

Наименования деревьев, их вероятная этимология. Часть 1 (Names of Trees, Their Possible Etymology. Part 1)

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Аннотация. Рассмотрено вероятное происхождение русских названий деревьев.

Перевод статьи <http://www.sciteclibrary.ru/yabb26/Attachments/DEREVIA.pdf> с русского языка на английский.

Abstract. The probable origin of Russian tree names has been considered.

Translation of the article

<http://www.sciteclibrary.ru/yabb26/Attachments/DEREVIA.pdf> from Russian into English.

Trees growing in the area where people live may have their own names in any language and among any people, not to mention a language of wide distribution, such as *Russian*, which does not need any loanwords from anywhere at all.

Meanwhile, the basic attitude of 'scientific' etymology is based on the loanwords, especially in Russian, which is considered young and even based on loanwords in the framework of the accepted *timeline*. In fact, the independent free appropriation of their own names is available not only to Russian, but also to any other language.

Borrowing with the imposition of foreign words is usually the consequence of a military defeat with the mass destruction of the defeated speakers of the former language and its replacement by the language of the victors, so a statement of borrowing must be accompanied by proof of the corresponding military defeat.

People, busy with their own affairs, fear and distrust strangers as they do not know their true intentions, so will seek to destroy them to secure themselves rather than borrow any words of supposedly special value from them (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. – *There was a stranger. He had the smell of someone very dangerous* (Ten Canoes film)

It is therefore justified to try to find the origins and original meanings, i.e. the etymology of these names.

The most common tree species are shown in Fig. 2.



Fig. 2. Russian tree names

This task is definitely not very easy due to the ancient origin of these names. Still, it can be tried.

БЕРЁЗА (BIRCH)

*The Russian word **берёза** is derived from the ancient root *bhe* 'whiteness', 'white'. Linguists link its name with the verb *беречь* (to protect): the Slavs considered the birch a gift of the gods, protecting men.*

Birch – Legends and beliefs about flowers

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Берёза. *If we search the dictionaries of other languages, we will find surprisingly consonant words: *Birke* in German, *birch* in English and *berzs* in Latvian. And this is not just a coincidence; all these words belonging to different languages go back to one common Indo-European root *bhereg*, formed from the adjective *bher* meaning 'light'. Apparently, the birch was so called because of the colour of its bark. Interestingly, the word *береста* (birchbark) is of the same origin.*

*Origin of the word **берёза** in the etymology dictionary of G. A. Krylov*

Берёза. *Old Slavonic *брьзънь* (April). Common Slavic *berza* (birch). Indo-European *bhereg-* (light, whitish). The word *берёза* came from Old Russian, where the noun *берёза* and the adjective *березовый* are mentioned in the monuments of the 12th century. It was borrowed from Old Slavonic, where *брьзънь* 'April' goes back to the common Slavonic *berza* and then to the Indo-European root *bhereg-*,*

expressing the concept of white, bright, shiny. The ancient name of the birch apparently originated from the colour of its bark, probably the older meaning is 'a tree with a light, whitish bark'. **Cognates:** Ukrainian *береза*. Slovene *breza* (birch).

Derivative: *березовый*.

Origin of the word *берѣза* in the etymology dictionary of A. V. Semenov

Берѣза. We consider this tree to be our Russian tree, almost an emblem and a symbol of our northern country, but its name is familiar in different variants to most Indo-European peoples. It goes back to the root *bhe*, already known to us (see *Белый*), going back to ancient times and meaning 'shine', 'whiteness'.

Ancient Indian *bhurjas*, ancient German *birihha*, Scandinavian *börk*, modern German *birke*, Ossetian *bärz(a)*; see how widely the ancient name of the 'white' tree, the 'shining' birch, has spread across Europe. Its bark, *берѣста*, also has a name connected with the same root.

That is how our ancient ancestors were once so impressed by this beautiful tree and its unique, shining, silver trunk!

Origin of the word *берѣза* in the etymology dictionary of L. V. Uspensky

берѣза, Belarusian *бяро́за*, Ukrainian *берѣза*, Bulgarian *бѣза*, Serbo-Croatian *брѣза*, Slovene *bréza*, Czech *bříza*, Polish *brzoza*, Upper Sorbian *brěza*, Lower Sorbian *brjaza*. || Ancient Indo-European feminine base in *-o*: Lithuanian *béržas*, Old Prussian *berse*, Latvian *bērzs*, Ancient Indian *bhūrjas* 'birch species', Ossetian *bærz(æ)* 'birch', Norse *björk* feminine 'birch', Old High German *birihha* 'birch'. Further cognate with Albanian *bardh* 'white', Gothic *bairhts* 'light, shiny', Lithuanian *beršta* 'becoming white'. Another stage of alternation: Lithuanian *biržis* 'birch grove', Latvian *biržs* — same; see Meillet, *RES*, 3, 197; Trautmann, *BSW* 32; *M.-E.* 1, 292, 299; *Journal of the Ministry of National Education*, 1910, July, p. 199. Cognate with the words *берѣст*, Latin *farnus*, *frāxinus* 'ash', which have the original adjectival derivatives; see Fraenkel, *Glotta* 4, 45.

Origin of the word *берѣза* in the online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

Берѣза. Indo-European (Polish *brzoza*, Bulgarian *бѣза*, Latvian *bērzs*, German *Brike*, Tajik *burz* 'kind of tree', etc.). Suff. derived from **bher* 'light, clear', the same root as *белый*. *Берѣза* literally means 'tree with white bark'.

Origin of the word *берѣза* in the etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky

This **word** is related to the Sanskrit *bhrājate*, which means 'to shine', 'to glow'. The tree got its name for the distinctive white colour of its bark, which stands out well among other trees. Incidentally, modern Lithuanian has the **word** *beršta* meaning 'white'.

