The Lexical Aspect of Ugaritic Toponyms

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[Here most of the toponyms occurring in the alphabetic Ugaritic texts are listed, together with their meanings, where feasible, although very many of these remain conjectural.]

I. Introductory

“Toponymy... is part of linguistics because toponyms, like all proper names, are words or word components pertaining to the lexical fund of a language”.1 The lexical elements in Ugaritic place names have been studied only sporadically and the principal works on this topic are by Astour2 and van Soldt.3 Here, Ugaritic toponyms are listed in alphabetical sequence with their meanings (where identifiable), followed where necessary by a brief discussion. Gentiles have not been included. Some entries may have two or more possible meanings and other entries seem to be variants (e.g. ʾull is an alloform of all). The meanings of several names, such as Beirut, Carchemish and even Ugarit itself are difficult to determine


4. As generally accepted in Ugaritic studies. This is for convenience and does not deny validity to the sequence adopted in DLU.
and certain foreign names (e.g. kptr) may not have a meaning in Ugaritic. They are included for completeness. While some of these words occur in the lexicon (e.g. gt), others do not (e.g. sb), hence their importance. Since much of the necessary information (text references, syllabic spellings and bibliography) is already available - in Pardee’s detailed study and in DLU - this material is not repeated. Very many syllabic spellings are also provided in the studies by van Soldt, and again these will not be repeated here. Some additional bibliography is provided.

2. The toponyms and their meanings

algn «Swamp», or else “lake, troubled pool” (Sivan, GAGI, 196).
alppd «Ashdod», meaning unknown (Astour, RSP II, 255-258).
alpy «Place of the Deer, Stag», as indicated by the spelling ḪUR.SAG i-ga-ri DĀRA (PRU 4, 51 obv. 4’, cited in DLU, 65a; cf. Astour, RSP II, 258).

all restored in KTU 4.308:16’ (al[l]) and in 4.355:42 ([ ]ll); cf. all.
alppv «Cyprus», meaning unknown (Astour, RSP II, 259-260).

alpyly, normalized as /Ammeḏā(es)/ or /Ammiḏā(es)/, though no meaning can be suggested.

amm «Firm», as ǧr ann (DLU, 159), “the mountain of the Amanna”.


6. As J. W. Wesselius, “Two Notes on Ugaritic Toponyms”. UF 15 (1983) 315, comments: “Thus we can add šb “hyena” to the Ugaritic lexicon without this word appearing even once in the available texts”.


9. However, some reference is made to the longer entries in Pardee’s study.


11. Note the abbreviation Sivan, GAGI for D. Sivan, Grammatical Analysis and Glossary of the Northwest Semitic Verbal stems in Akkadian Texts of the 15th-13th C.B.C. from Canaan and Syria (Keveler - Neukirch-Vloyn 1984). For names in the form gr ... see DLU, 152b-153a and Pardee, AJO 36/37 (1989/90) 485a. Some of these names are discussed here.


13. Following Virolleaud, Syria 21 (1940) 141.


16. Note that alpp “oak”, Astour, RSP II, 258-259, is probably not a toponym (DLU, 28b).


19. See perhaps Akk. annu(m), the name of a plant or drug (AHw, 47a, 1543a; CAD A'2, 99b-100a) also attested at Mari, cf. F. Joannis, “La culture matérielle à Mari (V): Les parfums”, MARI 7 (1993) 251-270 (269).
amr «Lookout»; cf. Ebla A-mar<sup>Kl</sup>, Am-ar<sup>Kl</sup>, A-ma-ri-in<sup>Kl</sup>, or simply “Amurru”.<sup>23</sup>


agt «Meadows», cf. Aram. ʾḥw, “grass, vegetation” (DNWSI, 35) or else it is a form of Ug. ʾḥb, “shore” (DLU, 17);<sup>34</sup> cf. Akk. ʾḥšhm, “bank, shore” (CAD A/1, 173).

ap «Hill, Cape», lit., “nose” (Astour, RSP II, 261).<sup>25</sup>

apsīny «Ledge» or the like, derived from aps, “edge, top” (cf. Astour, RSP II, 261). It is less likely to be explained by Akk. ʾapsa, “temple basin”.<sup>26</sup>

ar «Storehouse», in view of the syllabic spelling a-rau etc.<sup>27</sup> and Akk. arā, “granary, storehouse” (CAD A/2, 313a). Cf. ary below.

