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ETYMOLOGIZING ‘UNETYMOLOGIZABLE’ GREEK DENDRONYMS

This article offers for discussion new etymologies of four Greek tree-names usually classified as substratal or foreign. The aim of these new solutions is to determine donor-languages as old cultural languages from the Eastern Mediterranean, namely Semitic and Hurrian, but also North Caucasian.

Keywords: Dendronym, Cultural Term, Semitic, Hurrian, North Caucasian

In the Greek lexicon there are many words which are without convincing etymologies and among tree-names this is more than typical. In the most recent *opus magnum* devoted to Greek etymology, *Etymological Dictionary of Greek* by Robert Beekes (2010), they are usually ascribed to an unspecified pre-Greek non-Indo-European substratum or their foreign origin is proposed, but without any attempt to determine a donor-language. In this contribution four tree-names are analysed, and their probable sources are identified and discussed.

1. ἀμυγδάλεα [Eup.], Cyrene ἀμυγδέλα, -νλα “almond-tree / *Prunus Amygdalus*” // ἀμιχθαλόεσσα [Il. xxiv 753] ± “rich in almonds”, but μιχθαλόεσσαν in scholias by Antimachus (*DELG* 76, 79: Terme étranger sans étymologie; FURNÉE (1972: 140, 320, 372); BEEKES (2010: 92): A typical substratal word; ROSÓŁ (2013: 160) rejects all Semitic etymologies including the present one -for this reason the additional arguments are offered).

Instead of an anonymous substratum it is possible to identify a Semitic source. In Semitic a designation of “almond(-tree)” is well-attested: **tqqd-* > Akkadian *šiqdu(m)*, *šuqdu*, *siqdu*, Neo-Assyrian *duqdu*; Ugaritic *tqd*;

Phoenician pl. *šqdm*, Hebrew שָׂקֵד *šāqēd* “almond”, cf. also *məšuqādīm* “shaped like almond blossom; Jewish Aramaic *šigdā*, Syriac *šəgedtā*, pl. *šegdē*, Mandaic *šigda*; Geez *səgd* “almond tree, nut tree”, FRONZAROLI (1968: 291), #5.41; HAL 1638; DUL 927–28; DNWS 1186; KRAHMALKOV (2000: 479); LESLAU (1987: 491); LÖW (1881: 374). For Phoenician and Hebrew (and their common ancestor) it is possible to reconstruct *nomen loci* **mišqadat* > Hebrew **mišqadā* “place planted with almond-trees”, cf. Hebrew *miqṣā*, pl. *miqṣā’ōt* “field of cucumbers”, Jewish Aramaic *məqaṣyā*, Arabic *maqṭa’at* “field of cucumbers” (HAL 629) vs. Punic **qš?* “cucumber”, reconstructed after the gloss of Dioscorides κισσοῦ μεζρα = Apuleius *cissu mezra*, KRAHMALKOV (2000: 435). Postbiblical Hebrew *qiššū’ā*, pl. *qiššū’im* “musk melon”, Samaritanian *qāšuwām*, Akkadian *qiššū(m)*, pl. *qiššātē* “cucumber, melon, gourd”, Arabic *quṭṭā* & *qittā*, Geez *qʷəsāy* & *qʷasyā* id. LESLAU (1987: 447); HAL 1151; KLEIN (1987: 597); CDA 289. But these forms do not explain -λ- in all Greek variants. It is not necessary to suppose the *ad hoc* change **d* > *l*, but it is easier to assume a contamination with the Canaanite Semitic **dáqal*¹ (following the pattern *CáCaC-*, reconstructed by DOLGOPOLSKY (1999: 98)), continuing in Postbiblical Hebrew דְּקַל déqel, pl. דְּקַלִּים *dəqālīm* “date-tree”, Official Aramaic pl. abs. *dqln* “palm tree, date palm”, Jewish Aramaic *dql* / *dyql?*, Syriac *deqlā*, Mandaic *diqlā* / *ziqlā* “date-palm”, plus the gloss σοῦκλαι · φοινικοβάλανοι [Hesychius]; Arabic *daqal* id. is probably of Aramaic origin (DRS 303; DNWS 258); KLEIN (1987: 130), or better with the parallel formation **midqalat* > **midqalā* “place planted with date-palms”. With regard to these premises it is possible to conclude:

The form ἀμυγδαλέα may reflect a direct adaptation of hypothetical Phoenician-Hebrew **midqalā* “place planted with date-palms” with a later semantic shift and expectable assimilation *-*dq-* > *-*dg-* and metathesis *-*dg-* > *-*gd-*.

