

# A Pre-Indo-European Lexicon

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This paper aims at summarising the results of our research during the last 15 years in the field of the Pre-Indo-European heritage. It is not our purpose to review the quite impressive bibliography of the topic (for which see Paliga 1989 d), but to present a glossary minimum as a basis for future debates and additions.

It should be remembered that many of the forms quoted below require deep investigations, e.g. the typical case of *oraș* 'township, city', the usual word in Romanian to denote an urban settlement (detailed discussions with further references in Paliga 1987; 1989 a; 1991 b; 1992 b). The author is fully aware of the radical shift from considering *oraș* of Hungarian origin to the hypothesis that the word is in fact of Pre-Indo-European origin via Thracian, of course. The former (comfortable) explanation has been replaced by another, less comfortable but arguably closer to reality.

The paper cannot extend punctual approaches, as every form requires its own rights, but to simply present the conclusions of other papers. We have followed the basic principles exposed by Rostaing (1950) and other linguists who have ever approached "the Pre-Indo-European" heritage in Europe, especially in south-east Europe.

The following glossary presents the forms in the order: (1) Primitive (Pre-Indo-European) root and its probable meaning *in italic boldface type*; (2) Thracian forms in ancient texts *in italic type*; (3) modern Romanian forms as inherited via Thracian *in italic type*. Essential references to the Pre-Indo-European heritage are quoted at the end.

**\*AB-, \*AR-, \*IB-** 'high, elevated, prominent'

NL *Aba*, NPp *Abantes*, NL *Abro-lebas*, NL *Abrutus* (today *Abtat*, in Bulgaria), NL *Apulum*, NL *Aproi*, NF1, ND (*H*)*eburus*.

NL *Abrud*, NL *Abud*, NL *Abuș*; NL *Apa* (? infl. by *apă* 'water', also a NF1, e.g. *Apa*); NL *Apața*, *Apadia*; NL *Ip*, NF1, NL *Ibru* (bg. *Ibăr*).

**\*AL-, \*AR-, \*OL-, \*IL-** 'high, elevated' also 'deep'

NL, NF1 *Arauros*, *Araros*, *Arolos*; NL *Ilion*, NP *Ilos*, *Ilis*; NPp *-ileti*.

NL *Arad*, *Ard*; NF1 *Aranca* (cf. iber. *Aran*), NF1 *Argeș*, *Arghiș*, NF1, NL *Arghișu*, *Arghiș*, *Archiș* presumably related to *argea* 'a hollow, a subterrean dwelling'; NF1 *Arieș*; *arșar* 'the tree Acer, maple'; NM *Rarău* (Thr. *\*ar-ar-a* > *\*rar-a*, masculine, cf. Thr. *Araros*); NL *Ilba*, *Ilva*; NF1, NL *Iltuț*, *Ilteu*; NF1 *Olt*, NSt *Oltina*.

\**OR-*, \**UR-* (variant of the previous root) 'huge, big'

NL *Ordessos* (\**ordeš*), NPp *Orosines*, NP *Oroles*; also many other forms in *-ora*, *oros*, *-oron* 'township' (in place-names).

*Oraș*, dial. (today rare) also *uraș*, and *-oara* in place-names only, closely related to *uriaș*, dial. also *oriaș* 'huge, big; a giant of the Romanian tales; other place-names are obviously or probably related: NL *Oar*, NL *Oradea* (formerly *Oradea-Mare*, a tautology, 'great Oradea' which was calqued in Hungarian); NL *Orșova* (with Slavic suffix); NL, NP *Orlea*, also *Urlea*, *Uric*, *Urleta*, *Urca* (with primitive *o/u* vowel-grade); NL *Oarța*, *Orțița*, *Orlat*, *Orman*\* etc.; *a se urca* 'to climb, go upwards'; *urdă* 'a kind of cheese selected at the surface of milk (primitive pastoral term); *ortoman* 'rich, big' (cf. *Orman* supra, see note 1).

\**AK-*, \**AG-* 'top, peak; a thorn'

NPp *Aga-thyrsi* (with the second part of the compound of equally Pre-IE origin, root \**T-R*); NL *Aegissos* (\**Agiš*), NL *Aci-dava*, NL *Acmonia*, NL *Egirca*, NL *Egeta*.

NL *Agăș*, *Agnita*, *Agaua*; *agriș* 'gooseberry' (from the thorny shape of the leaves); NL *Agriș*, NL *Agrieș*; NL *Igriș*, NL *Igriția*, NL *Igniș*, NL *Ighiu*, NL *Ighiș*, NL, NM *Igoiu*; *a agăța* 'to seize, grasp'.

\**A(I)N-*, \**EN-*, \**IN-* chromatic meaning in names of bright colours (cf. next entry)

Nfl *An-amus*, NP *An-bros*, and other forms of possibly Pre-IE origin.

