

Toponymy as a historical tool: The linguistic past of the Chicham language family



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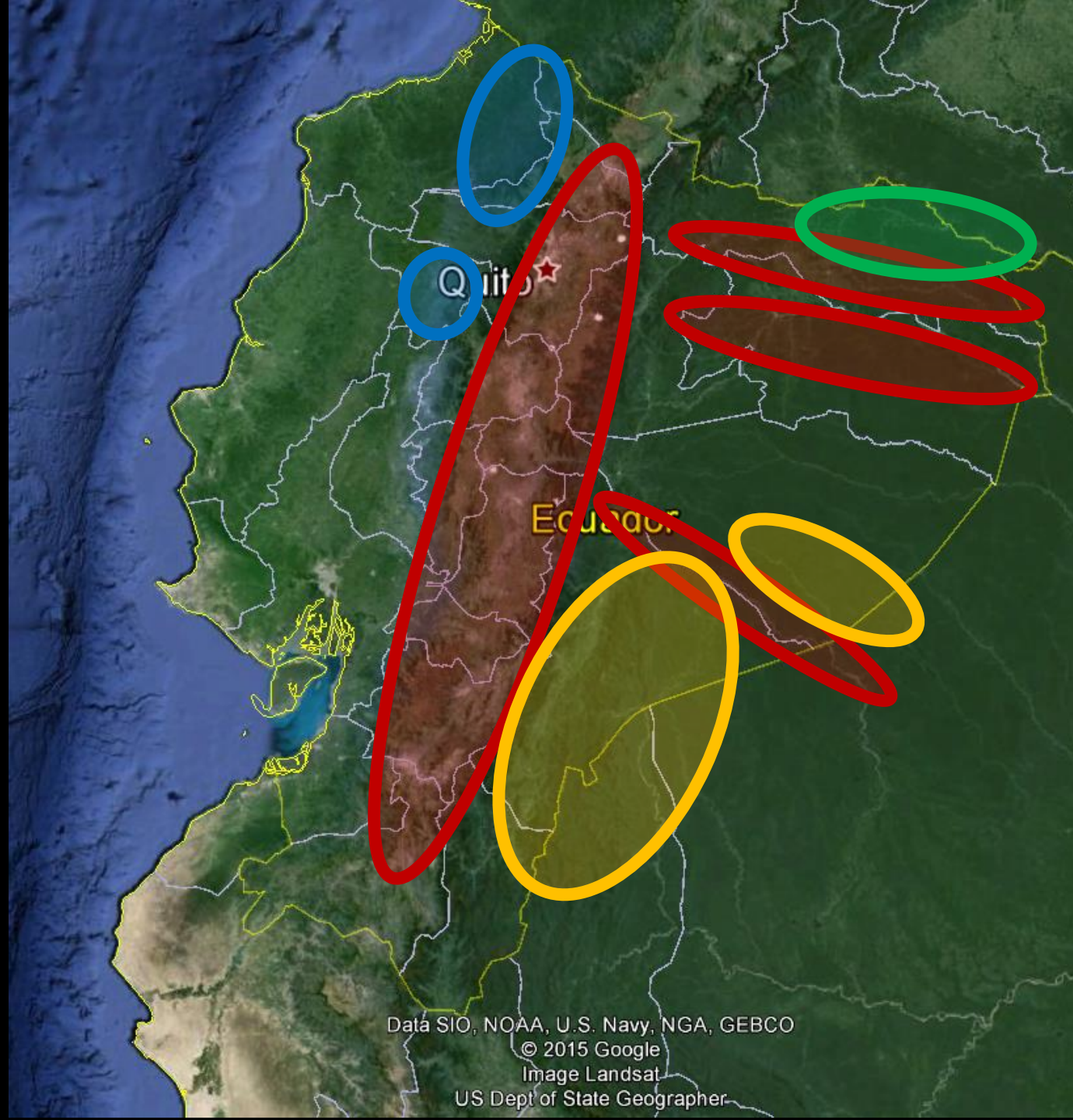