¹ This word was proposed as a Semitic source for Greek δάκτυλος “date, i.e. fruit of the φοῖνιξ” [Aristotle, *Meteorologica* 342a10; Artemidorus, *Onirocriticon* 5.89] – see MUSS-ARNOLT (1892: 107f); LEWY (1895: 20); ROSÓL (2013: 35–36). On the basis of evidence of the syllabic scripts of the Aegean region there is a tempting possibility to shift the knowledge of this term to the 2nd mill. BC. In the Linear script B the sign # 01 𐁄 “da” corresponds to Cypriote 𠁃 or 𠁄 “ta” and further to the Linear A sign 𠁃 or 𠁄, see GODART (1979: 39); BARTONĚK (2003: 47, 68). Unfortunately the signs are too stylized to recognize their primary model. BEST & WOUDHUIZEN (1989: 105–06) connected this sign with a more realistic sign from the inscribed altar-stone from Mallia, depicting probably a **palm branch**. Accepting this identification, the sign “da” was formed via acrophonic principle on the basis of Semitic **daqal-* “palm-tree”, see BLAŽEK (1998–99: 24).

Cyrene ἀμυσγέλα,-νλα is explainable through contamination of **mišqa-dā* “place planted with almond-trees” and **midqalā* “place planted with date-palms”, leading to a hypothetical hybrid **mišgalā*.

Chronologically the oldest form is preserved in Homeric ἀμιχθαλόεσσα, where a donor-language of a Ugaritic type preserving the interdental realization of proto-Semitic **t*(θ) should be identified. The hypothetical starting point is reconstructible as (para-) Ugaritic **mitqalat* and its-adoption may indeed be dated to the 2nd mill. BC.

It remains to explain the initial ḥ-in all cited Greek forms with exception of μιχθαλόεσσαν. In the case of the words of hypothetical Phoenician-Hebrew origin it is possible to think about the definite article **ha(n)*- common to all Canaanite languages, i.e. Phoenician (*h-mlkm* “the kings”, *l-mmqm* “the place”, *amatħed* “the gift”), Hebrew (*ha- ššāmáyim* “the sky”), Moabite (*kl h- īm* “all the nation”), Ammonite (*h-krm* “the vineyard”) and Edomite (*h-mlk* “the king”). The article *in statu nascendi* probably appears in Ugaritic too: *tmyy hñ álp̪m ššw̪m hnd* “These two thousand horses must arrive here.” See KOGAN (2009: 260); DUL 343; KRAHMALKOV (2000: 154); SEGERT (1997: 178); STEINER (1997: 152–53). The corresponding article was also used in the North Arabian epigraphic languages as Thamudic B, Taymanitic, Safaitic *h*, Dadanitic *hn*, MACDONALD (2004: 517). In the case of the adj. ἀμιχθαλόεσσα the initial ḥ- could represent an adaptation of the Semitic preformative **?a-*, forming the elative of the Ugaritic and Arabic adjectives, e.g. Ugaritic *āliy* “very strong”: Akkadian *le'ū* “to prevail, *lē'ū* “able”, *āg̪zr* “voracious”: Hebrew *ḡ-z-r* “to devour”, SEGERT (1984: 85, 178, 179); Arabic *?ašarr* “worse”: *šarr* “bad”, besides the Hebrew adjectives as *?akzāb* “deceitful” or *?akzār* “cruel” with more general semantics, BROCKELMANN (1908: 372–73; HAL 45).

