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Kartvelian Etymologies
XII. Megr. **čwaxe//čvaxe**

Summary

Megrelian (a dialect of Zan) **čwaxe//čvaxe** (sour) seems to be immediately connected with the Georgian word **čmaxe** ('acidified'). It seems that here is the correspondence: Geor. **č**: Zan **č**, but the absence of the vowel correspondence questions this opinion.

It becomes clear that Megrelian **čwaxe//čvaxe** is a borrowing and is a result of the phonetic adaptation of the Georgian word **čmaxe** ('vinegary'): the process **m**→**w** following a consonant occurs in accordance with the Zan phonotactic. The similar process has been evidenced in other cases: Megr. **xwareba//xvareba** < Geor. **xmareba**, Merg. **sakwari//sakvari** < geor. **sakmari**, Megr. **swena//svena** < Geor. **smena**, Megr. **ukwi//ukmi** < Geor. **ukmi**.

The paralleled existence of **čmaxe** and **čwaxe** (**č**//**č**) should be explained with the possible phonetic variance in expressive vocabulary.