

River names as a testament of cultural heritage (on hydronyms in the Iskar river basin)

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Abstract: River names are some of the oldest *-onyms* on record. The article examines 170 river names from the basin of the Iskar river – the largest tributary of the Danube in Bulgaria. The origin and significance of river names emerge through the application of traditional onomastic methods – onomastic (etymological) analysis and onomastic reconstruction. Comparative onomastic data from adjacent and more distant regions in Bulgaria and the Balkans are also drawn on. Conclusions about the relative antiquity of the hydronyms are drawn.

Key words: river name, hydronym, Iskar river, Danube river, tributary of a river

Els noms dels rius com a llegat del patrimoni cultural (Sobre hidrònims a la conca del riu Iskar)

Resum: Els noms dels rius, o topònims fluvials, són uns dels noms més antics de què es té notícia. L'article examina 170 noms de rius de la conca del riu Iskar —el major afluent del Danubi a Bulgària. Tractem d'aclarir l'origen i la significació d'aquests noms a partir de l'aplicació de mètodes onomàstics tradicionals: anàlisi etimològica i reconstrucció onomàstica. També es recullen dades onomàstiques comparatives de regions de Bulgària i dels Balcans, més properes i més llunyanes. Proposem algunes conclusions sobre l'antiguitat relativa dels hidrònims.

Paraules clau: nom de riu, hidrònim, riu Iskar, riu Danubi, afluent d'un riu

1 INTRODUCTION

Hydronymy is one of the most important branches of onomastics. Its relevance to historical, ethno- genetic, and linguistic research is well documented and it is rightly claimed that, since time immemorial, the names of waterbodies are closely connected to the appearance

of settlements and human life. These *-onyms* are some of the earliest geographic names on record, and the names of large rivers, in particular, remain unchanged for many centuries. This conservatism inherent in river names permits, in most cases, an insight into the approximate source of the denomination, revealing meanings coded in the names and allowing us to establish their origin.

Hydronymy is relevant to the history of language – it gives us valuable, and sometimes quite unique, information about the linguistic affiliations of the oldest inhabitants of a certain region, and for which there is usually no other data. A number of preeminent Bulgarian linguists have dedicated most of their research to the names of waterbodies. They maintain that the only feasible data for ancient populations, for which few particulars exist, can be extracted from toponymy, and especially from hydronymy: “Large rivers are the local place names least susceptible to change, they have been preserved the longest, regardless of their different populations [...] this is why river names present the most important source of information for ethno-genetic conclusions” (Георгиев/Georgiev 1960: 21). To emphasize the great importance of studying hydronyms, researchers directed their attention beyond the country’s present borders and they examined both hydrographic objects in the historical Bulgarian lands and the etymology of hydronyms from the whole Balkan peninsula.¹

The Danube river and its basin constitute a unique subject for research and one of great European significance. The Danube – with its source in Schwarzwald (Black Forest) and its outlet in the Black Sea – is the only large river in Europe to flow from west to east. It is the second largest river on the continent, after the Volga, and the one that connects the most nationalities in Europe. Indeed, it flows through ten European countries, while another seven have tributaries to it.

1 Младенов, Ст. Имената на десет български реки. – В: Сп. на БАН, кн. X, 1915, 41-70; [Mladenov, St. The names of ten Bulgarian rivers. – BAS journal, vol. X, 1915, 41-70]; Георгиев, Вл. Българска етимология и ономастика, С. БАН, 1960 [Georgiev, Vl. Bulgarian etymology and onomastics, BAS, 1960]; Георгиев, Вл. Траките и техният език. С., БАН, 1977, 265 [Georgiev, Vl. The Thracians and their language, BAS, 1977, 265]; Duridanov, I., Die Hydronymie des Vardarsystems als Geschichtsquelle: Böhlau Verlag, Köln-Wien. 1975; Заимов, Й. Български водопис. Т. I, А-Й, Т. II, К-Р. В. Търново, 2012 [Zaimov, Y. Bulgarian Hydronymy, T. I, A-Й, T. II, K-P. V. Tarnovo, 2012].

The subject of this article is the names of the larger rivers in the Iskar basin until this river joins the Danube. It is no coincidence that we direct our attention to the river names of the Iskar basin, given that it is the largest tributary of the Danube in Bulgaria. The aim is to present an onomastic analysis of the names of these waterbodies, and to establish the basis for an examination of their antique names, and – when possible – to compare the data with hydronyms from other river basins. We reference all onomastic studies conducted to date as well as other sources.²

2 THE ISKAR RIVER

The Iskar, a right tributary of the Danube, is the largest tributary of that river in Bulgarian territory. Its basin occupies an area of 8,646 km², which is 1.1% of the Danube's drainage basin. The Iskar has its source in the Rila mountain range and is formed from the confluence of the Black (left tributary) and White Iskar (right tributary), about 500 m north of the White Iskar village, 1047 m above sea level. From there, it flows through the Samokov valley and out of the Iskar dam, between the Vitoshka and Plana mountains to the west, and the Lozen mountain to the east, where it forms the deep, picturesque Pancharevo gorge (22 km in length). Past the Pancharevo dam, the river crosses the Sofia plain, flowing through the city's eastern districts, and entering the majestic Iskar gorge (about 65 km in length) next to the town of Novi Iskar. After Lyutibrod, at the end of the gorge, the Iskar comes out of the Stara Planina mountains and continues eastward as its valley widens. Next to the town of Roman, it receives its largest tributary – Malki Iskar. At the village of Karlukovo, the river course heads off north, entering the Danube plain near Chomakovtsi, from where it starts flowing in a northeasterly direction. On the Danube plain, the Iskar's course is broad and asymmetrical, with a steeper right bank. Eventually, it flows as a right tributary into the Danube at a point 2.3 km northeast of the village of Baykal. All in all, the river passes through

² Архив на Секцията по ономастика [Onomastics department archive], IBL, BAS; Hydrological directory of rivers in Bulgaria, (Хидрологичен справочник на реките в НР България) vol. I 1957, vol. II 1958; Large-scale maps. Oesterreichische Generalstabkarte in Massstab 1:200 000.

the Samokov and Sofia regions, the city of Sofia, and the Vratsa, Lovech, and Pleven regions.

The oldest forms of the river's name on record are Σκίος (5th century BC), Ὠσκίος, *Oeskus*, *Uscus*, *Hiscus*, Ἴσκός. The academician Georgiev has analyzed the hydronym and offers his suppositions about its possible origin – akin to the Old Irish *u(i)sce* 'water', Irish. *esc* 'water, bog, swamp', from ie. **ud(e)s-kyo-*, **udes-kyo-*, derived from **udes-* 'water', Greek ὕδωρ 'water', Sanskrit *utsa-h* 'spring, well' from ie. **ud(e)s-o-*. This distinguished linguist considered a Thracian origin for the name as being most likely (see Detschew 1957: 345; Георгиев/Georgiev 1960: 28-29; Георгиев/Georgiev 1977: 247; Заимов/Zaimov 2012: 567-568). The contemporary form has been changed according to popular etymology and influenced by the names of other rivers (Георгиев/Georgiev 1977: 247).

