

***egalaz** Runic:  Pronunciation: /'e.ɣa.laz/

noun · masculine · a-stem

Meanings

leech

Etymology

Unknown. Sometimes compared with the Indo-European snake/hedgehog word-family, but no regular derivation from PIE **h₁óg^{wh}* is apparent, since the expected treatment of the labiovelar and the -al- formation remain unexplained. A connection with **igilaz* ‘hedgehog’ is also possible only as secondary association or contamination, not as a straightforward inherited doublet. The safest analysis is therefore that **egalaz* was an old Northwest Proto-Germanic animal name of uncertain origin, perhaps later drawn into the semantic orbit of the snake/hedgehog word-family.

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	egalaz	egalōz, egalōs
Acc.	egalą	egalanz
Gen.	egalas, egalīs	egalô
Dat.	egalai	egalamaz
Inst.	egalō	egalamiz
Voc.	egal	egalōz, egalōs

Descendants

***egalu** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***egela** (Old Dutch)

ēgele, ēchel (Middle Dutch)

echel (Dutch)

***egalu** (Proto-West Germanic)

egala (Old High German)

egel, egele (Middle High German)

Egel (German)

***egalu** (Proto-West Germanic)

egela (Old Saxon)

ēgele, ēgel (Middle Low German)

***iglr** (Old Norse)

igler (Danish)

igli, igil (Faroese)

igla (Icelandic)

igle (Norwegian Bokmål)

igel (Swedish)

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