

River Names in the Pripet Basin

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Preface

IT IS A WIDELY ACCEPTED FACT that river names generally survive their original name-giving source. Thus, the etymology of river names is of great interest to those eager to know the ethnic past of a specific region. Practically no people or race in our contemporary world have remained exclusively in their original prehistoric cradle. This statement is valid for the Slavic peoples as well.

For many years, scholars have occupied themselves, attempting to pinpoint the Slavic cradle, and there are many hypotheses regarding it. Recorded history reports that in the middle of the fourth century A.D., the Slavs "occupied eastern Germany to the Saale and Elbe Rivers," and some Slavic tribes reached the Eastern Alps, Venice, Salonika, and the Danube River.¹ Already in modern times, the Russians had colonized Northern Asia and reached the Pacific Ocean, Alaska, and there were even some attempts to occupy California and the Hawaiian Islands. Where then was the prehistoric cradle of the Slavs?

The attempt to define the accurate borders of their original home is neither a new nor an easily solved problem. There is already extensive literature on this subject, but no complete agreement has ever been reached, and even the great Slavist Jan Rozwadowski regarded it as a "theoretical" conception.² Here, in the preface, I shall mention merely the highlights of this problem, without going into detail, or attempting to reach a solution.

Because historical sources alone are not sufficient to solve the puzzle, a scholar must seek additional information. Archeology, historical linguistics, and recently onomastic science – especially the oldest place- and water-names – render great help here. Regarding the Slavic cradle, the German Slavist, Reinhold Trautmann,

¹ R. Trautmann, *Die slavischen Völker und Sprachen*, Göttingen, 1947, p. 6.

² J. Rozwadowski, "Uwagi krytyczne o tzw. praojczyźnie ludów słowiańskich," in *Wybór pism*, Vol. II, Warsaw, 1961, p. 94.

said: "Although, in the Balkans or in the Danube region, there are no old place- or river-names referring to old Slavic settlements, we find, on the contrary, that the territory between the Warta (right tributary of the Oder River) and the Dnieper is abundant in pure Slavic names."³ The contemporary Polish scholar, Tadeusz Lehr-Splawiński, after linguistic analysis of the main river names, in 1960 drew a map of rivers with Proto-Slavic names, including the following main rivers with their basins: Oder with Warta, Vistula with Bug, and the middle Dnieper with the Pripet basin.⁴ The late German Slavist, Max Vasmer, after extensive research of the place- and water-names of Eastern Europe, concluded that the original cradle of the Slavs and the oldest homeland of the Eastern Slavs (Russians, Byelorussians and Ukrainians), in the last centuries before Christ, was the territory extending eastward from Eastern Galicia through the terrain of Volynia, Podillja, Kiev, Černyhiv, Mohilev, Poltava, Kursk and Orel to the upper Don.⁵ On his map, the Pripet basin was included as part of the Slavic homeland. According to him, to the north of the Slavs lived the Balts; to the south, Iranians; to the northeast, Finns; and to the west, Gothic tribes. Of course, an outsider to these problems must realize that there is always some degree of patriotic bias among the Slavic and German researchers occupied with this question.

Here are a few names of the largest rivers, some of which are supposedly of Slavic origin:

Oder, in German and *Odra*, in Polish, now a border river between Poland and East Germany, in the Middle Ages called *Odera* (hence Germ. *Oder*) and *Odora*. A few small rivers, in original Slavic territories, have the same name: 1. *Odra*, l. tr. of *Prosna*, near the city Kalisz; 2. r. tr. of Dnieper near Orsha; 3. r. tr. of *Snov*, northeast from Černyhiv, etc. Etymology of *Odra* is derived from particle *o-* and IE root **der-/*drā-* 'to run, to speed'; cf. Russ. *děrkij* 'quick, swift' (colloq.) *udirát'* 'run away,' Pol. (colloq.) *drąła* 'flight,' Sloven. *dir* 'running,' *dirjati* 'to run.' (Lehr-Splawiński, Rozm. 7, Rozwadowski, Studia, 259). [For abbreviations see p. 196. – Ed.]

