

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910974147503321
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Titolo	The "broken" plural problem in Arabic and comparative Semitic : allomorphy and analogy in non-concatenative morphology / / Robert R. Ratcliffe
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam ; ; Philadelphia : , : J. Benjamins, , 1998
ISBN	1-283-31226-3 9786613312266 90-272-7564-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 261 pages)
Collana	Amsterdam studies in the theory and history of linguistic science. Series IV, Current issues in linguistic theory, , 0304-0763 ; ; v. 168
Disciplina	492.7/5
Soggetti	Arabic language - Morphology Arabic language - Morphophonemics Arabic language - Number Arabic language - Noun Semitic languages - Morphology Semitic languages - Morphophonemics Semitic languages - Number Semitic languages - Noun
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Revision of the first volume of the author's dissertation (doctoral--Yale University).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	THE ""BROKEN"" PLURAL PROBLEM IN ARABIC AND COMPARATIVE SEMITIC ALLOMORPHY AND ANALOGY IN NON-CONCATENATIVE MORPHOLOGY; Editorial page; Title page; Copyright page; Table of contents; FOREWORD; NOTE ON TRANSCRIPTION/TRANSLITERATION; CHAPTER I. METHODOLOGICAL PRELIMINARIES; 1. General aims of diachronic linguistics; 2. Diachronic investigation in morphology; 3. Notes on reconstructive method I: Establishing the data; 3.1 Distributional analysis and internal reconstruction; 3.2 Establishing correspondences among languages; 4. Notes on reconstructive method II: Evaluating hypotheses 4.1 Evaluating allomorphic variation; CHAPTER II. MORPHOLOGICAL

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Sommario/riassunto

The formal aspects of non-concatenative morphology have received considerable attention in recent years, but the diachronic dimensions of such systems have been little explored. The current work applies a modern methodological and theoretical framework to a classic problem in Arabic and Semitic historical linguistics: the highly allomorphic system of 'stem-internal' or 'broken' plurals. It shows that widely-accepted views regarding the historical development of this system are untenable and offers a new hypothesis. The first chapter lays out a methodology for comparative-historical research.