arwēl «Desirable Place», a Semitic name; cf. Arab. ṭāḏē IV, “to wish, desire, strive (toward a place)” (Astour, RSP II, 262) unless the root is “to wander restlessly, roam” (Sivan, GAGI, 198).

ardln «(A plant or stone)» (KTU 1.64:25:29-30:33; 7:42:4; not listed in DLU). Astour compares the place name Hitt. irzilirzēli and refers to Akk. arzallu which denotes a plant, a stone, an implement and a piece of jewellery (cf. CAD A/2, 324-325).

ary (variant: hry); cf. ar and Phoen. ary, “to amass” (DNWSI, 107).

arr «Gift, Tribute (?)», if a Hurrian term (root ar- “to give”),<sup>29</sup> but see next entry.

arrny «Coffer (?)» if Semitic (Astour, RSP II, 263; Sivan, GAGI, 197) or else a form of the previous entry.

arr «Outlet (?)»: AT a-ra-ri-e<sup>Kl</sup> suggests Akk. arāru, “outlet of a canal” (CAD A/2, 324a).

arbḥ «Tigris», Hurr. arbaššā. <sup>31</sup>

art «City (?)» = URU a-ra-tu, cf. perhaps Hurri. arte, “town” (GLH, 54).<sup>22</sup>

atlg «Stronghold (?)», if explained by Hurr. atal-, “strong” (GLH, 35).<sup>33</sup>

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ilšm<sup>34</sup> "The (place of) the 'l of Listening, Attention", "i.e., 'seat of' the oracle-deity’" (Astour RSP II, 264-265).

<sup>34</sup>
imr «Emar», meaning "wall".

<sup>35</sup>inbb «God (of the ) Mountain», i.e. Hurr. en + paba.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>36</sup>irab remains unexplained, but cf. the Syrian toponym Ir³ib-Da.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>37</sup>irbn perhaps to be analysed as Hurr. irb + -n.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>38</sup>irbš «Rest», in gt irbš (DLU, 48a).

<sup>39</sup>iryn variant of ary.

<sup>39</sup>ittqib «Knoll (?)» (KTU 1.105 22; DLU, 63); cf. Akk. aqubbitu, asqumbitiu, isqubbitu, ašqubbītu, išqubbītu "hump" (CAD A2, 339b-340a).

<sup>40</sup>ubalš «Manger, Feeding-trough» (Sivan, GAGI, 201), syll. u-bu-sulš.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>41</sup>ubr<sup>-c</sup> «Place of Ascent (?)» (cf. Astour, RSP II, 266).

<sup>42</sup>ugr<sup>-t</sup> «Ugarit», is probably connected with ugaru, "field".

<sup>43</sup>udm «Red (?)» (cf. Astour, RSP II, 267-269).

<sup>44</sup>ult<sup>-p</sup>, spelled ultappu: cf. perhaps Akk. ulnini, "bunch of unripe dates".

<sup>44</sup>ull, meaning unknown, is a byform of all, but cf. AT ut-la.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>45</sup>ult «Vestibule, Front» if Semitic (Astour, RSP II, 268-269), though a Hurrian etymology cannot be discounted.<sup>46</sup>


35. Astour, JAOS 92 (1972) 451; Sivan, GAGI, 199.


37. D. Arnaud, <em>Textes syriens de l’âge du Bronze récent</em> (Barcelona 1991) text 96:16 (pp. 150, 155). Note also the personal names Ir³ib, Ir³ib-baₐd, Ir³ib-Dagan and Ir³ib-bi (ibid., 179-180).


44. Van Soldt, UF 28 (1996) 658, explains this as due to assimilation (vowel harmony?). Cf Astour, "Toponymic Parallels", 19.

