

Am Buadhfhacal Meadhan-Aoiseach *Meranach* agus *mearan*, *mearanach*, *dàsachdach*, *dàsan(n)ach* na Gàidhlig

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ABSTRACT. The epithet *meranach* is found in Irish sources from the eleventh century. The same element may be present in the Irish surname *Merna(gh)* and perhaps also in the early thirteenth-century Scottish epithet *Marrenah*. It is suggested that the underlying element is *meránach* ('delirious, mad, insane'), which survives in Scottish Gaelic *mearan(ach)*. The rich variety of forms which survive (or survived until recently) in Scotland are discussed. Parallels are drawn with the use of *dásachtach* as an epithet of the Scottish king Domnall mac Causaintín (†900AD) and the survival of *dàsanach*, *dàsannach* and related forms in Scottish Gaelic. These epithets may in origin have referred to the persons classified as *mer* and *dásachtach* in early Gaelic law. The epithet *méránach* / *méranach* from *mér* ('finger') is also considered in the context of the name *Gofraidh Crovan* / *Gofraidh Mérach*; the epithet *Crovan* is explained as deriving from *crobh+án* rather than *crobh+bhán* as has been previously suggested.

***Meranach* bho shean**

Gheibhear am buadhfhacal *meranach* airson a' chiad uair ann an tùsan Èireannach bhon aonamh linn deug. Mar a chì sinn, theagamh gu bheil an aon eilimeid ri fhaighinn cuideachd mar bhuidhfhacal ann an ainm Albannach tràth anns an treas linn deug agus faodaidh gu bheil teist air an aon eilimeid ann an sloinneadh Èireannach bhon t-siathamh linn deug air adhart. Chan eil cinnt mu bhrìgh no thinnsgeadal a' bhuidhfhacail, a tha connspaideach, agus is e cuspair na h-aiste goirid seo a shealltann gu bheil fianais na Gàidhlig, anns an glèidhear tric feartan a bhoineadh dhan t-seann chànan ach a chailleadh anns a' Ghaeilge agus a' Mhanainnis, gar cuideachadh ann a bhith a' toirt duinn lèirsinn air a' bhrìgh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith aig an eilimeid annasaich a tha seo.

Gheibhear an sloinneadh Èireannach *Merna(gh)* ann an ear-dheas na h-Èireann – air a chuingealachadh gu ìre bhig ri Siorrachdan Loch Garmann, Cheatharlach agus Chill Mhantain (MacLysaght 1964: 112). Cho fada is is fiosrach mi chan fhaighear an t-ainm an Alba. Tha teist againn air an ainm ann am barantasan Eideard VI agus Ealasaid I bhon t-siathamh agus an t-seachdamh linn deug:

John Merranagh (1550), Melaghlín mc Shane Meranagh (1583), Donogh roe mc Teige Meranaghe (1598), Callogh Merrenagh (1598), Philip mc Shane Varenagh (1599), Donogh Meranagh (1600–01), Donogh roe Meranagh (1601), Dermot meranagh O Birne (1601), Dallogh meranagh O Birne (1601) (Ó Tuathail 1950: 161).

Bha Edward McLysaght a' cumail a-mach gur h-ann bhon bhuidhfhacal *meirtneach* ('dispirited') (*DIL*: s.v. *meirtnech*) a chinnich an eilimeid anns an ainm seo (MacLysaght 1964: 112) ach chan eil fianais idir ann airson an t-eadar-fhuaimreagach anns na cruthan eachdraidheil agus cha mhotha na sin a tha na cruthan gu h-àrd anns a bheil trì lididhean a' tighinn ri *meirtneach*, agus air sàillibh sin feumar cùl a chur ris a' bheachd sin. Chuir Éamonn Ó Tuathail air adhart gur h-ann bhon bhuidhfhacal **meireanach* no *mearanach* a chinnich an t-ainm o thùs ged nach eil e buileach cinnteach mu bhrìgh an fhacail: 'the exact meaning of *meranach* is uncertain' (Ó Tuathail 1950: 162). Tha Ó Tuathail (1950: 162) a' moladh, anns an dol seachad, gum faodadh suaip a bhith aig *Mer(a)na(gh)* ris a' bhuidhfhacal *meranach* a gheibhear ann an tùsan eachdraidheil na h-Èireann, leithid Annalan Uladh, air am beachdaichear anns na leanas.

Tha teist air *meranach* mar bhuadhfhacal ann an dà ainm phearsanta ann an Annalan Uladh aig deireadh na h-aonamh linn deug. Seo na h-earrannan maille ris an eadar-theangachadh aig Mac Airt agus Mac Niocaill (*AU*: 516, 517, 528–31):¹

Aedh **Meranach** do bathud oc Luimniuch. (‘Aed méranach [*sic*, ‘é’ fhada] was drowned at Luimnech.’) (1083.4)²

Slogadh la Muircertach H. mBriain co Ath Cliath coro innarb Goffraigh **Meranach** a righe Gall 7 co ro marb Domnall H. Maelsechlainn ri Temhrach. (‘An army [was led] by Muirchertach ua Briain to Áth Cliath, and he expelled Gofraidh Méranach [*sic*, ‘é’ fhada] from the kingship of the foreigners, and killed Domnall ua Mael Sechlainn, king of Temair.’) (1094.2)

Goffraigh **meranach** ri Gall mortus est. (‘Gofraidh Meranach [*sic*, ‘e’ ghoirid], king of the foreigners, died’) (1095.11).³

Bha Aedh Meranach na rìgh air Ultaibh agus tha e nochdadh ann an tùsan eile mar: ‘Aed **Meranach**’ (*LL*: 5845) agus ‘An **Meranach** .h. Eochadha, Rí Uladh do badhadh a Luimneach’ (‘The Meranach, Ua Eochadha, King of Uladh, was drowned at Luimnech’) ann an *Chronicum Scotorum*, ann an Annalan Thighearnaich agus Annalan Inis Faithleann (Hennessy 1866: 294; cf. Stokes [1895–97] 1993: 307; Mac Airt 1951: 234, s.a. 1078.5).⁴ Is fheàrr aithnichear an dàrna duine dhiubh seo mar Ghofraidh Crovan, an Gall-Ghàidheal a bha na thighearna air Àth Cliath agus na rìgh air na h-Innseachan. Canar ris ann an Annalan nan Ceithir Maighstirean: ‘Gofraidh **Meránach**, tighearna Gall Atha cliath, 7 na nInnsedh’ (‘Godfrey Meranach, lord of the foreigners of Ath-Cliath and the islands’) (O’Donovan 1848–51, II: 950, s.a. 1095.4). Is e ‘Gofraid, rìg Átha Cliath’ (‘Gofraidh, king of Áth Cliath’) agus ‘Gobraith, rìg Atha Cliath 7 Inse Gall’ (‘Gofraid, king of Áth Cliath and Insi Gall’) a chanar ris ann an Annalan Inis Faithleann (Mac Airt 1951: 246–47, s.a. 1094.2; 250–51, s.a. 1095.13). Tha Gofraidh air ainmneachadh mar ‘Gwrthryt **mearch**’ (‘Gofraidh Mearch’) ann an ginealach Cuimreach Raghnaill (†1229), rìgh Mhanainn agus nan Innseachan (Bartrum 1966: 99; Broderick 1980: 35; Sellar 2000: 251). Feumaidh gu bheil suaip aig *mearch* ri *meranach* ann an dòigh air choreigin mar a chì sinn gu hìosal.

Tha an t-ainm *Malbride Marrenah* (i.e. *Máel Brigte ‘Marrenah’*) a’ nochdadh tràth anns an treas linn deug ann an cairt Albannaich a bhoineas do Shiorrachd Aonghais (MacQueen 2006: 26).⁵ Tha Hector MacQueen a’ moladh a’ bhuadhair Ghàidhlig *maireannach* (‘long-lived’) airson a’ bhuadhfhacail ‘*Marrenah*’ anns an ainm seo (MacQueen 2006: 13) agus dh’fhaodte coimeas a dhèanamh ris a’ bhuadhair *sáeglach* (i.e. *saoghlach* ‘long-lived’) a gheibhear ann an *Cóir Anmann* mar bhuadhfhacal leis an ainm *Sírna*, a mhair fad ceud gu leith bliadhna: ‘*Sírna Sáeglach*’ (Arbuthnott 2005, I: 116; II: 27). Mas e ‘saoghalach’ as ciall do ‘marrenach’, chan urrainnear a bhith gu tur cinnteach an e an cruth Albannach *maireannach* no an cruth meadhan-aoiseach *marthanach* a th’ ann (*DIL*: s.v. *marthanach*). Mas e *maireannach* a th’ ann, is e a’ chiad eisimpleir a th’ againn dhen chruth

¹ Is ann leamsa a tha an clò trom feadh na h-aiste seo.

² Tha seo ri fhaighinn ann an Annalan nan Ceithir Maighstirean mar: ‘Aodh **Meranach**, rí Uladh, do bháthadh i l-Luimneach no i Loch Eachach’ (O’Donovan 1848–51, II: 907, s.a. 1074.10).

³ Tha an dà chruth *méranach* agus *meranach* aig Mac Airt agus Mac Niocaill anns an eadar-theangachadh aca. Faic shìos.

