

## BANAT TOPONYMY – A SHORT VIEW ON THE ORIGINS OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE EASTERN PART OF TIMIȘOARA

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**Abstract.** *Banat Toponymy – a short view on the origins of settlements in the eastern part of Timișoara.* Timiș county's settlements are very interesting as far as their toponym origin is concerned. There are names belonging to Latin or to other languages (Serbian, Hungarian, German and Romanian). All these show a strong historical background for each settlement. Some names express anthroponyms (Belinț, Lugoj etc.), others came from hydronym characteristics (as Recaș) etc. Toponym roots reveal a strong connection with the ethnicities and administrations of the Banat region through the centuries. In this context, the multiethnic space of the Timiș county is a reality mirrored also in toponomastics.

**Rezumat.** *Toponimia Banatului – un scurt punct de vedere asupra originii așezărilor din partea estică a orașului Timișoara.* Așezările omenești din județul Timiș sunt foarte interesante, după cum o dovedește și originea lor toponimică. Vorbim despre nume aparținând limbii Latine sau altor limbi (Sârbă, Maghiară, Germană și Română). Toate acestea dovedesc un puternic fundament istoric pentru fiecare așezare. Unele denumiri fac referire la antroponime (Belinț, Lugoj, etc.), altele provin din caracteristici ale hidronimiei (cum ar fi Recaș) etc. Rădăcinile toponimice dezvăluie o puternică legătură cu etniile și administrațiile regiunii Banat de-a lungul secolelor. În acest context, spațiul multiethnic al județului Timiș este o realitate reflectată și în toponomastică.

**Key-words:** *nume ale așezărilor, județul Timiș, România.*

**Cuvinte cheie:** *names of settlements, Timiș county, Romania.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This study is about all oiconyms (names of settlements) from the triangle Timișoara-Lugoj-Buziaș, analyzing 40 settlements along the main roads from eastern part of Timișoara municipality, in the Timiș county, Romania. It is revealed that most of the oiconyms have roots in different old and new languages (Indo-european, Latin, Slav, Hungarian etc.) and have developed and even changed during the centuries on toponymic layers depending on the type of political administration Banat passed. Most of these oiconyms have roots in aspects connected to hydrology, names of trees, social events and anthroponyms.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The settlements are presented in order of their geographical position on the international road E70 Timișoara-Lugoj and on national road D33 Lugoj-Buziaș-Timișoara, without taking their political and social-economic importance. Where it is necessary, at each town there are shown the names of small settlements included in its administration. The explanation of each oiconym takes into consideration the toponomastic literature dealing with place-names in Banat (mainly Romanian, Slav, Hungarian and German). The methodology of revealing the historical sense of each oiconym is based on the general criteria used in onomastics.

In the Timiș county only two big towns have the statute of municipality ('municipiu'), Timișoara and Lugoj; they are also the main important economic and social urban axes of the county.

**Timișoara** is located in a swampy plain where two rivers, Timiș and Bega, periodically flooded the territory. The confused network of subsidiary streams and swamps led to the fact the city, built on both sides of the river Bega, took its name from the river Timis.

Some historians suppose that a Roman fortress called Zurobara or Zambara existed in these places. This was later conquered by the Goths and the Avars, the latter of which gave one of the rivers the name of Bega. Archaeologists haven't found traces of such a fortress, and it is presumed to have been submerged by the swamps. Yet, on the north side of the town traces of the so called "Roman ditch" can be found, although these cannot be accurately dated.

After the retreat of the Avars, a Romanian village appeared in this place. In 896, the Duke Glad, believed to have ruled in this region, acknowledged Hungarian suzerainty. In 1010, the region of Timișoara was included in Hungary. No further documentation exists until 1203, when its name first appeared in documents as a city, named "Catrum Temesiensis".

Then it appeared other oiconyms under different occupations: Ottoman, Habsburg, Austro-Hungarian and Romanian ones, as *Temesvár*, *Temesburg* etc.