Where does the word береза come from? | Where does the word come from? | Yandex Zen

zen.yandex.ru ›otkuda-slovo-bereza-5ea6f352092bfa16a46e642d

Proposed etymology

The bark of the birch is indeed white, but contains many horizontal black stripes similar to knife cuts. Therefore, it could be called *БЕЛО-РЕЗАНАЯ* (white and cut) or shortened to *БЕРЕЗА* (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. *БЕРЁЗА* = *БЕЛО*+*РЕЗАНАЯ*

There is also the closely related word *БИРЮЗА* (turquoise) (or *БЕРЮЗА*) (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4. A stone called *БИРЮЗА*, valued for its colour

БИРЮЗА

*Derived from Turkish piruzä, fîrûza from Persian pîrōze, Avestian *paitiraōčah-.*

Etymology of the word бирюза

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*бирюзá, formerly берюза, gram. 1509, in addition, Inventory of the Property of Ivan IV, 1582 (Srezn. I, 88; III, Add. 14). Borrowed through Turkish piruzä — same, fîrûza from Persian pîrōze, Avestian *paitiraōčah-; see Mi. Tel. 2, 143; Horn, Npers. Et. 78 et al.; Lokotsch 49.*

Origin of the word бирюза in the online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

Proposed etymology

The word *БИРЮЗА* may be an incomplete coalescent phrase *БЕРУ ЗА* (I take it for) the beautiful colour (bluish/greenish).

A similar statement, БЕРЁ(м)ЗА (we take it for), in a fused abbreviation БЕРЁЗА, can refer to some other quality that is liked or considered useful, such as tree sap (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. – I was drinking birch sap in the spring forest.

ЛИПА (LINDEN)

Etymology. Derived from Proto-Slavonic, from which the following, among others, are derived: Ukrainian *лі́на*, Belarusian *лі́на*, Bulgarian *липа́* (*лі́на*), Serbo-Croatian *ли́на*, Slovene *lípa*, Czech *lípa*, Slovak, Polish, Upper Sorbian, Lower Sorbian *lipa*, Polabian *leipó*. Related to Lithuanian *lípa*, *lípė* 'linden', Latvian *liēpa*, *liepe*, Old Prussian *leip-*, local idiom *Leipiten*, probably Welsh *llwyf* 'linden, elm', Greek *ἀλίφαλος ἄρδος* (Hesychius); hereafter cognate with *лепі́ць*, *ліпкі́й*.

lipa — Wiktionary

ru.wiktionary.org » *липа*

Лі́на. The name of the tree is common Slavic and goes back to the same base as the verb *липнуть*. The tree is named after its sticky sap.

Origin of the word *lipa* in the online etymology dictionary of G. A. Krylov

Лі́на. It is generally accepted to associate the name of this tree with the same base as in *липкі́й*, *липнуть*; it is believed that it was given to it for its sticky, gummy sap. As we cannot say that the sap of the tree is stickier than that of other forest species, the explanation does not seem uncontroversial. Perhaps it is due to the sweet sticky honeydew left by the greenfly on linden leaves?

Origin of the word *lipa* in the etymology dictionary of L. V. Uspensky

лі́на — name of the tree, *лі́пец* 'linden honey'; Ukrainian *лі́на*, Belarusian *лі́на*, Bulgarian *липа́* (*лі́на*) (Mladenov 275), Serbo-Croatian *ли́на*, Slovene *lípa*, Czech *lípa*, Slovak, Polish, Upper Sorbian, Lower Sorbian *lipa*, Polabian *leipó*. || Related to Lithuanian *lípa*, *lípė* 'linden', Latvian *liēpa*, *liepe*, Old Prussian *leip-*, local idiom *Leipiten*, probably Welsh *llwyf* 'linden, elm', Greek *ἀλίφαλος ἄρδος* (Hesychius); hereafter cognate with *лепі́ць*, *ліпкі́й*. The tree is named after its sticky sap (Mi. EW 178; Mladenov 275; M.-E. 2, 503; Trautmann, BSW 155; Berneker 1, 723). The comparison with Lithuanian *liepsnà* 'flame', Ancient Indian *limpáti* 'kindles' is unacceptable, contrary to Levental (AfsIPh 37, 381).

Origin of the word *лuna* in the online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

Лúна. Common Slavic. The same root as Lithuanian *liepa* 'linden', Greek *lipos* 'fat', *липнуть*. *Луна* is named after its sticky bast.

Origin of the word *лuna* in the etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky

Comment. No objection here, the Russian word *ЛИПА* does come from the word *ЛИПНУТЬ* (to stick).

Proposed etymology

Липкость (stickiness) of different trees, determined by the glue on their surface, certainly differs. Some have a dry surface, while others are sticky with the release of glue to control gnawing insects. This is the reason for the linden tree's designation. The word *ЛИПА*=*ЛИ*+*ПА* is formed by two original simple words used in a fused form. *ЛИ* is a question, and *ПА* is probably *ПА*+*вєрх* (from above). It refers to the sap with adhesive properties that coats a surface when it is damaged (<https://vixra.org/pdf/2104.0043v1.pdf>).

КАШТАН (CHESTNUT)

Каштáн. The word is *borrowed* from Polish, where *kasztan* is derived from the Latin *kastanea*, which is in turn borrowed from the Greek *kastanon*.

Origin of the word *каштан* in the etymology dictionary of G. A. Krylov

каштáн, Ukrainian *каштáн*. Through the Polish *kasztan*, Czech *kaštan* from German *Kastanie* or vernacular *Kastane* from Latin *castanea*: Greek *κάστανον*, the source of which is thought to be Armenian *kaskeni* 'chestnut'; see Lagarde in Hübschmann 166, 394; Boisacq 420; Berneker 1, 492. The following words are derived from *каштáн* by popular etymology (каждый): *каждáнка*, along with *Каштáнка* — a dog's name, *Kashinsk*.

Origin of the word *каштан* in the etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

Каштáн. Borrowed in the 17th century from Polish, where *kasztan* goes back to Latin *castanea* < Greek *kastanon*, a reformulation of Armenian *kaskeni* 'chestnut tree' (from *kask* 'chestnut', probably the same root as *каша* 'second course' < 'grits, refined grain'). See *шатен*.