2. ἐρīνεός [Il.], Attic (Delos) ἐρīνεώς [Lync.] “wild fig-tree / *Ficus Caprificus*”, Mycenaean NL *e-ri-no-wo*, gen. *e-ri-no-wo-to* [PY] /*Erīnwos, -otos/* (DELG 371; FURNÉE (1972: 376); AURA JORRO (1985: 24); BEEKES (2010: The word is Pre-Greek)

The most probable source of the Greek protoform **erīnwo*-is Hurrian *erimbi-* “cedar” (Laroche 1968, 459), which was also adapted in Hittite *irimpī-, erip(p)i-, irip(p)i-* “cedar(wood)”, KRONASSER (1966: 224–25); HED 1–2, 284–85; FRIEDRICH & KAMMENHUBER (1988: 92). The Hurrian word itself probably represents an adaptation of Akkadian *erēnu(m)*, *erinnu*, in Nuzi also *urīnu* “cedar-tree or forest” (CDA 77), extended by the Hurrian suffix *-pi-*, KRONASSER (1966: 244). Hebrew *?oren, peren* “cedar, pine, laurel” is probably of Akkadian origin, ZIMMERN (1915: 53); DRS 33; HAL 90), while the Akkadian word itself is borrowed from Sumerian *eren* (AHw. 237).

Note: The semantic shift could be caused by the fact that the designation of “cedar” was already occupied by κέδρος [*Od.* v, 60] “cedar-tree”, cf. also κέδρον, τό (Attic according to Hesychius) = κεδρίς “juniper-berry” [EM 498.42; HSCH.], κεδρέλαιον “oil of cedar, extracted from cedar-resin” [Aēt. 1.196], adj. κέδρινος “of cedar” [II.24.192], which already LEWY (1895: 34) connected with Akkadian *qatrū* “smoky”. With respect to its derivative *qatrānu* “cedar resin” (*CDA* 286), borrowed in Syriac *qātrān*, Arabic *qatrān/qitrān* “pitch”, LESLAU (1987: 454), this solution can be rehabilitated in spite of skepticism of ROSÓL (2013: 178) who did not take in account such the form as Akkadian *qatrānu* “cedar resin”.

3. κεράσος [Xenoph.] “bird-cherry / *Prunus avium*”, Mycenaean NM *ke-ra-so* [MY] /*Kerasō*/ (*DELG* 518; FURNÉE (1972: 346); BEEKES (2010: 677): Given its intervocalic -σ-, the form must be Anatolian or Pre-Greek).

A foreign origin is generally accepted. ROSÓL (2013: 179) correctly rejects the repeatedly cribbing comparison with the Akkadian ghost-word **karšu* “Süßkirche” (for the last time BEEKES 2010!). A hypothetical donor-language might be a mediator between Greek κεράσος and Akkadian *kami/e/aššaru(m)* “pear-tree” (*AHw.* 432; *CAD* 8, 122); cf. further Syriac *kūmatrā*, Arabic *kumatrā* (< Aramaic), *kummatrā* id., LÖW (1881: 208); ZIMMERN (1915: 54); *DRS* 1236. The loss of *-m-* in the process of borrowing has an analogy in Greek σήσαμον, Doric σάσαμον, Mycenaean [MY] pl. *sa-sa-ma*, also the Linear B syllable sign *sa*, maybe also Linear A [HT 23.a.4-5] *sa-sa-me*, MASSON (1967: 57–58); AURA JORRO (1993: 284); BARTONĚK (2003: 123, 492); BEEKES (2010: 1325); ROSÓL (2013: 91–93), with regard to their Semitic source represented by Akkadian *šamašammū*, *šamšamū* “sesame”, originally *šaman-šammi* “oily plant” (*CDA* 351); Ugaritic *ššmn* “sesame” (*DUL* 847–48); Phoenician *ššmn* “sesame”, KRAHMALKOV (2000: 483); *DNWS* 1197; Hebrew epigr. pl. *šmšmyn* (*DNWS* 1169), Postbiblical Hebrew *šumšōm* “sesame”, with the ‘Aramaic’ pl. *šumšəmīn*, DALMAN (1922: 429); KLEIN (1987: 668); Official Aramaic *šmšm* (*DNWS* 1169), Jewish Aramaic *šumšəmā* & *šūšəmā*, Syriac *šmušma* & *šemša*, Mandaic *šušma* “sesame”, DALMAN (1922: 429); DROWER (1963: 458); ZIMMERN (1915: 56: < Akkadian), Arabic *sāsim* & *simsim*, pl. *simāsim* “sesame; coriander seed”; cf. also Hurrian *šumišumi* id., LAROCHE (1968: 458), Hittite *šapšama* “an oil-producing plant and/or its seeds” (*CHD* 207), Armenian *šowšmay* “sesame”, HÜBSCHMANN (1897: 314: < Aramaic *šūšəmā*); Coptic Sahidic *səmsim*, Bohairic *sasimēn* and Beja *simsum* id., VYCICHL (1983: 189). In the case of “sesame” a donor-language should be characterized by the assimilation **-mš- > -š-*, attested in Ugaritic, later Aramaic (Syriac) or Phoenician. In the case of κεράσος “bird-cherry” the same change has to be expected, but only in a language, where Semitic **t > š* and it is Phoenician or early Aramaic, cf. BROCKELMANN 1908: 134). Besides the change **-mš- > -š-* a metathesis **k-(m)š-r- > *k-r-(m)š-r-* had

