

The Tahoss dialect of the Berom language

of

Central Nigeria and its affinities

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1. Introduction

This is an annotated wordlist of the Tahoss dialect of the Berom language, spoken in Tahoss village in Plateau State, Nigeria. The wordlist was collected by Roger Blench with the assistance of Selbut Longtau from a group of villagers on the 16th of January 2001. Mr. Danjuma Badung was kind enough to assist us in organising a meeting and Musa Ndeme and Yakubu Shanga provided the glosses and assisted with tone transcription.

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

2. Location, history and sociolinguistic situation

2.1 Nomenclature

The people of Tahos regard themselves as Berom and call themselves and their language by that name.

2.2 Location and settlements

The language of Tahos is shared by another settlement, Rahoss, which is of the same origin according to oral tradition. Tahoss town is situated on the junction of the road leading east of the main Jos-Fadan Karshe road to Ganawuri. This is some 20 km. south of the main roundabout outside Jos. Rahoss is some 2 km. north of Tahoss in the direction of Riyom. Although both have been spelt with final ‘ss’ since the colonial era and this remains the official spelling, there is no phonological justification for this and Tahos and Rahos would be more accurate renderings.

2.3 Language status

Tahos is a dialect of Berom, although, as the analysis below shows, a divergent one. Speakers are usually fluent in ‘Central’ Berom, i.e. the language of Riyom and Vwang, and usually characterise the differences as ‘small’, ‘the tone’, ‘some words only’. However, it is difficult for a speaker of Central Berom to understand Tahos, and this is said to have been even more difficult in the past. Tahos and even more Rahos are gradually becoming relexified from Central Berom. There is no reason to think this process will not continue, as Tahos speakers have no investment in cultural distinctiveness.

Under these circumstances, it is difficult to establish a precise number of speakers for Tahos-Rahos, since there are many speakers of Central Berom resident in the area. However, with these caveats it is likely that the population of these two towns exceeds ten thousand and not all would be fluent in the more intricate aspects of Tahos.

¹ I am grateful to Kay Williamson and Bruce Connell who have assisted me with external parallels and other comments.

2.4 Tahos culture and history

3. Phonology

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

3.1 Vowels

Tahos probably has eight phonemic vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Close-Mid	e	ə	o
Open-Mid	ɛ		ɔ
Open		a	

The presence of the central vowel /ə/ is a surprise since other lects of Berom are analysed as having seven vowels. However, the evolution of central vowels from front vowels is not uncommon in Plateau languages.

3.2 Consonants

Tahos consonants are as follows:

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alve-olar	Alveopalata l	Palata l	Velar	Labial-velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d		[c] j	k g	kp gb	
Nasal	m		n		ɲ	ŋ		
Trill			r					
Fricative		f v	s z	ʃ ʒ		(x) ɣ		h
Approximant					y		w	
Lateral			l					
Approximant								

This inventory resembles closely the phonology of other Berom lects, notably the Foron dialect described in Kuhn and Dusu (1985) and Bouquiaux (1970). The velar fricatives are unusual, but /x/ is very rare and /ɣ/ occurs mainly in intervocalic position. This suggests that both may be allophonic variants of their non-velar counterparts. A similar situation occurs in Dagbane in Northern Ghana, where, despite being written in the conventional orthography, the velar fricatives are just allophones.

Working with a group of speakers of different ages is a good method of understanding the allophonic variation in a particular language. In Tahos, where interference from other Berom lects is particularly marked, illustrates the high levels of such variation. The most notable alternations between and with the speech of individual speakers are;

k/h

Principally in intervocalic position, but also initially, some speakers pronounce /k/ as /h/. This process of weakening k→h has occurred widely in Berom and the retention of /k/ in some words marks Tahos as a conservative lect. It may also explain the presence of occasional /x/; the product of the lenition not come to term.

d/r

There is a general tendency for younger speakers to pronounce /d/ as /r/. A typical example is;

dàkú~ràkú ‘mountain’ where **ràkú** is standard Berom

r/n

These can sometimes represent consonant mutation, but sometimes can vary freely. Thus;

nanğai pl. **beranğai** ‘chest’

seems to have been a classic alternation but since some speakers now pronounce the plural **benanğai** as part of the regularisation of the morphology, r is seen to vary with n in some contexts.

j/z/dz

These three sounds appear to be in free variation in initial position. For example;

jim pl. **ninzim** ‘stomach’ can also have a singular **zim** or **dzim**. Similarly;

jigin ‘guinea-fowl’ can be pronounced **dzigin**.

However, certain terms, such as **jwa** ‘horse’ seemed not to exhibit variation. This may be either due to phonological conditioning or to socio-cultural elements such as the importance of the horse in Central Berom culture.

