

UDC 930.85(4–12)

YU ISSN 0350–7653

ACADEMIE SERBE DES SCIENCES ET DES ARTS

INSTITUT DES ETUDES BALKANIQUES

BALCANICA

XXXIV

ANNUAIRE DE L'INSTITUT DES ETUDES BALKANIQUES

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BELGRADE
2004



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DENOMINATIONS OF “SQUILL” IN THE BALKAN LANGUAGES

Abstract: The paper deals with the particular naming units for plant species of the genus *Scilla* characteristic for the Balkan languages that have not been sufficiently discussed in previous phytonomastical researches.

Squill is any of the bulbous plants of the genus *Scilla* of the family Liliaceae, consisting of about 100 species, native to temperate Eurasia and northern Africa. The most of the European species could be found only in the South. The Latin word *scilla* (*/squilla*)¹ (f.) had been primary used to designate one particular sort of plant - *Scilla maritima*; later, it also became the term for the bulbous plants that belong to the other genus - *pancratium maritimum*, *cyclaminos*, *narcissus*, *ornithogalum pyrenaicum*² (André 1956: 284-285). It is borrowed from the Old Greek word *skílla* (σκίλλη) “scille, oignon marin” (Ernout/Meillet 1062) of an uncertain etymology. Carnoy (1959: 237) considers it to be related to Old Greek *skellíj* “oignon” created from the IE root **sqel-* “fouir, creuser la terre”. It appears that his explanation has not been of wide reverberation. Frisk (2: 731) s. v. *skílla* noticed

¹ On getting the Latin word into popular (folk) botanical terminology of the European languages, see REW (8204a), Ernout/Meillet (1139), Marzell (4: 913), Machek (1954: 268).

² On the circumstances that cause the appearance of the “transfer of naming unit” noticeable either in popular (folk) or in scientific botanical nomenclatures, see Strömberg (1940: 15), Sejdiu (1984: 352).

shortly “Unerklärtes Fremdwort”, whereas Chantraine (IV-1: 1018) gave us no comment.³ The question of etymology of the Old Greek synonym *scīnoj* (ῥ) (also *Pistacia lentiscus*) poses no lesser a problem. Carnoy is of the opinion that here we are dealing with the Thraco-Pelasgian reflex of IE **skī-no* “conique, pointu”. His statement is based on the argument that “Il s’agit probablement des feuilles à lobes très lentisque ... Quant à l’emploi de *schīnos* pour la ‘scille’, il s’explique par la forme conique des bulbes de cette scille maritime” (op. cit. 236). Neither Frisk (op. cit. 840) nor Chantraine (op. cit. 1082) have any other suggestion, nor refer to this entry in Carnoy’s dictionary⁴. The Vulgar Latin word *sc(h)īnus* (f.) (the form rendered from Greek alphabet into Latin ABS) *Pistacia lentiscus* is preserved in Italian dialects: abr. *scino*, calab. *scinu* “id.” (André 1956: 284). According to Orel (434) the Albanian word *shqind* “id.” is “borrowed from Gk *scīnoj* “id.” with -c- rendered as *-k- > -g-“.

Linguistic material collected for the purpose of this paper showed no strong evidence⁵ of getting both of these synonymic (either Greek or Latin) words into popular (folk) botanical nomenclature of the Balkan Slavic languages as well as of the Rumanian. However, it called our attention to another Vulgar Latin botanical term *cēpulla* (*cepolla*, *cipulla*, *cibulla*) (f.) “dimin. de *cēpa*; 1) remplace *cepa* dans Pallad. 3, 24, 2, etc.; Apic. 7, 6, 2, etc.; Dsc. 2, 137 (gr. 2, 151, **krómmuon**). – 2) *brittola*” (André 1956: 81; cf. TLL 3: 849). The Serbo-Croatian phytonym *kapula*⁶ *Allium cepa* is a typical Romance reflex of the Vulgar Latin word in Dalmatian form: phonetic value of the velar in front of the vowel *e* is preserved, sonority of the intervocalic *p* is missing, the vowel *u* is also preserved (Skok 2: 44, Vajs 1982-1983: 275; 1994: 128).⁷ About the possibility of the appearance of the Vulgar Latin word as *GLOSSA LATINITATIS BALCANICAE* Skok l. c. writes: “Biljka *čapuljka* ‘erodium’, naš deminutiv na -ka (upor. slov. *čebulka*), govori u prilog mišljenju da je *cepulla* postojalo i u balkanskom latinitetu. Biljka u značenju ‘asphodellus’ ima još više drugih varijanata: *čeprlja* f pored *čeprlj*