⁴ Is e ‘In **Meranach** Húa hEochadha, rí Ulad’ a gheibhear ann an Annalan Thighearnaich (Stokes [1895–97] 1993: 307) agus is e ‘in **Meranach** h-Ua Eochada’ a gheibhear ann an Annalan Inis Faithleann (Mac Airt 1951: 234, s.a. 1078.5).

⁵ Faic *PoMS*, pearsa 11638 aig <<http://poms.cch.kcl.ac.uk/db/record/person/11638/>> [leughta, 27 Faoilleach 2013].

thoiseannach Albannach. Is dòcha gur h-e cothlamadh dhen t-seann chruth *marthanach*, an gnìomhair *mair* agus / no an cruth gnìomhaireach *maireann* a th' ann am *maireannach* na Gàidhlig.⁶ Mas e *marthanach* (no **mairtheanach*) a tha air cùl ‘*marrenah*’, tha e suaicheanta nach eil sgeul air an t-suathach dheudach *th*, agus dh’fhaodadh sin a bhith cudromach airson eachdraidh *th* ann an Gàidhlig Alba – anns a’ chàrn *rth* co-dhiù; cf. Ó Maolalaigh (2008: 225–28). Air an làimh eile, dh’fhaodadh e bhith gur h-e am buadhfhacal *meranach* a tha ga riochdachadh ann an ‘*marrenah*’. O thaobh ‘a’ a bhith a’ riochdachadh na fuaimreig /e/ (no /ε/) nuair a thig e ro ‘r’, faodaidh sinn coimeas a dhèanamh ris na riochan seo leanas a tha nochdadh ann an cairtean Albannach a bhoineas dhan treas linn deug: *Farchar Macholf* (1231 x c. 1233) (Easson 1947, I: àireamh 39)⁷ airson *Ferchar*; *Duncan filio Fargus* (1259 x c. 1272) (Neville 1983, II, àireamhan 59, 59a)⁸ airson *Fergus*; cf. cuideachd *Varenagh* shuas (ann an Ó Tuathail 1950: 161).

méranach

Tha Brian Ó Cuív ag ràdh gu bheil a’ chiad fhuaimreag ‘e’ ann an *meranach* fada anns an ainm Gofraidh Meranach mar a tha e nochdadh ann an Annalan Uladh: ‘it is marked long in A.U. s. anno 1094’, i.e. ‘Goffraigh **Méranach**’ (Ó Cuív 1957: 284, n. 6). Ach chan eil rian nach e deasachadh Mac Carthy (Hennessy agus Mac Carthy 1887–1901, II (1893): 52) a chuir air iomrall e. Tha cruthan fada agus goirid a’ nochdadh ann an deasachadh Mac Carthy: ‘Goffraigh **Méranach**’ agus ‘Goffraigh **Meranach**’ (Hennessy agus Mac Carthy 1887–1901, II (1893): 52, 53, 54, 55).⁹ Ach is e cruthan goirid a tha a’ nochdadh anns an deasachadh a rinn Mac Airt agus Mac Niocail air an teasca Ghaeilge: ‘Goffraigh **Meranach**’, ‘Goffraigh **meranach**’ (AU: 528, s.a. 1094.2; 530, s.a. 1095.11); cf. ‘Aedh **Meranach**’ far a bheil an ‘e’ goirid (AU: 516, s.a. 1083.4). Faodaidh mi dearbhadh an seo nach eil an ‘e’ ga sgrìobhadh mar ‘e’ fhada ann an gin dhe na làmhsgriobhainnean anns an tàinig Annalan Uladh a-nuas thugainn, i.e. LS 1282 (H.1.8) ann an Colaiste na Trìonaid (CnaT), Baile Àtha Cliath agus LS Rawlinson B 489 ann an Leabharlann Bodleian ann an Oxford.¹⁰ Seo fianais an dà làmhsgriobhainn:¹¹

Bliadhna	Rawlinson B 489	CnaT 1282 (H.1.8)
1083	<u>meranach</u> (fo. 44 ^r)	meranach ¹² (fo. 62 ^r a)
1094	<u>meránach</u> (fo. 45 ^r)	<u>meranach</u> ¹³ (fo.62 ^r b)
1095	<u>meránach</u> (fo. 45 ^v)	<u>meranach</u> (fo.62 ^r b)

⁶ Is dòcha gur h-e a th’ ann an *maireann* na Gàidhlig, a nochdas anns an abairt *nach maireann*, an aon eisimpleir a th’ againn sa Nua-Ghàidhlig dhen chruth eisimileach làithaireach –*ann* a chinnich ann an Gàidhlig na h-Èireann (O’Rahilly [1932] 1976: 132); faic cuideachd Murphy 1940: 75, Ó Buachalla 1988: 56–58, agus na tùsan air a bheil iomradh ann am Breatnach 1994: 293, §12.12.

⁷ Faic *PoMS*: pearsa 5631 aig <http://db.poms.ac.uk/record/person/5631/> [leughta, 27 Faoilleach 2013].

⁸ Faic *PoMS*: pearsa 7018 aig <http://db.poms.ac.uk/record/person/7018/> [leughta, 27 Faoilleach 2013].

⁹ Is e ‘e’ ghoirid a tha nochdadh ann an ‘Aed **Meranach**’ ann an deasachadh Mac Carthy (Hennessy agus Mac Carthy 1887–1901, II (1893): 36, 37).

¹⁰ Chithear LS Rawl. B 489 air-loidhne air ‘Early Manuscripts at Oxford University’, <http://image.ox.ac.uk/> [leughta, 27 Faoilleach 2013]. Tha mi an comain luchd-leabharlann Colaiste na Trìonaid ann am Baile Àtha Cliath a thug cead dhomh sùil a thoirt air LS 1282 (H.1.8).

¹¹ Tha fo-loidhne ag innse gu bheil litir ga chur an cèill sa làmhsgriobhainn le comharradh no giorrachadh fa leth seach litir slàn.

¹² Air a sgrìobhadh le ‘e’ àrd.

¹³ Ann an LS 1282 (H.1.8) (s.a. 1094) tha mar gum biodh comharradh aotrom crochte os cionn cuid deiridh ‘m’ agus toiseach ‘a’ ach tha an dubh nas gile agus dh’fhaodadh e bhith gur h-e smal a bhoineas dhan mheamram a th’ ann. Chan eil e idir coltach ris na sìnidhean fada a lorgar anns an làmhsgriobhainn.

Tha seo a' fàgail nach eil teist làmhsgriobhainnean Annalan Uladh a' dearbhadh taobh seach taobh cò dhiubh an robh an fhuaimreag 'e' goirid no fada anns a' bhuadhfhacal *meranach* oir chan ann tric a tha fuaimreagan fada gan comharrachadh anns na làmhsgriobhainnean seo.

Ged a tha an fhuaimreag 'e' goirid aig Mac Airt agus Mac Niocaill, an luchd-deasachaidh as ùire air Annalan Uladh, anns an teansa Ghaeilge aca, tha 'é' fhada a' nochdadh dà thuras anns an eadar-theangachadh Bheurla aca: 'Aedh Meranach' ('Aed **méranach**'), 'Goffraigh Meranach' ('Gofraidh **Méranach**') ach 'Goffraigh meranach' ('Gofraidh **Meranach**', le 'e' ghoirid) (AU: 516, 517, 528–31). Is fheudar, uime sin, gun robh iad dhen bheachd gur h-ann stèidhichte air *mér* (i.e. *meur* 'finger') a bha am buadhfhacal *meranach* anns an dà ainm seo, i.e. gur h-e *méranach* bu chòir a leughadh annta.¹⁴ Bhiodh sin a' fàgail gun robh *méranach* a' cur an cèill feart a bhoineadh do chorrigan no do làimh no làmhan an duine air an robh an t-ainm.¹⁵ A' togail air a leithid de thinnsgeadal, tha de Bhulbh a' moladh 'dexterous' no 'deft' mar eadar-theangachadh air *méranach*, an cruth, ar leis-san, a bha air cùlaibh an t-sloinnidh Èireannaich *Mernagh* (de Bhulbh 1997: 304).

O thaobh Ghofraidh Crovan co-dhiù, tha fianais ann a chumadh taic ris' bheachd gur h-e *méranach* (le 'e' fhada) a tha air cùl an ainm *Goffraigh meranach* (AU: 1095.11) air a bheil iomradh gu h-àrd. Anns an dàn dìreach ainmeil, 'Baile suthach síth Emhna', a chaidh a sgrìobhadh airson Raghnaill (†1229), Rìgh Mhanainn, iar-ogha Ghofraidh Crovan, is e 'Gofraidh **Méarach**' a chanar ri Gofraidh:

A ua ghil Gofraidh Méraig
a fhir do lothraig **lúirigh**,
do móit, a rí, ri ríghain
do dígail sí ar a **súilib**

'O fair descendant of Gofraidh **Méarach**, though who destroyed a coat of mail, thy wrath, o king, against a queen, she has avenged upon her eyes.' (Ó Cuív 1957: 292, §25).