Nfl *Anieș*, NL *Ant*, NL *Anina*, Nfl *Ampoi* (< \**an-p-*); NM, NL *Ineu*, *Inău*; NL *Inand*; NL *Inuc*.

\**A(I)S-*, \**ES-*, \**IS-* chromatic meaning in names of dark colours (cf. previous entry)

NL *Asai*, NL *Assa* (\**aša*), NL *Aisa*, Nfl *Aisepos*.

Nfl *Asău*, Nfl *Asuaj*; cf. NP obs. *Asan* (the association with NP Arabic *Hassan* is fortuitous).

\**AT-*, \**AD-*, \**UT-* 'concave' or 'convex'; 'prominent' or 'deep'

Nfl *Athrys*, *Iatrus*; Nfl *Athyra*s (Celtic *Atur*), NM *Athos*, NP *Athys*; NP *Atlas* and ND Gr. *Atlas*; *Adam*, *adamna* 'beloved', *adapta* 'love, affection'; NL *Adrane* and NP *Ada*, *Adas*, *Adaios*.

<sup>1</sup> This form should be carefully discriminated against similar forms of Turkish origin; NL *Orman* should be rather approached to *ortoman* 'rich', an archaic word.

NL *Atea*, NL *Ateaș*, NL *Atia*, NL *Atid*; (?NL *AteI*); NL *Aita*, NL *Aiton*; NL *Adea* (cf. *Atea*); NL *Adjud* (?); *a ademeni* 'to lure' (seemingly related to the Thr. forms *adam*, *adamna* quoted above); *a adia* 'to breeze'.

\**B-T-*, \**BaTT-* (\**bats-*) 'protector, king, leader'

-*bates* 'priests'; ND *Batalde*, epithet for Dionysos; NP *Batsinis*. These forms are presumably related to Gr. *basileos* (< \**batileos*) of Pre-Indo-European origin as well.

*Bade* 'an elder person'; *baci*, dial. *bașe* 'leader of shepherds' (archaic primitive word); also NP *Badea*, *Baciu* etc.

\**G-G-*, \**K-K-*, \**G-K-*, etc. 'to swell, to increase; big'

NM *Gygemeros*, NPp *Cicones*, NL *Ciconia*; NP *Coca*, *Coccos*, *Gokon*; NM, NFl *Cogaion(on)*.

NM *Gugu*; NL, NP *Guga* (?NL *Gagu*); *gogă* 'a ghost' (closely related to Alb. *gogë*), NP *Gog(a)*; *cocon*, obs. 'a baby, child' ('round'); *cocoașă* 'a hunch'; *gogoășă* 'a round cake, a kind of doughnut'.

\**K-R-*, \**G-R-* 'high, elevated, mountain, cliff'

NL *Carpis*, NPp *Carpi*, NL *Carsi-dava*, NM *Carpates*, NL *Carasura*, NL *Carsium* (today *Hîrșova*, with unclear evolution *c>h*).

NM *Carpați*; NFl, NL *Carăș*; NL *Caran-sebeș*; NM *Caraiman*; NM *Gurghiu* and *grui* 'hill' (NP *Gruia*); NL *Hîrșova*, with Slavic suffix and unclear evolution Thr. *k* > Rom. *h*. (cf. Thr. *Carsium*); *gorun* 'oak', dial. form *gărînă*, NL *Gărîna*, *Garina*; *crap*, Pan-European form, the fish carp.

The forms *curpen* 'a young branch', *curcubeu* (\**kur-kur-b-*) 'rainbow' and NM *Curcubăta*, the highest peak in the W Carpathians, may reflect this root or IE \*(*s*)*ker-* 'to bend, to curve' as in NFl *Criș*.

\**K-L-*, \**G-L-*, variant of \**K-R-*, \**G-R-*

NL *Callatis*, NFl *Cales*, NL *Caleros*, NFl *Calpas*, NL *Calpe*, ? *Cala-mindar* 'plane-tree', NL *Coila*, today *Kilia* in Bulgaria; cf. *Chilia*, a branch of the Danube Delta.

NL *Călan*, NL *Călăcea*, NL *Călata*, NM *Căliman* (cf. supra *Caraiman*), NP *Călin*, NFl *Chilia*, a branch of the Danube Delta, cf. the Thracian forms above; possibly also *căluș* 'a magic dance of chthonian character' and the *Călușari* 'the male-dancers of the căluș'.

NL *Galaț(i)* probably belongs to this root, but presumably via a Celtic idiom; the numerous place-names in *Gal-* are usually held for Celtic.

\**L-P-*, \**L-B-* 'stone, pebble, rock'

*Leba* 'township', NL *Libum*, NL *Libyssa*, *Libissa* (with a real pron. \**libiša*).

