

The following list of PB reconstructions has appeared in:

Thilo C. Schadeberg. 2003. Historical linguistics. In *The Bantu languages*, ed. by Derek Nurse and Gérard Philippson, pp. 143-163. London: Routledge.

The transcription of the reconstructions distinguishes seven vowels (*i u e a o u*) where *e o* represent phonetic [*ɛ ɔ*]; high tone is marked by an acute accent, low tone is unmarked; [*ɗ*] is an allophone of [*l*] after nasal and before the high vowels [*i u*]. The equal sign = indicates the left edge of the stem. For each reconstruction the known distribution is indicated in terms of Guthrie's zones, with the addition of the lacustrine zone J.

Where the present document differs from the published version, the present version may be assumed to be correct — the published version having been corrupted in the process of editing and printing.

TCS

Appendix: Lexical reconstructions

One of the largest ever lexicostatistic projects (Bastin, Coupez, and Mann 1999) may not have yielded the definitive genetic subclassification of Bantu, but it did assemble comparative wordlists of 92 items from ca. 550 Bantu languages. The list below contains reconstructions for these words as they are found in BLR2.

[lower case zones = unexplained phonological or morphological deviations]

GLOSS	PB	GRAM	DISTRIBUTION
all	*=nce	(PPx-o-)	ABCDEFGHIJKLMnpRS
arm	*kɔ=bóko	N 15/6	ABCDEFGHIJKLMN-RS
ashes	*mu=tó (=tóí ?)	N 3 (14)	ABcD---H-KLMnpRS
<i>dust, soil, ashes</i>	*i=bú	N 5 (3, 6)	A-CDEFG-JKLM-PRS
bark (skin)	*i=gɔla	N 5	--c--F-HjKL-----
	*kɩ=kókó	N 7	--CD----j-LM
	*lɔ=pú	N 11	--CD----J-LM----
belly	*i=bumo	N 5	AB-----H-KLM--R-
	*i=tombo	N 5	----E-G-----NP-S
big	*=néne	Adj.	ABCDE-GHJKLM--R-
	*=néne-p-a	V	----E-GHJ----NP--
	*=nén-a	V	ABC-----
bird	*ka=jóni	N 12/13 (9/10)	ABcDeFGHJKLMNP-S

bite	*=lóm-a	V	ABC-EFG-J--MNPRS
black	*=jíḷa	V	ABCDEFGhJKLMNprs
	*=jíḷo	Adj.	ABCDEFGHJK--N---
	*pi	Ideo., Adj.	--C--FG-----S
	*i=piipí□	N 5	-B---F--JKLMnP-S
blood	*ma=gilá	N 6	ABCD---H-KL-----
< avoid	*=gil-a	V	A-C-EFGHJKLMN-RS
	*ma=gadí□	N 6	---deF-----MNP-S
< oil palm, palm oil	*=gadí□	N 9, 6	-BC----HJKLM--R-)
	*mo=lopa	N 3	---D--G--KLMN--S
	*ma=piḷnga	N 6	-b--EF-HJKL-----
bone	*i=kúpa	N 5/6	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPRS
breasts	*ma=béele	N 5/6	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPRS
burn, be hot	*=long-ol-a	V	--C-EFGHJKLMNPRS
	*=píḷa	V	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPRS
cloud	*i=londe	N 5/6	-----FG-----NPR-
cold	*mo=didi	N 3	-BC----H----N---
	*=didim-a	V	--C-EFGH---MN-RS
cool	*=pól-a	V	ABcDEFGHJKLMNPRS
come	*=jij-a	V	ABC-EFGHJKLMNPRS
die	*=kú-a	V	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPRS
dog	*mbúa	N 9/10	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPRS
drink	*=nyó-a	V	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPRS
dry	*=jóm-a	V	ABCDEFGHJKLMNP-S
	*=jóm-u	Adj.	-B---F---JKL-NP--
ear	*ko=tói	N 15/6	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPR-
eat	*=líḷa	V	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPRS
egg	*i=gí□	N 5/6	ABCDEFGhJKLMnPRS
eye	*i=jíḷo	N 5/6	ABCDEFGHJKLMNPRS
fat	*ma=kúta	N 6	ABCDEFGHJKLMNP-S
feather	*lo=cála	N 11 (5/6)	ABCD---HJKL---R-
fire	*mo=jóto	N 3/4	-BC-EFGHJKLMNPRS
< warm oneself	*=jót-a	V	ABCD-EFGHJKLMNPRS
(< burn; v.s.)	*to=píḷa	N 13	A-CDE---JKLMnprS
	*to=jíḷa	N 13	A-CD---H-KL-----
	*mo=llo	N 3/4	-----E---J-LMN-RS
fish	*ncú	N 9/10	ABCDE-GHjKLM--R-
flea	*ndá	N 9/10	ab-DEF--J--MN-rS
fly	*=gol-ok-a	V	A--DE-G-J-LMNP--