³ There is no mention of this word in Papanastassiou (1994), not even in *Chronique d’etymologie grecque, Revue de philologie, de littérature et d’histoire anciennes* LXX/1996; the (eventual) other opinions of its origin are not familiar to us until this moment.

⁴ Cf. also footnote N° 3.

⁵ Cf. yet Bulgarian *скѐлѝда* “парче от глава чесън” (БЕР 6: 741).

⁶ *Kapùla* (f.) “onion” (Rab, Božava, Cres, Veli Otok, Molat, Liburnija), *kàpula* “id.” (Lika, Mikalja, Bella, Stulić), *kàpula* “id.” (Vuk; Hercegovina, Konavli, Dubrovnik, Lastva, 17. century) (Skok 2: 44).

⁷ On the Serbo-Croatian phytonyms borrowed from Italian, see Skok (2: 44), Vajs (1982-1983: 275-276; 1994: 128).

m (rukopis, 15. v.), *čeprijēz* i (ikavski) *čepri* = *čepliš* (16. v., Dubrovčani, Zore) = (jekavski) *čèpljēz* m = *čapljiz*, sa nejasnim umetnutim *r* i nejasnim dočetkom. I te varijante govore za postojanje *cepulla* u tom latinitetu. Upor. biz. κήπουλον > *cipuddo* (Bova)”. Concerning Slovenian *čebul*, *čebula* *Allium* cepa, *čebulček* *Allium* schoenoprasum (Kranjska, Šulek), Bezljaj (1: 76) assumed the influence of Italian (Ven.) *cebolla* as well as of Middle High German *zibolle*, *zebulle*, *zwibolle*; however, the names in both of these languages are of the same Latin origin.⁸

The Serbo-Croatian compound word *morska kapula* (Šulek) is not the designation of the eventual subspecies of the plant denoted by the phytonym *kapula*; it appears as the designation of the plant *Scilla maritima*. The name with the equivalent formal and semantical structure had already appeared in Vulgar Latin: *cepul(l)a marīna* (= *scilla maritima*) > tosc. *cipolla marina*, nap. *cepolla marina* (André 1956: 81); cf. also Slovenian *morski čebul* (Kranjska, Šulek), *morska čebula* (Karlin 21), *morska čebulica* (Симоновић) ”id.”⁹. There are also several Serbo-Croatian compound words in which the same Romance reflex appears: *divja kapula* *Scilla maritima*, *Scilla amethystina* (Dalmacija, Šulek), *njivna kapula* *Ornithogalum* (album), *pasja kapula* *Muscari racemosus* (Šulek); cf. also Slovenian *pasja čebulica* *Gagea* (lutea) (Симоновић), *poljska čebulca* *Gagea lutea* (Kranjska, Šulek). All these plants, as well as the genus *Allium*, belong to the family Liliaceae whose members usually have an underground storage structure, such as **bulb** (IKFJ 347). It is obvious that almost in all languages in which we can find the compound name: *cepulla + **determinative¹⁰, the function of the **determinative is not to emphasize opposition: *subspecies* vs *species* (= *cepulla); it seems, therefore, that the compound name appears rather to denominate *species alteri generis*. Concerning this fact, should we say without hesitation that we are dealing, in this case, with the so called homonymous polysemy defined by Sejdiu (1984: 352) (who follows Séguy 1953) as the ‘transfer of naming unit’ caused by common or similar features of two or more plants equally designated? Citing German names *Bölle*, *Bolle*, *Bulla* for *Allium* cepa, Marzell (1: 199) writes: “In der Bedeutung ‘Zwiebel’ dürfte das it. *cipolla* mitgewirkt haben”. It should be underlined here that the Vulgar Latin word had already been analysed in Old High German as *Zwie-bolle* “twofold

