

Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation

Folk Knowledge of Fish Among the Kotoko of Logone-Birni

Aaron Shryock



[DRAFT CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT]

SIL
B.P. 1299, Yaoundé
Cameroon

aaron_shryock@sil.org
(237) 77.77.15.98
(237) 22.17.17.82

2009

Abbreviations

ad.	adult
adl.	large adult
ads.	subadult
cf.	refer to
ex.	excluding
fem.	female
juv.	juvenile
juvl.	large juvenile
mal.	male
n.	noun
n.f.	feminine noun
n.f.pl.	noun which may be feminine or plural without any overt change in its shape
n.m.	masculine noun
n.m.f.	noun which may be masculine or feminine without any overt change in its shape
n.m.f.pl.	noun which may be masculine, feminine, or plural without any overt change
n.m.pl.	noun which may be masculine or plural without any overt change in its shape
n.pl.	plural noun
pl.	plural
sg.	singular
sp.	species
spp.	species, plural
syn.	synonym

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abbreviations.....	i
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 The purpose of the study and the methods	1
1.2 The Kotoko and their language	1
1.3 Fish fauna.....	1
2. Ethnoichthyology of the Kotoko	1
2.1 Folk knowledge of the human habitats	1
2.2 Folk knowledge of the habitats of fish.....	2
2.3 Seasons.....	2
2.4 Fishing methods of the Kotoko	3
2.5 Nomenclature of fish.....	3
2.6 Folk classification of fish	3
2.7 Correspondence between Kotoko fish names and scientific names.....	4
3. Conclusion	7
References.....	8
APPENDIX A : SOME LAGWAN FISHING GEAR	9
APPENDIX B: FISH NAMES IN LAGWAN, MSER, MUSGUM, AND MASA	11

TABLES

Table 1. Kotoko Fishing Methods.....	3
Table 2. Scientific Names and Fish Names in Lagwan.....	5
Table 3. Fish Names in Lagwan, Mser, Musgum, and Masa	

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of the study and the methods

This paper presents the preliminary findings of an ongoing study of folk knowledge of fish and fishing among the Kotoko of Logone-Birni. Field research was conducted in Logone-Birni, situated on the Logone River, 37 km south of Kousséri, Cameroon. The principal method of research was interviewing with members of the Kotoko community. Names of fish, fishing technology, and related vocabulary was collected and recorded in the Lagwan language. The scientific names of the local fish were identified with various reference works (Blache 1964, Reed and Holden 1972, Vivien 1991, Paugy *et al.* 2003). There are a few ethnographic and ethnoichthyological studies in this region and the Kotoko knowledge presented here can be compared with the Musgum people described in Groeneveld (1995) and Est (1999), the Kotoko of Zina described in Zee (1988), and the Sar described in Madjingar (1982).

1.2 The Kotoko and their language

The Kotoko of Logone-Birni are part of the larger Kotoko ethnic group located in the Logone-et-Chari Department of the Extreme North Province of Cameroon and adjacent regions of Nigeria and Chad. Although a single ethnic group, the Kotoko are divided linguistically into eight distinct language groups (Dieu *et al.* 1983; Tourneux 2005). The term “Kotoko of Logone-Birni” refers to the Kotoko who recognize the Sultan of Logone-Birni as their traditional leader and speak the Lagwan language.

1.3 Fish fauna

The Logone River and the adjacent bodies of water are part of the larger Lake Chad basin. There are an estimated 135 species of fish in the Lake Chad basin (Vivien 1991:113). Fishbase reports 165 species for the Lake Chad basin (Fishbase.org, 2003). The Kotoko recognize one species of fish which is not previously documented among the fish fauna of the Lake Chad basin but is found widely in West Africa, *Malapterurus minjiriya*.

2. Ethnoichthyology of the Kotoko

2.1 Folk knowledge of the human habitats

The Kotoko of Logone-Birni live along the Logone River and its tributaries. The Logone basin is described in detail in Cabot (1965). There are also Kotoko communities in the savannah region to the west of the Logone, in the regions of Waza and Ziggaggé. The town of Logone-Birni is **làgwán**. A male Kotoko of Logone-Birni is called **blè làgwán**, a female **mâl làgwán**, and the plural to refer to the Kotoko is **làgwànè**.

The general term for a river is **lìghímí**. The Kotoko of Logone-Birni refer to the Logone River as **lìghímì hè làgwán** ‘the river of Logone.’ The other major river in the region, the Chari, is known as **lìghímì hè mákwádé** ‘the river of the Barma.’ The branch of the Logone River which flows between Mazera and Zina is referred to as **lìghímí há tíyá** ‘the small river’ or ‘branch of the river.’ An inlet or small branch of a river which does not connect to another body of water is known as **gùlán**. Interestingly, Lake Chad is known as **sádì** and is also designated a **lìghímí**, ‘river.’ It may be that the term **lìghímí** should be defined more broadly as a permanent body of water.

The term **kùlà** refers to a seasonal body of water, whether a swampy area or a lake. When the Logone River floods the countryside, its waters often connect with these seasonal bodies. The term **míl** refers to a stream which usually flows from a seasonal body of water to a river. A second term, **xsá**, refers to a larger stream or tributary which drains into a river, usually originating in a swampy area near the river in question. When a fisherman blocks off a section of a body of water with nets, traps, or the like in order to capture the fish in that water, the area is called a **símhí**, ‘a fishing area.’

Kotoko villages and towns, called **ghò**, are located near a river or a seasonal body of water on an elevated area not subject to flooding. Such an elevated area is called a **zágárá**. The shoreline between a village and a river is referred to as **gé lìghímí** or **gé lághám** ‘edge of the river.’ In former times, there was a

wall that encircled most towns; thus, the shoreline of a village is also known as **gé binní** ‘edge of wall.’ The river bank on the opposite side of the river from a village is called **ngùnìn tkín** ‘the other side.’

The general term for water is **àm**. The Kotoko distinguish two categories of water. The first is visible water located above ground including **àm hí lighímí** ‘river water’ and **àm hí sàmá** ‘rain water.’ The second category of water is ground water, often referred to with reference to the manner in which it is obtained, for example **àm hí fì** ‘well water’ and **àm hí sìl ám** ‘spring water.’

2.2 Folk knowledge of the habitats of fish

When discussing the habitats of fish, the Kotoko distinguish the river, **lighímí**, and the seasonal bodies of water, **kùlà**. These seasonal bodies of water may be near the Logone river or east in the savannah region known as **pátám** or **yárè**. When describing these fish habitats, the Kotoko refer to the bottom of the water, the depth of the water, the movement of the water, and the quality of the water.

With reference to the bottom of a body of water, the Kotoko refer to a sandy bottom as **séén** ‘sand, sandy bottom.’ A sandy shoreline near the river is referred to as **kál séén**. A muddy bottom is referred to as **ndí**. The seasonal bodies of water tend to have muddy bottoms. The sandy bottoms are more common in the Logone River.

