A TYPE COLLECTION OF CVCCVCCVC WORDS

A. ROSS ECKLER
Morristown, New Jersey

Among nine-letter words of the vowel-consonant pattern CVCCVCCVC, can one find all 125 possible vowel selections? Elsewhere in this issue, Hugo Brandt Corstius in “Battus in Wonderland” has constructed a story in which 125 Dutch words of this nature are featured. In English, it is possible to find 121 words in Webster’s Second, as given in the table below (the numbers following some words indicate the number of occurrences in Kučera and Francis’s million-word corpus Computational Analysis of Present-Day American English (1967).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manhattan 20</th>
<th>cathedral 8</th>
<th>baptismal 1</th>
<th>patrolman</th>
<th>mamludtar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>canvassed 1</td>
<td>passenger 14</td>
<td>barrister</td>
<td>landowner</td>
<td>hamburger 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fantastic 20</td>
<td>Sanhedrin</td>
<td>ballistic 17</td>
<td>pansophic</td>
<td>Walpurgis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parnassus</td>
<td>magnetron</td>
<td>badminton 1</td>
<td>parsondom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>masterful 14</td>
<td>narcissus</td>
<td>barrowful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mercaptan</td>
<td>yesterday 83</td>
<td>centigram</td>
<td>betrothal</td>
<td>pertussal</td>
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<tr>
<td>recharter</td>
<td>September 56</td>
<td>bedridden</td>
<td>personnel 74</td>
<td>bespurred</td>
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<td>lethargic</td>
<td>metheglin</td>
<td>verdigris</td>
<td>Celtophil</td>
<td>centumvir</td>
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<td>detractor 1</td>
<td>bedfellow</td>
<td>persimmon</td>
<td>reblossom</td>
<td>percussor</td>
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<tr>
<td>retractus</td>
<td>regretful</td>
<td>lemnisus</td>
<td>retroflux</td>
<td>Vertumnus</td>
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<tr>
<td>birlawman</td>
<td>dispersal 5</td>
<td>milligram 5</td>
<td>bifrontal</td>
<td>bismuthal</td>
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<td>dissected</td>
<td>distiller</td>
<td>bishoplet</td>
<td>discussed 25</td>
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<tr>
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<td>fingertip</td>
<td>mistigris</td>
<td>discomfit</td>
<td>bismuthic</td>
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<td>tinderbox</td>
<td>millieron</td>
<td>discommon</td>
<td>disbutton</td>
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<tr>
<td>discantus</td>
<td>jitterbug</td>
<td>cincinnus</td>
<td>bishopful</td>
<td>discursus</td>
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<td>collarman</td>
<td>horseplay 2</td>
<td>committal</td>
<td>concordat</td>
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<td>commander 28</td>
<td>concerned 135</td>
<td>convinced 50</td>
<td>forgotten 38</td>
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<td>nostalgic 6</td>
<td>horsewhip</td>
<td>sophistic</td>
<td>hobgoblin</td>
<td>nonpublic</td>
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<td>colcannon</td>
<td>connector</td>
<td>monsignor</td>
<td>noncompos</td>
<td>conductor 25</td>
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<td>wondered 53</td>
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<td>doctordom</td>
<td>concursus</td>
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<td>jummahdar</td>
<td>butterfat 1</td>
<td>Kurdistan</td>
<td>subnormal 1</td>
<td>Mussulman</td>
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<td>cubmaster</td>
<td>suggested 105</td>
<td>published 85</td>
<td>supporter 3</td>
<td>runrunner</td>
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<td>fundatrix</td>
<td>judgeship</td>
<td>hubristic</td>
<td>subfossil</td>
<td>Cuchullin</td>
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<td>dulcarnon</td>
<td>successor 16</td>
<td>multiflow</td>
<td>turboprop</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bucketful</td>
<td>pulpitful</td>
<td>subconsul</td>
<td>mundungus</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Rex Gooch has kindly supplied dictionary examples for the four others: HABURROW, an obsolete form of harbour in the OED; COLPISMUS, another name for vaginismus in Dorland’s Illustrated Medical Dictionary (24th edition); MUSSASCUS, an obsolete form of musquash in the OED; MUNDUNGOS, plural of mundungo, foul-smelling tobacco, in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary. Interestingly, BALTUSROL is the name of a well-known golf course about ten miles from Morristown!