

Gilbertese and Ellice Islander Names for Fishes and Other Organisms

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Abstract.—A compilation of 254 Gilbertese and 153 Ellice Islander fish names is given which includes names for species from sixty families of fishes. The Gilbertese names (25) and Ellice Islander names (17) are also given for anatomical parts of fishes. Gilbertese names for lizards (3), marine invertebrates (95) and algae (2) are listed. The names were compiled from the literature and from interviews with Gilbertese and Ellice Islander fisherman living on Fanning Island in the Line Islands.

Introduction

Names used by Pacific Islanders for fishes are well known only for Hawaiians (Titcomb, 1953), Tahitians (Randall, 1973) and Palauans (Helfman and Randall, 1973). Banner and Randall (1952) and Randall (1955) have reported some Gilbertese names for invertebrates and fishes, but these were relatively few. A listing of Gilbertese names for plants and animals was compiled from the literature by Goo and Banner (1963), but unfortunately this work was never published. To my knowledge, no lists of Ellice Islander names have yet been published.

I have compiled the common names used by the people of Fanning Atoll, Line Islands. The people are of Gilbertese and Ellice Islander descent having been brought to the Atoll within the last 50 years to work for the copra plantation. In addition, I have included previously published names to make this listing as complete as possible. I add about 200 new Gilbertese and 150 Ellice Islander names. I have not included names for terrestrial plants (see Moul 1957 for these). General dictionaries on the Gilbertese language have not included well identified names for plants or animals, but are otherwise valuable (Anonymous, 1898; Bingham, 1908).

This listing of names is divided into five sections:

- 1) Anatomical parts of fish
- 2) Names for fishes
- 3) Names for invertebrates
- 4) Names for algae
- 5) Names for lizards

I obtained the names from fishermen who viewed fresh specimens or illustrations from various books. In some cases I obtained a name for a fish pictured in a book but

which I had not seen at Fanning. In such cases I have reported the scientific name of the fish as pictured. Otherwise, I have kept to the names of fishes at Fanning. My list, however, should not be used as a checklist for animals of this area. For checklists of fishes at Fanning, see Chave and Eckert (1974) and Gosline (1970). I conducted this project during the summer of 1976.

Following each native name is an initial in parentheses which gives the language and source for that name. The initials refer as follows:

(G)—Gilbertese name at Fanning Atoll

(E)—Ellice Islander name at Fanning Atoll

(R)—Randall 1955, Gilbertese name

(B)—Banner and Randall 1952, Gilbertese name

(X)—Goo and Banner 1963 (includes names from other unpublished sources), Gilbertese name

(O)—Bingham 1908, Gilbertese name

I list by scientific name the native name known for that species. Often, there are specific native names for various sizes and names may vary between locations. Very rarely are the Gilbertese and Ellice Islander names the same. It must be stressed that although I may not present one name or the other for a species, it does not necessarily reflect whether it has a native name, but my having or having not learned it.

Fanning Atoll is located in the Line Islands (3°55'N, 159°23'W) and is composed of three islands enclosing a shallow lagoon. It is approximately 12 miles long and 6 miles wide. There are about 400 Gilbert and Ellice Islander inhabitants. The fauna and flora of the atoll are well known because of two expeditions conducted by the University of Hawaii. The results of these expeditions appear in the April 1971 and April 1974 issues of the journal of Pacific Science. The reader is referred to these articles for a general background and guide to other references on Fanning Atoll.

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION

The following guide to pronunciation of Gilbertese is adapted from Bingham (1908).

Words are pronounced as they are spelled. The great majority of Gilbertese syllables end in a vowel. Many syllables end in *m* or *n*; some in *ñ*. No syllables end in *b* or *k* or *r* or *t* or *w*.

A as in father.

Ā as in fast, branch, grasp, grass

Ā̄ as in father, but prolonged

E as in they

Ē as in met.

I as in machine

O as in no.

Ō as in no, but prolonged.

U as in tube, tune

M is pronounced as *m* in English.

N is pronounced as *n* is in English.

Ñ is pronounced as *ng* in sing.

It is exceedingly difficult for the untrained ear of a Gilbertese to distinguish between *b* and *p*; or between *k* and *g* hard; or between *r* soft, *d* and *l*; or for a foreigner to state certainly which letter in a given case best represents the sound as spoken by a Gilbertese.

