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ON SOME SUFFIXES OF PLANT NAMES IN MONGOLIAN

The Mongolian names of plants can be divided, from the morphological point of view, into two main groups, namely, suffixless names and those formed with suffixes. The suffixless plant names include Mo¹⁾ *uda*, Kh. *ud*²⁾ 'willow-tree' (*Salix L.*)³⁾ = Ma *fodo* 'a willow branch used at shamanistic ceremonies', Or *potopto* 'willow-bushes', etc.;⁴⁾ Mo *sugai*, Kh *suxaj* 'tamarisk' (*Tamarix L.*); Mo *tooroi*, Kh *tooroj* 'poplar' (*Populus diversifolia*) = MTu *toyraq* id.; Mo *arča*, Kh *arc* 'juniper' (*Juniperus L.*) which, according to DOERFER, might be of ultimate Turkic origin,⁵⁾ whereas RÄSÄNEN regards Mo *arča* as a form derived from *ari-* 'to cleanse', a cognate of Tu *artič* 'juniper', etc.⁶⁾

The plant names formed with suffixes are numerous. Some suffixes occur often, other are rare. The following suffixes have been noted:

1. Kh, B -*aaxaj*:⁷⁾ Kh *bömböökèj* *Urticularia L.*, cf. B *bümböökèj* 'contracted, shrivelled, shrunken' from *bümbö-* 'to become globular'.
2. Mo -*dai*, Kh -*daj*:⁸⁾ Mo *tosundai*, Kh *tosondoj* *Pinguicula L.* from Mo *tosun* 'fat, grease, butter, oil'.
3. Mo -*gir*, Kh -*gar*:⁹⁾ Kh *buržgar* 'meadow rue' (*Thalictrum L.*), lit. 'curly'; cf. Mo *buržgir* 'curly' from *burži-* 'to curl'.
4. Mo -*yul*, Kh -*uul*:¹⁰⁾ Mo *qamquyul*, Kh *xamxuul* 'eryngium' (*Cori-spermum L.*) from **qamqu-*, Kh *xamxa* 'to be crushed, to fall to pieces'.
5. Mo -*yur*, Kh -*uur*:¹¹⁾ Kh *xoržgnuur* *Sphaerophysa DC* from *xoržognoo* 'to creak'.
6. Mo -*yuna*, Kh -*uuna* (rare):¹²⁾ Mo *bajžyna*, Kh *bažuuna* 'rhubarb' (*Rheum L.*), cf. Kh *bažgir* 'rough' from **bajži-*.
7. Kh -*žaa* (rare): Kh *jagžaa* *Linnaea borealis L.* from *jagžii-* 'to be short', cf. *jagžgar* 'short of stature, squat'.
8. Kh -*laj*:¹³⁾ Kh *xonxloj* 'bellflower' (*Adenophora Fisch.*) from *xonx* 'bell'. The other name of this flower is *xonx cécèg* 'bellflower'.
9. Mo -*mag*, Kh -*mag*, a diminutive suffix:¹⁴⁾ Kh *sarmag* 'colza' (*Barbarea Rehb.*) from Kh *sar* 'moon'.

10. Mo *-nčar*, Kh *-ncar*, a diminutive suffix:¹⁵⁾ Kh *ojmoncor* 'cryptogram' (Cryptogramma Stelleri) from Mo *oyima*, Kh *ojm* Dryopteris Adams.
11. Mo *-ngya*, Kh *-nga*: Mo *oriyangya*, Kh *oroongo* 'dodder' (*Cuscuta L*) from Mo *oriya-*, Kh *oro-* 'to wrap, envelop'.
12. Mo *-nggir*, Kh *-ngar* (*-ngèr* etc.):¹⁶⁾ Kh *majlingar* *Thesium L*.
13. Kh *žin*:¹⁷⁾ Kh *jargujžin* 'anemone' (*Anemone L*) from *jargui* *Pulsatilla Mill.*

The suffixes enumerated (1 – 13) occur in relatively few plant names, and the words which are formed with them in most cases belong to other semantic groups. However, there are suffixes which are found often, and some of them are particularly characteristic of plant names. Such widely spread suffixes are Mo *-yana* (*-ryana*, *-ljanā*, *-ljayana*), *-lji*, *-lja*, and *-sun*.