Origin of the word *каштан* in the etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky

Proposed etymology

In *КАШТА́Н*, the stress falls on the second syllable, so the pronunciation of its first vowel is unclear. It may well be *КОШТАН* or even *КОВШТАН*, that is, using the letter *ОВК*, later abolished.

In Ukrainian it corresponds to the word *КОШИТ* (sustenance) or *КВИШТОВАТЬ* meaning to TRY. The ending of the word *АН* forms a contradiction *НА* – *АН*, where the word *НА* means 'I give', 'Take it' and accordingly *АН* means 'I will not give it'.

Therefore, the word *КАШТАН=КОШИТ+АН* means 'I won't give anything to eat', meaning *inedible*. This refers to the horse chestnut, the fruit of which is inedible, unlike the real *Castanea Tourn.*

КЛЁН (MAPLE)

Etymology. Derived from Proto-Slavic, from which the following, among others, are derived: Old Russian, Old Slavonic *кленъ*, Russian *клён*, Ukrainian *клен*, *кленъ*, Bulgarian *клен*, Serbo-Croatian *клён* (genitive *клёна*, as well as *кљён* (genitive *кљёна*) and *кућ* (from **кльнь*), Slovene *klèn* (genitive *kléna*), Czech, Slovak *klen*, Polish *klon*, Upper Sorbian *klon*, Lower Sorbian

клён — Wiktionary

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клён, genitive *клёна*, Ukrainian *клен*, *кленъ*, Bulgarian *клен*, Serbo-Croatian *клён*, genitive *клёна*, as well as *кљён*, genitive *кљёна* and *кућ* (from **кльнь*), Slovene *klèn*, genitive *kléna*, Czech, Slovak *klen*, Polish *klon*, Upper Sorbian *klon*, Lower Sorbian *klón*. // Related to Macedonian *κλινότροχον* (Theophrastus; see H. Maier, *IF* 1, 325), Norse *hlynr*, Welsh *kelyn*, Old Cornish *kelin*, then Lithuanian *klėvas* 'maple'; see Berneker 1, 512; Trautmann, *BSW* 136; Torp 113; Pedersen, *Kelt. Gr.* 1, 378; Specht 60.

Origin of the word *клён* in the online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

Клён. Common Slavic. The same root as Greek *glinos* 'maple', Norse *hlynr* — same, etc. As evidenced by the Lithuanian cognate *klevas* 'maple', etymologically -*н-* is a suffix.

Origin of the word *клен* in the etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky

Proposed etymology

Here, as usual, foreign-language dictionaries yield nothing. Perhaps *КЛЁН* comes from the word *КЛЕВАТЬ* (peck), i.e. *КЛЁВАННЫЙ* (pecked). Or it is distinguished by the unusual – RED, rather than yellow – colour of the autumn leaves, metaphorically as if *каленьй* (red-hot) (Fig. 5).



Fig. 6. Red-hot metal and autumn maple leaves

Origin of the word *кедр* (cedar)

Кедр. Borrowing from Greek, where we find kedros 'pine, cedar'.

Origin of the word *кедр* in the [online etymology dictionary of G. A. Krylov](#)
кедр, Old Russian, Old Slavonic *кедръ* (Ostrom.). From Greek *κέδρος* — same; see Vasmer, *Proceedings of the Russian Language and Literature Department of the Academy of Sciences* 12, 2, 241.

Origin of the word *кедр* in the [online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer](#)

Кедр. Borrowed from the Old Slavonic, where *кедръ* < Greek *kedros*. Possibly the same root as *кадумъ*. In this case it is a suffix derivative (suff. -r-) like *зубр*, *дубрава*, *ветер*, etc.

Origin of the word *кедр* in the [etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky](#)

Proposed etymology

It remains unknown who borrowed from whom. Although, for insurance purposes, Greek is declared 'very ancient' in advance. So, it's from there. But what if it is not?

'Among the Greeks we feel ourselves immediately at home' (Lectures on the Philosophy of History, Hegel). And no Russia, no Russians, no Russian language! World history is fixed. We can, finally, breathe deeply.

Useful property of cedar is its nuts (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7. Cedar cones and nuts

But to get to them, you have to rip open its cone first, and then the shell. *КЕДР* is probably a fused abbreviation of *K(ак)+E(зо)+ДР(амъ)* (how to rip it off).

ДУБ (ОАК)

Common Slavic word of Indo-European nature. According to one of the most convincing theories of its origin, the word comes from the same base as the Irish dub 'black' (the heart of an oak tree is black).

Origin of the word *дуб* in the [online etymology dictionary of G. A. Krylov](#)

дуб, genitive *дуба*, *дубина*, Ukrainian *дуб*, Old Slavonic *дѣбъ дѣвдров* (Supr., Euch. Sin.), Bulgarian *дѣб*, Serbo-Croatian *дуб*, genitive *дуба*, Slovene *dôb*, Czech, Slovak *dub*, Polish *dąb*, genitive *dębu*, Upper Sorbian, Lower Sorbian *dub*. In Old Slavonic and Czech there are traces of the base in -u; see Meillet, RS 6, 132. Cf. Old Prussian *dumpbis* 'tan bark' (Pott, *KSchlBeitr.* 6, 113; Trautmann,

