

# Venice Squeeze Project. Digital Library of Epigraphic Squeezes Open Access (University Ca' Foscari of Venice)

*Project coordinator: Claudia Antonetti*

*Collaborators: Stefania De Vido, Ivan Matijašić*

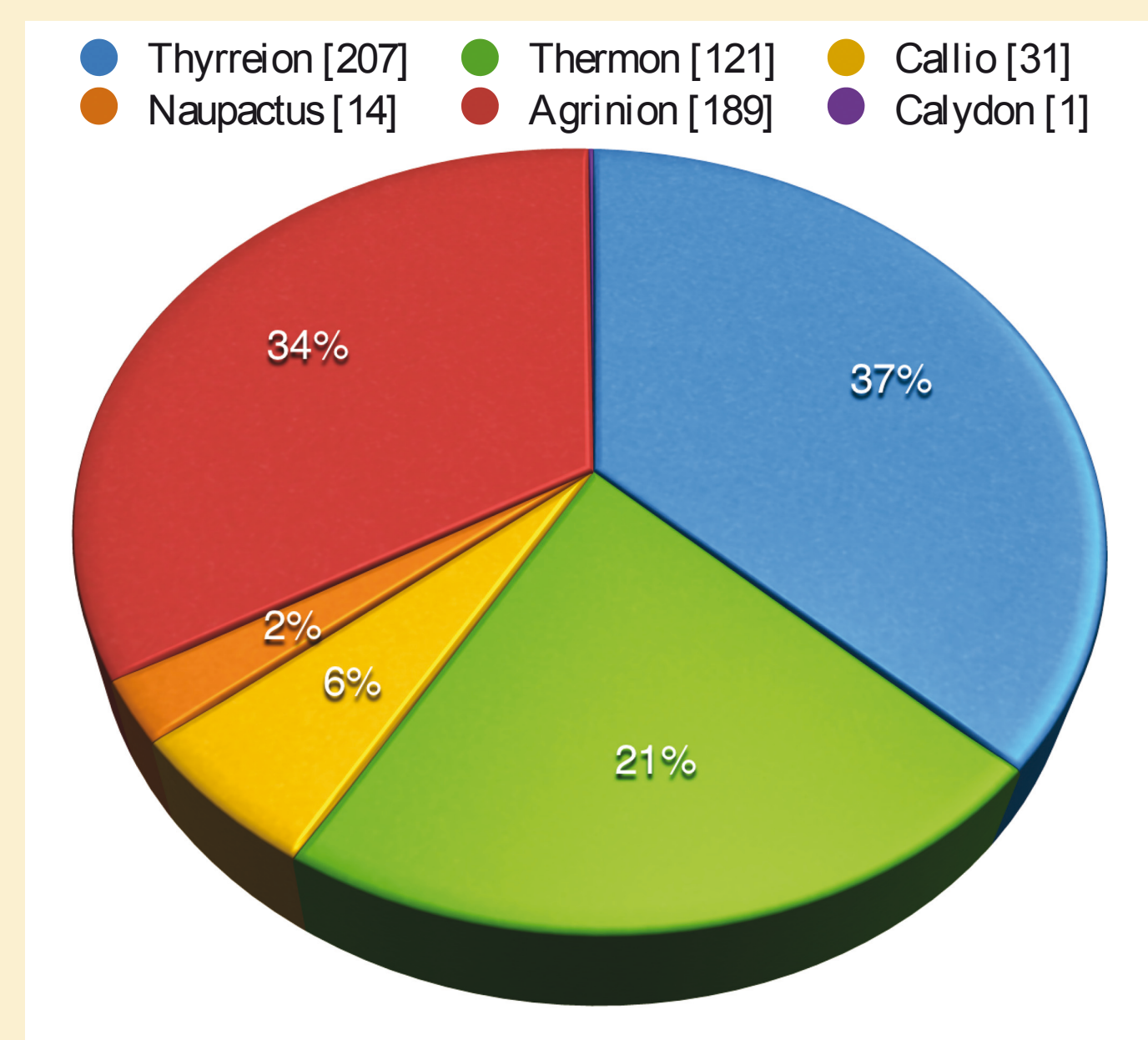


Chart 1. Squeezes of Greek inscriptions, archive of the Greek Epigraphy Laboratory: North-Western Greece (tot.: 563)