3.3 Tones

Like other Berom lects, Tahos has three level tones,

High	´
Mid	Unmarked
Low	`

Although the high tone is markedly less common than the other two, conventional tone-marking is adopted here for consistency.

Typical words illustrating the three tones are;

bémurùm hyenas
mágàla bush-rat

There are apparent cases of rising and falling tones, but all of those encountered were sequences of two like vowels. Thus;

tsùu rats
yuù spiders
tsiïŋ houseflies
ròðn hoes

It is no accident that these all occur in plurals. This type of vowel-lengthening in plurals is a key productive process in Tahos morphology.

4. Morphology

4.1 Nouns

<u>Gloss</u>	<u>sg.</u>	<u>pl.</u>
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5. Lexical comparison and the classification of Tahos

6. Tahos wordlist

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
1.	Tree (generic)	cɔ̀gɔ̀t	cɔ̀gɔ̀t	SB
2.	Leaf	raŋ	beraŋ	
3.	Root	shehe	beshehe	cf. Ayu ishî , Ninzo u-zhízhì , Yeskwa ishak ,
4.	Branch	laŋ	belaŋ	
5.	Bark (of tree)	bok	bebok	
6.	Thorn	rɔ̀yɔ̀	berɔ̀yɔ̀	
7.	Grass (generic)	hwi	behi	SB
8.	Vine (generic)			
9.	Mushroom	shu	beshuù	
10.	Water-lily			
11.	Algae			
12.	Seed/stone/pip	go-kurak	be-kərak	
13.	Charcoal	kwəlaŋ	niŋkwəlaŋ	
14.	Dust	vum	—	
15.	Ashes	nim-fələŋi	—	
16.	Rubbish-heap	k^hwɔ̀t	nin-k^hwɔ̀t	
17.	Mud	vwɔ̀	vwɔ̀s	
18.	Clay	vəròk	—	
19.	Dew	mwɛŋɛ		cf. Berom mwēngē , Kulu u-muŋ , Aten imiŋ , Ninzo àmé , Ningye mmeŋ , Mada məmē , Hasha eme , Rukul mmaŋ , Tarok ìmìmyàŋ , Yanƙam myaŋ Niger-Congo root #me-
20.	Stone	cwa	beta	SB
21.	Sand	tseyèl	tséyèl	
22.	Smoke	kyeŋ		SB
23.	Fire	kyá		
24.	Water	nincí		
25.	Rain	rwak		
26.	Cloud	vuù	bevuù	
27.	Lightning	nimbwei		
28.	Rainy Season	rekɔ̀s		
29.	Dry season	zeŋ		
30.	Harmattan	gul gokat		
31.	Year	fei	ninfei	
32.	Today	yiruŋ		
33.	Yesterday	yɔ̀		
34.	Tomorrow	hwɔ̀l		
35.	Morning			
36.	Evening			
37.	Dawn			
38.	Day	gasi	nagasi	

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
39.	Night	túruk	nin-túruk	SB
40.	Moon/month	fwel	pəl	cf. Yeskwa ufe , Ce ʼh- hél , Mada hwá , Berom pwēl , Rukul u-fye , Fyem fyél , Bo fye , but an old Niger-Congo root. Also Ron, Sha, Kulere #fen though probably a loan into Chadic.
41.	Sun	gwi		cf. Berom gwei , Aten gbei ,
42.	Star(s)	daŋaken	nin-daŋaken	
43.	Wind	gul	—	cf. Berom gul , Ayu igúl ,
44.	God	dagwi	—	
45.	Sky	dagwi		
46.	World	jei		
47.	Ground	vel		
48.	Large River	gərət	be-gərət	
49.	Stream	rət	ne-rət	
50.	Lake, pond			
51.	Forest	kət	ni-kwət	
52.	Mountain	daku	be-raku	
53.	Hill	dakol	be-rakol	
54.	Bush	hei	nin-hei	
55.	Farm			
56.	Field			
57.	Market*			
58.	Compound	lo	ni-li	
59.	Room			
60.	Wall (of room)			
61.	Thatch roof			
62.	Granary			
63.	Well			
64.	Road	gwoŋ	be-gwoŋ	
65.	Path			
66.	Village/settlement	pomo	nimpomo	
67.	River-bank	gei rət	—	
68.	Swamp/wetland			
69.	Place			
70.	Person/people	mwat swi	bemat besi	
71.	Man	rwas	beras	
72.	Woman	hwa	bexa	
73.	Child	hwei	nei	
74.	Husband			
75.	Wife			
76.	Widow			
77.	Young man			
78.	Young girl			

