



ETYMOLOGY OF PLANT NAMES

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Abstract: The article is aimed at etymological analyses by studying the history of the origin of words that are widely used in the world of plants.

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The subject of etymology as a branch of linguistics is the study of the sources and the process of formation of the vocabulary of the language, as well as the reconstruction of the vocabulary of the language of the oldest period (usually pre—written). In the vocabulary of each language there is a significant fund of words, the connection of the form of which with the meaning is incomprehensible to native speakers, since the structure of the word cannot be explained on the basis of the models of word formation operating in the language. Historical changes in words usually obscure the primary form and meaning of the word, and the symbolic nature of the word determines the difficulty of reconstructing the primary motivation, that is, the connection between the primary form and meaning of the word. Etymology is the science of the origin of names. Why are objects, phenomena, living beings, finally, called so, and not otherwise? When and under what circumstances did they acquire their "names"? What is behind them? Etymology is intended to answer these questions. The meaning of some names is easy to guess - mostly because they are associated with concepts already familiar to us. The origin of others often remains a mystery behind seven seals - they are so ancient that their source has long been lost. Throughout history, man has always been closely connected with plants. He used them as food, fuel, medicine, made clothes from them, and decorated their homes with them. This caused the need to distinguish one plant from another, so people have long been noticing the features of their green companions, which were expressed in the features of the external structure, the proximity to certain habitats, the content of various substances (for example, giving them color, smell, taste, medicinal properties, edibility or toxicity).

As you know, there are about 300 thousand flowering plants on the globe, represented by about 20 thousand genera. According to the international rules of plant nomenclature, their name is usually given in Latin. At the same time, it is based on the binary system introduced into practice by Carl Linnaeus. First, the generic name is given, and then the specific name, indicating the author who described this species or genus. In the practice of different countries, including Russia, the names of plants in national languages are often used. At the same time, the Latin names of very many plants, especially those not found in any country, are written in letters of the language adopted in that country, or names close to them are given. For example, the genus **Aretia** in Russian is designated as an arecia, and the genus **Castanea** is translated as chestnut, **Lunaria** as a lunar, Syringa as a lilac, etc. Thus, the same plant can have several folk names, reflecting more often similar, but often completely different features. In order not to get confused in the abundance of multilingual names, taxonomists decided to focus on one single language. Their choice fell on Latin, which in the middle century was used by scientists in this field. It is the Latin language that has become a kind of Esperanto of modern systematic science. Its use has simplified the communication of researchers from different countries, since now each species has only one, strictly defined name. For example, the same **valeriana** has acquired the Latin name «**Valeriana officinalis**», by which botanists all over the planet know it. This

name consists of two words — the generic name Valeriana (Valerian) and the specific epithet officinalis — medicinal. At the same time, strict rules for assigning scientific names to plants in national languages have not appeared.

Today we will get acquainted with the etymology of words related to the agricultural sector, the terms used in this area, expressions, their origin, of course, have their own history. Let's briefly consider their origin and application. The word "plant" has its roots in ancient times. Some philologists, based on the presence of the letter combination "ra" in its root, even substantiate the genesis of the term from the Indo-Aryan language. It is assumed that the morpheme "ra" meant "light" in it. In the pantheon of gods of the ancient Egyptian civilization, which is rightly considered the heir of the Indo-Aryan culture, the god Ra was associated with the Sun. The famous Russian philologist and linguist Lev Uspensky in his "Etymological Dictionary" justifies the origin of the term "plant" from the word "grow", which in the Old Russian version sounded like "orsti". As you can see, the morpheme "ra" is not visible in it. Over the centuries, the verb was transformed into "growth", and when the center of linguistic culture shifted to Moscow with its "screaming" pronunciation, the word was transformed into the verb "grow". This version looks as plausible and logical as possible today. In other words, a plant is something that grows, being attached to a certain place - this is its main function and purpose of existence. In other words, a plant is something that grows, being attached to a certain place – this is its main function and purpose of existence.

