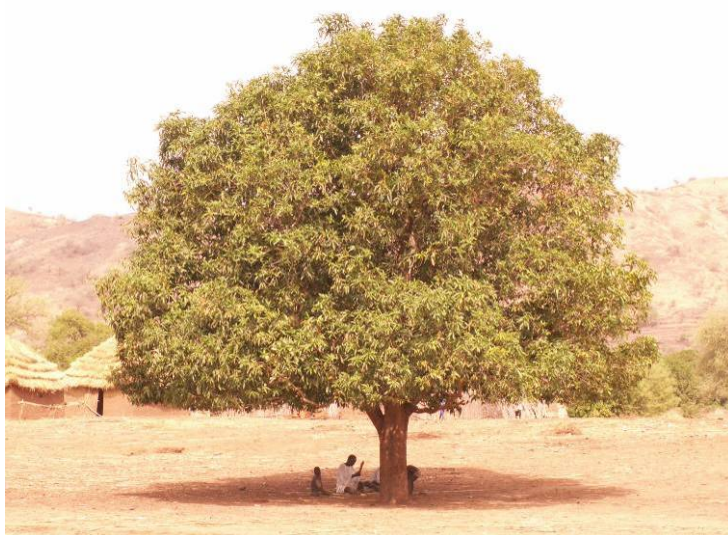


NUPE PLANTS AND TREES

THEIR NAMES AND USES



[DRAFT -PREPARED FOR COMMENT ONLY]

Roger Blench
Mallam Dendo
8, Guest Road
Cambridge CB1 2AL
United Kingdom
Voice/ Fax. 0044-(0)1223-560687
Mobile worldwide (00-44)-(0)7967-696804
E-mail R.Blench@odi.org.uk
<http://www.rogerblench.info/RBOP.htm>

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1. Introduction

Ethnobotany is the study of useful plants, both wild and cultivated. It has proved of particular interest in regions of the world where people live close to their natural environment and make use of plants for medicines, crafts and numerous other purposes. Indeed, the medicinal uses of plants have taken on an increasingly high profile in recent years as pharmaceutical companies seek new remedies. West Africa is one area of the world where a diverse natural environment has combined with an old-established network of state systems and societies to produce a rich ethnobotanical tradition.

Ethnobotany has two major uses; naming plants accurately allows professionals such as foresters to talk with communities effectively about vegetation. But beyond identification, its real value is to determine the role particular plants play in the economic and cultural life of those communities. For many plants, no use is yet recorded, but almost certainly the plant plays a part either in the extensive medical herbarium or for more practical economic purposes.

In the past, many more wild plants were used as additional sources of food. Before international fruits such as oranges and mangoes became readily available in the market, wild fruits were much more appreciated. Many of these trees have now retreated to remote areas, to be replaced by planted trees close to villages. In the same way, a large number of plants are noted in earlier sources as ‘famine foods’ i.e. plants that can be eaten after processing in cases of severe food shortage. The development of food relief has meant that much of the knowledge about such wild plants is in danger of being lost. So when such information is recorded, it does not mean that it is current practice, but reminds people of the former potential of such plants.

The development of the idea of ethnobotany can in the first instance be attributed to the studies of Amerindian cultures carried out by the Bureau of American Ethnology in the late 19th century in the South-Central United States. Terms such as ethnobotany first appear in the 1880s and by the early 20th century monographs were beginning to appear (Robbins, Harrington & Freire-Marreco 1916 for a remarkable study of the Tewa Indians). However, after the First World War, this tradition seems to go underground; it is replaced by rather more pragmatic materials on the names and uses of plants and animals in different languages. This is the era of checklists and ‘tropical products’ and it probably would not be stretching the point to connect this with colonialism. From 1910 to 1960 there is a considerable literature published on useful plants, timber trees etc. intended as a tool for their more effective exploitation. The journal ‘Economic Botany’ was born during this period, while French scholars in particular were very active in the field of ‘*Botanique appliquée*’, a tradition which has remained strong up to the present.

The value of recording community ideas in Africa was recognised by botanists from an early period and many of the first plant collectors were also careful to record indigenous names and uses. After the establishment of colonial rule from the 1880s onwards, agricultural and forest officers who were charged with documenting and ‘improving’ traditional practice became the first researchers. Ethnobotanical information is essential to the work of scientists and others concerned more practically with the environment. In addition, linguists and anthropologists often find it useful to identify trees and plants. Local people have extensive knowledge both about the trees and plants in their region, their uses and distribution. In order to work effectively with communities it is necessary to discuss individual plant species. This can only be done if there is an effective identification base for the local language. Moreover, increasing environmental damage throughout the region is causing a significant loss of this type of local knowledge partly because the trees and plants are no longer available to be shown to the next generation.

In West Africa, there have been a number of important publications in both French and English in the field of ethnobotany. Migeod (1913), who worked among the Mende of Sierra Leone, may well have been the first, but his work was closely followed by Dalziel (1916) among the Hausa. Dalziel (1937) synthesised the literature on the whole of West Africa. Irvine (1961) provided substantial material on the woody plants of Ghana. French traditions are represented by Dieterlen (1952) and Peyre de Fabregues (1972). This information and subsequent ethnobotanical material is in Burkill (1985, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2004)

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although the synoptic nature of these publications makes them harder to search¹. Nigerian scholars have begun to play a part in describing local plant knowledge (e.g. Gbile 190, 1984 and Verger 1997). Strictly botanical works such as the description of Nigerian trees by Keay et al. (1964) [revised edition Keay (1989)] include vernacular names although little else.

This is a guide to the names and uses of plants, both wild and cultivated among the Nupe people of west-central Nigeria. The first collections of plants among the Nupe were made by Barter in 1857 and some species still bear his name, for example, the Nupe blood-plum, *Haematostaphis barteri*. The earliest and still valuable source for Nupe plant names is Banfield (1914 & 1916) a dictionary which included many plant names, correctly tone-marked, though often only loosely identified. The first major strictly botanical reference was Dalziel (1937) which drew on unpublished sources and herbarium materials; it seems that an important early individual to make identifications was a forester named Yates. Mann et al. (2003) published a guide to the *Medicinal and economic plants of Nupeland* which did not make use of previous material but contains some useful additional identifications. Despite this, there is no reliable guide to the scientific names of Nupe plants using a modern system of transcription of the vernacular.

This guide is intended to provide Nupe plant names in as accurate a transcription as possible, with up-to-date scientific names. Where the plant has been identified, the Latin name and the common English name, if one exists, is given. In addition, whatever is known about the use of the plant is added to the definition. However, there are numerous terms recorded only by collectors for herbaria which it has not yet proven possible to confirm in the field. Such transcriptions and identifications should thus be regarded as highly provisional.

2. The Nupe People and their environment

2.1 Nupe society

The Nupe people live along the valleys of the Niger and Kaduna rivers in central Nigeria, and in the adjacent savannah. The Nupe today number more than a million and their region remains an important source of agricultural produce for the feeding of Nigerian cities. Their location, along the Niger River, has always made the Nupe important in riverine trade and also rice production; indeed Nigeria's primary rice research station is situated in Nupe country. Their broad geographical expanse has meant that they must exploit a wide range of subsistence strategies, particularly hunting and cereal agriculture in the drier zones, yam cultivation South of the Niger, and a mixed economy of rice-growing and fishing in the extensive swamps along its banks.

By the standards of African ethnography, they have been well documented since the first direct European contact with them via the Niger in 1832 (Laird & Oldfield 1837). In part this is because, as controllers of the potentially lucrative river-trade, they were seen by mercantilists in Victorian England as the key to the unknown wealth of the savannah states. A series of reports throughout the rest of the nineteenth century includes valuable material on vegetable products available in Nupe markets, both traded and grown locally. Later work by missionaries (Banfield 1914) ethnologists (Temple 1922; Meek, 1925) and anthropologists (Nadel 1942) gives a continuing picture of Nupe society through the twentieth century. The material presented here was collected during the course of fieldwork during the period 1979-82.

The Nupe probably moved into their present area from the Niger-Benue Confluence, for Nupe shows connections with Epira and the Idomoid languages. They may have been hunters at this period, because words for cereal cultigens in Nupe appear to be borrowed from their Northern neighbours. They formed a number of small riverine states on the banks of the Niger at an unknown period in the past, perhaps as early as the fourteenth century, and the economic basis of these states seems to have been the cultivation of African rice, *Oryza glaberrima*, fishing and river-trading.

¹ Much of the data from Burkill is on the website Aluka, maintained by Kew Gardens

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In the hinterland would have been numerous villages, probably more ethnically and linguistically distinct than rural Nupe today, linked economically to the ‘fishing-states’, but not their political dependents. The role of Nupe in long- distance trade at this period is not known, but there is evidence to connect Nupe with the cola route that operated via Borgu to Ghana.

In the eighteenth century there was an expansion of contacts with the Northern Emirates, and there is a record of the conversion of one of the Nupe rulers, the Etsu Jibiri (1746-59) (Nadel,1942;406) to Islam. In the early nineteenth century a succession of warrior-scholars entered Nupe, the most notable being Mallam Dendo, who was in effect responsible for the establishment of a centralised Islamic polity. A precursor of the Jihad initiated from Sokoto, when Nupe was conquered by Fulani cavalry in the 1810’s, he was able to exploit the disarray of the Nupe to become both a military and spiritual leader.

The most obvious effect of the conquest was a re-orientation of Nupe, away from the river to become a commercial polity of the savannah. The long-distance trade with the North expanded, and donkeys were brought in to transport goods. Guns and horses appeared, and these were used in extensive slave-raiding, both of the Nupe hinterland and other peoples on the South bank of the Niger. Economic links between the towns and the countryside collapsed as villages moved to the heights of the mesas that break up the savannah North of the river. In order to feed the new urban sites, such as Bida, established in the open savannah in the 1860s, *tungazhi*, slave-farms, were set up to grow staples.

