

The Təsu language
of
Central Nigeria and its affinities

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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Təsu language, spoken in Plateau State, Nigeria. The first wordlist of Təsu was collected by Roger Blench with the assistance of Selbut Longtau from the Chief Mathys Akwe (50 years old) and Musa Akwe (59 years old) in Chessu-Sarki on the 8th of January 1999. Mr. Yakubu A. Ameh (38 years old) was kind enough to speak the examples clearly for the tape. Barau Kato took over checking and collection of Təsu in January 2003 and we are grateful to the people of Chessu for their help in expanding the lexical data.

The wordlists were collected as a ‘one-shot’ exercise and the transcription must therefore be regarded as very preliminary. This analysis was prepared by Roger Blench, who added the comparative observations¹. This document is being circulated to scholars for comment.

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

These languages have previously been referred to as ‘Arum-Chessu’ and seem to have been first recorded in Maddieson (1972). The correct name of the language and people is as follows;

Arum	→	Alumu
Chessu	→	Təsu

The plural form is made in both languages by adding –mbo to any substantive. The initial a- in Alumu is probably an old plural prefix.

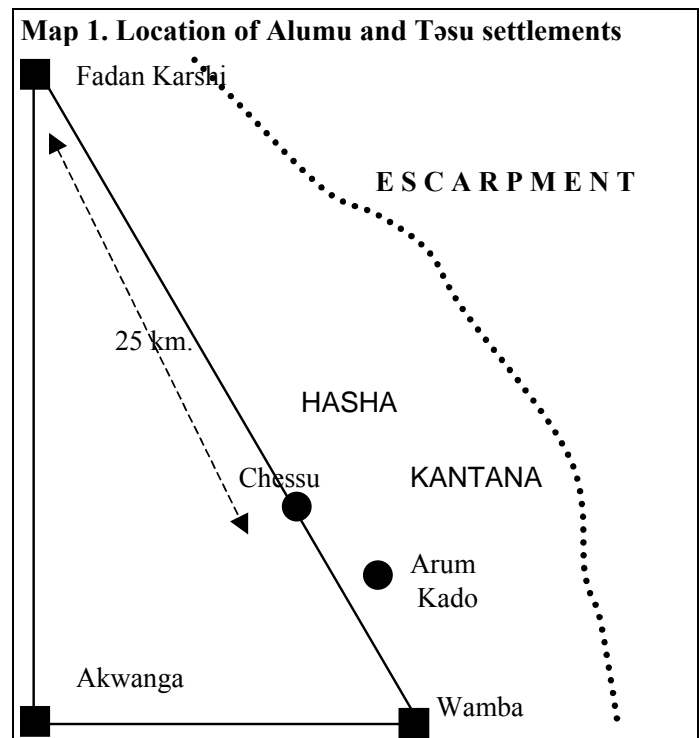
¹ I am grateful to Kay Williamson (†) who assisted me with external parallels and other comments.

2.2 Location and settlements

Chessu (a Hausaised form of Təsu) is a single settlement divided into two villages about a kilometre apart, called Chessu Sarki and Chessu Madaki. These villages are on the Wamba Fadan Karshi road of Akwanga Local Government Area of Plateau State. The Arum live in several settlements, also along the same road, the chief of which is Arum Kado. These are shown in Map 1. The other settlements of the Alumu are as follows;

Arum-Tsabo	Arum-Sarki
Arum-Tumara	Arum-Chugbu
Arum-Kurmi(Gbira)	Arum-Chine

2.3 Language status



To judge by the size of their settlements, there must be under 2000 speakers of Təsu and perhaps 5000 speakers of Alumu. Both languages seem to be well maintained, with informants showing no hesitation in producing lexical items.

2.4 Alumu/Təsu culture and history

There are virtually no references to these people in the ethnographic literature. Temple (1922:267) mentions Arum as a clan of the Mama (i.e. Kantana) but has nothing further to say. Ames (1934:258-259) mentions Arum, Chesu and Turkwam, and says;

‘The origin of Arum, Chesu and Turkwam is uncertain. It has been said that the founders of the first two came from the adjoining district of Ayu of the Jemaa Emirate and that Chesu, which was formerly called Fiacha, was part of Arum until it moved to its present site.’

His account seems to be somewhat confused, to at least at odds with traditions collected more recently (JOHLT?). The major source of information is CAPRO (ined.) and most of the rest of this section is based on this document².

Alumu traditions record that they came from Bauchi through the Gindiri (Mangu) area to Sha (Bokkos), where they settled for some time. Due to conflicts, they later moved to Ayera, Angama and Klashi. From Klashi the individual clans dispersed and founded the present villages, including Arum Jimara, Arum Tsabo, Arum Tumara, Arum Anbra, Arum Sarki (Tava), Arum Chubo, Arum Chini and Chessu. The people hold a tradition that they are an off-shoot of Konkulere of Bokkos LGA. They left their brother because of insecurity due to wars and lack of sufficient farm land.

² I am grateful to Patience Ahmed and Lois Fuller for giving me access to this important unpublished text, which is still ‘in press’.

The Alumu are bounded on the east by the Mama, on the south by the Bu, to the west and north are the Ninzam and Toro respectively. The traditional etymology of their name means "people of great eloquence". Although there are some minor differences between the speech of each settlement, all the people can understand one another. The people repudiate the idea that they are part of the Kantana people, but they have some similarities in cultural practices and beliefs.

Among the Alumu the major occupation is farming. The main crops are guinea corn, maize, yam, cassava, acha, cocoyam, sweet potatoes, beans, cow-peas and palm oil. The people also rear goats, sheep, chickens and pigs; goats and chickens especially are used for marriages. Dogs are kept for hunting and security purposes. Individuals go hunting as well as groups. For group hunting, a day is set and every man comes out for the expedition. For successful hunting it is expected that no man should have any sexual contact with a woman the night before the hunting trip. Anyone who breaks this rule will cause bad luck.

The people traditionally pierce their ear lobes and nostril. Women pierce the lower lips and insert a straw. Other decorative items include beads, necklaces and anklets. They live in traditional round mud houses, built close to each other and roofed with grass thatch. But in recent years modern structures are fast overtaking the old ones.

Politically, the affairs of the people are managed by the family or clan heads. There are also community leaders who take decisions concerning the community. The community leaders serve as religious chief priests. Today there is centralized authority with the chief carrying the title *Agamo* who lives in Arum Sarki.

Childbirth

When a woman is pregnant, a rope from the *Mangam* section of the masquerade cult is tied on her for protection against any misfortune that might befall the woman or the conceived child. When the woman gives birth to a baby boy, a horn is blown and the *Mangam* cult comes out, hailing the new born baby. But it is not so at the birth of a female baby. Any child can be named the very day that he/she is born. However, the woman and the child remain in the house until the umbilical cord falls off. Traditionally, children were tied to their mothers' backs with an animal skin. But today, they are tied on the back using a wrapper or a piece of cloth.

Also among the Alumu there is the custom of consulting a seer before or after delivery to safeguard the child, particularly if the mother has had a previous miscarriage. To redeem the woman from miscarriage, certain rites are performed and the woman is later taken to the river for a special bath by the *Agalama* cult. In return the woman offers a goat or chicken to the priest for sacrifices. If a woman in labour is finding it difficult to give birth and is bleeding much, the *Waro* masquerade is called upon to help. It is believed among them that when the *Waro* comes, before he goes back to the shrine the woman will give birth. The Alumu do not practice circumcision, although in recent years it is done according to Muslim or modern medical practice.

Initiation

Boys aged fifteen and above are gathered in one place for initiation. Traditionally, before initiation a boy is expected to have no affair with a girl or else he has to pay a goat for the rite of purification before the initiation rite. After the boys gather, they are introduced into the three classes of the *Waro* cult, which include *Mangama*, *Asuwuriwuri*, and *Klanglene*. Before the initiation process begins, the boys are expected to pay fees of chickens, goats or dried meat to the priest or elders in charge. Other things expected from the boys include palm oil, salt, acha and beniseed.

The initiation process, which sometimes lasts for a year, includes training (orientation into manhood) and discipline, in order to make the initiates responsible men in the society. They are warned never to reveal the secrets of the gods to women. In fact, during the process they are not allowed to talk to women, especially

younger women. For this reason the boys are asked to cover their mouths with leaves. The leaves are removed when an antelope is killed during the hunting exercise done by the boys. As part of the initiation, the boys are introduced to various objects and their functions in the cult.