⁸ On the question of the origin of the terms being reduced to the same Latin prototype that appear in the European languages, see Machek (1954: 266), Сабадош (1996: 93, 94, 140), Marzell (1: 198-199).

⁹ On the phytonyms with identical syntagmatic structure that appear in the European languages, see Machek 1954: 268, Marzell 4: 912.

¹⁰ * “Romance continuant or loanword from different sources”; ** “adject. qualitatis”.

bulb” (Vajs 1982-1983: 275). It is obvious that in time phytonym *cepulla became appellative. As for the Albanian word *qepule* f. (< Lat.) meaning “bulb of plant” (Orel 357), would it be too hypothetical to suppose that the Vulgar Latin *cepulla* should have already had the tendency to develop the meaning “bulbous plant→bulb”?

The opposite case represent Slovenian *furgel* *Muscari botryoides* (cf. Serbo-Croatian *kapula rigavica*) (Симоновић) and Rumanian *furculița* *Scilla bifolia* (Borza 157). Here we are dealing with an appellative functioning as phytonym. Both of the names could be reduced to the same Latin prototype *furca* (f.) “point de départ d’une tige secondaire, du pédoncule d’une fleur ou du pétiole d’une feuille” (André 1956: 143) that appears as *GLOSSA LATINITATIS NORICI ATQUE LATINITATIS BALCANICAE* (Skok 1: 525; cf. Bezlaj 1: 55, Snoj 54, REW 3593, Tiktin 2: 201).¹¹

The Serbo-Croatian phytonym *zumbul* *Scilla bifolia* is a typical example of the so called homonymous polysemy. The name, basically used to designate plants of the genus *Hyacinthus*, as it is well-known, is the Balkan word of Turkish origin (*sinbül*) (Skok 3: 665). The same ‘transfer of naming unit’: *Hyacinthus* → *Scilla bifolia* appears in the most of the European languages (Marzell 4: 161-162). The similarity of these plants that belong to the different genus is also illustrated by the Latin names for *Scilla bifolia* from the 16th century: *hyacinthus stellaris bifolius germanicus*, *hyacinthus caeruleus minor mas* (Marzell 4: 159). Areal distribution of the Serbo-Croatian names (*zumbul* *Scilla bifolia*, *pozni zumbul* *Scilla autumnalis*) is confined to the Southeastern region of Serbia (Симоновић); cf. also Bulgarian *дивъ зимбулъ* *Scilla*, *дивъ зимбюль* *Scilla bifolia* (Преславъ, с. Кюлявча-Новопазарско, МББР), Rumanian *zambilă*, *zambilă de câmp*, *zanghile* *Scilla bifolia* (Borza 157). Even in the case that the eventual common (for example Turkish?) prototype for all of these names¹² possibly exists, should they be considered independant formations in each of these languages? Putting aside this question to wait for more extensive analysis, let us finish this paper as we have started - turning our attention to another two etymologically uncertain denominations of squill:

¹¹ On the deminutive form ending with *-ula* + *-ica*, as a Balkan word, see Skok (1: 525), Младенов (1970: 29).