The Royal Niger company had taken control of most of the Niger by the 1890s and the conquest of Nupe was complete by 1901. The immediate effect of the colonial period was the move of the villages down to the plain, and the re-opening of trading links with the towns. However, the era of British rule did nothing to weld these two structurally opposed elements into a single political unit. The villages remained independent and acephalous, rejecting Islam in favour of traditional religion or Christianity, suspicious of the hierarchical authority system that prevailed in the towns.

The economic development of Nigeria in this century, and particularly since the growth of oil income in the late 1960s has meant that the towns are now more dependent on the countryside than urban populations are willing to admit. There has been an expansion of the trade in staples to the towns, both cereals, tubers and oils, and a corresponding transfer of wealth to the villages, evidenced by the ubiquitous motor-bike.

The elaborate political system of the Nupe has attracted the attention of a number of authors, most notably Nadel (1942), whose account, entitled *A Black Byzantium*, remains a standard ethnography. Other authors to deal with this in different degrees of detail are Meek (1925) and Mason (1979). The picture given by Nadel is essentially that of a feudal kingdom, with a small Islamized elite extracting tribute from a large body of hinterland peasantry, of traditional religious affiliation. They used these taxes to equip and maintain large standing armies, whose main purpose was the fighting of intestinal battles that rent the Nupe kingdom throughout the nineteenth century. The conquest of the Nupe by the Royal Niger company in the 1890s effectively put a stop to this, and the Nupe warlords became clients of the colonial state.

2.2 The environment of Nupeland

The physical environment of Nupeland today is derived savanna with extensive areas of seasonally flooded lowland along the Niger. The creation of Lake Kainji in 1974 changed the pattern of the annual flood and decreased the area of wetlands. Figure 1 shows a satellite image of the Nupe area, with Lake Shiroro in the northeast, the river Niger running across the lower half of the map and the terrain bisected vertically by the Kaduna river. The loss of vegetation cover east of the Kaduna river is very visible.

Figure 1. The Nupe area of west-central Nigeria



3. The Nupe language

3.1 General

The Nupe speak a Niger-Congo language related to those of their neighbours, the Gbari and Gade, and have probably inhabited their present area for at least two millennia (Ayedun & Shaw 1989). The Nupe language is spoken in western Central Nigeria, principally in Niger State. Nupe is the language of Bida and a broad area both east and west. Nupe was one of the first languages in the interior of Nigeria to be documented, initially by Bishop Samuel Crowther in the 1850s. Nupe is also spoken in a number of remote communities on the Benue near Ibi and east of Lafia, a relic of the extensive river-commerce in the nineteenth century. In addition, Nupe was being spoken under the name ‘Tappa’ in Brazil as late as the 1880s (Rodrigues 1930). Temple (1922:319 ff.) and Nadel (1942:12 ff. & Map) list a large number of Nupe subgroups, but many of these are not linguistic units. Groups such as the Benu at Kutigi, originally Kanuri-speaking, and the Gbagye at Lemu, have been wholly assimilated linguistically. Extensive modern linguistic material is available for Nupe (Banfield, 1914, 1916, Banfield & Macintyre, 1915, Westermann, 1927, Smith 1967a,b, Blench 1982). This literature is summarised in Blench (1989).

3.2 Nupe phonology

The transcriptions used here are intended to represent Nupe as fully as possible, in terms of both tone and vowel length, and may therefore differ from locally published materials. The vowels, consonants and tones are first described and then the orthography used is indicated below.

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Vowels

Nupe has five vowels;

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

In Banfield's original orthography he gives two additional symbols, ɶ and ɷ for vowels, which seem sometimes to conflate nasalisation and a mishearing of vowel quality.

Long vowels in Nupe?

Smith (1967a) argues that in words such **baagi** the /aa/ is a phonemically distinct long vowel, although it is difficult to find minimal pairs to support this hypothesis. Madugu (in various references) transcribes long vowels, such as **déégi** 'small, few' although he does not comment on this. The relatively few words that appear to have a surface long vowel will be marked.

There are three nasalised vowels;

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Open		a	

Nupe can close a syllable with a nasal and can occasionally contrast CVN and CÑN. For example;

The representation of nasalisation is one of the most problematic aspects of the orthography. It is always represented by a following -n and this can lead to confusion with a syllabic /n/. In this document nasalisation follows an IPA-like system. However, this is often counterintuitive to speakers.

Representation of these three vowels was not entirely consistent in Banfield, since the close vowels were represented as V + n and the central vowel as ɶ². Nupe pronunciation of the nasalised central vowel is definitely not entirely consistent. The word /**sarayi**/ 'beautiful' seems to be realised as;

/sãrãyi/
/sarãyi/
/sarayi/

probably suggesting that over time the nasalisation may simply be lost.

² Although Banfield (1914:xx) describes this sound as ɶ

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Consonants

Nupe consonants are as follows;

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Alveopalatal	Palatal	Velar
Plosive	p b		t d	tʃ dʒ	kp gb	k g
Fricative		f v	s z			h
Affricates			ts dz			
Nasal	m		n			
Lateral			l			
Tap/trill				r		
Approximant	w				y	

Syllable-final nasals are homorganic with the following consonant. Nupe has extensive labialisation and palatalisation and combinations of both prosodies.

Tones

Nupe has three level tones and falling and rising tones, marked as follows;

High	´
Mid	Unmarked
Low	`
Rising	ˊ
Falling	ˋ

All tones are marked, where possible, but in the present version where botanists' transcriptions have not been rechecked in the field, some words are not tone-marked.

3.3 Nupe orthography

Orthography of conventions

tʃ	=	c
dʒ	=	j

The order of letters is; a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u, v, w, y, z.

There are also the digraphs; ts, dz, gb, kp which are written with two or more letters in English but are in fact only one sound. Technically speaking, affricates such as 'ts' etc. are distinct sounds. However, for those familiar with the principles of English alphabetisation, it is probably safer to treat them as composed of two separate letters. So 'gb' will be found as part of the letter 'g' rather than as a separate heading.

4. Plant terminology

Latin names are given for nearly all the named plants. The practice by botanists of constantly changing their minds on the names of even quite common and well established economic plants makes this necessary. In recent years, even the name of the shea tree, probably the single most important tree for farmers in northern Nigeria, has been changed from *Butyrospermum paradoxum* to *Vitellaria paradoxa*. The authorities identify

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the name given at a particular period so that in future, if the name changes again, or the taxonomists reclassify it, the correct identification can be traced. The scientific names used here are adopted from Burkill (1985 ff.) as the most recent authoritative source.

English names are those given in various sources. Some names, such as shea and locust, are widely known and used. Others are considerably more obscure but are anyway given here because it is valuable to have a common name. Some of these names are used in Nigerian English, others are part of international currency known to plant scientists but would not be useful in the field. Some common names in West African French are also given.

5. Index of Nupe plant names and uses

5.1 Data sources

The data presented here was originally collected as part of a project to correct the entries in the *Useful Plants of West Tropical Africa* (Burkill 1985 ff.), itself an updating of Dalziel (1937). It was collected in the course of doctoral research in Nigeria between 1979 and 1982. Much of it involved retranscribing identifications already made, but increasingly, plant collection was undertaken and herbarium specimens submitted to Ibadan, where they were kindly identified by Joyce Lowe. The uses listed under the plants were all collected by the author in the field and I would particularly like to thank the residents of Piciko, the village where I spent much of my time in the field, for their assistance in collecting and identifying plants. I have also made use of subsequent literature, particularly Mann et al. (2003).

5.2 Etymologies of Nupe plant names

Nupe plant names are also a source of rich cultural information if correctly understood. Although many plants have no obvious etymologies, where these can be decoded, the principal sources are as follows;

- a) Borrowings from other languages (Arabic, Fulfulde, English)
- b) Geographical names (names of towns or regions or peoples conceived to be the source of the plant, like 'turkey' in English)
- c) Epithets, composite names or phrases describing the plant or its properties in some ways (similar 'love-lies-bleeding' in English)

Early records of plant names often run together all the words of a name, especially in the case of epithets, so that the exact meaning cannot be decoded.

Not much material exists on plant names in neighbouring languages such as Gbari, but I have noted cognates where these are apparent.

5.3 Choice of entries

The richness of Nupe terminology in respect of cultivated plants is such that the entries have had to be selective. The general principle guiding the choice has been to include;

- a) generic names for plants in all regional forms
- b) specific terms for parts of a plant, both wild and cultivated

But to exclude;

- a) words that refer principally to the quality of a plant rather than its botanical variety.

- b) words that refer to the state of a plant.

5.4 Queries

The sources provide some names that cannot so far be identified by present-day Nupe speakers. There may be several reasons for this;

- the transcription is so garbled that speakers simply cannot recognise it as a word they know.
- the word was recorded in a remote area where the plant exists but it is no longer present in the more densely farmed areas
- the word is in another language and is thus not recognised.

6. Nupe botanical concepts

6.1 Nupe Plant classification

Table 1 shows the main terms used in Nupe for plant categories. Nupe has no true generic term for ‘plant’ and makes no clear distinction between wild and domestic plants.

Table 1. Nupe names for plant categories

Nupe term	Approximate meaning
cigbà	tree, woody plant
egī	moss, algae
egó	grass, sedges, quillworts, small plants
egó bàtà	swamp plants, waterweed etc.
ènù	vine, creeper, liana
eza	cane, reed
kombilă	fungus
munu	mushroom, toadstool
Sòkó cecengi	epiphyte

6.2 Nupe plant parts

Table 2 shows the main terms used in Nupe for parts of plants;

Table 2. Nupe names for plant parts

Nupe term	Approximate meaning
bunú, gíyé	sap
ekā	thorn
ekpàgi ‘nyá’gó	prickly seeds of grasses, burs
ènā	grass leaves and sprouts
finni	leaf
gbèrè	root
korola	flower, bud, blossom
kpace	dry cut cereal stems
kpansana	green stems of cereals after harvest
kpara	bark
sìsàngi	Small branches; faggots

6.3 Nupe plant uses

6.3.1 General

The main uses of plants among the Nupe are medicinal and magical, construction, human food, livestock fodder, crafts such as basketry and firewood. The advent of modernisation has changed plant use in dramatic ways for two reasons; environmental change and the availability of new materials and manufactured products. The Nupe environment is described in more detail in §2.2. Environmental change has meant the disappearance or increasing rarity of numerous plant species used in traditional medicine.

