

## A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE ETHNOBOTANY OF THE SUIEI DOROBO IN NORTHERN KENYA

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**ABSTRACT** A total of 1,026 plant specimens and their ethnobotanical informations were collected among the Suiei Dorobo, the hunter-gatherers in the Mathew's Range, Northern Kenya. The specimens comprise 569 scientific species, for each of which a brief botanical and ethnographic description is made. Of the 569 species, the Suiei utilize 123 species as food, 231 as medicine, 50 for various rituals, and 176 as materials for construction and making various instruments. Other 121 are used in indirect ways as fodder or as nectar source. Their vernacular names are compared with the Latin (scientific) names, and the characteristics of their utilization pattern is discussed.

**Key Words:** Suiei Dorobo, Hunter-gatherers, Ethnobotany, Nomenclature, Utilization.

### INTRODUCTION

The "Dorobo" are the hunting people who live dispersedly in small groups in the mountain regions of Tanzania and Kenya. Much attention has been paid to them since the beginning of the 20th century (see, Dundas, 1908; Hobley, 1905 and 1935) probably because they have mistaken by the early European travelers and settlers for the original inhabitants of East Africa. We have now Huntingford's substantial ethnographic works on the Nandi Dorobo (Okiek) of the Tindored Forest (Huntingford, 1929, 1942, 1951 and 1955) published 30 to 50 years ago. More recently, various ethnographic works were undertaken on the Okiek of the Mau Escarpment (Blackburn, 1974 and 1983) and the Dorobo groups in Northern Kenya (Spencer, 1965 and 1973). However, except the brief description on the economic life of the Okiek by Huntingford (1955), these works are not primarily concerned with the ecology of the Dorobo. We have only scant knowledge about their natural environment and their relation to that environment.

I carried out an ecological and anthropological study on the Suiei Dorobo of the Mathew's Range in Northern Kenya (Fig. 1) for a total of 11 months from 1976 to 1978. During this research I collected more than a thousand plant specimens and their botanical and ethnographic informations. Based on these informations, this preliminary report aims at describing the outline of the ethnobotany of the Suiei Dorobo.

The specimens collected during the research were identified at East African Herbarium (now Kenya Herbarium). For the 1,026 specimens brought to the Herbarium, 487 species names (Latin names) were obtained. In addition to these, 82 species were identified at genus level. If we consider all of these as different species, the 1,026

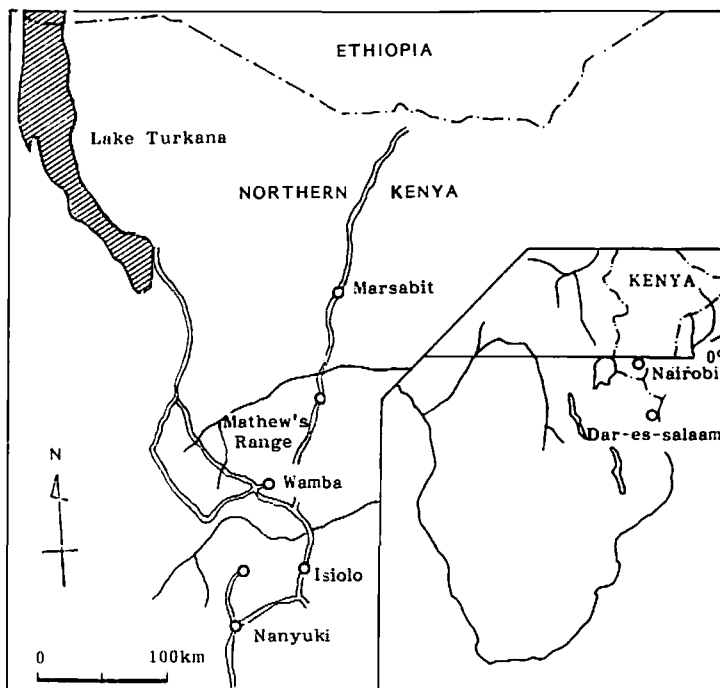


Fig. 1. The study area.

Table 1. Number of plants collected in the Mathew's Range.

Group	No. of family	No. of genus	No. of species
Cryptogamae	4	4	4
Phanerogamae			
Gymnospermae	3	3	4
Angiospermae			
Monocotyledoneae	10	30	34
Dicotyledoneae	85	300	514
Total	102	337	569

specimens comprise a total of 569 scientific species. The number of species for each taxon is shown in Table 1.

The vegetation of the Mathew's Range is roughly classified into the following types according to the altitude:

1. *Acacia-Commiphora* dry bushland (below 1200 m)
2. *Acacia* wooded grassland (1200–1400 m)
3. Intermediate bushland (1400–1750 m)
4. Montane forest (over 1750 m)

The dominant species of the montane forest varies according to the altitude or to the degree of wetness. *Croton megalocarpus* predominates in the lower and drier part of the forest, while *Juniperus-Podocarpus* in the middle and *Manilkara-Aningeria* in the higher and wetter part. Along the *laga* (wadi) in the lowland plain, thick growth

of *Acacia tortilis* and *Newtonia hildebrandtii* is also found. The details of the vegetation of the Mathew's Range were given in the previous paper (Ichikawa, 1980 and 1981).

## VERNACULAR NAMES

### 1) General Categories

The Suiei give 502 vernacular names to the 569 species identified at species or genus level. The remaining 62 species have no vernacular names of their own and are called by the names of general categories such as grass (*nkojit*) or vine (*nkopit*) which includes a number of other species as well. One type of such general categories is concerned with the folk classification system of the Suiei, while the other is a functional category which groups together the plants according to the common attributes. The latter type is called "category of the related species" by Yamada (1983).

The Suiei have three broad classificatory categories, namely *nkojit*, *nyoorte* and *lcheni*, which roughly correspond to the life forms of the plant. *Nkojit* includes all the grassy plants of Gramineae and Cyperaceae which are important fodder plants. *Nyoorte* covers all the Cryptogamic plants and parasitic or epiphytic Phanerogamae such as orchids and *Loranthus* species, and other small plants which flourish in the rainy season and disappear immediately after the dry season begins. *Lcheni* is a category of the complementary set which includes all the other plants. This last category is further divided into *nkopit* (vine), *mbene* (herb) and *lcheni* (tree and shrub) in a narrow sense. The taxonomic structure of the Suiei's plant nomenclature can be expressed in the form shown in Fig. 2, following Berlin et al., 1974. Here,  $g_{1-m}$  indicates the vernacular name of each plant. Like the Latin names of the Linnaean system, some plants have binominal nomenclature, such as *lutpai sero* (beige-colored *lutpai* = *Sansevieria*) or *sukuroi mara* (spotted *sukuroi* = *Aloe*), which are indicated by  $s_{1-n}$  in the figure.

Apart from such systematic classificatory names, there is another kind of general names. The Suiei give a common name to the plants which share certain common

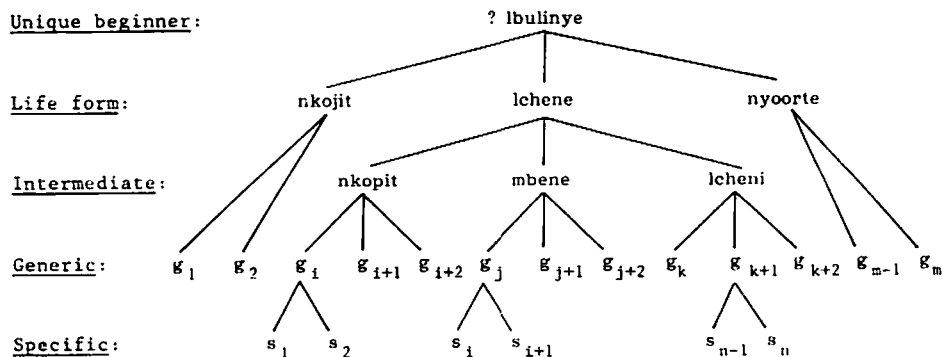


Fig. 2. Taxonomic structure of plant categories by the Suiei Dorobo.

attributes. For example, some of the cactus-like plants of Euphorbiaceae are generally called *lbopongi*, because their white latex is of specific medicinal use. Other cactus-like Euphorbiaceae plants of which the latex has not this specific use are not included in this category. Similarly, only the *Cordia* spp. that bear sweet fruits in the early dry season are called *ndorko* in general, and other *Cordia* species of which the fruits are not eaten are excluded from this category. Contrary to the classificatory general names which are concerned with the division of the plants into sub-groups, these categories emphasize the grouping of individual plants according to the common attributes. It is sometimes dependent on the context which attributes are taken into consideration. For example, the cactus-like Euphorbiaceae plants are called *nkokuwai* (tree or shrub with spines) like other spiny trees and shrubs in the context of warning away the children, while they are called *lbopongi* when talking about their medicinal use. Thus, the categories of this type are not mutually exclusive, which is unlike the case of the classificatory general categories.

## 2) Comparison of Vernacular Names with Scientific Names

A comparison was made between the scientific and vernacular names of the 487 species which were identified at species level. There are 348 species of which the vernacular names show one-to-one correspondence to the scientific species, 13 species (27 vernacular names) for which the vernacular names are overdifferentiated and 117 species (47 vernacular names) for which the vernacular names are underdifferentiated. The remaining 9 species have only general classificatory names. Most of the overdifferentiated species belong to the category of *lcheni* (Table 2), probably because they attract more attention of the Suiei than the plants of other life forms.

Of the 13 overdifferentiated species, 11 are differentiated into two or three vernacular species according to the habitat (see. Table 3). The rainfall in the Mathew's Range changes considerably according to the altitude, which makes a great difference in growth of some plants. The Suiei divide some plants into the highland (*supuko*) type and lowland (*lporkeri*) type. Even the same species are divided into highland and lowland types, or, different species are put into a pair of highland and lowland types (Table 4). This shows that the Suiei consider the habitat of a plant as one of the important criteria for identifying the "species" from their own standpoint. There are also other overdifferentiated species which are divided according to the difference of some specific attributes, such as the size or shape of fruits, roots and branches, or the utility for the human life.

Among the underdifferentiated species, there are also several types. Some ver-

Table 2. Life form and the degree of differentiation of vernacular names.

Life form	Over-differentiated	One-to-one	Under-differentiated	General names only	Total
<i>lcheni</i>	13	327	108	4	452
<i>nkojit</i>	0	16	3	5	24
<i>nyoorite</i>	0	5	6	0	11
Total	13	348	117	9	487

Table 3. Examples of overdifferentiation.

Scientific name	Vernacular name	Stated reason for overdifferentiation
1. <i>Adenia gummifera</i>	lmlilimai sarunjo	difference in the shape of root and use
2. <i>Apodytes dimidiata</i>	iyeu iyeneti	difference in habitat
3. <i>Bauhinia tomentosa</i>	lecholo larokike	difference in habitat
4. <i>Commiphora africana</i>	lcheningiro loishimi	difference in morphology and use
5. <i>Croton schefferi</i>	ltoova lcheninkera	difference in habitat
6. <i>Grewia bicolor</i>	siteti siteti-letomia	difference in habitat
7. <i>Faurea saligna</i>	ljilma lmandurmi	difference in habitat and use
8. <i>Manilkara discolor</i>	ltooj lgissi nchogis	difference in habitat
9. <i>Rytiginia loranthifolia</i>	limejioi lkuumusiait	difference in habitat
10. <i>Shrebera alata</i>	iseu namalalo	difference in habitat
11. <i>Syzygium guineense</i>	leperoi lairakai	difference in habitat
12. <i>Tarenna graveolens</i>	lmasei lmaisoi	difference in habitat
13. <i>Vangueria actiloba</i>	lkormosiyoi lmal dai	difference in habitat

Table 4. Different species comprising a set of "highland" and "lowland" types.

Lowland types (vernacular names)	Highland types (vernacular names)
1. <i>Acacia brevispica</i> (girigiri)	— <i>A. ataxacanth</i> (sholulan)
2. <i>Casipourea celastroides</i> (lobobo)	— <i>C. entyoides</i> (etok)
3. <i>Commiphora erythraea</i> (aagar)	— <i>C. baluensis</i> (lailipai)
4. <i>Dombeya kirkii</i> (lauo)	— <i>D. goetzenii</i> (lbolugwai)
5. <i>Leucas mollis</i> (lorubat)	— <i>Leonotis mollissima</i> (njicheny)
6. <i>Maytenus putterickoides</i> (lmelonntoic)	— <i>M. senegalensis</i> (laimorniai)
7. <i>Nuxia oppositifolia</i> (lpiroi)	— <i>N. congesta</i> (loiborsiau)

vernacular names are given to the species of the same genus only, whereas others to the species of the different genera, or even of the different families, as shown in Table 5. Especially in the last case of underdifferentiation, the positive aspect is more important than the negative. In this case, a wide variety of plants are grouped together according to the specific attributes they share, rather than that they are simply underdifferentiated, or, that their differences are neglected. The common attributes used for such grouping include specific utility of the plants as medicine, cosmetics, materials, etc.

From these preliminary analysis of the vernacular names, it can be understood that the naming of the plants is not only to divide them into sub-groups or to differentiate them to one another, but also to group or to homogenize them. Used in this classifica-

Table 5. Examples of underdifferentiation.

Vernacular name	Scientific name	Stated reason for underdifferentiation
Type-I Species of the same genus, 42 species (20 vernacular names)		
1. irri	<i>Grewia similis</i> (Tiliaceae) <i>G. tembensis</i>	considered to be the same species
2. Iboringa	<i>Cordia africana</i> (Boraginaceae) <i>C. abyssinica</i>	considered to be the same species
3. Iburan	<i>Plectranthus igniarius</i> (Labiatae) <i>P. tenniflorus</i>	similar appearance and medicinal use
4. Iokitengi	<i>Ipomoea cicatricosa</i> (Convolvulaceae) <i>I. spathulata</i>	similar appearance
5. mbaisherei	<i>Leucas martinicensis</i> (Labiatae) <i>L. urticifolia</i>	similar appearance
6. nangordodoi	<i>Cucumis prophetarium</i> (Cucurbitaceae) <i>C. sativas</i>	similar appearance and use of fruits
7. ntulelei	<i>Solanum dubium</i> (Solanaceae) <i>S. incanum</i> <i>S. renschii</i>	similar appearance
8. socha	<i>Barleria acanthoides</i> (Acanthaceae) <i>B. eranthemoides</i> <i>B. spinisephala</i>	similar appearance of spiny dwarf shrub
9. lampirori	<i>Lannea floccosa</i> (Anacardiaceae) <i>L. triphylla</i>	considered to be the same species
10. Idalabulongo	<i>Rinorea convallariiflora</i> (Violaceae) <i>R. elliptica</i>	considered to be the same species
11. Iekule	<i>Euphorbia systiloides</i> (Euphorbiaceae) <i>E. transvaalensis</i>	similar use of latex
12. Ietualan	<i>Crotalaria incana</i> (Papilionoideae) <i>C. polysperma</i>	similar appearance and use
13. Ikilijo	<i>Aningeria adolfi-friedrici</i> (Sapotaceae) <i>A. pseudoracemosa</i>	considered to be the same species
14. Imasiligi	<i>Kalanchoe citrina</i> (Crassulaceae) <i>K. densiflora</i>	similar appearance and use
15. Iobereti	<i>Phyllanthus fischeri</i> (Euphorbiaceae) <i>P. sepialis</i>	considered to be the same species
16. Ioisuki	<i>Zanthoxylon chalybeum</i> (Rutaceae) <i>Z. usambalense</i>	considered to be the same species
17. Iokumeki	<i>Hibiscus aponeurus</i> (Malvaceae) <i>H. micranthus</i>	similar appearance and use
18. Iomonira	<i>Premna oligotricha</i> (Verbenaceae) <i>P. resinona</i>	considered to be the same species
19. Ioirabirab	<i>Portulaca foliosa</i> (Portulacaceae) <i>P. quadrifida</i>	similar appearance and use
20. Isoni	<i>Lippia javanica</i> (Verbenaceae) <i>L. ukambensis</i>	similar appearance and use
Type-II Species of different genera in the same family, 29 species (9 vernacular names)		
21. Iangarboi	<i>Cynanchum hastifolium</i> (Cucurbitaceae) <i>Pentarrhinum insipidum</i> <i>Tucazzea apiculata</i>	similar use of fruits as food
22. Idule	<i>Steganotaenia araliacea</i> (Umberiferae) <i>Torilis arvensis</i>	similar use of stem for making a flute
23. Idurle	<i>Becium obovatum</i> (Labiatae) <i>Ocimum basilicum</i>	similar use as the substitute of snuff
24. Iegrruki	<i>Pavetta</i> sp. (Rubiaceae) <i>Psychotria tarambassica</i>	similar use of stem for arrow shaft
25. Ikima	<i>Blumea</i> sp. (Compositae) <i>Sphaeranthus ukambensis</i>	similar appearance of stem

(continued)

Table 5. (continued)

