



Field Names in the Tyrol (Austria) Collection, Standardization and Cultural Aspects

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Content

The project „Field Name Survey in the Tyrol“

- Investigation area

- Settlement history and linguistic

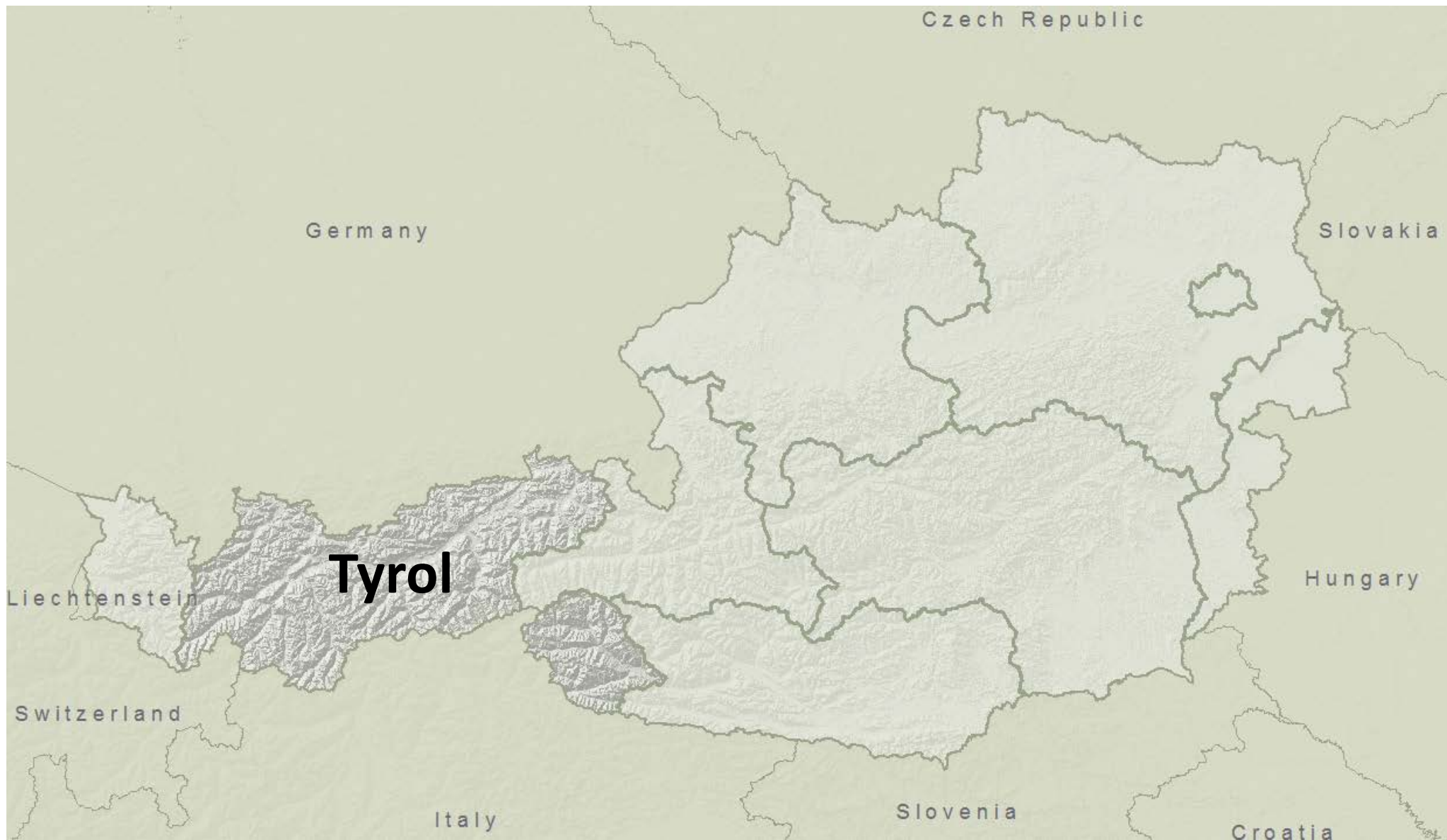
Survey method – crowdsourcing aspects

Examples

- Distribution of lexems

- Standardization problems





Area: 12.640,17 km²/4,880 mi²

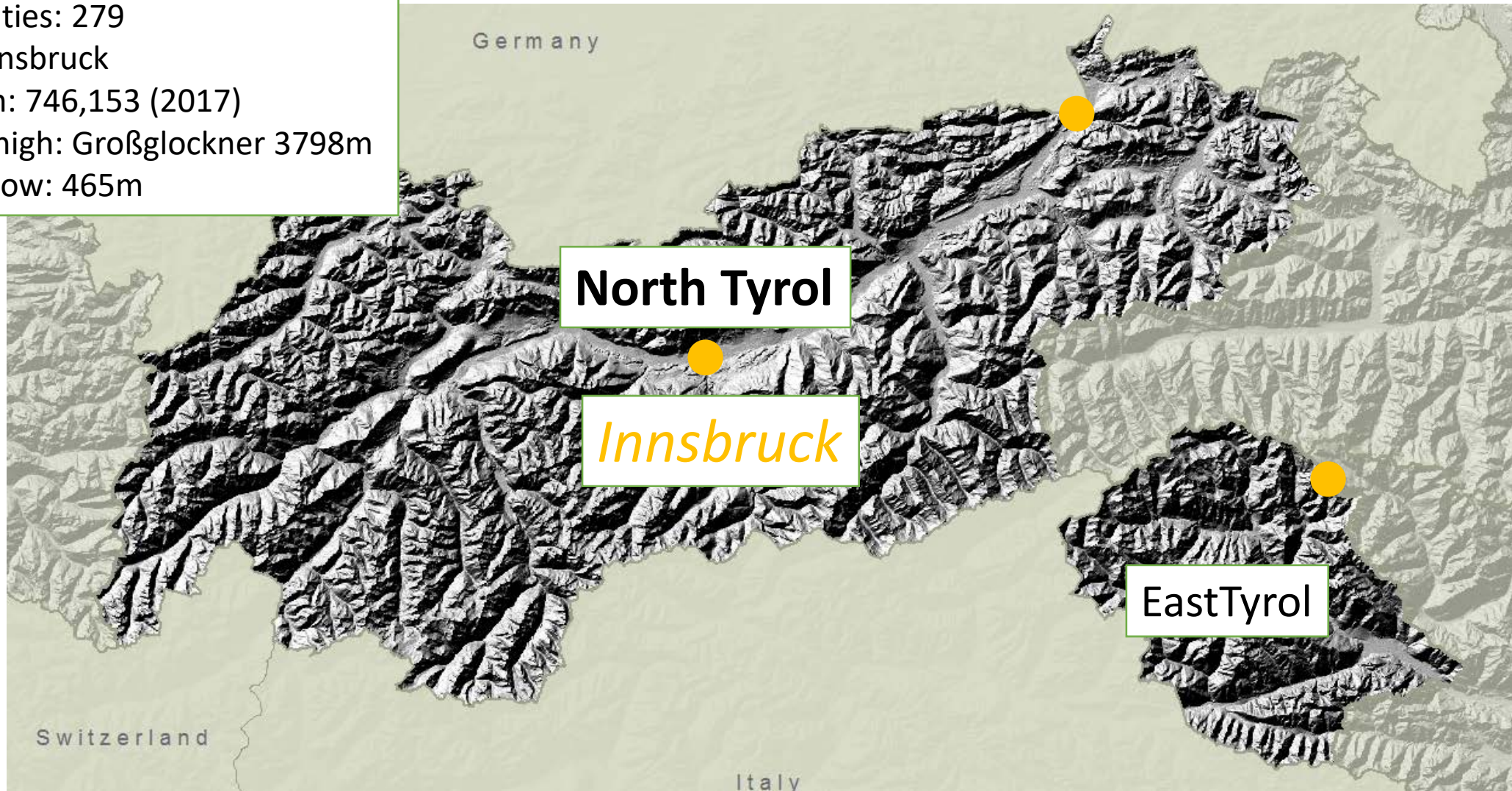
Municipalities: 279

Capital: Innsbruck

Population: 746,153 (2017)