³ Trautmann, *op.cit.*, p. 7.

⁴ T. Lehr-Splawiński, "Rozmieszczenie geograficzne prasłowiańskich nazw wodnych," *Rocznik Slawistyczny*, Vol. XXI, part 1, Wrocław, 1960, p. 9.

⁵ M. Vasmer, *Die alten Bevölkerungsverhältnisse Rußlands im Lichte der Sprachforschung*, Berlin, 1941, p. 14 (with map.).

Wisła, main river of Poland, Lat. *Vistula* (Mela, Plinius), *Vistla*, *Visculus* (Plinius), Gr. Ὀυιστοῦλα (Ptolemy), *Viscla* (Jordanis) < PS **Vistla* > Balt. *Viskla* (OPrus.; from which also **Viksla* > Germ. *Weichsel*) < IE **vid-*/**veid-* 'to bend, to twine' or *(*s*)*veid* 'moisture' and suffix *-tla*, *-tlo*. In Polish appellation *wisła* 'big water, spring flood,' Sloven. *vjisló* 'brook.' There are many small rivers and lakes with similar names in the Polish territory: *Wistoka*, *Wisłka* (lake), *Wisłok*, etc., and also in the Pripet basin: *Visla*, *Vislica*, *Vislo* (marsh). (Lehr-Splawiński, Rozm. 7f., Rozwadowski, Studia, 264ff.).

Bug, r. tr. of *Wisła*, Br. Ukr. *Buh* < IE **bheug-* 'to bend, to flee,' 'a turning, winding river' (Rozwadowski, Studia, 243); cf. OI *bhoga-* 'flexure,' Gr. φεύγω Lat. *fuga*, OGerm. *boug* 'ring,' Russ. *buga* 'low river shore, bushes in flooded area,' *bugor* 'little hill,' Pol. *bugaj* 'bushes on a hill' (Brückner SEJP, 47, Lehr-Splawiński, Rozm. 8, Rudnyékyj EDUL, 231).

Dnieper, the main river of the Ukraine, Ukr. *Dnipro*, Russ. *Dnepr*, OES *Dnĕprŏ*, Gr. Δάναπρις, Lat. *Danaper* and *Danapris*, most probably from Iran. **Dānu- apara-* 'rear river'; cf. OI *áparas*, Avest. *apara-* 'behind, rear, more distant' in comparison with *Dniester* River **Dānu- nazdyō* 'closer river.' (Rozwadowski, Studia, 244, Brückner SEJP, 90, Vasmer REW I, 354, Bilećkyj, 60.)

Vólga, the largest river in European Russia, has no clear etymology to date; possibly from Slavic **Vlga*, such as the Czech river *Vlha*, Pol. *Wilga*, Russ. adj. *vólgljy* 'wet'; or from Fin. *valkea*, Est. *valge*, which does not find general acceptance, nor does Mikkolas' suggestion of Old-Cheremish **Jylga*, Bashkir *jelga* 'brook, river' from Turkotatar languages. (Rozwadowski, Studia, 228, Vasmer REW I, 216).

In 1962 the Soviet onomasts, V. N. Toporov and O. N. Trubachev, published an impressive collection of upper Dnieper hydronyms, analyzing their structure and etymology.⁶ Their research – though not always free from flaw – clarified many aspects of the Baltic-Slavic relationship. Basically, their conclusion was similar to that of the Lithuanian scholar, K. Būga, who, in 1924 (and even before) after studying place-names, came to the conclusion that all of Byelorussia up to the Pripet River was originally populated by

⁶ V. N. Toporov, O. N. Trubačev, *Lingvističeskij analiz gidronimov Verxnego Podneprov'ja*, AN SSSR, Moscow, 1962, (with 13 maps).