AprSprd. 324). Additionally, Middle Bulgarian дѣбрь «silva», Ukrainian дубрѣк — 'bird's-eye, bugle, Ajuga', Polish dial. dąbrowy 'oak', dial. dąbrza 'oakery' (Berneker), Polabian dąbrjánka 'oak gall'. Original meaning, probably 'tree'; cf. Polabian jablkodąb 'apple tree' (Brückner 85). || The etymology seems to be derived from *dombros from *dom-ros, which may have developed in Proto-Slavonic into a base in -u under the influence of some other tree name (e.g. *dubъ or *grabъ, as *grabrъ by analogy with *dąbrъ?). Originally related to Greek δέμω 'I build', Norse timbr, Anglo-Saxon timber, Old High German zimbar 'building timber, wooden structure, dwelling, room', Gothic timrjan 'build, erect'; see Mikkola, Ursl. Gr. 124; Brandt, RFV 21, 220; Pedersen, Kelt. Gr. 1, 186; Uhlenbeck, Got. Wb. 146 et al.; KZ 40, 554; Kleczkowski, Baudouinowi de Courtenay 180. The protoform *dom-bhuo 'material for building a house', reconstructed by Uhlenbeck and Kleczkowski (see Berneker 1, 216), is doubtful. Pedersen (ibid) also associates the word дуб with Irish omna 'oak', where the initial d- is missing. Closeness of Slavic dąbъ with Old High German tanna 'spruce', Ancient Indian dhánvan-, dhánuṣ 'bow' (Uhlenbeck, KZ 40, 554; Brückner, ibid) is less convincing. Vaillant (RES 14, 224) compares this word with Lithuanian duĩblas 'marsh', daubà 'valley, lowland', Latvian duĩbrs 'marshy area' and suggests the development of the meaning 'marsh' > 'forest' > 'tree'. The comparison with Greek τυφλός 'blind, dark', Irish dub 'black', Gothic dumba 'blunt', from which dąbъ is supposedly 'dark wood', is unconvincing (Berneker 1, 216 et al., analogous to Levy, KZ 40, 420). An erection to *dhūmros (cf. Latin fūmus, Greek θυμός; see дым), i.e. 'dark-coloured wood' (Lehr-Splawiński, Mélanges Belić 412 et al.; Milevsky, PF 16, 198 et al.) both in phonetic and semantic respect. Ancient Indian dhūmrás 'smoky, grey' would correspond to Slavic *dybrъ, cf. лыко. Dial. oak 'one-tree boat', Archang. (Podv.), Azovsk. (Kuznetsov); cf. Serbo-Croatian дуб, as well as Vasmer, RS 4, 172 et al. Cf. дубрава. [See also Sławski, 1, p. 139 et al. Machek (Jména rostlin, p. 130) repeats the convergence of *dąbъ and German Tanne, Germanic *tanwō as words of 'Proto-European' origin. Falk («Scando-Slavica», 4, 1958, p. 265 et al.) proposed a new etymology — from Indo-European *dheub-; Middle Polish dub, dziub 'hollow', which requires an assumption of the infix -n- in Slavic dąbъ. — T.]

Origin of the word дуб in the online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

Дуб. Common Slavic. Indo-European nature. **The etymology is unknown.** It is usually explained as a suff. derivative (suff. -б), from the same base (with a modification o/e) as Greek demō 'I build', Norse timber 'constructional timber', Estonian tamm 'oak', etc. In such a case, дуб is 'constructional timber'. See дом, cf.

рубить. A more convincing explanation of the word seems to be a taboo formation of the Slavs, the same root as *дупло* 'hollow', Bulgarian *дупка* 'hole, pit', German *tief* 'deep'. In accordance with this, *дуб* is originally either 'a tree with a hollow' or 'a lowland tree'. If we accept this etymology, the word *дуб* replaced the unconserved *перкъ* (cf. Latin *quercus* 'oak') with the same base as *Перун* as the name of the Slavic pagan god of thunder (in the beliefs of the Indo-Europeans – including the Slavs – oak was constantly associated with the god of thunder).

Origin of the word дуб in the etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky

Proposed etymology

КРЯЖИСТЫЙ ДУБ (stout oak) is very strong and has a dense timber (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. The appearance of the oak.

Its spreading roots resemble sumo wrestlers in a fight-ready pose (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9. Sumo wrestlers in fight-ready pose

ДУБ is an abbreviation of *ДОУБ*, whence *ДОВБЕНЬ*=*ДОВБ*+*Е*+*НЕ* or *ДОЛБИТЬ*=*ДОЛ(го)*+*БИТЬ* (beat for a long time). The word *ДУБ* expresses its high hardness, forcing *ДОЛБИТЬ* (chisel) (to beat for a long time) with considerable effort. The modern expression is *заДОЛбал* (drive someone nuts), where *ДОЛ* is also *ДОВ* or *ДОУ* from the word *ДОУБ* or *ДУБ*, used to make sturdy furniture. As applied to a person, the *metaphor* *ДУБ ДУБОМ* (not the sharpest tool in the shed) means a slow-witted person who cannot *ВДОЛБИТЬ* (get) even a simple truth into his head.

The original word is *ДОУБ* (with the letter *ОУК*) with further abbreviations *ДОВБ*, *ДОБ* and *ДУБ*. Its derivatives are *ДОВГО* (*ДОЛГО*), *ДОБре*, *оДОБрение*, *ДОВБня*, *ДОВБЫТЬ* or *ДОЛБИТЬ*, as well as *ДУБина*=*ДУБ*+*ИНОЙ*.

A more distant association is заДУБить (solidify) or the metaphor ДУБАРЬ (icy wind).

ДОБРЫЙ (KIND)

Добрый. A common Slavic formation from the same base as *дебелый*, *доблесть*, *удобный*. The original meaning of this adjective is 'suitable'.

Origin of the word добрый in the etymology dictionary of G. A. Krylov

Добрый добро. Old Slavonic *добръ*, *добро*. Common Slavic *dobrъ*. The adjective *добрый*, meaning 'soft-hearted', 'good', 'compassionate', was first used in the Russian language in the 11th century. The word with the same Indo-European base is found in the Armenian language (*darbin*), but it has a different meaning – 'blacksmith'. **Derivatives:** *доброта*, *добряк*, *одобрить*, *добреть*.

Origin of the word добрый in the etymology dictionary of A. V. Semenov

Добрый. Of course, you've got your own wits about you: there seems to be a close connection with the word *Доблесть*. It's true. The original meaning of the adjective was 'suitable', 'of proper quality', the old 'good lad' does not mean 'gentle with people'; it meant 'good in every way', 'brave'. People still say *добрый топор* (a good axe; literally a kind axe).

Доб? Then, obviously, the old root here is *доб-*. And what is *-p-*? It is a suffix, also old, the same as in *пест-р-ый*, *ост-р-ый*. It has been fused with the root over time and is part of the new root. This is how it sometimes happens in language.