1. Mo *-yana*

A. Mo *-yana*, Kh, B *-gana* occur as suffixes forming names of plants, animals, and some diseases mostly from primary stems which denote qualities characteristic of the object (plant, animal, disease) denoted by the secondary noun.

a. Names of plants: Kh *bömbögönö* *Neslia paniculata L* from *bömbög* 'ball, globe'; Mo *gičigene*, Kh *gičgène* 'silverweed' (*Potentilla anserina L*); Kh *noorsgono* *Trichophorum persicum* from *noors* 'down'; Kh *ulaagana* 'currant' (*Ribes L*) from *ulaan* 'red'; Mo *qarayana*, Kh *xargana* *Caragana arborescens* from Mo *qara*, Kh *xar* 'black'; Mo *kilayana*, Kh *xialgana* 'feather grass' (*Stipa L*) from **kil*, cf. Mo *kilysun*, Kh *xialgas* 'hair of the tail, horse hair', cf. Tu *qil* 'hair'; Kh *combogono* *Microstigma deflexum Bge.* from *combon* 'bud-shaped'; Kh *jöröndgönö* *Antitoxicum sibiricum (L) Pobed.* from ?; Kh *nocoogono* *Xanthium L* from *nocoo* 'seizing, grasping'; Kh *xarcagana* *Hieracium L* from *xarcag* 'hawk'; Kh *xongorcogono*, *Karelinia Less.* from *xongorcog* 'cluster, bunch'; Kh *salaagana* *Chorispora DC* from *sala* 'branch', etc.

b. Names of animals, mostly insects, some fish, and a few birds: Mo *qulayana*, Kh *xulgana* 'mouse' from Mo *qula*, Kh *xul* 'fawn-coloured, bay having a black stripe along the spine'; Mo *batayana*, Kh *batgana* 'gnat, small fly' from ?; Mo *kedegene*, Kh *xèdgénè* 'horsefly, gadfly, wasp, bumblebee' from Mo *keder* 'irascible'; Mo *čögerene*, Kh *cöörgönö* 'locust' from Tu *čägirgä*, *čägirtkä*, *čägärtki*, etc. id.; Mo *alayana*, Kh *algana* 'perch' (fish) from *alay* 'spotted, motley'; Mo *qayirayana* 'seagull' from *qayir* 'gravel, pebbles' (probably because of often being seen standing on gravel).

c. Names of diseases: Mo *badayana*, Kh *badgana* 'cancer of the stomach' < Tib *bad-kan*, the Mo form having taken the suff.-*yana* by analogy with numerous words having the suffix *-yana*: Mo *esergene*, Kh *èsèrgènè* 'rash'.

The words ending in *-yana*, *-gana* denote mostly such plants (or animals) which occur in large numbers in one place and are relatively small and difficult to separate from each other, e.g. bushes forming a thicket, insects swarming all over a place (e.g. mosquitoes). The suff. *-yana* corresponds in function to the Tungus suff. *-kta* which denotes something small and occurring as a large accumulation,¹⁸⁾ cf. *yanmakta* 'mosquito', *lawikta* 'Iceland moss', etc. It is interesting to note that Finnish (Suomi) has a suffix almost exclusively forming names of animals and plants. This is *-ja* < *-*ya*, e.g., *petäjä* 'pine tree'.¹⁹⁾

B. Mo. *-ryana*, Kh *-rgana* as suffix of some plant names. There are some plant names formed from stems ending in *r*, e.g. Kh *šüüdèrgénè* *Chelidonium L* from *šüüdér* 'dew', Mo *šigüderi* id.; Kh *šavargana* *Limosella aquatica L* from *šavar*, Mo *šibar* 'mud, clay'; Kh *coorgono* *Angelica dahurica Benth.* from *coor* 'flute'; Mo *fejergene*, Kh *zèèrgénè* *Ephedra L* from Kh *zèèr* 'antelope', etc.

