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Body Parts, Birds, and Green Spelt: 23 New Words from Lexical Texts for the Akkadian Dictionary

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Abstract

This article discusses 23 words that have hitherto not been included in the Akkadian dictionaries. The lexical list Ugumu yields 3 new body part terms; lexical texts from Old Babylonian Sippar and Middle Babylonian Emar offer 19 new types of birds. Finally, a discussion of *ḫabazinnu*, "green spelt", provides corrections to the existing dictionaries.

Key-words: Akkadian; Anatomical terms; Animal terms; Food terms; Lexical lists

Partes del cuerpo, aves y espelta verde: 23 palabras nuevas de textos léxicos para el Diccionario de acadio

Resumen

Este artículo analiza 23 palabras que hasta ahora no han sido incluidas en los diccionarios de acadio. La lista léxica de Ugumu proporciona 3 nuevos términos para partes del cuerpo; textos léxicos del período paleobabilónico de Sippar y del mediobabilonio de Emar ofrecen 19 tipos nuevos de aves. Finalmente, una discusión sobre *ḫabazinnu* ("espelta verde") aporta correcciones a las entradas existentes en los diccionarios.

Palabras clave: Acadio; Términos anatómicos; Términos zoológicos; Términos alimentarios; Listas léxicas

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Introduction

The two most widely used reference dictionaries of Akkadian, AHw. and CAD, are increasingly outdated. Cuneiform texts published after their completion offer many new words, variants and improved interpretations which current lexicographical research is seeking to uncover. This article presents some results of the work on the "Supplement to the Akkadian Dictionaries"[1]. It focuses on words from lexical texts that have not yet been recorded in AHw. or CAD[2]. The presentation follows SAD.

New duplicates of the lexical list Ugumu, a list of body parts, yield four hitherto unknown words. Three of these are discussed below (nos. 1.1–1.3)[3].

1 Body Parts

1.1 + epellu "excreted water, urine"; OB, Sum. loanword

OB lex. ⌜a⌝ pi-pi-ĝu$_{10}$ = *e-pe-*⌜*el*⌝*-li* MSL 9, 70: 16 (Couto Ferreira 2009: 58 E 16)[4]; ⌜a⌝ *bi-bi-a-ĝu*$_{10}$ = *e-*[...] CUSAS 12, 150: 28 "my excreted water". The Sum. term is composed of the bases a "water" and pe(l) "to defile, void"[5]. The Akk. word's derivation from the Sem. root *bll*, as proposed by Couto Ferreira 2009: 363, is not convincing due to the unexplained noun pattern, the consonant *p* and the root's basic meaning "to mix" (Kogan and Krebernik 2020: 188) (not "to moisten"). Rather, *epellu* is clearly borrowed from Sum., with a "water" (conventional reading, rather pronounced as /e/ in the OB period) (Attinger 2021: 104) appearing in Akk. as *e*, as

[1] See Streck 2018, 2019 and Streck and Wende 2022, 2025. Henceforth abbreviated as SAD vol. 1–4. The online version can be downloaded from: https://www.gkr.uni-leipzig.de/en/draft/altorientalisches-institut/forschung/supplement-to-the-akkadian-dictionaries

[2] The total number of new words in the print publication of SAD currently sits at 767.

[3] A fourth word, *eppepī*ᵓ*ātu* "eyelashes", has been discussed in Streck 2024, also dealing with previous literature.

[4] According to the photo CDLI P227879, also the text CBS 2179+N 4321 has broken ⌜*el*⌝, pace Couto Ferreira 2009: 58.

[5] See ePSD2 (Word ID: o0036748) s.v. pel; DCCLT s.v. *epellu*. Differently Couto Ferreira 2009, 363: bi(z)-bi(z) "to drip", but the loan *epellu* speaks against this interpretation.

elsewhere[6]. In the list, *epellu* appears between *zibbatī* "my tail" and *zūja* (= *zû* "excrement")[7] or before *šuḫḫī* "my buttocks"[8]. The usual word for "urine" in Akk. is *šīnātu*.

