Tracking the origins of African slaves in the Indian Ocean through personal names: the evidence of Sumatra records

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eds.

THE CHASE. *From a Picture by* Lieut. W. HENN, R.N.

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ABSTRACT

Although interest has begun to increase, studies of the Indian Ocean slave trade remain scattered and weak compared with the massive volume of materials on the Atlantic trade. Yet there is every reason to think that the overall numbers of African slaves traded may have been of a similar volume, albeit spread over a much longer period. The difference is that time-depth and geographical dispersal has led to a much greater degree of assimilation, so that there is no longer a significant lobby reclaiming identity and visibly at an economic disadvantage. As a consequence, the African contribution to the culture of the countries around the Indian Ocean has probably been seriously under-estimated.

A great deal of work has gone into identifying African links in the meagre material on personal names and idiosyncratic lexical items in the New World. However, archive sources for the Indian Ocean slave trade remain largely unmined in this respect. Of particular interest are the names and origins of slaves recorded for the entrepot of Fort Marlborough, part of the British Bencoolen Presidency in Sumatra. Records for the years 1766-8 show that around 900 slaves were kept at the fort during these years. The personal names, putative origins and age are listed for each slave. The great majority were from Africa, either Angola, Mozambique or Madagascar, and the remainder from Nias or South Asia. The latter names are not all convincingly identified with these places and there is some reason to think that African slaves were transhipped via Nias, for example. The paper makes a preliminary assessment of this material, and in particular the origins of the Fort Marlborough slaves, through an attempt to match the names given in the records with the word structure of languages in the source area, and comparison with known personal names. The goal is to gain a much better appreciation of the routes by which African slaves were transhipped around the Indian Ocean and to make the argument for African influences in Asia more concrete.

1. Introduction

Until recently, the Indian Ocean slave trade had received almost no attention from scholars and certainly none from archaeologists. Yet it is of much greater antiquity than the Atlantic trade and was conducted on a scale of equal magnitude (Collins 2006 estimates some twelve and a half million slaves were transported over two millennia). The reason for this lacuna is thus little to do with its historical importance and everything to do with 'voice', the stridency of communities in calling attention to their identity. Although interest has begun to increase, studies of the Indian Ocean slave trade remain scattered and weak compared with the massive volume of materials on the Atlantic trade. The time-depth and geographical dispersal has resulted in a much greater degree of assimilation of those transported, so that there is no longer a significant lobby reclaiming identity and visibly at an economic disadvantage. As a consequence, the African contribution to the culture of the countries around the Indian Ocean may have been seriously under-estimated.

A significant aspect of the Atlantic trade for social and economic historians is that almost as soon as it begins, there are written records, and these records include numbers. Problematic as this data often is, it has allowed historians to produce quantitative estimates for the volume, destination and annual fluctuations of the trade (e.g. Curtin 1972). The other two major trades from Sub-Saharan Africa, the trans-Saharan and Indian Ocean trades, are both less well-documented in quantitative terms but extend further back historically. There is also a body of research on the Islamic trade across the Sahara, although much of this was in the 1960s and 1970s (Blench 2011). There is also no doubt that the large size of the American academic system and highly articulate lobbying by the African-American community have played a role in the plethora of publication. The relative infrequency of publications concerning former slave communities in South and Central America is a clear indication of the strength of this Anglophone lobby.

Photo 1. Gate of Fort Marlborough, Sumatra

A great deal of work has gone into identifying African links in the meagre material on personal names and idiosyncratic lexical items in the New World (Macdonald et al. in press). However, archive sources for the Indian Ocean slave trade remain largely unmined in this respect. Of particular interest are the names and origins of slaves recorded for the entrepot of Fort Marlborough (Photo 1), part of the British Bencoolen Presidency in Sumatra in the eighteenth century. Records for the years 1766-8 show that around 900 slaves were kept at the fort and associated settlements during these years. The personal names, putative origins and age are listed for each slave. The great majority were from Africa, either Angola, Mozambique or Madagascar, and the remainder from Nias, Malabar and Batta [Batticaloa]. Few of the names for these two latter places can be convincingly identified with their regions and it may be they were transhipped via Nias, for example. The paper[1] constitutes a preliminary assessment of this material, and in particular the origins of the Fort Marlborough slaves. The scale of the information also makes it possible to calculate some basic age and gender parameters, such as the balance of the sexes and children versus adults. A preliminary attempt has been made to match the names given in the records with the word structure of languages in the source area, and comparison with known personal names. Some preliminary hypotheses are given in the Appendix Tables. However, due to the variable nature of the transcriptions and the fact that individuals may not have originated in the region from which they were transhipped, these identifications are very partial. Nonetheless, they contribute towards a much better appreciation of the sources and routes by which slaves were transhipped around the Indian Ocean.

2. General

Former slave communities are dispersed across a wide range of Asian countries and today speak a variety of languages, and records may be in languages not read by European scholars. What is written about them often does not enter the Euro-American library system. However, a range of publications has begun to appear, focusing on historical topics (Harris 1971; Baptiste 1998; Scarr 1998; Segal 2001; Basu 2008; Campbell 2003, 2004; Catlin-Jairazbhoy & Alpers 2004; Collins 2006; Obeng 2007; Ray & Alpers 2007; Hawley 2008; Jayasuriya & Pankhurst 2003; Jayasuriya & Angenot 2008; Jayasuriya 2009, 2010). There is almost no relevant archaeology to date. Map 1 shows the approximate distribution of still-identifiable African diaspora communities around the Indian Ocean.