¹² We could not find such a prototype in the sources available to us.

a. Serbo-Croatian *niksa*, Rumanian *micsă* (*sălbatică*):

Here are the materials collected from the available sources:

nìksa (accent?) f. *Scilla bifolia* (Kupinovac, The district of Niš, PCA)
nìksica (accent?) f. *Scilla* (*bifolia*) (The district of Niš, PCA)
nìksica f. *Corydalis bulbosa* (sic!), *Scilla bifolia* (Timok, Динић)
misica f. “sort of wild flowers” (Leskovac, Митровић),
mìsica (accent?) *Scilla* (The district of Vranje, Симоновић, PCA),
mìsička (accent?) *Scilla* (The district of Vranje), *Scilla amoena* Pančić
 (Симоновић, PCA).

Areal distribution of the Serbo-Croatian names is confined to the southeastern region of Serbia. Their sound forms (with the unusual consonant group *-ks-*) steer our reflection around to the possibility that we are dealing here with a loanword. Borza s. v. *Scilla bifolia* cited Rumanian *micsă sălbatică* (Rumanian Banat) and Caraș. *polska nixița*. Without the determiner, Rumanian *micsă* appears to be the designation of *Hyacinthus orientalis* (Borza 259). DLR (6: 485, s. v. *micsă*) cites also var. *micșe* with the remark “Regional”, notices shortly “Etimologia neconoscută” and refers to lemma *micsandră*. Rumanian *micsandră* (var. *micsandre*) designates three different species of plants: *Matthiola incana* v. *annua*, *Cheiranthus cheiri*, and *Viola odorata* (DLR, Borza l. cc.)¹³. Tiktin (2: 667) s. v. *mixandră* (as var. of *micsandră*) refers to lemma *micșuneă* (2: 646). Rumanian *micșuneă* (var. *micșunele*, *micșunica*, *micșineă*) that also designates the same plants, Tiktin (l. c.) considered to be of Turkish origin (< *menekşe* *Viola odorata*)¹⁴. Now it is important to notice that the Rumanian word *viorele* *Viola* (*odorata*) also denotes the plants *Scilla bifolia* and *Hyacinthus orientalis* (Borza 301). The ‘transfer of naming unit’ should have been based on the similar (*id est* violet) color of their flowers. Though aware of the fact that eventual reducing of the Rumanian *micsă* (*micșe*) and *micșuneă* (together with the Serbo-Croatian names cited above) to the same (Turkish) prototype would require complex argumentation, our intention was to expose all collected material at one place, especially because neither Skok (2: 519) nor Tiktin (2: 667) have brought these Serbo-Croatian and Rumanian phytonyms together.

¹³ The Serbo-Croatian names *viola (bela)* *Matthiola incana*, *viola (žuta)* *Cheiranthus cheiri* indicate *per se ipsa* that denoted plants possess features similar to those of the plant *Viola odorata*. On that account, it would be superfluous to look for their botanical description available in botanical textbooks in order to improve it.

¹⁴ Cf. Serbo-Croatian *menèkše*, Bulgarian *менекше*, Albanian *menekshe*, Greek *μενεξές* of the same Turkish origin (BEP 4: 103, 109, 736, Skok 2: 404).

b) Serbo-Croatian *baluška*, Bulgarian *балушка*:

Serbo-Croatian materials indicate numerous formal and semantic variations and wide areal distribution of the word:

bàluška (f.) bulbo (Dalmacija, Šulek), *Muscari comosum* (Hercegovina, Pichler 1905: 5; Rijeka, Šulek), *Colchicum autumnale/latifolium* (Dalmacija, PCA), *Gagea* (= *Ornithogalum*), *Tofieldia* (= German *Liliensimse*) (Симоновић)

~ *vela/mala* *Muscari comosum* (Istra, PCA)

bàlučka (f.) bulbo vomitorio, scilla (Šulek), scilla minor (Dubrovnik, Šulek), “*rupa*, *Allium vineale*” (Vuk, PCA), *Allium scordoprasum* (Lovra, РСГВ), *Muscari comosum* (Hercegovina, Pichler op. cit.), *Gagea* (Симоновић).