In the context of water, the word **gàliyà** ‘short’ has the meaning ‘shallow’ or perhaps more precisely, ‘not deep.’ **gàliyà** ‘not deep’ is understood in terms of water that does not cover the head. There are five expressions which describe how high the water level is with respect to the human body. The most shallow water is **gàliyà mbà lóló** ‘shallow at the ankles’, then **gàliyà tá géñzì** ‘shallow at the knees’, **gàliyà tá kál loxsi** ‘shallow at the buttocks’, **gàliyà tá mávàr** ‘shallow at the shoulders’, and finally, **gàliyà tá nkúlí** ‘shallow at the throat.’ When water is deeper than the height of a person, it is then called **zálà** ‘deep,’ an adjective which more generally means ‘tall.’

In the river, an area with shallow water is called **mbà gàliyà** ‘area with shallow water.’ A large and relatively deep area is referred to as a **ghùlùm** ‘large hole’ or **mbà ghùlùm** ‘area with a large hole.’ The area around a deep fishing hole which is less profound is the **zàgàrà**. There are areas of the river that are even deeper than a **ghùlùm**. Such an extremely deep area is called a **zùlì**. In contrast with the deep fishing hole, these areas are not heavily populated by fish and are, thus, of less interest to the fishermen.

In terms of movement of water, a current of water is **ám** and a place with a strong current is referred to as **kál ám**. By contrast, stagnant water is **dígátl’é**. When the river begins to rise and flood the region, it is said that **àm tálí zím ná** ‘The water (of the river) is eating.’

The Kotoko have two expressions for referring to the quality of water. They distinguish **àm hí pàw** ‘white water’ from **àm hí tú** ‘black water.’ **àm hí pàw** describes relatively clear, often shallow water. Such water is found in the river and other bodies of water before the annual flooding begins. By contrast, **àm hí pàw** refers to dark, murky, often deep water associated with flooding and the period of high water. It is also associated with waters having an abundance of fish.

2.3 Seasons

The Kotoko divide a year, **vá** ‘year’, into three major periods. First, there is the rainy season, **démàn**, which begins with the rains in May and continues until September or even October. The term **démàn** is also used to refer to a calendar year, but specifically counting from one rainy season to the next. Following the rainy season, there is the dry and cold season, **shímá**, usually from November to February. At the beginning of this season, there is often a short hot period in October known as **xwàtàn**. Finally, there is the dry and hot period, **kùlésí**, from March through May, when the rains usually arrive. Within this final season of the year, there is a brief period known as **mílké**, which means ‘Where are you going?’, which is a time of intense labor in the fields, just before the rains.

The Logone River reaches its higher levels of flooding at the end of rainy season and the beginning of the dry season, September through November. The flood waters are referred to as **àm hí zìmí** ‘flood waters’ or **àm hí vá** ‘yearly (flood) waters.’ In November and December, the river is at its highest level and then begins to gradually fall. The river is at its lowest levels in hot, dry season from March through May. The Kotoko fish most of the year, but the period of the most intense fishing is from December through February as the flood waters peak and diminish. As the flood waters drop, the fish that have been living in the seasonal bodies of water migrate to the river and then to Lake Chad.

2.4 Fishing methods of the Kotoko

The Kotoko have traditionally employed a wide variety of fishing methods including traps, fish ponds, hooks, nets, and harpoons. These are described and illustrated in Blache & Miton (1962), Stauch (1966), Zee (1988), and Groeneveld (1995) and outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Kotoko Fishing Methods

	Lagwan name	Definition and comments
1.	màlàn	funnel-entrance trap with two spherical chambers
2.	gùdúgúm	funnel-entrance trap with two spherical chambers
3.	sàmbál	valve-trap
4.	ngúrá	conical valve-trap with three to four valves
5.	màzùgé	trap
6.	zàghwálá	trap
7.	ánní	plunge basket
8.	ngàrá	false haven
9.	mùmàn	fence
10.	kùkùlà	fence which traverses a body of water
11.	sìmhì	fish pond
12.	kádrà	hook in general
13.	kádrà	longline
14.	shuwá	hook and line attached to fishing pole
15.	s'irkátí, lóngér	hook and line thrown from shore and pulled in
16.	bàlé	net in general
17.	mbámé	scoop net
18.	sákámá	hand-seine net
19.	zàgàzàgà	gillnet
20.	dàlé	seine net
21.	tíbí	seine net
22.	màsógóyó	seine net
23.	táró	seine net
24.	bìrgí	cast net
25.	zèmì	boat with mounted V-shaped seine net
26.	màgìràbàtà	trident
27.	ms'ágwí	harpoon with alternating barbs
28.	falál	harpoon with two barbs and a sharp edge like a knife

2.5 Nomenclature of fish

The Kotoko refer to fish with the term **kíí**. The Kotoko distinguish two broad categories of animals, **dàbbà** ‘vertebrates’ and **àbbùbà** ‘invertebrates.’ The term for vertebrates includes **kíí** ‘fish.’ Aquatic animals such as **níyyé** ‘hippopotamus’, **mìdigé** ‘crocodile’, **mádawé** ‘aquatic monitor lizard’, and **klé lighímí** ‘otter’ are also included in the category **dàbbà** ‘vertebrates.’ The term **àbbùbà** ‘invertebrates’ includes such animals as **màgérím** ‘oyster’, **vàyè** ‘clam’, **tàxálxásì** ‘crab’, and **ghúrúm** ‘snail.’ The Kotoko also recognize the existence of an aquatic animal known as **màhì**. It is a large, dark, slow moving creature that has spiritual powers which enable it to evade capture. It is considered the father of fish because it is thought to bring fish to fishermen. The **màhì** may be the African manatee, *Trichechus senegalensis*, which is no longer found in the region (Vivien 1991:41).

2.6 Folk classification of fish

The Kotoko of Logone-Birni classify **kíí** ‘fish’ into two major groups according to the presence or absence of scales: **kíín mís’ál** ‘fish with scales’ versus **kíín mís’ál sá** ‘fish without scales’, also known as **kíín gúlédì** ‘smooth fish.’ Within the category of fish with scales, there are at least six inclusive terms

including **màbán**, **ndúrí**, **ngùms’álá**, **tákálkálá**, and **zívín**. Within the category of fish without scales, there are at least two inclusive terms including **gàrgà** or **nk’wè** and **éré** **éré**.

The Kotoko often distinguish between the growth stages of a species of fish by giving it distinct names. In other words, a single species of fish may have one name when a juvenile but another when an adult. The majority of fish with distinct names according to growth stage only distinguish two stages, juvenile versus adult. However, the juvenile, adult, and large adult growth stages are distinguished for *Hydrocynus vittatus*, *Hydrocynus brevis*, and *Hydrocynus forskali*. Similarly, there are three growth stages distinguished for *Gymnarchus niloticus*, juvenile, subadult, and adult.

In addition, the Kotoko distinguish between the gender of some fish. In the case of *Alestes baremose* and *Alestes dentex*, these two species share a single common name for the juvenile stage of the fish, a second name for an adult male, and a third name for an adult female. Similarly, *Citharinus citherus* and *Citharinus latus* share a single name for the juvenile stage of the fish, a second for an adult male, and a third for an adult female. Finally, there is an unidentified species of *Micralestes* which has a distinct name based on the gender of the fish, but no distinct name for the juvenile stage of development.