NM *Lăpuș*, NL, NFl *Lăpușnic*, NL *Lăpușna* (with Slavic parallel forms); *lespede* (\**lepsede*, with metathesis).

\**M-G-*, \**M-K-* 'to be prominent; a peak etc.'

NL *Magaris*, ND *Magutis*. Other forms are uncertain.

*Măgură* with parallels in place-names e.g. NM, NL *Măgura*; old pastoral term; NL *Mangalia*; the ultimate origin is uncertain, possibly a Mediterranean immigrated form; *mugur(e)* 'a bud', with Iberrian parallels; archaic forms.

\**M-T(S)-* 'unclear, confuse; a maize'

NP *Mata*, *Matia*; NL *Moutzi-para*.

*Maț(e)* 'bowels' and *a ameți* 'to make/become dizzy, to stun' akin and similar to Eng. *maze/amaze*; *moț* 'a tuft of hair', NL *Moțca*; *a moțâi* 'to doze off'; *a mototoli* (< \**mot-mot-ol-*) 'to crumple, to rumple'.

\**M-L-*, \**M-R-* 'hill, mountain'

NL *Malianda*, NL *Maloea*, NL *Malva*, hence *Dacia Malvensis*.

*Mal* 'river-side' (< 'rocky river-side') akin to Alb. *mal* 'hill', cf. Basque *malda* 'hill-side'; NFl *Mara* and NR *Mara-mureș* (the second part of the compound reflects NFl *Mureș*); NFl, NL *Moldova*, where *-dova* rather reflects the typical Thr. word *dava*, *deva*, *dova* 'fortress, township'; *molid* 'spruce-fir'.

\**N-R-* 'deep (water or river)'

NFl *Narak(i)on* and other related forms spread over a large area in Europe.

NFl *Nera*; NFl *Neretva*. River-names of this type are spread all over Europe, including south-east Europe.

\**M-N-* 'to cover, protect'

NL *Mende*, *Menda*; ND *Mendeis*, a nymph and NP *Mendi-doros*; NP *Minacos*, *Minas*, *Minno*.

NFl *Miniș*; NL *Mineu*, *Mîneu*; NL *Mintia*; NL *Mintiu*; possibly also the forms like *Mandra*, *Manga* etc.

\*N-S-, \*M-S-<sup>1</sup> 'curved, meandering'

NFl *Naissus* (today *Niș* in Bulg.), NFl *Nestos* (today *Mesta*, Bulg.), NFl *Noes*.

NFl *Nistru*, the Dnjester, also a rivulet in N Romania; *nișetru* 'the sturgeon', thus named after its form; *nasture* 'a (round) button'; *mistref* 'wild boar' (thus derived after the fur when young and/or after its muzzle-movements); *a mișca* 'to move'; *a mișuna* 'to swarm around'; *a mușca* 'to bite' (after the round form of bite); *mușuroi* '(ant, mole hill)'; *moș* 'old man' and *moașă* 'midwife', with a quite recent specialisation of meanings for the masculine and feminine forms.

\*N-S-, \*M-S-<sup>2</sup> 'to shine, bright'

NP *Mussatis* (\**mușat*-) and other possibly related forms quoted in Dečev 1957.

*Mușat* 'beautiful', also NP *Mușat*, *Mușa*, *Mușu* with various derivatives.

\*I-S-, \*Y-S- (later development of \*N-S-<sup>1</sup>)

NL *Istria*, *Histria*; NFl *Istros* (the latter is not IE as usually quoted in various studies and reference dictionaries).

NM, NL *Iaș(i)*, *Ieș*; *a isca* 'to stir, begin to move', cf. *a mișca*, supra.

\*P-L-, \*B-L- 'hill, elevation'

NL *Pelendova*, NL *Paladeina*, NL *Palae*.

NM *Peleș*; *peleagă* 'hill', NL *Peleaga*, NL *Paleu* and probably the personal names *Palica*, *Paliga*, *Paluga*, *Paligora*.

It is probable that the Pan-European word for 'plough', Rom. *plug* (Eng. *plough*, etc.) belongs here, but is still difficult to determine the phyletic tree; the word must be of Pre-IE origin reflecting the specific farm terminology in Europe.

\*P-R-, \*B-R-, variant of the previous root

NM *Bermion*; *-berna* and *-bria* 'township'; *-para* 'fortress'.

NM *Bîrgău*; NM *Parîng*; NM *Perșani*; NL *Pereg*; *preș* 'a mat' (i.e. laid on the earth'); NP *Bîrlea* belongs also here with much probability; other forms are uncertain.

\*P-S- 'to cover'

NL *Pistes*, NL *Pistiros*, *Bistiros*; NP *Pistous*.

*Păstaie* (from \**păstraie*) 'a pod' and *a păstra* 'to keep, to preserve'; the relation between *păstaie* and *a păstra* is, in our view, obvious.

