

## Hydronyms in Ocna Şugatag commune, Maramureş county

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### Abstract

The article is an analysis of hydronyms from Ocna Şugatag, Maramureş county and it represents a part of a larger research on Maramureş toponymy. Settled on a hilly area, at the foot of Gutii mountains, on Mara river, the boundaries of the four localities belonging to the commune: Breb, Hoteni, Sat-Şugatag and Ocna Şugatag are characterized by a vast hydronymic net, with valleys and springs, affluents of Mara river, but also wells, lakes and swamps. The corpus of the work has been extracted from inedit toponymic material collected during field researches. The topic names are individually discussed, for each hydronym the answers given by the subject have been indicated, and also different forms, when registered, and supplementary data known to us, as Ocna Şugatag is our native place. The purpose of the study is to establish the etymology of hydronyms in the researched area. In order to provide a broad perspective on the hydronymy and the anthroponymy which represents its basis, we also indicate the distribution of topic names in Transylvania and the frequency of surnames in the county. After the analysis of toponyms referring to waters, they are classified from the structural point of view in order to illustrate the identified syntactical and morphological patterns. Our conclusion is that the hydronyms in Ocna Şugatag, Maramureş county reflect property relationships and geomorphological and geological features of the area.

## 1. Introduction

Having a greater stability than appellatives or anthroponyms, the toponyms, especially hydronyms “se păstrează deseori cu o mare tenacitate, chiar și la schimbarea populației” [preserve themselves, sometimes tenaciously, even during population shifts] (Frăţilă, 2002, p. 72). Thus, the name of waters or mountains are considered to be prior to other topic names, but there are situations when this principle does not function, especially for water names based on an anthroponym (Bolocan, 1975, p. 383).

The study’s purpose is to analyse the toponyms which denominate waters (rivers, valleys, springs, lakes, swamps) in our native commune, Ocna Şugatag, Maramureş county. The corpus the work is based upon has been extracted from the toponymic material collected during direct field research<sup>1</sup>, not published by now, and it represents a part of a larger research on Maramureş toponymy. The topic names have been literarized, the phonetic transcription is used only for obvious phonetic specific features in the local speech.

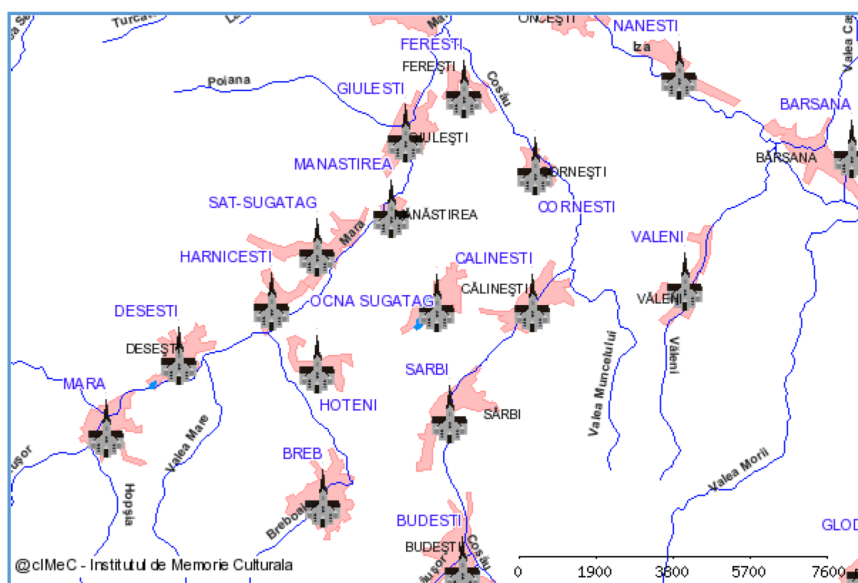
Ocna Şugatag commune is placed in Maramureşului Depression, on the interfluvium between Mara and Cosău rivers, at the eastern foot of Gutii Mountains, in the northern part of Maramureş county. It administrates the following localities: Ocna Şugatag (centre of the commune), Breb, Hoteni and Sat-Şugatag. The first documentary attestation of *Ocna Şugatag* dates back in 1355 as *fodina salium*, referring to a way used for carrying salt towards Austria, passing by Giuleşti village. Other names the locality has