2.7 Correspondence between Kotoko fish names and scientific names

There is a complex relationship between the Kotoko fish names and the accompanying indigenous classification of fish and the corresponding scientific classification of the species. In general, though, there is a high correspondance between Kotoko fish names and identified species. There are approximately 95 fish names recorderd from the Kotoko as presented in Table 2. These names correspond to at least 70 identified species of fish from the 135 species reported for the Lake Chad basin.

There is a one-to-one correspondence between the Kotoko name and the species in 40 cases. For example, **nk’wèlí** corresponds to *Tetraodon lineatus*, **mùzlùwì** to *Bagrus bajad*, and **kàlám** to *Protopterus annectens*.

There are 13 cases of a two-to-one or three-to-one correspondence between Kotoko names and species in which the Kotoko names distinguished growth stages of a specific species. For example, **tákwl** and **húlmí** correspond to the juvenile and adult growth stages of *Polypterus bichir*; similarly, **másiméríyá**, **zlàdí**, and **mùlwì** correspond to the juvenile, subadult, and adult stages of *Gymnarchus niloticus*.

There are 4 cases of a two-to-one or three-to-one correspondence between Kotoko names and species in which the Kotoko names appear to be synonyms. For example, *Oreochromis niloticus* is referred to as **vùzì**, **màbán è vùzì**, or **màbán á tú**; *Sarotherodon galilaeus galilaeus* is called **màbán ngúrlúm** or **màbán á pàw**; and *Synodontis clarias* is called **nk’wèl xùsmì** or **ábbà zàgàrà**. The fourth case is *Synodontis eupterus* which has the distinct names **nk’wèn zèy** and **gàrgà zèy**. This last case is an instance of the increasing influence of Chadian Arabic, the language of commerce, on the Kotoko language. The Kotoko term **nk’wè** is being replaced by the Arabic term **gàrgà**.

There is a three-to-one correspondence between the Kotoko names **dàgá mùkré**, **dàgá ngúré**, and **dàgá bòdó**, and the species *Polypterus endlicheri*. It remains to be determined whether these distinct names may correspond to previously undocumented subspecies of *Polypterus endlicheri*. It may also be the case that these names represent differences in dialects of Kotoko. Finally, these may be simply synonymous terms.

In seven cases there is a one-to-many correspondence between a Kotoko name and the species of fish. For example, **tákú** corresponds to *Ctenopoma muriei* and *Ctenopoma petherici*, and **ábbà zàgàrà** corresponds to *Synodontis ocellifa*, *Synodontis filamentosus*, and *Synodontis clarias*. There are four cases in which a Kotoko name refers to species in a common genus or family. However, in the case of **klè kíí**, this name groups two species of fish, *Ichthyborus besse besse* and *Hepsetus odoe*, from two distinct families, *Citharinidae* and *Hepsetidae*, respectively. The term **gàrgà** also groups fish species from two distinct families, the *Synodontis* species from the *Mochokidai* family and the *Auchenoglanis* and *Clarotes* species from the *Bagridae* family.

Finally, there are five cases of a many-to-many correspondence between the Kotoko fish names and the species of fish. These correspondences occur when Kotoko names referring to growth stage or gender apply to more than one species of fish. For instance, there are three names **májirà**, **mátl’ó**, and **hùlák’í**, which refer to the juvenile, adult, and large adult growth stages, respectively, of three species, *Hydrocynus vittatus*, *Hydrocynus brevis*, and *Hydrocynus forskali*. Similarly, there are three distinct names, **síléma**, **sélwá**, and **sífi**, which refer to the juvenile, male, and female, respectively, of the two species *Alestes baremose* and *Alestes dentex*.

Table 2. Scientific Names and Fish Names in Lagwan

	Scientific Name	Lagwan
1.	<i>Protopterus annectens annectens</i>	kàlàm (n.m., n.pl.: kàlàmmè)
2.	<i>Polypterus bichir bichir</i>	xùlmì, hùlmì (n.m., n.pl.: xwàllè) (ad.) tákwal (n.m., n.pl.: tàkwàllè) (juv.)
3.	<i>Polypterus endlicheri endlicheri</i>	dàgá bòdó (n.f., n.pl.: dàgà bòdoyè) dàgá mùkré (n.f., n.pl.: dàgà mùkrèyè) dàgá ngúré (n.f., n.pl.: dàgà ngúreyè)
4.	<i>Polypterus senegalus senegalus</i>	bábílí (n.m., n.pl.: bàbílìyyè)
5.	<i>Heterotis niloticus</i>	ságó (n.m., n.pl.: ságó, sàgwàyyè) (ad.) bírádó (n.m., n.pl.: bírádó, bíràdòyyè) (juv.)
6.	<i>Mormyrus rume</i>	mìlsìnì (n.m., n.pl.: mìlásànè)
7.	<i>Mormyrus hasselquistii</i>	mìlsìnì (n.m., n.pl.: mìlásànè)
8.	<i>Hyperopisus bebe</i>	màkùyá (n.f., n.pl.: màkùyá)
9.	<i>Campylomormyrus tamandua</i>	tákálkálá níví (n.f., n.pl.: tákálkèyé níví)
10.	<i>Gnathonemus petersii</i>	tákálkálá níví (n.f., n.pl.: tákálkèyé níví)
11.	<i>Marcusenius senegalensis, M. cyprinoides</i>	tákálkálá (n.f., n.pl.: tákálkèyè)
12.	<i>Mormyrops anguilloides</i> (syn. <i>M. deliciosus</i>)	mínán (n.f., n.pl.: mínnànè) (ad.) másłùngwádá (n.m., n.pl.: másłùngwàdèyè) (juv.)
13.	<i>Brevimyrus niger</i>	zívín (n.f., n.pl.: zivinné)
14.	<i>Petrocephalus bane bane</i>	ngwádán (n.f., n.pl.: ngwàdànnè)
15.	<i>Petrocephalus bovei</i>	brèbrè (n.m., n.pl.: brèbrèyè)
16.	<i>Pollimyrus isidori</i>	gwèdègwèdè, gwèdègwèdë (n.m., n.pl.: gwèdègwèdèyè)
17.	<i>Mormyridae sp.</i>	zívín gé
18.	<i>Mormyridae sp.</i>	zívín níví
19.	<i>Gymnarchus niloticus</i>	mùlwì (n.m., n.pl.: mùlwiyè) (ad.) zlàdì (n.m., n.pl.: zlàdèyè) (ads.) másíméríyá (n.m., n.pl.: másimèriyèyè) (juv.)
20.	<i>Hepsetus odoe</i>	klè kíí (n.m., n.pl.: killí kíí) (cf. <i>Ichthyborus besse</i>)
21.	<i>Hydrocynus brevis, H. vittatus, H. forskalii</i>	mátl'ó (n.m., n.pl.: mátl'ayè) (ad.) hùlákì (n.m., n.pl.: hùlakiyè) (adl) májìrà (n.m., n.pl.: májìreyè) (juv.)
22.	<i>Alestes baremoze, A. dentex</i>	sífí (n.f., n.pl.: sífiyè) (ad.) yágawà (n.f.) (adl, fem.) sélwá (n.f., n.pl.: sèlwàyè) (ad., mal.) síléma (n.f., n.pl.: sìlémàyè) (juv.)
23.	<i>Brycinus nurse</i>	ngùms'álá (n.f., n.pl.: ngùms'älèyè)
24.	<i>Brycinus macrolepidotus</i>	álíyánguwé (n.m., n.pl.: áliyànguwèyè)
25.	<i>Micralestes spp.</i>	ngídì (n.m., n.pl.: ngídìyè)
26.	<i>Rhabdalestes spp.</i>	nkúmé (n.f., n.pl.: nkùmèyè) (mal.) bárá (fem.)
27.	<i>Ichthyborus besse</i>	klè kíí (n.m., n.pl.: killí kíí) (cf. <i>Hepsetus odoe</i>)
28.	<i>Distichodus engycephalus, D. brevipinnis, Paradistichodus dimidiatus</i>	màgàn (n.f., n.pl.: màgànèyè) bátákì (n.f., n.pl.: bátákèyè) (cf. <i>Citharinus latus</i>)
29.	<i>Distichodus rostratus</i>	màgàn (n.f., n.pl.: màgànèyè) bátákì (n.f., n.pl.: bátákèyè) (cf. <i>Citharinus latus</i>)
30.	<i>Citharinops distichodoides</i>	s'úmán (n.m., n.pl.: s'ùmànèyè)
31.	<i>Citharinus latus</i>	sàkwàn (n.f.) (ad., fem.) gánári (n.m.) (ad., mal.) míkrí (n.f., n.pl.: míkrìyè) (juv.) bátákì (n.f., n.pl.: bátákèyè) (cf. <i>Distichodus engycephalus, et al.</i>)
32.	<i>Citharinus citharus</i>	sàkwàn (n.f.) (ad., fem.)

