DAGBANI PLANT NAMES

[PRELIMINARY CIRCULATION DRAFT FOR COMMENT]

- 1. DAGBANI-LATIN
- 2. LATIN-DAGBANI [NOT READY]
- 3. LATIN-ENGLISH COMMON NAMES [NOT READY]

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1. Introduction

The Dagomba are one of the most widespread and numerous peoples of Northern Ghana. They have two principal centres, Tamale and Yendi, centred in the Northern territories. Their language, Dagbani or Dagbanli, is widely known as a second language in north-eastern Ghana. Despite this, no dictionary of their language has ever been published and technical vocabulary such as the names of trees, plants and their products may be problematic to elicit.

Ethnobotanical information is essential to the work of foresters and others concerned with the environment. Local people have extensive knowledge both about the trees and plants in their region, their uses and distribution. In order to work effectively with communities on woodland management it is necessary to discuss individual plant species. This can only be done if it is clear that the forester has an effective identification base for the local language.

This guide¹ is intended to provide this for Dagbani by giving the singular and plural of as many plants as possible, in as accurate a transcription as possible. Where the plant has been identified, the Latin name and the common English name, if one exists, is given. In addition whatever is known about the use of the plant is added to the definition.

This guide only contains 'wild' plants, although some fruit trees, introduced as crops are now widespread in woodland areas. Similarly, it is common practice to transplant bush plants to the homestead for medicinal or other use and even to transplant some food species. Nonetheless, the Dagomba also have an extensive and complex repertoire of domestic plants, which are classified in a companion document².

This document also has a short section on Dagomba classification of vegetation. One of the sources of confusion in discussions between communities and extension workers is a failure to understand the different meanings applied.

2. Transcription

Dagbani is a member of the Oti-Volta language group, which in turn forms one major branch of the Gur family (Manessy 1975). Its closest relatives are likely to be the languages Talni and Nabti. Most of these languages show marked vowel harmony and thus have either seven or nine vowels in ±ATR pairs. Historically, in Ghana, the transcription of most languages has followed the pattern of Twi, with seven vowels, adding /ɛ/ and /ɔ/ to the five cardinal vowels. Despite this tradition, the phonology of Dagbani is exceptional. The open vowels /ɛ/ and /ɔ/ have merged with their closed counterparts and a central vowel /i/ has developed. This was represented in some orthographies with /i/ but most recent publications eschew this. Academic publications on Dagbani are (Fisch 1913; Benzing 1969, 1971; Wilson 1963, 1970, 1972 & 1976; Wilson & Bendor-Samuel 1969).

Despite its importance, Dagbani has no standard writing system. The orthography used in the Bible is not the same as that recommended in academic publications such as Wilson (1972) nor that used by the current Dagbani literacy committee. Present writing systems do not accurately represent the sounds of the language. The present manuscript is not intended as literacy material but as **a practical aid to those concerned with the environment in Northern Ghana**. The intention is therefore to transcribe Dagbani in a phonemic orthography so that words can be pronounced correctly. Readers may then convert words to a writing system with which they feel comfortable (see Table 1).

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¹ I would like to thank Tony Naden, Gbeduuri, for making available to me unpublished Dagbani materials and to my field assistants, especially James Amaligo, Rural Forestry Department, Tamale, Joseph Ziblin of Yonduni and Mahama Afa Asumah of Tolon for working on this with me.

² 'Dagomba agriculture' R.M. Blench. Working Paper for 'Partnerships and Policies for Change' programme, Overseas Development Institute.

Dagbani has two dialects, East and West, centred around Yendi and Tamale. In many cases, words are very similar or the same in both dialects. Where differences have been recorded, there are given with the abbreviations:

ED Eastern or Yendi Dialect WD Western Dialect

The reference forms given here are based on the dialect of the Tamale area. The most common differences are vowel sounds, ways of forming the plural and the exchange of /r/ and /l/. Speakers seem to have little trouble adapting to these differences. The Nanumba people, speaking the Nani language, who live in scattered settlements in the south-east of the Dagomba area use very similar terms to those in Dagbani, often with small vowel changes.

Vowels

Dagbani has six vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Close-Mid	e	i	O
Open		a	

These can all occur in any position except /i/ which is confined to stems. Vowels may be long or short, except for /i/. A long vowel is marked by doubling. Ghanaian orthographies traditionally mark seven vowels, i.e. the five symbols used in English together with ε and ϑ . These are actually unnecessary for Dagbani, although now that the tradition has been established, writing them will probably continue.

Table 1 shows how to convert these characters to those used here;

Table 1. Vowel conversion table

Commonly written		This document
ε	\rightarrow	e
3	\rightarrow	0

The i sound can be written as 'i' if the reader wishes to transcribe some of the words into one of the other Dagbani orthographies.

Consonants

The consonants are as follows;

	Bilabia l	Labio- dental	Alveola r	Alveopalata l	Palata l	Velar	Labial- velar
Plosive	p		t	t∫		k	kp
	b		d	d3		g	gb
Fricative		f	S	(\int)		h	
		\mathbf{v}	Z	(3)		(γ	
)	
Nasal	m		n		ŋ	ŋ	ŋm
Lateral			1				
Tap/trill				r			
Approximan	W				У		
t							

Most orthographies mark / γ / the velar fricative as a separate consonant. This appears to be unnecessary as / γ / is simply a positional allophone of /g/ between vowels. Nonetheless, it is marked in the present text as Dagbani speakers are familiar with it. The voiceless alveopalatal / t/ / is usually written 'ch' in Ghanaian languages following English orthographic practice and this is also retained. The palatal nasal /p/ is written 'ny'. /f/ is written 'sh' but /f/ uses the IPA symbol. Both alveopalatal fricatives are allophones of their alveolar counterparts but they will be written here following Dagbani orthographic practice.

Tones

Ghanaian convention does not mark tone in orthographies, regardless of its importance in individual languages. The Dagbani tone system is described by Wilson (1970, 1972) and there is no doubt that a secure command of the tones is required to become a competent speaker of Dagbani. However, individual words spoken in isolation can usually be understood by speakers even if the tones are incorrect. This should not deter researchers from learning the correct tonal pattern for each plant name.

There are two level tones and downstep, marked as follows;

High	,
Downstep	!
Low	`

Downstep is a type of high tone that lowers the pitch of the rest of the word.

Those who are not familiar with tones can simply ignore the tone marks and write the words without them.

DAGBANI DOES NOT HAVE A WRITING SYSTEM AGREED BY EVERYONE. IF SOME OF THE CONVENTIONS IN THIS GUIDE ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE YOU USE THEN SIMPLY CONVERT THEM. THE CORE OF THE GUIDE IS THE ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION OF PLANT NAMES.

Plurals and other forms

Like most Gur languages, Dagbani has an elaborate system of plurals for nouns that consist generally of alternating a CV suffix. However, in some cases these suffixes are irregular or have become reduced, and in some cases also the stem vowels undergo changes. Recording plurals is very important, as in many cases, the plural of a tree name is the name of its fruits or leaves. The plurals are given in the second column.

3. Botanical Sources

The most important source for Dagbani plant names are the lists appended to Irvine (1961). Irvine is essentially a survey of the woody plants of Ghana, but the lists are taken over, unrevised, from his earlier publication 'Plants of the Gold Coast' (Irvine 1930). This has two problems; the names listed in the Appendix sometimes refer to plants not in the text, and the scientific names were not updated and are therefore sometimes to outdated. As far as possible, I have tried to match these names with their most recent version.

Irvine's Dagbani lists were reprised in the first edition of 'The Useful Plants of West Tropical Africa' (Dalziel 1937). More Dagbani materials are contained in the publication in progress of the second edition (Burkill 1985, 1994, 1995) based also on herbarium specimens as well as exiting literature. Finally, there is a long list of Dagbani names contained in CIPSEG (1993) based on botanical surveys of sacred groves in the Tamale area.

Not all of these are necessarily accurate; the presence of several contradictory identifications in the sources makes this clear. However, the great majority were confirmed by present-day informants, as were many of the uses and beliefs recorded.

The major lexical source for Dagbani is Lehmann (n.d.) which has extensive data on plant names. Many of these can be identified through comparison with the ethnobotanical sources. Lehmann has the advantage that the transcriptions are generally more reliable and the plurals are usually given. Additional materials were added from the author's fieldwork in Ghana from February 1997 onwards.

Transcriptions in ethnobotanical sources

The transcriptions are very variable, since they are usually compiled from herbarium sheets, so they represent the whim of individual botanists. Nevertheless, in most cases they are recognisable. However, the forms given are in the seven-vowel transcription common in Ghana but inappropriate for Dagbani, never tone-marked and always without the plurals and derived forms for fruit or leaves.

Queries

The sources provide a number of names that cannot be identified by present-day Dagbani speakers. There may be several reasons for this;

- a) the transcription is so garbled that speakers simply cannot recognise it as a word they know.
- b) the word was recorded in a remote area where the plant exists but the plant is not present in the more densely farmed areas
- c) the word is actually in another language, Twi or Mampruli for example, and is thus not recognised.

Such queries are placed at the end of the list in the hope that some may be identified in future.

4. Terminology

Latin names are given for all the plants identified, along with the authorities, which may seem to add a layer of unnecessary complexity. However, the practice of botanists of constantly changing their minds on the names of even quite common and well established economic plants makes this necessary. In recent years, even the name of the shea tree, probably the single most important tree for farmers in northern Ghana, has been changed from *Butyrospermum parkii* to *Vitellaria paradoxa*. The authorities

identify the name given at a particular period so that in future, if the name changes again, or the taxonomists reclassify it, the correct identification can be traced.

