

Faunal names in Malagasy: their etymologies and implications for the prehistory of the East African coast



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1. Introduction

In recent years, our understanding of the prehistory of the East African coast has grown exponentially. Although it has long been realised that Malagasy was an Austronesian language, earlier models relied on a simple migration from insular SE Asia. A combination of archaeology and a better knowledge of East African Bantu languages has allowed us to construct a more complex three-way model that includes multiple interactions between various migrant and resident populations at different periods and layers of loanwords from diverse regions (Beaujard 2003; Walsh 2007; Blench 2007, in press a,b). This is not to say that all the issues of coastal history are resolved. However, it is possible to draw up a speculative history of the early peopling of Madagascar and its interactions with the coast as follows;

- a) Madagascar was first settled, not by Austronesians, but by hunter-gatherers migrating from the East African mainland prior to 300 BC.
- b) Madagascar was also reached by Graeco-Roman trading ships, which may have been trading tortoiseshell with the resident foragers and were responsible for the translocation of commensal murids
- c) There was regular contact between island SE Asia and the East African coast prior to 0 AD by an unknown people using outriggers and trading in spices
- d) After a gap, precursors of the modern Malay established a 'raiding and trading' culture based in settlements along the East African coast from the 5th century onwards
- e) Malay ships had pressed crews of non-maritime origin from the Barito-speaking area of SE Borneo
- f) The Malay settlements on the East African coast transported captured mainland African populations from the Sabaki-speaking area to Madagascar, primarily for agricultural labour, between the 5th and 7th centuries AD
- g) Other SE Asian island peoples may also have followed these established trade routes to East Africa, accounting for a residue of non-Malay Austronesian items in the Malagasy lexicon
- h) The transfer of nautical technology on the East African coast to coastal Iron Age cultivators stimulated the development of Swahili maritime culture
- i) The expansion of Arab shipping in the Indian Ocean from the 10th century onwards obscured the Austronesian origins of local seafaring through the replacement of boat types and maritime terminology

Evidently, this has implications for the origins of Malagasy vocabulary. It is now generally accepted that the core source languages for Malagasy are the Barito lects of SE Borneo (Simon 1988; Dahl 1991). If the Malay were the principal agents responsible for transoceanic voyaging in the early period, then we would expect a substantial part of the nautical lexicon to be Malay and indeed this proves to be the case (Adelaar 1994). It has been recognised for some time that East African Bantu languages also contributed to Malagasy (Dahl 1988) but a lack of knowledge of Bantu among Austronesianists has allowed this element to remain undeveloped. It has recently become much clearer that Malagasy has not borrowed from a wide range of coastal languages in Kenya and Tanzania and strikingly appears to show no traces of Mozambican languages (which is surprising given their geographical proximity) (Blench in press a; Walsh forthcoming). Rather, almost all borrowings can be traced to the many dialects of Swahili and its precursors, the Sabaki languages (Nurse & Hinnebusch 1993). On the Austronesian side, Beaujard (1998, 2003) has argued for etymologies deriving Malagasy words from a variety of island lects, not only Bornean languages, arguing that traders and raiders may have followed from other ports, following the initial exploration by the Malay.

A key factor in tracking these complex interactions are faunal names. Madagascar has a unique fauna, with a high percentage of endemism, driven by its isolation from the African mainland for some 165 million years. The lack of human settlement until ca. 2000 years ago has meant that this fauna was largely preserved, with a limited impact from human predation and introductions, intentional or otherwise, of alien fauna. Even so, we know that there were marked extinctions of various species, including lemurs much larger than those occurring today, around the time of first human settlement (Godfrey & Jungers 2003; Blench 2007). At the same time, the introduction of Eurasian rats and mice (*Rattus rattus*, *R. norvegicus* and *Mus musculus*) had a marked impact on the small, ground-dwelling mammals, as can be seen in bone assemblages from this

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period (Vasey & Burney 2007). Nonetheless, the fauna continues to throw up surprises; for example, a new species of sucker-footed bat, *Myzopoda schliemanni*, was only reported in 2007.

The endemism of the fauna had the consequence that any group arriving would have to construct wholly new names for most of the animals and plants they encountered. Only the fish would have presented a number of species familiar from the home area since many marine species have a pan-Indian Ocean distribution. New names could be constructed in a number of ways;

- a) simply transferring a name from a species familiar in island SE Asia to a Malagasy species
- b) transferring a name but also adding a qualifier
- c) borrowing a name from the languages the Austronesian were in contact with on the East African coast and possibly from the foraging population already resident on the island
- d) creating a neologism based on onomatopoeia or other observed similarities

However, it is also the case that the origin of much of this vocabulary is far from transparent. Apart from a few obvious Austronesian and Bantu etymologies, many terms seem to have no clear source. This led earlier authors (e.g. Richardson 1885) to suppose that many names were onomatopoeic and he sometimes concocted rather contorted explanations to support this idea. Similarly, as the data tables will show, there are competing Bantu and Austronesian proposals for origins of individual words which depend on judging exactly how far-fetched an etymology can be before it becomes unacceptable.

How we analyse the origins of faunal vocabulary has a significant impact on our broader understanding of early coastal interactions. Blench (in press a) has shown that all the names of domestic animals are borrowed from Sabaki (East African Coastal Bantu) languages, even though the Austronesian migrants should already have been familiar with these species. The conclusion drawn was that the Bantu-speakers who were carried to Madagascar were brought, perhaps as captives, to manage livestock and perform other tasks, and that they therefore applied their own names to the animals they worked with. If this is so, then we might well expect part of the natural history vocabulary to be of African coastal origin, since it would be the Bantu-speakers who were 'outside' observing the fauna and flora. The exception to this should be fish, since fishing must have been a major subsistence strategy all along the journey from SE Asia, although even here some Sabaki borrowings can be identified.

The attraction of the Malagasy fauna to conservationists has had valuable consequences for linguists, since there are zoological guides which record vernacular names in some detail (e.g. Garbutt 1999; Goodman & Benstead 2003). The transcriptions are sometimes garbled, but because the phonology of Malagasy is not too challenging, they are usually quite recognisable. They can then be checked back against the dictionary sources, which are almost uniformly inaccurate, and sometimes downright misleading, on scientific identifications. Similarly a recent guide to the fauna of Borneo which includes vernacular names makes it possible to match more obscure species names that do not occur in conventional reconstructions (e.g. Payne & Francis 2005).

