

Mwaghavul plant names

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This is a list of plant names in the Mwaghavul language, spoken around Panyam, in Plateau State, Nigeria. It has yet to be fully updated with results from a workshop held in April 2012.

birim	plant, fruit
dēm	weeds, grasses not useful to people
jikiram	wild weeds
mbwet	tender fruit
mùlùm	algae
shit	generic for grass
tíng	tree, shrub generic

Grasses and herbs

Mwaghavul	Latin	English	Comments
ḃel	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Bahama grass, dogstooth grass, couchgrass	The dried stem is used to make a particular type of flute
bèng hir		tuber sp.	plant dug from the ground and eaten by children as beng hir
bèng kóhól		tuber sp.	
bishaal		plant sp.	
ḃúú		plant sp.	
ḃùùl		plant sp.	Grown within the compound to provide shade and protect chicks from kites.
ḃwaa		grass sp.	used as shaft of an arrow. The stem is eaten like sugar cane
cáá	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	plant sp.	used to improve the sound of a xylophone
cààm		plant sp.	wild plant resembling onion but toxic
caar			
càk car	<i>Eriosema psoraleoides</i>	plant sp.	The leaves are ground and applied to cuts on the skin. Said to be very effective.
cirèm càà	<i>Chamaecrista mimosoides</i>	tea senna	fibre is used in making rope
cukkur			sharp-edged
cwang	<i>Cymbopogon giganteus</i>	grass sp.	An extremely tall grass. Used for roofing. The flower is used in treating fever.
daw	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	wandering jew, tropical spiderwort	Used in treating snake-bite
dáwúfil	<i>Aneilema beniniense</i> [?]	plant sp.	Used for draw soup.
dem			
dòghòròk		grass sp.	Used in feeding horses
fèèl		plant sp.	
fil fuk	<i>Diodia sarmentosa</i>	plant sp.	eaten by animals
fúúr	<i>Cenchrus biflorus</i>	grass sp. cram- cram, hedgehog grass, burgrass	grass with white flower used for thatching and also to treat cuts, like iodine.
fúúr ḃii pyaa	<i>Rhynchelytrum</i>	blanketgrass,	Eaten by animals

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gáár	<i>repens</i>	natal redtop	
ghír pyaa	<i>Euphorbia</i> spp.	white cactus	
goghor	<i>Hibiscus asper</i>	plant sp.	with white thorns
		plant sp.	The flower and seed are edible. Used to make ngyam for local candle. Used to make fibre for ropes. Is this rama?
gòr		plant sp.	
guu	<i>Euphorbia kamerunica</i>	cactus	
gwàn		wild cocoyam	cf. ngwàn
gwòm kas ²		plant sp.	
jaam pil		plant sp.	also jaghatai (name of place)
jakatai	<i>Euphorbia</i>	plant sp.	A many-branched herb found by roadsides, introduced into West Africa. Applied to cuts on the sole of the foot.
jàng lùmwát	<i>hyssopifolia</i>		
jármén	<i>Chrysanthellum americanum</i>	African wild daisy	Plant with yellow flowers between August and October and seen as an indication that the rains will soon be over
káá doghorok	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	yellow nutsedge	The wild form of the tiger-nut, which is cultivated for its edible tubers. Used mainly to feed animals
kam láng		riverine plant	often used as chewing stick
kargung		plant sp.	used in making holes
kàs mbul		small plant	like millet which small birds eat
kijghír 1	<i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i>	Lion's ear, lion's tail	
kijghír 2	<i>Leucas martinicensis</i>	wild tea bush	
kikàr		raffia plant	
kikàr pilim	<i>Smilax anceps</i>	African sarsaparilla	The twine is used to mend calabashes
kisóm		plant sp.	Used for settling disputes. The first chicken to die after drinking the mixture was considered guilty
kùng		plant sp.	
kùng lùng		shrub sp.	fruits are used to make soap
kúr gwàm		wild banana plant	<i>Ensete gillettii</i>
kusuk nyer	<i>Digitaria gayana</i>	grass sp.	lit. 'bird's fonio'. The seeds are eaten by birds and animals.
kuul tum	<i>Solanum torvum</i>	turkeyberry	fruits are used to treat chicken diseases
làà hiir		plant/fruit	
làà wéét		plant sp.	Hausa <i>tsamiyan biri</i>
landor	<i>Vernonia perrottetii</i>	ironweed	used to sweep a large threshing area
lém	<i>Sesamum indicum</i>	plant sp.	A cultivated plant, but also found as an adventive. Its leaves are used to make a draw soup.
lijám		plant sp.	Soft plant used to dress wounds after circumcision.
man lèè	<i>Loudetia annua</i>	feathergrass	thatching grass
mbikikak			
mbwaghat			
caan			