full	*=jǐǎl-a	V	ABCDEFghjklmnpRS
give	*=pá-a	V	ABCDEFghjklmnpRS
go	*=gu-a	V	ABCDEF-HJKLmnpRS
good	*=jǐǎ	Adj.	----EF-HJ-L-----
ground; (below)	*(pa-)ncí	N (16+) 9	ABCDEFghjklmnpRS
hair	*=cíǐ (LL?)	N (class?)	A-----J-LMN-RS
	*lo=cokí□	N 11/10	ABC-----HjKL----R-
	*lo=jocǐǐ(ǐ ~ e)	N 11/10	---DEFG-J-ǐM----
head	*mu=tóe	N 3/4	ABCDEFghjklmnpR-
hear	*=jǐǐu-a	V	--c--FGHjklmnpRS
heart (> liver)	*mu=tǐma	N 3/4	ABCDEFghjklmnpR-
horn	*lo=pémbé	N 9/10	--CDEFG-J--MN---
(object made from horn)	*mu=céngo	N 3/4	---D---HJKLmnp--
kill	*=ból(-ag)-a	V	ABCDEFgh-KL--PRS
	*=jǐǐ(-ag)-a	V	a-cDeF-h-KLmnpRS
knee	*i=dúǐ(ǐHL?)	N 5/6	A-CDEFG-JKǐM---S
	*i=bóngó	N 5/6	ABCDE--H--L-----
know	*=jǐǐ(b-a)	V	ABCDEFghjklmN-RS
	*=many-a	V	AbCDEFG-J-LMNP--
leaf	*i=jáni (tone?)	N 5/6	ABCDE-G-JKLMN--S
leg	*ko=guló	N 15/6	ABCDEFghjklmN-R-
lie, sleep	*=lá-al-a	V	ABCDEFghjklmNpRS
liver (see also 'heart')	*=balu	N (class ?)	ABC-----K-----
long, far, long ago	*=lai	Adj.	-BCDEFghjklmnpRS
	*=lai-p-a	V	A---EFGHjklm-pRS
man, husband (< 'bite', v.s.)	*mu=lóme	N 1/2; Adj.	ABCDE-GHJKLmnpRS
many	*=jǐǐǐǐ□	Adj.	aBcDEFGHJKLmnpRS
meat, animal	*pama	N 9/10	ABCDEFghjklmnpRS
moon (< 'white', v.i.)	*ko=jédi	N 15/6, 3/4	ABCDEFghjklmnpRS
mountain, hill < top, sky	*lo=guló	N 11/10	-B-D-F--J-L---R-
	*i=guló (~ LH)	N 5	ABC-EFGHJKLmnpRS
mouth	*ka=nua	N 12	aBCDE-gHJKLmnpRS
lip, mouth	*mu=lomo	N 3/4	--CDEFG-JKLMN--S
nail	*lo=jála	N 11/10	ABCDEFghjklmNpRS
name	*i=jǐna	N 5/6	ABCDEFghjklmnpRS
neck	*nkǐǐǐǐó	N 9/10	ABCDEFghjklmnpRS
nape	*nkoti	N 9/10	ABCDE-GHJKLmnpRS

