

Slavic **mokrъ*, Irish *ainmech* ‘wet, rain’

ERIC P. HAMP

*Professor Emeritus, Department of Linguistics, 1010 East 59th Street,
Chicago, IL 60637, linguistics@uchicago.edu*

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Avtor prikazuje etimološke povezave med baltščino, slovanščino, albanščino in keltščino za pojem ‘moker, dež’, ki se kažejo v rekonstrukciji praindoevropskega korena **mek-* (~ **mok-*).

The author demonstrates the etymological connections among Baltic, Slavic, Albanian, and Celtic for the term ‘wet’, reflected in PIE **mek-* (~ **mok-*).

Ključne besede: indoevropski jeziki, etimologija, balto-slovanski prajezik, keltski jeziki

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Pokorny *IEW* 698 registers Lith. *makonė* (note lack of accent!) ‘Pfützē’ under *1. *māk-* ‘naß, feuchten’ along with *makėnti*, *maknóti* ‘durch Kot waten’. He adds Latv. *mākuōnis* ‘Bewölkung’, but I would rather set this aside, especially since Pokorny did not so much as show the enterprise to survey the Baltic horizon.

Pokorny then turns to the rich Slavic evidence, which he represents by OCS *mokrъ* ‘naß, feucht’, *močq*, *-iti* ‘βρέχειν’, russ. *móknutъ* ‘naß werden’, *močítъ* (accent supplied) ‘to wet, soak’, *močá* ‘urine’. The iterative Russ. *máčivatъ* and Czech *mákati* ‘nässen’, Russ. *makát* ‘dunk (e.g., in butter)’ simply exemplify the well-known Balto-Slavic *produktive Dehnstufe* / *vrdhi* derivative process. We can ignore Ligurian *Macra* and such river names, whether “Alteuropäisch” or not. Anyhow, they will be secondary and only approximative.

We now have E. Fraenkel, *Litauisches etymologisches Wörterbuch* (vol. 1, 1955) to supply (399sq. s.v. *makėnti* ‘in sumpfigem Boden herumwaten...’, where the ‘Straßenkot’ and ‘tiefen Kot’ are surely important purely for its drenching wetness) *makōnė* ‘Sumpf, Morast, Pfützē’ from Nesselmann (*Wörterbuch*, Königsberg 1851) 378 citing Brodowski, and the meticulous P. Skardžius (*Lietuvių kalbos žodžių daryba – Lithuanian word formation – Vilnius* 1971) 276, who documents the word from Dusetos and Daugėliškis in the Vilnius (Švenčionys) region, i.e., the phonetically clear eastern dialect area. Note also *mak(n)ynė* ‘Stelle, wo viel Morast ist’ (Skardžius *LKŽD* 271, 356) from Šėta in

the Kėdaniai district; I take the alternation in this noun to result from dissimilation, thus yielding a source stem *makn-*. Continuing with Fraenkel's entry, we have Latv. *makņa* 'Sumpf, moorige Stelle', and verb *makņīt* derived from this. Fraenkel then cites Slavic cognates (part of those above). Note that he also cites Latv. *mākuõņa*, *-nis*, *mākulis* 'Wolke', *mākuļuõts*, *māktiõs* 'sich bewölken', but these have a different suffix set and may or may not be related.

Thus from Baltic we clearly have Lith. *makõnė*, *makn-*, *makėnti*, *maknõti*, *maknõtas*, Latv. *mākņa*. Remember that Lith. *o* represents earlier **ā*, and therefore cannot represent directly the vocalism of a full-grade IE nasal suffix; it must result from an innovative Lithuanian creation, but with a nasal. We thus recover **makn-*.

It is now possible to see that Slavic **mokrъ* does not need to be **mok-ró-* or **mək-ró-*. It appears strongly that in Baltic **makn-* and Slavic **mokr-* we have the residue of an old heteroclit **mokr/n-*, like **uodr/n-*, etc.

Vasmer (*Russisches etymologischer Wörterbuch* 2, 1955, 148) added to these Irish *mōin* 'Sumpf, Moor'; he clearly got this from Whitley Stokes (*Wortschatz der keltischen Spracheinheit*, 4th ed. 1894, part 2 of A. Fick's *Wörterbuch*, p. 197; 5th unaltered issue Göttingen 1979). I think that this looks less than likely for us. Perhaps we can farther than Vendryes *LÉIA* M-60 or *LEW*₃ 2.30, but that is a discussion perhaps outside the present one. Note that peat goes beyond rain, wet, and urine.

Pokorny IEW also mentioned Arm. *mōr* 'Kot, Schlamm, Sumpf'. This could of course represent **mawr* in Armenian, and come from **matr-*. But one must in any case consult G. R. Solta, *Die Stellung des Armenischen im Kreise der indogermanischen Sprachen* (Wien: Mechitharisten 1960) 191–2 s.v. *mrur* 'Bodensatz, Schmutz, fæces, residuum', esp. 192, which leads to **meu-* (*IEW* 741), and then proceed from there. Again, our attention is properly focussed on wetness, and not on filth and fæces, in wih connexion cf. the derivations and semantic phraseology s.v. *makėti* in Smoczyński *SEJLit* (Wilne 2007) 369–370.

We may now turn back to Balto-Slavic **mokr/n-*, (Balto)Slavic **mok-* and Albanian *makë* 'film formed on liquid, scum', which are all that remain of Pokorny's *māk-*. But they can equally reflect **mok-*. Apparently it was really only Ligurian that seemed to tip the scales in the first place!

We can now easily accommodate Frankel's suggestion of Lith. *mėkeris* 'Fastensuppe aus Wasser, Schwarzbrot und Zucker', referring to Skardžius *LKŽD* 305; note also the *-r-* alongside the *-n-* we have observed. (The *e*-grade could have belonged to the locative sg. of the *r/n*-paradigm.) Note also Lith. *mėkėtas*, *-is* 'aus Sahne und Schmalz ohne Zusatz von Mehl bereitete Tunke zu Kartoffeln' (Fraenkel *op. laud.* 428 citing from Skardžius *LKŽD* 339, attested from Mosėdis in Kretinga district). We may surely recognize a base **mek-* (*~mok-*) in Balto-Slavic.

For *ain(n)mech* 'wet, rainy' Vendryes *LÉIA* A-37 opines laconically 'sans étymologie'. It is now proposed that with intensive *an-* (*LÉIA* A-70) we have **ande-meko-* (whether the compound is old or not) or **ande-moko-* if it is surely old.

But with or without the Celtic the Balto-Slavic-Albanian (and early and semantically) restricts us to North European IE or its substrata.¹

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SLOVANSKO *MOKRЪ, IRSKO AINMECH 'MOKER, DEŽ'

Avtor prikazuje etimološke povezave med baltščino, slovanščino, albanščino in keltščino za pojem 'moker, dež', ki se kažejo v rekonstrukciji korena *mek- (~*mok-). Prabalt. *māk- in praslov. *mokr- dokazujeta nekdanji obstoj heteroklita *mokr/n-, skupaj z alb. makë pa odražajo praindoevropsko *mok- (namesto māk- Pokornega). Sestavljenka ain(n)mech, če je res sestavljena iz domnevnega *ande-meko- ali *ande-moko-, prav tako kaže na prevojni različici *mek-/ *mok-. Areal ostanka tega korena je omejen na severno indoevropsčino ali njene substrate.

¹ EPH in Markey & Greppin *When Worlds Collide* 1990, 291–305.