Vernacular name	Scientific name	Stated reason for underdifferentiation
26. seiyai	<i>Cyperus articulatus</i> (Cyperaceae) <i>C. rotundus</i> <i>Kyllinga flava</i>	similar use of bulb for medicine
27. sulubei	<i>Abutilon longicuspe</i> (Malvaceae) <i>A. mauritianum</i> <i>A. panuoaosum</i> <i>Pavonia patus</i> <i>P. urena</i> <i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	similar use of bark for fiber
28. lorudeniai	<i>Amyema panganensis</i> (Loranthaceae) <i>Danserella fischeri</i> <i>Erianthemum</i> sp. <i>Oliverella hildebrandtii</i> <i>Tapinanthus ochleri</i> <i>Viscum fischeri</i>	similarity as parasitic plant
29. nkaiteteyai	<i>Anellema aequinoctiale</i> (Commelinaceae) <i>Commelina albescens</i> <i>C. foliacea</i>	similar appearance
Type-III Species of	different families, 46 species (46 vernacular names)	
30. dawa-le-nkop	<i>Gomphrena celoisioides</i> (Amaranthaceae) <i>Euphorbia inaequilatera</i> (Euphorbiaceae) <i>Indigofera spicata</i> (Papilionoideae)	similar use as medicine for a cut and burn
31. moire	<i>Justicia matammensis</i> (Acanthaceae) <i>Aerva lanata</i> (Amaranthaceae)	similarity of small flowers known as nector source
32. lekemojik	<i>Rangaeris superba</i> (Orsidaceae) <i>Uvaria scheffleri</i> (Annonaceae)	shape of fruit or root look like human fingers
33. loitegomi	<i>Jasminum floribundum</i> (Oleaceae) <i>J. fluminense</i> <i>J. parvifolium</i> <i>Helimus mystacinus</i> (Rhamnaceae)	similar use as medicine for snake-bite
34. lokilidia	<i>Cardiospermum cornidum</i> (Sapindaceae) <i>Clutia abyssinica</i> (Euphorbiaceae) <i>Erythrochlamys spectabilis</i> (Labiatae) <i>Tinnea aethiopica</i> (Labiatae) <i>Turraea mombassana</i> (Meliaceae) <i>Vernonia pauciflora</i> (Compositae)	similar use as medicine for eye
35. nasungoyo	<i>Indigofera vohemarensis</i> <i>Monechma debile</i> (Acanthaceae)	similar use as cosmetic (perfume)
36. pamba	<i>Aerva persica</i> (Amaranthaceae) <i>Kanahia laniflora</i> (Asclepiadaceae)	similar use of flower for cushion
37. sarunjo	<i>Adenia gemmifera</i> (Passifloraceae) <i>Senecio petitiianus</i> (Compositae)	similar use for ritual medicine
38. sigiit	<i>Justicia diclipteroides</i> (Acanthaceae) <i>J. glabra</i> (Acanthaceae) <i>Pentanisia ouranogyne</i> (Rubiaceae)	? (similar indirect use of flower as nector source)
39. wasowasit	<i>Clerodendrum</i> sp. (Verbenaceae) <i>Microglossa pyrifolia</i> (Compositae)	similar use of stem for making basket
40. sirai	<i>Euphorbia candelabrum</i> (Euphorbiaceae) <i>Striga gesnerioides</i> (Scrophulariaceae)	believed to be in a host-parasite relationship
41. loilalei	<i>Ziziphus abyssinica</i> (Rhamnaceae) <i>Z. mucronata</i> <i>Uncaria africana</i> (Rubiaceae)	unknown
42. loisiteli	<i>Bridelia micrantha</i> (Euphorbiaceae) <i>Celtis africana</i> (Ulmaceae)	unknown
43. loiyabasei	<i>Aspilia mossambiensis</i> (Compositae) <i>Clerodendrum eriophyllum</i> (Verbenaceae)	unknown

(continued)

Table 5. (continued)

Vernacular name	Scientific name	Stated reason for underdifferentiation
44. loitaakini	<i>Cordia</i> sp. (Boraginaceae) <i>Maerua angolensis</i> (Capparidaceae)	unknown
45. lokilisiai	<i>Cassia longiracemosa</i> (Caesalpinioideae) <i>Gnidia subcordata</i> (Thymelaeaceae)	unknown
46. songoroi	<i>Markhamia platycalyx</i> (Bignoniaceae) <i>Ekebergia</i> sp. (Meliaceae) <i>Brucea antidysenterica</i> (Simaroubaceae)	unknown
47. letrot	<i>Sphaeranthus mauritiana</i> (Compositae) <i>Marsilea macrocarpa</i> (fern)	unknown

tion and grouping are not only morphological characteristics which are normally used in modern botany, but also habitat and utility for human life. While scientifically same species may be divided into two or more vernacular "species" on the one hand, very different species in scientific terms are often grouped into one and called as such in the ethnobotanical system, if they share certain attributes. This indicates that the nomenclature of the plants is partly dependent on or at least related to the life of the people who name the plants, although in linguistics, the relationship of a plant to its name is usually thought to be arbitrary.

## TRADITIONAL UTILIZATION

### 1) Categorization of Use

One of the major problems in the description of traditional plant utilization is how to categorize systematically the various uses of plants. Yamada (1977), referring to Conklin (1965) and other ethnobotanical works, discussed on the possibility of the universal categorization of plant use. Such universal categorization has, however, not yet been established and each researcher adopts a different set of use categories, which makes the comparison of utilization pattern considerably difficult. Here, the use of plants is tentatively classified into the following broad categories.

#### 1. Indirect use

Some plants have no direct use to the Suiei, but used only indirectly, for example, as nector source or as fodder. The importance of these plants to their beekeeping or livestock keeping is well understood by the Suiei, and in this sense they are different from other plants on which wild animals feed.

#### 2. Material culture

This category includes the plants which are used as the materials for construction and binding, for making various subsistence and household instruments, clothes and ornaments, and other items of their material culture.

#### 3. Food

All the food plants are included in this category.

#### 4. Medicine

The plants used for curing and prevention of various human and livestock diseases,



for killing or repelling insects and for snake-bites are included in this category. The poisonous plants of some use to humans are also classified into this category.

#### 5. Ritual and ritual medicine

The plants used for some rituals or ritual medicines fall into this category. The difference between a medicine and a ritual medicine is discussed below.

There are some plants which do not fit any of these categories. Narcotics can be regarded as something between food and medicine. The Suiei like to chew the resin (gum) of some plants, or to use the ashes of certain plants as the substitute of soda to mix with the chewing tobacco. Some plants are used as the substitute of tobacco or tea leaves. These narcotics are tentatively classified into the category of food in this report. They also boil the bark or root of certain plants with the bone of a slaughtered animal. Such bone soup is often drunk after eating a quantity of roasted meat. They say those plants help the digestion of the meat they eat, or give them strength even without eating meat. There are tens of plants used for this purpose, all of which are put into the category of medicine.

There are only 27 species which the Suiei do not use, of which 6 are thought to be poisonous. The remaining 542 species comprise a total of 700 uses. Compared with the cases of other peoples in Africa, the medicinal use of plants by the Suiei is remarkable (Table 6). Among the people in Northern Kenya, the Suiei are noted for their rich knowledge of herbal medicines.

The following is a brief description of plant utilization by the Suiei.

#### 2) Material Culture

The Suiei utilize 176 species as the material for construction, binding, and making various items of their material culture. At a Suiei's manyatta I checked 55 instruments of various kinds, of which 46 are either entirely made of wood or at least in part wood material is used. Wood is indispensable to their material culture, especially to make various types of container. In making containers, they know how to use wood materials properly for each type. For example, while fat containers are made of relatively hard wood of *Delonix alata* (*lawai*), milk or water containers are made of softer and lighter wood of various *Commiphora* species, and arrow quivers and tobacco containers made of extremely soft and light wood of *Dracaena* species. *Commiphora* species

Table 6. Number of species for each category of use.

Category	Suiei	Mbuti <sup>1)</sup>	Pokot <sup>2)</sup>	Turkana <sup>3)</sup>	Lega <sup>4)</sup>
Material	176	127	58	52	114
Food	122	80	56	53	28
Medicine	231	39	105	67	138
Ritual	50	16	15	3	14
Indirect	121	14	58	193	8
No use	27	24	?	?	14
Total no. of species	569	238	283	512	305
Total no. of use	700	276	292	368	302

1) Tanno, 1981; 2) Tanaka, 1980; 3) Morgan, 1981; 4) Ndunbo, 1980.

provide the most important wood materials for their material culture, because they are generally strong, easy to cut and carve, light to carry, and not cracked even when dry. More than 90% of their beehives are also made of *Commiphora* species (*lailipai*).

### 3) Food

A total of 123 species is used for food. While various parts are eaten (fruits of 69 species, leaves, shoots and stems of 23, roots and tubers of 18, nuts and seeds of 5, and gum and other parts of 8). fruits are most frequently used. No mushroom is eaten by the Suiei, which may explain their general indifference to mushrooms. Except for two species used for special purposes, all other mushrooms are called by a single classificatory name *lapa*. The details of the utilization of food plants were described in Ichikawa, 1980.

### 4) Medicine

Among the Suiei, there are two distinctive categories of medicine (Table 7). One is called *lcheni* and used for curing and preventing ordinary or "natural" diseases such as a fever or diarrhea. It is similar to a household medicine which is used by anybody whenever necessary. Another type is a ritual medicine called *ntasimu* which is for "social diseases" brought by curse, sorcery or by some other types of supernatural forces. According to the Suiei, if one gets one of such diseases, he must first consult with a diviner (*loibon*) to identify its cause, then ask a ritual medicine (*ntasimu*) specially prescribed by the diviner. The knowledge of *ntasimu* is closed (secret) to other people. Even Western medicine, also called *lcheni*, is not effective for the "social diseases". Therefore, while modern Western medicine is complementary to *ntasimu*, it is equivalent to the traditional medicine (*lcheni*). In this report *ntasimu* is separated from the ordinary medicine (*lcheni*) and put in the same category with that of ritual.

The plants regarded as *lcheni* amounts to 231 species, or nearly 40% of the total species identified. They apply these plants for about 70 kinds of "natural" diseases which they diagnose according to the syndromes, affected parts and the cause of disease.

The Suiei show a strong interest in medicinal plants. If a piece of bark or root of an unknown plant is presented to a Suiei, he will probably examine it by observing its color, smelling, tasting, then guess its medicinal utility. They have rich vocabularies for expressing the physical or physiological features of plants. They have more than ten words for taste, 5 for smell and some tens for color. Such rich vocabularies for taste, smell, and color must be closely related to their extensive use of plants for

Table 7. *Lcheni* and *ntasimu*.

Name of medicine	<i>lcheni</i>	<i>ntasimu</i>
Cause of disease	natural	social
Prescription made by	everybody	<i>loibon</i>
Secrecy of knowledge	open	secret
Type of medicine	household medicine	ritual medicine
Relationship to Western medicine	equivalent	complementary

medicinal purposes. They say, for example, a plant of which the bark is a little bitter (*kekagan*), has an astringent taste (*kemototo*) like tannin and makes water brown (*werekoi*) when boiled is good for a stomach disorder. that a very bitter (*kedua*) bark or root serves as a medicine for fever (*lechamaa*) and malaria (*nkereuwa*) in particular, or that a plant with a bad smell of a certain kind (*kelele*) can be used as emetic. that is, a medicine for making a patient vomit some harmful substance in the body. Such sensible features of plants are used by the Suiei as the agent through which they relate the plants to the human diseases.

In scientific terms, only some of the bitter plants have an effective substance for malaria and many other plants of a similar taste have no such substance at all, whereas the Suiei consider all the plants with a similar taste has a similar medicinal effect. Therefore, their medicinal use of a plant is dependent more on the cultural cognition of the plant than on its chemical (material) component itself. It remains more or less arbitrary, i.e. it is culturally determined how they use a plant for a specific medicinal purpose. However, taste, smell and color have without doubt some material basis and give the plausible appearance of an effective medicine to a plant. The Suiei consider a plant with some outstanding sensible feature(s) (taste, smell or color) as an effective medicine. The degree of arbitrariness of the relationship of a plant to its medicinal use is, therefore, between that of a plant to its use for food or materials which has sound material basis and that of a plant to its use for ritual for which culture plays a vital role. In this sense, the medicines in the Suiei's ethnobotany can be regarded as something between "thing" and "symbol".

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**Appendix Botanical and ethnographical information of the plants collected in the Mathew's Range, Northern Kenya.**

Information are arranged in the following order.

*Latin name* (Identification no. at Kenya Herbarium)

*Commonly used vernacular name (other name)*

Life form, frequency and habitat

Ethnographic information: 1—indirectly used as nector source or fodder plants of livestock, 2—used as materials for construction and making instruments, 3—used for food, 4—used for medicine, 5—used for ritual and ritual medicine, 6—other ethnographic information.

LICHENOBIONTA

Usneaceae

*Usnea flavescens* Motyka (851)

*ndunene*

lichen, abundant in montane forest

2—used for making a fire; 5—ritual medicine.

PTERIDOPHYTA

Adiantaceae

*Actiniopteris radiata* (Swartz) Link (917)

*lolopir*

fern, commonly found in rocky riverine forest

4—dried leaves used for tea; 5—dried leaves pounded and used as ritual medicine for relieving body pain. 6—vernacular derived from *kelopir* (to be fragrant).

*Pellaea longipilosa* Banap. (270)

*mporo-eiyo*

fern, common in rocky montane and riverine forests.

Thelypteridaceae

*Thelypteris* sp. aff. *T. gueinziana* (Mett.) Schelpe (342)

*lengurri*

fern, common in montane forest

2—whole plant used for bed and house building.

SPERMATOPHYTA

Gymnospermae

Cycadaceae

*Eucephalartos bubalinus* Melville (610)

*!pision*

tree, rare in montane forest

2—leaves used for thatching and bedding.

Cupressaceae

*Juniperus procera* Endl. (613)

*ltarakwai*

tree, common in montane forest

2—wood used for building huts. 5—used for *lasarr* (blessing) ritual.

Podocarpaceae

*Podocarpus gracior* Pilger (83)

*!tipilipilit*

tree, abundant in montane forest

2—wood used for building huts.

*Podocarpus milanjanus* Rendle (830)

*!kenjeesu*

tree, abundant in montane forest

2—wood used for construction; twigs for making *lkepere* (stirrer).

Angiospermae  
Monocotyledoneae  
Agavaceae

*Dracaena ellenbeckiana* Engl. (159, 626)

*lokidongi*

tree, rare in riverine forest

2—wood hollowed out and used for making a quiver; 5—ritual medicine; 6—vernacular name derived from *ngidon* (quiver or other types of container).

*Dracaena laxissima* Engl. (840)

*ndigirte*

vine, rare in montane forest.

*Dracaena* sp. (276)*sasaatei*

tree, common in montane forest  
2—leaves used for thatching and bedding.

*Sansevieria* sp. (357)*ldupai*

herb, common in dry bushland  
2—fibers from leaves used for making *suuti* (roofing mats) in some areas; 4—root used as medicine for *lbai-le-nkolion* or *kisunono* (gonorrhoea), *lbai* (joint pain) and *nkorian* (backache). First boiled with sheep fat to make a purgative, then boiled with sheep bones and the soup is drunk.

*Sansevieria* sp. (569)*ldupai-sero*

herb, common in dry bushland  
4—root used as medicine for *kisunono* (gonorrhoea), *lbai* (joint pain), and *nkorian* (backache). 6—beige-colored (*seroi*) *ldupai*.

*Sansevieria* sp. (407, 577)*lauragi*

herb, rare in hilly bushland  
4—root used as medicine for *kisunono* (gonorrhoea), *lbai* (joint pain), *nkirotet* (bone pain), and for pregnant women; boiled with sheep fat and the soup is drunk.

## Amaryllidaceae

*Ammocharis* sp. (620)*manguai*

herb, common in wooded savanna and bushland  
4—bulb boiled in beef soup and used by moran as stimulant.

*Haemanthus* sp. (845)*ldulangai*

herb, rare in montane and riverine forests  
6—people know from this flower that the rainy season is coming.

## Araceae

*Stryllochiton angustifolius* Peter (916)*naitangisioi*

herb, common in bushland and wooded savanna  
6—general name for various monocots.

## Commelinaceae

*Aneilema aequinoctiale* Kunth (644)*nkaiteteyai*

herb, abundant in riverine forest and hilly bushland  
4—whole plant pounded and mixed with milk, and used as children's medicine for *lchamaa* (fever).

*Aneilema* sp. (948)*nkaiteteyai*

herb, common in bushland  
4—used as children's medicine for fever.

*Commelina albescens* Hassk. (953)*nkaiteteyai*

herb, common in bushland  
4—used as children's medicine for fever.

*Commelina foliacea* Chiov. (163)*nkaiteteyai*

herb, common in hilly bushland and montane forest  
4—used as children's medicine for fever.

*Commelina* sp. (924)*nkaiteteyai*

herb, common in hilly bushland  
4—used as children's medicine for fever.

## Cyperaceae

*Cyperus atternifolium* L. ssp. *flabelliformis* (154, 535)*laperiai*

herb, common in riverine forest  
2—bulb used as children's ornament, or pounded and mixed with *lkaria* (red ochre) and applied as cosmetics; 4—bulb used as medicine for fever; pounded and mixed with tobacco and snuffed; 5—used on a circumcision rite.

*Cyperus articulatus* L. (986)*seiyai*

herb, common in hilly bushland and riverine forest  
4—bulb used as ritual medicine.

*Cyperus blysmoides* C. B. Cl. (972)*lkurt*

herb, common in hilly bushland  
1—fodder.

*Cyperus rotundus* L. (588)*seiyai*

herb, common in hilly bushland and grassland  
1—fodder.

*Kyllinga alba* Nees (928)

*lkurt-neput*

herb, common in grassland and hilly bushland  
3—bulb eaten by children; 6—bulb and leaves are said to be eaten by Guinea-fowls.

*Kyllinga comosipes* (Matt. F. & Kuk) Napper var. *comosipes* (202)

*neput*

herb, common in grassland and hilly bushland  
1—fodder.

*Kyllinga flava* C. B. Cl. (931)

*seiyai*

herb, common in grassland and hilly bushland  
1—fodder.

Dioscoreaceae

*Dioscorea quartiniana* A. Rich. var. *quartiniana* (927)

*lkateiyai*

vine, common in hilly bushland  
6—root is said to be poisonous.

Gramineae

*Brachiaria leersoides* (Hochst.) Stapf. (978)

*lanana*

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna  
1—fodder.

*Chloris roxburghiana* Schult. (984)

?

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna  
1—fodder.

*Dactyloctenium aegyptium* (L.) P. Beauv. (982)

*lokusukusu*

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna  
1—fodder.

*Dichanthium insculptum* (A. Rich) Clayton (985)

?

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna

1—fodder.

*Enteropogon macrostachyus* (A. Rich) Benth. (983)

?

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna  
1—fodder.

*Eragrostis cilianensis* (All.) Lutati (589) *imoto* (*ntalangwani*)

grass, abundant in grassland and wooded savanna  
1—fodder

*Eragrostis macilenta* (A. Rich.) Steud. (590) *nkojit* (general name for grasses)

abundant in grassland and hilly bushland  
1—fodder.

*Eragrostis superba* Peyr. (193)

*lperesi* (?)

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna  
1—fodder.

*Heteropogon melanocarpus* (Ell.) Benth. (311)

*longororeki*

grass, rare in hilly bushland  
1—fodder; 2—ear used in children's play (thrown like an arrow).

*Leptochloa obtusiflora* Hochst. (977)

*lperesi*

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna  
1—fodder.

*Peninssetum megianum* Leekc (980)

*imoto*

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna  
1—fodder.

*Setaria haareri* Stapf & Hubbard. (976)

*lkawa*

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna  
1—fodder.

*Setaria verticillata* (L.) P. Beauv. (979)

*nelipa*

grass, abundant in grassland and wooded savanna

1—fodder; 2—whole plant with sticky ear used for thatching.

