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Toponomastics of Eritrea in the Light of Arabic Geographical Atlases. Part II: Materials[1]

5. Eritrean toponomastics

There are 69 geographical features related to Eritrea, shown and supplied with appropriate toponyms in the atlases. They include regional names, names of populated places, maritime names and names of other physiographical features.

5.1. The name of the country (1 feature)

Eritrea being not a name of Arabic origin, its foreign shape creates a lot of problems when noted down with Arabic characters. Various graphic forms of Arabic spelling are interchangeably used in the atlases.

The atlases: A 11, A 13 and A 21 did not mention the name of Eritrea at all. At the time of their publication Eritrea was not yet an independent state what might have dissuaded their publishers from putting the country's name on the map. Publishers of other atlases did not hesitate to mark the existence of Eritrea even before its formal independence in 1993, usually as a kind of province (of not well defined autonomy) within Ethiopian borders.[2]

However, the atlas A 27, published 10 years after *de facto* and 8 years after *de jure* independence of Eritrea, refrained from presenting the country in any kind of graphic or textual form – its territory was still within the hold of Ethiopia.

The official country name in Arabic – ارتريا Iritriyā – appears, in its proper first place of alphabetical order on the following list of 16 variant names of the country, which are used indiscriminately in Arabic school atlases.

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[1]   All footnotes refer to a bibliography attached to Part I of this article (*Rocznik Orientalistyczny*, T. LXIX, Z. 2, 2016, 205–219).

[2]   *Red Sea* 1967: Eritrea province, 4–6.

ارتريا   Iritriyā, cited in 16 atlases,[3]
ارتريه   Iritriyya[h], cited in 3 atlases,[4]
ارتيريا   Irtīriyā, cited in 10 atlases,[5]
ارتيرية   Irtīriyya[t], cited in 1 atlas,[6]
الارتيرية   Al-Irtīriyya[t], cited in 1 atlas,[7]
اريترا   Irītirā, cited in 1 atlas,[8]
اريتره   Irītira[h] , cited in 1 atlas,[9]
اريتريا   Irītiriyā, cited in 27 atlases,[10]
اريتريه   Irītiriyya[h], cited in 2 atlases,[11]
اريترية   Irītiriyya[t], cited in 8 atlases,[12]
الاريتريه   Al-Irītiriyya[h], cited in 1 atlas,[13]
الاريترية   Al-Irītiriyya[t], cited in 1 atlas,[14]
اريتيريا   Irītīriyā, cited in 7 atlases,[15]
ايريتريا   Īrītiriyā, cited in 4 atlases,[16]
ايريترية   Īrītiriyya[t], cited in 1 atlas,[17]
ايريتيريا   Īrītīriyā, cited in 1 atlas;[18]

The name of the country in its official standard form in Arabic is clearly marked on the state's emblem.[19] It's not always respected, however, in external Arabic publications which simply try to transcribe the name again and again from Latin letters into Arabic, thus

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[3] A 2: 10, 12, 16, 37, 44; A 3: 23, 49; A 4: 22; A 6: 16; A 7: 27; A 9: 4, 10, 14; A 10: 18, 19, 43, 47, 60, 62, 67; A 14: 28, 62, 81; A 18: 28; A 22: 12, 16, 17; A 23: 4, 8-11, 15, 19; A 26: 24; A 28: 57; A 35: 57; A 36: 23, 24, 26–33, 35; Wołk and Zagórski 2004.

[4] A 6: 1, 24, 25; A 7: 9, 37; A 12: 9.

[5] A 15: 12; A 18: 24, 32, 38; A 19: 5, 18; A 20: 90; A 31: 100, 116; A 32: 19; A 36: 20; A 37: 50, 52, 53; A 42: 9, 10, 12, 16, 17; A 45: 18.

[6] A 20: 81, 83.

[7] A 26: 11, 22.

[8] A 5: 13.

[9] A 1: 25.

[10] A 6: 15; A 7: 13, 25; A 8: 39, 94; A 10: 19; A 12: 13, 29; A 16: 14; A 23: 24; A 25: 29, 117, 133; A 26: 28; A 28: 56, 65, 71, 77, 78, 116; A 29: 10, 12, 63, 77, 124, 142, 153, 168, 169, 202; A 30: 9,11, 24, 46, 65, 69; A 31: 77; A 32: 16, 20, 22, 24, 83, 126; A 33: 15, 89; A 34: 38; A 35: 56, 65, 71, 77, 78, 116; A 36: 41, 42; A 38: 15, 23, 26, 33, 47; A 39: 15, 49, 56, 60; A 40: 7, 8, 15, 63, 64, 77; A 41: 9, 12, 17, 48–50, 65; A 44: s.n.; A 45: 27, 77; A 46: 33, 37, 42, 45, 47, 57, 60, 67; A 47: 25, 27; A 48:12, 49, 57, 60, 61, 65. This non-standard version erroneously figures also on the UNGEGN list of country names: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/.

[11] A 5: 30; A 26: 18, 42.

[12] A 20: 89; A 24: 61, 142, 143; A 26: 1; A 32: 125; A 39: 36; A 40: 18; A 43: 114; A 48: 36.

[13] A 5: 14.

[14] A 5: 16.

[15] A 17: 6, 9; A 18: 10; A 28: 75, 79, 82; A 29: 62; A 35: 75, 79, 82; A 39: 61; A 45: 23, 63, 64.

[16] A 31: 96; A 37: 57–62; A 38: 16; A 46: 7.

[17] A 24: 123;

[18] A 16: 29, 53.

[19] See the illustration enclosed with the Part I of this article.

adding to orthographic variability. The most popular name numerically (اريتريا Irītiriyā) appears to be one without formal authority in the country itself. It should also be observed that individual atlases cite diverging names of the country on different maps, creating additional confusion among students. The question may be asked therefore which of those names should be treated as the correct one, and according to what criteria.

Following 16 word formation patterns (noun patterns) find application in the Arabic renderings of the country name. The verbal stem, in this case, is a theoretical root *[20]**r t r**. It is nonexistent in Arabic and is deprived therefore of any semantic value.

ifiᶜl-iyā,	(al-)ifᶜīl-iyyaᵗ,	ifīᶜil-iyyaʰ,	ifīᶜīl-iyā,
ifiᶜl-iyyaʰ,	ifīᶜil-ā,	(al-)ifīᶜil-iyyaʰ,	īfīᶜil-iyā,
ifᶜīl-iyā,	fīᶜil-aʰ,	ifīᶜil-iyyaᵗ,	īfīᶜil-iyyaᵗ,
ifᶜīl-iyyaᵗ,	ifīᶜil-iyā,	(al-)ifīᶜil-iyyaᵗ,	īfīᶜīl-iyā.

The patterns can be reduced to just 4 basic forms: **fiᶜl**, **-fᶜīl**, **fīᶜil** and **fīᶜīl**, further extended and differentiated by addition of either of the two prefixes: *i-*, a very common one in Arabic words, or *ī-*, unknown of in Arabic (occasionally appearing initial element *ī-* in Arabic words may only be a composed entity which appears when a regular prefix *i-* merges with an assimilated weak first consonant of the verbal root). Both prefixes are in reality a reflexion of diverse approaches to transcribing in Arabic a name of non-Arabic origin.

Additionally, some versions are donated with a definite article *al-*, apparently with intention to better mark an individual proper name.

Different versions of the name are supplemented with either of the following suffixes: *-ā*, *-aʰ* (so called *hā' muhmalaᵗ*, a non-regular version of the original *-aᵗ* or *tā' marbūṭaᵗ*), *-iyyaᵗ* (or *-iyyaʰ*, a non-regular version of the latter one) and *-iyā*. All of these are feminine markers.

5.2. The name of the capital city (1 feature)

Asmara,[21] the name of the Eritrean capital city, seemingly of Tigrinya origin and etymology evoking the idea of brownness or darkness, is not at all mentioned in the atlases A 8, A 19, A 20, A 27 and A 31.

اسمرا   Asmarā, 8 citations in 5 atlases;[22]
اسمره   Asmaraʰ, 57 citations in 20 atlases;[23]
اسمرة   Asmaraᵗ, 76 citations in 36 atlases.[24]

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[20] Asterisks mark theoretical roots that are non-existant within standard set of verbal roots in Arabic.

[21] *Red Sea* 1967: Asmara, 4–6, 138, 265.

[22] A 1: 25; A 10: 12; A 36: 23; A 45: 64; A 46: 7, 37, 53, 59.

[23] A 5: 30, 31, 38. A 6: 24, 25; A 7: 37; A 9: 10; A 10: 18, 43, 48, 60, 62; A 12: 41; A 13: 5, 6, 43; A 16: 14, 29, 51, 53; A 17: 9; A 18: 10, 32, 38; A 23: 19; A 24: 61; y6A 25: 117; A 26: 18, 22, 24, 42, 43; A 28: 56, 58, 60–63, 65, 71, 78, 80; A 30: 9, 65; A 35: 56, 58, 60–63, 65, 71, 78, 80; A 38: 15, 16; A 41: 65; A 44: s.n.