So far, names for mammals, fish and birds have been analysed. This paper¹ considers the results for mammal names in detail and summaries the findings for marine species and birds. Eventually, reptiles and insects, natural vegetation and plants will be covered, but these latter categories inevitably run up against the abundance of species and the weakness of specialised identification on both sides of the ocean.

2. Data sources

2.1 Malagasy

The principal sources for Malagasy mammal names are Decary (1950), Hebert (1964), Garbutt (1999) and Goodman & Benstead (2003) and the latter two references are also valuable sources on the zoology of the island. These can be checked back against the numerous dictionaries of Malagasy, including Richardson (1885), Abinal & Malzac (1921), Beaujard (1998), Dubois (1917), Elli (1988), Ferrand (1905), Gueunier

¹ Thanks to Robert Blust for comments

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(1987, *ined*), and Rajaonarimanana & Fee (2001). In the case of fish names, there are three major sources, Pellegrin (1933) for freshwater fish and Bauchot & Bianchi (1984) for marine species, reprised in Richmond (2002). FAO Fishbase is useful for drawing up lists of vernacular names but does not seem to contain any information on Malagasy not in the other sources. A number of Vezo names and identifications are given by Gueunier (*ined*). Malagasy bird names are listed in Langrand's (1990) field guide together with English glosses in the many cases where they have transparent meanings or are thought to be onomatopoeic. Another useful compilation is Goodman et al. (1997), which includes local names for the birds of southeast Madagascar. Both of these sources can be supplemented by and checked against information in the dictionaries already referred to above.

2.2 Bantu

Although some faunal terms can be reconstructed to Proto Bantu, data from Eastern Bantu and in particular the languages of the East African coast and its hinterland are the most relevant to this study. Nurse and Hinnebusch's (1993) comparative study of Swahili and other Sabaki languages provides some reconstructions, but for detailed information on animal names and identifications in this and other language groups we must turn to dictionaries and other specialised sources. Sacleux (1939) is by far the best of the dictionaries, providing names from different Swahili dialects. Resources for the study of island zoology and local Swahili and Comorian names include Pakenham (1959, 1984), Louette (1988), Louette et al. (2004), and Walsh (1996, 2007). Swahili names of sea fish and other marine animals are listed in (Bianchi 1985), Glaesel (1997), Richmond (2002), and other field guides. There is no regional compilation of mammal names to match Swynnerton's (1946) work in central Tanzania, though Stronach et al. (1994) supply a useful comparative list of animal names from the borders of the Selous Game Reserve in southern Tanzania. Other lists of bird names in different languages on the mainland include Moreau (1940-41), Haldane (1946), Brain (1980), Mwaura (2006), and Ng'weno (*in press*).

2.3 Austronesian

Sources for Austronesian are diverse but somewhat scattered. A primary resource is the Austronesian Comparative Dictionary of Blust (*n.d.*) which gives both forms and reconstructions for a large number of lexical items. It remains incomplete and some of the missing fauna are reconstructed in Blust (2002), which also has a valuable commentary on the historical implications of such reconstructions. Payne & Francis (2005) contains a more specialised list of names for Borneo, while local faunal names can be found in dictionaries (e.g. Southwell 1980) and some scientific studies (e.g. Jeanes & Meijaard 2000). Corbet & Hill (1992) and Heaney et al. (1998) are resources for the mammalian zoology of the Indo-Malayan region and the Philippines, but do not contain vernacular names. The fish of the Philippines are well-covered in Broad (2003), although with more than 2500 inshore species, making sense of vernacular names is an intensive task. Geraghty (1994) covers those Austronesian names that can be reconstructed to Proto Central Pacific (i.e. Fijian and Polynesian) but these show few links with the likely sources of Malagasy.

3. Mammal names

Appendix I is a consolidated table of recorded names for mammals in Madagascar, with an attempt to unify spellings and scientific names all updated to the most recent form. Some poorly identified mammals from dictionaries are included, where the names are not reflected in zoological guides. This section provides further interpretation of the etymologies and their implications for our understanding of interactions between the early Malagasy and Bantu-speaking Africans on the East African coast and islands.

Table 1 reviews and provides further commentary on terms for which Bantu etymologies can be proposed. The immediate source of these and most of the other loanwords discussed in this paper appears to be one of the Sabaki languages, the primary candidates being Comorian and Swahili, or rather an earlier form of Swahili, before the loss of initial /Nc/ clusters and intervocalic /l/ (for details see Nurse and Hinnebusch 1993). The etymology of many of the Sabaki names and the distribution of the species they refer to point strongly to an origin somewhere along the coast of what is now Tanzania, including the Zanzibar and Mafia archipelagos.

Table 1. Malagasy mammal names of Sabaki origin

Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymology (details in Appendix I)
amboalaolo	Falanouc	<i>Eupleres goudotii</i>	lit. ‘feral dog’, cf. Swahili mbwa ‘dog’ < Proto-Sabaki *(i) mbwa ‘dog’
amboanala	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>	lit. ‘forest dog’, a compound based on amboa ‘dog’ (see preceding)
ampongy	Eastern avahi	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	cf. Swahili (Unguja) k^hima punju ‘Zanzibar red colobus, <i>Colobus kirkii</i> ’; Nyakyusa kipunji ‘Highland mangabey, <i>Rungwecebus kipunji</i> ’ cf. Swahili ndege ‘bird (generic)’
andrehy	Madagascar straw-coloured fruit bat (& other fruit bats)	<i>Eidolon dupreanum</i>	
ankomba, komba	Crowned lemur (& related lemur spp.)	<i>Eulemur coronatus</i>	cf. Swahili (Unguja) k^homba ‘galago spp.’ < Proto-Sabaki * nkomba ‘galago’
antsanga	Bushpig	<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i>	cf. Swahili (Unguja) kitanga ‘solitary male bushpig’
antsangy	rice tenrecs	<i>Oryzorictes</i> spp.	cf. Swahili (Tanzanian mainland) sange ‘elephant shrew spp.’; Mijikenda (Giryama) ts^(h)anje ‘Four-toed elephant shrew, <i>Petrodomus tetradactylus</i> ’ lit. ‘ancestor of man’, possibly a calque of Swahili babewatoto ‘Barn-owl, <i>Tyto alba</i> ; believed to cause convulsions in children’
babakoto	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>	
gidro	Crowned lemur	<i>Eulemur coronatus</i>	cf. Swahili (southern dialects) ngedere ‘Blue monkey, <i>Cercopithecus mitis</i> ’
jab(o)ady, zaboady	Small Indian civet	<i>Viverricula indica</i>	cf. Swahili zabadi ‘musk of civet spp.’ < Arabic
vontsira	Ring-tailed mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>	cf. Swahili nguchiro , Ngindo lingwichiro ‘Banded mongoose, <i>Mungos mungo</i> ’