~ *velika* scilla maggiore (Dalmacija, Šulek)

~ *manja* scilla minor (Dalmacija, Šulek)

~ *crljena* bulbus esculentus (Dalmacija, Šulek)

~ *crna moly*, *Allium Chamae-Moly* (Šulek)

~ *divja* *Colchicum* (Šulek)

~ *pasja* bulbo vomitorio, *Muscari comosum* (Šulek)

bàljuška (f.) *Allium pallens* (Šulek), *Muscari comosum* (Rijeka, Šulek; PCA), *Colchicum latifolium* (Dubrovnik, Šulek), *Gagea arvensis* (Šulek)

bàljučka (f.) “*lent-lily*, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*” (Bosna, Šulek; PCA)

boluška (f.) *Colchicum latifolium* (Симоновић).

Here are the Bulgarian and Rumanian data formally and semantically comparable to the Serbo-Croatian presented above:

Bulgarian *балушка* (f.) “*влашець*, *Allium ascalonicum*”, “*гарвански лукъ*, *Ornithogalum collinum*; *Ornithogalum parboreense*”, *бялушка* (f.) “*гарвански лукъ*, *Ornithogalum*, *Galanthus elvesii*” (МББР), *балучка* (f.) “*луковица на растение*” (ПРОДД).

Rumanian *bălușcă* *Ornithogalum boucheanum* (*gussonei*, *pyrenaicum*, *pyramidale*, *umbellatum*) (Borza 121).

The Serbo-Croatian word is without definite etymology. Skok (1:102) is of the opinion that formally it could be related to the Serbo-Croatian *balukat* m. “*fischtötender*, *Menispermum cocculus*” (< Turkish *balık* “fish” and *ot* “grass”) – the name for the plant whose fruit has long been used as a fish poison. But could it also be confirmed by the onomasiological and motivational aspects? Plants designated by the Serbo-Croatian *baluška*

(with var. cited above) belong to the same botanical family – the lily family (*Liliaceae*): “Members of the family usually have six-segmented flowers and three-chambered capsular fruits; occasionally the fruits are berries. The leaves usually have parallel veins and are clustered at the base of the plant but may alternate along the stem or be arranged in whorls. Most species have an underground storage structure, such as a stem, **bulb**, corm, or tuber. The family is important for its many garden ornamentals and houseplants ... Colchicum, ... grape-hyacinth (*Muscari*), ... hyacinth, ... *Ornithogalum*, ... snowdrop (*Galanthus*), ... squill (*Scilla*) ...”¹⁵ In botanical textbooks there are also no records of eventual ‘fishing with (their) berries (as bait)’. It is obvious that we should try to find another dominant feature being an impulse for denomination.

Except for *белушка* “раст. гарвански лук, *Ornithogalum*“ that is considered to be created from **bělъ* “*albus*” (БЕР: 1: 109), the other two Bulgarian words cited above (*балушка* and *балучка*) cannot be found in БЕР.

As for the Rumanian *bălușcă* *Ornithogalum boucheanum* (*gussonei*, *pyrenaicum*, *pyramidale*, *umbellatum*), Tiktin (1: 299) is of the opinion that it is probably derived from the Rumanian *băl* “*albus*”. Bejan (1991: 190) shares the same opinion, comparing this word with the similar formation (*id est* “Derivate de la adjective”) *negrușcă* *Nigella arvensis*.