5. Uses and cultural importance of Plants

Ethnobotany has two major uses; naming plants accurately allows professionals such as foresters to talk with communities effectively about vegetation. But beyond identification, the real value of this is to determine the role particular plants play in the economic and cultural life of communities. The uses recorded here have been identified within the Dagomba community. For many plants, no use is yet recorded, but almost certainly the plant plays a part either in the extensive medical herbarium or for more practical economic purposes.

In the past, many more wild plants were used as additional sources of food. Before fruit such as oranges and mangoes became readily available in the market, wild fruits were much more appreciated. Many of these trees have now retreated to remote areas to be replaced by planted trees close to villages. In the same way, a large number of plants are noted in earlier sources as 'famine foods' i.e. plants that can be eaten after processing in cases of severe food shortage. The development of food relief has meant that much of the knowledge about such wild plants is in danger of being lost. So when such information is recorded, it does not mean that it is current practice but reminds people of the potential of such plants.

Beyond this, plants also play a role in cultural life. Beliefs about trees or plants may affect whether they are protected or cut down and whether the fruits are eaten.

6. Dagomba vegetation classification

The Dagomba classify vegetation according to very different criteria from European botany. It is not enough to simply translate **tìá** as 'tree' or **móyú** as 'grass'. Table 2 shows the main groups and the types of plant that fall into them;

Table 2. D	Table 2. Dagomba classification of vegetation		
Singular	Plural	Vegetation classes included	
tìá	tìhí	tree, shrub, epiphyte	
móγú	mórí	grass, sedge, small plant	
b í nzórlì	b í nzórà	vine, creeper, liana	
màlèyú	màlèrí	mushroom, fungus	
nóvólí		vegetable gall	

Apart from this, vegetation is also classified according to the position of the fruit or tuber, as follows;

bín-wóndà any plant which has fruits above ground any plant which has fruits or tubers below ground

In addition, the generic term **tìbéé** pl. **tìbéhí** refers to all trees, such as **gaa, tua** and **nyoo**, believed to shelter spirits.

tìtáblí tìtábà general term to describe the entwining of two different species of trees or herbs

7. Further work

The present document consists of a preliminary synthesis of existing field materials on Dagbani. It needs substantial checking in the field both in terms of content, transcription and expansion of the ethnobotanical aspects.

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DAGBANI - ENGLISH/LATIN

Singular	Plural	Gloss
A.		
àlépèlè bìndì		herb of wasteland Tridax procumbens L. eaten by animals. et. 'aeroplane shit'
àlúúrà	~ -n ì má	teak tree Tectona grandis < H. 'needle'. A fast-growing plantation tree used for firewood and occasionally for furniture.
àntírìnyà	~ n ì má	cashew tree and fruit Anacardium occidentale et. A shortened form of atiri yi nya 'the one who will get and give you'
apamaban àsóómà	~ n ì má	Ludwigia abyssinica A. Rich. turmeric Curcuma domestica Val. plant with bulbous roots used in dyeing skins yellow, hence yellow colour.
àtúzéyù	àtúʒérì	shrub The leaves and roots are used for medicine. et. 'plant + red'
В.		
bàdàlí	bàdàyá	vine with a large underground tuber The vine-stem is rubbed on sores on the legs of small ruminants and dogs.
bàgààlúa	_	acacia tree Acacia nilotica (Linn.) Willd. The pods are used for tanning. < H. also gbànzàbgóó
bàlàŋbèlè bàlàŋgb ì nì	bàlàŋgb ì ná	See bàlàngbìnì An annual herb growing on waste ground Also bàlànbèlè Borreria octodon Hepper Pandiaka heudelotii (Moq.) Hook f.
bàndóbà	_	Also powanyakruga zuperi climbing plant, the leaves of which are used as a purgative. Proverb: Ti naa maa ŋmanla bandoba tom laylayi Our chief is like the bitter <i>bandoba</i> plant i.e. Chiefs are not easy people to deal with
bándùyrígù	bándùyrísi	bushy plants usually grown on or near compounds, effective against fever. Often an ingredient in children's medicines. There are two types, yìŋ

Singular	Plural	Gloss
B		bándùyrígù or 'house ~' which is planted around the
		compound and móyní (or yo) bándùyrígù 'bush ~'
		which is collected from the bush
bàyángà	bàyánsì	scrambling shrub
• 0	•	camel's foot
		P. reticulatum (DC.) Hochst.
		The leaves used to pack cassava and Bambara
		groundnuts to put in boiling water for cooking. The
		leaves are used as a plaster to cover sores on
		children's legs. Children can be cured of measles by
		bathing them in an infusion of leaves. The fibre can
		be used to make a rope.
bàŋlàyú	bàŋlàrí	Tephrosia purpurea (L) Pers.
ouijiu ţu	ouijiui i	The leaves are fed to goats and sheep. The twigs are
		used for roasting kebabs.
báŋlì		vine up to 2m.
vaijn	_	Women use it to make soup. They cook the leaves,
		pour of the water and then pound the residue.
bàŋmárígá		The name means 'floodland star' so presumably a
Daijillariga	_	plant of damp areas
bàrè kpàndáá		Four-leaved senna
vare kpanuaa		Cassia absus L.
hàrgá	bàrsí	shrub to 3m. grown on the farms
bàrgá	Daisi	The leaves are used for soup and bark for making
		-
bàrùŋgwìní	bàrùŋgb ì ná	rope. Spermacoce stachydea
bèèní	vai uijgv i iia	Creeper with a very long root. The root is crushed and
Deem	_	mixed with water to form a sort of glue. This is mixed
		_
		with the sand used for building houses to ensure the
hanvara tinian		rain doesn't wash away the walls.
benyoyo tirigu		Acroceras zizanioides Dandy see also manci
hìhìmàtátáná	b ì b ì rètútúrí	
błbłrètútúyú	D i Dif Clulul	shrub
		Cochlospermum planchoni Hook. f or C. tinctorium
		A. Rich. (Cochlospermaceae)
124		Also tákpárígá lóòrì
b ì ná	_	sedge with fragrant rhizome; wild tiger nut
		Cyperus articulatus Linn.
		see nansagti kpirli, yìŋ bìná, yò bìná . Rhizome used
		as a remedy for coughs. There are two types, the
F((1)	1.4	cultivated type and the type found in the bush.
b í r í lì	b í rà	Any plant of the <i>Hibiscus</i> genus whose leaves are
		used as spinach.
		Particularly Hibiscus surattensis L.
	15. 5	Used to make rope. Also kananjun, pianeyemere
bìm	bìmà	shrub used to poison fish
		Tephrosia vogelii Hook f.
		also a generic term for any fish-poison
		2

Singular	Plural	Gloss
birimia	birimhi	shrub used for making rope
bìyólí sìmlè	bìyólí sìmà	Alysicarpus ovalifolius (Schum. & Thonn.) J.
bry on sinne	biyon sima	Leonard
bòcháá	bòchéhí	witchweed
Dociiaa	bochem	see wùblím
bùgú	bùrí	herb with a bulb beneath the ground
vugu	Dull	Tacca leontopetaloides (L) O. Ktze
bùdùnì	bùdùnà	shrub whose roots are used as chewsticks and which
Duduili	Dudulla	
		make the teeth red
		Waltheria indica L.
		or Cleome viscosa L.
bùkpùŋá	bùkpùnsí	ordeal tree
		Erythrophleum africanum (Welw. ex Benth.) Harms
		Cut for firewood, but poisonous to animals.
bùlágbíríwó	bùlágbírsí	Cissus sp.
		et. he-goat + scratch + head. Goats scratch their head
		against this plant when they are aching.
bulasam		Small herb with yellow flowers used as a broom
		Sida acuta Burm f.
		Also sambaŋ kana
bulimbugu	bulimburi	Custard–apple
Ø		Annona senegalensis Pers.
		Tree with edible fruit. Insects easily invade a plucke
		fruit. Leaves are fed to animals. Roots are used to
		treat waist-pain.
buntibli	buntiba	shrub
Duntion	vuiitiva	
hivaánínían	bùsápírsì	Stylochiton hypogaeus Lepr.
bùsápírígù	busapirsi	tree
		Feretia apodanthera Del.
C.		
chenchen dibga		Kohautia senegalensis
chímà	_	thatching grass
		Pennisetum pedicellatum Trin.
chínchééŋà	chínchénsì	trees of the <i>Entada</i> group
also chíncéréncinà	chinenensi	Entada africana Guill. & Perr., E. abyssinica Steud.
aiso cimicer eijenja		ex Rich.
		see náynyóóntíà
D		
D.		
dàbgà	dábsí	shrub fed to horses
0	•	Used as a chewstick.
dàkòl gbiŋkpagle		see below
dàkòl sàgábo [!] rlí	dàkòl sàgábo [!] rá	wild plant with small edible brown berries
		3