Tha meadar an dàin (Rannachd Bheag) a' daingneachadh na fuaimreig fada ann an 'Méraig[h]' (< *Méarach*) oir ann an Rannachd Bheag feumaidh uathne ('consonance') a bhith eadar na faclan mu dheireadh anns gach rann (Knott [1928] 1994: 13–14). Tha fad nan ciad fhuaimreagan ann an *lúirigh*, *ríghain* agus *súilib* a' dearbhadh gur h-e *Méraig* le 'é' fhada an cruth ceart anns an rann gu h-àrd. Is dòcha gur h-e *méarach* / *méarach* a tha air cùl 'mearch' a gheibhear le ainm Ghofraidh ann an ginealach Cuimreach Raghnaill:

Rhanallt m. Gwythryg ap Afloyd m. **Gwrthryt mearch** m. Harallt ddu (m.) Ifor gamle m. Afloyd m. Swtrig ('Ragnall son of Godfrey son of Olaf son of Godfrey Mearch son of Harald Dubh son of Ivar Gamle son of Olaf son of Sihtric') (Bartrum 1966: 99, §6[c]; Broderick 1980: 35; Sellar 2000: 251).

Tha Ó Cuív ag rádh: 'the epithets [i.e. *méarach* agus *méaránach*], derived from *méar* "a finger," presumably referred to some peculiarity or distinguishing feature of Godred's hands.'¹⁶ Agus tha sin a' tighinn ris a' bhuadhfhacal eile a chleachdar le ainm Ghofraidh, seadh 'Crovan', ma ghabhar ris gu bheil e stèidhichte air *crobh* ('hand, claw') (DIL: s.v. *crob*) (faic, mar eisimpleir, Ó Cuív 1957:

¹⁴ Ged nach eil Mac Airt agus Mac Niocaill a' sgrìobhadh *-ánach* le 'á' fhada anns an dara lide, tha mi gabhail ris gur h-e *-ánach* a th' ann an deireadh an fhacail – deireadh a tha cumanta anns a' chànan (faic Russell 1990: 88, 191–92). Chan urrainn gur h-e 'a' ghoirid a bh' ann oir a rèir riaghailt Mhic Nèill, is e '**merannach*' le *nn* theann ris am biodh dùil (faic MacNeill 1909: 347; Ó Buachalla 1988: 39).

¹⁵ cf. *meuranda* ('tender, weakly, delicate') agus *meurach* ('nimble-fingered') na Gàidhlig (Armstrong 1825: s.vv.).

¹⁶ Tha Broderick (1980: 35) agus Duffy (1992: 106, n. 66) a' gabhail ri beachd Uí Chuív gur h-e *méranach* a tha air cùl a' bhuadhfhacail *meranach* anns an ainm Gofraidh Meranach.

284, n. 6). Eadar dhà sheanchas, tha Ó Cuív a' cur air adhart na barail gum faodadh *crobh-bhán* ('white hand') a bhith air cùl a' bhuadhfhacail *Crovan*, agus e dèanamh coimeas ris a' bhuadhfhacal *Croibhdhearg* ('red hand') a gheibhear leis an ainm Cathal, bràthair Ruaidhrí Uí Chonchubhair anns an dara linn deug (Ó Cuív 1957: 284, n. 6).¹⁷ A rèir riaghailtean eachdraidheil 'cadad' na Gàidhlig, bhiodh dùil ri **crobán* le dì-shèimheachadh mar thoradh air *crobh+bhán* ge-tà, ged a dh'fhaodadh *crobh-bhán* cinneachadh gu nàdarra ann an cainnt. Ar leamsa gu bheil e a cheart cho coltach gur h-e am meanbhan *crobhán* ('hand, little hand', *crobhan* ann an Gàidhlig Alba) a th' ann an 'Crovan', agus bhiodh sin a' tighinn gu snog ri *méránach*. Is math dh'fhaodte gur h-e ainm meafarach a bh'ann an *crobhán* airson làmh mhòr no làmh chearbach.¹⁸

Tha taobh eile air a' ghnòthach air am bu chòir dhuinn breithneachadh is beachdachadh. Saoil an gabhadh e bhith gur h-e *mérach* a bh' ann an ainm Ghofraidh bho thùs ach gun do dh'atharraicheadh e gu *méránach* no *meránach* fo bhuaidh buadhfhacal a bha gu tur eadar-dhealaichte ach a bha glè choltach ris ann an sgrìobhadh? Co-dhiù no co-dheth, ged a bhiodh 'mér' air cùl an ainm Gofraidh Meranach, chan urrainnear a bhith cinnteach an e *méránach* no *meránach* a tha air cùl an ainm Aedh Meranach. Anns na leanas bheirear seachad fianais airson an fhacail *meránach*, anns an robh 'e' ghoirid, a dh'fhaodadh a bhith anns an ainm Aedh Meranach agus a dh'fhaodadh buaidh a thoirt air an ainm Gofraidh Meranach.

meránach

Is e 'The Wanton' an t-eadar-theangachadh a tha Hennessy (1866: 294, n. 1) a' toirt seachad airson 'An Meranach' ann an *Chronicum Scotorum*, agus is e 'Aed the furious' a tha aig MacCarthy (Hennessy agus Mac Carthy 1887–1901, II (1893): 1893: 36, n. 2) airson 'Aed Meranach' ann an Annalan Uladh.¹⁹ Tha sin a' toirt far comhair gur h-e *mer* ('demented; spirited, lively, agile') an eilimeid a dh'fhaodadh a bhith air cùl an ainm *Meranach* (i.e. *Meránach*) (cf. *DIL*: s.v. *meranach* (-*ánach*?); Ó Cuív 1957: 284, n. 7). Bhiodh sin a' toirt leis gur h-e 'e' ghoirid a bh' anns a' bhuadhfhacal seo o thùs. Tha fianais an t-sloinnidh Èireannaich *Meranagh* a' tighinn ris sin (faic gu h-àrd).

mearan agus *mearanach* na Gàidhlig

A' fàgail fianais a' bhuadhfhacail *meranach* agus an ainm *Merán* an dàrna taobh (*DIL* s.v. *meranach*),²⁰ chan eil teist air *mearán* no *mearánach* ann an Gàidhlig na h-Èireann no ann an tùsan

¹⁷ cf. 'Óengus crobderg' ('Angus the Redhand') (O'Brien [1962] 2005: 204) agus 'do choin croibhderga' [*sic í*] ('your redfooted hounds') ann an Leabhar nan Ceart (Dillon 1962: 152, 153); cf. *DIL* (s.v. *crobh*).

¹⁸ Tha na cruthan *crobhan* agus *crobhanach* a' nochdadh ann am faclair Robert Armstrong mar seo leanas: *crobhan* ('a claw, a paw, a hoof, a little paw, a little claw') agus *crobhanach* ('having (large) hoofs or claws') (Armstrong 1825: s.vv.), ach is e *crodhan* agus *crodhanach* a tha aig Dwelly (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977, s.vv.). Tha *cròbh / crobha* ('a claw, a paw, a hoof, a clumsy hand') agus *cròdh / cròdha* ('a claw, a paw, the palm of the hand, a large hand') cuideachd aig (Armstrong 1825: s.vv. *cròbh, cròdh*). Tha na cruthan seo uile a' dearbhadh gur dòcha gun robh cothlamadh eadar *cruë* ('hoof') agus *crobh* ('hand, claw, grasp') — agus math dh'fhaodte *cròg* ('large or clumsy hand; clutch; palm of the hand; paw; claw; first' (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.). Faic Greene 1983: 2–3 airson *cruë* agus *crobh*.

¹⁹ Chan eil Stokes ([1895–97] 1993: 415) no Mac Niocaill (2010: T1083.2) ag eadar-theangachadh an ainm anns na deasachaidhean aca air Annalan Thighearnaich.

²⁰ Tha fianais againn air an ainm phearsanta *Merán*. Lorgar e ann an ginealaichean Ua gColla [Ciarrage] mar: *Merán m. Duib-dūin m. Fairchellaich* (O'Brien [1962] 2005: 306 (Rawl. B. 502, 160 b 2)) agus mar dhuine de thriùr laoch Phartholáin ('*tríthrénfhir*') ann an Lebor Gabála: *Merán* (Macalister 1938–2009, III: 8, §212; 26, §225; 56, §7d; cf. Ó Raithbheartaigh 1932: 42, §66; Comyn agus Dinneen 1902–14, I: 172). Tha *Mearan* a' nochdadh mar ainm mnatha diadhaidh ann an Cataibh anns an laoidh 'Lilidhean Chataoibh' le Dòmhnall Mac an Rothaich (1886: 26), ach dh'fhaodadh e bhith gur h-e Muireann a tha air cùlaibh an ainm seo:

Is **Mearan** òirdhearc an Eilbhinn bha,
A tuigs' bha geur, is a cridh' bha blàth,

eachdraidheil na Gaeilge. Gheibhear fianais am pailteas ann an Gàidhlig Alba ge-tà airson na dhà. Gheibhear iomradh air na dhà ann an cuid de dh'fhaclair, leithid faclair Comann Gàidhealtachd na h-Alba (1828), faclair MhicEachainn ([1842] 1922) agus faclair Dwelly ([1901–11] 1977) ach cha lorgar iad ann am faclair eile, leithid Armstrong (1825) agus MacAlpine ([1832] 1955).²¹ Cha mhotha lorgar na faclan ann an nuadh-fhaclair, leithid MacFarlane (1953), Cox (1991), Mark (2003), agus tha e coltach nach eil am facal air mairsinn ann an cainnt an là-an-diugh.²² Feumar cumail air chuimhne, ge-tà, gu bheil e doirbh a bhith uile-chinnteach am bheil facal fa leth air a dhol bàs gu tur. Mar a thuirt Iain MacAonghuis:

It is very difficult in the Gaelic context to define what is unusual, archaic or even obsolete. One may have heard in childhood a word used only once or twice by very old people and have therefore assumed that it was now obsolete only to find it suddenly emerging as a very active item, not just in a distant dialect but much more disconcertingly in the vocabulary of a neighbour, who may be a teenager. Such at any rate has been my experience. (MacInnes 1977: 429–30)

Tha na faclan seo aig MacAonghuis a' toirt nar cuimhne faclan an Rathaillich:

A word of caution is especially necessary when dealing with the geographical distribution of Irish words [. . .]. It is easy enough to say that a particular word is in use to-day in a particular dialect; but to say that such and such a word is *not* in use in a particular district may well be risky [. . .]. (O'Rahilly [1932] 1976: 244)

Tha an fhianais a tha ri tighinn gu h-ìosal a' dearbhadh gum b' aithnichte *mearan* agus *mearanach* ann an Gàidhlig Alba gu ruige an fhicheadhamh linn. Seo leanas cuid dhen teist a th' againn air na faclan *mearan* agus *mearanach* ann an Gàidhlig na h-Alba:²³

Faclairean (1828–1932)

A Dictionary of the Gaelic Language (Highland Society of Scotland 1828: s.vv.)

mearan: 1. Madness, delirium, dementia (C.S.); 2. Drunkenness (C.S.); 3. Lasciviousness.²⁴

mearanach: 1. Delirious, insane (C.S.); 2. Drunk (C.S.); 3. Lascivious; lascivious.

Tha C.S. a' cur an cèill cainnt an t-sluaigh ('common speech') agus a' leigeil fhaicinn duinn gun robh am facal fhathast ga chleachdadh anns an t-seagh 'madness, delirium, dementia' rè na naoidheamh linn deug.

Anns an earrainn Beurla-Gàidhlig tha *mearanach* a' nochdadh fo na faclan 'mad': '1. Disordered in the mind, distracted: **mearanach**, thair céille, air a' chuthach, air boil.'

'S aig caithir gràis, O, bu tric an sàs i,
Oir 's e 'chuir cradh oirre, cor ar là.

²¹ Ged a chleachdas MacMhaighstir Alastair 'meirin' agus 'mearan' na bhàrdachd (MacDonald 1751: 187; Mac an Tuairneir 1813: 36), chan eil *mearan* no *mearanach* a' nochdadh na *Leabhar a Theagasg Ainmìninn* far am faighear na cruthan seo leanas: *miesg* (*recte meisg*) ('drunkenness'), *aotromas*, *baois* ('a frenzy'), *báni*, *cuthach* ('madness'), *meisg* (drunkenness'), *cuthaichte*, *míchiallach* ('mad') (MacDonald 1741: 24, 26, 36, 140).

²² Tha dearbhadh agam air seo bho iomadach Gàidheal, Iain MacAonghuis nam measg.

²³ Tha an fhianais seo a' tighinn bho mo chruinneachaidhean fhìn agus bho thasglann DASG (Dàta airson Stòras na Gàidhlig) agus data Corpas na Gàidhlig – dà phròiseact rannsachaidh ann an Roinn na Ceiltis is na Gàidhlig ann an Oilthigh Ghlaschu a tha air am maoineachadh le Acadamaidh Bhreatainn.

²⁴ Tha an treas brìgh a' tighinn bho cho-chruinneachadh Turner de dh'òrain Ghàidhlig.

‘delirious’: ‘breisleachail, **mearanach**, gòrach’; cf. ‘deliriousness’: ‘**mearanachd**, mearaichinn’; ‘delirium’: breisleach, eutromas, **mearan**, mearaichinn, cuthach’; ‘dementation’: ‘**mearan**, mearaichinn, cuthach’; ‘furious’: ‘mad, phrenetic: air a’ chuthach, **mearanach**, eu-céillidh’. Chan eil *mearan(ach)* a’ nochdadh fo ‘drunk’, ‘drunkenness’, ‘lascivious’, ‘lasciviousness’ ged a lorgar ‘*mear*’ fon fhacal ‘lascivious’ anns an t-seagh ‘wanton, soft, luxurious’.

Dictionary of the Gaelic Language (MacLeod agus Dewar [1831] 1909: s.v.)

mearan: madness, delirium; drunkenness; lasciviousness

mearanach: delirious, insane; drunk; lascivious

Anns an earrainn Bheurla-Gàidhlig, tha ‘mad’ air eadar-theangachadh mar ‘air a chuthach, **mearanach**, air boire; gòrach, neo-shuidhichte; feargach, garg’ (MacLeod agus Dewar [1831] 1909: s.v. *mad*); cf. ‘insane’: ‘cuthaich, mearanach’. Chan eil *mearan(ach)* a’ nochdadh fo na faclan ‘delirious’: ‘breisleachail, gòrach, eutrom’; ‘deliriousness’: ‘breisleachd, gòraiche, mearaichinn’; ‘delirium’: ‘breisleach, mearaichinn, eutromas, cuthach’; ‘drunk’; ‘drunkenness’; ‘lascivious’; ‘lasciviousness’.

Gaelic-English Dictionary (MacEachainn [1842] 1922: s.vv)

mearan: 1. a delirium.

mearanach: 1. mad, delirious.

Tha MacEachainn a’ toirt seachad ‘mear-a-chinn’ anns a’ mhineachadh a th’ aige air *mearan*. Faodaidh sinn coimeas a dhèanamh ri ‘*mearaichinn*’ ann am faclair MhicCoinnich, far a bheil *breisleach* agus *mearaichinn* a’ co-fhreagairt ri ‘delirium’ na Beurla (J. MacKenzie [1845] 1962: s.v. *delirium*). Ged a tha faclair MhicCoinnich stèidhichte air faclair MhicAilpein, chan eil *mearaichinn* a nochdadh ann am faclair MhicAilpein idir. Tha *mearaichinn* ‘madness, insanity; drunkenness; giddiness’ aig Dwelly ([1901–11] 1977: s.v.) agus air *mhearaichinn* (‘insane’) aig Armstrong (1825: s.v. *insane*); cf. Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.). Is e th’ ann am *mear-a-chinn* freumh-eòlas an t-sluaigh air a’ chruth *mearaichinn*. O thaobh cruth an fhacail faodaidh sinn coimeas a dhèanamh ri *duilichinn* (‘sorrow’) agus *bochdainn* (‘poverty’) (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.vv.).

Gaelic Words and Expressions from South Uist and Eriskay (c. 1893–97)

Tha an dà chuid *meirein* (‘madness, frenzy’) agus *meirean* (‘delirium’) a’ nochdadh anns na cruinneachaidhan aig Maighistir Ailean Dòmhnallach (J. L. Campbell [1958] 1991: 177).

The Illustrated Gaelic-English Dictionary (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.vv.)

mearan: [1.] Madness, delirium, brain-sickness; 2. Drunkenness; 3. Lasciviousness.

mearanach: [1.] Delirious, mad, insane, brainish, brain-sick; 2. Drunk; 3. Lascivious; 4. Hypochondriacal.²⁵

²⁵ Tha a’ cheathramh brìgh a’ tighinn bho làmhsgriobhainn neo-fhoillsichte ‘MS’. Gheibhear tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mun làmhsgriobhainn ann an Dwelly ([1901–11] 1977: viii, s.v. MS): ‘MS—Large manuscript English-Gaelic Dict. in possession of Rev. D. Walker MacIntyre, Kilmonivaig. It was revised on Nov. 1, 1823, and purchased at the sale of Sir Wm. MacLeod Bannatyne’s Library in 1834 by Donald Gregory, Edinburgh, who have it to Angus MacDonnell, Inch. No compiler’s or reviser’s name is given.’ Bhatas dhen bheachd

A Pronouncing Dictionary of Scottish Gaelic (Dieckhoff 1932: s.v.)

mearan: [mäRan].²⁶ 1. delirium.

Tha fianais Dieckhoff a' dearbhadh gum b' aithnichte am facal *mearan* fhathast ann an cuid de dhualchainntean co-dhiù anns an fhicheadamh linn.

Tùsan eile (c. 1690–1994)

Leabhar Fheàrnaig (c. 1688–93) (Mac Phàrlain [1923])

Tha *mearanach* a' nochdadh ann an 'Crosanachd de ghnè chomhluadair eadar a' cholainn is an t-anam'. Seo an deasachadh aig Henderson (1898: 268; cf. cuideachd Mac Phàrlain [1923]: 116–17, §26c):²⁷

Nuair theid thu steach a'n eaglais
Air fear t'theaguisg bi cuimhneach
Na biodh t'inntinn **mearanach**
Thoir aire air gach ni chluinn thu.

Cleachdar *mearan* cuide ri *misg* ('drunkenness') anns an abairt 'Chan 'eil misg no **mearan** orm' ('I am not drunk or crazed')²⁸ anns an òran 'Séid na builg sin, ghille, dhom' le Ruairidh MacMhuirich, an Clàrsair Dall (c. 1656–c.1714). Tha an t-òran seo a' tighinn a-nuas thugainn ann an *Leabhar Fheàrnaig* far a bheil *mearan* ga litreachadh mar 'merran' (Mac Phàrlain [1923]: 252–53, §2c; Matheson 1970: 20, 21, l. 251).