Origin of the word добрый in the etymology dictionary of L. V. Uspensky

добрый, *добр*, *добра́*, *добро́*, Ukrainian *дóбрий*, Old Russian, Old Slavonic *добръ* *ἀγαθός*, *καλός* (*Klots.*, *Supr.*), Bulgarian *добър*, Serbo-Croatian *дòбар*, feminine *дòбра*, Slovene *dóbār*, Czech, Slovak *dobrý*, Polish *dobry*, Upper Sorbian, Lower Sorbian *dobry*. || Related to Latin *faber* 'craftsman, artist', Armenian *darbin* 'blacksmith' (from **dhabhro-*); see Meillet, *MSL* 8, 165; 13, 215; *BSL* 27, 31; Hübschmann 438; Berneker 1, 204; Trautmann, *BSW* 43; then, to *дóба*, *дóблесть*. In addition to **dhabh-*, there are **dhab-* in Old High German *tapfar*, New High German *tapfer* 'brave, strong, sturdy, dense', Norse *dapr* 'sluggish, dull'; see *дебелый*; otherwise see Pedersen, *IF* 5, 56; against see Walde-Hoffmann 1, 436 et al.; Bezzenger, *GGA*, 1898, p. 554.

Origin of the word добрый in the etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

Добрый. Common Slavic. Suff. derivative (suff. *-p-*, cf. *старый*, *острый*, *пестрый*, etc.) from *доба* 'time', the same base (with a modification o/e) as *дебелый*. The original meaning is 'big, sturdy, at a proper time'.

Origin of the word добрый in the etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky

Proposed etymology

The word *ДОБРЫЙ* comes from *ДОУБ – ДОВБ – ДОБ*, i.e. *ДУБ*. It means HARD, STURDY.

Therefore, *ДОБРЫЙ мѡлодец* (good lad) does not mean *ДОБРЯК* (do-gooder), but a sturdy, strong, mighty one. Another derivation is the word *ДОБ+РѠ*.

КРЯЖ (LOG)

кряж, genitive *-а*, dial. 'large strong tree', Olonetsk. (Kulik.), 'log hive', also 'a sturdy man', Vyatsk. (Vasn.), Old Russian *кряжь* 'bar', Azovsk. vz. (17th century); see RFV 56, 165; Ukrainian *кряж* 'hump'. Primary, probably 'round bar', connected by alternation with **krǫgъ* (see *круг*), cf. Norse *hringr* 'ring'; cf. Preobr. I, 400. A connection with *кра*, *укра* 'floating ice, ice' (Sobolevsky, RFV 67, 213 et al.) or with *корь* 'root, bush' (see *кряк*) is less likely, contrary to Goryaev (ES 172).

Origin of the word *кряж* in the online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

Кряж. Common Slavic. Suff. derivative (suff. *-j-*, *zj > ж*) from the same base as *круг*.

Origin of the word *кряж* in the etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky

Proposed etymology

Presumably *КРЯЖ=K(o)P(ень)+Я+Ж(e)*. It is not just a *bump*, but *КОРНЕВОЙ* (rooted), i.e. *rocky*, naturally hard, sturdy. *КРЯЖИСТЫЙ* (stout) person is also *КОРЕННОЙ* (stocky), *УКОРЕНЕННЫЙ* (rooted), *крепкий* (sturdy) person.

ДОЛБИТЬ (TO CHISEL)

долбѣть, долблѣу, Ukrainian *довбѣти*, Belarusian *долбѣць*, Bulgarian *дѣлба, дѣлбаѣя*, Serbo-Croatian *дубѣм, дѣнсти* 'to gouge', Slovene *dólbem, dóbsti* — same, Czech *dlubu, dloubati*, Slovak *dlbst', dlbat'*, Polish *dlubię, dlubać*, Upper Sorbian *dolpar'* 'sculptor', Lower Sorbian *dłypaś* 'to gouge'. || Another stage of alternation is presented in Czech *dlabati* (Golub 44), *dlab* 'groove', Old Russian *надолобъ* 'movable deck at the gateway, paling, city fence', also Russian *долото*. Related to Lithuanian *nu-dilbstù, -dìlbtì* 'lower one's eyes', Lithuanian *délba* 'pitchfork handle', Latvian *daļba daļbs*, 'pole to scare the fish', *daļbuôt, dalbât* 'herd into the net with a pole', Low German *dölben* 'beat', Old English *delfan* 'dig, bury', Flemish *delf* 'ravine, ditch', Old High German *bitelban* 'bury'; see Berneker 1, 250 et al.; Fortunatov, Lectures 160; Trautmann, BSW 54; M.-E. 1, 434; Torp 204; Holthausen, PBB 44, 476; Aengl. Wb. 71.

Origin of the word *долбѣть* in the etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

Долбѣть. Common Slavic. Suff. derived from the same base (*дѣлб-*) as Old English *delfan* 'dig', with a modification protruding into *долото, дятел*.

Origin of the word *долбѣть* in the etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky

Proposed etymology

The word *ДОЛБИТЬ*=*ДОЛ(го)+БИТЬ* is a variant pronunciation of *ДОВБИТЬ*=*ДОВБ+БИТЬ*, i.e. *ДУБ БИТЬ* (to beat the oak) is a fused statement used in abbreviation. A variant of its pronunciation is the word *ДОЛБАТЬ*, used in swearing: *ЗАДОЛБАЛ* (drove me nuts)!

