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# On the history of Buryat word formation: Plant names

BAYARMA KHABTAGAEVA, University of Szeged, Hungary<sup>1</sup>

**Summary:** The most productive way of word formation in Buryat, as in other Mongolic languages, is a derivation via suffixation. The present paper has a two-fold goal. The first aim is to find out which methods of word-formation are involved in forming the plant names in Buryat. And second, the paper analyzes the special semantic group of the plant names which went through metaphorical or metonymical changes.

## 1. Introduction

Originally, the aim of this paper was to find out if there are special suffixes which show special affinity to a specific lexical group, namely, to plant names.<sup>2</sup> The collected material shows that plant names in Buryat are formed in two ways: via derivation with suffixes or via compounding, producing simple names and compound names, respectively.

### 1.1. The Buryat language

Buryat is a non-archaic northern Mongolic language presently spoken in the territories of Russia, China, and Mongolia. Most speakers of the Buryat language live in the Republic of Buryatia, Russia, which is situated to the

- 
- 1) I would like to express my thanks to the anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments.
  - 2) My research on the topic of *Mongolic colour names and their derivation* (Khabtagaeva 2001) found that there is an affinity between certain lexical groups and specific word-forming suffixes in Mongolic languages. All in all, 108 suffixes were examined, of which 49 are used with colour names and other lexical groups, and 59 are restricted to colour names, which showed special affinity of a specific lexical group to colour names.

east and south of Lake Baikal, with a population of 286,839 people (which is 30% of the Republic's population).<sup>3</sup> Additionally, approximately 45,150 Buryat speakers live in the Zabaikalskiy Territory (from 1937 to 2008 the Aga National District of Chita Province) situated in the east of Buryatia and approximately 53,650 Buryat speakers live in the Irkutsk Province (from 1937 to 2008 an independent Ust'-Orda National District) to the west of Lake Baikal. According to the 2010 census, the total number of Buryats in Russia is 461,389. Besides of it, at least 45,080 ethnic Buryats live in the northern and northeastern provinces of Mongolia. The Buryat language is also spoken by about 10,000 people in a small community in China, in the northeastern part of Inner Mongolia, in Hulun Buir Province, in Manchuria, China.

The standard variety of Buryat is based on a Khori dialect with its own writing system in Cyrillic, which is used in printed publications, in education, and in radio and television broadcasting.

Buryat is one of the best documented and researched Mongolic languages. This is partly due to the fact that Buryat is the literary language of a relatively large ethnic population with a high general level of education.

## 1.2. Typological characteristics

Buryat is a typical Mongolic language which displays typological features characteristic of the Mongolic language family as a whole. Like all Mongolic languages, it is agglutinative, i.e. the monofunctional suffixes are added to the stems. From a phonological point of view, the suffixes are subject to the rules of vowel harmony. Syntactically, the unmarked word order is subject – object – verb (SOV), while in the attributive phrase the genitive and nominal modifier precede the head noun (GAN). The subject position can be filled by a noun, a nominal phrase, a headless relative clause, or a clause with nominalizers. The subject of a finite clause is in the nominative and determines the personal agreement of the predicate

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3) According to the 2010 census, representatives of more than 100 nationalities lived in Buryatia, Russians numbering 630,783 (66.1%), Ukrainians 5,654 (0.6%), Tatars 6,813 (0.7%), Soyots 3,579 (0.4%), and Ewenkis 2,974 (0.3%).

and the use of the reflexive marker within the clause. Sentences consist of hierarchically ordered chains of converbially linked clauses, and syntactic relationships are indicated by the case endings (for more details, see Skribnik 2003; Skribnik & Darževa 2016; Khabtagaeva 2013).

### 1.3. Ways of Buryat word formation

There are several ways of forming words in Buryat, just like in other Mongolic languages (Khabtagaeva 2001, pp. 85–86):

**1.3.1. Suffixation** is the most productive, with the word formative added to primary stems, e.g.:

*xurgabša* ‘thimble’ < *xurga(n)* ‘finger’ + *bšA* {denominal noun suffix which forms nouns that designate instruments, cf. Literary Mongolian +*bči* (Poppe GWM §108);

*zoxyögšo* ‘author’ < *zoxyō-* ‘to compose, to write’ -*gšA* {deverbal noun suffix which forms nouns designating names of occupation, cf. Literary Mongolian -*Gči*, (Poppe GWM §269);

*zuramal* ‘painted’ < *zura-* ‘to paint’ -*mAl* {deverbal adjective suffix which forms adjectives designating qualities, cf. Literary Mongolian -*mAl*, /Poppe GWM §168);

*ulābtar* ‘reddish’ < *ulān* ‘red’ + *btAr* {denominal adjective suffix which forms adjectives denoting shades of colors, cf. Literary Mongolian +*btUr*, (Poppe GWM §111, Khabtagaeva 2001, pp. 146–147);

*xaralsa-* ‘to see each other’ < *xara-* ‘to see’ -*lsA-* {deverbal verbum suffix/cooperative, cf. Literary Mongolian -*lčA-*, (Poppe GWM § 233); etc.

#### 1.3.2. Reduplication

**1.3.2.1.** when the first syllable is reduplicated with a final consonant -*b*, e.g.:

*xab xara* ‘dark black’;

*nab narixan* ‘extremely narrow’;

*ab adli* ‘very alike’;

**1.3.2.2.** when a first syllable is reduplicated with syllable *-rA*, e.g.:

*ara arbagar* ‘very shaggy’;

*boro borxigor* ‘very nondescript’;

*tere tesexege* ‘very fat’;

**1.3.2.3.** when a first syllable with *-d(V)* is added, e.g.:

*bod boro* ‘totally gray’;

*mad malān* ‘completely bald’;

*šodo šodogor* ‘very thin’;

**1.3.2.4.** with change in vocalism, e.g.:

*meliger-müliger* ‘very smooth’;

*pilxagar-pülxege* ‘plump’;

**1.3.2.5.** with change of the initial consonant, e.g.:

*piro-miro* ‘feather’;

*borxi-torxi* ‘nondescript’;

**1.3.3. Compounds** where the two stems are complementary or denote extremes, e.g.:

*exe esege* ‘parents (*lit.* mother father)’;

*axa dū* ‘brothers (*lit.* elder brother [and] younger brother)’;

*xolo oiro* ‘environs (*lit.* far near)’;

*ama xamar* ‘face (*lit.* mouth nose)’, etc.

## 1.4. Studies on plant names in Mongolic languages

Plant names in Buryat were examined by Rupysheva (2016). The monograph presents a lexical classification of plant names and fungi, author describes the influence of basic human activities on the formation of botanical terms, mentions some types of direct nomination and cognitive models. In 2007, Mandžikova wrote a valuable terminological dictionary of the plant names in Kalmuck.

The lists of various species of flowering plants in Mongolia and their short description are given by Grubov (1982; 2007). An overview of the



plants used in Tibetan medicine, the value of plants and replacement them in the traditional Buddhist medicine in Buryatia, is shortly described by Aseeva, Blinova and Yakovlev (1985).

### 1.5. The current research

In all, one hundred and twenty-six various compound names of plants have been collected from Čeremisov's (1973) and Cydendambaev's (1954) dictionaries, Budaev's small dictionary of the plant names (2002) and electronic sources (such as the Buryat corpus).

