

# Close cousins: Aramaic and Syriac Cognates to Akkadian Lexical Items

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## Outline

1. Introductory
2. Previous studies  
von Soden, Kaufmann, Streck, Beaulieu  
critique: Abraham - Sokoloff  
Accepted loanwords
3. Theory
4. New examples (classified)
  - 4.1 Aramaic/Syriac provide cognates for Akkadian
  - 4.2 Aramaic/Syriac provide etymology for Akkadian
  - 4.3 Aramaic/Syriac help distinguish between homographs
  - 4.4 Aramaic/Syriac provide meaning of Akkadian
  - 4.5 Akkadian provides meaning of Aramaic/Syriac
  - 4.6 Aramaic, Syriac, Akkadian and other languages
  - 4.7 Difficult equivalences
  - 4.8 Spelling
5. Classes and Statistics  
classes: plants, food, clothes, vessels, tools, anatomy  
statistics: percentages of loanwords
6. Conclusions and Further Research

## Select list of Akkadian words with Aramaic/Syriac cognates

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| 1. Akk. <i>agû</i> ( <i>agiu</i> ), "a garment"  | 22. Akk. <i>misissam</i> , <i>messam</i> , "sheep's stomach"                         |
| 2. Akk. <i>anabu</i> ( <i>anapu</i> ), "loincloth or kilt?"                              | 23. Akk. <i>misissānu</i> , "a plant"  |
| 3. Akk. <i>arbānu</i> , "(a plant)" [NOT Akk. <i>urbānu</i> , <i>urbanu</i> , "papyrus"] | 24. Akk. <i>našappu(m)</i> , "a basket"  |
| 4. Akk. <i>arsuppu</i> , "a cereal"  | 25. Akk. <i>pīsu</i> , "winnowing shovel"  |
| 5. Akk. <i>aršabu</i> , <i>arrašabattu</i> , "a farm tool"                               | 26. Akk. <i>pūqu(m)</i> , "buttock"  |
| 6. Akk. <i>azannu</i> , <i>azānu</i> , <i>zānu</i> , "quiver"                            | 27. Akk. <i>sannu</i> , "(a fishing net)"  |
| 7. Akk. <i>barāmu</i> D: "to make multi-coloured; to weave (coloured cloth)"             | 28. Akk. <i>s/zaḥānum</i> , "beam, rafter"   |
| 8. Akk. <i>bussumu</i> , "pleasant" (of beer)  | 29. Akk. <i>sisātu</i> , "(a plant)"   |
| 9. Akk. <i>edēna</i> , "a plant"   | 30. Akk. <i>šapru</i> , "(a spice)"  |
| 10. Akk. <i>gāšišu</i> , "gnashing, grinding"  | 31. Akk. <i>šētu(m)</i> , "bright light, heat"                                       |
| 11. Akk. <i>gergiltu</i> , "(ring-shaped part of plough)"                                | 32. EAAkk. <i>šumbiru</i> , "(an object)"  |
| 12. Akk. <i>gerriḡû</i> , <i>gerḡû</i> , "(a reed rope)"                                 | 33. Akk. <i>šabikû</i> , "headgear"  |
| 13. Akk. <i>ḡalḡallu(m)</i> , "(a comestible)"   | 34. Bab. <i>še(l)liptu</i> , "(a metal implement)"                                   |
| 14. NAss. <sup>TUG</sup> <i>ḡulsu</i> , "a garment"                                      | 35. Akk. <i>tagrītum</i> , "litigation"  |
| 15. Akk. <i>ḡuruḡuru</i> , <i>ḡuḡḡuru</i> "(a kind of bread)"                            | 36. Akk. <i>takbāru</i> , <i>takbarru</i> , "fattened sheep"                         |
| 16. Akk. <i>ḡuršatu</i> , "a plant"  | 37. Akk. <i>tarammu</i> "(a part of the body)"                                       |
| 17. Akk. <i>kipnu</i> (or <i>kibnu</i> ), "a plant"                                      | 38. Akk. <i>t/dugān</i> , "sickness"   |
| 18. Akk. <i>lagu</i> , "artichoke"   | 39. Akk. <i>urnīḡu</i> , <i>urnīqu</i> , <i>urninqu</i> , <i>ḡurniqu</i> , "a crane" |
| 19. Akk. <i>lullubūtu</i> , "plant"  | 40. Akk. <i>urnuqqu</i> , <i>urnūqu</i> , "a plant"                                  |
| 20. Akk. <i>luṡû</i> , "dagger" & <i>ludû</i> , <i>leṡû</i> , "(a sharp part of a reed)" | 41. Akk. <i>zabardabbum</i> , "bronze(-bowl) holder"                                 |
| 21. Akk. <i>miḡḡu(m)</i> , "a type of beer"  | 42. Akk. (a) <i>zappu</i> , <i>sappu</i> , "tuft of hair; bristle"                   |

dates	Language	dates	language	dates	Language
2350-2000	Old Akkadian				
1900-1500	Old Babylonian	1900-1700	Old Assyrian	10th/9th cent.	Old Aramaic
1500-1000	Middle Babylonian	1500-1000	Middle Assyrian	740	Aramaic official in Assyria
1000- 600	Neo-Babylonian	1000- 600	Neo-Assyrian	500	Imperial Aramaic
600-100CE	Late Babylonian				
				1st cent. CE+	Syriac

## Text

*np<sup>c</sup>l nbl / nskt 'rb<sup>cc</sup>lt hmqdšm 'l spm šnm wzbrm šnm*

“Four molten metal goblets were made for these sanctuaries: two bowls and two **vessels**”

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