

## Some Etymological Connections Between Animal Names in Croatian and Sanskrit

The aim of this paper is to present some etymological parallels between animal names in Croatian and Sanskrit languages. Roots of animal names in Croatian that correspond with Sanskrit's are in most cases derived from their common ancestor – Proto- Indo - European language and are usually traceable in Proto-Slavic. The majority of animal names in Croatian with such etymology can be found in most of the Slavic languages.

The paper will show various explanations of etymology of following animal names divided in groups: domestic mammals: pas "dog", štene "puppy", svinja "swine", prase "pig", ovca "sheep", krava "cow"; wild mammals: vuk "wolf", jež "hedgehog", zec "rabbit", medvjed "bear", miš "mouse", srna "doe"; birds: sokol "falcon", svraka "magpie", guska "goose", kukavica "cuckoo"; insects: obad "horse-fly", mrav "ant", uši "lice"; reptiles: zmija, už "snake"; pauk "spider"; crv "worm".

The paper will show that main motivators for the above listed animal names were same Sanskrit words describing characteristics, such as their physical appearance, onomatopoeic sounds, feeding practices and the way of moving.