[24] A 2: 12, 16, 51, 55; A 3: 20, 49; A 4: 20, 49; A 5: 14, 16; A 6: 15, 16; A 7: 25, 27; A 9: 12, 14, 18 (duplicated; the second inscription, without a graphic sign indicating location, might possibly refer to some

The last version, most frequent one, may be considered the most regular from the point of view of Arabic grammar. Still another known Arabic variant of the name is اسمرى Asmará, but it was not used in the investigated atlases.[25] The Tigrinya name is Āsmera.[26]

Following noun patterns are deduced from the above variant names:

afꜥal-ā, afꜥal-aᵗ (plus its irregular version afꜥal-aʰ) and afꜥal-á.

The root in all cases is **s m r**, evoking the notion of brown color.

5.3. Other populated places (50 features)

Remark: names in brackets, placed below for finding and identification purposes, represent the toponyms' versions in Latin letters that are most common in international publications.

اباشيري Abāšīrī (Abacheri);[27] 1 citation in 1 atlas;
   pattern: afāꜥīlī, root: **b š r**.
ابيلة Ubaylaᵗ (Obilet, Obellet);[28] 1 citation in 1 atlas;
   pattern: fuꜥaylaᵗ, root: **' b l**.
اخراطه Aḫrāṭaʰ (Agurto);[29] 1 citation in 1 atlas;
   pattern: afꜥālaʰ , root: **ḫ r ṭ**.;
   the locality is shown close to the Djibouti border, but remains unidentifiable in that place; beside deformation of the name the village was displaced on the map far to the South-West from its original location.
اد Id (Ed, Edd);[30] عد ꜥId;[31] العد Al-ꜥId;[32] 3 variants, 7 citations in 5 atlases;[33]
   pattern: **fiꜥ ← fiꜥl**, roots: ***' d** / ***ꜥ d**.

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other unidentified feature with misleadingly similar name; alternatively, it could be repeatedly applied on the map by simple mistake); A 10: 19; A 11: 48; A 12: 29, 31; A 14: 28, 35, 81; A 15: 12; A 16: 21, 28; A 17: 6, 7; A 18: 30; A 21: 54; A 22: 12, 16; 24; A 23: 4, 14, 17 (duplicated as on the map A 9: 18 from which it was mechanically copied unchanged), A 25: 73, 133, 141; A 26: 11; A 29: 12, 77, 124, 142, 202; A 30: 11, 24, 69; A 32: 16, 19, 22, 184; A 33: 89; A 34: 38; A 36: 41, 42; A 37: 57–59, 61, 62; A 38: 33, 47; A 39: 15, 36, 49, 56, 60, 61; A 40: 7, 8, 18, 63, 64; A 41: 12, 17, 49; A 42: 12, 16, 17, 74; A 43: 114; A 45: 27; A 47: 27; A 48: 12, 36, 49, 56, 60, 61; this name also appears, this time rightfully, on the UNGEGN list: http://unstats. un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/.

   [25] Zagórski 2011.

   [26] Wołk and Zagórski 2004; Vota 1938: Asmára 197 and *passim*; GeoName: Asmara, Tigrinya: Āsmera, 15°20'0"N 38°56'0"E.

   [27] A 16: 21; Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Abacheri 14°11'0"N 41°30'0"E.

   [28] A 16: 21; Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - . GeoName: Obellet 16°7'0"N 39°9'0"E.

   [29] A 16: 21; Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Agurto 12°54'0"N 42°42'0"E;

   [30] A 1: 25; A 42: 16, 17.

   [31] A 16: 21.

   [32] A 39: 49; A 48 49;

   [33] Vota 1938: Edd 335; *Red Sea* 1967: Edd village, 280; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Ēd or Idī (Tigr.), ꜥĪd (Ar.); GeoName: Edd, Īdī, Eid see Īd 13°56'0"N 41°41'0"E.

ادّي اجري Addī Uǧrī (Addi Ugri);[34] ادي اوغري Adī Ūǧirī;[35] 2 variants, 3 citations in 2 atlases;[36]

    a) patterns: **faᶜᶜil / faᶜil**, root **ʾ d y**, b) patterns: **fuᶜlī / fūᶜilī**, roots: **ʾ ǧ r / ʾ ġ r**.

اروتا Irūtā (Erota);[37] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[38]

    pattern: **fiᶜūlā**, root: ***ʾ r t**.

افمبو Afambū (Afembo);[39] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[40]

    pattern: **afaᶜlū**, root: ***f m b**.

اقردات Aqurdāt (Agordat);[41] ارغودات Arġūdāt;[42] اچردات Ačurdāt;[43] اچوردات Ačūridāt;[44] اكوردات Akūridāt;[45] اغوردات Aġūridāt;[46] 6 variants, 25 citations in 18 atlases;[47]

    patterns: **afuᶜlāt / afᶜūlāt / afuᶜlāt / afūᶜilāt**, roots: ***č r d**, **ġ r d**, **q r d** (plus transposition: **r ġ d**, where **ġ** also replaced **q**) and **k r d**;

    letters **č**, **ġ**, **q** and **k** are all used to represent the local sound **g**.

ألغينا Alġīnā (Algena);[48] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[49]

    pattern: **afᶜīlā**, root: ***l ġ n**.

امارتي Amāritī (Amarti);[50] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[51]

    pattern: **afāᶜilī**, root: ***m r t**.

ام حجر Umm Ḥaǧar (Om Hajer);[52] 3 citations in 2 atlases; also known as ام هاجر Umm Hāǧir[53]

    a) pattern: **fuᶜl → full**, root: **ʾ m m**; b) patterns: **faᶜal / fāᶜil**, roots: **ḥ ǧ r / h ǧ r**.

بادين Bādīn (Baden);[54] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[55]

    pattern: **fāᶜīl**, root: **b d n**.

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[34] A 16: 24.

[35] A 42: 16, 17.

[36] Vota 1938: Áddi Úgri; Woł and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Addi Ugri: see Ādī Ugrī 14°53'0"N 38°49'0"E.

[37] A 42: 16, 17.

[38] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Erota 16°14'0"N 37°55'0"E.

[39] A 16: 21.

[40] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Āfambo 13°33'0"N 41°40'0"E.

[41] A 2: 16, 35, 44; A 13: 6; A 14: 35; A 16: 29; A 22: 12; A 24: 143; A 41: 12.

[42] A 9: 10; A 23: 10.

[43] A 10: 62.

[44] A 16: 24.

[45] A 25: 73; A 39: 56; A 42: 16, 17; A 45: 64; A 48 56.

[46] A 28: 56-58; A 35: 56-58.

[47] Vota 1938: - ; *Red Sea* 1967: Agordat, 5, 6; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - . GeoName: Agordat, see Āk'ordat 15°33'0"N 37°53'0"E.

[48] A 42: 16, 17.

[49] Vota 1938: Alghéna; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Algena 17°19'0"N 38°31'0"E.

[50] A 16: 21.

[51] Vota 1938: Bab el Mandèb; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - .; GeoName: Amarti, see Suwa 14°17'0"N 41°6'0"E.

[52] A 16: 21; A 42: 16, 17.

[53] Vota 1938: Om Áger; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Umm Hagar: see Om Hājer 14°20'0"N 36°39'0"E.

[54] A 16: 24.

[55] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - .; GeoName: Baden 16°54'0"N 37°56'0"E.

بارنتو Bārintū (Barentu);[56] بارينتو Bārīntū;[57] برنتو Barintū;[58] 3 variants, 7 citations in 6 atlases;[59]

    patterns: fāⁱltū, fāⁱltū, faⁱltū, root: *b r n;

    the ending –tū gives appearance of a personal verbal ending; place names repeating verbal forms appear, though not frequently, in Semitic languages and are considered to be of archaic character.

بسكيا Biskiyā (Bisha, Bishia, Biscia);[60] بيشيا Bīšiyā;[61] 2 variants, 2 citations in 2 atlases;[62]

    patterns: fiⁱliyā (plus its modification: fīliyā, where a short vowel i merged with a weak root consonant); roots: *b s k / b w š; original local sound š, noted in Italian as sci, was inadvertently transposed as ski.

بهلد Bahlad (Behld);[63] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[64]

    pattern: faⁱlal, root: b h l d.

بوشتومو Būštūmū (Dochtumo);[65] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[66]

    pattern: fūⁱlūmū, root: b š t.

بلوا Baluwā (Beylul);[67] بيتول Baytūl;[68] 2 variants, 3 citations in 2 atlases;[69]

    patterns: faⁱulā / fayⁱūl, roots: b l w / b t l.