Roger Blench: Tahos Wordlist

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
79.	Old person			
80.	Father			
81.	Mother			
82.	Barren woman			
83.	Relations			
84.	Ancestors			
85.	Grandparents			
86.	Grandchild			
87.	Brother			
88.	Sister			
89.	Friend			
90.	Guest/stranger			
91.	King/chief/ruler			
92.	Hunter			
93.	Thief			
94.	Doctor			
95.	Witch			
96.	Corpse			
97.	Blacksmith			
98.	Woodworker			
99.	Slave			
100.	Masquerade I			
101.	Masquerade II			
102.	Masquerade III			
103.	Masquerade IV			
104.	Prophesy			
105.	Shame			
106.	Fear/fright			
107.	Bravery/courage			
108.	Laughter			
109.	Wisdom			
110.	Guilt			
111.	Anger			
112.	Race/running			
113.	Suffering			
114.	Death			
115.	Name			
116.	Grave			
117.	Song			
118.	Proverb			
119.	Story			
120.	Word			
121.	Lie			
122.	News			
123.	Hunger			

Roger Blench: Tahos Wordlist

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
124.	Horn	neŋ	be-neŋ	
125.	Tail	rum	be-rum	
126.	Egg	gi	be-gi	
127.	Wing	fabak	be-fabak	
128.	Beak			
129.	Nest			
130.	Feather			
131.	Gum/glue			
132.	Ant-hill			
133.	Hole in ground			
134.	Hole in tree			
135.	Smell			
136.	Poison			
137.	Load			
138.	Bundle			
139.	Firewood			
140.	Stick			
141.	Yam-heap			
142.	War			
143.	Work			
144.	Divination (types)			
145.	Medicine (generic)			
146.	Money			
147.	Shadow			
148.	Thing			
149.	Strength			
150.	Length			
151.	Land/country			
152.	Sleep			
153.	Disease(generic)			
154.	Smallpox			
155.	Diarrhoea			
156.	Eczema			
157.	Goitre			
158.	Boil			
159.	Sore/wound			
160.	Leprosy			
161.	Head	to	be-to	cf. Ningye tu , Mada tú but probably a vowel-change from the more common #ti- roots
162.	Eye	ryis	be-yis	
163.	Face	be-yis		
164.	Cheek	cimi	—	
165.	Forehead	tili	—	
166.	Nose	wəl	be-wəl	

Roger Blench: Tahos Wordlist

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
167.	Ear	cyoŋ	be-toŋ	SB fwóŋ,
168.	Mouth	nu	ni-nu	SB
169.	Tooth	kwin	vin	
170.	Tongue	lɛm	lɛlɛm	SB
171.	Throat	kək	hək, nenkək	
172.	Neck	co	to	
173.	Jaw	dabin	be-dabin	
174.	Chin	naŋgyek	—	
175.	Shoulder	tumvo	be-tumvo	
176.	Armpit	bayam	be-bayam	
177.	Fist			
178.	Arm	vwo	vwɔ	
179.	Hand	bekenvwo		
180.	Leg	vwəl	bəl	
181.	Foot			
182.	Thigh	cwa	ta	
183.	Knee	kət	be-kwət	
184.	Nail (Finger/toe)	kwək	bekək	
185.	Female breast	mval	nimwahal	
186.	Stomach	jim	ninzim	
187.	Chest	naŋgai	beraŋgai	
188.	Navel	kəp	be-kwəp	
189.	Back	ma	be-ma	
190.	Buttocks	ndut	bi-ndut	
191.	Penis	raha	be-raha	
192.	Vagina	ndət	be-ndət	
193.	Skin	hwo	nen-kwo	
194.	Bone	kup	be-kup	
195.	Rib			
196.	Vein	rinis	be-rinis	
197.	Blood	nimi	—	
198.	Breath	pəŋ	nimpəŋ	
199.	Tears	nimwihil	—	
200.	Saliva			
201.	Sweat	ləŋ	—	
202.	Urine	nincintos		
203.	Faeces	nimwiŋ		
204.	Hair	tət	nintət	
205.	Beard	niŋgyek	—	
206.	Liver	ryei	nin-ryei	
207.	Heart	kpəm	be-kpəm	
208.	Intestines	layal	be-layal	
209.	Body	bək	—	
210.	Meat	ces	—	