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uĝr (DLU, 15a) may be a mistake for l ǧr, “to the mountain”.47

ušku «Settlement (?)», root škr, “to dwell”.48

bir «Well» (com. Sem.),49 but possibly not identical with b’rr.50

birt «Beirut» (cf. bir).

bble «At the Gate (?)»: Astour51 compares Babite, from Akk. bābu, “gate”.

bnr «Dates (?)»: cf. mrtr tgl bnr.

bṣny «Sandy place (?)», if to be explained by Akk. baṣšu, “sand” (CAD B, 134b-135), bāṣu, “Sand” (AHw, 110b).52

bṣr «Inaccessible Place» (cf. HALOT, 149a) or “Observation post” if connected with Ug. bṣr, “to watch, spy”.53

bq̩ «Valley» (cf. DLU, 114); see next entry.

bq’s «Valley, Fertile Plain» (as in KAI 222B 10; cf. DNWSI, 187); cf. Heb. bq’sh, “valley-plain” (HALOT, 150b; Sivan, GAGI, 209).

gbl «Byblos» i.e. «Mountain».54

gb’s: see next entry.55

gb’sy «Site of Baal», syll. gi-ba’-li-yi, etc. (DLU, 143a) The reading “aṣar-ba’alāḥ (cited in DLU) suggests *g, “place”56 + b’il, “Baal”, but this etymology may be popular. Cf. HALOT, 175 for other proposals.

gwl «Circuit (?)»).57

غل in غل ۍٓٓ: see next entry.

głbry «Naked Barley» perhaps.58

ğllky «Inner Circle» (Astour, RSP II, 273).59


47. N. Wyatt, Religious Texts from Ugarit. The Words of Illilku and his Colleagues (Sheffield 1998) 82 n. 58. It is unlikely to be explained by Eg. ʾr, “to go up, raise up, ascend”.


49. See also Lemaire, UF 30 (1998) 461ff.


gn(y) "Garden of freshly gathered fruit", i.e. gn + n (Astour, RSP II, 274).
gpn "Trees" or "Vineyard"; the spelling gup-na suggests the first meaning.\(^60\)
grgmš "Carchemish" (DLU, 150b-151a),\(^61\) perhaps "Harbour of the god Kamish".\(^62\)
ddmš "Settlement", Akk. dadmù, i.e. Aleppo;\(^63\) cf. next entry.
ddmš: see previous entry.\(^64\)
dnt "Tower" or perhaps "Stop, station" (Sivan, GAGI, 215).
dnt qds «Sacred Tower» (DLU, 134).
dprnm «Junipers» in gt dprnm\(^65\) and zl dprnm "Shadow of the Junipers" (DLU, 135b).
hdr\(^5\): the entry in DLU, 164a provides extensive references, notably to Ebla be-el id-ri. Heb. נֵבֶר (for נֵבֶר, cf. HALOT, 17a) may suggest the meaning "arm (?)".

gup = URU iz-pul-p\(^3\) is unexplained.

hln « Classe » , cf. Akk. alamû, a plant (AHw, 35a; CAD A/1, 333b).
hmyr «Muddy»; See tbq.
hry to be read ary (= ary); see above.\(^69\)
zl (KTU 4.244:13): see under dprnm.
zlyy, also the spelling of the gentilic.\(^70\)
zrn (DLU, 552b) remains unexplained

hbd, syllabically lubišše, remains unexplained.
hwt "Land" (cf. DLU, 185).
hkpt «Memphis», of Egyptian derivation (DLU, 175a).\(^71\)

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60. "While gapnu in NB refers exclusively to fruit tree, gapnu is used ... for tree in general" (CAD G. 45a, discussion section, where it is considered a loanword). However in AHw (298b) there is a separate entry gapnu, "Baum(stamm)". For other possibilities cf. Kühne, UF 6 (1974) 164-165.


63. M. Bonechi, "On the Name of the Aleppo Kingdom at Ugaril", NABU 1998.20. He argues that dadmu is in OB Mari letters the equivalent of manu, the name of the kingdom of Aleppo in the West; hence dadmû in KTU 1.40 "may refer to the inhabitants of the Aleppo countryside".

64. Astour, "Semites and Hurrians", 49-450 argues that ddmš derives from the divine name dadmû with the afformative -idd-îšu, but see previous note.


