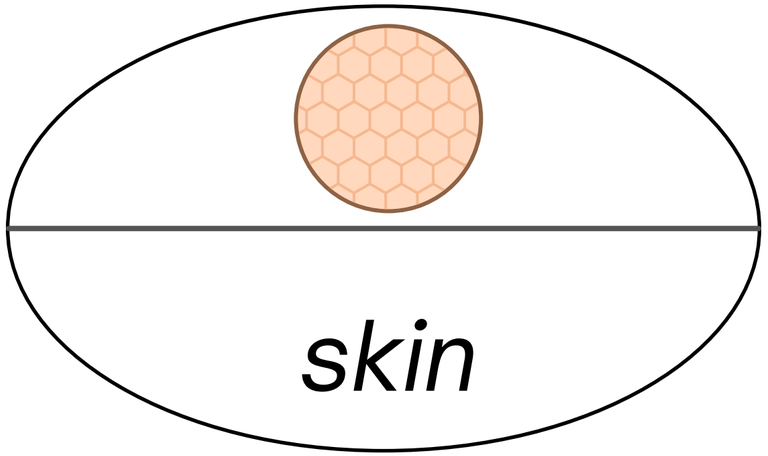
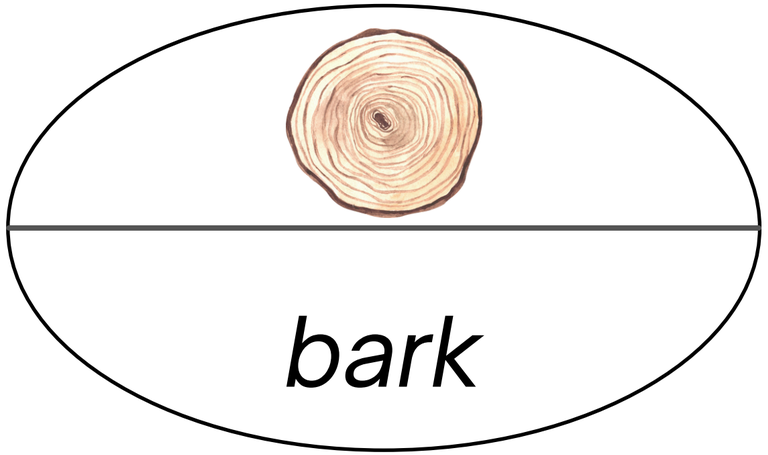
The body as a source for object names:
A study of partial colexifications across languages