A number of names do not reconstruct to Proto-Sabaki but appear to be subsequent borrowings from languages in the hinterland of the coast – i.e. sometime after early Swahili and Comorian speakers had moved down the coast from a presumed Sabaki homeland on the northern Kenya coast. Bushpigs are known to have been translocated from the African continent to Madagascar (Vercammen et al. 1993), and it seems that they may also have come with one of their local names. The borrowing of a term for the four-toed elephant shrew (*Petrodomus tetradactylus*) is of particular significance because this small mammal occurs neither on the northern Swahili coast nor in the Comoro islands. Likewise primates (including galagos and monkeys) and carnivores (including mongoose spp.) are not indigenous to the Comoros (Walsh 2007) and these islands cannot therefore be the source of old Malagasy mammal names based on Bantu terms for them.

The occurrence of these names in Malagasy points to direct interactions between Sabaki speakers and early Malagasy somewhere in the region of the Tanzanian coast. It is perhaps no coincidence that this is the area most closely associated with oral traditions of overseas invaders whom local Swahili speakers call the Diba, Debuli, and variants thereof. There are some indications that these historical narratives reflect in part deep memories of early contact with the Malagasy, and it may be significant that the Indian Ocean ‘islanders’ of the traditions are often described as having enslaved coastal populations and treated them harshly (Walsh forthcoming) – just the context in which we think Sabaki Bantu speakers may have been transported to Madagascar and incorporated into the Malagasy population.

4. Notes on other faunal names

The following tables and notes are based on a preliminary survey of other faunal terminologies, including the large databases of fish and bird names. We hope to provide a more detailed analysis of these in future papers.

4.1 Marine fauna

A sample of names of marine molluscs and fish that appear to derive from early Swahili or a related Sabaki Bantu language is given in Table 5. Some of these names have been recorded in the dialect of the Vezo, specialist fishers of south-west Madagascar. It may seem surprising that seafaring Malagasy should adopt Bantu names for marine creatures, and this provides further evidence for the intensity of their interaction with Africans who were already familiar with marine resources and their exploitation. This raises the possibility that closer investigation of this lexical field and the species involved in lexical transfer will tell us more about the nature of marine resource use at the time that the transfers took place.

Table 2. Malagasy fish and other marine spp. names of Sabaki origin

Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymology
<i>Molluscs</i>			
akora	land snails, marine gastropods	Gastropoda inc. <i>Achatina</i> spp.	cf. Swahili k^hoa ‘land snail, slug’, k^hoa mikoko , (lit. ‘mangrove gastropods’) ‘Periwinkles (Littorinidae)’ < Proto-Sabaki * nkola ‘snail spp.’
angisy (Vezo)	squid	Teuthoidea	cf. Swahili ngisi ‘squid spp.’
antsiva	triton (conch) shells inc. Giant Triton Shell	<i>Charonia</i> spp. inc. <i>Charonia tritonis</i>	cf. Swahili siwa ‘ceremonial side-blown horn’ < earlier ?* nsiWa . The Malagasy antsiva is used as a ceremonial instrument, and in many cases has been replaced by horns similar to those used by the Swahili
<i>Fish</i>			
alovo, lovo (Vezo)	Groupers	<i>Epinephelus</i> spp.	perh. cf. Proto Sabaki *- loW - ‘fish with a line’
ambamba	fish sp. with a lot of scales	?	cf. Swahili mbamba , a poisonous <i>Euphorbia</i> sp. with thorny branches
gogo kipela	Sea Catfish Silver Moony	<i>Arius</i> spp. <i>Monodactylus</i> <i>argenteus</i>	cf. Swahili ngogo ‘Eel catfishes (Plotosidae)’ cf. Swahili kipepeo ‘Silvery Moony, <i>M. argenteus</i> ’ < Swahili kipepeo ‘fan; butterfly’ < Proto-Sabaki * kipepeo ‘waving, swaying object’
ndwaro	Black Marlin Sailfish	<i>Makaira indica</i> <i>Istiophorus</i> <i>platypterus</i>	cf. Swahili nduwaro and variants (but which direction is the borrowing?)
tsoy (Vezo)	fish sp.	?	perh. cf. Swahili swi (Pemba) ‘fish (generic)’ < Proto-Sabaki *(i) nswi ‘fish’

4.2 Avifauna

Table 3 shows a sample of Malagasy bird names apparently derived from or otherwise influenced by early Swahili terms. The Helmeted Guineafowl was certainly introduced to Madagascar from Africa. It was probably also introduced to Pemba Island, and perhaps also to Chole in the Mafia archipelago; it is domesticated on both of these Swahili-speaking islands (Walsh 2007).

Table 3. Malagasy bird names of Sabaki origin

Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymology
akanga	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	< Bantu e.g. Swahili (Unguja) k^hanga ‘Helmeted Guineafowl, <i>Numida meleagris</i> ’ < Proto-Sabaki * nkanga ‘guineafowl’
akohondrano	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	lit. ‘water hen’; a number of Malagasy names are based on the same primary lexeme, akoho ‘domestic fowl’ < Bantu e.g. Swahili (Unguja) k^huku ‘domestic fowl’ < Proto-Sabaki nkuku ‘chicken’. Cf. Swahili (Unguja) k^huku-ziwa , ‘Common Moorhen, <i>G. chloropus</i> ’, lit. ‘pond-fowl’ < k^huku ‘domestic fowl + ziwa ‘pond, lake’ < the root in Malay punai ‘ <i>Treron</i> spp.’ and Kayan punei ‘Jambu Fruit Pigeon, <i>Ptilinopus jambu</i> ’. Cf. also Swahili ninga ‘Green pigeons, <i>Treron</i> spp.’; Comorian ninga ‘Comoro Blue Pigeon, <i>Alectroenas sganzeni</i> ’ < Proto-Sabaki: ?* ninga ‘pigeon sp.’. The same name occurs widely outside Sabaki for the African Green Pigeon, <i>T. calva</i>
finengo, fonèngo, foningo, fony	Madagascar Green Pigeon Madagascar Blue Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i> <i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>	
lopaka, ofaka	Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>	cf. the following recorded Mijikenda names for <i>Caprimulgus</i> spp.: Digo pweka, libweka ; Duruma bweka ; Rabai lubweka ; Giryama kakweka lit. ‘hump’. cf. Swahili (Pemba) ngongo ‘back’ < proto-Sabaki * mugongo ‘back’ from a widespread Bantu root. This root is not attested in names for the Knob-billed on the East African coast, and so this might be a secondary derivation in Malagasy
angongo, ongongo	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	cf. Swahili (Unguja) kipanga ‘Black-shouldered Kite, <i>Elanus caeruleus</i> ’ < Proto-Sabaki: * kipanga ‘bird of prey sp.’
papango	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	cf. Swahili (Unguja) salili ‘duck spp.’, Swahili (Mafia) swarire ‘White-faced Whistling Duck, <i>D. viduata</i> ’, with widespread cognates in the Tanzanian interior.
tsiriry	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	