B perhaps might be said to represent a sound intermediate between *b* and *p*, but more closely resembling *b*.

K has the English sound of *k*, though to an untrained foreign ear it often seems to sound like *g* hard.

R is always soft or smooth, never rolled. It probably has no exact representative sound in English. To a foreign ear it more closely resembles the smooth *r* when it is followed by *a* or *o*. When followed by *i* it more closely resembles *d*.

T seems to represent two sounds. When it is followed by *a* or *e* or *o* it has the common sound of *t* in English, as in "tan," "ten," "toe." When it is followed by *i* or *u* it resembles that of *t* in "nature," "virtue," "righteous," "Christian." Its correct utterance is difficult for a foreigner.

W represents a sound difficult to describe. It closely resembles the sound of *w* in English. In the latter case the lips are a little protruded, and the sound seemingly prolonged a little, while in Gilbertese the lips are slightly drawn back, and the enunciation is quick.

The sound of a vowel ending a word, especially that of *i* in the passive voice, often seems to a foreigner to be somewhat obscured.

It is a question whether pure diphthongs are uttered by the Gilbertese. The learner will be safe in pronouncing each vowel separately, if quickly.

In very many words, the accent is not very marked. As a rule, the final syllable is not accented. Many long words have two accents about equal in force, especially compound words.

ANATOMICAL PARTS OF A FISH

- dorsal fin—ingieta (G)
- te talal (E)
- caudal fin—bukina (G)
- te manga (E)
- anal fin—manibwebwe (G)
- te talala (E)
- pelvic fin—bwebwena (G)
- pectoral fin—baina (G)
- te babau (E)
- eye—matana (G)
- te mata (E)
- mouth—wina (G)
- te ngutu (E)
- scales—inawa (G)
- te unafi (E)
- guts—kanoanano (G)
- te ngakau (E)
- belly—biroto (G)

stomach—abein (G)
 —te tinae (E)
 eggs—te bia (G)
 —te fua (E)
 testes—ninika (G)
 heart—te buro (G)
 —te kalemu (E)
 liver—te ato (G)
 —te ate (E)
 gill cover (operculum)—marainno (G)
 gills—te o (G)
 —te filaumea (E)
 anus—kabekara (G)
 backbone—rinuka (G)
 —te ivitua (E)
 ribs—rinikoakoa (G)
 head—atu or te matanria (G)
 —te ulu (E)
 rear flanks—te bukiton (G)
 whole fish—te ika (G)
 teeth—te vi (G)
 a male fish—te tangata (E)
 a female fish—te fafine (E)

NAMES FOR FISHES

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1. CHARCHARHINIDAE (REQUIEM SHARKS)

At Fanning Atoll, the general Gilbertese name for all sharks except *C. amblyrhynchos* and *G. cuvieri* is "te bakoa." The general Ellice Islander name for shark is "te mango." The teeth of a shark are referred to as "tevi ni bakoa." The Gilbertese name for *C. amblyrhynchos* means "shark of the ocean" and for *N. acutidens* means "fighter."

Charcharhinus albimarginatus—te aumeang (south gilbertese, G)
—te nambauia (north gilbertese, G)

Charcharhinus amblyrhynchos—te bakoanimarawa (G)
—te alava (E)

Charcharhinus limbatus—te alava (E)

Charcharhinus melanopterus—te baiburebure (G)

Galeocerdo cuvieri—te tababa (G)
—te kili (E)
—te babatababa (= a large one, X)

Negaprion acutidens—te unun (G)
—te uniuni (E)

Triaenodon obesus—te alabafnua (E)

2. LAMNIDAE (MACKEREL SHARKS)

It is not known to occur at Fanning Atoll but it is well known and feared in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands where reputedly it attacks fishing canoes.