71. See Muchoki, Loanwords, 297.
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$h$ «Fortress, Tower, etc.» (DLU, 175) or “Low ground”.72

$h^r$ «Freedom», Arab. $h^r$riyat, “freedom”. Astour compares the Babylonian city name Durānu, “Freedom”, and also refers to Mari $H^r$-ur-ri-ia$^3_1$ (ARM VIII 10:19)73 and Alalah $H^r$-ri-ia$^3_1$ (AT 201:15).74

$h^r$r occurs in KTU 4.365:33 and has the syllabic spelling $h^r$ra-ri.75

$h^r$r occurs only in the Krt. previous proposals have been rejected by Del Olmo Lete.76

$h^b$t «Country»;77 see $h^b$ty.78

$h^b$l «Hill»: “$h^b$lu means ‘forest’ in Akkadian, ‘hill’ in Ugaritic, and the city of Aleppo is still dominated by its lofty natural citadel hill, conspicuous in the flat plain”.79 The names $h^b$l, $h^b$ly, $h^b$l “prm, $h^b$l gnud, $h^b$l km, $h^b$l rps and $h^b$l spl (DLU, 191) have been discussed as a group.80

$h^l$dy as gt $h^l$dy:81 the syllabic spelling $h^l$-ul-da82 (DLU, 191) seems to rule out Hurr. $h^l$lda(e), “high”.83

$h^l$y is probably not a GN;84 cf. $h^l$ and $g^l$ (DLU, 193a).

$h^n$rm «Cult Installation», cf. Hurr. $h^m$rm, “cult installation” (DLU, 193).

$h^n$rm:85 cf. $h^n$rm.

$h^p$ty «Shore (?)»;86 cf. $h^b$t.87

$h^r$sh $^a$ «Lair of a Hyena» (Astour, RSP II, 289).88

$h^t$ «Hatti».

75. See van Soldt, UF 31 (1999) 771; he comments “I have no suggestion for the meaning of this name”. A possibility is “embankment” or the like in view of OSA $h^r$r, “to rake up earth” (for an embankment), $h^r$rm, “banking up” (of earth); cf. Biella. DOSA, 190-191. However, this is only a guess.
76. Del Olmo Lete, MLC, 550.
77. Huehnergard, Ugaritic Vocabulary, 123.
81. Considered a toponym by van Soldt, UF 28 (1996) 669, n. 120.
85. KTU 4.683:30, even though Astour, RSP II, 284 proposes the reading $zn$mm.
86. Huehnergard, Ugaritic Vocabulary, 129.
87. Note that the PN $hs$bgln (KTU 4.625:19) derives from the syllabic place-name ḫar-ba-ḫu-li-bé (DLU. 197; van Soldt, UF 29 (1997) 691).
\( \text{tbq \ «Muddy Place (?)\» (KTU 9.421): cf. Mehri \textit{etilik}, \textit{etôk}, “to fall in the mud, get oneself dusty, muddy, dirty”}.^{90} \)

\( \text{zrn is unexplained (KTU 4.68:9; 4.95:6; 4.113:8; 3.408:2; 4.610 ii 37; 4.629:13; 4.686:6 and perhaps 4.553:1”).}^{93} \)

\( \text{ykn’m remains unexplained (see DLU, 525b-526a).} \)

\( \text{yman «Ionia\» (cf. DLU, 528b),} \)

\( \text{yney «Winey (?)» in view of the spelling with (Sum.) geština.}^{91} \)

\( \text{y’by «Wide, Spacious\» (KTU 4.100:8).}^{92} \)

\( \text{y’n is unexplained.}^{93} \)

\( \text{y’rt «Wood, Forest\» (Astour, RSP II, 290-291); cf. Punic y’t, “forest, parkland” (DNWSI, 464).} \)

\( \text{ypr remains unexplained.}^{94} \)

\( \text{yrghb, only in the colophon to the Baal Cycle (KTU 1.6 vi 58), remains unexplained.}^{95} \)

\( \text{yrmbl remains unexplained (cf. DLU, 537b-538a).} \)

\( \text{kdddy remains unexplained.} \)

\( \text{knkdy «Of a (mountain plant)» cf. Akk. kamkadu; kam/kadu, “eine in Felsspalten wachsende Pflanze” (AHw, 432; cf. CAD K, 123-124); also a town in Alalakh (Kam-kâ-ti-ia).}^{96} \)

