Hydronymica Albanica
— A Survey of River Names in Albania —

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1. Introduction

In the history of the Albanian language and people, the Dark Ages, i.e. the first millennium of our era, have proven themselves tenebrous indeed. There is a gaping hole in our knowledge of the language or languages spoken in Albania between the fall of the Roman Empire, and thus the end of Roman writing on ancient Illyria, and the first written texts in Albanian itself in the fifteenth century. The earliest documents in Albanian, with the exception of the abstruse Bellifortis text,\(^1\) offer us a language which is immediately recognizable and intelligible as Albanian. In order to delve into the history of the Albanian language or of its predecessors before this period, we must therefore rely on the tools of diachronic linguistics and on toponymy.

Though diachronic linguistics did not take long to establish the Indo-European character of the Albanian language\(^2\) and to offer a good number of lexical and morphological parallels between modern Albanian and its ancient Indo-European sister languages and language families (Indo-Iranian, Greek, Latin, Baltic, Slavic, Germanic, Celtic, etc), it has, with respect to Albanian, been faced with substantial difficulties and, as a whole, come up with more questions than answers. Compared to a model language like Lithuanian, which was first recorded at about the same time as Albanian, in the sixteenth century, the Albanian language has been something of a nightmare for diachronic linguists and Indo-Europeanists.

In considering the parentage of the Albanian language, there is no need at this juncture to review the arguments and evidence for and against the two main theories, that of a Thracian or Daco-Mysian origin and that of an Illyrian origin, theories which have been under discussion for over two centuries now. This polarization of views is not without its absurd dimensions in view of

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\(^1\) cf. Elsie 1986.

\(^2\) German linguist Franz Bopp (1791-1867) first recognized Albanian as an Indo-European language in 1854. cf. Bopp 1854.
the fact that we know little about the Thracian language and even less about Illyrian. Even to speak of an Illyrian language or of a Thracian language may be misleading. It is eminently possible for instance, that there was a whole variety of languages, related or otherwise, spoken in the region, languages which, for convenience or for want of information, have been lumped together geographically as Illyrian or Thracian. We must come to terms with the fact that we know virtually nothing of the sociolinguistic realities of Albania during the first millenium following the collapse of the Roman Empire. Mediaeval Latin and Byzantine Greek writers provided adequate information about political turmoil, wars and invasions but were not overly concerned about the day-to-day linguistic situation of the rural or highland population in the southern Balkans.

In view of the obvious limitations of comparative linguistics and language reconstruction in the case of Albanian, toponomy, i.e. the study of place names, would seem at first glance to provide us with the only tool with which to pry open the early chapters of language in Albania. Hydronyms play an important role here.

It has often been stressed in linguistics that hydronyms, the names of bodies of water, in particular of rivers and streams, are especially resistant to change, more so than the names of mountains, hills and plains and certainly much more so than names of towns and villages. Of all toponyms, they provide the most reliable evidence of linguistic history. In his review of Seliščev’s *Slavjansko naseleie v Albanii*, the Austrian Albanologist Norbert Jokl (1877-1942) remarked:

"Among the historically and linguistically most important elements of toponomastic studies are river names. As we know, names of rivers and bodies of water tend to maintain themselves with great resistance and survive a change of population."

A quarter of a century later, Albanian linguist Eqrem Çabej (1908-1980) was to stress the same thing:

"A particularly conservative group as a whole are the names of rivers and bodies of water. It has been noted that they even continue and remain alive when a country changes population. The new population usually takes over the names of rivers from the population encountered in that country. It can thus be asserted that names of rivers and other waterways constitute the oldest stratum in a country’s nomenclature. If we take a look at Albanian toponomy from this angle, we get the impression that these criteria have not been dealt with sufficiently by scholars studying this question in connection with the problem of Albanian autochthony."

It would almost seem as if invading tribes always had the presence of mind to inquire about the name of a river before slaughtering the indigenous inhabitants on its banks.

The object of this paper is not to review hydronymic etymologies in detail and to pronounce upon the origins and phonetic development of individual river names where, in the vast majority of cases, no unequivocal origin can be ascertained, but rather to present an overview of Albanian hydronyms with a view to facilitating a more objective consideration of their significance, I stress the word ‘objective’ in a slightly provocative manner here because it occurs to me that objectivity has been sorely lacking in the Balkans. Many scholars in Tiranë have tended to depart *a priori* from a theory of Illyrian continuity and Albanian autochthony and then reflect in how to prove it.

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4 cf. Çabej 1958.
working indeed conscientiously to this end. Other scholars from abroad, in particular from
neighbouring Slavic countries, have endeavoured to interpret the doubtlessly strong stratum of
Slavic vocabulary and influence in Albanian toponyms as a sign of Slavic priority in the region.
Not wishing to exacerbate this latent conflict, I should like to stress that both views have an
unmistakable ring of nationalism to them which is not conducive to scholarship.

The following compendium of the 282 rivers and streams flowing within the present
borders of the Republic of Albania was compiled and analysed from available maps. This list is
ordered according to the Albanian alphabet, i.e. with c, ç, d, dh, e, ë, g, gj, l, ll, n, nj, r, rr, s, sh, t,
th, x, xh, z, zh, all as individual letters of the alphabet. Locations are given by means of the following
abbreviations which reflect the administrative districts (rrethe) of Albania before the government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
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<td>Berat</td>
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<td>Bulqizë</td>
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<td>Devoll</td>
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<td>Dibër</td>
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<td>Kosovo</td>
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<td>Macedonia</td>
<td>Mac.</td>
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5 My thanks in this connection go to Emil Lafe of the Albanian Institute of Linguistics and Literature in Tiranë for his suggestions as to current official designations and spellings of certain hydronyms.
Montenegro

Basic information as to hydrographic relations (i.e. ‘tributary of ...’) is provided to enable the reader to locate the rivers in question. The unreliability and inaccuracy of virtually all maps of Albania available to date may, in a number of cases, give rise to inconsistencies, such that this information should be taken as a guide rather than as an accurate topical specification. Subsequent data as to origin are usually given in the form of ‘related to’ rather than ‘derived from’ for reasons of prudence. The abbreviated bibliographical data in square brackets serve to direct the reader to further treatment of the hydronyms in question.

2. Compendium of Albanian Hydronyms

Arrëz
PU. Tributary of the Fan i Madh, Fan and Mat.
Also village toponym Arrëz. Related to Alb. arrëz ‘walnut grove’ from Alb. arrë ‘walnut,’ i.e. ‘walnut grove river,’ with a suffix in -ez(ë), cf. Zharrëzë.
[cf. Shkurtaj 1987, p. 110, 115]

Baban
KO. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym Baban. Toponym with an -an(ë) formation, cf. Gërman, Kurjan, Luçanë, Mezhgoran, Seman, Tëplan, Tiranë, Velcan.

Babluç
EL. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Aside from the hydronyms Babluç and Baban above, formations in bab- occur in many village toponyms in Albania: Babicë (VL), Babinë (BC), Babjë (LB), Babotë (SH), Babrujë (TR), Babunjë (LU).

Baçkë
SK. Tributary of the Osum.
Also village toponym Baçkë. Related to Alb. bacë, backë ‘clap, bat, slap,’ i.e. ‘river making a slapping noise.’ The root is no doubt of onomatopoetic origin, with a formation in -kë, cf. Skroškë, Strafickë.
[cf. Çabej StGj 8, p. 124, Seliščev 1931, p. 323]

Banje
DI. Tributary of the Drin i Zi and Drin.
Related to Lat. balneum > *baneum ‘bath’ or more likely to Slavic banja ‘bath,’ cf. Bulg., Russ. banja, i.e. ‘river for bathing.’ There are hot springs along the course of this river, whence the name. See also place names Banja and Banishhta near Dibër in Macedonia from the same root. This stream is also known as the Përroi i Peshkopisë or the Dohoshisht.
[cf. Çabej StGj 8, p. 155, Seliščev 1931, p. 227]

Banush
SH. Flowing into Lake Shkodër.
Toponym and family name with formation in ushi(e), cf. Lush, Skrobotushë.

Bardhë (Lumi i Bardhë)
P.U. Tributary of the Arrëz, Fan i Madh, Fan and Mat.
Related to Alb. i bardhë ‘white,’ i.e. ‘white river.’ The hydronyms Belevë (LB) and Belicë (GJ) contain the Slavic root of the same meaning.

Barnash
ER. Tributary of the Lengaricë and Vjosë.
Also village toponym Barmash. Related to Alb. i bardhë ‘white,’ i.e. ‘whitish river.’ The hydronyms Belevë in PU contains the Albanian root of the same meaning.

Bastar (Zalli i Bastarit)
TR. Tributary of the Tërkuzë, Gjole and Ishëm.
The hydronym derives from the village toponym Bastar, recorded as Bastari in 1641 (report by Marco Scura) and as Bastari in 1689 (map of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola).
Hydronym with a formation in -ar, cf. Shtegtar, Lavdar, Murdhar.

Batër (Zalli i Battrës)
MT. Tributary of the Mat flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system). Recorded as Batera in 1689 (map of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola). Also village toponyms Batër e Madhe ‘Greater Batër’ and Batër e Vogël ‘Lesser Batër.’ Toponym with a formation in -ër(r), cf. Dibërr, Gjadër, Kakër, Papër.

Beç
KO. Tributary of the Çemericë, Devoll and Seman.
There is also a Qafa e Beçit ‘Beç Pass’ in KO. This stream is also known as the Mazrekë (q.v).

Belevë
LB. Tributary of the Zall i Qarrishtës (?) and Shkumbin.
Related to the Slavic root for ‘white,’ Russ. belyj, Serbr. bio, bijel, Bulg. bjal, i.e. ‘white river,’ with a suffix in -eva. The hydronym Bardhë in PU contains the Albanian root of the same meaning.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Belicë
GJ. Tributary of the Drino and Vjosë.
This toponym was recorded as Bëltiza in 1835 (W. M. Leake, ‘Travels in Northern Greece’).
Related to the Slavic root for ‘white,’ Russ. belyj, Serbr. bio, bijel, Bulg. bjal, with a Slavic suffix in -ica, i.e. ‘little white river.’ The hydronym Bardhë in PU contains the Albanian root of the same meaning. This river is also known as the Kardhiq River (Lumi i Kardhigë) from the village Kardhigë.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 223, 241]

Benë
SH. Tributary of the Drin.
Also village toponym Benë. Related to earlier Alb. bandë, Tosk. bëndë ‘area, side’ with loss of -d as in Fan < Fond. This toponym occurs elsewhere in Albania: Benë, a mountainous region in MR and PU; Zall i Benës near Elbasan; Benë (Benë), area in the Tiranë mountains, etc. See also Bënçë.
Berishë
PU. Tributary of the Drin.
Also village toponym Berishë and tribal name Berisha, recorded as Berisa in 1691 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli).

Bënçë
TP. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Also village toponym Bënçë. This toponym was recorded as Bentcha in 1805 by François Pouqueville, and as Bentza in 1815 by Henry Holland. It is related, like Benë above, to earlier Alb. bandë, Tosk. bëndë ‘area, side’ with loss of -d as in Fan < Fand. Toponym with suffix in -çë, cf. Paroçë, Vërçë.
[cf. Çabej StGj 8, p. 197-198]

Bilisht
KO. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym Bilisht, formerly Bihlisht. This toponym was recorded as Belhiște in 1670 (Seyahatname of Evliya Çelebi), as Bichliza in 1684 (map of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola), as Biklisa in 1835 (W. M. Leake, 'Travels in Northern Greece'), and as Biglischta, Bihlischta in 1913 (Leo Freundlich). Toponym with a suffix in -ish(të), common in Mac. and Bulg. toponyms and especially prevalent in eastern Albania (DI, LB, KO, ER), cf. Dohoshisht, Gostivisht, Hotolisht, Molisht, Qarrishtë. A bil- formation also occurs in village toponyms Bilalas (DR), and Bilçë (BR).

Bistricë
SR. Flowing into Lake Butrint.
This toponym was recorded as Pistriza in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville) and as Vistrítza in 1835 (W. M. Leake, 'Travels in Northern Greece'). It is related to Slavic bystrica ‘the swift flowing river,’ cf. Russ. bystryj ‘quick, swift,’ with a Slavic suffix in -ica. Also related to hydronym Bushtricë.
[cf. Çabej StGj 3, p. 63, Seliščev 1931, p. 204, 241]

Bishçukas (Kanal i Bishçukasit)
LU. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea 2 km south of the Shkumbin.
Also village toponym Bishçukas. Formerly written Bishtçukas. Related to Alb. bisht ‘tail’ and çukë ‘mountain peak,’ i.e. ‘stream at the end of the peak.’ Toponym with a nominal suffix in -as, cf. Gjyras.

Bogovë
SK. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Slavic toponym with a Slavic suffix in -ova, cf. Čaršovë, Draçovë, Grabovë, Kreshovë, Kushovë, Vidohovë, Zhepovë. A Slavic bog- formation also occurs in village toponyms: Bogë (SH), Bogdan i Sipërm (BR), Bogiq (SH).

Borje
Kos, KU. Tributary of the Lumë, Drin i Bardhë and Drin.
Also village toponym Borje. Related to Slav. borë ‘pine-tree, pinus negra,’ i.e. ‘pine river.’
Boronec
BR, SK. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also known as the Branec. Related to Alb. bren ‘to gnaw,’ branis ‘to drag, grind,’ i. e. river which grinds out its bed. Slavic transmission can be suspected in the vocalization, cf. Russ. boroná ‘harrow.’ Toponym with adj. suffix in -ec, cf. Damjanec, Dunavec, Leskovec.

Bozhmille (Bozhmillja e Madhe, Bozhmillja e Vogël)
KU. Tributary of the Krumë and Drin.
A bozh- formation also occurs in the Slavic village toponym Bozhigrad (KO). There is a village toponym Mllë (PU).

