

Agricultural Production in Luxembourg in the light of its Micro-Toponymy

Part One

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1 Introduction

Place names in Luxembourg still offer manifold research possibilities, as numerous micro-toponomastic analyses are of older age, but there are only a few more recent studies, such as Schorr (2005), Mersch (2022 and 2022b) and Mersch 2023 (a short discussion of older literature on the topic can be found in Mersch 2023: 24–27).

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg lays in the heart of Europe and borders Belgium, France and Germany, situating it right at three frontiers of Germanic and Romanic languages. Though the Grand Duchy is a multilingual area of approximately 2500 square kilometers, and with slightly less than half its population having foreign citizenship, the micro-toponymy is marked by lexems and structures mostly of Germanic origin (see Mersch 2023: 374–399).

The following text examines the lexical field of agricultural production in Luxembourgish toponymy. It constitutes a slightly amended part of Mersch (2021) that could not be incorporated into Mersch (2023) and is split up into two parts, the second of which (concerning the production of alcoholic beverages) will be published at a later stage.

1.1 Corpus data

The following analysis uses the place name data gathered and explained by Mersch (2023), though not all corpora are present in the the subsequent text. Hence, tab. 1 only shows the corpus origins and their corresponding short hands, which were actually used in the text. The short hands, referenced in the examples throughout the text, enable the reader and researcher to discern the quality of the evidence given by a specific named instance. A discussion of the corpora can be found in Mersch (2023: 28–56). The corpora themselves were made available as a CSV-file in a repository.¹

1 https://github.com/sammersch/PhD_Thesis (last access on 17/10/2023).

It should be noted that graphematics were not normalised, but rather were used in the exact way they were initially documented, including total capitalisation or the use of diacritics. A discussion about the graphematics of the Luxembourgish place name data can be found in Mersch (2023: 119-218), while problems with early digitisations of place name data in Luxembourg are discussed in Mersch (2022). When a named instance is referenced in the text, the village name and corpus short hand is given.

Corpus origin	Short hand
Administration du cadastre et de la topographie – plan cadastral numérisé	a _p
Administration du cadastre et de la topographie – cartographie	a _c
Verkéisersverbond	t _p
Institut Grand-Ducal, section linguistique, onomastique et ethnographie Relevée de la Section – Données 1930	il ₃₀
Institut Grand-Ducal, section linguistique, onomastique et ethnographie Relevée de la Section – Données cadastrales	il _c
Diözesanarchiv Luxemburg	dal
Administration du cadastre et de la topographie – inofficial file all names before conversion	s _a
Administration du cadastre et de la topographie – inofficial file all names after conversion	s _a
Administration du cadastre et de la topographie – inofficial file first land registry	s _u
Centre national de la recherche archéologique fichéiers de toponymes évocateurs	a

Table 1: Corpus origins and short hands (following Mersch 2023: 33–34)

1.2 General Aspects of Lexical Studies of Place Names

1.2.1 The Place Name as a Linguistic and Cultural Historical Source

The place name is a linguistic expression of a cultural reality. The name does not express objectively the nature it is supposed to depict but rather denotes a subjective view of what could be found in nature, either naturally grown or created by man. The name is by extension a cultural filter of reality and has also to be looked upon as such. Considering that a place name does not exist on its own but in an onomastic system that references space (see Koß, 1995: 461), often delimited to a very close-knit area (Kunze, 1996: 1066), the hierarchies and subjective notions that these names portray have to be analysed with that fact in mind.

Place names can be a linguistic marker of cultural reality but it is the notion of perception of that cultural reality that has to be deduced. When Rosenfeld (1985: 344) rightfully mentions for southern Germany that the lexeme for mountain (German *Berg*) is not used in place names for actual mountains but in many cases for smaller elevations (as is often the case in Luxembourg), this is a cultural factor that lies beyond a purely linguistic analysis of a single name or a lexeme. The actual surrounding, the topographical evidence has to be incorporated, as well as a quantitative analysis that enables this general conclusion.

Only an exact linguistic identification of a name, namely what language it is actually from, can render an exact etymology of a name but also bring results in the distribution of names that seem not to be native to a specific speaker group (see a.o. Lindner, 2002: 9–11; Rosenfeld, 1985: 345–346). Linguistic uncertainty, however, can lead to circular constructions or flawed methodologies (Lindner, 2002: 15). In many cases, there are multiple possible etymologies, without a clear and convincing choice that stands out when there are simply not enough comparable instances or a traceable documentation is missing.

Not only do place names need to be identified correctly linguistically, the relation to what was expressed (the denoted) by the name and in what systematic distribution it stands with other names around it is very important. Although this idea of what connotation a word triggers is generally only allotted to appellatives (Bauer, 1985: 27), Zschieschang (2003, 2015) and Reber (2014) could demonstrate that there is a structural relationship of adjacent place names to another that lies beyond a pure linguistic expression. This extra-linguistic pragmatic context can often lead to further insights (see e.g. 1.2.3) that can only be put into perspective when they can be quantified to a relevant extent.

1.2.2 The Place Name within Historical Research

Place names offer an additional source for the study of rural agricultural societies that often suffer from a lack of qualitative sources (Kunze, 1996: 1066). Place names can offer insights into historical developments of micro-spaces due to the fact that they are to be considered petrified references to space (or its perception) (Gabriel, 1996: 1451–1452).

The analysis of place names can enlighten developments within the economic and social history of a given place by focussing on the external factors around the name, namely the development of appellative to proper name and the loss of the cultural reality that is reflected (Koß, 1995: 458–459).

Linking place name data that can be rooted, to some extent, in early modern and medieval name giving traditions. Figures 1 and 2 for example show the distribution of names denoting wood clearing (*rad/rod/rued* or derived *roed/ried*) that are usually linked with early medieval wood clearing (Bach, 1981: 2.615) and hence the terraforming of the land so that it could be made arable. Mapping these names can give a quantitative indication of how long ago this early wood clearing occurred. While the form *rad* occurs 15 times in the general corpus and can only be seen in the map that shows the distributions in a fixed size (fig.1), it is greatly overshadowed by the forms *rod* and (the modern Luxembourgish) *rued*. Representing on the map the names with a variable size that reflects actual numbers of occurrences (fig. 2), it becomes clear that there was far more wood clearing in the *Guttländ*, as far as place names can tell us, whereas the place name distribution does not tell us anything about the center. Derived forms (*roed/ried*) that depict a smaller clearing area and are generally younger occur proportionately less in the corpus. They also do not seem to occur in places where non-derived forms do not occur. In the north, wood clearing was mostly practised on higher elevation levels, whereas in the south, valleys seem to have been favoured.

1.2.3 The Place Name within Archaeological Research

Place names have great potential as a source for archaeological research, as the names often conserve general knowledge of a place well beyond any written source. The names can hence be considered as possible indicators for archaeological substructures or other finds that may be unearthed.² The place name

2 The *centre national de la recherche archéologique* in Bertrange (Luxembourg) therefore gathers and classifies all place names that they call *toponymes évocateurs*, mainly place names that might hint at any archeological finds based both on the etymology of the names but also in relation to what was already documented with known archaeological sites.

can then be another possible indicator, along field surveys, images of aerial archaeology, or metal detector surveys. The place name, however, is sometimes a more delicate source than others. Many names have the potential to relate to an archaeological reality but only a few of those can actually be proven by excavations or land surveys. This can often be due to the fact that the land was simply overused by human interaction (e.g. land clearing, cleaning of acre-land, etc.) or that the knowledge of the name is not linked to its initial place anymore. Place names denote areas rather than points in space and as such, they tend to wander when the cultural knowledge of a place is lost.

However delicate the place name can be as a source for archaeology, etymological and quantitative studies still have significant potential to enhance common archaeological research. Names, such as *Verluerekascht* for example, as in *Verlorenkost* (Bonnevoie) (a_p) or *Verluerekascht* (Larochette) (a_c), relate by name directly to ruins, at some point still visible but later sometimes completely demolished (Anen, 1945: 65 see also S. Mersch, 2022). The place *Kiem*, from latinised Gaulish **cam(m)ino-* (see Bach, 1981: 2.390, 2.447–448, 2.564; Delamarre, 2018: 100, 116) has been known to be linked to actual findings of antique road sections (Stoffel, 2018). The place name lexeme *Mees*, from Latin *ma(n)sio* ‘dwelling’ (REW: 433),³ can be linked to actual gallo-romance substructures (see e.g. LARIS: ID 68006). In some cases, however, the linguistic evidence cannot directly link to archaeological evidence.

Due to the specific documentation of landscape features, including place names, the *Centre national de la recherche archéologique (CNRA)* was able to pinpoint a correlation between the place name *Uecht* that is of Germanic origin,⁴ and settlement structures of late antiquity and the early medieval ages that show the influence of *gallo-romance* or *merovingian* cultures, of which tab. 2 gives but a brief example. The correlation might be due to the favourable land plots that the name lexeme *Uecht* tends to designate (see a. o. Hardt, 1868: 67, 151, 153).

3 It is the same Latin word that is the origin of French *maison* ‘house’.

4 The lexeme *Uecht* can be compared to English *aft* and *after* and Middle Low German *achter* (Onions, 1966: 18; Schiller and Lübben, 1878: 1.7–8), exhibiting the sound change discussed in Mersch (2023: 279–281). The CNRA was renamed *institut national de recherches archéologiques* after the initial draft of this paper.

Place name	Archeological evidence	Reference
Uecht (Heisdorf)	gallo-romance substructures medieval chapel	LARIS: ID 82948
Oicht (Buschdorf)	gallo-romance villa merovingian necropolis	LARIS: ID 68076
Acht/Uecht/op der Uet (Burmerange)	gallo-romance substructures merovingian necropolis	LARIS: ID 79115
Schwarzuecht (Echternach)	big gallo-romance villa (axial type)	LARIS: ID 74742
Schmatzuecht/Schmatz Acht (Echternach)	gallo-romance substructures	LARIS: ID 89817

Table 2: Correlation between place name lexeme *Uecht* and archaeological findings

1.2.4 Advantages of Linguistic Geography and Quantitative Analyses

Due to the relation of space that place names exhibit, they can be identified by a geographic relation. While this can be often very exact – as, for example, with modern digital cadastral data that pinpoints the exact coordinates of a named place – many collections of names, however, only exhibit a rough geographical index by referring to the bigger administrative spatial units (village, commune, etc.). Geographical reference can put into broader relation certain traits that can be analysed for specific micro-spaces. While each place name has only a limited extension of its local relevance (in a small community), identifying the same names in different micro-spaces can help in analysing name giving on a broader scale and to some extent, and in avoiding methodological problems in isolated analyses of a single micro-space (see Kunze, 1996: 1066–1067).