Marriage:

Among the Alumu, when a baby girl is born the person who wants his son to marry her brings some palm oil in a vessel, part of which is rubbed on the baby's lips. Once this is done it signifies that the person is interested in the girl for marriage. This is further followed up with the gift of beniseed oil, palm-oil, palm kernel and salt. If these items are accepted by the girl's parents, the girl is betrothed. From this time, the suitor goes regularly to work in her parents' farm until the girl grows up. When the girl is ready for marriage, the bride price is paid. It includes twelve goats, well prepared beans in a big container and some other things. After all is paid, the bride is escorted to her husband's house. The escorts play flutes with a very good melody to keep her company.

If the groom is from a different village, when the bride reaches the gate of the village they stop until a hoe is given to them. This is repeated when they approach the groom's house. The escorts return home the following day after the marriage feast. Polygamy is common. Adultery is forbidden. Divorce is also practiced especially when adultery is confirmed.

Burial:

When an elderly person dies, information is sent to all the relations far and near. It is expected that the grandsons and in-laws of the deceased will be present during burial. However, this depends on what the deceased said before death. Sometimes a man chooses who among the children should be responsible for his burial and where he should be buried. In that case, until the selected person comes, the corpse cannot be buried. That person must be the first to dig at the location of the grave before others join him.

Young children cannot be present or go near the grave during burial. The grave is dug some feet into the ground then a tunnel is made off to the side in which the corpse is laid. The corpse is buried prostrate. A man is buried with his left hand under the head, facing the east while a woman is the opposite. Sometimes chickens and goats are tied to the deceased's leg and buried with the corpse. Three or four months after burial, the grave is opened and the skull is removed and examined to find out whether or not the deceased was a witch. This marks the end of the mourning period. Before the last mourning feast the wife remains disguised in the state of mourning.

When a powerful member of the secret masquerade cult dies, his burial is controlled by the cult. Some men, before they die, tell the cult to punish or chase their wife away from the house, particularly if she is a stubborn woman. Such orders are carried out by the cult. The deceased's possessions are inherited by the children or brother.

Religion:

God, known as *No*, is recognized as the Supreme God but there are several minor deities found among the people. The Alumu people believe that God is in heaven (*womenza*). But the small gods found among them are *Agalama*, *Da* and the secret dodo cult which is further subdivided into *Mbuka*, *Gulla*, *Gbegbe* (*Jakawa*), *Gbasha*, *Mangama* and *Kaburu*.

The household gods, (*Wura* and *Da*) are kept by individual families or clans. The cult is represented by stones of different shapes and sizes. This cult is consulted by the heads of families before going out for hunting. The blood from animal sacrifices is shed on the bow and arrows with hope of success. *Dashafe* is a twins cult that is represented by two small pots kept for worship. Only twins are entitled to have this cult. Chickens are sacrificed and beer is offered to it. These household cults are represented in the farm to ward off theft.

Another god worshipped by the people is *Agalama* which is represented by a tree. This cult is believed to prevent miscarriage and to stop bleeding during delivery. Its rite is performed in the river and the hair of the supplicant is shaved.

The masquerade cult is highly feared by everybody in the area. At the feast organized for the dodo, women are not allowed to take part, only men who are formally initiated into the cult. The dodo cult maintains law and order in the society. For example, *Kaburu* is the dodo that announces festivals or ceremonies and warns people against quarrels.

Mbuka and *Gula* are the masquerades that discipline rude or disrespectful women. *Jakawa* (*Gbegbe*) does the same, while *Mangama* settles quarrels between families or husband and wife. *Gbasha* is said to be the part that relates with women. In whatever case, the masquerade is believed to be a spirit of the dead ancestors. Therefore it is respected and feared. Sacrifices of goats, chickens etc. are made in honour of the masquerade.

There are two recognized festivals in the area, namely, *Anbiyi* and *Anhuguri*. The *Anbiyi* festival is celebrated in December after the harvest of guinea corn. It is the time that the first fruits are offered to the gods in appreciation. Another feast in March/April is organized to plead for a fruitful farming season. here are still many devotees of these gods in the area. A few of them have accepted Islam, especially in Arum Sarki, Tumara and Tsabo.

Christianity

The first missionary to visit the area to preach was Mr. Hepburn, in 1936, followed by Mr. Douglas in 1939 to evangelize the Wamba area. Having been established in Kago station, the gospel spread to other places which led to the founding of Arum station, probably at Arum Kado, 1952. Among the Alumu, the coming of the gospel led to severe persecution and opposition from the people. The persecution was against the missionaries and the converts because of the colour of the missionaries' skin. The people believed that the preachers would reveal the secrets of their gods to women, and that the gospel would cause the people to refuse to worship their traditional gods which to them, would result in serious difficulties. The teaching of no work in the farm on Sunday was strongly opposed by the people. The converts were beaten severely, refused wives, and sometimes food. But with time the people and the chiefs that were opposing the gospel changed their attitude. Today, a church is found in almost every Alumu village.

3. Phonology

The phonology of Alumu/Təsu is based on rapid observations and should therefore be regarded as tentative at this stage.

3.1 Vowels

Təsu probably has ten phonemic vowels;

Table 1. Təsu vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
	ɪ		ʊ
Close-Mid	e		o
Open-mid	(ɛ)	ə	ɔ
Open		a	

These can be arranged as follows;

+ATR	-ATR
u	ʊ
i	ɪ
o	ɔ
e	ɛ
a	ə

Mud **blāblāsa** appears to have nasalised vowels but this is so exceptional it is probably an error.

3.2 Consonants

Təsu consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Alveopalatal	Palatal	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d		[c] j	k g	kp gb	
Nasal	m		n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill			[r]					
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ				h
Approximant					y	ɥ	w	
Lateral			l					
Approximant								
Tap			r					
Retroflex			ɽ					
Implosive	ɓ		ɗ					

Orthographic conventions are as follows;

tʃ	c
dʒ	j
ʃ	sh
ʒ	zh
ɲ	ny
ŋ	ng

3.3 Tones

Təsu has three level tones, and numerous glide tones that arise from sequences of level tones. The basic conventions are as follows;

High	'
Mid	Unmarked
Low	`
Rising	ˊ
Falling	ˋ

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

Təsu has entirely converted to a system of a single plural suffix, with no functioning noun-prefixes. Nonetheless, these can be recovered in part from the existing nouns, especially by comparison with cognate forms in other Plateau languages. The following tables presented some suggested fossil prefixes, in Təsu pairs, together with external cognates, which sometimes make clear that the initial is a prefix. Some have very few examples and may be only unidentified compounds.

The most common prefix is a- and ə- is probably its allomorph.

a-

Gloss	Təsu	External cognates
Tree (generic)	àgbè	
Mushroom	àwá	
Thorn	àtòtò	
Sand	a-seŋge	cf. Toro anzai
Farm	a-yi	cf. Toro eyi , Tarok anyín , Irigwe kèyí ,
Man	a-tifa	cf. Toro atifa ,
Father	a-da	cf. Hasha a-da

ə-

Song	ə-humu	cf. Hasha i-hum ,
Leaf	ə-fu	cf. Toro asu ,
Road	ə-ki	

e-

Cloud	èvírí
Mouth	èné
Grasshopper	ésɔ
Spear	émbè

ì-

Algae	ibu
Tomorrow	íkyá
Large stone	itre
Cloud	ive

ku-

Thatch roof	kuturu
-------------	---------------

̀̀-

Smoke	̀̀-<i>zu</i> cf. Toro muꞑzu
Sun	nɔ also Alumu ‘God’
Evening	ɣvifi
Work	̀̀ɔmɔ a reflex of the Niger-Congo # tom- root
Land/country	̀̀zimbɔrɔ
Navel	ɣbu

ù-

Bush-fowl	úgró
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The Reshe example for ‘leg’ suggests that this prefix is very conservative.

4.2 Verbs

As with many Plateau languages, proto-Təsu-Toro (henceforth PTT) probably had a rich system of verbal extensions. PAT extensions seems to be unproductive synchronically and are only recoverable by morphological analysis and comparison with cognate forms in other Plateau languages. It is true, however, that verbal extensions are not easily elicited in rapid survey work and PTT may in fact have functioning extensions.

The following examples are taken from Təsu, where the data is much richer than for Alumu.

-ra/re

-ra/re is the clearest case of such an extension, since some of the verbs at least, exist without the extension in other Plateau languages.

Ask/beg for s.t.	kwere cf. Toro kəzi , Yeskwa ɣkusa , Hasha kuse
Become dry	kwara cf. Berom hwōgōt , Aten hwohwo , Basa ihoo , cLela hǎ , Ijọ kàngá , Gworok kwát probably independent weakenings of the widespread # koro roots. See BCCW, 30.
Gather/collect	fira
Give birth	mara #ma is a widespread root for ‘give birth’
Hear	sere
Slaughter (animal)	tra
Want/need	vira
Wash	hwara

-na

Smash	kurana
Snap in two	kyana
Mould (pot)	mina
Know	wena
Enter	nyi Alumu nyina
Fight (in war)	mlana
Finish (a task)	trəna
Jump	hwana
Swallow	mina

-fi

-fi is not common in ATT languages but widespread elsewhere in Plateau and is thus included here.