Budullë
TR, KR. Tributary of the Ishëm.
Also village toponym Budull, recorded as Buitula in 1641 (report by Marco Scura). Toponym with a formation in -ull(ë), cf. Xixullë, Pistull, Trubull.

Bulqizë (Zalli i Bulqizës)
DI. Tributary of the Drin i Zi and Drin.
Related either to Alb. bulqi ‘grain’ or to the root in Alb. bulë, bulëzë ‘drop of water.’ A formation in bul- also occurs in village toponyms: Bulaç (DI), Bulçar (GR), Bulçesh (TR), Bulgër (LE), Bulshar (MR), Bulcticë (TR).
[cf. Çabej StGj 8, p. 362-363]

Bunë
SH. Flowing from Lake Shkodër into the Adriatic Sea.
Ancient Barbana (Livy 44, 31, 3; Vibia Sequester 147). It was subsequently recorded as Buyona in 1497 (Arnold von Harff) and as Bajana in 1515 (Breve memoria of Giovanni Musachi). It is said to be related to an Illyrian root *barb- also found for instance in Barbanti, Barbëçore, Barbullush, Barbullojië. There has been much discussion as to the sound changes leading to the present form.

Bushtricë [1]
BC. Tributary of the Valbonë and Drin.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 78, 204, 241]

Bushtricë [2]
LB. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Bytyç (also called Bituç or Bityç)
BC. Tributary of the Skatinë and Drin.
Related to the tribal name Bytyçì.

Carinë
LB. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Related to Slav. carina 'customs post or toll-gate,' i.e. 'toll river.' Toponym with a formation in -in(ë), cf. Gominë, Jagodinë, Radiçinë, Skatinë, Smokthinë, Shkumbin, Tarìn, Vllahinë, Zavalinë.

Carinë
LB. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Related to Slav. carina 'customs post or toll-gate,' i.e. 'toll river.' Toponym with a formation in -in(ë), cf. Gominë, Jagodinë, Radiçinë, Skatinë, Smokthinë, Shkumbin, Tarìn, Vllahinë, Zavalinë.

Cem
SH, Mon. Tributary of the Moraçë (Morača) flowing into Lake Shkodër.
Ancient Cina, Sinna (Tab. Peut), Anc. Gk. Kínn (Ptol. II 16, 7). The sound changes leading to the Alb. form seem to presuppose Slavic influence. The Slavic name of the river is Cijevna, Ćevna, related to Serbcr. čijev 'pipe.'

Čërrik
EL. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Also town name Čërrík, from an earlier form Cernik. Related to Slavic root *tser- 'oak, quercus cerris,' i.e. the 'oak river,' with a formation in -ik(ë), cf. Dërsnik, Leskovik, Plashnik, Zaranikë. The Alb. root for 'oak' qarr occurs in the hydronym Qarrishtë.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 232]

Curraj
BC. Tributary of the Drin.
Also village toponym Curraj i Epërm, Curraj i Poshtëm. Related to Alb. curr 'high cliff.' Toponym with a formation in –aj are particularly frequent in northern Albania, cf. Dodaj, Dushaj, Lekaj, Llugaj, Maricaj, Ndreaq, Nikaj, Smaj, Xhaxhaj.
[cf. Çabej StGj 1, p. 96]

Çajë
Kos, KU. Tributary of the Drin i Zi and Drin.
Also village toponym Ĉajë. Related to Alb. čaj 'to split, cleave,' i.e. 'river which cleaves its course.' Less likely is a relationship to Turkish čay 'creek' which has been proposed as the origin of the Macedonian hydronym Ĉaj, a tributary of the Vardar.
[cf. Duridanov 1975, p. 100]

Çarshovë
ER, PR. Tributary of the Vjosë.

Çatistë
GJ. Tributary of the Suhë, Drino and Vjosë.
Also village toponym Çatistë, recorded in Ottoman Turkish as Çatise in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Deft-i Sancak-i Arnavid).

Çemericë
KO. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym Çemericë. Related to Slavic root *čemerika ‘black hellebore, helleborus nigra,’ with a Slavic suffix in -ica, and to toponym Çemerikë near Opara. This stream was formerly known as the Helizon.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 236]

Çerem
BC. Tributary of the Valbonë and Drin.
Also village toponym Çerem. A formation in ċer-, of no doubt Slavic origin, is also found in village toponyms. cf. Ćericë (SK), Ćermë (LU), Ćermenë (DI), Ćervenakë (PG), Ćerven (FR) and the region of Ćermenikë (LB, EL).

Çërravë
PG, Mac. Flowing into Lake Ohrid.
Also village toponym Çërravë. Related to Slavic root for ‘black,’ cf. Russ. černyj. The earlier form would have been černava with rn > Alb. rr, i.e. ‘black river.’ The hydronyms Zezë in KR and Zi in PU contain the Albanian root of the same meaning.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Çorovodë
SK. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Çubun
SH. Tributary of the Kir and Bunë.
Toponym with a formation in -un, cf. Okshtun, Rrapun. This stream is also known as the Sheh (q.v).

Damjanec
KO. Tributary of the Dunavec flowing onto the Plain of Maliq which drains into the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym Damjanec. Related to personal name Damjan with adj. suffix in -ec, cf. Boronec, Dunavec, Leskovec.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 268]

Darç
DR. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea near Kavajë south of Durrës.
See also hydronyms Dars and Dërsnik.

Dars
MT. Tributary of the Mat flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Also village toponym Dars. From an earlier Dardhas. The inhabitants of the region are still known as Dardhast, related to Alb. dardhë ‘pear,’ i.e. ‘pear river.’ See also hydronyms Darç and Dërsnik. [cf. Lafe 1988]

Dell
LU. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea 2 km north of the Seman.
Related to Alb. dell ‘sinew, vein’ as in dell uji ‘watercourse.’ Also related here no doubt is Devoll.

Deshat
DI. Tributary of the Drin i Zi and Drin.
Also village toponym Deshat. Toponym with formation in -at, cf. Dukat, Dhoksat, Lishat, Trubat.

Devoll
KO, GR, EL, BR. Tributary of the Seman.
Ancient Dibolía (Ptol. III, 12, 23), mediaeval Dievali, Byz. Gk. Deávolis, Diávolos. There was an Illyrian settlement along the river which was itself known as Eordaikós in ancient times. The root is pre-Slavic and has nothing to do with Med. Lat. flumen Diaboli (the devil’s river) which is a folk etymology. cf. Dell.

Dërsnik
KO. Tributary of the Dunavec flowing onto the Plain of Maliq which drains into the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym Dërsnik. See also hydronyms Darç, Dars. This toponym evinces an adj. suffix in -ik(ë). cf. Čërrik, Leskovik, Plashnik, Zaranikë.

Dëshnicë
PR. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Also name of region Dëshnicë, recorded as Desnitza in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville). It is etymologically related to Slavic desnica ‘right hand, right side’ with Alb. -sh- for Slavic -s-, with a Slavic suffix in -ica.

Dibër
LE, MR. Tributary of the Fan i Madh, Fan and Mat.
Also name of tribal region Dibërr, Dibríri, recorded as Dibërri in 1641 (report by Frang Bardhi) and as Dibërr in 1671 (report by Stefano Gapari). Related to the Slavic root *d’br’ ‘valley,’ as is the toponym Dibër, Dibra (Slavic Debar). Toponym with a formation in -ër(r), cf. Batër, Gjadër, Kakër, Papër.

Dodaj (Zalli i Dodajt)
MR, MT. Flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Family name and toponym, first recorded as Dodagni in 1688 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli), and with a formation in -aj, particularly frequent in northern Albania, cf. Curraj, Dushaj, Lekaj, Llugaj, Maricaj, Ndreaj, Nikaj, Smaj, Xhaxhaj.
Dohoshisht
DI. Tributary of the Drin i Zi.
Toponym with two suffixes: -osh and -ish(të). The former suffix can also be seen in Rroksh from earlier Rrogosh, and in Vermosh. The latter suffix is common in Mac. and Bulg. and especially prevalent in eastern Albania (DI, LB, KO, ER), cf. Bilisht, Gostivisht, Hotolisht, Molisht, Qarrishtë. This stream is also known as the Përroi i Banjës or the Përroi i Peshkopisë.

Draçovë
PR. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Also village toponym Draçovë, recorded as Dratchova in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville) and as Δρατζόβα in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 371). Slavic toponym with Slavic –ova suffix, cf. Bogovë, Çarshovë, Grabovë, Kreshovë, Kushovë, Vidohovë, Zhepovë. A draç- formation also occurs in the village toponym Draç (DR), which is also the Slavic term for Durrës.

Drin

Drino
Greece, GJ, TP. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Recorded as Dhryno, Dryno, Druno in 1835 (W. M. Leake, ‘Travels in Northern Greece’). Pre-Slavic toponym from the same root as the Drin above.
[cf. Mayer 1957, p. 129]

Drojë
KR. Tributary of the Ishëm.

Dukat
VL. Flowing into the Bay of Dukat 12 km south of Vlorë.
Also village toponym Dukat, recorded as Dukat in 1431 (Hicrë 835 tarihli Sûret-i Deft-i Sancak-i Arnavid), as Duqat, Dokat in 1670 (Seyahatname of Evliya Çelebi) and as Ducates in 1805 (François Pouqueville). Toponym with the root *duk- of perhaps late Greek origin and a formation in -at, cf. Deshat, Dhoksat, Lishat, Trubat.

Dunavec
KO. Flowing onto the Plain of Maliq which drains into the Devoll and Seman. Slavic toponym with adj. suffix in -ec, cf. Boronec, Damjanec, Leskovec. Related no doubt is Dunava, the Slavic term for the Danube.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 242]

Dush
PU, SH. Tributary of the Gomsiqe and Drin.
Also village toponym *Dush*, recorded as *Dusci* in 1688 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli). A *dush*-formation also occurs in hydronym *Dushaj* below and in village toponyms: *Dushar* (KO), *Dushnik* (BR), *Dushneț* (PU).

**Dushaj**
DI. Tributary of the Zall i Bulqizës, Drin i Zi and Drin.
Also village toponym *Dushaj*. Toponym *Dush* as above, with a formation in -aj, particularly frequent in northern Albania, cf. *Curraj, Dodaj, Lekaj, Llugaj, Maricaj, Ndreaj, Nikaj, Smaj, Xhaxhaj*.
[cf. Stadtmüller 1966, p. 158]

**Dvoran**
KO. Tributary of the Dunavec flowing onto the Plain of Maliq which drains into the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym *Dvoran*. Slavic toponym related to *dvorjan*, a class of land owners. Toponym with an -an(ë) formation, cf. *Baban, Gërman, Kurjan, Luçanë, Mezgoran, Seman, Tëplan, Tiranj, Velçan*.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 251]

**Dhoksat**
GJ. Tributary of the Nimicë, Drino and Vjosë.
Also village toponym *Dhoksat*, recorded as *Doksade* in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid), as *Gionaksat* in 1805 (François Pouqueville), and as *Δοξάταις* 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 362). Toponym with a formation in -at, cf. *Deshat, Dukat, Lishat, Trubat*.

**Erzen**
TR, DR. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea 12 km north of Durrës.
Ancient *Ardaxanus*. Pre-Slavic toponym. It was recorded as *Ersenta* in 1308 (Anonymi Descriptio Europae Orientalis), as *Arsenta* and as *Arzenta* in 1591 (report by Lorenzo Bernardo). This river seems also to have been called *Hebros* (Strab. VIII 7, 4) in ancient times. Toponym with a formation in -en(ë), cf. *Shërmen, Tërshenë*.
[cf. Mayer 1957, p. 155, Çabej StGj 3, p. 63]

**Fan (Fand)**
MR. Tributary of the Mat.
This river was recorded as *Fanti* in 1515 (Breve memoria of Giovanni Musachi) and as *Fandi* in 1610 (report by Marino Bizzi).
[cf. Armao 1933, p. 157]

**Fan i Madh (Fand i Madh)**
PU, MR. Tributary of the Fan and Mat. The ‘Greater Fan.’

**Fan i Vogël (Fand i Vogël)**
KU, MR. Tributary of the Fan and Mat. The ‘Lesser Fan.’

**Farkë**
TR. Tributary of the Erzen.
Also village toponym Farkë, recorded as Farke in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Deft-i Sancak-i Arnavid) and as Fuorcha in 1515 (Breve memoria of Giovanni Musachi). Related to Alb. fërkaj ‘to rub, rub away,’ i.e. the ‘eroding river,’ or alternatively to Alb. farkë ‘smith,’ i.e. the ‘smith’s river,’ or farkë ‘fork, pitchfork, forked stick.’

Flym (Zalli i Flymit)
MT. Tributary of the Urakë flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).

Gash
BC. Tributary of the Valbonë and Drin.
Also tribal name and settlement, recorded as Gasi in 1634 (report by Bonaventura di Palazzolo) and as Gassi in 1650 (report by Fra Giacinto). Toponym with a formation in -ash, cf. Barmash, Kalimash.

Gërman (Zalli i Gërmanit)
MT. Flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Also village toponym Gërman, recorded as Ghermani in 1641 (report by Marco Scura) and as Grimani in 1689 (map of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola). Related to Alb. gërm ‘dig’ and gërmit ‘gnaw at’ in the sense of a river which carves out its bed. In Macedonia there is, however, a Germanska reka, tributary of the Kozji Dol, which is said to be derived from a Thracian *Germanas from Indo-Eur. *guhermo- ‘warm.’ See also related hydronym Gërmenj below. Toponym with an -an(ë) formation, cf. Baban, Dvoran, Kurjan, Luçanë, Mezhgoran, Seman, Tëплан, Tiranë, Velçan. [cf. Duridanov 1975, p. 127]

Gërmenj
ER. Tributary of Lengaricë and Vjosë.
Also village toponym Gërmenj. Related to Alb. gërm ‘dig’ and gërmit ‘gnaw at’ in the sense of a river which carves out its bed. There is also a village toponym Gërmenj in SK. See also related hydronym Gërman above. [cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Glinë
SH. Tributary of the Gjadër.
It was recorded as Gallina in 1610 (report by Marino Bizzi), as Galina in 1621 (report by Giezzi Bianco), and as Galina in 1641 (report by Frang Bardhi). Slavic toponym. There are also village toponyms Glinë in Dropull (GJ) and near Leskovik (ER). [cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Gominë
PU. Tributary of the Drin.