Singular	Plural	Gloss
		et. 'bachelor + handful of porridge'
		Eugenia subherbacea A. Chev.
		Fadogia agrestis Schweinf.
		Also dàkòl gbiŋkpagle, sòylàkàb´gá
dàŋkùŋá	dàŋkùnsí	tree with edible fruit (not eaten in this area)
y y		Hymenocardia acida Tul.
dàsáá nyínyáyú	~ nyínyárí	thistles of the <i>Centaurea</i> group, star-thistle
	JJ	Centaurea praecox Oliv. and Hiern.
		et. ? + 'claws'
dàsàŋá	dàsàndí	empty dawadawa pod. See dòó
dàzèmám	—	thatching grass
uagemam	_	Andropogon pseudapricus Stapf
dàʒùlí	dàʒùyá	Trees or shrubs of the <i>Gardenia</i> genus
uazun	uazuya	Proverb: Kuliga dazuli kom dir' o k' o mi dir'
		kayli . Water uproots the <i>dazuli</i> tree (during floods)
		•
dà=ù nàánaássà		and in its turn it spoils the reeds (the high grass).
dàʒù nàánaáyà		shrub with small, edible apple-like fruit and sweet-
		smelling yellow or white blossoms.
1)) / 1 /)		Gardenia erubescens Stapf & Hutch.
dàzù nímbóyù		Gardenia ternifolia Schum. & Thonn.
dàʒù tìkpùrílí		shrub
		Gardenia sp.
dìnkpànyúlí	dìnkpànyúyá	Ageratum conyzoides L.
dòbínó	dòbínó n í mà	date palm
		< H.
dókúl´zèm	dókúl´ʒèmà	the flower (corolla) of the dawadawa (locust) tree.
dòyó	dòrí	dawadawa pods on the tree
		Proverb: Jaŋ ' bil' lu kpaya galem dòrí, ni kpi kum
		bieyu. The small monkey fell sick and accused
		dawadawa pods; he'll die a very bad death. (he won't
		have anything else to eat). If a child turns against his
		breadwinner, his parents, he'll suffer.
dòó	dòhí	dawadawa tree
		locust tree
		Parkia biglobosa (Jacq.) R Br. ex Don
		The seeds are fermented and made into strong-
		smelling cakes sold to flavour food. The yellow
		powder inside the pods is eaten as a snack and boiled
		up into a sweet drink. The roots and empty seed pods
		are boiled into a liquid used to seal floors and walls.
		A weak solution of this is used for stomach medicine
		The bark is burnt and mixed with earthworm casts
		and used to smooth away scars. the bark is also
		soaked and the water is rubbed on the skin for 'bone
		pain' [arthritis?].
dòmàlèyú	dòmàlèrí	Fungus growing on the dawadawa tree
dòzím	dôzímá	
UUZIIII	uoziiiia	yellow flour from the dawadawa (locust) pod
		singular form serves as an adjective, preceding the

F. filasiko senna Senna alata (Linn.) Roxb. < H. fir`gínlì fírgìmá senna Senna alata (Linn.) Roxb. < H. cultivated by planting at the foot of the found in the wild. Wild forms tend to kuru fir`gínlì. Proverb: Fírgìmá nay guli ku lə bəbma. The thief turns the and cannot tie them up (because they to someone who tries to defeat someon him. fùlùmfùlàà fùlùmfùlàhì Commelina africana (L.) name means 'male Commelina' fùlùmfùnyân fùlùmfùnyân fùlùmfùnyámà fùlùnfûrì Commelina sp.	be toxic. Also viya be m-be n-e string around are round). Said
F. filasiko senna Senna alata (Linn.) Roxb. < H. fir`gínlì fírgìmá aerial yam Dioscorea bulbifera L. Cultivated by planting at the foot of to found in the wild. Wild forms tend to kuru fir`gínlì. Proverb: Fírgìmá nay guli ku lə bəbma. The thief turns the and cannot tie them up (because they to someone who tries to defeat someon him. fùlùmfùlàà fùlùmfùlàhì Commelina africana (L.) name means 'male Commelina' fùlùmfùnyán fùlùmfùnyámà name means 'female Commelina'	be toxic. Also viya be m-be n-e string around are round). Said
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name means 'male Commelina' fùlùmfùnyân fùlùmfùnyámà name means 'female Commelina'	
fùlùmfùnyân fùlùmfùnyámà name means 'female Commelina'	
* -	
fùùkáylí fùkáyá bristly foxtail grass Setaria pumila (Poir.) Roem. & Schul	16
also Echinocloa crus pavoni Schult.	11.
G.	
gàà gàhí ebony tree	
monkey-guava	
Diospyros mespiliformis Hochst ex A The tree is said to be the home of the	
Kpukparsi, and as such may not be c	_
The roots are used in a decoction to d	· ·
spirits. The fruits are edible and in so Dagombaland are the property of the	-
Proverb: Zakpaleyu zaysi kiŋkama l	ka lee ŋubri
gawuyla. The zakpaleyu bird refused gaya fruits. Figs are easy to get and fi	-
ebony fruits have fallen on the ground	
not tasty.	
gàb'lí gàb'lá fruit of the gàbligá tree gàbligá gàblisí small thorn tree with edible fruit used	I to make the
stocks of guns	
gàhàn gwòlúgú gwàhàn gwòlsí tree with very soft wood	
tree Hannoa undulata (Guiil. & Perr.)) Planch. or
Quassia undulata? The ease with which the branches bre	ak has made this
5	ar has made alls

Roger Blench	Dagomba plant names	and uses Circulation version
Singular	Plural	Gloss
		tree proverbial for suicides. The roots are used as an
		aphrodisiac.
		Cussonia arborea Hochst. [formerly barteri]
gàlìn ʒ ègú	gàlìnʒèrí	tree or epiphyte on other species
		gutta-percha tree
		Ficus platyphylla Del.
		also gàlìngènyân. A liquid is tapped from the root
		and rubbed on a swollen body. The bark is an
		ingredient in various secret love-philtres.
gàlìn ʒ èláá	gàlìnʒèláhí	tree(s) of the Ficus group
_	- •	Ficus iteophylla Miq. or Ficus glumosa Del. var.
		glaberrima
		name means 'male Ficus'
gàlìnʒènyâŋ	gàlìnʒènyámà	fig-tree
J - 7 - 7	g J J	see gàlìnʒègú
		name means 'female <i>Ficus</i> '. The water from boiled
		leaves is given to a child that is not walking properly.
gàmpìr`gá	gàmpìr`sí	tree(s) of the <i>Ficus</i> group including gampillaa and
Sumpir Su	gumph si	gampilnyan
		Proverb: gampiri suŋ ŋi layim zii ni ba . A good fig
		tree will gather people to sit under it.
gàmpìláá	gàmpìláhí	tree
gàmpìláá	gampham	
~>>1\	~~~~~~``~~~``	Ficus thonningii Blume
gàmpìl`nyâŋ	gàmpìl`nyámà	fig-tree
->	->	Ficus polita Vahl
gàrìnyíní	gàrìnyíná	Acacia macrostachya Reichenb. ex Benth.
1.		also nyera
garli	gara	creeper
gársa!blì	gársa [!] blà	shrub or liana
		Combretum dolichopetalum Engl. & Diels
gár z égù	gár z érì	shrub or liana
		C. paniculatum Vent. ssp. paniculatum
gáálì	gáyá	fruit of the ebony, gaa (Diospyros mespiliformis)
gbanzabgoo	gbanzabgohi	acacia tree whose pods are used for tanning.
		Acacia nilotica (Linn.) Willd.
		also bagalua
gbànzá(lí)ŋgá	gbànzá(lí)nsí	tree used for pestles and roof frames
		Burkea africana Hook.
gbébà		Tall aromatic herb
		Hyptis pectinata (Linn.) Poit. (Labiatae)
gbìrgá	gbìrsí	shrubs of the Combretum group
		Combretum molle R. Br. and C. nigricans Lepr.
		The chewstick is used to keep the teeth firm. The
		fibre is boiled to treat internal sores.
gbùŋgbàŋ	gbùŋgbàmà	tall grass used for making mats. Grows where land
- . .	J " U	has not been cultivated.
gingagli		the tender leaves of gingagigoo which is boiled and
o o o		served as food in time of famine. (E.D.) gingagri
		6

Singular	Plural	Gloss
		(W.D.)
gìngàgóó	gìngàgóhí	see gìngàtiǎ
gìngàtìá	gìngàtìhí	snuffbox tree
0 0	8 8	shrub with edible fruits which are also used for
		making snuffboxes
		Strychos spinosa Lam.
		Also púmpónchíà
gólínchémà	_	scrambling thorny shrub
0		Mimosa pigra Linn.
góndílí	góndá	pawpaw, papaya tree and fruit
8	8	Carica papaya Linn.
		< H.
góópóhágà	góópóhásì	acacia with highly scented roots, effective to cure
9 L	Packamen	neuralgia. Thorny with a sap used for glue
góópiélgà	góópiélsì	acacia with white bark.
góóziê	gózéhì	acacia with red bark
Soozie	Sozem	Acacia dudgeoni Craib
		Also wàrfáá
gotaba		khakiweed
Sound		Alternanthera pungens H.B. & K.
gùlúŋgûŋ	gùlúŋgúmà	shrub sp.
guiuijguij	Suranjamina	Nauclea latifolia Smith
		The fruit is edible. The bitter leaves are boiled for
		medicine. The roots are cut up and used as medicine
		for toothache and a sore throat. If bees go to this plan
		it makes their honey bitter.
gúmáchúyzùlì	gúmáchúyzùyà	tall grass used in weaving gbala mats to cover
Sumacha (2an	Sumacna įzaya	doorways
		The name means 'chameleon's tail' referring to the
		shape of the flower.
gùmb lá	gùmbíhí	kapok seedlings
gùmbóyú	gumbim 	kapok seeds. See also kanton
gumboyri	?	An erect herb or small shrub. Grows both in the house
guiiboyii	•	and in the bush. The seeds are brought from the bush
		and planted around the house. It flowers in the dry
		season and has many seeds. Used for a medicine to
		aid in childbirth.
ကျဲကရဲရဲကျင်	aùnààaiá	
gùnààzúá	gùnààzúé	Hoslundia opposita Vahl
gùŋá	gùnsí	kapok tree
annann di		Ceiba pentandra (L) Gaertn.
gùŋgùmdí	— ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	kapok lint used to stuff pillows
gùŋgùmlí	gùŋgùmá	kapok pod
gwávà	gwává n í mà	guava tree and fruit
		Psidium guajava Linn.
		< E.