Be heavy	rifi cf. Toro rifi ,
Tear (cloth etc.)	hwafe

5. Təsu wordlist

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
1.	Tree (generic)	àgbè	
2.	Leaf	əfú	cf. Toro asu ,
3.	Root	əɾiɾi	cf. Toro riri
4.	Bark (of tree)	àkùkù	cf. Toro ùkùkù ,
5.	Branch	əvuvu	cf. Bu vuvu ‘leaf’,
6.	Grass (generic)	bini	
7.	Vine (generic)	àhoondo	
8.	Mushroom I	àwá	
9.	Water-lily		
10.	Algae	ibu	
11.	Rust	həŋgó	
12.	Seed/stone/pip	birə	cf. Toro biro , I ingye be , Bu ibi , Shall biri , Tarok apir ultimately related to widespread I iger-Congo ‘child’ roots.
13.	Thorn	àtòtò	? cf. Hasha i-tyok , I ingye ntu
14.	Charcoal	ɸimbi	cf. Toro ɸibini . The first element may be the widespread ɸi root for fire and the -bini element for charcoal. If so, there are scattered cognates; Mada n-klambri , Kohumono è-pine , Bekwara à-bi , Yala ibi , Degema ibí
15.	Dust	huru	cf. Toro huru ⁺ , Bu iwuru , Hasha iwur
16.	Ash	àto	vegetable ash used in cooking. # tu- is a I iger-Congo root
17.	Ashes	túfirá	cf. Toro tu-ferá . The tu- element is a reflex of

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
			the widespread Ị iger-Congo root #toỊ - (BCCW,5).
18.	Rubbish-heap	kpeńvú	cf. Toro avùvù ,
19.	Rubbish-pit	tsyóvùvù	
20.	Mud	blāblāsa	cf. Toro ù-rù
21.	Clay	tsimi	
22.	Dew	ímé	cf. Hasha eme , Ị ingye mmeŋ , Rukul mmaŋ , Tarok imìmyàŋ , Yaŋkam myaŋ , also Mambiloid but almost certainly going back to an ancient Ị iger-Congo root #me-
23.	Stone	kpákpa	cf. Hyam kpak ⁺ ,
24.	Large stone	itre	cf. Toro tari , reflecting widespread Ị iger-Congo #-ta- root
25.	Flat stone	qá	
26.	Sand	àseŋge	cf. Toro anzay
27.	Smoke	ń-zò	cf. Toro muŋzu also Mambiloid
28.	Fire	fira	cf. Toro fara , Jili átra ,
29.	Water	əmù	cf. Toro amunu also Mambiloid
30.	Rain	əwí	cf. Toro awi , Ce àwòrù ,
31.	Cloud	èvírí	
32.	Thunder	kpalala	cf. Jili óplà ,
33.	Rainy Season	àme ryanzí	
34.	Harmattan	əmbrì	
35.	Dry season	àmenó	
36.	Year	hují	cf. Hasha i-kusan , Ce ki-kus ⁺ ,
37.	Day	nó	cf. Plateau roots for ‘sun’ and ‘God’ #nom-
38.	Ị ight	fíní	cf. Hasha i-sun , Toro tu-somo ,
39.	Moon/month	nàrà	cf. Hasha nwar , Toro nara ,
40.	Sun	nó	also Alumu ‘God’
41.	Star(s)	ákpókpa	cf. Hasha i-kpətik , Igbo kpákpàndà
42.	Cloud	ìve	= H. <i>gajimare</i>
43.	Wind	ínyò	cf. nyò ‘evil wind’
44.	God	nó n-zâ	also ‘sun, sky
45.	Sky	n-zâ	also ‘God’
46.	World	nzyô	
47.	Ground	nzí	
48.	Large River I	qìrì kéré	small ~ fini akéré
49.	Large River II	moogbe	small ~ mo kéré
50.	Stream	ámòsò	where fish are trapped
51.	Pond	mogbogbo	
52.	Forest	mblá	? cf. Ị ungu mamgba
53.	Mountain	ágbəgbó	
54.	Hill	kpòŋgòrò	cf. Hasha i-gon , Toro a-kongoro ,
55.	Bush	ahóró bini	The ahoro element is likely to be a weakening of Proto-Benue-Congo #-kuli

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
56.	Farm	ayé	cf. Toro eyi , Tarok anyín , Irigwe kèyí ,
57.	Market* ³	kpakpranda	
58.	Compound	n-gbáqya	cf. Toro afyá ,
59.	Room	dá	
60.	Wall (of room)	kúkúcùnù	
61.	Veranda	nèfi	
62.	Thatch roof	kútúró	
63.	Kitchen	à tswá kpà	
64.	Granary I	làk eve	for women
65.	Granary II	gə̀ndzi	general
66.	Granary III	làṅgà	inner grain store
67.	Grain carrier	àtàvà	
68.	Well*	tsyómù	
69.	Road	àki	
70.	Path	àki ákeré	‘small road’
71.	Village/settlement	àṣa keré	
72.	River-bank	ə̀nífini klé	
73.	Swamp/wetland	blé	or blémù
74.	Place	àtsiqi	
75.	Today	ádrèmə	
76.	Yesterday	nùmòlé	
77.	Tomorrow	íkyá	
78.	Morning	nerebí	
79.	Evening	nviḽi	
80.	Dawn	ijifini	not tone-marked
81.	Person/people	kyanguri	cf. I ungu u-ṅgrí
82.	Man, husband	àtsiqà	cf. Toro atifa ,
83.	Woman, wife	àṣà	cf. Toro afiya ,
84.	Child	àmeré	cf. Hasha a-mwen , Tikar mwāē , Jaku mín , Bapi mwén , Vute mon ,
85.	Household head	kyàṅ wuri dá	
86.	Widow	àṣà kwe	
87.	Wife	natsefa	or afiya
88.	Young man	àmeré yóṅbà	
89.	Barren woman	àṣà kuri	
90.	Young girl	ànyíqá keré	
91.	Old person	àcó	
92.	Father	àdá	cf. Hasha a-da , I upe , Ibibio , Ijọ dàù
93.	Mother	ánà	
94.	Relations	??	
95.	Brother	ə̀tsimýá	check!
96.	Ancestors	àdá mbo	
97.	Sibling (same father)	ə̀tsi àsará	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
98.	Twin	ɸèsè	
99.	Friend	zàmyá	
100.	Guest/stranger	sèni	Ibibio èsén, Mambiloid ken,
101.	King/chief/ruler	àgòmò	cf. Hasha agom, a widespread East Benue-Congo root. Also Chadic: Boghom, Geji guŋ,
102.	Hunter	kyèngúrí duwi	
103.	Thief	əyuhu	
104.	Doctor	kyèngúrí wura	
105.	Witch	ámófiya	
106.	Sorcerer	ágúgu	
107.	Corpse	komo	A widespread East Benue-Congo root. cf. Hasha i-kum, Eggon okomo, Kulu ukum, Mambila kómón,
108.	Blacksmith	kyèngúrí tandara	
109.	Slave	àhùrà	
110.	Masquerade	ásò	Forbidden to women. cf. Hasha a-so
111.	Masquerade I	màngàmà	‘has horns’
112.	Masquerade II	əgbegwè	
113.	Masquerade III	keŋgene	‘next to ásò’
114.	Masquerade IV	ásò wúrí	
115.	Masquerade V	gòlà	
116.	Masquerade VI	ŋgbóka	
117.	Masquerade VII	àgbàfà tása	‘woman’
118.	Masquerade VIII	áfámbara	
119.	Masquerade IX	əkùmbúru	
120.	Masquerade X	àjàkawé	
121.	Masquerade XI	ʃóripwe	
122.	Masquerade XII	àgbàfàŋguri	‘male’
123.	Masquerade XIII	njàci	
124.	Masquerade XIV	kândé	
125.	Race/running	gbó	
126.	Punch	mlá	
127.	Death	kwe	widespread
128.	Fear	ɸiri	
129.	I ame	sa	
130.	Grave	kpínyòqò	
131.	Song	əmumu	cf. Hasha i-hum, cf. Igboid
132.	Proverb	trénatsiya	
133.	Story	tso	
134.	Word	ənítsiya	
135.	Big word	tifagba	
136.	Lie	húrútsiya	
137.	Hunger	nyo	cf. Hasha i-yuŋ, Fyem yón, Tarok ayán. Also in Chadic, cf. Mangar yuŋ, Hausa yunwa.
138.	Egg	asubé	cf. Hasha i-subwoy, Boya afibi, Tarok aci,

