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H. Gilbert-Carter

Excerpt

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GLOSSARY

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a-, á-, prefix expressing want or absence. This prefix is commonly called *á* privative.

Abiēs, Latin name of a coniferous tree.

abrotonoïdēs, resembling *Artemisia Abrotonum*; *ἀβρότονον*, name, in Greek authors, of *ARTEMISIA* spp. and *Santolina Chamaecyparissus*.

Absinthium, name of a plant in Cato, etc. (*ἀψίνθιον* in Xenophon).

Acaena, *ἄκαινα* (*ἀκή, ἀκίς*), thorn, from the sharp spines on the calyx of some species.

Acanthium, *ἀκάνθιον*, name, in Dioscorides, of a thistle-like plant, from *ἄκανθα*, prickle.

Acanthus, *ἄκανθος*, name of *Acanthus mollis* (*ἄκανθα*, thorn, prickly plant).

acaulis, e, also **os, on,** stemless, *á* privative and *caulis* (*καυλός*, stem).

Accipitrīna, word formed from *accipiter*, hawk, on analogy of *HIERACIUM*, q.v.

Ācer, name, probably, of *A. campestre*. Note short *a* and neut. gender.

ācer, cris, cre, (sharp, pointed) acrid, i.e. with a sharp, burning, pepper-like taste. A masc. in *-cris* is often used in botanical Latin.

Aceras, *á* privative and *κέρας*, (horn) spur, from the spur-less perianth.

acerbus, a, um, harsh to the taste.

Acētosella, word formed from *acētum*, vinegar, referring to the acid taste.

acētōsus, a, um, medieval Latin adj., meaning acid, from *acētum*, vinegar.

Achillēa, *ἀχιλλειος*, plant-name used by Greek authors. In Pliny *millefolia* is a synonym of *achillēa* and *achillēos* (named after Achilles, pupil of Chiron).

Achras, *ἀχράς*, a kind of wild pear, perhaps *Pirus amygdaliformis*, a common Mediterranean species.

Achyrophorus, *ἄχυρον*, chaff, and *-φόρος*, bearing, referring to the membranous scales on the receptacle.

aciculāris, e, needle- or pin-like (*acicula*, diminutive of *acus*, needle).

acidus, a, um, acid, sour, i.e. tasting like vinegar or lemon juice and reddening blue litmus (*aceo*, be sour).

acinifolius, a, um, having leaves resembling those of *ἄκινος* (*Acinos arvensis*).

Acinos, *ἄκινος*, name of a plant in Dioscorides (*Calamintha graveolens*).

Aconitum, the Latin name of species of this genus (*ἀκόνιτον*, of doubtful etymology).

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Acorus, ἄκορον, name, in Dioscorides, of *Iris Pseudacorus*.

ācris, fem. sometimes used also for masc. of *ācer*.

Acrotonae, ἄκρα, summit, apex, and τόνος, gerund form of *τείνω*, stretch, extend. The apex of the anther loculus is prolonged against the rostellum.

Actaea, name in Pliny, said to be connected with ἀκταία (ἀκτέα), elder-tree. The leaves of ACTAEA somewhat resemble those of SAMBUCUS.

actino-, having rays (ἀκρίς, ἴνος, ray); the stem vowel is shortened in compounds used as ordinary English words.

acūleātus, a, um, thorny, prickly (*aculeus*, spine, prickle).

adenocaulon, Greek neut.adj. formed from ἀδήν, ἔνος, gland, and καυλός, stem.

Adiantum, ἀδιδαντον, name, in Greek authors, of a plant with unwettable leaves, perhaps *A. Capillus Veneris* (ἀδιδαντος, unwetted).

Adōnis, used as a plant-name by Mattioli. The flower which sprang up from the blood of Adonis, favourite of Aphrodite, was called *Adōnium*.

Adoxa, ἀ privative and δόξα, glory, referring to the insignificance of the plant.

adpressus, a, um, appressed, term applied to structures (hairs, pods, etc.) which lie flat against the axis bearing them (*ad*, on, against, and *premo, pressum*, press).

adscitus, a, um, derived, assumed (p.part. of *a(d)scisco*).

