

A Compact Cartography of City Names in Italian

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The goal of this paper is to offer a compact cartographic analysis of Urban Place Names or *urbanonyms* in Italian (David 2011). We present the data from a recent study in which we extracted urbanonyms from OpenStreetMap (<https://openstreetmap.com>), and built a minimal corpus of Italian urbanonyms (Samo & Ursini 2022). Building on this dataset, we analyse the morpho-syntactic distribution of names for cities (e.g. *Milano*, *Napoli*, *Roma*) and their constituting parts (e.g. *Via Nazionale*, *Parco Sempione*, *Piazza Navona*). We identify several possible structures for urbanonyms. Those include “bare” urbanonyms (cf. (1a)); Names preceded by classifiers for locations (or “generic terms” in toponomastics Blair & Tent 2015, 2021; cf. (2a)); Names including partitive-like structures (cf. (3a)) and preposition-headed structures (Poletto 2015.; cf. (4a)); Names including multiple coordinated classifiers (cf. (5a)). We thus show that Italian urbanonyms may involve structures of increasing complexity:

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|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) a. <i>Milano</i> | b. [CIP \emptyset_n [KaseP \emptyset [DP \emptyset [RootP Milano]]]] |
| (2) a. <i>Via Nazionale</i> | b. [CIP <i>via</i> _n [KaseP \emptyset [DP \emptyset [RootP Milano]]]] |
| (3) a. <i>Via degli Scardassieri</i> | b. [CIP \emptyset_n [KaseP <i>de</i> [DP- <i>gli</i> [RootP Scardassieri]]]] |
| (4) a. <i>Vico sul Mare</i> | b. [CIP <i>vico</i> _n [KaseP <i>su</i> [DP- <i>l</i> [RootP Mare]]]] |
| (5) a. <i>Via e arco di S. Stefano</i> | b. [CIP[CIP <i>via</i>] [coord <i>e</i> [CIP <i>arco</i>]] KaseP <i>di</i> [DP \emptyset [CIP _S . [RootP Stefano]]]] |

Building on these taxonomical findings, we suggest that urbanonyms realise a nominal structure. A potentially bare root is the core complement of a nominal extended projection including D, Kase and Cl(assifier) projections. For city names, all functional projections may be unrealised (cf. *Milano* in (1b)). Generic terms project Cl heads, but other heads may remain unrealised (cf. *Via Nazionale* in (2b)), or correspond to definite determiners for D and prepositions for Kase, possibly undergoing conflation (cf. *de-gli*, *su-l* in (3b)–(4b)). Coordinated generic terms involve conjunctions as syncategorematic categories, i.e. heads projecting the category of their arguments (cf. *e* projecting Cl in (5b)). We thus suggest that this minimal set of functional nominal projections can offer an accurate *syntactic* cartography of Italian urbanonyms, consistent with latest findings on Italian DPs (e.g. Poletto 2015; Pinzin & Poletto 2022). We conclude by discussing general consequences for a theory of proper Names within Cartography, focusing on Cinque (2022)’s analysis of Romance DPs.

Keywords: Place Names; Urbanonyms; Cartography; Italian; Romance DP;

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