Gomsiqe
PU, SH. Tributary of the Drin.
It was recorded as *Santa Crux ad flumen Glomisichia* in 1638, as *Gomesigeia* in 1641 (report by Frang Bardhi), and as *Glomesichia* in 1672 (report by Giorgio Vladagni). Slavic toponym from *glom-,* cf. Russ. *glubina* ‘depth,’ with a suffix in -iq(e), cf. *Kardhiq, Sërriq.* Jokl attributes this toponym to Alb. *gumë* ‘cliff,’ but this seems unlikely in view of the older Albanian forms.


Gonë
EL. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
This hydronym is also known as the *Gonej* or the *Përroî i Vrapit.* A gon- formation also occurs in the village toponym *Gonë* near Drenovë (FR), and *Qafa e Gonës* ‘Gonë Pass’ near Peqin.

Goska e Madhe
KU. Tributary of the Goskë and Drin.
Related to Alb. *guaskë* ‘nutshell, shell of animal,’ i.e. ‘big shell river.’ Of the same root with a Slavic -ova suffix is the village toponym *Goskovë* in KO.

Goska e Vogël
KU. Tributary of the Goskë and Drin.
Related to Alb. *guaskë* ‘nutshell, shell of animal,’ i.e. ‘little shell river.’

Goskë
KU. Tributary of the Drin.
It was recorded as *Gosca fiume* in 1688 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli). Related to Alb. *guaskë* ‘nutshell, shell of animal,’ i.e. ‘shell river.’
[cf. Armao 1933, p. 158]

Gostimë (Zalli i Gostimës)
LB, LB/EL. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 257]

Gostivisht
ER. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym *Gostivisht.* Related to Slavic *gost-* ‘guest.’ cf. also hydronym *Gostimë* above. Toponym with a suffix in -isht(ë), common in Mac. and Bulg. toponyms and especially prevalent in eastern Albania (DI, LB, KO, ER), cf. *Bilisht, Dohoshisht, Hotolisht, Molisht, Qarrishtë.* There is also a village toponym *Gostivisht* in PR.

Grabovë
PG, GR. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym *Grabovë,* recorded as *Krabove* in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid) and as *Γραμπόβα* (Πέρα) 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 371). Related to Slavic *grab-* ‘hornbeam, carpinus betulus,’ i.e. ‘hornbeam river’ with a Slavic suffix in -ova, cf. *Bogovë, Çarshovë, Draçovë, Kreshovë, Kushovë, Vidohovë, Zhepovë.* The river *Shkozë* in PU contains the
Alb. root of the same meaning. A grab-o- formation also occurs in the village toponyms: Grabom (SH), Grabovë (PR), Grabovicë (PG), Grabockë (KO).
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 232]

Gramë
DI. Tributary of the Drin i Zi and Drin.
Also mountain name Mali i Gramës. Related no doubt to Alb. gram ‘couch grass, agropyron,’ i.e. ‘river where couch grass grows.’ Toponym with formation in -amë, cf. Stamë.
[cf. Shkurtaj 1987, p. 111]

Gričkë
KO. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Related perhaps to Alb. verb grij ‘to grind, cut up,’ i.e. ‘grinding river.’ Toponym with a -čkë formation. cf. Mesìkë. This stream is also known as the Përroi i Hoçishtit (q.v).
[cf. Çabej StGj 1, p. 216]

Gropë
SH. Tributary of the Cem and Moraçë flowing into Lake Shkodër. Related to Alb. gropë ‘ditch,’ i.e. a ‘stream which carves out a ditch.’

Gurra e Gashtë
SH. Tributary of the Kir and Bunë.
Related to Alb. gurërë ‘spring, source,’ i.e. ‘spring river.’ Toponym with a -rrë formation, cf. Korrë, Murrë, Zerrë.

Gurrë
SK. Tributary of the Tomoricë.
Related to Alb. gurrë ‘spring, source,’ i.e. ‘spring river.’ Toponym with a -rrë formation, cf. Korrë, Murrë, Zerrë.

Gjadër
PU, LE, SH. Tributary of the Drin.
Toponym of Alb. origin, with an initial gj- from glt-. It was recorded as Gladro in 1348, as Glaðri, fiume del Jadro in 1452 (K. Jireček, Skutari und sein Gebiet im Mittelalter=1916, p. 122), as Giadri in 1610 (report by Marino Bizzi), as Ghiadri in 1621 (report by Giezzi Biancho), as Ghiadri in 1641 (report by Frang Bardhi), and as Giadri fiume in 1688 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli).
Toponym with a formation in -ër(r), cf. Batër, Dibërr, Kakër, Papër.

Gjanicë
BR, FR. Tributary of the Seman.
Related to Slav. Glavnica, from glav ‘head.’ This hydronym is recorded in Byzantine documents as Glavenitza, and subsequently as Glenitza in 1805 (François Pouqueville) and Glaniza in 1916 (Leo Freundlich). It also includes a Slavic suffix in -ica.

Gjazuj (Përroi i Gjazujve)
LE. Tributary of the Dibërr, Fan i Madh and Mat.
Also village toponym Gjazuj. Related to Alb. gjazë ‘grove in a meadow.’ A gjaz- formation also occurs in the village toponym Gjazë near Savër (LU).

Gjerbës
FR, BR. Tributary of the Gjanicë and Seman.
It was recorded as Gerbesi in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Deftær-i Sancak-i Arnavid) and as Γερμῆσι 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 384), and is related to Alb. gjerbë ‘drip, drop of water,’ i.e. ‘dripping stream.’ Toponym with a nominal suffix in -ës, cf. Krahes, Kudhës.

Gjole
TR, KR. Tributary of the Ishêm.
Related to Alb. gjol ‘lake, pond,’ from Tk. göl avanaugh =

Gjyras
KO. Tributary of the Qytezë, Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym Gjyras. Toponym with a nominal suffix in -as, cf. Bishçukas.
[cf. Shkurta 1987, p. 115]

Helizon
cf. Çemericë

Hoçisht (Përro i Hoçishtit)
cf. Griçkë

Holtë (Përro i Holtës)
GR. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Related with metathesis to hydronym Hotolisht.

Hotolisht
LB. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Also village toponym Hotolisht. Related with metathesis to hydronym Holtë. The same root is present in the village of Hotovë (PR). Toponym with a suffix in -isht(e), common in Mac. and Bulg. toponyms and especially prevalent in eastern Albania (DI, LB, KO, ER), cf. Bilisht, Dohoshisht, Gostivisht, Molisht, Qarrishtë.

Hurdháx
KR. Tributary of the Mat.
Related to Alb. hurdhë ‘pond,’ i.e. ‘pond river.’

Iballe
PU. Tributary of the Drin.
Also name of region Iballe, recorded as Ikbale in 1571 (Pulaha 1988, p. 290), as Idbal in 1621 (letter of Pjetër Budi), as Ibbaleia in 1629 (report by Giezzi Biancho), as Ibalà, Jabala in 1634 (report by Pietro Maserecco), as Ibbaleia, Ibbali in 1641 (report by Frang Bardhi), as Ibalì in 1688 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli), and as Ibalea in 1689 (map of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola).
It may be a toponym of Alb. origin, or may be influenced by Ottoman Turkish *ikbal* ‘good fortune, prosperity.’
[cf. Çabej 1974, p. 89]

Ishêm
TR, KR, DR, KR. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea.
Ancient *Isammus* (Vibius Sequester 149). Recorded in 1302 as *Yssamo* and in 1622 as *Isemi*.
[cf. Mayer 1957, p. 174, Çabej StGj 1, p. 245]

Jagodinë
EL. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Also village toponym *Jagodinë*. Related to Slavic root *jagoda* ‘berry,’ i. e. ‘berry river.’ Toponym with a formation in -in(ë), cf. *Carinë, Gominë, Radiçinë, Skatinë, Smokthinë, Shkumbin, Tarin, Vllahinë, Zavalinë*. There is also a village toponym *Jagodinë* in FR.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Kaçivel (Zalli i Kaçivelit)
EL. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym *Kaçivel*. Toponym with a formation in -el, cf. *Kozel, Sarasel*.

Kakër
PU, SH. Tributary of the Gjadër and Drin.
Related to Alb. reptile names, *kakërdhiqe* ‘salamander,’ *kakërdhoc* ‘frog.’ The root can also be seen in *Kakariq*, a marsh south of Shkodër. Toponym with a formation in -ër(r), cf. *Batër, Dibërr, Gjadër, Papër*.

Kalasë
SR. Tributary of the Bistricë flowing into Lake Butrint.
Also a village toponym, recorded as *Galata* in 1670 (Seyhatname of Evliya Çelebi), as *Kaliásá* 1835 in (W. M. Leake, 'Travels in Northern Greece'), and as *Kaliássá* in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 361).

Kalimash
KU. Tributary of the Drin.
Also a village toponym, recorded as *Colemaarsci* in 1638 (report by Francesco Bianchi), as *Calimossi* in 1671 (report by Stefano Gapari), and as *Callimasci* in 1694 (report by Nicolò Vladagni). Toponym with a formation in -ash, cf. *Barmash, Gash*.

Kamenicë
KO. Tributary of the Dunavec flowing onto the Plain of Maliq which drains into the Devoll and Seman.
Related to Slavic *kamen* ‘stone, rock,’ with a Slavic suffix in -ica, i.e. ‘stony river.’ From the same Slavic root are hydronym *Kamnicë* (q.v), village toponyms *Kamenicë* (LU), *Kamenicë* (SR), mountain name *Kamenik* (ER).

Kamnicë
VL. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Related to Slavic *kamen* ‘stone, rock,’ with a Slavic suffix in *-ica*, i.e. ‘stony river.’ cf. also *Kamenicë*.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Kardhiq
Gl. Tributary of the Drino and Vjosë.
Also village toponym *Kardhiq*, recorded as *Gardik in 1431* (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid), as *Qardik in 1670* (Seyahatname of Evliya Çelebi), as *Gardiki in 1815* (Henry Holland), as *Kardiki in 1821* (map of François Pouqueville), as *Kardhîki, Gardhîki in 1835* (W. M. Leake, *Travels in Northern Greece*), as *Gardîki in 1848* (Edward Lear), and as *Gardiki in 1856* (P. Aravantinos I, p. 359).. Related to Alb. *gardhiq* ‘fence around a tree’ and *gardh* ‘fence, enclosure,’ or to Alb. *karthë* ‘laburnum.’ Toponym with a suffix in *-iq(e), cf. Gomsiqe, Sërriqe. A kardh-i- formation also occurs in village toponym *Kardhikaq* (SR). This stream is also known as the *Belicë*.
[cf. Shkurtaj 1987, p. 111]

Karicë
MT. Flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Also village toponym *Karicë*. Hydronym with a Slavic suffix in *-ica*.

Karkanjoz
BR. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym *Karkanjoz*, recorded as *Karkanos in 1431* (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid), and as *Kapkavóçi in 1854* (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 380).

Karmalijë
VL. Tributary of the Shushicë and Vjosë.

Kaur
VL. Tributary of the Shushicë.
Related perhaps to Alb. *kaur* ‘ghiaour, non-Moslem in Ottoman Empire’ from Turkish *gâvur*, i.e. ‘river of the ghiaours.’

Kavajë [1]
DR. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea near city of Kavajë.
Also village/town toponym, recorded as *Kavalye in 1431* (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-ı Arnavid), as *Borgo Cavaglia in the 16th cent, as Qavaya in 1670* (Seyahatname of Evliya Çelebi), as *Cavailha in 1805* (François Pouqueville), and as *Kaváya in 1835* (W. M. Leake, *Travels in Northern Greece*). Perhaps related to Alb. *kavall* ‘flute,’ i.e. ‘flute-shaped river,’ Or to Ital. cavallo ‘horse.’ This stream is also known as the *Përroi i Leshniqës*.

Kavajë [2]
MT. Flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Perhaps related to Alb. *kavall* ‘flute,’ i.e. ‘flute-shaped river.’

Kir
SH. Tributary of the Bunë.
Also village toponym Kir. Ancient name Clausula (Livy 44, 31), Cleusis (Tab. Peut). It was later known as Clyre in 1596 (Jaques De Lavardin, Historie of George Castriot), as Chiri in 1671 (report of Stefano Gaspari), as Chiri in 1689 (map of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola), and as Kiri, Chiri in 1688, 1691 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli).

Konopishtë
ER. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Related to Alb. konopishtë ‘chaste tree, vitex agnus castus,’ i.e. ‘chaste tree river.’

Konjak
TP, FR. Tributary of the Povël and Vjosë.
This stream is also known as the Konak or Xhi (q.v).

Koria e Madhe
FR. ‘Tributary of the Vjosë.
Related to Alb. korije ‘grove of bushes,’ i.e. ‘grove river.’ Related is the mountain name Korja e Mërturit in BC.

Korrë (Zalli i Korrës)
EL, TR. Tributary of the (Murdhar and) Erzen.
Also village toponym Korrë, recorded as Kora in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Deft-i Sancak-i Arnavid), and as Corra in 1641 (report by Marco Scura). Related perhaps to Alb. korr ‘to scythe, harvest,’ i.e. ‘harvest river.’ Toponym with a -rrë formation, cf. Gurrë, Murrë, Zerrë.

Kostenjë (Zalli i Kostenjës)
LB. Tributary of the Zall i Prevallit and Shkumbin.
Also village toponym Kostenjë. Related to Slavic root *kostjan ‘chestnut oak, fagus castenea,’ i.e. ‘chestnut oak river.’
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Kozel
ER. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 239]

Krahës
TP. Tributary of the Vjosë.
This ‘stream of the plain of Krahës’ (Përroi i Fushës së Krahësit) is named after the village of Krahës, recorded as Gin-Krahzë in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Deft-i Sancak-i Arnavid), and as Kpâgâm, βραχιοφωστούτς in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 368). Related perhaps to Alb. krah ‘side, wing, arm.’ Toponym with nominal suffix in -ës, cf. Gjerbës, Kudhës.

