

## NOMADI BARTAIA

### ETYMOLOGICAL STUDIES [PITNA (MINT)]

The term *pitna* in the Georgian language and its earlier form *pitnak* must have originated from the Persian word *padana*.

*Pitna* with the form *pitna(e)* established in Megrelian though Georgian. In Svanetian mint is *mintor -mintu*, whose trace can be found as *qualmintā* denoting the wild mint in Megrelian.

It is reasonable to admit that before introduction of the Persian term the name of the given herb already existed in *minto* | *mintu* | *mintā* forms as common Kartvelian term. *Mintu* and *qualmintā* seem to have been the parallel forms of the Greek *Minta* and *Calaminthe(a)* indicating their mutual borrowings.

Comparing with Greek the semantic transparency of the etymology of the Megrelian *qualmintā* (mint for seasoning cheese (*qual*)) makes me admit that the direction of borrowing was from Georgian into Greek, that takes us to Greco-Georgian prehistoric relationships.