

Terminology of salt in Ancient Greek

Roxana-Gabriela CURCĂ¹

Abstract. *This study addresses for the first time in the dedicated literature, the lexical reflexes of salt in ancient Greek, as part of an extended research project. An inventory was realized as comprehensively as possible on grammatical categories (nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs), derived from nominal compound ἅλ (ἅλς, ἅλός) in the initial and secondary position, emphasizing a majority of adjectives and a wide semantic spectrum (e.g. physical world, exploitation, food consumption and conservation, social and economic contexts, symbolic uses). This lexical variety indicates the crucial role of salt and sea in the development of Greek civilization.*

Rezumat. *Acest studiu abordează pentru prima dată în literatura de specialitate reflexele lexicale ale sării în greaca veche, fiind parte a unui proiect de cercetare mult mai amplu. S-a realizat un inventar cât mai cuprinzător, pe categorii gramaticale (substantive, adjective, verbe și adverbe) derivate de la compusul nominal ἅλ (ἅλς, ἅλός) aflat în poziție inițială și secundară, constatându-se o majoritate a frecvenței adjectivelor și un spectru semantic extins (e.g. univers material, exploatare, consum și conservare de alimente, contexte socio-economice, utilizări simbolice). Această varietate lexicală indică rolul esențial al sării și al mării în dezvoltarea civilizației grecești.*

Keywords: Salt, terminology of salt, ancient Greek, semantic spectrum.

Introduction

Except the ancient writers who discussed some aspects of salt, one of the first's authors who underlined systematically the importance of salt for the human life was the Spanish erudite Bernardino Gómez Miedes (1515–1589), who wrote an impressive monograph on various aspects related to the so-called “white gold”, as the titles of his *libri* prove it (I. *De sale physico sive philosophico*; II. *De sale medico sive empirico*; III. *De loco, tempore et modo salis in mensa*; IV. *De sale geniali sive iocoso*; V. *De sale mystico sive theologico*). The amplitude of the discussed

¹ “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Faculty of History; email: roxanigabriela@yahoo.com.

themes in the work of Bernardino Gómez Miedes and the researches conducted in the framework of EthnosalRo project (ethnosalro.uaic.ro) has determine the Romanian scholar Marius Alexianu from “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași to propose a new discipline in 2012, the *anthropology of salt* – “as a discipline of the future, which will gradually become autonomous as the inter- and trans-disciplinary approaches to common salt will prevail over the mono- or multi-disciplinary ones”². Among the disciplines related to salt, he includes archaeology, history, ethnology, linguistics, geography, heritage, chemistry, medicine, symbology, literary studies, etc.

In this context, the terminological approach in one of the oldest attested Indo-European languages is relevant to the proper understanding of this mineral, indispensable for a good living in so many fields. It should be emphasized that the term *salt* (**she_a-(e)l-*) belongs to common Indo-European lexicon, and it is attested in languages from the western and eastern part of the Indo-European language family (e.g. Old Irish *salann*, Latin *sāl*, New English *salt*, Latvian *sāls*, Old Church Slavonic *solī*, Greek *háls*, Armenian *al*, Tocharian B *salyiye*, Lithuanian *sólymas*, Albanian *ngjelmët*, Sanskrite *salilá*)³.

The aim of our article is to analyse, from a semantic and linguistic perspective, the vocabulary of salt⁴ in ancient Greek, focused especially on the compounds of ἄλς, ἄλός—as first and second position as compound—, underlying the multitude of derivates of this term, especially as first position⁵. We want to emphasize that the Greek language present a particular situation, because she has the same Indo-European lexeme for *salt* and *sea*, the only differentiation being made by gender (masculine–*salt*, feminine–*sea*).

In order to illustrate the multifaceted dimensions of salt identified in the works of ancient Greeks authors, I will give only a few examples, such as: alimentation⁶, salt production⁷, halotherapy⁸, different mentalities regarding the salt⁹, symbolism (e.g. the divine character of salt)¹⁰, various utilizations of brine¹¹, embalming the body of the deceased¹²,

² ALEXIANU 2015, 1.

³ MALLORY, ADAMS 2006, 261; 264; see also GRANDSAIGNES D'HAUTERIVE 1948, 179; THIEME 1961; CHANTRAINE 1968, 65; HOFMANN 1974, 14–15; BONFANTE 1991. For the study of noun formation, see CHANTRAINE 1933.

