

Names, animals, and meanings (E)

The Whorl list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 28 Jul 1998

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mary whalen — 28 Jul 1998, 17:31

This is Sean Whalen (prion).

Echidna. Greek for viper or adder. Name of a mythological monster. She was described as a creature that is part beautiful woman, and part serpent. The daughter of Chrysaor (Golden Sword) and Callirrhoe (Fair Flowing), or of Tartaros and Gaia (Earth), or of Ceto (Whale or Sea-monster) and Phorcys. Said to be the mother of many other mythological monsters. The myths are contradictory about who these monsters' fathers were. Typhon or Typhoeus is usually said to be the father of the Chimaera, the Hydra, and Cerberus (and Typhon if Typhoeus is given as the father). Typhon/Typhoeus may have been the father of her other children, too. Other sources give Orthos (also called Orthros, who was the dog of the three-headed monster Geryon [who was himself said to be Echidna's brother by some sources]) as the father of the Sphinx, the Nemean Lion, and the Crommyonian Sow (Phaea). Orthos is sometimes said to be the child of Echidna and Typhon as well. The serpend Ladon, the Python, the Colchian dragon, Scylla, and the eagle that tormented Prometheus are also said to be her children not by Typhon in some myths while others give him as the father. Also, Echidna is the name of the genus of the spiny ant-eater. One of the Nine. A major goddess. Consort of Pas, mother of the Seven, goddess of fertility. Associated with snakes, mice, and other crawling animals. Conspired to murder her husband with others. The confusion over the parentage of her offspring makes me believe that Wolfe might have intended her to have been unfaithful to Pas, so some of the "gods" may not be Pas' children at all.

Eft. Old word for a lizard or newt, or the land-dwelling stage of a water newt. Mattak's subordinate.

Eland. *Tragelaphus oryx*. The largest species of antelope. Can be 12 feet long. Large twisting horns. Murderer in the tunnels who tames bufes.

prion