

FULFULDE NAMES OF PLANTS OF MAMBILLA PLATEAU, NIGERIA

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Received 28th August, 2013; accepted 2nd June, 2014

ABSTRACT

A rapid survey of plants of Mambilla Plateau, Nigeria, was carried out and a compilation of their Fulfude names was made. A total of 183 plant species comprising 2 pteridophytes and 181 angiosperms was documented. The compilation revealed elements of folk taxonomy in naming of plants in Fulfude language. It is expected that this report will assist field workers in the area for on-the-spot identification of plants in the field and facilitate further research works.

Key words: Fulfude names, Mambilla Plateau, Plants, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

According to Hepper (1966), the first known botanical collection from Mambilla Plateau was by Mr. and Mrs. Gates in 1947, followed by L.Atilo and Daramola in January 1955. In 1958, a more comprehensive collection was made by Hepper and Daramola in conjunction with J.W.F. Chapman (Chapman and Chapman, 2001). After these, only a few collections have been made from the forest. On Mambilla Plateau, the most diverse forest is Ngel Nyaki comprising over 146 vascular plant species many of which are trees, and (near-) endemic to the Afrotropical Region of White (1983) (Dowsett, 1989). In 1989, a summary of forest structure and species composition of Ngel Nyaki was published by Dowsett with particular reference to its size and floral diversity. However, aside from work done by Chapman (2008), relatively little is known about the taxonomy and ecology of Mambilla Plateau.

Generally, in vegetation studies, on-the-spot field identification of plant species is crucial whether it is taxonomic or ecological work. This is due to the fact that it facilitates data collection and organization and it also saves time. However, the paucity of handy lists of local flora has been a challenge to biodiversity studies in Nigeria especially in pioneering work on sites which had not been previously explored. Also, local flora exists only as a part of the general texts scattered over several pages of the flora of west tropical Africa. In such situations, it could be a challenging experience gathering data on plants and animals which cannot be identified by names. Experience from working in this area has shown that this challenge can be overcome by consulting with medicinal plant practitioners, farmers, pastoralists and village elders for indigenous names of collected plants in the field while the corresponding scientific names are obtained from a reputable herbarium.

The book published by Gbile (1984) has been found to be useful in the field when working in Hausa- and Yoruba-speaking areas. This study was conducted to compile the Fulfude names of plants found in Mambilla Plateau with their corresponding scientific names so that identification of these plants in the field can be made easier for workers in the area.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Site

Mambilla Plateau (6°47'43"N, 11°11'58"E) is located in Sardauna Local Government Area of Taraba State, Nigeria (Figure 1 & 2). The plateau is an extension of Bamenda highlands (Cameroon) into the Nigerian territory. It is the highest plateau in Nigeria with an average elevation of about 1,500 m above sea level in the south-eastern corner of Taraba State and may reach 1,800 m above sea level in Chabbal Hendu peaking at Gangriwal (2,149 m above sea level) which is the highest mountain in Nigeria. It covers an area of 3,100 km² (Chapman, 2008) overlying basement complex rocks with some tertiary basalts derived from trachytic lavas occurring in some places e.g. Nguroje (Wikipedia, 2013). It has a rough and rugged terrain with rolling hills interspersed with streams and river valleys and deep gorges. Hill tops are covered by grasses and rocky outcrops. The high grassland is grazed by cattle while the stream valleys are covered with sub-montane forests which provide habitats for a variety of wildlife. The climate is temperate-like with a temperature that never reaches 25°C. There are two distinct seasons. The rainy season runs from March to November (Ihuma *et al.*, 2011) with a mean annual rainfall exceeding 1,850 mm per annum while dry season runs from December to February.