to be realized. In Semitic languages this phenomenon is relatively frequent (see BROCKELMANN 1908: 267–278): Hebrew *nāṣak* “to bite”, Geez *nasa-ka* vs. Amhara *nakasa*, Syriac *nəkəθ* or Arabic *dibs*, Syriac *debšā* vs. Akkadian *dišpu* “honey” etc.), fewer in Greek, LEJEUNE (1972: 138): δίφρος “charriot-board, on which two could stand; charriot; seat” vs. Syracusean [Sophron ap. *EM*] δρίφος; 151: ἀριθμός [*Od.*] “number” vs. Ionic [Call. *Cer.* 86] ἀμυθρός). Finally, the third source of metathesis, a hypothetical language-mediator, could also be taken in account.

Note: Apparently it is a more wide-spread cultural term, designating various kinds of fruit also in the Caucasus:

Proto-North Caucasian **kurmäśV* / **kurmäžV* “a kind of fruit” > Proto-Nakh **kamiz* / **kamis* (/-*-mus*) “grape” > Chechen *kems*, Ingush *koms*, Batsbi *kaniz* id.; Proto-Tsezian **kuš(š)VI-hi* (~ -*ū*-, -*i*) “peach” > Tsezi *kušuhi*, Ginukh *kušohi* (the word is a compound; for the second part cf. possibly Proto-Tsezian **hī* “pear”); Lak *kkurmuz* “quince” (Old Lak is probably the source of Avar dial., *germez* and Archi *gerbec* “quince”); Proto-Dargwa **kkimirsi* “quince” > Akusha *gimirhi*, Urakhi *gimir?**a*, Kaitag *ččimisi*, Kubachi *ččimite* id.; Proto-Lezghian **kumärš* / **kumärčč* “quince” > Tabasaran *kumiš*, Agul *kuržam*, Tabasaran Dübek *kucčim*, Agul Burshak *kuršem*; Proto-West-Caucasian **mərəgʷazʷər* (~ *kkʷ*, ž) “a sort of plum or peach” > Abkhaz *a-mərgʷáz* (*Bzyb*), attested only in compounds *a-mərgʷáz-phʷa* “a sort of plum”, *a-mərgʷáz-ṭama* “a sort of peach” (NCED 700).