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
			Ị upe eʒì . Cited in BCCW,33 and a Ị iger-Congo root. The –bV suffix, however, is distinctive to this area of Plateau.
139.	Horn	àtama	cf. Hasha a-tom ,
140.	Tail	zyomí	cf. Hasha i-jum , Bruce note -dim
141.	Wing (of bird)	àngbà	
142.	Beak (of bird)	kokoro nyi	
143.	Ị est (of bird)	ə̀vùrù kúkú	
144.	Gum/glue	àṅgàṅgà	
145.	Ant-hill	dáfiṅgà	‘room of ant’
146.	Hole in ground	tsyo	
147.	Heap	kpévrù	
148.	Hole in tree	hwòndò	
149.	Smell	nyoṅgwe	
150.	Poison	tòsò	used on arrows
151.	Bundle	kpí	
152.	Firewood	fi	cf. Kadara ifi , Reshe úçè , Aten tson , possibly independent weakening of the Ị iger-Congo root for ‘tree’ #-ti .
153.	Yam-heap	ə̀vrú kyirú	
154.	War	gòqò	
155.	Work	ndomo	a reflex of the Ị iger-Congo #tom- root
156.	Divination (I)	àkàbè	
157.	Divination (II)	àkàgbǎ	
158.	Divination (III)	jí	
159.	Divination (IV)	were dyé	
160.	Divination (V)	ə̀qirosè	
161.	Medicine	wúǰá	
162.	Medicine I	túturú	
163.	Medicine II	mmǎ	
164.	Money	hə̀ṅgrə	
165.	Shadow	lúlu	
166.	Thing	àndrǎ	
167.	Strength	wówána	
168.	Land/country	nzimbóró	
169.	Sleep	lémla	
170.	Disease(generic)	bífi	
171.	Smallpox	àdàamá	
172.	??	àkwafa	
173.	Prickly heat	marúfiqó	
174.	Cirrhosis	bífáhrə	
175.	Bone-sickness	rye námi ná koho	‘feel cold in the bones’
176.	??	nnó yàgàmi	‘feel pain when urinating’
177.	Gonorrhoea	mbòmbòká	
178.	Jaundice	bífiṣaṣirò	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
179.	Epilepsy	njàvé	
180.	Headache	húri kpi	
181.	Migraine	kpi myá h̀ǹǹna	
182.	Diarrhoea	were bí	
183.	Cough	kpìkpìr̀ò	
184.	Whooping cough	kpìkpìr̀ò bíb́i̯u	
185.	Eczema	amo húhwá	
186.	Goitre	fló àgbà	kp̀nd̀o agba is ‘swelling on the neck’
187.	Boil (small)	àqiro akere	cf. Hasha ifər
188.	Boil (large)	àqiro gbá̯u	cf. Hasha ifər
189.	Crooked body	túturú	as a result of magical attack
190.	Sore/wound	blà	
191.	Leprosy	kòmò	
192.	Head	kpi	cf. Yangkam pi , Takaya pwe , Kadara epe , Kuda ukpay
193.	Eye	yoqúyo	cf. Eggon èyí , Irigwe riyí , Yala èyi , Arum iyù , I̯ upe eye ⁺ , (BCCW, 36). Also in Chadic: cf. Fyer yuurù , Mangar yíw and related forms in other Ron languages
194.	Face	tómó	cf. Hasha i-təm ‘forehead’
195.	Forehead	gbomó	cf. Sambe gbo , Toro igbùmù
196.	Skull	kókór kpi	‘bone of head’
197.	Cheek	à̯à̯má	cf. Sambe kuŋga ,
198.	I̯ ose	sónó	? cf. Mbd. mouth
199.	Ear	à̯f̯ót̯	f̯- + #to . cf. Sambe tún , Hasha i-tu , Horom tò̯ , Fyem hutó̯ , Bo utó , I̯ ingye t̯ , also throughout Tarokoid, but a PVC root #tuN- . The f̯- element is likely to be an old prefix e.g. Fyem hu-tó̯ .
200.	Mouth	èné	cf. Hasha anye , Eggon anyu ,
201.	Tooth	ənyine	a I̯ iger-Saharan root
202.	Tongue	àlimi	cf. Tarok a̯b̯ilim ⁺ , Mabo de-rem , cLela d-rémé , ultimately P̯I C #-lima
203.	Throat	̀ndz̀ndz̀z̀gb̀	
204.	I̯ eck	agbà	cf. widespread ‘jaw’ ?
205.	Jaw	àwùrùkámà	
206.	Chin	àd̀d̀d̀m̀	cf. Toro ad̀d̀d̀m̀
207.	Elbow	àc̯̀ba	
208.	Shoulder	àq̀r̀ ngb̀	
209.	Armpit	àh̀r̯̀ngb̀	cf. Eggon à-̯ng’b̀ ,
210.	Fist	g̀ǹǹv̀	
211.	Arm	ngb̀	
212.	Hand	v̀	cf. Tarok awó , Aten ẁ , Cara v̀ , Berom vẃ , probably all weakenings of the widespread #bok- forms (BCCW,2).

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
213.	Palm	àṅgbè vɔ	
214.	Leg	hwaná	cf. Reshe ú-kánà , Kohumono kɛ-hán ‘animal leg’,
215.	Foot	àmbè hwana	
216.	Female breast	bɛɛ	cf. Toro bɛɛ but widespread
217.	Stomach	yèrà	cf. Toro i-yara ,
218.	Ị avel	àṅgbò	cf. Ijọ, Kegboid
219.	Thigh	ritsi	
220.	Knee	gbólo	cf. Toro gbérù
221.	Ị ail (Finger/toe)	àkókóró	
222.	Back	àsè	Widespread in BC, also referring to ‘hips’, ‘waist’ and reconstructed by Blench (ms.) as #-jim for Proto-Benue-Congo. This root is discussed in Williamson (1989,b:257). There is an old Ị C root #-ma which is largely replaced by #siI roots in BC. Also Mumuye sání ‘waist’.
223.	Buttocks	cu	cf. Toro itu ,
224.	Penis	kpàndà	cf. Toro kpanda
225.	Vagina I	àhò	
226.	Skin	binatɔ	
227.	Bone	àkuú	cf. Fyem huhúp pl. ahúp , weakened from the more widespread #kup . Cf. Bo ukúp , Pe ukup , Tarok akúp and Yangkam kup and PB #-kubi
228.	Rib	hɔɔ	
229.	Vein	ə̀ɾiɾi	
230.	Blood	myà	
231.	Breath	ɟene	same as ‘heart’ (240.)
232.	Tear	əmuyú	
233.	Sweat	hròhrò	? cf. Hasha huhunje ,
234.	Saliva	àtá	widespread
235.	Urine	ə̀ɟirò	? cf. Hasha pəri .
236.	Faeces	ə̀bi	cf. Ị upe ebi ⁺ . #bi- is an extremely widespread Ị iger-Congo root
237.	Hair	ɟina	
238.	Beard	ɟiná dòdòmò	‘hair of chin’ cf. Toro adòdòmò
239.	Liver	àhrò	cf. Rukul ahɔr , Toro ahɔrɔ , Horom ázò ‘liver’, Fyem du-zo pl. a-zo ‘liver’, Ayu ajor , Lungu izur
240.	Heart	ɟene	same as ‘breath’ (231.).
241.	Intestines	màréyirà	
242.	Body	ət́	
243.	Meat	ìwe	cf. Toro i-wu , Hasha i-vwe , Yangkam vi , widespread in Jukunoid as wi , suggesting a