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
211.	Animal (Bush)	nyàma	nyámá	
212.	*Camel			
213.	Cow	randòŋ	be-randòŋ	
214.	Bull	gwana randòŋ	be-gana be- randòŋ	
215.	Calf			
216.	Goat	byel	jəl	
217.	He-goat	gam	be-gam	
218.	Castrated goat	gam bagayɔŋe		
219.	Sheep	cimit	címít	
220.	Ram	gam	be-gam	
221.	Castrated sheep			
222.	Dog	vu	be-vu	
223.	*Cat	ʃilum	—	
224.	*Pig	pyàm	pyam	
225.	*Horse	jwa	be-jwa	
226.	*Donkey	baduŋ batis		‘hairy antelope’
227.	Elephant	dagwa	be-gwà	
228.	Hippo			
229.	Buffalo	tsùŋùn	—	
230.	Lion			
231.	Leopard	cwòì		
232.	Hyena ²	murùm	be-murùm	
233.	Civet cat ³			
234.	Genet cat ⁴			
235.	Jackal ⁵	vù hei	bevù hei	‘dog of bush’
236.	Wart-hog ⁶	za	bejwa	
237.	Bush-pig ⁷			
238.	Duiker antelope ⁸			
239.	Kob antelope ⁹			
240.	Roan antelope ¹⁰			
241.	Porcupine ¹¹			
242.	Giant pangolin ¹²			
243.	Monkey(generic)			

² (*Crocuta crocuta*)³ (*Viverra civetta*)⁴ (*Genetta genetta*)⁵ (*Canis aureus*)⁶ (*Phacochoerus aethiopus*)⁷ (*Potamochoerus Porcus*)⁸ (*Cephalophus spp.*)⁹ (*Kobus kob*)¹⁰ (*Hippotragus equinus*)¹¹ (*Hystrix cristata*)¹² (*Manis giganteus*)

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
244.	Baboon	bəyðm	be-bəyðm	
245.	Patas monkey ¹³	ka	bè-ka	
246.	Vervet monkey ¹⁴			
247.	Colobus monkey ¹⁵			
248.	Squirrel (ground)	rək	bè-rək	
249.	Squirrel (tree)			
250.	Rat (generic)	tsù	tsùu	
251.	Bush-rat I	dzàm	bedzàm	
252.	Bush-rat II	mágàla	bebágàla	
253.	Bush-rat III			
254.	Dassie	ʃərɔŋ	ʃɔrɔŋ	
255.	Giant rat ¹⁶	gɔɔt	bègɔɔt	
256.	Fat mouse			
257.	Pygmy mouse	báryɔt	bebáryɔt	
258.	Grasscutter ¹⁷	ʃərɔŋ	ʃírɔŋ	
259.	Hedgehog ¹⁸	tsurðgð	tsùurɔgɔ	
260.	Hare ¹⁹	fèi	befèi	
261.	House-bat			
262.	Fruit-bat	gàndet	begàndet	
263.	Nile crocodile	ràrit	beràrit	
264.	Chameleon	kùgu	bekùgu	
265.	Agama lizard	vwɔm	bèbɔm	
266.	Skink	gðlɔl	bègðlɔl	
267.	Gecko	lèlèhem	bèlèlèhem	
268.	Monitor lizard (<i>damo</i>)	va	bèva	
269.	Monitor lizard (<i>xx</i>)			
270.	Toad	gwðŋ fɔyð	bègwðŋ fɔyð	
271.	Frog			
272.	Tortoise	kùŋgam	bèkùŋgam	
273.	Snake (Generic)	gðm	bègðm	
274.	Spitting cobra	ryìmu	ryìimu	
275.	Python	gðm rwèi	bègðm rwèi	
276.	Turtle			
277.	Crab	yàyara	bèyàyara	
278.	River molluscs			
279.	Fish (generic)	tðk	betðk	

¹³ (*Erythrocebus patas*)¹⁴ (*Cercopithecus aethiops*)¹⁵ (*Colobus polykomos*)¹⁶ (*Cretomyces* sp.)¹⁷ (*Thryonomys Swinderianus*)¹⁸ (*Atelerix albiventris*)¹⁹ (*Lepus Crawshayi*)

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
280.	Tilapia (spp.)			
281.	Puffer fish ²⁰			
282.	Catfish (spp.) ²¹			
283.	Nile Perch ²²			
284.	Electric fish ²³			
285.	Bird (generic)	nòn	benòn	
286.	Chicken	tsòṅḍ	tsòṅḍ	
287.	Cock	rwàyàn	be-rwàyàn	
288.	*Duck (Domestic)			
289.	Pigeon (Domestic)	gulum lè	be-gulum lè	
290.	Guinea-fowl	jìgin	jígín	
291.	Hooded Vulture ²⁴	gàjò	be-gàjò	
292.	Village Weaver ²⁵	nzweèk	be-nzweèk	
293.	Cattle-egret ²⁶	daṅan	bè-daṅan	
		dəròṅ	dəròṅ	
294.	Black kite ²⁷	nkwen	bè-nkwen	
295.	Standard-wing Night-jar			
296.	Owl (various spp.)	yèṅge	be-yèṅge	
297.	Grey Parrot ²⁸			
298.	Senegal Coucal ²⁹			
299.	Bush- fowl/partridge			
300.	Swallow			
301.	*Pied crow ³⁰			
302.	Woodpecker			
303.	Insect (Generic)			
304.	Scorpion	lyàṅ	—	
305.	Butterfly			
306.	Dragon-fly			
307.	Mosquito	nze merèṅ	benzè béréṅ	
308.	Spider ³¹	yù	yuù	
309.	Mason wasp ³²			