Isurus sp.—te rokea (G)
—te lokea (E)

3. ALOPIIDAE (THRESHER SHARKS)

Alopias vulpinus—te kimoa (G)

4. SPHYRNIDAE (HAMMERHEAD SHARKS)

Sphyrna lewini—te anoi (G, X)

5. ORECTOLOBIDAE (NURSE SHARKS)

Ginglymostoma sp.—te babu (G)
—te moemoeao (E)

6. MYLIOBATIDAE (EAGLE RAYS)

Aetobatis narinari—te atunaomata (G)
—te faimanu (E)

7. DASYATIDAE (STINGRAYS)

The general name for a ray in Gilbertese (G) is “te baimanu” and stingrays are “te mai.”

all stingrays—te baimanu-temai (G)
—te fai (E)
—te baiku (X)

black stingray—te atuaomata (X)

8. MOBULIDAE (MANTA RAYS)

The commonly used Gilbertese name for a manta is “teitei”

Manta sp.—te baimanu-teitei (G)
—te awnei (X)
—te faifalua (E)

9. MEGALOPIDAE (TARPONS)

Megalops sp.—te ata (G)

10. ALBULIDAE (BONEFISHES)

Albula vulpes—te ikari (G, X)
—te kiokio (E)

11. CHANIDAE (MILKFISHES)

Chanos chanos—te baneawa (G)
—te baneawa (to about 8”, G)
—te awatai (large, X)
—te bukimanai (O)
—te awa (E)

12. MORINGUIDAE (WORM EELS)

Moringua spp.—te ira (X)

13. MURAENIDAE (MORAY EELS)

Gymnothorax pictus is distinguished from other eels primarily because it has the unique habit of living in tidepools and attacking Grapsid crabs, occasionally pursuing the crabs out of the water.

- Gymnothorax pictus*—te rabonomai (G)
 —te pusi (E)
Gymnothorax petelli—te imone (R)
Gymnothorax monostigma—te bukimeri (X)
Echidna nebulosa—te puleva (E)
 all black morays—te kairoro (G)
 " " " —te kaiura (G)
 " " " —te pusiuli (E)

14. OPHICHTHIDAE (SNAKE EELS)

brown mottled spp.—te kabanganira (X)

15. SYNODONTIDAE (LIZARD FISHES)

Saurida spp.—te tanifa (E)

16. OPHIDIIDAE (BROTULAS)

Brotula sp.—te ntarema (G)

17. EXOCOETIDAE (FLYINGFISHES)

The Ellice Islander (E) name for a typical flying fish is 'te isafe.'

- Cypselurus simus*—te onauti (G)
Cypselurus suttoni—te baikinakina (X)
 —te baimarr (X)
Prognichthys albimaculatus—te bairoro (X)

18. HEMIRAMPHIDAE (HALFBEAKS)

all types—te ana (G)
 —te ise (E)
 some varieties—te kabubu (X)

19. BELONIDAE (NEEDLEFISHES)

Ablennes hians—te anaroro (X)
 all types—te make (G)
 te kasufu (E)

20. HOLOCENTRIDAE (SQUIRRELFISHES)

- Adioryx andamensis*—te ku (G)
 —te tamalr (E)
Adioryx caudimaculatus—te bureinawa (G)
 —te ta (E)
Adioryx diadema—te ku (G)
 —te talakisi (E)
Adioryx lacteogutattus—te ku (G)
 —te talakisi (E)

Adioryx microstomus—te ku (G)
—te talakisi (E)

Adioryx spinifer—te taa (G)
—te tamalu (E)

all other *Adioryx* spp.—te ku (G)

Flammeo laevis—te talakisi (E)

Flammeo opercularis—te talakisi (E)

Flammeo sammara—te ku (G)
—te talakisi (E)

Flammeo tiera—te bureinawa (X)

Myripristes amaenus—te mon (G)
—te ta (E)

Myripristes berndti—te mon (G)
—te ta (E)

Myripristes kuntee—te kungkung (G)
—te malaupuku (E)

all other *Myripristes* spp.—te mon (G)
—te malau (E)

21. AULOSTOMIDAE (TRUMPETFISH)

Aulostomus chinensis—te taotaoama (E) *see also *Fistularia*

22. FISTULARIIDAE (CORNETFISH)

Fistularia petimba—te tabaeko (G)
—te taotaoama (E) *see also *Aulostomus*

23. MUGILIDAE (MULLETS)

Mugil cephalus—te ava (G)
—te kanase (E)

Mugil engeli—te ava (G)
—te auamaran (X)

Mugil vaigiensis—te ava (G)
—te auataba (X)
—te kafafa (E)

all mullet—te ava (G)
large—te auakurere (X)
medium—te auaririki (X)
small—te baneriki (X)
—te fua (E)