4.3 Others

Adelaar (n.d.) has also suggested the following etymologies for reptiles and crustaceans (Table 4);

Table 4. Malay loanwords in Malagasy animal names

Malagasy	Malay	Gloss
tsatsaka	cecak	k.o. lizard
valala	belalang	gen. term for grasshopper
sifotra	siput	snail
olatra (prov., R.)	ular	snake

Adelaar (2007) makes the following proposals for Swahili loans into Malagasy (Table 5);

Table 5. Sabaki sources for other animal spp.

Malagasy	Gloss	Sabaki source
ampaha (Sakalava)	wild cat	cf. Swahili p ^h aka, Maore paha, Ndzwani mpaha
kúnggunã, kunggu (Sakalava)	bedbug	cf. Swahili kunguni
lulu	butterfly	cf. N. Swahili mlulu ‘insect’
mamba	big crocodile	cf. Swahili mamba ‘crocodile’
pili	large tree snake	cf. Swahili p ^h ili ‘big, dangerous snake’

5. Conclusions

The present analysis has demonstrated that the sources of Malagasy mammal names are quite diverse, but that a significant number derive from the Sabaki languages of the East African coast. Both zoogeographical and linguistic considerations point to the southern end of the Swahili and pre-Swahili-speaking peoples; the Comores do not seem to play the role supposed by some previous writers. This is in line with the hypothesis that the inhabitants of the coast were brought over to manage livestock or tend crops and so had primary contact with the fauna and flora. The sources of many terms are unknown, which may either be failure to detect the etymology or else because the term was adapted from the extinct language(s) of the resident foraging populations. Further work on animal names both on the African mainland and on Austronesian languages of island SE Asia may well produce more and better etymologies, enriching our understanding of the prehistory of the region.

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Appendix I: Malagasy mammal names

Acronyms for sources

Malagasy names: Ø = Garbutt (1999); [Bj] = Beaujard (1998); [G&B] = various authors in Goodman & Benstead (2003); [Gn] = Gueunier (1986); [R] = Richardson (1885)

Etymologies: N&H = Nurse & Hinnebusch (1993)

Malagasy terms are normalised to standard orthographic forms as far as possible. However, in cases where a compound form is normally written as a single word it has been split to indicate its elements proposed here.

RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
1.	ahay aiay, haihay [R]	Aye-aye	<i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i>	? onomatopoeic; 'Supposed to receive its name from its peculiar cry' (Richardson 1885: 11)	
2.	alokoteha [G&B]	Eastern lesser bamboo lemur ~ Grey gentle lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus griseus</i>	? given as the 'name of a fish' by Richardson (1885: 27)	
3.	amboa laolo	Falanouc	<i>Eupleres goudotii</i>	cf. amboahaolo 'feral dog' < amboa 'dog' + haolo 'wild' [R]. amboa is from a Bantu source, e.g. Swahili mbwa (9/10) 'dog' < Proto-Sabaki *(i)mbwa (9/10) 'dog' [N&H]. The transfer from 'dog' to 'falanouc' (an endemic carnivore) is perhaps a secondary derivation in Malagasy	

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
4.	amboa nala	Indri ~ generic name for lemurs [R]	<i>Indri indri</i>	ambòà ‘dog’ + àla ‘forest’ < PMP [Bj]. lit. ‘forest dog’, another compound based on amboa ‘dog’ (see the preceding item). The Indri is the largest surviving lemur and the most strictly diurnal, and has a striking call; features which have contributed to it being given cultural salience in Madagascar. cf. endrina	
5.	ampongy	Eastern avahi	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	cf. Swahili (Unguja) k^hima punju (9/10) ‘Zanzibar red colobus, <i>Colobus kirki</i> ’; also Nyakyusa kipunji (7/8) ‘Highland mangabey, <i>Rungwecebus kipunji</i> ’ [Davenport et al.]. The Malagasy term for this medium-sized lemur may be derived from a form of the Bantu monkey name with class 3 prefix (?* mpungi)	
6.	andrehy [G&B]	Fruit bats	Pteropodidae	Richardson (1885: 43) defines this as the name of a bird. cf. Swahili ndege (9/10) ‘bird’. This is an innovation in the southern dialects of Swahili, probably borrowed from one of the mainland Bantu languages [N&H]. In Swahili and related languages bats are often classified as birds	
		Madagascar straw-coloured fruit bat	<i>Eidolon dupreanum</i>		
	also	Madagascar flying fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>		

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
	also	Madagascar rousette	<i>Rousettus madagascariensis</i>		
7.	angavo, angavy	Fruit bats	Pteropodidae	< avo ‘high, lofty, eminent’ [R]. However, the initial nasal cluster suggests that this may be a loanword from a Bantu language. Cf. Nyakyusa nng’aa [nŋaa] ‘bushbaby’ [Felberg]; Sandawe gáábée ‘Senegal galago, <i>Galago senegalensis</i> ’ [Newman]	
	also	Madagascar straw-coloured fruit bat	<i>Eidolon dupreanum</i>		
8.	ankomba, komba	Crowned lemur	<i>Eulemur coronatus</i>	cf. Swahili (Unguja) k^homba (9/10) ‘galago spp.’ [Walsh] < Proto-Sabaki * nkomba (9/10) ‘galago’ [N&H]. Given the resemblance between these two groups of primates, the transfer of a name from galagos (= bushbabies) to lemurs, which are indigenous to Madagascar, is as natural as was the former English practice of referring to bushbabies as ‘lemurs’	
	also	Common brown lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>		
	also	Sanford’s brown lemur	<i>Eulemur sanfordi</i>		
	also	Black lemur	<i>Eulemur macaco macaco</i>		