It is obvious that the following plant names end in *-ryana* (*-rgana*) by analogy with the above examples because the respective primary stems do not have a final *r*; Mo *altaryana*, Kh *altargana* 'golden rod' (*Solidago virga aurea*) from Mo, Kh *alta* 'gold'; Mo *ajaryana*, Kh *azargana* 'sonchus' (*Cirsium Mill.*) from ? *aza* 'good luck'.

On the other hand, some plant names are formed from primary verbal stems. The suff. *-yana* is not taken by verbal stems. Therefore *-r* in *-ryana* must be a suffix of noun derivation from verbal stems. Indeed, there is a number of nouns formed from verbs by means of the no longer productive suff. *-r*, e.g., Mo *amur* 'peace' from *amu-* 'to take a rest'; Mo *belčiger* 'pasture' from *belčige-* 'to pasture' (transitive) from *belči-* 'to pasture, graze' (intransitive); Mo *qabudur* 'swelling, tumor' from *qabud-* 'to swell', etc. The suff. *-ryana* is a compound, namely, *-r* of deverbal nouns + *-yana*. The suff. *-ryana* is, however, a petrified compound, and in most cases there is no noun in *-r* from which the plant name in *-yana* could have been formed.

Examples: Kh *asargana* *Lindefolia stylosa Brand* from Kh *as-*, Mo *asa-* 'to climb'; Kh *nocorgono* *Lappula Moench.* from *noc-* 'to seize, grasp'; Mo *sedergene* 'bendweed' (*Convolvulus L*) from ?; Mo *čičaryana*, Kh *čacargana* 'sea buckthorn' (*Hippophae rhamnoides L*) from Mo **čiča-*, cf. Mo *čičaya*, Kh *čacga* 'diarrhea' = Tu *tič-*, *sič-*, *čič-* 'to defecate' (the plant is called so probably because the fruit is purgative); Kh *šèèrgénè* 'catchfly, campion' (*Silene convidea L*) from *šèè-*, Mo *šige-* 'to urinate' (the plant is probably diuretic); Mo *ayduryana*

'lily' (*Lilium dahuricum*) from *ayduyi-* 'to be short, to shrink': Mo *ayširyanā* 'hellebore' (*Veratrum nigrum L.*) from *ayši-* 'to contract, shrink, curl up'.

C. A number of plant names is formed with the Mo suff. *-yana*, Kh *-gana* from primary verbal stems. It is to be assumed that the element *l* is a suffix of nouns formed from verbal stems.²⁰

Examples: Mo *tašilyana*, Kh *tašigana* *Lycopsis orientalis L* from *taši-* 'to slant, to slope, incline'; Kh *xasalgana* 'rhododendron' (*Rhododendron aureum*) from *xas-*, Mo *qasu-* 'to curtail, shorten'; Kh *xovołgono* 'baneberry' (*Actaea lerythrocarpa Fisch.*) from *xovoo* 'well bucket, trough', its other name being *xovol* id. and 'gutter, pipe, trough'.²¹

D. The suff. *-iʃyana* in Mo, *-izgana* in Kh is a compound one and can be divided into *-iʃi* (-iž) < **iʃi* (see 2.) and *-yana*. The words formed with this compound suffix are names of plants and animals.

Examples: Kh *cègèłzgènè* *Castillia mutis* from *cègèèn* 'light, white, whitish'; Kh *šaralzgana* *Sonchus L* from *šar*, Mo *šira* 'yellow'; Mo *boroljyana/bololjyana*, Kh *borolzgono* *Dasiphora fructicosa L* from *boro* 'grey'; Mo *bögereljigene*, Kh *böörölzgönö* 'raspberry bush' (*Rubus L*) from Mo *bögere*, Kh *böör* 'kidney' (probably because the raspberry has the shape of a kidney); Kh *ulaalzgana* 'red currant' (*Ribes rubrum L*) from *ulaan* 'red'; Mo *güjigeljigene*, Kh *güzèłzgènè* 'strawberry' (*Fragaria L*) from Mo *güjige*, Kh *güzèè* 'stomach' (probably because the shape of the berry resembles that of the stomach), etc.