Baltic tribes which later were pushed northward and westward toward the Baltic Sea by the Slavs.⁷ Furthermore, they found themselves in agreement with the research findings of Max Vasmer, whose work they called "the last word in contemporary toponymic science in reference to the prehistoric fate of the population of the upper Dnieper basin."⁸ After their investigation of numerous hydronyms, while observing also mutual linguistic contacts and influences of the Slavs, Balts, and Finns, Toporov and Trubachev drew a map (No. 2), on which they showed Baltic hydronyms (from the Pripet southward mixed with Slavic hydronyms) reaching the cities of Rivne, Zhitomir and Kiev.

Of course, in that region there are some river names which by stretching the imagination could be associated with some Baltic hydronyms. However, the Soviet authors are exaggerating when they derive the most obvious Slavic names from the Baltic, such as the following: *Dorogán'*, which they derive from Baltic *darg-* instead of from the more appropriate PS **dorg-* (+ Slavic suffix *-an'*) > Br. *daróha*, Russ. *doróga*, Ukr. *doróha* 'way';⁹ *Lan'* or *Lán'a* (*Lunija*?) from Lith. GN *Liūnai* or *liūnas* 'marsh' instead of from the more likely Br. Russ. Ukr. *lan'* or *lán'a*, OES *lani* < PS **olni*, cf. Lith. *álnė*, Gr. ἄλλός 'doe'; *Túrija* or *Túr'ja* from Lith. *Taurija* and not from the more probable adj. *túr'ja* < OES *turo*, cf. Lith. *taūras*, Gr. ταῦρος, Lat. *taurus* 'aurochs.' *Dobrosósna* is not from Baltic *dubur-* or *dabr-* (p. 184).

The territory in question, of course, abounded in the same flora and fauna as that in the Baltic lands, and the rivers served as roads of transportation. Thus, the above-mentioned names could be conceived independently by the two neighboring ethnic groups. Furthermore, if the hydronyms in the Pripet basin are mainly of Baltic origin, as Toporov and Trubachev would have us believe, then the Pripet basin would not be a part of the Slavic cradle, but of the Baltic cradle, which would be contrary to the findings of most prominent Slavists.

⁷ K. Būga, "Die Vorgeschichte der aistischen (baltischen) Stämme im Lichte der Ortsnamenforschung," *Streitberg-Festgabe*, Leipzig, 1924, pp. 22ff. (with map).

⁸ Toporov, *op. cit.*, p. 10.

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 184ff. In this region there are many rivers derived from local Slavic *doroĥa*; e.g., *Dorohánka*, *Dorohán'*, *Dorohobúža* (< PS **Dorgobudĥ + ja*), *Dorohóvla*, *Dorohonka*, *Dorohónvša*, *Dorožánka*, and the city *Dorohýčyn* < FN *Dorohýč + yn* (in

Pripet Basin

Now I shall confine my discussion specifically to Pripet basin river names. This region contains many rivers, lakes, marshes and forests, the largest in Europe, which were in prehistoric times and still are at present difficult to penetrate for friend and foe alike. Therefore, the people there were always able to survive safely any destructive invasion of nomads, or recently of modern highly mechanized conquerors.

Since the Pripet region is regarded by almost all Slavists as part of the prehistoric cradle of the Slavs, analysis of the geographical names of the Pripet valley, in connection with the local dialects, should be of great importance to Slavic onomastics, and perhaps to general onomastics as well.

As a native son of that region called *Polissye*, 'forest land,' I have been interested in the dialects, ethnography, and onomastics of the region since my university days. Many of the river names and their meanings (especially the smaller ones) were given to me by the local inhabitants. Here I shall present an analysis of the names of both the large and small rivers. I would also like to treat the left and the right tributaries (following the course of the Pripet) separately, because the left tributaries are located on the northern part of the river Pripet, which supposedly was a dividing line between the Balts and the Slavs.

