# REMNANTS OF BALKAN LATIN BETWEEN THE DINARIC ALPS AND THE DANUBE KLISURA ‘GORGE, RAVINE’?

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# Data

Bulg. клису̀ра

Геров II 371, РБЕ VII 504

Mac. клису́ра

ТРМЈ II 532

SCr. klìsura

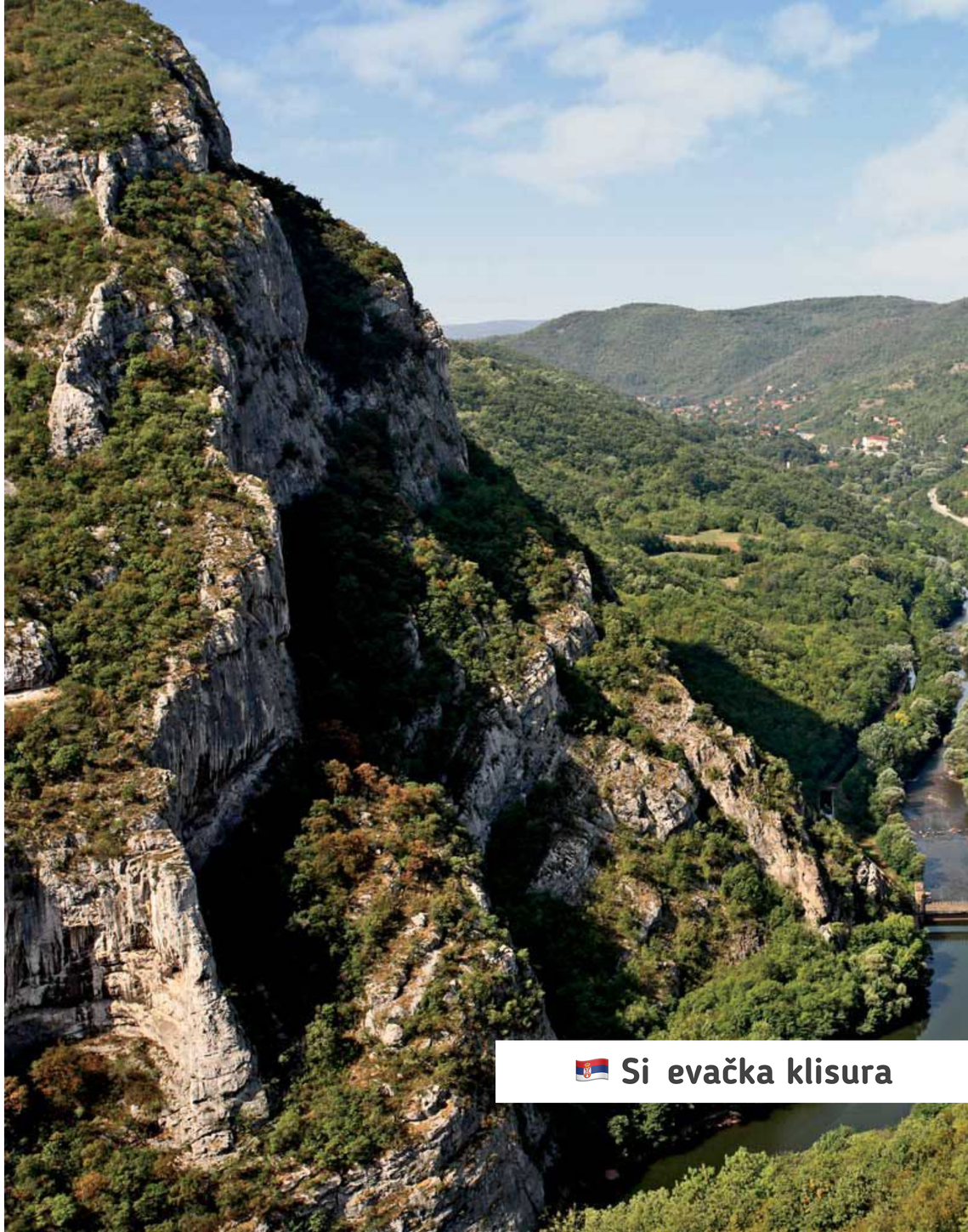
Вук[1] 312, PJA V 81

Alb. këshyrë

EWA 192

G κλεισοῦρα

ΜΛΟΤΕΓ 3932



🇷🇸 Si evačka klisura

# Meaning

All forms ‘gorge, ravine’.