6.3.2 Medicinal

[to be written]

6.3.3 Construction

[to be written]

6.3.4 Crafts

[to be written]

6.4 Nupe agriculture

[to be written]

7. Nupe medical concepts

Nupe medical concepts are a rich topic and could be dealt with a monograph-length. They are only described here in a summary fashion as they are clearly relevant to the medical uses of plants. The literature is confined to a single book, *Nupe Religion* (Nadel 1954). Katcha (1979) includes some data on practices relating to fertility and child-care in the village of Sakpe, but the approach is that of a demographer rather than an anthropologist, and no information is included on the belief-systems that account for the patterns he describes. Mann et al. (2003) describe medicinal uses of plants but not the conceptual back ground to their use.

Nadel (1954) includes ‘medicine’ under the rubric of ‘religion’ essentially because of the multiple meanings of the term *cigbe*, applied both to ‘rational’ cures, mostly of a herbal nature, and to purely magical proceedings. Nadel makes the point that there is a significant discontinuity between the stereotype of medicine from the view of the traditional *cigbejinci*, healers, and the general public who procure medicines from them. For the healers, medicines are divided into elaborate hierarchies, according both to their supernatural power and the difficulty of obtaining specified ingredients. For the public they are all of a piece, conceptually along the same lines as Western medicine, a technology to apply in case of misfortune, whether to the physical or social body.

The Nupe term for health is *yeye*, and this is assumed to be the normal state of a human being, unless otherwise afflicted. Health is something everyone is said to ‘have’, thus *u de yeye*, ‘he is healthy’, and ‘I am sick’ is expressed by its negation. But the concept of *yeye* is best expressed by ‘well-being’ since it also includes the idea of freedom from problems or difficulties. Thus Nupe lacks an overall major taxon to express the concept of disease, rather naming a series of particular diseases. Diseases are not conceived of in

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the Western way as positive entities, invading the body, but as rather an imbalance in the world, with either supernatural or natural causation.

When an individual is afflicted with a disease, it is initially his or her responsibility to determine its nature or cause and to seek appropriate therapy. There is a fairly good correlation between the specificity of the disease and the role of community ideology in determining its therapy. Nupe make distinctions that closely parallel those described for the Kongo people of Zaire described by Janzen (1978:8) whom divide illness that is natural, i.e. ‘from God’ (*kimbevo kia Nzambi*), and illness due to human causes, (*kimbevo kia muntu*). Table 3 sets out diseases normally held to be ‘from God’, and therefore generally mild conditions likely to respond to rational therapy. A pharmacopeia for the cure of these is generally available, and people make use of it.

Table 3. Nupe therapies prescribed for illnesses ‘from God’

Ailment	Nupe	Therapy
Adenoids	kodagi	Hot water is rubbed on the affected area.
Chill with shivering	dzodzo	The patient drinks an infusion of the leaves of the kakancela vine, <i>Paulinia pinnata</i> .
Asthma	sungagi	
Dysentery	atun	Cassava porridge
Eczema	gimfuru	The patient drinks an infusion of the leaves of yikunnu kparagi , <i>Mitracarpus hirtus</i> .
Gingivitis	efuko	The fruit of yengi makundunnu , a wild Solanaceae, that grows at the edge of compounds is cut open and rubbed on the sores.
Prickly Heat	cecengi	A mixture of palm-oil, emi dzuru , and wood-ash, swaka , is rubbed on the skin.
Rheumatism	wulegi	The patient drinks and infusion of the eba vine (unidentified.).
Ringworm	eka	The affected area is rubbed with the rough-surfaced leaves of the kawusa bush, <i>Ficus exasperata</i> .
Schistosomiasis	vidinika	
Skin fungus	kuru	Wood-ash is rubbed on the affected area.

A second category of diseases are more ambivalently interpreted, and their therapy is dependent on their initial analysis. Possible strategies in relation to these afflictions are;

- a) To seek self-administered herbal therapy.
- b) To use the services of the diviner, **ebasaci**, to determine the cause of the disease.
- c) To diagnose the disease as of supernatural origin, and seek a remedy either through personal supernatural attainments or the services of a specialist.
- d) To diagnose the disease as ‘from God’ and seek out the services of a specialist herbalist.

Table 4 lists possible afflictions that might call for an individual to make such choices.

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Table 4. Nupe names of physical afflictions

Nupe Term	English Name
efegi	Smallpox
eshiko	Skin allergy
gborigbori	Mumps
gibagiba	Non-specific urethritis
kpanyagi	Tuberculosis
kparyagi	Convulsions
nakakun	Paralysis
robo	Goitre
sombiya	Guinea-worm
twashi	Gonorrhea

Table 5 sets out a number of afflictions that will almost certainly be interpreted in supernatural terms and thus call for considerable negotiation with community values in order to treat with them effectively.

Table 5. Afflictions arising from 'supernatural' causes among the Nupe

Nupe Term	Affliction	Diagnostic Option
enagaci	Shingles	A disease believed to arise from contact with witches, who alone can cure it.
kpatsungi	Sleeping-sickness	Preventive measures include incising the neck with parallel scars. Often fatal if contracted. Supernatural cigbe are available from cigbejinci .
sokogun	Leprosy	Despite a name attributing leprosy to God, it is conceived of as a punishment for the misbehaviour of the individual. No therapy available, the sufferer becomes an outcast.
tsutsu	Death	The diagnoses of the causes of death depend on the age and seniority of the deceased. A young person who dies, either by accident or generally assumed to be the victim of witchcraft, and the relatives consult a diviner to ascertain its source. Older people are generally held to die through the intervention of God, though a series of deaths may lead to witchcraft accusations.
zanazana	Madness	Insanity or schizophrenia, loosely defined, is normally attributed to witchcraft, and relatives may use divination to determine its source. The victim is tolerated in the community if he/she is able to take part in the productive process, otherwise, they are outcast.

8. Further work

The present document consists of a *preliminary* synthesis of existing field materials on Nupe plant names. It needs further checking in the field both in terms of content, transcription and expansion of the ethnobotanical aspects. This is being undertaken in January 2008.


II. NUPE-SCIENTIFIC-ENGLISH PLANT NAMES

Conventions

*Recorded in a botanical source but not confirmed in a linguistic source

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
abudati [?]	crowfoot grass	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	
adinkoro	swamp grass	g	used for horse feed.
aduruku	tree sp.	<i>Newbouldia laevis</i>	< Hausa
ádúwaci	desert date	<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>	< Hausa The fruit is edible and gum is obtained from it.
àfàtà	Cola nut type with many segments.	<i>Cola acuminata</i>	
àgbyàdya	Cucumber	c	also àgbyàja and gbyàja.
ajefowo [?]		<i>Celosia laxa</i>	
àlāsàngì		<i>Physalis micrantha</i>	
àlāsàngì	angular winter cherry	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	
àlāsàngì	swamp grass	g	
alayefa [?]	waterleaf	<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i>	
àlikyangi	grass	g	used for horse feed.
àlikyangi yíwó	finger grass	<i>Chloris pilosa</i>	wife of àlikyangi
àlùbāsa	onion	<i>Allium cepa</i>	< Hausa < Arabic
álúkámá	wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	< Hausa < Arabic
ankufa		<i>Waltheria indica</i>	< Hausa
àrìdā	Tree	t	or àyìdā whose fruit is used for medicine. whose fruit is used for medicine.
átàrà	cola	<i>Cola acuminata</i>	traditionally traded from Ghana
àtarùbù	Large chili pepper, less hot than the small type.	<i>Capsicum annuum</i>	< Hausa
àyìdā	Tree	t	or àrìdā
ayoyo [?]	jute, Jews' mallow	<i>Corchorus olitorius</i>	
bàbò	Bottle-gourd	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	Used for carrying liquids; also the name of bottle-gourd rattles, both those with external networks of beads and those filled with stones and plugged at the mouth.
babòròci	tree sp.	<i>Isoberlinia doka</i> .	
babòròci bàtà		<i>Berlinia grandiflora</i>	or <i>Berlinia occidentalis</i> ? = 'swamp <i>Isoberlinia</i> '
babòròci bokū		<i>Isoberlinia tomentosa</i>	or <i>Berlinia occidentalis</i> ? =

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
báci	counterwood, mahogany bean	<i>Azelia africana</i>	‘white <i>Isoberlinia</i> ’ fruit = kpámhá
bàfî	camel’s foot	<i>Pilostigma thonningii</i>	tree sp. very fibrous. ? = ‘place of sky’
bàje	tree sp.	t	very tough wood.
bàje	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	? < Yoruba <i>àbàjẹ</i> .
banfyági	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
bangi	Tall grass found in the bush.	g	Used for roofing and its chaff is mixed with mud for building. It has yellow flowers in October/November
bánkórò	Fruit of the bamboo palm.	<i>Raphia sudanica</i>	
bàsà	Small calabash	go	from Bàsà country.
báyìdà	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
béci	sausage tree	<i>Kigelia africana</i>	fruit is used in gonorrhoea medicine
bèdáybo	Pineapple	<i>Ananas comosus</i>	< Yoruba. cf. diàdiàgǔ , kpacigbè , tíro nukpà .
běkògi	Small stubby banana.	fr	
běyìgi	White, straight headed guinea-corn cultivar	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	classed under kùyì .
bingi	Small bottle-gourd.	<i>Lagenaria breviflora</i>	
bisã	taper grass	<i>Cymbopogon giganteus</i>	formerly sold and used as tapers. Used to make zana mats.
bisãbì	Forest grass	g	used for horse feed.
biye’na lelú	coat buttons	<i>Tridax procumbens</i>	base of the fire of the witch
biyégi	Stalk (of a leaf or fruit).	tp	
bődò	tree sp.	t	found in the forest.
bödòbági	tree sp.	sh	used for medicinal purposes.
bödzwăgi	tree sp.	t	with very large leaves.
bokoci	karaya gum tree	<i>Sterculia setigera</i>	
bondzúrúgi	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
bondzwagi	Grass	g	Fibre is used to make kpetya trays
bongi	Loofah.	<i>Luffa cylindrica</i>	