Sample Collection

Plant specimens were randomly collected from Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve (NNFR), and forests around Inkiri-Anterre, Yerimaru, Yelwa and Zongo Ajiya. The plants were tagged, pressed and labelled. Initial identification of the plant samples was done using Flora of West Tropical Africa (Hutchinson and Dalziel, 1954, 1958) and Nigerian Trees (Keay *et al.*, 1960, 1964). The scientific names of the identified plants were recorded. All the plants collected were taken to users who are familiar with the local flora (a team of villagers comprising the chief, his deputies, traditional herbalists, farmers, hunters and an interpreter) owing to the fact that they utilize the plants for various cultural purposes. Focused discussion sessions were held to record the Fulfulde names of the plants collected. Fulfulde names of the plants were recorded and a list of Fulfulde names of both identified and unidentified specimens was compiled. The specimens were then taken to the herbarium at Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, Ibadan for further authentication and voucher specimens were deposited. A comprehensive list of both scientific and Fulfulde names of the plant specimens was then prepared.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 183 plant species distributed in 59 families were encountered during the sampling period (Table 1). Two of these, *Cyathea dregei* Kunze and *Pteridium aquilinum* (L.) Kuhn, are pteridophytes while others are spermatophytes. Of all the angiosperm species, the family Fabaceae was the most abundant constituting 21.86% of the samples while the family Moraceae and Combretaceae comprised 5.46% and 4.92% of the total species, respectively. Table 2 shows the distribution of species by family.

Naming of plants in Fulfulde language reflects an aspect of folk taxonomy (Olorode, 1984) in which characteristics other than floral and morphological characteristics are used in naming plants. For instance, *Cola* Schott & Endl. species are generally referred to as 'goro' but *Garcinia kola* Heckel is specifically called 'namijin goro' (i.e. male cola). Another example is seen in the genus *Dioscorea* L. in which all the different species represented in the study sites are known by the same name ('mbulunji') in Fulfulde language.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Alhaji Sani Mohammed (Galadima Nguroje) for facilitating the study by introducing us to the village heads of Inkiri-Anterre, Zongo Ajiya, Yelwa and Yerimaru and for his hospitality all the time we visited him. We

appreciate Buba Yerimaru who served as transportation officer with his motorcycle and as an interpreter. We are also grateful to all the communities visited. This study was supported by University of Lagos Central Research Grant No: M2010/07.

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LEGENDS TO TABLES

Table 1: List of plant species encountered at Inkiri-Anterre, Yerimaru, Yelwa and Zongo Ajiya with their families and local names.

Table 2: Species distribution in Inkiri-Anterre, Yerimaru, Yelwa and Zongo Ajiya by family.

Table 1: List of plant species encountered at Inkiri-Anterre, Yerimaru, Yelwa and Zongo Ajiya with their families and local names.

S/N	Scientific Name	Fulfulde Name	Family	Habit
1.	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> (L.) Moench	baskoje	Malvaceae	Shrub
2.	<i>Acacia albia</i> Delile	kya ski	Fabaceae	Tree
3.	<i>Acacia macrostachya</i> DC.	chidi	Fabaceae	Tree
4.	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Delile	gandi	Fabaceae	Tree
5.	<i>Acacia polyantha</i> A.Spreng.	fatarahi	Fabaceae	Tree
6.	<i>Acacia raddiana</i> Savi	chilluki	Fabaceae	Tree
7.	<i>Acacia senegal</i> (L.) Willd.	dibehi	Fabaceae	Tree
8.	<i>Acacia seyal</i> Delile	bulki	Fabaceae	Tree
9.	<i>Acacia stieberiana</i> DC.	gie dancji	Fabaceae	Tree
10.	<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i> DC.	yakamji	Asteraceae	Herb
11.	<i>Acanthus montanus</i> (Nees) T. Anderson	<i>giengeloo</i>	Acanthaceae	Shrub
12.	<i>Adansonia digitata</i> L.	kpoki/ bokko/ kuuka	Bombacaceae	Tree
13.	<i>Adina microcephala</i> (Delile) Hiem	karehi leinde	Rubiaceae	Tree
14.	<i>Aframomum angustifolium</i> (Sonn.) K. Schum.	jabbashuka/ cattan leinde	Zingiberaceae	Herb
15.	<i>Azela africana</i> Sm.	garweni/ gayo hi	Fabaceae	Tree
16.	<i>Albizia chevalieri</i> Hamms	jare	Amaryllidaceae	Herb
17.	<i>Allium cepa</i> L.	terre	Amaryllidaceae	Herb
18.	<i>Allium sativa</i> L.	angalaje	Amaryllidaceae	Herb
19.	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	hakon diyam/ gamgan	Amaranthaceae	Tree
20.	<i>Amblygonocarpus andongensis</i> (Oliv.) Exell & Torre	jigarchi	Fabaceae	Tree
21.	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i> L.	kashu	Anacardiaceae	Tree
22.	<i>Ananas comosus</i> (L.) Merr.	anana	Bromeliaceae	Herb
23.	<i>Andira inermis</i> (Wright) DC.	daluh	Fabaceae	Tree
24.	<i>Annona senegalensis</i> Pers.	dukujje leinde	Annonaceae	Tree
25.	<i>Anogeissus leiocarpus</i> (DC.) Guill. & Perr.	kojoli	Combretaceae	Tree
26.	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L.	bitiji	Fabaceae	Herb
27.	<i>Aspilia africana</i> (Pers.) C.D. Adams	nyaki	Asteraceae	Tree
28.	<i>Aubrevillea kersingii</i> (Harms) Pellegr.	buskhi	Fabaceae	Tree
29.	<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i> (L.) Delile	tani	Balanitaceae	Tree
30.	<i>Bauhinia rufescens</i> Lam.	nammarehi	Fabaceae	Shrub
31.	<i>Beilschmiedia mani</i>	konkoli	Lauraceae	Tree