تسني Tisinay (Teseney);[70] تيسيناي Tīsīnāy;[71] طسيناي Ṭisīnāy;[72] تيزيني Tīzīnay;[73] 4 variants, 15 citations in 11 atlases;[74]

    patterns: fiⁱilay / fīⁱīlāy / fiⁱilāy / fīⁱilay, roots: *t s n / *ṭ s n / *t z n.

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⁵⁶ A 14: 81; A 42: 16, 17.

⁵⁷ A 16: 24.

⁵⁸ A 39: 56; A 42: 74; A 48: 56.

⁵⁹ Vota 1938: Barentù; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Barentu (Tigr.), Barantū (Ar.); GeoName: Barentu 15°7'0''N 37°36'0''E.

⁶⁰ A 13: 26.

⁶¹ A 16: 24.

⁶² Vota 1938: Biscia; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - .; GeoName: Biscia, see Bīsha 15°29'0''N 37°33'0''E.

⁶³ A 16: 21.

⁶⁴ Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - .; GeoName: Behld 13°42'0''N 42°4'0''E.

⁶⁵ A 16: 21.

⁶⁶ Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - .; GeoName: Dochtumo 12°46'0''N 42°29'0''E.

⁶⁷ A 16: 21.

⁶⁸ A 42: 16, 17.

⁶⁹ Vota 1938: Beilùl; Red Sea 1967: Beilul village 283; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Beylul (Tigr.), Baylūl (Ar.); GeoName: Beyelul, Beilul, Beilil, Bailul see Bēylul 13°16'0''N 42°20'0''E.

⁷⁰ A 9: 10; A 12. 36; A 13: 26; A 14:81; A 23: 10; (wrongly located in Ethiopia) A 28: 56, 58; (wrongly located in Ethiopia) A 35: 56, 58; A 41: 50.

⁷¹ (wrongly located in Ethiopia) A 16: 24.

⁷² (wrongly located in Ethiopia) A 28: 57; (wrongly located in Ethiopia) A 35: 57.

⁷³ A 42: 16, 17.

⁷⁴ Vota 1938: Tessenèi; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Teseney (Tigr.), Tasanāy (Ar.); GeoName: Teseney 15°8'0''N 36°40'0''E.

تيو Tiyū (Ti'o);[75] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[76]

    pattern: **fiᶜū** ← **fiᶜul**, root: ***t y w**.

جوخدا Ǧūndā Ǧū<u>h</u>dā (Guna Guna);[77] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[78]

    pattern: **fūᶜlā**, roots: **ǧ n d** / ***ǧ <u>h</u> d**.

دبيسيمة Dubaysīmaᵗ (Debaysima, Dybaysimo);[79] دبيسيما Dubaysīmā;[80] 2 variants, 3 citations in 3 atlases;[81]

    pattern: **fuᶜaylīla**ᵗ / **fuᶜaylīlā**, root: ***d b s m**.

ددعتو Dadaᶜtū (Daadatu, Dedaetu);[82] 2 citations in 2 atlases;[83]

    pattern: **fafaltū** ← **faᶜaltū**, root: ***d d ᶜ**.

دنقل Danqal (Dangal);[84] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[85]

    pattern: **faᶜlal**, root: ***d n q l**;

    this root, nonproductive in the common language, is however quite frequent in Arabic onomastics, cf. Dunqulaᵗ, Ad-Danāqil, etc.

دورور Dawrūr (Dawirori);[86] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[87]

    pattern: **faᶜlūl**, root: **d w r**.

ديكامير Dīkāmīr (Dekemhare);[88] 3 citations in 3 atlases;[89]

    pattern: **fīᶜālīl**, root: ***d k m r**.

رنداكوما Randākūmā (Rendakoma);[90] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[91]

    pattern: **faᶜlālūmā**, root: ***r n d k**.

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[75] A 45: 64.

[76] Vota 1938: Thiò; *Red Sea* 1967: Thiô settlement, 277; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: T'īyo (Tigr.), Tiyū (Ar.); GeoName: Thio, see T'ī'o PPL 14°42'0"N 40°58'0"E.

[77] A 16: 21.

[78] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Guna-Guna 14°32'0"N 39°26'0"E.

[79] A 16: 21.

[80] A 42: 64; A 48: 57.

[81] Vota 1938: Dabaissíma; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Debaysīma (Tigr.), Dubaysīmah (Ar.); GeoName: Dabaissima, see Debaysīma PPL 12°42'0"N 42°20'0"E.

[82] A 42: 64; A 48: 57.

[83] Vota 1938: Daddatò; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Daadatu 13°3'0"N 42°3'0"E.

[84] A 16: 21.

[85] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Dengel (Tigr.), Danqal (Ar.); GeoName: Denghel, Dengel, see Dangal PPL 14°38'0"N 40°18'0"E.

[86] A 16: 21.

[87] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Daui Rori PPL 12°47'0"N 42°12'0"E.

[88] A 16: 21; A 28: 58; A 35: 58.

[89] Vota 1938: Decamerè; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Dek'emhare (Tigr.), Daqamhārī; GeoName: Dek'emhāre 15°4'0"N 39°3'0"E.

[90] A 16: 21.

[91] Vota 1938: Rendacómo; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Randakoma, Renda Coma, see Renda 14°28'0"N 39°59'0"E.

رهيط Raḥīṭ (Raheyta);[92] ريهيتو Rayhaytū;[93] رحيت Raḥīt;[94] 3 variants, 4 citations in 3 atlases;[95]
    patterns: **faⁿ ꜥl** / **fayꜥaylū**, roots: **r h ṭ.** / ***r h t / *r ḥ t**.

زوللا Zūllā (Zula);[96] زولا Zūlā;[97] 2 variants, 2 citations in 2 atlases;[98]
    patterns: **fūllā ← fuꜥlā / fūlā← fuꜥlā**, roots: **z l l / z w l**.

سبدرات Sabdarāt (Sebderat);[99] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[100]
    pattern: **faꜥlālāt**, root: ***s b d r**.

سندا Sandā (Sanda, Senda);[101] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[102]
    pattern: **faꜥlā**, root: **s n d**.

سنافي Sanāfī (Senafe);[103] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[104]
    pattern: **faꜥālī**, root: **s n f**.

سيتونا Sītūnā (Sittona);[105] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[106]
    pattern: **fīꜥūlā**, root: ***s t n**.

شلامة Šalāmaᵗ (Kelmet, Kelamet, Chelamet);[107] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[108]
    pattern: **faꜥālaᵗ**, root: ***š l m**;
    Italian orthographic cluster *che* for *ke* was interpreted as French *che* for *še* and then
    transcribed accordingly, though incorrectly.

صديحة مونغله Ṣiddīḥaᵗ Mūnġallaʰ (Sidiha Monghella);[109] 2 citations in 2 atlases;[110]
    a) pattern: **fiꜥꜥīlaᵗ**, root: **ṣ d ḥ**; b) a) pattern: **mūnfaꜥꜥaʰ**, root: **ġ l l**.

عرفالّي ꜥArafāllī (Arafali);[111] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[112]
    pattern: **faꜥalāllī**, root: ***ꜥ r f l**.

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[92] A 16: 21.

[93] A 42: 64; A 48: 57.

[94] A 48: 48.

[95] Vota 1938: Rahéita; Read Sea 1967: Raheita village, 139; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Raheita, see Rehayto 12°44'0"N 43°5'0"E.

[96] A 1: 25.

[97] A 16: 21.

[98] Vota 1938: Zùla; Read Sea 1967: Zula village, 268; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Zula (Tigr.), Zūlah (Ar.); GeoName: Zula 15°15'0"N 39°40'0"E.

[99] A 13: 26.

[100] Vota 1938: Sabderàt; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Sebderat (Tigr), Sabdarāt (Ar.); GeoName: Sabderat, see Sebderat 15°27'0"N 36°39'0"E.

[101] A 16: 21.

[102] Vota 1938: Sandà; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Senda, see Sanda 14°19'0"N 40°32'0"E.

[103] A 16: 21.

[104] Vota 1938: Senafè; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Sen'afē {Tigr.), Sanāfī (Ar); GeoName: Senꜥafē 14°41'0"N 39°25'0"E.

[105] A 16: 21.

[106] Vota 1938: Sittóna; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Sittona, see Sitona 14°25'0"N 37°21'0"E.

[107] A 16: 21.

[108] Vota 1938: Chelámet; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Chelamet: see Kelmet 16°4'0"N 38°55'0"E.

[109] A 42: 64; A 48: 57.

[110] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: -; GeoName: Sidina Monghella, Sidi Amin Ghella, Sidiha Mengela, see Sidiha Monghella 12°33'0"N 42°51'0"E.

[111] A 16: 21.

