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Journal of Cuneiform Studies, Vol. 25, No. 4. (Oct., 1973), p. 234.

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HITTITE AND UGARITIC WORDS FOR "LETTUCE"

The word *ḥa-az-zu-wa-ni-iš*, which in the Hittite ritual KUB 7 1+KBo 3 8, i 19–21 occurs in a list of "all the green plants of the garden" (*ŠA KIRI₄ SAR.ḪI.A ḥu-u-ma-an*) and in the birth ritual KBo 17 61:25 is paired with the crocus plant (AN.T[AḪ.]Š[UM^{SA}]^R *ḥa-az-zu-w[a-n]i-iš*), also is found in alphabetic texts from Ugarit (UT 12:3, 11 and 98:9), where it is written *ḥswn* and *ḥśwn* and appears in a grouping of foodstuffs. I propose to identify this garden vegetable's name with the *Wanderwort* which appears as ḥ i - i z^{SAR} in Sumerian, *ḥassū* in Akkadian, *ḥassâ* in Hebrew, *ḥastâ* (pl. *ḥassê*) in Syriac, and *ḥassu/ḥassatu* in Arabic, and which in all these languages denotes "lettuce" (*lactuca sativa*). The ending *-wani-* and *-wn* (is the *w* only a glide?) on the Hittite and Ugaritic words is mysterious. Some bibliography to be added to CAD Ḫ s.v. *ḥassû* follows: ZA 55 56; J. Krecher in HSAO 108; Landsberger Date Palm 16.

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