<i>igbia sapida</i> Koenig.	feso	Sapindaceae	Shrub
<i>imbax costatum</i> Pellegr. & Vuill.	kunthi / djohi	Bombacaceae	Tree
<i>rasia aethiopum</i> Mart.	dubbi	Araceae	Tree
<i>scia angustifolia</i> A.Rich.	anzagi	Capparidaceae	Tree
<i>swellia daltzellii</i> Huch.	janathi / jugui	Burseraceae	Tree
<i>assica oleaceae</i> L.	angalaje	Brassicaceae	Shrub
<i>idelia ferruginea</i> Benth.	marehi	Euphorbiaceae	Tree
<i>rkeia africana</i> Hook	kokkobi	Fabaceae	Herb
<i>ilatroxis procera</i> (Aiton) Dryand.	tumafai/ babambi	Asclepiadaceae	Shrub
<i>ipsicum</i> spp	cihare	Solanaceae	Shrub
<i>urica papaya</i> L.	dukkupe	Caricaceae	Tree
<i>urpobbia lutea</i> G.Don.	lega	Polygalaceae	Shrub
<i>ussia areteli</i> Delile	ljabi maybe	Fabaceae	Tree
<i>ussia sieberiana</i> DC.	malgahi	Fabaceae	Shrub
<i>nma areteli</i> h	rumfahi	Fabaceae	Tree
<i>nma sieberiana</i>	bantohi	Bombacaceae	Tree
<i>nma singuene</i>	ganki	Ulmaceae	Tree
<i>trullus lanatus</i> (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai	denaaje	Cucurbitaceae	Tree
<i>trus</i> spp	lenuhi	Rutaceae	Tree
<i>eome rufosperma</i> DC.	kinasi	Capparidaceae	Herb
<i>ncos nucifera</i> L.	dubbiwuro	Araceae	Shrub
<i>yffea arabica</i> L.	kafe	Rubiaceae	Tree
<i>via acuminata</i> (P.Beauv.) Schott & Endl.	goro	Sterculiaceae	Tree
<i>via nitida</i> (Vent.) Schott & Endl.	goro	Sterculiaceae	Shrub/Tree
<i>hiocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schott	gojare	Araceae	Tree
<i>umbretum glutinosum</i> Perr. ex DC.	buski	Combrétaceae	Tree
<i>umbretum molle</i> R. Br. ex G. Don	damonhi	Combrétaceae	Shrub
<i>umniphora africana</i> (A.Rich.) Endl.	baddadi	Burseraceae	Tree
<i>umniphora kersingii</i> Engl.	kabiwal/ kabije	Burseraceae	Tree
<i>ordia africana</i> Lam.	litibahi	Boraginaceae	Tree

