

## APPENDIX THREE

### OVAMBO FOLK-BOTANICAL TERMINOLOGY

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS

#### ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

elundu	savannah, conspicuous grassland on rising ground
engade	thicket, dense growth
enyana	open space, free of bushes
ofuka	bushveld, scrub, wilderness, woodland
oihapo	green tree covering of landscape
oimeno	green plants, vegetation, flora
okamufitu	grove, group of trees
oxluxwa	mopane thicket
omano	thorn bush thicket
omufitu	sandveld, dense bush
omuti (pl. omiti)	general term for tree (also medicine, beanpole, plank and spar)
omuulu	thick bush, thicket, scrub country
omwiidi	grass, grazing area
oshimbodi (pl. oimbodi)	general term for plants, herbs, weeds healers herbs; the name also denotes fallen leaves, twigs and rubbish
oshimeno	general term for green plant (sing. of omimeno)
oshuundungila	group, cluster, clump of trees
ouhanyo	brushwood, undergrowth

#### UMBRELLA TERMS FOR PLANT TYPES

endobo	general term for aloes
enghono, omunghono	general term for all thorn bushes
oiimati	general term for fruit collectively
oiwanga	healing herbs
omatondo	pollen bearing or male flowers; testicles
omaxuxu	collective name for soft kernels in fruit stones
omboo	general name for balsam/balm bushes (e.g. Commiphora sp.)
omushe	common name for Grewias
omti hadi yaumuka	deciduous trees
omti omindume	male or pollen bearing trees
ongongo	general name for citrus fruit
onhanga	general name for any plants bearing melon-like fruits
oshimbodi shiyahameka	noxious weed
oshipeke	common name for several Ximenia sp.

#### PLANT PARTS AND PROPERTIES

#### STEMS

eenhumba	grain texture of wood
efidi	tree stump, log
efina	trunk
efinde	grass tussock, stubble

efita	pile of grass
eidi	grass
ekiya	thorn
ekololo	hole (e.g. in old tree trunk)
emhana	stump, knobbly outgrowth, tree knot
edangalati	log
epango	stake, pointed stick
epeta	bark (also rind, peel)
epokolo	palm stick
eti	block of wood, log
etindi	knob, nodule, bulb
oihati	dry corn stalks used as thatch
okamulondo, oluputa	stem
okati	twig
okaxwandu	splinter, woodchip
oluhati	thin stick, suitable for arrows
olumbungu	reed or rush
olupwelele	stalk
olute	heartwood of tree
omafinde	stubble
omaka	resin, rosin, gum
omashini	latex, milky sap
omeva omuti	sap (also medicine, water)
omhalo	powder prepared from tree-bark
omufuva	string or strand of green mopane bark
omiti	timber, wood
omiti doshimuke	green timber
ondulu	sapwood
onghanyame	resin, rosin
osifidi	tree stump
oshide	teak extract
oshihako	identifying mark i.e. blaze on a tree
oshihati	millet corn stalk
oshikulukutumba	swelling, excrescence, hypertrophy
oshikuni	stick of firewood
oshinghunduduba	nodule on branch, outgrowth
oshipapula	strand of green cortex or bark
oshitai	branch, bough, limb
ositi	stick

#### **ROOTS/UNDERGROUND PARTS**

edo	edible water lily bulb
eeshendje	roots of omushande tree
engumululu	beetroot
enowa	large bulbous watery tuber containing soporific juice (Fockea spp.)
enyanga	wild onion
etindi	bulb
exulupya	edible bulb of species of water plant
naluhoni	edible bulb (of Brachystelma group)
oheva	species of small edible bulbous root
ombutu	general name for edible bulbs; it precedes specific name, e.g. ombutu yanamukotao

omudi	(Ceropegia pygmaea)
onhapa	general term for root
ongeshwa	species of edible tuber growing in a wet place species of edible tuber

### LEAVES

eembale	palm leaves
efo	general term for leaf (pl. omafo)
oluvale	leaf fan of omulunga fan palm
omafo	leaves, foliage (sing. efo)
omalopa	edible leaves of melon plant
ombalavande	leaves or foliage of omulunga fan palm
ombidi	leaves of cynandropsis gynandra
omwooyo	midrib of leaf

