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ON THE STUDY OF THE GROUP FAMILY-NAME NICKNAMES (IN THE LIGHT OF MEGRELIA ETHNOLOGIC MATERIALS)

Group or collective nickname is a proper name of a certain group of people given to the whole lot of people of the common family name, or to one or more divisions of a family name, or to the people of one and the same village of the same family names or to its further subgroups, or one family etc.

Group nickname is informal anthroponym that a person bears together with the official first and family names.

The author discusses only a few number of group family names that have been recorded during scientific field works or private tours. The explanation of nicknames considers folk motivations. There are also names related to craft and trade, to a person's individual characters, manner of behavior, appearance, group character traits, etc. (E.g. "didi Gabuniefi", "Jinianefi", "Mekambecheefi").