A ‘gorge’ or a ‘ravine’ is:

① Deep, narrow passage
② Steep, rocky sides
③ A stream running through it



# Slavic Derivatives (Shared)

## Diminutive

Bulg. клису̀рица, SCr. klìsurica

## Adjective

Mac. клису́рски, SCr. klìsurskī



# Slavic Derivatives (Specific)

## Augmentative

SCr. klisùrin, klisùrčina, klisurètina

## Diminutive

Bulg. клису̀рка

## Ethnic

Bulg. клисурча̀нка, клису̀рченин, клису̀рянка

## Collective

SCr. klìsūrje

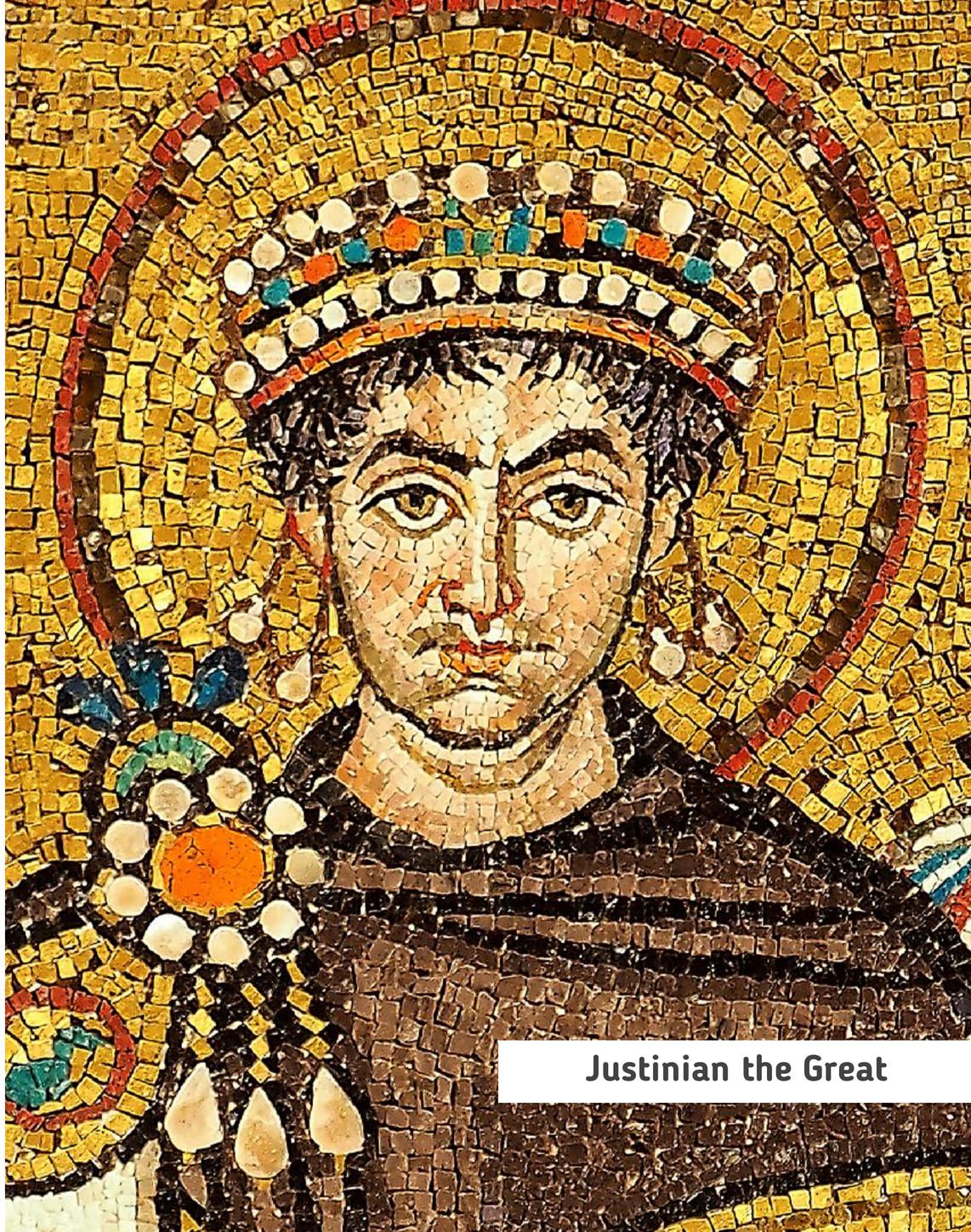


# First Attestation

Procopius, De bello Persico 2.29:

σκόπελοι γὰρ ὑπερφυεῖς ἐφ’ ἑκάτερα τῆς χώρας ὄντες στενωποὺς ἐπὶ μακρότατον ἐνταῦθα ποιοῦνται· **κλεισούρας** ἑλληνίζοντες τὰς τοιαύτας ὁδοὺς Ῥωμαῖοι καλοῦσιν.