Roger Blench	Dagomba plant names	and uses
Singular	Plural	Gloss
J.		
jàŋ kúnón nyúlì		Boerhavia coccinea Mill. et. cat's yam. Children set out the tubers as if they were yams when pretending to make farms
jáŋ sínsábgá	jáŋ sínsábáá	Tree with small red edible fruits Lannea sp.
jáŋ yó kòrlì		Polycarpa corymbosa (L.) Lam. (Caryophyllaceae) et. 'monkey's old penis' Also given as Kyllinga squamulata Thonn. ex Vahl
jèŋgbè yògrlí	jèŋgbè yògrá	flowering tree Moringa oleifera Lam.
jèŋkpìbrìgóó	jèŋkpìbrìgóhí	i.e. Hausa yògrlí shrub whose roots are used for medicine ?Asparagus africanus Lam.
jìrìyúŋ	jìrìyúmá	et. Hausa + ? + thorn. If people want to catch house- bats or prevent them from flying into a space they spread these thorns across and the bats will become entangled in the thorns balsam spurge shrub Euphorbia balsamifera Ait.
К.		
káá	káhí	edible shrub, with white flowers. ? Cleome viscosa [kalaa in source]
kàgàlóm	_	immature káglí grass
káglí	kágá	elephant grass Pennisetum purpureum Schumach. A tall swamp grass used for gbala mats and doorway coverings.
kahinkoyu nyuli	_	A vine with a large underground tuber of no food value. The tuber consists of fibrous rings like an onion with no flesh inside. Proverb: nam-ŋmanla kahinkoyu nyuli kinship is like k~ i.e it has rings of complexity but may turn out to be useless in the end
kálífí máálám	_	small herb with tiny, numerous seeds. Muslims gather the seeds and mix them with cereals when sowing in order to multiply the crop. Name and concept borrowed from Hausa. prob. <i>Evolvulus asinoides</i> (Linn.) Linn.
kàl`wá	kàl`wà n ì má	tree with thorns on the trunk whose roots are used as medicinal herbs.
kàl`wá bihili	kàl`wá biha	thorn of the kàl`wá tree, used as a medicine for swellings, etc. A stone is soaked with water and the thorn rubbed against it to make a paste. This is then 8

Singular	Plural	Gloss
		applied to the swelling.
kàmbàŋá	kàmbàmá	tree
· ·		Hannoa undulata (Guill. & Perr.) Planch.
		The branches are used for roofs and the bitter bark is
		made into medicine.
kantoŋ		cakes made from the fermented seeds of the baobab
		and kapok fruits as a condiment for soup
		also gumbogu
kàsàláá		Euphorbia sp.
kàsàlí		•
	1-21-2	Euphorbia sp.
kìŋkàm`lí	kìŋkàmá	fruit of the kiŋkaŋa tree. Edible but usually left for
		the bats
kìŋkàŋà	kìŋkànsí	fig tree
		Ficus gnaphalocarpa (Miq.) Steud. ex A. Rich.
kìŋkàŋ sálgú	kìŋkàŋ sálsí	fig tree
		Ficus capensis Thunb.
kìŋkàŋ zàysìgú	kìŋkàŋ zàysìsí	Ficus sp.
		A tree whose leaves cause itching. The roots are very
		popular for medicine and as a result, trees are rather
		rare in the Tamale area.
kìrìŋá	kìrìnsí or kìrìmà	Flacourtia flavescens Willd.
kirirema		said by FRI to be a name for <i>Diospyros mespiliformis</i>
		but probably a mistake
kùlnyúrlí	kùlnyúrá	reed whose hollow stem is used as a straw
kofe	Kumyura	Cyperus haspan Linn.
konyirigo		Vossia cuspidata Griff.
• •		herb whose corm is used for medicine
kòrìnchí	_	
		Curculigo pilosa (Schum. & Thonn.) Engl.
		Also táríngúlì
kòrìntàlí	kòrìntàyá	herb with a woody base, with burs and spines. Only
		found in remote areas. Said to be poisonous
		Pupalia lappacea (Linn.) Juss.
kòrlàŋgbàndí	kòrlàŋgbàná	tree with large leaves
		Terminalia macroptera Guill. & Perr.
		et. <i>Terminalia</i> + skin (referring to the leaves)
		also korli nyau
kòrlí	kòrá	trees of the Terminalia group
		Terminalia avicennioides Guill. & Perr. and
		Terminalia glaucescens Planch.
kòrlínyâŋ	kòrlínyámà	tree
<i>J</i> J	<i>J</i>	Terminalia macroptera Guill. & Perr.
		also kòrlàngbàndí
kòyém	<u></u>	shrub whose sap is squeezed into milk by cowherds t
		thicken it
I	I-m 2.212.4-2	also lánjám
kpààliégù	kpààliérì	Horse-bean. Climbing plant with long pods used by
		women to make music.
		? Canavalia ensiformis
		9

Roger Blench Dagomba plant names and uses Circulation version		
Singular	Plural	Gloss
kpááŋwu¹ndúgù	_	bushy grass-like lemon grass, but with smaller leaves
		and with a powerful odour. Used for children's
		medicine.
kpáákpà	kpáákpà n ì má	oil-palm
		Elaeis guineensis
		palm kernels
		The oil is used extensively in cooking and is also
lrnáálrnál lrnáám		traded widely. < H.?
kpáákpál kpáám	_	pericarp oil of oil-palm
kpàgàzáwú kpagligu	kpaglisi	tree sp. tree with edible fruit. (E.D.) (kpagriga , W.D.)
kpagriga	kpagrisi	tree with edible fruit. (W.D. (kpagliga , W.D.)
Kpagriga	Kpagi isi	tallow tree
		Detarium senegalense JF Gmelin
kpàgú	kpàrí	raffia palm
haPa	har	Raffia sudanica
kpakpwele kushikom		Heteranthera callifolia Richb. ex. Kunth
kpalga	kpalsi	shrub used to make mortars and for firewood. It has
La2a		black seeds and hard pods. Fruit not eaten. also
		yokpali
		Securidaca longepedunculata Fres.
		or Detarium microcarpum Guill. & Perr. [?]
kpálbíyá	kpálígú <i>or</i> kpálbíhí	cakes made from fermented locust seeds
kpàlsóyú	kpàlsárí	doka tree
•	-	Isoberlinia doka Craib & Stapf
kpálsò pièlègá	kpálsò pièl`sí	tree used for firewood. The fresh leaves are fed to
		cattle.
		Isoberlinia tomentosa (Harms) Craib & Stapf
kpámvóyù	_	grass used for animal feed
kpaŋbili		plant found in the bush but also cultivated
		The name means 'guinea-fowl breast' and if you put
		the leaves in soup it will taste of guinea-fowl
kpaŋguli	NC	tree
		Afzelia africana Sm.
		also kpalaŋa
kpansogwa		tunrsole, cock's comb
		Heliotropum indicum Linn.
kpáráciâ	kpárácíhì	Snuff- box tree
		Oncoba spinosa Forsk.
		The fruit is edible and the fruit-shells are dried and
		used as containers
kpargani		Cochlospermum planchoni Hook. f
I (()I-> >	L 44. NIN N	Also bibere(tu)tugu, tákpárígá lóòrì
kpárípìhìgà	kpárípìhìsì	small shrub with toxic milky latex. The sap is fed to
		children said to be afflicted with evil spirits. Children
		use it to raise scars on the skin.
lendh aá	lemble) of	Sapium grahamii (Stapf) Prain
kpìhìgá	kpìhìsí	ackee apple tree.
		10