1.2.5 The Lexical Field Agrarian Economic Production

The lexical field of *agrarian economic production* was chosen so that linguistic analyses could yield a possibly high relevance for rural economic activity. The selected name groups show a variety of indicators for a local agrarian economy that dwells beyond simple subsistence. Crops and animal herds were the staples of rural economies, which is reflected in the place names allotted to rural environment. The production of alcohols as evidenced by the place names suggests a far wider economic impact than just home consumption. It is difficult to assess the reach of these agrarian economic products but it might be possible to assume at least a viable trade of goods within the *Bann*. Wheat and other crops were also important dues in a rural economy (see e.g. Werveke, 1983:

1.128–130, 255, 361, 530, 2.190, 263, 344), to which the place names also testify to a certain extent. The lexical field *agrarian economic production* has the potential to have influenced a broader reach of rural agriculture than any other field might have been able to offer, especially as many names alluding to industry are very well bound to geological and geomorphological premises.

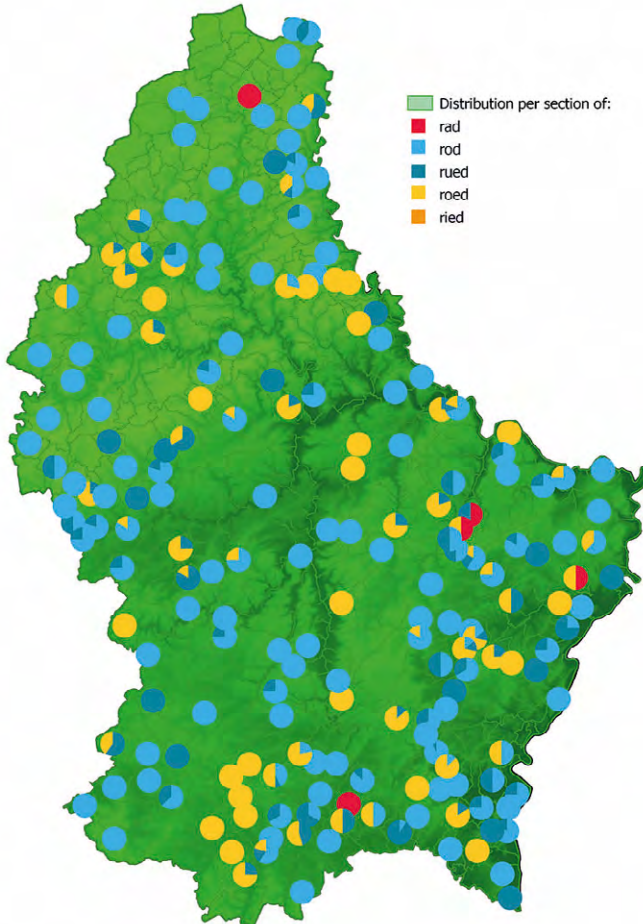


Fig. 1 – Distribution of lexeme *rued* (absolute)

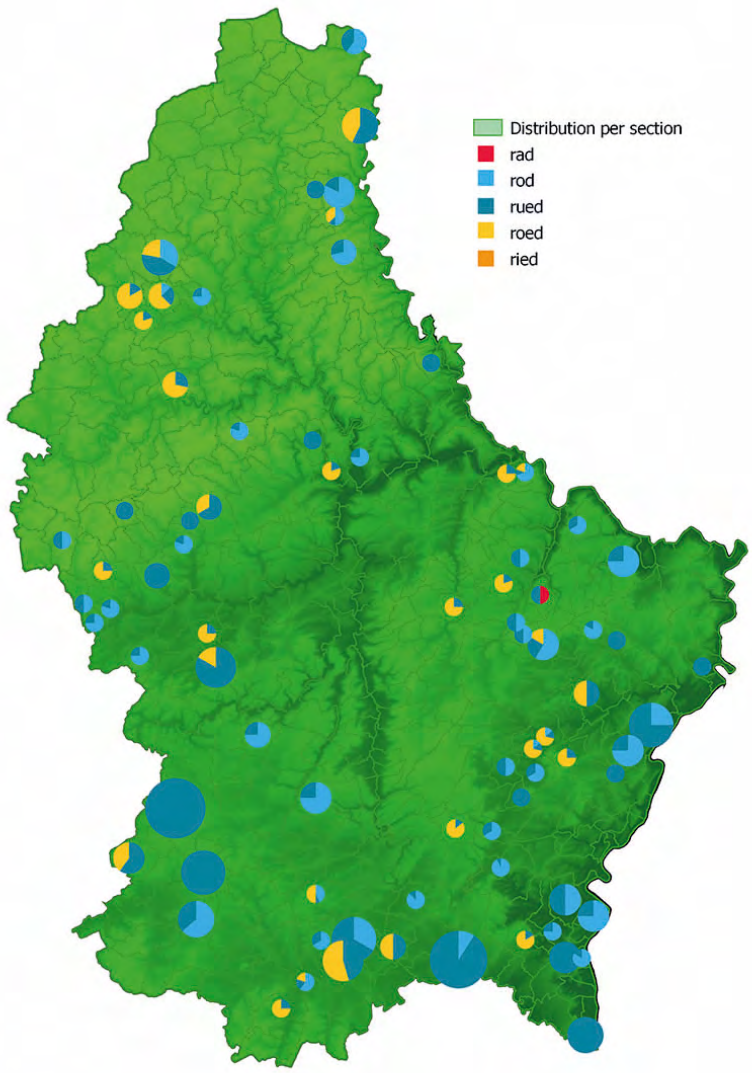


Fig. 2 – Distribution of lexeme *rued* (relative)

2 Animal Husbandry

Pastoral agriculture was a staple of the European, and hence Luxembourgish rural economy, and is to some extent a result from hunter-gatherer cultures becoming sedentary. As the neolithic revolution introduced a new lifestyle based on fixed living arrangements, there was a change from hunting animals to herding and breeding them, though they still needed to be driven around the grazing plots in some form of (semi-)pastoralism, an agricultural process that has been maintained until very recently (see Perlès, 1996: 25, 42–44).

The names under scrutiny in this chapter can only reflect the presence and herding of animals for pastoral agriculture. No link can be established to the possible end products of animal keeping, be it milk, meat or hide/pelt respectively.

2.1 The Pasture in General

The most common lexeme to refer to general pasture is the lexeme *Wiss* ‘meadow’ (LOD: s. v. *Wiss*) that is almost exclusively determined by a possessive notion, as in *MILLEWISS* (Winseler) (il₃₀) and *HAFFWISS* (Weyer) (il₃₀), if not by its areal properties, as in *an der Laangwiss* (Wecker) (sn) and *Grouss-wiss* (Wecker) (tp). The lexeme occurs as simplex on occasion, which does not happen a lot, though.

Less common but with similar semantics is the lexeme *Wues* ‘lawn [grass]’ (LOD: s. v. *Wues*), which mostly occurs in simplex and denotes grasslands (see Dittmaier, 1963: 331), as in *HAASSELTERWAASEN* (Bertrange) (il_c), *Waasen* (Biwer) (a_c), *BROCHWOIS* (Stadtbredimus) (il_c), *op dem Wuess* (Schwebach) (a_p) and *op de Wuesen* (Wecker) (a_p).

The Latin loan *pasuum* initially denoted enclosed land areas for animals and is present in the Luxembourgish onomasticon only, as *Pesch* (Frings and Müller, 1968: 365–367). It is besides the lexeme *Wiss* a very common lexeme to depict pasture and can either occur as simplex, as in *PESCH* (Niederanven) (il_c), or in compounds, where it can either (rarely) serve as a determiner, as in *PESCHGUARDEN* (Niedercorn) (il₃₀), often re-invoking the same etymological idea of an enclosure, or be determined by a possessive or areal relation, as in *KAPELLEPESCH* (Winrange) (s_a) or *GROSSENPECH* (Winseler) (il_c).

Other Latin loans denoting pasture are by far less common. Where Latin *pratium* ‘grassland’ possibly can be found only in the instance in *Brückenbrett* (Grindhausen) (a) (see Dittmaier, 1963: 41), the diminutive form *pratellum*

'grassland' occurs much more frequently but almost exclusively in simplex (see Dittmaier, 1963: 234). Examples are: *a Pratel* (Gostingen) (a_p) and *PRATELS-BERG* (Weiler-la-Tour) (il_c).

The same notion of enclosure as with the lexeme *Pesch* can be found in the lexeme *Brill* (only in the onomasticon), which is of Celtic origin but may have been borrowed into Luxembourgish by Latin as an intermediary (Delamarre, 2018: 91–92). The name is very important in early deeds, as it always denotes favourable plots that are under custody of the dominion (see a. o. Hardt, 1868: LIV–LV, 96, 119, 314, 694, 708). Although the lexeme occurs frequently in compounds that convey the same settings as the other lexemes discussed above, the lexeme occurs most often in simplex form. Examples are: *BRILL* (Wilwerdange) (il_c), *BRILLSBÜSCH* (Wilwerdange) (il_c), *Kaspelterbrill* (Weicherdange) (s_n), *ERZBRÜLL* (Schweich) (il_c), *im Weissenbrüll* (Pétange) (dal) and *SPECKBRÜHL* (Angelsberg) (il_c).

Minimal pastoralism or herding can be deduced from names that render an animal activity but not the animals themselves. The lexeme *Dränk* 'drinking trough' (LOD: s. v. *Dränk*), as in *bei der Drenk* (Hamiville) (a_p) or *AUF DER VIEHDRAENK* (Bettendorf) (s_a) denote places for animals to get water and hence an activity outside the settlement area (Ramge et al., 2002: 925–926). Instances as *IN DER BANSDRENK* (Biwisch) (s_a) even suggest communal use inside the administrative rural unit, the *Bann*.

The lexeme *Dréicht* (in the onomasticon only) denotes plots that domesticated animals were driven onto or through (Ramge et al., 2002: 928–929). In general they are not very common and almost exclusively occur as simplex. Examples are: *Um Dréicht* (Noertrange) (t_p), *unter der Dricht* (Grosbous) (dal) and *Hinterstdrecht* (Buschrodt) (s_w).

The lexeme *Dréisch* (in the onomasticon only) can technically only attest fallow land in crop rotation (Ramge et al., 2002: 306–307), therefore it is plausible that this land was then also used for pastoral agriculture in the past, as the animal manure would also fertilise the ground. See below in 2.2 for a few examples of the lexeme that can clearly be linked to animals and hence to pastoral uses.