24. SPHYRAENIDAE (BARRACUDAS)

Sphyraena barracuda—te nunua (G)
—te ono (E)

Sphyraena forsteri—te ikabauea (G)
—te taotao (E)

Sphyraena sp.—te banunua (X)

25. SCORPAENIDAE (SCORPIONFISHES)

Pterois sp.—te ikanimoimoi (X)
—te nofu (E)

Pterois radiata—te ikauea (R)
—te nofu (E)

Scoranopsis spp.—te nou (G)
—te nofu (E)

26. SERRANIDAE (GROUPERS AND SEA BASSES)

At Fanning Atoll, all large, black groupers are called “te kauoto.”

Cephalopholis argus—te nimanang (G)
—te loi (E)

Cephalopholis mineatus—te awa (X)
—te ikatuaia (X)

Cephalopholis urodelus—te nimako (G)
—te ikantaeka (X)
—te mataele (E)

Epinephalus fasciatus—te nimako (G)
—te ngatala (E)

Epinephalus hexagonatus—te kuau (G)
—te eve (E)

Epinephalus kohleri—te baru (X)

Epinephalus merra—te kuau (G)
—te ngataliki (E)

Epinephalus melanostigma—te fapuku (E)

Epinephalus microdon—te manoku (G)
—te ngatala (E)

Epinephalus socialis—te ngatala (E)

Epinephalus tauvina—te kuau (G)
—te eve (E)

Plectropomus lanceolatus—te bakati (X)
—palungatala (E)

Plectropomus leopardus—te tonu (E)

Variola louti—te bukitakeiau (G)
—te bana (X)

27. KUHLIIDAE (SURF PERCHES)

Kuhlia spp.—te tintin (G)
—te safole (E)

28. PRIACANTHIDAE (BIG EYES)

Priacanthus cruentatus—te ikauea (X)

Priacanthus spp.—te matapa (E)

29. KYPHOSIDAE (RUDDERFISHES)

Kyphosus spp.—te rinonikai (G)

—te nanue (E)

30. CIRRHITIDAE (HAWKFISHES)

Cirrhites pinnulatus—te patuki (E)

Paracirrhites hemistictus—te patukilautalo (E)

31. ECHENEIDAE (REMORAS)

The same native name applies to both *Remora* and *Echeneis* spp.

Echeneis sp.—te taritari (G)

—te talitaliuli (E)

32. CARANGIDAE (JACKS)

Carangoides ferdau—te kona (G)

—te pula (E)

Carangoides gilberti—te kona (G)

Caranx elacate—te aseu (E)

Caranx ignobilis—te ulua (E)

Caranx lugubris—te ango (X)

—te tafauli (E)

Caranx melampyges—te kuia (small, G)

—te rereba (medium, G)

—te urua (large, G)

—te bari (X)

—te aseu (E)

Caranx sexfasciatus—te barebue (large, X)

—te u (E)

Chorinemus tol—te nari (G)

—te ata (E)

Decapterus muroadsei—te ikarikiriki (X)

Decapterus pinnulatus—te kimokimo (G)

—te atule (E)

Elagatis bipinnulatus—te kama (G)

—te kamai (E)

Gnathanodon speciosus—te kona (G)

Selar crumenophthalmus—te salala (E)

Trachinotus bailloni—te lai (E)

33. CORYPHAENIDAE (DOLPHINS)

Coryphaena hippurus—te takua (G)
—te masimasi (E)

34. LUTJANIDAE (SNAPPERS)

The Gilbertese names “te bawetaburimai,” “te bawemare,” “te baomara,” and “te baotaburimai” have been reported for unknown *Lutjanus* spp. (X). The Gilbertese name for *L. gibbus* means “night fish.”