Kreshovë
PR, SK. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.

Krumë
KU. Tributary of the Drin.
Also name of region. Mediaeval Krupa. Pre-Slavic toponym with a formation in -um(ë), cf. Lum, Lumë, Lum-th, Osum. [cf. Çabej 1974, p. 89]

Kryegur
EL. Tributary of the Holtë, Devoll and Seman.
Alb. ‘head stone’ or ‘main stone.’ Also known as the Përroi i Pashtreshit.

Kserje
GJ. Tributary of the Drino and Vjosë.
Related to Greek kserös ‘dry,’ i. e. ‘dry river.’

Kuç [1]
SK. Tributary of the Tomoricë.
Also village toponym Kuç. Pre-Slavic toponym. Related perhaps to Alb. kuç ‘earthen-ware vessel.’ Kuç also occurs as a village toponym in VL (cf. Kuç [2]), TR, BR, SH, and as a tribal and regional name in SH. [cf. Çabej 1974, p. 89]

Kuç [2]
VL. Tributary of the Shushicë and Vjosë.
Also village toponym Kuç. Pre-Slavic toponym. Related perhaps to Alb. kuç ‘earthen-ware vessel.’ Kuç also occurs as a village toponym in SK (cf. Kuç [1]), TR, BR, SH, and as a tribal and regional name in SH. [cf. Çabej 1974, p. 89]

Kudhës
VL. Flowing into the Ionian Sea 25 km north of Sarandë.
Also village toponym Kudhës, recorded as Kudes in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Deft-i Sancak-i Arnavid), as Coudessi in 1805 (François Pouqueville), as Kûdhesi, Kutzi in 1835 (W. M. Leake, ‘Travels in Northern Greece’), and as Kûdhesi 1848 (Edward Lear). Related to Alb. kudh ‘pot, jug,’ i.e. the ‘potter’s river, pot-shaped river.’ Toponym with nominal suffix in -ës, cf. Gjerbës, Krahës.

Kunorë
PU. Tributary of the Drin.
Also mountain name in northern Albania. Related to Alb. kurorë, Geg. kunorë ‘garland’ from Lat. corona ‘garland, crown.’ [cf. Çabej 1974, p. 96]

Kurjan
BR, FR. Flowing into Kurjan reservoir 14 km east of Fier.
Also village toponym Kurjan, recorded as Kuryani in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid), and as Koýyan in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 382). Toponym with an -an(e) formation, cf. Baban, Dvoran, German, Luçanë, Mezhgoran, Seman, Têplan, Tiranë, Velçan.

Kushë
EL. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Also village toponym Kushë, recorded as Kus in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid) and as Cuesi in 1641 (report by Marco Scura). Same root as in hydronym Kushovë below.

Kushovë
GR. Tributary of the Tomoricë, Devoll and Seman.

Lanë
TR. Flowing through Tirane into the Erzen.
Recorded as Lana in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid). Related possibly to Alb. laj, Geg. lânj ‘to wash,’ i. e. a river where the washing is done.’

Lapardhicë
BR. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym Lapardhá, recorded as Laparde in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid), as Lapirda in 1670 (Seyahatname of Evliya Çelebi), and as (το) Λιαπαρδ in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 380). Related perhaps to Alb. lapërdha ‘foul-mouthed, obscene,’ with a Slavic suffix -ica.

Lavdar
SK, BR. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym Lávdar. Hydronym with a formation in -ar, cf. Bastar, Murdhar, Shtegtar. In FR there is a village toponym Lavdan.

Lekaj
LU. Tributary of the Dell.
Also village toponym Lekaj. Toponyms with a formation in -aj are particularly frequent in northern Albania, cf. Curraj, Dodaj, Dushaj, Llugaj, Maricaj, Ndreaj, Nikaj, Smaj, Xhaxhaj. A lek-formation also occurs in village toponyms: Lekaj (SH), Lekurtaj (BC). Lek, Lekë, as a personal name, is the short form of Alexander.

Lengaricë
ER, PR. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Recorded as Levkaritza in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville). Related to Slavic lug- ‘meadow, swamp,’ with a Slavic suffix in -ica.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Leskovec
PR. Tributary of Deshnicë and Vjosë.
Also village toponym Leskové, recorded as Λεσκοβέτζι in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 376). Related to Slavic root *ljeska- ‘hazel, corylus avellana,’ i.e. ‘hazel river.’ Toponym with adj. suffix in -ec, cf. Boronec, Damjanec, Dunavec.

[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241, 233]

Leskovik
ER. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Also town name Leskovik, recorded as Lexovico in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville), and as Turk. Leskovik in 1849 (Salname 1266 AH). Related to Slavic root *ljeska- ‘hazel, corylus avellana,’ i.e. ‘hazel river,’ with a formation in -ik(ë), cf. Cërrik, Dërsnik, Plashnik, Zaranikë.

[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241, 233]

Lesniqe
SH. Tributary of the Drin.
No doubt related to the same root as the common hydronym Leshnicë, i.e. the Slavic root *ljeska- ‘hazel, corylus avellana,’ with a Slavic suffix in -ica, i.e. ‘hazel river.’


Leshnicë
GR. Tributary of the Tomoricë, Devoll and Seman.
Related to Slavic root *ljeska- ‘hazel, corylus avellana,’ with a Slavic suffix in -ica, i.e. ‘hazel river.’ Of the same formation and root are the hydronyms Leshnicë, two tributaries of the Drin in KU, and Leshnicë, a tributary of the Pavllë in SR.

[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241, 233]

Leshniqë (Përroi i Leshniqës)
cf. Kavajë [1]

Leshnjë
KO, ER. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym Leshnjë. Related to Slavic root *ljeska- ‘hazel, corylus avellana,’ i.e. ‘hazel river.’

[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241, 233]

Lezë
MR. Flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Toponym with a formation in -ezë, cf. Mëlezë, Qytezë, Shtrezë.

Limuth
TR. Tributary of the Gjole and Ishêm.
Related to Alb. lum or lym ‘mud from the river or a flood.’ Toponym with a -th diminutive formation. There is also a Limth mountain (KU)

[cf. Çabej 1974, p. 97]

Linos
TR, TR/MT, MT. Tributary of the Mat flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
A *lin-* formation also occurs in village toponyms: *Linëz*, or *Linzë* (TR), *Linas* (EL), *Lin* (PG), and *Linec* (PG).

Lishat
TR/DR, DR. Tributary of the Kavajë.
Toponym with formation in -at, cf. Deshat, Dukat, Dhoksat, Trubat. This stream is also known as die Përroi i Leshniqës. A *lish-* formation also occurs in the village toponym Lishan i Epërm, Lishan i Poshtëm (DI).

Lomnicë
PR. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Old Slavic toponym *Lom’nica* from lomъ 'crevice' with a Slavic suffix in -(’n)ica.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Luçanë (Zalli i Luçanës)
MT. Tributary of the Mat flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Toponym with an -an(ë) formation, cf. Baban, Gërman, Kurjan, Mezhgoran, Seman, Tëplan, Tiranë, Velçan.

Luftinjë
TP. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Also village toponym Luftinjë. Related perhaps to Alb. luftë 'fighting, battle, war,' although there are also the village toponyms Luf (PU) and Lufaj (MR). Toponym with a formation in -injë.

Lum
SH. Tributary of the Drin.
Related to Alb. lyej 'to lubricate' and lumë 'river,' i. e. a river which lubricates or moistens.
Toponym with a formation in -um(ë), cf. Krumë, Lumë, Lum-th, Osum.

Lumë
KU. Tributary of the Drin i Bardhë and Drin.
Also toponym of region Lumë. Related to Alb. lyej 'to lubricate' and lumë 'river,' i. e. a river which lubricates or moistens. Toponym with a formation in -um(ë), cf. Krumë, Lum, Lum-th, Osum.
[cf. Çabej 1974, p. 89]

Lumth
MR. Tributary of the Smaj, Fan i Vogël, Fan and Mat.
Related to Alb. lyej 'to lubricate' and lumë 'river,' i. e. a river which lubricates or moistens. Toponym with a formation in -um(ë), cf. Krumë, Lum, Lumë, Osum, plus a -th diminutive formation, i. e. 'little river.' There is also a village toponym Lumph (LU).

Lusë
MT. Four tributaries of the Mat flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
A *lus-* formation also occurs in the village toponym Lusëna (KU).

Lush
KU, DI. Tributary of the Ĉajë, Drin i Zi and Drin.
There is also a village Lush (BC). Toonym with formation in -ush(ë), cf. Banush, Skrobotushë.

Llugaj
BC. Tributary of the Bistricë, Valbonë and Drin.
Also village toonym Llugaj. Related to lug ‘channel, groove, hollow.’ Toonyms with a formation in -aj are particularly frequent in northern Albania, cf. Curraj, Dodaj, Dushaj, Lekaj, Maricaj, Ndreaj, Nikaj, Smaj, Xhaxhaj.

Macilë
GR. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Toonym with a formation in -ilë.

Madh (Përroi i Madh)
TP. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Related to Alb. i madh ‘big,’ i.e. ‘big stream.’

Maricaj
TP. Tributary of the Luftinjë and Vjosë.
Also village toonym Maricaj, recorded as Marçeni in 1431 (Hicri 835 tarihi Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid), as Marcan in 1670 (Seyahatname of Evliya Çelebi), as Mapizsavny in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 368), and as Mariçani in 1915 (Austrian military map). Toonyms with a formation in -aj are particularly frequent in northern Albania, cf. Curraj, Dodaj, Dushaj, Lekaj, Llugaj, Ndreaj, Nikaj, Smaj, Xhaxhaj. This stream is also known as the Përroi i Arrëzit, after the village Arrëz.

Mat
MT, LE/KR. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea 40 km south of Shkodër.
Ancient Mathis (Vibius Sequester), and Gk. hè Matê. It was subsequently recorded as Mathia in 1308 (Anonymi Descriptio Europae Orientalis), as Matia in 1515 (Breve memoria of Giovanni Musachi), as Machia in 1554 (Mercator map), as Emathia in 1591 (report by Lorenzo Bernaro), and as Emathia in 1596 (Jacques De Lavardin, Historie o George Castriot), and as Emathia in 1610 (report by Marino Bizzi). Pre-Slavic toonym. Related to Alb. mat ‘beach, riverbank.’

Mazrekë
KO. Tributary of the Çemericë, Devoll and Seman.
Tribal name from Alb. mbas rekës ‘behind or beyond the river, transfluvium.’ There are also village toonyms Mazrek (SH), Mazrek (TR) and Mazrekë (GR). This stream is also known as the Beç River (Lumi i Beçit).

Mezhgoran
TP. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Also the name of the canyon through which the stream flows, and a settlement, recorded as Mujdogoryani in 1431 (Hicri 835 tarihi Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid), as Mesgourani in 1820 (Thomas Smart Hughes), and as Meçougyopâvi in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 367). Related to Slavic
[cf. Selliçev 1931, p. 217]

Mëllészé
cf. Mësiçkë

Mëkur
cf. Skroskë

Mësiçkë
ER. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym Mësiçkë. Toponym with a -ç-kë formation. cf. Griçkë. This stream is also called the Mëllezë, related to Alb. mëllezë ‘hop-hornbeam, ostrya carpinifolia.’

Mëzi
PU. Tributary of the Drin. Also village toponym Mëzi.

Molisht
BR. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym Molisht, recorded as Molnişte 1431 (Hicri 835 tarihli Sûret-i Deft-i Sancak-i Arnavid), and as Možište in 1854 (P. Aravantinos I, p. 381). Related possibly to Alb. molë ‘moth,’ i.e. ‘moth river.’ Toponym with a suffix in -isht(ë), common in Mac. and Bulg. toponyms and especially prevalent in eastern Albania (DI, LB, KO, ER), cf. Bilisht, Dohoshisht, Gostivisht, Hotolisht, Qarrishtë. This stream is also known as the ‘Velabisht river’ (Lumi i Velabishtit).

Molla e Lurës (Malla e Lurës)
DI, DI/KU. Tributary of the Drin i Zi and Drin.
The river is named after ‘the mountain of Lurë,’ from Alb. mal ‘mountain’ and Lurë ‘region of Lurë, Lura,’ and not after ‘the apple (mollë) of Lurë.’

Murdhar
TR. Tributary of the Erzen.
The term was recorded as Murdar in 1431 (Hicri 835 tarihli Sûret-i Deft-i Sancak-i Arnavid). Possibly influenced by, though not necessarily related to Alb. mûrdûr ‘dirty, unclean,’ from Turkish, i.e. ‘dirty river.’ Toponym with a formation in -ar, as in Bastar, Lavdar, Shtegtar. Also in the District of Tiranë is the village toponym Murthi.

Murrë
DI. Tributary of the Drin i Zi and Drin.
Also village toponym Murrë. Related to Alb. i murrët ‘dark, murky,’ i.e. ‘murky river.’ Toponym with a -rrë formation, cf. Gurrë, Korri, Zerrë. A formation in murr- also occurs in other village toponyms: Muhurr (DI), Murriz (LU), Murrizë (TR).

Ndreaj (Zalli i Ndreajt)
SH. Tributary of the Shalë, Lesniqë and Drin.
Personal name ‘Ndreaj’ from Lat./Ital. Andrea ‘Andrew.’ Toponyms with a formation in -aj are particularly frequent in northern Albania, cf. Curraj, Dodaj, Dushaj, Lekaj, Llugaj, Maricaj, Nikaj, Smaj, Xhaxhaj.