<i>icus platyphylla</i> Delile	dundehi	Moraceae	Tree
<i>icus polia</i> Vahl	dur mbi	Moraceae	Tree
<i>icus sur</i> Forssk.	rina bichechi	Moraceae	Tree
<i>icus sycomorvus</i> L.	yibe	Moraceae	Tree
<i>icus thomlingii</i> Blume	biskethi/ltiahi	Moraceae	Tree
<i>laccourtia flavescens</i> Willd.	sofare	Flacourtiaceae	Tree
<i>larcinia kola</i> Heckel	mijigoro	Clusiaceae	Tree
<i>lardenia erubescens</i> Stapf & Hutch.	dumgali dubbi	Rubiaceae	Tree
<i>lardenia temjola</i> Schumacher & Thonn.	dumgali gorki	Rubiaceae	Tree
<i>lycine max</i> (L.) Merr.	nyebel nehi	Poaceae	Tree
<i>rewia mollis</i> Juss.	poor'i shigui	Tiliaceae	Herb
<i>leria senegalensis</i>	ge'loki	Combretaceae	Tree
<i>laematosiphis barteri</i> Hook. f.	tursuhi	Anacardiaceae	Tree
<i>lexadibus monopetalus</i> (A.Rich.) Engl. & Diels	kelli	Annonaceae	Shrub
<i>olatanhia floribunda</i> (G. Don) T. Durand & Schinz	niwahi	Apocynaceae	Tree
<i>ymenocardia acida</i> Tul.	yawa so'uje	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub
<i>ymenocardia heudelotii</i> Panch. ex Mull. Arg.	sama'ahi	Euphorbiaceae	Tree
<i>ypenium revolutum</i>	pottoyi	Hyperticaceae	Tree
<i>yperitia cylindrica</i> (L.) Raeusch.	soh	Poaceae	Herb
<i>ymoea batatas</i> (L.) Lam.	Pembese/denkei nassara	Convolvulaceae	Shrub
<i>haya grandijobolia</i> C. DC.	ib'al	Meliaceae	Tree
<i>haya senegalensis</i> (Desr.) A. Juss.	dalehi	Meliaceae	Tree
<i>igelia africana</i> (Lam.) Benth.	jir'ahi	Bignoniaceae	Tree
<i>ansea barteri</i> (Oliv.) Engl.	faruhi/ murtata	Anacardiaceae	Tree
<i>ansea schimperii</i> Hochst. ex A. Rich.) Engl.	isorohi	Anacardiaceae	Tree
<i>onchocarpus lasiflorus</i> Guill. & Perr.	fo'lahi	Fabaceae	Tree
<i>ophira lanceolata</i> Tiegh. ex Kcay	sakato'hi	Ochnaceae	Tree
<i>ycopersicum</i> spp	tumatu/kw'itaje	Solanaceae	Tree
<i>laeria angolensis</i> DC.	laggal' bali	Capnariaceae	Tree
<i>langjiera indica</i> L.	mangworo	Anacardiaceae	Tree
<i>lanibol esculemia</i> Crantz	banyo	Euphorbiaceae	Tree
<i>layenus senegalensis</i> (Lam.) Exell	tultuhi	Celastraceae	Tree
<i>zadrachia indica</i> A. Juss.	kur'ahi	Meliaceae	Tree

<i>ictia excelsa</i> (Melw.) C.C. Berg	dalehi	Moraceae	Tree
<i>ragyna inermis</i> (Willd.) Kunze	kurofi	Rubiaceae	Tree
<i>relia sene galensis</i> A. Rich. ex DC.	banohi	Rubiaceae	Tree
<i>sa paradisica</i> L.	kondong	Musaceae	Tree
<i>sa sapientum</i> L.	kondong	Musaceae	Tree
<i>wpoulidia laevis</i> (P. Beauv.) Seem. ex Bureau	adurku	Bigoniaceae	Shrub
<i>nphaea lotus</i> L.	bado	Nymphaeaceae	Tree
<i>x subscorpioides</i> Oliv.	lugorhi	Oleaceae	Aquatic
<i>idamus candelabrum</i> P. Beauv.	butolingong	Pandaneaceae	Tree
<i>ieum maximum</i> Jacq.	tulore	Poaceae	Herb
<i>inari curatellifolia</i> Planch. ex Benth.	naude / nawarre bati	Rosaceae	Tree
<i>inari microphylla</i>	nawarre	Chrysobalanaceae	Tree
<i>inari polyantha</i> Benth.	chibo li	Chrysobalanaceae	Tree
<i>kia biglobosa</i> (Jacq.) R. Br. ex G. Don	narehi	Chrysobalanaceae	Tree
<i>kinsonia aculeata</i> L.	sharan labbi	Fabaceae	Tree
<i>icopsis laxiflora</i> (Benth.) Meuwien	palahi	Fabaceae	Tree
<i>sea americana</i> Mill.	pia	Lauraceae	Tree
<i>venix aethiopianum</i>	dubbi	Arecaceae	Tree
<i>venix reclinata</i> Jacq.	darte / bali	Aniliaceae	Tree
<i>thinia reticulata</i> DC.	barkchi	Arecaceae	Tree
<i>ostigma thonningii</i> (Schumacher.) Milne-Redh.	barkchi	Fabaceae	Shrub
<i>sopsis africana</i> (Guill. & Perr.) Taub.	kohi	Fabaceae	Tree
<i>udocedrela kotschy</i> (Schweinf.) Harms	bodei / bodi	Melastomaceae	Tree
<i>tiun gwajava</i> L.	guajabe	Myrtaceae	Tree
<i>rdium aquilinum</i> (L.) Kuhn	gubbe	Dennstaedtiaceae	Tree
<i>rocarpus erinaceus</i> Poir.	banuhi	Fabaceae	Fern/Herb
<i>thia manbilenensis</i> Ouedoh	gongola / gwangwala	Arecaceae	Tree
<i>thia sudanica</i> A. Chev.	gongola / gwangwala	Arecaceae	Tree
<i>cocophylus laefolius</i> (Sm.) Bruce	bakurehi	Rubiaceae	Tree
<i>rocarya birrea</i> (A. Rich.) Hochst.	heri	Anacardiaceae	Tree
<i>uridaca longpedunculata</i> Fresen.	alali	Polycarpaceae	Tree