new (< 'burn', v.s.)	*=pí[á] (HH?)	Adj.	---DEFG-JKLMN--S
night, 24 hour period	*bu=tí[á]b (í[á] ú)	N 14	AbCDEFGhJKLMNpRS
nose	*i=jó[á]	N 5/6	ABCDEF-HJKL---R-
one	*=moi	Num.	ABCDEFghJKLMnpRS
path	*nj[á]la (LH?)	N 9/10	ABCDEFghJKLMNPRS
person	*mu=ntu	N 1/2	ABCDEFghJKLMNPRS
rain	*mb[á]lá	N 9/10	ABCDEFghJKLMNPRS
red (substance)	*nk[á]la	N 9	ABCd---HJKLM----
<i>red soil</i>	*nk[á]ndó	N 9	a-C-E-G--K---pR-
	*=tu-l-a (tone?)	V	-BCD---H-KL---R-
root, fibre	*mu=di	N 3/4	ABCDEFghJKLMN-RS
round (be, make)	*=b[á]long-a	V	--C---GhJ-LMN-rS
<i>make round & smooth</i>	*=k[á]long-a	V	--C---G-J--MN-RS
sand	*mu=c[é]ké	N 3	AbCD---HJKLMN-RS
	*i=cenga (e ~ a)	N 3	aBCDeFghJKLMNprs
say, quote	*=tu	V	--C-E-GHJ--MNPRS
<i>do, say</i>	*=gu-l-a	V	ABCD----JK-M-P-S
<i>speak, answer</i>	*=gamb-a	V	ABCDEFghJKLMNP-S
see	*=b[á]n-á (b ~ m)	V	-BCDEFghJKLMNPRS
seed	*mb[á]t-o	N 10	-BCD---HJKLMN-R-
sit	*=jikal-a	V	ABCDEFghJKLMNPRS
skin, strap, cloth	*=kánda	N 3/4,...	ABc-EFGHJKLMNPrS
<i>skin, strap, bark</i>	*mu=k[á]bá	N 3/4,...	ABCDEFg-JKLMnpRs
<i>skin, cloth</i>	*ng[á]bo	N 9/10	A--dEFGH-kLMNP-S
sleep	*tu=ló	N 13	ABCDEFghJKLMNpRs
small	*=(k[é]e)k[é]e	Adj.	-BCD--GHJ-LM-P--
	*=k[é]e-p-a	V	---D-FG-JKLMN--S
smoke	*mu=jí[á]ki (í[á] ó)	N 3/4	ABCDEFghJKLMNPRS
stand	*=jí[á](-al)-a	V	AbCDeFG-JKLMNp-S
star	*ny[é]nye(dí[á])	N 9/10	-B--E-gHJ-LMN--S
stone	*i=bue	N 5/6	--CDEFg-JKLMNPRS
<i>stone, iron ore</i>	*i=tá[á]le	N 5/6	ABCD-F-HJKLMNPRS
sun	*i=j[á]ba	N 5	ABcDEFGhJKLMNPRS
swim, bathe	*=j[á]g-a	V	ABCDEFghJKLMNPR-
tail	*mu=k[á]lá	N 3/4	ABCDEFghJKLMNPRS
tongue	*lo=k[á]mi	N 11/10	ABcDEFGHJKLMNPRS
tooth	*i=jí[á]no	N 5/6	ABCDEFghJKLMNP-S
<i>molar</i>	*i=gego	N 5/6	ABC-EFG-jKL--PRS
tree	*mu=tí[á]	N 3/4	ABCDEFghJKLMNPRS

two	*=balí□(a ~ ɿ)	Num.	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPRS
walk	*=gend-a	V	ABC-EFGhJKLMNPrS
warm, hot (< 'burn', v.s.)	*=pí□	Adj.	----EFG-j-LMNPR-
water	*ma=jí□	N 6	AbCDEFGHJKLMNprS
<i>water, pool</i>	*i=diba (HH?)	N 5/6	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNPRS
what	*kt-í□	N 7	--CDEFGHJ-LMN---
<i>where, which</i>	*pa-í□	N 16	A-----JKL----RS
white, bright	*=jél-a	V	-BCD-FG-J-L-N-RS
	*=jél-ɔ	Adj.	--CDEFGHJ--M----
	*pe (tone?)	Ideo.	--C---GH--LM--R-
who	*n(d)ai (tone?)	Inv.	--C---G-J-----
woman, wife	*mo=kadí□	N 1/2	ABCDefgHJKLMNprS