СОСНА (PINE)

*One of the two versions derives the **Latin** name of the tree from the Celtic word **pin**, что означает скала, гора, meaning rock, mountain, i.e. growing on rocks, the other from the Latin words **pix, picis**, meaning resin, i.e. resinous tree. **Pine** species yielding edible nuts are mainly conventionally grouped under the name of cedar pines.*

[Сосна — Wikipedia](#)

ru.m.wikipedia.org › Сосна

***Сосна́.** Common Slavic word, apparently going back to the same base as the Old German *hasan* 'grey, shiny'. The tree is probably named after the colour of its bark. Origin of the word *сосна* in the [online etymology dictionary of G. A. Krylov](#)*

***Сосна́.** There are many explanations for this word, but there are probably only two plausible ones. One connects the name of the tree with words from other Indo-European languages, meaning 'grey'; then it is named by the colour of the bark (although reddish hue of the young trunk is more typical for a pine). Otherwise, it is put in connection with the Latin *sapa* 'sap', in which case pine means a juicy, resinous tree.*

*Origin of the word *сосна* in the [etymology dictionary of L. V. Uspensky](#).*

***сосна́** Ukrainian, Belarusian *сосна́*, Old Russian, Russian Church Slavonic *сосна* *ἐλάτη*, Czech, Slovak, Polish *sosna*, Lower Sorbian *sosna*, Polabian *süsnó*. Most likely from Indo-European **k̑asnos* 'grey', cf. Old Prussian *sasins* 'hare'. Ancient Indian *çaçás* 'hare' (assimilated from **çasás*), Old High German *haso* 'hare', *hasan* 'grey, shiny', Norse *ho[_{sub}]<[/sub]ss* (**haswa-*) 'grey brown', Middle High German *heswe* 'pale', Latin *cānus* 'grey', Sabine *casus* 'old, grey', *casnar* 'old man'; see Vasmer, *ZfslPh* 2, 57 et al.; Brückner 507 et al. The objection of Meillet (*RES* 5, 271), that **k̑asnos* denoted only 'grey hair', falls away in view of the Latin *cānus*. Cf. the examples of this word in *Thes. Lingu. Lat.* 3, 296 et al.: *aequora cana* (Ennius), *canos fluctus*, *saxa cana* (Cicero), *cana pruina* (Vergilius), *cana favilla* (Ovidius), etc. Furthermore, *sosna* is derived from **sopsnā* and approximates it as original 'resinous tree' with Latin *sara* 'sap', Old High German *saf* — same, Russian *сопля́*, while taking a suffix *-snā*; see Mikkola, *IF* 23, 126; *RS* 2, 248; Pogodin, *RFV* 32, 125; *M.-E.* 3, 709; against see Walde-Hoffmann 2, 476, which also questions the approximation of Mikkola to *cvenem* and the*

reconstruction of **svar-*; see also *Preobr. II, 360 et al.* It is phonetically impossible to assume the initial **soksna* and convergence with *сок*, because then one would expect **сона* (cf. *луна́*), contrary to *Wideman (BB 29, 311)*, *Schrader-Nehring (I, 311)*. The comparison with Lithuanian *šāšas* 'scabs', *šašnys* 'a person covered with scabs' (*Zubaty, BB 17, 326*), as well as with Old High German *chien*, New High German *Kien* 'resinous tree, pine' (from **kēn*, **kizn*, according to *Pedersen (IF 5, 66)* has no basis either, because in this case one would have to accept the assimilation of the older **zosna* to *sosna*). The comparison with Greek *κῶνος* 'cone, cone of a pinyon', Ancient Indian *çānas* 'sharpening stone' (*Bezzenberger, BB 27, 171*) is also unconvincing. As for the names of trees from names of colour, cf. *берёза, бѣрест*, Greek *λεύκη* 'white poplar', Vulgar Latin *alba* — same. Dial. *сочна* 'sapwood', *Kolymsk. (Bogoraz)* is interesting [*Сочна* and other related North Slavic words can hardly be reasonably derived from the i.e. **kasnos* 'grey'. There is no doubt that it is a relatively new, local formation. An interesting point for the etymology of the word *сочна* is that this word originally belonged to the terminology of forest beekeeping and denoted a hollow tree; so, in Polesia the word *сочна* is used only when speaking of a bee tree, hollow tree, otherwise, *хвоя* 'ordinary pine' (*Moszyński, Kultura ludowa Słowian, I, p. 133-134*). *Сочна* in this connection may be explained from **sop-sna/*sop-snъ* (Middle Polish dial. *sośnia*, *Przeworski, 'pine'*) from Slavic **sopěti* 'to sniff, to blow'; cf. Russian *соплó*. *Moszyński's etymology (Pierwotny zasiąg..., p. 216-217)* — **sosna* from **sojǫ*, **sojiti* 'to prick' — is incorrect, since *soj-* would give **sēsna* in the tautosyllabic position.-T.]

Origin of the word [сочна](#) in the online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

Сочна́. Common Slavic. The tree is probably named after the colour of its bark (cf. Old Prussian *sasins* 'hare', Old High German *hasan* 'grey, shiny', German *Hase* 'hare', etc.). The explanation of the word as a derivative with the suffix *-чн-а* from the same base as Latin *sapa* 'sap' etc. is less convincing (*psn > чн* as a result of simplification of consonant groups), by which *сочна* is actually a 'resinous (sappy) tree'.

Origin of the word [сочна](#) in the etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky

Comment. The search here is blind. *Сочна* is the bark colour *HASAN*, but also *PIN*, *PIX* or *RICUS*. Zero results achieved, as usual. There is not even a close etymology.

Proposed etymology

The word *COCHA* is revealed very simply: a Russian statement *CO+CHA* used in a fused form. The pine needles make very little noise in the wind. It is as if the tree has not yet awakened *CO CHA* (from its sleep) (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10. The pine tree makes a very faint noise like it has not yet awakened from its sleep

ТОПОЛЬ (POPLAR)

*The origin of the **Latin** word remains unclear. It is traditionally associated with **Ancient Greek** πελέα 'elm' (cf. Epidaurus πελέα 'the same' and Ancient Greek ἀπελλόν), but their kinship is poorly explained on both phonetic and semantic grounds. There is also evidence against this...*

Тополь — Wikipedia

ru.wikipedia.org › Тополь

Comment. The word is declared to be Latin without any justification, moreover having no etymology, with an immediate jump to 'Ancient Greek' PTELEA. With *poorly explained* phonetic and semantic 'kinship'. It may as well be declared Chinese.

Тóполь. A common Slavic word, corresponding to **Latin** *populus* with the same meaning.