Outline

- 1) The languages of Ecuador
- 2) The role of toponymy
- 3) The case of the Chicham language family
- 4) Future directions



- **Quechuan**
- **Barbacoan**
- **Chicham
(Jivaroan)**
- **Tukanoan**



Historical Sources

- Colonial:

- Cieza de León (1984 [1553])

- Jiménez de la Espada (1965 [1586])

- Relaciones geográficas de indias: Perú*

- Republican:

- Jijón y Caamaño (1940-5)

- Paz y Miño (1940, 1941a, 1941b, 1942, 1961)



Toponymy in Ecuador

- Toponyms in Ecuador are largely of indigenous origin
- Although there are many Kichwa toponyms, most indigenous toponyms are not of Quechuan origin
- Toponyms seem to have remained stable over centuries and are revelatory of historically spoken languages



Project: Toponymy of Ecuador

Motivation:

- There are extensive works about Ecuadorean toponymy (Jijón y Caamaño; Paz y Miño) but they have significant shortcomings:
 - They are not informed by knowledge of smaller languages of the region
 - They suggest implausible etymologies
 - They do not take into account linguistic considerations



Project: Toponymy of Ecuador

- Implausible etymologies have been proposed in recent published work:
 - Rojas-Berscia & Ghavami-Dicker (2015) suggest a Cahuapanan/Aymara origin to *Cumbanamá* even though it is transparently of Chicham origin
- Implausible folk etymologies are widespread, as brought up by Floyd (2015):
 - Cotopaxi > Aymara origin?
Panzaleo origin far more likely