2.1 Onomastic glossary of the Iskar basin

- АДАМОВ ДОЛ** (Adamov dol), r., -r Beli Iskar, -tr. Iskar. – Adj. from PN *Адам/Adam* and *дол* 'vale'.
- АЛИНИЦА** (Alinitsa), r., starts from рк. Malak Skakavets, -r Levi Iskar, -tr. Iskar. – Adj. from PN *Ала/Ala*, dial. of *Ало/Alo* and топон. suff. - *ица*. Cf. PIN *Алин дол/Alin dol*, Radomir rg. (Чолева-Димитрова 2009; Choleva-Dimitrova 2014, 2018). Cf. disapp. PN *Альо, Ала/ Alyo, Ala*, derived from *Алан/Alan*, cf. Thrac. PN *Αυλου-πορις, Αλλος* (Дечев 1952: 26); *Allano, Alleo, Allu* (Тодоров/Todorov 2008: 51, 52). In OB there is a preserved PN *Алота/Alota*, (Заимов/Zaimov/ 1967: 270), cf. SN *Алино/Alino*, Samokov rg.
- БАБИН ДОЛ** (Babin Dol), r., -l Iskar. – Adj. from *баба*, 'old woman', ОБ *баба* 'кърмачка', 'old nursemaid' and *дол* 'vale', also in other Slavic lang. (БЕР I 22); cf. WN *Бабин дол/Babin Dol*, Radomir rg. (Чолева-Димитрова/Choleva-Dimitrova 2009).
- БАНКЯНСКА (КАКАЧ)**, (Bankyaska or Kakach), r., -r Iskar. – Derived from SN *Банкя/Банкя*, secondary name.
- БАРАГА** (Barata), See also *Габарска река* (Gabarska reka). – From *бара* 'small river, stream' (БЕР I 32).

- Батулийска река (Ябланица)**, (Batuliyska or Yablanitsa), springs from mt. Murgash, -r Iskar. – Derived from SN *Батулия/Batuliya*, secondary name, and *река/river*.
- Бачов дол** (Bachov Dol), -r (flows into the Iskar dam). – Adj. from PN *Бачо/Vacho*, 16th century (Займов/Zaimov 1988: 15) and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Бебреш** (Bebresh), r., -l Malki Iskar. – From old *бебер* ‘beaver’ < ОВ *áúáđú, áááđú* ‘river rodent with valuable fur, Castor fiber’ (БЕР I 60) and suff. *-еш*, common in toponymy (Чолева-Димитрова/Choleva-Dimitrova 2009; Займов/Zaimov 2012: 87).
- Бебриш** (Bebrish), r., -r Iskar. – See above.
- Бела вода** (Bela Voda) 1) r., -r Pravi Iskar, -r Iskar; 2) r., -l Лустра (Lustra), springs from mt. Yarema. – From adj. *white*, after the color of the soil and *вода* ‘water’. Common in toponymy.
- Beli Iskar** (Beli Iskar), r., -r Cherni Iskar, -l Iskar. – Secondary name, entirely from SN *Beli Iskar*.
- Бистри дол** (Bistri Dol), r., springs from mt. Varshino Bardo, -l Selska reka. – Adj. from old slav. conj. of *бистър* ‘clear, clean’ or ‘quick’, and *дол* ‘vale’; common in Slavic toponymy (Займов/Zaimov/ 2012: 111-113).
- Бистрица (Витошка)** (Bistritsa, Vitoshka), r., springs from east Vitoshka, -l (flows into the Панчаревско езеро/Pancharevsko ezero). – From adj. *бистър* ‘clear, clean’ or ‘quick’ and topon. suff. *-ица*. Cf. SN *Bistritsa*, in Blagoevgrad, Dupnitsa, and Kyustendil rgs.
- Блато** (Blato), r., -l Iskar. – From *блато*, ОВ *блато* ‘swamp’ (БЕР I 54).
- Божин дол** (Bozhin Dol), r., from RN Vragliva Livada in mt. Verila, -r Palakaria. – From PN *Божа*, dial. *Божо/Bozho* and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Боклуджа** (Bokludzha), r., springs from mt. Varvishteto, -l Iskar. – Loan from tur. *bokluca* ‘shrub, scrub’; cf. WN, RN *Bokludzha* in Karlovo, Sliven, etc. rgs. (Займов/Zaimov 2012: 129).
- Боянска река** (Boyanska Reka), springs from pk. Cherni Vrah -l Perlovska Reka. – From SN *Бояна*, secondary name.
- Брусника** (Brusnika), r., -r Iskar. – From *брусник* ‘place where you get whetstone’, cf. WN *Brusnika*, Lukovit rg. (Займов/Zaimov 2012: 147).
- Бучков дол** (Buchkov Dol), r., -tr. Лакатница/Lakatnitsa, -r Iskar, springs about 200 m. NE of mt. Sahtiovitsa. – Adj. from old PN *Бучко/Buchko* 15th c. (Займов/Zaimov 1988: 40) and *дол* ‘vale’.

Варовитица (Varovititsa), r., -l Iskar. – From adj. *варовит* ‘limestone, contains lime’, depends on geological characteristics, and *топон. suff. -ица*.

Ведена, също *Егуля* (Vedna, also Egulya), r., separates Витоша/Vitosha and Плана/Plana mountains. Egulya is the upper course (until the confluence at Zheleznishka Reka), from there, until it flows into the Iskar (-l), it is called Vedena. The name was examined by Георгиев/Georgiev 1960: 98. He attributed it to thrac. *utu < ie. *ūdō(r) = gr. ὕδωρ ‘water’ – examples: RN *Bum/Vit* and *Vedea* in Rumania, both tributaries of the Danube. *Vedena* is mentioned as a middle Bulgarian name. According to Дуриданов/Duridanov 1958: 217, the name is also Thracian, he attributed it to ie. *цед-: *ud- ‘water’ and -enā from *-eno. Zaimov considers the name to be Slavic, from part. *веден* from the verb *веда*, ОВ *ведж* (БЕР I 126); also see Заимов/Zaimov 2012: 190. Semantically, associated with waters deviated because of human activity, and this rg. is famous for mining. Cf. RN *Ведена* in the Montana rg. (Михайлова/ Mijajlova 1984: 89), RN *Ведейка* near Smolensk, *Ведемля* near Tver, *Веденец* near Tula, *Веденый Овраг* in Don rg. (WRG I 270), SN *Веденеевской* (Болото) in G. Vyatka rg., *Веденское* 10, *Ведень* in Terek rg. (RGN II 17). Local traditions often link it to a woman named *Vedena* from v. Bistritsa.

Владайска река (Vladayska Reka), springs NW of Cherni Vrah, -l Perlovska Reka. – Derives from SN *Владая/Vladaya*, secondary name, and *река/river*.

Водни дол (Vodni Dol), r., springs south of mt. Smilitsa, -r Iskar. – From adj. *воден* ‘water’ with the old complex declension and *дол* ‘vale’.

Вуйна (*Вуин дол*) (Vuyna, also Vuyn Dol), r., springs from mt. Plana, -r (flows into the Iskar dam). – From PN *Вуя*, from *вуйо* ‘maternal uncle’, cf. WN *Вуин дол*, Radomir rg. (Чолева-Димитрова/Choleva-Dimitrova 2009).

Вучанов дол (Vuchanov Dol), r., springs near pk. Strelyanska mogila, -l Bela Voda. – Adj. from PN *Вучан*. Cf. WN *Вучански дол*, Radomir rg. (Чолева-Димитрова/Choleva-Dimitrova 2009) and *дол* ‘vale’.