4. ὄγχνη [*Od.* vii 115] “pear-tree”, [*Od.* vii 120] “pear”, ὄχνη [Theoc.] “pear-tree / *Pirus communis*”, ὄγχνα ἄπιον [Hsch.], cf. κόγχναι · ὄγχναι [Hsch.], FURNÉE (1972: 131, 279); DELG 773; BEEKES (2010: 1045) agrees with Furnée that the word is Pre-Greek, apparently a wide-spread cultural term. Similar designations of sweet fruits appear in Semitic, here concretely of “fresh dates”: Akkadian *uḫiinnum*, *uḫinnu(m)*, *uhe(n)num* “fresh / unripened date(s)” > Jewish Aramaic *թָהֵנָה* “nicht voll gereifte Dattel” (> Arabic *թاھان* “bunch of green dates”), Syriac *ḥēnā* “an unripe fruit, especially fig”, CAD U/W 44–47; CDA 419; DRS 15; DALMAN (1922: 8); ZIMMERN (1915: 54); LÖW (1881: 121), and in East Caucasian, here directly “pear”: Avar-Andi **hinhV* “pear” > Avar *génī*, Chadakolob *génī*, Andi *hīhī*, Chamalal *hīhʷ*, Tindi *hīha*, Karata *hīhī*, Bagvalal *hīha*, Godoberi *hīhū*; Avar > Tsez, Ginukh, Bezhta *geni* “pear”; Proto-Tsezian **hī* “pear” > Bezhta *hī* (Xaidakov), Gunzib *hī* id.; Proto-Nakh: **χam-maka* > Chechen *χammaka* “peach”, Ingush *χammaka* “apricot”, all reconstructed as East Caucasian **yōn²V* “pear” (NCED 475). Naturally, the language-donor could be some third language, where the designation of the corresponding fruit is not attested thanks to our limited knowledge, e.g. Hurrian or Hattic or a Pre-Greek language of the Linear Script A from Crete.

It remains to explain the prenasalization in Greek ὄγχνη, ὄγχνα, ὄγχναι. In the Greek loans of Semitic origin there is a tendency to dissimilate gemi-

nates of the type $C_1\text{-}C_2C_2\text{-}C_3 > C_1\text{-}nC_2\text{-}C_3$ or $C_1\text{-}mC_2\text{-}C_3$, if C_2 is a labial, e.g. Hebrew *lappîd* “torch; lightning” vs. Greek λαμπάς, -άδος “torch” or Hebrew *qubbañat* “cup, beaker, goblet” vs. Greek κύμβη id. (Rosol 2013: 53, 57). Sometimes the gemination is not directly attested in forms which are at our disposal, e.g. Akkadian *mēdelu*² “bar, bolt (of a door)”, Syriac *madlā* “cross beams” ($\sqrt{d}\text{-}l$ “to close, lock” - see DRS 9) vs. Greek μάνδαλος “iron peg, bolt-pin”, see ROSOL (2013: 68) with older literature, but may be hidden in the morphological structures, e.g. the gemination of the second radical in the verbal present stems and its derivatives in Akkadian³, on Semitic and wider Afroasiatic parallel formations see LIPIŃSKI (1997: 382–87) or the internal nominal plural characterized by gemination of the second radical: Akkadian *zikru* “man” : pl. *zikkarū, sahru / sehru* “small” : pl. *sahharū / sehherūtu, ebru* “friend” : pl. *ebbarūtu*; Hebrew *ṭāqēb* “heel” : pl. *ṭiqqəb, miqdāš* “sanctuary” : *miqqədāš, qešet* “bow” : pl. *qaššətōt*; Arabic *bāhil* “free (man)”, pl. *buhhal* (LIPIŃSKI 1997: 245–46). Maybe this mechanism for forming the plural is responsible for the prenasalization in Greek ὄγχη, etc.

Note: Unripe dates are usually green, like pears.

ABBREVIATIONS:

HSCH. Hesychius, HT Hagia Triada, MY Mycenaean, NL *nomen loci*, NM *nomen mulieris*, PY Pylos.

Abbreviations of the Greek authors and their works follow HENRY G. LIDDELL, ROBERT SCOTT & HENRY S. JONES: *A Greek–English Lexicon*, Oxford: University Press 1996
<http://www.tlg.uci.edu/lsj/#eid=1&context=lsj>

The phytonyms recorded by Apuleius and Dioscorides are cited according to KRAHMALKOV 2000.

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ARTEMIDORI *Oneirocritica*, REISKE, JOHANN J., REIFF, JOHANN G. [EDS.]. Leibzig: Crusius 1805.