The suff. *-iʃyana* occurs also in a few animal names, e.g., Mo *temegeljigene*, Kh *tèmèłzgènè* 'dragon fly' from Mo *temegen*, Kh *temee* 'camel' (because of the size of the insect); Mo *kögeljigene* (here *-iʃi* + *-rgene*), Kalm *köglžrym* [*köglžrjan*] 'dove' = Mtu *kökürčkän* id. from *kök* 'blue, grey', the Mo word having received its form by analogy with other words in *-yana*.

The words in *-iʃyana* (-ižgana) denote, like those in *-yana*, such plants and animals which are small in size and occur in large numbers in the same place as strawberries, dragon-flies, etc. which cannot be counted easily. It is interesting to note that the Solon word for strawberry *gudigérte* has the suff. *-rte* < **-kte* which was discussed in 1A.

2. Mo *-iʃi*

a. Mo *-iʃi*, Kh *-iž* form names of plants and animals the characteristic features of which are denoted by the nominal stem concerned. The suff. *-iʃi* is not to be confused with the suff. *-iʃin* of names of geometrical figures, e.g., Mo *dörbeljìn* 'square' from *dörben* 'four'.

Examples: Mo *boroljì*, Kh *borolž* *Heleocharis R.* Br. from Mo *boro* 'grey', Kh *bor* id; Kh *zèdègèlž* *Comarum palustre L* from ?; Kh *najtaalž* 'sneezewort' (*Ptarmica Neck.*) from *najtaa-* 'to sneeze' (as an exception, the primary stem is a verb because the Kh name is a loan translation from Russian *čixotnik* from *čixat'* 'to sneeze'); Kh *namgalž* *Callitricha L* from *namag*, Mo *namuy* 'morass, swamp' = Ma *namu*, Ev *lamu* 'sea'; Mo *tereljì*, Kh *terèlž* 'rhododendrum' (*Rhododendron dahuricum L*); Mo *ulaljì*, Kh *ulalž* 'sedge' (*Carex L*) from Mo *ula* in *ulayan* 'red', cf. Mo *ula* 'tinder' (because of its reddish colour); Mo *quryaljì*, Kh *xurgalž* *Eragrostis minor Host.* from Kh *xurga* 'lamb'; Mo *širaljì*, Kh *šarilž* 'wormwood' (*Artemisia L*) from Mo *šira*, Kh *šar* 'yellow'; Kh *cègèłž* *Glaux L*; Mo *sarbajì*, Kh *sarvalž* 'goosefoot' (*Chenopodium L*), cf. Mo *sarbayi-* 'to spread out, sprawl', etc.

b. Names of animals: Kh *xavgalž*, Mo *qabtayaljì* 'lapwing' (*Vanellus*) from Mo *qabtaya*, Kh *xavtga* 'bag, pouch'; Mo *čayaljì*, Kh *cagaalž* 'salmon' (*Salmo lavaretus*) from Mo *čayan*, Kh *cagaan* 'white'; Mo *širyoljì(n)*, Kh *šorgoolž* 'ant' from Mo *širyu* verbal noun from *širyu-*, Kh *šurga* 'to creep in, to sneak in'; Mo *salaljì*, Kh *salalž* 'white-tailed snipe' (a bird), etc.

3. Mo *-ljai*

Mo *-ljai*, Kh *-lzaj* form names of plants from nouns denoting colours and other characteristics of objects.

Mo *ulayaljai*, Kh *ulaalzaj* 'lily' (*Lilium sarana*) from Mo *ulayan*, Kh *ulaan* 'red'; Kh *cagaalzaj* (a new botanical term translated from Greek) *Leucanthemum DC* from *cagaan* 'white'; Kh *jagaalzaj* *Braya Sternb. et Hoppe* from *jagaan* 'pink'; Mo *boroljai*, Kh *borolzoi* *Hypoplitia trifida* from Mo *boro*, Kh *bor* 'grey'; Kh *xataalzaj* *Potentilla serica L* from *xataa* (verbal noun) from *xat-* 'to dry up, to become hard', etc.