The aim is to describe how plants are named, attempting to create a classification within semantic groups. I focus on Buryat data, while comparative data from other Modern Mongolic languages are not collected. During my research I found that in many cases the plant names in Buryat do not match other members of non-archaic (or central) group of Modern Mongol languages – Khalkha (Kara 1998) or Kalmuck (Mandžikova 2007) (for instance, see ten examples below in *Table 1*). It would be interesting to compare data with other Mongolic languages in a future study.

**Table 1. Some mismatched plant names in Buryat, Khalkha and Kalmuck**

Plant name	Buryat	Kalmuck	Khalkha	Literary Mongolian
viburnum ( <i>Lat.</i> <i>Ribes altissimum</i> ; <i>Rus.</i> калина)	<i>xargāhan</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>morin ulāgana</i>	<i>morin ulayana</i> ( <i>lit.</i> horse redcurrant)
rowan ( <i>Lat.</i> <i>Sorbus</i> ; <i>Rus.</i> рябина)	<i>müše modon</i> ( <i>lit.</i> star tree)	<i>xön böłžrhn</i> ( <i>lit.</i> sheep raspberry)	<i>tes</i>	<i>tes</i>
quitch ( <i>Lat.</i> <i>Agropyron</i> ; <i>Rus.</i> пырей ползучий)	<i>xara tolgoi</i> ( <i>lit.</i> black head)	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>yexög</i>	<i>yörkög</i>
clover ( <i>Lat.</i> <i>Trifolium</i> ; <i>Rus.</i> клевер)	<i>yagān seseg</i> ( <i>lit.</i> pink flower)	<i>kilävr</i> (← Russian)	<i>xošöngor</i>	<i>qosiyangyur</i>
goose-foot ( <i>Lat.</i> <i>Atriplex</i> ; <i>Rus.</i> лебеда)	<i>uhan ürmedehen</i> ( <i>lit.</i> water sagebrush)	<i>zahlm</i>	<i>gagadai</i>	<i>yayudai</i>

Plant name	Buryat	Kalmuck	Khalkha	Literary Mongolian
pepper ( <i>Rus.</i> перец)	<i>xalūn übhen</i> ( <i>lit.</i> hot herb)	<i>burš</i>	<i>pērc</i> ← Russian;	
<i>xuaǰū</i> ← Chinese	<i>n.a.</i>			
black henbane ( <i>Lat.</i> <i>Huoyascyamus</i> ; <i>Rus.</i> белена)	<i>er'yū übhen</i> ( <i>lit.</i> crazy herb)	<i>šar cecgüdtä</i> <i>xorta övsn</i> ( <i>lit.</i> poisonous grass with yellow flowers)	<i>lantandz</i> ← Chinese	<i>lantanja</i>
burdock ( <i>Lat.</i> <i>Arc-tium</i> ; <i>Rus.</i> лопух большой)	<i>xašag übhen</i> ( <i>lit.</i> mite grass)	<i>lošx</i>	<i>daliws</i>	<i>dalibas</i>
peony ( <i>Lat.</i> <i>Paeonia</i> ; <i>Rus.</i> пион)	<i>yexe edyēn</i> ( <i>lit.</i> big food)	<i>pion</i> ← Russian	<i>cēne</i>	<i>čegene</i>
'lemon daylily ( <i>Lat.</i> <i>Heimerocállis lílioasphodélus</i> ; <i>Rus.</i> лилия жёлтая)	<i>zula seseg</i> ( <i>lit.</i> candle flower)	<i>lili</i> ← Russian	<i>altan xundaga</i> ( <i>lit.</i> golden goblet);	
<i>altan dzul</i> ( <i>lit.</i> golden candle)	<i>altan jula</i>			

The comprehensive list of plant names in Buryat includes Russian loanwords, these words were not analyzed in the paper. Concerning loanword adaptation, the most Russian loanwords were borrowed relatively recently, they comprise mostly fruit and vegetable names (for instance, see nine examples below in *Table 2*). This is in contrast with Khalkha, where almost all fruit and vegetable names are of Chinese origin.

**Table 2. Some fruit and vegetable names in Buryat and Khalkha**

Plant name	Buryat	Khalkha
swede turnip	<i>brjukve</i> ← Russian <i>брюква</i>	<i>manǰu</i> ← Chinese
peas	<i>gorox</i> ← Russian <i>горох</i>	<i>wandui</i> ← Chinese
carrot	<i>torxōb</i> ← Russian <i>морковь</i>	<i>lūway</i> ← Chinese
cabbage	<i>xapūsta</i> ← Russian <i>капуста</i>	<i>baicā</i> ← Chinese
orange	<i>apel'sin</i> ← Russian <i>апельсин</i>	<i>ǰurj</i> ~ <i>ǰurč</i> ← Tibetan ← Chinese
watermelon	<i>arbuз</i> ← Russian <i>арбуз</i>	<i>šǰiga</i> ← Chinese

Plant name	Buryat	Khalkha
grape	<i>vinograd</i> ← Russian <i>виноград</i>	<i>usan üdзем</i> ‘lit. water grape’, cf. <i>üdзем</i> ← Turkic
pear	<i>gruša</i> ← Russian <i>груша</i>	<i>lir</i> ← Chinese
cherry	<i>višni</i> ← Russian <i>вишня</i>	<i>intōr</i> ← Chinese

## 2. Plant names in Buryat

### 2.1. Plant names in Buryat derived through suffixation

The simple names or lexemes are nouns derived with special class markers – the productive denominal noun suffixes *+gAnA*, *+lžAn* or *+lzan* and *+lzaI*. There is one compound suffix *+lzaGAnA*, which was derived from suffixes *+lza* and *+gAnA*. All of these suffixes are also present in almost all Modern Mongolic languages and have productive functions:

#### 2.1.1. *+gAnA*

*abdargana* ‘Siberian lily (*Lat.* *Lilium pensylvanicum*; *Rus.* *лилия даурская*); cf. Khalkha *agdargana*; Kalmuck *n.a.*; Literary Mongolian *aydaryana*;

*dolōgono* ‘hawthorn, hawberry (*Lat.* *Crataegus*; *Rus.* *боярышник*); cf. Khalkha *dolōgono*; Kalmuck *dolaŋk*; Literary Mongolian *doloyana* < \**dolo*: *doloyan* ‘seven’;

*ulāgana* ‘cowberry (*Lat.* *Ribes*; *Rus.* *брусника*); cf. Khalkha *ulāgana*; Kalmuck *ulahn* ‘redcurrant’; Literary Mongolian *ulayana* < \**ula*: *ulayan* ‘red’;

*xargana* ‘caragana (*Lat.* *Caragana*; *Rus.* *карагана*)’ < *xara* ‘black’; cf. Khalkha *xargana*; Kalmuck *n.a.*; Literary Mongolian *qarayana* < *qara* ‘black’;

*zedegene* ‘strawberry (*Rus.* *земляника*)’ < \**zede*; cf. Khalkha *dzetgene*; Kalmuck *zedhn*; Literary Mongolian *n.a.*;

*xilgana* ‘feather grass (*Lat.* *Stipa*; *Rus.* *мятлик, ковыль сибирский*); cf. Khalkha *xyalgana*; Kalmuck *kilh öws*; Literary Mongolian *kilayana* ← Turkic \**qilā* + *GAn*: Old Turkic *qil* ‘a hair’.

