

# Map 97 Parthyene

Compiled by E.J. Keall and M. Roaf, 1997

## Introduction

The map is dominated by the mountain ridges of the Koppet Dagh, Allah Dagh and Binalud in north-east Iran. To the north lies the Karakum desert in present-day Turkmenistan. Nisa(ia), the first capital of the Parthians, is situated near the southern edge of the desert; this region has been investigated by Soviet archaeologists, but very little systematic survey on the Iranian side of the border has been published. Hence the locations and identifications of ancient toponyms marked are for the most part uncertain.

In the Achaemenid period this region belonged to the province of Parthava (Parthia), which also included Hyrcania. In the third century B.C. the Parni tribe invaded and adopted the name of the province as their own. In the following two centuries they established Parthian rule over most of the Near East as far west as the R. Euphrates.

This region was almost unknown to Greeks and Romans, so that the names given by such authors as Strabo, Isidore of Charax, Pliny, Ptolemy and TabPeut may well be distorted; indeed, some are plainly so garbled as not even to merit inclusion as Unlocated Toponyms. There are few local texts which can illuminate the historical geography; more helpful are those early Islamic writers whose work contains information about earlier periods.

## Directory

All place names are in Iran unless otherwise noted

### Names

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
C3	Abarshahr	R?L		Gyselen 1989
E2	[(A)Bivard]/ Apauarktike	HRL	near Kaakha TKM	RE Apavarktike
B2	Achriane	HR?L		RE; RE Hyrcania
E2	<i>Ak tepe</i>	RL	TKM	Gubaev 1993
D2	<i>Anau tepel</i> / Gathar? Apaortenon? M. = (Z)Apaortenon? M.	RL	TKM	IsidChar 12
D2	(A)Parni § (S)Parnoi Apauarktike = [(A)Bivard]	HR		EncIran 6.6, 582 Dahae
E2	Apavortene § Apauartikene § Parautikene			Pliny 6.46; RE Apavarktike, Apavortene
B3	[Arghiyan]		Jajarm?	Le Strange 1905, 392
D2	Asaak/ Arsace § Astaca Astauene = [Ustuva]	HR	Quchan?	RE Asaak; RE Arsace
A2	<i>Atrek</i> / Sideris?/ Sarnios? fl.		IRN / TKM	See Map 96

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
E2	<i>Bandiyan</i> [Bivard] = [(A)Bivard] [Busfozar] = [Vishpauzatis]	R?L	near Yarim Tepe	Curtis 1998
B1	Dahae = Daoi Daoui/ Dahae	CHR		RE; EncIran 6.6, 582 Dahae
E2	Dara/ Dareium	HR	near Darreh Gaz	EncIran Dara
E3 A2	Gathar? = <i>Anau tepe</i> Gunavat? M. <i>Gurgan/</i> Maziris?/ Maxeras? fl.		Mount Binalud	EncIran Binalud See Map 96
D3	<i>Kashaf</i> Kasp? fl.			See Map 98
B2 D2	<i>Kelisaye Espakho</i> <i>Koine kalal</i> Sirok?	R?L R?L?	TKM	StIran 4 RE <i>Σιρώκ</i> ; F. Hiebert
D2	<i>Mansur tepe</i> Maxeras? fl. = <i>Gurgan R.</i> Maziris? fl. = <i>Gurgan R.</i> Mithradatkert = Nisa(ia)	HR?L	TKM	Koshelenko 1989; Pilipko 1990
D3 D2	Nev-Shapur Nisa(ia)/ Parthaunisa/ Mithradatkert/ Shahr-ram-Peroz	RL HRL/ HRL/ HRL/ L	2.5 miles SE Nishapur near Baghir TKM	Barthold 1984, 95 RE Nisaia 2; Gyselen 1989
C1	Parni = (A)Parni Parthaunisa = Nisa(ia) Parthyene/ Parthia § Parthava	HR	IRN / TKM	KIPauly Parthia
C3	Raevant? M.			EncIs Nishapur
C3	Sarnios? fl. = <i>Atrek R.</i> Shahr-ram-Peroz = Nisa(ia) Sideris? fl. = <i>Atrek R.</i> Sirakene Sirok? = <i>Koine kala</i> Sousia = Tusa	CHR		RE <i>Σιρακηνή</i> 1
E3	Tusa/ Sousia	CHRL	Tus	RE Susia
D2	[Ustuva]/ Astauene		around Quchan	RE Astauene
C3	[Vishpauzatis]/ [Busfozar]	CHRL	Khosrogird?	Herzfeld 1968, 319
E3	(Z)Apaortenon? M.	HR		EncIran Dara

**Mine**

Grid	Location	Period	Material	Reference
D3	NW Nev-Shapur	ACHRL	Turquoise	Moorey 1994, 101-102

**Wall**

Grid	Location	Period	Reference
A2	Sadd-i Eskandar/ Sadd-i Anushirvan/ Qizil Alan		See Map 96

**Unlocated Toponyms**

Name	Period	Probable Location	Reference
Parioi = Xandioi Pissouroi	H?R	branch of Daoi	Strabo 11.8.2; RE
Ragau	R	between Apauarktike and Margiana	IsidChar 13; RE
Saphri	R	in Parthyene	IsidChar 12
Xandioi / Xanthioi / Parioi	H?R	branch of Daoi	Strabo 11.8.2, 11.9.3

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