⁴ For a lexicographical study on salt in Spanish for the 12th–17th centuries, see HERNANDO GARCÍA-CERVIGÓN, ALONSO SUTIL 2007.

⁵ For the lexeme *sea*, Greek language also has the term θάλασσα, a substrate word, who has not developed so many derivatives as ἄλς, ἄλός.

⁶ Plut., *Mor.*, 684e.

⁷ Ar., *Ach.*, 520–522.

⁸ Hp., *Acut.*, 7 L. XXI, 3; II, XLV. 1–2; *Aër.*, VII, 11; *Acut.*, II, 2, XVIII (VII), 1–2; II, 2, XLVIIa (XXXVla), 2–5; II, 2, XLVIIb (XXXVIb), 1–2; *Loc. Hom.*, XVII–XIX; *Arist.*, *Pr.*, I, 38.

⁹ Archil., 166; *Plat.*, *Ti.*, 60d; *Plut.*, *Symp.*, VII, 1, D.

¹⁰ *Hom.*, *Il.*, IX, 205–217.

¹¹ *Hdt.*, II, 77.

¹² *Hdt.*, II, 87.

natural crystallization¹³, houses construction¹⁴, decrees¹⁵, control and conflict¹⁶, eulogy of salt¹⁷, barter, commerce, price, markets¹⁸, salting¹⁹, salt sources²⁰, food and wine conservation²¹, scientific explanations of the sea²², etc. In the modern exegesis, the interest manifested by the scholars for the study of salt at ancient Greek authors comprises two major directions: a more general overview of different occurrences of salt on sites production, commerce and economic value²³, symbolism and epistemology²⁴, geography²⁵, utilizations and mentalities²⁶ and more specialized studies treating various, sometimes, unexpected aspects, related to etymology²⁷, toponymy²⁸, paroemiology (different aphoristic expressions analysed from the semantic and historical perspective)²⁹, halotherapy (treatment of dental or gingival, mouth and ear diseases, headaches, skin burns, tonsillitis, angina, furuncles, inflammations of the skin and dermatosis, animal bites, joint, lumbar, leg, kidney or stomach pains, frostbites, bleeding)³⁰, saltiness³¹, quantification³², demand for salt³³, tax regulations and monopole³⁴, dispute and control³⁵, solar evaporation and crystallization³⁶, barter³⁷, wine conservation³⁸, sexuality³⁹, funerary practices⁴⁰, etc.

¹³ Hdt., IV, 53 ; VII, 30 ; Str., VII, 5, 11 (C 317).

¹⁴ Hdt., IV, 185.

¹⁵ Arist., *Mir.* 138.

¹⁶ Ar., *Ach.*, 754–761; Str., VII, 5, 11 (C 317).

¹⁷ Plut., *Conv.*, 177 b.

¹⁸ Arist., *Oec.*, II, 3a ; Plut., *Dem.*, 33, 1–6.

¹⁹ Str., III, 4, 2 (C 156); XI, 2, 3 (C 494).

²⁰ Str., IV, 1, 7 (C 182).

²¹ Plut., *Mor.*, 685b–c.

²² Arist., *Mete.*, II, 3 [35; 6b] ; II, 3 [357a–359b].

²³ MOINIER 2007a; CARUSI 2007b; 2008a–b.

²⁴ MOINIER 2012.

²⁵ MORÈRE MOLINERO 2001; MOINIER 2007b; CARUSI 2008a.

²⁶ MOINIER, WELLER 2015.

²⁷ PORUCIUC 2011.

²⁸ FALILEYEV 2011.

²⁹ ALEXIANU 2011; PARASCHIV 2011; 2015a–b.

³⁰ CURCĂ 2007; SANDU *et al.* 2010.

³¹ MOINIER 2008.

³² MOINIER 2011.

³³ CARUSI 2011.

³⁴ CARUSI 2007a.

³⁵ ALEXIANU 2007.

³⁶ MIRCEA 2007.

³⁷ ALEXIANU 2011.

³⁸ MOINIER, ALEXIANU 2011.

³⁹ MOINIER 2007c.

