

Ethnozoology of the Tal, Chadic-speakers of west-central Nigeria



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ACRONYMS AND CONVENTIONS

C	consonant
IPA	International Phonetic Association
N	nasal
V	vowel

ABSTRACT

This is an overview of the ethnoscientific vocabulary of the Tal language, part of the West Chadic A3 cluster. The Tal language has been barely studied, so the list gives a strict IPA-like transcription as well as an orthographic list. The closest relatives of Tal are Koenoen and Pyapung, also unstudied.

Keywords; Tal; Chadic; ethnozoology

1. Introduction

This is a study of the ethnozoological vocabulary of the Tal people, in Plateau State Nigeria. It was collected on the 13th and 15th of April, 2016 and 14-15th April, 2017, by Roger Blench and Michael Bulkaam. The main informants were;

2016

Lakus Depee	Danjuma Mutyep	Dayyabu Musa Kopgwim	Labok Bongtu
Cicilia Naakeen Gutus	Idris Litgwim	Ali Pakwaai	
Nyangwe Emmanuel Lekmi	Laraba Kopdil	Naanbaam Danjuma Mutsep	

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Danjuma Mutsep	Samaila Bongtu	Pastor Bitrus Yating	Musa Daapnaan
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to whom we are very grateful. Particular thanks to Acting Chief, Emmanuel Guep, for hospitality and bringing together the participants.

2. Organisation of the data

The datasets are divided into animals and plants. The orthographic version of the name is given in the first column, followed by the IPA transcription. Tal has no morphological plurals, so these are not given.

3. Mammals

The Tal recognise most of the mammals found in their area. Rats and mice are particularly hard to identify correctly. Kingdon (2015) was the main field guide used to identify species.

S/N	Tal orthographic	Tal IPA	Hausa	English	Scientific	Comment
1.	pit	pìt	jan biri	patas monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>	move in groups
2.	dàwél	dàwé	jan biri	large male monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>	it moves alone
3.	kaai	k ^h á:j		black monkey	<i>Cercopithecus tantalus</i>	
4.	kaap	kà:p	goggo	general name for baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	
5.	kim kaap	k ^h im kà:p	goggo	large baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	
6.	gbilikmin	gbìlikmīn		Senegal galago	<i>Galago senegalensis</i>	
7.	nyalang	ɲālāŋ		tree squirrel		
8.	bībar	bībar		house bat	<i>Scotophilus spp.</i>	
9.	lilip	lilip		house bat		
10.	nt'et	ɲt'ēt	jemage	fruit bat	<i>Rousettus aegyptiacus</i>	
11.	dīdīin	dīdī:n	jemage	fruit bat	?	
12.	nasen	nàsèn		white-toothed shrew	<i>Crocidura spp.</i>	
13.	dafien	dà:f ^w ēn	zòòmòò	hare	<i>Lepus spp.</i>	
14.	munoom	mùndò:m	zòòmòò	hare	<i>Lepus spp.</i>	
15.	dafwen kan	dàf ^w ēn kán		domestic rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	
16.	kíkal	kíkál		genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	
17.	haak	hà:k	kurege	Gambian sun-squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>	
18.	kusum t'ing	kùsùm tíŋ		dormouse	<i>Graphiurus spp.</i>	
19.	gywee	g ^w é:	?	lives in holes	?	
20.	kyweek	k ^w é:k	beguwa	porcupine	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	
21.	biip	bí:p	burgu	grasscutter	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	
22.	muraa	mùra:	dila	jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>	
23.	dangkou	dāŋków		zorilla	<i>Ictonyx striatus</i>	
24.	samseel	sámsé:l		mongoose	<i>Herpestes spp.</i>	
25.	kamuu	kàmù:	kura	hyena	<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>	
26.	yorkwaan	jòrk ^w à:n		civet	<i>Civetictis civetta</i>	
27.	kung	kūŋ	damisa	leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	
28.	lit	lít	zaki	lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	

