# **BEYOND AGAMEMNON**

REX GOOCH Letchworth Garden City, Herts, England rexgooch@ntlworld.com

An Agamemnon word consists of three triplets, each of which is a palindrome, as in Aga-memnon. This article explores what happens as the number and size of triplets is varied.

Although Dave Morice, following Ed Wolpow (80-104), says that extra letters are permissible (in The Dictionary of Wordplay), they will not be permitted in this article. A further question arises: what degree of similarity is permitted between the three triplets? All three may differ, in which case we may call them A, B, and C. The possible patterns allowed by Dave Morice's definition are:

pattern	type	example
ABC	original Agamemnon word	AGA/MEM/NON
ABA	Palindrome	EGE/SZS/EGE
AAA	(palindromic) tautonym	AVA/AVA/AVA
AAB	?	?
ABB	?	?

Another question is the matter of composition of the triplets — the central letter may or may not be the same as the other two. Indeed, there is a general question as to which letters must differ. These matters should all be covered in the definition of Agamemnons.

It would seem in any case that phrases like *Afaw Owebe* or *La Litiere* should not be permitted, and that hyphenated words are inferior: though in both cases, the case for acceptance is stronger if the space or hyphen occurs at a triplet boundary, as this serves to reinforce the pattern. It is for this reason that I do not include words like *Akagi-gawa*, or *Kokusui-ri*, or many of those given by Susan Thorpe in 2004-42. (I am unable to find her BABA-ZANON, GOGYO-YAMA, and OKOYO-YAMA, though I am able to find closely similar place names if the O nearest the centre is replaced by an A.)

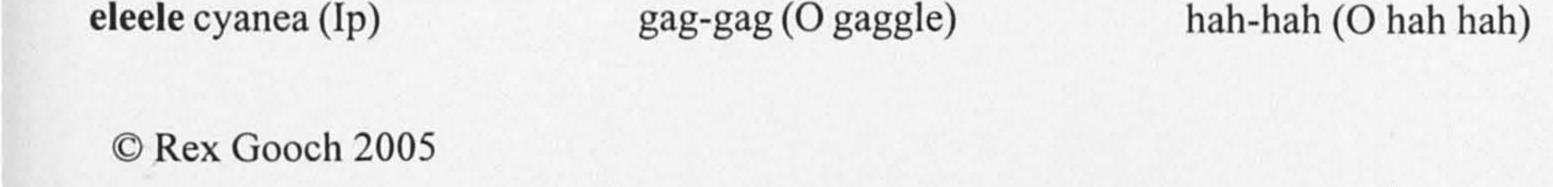
However, note that as we move from three triplets to rarer species, it will be necessary to relax virtually all the criteria.

## **Comments on results**

There are more than 20 Agamemnon words of the original type ABC: indeed more than 70 if place names are included. As might be expected, the number of examples with only two triplets is very large – over 2000. However, as we vary the number (from two to six) and size (from two to seven) of the palindromic elements, all other species are much rarer. It follows that sub-species (the types ABC etc) are frequently non-existent: indeed, the table above shows that I failed to find two of the five sub-species even in the case of three triplets.

# **Two triplets**

I found 1371 words of type AA (tautonyms), and 642 of type AB. A few examples are: Type AA (examples with all initial letters bar F and V): araara (Ia) BABBAB (Pcon, herb) Coccoc Rocks, Philippines, 14°47, 122°03 DEDDED (Pcon, past tense)



Kukkuk, Germany, 51°46, 6°09 JOJJOJ (Pcon) 'ihi'ihi (Ip) nennen (O whether 1380q) MEMMEM (Pcon) Lellel, Mali, 15°27, -4°18 Rio Ocooco, Equatorial Guinea, 3°28, 8°31 Oro'oro River, Solomon Islands, -9°46, 160°14 qaq qaq (Pcon) PAPPAP (Pcon) pip-pip (O) tat-tat (O) sesses (O sess, noun) rurrur (Pcon) Ukuuku, Solomon Islands, -8°22, 160°47 tut-tut (O tut) wow-wow(O)Uruuru, Solomon Islands, -8°19, 160°44 zzzzzz (OZ4, 1966q) XOXXOX (Pcon, a business) YAYYAY (Pcon)

