

Bafut plant names

Bafut, 25-27/1/10
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N.B. These identifications were based on a preliminary workshop held in Bafut 24-27th January 2010. Bafut region has undergone severe ecological degradation and as a consequence, many plants and animals are now unfamiliar to people. As a consequence, identifications should be treated with caution.

Plants

Trees and vines

Identifications and page numbers from Arbonnier (2009)

IPA	O sg.	O pl.	Class	English	Latin	Page	Comments
àdʒòò	àjòò	ì	7/8	plum tree			
àfá'á				cactus ?			
àkīkwéé				tree sp.			
àlà'á	àlà'á	ì	7/8	cactus	<i>Euphorbia kamerunica</i>	294	
àmbùrè	àmbùrè	b	1/2	tree sp.	<i>Vitex madiensis</i>	512	cocoyam grows well around tree, fruits and leaves fertilise the soil
àmfalòò				tree sp.			
àsòkīkwéé	àsòkīkwéé	b	1/2	vine sp.			heavy stem, contains much water
àswè'ènè				tree sp.			
àtī stām	àtī stām	ì	7/8	tree sp.	<i>Euphorbia paganorum & E. sudanica</i>	297	
bàṅè	bàṅè	bì	1/2	tree sp.			tree with sap that is red as blood
bàṅè mfíí				tree sp.			
bjáà	byáà	bì	1/2	avocado			
dʒáṅé				tree sp.			
dʒíṅé	jìṅè	bì	1/2	tree sp.	<i>Syzygium guineense</i>	425	gives good firewood
fə'ə	fə'ə	bì	1/2	tree sp.			
fīgè	fīgè	bì	1/2	fig tree			
fimfāṅ	fimfāṅ	--	7	mysopsis			

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fīnā'ā		nì		tree sp.			
fūgə		bì		tree sp.			probably Sodom apple
fúrisə gārə	furisə gārə	bì	1/2	eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus spp.</i>		engl. 'forest guard'
ìbà'á		mì		tree sp.			
ìyèēkò				tree sp.			
ìyùm				tree sp.			
ìkòò	ìkòò	--	3	black plum	<i>Vitex doniana</i>	511	edible sweet black fruits
ìlùŋ		mì		tree sp.			
ìwàrə		mì		tree sp.			
kíŋə	kíŋə	bì	1/2	tree sp.	<i>Uvaria chamae</i>	158	
kúni'ī	kuni'i	bì	1/2	tree sp.	<i>Ipomoea carnea</i>	281	
kwēè		bì		tree sp.			
làà	làà	bì	1/2	tree sp.	<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i>	298	
làànténtə				Sodom apple	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	180	
lâmsi	lâmsi	bì	1/2	orange tree	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>		< English
líí				tree sp.			
nìdzàà'á	nìdzwà'á	--	1	mistletoe	<i>Tapinanthus spp.</i>	348	probably generic for all the mistletoes
mâyúumə				tree sp.			
mâyūumə	mâghūmə	bì	1/2	tree sp.			big tree
mâŋgōrə	mâŋgorə	bì	1/2	mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>		
mâŋgwéŋàŋ				tree sp.			
m̄bāŋ ìkòbè	m̄baŋ ìkòbè	--	9/10	coconut	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>		
m̄birə	m̄birə	--	3	tree sp.	<i>Canarium?</i>		black fruits
m̄ìdzàŋ	m̄ìdzàŋ	--	6	castor	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	306	
m̄ìkó'ó'mí	m̄ìkó'ó mi	--	6	tree sp.	<i>Tephrosia vogelii</i>	328	lit. 'beans of hawk'
máyōō	máyōō						
ndzàrə				tree sp.			
nìbè nī máyóó				tree sp.			
nìbèəmbí				tree sp.			
nìbwèè				tree sp.			
nìdàà				tree sp.			
nìfùm				tree sp.			
nìyə□	nìyə	mì	5/6	kola tree	<i>Cola nitida</i>		

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nìkàṅnìkúrìsì				tree sp.			
nìkjê				tree sp.			
nìnîṅkwà'á				tree sp.			
nìtíi	nìtíi	mì	5/6	raffia palm	<i>Raphia sudanica</i>	179	
ṅsàrà				tree sp.			
nsàrè	nsàrè	--	9	tree sp.			gives small black fruits
ṅtànṅ	ṅtànṅ	--	9/10	tree sp.	<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>	411	
ṅtànṅ bònṅ	ṅtànṅ bònṅ	--	3	tree sp.	<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i>	153	
ṅtànṅ kàà	ṅtànṅ kàà	--	3	tree sp.	<i>Rhus natalensis</i>	152	
ṅtṣá'á				tree sp.			
ṅgà'á				tree sp.			
ṅkò'ò	ṅkò'ò	--	9/10	tree sp.	<i>Acacia ataxacantha</i>	360	
ṅkòṅ	ṅkòṅ	--	3	wild date palm	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	178	
sàrè	sàrè	bì	1/2	tree sp.	<i>Lannea acida</i>	140	
tṣínìgúrò				tree sp.			