The lexeme *Aap* (in the onomasticon only) occurs four times in the general corpus, possibly always denoting the same place in Remerschen, as in *AAP* (Remerschen) (il₃₀) and depicts a meadow at a river bed (see Dittmaier, 1963: 7). Pasture as lush meadows on a river bank are also invoked by the lexeme *Au* (in the onomasticon only) (see Dittmaier, 1963: 17–18), as in *IN DER AU* (Born) (s_a), *Pulls-Aa* (Bois) (a_p), *DIEFENEI* (Colmar) (il_c) and *Ee* (Kautenbach) (a_c).

This lexeme occurs more frequently than the previous but as not been very productive in general.

The notion of broad open plains, as possibly denoted by the adjective *breed* ‘wide, broad’ (LOD: s. v. *breet*), as in *Breidel* (Abweiler) (a_p) and *BREIDELT* (Mertzig) (il₃₀), is often interpreted as a meadow and could hence be an indicator for the presence of pasture land (see Dittmaier, 1963: 40).

The quality of pasture is often indicated as determiner to a lexeme that denotes a grazing plot. Pastoral land does not seem to be qualified by any good properties in general (contrary to plots for crop cultivation, see 6.2), with the exception that on occasion pasture land is denoted by its dampness, suggesting the water content is in relation to the quality of the grazing material, as in *an der Naasswiss* (Wecker) (s_n). The sole instance *Honigwies* (Breidweiler) (dal and a_p) (literally *honey meadow*) most likely does not denote a good quality of a pasture plot (see Dittmaier, 1963: 113–114) but general apiculture as is suggested by all other instances in the general corpus invoking honey.

Pastoral land can be qualified by the lexeme *séiss* ‘sweet’ (LOD: s. v. *séiss*), which always occurs in *determiner* position, as in *Séissekléi* (Ehlinge) (a_c), *am Séissgaart* (Schouweiler) (s_n) and *Séisswis* (Rolling et Assel) (s_a), of which the latter is among the more popular formations.

In most cases, however, pasture is qualified rather by its lesser quality, almost exclusively by the adjective *sauer* ‘sour’ (LOD: s. v. *sauer*), as in *Sauerwiss* (Roodtsur-Syre) (a_p) and *Sauerpesch* (Tuntange) (a_p). In some cases, the same qualification is used for forest areas, as in *IN DER SAUERHART* (Troine) (s_a) and *ënnert dem Sauerbësch* (Munsbach) (a_p), or fallow land, like *AUF DEM SAUERDRIESCH* (Mompach) (s_a), which seems to indicate a poor grazing yield for the animals that were led onto it, see also below, 5.2. A similar idea might be present in *im Essig* (Ell and Huttange) (a_p), where the name refers to vinegar and infers lesser quality (Dittmaier, 1963: 66–67).

In a few specific names, neither animals nor pasture in general is invoked but the act of overexertion with the lexeme *Schënn(er)*, which does not exist as a noun in modern Luxembourgish but which is often linked to bad geomorphology that demands a lot of strength from the animals working it (Dittmaier, 1963: 268). Examples are: *IM GEISSCHINDER* (Niederanven) (s_a), *im Schinder* (Merl) (a) and *Schënnbiërg* (Vianden) (a_c).

Another common attribute of negative qualification of pasture is by invoking its non firm but sticky texture, as in *Schlammwiss* (Weyer) (s_n).

2.2 Domesticated Animals

Considering the domesticated animals that are evoked in the general corpus and that are linked to agrarian production, goat (*Geess*) (LOD: s. v. *Geess*), sheep (*Schof*) (LOD: s. v. *Schof*), cow (*Kou*) (LOD: s. v. *Kou*) and pig (*Schwäin*) (LOD: s. v. *Schwäin*) stand out (in that order). The number of occurrences for each animal are linked to a form of semi-pastoralism, which is especially evoked while referencing goats and sheep. The names that are characterised by the four aforementioned domesticated animals can be subdivided into *names that show simple location* of the animals, *names that indicate grazing or pasture* and *names that show pastoralism*.

A general location of domesticated animals occurs frequently but less often than a reference to pasture. These places indicated the presence of a domesticated species without specifically hinting to the nature of their presence. In some cases, animal herding and transport might possibly be invoked but in most cases, these locations have to be viewed as grazing or shelter plots in severe weather conditions. In most cases, either positive or negative elevation can be referenced, as in *Kougrond* (Kayl) (a_c), *am Koubiery* (Kehlen) (a_p), *Kéikopp* (Biwer) (a_c), *auf dem Geishivel* (Bastendorf) (dal), *Schoofsbiery* (Moestroff) (a_c) and *Im Geisengründchen* (Waldbredimus) (s_u). A reference to positive elevation is more common but it seems that negative elevation is foremost evoked when referring to goats and sheep. Very steep elevations are only referenced together with sheep and goat, which is an indication that those animals were actually grazing in these otherwise unfavourable land areas: *Schooffiels* (Gréngewald) (a_c), *SCHOFSCHEID* (Binsfeld) (s_a) and *BEI DER GEISLEY* (Warcken) (s_a). A reference to forest areas can occur, as in *HINTER KUHHDARDEN* (Huttange) (s_a), *Geis Waeldgen* (Tarchamps) (a) and *Geiswäldchen* (Bignonville) (a_p), but is quite uncommon.

Quite as infrequent are names that just reference a general location without invoking elevations or forest areas and almost exclusively reference goats and sheep. As for the other names, this category represents places that were possibly used as grazing grounds. Examples are: *auf der Schafplatz* (Moestroff) (a_p), *Schofsgaart* (Osweiler) (s_n), *An der Geishecke* (Syren) (s_u), *Kéifenn* (Hachiville) (a_c), *beim Geisbaeumchen* (Schandel) (s_u) and *In Geiswinkel* (Enscheringe) (s_u).

Other names invoke the pastoral nature of the land in respect to the domesticated animal that was led to grazing more specifically, as in *am Koudraf* (Hamm) (s_n) (as in *land plot cow(s) were driven onto*). In some cases, grazing is

specifically indicated by a lexeme referencing heathland that is determined by a lexeme for the distinct mammal that is led onto the plot to feed: *a Kéiweed* (Betzdorf) (a_p), *AUF DER KUHEID* (Hersberg et Altrier) (s_a), *an der Kouwiss* (Koerich) (a_p) and *Schoofswiss* (Frisange) (a_p). In other cases place names suggest that domesticated mammals were led onto specific plots for grazing after they had been exploited, either after harvest or while a plot was laid fallow after crop rotation. Such invocation is quite frequent and can incorporate names that specifically hint to crop rotation (which is rather uncommon in direct reference to a domesticated animal), as in *KUHDRESCH* (Filsdorf) (il₃₀), or any other kind of plot that is linked to grain production, as in *an de Schoofstécker* (Weiler-la-Tour) (a_p), *Geisenacker* (Waldbredimus) (a), *SCHAFFSTRACHEN* (Strassen) (il_c), *SCHWEINSUWENNER* (Huncherange) (s_a) and *am Kouzapp* (Hautcharage) (a_p). Very often, a general field is evoked by the lexeme *Feld* when referencing domesticated animals in agrarian production, most commonly goats and sheep, which technically could simply refer to a general location (for grazing) of that animal, rather than grazing after harvest or crop rotation. However, as this lexeme is most commonly used to depict grain production, it is to be assumed that the plots in question when referencing farm animals also bear that notion (see also Ramge et al., 2002: 353–354). Examples are: *in den Keh felder* (Steinheim) (a) *Schoofsfeld* (Elvange) (s_a) *im Geissfeld* (Mondercange) (a) *GEISPELT* (Mondorf-les-Bains) (il₃₀)

Pastoralism of the four mentioned animal species can be expressed in a manner of ways but it tends to be expressed either by referring to the movement of animal or a intermediary way station. There are many instances denoting the herding and transfer of domesticaed animals, mostly with the lexeme *Wee* ‘way’ (LOD: s.v. *Wee*) or more seldom with the lexeme *Pad* ‘path’ (LOD: s.v. *Pad*), as in *am Kouwee* (Koerich) (Ap), *auf dem Geissenweg* (Wellenstein) (a), *SCHOOFSPAAD* (Berdorf) (il₃₀) and *auf dem Schweins paadt* (Moestroff) (a). A crossing for animals, however, is also expressed by lexemes that designate places for crossing waters, as in *GEISBRÜCK* (Tandel) (il_c), *KUHBRÜCK* (Mamer) (c) and *SCHOFSBREK* (Munshausen) (il₃₀), as well as *Kéistee* (Roeser) (s_n) and *GEISFUERTCHEN* (Stegen) (s_a).

Way stations or temporary shelters that could have been used while passing through to protect from sun and rain seem to have been permanent, as there are many names in that category. Herein fall names that simply refer to a place for rest, as in *in der Kuhrascht* (Cruchten) (a) and *KUHREST* (Holzthum) (s_a), or rarely the padding point for a herd, as in *hinter der Kuhhirt* (Heispelt) (s_u). In most cases, however, the lexeme *Onner* that only exists in the onomasti-

con and is linked to the preposition *ënner* ‘under, below [a place, an object]’ (LOD: s. v. *ënner*) and marks a shelter from the noon sun (Dittmaier, 1963: 324; Ramge et al., 2002: 934–935), as in *am Kéionner* (Weiler-la-Tour) (s_n), *Kéionner* (Peppange) (a_c), *Schoofsonner* (Imbringen) (a_c) and *Schweinsunner* (Hunche-range) (a). As the lexeme does not exist in modern Luxembourgish, folk etymology can occur, as in *Kéihënner* (Peppange) (a_p) (literally *cows butt*).

Watering places that are referenced in the named places also indicate some sort pastoralism, if not simply herding, as in *AUF DER KUHDRAENK* (Trintingerthal) (s_a), *SCHAFFSPULL* (Esch-sur-Sûre) (il_c), *KUHBOUR* (Schandel) (il_c) and *Bei Geisen Weyer* (Olm) (s_n).

It is not clear whether the few named stables, as in *in den Schweinställen* (Wahlhausen) (a_p), *RANNERSTALL AM* (Reckange-sur-Mess) (il₃₀) and *IM KALBERSTALL* (Merkholtz) (s_a), refer to temporary or permanent stables or can even hint to one farmer using a stable. Names, such as *a Bannstall* (Pissange) (a_p), indicate communal use, which might be a hint that this was the case for all places coined as stables in the landscape. This remains unclear, however.

The aforementioned name categories seem to indicate a form of semi-pastoralism, the exact nature of which, however, remains unclear. The sheer mass of names and the exact location of some names in particular seem to indicate that it was a phenomenon that possibly spanned beyond pure day herding.