Elevation high: Großglockner 3798m

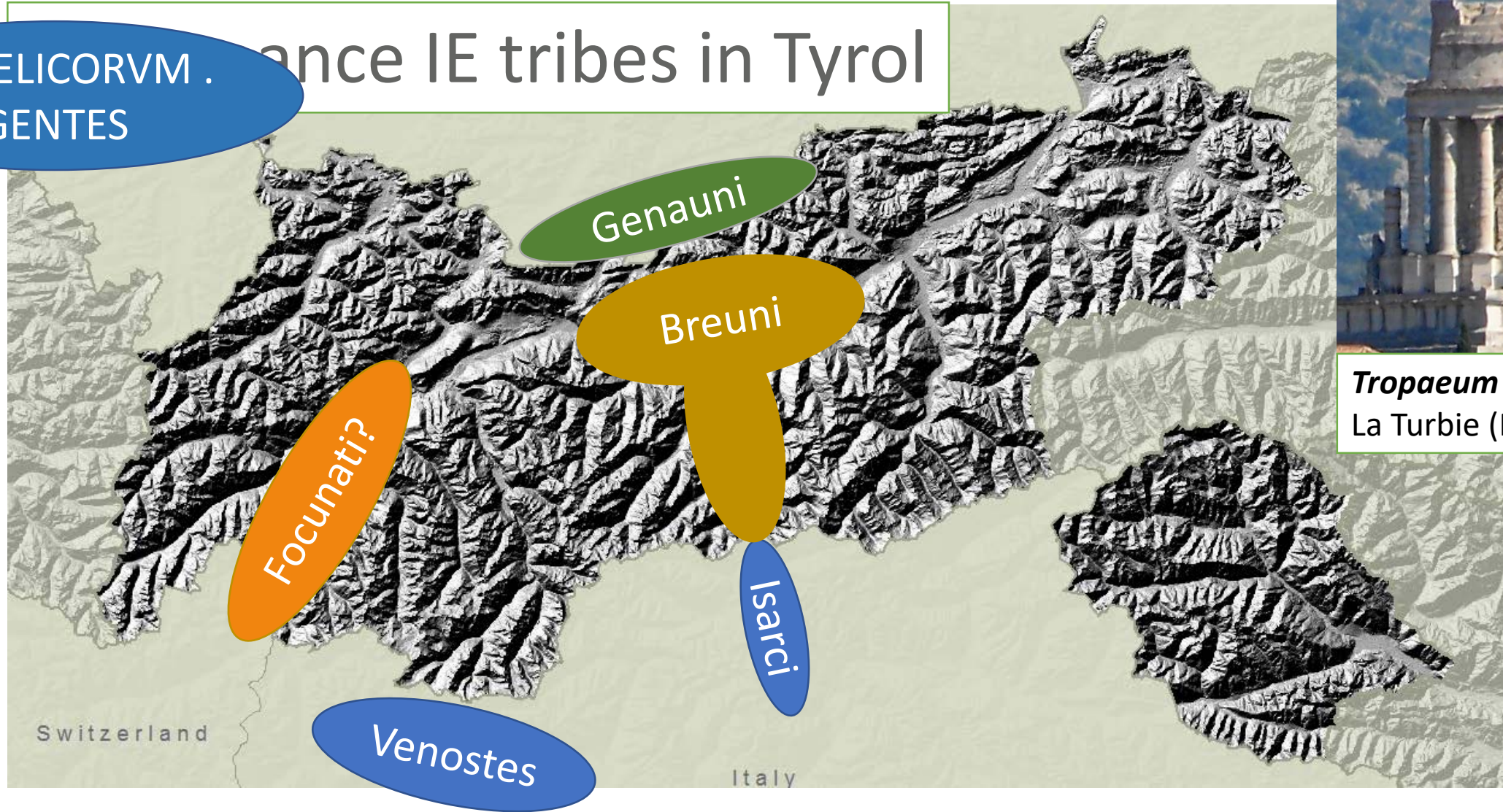
Elevation low: 465m





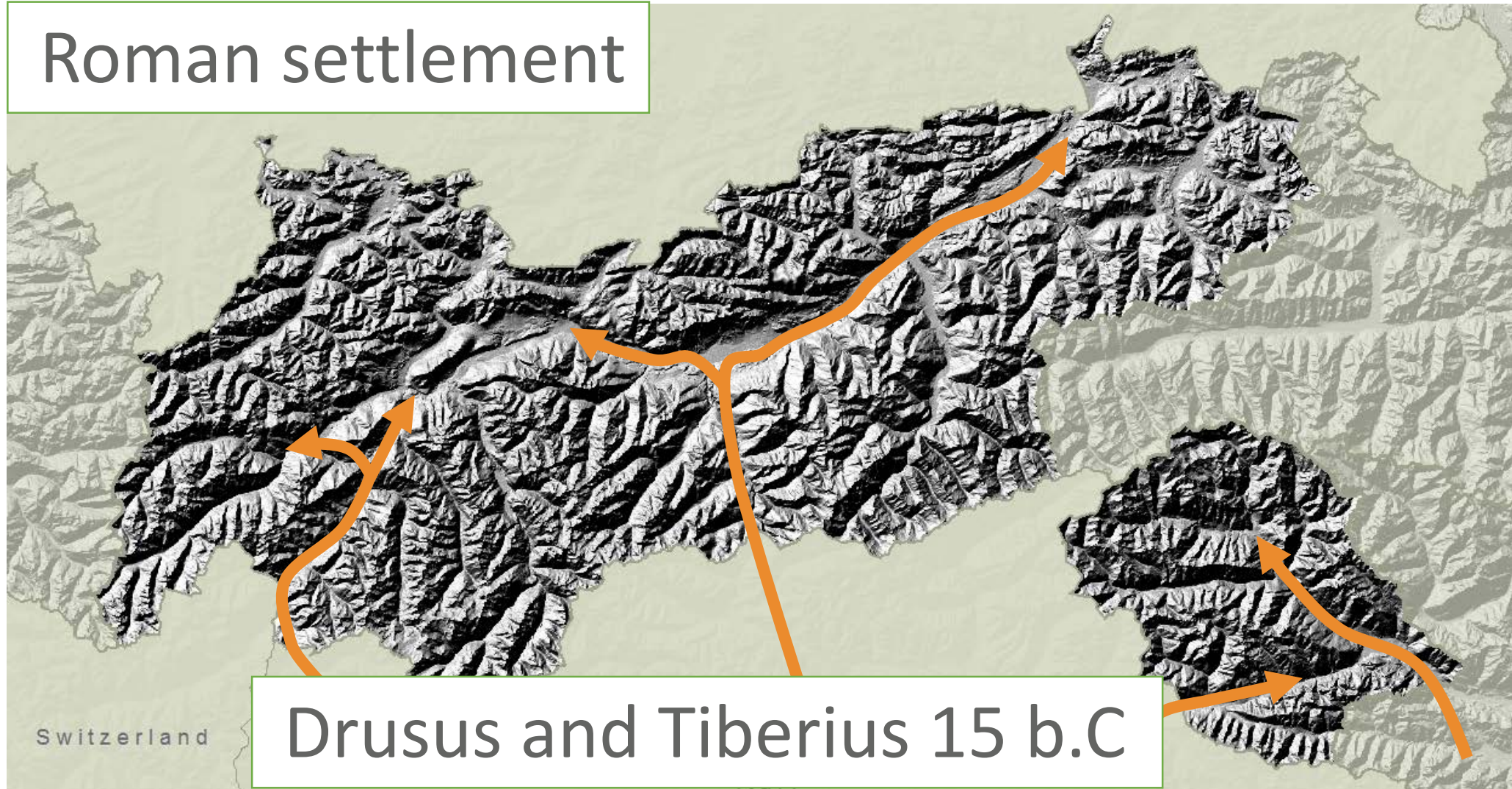
VINDELICORVM .
GENTES

ance IE tribes in Tyrol



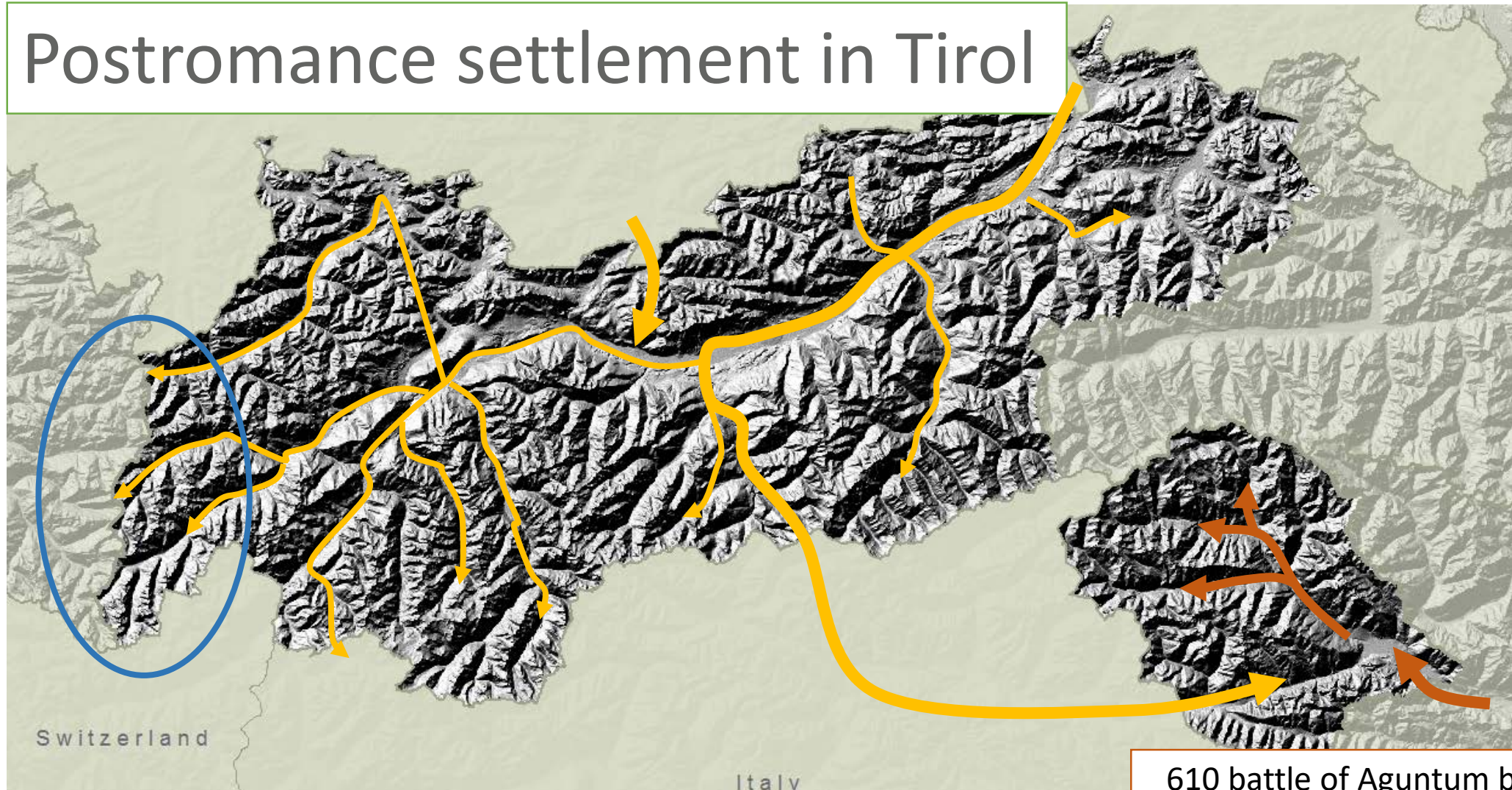
Tropaeum Alpium
La Turbie (France)