Върбачина долчина (Varbachina Dolchina), r., springs from pk. Suharevo, -l Lakatnitsa. – Derives from *върбак,-а* ‘willow forest’, also *дъбак* ‘oak forest’ and *долчина* ‘valley’.

- Върбешка бара** (Varbeshka Bara), r., -l Iskar. – Adj. with suff. *-(в)ск-* from **върбеш*: *върба* ‘willow, a tree that favors a water-rich environment, Salix’, ОВ âđüàà and suff. *-еш*, or ‘place with willows’, as in RN *Бебереш*, and *бара* ‘small river’.
- Върбова река** (Varbova Reka), springs from pk. Radomoritsa, -r Palakariya. – Adj. from *върба* ‘willow’ and *река/river*.
- Върли дол** (Varli Dol), r., springs from pk. Tapankovitsa), -tr. Lakatnitsa. – From adj. *върли* ‘steep’, with the old complex declension and *дол* ‘vale’. Cf. WN *Върли дол*, Radomir rg., common in toponymy.
- Габарска река (Барата)** (Gabarska Reka, Barata), -r Iskar. – Derived from *габар* < *габър*, *габер* ‘hornbeam, Carpinus betulus’ (БЕР I 220) and *река/river*.
- Габровница** (Gabrovnitsa), r., -r Iskar. – Adj. from *габер* and suff. *-(в)ница*, cf. SN *Габровница* in the Montana rg., PIN *Габровница*, Botevgrad rg. (Михайлова/ Mijaylova 2008: 112).
- Говедарски дол** (Govedarski Dol), r., -l Lakatnitsa. – Adj. from *говедар* ‘cow herd’ and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Голема Луковица** (Golema Lukovits), r., springs from the Shumatitsa ridge, -r Musalenska bistritsa. – See *Луковица*.
- Голем дол** (Golemi Dol) 1), r., -r Beli Iskar; 2) see *Shirokodolska Reka*. – From adj. *големи* ‘big’, with the old complex declension and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Голяма Пиперица** (Golyama Piperitsa), r., springs from pk. Devette Darveta, -l Iskar. – See *Пиперица*.
- Горна Лева река** (Gorna Leva Reka), springs from mt. Pogledets, -r Lev Iskar. – See *Лева река*.
- Гостиля** (Gostilya), r., -l Iskar. – Adj. with *-ја-* from old PN *Гостил* 15th c. (Займов/Zaimov 1988: 68).
- Градешница** (Gradeshnitsa), r., -r Iskar. – Derived from *град-ец*, ОВ *градъ* ‘fortress’ with suff. *-ън-ица* (Займов/Zaimov 2012: 307-308).
- Гръцкото дере (Гръцкия дол)** (Gratskoto Dere, Gratskia Dol), r., -r Bokludzha. – Cased, derived from ethnonym Greek, and *дол=дере* ‘vale’.
- Гръчка река** (Grachka Reka) 1) springs from pk. Sokolets, -l Malka Bistritsa; 2) r., name of the river *Лустра* for a short section before Поповуане v.

- Гърковица (Грековица)** (Garkovitsa, Grekovitsa), springs from pk. Gradishteto, -tr Cherni Iskar. – Adj. from PN *Гърко* and topon. suff. *-ица*.
- Даркево дере** (Darkevo Dere), r., springs from pk. Ovcharets, -r Beli Iskar. – From PN *Дарке*, from *Дарко*, diminutive of *Даро* 15th c. (Займов/Zaimov 1988: 80) and *дол=дере* ‘vale’.
- Деркевица** (Derkevitsa), name of r. Lustra for a short stretch by Kovachevtsi. – From KN *Деркѐв*, preserved in the Samokov rg., from PN *Дарке*, dissimilated *a – e > e – e* and suff. *-ица*.
- Деянов дол** (Deyanov Dol), r., -l Beli Iskar. – From PN *Деян* and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Джерневница** (Djervevnitsa), r., -r Iskar. – From ОВ *жрънъвънъ* ‘watermill’, with dial. *дж-* < *ж-* (see Займов/Zaimov 2012: 386) and suff. *-ица*.
- Джупаница (Джопаница)** (Djupanitsa, Djopanitsa), p., springs from pk. Malak Mechit (Medarnik), -r Cherni Iskar. – From *джупан* < *жупан*, hist. ‘governor of a region, head of a clan’, ОВ *ж’Нпанъ* (БЕР I 559) and suff. *-ица*. Possibly from PN **Джупан*, **Жупан*; cf. PIN *Джупанова ливада*, Samokov rg., etc. (Займов/Zaimov 2012: 390).
- Долна Лева река** (Dolna Leva Reka), -tr. Levi Iskar. – See *Лева река*.
- Драголин** (Dragolin), r., springs from pk. Vishino Bardo, -l Palakarya, -l Iskar. – Adj. with *-ъ* from PN *Драголин*. Cf. PIN *Драгулиница*, Radomir rg. (Чолева-Димитрова/Choleva-Dimitrova 2009).
- Дупкина река** (Dupkine Reka), springs NE of pk. Zeleni Kamak, -r Pravi Iskar. – Adj. from *дупка* ‘hole’ and *река/river*.
- Дълбоки дол** (Dalboki Dol) 1) r., -l Cherni Iskar; 2) r., -r Palakarya. – От adj. *дълбок* ‘abyssal’, with the old complex declension and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Дълбочица** (Dalbochitsa), r., -l Iskar. – From adj. *дълбок* and suff. *-ица*.
- Егъла, Егуля, Ягуля** (Egula, Egulya, Yagulya), r., springs from mt. Plana, -tr. Vedena, -tr. Iskar. – From *егуля*, dial. ‘a fish similar to the eel, *Anguilla vulgaris*’ (БЕР I 477). According to zoologists, this fish could not have bred in any of the Iskar tributaries. Possibly adj. with *-ја* from PN *Ягул*.
- Елешница** (Eleshnitsa) 1) (tributary of Lesnovska Reka) (Matitsa), r., -r Lesnovska; 2) -l Batuliyska. – Derived from *ельха*, ОВ **ѣльха* ‘alder, *Alnus*’, or **ельша* and suff. *-(ън-)-ица* (БЕР I 491). Cf. PIN *Елешница* in the Radomir, Razlog, Petrich, etc. rgs.