²⁰ (*Tetraodon fahaka*)²¹ (*Synodontis* spp.)²² (*Lates niloticus*)²³ (*Malapterurus electricus*)²⁴ (*Neophron monachus*)²⁵ (*Ploceus cucullatus*)²⁶ (*Ardeola ibis*)²⁷ (*Milvus migrans*)²⁸ (*Poicephalus senegalus*)²⁹ (*Centropus* spp.)³⁰ (*Corvus albus*)³¹ (*Acarina* spp.)³² (*Belenogaster* spp.)

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
310.	Bee	ʃɔk	ʃɔ̀k	
311.	Sweat-fly			
312.	Sandfly			
313.	Housefly	tsiŋ	tsīŋ	
314.	Ant (Generic)	kinsoi	ninsoi	
315.	Louse (Human)	ɲyàna	ɲana	
316.	Millipede			
317.	Cockroach			
318.	Termite	lèl	leel	
319.	Flying-ant			
320.	Grasshopper	dabər̀k	be-dabər̀k	
321.	Praying mantis			
322.	Firefly			
323.	Giant Cricket			
324.	Earthworm			
325.	Giant Snail	gùm weyelek	be-gùm weyelek	
326.	Soap (Traditional)			
327.	Oil	nèi	—	
328.	Fat/grease	mvwɛp	—	
329.	Salt	nìmvahà	—	
330.	Soup/stew	lɛŋ	—	
331.	Porridge	túk	nintuk	
332.	Sorghum-beer	tsiŋ		
333.	Palm-wine			
334.	Peelings			
335.	Filter			
336.	Rag			
337.	Floor-beater			
338.	Handle (of tool)			
339.	Sickle			
340.	Cutlass			
341.	Iron	dyàm	bèdyàm	
342.	Axe	cɛm	cèɛm	
343.	Adze			
344.	Hoe I	rɔn	rɔ̀n	large hoe
345.	Hoe II			
346.	Hoe III			
347.	Hammer			
348.	Knife	ba	bèba	
349.	Comb			
350.	Broom			
351.	Bag			
352.	Sack			

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
353.	Fireplace			
354.	Shoe			
355.	Cloth			
356.	Grindstone (top)			
357.	Grindstone (lower)			
358.	Mortar (wood)			
359.	Pestle			
360.	Pot (generic)			
361.	Pot I			
362.	Pot II			
363.	Pot III			
364.	Pot IV			
365.	Head-pad	kàra	nìnkàra	
366.	Basket (generic)			
367.	Basket I			
368.	Basket II			
369.	Winnowing tray			
370.	Mat (generic)			
371.	Mat I			
372.	Needle	kwe	ke	
373.	Spear	bara	be-bara	
374.	Bow	mbaŋ	be-mbaŋ	
375.	Arrow	kwe	be-ke	
376.	Quiver	ko	be-ko	
377.	Chain			
378.	Rope			
379.	Stool			
380.	Wooden door			
381.	Fence			
382.	Bridge			
383.	Ladder			
384.	Canoe			
385.	Paddle			
386.	Bee-hive			
387.	Fish-Net			
388.	Fish-trap I			
389.	Fish-trap II			
390.	Fish-trap III			
391.	Snare			
392.	One	gwiriŋ		
393.	Two	bera		
394.	Three	betat		
395.	Four	benas		
396.	Five	betuŋun		

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
397.	Six	becimi		
398.	Seven	betama		
399.	Eight	ru		
400.	Nine	zɔŋ		
401.	Ten	beʃabəba		
402.	Eleven	ʃabəba		
		dùwè		
		gwiriŋ		
403.	Twelve	kuru		
404.	Twenty	kuru nyèn		
405.	Twenty-four			
406.	Forty			
407.	Sixty			
408.	Eighty			
409.	Hundred			
410.	Black			
411.	White			
412.	Red			
413.	Sweet			
414.	Bitter			
415.	Half			
416.	Hot			
417.	Cold			
418.	Old			
419.	New			
420.	Wet			
421.	Dry			
422.	Smooth			
423.	Add to	begwei		
424.	Answer (question)			
425.	Arrive	vè		
426.	Ask a question	laŋan		
427.	Ask/beg for something	lolo		
428.	Awaken (s.o.)	sɔyɔ		
429.	Bark (dog)	mbu		
430.	Be bent	gunu		
431.	Be heavy	te		
432.	Be on (s.t.)			
433.	Be rotten	bɔxɔ		
434.	Be short			
435.	Beat (drum)	ɖak		
436.	Beat (s.o.)			
437.	Become dry	kɔrɔk		