4. Mo *-sun*

Mo *-sun*, Kh *-s* (the stem of such words ends in *-san* in Kh) is found on very many nouns. The words formed so have basically the meaning of a single piece, e.g., Mo *aduysun*, Kh *aduu* 'animal, beast', from Mo *aduğun*, Kh *aduu* 'horses, a herd of horses'; Mo *kimusun* < **kimulsun* 'nail, claw' from SH *kimul* 'finger nail', etc. The original meaning has been lost, and forms with *-sun* and without it are often used interchangeably, e.g., Mo *sudasun* < **sudalsun* 'vein' from Mo *sudal* id.²²

As for the names of plants, the original function of the suff. *-sun* has been preserved to a certain degree, and the plant names with the suff. *-sun* (Kh *-s*)

belong mostly to such plants which can be separated easily from each other. Some of them are trees or bushes, other are tall herbs the stalks of which can be counted with no difficulty, i.e., plants which are the opposite of such plants which represent one huge mass of stalks and leaves.

a. Trees and bushes: Mo *narasun*, Kh *nars* 'pine' (*Pinus L*) from Mo *naran* 'sun', cf. Tatar *narat* 'pine', an original plural form, borrowed from Mongolian; Mo *uliyasun* < **hulyarsun*, Kh *ulias* 'poplar' (*Populus L*), B *uljaahan* 'aspen', cf. Ev *hula* 'aspen', Nan *polo*, Ma *fulxa* 'aspen, poplar'; Mo *qayilasun* < **kayilarsun*, Kh *xajlas* 'elm' (*Ulmus L*); Mo *šinesün*, Kh *šinès*, B *šinehen* 'larch' (*Larix Mill.*); MMo *hičestün*, B *üšööhen* 'purple willow'; Mo *buryasun*, Kh *burgas* 'willow' (*Salix L*); Mo *munusun*, B *munahan*, Kh *mons* 'birdcherry tree' (*Padus Mill.*); Mo *moyilisun*, B *mojl/mojhon* another name for *Padus Mill.*, Mo *nürgesün*, Kh *nürgès* 'alder' (*Alnus L*), etc.

b. Herbs, berry plants, etc.; Mo *deresün*, Kh *dërs* 'broom grass' (*Lasiagrostis Link.*); Mo *jegešün*, Kh *zègès* < **žekënsün* 'cane, reed' (*Scirpus L*), cf. Tu *yekän* 'reed'; Mo *alirsun*, Kh *alirs* 'bilberry' (*Vaccinium vitis L*); Mo *neresün*, Kh *nërs* 'blueberry' (*Vaccinium uliginosum L*); Mo *yojosun* (a sing. form), Kh *gogod* (an original plural form) 'onion' (*Allium odorum L*), etc.

* * *

The general conclusion is that Mongolian has only a few suffixes which form exclusively plant names. Such are Mo *-lyana* and *-ljai*. There is one suffix which forms names of plants, animals and a few diseases (Mo *-yana*). The remaining suffixes Mo *-ryana*, *-ljyana*, and *-ljì* form plant and animal names. Of languages known to the author of these lines only Tungus and Finnish possess suffixes forming exclusively plant and animal names. The characteristic feature of Mongolian and Tungus is, however, that the suffixes of plant and animal names are used only in cases in which the plants or animals in question are small in size and occur in large numbers in the same place. It is interesting to note that some other languages, unrelated to Mongolian, also distinguish between two kinds of animals or plants, namely, large and small. Thus, we say in English '*they catch fish*', in Russian *ryba pošla gusto* "fish started moving in large numbers", *oni pošli po brusniku* "they went after bilberries", etc. Here the Russian uses singular forms which function as collective nouns. Some of the above Mongolian suffixes can also be called suffixes of collective nouns.

