

Dr Maja Kalezić, Doctor of Philosophy in Classics, Research Fellow  
Department of Etymology of the Institute for Serbian Language,  
Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts  
Belgrade  
maja3m@yahoo.com

***Text and Transmission:  
The role of intertextual intervention of copied texts in etymological research<sup>1</sup>***

*Abstract:*

The name *haima Hêrakteous* is cited in the Byzantine version of Dioscorides' famous herbal known as *Constantinopolitan* or *Viennese* (dated 512) as synonymous to *krokos* (together with *castor* and *kunomorphos* being lined one after another). The synonym lists with their alternative nomenclature in other languages found in Dioscorides' books 1-4 are not by Dioscorides himself. Although these are by later lexicographers such as Pamphilus, they are of interest for the reception of the work, and Wellmann had placed them between the text and the *apparatus criticus* with the designation *RV* (from the Viennese recension). The name *haima Hêrakteous* has never been fully explained and convincingly argued in previous phytonomastical research and its iconymic structure is still considered to be obscure. The method of comparative-etymological analysis applied to the naming units with the same denotative function (*castor* and *kunomorphos*) enabled us to mark out the specific concept used in the word-coining process referred to the phytonym *haima Hêrakteous*: a narrative that emerged from two different traditions regarding the story of *castoreum* - of which one concerns the early transmission and reception of the ancient medical texts and the other one is in relate with the early transmission and reception of the famous collection of zoological fables and religious moralizations called *Physiologus*. The aim of this study is to give the exact reconstructs of the referred onomasiological procedures (of the name-giver).

---

<sup>1</sup>The study was conducted within the research project: *Etymological Dictionary of the Serbian language* financed by Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. This is the second part of the wide-arranged study on the topic: 'On Dioscorides' '*Kastrology*' and its receptions in later periods (e.g. Late Antiquity, Byzantium, especially including the rich Serbian medical tradition until the XIX century) - of which the first part has already been published in the following article: *Some notes of the roots of pharmaceutical terminology determining animal products using in medical practice described in Dioscorides' De materia medica. Exercises in etymology, Linguistique Balkanique* LIV, 2015 (2/3), pp. 267-288, and its final part: *On the forgotten Old Serbian anatomical term тропше*, we intend to present at the International symposium *Serbian Terminology today*, which will be held in Belgrade, from 11<sup>th</sup> until 13<sup>th</sup> of May in 2016.