Apart from the four mentioned domesticated mammals that fuelled economic goals, the horse is also mentioned on occasion. Even though a generic location for horses is often mentioned, as in *Päerdsbësch* (Kahler) (a_p), *Pferdsgard* (Emerange) (a), *PFERDSGROICHT* (Eschweiler) (il_c), *PERDSKAPP* (Consdorf) (il₃₀) and *oben der Pferdsheck* (Gralingen) (a_p), there is no indication for letting horses graze on agricultural land, except in fallow land, as in *AUF DEM PFERDSRIESCH* (Bois et Fermes) (s_a). There is some mention of stables, the exact nature of which remains unclear (see above), as in *PERDSSTÄLLCHEN* (Rosport) (il₃₀). Aside from a horse market, which is indicated a lot in the general corpus but only in Grevenmacher, as in *auf dem Perdsmarkt* (Grevenmacher) (a), there is significant mention of horse graveyards, as in *Pferdkirchhof* (Diekirch) (a) and *PERDSKIRFECH* (Mondercange) (il₃₀), which might indicate that a place had a difficult geomorphology for a horse to work in, if not an actual graveyard.

2.3 Names and Distribution

The following maps show the distribution of specific lexemes possibly linked to animal husbandry. All of them show a relative size in the distribution of the lexeme sets (relative to each other in occurrences), which is based on the CSV-exports highlighting the section. The position is therefore not to be considered absolute.

Fig. 3 shows the distribution of the loaned lexemes *Brill* and *Pescht*. In general, the latter occurs more frequently, but all of them can occur all over the Grand Duchy. Fig. 4 shows the distribution of qualities inferred to a plot, where it becomes apparent that any plots are rather marked by a negative quality. Fig. 5 shows the distribution and occurrences of lexemes denoting pasture and specifically highlights the preponderance towards the lexeme *Wiss*. Fig. 6 shows a distribution of other lexemes used in names in correlation with animal herding, whereas the lexeme *Dréisch* is most common. While fig. 7 shows the distribution of names referring to specific animals in the general corpus with goats and cows being the most referenced, fig. 8 shows the occurrences of different lexemes in correlation with animal movements.