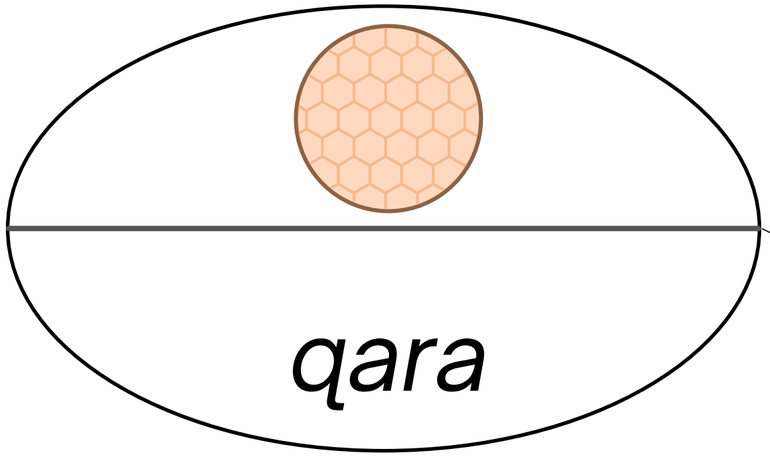
Annika Tjuka and Johann-Mattis List

16th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference



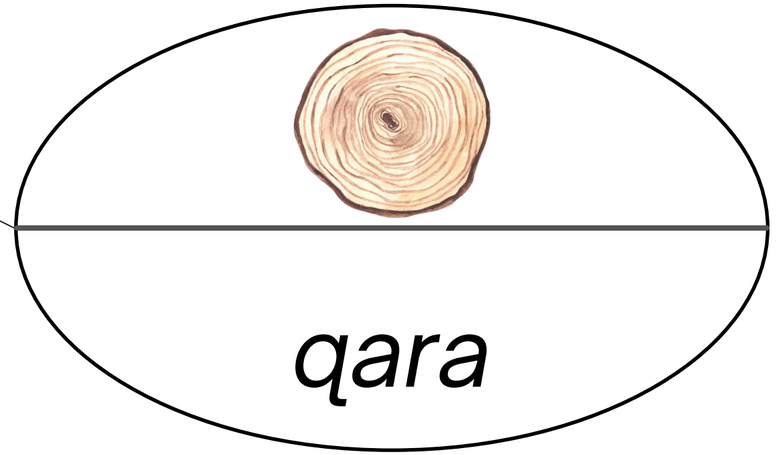


English

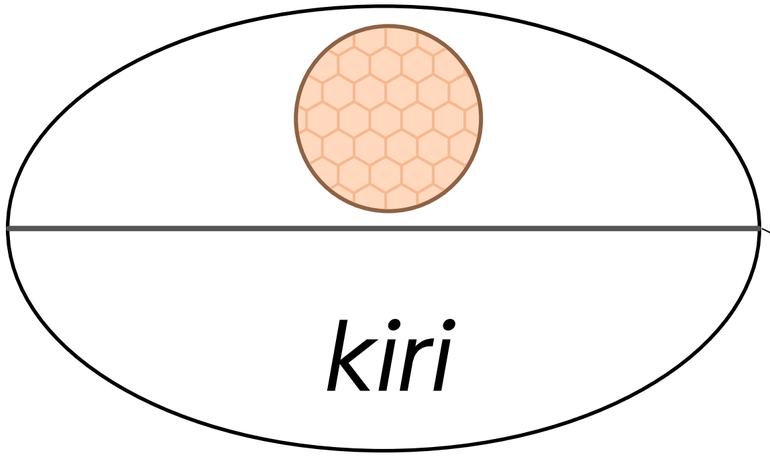


qara

Ancash Quechua

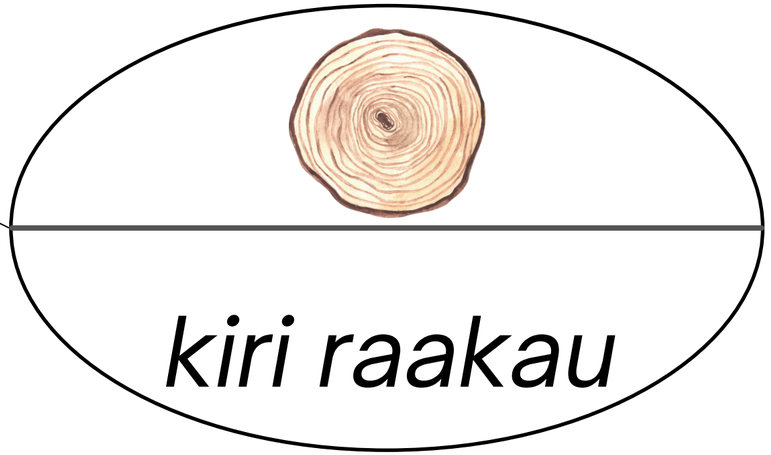


qara



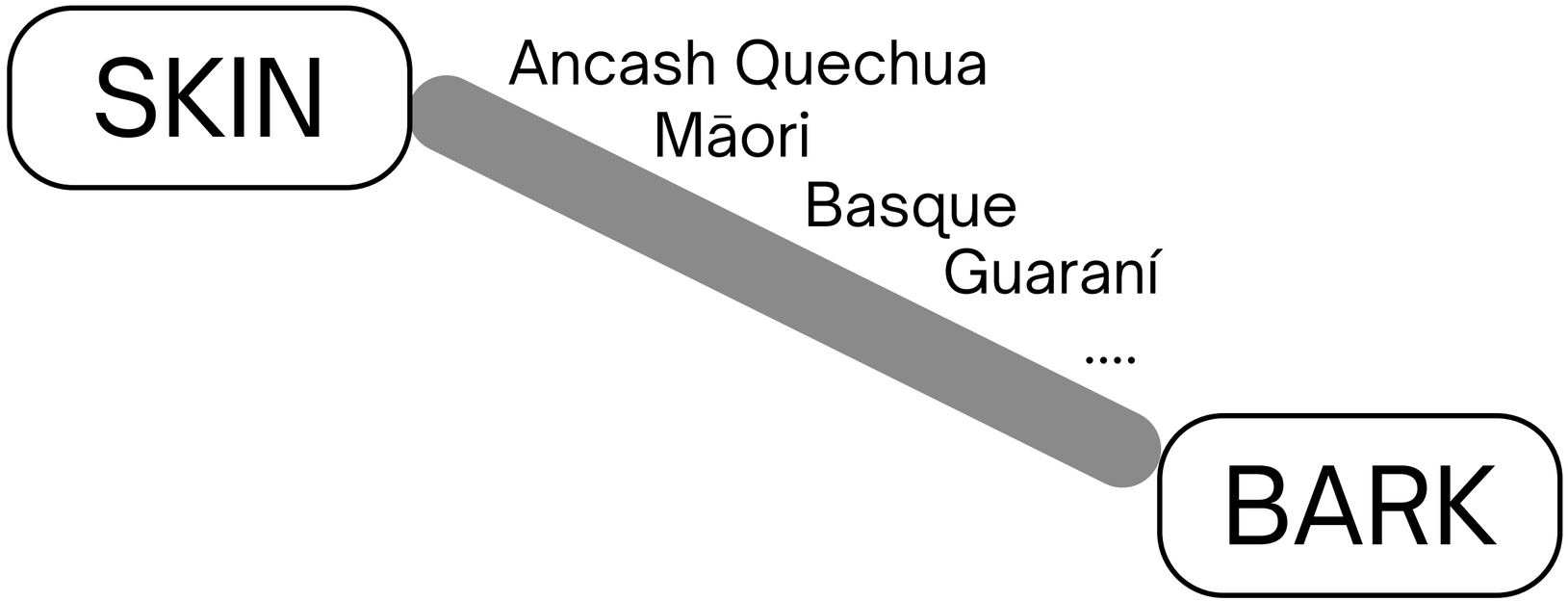
kiri

Māori



kiri raakau

Cross-Linguistic Colexification



Question

How widespread are body-object colexifications across languages and what are the causes for the emerging patterns?

Question

How widespread are body-object colexifications across languages and what are the causes for the emerging patterns?

How can we use existing lexical resources to extract full and partial colexifications in order to study their distribution and network structure?

Aim