At this point, it seems important to emphasize three matches: 1) there are two Bulgarian phytonyms: *бабалучки* *Ornithogalum narbonense* (Драгоманъ, Яарловци-Соф.), *лучка* (f.) *Ornithogalum refractum* (Пясочница-Леринско, Биралци-Каялийско, Мак. МББР)¹⁶, both synonymous to Bulgarian *балушка*, 2) Rumanian *balușcă* and *lușcă* are also equally used to designate plants of the same genus: *Ornithogalum boucheanum/gussonei/pyrenaicum/pyramidale/umbellatum* (Borza 121), 3) Serbo-Croatian *babaluška* (f.) (РСА; Симоновић) is a name for the bulbous plant known as *winter daffodil* *Sternbergia lutea* of the family *Amaryllidaceae*¹⁷, with

¹⁵ Cited from *Encyclopædia Britannica* 2002, Deluxe Edition CD-ROM, and Serial #: 590F00178449.

¹⁶ Also designation of the plant *Scilla bifolia* (МББР).

¹⁷ “Family of perennial herbs in the flowering plant order Liliales, ... distributed primarily in tropical and subtropical areas of the world. Members of the family have bulbs or underground stems; several strap- or lance-shaped leaves grouped at the base of the stem or arranged alternately along the stem; flowers usually with three petals and three sepals; and dry, capsule-shaped, and fleshy or berrylike fruits...” *Encyclopædia Britannica* 2002, Deluxe Edition CD-ROM, and Serial #: 590F00178449.

botanical features very much similar to those of the genus *Narcissus*¹⁸. The Serbo-Croatian synonym for *bálučka* *Allium vineale* is *pupa* (f.) (Vuk, PCA); in the same synonymous relations appear *baljuška trava* and *divlji kukuruz* *Colchicum autumnale*, just as *vodena lučka* and *divlji zumbulak* *Butomus umbellatus* (Симоновић).

Tiktin s. v. *lušćă* (2: 589) only refers to the entry *bălușcă*, whereas БЕР (3: 497-498) considered Bulgarian *лучка* “раст. *Ornithogalum divergens*” as the prototype for the Rumanian word.

Concerning the sound form of the Serbo-Croatian *babaluška* *Sternbergia lutea* we are disposed to the notion that this word could be related to the Serbo-Croatian *boboluska* (Cres, Šulek) *Lathyrus latifolius*, although neither of these terms have the same meaning. Skok (1: 177) associated the Serbo-Croatian *boboluska* with the Serbo-Croatian *boboruška* “borovo sjeme iz kravice, tj. šiške” (Smokvica, Korčula) and *bobolj* “asarum, ficaria ranunculoides”, but he, on the other hand, does not exclude the possibility of it being derivated from *bob*. We would like to underline that our intention is not to give definite etymology of the Serbo-Croatian *babaluška*, rather to point out a possible solution: the fact that the Serbo-Croatian *babaluška* and *boboluska* have different meanings could not be considered an aggravating circumstance; on the contrary, it could help us find out what was the dominate botanical feature (common to or similar for both of the plants) that has given an impulse for denomination. The genus *Lathyrus* belongs to the subfamily *Papilionoideae*, also called *Faboideae* (classified as a family, *Papilionaceae* or *Fabaceae*, by some authorities). The characteristic fruit of many members is a pod (legume) consisting, in essence, of an ovary, which is a tightly folded leaf, as in a pea pod (cf. *Encyclopædia Britannica* 2002, Deluxe Edition CD-ROM, and Serial #: 590F00178449). The botanical features of the plant *Sternbergia lutea* have already been mentioned above. Taking these matches into considerations, we keep thinking about ‘an enclosed seed/fruit’ as one of the possible motivations or, better, as an impulse for the process of denomination. Consequently, we also keep asking ourselves if it would be possible to analyze: 1) lexemes *boboluska* and *babaluška* as

¹⁸ It also belongs to the lily family for which a resting stage of a plant, that is usually formed underground and consists of a short stem base, bearing one or more buds enclosed in overlapping membranous or fleshy leaves, is typical (cf. IKFJ 352-359). Cf. also Serbo-Croatian *baljučka* (Bosna, Šulek; PCA) as the name for the plant *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*.

compound words¹⁹, and 2) lexeme *baluška* as a formation created from the latter one by haplology.²⁰

Finally, as it was mentioned above, the Serbo-Croatian name *baluška* is without a definite etymology or, rather, with two equally probable etymologies (cf. Skok 1: 102). In such cases the motivation of the name still stays obscure, or one could only guess between two possible solutions and maybe neither of them is the real one.