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<sup>1</sup>The inquiries were done during the summer of 2017, under the surveillance of Dumitru Loşonţi, CS I PhD at the “Sextil Puşcariu” Institute of Linguistics and Literary History from Cluj-Napoca. Here is the list of the subjects whose answers we have used: I. Birtoc Petru, 64 years old, farmer, Sat-Şugatag; II. Hotea Ioan, 53 years old, duty person, Hoteni; III. Chira Ana, 50 years old, housewife, Hoteni; IV. Borca Ioan, 71 years old, miner, Breb; V. Tătar Gheorghe, 57 years old, miner, Ocna Şugatag.

been referred to in documents along the time are: *Zalatnya Sugatag* 1360; *Sugatag* 1419; *Akna Sugatag* 1828. For a year (1991–1992), the commune's name was *Ocna Maramureşului*, then it returned to its previous name, *Ocna Şugatag*<sup>2</sup>.

The locality **Sat-Şugatag** (*Zalatyna, villa olachalis Sugatag-falva, Swgathakfalwa*) was attested in 1360; its previous names (*Sugatagh* 1365, *Sugathagh* 1459, *utraque Swgathak* 1472 – for Sat-Şugatag and Ocna Şugatag, *Sugatagh* 1828, *Sugatag* 1851) reflect the connection to the salt mine in Ocna Şugatag. The determiner *Şugatag* has been differently interpreted: Ştef (2016, p. 159) supports Papahagi's opinion (1981, p. 156, see the notes), according to which the topic name comes from the Hung. *sóvago* 'salt cutter' + Germ. *Tage* 'day worker', especially because Sat-Şugatag "e considerat ca fiind locuit de oameni lucrători cu ziua, care nu sînt «nemneşi»" [is considered to be the village whose inhabitants are day workers, who are not «nemneşi» 'land owners'] Kiss (1988, p. 64, s.v. *Akna Sugatag*) considers the toponym deriving from the verb *súg* 'to whisper' and suff. *-atag*. We agree with Kiss's opinion.



**Hoteni** locality, attested in 1360 (*Zalatina*), together with **Breb** (*Hódpatakfalwa, villa olachalis Hatpatokfalva*), is historically mentioned only in 1555 as *Hotynfalwa*. The oiconym **Hoteni** comes from the group name *hoteni* < surname *Hotea* + suff. *-eni*. The name **Breb** has been registered in documents beginning with 1715 and it is based on the appellative *breb* 'beaver'.

## 2. Topic names denominating waters

As the researched area is placed in a hilly landscape, there are a lot of smaller or larger affluents of Mara river, springs and lakes. Their names indicate property relationships or features of the water. Semantically, the hydronyms in Ocna Şugatag can be placed into 4 classes: 1. river names, 2. valley names, 3. small springs and wells names and 4. stagnant water names.

### 2.1. Topic names denominating rivers

**MÁRA** (H, S), left affluent of Iza, of 40 km in length, referred to, in Hoteni, with the general term *Rîu* 'River'. The etymology of the name has been intensely debated, but the most appropriate seems to start from the stem *mar-* 'water' (+ *-a* "considered a feminine definite article or a "toponymic suffix"), cf. Sanscr. *mara*, Celtic *mor*, Gothic *marei*, Latin *mare*, Slavic *mare*, Lithuanian *mares* (Xenopol, 1985, p. 50–51), probably the basis of *Mureş* hydronym, too.

<sup>2</sup>The previous names of the localities subjected to inquiry were listed according to Suciu (1967 and 1968).

**RÎU BRĂZILOR** (S), denomination for the superior flow of Mara river; it springs from under *Pleșca* peak, “it springs from Braz, from the pastures” I, and it consists of three smaller streams *Valea Răchiiții*, *Valea Seacă* and *Valea Podului*, passes through *Cheile Tătarului*, collecting the other valleys from the mountain *Vidrișca*, *Tălhărașu*, *Valea Roșie* and *Valea Șteviei*. – From *rîu* + top. n. *Brazi* < *brad* (pl. *brazi*).

