

PORPORE MEDITERRANEE E PORPORE MEDIORIENTALI (*)

Abstract

The paper reviews several set of terms from Mesopotamian, Mediterranean and Iranian languages, linked to the designation of the chromatic range of red and purple and purple itself as a crimson dye obtained from some Mediterranean molluscs. Many philological data are re-examined (special attention is given to the critical evaluation of Pahlavi, Sogdian and Persian evidence), and scrutinized also thanks to historical and archaeological data. The paper redesigns the values of the reanalyzed terms and their realia and the pattern of their diffusion, also dwelling on the assumed purple notations of the Achaemenid kingship as handed down by classical Greek and Roman sources.