Nikaj
BC. Tributary of the Drin.
Personal and tribal name ‘Nikaj’ from Lat./Ital. Nicola ‘Nicholas.’ It was recorded as Nicagni in 1671 (report of Stefano Gaspari), and as Nicagni, Nichagni in 1703 (report by Vincenzo Zmaievich). Toponyms with a formation in –aj are particularly frequent in northern Albania, cf. Curraj, Dodaj, Dushaj, Lekaj, Llugaj, Maricaj, Ndreaj, Smaj, Xhaxhaj.

Nimicë
GJ. Tributary of the Drino and Vjosë.
Also known as the Nunicë. Hydronym with a Slavic suffix in -ica.

Nunicë
cf. Nimicë

Okshtun (Zalli i Okshunit)
DI. Tributary of the Zall i Bulqizës, Drin i Zi and Drin.
Also village toponym Okshtun i Madh, Okshtun i Vogël. It was recorded as Ocstuni in 1641 (report by Marco Scura). Toponym with a formation in -un, cf. Çubun, Rrapun. A formation in oksh- also occurs in village toponyms: Okshtun near Lekaj (DR), and Okshatinë near Shupenzë (DI).

Orgjost
cf. Pllavkë

Osojë
KO. Tributary of the Çemericë, Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym Osojë. Related to Slavic osolje ‘shade,’ i. e. ‘shady river.’

Osum
ER, KO, SK/PR, SK, BR. Tributary of the Seman.
Anc. Gk. Apsis (Strab. VII, 5, 8), Lat. Apsus (Livy 31, 27), subsequently Assamus which, through Slavic transmission, became Osum. It was recorded as Osum in 1670 (Seyahatname of Evliya Çelebi), as Uzumi in 1835 (W. M. Leake, ‘Travels in Northern Greece’), and as Uzumi in 1848 (Edward Lear). Toponym with a formation in -um(ë), cf. Krumë, Lum, Lumë, Lum-th. This river is also known as Lumi i Madh ‘Big River’ or Lumi i Beratit ‘River of Berat.’

Papër
EL. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Also village toponym Papër. Toponym with a formation in -ër(r), cf. Batër, Dibër, Gjadër, Kakër.

Paroçë
TR/KR. Tributary of the Tërkuzë.

Pashtresh
cf. Kryegur

Pavlë
Greece, SR. Flowing into the Ionian Sea 4 km north of the Greek border.
It was recorded as Pavla in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville) and as Pavla in 1835 (W. M. Leake, 'Travels in Northern Greece'). Related, like the hydronym Povël, to personal name Greek Paulos ‘Paul.’

Peshkopi (Përroi i Peshkopisë)
cf. Banje, Dohoshisht.

Pikë
SH. Tributary of the Lesnicaë and Drin.

Pistull
SH. Tributary of the Kir and Bunë.
Also village toponym Pistull, recorded as Pistoli in 1688 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli), as Pistuli ca. 1750 (P. Bartl, Das Bistum Sappa-Sarda...=1966, p. 30), and as Pistuli in 1703 (report by Vincenzo Zmaievich). Related perhaps to Lat pistillum ‘pistil.’ Toponym with a formation in -ull(e), cf. Budullë, Xixullë, Trubull.

Plashnik
BR. Tributary of the Molisht, Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym Plashnik, recorded as Bolanslik in 1431 (Hicrî 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid), and as Platavëviki in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 382). Slavic toponym related to Serbcr. plasa ‘field’ with an adj. suffix in -ik(e). cf. Cërrik, Dërsnik, Leskovik, Zaranikë. cf. Plasnica, a tributary of the Treska in Macedonia.

Pllavkë
Kos, KU. Tributary of the Lumë, Drin i Bardhë and Drin.
Related to Slavic plavitì ‘to flow,’ i. e. ‘flowing river.’ This stream is also known as the Orgjost.

Povël
FR. Tributary of the Vjösë.
Related, like the hydronym Pavëlë, to personal name Greek Paulos ‘Paul.’

Prevall (also Përvall)
LB. Tributary of the Zall i Rrapunit and Shkumbin.
Also village toponym Prevall. Related to Slavic prevaliti ‘to pass, run through.’

Qarrishtë (Zalli i Qarrishtës)
LB. Tributary of the Zall i Rrapunit and Shkumbin.
Also village toponym Qarrishtë. Related to Alb. qarr ‘Turkey oak, quercus cerris,’ i.e. ‘oak river.’ This root occurs in the village toponyms Qarr (FR), Qarr (KU), Qarret (EL) and the mountain

[cf. Shkurtaj 1987, p. 110]

Quk
LB. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Also village toponym \textit{Qukës-Shkumbin}, recorded as \textit{Zuchisi} in 1515 (Breve memoria of Giovanni Musachi), as \textit{Cucusi} in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville), as \textit{Kukues} in 1848 (Edward Lear), as \textit{Kukus} in 1896 (Henry Tozer), and as \textit{Kjuks} in 1916 (Leo Freundlich).

Qytezë
KO. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym \textit{Qytezë}, meaning ‘castle, fortress,’ i.e. ‘river of the fortress.’ Tophonym with a formation in -\textit{ezë}, cf. \textit{Lezë, Mëllezë, Shtrezë}.

Radiçinë
LB, LB/PG, PG. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Toponym with a formation in -\textit{in(ë)}, cf. \textit{Carinë, Gominë, Jagodinë, Skatine, Smokthinë, Shkumbin, Tarin, Vllahinë, Zavalinë}. This stream is also known as the \textit{Radicië} and \textit{Radinicë}.

Ramcë
EL. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Hydronym with a suffix in -\textit{cë}, as in \textit{Selcë}.

Rasek
SH. Tributary of the Kir and Bunë.

Rëmenj
PG. Flowing into Lake Ohrid.
Also village toponym \textit{Rëmenj}. Related to Alb. \textit{rëmër}, pl. \textit{rëmenë} \textit{Aromunian},=i.e. \textit{village of Aromunians}.=Like the village of \textit{Ermenj} (GR), this toponym derives from Arom. \textit{armën \textit{Aromunian}}.\textit{originally from Lat. romanus}. Less likely is a relationship to Alb. \textit{rëmoj} ‘to dig,’ i.e. a stream that carves out its bed.

Rrapun (Zalli i Rrapunit)
LB. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
[cf. Çabej STGj 2, p. 87]

Rreja e Velës
LE, MR. Tributary of the Fan and Mat.
Also the region \textit{Rrejë}, recorded as \textit{Reia} in 1621 (report by Benedetto Orsini), and as \textit{Renja} in 1672 (report by Giorgio Vladagni). Lit. ‘Rreja of Mount Vela.’
Rrjoll
SH. Flowing into Lake Shkodër.
Also tribal region and village toponym Rrjoll, recorded as Fiume clamado Rivola in 1426 (S. Ljubić 9, 15; K. Jireček, Škutari und sein Gebiet im Mittelalter=1916, p. 95), as Rìvoli in 1614 (report by Mariano Bolizza), as Rioli ca. 1685 (report by Giorgio Stampaneo), as Riolo in 1671 (report of Stefano Gaspari), as Rìoli in 1689 (map of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola), and as Rìoli in 1688, 1691 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli). Related to Lat. rivulus ‘river.’
[cf. Çabej 1974, p. 96]

Rroksh
SH. Tributary of the Kir and Bunë.

Rrushtë
DR, DR/EL, EL. Tributary of the Shkumbin.

Rrypë
MT. Tributary of the Mat flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Related to Alb. rripë, ‘slope,’ Lat. ripa, Gk. eripnê.

Sapaç
PU. Tributary of the Berishë and Drin.
Also village toponym Sapaç.

Sarasel
GR, BR. Tributary of the Lapardhice.
Also village toponym Sarasel. A formation in sara- also occurs in village toponyms Sarajnishtë (GJ), Sarandë (SR), and mountain name Sarajin (SR). The town of Sarandë itself would seem connected to the Gk. ‘forty’ only by subsequent folk etymology: Gk. Hagioi Saranda, Ital. Santi Quaranta (Forty Saints). Toponym with a formation in -el, cf. Kozel, Kaçivel.

Sefta e Spaçit
MR. Tributary of the Fan i Madh, Fan and Mat. Alb. seftë is a colloquial term for ‘first, first time,’ thus giving the ‘first time of [the village of] Spaç.’ There is also a hydronym Sefta e Blinishtit (MR). It is unclear what could be behind this.

Selcë
PG, KO. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym Selcë e Sipërme. Related to Slavic selo ‘village.’ This root also occurs in village toponyms: Selcë (KO), Selcë (SH), Selckë (GJ), Selckë e Vogël (TP). Toponym with a formation in -cë, as in Ramcë.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 242, 262]

Seman
BR, BR/LU, FR/LU, FR. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea north of Fier.

Seta e Lurës
MT, DI. Tributary of the Drin i Zi and Drin. Possibly originally Sefta e Lurës. cf. Sefta e Spaçit.

Sërriqe
PU, KU. Tributary of the Drin. Also village toponym Sërriqe, recorded as Sirik in 1348, as Serec in 1610 (report by Marino Bizzi), as Serezi in 1614 (report by Mariano Bolizza), and as Serrice in 1928 (H. Louis, Kart von Albanien). Toponym with a suffix in -iq(e), cf. Gomsiqe, Kardhiq.

Skatinë

Skrobotushë

Skroskë
LB. Tributary of Shkumbin. Also village toponym Skroskë. Slavic toponym with formation in -kë, cf. Backë, Strafikë. This stream is also called the Përroi i Mërkurit. [cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Slap

Smaj (Smaj i Madh, Smaj i Vogël)
MR. Tributary of the Fan i Vogël. Toponyms with a formation in -aj are particularly frequent in northern Albania, cf. Curraj, Dodaj, Dushaj, Xhashaj. [cf. Shkurtaj 1987, p. 115]

Smokthinë
VL. Tributary of the Shushicë and Vjosë. It was recorded as Ismoktina in 1431 (Hicrī 835 tarihli Süret-i Deft-i Sancak-i Arnavid), and as Tşimochtiva in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 379). The toponym is related perhaps to Alb. smugth ‘guts, intestines’ with a formation in -in(ë), cf. Carinë, Gominë, Jagodinë, Radiçinë, Skatinë, Shkumbin, Tarin, Vllahinë, Zavalinë.
Solicë
EL. Tributary of the Devoll near Mollas.
Slavic toponym meaning salt spring, saline, with a Slavic suffix in -ica.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 226, 241]

Spile
VL. Flowing into the Ionian Sea at the Bay of Spile (Gjiri i Spilesë) south of the town of Himarë.
Also village toponym Spilë, recorded as Spilea in 1805 (François Pouqueville), and as Spiliá in 1835 (W. M. Leake, 'Travels in Northern Greece'). There is also a village toponym Spille (DR) north of the mouth of the Shkumbin.

Stanë
MT. Tributary of the Mat flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
It may be related to Alb. shtambë, shtëmbë jug, pitcher. Toponym with formation in -amë, cf. Gramë.
[cf. N. Jokl 1934, p. 191-192]

Strafickë
SK. Tributary of the Tomoricë.

Stupë
SH. Tributary of the Lesniqë and Drin.
Nopcsa records the forms Shtubja and Stubja. Related to old Serb. stubl ‘spring, source,’ Serbcr. stublina ‘water container.’

Suhë
GJ. Tributary of the Drino and Vjosë.
Also a village toponym, Suhë, recorded as Suhe in 1431 (Hicri 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid), and as Σουχ (Εσχ) in 1854 (P. Aravantinos I, p. 364). Related to Slavic root for ‘dry,’ Serbcr. suh, i.e. ‘dry river.’ The streams Përroi i Thatë in MT, DI and in SH contain the Alb. root of the same meaning.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Shag
KO, Greece. Tributary of the Koriepotomi.

Shalë [1]
PR, TP. Tributary of the Vokopolë.
Also village toponym Shalës both here in TP, as well as in ER, SR, VL. Related to Alb. shalë, shalësinë ‘arid, infertile land.’ Cf. also Shalë [2]

Shalë [2]
SH. Tributary of the Lesniqë and Drin.
Related to personal and tribal name ‘Shala,’ recorded as Sciala in 1634 (report by Bonaventura di Palazzolo), as Sala in 1671 (report of Stefano Gaspari), as Scialia in 1691 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli), as Sciala in the 18th cent. (cf. F. Nopcsa 1929, p. 681), and as Scialia in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville). It is said to be related to Alb. shalë,’ shalësinë ‘arid, infertile land,’ although the Shala district is one of the least arid of the northern mountains. Also from this root are hydronym Shalë [1], as well as village toponyms Shalës in TP, ER, SR, VL. This stream is also known as the ‘Theth river’ (Lumi i Thethit).


Sheh
SH. Tributary of the Kir and Bunë. Related to Alb. she ‘mountain stream which never dries up.’ Related to this root is Sheja e Librazhdit (LB). This stream is also known as the Çubun (q.v).
[cf. Çabej StGj 2, p. 130]

Sheja e Librazhdit
LB. Tributary of the Shkumbin. Related to Alb. she ‘mountain stream which never dries up.’
[cf. Çabej StGj 2, p. 130]

Shëmill (Zalli i Shëmillit or Zalli i Shënmillit) TR, LB, LB/EL, LB. Tributary of the Zall i Rapunit and Shkumbin. There is also the village toponym Shëmill recorded as Simili in 1641 (report by Marco Scura). From Shën Mehill ‘Saint Michael.’