156.	<i>Senna occidentalis</i> (L.) Link	tab-sahi	Fabaceae	Tree
157.	<i>Sida</i> spp.	saldori	Malvaceae	Herb
158.	<i>Siphonocilius aethiopicus</i> (Schweinf.) B.L.Burt	barechi	Zingiberaceae	Herb
159.	<i>Solanum aculeastrum</i> Dunal.	gle nai	Solanaceae	Shrub
160.	<i>Sterculia setigera</i> Dc.	bobboi	Sterculiaceae	Tree
161.	<i>Stereospermum kaulianum</i> Giam	go lombi / gliochi	Bigoniaceae	Tree
162.	<i>Strychnos hoxia</i> Delile	djaitopolohi	Loganiaceae	Tree
163.	<i>Strychnos spinosa</i> Lam.	kumbya	Loganiaceae	Tree
164.	<i>Symplocia globulifera</i> L.f.	nina jooga	Clusiaceae	Tree
165.	<i>Syzygium guineense</i> (Willd.) DC	asurahi / sunsum	Myrtaceae	Tree
166.	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.	jiarani / djabe	Fabaceae	Tree
167.	<i>Tephrosia vogelii</i> Hook.f.	yum	Fabaceae	Shrub
168.	<i>Terminalia avicennioides</i> Gaill. & Perr.	boodehi	Combretaceae	Tree
169.	<i>Terminalia glaucescens</i> Panch. ex Benth.	kalahi	Combretaceae	Tree
170.	<i>Terminalia laxiflora</i> Engl. & Diels	kalahi	Combretaceae	Tree
171.	<i>Terminalia macroptera</i> Gaill. & Perr.	kalahi	Combretaceae	Tree
172.	<i>Terminalia schimperiana</i> Hochst.	boodehi	Combretaceae	Tree
173.	<i>Thea sinensis</i> L.	hakoi	Theaceae	Shrub
174.	<i>Uapaca togoensis</i> Pax.	mambelko / bakurehi	Euphorbiaceae	Tree
175.	<i>Vernonia amygdalina</i> Delile	siwaka	Asteraceae	Shrub
176.	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> (L.) Walp.	nyebei	Fabaceae	Shrub
177.	<i>Vitellaria paradoxa</i> C. F. Gaertn	kareji	Sapotaceae	Tree
178.	<i>Vitex doniana</i> Sweet	gilibini	Verbenaceae	Tree
179.	<i>Vitex madagascariensis</i> subsp. <i>madagascariensis</i> .	bummei	Verbenaceae	Tree
180.	<i>Xylopiya aethiopica</i> (Dunal) A. Rich.	kimbare	Annonaceae	Tree
181.	<i>Zanthoxylum zanthoxyloides</i> Zeyher. & Tindler	faskorhi	Rutaceae	Tree
182.	<i>Zea mays</i> L.	buake	Poaceae	Herb
183.	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe	citta	Zingiberaceae	Herb

Table 2: Species distribution in Inkiri-Anterre, Yerimaru, Yelwa and Zongo Ajiya by family