This suffix forms names of plants, animals and some diseases from primary stems which denote qualities characteristic of the object denoted by the secondary noun, e.g. Literary Mongolian *kedegene* ‘horsefly, gadfly; wasp, bumblebee’ < \**kede*, *batajana* ‘gnat, small fly, mosquito’ < \**bata* (Ramstedt 1957, p. 195; Poppe GWM §119; 1981, pp. 384–385). A considerable list of animals and plants with this suffix is connected to colors and present in Buryat, Khalkha, Kalmuck, Ordos, Monguor and East Yugur languages (Khabtagaeva 2001. pp. 104–107).

Another phonetic variant of the suffix is +*gAnĀn* in Buryat, cf.

*xulgana* ~ *xulganān* ‘mouse’; cf. Literary Mongolian *quluyana* < *qula* ‘roan (horse)’; Khalkha *xulgana*; Kalmuck *xulhn*;

*xedegene* ~ *xedegenēn* ‘wasp’; cf. Literary Mongolian *kedegene*; Khalkha *xedgene*; Kalmuck *kedhn*;

*šasargana* ~ *šasarganān* ‘sea buckthorn’; cf. Literary Mongolian *čičaryana*; Khalkha *čacargana*; Kalmuck *čičrhñ*; etc.

There is a variant +*rgAnA* which is possibly a compound suffix originating from the denominal verbal suffix +*r-* and +*gAnA*:

*altargana* ‘Golden Rod, Solidago; Caragana leucophloea (*Lat.* *Solidago*; *Rus.* золотарник)’ < *altar-* ‘to look golden’ < *altan* ‘gold’; cf. Literary Mongolian *altaryan-a*; Khalkha *altargana*; Kalmuck *altarhn*;

*budargana* ‘Kalidium (*Lat.* *Kalidium*; *Rus.* поташник)’ < *budar-* ‘to rain, to snow’; cf. Literary Mongolian *budaryan-a*; Khalkha *budargana*; Kalmuck *budarhn*.

### 2.1.2. +*lžA* / +*lžA*

*borolžo* ‘bush, scrub (*Rus.* кустарник, кусты)’ < *boro* ‘gray’; cf. Literary Mongolian *borolji* < *boro* ‘gray’; Khalkha *borolj*; Kalmuck *n.a.*;

*šaralza* ‘weeds, wild grass (*Rus.* бурьян)’ < *šara* ‘yellow’; cf. Literary Mongolian *siralji* ‘Artemisia’ < *sira* ‘yellow’; Khalkha *šarilj*; Kalmuck *šarlžn*.

This suffix forms names of plants, birds, insects and geometric figures (Dondukov 1964, pp. 22–23).<sup>4</sup> The suffix connects to Common Mongolic

4) E.g. Buryat *arbälžan* ‘dragon-fly’ < *arban* ‘ten’; *sūsälžan* ‘sandpiper’ < \**sūsā* < \**čuučaya*, cf. Literary Mongolian *čuučali* ‘snipe’ < *čuu* ‘sound, noise; echo’; *sūsagälžan* ‘snipe’ < \**sūsaga* < \**čuučaya*; Buryat *harälžan* ‘woodcock’ < \**saraya*,

+*lji* and is present also in Khalkha, Ordos, Kalmuck, and Monguor (Poppe GWM §128; 1981, p. 386; Khabtagaeva 2001, pp. 111–113).

### 2.1.3. +*lzAi*

*ulälzai* ‘Lilium pumilum Delile (*Lat.* *Lilium tenuifolium*; *Rus.* сарана);  
cf. Literary Mongolian *ulayaljai* < *ulayan* ‘red’; Khalkha *uläldzai*;  
Kalmuck *n.a.*;

*malälzai* ‘flower of *sarana* (*Lat.* *Lilium pumilum*; *Rus.* цветок сараны)  
< *malän* ‘bald’; cf. Khalkha, Kalmuck, Literary Mongolian *n.a.*

This suffix connects to Common Mongolic +*lji* (Poppe 1981, p. 387) which forms names of plants from nouns denoting colors and other characteristics of objects (Dondukov 1964, p. 23). Several names of plants<sup>5</sup> and birds<sup>6</sup> are derived from color terms in Khalkha and Literary Mongolian (Khabtagaeva 2001, p. 141).

### 2.1.4. +*lzAgAnA*

*ulälzagana* ‘red currant (*Rus.* красная смородина); cf. Literary Mongolian *ulayaljayana* < *ulän* ‘red’; Khalkha *uläldzgana*; Kalmuck *n.a.*.

The Buryat compound suffix is from the denominal noun +*zA* (~ Literary Mongolian +*lji*) and denominal noun suffix +*gAnA* (~ Literary Mongolian +*GAnA*), forms names and animals which are small size (Poppe 1981, p. 386). It also occurs in Khalkha and Kalmuck (Khabtagaeva 2001, pp. 113–114).

- 
- cf. Literary Mongolian *sar* ‘onomat. description of rustling, patterning of falling drops, crunching of snow, sand, pebbles under foot or crisp things being chewed’; Buryat *bübölžen* ‘hoopoe’ ~ Literary Mongolian *böbegeljin* ~ *bübügeljin* ~ *öbeljin* ‘id.’; cf. *bübei* ‘lullaby, rockaby’; Buryat *gurbalžan* ‘triangle’ < *gurba(n)* ‘three’; Buryat *dürbelžen* ‘square’ < *dürbe(n)* ‘four’; *ololžon* ‘polygon’ < *olon* ‘many’; etc.
- 5) E.g. Khalkha *čagäldzai* ‘chrysanthemum (*Lat.* *Chrysanthemum*)’ ~ Literary Mongolian *čayaljai* < *čayan* ‘white’; *yagäldzai* ‘*Lat.* *Braya Sternb. et Hoppe*’ < *yagän* ‘pink’; cf. Literary Mongolian *n.a.*; Khalkha *uläldzai* ‘*Lat.* *Lilium tenuifolium*’ ~ Literary Mongolian *ulayaljai* < *ulayan* ‘red’.
- 6) E.g. Khalkha *boroldzoi* ‘lark’ < *boro* ‘grey’; cf. Literary Mongolian *n.a.*; Khalkha *nogöldzoi* ‘siskin’ < *nogön* ‘green’; cf. Literary Mongolian *n.a.*

### Etymological remarks

From an etymological point of view, all the above mentioned suffixes, except for +*gAnA*, are of Mongolic origin. The Mongolic suffix +*GANa* is related to the Turkic suffix +*GAn*, which forms names of plants and animals and is productive in Turkic languages (for more details on function, see Erdal 1991, pp.85–89). Different Mongolic plant and animal names with this suffix, including in Buryat, have a stable Turkic etymology and were clearly borrowed from Turkic, e.g.:

Mongolic: Literary Mongolian *balčiryana* ~ *baldaryana* ‘heracleum dissectum (*Lat.* Heracleum; *Rus.* борщевик сибирский, чемерица) (~ Buryat *balšargana*; *Khalkha* *balčirgana* ~ *baldargana*) ← Turkic: cf. Chagatai *baldırğan* ‘hogweed’ < \**baldır* ‘young, green, fresh’ (Sevortjan 1978, pp. 55–56; SIGTJa 2001, pp. 122–123);