The broader picture is that slaves were being transported as early as 0 AD from East Africa to Arabia, Oman, the Gulf and probably Gujarat. Exactly when the trade reached the northern coast of Arabia is less certain, but at least as early as the turn of the millennium. The most well-studied groups are the Siddi or Habshi (from the word for Ethiopia, *Habesh*), mainly in Gujarat and Hyderabad, India. The Siddi population is uncertain and current estimates range between 20–55,000. Siddis are mainly Sufi Muslims, although some are Hindus and some Roman Catholic Christians. However, in marked contrast, there are villages in the forests of northern Karnataka whose residents are probably descended from Mozambican/Angolan slaves who escaped from Portuguese traders and ships. Finally there are the 'Indo-African' or *Kaffirinya* communities who still survive in Sri Lanka today.

African slaves certainly also reached island SE Asia and China, where they were treated as exotics, but also the subject of severe racist stereotyping. There is no clear evidence for residual communities in SE

Map 1. Remaining African diaspora communities in the Indian Ocean

Asia maintaining an African identity in the present. Kessel (2007) describes the *Belanda Hitam,* which refers to African communities on Java, but these are remnants of the Dutch colonial enterprise, having originally been transported to Batavia in the eighteenth century.

3. Quantitative results

The original archive materials of the ledgers of the Bencoolen Presidency records for 1766-8 are presently held in the British Library, but the raw data has been published by Jayasuriya (2009). The names, ages and origins of slaves recorded for the entrepot of Fort Marlborough. Records for the years 1766-8 show that

around 900 slaves were kept at the fort during these years. The personal names, putative origins and age are listed for each slave.

The source of almost the slaves is noted, and for only twenty-four is their origin unknown. Of those, the great majority were from Africa, either Mozambique, Angola or Madagascar. The island of Nias, off Sumatra, is the major extra-African source. A small number are given as 'Batta', 'Malabar' and for one, the unidentified 'Mannis'. 'Batta' is almost certainly Batticaloa in NE Sri Lanka, which was historically an important slaving port (Foreign Office 1838)[2]. Malabar is a generic term for the southwest coast of India, particularly northern Kerala, and a local source of Indian slaves trafficked by the Portuguese and the Dutch VOC (Machado 2004). These slaves, in a perverse irony, were often carried back to Africa, becoming household slaves to the Dutch burgers at the Cape. The pie chart in Figure 1 shows the numbers and percentages from different source. Map 2 shows the locations of the reported origins of slaves in the Fort Wentworth data.

Figure 1. Reported sources of slaves at Fort Marlborough
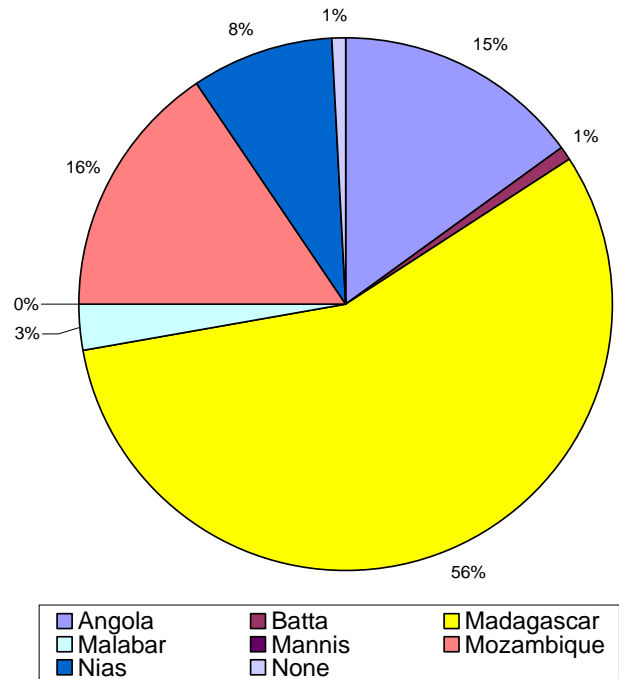
Map 2. Reported origins of slaves in the Fort Wentworth data

The total number of slaves in the records is 898, and they are divided between the sexes, but are predominantly male, with a ratio of approximately 2:1. Table 1 shows the precise figures for the sex ratio in the entire sample.

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[2] Indeed there are still identifiable Kaffirinya communities, whose songs can be seen on Youtube.

Table 1. Overall sex ratio

N = 898

Gender	No	%
Males	602	66.96
Females	296	32.93

For all except 68 (7.6%) of the slaves, the age is given. Nearly all those with no age are from a single holding site, Natal. Figure 2 shows the ages of slaves from different reported origins[3]. There are marked differences in the ages of slaves from different sources, with those of Malabar origin almost 60% older than those from Angola.The most probable explanation is that those originating in Angola and Mozambique were the direct result of slave raids, whereas those from Malabar, Nias and Batta were either captured in warfare or were already part of the secondary trade.