1. systematically investigate shared names between body parts and objects across languages

2. first large-scale study that examines the patterns and causes of full colexification between body and object concepts

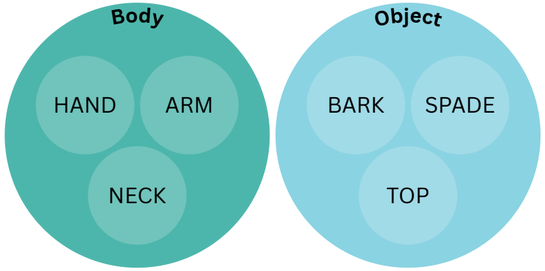
3. complementing the analysis with partial colexifications

Method & Material

Workflow

1 Map concept lists to Concepticon

2 Select target concepts



3 Select Lexibank datasets

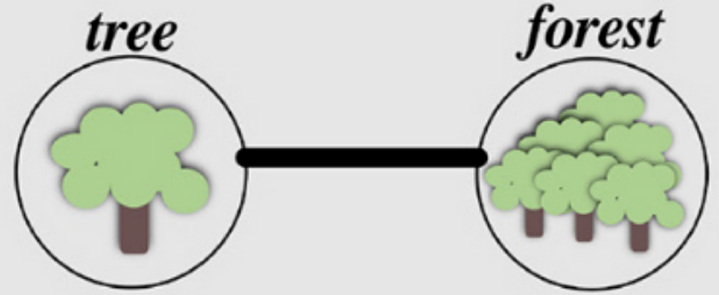
Abraham et al. (2018)
Allen (2007)
Greenhill and Gray (2015)
Běijīng Dàxué (1964)
Bodt and List (2019)
...

4 Compute full and partial colexifications

(Tjuka 2023; List et al. 2022, Lexibank)

Colexification types

① Yaqui "tree": [dʒ u j a]
Yaqui "forest": [dʒ u j a]

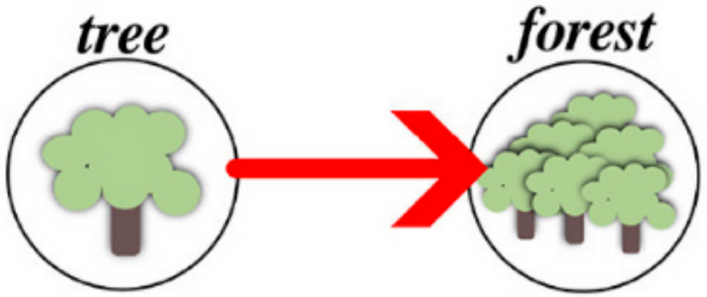


(List 2023, Partial Colexifications)