- ЕЛОВ ДОЛ** (Elov Dol), r., springs from pk. Chuchkata, -r Shirokodolska Reka. – Adj. from *ела* ‘alder, *Abies alba*’ (БЕР I 487) and *дол* ‘vale’; cf. SN *Елов дол*, Radomir rg.; common in Bulgarian toponymy.
- Железничка река (Ведена)** (Zheleznishka Reka, Vedena), r., springs from l. Kazana in E Vitosha, -l Iskar. It is named Vedena in its lower course. – Derives from SN *Железница*, Sofia rg. and *река/river*
- Жълта бара** (Zhalta Bara), r., springs N of pk. Gradishteto, -tr. Cherni Iskar. – From adj. *жълт*, the yellow color of the soil and water and *бара* ‘small river’.
- Зимевиска река** (Zimevishka Reka), -l Iskar. – Derives from SN *Зимевица*, Svoge rg. and *река/river*.
- Златица** (Zlatitsa), r., -l Iskar. – From adj. *злат*=*златен* or from common noun gold and suff. *-ица*. Rivers with such names were usually prospected for gold.
- Златна Панега (Панега)** (Zlatna Panega, Panega), r., -r Iskar. – Adj. *златна* is an alleged transl. of the Thrac. *σαλδ(ο)-, σαлт(ο)-* ‘yellow, gold-colored’; the second part is akin to got. *fani* ‘mud, mire’, from ie. **pani* ‘mire, swamp’ (Георгиев/Georgiev 1960: 59; /Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 536). Cf. old RN *Паниска* (Камчия)/*Paniska* (Камчия).
- Ивовица** (Ivovitsa), r., -r Lakatnitsa, -l Cherni Iskar. – Adj. from PN *Иво* or from *ива* ‘willow *Salix caprea*’ and suff. *-ица*.
- Искрецка река** (Iskretska Reka), -l Iskar. – Derived from SN *Искреци*, Svoge rg. and *река/river*.
- Йозола** (Yozola), r., -r Levi Iskar, springs from Yozola lake. – Secondary name, after *Йозола/Yozola* (lake).
- Какач** (Kakach or Bankyanska r.), -l Iskar. – From old comm. *какач* ‘hook’, also dial. ‘thin, skinny person or animal’, probably describes river with many turns. Cf. SN *Какач*, Korchan rg. (Селищчев/Selishchev 1981: 342), PlN *Какачкото*, Kyustendil rg. etc. (Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 18).
- Каменица** (Kamenitsa), r., -l Iskar. – From *каменица* ‘stony soil, river with stony bed’; common in toponymy.
- Киселички дол** (Kiselichki Dol), r., -l Lakatnitsa. – Derived from *киселица* ‘a tree with sour fruit’ and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Клисура** (Klisura), r., springs from pk. Brusovete in mt. Verila, -r Palakarya. – From *клисура* ‘mountain pass, gorge’ (БЕР II 459), common in toponymy.

- Клисурица** (Klisuritsa), r., springs from pk. Karaklyu, -r Palakariya. – From *клисурa* and topon. suff. *-ица*.
- Ковайски дол** (Kovayski Dol), r., -r Iskar. – Probably from **Ковал-ја*, adj. from ext. *ковал* ‘blacksmith’ with *-ја*, here with *л’* > *й* in Wallachia (Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 122) and *дол* ‘vale’. Cf. SN *Ковайская, Усть-, Ковали* 89, *Коваличи* 2, *Ковалишки* 17 (RGN IV250).
- Козарника** (Kozarnika), r., -l Cherni Iskar. – Cased *козарник* ‘goat pen’.
- Копривщица** (Koprivshitsa), r., springs from pk. Berova Mogila, -r Klisura, -l Iskar. – From **Копривска*, from *коприва* ‘poison ivy, Urtica’ and suff. *-ица*, cf. SN *Копривщица* (Займов/ Zaimov 1959: 191).
- Косматица** (*Бешовишка бара*) (Kosmatitsa, Berovishka Bara), r., -l Iskar. – From adj. *космат* ‘hairy, shaggy’, literal, shrub is plentiful along the coast, and suff. *-ица*, cf. RN *Косматица*, Radomir rg. (Чолева-Димитрова/Choleva-Dimitrova 2009), PIN *Космати вър* near Godech (Симеонов 1966: 172).
- Костинбродска река** (*Беличка река*) (Kostinbrodksa Reka, Belichka Reka), -r Blato. – Derived from SN *Костинброд*, second is from *Белица* (old name) and *река/river*.
- Кошев дол** (Koshev Dol), r., -l Planski Dol, -l Iskar. – Adj. From PN *Коше*, diminutive of *Кошо* < *Костадин* (Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 173) and *vale*. Cf. PIN *Кошин камик*, Sofia region.
- Крапешка бара** (Krapeshka Bara), r., -l Iskar. – Derived from SN *Крапец* and *бара* ‘small river’; secondary name.
- Крива река** (Kriva Reka), -l Blato. – From adj. *крив*, a crooked river; common in toponymy.
- Кътинска река** (Katinska Reka), spr. from Stara Planina, tr. Iskar. – Derived from SN *Кътина* and *река/river*, Sofia region.
- Кюшечка река** (Kyucheshka Reka), spr. SW pk. Roshavoto Tepe, -r Iskar dam. – Derived from PIN *Кюше(то)*, from tur. loan *кюше* ‘corner, part’ and *река/river*; secondary name.
- Лазаров дол** (Lazarov Dol), r., spr. E of pk. Chadarevo Padalishte, -r Beli Iskar. – From PN *Лазар* and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Лакатница** (Lakatnitsa), r., spr. from pk. Marko, -l Cherni Iskar. – Derived from SN *Лакатник* and suff. *-ица*.
- Лева река, Горна, Долна** (Leva Reka, Gorna and Dolna). – From *лев* ‘left, the opposite of right’, in some cases *ляв* ‘crooked’, the opposite of

River names as a testament of cultural heritage (Iskar river basin)

straight 'right' and река/river; common in toponymy (Займов/Zaimov 2012: 256).

Levi Iskar, r., -l Cherni Iskar. – Cf. above.

Лесновска река (Стари Искър) (Lesnovska Reka, Stari Iskar), -r Iskar.
– From SN *Лесново* and *река/river*.

Лишка река (Lishka Reka), -r Iskar. – Adj. from *лишка* 'flat stone', referring to the river bed.

Лозянски дол (Lozyanski Dol), r., -r Iskar. – Adj. from *лозе* 'vineyard', *лозя* with suff. *-ън-ск* and *дол* 'vale'; possibly from ReN *Лозяне/Lozyane*.

Ломо (Lomo), r., -r Klisuritsa. – Cased *лом* 'a wind-felled or felled forest; steep place'. Cf. SN *Лом* on the Danube.

Лопушница (Lopushnitsa), r., tr. Cherni Iskar; name of the river after the confluence of Malka and Golyama Lopushnitsa. – Adj. from *лопух* 'garden patience, dock patience', also 'oak, *Quercus conferta*' (БЕР I 476) and suff. *-ица*.

Луковица, Голема, Малка (Lukovitsa, Golema and Malka). – Adj. from *лук* 'onion. Lauch; *Allium cepa*' (БЕР III 495) and suff. *-ица*.

Лустра (Lustra), r., spr. as Bela Voda S of mt. Siva Gramada, -l Palakariya.
– From arom. *lustru* 'shimmer, shine', probably after the lake's glimmer, here with *-а* with gender of *вода, река* (Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 296). – See *Деркевица*.

Лютин дол (Lyuti Dol), r., spr. from pk. Aleko, -r Beli Iskar. – From adj. *лют* 'steep', with the old complex declension, and *дол* 'vale', common in toponymy.

Макоцевска река (Makotsevaska Reka), -r Lesnovksa. – From SN *Макоцево* and *река/river*.

Мала река (Mala Reka), -l Levi Iskar. – From *мала*, dial. 'small' and *река/river*.

Малка Бистрица (Malka Bistritsa), r., spr. from Karamliyski Kladenets, -l Musalenska Bistritsa. – See *Бистрица*.

Малка Луковица (Malka Lukovitsa), r., spr. from the Borovets resort, -l Golema Lukovitsa. – See *Луковица*.