The largest and main river here, the right tributary of the Dnieper, is called by the local inhabitants, *Pripet'*, OES *Pripetb* in Russ. and Ukr. *Prípjat'* in Br. *Prýpjac'*, which supposedly means 'rushing or sloping river.' This is a compound name, consisting of the OES prefix *pri-* ('attached to, by, with') and the root *pet-* (cf. Br. hydronym *Černó-pet'*, Ukr. *Ikó-pet'* || *Ikó-pot'*; analogical Russ. appellative *pri-tólk* 'tributary') < IE **pet-* 'to rush, to fall'; cf. OI *pra-pat-* 'to fall, to rush down,' Gr. *προ-πετής* 'sloping,' *ποταμός* 'river,' Lat. *pet-o* 'to reach towards, hasten to.' However, Mozyński, Pierw. 174, made an accurate observation, stating that the *Pripet'* is a slow river, but added also that for inhabitants of Polissye, where there are so many stagnant waters, even the broad and slow *Pripet'* might seem to be 'a rushing river,' and he gives

the district Hrubeshiv, also *Drohíčány*) which the authors connected with the Baltic *darg-* rather than PS **dorg-*.

convincing examples of river names with similar meanings in similar circumstances. (Rozwadowski, *Studia*, 188, Vasmer REW II, 433, Lehr-Splawiński, *Rozm.* 8, Toporov, *Gidr.* 219.)¹⁰

a) *Left Tributaries of the Pripet*¹¹

Kryvýč'a, from OES *krivъ* (+ *-ica*) 'curved.'

Hlúša, from Polissian dialectal *hlúša* 'a desolate place, solitary forest.'

Rozsóxa, from Poliss. dialect. *rozsóxa* 'a bifurcated river.'

Pína, l. tr. of *Strúmin'*, a branch of the Pripet, from Ukr. *pína* 'foam' or Ukr. dialectal 'a tiny, green growth covering water' (also called locally *plavúška* '*Hottonia palustris*'). Vasmer REW II, 358, derives this name from OI *pīnás* 'fat, swollen,' which is unconvincing, however, because it is a small river and such rivers never preserve their prehistoric names.¹² Toporov, *Gidr.* 201, expresses the possibility here of the Baltic root **pin-* (found in such hydronyms as Lith. *Pynauja*, OPruss. *Pynouwe*, *Pinno*) without giving their meanings, as is his habit. Possibly *Pína* is a local homonym of a former Baltic name. Moszyński, *Pierw.* 179, cautiously suggests here an IE root **pi-* 'wet.'

Nésluxa, l. tr. of *Pína*, from OES past part. *neslō* (+ *-uxa*) < *nesti* 'to carry' (a rapid river).

Strúmin', left branch of Pripet, from Poliss. dialect. *strúmin'* 'stream.'

Prostrýn', left branch of Pripet, from Poliss. dialect. *ros-prostért-ys'* 'to stretch out.'

Jasélda, *Jas'ólka* or *Jas'ólka*, l. tr. of *Strúmin'*, regarded by Būga as a Yatving name with the suffix *-da*. Lehr-Splawiński, *Rozm.* 13, connects it with PS **jashb* > Russ. *jásli* 'crib,' meaning here 'river bed.' Moszyński, *Pierw.* 201, derives it from IE **aidh-s* / **idh-s* 'to shine, blaze, burn; fire; clear, bright,' suggesting by this 'a shining river,' flowing through a green, endless marsh (about 50 km), which is close to reality, but perhaps a bit too picturesque.

¹⁰ See also my article, "Geographical Names of West-Polissye (BSSR)," in the *Proceedings of the VIIIth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences*, The Hague, 1965 (in printing).

¹¹ If a river is a direct tributary of the Pripet, it will not be specified as such.

¹² Vasmer's view here is somewhat contradicted by his own article on small rivers which all bear local names. See his "The Meaning of Russian River Names," in *Oxford Slavonic Papers*, Vol. VI, Oxford, 1956, pp. 44-55.

Vynéc', r. tr. of *Jaselda*, (*vynéc'* 'wreath'), from Poliss. dialect. *výtys'* 'to twine, twist.'

Rúdka, r. tr. of *Jaselda*, from ES *rúda* (+ *-ka*) 'ore,' or 'rusty marsh.'

Dorohobúža, l. tr. of *Jaselda*, from Ukr. *doróha* 'way,' and PS **bud-* *-ja*. Toporov, Gidr. 184, connects it with Yatwing **Darg-*.

