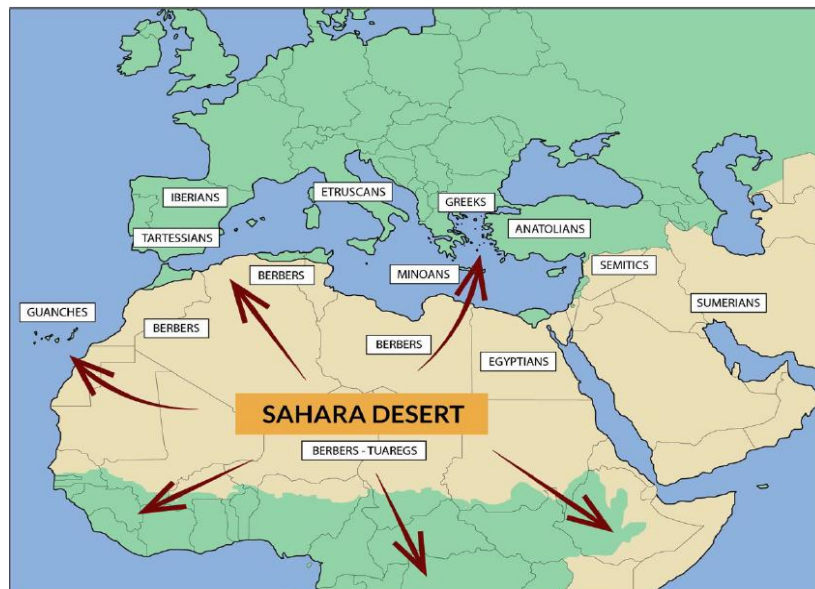
**1-** Paleolithic/Neolithic (Megalithic) lineal signs have been found in megaliths, rocks and stones of Iberia (Spain and Portugal), Canary Islands and Algerian Sahara (Hoggar Mt). This type of lineal writings may have been the origin of other ancient lineal writings of old languages (**Figs 12,14**) of Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean area. We propose that they have later been included in the Iberian-Tartessian signary at least. (Appendix I)

**2-** In the present work, we show for the first time the existence of these Megalithic lineal scripts in a typical and unique Menorca Island (Balearic Archipelago, Spain) monument: the Taula recint of So Na Caçana Megalithic complex, which is a comparable monument to those of Anatolian Gobekli Tepe dated 10,000 years BC

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%B6bekli\\_Tepe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%B6bekli_Tepe)

In this context Taulas construction date should be revised since it has been stated that they were built only in the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC without a firm bases and also most megalithic construction in the area are much older.

**3-** These Megalithic Lineal signs together with a few Iberian language scripts found in Majorca and Menorca shows that North Africa, Iberia and Balearic Island were connected culturally and also genetically as demonstrated by [Arnaiz-Villena et al.1999](#) and also by a Saharan people migration when Sahara started desertification from a green epoch after 10,000 years BC (**Fig. 15**).



**Fig. 15.** Map depicting various ancient languages Lineal writing of a possible African climate exilated Saharan people, when it was changing from a “green” fertile and heavily populated area to desertification.

However, Megalithic and Paleolithic Lineal culture traces are wider in World (see text). It is shown Mediterranean area with classic populations (squares). Arrows represent population movements before 3,000 years BC ([Sellier & Sellier 1993](#)). (See also [Elvira 1988](#); [Martinez-Laso et al. 1996](#); [Gomez-Casado et al. 2000](#); [Arnaiz-Villena et al. 1997](#); [1999](#); [2001](#); [2002](#)).

Appendix I

Iberian →		Tartessian ←	Phoenician	Ancient Greek	Iberian →		Tartessian ←	Phoenician	Ancient Greek
RDP P	a	ΔΔ	κϕ	α	ρΓ	bi	γ	ⓂⓂ	β
EE E	e	ϕϕ (ϕϕ)	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	X X X	bo	ⓂⓂⓂ		
MM	z	ⓂⓂ (Ⓜ)	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	□	bu	□ (Ⓜ)		
HH	o	○ ○ ϕ	○	○	X	ka	+X+	+X+	Tt
ΔΔ ↑	u	ϕ ↑ ü?	ϕϕ	ϕϕ	⊖ ⊖ ⊖ ⊖	te	⊖ ⊖ ⊖ ⊖	⊖Ⓜ	⊖Ⓜ
Λ Λ	l	λ	λ	λ	ϕϕϕϕ	ti	ⓂⓂⓂⓂ	ⓂⓂ	ⓂⓂ
ⓂⓂⓂⓂ	r	ⓂⓂⓂ	Ⓜ	Ⓜ	∨ ∨ ∨	to	ⓂⓂⓂ		
MM	s	MM	wk	M	⊕ Δ Δ Δ	tu	Δ Δ ∨ (Ⓜ)	Δ Δ	Δ Δ
ξ ξ ξ	ξ	ϕϕ (ϕϕ)	ϕ	ϕ x	Α Α Α	ca	Λ (⊕)	λ	λ
ϕϕϕϕ	m	ξ ξ	ξ ϕ	ϕ	< ⊖ ϕ ϕ <	ke	ⓂⓂⓂⓂⓂ	ϕ k	ϕ k
MM	n	ϕϕϕ (ϕϕ)	ϕ	ϕ	ϕ ϕ ϕ ϕ	ki	λ ϕ (ϕ ϕ)		
l	ba	l			Σ	co	ⓂⓂ		
ϕϕϕϕ	be	ϕϕ			ⓂⓂ	cu	ⓂⓂ (ϕ)	ϕ ϕ	ϕ ϕ

Iberian-Tartessian semi-syllabary assembled by Manuel Gómez-Moreno (Gómez-Moreno 1949; 1962)

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