"For there are towering cliffs on both sides of the land, creating narrow passes for a very long distance; the Romans, using Greek terminology, call such routes **kleisourai**."



Justinian the Great

# Etymology

G κλεισοῦρα < L CL(A)USŪRA

✳ Meyer 1895: 31

→ Bulg. БЕР II 458 (1979)
→ SCr. RJA V 81, ERHSJ II 100, ERHJ I (I 450)
→ Alb. Orel 1998: 185
→ G Ανδριώτης 1951: 161
→ Rom. Bartoli 1906: I 236, REW 1974



Gustav Meyer

# Problem 1

L CL(A)USŪRA ‘closure’, not ‘gorge, ravine’.

Romance reflexes also not ‘gorge, ravine’.

‘closure’: It. chiusura

‘fence’: Fr. clôture

‘enclosure’: RRom. klauzira

‘parcel’: Pugl. kisura



Gustav Meyer

# Problem 2

Lat. clausūra / clusūra ≠ Gk. κλεισοῦρα

Meyer's fix:

L clausūra / clusūra > G *κλαυσῦρα / *κλουσῦρα

G *κλαυσῦρα / *κλουσῦρα > κλεισοῦρα, after κλείω



Gustav Meyer

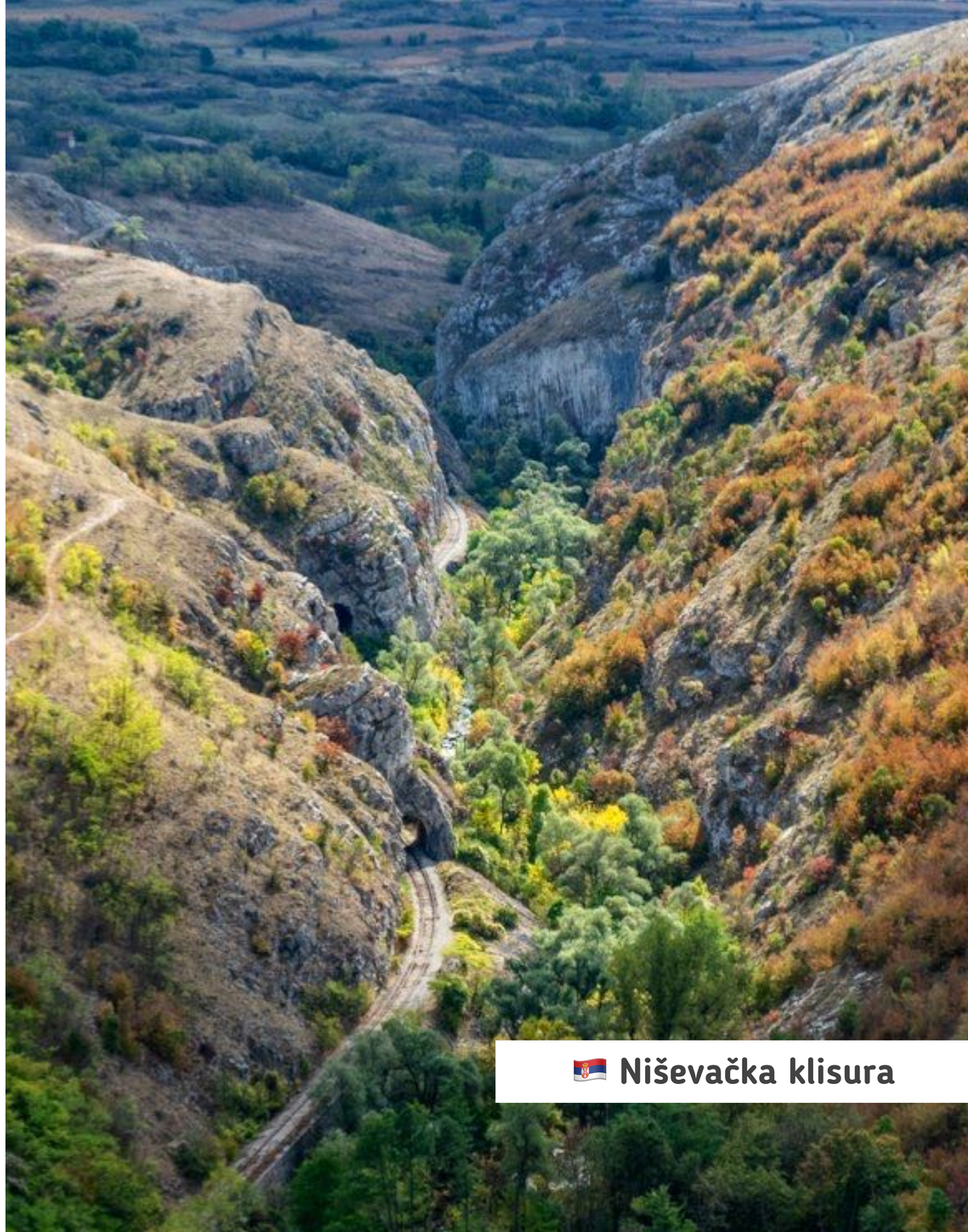
# How big are the problems?