[112] Vota 1938: Aráfali; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Irafayle, see Arafali 15°5'0"N 39°45'0"E.

عسايلا ʿAsāyilā (Assa Ela);[113] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[114]

    pattern: **faʿāyilā**, root: **ʿ s l**.

عصب ʿAṣab (Aseb, Assab);[115] عصّب ʿAṣṣab;[116] اسّاب Assāb;[117] 3 variants, 65 citations in 31 atlases (in that number, 1 variant in 61 citations in 29 atlases, and 2 different variants, 4 citations in each of 2 atlases);[118]

    patterns: **faʿal** / **faʿʿal** / **faʿʿāl**, roots: **ʿ ṣ b** / ***' s b.**

عواسي ʿAwāsī (Oasi);[119] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[120]

    pattern: **faʿālī** or **fawāʿī** ← **fawāʿil**, roots: ***ʿ w s** / **ʿ s y**.

عوي كوالا ʿAwī Kawālā (Addi Kwala);[121] ادّي كوالا Addī Kawālā;[122] 2 variants, 2 citations in 1 atlas;[123]

    a) patterns: **faʿī** ← **faʿīl** / **faʿʿī** ← **faʿlī**, roots: **ʿ w y** / **' d d**; b) pattern: **faʿālā**, root: ***k w l**.

غندا Ġindā (Ginda);[124] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[125]

    pattern: **fiʿlā**, root: ***ġ n d**.

كارن Kāran (Cheren, Keren);[126]; كرت Karat;[127] كرن Karan;[128] قيرن Qīran;[129] قرن Qaran;[130] كيران Kīran;[131] كيرين Kīrīn;[132] 7 variants, 24 citations in 20 atlases;[133]

    patterns: **faʿal** / **fīʿal** / **fīʿīl**, roots: **k r t** / ***k r n** / **q r n**.

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[113] A 16: 21.

[114] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Assa Ela 14°7'0"N 41°34'0"E.

[115] A 1: 25; A 2: 12, 16, 35, 50; A 3: 24, 25; A 4: 24, 25; A 5: 14, 18; A 6: 15; A 7: 13; A 10: 43, 47, 62; A 11: 58; A 12: 13, 29; A 13: 6; A 14: 62; A 16: 29; A 18: 28; A 19: 18; A 22: 17; A 25: 73; A 28: 56, 58, 60, 61, 65, 71, 78, 80; A 30: 11, 24, 69; A 33: 89;A 35: 56, 58, 60, 61, 65, 71, 78, 80; A 38: 15, 16, 32, 35; A 39: 36, 49; A 40: 18; A 41: 17, (wrongly located in Ethiopia) 23; A 42: 16, 17; A 44: *s.n.*; A 45: 64, A 48: 36, 48, 49.

[116] A 20: 90.

[117] A 46: 51, 55, 59.

[118] Vota 1938: Assab; Read Sea 1967: Assab town, 5, 134, 135, 137, 138; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Asseb (Tigr.), ʿAṣab; GeoName: Assab, see Āseb 13°0'0"N 42°44'0"E.

[119] A 16: 21.

[120] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Oasi 13°16'0"N 42°6'0"E.

[121] A 16: 21.

[122] A 16: 24.

[123] Vota 1938: Addi Qualà; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Addi Kwala (Tigr.), ʿAddī Qawālah (Ar.); GeoName: Addi Kuala, Adi Quala, see Ādī Kwala 14°38'0"N 38°50'0"E.

[124] A 16: 21.

[125] Vota 1938: Ghinda; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Gīnda (Tigr.), Ghindah (Ar.); GeoName: Ghinda, Ghinda'e, Gīnda 15°27'0"N 39°3'0"E.

[126] A 24: 61;

[127] A 2: 44.

[128] A 9: 12; A 13: 26; A 14: 81; A 23: 4; A 25: 73, 141; A 30: 46; A 38: 26; A 39: 49, 56; A 48: 49..

[129] A 28: 56; A 35: 56.

[130] A 28: 57; A 35: 57.

[131] A 28: 58; A 35: 58.

[132] A 16: 21; A 42: 16, 17; A 45: 64.

[133] Vota 1938: Chéren; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Keren (Tigr.), Karan (Ar.); GeoName: Cheren, Hamelmalo, Kehrehn, Kerenas, Kereno, see Keren 15°47'0"N 38°28'0"E.

كولولي Kūlūlī (Kulul, Kolulli);[134] 2 citations in 2 atlases;[135]

    pattern: **fūᶜūlī**, root: **k l l**.

مدر Madar (Meder);[136] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[137]

    pattern: **faᶜal**, root: **m d r**.

مرسى فاطمة Marsá Fāṭimaᵗ (Mersa Fatma);[138] 5 citations in 4 atlases;[139]

    a) pattern: **faᶜlá**, root: **r s y**; b) pattern: **fāᶜilaᵗ**, root: **f ṭ m**.

مصوّع Muṣawwaᶜ (Massaua);[140] ماساووا Māsāwwā;[141] ماسوا Māsawā;[142] مساوع Masāwiᶜ;[143] مساوا Masāwā;[144] مساوه Masāwaʰ;[145] 6 variants, 96 citations in 38 atlases (in that number: 5 wrong variants of this centuries-old name, otherwise well established in Arabic, 7 citations in 4 atlases);[146]

    patterns: **mufaᶜᶜal** / **fāᶜāllā** / **fāᶜalā** / **mafāᶜil** / **faᶜālā** / **faᶜālaʰ** / roots: **ṣ w ᶜ**. / **s w ᶜ** / **m s w**; standard spelling Muṣawwaᶜ has been presupposed also in cases where the sign of *šaddaᵗ* was not noted over the letter *wāw*.

مل عيني Mal ᶜAynī (May Ayni);[147] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[148]

    a) pattern: **faᶜ** ← **faᶜal**, root: **m l** ← **m l l**; b) a) pattern: **faᶜlī**, root: **ᶜ y n**.

موركادا Mūrkādā (Morgada);[149] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[150]

    pattern: **mūfᶜālā**, root: **r k d**.

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[134] A 16: 21; A 45: 64.

[135] Vota 1938: Culúlli; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Colluli, Colulli, Culculli, Cululli, Kolulli, Kuleli, Kululli, see Kulul 14°24'0"N 40°21'0"E.

[136] A 16: 21.

[137] Vota 1938: Medèr; Read Sea 1967: Meder village, 276; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - . GeoName: Meder, M'edr, see Mī'īda 14°44'0"N. 40°47'0"E.

[138] A 16: 21; A 28: 58; A 35: 58; A 42: 16, 17.

[139] Vota 1938: Mérsa Fátma; Read Sea 1967: Marsa Fatma village, 273; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Marsa Fatima (Tigr.), Marsá Fāṭimah (Ar.); GeoName: Mersa Fat'ma, Mersa Fatuma, see: Mersa Fatma 14°54'0"N 40°18'0"E.

[140] A 1: 25, 27; A 2: 10, 12, 16, 35, 50; A 3: 20, 48, 49; A 4: 20, 48, 49; A 5: 14, 16, 38; A 6: 15, 16; A 7: 13, 25, 27, 37; A 8: 94; A 9: 18, 26; A 10: 43, 48, 60; A 11: 48; A 12: 13, 29, 30, 49; A 13: 6; A 14. 28; A 16: 21, 29, 53; A 17: 7, 9; A 18: 33; A 20: 27, 65, 69, 73, 90; A 22: 12, 47; A 23: 17, 24, 29; A 24: 142; A 25: 72, 73, 141; A 26: 22, 28, 42; A 28: 56, 58, 65, 71, 78; A 29: 124; A 30: 7, 24; A 31: 24, 25; A 32: 184; A 35: 56, 58, 65, 71, 78; A 36: 41; A 38: 15, 16, 33; A 39: 49; A 41:12, 17, 48; A 42: 16, 17; A 43: 103; A 45: 64; A 48: 49.

[141] A 46: 27.

[142] A 46: 51, 55, 59.

[143] A 28: 80; A 35: 80.

[144] A 46: 7.

[145] A 33: 89;

[146] Vota 1938: Massáua; Read Sea 267: Massawa, 5, 6, 138, 238, 241, 248, 257, 262–266; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; Mits'iwa (Tigr.), Muṣawwaᶜ (Ar.); GeoName: Macua, Masaoua, Masava, Massaua: see Mits'iwa 15°36'0"N 39°28'0"E.

[147] A 16: 21.

[148] Vota 1938: Mài Aini; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: May Ayni, see Mai Aini 14°47'0"N 39°6'0"E.

[149] A 16: 21.

[150] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Morgada 14°34'0"N 41°12'0"E.