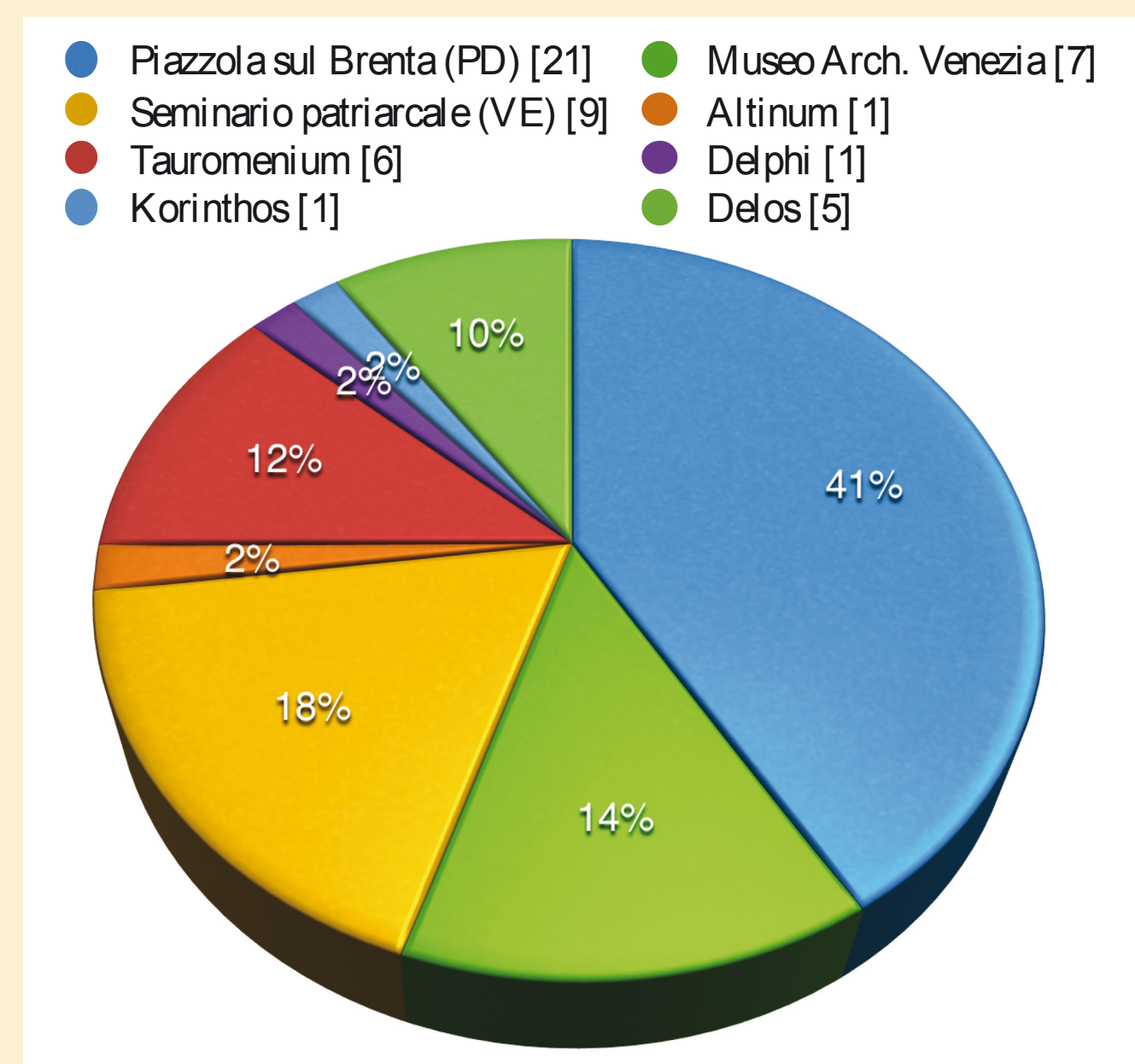


Chart 2. Squeezes of Greek inscriptions, archive of the Greek Epigraphy Laboratory: Venetia et Histria, Sicily, etc. (tot.: 51)



Map 1. Aetolia and Acarnania with main ancient places



Map 2. Venetia et Histria

## Aims of the Project

The Venice Squeeze Project – a biannual project beginning in September 2017 – aims at creating an open access Digital Library of epigraphic squeezes. The first step is the 3D digitization of the paper squeezes of Greek inscriptions preserved at the Greek Epigraphy Laboratory, Ca' Foscari University of Venice (<http://www.unive.it/pag/27275/>): the creation of a Digital Library and the collaboration with the E-Stampages Project will allow a free, expandable, and inter-operative online collection of squeezes. The final cultural goal is to contribute to the international recognition, enhancement, and safeguarding of archives of squeezes in Italy and abroad.