**Etymology:** it is a name with origins in the Hungarian toponym *Temesvár* (< *Temes* (< autohtonous Romanian *Timiș* and Hungarian *vár* "cetate"). The suffix *-oara* is a translation of the Hungarian *vár* (from Hungarian *Hunyadvár* > Romanian *Hunedoara*, Hungarian *Földvár* > Romanian *Feldioara*, Hungarian *Segesvár* > Romanian *Sighișoara*). The name of the town comes from the river which passes the city, *Timișul Mic*, hydronym which was in use till the 18th century when it was changed to *Bega* or *Beghei* (Răuț, 1976,

p. 141-156). *Timiș* belongs to the family of hydronyms derived from the Indoeuropean radical *\*thib* “swamp”, (< *\*ti* “to get soaked, to flow”) with the change of *-b-* in *-m-* as in *Timac(h)us* > *Timoc* (Slușanschi, 1976, p. 15-17; see also Frățilă, 2002, p. 15-17). For the suffix *-eș* /*-iș*, as in Someș, Mureș, Argeș, Timiș etc. see Drăganu, 1933, p. 246-247; G. Schramm, 1973, p. 72.

Along the road Timișoara- Lugoj there could be found several interesting settlement names as: Ghiroda, Bazoș, Izvin, Recaș etc.

**Ghiroda** was mentioned in 1389 as *Gyüreg* (Suciu, DILT, I, p. 260) and at 1393 as *villa Gyrod* (Ilieșiu, *Doc.*, dos. I, p. 98). Other mediaeval names for it were: *Gywred*, *Gywruđ*, *Gywrewd*, *Gywreg*, *Gywrewdy*, *Naggyrywg* și *Gewrewdy*.

Beginning with Claudius Florimund Mercy there were brought many German peasants and industry workers and count Perlas tried here to cultivate rice but without good results. The antebellum *Györöd* was the Hungarian official name as about 1,000 Hungarians had been colonised during the 19th century. In 1931 the new Romanian colonies (with Romanians from the Transylvania) Crișan and Sever Bocu were included in the big commune which counted 4,631 inhabitants in 2002, of which 75% Romanians, 20% Hungarians, 5% Germans etc.

**Etymology:** Hungarian top. *Gyured* < *Gyurod* (DTB, IV, p. 89), formed with suffix *-d* < Hung. personal name *Gyury*, hypocoristic from *György* (*Gheorghe*). It is possible as the mediaeval form *Gyüreg* to have a Slav origin – from Srb. *Đurađ*, dialectal *Dured*.

**Remetea Mare** is known also as *Remetea Timișană*, basing on the 19th century Hungarian oiconym *Temesremete*.

*Remete* was the name mentioned in 1237 as „...quod wego Remete dicitur” (Suciu, DILT, II, p. 75). A local legend says that at the place called *Șușioara* (from Hung. *Sasvar* „the hawk challet”) this village had a watching tower for defending Timișoara. In 1476 *Remethe* belonged to Ladislau Doczy (Ilieșiu, *Doc.*, dos. II, p. 43) and on Mercy’s map it was the property of Ambrozy family. In 1820 it was built a Hungarian castle which now is a tourist inn. In 2002 in Remetea Mare there lived 3,049 inhabitants, most of them Romanians.

**Etymology:** < Hungarian noun *remete* „hermit, monk”. *Remete* is known since 1237, when it was registered as „...quod wego Remete dicitur”. Simona Goicu (*Termini creștini*, p. 195) considers that this toponym has a root in Latin noun *eremitus*, which comes into Romanian as *râmet*, plural *râmeți*, and not *remete*. *Remetea* is a toponym strictly appearing in the regions of Banat, Crișana and Transylvania, where catholic population lived. All mediaeval documents show the Hungarian apelative *remete* which when changing into an oiconym receives the toponymic suffix *-a*. It results that this toponym shows the existence here of a worship place. In the ‘Dealul’ area it has been discovered Franciscan hermit buildings.

**Recaș** is a new town since 2004. Its administrative territory includes also the following settlements: Bazoș, Herneacova, Izvin, Nadăș, Petrovaselo and Stanciova.

Recaș was made of four different ethnic quarters: German, Hungarian (central areas), Serbian and Romanian (nearby the today railway station). Now there live Romanians together with Hungarians, Serbs, Croats (coming from nearby villages Stanciova and Petrovaselo) and very few Germans. Most of the oiconyms used in different times were: *Rékás*, *Temesrékás* and *Recaș*.

**Etymology:** it comes from Hungarian *Rékás* (< Slav *reka* "river" + suf. -s) (G. Kisch, 1928, p. 9).

**Bazoș** (German *Basosch*, Hungarian *Bázos*) is first dated on Mercy's map (1723-1725) as *Basos*. In 1783 it appeared as *Bassosch* (Suciu, DILT, I, p. 59), while the Hungarian administration names were *Bazuss* (Nagy, I, p. 374) and *Bázos* (1851 and 1913).

