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lig·u·la  (lĭg yə-lə)

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n. pl. lig·u·lae (-lē') or *lig·u·las*

A strap-shaped or tonguelike structure, especially the terminal portion of the labium in the mouthparts of certain insects.

[Latin, diminutive of *lingua*, tongue; see **d ghū-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

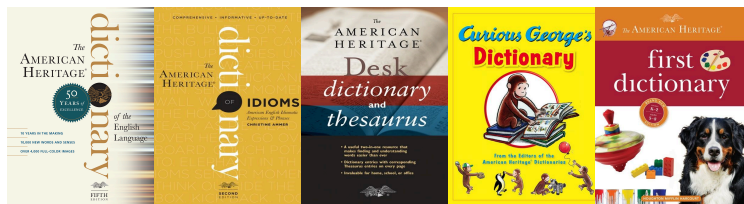
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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