Tha *mearan* cuideachd a' nochdadh anns an laoidh 'Dallaidh sannt sluagh an domhain' a rinneadh le Sior Iain Stiubhart na h-Apuinn (fl. deireadh na 16mh linn) agus a tha tighinn a-nuas thugainn ann an *Leabhar Fheàrnaig* far a bheil e air a litreachadh mar 'merrhan': 'mōr am mearan do na daoine' (Henderson 1898: 219, §3a; cf. Mac Phàrlain [1923]: 42–43, §3a). Is e 'madness' an t-eadar-theangachadh a th' aig Henderson air *mearan* an seo (1898: 220).

Ais-éiridh na Sean Chànoin Albannaich (MacDonald 1751)

Tha *meirin* a' nochdadh anns an òran 'Moladh a' Chaimbeulaich Dhuibh' le Alastair MacMhaighstir Alastair anns an abairt 'Mar robh **meirin** ort air tuinneadh' (MacDonald 1751: 187). Is e 'Mur robh **meirein** ort air tuineadh' ('Unless your wits you want') a tha ann an deasachadh A. MacDonald agus A. MacDonald (1924: 284, 185) ach is e *mearan* ('Mar robh **mearan** ort air tuinneadh') a tha aig MacCoinnich ann an *Sàr-Obair nam Bàrd Gaelach* (MacKenzie 1904: 133). Tha e soilleir bho dheasachaidhean na fheadamh linn gu bheil air gabhail ris gur h-e cruth meanbhain a th' ann am *meirin* (seach cruth eascruthach *-inn*) air a litreachadh a rèir àrd-rèim a' chànain; faodaidh sinn coimeas a dhèanamh le leithid *Ailin* / *Ailín* agus *Ailpin* / *Ailpín* airson *Ailean* / *Ailein* agus *Ailpean* / *Ailpein* mu seach (Ó Maolalaigh 2001: 24–27). Airson a' chrutha eascruthaich *mearainn*, faic go h-ìosal.

nach robh sgeul air an làmhsgriobhainn seo ach tha am faclair seo an-diugh ann an seilbh an West Highland Museum anns a' Ghearasdan. Is e 'Pocket Gaelic Dictionary' a tha air a sgrìobhadh air druim an leabhair agus is e 'The Anglo-Gaelic Dictionary' a chanar ris am broinn na làmhsgriobhainn. Nuair a chaidh mi a choimhead air an làmhsgriobhainn seo anns an Iuchar 2013, dh'inns Glèidheadair na Tasglainn, Fiona Marwick, dhomh gun robh an Dr Iain MacAonghuis air tadhal air an Tasglainn bliadhnaichean fada romham a thoirt sùil air làmhsgriobhainn an fhaclair seo agus gun do dh'aithnich esan sa bhad cò an làmhsgriobhainn a bh' ann.

²⁶ Is ionann sin agus [mæran] ann am foghar-sgrìobhadh an là-an-diugh.

²⁷ Is e *merranigh* an cruth ann an *Leabhar Fheàrnaig* (Mac Phàrlain [1923]: 116).

²⁸ Is ann le Uilleam Mac Mhathain a tha an t-eadar-theangachadh Beurla.

Comh-chruinneachidh Orannaigh Gaidhealach (MacDomhnuill 1776)

Gheibhear *mearan* anns an abairt ‘chaidh mo shlàinte gu **mearan**’ ann an ‘Cumha Alastair Dhuinn’ a lorgar ann an deasachadh Raghnaill MhicDhòmhnaill (MacDomhnuill 1776: 135; cf. Caimbeull 1798: 125; MacKenzie 1904: 395).

Comhchruinneacha do dh’Orain Taghta (Mac an Tuairneir 1813)

Anns an òran ‘Diomoladh Chabair Fèidh’ aig Alastair MacMhaighstir Alastair, tha *mearan* a’ nochdadh anns an loidhne ‘air thùs thig do **mhearán** ort’ (Mac an Tuairneir 1813: 36); cf. ‘Your madness will appear’ (A. MacDonald agus A. MacDonald 1924: 306).

Beachd-chomhairlean airson Feum do Thuathanaich ’us Choitearan Gaidh’lach ([F. MacKenzie] 1838)

Tha Sior Francis MacKenzie na leabhar dà-chànanach a’ cleachdadh *mearan* ann an suidheachadh misgearachd:

Faodaidh orainean ruidhtearachd no poitearachd tearc uairean a bheatha a bheothachadh. Faodaidh eifeachdan chaothaicheil na neo-mheasaireachd re seal sonas mac-meamnach [*sic*] a thoirt d’a, ach an uair a dhuisgeas e bho a **mhearán**, ciod a chi e mu’ thimchioll ? Bean thruagh ’us mhi-shona [. . .] (‘Songs of revelry may enliven a few hours of his existence. The maddening effects of intemperance may for a while give him a fancied happiness, but when awakened from his frenzy, what does he see around him? A miserable and unhappy wife [. . .]’) ([F. MacKenzie] 1838: 258, 259).

A Double Grammar of English and Gaelic (Forbes 1843: 340)

Anns an earrainn ‘Seollairtean Laidinn’ (‘Latin Phrases’) anns an leabhar ghràmair le Iain Foirbeis, tha *mearanach* a’ nochdadh mar seo leanas:

‘Non compos mentis; not of a sound mind, insane’: ‘A dhith céille, gun inntinn chruinn; **mearanach**, gòrach’.

Metrical Reliques of “The Men” in the Highlands (Rose 1851)

Tha an abairt ‘**mearan** na h-òige’ a’ nochdadh anns an duan diadhaidh ‘Ceannach na h-àilgheas’ le Iain MacAoidh (Rose 1851: 129).

Carmina Gadelica (Carmichael: 1900–71)

Cleachdar *mearan* ann an seagh a tha coltach ris an fhacal *boile* anns na rannan seo:

Gealach Satharna foghair	Saturday’s autumn moon
Gabhaidh boile seach tràth	Will take frenzy seven days.
Gealach ùr Satharna	New moon of Saturday
Gabhaidh mearan trì ràth	Will take madness three days.

(Carmichael 1900–71, IV: 202)

Tha ‘**mearan**, **mirean**. Madness’ a’ nochdadh mar cheann-fhacal anns an liost ‘Gaelic Words and Expressions Collected by Alexander Carmichael’, far a bheil *mearan* a’ nochdadh anns an rann seo cuide ris an roimhear *fo*:

Tha ’n Camaranach dubh air a mhealladh,
 Cha mh’athair a chuir fuil ’sa’ fhrith [LS shrith],
 Ach buachhaille monaidh **fo mhearán**
 A dh’eirmis a mhala gu grinn.

‘The black Cameron is mistaken, it was not my father who drew blood in the hill, but a mountain herd gone beserk who skillfully found the mark in his forehead.’ (Carmichael 1900–71, vi: 106)

Mac-Talla (1901)

Tha ‘air **mhearainn**’ ri lorg ann an co-theacsa misgearachd ann an sgeul mun ‘A’ Bhanais Mhagaidh’ anns an iris *Mac-Talla* aig toiseach na ficheadamh linn mar seo leanas:

Ma bha ’n deoch làidir pailt ann an taigh a’ mhaoir an oidhch’ ud, bha i a’ cheart cho pailt aigan fheadhainn a bh’ air an raonaidh. Agus o nach robh iad a’ gabhail bìdh, chaidh na bha iad ag òl cho mòr ’nan cinn ’s gu ’n robh iad an impis a bhith **air mhearainn** leis a’ mhisg. (Iain [*sic*] 1901: 314, col. 3).

Chan urrainn a bhith gu tur cinnteach, is dòcha, an e [vɛrɪnˠ] le fuaimreag dhoilleir schwa /ə/ no [vɛrənˠ] / [vɛrɛnˠ] (no [vɛrˠənˠ] / [vɛrˠɛnˠ]) le fuaimreag shoilleir anns an lide gun bheum a tha air cùl a’ chrutha seo. Chan urrainnear a bhith cinnteach nas motha an e cruth lùghdaichte de ‘mearaichinn’ a th’ ann no ainmear stèidhichte air *mear* + an deireadh eascruthach *-ainn* < *-aine* (cf. *bochdainn*; faic Thurneysen [1946] 1993: 168–69, §262) no an e cruth leis an deireadh meanbhain *-ein* a th’ ann (faic Ó Maolalaigh 2001). Is e as coltaiche, ar leam, gur h-e cruth eascruthach a th’ ann; cf. *air mhearaichinn* (‘insane’) (Armstrong 1825: s.v. *insane*).

Guth na Bliadhna (Am. B.A. 1907)

Ann an sgeulachd mu mhurt a ghabh àite ann an Ceap Bhreatainn anns a’ chiad leath den naoidheamh linn deug, tha **mearan** a’ nochdadh cuide ris an roimhear ‘an’ ann an co-theacsa misgearachd:

Thòisich a companach air òl, air dhà an t-àite fhagail, agus ’na dhrongair uamhasach, dh’fhàg e an saoghal so **am mearan**. (Am. B.A. 1907: 291)

The Works of “Fiona Macleod” (1910)

mearanach (‘mad’)

Tha am buadhair *mearanach* a’ nochdadh anns an tìotal ‘Cumha Fhir-**Mearanach** Aonghas mhic Dhonuill—the Lament of mad Angus Macdonald’ ann an leabhar le ‘Fiona Macleod’, i.e. William Sharp (1910: 324).