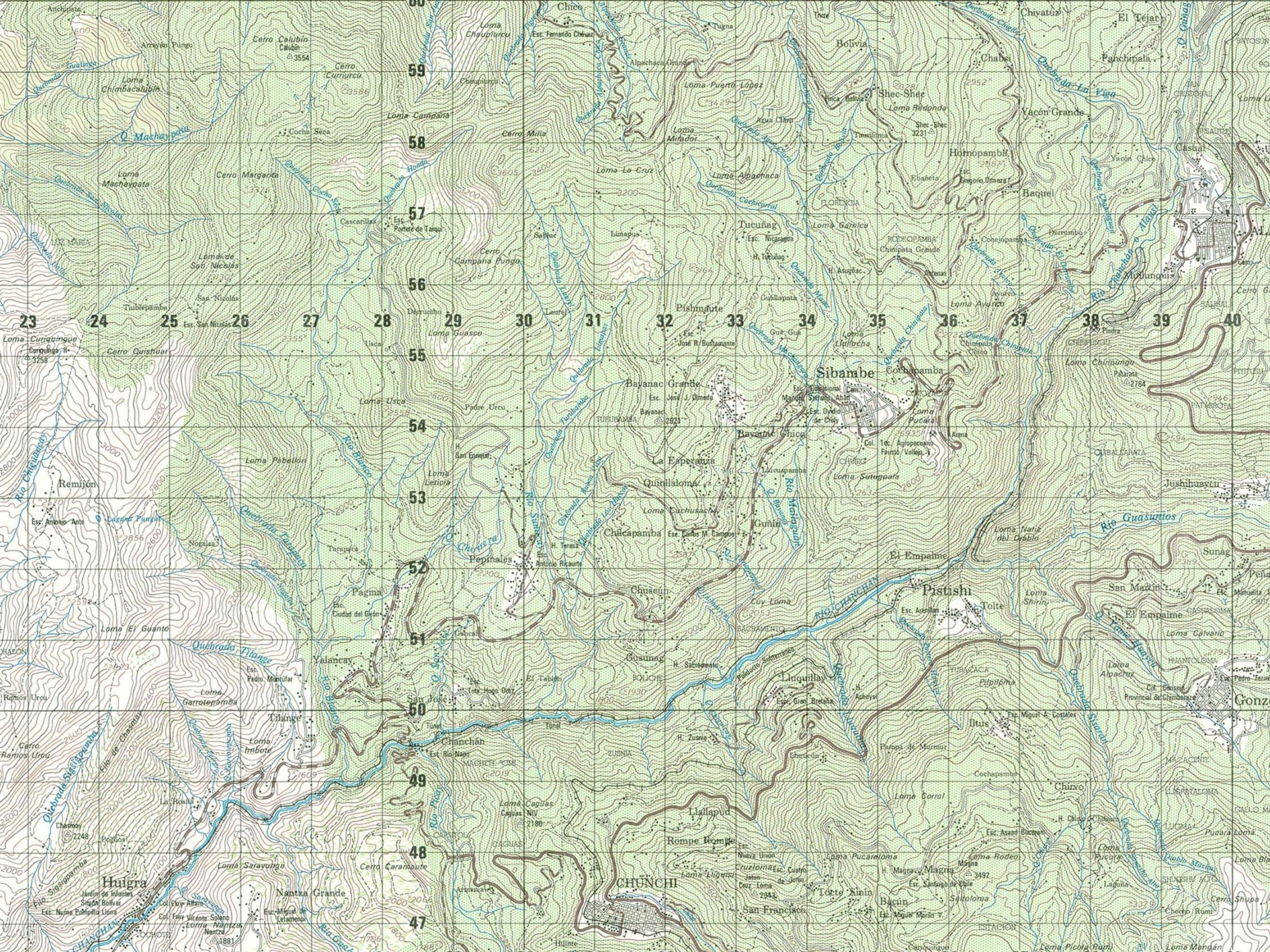


Project: Toponymy of Ecuador

- Goal:
- to compile a database of toponyms
 - to identify patterns
 - phonotactics > languages
 - geography > possible meanings

- Source: Maps of the Instituto Geográfico Militar
- 1:50,000 scale
 - available for all of Ecuador with detailed toponymy





Database

Toponyms:

- City/town/village names
- River/lake names
- Mountain names

Morphemes:

- If a sequence of graphemes appears in more than one toponym it is considered a possible morpheme:
 - Pel**leo**, Tisale**o**, Panzale**o**, Chibule**o**



Issues

Parsing difficulties:

- **Gonz**anamá, **Gonzal**oma



Issues

Parsing difficulties:

- Gonzanamá, Gonzaloma
- **Aloag, Aloasí**



Issues

Parsing difficulties:

- Gonzanamá, Gonzaloma
- Aloag, Aloasí
- **Píntag, Íntag**



Issues

Parsing difficulties:

- Gonzanamá, Gonzaloma
- Aloag, Aloasí
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Issues

Parsing difficulties:

- Yaru**quí**, Urcu**quí**, Pata**quí**
(Note: <qui> = [ki])
- Malching**uí**
(Note: <gui> = [gi])
- Aloas**í**, Lumbis**í**, Puengas**í**
- Pujil**í**, Saquisil**í**, Tangal**í**



Issues

Parsing difficulties:

- Yaruquí, Urcuquí, Pataquí
(Note: <qui> = [ki])
- Malchinguí
(Note: <gui> = [gi])
- Aloasí, Lumbisí, Puengasí
- Pujilí, Saquisilí, Tangalí



Issues

Parsing difficulties and Spanish orthography:

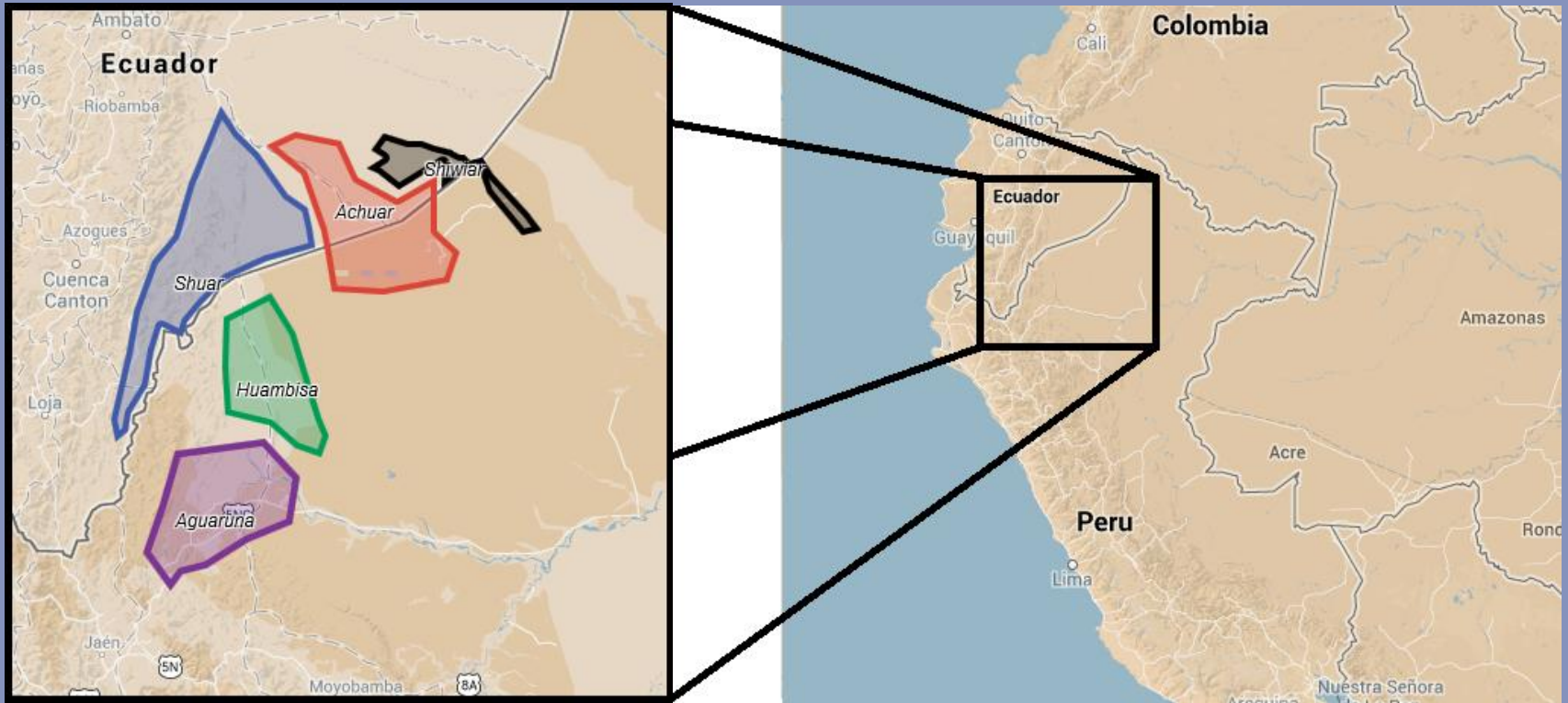
Both <gua> and <hua> represent [wa]

