

LAM NSO' ETHNOZOOLOGY



[DRAFT - FOR COMMENT ONLY]

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1. Introduction

The Nso' people live around the *chefferie* of Kumbo in NW Cameroun. This paper describes the animals known to the Nso' people, together with their scientific names, as far as possible. The research described here is the result of a workshop held in Kumbo during the week of 31/3/14 to 4/4/14, facilitated by CABTAL through the kind assistance of Mathaus Njeck. The main participants were Alfred Vensu and Edward Ba'lume. The work would not have been possible without the many years of research on the Lam Nso' language by the late Karl Grebe, and the orthography used in this paper was established as the result of the literacy project established in the Kumbo area from the 1970s.

2. Lam Nso' phonology and orthography

This paper uses Lam Nso' orthography which can be transparently converted to an IPA-like transcription. Table 1 shows the consonant phonemes of Nso';

Table 1. Lam Nso' consonant phonemes

	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Labio-velar	Glottal
Plosive	b		t d		k g	kp gb	ʔ
Affricate				tʃ dʒ			
Nasal	m			n ɲ	ŋ		
Fricative		f v	s		ɣ		
Lateral				l			
Flap				r			
Approximant	w			y			

and Table 2 the vowels;

Table 2. Lam Nso' vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	ɛ	ə	ɔ
Low		a	

Nso' has no true long vowels, but vowels are often doubled. By convention, when the second vowel of a pair is marked with a tone, the first vowel has the same tone.

The following are the orthographic conventions for writing Nso';

IPA	Orthography
kp	kf
gb	gv
tʃ	c
dʒ	dz
ʔ	'
ɣ	gh
ɲ	ny
ɛ	e
ɔ	o

The IPA character /ŋ/ for the velar nasal is retained in the Nso' writing system.

Nso' tones are complex. There are three level tones;

High	´
Mid	unmarked
Low	`

The glide tones are as follows;

Lam Nso'	English	Latin	K.	Comments
kibù'	Egyptian fruit-bat	<i>aegyptiacus</i>		
kiliim	chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	11	'gorilla'
	Egyptian fruit-bat	<i>Rousettus</i>	114	Could apply to other fruit-bats
kimfeè	acacia rat	<i>aegyptiacus</i> <i>Thallomys sp.</i>	209	When someone gets burnt they take the fur of the acacia rat to cover the burnt place
kincáŋ	Senegal galago, bushbaby	<i>Galago</i> <i>senegalensis</i>	103	
kiŋa' riŋguy	long-footed rat	<i>Malacomys sp.</i>	206	Also the name of a young grasshopper
kiŋgùm ké mboò	porcupine	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	187	Conceived as a type of evolved cutting grass. In the past there was special hunting for the palace and when a porcupine was caught it was given to the secret society because it was thought it could harm the princes.
kirèmér	rat sp.			small brown rat with a short tail
kiròn nsay	rat sp.			small brown rat with a short tail Not edible but used for medicine, makes its hole like a cricket.
kiruú	unstriped grass rat	<i>Arvicanthis sp.</i>	213	
kishòv	common genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	267	eats chickens
kishweèy	white-toothed shrew	<i>Crocidura sp.</i>	145	In folklore, the shrew was invited to help in community road-building, but refused. So the other animals told him that if he ever crossed the road in future he would die. Hence you always see dead shrews by the side of the road.
kitàm	elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	304	
kitàm ke nzàv kí	hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus</i> <i>amphibius</i>	325	lit. 'elephant of water'
kitsàetsàŋ	wart-hog	<i>Phacochoerus</i> <i>africanus</i>	335	
koosà' pl. viŋkoosà'	side-striped jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>	218	et. verb sequence meaning 'catch and tear apart'. Jackals hunt in small groups.
kuúrá	spotted hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	261	< Hausa. cf. <i>gá'</i> . First known to people who went trading cola nuts in Nigeria when it was much feared. Represented in a children's masquerade danced at Xmas and during Muslim festivals.
kùv	rock hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	298	Not eaten by women or men who have never fathered a child. In folk-tales it was given the task of sharing out tails and it gave out its own.
leeleé	waterbuck	<i>Kobus</i> <i>ellipsyprimus</i>	408	'giraffe' in Cameroun English