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S/N	Tal orthographic	Tal IPA	Hausa	English	Scientific	Comment
29.	kyem	kém	rema	dassie	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	
30.	nii	ní:	giwa	elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	
31.	tiping	tʰipʰiŋ	dorina	hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	
32.	toos	tʰò:s		warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	
33.	k̄in	k̄i:n	bauna	buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	
34.	kuful	kúfúl		bushbuck		
35.	paap	pʰà:p	gada	red-flanked duiker ?	<i>Cephalophus rufilatus</i>	
36.	feer	fē:r		reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>	
37.	forong	fòròŋ		waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	
38.	kikal	kíkál		red-fronted gazelle	<i>Gazella rufifrons</i>	

RATS AND MICE

39.	kyak	k̄àk		climbing mouse	<i>Dendromus spp.</i>	
40.	kuba	kúbá	gafiya	pouched rat, giant rat	<i>Cricetomys gambianus</i>	
41.	kasai	kásáj		pygmy mouse	<i>Mus minutoides</i>	
42.	ndal	ndál		zebra mouse	<i>Lemniscomys spp.</i>	
43.	gudiiit/gudwop	gùdí:t/gùdʷóp		fat mouse	<i>Steatomys spp.</i>	
44.	kusum	kús'ũm	bera	house rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	
45.	dangzaai	dāŋzá:j		small rat sp.		
46.	dapin/dafin	dàpìn/dàfìn		large rat sp.		
47.	tum	tʰúm		rat sp.		lives in grass
48.	gyeet	giē:t		rat sp.		
49.	dàpia	dàpíá		rat sp.		
50.	naani	nà:ní:		mouse sp.		
51.	gudiiit	gùdī:t		bush rat sp.		
52.	dangzaai	dāŋzá:j		tiny bush rat sp.		

4. Birds

The Tal recognise many bird species. The main field guide used was the second edition of Borrow & Demey (2010).

	Tal orthographic	Tal IPA	Hausa	English	Scientific	Comment
53.	jooi/njooi	ʒò:j/nʒò:j		grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
54.	ywei ham	yej hám	namakiri	night heron	<i>Gorsachius leonotus</i>	

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	Tal orthographic	Tal IPA	Hausa	English	Scientific	Comment
55.	kerpia	kèrpiá	<i>bâlbéélàà</i>	cattle egret	<i>Ardeola ibis</i>	
56.	kuizem	kújzēm	<i>shaidà</i>	hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	
57.	geret	gèrét	<i>shààmúwáá</i>	abdim's stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>	
58.	gwagwa ham	g ^w àg ^w à hám	<i>àgwààgwaa</i>	duck, generic	<i>Anas</i> spp.	
59.	lilili	lílíli		small duck	<i>Anas</i> sp.	
60.	gyer	g'ér	<i>kwarkwara</i>	African fish eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	
61.	fyak	fàk	<i>àngùlúú</i>	hooded vulture	<i>Neophron monachus</i>	
62.	kyemang	k'émànɲ	<i>shirwaa</i>	black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	
63.	kyoom	k'ò:m	<i>zabo</i>	guinea-fowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	
64.	kywem	k'ēm	<i>fàkàráá</i>	francolin	<i>Francolinus</i> spp.	
65.	mwayak	m ^w ájàk	<i>dan fir</i>	common quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	
66.	bir	bīr	<i>kwanta toyi</i>	sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles</i> spp.	
67.	bul	būl	<i>kúrciyáá</i>	pigeon, generic		
68.	bul kum	būl kùm		tambourine dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>	? id.
69.	bul keen	bùl kē:n	<i>kurciyar gamji</i>	Bruce's green pigeon	<i>Treron waalia</i>	
70.	bul komdwai	bùl kōmd ^w āj	<i>bardo</i>	Namaqua dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	
71.	bul tip	bùl t'ip		Adamawa turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia hypopyrrha</i>	
72.	bul kweem	bùl k ^w é:m	<i>bardo</i>	black-billed wood dove	<i>Turtur abyssinicus</i>	
73.	keemee	kè:mé:	<i>tsiriya</i>	rose-ringed parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	
74.	guus	gú:s	<i>kalo</i>	Senegal parrot	<i>Poicephalus senegalus</i>	
75.	delkee naan	dèlkè: nā:n	<i>gwaima [?]</i>	violet turaco	<i>Musophaga violacea</i>	
76.	gyaan	g'á:n	<i>kulkulu</i>	western grey plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer piscator</i>	
77.	meemuut	mé:mù:t	?	Levaillant's cuckoo	<i>Oxylophus levaillantii</i>	
78.	lut'uu	lúfū:	<i>rágón mázáá</i>	Senegal coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	
79.	kushim	kùʃim	<i>mujiya</i>	barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	
80.	gutguul	gútgú:l	<i>kururu</i>	pearl-spotted owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	
81.	yyi	j'j'i		Pel's fishing owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>	
82.	k'yeran/k'yedan	k'írán/k'édán	<i>kururu</i>	African scops owls	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	poss. also the European scops owl which is a seasonal migrant
83.	tanglaap	t'hàŋ là:p	<i>yautai</i>	nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus</i> spp.	Probably includes various spp. but the