نكفا Nakfā (Nakfa);[151] نقفه Naqfah;[152] ناقفا Nāqafā;[153] 3 variants, 6 citations in 5 atlases;[154]
   patterns: **faᶜlā** / **faᶜla**ʰ / **fāᶜalā**, roots: **n k f** / **n q f**.

هنكول Hankūl (Hancul);[155] 2 citations in 2 atlases;[156]
   pattern: **faᶜlūl**, root: ***h n k l**.

ولدخان Walad H̠ān (Uodgan);[157] 1 citation in 1 atlas;[158]
   a) pattern: **faᶜal**, root: **w l d**; a) pattern: **fāl** ← **faᶜal**, root: **h̠ y n**;
   the name was interpreted in Arabic as if composed of two words, however doubtful
   this newly suggested etymology could seem; apparent association with the words
   walad (Arabic) and *h̠ān* (Arabic of Turkish origin) can be discerned.

5.4. The sea (1 feature)

البحرالاحمر Al-Baḥr al-Aḥmar (Red Sea);[159]
   a) pattern: **faᶜl**, root: **b ḥ r**; a) pattern: **afᶜal**, root: ḥ **m r**;

الاحمر Al-Aḥmar;[160]
   pattern: **afᶜal**, root: ḥ **m r**;
   substantivization of an adjective separated from its generic term and replacing
   a compound name;

بحراحمر Baḥr Aḥmar;[161]
   a) pattern: **faᶜl**, root: **b ḥ r**; a) pattern: **afᶜal**, root: ḥ **m r**;
   on missing definite articles, see a commentary below;

البحر الاحمر ”القلزم“ Al-Baḥr al-Aḥmar "Al-Qulzum";[162]
   a) for the pattern and root of the first part of the name, see above; b) pattern: **fuᶜlul**,
   root: ***q l z m**;

البحر الاحمر ”القلزم خليج العرب“ Al-Baḥr al-Aḥmar "Al-Qulzum H̠alīǧ al-ᶜArab";[163]
   a) for the first parts of the name, see above; b) pattern: **faᶜīl**, root: **h̠ l ǧ**; c) pattern:
   faᶜal, root: ᶜ **r b**;

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[151] A 16: 24.

[152] A 28: 58; A 35: 58.

[153] A 42: 16, 17; A 45: 64.

[154] Vota 1938: Nácfa; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Nak'fa (Tigr.), An-Naqafah (Ar.); GeoName: Nacfa: see Nak'fa 16°40'1"N 38°28'45"E.

[155] A 36: 64; A 48: 57.

[156] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Ancul, see Hancul 12°40'0"N 42°35'0"E.

[157] A 1: 25.

[158] Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Vodgan: see Uodgan 17°20'0"N 38°36'0"E.

[159] A 1-A 48: *passim*; Vota 1938: Mar Rosso, 126; Read Sea 1967: Red Sea *passim*; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Red Sea 25°0'0"N 35°0'0"E.

[160] A 20: 15 – shortened version of Al-Baḥr al-Aḥmar (Red Sea).

[161] A 1: 23.

[162] A 15: 18; A 20: 31, 32, 37, 40, 43, 44, 48, 49, 61, 65.

[163] A 20: 29.

بحر القلزم Baḥr al-Qulzum;[164]

    for patterns and roots, see above;

بحر القلزم ”الاحمر“ Baḥr al-Qulzum "Al-Aḥmar";[165]

    for patterns and roots, see above;

بحر القلزم ”الاحمر حاليا“ Baḥr al-Qulzum "Al-Aḥmar *ḥāliy^an*";[166]

    for patterns and roots, see above; the expression *ḥāliy^an*, meaning *at present*, is a circumstantial description added to the name and not a part of it;

بحر القلزم ”البحر الاحمر“ Baḥr al-Qulzum "Al-Baḥr al-Aḥmar";[167]

    for patterns and roots, see above;

بحر القلزم ”البحر الاحمر حاليا“ Baḥr al-Qulzum "Al-Baḥr al-Aḥmar *ḥāliy^an*";[168]

    for patterns and roots, see above;

بحر القلزم ”الخليج العربي“ ”البحر الاحمر“ Baḥr al-Qulzum "Al-Ḫalīǧ al-ᶜArabī" "Al-Baḥr al-Aḥmar";[169]

    a) for the first and last parts of the name, see above; b) pattern: **faᶜīl**, root: **ḫ l ǧ**;

    c) pattern: **faᶜalī**, root: **ᶜ r b**; similar to Ḫalīǧ al-ᶜArab above, in which a noun (proper name) was replaced by a corresponding adjective;

”الخليج العربي“ "Al-Ḫalīǧ al-ᶜArabī" (indicating the Red Sea);[170]

    for patterns and roots, see above;

باب المند ب Al-Ḫalīǧ al-ᶜArabī (indicating the Northern part of the Red Sea);[171]

    for patterns and roots, see above;

الخليج العربي ”البحر الاحمر“ Al-Ḫalīǧ al-ᶜArabī "Al-Baḥr al-Aḥmar";[172]

    for patterns and roots, see above.

    The name of the Red Sea appears on all maps of Eritrea in all atlases in its standard form. In addition to it, interesting innovations are Baḥr Aḥmar without definite articles, a possible effect of pidginization of that thalassonym,[173] and also several variants with Al-Qulzum (Ancient: Clysma), differently situated in writing in relation to the main toponym. Al-Qulzum refers to a medieval sea name and appears only on historical maps. Quite exceptional is the appearance of the name Al-Ḫalīǧ al-ᶜArabī (with a variant form Ḫalīǧ al-ᶜArab), one of early Arabic names for the Red Sea, shown on historical maps. That name only in the years sixties of the 20th century was reapplied in a new location, to replace – for political and emotionally motivated reasons – the hitherto commonly known in Arabic and widely used name of the Persian Gulf – Al-Ḫalīǧ al-Fārisī.[174]

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[164] A 15: 21; A 19. 19, 27; A 20. 27, 45.

[165] A 15: 19, 20; A 20. 19, 21, 23; A 20. 42, 59.

[166] A 19: 15, 17, 19, 22, 26.

[167] A 19: 5, 14; A 20: 27, 28, 56.

[168] A 19: 13, 23.

[169] A 20: 25.

[170] A 20: 18.

[171] A 20: 19.

[172] A 20: 6, 11, 17.

[173] Zagórski 2013b.

[174] Zagórski 2013b.

5.5. Parts of the sea (3 features)

باب المند ب Bāb al-Mandab (Bab el-Mandeb);[175] مضيق باب المند ب Maḍīq Bāb al-Mandab[176];
2 variants, cited in all atlases except A 27;
   a) pattern: **fāl ← facal**, root: **b w b**; b) pattern: **mafcal**, root: **n d b**; c) pattern: **facīl**,
   root: **m ḍ q**.
خليج بيلول Ḫalīǧ Baylūl (Beylul Bay);[177] cited in 1 atlas;
   a) pattern: **facīl**, root: **ḫ l ǧ**; b) pattern: **faylūl ← faycūl**, root: **b l l**.
خليج عصب Ḫalīǧ cAṣab (Assab Bay);[178] cited in 1 atlas;
   a) pattern: **facīl**, root: **ḫ l ǧ**; b) pattern: **facal**, root: **c ṣ b**.

5.6. Other physiographic names (13 features)

بني عامر Banī cĀmir (Beni Amer);[179] 1 citation in 1 atlas;
   a) pattern: **calī ← facal**, root: **’ b n**; b) pattern: **fācil**, root: **c m r**;
   this tribal territory is placed in North-Western part of Eritrea; the Banī cĀmir are
   a nomadic, Cushitic and Tigre (being gradually replaced byArabic) speaking tribe,
   of locally high political importance; their tribal territory is divided between Eritrea
   and Sudan.[180]
جبل سويرا Ǧabal Suwayrā (Soira);[181] 1 citation in 1 atlas;
   a) pattern: **facal**, root: **ǧ b l**; b) pattern: **fucaylā**, root: **s w r**;
   a mountain S.-W. of Zula Bay.[182]
جبال دانكالبا Ǧibāl Dānkāliyā (Dancal/Dankalian Alps); جبال دناكيل [183] Ǧibāl Danākīl;[184]
   2 variants, 3 citations in 2 atlases;[185]
   a) pattern: **ficāl**, root: **ǧ b l**; b) pattern: **fāclāliyā / facālīl**, root: ***d n k l**;

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[175] A 1 and A 3–A 26, A 28–A 46: *passim*.

[176] A2, A 22, A 24 and A 48: *passim*; Vota 1938: Bab el Mandèb; *Red Sea* 1967: Bab-al-Mandab, Straits of, 13, 15, 121, 133, 141, 142, 146, 285, ,Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Bab al-Māndab (Tigr.), Bāb al-mandab (Ar.); GeoName: Bab-el-Mandeb, see Mandeb, Bab el 12°35’0”N 43°25’0”E.