Lam Nso'	English	Latin	K.	Comments
lùm	pouched rat, giant rat	<i>Cricetomys sp.</i>	199	cf.
lùm mbàcà'	brush-tailed porcupine	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	188	
máandzə mbàv	giant otter shrew generic name for rats	<i>Potamogale velox</i>	137	
mbày	honey badger, ratel	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	232	
mboò	cutting grass, cane rat	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	189	
mbò'ri	rat sp.			brown, lives in forest area
mbùy	baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>	35	
mbvèv	spiny mouse	<i>Acomys sp.</i>	205	found in abandoned fields. Live in burrows and are dug out in March for food.
mfuu	rat sp.			comes into the house and competes with house-rats. A pest to farmers.
ncèkùn	house rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>		The etymology is 'long tail'
ndzày	genet (generic)	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	267	
ndzày kisùṅsùṅ	genet sp.			
ndzày wo'ó	servaline genet	<i>Genetta servalina</i>	269	
njà	Bohor reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>	401	
njùṅ	bush rat	<i>Aethomys sp.</i>	210	Found in fallow fields and thick bush, does not come in the house. Eaten.
nshà	blue duiker	<i>Cephalophus monticola</i>	370	'hare'
nsuu	Thomson's gazelle	<i>Gazella rufifrons</i>	412	
nyar	buffalo, bush cow	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	348	
ṅee	putty-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	80	
ṅgav	bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	352	
ṅgav ndzə̀v	hartebeest	<i>Alcephalus buselaphus</i>	429	
ṅkaàvànṅ	crowned monkey	<i>Cercopithecus pogonias</i>	78	
ṅkí'ím	climbing mouse sp.	? <i>Dendromus sp.</i>	197	lives in raffia groves
sàṅsàṅ	civet cat	<i>Civetictis civetta</i>	272	similar to a cat but growls like a dog. Occurs in songs
sə̀lànṅ	rat sp.			A nickname for a lazy person. Takes over the nests of other species.
sə̀ṅ	spot-necked otter	<i>Lutra maculicollis</i>	237	
Shintèṅànyanyar	animal in folktales			with variable character, particularly like a trickster
shìṅgòr	Kintampo squirrel	<i>Funisciurus substriatus</i>	165	
shìṅkfə̀nà bèbèr	house bat	<i>Scotophilus sp.</i>	133	
shishùṅ	red duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	368	
shisír	wild cat	<i>Felis sylvestris</i>	276	
shitsə̀r	pejorative name for the mouse	<i>Mus minutoides</i>	210	also an epithet for a lazy person

Lam Nso'	English	Latin	K.	Comments
shiyùv	pygmy mouse	<i>Mus minutoides</i>	210	
sim	dwarf mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguinea</i>	241	eats chickens. 'fox'
tù'	rat sp.			It lives in burrows and people poke sticks in holes to capture. However, it can transform itself into a caterpillar and thus trick people into ignoring it. Edible
waàṅáa	scrub hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	154	also applied to the domestic rabbit
wànyeètó	aardvark, anteater	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>	294	Considered to be the cleverest and most tricky of animals. Can be a nickname for someone who has this character. Also appears in folktales as a trickster
woómé	tree pangolin	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	290	< verb 'to be shy', since it bends its head under its arm, as it were.

Also

kimbùmèr general term for rodents that eat harvested cereal seeds
 kinkànèr general term for rodents that eat fallen cereal seeds

Domestic animals

Table 5 shows the names for Lam Nso' domestic animals, including poultry.

Table 5. Lam Nso' domestic animal names

Lam Nso'	Gloss	Comment
bváy	goat or sheep	
byáy loṅ	goat	horned
nshun	newly castrated goat	
bváy njiì	sheep	stupid
kiyá'	ram	
ntòm kiya'	young ram	
kibév	he-goat	
kifum	young she-goat	
fooy kibeV	young he-goat	
fòr	castrated goat	
kinsòṅ	castrated animal	Traditionally rams were not castrated. If this were to happen the animal would belong to the Fon.
nà'	cow, general term	
mbòṅ	bullock	
mbòṅmbòṅ	taurine, short-horned cow	Applied nowadays to a large, healthy animal with shortish horns, even if of zebu type.
kũn nyàm	pig	pigs were not kept traditionally. <i>kũ'</i> is a verb 'to be too much' and <i>nyàm</i> 'flesh'.
jwí	dog	
shisi pl.	cat	
mìsi		
nyàm Bara'	horse	'animal of Bara'. The Bara were the Chamba raiders of the eighteenth century
nyàm ṅko'	horse	'animal for riding'