Roger Blench	Dagomba plant names an	nd uses Circulation version
Singular	Plural	Gloss
		Blighia sapida Konig. The fruit is much appreciated but not common as it depends on deep fertile soil. The name is also applied to the cashew (Anacardium occidentale)
kpìhìlí kpììŋŋòγù	kpìhá kpììŋŋòrì	ackee apple fruit frankincense tree used for rafters Boswellia dalzielii Hutch.
kpííŋà kpílígá	kpíhì kpílsí	shea nut. See tááŋà small tree used to make hoe handles Pericopsis laxiflora (Benth.) van Meeuwen or Afrormosia laxiflora (Benth. ex Bak.)
kpùkpàlgá	kpùkpàlá <i>or</i> kpùkpàlsí	fan palm Borassus aethiopicum The leaves are used for weaving hats and fans. The interior of the fruit can be eaten.
kpùkpàlgbăŋ	kpùkpàlgbàná	fan palm See kpùkpàlgá
kpùŋkpàŋgóŋ	kpùŋkpàŋgóná	false acha grass, ditch millet Paspalum scrobiculatum Linn. A bad weed of cereal fields, it sends out runners. If you pull it up it will leave part of the plant in the ground to regrow.
kpuŋkpaŋkuŋmeli	криŋкраŋкиŋmeya	tree with brittle wood that snaps easily and sends splinters flying. No fruit. Used for firewood. like yokayinga
kúgá	kúgsí	mahogany Khaya senegalensis The wood is used for mortars and the bark boiled for
kùlchí	_	medicine. white water lily Nymphaea lotus L. probably applies to other plant spp. covering open water et. river + millet. Produces a small edible grain used as a famine food or eaten by children. The fresh
kùlgárlí	kùlgárá	leaves are ground and then applied to boils. small evergreen tree producing a thick shade. Animals shelter under it. The plants interweave with one another producing a dense mat of vegetation.
kulgoo		tree Acacia sieberiana DC. var. Villosa A. Chev. et. 'river-thorn'
kulima		swamp morning-glory Ipomoea aquatica Linn.
kulkarjee		grass used to make bracelets Proverb: kulkarjee ku ŋman' baŋa. A grass bracelet
kùlkàrlí	kùlkàrá	can't resemble a real bracelet. vetiver, a grass used for plaiting hats and baskets. 11

Roger Blench	Dagomba plant names	and uses Circulation version
Singular	Plural	Gloss
		Vetiveria nigritana (Benth.) Stapf
kù(l)`kpàryòò	kù(l)`kpàryòhí	drumstick tree (W.D.)
		Cassia sieberiana DC
1 \ 1 //	1 \ 1 \ / 1 \ /	kukpalyoo (E.D.) Used to treat stomach pains.
kùlsáá	kùlsáhí	nut-grass
		used to treat garli cattle worms Cyperus maculatus Boeck. and Cyperus rotundus
		Linn.
kultii	kultihi	tree
		Syzygium guineense DC var. guineense
		et. 'river-tree' The tree has strong roots and cannot be
		carried away by floods. Proverb: kopaliga mali
		kpion, ka kultii mali woli The river may have a
		strong current, but ~ has strong roots
kùlúŋgbúlùŋ	kùlúŋgbúlìmà	tree sp.
		A tree with very pliable wood. The bark is ground up
		and applied to swellings.
kuluŋkuma		Tridax procumbens Linn.
		Also banyoyo
kúmbágítià	kúmbágítìhì	shrub usually grown near a large tree for support.
		et. 'nearby tree'
kùndùŋ bógólé	kùndùŋ bógólá	Cassia obtusifolia L.
		Also tìkùbláákùm pierli et. 'hyena shrine'.
kùndùŋ piém	kùndùŋ piémá	grass with arrow-shaped heads.
		et. 'hyena arrow'. Used for thatching and eaten by
1	1 2 12 / 2	horses.
kùndùŋ yólì	kùndùŋ yóyà	large toadstool
lainni fémaénié	lainni finaimá	et. 'hyena penis'
kùrù f í rgínlí	kùrù f í rgímá	shrub
L		
lăm		Bengal bean plant, cow-itch
		Mucuna pruriens
		A vine with hairy pods which cause intolerable
		itching on contact with the skin. If people are
		gathering for a purpose you disapprove of, gather the
		hairs of the pod in your palm and blow them out into
		the crowd which will quickly disperse.
làŋgàndìlí	làŋgàndá	? Kigelia africana
16 m m/m/ 341	14	Also wóbtiâ
láŋgír´ndóò	láŋgír´ndóhì	herb or shrub
		Also tàbà dúgù pyûrgú. When dry the pithy stems
		Also tàbà dúgù nyûrgú. When dry the pithy stems are collected by women to start fires. et. 'skirt of
		dawadawa tree' – leaves resemble this tree. Children
		use the stems to pretend to smoke
		12
		1 4

Singular	Plural	Gloss
Singulai	Turar	Also given as Chamaecrista mimosoides
lànjàm	lànjàmà	shrub sp.
i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	iuiijuiiiu	see kòyém
lànjìŋá	lànjìnsí	tree used to make charcoal
JJ		Prosopis africana (Guill. & Perr.) Taub.
		also nanʒili
lèmú	_	citrus fruit (generic)
lèmú nyámí	_	lime tree and fruit
lìlíŋga	lìlínsi	African wild cherry tree and fruits
18		Ximenia americana Linn.
lìlínlì	lìlímà	fruit of the lìlínga tree
lìnlìríŋ	lìnlìr`má	wild yam used for medicine
		Dioscorea lecardii De Willd.
lòòʒúlí	lòòʒúyá	globe amaranth
loojun	100 ju j u	Gomphrena celosoides (Amaranthaceae)
		also nonsure . Eaten by cows. Herb to 1 m. et. 'bush-
		mouse tail'
		Also Evolvulus alsinoides (L.) L. and Sacciolepsis
		africana
lùkpòyú	lùkpòrí	large herb with a tuber
ιακρόγα	lukpori	Amorphophallus dracontioides (Bl.) Engl.
lùŋkùŋmááŋá	lùŋkùŋmánsí	semi-cultivated yam with aerial tubers.
Tuŋxuŋınaaŋa	rankanmansi	Dioscorea macroura
		et. 'fall + kill + monkey'. It is believed that when the
		aerial tubers drop down, monkeys die.
		acriai tubers drop down, monkeys die.
M.		
màlèyú	màlèrí	toadstool, mushroom, fungus (generic term)
•		The fungus that grows on specific tree species is
		describe by putting the name of the tree in front of
		this word.
màmóŋmà! kpám	_	small herb eaten by domestic stock
• •		Stylosanthes mucronata Willd.
		et. 'my mother denied me oil'
manci		Acroceras zizanioides
		see also benyoyo tirigu
mání mábíhégè	mání mábíhà	shrub reaching 1.5 m. <i>Annona glauca</i> Schum. &
8		Thonn.
		Also recorded as mampihege
màŋ	_	erect herb to 2m.
J		The name is also the name of a disease of children
		and a medicine is made from the leaves and branche
		to treat it. Before cutting the tree an offering of coin
		or cola must be made.
maŋ mabele		Eclipta alba
màŋ mabele màŋ zògòlà	— màŋ zògòlàhí	white flower. The leaves are applied to the skin to
	//// 1/// 1///	with the mean and reaves are applied to the skill to

Roger Blench D	agomba plant names	and uses Circulation version
Singular	Plural	Gloss
		bring back its normal colour.
mbevele titoyo		Cochlospermum planchonii
mìmììŋà	mìmìnsì	red hog plum tree
		Spondias monbin
		also mùmòylì. Now rare in this region
mimiini	mimia	fruit of the red hog-plum tree
mòpèlè móyú	mòpèlè mórí	tsauri grass preferred for thatching
		Cymbopogon giganteus Chiov.
móγú	mórí	grass, herbs, small plants (generic term)
mubane zowla		Euphorbia convolvuloides Hochst. ex Benth.
mùmòylì	mùmòylà	Fruit of mùmòytia
mùmòytia	mùmòytihi	red hog plum tree
•	-	Spondias monbin
		Also mìmììnà. The roots are used in a decoction for
		stomach trouble. The bark is used in a medicine with
		other ingreditents to cure anthrax. The leaves together
		with kpalga are soaked for an inahlation taken for
		seven days to cure 'whole-body' pain.
N.		
nàà náá kpórósôŋ	nàà náá	Biophytum petersianum Klotzsch
naa naa xporoson	kpórósóŋdè	Diophytum petersiumum Mottsen
nàblí	mporosoijue —	vine with numerous tubers
1161/11		the name derives from a verb meaning 'to multiply'
		and it is used in remedies that require increase. The

nàà náá kpórósôŋ	nàà náá kpórósóŋdè	Biophytum petersianum Klotzsch
nàblí	_	vine with numerous tubers
		the name derives from a verb meaning 'to multiply'
		and it is used in remedies that require increase. The
		boiled leaves are used to bathe thin children and the
		dried tuber is mixed with cereal seeds to increase the
		yield.
nàgìyèm	_	grass with a very thin stem
		et. 'cow's wisdom'. When a woman gives birth they
		boil it in water to bathe the baby
		Vernonia cinerea ?
nàylo¹rígù	nàylo!r´sì	grass used for brooms and grazed by livestock
náynyóóntíà	náynyóóntíhì	tree with long slender pods
		Entada africana Guill. & Perr.
		Also chinceeŋa [=chíncéréŋcíŋà]. et. < náγnyóóŋá
		'insect sp. that lands on flowers'. Used to 'smash' or
		sour milk.
nagpuri		grass sp.
nàgsàà		grass
		Sporobolus jacquemontii Kunth
náytípchèrìgà	náytípchèr`sì	jujube tree
		Ziziphus mauritiana Lam.
		also zìŋgúlí kúkuà
nahi nyamere		perennial herb of the Aneilema group
		Aneilema lanceolatum Benth.
		14

