Ndwen ‘moon’
PT *ʔbl/rïen A1, PKT *ʔmbluuen

This morpheme is found in all three branches of Tai, in the Kam-Sui languages, and in Lakkia, Pubiao and Hlai. In Tai languages it is mostly found with initial d- in SW, b- or ml- in CT, and d- (?d-) in NT; Kam-Sui languages mostly have n- or lj-, as do Lakkia and Hlai.1 Liáng and Zhāng note however that Mulam has myǎ:n2 ‘month’ as well as njec:n2 ‘moon’, and that Longzhou and Yongning have hai1. They reconstruct PTK initial *ʔmbl- for this item, along with two other morphemes. Li Fang Kuei reconstructs PT *ʔbl/rïen Al (HCT 5.6, p. 91), noting that Saek has ʔbl- according to Haudricourt but bl- according to Gedney (p. 91). The final is reconstructed in 15.3.4 (p. 281).2 Pittayaporn reconstructs PT *ɓlɯǝnA for this etymon (242). Thurgood reconstructs PKS *nüaːn (214). Gokhman reconstructs PT *ɁblïanA1, PKS *Ɂdïan A1, and PLi *ʔnían (172).

Liáng and Zhāng note the existence of hai1 in Longzhou and Yongning, and comment, “It is still a question as to whether the words in the two branches are genetically related.” (p. 334) In the survey data hai1 is found as far east as Qinzhou, as far west as Wenshan, and as far north as Long’an in central-western GX and the northern part of Guangnan in EY. Two characters in the survey material (13 and 14) represent hai1. Pittayaporn reconstructs PT *ʰŋaːjA for this etymon, glossed as ‘moonlight’ (245).

Ndwen is found to vary considerably in the survey data in both initial and rime.

Initial

d- (?d-) found everywhere in Guizhou Bouyei and most areas in N and central GX, apart from the NE; and Qiubei and Xichou in EY;
nd- found in Huanjiang and Yishan, transitional between d- (?d-) and lj- etc.;
dj- found in Rongshui;
lj- found in Rong’an;
l- found in Sanjiang and in Lianshan in Guangdong;

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1 Gàilùn p. 334.
2 Cf. CTSB 0047 ‘month, moon’, p. 71.