Žehulánka, l. tr. of *Jaselda*, possibly from Lith. *žiogis* (+ Slavic suffix *-janka*) 'meadow, brook' (cf. Lith. GN *Žagulino*) (Toporov, Gidr. 187).

Rečyc'a, r. tr. of *Žehulánka*, a dimin. of Poliss. dialect. *ryká* 'river.'

Bóbrik, l. tr. of *Jaselda*, from OES *bobrik* 'little beaver.'

V'et', r. tr. of *Bóbrik*, from Br. *v'et'*, Russ. *vetv'* 'branch.'

Vislica, r. tr. of *Bóbrik*, see Pcl. *Wista*.

Visla, r. tr. of *Vislica*, as above.

Rúdn'a, r. tr. of *Bobrik*, see *Rúdka*.

Cna, l. tr. of Pripet, from PS **Tьsna* (cf. OPruss. **tusna-*) < IE **tusna* 'silent.' (Rozwadowski, *Studia*, 51, Vasmer REW III, 293.)

Smert', from PS **smertь*, also *mertь* 'death,' cf. Lith. *mirtis*, OI *mrtis*, Lat. *mors*, *mortis* 'the same.' Toporov, Gidr. 208, associates it with Lith. *Smertupis*. On some maps this river is spelled *Smerd'*, from Poliss. dialect. *smerdí-ty* 'to stink.'

Hlúšica, l. branch of *Cna*, from Br. *hlúša* (+ *-ica*), see *Hlúša*.

Lan', from ES *lan'* 'doe.' Toporov, Gidr. 192, derives it from Lith. *liunas* 'marsh,' which is questionable.

Mértvyj, r. tr. of *Lan'*, from ES *mértvyj* (*potók*) 'dead (brook).'

Hlubókaja, l. tr. of *Lan'*, from Poliss. dialect. *hlubókaja* 'deep.'

Sítnica, from Poliss. dialect. *sytnýk* 'soft, tall, round plant,' (*Juncus maximus*) which would suggest a river surrounded by such a plant.

Sluč; Vasmer REW II, 666, associates it with PS **slučь*, Russ. *slúkiy* 'curved, bent'; Lehr-Splawiński, *Rozm.* 15, derives it from PS **slukъ* 'damp'; Moszyński, *Pierw.* 141, from PS **slukъ* 'clear (water)'; it could also be from OES *slučiti* 'to combine' which would mean 'a river combining several smaller ones.' Toporov, Gidr. 208, mentions a possible Baltic origin, however, without giving an example.

Móroč, r. tr. of *Sluč*, unclear; Toporov, Gidr. 196, associates it with Lith. hydronym *Merkys* (*meřk-* 'wet, water' ?); or perhaps from PS **mork-*, cf. Br. Russ. *mórok* 'darkness, fog.'

Čórnaĵa, r. tr. of *Móroč*, from Br. *čórnaĵa* 'black.'

Ol'sanica, l. tr. of *Sluč*, from Poliss. dialect. *ol'sýna* (+ *-ica*) 'alder grow' (< *ól'xa* 'alder').

Skrípica, from Br. *skrip'éc* (+ *-ica*) 'to creak.'

Ptič, (in the Dnieper basin also rivers *Ptična*, *Ptan'*); Vasmer II, 458, derives it from OES *ptičь* 'bird,' Russ. *ptica*, dimin. *ptička*, locally *ptýčka* 'bird, waterfowl, wader'; Rudnyčyj (EDUL 281), using XV c. form *Bčičь*, suggests the root **bč-* (?), and Toporov, Gidr. 203, Lith. *putytis* 'young bird.'

Orés(s)a, r. tr. of *Ptič*, unclear; Moszyński, Pierw. 199, associates it with IE **er-*/**or-* 'to move violently.' Toporov, however, derives it from Baltic **Ar-esa*.

Komaróvka, r. tr. of *Ptič*, from ES *komár* (+ *-ovka*) 'mosquito.'