Lam Nso'	Gloss	Comment
fátàrí	mule	< Arabic
kimbi'biy	donkey, ass	et. 'carries kola-nuts'
látà pl. alátà	guinea-pig	
ɲgvəv	chicken, fowl	
kiyuú	cock, rooster	
sèm	young layer	
yeè ɲgvəv	old layer	
lúm kiyuú	big cock	
ɲgaɲ	guinea-fowl	
gwàgwá	duck	

Lamnso' birds

Table 6 shows the Lam Nso' names for birds. Many are only given names to the level of genus. There are some surprising absences such as the hornbills, which may mean they are no longer found in the somewhat degraded landscapes of the Grassfields.

Table 6. Lam Nso' bird names

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
biíybiíy	mountain wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>	also nshaɲ.
buúné	bird sp.		flies for a bit and then rests as if sleeping
búmér	quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	now raised as a new domesticate as the eggs are said to be medicinal
bváv	small bird like a dove		also <i>səkibiɲ</i>
daáwò	widowbird sp.	<i>Euplectes spp.</i>	
fèn	bird sp. with red feathers		<i>Wir koó fèn və, wù sòv fəə.</i> (Prov.) A man profits from his possessions.
fenfen	bird sp.		et. 'here! here!' It leads hunters to an animal, and the name imitates its cry.
fon shi njaar	pin-tailed whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	found among small birds in a swamp hence the reference to the Fon short form of <i>shighaà</i>
ghaà	swallow		
gwíy	double-spurred francolin	<i>Francolinus bicalcaratus</i>	
kibiɲ	house dove or pigeon		
kibuù	wild pigeon		flies fast and far, red beak
kighvəɲ	Verreaux' eagle-owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>	believed to be used by witches to appear in non-human form
kilimbiy	ke hooded vulture	<i>Neophron monachus</i>	Locally believed to be associated with locust plagues.
ɲguùmé	common bulbul	<i>Pycnotus barbatus</i>	call resembles the ticking of a clock
kimbóv	'clockbird'		
kiɲkonkòv	dark chanting goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	
kinshooɲa'	splendid starling	glossy <i>Lamprotornis splendidus</i>	
kinsií	coucal	<i>Centropus spp.</i>	red-brown feathers and a black tail. Believed to announce bad weather.
kinti'	tropical boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>	
kintùɲàshàshà'	woolly-necked stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	found in marshy areas
kiɲa'	pied crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	white patches on the neck and on the chest
kiɲgookfákfə	nickname for the <i>kibiɲ</i>		imitating its call

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
	dove		
kiŋkfəy	barn-owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	
kwàr	flycatcher, either pale or collared	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	
kòy(kòy)	lesser kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	know for its ability to hover in the air, can take chicks in the compound
kwioŋ	bird sp.		also <i>buíné</i> .
lèŋ	white-crowned robin-chat	<i>Cossypha albicapilla</i>	known for its singing
lèr	cisticola	<i>Cisticola spp.</i>	
lùŋ wo wiy	African fish eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	believed to be able to carry goats away
maŋkwá	grey parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	
mbù'ti	woodpecker, generic	<i>Picidae</i>	
nòkindzə'	black kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	flies around after burning the bush to catch rodents
nsàŋri	bird sp.		very small, very long tail, found only in the forest
nshaŋ ²	mountain wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>	also <i>biiybiíy</i> .
nsheèkùr	grey-headed sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	stays around the house
nshù'	weaver, generic	<i>Ploceidae</i>	
ntiŋnyànyà'	red-collared widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>	
ŋgaŋ	Latham's francolin	<i>Francolinus lathamii</i>	
ŋgóoróo	bee-eater	<i>Merops sp.</i>	digs a hole in walls.
ŋkó ²	African scops owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	announces the beginning of the rainy season
sá kibìŋ	small dove		
səkibìŋ	small brown wood dove		also <i>bváv</i> .
sésər	kingfisher, generic	<i>Alcedinidae</i>	
sətí	pearl-spotted owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	
shighaà	mosque swallow	<i>Hirundo senegalensis</i>	
shighaà she Nyüy	white-throated blue swallow	<i>Hirundo nigrita</i>	et. 'God's swallow'.
shighaà she nyar	common house-martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	
shinón pl. me-shinón shé kibaŋ	bird, generic term		
shinón shé ná'	cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	'bird of neck'
	yellow-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	'bird of cow'
shinjaàr	waxbill	<i>Estrilda sp.</i>	
shinjaar shé saŋ	black-headed waxbill	<i>Estrilda atricapilla</i>	
shinjaar shé ŋkfə	black-faced quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>	
shinŋàŋ	bird sp.		also <i>shinŋàŋ</i> . It has a long, drawn-out call. Makes its own road in the bush
shitèr	grey-backed camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	eats insects
shitòŋ	sunbird, generic	<i>Nectariniidae</i>	'humming-bird'. Believed to be very clever.
shó'	scaly francolin	<i>Francolinus squamatus</i>	lives in the forest
shwaá	speckled mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	very destructive, eats fruits on the tree and vegetables in the garden