[177] A 41: (wrongly located in Ethiopia) 23; Vota 1938: Beilùl o Bailùl... baia omonima, 337; *Red Sea* 1967: Beilul bay, 134, 280, 283, 284, Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Bēylul Bahyr Sellat’ē (Tigr), Khalīj Baylūl (Ar.); GeoName: Bēylul Bahir Selat’e 13°13’0”N 42°28’0”E.

[178] A 41: (wrongly located in Ethiopia) 23; Vota 1938: - ; *Red Sea* 1967: Baia di Assab, 134–137; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Asseb Bahyr Sellat’ē (Tigr), Khalīj cAṣab (Ar.); GeoName: Assab Bay, Baia d’Assab, see Āseb Bahir Selat’e 12°56’0”N 42°50’0”E.

[179] A 1: 25; Vota 1938: - ; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Benī Amer (Tigr.), Banī Amīr, Banī cAmir (Ar.); GeoName: Beni Amer 15°50’0”N 37°30’0”E.

[180] Longrigg 1965b; Ullendorf 1965b.

[181] A 42: 16.

[182] Vota 1938: M. Sóira; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Soira (Tigr.), Jabal Suwayrah (Ar.); GeoName: Soira 14°45’0”N 39°32’0”E.

[183] A 16: 51.

[184] A 28: 58; A 35: 58.

[185] Vota 1938: Alpi Dàncale; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: *Góry Danakilskie*, - (Tigr.), - (Ar.).

a mountain chain near the Ethiopian border; the specific part of the name refers to Ad-Danāqil tribe[186] (and likewise its derivatives: Ad-Danāqil region and Munḫafaḍ ad-Danāqil depression, see below), but was unrecognized by maps editors and retransliterated from Roman characters.

جزر دهلك Ǧuzur Dahlak (Dahlak Archipelago);[187] ارخبيل دهلك Arḫabīl Dahlak;[188] دحلان Daḥlān;[189] دهلك Dahlak;[190] جزر داهلاك ج. دهلك Ǧ[uzur] Dahlak;[191] Ǧuzur Dāhlāk;[192] 6 variants, 44 citations in 25 atlases (A 48 has 2 versions on different pages;[193]

    a) pattern: **fuᶜul**, root: **ǧ z r** / **afᶜalīl**, root: ***r ḫ b l**; b) pattern: **faᶜlal / fāᶜlāl / faᶜlān**, root: ***d h l k / d ḥ l**.

جزر فاطمة Ǧuzur Fāṭima[t] (Fatma Islands);[194] ج. فاطمة Ǧ[uzur] Fāṭima[t];[195] 4 citations in 3 atlases;

    a) pattern: **fuᶜul**, root: **ǧ z r**; b) pattern: **fāᶜila[t]**, root: **f ṭ m**.

جزيرة دهلك Ǧazīra[t] Dahlak (Great Dahlak Island);[196] 1 version, 2 citations in 1 atlas;

    a) pattern: **faᶜīla[t]**, root: **ǧ z r**; b) pattern: **faᶜlal**, root: ***d h l k**.

جزيرة هرمل Ǧazīra[t] Harmil (Harmil or Hirmil Island);[197] 1 version, 2 citations in 2 atlases;

    a) pattern: **faᶜīla[t]**, root: **ǧ z r**; b) pattern: **faᶜlil**, root: ***h r m l**.

جزيرة هلب Ǧazīra[t] Halib (Halib Island);[198] ج. هلب Ǧ[azīra[t]] Halib;[199] 5 citations in 4 atlases;

    a) pattern: **faᶜīla[t]**, root: **ǧ z r**; b) pattern: **faᶜil**, root: **h l b**.

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[186] Longrigg 1965a.

[187] A 1: 25; A 2: 10, 12, 16, 35; A 6: 15; A 7: 55; A 10: 43, 48; A 12: 29; A 14: 35; A 18: 10, 28; A 22: 12, 16; A 26: 24; A 28: 65, 78, 87; A 30: 11; A 33: 89; A 35: 65, 78, 87; A 38: 33; A 40: 16; A 46: 19.

[188] A 5: 14; A 16: 21; A 48: 59.

[189] A 16: 51.

[190] A 20: 5, 27, 34, 73.

[191] A 24: 61; A 39: 34, 36, 49; A 45: 64; A 48: 34, 49; theoretically, this abbreviated form could also mean Ǧazīra[t] Dahlak and apply to just one, the biggest island of the archipelago (see below, and it can not be *a priori* excluded); however, very small scales of the maps where it is found make it unlikely and would rather indicate that the name refers to a more widely extended geographical feature.

[192] A 46: 70.

[193] Vota 1938: Arcipelago Dahlac, isole Dáhalac; Read Sea 1967: islands on Dahlak bank, 241–257; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Dahlak Desēt (Tigr.), Juzur Dahlak (Ar.); GeoName: Dahlak Islands: see Dahlak Archipelago 15°50'0"N 40°12'0"E.

[194] A 32: 125.

[195] A 32: 126; A 41. (wrongly located in Ethiopia) 23; A 48: 48; Vota 1938: isola di Fatma, 341; *Red Sea* 1967: 135–136, Fatma, an island [and] islets; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Fatmah, Isola: see Fatuma Desēt 13°1'0"N, 42°51'0"E.

[196] A 42: 16, 17; Vota 1938: isola Dáhalac, Dàhalac Chebíra; *Read Sea* 1967: Dahlak Kebir, 243, 249, 271; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Dahlak Kebir (Tigr.), Dahlak al-Kabīr (Ar.).; GeoName: Dahlak Kebīr: see Dehalak' Desēt 15°40'0"N 40°5'0"E.

[197] A 2: 125; A 22 16; Vota 1938: - ; *Read Sea* 1967: Harmil island, 241, 242, 248; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Harmil (Tigr.), Harmil (Arab); GeoName: Armil, Isola, Harmil, Isola, see Harmil 16°31'0"N 40°9'0"E.

[198] A 31: 16; A 32: 125.

[199] A 32: 126; A 41: (wrongly located in Ethiopia) 23; A 48: 48; Vota 1938: isola Halèb; Read Sea 1967: Haleb island, 136; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: Haleb, Isola, see Halba Desēt 12°56'0"N 42°55'0"E.

خور بركة Ḫawr Baraka^t (Baraka River);[200] بركة Baraka^t;[201] ن. بركة N[ahr] Baraka^t;[202] وادي بركة Wādī Baraka^t;[203] 4 variants, 13 citations in 11 atlases;

a) pattern: **faᶜl**, root: **ḫ w r**; b) pattern: **faᶜala**^t, root: **b r k**; c) pattern: **fāᶜil**, root: **w d y**.

خورالقاش Ḫawr al-Qāš (Qash River);[204] القاش Al-Qāš;[205] 10 citations in 8 atlases;

a) pattern: **faᶜl**, root: **ḫ w r** oraz **n [h r]**; b) pattern: **fāl ← faᶜl**, root: **q w š**.

دناقل Danāqil (Danakil, Dankalia);[206] الدناقل Ad-Danāqil;[207] داناكيل Dānākīl;[208] 3 variants, 3 citations in 3 atlases;

patterns: **faᶜālil / faᶜālil / fāᶜālīl**, roots: ***d n q l / *d n k l**;

regionym derived from a tribal name of Ad-Danāqil, analogical to Banī ᶜĀmir (see above).

منخفض الدناقل Mun[ḫafaḍ] Dankāliyā (Dankalia Depression);[209] من دنكاليا Munḫafaḍ ad-Danāqil;[210] 2 variants, 3 citations in 3 atlases;

a) pattern: munfaᶜal, root: **ḫ f ḍ**; b) patterns: **faᶜlāliyā / faᶜālil**, roots: ***d n k l / *d n q l**.

نهر تكازي Nahr Takāzī (Tekeze River);[211] نهر تكاز Nahr Takāz;[212] نهر تكازه Nahr Takāza^h;[213] 3 variants, 12 citations in 8 atlases;

a) pattern: **faᶜl**, root: **n h r**; b) patterns: **faᶜālī, faᶜāl, faᶜala**^h or tafāᶜī ← tafāᶜil , roots: ***t k z** or ***k z y**.

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[200] A 2: 16, 34; A 9: 4; A 11: 48; A 14: 81; A 22: 16; A 23: 13.

[201] A 6:16; A 12: 30, 36; A 41: 50.

[202] A 16: 28.

[203] A 42: 16; Vota 1938: F. Bárca; *Red Sea* 1967: Baraka river, 230; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Baraka (Tig.), Khawr Barakah (Ar.); GeoName: Baraka, see Khawr Barakah 18°13'0"N 37°35'0"E.

[204] A 2: 16; A 5: 31; A 11: 46, 48; A 14: 81; A 23: 4; A 26: 18.

