Nativised, Playfully Aetiologised Literary Zoonyms, II: The Peccary. Phono-Semantic Matching of the Signifiers, and Goal-Driven Narrative Trajectories through Adam, Balaam, John Moore-Brabazon, and Rosenzweig’s Columbus, Whose Own Standard Associated Narratives Contribute to Narrative Subgoal Achievement

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Abstract. In this second paper in a trilogy about zoonyms in a literary context, we consider such tales that take an extant zoonym (a loanword in current use), and “nativise” it by phono-semantic matching supported by a story to back it up. The names considered are peccary and tayassu, two synonyms.

Keywords: Lexicon, Terminology, Neologisms, Zoonyms (animal names), Artiodactyls, Hebrew, phono-semantic matching, aetiological tales, literary bestiary, extra-Scriptural narrative expansions, Midrash, rabbinic zoology, haššēšu’ā, Peccary (Tayassu), Balaam, Adam, Adam’s navel (omphalos), John Moore-Brabazon, intertextuality, goal-and-plan decomposition, Gerson Rosenzweig, Tractate America.

1 Introduction

This is the second article in a triptych (cf. Nissan 2013a, 2013b) concerned with literary zoonymy (animal names). In the present study, what matters is not the devising of native terminology for the animal taxon considered, but rather the “nativisation” by phono-semantic matching, in Zuckermann’s sense (2003), of such current zoonyms that are loanwords. A more thorough discussion is going to appear in the book Animal Names, 3 by myself and Ghil’ad Zuckermann.

The example is a pair of extra-Scriptural narrative expansions in rabbinic Hebrew, with dense intertextuality. Those two tales appear in the entry for the peccary (the genus Tayassu) in a lexicon which is a literary bestiary, a literary work of which I am the author. It is the Liber animalium, entitled in Hebrew סֵפֶר הַחַיּוֹת, or הָחַיִּים מִדְרַשׁ Midrásh kol ḫay. The structure of this article is as shown in Table 1.
### Table 1. Structure of this article

1. Introduction
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3. Haššesu’á: The History of Ideas on a Beast with Two Spines
4. An Aviation Pioneer Carries a Piglet in an Early Flight
5. A Tale about Adam and the Peccary: Despondency and Pacification
6. Why the Name tayassu? A Tale about Balaam’s Failed Sophistry
7. A Phenomenon in the Morphology and Syntax of Compounding
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9. Concluding Remarks about Features of the Literary Text Under Discussion

## 2 General Considerations

The peccary (*Tayassu*), a South American suiform (pig-like) artiodactyl, is similar to a boar, but differs from swine in that it has a composite stomach (like ruminants), and moreover has an odoriferous gland in its back which — because of its shape — has been likened to a navel. The family name *Tayassuidae* (*< Tayassu*) happens to contain at its end the name of the pigs family *Suïdae* (*< Latin sus ‘pig’*).

The scientific name *Tayassu* is from an international name synonymous with *peccary*. In Spanish from Spain, the peccary is called *báquira*, but in South American Spanish it is called *pécari*. The international name *peccary / pécari* is in use among Israeli zoologists when they communicate in Hebrew. In his zoological lexicon of vertebrates, Dor (1965, p. 269, s.v.) spelled it רֶקַארִי with diacritic marks which do not fit in any native derivational pattern of Hebrew. This reflects the term being a loanword.

In Portuguese, both *pecari* and *taiaçu* are stressed on their last syllable. In Taylor’s (1970) *A Portuguese-English Dictionary*, on p. 474 one finds the entry “*pecari* [í] (m.) peccary, wild pig.” The interesting entry is *taiaçu* instead (*ibid.*, p. 597), and it is striking that the first acceptance listed is as a bird name rather than the name of a mammal: “*taiaçu* [ú] (m.) a tiger-bittern (*Tigrisoma lineatum* or *T. fasciatum*); the white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu albirostris*).” There also is this other entry (*ibid.*), for a bird species: “*taiaçuira* (m.) the rufous-winged ground cuckoo (*Neomorphus rufipennis*).

The entry in rabbinic Hebrew in my *Liber animalium* for the peccary (with the spelling of the international name in the header being קוּרְפֶּֽי) comprises two sections, one (from 2007) developing a fanciful backup story for the international name of the lexical type *peccary / pécari*, and the other one (from 2013) offering two alternative backstories for the international name of the lexical type *tayassu / tiaçu* (טַיַּסּוּ). The first section adopts the often resorted to situation of Adam bestowing a name upon an animal kind which has been asking for it or even queuing for it. The international name *peccary / pécari*, is playfully explained as a zoonymic metaphor made apt by the specific situation concocted. The second section instead is more complex. The name *tayassu / tiaçu* (טוּסּוּ) is approximated as either of two utterances, “He is an airplane pilot (משמְלָה tayyás hu)” or “Caravan staff, start off!”, where a leader of a caravan or