Instead of the conclusion:

As it is generally known, there is a detailed linguistic literature that informs us about questions of the scope of Balkan linguistic analogies as well as of the reasons that brought them about. Numerous typological, phraseological, syntactical and other linguistic similarities among the Balkan languages are evident. Conspicuous calques and other ‘linguistic copies’, such as loanwords, also improve strong reciprocal influences among the Balkan languages. Making an attempt in this article to present the different processes of denominations of one particular genus of plants in the Balkan languages, we only want to underline, once again, some of the generally known linguistic facts, especially the influences that the Romance languages had on the Balkan Slavic languages. These influences were expressed to a great extent and were based on Romano-Slavic mixoglossy. The examination of the already existent, and the establishment of new etymologies of the discussed phytonyms, has not been the aim of this article, but we hope that some of the exposed materials could be of use for further etymological researches.

¹⁹ Cf. also Polish *boboluszek*, szka “‘jakaś roślina o listkach owalnych, kwiatach niebieskich, rosnąca na bagnach (Zap. BAŁBL)” (SJP 1: 178). The name *Boboljusci* for the village in Bosnia near Drvar (IM 66) could be analysed as “those who peel (horse) bean”, whereas in Serbo-Croat *boboluska*, the second constituent of the compound, could be considered as nominal, *id est* in such a case we would deal with the appositives Kompositum (karmadhâraya) meaning “a shell of a (horse) bean” (cf. syn. *bobnjača*, *bobovina*, *bobište*, PCA). However, the possibility of the appearance of an appellative *boba* “berry” as the first part of the compound *boboluska* is also allowable. The formation on *ba-* should be considered as the secondary vrddhi-derivative, on which see Loma 2003: 267-277.

²⁰ In that case Rumanian *bălușcă* could only be considered as a (Slavic) loanword.

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DÉNOMINATIONS DE LA „SCILLE“ DANS LES LANGUES BALKANIQUES

R é s u m é

Le présent article s’occupe de quelques designations, particulières aux langues balkaniques et peu considérées jusqu’ici, des espèces de plantes appartenant au genre vivace *Scilla*, dont il y a, en Europe, Afrique et Asie, quelques douzaines, qui fleurissent aux approches du printemps. Quant aux espèces européennes, elle sont pour la plupart limitées au sud du continent. C’est le mot latin *scilla*, emprunté, à son tour, à grec ancien σκίλλα d’origine inconnue, dont on a usé à désigner d’abord l’espèce *Scilla maritima* et puis des plantes bulbeuses d’un autre genre, telles que *Pancratium maritimum*, *Cyclaminos*, *Narcissus*, *Ornithogalum Pyrenaicum*, et qui a entré dans la terminologie botanique populaire de la plupart des langues européennes. Il y en a, en grec, un synonyme, *sc̃noj*, dont dérive lat. *sc(h)īnus*, mais son étymologie n’est pas moins problématique. Bien que notre enquête n’ait mis au jour aucun(e) continuante / reflet de ces deux mots dans les langues slaves du sud et dans le roumain, elle a néanmoins attiré notre attention sur deux noms de plantes synonymes dans les langues balkaniques, s.-cr. *niksa*, roum. *micsă* et s.-cr., bulg. *baluška*, roum. *bălușcă*. Ayant examiné, dans cet article, les procédés différents de dénomination d’un genre de plantes particulier, nous en sommes venu à souligner, une fois de plus, un fait linguistique généralement connu – l’influence des langues romanes sur le slave des Balkans, se manifestant dans une large mesure, basée sur la mixoglossie slavo-romane.