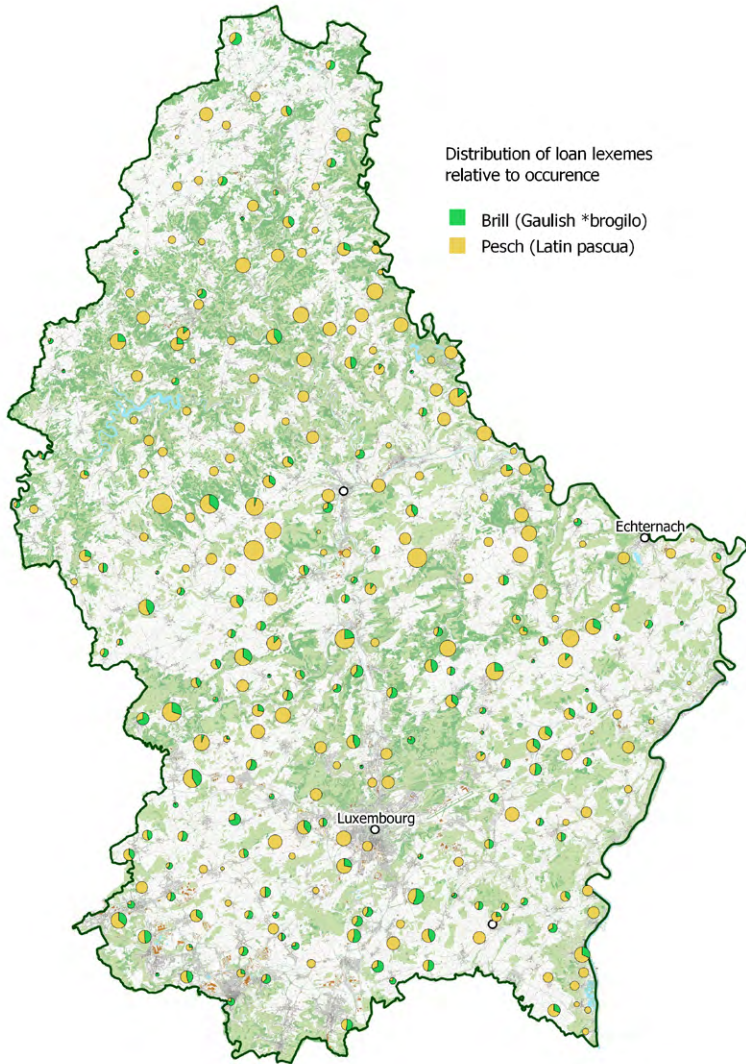


Fig.3 – Distribution of lexemes *Brill* and *Pesch*

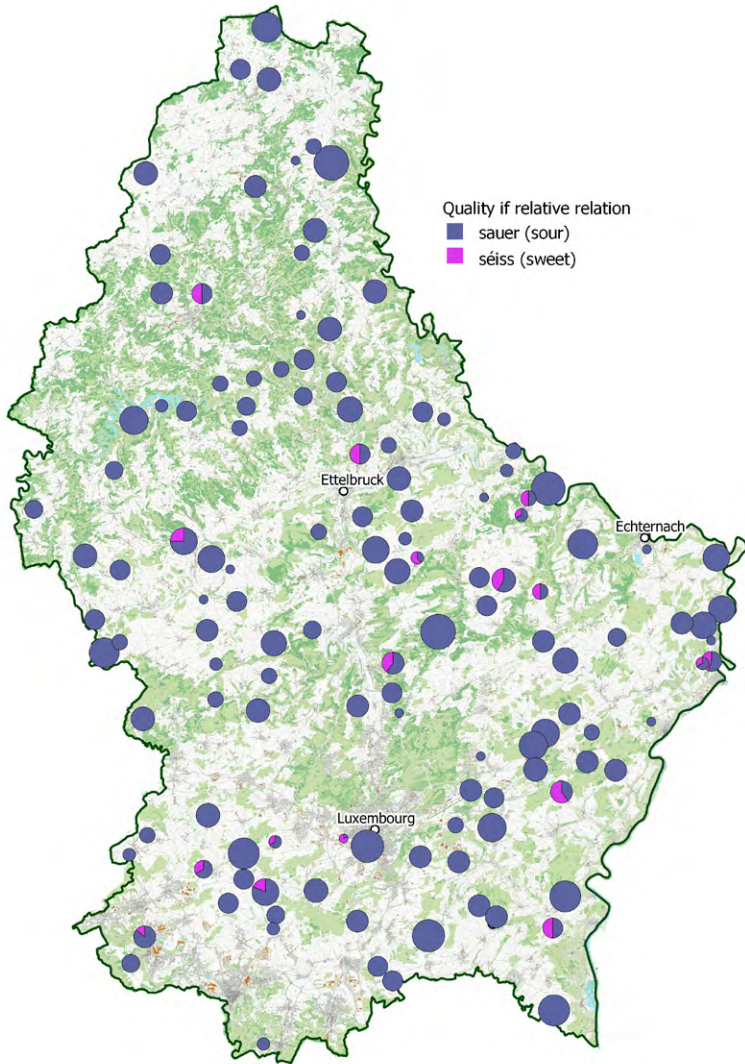


Fig. 4 – Distribution of qualities *sour* and *sweet*

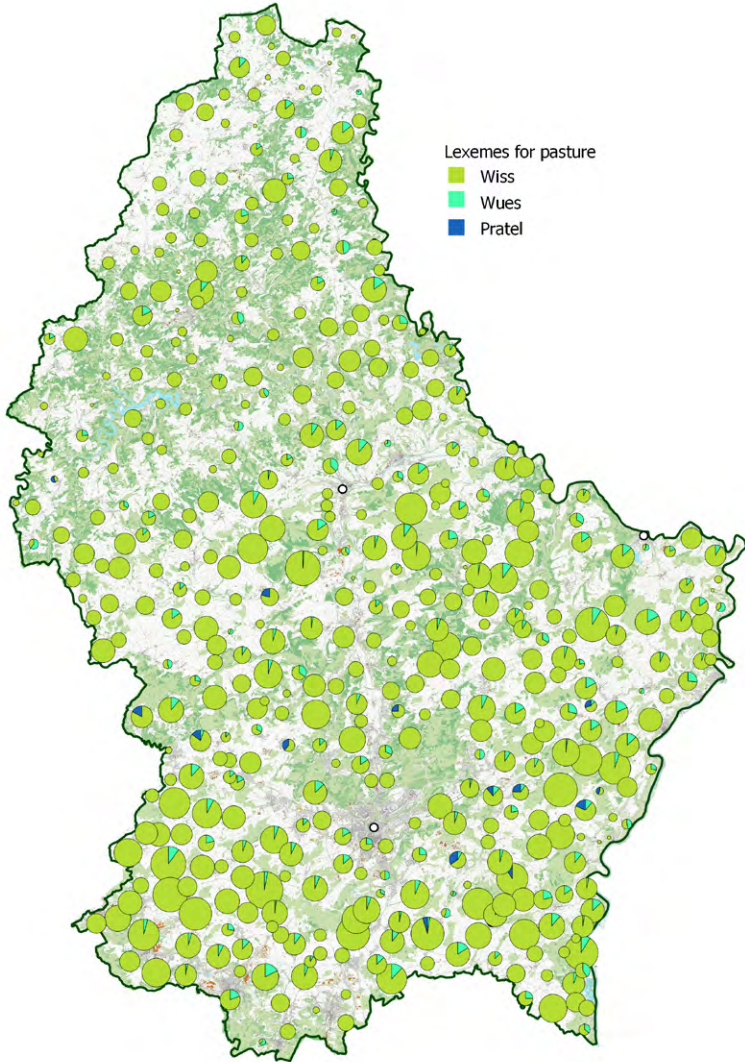


Fig.5 – Distribution of lexemes discerning pasture

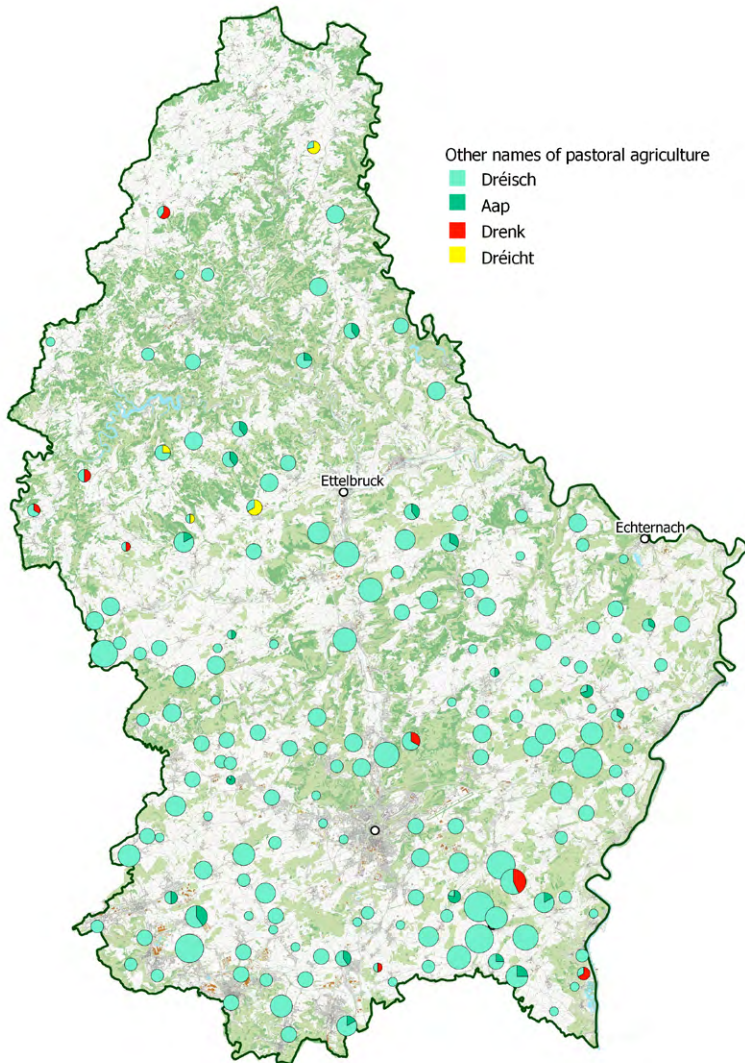


Fig.6 – Distribution of lexems corroborating animal herding

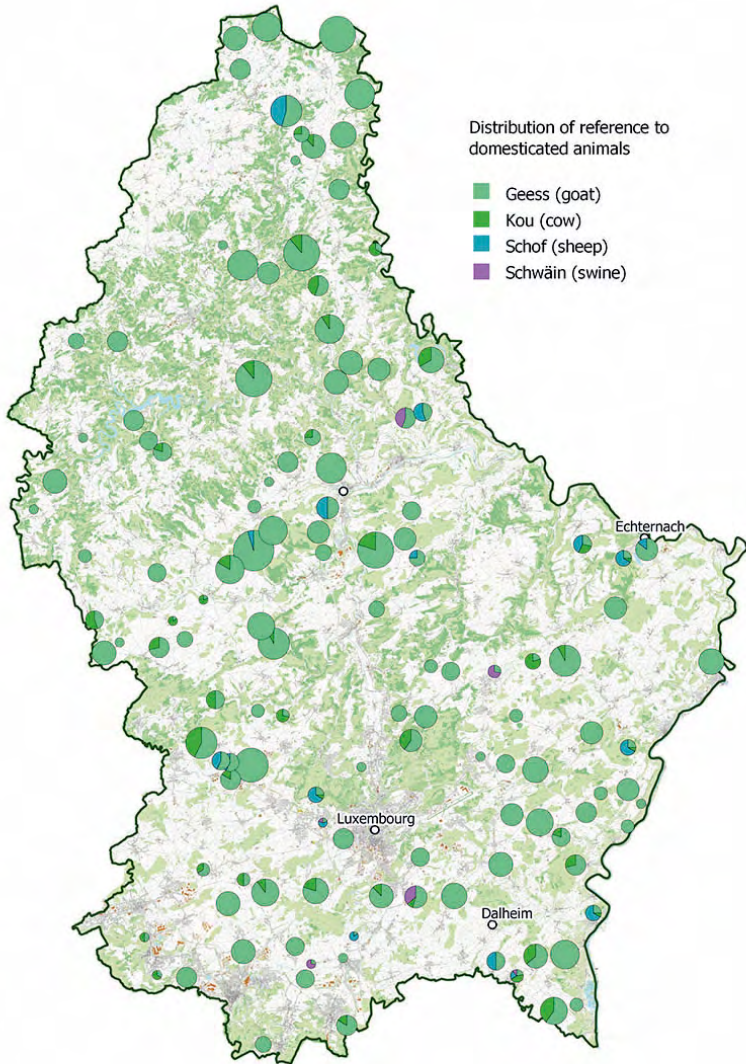


Fig. 7 – Distribution of names relating to specific kinds of animals

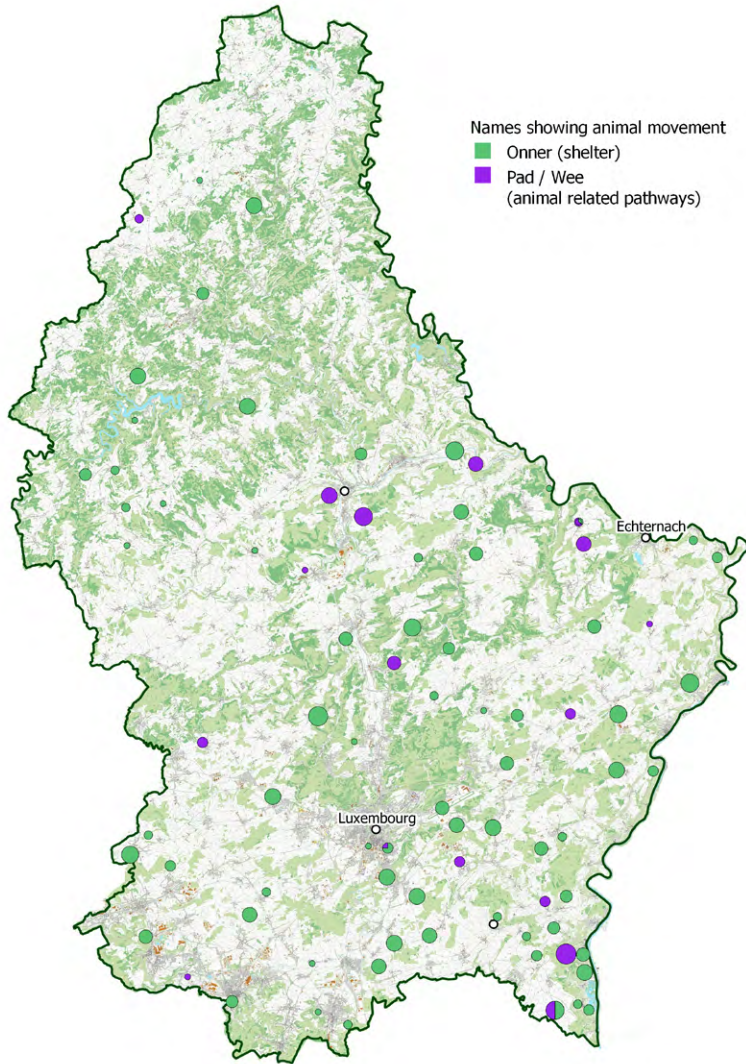


Fig.8 – Distribution of lexemes relating to animal movement

3 Grain Production and Staple Foods

Crop agriculture and the use of grains as staple foods dates back to prehistoric times and stands in correlation of initial sedentariness. Even though wild cereals had been used for consumption during nomadic lifestyles, the Neolithic Revolution introduced a completely renewed lifestyle based on planned agriculture that demanded a sedentary lifestyle (Perlès, 1996: 42–44).

Rural agriculture in Luxembourg mainly lived off staple food production, which meant producing grains that were also considered duties for the tithe and other taxes (see e.g. Werveke, 1983: 1.128–130, 255, 361, 530, 2.190, 263, 344).

The named places in Luxembourg seem to portray a land used for staple foods that mostly focuses on grain production itself. Other staple crops occur less frequently and with much less dedication to favourable plots, often being reduced to growth at marginal plots or areas not specifically dedicated to agriculture. This of course portrays the necessity for grain production as key means of economic sustainability in rural localities. The inventory of portrayed lexemes seem to render a state before the Columbian Exchange or at least a state before the extensive adoption of crops coming from the new world, except for the potato, which seems to occur in two places in one settlement, see below.

3.1 Specific Grains

The invocation of specific grains, especially when together with lexemes that indicate the exploitation of a land plot, give evidence of the different kinds of staple crops used and how they were grown. Grain production is by far the most relevant in this domain and it seems that the economic importance of a crop is reflected in how often and in what manner a lexeme for a given crop is elicited. Some of these lexemes can occur as simplex but in general, a compound environment seems to be preferred. The plant lexemes discussed here below can only take a *determiner* position in a compound as they always denote the use of the plot but not the plot itself. Due to the scope of this paper, only positive empirical evidence can be scrutinised, not, however, hypothetical possibilities of other crops that were deemed less poignant to be named in the rural landscape.

Wheat was most likely the most important crop, along with barley, which is also portrayed in the number of occurrences in the general corpus. The lexeme *Weess* ‘wheat’ (LOD: s. v. *Weess*), often also misinterpreted as the lexeme for the colour term *wäiss* ‘white’ (LOD: s. v. *wäiss*), occurs most frequently denot-

ing specific plots dedicated for crop agriculture, most prominently with the lexeme *Feld* ‘field’ (LOD: s. v. *Feld*), as in *Weessefeldchen* (Olm) (a_p), *an de Wäissfelder* (Useldange) (s_n), *am Wäissfeld* (Waldbredimus) (a_p) and *Weizenfeld* (Weyer) (a_p), along other lexemes that clearly hint to agricultural exploitation, such as *Wäisslängten* (Wintrange) (a_p), *WEIZENSTÜCKER* (Beringen) (il_c) and *an de Wäissestécker* (Wintrange) (a_p). Although wheat is also named referring to general plots on occasion, as in *IM WEIZENGRUND* (Uebersyren) (s_a) and *WEIZENBERG* (Weydig) (il_c), this is not very frequent.

Barley is as common in the general corpus as is wheat and it is also mostly determining agricultural exploitation (mostly through the lexeme *Feld*), as in *um Geeschtefeld* (Sandweiler) (a_p), *im Gerstenfeld* (Wiltz) (a) and *im Gerstengarten* (Niederdonven) (a). Contrary to wheat, barley can apparently also be evoked as simplex denoting the use of the land, as in *im Geest* (Bivels) (a_p). While some plots invoke barley and other agricultural activity, for example pastoral agriculture, as in *GERSTENPESCH* (Stolzembourg) (s_a), other plots seem to indicate a former use of barley or the state of harvest, as in *GERSTESTOPPEL* (Gostingen) (s_a). Names, such as *AUF DER GERSTHECK* (Schandel) (s_a), need to be interpreted the same as *im Gerstengarten* above, as a delimited plot for growing barley.