Colexification types

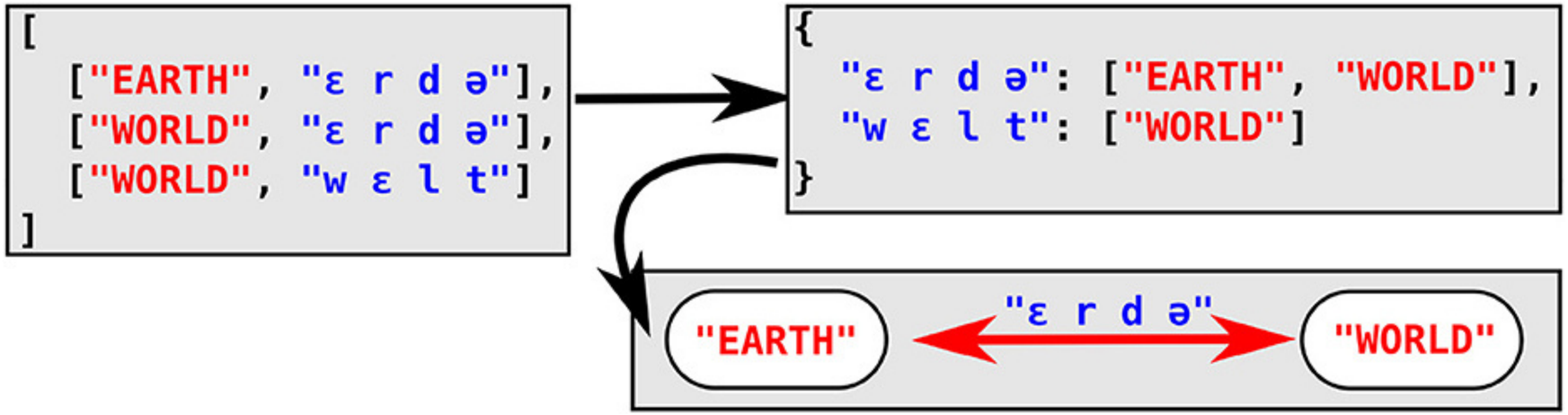
① Yaqui "tree": [dʒ u j a]
Yaqui "forest": [dʒ u j a]

② Guìlín "tree": [ɕ y ^{21}]
Guìlín "forest": [ɕ y ^{21} l i ŋ ^{22}]



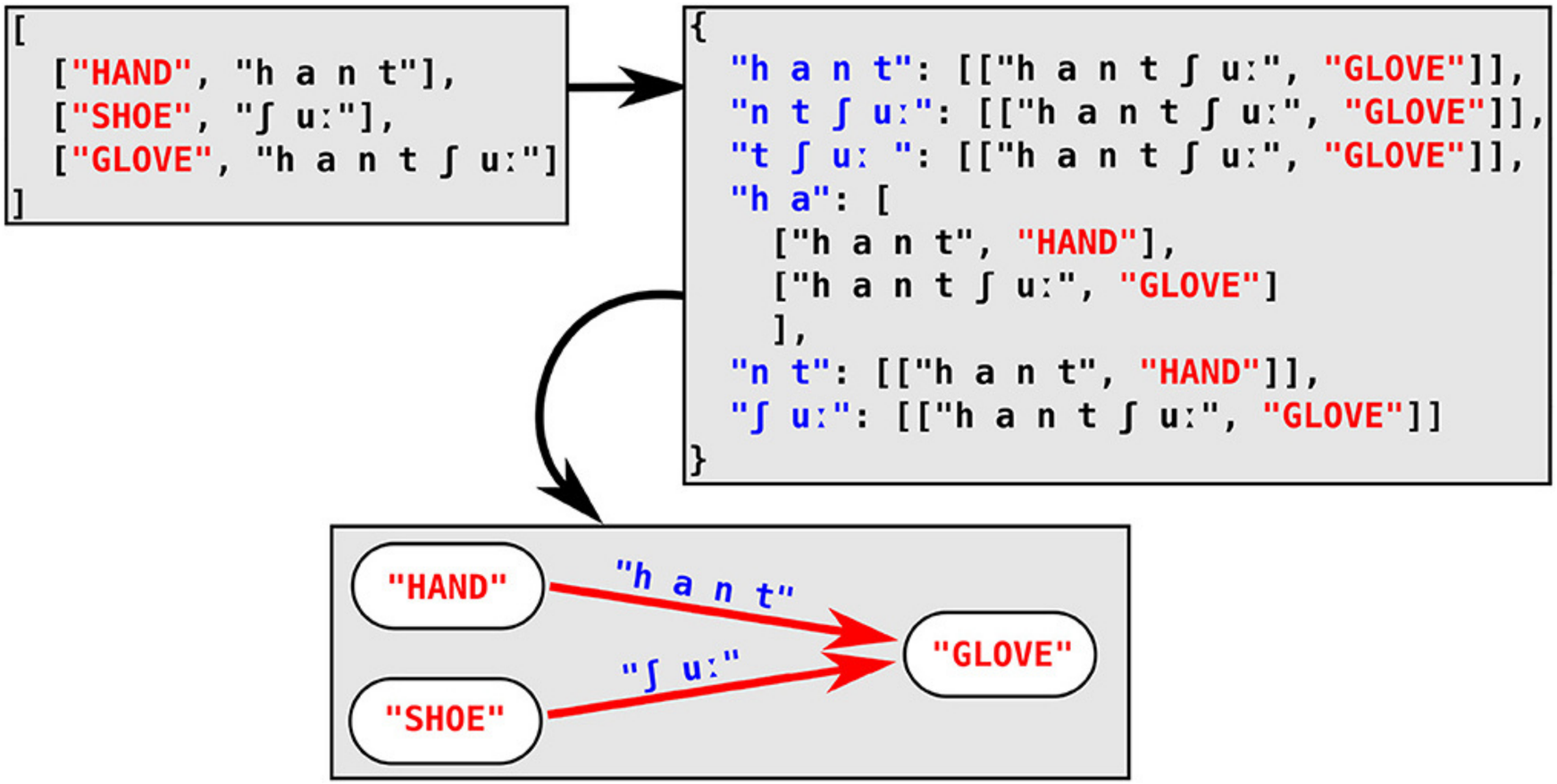
(List 2023, Partial Colexifications)

