Ethnobotany Research and Documentation of the Endangered Ririo Language (Solomon Islands)

Will McClatchey, Myknee Sirikolo, Jodi Releford and Piet Lincoln
Solomon Islands Languages

From Lincoln, P. 1975. Austronesian Languages: Melanesia.
Grouping of Laru Languages

Prior Research

Sago Palms: *Metroxylon* leaves as house thatch, stem starch as food
Site Selection

1997: Ririo Community of Susuka

Proto-digital camera photos!

Martin Love
Isaiah Poloso
Agreements, Grants & Groups

1998: Agreements
- Memorandum of Understanding
- IPR Agreement

1999-2000: Work

- Solomon Islands Ministry of Conservation, Environment & Forestry (Botany/Databases)
- University of South Pacific (Biology)
- Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (Education, Forestry)
- University of Hawaii (Botany, Ecology)
- University of Ohio (Medicine)
Community-Team Training
Group Interviews
Plant/Animal Dissections

- Plant phenology
- Anatomy
- Books donated to school library
Photos & Videos
Plant Collections

Collecting information
Back from collecting ready to process

Sample dryer
Hunting/Fishing Collections
Environmental Transects

Six Watershed Systems In Central Lauru

(T-1, 2) Ecological Transects from Ocean to Mountain
# Ririo Dictionary: Biology

- Total entries: 6712

## Team Expertise
- 17 mammals
- 21 usage zones
- 152 human anatomy
- 206 medical conditions
- 392 plant species
- [400+ uncertain plant taxa]

## Non-Expertise
- 16 mushrooms
- 34 reptiles
- 65 birds
- 129 invertebrates
- 138 fish
Ririo Dictionary: Environment

**Ririo**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ririo</th>
<th>Anthropogenic vegetation zones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kuamal sisipa</td>
<td>Human settlements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nob</td>
<td>Freshwater root crop agriculture areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quan</td>
<td>Lowland rain forest arboriculture gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bab roe</td>
<td>Vegetable and root crop gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koeb</td>
<td>Landslide areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piar</td>
<td>Former gardens (10-20 years old) reverted to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ririo</th>
<th>Natural vegetation/usage zones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kol</td>
<td>Open sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malav</td>
<td>Outer reef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ar kidavan</td>
<td>Area between inner and outer reef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quar'</td>
<td>Channel between inner and outer reef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bo'</td>
<td>Shore and inner reefs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gargar soqom</td>
<td>Tidal beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ve karkuin</td>
<td>Coastal strand vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nob</td>
<td>Fresh water swamp forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vike</td>
<td>Brooks or streams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vuv lean</td>
<td>Steep part of river or vertical waterfall that blocks fish movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malko o kakako</td>
<td>Seasonally dry creek beds that only flow after heavy rains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sa kap</td>
<td>Lowland rain forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tat buan</td>
<td>Montane bogs/ponds characterized by stunted vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>siniqa</td>
<td>Forest/ bush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sup</td>
<td>Mountain top (exposed rock/soil)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Collaboration

Completion of Ririo Dictionary

Need support for Linguist(s) and Solomon Island collaborators to complete the task.
Thank you

**Solomon Islands Government:** Moses Biliki, Leslie Boseto, and Billie Takubala

**Ririo Speakers:** Harry Truman Boe, Edwin Kaboke, Martin Love, Ester Nalatüti, Isaiah Poloso†, Monica Qilazuka, Israel Sabu, Mata Sabuvolomo, and Jonathan Takubala


**Funding:** Cancer Research Center of Hawaii, Seacology Foundation, UH Botany Department

---

Susuka Village 2000

Reggie Pitasopa & Myknee Sirikola