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
			regional root #- vwi . See BCCW,1 where this is treated as a weakening of Jukunoid #- bi and is treated as a semantic shift from Proto-I iger-Congo ‘goat’.
244.	Animal (Bush)	weyè	
245.	Cow	àlòndo	this root is widespread in both Plateau and adjacent Chadic languages
246.	Bull	tì h̀l̀òndo	
247.	Calf	àmé l̀òndo	
248.	Goat	bí	cf. Tarok ibí ,
249.	He-goat	bó	
250.	Castrated goat	àzáná	
251.	Sheep	àtafi	
252.	Ram	àtsiqa tafi	
253.	Dog	əva	cf. Tarok ivá ,
254.	*Cat	mùsù	cf. I gas mus . A common term in this region originally derived from Hausa
255.	*Pig	ómó dàuya	
256.	*Horse	nyàmà	
257.	*Donkey	as Hausa	
258.	Elephant	nyì	cf. Bu ninyi , Toro nyi , Yangkam nyi , Mada nyi , Yala inyi . An old I iger-Congo root (BCCW, 34).
259.	Buffalo	yèrè	cf. Toro yari , Rukul ì-yàt , Cara ì-yàt pl. yat , Yangkam yyet , I upe eya , Mbd, PB #- páti reflecting a more widespread root #- yati in East Benue-Congo. See also Daffo yàt
260.	Lion	grêgre	
261.	Leopard	ikwè	cf. Horom kyè , Fyem kwe , Hasha ehwe , Jari ì-kwi , Rukul ikwi related to old I iger-Congo root #- gbe , -kpe
262.	Hippo	wémò	
263.	Warthog	ət̀əmbiri	
264.	Monkey (generic)	yeráma	
265.	Baboon	háha	cf. Hasha e-he pl. he-he ,
266.	Patas monkey ⁴	yeráma tífa	
267.	Squirrel (ground)	ət̀ò	
268.	Squirrel (tree)	àkpáná	
269.	Rat (generic)	ikwi	cf. Hasha ì-kwi , Fyem kwi , Pe ikuu , probably also Tarok ipi . Ibibio ékú
270.	Bush-rats I	àjè	
271.	Bush-rats II	ugo	
272.	Bush-rats III	àzwèmbila	

⁴ *Erythrocebus patas*

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
273.	Bush-rats IV	kwí aqya	
274.	Bush-rats V	kwi atása	
275.	Bush-rats VI	kwí jǐǐ	
276.	Bush-rats VII	ŋgri	
277.	Pygmy mouse	kyúra	
278.	Fat mouse	àzwè	
279.	Giant rat ⁵	óhwí tsí	
280.	Cane Rat ⁶	bibiya	Widespread
281.	Hare ⁷	ásòmò	Cf. Cara izum , Tarok izum , but a root widespread within Plateau, also Hausa zóómóó
282.	House-bat	àñìṅbírí	
283.	Fruit-bat	éṅga	cf. Hasha agak
284.	Ì ile crocodile	kúró	cf. Toro kuru , Ì inzam akru , Bu ŋkuru , Ì ungu mekru , Kuteb ù-kúr , Ufia kí-kwù . May be linked with #- kuru forms for ‘tortoise’.
285.	Chameleon	tèndè	cf. Ì ingye nte
286.	Agama lizard	ágàmà	
287.	Skink	qiribù	
288.	Gecko	ágàmàsɔ	
289.	Toad	ívrà	
290.	River frog	ńzwàrà	
291.	Edible frog	ŋgboma	
292.	??	kúkrúdú	
293.	Land tortoise	kpòkpùṅgùrù	
294.	Turtle	kpòkpùṅgròmù	
295.	Snake (Generic)	iyó	cf. Horom yɔ ‘snake sp.’, reconstructed as generic for ‘snake’ in Benue-Congo as #- yoCo (Blench ms.)
296.	Spitting cobra	aniṅgá	
297.	Snake I	tsíṅgrò	= H. <i>guza</i>
298.	Snake II	ènu	= H. <i>kasa</i>
299.	Snake III	qyù	brownish
300.	Snake VI	həhwá	= H. <i>mesa</i>
301.	Snake V	yú tərè	= H. <i>gobe da nisa</i>
302.	Snake VI	yú kwi	small black snake eats rats
303.	Snake VII	sé	green snake
304.	Snake VIII	zènzèrè mù	= H. <i>maciji ruwa</i>
305.	Snake IX	kókò	= H. <i>maciji kwara</i>
306.	Snake X	èhù	small, white, can jump. cf. Hasha i-hup ,

⁵ (*Cretomyces* sp.)

⁶ (*Thryonomys Swinderianus*)

⁷ (*Lepus Crawshayi*)

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
307.	River crab	àhàràbà	cf. Toro aharaba . PB #- kádá , but an ancient I iger-Congo root and worldwide (Blench 1997).
308.	Fish (generic)	kpó	
309.	Catfish	kpálà	
310.	Fish I	kpó hùṅgìrì	
311.	Fish II	ṛìbu	
312.	Fish III	kófa	
313.	Fish IV	lúlunṅu	
314.	Fish V	bré	
315.	Fish VI	zenzê	
316.	Fish VII	kpətásá	white fish sp. àtása ‘white’
317.	Bird (generic)	əkúkú	This is a widespread root for ‘chicken’. cf. Bu ukò , Mada kòkò , Kahugu akoro and is probably a shortening of the t-k-r roots found in this group and outside BC. See BCCW, 43 and Williamson (1999)
318.	Chicken	àdye	cf. Toro ade ,
319.	Cock	àgbá	cf. Toro agba ,
320.	Duck (Domestic)	kàza	
321.	Guinea-fowl	sòrò	cf. Hasha a-saram ,
322.	Hooded Vulture ⁸	àkpəbi	
323.	Village Weaver ⁹	əḡwe	A widespread root in Benue-Congo and reconstructed for Proto-Benue-Congo as #- gba in Blench (ms.)
324.	Cattle-egret ¹⁰	əkúkú lòndò	‘bird of cattle’
325.	Pigeon	əkúkú bà	
326.	Black kite ¹¹	əwe	
327.	Owl (various spp.)	kùkùkù	perhaps. ‘bird of death’. cf. Hasha i-kuk
328.	Bush-fowl	úgró	
329.	Kingfisher	əkúkú mò	
330.	I ightjar	əbəbê	
331.	*Pied crow ¹²	əḡḡ	
332.	Woodpecker	əkúkú pásagbè	
333.	Bird sp.	úḡwè	small birds that go in groups
334.	Insect (Generic)	lo	
335.	Scorpion	ínà	Reflects a widespread I iger-Congo root #- ena
336.	Butterfly	àḡàràkpákpá	
337.	Mosquito	avò	PLC *bəḡ
338.	Spider ¹³	átátana	

⁸ (*Neophron monachus*)

⁹ (*Ploceus cucullatus*)

¹⁰ *Ardeola ibis*

¹¹ (*Milvus migrans*)

¹² (*Corvus albus*)

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
339.	Mason wasp ¹⁴	mbîmbì	
340.	Bee	əfi	cf. Hasha i-suk , Berom ʃòk , I ingye sə , Bu ifɔ , Izere ifɔʃ pl. ifɔʃ , Horom sèkɛ ,
341.	Sweat-fly	ánjihiri	? what is əfirunzi
342.	Fly sp.	mbrumbrúsù	it follows dirt
343.	Housefly	àsu	cf. Hasha i-sisi , Tarok icìŋcìŋ , Bu cinci , Berom cíŋ . Reconstructed as #-ciN to Proto-Benue-Congo in Blench (ms.). Also LC Also in Chadic: I gas nʃi , Mwaghavul ndifì , Tangale tîŋ
344.	Ant (Generic)	nàna	cf. Hasha a-naŋ
345.	Louse (Human)	bírókàwri	
346.	Millipede	ákpáhre	
347.	Cockroach	ʋóʋó	
348.	Termite	ànùŋgbà	
349.	Flying-ant	pídí ʃiŋgà	
350.	Praying mantis	əgege	
351.	Grasshopper	ésɔ	
352.	Firefly	mámatú	
353.	Giant Cricket	áyíró	
354.	Earthworm	tsíŋgiri	
355.	Giant Snail	kpólo	What is kpəŋgrəŋ ?
356.	Soap (Traditional)	sabulu àto	Tones?
357.	Oil	àmènè	cf. Toro amɛnɛ , Rukul manai , Berom nói , Aten noi , Gure mani , Central Kambari màni and ultimately Hausa mai .
358.	Fat/grease	àqèqè	cf. Cara ibip , Hasha e-fef ‘fat’, Tarok m̀pìp ‘animal fat’, Chawai bap , Samba I nakenyare byep . Reconstructed to East Benue-Congo as #-byep in Blench (ms.)
359.	Salt	n̄ma	cf. Toro ama , Rukul mmək , Horom, Fyem ma , Tarok m̀m̀àn , but also Fulfulde manda
360.	Soup/stew	imí	
361.	Porridge/tuwo I	ákpà	cf. Tarok ŋ̀kpàŋ ,
362.	Porridge/tuwo II	ágirigbó	
363.	Sorghum-beer	àŋgú	
364.	Sorghum-beer II	àŋgóto	
365.	Pito beer	kpyéŋgu	
366.	Palm-wine	àŋgóhye	
367.	Honey	tɔ	
368.	Potash	ató	
369.	Potash water	àmòto	used in soup

¹³ (*Acarina* spp.)¹⁴ (*Belenogaster* spp.)