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mbwak		plant sp.	used in soup. Hausa <i>gwate</i> .
mbwémbwèrè		grass sp.	Used for tying millet bundles for threshing. This grass is used for three years consecutively. it is usually soaked in water before use. (similar to tar grass)
mbee			
mííl	<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	gamba grass	used in roofing and for the construction of xylophones [how?]
milòm búm	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	water lettuce	dried powder used in sorcery remedies
mpet jaghas	<i>Sorghastrum bipennatum</i>	grass sp.	Used to make brooms
mùnaan		bitterleaf (plant)	also mìnaan
mwòòr		plant sp.	oil from a plant sp. (medicinal)
mmawe			
mwòòr zem		plant sp.	
ná shwoop		sensitive plant	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> . Also kurpaa . If the centre is touched, the leaves close up. This song is usually sung to it. Ná shop neer killing ki naa neer yi (twice) kurpaa-o-kurpaa oh! ngoroo ki naa neeyiee! and it closes
neer			
ndaaji	<i>Striga hermonthica</i>	witchweed	A small purple flower which is a very persistent weed of guinea-corn and other cereals.
ndarkam		creeper sp.	Used in making a very mucilaginous soup, favoured by the Idoma
ndòghòròk		grass sp.	cf. dòghòròk
ndúr	<i>Mariscus longibracteatus</i> and probably other <i>Mariscus</i> spp.	plant name referring to two species	(1) monocotyledonous plant found in swampy/marshy areas, (it belongs to the grass family)
ndúr	<i>Tapinanthus</i> and <i>Loranthus</i> spp.	mistletoe	(2) dicotyledonous plant, it grows on other plants (saprophyte) with time it could grow bigger and eventually kill the main plant, examples abound on citrus plants etc. A person could be referred to as <i>ndur</i> if they depend heavily on others. Cf. also kirom .
ndùtúghút		plant sp.	
nfoon		plant sp.	Used in soup
gwóóm			
ngimaar			
njààl	<i>Conyza sumatrensis</i>	fleabane	eaten? (Used in soup)
nkàghàm	<i>Eclipta alba</i>	herb sp.	cooked in soups
dyès			
nkílis		plant sp.	Used for soup.
nkókóó	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	sessile joyweed	Used for soup.
nkoon tughúr		plant sp.	Used for soup.
nnì dèèt	<i>Vernonia ambigua</i>	ironweed	tastes bitter
nshishíí	<i>Cyperus difformis</i>	sedge sp.	the roots are pounded and then used to scrub clean the goatskins used for carrying children
nyák tiràk		plant sp.	Used for soup.
nyákyít	<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	cobblers' blackjack	also nyakyit . Sticks to clothes when walking through the bush
nyee kúúl 1	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	wild Cape	Used for soup.

