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LATV. dēgun-s AND THREE DIFFERENT -n TERMINATIONS*


This suffix must have merged, at least in Baltic (perhaps also in Greek, with its ω), with */I*n*(o)n-; thus *H₃(I)* would have imparted voicing to the adjacent consonantism: cf. */I-Ien-*, *H₂ap-H₃( )n-* (to OPr. ape, Lith. įpė ‘river’), *peik-(*I*n-*) Hampp 2004, 64; 1988; 1994a; Karl Hoffmann followed by Hampp 1970, 1; 1974. Hence */I*(e)ₖ*I*(o)n- > *d*(e)ₙ*I*( )n- is eminently reasonable for dēgu(o)ns, in which voicing could have spread through the base in the zero grade. In fact, at an early time, the stem in zero-grade would have been suitable for the weak cases of the paradigm, and the syntactic “weak” cases of the noun ‘nose, Lith. nósis (= Latv. nāss ‘nôstril’) *nVH₃s- could well have offered the class of easiest and most effective entry to a suppletive colloquial stem. That is, in this instance colloquial *dgₙ*s- would simply replace *nH₃s- → n₇s- > Baltic *îns- which would not have seemed a transparent Schwundstufe.

Perhaps also we may reckon with */-n- < IE oblique heteroclite (Hampp 1994b) < pre-Indo-Hittite oblique (v. Welsh ilydan ‘broad’ Hampp 2002a; 1997, 259; 2002b).

REFERENCES


* I would like to thank Steven Young for his assistance with essential and erudite Baltic references in this article and for his patience in difficult days.
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