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						plain nightjar is most common in this region
84.	p'alp'al shim	βálβál ʃim	<i>ririri</i>	swift, either the little swift or the african palm swift	<i>Apus affinis</i> or <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	
85.	t'ingt'iris	ʃiŋʃiɾis	<i>cii-na-wùya</i>	kingfisher		Many spp. but the malachite kingfisher is most common in this area
86.	shiu	ʃiw		woodland kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	
87.	kukwak	kùkʷàk	<i>tsuntsun hayaki</i>	carmine bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>	Probably other bee-eaters also
88.	swaveet	sʷāvē:t	<i>tsànwáákàà</i>	Abyssinian roller	<i>Coracias</i> spp.	
89.	t'ikot	tíkót	<i>cilakowa</i>	African grey hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	
90.	t'ilt'it	tíltít	<i>cilakowa</i>	African pied hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>	
91.	teet	tʰɛ:t	?	yellow-fronted tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	?
92.	ywei kyuup	ʷèj kʷù:p	<i>jam baka</i>	bearded barbet	<i>Lybius dubius</i>	?
93.	gokt'ing	gókt'íŋ	<i>mákwákkwáfi</i>	woodpeckers	<i>Picidae</i>	
94.	nangjiling	nàŋʒíliŋ	<i>sha huda</i>	sunbirds	<i>Nectariniidae</i>	
95.	diim	dì:m	<i>gado, marai</i>	village weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	
96.	qwei pit	ʷwèj pít	<i>ayagi</i>	fork-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	
97.	geret	gèrét	<i>hànkáákàà</i>	pied crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	
98.	kywalaa	kʷálà:	<i>tsakwaikwaiwa</i>	purple glossy starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpureus</i>	
99.	kulup	kúlúp	<i>dola</i>	northern grey-headed sparrow	<i>Passeus griser</i>	
100.	naliu	nàlíw	<i>dòògàrì</i> <i>tsuntsaye</i>	northern red bishop	<i>Euplectes franciscanus</i>	
101.	weret	wérèt	<i>ciccila</i>	brown-rumped bunting	<i>Emberiza affinis</i>	Probably other buntings as well
102.	nangkywe/naankwue	naŋkʷè:/nā:nkʷè:		bird sp.		
103.	t'ivet	tívé:t		bird sp.		black, follows cattle
104.	ywei ning	ʷèj níŋ		bird sp.		
105.	tokolok	tʰókólók		bird sp.		
106.	kuizem	kʷúzē:m		bird sp.		
107.	tikntiil	tíkntʰí:l		bird sp.		
108.	kyak	kʷák		bird sp.		
109.	jaaplong	ʒā:plɔŋ		bird sp.		

5. Reptiles and amphibians

Nigeria is poorly served for field guides to reptiles. The main guides are those published for Francophone countries, such as Trape & Mané (2006) ; Chirio & LeBreton (2007); Trape et al. (2012). These are well-illustrated and Chirio & LeBreton (2007) was used for the main identification guide.