Малка Пиперица (Malka Piperitsa), r., spr. from pk. Dvete Darveta, -l Golyama Piperitsa. – See *Пиперица*.

Малката река (Malkata Reka), -l Palakarya; 2) -r Iskar.

Малки Искър (Malki Iskar), r., -r Iskar.

- Мальовица** (Malyovitsa), r., spr. from Malyovitsa and Elena lakes, -r Cherni Iskar. – Adj. from PN *Мальо* and *-ица*. According to legend, *Malyo* resisted the Ottomans (15th c.) and perished on the peak that now bears his name (Займов/Zaimov 2012: 325).
- Манастирска река** (Manastirska Reka), spr. pk. Krastyu in mt. Plana, -r Selska Reka. – Adj. *monastery* and *река/river*.
- Мангов дол** (Mangov Dol), r., spr. pk. Sveti Duh in mt. Plana, -r Iskar. – Adj. from *манго* ‘gipsy’ and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Матица**, също *Елешница* (Matitsa, also Eleshnitsa). – From old *матица* ‘spring, river source’, OB *iàò, òà*, and in other slav. lang. (БЕР III 86); cf. PIN *Матица* (Иванов/ Ivanov 1982: 158), serb. SN *Matica* (IM).
- Матлийска (Матинска) река** (Matliyska, Matinska Reka), spr. from pk. Dvete Darveta, -r Iskar dam. – From ReN or KN *Матлии* ‘Bulgarians that migrated from the Mati river valley in Albania.’ (Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 348) and *река/river*.
- Мечкин дол** (Mechkin Dol), r., spr. from Muletarnika ridge, -l Cherni Iskar. – Adj. from *мечка* ‘bear, *Ursus arctos*’ (БЕР III 777) and *дол* ‘vale’, cf. SN *Мечка*, Panagyurishte region.
- Милчиница** (Milchinitsa), r., spr. pk. Sredonos, -r Cherni Iskar. – Old adj. from PN *Милка* and suff. *-ица*. Cf. PIN *Милчиница*, Godech region (Симеонов/ Simeonov 1966: 187).
- Мусаленска бара** (Musalenska Bara), r., spr. W from pk. Musala, -r Beli Iskar. – From ReN < PIN *Мусала/ Musala*, a peak in Rila; and *бара* ‘small river’; secondary name.
- Мусаленска Бистрица** (Musalenska Bistritsa), r., spr. from Musalensko ezero (lake), NE of pk. Musala, -l Iskar. – From PIN *Мусала* Musala; secondary name; see *Бистрица*.
- Мъгното дере** (Matnoto Dere), r., -l Shiposhanitsa. – Cased adj. *мътен*, from OB *мжть* ‘muddying; also muddy water from one extraction’ (Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 413) and *дере=дол* ‘vale’.
- Павловица** (Pavlovitsa), r., spr. from pk. Popova Shapka, -r Cherni Iskar. – Adj. from PN *Павел* and suff. *-ица*.
- Палакария (Палакарийска река)** (Palakariya, Palakariyska Reka), r., spr. from pk. Kupena in mt. Vitosha, -r Iskar. – From gr. *παλαιά καρβα* – probably means ‘old walnut grove’; less likely from NN *паликар* ‘hero’ (Займов/Zaimov 2012: 465).

- Пенева бара** (Peneva Bara), r., spr. from pk. Pochivishteto, -r Lakatnitsa. – Adj. from PN *Пене* and *бара* ‘small river’.
- Перловска река** (Perlovska Reka), spr. from Dragalevtsi, -l Iskar. – Adj. from ReN or KN *Перловци*, from PN *Перло* and *река/river*. Cf. RN *Перлова река* (Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 490).
- Пиперица** (Piperitsa). – See *Голема, Малка*. – From *пипер*, probably wild pepper, and topon. suff. *-ица*.
- Плански дол** (Planinski Dol), r., spr. From pk. Mulezhova Kitka in mt. Plana, -r Iskar. – From PIN *Plana* (mountain) and *дол* ‘vale’; secondary name.
- Планщица** (Planshtitsa), r., spr. from mt. Plana, -l Iskar. – From *Планска* (river) an *-ица* (see Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 515).
- Попов дол** (Popov Dol) 1) r., -l Cherni Iskar; 2) r., -r Shiposhanitsa. – Adj. from *поп* ‘priest’ and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Порколица** (Porkolitsa), r., spr. from mt. Plana (flows into the Pasarel dam). – Possibly via regressive assimilation $y - o > o - o$, from PN *Пуркол*, from *Пурко*, diminutive for *Пуро*, with *-ол*, like PN *Доброл*, *Драгол*, *Радол* and topon. suff. *-ица*. Possibly form **Поркарица*, from Wallachian *porcar* ‘swineherd’ with dissimilation $p - p > p - л$ and assimilation $o - a > o - o$ (Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 536). Uncertain.
- Права долчина** (Prava Dolchina), r., -l Ribni Dol. – From *прав* ‘straight, without turns’ and *долчина* ‘valley’.
- Прав Искър** (Prav Iskar), beginning of the Iskar, spr. from v. Kodzhakaritsa, NE from pk. Damka/Damga. After the confluence with the river Urdina, it becomes Cherni Iskar.
- Пребойница** (Preboynitsa), r., -l Iskar. – From *пребой=прибой* ‘steep river bank’ also in other Slav. lang., and *-(ъ)н-ица*. Cf. SN *Прибой*, Radomir region (Чолева-Димитрова/ Choleva-Dimitrova 2009).
- Прека река** (Preka Reka), 1) -r. Cherni Iskar; 2) -l Beli Iskar. – From *прека* ‘steep, vertical’ and *река/river*; common in toponymy.
- Проданов дол** (Prodanov Dol), r., -l Palakarcya. – Adj. from PN *Продан* and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Просени дол** (Proseni Dol), r., spr. from mt. Shumkova Mogila, -l Palakarya, -l Iskar. – Adj. from *просо* ‘millet’ and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Прочаров дол** (Procharov Dol), r., spr. from pk. Tapankovitsa, -r Lakatnitsa. – From KN, probably *Прочаров* (Займов/ Zaimov 2012: 559) and *дол* ‘vale’.