Korabinski said that *Basos* or *Bazos* is a valah settlement where population breeds cattle, raise bees and make wheels for charriot. In the middle 19th century about 40 Hungarian families were colonized here.

**Etymology:** probably from an anthroponime *Bazoș* < *Bazu* (DOR, p. 193) + suffix -oș or a derivative from Serbian *baz* „*Sambucus nigra, racemosa*” (DTB, I, p. 46). See also Slav toponyms *Bazova*, *Bazik*, and Romanian *Baziș* (Skok, I, p. 125, s. v. *baz*).

**Bazoșu Nou** (German *Neu Basosch*, Hungarian *Új Bázos*) was built in 1854 (Suciu, DILT, I, p. 59) and was a Romanian village. It grew in importance after the natural park was created.

**Herneacova** originates from the Romanian anthroponym *Herneac* (*Herneag*, *Hârneag*, *Harnag*) and suffix -ova. It could derive also from Romanian anthroponym *Harnagea* (DOR, p. 293, see \**Harn*) + suffix -ova, being a Romanian village now.

The popular name of **Izvin** is *Izviń*. The Romanian official form, *Izvin*, is based on the Hungarian one, with final in -n. After Romanian toponymist Pătruț (1974, p. 220), the toponym seems to come from an old anthroponym *Izviń* (DTB, IV, p. 58-59).

**Nadăș** is a frequent toponym in Transylvania. It has come from the Hungarian toponym *Nádas* < *nádas* "of reed, covered by reed" (G. Kisch, 1928, p. 25) < Hungarian noun *nád* "reed" + suffix -as. This settlement is totally uninhabited since the 90ies, with a migration towards Lugoj and Timișoara.

J. Milin (1998) noticed that the oiconym **Petrovaselo** has a Serbocroatian origin: *Petrovaselo* "the village of Petru".

**Stanciova** is either a hybrid toponym: Romanian anthroponym *Stanciu* and suffix -ova or directly a Slave toponym: *Stančeva* > *Stančova*.

Both Petrovaselo and Stanciova have Serbian majority since the beginning of the 18th century when they were colonized here as Catholic Serbian-Montenegrinians.

Between Recaș and Lugoj there several big communes: Topolovătu Mare, Belinț and Coștei, each having many other settlements in the administration.

**Topolovătu Mare** is a commune which appeared in the Turkish (Ottoman) occupation as *Topolovetz*. Other historical documents mentioned it with the names: *Topolovac* (1717), *Topoloveț* (1723-25), *Tupolovez* (1761). After the making of German colony *Topolovățul Mic* (*Klein Topolovetz*), this village was changed to *Nagy Topolovetz*, *Gross Topolovetz* (1821), *Nagytopoly* (1913).

**Etymology:** < Slav noun *topolu* "poplar tree" + determinative *mare* 'great, big'.

Topolovătu Mare is also composed as a commune with Cralovăț, Ictar-Budinți, Șuștra and Topolovătu Mic.

**Cralovăț** dates since 1723 with the name *Kralowetz*, followed by the mentioning of "pusta *Kralowetz*" in 1761 and *Kralowaz* in 1783. Other historical names were: 1828 *Kralovetz*, 1851 *Kralovez*, 1913 *Temeskyralyfalva*, 1921 Carlovăț, Cralovăț. It is even now a village inhabited by Serbians.

**Etymology:** Slav toponym, with the root in Slav noun *kraljevac* "herb; lat. *Carlina acaulis*" (VUK, p. 308); < probable from Slav *kralj* "king; kingdom" + suffix -ovăț.

**Ictar-Budinț** was formed of two former villages, Ictar and Budinț.

**Budinți** was mentioned in 1444 by Milleker who called it *Budfalva*, while in the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was named as *Budafolt* and *Budaholi*. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century it appeared as *Butzinka* and *Budinc*.

**Ictar** was mentioned in 1365 as *Ikthar*. In 1717 it has the name *Iktar* and in 1761 it was called *Icter*, a valahian village.

**Etymology:** Ictar comes from an old farmer name Iktar (DTB, vol. IV), while Budinți have a root in anthroponym *Bud*, *Buda* (hypocoristic from *Budimir*, *Budis(lav)* etc.) + suffix *-inț* (as in *Belinț*, *Balinț*).

**Iosifalău** (Hung. *Jozseffalva*) is a very new village. It appeared in 1882 with German colonists settled on state property nearby Ictar. Germans came from Eliesenheim, and the Hungarian administrators preferred to name the village *Jozseffalva*, remembering Jozsef Bethlen, administrator of state affairs in Timișoara. Now it is a Romanian-Hungarian village.

