

**From the Indus to the Araxes:
Place Names and Geography in Seneca's Medea**

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| <p>1. (Vergil, Georgics 3.26-27)¹ in foribus pugnam ex auro solidoque elephanto Gangaridum faciam victorisque arma Quirini</p> <p>(Vergil, Aeneid 8.705-6) ...omnis eo terrore Aegyptus et Indi, omnis Arabs, omnes vertebant terga Sabaei.</p> | <p>1. (Vergil, Georgics 2.26-27)² On the doors I will depict out of gold and solid ivory the battle of the Ganges and the arms of victorious Quirinus</p> <p>(Vergil, Aeneid 8.705-6) from that terror all of Egypt and the Indians, all the Arabs and all the Sabines turn their backs</p> |
| <p>2. (Servius)³ Araxes hic fluvius Armeniae, quem pontibus nisus est Xerxes conscendere. cui Alexander Magnus pontem fecit, quem fluminis incrementa ruperunt. postea Augustus firmiore ponte eum ligavit, unde ad Augusti gloriam dixit, "pontem indignatus Araxes".</p> <p>(Vergil, Aeneid 8.728) ...pontem indignatus Araxes.</p> | <p>2. (Servius) Here the Araxes is a river of Armenia, which Xerxes tried to scale with bridges. Alexander the Great made a bridge for it, which the river's floods broke. Later Augustus bound it with a stronger bridge, from which [Vergil] said regarding the glory of Augustus, "the Araxes, resenting the bridge".</p> <p>(Vergil, Aeneid 8.728) the Araxes, resenting the bridge</p> |
| <p>3. (Ovid, Tristia 4.2.37-47)⁴ hic lacus, hi montes, haec tot castella, tot amnes plena ferae caedis, plena cruoris erant. Drusus in his meruit quondam cognomina terries, quae bene progenies, Digna parente, tulit. cornibus hic fractis viridi male tectus ab ulva decolor ipse suo sanguine Rhenus erat. crinibus en etiam fertur Germania passis, et ducis invicti sub pede maesta sedet</p> | <p>3. (Ovid, Tristia 4.2.37-47)⁵ "This lake, these mountains, these many forts, all the rivers were filled with wild slaughter, filled with gore. Drusus once earned in this land a surname, which his son, one worthy of his father, justly adopted. This thing with broken horns and sorry covering of green sedge was the Rhine himself, discoloured with his own blood. See! even Germany is borne along with streaming locks, seated in grief at the feet of the unconquered leader."</p> |
| <p>4. (Seneca, Medea 374) <u>Second Choral Ode:</u> Albin Persae Rhenumque bibunt</p> | <p>4. (Seneca, Medea 374) <u>Second Choral Ode:</u> Persians drink the Elbe and the Rhine</p> |
| <p>5. (Seneca, Medea 35-36) <u>Medea (Prologue/Act 1):</u> gemino Corinthos litori opponens moras cremata flammis maria committat duo</p> | <p>5. (Seneca, Medea 35-36) <u>Medea (Prologue/Act 1):</u> Let Corinth, putting obstacles down on the twin shore, bring together the two seas, burned by flames</p> |

¹ Vergil quotes in Latin are from Hirtzel.

² All English translations are my own, unless otherwise noted

³ Latin text from Thilo and Hagen.

⁴ Latin from Wheeler.

⁵ Trans. Wheeler.