- Равна река** (Ravna Reka), spr. from pk. Ostra Mogila, -r Lakatnitsa. – From *равна река*, or ‘river that flows in a smooth bed’.
- Равни дол** (Ravni Dol), r., spr. from mt. Karchovets, -r Lakatnitsa.
- Ракита** (Rakita), r., -l Iskar. – From *ракита* ‘osier, Salix’.
- Рединска река** (Redinska Reka), -r Iskar. – With *pa-* > *pe-* from ReN *Радинци*, from PN *Радин* and *река/river*.
- Рельов дол** (Relyov Dol), r., spr. from pk. Milosha in mt. Plana, -l Bistri Dol. – From ext. PN *Рельо* < *Хрельо*, 13th c. (Займов/ Zaimov 1988: 234) and *дол* ‘vale’. Cf. SN *Рельово*, Samokov region, WN *Релкьова бара*, Berkovitsa region.
- Рибни дол** (Ribni Dol), r., spr. by pk. Belchinitza, -l Lakatnitsa. – Adj. from *риба* ‘fish’, with the old complex declension and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Рударско дере** (Rudarsko Dere), r., spr. by pk. Goritsata, -r Shipochanitsa. – Adj. from *рудар* ‘ore collector’; used to wash ore in it.
- Ружино дере** (Ruzhino Dere), r., spr. from pk. Gyurbreto, -r Shipochanitsa. – From PN *Ружа* and *дере* ‘vale’.
- Ръжана** (Razhana), r., spr. from pk. Suharevo, -r Palakariya. – Adj. from *ръж* ‘rye’; common in toponymy for mountainous regions, where rye is predominantly grown.
- Ръжанска река** (Razhanska Reka), spr. from Razhana hill, -r Iskar. – From PlN *Ръжана* and *река/river*; secondary name.
- Ръждавица** (Razhdavitsa), r., spr. from Malyovitsa, tr. Cherni Iskar. – From adj. *ръждав*, after the rusty color of water and soil and suff. *-ица*.
- Ръжников дол** (Razhnikov Dol), r., spr. S of pk. Zekiritsa (Sekiritsa), -l Cherni Iskar. – Adj. from *ръж(е)ник* ‘a field planted with rye’ and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Свидница** (Svidnitsa), r., -l Iskar. – From *свид* ‘common dogwood, *Cornus sanguinea*’ and *-(в)н-ица*, common in Slav. toponymy; RN *Свида*, Minsk region (WRG IV 186); SN *Свида* 2, Kiev region (RGN VIII 126).
- Селска река** (Selska Reka)₁ -l Cherni Iskar; ₂ -l Palakariya. – Adj. from *село* ‘village’ and *река/river*.
- Скакавец** (Skakavets), r., spr. from pk. Pchelina, -r Леви Iskar. – From *скакавец* ‘waterfall’, with root from verb *скакам* ‘I jump’, ОБ скакати.
- Слатина** (Slatina), See Sratorishnitsa. – From *слатина* ‘a place where salt is extracted’, ОБ *слатина* (СтБР II 701), and also ‘wetland, swamp’

- (ЕТР 589; Геров/Gerov V 190; Badjura 1953: 235, Schütz 1957: 67). Common in Bulgarian and Slavic toponymy (Чолева-Димитрова/Choleva-Dimitrova 2002, 2012).
- СЛИВНИШКА РЕКА** (Slivnishka Reka), -r Swamp. – From SN *Сливница* and *река/river*.
- СЛИВОВ ДОЛ** (*Тодоров дол*) (Slivov or Todorov Dol), r., spr. from pk. Koshtrova Koliba), -r Palakariya. – Adj. from *слива* ‘plum, Prunus domestica’ and *дол* ‘vale’. The second name is from PN *Тодор*.
- СМАРДЛЮВ ДОЛ** (Smardlyuv Dol), r., -l Iskar (flows into Iskar dam). – From adj. *смрадлив*, dial. ‘smelly’, usually about foul-smelling grasses or waters; personified and *дол* ‘vale’.
- СОЛЕНИЯ ДОЛ** (Solenya Dol), r., spr. E of Shumnatitsa ridge, -r Musalenska Bistritsa. – From adj. *солен* ‘salty water’ and *дол* ‘vale’.
- СТАНИН ДОЛ** (Stanin Dol), r., spr. from pk. Suha Mogila, -r Palakariya. – Adj. From PN *Стана* and *дол* ‘vale’.
- СТАРО** (Staro), r., spr. from pk. Granchar in Verila mt., -r Palakariya. – Common in toponymy, cf. Sloven. *stara* or *mrtva voda* ‘stagnant water in secondary channels with no outlet’ (Badjura 1953: 253); Rus. SN *Стар* 4, *Старая* 57, *Старое* 80 (RGN VIII 536).
- СТРАНИЧКО ДЕРЕ** (Stranichko Dere), r., -r Shipochanitsa. – Adj. with *-(в)ск-* from initial PIN **Страница*, from *страна* ‘wide slope, light steepness’ and suff. *-ица*, often encountered in toponyms throughout the country and *дере=дол* ‘vale’.
- СТРАТОРИШНИЦА** (Sratorishnitsa), r., spr. with the name Slatina E from pk. Malak Vetren, -r Lustra. – From PIN **Страторище*, from plant *стратор* ‘amaranth, Amaranthus’ and suff. *-ище*, with *-(в)н-ица*.
- СТУДЕНА ВОДА** (Studena Voda), r., -r Pravi Iskar. – From *студен* ‘cold’ and *вода* ‘water’. Common in toponymy.
- СУХОДОЛСКА РЕКА** (Suhodolska Reka), spr. from pk. Dupevitsa in Lyulin mt., -l Vladayska reka. – From SN *Суходол*; secondary name and *река/river*.
- СЪРЧАРСКИ ДОЛ** (Sarcharski Dol), r., -r Iskar. – From PIN or ReN *Сърчари* and *дол* ‘vale’.
- ТЕМНА РЕКА** (Temna Reka) 1) -l Ravna Reka; 2) also Kremenitsa in its lower course, r., tr. Palakariya. – From adj. *темен*, dial. ‘dark’ and *река* ‘river’. Cf. PIN *Темнио лаг*, Radomir region (Чолева-Димитрова/Choleva-Dimitrova 2009).

- Топлика** (Toplika), е., -l Iskar. – From *топлик* ‘hot spring; spring that does not freeze in winter, fem. gend. – it has been changed after river’s gender.
- Точиларска река** (Tochilarska Reka), spr. from pk. Sekiritsa, -r Lakatnitsa. – From PIN or ReN, from NN *Точиларите* and *река/river*.
- Тошов дол** (Toshov Dol), r., spr. from pk. Aleko, -r Beli Iskar. – Adj. from PN *Тошо* < *Тодор* and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Трескавец** (Treskavets), r., -r Iskar. – From noun *трескавец*, personified because of the sound running water makes. Cf. WN *Трескавец*, Radomir region, *Трескавецо*, Breznik region (Чолева-Димитрова/Choleva-Dimitrova 2009), SN *Treskavac* in Bosnia and Herzegovina (IM 440).
- Тръстовити дол** (Trastoviti Dol), r., spr. from pk. Suharevo, -l Lakatnitsa. – Adj. with suff. *ов-ит* from *тръст* ‘plant, reed’ and *дол* ‘vale’; for formation cf. *ветровит*, *духовит*. Cf. here for formation *Варовитица*.
- Турски дол** (Turski Dol), r., spr. from pk. Berova Mogila, -r Palakariya. – Derived from ethnonym, possibly with a pejorative meaning – steep, impassable gorge and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Урдина река** (Urdina Reka), spr from pk. Damka, tr. Cherni Iskar. – From KN, from NN *Урдини*, from loan *урда* ‘curds’, for curd makers and *река/river*.
- Църняко** (Tsarnyako), r., from spring Madzharsko Cheshme, N of pk. Sahtiovitsa, -l Cherni Iskar. – Cased from *църняк*, from adj. *црѣн* ‘black’, environmental characteristic.
- Чегарица** (Chegaritsa), r., spr. S of pk. Golyam Vetren, -l Palakariya. – From NN *Чегар*, with *з* < *к* and mutation *ча* > *че* from *Чакар/Чакър* and topon. suff. *-ица*. Uncertain. – See *Крайна река*.
- Черни Искър** (Cherni Iskar), r., Iskar’s from the confluence with Urdina r. until Beli Iskar, -r Iskar. – From adj. *черен* ‘black’ with the old complex declension, characteristics of the landscape.
- Шарковица** (Sharkovitsa) 1) r., spr. S of pk. Boga Glava, -l Dalboki Dol; 2) p., -r Palakariya, name of Dalboki Dol after confluence with tr. Sharkovitsa, until confl. with Palakariya. – Adj. from PN *Шарко*, diminutive of *Шаро* and topon. suff. *-ица*. Cf. PIN *Шарковица*, *Шарков мост*, *Шарков завой*, Radomir region (Чолева-Димитрова/Choleva-Dimitrova 2009).