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
9.	ankomba joby	Blue-eyed black lemur (male)	<i>Eulemur macaco flavifrons</i>	ankomba ‘lemur’ + joby ‘black’	
	also	Perrier’s sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema perrieri</i>		
10.	ankomba malandy	Tattersall’s sifaka	<i>Propithecus tattersalli</i>	ankomba ‘lemur’ + malandy ‘white’ ?< landihazo ‘cotton’ [R]	
11.	ankomba mena	Blue-eyed black lemur (female)	<i>Eulemur macaco flavifrons</i>	ankomba ‘lemur’ + mena ‘red’ Tañala mena ‘red’ < Arabic or Malay ‘henna’ [Bj] cf. Swahili hina (9) ‘henna’	
12.	ankomba valiha	Western lesser bamboo lemur ~ Western gentle lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus occidentalis</i>	ankomba ‘lemur’ + ? valiha ‘bamboo tube zither’. Probably erroneous for. Malagasy varika ‘lemur spp.’	
13.	antsanga	Bushpig	<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i>	cf. Swahili (Unguja) kitanga (7/8) ‘solitary male bushpig’? The Malagasy form is possibly derived from an earlier ?* ncanga (9/10) ‘male bushpig’ < Proto-Sabaki *- canga v ‘to wander’ [N&H]	

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
14.	antsangy	rice tenrecs	<i>Oryzorictes spp.</i>	cf. Swahili (Tanzanian mainland) sange (9/10) ‘elephant shrew spp.’ [Swynnerton]; Mijikenda (Giryama) tsanje (?ts ^h anje) (9/10) ‘Four-toed elephant shrew, <i>Petrodomus tetradactylus</i> ’ [Costich] < earlier ?* ntsange . This term has widespread cognates in Tanzania. Elephant shrews are superficially similar to the endemic rice tenrecs of Madagascar	
	also	White-tailed tree rats	<i>Brachytarsomys spp.</i>		
15.	avahy	Woolly lemurs	<i>Avahi spp.</i>	< ?* vaki	
16.	babakoto	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>	lit. ‘ancestor of man’ < bàba ‘father’ (< ? Bantu or Arabic [Bj]) + kòto ‘a boy’s name’ [Bj, R] ²	
17.	bandro	Alaotra reed lemur	<i>Haplemur griseus alaotrensis</i>	? cf. bandrolahy ‘youths of the same age, age-mates’ < bandro + lahy ‘male, masculine’ [R]	
18.	beharavoaka	Sanford’s brown lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus sanfordi</i>	?	
19.	bekola	Western lesser	<i>Haplemur griseus</i>	?	

² “Indris are not hunted by the local people as it is considered taboo or *fady* - the Betsimisaraka tribal name ‘Babakoto’ means ‘Ancestor of Man’. However, there are reports of immigrants from other tribal groups and even some foreign immigrants hunting Indri.” (Garbutt 1999: 266). Possibly a calque of Swahili **babewatoto** ~ **babewana** ‘owl believed to cause convulsions in children’ < **babu** ‘convulsions in a child, believed to be caused by an owl or cormorant (**mnanidi**) settling on the roof’ + **watoto** ~ **wana** ‘children’ [Johnson]. Swahili, Pemba **babewatoto** ‘Barn-owl, *Tyto alba*’ [Pakenham] Swahili, Pemba **mnanidi** ‘Long-tailed cormorant, *Phalacrocorax africanus*’ [Pakenham]; Swahili, Unguja **mnanidi** ‘Cape gannet or malagash, *Sula capensis*’ [Pakenham] Note also Swahili **baba** ‘father’; **babu** ‘grandfather’.

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
		bamboo lemur ~ Western gentle lemur	<i>occidentalis</i>		
20.	boenga, boengy	Milne-Edward's sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>	cf. Sungai (East Sabah) bongan 'Hose's langur'	
	also	Red-tailed sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur ruficaudatus</i>		
21.	bokiboki	Narrow-striped mongoose	<i>Mungotictis decemlineata</i>	?	
22.	bokombolo bokombola [R]	Eastern grey bamboo lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus griseus</i>	< boko 'the abdomen' [R] ? + volo 'bamboo'	
	also	Eastern lesser bamboo lemur ~ Grey gentle lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus griseus</i>		
	also	Western grey bamboo lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus occidentalis</i>		

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
23.	bokombolo mena	Golden bamboo lemur	<i>Haplemur aureus</i>	bokombolo ‘bamboo lemur’ + mena ‘red’ Malagasy, Tañala mena ‘red’ < Arabic or Malay ‘henna’ [Bj] cf. Swahili hina (9) ‘henna’	
24.	dredrika	Common brown lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus fulvus</i>	? cf. Malagasy dredridredry ‘groan of pain’ [R]	
	also	Mongoose lemur	<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>		
25.	endrina	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>	cf. Malagasy, Tañala endriña(n) ‘mythical bird’ [Bj]; also Malagasy miendrinendrina ‘to lose one’s head, act like a fool or clown’ [R]. See amboa nala	
26.	falanouc	Falanouc	<i>Eupleres goudotii</i>	cf. Barito lects also Lun Dayeh (Sabah) pəlanuk ‘mouse-deer’. A strange semantic shift but the form is very close. However, both the size and posture of these two species are not dissimilar	
27.	fanaloka	Fanaloka	<i>Fossa fossana</i>	? ?* falanok(i) ~ fanaloka metathesis [which direction?]. If the source is as above then this would be the secondary form	
		Malagasy striped civet	<i>Fossa fossana</i>	(acc to Tañala): as big as the fosa , height intermediate between the fosa and rangòka , with stripes, a tail shorter than the fosa , and a long muzzle [Bj]	
28.	fanihy	Fruit bats	Pteropodidae	cf. PMP * paniki ‘flying fox’. Blust (2002: 107) notes that reflexes of this are <i>absent</i> in Borneo and thus the reflex in Malagasy is rather surprising [see Adelaar on other sources for Malagasy]	
	also	Madagascar straw-coloured	<i>Eidolon dupreanum</i>		