Problem 1 — not a big problem

‘closure’ > ‘gorge’, a metaphor confined to Balkan Latin?

Problem 2 — quite a big problem

Gk. *κλαυσῦρα / *κλαυσῦρα > κλεισοῦρα is ad hoc



🇷🇸 Niševačka klisura

# Another way

All forms end in -ura

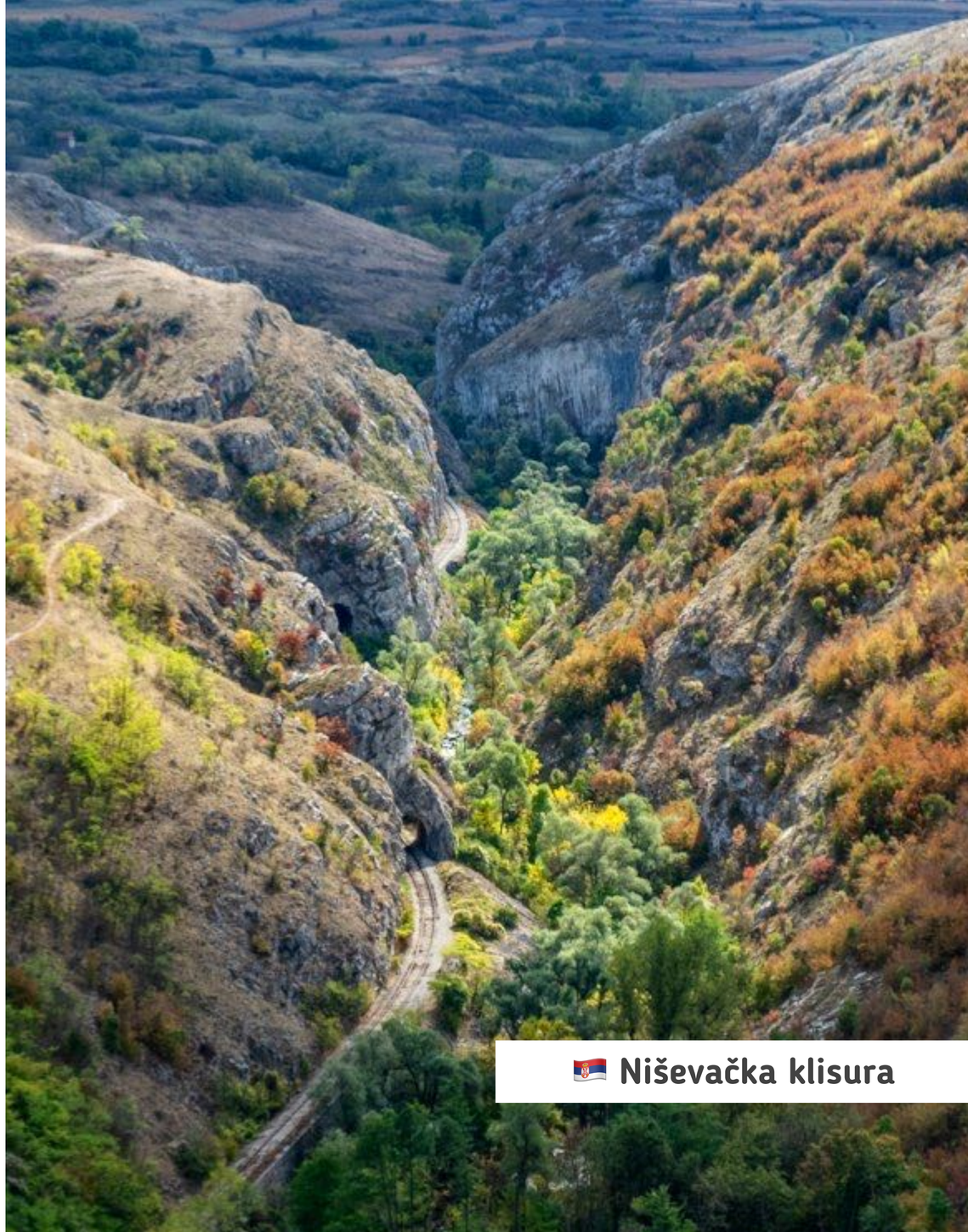