Figure 2. Ages of slaves from different reported origins
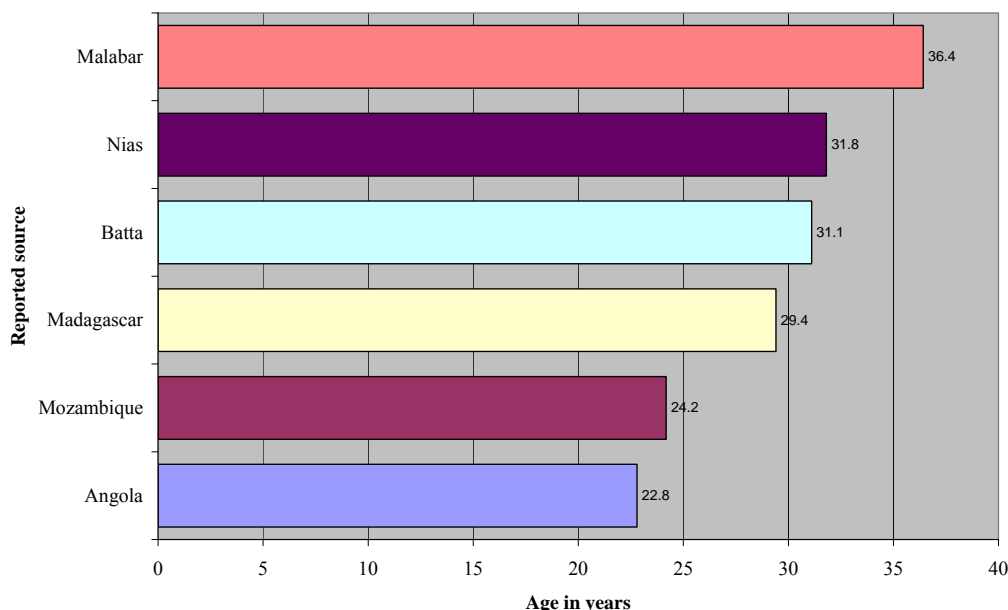
The data was divided by the slave-traders into categories of adults and children. There were 164 children in the sample, of which 154 had their ages marked. The age range for children was 2-17 years with a mean age of 9.3. It would be interesting to know whether the very young children were actually enslaved, or whether they represent the children born to female slaves after their capture and transportation. The age ranges are not entirely consistent, since there are 7 children within the age range 12-17 in the 'adult' category. Of the 676 adults whose ages are given, their mean age was 32 years with a range of 12-66. If we take a sample of all adult males, excluding those under 18, their mean age is 30.4 years, whereas the comparable figure for females is 32.6 years, i.e. there was no significant difference between the sexes.

It is hard to know the accuracy these stated ages. They are presumably based on the slaves' self-reporting, combined with an assessment by the slavers of the credibility of the report. Individuals in rural Africa even today may have only a general idea of their age, so there may be inaccuracies. Slaves who had been in the system for a period, and those from Asia may have had a more precise concept. Nonetheless, the consistency in age from different regions suggests the data is reasonably trustworthy.

4 Linguistics and personal names

Linguistic evidence for the African diaspora remains weak. Much work has been carried out on the Austronesian heritage of Malagasy and there is limited evidence for Austronesian loanwords on the East African coast (Blench 2010). However, identifying African borrowings in Indian and SE Asian languages

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[3] Excluding the single slave from 'Mannis'.

remains problematic. Indo-Shirazi communities in Gujarat still clearly retain memories of Swahili although it is no longer spoken (Jayasuriya 2009). Some African borrowings can still be identified among the Kaffirinya communities in Sri Lanka. However, one source has so far gone largely unexploited, the area of personal names. This section looks at the potential to identify the lexical sources of the personal names assigned to particular geographical origins in the Bencoolen records.

Not all the names listed should be linked to these places and there is some reason to think that African slaves were transhipped via Nias and Madagascar, for example. A preliminary assessment of the origins of the Fort Marlborough slaves, attempts to match the names given in the records with the word structure of languages in the source area, and comparison with known personal names. For the names of slaves attributed to African origins, at least some do seem to reflect the personal names occurring in this region. Others are manifestly European names, while in some cases, especially for Madagascar and Mozambique, they are apparently of Arabic origin (cf. Campbell for Madagascar & Capela & Medeiros 1987 for Mozambique). This is not remarkable, given the significance of Omani Arabic in Zanzibar and other slaving ports on the mainland. Very occasionally, in the South Asian settlements, clear efforts to transcribe typical Indian names are present. More difficult are cases where, for example, the individual may have had a Portuguese name, not recognised by the recorder and spelt in an idiosyncratic fashion. Almost all names are single words, sometimes with qualifiers ('Old Jane' etc.). Only rarely do we get two names and these do not necessarily represent personal names plus surname. However, some Malagasy names clearly divide into qualifier plus head noun and are so shown in the appended lists.

Given the tendency in the Atlantic slave trade records to simply normalise all names to European ones, this record of personal names is rare and a precious survival. Spelling conventions are not entirely uniform, and occasional unusual spellings suggest that the slave must already have had a conventionalised name and perhaps even have been literate. One intriguing example of this is the Mozambican name, Lamaschereka, which incorporates a characteristic German spelling convention. Others are almost certainly drawn from Spanish or Portuguese, such as Manuel or Francisco. However, there are also possible respelt Hispanic names such as Riveru (? for Ribeiro) or Shaveer (? for Javier). The typical Malagasy affricates, often in word-final position, are represented as 'dz'. Thus Massoondritz is probably Masundritsy, a name which suggests a Malagasy formation.

The great majority, though, do seem to reflect a template drawn from eighteenth century English. This was prior to any type of phonetic spelling, let alone the IPA, so to interpret what the writer was hearing, we have to retranscribe the names. Fortunately, none of the probable source languages would have had complex consonant clusters or double-articulations, such as labial-velars, which were so perplexing to early authors writing on West Africa. Table 2 shows the conventions used to convert the originals to a more uniform orthography.