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
bõnù	vine sp.	<i>Saba florida</i>	See èbǒ.
bòrògǒgi	grass sp.	g	used for horse feed.
bota	grass sp.	g	used to make contraceptive medicine
bǔdègi	grass sp.	g	used for horse feed.
bùgàrà	gamba grass	<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	Grass used to make zana mats cf. tsàrà.
bùsú	Yellow powder inside the locust fruit.	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>	Used to make a sweet drink
busùnci	West African ebony	<i>Diospyros mespiliformis</i>	Edible fruit. Wood used for hoe-handles
cedya	tree sp.	<i>Ficus thonningii</i>	< Hausa céédíyáá
cékpòtǔ	Bush grass	g	= ‘be gnarled’.
céndzù	Unripe nut of the oil palm.	<i>Elaeius guineensis</i>	
cènkafa	Asian rice	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	< Hausa
cènkafa doko	grass sp.	<i>Thelopogon elegans</i>	lit. ‘horse rice’
cèyì	sedge sp.		also sèyì, Used for weaving nets.
cigbà ànàsara	Persian lilac	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	
cigbàkó	tree sp.		has poison bark
cigbà’te	rubber tree	<i>Funtumia elastica</i>	
cigbà kata	umbrella tree	<i>Musanga cecropioides</i>	tree of house
cigbà wawa	tree sp.		tree of fool
cigbà wòbà	water cola	<i>Cola verticillata</i>	becomes very slimy when eaten.
cincèrè	goosegrass	<i>Eleusine indica</i>	Grass found in vacant compounds.
cincèrè’ba	Comb-fringe grass	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	‘husband of cincere ’.
cincèrè yiwo	Grass	g	‘wife of cincèrè ’.
cìnga	banana cluster	<i>Musa sapientium</i>	cf. etí.
cintàrà doko	Plant	pl	lit. ‘horsetail’
cintàrà gbara	Plant	pl	lit. ‘lizard tail’
cintàrà giama	fern ? generic	<i>Dryopteris filis-mas</i>	lit. ‘chamæleon tail’
dagba pàmboci	tulip tree	<i>Stereospermum kunthianum</i>	elephant x tree
dàkù cigbàgi	Small bush. African privet.	sh	
damā	swamp morning glory	<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>	
dāmā	Convolvulus	v	
dāmǎgi	Plant	pl	from which both medicine and perfume are obtained.
dānci	copaiba balsam	<i>Daniellia oliveri</i>	? = ‘fruit-bat tree’

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
dangòdì	catch thorn	<i>Ziziphus abyssinica</i>	
dangòro	Small thorny plant.	pl	
dará	tamarind fruit	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	cf. daráci .
darábági	Shrub or bush, does not mature to wood	<i>Byrsocarpus coccineus</i>	cf. kòrògi .
daráci	tamarind	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	
daráci kúsò	black tamarind	<i>Dialium guineense</i>	edible fruit
děci	tree sp.		
dĩ bèrè cin a'mì lě		<i>Newbouldia laevis</i>	stretch your neck and see in compound. Branches used to make the kpanga fish-spear. Also aduruku
dinci	black plum tree	<i>Vitex doniana</i>	The stones from the fruits were traditionally used to play children's games. The leaves were used to make ink for Qu'ranic slates. The fruits were boiled down to make a syrup, dìgborokā used in the making of <i>alewa</i> sweets.
dĩnĩ kpe 'tsu ye à	Small bush	sh	dies off each dry season. 'a fly does not know a chief'
dinkāká	swamp grass	g	
dinkòrò	water-lily	<i>Nymphaea lotus</i>	
dinkòrò 'bá	(Easter) lily.	pl	
dòbĩna	date palm and fruit	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	< Hausa < Coptic 
dogó	mud-straw	<i>Schizachyrium exile</i>	Found in the gbodonji borrow-pits at the edge of town
dòkò cintàrà	Weed in the fields	<i>Vernonia perrottetii</i>	= horse's tail. Also cintàrà doko
dombokungi		<i>Canarium schweinfurthii</i>	? doubtful
dùkú	sweet potato	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>	<F.
dùkú dagba	Flower like a jack-in-the-pulpit.	pl	
dùkú nasara	Irish potato	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>	whiteman's sweet potato
dundorogi	Guinea-corn cultivar	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	grown for its red bark which is used as a dyestuff. Corresponds to

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
dùryà	Stem on which the palm tree bears fruit	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	Hausa karandafi .
duwa kuci [?]	cabbage tree	<i>Anthocleista vogelli</i>	charmed snake
dyàdyàgǔ	Pineapple	<i>Ananas comosus</i>	Also bèdàibo , pacigbè , tíro nukpà .
dzàgbã	vine sp.	v	
dzama [?]		<i>Chamaecrista rotundifolia</i>	
dzudzwāci [?]	Christmas bush	<i>Alchornea cordifolia</i>	Leaves used to wash the body when tired
dzundzwānāgi	oil palm	tp	Tender leaves
èba	raphia palm, bamboo palm	<i>Raphia sudanica</i>	fruit = bánkòrò . fibre = kúnyì .
eba nyikan [?]		<i>Phyllanthus muellerianus</i>	husband of the fish [?]
ebá ‘o rè bĕ	sensitive plant	<i>Biophytum petersianum</i>	lit. your husband is coming.
eba yikan ego [?]		<i>Zornia glochidiata</i>	
èbĕ	pumpkin	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i>	
èbĕ	pumpkin	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>	
ebì	cola	<i>Cola nitida</i>	àfàtà , átàrà , labozhì , are subtypes of cola nut.
ebó	grass sp..	g	
ebó sùlyǎ	Grass	g	lit. ‘ ebó of the bushpig’ used for medicine.
ebó tsùgbà	Grass	g	lit. ‘ ebó of the testicle’ used for medicine.
ebó zùnmāgi	Weed species	<i>Phyllanthus fraternus</i>	cf. ebógi .
èbǒ	Fruit of the bǒnù vine.	<i>Saba florida</i>	
ebógi	Weed whose seeds are formed on the back of the leaves	<i>Phyllanthus fraternus</i>	cf. ebó zùnmāgi .
èbù	Seed yams, suckers.	<i>Dioscorea spp.</i>	
ecani	bow-string hemp	<i>Sansevieria liberica</i>	
ecani	bow-string hemp	<i>Sansevieria senegambica</i>	
ecani	bow-string hemp	<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i>	
eci	Guinea yam	<i>Dioscorea rotundata</i>	
eci	Yam (general term)	<i>Dioscorea spp.</i>	cf. wòzhì .
eci dzúrú	red yam	<i>Dioscorea cayenensis</i>	
eci kokana		<i>Dioscorea sp.</i>	
eci koya		<i>Dioscorea sp.</i>	


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Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
ècì	Indigo plant and dye;	<i>Lonchocarpus cyanescens</i>	cf. cancàrià, tàlèki .
ecidungi [?]	West African aloe	<i>Aloe buettneri</i>	
ècingi	indigo	<i>Indigofera pulchra</i>	
èdã	Sorrel (èmãgi) seeds.	c	
edĩ	black plum fruit (dĩnci).	<i>Vitex doniana</i>	
èdĩ	oil-palm kernel oil	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	
edingi bàtà		<i>Heterotis rotundifolia</i>	x of the swamp
èdo	witchweed	<i>Striga hermontheca</i>	
èdu	Wild yam.	y	
edzògi	Morning glory plant.	pl	
edzògi	Rice cultivar.	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	
edzòkó	Rice cultivar.	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	
edzu	Bambara groundnut	<i>Vigna subterranea</i>	cf. kpàruru .
edzu kìn	Kersting's groundnut	<i>Macrotyloma geocarpa</i>	Bambara nut of ground
edzu lebú	Bambara groundnut	<i>Vigna subterranea</i>	
edzu yikéré	Bambara groundnut	<i>Vigna subterranea</i>	
efã	tiger nut	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	
èfã	arrowroot	<i>Tacca involucreta</i>	used to make bàambará .
èfãgi	Tough grass	g	used for arrow-shafts.
efãgi kení	Nut used for perfume	<i>Cyperus maculatus</i>	= 'small Hausa tiger-nut'. Imported from Hausaland.
efákó (zhikò)	jointed flatsedge	<i>Cyperus articulatus</i>	black sedge roots emit a strong perfume when roasted.
efãngi bőkùn)	('tí grass sp.	<i>Cyperus dilatatus</i>	
efekoci [?]		<i>Combretum glutinosum</i>	
efekoci	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
efĩ	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	Empty head or stalk of the after the kernel has been removed.
efo'ba		<i>Mariscus alternifolius</i>	? two days
efokoci [?]	cork-bark tree	<i>Cussonia barteri</i> & <i>C. arborea</i>	
efù	wild date palm	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	



leaves are used in making fancy mats and hats, **màrùfa**. Fruits occasionally eaten