		gánári (n.m.) (ad., mal.) míkrí (n.f., n.pl.: mìkriyè) (juv.)
33.	<i>Citharinidae sp.</i>	géruwá (n.m., n.pl.: gérùwàyè)
34.	<i>Labeo coubie</i>	túm (n.f., n.pl.: tùmmè) (ad.) ndúrí (n.m., n.pl.: ndùriyè) (juv.)
35.	<i>Labeo senegalensis</i>	túm (n.f., n.pl.: tùmmè) (ad.) ndúrí (n.m., n.pl.: ndùriyè) (juv.)
36.	<i>Labeo parvus</i>	túm (n.f., n.pl.: tùmmè) (ad.) ndúrí (n.m., n.pl.: ndùriyè) (juv.)
37.	<i>Barbus bynni occidentalis</i>	túm (n.f., n.pl.: tùmmè) (ad.) ndúrí (n.m., n.pl.: ndùriyè) (juv.)
38.	<i>Bagrus docmak</i>	mìzígilè (n.f., n.pl.: mìzígilèyè)
39.	<i>Bagrus bajad</i>	mùzlwì (n.f., n.pl.: mùzlwìyè)
40.	<i>Clarotes laticeps</i>	dìbè mùzlwí (n.m., n.pl.: dìbè mùzlwìyè) (ad.) dàli (n.m., n.pl.: dàliyè) (adl.) gínhá (n.f., n.pl.: ginhàyè) (juv.)
41.	<i>Chrysichthys (Chrysichthys) auratus</i>	pátímá bùgrù (n.f., n.pl.: pátímá bùgruyè)
42.	<i>Auchenoglanis biscutatus</i>	górogòrò (n.m., n.pl.: górogòròyè)
43.	<i>Auchenoglanis occidentalis</i>	mbük'úsó (n.m., n.pl.: mbük'úsøyè)
44.	<i>Schilbeidae spp.</i>	éré éré (n.m.) (ad.) sákàtàn (n.m., n.pl.: sákàtannè) (juv.)
45.	<i>Schilbe intermedius (syn. S. mystus)</i>	mágundàrà (n.m., n.pl.: mágundàrayè) (ad.) sákàtàn (n.m., n.pl.: sákàtannè) (juv.)
46.	<i>Schilbe uranoscopus</i>	s'àddè (n.m., n.pl.: s'àddèyè) (ad.) sákàtàn (n.m., n.pl.: sákàtannè) (juv.)
47.	<i>Schilbe mystus (syn. Eutropius niloticus)</i>	kléswá (n.m., n.pl.: kléswàyè) (ad.) sákàtàn (n.m., n.pl.: sákàtannè) (juv.)
48.	<i>Heterobranchus bidorsalis, H. longifilis</i>	ghimbì (n.m., n.pl.: ghimbìyè) (ad.) zùwè (n.m.) (juv.)
49.	<i>Clarias spp.</i>	k'álágé (n.m., n.pl.: k'álágèyè) (ad.) kácù (n.f., n.pl.: kácùyè) (juv.)
50.	<i>Clarias gariepinus, C. anguillaris</i>	gàyàr
51.	<i>Malapterurus electricus</i>	mèriyá (n.m., n.pl.: mèriyàyè)
52.	<i>Malapterurus minjiriya</i>	mìgít'l'i (n.m., n.pl.: mìgít'l'iyè)
53.	<i>Synodontis spp.</i>	ńk'wé (n.f., n.pl.: ńk'wùyè) gàrgà (n.m., n.pl.: gárgayè)
54.	<i>Synodontis batensoda (syn. Brachysynodontis batensoda)</i>	kwékwé (n.f., n.pl.: kwékwyèyè)
55.	<i>Synodontis membranaceus</i>	gàrgà bíklím (n.m., n.pl.: gárgà bíklimmè)
56.	<i>Synodontis clarias</i>	ńk'wêl xùsmì (n.f., n.pl.: ńk'wùyyí xùsmí) ábbà zàgàrà (n.m., n.pl.: ábbèy zàgàrà)
57.	<i>Synodontis sorex</i>	bàmá (n.f., n.pl.: bàmàyè) gàrgá tú (n.m.)
58.	<i>Synodontis violaceus</i>	gàrgá zèy (n.m.)
59.	<i>Synodontis filamentosus</i>	ábbà zàgàrà (n.m., n.pl.: ábbèy zàgàrà)
60.	<i>Synodontis eupterus</i>	ńk'wén zèy (n.f.) gàrgá zèy (n.m.)
61.	<i>Synodontis nigrita</i>	ńk'wén bírbázlá (n.f., n.pl.: ńk'wùyí bírbázlá)
62.	<i>Synodontis ocellifa</i>	ábbà zàgàrà (n.m., n.pl.: ábbèy zàgàrà)
63.	<i>Synodontis schall</i>	ńk'wén zèy (n.f.) gàrgá zèy (n.m.)
64.	<i>Pseudepiplatys annulatus</i>	xàzànnè
65.	<i>Epiplatys bifasciatus</i>	mátín símhí (n.f., n.pl.: mètini símhí)
66.	<i>Parachanna obscura</i>	mùtkúmán (n.f., n.pl.: mùtkùmànnè)