Weeds, grasses and wild plants

Page numbers refer to Akobundu & Agyakwa (1998) *A handbook of West African weeds*. IITA Ibadan. The following identifications were based on a primary interview circle. Numerous plants were identified but the names were not known.

English	Latin	IPA	O sg.	O pl.	Class	Page	Comments
Bahama grass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	nìyūāṅgwè	nìghuāṅgwè	--	1	469	manure, medicinal: children with prepetition (báré), gonorrhoea
balsam pear	<i>Momordica charantia</i>	m̀b̀ò'ò nīlū	m̀b̀ò'ò nīlū	m̀i	5/6	247	medicinal use of fruits
black nightshade	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	àfù'è̀tìmà'á	àfù'è̀tìmà'á	ì	7/8	403	leaf vegetable, berries poisonous
blackjack	<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	ṅtànṅtìmmīi	ṅtànṅtìmmīi	b̀i	1/2	169	leaf vegetable; medicinal use for typhoid/malaria; children play by hanging the burs on eyebrows
blanketgrass	<i>Rhyncheletrum repens</i>	ṅgèèṅgùrè	ṅgèèṅgùrè	--	9	525	
bracken generic		nìyōṅè	nìghoṅè	m̀i	5/6	445	strain palm-wine, healing

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fleabane	<i>Conyza sumatrensis</i>	mìkòŋ mībòŋkxə	mìkòŋ mibòŋkhə	nì nī	5/6	175	et. “children’s spear”
goatweed	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	tʃəmâmbòð	tsəmâmbòð	bì	1/2	163	medicinal use
grass sp.	<i>Cymbopogon giganteus</i>	mâlā’à	mâla’à	bì	1/2	467	et. “mother of country”. used for leaf messages (<i>nitusũŋnə</i> 5/6)
grass sp.	<i>Pennisetum pedicellatum</i>	àsìsòŋ	àsisòŋ	ì	7/8	515	generic, fertiliser
guava		àŋgwābà	àŋgwabà	b-	1/2		use leaves for cough, diarrhoea
haemorrhage plant	<i>Aspilia africana</i>	nìγàrìŋgèè	nìghàrìŋgèè	bì	1/2	165	used to stop bleeding in wounds; in combination used for gastric problems
lion’s ear	<i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i>	m̄f̄f̄ù	m̄f̄f̄ù	bì	1/2	283	de-alcoholising palm wine; infusion used for rheumatism
lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis tremula</i>	dʒùà’ədʒùà’à	jwà’ájwà’à	--	1	487	onomatopoeia: sound grass makes when crushed. used to make bird traps with sticky lime
nettleweed	<i>Laportea aestuans</i>	àsìsì mīkòð	àsisì mìkòð	ì	7/8	413	et. “threat of the masquerade”. medicinal use
pigweed	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i>	ìfèè	ìfèè		1	149	vegetable
plant sp.		àkwāndʒìm	àkwānjìm	ì	7/8		boil leaves to relieve itching skin.
plant sp.		âwàâwàà	âwàâwàà	--	7		big
plant sp.		b̄əris̄ĩmb̄i	b̄əris̄ĩmb̄i	bì	1/2		et. “planted by goats”
plant sp.		àtʃis̄ə	àtʃis̄ə	ì	7/8		correct when child has wrong position in womb
plant sp.		n̄ìdʒìdʒì’ìn̄ĩ ŋḡù	n̄ìdʒìdʒì’ìn̄ĩ ŋḡù	--	5		juice from leaves can be used to open up blocked ears
plant sp.		b̄ãŋndʒìm		--	1		grass green and red, bleeds red
plant sp.		ŋḡà’anwì	ŋḡà’anwì	--	9/10		shrub
plant sp.		sùḡit̄əl̄ù	sùḡit̄əl̄ù	bì	1/2		used to increase wine flow from raphia palm
plant sp.		nt̄ʃàát̄ʃò’ò	nt̄ʃàát̄ʃò’ò	--	9/10		medicinal use, children eat red seeds
plant sp.		ndʒì’ìnwì	ndʒì’ìnwì	--	9/10		
plant sp.	<i>Combretum racemosum</i>	àlānsyè	àlānsyê	b-	1/2	219	flowers used for decoration
plant sp.	<i>Gomphrena celosioides</i>	àγùmnnəmb̄i	àghùmnnəmb̄i	--	7	157	in combination used to treat hiccoughs
plant sp.	<i>Justicia flava</i>	àsìsì	àsisì	ì	7/8	136	make rope from it

