

## Notes on Malagasy fish names

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There are three major sources of Malagasy fish names, 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 previous sources.

English	Latin	Malagasy	Comment
<b>Crustaceans</b>			
Lobster	<i>Panulirus spp.</i>	oratsimba	? Bantu source
Crab	<i>Brachyura</i>	drakaka	WMP *kahaka? crab cf. Fijian ka-kaka k.o. land crab
<b>Molluscs and others</b>			
Bivalves	<i>Bivalvia</i>	kapila	PWMP *kapis 'kind of shell'
?	<i>Anadara antiquata</i>	saraboka	
Pen shells, wing oysters	<i>Pinnidae, Pteriidae</i>	tsilatsilaka	
Oyster	<i>Ostreidae</i>	zoity	? Swahili <i>jeta</i>
Giant clam	<i>Tridacnidae</i>	hima	PMP *kima 'giant clam'
Big blue octopus	<i>Octopus cyanea</i>	orita	PAN *kuRita also cf. Seychelles Creole <i>zourite</i>
Sea urchin	<i>Echinoidea</i>	soky	
Sea cucumber	<i>Holothuroidea</i>	zanga, dingadingana	
<b>Reptiles</b>			
Marine turtle	<i>Cheloniidae</i>	tano	
<b>Fish</b>			
Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthuridae</i>	angy	
Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthuridae</i>	fiau taudioka [?]	
Surgeonfish	<i>Acanthuridae</i>	fiau trifa	
Shark	<i>all sp.</i>	akiho	cf. PMP *qihu
Eel	<i>Anguillidae</i>	amalona	perhaps cf. PAN *tuna
Cardinalfish	<i>Apogonidae</i>	bemaso	
Sea catfish	<i>Arius spp.</i>	gogo	cf. Swahili <i>ngogo</i> eel catfishes (Plotosidae)
Trumpetfish	<i>Aulostomidae</i>	tsivio kautsiva	
Triggerfish	<i>Balistidae</i>	tsontso	
Triggerfish	<i>Balistidae</i>	tsotsombola	
Triggerfish	<i>Balistidae</i>	votsanja	
Needlefish	<i>Belonidae</i>	tsera dava	
Blenny	<i>Blennidae</i>	meuahelika [?]	
Lefteye flounder	<i>Bothidae</i>	lanilany	
Lefteye flounder	<i>Bothidae</i>	tsianila	
Fusilier	<i>Caesio spp.</i>	mahalogy	? cf. Tagalog <i>molong</i> ,
Bluefin	<i>Caranx melampygus</i>	lanora	

trevally				
Shrimpfish	<i>Centriscidae</i>	fia lomotra		
Butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodontidae</i>	fiau akoho	x + 'chicken'	
Milkfish	<i>Chanos chanos</i>	sandry		
Milkfish	<i>Chanos chanos</i>	vango		
Cigar wrasse	<i>Cheilio inermis</i>	tсенaby		
Conger eel	<i>Congridae</i>	lamera(na)	as above	
Queen coris	<i>Coris formosa</i>	lemeleme		
Tonguesole	<i>Cynoglossidae</i>	fandemba		
Tonguesole	<i>Cynoglossidae</i>	tsianila		
Porcupine fish	<i>Diodontidae</i>	mosoy		
Remora	<i>Echeneidae</i>	hamby	cf. Malay <i>kemi</i> , Tagalog <i>kini</i> 'remora', originally PMP * <i>kemi</i> 'hold on by biting'	
Jack	<i>Elagatis bipinnulata</i>	lanora		
Anchovy	<i>Engraulidae</i>	tove		
Redbanded grouper	<i>Ephinephelus fasciatus</i> , <i>E. caeruleopunctatus</i>	alovo		
Kawakawa	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	angoa		
Kawakawa	<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>	vohy		
Flying fish	<i>Exocoetidae</i>			
Cornetfish	<i>Fistularia petimba</i>	tserakantsiva		
Slenderspine mojarra	<i>Gerres oyena</i>	ambariake		
Goby	<i>Gobiidae</i>	tabololo	cf. Visayan <i>tambotambo</i>	
Sweetlips	<i>Haemulidae</i>	amgarera		
Halfbeak	<i>Hemiramphidae</i>	antseraka		
Halfbeak	<i>Hemiramphidae</i>	tserapoke		
Seahorse	<i>Hippocampus borboniensis</i>	soavahindriaka	? cf. Malay, Samalic <i>undukunduk</i>	
Soldierfish	<i>Holocentridae</i>	ampify		
Soldierfish	<i>Holocentridae</i>	fautsilla [?]		
Sailfish	<i>Istiophorus platypterus</i>	ndwaro	cf. black marlin	
Flagtail	<i>Kuhliidae</i>	sampia, sampata		
Sea chub	<i>Kyphosidae</i>	kifalootse		
Cleaner wrasse	<i>Labroides dimidiatus</i>	fiambondis [?]		
Soapie	<i>Leiognathidae</i>	lily		
Blackspot emperor	<i>Lethrinus harak</i>	tapaporoha		
Spangled emperor	<i>Lethrinus nebulosus</i>	ambitsy		
Variiegated emperor	<i>Lethrinus variegatus</i>	romanjia		
Two-spot red snapper	<i>lutjanus bohar</i>	tsivaravana		
Blackspot snapper	<i>lutjanus fulviflamma</i>	amposama		
Bluestriped snapper	<i>lutjanus kasmira</i>	fiamasika		
Black marlin	<i>Makaira indica</i>	ndwaro	cf. Swahili nduwaro (but which direction is the borrowing?)	
Filefish	<i>Monacanthidae</i>	tsimalahoke		
Silver moony	<i>Monodactylus argenteus</i>	kipela	cf. Swahili <b>kipepeo</b> , 7/8 Moonfish, <i>Monodactylus argenteus</i> but originates with PROTO-SABAKI * <b>kipepelo</b> , waving,	