	Tal orthographic	Tal IPA	Hausa	English	Scientific	Comment
110.	kui	kúj		tortoise (? Bell's hinged)	<i>Kinixys belliana belliana</i>	and other tortoises
111.	kirip	kīrīp		turtle	<i>Pelusios spp.</i>	
112.	kut	kút		crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	
113.	milkiiin	mīlkī:n		wall gecko	<i>Gekkonidae</i>	
114.	t'abul	tábúl		lizard, generic		
115.	gweling	g ^w éliŋ	kadangare	agama lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>	
116.	matnber	mà ^m bēŋ		female agama lizard	<i>Agama agama</i>	
117.	daagool	dà:gó:l		chameleon		
118.	kaskong	kāskòŋ		rough-scaled plated lizard	<i>Gerrhosaurus major zechi</i>	
119.	ngooi	ŋgō:j		lizard sp.		
120.	nduu	ŋdú:		lizard sp.		
121.	zem sai	zèm sáj	kulba	red-flanked skink	<i>Lygosoma fernandi</i>	
122.	mumul	múmùl		spotted savannah skink	<i>Trachylepis perroteti</i>	
123.	kulee	kúlè:		five-striped savannah skink	<i>Trachylepis quinquetaeniatus</i>	
124.	longkwaan	lōŋk ^w à:n		land monitor	<i>Varanus exanthematicus</i>	
125.	dang	dāŋ		Nile monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	
126.	kasbaan	kásbá:n		spotted blind snake	<i>Rhinotyphlops punctatus</i>	and probably other blind snakes as well
127.	kuun	kū:n		royal python	<i>Python regius</i>	
128.	mer	mēŋ		rock python	<i>Python sebae</i>	
129.	kibis	kībīs		Herald snake	<i>Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia</i>	
130.	nyendek/nyendak	ŋéndék/ŋéndák		brown house snake	<i>Lamprophis fuliginosus</i>	
131.	t'angyim	tāŋjīm		Angolan green snake	<i>Philothamnus angolensis</i>	and probably other green snake spp.
132.	goop	gō:p		green mamba	<i>Dendroaspis jamesoni jamesoni</i>	very poisonous
133.	nyanang	ŋà ⁿ àŋ		black-necked spitting	<i>Naja nigricollis nigricollis</i>	and other spitting cobras such as <i>Naja</i>

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				cobra		<i>katiensis</i>
134.	gokt'aa	góktá:		black and white cobra	<i>Naja melanoleuca subfulva</i>	
135.	pang	p ^h āŋ		puff adder	<i>Bitis arietans arietans</i>	
136.	mook	mó:k		night adder	<i>Causus maculatus</i>	
137.	sakkut	s ^h ākùt		carpet viper	<i>Echis ocellatus</i>	
138.	t'angee	tájgé:		snake sp.		very poisonous
139.	welviu	wélvíw		snake sp.		has black & yellow design
140.	dut	dūt		snake sp.		
141.	yirkum	jīrkùm		snake sp.		
142.	kangfet	k ^h āŋfét		snake sp.		black
AMPHIBIANS						
143.	namwet	nám ^w ét	kwadó	toad		
144.	namwet wen	nám ^w èt wēn		mud toad		
145.	nangdeet/namdeek	nāŋdē:k nāmdē:k	~	frog		
146.	matnzei	màt ⁿ zēj		frog sp.		small
147.	lamlook	lámló:k		frog sp.		
148.	gaiwel	gájwél		frog sp.		makes sound at night

6. Insects

Guides to insects in Nigeria are very difficult to find. The main field guide is Boorman (1981) and Berland (1955) is useful for spiders.

	Tal orthographic	Tal IPA	Hausa	English	Scientific	Comment
149.	p'ip'il	pípil		butterfly	Lepidoptera	
150.	p'elempe	pélèmp ^h ε		dragonfly	Odontidae	
151.	fut	f ^h ùt		mosquito	<i>Anopheles</i> spp.	
152.	gyeleng	g ^h èlèŋ		mason wasp I	<i>Belenogaster griseus</i>	
153.	kump'aal	kùmpá:l		mason wasp II	<i>Belenogaster griseus</i>	
154.	titi mhoi	t ^h it ^h i mwōj		bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	
155.	veei	vε:j		black bee		
156.	t'umt'aal	túmtá:l		sun fly		