Mongolic: Literary Mongolian *kilayana* ‘feather grass’ (~ Buryat *xilgana*) ← Turkic \**qılğan*: cf. Karachai-Balkar, Tatar, Bashkir, Nogai *qılğan*, Kazak *qılqın*, Kirgiz *qılqan*, Chuvash *kalkkan* ‘feather grass’ < *qıl* ‘a hair’ (SIGTJa 2001, p. 127);

Mongolic: Literary Mongolian *qarayana* ‘Caragana arborescens’ (Buryat *xargana* ~ *xarganān*) ← Turkic: Old Turkic *qaraqan* ‘kind of tree or bush’ < *qara* ‘black’;

Mongolic: Literary Mongolian *čügürgene* ‘a kind of grasshopper’ (cf. Buryat *n.a.*) ← Turkic: Old Turkic *čäkürgä* ‘locust, grasshopper’ (Clauson ED 416b; Erdal 1991, p. 87);

Mongolic: Literary Mongolian *kegürjigene* ‘pigeon, dove’ (cf. Buryat *n.a.*) ← Turkic: Old Turkic *kögürçün* ‘pigeon, dove’, cf. *kök* ‘a grey bird’ (Clauson ED 713b; Erdal 1991, p. 87); etc.

## 2.2. Plant names in Buryat: compounds

### 2.2.1. Compound patterns

Most plant names in my corpus were created by the process of compounding. They are mostly noun + noun or adjective + noun compounds with the modifier being the semantically shifted part of the name and the head being a more general plant name.

Below I deal with some plant names from a semantic point of view,

including plants that are named after another thing. Generally, the metaphorical and metonymical names of plants are named after things close to human beings – their own body, animals and objects of daily use, some plant names are based either on the plant's appearance or its use of the plant, if it has any.

As far as their patterns, the compounds can be categorized into the following constructions:

Noun + noun compounds:

*zürxen seseg* 'polygala sibirica' < *zürxen* 'heart' and *seseg* 'flower';  
*xonin šaralža* 'virgate wormwood' < *xonin* 'sheep' and *šaralža* 'sagebrush';  
*üxer nyüden* 'black currant' < *üxer* 'bull, ox' and *nyüden* 'eye';

Genitive linked compounds:

*šonin übhen* 'valerian' < *šono* 'wolf' + *in* {GEN} and *übhen* 'hay, grass';  
*modonoi ulāgana* 'redcurrant' < *modon* 'tree' + *Ai* {GEN} *ulāgana* 'oxalis';  
*temēnei hūl* 'marjoram' < *temēn* 'camel' + *Ai* {GEN} and *hūl* 'tail';

Adjective + noun compounds:

*er'yū übhen* 'black henbane or stinking nightshade' < *er'yū* 'crazy' and *übhen* 'hay';  
*gašūn ürmedehen* 'Artemisia sieversiana (*Lat.* Artemisia sieversiana; *Rus.* полынь Сиверса)' < *gašūn* 'bitter' and *ürmedehen* 'sagebrush';  
*alag nyüden* 'wild pansy' < *alag* 'motley' and *nyüden* 'eye';

Number + noun compound:

*taban halā* 'plantago (*Lat.* Plantágo; *Rus.* подорожник)' < *taban* 'five' and *halā* 'branch';

Interjection + noun compound:

*nyamnyā seseg* 'dandelion (*Lat.* Taráxacum officinále; *Rus.* одуванчик лекарственный)', cf. *nyam-nyam* 'Yum-yum! Yummy!'; etc.

### 2.2.2. Types of compounds

According to types, the compounds are divided into three groups: (2.2.2.1.) compounds with a semantically shifted determiner and a 'head' being

a more general name for plant, (2.2.2.2.) compounds with a semantically shifted determiner and a 'head' indicating definite plant species, and (2.2.2.3.) compounds where both forms are semantically shifted.

### 2.2.2.1. Compounds with semantic **determiner** and '**head**' indicating a general name of plant

The first group of plants includes compound words where the stem lexeme designates the general name of the plant and its parts. The second part of compound word is a 'head' and has a general plant name, while the first part is a determiner and in most cases it indicates a similarity or association with (2.2.2.1.a) different object, (2.2.2.1.b) color, (2.2.2.1.c) animal, (2.2.2.1.d) human characteristic, (2.2.2.1.e) medicinal use of the plant, (2.2.2.1.f) the scent or taste of the plant, or (2.2.2.1.g) type of environment or time of flowering, etc. These names of plants went through metonymical semantic change.

The compounds designating the general names of plants include lexemes such as *plant*, *flower*, *tree*, *grass*, *weed*, *mushroom* and *grain*. The compounds including the names of plants' parts such as *root* and *stem* also belong to this group.

#### (2.2.2.1.a) Plants named after a visual characteristic:

*seseg* 'flower':

*bamba seseg* 'rose (*Lat.* *Rosa*; *Rus.* *роза*)' < *bamba* 'fluffy, soft' and *seseg* 'flower';

*naran seseg* 'sunflower (*Lat.* *Helianthus*; *Rus.* *подсолнечник*)' < *naran* 'sun' and *seseg* 'flower';

*nyamnyā seseg* 'dandelion (*Lat.* *Taraxacum officinale*; *Rus.* *одуванчик лекарственный*)' < *nyam-nyam* 'Yum-yum! Yummy!' and *seseg* 'flower';

*xoltohon seseg* 'buttercup (*Lat.* *Ranunculus*; *Rus.* *лютик*)' < *xoltohon* 'bark' and *seseg* 'flower';

*zula seseg* 'lemon daylily (*Lat.* *Nemerocallis lilioasphodelus*; *Rus.* *лилия жёлтая, красоднев*)' < *zula* 'candle, lamp' and *seseg* 'flower';

*altan zula seseg* 'tulip (*Lat.* *Tulipa*; *Rus.* *тюльпан*)' < *altan* 'golden', *zula* 'lamp, candle' and *seseg* 'flower';