### FRUIT AND FLOWERS

eembe (pl.)	fruits of the omuve tree
eembudufukwa (pl.)	groundnuts, peanuts
eenhanga	melon pips
efaiyena	prickly pear, opuntia tree
ehakashale	large seed pod of omwoonde, camel thorn tree (Acacia giraffe)
ehaluveya	seed pod of omutyuula, thorn bush (Acacia siberiana)
ekoti	fruit of omufyati (Colophospermum mopane)
ekunde	bean (Vigna spp)
elindi	long calabash fruit
enyangwa	pumpkin
enyoto	tomato
epapaya	pawpaw
epeta	rind, peel, bark
epwaka (sing.)	fruit of Bushman's Orange, omupwaka tree
eshila	long bunch or cluster of fruit (e.g. eshila leenyeki - bunch of bananas)
etanga	pumpkin or melon; ball
etondo	stamen; testicle
eu	grain (valueless as food)
euni	fruit of wild orange, omuni tree
exuku	fruit stone, nut, kernel
litasha	self-sowing attribute of seeds when seed pods burst open
oifimba	fruit from omufimba tree (Dialium englerianum)
ofukwa	peanut; also ofukwa yetondo - testicle
okanakamuma	scented berries of lemon thorn bush, omuhandwa
olumya	species of white bean
omahangu	millet seeds (Pennisetum spicatum)
omakokofi	fruits of sandapple bush (Parinari capensis)
omandjebele	raisins, grapes, Grewia sp. berries
omasha	ears of Sorghum grain
omatondo	pollen bearing, male flowers; testicles

omaxuxu (1)	collective noun for soft kernels in fruit stones
omaxuxu (2)	hard stones in eendunga fruits, omulunga palm ( <i>Hyphaene ventricosa</i> )
ombe	edible stone fruit of omuve tree ( <i>Berchemia discolor</i> )
ombu	fruit of wild medlar tree, omumbu/oshimbu ( <i>Vangueria infanta</i> )
ombutu	seed, especially seed corn
omeva	watery pulp, juice
omheke (sing.)	fruits of oshipeke, sour plum bush ( <i>Ximenia</i> sp.)
omhiku yepungu	mealie cob
omukeshe	dried melon slices
omuma	single grain of anything; also single bead
omumakani	wild pomegranate ( <i>Rhigozum brevispinosum</i> )
ondunga	palm apple of fan palm, omulungu ( <i>Hyphaene ventricosa</i> )
ondungu	cayenne pepper, capsicum
onghenanghena	fruit of omukenakena bush
onghudi (sing.)	berries of omunghudi tree
ongwiiyu (sing.)	fig of Sycamore fig tree, omukwiyu (pl. eenghwiyu)
ongongo (sing.)	nut fruits of marula tree, omwoongo
ohema	flower, blossom, bloom
oshe	fruit of omushe, raisin bush ( <i>Grewia flavescens</i> )
oshihenda	melon slice
oshii (sing.)	fruit of omushii tree ( <i>Guibourtia coleosperma</i> )
oshiimati	general term for a fruit
ooshimiino	peduncle, stalk from which fruit hangs
oshikoneno	any small cavity, e.g. on fruit where peduncle joins it
oshipeta	shell, husk, rind, scale
oshitita	edible gourd, calabash
oshoongota	shell of marula nut
oshunga	pollen of corn (pl. oishunga)
oxupa	fruit of calabash gourd ( <i>Lagenaria</i> sp.)

## PLANT MORPHOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT

enghulya	partly ripe fruit
engongwa	unripe fruit
eshinga	first shoot or cotyledon of palm
exwati	old dry grass
feta	to ripen prematurely after a long dry spell; or to not ripen completely but wither due to lack of rain
hapa	to bud, spring, shoot, sprout
nganga	to wilt, droop, fade
nghondaika	from enghondi, to be crooked, bent (of trees)
odive	any one of the green knobs which appear on the fig tree, and which contains flowers
ohengo	newly sprouted grain plant
okamuti	sapling
okatutumine	bud

omanghulya	collective noun for unripe fruit (pl.)
omanyote	overripe fruit of the omwandi tree
omasha a koleka	full ears of Sorghum
ombeo	new leaf buds on trees; also locust's wings
ombolo	decaying, rotting wood
omhile	burnt grass plain, charred stubble area
omhunde	dried fruit of the omwandi tree
omti wa yaumuka	leafless tree
omuno	germinating bud (especially seed corn); embryo
omupele	premature ripening and withering of fruit during a drought, especially palm fruits
omwiidi mutalala	fresh green grass
onhwika (sing.)	seedling, transplant (pl. eenhwika)
onyapi	new leaf bud or pruned tree
oshidmakuni	burnt tree stump after felling by fire
oshipele	shrivelling of fruit or corn by drought before fully ripe (pl. oipele - shrivelled fruit)
oshitutumino	breaking out of new shoots, as on a tree stump
oxuluxulu	first fresh green grass growth of early summer; also the name for this season and for early rains
pemba	leaves turning yellow in autumn
tashuka	used of leguminous seeds - to burst out of pod
temuna	to blossom, come into bloom
tilyaana	of fruit - to be, become or grow ripe, red, ruddy, russet
topa	of seed pods - to pop open, explode
tutuma	of hoed up plants - to sprout anew, flourish
yaumuka	to part with, let fall, drop - as in leaves from tree