67.	<i>Lates niloticus</i>	shùgwì, shùgì (n.m., n.pl.: shùgwìyè) (ad.) màbán è shúgwí (n.m.) (juv.)
68.	<i>Cichlidae spp.</i>	màbán (n.m., n.pl.: màbànnè) (ad.) (cf. <i>Ctenopoma spp.</i>) préndè (n.f., n.pl.: prèndèyè) (juv.)
69.	<i>Hemichromis fasciatus</i>	sám (n.m., n.pl.: sàmmè)
70.	<i>Tilapia zillii</i>	zárá skwàrà (n.f., n.pl.: zàrà skwàràyè)
71.	<i>Oreochromis niloticus niloticus</i>	vùzì (n.m., n.pl.: vùziyè) màbán è vúzí (n.m.) màbán á tú (n.m.)
72.	<i>Sarotherodon galileaeus galileaeus</i>	màbán ngúrlúm (n.m.) màbán á pàw (n.m., n.pl.: màbànní pàw)
73.	« <i>Ctenopoma</i> » houyi (syn. <i>C. muriei</i>)	tákú (n.f., n.pl.: tàkùyè)
74.	<i>Tetraodon lineatus</i>	ñk'wèlí (n.m., n.pl.: ñk'wèliyè)

3. Conclusion

This study of the folk knowledge of fish among the Kotoko of Logone-Birni has demonstrated the Kotoko have an intricate and scientifically accurate knowledge of fish, as would follow from the importance of fish and fishing in their culture.

References

- Aboukar, O. K. 2003. 'Essai de la description de la morphologie nominale de lagwan : dialecte kotoko.' Unpublished Master's dissertation. Université de N'Djaména.
- Adam, S. 1995. 'Impact de la réinondation de la plaine du Logone sur la pêche: Cas particulier des villages riverains du Parc National de Waza' Université de Dschang.
- Allison, S. D. 1998. 'Programme de recherche'. Permis de recherche n. 035/ MINREST/ B00/ D00/D12.
- Allison, S. D. 2005. *Borrowings in Makary Kotoko*. Yaoundé: SIL.
- Ankei, Y. 1989. 'Folk Knowledge of Fish among the Songola and the Bwari: Comparative Ethnoichthyology of the Lualaba River and Lake Tanganyika Fishermen.' African Study Monographs, Supplementary Issue No. 9. The Center for African Area Studies, Kyoto University.
- Bagley, R. K. & J. Roberts 1991. *Kotoko Survey Report*. Yaoundé: SIL.
- Blache, J. & F. Miton 1962. *Première contribution à la connaissance de la pêche dans le bassin hydrographique Logone-Chari Lac Tchad*. Paris : ORSTOM.
- Blache, J. 1964. *Les poissons du bassin du Tchad et du bassin adjacent du Mayo Kebbi*. Paris : ORSTOM.
- Cabot, Jean 1965. *Le bassin du Moyen Logone*. Paris : ORSTOM.
- Dieu, M. & P. Renaud (eds). 1983. *Atlas linguistique de l'Afrique centrale : inventaire préliminaire – le Cameroun (ALCAM)*. Yaoundé: Délégation générale à la Recherche Scientifique et Technique.
- Est, Diny M.E. van. 1999. *Vissen in Andermans Vijver. Beheer en strijdige belangen onder Mousgoum en Kotoko in de Logone overstromingsvlakte van Noord-Kameroen*. Leiden: Universiteit Leiden.
- Groeneveld, P. 1995. 'An Ecological Study of the Dry Season Fishery in Two Pools on the Logone Floodplain.' Leiden: CML Student Report No. 40. Maroua: CEDC.
- Holden, M. & W. Reed. 1972. *West African Freshwater Fish*. London: Longman Group Ltd.
- Jullien de Pommerol, P. 1999. *Dictionnaire arabe tchadien ~ français*. Karthala.
- Lebeuf, A. 1969. *Les principautés kotoko : Essai sur le caractère sacré de l'autorité*. Paris: CNRS. (Etudes et documents de l'Institut d'ethnologie).
- Lukas, J. 1936. *Die Logone-Sprache im zentralen Sudan, mit Beitrag aus dem Nachlass von Gustav Nachtigal*. Leipzig: Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes.
- Madjingar, G.T. 1982. *La peche en pays Sar*. Sarh: College Charles Lwanga.
- Monod, T. 1928. *L'industrie des pêches au Cameroun*. Paris : Société d'Éditions Géographiques.
- Paugy, D., C. Lévêque, G. Teugels. 2003. *Poissons d'eaux douces et saumâtres de l'Afrique de l'Ouest*. Paris : IRD Editions, Publications scientifiques du muséum, MRAC.
- Seignobos, C. 2000. 'Mise en place du peuplement et répartition ethnique.' E. Seignobos & O. Iyébi-Mandjek (eds), *Atlas de la Province Extrême-Nord Cameroun*, Paris: Editions de l'Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, 44-51.
- Stauch, Alfred 1966. *Le Bassin Camerounais de la Bénoué et sa pêche*. Paris : ORSTOM.
- Tourneux, H. 2000. 'La formation du pluriel en Kotoko.' E. Wolf & O. D. Gensler (eds), *Proceedings of the 2nd World Congress of African Linguistics, Leipzig 1997*, Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe, 741-761.
- Tourneux, H. 2005. <http://llacan.cnrs-bellevue.fr/>. LLACAN.
- Vivien, J. 1991. *Faune du Cameroun. Guide des mammifères et poissons*. Paris: AGRIDOC International.
- Zee, E. van der. 1988. Les pêcheurs kotoko dans les yaérés au nord du Cameroun. Environnement et développement au Nord du Cameroun. Maroua: CEDC.

APPENDIX A: SOME LAGWAN FISHING GEAR



1. **màlàn** ‘funnel-entrance trap with two chambers.’ The first chamber is larger and more heart shaped, whereas the second chamber is conical shaped. The fish freely enter and leave the first chamber. However, when they enter the second chamber, they are not able to return to the first. After spending a day or two in the river, the trap is removed. The end of the second chamber is untied and the fish removed.



2. **ánní** ‘plunge basket’ This method of fishing is not employed often by the Kotoko. Among other ethnic groups in the region, such as the Musgum and Masa, it is a common method of fishing for women. The basket is held by the top and plunged into shallow water. Then the person reaches in through the small opening in the top to catch the fish trapped in the basket. The Kotoko often caution that this is also a good method for catching snakes.



3. **mùmàn** ‘kind of fence’ which is placed in shallow water in such a way that the ends of the fence meet and allow for a small entrance. Bait is placed inside and then, several hours later, the trap is filled with a variety of fish.



4. **mbámé** ‘scoop net’



5. màgìràbàtà ‘trident’



6. ngúrá ‘conical valve-trap’ This trap is brand new. The owner has yet to place the entrances to the trap around the bottom. This kind of trap is widely used in the region.



7. ngúrá ‘conical valve-trap’ These traps have been hung up for safe keeping until the next fishing season.



8. ngúrá ‘conical valve-trap’ This trap has been pressed into service to transport chickens, not a normal catch!