**Etymology:** < personal name *Iosif* + Romanian final *falău*, formed from the transformation from Hungarian *Jozseffalva* (< anthrop. *Jozsef* + *falu* "village").

**Șuștra** was first mentioned in 1717 as *Schustra*, with only 10 houses. In 1723 it was named *Schustra*, in Timișoara district. It was always a Romanian village. As even from the 1800 the village was very spread on microtoponymic areas as Cărbunari, Vișin, Gelnite, Petriș and Gredința, their inhabitants had such names as microtoponyms: Cărbunari, Vișinari, Ghelnițari etc.

**Etymology:** the popular name was *Șuștrea* and has as a background the personal name *Șușrea* (with the epenthesis of *t*), derived with suffix *-r* + *-ea*, from *Șușu*, *Șușa*. The official name is an adoption of the Hungarian form *Sustra* (Pătruț, *Studii*, p. 218-219).

**Topolovățu Mic** was built in 1783 with German colonists, with the name *Topolovecz*. In 1828 it became *Kis-Topolovecz*, *Klein Topolowetz* and was reported by historians as: 1851 *Kis/Klein Topolovec* or 1913 *Kistopoly*.

**Etymology:** < Slav *topolu* "poplar tree" + determinative *mic/klein* 'small, little'.

Other important communes are Belinț and Coștei (having each several villages in its administration).

**Belinț** (German Bellinz, Hung. Belintz) was first mentioned in 1285 as „*possessionea BecP*”, while in 1368 *Belenche* belonged to Beshan family (Ilieșiu, *Doc.*, dos. III, p. 112). In 1482 was first mentioned a similar form as today, *Belincz* (Suciu, DILT, I, p. 69). The defters (Turkish documents) presented two settlements *Lower Belicz* (*Belințul de Jos*) and *Upper Belincz* (*Belințul de Sus*), both belonging to Horasty (Horescu) family. In 2002 Belinț had 2,842 inhabitants - 80% Romanians, 15% Hungarians etc.

**Etymology:** Toponym of anthroponymic origin, formed with suffix *-inț(i)* from *Bel(a)*, *Belu*, *Bele* etc. (see Iordan, *Top. rom.*, p. 431).

Belinț have in administration the next villages:

**Babșa** was formed of three mediaeval villages: *Bapșa de Sus*, *Mal* and *Bapșa de Jos*, (1488). These were unified in the Turkish period and appeared as *Babsa* in 1690 and *Babscha* in 1717. In 1840ies about 30 Hungarian and Czeck families from Nytra were settled here.

**Etymology:** from Romanian anthroponyme *Babșa* (I. Pătruț, 1980, p. 59; DTB, vol. I, 1984, p. 31).

**Chizătău** is also known as Chizeteu and Chizetău. In 1359 it was its first appearing as *Kyzigtew*. Other historical layers were: *Kizithew*, *Kysewthwthweu*, *Thyzythew*, *Kyzethew*, and more recently - *Kisseto* (1723-1725), *Kiseteu* (1761), *Kiszeto* (1851), *Kiszetö* (1913).

**Etymology:** Toponym of Hungarian origin: *Kiszető*. The village was placed where the spring-water called sometimes \**Kőszeg*, today *Kisgyei* (= *Chizdiei*) is connected to the left part of Bega river; *tő* is a postsuffix meaning "the water mouth" (Kiss Lajos, FNESz, I, p. 741). Thus *Chizătău* means "the mouth of spring *Kőszeg*".

**Gruni** was mentioned in 1453, with the form *Grwn*. In 1471 it was named *Grwon*, in 1597 - *Gruny*, in 1598 - *Grewny*, in 1690-1700 - *Grun* (C. Suci, vol. I, 1967), in 1717 - *Grum*, in 1799 - *Grubin*, and lately more similar with today form: *Gruin* (1822), *Gruin* (1851) and *Gruny* (1913). The village always was Romanian.

Satul este și astăzi românesc.

**Etymology.** Oiconym taken from the Romanian oronym *grui* < regional Banat form *gruin* "a smaller hill, a smaller grui". See Latin *grunium* "pig snout" (see REW, nr. 3894). V. și Homorodean, *Sarmizegetusa*, p. 130-131; idem, *Pisc și grui*, p. 106-125; DTB, IV, p. 146).