- Tugur**hua**
- Pulul**agua**, Cutugl**agua**
- Ap**agua**
- Zumb**ahua**

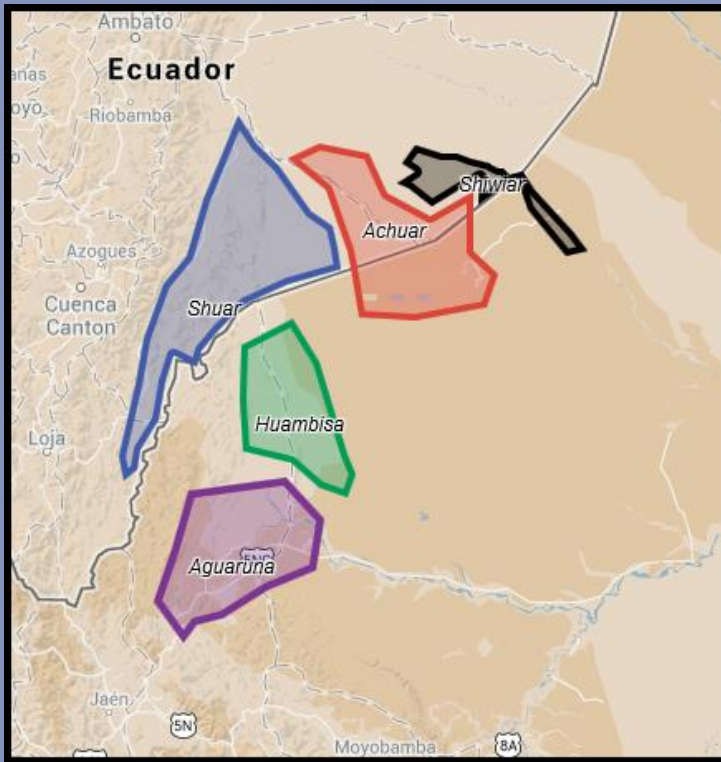


Chicham Languages

(also: Jivaroan languages)