Aegilōps, αἰγίλωψ, name of several plants, probably including a wild oat. The first element is doubtless αἶξ, αἰγός, goat. See Hegi, vol. I, p. 390, footnote, and p. 254, under *Avena sativa*.

Aegirus, a name in Greek authors of *Populus nigra* (αἰγειρος).

Aegopodium, from αἶξ, αἰγός, goat, and πόδιον, little foot, referring to the shape of the leaves.

aemulus, a, um, striving, rivalling.

Aesculus, name of a tree, perhaps *Quercus petraea*.

aestivālis, e, = aestivus.

aestivus, a, um, of (flowering in) summer (*aestas*, summer).

Aēthionēma, origin much disputed, perhaps from ἀήθης, unusual, and νῆμα, thread, from the winged or toothed filaments.

Aethūsa, name first used by Linnaeus, from αἶθω, burn, referring to the shining foliage. Cf. *Gleiss(e)*, the German name of *Aethusa Cynapium*, from *gleissen*, glitter (αἶθουσα (sc. στοά) meant a veranda to catch the sun).

Agathophytum, ἀγαθός, good, and φυτόν, plant, referring to *Chenopodium bonus-Henricus*.

Agraphis, ἀ privative and γράφω, write. See *nōn-scriptus*.

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agrārius, a, um, growing in fields, lit. pertaining to land (*ager*, field).

agrestis, e, wild, usually means growing on arable land (*ager*, field).

Agrimōnia, plant-name in texts of Celsus and Pliny. The word, however, is a false reading for *argemonia*, name of a plant similar to *argemōnē*. *Argemon* (ἄργεμον) was the name of a plant called in pure Latin *lappa canāria*.

Agropŷrum, ἀγρός, field, and πῦρος, wheat. Better spelt, as by Hegi, AGRIOPYRUM (ἄγριος, wild).

Agrostemma, ἀγρός, field, and στέμμα, garland, suited for garlands of wild flowers. The word was formed by Linnaeus by analogy with CORONARIA, q.v.

Agrōstis, ἀγρωστis, name of a plant in Theophrastus and other authors, thought to be *Cynodon Dactylon*.

Aira, αἶρα, name of a weed among wheat, thought to be *Lolium temulentum*.

Aizōaceae, from the genus Αἴζοον. The word αἰείζωος means everlasting, and τὸ αἰείζωον was the name of an evergreen plant, probably a SEMPERVIVUM (ἀεί, for ever, and ζωή, life).

aizōidēs, like Αἴζοον, a name now used for a genus of *Aizoaceae*.

Ājācis, gen. sing. of Ajax, from whose blood sprang a flower bearing the initial letters of his name, the Greek capitals ΑΙΑ.

Ajuga, a name used by Scribonius Largus, physician, as a synonym of *abiga*, a plant, in Pliny, producing abortion (*abigo*, procure abortion).

albescens, becoming white.

albidus, a, um, white.

albus, a, um, white.

Alcea, ἀλκαία (ἀλκία), name, in Dioscorides, probably of *Malva moschata*.

Alchemilla (Alchimilla), name of our genus in Hieronymus Braunschweig, origin unknown.

Alisma, ἄλισμα, name of a water-plant, used by Dioscorides, probably not belonging to the genus ALISMA.

Alliāria, name used by Fuchs, referring to the garlic-like smell of the plant (*allium*, *alium*, garlic).

Allium, alium, garlic.

Allosōrus, ἄλλος, other, different, and σωρός, heap (sorus), from the variously shaped sori.

Alnus, the Latin name of *Alnus glutinosa*.

aloidēs, resembling species of the genus ALOË.

Alōpecūrus, ἀλώπηξ, εκος, fox, and οὐρά, tail, from the brush-like inflorescence.

alpester, tris, tre, usually synonymous with *alpīnus*.

alpigena (substantive), something produced in the Alps (*alpes*, high mountains, and *gigno*, bring forth).

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alpīnus, a, um, growing in alpine places (*Alpes*, high mountains). N.B.

The German word *Alpe* (pl. *Alpen*) means: (1) the Alps; (2) pastureland on mountainside, alpine meadow.

Alsine, ἀλσίνη, name of a plant in Theophrastus, perhaps *Parietaria cretica*.