APPENDIX B: FISH NAMES IN LAGWAN, MSER, MUSGUM, AND MASA

	Scientific Name	Lagwan	Mser	Musgu	Masa
	<i>Protopterus annectens annectens</i>	kàlàm (n.m., n.pl.: kàlàmmè)	kálám (n.m.)	bìłè (n.m.pl, n.f.: bìłày)	sóynà (n.m.pl.)
	<i>Polypterus bichir bichir</i>	xùlmì, hùlmì (n.m., n.pl.: xwàllè) (ad.) tákwál (n.m., n.pl.: tákwaallè) (juv.)	hùlmì (n.m.)	hiyàm (n.m.f.pl.)	cállá (n.f.)
	<i>Polypterus endlicheri endlicheri</i>	dàgá bòdő (n.f., n.pl.: dàgà bòdøyè) dàgá mùkré (n.f., n.pl.: dàgà mùkrèyè) dàgá ngúré (n.f., n.pl.: dàgà ngúrèyè)		hiyàm bóhò (n.m.pl.)	cál děñjà (n.m.)
	<i>Polypterus senegalus senegalus</i>	bábilí (n.m., n.pl.: bàbilìyyè)		dìrléŋ (n.m.pl.)	cál púsna (n.m.)
	<i>Heterotis niloticus</i>	ságó (n.m., n.pl.: ságó, sàgwàyyè) (ad.) bírádő (n.m., n.pl.: bírádő, bíràdøyè) (juv.)	gwál (ad.) bírádő (ads.) pánáyárò (juvl.) héllò (juv.)	káfká (n.m.pl.) (ad.) bàlàw (n.m.pl.) (ads.) kópróyókópróy (n.m.pl.) (juv.)	híràwnà (n.m.)
	<i>Mormyrus rume</i>	mìlsìnì (n.m., n.pl.: málásànè)	ndòlá, tákàlakàlà, tákalkálá	ánukó (n.m.pl, n.f.: ánukwé)	pàràwdà (n.f., n.pl.: pàràwnà)
	<i>Mormyrus hasselquistii</i>	mìlsìnì (n.m., n.pl.: málásànè)		mútútukúm (n.f.pl.)	
	<i>Hyperopisus</i>	màkùyá	mbàlá	márhá	

	<i>bebe</i>	(n.f., n.pl.: màkùyá)		(n.m.f.pl.)	
	<i>Campylomormyrus tamandua</i>	tákálkálá níví (n.f., n.pl.: tákàlkèyé níví)	mítín wàl fájìri	múhúrùmì (n.f.pl.)	
	<i>Gnathonemus petersii</i>	tákálkálá níví (n.f., n.pl.: tákàlkèyé níví)			
	<i>Marcusenius senegalensis, M. cyprinoides</i>	tákálkálá (n.f., n.pl.: tákàlkèyè)	tákálkálá	ávìrì (n.m.pl, n.f.: ávùrù)	
	<i>Marcusenius sp.</i>			músókólómánáy (n.m.f.pl.)	
	<i>Mormyrops anguilloides</i> (syn. <i>M. deliciosus</i>)	mínán (n.f., n.pl.: mìnànnè) (ad.) máslúngwádá (n.m., n.pl.: màslùngwàdèyè) (juv.)	mìràñ	mínàj (n.m.pl.)	
	<i>Brevimyrus niger</i>	zívín (n.f., n.pl.: zìvìnné)			
	<i>Petrocephalus bane bane</i>	ngwádán (n.f., n.pl.: ngwàdànnè)	ñkwádān	múhúmsáy (n.m.f.pl.)	
	<i>Petrocephalus bovei</i>	brèbrè (n.m., n.pl.: brèbrèyè)	xìbìñ	dìvìñì (n.m.f.pl.)	bénèndà (n.f., n.pl.: benenna)
	<i>Pollimyrus isidori</i>	gwèdègwèdè, gwèdègwèdè (n.m., n.pl.: gwèdègwèdèyè)		ámìr (n.m.f.pl.)	mùdímùdfida (n.f.)
	<i>Mormyridae sp.</i>	zívín gé			
	<i>Mormyridae sp.</i>	zívín níví			
	<i>Gymnarchus niloticus</i>	mùlwì (n.m., n.pl.: mùlwiyè) (ad.) zlàdì (n.m., n.pl.: zlàdèyè) (ads.) másíméríyá (n.m., n.pl.:	mìrwì	múnìhú (n.m.f.pl.)	sìmìndà (n.f., n.pl.: sìmìnnà)

		màsìmèriyèyè) (juv.)			
	<i>Hepsetus odoe</i>	klè kíí (n.m., n.pl.: kíllí kíí) (cf. <i>Ichthyborus besse</i>)	kíló kí (cf. <i>Ichthyborus besse</i>)	mè sásokílém (n.m., pl.)	
	<i>Hydrocynus brevis, H. vittatus, H. forskalii</i>	mátl'ó (n.m., n.pl.: mátl'ayè) (ad.) hùlákì (n.m., n.pl.: hùlakiyè) (adl) májìrà (n.m., n.pl.: màjìrèyè) (juv.)	más'ó (ad.) wúlák (adl) dángúzílí (ads.) cócòkè (juv.)	gòyé (n.m.pl.) (ad.) gòyé ܲidi (n.m.pl.) (adl) sílvìt (n.m.pl.) (juv.)	cíkállà (n.f.) (ad.) nyèriyèñnyèriy èññà (n.m.pl.) (juv.)
	<i>Alestes baremoze, A. dentex</i>	sífí (n.f., n.pl.: sìfìyè) (ad.) yágàwà (n.f.) (adl, fem.) sélwá (n.f., n.pl.: sèlwàyè) (ad., mal.) sílémá (n.f., n.pl.: silémàyè) (juv.)	sífí (ad.) sífí á máyò (adl) máryám shúmá, máryám shímá (juv.) (cf. <i>Micralestes spp.</i>)	álidí (n.m.f.pl.) (ad.) súmfál (n.f.pl.) (adl, fem.) gwàyàñ (n.m.pl.) (ad., mal.) mìlžidéw (n.pl.) (ljuv) mâtnálídí (n.m.pl.) (juv.)	sílítđā (n.f., n.pl.: sílítñā)
	<i>Brycinus nurse</i>	ngùms'álá (n.f., n.pl.: ngùms'àlèyè)	gúms'áló	hényé (n.f., n.pl.: háyá)	jòdá (n.f., n.pl.: jòná) (ad.) jò gáyàññà (n.m.pl.) (adl)
	<i>Brycinus macrolepidotus</i>	álíyáñgúwé (n.m., n.pl.:	zèmtì, zèmsì	hèrèñjèñjè (n.m.f.pl.)	gèrèmgéná (n.m.pl.)