Finding full colexifications



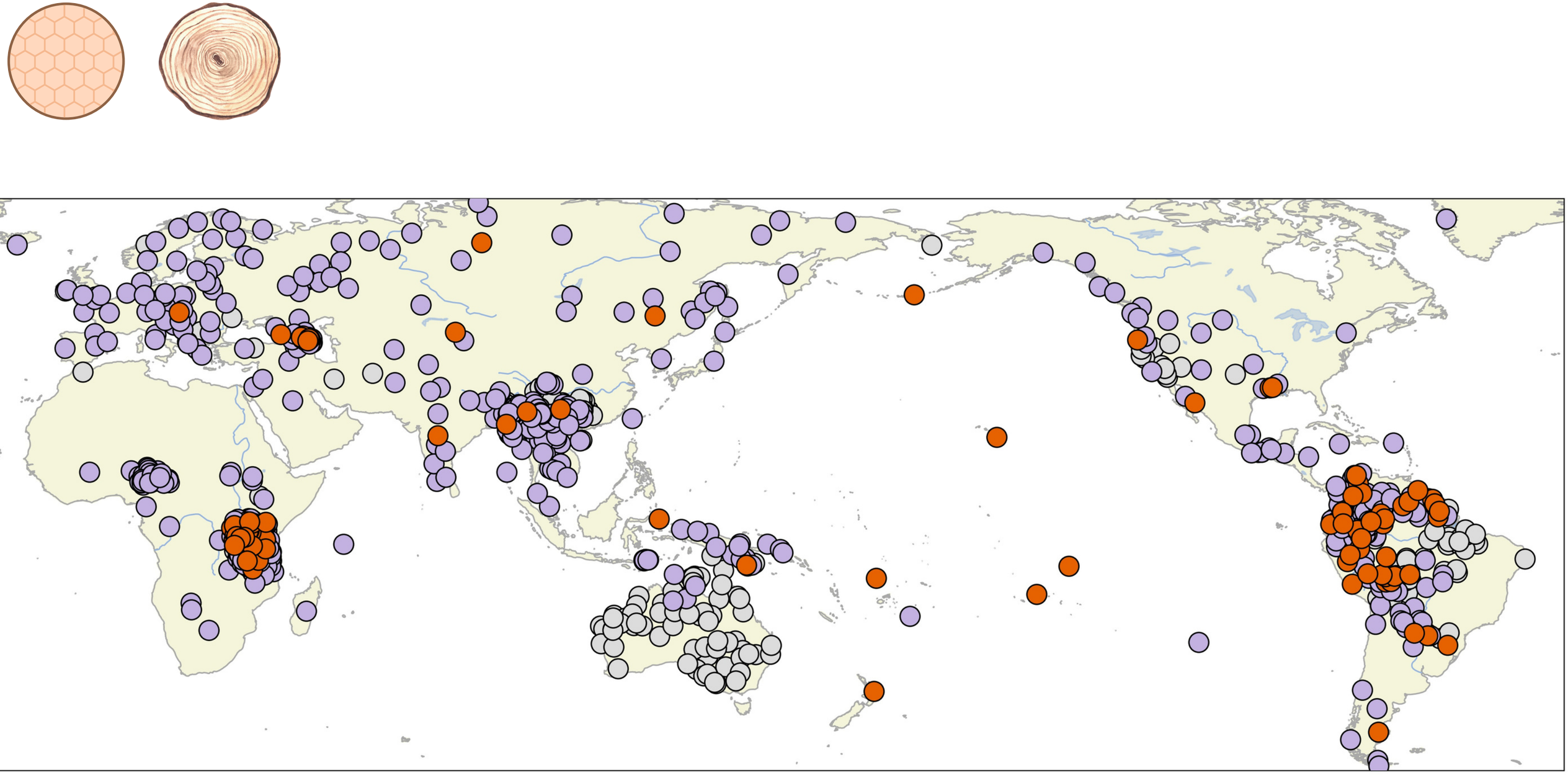
(List 2023, Partial Colexifications)