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
shwéy	African thrush	<i>Turdus pelios</i>	
tòṅ	sunbird, generic	<i>Nectariniidae</i>	short for <i>shitòṅ</i> .
tùṅkilòṅ	grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
wúwúv	purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	

Lamnso' fish and aquatic fauna

Rivers are not very prominent in Nso' country, hence fish names are few and not very clear. Table 7 shows the names for fish and aquatic fauna in Lam nso'.

Table 7. Lam Nso' fish and aquatic fauna names

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
kàkún	tilapia	<i>Tilapia</i> sp.	
kâp	farmed fish		'carp'
kikím	small crab sp.		believed that it turns into a tarantula spider when it stays on the land for a long time. Also <i>ḡaà ḡkím</i> ?
ndzèndzèṃ	fish resembling an eel		?
nténén	catfish with feelers on its mouth		?
nyaàrì	prawn		'crayfish'
ḡgòr	catfish	<i>Clarias</i> spp.	
sàdin	sardine		< English
sá	fish (generic)		
sə nyàm	very big fish		'shark' lit. 'fish of animal'
shùm	small fish that darts around surface of the water	? <i>Hemichromis</i> spp.	

Lamnso' insect and bug names

Table 8 includes bugs and other creatures not technically insects such as snails, worms, millipedes and spiders etc.

Table 8. Lam Nso' insect and bug names

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
báv	tree ant		bites. It builds a nest (<i>ḡkò' bav</i>) on a tree. Nest and ants used for a protective medicine against snake-bite.
bùm, búbùm	very small red ant		Found around the house and in rubbish heaps. Bites. Also a type of shrub
ceèṅgvə'tin	grasshopper sp.		small and short, not eaten, found in the dry season
dòṅ	sweat-fly	Halictidae	wild bee living in holes in the ground and its honey
dzəédzəə	wasp sp.		digs holes around the compound or along the roads, catches caterpillars and buries them
dzə'èṃè	bedbug	<i>Cimex lectularius</i>	
dzér	maggot		
dzəəṅwa'	digger wasp sp., mud-dauber, potter	Sphecidae	makes a small round mud nest on the wall. Catches insects, stores them to feed its young