## 2.2. Topic names denominating valleys

**BĂRCOTEĂSCA** (S). – From adj. that became a noun *bărcoteasca* < p.n. *Bărcotă* (see **DOR**, p. 199) + suf. *-easca*. In Borșa, MM, there is a byname *Bîrcotă*, also registered in toponymy (see **Mihali**, 2015, p. 137, 161).

**BREBOAIA** (B), affluent of Marei, “it springs from Măgură” IV. – From byn. *Breboia* < p.n. *Breb*, 5 times mentioned as a surname in the county<sup>3</sup>, or from *breboia* ‘breb’s female’.

**BREBOIȚA** (B) IV. – From top. n. *Breboia* + dim. suff. *-ița*.

**CÎRSTOĂIA** (S), “a small valley, it flows into the river [Mara]” I. – From byn. *Cîrstoia* < p.n. *Cîrstea* + suff. *-oia*.

**CÎCĂCEA** (S), another denomination for *Cîrstoia*, I. – From n.n. *Cicacea*. Cf. top. n. *Căcicea* (**Vișovan**, 2005, p. 31; **TTRT–Valea Hășdății**, p. 35).

**COPĂCIȘ** (B), “dale” IV. – From top. n. *Copăciș*, hay field < *copăciș* ‘place with many trees’ < *copac* + coll. suff. *-iș*.

**DĂRĂSCA** (B, H, O, S), “valley that flows from Hoteni” I, “valley” III, V. – From p.n. *Dărasca*<sup>4</sup> < p.n. *Daru* (**Jordan**, 1983, p. 166; **DOR**, p. 102, p.n. *Mardarie*, p. 257, p.n. *Dar*, and the forms *Dărescu*, *Dărești*, *Dărăști*, *Dărăscu*) + suff. *-(e)asca*.

**RUGINOĂSA** [ruğinoșa] (B), “small dale” IV. – From adj. *ruginos*, *-oasă* ‘(about a place) with rust-coloured water’. The hydronym is also spread in other areas of Transylvania (**Vișovan**, 2005, p. 311; **TTRT–Sălaj**, p. 282; **TTRT–Valea Hășdății**, p. 101).

**SĂRĂTA** (O), V. – From adj. *sărat*, *-ă*, which became a noun ‘salty, rich in salt’. Even though the valley has drinking water, it flows through and collects water from an area rich in salt. The topic name is registered in Maramureș in other places known for salt deposits (see **Vișovan**, 2005, p. 315).

**SUNĂTOĂREA** (B), “valley at the entrance of the village” IV. – From adj. *sunător*, *-oare*, which became a noun ‘makes or propagates sounds’. The name is usually given to running waters which form waterfalls on their flow (see **Jordan**, 1963, p. 58). In Maramureș, the topic name is also registered in Strîmtura locality (**Vișovan**, 2005, p. 334).

**TĂLHĂRĂȘU** (S), “it springs from Pleșca forest, comes through Cheile Tătarului and flows into Valea Roșie” I. – From *tălhăraș* < *tălhar*, var. of *tilhar* ‘thief, robber’ or n.n. *Tălhăraș* < *tălhar* ‘scoundrel; wicked, infamous person’ + suff. *-aș*. Cf. top. n. *Tălhăroaia* (**Vișovan**, 2008, p. 243).

**TÎLBUREA** [tîlburea] (B, S), “a small valley” I, “water” IV. – From adj. that became a noun *tîlbure*, var. of *tulbure* ‘(about waters) restless, whirling’. The toponym is widely spread in Maramureș (**Vișovan**, 2005, p. 344; 2008, p. 245).

**VÁLEA BORCÚTULUI** (B), “it goes up to Budești” IV. – From *vale* + top. n. *Borcut* (see *infra*).

**VÁLEA CÁSELOR** (B), “valley at the entrance of the village, it flows into Breboia” IV. – From *casă* (pl. *case*).

**VÁLEA CHÉII** (S), “it comes down from Iezăr”, “Valea Iezărului and Valea Horjii make together Valea Cheii after they pass through Cheie” I. – From top. n. *Cheia* < *cheie* “valley that meanders between two rock walls and opens passage towards a field or a place between two provinces; gorge” (**MDA**).