[205] A 9: 4, 12; A 23: 13; Vota 1938: Gasc 239, Mareb 238–9; Wołk and Zagórski 2004:Gash (Tigr.) / Nahr al-Qāsh (Ar.), Mereb Wenz (Tigr.), Marab Wanz (Ar.). GeoName: Nahr al Qāsh, Gash 16°48'0"N 35°51'0"E, Mareb: see Mereb Wenz 15°6'0"N 38°50'0"E.

[206] A 13: 6.

[207] A 20: 73.

[208] A 46: 11; Vota 1938: Dancália; Read Sea 1967: – [Danakil tribe, 445; Banc Dankali, 446]; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: - ; GeoName: - .

[209] A 16: 28.

[210] A 39: 34; A 40: 16; A 48: 34; Vota 1938: Piano del Sale, depressione dancala; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Denkelya (Tigr), Danqalī (Ar.); GeoName: - .

[211] A 1: 25; A 2. 10, 12, 16, 35; A 5: 31; A 11: 46; A 14: 81; A 23: 4, 15; A 26: 18; Vota 1938: Tacazzè; Wołk and Zagórski 2004: Tekkezē (Tigr.), - (Ar.); GeoName: Tekezē Wenz (Eth.) or Nahr Satīt (Sud.) 14°20'0"N 35°50'0"E.

[212] A 48: 49.

[213] A 24: 143;

6. Noun patterns and verbal roots

All noun patterns and verbal roots discerned in the present corpus of Eritrean toponyms are arranged alphabetically and presented below.

6.1. Noun patterns

Following noun patterns in the number of 119 are extracted from the complete corpus of the toponyms cited above:

afāᶜilī	faᶜaltū	fāl	fūᶜlā
afāᶜīlī	faᶜāyilā	fawāᶜī	fuᶜlī
afaᶜlū	faᶜᶜal	fayᶜaylū	fuᶜlul
afᶜālaʰ	faᶜᶜāl	fayᶜūl	fūᶜlūmū
afᶜal	faᶜᶜī	faylūl	fuᶜul
afᶜalā	faᶜᶜil	fiᶜ	fūᶜūlī
afᶜalaʰ	faᶜī	fiᶜāl	fūlā
afᶜalaᵗ	faᶜil	fiᶜal	full
afᶜalá	faᶜīl	fiᶜālīl	fūllā
afᶜalīl	faᶜīlaᵗ	fiᶜᶜīlaᵗ	ifᶜīliyā
afᶜīlā	fāᶜilaᵗ	fiᶜil	ifᶜīliyyaᵗ
afᶜūlāt	faᶜiltū	fiᶜīl	ifīᶜilā
afūᶜilāt	fāᶜiltū	fiᶜilaʰ	ifīᶜiliyā
afuᶜlāt	fāᶜīltū	fiᶜilay	ifīᶜīliyā
ᶜalī	faᶜl	fiᶜīlāy	īfīᶜiliyā
faᶜ	faᶜlā	fiᶜīlay	īfīᶜīliyā
faᶜāl	faᶜlaʰ	fiᶜīlāy	ifīᶜiliyyaʰ
faᶜālā	faᶜlá	fiᶜl	ifīᶜiliyyaᵗ
faᶜālaʰ	fāᶜlāl	fiᶜlā	ifīᶜiliyyaᵗ
faᶜālīl	faᶜlālāt	fiᶜliyā	ifiᶜliyā
faᶜal	faᶜlāliyā	fiᶜū	ifiᶜīliyā
fāᶜalā	fāᶜlāliyā	fiᶜūlā	ifiᶜliyyaʰ
faᶜalāllī	faᶜlālūmā	fīᶜūlā	mafāᶜil
faᶜalaᵗ	faᶜlān	fīliyā	mafᶜal
faᶜālaᵗ	faᶜlal	fuᶜaylā	mufaᶜᶜal
faᶜalī	faᶜlil	fuᶜaylaᵗ	mūfᶜālā
faᶜālī	faᶜlūl	fuᶜaylīlā	munfaᶜal
faᶜālil	faᶜlī	fuᶜaylīlaᵗ	mūnfaᶜᶜaʰ
fāᶜālīl	faᶜulā	fūᶜilī	tafāᶜī
fāᶜāllā	fafaltū	fuᶜl	tafāᶜil

Only a few of the above patterns follow rules of the standard grammars of Arabic. Most of them are artificial constructs, sometimes a one time phenomena (unique use)

that might never reappear again. They testify of high level of creativity and irregularity in the process of adapting *substratum* words to the Arabic noun building system.

This is not new. Observed spontaneous notations illustrate the situations that had also occurred in the past (in the context of old historical sources) and which pose today significant identification problems in historical geography. It opens field to necessary emendation procedures carried out in original texts; by their own nature such emendations may incite additional heated debates.

6.2. Verbal roots

Our corpus of Eritrean toponyms reveals 73 verbal roots, cited below, that are noted in standard Arabic dictionaries. It does not necessarily mean that there is any connection of the original etymology of a *substratum* toponym, rendered into Arabic graphic form, with semantic value of the Arabic root that might quite occasionally appear in transcription; the outer resemblance, however, will be easily apprehended by an Arab speaker. In fact, those roots are not the same as in regular Arabic – they simply are homonymous. And if a reader would like to search in them semantic contents known from Arabic, it will only mean a practice of rendering new phenomena understood, easier to comprehend – a typical procedure of creating new folk etymologies.

' b l	ᶜ r b	h l b	q r d
' b n	ᶜ r b	ẖ l ǧ	q r n
' d d	ᶜ ṣ b	ḥ m r	q w š
' d y	ᶜ s l	ẖ r ṭ	r ġ d
' ġ r	ᶜ s y	ẖ w r	r h ṭ
' ǧ r	ᶜ w y	ẖ w r	r k d
' m m	ᶜ y n	ẖ y n	r s y
b d n	d ḥ l	k l l	ṣ d ḥ
b h l d	d w r.	k r d	s m r
b ḥ r	f ṭ m	k r t	s n d
b l l	ǧ b l	m ḍ q	s n f
b l w	ġ l l	m d r	s w ᶜ
b r k	ǧ n d	m l l	ṣ w ᶜ
b š r	ġ r d	m s w	s w r
b š t	ǧ z r	n d b	w d y
b t l	ẖ f ḍ	n h r	w l d
b w b	h ǧ r	n k f	z l l
b w š	ḥ ǧ r	n q f	z w l
ᶜ m r			

Additionally, there are roots in the corpus which do not appear in Arabic dictionaries and, consequently, they can suggest no meaning at all. There are 39 such theoretical

roots extracted from toponyms. They seem to be fortuitous combinations of characters trying to repeat, in an imperfect way, spelling of local toponyms noted down with Latin characters.

*' d	*d d ᶜ	*k r n	*r t r
*' r t	*d h l k	*k w l	*s b d r
*' s b	*d k m r	*k z y	*š l m
*b r n	*d n k l	*l ġ n	*s t n
*b s k	*d n q l	*m r t	*t k z
*ᶜ d	*f m b	*q l z m	*t s n
*č r d	*ǧ ẖ d	*r ḥ b l	*ṭ s n
*ᶜ r f l	*ġ n d	*r h t	*t y w
*ᶜ w s	*h n k l	*r ḥ t	*t z
*d b s m	*h r m l	*r n d k	

7. Final observations

Presentation of Eritrea in the studied atlases, in terms of its political situation, is rather vague and undecisive. It is hard to say if the country is really considered a part of the Arab World since this attribution changes from one atlas to another – in some it is variable on different pages, while others are silent on that question at all. To compare, one thing may be said for sure: Chad, a country which has roughly 10 times higher proportion of Arabic-speaking population than Eritrea, is never included in the Arabic block of countries on maps in Arabic atlases. In this respect Eritrea seems to be in a slightly different situation.[214]

The question of political inclusion or exclusion is of vital importance for the judgment on the toponymy. It could be presumed that if it is an Arab country, perhaps Arab authors and editors would apply more attention to proper treatment of its toponymy. Such a presumption does not seem confirmed.

The name of the country appears in 16 variant forms and that of the capital city in 4 diverging versions. Variability of such important names as that of a sovereign state where Arabic is in official use, and of its capital city, is astounding. This may have following explanations:

1. Unfamiliarity of the producers of atlases with original (local) sources of toponyms;
2. Treatment of the names as something alien to the orthographic rules of Arabic (which is true) and repeated attempts to create written Arabic forms again and again, just for one's own use (disregarding the idea of uniformity, continuity and standardization).

