

## **Iamphorynna or Phorounna? An Attempt for Problematization and Localization**

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Two different written forms of one and the same Thracian toponym are attested in the works of two ancient authors, Polybius and Titus Livius, who lived in different time (the 2nd and the 1st century BC) and wrote in different languages (Old Greek and Latin, respectively). That has given rise to a very interesting problem, at which a number of scholars belonging to several generations have largely debated. Polybius (IX, 45, 3), according to a note by Stephanus Byzantinus (670, 9), gave the name as *Φόρουvνα*, while Titus Livius (XXVI, 25, 8-15) used the form *Iamphorynna*.

Based on a detailed analysis of the complete available literature, the author of this paper makes an attempt at a more appropriate, compared with the suggested so far, localization of „the capital of Maedica“. Linguistic observations and certain linguistic parallels give the author a reason to argue that the ancient town Phorounna (until recent times incorrectly named Iamphorynna, after the evidence of Titus Livius), which had been

besieged by Philip V in 211 BC, should be identical with the town called Petra, besieged by the same ruler thirty years later (181 BC), while again campaigning against the Maedi. Phorounna and Petra are names of one and the same Thracian settlement; in fact the central fortified town of the Maedi, but given in the original Thracian form and its translation in Old Greek by the various ancient authors.

From semantic point of view, the names Phorounna and Petra are identical, both meaning „rock“. Most suitable is the parallel with the Hettic *peruna*, which also means „rock“.

The localization of Petra has been placed since long at the foot of the Kozhuh hill near the village of Rupkite (former Muletarovo), Petrich region, southwest Bulgaria. The newly suggested identity of Phorounna (wrongly named Iamphorynna) with Petra mentioned by Titus Livius successfully solves the problem about the location of the mysterious „capital of Maedica“.