**Coșteiu** (Hung. *Nagykastély*) was made around the mediaeval castle *Kastely*, as a Hungarian diploma showed in 1597, but the village seem to exist since the 10th century (Ilieșiu, *Doc.*, dos. III, p. 177). The oiconym do not suffer profound changes along centuries: *Castelly* (1609), *Castély* (1650), *Kustil* (1690) (Suci, DILT, I, p. 170), *Nagy-Kostély* (Nagy, I, p. 183) etc. In 1728 it began the building of the Bega Canal and in 1759-60 it was made the weir (dam) of Coștei, renewed in 1860 – which now is monument of folk technics. In 2002 it had 2,051 inhabitants - 75% Romanians, but also Hungarians (at Țipari and Bodo especially), Ukrainians and Roma (Gypsies).

**Etymology:** from Hungarian *kastély* "castle".

Coșteiu is made of many small villages as follows:

**Hezeriș** first appeared as *Hegeres* in 1480, while on Mercy map it appeared as *Egris*.

**Etymology:** a Hungarian anthroponym *Hegyeres* or a Romanian one *Hegheriș* (< from Hungarian *Hegy* + *egres* "red-berry").

**Părul** was a Romanian village, called by the Hungarian administration even *Perul* or *Begakörtes*, dating since 1720.

**Etymology:** from Romanian (articulated form) *Păr* "pear". *Begakörtes* means the "pear of Bega".

**Țipari** is a recent Hungarian settlement, made in 1991 with inhabitants from Csenad area. It was called *Szapáryfalva*.

Etimologia : < from Hungarian *szapári* "țipar".

**Valea Lungă Română** was mentioned in 1510 as *Hozzywpathak*. As it was a Romanian village it was called *Valle Longa*, *Valie-lunka* or *Vallunga* after 1717.

**Etymology: from Romanian** "vale lungă" *long valley* (< Hungarian *patak* "valley" + *hosszu* "long").

The next important town on our study is Lugoj with its belonging settlements Măguri and Tapia.

**Lugoj** (Hungarian : *Lugos*, German : *Lugosch* ) is the second main town in the Timiș county, situated on both banks of the Timiș River, which divides the town in two quarters, the Romanian on the right and the German on the left bank. It is the seat of a

bishopric of the Romanian Greek-Catholic Uniate Church. Lugoj was once a strongly fortified place and of greater relative importance than at present. In August 1849 it was the last seat of the Hungarian revolutionary government, and the last resort of Lajos Kossuth and several other leaders of the national cause, previous to their escape to the Ottoman Empire.

A very common myth about Lugoj is that the population is mainly female. It is said that there are "7 women to 1 man". This is because before 1989 there were many textile factories here and the workers were mostly women. As many workers went to and from the factory by bicycle, so Lugoj became famous for its many bicycles.

It appeared during centuries as *Lugos*, *Lugosh*, *Lugosch*, *Temes-Lugos* etc.

**Etymology:** most of the Romanian place-name specialists consider that the town **Lugoj** comes from the antroponym *Logoj* (Pătruț, 1980, p. 266-267; DTB, V, p. 169), a name that is recognized even today by the native population from the Banat region. Simion Dănilă (1981, p. 251-254; idem, 1983, p. 136-142) shows that this place-name has an origin in an apelative *\*logój*, plural for *\*logoz* "sedge (tree)", taking into account that in the dialects around Lugoj there are frequent names as *logojină* "mat" and *lugojiñer* "mat-maker" which leads us to *\*logoz* / *\*logoj*.

The municipality of Lugoj is composed of Lugoj itself and two small settlements: Măguri and Tapia.

The oiconym **Măguri** (a small Roma settlement situated south of Lugoj) comes from the Romanian apelative *măgúră* (with accent on *u*) and signifies a "round hill; big, isolated (usually with forest) hill; small hill (in the plain and low regions)" (DLR), and could appear with numerous derived forms (*Măguricea*, *Măgurea* etc.). It is one of the toponyms which appears in a large geographical area both in Romania and in the countries nearby (Drăganu, 1933, p. 203-205).

**Tapia** from Banat was considered by the Romanian historian C. Giurăscu (1942, p. 114) close to the antique settlement Tapae, the place of an important battle between the Dacians and the Romans (TILR, II, 1969, p. 360, Vraciu, 1980, p. 177). Dan Slușanschi (1988, p. 17) indicated it as being Indoeuropean *\*tok<sup>w</sup>ai* "(the) springs; (the) rivers", comparing it to Iranian *taka* "river" (from Avesta) and Slavian *tokŭ* "blade of river; river".