Althaea, ἀλθαία, name of a plant in Theophrastus (see also appendix).

altīlis, e, nutritive, nourishing (*alo*, nourish).

altissimus, a, um, superlative of *altus*.

altus, a, um, high, tall (p.part. of *alo*, nourish).

Alyssum, ἄλυσσος, curing rabies, from ἀ privative and λύσσα, rage, fury, rabies, also a worm under the tongue of dogs said to cause rabies.

Amarantus, name of a plant in Latin authors, ἀμάραντος in Nicander, from ἀ privative and μαράϊνω, fade away.

Amārella, fem. diminutive of *amārus*, bitter.

amārus, a, um, bitter, i.e. tasting like quinine or hops.

Amaryllidāceae, called after the genus AMARYLLIS (the name of a country girl in Theocritus and Virgil).

Ambrosia, ἀμβροσία, name in Dioscorides of *Ambrosia maritima*. The word means immortality or the elixir of life.

Amelanchier, the Provençal name, of doubtful origin, of *A. ovalis*.

Āmentiflōrae, fem.pl.adj. (sc. *plantae*) from *āmentum*, thong (catkin), and *flos, ōris*, flower.

amethystēa, of the colour of the precious stone amethyst.

Ammī, name in Greek and Latin authors of *Trachyspermum (Carum) copticum*.

Ammophila, sand-lover, ἄμμος, sand, and φίλος, friend. Also used as adjective, *ammophilus, a, um*, sand-loving.

Amōmum, ἄμωμον, name of an Indian spice plant, used for our species of *SISON* because of its powerful aroma.

Ampeloprasum, ἀμπελόπρασον, name in Dioscorides of a species of ALLIUM which probably grew in vineyards, from ἄμπελος, vine, and πράσον, leek.

amphibius, a, um, living a double life, i.e. both on land and in water, from ἀμφί-, both, and βίος, life.

amplexicaulis, e, having the base of the leaf or petiole partially embracing the stem (*amplexus*, encircling, embracing, and *caulis*, stem).

ampullāceus, a, um, like a flask or *ampulla*, as the perigynia of *Carex ampullacea*. See Rich, p. 30.

amygdalinus, a, um, ἀμυγδάλινος, of almonds. The leaves of *Salix triandra* taste and smell of sweet almonds. The ι is short in the Greek word, but it is, perhaps, permissible to lengthen it in the Latin form.

amygdaloidēs, almond-like.

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[More information](#)**Amygdalus**, ἀμύγδαλος, almond-tree.**Anacamptis**, from ἀνακάμπτω, bend back, referring to the long, curved spur.**Anagallis**, name, in Dioscorides, probably from ἀν-, without, and ἀγάλλομαι, boast, referring to an unpretentious plant.**anagyroidēs**, resembling the genus ANAGYRIS.**Ananassa**, name of the pine-apple (*Ananas sativus*), probably of Peruvian origin.**Anaphalis**, origin obscure, perhaps a bad anagram of GNAPHALIUM.**Anastatica**, fem.adj. from ἀνάστασις, rising up, resurrection. *A. hierochuntica* (rose of Jericho) during the dry season withers away and contracts into a ball of wickerwork, which blows about in the breeze. When it reaches a wet place, or when rain falls, it expands.**Anchūsa**, ἀγχουσα or ἔγχουσα, name in Aristophanes of a plant, perhaps *Alkanna tinctoria*, yielding a red dye used as rouge.**andegavensis**, e, of Angers in Anjou (*Andegava*).**andevagensis**, e, mis-spelling of *andegavensis*.**Andromeda**, Ἀνδρομέδη, daughter of Cepheus and Cassiope.**Androrchis**, ἀνήρ, ἀνδρός, man, and ORCHIS, referring to *Orchis mascula*.**Androsaeumum**, ἀνδρόσαιμον, name, in Dioscorides, of a plant with blood-red juice, from ἀνήρ, ἀνδρός, man, and αἷμα, blood.**-andrus, a, um**, -stamened, e.g. *triandrus*, 3-stamened (ἀνήρ, ἀνδρός, man, i.e. stamen).**Anemōnē**, ἀνεμώνη, *Anemone coronaria*, a common Mediterranean species, from ἄνεμος, wind, and -ώνη, feminine patronymic suffix, 'daughter of the wind'. Connexion with wind obscure. Some consider the name to be a Greek loan word of Semitic origin, not connected with ἄνεμος, but introduced through the cult of Adonis (Naaman), from whose blood *Anemone coronaria* was believed to have sprung. In Britain the word is usually pronounced as the English name, with short *o* and accented antepenultimate.**Angelica**, name in Matthaeus Sylvaticus of *Archangelica officinalis*, which was said to have been revealed by an angel (*herba angelica*, angelic herb).**angiocarpus, a, um**, ἀγγεῖον, vessel, urn, and καρπός, fruit.**Angiospermae**, ἀγγεῖον, vessel, and σπέρμα, seed, referring to the closed carpels.**anglicus, a, um**, English.**anglōrum**, gen. of *Anglī*, the English people. *Hieracium anglorum* is thought to be endemic to England.**angusti-** (*angustus, a, um*), narrow-.