Shkozë
PU. Tributary of the Fan i Madh, Fan and Mat. Also village toponym Shkozë (PU), recorded as Schosa in 1753 (report by Antonio Criesesi), as Scosa in 1866 (E. Wiet Le Diocèse) and as Sckosa 1928 (H. Louis, Karte von Albanien). Related to Alb. shkozë ‘hornbeam, carpinus betulus,’ i.e. ‘hornbeam river.’ This root occurs frequently in Alb. village toponyms: Shkozë (EL), Shkozë (KO), Shkozë (TR), Shkozë (VL), Shkozanj (KO), Shkozet near Durrës (DR), Shkozë near Lekaj (DR). The river Grabovë in PG, GR contains the Slavic root of the same meaning.
[cf. Shkurtaj 1987, p. 111]

Shkumbin
PG, LB, EL, EL/DR, DR/LU. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea 30 km south of Durrës. Lat. Scampis (Livy 31, 39; Tab. Peut), Anc. Gk. Skampeis (Ptol. III 12, 33), Byz. Gk. Skámpta (Konst. Porph, them. 2, 56, 2), subsequently Scampinus (fluvius) which, through Slavic transmission, became Shkumbin. It was recorded as Scumpino in 1308 (Anonymi Descriptio Europae Orientalis), as Scombino in 1515 (Breve memoria di Giovanni Musachi), as Scunbine in 1570 (Relazione dell’Albania), as Scombia in 1591 (report by Lorenzo Bernardo), as Scomb in 1596 (Jaques De Lavardin, Historie of George Castriot), and as Scombi, Tobi in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville). Another name for the river in ancient times was Genus(s)us (Livy 44, 30). Toponym with a formation in -inë, cf. Carinë, Gominë, Jagodinë, Raciçinë, Skatinë, Smokthinë, Tarin, Vllahinë, Zavalinë.
[cf. Mayer 1957, p. 149, 309, Çabej StGj 3, p. 63]
Shpërdhazë
MR. Tributary of the Fan i Madh, Fan and Mat.
Also village toponym Shpërdhazë, recorded as Spertasa in 1621 (report by Benedetto Orsini), as Spertaza in 1629 (report by Benedetto Orsini Ragusino), as Sperdase in 1641 (report by Marco Scura), as Sperthoz in 1896 (Henry Tozer), and as Sperdasa 1939 (map Regno d’Albania). Toponym with Alb. prefix shpër-, as in village toponym Shpërhdhet (KR).

Shtegtar
LE. Tributary of the Dibër, Fan i Madh and Mat.
Related to Alb. shtegtar ‘wanderer,’ i.e. ‘wandering or meandering river,’ from shteg ‘path,’ plus a formation in -tar. A related formation in -ar is to be found in Bastar, Lavdar, Murdhar.

Shtërmen
EL. Tributary of Devoll and Seman.
Also known as Stërmen. The term also occurs in the village toponym Shtërmen. Related to Slavic strmen ‘cliff.’ Toponym with a formation in -en(ë), cf. Erzen, Tërshenë.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Shtrezë
MR. Formerly flowing into the Mat. Now into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Also village toponym Shtrezë. Related to Alb. shtrezë ‘sentry,’ from Slav. straža. This root also occurs in village toponyms Shtrezë (KU) and Shtrazë (DR). Toponym with a formation in -ezë, cf. Lezë, Mëllezë, Qytezë.

Shushicë
VL. Tributary of the Vjose.
Also a village toponym Shushicë, recorded as Suchista in 1805 (François Pouqueville), and as Suschitza in 1916 (Leo Freundlich). There is also a village toponym Shushicë e Vogël near Gostimë (EL). Slavic toponym, with a Slavic suffix in -ica.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241, 324]

Tarin
KR, DR. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea 20 km north of Durrës.
Common pre-Slavic toponym in *tar-, e.g. village toponyms Tarazh (MR), Tartaj (DI), Taroninë (GJ), and mountain Tarabosh (SH), with a formation in -in(ë), cf. Carinë, Gominë, Jagodinë, Radiçinë, Skatinë, Smokthinë, Shkumbin, Vllahinë, Zavalinë.

Tëpëlan
BC. Tributary of the Valbonë and Drin.

Tërkuze
KR, TR. Tributary of the Gjole.
It was recorded as Tercuz in 1591 (report by Lorenzo Bernardo). Related to Alb. tërkuze ‘rope,’ i.e. ‘river that meanders like a rope.’ Also with a formation in *tër- are: hydronym Tërshenë (q.v),
village toponyms Tërbaç (EL), Tërbaç (DI), Tërbaç (VL), Tërbuf LU), Tërbuq (GI), Tërpan (BR), Tërthore (KU), Tërvol (GR), and the mountain Tërbin (PU).

Tërshenë

Tiranë
TR. Tributary of the (Gjole and) Ishem. Also city toponym Tiranë, recorded as Plenum Tyrenae in 1418 (Barletius), as Taransa minore in 1515 (Breve memoria di Giovanni Musachi), as le pianure della Tiranna in 1570 (Relazione dell’Albania), as il borgo di Tirana in 1572 (cf. M. Sufflay 1924, p. 35), as Tirana in 1591 (report by Lorenzo Bernardo), as Tyranna in 1596 (Jaques De Lavardin, Historie of George Castriot), as kasaba-i Tiran in 1662 (Seyahatname of Evliya Çelebi), as Terrana in 1689 (map of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola), as Tyranna in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville), as Tirana in 1822 (map of Lapie, cf. F. Nopcsa 1929, p. 692), as Týrana in 1835 (Edward Lear), and as Tyranna in 1854 (Johann Georg von Hahn Albanesische Studien). An association with the Iranian capital Tehran would seem to be an early folk etymology. Toponym with an -an(e) formation, cf. Baban, Dvoran, Gërman, Kurjan, Luçanë, Mezhgoran, Seman, Tëplan, Velçan.

Tomoricë
SK, GR. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman. Also known as Tomorricë, and recorded as Tomornice in 1488 (Ö. Barkan 1964, p. 85), as Tomorîçje in 1670 (Seyahatname of Evliya Çelebi), and as Tomorîza in 1835 (W. M. Leake, ‘Travels in Northern Greece’). The term is related to the mountain name ‘Tomor,’ with a Slavic suffix in -ica. [cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 242]

Topuz
DL. Tributary of the Drin i Zi and Drin. Also village toponym Topuz near Lugjaj. Possibly related to Alb. topuz, mace = from Turk. topuz.

Tropojë
BC. Tributary of the Llugaj, Bistricë, Valbonë and Drin. Also toponym of the region, recorded as Trepopoia in 1703 (report by Vincenzo Zmaievich). In the early 20th century, the town was also known by the loan translation of Trifushë. Related to Slavic Trebopolje from trebiti ‘to clean’ and polje ‘field,’ i.e. ‘river of the clean field.’

Trubat
Trubull
VL. Tributary of the Shushicë and Vjosë.
Also known as Turbull. Related to Alb. turbull, trubull ‘muddy (water).’ Toponym with a formation in -ull(ë), cf. Budullë, Xixullë, Pistull.

Truen
PU, KU, PU. Tributary of the Drin.
Also village toponym Truen, that may occur as an earlier Tebruna in 1689 (map of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola). Related perhaps to Slavic trun ‘shavings, chips,’ no doubt in the sense of an unclean river.

Thatë (Përroi i Thatë) [1]
MT, DI. Tributary of the Seta e Lurës and Drin i Zi.
Related to Alb. thatë ‘dry,’ i. e. ‘dry river.’ The river Suhë in GJ contains the Slavic root of the same meaning.

Thatë (Përroi i Thatë) [2]
SH. Flowing into Lake Shkodër.
Related to Alb. thatë ‘dry,’ i. e. ‘dry river.’

Theth
SH. Tributary of the Shalë and Drin.
Also village toponym Theth, recorded as Thethi in 1688 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli), as Thetigia in 1689 (map of Giacomo Cantelli da Vignola), and as Thethi in 1691 (map of Francesco Maria Coronelli). Related to Alb. thyej ‘to break’ with a diminutive formation in -th, in the sense of a river in a jagged, rugged landscape. This river is also known as the Shala River (Lumi i Shalës).

Thirrë
MR. Tributary of the Fan i Vogël, Fan and Mat.
Toponym of Albanian origin.

Unjë (also known as Ujë)
MR. Flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Also village toponym Unjë or Ujë. Related to a Slavic personal name reflected in Kosovo toponym Ujëmir, a formation similar to Vladimir. Ujëmir was later mistranslated back into Slavic as Dobrovoda ‘good water.’

Urakë
DI, MR, MR/MT, MT. Flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Also village toponym Urakë, recorded as Uraka in 1467 (Pulaha 1988). The settlement was formerly known as Kulla e Pashës. Slavic toponym. Slavic vraka with Slavic vr- > Alb. ur-. cf. also hydronym and toponym Vrakë in SH.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 324]

Vajzë
VL. Tributary of the Shushicë and Vjosë.
Also village toponym Vajzë, recorded as \(\text{Βαζα} \) in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 379). Related to Alb. vajzë ‘girl, maiden,’ i. e. ‘maiden river.’

Valbonë
BC. Tributary of the Drin.
It was recorded as Valbona in 1703 (report by Vincenzo Zmaievich), and as Walbona in 1867 (Johann Georg von Hahn, ‘Reise durch die Gebiete des Drin und Wardar’). The river was formerly known as the Krasniqe river. Related to Lat. \textit{vallis bona} ‘good valley,’ i. e. ‘river of the good valley.’
[cf. Çabej StGj 2, p. 264]

Velabisht
cf. Molisht

Velçan
PG, KO. Flowing onto the Plain of Maliq which drains into the Devoll and Seman.
Also village toponym Velçan (KO). Slavic toponym with an \(-\text{an(e)}\) formation, cf. Baban, Dvoran, Gërman, Kurjan, Luçanë, Mezhgoran, Seman, Tëplan, Tiranë. The Slavic root \(\text{*vel- 'large'}\) occurs in village toponyms such as: Velabisht (BR), Velagosht (BR), Velahovë (SR), Velçan (BR), Velinaj (SH), Velipojë (SH), Veligot (TP), Veliternë (KO).

Veleshicë
DI, DI/KU. Tributary of the Drin i Zi and Drin.
Slavic hydronym with a suffix in \(-\text{ica}.\) In the Slavic root \(\text{*vel- 'large'}\), cf. Velçan above.

Verdericë
EL. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Similar formation as the river Vardar in Macedonia, with a Slavic suffix in \(-\text{ica}.\) In the Indo-European origin of the Vardar, cf. Duridanov 1975, p. 30-36.

Vermosh
SH, Mon. Tributary of the Lucë flowing into Lake Plava.
Also village toponym Vermosh. Related to Slavic root \(\text{*vrba 'willow, salix,' i. e. 'willow river,'}\) with suffixes in \(-\text{m and -osh}.\) This root is also present in Věrbë below.

Věrbë
KO. Tributary of the Devoll, near the Selcë.
Related to Slavic root \(\text{*vrba- 'willow, salix,' i. e. 'willow river.'}\) This root is also present in Vermosh above.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 241, 233]

Věřčê (also known as Verčê and Vorčê)
GR. Tributary of the Devoll and Seman.
Related perhaps to Lat. \textit{urceus} ‘pitcher, water pot’ with Slavic transmission. Place names with this root occur in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Croatia and Slovenia. Toponym with suffix in \(-\text{čê},\) cf. Běnčê, Paročê.
Vërtop
BR. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym Vërtop, recorded as βερτόπι in 1854 (P. Aravantinos I, p. 380). Hydronym of Slavic transmission (*Urtop would be the Alb. form). Related toponyms occur in Bulgaria.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 218, 324]

Vërtop
KO. Tributary of the Qytezë, Devoll and Seman.

Vilë
SH. Tributary of the Drin.
Also village toponym Vilë, recorded as Villa in 1703 (report by Vincenzo Zmaievich). Related to Slavic vilna or possibly to Lat. villa which became Alb. vilë ‘villa, country house.’

Vjosë
Greece, PR, TP, FR/VL flowing into the Adriatic Sea 20 km north of Vlorë.
Anc. Gk. Aōös (Polybius 5, 110, 1; Pausanias, Perieg. IV, 34, 3), Lat. Aous (Pliny III. 145), which became Alb. Vojisë, Vjosë through Slavic transmission. It was recorded as Val Fuit in 1082-1084 (Chanson de Roland), as Βόσα, Βόσα in 1148 (Anna Comnena), as Arabic Shûzza in 1154 (al-Idrisi), as Turk. Viyusa in 1521 (Bahriye of Piri Reis), as Voûssa in 1570 (Relazione dell’Albania), as Turkish Vıyo in 1670 (Seyahatname of Evliya Çelebi), as Voûssa in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville), and as Viósa in 1835 (W. M. Leake, ‘Travels in Northern Greece’)

Vlahën
KU. Tributary of the Drin.
Also village toponym Vlahën. Related to the ethnic name ‘Vlach’ (Aromunian) as in Vllahinë and Zavalinë.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 264.]

Vllahinë
VL. Tributary of the Shushicë and Vjosë.
Also village toponym Vllahinë. Related to the ethnic name ‘Vlach’ (Aromunian) as in Vlahën and Zavalinë. Toponym with a formation in -in(e), cf. Carinë, Gominë, Jagodinë, Radičinë, Skatinë, Smokhinë, Shkumbin, Tarin, Zavalinë.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 264, 242]

Vodicë [1]
BR. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym Vodicë. Related to Slavic root voda ‘water,’ with a Slavic suffix in -ica.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 242]
Vodicë [2]
ER. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym Vodicë, recorded as Bođitza in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 380). Related to Slavic root voda ‘water,’ with a Slavic suffix in -ica.
[cf. Seliščev 1931, p. 242]

Vokopolë
TP, BR, BR/SK. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Also village toponym Vokopolë, recorded as Vakopóli in 1835 (W. M. Leake, 'Travels in Northern Greece'), and as Βογκόπολια in 1854 (P. Aravantinos 1, p. 381). Similar in form are the hydronym Voskopojë and Vokopojë.

Vomë
LE, SH. Tributary of the Gjadër and Drin.

Vorbë
DR. Flowing into the Adriatic Sea 16 km north of Durrës.
Related to an Alb. and Slavic root for ‘whirl, turn,’ as in Alb. vorbë ‘round clay pot,’ Alb. vorbull ‘whirlpool,’ i.e. ‘whirlpool river.’ There is also the Vorbetinë Plateau (PU).
[cf. Çabej StGj 2, p. 301-302]

Voskop
KO. Tributary of the Dunavec.
Also village toponym Voskop, recorded as Vescop in 1515 (Breve memoria of Giovanni Musachi), and as Votskóp in 1835 (W. M. Leake, 'Travels in Northern Greece'), Similar in form are the hydronyms Voskopojë and Vokopojë.