⁴⁰ RAMOS MALDONADO 2000.

Inventory of lexemes

The lexical corpus illustrated below contains, in alphabetical order, the occurrences of the compounds of ἄλς, ἄλός classified in morphological categories, followed by the translation of each lexeme⁴¹. As expected, the compound ἄλ-/ἄλι-/ἄλο-/ἄλυ- (first position in the compounding term) represents the majority in the inventory. By contrary, with a lower frequency, we find it in the second position (-αλ-) mostly due to the prefixes (e.g. ἀμφί-, ἀν-, ἔξ-, ἔφ-, καθα-, παρα-, σύν-).

ἄλ-					
	Nouns	Adj.	Verbs	Adv.	Translation
ἄλαδε				✓	'to or into the sea'
ἄλάδρομος, -ου (ό)	✓				'race over the sea'
ἄλας, -ατος (τό)	✓				'salt'
ἄλατίζω			✓		'sprinkle with salt'
ἄλατικόν, -ου (τό)	✓				'salary'
ἄλάτινος, -η, -ον		✓			'made of salt'
ἄλάτιον, -ου (τό)	✓				'salt'
ἄλατοπωλία, -ας (ἡ)	✓				'right of vending salt'
ἄλέλαιον, -ου (τό)	✓				'salt in oil'
ἄλή, -ῆς (ἡ), only pl.	✓				'salt-works'
ἄληγός, -όν		✓			'carrying salt'
ἄλία, -α ξί(ἡ)	✓				'salt-cellar, mark of extreme poverty'
ἄλιάδης, -ου (ό)	✓				'seaman'
ἄλιάετος, -ου (ό)	✓				'sea-eagle'
ἄλιαῆς, -ές		✓			'blowing seaward'
ἄλιανθής, -ές		✓			'sea-blooming'
ἄλιαρός, -όν		✓			'salted'
ἄλιβαπτος, -ον		✓			'dipped in sea, drowned therein'
ἄλιβδύω			✓		'sink or submerge in the sea'
ἄλιβρεκτος, -ον		✓			'washed by the sea'
ἄλιβρομος, -ον		✓			'murmuring like the sea'
ἄλιβρωτος, -ον		✓			'swallowed by the sea'

⁴¹ For the translation of the lexemes, we have used the *Greek-English Lexicon of LIDDELL, SCOTT* 1996.

ἀλιγείτων, -ον		✓		‘near the sea’
ἀλιγενής, -ές		✓		‘sea-born’
ἀλιδινής, -ές		✓		‘sea-tossed’
ἀλίδουπος, -ον		✓		‘sea-resounding’
ἀλίδρομος, -ον		✓		‘running over the sea’
ἀλειά, -ας (ή)	✓			‘fishing’
ἀλειος, -α, -ον		✓		‘fisher’s’
ἀλειοδής, -ές		✓		‘sea-coloured’
ἀλιεργής, -ές		✓		‘working in the sea, fishing’
ἀλιεργός, -όν		✓		‘working in the sea, fishing’
ἀλιερκής, -ές		✓		‘sea-fenced, sea-girt’
ἀλιενμα, -ατος (τό)	✓			‘draught of fish’
ἀλιεύς, -έως (ὁ)	✓			‘one who has to do with the sea, fisher, seaman, sailor’
ἀλιευτής, -οῦ (ὁ)	✓			‘fisher’
ἀλιευτικός, -ή, -όν		✓		‘of or for fishing’
ἀλιευτικόν, -οῦ (τό)	✓			‘the fishing population’
ἀλιεύω			✓	‘to be a fisher’
ἀλίζω			✓	‘to be salted, supply with salt or salt food’
ἀλίζωνος, -η, -ον		✓		‘sea-girt’
ἀλίζωος, -α, -ον		✓		‘living on or in the sea’
ἀλιηγής, -ές		✓		‘broken on by the sea’
ἀλιήρης, -ες		✓		‘sweeping the sea’
ἀλιηχής, -ές		✓		‘resounding like the sea’
ἀλικά, -ᾶν (τά)	✓			‘charges for salt’
ἀλίκλυστος, -η, -ον		✓		‘sea-washed, sea-beaten’
ἀλικνήμις, -ίδος (ὁ/ή)	✓			‘sea-borne’
ἀλική, -ῆς (ή)	✓			‘salt-tax’
ἀλίκρας, -ατος (ὁ/ή)	✓			‘mixed with salt water’
ἀλικρείων, -οντος (ὁ)	✓			‘lord of the sea’
ἀλικρήπις, -ιδος (ὁ/ή)	✓			‘person at the sea’s edge’
ἀλίκτυπος, -ον		✓		‘sea-smitten’
ἀλικύμων, -ον		✓		‘surrounded by sea-waves’
ἄλιμα, -ων (τά)	✓			‘seaside’
ἀλμῆδων, -οντος (ὁ)	✓			‘lord of the sea’
ἄλιμος, -ον		✓		‘of or belonging to the sea’
ἀλμυρήεις, -εσσα, -εν		✓		‘flowing into the sea’