Finding partial colexifications

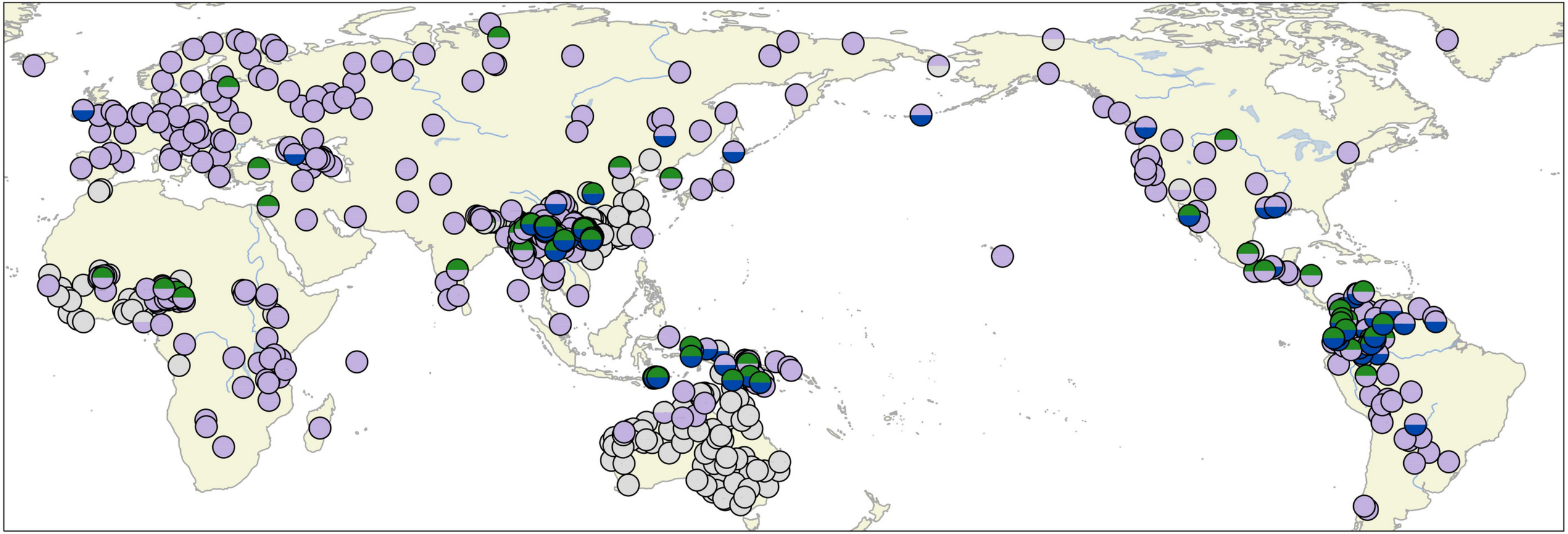


(List 2023, Partial Colexifications)

Results



(Tjuka 2023, in revision)