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
370.	Peelings	hòndò	What is əkuku?
371.	Funnel	fɔ̀rɔ̀	
372.	Filter	âse	
373.	Rag	kɔ̀fíkuri	
374.	Floor-beater	gɔ̀vɔ̀da	ɪ ot tone-marked
375.	Handle (of tool)	kɔ̀tɔ̀rɔ̀	
376.	Sickle	ambihùwí	
377.	Cutlass	ambídákù	
378.	Iron	ɔ̀kpɔ̀ hɔ̀ngɔ̀	
379.	Axe I	ə̀kè	cf. Tarok ikù,
380.	Axe II	à̀nge	
381.	Adze	ì̀ngye	
382.	Hoes (general)	zòhò	
383.	Hoe I	zòhò húrá	
384.	Hoe II	zòhò haɔ̀a	
385.	Hoe III	zòhò fúmúbrè	
386.	Hammer	egbirigbi kwan	ɪ ot tone-marked
387.	Knife	à̀mbiyá	
388.	Comb	kpɔ̀gra	
389.	Broom	ə̀yú	
390.	Sack	à̀prɔ̀	
391.	Fireplace	tréyiyi	
392.	Shoe	à̀kpétéré hwàná	
393.	Cloth	kwírí	
394.	Mortar (wood)	tú	cf. Tarok atúm,
395.	Pestle	bifí	
396.	Pot (clay) (generic)	ə̀zu	check!
397.	Pot I (soup)	ə̀zu mí	
398.	Pot II (medicine)	ə̀zu wura	
399.	Pot III	ə̀zwákpà	for cooking porridge
400.	Pot IV	ə̀zə trəsə̀ we	for men to cook meat in
401.	Pot V	ə̀zu trəsə̀ ngù	for cooking beer
402.	Pot VI	ə̀zə còngù	for mixing beer
403.	Pot VII	te	???
404.	Pot VIII	gəmàmùwa	for drinking water
405.	Pot IX	da	for putting palm-oil
406.	Pot X	kpòkpòzə̀ agbánu	very large
407.	Pot XI	gbirigbó tsòngù	to store beer
408.	Head-pad	kàkàrà	local eating tray
409.	Basket (generic)	hárá	Widespread #kata
410.	Winnowing tray	ə̀krí	
411.	Mat (generic)	kúmú	
412.	Spear	tàkpələ̀	
413.	Bow	émbè	
414.		ta	ɪ iger-Congo root #-ta

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
415.	Arrow	səra	cf. Toro ƙara , Doka ire-sala , Surubu u-cira , Hasha ikir , Kulu dekila , Piti ucir . Also ? LC -daŋ , Mambila sàŋ . See BCCW,4
416.	Quiver	àŋbó	
417.	Chain	zenzele	
418.	Rope	ɾifí	
419.	Stool	kpra	
420.	Wooden door	ànyídá	
421.	Fence	hamba	
422.	Ladder	agra	
423.	Canoe	kpókpòŋgrɔ	
424.	Paddle	ókpónùtròmò	
425.	Aeroplane	girgi nzà	‘canoe of sky’
426.	Train	girgi ndzi	‘canoe of ground’
427.	Car	gbo grundo	
428.	Bicycle	àgbòkà	
429.	Bee-hive (log)	túndú	
430.	Bee-hive (house)	dáƒí	
431.	Bee-hive (?)	àsòsò	what is this?
432.	Fish-trap I	kene	
433.	Fish-trap II	ŋgbómó	
434.	Snare	əkrwí gyiwè	
435.	One	ànyimbere	
436.	Two	àhùrwi	
437.	Three	àtaato	
438.	Four	aanè	
439.	Five	atúŋgú	I iger-Congo root #toon-. cf. Hasha atukun , Tarok ùtúkún , cf. Hasha ikwiv ,
440.	Six	térékífí	
441.	Seven	térékífí nanyí	
442.	Eight	tsyátsyá	
443.	I ine	tsyátsyá nanyi	
444.	Ten	gòròmàvɔ	
445.	Eleven	gòròmàvɔ hwá nyimbere	
446.	Twelve I	gòròmàvɔ hwá àhùrwi	
447.	Twelve II	tsɔ	I ot tone-marked.
448.	Twenty	gòròmàvɔ àhùrwi	
449.	Twenty-four	tsɔ hùrwi	
450.	Forty	gòròmàvɔ ànè	
451.	Hundred	gòròmàvɔ dá gòròmàvɔ	
452.	Black	hòŋgwà	
453.	White	àtása	
454.	Red	atífa	
455.	Blue	ákpakpaw	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
456.	Yellow	òmò dádápá	
457.	Green	òmò jú	
458.	Brown	òmò uru	Ị ot tone-marked.
459.	Good	lándè	
460.	Sweet	náná	
461.	Bitter	birírí	
462.	Half	kprókpró	
463.	Hot	yaha	
464.	Cold	náná gbálálá	
465.	Old	acó	
466.	Ị ew	aqé	Ị iger-Congo root # -fe. cf. Tarok -pipe , What is vuruna ?
467.	Wet	tèmù	
468.	Dry	hwara	
469.	Smooth	kòkóna	
470.	Clean	zánána	e.g. Cloth that is washed and looks clean
471.	Quick	qíqí	
472.	Bent thing	hurúna	
473.	Add to	gyànkpí	
474.	Answer (question)	kera	
475.	Ask a question	lúfú	cf. Surubu rivi , Ị indem irib , Doka lirbi , Hyam libi , Hasha rifi , Ị ingye ryip , Rukul rip , Ị ingye ryip , (BCCW,6/9) cf. Toro kəzi , Yeskwa ɲkusa , Hasha kuse What is yiriŋwə ? cf. ‘to fly’ (531.)
476.	Ask/beg for something	kwèrè	
477.	Awaken (someone)	hónǵá	
478.	Bake in ashes	kwesé	
479.	Bark (dog)	kpánǵáva	What is hugofó ? cf. Toro guvu ,
480.	Be bent	gúnu	cf. 472.
481.	Be rotten	hwènà	cf. Toro hwana ,
482.	Be short	kprúkprú	
483.	Become dry	hwara	cf. Berom hwōgōt , Aten hwohwo , Basa ihoo , cLela hǎ , Ijò kàngá , Gworok kwát probably independent weakenings of the widespread #- koro roots. See BCCW, 30.
484.	Begin	jíjǐ	
485.	Bite	nyuŋwá	cf. Toro nyuŋwa , Yangkam nwaŋ , Ị ingye nyum , Che nyumu , LC lum
486.	Blow (flute etc.)	wè	cf. Sur wuri , Yangkam wurok , Horom wil , Berom wōlōm , Len Mambila èwəl , LC *fud
487.	?	wuri	
488.	Build (house etc.)	míná	cf. Toro mará , Ị inzo mé , Bu mɛ , Che me , Hasha mai , Tarok me⁺ , Bekwara mè , reflexes of an old Ị iger-Congo root. See BCCW, 13.
489.	Burn (fire burns)	qyá	cf. Toro fya , Rukul fyi , Fyem fwíf ‘burn off vegetation’, Berom fwúsh ‘to burn food’, cf. Toro sa ,
490.	Buy	sá	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
491.	Call (to someone)	ɸì	cf. Toro fifin ,
492.	Carve (wood etc.)	kwəɛ	
493.	Catch	ɸyè	
494.	??	bi	
495.	Chase s.t.	kətsi	
496.	Chew	ríyá	cf. Toro rya ,
497.	Choose	sè	cf. Toro səɛ , Ijò sèlɛ , PB #- cad
498.	Climb	ká	
499.	Come	bá	cf. Toro ba , Tarok ḅá , Rukul ba , Fyem ḅé , Yanƙam ḅi , but a widespread root reconstructible at least to Proto-Atlantic-Congo. Also Yiwom bèl , Kulere bo
500.	Come out (of room)	kété	cf. Toro ti , Kambari ùtə , possibly related to widespread Bantu roots #təb , #tum
501.	Continue (to do s.t.)	rítomo	
502.	??	liya	
503.	Cough	kpikpiru	I̩ ot tone-marked.
504.	Count	brè	cf. Toro bere , Kadara pula , Bu bəla , I̩ inzo bré , I̩ inzam ble , Mada bla , Kulung ḅala , Mbe pəl , PLC *bəd , PB #- bəd -
505.	Cut down (tree)	ƒimbá	cf. Toro kpere , Horom pwer
506.	??	kpa	cf. Toro kpere , Horom pwer
507.	Cut in two	gáɸa	
508.	Cut off (head etc.)	ɸà	
509.	Dance	kira	cf. Toro kyara ,
510.	Die	kwe	cf. Toro ku , Hasha kwe , Kenyi kie , Surubu kee , although these forms have developed from the more common I̩ iger-Congo #-ku root.
511.	Dig (earth etc.)	ƒimú	cf. Yanƙam suɸ , Sur ƒiɸ Fyem cin , Tesu ƒumu , Kulu cem , Berom cíɸ
512.	Divide	gàɸà	cf. Tarok kap ,
513.	Do/make	ləsa	cf. Toro rəsa ,
514.	Drag	kpí	also ‘pull, uproot’. cf. Toro pi ,
515.	Draw (water)	kpí àmù	
516.	Drink	wa	cf. Toro, Yanƙam, Sur, Tarok wá . See also Mambiloid, LC
517.	Eat	ríyá	The ri- is the old I̩ iger-Congo root widely attested in Plateau. The -ya is also found in some other languages, e.g. Kulu liya , I̩ indem rea , Gyem liá , PLC *lia
518.	Empty	ndré makpe	
519.	Enter	nyí	
520.	Equal, to be	ətswè	
521.	Extinguished, to be	mríndrí	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
522.	Fall (rain)	hwa	cf. Hasha hu , Fyem hó , Aten hwò , Berom hwò ('fall on top of s.t.), Yashi hu . The widespread Plateau forms have a labial velar, but ? cf. Wapan ko , Cara go , Jar ko , Yala gwo , PB #- gwa .
523.	Fall over	hwa	as above
524.	Fear	nyìrì	
525.	Feel (cold etc.)	tó náná gbálálá	
526.	??	sere	
527.	Fight (in war)	mláná	
528.	Finish (a task)	tréna	
529.	Flog	mlà	
530.	Flow (water etc.)	gbú	
531.	Fly (birds)	həngá	cf. 'awaken' (477.)
532.	Fold (cloth etc.)	gùnù	cf. 'be bent'
533.	Follow	tàqà	
534.	Forget	tí khlókhlo	
535.	Fry (in oil)	yəngá	cf. Kurama paga ,
536.	Gather/collect	qìrá	
537.	Give	ngə	cf. Hasha nago , Aten nəŋ , I indem nogo , Gworok nwak . Reflex of the widespread # pa- (also as na and nga) root (see BCCW,45)
538.	Give II	níngé nù	
539.	Give birth	màrà	Widespread African root. PLC * màn
540.	Go	nánzə	Plateau has various forms with a na- element that might be connected.
541.	Go out/exit	kəti	?? cf. 'come out'
542.	Grind	hwà	
543.	Grow (plants)	tyəgbà	? cf. Jju, I indem tub , Lokaa -táwá
544.	Hatch (egg)	kpá sèbé	'to pound the egg'. cf. Tarok pwak ,
545.	Hear	seré	
546.	Heavy, to be	ɾifi	cf. Toro riji ,
547.	Heavy, to be II	kêmi	as of a load
548.	Hit (drum tc.)	mímí	
549.	Hoe	nzohə	
550.	Hunt	qlá	cf. Fyem fofár , Hasha far , Tarok fár 'to be a good marksman'. Also in Chadic: cf. Bokokos faar , Tangale para (n.), I gizim bárâ and Hausa fàráwtàà
551.	Jump	hwáná	
552.	Kill	kwe	
553.	Know	wena	
554.	Lack	yámákpé	
555.	Laugh	wènee	
556.	Leak	fürù	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
557.	Lick	ɸené	
558.	Light, to be	rifíkpe	
559.	Lie down	lé	cf. Aten lal , Tarok dəl ‘to stretch’, Yeskwa lalo ‘sleep’, Mbe and Common Ekoid lál , PB #- dáád -
560.	Listen	serémí	see ‘hear’
561.	Look for	ɸá	
562.	Marry	tsáɸà	
563.	Mix	toɸo	
564.	Mix food	tsyò	
565.	Mould (pot)	mìnà	cf. ‘swallow’ (611.)
566.	Open	vuru	
567.	Plant (crop etc.)	bíyá	
568.	Play	kpótó	
569.	Pound (in mortar)	kpá	see ‘hatch’
570.	Pour (liquid)	saŋgrá	
571.	Press	hwiyá	
572.	Pull	kpí	
573.	Receive	sa	
574.	Refuse	leke	
575.	Remember	kòṅò	
576.	Repair	lesa	I ot tone-marked.
577.	Resemble	ətsyè ándrə	
578.	Return	bá miya	
579.	Ride (horse etc.)	ká	
580.	Roast on coals	yàhà	cf. Toro yaha ,
581.	Run	gbóó	
582.	Say/speak	brè	
583.	??	tsifa	
584.	See	nzá	
585.	Sell	ríɸá	? rep rot?
586.	Send	tòmó	
587.	Set trap	sumú	
588.	Sew	wəṅó	
589.	Shake	sùsù	
590.	Sharpen	mya	
591.	Shine		
592.	Shoot (arrow, gun)	da	
593.	Sing	kpa mumu	
594.	Skin (animal)	trá	
595.	Slaughter (animal)	ɸà	
596.	Sleep	lém rà	‘to sleep a sleep’. See cognates under ‘lie down’
597.	Smash	hwrá	
598.	Smell	nyĩŋwé	