Aphareus furcatus—te ikakoa (G)
—te balusenga (E)

Aphareus rutilans—te bukinrin (X)

Aprion virescens—te awai (X)
—te utu (E)

Caesio xanthonotus—te bukimaka (X)

Lutjanus bohar—te ingo (G, X)
—te boingo (juvenile, X)

Lutjanus fulvus—te bave (G)
—te bukibaraba (X)
—te bukirabaraba (R)
—te tangau (E)

Lutjanus gibbus—te ikanibong (G, X)
—te taaea (E)

Lutjanus kasmira—te baveata (G, X)
—te savane (E)

Lutjanus monostigmus—te tinaemia (G)
—te baweata (G)
—te babaeina (X)
—te baweina (R) *see also *Mulloidichthys samoensis*
—te boina (X)
—te taiva (E)

Lutjanus semicinctus—te baotaburimai (X)

35. LETHRINIDAE (EMPERORS)

The Gilbertese name for *Gnathodentex* = “dirty-eye.”

Gnathodentex aureolineatus—te matabareka (G)
—te mu (E)

Lethrinus miniatus—te rou (G)
—te tanutanu (E)

Lethrinus mahrena—te morikoi (G)

Lethrinus variegatus—te ikamatoa (X)
—te saputu (E)

Lethrinus xanthocheilus—te saputu (E)

Monotaxis grandoculis—te kungkung (G)
—te mufata (E)

(juvenile) —te bureinawa (X) *see also *Holocentrus tiere*

36. GERREIDAE (MOJARRAS)

Gerres spp. (large)—te amori (X)

37. MULLIDAE (GOATFISHES)

The Ellice Islander name for all *Parupeneus* spp. is "te afulu."

Mulloidichthys auriflamma—te teve (G)

—te kalo (E)

Mulloidichthys samoensis—te baweina (R)

—te kaivete (E)

Mulloidichthys vanicolensis—te kaivete (E)

Parupeneus barberinus—te maowa (G)

—te afulu (E)

Parupeneus bifasciatus—te maowa (G)

—te afulu (E)

Upeneus sulphureus—te kaivete (E)

Upeneus vittatus—te malili (E)

38. PEMIPHERIDAE (SWEEPERS)

Pempherus spp.—te barere (G, X)

39. CHAETODONTIDAE (BUTTERFLYFISHES)

"Te ibaba" (Gilbertese) refers to all chaetodontids, pomacanthids and *Zanclus cornutus*. Species are listed below with regard to other names. "Te laulaufou" is applied to fishes more beautiful than the "Te manipapa" (both Ellice Islander names).

Chaetodon auriga—te ibaba (G, R)

—te laulaufou (E)

Chaetodon bennetti—te ibaba (G, R)

—te manipapa (E)

Chaetodon ulietensis—te ibaba (G)

—te ibabataranga (R) *see also *C. trifasciatus*
and *Zebrasoma*.

—te manipapa (E)

Chaetodon pelewensis—te ibaba (G)

—te manipapa (E)

Chaetodon quadromaculatus—te ibaba (G)

—te manipapa (E)

Chaetodon reticulatus—te ibaba (G)

—te manipapa (E)

Chaetodon trifasciatus—te ibaba (G)

—te ibabataranga (R) *see also *C. ulietensis* and
Zebrasoma

Heniochus spp.—te ibaba (G)

—te ieniwa (X) *see also *Zanclus*

—te laulaufou (E)

40. EPHIPPIDAE (SPADEFISHES)

Rotuma is the name of an island in the Gibert chain.

Platax orbicularis—te ibaba-n-rotuma (G)

—te maninipapa (E)

41. POMACANTHIDAE (ANGELFISHES)

all pomacanthids—te ibaba (G)

Pygoplites diacanthus—te ibaba (G)

—te ikabingao (R)

—te laulaufou (E)

42. POMACENTRIDAE (DAMSELFISHES)

generally all pomacentrids—te baamai (G)

—te moimoi (E)

Abudefduf septemfasciatus—te baamai (G)

—te bukibuki (X)

—te moimoi (E)

Abudefduf sordidus—te baamai (G)

—te bukibuki (X)

—te moimoi (E)

Chromis caeruleus—te bamaii (G)

—te moimoi (E)

Chromis cyaneus—te reibu (G)

—te moimoi (E)

Dascyllus trimaculatus—te baamai (G)

—te bukibuki (R)

—te moimoi (E)

43. LABRIDAE (WRASSES)

The general name for all small labrids in Gilbertese is “te arinai” (G, R). The few species distinguished are listed below. I follow Randall’s (1955) spelling where discrepancies were noted in the literature.