*Sporobolus fimbriatus* Nees. (974)

*ntalangwany*

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna

1—fodder

*Scrobolus nervosus* Hochst. (975)

*loipuyupu*

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna

1—fodder.

*Tragus berteronianus* Shult. (973)

*nderian*

grass, common in grassland and wooded savanna

1—fodder.

Unidentified (393)

*lkorme*

bamboo-like grass, common in hilly bushland

1—good fodder during the dry season, as this remains green.

#### Liliaceae

*Aloe* sp. (274, 448)

*sukuroi*

fleshy herb, common in hilly bushland

4—root used as fermentizer to brew honey beer; juice squeezed from leaves is used as eye lotion; 6—allied species (not collected) are *sukuroi mara* and *lekoosieu*, both belonging to *Aloe* spp.

*Asparagus* sp. (848)

*laibooloi*

vine, common in hilly bushland

3—small bulbs eaten.

*Asparagus africanus* Lam. (987)

*lomeei (alkeek)*

vine, common in bushland

2—root used for making containers.

*Chlorophytum* sp. aff. *C. gallabatense* Bak. (125, 963)

*mbebe*

herb, common in grassland and wooded savanna

2—leaves used by children for making

whistles.

*Gloriosa superba* L. (961)

*siss*

herb, common in grassland and hilly bushland

5—dried bulb put around the neck and used as ritual medicine.

#### Orchidaceae

*Aeragis* sp. (870)

*Imururuti*

epiphytic herb, rare in montane forest

2—used for binding beehives set in a tree.

*Rangaeris amaniensis* (Kraenzlin) Summerhayes (766)

*lekemojik*

epiphytic herb, rare in montane forest (collected at Naibor Keju)

4—root boiled or soaked and used as medicine for chestpain; 6—vernacular derived from the shape of roots like human fingers (*lekemojik*).

#### Palmae

*Chrysolidocarpus* sp. (897)

*ltungai*

tree, rare in montane forest

2—used for making a beehive.

#### Dicotyledoneae

##### Acanthaceae

*Barleria acanthoides* Vahl. (575)

*socha*

dwarf shrub, common in bushland

4—root boiled in goat bone soup and used as medicine for getting strength; leaves soaked in water and used for eye lotion.

*Barleria eranthemoides* R. Br. (44)

*socha*

dwarf shrub, common in bushland and wooded savanna

4—root used as medicine for strength; leaves used for eye lotion; 5—whole green plant burned at *lasarr* and *nkieu* rituals.

*Barleria ventricosa* Nees (802)

*makeyopo*

dwarf shrub, common in hilly bushland

1—known as nector source.



*Barleria spinisephala* E. A. Bruce (44)

*socha*

dwarf shrub, common in dry bushland and wooded savanna

4—root used as medicine for strength; leaves soaked in water and used for eye lotion; 6—root and leaves said to be *karaprap* (irritating taste).

*Barleria volkensii* Lindau. (514, 600)

*loiepokor*

creeping herb, common in hilly bushland  
1—known as nector source.

*Blepharis linariifolia* Pers. (211, 370)

*lmurak*

spiny herb, common in dry bushland

4—whole dried plant soaked in water and used as emetic for *ndiss* (hepatitis); green plant boiled in goat bone soup and used as medicine for *suur* (tuberculosis) and chest-pain.

*Blepharis maderaspatensis* (L.) Roth. (1018)

herb, common in hilly bushland

1—known as nector source.

*Duosperma kilimandsharicum* C. B. Cl. (808)

*ndorkonento*

herb, common in hilly bushland

1—fodder; known as nector source.

*Crossandra mucronata* Lindau. (396, 1009)

*lmunbririt* (*nkitananet*)

herb, common in wooded savanna

3—orange-yellow flowers pounded and mixed with resin gum (*nengore*) for chewing.

*Justicia dactyloides* Lindau (929)

*sigiit*

herb, common in hilly bushland

1—known as nector source.

*Justicia glabra* Roxb. (614)

*sigiit*

herb, common in hilly bushland

1—known as nector source.

*Justicia matammensis* Oliv. (888, 923)

*moire*

herb, common in hilly bushland

1—known as nector source.

*Justicia nyassana* Lindau (648)

*labraba*

herb, common forest undergrowth

1—known as nector source.

*Justicia odora* (Forsk.) Vahl. (364, 572)

*aliki*

shrub, common in savanna and bushland

2—whole plant used as perfume, pounded and mixed with red ochre (*Ikaria*); 5—used as ritual medicine.

*Justicia striata* (Klotzch) Bullock (860)

*ndoonyek*

herb, common forest undergrowth

1—known as nector source.

*Justicia* sp. (375)

*lesariani*

shrub, rare in dry bushland

4—root soaked in water or boiled in sheep bone soup and used as medicine for *lubai* (joint pain).

*Hypoestes aristata* (Vahl.) R. Br. (241)

*siposia*

herb, common in hilly bushland

1—known as nector source.

*Hypoestes hildebrandtii* Lindau (222)

*ntitikwole*

herb, common in wooded grassland

1—important nector source; 2—used as construction material (for thatching and flooring).

*Hypoestes verticillaris* R. Br. (700)

herb, common in hilly bushland

1—known as nector source.

*Lepidagathis acariosa* Nees. (603)

*lkorme*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

1—known as nector source.

*Monechma debile* (Forsk.) Nees. (710)

*nasungoyo*

herb, common in grassland

2—whole plant dried, pounded and mixed with red ochre (*Ikarya*), then used as cosmetics; 6—vernacular derived from *nasungoyo* (a fragrant thing).

*Pseuderanthemum hildebrandtii* (Lindau)

C. B. Cl. (518, 646)

*napungrit*

shrub, common undergrowth in riverine forest

1—known as nector source.

## Aizoaceae

*Molluga cerviana* (L.) Ser. var. *cerviana* (970)  
*nyoorte-le-nkop*  
 herb, common in wooded grassland  
 6—vernacular name meaning *nyoorte* of the ground.

## Amaranthaceae

*Achyranthes aspera* L. (878)  
*lolobakini*  
 herb, common in riverine bushland  
 1—goat's fodder.

*Acchyroposis greenwayii* Suesseng. (730)  
*mbotonyi*  
 shrub, common in grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)  
 4—root soaked in water and used as an emetic medicine for *nkereuwa* (malaria).

*Aerva lanata* (L.) Juss. (863)  
*moire*  
 herb, common in bushland  
 1—known as nector source.

*Aerva persica* (Burm.) Mer. (418)  
*pamba*  
 herb, rare in dry bushland  
 2—cotton-like flowers used for making a pillow.

*Amaranthus gracizans* L. (79)  
*nderere*  
 herb, common in wooded savanna and bushland  
 3—leaves pounded and boiled with oil and salt, then eaten as relish; available in rainy season.

*Celosia* sp. (966)  
*lcheni-ronkai*  
 shrub, rare in riverine bushland  
 5—root used as poison for sorcery (*Imanet*).

*Digera muricata* (L.) Mart (295)  
*ndokie*  
 herb, common in bushland  
 1—known as nector source.

*Gomphrena celosioides* Mart. (925)  
*dawa-le-nkop*  
 herb, common in bushland  
 4—root pounded and applied to a wound

and burn.

*Pualia lappacea* (L.) Juss. (192)  
*lorepirepi*  
 herb, common in dry bushland  
 2—sticky fruits used for filling cracks of a beehive; fruits also used for making a tea strainer.

*Serococomopsis grisea* Suesseng. (706)  
*loiborki*  
 shrub, common in hilly bushland  
 1—known as nector source.

*Sericocomopsis hildebrandtii* Schinz. (570)  
*lturkan*  
 shrub, rare in bushland  
 4—root soaked in water and used as an emetic medicine for *nkereuwa* (malaria), *ndigana* (chronic malaria) and *ndiss* (hepatitis).

## Anacardiaceae

*Lannea floccosa* Sacleux. (354)  
*lampiroi*  
 shrub, rare in dry bushland  
 3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water or boiled and used as medicine for *erabatisho* (stomach disorder), especially for *nkealoto* (diarrhea).

*Lannea triphylla* Engl. (38)  
*lampiroi*  
 shrub, rare in dry bushland  
 3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark used as medicine for *nkealoto* (diarrhea).

*Ozoroa reticulata* (Bak. f.) Engl. (169, 702)  
*lokunono*  
 shrub, rare in hilly bushland  
 3—resin used as chewing gum; 4—bark boiled and mixed with milk, then used as medicine for the liver (*munyuwa*) or ribpain (*nolmaref*); also used by *moran* (warrior) as medicine for strength.

*Pistacia aethiopica* Lincz. (1014)  
*lengorno*  
 tree rare in hilly bushland and riverine forest  
 2—twig used as tooth-brush.

*Rhus natalensis* (430)  
*mesikiyei*  
 tree, rare in hilly bushland

4—medicine for children; root and bark boiled and mixed with milk, and used for fever and stomach disorder; leaves soaked in water and used as eye lotion; 6—vernacular name derived from “baby”.

*Sclerocarya* sp. (168)

*Imangwai*

tree, common in hilly bushland

3—fruit eaten raw in the early part of the dry season; 4—bark soaked or boiled in water and used as medicine for *erabatisho* (stomach disorder).

#### Annonaceae

*Uvaria scheffleri* Diels. (139, 509)

*lekemojik*

woody vine, rare in riverine forest and hilly bushland

2—vine used for making a basket (*sainei*); 3—fruit eaten raw; 4—root boiled in goat bone soup and used as medicine for *erabatisho* (stomach disorder); 6—vernacular derived from “finger” (*lekemojik*).

#### Apocynaceae

*Acokanthera* sp. (433)

*morijioi*

small tree, common on the edge of montane forest (collected in Mukogodo)

3—fruit eaten raw; 4—root used for arrow poison.

*Adenium obesum* (Forsk.) Roem & Shult. (908)

*lperintai*

shrub, rare in dry bushland

4—known as extremely poisonous.

*Carissa edulis* Vahl. (30, 665)

*lamriai*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

3—fruit eaten raw, available in early dry season; 4—root boiled in goat bone soup and used as medicine for getting strength; also used for *lubai*.

*Landolphia* sp. (553)

*seebit*

vine, rare in riverine forest

2—used for binding; 3—fruit eaten raw; 4—root boiled in bone soup (for taking)

and used as medicine for the liver and strength.

*Saba* sp. (524)

*lkkolkolai*

vine, rare in riverine forest

5—ritual medicine.

#### Araliaceae

*Cussonia holstii* Engl. (329)

*loiyapiyapi*

tree, rare in montane forest

4—bark boiled in cattle bone soup and used as stimulant, making people extremely exciting (*nchagala*).

*Cussonia spicata* Thunb. (406, 562)

*lbolorio*

tree, rare in montane forest

2—used for making a honey-storing container; 4—bark boiled in cattle-bone soup and used as stimulant.

*Schefflera* sp. (904)

*lkeanate* (*ldiini*)

tree, rare in montane forest

4—resin dissolved in water and used as medicine for chestpain.

#### Asclepiadaceae

*Baseonema gregorii* Schlecht & Rendle. (59)

*nkaisigo*

vine, rare on rocky hills

3—root eaten raw; available in rainy season and early dry season.

*Calotropis procera* Ait. f. (374)

shrub, common in riverine bushland

2—cotton-like seeds used for making a cushion; 5—ritual medicine.

*Caralluma socotrana* (Balf. f.) N. E. Br. (362)

*mpashach*

herb, rare in bushland

3—stem eaten raw.

*Ceropegia* sp. cf. *euryacme* Huber. (971)

*langodai*

climbing herb, rare in bushland

3—root eaten raw; available in rainy season and clearly dry season.

*Ceropegia* sp. cf. *stenantha* K. Schum (959)  
*nkerioi*

climbing herb, rare in bushland  
3—root eaten raw; available in rainy season  
and early dry season.

*Ceropegia stenoloba* Chiov. (950)  
*lchipilongi*

herb, rare in bushland  
3—root eaten raw; available in rainy season  
and early dry season.

*Ceropegia* sp. (9)  
*nkaramirami*

climbing herb, common in hilly bushland  
3—leaves eaten raw; available in rainy  
season and early dry season.

*Ceropegia* sp. (76)  
*nkirioyo*

climbing herb, common on forest edge  
3—leaves eaten raw; available in rainy and  
early dry seasons; 6—considered as a high-  
land type of the above.

*Cynanchum hastifolium* N. E. Br. (147)  
*langarboi*

climbing herb, rare in bushland  
3—fruit eaten raw; available in rainy and  
early dry seasons.

*Cynanchum validum* N. E. Br. (?) (528)  
*nkaramirami*

climbing herb, rare in forest

*Cynanchum* sp. (369)  
*nadonkerr*

climbing herb, rare on rocky hills  
3—stem eaten raw (salty-tasting); available  
in rainy and early dry season.

*Dregea abyssinica* (Hochst.) K. Schum  
(794)

*ltibibit*  
vine, common in riverine forest  
2—used for binding; 5—ritual medicine.

*Dregea schimperi* Bullock (250)  
*lateresi (ltibibit)*

vine, common in riverine forest  
2—used for binding beehives set in a tree.

*Dregea* sp. (729)  
*kaliyongoi*

vine, rare in riverine forest (collected at  
Naibor Keju)  
2—used for binding; 4—stem and roasted

and pounded, and applied to a burn  
(*nkema*), or smoke of this plant is used for  
relieving breast pain of a woman; 5—also  
used as ritual medicine.

*Kanahia laniflora* (Forsk.) R. Br. (157)  
*pamba*

herb, common in dry bushland  
2—cotton-like seeds used for making a  
cushion.

*Pentarrhium insipidum* E. Mey. (124)  
*lngarboi*

climbing herb, rare in bushland  
3—fruit eaten raw; available in rainy and  
early dry seasons.

*Sarcostemma* sp. (5, 442)  
*loilei*

climbing herb, common in rocky hills  
1—goat's fodder; 4—stem chewed for curing  
fever (*Ichamaa*); root boiled in goat  
bone soup and used as medicine for  
strength.

*Secamone punctulata* Decne. (179, 242, 526,  
855)

*sinantei (Ichuchunge, Itapajit, Imurkalet)*  
vine, common in riverine forest  
2—used for binding; 4—root soaked or  
boiled in water, and used as medicine for  
fever, headache and chestpain (*moiyan-lo-  
lgoso*); also used for tea, mixed with milk;  
5—ritual medicine.

*Tacazzea apiculata* Oliv. (136)  
*langarboi*

climbing herb, rare in hilly bushland.  
3—fruit eaten raw.

#### Balanitaceae

*Balanites aegyptiaca* (L.) Del. (116)  
*logwai*

tree, common in bushland and wooded  
savanna  
2—resin (called *wala*) used as glue; wood  
for making a playing board (*ndotoi*); root  
and branch for knife haft; 4—resin dis-  
solved in water and used as medicine for  
ribpain (*noImare*); 5—also used as ritual  
medicine.

*Balanites orbicularis* Sprague (119, 210)  
*sarai*  
tree, rare in bushland

2—wood used for making a playing board (*ndotoi*); 3—fruit eaten; available in early dry season; 4—leaves pounded and applied to a wound (*nkipoloi*); also soaked in water and used as eye lotion.

## Balsaminaceae

*Impatiens sodenii* Engl. & Warb. (331)

*lorubat*

shrub, rare in riverine forest

4—root boiled in bone soup and used as medicine for *lubai* (joint pain).

## Basellaceae

*Basella alba* L. (647)

*lemidongo*

creeping vine, common in riverine forest

2—stem used for play, for making a children's necklace.

## Bignoniaceae

*Kigelia africana* (Lam.) Benth. (73)

*lmumoi* (*ltaruboi*)

tree, common in riverine forest

2—wood used for making a stool (*lorika dapash*); 4—fruit used as fermentizer for brewing honey beer.

*Markhamia platycalyx* Sprague (1035)

*songoroi*

tree, rare in riverine and montane forest.

*Tecoma stans* (L.) H. B. K. (283)

*lparasindi*

tree, rare in forest

1—known as nector source.

## Boraginaceae

*Cordia abyssinica* R. Br. (656)

*lboringa*

tree, common in riverine forest and forest edge

2—wood used for making a stool; bark stripped and used for making a rope.

*Cordia africana* Lam. (771)

*lboringa*

tree, common in riverine forest and forest edge

2—wood used for making a stool; bark

stripped and used for making a rope.

*Cordia ovalis* R. Br. (138)

*seeki*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

2—used as construction material; 3—fruit eaten raw; available in early dry season; 4—root boiled in water, mixed with milk and used as medicine for stomach disorder; 5—also used as ritual medicine; 6—fruits of *Cordia* generally called *ndorko*.

*Cordia sinensis* Lam. (292a)

*silapani* (*lgweita*)

shrub, common in dry bushland

2—construction material; also used for making a stick; 3—fruit eaten raw; available in early dry season; 4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder (*erabatisho*); sometimes used with honey and soda ashes for curing stomachache and diarrhea.

*Cordia* sp. (117)

*lmanture*

shrub, rare in bushland

2—construction material; 3—fruit eaten raw.

*Cordia* sp. (368)

*loitaakini*

shrub, rare in bushland

2—construction material; also used for making ear-plugs and sticks; 3—fruit eaten raw.

*Echiochilon lithospermoides* Moore (757)

*lalasho*

herb, rare in grassland

4—whole plant soaked in water and used as livestock medicine.

*Ehretia cymosa* Thonn. var. *silvatica* (655)

*lokureti* (*lechachuri*)

tree, rare in riverine forest

2—used for making a fire-stick, sheath (*lechachur*) and a handle of a hoe; 6—*lechachuri* derived from sheath which is made of this tree.

*Heliotropium pectinatum* Vaupel. (297, 937)

*lmasikirai*

herb, common in riverside bushland

1—known as nector source.

## Bursereaceae

*Boswellia hildebrandtii* Engl. (170)*silalei*

tree, rare in bushland

3—resin (*nengore*) chewed; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; 5—resin put on the head of arrows which are used to shoot birds at a circumcision rite.

*Commiphora africana* (A. Rich.) Engl. s. lat. (990)*laishimi*

tree, common in dry bushland

2—wood used for making a pillow (*lorika-le-ngwe*) and plug of a milk container; also used as weight (*maakit*) or *lkerenget* (falling spear trap); 3—sprout (*ndeletan*) eaten raw; available from September to November; wood and root chewed when thirsty; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Commiphora africana* (A. Rich) Engl. s. lat., form with pubescent calyx (992)*lcheningiro*

tree, common in dry bushland

3—sprout eaten raw; available from September to November; resin chewed; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; 6—vernacular meaning greyish-brown (*ngiro*) tree (*lcheni*).