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	Tal orthographic	Tal IPA	Hausa	English	Scientific	Comment
157.	titi es	tʰitʰi ès		housefly	<i>Musca domestica</i>	see next
158.	titi as	tʰitʰi ās		housefly		difficult to kill
159.	nvung	nvũŋ		fly sp.		
160.	didi	didi		sweat fly		
161.	mejim	mèzím		ant		
162.	tit'ing	titiŋ		ant sp.		
163.	tatong	tʰatõŋ		ant sp.		
164.	s'ula	súlá:		louse, generic	<i>Pediculus spp.</i>	
165.	s'ula kaa	sùlà: k'á:		head louse		
166.	sulaa tuun	sùlà: tʰù:n		louse sp.		
167.	rara	ràrà		centipede		
168.	dabai	dábàj		cockroach	<i>Periplaneta americana</i>	
169.	kyeyeng	kèjèŋ		termite		
170.	jiu	zìw		termite sp.		
171.	jiu pia	zìw piá:		termite sp.		
172.	tipiop	tìpióp		flying termite		
173.	pangbul	pʰàŋbùl		grasshopper		
174.	ngok	ŋgòk		grasshopper sp.		
175.	ngok kum	ŋgòk kʰúm		plate 5		
176.	ngaal	ŋgà:l		mantis	<i>Sphodromantis phyllocrana</i>	
177.	til us	tíl ūs		firefly	Lampyridae	
178.	d̄iis ham	d̄i:s hà:m		mole cricket		
179.	kyweel	kʷé:l		plate 8		
180.	nvong	nvõŋ		plate 14		
181.	kangkooh	káŋkó:		plate 18		
182.	d̄angmhoi	d̄ãŋmwòj		water boatman	Corixidae	
183.	nvung	nvũŋ		tsetse fly		
184.	ngum es	ŋgùm ès	<i>gungura kashi</i>	dung beetle	<i>Heliocopris spp.</i>	
185.	ngum	ŋgũm		weevil		
186.	d̄ei saa	d̄éj swá:		earwig	<i>Dermaptera</i>	
187.	madet	mádét		flea		
188.	nkoon	ŋkõ:n		tick	Ixodidae	
189.	tis'ii	tʰisíj		bedbug	Cimicidae	
190.	zemen	zèmén		earthworm		

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	Tal orthographic	Tal IPA	Hausa	English	Scientific	Comment
191.	nt'een	ntē:n		leech		
192.	s'iyip	sijip		caterpillar		
193.	ɸwet	ɸét		worm		
194.	ndim	ndim		worm sp.		
195.	ngis	ngis		worm sp.		very hairy
196.	kui kee	k ^w új kē:		maggot		
197.	piwuu	piwú:		insect sp.		it stings
ARACHNIDS						
198.	dēi	dēj		scorpion		
199.	naan	nā:n		spider		
CRUSTACEANS						
200.	t'is	tis		snail		
201.	t'is ham	tis hām		water snail		
202.	kyiil	k ^h ī:l		shell		
203.	daƙool	dāƙó:l		crab		
204.	dat'im	dātīm		millipede	<i>Iule</i> spp.	

7. Fish and aquatic species

The Tal area is very dry and there are no all-year round rivers. Hence their ichthyological terminology is rather restricted. The main references for fish identification for this area are Reed et al. (1967); Holden, & Reed (1972); Paugy, Lévêque & Teugels (2004); Adesulu & Sydenham (2007).

Tal orthographic	Tal IPA	Hausa	English	Scientific	Comment
k ^w yeep	k ^w ē:p	kiifi	generic for fish		
gyeimen	g ^w éj ^w mén	tarwada	mudfish	<i>Clarias</i> spp.	
f' iit	fī:t	karfasa	tilapia	<i>Tilapia</i> spp.	
mook	mó:k		fish sp.		
galong	gálòŋ		fish sp.		
dee	dè:				

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Tal orthographic	Tal IPA	Hausa	English	Scientific	Comment
nik	ník	mijiriya	electric catfish	<i>Malapterurus electricus</i>	
ɓip	ɓip	ayumbo	fish sp.		
nwom	ɲwóm	mai mama	lungfish	<i>Protopterus annectens</i>	
kung	kūŋ	kurungu	catfish	<i>Synodontis spp.</i>	
záng	záŋ		fish sp.		

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