Chelinus trilobatus—te ngole (E)

Chelinus undulatus—te karon (G)

—te tangafu (E)

Gomphosus varius—te kimoa (E)

Labroides bicolor—te beru (R)

Macropharyngodon geoffroyi—te arinaimawa (R)

Macropharyngodon pardalis—te arinaimawa (R)

Thalassoma hardwicki—te arinaimawa (R)

Thalassoma lunare—te arinaimawa (R)

Thalassoma melanochir—te arinaimawa (R)

Thalassoma quinquevittatum—te arinaimawa (R)
 small labrid spp.—te arinai (R)
 —te uloulo (E)

44. SCARIDAE (PARROTFISHES)

The Gilbertese name for scarids “te kamauti” is not used at Fanning but is remembered from the Gilbert Islands.

blue and green *Scarus* spp.—te kimawa (G)
 —te inai (X)
 —te laea (G, E)

red *Scarus* spp.—te tine (G)
 —te laea (E)

white *Scarus* spp.—te ulafi (E)

light green large bumphead *Scarus* sp.—te ramauoua (G)

dark blue-green large bumphead *Scarus* sp.—te nokunoku (G)
 —te kamauti (G)

Scarus niger—te ikabata (R)

Sacrus sordidus—te ikabata (X)

Scarus pectoralis—te ikamawa (R)

45. GEMPYLIDAE (SNAKE MACKERELS AND OILFISH)

R. pretiosus is rarely eaten except when an effective laxitive is needed. The polite Gilbertese name is used in common reference to the fish. The descriptive name is used when relating to the fishes' use in causing diarrhea.

Promethichthys prometheus—te eri (X)

Ruvettus pretiosus—te ikanenea (polite name, X)
 —te ikanibeka (descriptive name, X)
 —te palu (E)

46. TRICHONOTIDAE (SAND DIVERS)

Trachonotus sp.—te ikanarina (X)

47. SCOMBRIDAE (MACKERELS AND TUNAS)

Acanthocybium solanderi—te baara (G)
 —te barakua (X)
 —te baratau (small, X)
 —te pala (E)

Evrythynnus affinis—te atiuaro (G)
 —te autualo (E)

Katsuwonus pelamis—te ati (G)
 —te atu (E)

Neothunnus macropterus—te inginea (G)
 —te ingamea (R)

- te ingimea (X)
- te baewe (large, X)
- te baibo (big, X)
- te baitaba (medium, X)
- te bairera (small, X)
- te kasi (E)

Thunnus obseus—te takua (E)

48. XIPHIIDAE (SWORDFISH)

Xiphias gladius—te rakuika (G)
—te sakula (E) *see also *Istiophorus*

49. ISTIOPHORIDAE (BILLFISHES)

Istiophorus platypterus—te rakuriri (G)
—te iriri (X)
—te sakula (E) *see also *Xiphias*
Makaira spp.—te sakula (E)

50. BOTHIDAE (LEFTEYE FLOUNDERS)

Bothid spp.—te baibai (G, R)
—te ali (E)

51. ZANCLIDAE (MOORISH IDOL)

Zanclus cornutus—te ibaba (G) *see also chaetodontids
—te ieniwa (X) " "
—te laulaufou (E) " "

52. ACANTHURIDAE (SURGEONFISHES AND UNICORNFISHES)

The Gilbertese name, "te ripa" at Fanning Atoll generally refers to all dark colored acanthurids of the same shape as *Ctenochaetus* spp. and *Acanthurus mata*. "te pone" in Ellice Islander basically refers to the same type of fishes.

Acanthurus achilles—te maninilakau (E)
Acanthurus aliala—te maninilakau (E)
Acanthurus bleekeri—te ripa (G)
—te kapalangi (E)
Acanthurus guttatus—te baba (X)
—te api (E)
Acanthurus lineatus—te ripatanin (G)
—te ponelolo (E)
Acanthurus mata—te ripa (G)
—te kapalangi (E)
Acanthurus olivaceous—te ripa (G)
—te pone (E)