Notes

- 1) Abbreviations: B – Buryat, Ev – Evenki, Kh – Khalkha, Ma – Manchu, Mo – Script (Written) Mongolian, MMo – Middle Mongolian, MTu – Middle Turkic, Na – Nanai (Goldi), O – Ordos, Or – Oroki, SH – *Secret History*, Tib – Tibetan, Tu – Turkic.
- 2) The Khalkha forms are given in transliteration of those in the official orthography.
- 3) The names of plants have been taken from *Ulsyn nér tom'óny komissyn mèdèè* [Bulletin of the state commission on terminology], No. 59–65, Ulaanbaatar, 1965, and the Latin equivalents have been verified with V. I. GRIBOV, *Konspekt flory Mongolskoj Narodnoj Respubliky*, Moskva-Leningrad, 1951 and often with A. A. JUNATOV, *Osnovnye čerty rastitel'nogo pokrova Mongol'skoj Narodnoj Respubliky*, Moskva-Leningrad, 1950.
- 4) *Sravnitel'nyj slovar' tunguso-mani'čurskix jazykov, Materialy k ètimologièeskemu slovarju*, Tom II: O – È, Leningrad, 1977, p. 45.
- 5) G. DOERFER, *Türkische und mongolische Elemente im Neopersischen, Unter besonderer Berücksichtigung älterer neopersischer Geschichtsquellen, vor allem der Mongolen- und Timuridenzeit*, Band II: *Türkische Elemente im Neopersischen: alif bis ü*, Wiesbaden, 1965, pp. 28–29.
- 6) M. RASÄNEN, *Versuch eines etymologischen Wörterbuchs der Türksprachen*, Helsinki, 1969, p. 28. Cf. also È. V. SEVORTJAN, *Ètimologièeskij slovar' tjurkskix jazykov* (*Obščetjurkskie i mežtjurkskie osnovy na glasnye*), Moskva, 1974, pp. 173–174, 182–183.
- 7) U.-Ž. Š. DONDUKOV, *Affiksal'noe slovoobrazovanie častej reči v burjatskom jazyke*, Ulan-Udè, 1964, p. 30. This suffix is also found in names of birds and many other words, DONDUKOV, *l.c.*
- 8) This suffix also occurs in various nouns which are not names of plants, *vide* N. POPPE, "On Some Proper Names in the Secret History", UAJb 47 (1975), pp. 162–163. The same holds true with regard to all suffixes, including No. 13.
- 9) N. POPPE, *Grammar of Written Mongolian*, Wiesbaden, 1954, p. 46; N. POPPE, *Khalkha-mongolische Grammatik, Mit Bibliographie, Sprachproben und Glossar*, Wiesbaden, 1951, p. 38.
- 10) POPPE, *Grammar*, p. 46; *Khalkha-mongolische Grammatik, l.c.*
- 11) POPPE, *l.c.*
- 12) This suffix has not been mentioned in literature because it is very rare. There are only two other words known to the author, which appear with this suffix: Mo *qaraquna* the name of a bird from *qara* 'black' and Mo *gesigüne*, Kh *gešüünè* another word for rhubarb.

- 13) N. POPPE, "Über die Bildungssuffixe der mongolischen Bezeichnungen der Körperteile", UAJb 45 (1973), pp. 230–231.
- 14) POPPE, *Grammar*, p. 43.
- 15) POPPE, *l.c.*
- 16) DONDUKOV, *op.cit.*, p. 92.
- 17) This suffix forms also nouns denoting female beings, cf. POPPE, *Grammar*, p. 42; DONDUKOV, *op.cit.*, p. 21.
- 18) G.M. VASILEVIČ, *Èvenkijsko-russkij slovar'*, Moskva, 1956, p. 764.
- 19) L. HAKULINEN, *The Structure and Development of the Finnish Language*, Translated by John ATKINS (= Indiana University Publications, Uralic and Altaic Series, vol. 3), Bloomington, Ind., 1961, p. 90.
- 20) POPPE, *Grammar*, p. 47.
- 21) The name *xovoolgono* is formed from a noun by analogy. The same is the case of *savalgana*.
- 22) POPPE, "Über die Bildungssuffixe der mongolischen Bezeichnungen der Körperteile", pp. 128–129.

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MENSCHENHANDEL UND MACHTPOLITIK IM WESTLICHEN
HIMALAJA

Ein Kapitel aus der Geschichte Dardistans (Nordpakistan)

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