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άλμυρής, -ές		✓		‘salt surging’
άλιναίετης, -ου (ό)	✓			‘person dwelling in the sea’
άλινηκτειρα, -ας (ή)	✓			‘person swimming in the sea’
άλινηχής, -ές	✓			‘of swimmers’
ἄλινος, -η, -ον		✓		‘of salt’
ἄλιος, -η, -ον		✓		‘of the sea’
άλιοτρεφής, -ές		✓		‘feeding in the sea, sea reared’
άλιπαστος, -ον		✓		‘sprinkled with salt’
άλιπέδον, -ου (τό)	✓			‘plain by the sea’
άλιπλαγκτος, -ον	✓			‘sea roaming’
άλιπλακτος, -ον		✓		‘sea-beaten’
άλιπλανής, -ές		✓		‘sea wondering’
άλιπλοος, -ον		✓		‘covered with water’
άλιπνοος, -ον		✓		‘redolent of sea’
άλιπόρος, -ον		✓		‘through which the sea flows’
άλιπόρφυρος, -ον		✓		‘of sea-purple’
άλιπτοίητος, -ον		✓		‘driven by fear across the sea’
άλιραγής, -ές		✓		‘against which the tide breaks’
άλιραίστης, -ου (ό)	✓			‘ravening in the sea’
άλιραντος, -ον		✓		‘sea-surgings’
άλιρόθιος, -α, -ον		✓		‘sea-beaten’
άλιροθος, -ον		✓		‘of the roaring sea’
άλιρυτος, -ον		✓		‘washed by the sea’
άλις, -ίδος (ή)	✓			‘anything salt (salt humour, salt scum, salt soil or land), saltiness’
άλισμάραγος, -ον		✓		‘sea-resounding’
άλισμηκτος, -ον		✓		‘washed by the sea’
άλισμός, -οῦ (ό)	✓			‘one who sprinkles with salt’
άλισπαρτος, -ον		✓		‘sown or sprinkled with salt’
άλιστέφανος, -ον		✓		‘sea-crowned, sea-girt’
άλιστονος, -ον		✓		‘sea-resounding, groaning on the sea’
άλιστός, -ή, -όν		✓		‘salted, pickled’

άλίστρεπος, -ον		✓			‘sea-tossed’
άλιτενής, -ές		✓			‘projecting into the sea’
άλιτέρωμων, -ον		✓			‘bounded by sea’
άλιτης, -ου (ό)	✓				‘salted person’
άλιτρεφής, -έ ξ		✓			‘sea-bred’
άλιτροφος, -ον		✓			‘sea-nurtured’
άλιτροχος, -ον		✓			‘rushing through the sea’
άλιτροτος, -ον		✓			‘sea-beaten, sea-worn’
άλιτυπος, -ον		✓			‘sea-beaten’
άλιτυπος, -ου (ό)	✓				‘seaman, fisherman’
άλιτυρος, -ου (ό)	✓				‘salted cheese’
άλιφθερόω			✓		‘shipwreck’
άλιφθορία, -ας (ή)	✓				‘disaster at sea’
άλιφθόρος, -ον		✓			‘destroying on sea’
άλιφθόρος, -ου (ό)	✓				‘pirate’
άλιφλοιος, -ου (ό/ή)	✓				‘sea-bark’
άλιφρων, -ονος		✓			‘with a lost, misled spirit’
άλμαία, -ας (ή)	✓				‘brine’
άλμαία, -ων (τά)	✓				‘salted provisions’
άλμάς, -άδος (ή)	✓				‘salted, steeped in brine’
άλμάω					‘being salty’
άλμεύσις, -εως (ή)	✓				‘pickling’
άλμευτής, -οῦ (ό)	✓				‘seller of pickled fruit’
άλμεύω			✓		‘steep in brine’
ἄλμη, -ης (ή)	✓				‘brine, sea-water, salt incrustation on soil, saltiness, salt soil’
άλμήεις, -εσσα, -εν		✓			‘salt, briny’
άλμίζομαι			✓		‘to be made salt’
άλμοποσία, -ας (ή)	✓				‘brine drinking’
άλμοπότις, -ίδος (ή)	✓				‘brine drinking’
άλμότης, -ητος (ή)	✓				‘saltiness’
άλμόω			✓		‘to make salt’
άλμυρίδιον, -ου (τό)	✓				‘salted’
άλμυρίζω			✓		‘to be saltish’
άλμυρίς, -ίδος (ή)	✓				‘anything salt (salt humour, salt scum, salt soil or land), saltiness’