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Complete Chart of Geographical References in Seneca's Medea, organised by relative location

| Line | Latin | English | Location | Larger area | Scene | Speaker |
|------|---------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------|---------|
| 454 | Pontici | Black Sea | Eastern | Black Sea | A2 | Medea |
| 456 | Symplegades | Symplegades | Eastern | Black Sea | A2 | Medea |
| 43 | Caucasum | Caucases | Eastern | Caucases | P | Medea |
| 709 | Caucasus | Caucases | Eastern | Caucases | A3 | Nutrix |
| 44 | Phasis | Phasis | Eastern | Colchis | P | Medea |
| 102 | Phasidis | Phasis | Eastern | Colchis | C2 | Chorus |
| 164 | Colchi | Colchis | Eastern | Colchis | A1 | Nutrix |
| 179 | Colchi | Colchis | Eastern | Colchis | A1 | Creon |
| 197 | Colchis | Colchis | Eastern | Colchis | A1 | Creon |
| 211 | Phasis | Phasis | Eastern | Colchis | A1 | Medea |
| 225 | Colchico | Colchis | Eastern | Colchis | A1 | Medea |
| 451 | Phasin | Phasis | Eastern | Colchis | A2 | Medea |
| 527 | Colchos | Colchis | Eastern | Colchis | A2 | Medea |
| 703 | Colchis | Colchis | Eastern | Colchis | A3 | Nutrix |
| 762 | Phasis | Phasis | Eastern | Colchis | C4 | Chorus |
| 871 | Colchis | Colchis | Eastern | Colchis | C5 | Chorus |
| 983 | Colchi | Colchis | Eastern | Colchis | A5 | Medea |
| 373 | Indus | India | Eastern | India | C2 | Chorus |
| 384 | Nysae | Nysa | Eastern | India | A2 | Nutrix |
| 484 | Indiae | India | Eastern | India | A2 | Medea |
| 725 | Hydaspes | Hydaspes | Eastern | India | A3 | Nutrix |
| 865 | Gangeticum | Ganges | Eastern | India | C5 | Chorus |
| 215 | Thermodontiis | Thermodon | Eastern | Middle east | A1 | Medea |
| 373 | Araxen | Araxes | Eastern | Middle east | C2 | Chorus |
| 374 | Persae | Persia | Eastern | Middle east | C2 | Chorus |
| 697 | Sidoniis | Sidon | Eastern | Middle east | A3 | Nutrix |
| 710 | Medus | Medus | Eastern | Middle east | A3 | Nutrix |
| 710 | Parthi | Parthia | Eastern | Middle east | A3 | Nutrix |
| 711 | Arabes | Arabia | Eastern | Middle east | A3 | Nutrix |
| 712 | Hyrctaniis | Hyrctania | Eastern | Middle east | A3 | Nutrix |
| 723 | Tigris | Tigris | Eastern | Middle east | A3 | Nutrix |
| 212 | Scythicus | Scythia | Eastern | Scythia | A1 | Medea |
| 483 | Scythae | Scythia | Eastern | Scythia | A2 | Medea |
| 528 | Scythas | Scythia | Eastern | Scythia | A2 | Medea |
| 35 | Corinthos | Corinth | Greek | Corinth | P | Medea |
| 45 | Isthmos | Isthmus | Greek | Corinth | P | Medea |
| 299 | Isthmo | Isthmus | Greek | Corinth | A1 | Creon |
| 745 | Pirenidas | Peirene | Greek | Corinth | A3 | Medea |
| 783 | Stymphalidos | Stymphalia | Greek | Corinth | A4 | Medea |
| 796 | Corinthei | Corinth | Greek | Corinth | A4 | Medea |