Origin of the word [тополь](#) in the etymology dictionary of G. A. Krylov

Comment. A new achievement. The word is Common Slavic, simply Russian, corresponding to the Latin *POPULUS* with the same meaning. Actually, *POPULUS* seems to mean *PEOPLE* (*SENATUS POPULUS QUE ROMANUS*). But that's nothing, you can even call people poplars if you need to. No one reads it seriously anyway.

Тóполь. An ancient tree species common to many Indo-European languages (it can mean different trees in different languages). *Тополь* is *populus* in Latin, *Pappeln* in German, and *peuplier* in French, these are different variants of the same word.

Origin of the word [тополь](#) in the etymology dictionary of L. V. Uspensky

тополь genitive -я, masculine, Ukrainian тополя, Old Russian тополь masculine, generic term тополиѣ neuter, Church Slavonic тополь feminine λεύκη, Bulgarian тополя, Serbo-Croatian тополя, Slovene topóla, Czech topol masculine, Slovak topol' masculine, Polish topola, topol feminine, Upper Sorbian, Lower Sorbian topoł. The connection with Latin pōpulus feminine 'poplar' and dissimilation $p — p > t — p$ (see Niderman, IF 26, 59), then kinship with Greek πελέα feminine 'elm', Epidaurus πελέα — same, Greek ἀπελλόν αἴγειρος; see Walde-Hoffmann 2, 340; Meillet — Ernout 924. The Latin loanword would be possible if one could derive from Medieval Latin papulus, as in the case of Old High German papilboum, Middle High German papel 'poplar' (see Kluge-Götze 431; Walde-Hoffmann; Meillet — Ernout, *ibid*); e.g. Brückner 573; but the eastern part of the territory of the Romance languages has the form *plōp(u)lus: Romanian plop, Albanian plep, Italian pioppo (see Meyer-Lübke 552 et al.); cf. Mi. EW 358; LP 997; Mladenov 636; Golub — Kopečný 387.

Origin of the word **тополь** in the [online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer](#)

Тополь. Common Slavic. **The origin is unclear.** Usually associated with Latin populus 'poplar' with dissimilation $p — p > m — n$.

Origin of the word **тополь** in the [etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky](#)

Comment. The most accurate answer here is '**The origin is unclear**'. But one can do 'dissimilation $p — p > m — n$ ', in the Latin word POPULUS (people), i.e. change the first letter P to T, and write the second P in Cyrillic, and you get TOPULUS, supposedly **ТОПОЛЬ**. Do you see the linguistic trick covered up by the 'clever' word *dissimilation*? Quite in the spirit of Gogol: if you write the word Spain, you get China. All you have to do is to change letters in the right place. That's me told...

Proposed etymology

The Russian word **ТОПОЛЬ** is a statement used in a fused form **ТО+ПОЛЕ**. Probably just meaning **ПОЛЕВОЕ ДЕРЕВО** (field tree). In the words of a classic (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11. Топóли по вóли, сто́ять собѣ́, мов сторóжа, розмовляють с пóлэм

ЕЛЬ (SPRUCE)

Ель. Common Slavic *jedľъ* (sharp, prickly). The word is indigenous and has been widely used in the Russian language since around the 11th century. According to researchers, the word traces the ancient Indo-European base *edh-1-os*, where the root *edh* meant 'sharp, prickly'. Words with the same meaning and similar sound are also found in other Slavic languages. For example, it is *іль* in Ukrainian and *ела* in Bulgarian. Besides, words with similar meaning and spelling are found in such languages as Lithuanian (*egle* 'spruce'), Latvian (*egle*) and Latin (*ebulus* 'elderberry'). **Derivatives:** *елка, елочный, еловый*.

Origin of the word *ель* in the [online etymology dictionary of A. V. Semenov](#)

ель, genitive *ѣли*, *ѣлка*, Ukrainian *ель, їль, яль* [*ялі́нка* 'spruce'. — T.], Church Slavonic *ѡла ѣлѣтъ*, Bulgarian *ела́*, Serbo-Croatian *јѣла*, Slovene *jêl*, genitive *jelî*, Old Czech *jedla*, Czech *jedle* feminine 'fir', Slovak *jedl'a*, Polish *jodła*, Upper Sorbian *jědla*, Lower Sorbian *jedla*. || The original is probably an ancient Indo-European feminine base in *-o*. Related to Old Prussian *addle*, Lithuanian *ẽglė*, Latvian *egle* 'spruce', Latin *ebulus, ebulum* 'elderberry', Gaulish *odocos* 'elderberry'; see Niderman, *Mél. Meillet* 100; Meillet, *MSL* 14, 478; *ét.* 418; Cuny, *MSL* 16, 327 et al.; Trautmann, *BSW* 66; *Apr. Sprd.* 296; *M.-E.* I, 565 et al. The Celtic words, brought in by Mikkola (*Jagić-Festschrift* 361) should be separated from the Slavic words; see Tournaisen in *Berneker* (1, 261 et al.) [See also Moszyński, *Zasiąg*, p. 58. The hypothesis of descent from a 'Proto-European' substratum see in Machek, *Jména rostlin*, p. 35. — T.]

Origin of the word *ель* in the [online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer](#)

Ель. Common Slavic. Suff. derivative (suff. *-l-*) from the Indo-European root **edl-* 'sharp, prickly'. The tree is named after the prickly needles. The combination *dl* > *л*, cf. the forms preserved in Western Slavonic: Czech *jedle*, Polish *jodła* 'fir', etc.

Origin of the word *ель* in the [online etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky](#)

ЕЛЕ (HARDLY)

Derived from the Orthodox **?*, from which, among others, the following derived: *ѣле-ѣле* (amplification), Ukrainian *еле*, Old Russian *еле, ѡлѣ, ѡль*, Old Slavonic *ѡлѣ живѣ ѡмѣтанѣс* (*Luk.* 10, 30, *Mar.*, *Zogr.*, *Assem.*, *Savn.*), also *лѣ*, Bulgarian *ѣле* 'at last', Serbo-Croatian *ле, ље* — reinforcing particle in a negative construction, Medieval Slovene *lé* 'only', Czech *le* 'and, but, however', Old Polish *le* 'only'.