Silver moony	<i>Monodactylus argenteus</i>	talatala	swaying object, * <b>-peep(ɛl)-</b> ,
Humpnose bigeye emperor	<i>Monotaxis grandoculis</i>	amgelika	
Mullet	<i>Mugilidae</i>	torovoke	
Goatfish	<i>Mullidae</i>	fiantsomotsa	
Moray eel	<i>Muraenidae</i>	lamera(na)	cf. PMP * <i>aRemaŋ</i> ‘k.o. marine eel’ assuming metathesis
Ray	<i>Myliobatidae, Mobulidae, Dasyatidae</i>	fay	cf. PAN * <i>paRiS</i> . This must have been borrowed when the final –S and the medial C were both lost. e.g. MUK, Sasak <i>pai</i>
Ray	<i>Myliobatidae, Mobulidae, Dasyatidae</i>	makoba	? Bantu source
Threadfin bream	<i>Nemipteridae</i>	ambity	
Threadfin bream	<i>Nemipteridae</i>	gamo	
Boxfish	<i>Ostraciidae</i>	ombalahindriaka	
Boxfish	<i>Ostraciidae</i>	takalo	
Sweeper	<i>Pempheridae</i>	bemaso	
Sandperch	<i>Pinguipedidae</i>	volomboto	
Circular batfish	<i>platax orbicularis</i>	dangiara	
Circular batfish	<i>platax orbicularis</i>	filao papango	
Flathead	<i>Platycephalidae</i>	toho	
Flathead	<i>Platycephalidae</i>	tohompase	
Striped eel-catfish	<i>Plotosus lineatus</i>	fiandolo	
Striped eel-catfish	<i>Plotosus lineatus</i>	lafalovo	
Damsel fish	<i>Pomacentridae</i>	ariloha	
Damsel fish	<i>Pomacentridae</i>	fitse	
Damsel fish	<i>Pomacentridae</i>	tsokorokodo	
Anthia	<i>Pseudanthias squamipinnis</i>	bodoloha	
Dottyback	<i>Pseudochronis dutoitii</i>	lemilemy	
Indian mackerel	<i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i>	sabonto	
Guitarfish	<i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i>	soroboa	
White sardine	<i>Sardinella albella</i>	maro taobana	cf. <i>tamban</i> generic for sardines, sprats in Tagalog, Visayan
Parrotfish	<i>Scaridae</i>	bodoloha	
Parrotfish	<i>Scaridae</i>	fiambazaha	
Kingfish	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	lamatra	
Kingfish	<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>	talafeta	cf. PWMP * <i>palata</i> fish sp., Malay ikan pelata ‘mackerel <i>Scomber microlepidotus</i> ’ assuming metathesis. However, PWMP * <i>talaŋ</i> is ? horse mackerel (Blust 2002:126) which would alternatively explain the <i>tala</i> element

Spotted mackerel	<i>Scomberomorus plurilineatus</i>	lamatra	
Lionfish, scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaenidae</i>	kabo	
Lionfish, scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaenidae</i>	lafo	< PMP * <i>lepu(q)</i> ‘poisonous reef fish’, also <i>ñepuq</i> ‘scorpionfish’
Rabbitfish	<i>Siganidae</i>	amboramasaka	
Sole	<i>Soleidae</i>	lanilany	
Sole	<i>Soleidae</i>	lenalomby	
Ghost pipefish	<i>Solenostomidae</i>	fia lomotra	
Sea bream	<i>Sparidae</i>	ariloha	
Barracuda	<i>Sphyraenidae</i>	aloalo (B, V)	
Barracuda	<i>Sphyraenidae</i>	jano (B)	
Barracuda	<i>Sphyraenidae</i>	ramanjonona (B)	
Barracuda	<i>Sphyraenidae</i>	tseraka (B)	
Barracuda	<i>Sphyraenidae</i>	tsoiky (S)	? cf. Tagalog, Visayan etc. <i>trosilyo</i>
Hammerhead shark	<i>Sphyrna spp.</i>	akihoviko	
Terapon, grunter	<i>Terapon jarbua</i>	drihy	
Terapon, grunter	<i>Terapon jarbua</i>	tsarabora	
Pufferfish	<i>Tetraodontidae</i>	botava	? cf. Swahili <i>totovu</i>
Goldbar wrasse	<i>Thalassoma hebraicum</i>	lemeleme	??PWMP * <i>gulama</i> ‘jewfish’. This term normally applies to the large grouper which does resemble the wrasse, hence the possible connection
Lyretail grouper	<i>Variola louti</i>	sampramale	
Lyretail grouper	<i>Variola louti</i>	vivano	
Moorish idol	<i>Zanclus cornutus</i>	fiam’akoho	x + ‘chicken’

## References

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