Roman settlement



Drusus and Tiberius 15 b.C

Postromance settlement in Tirol



610 battle of Aguntum between
Slavs and Bajuvars
Slavs won but stopped expansion

German dialects in Tirol





Project history

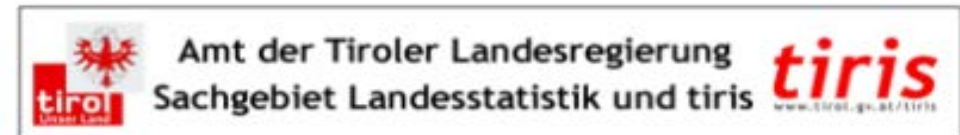
- 2009: vounteer group *Tyrolean Chroniclers* came to the *Tyrolean Place Names Board* and asked for a common project to collect all field names in Tyrol
- Involvement of the University of Innsbruck, Linguistics, to make a feasibility study
- GIS infrastructure, training of a small group of chroniclers (mainly transcription), search for sponsors
- Involvement of the Dispatchcenter Tyrol as a sponsor
- 2010 beginn of the project

Partners

- » Dispatch Center Tyrol
- » University of Innsbruck
- » Tyrolean Chroniclers
- » Tyrolean Names Board

- » Tyrolean Regional Development (orthoimages)

- » Tyrolean Forstry Commission Office
- » Austrian Alpine Club Cartography

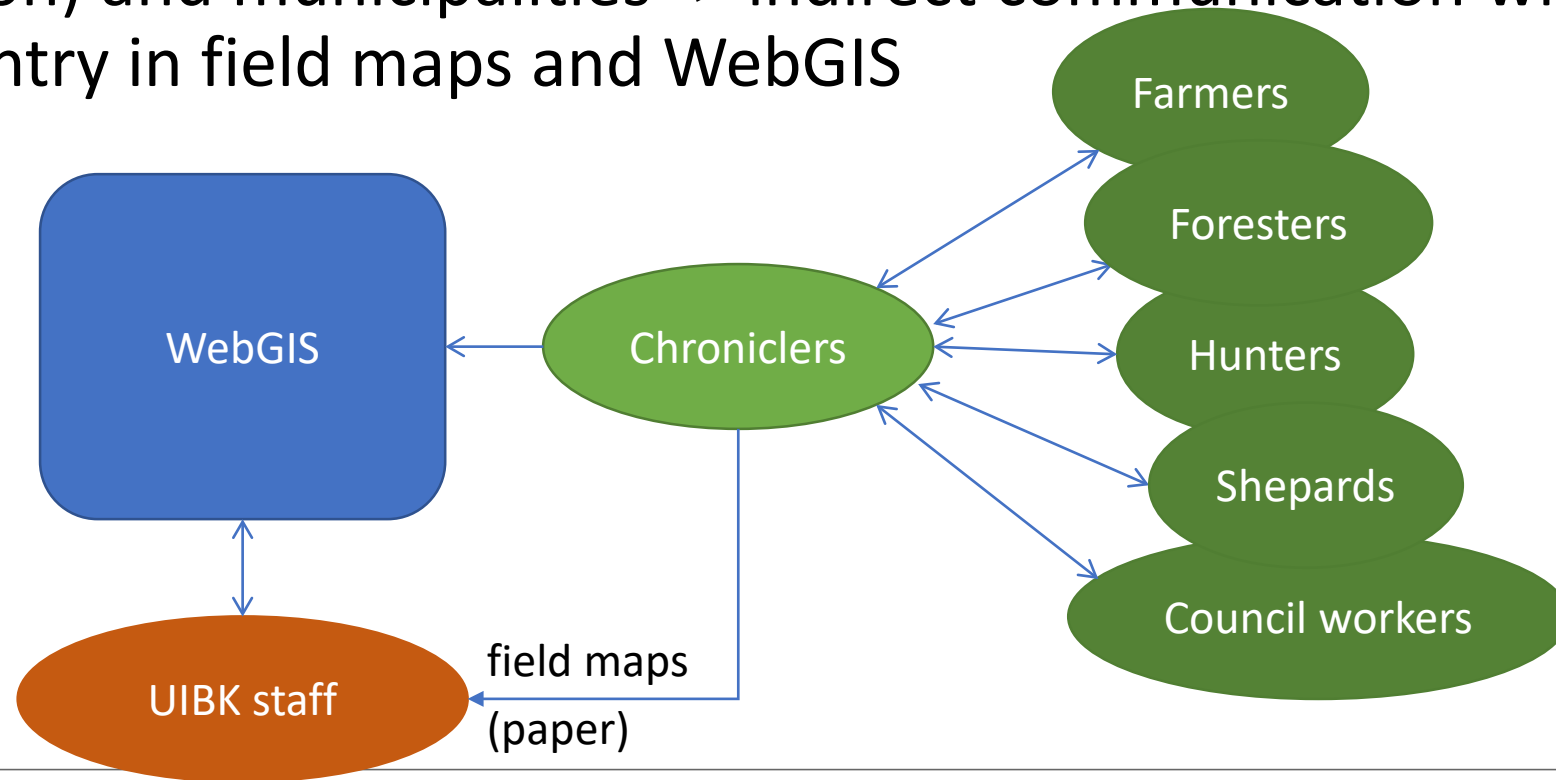


Field name survey in the Tyrol

- Original title: „Flurnamenerhebung im Bundesland Tirol“
- Main interest: microtoponyms/minor placenames (field names; forest names; names of mountains, hilltops, ridges; alpine pasture names); also farmyard names
- 2010-2016
- Mixed crowd sourcing and ‚classical‘ survey setting
- No involvement of a mapping agency, thus crowdsourcing

Survey methods

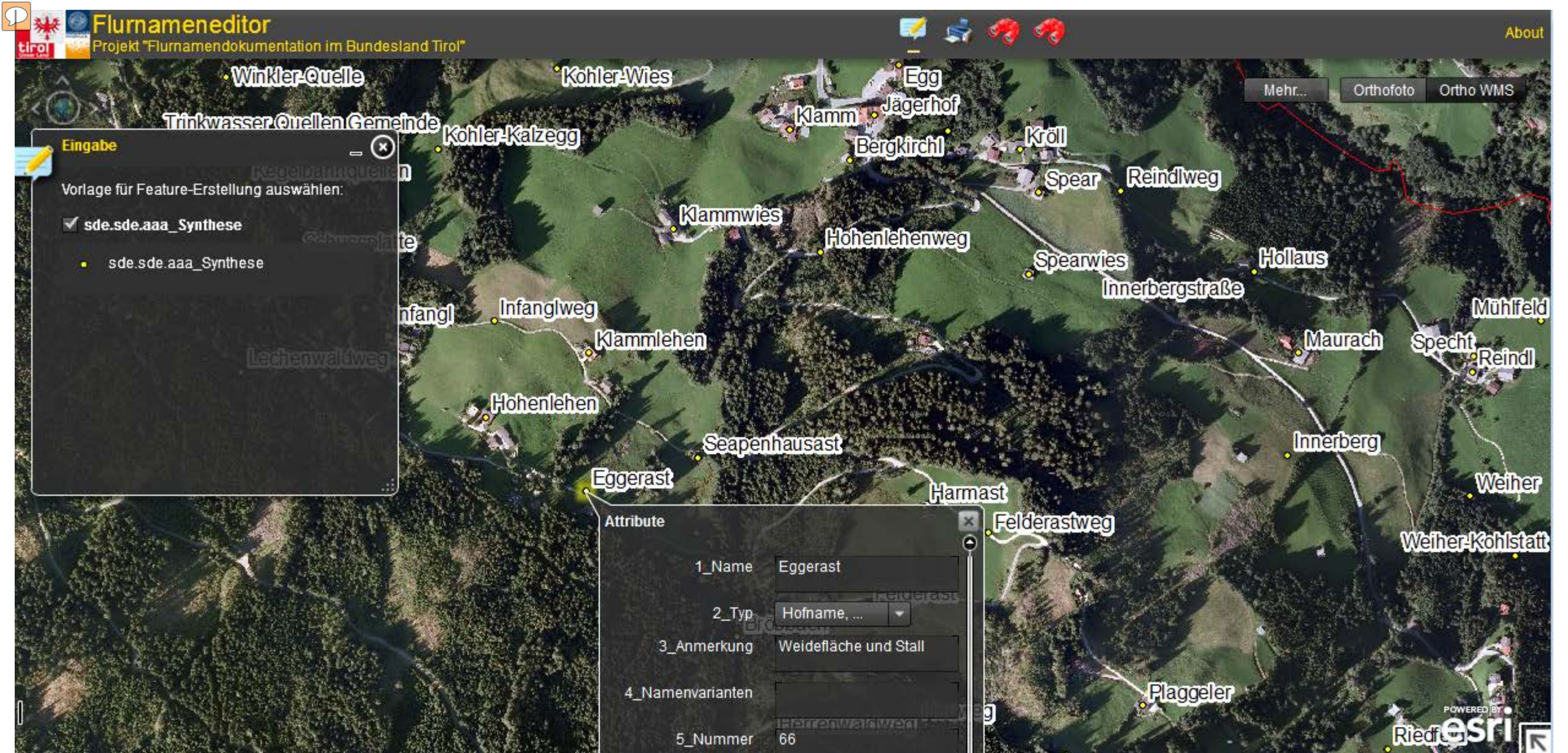
- Crowd sourcing: direct collaboration with local chroniclers (local organisation) and municipalities -> indirect communication with locals -> entry in field maps and WebGIS





Survey methods

- ‚Classical‘ survey: direct communication with locals -> entry in WebGIS by university staff
- Basically four fields to fill in:
 - Name
 - Type
 - Alternative name
 - Remarks