Singular	Plural	Gloss
		< F.
nam		aqueous extract from empty locust pod
nansagli	nansaga	tiger nut
		Cyperus esculentus Linn.
nansagti kpirli	nansagti kpira	sedge with fragrant rhizome; wild tiger nut
		Cyperus articulatus Linn.
		see bìná, yìŋ bìná, yò bìná.
nanzili	nanziya	tree used to make charcoal
	v	Prosopis africana (Guill. & Perr.) Taub.
nargbuŋgbaŋ	nargbuŋgbama	grass sp. used in weaving gbala mats.
nazu	nargourjgourna	West African black pepper
nazu		Piper guineense Schum. & Thonn.
nèè	nèhì	
nee	Helli	tree
		Pterocarpus erinaceus Poir.
		also sagbe
neeŋahaba		tree
		Pterocarpus santalinoides LHer. ex DC.
nekyembilakosebegeoto		Uraria picta (Jacq.) DC
nìmbòbàlgà	nìmbòbàlsì	fruit or other product of dazuli (Gardenia
		erubescens)
nòb ì lnìnì	nòb ì lnìnà	shrub with small, red edible fruits eaten by children
		et. 'chick's eye' referring to the interior of the fruit
nólóyú kámlì		wild garden-egg with thorns, not eaten
•		Solanum sp.
		et. 'cock's garden-egg'
nóónìnì	nóónìnà	shrub with edible fruits. et. 'hen's eye'
	noomina	see nòbilnini
nòòmà bíhiˈlì		Euphorbia hirta L.
nooma omi n		•
		et. hen's breast' see ŋmání má bíhìlì
ŋ		
ŋàmpòò	ŋàmpòhi	tree with a light bark.
_	_	Bridelia sp.
ŋàrìŋà	ŋàrìnsì	black berry, black plum tree
.	•	fruits of this tree
		Vitex doniana Sweet and Vitex grandifolia
		The fruits are eaten and also boiled to make a sweet
		drink. The young leaves can be cooked in soup.
		Muslims make ink from the leaves. The bark is boile
		and added to acid water from ash and rubbed on a
\		sore head. A cure can be expected in three days.
ŋònsúrí	ŋoŋsura	shrub; the leaves of which are used as medicine for
		diarrhoea.
		Pupalia lappacea (L.) Juss (Amaranthaceae)
		Gomphrena celosoides Mart (Amaranthaceae See
		also loosule
		15

Roger Blench Dagomba plant names and uses Circulation version			
Singular	Plural	Gloss	
ŋм			
	?	An areat harb or small should Has the same properties	
ŋmaaŋa gumboyri	•	An erect herb or small shrub. Has the same properties as gumboyri but is considered to be of lesser quality.	
ŋmaaŋa sinsabga	ŋmaaŋa sinsabsi	edible berries resembling sinsabga	
ŋmááŋníń káyú		grass used for thatching Panicum fluviicola	
		The fluff can fall in your eye and be quite painful. et.	
		'monkey's eye lashes'	
ŋmanchee ŋmaŋgbee		small shrub calabash plant (a climber) used to make ladles	
ijmaijgoee		Proverb: Ŋmaŋgbee din koŋ tia din luri gbirgbiri If	
		it has no tree to climb on, it falls miserably (and only	
		produces small, useless calabashes). Said of an	
ŋmání má bíhìlì	ŋmání má bíhìhà	orphan (or of an old man without children). plant with a white sap	
.j	.ju ~u	Euphorbia hirta L.	
		et. 'dove mother's breast'. Used for children's	
ŋmanzugulaa	ŋmanzugulahi	medicines plant used to cure skin rash called ŋmali .	
ŋmeliŋmee	ŋmanzugulanı ŋmeliŋmehi	flower.	
	J J		
NY			
nyaŋi		tree	
55-		Acacia hockii De Willd.	
		also worfaa, zaŋgurum	
nyèrkóbgà	nyèrkóbsì	plant with many bulbs used as an aphrodisiac <i>Vernonia guineensis</i> Benth., vars.	
		This can be shortened to nyèrkówà although the	
		plural remains the same	
nyevilpohili	nyevilpoha	plant with smaller leaves resembling the ?? whistle	
nyímsílì	nyímsà	plant. neem	
·	·	Azadirachta indica	
		Twigs used as chewsticks. Oil from the seeds is used	
nyòmsìlí	nyòmsá	to preserve stored crops.	
J Varabatt	any various	Citrus aurantifolia (Christm.)	
nyòdálí	nyòdáyá	tree resembling nyòò	
nyòò	nvàhì	roots and leaves used to bathe children	
nyòò	nyòhì	copaiba balsam tree Daniellia oliveri (Rolfe) Hutch. and Dalz.	
		Women used this as a chewstick. Known as good	
		firewood. The roots are boiled and drunk as a	
		palliative for a hernia. 16	

pàkúrgú nyíndáá pàkúrgú nyíndáhí pàkúrgú pyele pàlsí pàlsí pálsí pá	Singular	Plural	Gloss
pày vièlyù ku'shìhì kôm et. 'woman's bucket [?] does not touch water' referring to the fact that if you dip the leaves in w they do not become soaked creeper with three-pronged thorns that are a freque source of bicycle punctures et. 'witch-tooth' pàkúrgú pyele pálgá pálsí phásí p	nyulinyima		
et. 'woman's bucket [?] does not touch water' referring to the fact that if you dip the leaves in w they do not become soaked pàkúrgú nyíndáá pàkúrgú nyíndáhí creeper with three-pronged thorns that are a freque source of bicycle punctures et. 'witch-tooth' pàkúrgú pyele pálsí pàlsí phálsí phálsí	Р.		
pàkúrgú nyíndáá pàkúrgú nyíndáhí referring to the fact that if you dip the leaves in w they do not become soaked reeper with three-pronged thoms that are a freque source of bicycle punctures et. 'witch-tooth' pàkúrgú pyele pálgá pálsí pálsí The roots are used to make lineament, known loca as 'Omega oil'. The branches are used for roofing Gladiolus sp. The name means 'cricket's pito' and is proverbial strange behaviour. Thus: A nyula pàjdàm yoyu' you drink cricket's pito? i.e. are you not acting strangely? pàrúŋnútálí piéyú nyémàrì piéláálóm piéláálóm piéláálóm piřimpièlá pìrìmpièlá pirìmpièlá pir	- • •	_	Marantochloa cuspidata (Rosc.) Milne-Redhead
pàkúrgú pyele pàkúrgú pyele pálsí pálsí pálsí pálsí pálsí pálsí pálsí The roots are used to make lineament, known locas 'Omega oil'. The branches are used for roofing Gladiolus sp. The name means 'cricket's pito' and is proverbial strange behaviour. Thus: A nyula pàṇdām yoyu' you drink cricket's pito? i.e. are you not acting strangely? pàrúŋnútálí pàrúŋnútáyá piéyú nyémàrì — plant from which string is made Urena lobata et. 'sheep's mucus' Aristida kerstingii Pilger et. 'ram's beard' pìrìmpièlgú pìrìmpièlá tall grass used to make gbala mats Andropogon gayanus Kunth. pìrìŋkpán pìrìŋkpáná pìrìŋkpáná pieyar grass (W.D.) Imperata cylindrica Also pulunkpan, This plant is very dangerous to farmers and can easily poke out your eye. Melochia corchorifolia Aneilema mortonii Brenan (Commelinaceae) et. frog + okra tamarind Tamarindus indica Linn. The fruits are cured, dried and made into balls for sale, used as a purgative and for cleaning brass utensils. pùhù wúnì pùrì wúnà winter thorn tree Faidherbia albida (Del.) A Chev. et. 'put out leaves [in the] dry season' tree sp. Sterculia setigera Del.			referring to the fact that if you dip the leaves in water
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pùlùmpǔŋ pùlùmpùná tree sp. Sterculia setigera Del.			
Sterculia setigera Del.			•
-	pùlùmpǔŋ	pùlùmpùná	•
\mathbf{I}^*I			_
1 /			17

Singular	Plural	Gloss
Singular	Tiurui	The fruits and stem are burnt to make ash used in
		bochaa and soap. The fresh leaves drive away live
		from poultry.
púmpónchíà	púmpónchíhì	shrub and its edible fruit
pumponomu	Pumponomin	Strychnos spinosa Lam.
		Also gìngàtiá
púútársàlì	púútársàlà	shrub sp. used to mark farm boundaries
	1	r
S.		
sáá	sáhí	grass used to bind together other grasses in mats etc.
		Sporobolus subglobosus A. Chev.
		Also nausaa
sààbìrlì	sáábrá	'wild kenaf
		Hibiscus sp.
		et. rain + kenaf
sáápíríwá	_	leaves of edible shrub with light pink flowers, used i
		soup.
sááyámbúlì	sááyámbúyà	small plant, sensitive to the touch.
		Phyllanthus pentandrus
		et. rain + come + beat + you. The children sing 'saa
		kana, saa kana // kpabmaa soŋ' 'rain is coming,
		rain is coming // roll your mat' and then touch the
-41444	-41444	leaves.
sálínvógú	sálínvórí	herb frequently used in soup, sometimes planted in
		the farm Corchorus aestuans L.
		the seeds are called sálínvóʒì
sambaŋ kana		Small herb with yellow flowers used as a broom
Sambaij Kana		? Sida acreta
		Also bulasam
sámpééŋá	sámpéénsí	Crossopteryx febrifuga
sàŋkáŋlè	sàŋkáŋá	shrub
y	3 3	Physalis angulata L.
sáŋkpántiégù	sáŋkpántièrè	tree whose roots are used as a remedy for crawcraw
• •	V -	or scabies.
sàwèní	sàwèná	shrub
		bowstring hemp
		Sansevieria liberica Gér. & Labr.
selem voyo		Hydrolea palustris
shèyù	shèrì	tree
		Mitragyna inermis (Willd.) O. Ktze.
		also yokayalanga [=yookanga]. The branches are
		strong and insect-resistant and so are used for roofing
		The fibre is used to weave baskets. The leaves are
1 **		used for animal fodder.
shii		tree like a silver birch. The branches are used for
		18