Bulg. клис-ъ̀ра

Mac. клис-ѝра

SCr. клис-ȕра

G κλεισ-οῦρα

Alb. kësh-yrë, cf. Alb. nat-yrë ‘nature’ < Lat. nat-ūra



🇷🇸 Niševačka klisura

# Another way

Romanian has plural suffix -uri

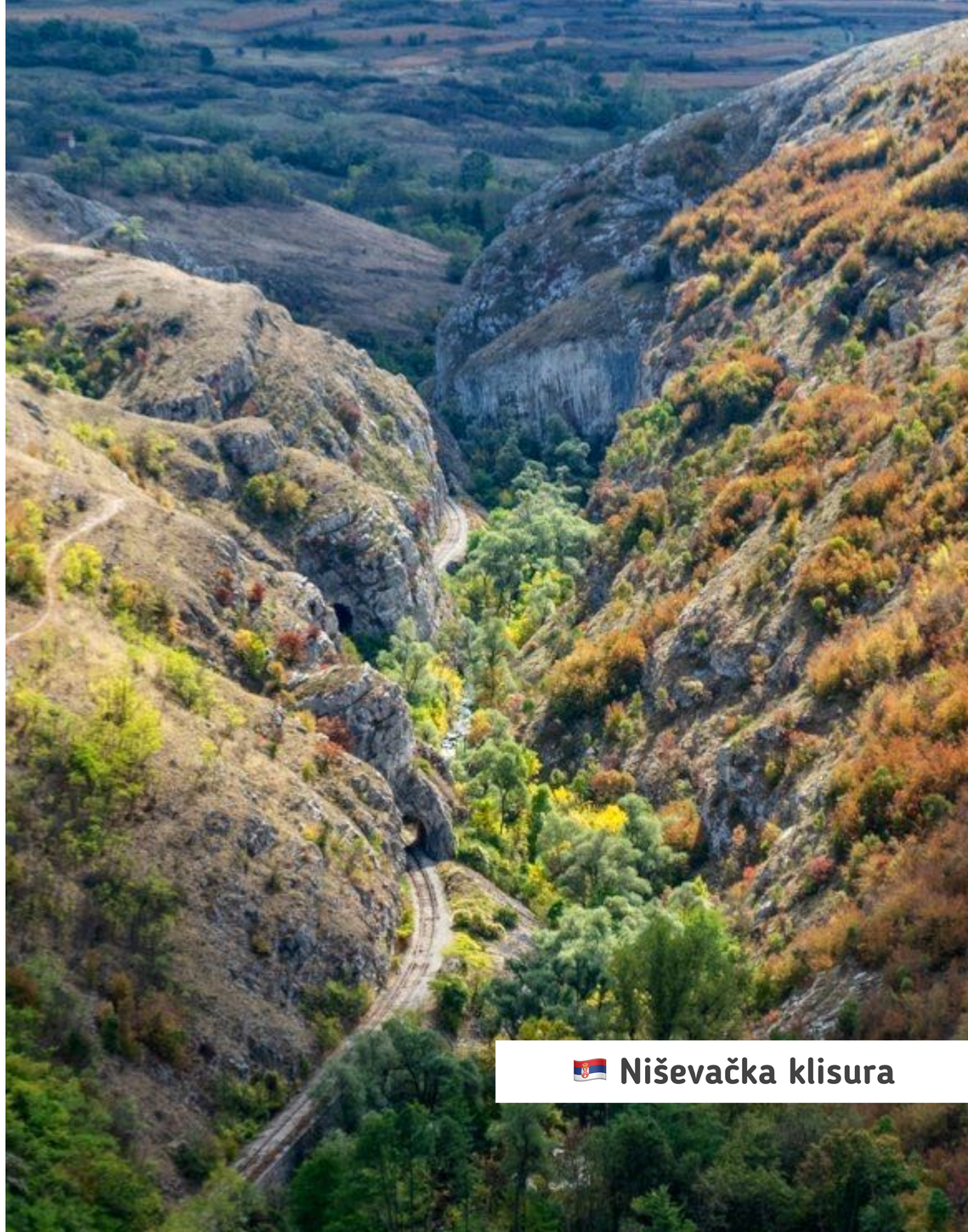
-uri is a Common Romanian suffix:

DRomn. nas, pl. nas-uri

ARomn. nas, pl. nas-urĭ

MRomn. nas, pl. nas-urĭ

IRomn. nås, pl. nås-ure



# Another way

This would leave klis- as the root

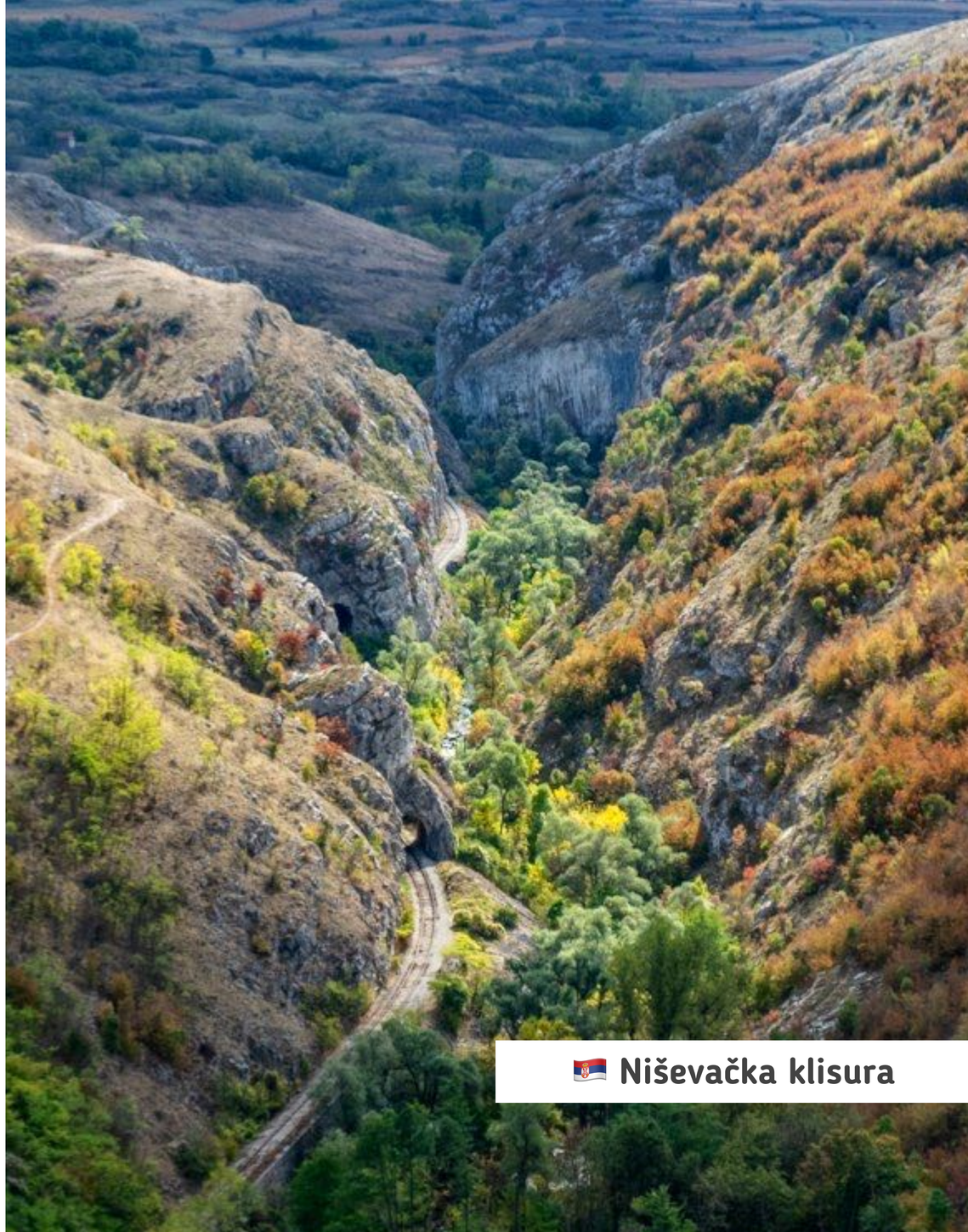
Bulg. клис-ỳра

Mac. клис-у́ра

SCr. клис-ỳра

Gk. κλεισ-οῦρα