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nyee kúúl 2	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	gooseberry black nightshade	? leaves and fruits eaten by humans for medical purposes
nyim lèè	<i>Solenostemon monostachyus</i>	plant sp.	the leaf is put in a drink to stop it going bad?
nyimùür	<i>Palisota hirstua</i>	plant sp.	Leaves to treat dislocations in children.
piil	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	swordgrass	
pipilet		plant sp.	
puk bwagham	<i>Sida acuta</i>	broomweed	A weed of fields, also used to make a draw soup
puk lengdeng	<i>Sida cordifolia</i>	plant sp.	A weed of fields, also used to make a draw soup
pùs kaam	<i>Laportea aestuans</i>	tropical nettlesweed	A small nettle-like plant which irritates the skin on touch. The fibre can be used as twine.
pùs tùp	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i>	cowitch, stinging bush- vine	A vine which grows in the bush with hairy pods which give an irritating sting when touched.
pwas mwaan		plant sp.	
rààs	<i>Bambusa sp.</i>	bamboo	
sar gààl		bahama grass	<i>kirikiri</i> Hausa but cf. bel
sè ndighis ¹	<i>Mitracarpus villosus</i>	plant sp.	A weed on crops. Used to treat skin disease.
sè ndighis ²	<i>Spermacoce villosa</i>	plant sp.	eaten by animals
shit		generic for grass	
shit biring	<i>Setaria pumila</i>	cat-tail grass	
shit dii dèèt	<i>Digitaria horizontalis</i>	crabgrass, digit grass	So bitter even animals will not eat it.
shit kaap	<i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i>	West Indies' smutgrass	Animals will eat it when just sprouting
shit lu	<i>Hyparrhenia involucrata</i>	roofing grass	thatching grass
shít mpét	<i>Eragrostis tremula</i>	lovegrass	Used to make brooms.
shit waap	<i>Chloris pilosa</i>	fingergrass	Eaten by animals.
soghor		plant sp.	Used to make fire by friction
soso	<i>Luffa cylindrica</i>	loofah	used as a sponge to wash the body and dishes. < Hausa
súm cáár		plant sp.	Used for soup. Also the name of the swallow (bird)
táá ntíng	<i>Cassythia filiformis</i>		A parasitic plant the grows over other plants, notably cashew. It is believed the (medicinal) roots are difficult to find and this can only be achieved through money. The plant has glutinous leaves used in cooking soup.
táá sheem		plant	Used to make potash
tar		grass sp.	
tar bum		grass sp.	
tar kom	<i>Eleusine indica</i>	goosegrass	Used as animal fodder.
tíng tyóón	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> [?]	climbing plant sp.	Similar to yam, but the tubers are not below ground but at the leaf axils. This plant was of great significance to the Mwaghavul community as it was used in determining when the rains would set in [how?]. They would commence clearing their farms. This plant does not grow, no matter the amount of water poured on it. If

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toghos			spring is not approaching it will not sprout. Once spring approaches it sprouts.
túl ¹	<i>Sida garckeana</i>	herb sp.	A herb mostly eaten by animals
túl ²	<i>Triumfetta cordifolia</i>	herb sp.	When the stalk has been peeled it can be used as twine to tie up objects.
tùl	<i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i>	false mallow	A common weed in the fields. Much appreciated by animals.
tún	<i>Ipomoea vagans</i>	wild sweet potato	
vyèl kááp	<i>Loudetia arundinacea</i>	grass sp.	thatching grass
wùgíl		plant sp.	(see pumbwan)
wút zhìi		plant sp.	The leaf of plant used to protect the farm against evil spirits. It was planted on the edges of the farm.
ya kyiit		plant sp.	cf. nya kyiit for details
yén cilém	<i>Fimbristylis</i>	plant sp.	The plant is pounded with water and used to treat fever
yén toghom	<i>Oldenlandia herbacea</i>	plant sp.	A weed of crops. Used in the treatment of fever.
yìgút		plant sp.	
yim njíi	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	billygoat weed	
záál		plant sp.	
zem		oil from a plant	

Mushrooms

ntás	mushroom general
ntas fuk	mushroom of dunghill
ntas gíng	mushroom of drum
ntas kíβín	mushroom of animal sp. very large mushroom
ntas mulam	mushroom of sliminess
ntas randong	mushroom of cattle
ntas tighir	mushroom of termite mound
ntas ting	mushroom of tree

Trees

Mwaghavul	Hausa	Latin	English	Notes
bizep			tree sp.	
buhol	<i>malmo</i>	<i>Syzygium guineense</i>	tree sp.	mbíhol
bwaghat cáán			tree sp.	
bwák	<i>aya</i>		tiger-nut ?	
dàng túghúp			tree sp.	
dàng tup			tree sp.	
dèp	<i>dínya</i>	<i>Vitex doniana</i>	black plum	edible fruits
dishol	<i>kajinjere</i>	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	fruit of the wild date palm, pyeem	
dudúk kíir	<i>rimi</i>	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	silk cotton tree	
fèèl			tree sp.	
ghíp pyááníi			<i>Acacia</i> spp. generic	
ghír			thorny tree sp.	‘snake thorn’
ghír gók táá			thorny tree sp.	
ghír kùng		? <i>Dicrostachys cinerea</i>	thorny tree sp.	

