

**Mwaghavul insect names**

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Mwaghavul dictionary project

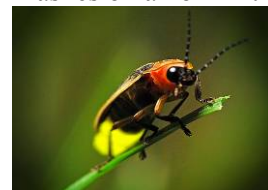
This is a classified list of the names of insects and allied creatures in Mwaghavul. There may still be errors, so please ensure both the spelling and the identification is correct. Mwaghavul do not distinguish arthropods, arachnids, crustaceans from insects, but these are listed in the final table for convenience. In Mwaghavul there does not appear to be a general term for ‘insect’ but there are a number of specific terms for insect classes. These are as follows;

ngùm	beetles
ndìshìi	flies
ngòk	grasshoppers
nfwàsh	termites






The insects are divided into general, grasshoppers, termites, ants, and arthropods. The Hausa names are as given in the field; I have not had a chance to check them with a modern dictionary.





**Insects not otherwise classified**

<b>Mwaghavul</b>	<b>Hausa</b>	<b>Latin</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Also</b>	<b>Notes</b>
ápwét		<i>Vespa crabro</i>	hornet	long tíróng	A small brown wasp that can sting. It makes a home under the eaves of the house, in a cactus or next to birds’ nests.
dìghir kwee		Dermaptera	earwig, ‘skirt and blouse’		Lives in damp places including clothes.
dùshúú			caterpillar sp.		cf. <b>ndùshúú</b>
kíróm			caterpillar sp.		Caterpillar which sticks pieces of wood and grass to its body as it moves along. Creates a cocoon which it carries and into which it retreats when attacked.
mbílíp		<i>Menopon gallinae</i>	louse	njílíp	Found on livestock, poultry
mbílir		<i>Ctenocephalides canis</i> (Dog flea) <i>Pulex irritans</i> (Human flea)	flea	mbíler	Found on animals and in beds. Sucks blood of humans and animals.
mbúrnáá		Phlebotomidae [?]	biting fly		Very small biting fly which appears after the rains.
mmàt káá		Odontidae	dragonfly pupa		Found in streams.
mpíl wus		Lampyridae	firefly, glow worm		Flashes on an off in the night




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mpírámpas		Odontidae	dragonfly	mpárpas, nkírámpas	Found over ponds and rivers. 
mpúl̀p̀l̀		Lepidoptera	butterfly, moth		
mpyèèm		Tabanidae	biting fly		Gives a painful bite. Found from September onwards.
ncímeer		Corixidae	water- boatman		Usually found skittering across the surface of stagnant water. It was believed to be able to teach you how to swim. 
ndifilip	kyankeso	<i>Periplaneta americana</i>	young cockroach		
ndifinìng		Vespidae	wasp sp.		
ndipyéél	kyankeso	<i>Periplaneta americana</i>	cockroach	dipyéél	Usually found at night around toilets 
ndipyeel àm		<i>Belostoma spp.</i>	giant water-bug		
ndishii		<i>Musca domestica</i>	housefly		Feeds on dirt and is common where there are livestock.
ndishii kícír			maggot, grub		Feeds on rotten wood
ndishii waar ndit̀ǹǹng k̀ì̀r̀		<i>Musca sp.</i> <i>Dysdercus spp.</i>	fly sp. cotton- stainer		A large type of housefly. Mating pairs of the cotton-stainer appear at the end of April. 

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Mwaghavul	Hausa	Latin	English	Also	Notes
ndùshúú			caterpillar sp.		Covered in stinging hairs. Feeds on leaves, dark brown. Its eggs are protected in a silk cocoon.
nfut		<i>Anopheles</i> spp.	mosquito		Sucks human blood and is responsible for fever.
					
nfwàghàp ngààl		Tabanidae <i>Bittacus</i> spp.	biting fly scorpion fly	gàal	Appears July-September. Found in humid areas.
					
ngàrmùsháng			caterpillar		Green caterpillar usually found on the <b>mmawe</b> shrub, <i>Jatropha curcas</i> .
ngóghót	kaska	Ixodidae	tick		Ticks stick to grass stems and catch passing animals. Its eggs are found in the grass.
					
ngùgurak			water-bug		resembles <b>ndìpyeel àm</b> but darker
ngùm			beetle (generic)		
ngùm bigit ngùm lúkpee		Meloidae	beetle sp. blister beetle		It squirts out a liquid which burns the skin
					

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ngùm pèl		Buprestidae	jewel-beetle spp.		
ngùm rànji ngùm shit ngùm tùl		Pentatomidae	beetle sp. beetle sp. shield-bug		Eats grass. Small beetle mostly found on the <b>tùl</b> <sup>1</sup> plant. Rolls small balls of excrement.
njààkwéét	<i>gungura</i> <i>kashi</i>	Heliocopridae spp.	dung-beetle		< Hausa ? Found in hot areas. Can give a painful bite. Appears July-September.
"jiga nlàm zar		<i>Tunga penetrans</i> Glossinidae	jigger biting fly		Known for its predation on other insects. Its greenish colour helps it resemble a leaf.
nnàà laak	dokin alla	<i>Sphodromantis phyllocrana</i>	praying mantis	nghà laak, nnàà shem	Brown caterpillar which stay in its shell [?]
nnám			caterpillar sp.	nám	
nrogheetóók nshii		Carabidae spp. <i>Apis mellifera</i>	beetle sp. honey, bee		
nsímès			caterpillar sp.	símès	
nsyám	kwarkwata	<i>Pediculus</i> spp.	louse		Found in clothes, and another type on the head.
nyong kyeer nzutur		Pentatomidae Cimicidae	beetle sp. bedbug	zutur	Found in beds, can give a painful bite.

