

Malimba is a dialect of Duala spoken by the Balimba people on the sea-coast of Cameroun northwest of Edea. There are six Malimba villages situated in two areas of the Sanaga-Maritime Division of the Littoral Province of Cameroon. The first area is just north of Edea (Malimba and Malimba Farm). The other area is west of Mouanko (Maljedu, Malmbenge, Bongo, and Mulongo) in Mouanko Subdivision. The only study of the language is a rapid sociolinguistic appraisal by Lamberty (2002). Many of the Malimba have migrated inland and become farmers and relatively few seem to fish on the sea on a regular basis. Their knowledge of river fish was generally better than sea fish. As a consequence we found that informants tended to give us Duala terms or to have forgotten the original term, even when they recognised the fish. As a result, we had two sessions with different informants; the resulting data seems to be reasonably accurate when compared with the Malimba terms in Vivien (1991).

Our informants were;

Malimba (pl. Balimba)

Elessa Jaques

Malimba à Edea

Ngale Mathieu

Ebandjo Louis

**Table 1. Malimba fish names**

<b>P.</b>	<b>sg.</b>	<b>pl.</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Latin</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	ndómé	--	shark gen.			
S51	dùbà	mùbà	ray generic	pastenaque	<i>Dasyatis spp.</i>	
	dʒúáŋgè	--	sawfish	poisson scie	<i>Pristis microdon</i>	
	èkéké	b+	moony	poisson-chandelle	<i>Psettias sebae</i>	
S97	èlóló	b+	sardine	sardine	<i>Sardinella aurita</i>	
101	épà	bé-	bonga shad	ethmalose	<i>Ethmalosa fimbriata</i>	
435	è-pòndzó	bè-	biglip grunt	dorade grise	<i>Plectorhynchus macrolepis</i>	

Malimba fish names

P.	sg.	pl.	English	French	Latin	Comments
S51ff.	é-tútúmà	bé-	guitarfish	raie-guitare	<i>Rhinobatos spp.</i>	
441	èyáwà	bè-	sicklefish, disco fish	disque, drepane africain	<i>Drepane africana</i>	
S83	hòndè	--	ladyfish	guinée copace, hareng bâtard	<i>Elops lacerta</i>	
V360	húmè	bè-	sea catfish	mâchoiron	<i>Arius heudeloti</i>	
S325	húwé á màhèlù		royal threadfin	capitaine-moustache	<i>Pentanemus quinquarius</i>	
S145	yóndó	b+	rockfish	rascasse	<i>Scorpaena spp.</i>	
430	kàṅgá	--	snapper	Carpe rose	<i>Lutjanus endecacanthus, L. goreensis</i>	
425	kókókó	--	two-colour jack	carangue bicolore	<i>Hemicaranx bicolor</i>	
	kókòlè/kókèlè	--	Senegal kingfish	Carangue du Senegal	<i>Caranx senegallus</i>	
494	díbèṅgì	má-	lesser threadfin	capitaine-plexiglas	<i>Galeoïdes decadactylus</i>	
S175	kóṅgò	--	dara	croco à gros yeux	<i>Parakuhlia macrophthalmus</i>	
S351	lómó	ṅómó	tongue-sole	sole-langue	<i>Cynoglossus senegalensis, C. monodi</i>	
	ṁbái	--	giant threadfin	gros capitaine	<i>Polydactylus quadrifilis</i>	
439	ṁbókí m <sup>w</sup> á myéṁdì	mì			<i>Pseudotolithus senegalensis</i>	
487	ṁbòó	--	mullet	mulet à grandes nageoires	<i>Liza falcipinnis</i>	
83	móṁndê	--	Senegal ladyfish	guinée du Sénégal	<i>Elops senegalensis</i>	
S275	mùhíò	mì-			<i>Pseudotolithus sp.</i>	
?	mùhòdí má túbê				?	'Hepsetus odoe of the sea'
95, 97	mùlóló	mì-	sardine	sardine	<i>Sardinella aurita</i>	
	mùtòṁdò	mì-	crevally jack, kingfish	grande carangue	<i>Caranx hippos</i>	
S103	múyòù	mí-	razorfish	rasoir	<i>Ilisha africana</i>	
S319	mwábó	mì-	barracuda	petit barracuda à bande dorée	<i>Sphyræna guachancho, S. afra</i>	
	ṅṅó yà túbê		moray	murène	<i>Muraena spp.</i>	snake of sea
S279	ṅṅèṁdì	--	law croaker	bossu	<i>Pseudotolithus elongatus</i>	wrong ID
361	númè	--	roughead sea catfish	mâchoiron	<i>Arius laticutatus</i>	
207/209	ṅgópé	--	terai pompano	pompaneau	<i>Trachinotus terai</i>	
436	ṅgówè	--	sompat grunt	grondeur sompat	<i>Pomadasyus jubelini</i>	
S323	sê	--	threadfin, shine-nose	capitaine	<i>Polydactylus quadrifilis</i>	

