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a·del·gid  (ə-děl jĭd)

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n.

Any of various aphidlike insects of the family Adelgidae that infest conifers and usually secrete a waxy or woolly covering.

[From New Latin *Adelgidae*, family name, from *Adelgēs*, type genus, from *-adelges* (interpreted as "suckers"), in French *Phytadelges*, former adelgid family name (**PHYT(O)-** + *-adelges*, literally "plant-suckers"), and French *Zoadelges*, former family of hemipterans including the bedbug (**ZO(O)-** + *-adelges*, literally "animal-suckers"), both coined by French zoologist André Marie Constant Duméril (1774-1860), from *adelgein*, probably misreading of Greek *amelgein*, to milk, suck up, drain, drink; see **melg-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots, or possibly misreading of *athelgein*, a rare verb said to mean the same thing as *amelgein* in a 4th-century AD Greek dictionary.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

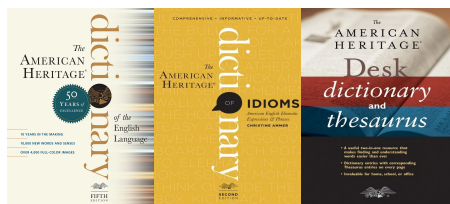
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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