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
		fruit bat			
	also	Madagascar flying fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>		
29.	fanihy be	Madagascar flying fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>	fanihy ‘fruit bat’ + be ‘large’ < Maanyan < PMP [Bj]	
30.	fanihy mena	Madagascar flying fox	<i>Pteropus rufus</i>	fanihy ‘fruit bat’ + mena ‘red’ < Arabic or Malay ‘henna’ [Bj]	
31.	fanihy vato	Madagascar straw-coloured fruit bat	<i>Eidolon dupreanum</i>	fanihy ‘fruit bat’ + vato ‘seed, pit’ < PAN [Bj]	
	also	Madagascar rousette	<i>Rousettus madagascariensis</i>		
32.	fitily, fitiliky, fitsidiky	Small-toothed sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur microdon</i>	Richardson (1885: 191) defines fitily as a ‘Sakalava word forming the first part of many compound words used as the names of birds [...] Also in the name of a species of lemur’ (fitiliky). He derives it from mitily ‘to patrol, spy’. Cf. tilitili vaha	
	also	Coquerel’s dwarf lemur	<i>Mirza coquereli</i>		
	also	Grey-backed sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur dorsalis</i>		
33.	fori menjy	shrew tenrecs	<i>Microgale spp.</i>	menjy could derive from Austronesian terms for the marsupial rat, e.g. Yamdena (Lesser Sundas) mande , Ujir (Aru) meday but these are across the Wallace Line making a Malagasy origin less probable	

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
34.	fosa	Fossa ³	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>	Beaujard derives this from purported < PMP 'cat' but as Blust (2002: 99) points out, Western Austronesian forms such as Iban posa are almost certainly derived from poes and these are convergent borrowings from the 17 th century. The Malagasy term may therefore be a late and independent borrowing from a trade language. However, it turns out that pusa and similar are also Malay for the Malay weasel (<i>Mustela nudipes</i>) which may have an old anthropic distribution in the region. It therefore may have shifted to 'cat' in island SE Asia and to fossa in Madagascar. Cf. Malagasy bosy 'feral cat' [R] < Swahili busi [not in dictionaries] < Arabic [Simon]; also Nyakyusa pusi (1a/2) 'cat' [Felberg]	
35.	fosa v`arika [Bj]	Fossa sp.	(acc to Tañala) yellow-reddish, like the rang`oka but smaller [Bj]	fosa 'carnivore' + v`arika 'lemur sp.' < Maanyan warik 'monkey sp.' [Bj < Dahl]	
36.	fotsifaka	Eastern avahi	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	? cf. fotsy 'white'. See avahy	
37.	fotsife	Eastern avahi	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	? cf. fotsy 'white'. See avahy	
	also	Western avahi	<i>Avahi occidentalis</i>		
38.	gidro	Crowned lemur	<i>Eulemur coronatus</i>	Richardson (1885: 213) suggests a comparison with Swahili ngedere 'monkey sp.' and/or Arabic qird 'ape'. Simon (1988: 291) supports an "araboswahili" etymology. ngedere (9/10) is a southern Swahili dialect name for the Blue monkey, <i>Cercopithecus mitis</i> , presumed to be	

³ "The generic name of the Malagasy Civet, *Fossa*, often causes confusion with the vernacular for *Cryptoprocta ferox*, the Fosa. Secondly, *Fossa fossana* is generally known by its Malagasy name, 'Fanaloka', which is sometimes interchangeable with 'Falanouc' or a further derivation, 'Fanalouc' depending on region. However these latter two names are more often used to refer to the Small-toothed Civet *Eupleres goudotii*. Matters are complicated further by the Malagasy themselves, who may use the term 'Fosa' (pronounced foosa - with the 'a' semi-silent) in a way that can refer to a number of the island's endemic carnivores. The vernacular names used in this text are: Fanaloka (*Fossa fossana*), Falanouc (*Eupleres goudotii*) and Fosa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*)." (Garbutt 1999: 122).

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
				borrowed from a neighbouring Bantu language [N&H]. If corroborated this would represent another example of a monkey name transferred to a lemur ⁴	
	also		<i>Eulemur mongoz</i>		
39.	halo halobe [R]	Southern lesser bamboo lemur ~ Southern gentle lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus meridionalis</i>	< halo 'nakedness' + be 'great' [R]	
	halokotehina [R]	unidentified lemur sp., small in size		< halo 'nakedness' + ? [R]	
40.	hataka	Greater dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>	cf. tsidy	
	also	Small-toothed sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur microdon</i>		
	also	Weasel sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>		
41.	hira	Ring-tailed lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>	?	

⁴ However, Beaujard links **gidro** to Malagasy, Tañala; **-gadrioka** ~ **-gidrioka** 'to grind' < **-drioka** 'action of grinding'; also **-gidrioka** ~ **gidrioka** 'to grind the teeth'; **-gidridrioka** 'to rub one against another (the branches of two trees)' [Bj]; cf. also Malagasy **gidro** ~ **gidrogidro** 'a creaking noise' [R].

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
42.	jabady, jaboady zaboady [R]	Small Indian civet	<i>Viverricula indica</i>	cf. Swahili (9/10) zabadi ‘musk of civet spp.’ < Arabic ⁵ . This is probably a recent loanword, though the civet itself may have been introduced to the western Indian Ocean by Malagasy speakers (Walsh 2007)	
43.	kelora	Common tenrec	<i>Tenrec ecaudatus</i>	? PCEMP * kandoRa ‘cuscus, phalanger’, e.g. Watubela kadola . cf. Blust (2002: 110) though these are east of the usual sources of Malagasy ⁶	
44.	kely be-ohy	Fat-tailed dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>	? cf. Malagasy, Tañala kèly ‘little’; be ‘large’; hòhy ‘tail’ [Bj] = ‘little big-tail’?	

⁵ Garbutt (1999: 122) observes ‘Another Malagasy name that is regularly used for small carnivores is *jabady* or *jaboady*. This may refer to several of the island’s native species: which particular species varies from region to region. For instance, in the north-east around Marojejy it is *Fossa fossana*; around the Soalala region in the west it is *Eupleres goudotii*, and in central eastern areas it may be the Broad-striped Mongoose *Galidictis fasciata*. Furthermore, *jabady* or *jaboady* are also used for the introduced Small Indian Civet over many parts of the island.’

⁶ An alternative etymology derives the name from Ngindo **lindoro** ~ **ndoro**, Pogoro **lindoro** ‘Black-and-rufous elephant shrew, *Rhynchocyon petersi*’ [Stronach et al.]. One of the Rufiji-Ruvuma Bantu languages is probably the immediate source of Swahili (Mafia) **ntoro** for the same animal, and perhaps also Swahili (Unguja) **kirodo** [Walsh] and Swahili (Unguja) **kindo** ‘Four-toed elephant shrew, *Petrodomus tetradactylus*’ (< ?***kindolo**).