		àliyàngùwèyè)			
	<i>Micralestes spp.</i>	ngìdí (n.m., n.pl.: ngìdiyè)	máryám shúmá, máryám shímá (cf. <i>Alestes baremoze</i>)	máprá vèt (n.pl.)	dák vètnà (n.m.)
	<i>Rhabdalestes spp.</i>	nkúmé (n.f., n.pl.: nkùmèyè) (mal.) bárá (fem.)	kúmé, xòmè		
	<i>Characidae spp.</i>			máprá (n.pl.) smallest of the kind	
	<i>Characidae spp.</i>			áhàráy (n.pl.)	
	<i>Characidae spp.</i>			járáy (n.m.pl.)	dák jàràynà (n.m.)
	<i>Characidae spp.</i>			máprá (n.pl.) (cf. <i>Cyprinodontidae</i>)	dákjá (n.m.)
	<i>Ichthyborus besse</i>	klè kíí (n.m., n.pl.: kíllí kíí) (cf. <i>Hepsetus odoe</i>)	kíló kí (cf. <i>Hepsetus odoe</i>)	sásokílém (n.m.f.pl.) cêncébé (n.m.f.pl.)	gàldàmgáldámná (n.m.pl.)
	<i>Ichthyborus sp.</i>			gilbágilbà (n.m.f.pl.)	
	<i>Ichthyborus sp.</i>			cíkírécíkíré (n.m.f.pl.)	
	<i>Distichodus engycephalus, D. brevipinnis, Paradistichodus dimidiatus</i>	màgàn (n.f., n.pl.: màgànèyè) bátákì (n.f., n.pl.: bátákèyè) (cf. <i>Citharinus latus</i>)	bàtòk	zìbàn (n.m.pl.)	bìskìbìskíná (n.m.), dàgàwásnà (n.m.)
	<i>Distichodus rostratus</i>	màgàn (n.f., n.pl.: màgànèyè)	zìlè	zìbàn (n.m.pl.)	

		bàtákì (n.f., n.pl.: bàtákèyè) (cf. <i>Citharinus</i> <i>latus</i>)			
	<i>Citharinops</i> <i>distichodoides</i>	s'úmán (n.m., n.pl.: s'ùmànèyè)	s'úmán	múdúbàr (n.m.f.pl.) pápá (n.pl.) (juv.)	
	<i>Citharinus latus</i>	sàkwàn (n.f.) (ad., fem.) gánári (n.m.) (ad., mal.) míkrí (n.f., n.pl.: mìkrìyè) (juv.) bàtákì (n.f., n.pl.: bàtákèyè) (cf. <i>Distichodus</i> <i>engycephalus</i> , et al.)	sákwán (ad.) nk'ílí (juv.)	múdúbàr (n.m.f.pl.) pápá (n.pl.) (juv.)	kìsláfná (n.m.pl.)
	<i>Citharinus</i> <i>citharus</i>	sàkwàn (n.f.) (fem.) gánári (n.m.) (mal.) míkrí (n.f., n.pl.: mìkrìyè) (juv.)	sákwán (ad.) nk'ílí (juv.)	màdàrày (n.m.f.pl.) (ad.) ábádáy (n.) (adl.) pápá (n.pl.) (juv.)	kìsláfná (n.m.pl.)
	<i>Citharinus</i> sp.			bàrkásuwá (n.m.f.pl.) pápá (n.pl.) (juv.)	
	<i>Citharinus</i> sp.		sák'ír	zàmhì (n.m.pl.)	
	<i>Citharinidae</i> sp.	gérúwá (n.m., n.pl.: gèrùwàyè)			
	<i>Labeo coubie</i>	túm (n.f., n.pl.: túmmè) (ad.) ndúrí (n.m., n.pl.:	bárdúgùlà, ndùrì	àdéné (n.m.pl.)	

		ndùriyè) (juv.)			
	<i>Labeo senegalensis</i>	túm (n.f., n.pl.: tùmmè) (ad.) ndúrí (n.m., n.pl.: ndùriyè) (juv.)	bìmbímmà, bìmbúmmà	dàbàlòlà (n.m.pl.)	konolla
	<i>Labeo parvus</i>	túm (n.f., n.pl.: tùmmè) (ad.) ndúrí (n.m., n.pl.: ndùriyè) (juv.)	mòki	górlì (n.m.pl.)	
	<i>Barbus bynni occidentalis</i>	túm (n.f., n.pl.: tùmmè) (ad.) ndúrí (n.m., n.pl.: ndùriyè) (juv.)	ndùri	àdéné (n.m.pl.)	dakka
	<i>Bagrus docmak</i>	mìzìgilè (n.f., n.pl.: mìzìgilèyè)	bòndòsòriyò	màláw záftí (n.m.pl.)	
	<i>Bagrus bajad</i>	mùzlùwí (n.f., n.pl.: mùzlùwiyè)	ùló sìgáyó	màláw (n.m.pl.) mílèkkà (n.f., n.pl.: mílèkjà) jòŋòlòŋgà (n.f., n.pl.: jòŋòlòŋjà)	
	<i>Clarotes laticeps</i>	dìbè mùzlùwí (n.m., n.pl.: dìbè mùzlùwiyè) (ad.) dàli (n.m., n.pl.: dàliyè) (adl.) gínhá (n.f., n.pl.: gìnħayè) (juv.)	bàmbú (ad.) lèlám (adl.) gìnà (ads)	ákúní gònò (n.m.pl.)	gìnħgínijà (n.pl.)
	<i>Chrysichthys (Chrysichthys) auratus</i>	pàtímá bùgrù (n.f., n.pl.: pàtímà bùgrùyè)	bàmbú (ad.) lèlám (adl.) gìnà (ads)	ákúní (n.m.f.pl.)	pínínà (n.m.pl.)
	<i>Auchenoglanis</i>	górgórgò	kágará shúgum	mìgìgìrì	

	<i>biscutatus</i>	(n.m., n.pl.: gòrògòròyè)		(n.m.f.pl.)	
	<i>Auchenoglanis occidentalis</i>	mbùk'úsó (n.m., n.pl.: mbùk'úsøyè)	kágárá shúgúm	gàm (n.m.pl.)	gāmnā (n.m.pl.)
	<i>Schilbeidae spp.</i>	éré éré (n.m.) (ad.) sàkàtàn (n.m., n.pl.: sàkàtànnè) (juv.)	s'ívírí (adl.) fòlíyo (ads) ndádfíkúlí (juv.)	bèzwè (n.m.pl.)	
	<i>Parailia pellucida</i>			léfélélé (n.m.pl.)	mêrmérrà (n.f.)
	<i>Siluranodon auritus</i>				
	<i>Schilbe intermedius</i> (syn. <i>S. mystus</i>)	màgündàrà (n.m., n.pl.: màgündàràyè) (ad.) sàkàtàn (n.m., n.pl.: sàkàtànnè) (juv.)		kótóbó (n.m.pl.)	gúlòsnà (n.m.pl.) (ad.) nyèrétnà (n.m.pl.) (juv.)
	<i>Schilbe uranoscopus</i>	s'àddè (n.m., n.pl.: s'àddèyè) (ad.) sàkàtàn (n.m., n.pl.: sàkàtànnè) (juv.)		bèzwè (n.m.pl.)	
	<i>Schilbe mystus</i> (syn. <i>Eutropius niloticus</i>)	kléswá (n.m., n.pl.: klèswàyè) (ad.) sàkàtàn (n.m., n.pl.: sàkàtànnè) (juv.)		bèzwè (n.m.pl.)	nyèrétnà (n.m.)
	<i>Schilbeidae sp.</i>			gúlžúñùr (n.m.pl.)	
	<i>Heterobranchus bidorsalis, H. longifilis</i>	ghìmbì (n.m., n.pl.: ghìmbiyè) (ad.) zùwè (n.m.) (juv.)	bârgí (ad.) ghìmbì (adl.) bârgó (juv.)	búnhus (n.m.pl.)	gìmìllà (n.f.)
	<i>Clarias spp.</i>	k'álágé	bârgí	wúlkínj	nóndá