Oats also occur frequently in the general corpus with the lexem *Huewer* ‘oats’ (LOD: s. v. *Huewer*). Although there are names clearly denoting the exploitation of oat fields, as in *HAFERFELDCHEN* (Brouch) (il_c), *AM HAFERSTUECK* (Senningen) (s_a) and *am Haberstück* (Senningen) (a), most instances show that oats were actually grown in plots generally unfavourable for crop production, such as along forests, *hanner dem Huewerbësch* (Steinfort) (s_a), in wetland or swamp areas, *BEIM HAFERMOERCHEN* (Bommelscheuer) (s_a), or generally in unfavourable slopes, *auf der Haferschleid* (Ernzen) (a_p), *Huewergrund* (Reckange) (s_n), *in der Haferdelt* (Landscheid) (a_p) and *auf dem haber Kneppen* (Haller) (s_u).

In eight cases, oat growth might be denoted by the lexeme (*I*)*Event* (in the onomasticon only), which might be cognate of the Latin *avena* ‘oats’ (Frings and Müller, 1968: 113–114; Bach, 1981: 322). In most cases, the lexeme occurs as a simplex, as in *ob Event* (Dellen) (dal), but seems to denote extended (ploughing) land, as in *LANGEN EVENT* (Munsbach) (il_{3,0}) *auf dem grossen Event* (Oberfeulen) (a_p) *beim kleinen Event* (Oberfeulen) (a_p). Once, unfavourable elevation is mentioned, similar to the lexeme *Huewer*, as in *In Evensdellenchen* (Obereisenbach) (s_u), and twice a delimited area is evoked, hinting to planned exploitation, as in *auf Evenheck* (Niederfeulen) (a_p).

The growth of spelt is sparsely attested in comparison to the main crops wheat and barley, nevertheless, the use of the lexeme *Spelz* ‘spelt’ (LOD: s. v. *Spelz*) as a simplex, as in *SPELTZ* (Schiffange) (il_c), or the use in compounds that refer to exploited plots, as in *Spelzefeld* (Gonderange) (a), denote the planned cultivation of the plant. Its involvement in crop rotation as a winter crop is attested by names, such as *Spelzendrisc* (Schrondweiler) (a).

Rye is possibly the fourth most common crop in the general corpus but it only occurs slightly more than spelt. Luxembourgish uses the general *corn* lexeme in the meaning rye, *Kar* ‘rye’ (LOD: s. v. *Kar*³). Its use is almost restricted to specific plots for crop exploitation, as in *KARFELD* (Mertzig) (il₃₀), *KORNFELDER (IN DEN)* (Mersch) (il_c) *in den Kornfelder* (Mertzig) (a_p) and *KARSTRACHEN* (Roeser) (il₃₀) and it never occurs as simplex, always as a *determiner*. In a few rare instances, an enclosure is linked to rye production, as in *Karheck* (Sprinkange) (a_p) or a general location, as in *am Karwenkel* (Asselborn) (a_p) *KORNFELDER IN DEN* (Mersch) (il₃₀) or even *Karwiss* (Wintrange) (a_p), the right bound compound element of which technically would indicate pasture land.

It is not clear if the old Germanic rye lexeme can be found in the toponymy of Luxembourg. Names, such as *ROCKENBESCH* (Schrondweiler) (il₃₀), *OB ROCKENDEL*T (Merscheid) (s_a) and *ROCKENBACH* (Bastendorf) (il_c), do not invoke exploited lands in any way and the lack of significant historical data on the named instances render an identification as *rye producing land plots* questionable at best.

It is not very clear if millet, which Luxembourgish does not have a lexeme for anymore, is attested in the general corpus. Names, such as *HIERSTBURN* (Marnach) (s_a), *virun Hierscht* (Machtum) (s_n) and *in Hirschacker* (Canach) (dal) might offer the general Continental Germanic lexeme for millet (OHG *hirsi*, *hirsā*) (see Pfeifer, 1993: s. v. *Hirse*) but are also prone to be contaminated forms of the lexeme *Hirsch* ‘deer, red deer’ (LOD: s. v. *Hirsch*) (see also Bach, 1981: 322). Foxtail millet (*setaria italica*) might be referenced by a few instances with the lexeme *Pen(n)i(k)* (in the onomasticon only), as in *Pennick* (Marnach) (a_p), *PENKENOICHT* (Dudelange) (s_a), *PENKELBIERG* (Hobscheid) (il₃₀) and *PENKENDELL* (Weiswampach) (il₃₀), if it represents the Latin loan *pānicum* ‘millet, *panicum italicum*’ (Georges, 1995: 2.1459) (see also Bach, 1981: 322).

While amaranth might possibly be found in the named place *Ammerwiss* (Alzingen) (Ac) (only attested at that location but five times in the general corpus) (see also Bach, 1981: 322), possible evidence for the cultivation of buck-

wheat might be invoked by the lexeme *Heede(l)* (in the onomasticon only) (see also Bach, 1981: 322), which could also refer to heather land. Examples that seem to point to buckwheat are *IM HEIDENLOCH* (Weiler-la-Tour) (s_a), *Heedelächer* (Niederdonven) (a_c), *bei den Heidengarden* (Waldbillig) (dal), *BEIM HEIDEMIER* (Tuntange) (s_a), *Heedelsfeld* (Berchem) (a_p), *Heedefeld* (Roodt) (s_n) and *Heedelt* (Berchem) (a_c).

In the general, there are only three recurring vegetables that could be seen as a staple food and or not grain crop. The cultivation of the bean is invoked by the lexeme *Boun* ‘bean’ (LOD: s. v. *Boun*), which stands in most cases as a *de-terminer* to lexemes that show land exploitation, as in *Bounäcker* (Trintingerthal) (a_c), *BOUNESTECK* (Weydig) (il₃₀), *Bounefeldchen* (Trintingerthal) (s_n), *am Bounegaart* (Rolling et Assel) (a_p) and *Bounenuecht* (Reckange) (a_c).

Beets and turnips are invoked by the lexeme *Rommel* ‘turnip’ (LOD: s. v. *Rommel*), which seems not to have been cultivated on well exploitable land plots but was rather grown at marginal plots, often at or within forest areas, as in *ROMMELSBÜSCH* (Wolwelage) (il_c), *ROMMENBÖSCH* (Roodt-sur-Syre) (il₃₀) and *RONNENBÜSCH* (Rolling et Assel) (il_c), also *iwwert Rommel* (Bigonville) (s_n) *Rommelsbiert* (Bois) (a_p).

In general, it seems that cabbage was not grown in favourable plots but there are exceptions. The lexeme *Kabes* ‘cabbage’ (LOD: s. v. *Kabes*), from Latin *caput* (see REW: 157–159) occurs sometimes in relation to enclosed plots, as in *KAPES-GARTEN* (Beyren) (s_a), or even exploitable land plots, as in *Kappestrachen* (Livange) (a_c) but in most cases, a general location not specifically linked to crop growth is invoked, as in *in Kappesberg* (Schweich) (a_p), *bei Kapesmierchen* (Bascharage) (a_p) and *KAPESWIES* (Burmerange) (il_c). In a few doubt-able instances, the German lexeme *Kohl* can possibly denote cabbage production, as in *Kohlgert* (Kaundorf) (a_p), *KOHLENKAMP* (Heisdorf) (il_c) and *Kohlwies* (Heinerscheid) (a_p), but in most cases it invokes the use of coal (Dittmaier, 1963: 156).

Hops are only clearly attested in the name *Happgaard* (literally *hop gaarden*), which is often linked to the introduction of hops by monasteries (see above, 2), as in *in den Hapgarten* (Sandweiler) (a), *HAP GART* (Livange) (il₃₀) and *Im alten hopfgarten* (Kautenbach) (a). All other instances remain unclear and most likely denote something other than hops due to the terrain they depict, which is often unfavourable for agriculture.

The potato, via the lexeme *Gromper* ‘potato’ (LOD: s. v. *Gromper*) only occurs referring to two places in the section Wasserbillig but in multiple instances, as in *Gromperelousen* (Wasserbillig) (a_p) and *Gromperelooch* (Wasser-

billig) (s_a). If these plots really depict the cultivation of the potato and not something else that remains unclear (possibly change via folk etymology), as it seems the case for *Grompelpull* (Grosbous) (dal) that the place would need to have been coined after the general adoption of the potato around the 17th century. The instances *im Grompierenloch* (Wasserbillig) (a) and *in den Grompirenlosen* (Wasserbillig) (a) seem to preserve the vowel quality of the original compound **Gond-Bir* (literally *ground pear*, similar to the motive of *earth apple* as in Dutch *Erdaapel* or French *pomme de terre*).

3.2 General Crops

There are a multitude of names linked to general crop production and acre lands, and myriad more such names that possibly do so. Considering the nature of place names, as well as many instances without any good etymology, discussing all possible, but in the majority doubtful lexemes showing plant based agriculture, would overextend the scope of this chapter. Hence, in the following, only those lexemes are discussed that clearly can be linked to a general cultivation activity in the general corpus. The lexemes discussed can be subdivided into a general category, lexemes denoting plot extents, such lexemes denoting the form of a plot and lexemes highlighting the quality of a plot. The general category lexemes are by far the more frequent. The lexemes can occur as simplex and even rarely as a *determiner* in compounds but for most of the cases, the lexemes occur in compounds, in *determined* position, given the fact that this category of lexeme always directly denotes the land itself (or cultural interpretation or delimitation of it).

Within the general category of lexemes denoting plant based agriculture, *Feld* is the most common, occurring in more than 7 000 instances, as in *MILLE-FELD* (Wintrange) (il_{30}), *a Geesspelt* (Altwies) (a_p) and *Im Neifelt* (Altwies) (s_n). In almost all cases, either a possessive relation or the purpose of the field is expressed.

The lexeme *Acker*, which does not exist in Luxembourgish anymore and has to be seen as an older toponymic remnant occurs much less in the general corpus (around 1000 instances). Examples are: *am krommen Aker* (Useldange) (s_n), *an der Akerwiss* (Trintingerthal) (s_n) and *Bounenaker* (Nospelt) (a_c). It was succeeded in modern use by the lexeme *Stéck* 'field [arable land]' (LOD: s.v. *Stéck*), which denotes a *specific part of the land (used plant based agriculture)* and occurs quantitatively on equal terms in the general corpus. Plots denoted by this lexeme are either determined by the purpose or usage of the field, the

posessor or the nature of the ground. Examples are: *an de Wäissestécker* (Wintrange) (s_n), *Klosstéck* (Wolwelange) (s_n) and *Suebelstécker* (Wormeldange) (a_p).