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
438.	Begin	pere		
439.	Bite	rət		
440.	Blow (flute etc.)	pəhel		
441.	Boil	fu		
442.	Build (house etc.)	lək		
443.	Burn (fire burns)	ras		
444.	Bury	hou		
445.	Buy	se		
446.	Call (to someone)	yuhu		
447.	Carry	jut		
448.	Carve (wood etc.)	səp		
449.	Catch	vo		
450.	Chew	taŋan		
451.	Choose	kaha		
452.	Climb	tùu		
453.	Close	baŋ		
454.	Come	ve		
455.	Come out (of room)	nuhu		
456.	Continue (to do s.t.)	cime		
457.	Cook	ki		
458.	Cough	kəyɔ		
459.	Count	baha		
460.	Cover	kiri		
461.	Cut down (tree)	gaŋ		
462.	Cut in two	gas		
463.	Cut off (head etc.)	yere		
464.	Dance	dzayas		
465.	Die	ku		
466.	Dig (earth etc.)	tsiŋ		
467.	Divide/share			
468.	Do/make	rá		
469.	Drag	kwɔɔ		
470.	Draw water	kwɔɔ		
471.	Dream			
472.	Drink	sɔ		
473.	Drop	kálá		
474.	Dry in sun	tene		
475.	Eat	re	rere	
476.	Enter	ləl		
477.	Extinguish	yimi		
478.	Fall (rain)	rɔp		
479.	Fall over	ʃala		

Roger Blench: Tahos Wordlist

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
480.	Fear	ninyip		
481.	Feel (cold etc.)	vau		
482.	Fight (in war)	tsomɔ		
483.	Fill			
484.	Finish (a task)	tala		
485.	Float			
486.	Flog	dak		
487.	Flow (water etc.)	tele		
488.	Fly (birds)	tsogɔn		
489.	Fold (cloth etc.)	gaba		
490.	Follow	lahal		
491.	Forget	yiban		
492.	Fry (in oil)	kalaŋ		
493.	Gather/collect	wana		
494.	Get	se		
495.	Give	nɔŋ		
496.	Give birth	tɔ		
497.	Go	ke		
498.	Go out/exit	nu		
499.	Grind	hɔŋɔ		
500.	Grow (plants)	ras		
501.	Hatch (egg)	kwɛk		
502.	Have			
503.	Hear	wɔk		
504.	Hit/strike (drum)			
505.	Hoe	ko		
506.	Hunt	jama		
507.	Jump	gile		
508.	Kill	mɔrɔ		
509.	Kneel	ye guruk		
510.	Know	tɔk		
511.	Laugh	seyes		
512.	Learn	maha		
513.	Lick	mɛlɛm		
514.	Lie down	dɛŋ		
515.	Listen	wɔrɔs		
516.	Lose s.t.	vit		
517.	Marry	wɛrɛŋ		
518.	Mix	wana		
519.	Mould (pot)	lɔk		
520.	Open	wɔrɔt		
521.	Pierce/stab	vwara		
522.	Plait (hair)	tak		
523.	Plant (crop etc.)	tus		

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
524.	Play	dzɔŋɔ		
525.	Pound (in mortar)	tɔɔ		
526.	Pour (liquid)	tsuhu		
527.	Pull	kulɔt		
528.	Punch	ru		
529.	Push	gaŋ		
530.	Put on (clothes)	te		
531.	Receive	se		
532.	Refuse	keme		
533.	'Remain'	vwaŋa		
534.	Remember	bara		
535.	Resemble	teŋ		
536.	Return	tue		
537.	Ride (horse etc.)	tu		
538.	Roast on coals	raŋa		
539.	Rub	mɔmɔ		
540.	Run	tele		
541.	Say/speak	ka		
542.	Scatter			
543.	See	di		
544.	Seek	caŋa		
545.	Sell	lehel		
546.	Send	tomo		
547.	Set trap	te nyaŋ		
548.	Sew	tolo		
549.	Shake I	digis		
550.	Shake II	dugu		
551.	Sharpen	lou		
552.	Shoot (arrow, gun)	ta		
553.	Sing	lwele		
554.	Sit down	saŋan		
555.	Slap	fala		
556.	Slaughter (animal)	yere		
557.	Sleep	deŋ		
558.	Smash	mɔrɔ		
559.	Smell	ninsaŋ		
560.	Snap in two	kɔrɔ		
561.	Sow seeds	tu		
562.	Spit	tul		
563.	Split			
564.	Stand up	tsɔŋɔ		
565.	Steal	ʃigi		
566.	Stir (soup)	suk		
567.	Suck (breast etc.)	sɔ		