- modon* ‘tree’:  
*müše modon* ‘rowan (*Lat.* *Sórbus*; *Rus.* рябина) < *müše* ‘star’ and *modon* ‘tree’;
- übhen* ‘hay, grass’:  
*arbagar übhen* ‘tumbleweed (*Rus.* перекаги-поле) < *arbagar* ‘shaggy’ and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;  
*tangalai übhen* ‘fern (*Lat.* *Polypodiopsida*; *Rus.* папоротник) < *tangalai* ‘roof of the mouth’ and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;  
*xarbül übhen* ‘couch grass (*Lat.* *Elymus dahuricus*; *Rus.* волоснец даурский) < *xarbül* ‘arrow’ and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;  
*xašag übhen* ‘greater burdock (*Lat.* *Arctium láppa*; *Rus.* лопух большой) < *xašag* ‘mite’ and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;  
*xazār übhen* ‘*Cleistogenes* (*Lat.* *Cleistogenes squarrosa*; *Rus.* змеёвка растопыренная) < *xazār* ‘bridle’ and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;
- nogōn* ‘grass’:  
*arbagai nogōn* ‘tumbleweed (*Rus.* перекаги-поле) < *arbagai* ‘shaggy’ and *nogōn* ‘grass’;
- tōno* ‘weed’:  
*arātai tōno* ‘ergot (*Lat.* *Cláviceps*; *Rus.* спорынья) < *arātai* ‘fanged’ and *tōno* ‘weed’;
- urgamal* ‘plant’:  
*šüder urgamal* ‘liana (*Rus.* лиана) < *šüder* ‘hobble’ and *urgamal* ‘plant’;
- harxyāg* ‘mushroom’:  
*müxai harxyāg* ‘death cap (*Lat.* *Amanita phalloides*; *Rus.* поганка) < *müxai* ‘bad, ugly’ and *harxyāg* ‘mushroom’;  
*ulān tolgoito harxyāg* ‘boletus (*Lat.* *Leccinum aurantiacum*; *Rus.* подосиновик) < *ulān* ‘red’, *tolgoito* ‘with head’ and *harxyāg* ‘mushroom’;
- budā* ‘grain’:  
*šara budā* ‘millet (*Lat.* *Panicum*; *Rus.* пшено); cf. *Tunka dialect* berry leaves’ < *šara* ‘yellow’ and *budā* ‘grain’;  
*ulān budā* ‘panicgrass (*Lat.* *Panicum*; *Rus.* просо) < *ulān* ‘red’ and *budā* ‘grain’;
- ündeheh* ‘root’:  
*altan ündeheh* ‘*Rhodiola rosea* (*Lat.* *Rhodiola rósea*; *Rus.* родиола розовая) < *altan* ‘golden’ and *ündeheh* ‘root’;
- šelbe* ‘stem’:

*emgen šelbe* 'spirea (*Lat.* Spiraea hypericifolia; *Rus.* таволга водосборная) < *emgen* 'old woman' and *šelbe* 'stem';  
*zēren šelbe* 'Astragalus (*Lat.* Astrāgalus; *Rus.* астрагал донниковый) < *zēren* 'antelope' and *šelbe* 'stem';

(2.2.2.1.b) A separate group of plant names points out a similarity with yellow, white, red, light blue, blue, black and pink colors:

*šara modon* 'Berberis sibirica (*Lat.* Bérberis sibírica; *Rus.* барбарис сибирский) < *šara* 'yellow' and *modon* 'tree';  
*šara nogōn* 'winter cress or yellow rocket (*Lat.* Barbarea lutea; *Rus.* сурепица жёлтая) < *šara* 'yellow' and *nogōn* 'grass';  
*šara harxyāg* 'saffron milk cap (*Lat.* Lactarius; *Rus.* рыжик) < *šara* 'yellow' and *harxyāg* 'mushroom';  
*šara mōge* 'Suillus (*Lat.* Suillus; *Rus.* маслёнок) < *šara* 'yellow' and *mōge* 'mushroom';  
*šara budā* 'millet (*Lat.* Panicum; *Rus.* пшено) < *šara* 'yellow' and *budā* 'grain';  
*sagān harxyāg* 'milk mushroom (*Lat.* Lactarius résimus; *Rus.* груздь) < *sagān* 'white' and *harxyāg* 'mushroom';  
*ulān harxyāg* 'bloody brittlegill (*Lat.* Rússula sanguinea; *Rus.* сыроежка красная) < *ulān* 'red' and *harxyāg* 'mushroom';  
*ulān budā* 'panicgrass (*Lat.* Panicum; *Rus.* процо) < *ulān* 'red' and *budā* 'grain';  
*senxir seseg* 'centaury, knapweed (*Lat.* Centauréa; *Rus.* василёк) < *senxir* 'light blue' and *seseg* 'flower';  
*xüxe seseg* 'forget-me-not, scorpion grass (*Lat.* Myosotis; *Rus.* незабудка) < *xüxe* 'blue' and *seseg* 'flower';  
*xara mōge* 'true morels (*Lat.* Morchella; *Rus.* сморчок) < *xara* 'black' and *mōge* 'mushroom';  
*xara taryān* 'rye (*Lat.* Secále; *Rus.* рожь) < *xara* 'black' and *taryān* 'grain';  
*yagān seseg* 'red clover (*Lat.* Trifolium pratense; *Rus.* клевер лютиковый) < *yagān* 'pink' and *seseg* 'flower';

(2.2.2.1.c) Several terms refer to various animals which like to eat the given plant:

- baxin seseg* ‘meadow buttercup (*Lat.* *Ranunculus ácris*; *Rus.* лютик едкий) < *baxa* ‘frog’ + *in* {GEN} and *seseg* ‘flower’;
- buxa seseg* ‘gentian (*Lat.* *Gentiána*; *Rus.* горечавка) < *buxa* ‘bull’ and *seseg* ‘flower’;
- gaxai übhen* ‘*Stellaria* (*Lat.* *Stellária*; *Rus.* звездчатка) < *gaxai* ‘pig’ and *übhen* ‘hay’;
- gaxai nogõn* ‘*Phlomoïdes tuberosa* (*Lat.* *Phlomoïdes tuberosa*; *Rus.* зопник клубненоносный) < *gaxai* ‘pig’ and *nogõn* ‘grass’;
- gürõhen übhen* ‘*Chamaenerion* (*Lat.* *Chamaenerion*; *Rus.* иван-чай) < *gürõhen* ‘wild goat, roe deer’ and *übhen* ‘hay’;
- orin xag übhen* ‘reindeer lichen (*Lat.* *Cladonia rangiferina*; *Rus.* олений мох, ягель) < *oro* ‘deer’ + *in* {GEN} and *xag übhen* ‘lichen, moss’;
- šonin übhen* ‘Valerian (*Lat.* *Valeriána officinális*; *Rus.* валерьяна лекарственная) < *šono* ‘wolf’ + *in* {GEN} and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;
- xonin übhen* ‘*Potentilla* (*Lat.* *Potentilla*; *Rus.* лапчатка) < *xonin* ‘sheep’ and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;
- yamān übhen* ‘speedwell, bird’s eye (*Lat.* *Verónica*; *Rus.* вероника седая) < *yamān* ‘goat’ and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;
- zēren šelbe* ‘*Astragalus* (*Lat.* *Astrāgalus*; *Rus.* астрагал донниковый) < *zēren* ‘antelope’ and *šelbe* ‘stem’;

(2.2.2.1.d) An interesting category of plant names refer to human characteristics. These plants contain substances that affect human behavior:

- xarālša seseg* ‘Siberian larkspur or Chinese Delphinium (*Lat.* *Delphinium grandiflorum*; *Rus.* живокость крупноцветная) < *xarālša* ‘grumpy’ and *seseg* ‘flower’;
- er’yū übhen* ‘black henbane or stinking nightshade (*Lat.* *Hyoscyamus níger*; *Rus.* белена чёрная, дурман) < *er’yū* ‘crazy’ and *übhen* ‘hay’;
- inagta seseg* ‘fireweed (*Lat.* *Chamaenerion angustifolium*; *Rus.* кипрей, иван-чай) < *inagta* ‘enamored’ and *seseg* ‘flower’;

Several terms may be named after human physical characteristics. The case with *ginseng* possibly is a metaphrase from the original Chinese name: *berin seseg* ‘Delphinium (*Lat.* *Delphinium*; *Rus.* рыцарские шпоры) < *beri* ‘daughter-in-law’ + *in* {GEN} and *seseg* ‘flower’;