The Dacian language changed the short Indoeuropean *o* in short *a* and tended to change also *k<sup>w</sup>* (see also Latin *q<sup>w</sup>*) in *p* (before of *a* and *o*), from Latin *aqua* > Romanian *apă*, *quattuor* > *patru* (*four*) (Frățilă, 2002, p. 40-41, apud Dan Slușanschi, *loc. cit.*, p. 17).

Between Lugoj and Buziaș most of the villages (Jabăr, Ohaba-Forgaci and Sinersig) belong to commune Boldur.

**Boldur** was first mentioned as Bulder in 1290 and from the 16th century as Boldor or Boldur, designating a Romanian Anthroponym *Boldur* (I. Pătruț, 1980, p. 98-99)

**Jabăr** was mentioned in 1597 *Zaber* as a valahian (Romanian) village.

**Etymology:** from Bulgarian anthroponym *Zabara*, with derived forms *Zabarov*, *Zabarski* (St. Ilčev, 1969, p. 202; DTB, vol. V, 1987); < see also Serbian *žaba* "frog".

**Ohaba-Forgaci** appeared in the 14th century as *Zabatfalva* ("the free villagesatul liber") and *Forgacsfalva* ("village Forgacs").

**Etimologia:** < from Romanian *Ohabă* "free tax village" + Romanian anthroponym *Forgaci* (I. Jordan, 1983, p. 206) or Hungarian anthroponym *Forgacs*.

**Sinersig** appeared in 1631 as *Szemczeg*. On Mercy's map it was mentioned as *Sinerseck*. For 1800-1914, it was used the name *Sinerszeg* (C. Suci, vol. II, 1968), very close to the Romanian name.

**Etymology:** its Romanian old form is *Sânisâg* (< Hungarian *széneszeg* < Hungarian noun *széna* "hay" + *szeg* "corner"). The official Romanian form is reproducing the Hungarian one *Szinerszeg* < \**Szinegerszeg* (see *Egerszeg* > dialectal Romanian *Iersig*, official Romanian *Ersig*, village in Caraș-Severin county; from Hungarian *éger* "tree growing along rivers, botanical *Alnus*") (Pătruț, OR, p. 111), so the whole oiconym could be translated as "the hay from the corner with alnus trees".

Among older settlements in the present territory of Timiș county may be included

**Buziaș** (German *Buziash*, Hung. *Buziás*), a well-known spa since Austrian-Hungarian Empire.

The antique name of it was *Achibis* -see Tabula Peutingeriana. Hungarian mediaeval diplomas reveal it as: *Kysbuzyas* (1320), *Buzus* (1369), *Bezias* (during king Ladislau's period) (Ilieșiu, *Doc.*, dos. I, p. 11). In 1457 and 1482 the vilage *Bozas* had patronimics like: Stanciu, Nicolae, Valahul etc. and in 1716 the Habsburg name was *Buzieschi*, with Romanian serfs. In 1820 there were settled here 60 Hungarian and Slovak families from Bratislava (Pojony) and Arva regions and in 1825 were placed about 200 families of Germans and Czechs (Sorina Voiculescu, *Orașele*, p. 193). In 1811-1815 the mineral waters are exploited for first time and became a town during communism as a watering place (spa). In 2002 it counted 7,738 inhabitants – 85% Romanians.

**Etymology:** G. Kisch (1928, p. 25) thought of a Romanian form coming from *boz* < slave *boz* (sic! "elder tree") + suffix *-iaș* (sic!) with *o* unstressed as *u*. Jordan, *Top. rom.*, p. 60 included this toponym at *Boz*, a name which comes from the apelative *boz* "...very possible of Hungarian origin, or at least of Hungarian origin", showing that Petrovici, DR, X, p. 256, 258 believed in a slave word *būzŭ*, identified in the Romanian form *boz*. The popular form *Bâzâieș* (DTB, I, p. 151) indicates an *ă* or a sound similar after initial *B* which is also met in Bulgarian *băz*, *băzej* (BER, I, p. 97, see *băz*<sup>1</sup>).

The town Buziaș includes also two small settlements: **Bacova** and **Silagiu**. The toponym **Bacova** was given after the subprefect (vicedirector) of commitatus Caraș, *Dezeni Bacho Ion*. He had also the function of districtal commissioner, taking care of the colonization of Germans and other Catholic ethnic elements. The Germans and the Hungarians know this settlement as *Bachowar* and *Bachóvár* "chalet, town of *Bako* (= German *Bacho*)", assimilated to Romanian toponyms with suffixation in *-ova* (DTB, I, p. 33).