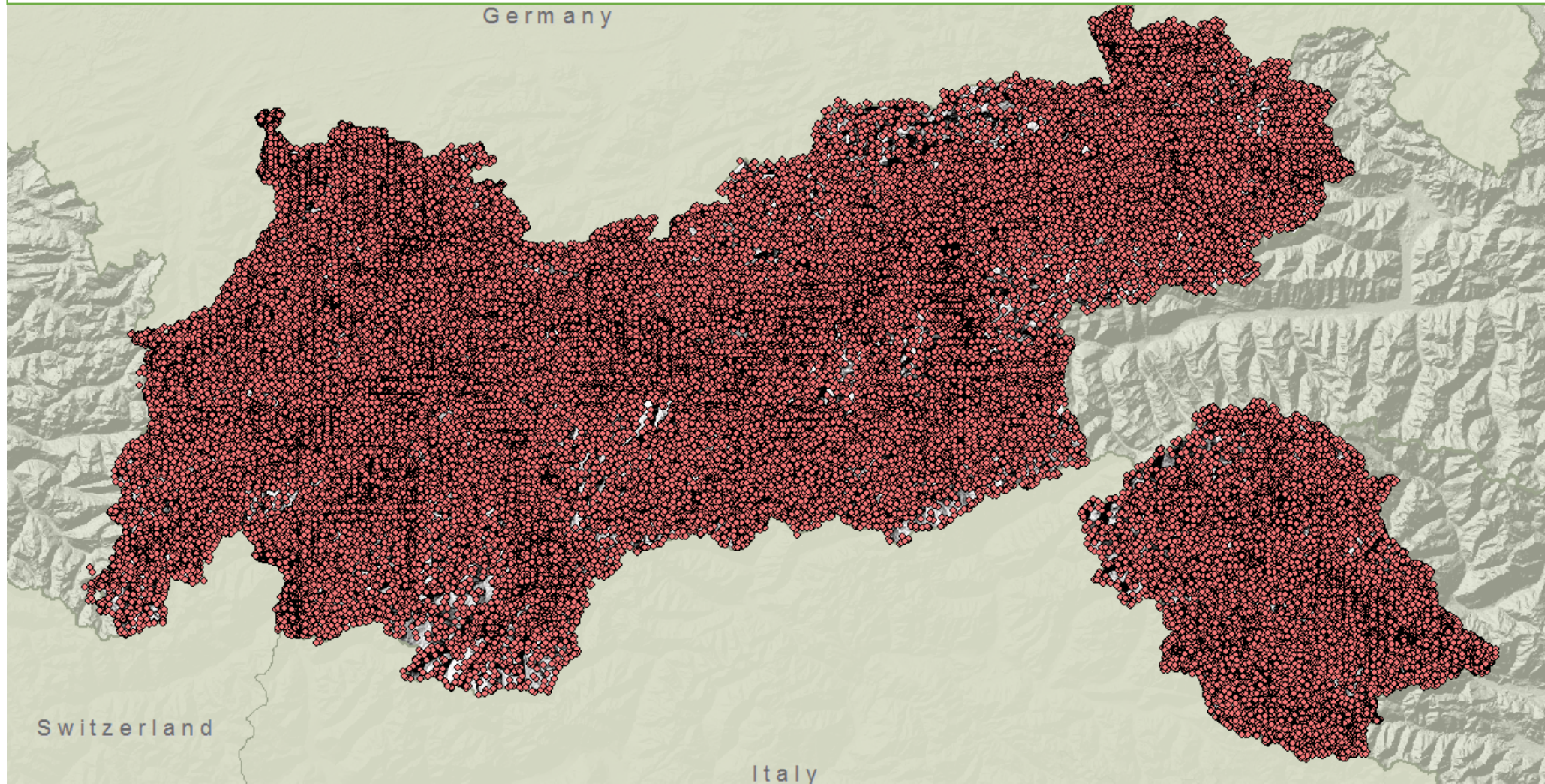


„Types“

Mainly to be able to sort out non field names later

1. Flurname field name
2. Waldname forest name
3. Bergname mountain/hiltop name
4. Talname valley name
5. Gebietsname name of region
6. Gebaeudename name of building
7. Fliessgewaesser name of running waterbody
8. Stehgewaesser name of standing waterbody
9. Siedlungsname settlement name
10. Strassenname streetname

Result: ca. 120.000 names were collected, ca. 110.000 field names



Problem: written forms

- » Field names have mainly an exclusively oral tradition
- » Linguistic training was unsuccessful, decision to record the names
- » How would informants write the names?
- » What would that mean in terms of standardization?
- » Would written forms preserve local colouring at all?



Examples

Examples are all taken from the alpine type of agriculture

- Alp, Alm alpine meadow
- Glieger, Leger resting/sleeping place for cattle
- Etze feeding ground for cattle
- Pleis steep, longish, grassy slope
- Kaser alpine hut where chees is made
- Spitz peak

Alp, Alm

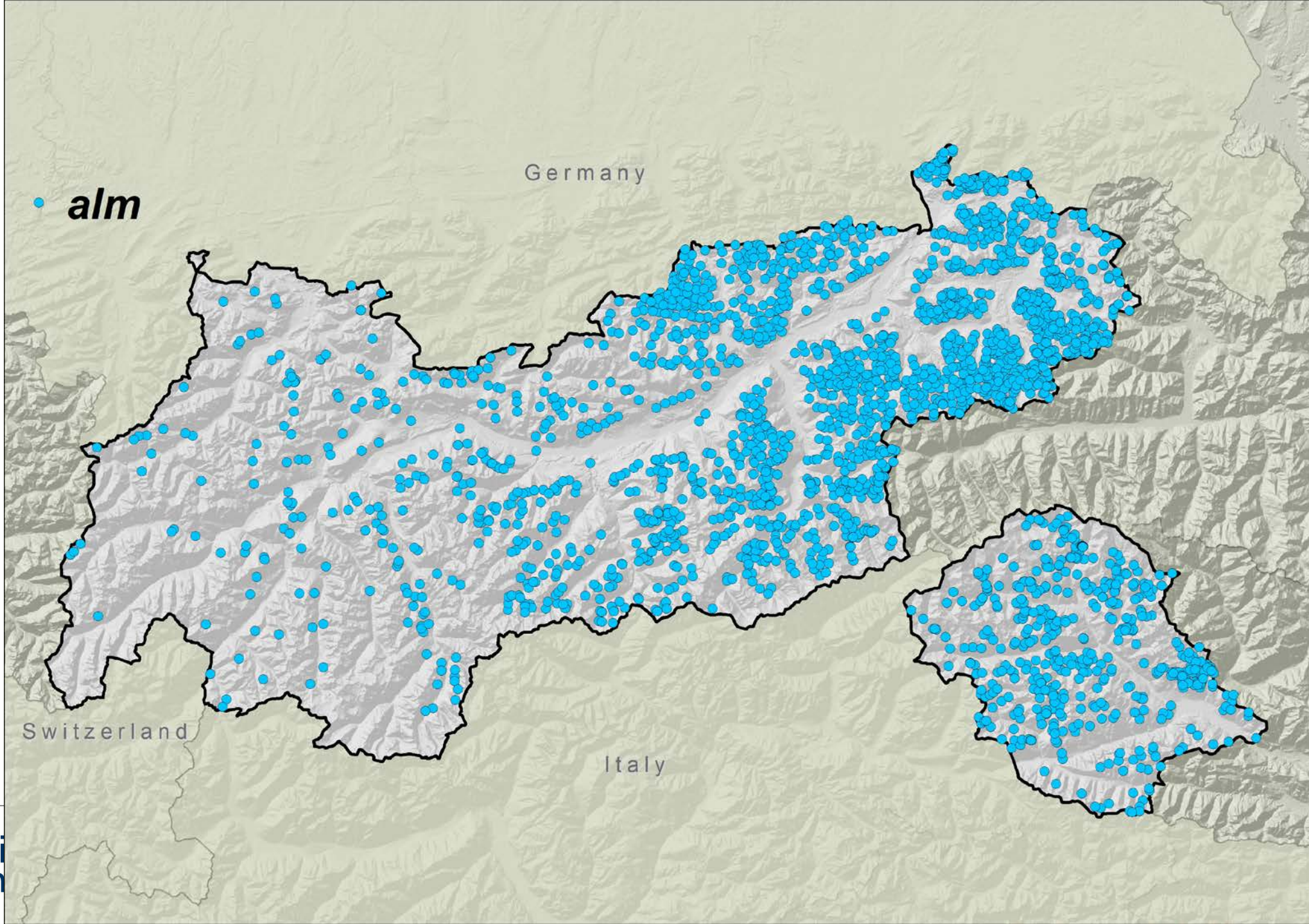
- Word is of unknown (preromance, non IE) origin
- Both are terms for the same object
- Alp is the Alemanic form
- Alm is the Bavarian form
- Alm is the standard Austrian German form