\( \text{knkky «Libation-pipe» or less probably “My shelter” (cf. DLU, 220b).}^{97} \)

\( \text{knrt has been discussed elsewhere.}^{98} \)

\( \text{ks «Kasius», perhaps “throne”.}^{99} \)

\( \text{kptr «Crete».}^{100} \)

\( \text{kt «Kition (?)».}^{101} \)

\( \text{ktn «Kushan»,}^{102} \text{ cf. HALOT, 467b.} \)

89. T. M. Johnstone, \textit{Mehri Lexikon and English-Mehri Word-list} (London 1987) 405. Other alternatives are “to cover” and “to gather”; cf. Sivan, GAGI, 289.

90. As listed by van Soldt, \textit{UF} 28 (1996) 672.


93. The meaning “ostrich”, Heb. \textit{ţá̂ substr.}, (HALOT, 421a) is very unlikely. Cf. DLU, 517a.


97. According to M. C. Astour, “The Nether World and Its Denizens at Ugarit”, in B. Alster, ed., \textit{Death in Mesopotamia. Papers read at the XXVI\textsuperscript{e} Rencontre assyriologique internationale} (Copenhagen 1980) 227-238 (229), the name denotes a large clay jar which could be used as a coffin and so has “a funerary conotation”. See also F. Poljakov, “Miscellanea Hellenosemitica 2. The Jar and the Underworld”, \textit{UF} 14 (1982) 309-310.


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*kttglm* «(Place of the) Bowmakers», derived from Hurr. *g/kaštî* (from Akk. *qašnu*), “bow”. 103

*lbnm* «White» (Astour, RSP II, 298).

*lbnm* «White Mountain» (DLU. 241b-242a). 104

*lrgt* «Fearless (?)», i.e. Arab. *Rağat*, “fear”, with the negative *l*, 105 or else “fragrant”; cf. Ebla *La-r[u]-gat-tù*, variant *A-ru-ga-tù*. 106

*maladamente* «Maḫ harassment», probably meaning “harbour”. 107

*mìy* 108: see under *sur*.

*màglà* «Tower» (Astour, RSP II, 298-299). 109

*mgšì* «Mukiš» (KTU 2.33:10; cf. 4.769:60) is Hurrian. 110

*mlà* is unexplained (KTU 4.783:7).

*mìlàn* for possible meanings cf. DLU, 267a.

*mìldy* (DLU, 269a) cf. under *màjlà*.

*mìlàn* «(Two) Camps (?)» may be a place name in KTU 1.83:4. 111

*mìhr* «Market», since “price is less likely as a place name” (Astour, RSP II, 300).

*mìld* «Offspring» (Astour, RSP II, 300-301). 112

*mìlk* «Mulukku», 113 possibly explained by *mlk*, “king”.

*mìlkì* «Milku of the Sea» (KTU 9.458 = RIH 83/2:29). 114

*mìnt* «Share, Lot» (Astour, RSP II, 301); cf. DNWSI, 657.

*mìqàb* «Hill (?)». 115

*mìr* «Glade, Clearing (?)»; cf. Heb. נִיר with these meanings (HALOT, 615b). 116

*mìrìby* «West (?)». 117 Note also *gt mìrìb* and *gt mìrìby*.

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110. See the references in Cunichillo, *TO II*, 329, n. 13.


"Cave" (Astour, RSP II, 301-302); cf. DNWSI, 672.  

Mehri "Memorial" (Astour, RSP II, 302); cf. Phoen./Punic msbh, "stele, image" (DNWSI, 676-677).  

msd «Fortress» (DLU, 297)  

msrm «Egypt».  

mr «Mari».  

mrrat «Fruitful» (lit. "fat") (Astour, RSP II, 303); cf. ṣmn below.  

mrril is unexplained, but contains the element ʾil, "Ilú" or "god".  

mrrt «Date-palm» only in mrrt tgl bn r "Date-palm which produces dates". Note syllabic Ugaritic ʾmni-ra-ar and ʾmnme-ra-ar, and cf. nhl below.  

