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Is an Atlas of Vestigial Dalmatian Romance Lexicon Possible and/or Necessary?

Historical Dalmatian Romance dialectology has long been dominated by concern for sound change. Rightly so, since we are dealing with a linguistic domain whose morphosyntax is only partially known, and only in the case of Vegliote, the only Dalmatian Romance variety to have survived up to the modern times (19th century). For the same reasons, lexical differences between the Dalmatian Romance varieties have been largely neglected. However, modern Croatian and Montenegrin varieties spoken on the East Adriatic coast are known to conserve hundreds of words of Dalmatian Romance origin, largely studied by P. Skok and V. Vinja, particularly in the marine lexicon, where Slavic borrowing of Romance lexicon appears to have been systematic. Preliminary studies of areal distribution of Dalmatian Romance seafish names conserved to this day in Croatian dialects have shown that this vestigial lexicon can be used to causiously determin some Dalmatian Romance lexical isoglosses originated no later than Early Middle Ages. These studies have pushed us to pursue a systematic research of other semantic fields of Croatian dialectal lexicon susceptible of conservation of Dalmatian Romance forms and to propose a realization of an atlas of vestigial Dalmatian Romance Lexicon retrievable from modern Slavic dialects.