

***aikwernô** Runic: ᚱ | ᚠ | ᚦ | ᚱ | ᚦ | ᚱ | ᚠ Pronunciation: /'ɑj.kʷer.nɔː/

noun · masculine · an-stem

Meanings

squirrel

Etymology

From a reduplicated pre-Germanic animal name, **h₂éi-h₂ur-* ~ **h₂i-h₂ur-ó-s* ('squirrel, small furry animal', traditionally reconstructed as **wer-wer-* or **we(i)-wer-*), yielding Early Germanic **aikwur-* ~ **ikuraz-*, from Proto-Indo-European root **wer-/h₂uer-* (Kroonen 2011a: 263–66; Kroonen 2013: 10–11; Seebold 1982: 175–76). Cognates include Lithuanian *voverė*, Old Prussian *weware*, Proto-Slavic **věverica*, Welsh *gwiwer*, and Latin *viverra*, suggesting an inherited IE zoonym whose meaning may originally have been broader than 'squirrel' alone (Kroonen 2011a: 263–66; Mallory & Adams 1997: 540).

The older analysis as a compound of **aiks* ('oak') + **wernô* ('squirrel, small, furred animal') is semantically attractive and probably influenced later forms such as Old High German *eihhurno/eihhorno* and German *Eichhörnchen*, but it does not explain the North Germanic **ī-/i-* variants or the internal ablaut. It is likely a secondary folk etymology. The proposed connection with **aikulaz* and PIE root **h₂eyg-* is unlikely (Kroonen 2011a: 263–66; Kroonen 2013: 10–11).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	aikwernô	aikwernaniz
Acc.	aikwernanų	aikwernanunz
Gen.	aikwiriniz	aikwernanġ
Dat.	aikwirinini	aikwernammaz
Inst.	aikwirininė	aikwernammiz
Voc.	aikwernô	aikwernaniz

Descendants

*aikwernō (Proto-West Germanic)

 *ēcorno (Old Dutch)

 êencōren (Middle Dutch)

 eekhoorn (Dutch)

*aikwernō (Proto-West Germanic)

 ācweorna, āqueorna, āquorna, ācurna, ācuaerna (Old English)

 acquerne, aquerne, ocquerne, okerne, aquierne (Middle English)

 con, conn (English)

 con (Scots)

*aikwernō (Proto-West Germanic)

 *ēkworna, *ēkhorna (Old Frisian)

 *Eker, *Eeker (Saterland Frisian)

 Katteker, Kateeker (Saterland Frisian)

*aikwernō (Proto-West Germanic)

 *ēkworna, *ēkhorna (Old Frisian)

 iikhoarn (West Frisian)

 iikhoarntsje (West Frisian)

*aikwernō (Proto-West Germanic)

 eihhorno, eihhurno (Old High German)

 eichurne (Middle High German)

 Eichhore, Eichhörnli (Alemannic German)

***aikwernō** (Proto-West Germanic)

eihhorno, eihhurno (Old High German)

eichurne (Middle High German)

Eichhorn (German)

Eichhörnchen (German)

***aikwernō** (Proto-West Germanic)

***ēkhorno** (Old Saxon)

êkhörn, êkhörne, eikhörne, êkhorn, êkörn, eikörn, êkörne, echhorne (Middle Low German)

Eekhoorn, Ekkern (Low German)

Eekhoortje (Low German)

íkorni (Old Norse)

íkorni (Faroese)

íkorni (Icelandic)

íkorni (Old Norse)

ikorn, ekorn, ikorre (Norwegian Nynorsk)

ekorn, ikorn (Norwegian Bokmål)

íkorni (Old Norse)

íkærnae (Old Danish)

egern (Danish)

egern (Norwegian Bokmål)

íkorni (Old Norse)

ēkorne, ikerne (Old Swedish)

ekorre, ikorn (Swedish)

[View on Wiktionary](#)

Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

***aiks** noun ***aikulaz** adjective