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
45.	kely botra	Western forest mouse	<i>Macrotarsomys bastardi</i>	? < kely 'little' + the root in botrabotra 'large, plump, fat' [R] = 'little fat one'? cf. kely behy	
46.	kintronro	Western lesser bamboo lemur ~ Western gentle lemur	<i>Haplemur griseus occidentalis</i>	?	
47.	kokia	Ring-tailed mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>	?	
48.	kotrika	Eastern grey bamboo lemur	<i>Haplemur griseus griseus</i>	? cf. vari kotrika	
	also	Small-toothed sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur microdon</i>		
	also	Weasel sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>		
49.	lambo	Bush pig	<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i>	< Malay lambu , bovine, the original meaning, surviving in special expressions [Bj]	
	lambo ala	Bush pig	<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i>	< lambo 'pig' + ala 'forest' < PMP [Bj] [supports Blench vs. Adelaar on dugong etymology]	
	lambo dia	Bush pig	<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i>	< lambo 'pig' + dia 'wild' < PMP [Bj]	
	lambonava [R]	highland variety of bushpig	<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i>	< lambo 'pig' + avo 'high'	
	lamboniva [R]	lowland variety of bushpig	<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i>	< lambo 'pig' + iva 'low'	
50.	mahy abe ala	Northern sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur septentrionalis</i>	? + ala 'forest'. Is mahy weakened form of maki ?	
51.	maki, maky	Ring-tailed lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>	< English monkey [Simon]	

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
52.	manavy [R]	generic name for bats		?	
53.	matavirambo	Fat-tailed dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>	? Cf. Malagasy rambo ‘tail, fringe’ [R]	
54.	pondiky	Grey mouse lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	?	
55.	radjako rajako [Simon] jakoe, jakoe [Gn]	Perrier’s sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema perrieri</i>	< French jacquot (faire le jacques, faire le singe), an abusive term for lemurs [Simon]. Also Indian Ocean Creole zako ; Comorian djakwe [Gn]	
56.	rangòka [Bj]	Fosa sp. (acc to Tañala) larger, yellow-reddish, without stripes [Bj]		? Cf. rango ‘tall, long’ [R]	
57.	repahaka	Milne-Edward’s sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur edwardsi</i>	?	
58.	salano	Brown-tailed mongoose	<i>Salanoia concolor</i>	?	
59.	setohy	Coquerel’s dwarf lemur	<i>Mirza coquereli</i>	?	
60.	sifaka	Sifaka spp.	<i>Propithecus spp.</i>	? onomatopoeic ⁷	

⁷ “The Sifaka gets its name from its alarm call, which sounds like a loud indignant sniff followed by an obscenity: ‘siff-Fak!’ The ‘siff-Fak!’ exclamation is accompanied by a loud snoring sort of noise and an abrupt movement of the head when the chin is jerked upwards.” (Wilson 1990: 125)

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
		Coquerel's sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi coquereli</i>		
	also	Crowned sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi coronatus</i>		
	also	Decken's sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi deckeni</i>		
	also	Verreaux's sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi verreauxi</i>		
61.	sifaka avahi	Verreaux's sifaka (dark variant)	<i>Propithecus verreauxi verreauxi</i>	sifaka 'sifaka' + avahi 'woolly lemur'	
62.	sifaka bilany	Verreaux's sifaka (Isalo area)	<i>Propithecus verreauxi verreauxi</i>	sifaka 'sifaka' + ?	
	sifakely [R]	Sifaka sp., small in size	<i>Propithecus</i> sp.	sifaka 'sifaka' + kely 'little' [R]	
63.	simpona, simpony	Sifaka spp.	<i>Propithecus</i> spp.	cf. Kadazan (Sabah) sampong 'Hose's langur'.	
	also	Diademed sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema diadema</i>		
	also	Silky sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema candidus</i>		
	also	Milne- Edward's sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema edwardsi</i>		
	also	Tattersall's sifaka	<i>Propithecus tattersalli</i>		
64.	soamiera soamira [R]	Red-bellied lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	< soa 'good, beautiful, excellent' + mira 'equal, alike' [R]	

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
65.	soky, sokina [Bj], sokinana [R]	Greater hedgehog tenrec	<i>Setifer setosus</i>	< *keŋ ‘to shrink’ < ?PMP [Bj] [from habit of curling up into a tight ball when threatened]	
66.	songiky	White-footed sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur leucopus</i>	?	
	also	Northern sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur septentrionalis</i>		
67.	sora, tsora	Streaked tenrecs	<i>Hemicentetes</i> spp.	?	
	also	Highland streaked tenrec	<i>Hemicentes nigriceps</i>		
	also	Lowland streaked tenrec	<i>Hemicentes semispinosus</i>		
	also	Greater hedgehog tenrec	<i>Setifer setosus</i>		
68.	tambo triky tambo trika [R]	Lesser hedgehog tenrec	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>	? cf. mitrikitriky ‘lean, rough, rugged’	
69.	tambo tsodina tambo sadina [R]	Fanaloka	<i>Fossa fossana</i>	cf. Kadazan (Sabah) tambu ‘wild cat’.	
70.	tandraka, trandraka tandeke [R]	Common tenrec	<i>Tenrec ecaudatus</i>	? cf. Malay landak ‘porcupine’ (Adelaar 1989) and secondary borrowing into Comorian Ngazidja landa Ndzuwani landrá , Maore	

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
				landra (9/10) 'tenrec'	
71.	tanibodrika	Lesser hedgehog tenrec	<i>Echinops telfairi</i>	= tambotrika	
72.	tanta (raolana) tantana [R], tantaroalela [R]	Fork-marked lemurs	<i>Phaner spp.</i>	< tanta 'lemur sp.' + roa 'two' + lela 'the tongue' [R]	
	also	Fork-marked lemur	<i>Phaner furcifer</i>		
	also	Amber mountain fork- marked lemur	<i>Phaner furcifer electromontis</i>		
	also	Eastern fork- marked lemur	<i>Phaner furcifer furcifer</i>		
	also	Pale fork- marked lemur	<i>Phaner furcifer palescens</i>		
	also	Pariete's fork- marked lemur	<i>Phaner furcifer parienti</i>		
73.	tera boky	Narrow-striped mongoose	<i>Mungotictis decemlineata</i>	?	
74.	tilitily vaha	Coquerel's dwarf lemur	<i>Mirza coquereli</i>	cf. Malagasy tilitily 'watchman, spy' and the derivation of fitily	
	also	Grey mouse lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>		
75.	tongona	Red-bellied lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	?	
76.	totozy totozo [R]	House mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	? Richardson (1885: 670) suggests a link with Malay tikus 'rat', but this seems unlikely	
77.	tranga lavaka	Small-toothed	<i>Lepilemur microdon</i>	cf. Kadazan (Sabah) tangah 'flying lemur'.	