Alb. kësh-yrë, cf. Alb. kishë “church” < Lat. ecclēsia



🇷🇸 Niševačka klisura

# Another way

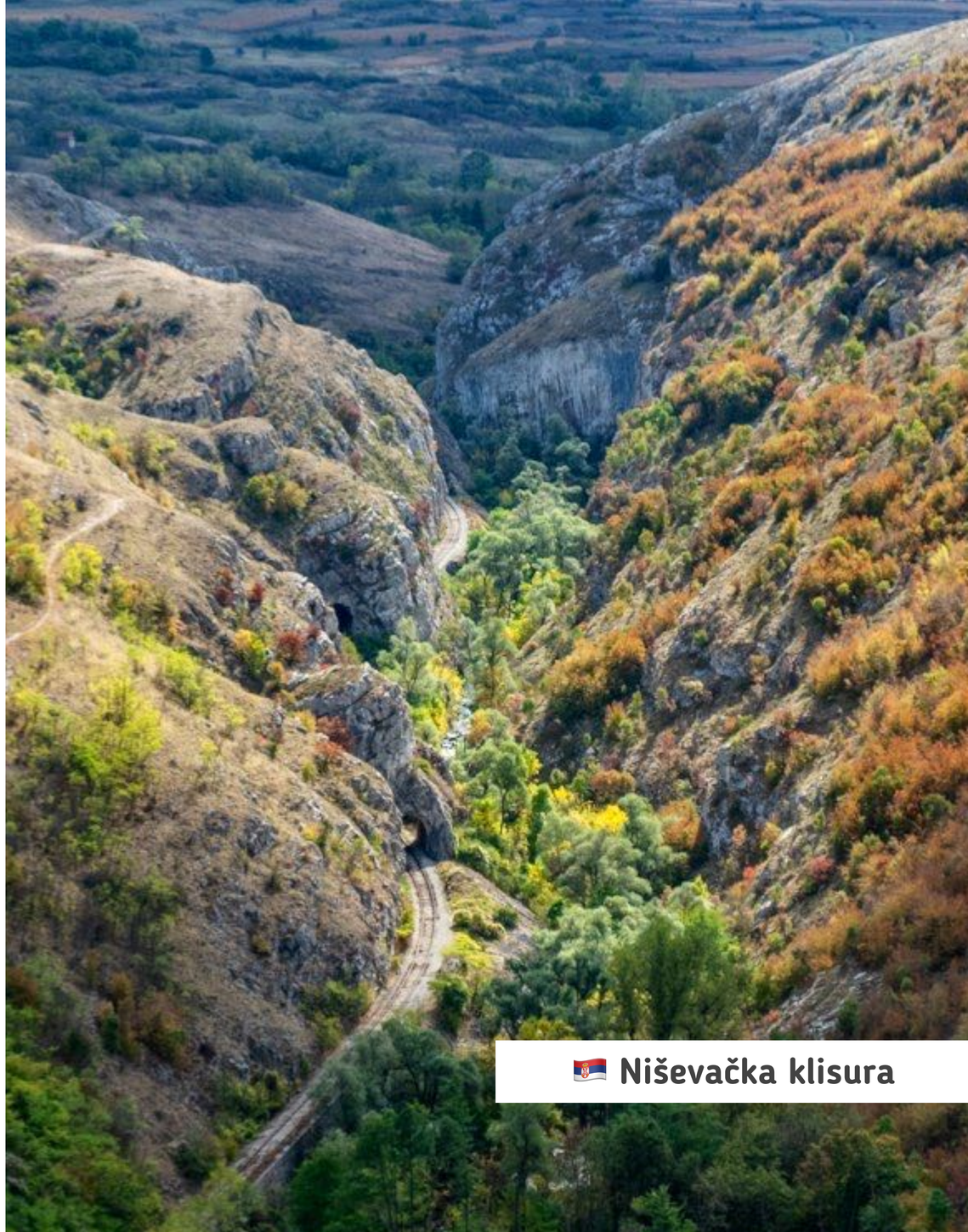
In Common Romanian, *cl’is is “closed”

DRomn. -chis “closed”

ARomn. -cl’is “closed”

MRomn. -cl’is “closed”