- Шипочаница** (Shipochanitsa), r., spr. Shumnatitsa ridge in Rila mt., -r Iskar dam. – From *шинок* ‘rosehip’ with *-(j)-ан* and developed with *топон. -ица*.
- Ширината** (Shirinata), r., spr. from pk. Milosha, -l Palakarya. – Cased from *ширина*, rivers with broad beds.
- Широки дол** (Shiroki Dol), r., spr. from mt. Dralyanitsa, -r Palakarya. – From adj. *широк* with the old complex declension and *дол* ‘vale’.
- Широкия валог** (Shirokya Valog), r., spr. from mt. Chadarevo Padalishte, -r Lazarov Dol.
- Юручка (Овчарска)** (Yuruchka, Ovcharska), r., spr. from pk. Malak Mechit (Medarnik), -r Cherni Iskar. – From ethonym *юрук, юруци* ‘Yuruk’.
- Ябланица**, also *Батулийска река* (Yablanitsa, also Batuliyska Reka). – Entirely from SN *Ябланица*; secondary toponym.
- Ямища** (Yamishta), r., -l Palakariya. – Plural of *ямище* ‘place with holes’ from *яма*, ОВ *ÿà* (ЕТР 703) and suff. *-ище*.
- Янчовска река** (Yanchovska Reka), spr. from NE slopes of Vitosha mt., -l Bistritsa. – From ReN *Янчовци*, from PN *Янчо* and *река/river*.

3 NAME ANALYSIS

3.1 Archeological research has established that the Iskar basin has been populated since at least the early Neolithic era, or about 6000 years BC, with numerous Neolithic settlements having been unearthed (Nikolov, 2001). The countless fortresses, necropolises, burial mounds, shrines, etc. attest to life in Antiquity and the Middle Ages, some of which are believed to have links with the Thracians and their culture. Indeed, the oldest layers of names are formed by the hydronyms of putative Thracian origin. We characterize the following hydronyms as Thracian: *Искър* (old *Σκίος*, 5th c. BC, *’Οσκιος, Oeskus, Uscus, Hiscus, ’Ισκός*), *Ведена/Vedena*, *Златна Панега/Zlatna Panega*.

3.2 Hydronyms in the Iskar basin reveal many ancient name varieties, as well as designations with an ancient construction and meaning.

- (a) **Preserved ancient and rare dialect words:** *Бебреш/Bebresh*, *Градешница/Gradeshnitsa*, *Джерневница/Dzhernevitsa*,

Джупаница/*Dzhipanitsa*, Егѹла/*Egula*, Какач/*Kakash*, Ковайски дол/, *Kosmatitsa*, Лишка река/*Lishka reka*, Ломо/*Lomo*, Матица/*Matitsa*, Пребойница/*Preboynitsa*, Рѣждавица/*Razhdavitsa*, Свидница/*Svidnitsa*, Скакавец/*Skakavitsa*, Слатина/*Slatina*, Страторишница/*Stratorishnitsa*, Топлика/*Toplika*, Трекавец/*Treskavets*;

- (b) **Ancient personal names and monikers:** Алиница/*Alinitsa*, Бачов дол/*Bachov dol*, Вуйна (Вуин дол)/*Vuin dol*, Гостиля/*Gostilya*, Даркево дере/*Darkevo dere*, Драголин/*Dragolin*, Кошев дол/*Koshev dol*, Мальовица/*Malyovitsa*, Матлийска (Матинска) река/*Matliyska (Matinska) reka*, Перловска река/*Perlovska reka*, Порколица/*Porkolitsa*, Прочаров дол/*Procharov dol*, Рельов дол/*Relyov dol*, Урдина река/*Urdina reka*, Шарковица/*Sharkovitsa*;
- (c) **Adjectives with the old complex declension:** Бистри дол/*Bistri dol*, Водни дол/*Vodni dol*, Върли дол/*Varli dol*, Големи дол/*Golemi dol*, Дълбоки дол/*Dalboki dol*, Леви Искър/*Levi Iskar*, Люти дол/*Lyuti dol*, Малки Искър/*Malki Iskar*, Просени дол/*Proseni dol*, Равни дол/*Ravni dol*, Рибни дол/*Ribni dol*, Черни Искър/*Cherni Iskar*, Широки дол/*Shiroki dol*;
- (d) **Adjectives with -jъ-:** Гостиля/*Gostilya*, Драголин/*Dragolin*, Ягуля/*Yagulya*;
- (e) **Other types of ancient word formation:** (suff. -ан-, -ец, -еш/-иш, -ик, -ица, -ън-ица, -ицица): Алиница/*Alinitsa*, Бебреши/*Bebresh*, Бебриши/*Bebrish*, Бистрица/*Bistritsa*, Брусника/*Brusnika*, Варовитица/*Varovititsa*, Габровница/*Gabrovnitsa*, Градешница/*Gradeshnitsa*, Гърковица/*Garkovitsa*, Деркевица/*Derkevitsa*, Джержневница/*Dzhernevitsa*, Джупаница/*Dzhipanitsa*, Дълбочица/*Dalbochitsa*, Елешница/*Eleshnitsa*, Златица/*Zlatitsa*, Ивовица/*Ivovitsa*, Каменица/*Kamenitsa*, Клисурница/*Klisuritsa*, Копривицица/*Koprivshitsa*, Косматица/*Kosmatitsa*, Лопушница/*Lopushnitsa*, Луковица/*Likovitsa*, Мальовица/*Malyovitsa*, Милчиница/*Milchinitsa*, Павловица/*Pavlovitsa*, Пиперица/*Piperitsa*, Планицица/*Planshtitsa*, Порколица/*Porkolitsa*, Пребойница/*Preboynitsa*, Рѣждавица/*Razhdavitsa*, Свидница/*Svidnitsa*, Скакавец/*Skakavets*, Страторишница/*Stratorshnitsa*, Трекавец/*Treskavets*, Чезарица/*Chegaritsa*, Шарковица/*Sharkovitsa*, Шипочаница/*Shipochanitsa*.

3.3 Secondary names. Many of the river names are secondary, derived from other *-onyms* – settlement names, region names, or those of other waterbodies. They also preserve ancient elements: *Батулийска река/Batuliyska reka*, *Боянска река/Boyanska reka*, *Владайска река/Vladayska reka*, *Железничка река/Zheleznishka reka*, *Зимевийска река/Zimevishka reka*, *Искрецка река/Iskretska reka*, *Йозола/Yozola*, *Костинбродска река (Беличка река)/Kostinbrodska (Belichka) reka*, *Крапешка бара/Krapeshka bara*, *Кътинска река/Katinska reka*, *Лакатница/Lakatnitsa*, *Лесновска река/Lesnovska reka*, *Макоцевска река/Makotsevaska reka*, *Мусаленска бара/Musalenska bara*, *Плански дол/Planski dol*, *Планица/Planshtitsa*, *Ръжанска река/Razhanska reka*, *Сливничка река/Slivnishka reka*, *Суходолска река/Suhodolska reka*.