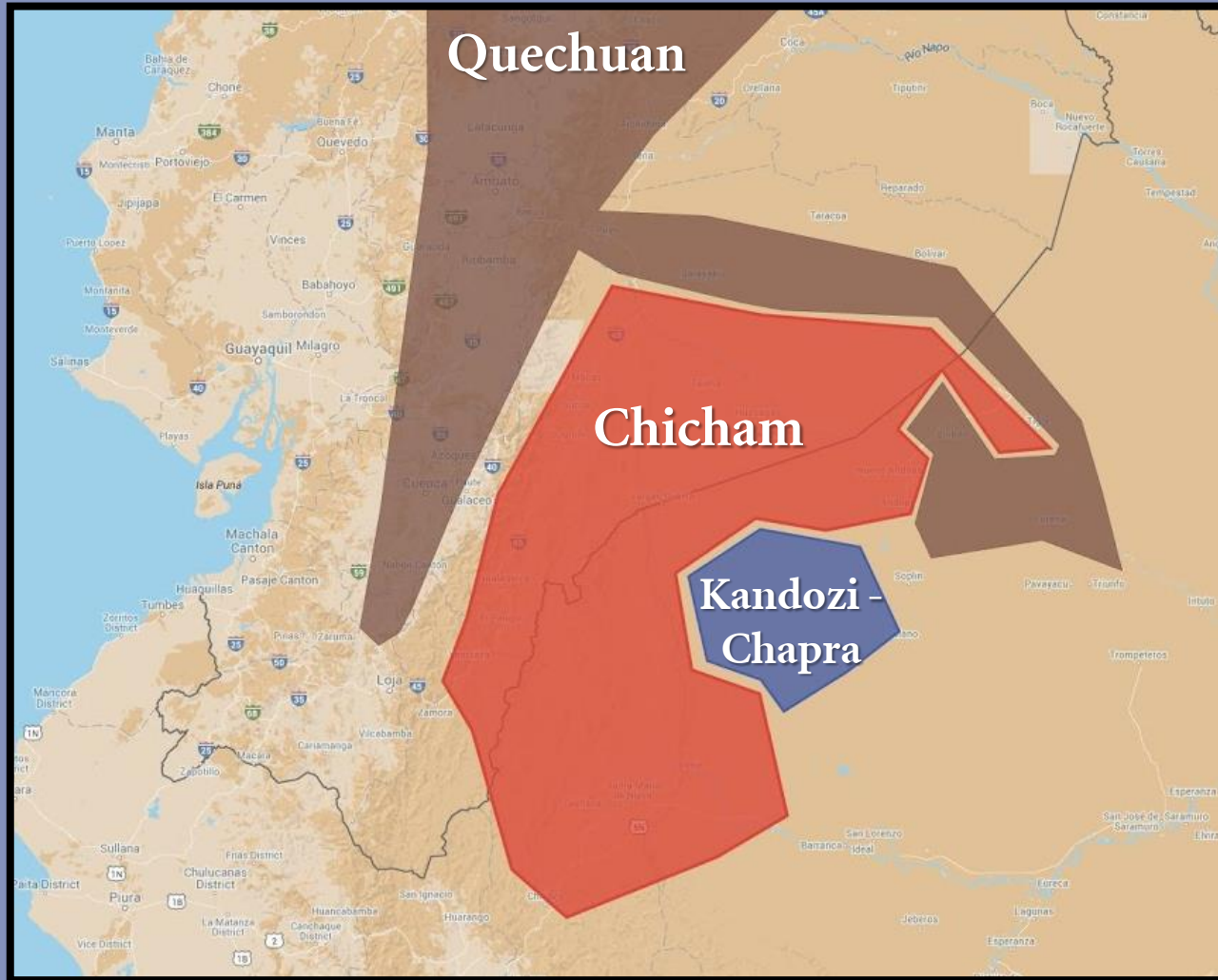


Chicham Languages



- Shuar: 62,000 speakers
- Aguaruna: 55,400 speakers
- Huambisa: 10,200 speakers
- Achuar: 24,400 speakers
- Shiwiar: 1,200 speakers

Chicham Languages in Contact



Chicham-Quechuan Contact

- Some Chicham languages (Shiwiar, Achuar) are in close contact with a Quechuan language (Northern Pastaza Kichwa)
- There are many indications of long term contact:
 - ‘white person’: Quechua: wiraqocha
 Shiwiar: wiakuch



Agentive Nominaliser - Habitual

Shuar (Saad 2014):

iamin

iam-iniu

hunt-AG.NMLZ

'hunter'

iamin armiayi

iam-iniu

a-ara-miayi

hunt-AG.NMLZ

COP.PFV-PL-DIST.PST:3:DECL

'They used to hunt.'

Quechuan Connection

Salasaka (Highland) Kichwa:

shamuk kani

shamu-k

ka-ni

come-AG.NMLZ

COP-1SG

‘I usually come.’

(Muysken 2011:141)

Action/State Nominaliser - Deontic

Shuar (Saad 2014):

iharmastiniaiti

ihiarma-sa-tiniu-ait-i

fast-PFV-AS.NMLZ-COP-3:DECL

‘One should fast.’



Quechuan Connection

Salasaka (Highland Kichwa):

rina gani

ri-na ga-ni

go-AS.NMLZ COP-1

'I have to go.' (Muysken 2011:143)

Problem

- The modern-day contact situation between Chicham and Quechuan is fairly recent (50-100 years)
- The Quechuan words/structures found in Chicham languages are not found in the Quechuan languages that are currently in contact with Chicham languages