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
599.	Snap in two	kyána	
600.	Speak	tsiqà	
601.	Spit	toqó atá	‘spit saliva’
602.	Spread in sun to dry	làqà	
603.	Squeeze out	gùgùnùna	
604.	Stand	həngǎfi	
605.	Steal	kə yuhu	‘do theft’
606.	Stir (soup)	vutunu	
607.	Store cocoyam in a hole	tsyó mgbasa	
608.	Stretch oneself	nyifaná	
609.	Suck (breast etc.)	momó	
610.	Surpass	áráke	
611.	Swallow	minà	cf. ‘to mould’ (565.)
612.	Take	gú	
613.	Take out	gúnyí mbéré	
614.	Tear (cloth etc.)	hwafə	
615.	Throw	fi	
616.	Throw carelessly	tàvə	
617.	Twist (rope etc.)	kámá	Mbd ‘squeeze’ kòm
618.	Uproot (tuber)	kpi	cf. ‘drag’ (514.)
619.	Walk	hende	
620.	Want/need	kirá	
621.	Wash	hwàrà	
622.	Wear	wèrè	
623.	Weep	kpaŋgá	
624.	Work	ndəmə	
625.	I	myá	
626.	You	nən	
627.	He/she/it	ŋwó	
628.	we	mbəvə	
629.	you pl.	məvə	or gágá
630.	They	ámvǎŋi	
631.	Thank you!	kwende	

Edible and Useful Plants

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
632.	Guinea-yam ¹⁵	kírù	
633.	Yam sp.	àbìcìrì	loanword?
634.	Aerial yam ¹⁶	ə̀nə̀rì	

¹⁵ (*Dioscorea guineensis*)

¹⁶ (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)

635.	Red yam I ¹⁷	kirú lomo
636.	Red yam II	kamáca
637.	Water-yam ¹⁸	kirú téfa
638.	Taro (Old cocoyam) ¹⁹	aḡbasa lomo ‘Alumu cocoyam’
639.	Taro (Old cocoyam) II	aḡbasa ḡgàtɔ́
640.	I ew cocoyam ^{20*}	aḡbasa kòbɔ́ cf. Toro aḡbásá akòbò
641.	I ew cocoyam II	aḡbasa kpàná
642.	Cassava ^{*21}	əɽiɽi grɔ́mɔ
643.	Sweet potato ^{*22}	jólùlù
644.	Wild yam I	gbàhà
645.	Wild yam II	atambo
646.	Wild yam III	kətru
647.	Wild yam IV	ɸiḡkədu
648.	Tumuku ²³	əɸumiya
649.	Rizga ²⁴	àhàrà
650.	Sorghum ²⁵	əkrù cf. Tarok ikùr ,
651.	Fonio (H. acca) ²⁶	kpòkpò
652.	Fonio II	yefi cf. Tarok ibìjì ,
653.	Iburu (H. iburu) ²⁷	yefi hùrùtùtù
654.	Iburu II	yefi hùḡgùri
655.	Iburu III	yefi àtífa
656.	Maize ^{*28}	əkúrújì
657.	Rice ^{*29}	àjàkámhá
658.	Cowpea ³⁰	dòsò cf. Cf. Toro dòsò , Tarok asò , Irigwe ḡzò , Wapan a- so , I upe ezo ⁺ . Also in Adamawa: Mumuye zòkó . See BCCW,8
659.	Spiral cowpea	əkíkimi
660.	Lima bean ^{31*}	dosóó abɔ́gba
661.	Other beans I	əpirú
662.	Other beans II	sɛfɛ I ot tone-marked. long, red blotched pods and almost black beans
663.	Other beans III	dosóó kekere = H. <i>aci shiru</i>

¹⁷ (*Dioscorea cayenensis*)