² Written in many variants: *me-e-di-lu, me-di-lum, me-di-lu, me-dil, mi-di-lum, mi-di-lu, mi-dil*, but also *min₄-dil* (CAD 10, 2–3). The geminate appears directly in some derivatives of the primary verb *edēlu* „to lock“, e.g. *eddēlu* „locks“, *iddil* „will lock“, *uddulu* „are closed“ (CAD 4, 25–26).

³ Cf. the primary verb *edēlu* “to lock”: *eddēlu* “locks”, *iddil* “will lock”, *uddulu* “are closed” (CAD 4, 25–26).

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RESUMÉ

In the article four Greek dendronyms are etymologized. The following solutions are discussed:

1. ἀμυγδάλεα „almond-tree“ < Phoenician-Hebrew **midqalā* „place planted with date-palms“ with a later semantic shift; Cyrene ἀμυσγέλα,-υλα „almond-tree“ < Phoenician-Hebrew **mišqalā* „place planted with almond-trees“ with -*l*- after **midqalā*; ἀμιχθαλόεσσα [II.] „rich in almonds“ < (para-)Ugaritic **mitqalat* with -*l*- after **midqalā*.
2. ἐρίνεός [II.], Attic (Delos) ἐρίνεώς „wild fig-tree“, Mycenaean [NL] *e-ri-no-wo*, gen. *e-ri-no-wo-to* [PY] /*Erīnwas,-otos/* < Hurrian *erimbi-* „cedar“ < Akkadian *erēnu*, *erinnu* „cedar-tree or forest“ < Sumerian *eren*.
3. κερδόσ [XENOPH.] „bird-cherry“, Mycenaean NM *ke-ra-so* [MY] /*Kerasō/* < Semitic: Akkadian *kami/e/aššaru(m)* „pear-tree“ (the loss of -*m*- in -*mš*- and change **ł* > *š* are typical e.g. for Phoenician) or North Caucasian **kurmāšV*/**kurmāžV* „a kind of fruit“.
4. ὄγχην [Od.], ὄχνη [Theoc.] „pear-tree“, ὄγχια · ἄπιον [Hsch.], cf. κόγχαι · ὄγχαι [Hsch.] < Semitic: Akkadian *uḫuinnu*, *uḫinnu(m)*, *uhe(n)num* „fresh date(s)“, Jewish Aramaic ’āhēnā „unripe dates“ or East Caucasian **γōnV* „pear“.

SHRNUTÍ

V článku jsou etymologizována čtyři řecká dendronyma. Jsou diskutována následující řešení:

1. ἀμυγδάλεα „mandloň“ < fénicko-hebrejské **midqalā* „místo osázené datlovými palmami“ s pozdějším sémantickým posunem; kyrenajské ἀμυσγέλα,-υλα „mandloně“ < fénicko-hebrejské **mišqalā* „místo osázené mandloněmi“ s -*l*- podle **midqalā*; ἀμιχθαλόεσσα [II.] „bohatý mandloněmi“ < (para-)ugaritské **mitqalat* s -*l*- podle **midqalā*.
2. ἐρίνεός [II.], attické (Delos) ἐρίνεώς „divoký fíkovník“, mykénské místní jméno *e-ri-no-wo*, gen. *e-ri-no-wo-to* [PY] /*Erīnwas,-otos/* < hurritské *erimbi-* „cedr“ < akkadské *erēnu*, *erinnu* „cedr či cedrový les“ < sumerské *eren*.

3. κερῆσος [Xenoph.] „střemcha hroznovitá“, mykénské ženské jméno *ke-ra-so* [MY] / *Kerasō* / < semitské: akkadské *kami/e/aššaru(m)* „hrušeň“ (ztráta -*m*- v -*ms*- a změna **t* > š jsou typické např. pro feničtinu) nebo severokavkazské **kurmäš*V / **kurmäž*V „druh ovoce“.

4. ὄγχη [Od.], ὄγη [Theoc.] „hrušeň“, ὄγχια · ἄπιον [Hsch.], sr. κόγχιαι · ὄγχιαι [Hsch.] < semitské: akkadské *uhuinnum*, *uhinnu(m)*, *uhe(n)num* „čerstvé datle“, judeo-ara-mejské ’āhēnā „nezralé datle“ či východokavkazské *γōn²V „hruška“.

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