Voskopojë
KO. Tributary of the Voskop.
Also village toponym Voskopojë, recorded as Voscopolis in 1821 (map of François Pouqueville) and as Voskópoli, Moskópoli in 1835 (W. M. Leake, 'Travels in Northern Greece'). The Greek form Moskhopolis is said to derive from moskhos ‘calf, young animal or plant’ and polis ‘town.’ Max Peyfuß, following Gustav Weigand, regards Slav. polje kóśl as a more likely explanation for the second segment, Voskopojë being a sort of musk field. =cf. Arom. Moscopole. The initial v- of the Albanian is explained by interference from the nearby toponym Voskop and Vokopolë above.

Vrakë
SH. Flowing into Lake Shkodër.
Also village toponym Vrakë, recorded as Vuracha in 1614 (report by Mariano Bolizza). Slavic toponym. Fulvio Cordignano identified the toponym with the church of the Vraki saints, i.e. the healing saints = Cosmos and Damian, referred to in a donation of King Dushan in 1348. Sancto Auracio 1416 (Venetian land register). As Konstantin Jireček points out, there is no trace of a Saint Auracius so that the Latin form is probably also a Slavic loan, as is the early Italian term for the site, Veronizza or villa Veronica. Related in form to Vrakë is the hydronym Urakë with an Alb. initial sound change.
Vrap (Përroi i Vrapit)
cf. Gonë.

Xixullë
MT. Tributary of the Mat flowing into Lake Ulzë (Mat system).
Related perhaps to Alb. xixe ‘spark,’ i.e. ‘sparkling river.’ Toponym with a formation in -ull(ë),
 cf. Budullë, Pistull, Trubull.

Xháxhaj
TP. Tributary of the Fushë e Krahësit and Vjosë.
Also village toponym Xháxhaj, which means ‘uncle’ in Albanian. Toponyms with a formation in -aj are particularly frequent in northern Albania, cf. Curraj, Dodaj, Dushaj, Lekaj, Llugaj, Maricaj, Ndreaj, Nikaj, Smaj.

Xhi
TP, FR. Tributary of the Povël and Vjosë.
Related perhaps to Alb. gji ‘breast, bay,’ i.e., ‘bay river.’ This stream is also known as the Konjak (q.v).

Zagon
TP. Tributary of the Vjosë.
There is also a hydronym Zago (Përroi i Zagoit) in TP. Slavic toponym.
[Seliščev 1931, p. 241]

Zagore
BR. Tributary of the Osum and Seman.
Slavic toponym, like Zagori (q.v), meaning ‘beyond the mountain,’ i.e. ‘river of the region beyond the mountain.’ There are numerous toponyms with this root in Albania and the Balkans, e.g. Zagori and Zagorçan.
[cf. Çabej StGj 3, p. 63, Seliščev 1931, p. 217]

Zagori
GJ, PR, TP. Tributary of the Vjosë.
Also toponym of region. Slavic toponym, like Zagore (q.v), meaning ‘beyond the mountain,’ i.e. ‘river of the region beyond the mountain.’
[cf. Çabej StGJ 3, p. 63, Seliščev 1931, p. 217]

Zajë
KU. Tributary of the Lumë, Drin i Bardhë and Drin.
Also toponym of mountain pastures in the region. Related to Alb. nxë ‘to collect, pick up, learn,’ in the sense of a river which collects water.

Zall
SH. Tributary of the Drin (Përroi i Grykës së Zallit).
Related to Alb. zall ‘river bank, sandbank.’
Zaranikë
EL. Tributary of the Shkumbin.
Toponym with an adj. suffix in -ik(ë), cf. Cërrik, Dërsnik, Leskovik, Plashnik.

Zavalinë
GR. Tributary of the Vërçë and Devoll.

Zerrë
BR, FR. Tributary of the Seman.
Jokl attributes this term to Romanian ger, Aromunian dzer ‘frost,’ from Lat. gelu, i.e. ‘ice-cold river.’ Toponym with a -rrë formation, cf. Gurrë, Korrë, Murrë.

Zeze
KR. Tributary of the Gjole and Ishêm.
Related to Alb. i zi (m), e zeze (f), ‘black,’ i.e. ‘black river.’ The hydronyms Çërravë in PG and Çorovode in SK contain the Slavic root of the same meaning.

Zi (Lumi i Zi)
PU. Tributary of the Fan i Madh, Fan and Mat.
Related to Alb. i zi (m), e zeze (f) ‘black,’ i.e. ‘black river.’ The hydronyms Çerravë in PG and Çorovode in SK contain the Slavic root of the same meaning.

Zmejë
cf. Smaj

Zharrëzë
FR. Tributary of the Seman.
Related to Alb. zharrë ‘wooded or grassy mountainside.’ Toponym with a suffix in -ez(ë), cf. Arrëz.
[cf. Shkurtaj 1987, p. 115]

Zhepovë
PR. Tributary of the Dëshnice and Vjosë.

Zhëllimë
EL, TR. Tributary of the Erzen.
This toponym was recorded in Ottoman Turkish as Jilima 1431 (Hicri 835 tarihli Sûret-i Defter-i Sancak-i Arnavid). Related to Alb. zhul ‘dirt,’ i. e. ‘dirty, murky river,’ with a formation in -imë, cf. Gostimë.

3. Evaluation of the Compendium

The following preliminary stratification can be elucidated from the 282 hydronyms included in this study.

- 85 hydronyms (30.1%) seem primarily related to Albanian roots or lexemes,
- 73 hydronyms (25.9%) seem primarily related to Slavic roots or lexemes,
- 9 hydronyms (3.2%) seem primarily related to Latin roots or lexemes,
- 7 hydronyms (2.5%) seem primarily related to Greek roots or lexemes,
- 2 hydronyms (0.7%) seem primarily related to Turkish roots or lexemes,
- 1 hydronym seems primarily related to an Aromunian root or lexeme,
- 105 hydronyms (37.2%) remain to be determined.

It can be noted from the above that an etymologic identification has been provided for 62.8% of the 282 hydronyms under review. Of this etymologically identifiable proportion of the hydronyms, 48.0% are considered to be Albanian, 41.2% Slavic, and 10.7% Latin, Greek, Turkish, or Aromunian. If this relationship were to hold true for the as yet unidentifiable portion of the hydronyms in this study, one could assume that broadly one half of all hydronyms in Albania are related to Albanian roots, about two-fifths to Slavic roots and about one-tenth to other roots.

For many of the remaining 37.2% percent of hydronyms, for which no etymological relationship has been provided, one could conceivably delineate Albanian or Slavic origins, or indeed construe plausible Indo-European etymologies based in Illyrian or Thracian roots. Experience with the methodological weaknesses of earlier etymological studies for Albanian, however, leads one to be prudent. Such theoretical reservations have caused this study to restrict itself to a very basic treatment of word origins.

We must, for instance, bear in mind that Albanian territory has been inhabited over the centuries by various peoples speaking various languages. Valleys in southern Albania, for instance, may have changed their ethnic structure fifty to a hundred times over the centuries. In the Balkans in particular, it can be very misleading to view history in terms of one people invading and completely replacing another. Balkan tribes, many of them nomadic, seem rather to have lived in close and often bilingual or multilingual contact with one another for centuries. The very nature of the Albanian language has reflected this hybridity from the earliest stages of its consolidation. What language or languages did the ancestors of the Albanians speak in the ninth century? And if what they spoke was initially a semi-Romance hybrid comparable to the creole languages which have developed recently in some regions of the Third World, how is one to speak of a modern-day Albanian hydronym as being of Illyrian, Thracian, Daco-Mysian, Slavic or Greek origin? Since Albanian was recorded at such a late date and since historical linguistics have not succeeded in clarifying the structure of Albanian before the fifteenth century to anything more than a conjectural extent, it would seem presumptuous to offer Indo-European etymologies for modern Albanian lexemes based in some hypothetical early Albanian or indeed on a Illyrian or Thracian form.

In view of Albania’s tenebrous history and of the complexities of Balkan settlement patterns, we must content ourselves with our own imperfection and accept Albanian for what it is:
a highly eclectic language which has evolved and enriched itself with many sources over the long centuries of its existence in the Balkans.

The above compendium of hydronyms seems to document sufficient evidence of Albanian autochthony throughout the present-day territory of the Republic of Albania, but like the Albanian language itself, these hydronyms, as stressed above, are too nebulous in origin to offer many clear-cut etymological links to the ancient languages of the Balkans and to Indo-European. Over the centuries, Albanian lexemes, both native words and loans, have undergone much reduction, brought about to a large extent by changes in stress patterns. The Latin loan imperatorem ‘emperor, king,’ for instance, has left us with the typically monosyllabic Albanian word mbret. Much of the Albanian lexicon and many native toponyms have thus been reduced and altered beyond recognition.

There can be no doubt that Albanian hydronyms, too, which as we have noted above, are said to be more conservative than the rest of the lexicon, have altered their forms drastically in the course of Albania’s turbulent history. Establishing the origins and etymologies of hydronymic roots is in most cases a futile, and at best a frustrating endeavour.

4. Word Formation and Suffixes in Albanian Hydronyms

Despite overall difficulties, Albanian hydronyms evince a good number of recognizable suffixes and endings, some which are productive in the Albanian lexicon in general. These are of essential interest to Albanian hydronymic research and to the study of Albanian word morphology. Among the hydronyms under consideration here, we can elucidate the following suffix formations:

-aj Curraj (BC), Dodaj (MR, MT), Dushaj (DI), Llugaj (BC), Ndreaj (SH), Nikaj (BC), Smaj (MR). This Albanian suffix is particularly frequent in northern Albania and on the coastal plain. It also occurs in isolated instances in southern Albania: Lekaj (LU), Maricaj (TP), Xhaxhaj (TP). As a nominal suffix, -aj is used for tribal and family name patronyms and can also denote the inhabitants of a location, cf. Burizanaj ‘inhabitants of Burizan.’

-anë Baban (KO), Dvoran (KO), Gërman (MT), Kurjan (BR, FR), Luçanë (MT), Mezhgoran (TP), Seman (BR, FR, LU), Tëplan (BC), Tiranë (TR), Velçan (PG, KO). This formation occurs in hydronyms of both Slavic and non-Slavic origin. It is related to the Albanian and Slavic nominal suffix -an, cf. Dibran ‘inhabitant of Dibër’; breshkan ‘male turtle’ from breshkë ‘turtle’; vejan ‘widower’ from ve ‘widow.’

-anjoz Karkanjoz (BR). This formation reflects the Albanian adjective suffix -anjoz, often with a pejorative meaning, as in Alb. frikanjoz ‘fearful’ from frikë ‘fear’; grindanjoz ‘quarrelsome’ from grindë ‘dispute’; tekanjoz ‘moody’ from teka ‘mood.’

-ar Bastar (TR), Lavdar (SK, BR), Murdhvar (TR), Shtegtar (LE). Formation related to the Albanian and Slavic nominal suffix -ar, as in Alb. Korçar ‘inhabitant of Korçë’; këpucar ‘shoe-maker’ from këpcë ‘shoe.’ Preceding the suffix in all of the above hydronyms is a dental consonant, as found also in the river Vardar in Macedonia and in the toponym Merdar in southern Serbia. Particularly productive in the Albanian lexicon is the nominal suffix -tar, as in the above Shtegtar, cf. Alb. tregtar ‘merchant’ from treg ‘market’; and zyrtar ‘official’ from zyrë ‘office.’

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-as Bishçukas (LU), Gjyras (KO). This formation is related to the Albanian nominal suffix -as, denoting the inhabitants of a region, cf. Tiranas ‘inhabitant of Tirane’; Elbasanas ‘inhabitant of Elbasan.’ This suffix is also productive in Albanian adverbs: gojas ‘orally’ from gojë ‘mouth’; djathas ‘to the right’ from i djathë ‘right.’

-ash Barmash (ER), Kalimash (KU) and perhaps Gash (BC). This formation is related to the southern Slavic and Albanian nominal and adjectival suffix -ash, cf. bardhash ‘whitish’ from i bardhë ‘white’; balash ‘horse with a white spot on its forehead’ from i balë ‘having a white spot in the forehead.’ This suffix also occurs in Serbcr., Bulg. and Romanian.

-at Dukat (VL), Dhoksat (Gj), Trubat (VL). This formation occurs commonly in southwestern Albania, and sporadically elsewhere, cf. Deshat (DI), Lishat (TR, DR). It also serves as a nominal suffix in Albanian, again primarily in the southwest, cf. Vlonjat ‘inhabitant of Vlorë (formerly Valona)’; Konispolat ‘inhabitant of Konispol.’

-cë Ramcë (EL), Selcë (PG, KO). This formation is related to the Albanian (and Slavic) nominal suffix found in shtojcë ‘annex’ from shtoj ‘to add’; përparcë ‘apron’ from përpara ‘in front of.’

-cë Bëncë (TP), Paroçë (TR/KR), Vërçë (GR). This formation reflects the Albanian nominal suffix -cë, as in ndezcë ‘lighter’ from ndez ‘to light’; vençë ‘wine made from residue of grapes and water’ from venë, verë ‘wine.’

-ec Boronec (BR, SK), Damjanec (KO), Dunavec (KO), Leskovec (PR). This formation in toponyms of Slavic origin is found primarily in southeastern Albania. It is related to the Slavic (esp. Bulg) and Albanian suffix -ec, as in korbec ‘black-coloured animal’ from korbë ‘raven’; burrec ‘coward’ from burrë ‘man’; shtpec ‘pestle’ from shtyp ‘to crush.’