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No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
568.	Surpass	kwe		
569.	Swallow	wələk		
570.	Sweep	yinis		
571.	Swell	fu		
572.	Swim			
573.	Take	se		
574.	Tear (cloth etc.)	lehe		
575.	Tell	ka		
576.	Throw	ta		
577.	Throw spear	toro		
578.	Tie	rəyəs		
579.	Touch	ra		
580.	Twist (rope etc.)	nihi		
581.	Untie	virī		
582.	Uproot (tuber)	tsiŋ		
583.	Vomit	kəs		
584.	Walk	ke		
585.	Want/need	simi		
586.	Warm	pəyəs		
587.	Wash	ku		
588.	Wear	te		
589.	Weave			
590.	Weed	dak		
591.	Weep	toho		
592.	Wipe	yijis		
593.	Work	fəm		
594.	Yawn	xau		
595.	I	mɛ		
596.	You	hwo		
597.	He/she/it	yɛ		
598.	we	wət		
599.	you pl.	wət		
600.	They	yɛn		
601.	Who?	wa		
602.	Which?			
603.	What?	iyaha		
604.	When?			
605.	Where?	waha		

Edible and Useful Plants

No.	Gloss	Singular	Plural	Commentary
606.	Guinea-yam ³³	nki	benki	
607.	Aerial yam ³⁴	ntɔ	bentɔ	
608.	Red yam ³⁵			
609.	Water-yam ³⁶	nkwaŋ	be-nkwaŋ	
610.	Taro (Old cocoyam) ³⁷	jwe	be-je	
611.	New cocoyam ^{38*}	kubo	be-kubo	
612.	Cassava ^{*39}	rɔyɔ		
613.	Sweet potato ^{*40}	dawul	be-dawul	
614.	Wild yam I			
615.	Wild yam II			
616.	Tumuku ⁴¹	kubuk		
617.	Rizga ⁴²	kumvat	be-kumvat	
618.	Sorghum ⁴³	yarake	—	
619.	Bulrush millet ⁴⁴ (<i>gero</i>)	ngei		
620.	Bulrush millet (<i>maiwa</i>)			
621.	Eleusine ^{*45}	padaŋ		
622.	Fonio (H. <i>acca</i>) ⁴⁶	tsun		
623.	Iburu (H. <i>iburu</i>) ⁴⁷	kɔhɔrɔk		
624.	Maize ^{*48}	yaram vwi		
625.	Rice ^{*49}	tsunceŋ		
626.	Cowpea ⁵⁰	ʃala		
627.	Spiral cowpea			
628.	Lima bean ^{51*}			
629.	Other beans I			
630.	Other beans II			
631.	Other beans III			
632.	Bambara groundnut ⁵²	wɔk		

³³ (*Dioscorea guineensis*)³⁴ (*Dioscorea bulbifera*)³⁵ (*Dioscorea cayenensis*)³⁶ (*Dioscorea alata*)³⁷ (*Colocasia esculenta*)³⁸ (*Xanthosoma mafaffa*) (H. wali)³⁹ (*Manihot esculenta*)⁴⁰ (*Ipomoea batatas*)⁴¹ (*Plectranthus esculentus*)⁴² (*Solenostemon rotundifolius*)⁴³ (*Sorghum bicolor*)⁴⁴ (*Pennisetum* spp.)⁴⁵ (H. tamba) (*Eleusine coracana*)⁴⁶ (*Digitaria exilis*)⁴⁷ (*Digitaria iburua*)⁴⁸ (*Zea mays*)⁴⁹ (*Oryza sativa/ glaberrima*)⁵⁰ (*Vigna unguiculata*)⁵¹ (*Phaseolus lunatus*)⁵² (*Vigna subterranea*)