Type AB: These junior Agamemnon words appropriately include Memnon (a king, Chambers), Agamem. (found often in OED text), and even Aganon (Dict. of Flowering Plants and Ferns)! abacoc (O bycoket) abases (O abase) Anamim (Genesis 10:13) Lord Lytton: Ring of Amasis, 1863 Nesophrosyne bobeae vulgaris (Ia) Nilothauma babiyi aberrans (Ia) bibiri (Web2) Cacana (Web2, below line) Polyrhachis bubala kamtschatkana (Ia) cicala (O) Cacara (Web2) cicada (O) COCADA (Beazley: Quentin Crewe's International Pocket Food Book) cicyly(O)Chironomus cucini magalhaensis (Ia) COCALA (NZoo) cycene (Chambers Old English for kitchen) DEDANA (NZoo) Dudaka, Pakistan, 28°24, 68°28 dodded(O)dedene(O)eeeeve (O iiwi 1779q) ecesis (O) egests (O egest) elegug(O)emeere(O)ewerer (O) Gagata interruptus graecensis (Ia) fefede(DAW) eyerer (O) gigunu (Web2) gigolo(O) ha ha ha (O, ha ha, A b) hu-hu-hu (O hoo b 1911q T E Lawrence) hahala (Ip) ibises (Chambers, pl of ibex) Escherichia iliaca marinae (ITIS monera) ilicic (O) irises (O) Ixiama (Web2 below line) Jajcic, Yugoslavia, 44°15, 20°15 KAKURU (NZoo) Kikuyu (O) KOKOMO Mrs Byrne's Dictionary kukama (O) kokama (O) LALAPA (NZoo) lelyly(O)LILACA (PS) Eucalliphora lilaea kamtschatkana (Ia) LILIPI (O) lilyfy (O lily Bb) mamere (O)memere(O)MIMENE (NZoo) MIMMAM (DAW) momele(O)momene(O)MUMAIA (NZoo) NANAJA (NZoo) Ninlil (Sumerian god, ezresult.com/article/Gods) nonene(O)Leptanthura nunana claviger (Ia) nun-gig (O) Agapetus orosus haraldi (Ia) otosis (O) OXODAD (DBS) papaia (O) papala (Ip) pepsis (Web2) papaya (O) pip-pop (O) pop-eye (O pop-, or Popeye) pipsis (DNE) Popowo Koscielne, Poland (atsnotes.com/other/gerpol.html) popolo(Ip) Qaqaqa, Greenland, 72°10, -54°39 rariki (O rauriki) Ain - Rhrana, Morocco, 35°17, -5°33 Sidi Bou Rhrara, Morocco, 32°31, -6°11 sasses (O sass, noun) sesama (O sesame) sestet (O) Sesutu (O) SISEME (NZoo) sisses (O siss, noun) sosigi (Ip) sosses (O soss, noun) susses (O suss, noun) Tataka (demoness from Ramayan, kamat.org/glossary) TETANA (NZoo)

T'it'iti Shet', Ethiopia, 8°12, 39°24 tit-tat (O tit 3) TITAEA (NZoo) totara (O) tothth (O tooth. thth is double thorn) Totoro (Web2) Tutsis (O Tutsi) tutele (O) Vavaea (genus of dicot, PS) uruses (O urus) usurer (O) VIVAHA (NZoo) memento vivere (O memento) vnvele (O unfele 1250q) vyvere [O vyuer, vyver(e] wywere (O viver) wowere (O wooer) Xaxjaj, Guatemala, 16°51, -89°48 Yiyoyo, Cameroon, 6°23, 14°02 yvyere (O ivory) ZAZACA (NZoo) Zuzara curtispina terraenova (Ia)

203

# Three triplets (original Agamemnon words)

Susan Thorpe re-visited this area very recently (04-42), bringing the total to seventy. The solid words among the following might replace Susan's hyphenated ones without diminishing the total. In fact, the hyphenated examples are rarer than the solid ones, and I found none which hyphenate at triplet boundaries. I include three multi-word examples splitting at triplet boundaries: they are rare. In particular, I think *Umu Eze Uku* is very neat (and very rare). One source for the singular (edeitis) of Susan's *edeitises* is *Gynecology of Traditional Chinese Medicine* (hdg. of chap. 2.4).