S/No	FAMILY	NUMBER OF SPECIES ENCOUNTERED
1	Acanthaceae	1
2	Amaranthaceae	1
3	Amaryllidaceae	4
4	Anacardiaceae	6
5	Annonaceae	3
6	Apocynaceae	1
7	Araceae	1
8	Araliaceae	2
9	Arecaceae	7
10	Asclepidiaceae	1
11	Asteraceae	3
12	Balanitaceae	1
13	Bignoniaceae	3
14	Bombacaceae	3
15	Boraginaceae	1
16	Brassicaceae	1
17	Bromeliaceae	1
18	Burseraceae	3
19	Capparidaceae	3
20	Caricaceae	1
21	Celastraceae	1
22	Chrysobalanaceae	2
23	Combretaceae	9
24	Convolvulaceae	1
25	Cucurbitaceae	2
26	Cyathaceae	1
27	Cyperaceae	2
28	Dennstaedtiaceae	1
29	Dioscoreaceae	1
30	Ebenaceae	1
31	Euphorbiaceae	7
32	Fabaceae	40
33	Flacourtiaceae	1
34	Hypericaceae	1
35	Lauraceae	2
36	Loganiaceae	2
37	Malvaceae	2
38	Meliaceae	5
39	Moraceae	0

40	Musaceae	3
41	Myrtaceae	2
42	Nymphaeaceae	1
43	Ochnaceae	1
44	Olacaceae	1
45	Pandanaceae	1
46	Poaceae	4
47	Polygalaceae	2
48	Rosaceae	3
49	Chrysobalanaceae	8
50	Rutaceae	2
51	Sapindaceae	1
52	Sapotaceae	1
53	Solanaceae	3
54	Sterculiaceae	4
55	Theaceae	1
56	Tiliaceae	1
57	Ulmaceae	1
58	Verbenaceae	2
59	Zingiberaceae	3

LEGENDS TO FIGURES

Figure 1: Map of Nigeria showing the relative position of Taraba state.

Figure 2: Map of Mambilla Plateau showing the study sites.



Figure 1: Map of Nigeria showing the relative position of Taraba state.

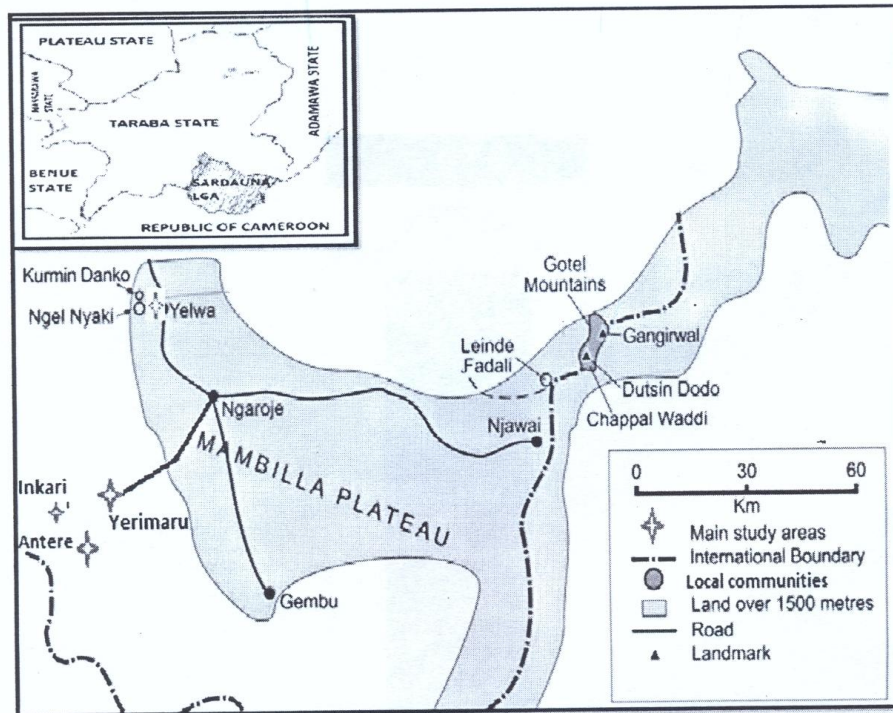


Figure 2: Map of Mambilla Plateau showing the study sites.