• alp

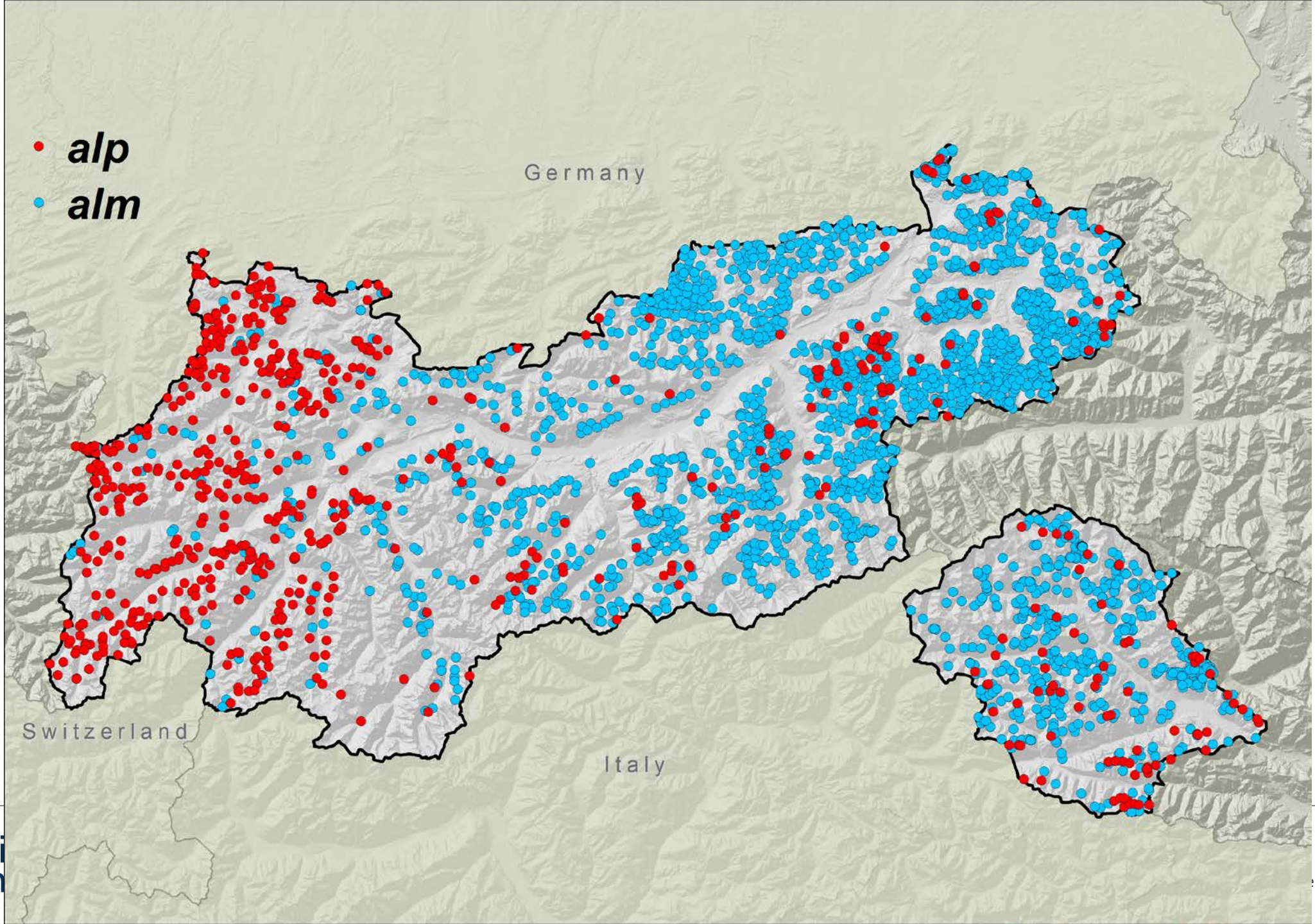
Germany

Switzerland

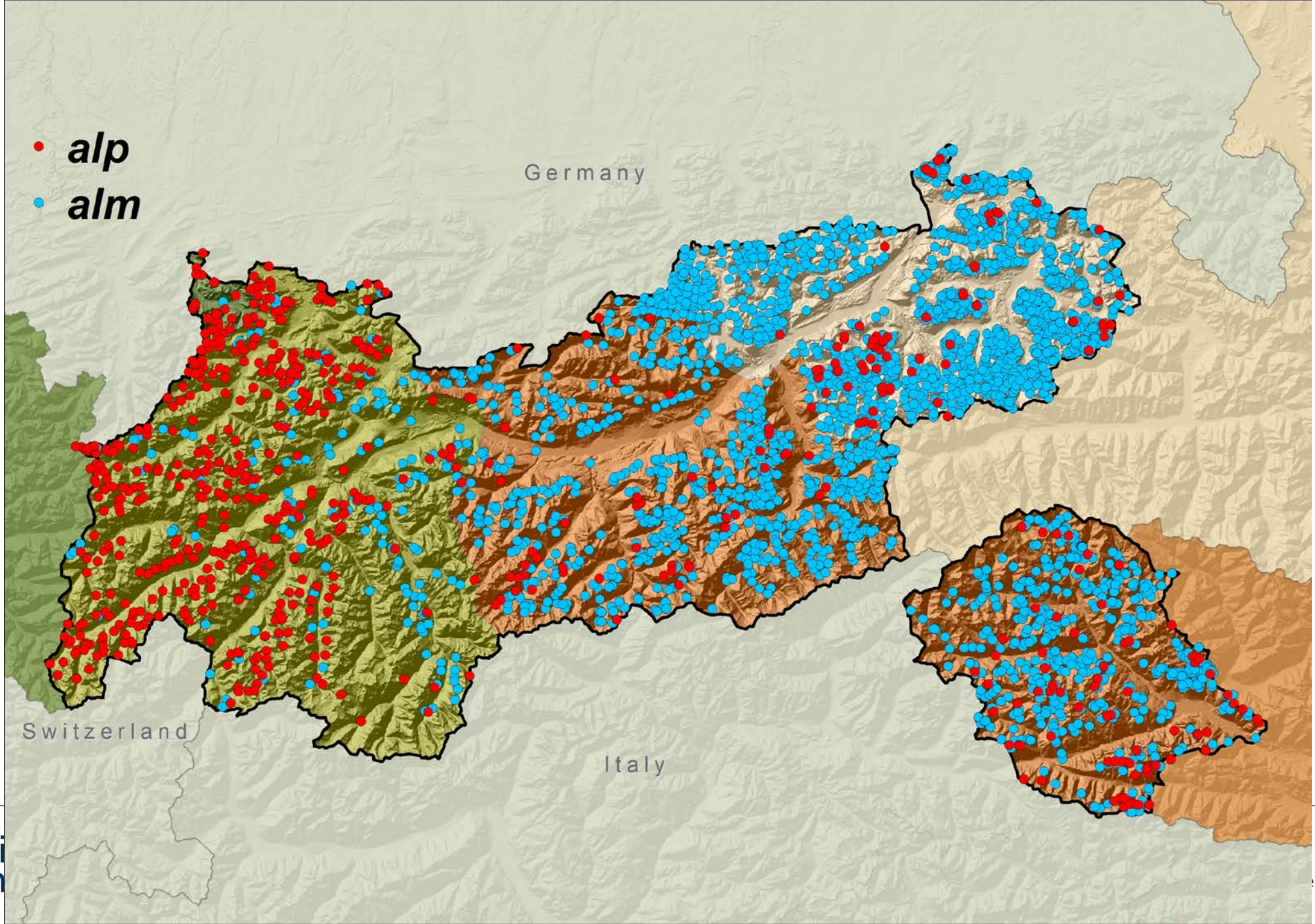
Italy



- *alp*
- *alm*



- *alp*
- *alm*



Germany

Switzerland

Italy

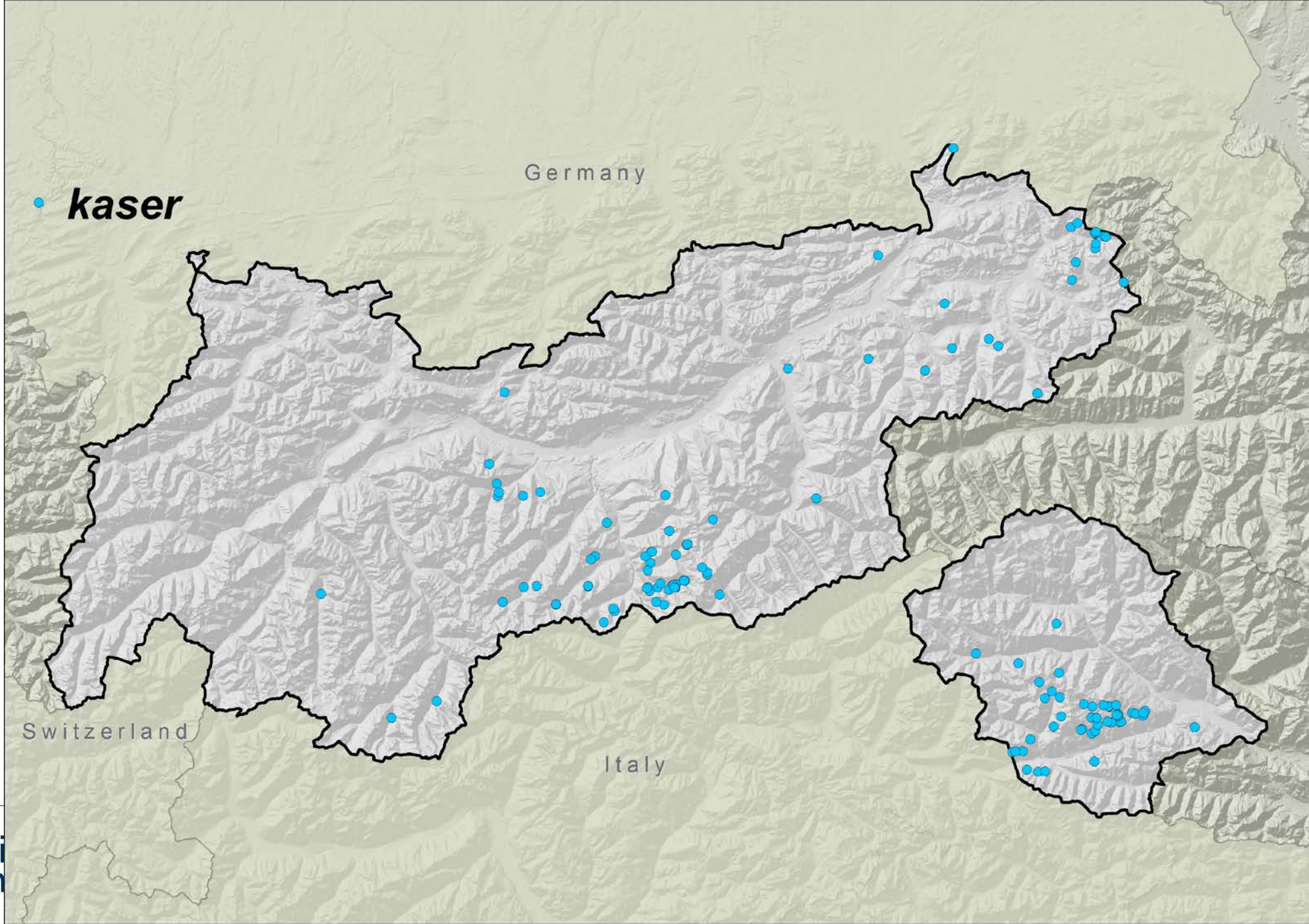
Alp, Alm

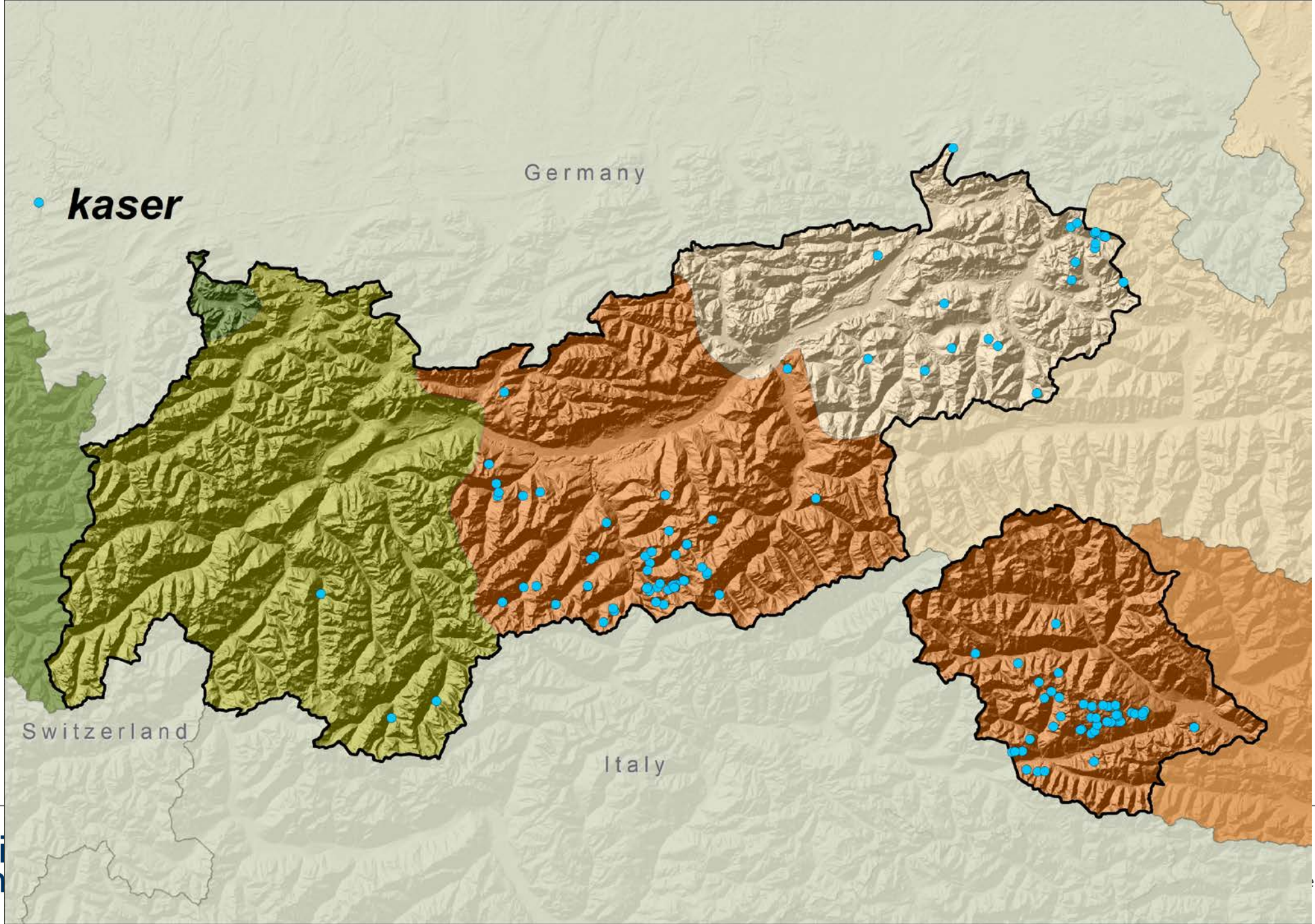
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- Informants mark the different variants in spelling
- Key regions are clearly recognizable
- Key regions fit dialect areas

Kaser

- Two different pronunciation variants exist: [kaso], [ka:ser]
- These variants are not from the same origin, one has Bavaric the other Romance origin
- The word does not exist in Austrian German standard





• **kaser**

Germany

Switzerland

Italy

Kaser

- Two different pronunciation variants exist: [kaso], [ka:ser]
- These variants are not from the same origin, one has Bavaric the other Romance origin
- The word does not exist in Austrian German standard
- The difference between long and short vowel a does not get marked

Glieger, Leger, Etz

- *Glieger* and *Leger* are related to German *legen* ‚lay‘
- Both words are not used in standard Austrian German
- *Etz* is derived from Ohg. *ezzen* ‚graze‘ meaning “meadow, pasture”

