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## ***Ursus*: The Latin word for ‘bear’ as an Indo-European heritage with Sabellic traits**

Renouncing the unfounded phonological reconstruction of a phoneme \*/p/ (thorn) for the IE dialect continuum outside the Anatolian and Tocharian area, Lat. *ursus* ‘bear’ can be analysed as a loan-word of Sabellic origin like Latin *lupus* ‘wolf’, *bōs* ‘cow’. It represents an adaption of a word from the realm of the Umbrian and Sabine dialectal area, including the South Picene group as a colonial branch of Sabine, where early velar palatalizations are known to occur. Taking into account these circumstances, Lat. *ursus* turns out to be an adaption from an Umbro-Sabine paradigm with nom.sg. *\*urs* from Proto-Sabellic *\*orks* < *\*orkos* (Proto-Sabellic syncope of final syllable) going back to Proto-Italic *\*ortkos* (with later simplification of *\*-rtk-* > *\*-rk-* like in Lat. *Mārcus* < *\*martko-* from *Mārs*, *Mārtis* < *\*mart-*) and gen.sg. *\*urš-es*, dat.sg. *urš-e* < *\*orč-ēs*, *\*orč-ē* (Umbro-Sabine velar palatalization) < Proto-Sabellic *\*ork-e*□*s*, *\*ork-ō*□ from a Proto-Italic stem *\*ortko-* (for the velar palatalization cf. Umbr. gen.sg. *PUPRIČES* = [poprēšes], dat.sg. *PUPRIČE* = [poprēšē] besides analogical *PUPRIKES*, *PUPRIKE* from *\*popliko-*). Thus by Sabellic mediation Latin *ursus* ‘bear’ goes back to Proto-Italic *\*ortko-*. Considering the regular Italic representation *\*oR-* < *\*h<sub>2</sub>ɔR-* < PIE *\*h<sub>2</sub>□-* corresponding to the default development of syllabic liquids in Italic, i.e. PIE *\*□* = *\*□*, *\*□* > *\*ɔr*, *\*ɔl* > Italic *\*or*, *\*ol*, this form is the regular outcome of PIE *\*h<sub>2</sub>□’tko-* ‘bear’ and provides a perfect match to Hittite *hartagga-* = /hartka-/, Ved. □kṣa-, YAv. *arša-* (< Proto-Indo-Iranian *\*H□’iša-* < *\*H□’iča-* = *\*[H□’iča-]* by post-occlusive simplification of the affricate), Greek ἄρκτος (< Proto-Greek *\*artko-* by regular inner-Greek metathesis), OIr. *art* (< *\*arto-* = Gaul. personal name *Artos* < Proto-Celtic *\*arχto-* < *\*arkto-* < *\*artko-* by regular tautosyllabic metathesis in a pre-stage of Proto-Celtic).