Table 2. Conversions of source orthography

Source orthography	IPA Conversion
c	k
ch	ʧ
-ck	k
ee	i
oo	u
o	o

Malagasy has the affricates /ʈʂ/ and /ɖʐ/, written *tr* and *dr* in missionary orthographies, which seem to be used in some of the names. In addition, final –h always indicates a more open vowel quality. Thus ah ~ ɑ and eh ~ ɛ. Doubled consonants are usually irrelevant, i.e. 'ss' can be taken to represent /s/. The most difficult issue is with diphthongs. There are many double or even triple vowels, and exactly what quality they represent is less than clear. Bantu languages rarely have the mid-central vowel /ə/ and this is not underlyingly part of Malagasy, but does occur phonetically.

There are many names, and not all can be listed here, so to make the data available, they are posted on my website. As a sample of the potential interpretations of the key lists, I have included extracts from Nias, Madagascar, Mozambique and Angola in the Appendix, with some of my hypotheses concerning their possible affiliation. Basically, all obviously European and Arab names are excluded, as well as those which seem to be very different from the languages of the claimed source area. Strikingly, there are more potential identifications for the Nias list than the others, in particular Nias clan and toponyms. This suggests that at least some of the slaves were indeed drawn from the interior populations of the island. The acknowledgements in Footnote 1 list those researchers who have kindly commented on the lists, and whose observations are included.

5. What can this data tell us?

The function of this paper is to draw attention to a fascinating source of data which has remained unexploited. Much remains to be done on identifying the names in the records, and assessing the credibility of their origins. The Fort Wentworth records reflect the British and Dutch slave trade; no slaves are recorded as from the Indian Ocean islands or from Gujarat. More complete analysis will provide a much better appreciation of the routes by which African slaves were transhipped around the Indian Ocean and make the argument for African influences in Asia more concrete.

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Appendix: selected identifications of slave names in the Bencoolen records

Angola personal names recorded in 1767

Name	Retranscribed	Age
Bahambee	Bahambi	30
Beindah	Bənda	21
Booanga	Bwanga	26
Boombah	Bumba	31
Brombah	Bromba	9
Cabcondar	Kabkonda	35
Chembainee	Chembeni	28
Chimbaindee	Chimbendi	28
Congar	Konga	10
Coombah	Kumba	11
Dongo	Dongo	3
Dooloo	Dulu	19
Elavoona	Elavuna	31
Emba	Emba	27
Goma	Gomaa	33
Gomba	Gomba	21
Gongo	Gongo	31
Gooamba	Gwamba	27
Gooloo	Gulu	10
Goondoo	Gundu	26
Imbaohee	Mbawe	27
Imbeimbu	Mbembu	28
Imbodo	Mbodo	33
Imbuimba	Mbwimba	36
Imbuka	Mbuka	28
Impah	Mpa	33
Impassee	Mpasi	39
Impupee	Mpupi	34
Incongar	Nkonga	37
Indallah	Ndala	26
Inenaza	Inenaza	28
Ingoamba	Ngwamba	32
Inguamah	Ngwama	29
Injeimbu	Njəmbu	38
Inloomba	Nlumba	26
Inpundee	Mpundi	27
Insaca	Nsaka	25
Jamajingah	Jamajinga	32
Jemey	Jeme	27
Jingah	Jinga	29
Macaco	Makako	17
Macoco	Makoko	15
Macooloo	Makulu	26
Macoombay	Makumbe	11
Mahrah	Mara	29
Makabah	Makaba	9
Massangah	Masanga	8
Massongoo	Masongu	37
Mata	Mata	21
Mavingah	Mavinga	9

Name	Retranscribed	Age
Mavoolah	Mavula	26
Mayemba	Mayemba	28
Mazeerah	Mazera	26
Mehemah	Mehema	30
Miyalhah	Miyala	44
Moamza	Mwanza	33
Moander	Mwanda	11
Mobah	Moba	32
Moban	Mobã	13
Mouwah	Muwa	13
Mussoomah	Musuma	9
Nooambool	Nwambul	29
Pahnzoo	Panzu	20
Painba	Pãba	27
Peindee	Pende	28
Sabo	Sabo	29
Samsalangah	Samsalanga	2
Sayvo	Sevo	10
Sepattu	Sepatu	26
Socoalah	Sokwala	22
Solaza	Solaza	2
Soongoo	Sungu	8
Vaoingie	Vawŋe	11
Veera	Vira	12
Vessee	Vese	9
Voovoo	Vuvu	29
Woolah	Wula	26
Zainga	Zenga	21
Zoongo	Zungo	22

Madagascar personal names recorded in 1767. A few sound distinctly Malagasy, but many are clearly of foreign origin. Suggestions as to better retranscription of the source name welcome.

