

***arfô** Runic: ᚱ ᚦ ᚲ ᚰ Pronunciation: /'ar.ɸɔː/

noun · masculine · an-stem

Meanings

chickweed

Etymology

Probably a prehistoric *Wanderwort* from an unidentified Mediterranean, perhaps eastern Mediterranean, source (de Vaan 2008: 195, s.v. *ervum*; de Vries 1977: 12–13, s.v. *arfi*; Edlund 2013: 112–15; Kroonen 2013: 34, s.v. *arfan-*; Orel 2003: 25, s.v. *arfōn-*). Related forms include Latin *ervum* and Ancient Greek ὄροβος (*órobos*), but the forms cannot plausibly be derived from a single Proto-Indo-European proto form and are better regarded as independent borrowings from a common source. The word had already reached Germanic in prehistoric times; a relationship with **arwits* is probable but not fully understood (Edlund 2013: 112–15; Kroonen 2013: 37, s.v. **arwīt-*; Meester 2024: 293–96).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	arfô	arfaniz
Acc.	arfanų	arfanunz
Gen.	arfiniz	arfanô
Dat.	arfini	arfammaz
Inst.	arfinē	arfammiz
Voc.	arfô	arfaniz

Descendants

***arfō** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***arfo** (Old Dutch)

 ***erfe** (Middle Dutch)

erf (Dutch)

***arfō** (Proto-West Germanic)

earfan (Old English)

***arfō** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***arfa** (Old Frisian)

arf, arve (Saterland Frisian)

***arfō** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***arfo** (Old Saxon)

 ***arfe** (Middle Low German)

Arf (Low German)

arfi (Old Norse)

ᚱᚱᚲᚲ (arfi), ᚱᚱᚲᚲ (arfa), ᚱᚱᚲᚲᚱ (arfar), ᚱᚱᚲᚲ (arfa), ᚱᚱᚲᚲᚱ (arfar) (Old Norse)

arve (Danish)

arvi (Faroese)

arfi (Icelandic)

arve, arv, narve (Norwegian Nynorsk)

ᚱᚱᚲᚲ (arfi), ᚱᚱᚲᚲ (arfa), ᚱᚱᚲᚲᚱ (arfar), ᚱᚱᚲᚲ (arfa), ᚱᚱᚲᚲᚱ (arfar) (Old Norse)

arve (Old Swedish)

arv (Swedish)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*arwīts noun