## What are Epigraphic Paper Squeezes? Definition and Functions

Epigraphic paper squeezes are the reproductions of stone inscriptions on soft lime-free papers, multidimensional mirror-images of the original texts. Apart from their effective usefulness as tools for the study and for scientific editions of inscribed texts, the epigraphic squeezes have also an intrinsic value for cultural heritage, being documents on their own that deserve to be preserved, archived and safeguarded.

## The Venice Collection of Squeezes: An Open Access Digital Library

The first step of the project is the creation of an open access Digital Library of the paper squeezes of Greek inscriptions preserved at the Greek Epigraphy Laboratory. The collection, which includes 614 squeezes, is the most complete, consistent, and homogeneous collection in Italy. It dates to the early 1980s and has since been increased by Claudia Antonetti through research activities in Greece and Sicily. Each squeeze has been catalogued according to international standards for metadata and linked to the picture of the corresponding Greek inscription, as well as to the bibliographical documentation. The collection is arranged according to the place of origin or actual location of the inscriptions (Museums or private collections): it reflects a strong regional coherence, mainly North-Western Greece and Venetia et Histria (see maps 1 & 2), which is not covered by any other archive (see charts 1 & 2).

## Preliminary Photographic Campaign

First step: A preliminary 2D photographic campaign of the squeezes has already been accomplished in 2012/2013 by Michela Socal: the catalogue consists of recto and verso pictures of each document (see figures 1 & 2). A database has been set up with elaborate searching options through Filemaker pro 12 (IT Project: Luigi Tessarolo).

## 3D Images of Squeezes: Methodology

The second step of the project will be to set up an online collection organized into a Digital Library in partnership with the E-Stampages Project, directed by Prof. Michèle Brunet (CNRS/Lyon), which coordinates an international network of collections of epigraphic squeezes. The collaboration between the Greek Epigraphy Laboratory and E-Stampages has been chosen among the Efa strategic projects (2017-2021). The Digital Library will include both 2D and 3D images. 3D images will be created with the Digital Epigraphy Toolbox developed by the Digital Epigraphy and Archaeology team (DEA) at the University of Florida. The 3D digitization of squeezes is achieved through the bidirectional scanning of the squeeze using a typical 2D office scanner with a typical 300 or 600 dpi resolution. The scanned images are then being processed by the algorithm developed by the team of the DEA Project. The 3D object thus obtained can be digitally inspected from different angles: it allows for a precise observation of the engraved letters and marks.

## Major Cultural Goals of the Project

The third and last objective of the Venice Squeeze Project is to contribute to the international recognition, enhancement, and preservation of archives of squeezes. The aim is reaching – through the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism (Ministero dei Beni Culturali e delle Attività Culturali e del Turismo, MiBACT) – the acknowledgement of epigraphic squeezes as essential elements of the cultural heritage, and thus to safeguard them just like the rest of the historical, cultural, and archaeological documentation (photographs, paper archives, plaster casts, etc.). With this project the Greek Epigraphy Laboratory in Venice wants to contribute to the establishment of an international network for an open access exploitation of squeezes. It will represent a coordinating centre for the creation of a common Digital Library of the collections of Greek squeezes in Italy and within the current and past Italian archaeological missions in Greece, Turkey, and Libya. All institutions owning a collection of squeezes are welcome to contact the project coordinator or the delegated chief of the project (Postdoc contract starting in September 2017) to work in collaboration with the Venice Squeeze Project.

## Partners of the Venice Squeeze Project

Programme E-Stampages: Prof. Michèle Brunet (CNRS/Lyon 2/HiSoMA), Adeline Levivier (Efa-HiSoMA), Patrick Desfarges (MOM) (<https://cahier.hypotheses.org/e-stampages>).  
École française d'Athènes: Prof. Amélie Perrier (<http://www.efa.gr/index.php/fr/>).  
Digital Epigraphy & Archaeology Project, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA: Prof. Angelos Bampoutis, Prof. Eleni Bozia (<http://www.digitalepigraphy.org>).