Singular	Plural	Gloss
		rafters
shììyà	shìhì	tree
		Anogeissus leiocarpus (DC.) Guill. & Perr.
		The leaves, together with korli are used to treat
		diarrhoea
shĭm	shìmá	Indigofera sp.
shindazugu	shindazugri	physic nut
C	S	Jatropha curcas
		False castor oil plant, used for hedges; leaves are used
		for dressing guinea-worm swellings. The twigs are
		used as chewsticks.
sìlìmììn tìkpùlákùm		tree, recently introduced
1		Cassia sp.
sìmbòglá	_	see wòrsímlí
sìnsàbgà	sìnsàbsì	tree with edible fruits
- ·- - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · 		Lannea acida A. Rich.
		The leaves are used to feed animals. Boiled roots are
		used to make a fluid to seal floors and walls. The
		roots are used to make a rope. The bark is used to
		make a medicine for children with sores on the
		stomach or anus.
sínsábgbétilgà	sínsábgbétìlsì	trees of the <i>Lannea</i> group
sinsangnetinga	sinsanguensi	Lannea barteri (Oliv.) Engl. or Lannea nigritana (Sc.
		Elliot) Keay
sìnsàblì	sìnsàbà	fruit of sìnsàbgà (<i>Lannea acida</i>)
sínsábniègù		tree
sinsaupiegu	sínsábpièrì	Lannea velutina A. Rich
~~~~\ <b>~</b> \	afrifud	
s <del>í</del> y <del>í</del> rìlì	s <del>íyí</del> rà	tree
->-141-44	-2-141-4-4	Pseudocedrela kotschyi (Schweinf.) Harms
sòyláhígú Nacional	sòyláhísí	small tree
sòγlákábgá	sòyláhíbsí	wild plant with small edible brown berries
		Eugenia subherbacea A. Chev.
1 4		Fadogia agrestis Schweinf.
soko tiyo		Echinocloa obtusiflora
sòsó	sòsó	loofah
		Luffa cylindrica (Linn.) M.J. Roem.
		< H. Sold in the market as a bathing sponge
sùín	<del>-</del>	horse grass.
súsúy´rà	súsúrílì	Securinega virosa (Roxb.) Baill.
Γ.		
táánì	támá	shea fruit
tááŋà	táánsì	shea tree
		Vitellaria paradoxa
		Also see under <b>kpííŋà</b>
tàbà dúgù nyûrgú	~ nyûrsí	Aeschynome afraspera J. Leonard
5 . 6	•	19

Singular	Plural	Gloss
	110101	et. tobacco + pipe + smokable. Children use the stem
		to pretend to smoke
tàyímá	_	any grass used as bedding for animals
tákpárígá lóòrì		Cochlospermum planchoni Hook. f
		(Cochlospermaceae)
tàŋkòrò	tàŋkòrtì	false yam
·	·	Icacina senegalensis A. Juss. or I. oliviformis?
		Its presence is regarded as a good indicator for the
		successful yam cultivation, although the tuber is not
		eaten as it is elsewhere in Africa.
táŋkórígbàlì	_	tuber of <b>tàŋkòrò</b>
tàntéé	tàntéhí	short grass, particularly good for grazing. Found close
		to the house
tàŋjìbga	tàŋjìbsì	tree with a scarlet blossom whose roots are made into
		a sponge used to wash corpses
		Erythrina senegalensis DC acc. to CIPSEG
táríŋgúlì	táríŋgúyà	herb whose corm or tuber is used for medicine
		Curculigo pilosa (Schum. & Thonn.) Engl.
		et. 'simple man's cola'. Also kòrìnchí But also
		defined as: tree, the twigs of which are chewed.
tìá	tìhí	tree, shrub, epiphyte (general term)
tìbéé	tìbéhí	general term for all trees, such as gaa, tua and nyoo,
		believed to shelter spirits
tìkùbláákùm pierli		Cassia obtusifolia L.
		Also <b>kùndùŋ bógólé</b>
tìkùbláákùm sabinle		Cassia occidentalis L.
tìŋkpám	tìŋkpámá	shrub with white leaves and flowers
		et. 'ground-oil' The oily tuber is boiled up to make
		medicine for waist pains and impotence.
		probably Sesbania sesban (Linn.) Merrill
tìpièlgá	tìpièlsí	leguminous tree with a mass of mauve blossoms.
		Stereospermum kunthianum Cham.
	A . 45 A	see zúgúbétiâ
tìtáblí	tìtábà	general term to describe the entwining of two
	A A17	different species of trees or herbs
tìzòó	tìzòhí	parasite, mistletoe
		Perhaps generic for these plants. Proverb: tìzòó ku
		zin tiŋa mistletoe never sits on the ground i.e we are
		all naturally gregarious
tohohogingu	tohohogima or	Tapinanthus heteromorphus (A. Rich.) Danser shrub or small tree used for medicine
tohabagiŋgu	tohabagima <i>or</i> tohabaginsi	Bauhinia rufescens Lam.
toli bindi	whavagilisi	Melanthera scandens
tùá	tùhí	baobab
ıua	tum	Adansonia digitata
		The leaves are eaten in soup, the flesh of the pods car
		be eaten and the seeds can be roasted and made into a
		paste for flavouring.
		20

Singular	Plural	Gloss	
tùyú	tùrí	baobab pod	
tùchí	_	gall on baobab tree	
tùkáyú	tùkárí	fresh baobab leaves used for soup.	
tùkáríkúmá	_	dried and pounded baobab leaves	
tùkpíllì	tùkpílà	baobab seeds	
		cf. <b>tùá</b>	
V.			
va!bgà	va!bsì	red-flowered silk-cotton tree	
		Bombax buonopozense P. Beauv.	
		The lint is collected for pillows and the leaves cut to feed animals. The mistletoe growing on this tree has	
		important magical uses, being included in a medicin	
		used to start quarrels in the household. Farmers do	
		not like to cultivate under it because the land is	
		infertile. The bark is burnt to make a smoke that	
		drives away <b>aliʒini</b> spirits. The thorns are burnt and	
		the charcoal resulting is mixed with butter to treat a	
		swollen body. The dried gum is used for scent.	
vàvàyí	_	Trianthema portulacastrum	
		plant with soft leaves that lies on the ground, found	
		around compounds, eaten by insects	
W.			
wàlàpùgú	wàlàpùrí	Shrub growing on exhausted land whose roots are used as medicine. The latex is used to sour milk who	
		making cheese.  Calotropis procera (Ait.) Ait. f.	
wálì	wálà	generic term for fruit	
wàrfáá	*** 414	Acacia dudgeoni Craib	
,, m. 1 m.		Also <b>góóziê</b>	
wàrpálúgú	_	Small herb with large leaves that stick to clothing.	
···F		Can be used as horse-fodder.	
wáwá		climbing plant	
		Cyphostemma adenocaulis	
		Cissus gracilis	
wóbsílì	wóbsà	shrub used for sweeping the floor. Used in children'	
		medicine	
wóbtiâ	wóbtíhì	? Kigelia africana	
		literally 'elephant tree'. Also làŋgàndìlí	
wòymòyù	wòymòrì	vine whose leaves are boiled to cure convulsions in	
		children	
wokpane		Monechma ciliatum	
		21	

Singular	Plural	Gloss
wòlfáá	wòlfáhí	thorn tree with light wood used by carpenters for
		door-frames and to carve walking-sticks. The trees
		can form a tangled thicket on abandoned farms
		Acacia gourmaensis A. Chev.
		Acacia hockii De Willd.
		Also <b>nyaŋi, záŋgúrúm</b>
wòrkáríwáná	wòrkáríwání	horse grass. see <b>yihim</b>
		et. 'horse maize'
wòrsímlí	wòrsímá	herbs growing on waste land, often stored as hay for
		horses and commonly eaten by sheep
		et. 'horse groundnut'. Also sìmbòglá
		Zornia glochidiata Reichb. and
		Alysicarpus ovalifolius (Schum. & Thon.) J Léonard
wùblím		striga
		witchweed
		Striga hermontheca (Del.) Benth. and probably othe
		spp. such as S. brachycalyx
		a weed on guinea corn of major economic
		importance. Also <b>bòcháá</b>
wúúnlìyrì	_	small herb of waste land and wet places
•		Pandiaka involucrata (Moq) Hook f.
		(Amaranthaceae)
		et. 'dry season money'. A month after the rains ceas
		it produces abundant white flowers and is taken as a
		signal there will be no more rain.
		signal there will be no more rain.
Υ.		
yábgà	yábsì	plant from which arrow-poison is made.
		Strophanthus hispidus
yìhím	yìhímá	grass sp. fed to horses.
		Setaria pallide fusca (Schumach.) Stapf & C.E.
		Hubbard
		Also given as Sorghum arundinaceum (Desv.) Stapf
		and Ischaemum rugosum
yìnyàŋ	_	grass that can be a weed of ricefields
		Rottboelia cochinchinensis (Lour.) WD Clayton
yìŋ b <del>ì</del> ná		sedge with fragrant rhizome
		Cyperus articulatus Linn.
		see <b>bìná, nansagti kpirli</b> . This is the type planted