**TREES AND PLANTS - SPECIFIC NAMES** (To supplement Powell-Cotton data)

edilanghono/okadilanghona	Acacia mellifera ssp. detinens (Hookthorn)
eembungu	species of reed
ekaya	Nicotiana sp. (tobacco)
ekifinanhanga	species of thornbush
ekundu	Aloe esculenta
eliwa	species of vegetable marrow
endobo	a species of aloe (also general term for them)
enghadu	Salvadora persica (curry bush)
enongo	python vine
odiya	species of medicinal herb
ofufe	Baptia massaiensis ssp. obovata (violet pea bush)
oilyavala	Sorghum sp.
olumono	Ricinis communis (castor oil plant)
omalutoni	species of strong grass
ombungu	species of reed/rush
omhilo	Gloriosa virescens (flame lily)
omudiku	Securidaca longipedunculata (violet tree)
omudime	Euclea divinorum (Guarri bush)
omufimba	Dialium engleranum
omufyati	Colophospermum mopane
omuhandwa	Fagara ovatifolialata (lemon thorn bush)
omuhanguti	Albizia anthelmintica

omuhonga	Grewia bicolor
	Grewia deserticola
	Grewia fava
	Grewia occidentalis
omuhongo	Spirostachys africana (tambootie tree)
omukadikuku	Combretum hereroense (russet bush-willow)
omukekete	Ziziphus mucronata (wait-a-bit-thorn)
omukenakena	species of bush
omukopakopa	Grewia avellana (raisin bush)
omukuku	Combretum imberbe (leadwood tree)
omukwa	Adonsonia digitata (baobab tree)
omukwiyu	Ficus sycomorus (sycamore fig tree)
omulavi	Gardenia spatulifolia
omuhenga	Hyphaene ventricosa (fan palm)
omumangandjaba	Acacia cotaxacantha (flame thorn)
omumbalandonga	elephant's root tree, eland's wattle
omumbanganyana	Elephantorrhiza suffruticosa
omumbanganyama	Mundulea sericea
omumbu/oshimbu	Vangueria infanta (wild medlar tree)
omunaluko/omulama	Combretum apiculatum or C. albopunctatum
omundele	Asclepias pubescens (wild cotton plant)
omundjebele	Grewia tenax (raisin bush)
omundjulu	Sesuvium sesviodes
omunghama	Terminalia prunoides
omunghete	Ricinodendron rautanenii (mangetti tree)
omungholo	Ficus petersii
omunghudi	Boscia albitrunca
omungwaava	Psidium ssp. (Guava tree)
omupalala	Peltophorum africanum
omupanda	Lonchocarpus nelsii
omupapa	Baikiaea plurijuga (teak tree)
omupetangobe	Hippocratea africana
omupopola	Mgerua schinzii
omupundu	Grewia deserticada
omupupwatieke	Combretum mechowianum
omupwaka	Strychnos pungens (Bushman's Orange Tree)
omushadi	Ehretia rigida
omushe	Grewia flavescens
omushendju	Combretum zeyheri
omushii	Guibourtia coleosperma
omushu	species of thorn tree
omutaku	Entandrophragma spicatum (mountain mahogany)
omutoka	Acacia tortilis heteracantha
omutungungu	Burkea africana
omutwanghuta	Bauhinia B. macrantha (coffee bush, orchid)
	Acacia sieberana
omutyuula	?
omuuhalo	Strychnos cocculoides (kwanyama orange tree)
omuuni	Pterocarpus angolensis (teak tree)
omuuva	Berchemia discolor (bird plum tree)
omuve	Ochna pulchra
omuwe	Acacia nilotica subrata
omuyele	Diospyros mespiliformis
omwandi	

omwoolo	<i>Terminalia sericea</i>
omwoonde	Acacia giraffe (camel thorn tree)
omwoongo	<i>Sclerocarya caffra</i> (marula tree)
ondjadjo	<i>Carex</i> sp. (sweet sedge)
ongete	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea africana</i>
onghatanga	<i>Combretum engleri</i>
ongwena	coutch grass
oshihamulende	fam. Leguminosae
oshikapa	sweet potato, yam
oshikukulu	<i>Ximenia americana</i> (hog plum bush)
oshimbyupeke	<i>Ximenia caffra</i> (var. natalensis)
oshimumu	<i>Diospyros lyciodes</i>
oshinanganamwali	<i>Kleinia longiflora</i>
oshinenepeke	<i>Ximenia caffra</i>
oshingodwe	<i>Maytenus senegalensis</i>
oshivale	<i>Hyphaene ventricosa</i>
oshosholo	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>

Source: Turvey (1977) Kwanyama-English Dictionary