## Type ABC:

Beta adanensis arkansana (Ip, not AJANENSIS) Mount Agamomata, Philippines, 18°09, 120°59 Anakakata Bay, New Zealand, -41.04°, 174.27° (NZ) Analalava Riviere, Madagascar, -14°39, 47°44 Bibama III, Dem Rep Congo, -1°29, 28°33 cccxxxiii, O warren, 1692q Isimamene-n-Tifersine, Algeria, 25°38, 6°08 Rio Mombebaca, Equatorial Guinea, 3°14, 8°39 Periscyphops ogonensis tenuis, Ia Juncus oronensis sellulus (Ip) Ototatara Stream, New Zealand, -39.66°, 176.05° (NZ) Paparaumu Stream, New Zealand, -37.39°, 174.78° (NZ) Sashihara-hana, Japan, 33°16, 129°04 Umu Eze Uku, Nigeria, 5°25, 7°28

Type **ABA** has at least 23 representatives, such as Namun **Nenomonen** (Micronesia, 7°27, 151°51). Most are solid (and to be found in the Palindromicon), but ALA NANALA, NON-AL-ANON, NON-GAGNON, and NON-MEMNON are the few to have hyphens or spaces in an appropriate position.

Type **AAA** words are quite scarce, even with the help of the Palindromicon: I found 15, of which only five are solid, notably AVAAVAAVA, KUKKUKKUK, and RARRARRAR. Many have hyphens in both natural positions, TIT-TIT-TIT, PIP-PIP-PIP (OED), or HEH-HEH-HEH. There seem to be no phrases. The unusual aka'aka'aka is in ITIS plants.

# **Four Triplets**

Type ABCD: Heliocarpus popayanensis cylindracea (ITIS plant), Otocic Bobara (Croatia, 42°35, 18°10), Kikepera-Raba (Estonia, 58°23, 24°57).

Type ABCB: Kokamaya Yama, Japan, 41°11, 140°52.

Type **ABAC: Otocic Otocac**, Croatia, 42°54, 16°50 has an appropriate position for the space. Type **AAAA:** The Palindromicon has two: AAAAAAAAAAAA (a business name), and OOOOOOOOOOOO.

#### **Five triplets**

Type AAAAA: the least boring are those consisting of repeated TITs or IKIs, with hyphens separating the triplets.

Type ABCDE: Le Lezert Riviere (France, 44°10, 2°12).

## **Six Triplets**

Type AAAAAA: HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH is the only word worth mentioning: the hyphens really qualify it as six triplets, even though it is also three sextuplets etc.

#### **Two quadruplets**

Type **AA** (from Palindromicon except where stated): abbaabba (rhymes in Petrarchan sonnet from Chambers, or Abba Abba in Palindromicon), ALLAALLA, ANNAANNA, ARRAARRA, ATTAATTA, keek-keek (O), LEELLEEL, LIILLIIL, LUULLUUL, NOONNOON, Ollo Ollo (Peru, -14°55, -71°52), OTTOOTTO, peep-peep (O peep 1 1880q), poop-poop (O poop 1 1880q), RUURRUUR, SAASSAAS, SIISSIIS, SUUSSUUS, toot-toot (O toot b), TUUTTUUT. Also single repeated letters A, D, E, M, O, X, and Z (Palindromicon). Type **AB**: CCCCIIII (O, text), hoo-hoo-oo (O hoo b 1884q), Illiassa (The Gambia, 13°34, -15°45),

ippi-appa (Web2, below line)

## Three quadruplets

Type AAA: only repeated letters A and O (Palindromicon)

#### **Two quintuplets**

Type **AA**: 30, where A = AAAAA, AJAJA, ATITA, AVIVA, HAGAH, HAJAH, HASAH, HENEH, HIDIHHIDIH, HOGOH, HUWUH, KALAK, KANAK, KARAK, KASAK, KECEK, KEDEK, KESEK, KETEK, KILIK, KISIK, KULUK, LUKUL, MACAM, MAMAM, OOOOO, SAGAS, SARAS, SOGOS, TAVAT (all in Palindromicon).

Type AB:

Bara Barara, Bangladesh, 23°09, 90°08 Barabarera, Bangladesh, 23°28, 90°58 Bir Belebileli, Chad, 14°40, 15°29 berebrewer (O beer 3, 1465q) Buruburaru Rapids, Guyana, 6°06, -58°35 Chehcheheh, Iran, 36°37, 60°20 dereddened (O deredden) Gamagaitia Creek, Papua New Guinea, -6°18, 143°56 Girigiriri, Nigeria, 11°41, 12°18 Rio Iririmirim, Brazil, -1°15, -45°58 Katakamema, Zambia, -12°33, 26°56 Karakuylyu, Uzbekistan, 40°48, 69°17 Kirikkavak, Turkey, 41°13, 26°45 Kolodets Kazak-Kuduk, Tajikistan, 37°30, 69°10 Kirikkuduk, China, 44°15, 91°42 Kucukkavak, Turkey, 38°58, 34°18 Kucukkirik, Turkey, 41°30, 35°25 Kucuk Kizik, Turkey, 41°30, 35°25 Kolodets Kuruk-Kuduk, Uzbekistan, 39°10, 64°17 Kurukureru Creek, Guyana, 6°34, -58°11 Kuru-Kururu Creek, Guyana, 6°34, -58°11 Kolodets Kyrykkuduk, Kazakhstan, 47°56, 64°03 Lokolawewa, Sri Lanka, 7°49, 80°03 Mahamanina Bay, Madagascar, -12°30, 48°54 Nabannagan, Philippines, 18°04, 121°32 Pukuparara Island, New Zealand, -47.21°, 167.44° (NZ) Sebes Salas, Croatia, 45°45, 18°47 Sene Serere, Senegal, 14°47, -17°03

**Three Quintuplets** 

Type AAA: only words with all Os, Xs, and Zs (Palindromicom)

## **Two sextuplets**

Type AA only, where A = AAAAAA, HANNAH, KINNIK (hyphenated), MULLUM, NERREN, OOOOOO, and RENNER (all Palindromicon).

#### **Three sextuplets**

No true sextuplets, but doubled triplets, all type AA from Palindromicon: triplets are EEE, HEH, 000

#### **Two heptuplets**

Type AA: UKUWUKU-UKUWUKU; also all Xs (both Palindromicon) Type AB: BUBUBUBUBUBUBUBU (Dict. of Jamaican English). Second heptuplet is reverse of first.

#### **Two twins**

Type AA: The palindromic requirement mandates that the second and fourth letters are the same as the first and third respectively, and the AA pattern then ensures that all four letters must be the same. The OED text contains examples for A, B, C, F, I, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, X, and Z (eg III-i Rayon is in Bulgaria). The Palindromicon has many of these, and also E and U.

Type **AB**: It is easy to make various Roman numerals of this pattern, and the OED text contains CCII, CCXX, v-vii, and XXII. There are some more interesting examples:

Aabb el Khazne, Syria, 35°25, 37°07 Cheikh Aall Qobtani, Syria, 36°16, 37°07 BBCC (O lip 5f, 1727q) Aarr ej Jamouss, Lebanon, 33°33, 36°00 CCSS (O zygote 1915q) BBS's (O dial 4c 1984q) ffee (O fee 2b 1639q) ffoo (O wind 1 d 1485q) o'o a'a (Ia, o'-o'-a'-a' in Web2) GGPP (O macrocyclic 1972q) OOFF (Chambers Scots Dictionary) 'ooll (O harl 1 1888q) OOSS (Chambers Scots Dictionary) Ssuu-ri, South Korea, 35°14, 126°18 vvll ("variant readings", Chambers vl abbr.) WWII (= World War II, O, Eisenhower, 1956q) XXYY (O Klinefelter 1964q, chromosomal constituents) yyff[O yyf(f]

## **Three twins**

The AAA examples are repeated letters A, E, M, O, R, X, Y, and Z from the palindromicon or OED text. There are three AAB examples, but all are Roman numerals from OED text. Type ABA: EEZZEE, OOAAOO, OOLLOO, all Palindromicon (Oolloo is also NIMA) Type ABB: xxiiii, Roman numeral, many times in OED text. Type ABC: Aas See (Germany, 54°30, 9°57), ffoott (= foot, Zupko: A Dictionary of English Weights and Measures), and the Roman numeral CCXXII in the OED text.

#### **Four twins**

These yield little of interest. The AAAA examples consist of repeated letters A, D, E, M, O, X, and Z. The AABB and the two AABC examples are Roman numerals from text in the OED.

Except where stated, place names are from the NIMA database with latitude and longitude in degrees and minutes: otherwise degrees are in decimals. DAW = Dictionary of Archaic Words by James Orchard Halliwell (Bracken Books). DBS = The Dictionary of the Biological Sciences by Peter Gray, Van Nostrand Reinhold 1967. DNE = Dictionary of Newfoundland English, 2d ed, 1982 + 1990 supplement. Ia/p = ITIS animal/plant. NZ = linz.govt.nz/databases/geographic. NZoo = Nomenclator Zoologicus. O = OED. Pcon = Palindromicon II. PS = anet.com/~manytimes/ plantssyn.txt