Name	Retranscribed	Comment	Age
Allancova	Alankova	Malagasy *alan kova* 'forest of nobles'	46
Allemas	Alemas Almasi?	Swahili < Arabic 'diamond'	41
Ampalasooka	Ampalasuka	Malagasy	31
Ampanitz	Ampanity	Malagasy	36
Ampansah	Ampansa	Malagasy	29
Bahraik	Baraka?	Swahili < Arab = 'blessing' (common name)	31
Bahroch	Mbaruku? or Baluchi?	European Mbaruku = Swahili < Arab (common name); Baluchi = ethnonym with various spellings, Baluch, Baloch etc.	23
Ballandean	Blandina?	? European	28
Banga	Banga	Swahili? (name still current in Zanzibar). In Malagasy the word means 'with holes'. Less likely	None
Banian	? Banyan	ethnonym	33
Bohate	Bohate Bahati	Swahili < Arabic 'luck' (common name)	32
Bon		European	26
Boornderah	Bundera Bendera?	Swahili < Arabic 'flag'	24
Cafuongoo	Kafwongo Kifauwongo	Swahili lit. 'death shammer', the name of a plant or insect	11
Cajee	Kaji	? same as next	40
Cajoe	Kajo	*kakazo* in Malagasy means 'piece of wood'	56
Camboah	Kambwa		None
Caroomayna	Karumayna	Malagasy *karamàina* 'person who is salaried', though in turn borrowed from Swahili *garama*	41
Chaqua	Chaka	Malagasy ? cf. traka. This word has many meanings in Malagasy including edible leaves, stand up and others.	12
Chambahouk	Chambahuk	Malagasy ? cf. clan name *tambahoaka*	31
Charoobey	Charube	Malagasy ? cf. *tsarovy*, imperative of *tsaroana*, perceive, remark, take care	28
Cheanzee	Chianzi		36
Cheasah	Chiasa		26
Chebaissee	Chebaysi		31
Chebonco	Chebonko		9
Chefungo	Chefungo		41
Chehasook	Chehasuk		28
Chehempar	Chehempa		36
Chelafeah	Chelafeya		46
Chelaindook	Chelaynduk		51
Chelasooree	Chelasuri		31
Cheleffey	Chelefe		27
Chelemfah	Chelemfa		32
Chelimbene	Chelimbene	(? =place name Quelimbane)	36
Chemacoolee	Chemakuli		23
Chemaloo	Chemalu		26
Chemamendooh	Chemamendu		42
Chemenarose	Chemenarose		41
Chemondahs	Chemondas		30
Chemongelo	Chemongelo		33
Cherahefah	Cherahefa		32
Cheraliah	Cheraliya		34
Cherarass	Cheraras		45
Cherasoque	Cherasoke		31

Name	Retranscribed	Comment	Age
Cherassee	Cherasi		38
Cherobatta	Cherobata		30
Cherooa	Cherwa		28
Cherooey	Cherue		30
Cheroohin	Cheruhin		26
Cherookin	Cherukin		36
Cherora	Cherora		38
Cherrown	Cheron		32
Cheserichia	Cheserichia		36
Chesile	Chesile		31
Chesoosile	Chesusile		26
Chessaih	Chesay		57
Chessansero	Chesansero		31
Chessaro	Chesaro		46
Chessissay	Chesisay		41
Chessoooza	Chesuza		23
Chevunda	Chivunda	? sounds Bantu)	32
Chillarava	Chilarava	Malagasy ? cf. tsila (walk in undulating fahion)+rava (destroyed, beaten)	30
Chimanifique	Chimanifiki	? sounds Swahili)	36
Chimenovah	Chimenova		31
Chittimpoorah	Chitimpura	? Sounds Indian	30
Chittindeah	Chitindea		28
Chittinkingay	Chitikinge		30
Choassay	Chwase		28
Choboo	Chobu		36
Chongsaha	Chongsaha		33
Chontoon	Chontun		41
Choossay	Chusay		28
Chunburo	Chumburo		36
Colloo	Kolu		41
Cooroo	Kuru	Malagasy ? cf. *koro* either 'with rounded ears' or 'turkey'	27
Coralee		European	36
Dasanganga	Dasanganga	? sounds Indian	28
Deambana	Deambana		31
Eilah	Ela	Malagasy ? cf. ela 'long [time, distance]'	7
Embia	Mbia	Mbia is a personal name common on the east coast	12
Gavogavo	Gavogavo	*gavo* means 'grey, colourless' in SW Malagasy lects	51
Gunvanah	Gunvana		23
Hambazoo	Hambazu		28
Handassee	Handasi	? Malagasy *andasy* 'Wait!' in SE Malagasy lects	31
Handay	Hande	cf. Malagasy handy 'tree sp.' in SW lects or 'in spite of everything' in SW lects	None
Handayme	Handeme	? < Malagasy *mandèmy* from the root *lemy* 'soften' sweeten, weaken'.	None
Handruso	Handruso	sounds Malagasy	31
Hanessa	Hanesa		27
Hanganah	Hangana	? < Malagasy *hàingana* 'prompt, rapid'	46
Hanozee	Hanozi		38
Hansanny	Hansani		14
Hararu	Hararu		30
Hegooran	Heguran		33
Hemendaza	Hemendaza		24
Heuenra	Hevenra		30