<sup>3</sup>The frequency of surnames in the county is given according to DFNF.

<sup>4</sup>The anthroponym *Dărasca* is mentioned in the birth register from Breb locality beginning with 1923.

**VÁLEA HÓRJI** (S), “it springs from a móciră from under Vîrvu lu Ştefan; swampy water” I. – From top. n. *Horja* < from surname *Horja*, for 34 people in the county.

**VÁLEA IÉZERULUI** (S), “it comes from Iezăr”. – From top. n. *Iezer* < *iezer* ‘mountain lake’.

**VÁLEA LU TODORÚȚ** (S), “it springs from Piatra Mică, it flows towards Giuleşti” I. – From hyp. *Todoruț* < p.n. *Todor*, var. of *Teodor*. The surname *Todoruț* is given to 30 people in Maramureş.

**VÁLEA MÁNDRULUI** (S), “it comes from under Preluca Iurii and it flows into Valea Podului” I. – From surname *Mandru* (see [Jordan, 1983](#), p. 289). Cf. fam. n. *Mandra*, frequent in the locality, having 112 occurrences in Maramureş.

**VÁLEA MÁRE** (B, H), “valley directing towards Mara, it flows into Mara” II, “it comes from Gutin, it flows into the river in Deseşti” III, “water from under Gutin” IV. – From adj. *mare*.

**VÁLEA MISÁRĂŞULUI** (S). – From p.n. *Misarăş*. The surname *Misarăş* is registered once, *Misaraş* – two times, *Misaroş* – 26 times, but *Mesaroş* has 270 occurrences, being very frequent in Sat Şugatag.

**VÁLEA NICHITÉŞTIULUI** [~ ní't'it'ేశ't'ulu] (B) IV. – From top. n. *Nichiteşti* < group n. *nichiteşti* < byn. *Nichita*, nowadays registered in the locality. As a surname, *Nichita* has a frequency of 143 in the county.

**VÁLEA PÓDULUI** (S), I. – From top. n. \**Pod* < *pod* ‘plateau, terrace’ ([Jordan, 1963](#), p. 33).

**VÁLEA PÓPII** (H), “small valley” II. – From *popă* ‘priest’.

**VÁLEA RĂCHÍȚII** (S), “it comes from Răchita in Giuleşti”. – From top. n. *Răchita* < *răchită* ‘willow’.

**VÁLEA RÓŞIE** (S), “it springs from the forest, from under”. – From adj. *roşu*, *-ie*.

**VÁLEA SEACĂ** (S), I. – From adj. *sec*, *seacă* ‘which has no (more) water, wherefrom water has (definitively or temporarily) disappeared’.

**VÁLEA ŞTÉVII** [válea ş'téd'i] (S), “it comes from Ştevea” I. – From top. n. *Ştevea* < from *şteve*, var. of *ştevie* ‘name for a series of herbaceous plants’ ([DLR](#)).

**VÁLCEÁUA CĂTELII** [válčəua cătélj] (H), II, “when it rains, there forms a dale” IV. – From *vâlcea*, var. of *vîlcea* ‘small rivulet’ + *cătea* ‘bitch’.

**VÁLCEÁUA CRÁMELOR** (B), “in Crame, it flows into Valea Mare” IV. – From top. n. *Crame* < *cram* (pl. *crame*), var. of *crámă* ‘hut, outhouses, annexes around the house’ (see also [TTRT–Sălaj](#), p. 89).

**VĂSCOÁIA** (S), “small valley that flows into Valea Răchiţii; it springs from Între Rude, from under Su Vîrv” I. – From byn. *Văskoiaia* < p.n. *Vasc(u)*, not registered in the locality nowadays, but it is present in Maramureş: *Vasc* – 57 people, *Vascu* – 5, *Vascu* – 101, *Vasko* – 8.