*Commiphora boivintiana* Engl. ssp. *boivini-ana* (991)*layamai*

tree, common in bushland

2—wood used for making a beehive, plug of a milk container, goat's bell (*lodongodon*) and fire-stick; 3—fruit and sprout eaten raw; fruit available in minor dry season and sprout from September to November.

*Commiphora* sp. cf. *C. batuensis* Engl. (993)*lailipai*

tree, common in hilly bushland and forest edge

2—wood used for making a beehive (more than 90% of the beehives observed in the Mathew's Range are made of this species); red bark soaked in water and used for dying a sheath; 3—sprout eaten raw; available September through November; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; 6—dried wood of this tree is specifically called *lubili*; considered

as the highland type of the next species (994).

*Commiphora* sp. aff. *erythraea* (Ehreb.) Engl. (994)

tree, rare in dry bushland

2—wood used for making a beehive; red bark soaked in water and used for dying; 3—sprout eaten raw; available September through November; 4—unripe fruit used for relieving toothache; 6—considered as the lowland type of the above (993).

*Commiphora madagascariensis* Jacq. (989)*lemalasin*

tree, rare in bushland

2—considered as the best material for making a milk container (*lmala*).

*Commiphora mollis* (Oliv.) ssp. *mildebraedii* (145)*lomonira*

tree, rare in hilly bushland

2—wood used for making a beehive; 3—resin chewed; fruit and sprout eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Commiphora schimperi* (Berg.) Engl. (988)*lekura*

tree, rare in bushland

2—wood used for making a water bucket (*ngalao*) for cattle, milk container and a beehive; 3—resin chewed; sprout eaten raw (September through November); 6—nests of stingless bees often found in this tree.

*Commiphora* sp. (178)*legwesiwesi*

tree, rare in bushland

2—wood used for making a goat's bell (*lodongodon*) and pillow (*lorika-le-ngwe*); 3—juicy root chewed when thirsty; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder (diarrhea).

*Commiphora* sp. (712)*loibor-aik*

tree, rare in bushland

2—resin used as cosmetics; 4—unripe fruit used for toothache; 6—vernacular meaning white (*loibor*) hand (*aik*), because the resin, when rubbed, makes a hand white.

*Commiphora* sp. (372)

*loitukutuk*

tree, rare in dry bushland  
2—wood used for making a milk container; resin used as cosmetics: 4—bark used as medicine for chestpain; 6—vernacular derived from a taste, *ketukutuk* (to be hot).

*Commiphora* sp. (366)*lamany*

tree, rare in bushland  
2—wood used for making a weight (*maakit*) of *lkerenget*, a trap with a falling spear; 3—juicy root chewed when thirsty.

*Commiphora* sp. (379)*lekashishin*

tree, rare in bushland  
2—wood used for making a beehive.

*Commiphora* sp. (995)*lmambarian*

tree, very rare in dry bushland  
2—wood used for making a beehive.

## Campanulaceae

*Cyphia glandulifera* A. Rich. (31)*lkurjij*

herb, rare in hilly bushland  
3—root eaten raw; available in early rainy season.

## Canellaceae

*Warburgia ugandensis* Sprague (?)*sokoni*

tree, rare in hilly bushland (bark obtained at Wamba)  
4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for chestpain (*muiyen-lo-lgo'o*), sometimes used with milk.

## Capparidaceae

*Boscia angustifolia* A. Rich var. *angustifolia* (60)*lororoi*

tree, common in bushland and wooded savanna  
4—bark soaked or boiled in water and used as an emetic medicine for malaria (*nkereu-wa*) and hepatitis (*ndiss*).

*Boscia coriacea* Pax. (293)*sericho*

shrub, common in dry bushland

4—root soaked in water and used as an emetic medicine for hepatitis (*ndiss*); also used as livestock medicine.

*Cadaba farinosa* Forsk. ssp. *farinosa* (130. 770)*lorosoro*

shrub, common in bushland  
4—ritual medicine; 5—used for ritual (marriage, circumcision and other celebration rituals), burned in fire or put at the entrance of a hut.

*Capparis tomentosa* Lam. (102)*laturdei*

shrub, common in bushland  
4—fruit applied to a wound to keep flies off; 5—poison used by a diviner (*diviner*).

*Cleome hirta* (Kl.) Oliv. (1001)

?

herb, common in rainy season in wooded savanna.

*Gynandropsis gynandra* (L.) Brig. (942)*lasaiet*

herb, rare in bushland  
3—bitter leaves boiled and eaten as relish.

*Maerua angolensis* Dc. (827)*loitaakini*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland  
2—wood used for making ear plug (*lkola-lei*).

*Maerua denhardtiorum* Gilg. (365)*ndaaruma*

shrub, rare in bushland  
3—nuts boiled and eaten; 4—leaves dried and pounded, and applied to infected eyes; also soaked in water and used as eye lotion.

*Maerua edulis* (Gilg. Bened) De Wolf (150. 417)*lamuegi*

shrub, common in bushland  
3—nuts boiled and eaten; root tastes sweet; after chewing this root, water tastes very sweet.

*Maerua endlichii* Gilg. & Bened. (204. 576)*nyirman*

shrub, rare in dry bushland  
4—root soaked in warm water and used as purgative; also boiled in goat bone soup and drunk when seriously ill.

*Maerua kirkii* (Oliv.) F. White (503)

*lokorkor*

shrub, rare in bushland

3—nuts boiled and eaten; available from June to September.

*Maerua triphylla* A. Rich. var. *johannis* (378, 674)

*lataasia (lamologi)*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland

4—leaves chewed and mixed with ashes, then applied to a boil (*lodotai*); also leaves soaked in water and used as eye lotion.

*Thylachium africanum* Luor. (352)

*sakarantei*

shrub, locally common in bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; available from June to October.

#### Caryophyllaceae

*Pollichia campestris* Ait. (574)

*nkayakuj*

dwarf shrub, rare in dry bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; available in early dry season.

#### Celastraceae

*Catha edulis* (Vahl) Forsk. ex. Endl. (specimen not collected)

*miraa*

shrub, sold at Wamba

4—young twigs chewed as stimulant.

*Maytenus heterophylla* N. Robson. (896, 901)

*sagmai (nchachumai)*

shrub, rare on forest edge

4—root boiled in bone soup and used as medicine for strength; 6—considered as a highland type of the next species.

*Maytenus putterlickioides* Exell. & Mendonca (91, 705)

*laimorniai (Imelon-ntoie)*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

4—root used as medicine for strength; 6—considered as lowland type of the above.

*Maytenus undatus* (Thunb.) Blakelock (527, 605, 839)

*selemnai (Itui, sokoneti)*

tree, common in forest

4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Maytenus* sp. (664)

*lodonganayoi*

tree, common in forest

4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Maytenus* sp. (1013)

?

tree, very rare in hilly bushland (observed only in Mbagasu, Mathew's Range).

*Mystroxydon aethiopicum* (Thunb.) Loes. (443)

*lodonganayoi*

tree, rare in forest (collected in Mukogodo Forest)

4—bark soaked in water, or boiled and mixed with milk, then used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Hippocrata* sp. (651)

*nkopit-lesala*

vine, common in riverine forest

2—used for binding beehives; 6—vernacular meaning vine (*nkopit*) of Lesala (lineage name).

#### Chenopodiaceae

*Chenopodium opulifolium* Koch. & Zix. (695, 726)

*lkornit (mbooga)*

herb, common in wooded grassland

3—leaves boiled and eaten as relish; available in rainy season.

*Salsola dendroides* Pall. var. *africana* (414) *aduum*

dwarf shrub, rare in dry bushland

1—given to livestock for salt; 3—leaves eaten raw (taste salty).

#### Combretaceae

*Combretum aculeatum* Vent. (64)

*lemawoi*

shrub, common in dry bushland

4—root soaked in water and used as an emetic medicine for malaria (*nkereuwa*) and hepatitis (*ndiss*); also used for dysentery and hiccup (*lekiyoget*).

*Combretum molle* G. Don. (49, 426, 567)

*Imarro (Ikurongoi)*



tree, common in hilly bushland

4—bark or root boiled in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder, liver disease, sore throat and ribpain; 5—also used as ritual medicine.

*Combretum* sp. (142)

*lbukoi*

tree, rare in bushland

2—bark soaked in water and used for tanning skin; 4—bark boiled or soaked in water and used as an emetic medicine for hepatitis (*ndiss*); also used as livestock medicine.

*Combretum* sp. (143)

*naibukoi*

tree, rare in bushland

2—construction material; wood used for ax haft; 4—bark soaked in water and used as an emetic medicine.

*Combretum* sp. (115, 579)

*lebokich*

shrub, common in bushland

2—construction material.

*Terminalia orbicularis* Engl. (292b)

*lkerbei*

tree, common in dry bushland

2—wood used for *lorien* (twig used for smoking milk container); 6—stingless bees' nests often found in this tree; offer good shade even in the driest season.

#### Compositae

*Achyrothalamus marginatus* O. Hoffm. (649)

*sinpaadet*

shrub, common forest undergrowth

1—known as nector source; 2—leaves used for making a bed.

*Ageratum conyzoides* L. (267, 645)

*nasungoyo-e-nkare*

herb, rare in riverine bushland

2—whole plant dried and pounded, and mixed with red powder (*lkaria*), then used as cosmetics; 6—vernacular meaning *nasungoyo* of river (*nkare*) side.

*Aspilia mossambicensis* (Oliv.) Wild (1006)

*loiyapaei*

shrub, common along riverside bushland

1—known as nector source; 2—used for

thatching a hut.

*Bidens incumbens* Sherff. (288)

*ntasimu sirwa*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder (*erabatisho*); stem chewed as an emetic medicine for malaria.

*Blepharispermum fruticosum* Klatt & Schinz (363)

*legruki*

shrub, rare in bushland

2—stem used for making an arrow shaft.

*Blepharispermum lanceolatum* Chiov. (947)

*legruki*

shrub, rare in bushland

2—stem used for making an arrow shaft.

*Blumea* sp. (300)

*lkima*

herb, common in grassland near water

1—nectar source; 2—used for thatching a hut.

*Conyza newii* Oliv. & Hiern. (320)

*lesirko*

herb, rare on rocky hills

2—whole plant dried, pounded and mixed with red powder (*lkarya*) for use as cosmetics; 4—pounded and mixed with red powder, and applied to pimples; 5—also used as ritual medicine.

*Crassocephalum bojeri* (Dc.) Robys (599)

*loiramirami*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland

4—juice squeezed from leaves used as medicine for baby's cold (*nkerobi*); root boiled in water and used when curing gonorrhea (this is used after treating with *makutukuti* root and mutton soup).

*Crassocephalum manii* (Hook. f.) Milne-Redh. (238, 631, 857)

*legarmon (sapututi, sulosulo)*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland and riverine forest

1—nectar source; 4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for malaria; also used as ritual medicine.

*Erlangea tomentosa* S. Moore (760)

*upuanja*

shrub, rare in bushland

1—known as nector source; 2—stem used for making a fire-stick (*lpiron*).

*Helichrysum blumaceum* D. C. (537)

*lmesikerai*

herb, common in bushland and wooded savanna

1—fodder and nector source.

*Helichrysum kirkii* Oliv. & Hiern. (736)

*lmuntarasi*

herb, rare in grassland

1—fodder and nector source.

*Hirpicium diffusa* (O. Hoffm.) Roess. (536, 918)

*lmasurti*

herb, common in bushland

4—whole plant soaked in water and used as eye lotion.

*Kleinia kleinioides* (Sch. Bip.) M. F. R. Tayl. (1022)

*longwaroi*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

1—goat's fodder; 3—resin chewed.

*Kleinia* sp. (371)

*ldenja*

shrub, rare in dry bushland

4—honey of stingless bees (*njobi*) from this flower tastes bitter and used as an emetic medicine for malaria; 6—considered as lowland species of the above.

*Lactuca capensis* Thunb. (922)

*ndaa-o-ntare*

herb, rare in bushland

1—goat's fodder; 6—vernacular meaning food (*ndaa*) of smallstock (*ntare*).

*Microglossa pyrifolia* (Lam.) O. Ktze (237, 821, 859)

*sumaati* (*waswasiti*, *lepaam*)

tree, rare in hilly bushland and riverine forest

1—nectar source; 2—used for making fire-stick (*liperon*); 4—leaves soaked in water and used as eye lotion; also used to wash babies suffering from skin rashes (*lpepedo*) or measles (*lripo*).

*Pluchea ovalis* D. C. (633)

*loikonbao*

herb, common in riverside bushland

1—nectar source; 6—vernacular meaning

chewing tobacco.

*Psiadia punctulata* (D. C.) Vatke. (564)

*labai*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

2—stem used for an arrow shaft; 4—leaves boiled in water and used for insecticide; leaves pounded and applied to a wound and burn.

*Senecio lyratipartitus* A. Rich (632)

*sapuju*

herb, rare in riverine forest

1—nectar source; 4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for fever.

*Senecio petitianus* A. Rich. (666)

*sarunjo*

vine, rare in riverine forest

5—root used as ritual medicine.

*Senecio stuhlmanii* Klatt. (641)

*lepepedo*

vine, rare in riverine forest

4—leaves soaked in water, then used to wash skin rashes; 6—vernacular derived from skin rashes (*lpepedo*).

*Senecio* sp. (768)

*ntangalasu*

vine, rare in riverine forest

4—root chewed as an emetic medicine, or soaked in water and used as a purgative.

*Sphaeranthus gomphrenoides* O. Hoffm. (754)

*letrot*

herb, common in grassland

4—whole plant soaked in water and used as medicine for a pregnant women.

*Sphaeranthus ukambensis* O. Hoffm. (617)

*lkima*

herb, common in grassland

1—nectar source.

*Spilanthus mauritiana* (A. Rich.) D. C. (780)

*lelaplapi*

creeping herb, common on riverside

4—stem chewed as medicine for fever; 6—vernacular derived from its taste (*kelaplap*).

*Tugetes minuta* L. (630)

*lbangi*

herb, rare in riverine bush

4—whole plant smoked as an insecticide; also soaked in water and used for killing insects.

*Vernonia brachycalyx* O. Hoffm. (545)  
*lokomati*

shrub, common in hilly bushland  
1—nectar source; 4—leaves soaked in water and used for washing skin rashes (*lepepedo*).

*Vernonia lasiopus* O. Hoffm. (582)  
*nkaputi*

shrub, common in riverine bushland  
1—nectar source; 2—leaves used to make a bed when sleeping in bush.

*Vernonia pauciflora* Less. (199)  
*lokilidia*

shrub, rare in riverine bushland  
4—leaves soaked in water and used as eye lotion.

#### Convolvulaceae

*Astripomoea lachnosperma* (Choisy.) Meeuse. (1002)

*loibortapuka*  
creeping herb, common in bushland and wooded savanna  
1—known as nectar source; 6—vernacular meaning white (*loibor*) flower (*tapuka*).

*Astripomoea malvacea* (Klotzsch) Meeuse. (675)

*nkokitengi*  
shrub, common in hilly bushland  
1—known as nectar source; 5—ritual medicine.

*Ipomoea arachnosperma* Welw. (1024)  
*nayop-owaru*

shrub (vine), common in bushland  
1—nectar source; 6—vernacular meaning a hiding place (*nayop*) of a carnivore (*lowaru*).

*Ipomoea cairica* (L.) Sweet. (409)  
*lkurundere*

creeping shrub, common in bushland  
1—nectar source.

*Ipomoea cicatricosa* Bak. (1004)  
*lokitengi*

creeping shrub, common in bushland  
1—nectar source.

*Ipomoea clythrocephala* Hallier. f. (408)  
*nayop-owaru*

vine, common in bushland  
1—nectar source; 6—vernacular meaning a hiding place (*nayop*) of a carnivore (*lowaru*).

*Ipomoea jaegeri* Pilg. (744)  
*nyiluto*

shrub, common in grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)  
4—root used with sheep fat as medicine for *kisunono* (gonorrhoea).

*Ipomoea mombassana* Vatke. (715)  
*laimtia*

vine, common in bushland  
1—nectar source.

*Ipomoea longituba* Hall (43)  
*loiswashi*

vine, common in hilly bushland  
3—root roasted or boiled and eaten.

*Ipomoea oenotherae* (Vatke.) Hall. f. (201)  
*leropij*

herb, locally common in grassland and bushland  
3—carrot like root eaten raw; available in rainy season.

*Ipomoea spatulata* Hall. f. (101. 450)  
*lokitengi*

shrub, abundant in bushland  
2—leaves used for making a bed; 4—juice squeezed from leaves used as eye lotion; 5—leaves steamed with hot stones and used as ritual medicine.

*Merremia ampelophylla* Hall. f. (939)  
*semalelei*

vine, rare in dry bushland  
3—root boiled and mixed with milk, and eaten.

#### Crassulaceae

*Kalanchoe citrina* Schweinf. (1016)  
*lmasiligi (lesarieni, siligai)*

herb, rare in bushland  
2—stem used for making a flute; 5—used as *ntasimu* (ritual medicine).

*Kalanchoe densiflora* Rolfe. (460. 769)  
*lmasiligi*

herb, rare in riverine forest

2—stem used for making a flute; 5—ritual medicine.

*Kalanchoe lanceolata* (Forsk.) Pers. (658)

*lmasiligi*

herb, rare in bushland near water

2—stem used for making a flute; 5—ritual medicine.

#### Cruciferae

*Lepidium bonariense* L. (763)

*sokotei-le-nkop*

herb, rare in grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)

4—stem and leaves soaked in water and used as a purgative medicine for "cleaning the stomach" of a women just after giving a birth.

#### Cucurbitaceae

*Coccinia* sp. nr. *grandiflora* Cogn. (683)

*sanate*

vine, rare on rocky hills and forest edge

3—root boiled and eaten, sometimes dried and preserved; available in both rainy and dry seasons.

*Coccinea* sp. (657)

*namondoosio*

vine, rare in forest

3—fruit eaten raw; available in dry season.

*Cucumella* sp. (14)

*lmgalaiyoi*

creeping herb, rare in hilly bushland

3—fruit and root eaten raw; available in rainy season.

*Cucumis dipsaceus* Spach. (826)

*lduju*

creeping herb, common in grassland and bushland

1—fruit eaten by goats; 2—fruit used by children for making a small calabash for playing.

