

1818. Kelly (Fergus): The Old Irish tree-list.

In Celtica 11 (1976), pp. 107–124.

Identifies the 28 trees and shrubs listed in the eighth-century legal tract *Bretha comaitchessa*, which are divided into four groups of seven: 1. *airig fedo* ‘nobles of the wood’: *daur* ‘oak’, *coll* ‘hazel’, *cuilenn* ‘holly’, *ibar* ‘yew’, *uinnius* ‘ash’, *ochtach* ‘Scots pine?’, *aball* ‘wild apple-tree’; 2. *aithig fedo* ‘commoners of the wood’: *fern* ‘alder’, *sail* ‘willow’, *scé* ‘whitehorn, hawthorn’, *cáerthann* ‘rowan, mountain ash’, *beithe* ‘birch’, *lem* ‘elm’, *idath* ‘wild cherry?’; 3. *fodla fedo* ‘lower divisions of the wood’: *draigen* ‘blackthorn’, *trom* ‘elder, bore-tree’, *féorus* ‘spindle-tree’, *findcholl* ‘whitebeam?’, *caithne* ‘arbutus, strawberry tree’, *crithach* ‘aspen’, *crann fir* ‘juniper?’; 4. *losa fedo* ‘bushes of the wood’: *raith* ‘bracken’, *rait* ‘bog-myrtle’, *aiten* ‘gorse, furze’, *dris* ‘bramble, blackberry’, *fróech* ‘heather’, *gilcach* ‘broom?’, *spín* ‘wild rose?’. Also includes brief discussion of *lecla* and *aín*, variant names for ‘rushes’, and native trees and shrubs not included in the four classes.

Classifications:

- D 1.3: Etymology (Individual)
- D 1.2: Lexicology
- I 1.2: Society: Law, institutions: Early Irish law

Indexes:

Words/Proper Names:

- aball
- aín
- airig fedo
- aiten
- aithig fedo
- beithe
- cáerthann
- caithne
- coll
- crann fir
- crithach
- cuilenn
- daur
- draigen
- dris
- féorus
- fern
- findcholl
- fodla fedo

- fróech
- gilcach
- ibar
- idath
- lecla
- lem
- losa fedo
- ochtach
- rait
- raith
- sail
- scé
- spín
- trom
- uinnius

Author/Textual Sources:

- Bretha comaitchesa