-el Kaçivel (EL), Kozel (ER), Sarasel (GR, BR). This formation is related to the Albanian nominal and adjectival suffix -el, as in bocel ‘little bottle’ from bocë ‘bottle’; buzë ‘with fat lips’ from buzë ‘lip,’ a suffix thought to be related to the Lat. -ellus, which occurs frequently in Romanian as -el.

-en(ë) Erzen (TR, DR), Tërshenë (KU), Shtërmen (EL). The latter hydronym has the Slavic suffix -en which occurs in Slavic toponyms, as in village toponyms Gracen (EL), Ogren (PR), Vorrozen (DR).

-ër(r) Dibërr (LE, MR), Gjadër (PU, LE, SH), Kakër (PU, SH), Papër (EL). These forms may or may not be related to the Albanian suffix -ër(r), as in kokërr ‘bean, pill’ from kokë ‘head’; çimërr ‘bug’ from çim-kë ‘bug’; mitër ‘womb’ from mitë ‘a shoot.’

-ës Gjerbës (FR, BR), Krahes (TP), Kudhës (VL). This formation is related to the Albanian nominal suffix found in lypës ‘begger’ from lyp ‘to beg’; mbyllës ‘lid’ from mbyll ‘to cover.’

-ëz(ë) Arrëz (PU), Zharrëzë (FR). This formation is related to the collective suffix -ëz(ë), also used as a diminutive, as in Alb. lulezë ‘little flower’ from lule ‘flower.’

-icë Belicë (GJ), Bistricë (SR), Bushtricë (LB), Çemericë (KO), Dëshnicë (PR), Gjanicë (FR), Kamenicë (KO), Kamnicë (VL), Lapardhicë (BR), Lengaricë (ER, PR), Lesnicë (GR), Lesnicë (SR), Nimicë (GJ), Solicë (EL), Shushicë (VL), Tomoricë (SK, GR), Verdericë (EL), Vodicë (BR), Vodicë (ER). This most frequent formation, the Slavic suffix -ica, is found primarily in hydronyms of Slavic origin. The vast majority of them are, as above, in southern Albania. In northern Albania we also encounter: Bushtricë (BC), Karicë (MT), Lesnícë (KU), Lesnícë (KU), and Veleshicë (DI). This formation also occurs as a nominal suffix in Alb. buallicë ‘female buffalo’ from buall ‘buffalo’; mammicë ‘midwife’ related to mamë ‘midwife.’
-ik(ë) Cërrik (EL), Dërsnik (KO), Leskovik (ER), Plashnik (BR), Zaranikë (EL). This no doubt Slavic formation is found primarily in central and southern Albania. Related is the nominal suffix -nik, as in Alb. drithnik ‘barn, silo’ from dritë ‘grain.’

-ile Macilë (GR). There is also a village toponym Bratilë (GR).

-imë Gostimë (LB, EL), Zhëllimë (EL, TR). This formation is related to the Albanian abstract suffix -im(ë), which occurs both in a feminine form, often related to noises and weather, as in Alb. bërtimë ‘scream’ from bërtas ‘to scream’; bubullimë ‘thunder’ from bubullij ‘to thunder’; fërsëllimë ‘whistling of the wind’ from fërshëllij ‘to whistle,’ and in a highly productive masculine form -im, as in fillim ‘beginning,’ konsiderim ‘consideration,’ gëxim ‘courage.’

-in(ë) Carinë (LB), Gominë (PU), Jagodinë (EL), Radiçinë (LB, PG), Skatinë (KU, BC), Smokthinë (VL), Shkumbin (PG, LB, EL, DR, LU), Tarin (KR, DR), Vlalinë (VL), Zavalinë (GR). This formation seems to be more prevalent in hydronyms of Slavic origin. There is, however, a nominal suffix -inë in Albanian, as in gurinë ‘stone’; rruginë ‘corridor’ from rrugë ‘road’; shpartallinë ‘hovel’ from shpartallij ‘to destroy.’

-iq(e) Gomisë (PU, SH), Sërriqë (PU, KU), Kardhiq (GJ). Related to the latter at least, is the nominal and adjectival, often diminutive suffix -iq, as in Alb. thatiq ‘gaunt, thin’ from i thatë ‘dry’ and gurig ‘pebble’ from gur ‘stone.’

-isher(ë) Biliq (KO), Dohoshë (DI), Gostivishë (ER), Hotolisht (LB), Moliq (BR), Qarrishë (LB). This suffix, common to Macedonian and Bulgarian toponyms, is especially prevalent in eastern Albania. It is also a productive adverbial suffix in Albanian, as in: anglishë ‘English,’ rüşëshë ‘Russian,’ teknikisht ‘technically,’ mundësisht ‘if possible.’

-kë Backë (SK), Sraftikë (SK), Skroskë (LB). This formation, of Slavic origin, occurs with greatest frequency in eastern Albania and is related to the feminine nominal suffix, often diminutive, -kë, as in Alb. çupkë ‘little girl’ from çupë ‘girl,’ fshatarkë ‘village woman’ from fshatar ‘villager.’

-os Linos (TR, TR/MT, MT). This formation is related to the Albanian suffix -os, as in ballos ‘muddy’ from balë ‘mud,’ kros ‘scurfly’ from kruaj ‘to scratch.’ Also of this formation are village toponyms, such as: Bagos (KR), Mnos (EL), Patos (FR), Bos (KO), Klos (MT).

-oš Dohosh-isë (DI), Rrokshe from an earlier Rrogoshe (SH), Vermosh (SH). This formation is related to the Albanian attribute suffix -oshe, as in Alb. gjumose ‘sleepy one’ from gjumë ‘sleep,’ mjëkrose ‘bearded one’ from mjëker ‘beard.’

-ovë Bogovë (SK), Çarçovë (ER, PR), Draçovë (PR), Grabovë (PG, GR), Kreshovë (PR, SK), Kushovë (GR), Vidohovë (KO), Zhepovë (PR). The Slavic suffix -ova is found primarily in hydronyms of Slavic origin, all of which in this study are from southern Albania.

-tar Shtegtar (EL). cf. -ar.

-th Limuth (TR), Lumth (MR), Thej (SH). This formation is related to diminutive suffixe -th, as in Alb. zogth ‘little bird’ from zog ‘bird.’ Also of this formation are village toponyms, such as: Mërkurth (MT), Sukth (TR), Rreth (DR), Greth (DR).

-ull(ë) Pistull (SH), Trubull (VL), Budullë (TR, KR), Xixullë (MT). This formation is related to the nominal and adjectival suffix -ull(ë), as in duşkull ‘mastic tree, pistacia lenticus’ from dušk ‘oak tree,’ kashtull ‘Milky Way’ from kashtë ‘straw.’ Some toponyms with this formation seem to be of Albanian origin whereas others are clearly based in the Latin adjectival suffix -ulus, as in Alb. popull people’ from Lat. populous, Alb. ishull ‘island’ from Lat. insula.
-un(ë) Čubun (SH), Okshtun (DI), Rrapun (LB). In addition to many Italian loans of this formation, there also seems to be a rare Albanian suffix -un, as in bicun ‘piglet’ from bic ‘piglet.’ Also of this formation are village toponyms, such as: Dobrunë (KU), Zebzun (DI), and mountain Tërbun (PU).

-ush(ë) Banush (SH), Lush (KU, DI), Skrobotushë (SH). This formation is found primarily in northern Albania. The latter hydronym at least, may be related to the diminutive suffix -ush(ë), as in zonjushë ‘miss’ from zonjë ‘lady,’ vogëlushë ‘little girl’ from e vogël ‘little.’ Also of this formation are village toponyms, such as: Barbullush (SH), Dobrush (SK), Galush (EL), Vajush (SH).

5. The Slavic Element in Albanian Hydronyms

Albanian roots are predominant in hydronyms throughout what is now the Republic of Albania. As we have seen from the above stratification, however, we also encounter, in southern Albania in particular, a remarkably strong stratum of Slavic hydronyms, both with respect to roots and to suffixes. The Slavic suffix -ica, -icë, as we have seen, is the most common hydronymic suffix of all, present in 24 Albanian hydronyms (8.3% of river names) under investigation here. Slavic hydronyms are especially common in three regions of Albania:

1. southern Albania (Toskeria) between the rivers Shkumbin and Vjosë, i.e. the Districts of Lushnjë (LU), Elbasan (EL), southern Librazhd (LB), Fier (FR), Berat (BR), Gramsh (GR), Pogradec (PG), northern Vlorë (VL), northern Tepelenë (TP), Skrapar (SK), Korçë (KO), Përmet (PR), and Kolonjë (ER),
2. the upper valley of the Black Drin in the District of Dibër (DI),
3. the eastern bank of Lake Shkodër from around the city of Shkodër northwards to the Montenegro border in the District of Shkodër (SH).

Elsewhere in Albania, i.e. all of Albania north of the Shkumbin River (with the exception of 2. and 3. above), and southern Albania to the southwest of the Vjosë, Slavic hydronyms are substantially rarer, occurring only sporadically. A good indication of the distribution of Slavic hydronyms is Seliščev’s map of Slavic place names in Albania.

Particularly interesting are cases of hydronyms present both in a Slavic and in a native Albanian form. The present study offers several instances of the same hydronym appearing for some rivers in Albanian garb and for other rivers in Slavic garb, so to speak.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Albanian</th>
<th>Slavic</th>
<th>root</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lumi i Bardhë</td>
<td>Belevë, Belicë</td>
<td>‘white’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumi i Zi</td>
<td>Çërravë, Çorovodë</td>
<td>‘black’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qarrishtë</td>
<td>Cërrik</td>
<td>‘oak’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shkozë</td>
<td>Grabovë</td>
<td>‘hornbeam’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Përroi i Thatë</td>
<td>Suhë</td>
<td>‘dry’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The profound Slavic influence in hydronyms and other toponyms in southern Albania is irrefutable. This influence is, at the same time, in marked contrast to the Slavic element in the

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7 Slavjanskaja topografičeskaja nomenklatura Albanii. 1:500,000. in: Seliščev 1931.
Albanian language in general. Slavic influence in Albanian, while certainly not negligible, has tended to be more discreet, indeed rather less than what one might have expected after centuries of coexistence in the southern Balkans. The Albanian language has a strong stratum, or more properly, several strata of Latin, and in later centuries underwent the lexical influence of Turkish and then of western international terminology, be it from scholarly Latin, Italian or French, but it was never as thoroughly penetrated by its immediate neighbours, Greek and Slav. How is one to explain the discrepancy between Slavic influence in toponyms in Albania and its influence in the structure and vocabulary of the Albanian language in general?

Afanasiy Seliščev (1886-1942) in his pioneer study 8 asserts that in Albania, as in other countries overrun by the Slavs, the major waterways seem for the most part to have retained their original names which the Slavs adopted, often with phonological adjustment, whereas the smaller rivers and tributaries quite often received new Slavic names. Ivan Popović regarded the situation as follows:

"On the one hand, place names in modern Albania are of primarily Slavic origin. On the other hand, the country’s ancient place names did not develop according to Albanian sound laws, but rather, in clear cases, there was always Slavic transmission, or at least Slavic transmission is possible, whereas the reverse cannot be proven." 9

Both Seliščev 10 and Popović 11 were indeed convinced that Slavic tribes entering Albania encountered a Romance-speaking population and that the Albanians were newcomers of a later date, so to speak, a hypothesis which runs counter to current and broadly accepted views in Albanian autochtony.

Though one would not wish to question the strong Slavic element in Albanian hydronyms, a certain disproportion has occurred in scholarly studies to date due to a structural weakness in diachronic linguistics.

There exists an enormous discrepancy between the level of research in Slavic etymology which, like that in Romance, Germanic, Baltic and Celtic etymology, has developed into a sophisticated tool of diachronic linguistics, and that in Albanian etymology, which has not reached and perhaps never will reach a satisfactory level. As such, it is obviously much easier to find a Slavic etymology for a hydronym than a non-Slavic one. We simply know much more about the earlier stages of Slavic than we do about the earlier stages of non-Slavic speech in Albania.

It would seem evident that when the Slavs arrived in Albania, in particular in southern Albania, they entered a country which was sparsely populated. The non-Slavic population which they did encounter was forced to give way and to retreat into its traditional bastion, the northern Albanian mountains. Georg Stadtmüller (1901-1985) has suggested 12 that these early Albanians withdrew in particularly large numbers into the interior Mat Valley, a relatively fertile region of northern central Albania, surrounded by high mountain ranges. Here Slavic toponyms, as can be seen from the compendium, are much rarer than in southern and eastern Albania. With time, the farming Slavic tribes settled the lowlands and the, to a large extent, nomadic Albanian tribes learned to eke out an existence in the arid highlands. Although close contacts and a certain form of

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8 cf. Seliščev 1931.
9 cf. Popović 1960, p. 79.
10 op. cit.
co-existence between Slavs and non-Slavs continued, it is evident in such a situation that river names were bound to show a profound Slavic influence.

In dealing with hydronyms in Albania, it is not without reason that we refer more to Slavic influence than to Slavic origin. This is because long-term and profound lexical interference between Slavic and non-Slavic speakers, as a result of many centuries of co-habitation, created a sociolinguistic situation which is no doubt much more complex than most scholars can imagine, especially if they insist on thinking in traditional categories of clear-cut ethnic regions and territories.

Preliminary studies of Albanian arboreal (tree) terminology offer a parallel and afford a similar conclusion concerning settlement patterns in Albania. Terms for trees in the highlands, mostly conifers, are of primarily native Albanian origin, whereas terms for trees in the lowlands are primarily foreign. The latter show mainly Romance or Slavic roots. This fact, and the lack of any substantial amount of native maritime and fisheries terminology, point in the same direction as the results of this hydronymic study. All evidence indicates that the Albanians, in their historical development, were and until recently remained a mountain people.

As such, in their painful struggle for national identity and affirmation, the Albanians need not be overly concerned about the strong Slavic influence in hydronyms in their country. May they look down in serenity from their mountain pastures and watch the Lumi i Bardhë and the Belicë, the Lumi i Zi and the Çërravë flow peacefully down to the sea.

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