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
èfyági	Yam cultivar	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	cf. eci .
ega	Poisonous plant, is also used to kill lice on animals;	pl	leaves when beaten in a mortar and spread on the surface of a pond, kill the fish
ègba	Fruit of the gbàcí fig tree.	fr	cf. gbanci .
ègbà	fruit of fan-palm	<i>Borassus aethiopum</i>	marginally edible but traditionally spouted and eaten as màrinci (< Hausa)
egbanci		<i>Lanea kerstingii</i> or <i>L. schimperii</i>	= ‘rope-tree’.
egbo nukpayĩ		<i>Eleocharis complanata</i>	x of beard
egbyákó	Vine	v	used for medicinal purposes.
ègĩ	Moss; slime; algae	pl	
egó	Grass (general term)	g	also applies to a number of small plants such as quillworts
egó bàtà	Swamp grass (general term)	g	
egó dòkò	Horse grass.	g	
ègwa	arrow poison	<i>Strophanthus hispidus</i> ; <i>S. sarmentosus</i>	fruit is used to make poison for arrows.
egwa gútági	Small bush, the leaves grow in threes.	<i>Eriosema psoraleoides</i>	three hands
egyàgi	ironweed	<i>Vernonia galamensis</i>	
egyàgi	prickly chaff-flower	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	
ejégi	Maize cultivar	<i>Zea mays</i>	
eji	shingle wood	<i>Terminalia superba</i>	
èkǎ	Palm-nut fibre	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	after the oil has been extracted.
ekǎ bókù	Mexican poppy	<i>Argemone mexicana</i>	
ekǎ nankó		<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>	thorn of cow
ekǎ shanshangi	spiny amaranth	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i>	
ekǎci		<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>	thorn tree
ekǎci		<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	
ekǎci bókù	White thorn bush.	<i>Acacia albida</i>	? calque from Hausa
ekan'tsu [?]		<i>Asparagus africanus</i>	rat thorn
èke ezhĩ [?]		<i>Gomphrena celosoides</i>	deer trap [?]
ekò	shea fruit	<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
ekò	Shea nut kernel	<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	cf. èkó .
èkó	Shea-butter flesh	<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	cf. ekò .
ekò kpara	shea	<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	
èko lungoyi	plant	<i>Sphenoclea zeylanica</i>	antelope's x
eko nasara	cashew	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Whiteman's shea nut
ekógi tukpa	Shrub	sh	
èkpá	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	
èkpá bőkùngi	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	white ~
èkpá dandzoro à	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	
èkpá dzúrúgi	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	red ~
èkpá emígi	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	yellow, slow-drying cv.
èkpá etswa	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	~ three months
gútági			
èkpá eyi lukuku	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	~ three months
èkpá gbàdză	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	~ with a hard seed
èkpá gbàdzangu	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	~ with a hard seed
èkpá gbăgù	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	
èkpá gudúci	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	with a white grain
èkpá gyankunci	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	
èkpá mazagi	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	little brown one
ekpabitagi	Grass that breaks leaving a V-shaped notch like the nock of an arrow	g	also ekpakotagi and sàbanigi
ekpagi	Cane.	g	
ekpakotagi	Grass that breaks leaving a V-shaped notch like the nock of an arrow	g	also ekpabitagi and sàbanigi
èkpe gbàkū		<i>Olax subscorpioidea</i>	x of the wild pig
èkpe gbàkū	Siam weed	<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	x of the wild pig
èkpo	Maize cultivar	<i>Zea mays</i>	cf. kaba .
elo	locust bean fruit	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>	cf. lonci .
elo búsú	locust bean	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>	
elo kòsū	locust bean	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>	
elo tukpa		<i>Combretum sericeum</i>	kob antelope's ear
elúgi	cascarilla	<i>Croton lobatus</i>	little bird
elu'ge anici		<i>Pseudospondias microcarpa</i>	black, barely edible fruits. ? = kekerakuci
èmá tsudò shi	Grass resembling		lit. 'the happiness of rival wives

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Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
lǒzù à	millet		never lasts until the evening'
èmăgi	roselle	<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i>	
èmăgi [?]		<i>Hibiscus surattensis</i>	
èmăgi dzúró	cranberry hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus acetosella</i>	red hibiscus
			
emi dzúró	palm oil	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	red oil
èmu	baobab fruit	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	
enăgíntsu	Very poisonous plant	pl	lit. animal eat me and die; cf. saci .
enagun boci		<i>Commiphora Kerstingii</i>	
enigi	waterleaf	<i>Talinum triangulare</i>	
enigi kòcita	Small herb	pl	used in making a certain sauce.
ènù	Vine general	v	
ènùgi		<i>Calopogonium mucunoides</i>	little vine
enyĩgi		<i>Polygala butyracea</i>	
enyĩgi	goatweed	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	
enyĩgi [?]		<i>Combretum collinum</i> subsp. <i>hypopilinum</i>	
epàkó	sisal	<i>Agave sisalana</i>	big skin
epí	egusi melon	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i>	
epí	melon	<i>Cucumeropsis mannii</i>	
epí	Seeds of the pàràgi melon.	<i>Cucumeropsis mannii</i>	
epí nuwā	water-melon	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i>	melon of water
èpò(kó)	grass like guinea-corn	g	See èpùkó .
èpùkó	grass like guinea-corn	g	See èpùkó .
èpùkó [?]	Sodom apple	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	
esā gbèjì		<i>Indigofera spicata</i>	x of snake
èsàgi	Grass	g	used for thatching and brooms.
èsàgi lùkó		<i>Setaria pumila</i>	x of pigeon
èsàgi lùkó	Bristly foxtail grass	<i>Setaria pallidifusca</i> .	x of pigeon
èsàgi lùkukù	Water weed	pl	cf. tsāmvogi .
èsàgi tànkpóló	swamp grass	g	x of toad
esatà	Grass	g	from which local salt, ligàma , was formerly made.
esāvogi	Water weed	pl	cf. esāgi lùkukù .
èshá	bush-candle	<i>Canarium schweinfurthii</i>	the fruit is edible after being

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
			placed in a basin of hot water. Semi-cultivated around Kutigi.
èshè cigbà	coral tree	<i>Erythrina senegalensis</i>	
èshè cigbà	tree sp.	t	
èshí	tree sp.	t	very large fruit, edible seeds
esò	sesame	<i>Sesamum orientale</i>	seeds are used to make sauce.
èsóbà gbàkū	tree sp.	t	= ‘hiding place of the wild pig’
esògi lùkó	lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis tremula</i>	= ‘small esò of the dove’
etí gùlù	Indian heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium indicum</i>	head of vulture
etí rubugi		<i>Leucas martinicensis</i>	round head
etikó yíwógi	ironweed	<i>Vernonia galamensis</i>	little wife of the bighead
etó	spear-grass	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	used for thatching, for tying yam-bundles. The fibre is made into a triple strand rope and used to weave eka , the quoins for water-pots.
etó lèmű	lemon grass	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	etó grass lime
ètsú	tree sp.	t	? cork tree.
evo	Calabash bottle gourd	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	
ewógíci	bitter cola	<i>Garcinia cola</i>	cola sp. used for cough medicine.
èyà kapangi	fringed spiderflower	<i>Cleome rutidosperma</i>	
èyà yaká		<i>Aspilia africana</i>	
èyà’zo	consumption weed	<i>Cleome viscosa</i>	friend of the cowpea
eyé kòsū dàngi	jumblebeads, cats’ eyes	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	cat’s eyeball (? Hausa calque)
eyì	generic for any cereal	<i>cereal</i>	
eyi takungi	guinea-corn	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	
eyígi	Reed.	g	also the name of a double-reed sound-producer made from it.
eza	Cane; reed.	g	
ezà	camwood	<i>Pterocarpus spp.</i>	
ezà zhìkò	camwood	<i>Pterocarpus spp.</i>	black camwood
ezo	cowpea	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>	
ezo bokun	cowpea	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>	
ezo gwakagi	cowpea	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>	
ezo kîn	Kersting’s groundnut	<i>Macrotyloma geocarpa</i>	cowpea of ground
ezo munugi	cowpea	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>	
fàfákū	vine sp.	v	a poisonous drink made from the same.
fàngi bàtà	swamp sedge	<i>Cyperus difformis</i>	


Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
fāngi'tí bōkù		<i>Cyperus dilatatus</i>	
fāngi'tí bōkù	fringed spiderflower	<i>Cleome rutidosperma</i>	= 'tiger-nut with a white head'. grass sp. with a bulb root.
fāngi'tí bōkù yíwó		<i>Cleome monophylla</i>	= 'wife of the fringed spiderflower'
fāringàmu	Grass	g	used to make perfume.
fekunfe	Giant grass with a hollow stem.	g	Used as a straw to sip palm-wine and in children's games.
féré	maize leaves.	<i>Zea mays</i>	
fifíníkóci	African linden	<i>Hallea stipulosa</i>	leaves are used to pack cola
filasiko	Italian senna	<i>Senna italica</i>	< Hausa
fíngi	purslane	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> ; <i>P. quadrifida</i>	
finiga [?]	hairy thorn apple	<i>Datura metel</i>	
finikó	Very large leaf,	pl	used to tie up kola nuts.
finzo	hyacinth bean	<i>Lablab purpureus</i>	
fōro	tree sp.	t	
fūci	karaya gum tree	<i>Sterculia setigera</i>	also gbokoci , kokongigà .
fūre	Flower of the tobacco plant, used to colour the teeth.	pl	< Hausa ? English 'flower'
furuntu [?]	grapefruit	<i>Citrus paradisi</i>	< Hausa
fyāci	tree sp.		= 'spear-tree'
gàbàruwa	Egyptian mimosa	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	< Hausa. Yields the Gambia pods. The source of gum Arabic.
gàbàruwan kasà	tea senna	<i>Chamaecrista mimosoides</i>	< Hausa
gàdūci	tree sp.		
gana	maize beard	<i>Zea mays</i>	
gandi	cola nut	<i>Cola verticillata</i>	
gàràfini	balsam apple	<i>Momordica charantia</i>	
gayà	coffee senna	<i>Senna occidentalis</i>	
gayà ebá	foetid cassia	<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>	male <i>Senna occidentalis</i>
gàzūmā	itch grass	<i>Rottboellia exaltata</i>	< Hausa
gàzūmā bagi	bristly foxtail grass	<i>Setaria barbata</i>	= 'male itch grass'.