The MacDonald Collection of Gaelic Poetry (A. MacDonald 1912)

Tha *mearan* a’ nochdadh anns an loidhne ‘cha bhean iad fhèin le **mearan** dha’ ann an ‘Òran nan Lotaichean’ le Dòmhnall MacRuairidh (A. MacDonald & A. MacDonald 1912: 397).

Dàin agus Òrain Ghàidhlig (1929)

Tha *mearan* agus na faclan fillte *mearan-cuthach* / *mearan-chuthaich* / *mearan a’ chuthaich* agus *mearan-uaibhreachais* a’ nochdadh tric ann am Bàrdachd Aonghais Mhoireasdain a rugadh ann an Ulapal, Siorrachd Rois (MacilleDhuibh 1999: 718–19):

Tha **mearan** do bheairteis cur smuid
Ri earra-ghloir ’g ad sgaradh o d’cheill. (Moireasadan 1929: 129)

le **mearan-chuthaich** 'gat 'nan tulaich do (Moireasdan 1929: 11)²⁹

'Na **mearan-cuthach** neart a h-airm's a h-uaille (Moireasdan 1929: 170)

Is **mearan a' chuthaich** mar shuaicheantas

Air na cinn tholmanach mhulanach. (Moireasdan 1929: 114)

Thug **mearan-uaibhreachais** a nuas

Mar shoitheach briste cré (Moireasdan 1929: 187)

Chan eil e soilleir carson a tha *cuthaich* air a shèimheachadh ann am *mearan-chuthaich*; theagamh gur h-e buaidh *mearan a' chuthaich* as adhbhar dha.³⁰ Faodaidh sinn coimeas a dhèanamh ri *leum-chuthaich* a chuala mi aig Iain MacAonghuis ach nach eil a' nochdadh anns na faclairan; faodaidh *leum* a bhith boireann no fireann (Dwelly ([1901–11] 1977: s.v. *leum*)).³¹

O na Ceithir Àirdean (1952)

Tha *mearan* a' nochadh co-dhiù dà thuras ann am Bàrdachd Deòrsa Caimbeul Hay:

eadar ciùine s **mearan** ('between placidity and frenzy') (Caimbeul Hay 1952: 5; Byrne [2000] 2003: 167).³²

Chuir **mearan** uaibhreach iomrall sinn – ar miann a bhith na's treasa ann na Dia s an Dàn (Caimbeul Hay 1952: 63).³³

Sporan Dhòmhnail (MacMillan 1968)

Cleachdar *mearan* ann an abairt cuide ri *caoch* (i.e. *cuthach* 'madness, insanity') ann an aoir air Mussolinidh le Dòmhnall Ruadh Mac an t-Saoir, Bàrd Phàislig (1889–64): 'Leantainn na droch smaoin le **mearan** a' chaoich' (MacMillan 1968:263, l. 7554).

Gairm (1969)

Tha *mearanach* a' nochdadh anns an dàn 'Talamh', eadar-theangachadh a rinn Iain Mac a' Ghobhainn air dàn leis a' bhàrd Ruiseanach, Andrei [Andreyevich] Voznesensky (Mac a' Ghobhainn 1969: 33):

mar pheucagan, de elevators
air ròpaichean **mearanach**. (Mac a' Ghobhainn 1969: 33)

Rè na h-Oidhche: The Length of Night (1994)

Tha *mearain-cadail* a' nochdadh anns an dàn 'Gun Stiùir' le Catrìona NicGumaraid: *Dhùisg mi às a' mhearain-chadail* ('I woke from the delirium') (NicGumaraid 1994:

²⁹ Tha Moireasdan (1929: 401) a' mineachadh *dò* mar seo leanas: 'Fiadhaich, ceannardach. Theagamh giorrachdh de 'n fhacal do bhaidh.' Cf. *dòbhaidh* ('boisterous, stormy, etc.') (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.).

³⁰ Air an làimh eile dh'fhaodadh e bhith gur h-e buaidh *mearainn* a tha boireann a tha air a chùlaibh.

³¹ Tha *leum caoich* (= *cuthaich*) a' nochdadh ann an tasglann DASG anns an abairt seo leanas: 'Thainig leum caoich [kwhiç] ann!' ('He flew into a rage. He burst into a fit of temper.') a chaidh a chlàradh bho Alex MacDonald (An t-Allt Beithe) anns an Dùbhlachd 1969.

³² Is e 'frenzy' an t-eadar-theangachadh a tha nochdadh air an t-slip pàipeir ann an tasglann DASG. Is ann le Michel Byrne a tha an t-eadar-theangachadh Beurla gu h-àrd.

³³ Tha seo tighinn bhon dàn 'Rainn a sgrìobh e anns an album air fhèin', eadar-theangachadh air dàn leis a' bhàrd Chròthaiseach Vladislav Kusan.

46).³⁴ Tha Catrìona a bhoineas do Dhùn Bheagain an Eilein Sgitheanaich ag innse dhomh (conaltradh pearsanta, Sultain 2013) gu bheil *mearain* ga fhuaimneachadh mar [mɛrɪnˠ] (i.e. *mearainn*), gu bheil e fireann aicese agus gu bheil e ciallachadh ‘delirium’ agus gur h-e seòrsa de throm-laighe a th’ ann. Chanadh duine cuideachd: *bha mearain(n) orm* (‘I had a bad dream’) nuair nach biodh e a’ faireachdainn gu math mar gun deach an cadal ceàrr air. Tha e soilleir gur h-e cruth eascruthach a th’ anns a’ chruth seo.

Iain MacAonghuis (2013)³⁵

Ged nach cuala Iain MacAonghuis na faclan *mearan* /mɛran/ no *mearanach* /mɛranəx/ (le ‘a’ shoilleir anns an dara lide) ann an cainnt riamh, bha cuimhne aige air a’ chruth iolra *meirean* /mɛrˠən/³⁶ (a chuala e aig tè de pheathraichean a athar) a mhìnich e dhomh mar seo leanas. Is e bhiodh anns ‘na meirean’, ‘daoine air an tàinig galar inntinn’. Tha sin a’ toirt nar cuimhne am *mer* a dh’aithnichte ann an seann laghan na Gàidhlig (faic shìos). Bha e cinnteach gun cuala e ‘bha e sna meirean aig an àm’ agus bha e a’ smaoinneachadh gun cuala e an leithid seo cuideachd: ‘bha e fo na meirean aig an àm’ agus / no ‘bha e leis na meirean aig an àm’. Anns na suidheachaidhean seo tha e toirt leis ‘manic tendency’, ‘chaos of mind’, ‘frenzy’ no ‘madness’, ach ‘chan e galar leantaileach a th’ ann’, ‘tha e glacadh duine ach tha e falbh’.

Geàrr-iomradh air na Cruthan Gàidhlig

Tha fianais againn air iomadh cruth anns a’ Ghàidhlig:

mearan (-/an/)

meirean (-/ən/) (iolra)

mearain(n) (-/ɪnˠ/); cf. *meirin*?

mearanach (-/an/-)

meirein (-/ɛ/-), *meirean* (-/an/-); cf. *meirin*?

cf. *mearaichinn*

Is e *mearan* as cumanta agus fianais am pailteas ann airson deiridhean meanbhain *-an*, *-ein* / *-ean* / *-in*(?). Tha fianais Iain MhicAonghuis a’ cur air shùilean duinn gun robh cruth iolra *meirean* -/ən/ ann cuideachd. A thuilleadh air na cruthan sin, fhuaras na cruthan eascruthach *mearain(n)* agus *mearaichinn* (cf. *meirin*?).³⁷ Tha fhios gun do chinnich na cruthan anns a bheil ‘r’ no ‘n’ chaol tro analachas no cothlamadh le cruthan *mir*(-) agus am meanbhan *-ein(n)* ris am biodh dùil às dèidh consan caol (faic Ó Maolalaigh 2001) agus an deireadh eascruthach *-ainn*.

Mer

Tha am buadhair *mer* / *mear* a’ tighinn bho **mero*- (‘crazy, silly’) na Ceiltis (Matasović 2009: 267) ach tha an dàrna brìgh ‘spirited, lively, merry’ air cinneachadh. Seo na tha aig luchd-deasachaidh *DIL* mun bhun-bhuadhair *mer* (*mear* na Gàidhlig is na Gaeilge):

³⁴ Is ann le Catrìona NicGumaraid a tha an t-eadar-theangachadh Beurla.

³⁵ Còmhradh pearsanta le Iain MacAonghuis (Faillageach 2013).

³⁶ Shaoil leis gun cuala e /mɛrˠən/ cuideachd.