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άλμυρόγεως, -ων	✓				‘with salt soil’
άλμυρός, -ή, -όν		✓			‘salted, briny, bitter, distasteful’
άλμυρότης, -ητος (ό)	✓				‘saltiness’
άλμυρόω			✓		‘make salt’
άλμυρώδης, -ες		✓			‘saltish, impregnated with salt’
άλμώδης, -ες		✓			‘saltish, impregnated with salt’
άλόθεν				✓	‘from the sea’
άλοθήκη, -ης (ή)	✓				‘salt-box’
άλοπήγιον, -ου (τό)	✓				‘salt-works, salt-pit’
άλοπηγός, -όν		✓			‘one who prepares salt’
άλοπώλης, -ου (ό)	✓				‘dealer in salt’ (m.)
άλοπώλια, -ων (τά)	✓				‘salt stores’
άλοπώλις -ίδος (ή)	✓				‘dealer in salt’ (f.)
άλοσάνθινος, -η, -ον		✓			‘prepared with efflorescence of salt’
άλόσανθον, -ου (τό)	✓				‘efflorescence of salt’
άλοσάχνη, -ης (ή)	✓				‘sea-foam’
άλοτριβανος, -ου (ό)	✓				‘pestle to pound salt’
άλοτροφέω			✓		‘feed with salt’
άλουργής, -ές		✓			‘wrought in or by the sea, sea-purple’
άλοφόρος, -ου (ό)	✓				‘one who conveys with salt’
άλς, άλός (ό/ή)	✓				‘salt, sea’
άλυκεία, -ας (ή)	✓				‘salting’
άλυκίς, -ίδος (ή)	✓				‘salt spring, saltiness’
άλυκός, -ή, -όν		✓			‘salted’
άλυκότης, -ητος (ή)	✓				‘saltiness’
άλυκώδης, -ες		✓			‘like salt, saltish’
άλώδης, -ες		✓			‘like salt’
άλώνης, -ου (ό)	✓				‘contractor for salt works’
άλώνητος, -ον		✓			‘bought with salt, slaves-for-salt-barter’
άλωρηται, -ων (αί)	✓				‘watchers of salt’

-αλ-					
	Nouns	Adj.	Verbs	Adv.	Translation
ἀγχίαλος, -ον		✓			'near the sea'
ἀμφίαλος, -ον		✓			'of the two seas'
ἄναλμος, -ον		✓			'not salted'
ἄναλος, -ον		✓			'without salt, not salted'
ἄναλτος, -ον		✓			'not salted'
ἀναξίαλος, -ου (ὁ)	✓				'lord of the sea, epithet of Poseidon'
ἐξαλμίζω			✓		'deprive of saltiness'
ἐξάλμυρόομαι			✓		'became salt'
ἐξάλμυρος, -ον		✓			'having lost its saltiness'
ἔξαλος, -ον		✓			'out of the sea'
ἔφαλμος, -ον		✓			'stepped in brine, salted'
ἔφαλος, -ον		✓			'on the sea'
καθαλμάω			✓		'become crusted with salt'
καθαλμής, -ές		✓			'salt, saltish'
κάθαλος, -ον		✓			'full of salt, over salted'
νεοαλής, -ές		✓			'freshly salted'
παραλίτης, -ου (ὁ)	✓				'seaman'
πάραλος, -ον		✓			'by or near the sea'
σύναλμος, -ον		✓			'salted'
σύναλος, -ον		✓			'eating salt with one'
συναλίζω			✓		'eat salt with, eat at the same table with'
ὕδραλμη, -ης (ἡ)	✓				'salt water'
ὑφαλμος, -ον		✓			'somewhat salt'
ὑφαλμυρίζω			✓		'to be or taste somewhat salt'
ὑφάλμυρος, -ον		✓			'somewhat salt'
ὑφαλος, -ον		✓			'under the sea'
ὑφαλκός, -ή, -όν		✓			'somewhat salt'