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ghir píyáá ghir vùrèm	<i>farar kaya</i>	<i>Faidherbia albida</i>	whitethorn thorny plant sp.	Thorns are used to cut tribal marks and tattoos found in the farm
ghir yàwó gòr gùng guu gwòm kàs jamii	<i>duhuwa ??</i>	<i>Ficus platyphylla</i>	common thorn tree sp. fig tree sp. euphorbia, cactus tree sp.	with strong wood
jér kaashuu kàm bàl kám gúng kám kághán kárgung kíbáng kìr kìr kum kìkàr kísóm kláng koon koon tum kùkùp kùm báng	<i>tsamiyaa</i>	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	tamarind tree tree sp. cashew tree tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. silk-cotton tree tree sp. raffia palm tree sp. tree sp. fig tree tree sp.	Sour fruits can be sucked. cf. njamii < English
kùng kùng tùp	<i>baure</i>	<i>Ficus gnaphalocarpa</i>	fig tree tree sp.	
làà ghir làà wéét	<i>goriba</i> <i>kadanya</i>	? <i>Hyphaene thebaica</i> <i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i>	dum palm shea tree	? The oil is extracted from the fruits for cooking
lèngleng lòghòr lyóón mángòr mawe mbihol mès m̀m̀m̀s m̀m̀ànaàn mwàghàlàk	<i>riimii</i>	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	tree sp.	The oil is extracted from the fruits for cooking
mwén mwòòr báng mwòòr k̀r̀r̀ ndùtùghút ngàng	<i>tsamiyar biri</i>	<i>Dialium guineense</i>	monkey tamarind	red fruits when ripe
ngwávà njámii ̀ǹl̀aaghir páát	<i>malmo</i> <i>dorowa</i> <i>durumi</i>	<i>Ficus ingens</i> <i>Grewia mollis</i> <i>Mangifera indica</i> <i>Jatropha curcas</i> <i>Syzygium guineense</i> <i>Parkia biglobosa</i> <i>Ficus polita</i>	tree sp. fig tree sp. mango physic nut tree sp. locust beans, plant/fruit fig tree sp. tree sp.	buhol
	<i>ciwo</i>	<i>Landolphia owariensis</i> ; <i>Saba florida</i>	rubber vine	Fruits eaten
	<i>giginya</i>	<i>Elaeis guineensis</i> <i>Borassus aethiopum</i>	tree sp. oil-palm silk cotton tree tree sp. fan-palm	edible The fruits are eaten and the leaves are used for roofing. The fruits are sprouted to make <i>muruci</i> .
	<i>gweba</i> <i>tsamiya</i>	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	guava fruit, tree tamarind	< English
	<i>atili</i>	<i>Carissa edulis</i> <i>Canarium</i>	Plateau berry African olive, bush-	A highly prized edible oil

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		<i>schweinfurthii</i>	candle	is made from the fruits. The seeds are used both to play mancala, and in divination, which has the same name, paat .
pwas kung pyeem	<i>kajinjere</i>	<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	tree sp. wild date-palm	The leaves are used for mats and hats. The fruit is called dishol
rààm shiko shyeep siisal sìr sòghór táán tándúk táp sheen tawaza ten tiis	<i>malmo</i>	<i>Syzygium guineense</i> <i>Agave sisal</i>	tree sp. and its fruit tree sp. tree sp. sisal tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. tree sp.	also tam tuk
	<i>madaacii</i>	<i>Khaya senegalensis</i> <i>Piliostigma reticulatum</i> & <i>P. thonningii</i>	mahogany shrub, tree sp.	bark used to bind bundles of firewood etc. Used in the treatment of <i>kurga</i> (H.)
tóghól	<i>cediya</i>	<i>Ficus thonningii</i>	fig tree	usually planted outside the house for elders to sit under
tùl twaas tyoor vureng báng vureng tup wúshìi wút	<i>dóókàà</i> <i>baure</i> <i>dúrùmíi</i>	<i>Isoberlinia doka</i> <i>Ficus polita</i>	tree sp. fig tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. tree sp. tree sp.	
wuzmí yòghòm nyèè zer	<i>gwandan</i> <i>daji</i>	<i>Annona senegalensis</i> <i>Combretum micranthum</i>	custard-apple tree and fruit tree sp. tree sp. tree sp.	Edible fruit

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