Crop rotation is invoked by the lexeme *Dréisch* (in the onomasticon only), which can occur more often as a simplex than other lexemes denoting general plant based agriculture, as in *an der Dréisch* (Wickrange) (a_p). In compounds, it can be determined by the color of the plot when the field is left fallow, as in *Routdréisch* (Schwebsingen) (a_p), or plants or animals than can occur in the vicinity, *Wollefsdréisch* (Welfrange) (a_c) and *Birkendr éisch* (Welfrange) (a_c), by its possessor or administrative location, *op Büisserdréisch* (Trintingenthal) (a_p), or simply by a quality beyond the crop yield, as in *Aaldréischer* (Vichten) (a_c).

A lexeme that is highly frequent and denotes general plots dedicated to plant based agriculture is the lexeme *Uecht*, which does not exist in modern Luxembourgish any more. It is rather restricted to Moselle Franconian area and is amongst the lexemes that bear the highest variation in the general corpus, which might be an indicator for its age and cultural value. In early texts, it is strongly linked to the dominion, either by rule or taxation (see a. o. Hardt, 1868: 323, 432, 574, 608) but its etymology is debated. The idea of a. o. Dittmaier (1963: 8) to link the lexeme to the MHG *âhte* ‘prosecution’ seems to be derived from the ownership of the land by the dominion, which is often portrayed in historic deeds. This is most likely secondary, though, especially when compared to the lexeme *Brill* of Celtic origin, which has a similar link to the dominion, see above, 5.1. This fact, together with its spread in the Moselle Franconian area and a preponderance to be found in areas that are linked to a good terrain, which was already used by earlier settlers (see tab. 2), an etymology as it is explained in Mersch (2023: 279-281, § 24), as the *plot at the rear end of the settlement* seems more plausible. The relations of determiner and determined in compounds are the same as with the lexeme *Feld*. The lexeme *Uecht* occurs frequently in simplex, though. Examples are: *in der Aicht* (Ospern) (dal), *obent der Oicht* (WallendorfPont) (a_p), *LANGACHT* (Wormeldange) (il_c) and *Schlassuecht* (Useldange) (a_c).

However, very rarely, another (mostly visual) property is invoked, as in *Quäschemuergen* (Dickweiler) (s_a).

The lexeme *Jauch* designates a field measure roughly the same size as a *Muergen* but occurs much less frequently and almost always in simplex, be it often as a plural (see Dittmaier, 1963: 120). Examples are: *in den Jauchen* (Christnach) (dal), *im Jeichenkaempchen* (Heiderscheid) (a_p) and *auf den Jeichen* (Heiderscheid) (a_p).

A much bigger land measure is denoted by the lexeme *Houf*: roughly thirty times the size of a *Muergen* (Dittmaier, 1963: 116–117). The lexeme is not very frequent and can occur either as simplex or as *determiner* in compounds, as in *Houf* (Bous) (a_i), *op Houfuecht* (Bous) (a_p), *Houflach* (Bous) (a_p) and *auf dem Huf* (Wolwelange) (a_p).

Among the lexemes that can denote the form of a plot (and are rather clearly linked to plant based agriculture), it can be divided between plots that show an elongated plot and plots that show a non-level visual motive. Only one of the lexemes in discussion here can be found in modern Luxembourgish. Among the former, the lexeme *Strachen* (always as a plural) is the most prominent. It denotes the straight line of a plot (Dittmaier, 1963: 304, 306) and is often used synonymously with the lexeme *Stéck* (which has a tendency to occur in the plural). Examples are *Faulstrachen* (Weyer) (s_o), *an den ënneschte Strachen* (Wickrange) (a_i) and *IN DEN BIRESCHSTRACHEN* (Weiler-la-Tour) (s_a).

Also denoting the elongated nature of a plot is the lexeme *Laangert*. It is most likely not a compound of the adjective *laang* ‘long’ (LOD: s. v. *laang*) and *Äerd* ‘Earth’ (LOD: s. v. *Äerd*) due to grammatical gender but rather a nominalisation of the adjective in question. The lexeme has become productive and functions as a simplex in the general corpus. It occurs almost never in compounds. Examples are: *Laangert* (Medernach) (a_i) *LANGLAANGERT* (Merl) (il₃₀) and *HINTERSTEN LANGERT* (Reckange-sur-Mess) (il_c).

The most frequent non-level motive is expressed with the lexeme *Géier* (in the onomasticon only), which denotes pointy land plots. It is cognate with OHG *gêr* ‘javelin’ (AWB: 4.219). The lexeme mostly occurs as a simplex. The idea of the narrow field can occur on level grounds but the lexeme can also be found in relation to elevations. Examples are: *am Géier* (Weiler-la-Tour) (a_p), *an de Géieren* (Eschweiler) (a_p) and *KLEINE GEHR* (Weyer) (s_a).

The lexeme *Kéier* ‘bend, turn, corner [in a road]’ (LOD: s. v. *Kéier*⁴) always a horizontal bend of the denoted and, due to its nature, elongated land plot. It is not very common in general and mostly occurs as a simplex. Examples are: *an der Kéier* (Tarchamps) (s_a), *Grousskéier* (Goesdorf) (a_c), *AM KEHRCHEN* (Neunhausen) (s_{/a}) and *IN DER KEHRT* (Stolzembourg) (s_a).

There are a few ways to denote favourable areas in general but only the lexeme *Gold* is specifically linked to plant based agriculture. It occurs rather rarely. Examples are: *GOLDSTËCKER* (Bivange) (il₃₀), *IN DEN GOLDSTRACHEN* (Bivange) (s_a) and *GOLDE FELD* (Boulaide) (il₃₀). Possibly the same idea is behind the unique name *Gottesgooff* (Kleinmacher) (s_u). The very general reference might indicate advantageous plant based agriculture. Any other idea seems less probable.

The lexeme *Bitz/Betz* (in the onomasticon only) possibly refers to the mostly good nature of a plot, without really distinguishing between pasture or crop land (Dittmaier, 1963: 30). Examples are: *BITZ MUMMLACH* (Bissen) (il₃₀), *Betzbierg* (Oberanven) (a_p), *BETZBERG* (Oberanven) (s_a) and *Bëtzen* (Binsfeld) (a_c).

The use of the lexeme *séïss* ‘sweet’ (LOD: s. v. *séïss*) sometimes occurs together with lexemes designating plant growth, as in *am Séïssfeld* (Erpeldange) (s_n) and *am Séïssaker* (Filsdorf) (a_p), but most often occurs when designating pasture land.

A negative connotation is invoked by the lexeme *sauer* ‘sour’ (LOD: s. v. *sauer*), as in *IM SAUERFELD* (Wickrange) (s_a), *IN DER SAUERACHT* (Rippig) (s_a), *an der Saueruecht* (Rippig) (s_n) and *in der Saueracht* (Rippig) (a), see also 5.1. An equally bad or possibly even worse yield is denoted by the lexeme *Honger* ‘hunger’ (LOD: s. v. *Honger*). It only occurs very rarely, as in *Hongerstrachen* (Olm) (a_p).

The lexeme *faul* ‘rotten, bad’ (LOD: s. v. *faul*) mostly designates any stagnating waters, as in *FAULENBRUCH* (Munshausen) (s_a) or *FAULEBOUR* (Moestroff) (il₃₀) but in cases, such as *FAULLAND* (Mompach) (il₃₀), *Faulstrachen* (Weyer) (a_c) or *FAULT FELD* (Lullange) (il₃₀) and *FAULFELD* (Lullange) (il_c), a link to crop growth seems plausible. In that cases, the names most likely express the less fertile quality of the land plot, soil wise, due to stagnating waters (see Ramge et al., 2002: 351). It is interesting to note that the compound *Faulstrachen* is the most common among such formations.

All the lexemes possible in conveying a qualitative outline of a land plot used for plant growth are of a determinative nature. Except for the lexeme *Bi/etz*, which can also occur as a simplex, all other lexemes function solely as *determiners*. That this is also the case for *Bi/etz* when not in simplex is an indicator that the quality of a land plot designated for vegetable agriculture was not expressed by the core noun of a plot. The semantic slot for referring to plant based agriculture needed to be filled first, which than later could be further determined by a qualitative attribute.

3.3 Names and Distribution

The following maps show the distribution of specific lexemes possibly linked to grain and staple food production. All of them show a relative size in the distribution of the lexeme sets (relative to each other in occurrences), except for 12, which used a fixed scale in order to offer a better image of the distribution of

the lexemes. All the maps are based on the CSV-exports highlighting the section. The position is therefore not to be considered absolute.

While fig. 9 shows the distribution of lexemes for different grains, with a preponderance for wheat, fig. 10 shows the distribution of some lexemes for other staple foods. Fig. 11 give a picture of the distribution of lexemes rendering acre measures, of which all lexemes are obsolete in Modern Luxembourgish. Fig. 12 shows the occurrences of different lexemes rendering the visual shape of plot used for crop production. In absolute numbers, the lexeme *Géier* occurs far more frequently. The distribution on the map shows, however, that there is a propensity to denote curved plots in the northern parts of the Grand Duchy. For the use of qualities (sour and sweet) in referring to a land plot for agriculture, refer to fig. 4 above.

4. Summary

The present analysis offers insights into Luxembourgish toponymy and its relevance for the study of rural agrarian history, while focussing on the topics of animal herding and grain and staple food production. Concerning animal husbandry, most names in the data hint to the use of pasture in general. Other names clearly indicate to a sort of semi-pastoralism of domesticated animals, mostly, cows, goats and lambs. Concerning staple food production, the evidence for the growth of grain crops far exceeds that of any other plant. Among the most relevant grains is by far wheat, most likely due to its value in direct taxation. However, most names that hint to the growth of food staples do so by referencing a general land use as a farmable land.