Apricot — to the Greeks and Romans, apricot was known in the form of early—fruiting forms, which were called praccocia — "early" (from prae- early, sossop — seed). The Arabs changed it to al birquq. Then it returned to European languages again, turning Italy into albercocco or albicocco, in France in abricot, in England - apricot. The Russian name probably came from the Dutch abrikos [абрикос]. It is curious that the apricot came to Greece and Italy from Armenia (the RGO was called the Armenian apple), which was subsequently reflected in its Latin. The generic name is Armeniaca. But Armenia, despite the fact that apricots have been grown here for thousands of years, is not the original homeland of this fruit plant. Probably, it was brought here by Merchants along the Great Silk Road from distant China, where apricots were cultivated 3-4 thousand years ago. And the appearance of apricot in Greece was greatly contributed, as is believed, by Alexander the Great (family Roses).

Quince — borrowed from the Turkish ajva — quince (*Cydonia vulgaris* Mill.); cultivated as a fruit plant. It is curious that the ancient Greeks called the dish, which was prepared from quince with honey, melimelon. From this word came the Portuguese name for quince - marmelo, and from him the familiar word "marmalade". In addition, it is believed that it was the quince fruit that served as the "apple of discord" that Paris handed over to Aphrodite, as the most beautiful of goddesses. There is also a transliteration of Lat. the generic name of *Cydonia* is – "цидония". The fruits of this plant were known to the Romans as the "cydon apple" (*Mala Cydonia*). *Cydonia* (*Cydonia*, *Kydonia*) is a city-state in the northwest of about. Crete, which was founded, according to legend, by King Cydon, the son of Hermes and Akakallis (daughter of King Minos)(family roses). Cherry - the Russian name is related to the ancient High German wihsila - cherry, moving further closer to lat. viscum - bird glue, from viscere - to glue, because cherry glue was used in catching birds. It is prepared by standing out on the trunks of plants. Cherry glue branches, various designs of paper, causing the feathers of birds to stick together and they cannot fly. Cherries (cherries) began to be cultivated in Greece (in Miletus) since the 3rd century BC. According to Pliny the Elder, the cherry was delivered to Rome a little later (1st century BC) by the Roman commander Lucullus from Keras (from where the Greek and Roman name of the plant, *Cerasus*, became the scientific Latin name of the genus) (family Roses).

Geranium — in the Russian language, this word came either from the German language, because directly from Latin. It is a modified transliteration of Lat. the name of the genus *Geranium* [geranium], from Greek. geranos is a crane; but in the shape of fruits resembling the beak of a crane. In Russia, various species of this genus were called crane's nest, crane's sock, crane's nose, etc. (the *Geranium* family).

Akalifa - is a transliteration of Lat. the names *pojia Acalipha* [akalifa], romanization of the Greek *akaliphe* — nettle; by the similarity of the leaves. A friend of the version, this name is derived from Greek. The words *a-*, *not-*, *kalos* — beautiful and *aphe* — touching, i.e. has the meaning "unpleasant to the touch" (family Milkweed).

Melon — the most common version of the origin of this name connects it with the word *blow*, i.e. melon is a "bloated" fruit. It is also believed that it originated from Lat. *cydonea* (after the name of the city of Sidon, located on the Mediterranean coast), German *Toppe* — barrel, Manchurian *dunnga* — watermelon (sem. Pumpkin).

Ginseng - the Chinese name of this plant, which can be translated as "man—root"; by the similarity of the underground part of the plant to the human figure. But lat. the name of the genus *ginseng* (*Rapach*) reflects the medicinal properties of representatives of this genus. It is derived from Greek. *rap* is everything and *akos* is medicine. The word *panacea* has a similar origin — a cure for all diseases. Indeed, common ginseng (*R.ginseng* S.A.Meu.), which grows in the Far East and Northeastern China, has been used as a medicinal plant for more than one millennium. The main effect of ginseng is tonic, but it is used independently or as a component in a very wide range of ailments (sem. *Araliaceae*).

Currently, etymology is expanding its role, solving not only etymological, but also informational and cognitive methodological problems. Today, dictionary science lies at the junction of various information technologies, computer linguistics, practical scientific experiments, general and historical linguistics. Different types of translated material put forward different requirements for translation. Thus, the etymological study of the name of plants is a historical complex multilateral.

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