*emgen šelbe* ‘spirea (*Lat.* *Spiraea hypericifolia*; *Rus.* таволга водосборная)’ < *emgen* ‘old woman, grand mother’ and *šelbe* ‘stem’;  
*xün übhen* ‘ginseng (*Lat.* Рáнах; *Rus.* женьшень)’ < *xün* ‘human, person’ and *übhen* ‘hay’;

(2.2.2.1.e) Some plant names clearly indicate the medicinal use of plant, which kinds of diseases can help to cure:

*eldin übhen* ‘lichen (*Lat.* Lichenes; *Rus.* лишайник)’ < *eldin* ‘herpes’ and *übhen* ‘hay’;

*zürxen seseg* ‘*Polygala sibirica* (*Lat.* *Polýgala sibírica*; *Rus.* истод сибирский)’ < *zürxen* ‘heart’ and *seseg* ‘flower’;

*güzēn übhen* ‘plantain (*Lat.* *Plantágo*; *Rus.* подорожник)’ < *güzēn* ‘belly, paunch’ and *übhen* ‘hay’;

*xabdar nogōn* ‘*Western Buryat* plantain or plantago (*Lat.* *Plantágo*; *Rus.* подорожник)’ < *xabdar* ‘swelling’ and *nogōn* ‘grass’;

(2.2.2.1.f) Some plant names indicate the scent or taste of the plant:

*šexer übhen* ‘Chinese liquorice (*Lat.* *Glycyrrhiza uralensis*; *Rus.* солодка уральская)’ < *šexer* ‘sweet’ and *übhen* ‘hay’;

*xalūn übhen* ‘pepper (*Lat.* *Capsicum frutescens*; *Rus.* перец)’ < *xalūn* ‘hot’ and *übhen* ‘hay’

(2.2.2.1.g) Some terms refer to a geographical place, type of environment or the time of flowering:

*ūla übhen* ‘coltsfoot (*Lat.* *Tussilágo*; *Rus.* мать-и-мачеха)’ < *ūla* ‘mountain’ and *übhen* ‘hay’;

*main seseg* ‘lily-of-the-valley, *Convallaria majalis* (*Lat.* *Convallária majális*; *Rus.* ландыш)’ < *mai* ‘May’ + *n* {GEN} and *seseg* ‘flower’;

(2.2.2.1.h) In some cases the same lexemes designating items occur with different ‘general’ stems:

*šüder* ‘hobble’:

*šüder übhen* ‘field bindweed (*Lat.* *Convōlvulus arvēnsis*; *Rus.* вьюнок полевой), cf. *übhen* ‘hay’;

*šüder seseg* ‘greater celandine (*Lat.* *Chelidónium május*; *Rus.* чистотел большой), cf. *seseg* ‘flower’;

*šüder urgamal* ‘liana (*Rus.* лиана); cf. *urgamal* ‘plant’;  
*zula* ‘lamp, candle’;  
*zula seseg* ‘lemon daylily (*Lat.* *Hemerocallis líliosphodélus*; *Rus.* лилия жёлтая, красоднев); cf. *seseg* ‘flower’;  
*altan zula seseg* ‘tulip (*Lat.* *Túlipa*; *Rus.* тюльпан); cf. *altan* ‘golden’ and *seseg* ‘flower’;

(2.2.2.1.i) Some plant names include the names of species:

*ülen übhen* ‘sedge (*Lat.* *Cárex*; *Rus.* осока) < *ülen* ‘alkali grass (*Lat.* *Puccinellia tenuiflora*)’ and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;  
*narhan übhen* ‘field horsetail (*Lat.* *Equisétum arvénse*; *Rus.* хвощ полевой) < *narhan* ‘pine-tree’ and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;  
*xüsī übhen* ‘medick (*Lat.* *Medicágo*; *Rus.* люцерна) < *xüsī* ‘Cinquefoils (*Lat.* *Potentilla*)’ and *übhen* ‘hay, grass’;

2.2.2.2. Compounds with semantic **determiner** and a ‘**head**’ designating different plant species

The second group of compounds contains the names of certain plant species, it serves as a head of compounds, while a determiner includes different lexemes referring to (2.2.2.2.a) animals, (2.2.2.2.b) colors, (2.2.2.2.c) taste or size, (2.2.2.2.d) place of environment, or (2.2.2.2.e) associated names of instruments. The names of definite plant species are **shrub plants** such as *arsa* ‘juniper’ and *burgāhan* ‘willow’, **grassy plants** *ürmedehen* ‘sagebrush’, *xalāxai* ‘nettle’, *zamarhan* ‘seaweed’ and *xulhan* ‘reed’, **trees** such as *zērgene* ‘joint pine’, **flowering plant** such as *xüsī* ‘cinquefoil’, and various **berries** such as *ulāgana* ‘oxalis’, *xülzergene* ‘blackcurrant’ and *nerhen* ‘blueberry’.

(2.2.2.2.a) The plants named after animals include lexemes *sheep*, *lamb*, *goat*, *camel*, *horse* and *bull*:

*xonin arsa* ‘savin juniper (*Lat.* *Juníperus sabína*; *Rus.* можжевельник казачий) < *xonin* ‘sheep’ and *arsa* ‘juniper’;  
*xonin burgāhan* ‘gray willow (*Lat.* *Salix glauca*; *Rus.* ива сизая) < *xonin* ‘sheep’ and *burgāhan* ‘willow’;  
*xonin šaralža* ‘virgate wormwood (*Lat.* *Artemisia scorária*; *Rus.* полынь веничная) < *xonin* ‘sheep’ and *šaralža* ‘sagebrush’;

- xonin xüsi* 'bird vetch (*Lat.* *Vicia cracca*; *Rus.* мышинный горошек) < *xonin* 'sheep' and *xüsi* 'Cinquefoils (*Lat.* *Potentilla*)';
- xonin zērgene* 'Ephedra przewalskii (*Lat.* *Ephedra przewalskii*; *Rus.* хвойник Пржевальского) < *xonin* 'sheep' and *zērgene* 'joint pine, Ephedra';
- xur'gan arsa* 'kind of juniper (*Lat.* *Juniperus*; *Rus.* можжевельник) < *xur'gan* 'lamb' and *arsa* 'juniper';
- yamān arsa* 'Rhododendron (*Lat.* *Rhododendron*; *Rus.* рододендрон) < *yamān* 'goat' and *arsa* 'juniper';
- yamān burgāhan* 'Siberian violet-willow (*Lat.* *Salix acutifolia*; *Rus.* ива-шелюга) < *yamān* 'goat' and *burgāhan* 'willow';
- yamān zērgene* 'Ephedra minima (*Lat.* *Ephedra monosperma*; *Rus.* хвойник односемянный) < *yamān* 'goat' and *zērgene* 'Joint Pine, Ephedra';
- temēn arsa* 'kind of juniper (*Lat.* *Juniperus*; *Rus.* можжевельник) < *temēn* 'camel' and *arsa* 'juniper';
- temēn xalāxai* 'tumbleweed (*Rus.* перекаати-поле) < *temēn* 'camel' and *xalāxai* 'nettle';
- morin ürmedehen* 'mugwort (*Lat.* *Artemisia vulgaris*; *Rus.* полынь обыкновенная, чернобыльник) < *morin* 'horse' and *ürmedehen* 'sagebrush';
- üxer arsa* 'marsh labrador tea (*Lat.* *Rhododendron tomentosum*; *Rus.* багульник болотный) < *üxer* 'bull, ox' and *arsa* 'juniper';