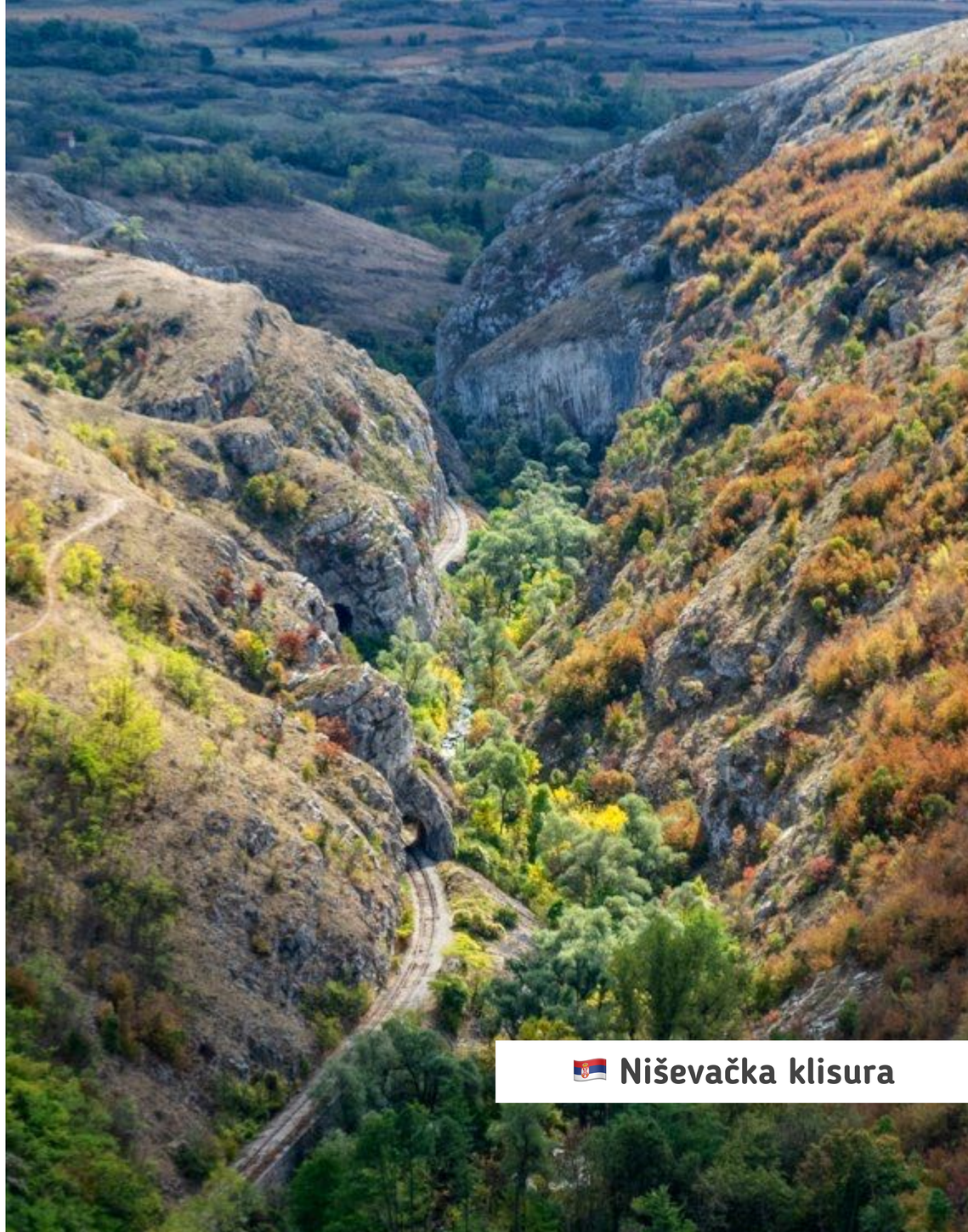
IRomn. –



# Another way

CRomn. *cl’is < L CL(A)USUS “closed”

Plural *cl’is-uri probably meant “closed (sc. places)”



# Advantages

Explains klis- without ad hoc solutions

L CLU > CRomn. *cl'i-

DRomn. -chis "closed"

ARomn. -cl'is "closed" From L CLUSUS

MRomn. -cl'is "closed"

IRomn. –

L GLU > CRomn. *gl'i-

DRomn. -ghite

ARomn. -gl'it. From L GLUTIT

MRomn. –

IRomn. –



# Conclusion

Vulgar Latin

ppp clausus “closed”

↓

Common Romanian

ppp *cl’is “closed”
↓
sb. *cl’is “closed place, gorge”
↓
pl. *cl’is-uri “closed places, gorges”

←

Albanian

Alb. këshyrë “gorge”

↓

Middle Greek

Gk. κλεισοῦρα “gorge”

↓

South Slavic

Mac. клису́ра “gorge”
Bulg. клису́ра “gorge”
SCr. klìsura “gorge”

# THE END

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