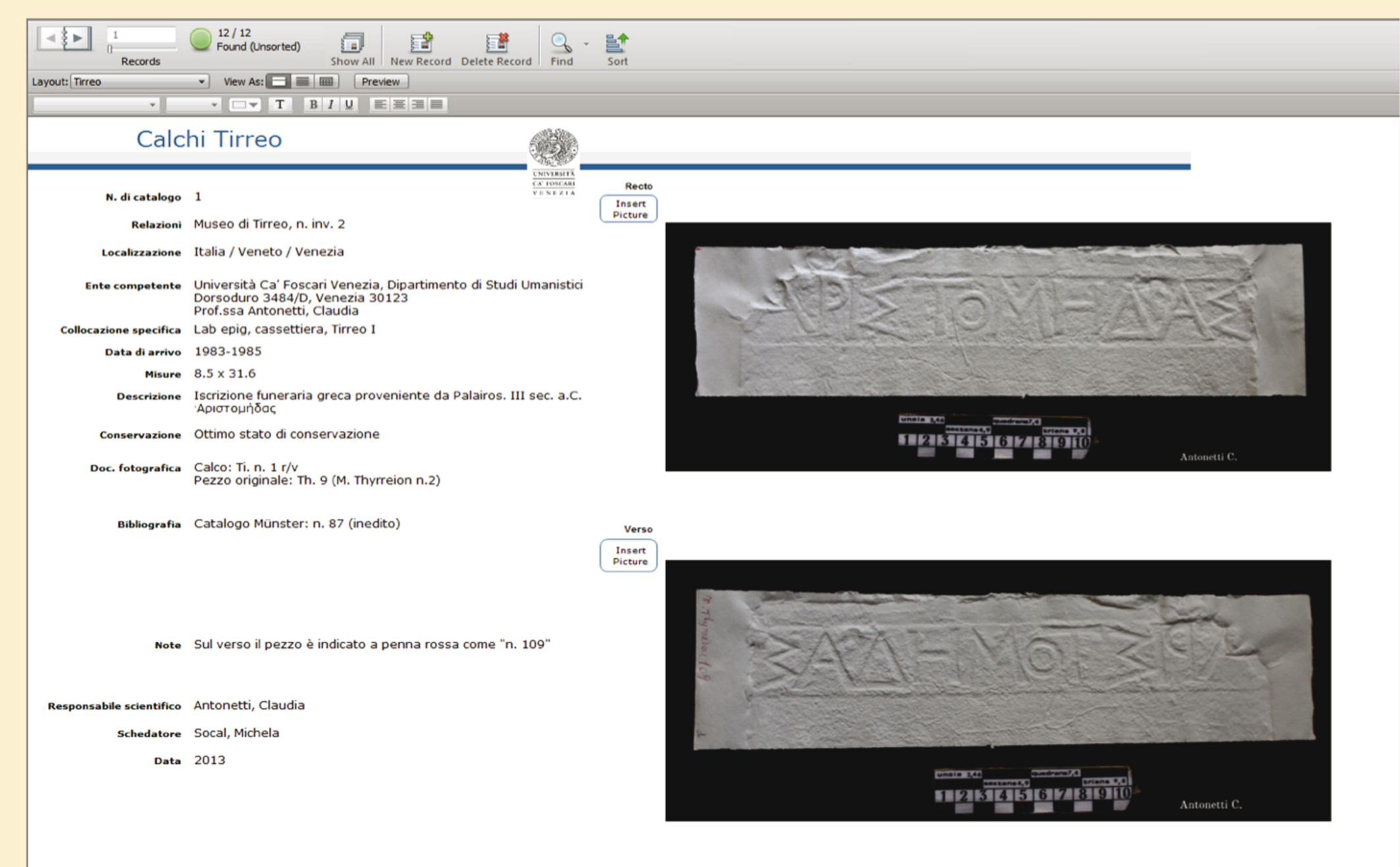


Fig. 1. Sample of catalogue: Museum of Thyreion, inv. nr. 2. Text: Ἀριστομήδης

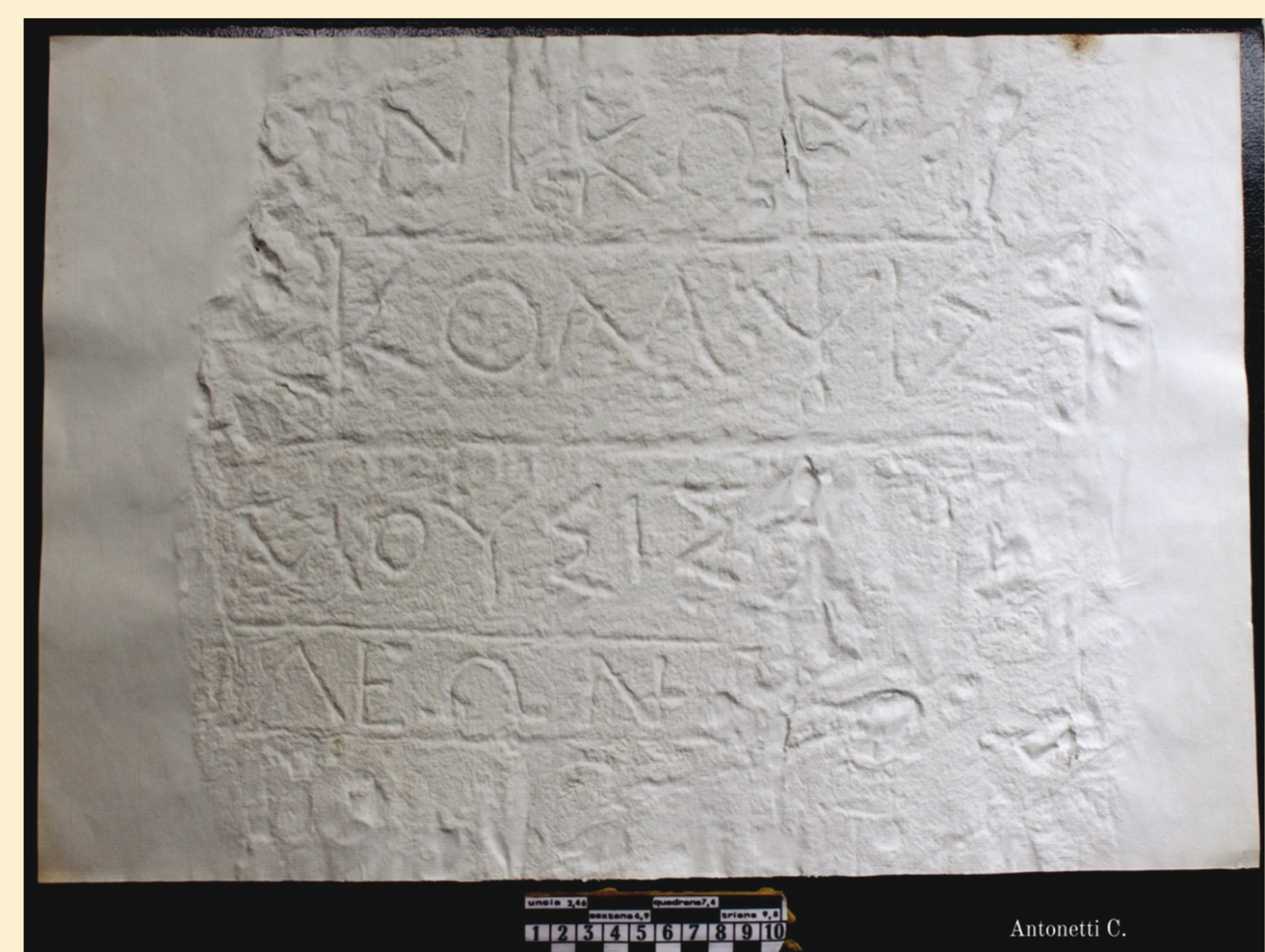


Fig. 2. Image of a squeeze: Museum of Agrinion, inv. nr. 46. Text: Νίκων / Κόμης / Μουσῆς / Λέων

## Kontakt | contact details:

Claudia Antonetti: [cordinat@unive.it](mailto:cordinat@unive.it)

Ivan Matijašić: [ivan.matijasic@unive.it](mailto:ivan.matijasic@unive.it)