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## Plurality in Jebbāli

Jebbāli, a Semitic language and one of the Modern South Arabian languages<sup>1</sup>, exhibits enormous diversity in the shapes and nature of plural formation. Quite a large array of morphological mechanisms accompanied with internal phonological alternations indicates plurality in the language. For example, noun plurals in Jebbāli are formed by diverse non-concatenative operations such as suffixation, *Vb* infixation, reduplication, mapping singular forms onto diverse plural templates and ablaut. Parallel with these morphological processes, plural forms undergo phonological alternations like vowel deletion, vowel insertion, metathesis, assimilation and re-syllabification.

This diversity in plural formation can sometimes be systematic; the resultant plural shapes straightforwardly relate to the particular shapes of their singular forms. Other plural forms can hardly be related to their singulars. To illustrate, bi-consonantal singulars, for example, may take various shapes of plural (reduplication, suffixation and mapping onto templates). Furthermore, many singular forms take simultaneously two to three plural markers to mark plurality.

This paper introduces Jebbāli through the exploration of the phonological and morphological tendencies characterizing its diverse plural patterns and mechanisms. Below, I show examples of plural forms in Jebbāli.

### [1] Examples of Plural Patterns in Jebbāli

#### *Suffixation*

Sing.	Pl.	Gloss
s <sup>ʕ</sup> aħan	əs <sup>ʕ</sup> ħenti	plates
məh	mhoṭ	waters (a lot of water)

#### *Doubly and Triply Marked Plurals*

miṭħəl	miṭħabluntə	chameleons
k'ar	k'abrɪn	graves
dɪjdef-t	dɪjdafontə/ dɪjduj	traditional males' outfits

#### *Vb infixation*

mir'ʊn	mirəbɔn	the top parts of legs
mignam	migeɓnəm	mattresses made of leather

#### *Reduplication*

kətb	ktɔb	books
dik	dkək	roosters
kot	ktət	towers

#### *Ablaut*

ʔɔtim	ʔɪtəm	orphans (m.)
s <sup>ʕ</sup> afriɾ	s <sup>ʕ</sup> əfrɔɾ	flowers

<sup>1</sup> Other Modern South Arabian languages include Mehri, Ĥarsusi, Baṭħari, Hobbyot and Socotri. They belong to the Eastern branch of Semitic. Jebbāli is widely spoken in the mountains and coastal plains of Dhofar (Ḍufār, in Arabic), the southern region of the Sultanate of Oman.