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- Anisantha**, ἄνισος, unequal, uneven, and ἄνθος, flower. In the specimen described the lowest flower of the spikelet is fertile, the next one staminate, and the rest sterile and embracing the rachilla.
- Anisophyllum**, ἀνισος, uneven, and φύλλον, leaf. The leaves of species of this section are oblique at the base.
- annōtinus, a, um**, of last year. Note the long *o* and short *i*. The annual shoots of *Lycopodium annotinum* are clearly demarcated.
- Anōgramma**, ἄνω, up, upwards, and γραμμή, line (sorus). The sori first appear at the apices of the young pinnae.
- Anoplobatus**, ἀνοπλος, unarmed, and *-batus*, q.v., referring to absence of thorns.
- anserinus, a, um**, pertaining to geese, hence, growing on goose-greens (*anser*, goose). In Linnaeus's *Flora Suecica*, two Swedish names are given to *Potentilla anserina*: *Gåsört* (goose-weed), and *Silfverört* (silver-weed).
- Antennāria**, from the *antenna*-like pappus hairs (*antenna*, sail-yard).
- Anthemis**, ἀνθεμίς = ἄνθος, flower. The name is used by Dioscorides for a plant called also λευκάνθεμον and χαμαίμηλον.
- anthemus, a, um**, -flowered, as *polyanthemus, a, um*, many-flowered (ἀνθεμίς, flower).
- anthēs, -anthus, a, um**, -flowered (ἄνθος, flower).
- Anthoxanthum**, ἄνθος, flower, and ξανθός, yellow, from the colour of the ripe spikelets.
- Anthriscus**, ἄθρυσκον, name in Greek author of *Scandix australis*.
- anthrōpophorus, a, um**, man-bearing, ἄνθρωπος, man, and *-φόρος*, bearing (φέρω, bear), from the form of the flowers.
- Anthyllis**, ἀνθυλλίς, name of a plant in Dioscorides.
- Antirrhinum**, ἀντίρρινον, name, in Dioscorides, of *Antirrhinum majus*, from ἀντι-, counterfeiting, and ρίς, ῥίνος, nose. The description in Theophrastus fits *Valantia hispida*.
- Apargia**, ἀπαργία, name of a plant in Theophrastus, perhaps from ἀπό, denoting origin, and ἀργία, lapse of cultivation (fallow land).
- Aparinē**, ἀπαρίνη, name of *Galium Aparine* in Theophrastus and Dioscorides.
- Apera**, equivocal word invented by Adanson.
- apetalus, a, um**, without petals, from ἀ privative and πέταλον, leaf, used in botany for petal.
- Aphaca**, ἀφάκη, name of a leguminous plant (cf. φακῆ, lentil porridge, and φακός, lentil plant and seed).
- Aphanēs**, ἀφανής, unseen, unnoticed. The species are inconspicuous.

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aphyllus, a, um, leafless, from *ἀ* privative and φύλλον, leaf.

apiculātus, a, um, furnished with a short, acute, but not stiff, point (*apiculus*, diminutive of *apex*, point, summit).

apifer, a, um, bee-bearing (*apis*, bee, and *fero*, bear).

Apium, name used by Latin authors for several umbelliferous plants.