1.2 + ḫaškalu "(big) thigh"; OB, Sum. loanword

OB lex. ḫa-áš gal-ĝu$_{10}$ = *ḫa-aš-ka-li* CUSAS 12, 150: 31 "my big thigh". In the list, the word appears between *kubur pēmija* "the thick part of my thigh" and *pēmāja* "my thighs". *pēmu* is the usual word for "thigh" in Akk., and *ḫaškalu* seems to be a learned word only.

1.3 + ṣup/bru "squinting(?), twinkling(?) (of the eye)"; OB

OB lex. muš-igi-ĝu$_{10}$ = OB lex. muš-igi-ĝu$_{10}$ = *ṣú-pu-ur īnīja* CUSAS 12, 155 iii 4 "appearance[9] of my face/eye = squinting(?)/twinkling(?) of my eyes". This expression appears between *zīmūja* "my appearance" and *panūja* "my face". Couto Ferreira 2009: 134f. discusses a connection with *ṣubur panī* in CAD in CAD Ṣ 228, translated as "facial expression or grimace". However, AHw. 1538 tentatively understands this as *zupur panī* "evil face(?)". Both CAD and AHw. distinguish two verbs that describe eye movements: *ṣabāru* "to twinkle"[10] and *ṣapāru* "to squint"[11]. There is no doubt that *ṣup/bru* is derived from one of these verbs.

2 Birds

The list of birds Edubbaᵓa 7, 100 from Old Babylonian Sippar contains many names of birds that have not yet been attested. Eight of these are

[6]See *edû* "high water", *egubbû* "holy water", *egummû* "hot water", *elallu* "water carrier", etc.

[7]Thus manuscript CBS 2179+N 4312 = MSL 9, 70: 15–18 (manuscript B 9) = Couto-Ferrreira 2009: 58 B 8: 15–17).

[8]Thus manuscript UM 29-15-410 = MSL 9, 70: 16–17 (manuscript B 13) = Couto-Ferreira 2009: 58 B 12: 1–2.

[9]muš is an unorthographic writing for mùš "face, appearance". See ePSD2 (Word ID: o0034596).

[10]CAD Ṣ 3 *ṣabāru* A 2. AHw. 1065 *ṣabāru* I G 2.

[11]CAD Ṣ 96 *ṣapāru* A, AHw. 1082 *ṣapāru* G 1a.

discussed below[12]. A further eleven new bird names are found in Emar 6/4, 555, 579[13] and 596[14], exemplars of Middle Babylonian Ḫḫ XI corresponding to canonical Ḫḫ XVIII (MSL 8/2: 77ff.)[15].

For a typology of Akk. bird names, see Black and Al-Rawi 1987: 119–122 and Streck 2016: 578f. The latter distinguishes six types of Akk. bird names: Akk. primary nouns with a Semitic etymology, loans from Sum., and names referring to the bird's appearance, cry, behavior or habitat.

2.1 + ab/pratemu? (a bird); OB

OB lex. AB-˹*ra*?˺-*te-mu-um*$^{\text{mušen}}$ Edubba'a 7, 100: 12.

2.2 + ālānu "city-dweller" (a bird); OB

OB lex. *a*-˹*la*˺-*nu-um*$^{\text{mušen}}$ Edubba'a 7, 100: 26. The name refers to the bird's habitat.

2.3 + girisakku "trampler"; SB, Sum. lw.

Lex. ˹gi˺-ri-sa = *gi-ri-sa*-(*ak*)-*ku* Emar 6/4, 555: 74 (MB Ḫḫ XI)[16]. The name refers to the bird's behavior. It is followed by *nigakku* (see below, see no. 2.10, below). See Veldhuis 2004: 257 s.v. ir$_7$-saĝ and DCCLT MB Ura 11.

[12]Eight further new bird names from this list are already recorded in SAD: *ba*ʾ*u* SAD 1, 23, *bibnu* SAD 1, 31, *buggu* SAD 1, 42, *kippu* II SAD 3, 83 (besides Edubbaʾa 7, 100, two further references), *kirikaru* SAD 3, 84, *nāgû* SAD 4, 106, *pāsigu* SAD 1, 73 (emended to *usigu* in CAD U 277), *tigil*(*l*)*û* SAD 2, 90. *ši-ik-ši-kum* Edubba'a 7, 100: 54 is a var. of *še/iššе/ikku* "a stone; a bird" AHw. 1220 and CAD Š/3, 126f. For *ú-su-ka-nu-um* Edubba'a 7, 100: 60 see CAD U 372 s.v. *uzun qanê*.