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
		sportive lemur			
	also	Weasel sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>		
78.	tsara fangitra	Western avahi	<i>Avahi occidentalis</i>	? cf. fangitra ‘curved mark or sign’ [R]	
79.	tsiba, siba	Coquerel’s dwarf lemur	<i>Mirza coquereli</i>	?	
80.	tsiba haka	Coquerel’s sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi coquereli</i>	tsiba ‘dwarf lemur’ + ?	
	also	Crowned sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi coronatus</i>		
	also	Decken’s sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi deckeni</i>		
81.	tsidy, tsidihy, tsitsihy tsidika [R]	Dwarf lemurs	<i>Microcebus</i> spp.	cf. hataka	
	also	Greater dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>	?	
	also	Brown mouse lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>	?	
	also	lemur sp., small, yellowish			
	also	Fat-tailed dwarf lemur	<i>Cheirogaleus medius</i>		
	also	Grey mouse lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	Also transcribed koitsiky probably erroneously	
82.	tsidy ala	Hairy-eared dwarf lemur	<i>Allocebus trichotis</i>	? tsidy ‘dwarf lemur’ + ala ‘forest’ < PMP [Bj]	
83.	tsidy savoka	Brown mouse lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>	tsidy ‘dwarf lemur’ + ?	
	tsidikinizozoro [R]	unidentified sp.		< tsidika ‘dwarf lemur’ + zozoro ‘sedge sp.’ [R]	
84.	vaki	Lemur spp.		? < vàrika ‘lemur’ but see vaki voho	
85.	vaki handry, vaki	Grey mouse	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>	? cf vaki	

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
	andri	lemur			
		Fork-marked lemur	<i>Phaner furcifer</i>		
86.	vaki voho	Pale fork-marked lemur	<i>Phaner furcifer pallescens</i>	cf. Richardson (1885: 728) vaky voho 'having a white stripe along the back. Only used of cattle' < vaky 'broken, cracked, burst, appearing' + voho 'the back part' [R]	
87.	vari	Black-and-white ruffed lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>	abbreviation of varika 'lemur spp.'	
88.	vari bolo	Greater bamboo lemur	<i>Hapalemur simus</i>	< vàri 'lemur' + volò 'bamboo'	
	also	Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Hapalemur griseus</i>		
89.	vari bolo mena	Golden bamboo lemur	<i>Hapalemur aureus</i>	< vàri 'lemur' + volò 'bamboo' + mena 'red' < Arabic or Malay 'henna' [Bj]	
90.	vàrikàla [Bj]	Red-fronted brown lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus rufus</i>	< varika 'lemur' + ala 'forest' < PMP [Bj]	
91.	varikandra, varikandana varianda [R]	Black-and-white ruffed lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>	vàrika 'lemur' + ? The alternative form recorded by Richardson shows that vari is an abbreviation of varika	
92.	varikosy	Common brown lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus fulvus</i>	vàrika 'lemur' + osy 'goat' [R]	
	also	Small-toothed sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur microdon</i>		
	also	Weasel sportive lemur	<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>		
93.	vàri kotrèka	lemur sp., small, grey		< vàri 'lemur' + ? cf. kotrika	

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
94.	vari maso	Red-bellied lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	vari 'lemur' + maso 'eye' < ?PB [Bj]	
95.	vari mena [= varignena erroneous]	Red ruffed lemur	<i>Varecia variegata rubra</i>	< vàri 'lemur' + mena 'red' < Arabic or Malay 'henna' [Bj]	
96.	vàri zàtsy, vari jatsy	Black-and-white ruffed lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>	= varijatsy < vàri 'lemur' + ?	
97.	varika	lemur spp.		< Maanyan warik 'monkey sp.' [Bj < Dahl]	
	also	White-fronted brown lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus albifrons</i>		
	also	White-collared brown lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus albocollaris</i>		
	also	Collared brown lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus collaris</i>		
	also	Common brown lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus fulvus</i>		
98.	voalavo, valàvo valave [R]	rat spp.		cf. Proto-Austronesian * labaw , e.g. Kayan lavo , Muna (Sulawesi) wulawo . N.B. there are apparently no reflexes of the common SE Borneo * lésu (Blust 2002: 107).	
	also	Western forest mouse	<i>Macrotarsomys bastardi</i>		
	also	Brown rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>		
	also	Black rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>		

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
99.	voalavo fotsy [voalàvo fòdy probably erroneous transcription]	Pygmy musk shrew	<i>Suncus etruscus</i>	voalavo ‘rat/mouse, shrew’ + fotsy ‘white’	
	also	House shrew	<i>Suncus murinus</i>		
100.	voalavo mena	Red forest rats	<i>Nesomys</i> spp.	voalavo ‘rat/mouse, shrew’ + mena ‘red’ < Arabic or Malay ‘henna’ [Bj]	
101.	voalavo narabo	House shrew	<i>Suncus murinus</i>	voalavo ‘rat/mouse, shrew’ + arabo ‘Arab’. This species is a recent introduction	
	also	rice tenrecs	<i>Oryzorictes</i> spp.	? probably erroneous identification	
102.	voalavo ndrano	Aquatic tenrec	<i>Limnogale mergulus</i>	voalavo ‘rat/mouse, shrew’ + rano ‘water’	
103.	vontsira	Ring-tailed mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>	cf. Swahili (Unguja) (9/10) nguchiro ‘Banded mongoose, <i>Mungos mungo</i> ’ (an introduced sp.) [Pakenham]; probably a loanword from a Rufiji-Ruvuma language, cf. Ngindo lingwichiro ‘Banded mongoose, <i>Mungos mungo</i> ’ [Stronach et al.]; Matumbi ngwicho ‘mongoose spp.’ [Stronach et al.]; also Pogoro lingwichiro ‘Dwarf mongoose, <i>Helogale parvula</i> , & Banded mongoose, <i>Mungos mungo</i> ’ [Stronach et al.]	
104.	vontsira fotsy	Broad-striped mongoose	<i>Galidictis fasciata</i>	vontsira ‘mongoose’ + fotsy ‘white’ [R]	

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RefNo.	Malagasy	English	Scientific name	Etymological commentary	Image
105.	vontsira mena	Ring-tailed mongoose	<i>Galidia elegans</i>	vontsira 'mongoose' + mena 'red' < Arabic or Malay 'henna' [Bj]	
106.	votsitse, votsotsa, votsotse	Malagasy giant jumping rat	<i>Hypogeomys antimena</i>	?	