Smolóvka, l. tr. of *Ptič*, from ES *smolá* (+ *-ovka*) 'sap, pitch.'

Krásnaĵa, l. tr. of *Ptič*, Br. Russ. *krásnaĵa* 'red, beautiful.'

Borúxa, from OES *borъ* (+ *-uxá*) 'young pine grove.'

Utvóxa, an augmentative of Poliss. dialect. *útvá* (+ *-oxa*), Russ. *útká* 'duck, wild duck.'

Vjúnica, r. tr. of *Utvóxa*, from ES *v'jun* (+ *-ica*) 'loach.'

Velíkaja, r. tr. of *Utvóxa*, from Poliss. dialect. *velíkaja* 'great.'

Bórtńica, r. tr. of *Smert'*, from ES *bort'* < **bǫrtb* 'a hollow tree with a nest of wild bees'; cf. also Ukr. *bortnýč'a* 'a piece of hollow log.'

Trem'á, l. tr. of *Ptič*, unclear; Toporov, Gidr. 210, derives it from Baltic **Trem-* and Slavic suffix *-ja*.

Ipa or *Ippa*, some ancient, unclear water-name. Rozwadowski, Studia, 188, associates it with *Iput'*, which Moszyński, Pierw. 192, derives from IE **eip-* 'shiny.'

Mýtvica, from Poliss. dialect. *mýtvá* (+ *-ica*) 'washing place.'

Brahínka, from Br. *bráha* (+ *-ínka*) 'molasses, or yellow, rusty water.'

Nénač, from ES *ne* – Latv. *nākt* 'to come' (non-flowing); Toporov, Gidr. 197.

b) *Right Tributaries of the Pripet*

Some of the right tributaries of the Pripet, such as *Styr*, *Horýn'*, *Stóxid*, are longer than the Pripet itself at the point of their merging.

Výžva, from Slavic root *vyž* (+ *-va*), cf. Pol. *wyżyna* 'high land.' This river passes a few sand hills along its course.

Túrja, from ES adj. *túr'ja* < OES *tur̥o*, cf. Lith. *taūras*, Gr. ταῦρος, Lat. *taurus* 'aurochs.'

Hlúša, as above (Left Tributaries).

Bréšča, unclear.

Dóvha, r. tr. of *Bréšča*, from Ukr. adj. *dóvha* 'long.'

Koróstyn'ka, tr. of Lake *L'úb'az'*, through which the Pripet flows, from Poliss. dialect. *korósta* (+ *-inka*) 'awns.'

Stóxid, from the compound common Slavic *sto* 'hundred' and Ukr. *xid*, Gsg. *xódu* 'way'; a river flowing a hundred ways during a spring flood.

Býstryc'a, r. branch of *Stóxid*, from ES adj. *býstr-* (+ *-ica*) 'fast.'

Vys'óluxa, from Poliss. dialect. *vys'óla*, Russ. *vesěljaja*, Ukr. *vysěla* (+ *-uxa*) 'lively.'

Bezímínnaja, r. tr. of *Vys'óluxa*, an adj. from a Poliss. dialect. phrase *bez ímyny* 'without a name.'

Mlýnók, from Ukr. *młynók* 'a little mill.'

Nóžyk, from Ukr. *nóžyk* 'little knife.'

Styr; Vasmer REW III, 36, follows Pogodin's etymology, from OI *sthārás* 'large, heavy'; Moszyński, Pierw. 170, derives it from PS **sterti* 'to stretch out'; cf. Ukr. *pro-styráty*, Pol. *przestrzeń* 'space, expanse'; OI *stīrnah* 'poured out,' Gr. στόρνυμι 'to stretch, extend.'

Lýpa, l. tr. of *Styr*, from Ukr. *lýpa* 'linden-tree.'

Vyrók, l. tr. of *Styr*, from Ukr. *vyr* (+ *-ok*) 'whirlpool.'

Slonívka, r. tr. of *Styr*, from Ukr. *slon* (+ *-ivka*) 'elephant.'