**Bacova** was built in 1783, with Germans from Rhine Valley. Other Germans from Falkenstein area came in 1808. The Slovak, Czechs, Hungarians and Bulgarians settled in the 19th century were assimilated till 1930. Till 1990 the village had 2,300 Germans, while now the village in Romanian.

The first document about the village **Silagiu** was in 1406, when „count of *Zylas*” was mentioned (N. Ilieșiu, *Doc.*, dos. IV, p. 47). *Zylvas* (Silvaș), *Zilagy*, *Silasch*, *Szillass* were other toponymic layers.

Microtoponyms as *Pârpova*, *Codru*, *Gai Lence* show a Romanian background. The local legend says that the Romanian priest Selegianu united all the former small village entities around and built Silagiu after the Turkish period. *Ogașu Turcului* (Turkish ravenna) and *Calea Ungurească* (Hungarian Road) reveal today the presence of the Turkish army and the way where Kossuth left the area (N. Ilieșiu, *ibid.*).

**Etymology:** < Hungarian *Szilágy* < Hung. noun *szil* „elm tree (*Ulmus*)” + *ágy* „river bank”, meaning „spring with elms” (G. Kisch, *Siebenbürgen*, p. 131; Jordan, *Top. rom.*, p. 104).

Between Buziaș and Timișoara only two communes are important: Chevereșu Mare and Moșnița Nouă.

**Chevereșu Mare** (Hung. *Nagy Köveres* and German *Grossköveres*) is a rather new village, dating back to the end of the 17th century as *Keveris*. Other toponymic forms were: *Keverisch* (1717), *Keveresch* (1723-1725), *Köveres* (1850), *Nagy Keveresch*, *Nagy Köveres* și *Grossköveres* (Suciu, DILT, I, p. 139). It was a Romanian (valah) village, with forestmen and farmers. It has always a Romanian majority, excepting the village Vucova – which belongs to it and which was a Slovak colony. In 2002 the commune had 1,942 inhabitants.

**Etymology:** toponym of anthroponimic origin: *Köveres* (< Hung. *köveres* “grăsuț, grăsuliu”) + Romanian determinative *mare* ‘big, great’ (DTB, II, p. 46).

Commune Chevereșu Mare includes two villages: Dragsina and Vucova.

**Dragsina** was mentioned in 1442 as "*kenesius de Draxzfalva*" with valahians. Other mentionings were *Draxa(falva)*, *Draxinfalva*, *Dragzenesth*, *Dragsina* etc.

**Etymology:** from Romanian anthroponym *Dragsin* < *Dragsa* + suf. -in (I. Pătruț, 1973, p. 187) < see also *Drăgșin*, *Dracșin* (N. A. Constantinescu, 1963, p. 265); *Drag*, *Dragu* (see Romanian *drag* “dear, fond of...”).

**Vucova** was created at the beginning of the 18th century as a Romanian settlement. In 1807 there were settled on the south-west of the village many augustan confession Slovaks by the Religious Fund of Ciacova. It was then mentioned as *Vukova*, *Vukovar* or *Temesvukovar*.

**Etymology:** from Slav anthroponym *Vlkov* (< Slav noun *vluk* "wolf") + toponymic suffix -a.

The commune **Moșnița Nouă** is made of the following settlements: Moșnița Nouă, Moșnița Veche and Albina.

**Albina** is a new village made with Romanians from the mountain area of Sibiu in 1925. Its first name was *Colonia Brod* (Ilieșiu, *Doc.*, dos. II, p. 98), and from 1956 was named Albina.

**Etymology:** Romanian anthrop. *Albina* (DOR, p. 180; DTB, I, p. 7); Romanian appellative *albină* “plant growing on clay rocks or at the edge of forests (botanical); bee (zoological)” (DTRO, I, p. 214).

**Moșnița Nouă** is a Hungarian colony made in 1903 when 90 houses were built by Hungarians from Békecsaba and Széentes. In 1969 it became a commune as it has a very good geographical position on the national road Timișoara-Buziaș. Even in 2002, from the 3,804 inhabitants 52% were Hungarians (reformed, not catholic Hungarians).