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|-----|------------|----------|---------|-----------------|----|--------|
| 127 | Pelasgae | Pelasgus | Greek | Greece | C2 | Chorus |
| 178 | Pelasgo | Pelasgus | Greek | Greece | A1 | Medea |
| 226 | Graeciae | Greece | Greek | Greece | A1 | Medea |
| 227 | Achivae | Greece | Greek | Greece | A1 | Medea |
| 240 | Pelasgae | Pelasgus | Greek | Greece | A1 | Medea |
| 528 | Pelasgis | Pelasgus | Greek | Greece | A2 | Medea |
| 697 | Pelasgis | Pelasgus | Greek | Greece | A3 | Nutrix |
| 870 | Pelasgis | Pelasgus | Greek | Greece | C5 | Chorus |
| 357 | Pieria | Macedon | Greek | Macedonia | C2 | Chorus |
| 720 | Athos | Athos | Greek | Macedonia | A3 | Nutrix |
| 76 | Cecropias | Athens | Greek | Mainland Greece | C2 | Chorus |
| 80 | Aonius | Boeotia | Greek | Mainland Greece | C2 | Chorus |
| 315 | Attica | Athens | Greek | Mainland Greece | C2 | Chorus |
| 622 | Aulis | Aulis | Greek | Mainland Greece | C3 | Chorus |
| 726 | Baetis | Boeotia | Greek | Mainland Greece | A3 | Nutrix |
| 77 | Taygeti | Taygetus | Greek | Peloponnese | C2 | Chorus |
| 81 | Alpheosque | Alpheus | Greek | Peloponnese | C2 | Chorus |
| 149 | Malea | Malea | Greek | Peloponnese | A1 | Medea |
| 313 | Oleniae | Olenos | Greek | Peloponnese | C2 | Chorus |
| 639 | Oeta | Oeta | Greek | Peloponnese | C3 | Chorus |
| 777 | Oetaeus | Oeta | Greek | Peloponnese | C4 | Chorus |
| 784 | Lernaea | Lerna | Greek | Peloponnese | A4 | Medea |
| 257 | Thessalica | Thessaly | Greek | Thessaly | A1 | Creon |
| 336 | Thessala | Thessaly | Greek | Thessaly | C2 | Chorus |
| 384 | Pindi | Pindus | Greek | Thessaly | A2 | Nutrix |
| 415 | Thessalici | Thessaly | Greek | Thessaly | A2 | Medea |
| 457 | Iolcon | Iolcos | Greek | Thessaly | A2 | Medea |
| 457 | Tempe | Tempe | Greek | Thessaly | A2 | Medea |
| 457 | Thessala | Thessaly | Greek | Thessaly | A2 | Medea |
| 662 | Pheraei | Pherae | Greek | Thessaly | C3 | Chorus |
| 720 | Haemonius | Hymonia | Greek | Thessaly | A3 | Nutrix |
| 721 | Pindus | Pindus | Greek | Thessaly | A3 | Nutrix |
| 791 | Thessalici | Thessaly | Greek | Thessaly | A4 | Medea |
| 358 | Thracius | Thrace | Greek | Thrace | C2 | Chorus |
| 630 | Thracios | Thrace | Greek | Thrace | C3 | Chorus |
| 631 | Hebro | Hebrus | Greek | Thrace | C3 | Chorus |
| 721 | Pangaeus | Pangaeus | Greek | Thrace | A3 | Nutrix |
| 374 | Albin | Elbe | Western | Germany | C2 | Chorus |
| 374 | Rhenumque | Rhine | Western | Germany | C2 | Chorus |
| 587 | Rhodanus | Rhine | Western | Germany | C3 | Chorus |
| 712 | Suebae | Suebia | Western | Germany | A3 | Nutrix |
| 724 | Danuvius | Danube | Western | Germany | A3 | Nutrix |
| 350 | Pelori | Sicily | Western | Sicily | C2 | Chorus |
| 350 | Siculi | Sicily | Western | Sicily | C2 | Chorus |

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|-----|------------|----------------|---------|--------|----|--------|
| 355 | Ausonium | Tyrrhenian Sea | Western | Sicily | C2 | Chorus |
| 408 | Ausonium | Tyrrhenian Sea | Western | Sicily | A2 | Medea |
| 409 | Siculumque | Sicily | Western | Sicily | A2 | Medea |
| 410 | Aetna | Etna | Western | Sicily | A2 | Medea |
| 707 | Eryx | Eryx | Western | Sicily | A3 | Nutrix |
| 379 | Thule | Thule | Western | Thule | C2 | Chorus |