

GREEK κόμμι: ITS ULTIMATE ORIGIN AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRO-ASIATIC PREHISTORY

by

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*Dedicated to Mr. Zsolt Márkus
and the workers
of the Vítál Ltd. with gratitude¹*

ABSTRACT: In this paper², two decades after my first attempt³ at examining this etymological puzzle, I attempt to trace down the ultimate etymology of the Greek-Latin term, the source of our

¹ With the warmest recollections about my extremely intensive bike tours around and through our immense and miraculous Lake Balaton (Lacus Pelso of the Roman times) between summer 2008 and spring 2019, when – esp. in the early phase of my adventures – I experienced several interactions, so to say, between the tyre of my bike (called in the slang of my mother tongue simply ‘gum’) and the tiny acacia thorns so abundant esp. on the so-called high coasts of B. Aliga and B. Világos in the Kajár Bay. I owe lots of thanks to the bike repairing workshop of Mr. Zsolt KOVÁCS for their immeasurable technical assistance in that period. This paper, starting from the puzzling Afro-Asiatic etymon of Greek κόμμι, will touch upon, by pure chance, the history of all these three terms in our Afro-Asiatic macrofamily, i.e., beside the gum, eventually also the acacia and the thorn. It is here that I must remember Mr. Zsolt MÁRKUS, my good old playmate from my childhood in the 1980s (Székesfehérvár, Hungary), to whom my paper is equally dedicated with my heartfelt recollections of our unforgettable joint bike exploration tours where this kind of threat of acacia thorns had not yet been menacing.

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³ G. TAKÁCS, *Proto-Afro-Asiatic Origin of “Gum”?*, Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies LXIII 2000, pp. 96–99.