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
fēr	insect sp.		looks like a cockroach that eats calabash vessels
fə̀ə' kelee	mature <i>kinci</i> y cricket		
fə̀' kinci	tiger-beetle	Cicindelinae	p. 37
fə̀v ¹	yam-beetle	<i>Heteroligus meles</i>	and probably other spp. of the same genus
fór	insect sp.		small, black, Seen in the dry season after burning. Land on you but don't bite. believed to originate from ashes
gàv	caterpillar, generic for burning types		Seen when the rainy season is approaching. that burns the skin
jín	grasshopper sp.		very beautifully coloured, eaten, seen at the beginning of the dry season
jwinyù	praying mantis	Dictyoptera spp.	et. 'dog of God'
kàm mbor	mature palm-beetle	<i>Oryctes rhinocerus</i>	edible lives in raffia palms
kfə̀'	weevil	Curculionidae	found in stored food
kfə̀əri	stink-ant	Ponerinae	smells when crushed and gives a painful bite
kibába	caterpillar sp.		stinging, green, mostly found on coffee leaves
kidàŋ	male <i>shinsingiy</i> beetle		
kifə̀' fə̀'	dung beetle		
kifər	mosquito, but also a general name for biting mosquitoes when in plural (i.e. <i>rifər</i>)		lives around raffia palms and in thick forest
kifər ké sán	large biting fly, tsetse fly	<i>Glossina</i> spp.	
kigwər maàndzə	grasshopper sp.		found in the courtyard, small
kilií ke Nyù	black ant		
vi-			
kilií ke ɲa' pl. vi-	soldier ant		when the new moon rises you see them crossing the road carrying their eggs
kijóró'	large ant, either red or black		eat some types of refuse. Lay large brown eggs on the ground
kike'èr	caterpillar sp.		brownish, edible, found among old grass stems,
kimbem ²	flying grasshopper		not edible, found all year round. Features in a children's song
kimèm	grasshopper sp.		edible, does not fly, found throughout the dry season,
kimfar	earwig	Dermaptera	it crawls on the ground, it has two pincers at its rear end and if you touch it, it tries to capture the toucher with them.
kimfəm	carpenter bee sp.	<i>Xylocopa</i> sp.	children raid the nests for a sweet substance
kimfəm ké nsiin	very large black and white bee		stings, lives in holes in dry trees
kimfə̀ŋ fə̀'áy	hornet	<i>Polistes</i> spp.	
kinà̀nà̀ŋkò'ndzəm	caterpillar sp.		found on leaves, has a looping movement, not edible, all times
kinci	cricket sp.		found in holes in the ground, edible esp. by children
kincúru'	cricket sp.		edible, green, develops from a large larva found inside banana leaves

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
kindzə̀n rívə̀y	caterpillar with hot, biting hair		found in the dry season on trees.
kinə̀ənə̀n	generic term for all caterpillars		
kinə̀əwùn kinsùn	maggot of a tumbu-fly caterpillar sp.		enters the skin very large, not eaten but edible, mostly in the rainy season
kinsùuykpu	mole-cricket sp.	<i>Gryllotalpa spp.</i>	different from yòóy not eaten. lives in holes in the ground. If it crosses the path in front of you it is an omen of something bad about to happen. lit. 'it foretells death'.
kintáá lolon kintáá lùmlav	stick-insect caterpillar that eats thatch	Phasmidae	inedible inedible
kintáá ngàngàn kintàn	crane-fly general term for insects, especially edible ones of the grasshopper and cricket families	Tipulidae	
kintàn ké sò' kiŋá' rínguy kiŋgóóŋgoŋ kiŋkámlur	grasshopper sp. young grasshopper earthworm spider sp.		not eaten also the name for a type of rat sign of soil fertility doesn't make web, hides in dark places, makes a nest on a leaf. Believed to bite and give you ringworm. cf. sé' ¹
kisé' kishwím	white ant cockroach	<i>Periplaneta americana</i>	
kità' kitááŋgàngàn	snail, slug spider with very long legs		
kitsə̀n nsòóy kitsə̀n tsə̀n	caterpillar sp. caterpillar sp.		large, pest on garden eggs pest on the roots of cabbage, maize, tomatoes
kitú ke wir	insect sp.		looks s.t. like a fly but larger, lands on a tree and makes a loud noise for hours of the sp. that comes out at night. It is found deep in the ground. If you accidentally dig it out then you must undergo purification rituals in order to prevent bad consequences.
kiyìy ké kùr	mother termite		same belief as above
kiyìy ké ŋwò' kiyìŋkùy ko'òr	mother termite, generic grasshopper sp. stemborer	<i>Sesamia cretica</i>	not eaten, similar to the plague locust grub that lives in the stem of cereal plants
kùmŋgéŋ kùr làla' láŋtí	beetle sp. flying ants butterfly tick which bites humans	Papilionidae Ixodida spp.	black, destroys the young shoots of crops appears in the rainy season after light rains also <i>mbvə̀njàŋ</i> . < verb <i>lay</i> to press, tamp from the way it presses on the skin
lèŋle'êr liywàndzətìr	dragonfly caterpillar sp.	<i>Odonata spp.</i>	found at all times of year, not eaten, brown and blue types
mábu' mbiŋkàr	ant sp.		tiny, gathers with many others in a long cocoon, sprays poison on you from a tree