**VÎLCEÁ** (B), “it flows into Breboia” IV. – From *vîlcea*.

**VIDRÍŞCA** (S), “it springs from Pleşca forest, it goes through Cheile Tătarului and it flows into Valea Roşie” I. – possibly from hyp. *Vidrişca* < p.n. *Vidra* ([DOR](#), p. 405; [Oancă, 2016](#), p. 130) + suff. *-işcă* (see [Pascu, 1916](#), p. 249–250) or from Sl. *vydriška*.

### 2.3. Topic names denominating wells and springs

**BORCÚT** (B), “mineral water spring” IV. – From *borcut* ‘mineral water’. The topic name is quite spread in the county (see [Mihali, 2015](#), p. 60; [Vişovan, 2005](#), p. 24; [2008](#), p. 21).

**CIURGĂU** (O), V. – From *ciurgău* ‘drain or pipe for the spring water’. For this toponym area see also [TTRT–Valea Hăşdăţii](#), p. 39; [TTRT–Valea Ierii](#), p. 41; [TTRT–Sălaj](#), p. 73; [Vişovan \(2005, p. 36; 2008, p. 34\)](#).

**CIURÓI** (H), “spring” II. – From *ciuroi* ‘spring that flows through a narrow drain made of bark; chute, small gutter, etc.’ ([DLR](#)). See also [Mihali \(2015, p. 107\)](#); [Vişovan \(2008, p. 37, p. 34\)](#); [TTRT–Sălaj](#), p. 70.

**FÎNTÎNA CIÓTULUI** (S), I. – From *fîntină* ‘spring’ + byn. *Ciotu*.

**FÎNTÎNA CU SOLOMÎZDRĂ** (O), V. – From reg. *solomîzdră*, var. of *salamandră* ‘species of tailed amphibian, resembling the lizard, with short sideways directed legs, with a wide flat body, having black with yellow spots skin, a shiny tegument which secretes an irritant substance having a protective role’ (DLR).

**FÎNTÎNA DE SLĂTINĂ** (O), small lake with salty water, displayed as a well, supplied by a saline spring, a place where the locals take saline water from, “a well with saline water” V. – From prep. *de* + noun *slatină* ‘salty, saline water’.

**FÎNTÎNA DE LA DÎMBURÉLE** (B). IV. – From prep. *de la* + top. n. *Dîmburéle* < *dîmburel* (pl. *dîmburele*).

**FÎNTÎNA HÚCIULUI** (B), “well at the roots of an alder tree, at the entrance of Huciu Des” IV. – From top. n. *Huciu* [*Des*] < *huci* ‘thicket’.

**FÎNTÎNA IÉDULUI** (S), spring, “people say that there, near a stone, they heard the deer kid bleating” I. – From *ied* ‘male kid of deer’. Cf. anthrop. *Iedu*.

**FÎNTÎNA LU CÎRNĂȚ** (S), I. – From n.n. *Cîrnăț*, also a byname in Hoteni.

**FÎNTÎNA LU DRÎDU** (S), I. – From n.n. *Drîdu*.

**FÎNTÎNA LU GÁBOR** (H), “well” II. – From Hung p.n. *Gabor* ‘Gabriel’, past and present first name in the area. The surname *Gabor* has 120 registrations in the county.

**FÎNTÎNA LU HÁȘTOR** (S), “strong spring, between Laz and Văratec” I. – From p.n. *Hastor*, possibly a Jewish name.

**FÎNTÎNA LU PĂPÚC** (S), I. – From byn. *Păpuc*. The surname *Papuc* is registered for 9 people in Maramureş.

**FÎNTÎNA LU ȘTEȚ** (S), “it is under Cheie, under Piatra Mare” I. – surname *Șteț*, frequent in Sat-Şugatag, for 167 people in Maramureş.

**FÎNTÎNA LU TÓDOR** (S), “it is in Horja, good water” I. – From p.n. *Todor*, var. of *Teodor*. The surname *Todor* is registered in Maramureş for 51 people.

**FÎNTÎNA LU VASALÍ-A MOÁȘII** [*fîntîna lu vasalî-a mósî*] (S), “it is under Piatra Mare” I. – From first name. *Vasalie*, var. of *Vasile* + byn. *A Moășii*.