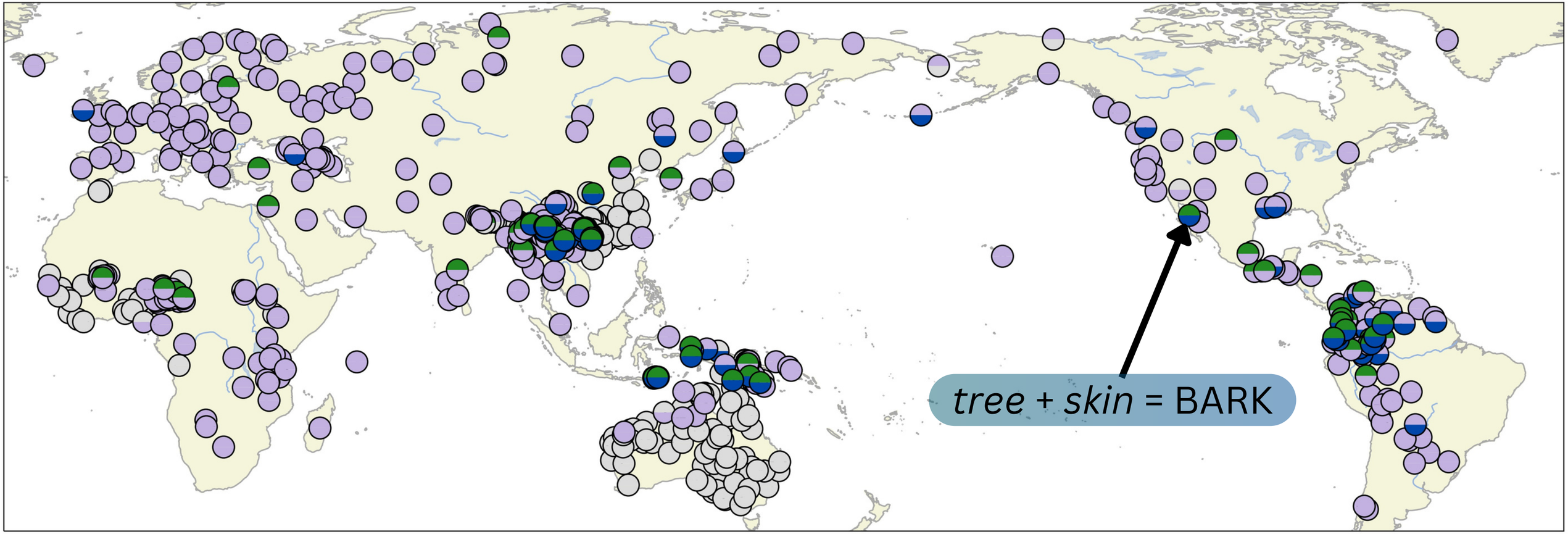
partial colexification TREE in BARK

partial colexification SKIN in BARK

full/dislexification

not available

(List et al. 2022, Lexibank)