		around the house. The powerful smell is intended to
		repel evil spirits.
yírígínlí	yírígímá	plant with a bulbous root that can be eaten raw as
J 11 1 S 11 11 1	ymiginia	medicine. The sap may be expressed from the tuber
		medicine. The sap may be expressed from the tuber
và hìná		
yò b <del>ì</del> ná	_	sedge with fragrant rhizome
		Cyperus articulatus Linn.
		see bìná, nansagti kpirli. This is the type growing i
		22

Roger Blench	Dagomba plant names	and uses
Singular	Plural	Gloss
		the bush as opposed to <b>yìŋ bìná</b> (q.v.).
yògrlí	yògrá	Creeper whose fruits are used for tanning leather
		? Adenopus breviflorus
yokayalanga	yokayalansi	tree
		Mitragyna inermis (Willd.) O. Ktze.
		hardy wood roots used for medicine. The wood burns
		very fiercely on the fire
en Ine		also sámpééná
yókpa¹lí	yókpa [!] lá	shrub with edible fruit
		Securidaca longepedunculata Fres.
\.		similar to <b>kpalga</b>
yòlgá	yòlsí	tree used by beer brewers
		Grewia mollis Juss.
yo naazuwa		Allophylus africanus P. de Beauv.
	<b>.</b>	et. 'bush-pepper'
yòtùŋá	yòtùnsí	vine with large leaves
		Cissus palmatifida (Bak.) Planch (Ampelidaceae)
yúlèŋgá tábélè	yúlèngá tábélà	Combretum nigricans Lepr. ex Guill. & Perr.
yùríŋà	yùrínsì	shrub
		Combretum cinereipetalum ssp. geitonophyllum
		(Diels) Okafor and <i>Combretum molle</i> R. Br. ex
		G.Don
		used to make yam-sticks and for firewood
yùríŋ kóŋà	yùríŋ kóŋsì	shrub. Combretum sp.
		et. 'leper's <i>Combretum</i> '. Used for firewood. The
		roots are ground and applied to sores.
<b>Z.</b>		
-22-1-2	->>-1->	600
zààŋkùŋá	zààŋkùnsí	tree with very brittle wood which can throw off
		dangerous splinters
->k1>-4	->hl/o/	Ficus sp.
zàblìgá	zàblísí	henna <i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L.
		often grown by women and used as a hedge-plant in farms
záhánkálárn	zábínkálání	
záhíŋkólóyù	záhíŋkólórí	grass sp. used for roofing.
zálínzáá	zálínzáhí	Hyparrhenia rufa
<i>L</i> aiiiiLää	<i>L</i> aiiii <i>L</i> aiii	grass sp. like <b>balimgbini</b> <i>Indigofera</i> sp. acc. to CIPSEG
zàŋkùgá	zàŋkùŋsí	African wild cherry tree and fruits
<i>L</i> aijnuga	<i>L</i> ayxuysi	Ximenia americana Linn.
záŋgúrúm	záŋgúrúmá	Acacia hockii De Wild.
zaijgurum	zaŋguruma	see <b>wòlfáá</b>
zárlí		see <b>woitaa</b> Anchomanes welwitschii Rendle
	_	
zòkúyá zòlínlì	— zòlímà	moss used to dress sores on cows and sheep climber of the mulberry family yielding a coarse
ZUIIIII	LUIIIIIa	
		23

Singular	Plural	Gloss
411422	-411-43	fibre, used in dressing sores.
zólkúrìgù	zólkúrà	Entada africana Guill. & Perr.
		also chínchééŋà
\	\ 4/	see náynyóóntíà
zòmíá	zòmíhí	parasite that lies over a tree without visible attachment
zúgúbétiâ	zúgúbétíhì	tree producing profuse mauve and pink blossoms in
J	G	the dry season; the roots are used to treat gonorrhoea.  This tree is generally considered to the abode of the
		<b>kpukparsi</b> sprites and thus it is forbidden to cut it for
		firewood. The wood should never be brought to the
		house, though fallen branches can be used to roast food in the farm.
		Stereospermum kunthianum Cham.
	<u> </u>	Also tìpièlgá
zùŋgúlí kúkuà	zùŋgúlí kúkùhì	jujube tree
// 1 ^		see náytípchèrìgà
zúúŋkwîn	_	hard locust (dawadawa) seed, that has not softened in boiling.
zúúnì	zúná	dry seeds of the locust (dawadawa) pods.
3		
<b>zègólì</b>	<b>zègóy</b> á	tree sp. whose roots are used as a medicine
		Maytenus senegalensis (Lam.) Exell (Celastraceae)
zìnyùrìgù	<b>ʒìnyùrsì</b>	haemorrhage plant
		creeping weed used to staunch blood flows. et. 'blood + drinker'
		Aspilia africana (Pers) C.D. Adams
		But UPTWA, II,IV gives Portulaca foliosa
QUERIES		
agbadudu [?]		leaves of an edible shrub with light pink flowers, used
		in soup. also sààpìrèwà
aneta		Croton lobatus
bakpa		Elaeis guineensis
balinyiri [?]		thistles of the Centaurea group
bamrog		ditch millet Paspalum scrobiculatum Linn.
biyebingira		Bitterleaf Vernonia colorata (Willd.) Drake
biyengawu		Ampelocissus bombycina (Amaryllidaceae)
boboroa		An annual herb growing on waste ground,
		occasionally cultivated. The leaves are eaten in a
		sauce. Green amaranth <i>Amaranthus viridis</i> Linn.
		tree <i>Parinari curatellifolia</i> Planch. Also
hon kanala		
boŋ kapala		
boŋ kapala buruguni		papalatutubu shrubs of the <i>Tephrosia</i> group sometimes used as

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RAGAP KIANAN	I logombo n	lant namae and lieae	Tironlotion v	Arcian
Roger Blench	- Dayonna o	lant names and uses	Circulation v	CISIUII
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	igomba piant names	
Singular	Plural	Gloss
		fish-poisons Tephrosia flexuosa G Don, T. platycarpa
dalamahini		Guil. & Perr.
dalaŋgbini		?
dandongunle		Mollugo nudicaulis Lam.
deborisaa		Aspilia africana (Pers) C.D. Adams
diesima		Commelina africana (L.) Also <b>fulumfulaa</b>
duo ngeman		Hyptis suaveolens Poit.
gundosollo		yam bean Sphenostylis stenocarpa (Hochst. ex A
hunglada		Rich.) Harms
hunglade		annual herb Monechma ciliatum (Jacq.)
i.h.:		MilneRedhead
jehi ianahininaa	iaukininai	raffia also <b>kpari</b>
jeŋgbiringa	jeŋbirinsi	tree with edible fruits
kpalaŋa	kpala	tree Afzelia Africana Sm. also <b>kpaŋguli</b>
krosima		tree Cynometra vogelii Hook. f.
kulkpalsogo		111 6 2 6 7
kulu dirigo		vine with edible fruits <i>Saba</i> sp.
kumdandar		Borreria radiata DC
larapiri	16	tree Maranthes polyandra (Benth.) Prance?
lér'gínlí	lérgúmá	
lengerigongo		tree Stereospermum kunthianum Cham.
namihyi tanguwa		Ludwigia hyssopifolia (G Don) Exell
nanzido		tree <i>Amblygonocarpus andongensis</i> (Oliv.) Exell & Torre
narga		tree African myrrh <i>Commiphora africana</i> (A. Rich.)
narga		Engl. var. africana
nchendua		woody herb. The plant is boiled, mixed with peppers
nenenua		and used as a vaginal douche in the later stages of
		pregnancy to ease childbirth pains. Asystasia
		gangetica (Linn.) T. Anders.
ŋodolega		liana <i>Dalbergia saxatilis</i> Hook. f.
ngurun		shrub or small tree marabou thorn <i>Dichrostachys</i>
ijgurun		cinerea (Linn.) Wight & Arn.
nyera		Acacia macrostachya Reichenb. ex Benth. also
пуста		garinyini
nyírgínlí	nyírgúmá	9
pagretega	nyn guma	.  Marantochloa cuspidata (Rosc.) Milne Redhead Also
pugrenegu		kushihi kom
pampiga		herb with woody stem Excoecaria grahamii Stapf or
hambiga		Sapium grahamii Prain
papalatutubu		tree <i>Parinari curatellifolia</i> Planch. Also <b>boŋ kapala</b>
powanyakruga zuperi		annual herb growing on waste ground <i>Pandiaka</i>
howard arm aga mahara		heudelotii (Moq.) Hook f. Also <b>barimbini</b>
sagbe		tree Pterocarpus erinaceus Poir.
sansaŋwa		thorny shrub <i>Capparis tomentosa</i> Lam.
sumbie		Heeria insignis (Del.) O. Ktze (Anacardiaceae)
tachale		tree Combretum spp. inc. Combretum fragrans F.
		Hoffman
		25

Roger Blench	Dagomba plant names and uses	
Singular	Plural Gloss	
tauai	herb	or shrub used for indigo dye <i>Indigofera</i> sp.
trindobaga	shrul	b used for chewsticks Eriosema griseum Bak.
ukpali	Trailing plant <i>Ipomoea argentaurata</i> Hallier f.	
ulaŋkwana	tree with edible fruit Annona senegalensis Pers.	
worbaŋli	wild beans, used for feeding horses.	
wookpargu	Desmodium gangeticum (L.) DC Also yolega	
yokharaugu	shrub and edible Strychnos fruit Strychnos spinosa	
	Lam	•
zuguli koŋa	tree Entada africana Guill. & Perr.	