[13]For this fragment see Civil 1989: 19; Veldhuis 2004: 305.

[14]On this fragment see Civil 1989: 18; Veldhuis 2004: 253 and 258; Gantzert 2011 Part 2, 108. Sjöberg 2006: 428 comments on the text but does not identify it as a list of bird names. Instead of [...] *tu-am-mu* l. 5 (also wrong in Gantzert 2011 Part 2, 108) read [*am-ma-am* = *a*]*m-ma-am-mu* and cf. *ammammu* B "a bird" CAD A/2, 68; MSL 8/2, 141: 280.

[15]Five further new bird names from this list are already recorded in SAD: *buk*(*k*)*u* SAD 1, 43, *girribu* SAD 3, 18, *kippu* II SAD 3, 83, *māṣiṣiyānu* SAD 4, 59, *tum*(*m*)*āḫu* SAD 2, 102.

[16]Cf. Emar 6/1, 201 Msk 7467: 18 and Emar 6/2, 395 Msk 74158r: 7.

2.4 + ḫabarzinnānu "(eating) green spelt(?)", (a bird); OB

OB lex. *ḫa-ba-ar-zi-na-nu-um* Edubba'a 7, 100: 41. Despite the additional *r*, this bird's name is probably derived from *ḫabazinnu* "green spelt" (no. 3, below) and refers to the bird's behavior.

2.5 + ḫarḫarru II (a bird); SB

[ḫar-ḫar] = *ḫa-ar-ḫar-ru* Emar 6/4, 596: 4 (MB ḪḪ XI). The Akk. word is a loan from Sum. ḫar-ḫar, for which see Veldhuis 2004: 253 and MSL 8/2, 141: 278. See also Gantzert 2011 Part 2: 108. The word has probably no connection to *ḫarḫarru* "chain" but is onomatopoetic and refers to the bird's cry.

2.6 + ḫaštarû "wearing a *ḫaštaru*-garment(?)", (a bird); SB

Lex. im-gu-gum = *ḫa-aš-ta-ru*(-ˈ*ú*ˀ) Emar 6/4, 555: 68 (MB ḪḪ XI)[17]. Cf. DCCLT MB Ura 11. Possibly derived from *ḫaštaru* "ein Gewandstück der Frau" AHw. 334 (but only attested in Nuzi). If correct, the name refers to the bird's appearance.

2.7 + ḫattārītu "bobbing (with his tail)" (a bird); OB

OB lex. *ḫa-ta-ri-tum**[18] Edubba'a 7, 100: 59. Cf. *ḫatāru* "wippend gehen" (said of a falcon) AHw. 336 and *ḫattārû* "wippend gehend?" AHw. 336 and 1560. The name refers to the bird's behavior.

2.8 + ḫulusīgu? (a bird); SB

Lex. ˈBURU$_5$?-RIˈgu-ru-ušˀ= *ḫu-lu*?-*si*-[*g*]*u* Emar 6/4, 555: 67 (MB ḪḪ XI)[19]. Arnaud Emar 6/4 p. 131 reads *ḫu-ú*!-*si-gu*, probably after the stone name *ḫusīgu*. The reading here follows DCCLT MB Ura 11[20]. Is there any connection to ḪÚL.kur = *ú-si-gu* MSL 8/2, 153: 352?

[17] Cf. Emar 6/1, 201 Msk 7467: 13 and Emar 6/2, 395 Msk 74158r: 1.

[18] Black and Al-Rawi 1987, 124 read -*lum*, Al-Rawi and Dalley, Edubbaᵓa 7, 106 -*lum/kum*?

[19] Cf. Emar 6/1, 201 Msk 7467: 11.

[20] Gantzert 2008, 188 read ḫúl!-ri! gu-ˈruˀ-ˈušˀ= *ḫu*-x x x.