Íkva, r. tr. of *Styr*; Rozwadowski, *Studia*, 90, derives it from IE **ei(k)-va* (< IE root **ei-* 'to go') 'running water.'

Konópl'a, r. tr. of *Styr*, from Ukr. *konópl'a* 'hemp.'

Kormýn, r. tr. of *Styr*, from Ukr. *kormá* (+ *-yn*) 'stern.'

Mykolájivka, r. tr. of *Styr*, from Ukr. *Mykoláj* (+ *-ivka*) 'Nicholas.'

Stúbľa, r. tr. of *Styr* (l. branch of *Stubľa* flows directly into Pripet), from South Slavic *stubb*, Bulg. *stubel* 'source, fountain.' (Rozwadowski, *Studia*, 202, Vasmer REW III, 33).

Vytlyč'a, a dimin. of Poliss. dialect. *vytlá*, Russ. *vetlá* 'a kind of willow.'

Horýn', Russ. *Gorýn'* from Ukr. *horá* 'mount.'

Vilija, l. tr. of *Horýn'*, in chronicles (1231) also *Velja*, from PS

**velija* < IE **vel-* 'to turn, to roll'; cf. OES *vlēna*, Lith. *vilnis* 'wave,' OI *vela* 'flood.' (Rozwadowski, *Studia*, 260).

Zbýten'ka, l. tr. of *Vilija*, unclear, perhaps from GN *Zbýten'* (< *zbýtok* 'abundance') + *-ka*.

Ús'c'e, l. tr. of *Horýn'*, from Pol. *ujscie*, Ukr. *ústja* 'the mouth of a river.'

Stúbel', l. tr. of *Horýn'*; see *Stúbla*.

Putýlivka, l. tr. of *Horýn'*, from GN *Putýliv* (+ *-ka*).

Mél'nyč'a, l. tr. of *Horýn'*, from Ukr. dialect. *mél'nyč'a* 'mill.'

Sóxy, l. tr. of *Horýn'*, from Poliss. dialect. *sozá* 'wooden plough,' also 'divided river.'

Pólkvá, r. tr. of *Horýn'*, unclear.

Sluč, r. tr. of *Horýn'*, see above (Left Tributaries of the Pripet).

Xomóra, l. tr. of *Sluč*, unclear, perhaps old form of Ukr. *xmára* 'cloud.'

Ikópot' or *Ikópet'*, l. tr. of *Sluč*, from IE **ei(k)-o-pet* 'fast running water.' (Rozwadowski, *Studia*, 90, Moszyński, *Pierw.* 175.)

Kórčyk, l. tr. of *Sluč*, from Poliss. dialect. *korč* (+ *-yk*) 'bush.'

S(t)výha, from Poliss. dialect. *svýhaty*||*cvýhaty* 'to twine, to jump,' Russ. *svigát'* 'to rove about'; cf. IE *(*s*)*ueig-* 'to twine.' (Lehr-Splawiński, *Rozm.* 15).

Líva, l. tr. of *Stvýha*, from Ukr. *líva* 'left (river).'

Svynováda, from Ukr. *svyn'n'á* 'pig, boar,' and the verb *vodýtys'* 'to live, inhabit, breed.' River around which wild boars live; cf. Poliss. toponym *Kunováda* (near Kobrin) 'a marsh where martens live.'

Ubórt', from ES prefix *u-* 'at' and *bort'* < PS **bǝrtǝ* 'a hollow tree with a nest of wild bees' < IE **bher-* 'to scoop, pick'; according to Moszyński, *Pierw.* 172, and Lehr-Splawiński, *Rozm.* 15. However, Rozwadowski, *Studia*, 22, associates it with the too general IE **au-bhr̥-ti-* 'to flow down.'

Buklívka, unclear, perhaps from *buk* 'beech-tree.'

Prudók, from Ukr. *prudók* 'little brook.'

Narovlánka; Toporov, *Gidr.* 197, derives it from Baltic **Narav-* (< Lith. *nāras* 'diver'?), but locally, it is usually associated with Russ. *nórov* 'restiveness,' Poliss. dialect. adj. *narovýstyj* 'restive, jibbing,' which could be merely a folk-etymology.