*Cucumis prophetarium* L. ssp. *dissectus* (Naud.) C. Jeffr. (92)

*nangordodoi*

creeping herb, common in grassland and bushland

1—fruit eaten by goats; 2—fruit used by children for making a small calabash for

playing.

*Cucumis sativus* L. (291)

*nangordodoi*

creeping herb, common in bushland

2—fruit used by children for making a small calabash for milking a goat.

*Cucumis* sp. (148, 219)

*laisiraruai*

creeping herb, common in hilly bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; available toward the end of rainy season.

*Gerrardanthus lobatus* (Cogn.) C. Jeffrey (549)

*silinbi*

creeping herb, common in riverine forest

2—dried fruit used by children for play (for making ringing sound); 6—vernacular derived from a shilling coin (*silinbi*).

*Kedrostis pseudogifef* (Gilg.) C. Jeffrey (47, 96)

*sakurdumi*

vine, common in bushland and wooded savanna

1—leaves eaten by goats; 4—bark soaked in water and used as an emetic medicine for malaria and hepatitis.

*Kedrostis* sp. (214)

*lmgalaiyoi*

vine, very rare in bushland

4—used as medicine for various diseases; root boiled with goat's fat and drunk as medicine for curing impotence; also used for strength: leaves pounded and snuffed for curing *lbai-le-ngwe* (*lbai* of head, headache of the front).

*Lagenaria* sp. (258)

*leakitok*

vine, rare in forest

2—fruit used for making a calabash container (*nkirau*).

*Peponium vogelii* (Hook. f.) Engl. (332)

*lkusiaiti* (*lalak*)

vine, rare in forest

3—fruit eaten raw, much favored; available in dry season; 4—unripe fruit tastes sour and bitter, and eaten as medicine for fever; 6—some people say *lalak* is a highland type of *lkusiaiti*.

*Zehneria anomala* C. Jeffrey (933)

*Imelapale*

vine, rare in dry bushland

3—green fruit eaten raw; available in rainy season.

## Ebenaceae

*Diospyros abyssinica* (Hiern) White (21, 42)  
*Ldumut* (*ldulandrit*)

tree, common on forest edge

1—nectar source; 2—wood used for making a stick (*rungu*).

*Euclea schimperi* (D. C.) Dandy (74, 420)  
*Ichingei*

tree, rare on forest edge

4—bark used as medicine for the liver (*munyuwa*); bark and root boiled with the bark of *Olea africana* (*lorien*) and used as an anthelmintic medicine for tapeworms (*ntuma* or *munyoo*); bark also used for curing stomach disorder.

## Euphorbiaceae

*Acalypha fruticosa* Forsk. var. *egandulosa*  
A. Rade. Sm. (37)

*siaiti*

shrub, abundant in hilly bushland

2—stem used for making an arrow shaft and stopper of a beehive lid; 4—root boiled in goat bone soup and used as medicine for the liver; also used as medicine after eating too much honey.

*Acalypha racemosa* Baill. (807)

*nduupu*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland

2—sticky leaves used for bedding.

*Argomuellera macrophylla* Pax. (818)

*lkormoloiki*

tree, rare in riverine forest

6—honey from this flower considered to be poisonous, causing trouble with joints.

*Bridelia taitensis* Pax. & Vatke (100)

*lorokare*

shrub, common in bushland

2—twig used as tooth-brush.

*Bridelia micrantha* Baill. (906)

*loisiteti*

shrub, rare in riverine forest (collected at Uaso Ronkai).

*Clutia abyssinica* Jaub. & Spach. var. *abyssinica* (758)

*lekilidia*

shrub, rare in riverine forest (collected at Naibor Keju)

1—known as nector source; 4—leaves soaked in water for use as an eye lotion.

*Croton dichogamus* Pax. (724)

*localdengai*

shrub, common in high grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)

4—root soaked and used as medicine for malaria (*nkereuwa*) and other ordinary fever (*Ichamaa*); 6—root tastes hot (*ketuk-tuk*).

*Croton macrostachys* Del. (231)

*epit* (*parmaala*)

tree, rare in forest

1—nectar source.

*Croton megalocarpus* Hutch. (24, 428)

*Imargweit*

tree, abundant in lower montane forest

1—important nector source; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for fever.

*Croton scheffleri* Pax. (1)

*niloopa*

shrub, common in bushland

1—nectar source; 4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for malaria and fever; 6—considered to be highland (*supuko*) species of the next.

*Croton scheffleri* Pax. (598)

*Icheni-o-nkera*

shrub, common in dry bushland

1—nectar source; 4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for fever; 6—vernacular name means a tree (*Icheni*) of children (*nkera*); root tastes bitter (*kedua*).

*Drypetes gerrardii* Hutch var. *gerrardii* (28)

*Itulelei*

tree, rare in montane forest

2—wood used as construction material; 3—fruit eaten raw.

*Erythrococca bongensis* Pax. (727)

*Itulelei*

shrub, rare on forest edge (collected at Naibor Keju)

4—root roasted and mixed with butter, then used as children's medicine.

*Erythrococca fischeri* Pax. (842)

*lkelen*

shrub, rare in lower montane forest

3—fruit eaten raw.

*Euphorbia candelabrum* (400)

*sirai*

tree, common in hilly bushland

2—bark used to glaze pottery; 4—root used as medicine for severe stomach diseases; first, root is boiled in gastric juice of cattle or goat and the decoction is drunk; second, small amount of root is boiled in goat or cattle bone soup, then the soup is drunk; third, meat and bone soup are eaten; root also used as medicine for female infertility; 6—root tastes hot (*kelangalan*) and the decoction used for making the body hot.

*Euphorbia cuneata* Vahl. (203)

*ltiliman*

shrub, common in dry bushland

4—sticky latex used for removing dust from the eye; also used as livestock medicine for calf's *ndiss* (hepatitis).

*Euphorbia heterochroma* Pax. (678)

*lkeleit* (*lbopongi*)

small cactus-like plant, common in rocky hills

4—whole stem roasted and soaked in water, then after removing floating latex (*mbopon*) the decoction is drunk as medicine for pneumonia (*noimarei*) and tuberculosis (*ribi* or *suur*); 6—stem tastes *ketuktuk* (hot).

*Euphorbia inaequilatera* Sond. (872)

*dawa-le-nkop*

herb, common in bushland

4—whole plant pounded and used as medicine for a wound and burn; 6—vernacular meaning medicine (*dawa*) of the land (*nkop*).

*Euphorbia polyantha* Pax. (941)

*lekule*

herb, rare in bushland

2—white latex used by children in an imitation play of circumcision; 6—vernacular derived from its white latex like milk (*kule*).

*Euphorbia scheffleri* Pax. (13)

*lkorbobit*

shrub, common in bushland

2—wood used for making a fire-stick (*lpiron*); 4—fruit used for toothache, roasted and applied to a carious tooth, sometimes used with sheep fat.

*Euphorbia systyloides* Pax. var. *lata* N. E. Br. (932, 1000)

*lekule*

herb, common in bushland

2—white latex used by children in a circumcision play; 6—vernacular derived from milky (*kule*) latex.

*Euphorbia transvaalensis* Schlecht. (294)

*lekule*

herb, common in bushland

2—latex used by children in a circumcision play; 4—latex also used for curing warts (*lkeeti*).

*Euphorbia* sp. (398)

*lparaa*

tree, common in rocky hills

2—wood used for making a beehive; 4—latex (*mbopon*) used for killing hyaena; bark roasted and applied to a running sore (*nyoolei*) in order to prevent further infection; latex used for curing a skin disease of livestock.

*Euphorbia* sp.

*nemunyi*

small cactus-like plant, common in rocky hills

4—whole plant soaked in water and used as medicine for chest and rib pains.

*Heywoodia lucens* Sim. (326, 601)

*nyoosia*

tree, common to abundant in lower montane forest

1—nectar source.

*Marfaritaria discoidea* (Baill.) Webster (513, 640)

*loisaei*

tree, rare in lower montane forest

1—nectar source; 6—considered to be tree of rain, as water always drops under this tree.

*Phyllanthus fischeri* Pax. (72)

*lobereti*

shrub, locally abundant in hilly bushland

1—nectar source; 2—twig used as toothbrush.

*Phyllanthus sepialis* Muell. Arg. (507)

*lobereti*

shrub common in hilly bushland  
1—nectar source; 2—twig used as tooth-brush.

*Phyllanthus guineensis* Pax. (653)

*lesuei*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland  
1—nectar source; 6—vernacular derived from the name of a local group of the Dorobo (Suei or Suiei).

*Phyllanthus rotundifolius* Wild. (383)

*lcheni-le-njobi*

shrub, common in dry bushland  
1—nectar source of *nkasuiyasui* (honey of stingless bees); 6—vernacular meaning a tree (*lcheni*) of stingless bee (*njobi*).

*Ricinus communis* L. (75, 471)

*lampaalegi*

shrub, locally common in riverine forest  
4—oil from the seed used as a purgative medicine.

*Securinega virosa* (Wild.) Baill. (97)

*lkirebuki*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland  
3—fruit eaten raw; available in early dry season; 4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder in some place.

*Tragia brevipes* Pax. (522)

*ltamejioi*

vine, rare in riverine forest  
4—root boiled in bone soup and used by moran as medicine for strength; 6—taste *kelangan* (similar to hot taste).

*Tragia insularis* Prain (785)

*sabai-e-nkera*

vine, rare in hilly bushland  
4—root boiled in goat bone soup and used by moran as medicine for strength.

#### Flacourtiaceae

*Dovyalis abyssinica* (A. Rich.) Warb. (82)

*Imoro*

tree, common in montane forest  
3—fruit eaten raw.

*Rawsonia lucida* Harv. & Sond. (377, 511)

*lkokodate*

tree, rare in lower montane forest

3—fruit eaten raw; available in late rainy season.

*Trimeria tropica* Burkill. (740)

*ledat*

tree, rare in montane forest  
4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for fever and malaria.

#### Geraniaceae

*Monsonia angustifolia* A. Rich (761)

*lenpai-e-nabo*

herb, rare in grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)

4—whole plant soaked in water and used as medicine for the liver disease.

*Monsonia longipes* Knuth. (945)

?

herb, rare in bushland.

*Pelargonium quinquelobatum* A. Rich (965)

*naseisyo*

herb, locally common in hilly bushland  
3—stem eaten raw; 6—vernacular derived from its taste (sour = *keseisyo*).

#### Guttiferaceae

*Garcinia livingstonei* T. Anders (140, 558, 636)

*yolet (lkasiyoi)*

tree, common in riverine and montane forests

2—twig used for making a stirrer (*lkepere*);  
3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; bark also used by moran as medicine for strength; 6—bark tastes *kemototo* (tannin's taste) and eaten by elephants.

#### Hamamelidaceae

*Trichocladas ellipticus* (Eckl. & Zeyh.) Sond. ssp. *malosamus* (Bak.) Verde. (339, 550, 741)

*lpalagilagi*

tree, common in montane forest  
2—wood considered to be termite-resistant and used as construction material; 4—bark boiled in bone soup and used as medicine for stomach disorder and strength; 6—

bark tastes *kemototo* (tannin's taste) and eaten by elephants.

#### Hydnoraceae

*Hydnora abyssinica* Schweinf. (122)  
*naikaiyamoi*  
parasitic plant of *Acacia*, rare in bushland  
3—root boiled and eaten; 4—whole plant dried and pounded and used as medicine for stomachache and other stomach disorder.

#### Icacinaceae

*Apodytes dimidiata* Arn. var. *acutifolia* (248, 635)  
*iyetu*  
tree, common in riverine forest  
1—nectar source; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; also used as medicine for strength by moran; 6—considered to be the lowland type of the next species; bark tastes *kemototo* (tannin's taste).

*Apodytes dimidiata* Arn. var. *acutifolia* (323, 912)  
*iyemeti*  
tree, common in montane forest  
1—nectar source; 4—bark used as medicine for stomach disorder and strength; 6—considered to be highland type of the above; bark tastes *kemototo*.

#### Labiatae

*Ajuga remota* Benth. (735)  
*salala*  
herb, rare in grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)  
4—whole plant pounded and soaked in water and used as an emetic medicine for malaria.

*Becium obovatum* (E. Mey.) N. E. Br. (306)  
*ldurle*  
herb, rare in bushland  
4—leaves used as a substitute for snuff tobacco '*naisuki*'.

*Becium* sp. (381)  
*moire*  
herb, common in grassland and bushland

1—nectar source; 6—collectively called *rabraba*.

*Erythrocochamys spectabilis* Guerke (968)  
*lokilidia*  
shrub, common in riverside bushland  
4—leaves soaked in water and used as eye lotion.

*Fuerstia africana* Th. Fries. (764)  
*lkarya-lo-muny*  
herb, rare in grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)  
2—leaves pounded and applied as cosmetics; 6—vernacular meaning red ochre (*lkarya*) of a rhino (*muny*).

*Hoslundia opposita* Vahl. (554, 660)  
*nchode*  
shrub, common in hilly bushland  
3—fruit eaten raw; available in early dry season.

*Ipoza multiflora* (Benth) E. A. Bruce (625, 671)  
*sakua-leotimi (lemoosua)*  
shrub, common in riverine forest  
2—stem used for making a fire-stick; 4—burned ash used as a substitute for soda ashes (*makati*).

*Leonotis mollissima* Guerke (843)  
*njicheni*  
herb, rare on forest edge.

*Leucas calostachys* Oliv. (748)  
*nkenjeni*  
shrub, rare on forest edge (collected at Naibor Keju)  
4—in some area (Naibor Keju) leaves used as fermentizer (together with *Aloe* root and the fruits of *Kigelia*) for brewing honey beer.

*Leucas marticinensis* R. Br. (198)  
*mbaisherei*  
herb, common in bushland and grassland  
1—nectar source.

*Leucas mollis* Bak. (275, 587, 781)  
*loopat (lkomelas, norpat)*  
herb, common in grassland and bushland  
1—nectar source; 6—considered to be a lowland type of *Leonotis mollissima (njicheni)*.

*Leucas pratensis* Vatke (865)  
*melonyi (lkomelas)*



herb, common in riverside bushland  
1—nectar source.

*Leucas urticifolia* R. Br. (604)  
*mbaisherei*

herb, common in riverside bushland  
1—nectar source.

*Leucas* sp. (183)  
*sigiit*

herb, common in bushland  
4—leaves and flowers soaked in warm water and the decoction is used as eye lotion.

*Ocimum basilicum* L. (532)  
*ldurle*

herb, common in grassland and bushland  
4—leaves used as substitutes for snuff (*naisuki*) and chewing tobacco (*loikonbao*).

*Ocimum suave* Willd. (172, 254, 619)  
*lbakututi (lemuran)*

shrub, common in hilly bushland  
2—stem used for making a fire-stick; 4—whole plant burned and the ashes used as a substitute for soda ashes.

*Orthosiphon suffrutescens* (Thonn.) J. K. Morton (913)

*ldololit*

shrub, locally common in riverside bushland  
1—nectar source.

*Plectranthus assurgens* (Bak.) J. K. Morton (867)

*ldololit*

herb, common in riverside bushland.

*Plectranthus caninus* Roth. (725)  
*laashao*

herb, common in grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)  
4—used as medicine for the liver; also used for livestock medicine for making the after-birth (*midon*) come out.

*Plectranthus igniarius* Schweinf. (943)  
*lburan*

herb, common in bushland  
4—used as livestock medicine for making the afterbirth (*midon*) come out.

*Plectranthus tenuiflorus* Vatke. (251)  
*lburan*

herb, common in bushland  
4—women's medicine (substitute of the next

species): whole plant soaked in warm water and used as a purgative medicine for cleaning the "stomach" after giving a birth.

*Plectranthus* sp. (10)  
*sumurnai*

herb, common in hilly bushland  
4—women's medicine; whole plant soaked in warm water and used as medicine for "cleaning the stomach" after giving a birth, especially when the afterbirth (*midon*) does not come out.

*Plectranthus* sp. (240)  
*loetimi*

shrub, rare in riverine forest  
2—stem used for making a fire-stick; 4—whole plant burned and the ashes used as a substitute of soda ashes.

*Plectranthus* sp. (876)  
*nabunap*

herb, rare in riverside bushland  
6—considered to be poisonous for goat.

*Plectranthus* sp. (559)  
*lopetali*

herb, common undergrowth in forest  
2—leaves used for bedding.

*Pycnostachys umbrosa* (Vatke.) Perkins (875)

*lmoalo*

shrub, rare in riverine bushland  
4—used as ritual medicine.

*Satureia punctata* (Benth.) Brig. (999)  
*matalakwa*

dwarf shrub, rare in rocky hills  
4—leaves used for making tea.

*Tinnea aethiopica* Kotschy & Peyv. (131)  
*lokilidia*

shrub, common in riverside bushland  
4—fruit and leaves pounded and soaked in water, then used as eye lotion.

#### Leguminosae (Caesalpinioideae)

*Bauhinia tomentosa* L. (25)  
*lecholo*

shrub, common in hilly bushland  
2—wood used for a spear shaft; twigs used for smoking milk containers, called *lorien*; twigs also used as toothbrush; 6—considered to be a lower type of the next species.

*Bathinia tomentosa* L. (246)

*lorokike*

shrub, common on forest edge  
2—material for toothbrush, spear shaft and *lorien* (twig used for smoking a milk container); 6—considered to be a highland (*supuko*) type of the above.

*Cassia didymobotrya* Fres. (347, 723)

*senetoi*

shrub, common on forest edges  
4—root soaked in water and used as an emetic medicine for malaria (*nkereuwa*) and hepatitis (*ndixs*); 6—root tastes *kedua* (very bitter).

*Cassia longiracemosa* Vatke (415)

*lokiristai*

shrub, common in hilly bushland (collected at Loinyowashin)  
4—root and leaves soaked in water, and the decoction is mixed with milk, then drunk as medicine for fever.

*Cassia singueana* Del. (717)

*kimerteti (lengorno)*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland  
4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder (stomachache and diarrhea) and sore throat (*mueyian-lolgoso*).

*Cadia purpurea* (Picc.) Ait. (899)

*lkekeriai*

tree, locally common in hilly bushland (collected at Uaso Ronkai)  
4—bark used with *morijioi* (*Acocanthera* sp.) for making arrow poison.

*Delonix elata* (L.) Gamble (127)

*lawai*

tree, rare in hilly bushland  
2—wood used for making a container, specially oil or butter container, and goat's bell (*lodongodon*).