**Ngok** Grasshoppers, crickets, locusts

Mwaghavul	Hausa	Latin	English	Also	Notes
cíbéł		<i>Schistocerca gregaria</i>	plague locust		
kúrtúghút			grasshopper sp.	ntùghút	Large grasshopper known for landing heavily on the ground.
lágádish			grasshopper sp.		Large grasshopper with brightly coloured hind wings and a strong odour. (not edible)

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps false mallow, *Malvastrum coromandelianum*

Mwaghavul insect names

Mwaghavul	Hausa	Latin	English	Also	Notes
mbwàl			grasshopper sp.		Medium-sized grasshopper, usually seen when harvesting fonio. Travel in small groups or singly.
mbwèng			grasshopper sp.		Small grey grasshopper which can jump a long distance.
ncicàk			grasshopper sp.		green, slender, edible grasshopper. The female is larger than the male.
ncòk meel			grasshopper sp.		Similar to <b>ncicàk</b> but smaller.
ndighis		<i>Gryllotalpa africana</i>	giant mole-cricket		Very large ground-dwelling cricket which can be very destructive during harvest. Dug out of holes and eaten by children. Very noisy.
					
ndighis naan			cricket sp.		Noisy cricket which destroys clothes.
ndú moghol		Tettagonidae	bush-cricket	ndí moghol	Small grasshopper which mimics a leaf
ng(w)ar pyáá			grasshopper sp.		Large edible grasshopper. The female carries the male on her back.
ng(w)ar vùm			grasshopper sp.		A large grasshopper which moves slowly usually in small groups. not destructive.
ngòk			grasshopper (generic)		
ngòk bíring			grasshopper sp.		Large, green grasshopper
ngòk kwàghàs			grasshopper sp.		Small grasshopper
ngòk njíí			grasshopper sp.		Small grasshopper. Name means 'grasshopper of the ancestral spirits'.
nirét kwai bòng			grasshopper sp.	nikwai bòng	Small striped, edible grasshopper, which appears in November after the rains.
njèèjee nkintireng		<i>Zonocerus variegatus</i>	cricket sp. variegated grasshopper		Multi-coloured grasshopper which is very destructive in the farm. Despite this, it is caricatured by Mwaghavul as a very foolish insect because it moves slowly.

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Mwaghavul	Hausa	Latin	English	Also	Notes
̀̀ni kım			grasshopper sp.		Small brown grasshopper.
̀̀ni silık			grasshopper sp.		Long slender grasshopper.
táán dık		<i>Schistocerca gregaria</i>	nymph of plague locust		

Termites

Mwaghavul	Hausa	Latin	English	Other	Notes
nfwásh	gara		termites, general term	fwash	
njár			termite sp.		Eat the foundations of houses
lúmwásh			winged termite		A general name
mpyéér			termite sp.		Termite that makes its home in thatched roofs and preys on insects that live there.
ndıryàghàm káá			soldier termite		The name means literally 'big head' using the insulting adjective.
ndùpwóóp	shinge		flying ant		The largest size of flying ant
̀̀ni cááp			flying ant		
tıghır			anthill		
wáryáá			termite sp.	wúryáá	The smallest size of flying ant. Appears during the rains.

Ants

Mwaghavul	Hausa	Latin	Other	English	Notes
ndıkìnòng	gwano	<i>Tapinoma sessile</i>	stink-ant	ndıtınòng	A large biting ant that smells. It move across the ground in groups.
nkám kàghàs	turuwa		harvest ant		Goes into the fields and removes cereal seeds and stores them.
nlang			biting ant		A biting ant that lives in a hole
nshang	kwarkwasa		solder ant sp.		It bites and is known for constructing bridges using their bodies for other ants to cross. When biting it hangs on until killed.
nsháng mòs	shazuma	<i>Camponotus consobrinus</i>	sugar-ant		A large brown ant, font of sugar and sweet things.







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ntún		<i>Myrmex pharaonis</i>	Pharaoh's ant		Very small, numerous ant, noted for its co-operative behaviour.
nzùghùn láá	tsanya		ant sp.		It constructs a house in the ground. Only bites when threatened.

Crustaceans, arachnids etc.

Mwaghavul	Hausa	Latin	English	Other	Notes
cícirák	jaten lande	<i>Penaeus</i> spp.	shrimp, 'crayfish'		Edible. Caught in rivers.
kwàn kífél	kaguwa	<i>Potamonautes</i> spp.	crab		Found in local rivers. Preys on small fish and prawns. Not eaten.
mbighit shíí	shanshani	Chilopoda spp.	centipede		Centipede which does not bite. Smaller than <b>nláá puus</b>
ndighìr	kunama		scorpion		Found under rocks. Can give an unpleasant sting.
ngàng vét		<i>Pandanus imperator</i>	black scorpion		
nláá puus	shanshani	Chilopoda spp.	centipede		Found on the farm. Can give a painful bite.
nlòghòr		Pulmonata spp.	slug		Found on Euphorbia. It leaves a slimy trail and sticks to anything available.
					
nlúú Naan	gizogizo	Arachnidae	spider	lúú-Naan	lit. 'cloud of God'. Known for its predatory nature and ability to kill a wide range of insects and even tiny mice.
ntísh nyèt máár nzimén yirak bul		<i>Iule</i> spp.	snail earthworm millipede plant-eating worm	yilak mbul	Usually appear after planting when there is a break in rain fall. Perhaps the army-worm?