## Malimba fish names

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S107	ʃèndá	--	sea catfish	mâchoiron	<i>Arius heudeloti</i>	
V515	mùkòngò	mì-	mudskipper		<i>Periophthalmus papilio</i>	
?	éwèi	b+			?	
F171	mùhàdé	mì-	lobster			
	kô		snail			
	kúdù		turtle			
<b>Fresh</b>						
V352	ilèi	mà-		petit machoiron d'eau douce		
247	ṅgùnú	--			<i>Auchenoglanis biscutatus</i>	
108	m̀páhè	mì-			<i>Brycinus macrolepidotus</i>	
V107	m̀báándè	--			<i>Brycinus longipinnis</i>	
V6	ṅkòl bóṅgó	--			<i>Calamoichthys calabaricus</i>	
V39	hém̀bè	--			<i>Campylomormyrus phantasticus</i>	
V41	m̀hópò	mì-			<i>Campylomormyrus tandua</i>	
140	ṅópé	--			<i>Distichodus rostratus</i>	
V42	ènáṅgè				<i>Genyomyrus donnyi</i>	
267	ṅgáṅgá	lò-			<i>Chrysicthys walkeri</i>	
V267	ṅgóngò	--			<i>Chrysicthys walkeri</i>	
95	m̀hòdí	mì-			<i>Hepsetus odoe</i>	
122	m̀wéénjò	--	tigerfish		<i>Hydrocynus vittatus</i>	P. binga
52	ndé̀bè	--			<i>Isycthyis henryi</i>	
V316	d̀ṅnúmà	má-	electric fish	poisson courant	<i>Malapterurus electricus</i>	
316	d̀ín				<i>Malapterurus electricus</i>	
V419	m̀hímà	mì-	snakehead	poisson-vipere	<i>Parachanna obscura</i>	
?	m̀wàndzá mòtò	--			<i>Pellonula afzeliusi</i>	

Malimba fish names

P.	sg.	pl.	English	French	Latin	Comments
V65	mùhùpùlú				<i>Mormyrops deliciosus</i>	
76	ètùlù yá màdíbà				<i>Mormyrus tapirus</i>	
V31	mbêm	--			<i>Papyrocranus afer</i>	
V286	jàtá	--			<i>Eutropius brevianalis</i>	sweet water
V23	hámbà	--			<i>Pellonula afzeliusi</i>	
V23	ngáŋgè	--			<i>Pellonula afzeliusi</i>	
352	ílèí	mà-			<i>Synodontis sp.</i>	
541	ndèn ndèn dùmè	-	puffer fish	poisson-globe	<i>Tetraodon sp.</i>	

**Table 2. Malimba maritime vocabulary**

sg.	pl.	English	French
kòndzè		poorly made canoe	pirogue mal fabriqué
dùútù	m-	sediment place	
dìbòŋgò		light wind in the morning seawards	
m̀p̀p̀é bà túbè		stronger wind landwards	
iyàò	lò-	fish fence	
ng̀k̀óóndòŋ	mì-	spring trap	
è-lówà	bè-	dam fishing by women	
sámí		palangue	
d̀z̀ó̀b̀ò	m̀ó̀b̀ò	branch fishing	
miě	mwě	fishing rod	
pélà		net for small fish	
d̀í̀b̀è̀jà	má-	bamboo bar fishing	Chinese bamboo
ntàlè		feel vibrations of fish to estimate where there are lots of fish	
mbúndzà	--	cast net	

Lamberty, Melinda (2002 re-ed. 2009) *A Rapid Appraisal Survey of Malimba in Cameroon*. Unpublished report. Cameroun: SIL.

Vivien, J. 1991. *Faune du Cameroun: guide des mammifères et poissons*. Yaoundé : GICAM.