*Newtonia hildebrandtii* (65)

*loimuki (lokusoroi)*

tree, common in wooded grassland  
1—nectar source; 2—wood used for construction and also for charcoal burning; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder, specially for excessive eating; 6—bark tastes *kemototo* (astringent).

*Tamarindus indica* L. (716)

*rogei*

tree, very rare in hilly bushland  
3—leaves eaten raw, or dried and used for making tea; 4—fruit, or root and bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder (*erabatisho*).

*Tylosema fassoglensis* (Schweinf.) Torre & Hillcoat. (309)

*lekauri*

vine, common in hilly bushland  
1—goat's fodder, important in dry season.

#### Leguminosae (Mimosoideae)

*Acacia ataxacantha* D. C. (151)

*siololan*

shrub, common in hilly bushland  
1—goat's fodder: nectar source; 2—construction material; 4—in some area, leaves soaked in water and used as eye lotion, or pounded and applied to a boil (*lodotai*); 6—considered as a highland type of the next species.

*Acacia brevispica* Harms. (113)

*lgirigiri*

shrub, abundant in bushland  
1—nectar source and goat's fodder; 2—used for construction materials; 4—in some area, used as livestock medicine; 6—considered as a lowland type of the above.

*Acacia drepanolobium* Sjöstedt (110)

*luai*

shrub, rare in bushland  
3—green gall eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; 6—bark tastes *kemototo* (astringent).

*Acacia elatior* Brenan ssp. *elatior* (501)

*sesiai*

tree, rare in riverside wooded grassland  
4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; 6—bark tastes *kemototo*.

*Acacia etbaica* Schweinf. ssp. *platycarpa* Brenan (572)

*lehakwai*

tree, locally common in bushland  
4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Acacia gerrardii* Benth. (731)*lankau*

tree, locally common in grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)

4—bark boiled and the decoction is mixed with milk, then used as medicine for *nkirotet* (bone pain), *lbai* (joint pain) and *nkoriai* (backache); 6—considered to be related to *Acacia tortilis*.

*Acacia hockii* DeWild. (93)*lerai*

shrub, rare in riverside bushland

4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for children's diarrhea; bark also used for making tea.

*Acacia humalosa* Benth. (299)*lkerdedi*

tree, rare in dry bushland

4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for diarrhoea.

*Acacia horiida* (L.) Willd. ssp. *benadirensis* (Chiov.) Hillcoat & Brenan (399, 411)*lmarti*

tree, rare in bushland

3—green gall eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; 6—considered to be related to *luai* because of its gall.

*Acacia mellifera* (Vahl) Benth (109)*iti*

tree, common in dry bushland

1—nectar source, 2—used for charcoal burning and for making a stick (*rungu*).

*Acacia nilotica* (L.) Del. (63, 95)*lkiloriti*

shrub, rare in bushland and wooded savanna

4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine on various occasions; for women after giving a birth, bark boiled in goat bone soup; for stomach disorder, bark soaked in water; dried pods boiled in water and drunk like tea; in some area green pods pounded and applied to a wound; 6—bark tastes *kemototo* (tannin's taste).

*Acacia nubica* Benth. (216)*ldepe*

shrub, rare in dry bushland

4—used as medicine for various diseases; for *nkirotet* (a disease of bone), and

*ndiss* (hepatitis), bark boiled in goat bone soup; for gonorrhoea (*kisunono* or *lbai-le-nkolion*), boiled with *makutukuti* (*Clerodendrom*) and sheep fat, and drunk; sold at market as medicine; 6—bark has peculiar smell (*kelele*).

*Acacia reficiens* Wawra ssp. *miseria* (123)*lchurai*

shrub, abundant in dry savanna

3—sweet inner bark chewed; 4—bark also used for children's stomach disorder.

*Acacia senegal* (L.) Willd. (175)*nderikesi*

tree, locally common in bushland

3—gum obtained in large quantities and eaten; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Acacia tortilis* (Forsk.) Hayne (105)*lpepes*

tree, abundant in wooded savanna and bushland

1—pods (called *sagaram*) are important food of goats in the dry season; 2—used as construction materials for building huts and fences; inner bark used for binding; root used for making a haft of chisel (*lalem-lo-keek*) for curving a wooden container; wood also used for charcoal burning; 3—dried pods called *lpaas* pounded and mixed with milk to drink; 4—bark soaked in water, and the decoction is mixed with milk, then used as medicine for *nkirotet* (disease of bones); 5—used as ritual medicine and also indispensable to various rituals, like *lasarr* and *nkieu*.

*Acacia* sp. (391)*lumunyamunyi* (*lmelelek*)

tree, rare in hilly bushland

2—core wood used for making a *rungu*; 4—bark boiled in bone soup and used as medicine for strength; also soaked in water for use for stomach disorder; 6—bark tastes *kemototo* (tannin's taste).

*Acacia* sp. (883)*lkikeanbaus*

shrub, very rare in hilly bushland

4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for children's stomach disorder; 6—bark tastes a little sweet; this species is considered to be related to *lerai* (*Acacia hockii*).

*Albizia anthelmintica* Brongn. (106)  
*lmugutan*

tree, common in hilly bushland  
4—bark boiled in water and used as an anthelmintic medicine for tapeworms (*ntuma*); decoction also used for washing skin rashes (*lpepedo*) of children; sold at markets; 6—bad smell of a certain kind (*kelele*).

*Albizia* sp. (234)

*enteti*  
tree, common in montane forest  
6—considered to be related to *reket*.

*Dichrostachys cinera* (L.) Wight & Arn.  
ssp. *africana* Brenan & Brummitt. (180, 585)

*lekiri*  
tree, common in hilly bushland  
4—leaves used as eye medicine; leaves dried and pounded, and put into eye, then washed away with water.

*Entada leplostachya* Harms (191)

*ltalampo*  
tree, common in hilly bushland  
4—root boiled in goat bone soup and used as medicine for strength; soaked in water and used for chestpain and joint pain (*lbai*); 6—considered to be a lowland type of the next.

*Entada* sp. (20)

*lodotapuka*  
tree common on forest edge  
4—root used with goat soup as medicine for strength; 6—considered as a highland type of the above; *tapuka* means flower.

#### Leguminosae (Papilionoideae)

*Abrus schimperi* Bak. (515)

*saikorkori*  
shrub, common in hilly bushland  
2—stem used as a toothbrush.

*Craibia laurentii* De Wild. (50, 682)

*lmampaatei*  
tree, common in riverine forest and on forest edge  
3—beans considered to be poisonous and eaten only after boiling for several hours; highly nutritious and one of the most important wild plant foods of the Suiei; available in dry season.

*Crotalaria incana* L. ssp. *purpuracens* (Lam.) Milne-Rodh. (405)

*letualan*  
shrub, common in dry bushland  
2—dried pods (making a bell-like sound) used by children for playing as a substitute for a bell.

*Crotalaria polysperma* Schweinf. (534)

*letualan*  
shrub, common in bushland  
2—dried pods used by children for playing as a substitute for a bell.

*Dolichos oliveri* Schweinf. (707)

*ldakat*  
creeping herb, rare in bushland  
4—root considered as poisonous.

*Erythrina abyssinica* Lam. ex DC. (394, 583)

*loboni*  
tree, rare in hilly bushland and forest edge  
2—wood used for making *ngalao* (watering bucket for cattle); 6—considered as a highland type of the next.

*Erythrina* sp. (298)

*lngorochi*  
tree, common in dry bushland  
2—wood used for making *ngalao*; 6—considered as lowland type of the above.

*Glycine wightii* (Wight & Arn.) Verdc. sp.  
*wightii* var. *longicanda* (Schweinf.) Verdc. (905)

*loieti*  
vine, common in hilly bushland and riverine forest  
1—goat's fodder.

*Indigofera arrecta* A. Rich. (413)

*imeim*  
shrub, common in wooded grassland and bushland  
2—dark green juice squeezed from leaves applied to lips as cosmetics.

*Indigofera bogdanii* Gillett var. *bogdanii* (767)

*lunyinyi*  
dwarf shrub, common in grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)  
4—root soaked in water and the decoction mixed with milk, and drunk as medicine for *lbai* (joint pain) and *nkirotet* (bone pain).

*Indigofera garckeana* Vatke (704)

*letorobo*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for *kisunono* and *lbai*.

*Indigofera lupatana* Bak. f. (384)

*lataasia*

shrub, rare in bushland

2—stem used for making an arrow shaft.

*Indigofera spicata* Forsk. (915)

*dawa-le-nkop*

herb, common in bushland

4—whole plant pounded and applied to a wound and burn.

*Indigofera spinosa* Forsk. (359)

*lketagishi*

shrub, common in bushland

4—root boiled in goat soup and used as medicine for strength, specially used when recovering from illness.

*Indigofera swaziensis* Bolus var. *swaziensis* (668)

*lmejala (lparcholwa)*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland

4—root soaked in water and used with milk as medicine for rheumatism (*lbai*) and bone pain (*nkirotet*).

*Indigofera vohemarensis* Baill. (227)

*nasungoyo*

shrub, rare in rocky hills

2—a fragrant plant; stem used for making a necklace, or pounded and mixed with *lkarya* (red powder) and used as cosmetics; 6—vernacular name meaning “to be fragrant”.

*Indigofera volkensis* Taub. (911)

*lketagishi-*o*-nkishu*

herb, common in bushland

1—goat and cattle fodder; 6—vernacular meaning cattle’s *lketagishi*.

*Lablab purpureus* (L.) Sweet ssp. *uncinatus* Verdc. (783)

*lalandei*

creeping herb, common in hilly bushland

3—small beans boiled and eaten.

*Lonchocarpus* sp. (687)

*lteroi*

tree, common in bushland

4—bark soaked in water and used as an emetic medicine for malaria and hepatitis (*ndiss*).

*Macrotyloma axillare* (E. Mey.) Verdc. var. *glabrum* (667)

*lgisoiya*

creeping herb, common in hilly bushland

1—cattle fodder.

*Mucuna gigantea* (Willd.) DC. ssp. *quadri-lata* (Bak.) Verdc. (680)

*lairraaj*

vine, common in riverine forest

3—beans boiled and eaten: traditionally, beans were stored for future use: available in dry season.

*Ormocarpum keniense* Gillet (969)

*ldolisioi*

shrub, rare in bushland

2—wood used for making ear plugs of moran.

*Ormocarpum trichocarpum* (Tanb.) Engl. (563)

*lengotia*

shrub, rare in rocky hills and bushland

4—root and bark used as women’s medicine: boiled in sheep fat (*lkerr*) and given to a pregnant woman when she bleeds so as to prevent miscarriage; 6—root tastes *ketuktuk* (hot).

*Sesbania sesban* (L.) var. *nubica* Chiov. (892)

*loiyangalanyi*

shrub, locally common in riverside bushland

4—root boiled in goat soup and used as medicine for strength.

*Stylosanthus fruticosa* (Retz.) Alston (920)

?

dwarf shrub, rare on rocky hills.

*Tephrosia noctiflora* Bak. (395)

*letomia*

shrub, common in bushland

4—root soaked in water or chewed for use as medicine for fever; 6—root tastes *kedua* (very bitter).

*Tephrosia polyphylla* (Chiov.) Gillett (685)

*lepausi (letomia)*

shrub, common in bushland

4—root chewed or soaked in water and

used as medicine for fever; 6—root *kedua*.

*Tephrosia uniflora* (Chiov.) Gillett. (351)  
*letomia*

shrub, common in bushland

4—root chewed or soaked in water and used as medicine for fever; 6—root *kedua* (very bitter).

*Vatovaea pseudolablab* (Harms.) Gillett (207)

*njiasi*

vine, locally common in rocky bushland

3—root eaten raw or roasted.

*Vigna frutescens* A. Rich. (615)

*nanyoi*

vine, locally common on rocky hills

3—root roasted and eaten.

*Vigna ?membranacea* A. Rich. (107)

*lgisoiya*

vine, rare in bushland

3—root roasted and eaten.

*Vigna praecox* Verdc. (149)

*nkapanga*

vine, locally common on rocky hills

3—root boiled or roasted and eaten.

*Vigna* sp. (78)

*lalandei*

creeping herb, common in riverside bushland

3—beans boiled and eaten.

*Vigna* sp. (52)

*ldakat*

vine, common in bushland

4—root considered as poisonous and used as ritual medicine.

#### Lobeliaceae

*Cyphia glandulifera* Hochst. (914)

*lkurjij (langurta)*

herb, common in hilly bushland

3—root eaten raw.

*Lobelia giberroa* Hemsl. (223)

*lkewai*

shrub, rare in montane forest

4—honey from this flower considered to be poisonous and used as an emetic medicine for malaria.

#### Loganiaceae

*Nuxia congesta* Fres. (833)

*loiborsiau*

tree, common in forest

1—nectar source; 2—wood used for making a fire-stick; 6—considered to be a highland type of the next species.

*Nuxia oppositifolia* (Hochst.) Benth. (135, 690)

*lpiroi*

tree, rare in riverine forest

1—nectar source; 2—wood used for making a fire-stick; 6—considered to be a lowland type of the above.

*Strychnos henningsii* Gilg. (17)

*lshipilikwa*

tree, common on forest edge

4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for fever; boiled in water and the decoction is mixed used with sheep fat and drunk to induce abortion; root also used with *morijioi* to make arrow poison.

*Strychnos mitis* S. Moore (721)

*ltakurmot*

tree, common in riverine forest and montane forest

2—fruit used for making a necklace of children: wood used for making a stick.

*Strychnos usambarensis* Gilg. (607)

*lantururwai*

tree, common in riverine forest

2—wood used for making a spear shaft and stick.

#### Loranthaceae

*Amyema panganensis* (Engl.) Balle. (171)

*lorudeniai*

parasitic plant, common in hilly bushland

4—medicine for women's disease: whole plant soaked in water or boiled in sheep bone soup and used for preventing a pregnant woman from miscarriage in early stage; 5—also used as ritual medicine.

*Danserella fischeri* (Engl.) Balle. (386)

*lorudeniai*

parasitic plant, common in bushland (collected on *Cordia ovalis*)

4—whole plant boiled in sheep bone soup and used as medicine by pregnant women for preventing miscarriage; 5—also used as ritual medicine.

*Erianthemum* sp. (711)

*lorudeniai*

parasitic plant, common in bushland (collected from *Rhus natalensis*)

4—whole plant boiled in sheep bone soup and used as medicine for a pregnant women; 5—and also as ritual medicine.

*Oliverella hildebrandtii* (Engl.) Van Tiegh (596)

*lorudeniai*

parasitic plant, common in hilly bushland

4—whole plant boiled in sheep bone soup and used as medicine for a pregnant women; 5—ritual medicine.

*Tapinanthus ochleri* Engl. (907)

*lorudeniai*

parasitic plant, common in bushland

2—juice squeezed from red flowers is put into moran's eye to make it red and fierce;

4—whole plant boiled in sheep bone soup and used as medicine for pregnant women.

*Viscum fischeri* Engl. (742)

*lmeitimokon*

parasitic plant, common in wooded savanna (collected from *Acacia gerrardii* at Naibor Keju)

4—whole plant boiled with sheep fat and used as an emetic and purgative medicine which makes an afterbirth come out; 6—vernacular meaning "a thing which cannot support by itself."

#### Lythraceae

*Ammannia aegyptiaca* Willd. (810)

*nadosoei*

herb, locally common in riverside grassland.

*Lawsonia inermis* L. (714)

*lgeriai*

shrub, rare in bushland

4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for dysentery or other severe diarrhea; also used for a women's stomach disorder after giving a birth; 6—tastes *kekagan* (a little bitter) and smells *kelele* (bad smell of a certain kind).

#### Malpighiaceae

*Cancanthus auriculatus* (Radlk.) Niedenzu.

(245, 543, 688)

*lkisushi (laimtai, lmanumani)*

shrub, locally common in bushland

1—nectar source; 4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for body pain, such as bone pain (*nkirotet*), rheumatism (*lbai*) and backache (*nkorion*): in some area it is used for malaria.

*Triaspis niedenzuiana* Engl. (373)

*ngopit-o-nikeroi*

vine, locally common in riverine forest

1—nectar source.

#### Marsileaceae

*Marsilea macrocarpa* Presl. (820)

*letrott*

herb, locally common in riverside grassland.

#### Malvaceae

*Abutilon longicuspe* A. Rich. (894)

*sulubei*

shrub, common in bushland

2—bark used for making a basket (*sainei*).

*Abutilon mauritianum* (Jacq.) Medic. (580)

*sulubei*

shrub, common in bushland

2—bark used for making a basket.

*Abutilon pannosum* (Forsk.) Schlect. (998)

*sulubei*

shrub, common in bushland

2—bark used for making a basket.

*Hibiscus aponeurus* Sprague & Hutch. (279)

*lokumeki (nkaranyi)*

shrub, common in bushland

2—stem used by children for making a miniture arrow; 3—small fruit eaten raw; 4—root burned and the ashes are applied to a boil (*lodotai*); 5—ritual medicine.

*Hibiscus greenwayi* Baker (1012)

*erigen manjoi*

shrub, rare in wooded savanna

2—stem used for making a fire-stick; 3— young leaves eaten raw; sweet stem chewed.

*Hibiscus micranthus* L. f. (538)

*lokumeki*

shrub, common in bushland

2—stem used by children for making a

miniture arrow; 4—root burned and the ashes applied to *lodotai* (boil).

*Hibiscus vitifolius* L. (592)

*sabai*

shrub, rare in bushland

6—vernacular derived from its hairy spine (*sabai*) of the stem: noted as harmful to children.

*Pavonia arabica* Boiss. (1005)

*lyolon*

shrub, rare in bushland

4—whole plant soaked in water and used as medicine for fever (*lchamaa*).

*Pavonia urens* Cav. var. *tomentosa* Brenan (629)

*sulubei*

shrub, common in bushland

2—bark used for making a basket.

*Sida ovata* Forsk. (530)

*neabi*

dwarf shrub, common or locally abundant in dry bushland

1—cattle's fodder.

*Sida rhombifolia* L. (871)

*sulubei*

shrub, common in riverside bushland

2—bark used for making a basket.

#### Meliaceae

*Ekebergia* sp. (81)

*songoroi*

tree, rare in montane forest

2—construction material.

*Ekebergia* sp. (230)

*reket*

tree, rare in montane forest

1—nectar source; 2—construction material.

*Lepidotrichilia volkensii* (Guerke) Leroy (226, 844)

*lkukutia* (*ilagas*)

tree, rare in montane forest

2—wood used for making a beehive.