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
màr	grasshopper sp.		large, edible,
màr nsii	grasshopper sp.		large, edible, red <i>màr</i> variety
mbáyítí	cockroach sp.		small
mbor ¹	palm-grub	<i>Oryctes rhinocerus</i>	lives in raffia stumps
mbu'	flying termite		live in hole in the ground, forced out by hunters sticking a pole in the nest, as they exit they are trapped
mbvènjàŋ	butterfly	Papilionidae	cf. làlà'
mbvórá'	cricket eggs		
mfu'	honey-bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	wild bees that live in hollow trees and their honey
ncúŋ	flying termite		found in hotter areas, comes out in the morning.
ncweé	flying termite sp.		similar to kúr but in hotter areas
ncwem	grasshopper sp.		edible, towards beginning of dry season,
ndzèndzəv	ant sp.		black, bites, found in the house or on farmland
neèné	ant-lion		makes holes to trap prey. Used to make medicines
nshàŋnshàŋ	water boatman	Corixidae	
nsòy	beetle sp.		hovers around the house
ntèmntém	caterpillar sp.		small, attacks kola nut and corn in great numbers
ntsénkun	small cockroach		
ntsév	caterpillar sp.		brown, eaten, attacks kola nut in great numbers, move in line,
ntúŋntuŋ	jigger	<i>Tunga penetrans</i>	also <i>shìŋgwàŋ</i> . < verb <i>tuj</i> 'to dig out'
nyèl òrkùn	<i>kinçiy</i> cricket that is not mature		extended metaphorically to anything that is not mature
nyòr	earth pushed out when a male cricket is plugging up its hole		
nywèmnywèm	grasshopper sp.		edible, found in the dry season,
ŋèŋ no. pl.	male bee, drone		
ŋéŋéŋ	mosquito, generic term		
ŋgám	bird-eating spider ? or scorpion		'tarantula' ?
ŋgám visíy	centipede		'spider of the Babisi people' because it is thought to be characteristic of them
ŋgi'	grasshopper sp.		
ŋgi' kibvə	grasshopper sp.		eaten, grey, throughout the year
ŋgi' ŋgwásáj	grasshopper sp.		eaten, black and white mixed, throughout the year
ŋgimrì pl. ŋgimrì sí	tick, generic term	Ixodida spp.	
ŋgimrì sé nà'	cattle tick	Ixodida spp.	
ŋgimrì sé bvəy	goat tick	Ixodida spp.	
ŋgò' ²	winged termites, generic term		
ŋgò' kici	winged termite sp.		edible, occupies dead trees
ŋgom	millipede, also applied to the centipede	<i>Iule</i> spp.	The legs are said to be poisonous. It can enter the calabash of palm-wine tappers and poison you. Similarly, it can enter ripe plantains and poison you.

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
nguùmé	plague locust	<i>Locusta migratoria</i>	edible. 1956 was the year of a terrible locust plague and many people died of hunger. This year is known as <i>mntaà shì</i> .
ngwày	grasshopper sp.		green, brown, edible, swarms at night around lights, seen at the approach of the rainy season
sé' ¹	generic term for all white ants		
sè'kùv	beetle sp.		found in swampy areas, bites,
sààkir	beetle sp.		black, it walks very slowly, stings, poisonous,
shibvám	sandfly		bites and causes irritating swellings
shidzə pl. me-	housefly	<i>Musca domestica</i>	hangs around refuse
shinser	louse	<i>Phthiraptera</i> spp.	for persons
shinser shé ngvəv	chicken louse		swarm on you but not dangerous
shinshun pl. mi-shinsínɡiy	eggs of the tapeworm beetle sp.		
shintònàŋwáŋwáy	firefly	Lampyridae	lives in the grass, comes out at the beginning of the dry season, eaten used for medicinal purposes
shintur pl. mi-	ant sp.		tiny, black, found in groups outside the house
shìŋgwáŋ	jigger, 'chigger', but also applied to dog fleas	<i>Tunga penetrans</i>	Also <i>ntúŋntuŋ</i> . Also means salt. When you scratch the infection it is like enjoying salt.
shìŋketi pl. meŋketi	termite that has lost its wings and is lying on the ground		
kiŋkùmri bùbú'	wasp sp.		stings harshly, lives in groups in trees and on banana leaves and under the eaves of houses
shìŋkùmri bùbú'	wasp sp.		stings harshly, lives in groups in trees and on banana leaves and under the eaves of houses
shìŋkwè'mbùn	pinworms		
shirére pl. merére	flying termite		not eaten, appears after the rains, small arrive in numbers at certain times of year
shirə̀rə'	fly spp.		
shiyúu	honey bee kept in a hive	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	pl. me- (countable), yúu(si) expresses uncountable. If you come out in the morning and the bees come to visit you then you will have a visitor. If the bee enters the house, then the visitor will be staying.
shwà'nyúy	giant water-bug	<i>Belostoma</i> spp.	et. 'knife of God'. Painful sting
taàŋgám	spider sp.		web-building spider
taàgwàrí	grasshopper sp.		
taàgwàrí kile'	grasshopper sp.		eaten, flies very far. kile' (race, running) childrenrun after it
taàgwàrí ngwà'	grasshopper sp.		eaten on hunting expedition (<i>ngwà'</i>)
tátakoŋ	stick insect sp.	Phasmidae	edible, found throughout the dry season
tò' baáne	moth		
tsə̀ŋkinyè	sausage-fly		
tsə̀mcéré'	wall-cricket		not eaten, all year round in the house and farm
wam	generic for intestinal		< E. 'worm'