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roofing grass	<i>Hyparrhenia involucrata</i>	ɲgɛ̀ɛ̀bwíí	ɲgɛ̀ɛ̀bwii	--	9	493	roofing grass
sandpaper tree	<i>Ficus exasperata</i>	àwĩ	àwĩ	ì	7/8	361	smooth wood with leaves, bark used for treating cough spleen, dried powdered leaves used to make infusion to counteract hypertension
sarsaparilla	<i>Smilax anceps</i>	̀̀ndĩgè	̀̀ndĩgè	mì	3/6	543	roots used for healing
sensitive plant	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	mã̀ngũmbõmbòò	mã̀ngũmbõmbòò	bì	1/2	315	
speargrass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	nègì	nègì	bì	1/2	497	roots edible (sweet); medicinal use
tamborkiegrass	<i>Hyperthelia dissoluta</i>	ɲkĩ̀ɲkà'à	ɲkĩ̀ɲkà'à		9/10	495	planted to harvest a beetle sp. <i>firə</i> □ <i>nsĩ̀ɲnə̀</i> (19/6) that is eaten fried
thistle	<i>Acanthus montanus</i>	àná'áná'à	àná'ána'à		1	127	medicinal use
turkeyberry	<i>Solanum torvum</i>	̀̀ntʃĩ̀bĩ̀ndzò̀ɲ	̀̀ntsĩ̀binjò̀ɲ	--	9	405	
velvet tamarind	<i>Dialium guineense</i>	ìkòò	ìkòò	--	1	299	
wandering jew	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	ɲkwà'à	ɲkwà'à	--	1	431	put on wounds, juice from leaves used to quicken delivery
wild Cape gooseberry	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	nìdʒĩ	nĩjĩ	mì	5/6	397	fruits edible
wild jute	<i>Hibiscus asper</i>	kómbìn	kómbìn	bì	1/2	345	leaves eaten raw/boiled with honey for cough
wild lettuce	<i>Launaea taraxicifolia</i>	nìlààntõ̀ɲ	nìlààntõ̀ɲ	--	1	181	leaf vegetable, raw or cooked
wireweed	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	̀̀nsũmbā'ā	̀̀nsũmbā'ā	--	9	357	juice from leaves used to fix cracked/ leaking calabashes

Mushrooms and funguses

IPA	O sg.	O pl.	Class	Comments
ìbò'ò	ìbò'ò	mì	3/6	mushroom generic
ìbò'ò sàà	ìbò'ò sàà	mì	3/6	ground, small, brown cap, edible
ìbò'ò ñgò'ò	ìbò'ò ñgò'ò	mì	3/6	ground, edible, large, on termite mounts
ìbò'ò nwí	ìbò'ò nwí	mì	3/6	ground, inedible
ìbò'ò nítòò	ìbò'ò nítòò	mì	3/6	ground, large, edible, Feb/Mar
mìmfūmfú	mìmfumfu	--	6	ground, edible, small, tasty, on termite mounts, Jun/Jul
mìntwōrè/	mìntworè/	--	6	ground, medium size (~ 5 cm), edible, Aug/Sep, brown cap
mìntwērè	mìntwerè			
fìrêñdzurè	fìrêñjwòrè	mì	19/6	rotten tree, edible, black, ear shape, all through wet season
àntàñêswègè	àntàñêswègè	--		tree, edible but tough, usually wrapped in a leaf for 2 days to soften before cooking, all year (when cool and wet), white
mìñkīñká'á	mìñkīñka'a	--	6	tree, rotten tree, white, edible, all year
ìbò'ò ntá'á	ìbò'ò nta'á	mì	3/6	big, inedible, after cattle passes, yellow
ìbò'ò mīrīndzi	ìbò'ò mīrīñji	mì	3/6	fly mushroom, white, medium
ìbò'ò tí	ìbò'ò ti	mì	3/6	tree mushroom