Preliminary conclusions

With no claim to exhaustiveness, the above inventory allows us, however, to draw an image about the prolific term ἅλς, ἅλός with his compounds in ancient Greek. A general overview on the synoptic table suggests a wide semantic spectrum:

- mineral (ἅλς);
- physical world (ἅλις, -ίδος, ἄλμυρότης, -ητος, ἄλκυκίς, -ίδος, ἄλκυκότης, -ητος)
- salt water, salt soil (ἄλιμα, -ων, ἄλμαία, -ας, ἄλμη, -ης, ἄλμυρόγεως, -ων, ἄλόσσανθον, -ου, ἄλοσάχνη, -ης, ἄλκυκίς, -ίδος, ἅλς);
- animal world (ἄλιευτικόν, -οῦ, ἄλιάετος, -ου);
- salt exploitation (ἄλή, -ῆς, ἀλοπήγιον, -ου);
- food consumption (ἄλας, -ατος, ἀλάτιον, -ου, ἀλίτυρος, -ου, ἀλμοποισία, -ας, ἀλμοπότις, -ίδος, ἄλμυρίδιον, -ου, ἄλκυκία, -ας and in combination with other substances ἀλέλαιον, -ου, ἀλίκρας, -ατος);
- food preservation (ἄλμαία, -ων, ἄλμάς, -άδος, ἄλμεύσις, -εως, ἄλμευτής, -οῦ)
- social context (ἀλατικόν, -ου);
- occupational denominations (ἀλιεύς, -έως, ἀλιευτής, -οῦ, ἀλίτυπος, -ου, ἀλιφθόρος, -ου, ἀλοπώλης, -ου, ἀλοπῶλις -ίδος, ἀλοφόρος, -ου, ἀλώνης, -ου, ἀλωρηται, -ων);
- law (ἀλατοπωλία, -ας);
- taxes (ἀλικά, -ῶν, ἀλική, -ῆς);
- commerce, barter (ἀλοπώλια, -ων, ἀλώνητος, -ον);
- symbolic uses (ἄλια, ἅλις, -ίδος);
- actions related to salt/sea (ἀλατίζω, ἀλιβδύω, ἀλιεύω, ἅλιζω, ἀλιφθερόω, ἄλμεύω, ἅλιμιζομαι, ἄλμώω, ἄλμυρίζω, ἄλμυρόω, ἀλοτροφέω, ἐξάλμιζω, ἐξἄλμυρόομαι, καθαλμάω, συναλιζω, ὑφαλμυρίζω);
- various features of salt/sea (ἀλίβαπτος, -ον, ἀλίβρεκτος, -ον, ἀλίβρομος, -ον, ἀλίβρωτος, -ον, ἀλιγείτων, -ον, ἀλιγενής, -ές, ἀλιδινής, -ές, ἀλίδουπος, -ον, ἅλιζωος, -α, -ον, ἀλιγητής, -ές, ἀλιήρης, -ης, ἀλιητής, -ές, ἀλίκλυστος, -η, -ον, ἀλίκλυπος, -ον, ἀλικύμων, -ον, ἄλιμος, -ον, ἀλμυρήεις, -εσσα, -εν, ἄλμυρής, -ές, ἀλινητής, -ές, ἄλιμος, -η, -ον, ἄλιος, -η, -ον, ἀλιοτρεφής, -ές, ἀλίπαστος, -ον, ἀλίπλακτος, -ον, ἀλιπλανής, -ές, ἀλίπλος, -ον, ἀλίπνοος, -ον, ἀλίπόρος, -ον, ἀλίπόρφυρος, -ον, ἀλιπτοίητος, -ον, ἀλιραγής, -ές, ἄλμυρήςεις, -εσσα, -εν, ἄλμυρής, -ές, ἀλινητής, -ές, ἄλιμος, -η, -ον, ἄλιος, -η, -ον, ἀλιοτρεφής, -ές, ἀλίπαστος, -ον, ἀλίπλακτος, -ον, ἀλιπλανής, -ές, ἀλίπλος, -ον, ἀλίπνοος, -ον, ἀλίπόρος, -ον, ἀλιπτοίητος, -ον, ἀλιραγής, -ές, ἀλίραντος, -ον, ἀλιρόθιος, -α, -ον, ἀλίροθος, -ον, ἀλίρυτος, -ον, ἀλισμάραγος, -ον, ἀλίσμηκτος, -ον, ἀλίσπαρτος, -ον, ἀλίστέφανος, -ον, ἀλίστονος, -ον, ἀλίστός, -ή, -όν, ἀλίστρεπτος, -ον, ἀλιτενής, -ές, ἀλιτέρων, -ον, ἀλιτρεφής, -ές, ἀλίτροφος, -ον, ἀλίτροχος, -ον, ἀλίρυτος, -ον, ἀλίτυπος, -ον, ἀλιφθόρος, -ον, ἀλίφρων, -ονος, ἄλμῆεις, -εσσα, -εν, ἄλμυρός, -ή, -όν, ἄλμυρώδης, -ης, ἄλμώδης, -ης, ἄλοπηγός, -όν, ἄλοσάνθινος, -η, -ον, ἄλουρητής, -ές, ἄλκυός, -ή, -όν, ἄλκυκώδης, -ης, ἄλώδης, -ης, ἀλώνητος, -ον, ἀγγίαλος, -ον, ἀμφίαλος, -ον, ἀναλμος, -ον, ἀναλος, -ον, ἀναλτος, -ον, ἐξἄλμυρος, -ον, ἐξάλος, -ον, ἔφαλμος, -ον, ἔφαλος, -ον, καθαλμής, -ές, κάθαλος, -ον, νεοαλής, -ές, πάραλος, -ον, σῦναλμος, -ον, σῦναλος, -ον, ὑφαλμος, -ον, ὑφάλμυρος, -ον, ὑφαλος, -ον, ὑφαλυκός, -ή, -όν.