nbi/pk «Well, Spring» in gtnbi/pk.  

nbnm «Two Springs» or «Springs» as explained by Kühne.  

ngḥt «Plain (?)» (KTU 4.643:18), cf. Mehri ḍḥţi, "flat desert, desert plain".  

nḥd «(Place of) Offering»: the syllabic spelling (ni-da-bi) suggests Akk. nindabû (also nidabû, etc.), "cereal offering, food offering" (CAD N/2, 236-238; cf. AHw, 790b).  

nhl «Date-palm», cf. Arabic naḥl, "date-palms", QSA Ṽnl, "palm-grove"; cf. mrrt above and mnr below. Alternatively, cf. Ebla naḥal, "brook"; Heb. יַֽהֵל Ṽnm, "river valley, wadi" (HALOT, 687b) hence perhaps "wadi, ravine".  

nhry «Riverine», com. Sem. Ṽhr, "river".  

nmw «Medicinal Plant».  

ngt «Nuḥšše» (cf. Cunchillos, TO II, 408, n.188).  

np «Memphis», Eg. Ṽnt-nfr.  

npti «Place of Plenty (?)», cf. Akk. napsu, “abundant, plentiful” (CAD N/1, 318).
nšu is unexplained (DLU, 335a).
sḏnh remains unexplained.
syr «Claytown» perhaps, in view of Hamito-Semitic 
sin, “earth, clay”.

dld ṣld (DLU, 403a) remains unexplained.


sunwn remains unexplained (see DLU, 404b).

snr appears as BH ינו, Ass. Saniquir (HALOT, 1340b-1341a). Note also snr miād, “Sinaru Harbour”.

sgy «(Tree?)» also in gt sgy (DLU, 400a): cf. perhaps Akk. sīlu which denotes a resinous tree (CAD S, 241b-242a).

dn «Lush Places» rather than “Plain” (cf. HALOT, 792b).

ky «Mooring Post».

mq «Stronghold (?)» in gt ṣmq.

mnk(y) «Source of the Mky» (DLU, 83a).

npat «Source of the Qpat» (DLU, 83a).

rgz «(Wal)nut». Pardee concludes that although various forms of the word for “nut” exist in different languages none of them has ṣr as the initial consonants; also, that these words are relatively late. Furthermore, there is no archaeological record of nuts near Ras Shamra. Accordingly, “The identification of ṣrgz as a Saladin tree is uncertain.” However, from an examination of the contexts in which Ug. ṣrgz occurs, Dietrich - Loretz conclude that it is a (wal)nut tree.


rm 『Grainery (?)», Heb. הלחם, “granary, heap (of fruit)” (HALOT, 887a).

r r «Tamarisk».

144. M. Dietrich - O. Loretz, “Ug. ṣgh, ṣrg und be. h ṣghm (II Reg 4,42), ṣwγ” (Uf 18 (1986) 115-120.
"ātart" a city named after a goddess (cf. Astour, RSP II, 313-314).


غل "Dust(y Place) (?)" (KTU 1.40:4); cf. Arab. ُعبار, “dust”. Or else “Meeting-place”, cf. Mehri ُبر, “to meet”.

غل "Produce" or the like, if Semitic. Otherwise it may possibly be explained by Urartian ُحلوط, “wine”; cf. Nuzi-Hurrian ُحلوط, “a fruit”.

غل, Uru ُنَرِي, homonymous with Bab. ُحُنُو (AHw, 321), but meaning unknown.

غل "Mountain" (DLU, 159b under ُغَرَّ IV); cf. also compound names with ُغر (under ُانُن, ُتَرْقَرْزَ, ُتَرَمْ).

غل "Corner", i.e. ُتَرَع (Sivan, GAGI, 258).

غل "Cape (?)"; cf. Hurr. ُباي "head" (GLH, 192-193) if this is the Hurrian equivalent of ُرَس (see below). Alternatively, "field", Egl. ُبَز. However, the meaning remains uncertain.

غل "Sidon" (DLU, 415a).

غل "Bowl, Basin" (Sivan, GAGI, 268), a word also occurring in KTU 1.15 iv 24.