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
	worms tapeworm	except	
wàáŋkfǎ	termite	Isoptera	comes out in the evenings in the rainy season, eaten
yeè shinsíngìy	caterpillar sp.		lit. 'mother of s. beetle', not eaten
yeèrgúu	mosquito	<i>Culex</i>	
yeèyúu	queen bee		et. 'mother of bees'
yòóy	mole-cricket	<i>Gryllotalpa</i> sp.	edible, only seen at the approach of the rainy season

Lamnso' reptiles and amphibians

Table 9 shows the names for Lamnso' reptiles and amphibians.

Table 9. Lam Nso' reptile names

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
bóy	tadpole, salamander		eaten and indeed caught in special expeditions
bóy nyù	small, tadpole	black	'tadpole of goat'
búv	Gabon viper	<i>Bitis gabonica</i>	poisonous, if it bites you, you run to the stream it will cleanse the poison. If the snake enters the stream before you, you will die. It barks like a dog.
ghvǎóy	chameleon		chameleon appears in a folktale where it outwits the Hare in a race. People kill it even though it is harmless. Chameleon tricked frog in sending a misleading message to God which led to humans dying rather than being immortal.
já'	toad, small		
kibár	lizard, term	generic	In a folktale, the lizard fell from a tree but did not die. People did not admire this, so the lizard nods its head to show appreciation for its own qualities.
kibó'ŋaári	tortoise, turtle	<i>Kinixys belliana</i>	Bell's hinged tortoise. Features in a folktale where tortoise borrowed money from the pig.
kifíy	puff adder	<i>Bitis arietans</i>	
kikfǎ'ər	frog, black		found in swampy places, edible
kinte	black snake		found in raffia palms in hotter areas, jumps between trees
kisòv ntám	small frog that makes big leaps		multi-coloured, edible
kinto'	large frog, light green or variable		hang on leaves, not eaten, found all year round
kishám	toad	<i>Bufo</i> spp.	
kisòn	frog, grey		found in swampy places, edible
kisòv ncaŋ	frog, brown		found in swampy places, edible
kom	ornate monitor lizard	<i>Varanus ornatus</i>	
mbám	forest cobra, spitting cobra	<i>Naja melanoleuca</i>	slightly poisonous. Believed that when it bites you it can give you worm infestations. Some snakes are believed to be resident in one place for centuries.
mfiŋ	snake, tarantula or termite hole		
ncùm	small black snake		Found in the house and to be very poisonous, but probably the harmless African house snake
nkùnáyóyo	skink spp.	<i>Scincidae</i>	A belief was that if a man jumped over a skink he

Lamnso'	English	Latin	Comments
			would become a woman. Not a very serious belief.
ngày	Nile crocodile		
ngvəm	royal python	<i>Python regius</i>	
ngwàŋ	poisonous snake		found in hotter areas,
nyüywàn	amphisbaenid, blind snake	<i>Rhinotyphlops</i> <i>spp.</i>	et. 'God's child'. This is also an epithet referring to the Fon, and thus killing this snake is taboo. If you kill it and you must run to the landlord and perform a purification ritual.
shighárájiy	grey snake		found in bushes, non-poisonous
suúsú yò	green tree snake		<i>suúsú</i> means the bark of a palm-frond
yó	snake, serpent		generic term

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