*Sorin PALIGA (Bucharest)*

**A NEW, AND MORE DECISIVE, DESCENT INTO THE REALM OF *\*OR-, \*UR-*** 1

**Abstract:** The paper updates and adds new data regarding the situation of the reconstructable Pre-Indo-European root \**OR*-, *\*UR­*-, also suggested as probable in the case of some previously analysed place-names, *Vrbas* and *Varna*, possibly also in *Warszawa.* This times, the focus is on Romanian *oraș*, dialectal also *uraș* ‘township’and *uriaș* ‘giant, very big’, obviously related to a series of place names like *Orșova*, *Oradea* and others, in their turn reflecting the ancient Thracian forms attested as *ora, oros, oron* in a series of Thracian place names like *Al-oros*, *Az-oros*, *El-oros*, *Gaz-oros*, *Thest-oros*, *Milk-oros*, *Tarp-oron*, *Clev-ora*, *Cap-ora,* also in the case of the river name *Ordessos*, with a probable real pronunciation \*ordeʃ(ordeš). In the light of this comparative analysis, the current hypothesis, largely spread among linguists, that Rom. *oraș* is a borrowing from Hung. *város* ‘township’ cannot be held for valid, as there are several undocumented phonetic evolutions and, equally important, the relationship of these forms has been ignored, including the obvious relationship *oraș/uraș ~ uriaș/oriaș*, the latter being a usual term of the Romanian tales. Hung. *vár* ‘a fortress’ reflects a borrowing from Rom. *oara*, now in place names only, while *város* is an internal evolution.

**Keywords:** Pre-Indo-European heritage, Romanian, Hungarian, Thracian, township