Apocynāceae, fem.pl.adj. (sc. *plantae*) formed from APOCYNUM, the type genus of the family. The ἀπόκυνον of Dioscorides was *Marsdenia erecta*, 'dog's-bane', from ἀπο-, asunder, and κύων, κυνός, dog.

Aponogētōn, word formed on analogy with ΡΟΤΑΜΟΓΕΤΟΝ, the first element being, apparently, ἄπονος, without toil or trouble.

appropinquātus, a, um (p.part. of *appropinquo*, come near, approach), approaching, in appearance, some other species.

apterus, a, um, wing-less, from *ἀ* privative and πτερόν, wing.

aquāticus, a, um, growing in water (*aqua*, water).

aquātilis, e = aquāticus.

Aquifolium, name, in Pliny, of *Ilex aquifolium*, from *aquifolius, a, um*, having pointed leaves, from *acus*, needle, and *folium*, leaf.

Aquilegia, perhaps from old forms of the German name *Akelei*. Hegi (III, p. 480) gives twelfth-century spellings *Acheleia* and *Agleia*.

aquilinus, a, um, to do with eagles. The bundles of the rhizome, on section, resemble a spread eagle (*aquila*, eagle) (see appendix).

Arabidopsis, resembling species of the genus ARABIS (ὄψις, appearance).

Arabis, origin obscure.

arachnītēs, spider-like, from ἀράχνης, spider, and -ίτης, connected with.

Arachus, ἀραχος, name, in Galen, of a plant thought to be *Vicia Sibthorpii*.

Aracium, name formed by Necker on analogy with HIERACIUM, from ἀρακος, a Tyrrhenian word for ἱεραξ, hawk.

Araliāceae, called after the genus ARALIA (origin of name obscure).

arānifer, a, um, spider-bearing, from *arānea*, spider, and *fero*, bear.

araucānus, a, um, of the province Arauco in S. Chile.

Araucāria, adjective from Arauco, name of a province in S. Chile.

arbuscula, a little tree (diminutive of *arbor*, tree).

Arbutus, the Latin name. Note the short first *u*.

Archangelica, said to have been revealed by the Archangel Gabriel.

Archichlamydeae, fem.pl.adj. (sc. *plantae*), from ἀρχή, beginning, and χλαμύς, cloak (perianth), referring to the low grade of elaboration of the perianth.

Arctium, name in Pliny of a plant also called *arcturus* (see appendix).

Arctostaphylos, ἄρκτος, bear, and σταφυλή, bunch of grapes, translation of *ūva ursī*.

Arctōus, ἀρκτῶος, of a bear (ἄρκτος, bear).

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[More information](#)**arcuātus, a, um**, bent like a bow (*arcus*, bow).**Aremōnia**, transformation of *AGRIMONIA*, q.v.**Arēnāria**, see *arenārius*.**Arēnārius, a, um**, growing on sand ((*h*)*arēna*, sand).**Argemōnē**, *ἀργεμῶνη*, name, in Dioscorides, of a poppy-like plant.**argenteus, a, um**, silver-coloured (*argentum*, silver).**argyro-**, silver- (*ἄργυρος*).**Aria**, *ἄρια*, name of a plant in Theophrastus, perhaps *QUERCUS* sp.**aristātus, a, um**, furnished with an awn (*arista*).**Aristolochia**, *ἀριστόλοχεια* (-*λογία* in Theophrastus), name of species of *ARISTOLOCHIA*, from *ἄριστος*, best, and *λόχος*, birth, i.e. used to assist childbirth. The species are poisonous, and may cause abortion. Note the 'birth signature' of the perianth. The inflated base represents the uterus and the tube the birth passages.**Armeria**, from the French names *armoires* and *armoiries* applied to species of *DIANTHUS* with aggregated flowers.**Armoracia**, *ἀμορακία*, name, perhaps, of *Raphanus Raphanistrum*.**Arnoseric**, *ἄρνος*, lamb, and *σέρις*, kind of chicory or endive. See *-seris*.**Arrhenatherum**, *ἄρρην, ενος*, Attic for *ἄρσην*, male, and *ἄθήρ, έπος*, awn.