*Melia volkensii* Guerke (302)

*lmarmaroi*

tree, common in hilly bushland and riverine forest

2—wood used for making a stool (*lorika dapash*), beehive (*ngidon*) and honey container (*ldalaam*); 4—wood burned for killing insects, specially mosquitos.

*Trichilia roka* (Forsk.) Chiov. (504)

*lbeeri*

tree, locally common in riverine forest

1—nectar source.

#### Menispermaceae

*Chasmanthera dependens* Hochst. (12)

*lobito*

vine, locally common on rocky hills

3—stem roasted and eaten; available all the year around; 5—ritual medicine.

*Cissampelos pareira* L. var. *orbiculata* (DC.)

Miq. (854)

*nakuotolo*

vine, common in riverine forest

1—nectar source.

*Tinospora caffra* (Miers) Troupin (11, 540)

*lmungurit* (*njibise*)

vine, locally common on rocky hills

3—stem roasted and eaten.

#### Monimiaceae

*Xymalos monospora* (Baill.) Warb. (324)

*lkukutia*

tree, rare in montane forest

2—wood used for making a beehive.

#### Moraceae

*Dorstenia* sp. cf. *D. denticulata* Peter (61, 956)

*lmangaritt*

herb, locally common in rainy season

3—root eaten raw.

*Ficus capensis* Thub. (249, 655)

*ldeesan*

tree, common in riverine forest

3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; 6—bark tastes *kemototo* (tannin's taste).

*Ficus glumosa* Del. (708)

*eletan*

tree, common in riverine forest

3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in



water and used as medicine for stomach disorder: 6—bark *kemototo* (tannin's taste).

*Ficus natalensis* (Miq.) Hochst. (34, 734)  
*seepei* (*septef*)

tree, common in riverine forest and forest edge

2—dried wood used for making fire: 3—fruit eaten raw; important food; available all the year around.

*Ficus sycomorus* L. (137)

*Ingaboli*

tree, common in riverine forest

2—wood used for making a stool; 3—fruit eaten raw: 4—bark soaked in water and used for stomach disorder; 6—bark *kemototo* (tannin's taste).

*Ficus* sp. (307)

*iligi*

tree, rare in hilly bushland and forest edge  
3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Ficus* sp. (301)

*ltulugumi*

tree, common in riverine forest

2—wood used for making a stool; 3—fruit eaten raw.

*Ficus* sp. (141, 933)

*reteri*

tree, common in riverine forest and forest edge

2—wood used for making a stool; 3—sweet fruit eaten raw (important wild fruit); resin used as chewing gum; 5—ritual medicine.

*Ficus* sp. (345)

*ltalaan*

tree, rare in riverine forest

6—fruit not eaten.

*Ficus* sp. (531, 623)

*ltakaroi*

tree, rare in riverine forest

6—fruit not eaten.

*Ficus* sp. (155, 506)

*lkeeya*

tree, rare in riverine forest

4—fruit considered to be poisonous.

*Ficus* sp. (243)

*ndento*

tree, rare in montane forest

2—dried wood used for making fire and for fumigating honeybees; 3—fruit eaten raw: 6—considered as a highland type of *seepei* (*Ficus natalensis*).

#### Moringaceae

*Moringa* sp. nr. *M. stenopetala* (Bak. f.) Cufod. (1015)

*lorisanjo*

herb, rare in bushland

4—small quantity of root eaten raw for curing fever (*Ichamaa*); 5—also used as ritual medicine (*ntasimu*).

#### Myrsinaceae

*Maesa lanceolata* Forsk. (862)

*lomuluai*

tree, rare in montane forest

4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for chestpain (*mueyian-lo-lgo'o*); 6—bark tastes *kekegan* (a little bitter).

*Myrsine africana* L. (319)

*seketeti* (*seketeti-le-ngaeta*)

shrub, rare in highland rocky places

4—fruits are highly valued medicine and sold at a local market; first, they are boiled in goat and cattle bone soup and used as medicine for getting strength, used especially when severely sick or wounded; fruits boiled with sheep fat and the decoction is drunk as a tranquillizer; fruits also used as an anthelmintic medicine and for fever; 6—fruits taste *kekagan* (a little bitter) and *ketuktuk* (hot) and makes the body warm.

#### Myrothamnaceae

*Myrothamnus flabellifolius* (Sond.) Welw. (313)

*serangoina*

shrub, common on rocky hills

4—leaves used for making tea; and also as medicine for chestpain (*mueyian-lo-lgo'o*).

#### Myrtaceae

*Eucaripus* sp.

*masanduku*

tree, common around towns (collected at

Mararal)

4—bark soaked in water and the decoction used with milk or honey as medicine for *nkirotet* (bone pain), *lbai* (joint pain) and *nkorian* (backache).

*Syzygium guineense* (Willd.) DC. (322, 539, 546)

*leperoi* (*lmalaany*, *lanbop*)

tree, common in riverine forest

4—bark boiled in goat bone soup and used as medicine for strength and for woman's infertility; bark soaked in water and used for stomachache; 6—considered as a lowland type of the next one.

*Syzygium guineense* (Willd.) DC. (786)

*lairakai*

tree, common in montane forest

4—bark used as medicine for strength and for woman's infertility; 6—considered as a highland type of the above.

#### Nyctaginaceae

*Boerhavia* sp. (158)

*naisho-o-ntare*

herb, locally common in dry bushland  
1—goat's fodder; 4—leaves dried and pounded and mixed with water, and applied to skin rashes (*lpepedo*) and wounds; 6—vernacular meaning honey (*naisho*) of smallstock (*ntare*).

#### Ochnaceae

*Ochna insculpta* Sleumer (286, 327, 652)

*modonkorit* (*lkootum*)

tree, common in montane forest

4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for chestpain; also boiled in bone soup for use as a medicine for strength.

*Ochna* sp. (262)

*lpangaat*

tree, rare in montane forest

1—nectar source.

#### Olacaceae

*Strombosia scheffleri* Engl. (552, 880)

*lchenimara* (*lchenikeri*, *nainyirubene*)

tree, rare in montane forest

4—bark soaked in water and used as medi-

cine for stomachache; bark also boiled in goat bone soup for use as a medicine for strength.

*Ximenia americana* L. (253, 709)

*laamai*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for diarrhea; 6—bark tastes *kemototo* (astringent taste).

*Ximenia caffra* Sond. var. *natalensis* Sond. (89)

*lmunguchi*

shrub, rare in bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for diarrhea; 6—bark *kemototo* (astringent).

#### Oleaceae

*Jasminum floribundum* R. Br. (568)

?

vine, common in hilly bushland.

*Jasminum fluminense* Vell. ssp. *holstii* (Gilg.)

Turrill. (686)

*loitegomi*

vine, common in bushland

4—root dried and smoked like a cigarette for relieving headache.

*Jasminum parvifolium* Knobl. (177)

*lmanumanu* (*loitegomi*)

vine, common in hilly bushland

4—root dried and smoked like a cigarette for use as medicine for headache; also used for snake-bite.

*Linociera battiscombei* Hutch. (565)

*loliontoi*

tree, common in montane forest

2—wood used for making a *rungu* (club) and spear shaft; fruit for making a girl's necklace; 4—bark soaked in water and used for malaria (*nkeruwa*), backpain (*nkorian*) and as anthelmintic medicine (with *lmukutan* and *lchingei*); 6—bark *kedua* (very bitter) and *kelele* (bad smell of a certain kind).

*Linociera nilotica* Oliv. (335)

*nekapile* (*ldeemian*)

tree, rare in montane forest

1—nectar source; 4—bark soaked in water for use as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Olea africana* Lam. (32, 422)

*lorien* (*ldamiyoi*, *lgerioi*)

tree, common (locally abundant) in montane forest

2—wood used for making a stick; twigs used for smoking a milk container; 4—bark soaked in water and used with *lmukutan* and *lehingei* as medicine for tapeworm (*ntuma*); 6—vernacular derived from its use as *lorien* (twig used for smoking milk containers).

*Schrebera alata* (Hochst.) Welw. (36, 255)  
*iseu* (*lebeneuni*)

tree, common in riverine forest and lower montane forest

1—nectar source; 4—bark used as medicine for toothache; 6—considered as lowland type of the next; vernacular name, *lebeneuni* (three leaves) derived from its leaflets.

*Schrebera alata* (Hochst.) Welw. (510)

*namalalo*

tree, common in montane forest

4—bark used as medicine for toothache; 6—considered as highland type of the above.

#### Oliniaceae

*Olinia rochetiana* A. Juss. (816)

*nkirenyi*

tree, rare in montane forest

4—bark soaked in water or boiled in goat bone soup and used as medicine for chronic malaria (*ndigana*).

*Olinia* sp. (333)

*loisaei*

tree, rare in montane forest

6—called a tree of rain, because here is always water dropping under this tree.

#### Opiliaceae

*Opilia campestris* Engl. (114, 121)

*lpukenyi*

shrub, common in dry bushland

2—stem used for making an arrow shaft; 3—fruit eaten raw.

#### Passifloraceae

*Adenia gummifera* (Harv.) Harms. var.

*gummifera* (185, 346)

*lmalilimai*

vine, rare in hilly bushland

2—red resin used as glue (*wala*); stem used for making a necklace; 4—stem and root dried and smoked like a cigarette as medicine for headache and cough (*hwata*).

*Adenia gummifera* (Harv.) Harms. var.  
*gummifera* (346)

*sarunjo*

vine, rare in hilly bushland and on forest edge

5—ritual medicine of *loibon* (diviner); 6—according to the Suiei, thick root of this species is different from the above.

*Adenia volkensii* Harms (938)

*lturmaei* (*lperintai*)

herb, rare in dry bushland

5—fruit and root considered to be poisonous and used by a sorcerer (*lasakutoni*).

#### Pedaliaceae

*Sesamothamnus busseanus* Engl. (205)

*lemijilia*

shrub, rare in dry bushland

2—wood used for making a haft of brand iron, knife and ax; 6—vernacular derived from cattle brand iron (*lmenjele*).

#### Phytolaccaceae

*Phytolacca dodecandra* L'Herit (650, 778)

*syokolteyai* (*lkieale*, *lmagirioi*)

vine, common in riverine bushland and forest

4—root soaked or boiled in water and used as an emetic and purgative medicine; 6—root *kelele* (bad small of a certain kind).

#### Pittosporaceae

*Pittosporum viridiflorum* Sims. (594)

*lketalaasua*

tree, rare in montane forest

4—bark soaked in water and used for stomach disorder: also boiled in goat bone soup for making a medicine for strength; 6—bark *kemototo* (tannin's taste) and the decoction *werekoi* (brown).

#### Plumbaginaceae

*Plumbago zeylanica* L. (69, 525)

*lkiriantus*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland

4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for stomachache (*ngony*) and the liver (*munyuwa*). sometimes mixed with milk or bone soup; sold at a local market; 6—root tastes *kemototo* (astringent) at first, then *ketuktuk* (hot).

#### Polygalaceae

*Polygala sphenoptera* Fres. var. *minor*

(Chod.) Chiov. (954)

?

herb, rare in bushland.

#### Polygonaceae

*Oxygonum sinuatum* (Meisn.) Dammer (146)

*njunge*

herb, common to abundant in wooded savanna and bushland

3—leaves boiled and eaten as relish.

*Polygonum senegalense* Meisn. (281, 798)

*loibonga* (*lmasiligi*, *lpuopuo*)

herb, locally common in riverside bushland

4—ritual medicine.

#### Portulacaceae

*Portulaca foliosa* L. (1002)

*loirabirab*

herb, common in bushland

4—whole plant pounded and applied to a wound and burn.

*Portulaca oleracea* L. (190)

*loirabirab*

herb, common in bushland

4—whole plant pounded and applied to a wound and burn.

*Portulaca quadrifida* L. (160)

*loirabirab*

herb, common in bushland

4—whole plant used as medicine for a burn and wound.

*Talinum portulacifolium* Schweinf. (220)

*leshurshin*

herb, common in wooded savanna

2—red flower used to dye clothes; 3—leaves

eaten raw; 4—leaves pounded and applied to a wound; root roasted and pounded, and mixed with goat fat, then applied to a boil (*lodotai*).

#### Proteaceae

*Faurea saligna* Harv. (233)

*ljilma*

tree, locally common in montane forest

4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; bark also used for making tea, and with bone soup to get strength; 6—considered as a highland type of the next.

*Faurea saligna* Harv. (805)

*lmandurmi*

tree, rare on forest edge

6—considered as the lowland type of the above.

#### Ranunculaceae

*Clematis brachiata* Thunb. (960)

*naitasingisho* (*nkolekole*)

vine, common in riverine forest and bushland

4—leaves used as a substitute for snuff (*naisuki*); 5—ritual medicine.

#### Rhamnaceae

*Berchemia discolor* (Klotsch) Hemsl. (45)

*santaiti*

tree, rare in bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark used for tea, or soaked in water and used for stomach disorder, or boiled in bone soup; 6—bark *kemototo* (astringent taste).

*Helinus mystacinus* (Ait.) Stend. (94)

*loitegomi*

vine, common in bushland

2—stem and bark used for making a basket; 4—root boiled in water and used as medicine for snake-bite (mixed with sheep fat).

*Rhamnus prinooides* L'Hérit (229, 733)

*lkinyil* (*makerachi*)

shrub to tree, rare in montane forest and forest edge

4—root soaked in water (water gets blue) and used as medicine for preventing and

curing malaria; also used (with sheep fat) for inducing abortion; bark boiled in goat bone soup and used by moran to get strength; sold as a local market; 6—root tastes *kedua* (very bitter).

*Rhammus staddo* A. Rich. (703)

*lkokorai*

shrub, rare on forest edge

4—yellow inner bark soaked in water and used as medicine for malaria, hepatitis (*ndiss*) and fever; 6—bark *kedua* (very bitter).

*Scutia myrtina* (Burm. f.) Kurz (71)

*sanankurri*

tree, common in riverine forest

3—fruit eaten raw; 4—root boiled in goat bone soup and used by moran for getting strength; 6—root *kekagan* (bitter).

*Ziziphus abyssinica* Hochst. ex A. Rich (1017)

*loilalei*

tree, rare in bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Ziziphus macronata* Willd. (548)

*loilalei (ldelendei)*

tree, rare in bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

#### Rhizophoraceae

*Cassipourea celastroides* Alston (16)

*lobobo*

tree, common on forest edge

2—wood used for making a spoon; 6—considered as the lowland type of the next.

*Cassipourea euryoides* Alston (236)

*etuk*

tree, common in montane forest

2—used for making a spoon; 6—highland type of the above.

#### Rosaceae

*Prunus africana* (Hook. f.) Kalkm. (556)

*lkonjok (lmalaani)*

tree, rare in montane forest

4—bark boiled in goat bone soup for use

as medicine for strength.

*Rubus rigidus* Sm. (847)

*nkaakut (lparmony)*

vine, common in riverine bushland

3—fruit eaten raw: available in dry season:

5—ritual medicine.

#### Rubiaceae

*Canthium keniense* Bullock (634)

*nbangaat*

tree, rare in riverine forest.

*Canthium schimperianum* A. Rich. (698, 753)

*lodoyani (Itiesi)*

tree, common in riverine forest and forest edge

1—nectar source.

*Canthium ?setiflorum* Hiern (120)

*?limejioi, ?legarmon*

shrub, common in bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; 5—ritual medicine (?).

*Conostomium quadrrangulare* (Rendle.)

Cuf. (659)

*lkeleyan*

herb, rare in bushland

3—nectar sucked by children.

*Gardenia* sp. (66)

*lmurgusian*

shrub, common in bushland

2—twig used for making a stirrer (*lkepere*).

*Oldenlandia wiedemannii* K. Schum. (952)

*nkeju-o-longo*

herb, common in bushland

1—goat's fodder; 6—vernacular meaning foot (*nkeju*) of dik-dik (*longo*).

*Oxyanthus speciosus* DC. (882)

*iyonekike (nabulotua)*

tree, rare in montane forest

1—nectar source.

*Pavetta gardeniifolia* A. Rich. var. *gardeniifolia* (410)

*lokodatei*

tree, rare in riverine forest

3—fruit eaten raw.

*Pavetta* sp. (99)

*legrruki*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

2—stem used for making an arrow shaft.

*Pentanisia ouranogyne* S. Moore (944)

*sigiit*

dwarf shrub, common in bushland.

*Pentas parvifolia* Hiern (186, 468)

*marugeroi*

shrub, common in bushland

2—red flower put on the forehead of a girl as ornament.

*Psychotria tarambassica* Brem. (239, 673)

*legrruki*

shrub, common in bushland

2—stem used for making an arrow shaft:

3—fruit eaten but not tasty.

*Rothmannia* sp. (316)

*ntorniki*

tree, rare in montane forest

4—bark added in goat bone soup and used as medicine for *ndigana* (chronic malaria) and strength.

*Rubia cordifolia* L. (738)

*lkitadalet*

dwarf shrub, rare in bushland (collected at Naibor Keju) 4—root soaked or boiled in water and used as medicine for chestpain.

*Rytigynia loranthifolia* (K. Schum.) Robyns (51)

*limejoi*

shrub, common in bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; 6—consider as the lowland type of the next.

*Rytigynia loranthifolia* (K. Schum.) Robyns (132, 257)

*lkuumusiait*

shrub, rare in riverine forest and forest edge

2—wood used for making *nguuwet* (throwing wooden spear); 3—fruit eaten raw; 6—highland type of the above.

*Tarenna graveolens* (S. Moore) Brem. (29, 434)

*lmasei*

small tree, common in lower forest

2—stem used for making a wooden arrow and *nguuwet* (wooden spear); twig used for smoking a milk container; 6—lowland type of the next.

*Tarenna graveolens* (S. Moore) Brem. (259)

*lmaisor*

tree, common in montane forest

2—wood used for making *nguuwet* (wooden spear), *rungu* (club) and arrow; 6—highland type of the above.

*Uncaria africana* G. Don. (555)

*sanankurri (loilalei)*

woody vine, common in riverine forest

4—root and bark soaked in water and used for stomach disorder; also boiled in bone soup and drunk as medicine for strength.

*Vangueria actiloba* Robyns (691)

*lkormosioi*

tree, common in hilly bushland and riverine forest

2—wood used for haft of chisel and for construction; 3—fruit eaten raw (important plant food); available in quantities in dry season; 6—lowland type of the next.

*Vangueria actiloba* Robyns (265, 765)

*lmaldai (lkumi)*

tree, rare on highland forest edge

3—fruit eaten raw; 6—highland type of the above.