• **glierger**

Germany

Switzerland

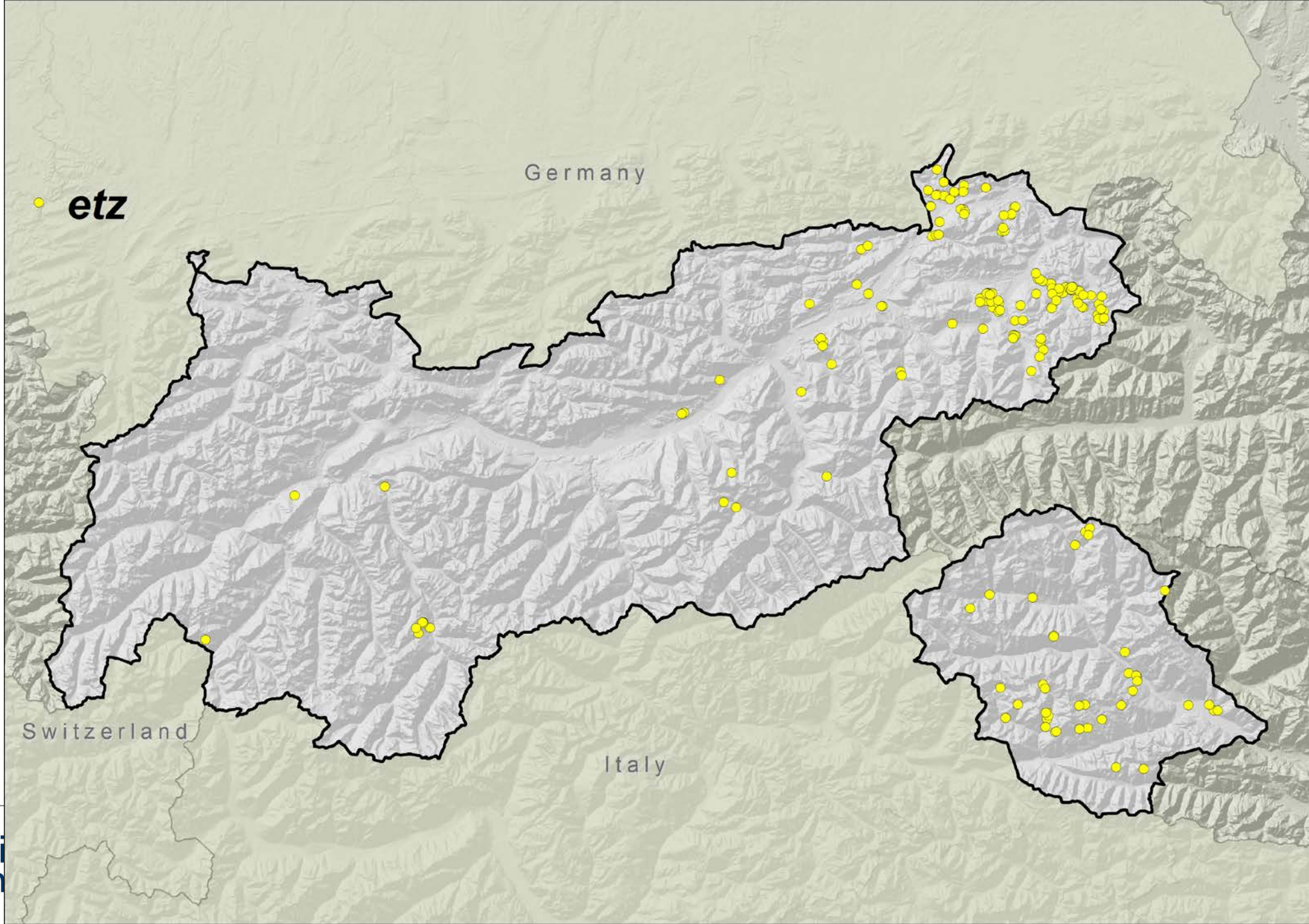
Italy

• **leger**

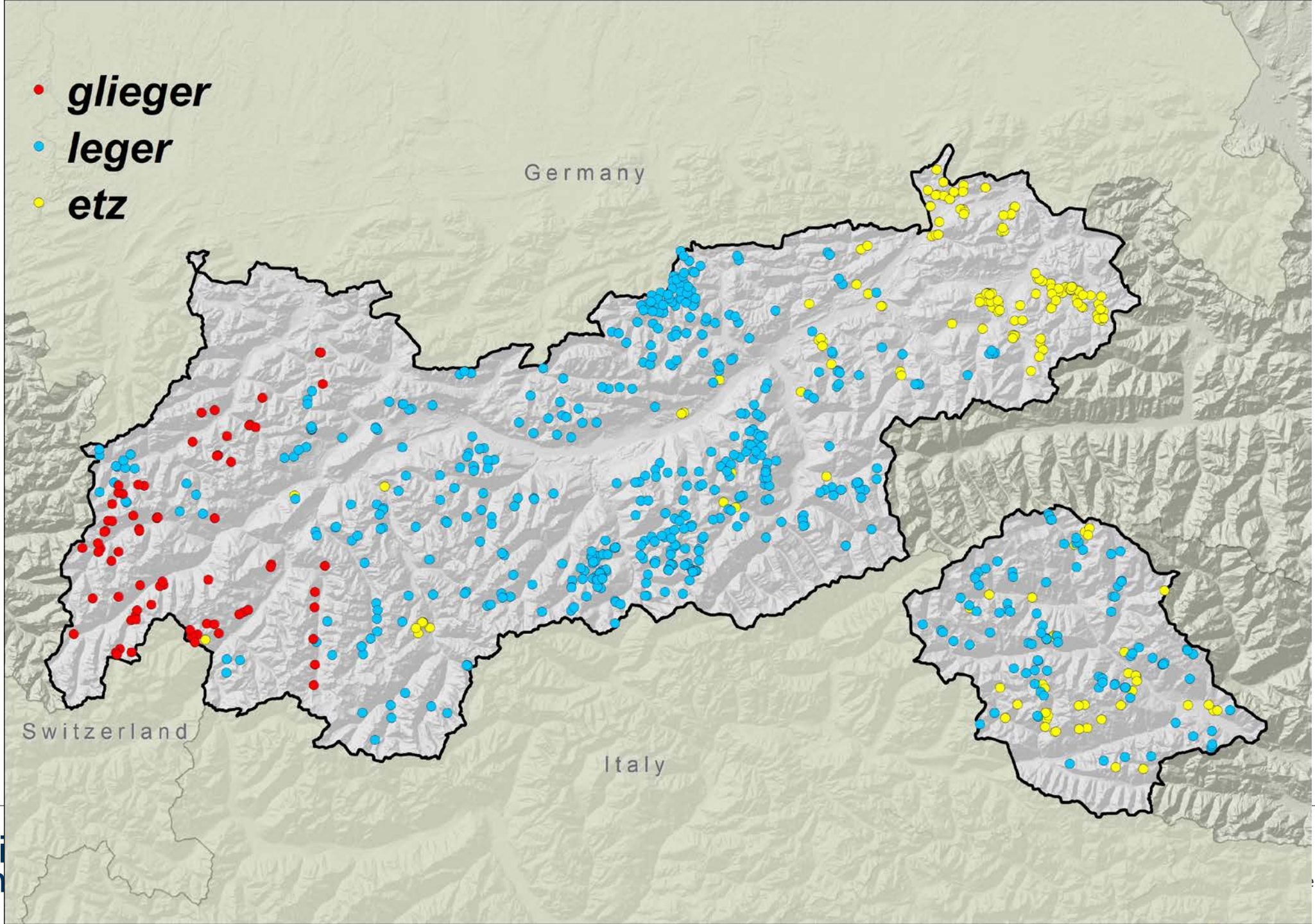
Germany

Switzerland

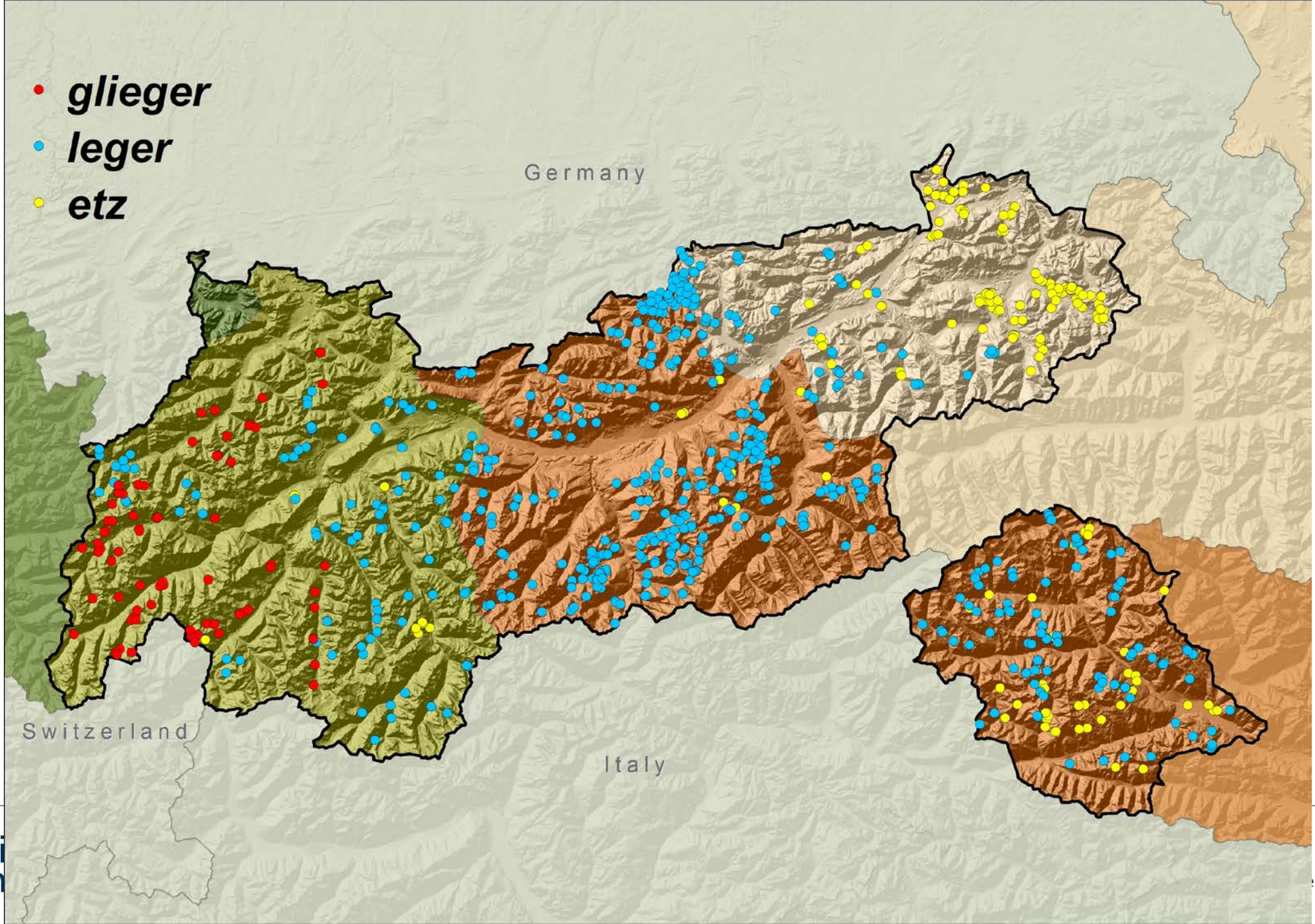
Italy



- *glierger*
- *leger*
- *etz*



- *glierger*
- *leger*
- *etz*

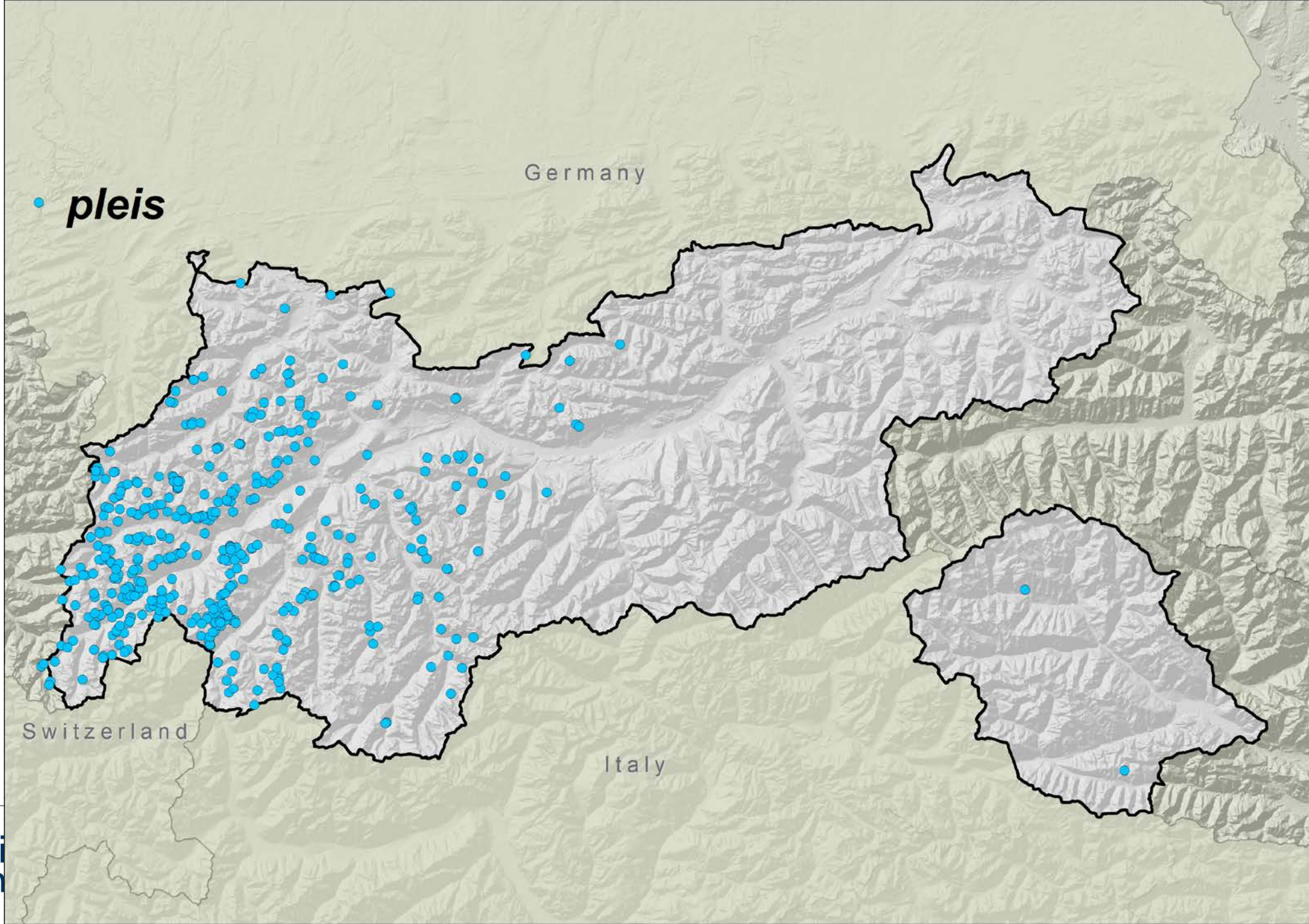


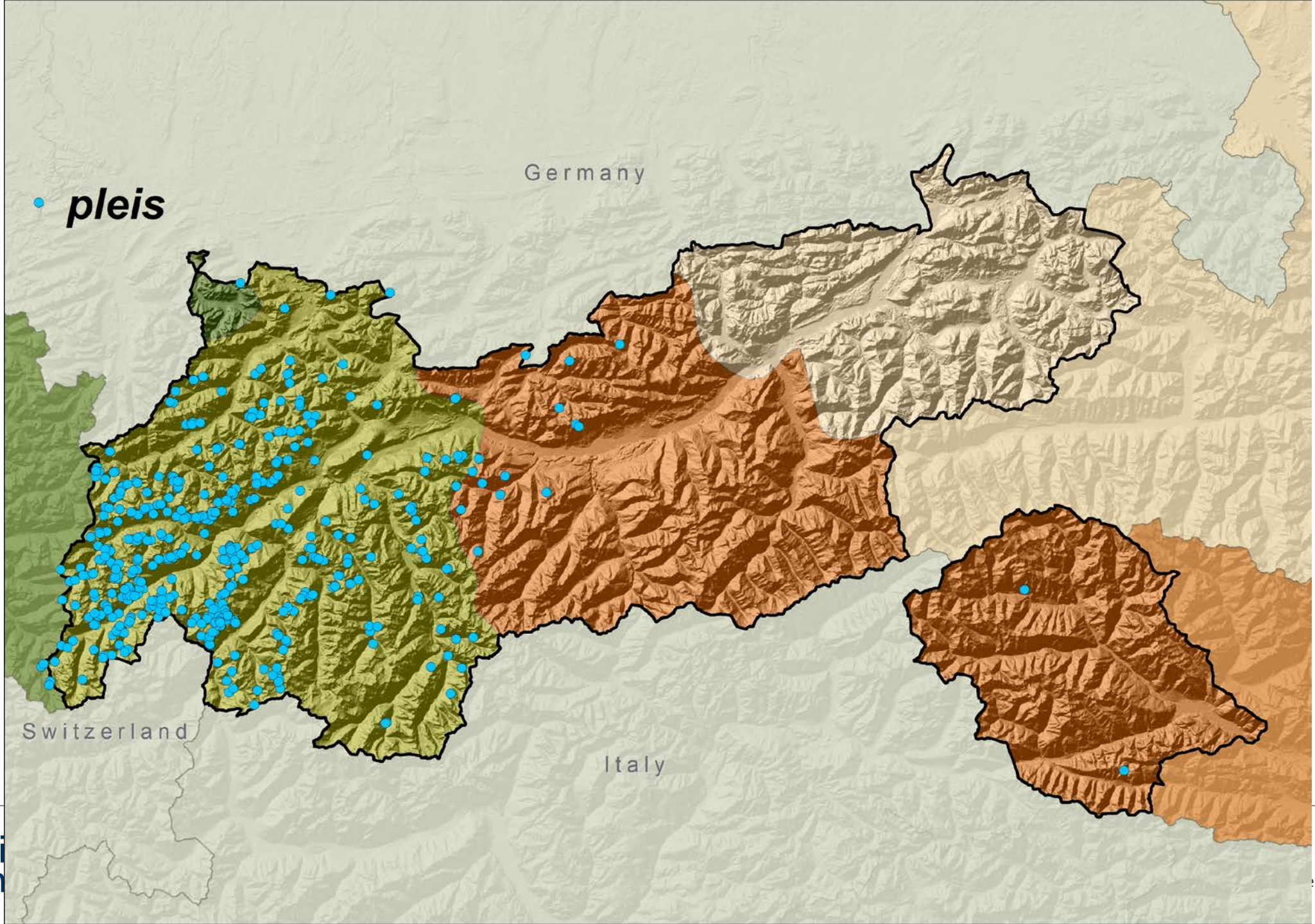
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- Both words are not used in standard Austrian German
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- Informants mark the different variants in spelling
- Key regions are clearly recognizable
- Key regions fit dialect areas
- *Etz*, *Ötz* – latter a hypercorrect form

Pleis

- *Pleis* the word is of unknown preromance origin
- The word only comes to Bavarian where there was contact with Romance settlers