2.9 + kapkappu (a bird); SB, Sum. lw.

Lex. [kab-kab = *k*]*ap-kap-pu* Emar 6/4, 596: 2 (MB Ḫḫ XI). The Akk. word is a loan from Sum. kab-kab, for which see Veldhuis 2004: 258. See also Gantzert 2011 Part 2, 108[21]. The word is onomatopoetic and refers to the bird's cry.

2.10 + nigakku (a bird); SB

Lex. ˹ĝìri˺-pa-ap = *ni-ga-*(*ak*)*-ku* Emar 6/4, 555: 75, ĝìri-a-mu-ru = *ni-ga-ku* ib. 76 (MB Ḫḫ XI)[22]. See Veldhuis 2004: 250f. s.v. ĝir$_3$-mul and ĝir$_3$-pap and DCCLT MB Ura 11. Perhaps an onomatopoetic bird name that refers to the bird's cry. This entry follows *girisakku* above, in the same section.

2.11 + sāʾiju "wheezing(?)", (a bird); OB

OB lex. *sà-a-ú-um*$^{\text{mušen}}$ Edubba'a 7, 100: 69. See *sâʾu* "vor Schmerzen schreien(?)" AHw. 1033, "to hiccup, to wheeze(?)" CAD S 202. The name refers to the bird's cry.

2.12 + suttinninnetu "female bat"; SB

Lex. [...] = *su-din-ni-in-né-tum* Emar 6/4, 555: 84 (MB Ḫḫ XI)[23]. Two lines before the text has [*su*]-˹*ti*˺-*in-nu* "bat". A regular fem. form would be **suttinna/etu*. Maybe a spelling mistake for *su-din-né-tum*. Bats are classified as birds in Mesopotamia.

2.13 + ṣallānu "sleeping", (a bird); SB

Lex. mu-uš-na-a! = *ṣa-la-nu* Emar 6/4, 555: 65 (MB Ḫḫ XI)[24]. See Veldhuis 2004: 283. A similar, better known bird name is *ṣallalu*: [muš] ná-a : *ṣa-la-lu* Emar 6/4 , 555: 94. Possibly a nocturnal bird or a bird that plays dead in the face of danger.

[21]Gantzert restores the Sumerian as [kib-kib]. For the *kipkippu* bird see CAD K 397.
[22]Cf. Emar 6/1, 201 Msk 7467: 20f. and Emar 6/2, 395Msk 74158r: 8f.
[23]Emar 6/1, 242 Msk 74100c i 5.
[24]Emar 6/1, 201 Msk 7467: 9.

2.14 + šāʾibu "swaying", (a swallow); SB

Lex. sim-maḫ = *sinūntum* = *ša-ʾ-bu* Emar 6/4, 555: 70 (MB ḪḪ XI). See Cohen 2010: 828[25]. The name apparently refers to the bird's behavior.

2.15 + šāʾiyu "flying, circling", (a bird of prey); SB

Lex. [súr-dù] = [*ka-s*]*u-su* = *ša-a-i-*[*u*?*], [súr-dù] = [*ka-su*]-su = *ša-a-i-*[*u*?*] Emar 6/4, 579: 9f. (MB ḪḪ XI)[26]. sùr-dù = *kasūsu* is "falcon". See Civil 1989: 19; Cohen 2010: 827. Cf. *šēʾû* no. 2.16, below. The name refers to the bird's behavior.

2.16 + šēʾû "searching", (a bird of prey); OB

OB lex. *še*$_{20}$*-u-um*$^{\text{mušen}}$ Edubba'a 7, 100: 48. The name occurs in a section which mentions birds of prey (the previous line contains *erû* "eagle", the following line *mesukku* "falcon"). Black and Al-Rawi 1987: 126 derive the word from *šâʾu* "to fly" but this is morphologically difficult. The name represents the participle G-stem of *šeʾû* (hence *še*$_{20}$ better than *ši*) and refers to the bird's behavior Cf. *šāʾiju* no. 2.15, above.

