

**Georgian *laq'e*, an ‘addle egg’ in Kartvelian:  
Review of a Georgian etymology**

In the *Etymological Dictionary of the Kartvelian Languages* compiled by the late Prof. Georgij Klimov, we find the proto-form \**laq'e* “rotten”, reconstructed for the Georgian-Zan level. The here underlying lexemes are GEORGIAN *laq'e* ‘rotten, putrid, unsound, addle; stinking, having a bad odour’ and LAZ (Xope) *loq'e* ‘sweet; sweet juice of grapes’.

Phonologically speaking this reconstruction—which, incidentally, was first proposed by Fähnrich—looks absolutely reliable, since all correspondences exactly meet the Kartvelian sound laws. Under semantic considerations, however, the match is not very convincing.

In my paper I shall demonstrate, that Klimov’s attempt at explanation is invalid since there is very rich evidence for the root *laq-* ‘addled, an addle egg’ from outside Kartvelian, as for instance in Armenian, Turkish (Ottoman), Azeri, Turkmen, Chaghatay, Persian as well as in a couple of languages in the Caucasus (Lezgian, Tabassaran, Udi and even Ossetian). The discussion will show, that PERSIAN *laq* ‘an addle egg’ may be accepted as the ultimate point of departure for this term.

Even though the deeper historical background of the etymon is still obscure, it is quite interesting to see a term of such a specific and exceptional meaning acting in the role of a loan word with a rather wide areal distribution reaching from Anatolia to the borders of Middle Asia.