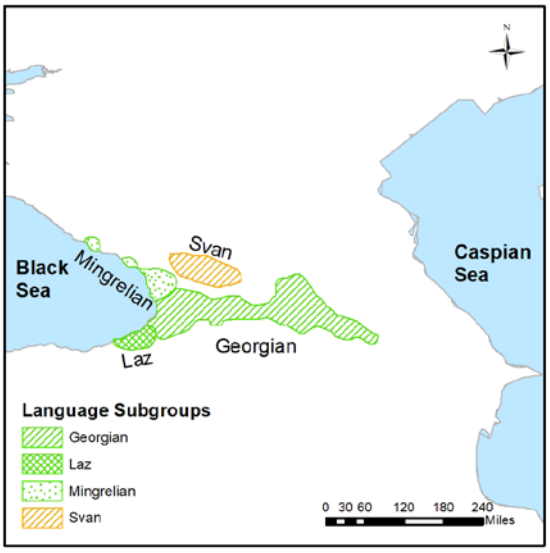
11.Kartvelian

Homeland. The Homeland of this phylum is the South Caucasus, settled roughly 45,000 years ago as *Homo sapiens* entered the temperate zone. One possibility is that these languages descended from Elamo-Dravidian languages.

Because the Kartvelian phylum is constrained to only four languages in a small area, there is insufficient evidence to hypothesize long-term migrations. The map is therefore limited to the contemporary distribution of Kartvelian languages.



Concise Spreadsheet: top four levels

Kartvelian			
	Svan		
	Karto–Zan		
		Georgian	
		Zan	
			Mingrelian
			Laz

Full Spreadsheet: see "11.Kartvelian," listing Kartvelian languages by groups and subgroups.

Pleistocene Changes.

65,000–45,000 years ago.

45,000–21,000 years ago. Settlers from the south occupied the highlands of the western Caucasus. Kartvelian speakers appear to have been the second group to arrive, after speakers of North Caucasian languages.

21,000–12,000 years ago.

Holocene Changes.

12,000–6000 years ago. The separation of Svan and Karto–Zan may have taken place during the Terminal Pleistocene. It may be that the Kartvelian languages spread to a wider area in the era before the Glacial Maximum, but the later expansion of Eurasiatic languages took over most of the Eurasian landscape.

6000 years ago–1000 CE. Separation of Georgian from Zan took place in the mid- to late-Holocene epoch.