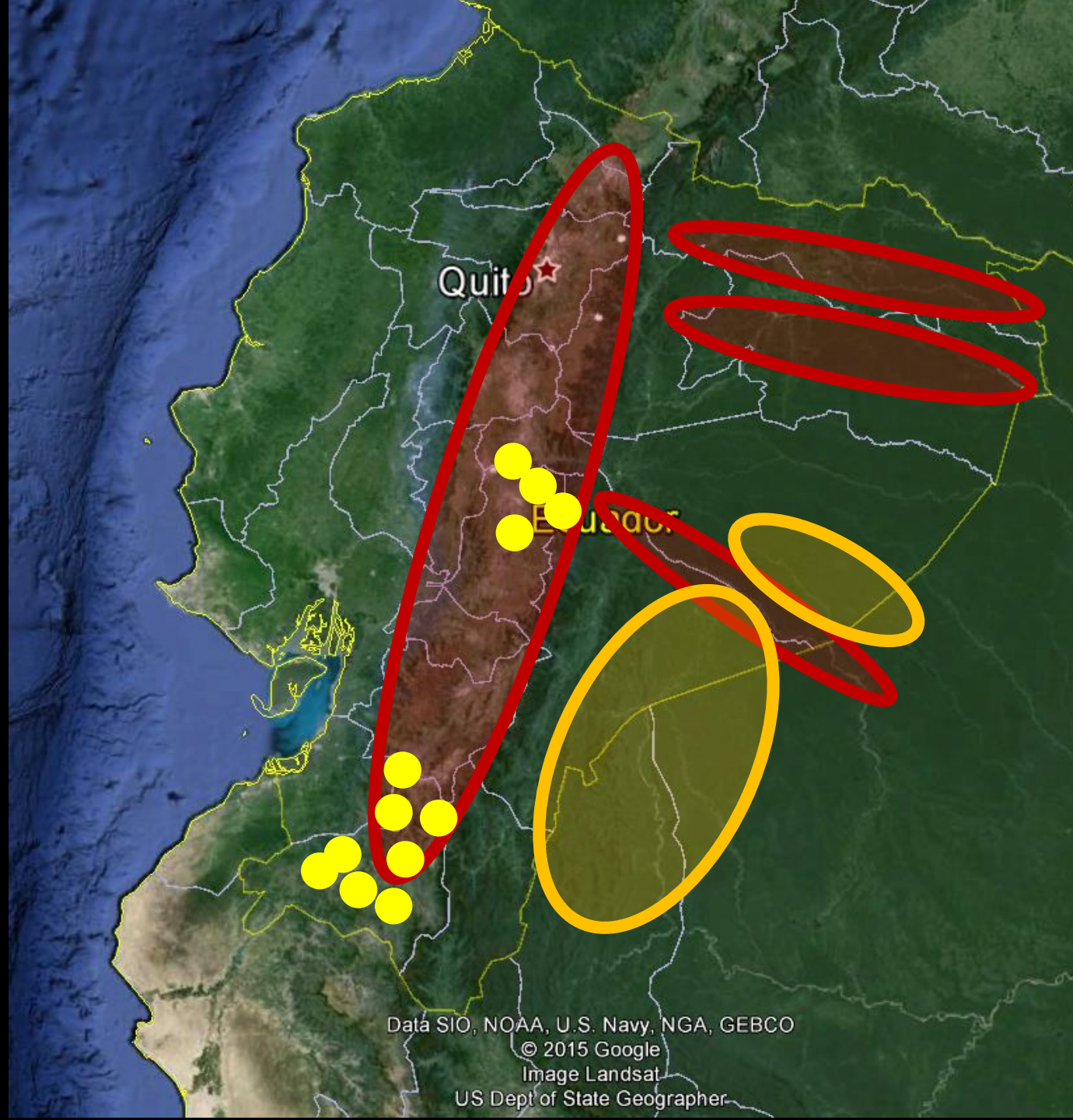
- **Quechuan
(Kichwa)**

- **Chicham
(Jivaroan)**



-nama
(LOC)

-ntsa/tsa/sa
(‘river’)



Quechuan Connection

- Some Chicham languages were likely spoken in the Ecuadorean highlands at the time of the Incan invasion
- Some of the borrowings of Highland Quechuan languages could have happened at this stage



Discussion and Conclusion

- Studying the toponymy of Ecuador is the only way to investigate extinct languages once spoken in the Ecuadorean highlands
- Investigating phonotactics and geography can tell us something about the languages themselves
- The distribution of particular toponyms can give us crucial insights about where the languages were spoken



Yuminsajrume!

Maketai!

Thanks!



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