(2.2.2.2.b) The colors which are used with the certain plant names are *white* and *black*:

- sagān ürmedül* 'wormwood (*Lat.* *Artemisia absinthium*; *Rus.* полынь белая) < *sagān* 'white' and *ürmedül* 'wild grass';
- sagān xalāxai* 'Bittercresses (*Lat.* *Cardamine*; *Rus.* сердечник, осот) < *sagān* 'white' and *xalāxai* 'nettle';
- sagān xulhan* 'sugarcane (*Rus.* сахарный тростник) < *sagān* 'white' and *xulhan* 'reed';
- xara nerhen* 'bilberry (*Lat.* *Vaccinium myrtillus*; *Rus.* черника) < *xara* 'black' and *nerhen* 'blueberry';

(2.2.2.2.c) Names in this category highlight the taste or size of the plant: *gašūn ürmedehen* ‘Artemisia sieversiana (*Lat.* Artemisia sieversiana; *Rus.* полынь Сиверца)’ < *gašūn* ‘bitter’ and *ürmedehen* ‘sagebrush’; *tobšo ürmedehen* ‘absinthe wormwood (*Lat.* Artemisia absinthium; *Rus.* полынь горькая)’ < *tobšo* ‘button; short’ and *ürmedehen* ‘sagebrush’;

(2.2.2.2.d) Plant names in this category refer to a geographical place or type of environment:

*dalain xulhan* ‘bamboo (*Lat.* Bambúsa; *Rus.* бамбук)’ < *dalai* ‘sea’ + *n* {GEN} *xulhan* ‘reed’;

*gazarai ulāgana* ‘stone bramble (*Lat.* Rúbus saxátilis; *Rus.* косяника)’ < *gazar* ‘land, ground’ + *Ai* {GEN} *ulāgana* ‘oxalis’;

*gazarai xülzergene* ‘Ribes procumbens (*Lat.* Ribes procūmbens; *Rus.* моховка)’ < *gazar* ‘land, ground’ + *Ai* {GEN} *xülzergene* ‘black currant’;

*uhan ürmedehen* ‘saltbush, orach (*Lat.* Átriplex; *Rus.* лебеда)’ < *uhan* ‘water’ and *ürmedehen* ‘sagebrush’;

*uhanai zamarhan* ‘water lily (*Lat.* Nymphaea; *Rus.* кувшинка, водяная лилия)’ < *uhan* ‘water’ + *Ai* {GEN} and *zamarhan* ‘seaweed, alga’;

*taryānai xalāxai* ‘shepherd’s purse (*Lat.* Capsélla búrsa-pastóris; *Rus.* пастушья сумка)’ < *taryān* ‘grain’ + *Ai* {GEN} and *xalāxai* ‘nettle’;

(2.2.2.2.e) The plant names are named after various instruments:

*asa xyāg* ‘Elytrigia (*Lat.* Elytrigia; *Rus.* пырей развилыстый)’ < *asa* ‘pitchfork’ and *xyāg* ‘wheat grass’;

*šüder übhen xüsī* ‘vetch, Vicia amoena (*Lat.* Vicia amoena; *Rus.* вика приятная, вязень)’ < *šüder* ‘hobble’, *übhen* ‘hay, grass’ and *xüsī* ‘cinquefoils (*Lat.* Potentilla)’;

### 2.2.2.3. Compounds where both parts are semantically shifted

Source domains of metaphors of this group can be uncovered in the various semantic categories such as (2.2.2.3.a) the zoological and (2.2.2.3.b) anthropomorphic metaphors, the metaphorical references to (2.2.2.3.c) objects and (2.2.2.3.d) natural objects:

(2.2.2.3.a) Twenty-one plant names of this category belong to zoological metaphors, the terms being named after either an animal or insect species and their body parts:

*üxer nyüden* 'black currant (*Lat. Ribes nigrum*; *Rus. чёрная смородина*)' < *üxer* 'bull, ox' and *nyüden* 'eye';

*xirē nyüden* 'Paris (*Lat. Páris*; *Rus. вороний глаз*)' < *xirē* 'crow' and *nyüden* 'eye' and *nyüden* 'eye';

*xonin nyüden* 'daisy (*Lat. Béllis*; *Rus. маргаритка*)' < *xonin* 'sheep' and *nyüden* 'eye';

*dāgan šexen* 'garden sorrel (*Lat. Rúmex acetósa*; *Rus. конский щавель, щавель кислый*)' < *dāgan* 'colt, horse in the second year' and *šexen* 'ear';

*xulganin šexen* 'wood sorrel (*Lat. Óxalis*; *Rus. кислица; щавель*)' < *xul-gana* 'mouse' + *in* {GEN} and *šexen* 'ear';

*xur'gan šexen* 'docks (*Lat. Rumex*; *Rus. щавель*)' < *xur'gan* 'lamb' and *šexen* 'ear';

*mogoin xelen* 'sea-lavender (*Lat. Limonium*; *Rus. кермек*)' < *mogoi* 'snake' + *n* {GEN} and *xelen* 'tongue';

*nohoin xelen* 'Pulmonaria (*Lat. Pulmonária*; *Rus. медуница*)' < *nohoi* 'dog' + *n* {GEN} and *xelen* 'tongue';

*üxer xelen* 'sedge (*Lat. Cárex*; *Rus. осока*)' < *üxer* 'bull, ox' and *xelen* 'tongue';

*ünegenei hül* 'green foxtail (*Lat. Setária víridis*; *Rus. щетинник зелёный, ячмень короткохвостый*)' < *ünegen* 'fox' + *Ai* {GEN} and *hül* 'tail';

*xermen hül* 'green foxtail (*Lat. Setária víridis*; *Rus. щетинник зелёный, ячмень короткоостый*)' < *xermen* 'squirrel' and *hül* 'tail';

*temēnei hül* 'marjoram (*Lat. Origanum majorana*; *Rus. душица*)' < *temēn* 'camel' + *Ai* {GEN} and *hül* 'tail';

*mogoin aman* 'common sage (*Lat. Sálvia officinális*; *Rus. шалфей лекарственный*)' < *mogoi* 'snake' + *n* {GEN} and *aman* 'mouth';

*bataganān xušūn* 'widdy, tundra rose (*Lat. Dasiphora fruticosa*; *Rus. лапчатка кустарная*)' < *bataganān* 'fly' and *xušūn* 'muzzle';

*nohoin xonšōr* 'dog-rose (*Lat. Rōsa*; *Rus. шиповник*)' < *nohoi* 'dog' + *n* {GEN} and *xonšōr* 'muzzle';

*temēnei tabgai* 'water lily (*Lat. Nymphaea*; *Rus. кувшинка*)' < *temēn* 'camel' + *Ai* {GEN} and *tabgai* 'paw';



