

***artō** Runic: ᚱᚲᚱᚰ Pronunciation: /'ar.tõ:/

noun · feminine · ōn-stem

Meanings

a waterside bird, perhaps a wagtail or a small duck such as a teal or garganey

Etymology

Uncertain; probably a European substrate bird name rather than a securely inherited Proto-Indo-European formation. The Germanic evidence does not permit a precise species reconstruction: Old English *earde* contrasts with Old Norse *arta* (Kroonen 2013: 36; Matasović 2020: 339). Compare Ancient Greek ἐρῳδιός (*erōidiós*), with variants ἐρωδιός (*erōidiós*), ἀρωδιός (*arōidiós*), and ῥωδιός (*rhōidiós*), and Latin *ardea*; the irregular variation within Greek and between the languages has been taken to point to a pre-Greek or wider European substrate word. (Beekes 2010: 468–69; Pronk 2019: 154–55; Šorgo 2020: 433–34). Orel's proposed connection with **artijanq* is possible within Germanic but semantically weak and remains unsubstantiated (Orel 2003: s.v. **artōn*).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	artō	artōniz
Acc.	artōnu	artōnunz
Gen.	artōniz	artōnô
Dat.	artōni	artōmaz
Inst.	artōnē	artōmiz
Voc.	artō	artōniz

Descendants

earte (Old English)

arta (Old Norse)

arta (Elfdalian)

årta (Swedish)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*artijanaḡ verb