partial colexification TREE in BARK

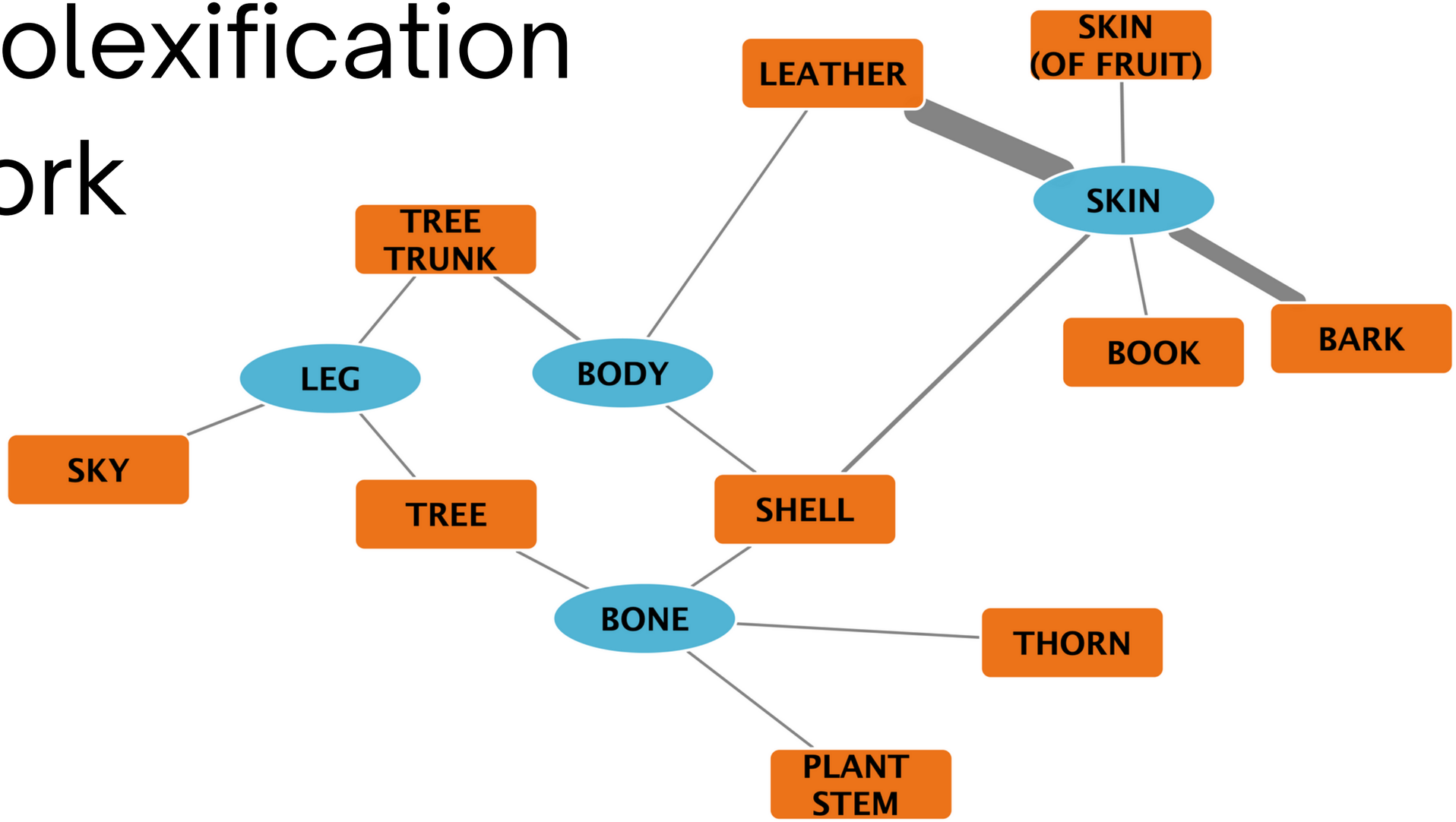
partial colexification SKIN in BARK

full/dislexification

not available

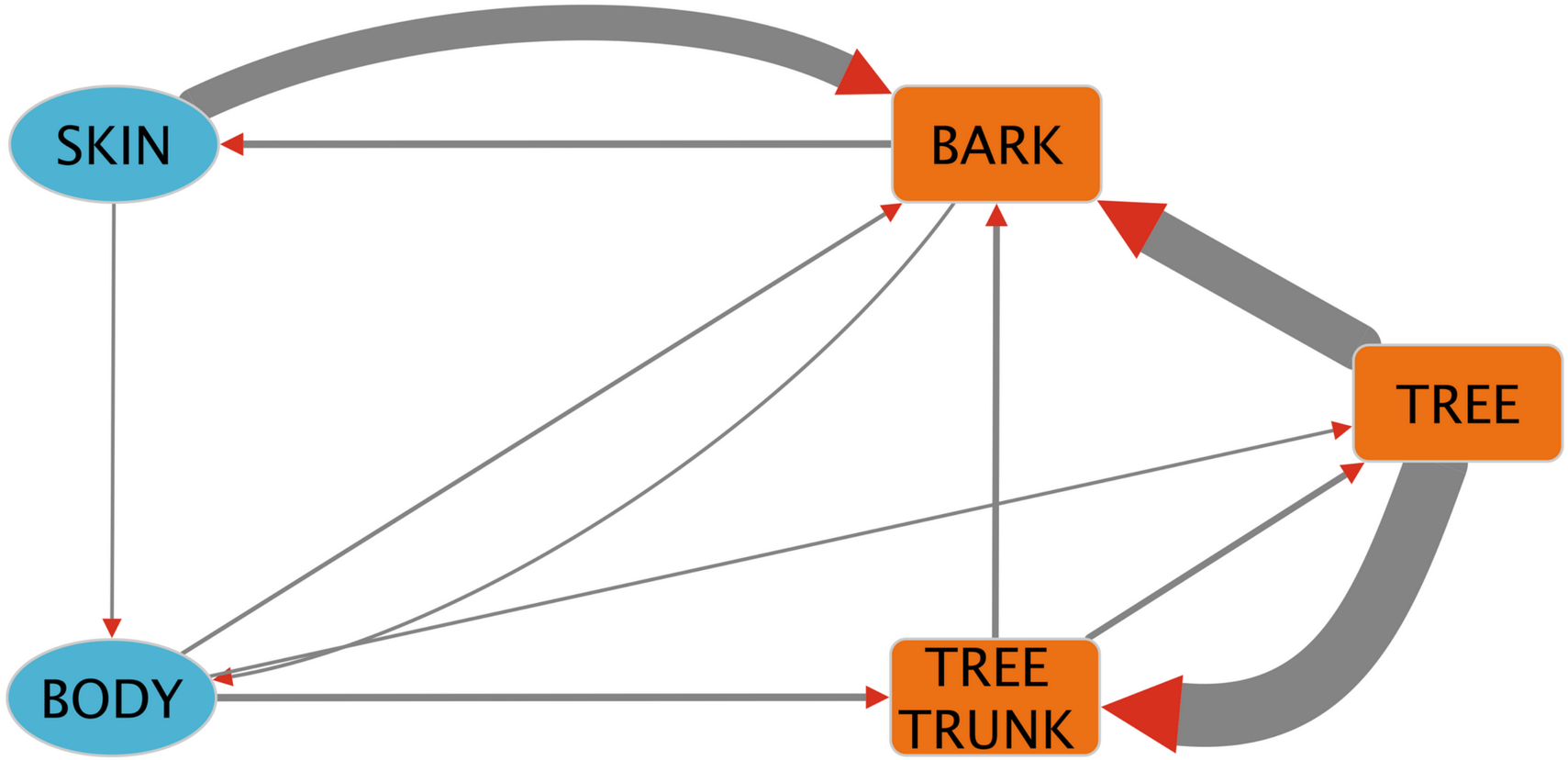
(List et al. 2022, Lexibank)

Full colexification network



(Tjuka 2023, under review)

Partial colexification network



(List 2023, Partial Colexifications)

Summary

Summary

- Most body-object colexifications are language-specific and only a few occur in widespread patterns.
- Networks with full body-object colexifications are sparse and do not show all possible relations between body and object concept.
- The creation of directed networks is facilitated by the newly developed method in List (2023).

References

List, Johann-Mattis. 2023. Inference of partial colexifications from multilingual wordlists. Frontiers in Psychology 14. 1–10. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1156540.

List, Johann-Mattis, Robert Forkel, Simon J. Greenhill, Christoph Rzymski, Johannes Englisch & Russell D. Gray. 2022. Lexibank, a public repository of standardized wordlists with computed phonological and lexical features. Scientific Data 9(1). 316. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-022-01432-0.

Tjuka, Annika. 2023. Objects as human bodies: Cross-linguistic colexifications between terms for body parts and objects. (in revision).