¹⁸ (*Dioscorea alata*)

¹⁹ (*Colocasia esculenta*)

²⁰ (*Xanthosoma mafaffa*) (H. wali)

²¹ (*Manihot esculenta*)

²² (*Ipomoea batatas*)

²³ (*Plectranthus esculentus*)

²⁴ (*Solenostemon rotundifolius*)

²⁵ (*Sorghum bicolor*)

²⁶ (*Digitaria exilis*)

²⁷ (*Digitaria iburua*)

²⁸ (*Zea mays*)

²⁹ (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)

³⁰ (*Vigna unguiculata*)

³¹ (*Phaseolus lunatus*)

664.	Other beans IV	àbirà
665.	Bambara groundnut ³²	áhwì pìrù cf. Tarok afi ,
666.	Groundnut (Peanut) ³³	áhwì
667.	Garden egg ³⁴	mbré
668.	Okra ³⁵	ándra
669.	Chili pepper* (large) ³⁶	ɸɪqá zèzè
670.	Birdseye chili* ³⁷	ɸɪqá kékéré ‘small chili’
671.	Tomato ³⁸	mbré masara ɪ ot tone-marked. ‘white man’s garden egg’
672.	Egusi melon ³⁹	əkáse
673.	Edible squash ⁴⁰	ətèngé
674.	Sorrel/roselle ⁴¹	agbaraja cf. Tarok agbántár ,
675.	Jews' mallow ⁴²	səɸi
676.	Edible squash ⁴³	lese ɪ ot tone-marked.
677.	Sorrel/roselle ⁴⁴	lú
678.	Black sesame ⁴⁵	lú nja
679.	Red sesame ⁴⁶	lú ŋgwe
680.	???	súnù
681.	Sesame leaves ⁴⁷	hùŋgúrí
682.	Bitterleaf ⁴⁸	tréɸi
683.	Waterleaf* ⁴⁹	júmí ‘bush type’
684.	Plantain (<i>Musa</i> AAB)	àyàbà male banana gbugbeɸu
685.	Banana (<i>Musa</i> AAA)	màrà nyaté ‘bush banana’
686.	Pawpaw* ⁵⁰	kràbúsú

³² (*Vigna subterranea*)

³³ (*Arachis hypogaea*)

³⁴ (*Solanum melongena*)

³⁵ (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)

³⁶ (*Capsicum frutescens*)

³⁷ (*Capsicum annuum*)

³⁸ (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)

³⁹ (*Citrullus lanatus*)

⁴⁰ (*Cucurbita pepo*)

⁴¹ (H. *yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)

⁴² (H. *lalo*)(*Corchorus olitorius*)

⁴³ (*Cucurbita pepo*)

⁴⁴ (H. *yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)

⁴⁵ *Sesamum radiatum*

⁴⁶ (H. *Ridfi*) (*Sesamum indicum*)

⁴⁷ (H. *karkashi*)

⁴⁸ *Vernonia amygdalina*

⁴⁹ (*Amaranthus* spp)

⁵⁰ (*Carica papaya*)

687.	Gourd (Generic)	həndó cf. Toro hwondò , cLela ì-hònò , Tyap hám , Hausa kondo ,
688.	Gourd-bottle ⁵¹	əngbò cf. Toro aŋbu ⁺ , Tarok abəŋ ,
689.	Gourd-bottle II	ku cf. Mama koro , Yakö lè-kòlól , Basa ee-kele ,
690.	Gourd (spherical) ⁵²	əkpijí cf. Pe ankafa ,
691.	Food gourd	bəgbá cf. I inzo agbugba , Rindre ubga , Tarok abəŋ ,
692.	Tobacco*	ataba
693.	Sugar-cane*	wa the name of a grass in the bush
694.	Loofah ⁵³	as Hausa < H.
695.	Cola	kókóró
696.	Oil-palm ⁵⁴	àgbè hwe cf. Toro a-hwé
697.	Palm-fruit	kpi ahwe cf. Toro ù-wri
698.	Palm-oil	àmènè hwe cf. Toro a-mene
699.	Palm kernel	àhəro cf. Toro a-horo
700.	Raphia palm ⁵⁵	nànàsà
701.	Fan-palm ⁵⁶	kpàmà = H. <i>giginya</i>
702.	Canarium tree ⁵⁷	kpàŋgé
703.	Custard apple ⁵⁸	tu
704.	Wild date-palm ⁵⁹	
705.	Baobab ⁶⁰	kúkúru
706.	Silk-cotton Tree ⁶¹	kúmú cf. Mbd
707.	Strawberry tree	tasa = H. <i>tafashiya</i>
708.	Mahogany	bísó
709.	Shea tree ⁶²	mərə kpázàqa
710.	Locust tree ⁶³	nyinyí
711.	Locust fruit	mərə nyí also mere nyinyi
712.	Locust-bean cakes	nyínyí tràsà
713.	Tamarind ⁶⁴	àmyămya
714.	<i>Terminalia</i> sp. ⁶⁵	kó = H. <i>baushe</i> .
715.	Black plum ⁶⁶	kpu I ot tone-marked.
716.	Tree sp. I	jejengre = H. <i>jan yaro</i>
717.	Tree sp. II	àmvlà used to make <i>madadi</i>

⁵¹ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)

⁵² (*Cucurbita maxima*)

⁵³ (H. soso) (*Luffa cylindrica*)

⁵⁴ (*Elaeis guineensis*)

⁵⁵ (*Raphia* spp.)

⁵⁶ (*Borassus aethiopum*)

⁵⁷ (*Canarium schweinfurthii*)

⁵⁸ (*Annona senegalensis*)

⁵⁹ (*Phoenix reclinata*)

⁶⁰ (*Adansonia digitata*)

⁶¹ (*Ceiba pentandra*)

⁶² (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)

⁶³ (*Parkia biglobosa*)

⁶⁴ (*Tamarindus indica*)

⁶⁵ (H. *baushe*)

⁶⁶ (*Vitex doniana*)

718.	Tree sp. III	tétéghúl	large edible fruits like mangoes
719.	Tree sp. IV	krin	breaks hoe
720.	Tree sp. V	dzi	= H. <i>gwaska</i>
721.	Tree sp. VI	ćććć	used to make spoons
722.	Tree sp. VI	sene	very strong tree
723.	Tree sp. VI	t̀t̀t̀ ỳẁẁ	= H. <i>kashin yawo</i>
724.	Tree sp. IX	táúé	small, edible fruits
725.	Tree sp. X	ákpakurí	ogbono tree
726.	Tree sp. XI	àkpokpó àgbè	= H. <i>kaushe</i>
727.	Tree sp. XII	íqikpv́	= H. <i>gwawo</i>
728.	Tree sp. XIII	àngrug̀h̀	= H. <i>sha zuma</i>
729.	Plant sp. I	̀nd̀nd̀oná	scented plant grown around the house against snakes
730.	Plant sp. II	binyìngwe	plant used to treat catarrh
731.	Plant sp. III	afúnyìngwe	local curry
732.	Sodom apple ⁶⁷		
733.	Mushroom sp. I	àwa íya	
734.	Mushroom sp. II	ánàta	
735.	Mushroom sp. III	àgùgwà	
736.	Mushroom sp. IV	àwa fìngà	
737.	Mushroom sp. V	àwa seŋge	
738.	Mushroom sp. VI	àwa yíra	
739.	Mushroom sp. VI	àmeré mgbla	
740.	Mushroom sp. VI	ánjìrìnjírí	
741.	Mushroom sp. I	àwa londo	‘cow mushroom’
742.	Mushroom sp. I	àshoto yiráma	

Musical Instruments

No.	Gloss	Təsu	Commentary
743.	Drum	kàngà	Barrel drum similar to Hausa gangaa
744.	Drum	àkèdú	Hourglass-drum similar to Hausa kalanguu
745.	Drum	àtábafa	Hourglass-drum with one head similar to Hausa kotso
746.	Drum	àgblègblè	Tall (1.5 m), single-headed cylindrical drum with a pegged head and short legs
747.	Drum	èdzi	shorter, wider version of the previous drum
748.	Flute I	kpígri	
749.	Flute II	éqìqì	
750.	Cruciform whistle	èri gbótò	
751.	Zither	ànggògò	
752.	Xylophone	èdzi àgbè	not an indigenous instrument
753.	Horn I	dùrùmu	
754.	Horn II	purú	
755.	Gourd-rattle	kwakwara ɔ̀v̀	
756.	Ankle rattles I	ngbawà	iron
757.	Ankle rattles II	àcècè	small palm-leaf boxes

⁶⁷ (*Calotropis procera* H. tumfafiya)

758. Ankle rattles III	àkwakwara kwánà	large dried fruit shells
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