Name	Retranscribed	Comment	Age
Hewlimbey	Hulimbe	Bantu	36
Hewong	Hewong	? < Malagasy *hèvoña* 'surpassed, beaten'	28
Hongah	Honga	Swahili '(to) bribe', also Malagasy *monga* 'without fingers or toes'	30
Hooannee	Hwane		23
Horanney	Horane		30
Humbazoo	Humbazu	Bantu	28
Illepe	Ilepe		36
Illuro	Iluro		9
Iman	Imani?	Swahili < Arab 'faith' (a common girl's name)	33
Imbimbee	Imbimbe	Bantu	13
Immihinga	Imihinga	Bantu	None
Insagah	Insaga		28
Jahdendy	Jadendi		35
Jalvey	Jalve		31
Japporana	Japorana		32
Jaroombay	Jarumbe		29
Jinedamboh	Jine Dambo	? < Malagasy *jiny* 'genie' + *dambo* 'wild boar'	26
Jinedassah	Jinedasa		18
Jongavah	Jongava		29
Juk	Juk	see next	9
Jukoo	Juku	? < Malagasy *joko* 'to lean'	11
Jumah	Juma	Arab / Swahili (a common name)	8
Jungo	Jungo Jungu?	Swahili 'large cooking pot'; also widely heard as a slang / children's version of Mzungu = 'white person'	31
Junjee	Junji		11
Kakeky	Kakeki		8
Kalampolah	Kalampola		31
Kaleelee	Kalele Kelele?	Swahili 'noise'	34
Kany	Kani	? < Malagasy *kanikany* 'at once'	31
Kelemalacca	Kele Malaka	Spelling suggests reference to the port of Malacca	26
Keysaw	? sounds European Kisa?	? cf. Swahili 'story, reason, affair', but also Malgasy *kiso* 'small knife' < Swahili *kisu*	17
Killahee	kilahi	? < Malagasy *ki* prefix + *lahy* 'male'	26
Kindrooah	Kindrua	sounds Malagasy	38
Kollar	Kola	? < Malagasy *kolakola* to balance, stand straight	41
Kurooh	Kuru~Kulu?	widespread Bantu 'great, old' cf. Swahili *kuu* < *kulu*	None
Lamboo	Lambu~Lambo	cf. Malagasy *lambo* 'wild boar'	33
Larose		European	31
Laser		? sounds European	7
Laye	Laye	? < Malagasy *lay* 'hair'	2
Lumankoo	Lumanku		11
Madongee	Madonge	Swahili 'lumps, balls, clots', pl. of *donge*	40
Madoonbah	Madumba	sounds Bantu	31
Mahamzaha	Mahamzaha	cf. Swahili hamsa '5' < Arabic	37
Mahasihaz	Mahasihaz	? < Malagasy *mahasy* 'that which sanctifies' *azy* him	36
Mahavinitz	Mahavinitz	? < Malagasy *maha-* 'that which makes' *vinitsa, vinitra* 'angry'	37
Mahavoonoo	Mahavunu	? < Malagasy *maha-* 'that which makes' + *vono* 'killing'	39
Mahombu	Mahombu		35
Mahoo	Mahu	? < Malagasy *maho(ña)* 'food other than rice'	56
Mahulee	Mahuli	? < Malagasy *maha-* 'that which makes' *huli* 'come back'	36
Malembe		sounds Bantu	38
Mamberu		sounds Bantu	34

Name	Retranscribed	Comment	Age
Mampehanehu	Mampehanehu	sounds Malagasy. *mampe-* is a causative prefix	41
Mampehanno	Mampehano	sounds Malagasy. *mampe-* is a causative prefix	31
Mampehonihee	Mampehonihi	sounds Malagasy.	41
Mampujah	Mampuja[k]		46
Mampujak	Mampujak		36
Manavel	Manavel	? < Malagasy *manavelo* 'that which makes you content'	48
Mandoo	Mandu	? < Malagasy *mando* 'humid)'	13
Manas	Manas		46
Mandoo	Mandu		13
Mandrosgin	Mandrosgin [?]		37
Mannoitz	Manoitsi [?]	? < Malagasy cf. *toitsy* 'character, place'	37
Mapooloaloo	Mapulolu		26
Mapuhana	Mapuhana	sounds Malagasy	36
Marembong	Marembong		36
Marooley	Marule		31
Massay	Masay	? < Malagasy *masay* 'small'	16
Massembarou	Masembaru	? < Malagasy *masina* 'sacred' *varo* 'Hibiscus sp.'	7
Massiss	Masis[i]	? < Malagasy *matsitsy* 'mean'	None
Massoo	Masu Maso?	widespread Bantu 'eyes', cf. Swahili *macho*, also Malagasy *maso*	24
Matoerah	Matwera		34
Mauadum	Mawadum		15
Mesa	Mesa Meza?	Swahili < Portuguese 'table'	36
Metrompah	Metrompa	sounds Malagasy	46
Moca	Moka		6
Mompelassah	Mompelasa	? < Malagasy *mampe-* causative prefix + *lasa* 'leave'	28
Mompuhany	Mompuhani	? < Malagasy *mampe-* causative prefix + *hani(na)* 'food'	32
Monridday	Monriday		9
Mooey	Muey		30
Moonra	Munra		33
Moora	Mura	? < Malagasy *mora* 'easy, sweet'	33
Mooroo	Muru	? < Malagasy *moro* 'edge' or *iMoro* 'name of a region'	None
Muendie	Mwendi	Bantu	31
Mumpinga	Mumpinga	Bantu	46
Namaloo	Namalu		31
Namannoo	Namanu		56
Namgarcah	Namgar[i]ka		7
Namkoika	Namkoyka		19
Narumanna	Narumana	[? sounds Indian]	23
Nukalar	Nukalar Nakala?	Swahili < Arabic 'copy; book'	13
Numbarrack	Numbarak Mbaraka?	Swahili < Arabic 'blessing' (a common name)	9
Pambah	Pamba	Swahili 'cotton'	31
Pambu	Pambu		9
Par	Par Paa?	Swahili 'duiker; roof'	32
Penday	Penday	cf. Swahili –penda 'to like'; Upendo / Pendo 'love' is a common name	28
Pooloo Pesang	Pulu Pesang	? sounds Malay~Indonesian. cf. Pulau 'island'	3
Prishanabool	Prishanabul	? sounds Indian	28
Ramah	Rama	? Swahili < Arabic (a name heard in Zanzibar)	56
Ranalley	Ranale	Malagasy~Arab personal name	26
Rangooney	Rangune	? < Malagasy personal name	30
Ratchunlo	Rachunlo		31
Reahka	Reaka	? < Malagasy *riaka* 'sea, flood'	21