- Acanthurus pyroferus*—te ripa (G)
 —te pone (E)
Acanthurus triostegus—te koinawa (G)
 —te babakoinawa (X)
 —te manini (E)
Acanthurus xanthopterus—te mako (G)
 —te kapalangi (E)
Ctenochaetus spp.—te ripa (G)
 —te baba (X)
 —te kapalangi (E)
 all *Naso* spp.—te riri (G)
Naso herrei—te kosotu (E)
Naso lituratus—te maninilaukau (E)
Naso unicornus—te ume (E)
Naso valmingi—te bokaboka (X)
Zebrasoma scopas—te maono (E)
Zebrasoma veliferum—te ibabataranga (R)
 —te maono (E)

53. SIGANIDAE (RABBITFISHES)

- Siganus rostratus*—te mmnai (G)
 —te maiva (E)
Siganus spinus—te maiva (E)
Siganus sp.?—te aikai (X)
 —te imwunai (X)

54. BALISTIDAE (TRIGGERFISHES)

Goo and Banner (1963) reported several names for unspecified balistids: “te bubukirikiri,” “te buburaete,” “te bubutakawaru,” “te bubuwaki,” “te bubuwiura” and “te itibubura.”

- Balistapus undulatus*—te bubutakataka (X)
 —te sumulenga (E)
Balistoides viridescens—te nuonuo (G)
 —te umufatu (E)
Canthidermis maculatus—te bubuikai (X)
Canthidermis sp.?—te bubunimarawa (X)
Melichthys buniva—te bubuakai (X)
Melichthys vidua—te bubutakataka (G)
 —te bubuaukiakia (X)
 —te sumulenga (E)
Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus—te binaing (X)
 —te umu (E)
Rhinecanthus aculeatus—te bubunabanaba (X)

—te sumu (E)

Rhinecanthus rectangulus—te bubu (X)

—te sumu (E)

Sufflamen bursa—te sumulenga (E)

Sufflamen chrysopterus—te buburoba (X)

generally all other Balistids—te bubu (G, X)

55. MONOCANTHIDAE (FILEFISHES)

Alutera scripta—te nevekabane (G)

—te kabanei (X)

Amanses carolae—te bubuawai (X)

Amanses sandwichensis—te bubuawai (R)

—te kabanei (X)

Oxymonacanthus longirostrus—te bubuawai (X)

56. TETRAODONTIDAE (PUFFERS)

all *Arothron* spp.—te buni (X)

—te sue (E)

57. CANTHIGASTERIDAE (SHARPNOSE PUFFERS)

Small *Canthigaster* spp. are collected by children who use the fish in contests. Each child has his champion fish which is placed in a small tidepool with another favorite. These aggressive fish fight vigorously until one is the winner.

Canthigaster solandri—te batua (R)

all big *Canthigaster* spp.—te batua (G)

all small *Canthigaster* spp.—te batuaikairake (G)

58. DIODONTIDAE (SPINY PUFFERS)

all *Diodon* spp.—te tauti (G)

—te tautu (E)

59. MOLIDAE (MOLAS)

In Gilbertese, "baba" means silly or crazy.

Ranzania laevis—te baba (G)

60. CYPRINIDAE (GOLDFISH)

The goldfish has been introduced to the North Gilbert Islands.

Carassius carassius—te ikabaun (G)

NAMES FOR INVERTEBRATES

This section lists many names from Banner and Randall (1952) [designated as (B)] and the reader is referred to that reference for details on those species.

COELENTERATES (CORALS, JELLYFISH, *Physalia*)

firecorals (e.g., *Millepora*)—te rirongo (G)

(all corals which sting)

smooth stony corals (e.g., *Porites*)—te atitaai (G)

branched bush-type coral (e.g., *Acropora* and *Pocillopora*)—te enga (G)

tree-like corals (e.g., *Antipathes*, *Acropora*)—te kimarawa (G)

jellyfish—te tia (G)

—te baitari (B—*Carybdea alata*)

Physalia—te nimatawawa (G)

ANNELIDS (WORMS)

Sipunculus indicus—te ibo (B)

palolo worms—te karau (G)

GASTROPODS (SNAILS)

Cypraea spp.—te buro (G—North Gilbertese)

—te kabaau (G—South Gilbertese)

—te kabaua (B)

Amphipera ovum—te bure (B)

Monetaria moneta—te burerewa (B)

Trochus spp.—te baraitoa (B)

Turbo spp.—te nimatanin (G, B)

Cerithium spp.—te bukikakang (B)

Lambis spp.—te neang (B)

Nautica sp.—te tumara (B)