		(n.m., n.pl.: k'àlìgèyè) (ad.) kácù (n.f., n.pl.: kàcùyè) (juv.)	(ad.) bârgó (juv.)	(n.m.f.pl.) (ad.) dògòlá (n.pl., n.m.: dògòló, n.f.: dògòláy) (ads) hòdày (n.pl.) (juvl.) túbátúbáy (n.pl.) (juv.)	(n.f., n.pl.: nónná)
	<i>Clarias gariepinus, C. anguillaris</i>	gàyàr			
	<i>Clarias albopunctatus</i>			kókólómólí (n.f.pl.)	
	<i>Malapterurus electricus</i>	mèriyá (n.m., n.pl.: mèriyàyè)	mélí	àmìrnínì (n.m.f.pl.) (ad.) dùbù (n.m.f.pl.) (adl.)	rúmúndá (n.f., n.pl.: rúmúnná)
	<i>Malapterurus minjiriya</i>	mìgìtl'i (n.m., n.pl.: mìgìtl'iyè)			
	<i>Chiloglanis batesii</i>			gògó (n.m.f.pl.)	
	<i>Mochokus brevis</i>			gògó (n.m.f.pl.)	
	<i>Synodontis spp.</i>	ìk'wé (n.f., n.pl.: ìk'wùyè) gàrgà (n.m., n.pl.: gàrgayè)	kágán (pl: kágáré) (ad.) bámó (juv.)	gògó (n.m.f.pl.)	ñòkñòkñà (n.m.)
	<i>Synodontis batensoda</i> (syn. <i>Brachysynodontis batensoda</i>)	kwékwe (n.f., n.pl.: kwèkwèyè)		kwékwe (n.m.f.pl.)	köyköynä (n.m.)
	<i>Synodontis membranaceus</i>	gàrgà bíklím (n.m., n.pl.: gàrgà bíklímmè)	úwé	pókóló (n.m.f.pl.)	pókoldá (n.f., n.pl.: pókóllá)
	<i>Synodontis clarias</i>	ìk'wél xùsmì (n.f., n.pl.: ìk'wùyyí xùsmí) ábbà zàgàrà (n.m., n.pl.: àbbèy zàgàrà)		yùgùrì múdfukwì (n.m.f.pl.) 'white chicken'	fógòfókñà (n.m.)

	<i>Synodontis sorex</i>	bàmá (n.f., n.pl.: bàmàyè) gàrgá tú (n.m.)	bádákó	mígúrgúní ná mírdék (n.m., n.f.: mígúrgúní ná mírdékí, pl: mígúrgúní ná mírdákáy)	ŋòkŋòk láwná (n.m.)
	<i>Synodontis violaceus</i>	gàrgá zèy (n.m.)	kágár á zèy	gògó ná mékélé (n.m., n.f.: gògó ná mákáláy, pl: gògó ná mákálákáy)	
	<i>Synodontis filamentosus</i>	ábbà zàgàrà (n.m., n.pl.: àbbèy zàgàrà)			
	<i>Synodontis eupterus</i>	ńk'wén zèy (n.f.) gàrgá zèy (n.m.)			fógòfókŋà (n.m.)
	<i>Synodontis nigrita</i>	ńk'wén bírbázlá (n.f., n.pl.: ńk'wùyí bírbázlá)		gògó ná jéré (n.m., n.f.: gògó ná jàráy, pl: gògó ná jàràkáy)	gònéygònéydā (n.f.)
	<i>Synodontis ocellifa</i>	ábbà zàgàrà (n.m., n.pl.: àbbèy zàgàrà)		mígúrgúní (n.m.f.pl.)	
	<i>Synodontis schall</i>	ńk'wén zèy (n.f.) gàrgá zèy (n.m.)			
	<i>Poropanchax normani</i>			háré (n.m.pl.)	
	<i>Micropanchax kingii, M. pfaffi</i>			métép (n.m.pl.)	
	<i>Pseudepiplatys annulatus</i>	xàzànnè			
	<i>Epiplatys bifasciatus</i>	mátín símhí (n.f., n.pl.: mètìní)		ániyàníyùm (n.m.f.pl.)	

		símhí)		(cf. <i>Hemichromis fasciatus</i>)	
	<i>Parachanna obscura</i>	mùtkúmán (n.f., n.pl.: mùtkùmànnè)	tükúm	wálágùláy (n.m.pl.), flé búbús (n.m.pl.)	
	<i>Lates niloticus</i>	shùgwì, shùgì (n.m., n.pl.: shùgwìyè) (ad.) màbán è shúgwí (n.m.) (juv.)	ságwé	màrlžàŋ (n.m.f.pl.) (ad.) ábgáří (n.m.f.pl.) (juv.) áhìdī hílfí (n.m.f.pl.) (juv.)	gor kulufna (n.m.) gor sileyda (n.f.)
	<i>Cichlidae spp.</i>	màbán (n.m., n.pl.: màbànnè) (ad.) (cf. <i>Ctenopoma spp.</i>) préndè (n.f., n.pl.: prèndèyè) (juv.)	ñkúlá	ázùgónj (n.m.pl, n.f.: ázùgóní) (ad.) pértén, pértéténj (n.m.f.pl.) (juv.) (ex. <i>Hemichromis fasciatus</i>)	
	<i>Hemichromis fasciatus</i>	sám (n.m., n.pl.: sàmmè)	kídámmálbó	ániyàníyùm (n.m.f.pl.) (cf. <i>Epiplatys bifasciatus</i>)	mùyúmdā, múyúmdā (n.f.)
	<i>Tilapia zillii</i>	zará skwàrà (n.f., n.pl.: zàrà skwàràyè)		ázùgónj méréméré (n.m.f.pl.)	sùléy mùyúmnā (n.m.)
	<i>Oreochromis niloticus niloticus</i>	vùzì (n.m., n.pl.: vùziyè) màbán è vúzí (n.m.) màbán á tú (n.m.)		ázùgónj bròngònjày (n.m.f.pl.)	sùléydā (n.f.)
	<i>Sarotherodon galileaeus galileaeus</i>	màbán ngúrlúm (n.m.) màbán á pàw (n.m., n.pl.: màbànní pàw)		ázùgónj béré (n.m.f.pl.)	sùléy hâtnā (n.m.)
	« <i>Ctenopoma</i> » <i>houyi</i> (syn. <i>C. muriei</i>)	tákú (n.f., n.pl.: tàkùyè)		áráré (n.m.f.pl.)	
	<i>Mastacembelus conicus</i>			mìgílbùwí (n.f.pl.)	

	<i>Tetraodon lineatus</i>	ñk'wèlí (n.m., n.pl.: ñk'wèliyè)	ñk'wèlí	kòrkótó (n.m.f.pl.)	
--	---------------------------	--	---------	------------------------	--