Name	Retranscribed	Comment	Age
Refovah	Refova	? < Malagasy re- prefix of names for persons *hova* 'nobility'	28
Rehoosook	Rehusuk	? < Malagasy re- prefix of names for persons *hosoka* 'powdered tobacco'	31
Reneka	Reneka		34
Resaroah	Resaroa		41
Retavuk	Retavuk	? < Malagasy re- prefix of names for persons *tavoka* 'pith of banana stem'	41
Rice	Rice Rahisi?	[? sounds European] Swahili < Arabic 'cheap; easy'	16
Riela	Ryela	? < Malagasy ri for *irì* 'that one' + *ela* 'long'	33
Rikinkin	Rikinkin	? < Malagasy *re-* prefix of names for persons + *kinkina* 'small finger, penis'	31
Rikseny	Rikseny[i]		32
Rilavu	Rilavu	? < Malagasy *re-* prefix of names for persons + *lavo* 'fallen'	28
Rimeja	Rimeja		33
Rindahee	Rindahi		28
Ripapa	Ripapa	? < Malagasy *re-* prefix of names for persons + *papa* 'tuber sp.'	26
Risooarah	Risuara	? < Malagasy *re-* prefix of names for persons + *soa* 'good' *hara* 'seek'	46
Risoondah	Risunda		38
Rivasah	Rivasa	? < Malagasy *re-* prefix of names for persons + *vasa* examine carefully	24
Rohavak	Rohavak	? < Malagasy *re-* prefix of names for persons + *havaka* 'empty space'	28
Sayvolah	Sevola	? < Malagasy *say* 'small' + *vola* 'money'	None
Selaekeah	Selaka	? Arab or Malagasy *selaka* 'tributary'	36
Serranlaza	Seranlaza	? < Malagasy *seràña* 'port' + *laza* 'renowned'	38
Solengeso	Solengeso		36
Somano	Somano		36
Somelah	Somela		31
Sonarique	Sonarike		31
Sooah	Sua	? < Malagasy *soa* 'good'	57
Soojay	Suje	? < Malagasy *Soja, Soza* common personal name (? < E. 'soldier')	48
Soomay	Sume		7
Soomeral	Sumeral		33
Soovooratto	Suvurato	? < Malagasy *sovoka* 'bandit' + *ranto* 'search far away'	29
Soudazza	Sowdaza	? < Malagasy *saotra* 'thanking' + *laza* 'renowned'	38
Tabbooah	Tabuwa Tabia?	Swahili < Arabic 'character' (a common name)	50
Tallahu	Talahu	? < Malagasy *talaho* 'action of praying'	11
Tamballo	Tambalo	? < Malagasy *ta-* 'person' + *valo* 'eight'	15
Tampine	Tampine	? < SW Malagasy *tàmpiny* 'projections before and after a cart'	31
Tanandah	Tananda	? < Malagasy *tanan-dahy* 'village of a man'	34
Tarpune	Tarpune		21
Tassy	Tasi	< Malagasy *tasy* 'sea'	13
Tillah	Tila		12
Tinedambo	Tine Dambo	< Malagasy *tinay* 'intestines' + *lambo* 'wild boar'	30
Tollahee	Tolahi		23
Tombing	Tombing		36
Tonoumay	Tonowme		None
Toojoo	Tuju	? < Malagasy *tojo* 'glimpsed, encountered'	8
Umberry	Mbele?	Swahili 'in front, in the lead'	34

Mozambique personal names

Name	Retranscribed	Comment	Age
Acooray	Akure		20
Bagoolay	Bagule		23
Barrack		Arabic origin but recorded in Colomb (1873) recorded an enslaved Yao man with the name Baraka	10
Battary	Batari		35
Bendur	Bendur		43
Cadongo	Kadongo	Bantu	11
Cambola	Kambola		23
Chamba	Chamba		n/a
Chambley	Chamble		n/a
Cheaasso	Cheaso		25
Chegeomey	Chegeome		9
Chell Fush	Chelfush		n/a
Chemarook	Chemaruk		33
Chenoney	Chenone		None
Chifunloo	Chifunlu		n/a
Chinsuree	Chinsure		10
Chirumbeso	Chirumbeso		8
Chohale	Chohali		28
Coninkee	Koninke		19
Cooroo	Kuru		33
Dollohaka	Dolohaka		25
Dooanea	Duanea		19
Gainjee	Ganji		9
Gainjee	Ganji		9
Godagodazo	Godagodazo		14
Gongoo	Gongu		13
Hahmus	? Hamis	Arabic origin but recorded in Colomb (1873) recorded an enslaved Nyasa [=Chewa] man with the name Hamis	23
Hamenaw	Hamenaw		n/a
Hammetraw	Hametraw		n/a
Inenemamah	Inenemama		28
Innebaraga	Inebaraga		20
Jaross	Jaros		23
Jassphoo	Jasfu		n/a
Jenon	Jenon		27
Jimezell	Jimezel		n/a
Jinnalieha	Jinalyeha		26
Kerkey	Kerke		n/a
Killamsaw	Kilamsaw		n/a
Kutrankey	Kutranke		n/a
Lamaschereka	Lamashereka		19
Loohemboo	Luhembu	? Bantu	30
Maccadum	Makadum		40
Madlin	Mad[u]lin		n/a
Manadum	Manadum		28
Marainday	Marainde		22
Mareakoo	Mareaku		32
Massoondritz	Masundritsi	? Malagasy. masu = 'eye'	36
Matsugee	Matsugi		20