³⁷ Tha e coltach gu bheil cruth eascruthach, *mearad*, a’ nochdadh ann an ainm àite ann an Bàideanach far a bheil cothlamadh eadar an t-ainm *Mairearad* agus *mear*. Tha MacBheathain a’ sgrìobhadh:

Ciste Mhaireraid or rather *Ciste Mhearad*, Margaret’s kist or chest or coffin, is part of Coire Fhearnagan, above the farm of Achlean. Here snow may remain all the year-round. It is said that Margaret, who was jilted by Mackintosh of Moy Hall, and who cursed his family to sterility, died here in her mad wanderings. (MacBain 1891: 187)

o, ā. adj. used chiefly of persons, apparently **off one's head, demented, crazy**, both of temporary condition due to excitement, intoxication, anger, etc., and of permanent quality; in heroic lit. applied to warriors (often in unfavourable sense **foolhardy, rash**); in Laws to the insane or half-witted. In late lit. often used in a complimentary sense **spirited, lively, agile**; see IGT Dec. § 65 (mear ... ó chéill in mholta). (*DIL*: s.v. ¹*mer*)

Is e ‘lively, spirited, etc.’ a’ phrìomh bhrìgh a tha aig *mear* anns na nua-chànanan ged a gheibhear e cuideachd anns an t-seagh ‘quick-tempered, fiery’:³⁸

The Illustrated Gaelic-English Dictionary (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.)

mear. [1.] Merry, joyful; 2. Sportive, playful; 3. Wanton; 4. *poetically* Incited, keen, enraged; 5. Lustful; 6. Apish; 7. Buxom; 8. Agitated, in quick motion; 9. Sudden or quick in motion; 10. Airy; 11. Comical; 12. Very joyful, in high glee.³⁹

Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla (Ó Dónaill [1977] 1998: s.v.)

mear. 1. Quick, fast, nimble, lively, spirited; 2. Precipitate, hasty, rash, quick-tempered, fiery; 3. [Ann an litreachas]: (a) Mad, crazy, (b) Furious, raging, mad, angry.

Tha e soilleir gur h-e an t-seann bhrìgh ‘madness, delirium, etc.’ a thàinig a-nuas anns na faclan Gàidhlig *mearan* agus *mearanach*.⁴⁰

Ged nach urrainnear a bhith gu tur cinnteach, dh’fhaodadh e bhith gun robh co-cheangal bho shean eadar cleachdadh a’ bhuadhfhaicail *meránach* agus am *mer* (‘one who is confused, deranged’) air a bheil iomradh ann an teacsaichean lagha na Seann Ghàidhlig (Smith 1932: 68, 73, 80–82; Binchy 1978, iv: 1276.18–1277.13; Kelly [1988] 1995: 92). Seo mar a mhinicheas Fergus Kelly an diofar eadar *mer*, *drúth* agus *dásachtach* mar a chleachdar iad anns na laghan:

The *dásachtach* is the person with manic symptoms who is liable to behave in a violent and destructive manner. The *mer* (lit. ‘one who is confused, deranged’) poses less of a threat to other people, and is normally permitted into the ale-house [...] The *drúth* appears to be a person who is mentally retarded. (The term *drúth* is also used of the professional clown or buffoon whose act would include imitations of the insane [...]). (Kelly [1988] 1995: 92).

Gheibhear iomradh air na trì faclan seo anns an tràchd ‘De Drùthaib 7 Meraib 7 Dāsachtaibh (‘Concerning Fools and Madmen and Lunatics’) a tha Liam Breatnach (2005: 307–08) a’ cumail a-mach a bhoineas o thùs dhan tràchd ‘Di Brethaib Gaire’ (‘Concerning Judgements on Maintenance’).

Tha e annasach is inntinneach gum bheil *dásachtach* (‘mad, insane’; ‘one who behaves like a lunatic or who is full of fury, rage or anger’) ri fhaighinn mar bhuadhfhaicail air an Rìgh Albannach, Domnall mac Causaintín (†900AD). Tha an rann seo leanas air Domnall mac Causaintín a’ nochdadh ann am Fàisneachd Bhearchain:

Nos géabha rí aile ann

³⁸ Is e *mear* (*Mêr*) a chuala Edward Lhuyd bho neach-bhratha bho Earra-Ghàidheal airson ‘madness’, agus tha sin a’ co-fhreagairt ri *cuthaich* (*Kyich*) a fhuaras bho neach-bhratha bho Inbhir Nis (Campbell and Thomson 1963: 152, §XIV.51).

³⁹ Is e *mear* (‘lively, in high spirits, merry’) a tha aig Iain MacAonghuis. Mairidh an dà chiall ann am *mire* cuideachd: ged a gheibhear *mire* san t-seagh ‘spòrs’ no ‘suirghe’ (m.e. ‘Cò nì mire rium?’ sna h-òrain), gheibhear *mire-chatha* (‘battle frenzy’) cuideachd; cf. *mireag nan cruach* agus *mire-mhulan* mar ainmean airson cluich chloinne (Dwelly ([1901–11] 1977: s.vv.)).

⁴⁰ Gheibhear am buadhair *mearanta* anns an t-seagh ‘mirthful’ anns a’ Ghàidhlig. Mar eisimpleir, tha e nochdadh anns an dàn ‘Dàn do ’n Uaigh’ le Dòmhnall nan Òran: ‘An t-aon is **mearanta** dheth t-shluagh’ (MacLeòid 1871: 15); cf. *mearanta* (‘mirthful’) (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.).

bec do tharba nis comhbrann
 maircc Albain ósin amach
 día-mbia hanim **dásachtach**.

‘Another king will take sovereignty then; little gain, he does not share it; woe to Scotland thenceforth; to him will be the name the madman.’ (Hudson 1996: 43, §131; 85, 131)⁴¹

Ann an rannan eile a chaidh a chur ris an dàn canar ‘in garbh’ (‘the rough one, the fierce one’) agus ‘athgharbh’ (‘very rough, very fierce’) ris cuideachd agus e ri creach is cogadh fad a rè mar rìgh (Hudson 1996: 45–46, §§143–47; 204). Tha iomradh air Dòmhnall mac Causaintín cuideachd anns an liosta rìghrean aig Flann Mainistreach (†1056 AD) mar ‘Domnall **Dāsachtach**’ (Skene 1867: 21); cf. Anderson 1922: cxlix, 397–98. Gheibhear *dásachtach* mar bhuadhfhacal ann an ginealaichean Fer Tamnaich Éoganachta cuideachd: ‘[Lonán] m. Feideilmid Daim **Dāsachtaich**’ (‘m. Feidlimthi m. Daim **Dāsachtaig**’ anns an Leabhar Laighneach) (O’Brien [1962] 2005: 233). Tha an fhianaise a tha seo mun fhacal *dásachtach* mar buadhfhacal a’ cumail taic ri cleachdadh *meránach* mar bhuadhfhacal le ainmean pearsanta.

Tha e inntinneach gum faighear *dàsachd(ach)* agus na cruthan toiseannach *dàsan(ach)(d)* (math dh’fhaodte fo bhuidh *mearan(ach)*), *dàsunnach/ dāsannach*, *dàsaidh* agus *dàsanta* anns a’ Ghàidhlig.⁴² Tha luchd-deasachaidh *DIL* a’ cumail a-mach gu bheil am facal seo air a dhol à cleachdadh anns na nuadh-chànanan: ‘Obs[olete], but given in most mod[ern] Ir[ish] and Sc[ottish] dict[ionaries]’ (*DIL*: s.v. *dásachtach*) ach tha an fhianais seo leanas a’ dearbhadh gun cleachdte am facal agus na cruthan a thàinig bhuidhe anns a’ Ghàidhlig Albannaich:

dàsachd / dásacht

(*mire*₇) *dásacht* (‘(madness and) frenzy’), le Niall MacMhuirich ann an Leabhar Dearg Chlann Raghnaill (Cameron 1892–94, II: 192; cf. t.dd. 182, 260).

dāsachd na heaslainti (‘virulence’), ann an LS Adv. 72.2.10 (1612 AD) air a sgrìobhadh le Angus Beaton (DASG).⁴³

dàsachd (‘fierceness, furiousness, madness, rage, fury; impertinence’) (Dwelly [1901–1] 1977: s.v.); tha Armstrong (1825: s.v. *dasachd*) ga chomharrachadh mar fhacal a tha air a dhol à cleachdadh.

dàsachd (‘wildness, fury’) (MacEachainn [1842] 1922: s.v.).

dàsachdach / dásachtach

dásachtach (‘dauntless’) (c. 1449–93) (Cameron 1892–94, II: 260).

dàsachdach (‘pugnacious (non-pejorative)’), ann an LS RIA Av2, fo. 74a) le Cathal MacMhuirich (c. 1640) (DASG).⁴⁴

dàsachdach (‘wild’) (c. 1890) (Gun ainm c. 1890: 61).⁴⁵

dàsachdach (‘fierce, furious, mad; impertinent, assuming’) (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.); tha Armstrong (1825: s.v. *dasachdach*) ga chomharrachadh mar fhacal a tha air a dhol à cleachdadh.

⁴¹ Is ann leis an neach-deasachaidh, Benjamin T. Hudson, a tha an t-eadar-theangachadh seo.

⁴² Is e *dàsacht(ach)* agus *dàsach* a gheibhear anns a’ Ghaeilge (Ó Dónaill [1977] 1998: s.vv.). Chan fhaighear **dàsad(-)*, ris am biodh dùil anns an t-sreath *-sacht-*, ann an Gàidhlig Alba; cf. *iasad* < *iasacht*, etc. (O’Rahilly [1932] 1976: 210; Ó Maolalaigh 2005: 112, nn. 24, 25).

⁴³ Air a thoirt bhon làmhsgriobhainn le Raghnaill MacilleDhuibh.

