

Table 3. Mesopotamian constellations and stars: MUL.APIN list I

This is List I of the *MUL.APIN* tablets, from the translation by Hunger & Pingree⁸.

Column 1: Transliteration of the name. All names were prefixed by mul-, except those for which the prefix d- is shown.

Column 2: Whole text, translated into English. [In italics, notes on the named deity¹²; also see text.]

Column 3: Identification. [In brackets, possible alternatives. For further opinions on identifications, see table 2 and ref.27.]

A: Northern sky (the Stars of Enlil)

<i>Name (transliteration)</i>	<i>Translation</i>	<i>Identification</i>
mulAPIN	The Plough, Enlil, who goes at the front of the stars of Enlil.	Tri + γ And
UR.BAR.RA	The Wolf, the seeder of the Plough.	α Tri
SHU.GI	The Old Man, Enmesharra [<i>shadowy ancestor of Enlil</i>].	Perseus
GAM	The Crook, Gamlum.	Auriga
MASH.TAB.BA.GAL.GAL.LA	The Great Twins, Lugalgirra and Meslamtaea.	α + β Gem, etc.
MASH.TAB.BA.TUR.TUR	The Little Twins, Alammush and ^d Nin-EZENxGUD.	ζ + λ Gem, etc.
AL.LUL	The Crab, the seat of Anu.	Cancer
UR.GU.LA	The Lion, Lataarak [<i>lion-headed protector god</i>].	Leo
LUGAL	The star which stands in the breast of the Lion: the King.	Regulus
--	The dusky stars which stand in the tail of the Lion:	5, 21 Leo? [Coma Cluster?]
--	the Frond (of the date palm) of Eru, Zarpanitu [<i>wife of Marduk</i>]	γ Com
SHU.PA	SHU.PA, Enlil who decrees the fate of the land.	Boötes
Hegalaau	The star which stands in front of it: the Abundant One, the messenger of Ninlil [<i>wife of Enlil</i>].	β Com?
BAL.TESH.A	The star which stands behind it: the Star of Dignity, the messenger of Tishpak [<i>god of armies</i>].	Corona Bor.
MAR.GID.DA	The Wagon, Ninlil [<i>wife of Enlil</i>].	Ursa Major
--	The star which stands in the cart-pole of the Wagon:	
KA ζ .A	the Fox, Erra, the strong one among the gods.	80-86 UMa [Alkor?]
Ug	The star which stands in front of the Wagon: the Ewe, Aya.	NE. Boötes? [η UMa?]
MU.BU.KESH.DA	The Hitched Yoke, the great Anu of Heaven.	Thuban?
MAR.GID.DA.AN.NA	The Wagon of Heaven, Damkianna.	Ursa Minor
IBILA.E.MAH	The star which stands in its rope: the Heir of the Sublime Temple, the first-ranking son of Anu.	Polaris?
DINGIR.GUB.BA ^S	The Standing Gods of Ekur,	ζ + η Her?;
DINGIR.TUSH.A ^S	the Sitting Gods of Ekur [<i>the great temple of Enlil</i>].	$\epsilon, \pi, \rho, \theta$ Her?
UZ	The She-goat, Gula.	Lyra
UR.KU	The star which stands in front of the She-goat: the Dog.	S. Hercules
^d LAMMA	The bright star of the She-goat: Lamma, the messenger of Baba.	Vega
^d Nin-SAR u ^d Erragal	The two stars which stand behind it: Nin-SAR and Erragal.	ζ + ϵ Lyr
UD.KA.DUH.A	The Panther: Nergal.	Cyg, Lac, part of Cep.
SHAH	The star which stands at its right side: the Pig, Damu [<i>god of healing</i>].	Head of Draco? [Del?]
ANSHE.KUR.RA	The star which stands at its left side: the Horse.	$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ Cas [Peg/Lac/Equ?]
lu-lim	The star which stands behind it: the Stag, the messenger of the Stars.	E. And. [+ Cas?]
--	The dusky stars which stand in the breast of the Stag:	18,31,32 And?
^d Harriru	Harriru, the Rainbow.	[Andromeda Neb?]
--	The bright red star which stands in the kidney of the Stag:	
KA.MUSH.I.KU.E	the Deleter.	β And [α Cas?]
--	When the stars of Enlil have finished,	
--	one big star -- (although) its light is dim -- divides the sky	
--	in half and stands there: the star of Marduk, the Ford,	Jupiter (on the
mulSAG.ME.GAR	Jupiter, keeps changing its position and crosses the sky.	meridian at dawn)
--	33 stars of Enlil.	