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Name	Retranscribed	Comment	Age
Mincamboah	Minkamboa	? Bantu	21
Mogoss	Mogos		10
Mogoss	Mogos		None
Mossaha	Mosaha		21
Mossegeolooh	Mosege olu		37
Mossumbah	Mosumba	? Bantu	9
Muccaraka	Mukaraka		23
Muekaylaloo	Mwekelalu		20
Mumey	Mume		n/a
Mumphany	Mumfany	? Malagasy	11
Mundaka	Mundaka		23
Nakihinga	Nakihinga	Bantu	19
Namaseepah	Namasipa	Bantu	23
Namcoochoo	Namkuchu		28
Nameoddum	Nameodum		29
Namgore	Namgore		29
Nampingua	Nampingwa	Bantu	19
Nampuneh	Nampune		24
Namsarey	Namsare		9
Napubo	Napubo	Bantu	29
Narnaranka	Nanaranka		26
Neyombio	Neyombyo		None
Radeboo	Radebu		n/a
Rakey Buny	Rakebuny	? Malagasy	n/a
Razue	Razwe		26
Remahnay	Remanay	? Malagasy	36
Sallema	Salama	Arabic origin but recorded in Colomb (1873) recorded an enslaved Ngindo woman with the name Salama	n/a
Sangole	Sangole		36
Senagree	Senagri		23
Songolo	Songolo		20
Songory	Songory		23
Soo	Su		23
Sorrooroo	Soruru		32
Sumank	Sumank[a]		11
Swamhanka	Swamhanka		33
Tamiyal	Tamiyal		n/a
Tanish	Tanish		n/a
Toveru	Toveru		23
Tresseck	Tresek		31
Turriah	Turia		12
Tychongansoo	Chongansu		13
Walmas	Walmas		31
Wallmat	Walmart		55

Comment by Maude Devos. The names that begin with the *na-* formative definitely look Bantu, especially those that are followed by something that looks like a nominal prefix (*nakihinga, namasipa, namkuchu, namgore, nampingwa, nampune, namsare*). I know the *na-* formative occurs frequently in Makhuwa lexicon but as described by Schadeberg (2003: 86). Interestingly, he specifically says that *na-* (as well as *ka-*, cf. *Kadongo* in the list) are used as formatives in personal names.

Nias personal names

Words cited are from the Nias language unless otherwise noted.

Source version	Retranscribed	Comment
Assalee	Asali	
Avrovookah	Avrovuka	*fuka* a net to catch birs
Bohovia	Bohovia	
Cabboo	Kabu	'garden'
Cajula	Kajula	
Calooboo	Kalubu	
Carosse	Karos	
Casar	Kasar	'impudent'
Chalon	Chalon	
Chiar	Char	
Chinehy	Chinehi	
Crobee	Krobi	
Crop	Krob[i]	
Dattah	Data ?Datu	Indonesian title
Dossunio	Dosunyo	
Fagohay	Fagohe	*Gohae*, name of a Nias clan
Faogy	Fawgy	*faogö* = friend
Gabayney	Gabene	*Baene*, name of a Nias clan
Gamo	Gamo	Nias toponym, near G. Sitoli
Gaysumo	Gesumo	
Handagy	Handagi	
Haraja	Haraja	*raja* = king
Hellemanoo	Helemanu	*hele* = bathing place, *manu* = chicken
Jaiuh	Jayu	
Jobah	Joba	
Jonis	Jonis	
Junery	Juneri	
Laboo	Labu	Arise!
Lahay	Lahe	footprint
Lallay	Lale	lalai 'sprout (new leaves)
Lamby	Lambi	
Laroh	Laroh	
Lassah, Lassay	Lasa	Lasa, name of a Nias clan
Layrah	Laira	fish sp.
Legahay	Legahe	*gahe* = foot
Lullah	Lula	wooden trough for pigs
Maloosay	Maluse	*maluze* snake sp.
Manajay	Manaje	*manaje* small tree sp. with sweet fruits
Mangundah	Mangunda	? cf. Malay *mengundang* 'invite'
Meeda	Mida	
Minga	Minga	Miga, Nias toponym, near G. Sitoli
Mongoojoo	Monguju	
Moy	Moy	Moi, Nias river name
Muna	Muna	*munemune* = food basket
Mundeah	Mundea	
Ontong	Ontong	Austronesian 'island'
Padang	Padang	Sumatran place name
Pamolu	Pamolu	
Papoh	Papo	
Pokugunna	Pokuguna	
Rimpat	Rimpat	Indonesian personal name
Rooley	Rule	
Roomea	Rumea	

Source version	Retranscribed	Comment
Saboyo	Saboyo	*sa* = one, *boyo* = worm
Saindee	Saindi	
Sariboo	Saribu	Pasaribu, name of a Batak clan
Se Dattah	Se Data	Indonesian title
Selaboo	Selabu	*labu* = fruit sp. See above
Sequio	Sekio	
Sheejoyae	Shijoye	
Soassooah	Swasua	Susua, Nias river name
Somboyoo	Somboyu	*sombuyu* = the soft one
Surumbowat	Surumbowat	
Taboola	Tabula	well-fed pig
Tappanooly	Tapanuli	Sumatran place name
Tasoogy	Tasugi	= 'we awoke, we arose'
Tayabey	Tayabe	
Tumumbuy	Tumubwi	
Valash	Valash	

Pastor Hammerle notes that ga- is a common prefix for Nias personal names meaning 'elder brother'.