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
gbàci	fan, deleb palm, palmyra palm	<i>Borassus aethiopum</i>	 the leaves are used to make kpàkpàrà mats. The fruit is ègbà .
gbadaybo [?]	pineapple	<i>Ananas comosus</i>	
gbàgānāci	tree sp.	t	
gbágū	gutta percha tree	<i>Ficus platyphylla</i>	
gbāgù	guinea-corn cv.	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	
gbakūkó	grass sp.	g	= ‘large cheek’. Small grass with a feathery head.
gbàla	large gourd	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	
gbambara [?]	Lima bean	<i>Phaseolus lunatus</i>	
gbanci	fig trees in general	<i>Ficus spp.</i>	
gbanci bōkùn		<i>Ficus sur</i>	
gbanci dzúrúgi	gutta percha tree	<i>Ficus platyphylla</i>	
gbanci lékè		<i>Ficus sp.</i>	
gbanci pòtò		<i>Ficus sycomorus ssp. gnaphalocarpa</i>	
gbanci wuryàbya		<i>Ficus trichopoda</i> or <i>F. congensis</i>	= ‘fig of red ant’
gbàganāci	tree sp.		
gbangògi	fruit of ~	<i>Pterocarpus santalinoides</i>	
gbārúfù mabo		<i>Eriosema psoraleoides</i>	young man x
gbārúfù yikéré		<i>Sesbania sesban</i>	young man of the dry season
gbàshì	Guinea peach	<i>Sarcocephalus latifolia</i>	
gbéci	tree sp.		
gbogí	tree sp.		
gbokoci	tree sp.	<i>Sterculia setigera</i>	also called fùci , kokongigà .
gegèza	Fruit of the fr lwōrwōnci tree.		
gegezàgi	tree sp.		
gèza	tree sp.		usually found on ant hills.
gimāci	nettle tree	<i>Celtis integrifolia</i>	
gíncitsu	Poisonous plant	herb sp.	cf. enāgínsu .
go fin ‘o na		<i>Commelina diffusa</i>	

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
o'kin [?]			
go fin 'o na	wandering jew	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	
o'kin [?]			
gogagi [?]	frankincense	<i>Boswellia dalzielli</i>	
golaji		<i>Bacopa crenata</i>	
gómbara'bági	rose imperial	<i>Cochlospermum tinctorium</i>	
góndzurú	grass sp.	g	much used for thatching.
gonti bokun	Grass	? <i>Ctenium newtonii</i> .	= 'white-head grass'
gòrība	dum or gingerbread palm	<i>Hyphaene thebaica</i>	<Hausa. Marginally edible fruits.
			
gòzâkó		<i>Fuirena umbellata</i>	= 'big barber'
gǔgoró	Fruit of the gǔgoróci tree	<i>Detarium microcarpum</i>	used to make dingborokā syrup.
gǔgoróci		<i>Detarium microcarpum</i>	
gǔgoróci kúsò	tallow tree	<i>Detarium senegalense</i>	= ' <i>Detarium microcarpum</i> of the forest'
gungoroko [?]	ringworm plant	<i>Senna alata</i>	
gungunci	tree sp.		tall, buttressed tree with smooth bark has hard-shelled fruits that fall to the ground in September.
gusa	bamboo	<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>	
gushi		<i>Cola gigantea</i> var. <i>glabrescens</i>	the mushy pulp of the fruits can be sucked.
guzhya	groundnut, peanut	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i>	< Hausa gurjiya Bambara groundnut
gwaba	guava	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	< English
gwangwala	branch of raphia palm, bamboo palm	<i>Raphia sudanica</i>	< Hausa
gyama cintàrà	bracken, strainer weed	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	chameleon tail
gyeci			
ikoho		<i>Tetrapleura tetraptera</i>	seeds can be used in soup
ishenebobo [?]	wild custard-apple	<i>Annona senegalensis</i>	name ex-Barter
jěci	violet tree	<i>Securidaca longepedunculata</i>	
jìbà	tree sp.		

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
jǐgada	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
jinjèrè	hog plum	<i>Spondias mombin</i>	cf. jinjèrèci
jinjèrè gbèci	tree sp.		
jinjèrè'gyà	Nupe blood plum	<i>Haematostaphis barteri</i>	first noted by Barter in 1857
jinjèrè Gǒyì	tree sp.	<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i>	hog plum of the Fulani
jinjèrèci	hog plum tree	<i>Spondias mombin</i>	
kaba	maize	<i>Zea mays</i>	
kaba dǒkò	shama millet	<i>Echinochloa colona</i>	maize of horse
kabeji [?]	cabbage	<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	
kadā gbani [?]	sweet melon	<i>Cucumis melo</i>	
kákancélà	vine sp.	<i>Paullinia pinnata</i>	cf. ènù.
kakanyaro [?]	hairy thorn apple	<i>Datura metel</i>	
kàlàkpà	Fork of a tree.	tp	
kàlànkpà			
kámāsa	Weed found in the water.	pl	
kāndù	Aerial yam	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	
kānkānì	loofah	<i>Luffa cylindrica</i>	
kanúfùrì	clove	<i>Eugenia caryophyllus</i>	< Hausa < Arabic
karota [?]	carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	
kasha [?]	physic nut	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	
kasha eba [?]	red physic nut	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	male physic nut
kashiwu	cashew	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	
kashiyawo	star bur	<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i>	< Hausa
káshyá	Cassia	pl	
kàsùwà	grass sp.	<i>Pennisetum subangustum</i>	used for horse feed. < Hausa kyààsúuwáá . The brilliant blue beetle Soko yawogi ('the wife of God') is found on these grasses in the dry season.
kàsùwà	mission grass	<i>Pennisetum pedicellatum</i>	< Hausa kyààsúúwáá
kàsùwà	mission grass	<i>Pennisetum polystachyon</i>	< Hausa kyààsúúwáá
kàsùwà' bá	grass sp.	g	
kaswa		<i>Oldenlandia capensis</i>	fide Burkill
káwō nuwāci		<i>Entada abyssinica; E. africana</i>	



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Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
káwúsa	sandpaper tree	<i>Ficus exasperata</i>	< Hausa. Leaves are covered with small thorns and are used to polish wooden slates. Also used to abrade the skin in cases of ringworm.
kayikayi [?]	indigo	<i>Indigofera hirsuta</i>	
kekera kuci	tree sp.	<i>Lecaniodiscus cupanioides</i>	black, barely edible fruits. ? also elu'ge anici
kekú	Wild eggplant	pl	
kènkèlù	weed sp.	pl	
kéré	tree sp.	<i>Lophira lanceolata</i>	hard shea tree. The nuts can be processed like shea.
kín nyilagi	sesame	<i>Sesamum orientale</i>	Herb used in sauce.
kínkèrè cintàrà	asthma plant	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	scorpion tail
kínkèrè cintàrà		<i>Euphorbia prostrata</i>	wife of the scorpion tail
yíwó			
kínkèrè	grass sp.	g	scorpion tail
cintàràgi			
kírìbombo	Fruit of the nungberéci tree.	fr	
kísà	vine sp.	v	
kísàfini	grass sp.	g	
kóbenci	Fruit of pútú yíwó tree	<i>Neocarya macrophylla</i>	
kóbenci	Fruit of pútú yíwó tree	<i>Parinari curatellifolia</i>	
kòci	shea tree	<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	A medicine is made from this to control menstrual flow. Used to make hoe handles.
kòci bàtà	shea tree	<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	= 'swamp shea tree'
kòci lati	shea tree	<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	= 'field shea tree'
kòci'bá	tree sp.	<i>Lophira lanceolata</i>	= 'male shea tree'
kòci kéré	tree sp.	<i>Lophira lanceolata</i>	= 'hard shea tree'
kógwanci	tree sp.		= 'hand-clapping tree'
kòkòkùmà	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
kokongigà	karaya gum tree	<i>Sterculia setigera</i>	also fùci and gbokoci . The fruits are pounded up and mixed into a paste with shea-butter and applied to the toes to expel chiggers.
kokotagbogi [?]		<i>Desmodium velutinum</i>	

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
kókpa	Long tubular calabash.	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	
kolisa	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
kondò	Very large gourd	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i>	used as a clothes basket or fish creel.
kòndo	swamp grass	g	
kónkení	pawpaw, papaya	<i>Carica papaya</i>	‘Hausa shea-fruit’
konkòrò	old cocoyam	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	
konkòrò Nupe	old cocoyam	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	
konkòròkà	new cocoyam	<i>Xanthosoma mafaffa</i>	
korodǎnyìgi	Edible vegetable	pl	
kòrògi	Small tree		used for medicine
korolambawu	Vine	<i>Cissus populnea</i>	used in roof making.
kòsònkòri	spice-bark tree	<i>Zanthoxylum zanthoxyloides</i>	
kpace	tree sp.	<i>Terminalia schimperiana</i>	also kpaci . = ‘cough-tree’. The bark is sold in the markets in strips as a cough-medicine. Also used for carving and hoe-handles.
kpaci	tree sp.	<i>Terminalia schimperiana</i>	also kpace .
kpàcigbè	Pineapple	<i>Ananas comosus</i>	cf. bèdàyo , diàdiàgǔn , tíro nukpà .
kpakangici	false dalbergia	<i>Pericopsis laxiflora</i>	an insect-resistant wood used for hoe-handles
kpakpara	Small bush with a stringy bark.	<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i>	
kpàkpàrà	Palm with a large fan shaped leaf	t	used in making kpàkpàrà sleeping mats.
kpakogi			
kpámhá	Fruit of ~	<i>Azelia africana</i>	cf. báci
kpāmfini	okra leaves used as greens	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	< Hausa kwafini
kpāmfini gùlǔ	Castor oil plant	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	
kpānmi	Okra	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	
kpānmi enā	Okra cultivar	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	
guru			
kpānmi ròkò	Okra cultivar	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	
kpānsánákó	sugar-cane	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	large cornstalk
kpanshyániáigi	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
kpara	shea-kernel	<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	cf. kporo .
kpàruru	Bambara groundnut	<i>Vigna subterranea</i>	cf. Hausa kwaruru