**Etymology:** Top. *Moșnița* < Slav *\*Mŭchĭna* (*\*mŭchŭ* “moss - Bryophita” + suffix -*ĭna*) + suffix -*ica*; see also Serbian *mošnjica* < *mòšnja* + -*ica* (Skok, II, p. 459, s. v. *mòšnja*); see Russian hydronym *Mošnica* (Vasmer, REWb, II, p. 331) < Slav *\*mŭchŭ* “moss” (bot.) (DTB, VI, p. 67). See Romanian hydronym *Moșna* on Târnava Mare valley < *\*Mŭchĭna* (Frățilă, *Studii lingv.*, p. 205-206).

**Moșnița Veche** (Hung. *O Mosnicza*, Germ. *Alt Moschnitz*) is a mediaeval village mentioned as : *Mosniza*, *Mosnitza*, *Moschnitz*. A local legend says the name comes from an old man in the village called *Moș Ioniță* (Granny Ioniță).

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

The settlements from the eastern part of Timișoara have names mainly connected to anthroponyms as well as to local topography, old castle, hydrography and vegetation. Most of the anthroponyms relate to local mediaeval personalities or Habsburg administrators. As far as the language origin is concerned the oiconyms can be noticed coming from Latin, Hungarian and Slav languages (Serbian, Bulgarian etc.). This mixed origins are due to the diverse historical events specific to the Banat region, which lead to a multiethnic value.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

- BER = VI. GEORGIEV, Iv. GĂLĂBOR, J. ZAIMOV, St. ILČEV, *Bălgarski etimologičen rečnik*, I, Sofia, 1971, II, 1979.
- DOR = N. A. CONSTANTINESCU, *Dicționar onomastic românesc*, București, EA, 1963.
- DR = "Dacoromania", Cluj, I, 1920-1921 and forthcoming.
- DTB, I = Vasile FRĂȚILĂ, Viorica GOICU, Rodica SUFLEȚEL, *Dicționarul toponimic al Banatului*, I (A-B)-1984, TUT, Timișoara, 1989.
- DTB, II = Rodica SUFLEȚEL, Viorica GOICU, *Dicționarul toponimic al Banatului, II (C)*, TUT, Timișoara, 1985.
- DTB, III = Rodica SUFLEȚEL, Viorica GOICU, *Dicționarul toponimic al Banatului, III (D-E)*, Universitatea din Timișoara, Centrul de Științe Locale, Timișoara, 1986.
- DTB, IV = Vasile FRĂȚILĂ, Viorica GOICU, Rodica SUFLEȚEL, *Dicționarul toponimic al Banatului, IV (F-G)*-1986, TUT, Timișoara, 1989.
- DTB, V = Vasile FRĂȚILĂ, Viorica GOICU, Rodica SUFLEȚEL, *Dicționarul toponimic al Banatului, V (H-L)*, TUT, Timișoara, 1989.
- DTB, VI = Vasile FRĂȚILĂ, Viorica GOICU, Rodica SUFLEȚEL, *Dicționarul toponimic al Banatului, VI (M-N)*, Universitatea din Timișoara, CȘS, Timișoara, 1989.
- DTB, VII (O) = Viorica GOICU, Rodica SUFLEȚEL, *Dicționarul toponimic al Banatului, VII (O)*, Timișoara, Ed. Amphora, 1994.
- DTB, R = Vasile FRĂȚILĂ, Viorica GOICU, Rodica SUFLEȚEL, *Dicționarul toponimic al Banatului (R)*, in SCO, nr. 7, Craiova, Ed. Universitaria, 2002, p. 267-327.
- DFNFR = *Dicționar de frecvență a numelor de familie din România (DFNFR)*, vol. I, A-B, Craiova, Ed. Universitaria, 2003, responsable editor prof. univ. dr. Teodor OANĂ.
- Ed. = Editura.
- EA = Editura Academiei, București.
- EȘE = Editura Științifică și enciclopedică, București.
- LR = Limba Română, București, 1952 and forthcoming.
- SCO = Studii și cercetări de onomastică, Craiova, I, 1995 and forthcoming.
- Skok I-III = Petar SKOK, *Etimologijski rječnik hrvatskoga ili srpskoga jezika*, t. I (1971), t. II (1972), t. III (1973), Zagreb.
- SLLF = Studii de Limbă, Literatură și Folclor, Reșița, 1976 and forthcoming.
- TILR II = *Istoria limbii române*, vol. II, București, EA, 1969 (responsable author Ion COTEANU).
- TUT = Tipografia Universității din Timișoara.