غل "(Place of) Thunder (?)", spelled ُسَارُ-ُقَ, etc., cf. Arab. ُسَارَقَ, “thunder”.

غل "North", ُسَنَت

غل "Rock, Mountain" (cf. DNWSI, 974), i.e. Tyre.

غل "Holy" or simply "Qadesh".


غل "Construction", from the root ُقَمَت, “to stand up”.

146. Astour, “North Syrian Toponyms”, 2; Sivan, GAGI, 204; ُت (KTU 4.68:24) is uncertain; cf. van Soldt, UF 28 (1996) 682.


152. Syllabically ُنَقَد: Sivan, GAGI, 258; van Soldt UF 28 (1996) 683; see DLU, 343b. If ُنَد is a toponym it would mean “village”.


158. Lipinski, Semitic Languages, 571.


160. Astour, RSP II, 326, considers the root to be “to rise, to last”.

161. Sivan, GAGI, 260, following Astour, RSP II, 327, who analyses the toponym as Sem. ُقَمَت + Hurr. ُت.
qmys: meaning uncertain (cf. DLU, 368).
q'îl «Summit» if a place name, or simply “summit”.162

qr nyn «Waterswell».163

qrizbl «City of the Prince, Royal Town»164; cf. zbl.

qr «Town» (com. Scm.; cf. DNWSI, 1037)165; cf. Qa-ra-tu in PRU 6, 78:1.26.166
riš «Cape, Promontory».167

rkby «Crest» (Astour, RSP II, 330).

rdl «High-lying Land» or the like, cf. Mehri mørkëydër mørkòd, “rough patch up the mountain”,168 or less likely, “(City of) dance (?)” (cf. Sivan, GAGI, 265), com. Sem. rql, e.g. Akk. râyadu.

šiy may denote a desert; for the various proposals (“waste land”, “murderous god”, “desolation”) cf. DLU,427a.169

šbn «Reed Thicket (?)»; cf. šibû, the Assyrian form of Babylonian šubbatušuppatu, “rush, reed thicket” (CSD Š/3, 187a, 326). Alternatively, cf. perhaps Akk. šuppâ, a topographical term (ibid., 326).

šlmunt «Shore of Death (?)»170

šhq «Levelled (?)»; cf. perhaps Akk. šeqû, “to measure level” (CSD Š/2, 308; AHw. 1215b).171


šlby «(Place of the) Medlar», i.e. Akk. šalluru + Hurr. suffix -bal-bi.173

šngy, normalised as šammegû, cf. šnngy.

šnn and šnnu «Fat» i.e. fertile (place) or simply “Oil”.174

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162. Cf. Wyatt, Religions Texts from Ugarit, 89, n. 79.
163. So Wyatt, Religions Texts from Ugarit, 307; see ibid., 307, n. 249.
165. “The general meaning of the word is “town,” “dwelling,” “village,” but the lists of the collective obligations of the Ugaritic villages show that there was also a village with this name”, Heltzer, Rural Community, 17, n. 51.
166. Van Soldt, “PRU 6 no. 78 (RS 19.41)”, 784.
169. See also Hamito-Semitic "sw-", "sw-" eks- "(to be) dry” in Orel - Sulhova, Dictionary 469 (§2224), where Egl. šw “dry” is quoted (see Faulkner, CDME, 263).
170. See the discussion in Wyatt, RTU, 124 n.48.
173. Astour, “North Syrian Toponyms”, 6; JAOS 108 (1988) 554 and nn.74-75; “possibly ... the plum” (CSD Š/1, 253b-254).
šmngy, normalised as šamnigš, a form of the preceding name “with the Hurrian suffix -ga which often occurs in names of mountains”. 176
štr «Wool, Fleece» (Astour, RSP II, 331-332)177 or else “Barley (field) or scrub country”. 178
šql «Marsh (?)»; cf. Akk. šuqlu, “marsh(?), a marsh plant(?)” (CSD Š/3, 334), though the syllabic spellings suggest šuqalu. 179
šyn «Sirion» (KTU 1.4 vi 19.21), Heb. יָשִׁירָה (HALOT, 1357). 180
šrš «Foundation» if Semitic (cf. Sivan, GAGI, 276), 181 or “Throne(-city)” if Hurrian, 182 though the spellings (šu-ra-ššu, etc.) seem to obviate the second possibility.

