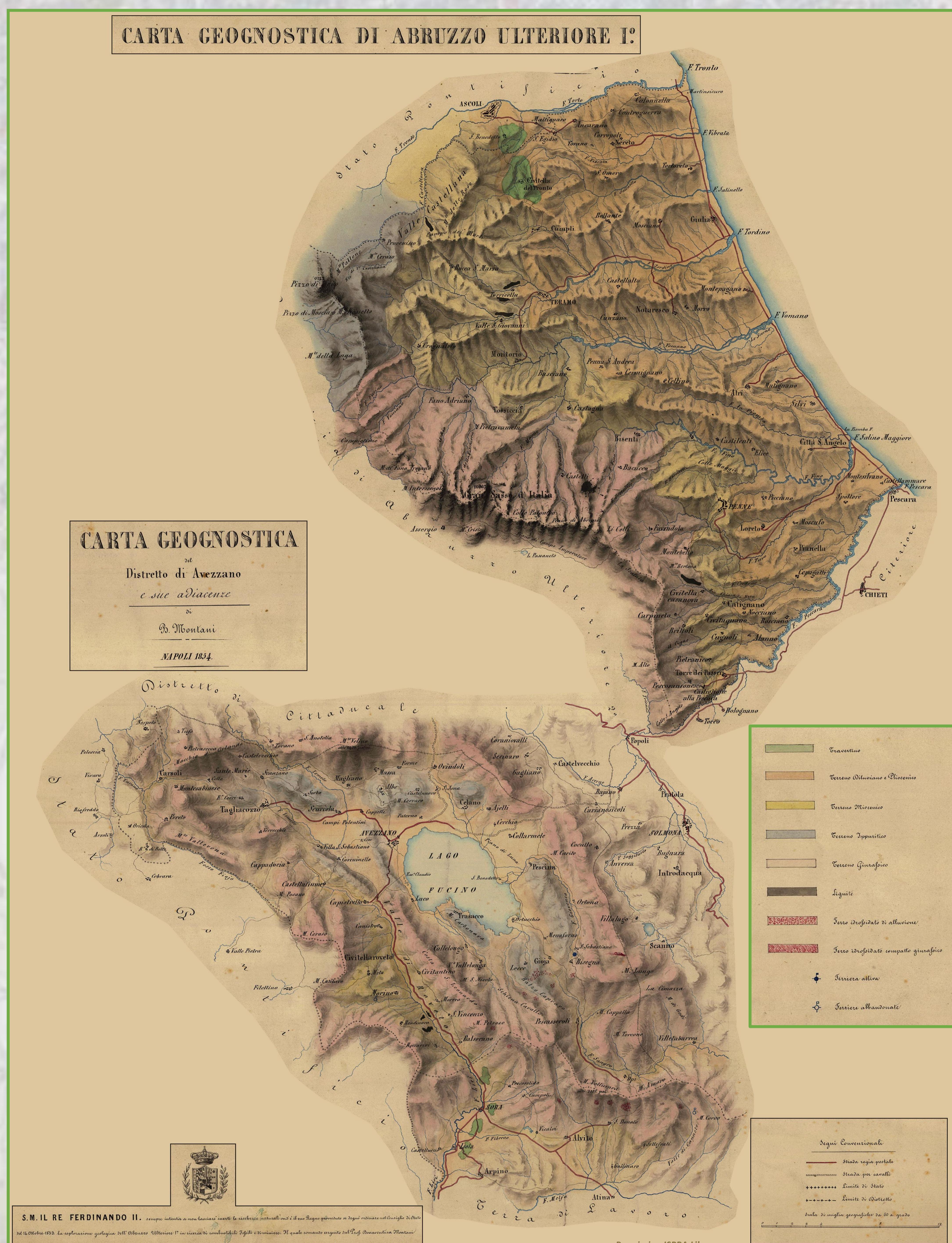


PANEL 4A

## Central Apennines: the Fucino and L'Aquila areas Early days of cartography



The Montani's map, dated 1854, shows the presence of the Fucino lake.

As a matter of fact, the artificial draining of the lake was started in 1855 and completed in 1878.

The picture captured from the space (NASA – ISS Crew) shows the present condition of the Fucino plain.



Geological knowledge of wide regions was considered a strategic activity in the mid 1800's to discover the availability of natural resources.

Geological maps and cross sections were commissioned by King Ferdinando II to Prof. B. Montani to improve the knowledge of natural resources in the kingdom, as clearly stated in the map:

*"S. M. IL RE FERDINANDO II sempre intenta a non lasciare inerti le ricchezze naturali ond'è il suo Regno provveduto si degnò di ordinare nel Consiglio di Stato del 14 Ottobre 1853 la esplorazione geologica dell'Abruzzo Ulteriore I° in ricerca di combustibili fossili e di miniere."*

*Il quale comando eseguito dal Prof. Bonaventura Montani ha dato luogo alla presente Carta Geognostica con gli analoghi spaccati di quel territorio da poter servire di elemento per la Carta Geologica del Regno e di base ai lavori statistici per lo stato fisico."*

### Main points:

- 1) The rocks were mapped mainly according to chronological criteria, coupled with biolithological details.
- 2) Specific colors were used for "resources" (e.g. lignite, iron, mines).
- 3) No tectonic contacts were recognized.