There are altogether 69 geographical features related to Eritrea, named in studied atlases. 33 of them appear only once in any of the atlases (*hapax legomena*). Further 8

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[214] Zagórski 2014.

appear each in any two atlases (*dis legomena*), but 7 of them have differently orthographed names on different maps (*dis legomena* reduced back to *hapax legomena*). 6 features appear in three atlases each (*tetrakis legomena*). It makes an inventory of 47 features (68% of all recorded names) which appear in the 48 atlases only occasionally; what means that the country is regularly defined and described only by 22 remaining geographical features (32% of all cited ones) which assure any larger stability and comparativeness of cartographic representation. In any case, the geographical picture reflects little cohesion in the selection of features and names and rather low communication effect. A complete inventory of 69 names would be quite descriptive for the country on small scale maps, were it not the glaring inconsistence of toponymic coverage.

As may be observed in the corpus, Eritrean *substratum* names of non-Arabic origin are often adapted through transcription in a highly approximate way. Arabic superficial transcriptions/transliterations were, as a rule, executed basing on different notations in Latin script and thus, most probably, have little in common with the original local pronunciation of the names. Erroneous substitutes of Latin letters were occasionally given in Arabic and, once put on paper, were not checked before further stages of publication. This approach results in multiplying Arabic versions of one and the same name, found in various atlases and sometimes even on different pages of the same publication. Different spellings reflect low level of endurence of Arabic names for Eritrea in inter-Arab circulation.

There are common orthographic mistakes which become apparent when compared with their Latin counterparts, like:

بوشتومو Būštūmū for Dochtumo,

and that happens even in cases of historically well attested and widely known names as:

مساوه Masāwaʰ Masāwā and مساوا Masāwiᶜ, مساوع Masāwā, ماسوا Māsawā, ماساووا Māsāwwā for: مصوّع Muṣawwaᶜ (Massaua).

More than one graphic form of one and the same specific name may be found, like:

بلوا B.l.wā ↔ بيتول B.ytūl ↔ بيلول (خليج) (H̱.līǧ) B.ylūl, for: Beilul/Beylul.

A glimpse at these variants is enough to say that, although different, Arabic graphic forms are still resembling each other superficially. In this case we do not observe individual attempts at transliteration/transcription procedures that create diverging names, but rather purely spelling mistakes, result of inattentive writing.

This reminds again of identification problems of geographical features mentioned in old historical sources, which may only be solved through comparison with other recorded versions and laborious text emendations. The problem is extremely complicated in situations where there is only one mention (*hapax legomenon*) of a name available, in a deformed shape. Correcting such a name linguistically and its proper identification

in geographical space often becomes close to impossible; reasonable linguistic analysis is even less possible.

If after a superficial Arabicization, a name adapts a word structure and a verbal root that are practically functional in current Arabic, the ensuing word may bring about a vague notion which the root and the noun pattern carry with them. The same may happen with unusual word structures when a root is still recognizable. However, many of the transcribed words which compose names, are made of roots without meaning and word structures that are strange to Arabic. Nevertheless, depending on further historical circumstances, such new words may remain for ever, like those cited above: Damanhūr, Tāza^t or Baġdād; or they may vanish.

How can we categorize the names from the atlases? Are they real Arab names of the indicated geographical features? Or borrowings, assimilated loan words? When we deal with loanwords[215] between languages within the same alphabetic group, the situation is more clear, although it is seldom possible to separate the stages of assimilation very neatly.

The usually adopted categories are three. *Casuals* (*Gastwörter*) are unassimilated foreign words or phrases used in a borrowing language which retain their original pronunciation, spelling and meaning. *Foreign words* (*Fremdwörter*) are adapted into the borrowing native system, with a stable spelling and pronunciation. *Loan words proper* (*Lehnwörter*) become undistinguishable from the rest of the borrowing native lexicon and subject to normal rules of word use and word formation. In this context the toponyms in the atlases – adapted through retranscription from intermediary notations in Latin script – may at present be generally considered a sort of between *casuals* and *foreign* words. Permanent use of them in Arabic and ensuing stabilized spelling may eventually grant them the status of loan words proper with all further consequences in everyday use (analogically to the names mentioned above: Damanhūr, Tāza^t, Baġdād etc.). However, it should be reminded that all cited names are derived from Arabic external sources and not from those produced *in situ*, in Eritrea. It is hard to expect that they may become a part of the local linguistic heritage and constitute a vital cultural element in the formation of local national identity and integrity.

Etymology of the toponyms does not play role in it. Apparently, it is easier to adopt a name like Muṣawwa^c or Marsá Fāṭima^t which are of clearly recognizable Arabic origin. A name like Ṣiddīḥa^t Mūnġalla^h, on the way to complete superficial Arabicization, is in fact based on a deformed shape of a toponym with underlying another Arabic meaning: Sidina Monghella or Sidi Amin Ghella (see footnote [131]; in need of further verification *in situ*). We can also put the question another way round: maybe those Arabic-looking forms were themselves products of *popular etymology* (Volksetymologie) which tried to

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[215] Some linguists propose to change the term "loanwords" or "borrowings" for "appropriated words" basing on the logical fact that words allegedly subject to a loan, or lending, or borrowing, in fact are usually taken spontaneously without asking permission from the original source and, in principle, are never returned (adverse situations are exceptionally rare); I refer to, among others, concepts raised by Dr. Philip Matthews of New Zealand during heated discussions at UNGEGN meetings.

explain the local name in reference to its allegedly more prestigious Arabic origin?[216] Identification of a feature creates natural curiosity about the actual meaning of a given name and popular etymology receives strong emotional support in the strive of exploration into the meaning of names.

When names do not have the meaning identical with that of a common word of the same spelling and pronunciation, and explanation remains hidden in undersurface meaning (*deep etymology*) which is not easily understood, then surface meaning will be spontaneously invented when there is a social need for it, and the shape of the name be adjusted to the new meaning. Space around human beings and their polities is undoubtedly one of the strongest factors shaping their feelings of *sameness* and *otherness* and names applied to geographical features of one's own territory (factual or mythical) belong to fundamental elements of culture. Any disagreement between appropriated land and one's own linguistic tradtion cannot last long and will be spontaneously levelled.

As far as the structure of names is concerned, it may be observed that most of the names are one-word creations and only a few are composed, like Marsá Fāṭimaᵗ, Nahr Takāzī or H̱alīǧ Baylūl. Generic terms may be easily separated from the meaningful part of the name. There are composed names like Ṣiddīḥaᵗ Mūnǧallaʰ or Ǧūndā Ǧūẖdā which do not offer a reasonable explanation in the Arabic language. Any possible generic terms and other meaningful words, existing in source names, remain hidden in *understructure* because of the transformation, deformation and putting the names in a new Arabic linguistic context. Their retrieval may only be achieved after a painful reverse procedure, if at all possible.

The question opens what are – or will be – the Eritrean Arabic toponyms. *Substratum*-originated Arabic toponyms that have been functioning in Arabic for centuries (see above) were at the beginning in the position of typical loan words. Their spelling was moulded into the syllabic patterns conformed with Arabic grammar. Permanent usage assured for them full assimilation and absorption into the Arabic language, playing the role of *superstratum* or *superstructure*. The new toponyms from our corpus, whatever is their origin and structural formation, may eventually expect the same acceptance. On the condition, however, that other variant toponyms do not appear and take prevalence over them, being better concurrent with the local linguistic reality.

In this context it would be interesting to know if, and to what possible degree, the bookish, dynamically Arabicized names found in foreign publications, may or may not exert influence on local toponomastic practice. And how much they can contribute to so much required process of standardization of geographical terminology in the country.

In the course of time theoretical patterns and roots of names may vanish, or survive, or change. It depends on the communicative value of the toponyms noted down in the atlases and how many of them can persist or, adversely, fall into oblivion. If they remain, they might create new standards and give new meanings to places named with them.

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[216] Rzetelska-Feleszko 2006.

BOGUSŁAW R. ZAGÓRSKI

The sets of elements, extracted from our small corpus, may be useful for comparative studies on similar collections of toponyms connected with other areas and other times.

In a further perspective, the scope of source material on Arabic toponomastics of Eritrea should be much widened and encompass, first of all, publications in Arabic – educational and political works – produced by Eritreans themselves, either in the country or in diaspora (political *emmigrés* etc.). At least two detailed maps of Eritrea in Arabic[217] were known to exist, but no copy is at present available for consultation. There are also a few Arabic external monograph publications devoted to Eritrea that seem worth of close investigation. Other sources are in need of exploration and results of such works will undoubtedly put the present corpus in a new perspective. Neither we should forget the option of a field research whenever circumstances allow for that. A thin floating veil of the Arabic toponymy in Eritrea leaves all areas of research open.

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[217] ***Irītiriyā = Eritrea = Ērtra***. 1975, was printed in Damascus by Syrian military cartographers and measured 59 x 68 cm; the other one, a big wall map, is only known from an imperfect journalist photograph showing the Eritrean Liberation Forces' office in Khartoum.