*texin šēg* ‘currant (*Lat.* *Ribes*; *Rus.* смородина иглистая, морошка)’  
 < *texe* ‘male of the mountain goat’ + *in* {GEN} and *šēg* ‘male animals  
 genital organ’;  
*xur’gan zahā* ‘Asian globeflower (*Lat.* *Trollius asiaticus*; *Rus.* жарки,  
 купальница азиатская)’ < *xur’gan* ‘lamb’ and *zahā* ‘male testicles’;  
*šonin hixе* ‘*Alari Buryat* bellflower (*Lat.* *Campanula*; *Rus.* колоколь-  
 чики)’ < *sono* ‘wolf’ + *in* {GEN} and *hixе* ‘earrings’;  
*üxer budag* ‘dragonhead (*Lat.* *Dracocéphalum*; *Rus.* змееголовник)’  
 < *üxer* ‘bull, ox’ and *budag* ‘paint, dye’;

(2.2.2.3.b) Names in the anthropomorphic category refer to the human  
 body and its parts:

*hembegerxen ühen* ‘martagon lily or Turk’s cap lily (*Lat.* *Lilium már-  
 tagon*; *Rus.* цветок сараны)’ < *hembeger* ‘fluffy’ + *xAn* {DIM} and  
*ühen* ‘hair’;  
*xara tolgoi* ‘crested wheatgrass (*Lat.* *Agropyron cristatum*; *Rus.* житняк  
 гребенчатый)’ < *xara* ‘black’ and *tolgoi* ‘head’;  
*ulān tolgoi* ‘bentgrass (*Lat.* *Agrostis*; *Rus.* полевица Триниуса)’ < *ulān*  
 ‘red’ and *tolgoi* ‘head’;  
*alag nyüden* ‘wild pansy (*Lat.* *Viola tricolor*; *Rus.* анютины глазки,  
 фиалка трёхцветная)’ < *alag* ‘motley’ and *nyüden* ‘eye’;  
*lama tarxi* ‘cotton thistle (*Lat.* *Onopordum acanthium*; *Rus.* татарник  
 колючий)’ < *lama* ‘buddhist monk’ and *tarxi* ‘brain’;

(2.2.2.3.c) Metaphorical references to objects, geometric shapes:

*šara dere* ‘sage (*Lat.* *Sālvia*; *Rus.* шалфей)’ < *šara* ‘yellow’ and *dere*  
 ‘pillow’;  
*senxir хонхонūd* ‘bellflower (*Lat.* *Campanula*; *Rus.* колокольчик)’  
 < *senxir* ‘light blue’ and *хонхонūd* ‘bells (pl.)’;  
*xongor zula* ‘globe thistle (*Lat.* *Echinops dahuricus*; *Rus.* мордовник  
 даурский)’ < *xongor* ‘cute, attractive’ and *zula* ‘candle, lamp’;  
*sagān dali* ‘*Rhododendron adamsii* (*Lat.* *Rhododēndron adāmsii*; *Rus.*  
 рододендрон Адамса)’ < *sagān* ‘white’ and *dali* ‘wing’;  
*taban halā* ‘plantago (*Lat.* *Plantāgo*; *Rus.* подорожник)’ < *taban* ‘five’  
 and *halā* ‘branch’;

## (2.2.2.3.d) Metaphorical reference to a natural object:

*tengerin düli* 'lycoperdon (*Lat.* Lycoperdon; *Rus.* гриб дождевик) < *tengeri* 'sky' + *in* {GEN} *düli* 'deaf';  
*gazarai bed'xe* 'Bokhan dial. potato (*Lat.* Solánum tuberósum; *Rus.* картофель) < *gazar* 'land, ground' + *Ai* {GEN} *bed'xe* 'bump, swelling';

## (2.2.2.3.e) The terms including abstract names:

*altan aya* 'British yellowhead or meadow fleabane (*Lat.* Pentanéma británnicum, *Ínula británnica*; *Rus.* девясил британский) < *altan* 'golden' and *aya* 'tone, melody';

(2.2.2.3.f) The next three names of plants include the lexeme *food*, which can be explained in two cases literally and in one case figuratively:

*üxer edyēn* 'prune, damson (*Rus.* чернослив) < *üxer* 'bull, ox' and *edyēn* 'food';  
*yexe edyēn* 'peony (*Lat.* Paeónia; *Rus.* пион) < *yexe* 'big' and *edyēn* 'food';  
*bōxoldoin edyēn* 'belladonna or deadly nightshade (*Lat.* *Atrópa belladónna*; *Rus.* волчья ягода) < *lit.* 'devil's food': *bōxoldoi* 'devil' + *n* {GEN} and *edyēn* 'food'.

## Conclusion

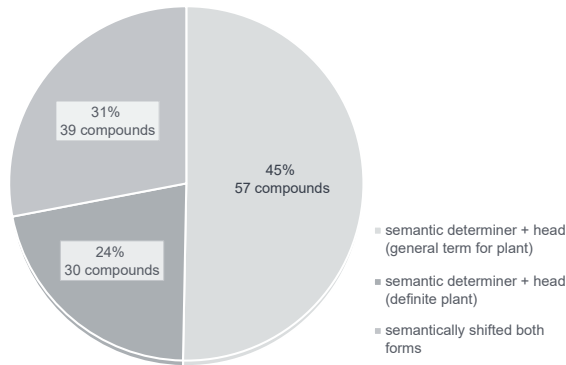
The most productive way of word formation in Buryat, as in other Mongolic languages, is a derivation via suffixation. The aim of the paper has been to find out which methods of word-formation are involved in forming the plant names in Buryat. It has revealed that the largest part of plant names belongs to compounds.

In all, one hundred and twenty-six compound plant names were collected from the Literary Buryat language. The material shows that the most of the compounds belong to the *noun* + *noun* structure, where a small part is linked with the ending of the genitive case. Another large group of compounds uses the *adjective* + *noun* structure, and only one compound each consists of *numeral* and *interjection* + *noun*, respectively (Table 3).

**Table 3. Statistical occurrence of analyzed compound patterns**

Pattern	Number	Percent
Noun + noun	57	45%
Noun with genitive ending + noun	25	20%
Adjective + noun	42	34%
Numeral + noun	1	1%
Interjection + noun	1	
Total:	126	

According to the type, the most of data – 57 compounds – are formed as *semantic determiner + head*, where *head* includes general terms such as *flower, tree, hay, grass, plant, mushroom, grain* and their parts such as *root* and *stem* (Table 4).

**Table 4. Statistical occurrence of compound types**

The semantic source domains of most compounds are animal names, body parts names and colors. One compound each refers to natural object and abstract name, respectively (Table 5). It is important to note that the compounds where both forms are semantically shifted can be included in two different semantic groups, e.g. animal and name of body part: *üxer nyüden* ‘black currant, lit. bull eye’; human and name of body part’: *lama tarxi* ‘cotton thistle, lit. buddhist monk’s brain’; color and name of body part: *sagān dali* ‘Rhododendron adamsii, lit. white wing’; color and object: *šara dere* ‘sage, lit. yellow pillow’ etc., which were counted twice.

**Table 5. Statistical occurrence of semantic groups of compounds**

Semantic source domains	Number
Names of animals, birds and insects	42
Body part names of people and animals	32
Color terms	26
Names of objects or instruments	18
Type of environment and flowering period	9
Human characteristics	8
Taste of plant	6
Size or shape	5
Name of food	3
Material	2
Name of disease	2
Natural object	1
Abstract name	1

Due to an essential mismatch of the Buryat names of plants with Khalkha and Kalmuck – other members of the non-archaic (or central) group of Modern Mongol languages – the comparative data from other Mongolic languages were not collected. It would be important to compare data with other Mongolic languages too in a future study.

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