2.17 + šūtu? IV "looking like a *šû*-stone(?)", (a bird); SB

Lex. šu-ú = *šu-t*[*um*?] Emar 6/4, 555: 66 (MB ḪḪ XI)[27]. For the reading see DCCLT MB Ura 11. Some bird names derive from stone names: see, e.g., the bird *asqīqu* CAD A/2, 339 and the stone *ašgikû* CAD A/2, 427, which in fact belong together. Is *šūtu* a fem. form derived from the *šû*-stone?

2.18 + waḫû (or waʾû), (a bird); OB

OB lex. *wa-ḫu-ú-um*$^{\text{mušen}}$ Edubba'a 7, 100: 24. As the text originates from Sippar where the sign BI is used to represent /pi/ (Streck 2022: 151 § 2.298), the reading *waḫûm* (or *waʾûm*) is more probable than the reading *piḫûm*. The name is possibly onomatopoetic and refers to the bird's cry.

[25]Cohen assumes that the word is West Semitic, but he does not offer any etymology.
[26]Cf. Emar 6/2, 418 Msk 74165c.
[27]Cf. Emar 6/1, 201 Msk 7467: 11.

2.19 + Zat(t)aš(š)aru?, (a bird); OB

OB lex. ZA-*ta*-ˈ*ša**-*ru*ˈ-*um*$^{\text{mušen}}$ Edubba'a 7, 100: 22[28].

3 + ḫabazinnu "green spelt"; OB, Sum. lw.

OB lex. lú $^{\text{še}}$ḫa-ba-zi-ˈinˈ= *ša ḫa-ba-zi-*ˈ*in*ˈ-*nim*![29] MSL 12, 164: 202 (OB Lu) "responsible for green spelt". The word *ḫabazû* in CAD Ḫ 12f. and AHw. 304 must be deleted[30]. *ḫabazinnu* is a loan from Sum. $^{\text{še}}$ḫa-ba-zi-in and var[31]. The Sum. word is also attested in Akk. context[32]: OB $^{\text{še}}$ḫa-ba-zi-in VS 22, 72: 19; TIM 4, 36 r. 18. The occurrence of *ša abaḫšinni* in MSL 12, 193 C1 5f. and of *abaḫšinnu* in VS 22, 72: 12 suggests that $^{\text{še}}$ḫa-ba-zi-in in these Akk. contexts may serve as a logogram for *abaḫšinnu* (Wilcke 1990: 301) Sum. $^{\text{še}}$ḫa-ba-zi-in and Akk. *abaḫšinnu* are evidently related, but *abaḫšinnu* cannot be directly derived from $^{\text{še}}$ḫa-ba-zi-in. Rather, both words seem to derive from a common source that is neither Sum. nor Akk., possibly Hurrian. Thus, in Akk., there are two etymologically related words *ḫabazinnu* and *abaḫšinnu*. The bird name *ḫabarzinnānu* (see no. 2.4, above) probably derives from *ḫabazinnu*.

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[28]Black and Al-Rawi 1987: 124 read ZA-ˈx-*na*ˈ-*ru-um* but the sign read -*na*- is most probably *ša*. Al-Rawi and Dalley Edubba'a 7: 105 read ZA-ˈ*ta*?-xˈ-*ru-um*.

[29]Collated by photo of IM.58433 iv 10 on eBL: https://www.ebl.lmu.de/library/IM.58433.

[30]For [*a-ba-aḫ*]-*zi-en-nu* CAD A/1, 3 *abaḫšinnu* lex. sect., which suspiciously looked like a second reference for *ḫabazinnu*, see now MSL 15, 45: 418, restored as [*i*]-*sí-en*-[*n*]*a*?.

[31]Wilcke 1990: 301: "Grünkern". See ePSD2 "a cereal". DCCLT UM 55-21-393 translates "fresh green barley".

[32]See von Soden 1986: 246

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Online resources:

CDLI: Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative.
https://cdli.earth.

DCCLT: Digital Corpus of Cuneiform Lexical Texts.
https://oracc.org/dcclt.

eBL: electronic Babylonian Library.
https://www.ebl.lmu.de.

ePSD2: electronic PSD 2nd Edition.
https://oracc.org/epsd2.