tbq: see under ṭbq, above. 183

tkn: various explanations in DLU, 467b.

tkn is unexplained. 184 Cf. HALOT, 1734-1735.

tlmš «Great», explained by Hurr. talmi. 185

tnm «Date-palm(s)» (cf. mnr, DNWSI, 1222); cf. ntrt and nhš above. 186

tph «Apple- or Apricot-tree» (cf. Astour, RSP II, 336).

trb: the unexplained element tarbi / tarve occurs in several names. 187

trzy «Hardwood-tree», cognates Heb. תַּרְצָא, a hard tree; Aram. t̂ r̃ez, a hardwood tree, perhaps stone oak; Arab. tarasa, “to be hard”. 188

trgzz (as gr trgz : DLU, 159a, 474a) is unexplained. 189

ttl «Tuttul», a town on the Euphrates. 190

ṭ in KTU 2.33. 191

177. Huhnergord, Ugaritic Vocabulary, 183.
178. Hoch, Semitic Words, #358.
183. It is uncertain whether tbr (“Tabor”) is to be read in KTU 1.142:3; see discussion in G. del Olmo Lete, CanaaniteReligion according to the Liturgical Texts of Ugarit (Bethesda MD 1999) 348, n. 53. In KTU 4.363:4, ṭkg is not a toponym but probably a Hurrian word; cf. J.-P. Vita, El ejército de Ugarit (Madrid 1995) 81.
188. Astour, “North Syrian Toponyms”, 7; HALOT, 1792a.
189. Mehri ṛg̣, “to interrupt in an unwelcome manner, to become soft” (Johnstone, Mehri Lexicon, 320) is not very illuminating.
THE LEXICAL ASPECT OF UGARITIC TOPOYMS

*tbil* «May El Return (?)».\(^{192}\) Cf. *ilštm*, above.

*thq*: meaning unknown.\(^{193}\) Cf. Akk. *šibqu*, which denotes “an architectural feature” (CSD Š/2, 381b).\(^{194}\)

*ty(n)dr* «River of (Mount) Ndr (?)».\(^{195}\)

*tllny* «Table» (Astour, RSP II, 337) i.e. a flat-topped hill.

*tlrby*: cf. *šlrby*.\(^{196}\)

*tmr(y)* «Rich Yield» (Astour, RSP II, 337-338; Sivan, GAGl, 281).

*tnq* remains unexplained.\(^{197}\)


*trmg* as *gr trmg* (DLU, 159a, 506b), is unexplained.

*trnn* «Cypress» as *gr trnn*: cf. Akk. *šūrmēnu*, “cypress” (CSD Š/3, 349-353).\(^{198}\)

3. Concluding remarks

Not unexpectedly, many of the names have explanations which are dubious or only mere possibilities. Much is sheer guesswork. It is curious that many of the names beginning with *γ* and *ς* (or *♂*) defy analysis. Also, we do not know which were pre-Semitic or whether some have been re-interpreted as Semitic. Even so, such lexical material cannot be ignored. In general the proposals mentioned are very tentative and further study is necessary, although in many cases uncertainty will remain.\(^{199}\)

\(^{191}\) See Cunchillos TÖu 2, 235.

\(^{192}\) Van Soldt, “PRU 6 no. 78 (RS 19.41)”, 780.

\(^{193}\) Van Soldt, *UF* 28 (1996) 689: either a place name or a personal name.

\(^{194}\) Note also Akk. *šibqu*, “plan, stratagem” (CSD Š/2, 381b-382a).

\(^{195}\) Cunchillos, *TO* II, 289, n. 9, where other proposals are set out.

\(^{196}\) It is possible that *tnk* in KTU 1.22 i 17 is not a place name; cf. W. G. E. Watson, “Wonderful Wine (KTU 1.22 i 17-20)”, *UF* 31 (1999) 777-784, esp. 779.

\(^{197}\) Cf. Akk. *šanakkur*, “possibly a geographic name” (CSD Š/1, 366a).


\(^{199}\) Some geographical names remain unpublished, e.g. the list of towns in KTU 9,417.