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
kpasà	Large ladle-shaped gourd.	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	
kpatságà	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
kpawu	cork-bark tree	<i>Cussonia barteri</i> & <i>C. arborea</i>	
kpàyì	bulrush millet	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	
kpeakpea [?]	bush-mango, dika nut	<i>Irvingia gabonensis</i>	
kpémkpèkó	swamp grass	g	
kpenyefo [?]		<i>Combretum sericeum</i>	
kpokogi	wild nutmeg	<i>Pycnanthus angolensis</i>	an oil-seed
kporo	shea-kernel	<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	cf. kpara .
kpwòkpwótwògi	Edible weed,	pl	used as greens.
kpyáryá	Shallow calabash	go	cf. evo .
kúci	silk-cotton tree	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	grows very tall and straight, and used as a landmark; also applied to the funnel and masts of a steamer. Used to make quivers for arrows and for large stirring-sticks for porridge.
kúdúndùkú	Sweet potatoes	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>	< Hausa cf. dùkú .
kúgbyá	vine sp.	v	
kúka	Baobab leaves	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	< Hausa. cf. muci . leaves are used in making sauce. The small twigs and branches are pulled down in a mass and allowed to dry thoroughly. They are then laid on a flat surface and threshed like guinea-corn The dried leaves fall off and can then be used in soup.
kúkāma	vine sp.	v	
kukukama [?]	tree sp.	<i>Maytenus senegalensis</i>	
kukùnci	chewstick tree	<i>Anogeissus leiocarpus</i>	
kulanci [?]	spider tree	<i>Crateva adansonii</i>	
kúnā	tree sp.		cf. kúrúnā .
kúnyì	raphia palm, bamboo palm	<i>Raphia sudanica</i>	fibre of the leaves used ese fish-fences, to bind fish-traps and eshegi door coverings, farmers' bags and ekpe produce-carriers
kùngbará	coat buttons	<i>Tridax procumbens</i>	
kúrúnā	tree sp.		also kúnā

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
kútúkpáci	red-flowered cotton	silk- <i>Bombax buonopozense</i> ; <i>B. brevisuspe</i> ; <i>B. costatum</i>	bark is compounded with tobacco flowers to colour the teeth red.
kuyì	millet cultivar	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	
kuyì bẹ̀yìgi	millet cultivar	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	
kwagùgi	vine sp.	v	used as a remedy for rheumatism.
lá dzukòn kpegi	Sensitive plant.	<i>Biophytum petersianum</i>	
labalabangi [?]		<i>Desmodium velutinum</i>	
labozhì	cola	<i>Cola nitida</i>	
lākàkpó	Morning glory vine.	<i>Ipomoea asarifolia</i>	
lakpa	sasswood, ordeal-tree	<i>Erythlopleum suaveolens</i>	
lālègi	palm-fruit	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	cf. yìkūnu
lǎli	henna	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i>	< Hausa used to blacken the hands and feet.
lampogi [?]		<i>Physalis micrantha</i>	
lāmputu	grass sp.	g	
langbà	Tree sp.	<i>Gardenia ternifolia</i> ssp. <i>jovis-tonantis</i>	Grows on hills. Has small, yellow, pear-shaped edible fruits, eaten in December and January. leaves used to feed goats
lanjeregi	shrub sp.		
lánká	Full grown branches	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	
láyagi sòkó	Plant	pl	has a flower like blue bells, and grows on a long stem.
làyisa	Reed	g	used to make long pipe stems, māshya .
lèdǔ	black nightshade	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	
lèmǔ bákági	lime	<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	sour orange
lòlòbì	tallow tree	<i>Pentadesma butyracea</i>	fruit like a cola nut. Oil is used in processing shea-nuts.
lonci	locust bean tree	<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>	
lonci gágà	tree sp.	t	
lówògi	Onion sprouts; young onions.	<i>Allium cepa</i>	
lówu	Plant	pl	sap is mixed with corn and placed



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Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
lùbǎsa	Onion	<i>Allium cepa</i>	in the farms to destroy birds. See àlùbǎsa .
lúkókókó	weed sp.	pl	
lúkolúko	Flowering plant, much like the jack-in- the-pulpit.	pl	
lǔkpa	Tree	t	with a very thin bark, the wood is very brittle. By extension applied to a useless person.
lulu	cotton	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	
lulu fùkà	Unginned cotton.	c	
lulu kece	cotton species	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	
lulu kòsũ	cotton seed.	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	
luludzácí	cotton ginned	c	
lùmýǎnyǎ	sword lily	<i>Gladiolus daleni</i>	<Hausa? used for flavouring.
luwogi lati		<i>Murdannia simplex</i>	
lwòrwònci	tree sp.	<i>Grewia mollis</i>	= mane tree. The fruit is used to make gegèza sauce. The ground bark makes a mucilaginous paste used for koje .
lyàbyalyàbya	grass sp.	<i>Setaria verticillata</i>	Very coarse grass.
lyákpyági	Maize cultivar	<i>Zea mays</i>	long cobs
lyálya	kernelless rice	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	
lyàlyǎgi	serpentwood	<i>Rauwolfia vomitoria</i>	dwarf
mǎgāci		<i>Lophira lanceolata</i>	
mǎgāci		<i>Pterocarpus santalinooides</i>	seeds are marginally edible. Fruit is gbangogògi
mǎgunci	tree sp.	t	
mǎlágbàgi	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	with mauve-tinged flesh
mǎmǎrìgbò		<i>Pupalia lappacea</i>	
mamudugi	Rice cultivar	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	
mǎngi	cereals harvested by cutting off the head	c	cf. mǎ́ .
mangoro [?]	mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	< Hausa
mǎnvovogi	snuff box tree	<i>Strychnos spinosa</i>	the flesh of the fruit can be eaten. The dried fruit-shells are used to make the ocarina dori and as containers for the ink made from <i>Vitex doniana</i> .
manzaragi [?]		<i>Spermacoce ruelliae</i>	

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Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
masara	Rice cultivar	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	
masantogi [?]		<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	
màsoro	West African pepper	<i>Piper guineense</i> ; <i>P. umbellatum</i>	<i>P.</i> < Hausa
màyì	bulrush millet	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	Long headed
màyì cintara ebe	bulrush millet cv.	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	~ monkey tail.
màyì ejégi	bulrush millet cv.	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	~ thin, long
màyì jigbägù	bulrush millet cv.	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	~ fat, short
màyì wangi	bulrush millet cv.	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	~ beautiful
màyì woncinko	bulrush millet cv.	<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>	~ large
màyì kin [?]		<i>Ammania priesoreana</i>	? doubtful identification
midzúrúci	tree sp.		? = ‘red-mouth tree’. has an inedible three-cornered fruit. The leaves are used as an infusion for bathing.
migyányáci	tree sp.		
momfofoci [?]		<i>Maytenus senegalensis</i>	
muci	baobab	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	leaves are called kúka , and the fruit èmu . The bark is used as a cough medicine.
munu	mushroom generic	Mushroom generic	
munu báci	Edible mushroom	pl	grows at the base of the báci tree.
munu dākù	Edible mushroom	pl	grows on a dākù termite mound.
munu tànkpóló	Edible mushroom	pl	
munu tè n tukpa	Edible mushroom	pl	
nābìrì	tree sp.	t	root when applied to the flesh has an action like that of nitrate of silver.
nāgíntsu	Weed	pl	cf. enāgíntsu . which if eaten by animals will kill them;
nājéci	tree sp.	t	cf. jěci
nāmbi sūsū	fever-bark	<i>Crossopteryx febrifuga</i>	An infusion of the leaves is used for bathing fevered skin.
nàrì	Vine	v	used as medicine for the disease nàrì .
nimbòlǒ	sesame	<i>Sesamum orientale</i>	used in making sauce.
nimu [?]	neem	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	< English < Hindi. The twigs are used as chewsticks.
nungberéci	tree sp.	t	fruit is kírìbombo . The leaves can be used in soup.

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
nwónwõ	Stem on which the date palm bears fruit.	tp	
nyá ‘mitsõ bò ‘mì	Weed species, very difficult to get rid of	pl	= ‘chase out the compound owner and seize the compound’; cf. cincèrè .
nyāgùnboci	tree sp.		= ‘bottle-stopper tree’. An infusion of the leaves is used as a remedy for itching skin.
nyāngùdù	Green locust fruit.	fr	
nyanyaci	charcoal tree	<i>Trema orientalis</i>	
nyìci	tree sp.	t	
nyìci kuso	African tragacanth	<i>Sterculia tragacantha</i>	
nyimfùrù	Fibre plant	pl	
paci	tree sp.	t	also báci .
pámǔgi	fruit of gǔgoróci	<i>Detarium microcarpum</i>	also gǔngoróci . Fruit eaten by children.
pankoroci	tree sp.	<i>Napoleana imperialis</i>	Used to carve katankpo and hoe-handles.
pàràgi	Melon with edible seeds.	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i>	
pèrègǔ	Plant	pl	leaf resembles a pineapple.
popogi [?]	burweed	<i>Triumfetta pentandra</i>	
pòtò	fig tree	<i>Ficus sp.</i>	cf. gbanci pòtò
pūnānto	Large pan shaped gourd	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>	used for carrying water; also used for drumming on at weddings.
pútú’bá	gingerbread-plum	<i>Neocarya macrophylla</i>	= ‘male pútú ’.
pútú yíwó		<i>Parinari curatellifolia</i>	= ‘wife of pútú ’. Fruit is kóbenci .
ráma	kenaf	<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i>	< Hausa used for fibre
rógò	cassava	<i>Manihot esculenta</i>	< Hausa
ròkò	Okra cultivar	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>	
rőkò	Iroko	<i>Milicia excelsa</i>	? < Yoruba. Used for wood-carving.




Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
rőkò baci		<i>Homalium letestui</i>	
rokoroko [?]		<i>Commelina diffusa</i>	
rùmākà	Loofah; sponge.	<i>Luffa acutangula.</i>	
rùmýānyā	sword lily	<i>Gladiolus daleni</i>	< Hausa ? used for flavouring.
			
rwarwanci		<i>Grewia mollis</i>	
sàbanigi	Grass	<i>Tephrosia bracteolata</i>	also ekpakotagi and ekpabitagi . It breaks leaving a V-shaped notch like the nock of an arrow. cf. Hausa <i>sààbááníí</i>
sabara		<i>Guiera senegalensis</i>	< Hausa
sābogi [?]	water lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	
saci	Poisonous plant,	pl	sap is used to poison animals.
saci	sasswood	<i>Erythrophleum suaveolens</i>	
sáci	false locust	<i>Prosopis africana</i>	 The seeds are gathered by women in February and March and used to make an alternative form of fermented locust-bean cake.
sākara	tobacco leaf	c	Plaited
sāmvogi lükukù	Weed, which grows on the water	pl	also esāvogi .
sānda	tree sp.		also yégi gúbà .
sàngi yèkó	broomweed	<i>Sida acuta</i>	
sàngi yèkó	Whip-grass which strikes the legs as one passes by.	g	
sānyì donci	Vegetable	pl	also èmāgi .
senci	tree sp.	<i>Uapaca spp.</i>	edible fruits.
sèyì	sedge sp.		also cèyì , Used for weaving nets.

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
shani kasani [?]		<i>Chrysanthellum americanum</i>	
shèlanla	tree sp.	t	
shèshé	Bean cultivar	c	
shici	tree sp.	<i>Pteleopsis habensis</i>	
shyàni kàsàni	Herb, used as a purgative.	pl	
sìsàngì dākùnta sodegi	Small bushy tree	t <i>Chamaecrista nigricans</i>	used for medicinal purposes.
sòkó cecengi	dodder	<i>Cassytha filiformis</i>	god x
sokpa	swamp grass	g	
sokù	Broom-grass	g	
sokù màkūdūnu	grass sp.	g	= ‘broom of hyena’. used for thatching and to make children’s sound-producer.
soya [?]	soybean	<i>Glycine max</i>	
suci		<i>Irvingia smithii</i>	? edible fruits
sumaba		<i>Vernonia colorata</i>	
sungbaraci	tree sp.	t	
sunsun	Fruit; kernel;	fr	cf. edzò .
sùnsùnú	swamp grass	g	
sunye gboro sun zuma [?]		<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	
súru	three-leaved yam	<i>Dioscorea dumetorum</i>	
surù	Fonio, acha	<i>Digitaria exilis</i>	Now very uncommon in Nupeland
tábà	Tobacco.	c	
tábàbági	Small weed.	pl	
tàci	tree sp.	t	
tafarnuwa [?]	garlic	<i>Allium sativum</i>	< Hausa
tám̄ba	finger millet	<i>Eleusine coracana</i>	< Hausa
tambo yákági	Horseradish tree	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	The three-cornered fruits are collected in May and cooked in soup. The leaves are used to make an infusion for tired eyes. The twigs are used to apply antimony to the eyes.
tamwótswági	Mint plant.	pl	
tamwótswági ebá	mosquito guardian	<i>Hyptis spicigera</i>	husband of <i>tamwótswági</i>
tamwótswági	scent-leaf, tea-bush	<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i>	small <i>tamwótswági</i>



Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
wàwàgi			
tanjirin	tangerine	<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	< Hausa < English
tànkpóló nyilá	hogweed	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i>	toad x
tànkpóló nyilá		<i>Boerhavia erecta</i>	wife of <i>Boerhavia diffusa</i>
yíwó			
tàsàbi yàbàgi	Red lily	pl	
tǐgí	Swamp grass	g	used for thatching.
timigi, emigi, egiagi, ekpagi	consumption weed	<i>Cleome viscosa</i>	
[?]			
tíro nukpà	Pineapple;	<i>Ananas comosus</i>	cf. bèdàyo , diàdiàgǔ , kpacigbè .
tomato	tomato	<i>Lycopersicum esculentum</i>	< English
tsaba	swamp grass,	g	used for horse feed.
tsàbàrùwà	swamp grass	g	
tsakangi	Grass sp.	g	found on sand banks.
tsákpá	Oil-palm kernel.	tp	
tsàkpàci	tree sp.	<i>Myrianthus arboreus</i>	
			
			I identified it as <i>Burkea africana</i> however.
tsāmvoḡi	Weed	g	that grows on the top of the water.
tsàrà	grass sp.		used in making fence mats.
tsáwò	tree sp.		
tsótsó gaku		<i>Mollugo nudicaulis</i>	crest of the crowned crane
tsūfyányá	Guinea pepper	<i>Xylopia aethiopica</i>	fruit of the tsūfyányáci tree. The dried fruit is sold in markets as a common ingredient of aphrodisiacs.
tsūfyányá latí	Guinea pepper	<i>Xylopia parviflora</i>	Guinea pepper of the bush
tsùla	bitterleaf	<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i>	leaves of which are very bitter. A common ingredient in soups.
tsùla bishe	little ironweed	<i>Vernonia cinerea</i>	= ‘hen’s bitterleaf’.
tsungbaragici	tree sp.		used for hoe-handles
tsungici	tree sp.		used for hoe-handles
tsutá	Malagueta pepper	<i>Aframomum melegueta</i>	< Hausa
tsutafu [?]	ginger	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	
tsùtápawũ	Vegetable like a radish.	pl	

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
tswangi yigídí	Weed	pl	small white star-shaped flower.
tufetufe	Rice cultivar	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	
túri	turmeric	<i>Curcuma domestica</i>	
tyatyàngì	Bushy weed	pl	
vàtà	Shallow calabash	go	used for carrying loads and washing clothes in.
vödã	Drinking calabash with a cover	go	cf. evo .
vogàgi	tree sp.	t	
vòkpa gùlǔ	grass sp. with a thistle-like head	g	cf. etí gǎkú . ‘vulture’s knee’
votsũ	Unripe gourd;	go	cf. tsùntsùnú . gourd which has not been opened
wǎlamí	Plant	pl	eaten as greens.
wará	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
wǎrami	Plant	pl	eaten as greens.
wòbà	water cola	<i>Cola verticillata</i>	becomes very slimy when eaten.
wògàci	tree sp.		
wuci	mahogany	<i>Khaya senegalensis</i>	Leaves are cooked as a medicine for children. The wood is used for hoe-handles.
wùndáci	vine sp.	v	
wùrà	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
wutsú	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
yàbà	banana	<i>Musa sapientium</i>	cf. Hausa
yàbà ànǎsara	banana	<i>Musa sapientium</i>	thin, sweet cv.
yàbà békògi	short, stubby banana	<i>Musa sapientium</i>	
yàbà cigbà	banana tree	<i>Musa sapientium</i>	
yàbà tsùtsùnú	green or unripe banana	<i>Musa sapientium</i>	
yàbàkó	plantain	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i>	
yabi yekpegi [?]	sensitive plant	<i>Biophytum petersianum</i>	
yadiya [?]		<i>Leptadenia hastata</i>	< Hausa
yagbe		<i>Sphenoclea zeylanica</i>	
yaká	chili pepper	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i>	
yaká yiringi [?]	chili pepper	<i>Capsicum frutescens</i>	
yakákó	chili pepper	<i>Capsicum annum</i>	
yàwǒ lǎwǒgi		<i>Swartzia madagascariensis</i>	= ‘bride of the little harmattan period’
yaya gízògi		<i>Melochia corchorifolia</i>	x of piles

Roger Blench Nupe plant names – Nupe-Latin Circulation version

Nupe name	English	Scientific name	Etymology
yégi gúbà	tree sp.	t	also sànda.
yengi	eggplant, brinjal	<i>Solanum macrocarpon</i>	
yengi	garden egg	<i>Solanum macrocarpon</i>	
yengi kuci		<i>Solanum dasyphyllum</i>	
yèrènkpè	cow-itch	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> ; <i>M. sloanei</i>	<i>M.</i> ? < Yoruba
yìkūnu	palm-fruit	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	
yìkūnu kpàràgi	button grass	<i>Mitracarpus hirtus</i>	
yìkūnu kpótá	Coconut palm and fruit	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	= ‘oil-palm six hundred’
yìkūnuci	oil-palm	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i>	
			
yilà	ackee apple	<i>Blighia sapida</i>	
			
yìlànci	ackee apple tree	<i>Blighia sapida</i>	
yìlànci latí	roka	<i>Trichilia emetica</i>	= ‘yìlànci of the bush’
yinci [?]		<i>Lannea kerstingii</i>	
yìsákòngöci	tree sp.		
yizhègi	weed sp.	<i>Crotalaria comosa</i>	
yizhègi	weed sp.	<i>Crotalaria incana</i>	
‘zà gbakó kénto	tree sp.	t	
zanã	grass sp.	<i>Cymbopogon giganteus</i>	< Hausa
zànci	African rosewood	<i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>	used for hoe-handles.
zhiga dama	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
kokorigi			
zhikogi	yam cv.	<i>Dioscorea guineensis</i>	
zhingara	grass sp.	g	= zhīni used to make mats
zhīni	grass sp.	g	= zhingara used to make mats;
zhyànto	Rice cultivar	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	
zogali [?]	horseradish tree, ben oil tree	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	< Hausa
zongbara	Green or butter beans	c	
zùgbyenyégi	grass sp.	g	
zwagwandami	Rice cultivar	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	

III. LATIN-NUPE INDEX

[TO BE PREPARED]

IV. NUPE PLANT USES BY SCIENTIFIC NAME

[TO BE PREPARED]

V. ENGLISH-LATIN INDEX

[TO BE PREPARED]

VI. COMMON CHANGES IN SCIENTIFIC NAMES

[TO BE PREPARED]

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