**FÎNTÎNA MÁNCIULUI** (S) I. – From surname *Manciu*, for 52 people Maramureş. Nowadays, the surname is not known in the locality.

**FÎNTÎNA MÁGURII** (B), “spring on Măgura” IV. – From top. n. *Măgura* < *măgură* ‘tall, round, smooth hill’.

**FÎNTÎNA PRÉLUCILOR** (S), “water with *lăturiș*<sup>5</sup>” I. – From top. n. *Préluci* < *prelúcă* (pl. *preluci*) ‘small glade’ (DLR).

**ȘTIUBÉI** (H), “well” III. – From *știubei* ‘well having a shallow spring with a *știubei* as a casting (3); generalizing, shallow well; spring of a running water’ (DLR). The toponym is spread in other areas of Transylvania, too (TTRT–Sălaj, p. 305; TTRT–Valea Ierii, p. 163; TTRT–Valea Hășdății, p. 107).

#### 2.4. Topic names denominating stagnant waters

**BÁLTĂ** (B, H), “people used to ret hemp in it, it is situated between Hoteni and Breb” IV. – From *baltă* ‘(larger) area of stagnant water, geologically natural, shallow, with specific aquatic vegetation and fauna’ (MDA).

<sup>5</sup>For *lăturiș*, subject I offered the following explanation: “it is a worm, it has many legs and a wide body and when it goes it straightens its body; it lives in rocky areas, where the springs are rockiest, sandy, in cold mountain waters”, “the water with *lăturiș* is good for drinking”. The meaning of *lăturiș* mentioned by our subject is not registered by the dictionaries, but MDA registered the word *lătunoi*, var. of *lătunoaie* ‘(reg.) species of insect which lives at the bottom of the waters (*Gumarus Pulex*)’. Our colleague, Veronica Ana Vlasin, confirmed the presence of the word *lătunoi*, having the meaning our subject specified for *lăturiș*, in Cozla locality, Sălaj county.

**GÁBORI** (O), lake with fresh water, resulted from salt mine crumbling, “large puddle” V. – From Hung. *Gábori* < p.n. Hung. *Gabor*. The lake keeps the latest name of the salt mine.

**IÉZER** (S), I. – From *iezer* ‘mountain lake’ (see also Mihali, 2015, p. 97; Vişovan, 2005, p. 149; 2008, p. 121).

**LÁCU RÓŞU** (O), lake with saline water, named like that because of the copper-coloured water, V. – From *lac* + adj. *roşu*.

**LÁCU VRĂJITOÁREI** (O), lake with saline water, V. – From *vrăjitoare* ‘witch’. The toponym is due to the wild appearance of the lake. The slopes towards the hole are steep and covered in rich vegetation (trees, elder bushes, hazelnut trees, nettles, etc.), which make the thickets impenetrable, especially in summer. Moreover, the surface of the lake is covered by duckweed, giving the lake a wild, witchy appearance, inspiring fear to the one who goes towards it for the first time.

**MÓCIRA** (H, S), “large swamp” I, “it is swampy” II, “swampy land” III. – From *mociră* ‘watery, swampy, muddy place; marsh’.

**MÓCIRA ÁLBULUI** (B), “swampy land” IV. – From p.n. *Albu*. The surname *Albu* is registered for 186 people in Maramureş.

**MÓCIRA CU LÚŞTELE** (S), “many luşte [a flower] grow there in spring” I. – From prep. *cu* + *luşte* ‘name for two herbaceous plants from the *Liliaceae* family, with straight leaves, with big greenish outside and white inside flowers, disposed in a dense raceme’ (DLR).

**MÓCIRA DIN LAZ** (S), I. – From prep. *din* + top. n. *Laz* < *laz* ‘land resulted after cutting down a forest’.

**MÓCIRA MÁRE** (S), part of the pasture, “buffalos use to bathe in *mociră*” I. – From adj. *mare*.

**ÓREGHI** [óregi] (O), lake with saline water, resulted after a salt mine crumbling, “saline puddle” V. – From Hung. surname *Oreg*, attested beginning with 1554 < Hung. *öreg* “old” (Kázmér, 1993) or directly from the Hung. *öreg* ‘old’. In geological studies or in touristic reviews, the Romanian name *Lacul Bătrîn* also appears, as it is the oldest bathing place in the locality. The local people, no matter their ethnic belonging, use the name *Oreghi*.