Nerita plicata—te kaban (B)

Cymathium sp.—te wiaau (B)

Bursa bufonia—te kamanging (B)

Charonia tritonis—te tauu (B)

Tonna perdix—te tau (B)

Quimalea pomum—te makauro-n-tari (B)

Vasum ceramicum—te nimakaka (B)

Thais hippocastanum—te nimakaka (B)

Morula granulata duclos—te nimakaka (B)

Conus spp.—te nouo (B)

Pollia undosa—te wikakang (B)

Mitra spp.—te kabinea (B)

Terebra spp.—te bukikakang (G)

—te kabinea (B)

Melampus spp.—te kokoti (B)

nudibranchs—te ubaraniti (G)

sp.—te neikamanging (B)

sp.—neireurekia (B)

BIVALVES

- “flute” *Tridacna* types—te roroko (G)
 “killer” *Tridacna* types—te kima (G—large)
 —te aubunga (G—large)
 —te vere (G—small up to 5")
 round *Tridacna* types—te neitoro (G, found on sand)
 white pearl oysters—te baeao (G)
 black pearl oysters—te katati (G)
 translucent pin shells—te bwere (G)
Pinna atropurpurea—te raun (B)
Streptopinna saccata—te bere (B)
Hippopus hippopus—te nei toro (B—small)
 —te aubuna (B—large)
Tridacna cummingi—te were (B)
Tridacna elongata—te were (B)
Tridacna squamosa—te were makai (B)
Cardium sp.—te tuai (B)
 te tarrake (B)
Cardium flavum—te nikarikiriki (B)
Gafrum tumidum—te koikoinanti (B)
Venus clathrata—te koikoinanti (B)
Pitar japonica—te katura (B)
Mesodesma striata—te katura (B)
Protothracra staminea—te koumara (B)
Tellina crassiplicata—te nikatona (B)
Asaphia dichotoma—te koikoi (B)
Asaphis deflorata—te bun (B)

CEPHALOPODA (OCTOPUS AND SQUID)

- octopus—te kika (G, B—large)
 —te kikao (G—small)
 squid—te riro (G)

CRUSTACEANS

- stomatopods—te varo (G)
 —te waro (B)
 lobsters—te nneve (G)
Panulirus penillatus—te ura (B)
Parabaccus antarcticus—te mnawa (B)
Crangon strenuus—te niwarowaro (B)
 large green shrimps—te nivarovaro (G)
 small “glass” shrimps—te nikatebetebe (G)
Birgus latro, coconut crab—te ai (G)

—te aii (B)

Cardisoma sp., land crab—te manai (G)

terrestrial hermit crabs—te makauro (B)

grapsid crabs—te kamakama (G)

xanthid crabs—te tentababa (G)

Ocypode ghost crabs—te kauti (G, B)

Uca tetragonon fiddler crab—te kakawa (G)

Calappa hepatica—te nnonno (B)

Charybdis erythrodactyla—te ntabarereki (B)

Carpilius maculatus—te iba taburimai (B)

Zozymus aeneus—te kukua (B)

unidentified crab—te nikarewerewe (B)

red-eyed crab—te ntababa (B)

a crab's claw—wina (G)

ECHINODERMS (SEA URCHINS AND SEA CUCUMBERS)

all short and long spined urchins—te batinou (G)

a white spined urchin which lives beneath sand—te katuiaia (G)

all black sea cucumbers—te ntabanebane (G)

all brown with spots sea cucumbers—te kereboki (G)

Ophiodesoma-type sea cucumbers—te tinatinanikoinawa (G)

all seastars—te kikanang (G)

NAMES FOR ALGAE

Ulva—te keang (G)

generally all macroalgae—uteutenimarawa (G)

(meaning "ocean grass")

NAMES FOR REPTILIA

I collected several small lizards at Fanning Atoll during the summer of 1976. The specimens are deposited in the Herpetology Collection, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. Dr. Ernest E. Williams identified the species.

all skinkste tikunei (G)

Emoia cyanura

Lipinia noctua

Cryptoblepharus boutoni poecilopleurus

all large geckoste berutaburimai (G)

all small geckoste beru (G)

Lepidodactylus lugubris (diurnally active)

Gehyra mutilata (nocturnal)

Gehyra oceanica (nocturnal)

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