

Some Vernacular Names of Plants from Kapingamarangi and Nukuoro Atolls, Caroline Islands

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In May 1957 I visited Kapingamarangi and Nukuoro Atolls south of Ponape, in the East Caroline Islands, especially to investigate the pandans. During these visits I took the opportunity to record as best I could some of the vernacular names for the plants, whether wild or cultivated, of the atolls. The names for the various cultivars of *Pandanus* are discussed in a separate paper. This list then is not at all comprehensive but simply puts on record a number of names, with their scientific equivalents, which are of interest and which have not, or seldom, been previously listed.

For all the Kapingamarangi names there should be understood the preceding word "ti" which is the article "the". The same applies to the Nukuoro words, except that the article is pronounced "te". For a full list, see Elbert (1948).

KAPINGAMARANGI

- hingara.* Male flowers of any *Pandanus*.
kuru. The breadfruit tree, *Artocarpus altilis* (Parkinson) Fosberg.
laim. The lime tree, *Citrus aurantiifolia* (Christm.) Swingle; from the English.
ngaongao. *Alocasia macrorrhiza* (L.) Schott, an occasionally eaten aroid.
niu. The coconut, *Cocos nucifera* L.
nonu. *Morinda citrifolia* L.
pahó; paehó. *Pandanus compressus* Martelli, a large broad-leaf pandan used for mats and occasionally for the edible seeds.
pinu. *Pandanus fischerianus* Martelli, the commoner narrow-leaf pandan, often used for the edible fruit-pulp. Many (16 or more) cultivars are named.
puraka. *Cyrtosperma chamissonis* (Schott) Merrill, a commonly cultivated giant taro, or aroid, source of a starchy tuber.
rokohó. The bird's-nest fern, *Asplenium nidus* L.
sara. The taro, *Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott, the source of a starchy tuber.
tamo. The banana, *Musa X sapientum*.
wai. A cultivated field or patch of *Cyrtosperma*, "puraka".

NUKUORO

- hara.* *Pandanus fischerianus* Martelli. The wild forms are called *hara-vau*.
hau. *Hibiscus tiliaceus* L.

- héri.* *Lepturus repens* R. Br., a creeping grass.
- huarauriki.* *Ipomoea littoralis* Bl., a slender convolvulaceous plant or 'morning-glory'.
- kahau.* *Ochrosia oppositifolia* K. Schum. A tree with milky sap.
- kahuti.* The banana, *Musa X sapientum*.
- kásik.* *Vitex negundo* var. *bicolor* H. J. Lam. A tree.
- kavausu.* *Barringtonia asiatica* (L.) Kurz. A large tree with boxlike fruits the seeds of which yield a stupifying drug affecting fish.
- kiepu.* *Crinum asiaticum* L., the spider-lily.
- kuru.* The breadfruit tree, *Artocarpus altifolius* (Parkinson) Fosberg.
- laim.* The lime-tree, *Citrus aurantifolia* (Christm.) Swingle. From the English.
- maire.* *Phymatodes scolopendria* (L.) Ching, the oak-leaf fern.
- manoanoa.* *Kalanchoe pinnata* (Lam.) Pers., the bryophyllum or air-plant.
- manukabásong.* *Scaevola taccada* (Roxb.) Gaertn. (*S. sericea* Vahl.).
- manukirimau.* *Messerschmidia argentea* (L.) Johnst., a tree with velvety leaves and small flowers in helical cymes.
- miro.* *Thespesia populnea* (L.) Sol. ex Correa. A hibiscus-like tree.
- ngaongao.* The aroid *Alocasia macrorrhiza* (L.) Schott.
- ngie.* The small tree or shrub *Pemphis acidula* Forst.
- niu.* The coconut, *Cocos nucifera* L.
- orongá.* *Pipturus argenteus* (Forst. f.) Wedd.
- pakóa.* *Pandanus dubius* Sprengel, a species very similar to *P. compressus*, found in Kapingamarangi.
- pié.* *Tacca leontopetaloides* (L.) O. K., the Polynesian arrowroot. Source of a starchy tuber.
- pingipingi.* The tree *Hernandia sonora* L, (not *Thespesia* as stated by Christian (1898)).
- pua.* The tree *Guettarda speciosa* L.
- puka.* The tree *Pisonia grandis* R. Brown.
- pukaria.* The shrub *Morinda citrifolia* L.
- raukataha.* The birds'-nest fern, *Asplenium nidus* L.
- singano.* Male flowers or trees of *Pandanus*.
- kori.* The large aroid *Cyrtosperma chamissonis* (Schott) Merr.
- tará.* The small tree *Allophylus timorensis* (Forst.) Radlkofer.
- uatóro.* The small creeping yellow-flowered vine *Triumfetta procumbens* Forst. The fruits are burrs.
- uluhe.* The fern *Nephrolepis hirsutula* Forst. (*Ruhe* of Christian (1898)).
- varovaro.* The small tree *Premna obtusifolia* R. Br.
- voi.* The large tree *Calophyllum inophyllum* L.

Reference

- CHRISTIAN, F. W. 1898. Nuku-oro Vocabulary. Journ. Polynes. Soc. 7: 224-232.
- ELBERT, S. H. 1948. The Language of Kapingamarangi. CIMA-Natl. Research Council-Pacific Science Board. 289 pp. (mimeographed).