NL *Peștiș*, probably confused, by folk-etymology, with a word derived from *pește* 'fish', of Latin origin.

\**R-M-*, \**R-B-* 'curved, round, meandering'

NP *Rome-*, *Roime-* (e.g. *Roimetalkas*, etc.); NP *Ryme-*, *Rome-* (e.g. *Romaesta*, *Roimos*, *Ruimus* etc.); NFl *Rabon*; NFl *Rebas*; NP *Rebo-*, *Raba-* (e.g. *Rabocentus* etc.), NFl *Rebra*;

*a răbda* 'to endure' (< 'be curved');

NL *Roman* is uncertain (Medieval? of what origin?), but may belong here.

\**S-M-*, \**S-B-* 'high' or 'deep'

NL, NFl *Samos*, *Samus* with many parallels all over Europe; NL *Sabatium*, NL *Sabin-iribes*; NPP *Saboces*.

(a) NFl *Someș*; *somn* 'the sheat fish' (Sl. *somъ* has been preserved independently, probably from the same Pre-IE source); *șoim* 'a falcon' and dial. 'high-blowing wind'; NM *Semenic* closely related to *semeș* 'very high; proud'; NL *Simeria*; NL *Siminicea*; NL *Șimian*; NL *Șimand*; NL *Șimleu* is uncertain (of Hungarian origin?); *seamă*, dial. *samă* probably belongs also here, with a confusion with Hung. *szám* 'number; count';

(b) NFl, NL *Sebeș*; NL *Sebiș*; NL *Sibiu*; *șobolan* (akin to, not derived from, Sl. *sobol*); intervowel *-b-* is normal in the substratum (Thracian) elements in Romanian as proved by other examples, e.g. *abur(i)* 'vapours' etc.

\**S-R-* 'chromatic meaning'

NP *Surus*, *Suru-tralis*.

*Sur* 'white and black, grey' (now only about horses), NM *Suru*; cf. Basque *xuri* (*șuri*) 'white'.

\**T-L-*, \**T-R-*, \**D-L-* 'earth, stone, cliff; prominence, projection'

NL *Dala-tarba*; NSt *Delkos*; NL *Tuleus*; NL Tylis (azi *Tulovo*, Bulgaria); NFl *Tyras*, NL *Tyrisa*.

(a) NFl *Talma*; *talpă* 'footsole' ('earth-touching'); NL *Tulcea*, NL *Tulca*; *tuleu* (1) 'trunk, stalk', (2) 'undeveloped part of a wing; hair, beard' (< 'projection'); NM *Tarcău*, NL *Tarcea*; *tărîm* 'land, realm' (usual in folk-tales); *țîrg* 'a market-place' (of Illyrian-Balkan origin in Slavic); NFl *Tur*; NM *Tărtărau*, NL *Tărtăria* (< \**tar-tar-*, reduplication); *țurțur* (another reduplication) 'icicle';

(b) *deal* 'hill', also 'forest', very frequent in Romanian place-names, hence *Ar-deal*, lit. 'over the hill/forest' with the Mediaeval calque Transylvania and Hung. *Erdély*, from *erdő* 'forest'; also NL *Predeal* 'on the hill', NL *Subdeal* 'under the hill, at the foothill' (these forms are usually held for Slavic; nevertheless they may be easily explained by internal forms in Romanian).

\* *T-P-*, \* *T-B-* 'projection, peak'

NL *Tapae* located approximately where the modern Tăpia is located now (see next section).

NL *Tăpia* and *tipie* 'hill'; *țepă* 'thorn' and *a înțepa* 'to sting'; *țipar* 'eel'; *țap* 'he-goat' (after the thorn-like beard); NM *țibleș*, NL *țebea*, NL *țibana*, NP *țibuleac* etc.

\* *T-T-*, \* (1) 'elevated, high' (\* *TuT-*); (2) 'bright' (\* *TiT-*)

(1) *Tutus*, *Tiuta*; *tutastra* 'name of a plant';

(2) *ziby-thides* 'noblemen'; the first part, *ziby-*, reflects IE \**ǵheib* 'bright', thus the name seems an etymological tautology.

(1) *țuț* 'excrescence, prominence'; *țuțui* 'peak, top'; *a se țuțuia* 'to climb'; *țuțuian* 'a Transylvanian shepherd' (= living in a mountainous area); NL *țuțora*, NL *Tuta*, NL *Tutana* etc.

(2) *țifei* 'crude oil'; NL *Titiana*, NL *Titila* etc.

The Romanian forms in *țuț-* are undoubtedly archaic, and no other explanation may be held for grounded.

\* *V-N-* (\* *W-N-*), obscure meaning

No clear example; this Pre-IE root was reconstructed by Rostaing (1950), with convincing Pan-European parallels.

NL *Vinga*; NL *Vința*; NL *Vințu*.

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