3.4 Names derived from ethnonyms: *Гръцкото дере/Gratskoto dere*, *Гръчка река/Grachka reka*, *Мангов дол/Mangov dol*, *Турски дол/Turski dol*, *Юручка/Yuruchka*.

3.5 Origin of the names: the vast majority of the names are Bulgarian. An insignificant number derived from loan words, predominantly from Turkish: *Боклуджа/Bokludzha*, even though they follow Bulgarian word formation models: *Кюшечка река/Kyushechka reka*. Loans from Greek: *Клисура/Klisura*, *Палакария/Palakariya*. From Romanian: *Лустра/Lustra*, *Порколица/Porkolitsa*.

3.6 Unclear origin: *Чезарица/Chegaritsa*.

3.7 Semantically grouped hydronyms:

- (a) **Physical features of water** (color, smell, noise/sound, temperature, mobility, abundance or lack of water): *Бистри дол/Bistri dol*, *Бистрица/Bistritsa*, *Блато/Blato*, *Водни дол/Vodni dol*, *Голем дол/Golemi dol*, *Жълта бара/Zhalta bara*, *Лустра/Lustra*, *Мала река/Mala reka*, *Малката река/Malkata reka*, *Мътното дере/Matnoto dere*, *Ръждавица/Razhdavitsa*, *Скакавец/Skakavets*, *Слатина/Slatina*, *Смардлюв дол/Smardlyuv dol*, *Соления дол/Soleniya dol*, *Студена вода/Studena voda*, *Топлика/Toplika*, *Трескавец/Treskavets*;

- (b) **Environmental features** (landscape, riverbed, buildings, economic activities): *Бела вода/Bela voda*, *Брусника/Brusnika*, *Варовитица/Varovititsa*, *Върли дол/Varli dol*, *Градешница/Gradeshnitsa*, *Джерневница/Dzhernevitsa*, *Дупкина река/Dupkina reka*, *Дълбоки дол/Dalboki dol*, *Дълбочица/Dalbochitsa*, *Златица/Zlatitsa*, *Какач/Kakach*, *Каменица/Kamenitsa*, *Клисура/Klisura*, *Клисурица/Klisuritsa*, *Косматица/Kosmatitsa*, *Крива река/Kriva reka*, *Лева река/Leva reka*, *Лишка река/Lishka reka*, *Ломо/Лото*, *Люти дол/Lyuti dol*, *Права долчина/Prava dolchina*, *Пребойница/Preboynitsa*, *Прека река/Preka reka*, *Равна река/Ravna reka*, *Равни дол/Ravni dol*, *Рударско дере/Rudarsko dere*, *Страничко дере/Stranichko dere*, *Темна река/Temna reka*, *Църняко/Tsarnyako*, *Ширината/Shirinata*, *Широки дол/Shiroki dol*, *Ямица/Yamishta*;
- (c) **Flora**: *Върбачина долчина/Varbachina dolchina*, *Върбешка бара/Varbeshka bara*, *Върбова река/Varbova reka*, *Габарска река/Gabarska reka*, *Габровница/Gabrovnitsa*, *Елешница/Eleshnitsa*, *Елов дол/Elon dol*, *Ивовица/Ivovitsa*, *Киселички дол/Kiselichki dol*, *Копривчица/Koprivshtitsa*, *Лозянски дол/Lozyanski dol*, *Лопушница/Lopushnitsa*, *Луковица/Lukovitsa*, *Пиперица/Piperitsa*, *Просени дол/Proseni dol*, *Ракита/Rakita*, *Ръжана/Razhana*, *Ръжников дол/Razhnikov dol*, *Свидница/Svidnitsa*, *Сливов дол/Slivon dol*, *Страторишница/Stratorshnitsa*, *Тръстовити дол/Trastoviti dol*, *Шипочаница/Shipochanitsa*; **d) Fauna**: *Бебреш/Bebresh*, *Говедарски дол/Govedarski dol*, *Егула/Egula*, *Козарника/Kozarnika*, *Мечкин дол/Mechkin dol*, *Рибни дол/Ribni dol*.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Heretofore, we have examined 170 names of rivers from the Iskar basin. On occasion, some waterbodies have more than one name, especially in those cases where the river is long. Indeed, often, the names of the upper, middle, and lower courses are different. The main impetus behind the new name is the oikonym of the main settlement through which the river flows.

Conclusions:

- The names of large rivers remain unchanged for centuries. Hydronyms, and specifically river names, stand out as being particularly conservative among denominations and constitute some of the most reliable evidence of the cultural history of a given region.
- They are relevant to: (1) the history of language, since hydronyms preserve earlier linguistic forms; (2) they provide valuable, and often unique, data on the linguistic affiliation of the oldest population of a particular region, for which no other indicators exist; (3) they contain inestimable information on the development of settlements and human activity; (4) hydronymy retains data on the environment beyond the properties and appearance of the water – that is, the characteristics of the surrounding region, its plants and animals.
- The necessity for a complete and systematic analysis of hydronymy has been frequently recognized. This is essential, because it preserves invaluable, ancient onomastic material, part of the creativity and ancestral memory of our people, as well as a component of European cultural heritage.

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Abbreviations

- AR Rječnik hrvatskoga ili srpskoga jezika. Zagreb, 1880 -
 BER/БЕР – Български етимологичен речник [Balgarski etimologichen rechnik]. Т. 1-8. С. БАН, 1971, сл.
 EtR/ЕТР – *Ст. Младенов*, Етимологически и правописен речник на българския книжовен език [Etimologicheski i pravopisen rechnik na balgarskiya knizhoven ezik]. С., 1941.
 Gerov/ГерОВ – *Н. Геров*, Речник на българския език [Rechnik na balgarskiya ezik]. I – V. С., 1975 сл.
 IM – Imenik mesta. Beograd, 1956.
 RGN – Russisches geographisches Namenbuch. Herausgegeben von Max Vasmer. 1-6. Wiesbaden, 1962-1972.
 StbR/СтБР II – Старобългарски речник [Starobalgarski rechnik]. С., БАН, Т. I 1999, Т. II 2009.
 WRG – Wörterbuch der russischen Gewässernamen. Herausgegeben von Max Vasmer. 1-5. Nachricht Berlin-Wiesbaden, 1960-1973.

- dial. – dialect
 -l – left tributary
 mt. – mountain
 pk. – peak
 -r – right tributary
 r. – river
 tr. – tributary
 rg. – region

- KN – Kin name
 NN – Nick name
 PIN – Place name
 PN – Personal name
 ReN – Resident name
 RN – River name
 SN – Settlement name
 WN – Water name

River names as a testament of cultural heritage (Iskar river basin)

abbr. – abbreviated

adj. – adjective

cf. – compare

disapp. – disappeared

l. – locality

v. – village

arom. – Aromanian

got. – Gothic

gr. – Greek

OB – Old Bulgarian

thrac. – Thracian

tur. – Turkish