#### Rutaceae

*Calodendrum capense* (L. f.) Thunb. (557)

*lairraaj*

tree, common in lower montane forest

1—nectar source.

*Clausena anisata* (Willd.) Benth. (561, 746)

*lmataasia*

tree, common in riverine forest and lower montane forest

2—twig used as toothbrush.

*Teclea simplicifolia* (Engl.) Verdoorn (315)

*lkirai orok*

tree, common in montane forest

3—fruit eaten (?); 4—bark soaked or boiled in water and used as a medicine for *nkereuwa* (malaria), *ndigana* (chronic malaria) and *ndiss* (hepatitis); 5—green branch put in a fire on *lasarr* and other blessing rituals; 6—bark *kedua* (very bitter); vernacular meaning black (*orok*) *lkirai*.

*Toddalis branchiata* (L.) Lam. (752)

*lparmony*

vine, rare in forest (collected at Naibor Keju)

4—root soaked in water and the decoction

is mixed with milk and drunk as medicine for malaria; 5—ritual medicine.

*Vepris eugenifolia* (Engl.) Verdoorn (388)  
*lkirai*

tree, common to abundant in lower montane forest

2—green twig used for smoking (fumigating) a beehive; wood used for making a comb and *rungu* (club or stick); 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for malaria; green twig put on a fire and the smoke is applied to a patient suffering from body pain.

*Vepris glomerata* (F. Hoffm.) Engl. (284)  
*logolim*

tree, common in hilly bushland

2—twig used as toothbrush; branches used for closing the entrance of a manyatta.

*Vepris samburuensis* Kokwaro (156)  
*lkampar*

tree, common in riverine forest

2—wood used for making an ax haft (*ngojok*); 3—fruit eaten raw.

*Zanthoxylum chalybeum* Engl. (852)  
*loisuki*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

2—green twig used for smoking a milk container; 4—fruit used as medicine for various diseases (chestpain, fever, sore throat, etc.) and for tea; fruit sold at a local market; 6—fruit *kelaplap* (hot and irritating taste).

*Zanthoxylum usambalense* (Engl.) Kokwaro (90, 560)

*loisuki*

shrub, common in bushland

2—green twig used for smoking a milk container; 4—dried fruit soaked in water or mixed with milk and used as medicine for fever, chestpain, tonsillitis (*kilini*) and sore throat; bark and leaves used as livestock medicine; fruits sold at a local market; 6—fruit tastes *kelaplap* (hot and irritating taste).

#### Salvadoraceae

*Salvadora persica* L. (111)

*sokotei*

shrub, common in dry bushland

2—green twig used as toothbrush (sold at a local market); 3—fruit eaten raw; 4—root used as medicine for cleaning the “stomach” of a woman giving a birth; root soaked or boiled in water and the decoction is drunk as an emetic and purgative; 6—root *ketuktuk* (hot).

#### Santalaceae

*Osyris compressa* (Berg.) A. DC. (328)

*lolesiai*

shrub, rare on rocky hills

4—bark used for making tea and for children’s stomach disorder; fragrant green branches put on a fire and the smoke is applied to a new born child to clean the body; 6—bark *kemototo* (astringent taste).

#### Sapindaceae

*Allophylus griseotomentosus* Gilg (639)

*lmasanapat*

tree, common in riverine forest and forest edge

1—nectar source; 3—fruit eaten raw.

*Cardiospermum corindum* L. (696)

*loitegomi*

vine, common on forest edge

4—root boiled and mixed with sheep fat, and applied to a snake-bite.

*Dodonaea viscosa* Jacq. (749)

tree, rare in forest (collected at Naibor Keju)

4—bark boiled with milk and used as medicine for chestpain.

*Hapocoelem foliolosum* (Hiern.) Bullock (447, 593)

*lmurguti*

tree, common in lower montane forest

1—important nectar source; 2—twig used as toothbrush; wood used for making an ax haft; 4—leaves soaked or boiled in water and the decoction is used as eye lotion.

*Pappea capensis* (Spreng.) Eckl. & Zeyh. (566, 1007)

*lkurongoi* (*olgesigong* in Mukogodo)

tree, rare to common in hilly bushland

4—bark used for tea and soaked in water for use as medicine for stomach disorder and ribpain, and boiled in bone soup for

getting strength; 5—also used as ritual medicine; 6—bark *kemototo* (astringent taste).

### Sapotaceae

*Aningeria adolfi-friederici* (Engl.) Robyns & Gilbert (551)

*nkilejo*

tree, common to abundant in montane forest

1—nectar source; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Aningeria pseudolacemosa* Hemsl. (225)

*nkilijo*

tree, common in montane forest

1—nectar source; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder.

*Manilkara discolor* (Sond.) Hemsley (325)

*nchogis*

tree, common to abundant in montane forest

1—nectar source; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; 6—considered as the highland type of the next.

*Manilkara discolor* (Sond.) Hemsley (165)

*lgissi*

tree, common in riverine forest

1—nectar source; 2—heartwood used for making a *rungu* of a good quality; 3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; 6—bark *kemototo*; intermediate type between the above and the next.

*Manilkara discolor* (Sond.) Hemsley (112)

*ltooj*

tree, rare in hilly bushland and on forest edge

2—heartwood used for making a *rungu* (club); 3—fruit eaten raw; 4—bark used as medicine for stomach disorder; 6—bark *kemototo* (astringent); lowland type of the above.

*Mimusops* sp. (627)

*lpaakit*

tree, common in montane forest

4—bark boiled in goat bone soup and used as medicine for stomach disorder (*erabati-*

*sho*) and for getting strength; 6—bark *kemototo* (astringent).

### Scrophulariaceae

*Craterostigma plantagineum* Hochst. (921)

*nkeju-o-nkutuju*

herb, seasonally common in bushland and wooded grassland

5—ritual medicine (dried and powdered and mixed with fat, then applied to women's breast pain).

*Cycnium* sp. (1008)

*kenyora*

dwarf shrub, rare in bushland

5—ritual medicine, specially used as aphrodisiac medicine.

*Ghikaena speciosa* (Rendle) Diels. (1031)

*kenyora*

dwarf shrub, rare in bushland

5—ritual medicine (aphrodisiac).

*Striga gesnerioides* (Willd.) Vatke (676)

*sirai*

herb to shrub, rare in bushland

6—vernacular derived from *sirai* (*Euphorbia candelabrum*) under which it is usually found.

### Simaroubaceae

*Harrisonia abyssinica* Oliv. (126)

*lasaramai*

shrub, rare in bushland

4—root soaked in water and the decoction is used for preventing and curing malaria; also used for inducing abortion; 6—bark *kedua* (very bitter taste).

### Solanaceae

*Lycium europaeum* L. (382, 759)

*lukii*

shrub, rare in hilly bushland

4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for rib-pain (*nolmarei*), backpain (*nkorian*) and joint pain (*lbat*); 5—ritual medicine.

*Solanum arundo* Mattei. (722)

*shikawai*

shrub, common in dry bushland

4—root soaked in water or chewed for use



as medicine for fever; bitter juice from the fruit applied to nipples of a mother to make a children wean: 6—root *kekagan* (bitter).

*Solanum dubium* Fres. (578)

*ntulelei*

shrub, common in dry bushland

4—root chewed as medicine for fever and sore throat (*mueyan lo lgoso*); fruit pounded and applied to a wound to repel flies; 6—root *kekagan* (bitter).

*Solanum hastifolium* Dunal. (367)

*mpatapata*

shrub, common in dry bushland

4—green leaves soaked in water and the decoction is used as eye lotion.

*Solanum incanum* L. (15, 445)

*ltulelei*

shrub, abundant in bushland

4—root chewed, or soaked or boiled in water and used as medicine for fever, coughing (*lwata*) and sore throat (*mueyanlo lgoso*); fruit applied to mother's nipples to induce a children's weaning easy: 6—root *kekagan* (bitter).

*Solanum nigrum* L. (519, 638)

*lmoato*

shrub, locally common in riverside bushland

5—ritual medicine.

*Solanum renschii* Vatke (618)

*ntulelei*

shrub, common in bushland

4—root chewed or soaked in water and used as medicine for fever; 6—root *kekagan* (bitter).

*Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal (402)

*lekuru*

shrub, rare in bushland

4—fruit soaked in water and the decoction is applied to eye diseases; root soaked or boiled in water and used as medicine for backache and joint pain.

#### Sterculiaceae

*Dombeya goetzenii* K. Schum. (232)

*lpolugwai*

tree, common, in lower montane forest and forest edge

1—nectar source; 2—bark used for making a basket; 6—elephants like this plant very much; considered as highland type of the next.

*Dombeya kirkii* Mast. (642)

*lauo (loloki)*

shrub, common in hilly bushland

1—important nectar source, 2—stem used for making a bow (*nkauo*), spear shaft and stick; bark for making a basket; 4—root boiled in bone soup for taking as medicine for strength; 5—green branches put at the entrances of the huts of the initiates on a circumcision rite; 6—considered as the lowland type of the above.

*Dombeya rotundifolia* (Hochst.) Planch. (1019)

*lesapkon*

shrub, rare on rocky highland hills.

*Melhantha velutina* Forsk. (611)

*ljuu-le-mony*

dwarf shrub, rare in hilly bushland

4—stem and leaves roasted and the charcoal is applied to a wound.

*Sterculia stenocarpa* H. Winkl. (167, 890)

*lkavasha*

tree, common in bushland

2—twig used for cleaning a milk container; 3—fruit eaten raw; 4—root boiled with butter in water and used as medicine for *iliyatatisho* (a newborn baby's indigestion) and children's *ndigana* (chronic malaria); 6—decoction becomes *kepirnyanyi* (jelly like).

#### Tiliaceae

*Grewia bicolor* Juss. (56)

*sititi*

shrub, common in bushland

2—stem used for making a spear shaft and arrow shaft for bleeding cattle; 3—fruit eaten raw (important plant food in early dry season, and all the fruits of genus *Grewia* are called *lpoasani* in general and available just after the rain); 5—on a circumcision rite, green branches are put at the entrances of the huts of the initiates; 6—considered as the lowland type of the next.

*Grewia bicolor* Juss. (389)

*siteti-letomia*

shrub, rare on forest edges

2—wood used for making a spear shaft; 3—fruit eaten raw; 6—highland type of the above.

*Grewia lilacina* K. Schum. (206)*lkalkaloi*

shrub, common in dry bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; available in early dry season; 4—root boiled with bones and drunk for getting strength.

*Grewia similis* K. Schum. (440)*irri*

shrub, common in bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; available in early dry season.

*Grewia tembensis* Fresen, var. *kakothamnos* Burrett (103)*irri*

shrub, common in bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; available in early dry season.

*Grewia tenax* (Forsk.) Fiori (215)*laitapai*

shrub, common in dry bushland

3—fruit eaten raw; available in early dry season.

*Grewia* sp. *?trichocarpa* A. Rich. (791)*lpalaaema*

shrub, rare on forest edges

2—wood used for making an arrow shaft for bleeding and for shooting birds by the initiates on circumcision rite; 3—fruit eaten raw; available in early dry season.

*Grewia villosa* Willd. (46)*lpupoi*

shrub, common in bushland

2—stem used for making an arrow shaft for bleeding and for shooting birds; 3—fruit eaten raw, available in early dry season; 4—root used in some areas as medicine for strength.

*Triumfetta flavescens* A. Rich. (869)*lkarpoeta*

shrub, common in bushland.

1—nectar source.

*Triumfetta rhomboidea* Jacq. (356)*narekteipa*

shrub, common in bushland

1—nectar source.

*Turraea* sp. (355)*loirei*

shrub, rare in bushland

2—wood used for making a ear plug.

## Ulmaceae

*Celtis africana* Burm. f. (269)*loisiteti*

tree, common in riverine forest and lower montane forest

3—fruit eaten raw.

*Chaetacme aristata* Planch. (272, 605)*sunungurr (lakardadai)*

tree, common in riverine forest

4—bark boiled in goat bone soup and used as medicine for getting strength.

*Trema orientalis* (L.) Bl. (628)*loikilepoi*

tree, common in riverine forest

2—wood used for making a sheath (*nchachurr*) and a fire-making stick (*lpiron*).

## Umbelliferae

*Heteromorpha trifoliata* (Wendl.) Eckl. & Zeyh. (699, 734)*lkuiyeni*

tree, common in hilly bushland

5—root used as ritual medicine.

*Pencedanum linderi* Norman (1025)*lkiwaj*

herb, rare undergrowth in lower montane forest

3—root eaten raw.

*Steganotaenia araliacea* Hochst. (166, 353)*ltaleleni (ltule)*

herb, common in wet hilly bushland

2—stem used for making a flute (*ltule*);

5—ritual medicine; 6—vernacular also meaning a flute which is made of this plant.

*Torilis arvensis* (Huds.) Link. (750)*ldule*

herb, common in wet forest (collected at Naibor Keju)

2—stem used for making a flute (*ltule*); 4—leaves soaked in water and used as medicine for preventing miscarriage.

## Urticaceae

*Girardinia condensata* Wedd. (672)  
*naigorr-o-losowan*  
shrub, common forest undergrowth  
4—root boiled in goat bone soup and used  
by moran for getting strength.

*Obetia pinnatifida* Baker (464)  
*nokoret*  
shrub to tree, rare in lower montane forest  
2—bark used for making strong rope.

*Panzolzia parasitica* (Forsk.) Schweinf.  
(694)  
*lhear*  
shrub, common in wet bushland near water  
4—stem pounded and made clammy and  
applied to a burn: root used as livestock  
medicine.

## Verbenaceae

*Chascaanum marrubifolium* Walp. (936)  
*lekolopanyi*  
herb, seasonally common in bushland  
4—leaves used as a substitute for chewing  
tobacco.

*Clerodendrum eriophyllum* Gürke (221)  
*loiyabasei*  
shrub, common in bushland  
2—whole plant used for construction.

*Clerodendrum myricoides* R. Br. (173)  
*lnakuukuti*  
shrub, rare in bushland  
4—root boiled with sheep fat and the de-  
coction is used as medicine for gonorrhoea  
(*kisunono* or *lbai-le-nkolion*), joint and bone  
pain and backache; also boiled in goat  
bone soup for use as medicine for strength;  
root sold at a local market: 6—root *keka-*  
*gan* and *kengusil* (bad smell).

*Lantana rhodesiensis* Moldenke (755)  
*seketeti-le-nkolion*  
herb to shrub, locally common in highland  
grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)  
4—root soaked or boiled in water and used  
as medicine for a pregnant woman; 6—  
vernacular meaning woman's *seketeti*.

*Lantana viburnoides* (Forsk.) Vahl (218,  
951)

*lyongoriai*  
herb to shrub, common in bushland  
4—whole plant soaked in water and used  
as medicine for a pregnant women.

*Lippia carviadora* Meikle (213)  
*leminyianyiyi*  
shrub, common in dry bushland  
3—dried leaves used for making tea.

*Lippia javanica* (Burm. f.) Spreng. (529)  
*sinoni*  
shrub, common in riverside bushland  
4—root chewed or soaked in water and  
used as an emetic medicine for malaria;  
leaves soaked in water and the decoction  
is used for washing a children's skin rashes  
(*lpepedo*) and measles (*lipo*).

*Lippia ukambensis* Vatke (427)  
*sinoni*  
shrub, common in riverside bushland  
4—root chewed or soaked in water and  
used as an emetic medicine for malaria;  
leaves soaked in water and the decoction is  
used for washing a children's skin rashes  
(*lpepedo*) and measles (*lipo*).

*Premna oligotricha* Bak. (542)  
*lomonira*  
shrub, rare in lower montane forest  
2—twig used for smoking a milk con-  
tainer; 3—fruit eaten raw; 4—root soaked  
or boiled in water and used as medicine for  
joint and bone pain (*lbai* and *nkirotet*).

*Premna resinosa* Schauer (296)  
*lomonira*  
shrub, rare in dry bushland  
3—fruit eaten (?); 4—root soaked or  
boiled in water and used as medicine for  
*lbai* (joint pain).

## Violaceae

*Rinorea convallariiflora* (Bak.) Eyles (881)  
*ldalabulongo*  
tree, rare in lower montane forest.  
*Rinorea elliptica* (Oliv.) O. Kuntze (693)  
*ldalabulongo*  
tree, rare in lower montane forest.

## Vitaceae

*Cissus aphyllantha* Gilg. (62)

*Ikileniai*

shrub, rare in bushland

4—root roasted and pounded until getting sticky and applied to a wound, burn and boil.

*Cissus quadrangularis* L. (8)*sukurtuti*

vine, common in bushland

2—stem considered as termite repellent and used for binding a beehive; 4—root boiled in bone soup and used for medicine for rib pain (*nolmarei*): stem used for livestock *ndiss* (hepatitis); 6—root *kekagan* (a little bitter) and *kelangalan* (hot).

*Cissus rotundifolia* (Forsk.) Vahl. (152, 462)*lala:ti*

vine, common in bushland

2—stem used as binding rope; 4—root boiled in bone soup and used as medicine for strength; in some area it is also used as medicine for *ntanun* (spleen); 6—root *kelaplap* (irritating taste).

*Cyphostemma orond* (Gilg. & Bened.) Desc. (762)*lorrdo*

creeping herb, common in highland grassland (collected at Naibor Keju)

3—leaves pounded and boiled, and mixed with milk to eat.

*Cyphostemma* sp. (7)*nkisianga* (*lorrdo*)

vine, common in bushland

3—leaves boiled and mixed with milk and

sugar, or blood and eaten; 5—root used as ritual medicine; 6—lowland type of the next.

*Cyphostemma* sp. (268, 697)*lanyamoti* (*lorrdo*)

vine, common on forest edge

3—fruit sometimes eaten; leaves usually not eaten because they are overgrown and tough; 5—root used as ritual medicine; 6—highland type of the above.

*Cyphostemma* sp. (516)*nkonee*

vine, common in bushland

3—leaves boiled and eaten.

*Rhoicissus revolii* Planch. (153, 387)*lwalkiyoi* (*Ingereniai*)

vine, common in riverside bushland

4—root soaked in water and used as medicine for stomach disorder; also used by warriors (*moran*) for getting strength (boiled in goat bone soup); 6—root *kemototo* (tannin's taste) and makes the body "hot".

## Zygophyllaceae

*Tribulus terrestris* L. (98)*lamurrwaki*

herb, seasonally common in dry bushland

6—considered to be harmful to livestock, because this plant has numerous hairy spines.