Roger Blench: Tahos Wordlist

633.	Kersting's ground-nut ⁵³			
634.	Groundnut (Peanut) ⁵⁴	yaba		
635.	Tiger-nut ⁵⁵	ncuo		
636.	Garden egg ⁵⁶	cal		
637.	Okra ⁵⁷	leŋ		
638.	Chili pepper* (large) ⁵⁸	ʃoŋɔl		
639.	Birdseye chili* ⁵⁹			
640.	Onion (<i>Allium cepa</i>)	neŋcuram mas		
641.	Garlic ⁶⁰			
642.	Tomato ⁶¹	matiri		
643.	Egusi melon ⁶²	yererɛŋ		
644.	Melon (other) ⁶³	mbal		
645.	Edible squash ⁶⁴	be		
646.	Sorrel/roselle ⁶⁵	ʃat		
647.	Jews' mallow ⁶⁶			
648.	Kenaf ⁶⁷	ʃen jwa		
649.	Sesame seeds ⁶⁸	jera		
650.	Black sesame ⁶⁹			
651.	Sesame leaves ⁷⁰			
652.	Bitterleaf ⁷¹	tulup		
653.	Waterleaf* ⁷²			
654.	Plantain (<i>Musa</i> AAB)			
655.	Banana (<i>Musa</i> AAA)			
656.	Orange* ⁷³			
657.	Bamboo			
658.	Pineapple* ⁷⁴			
659.	Coconut* ⁷⁵			
660.	Pawpaw* ⁷⁶			

⁵³ (*Macrotyloma geocarpa*)

⁵⁴ (*Arachis hypogaea*)

⁵⁵ (*Cyperus esculentus*)

⁵⁶ (*Solanum melongena*)

⁵⁷ (*Abelmoschus esculentus*)

⁵⁸ (*Capsicum frutescens*)

⁵⁹ (*Capsicum annuum*)

⁶⁰ (*Allium sativum*)

⁶¹ (*Lycopersicon esculentum*)

⁶² (*Citrullus lanatus*)

⁶³ (*Cucumis* spp)

⁶⁴ (*Cucurbita pepo*)

⁶⁵ (*H. yakuwa*) (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*)

⁶⁶ (*H. lalo*)(*Corchorus olitorius*)

⁶⁷ (*H. rama*) (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)

⁶⁸ (*H. Riđi*) (*Sesamum indicum*)

⁶⁹ (*Sesamum radiatum*)

⁷⁰ (*H. karkashi*)

⁷¹ *Vernonia amygdalina*

⁷² (*Amaranthus* spp)

⁷³ (*Citrus sinensis*)

⁷⁴ (*Ananas comosus*)

⁷⁵ (*Cocos nucifera*)

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661.	Gourd (Generic)			
662.	Gourd-bottle ⁷⁷			
663.	Gourd (spherical) ⁷⁸			
664.	Other gourds			
665.	Cotton			
666.	Tobacco*			
667.	Sugar-cane*			
668.	Loofah ⁷⁹ (H. <i>soso</i>)			
669.	Cola			
670.	Oil-palm ⁸⁰			
671.	Palm-fruit			
672.	Palm-oil			
673.	Palm kernel			
674.	Raphia/ bamboo palm ⁸¹			
675.	Fan-palm ⁸²	cɔgɔl		
676.	Monkey-guava ⁸³			
677.	Canarium tree ⁸⁴	fwat		
678.	Custard apple ⁸⁵			
679.	Wild date-palm ⁸⁶	tet		
680.	Baobab ⁸⁷	leŋ		
681.	Silk-cotton tree ⁸⁸	kugul		
682.	Shea tree ⁸⁹			
683.	Shea-fruit			
684.	Locust tree ⁹⁰	daron	be-daron	
685.	Locust fruit			
686.	Locust-bean cakes			
687.	Euphorbia	ryèp	ryep	
688.	Tamarind ⁹¹			
689.	Sodom apple ⁹²			
690.	<i>Terminalia</i> sp. ⁹³			
691.	Black plum ⁹⁴	dinkin		

⁷⁶ (*Carica papaya*)

⁷⁷ (*Lagenaria siceraria*)

⁷⁸ (*Cucurbita maxima*)

⁷⁹ (*Luffa cylindrica*)

⁸⁰ (*Elaeis guineensis*)

⁸¹ (*Raphia* spp.)

⁸² (*Borassus aethiopum*)

⁸³ (*Diospyros mespiliformis*)

⁸⁴ (*Canarium schweinfurthii*)

⁸⁵ (*Annona senegalensis*)

⁸⁶ (*Phoenix reclinata*)

⁸⁷ (*Adansonia digitata*)

⁸⁸ (*Ceiba pentandra*)

⁸⁹ (*Vitellaria paradoxa*)

⁹⁰ (*Parkia biglobosa*)

⁹¹ (*Tamarindus indica*)

⁹² (*Calotropis procera* H. tumfafiya)

⁹³ (*H. baushe*)

⁹⁴ (*Vitex doniana*)

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