[Etymology of the word эле](#)

ru.wiktionary.org/эле

*эле, эле-эле (amplification), Ukrainian еле, Old Russian еле, ѱлѣ, ѱель, Old Slavonic ѱлѣ живѣ ѱмѱанѱс (Luk. 10, 30, Mar., Zogr., Assem., Savv.), also лѣ, Bulgarian эле 'at last', Serbo-Croatian ле, ље` — reinforcing particle in a negative construction, Medieval Slovene lé 'only', Czech le 'and, but, however', Old Polish le 'only'. || Cf. Lithuanian -le — particle (Būga, RFV 71, 57 et al.), Latvian -le in nule 'just now, only now', je le 'but at least', juole 'moreover', nele 'not to mention'; cf. Berneker 1, 697 et al.; Trautmann, BSW 153 et al.; M.-E. 4, 127. The initial je- is from Indo-European relative pronoun *jо- (Berneker 1, 418) or *ed-; cf. одѱн (jedínъ), едѱа (see Preobr. I, 213). [This also includes the compound prepositions: Polish le-cz 'but', a-le, Ukrainian алѣ 'but'. — T.]*

Origin of the word эле in the online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer

*Эле. Common Slavic. The conjunction of *je (see еже) and the particle ле as a variant of ли.*

Origin of the word эле in the online etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky

Proposed etymology

ЕЛЬ (spruce), like the pine, looks sleepy, barely awake, which is why the spruce forest is called *ДРЕМЛЮЩИЙ* (dormant) or *ДРЕМУЧИЙ* (thick), that is, staying in a drowsy slumber. Its high, heavy branches look like the arms of an athlete, *ЕЛЕ-ЕЛЕ* (barely) able to hold an unbearable weight (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12. The lifted branches of a spruce are like the hands of an athlete barely able to hold an unbearable weight

Here, the word *ЕЛЕ=Е+ЛЕ* is a question statement used in a fused form, where *ЛЕ* means question and *Е* is *ЕСТЬ* (is). In the summative sense, *смогу ЛИ* (could I?), *удержу ЛИ* (could I bear?). And the doubling *ЕЛЕ+ЕЛЕ* means *смогу* (can I do it) or *не удержу* (cannot I hold it?).

ИВА (WILLOW)

Old Russian ива. There is no consensus on the origin of the word. Some link it to a common Indo-European root meaning 'reddish wood'. Others draw attention to the

similarity of the noun with the verb *вумь* 'to twist' and claim that its literal meaning is 'twisting'.

*Origin of the word **ива**. Etymology of the word **ива**... | АГΩ*

lexicography.online»ива

Ива. A common Slavic word, which has cognates in other languages (e.g., Old German *iwa* 'yew'; these words refer to different trees, but they have one thing in common: the reddish colour of their bark).

*Origin of the word **ива** in the online etymology dictionary of G. A. Krylov*

Ива. Old Russian **ива**. **There is no consensus** on the origin of the word. Some link it to a common Indo-European root meaning 'reddish wood'. Others draw attention to the similarity of the noun with the verb *вумь* 'to twist' and claim that its literal meaning is 'twisting'. In modern Russian *ива* means 'shrub or tree with flexible branches'. **Cognate:** Lithuanian *ieva* (bird cherry). **Derivative:** *ивовый*.

*Origin of the word **ива** in the online etymology dictionary of A. V. Semenov*

ива, Ukrainian *іва*, Bulgarian *ива*, Serbo-Croatian *ива*, Slovene *iva*, Czech *jíva*, 'willow', Slovak *iva*, Polish *iwa*, Upper Sorbian *jiwa*. // Related to Lithuanian *ieva*, accusative *iėvą* 'bird cherry', Latvian *iēva* — same, Celtic **ivos*; Middle Irish *eo*, Welsh *ywen* 'yew', Old High German *îwa*, Norse *ýr* 'yew, onion', Greek *ῥα*, *οῖν* 'Sorbus', Armenian *aigi* 'vine' (see Hoops, *Reall.* 1, 517; *Waldb.* 126 et al., 239 et al.; *M.-E.* 2, 85; *Berneker*, 1, 438; *Meillet*, *MSL* 14, 479; *Liden*, *Tochar. Stud.* 34; *IF* 19, 500 et al.; *Specht* 63; *Pedersen*, *Kelt. Gr.* I, 62). According to Meillet, the original base was feminine base in *-o*. Willow and bird cherry have reddish wood (see Hoops, *ibid*; *Brückner*, *AfslPh* 39, 6; *M.-E.* 2, 85). There is no reason to talk about borrowing from the Germanic language, contrary to Hirt (*RVV* 23, 334), *Schrader-Nehring* 1, 224) [On the transfer of the meaning of 'willow' < 'yew' see *Moszyński*, *Zasiąg*, p. 61. — T.]

*Origin of the word **ива** in the online etymology dictionary of M. Vasmer*

Ива. Common Slavic. The same root as *вумь*, German *Weide* 'willow', Greek *itea* — same. The original **ueiua* (suff. derived from *-uei-* 'to twist' > *ву-*, cf. *дева*) > *ива* after the dissimilatory change of *u* — *u* to \emptyset (null phoneme) — *в* and monophthongization of *ei* to *u*. *Ива* is literally 'curly'. The tree is named after its 'flexible' branches.

*Origin of the word **ива** in the etymology dictionary of N. M. Shansky*

Proposed etymology

ИВА though supple, is not curly at all; it is also called a weeping tree. It resembles a downcast woman who weeps, shedding bitter tears as if to call her husband who has been taken away somewhere. *Иван* (Ivan), perhaps. The Chinese textbook of the

Russian language began that way: this is *ИБА*, and this is *ИБАИ*. Metaphorically, *уба* is a wife grieving an irretrievable loss (Fig. 13).



Fig. 13. The branches of the weeping willow leaning towards the water
Add a few more tree names to the list shown in Fig. 2.