**TĂU** (H), “the puddles in Hoteni; people used to ret hemp there” II, “Hoteni people’s puddle” III. – From *tău* ‘mountain lake’. See *Baltă*.

**TĂU CHENDROÁII** (B), **TĂU CRENDÓÁII**, “puddle with moss under Piatra Mare” IV. – From byn. *Chendroaia* < p.n. *Chendre(a)* or *Chender* (Jordan, 1983, p. 112) + suff. *-oia*. In Maramureş, the surname *Chender* has a frequency of 7, *Chendre(a)* is not registered in DFNFM, but there is a *Chendrean* for 7 people. The form *Tău Crendoaiei* given by our subject is a variant with metathesis.

**TĂU CRĂCIÚNII** (B), IV. – From p.n. *Crăciuna* (see DOR, p. 36). *Crăciuna* is not registered as a surname in Maramureş, according to DFNFM, but the surname *Crăciun* has a frequency of 607 in the county.

**TĂU MORĂRÉNILOR** (B), IV. – From the group name *Morăreni* < p.n. *Morar* + suff. *-eni*. P.n. *Morar* is a surname with the frequency of 777 in Maramureş, and also a byname.

**TĂU SĂRÁT** (B), IV. – From adj. *sărat* “with salty water”.

**TĂUL FĂRĂ FUND** (O), V. – From prep. *fără* + *fund* ‘down; bottom limit’. The lake has this name because, as it is the deepest lake in Ocna Şugatag (32.9 m), and the previous tries of measuring its depth using rudimentary means had been useless. The local people also explain the name referring to a legend about a man who drowned there, together with his cart drawn by buffaloes. As nothing of their remains has ever returned to the surface again, “that means the lake is bottomless”.

### 3. Linguistic appreciations

In the area subjected to our study, the hydronym *Mara*, based on an Indo-European stem, belongs to the oldest toponymic layer. The majority of the toponyms are Romanian, except the two saline lakes resulted from salt mines crumbling, *Gabori* and *Oreghi*, the Hungarian Genitive forms of person names. The linguistic contact and the influence of Hungarian is phonetically identifiable due to the place of the stress on the first syllable in toponyms like *Mócira* and *Préluci* (*Fîntîna Prélucilor*).

From the structure point of view, the topic names denominating waters in Ocna Şugatag, Maramureş county reflect patterns or toponymic types emphasizing the contribution of different parts of speech to the toponymic inventory as well as the frequency of some syntactic structures. Thus, the simple topic names are based on:

- nouns in the singular: *Baltă*, *Borcut*, *Ciurgău*, *Ciuroi*, *Iezer*, *Móciră*, *Ştiubei*, *Tău*, *Tălhăraş*, *Vâlcea*;
- adjectives indicating a feature of the water: *Ruginoasa*, *Sărata*, *Sunătoarea*, *Tîlburea*. The adjectives initially functioned as determiners of a noun (e.g. *Valea Sărată*), then, themselves became nouns by taking up the definite article;
- derivatives with collective suffix *-iş*: *Copăciş*, or the diminutival suffix *-iţă* from another topic name: *Breboiţa*, the latter indicating a size relationship between two water courses close to each other. Some hydronyms come from feminine person names created from masculine anthroponyms using the suffix *-oaia* (*Cîrstoiaia*, *Văscioaia*) or the suff. *-easca* (*Dărasca*), or they are based on a nickname (*Cîcacea*).

But most of the topic names are compounds of lexical elements having a unitary meaning and a common denominative function. The best represented typological pattern is the one with a Genitive determiner, indicating possession or affiliation to a region. Thus, the determiner can be an appellative, anthroponym or another toponym. In the denominative structures *Fîntîna Iedului*, *Lacu Vrăjitoarii*, *Valea Caselor*, *Valea Căţelii*, *Valea Popii*, the determiner, a common noun in the Genitive, refers either to possession (*Valea Popii*), or to something out of ordinary in the local fauna (*Valea Iedului*) or a specific feature of the area the geographical object is placed in (*Valea Caselor*).