⁴⁴ Air a thoirt bhon làmhsgriobhainn le Raghnaill MacilleDhuibh.

⁴⁵ An t-eadar-theangachadh Beurla bho thasglann DASG.

dàsach

dàsach ('bold'), Leabhar an Deadhain (Ross 1939: 204, §27d); is e 'Zawsi' a tha nochdadh san làmhsgriobhainn fhèin (Meek ri nochdadh fhathast)

dàsan

dàsan ('fury, frenzy') (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.; Armstrong 1825: s.v.)

dàsanach

dàsanach ('fierce, furious'), ann an *Cath Fionntragha* (LS Adv. 72.2.11, t.d. 27) le Alastair MacMhaighstir Alastair;⁴⁶ cf. *dāsannach* gu h-ìosal.

dàsanach ('cunning, wily; presumptuous; furious, fierce, frantic') (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.; cf. Armstrong 1825: s.v. *dasanach*).

dàsanach ('without softness or timidity') (J. L. Campbell [1958] 1991: 95).

dàsanach ('bold, cheeky, presumptuous') (Wentworth 2003: s.vv.); o thaobh fuaimneachadh, is e **d̥aisənɔx** a tha aig Wentworth (2003: s.v. *bold*) ged a tha e ag innse gum faodadh **d̥aisənɔx** (le **-an-** soilleir) a bhith ann cuideachd.

dàsannach: 'chaidh e sàs ann gu dāsannach' ('determined') (bho Pheggy Morrison, Kintulavaig, Leverburgh, Harris, DASG [gun bliadhna air a comharrachadh].

dàsanachd

dàsanachd ('furiousness, fierceness, frenzy') (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.; cf. Armstrong 1825: s.v. *dasanachd*).

dàsunnach / dāsannach

dàsannach ('bold, fierce') (v.l. *dasunnich, daisunnach*), ann am 'Brostughadh-catha Chlann Domhnaill, Là Chatha Gharbhaich' (Thomson 1968: 150, 154).

dāsannach ('furious'), ann an *Cath Fionntrágha* (LS Adv. 72.2.11, t.d. 18) le Alastair MacMhaighstir Alastair; cf. *dàsanach* gu h-àrd.⁴⁷

dàsunnach (airson *dàsunnach*?) (MacDomhnuill 1776: 122).

dàsunnach ('cunning, wily, presumptuous') (Highland Society of Scotland 1828: s.v.) far a bheil am facal a'tighinn bho 'C.S.', i.e. 'common speech'; tha *dàsannach* = *dàsachdach* cuideachd anns an fhaclair seo.

dàsunnach = *dàsanach* (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.).

dàsannach ('cunning, wily, presumptuous') (MacEachainn [1842] 1922: s.v.).

dàsannach ('trying to do a thing beyond one's power') (J. L. Campbell [1958] 1991: 95).

dàsannach **d̥aisənɔx** ('audacious'), bhon a' mhnaoi aig Iain MacBeath, a' Chomraich (1966) (DASG).

dàsaidh

dàsaidh ('furiousness; audacious') (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.).

dàsaidh (['wild, furious']) (MacEachainn [1842] 1922: s.v. *dàsachd*).

dàsanta

dàsanta ('foolhardy') (bho Alexander Nicolson, an t-Eilean Sgitheanach, DASG [gun bliadhna air a comharrachadh]).⁴⁸

⁴⁶ An t-eadar-theangachadh Beurla le Ragnall MacilleDhuibh, ann an tasglann DASG.

⁴⁷ An t-eadar-theangachadh Beurla le Ragnall MacilleDhuibh, ann an tasglann DASG.

⁴⁸ Tha A. O'Henley ag innse: 'Made available courtesy of Mrs Alexander Nicolson and Dr Alistair MacLean, Bernisdale, Isle of Skye.'

A-nise, suim an rannsachaidh. Is e a’ bharrail a thathas a’ cur air adhart anns an aiste ghoirid seo gun gabhadh e bhith gur h-e *meránach* tinnsgadal a’ bhuaidhfhacail mheadhan-aoisich *meranach* agus, theagamh, *marrenah*, agus gum b’ e brìgh *mearanach* na Gàidhlig Albannaich ‘delirious, mad, insane’ ba chiall da. Tha cleachdadh *dàsachdach* mar bhuaidhfhacal a’ cumail taic ri sin. Nan gabhte ri sin, bhiodh fianais na Gàidhlig a’ dearbhadh dhuinn gur h-e *meránach* (seach *méranach* / *méránach* no *meranach*) an cruth ceart, le à fhada anns an dara lide – cruth a tha tighinn ri iomadach facal a tha stèidhichte air a’ mheanbhan *-án* agus a’ crìochnachadh le *-ach* (Russell 1990: 88, 191–92). Faodaidh sinn coimeas a dhèanamh ris an fhacal *samhanach* (‘savage, giant, monster’) (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.v.) aig a bheil ceangal ris an ainm *Mac Sam[h]á(i)n*.⁴⁹ Gheibhear faclan eascruthach eile ann an Gàidhlig is Gaeilge a tha crìochnachadh le *-án* / *-an*, m.e.

Gaeilge

achasán (‘reproach, insult’), *béadán* (‘gossip, slander; worry anxiety’), *bearrán* (‘arrogance, nuisance’), *cadrán* (‘hardness, stubbornness, obstinancy’), *ceatán* (‘an awkwardness, annoyance’), *cránan* (‘grief, arrogance’), *cumhán* (‘fit of lonesomeness, anxiety, sorrow’), *díodán* (‘giddiness, megrim’), *fiarán* (‘anger, petulance, huff’), *gearán* (‘complaint, grievance’), *meadhrán* (‘dizziness’), *meangán* (‘wile, deceit’), *míobhán* (‘dizziness’), *mosán* (‘irritation, annoyance’), *piachán* (‘hoarseness’), *siabhrán* (‘slight derangement, delusion, mental confusion’), *seolán* (‘fit of sorrow’) (Ó Dónaill [1977] 1998: s.vv.).

Gàidhlig

achmhasan (‘rebuke’), *amhartan* (‘luck’), *arraban* (‘distress’), *cachdan* (‘vexation’), *carrasan* (‘hoarseness, wheezing’), *dàsan* (‘fury, frenzy’), *diùdan* (‘giddiness’), *docran* (‘anguish’), *dorran* (‘vexation, anger’), *driongan* (‘slowness’), *faspan* (‘difficulty, embarrassment’), *forgan* (‘keenness, anger’), *fulan* (‘welcome’), *gearan* (‘complaint’), *imreasan* (‘controversy’), *iogan* (‘deceit, fraud’), *luaran* (‘dizziness, faint’), *smuairian* (‘grief, dejection’), *tacan* (‘a while, short time’) (Dwelly [1901–11] 1977: s.vv.).

Tha an aiste seo a’ cur air shùilean duinn aon uair eile luach cudromach is tàbhachdach teist is fianais Gàidhlig Alba ann an rannsachadh nan cànanan Gàidhealach is Ceilteach. Is tric a tha faclan is feartan air mairsinn anns a’ Ghàidhlig Albannaich (a tha uaireannan air a dhol à bith anns a’ Ghaeilge agus sa Mhanainnis) a tha toirt lèirsinn luachmhmhor dhuinn air eachdraidh na Gàidhlig agus air dualchas nan Gàidheal anns an fharsaingeachd; faic, mar eisimpleir, Fraser (1928), Gillies (2004), Jackson (1951), Kelly (1986), MacAonghuis (1986), MacInnes (1977), Ó Maolalaigh (2005; 2006; 2008: 241–59; 2013), O’Rahilly (1926; 1927, 1929), etc. Mar a thuirt Iain MacAonghuis fhèin bho chionn còrr is fichead bliadhna ar ais, ‘tha raointean farsaing ri an treabhadh fhathast ann an sgoilearachd na Gàidhlig – agus a cuid cainnte’ (MacAonghuis 1990: 25; MacInnes 2006: 128) – tuairisgeul a tha fhathast fìor anns an là-an-diugh ged as saibhrìde ar tuigse na sgrìobh agus na dh’innis Iain dhuinn mu chainnt is cànan nan Gàidheal. Guma fada beò e.

⁴⁹ Tha an t-ainm *Mac Samá(i)n* a’ nochdadh ann an seann litreachas na Gàidhlig mar fhiadh-dhuine no geilt a tha tighinn beò anns a’ choille (Jackson 1935: 113, n. 1; Jackson 1990: 48; Clancy 1992: 84, 88–89). Gheibhear *Mac Samhain* agus *samhanach* cuideachd ann am beul-aithris na Gàidhlig mar ainm a chuireas an cèill uilebheist no fuamhair (Nicolson [1881] 1996: 48, 160; Carmichael 1900–71, II: 347; MacKay 1935: 2–4; Ó Baoill and Bateman 1994: 192, 234; Black [2005] 2008: 509); cf. *sadhanach* (‘big sturdy fellow’) (J. L. Campbell [1958] 1991: 266). Dh’fhaodadh e bhith gu bheil (air neo gun saoilte gun robh) suaip aig *samhan(-)* ris an fhacal *sam[h]* (‘sorrel’) (*DIL*: s.v. ³*sam*), biadh a dh’itheadh leithid Suibhne Geilt sa choille (faic O’Keefe [1931] 1975: 12, 62).

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