Mytva, from Poliss. dialect. *mýtva* 'washing place.'

Kostrívka, from Ukr. *kostér*, Gsg. *kostrá* (+ *-ívka*) 'pile of wood.'

Slavóčna, (in folk poetry, the Dnieper is called *Slavút*, *Slavúta*, *Slovútič*, and there are similar Slavic river names: *Sláva*, *Slavúta*, *Slavútyč'a*) from PS **slov-*||**slav-* < IE **klou-*||*klōu-* 'to flow, sprinkle, rinse' (Lehr-Splawiński, Rozm. 14, and others).

Žélon', r. tr. of *Slavóčna*, unclear, possibly of Baltic origin, according to Toporov, Gidr. 188.

Už, from OES *uzь* (Russ., Poliss. dialect. *už*, Ukr. *vuž*) < PS *ǫžь* < IE **anguis* 'snake' (Lehr-Splawiński, Rozm. 15).

Nóryn, l. tr. of *Už*, from ES *norá* (+ *-in*) 'burrow, hole.'

Slavúta, r. tr. of *Už*, see *Slavóčna*.

Verésn'a, r. tr. of *Už*, possibly from Ukr. *véres* (+ *-nja*) 'heather.'

Conclusion

1. The etymology of hydronyms still involves a great deal of guessing, usually in the form of finding roots which have some phonetic similarity but often little correlation with physical actuality. Even an authority such as Vasmer was not free of this error, as we can readily determine when he derived the etymology of the small and narrow river *Pína* from OI *pīnás* 'fat, swollen,' (REW II, 358), which theory has little credibility.

2. As a general rule, small rivers usually have native names. Thus we have good reason to believe they were named by the latest inhabitants. Yet, we cannot exclude here and there some possibility of popular etymologies. Where the foreign word was incomprehensible, it was probably often substituted by a native homonym.

3. Pripet basin rivers, even large ones, have predominantly Slavic names, but occasionally we find a name of Baltic origin, especially to the north of the Pripet, which would support the Būga theory that the Pripet river was basically the dividing line between the Balts and the Slavs. Furthermore, Slavic river names in the Pripet basin give a reasonable credibility to the theory that the basin was a part of the Slavic homeland.

Abbreviations

- ES = Eastern Slavic (Russ., Br., Ukr., when the term in all of these languages is the same).
- OES = Old Eastern Slavic (often called merely Old Russian).
- Bilećkyj = A. O. Bilećkyj, "Boristenes – Danapris – Dnipro," in *Pytannja toponimiki ta onomastyky*, AN URSSR, Kiev, 1962.
- Brückner SEJP = A. Brückner, *Słownik etymologiczny języka polskiego*, Wiedza, Warsaw, 1957, reprint of 1927 ed.
- Lehr-Splawiński, Rozm. = T. Lehr-Splawiński, "Rozmieszczenie geograficzne prasłowiańskich nazw wodnych," in *Rocznik Slawistyczny*, Vol. XXI, pt. I, PAN, Wrocław-Kraków, 1960.
- Moszyński, Pierw. – K. Moszyński, *Pierwotny zasięg języka prasłowiańskiego*, PAN, Wrocław-Kraków, 1957.
- Rozwadowski, Studia = J. Rozwadowski, *Studia nad nazwami wód słowiańskich*, PAU, Kraków, 1948 (posthumous work).
- Rudnyćkyj, EDUL – J. B. Rudnyćkyj, *An Etymological Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language*, pt. 1–3, UVAN, Winnipeg, 1962–64.
- Toporov, Gidr. = V. N. Toporov, O. N. Trubačev, *Lingvističeskij analiz gidronimov Verchnego Podneprov'ja*, AN SSSR, Moscow, 1962.
- Vasmer REW = M. Vasmer, *Russisches etymologisches Wörterbuch*, Vols. I–III, C. Winter, Heidelberg, 1953–58.

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