The spikelets are 2-flowered; the upper flower is hermaphrodite; the lower one is male, and its lemma bears a long awn.

arrhizus, a, um, rootless, from *ἄ* privative and *ρίζα*, root.**Artemisia**, *ἀρτεμισία*, name, in Dioscorides, of a plant, called after Artemis (Diana).**arthro-**, *ἄρθρον*, joint.**Arthrocnēmum**, *ἄρθρον*, joint, and *κνήμη*, leg, shank, internode. The shoots resemble those of *SALICORNIA*.**Arthrolobium**, *ἄρθρον*, joint, and *λοβός*, pod.**articulātus, a, um**, jointed.**Arum**, *ἄρον*, name, in Theophrastus, of *Arum italicum*.**arundināceus, a, um**, reed-like ((*h*)*arundo, inis*, reed).**Arundo**, reed, probably *Arundo Donax* (*harundo*).**arvālis, e**, growing on arable land (*arvum*).**arvensis, e**, growing on arable land, a common trivial name for plants found on ploughed fields (*arvum (solum)*, arable land).**Asarum**, *ἄσαρον*, name, in Dioscorides, of *A. europaeum*.**Asparagus**, *ἀσπάραγος*, the name of 'Asparagus' and the shoots of similar plants.**asper, era, erum**, rough.**aspernātus, a, um**, despised, rejected (p.part. of *aspernor*, despise).**Asperūgo**, *asper*, rough, and *-ugo*, feminine suffix used in plant-names.**Asperula**, diminutive feminine word from *asper*, rough.

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Aspidium, ἀσπίδιον, diminutive of ἀσπίς, ἴδος, shield, from the form of the indusium.

Asplēnium, ἄσπληνον, name of a plant in Dioscorides, from ἀσπλήν, said to be euphonic, and σπλήν, spleen. The *i* in the generally accepted spelling of the generic name is perhaps also euphonic.

Astēr, ἀστήρ, star, as a plant name thought to be *Aster amellus*.

-aster, -astrum, suffix signifying inferior kind, incomplete resemblance, wild, often added to stem of generic name to form designation for a section of the genus. The initial *a* may be changed to *i*, especially when the suffix follows vowel-stems, as in *Sinapistrum* and *Rapistrum*.

Astragalus, ἀστράγαλος, name of a leguminous plant.

Astrantia, name used by l'Ecluse for *Peucedanum Ostruthium*, apparently corrupt form of *Magistrantia* (Germ. *Meisterwürz*, Eng. 'Masterwort'), from *magister*, master.

athamanticus, a, um, of Mount Athamas in Thessaly, or of King Athamas, who first made use of the plant.

Athȳrium, said to be derived from ἀθύρω, play, sport, referring to the varying form of the sori.

ātrātus, a, um, clothed in black (*āter*, black).

Ātriplex, name of a plant in Pliny; the same word as ἀτράφαξ.

ātro-, better **ātri-**, black- (*āter, ra, rum*).

ātrofuscus, a, um, from *āter*, black, and *fuscus*, tawny.

Atropa, Ἄτροπος (not to be turned, inflexible), name of one of the three *Moīrai* (*Parcae*) or goddesses of fate.

Atropis, ἀτρίπρις, keel, from the keel-less lemmata.

Aubrieta, called after the artist Claude Aubriet, Tournefort's travelling companion.

aucupārius, a, um, for *aucupātōrius*, used for catching birds (*avis*, bird, and *capio*, catch). Fowlers used the fruit for bait.

aurantiacus, a, um, orange-coloured.

aureus, a, um, golden (*aurum*, gold).

auricomus, a, um, with golden hair, from *aurum*, gold, and *coma* (κόμη), hair of the head, from the numerous yellow flowers, cf. **comōsus**.

Auricula, *auricula ursi* (bear's ear), name, in Clusius, of *Primula Auricula*, so-called from the form of the leaf.

aurigerānus, a, um, of Ariège (*Aurigera*).

aurītus, a, um, with long ears, usually referring to stipules (*auris*, ear).

austrālis, e, southern (*auster*, the south wind, the south).

austriacus, a, um, of Austria.

autumnālis, e, of (flowering in) autumn (*autumnus*, autumn).

avellānus, a, um, of Avella, an Italian town famous for its fruit-trees and nuts. Pliny called the hazel-nut *nux avellana*.