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ANCIENT LINGUISTIC LINKS IN WESTERN EURASIA

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1. Note, Ancient Mediterranean Substrate, with words such as:

Hebrew	<i>Lilith</i> , later <i>Lily</i> , <i>lily</i>
Akkadian	<i>lilu</i> 'spirit', (<i>irdu-</i>) <i>līli</i> 'male spirit', (<i>ardatu-</i>) <i>lilitu</i> 'female spirit'
Assyrian	<i>lilitū</i> 'incubus'
Sumerian	<i>En-lil</i> , <i>Nin-lil</i> Lord-, Lady-of the open air, of wind <i>Lilū</i> father of Bilga-mes (Akk. Gilgamesh)
Latin	<i>plumbum</i>
Greek	<i>mólybdos</i> , <i>mólibos</i> (Hom), 'lead', <i>molúbminos</i> 'leaden'

2. Macro-Dravidian

links between various substratal words and a Dravidian-like group of languages, extending from southern India, across the Middle East, the South Caucasus (up to the northwest with PIE?), and the Eastern Mediterranean, with perhaps outliers in Central Asia.

Note: Proto-Dravidian (PD): **āl-* 'people' ← **all-* ← **xlil-* may lie behind *lili-*, etc., (see §6)

General Dravidian material taken from Krishnamurti 2003 unless otherwise noted.

3. 'Water, river'

Proto-Dravidian (PD) **nīr(u)*, 'river, water'

Kannada and Tulu *nīru nāyi*, 'otter', that is, river beast, with preserved final /-u/ as in the Akkadian borrowing next (Burrow and Emeneau, 1968: 78, 3057(a):

Middle East substrate

Akkadian *nāru*

South Daghestan (Kibrik and Kodzasov, 1990:194-5):

Tabasarn *nir*

Aghul *nir* both, 'river'

Balkan substrate

Mod Greek *nerós* 'fresh water' (usually derived from 'fresh' as in 'fresh fruit', but the shift from adjective to noun is unlikely)

Ancient Gk *Nereid, Néreus*

PIE adstrate?

Norse *Njordr* ← **nerþuz* (unlikely to be a cognate)

Proto-Macro-Dravidian (PMD): *neru-, / *naru-

4. "sky, God"

PD **wān-am* 'sky'

Northwest Caucasian

Ubykh *wan* 'God'

Circassian *we* 'sky, weather'

5. 'Settlement, habitation'

PD **ūr*

Ancient Middle Eastern substrate *Ur, Uruk*

Italy substrate

Latin *urb-s*

Anatolian substrate or PIE adstrate

Hittite *warpas,*

Central Asian substrate

Tocharian *warpa*, both 'enclosure'

(Mallory and Adams 2006, p. 221)

PMD: **urb-*, **werb-*, **worb-*, **urb-unkk-* settlement-locative for *Uruk*,
(near Ur), (cf., ! Algonquian *-(o)nk)

6. 'Onion, garlic, lily

Proto-D **uʎli-* 'onion' (Tamil *āli*, *āli* 'lily')

Italy substrate

Latin *allium*, *ālium* 'garlic'

(for the relation between geminates and long vowels, cf., Proto-D *pī-t-*, *pi-tt-* 'to fart')

PMD: *aHl-* (**axl-*, ? **xluli-*)

7. 'Shining, bright; true, certain; victorious

Dravidian:

Telugu *nikkuva* 'truth, certainty,' or

Tamil *nekar* 'to shine, be visible',

Kannada *negar* 'to shine, become famous' (B & E 1966, pp. 243, 244)

Gondi *nikkā*, *nikkhā* 'beauty; good, beautiful' (B & E 1968: 79,
3096) ← **nikkxwa*, **nikkux*

Balkan substrate

Gk *Nīkē* goddess of victory;
nīkaō 'to conquer, be victorious' ← **nīkAw-*, note parallel with
forms ancestral to Gondi.

PMD: **nikkx(a)w-*

8. lion

PD: **uʒ-uw-* 'tiger' *[uʀ-uw-]

Balkan substrateGk *lèōn* ← **léwonts*PMD: **r'éwo-*, **rwo-*9. 'Son, daughter'PD: **mak-antu* 'son,' *mak-al* 'daughter' (cf., **āl*- 'person')Western PIE adstrateIrish *mac n-*Welsh *map*Germanic *mag*PMD: **makw-an-*10. 'Hill, walled city, acropolis'PD: **kunt-am/-u* 'hill', **kōtt-ay-* 'fort'Central Asian substrate(Indo-)Iranian **kanda* 'city'PMD **k(o)nt-a-*11. 'Dark, black'PD **kār-*, *kar-* 'dark, black, dark clouds'Central Asian substrateAltaic *kara-* ("qara-")PMD *karH-* (*karx-*)12. 'Lake'

PD **kuʎ-am/-Vnc-* 'lake'

Central Asian substrate

Altaic *kiil*

PMD **kuʎ-inc-* 'lake'

13. 'Strong,, powerful, wealthy; wealth, weal'

PD **wal* 'strong'

PIE adstrate (?) **wel-*, **wol-*

English	<i>weal(th)</i>
Toch	<i>walo</i> 'king'

PMD **wel-*, **wal-*

14. 'Root'

PD * *wēr* 'root'

PIE adstrate (?) **wr-eA-d-*, **wr-A-d-(yo-A-)* (Watkins 2000, p 102)

Latin	<i>radix</i> - ← * <i>wrA-d-i-A-s</i>
English	<i>wort</i> , Old E <i>wyrt</i> ← PGmc * <i>wurtiz</i> ←
	<i>root</i> , - ← PGmc * <i>wrōt</i>

PMD **wer-x-*

15. Elamite, Elam (self-designation *Harpiti*, country *Haltamti* , Old Persian *Hūjiya*)

Sumerian *ELAM*

Akkadian *elam-u*, *elam-itu*

Hebrew *Elam*

Dravidian *ēlam* name for Sri Lanka

16. Proto-Elamo-Dravidian (McAlpin's efforts)

Difficult to assess, but should be examined in this new perspective of Macro-Dravidian. Morphological parallels are strong and may be probative.

References

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