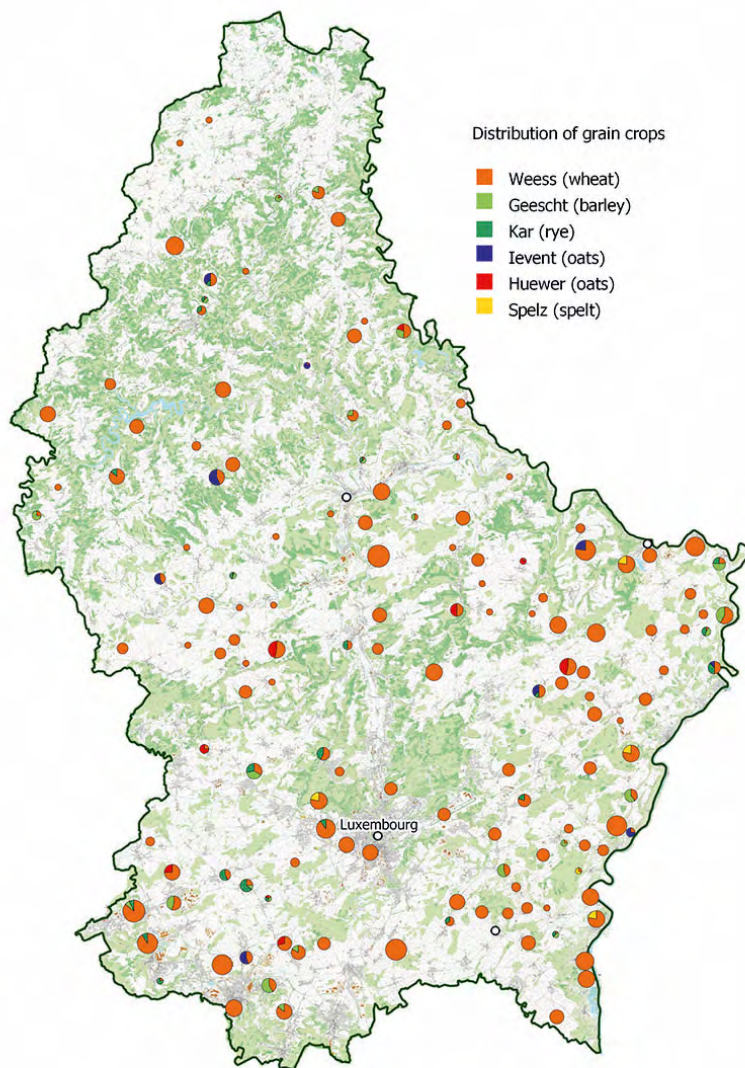


Fig. 9 – Distribution of lexemes *fro* specific kinds of grains

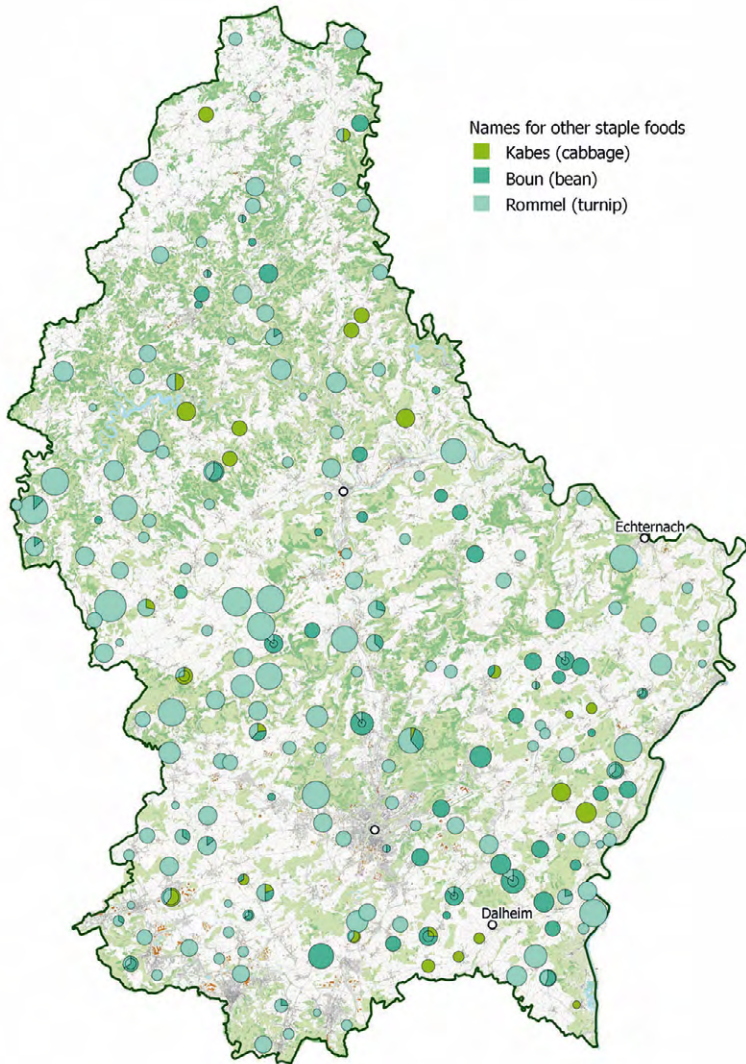


Fig. 10 – Distribution of lexemes for specific kinds of staple foods

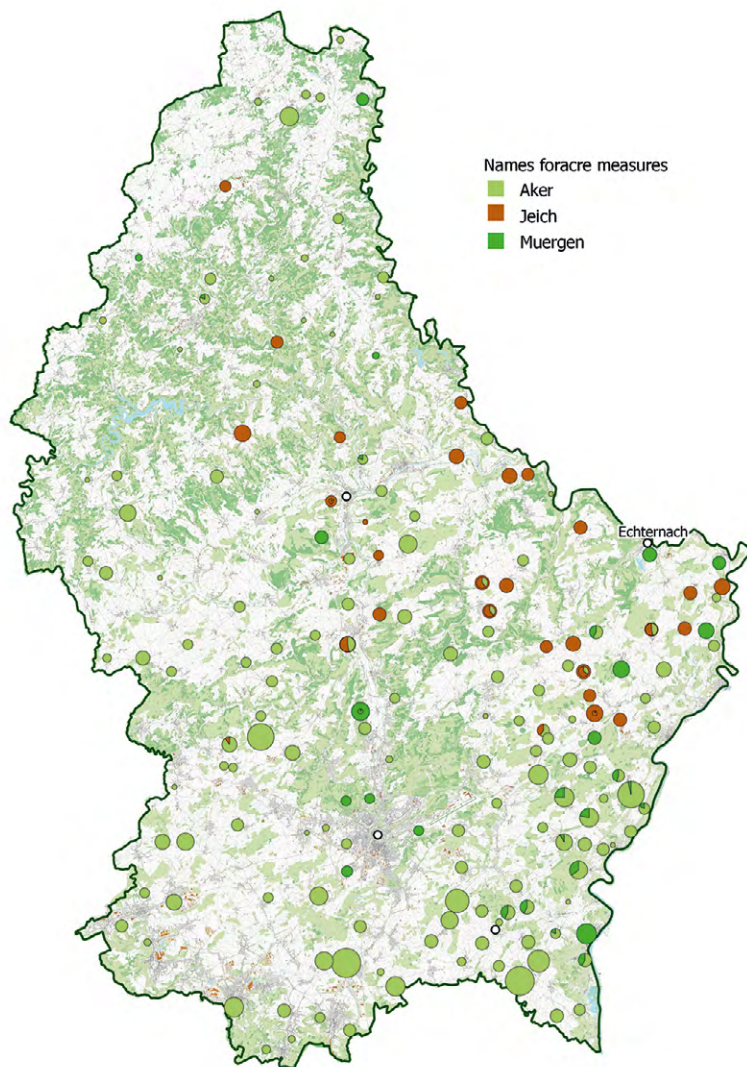


Fig. 11 – Distribution of lexemes for measures of land

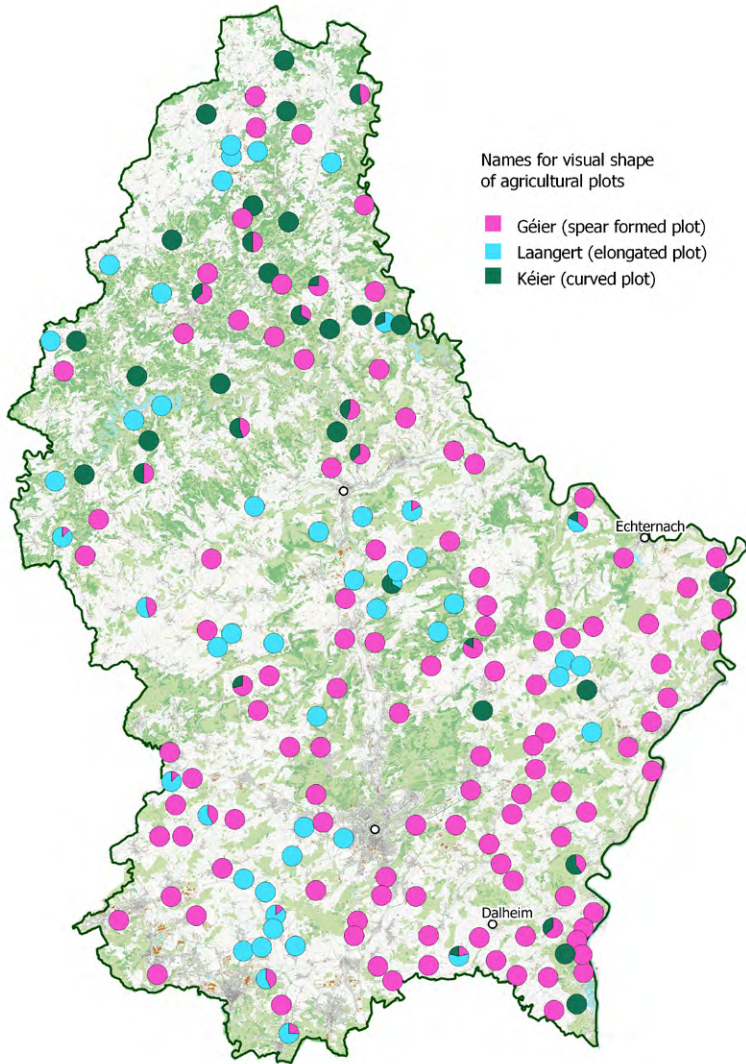


Fig.12 – Distribution of lexemes referring to visual shapes

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Note on the maps

The maps delivered in this article were created in QGIS using corpus data (see section 1.1) and open access cartographic material and data sets under CC0 license distributed and maintained by the Administration de cadastre et de topographie of the Luxembourgish government. The materials and data sets can be accessed upon the official Luxembourgish open data portal (<https://data.public.lu/en/organizations/administration-du-cadastre-et-de-la-topographie/>).

[*Abstract:* The following article offers insights into Luxembourg’s microtoponymastics and its value for local rural agricultural history. The focus is mainly on livestock farming and the production of cereals and other staple foods as attested by field names. Each section is accompanied by choropleth maps, the most relevant names being discussed in order to illustrate the distribution of the name type and the section for the whole Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.]