Table 3 (cont.)
B: Equatorial sky (the Stars of Anu); Southern sky (the Stars of Ea)

<i>Name (transliteration)</i>	<i>Translation</i>	<i>Identification</i>
ASH-IKU	The Field, the seat of Ea, which goes at the front of the stars of Anu.	Sq. of Pegasus
Shinunutu ₄	The star which stands opposite the Field: the Swallow.	W. Fish + Head of Peg
Anunitu ₄	The star which stands behind the Field: Anunitu [<i>goddess of childbirth</i>].	N. Fish
luHUN.GA	The star which stands behind it: the Hired Man, Dumuzi.	Aries
MUL.MUL	The Stars, the seven gods, the great gods.	Pleiades
GU ₄ AN.NA ^d is le-e	The Bull of Heaven, the Jaw of the Bull, the crown of Anu.	Taurus, Hyades
SIPA.ZI.AN.NA [<i>Akk.</i> : Shitaddalu]	The True Shepherd of Heaven, Papsukal, the messenger of Anu and Ishtar.	Orion
MASH.TAB.BA	The twin stars which stand opposite the True Shepherd of Heaven: Lulal and Latarak [<i>two domestic protector gods</i>].	$\pi^3 + \pi^4$ Ori? $\zeta + \xi$ Gem? [$\alpha + \beta$ CMi?]
DAR.LUGAL	The star which stands behind it: the Rooster.	Lepus or CMi?
KAK.SI.SA	The Arrow, the arrow of the great warrior Ninurta.	Sirius, etc.
BAN	The Bow, the Elamite Ishtar, the daughter of Enlil.	S. CMA (& part of Puppis)
MUSH [<i>Akk.</i> : Nirah]	The Snake, Ningizzida, lord of the Netherworld.	Hydra (inc. β Cnc)
UGA ^{mushen}	The Raven, the star of Adad.	Corvus (inc. Crater?)
AB.SIN	The Furrow, Shala, the ear of corn.	Spica (etc?)
ZI.BA.AN.NA	The Scales, the horn of the Scorpion.	Libra
^d Za-ba ₄ -ba ₄ TI ^g mushen, AD ₆	The star of Zababa, the Eagle, and the Dead Man.	In Oph-Ser-Aql?; Aquila; Delphinus?
Dili-bat	Venus keeps changing its position and crosses the sky.	Venus
Salbatanu	Mars keeps changing its position and crosses the sky.	Mars
UDU.IDIM.SAG.USH	Saturn keeps changing its position and crosses the sky.	Saturn
UDU.IDIM.GU ₄ .UD	Mercury, whose name is Ninurta, rises or sets in the east or in the west within a month.	Mercury
--		
--	23 stars of Anu.	
KU ₆	The Fish, Ea, who goes at the front of the stars of Ea.	PsA
GU.LA; NUN ^{ki}	The Great One, Ea; the star of Eridu [<i>the city</i>], Ea.	Aquarius; Canopus
Nin-mah	The star which stands at its right: Ninmah [<i>goddess of motherhood</i>].	Most of Vela
EN.TE.NA.BAR.HUM	EN.TE.NA.BAR.HUM, Ningirsu.	Centaurus (+ Crux?)
gishGAN.UR	The star which stands at its side: the Harrow, the weapon of Mar-biti, inside of which one sees the subterranean waters.	E. part of Vela [star fields inc. η Car nebula?]
--		
^d Shullat u ^d Hanish	The two stars which stand behind it: Shullat and Hanish, Shamash and Adad.	$\mu + \nu$ Cen? [$\alpha + \beta$ Cen?]
--		
Nu-mush-da	The star which stands behind them rises like Ea and sets like Ea: Numushda, Adad.	η Cen?
UR.IDIM	The star which stands at the left side of the Scorpion: the Mad Dog, Kusu.	Lupus
GIR.TAB	The Scorpion, Ishhara, goddess of all inhabited regions.	Scorpius
GABA GIR.TAB	The Breast of the Scorpion: Lishi, Nabu.	Antares
--		
^d Sharur ₄ u ^d Shargaz	The two stars which stand in the sting of the Scorpion: Sharur and Shargaz.	$\lambda + \nu$ Sco
Pa-bil-sag	The star which stands behind them: Pabilsag.	Sagittarius
MA.GUR ₈ u	The Bark and	ϵ Sgr [CorAus?];
SUHUR.MASH ^{ku6}	the Goat-fish.	Capricornus
--		
--	15 stars of Ea.	

Nebulae: The Babylonians may have named five naked-eye nebulae or clusters, four of them in this Table. The first two are the only entries for 'dusky stars' in this list: the Coma Cluster (no.10 of Enlil; the Frond) and the Andromeda Nebula (no.31 of Enlil; the Rainbow). The Pleiades (no.5 of Anu; the Stars) were also called Zappu, meaning tuft or mane (of the Bull's neck?). The star-field around the η Carinae nebula may be no.6 of Ea, "inside of which one sees the subterranean waters"; in classical maps, this marked the point where the prow of Argo disappeared into the mist on the horizon. Fifthly, the Praesepe cluster was not listed in *MUL.APIN*, but was later known as Kushu (a water animal?) (see text under 'Cancer').