- The word is not in use in standard Austrian German





• ***pleis***

Germany

Switzerland

Italy

Pleis

- *Pleis* the word is of unknown preromance origin
- The word only comes to Bavarian via Romance settlers
- The word is not in use in standard Austrian German

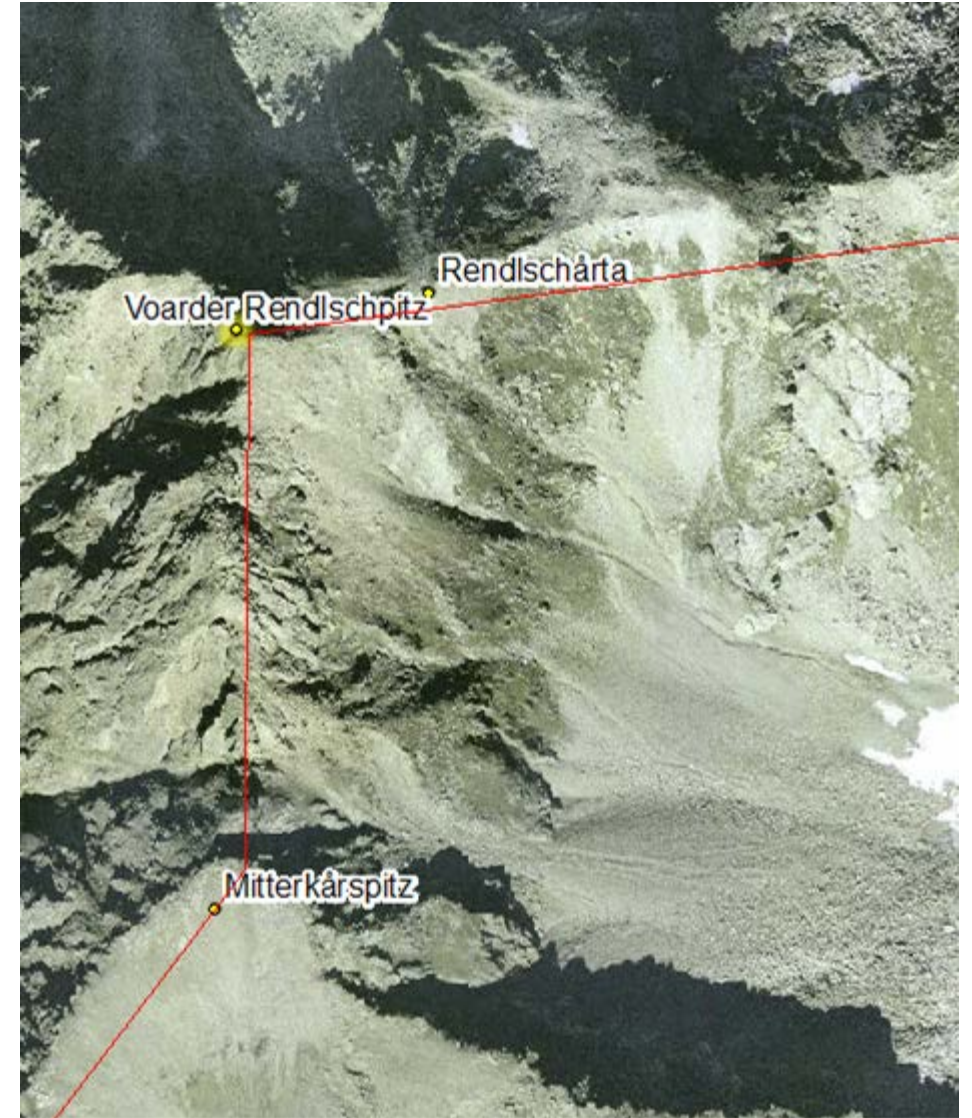
- There were several spelling variants
 - Pleis, Plaiß, Pleiß, Bleiß, Plaisse

Spitz

In standard German only feminine, in dialect masculin

Spelling variants were
-spitz, -schpitz, -spitze

In cartography exclusively the standard German feminine form is used.

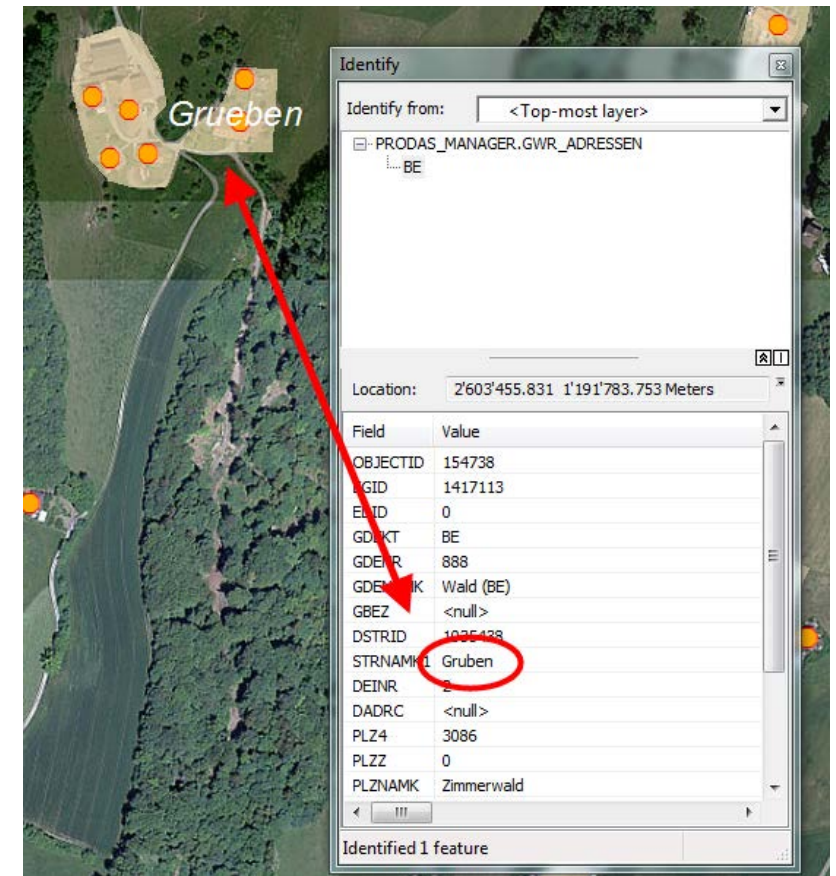


Written forms were

- not as accurate and reliable as forms from linguistic surveys
- not much influenced by standard German
- relatively consistent in terms of geographical distribution but inconsistent in spelling

Standardization issues

- Immediate standardization was not accepted by the informants (and gave us bad press)
- Dispatch Center Tyrol hat completely different requirements (more transkription like)
- Decission for different fields in database (like Swisstopo)



User orientated maps/query possibilities

- Spellings from informants were not changed at all. Production of large-scale maps (one municipality).
- Spelling used in field for queries by Dispatch Center Tyrol are orientated exclusively by phonetic criteria.
- Standardization for use in regional mapping agency. Harmonization of spelling according linguistic criteria but with respecting regional and dialectal traits.

Thank you for your attention!