Most of the Genitive topic structures have an anthroponymic determiner – a surname (*Fîntîna lu Şteţ*, *Fîntîna Manciuului*, *Valea Mandrului*), byname (*Fîntîna Ciotului*, *Fîntîna lu Cîrnaţ*, *Fîntîna lu Păpuc*), personal nickname (*Fîntîna lu Drîdu*), feminine anthroponym (*Tău Chendroaiei*), group name (*Tău Morărenilor*), first name + byname (*Fîntîna lu Vasali-a Moaşii*). In some situations, it is difficult to establish if the toponym is based on a surname, a first name, or a byname as the anthroponym circulates in all the three forms (*Fîntîna lu Gabor*, *Fîntîna lu Todor*, *Mócira Albului*, *Valea lu Todoruţ*, *Valea Misărăşului*) or it is both first name and also a byname (*Tău Crăciunii*). The anthroponymic determiner has either an enclitic masculine or feminine article (*Fîntîna Ciotului*, *Mocira Albului*, *Tău Crăciunii*, *Valea Mandrului*, *Valea Misărăşului*) or a proclitic one (*Fîntîna lu Haştor*, *Fîntîna lu Gabor*).

The third subclass of the typological pattern noun + noun in the Genitive contains topic names which have a toponymic determiner in their structure. In this situation, the Genitive indicates the placement, the geographical object being a part of a larger area (*Fîntîna Huciului*, *Fîntîna Măgurii*, *Fîntîna Prélucilor*, *Valea Cramelor*, *Valea Cheii*, *Valea Horjii*, *Valea Nichiteştiului*) or its source (*Valea Iezerului*, *Valea Răchişii*, *Valea Şteviei*).

Another typological pattern in the hydronymy of the area is noun + preposition + noun, either an appellative (*Fîntîna cu Solomîzdră*, *Fîntîna de Slatină*, *Mócira cu Luştele*, *Tău fără Fund*), or a topic name (*Fîntîna de la Dîmburele*, *Mócira din Laz*). The prepositions *cu*, *de*, *fără* indicate, in this context, a feature of the water or of the place and *din* and *de la* refer to the geographical position of the water in relation with another bigger or better known geographical object.

The hydronyms following the pattern noun + adjective are not very many, but they are an important reference point in establishing the specific features of soil and water. The adjectival determiner offers information about the water colour (*Lacu Roşu*, *Valea Roşie*), water quality (*Tău Sărat*, *Valea Seacă*) or size

(*Mócira Mare, Valea Mare*). The determiner *roșu* denominates springs that pass through areas rich in iron (see also *Ruginoasa*) or having a greater concentration of salt, which makes the water copper-coloured.

The analysed hydronyms illustrate the fact that the toponyms, as elements of the vocabulary, are subjected to the same word formation means as the common nouns, valorising all the structures of the language.

#### 4. Conclusions

Our research underlined the fact that the hydronyms in Ocna Șugatag, Maramureș county reflect, on the one hand, the interdependence between toponymy and common vocabulary, and, on the other hand, between toponymy and anthroponymy. When talking about wells and springs in the mountain area, the property relationships are tighter than for water courses accessible to an entire community or even to more collectivities. Thus, the small springs, often placed in a hay field area usually belonging to a family, are called after their owner even if they are used by all the members of the community. This denomination possibility preserves anthroponyms which disappeared long ago, as their bearers moved away (*Drîdu, Haștor, Vășcoaia*), or we can identify frequent surnames, old bynames, personal nicknames or first names. From this point of view, the hydronymy and toponymy, in general, represent important parts of the Romanian anthroponymy, both synchronic and diachronic, that is why their indexing and research become a *sine-qua-non* condition for ethnic identity awareness and the evolution of human settlements.

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## Appendix A. Abbreviations

byn. – byname  
coll. – collective  
dim. – diminutive  
Hung. – Hungarian  
hyp – hypocoristic  
n.n. – nickname

p.n. – person name  
prep. – preposition  
Sl. – Slavic  
suff. – suffix  
top. – toponym  
top. n. – topic name