From a morphological perspective, the adjectives dominate, followed by nouns, verbs and adverbs. The analysis of the inventory reveals also a series of: synonyms, such as the epithet of Poseidon, 'lord of the sea' (ἀλικρείων, ἀλιμέδων, ἀναξίαλος), 'seaman, fisher' (ἀλιάδης, ἀλιεύς, ἀλιευτής, ἀλίτυπος, παραλίτης), 'saltiness' (άλις, ἀλμυρίς, ὑφάλμυρος, ὑφαλυκός); diminutives: ἀλμυρίδιον derivative from ἀλμυρίς or ἀλάτιον derivative from ἄλας; or family of words (e.g. ἀλμυρίζω, ἀλμυρόω, ἀλμυρώδης, -ες, ἀλμυρότης, -ητος, ἀλμυρός, -ή, -όν, ἀλμυρόγεως, -ων, ἀλμυρίς, -ίδος, ἀλμυρίδιον, -ου).

Most of the occurrences have a positive meaning, however, in the case of the adjective ἀλμυρός, -ή, -όν, besides the basic meaning of 'salted, briny', also appears in a negative context, with the sense 'distasteful'. It is worth mentioning also a metaphorical meaning of two compound lexemes (e.g. ἀλίφρων = 'with a lost, misled spirit' or ἄλία = 'salt-cellar, mark of extreme poverty').

Unlike other fundamental minerals, the lexical reflexes of salt occur abundantly in grammatical categories and semantic fields. The majority of the terms recorded are *compounds*, which attests, from the lexical point of view, to an inexhaustible combinatorial disposition of the base-etymon, and, from the semantic point of view, the need to convey concretely or figuratively the profound and diverse implications of salt and the sea in the material and spiritual life of the Greeks.

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