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Abstract

New Data on Slavic Hydronymy in Albania

In the contemporary sources and databases, we can find at least 89 Albania's river names of Slavic origin, that were not mentioned in the earlier research works (or were explained in a wrong way). The author discusses their etymology (using parallels from other Slavic territories), geographical distribution, semantic and word-formative types. The phonetic features of these names show that they are mostly of West Bulgarian descent (only three names are reliably attributed as the Serbo-Croatian, i.e. Old Shtokavian, ones) and were loaned by the Albanian language not earlier than in the 10-11<sup>th</sup> centuries, although there are several older loanwords.

Keywords: hydronym, etymology, Albania, Slavic colonization, Bulgarian language, Serbo-Croatian language.