

Tabi texts 2004-1b

2004-1b.01 Elephant and Rooster (tale)

Bo: A tale.

Sa: Okay.

Bo: Elephant and Rooster came and entered into (=began) courting women. Rooster was not aware of Elephant. Elephant was likewise unaware of Rooster.

Rooster was going back and forth, until one day Elephant said (=thought): “its pathetic little footprints now that I see, I wonder what that (animal) is coming to do. That one too is coming to court a woman. (But) how? This woman that I am courting, is not the (owner of) these tracks afraid to court it? Aha! That one too is courting a woman, he is coming.

It (=Elephant) defecated, when it was time to go,¹ until he had piled it (excrement) high. Then he left and went (on his way). Well, he (=Elephant) said (=thought): anyone who cannot defecate this (much) excrement should not come and court this woman.

Rooster came. Then the woman’s mother said: there it is, don’t you see there? The owner of that big foot bottom (=sole), the thing that it did, that excrement, there is nobody who can attain (make as much as) that excrement. Go away from² (=stop wooing) the woman.

Rooster said: how (is that)? (She) said: any man who cannot defecate that (much) excrement, you (=the man), go away from³ the woman! Rooster said: all right, okay.

Rooster flew up on top of that excrement. Rooster was pawing it (to the side), pawing it, pawing it, pawing it, (until) it had pushed it all to the side.

Then it left a little excrement ball in the middle. It looked at it. The longest tail-hair in its tail, it planted it (hair) on top of it (=excrement ball).⁴

Well, he (=Rooster) said: I have gone (=am leaving). If that man happens to come, let him say: anyone whose eyelash is not as long (as this), you (=the man), leave the woman! At once, Rooster went (away).

¹ Lit. ‘(at the time) that his going approached’.

² lit. “leave (from) in back of ...”

³ Imperative in form (gó ‘go out, leave!’). The generic ‘any man who ...’ is treated as second person.

⁴ Lit. “on its head.”

Elephant came the next day. Elephant found that lo, the hair was standing up. It said (thought): who could that be?

She said, well. The woman's mother said: any man who (=whose eyelash) does not equal (the length of) that eyelash, you (=the man), leave the woman!

That (same) man (=Rooster), the one with the tiny footprints, said: how (is it)? He (=Elephant) said: now war has arrived, definitely war has arrived; if it isn't that (=otherwise), it won't be agreed (on).

Well, he said to the woman's mother, you, speak! Well, (she said) to the man (=Elephant), (you had better) get ready! Now, he (=Elephant) said (=thought): we will grab each other for a fight. That elephant went.

Rooster came back. The mother of the woman said to Rooster: the owner of that big excrement tells you to get ready, (since) he and you will fight a fight right there (=here). She said: the person who wins, it's he [focus] who will get the woman.

Ah, he (=Rooster) said to her, fine! He said: that is very good. Rooster left. Rooster called all flying creatures together and spoke to them. (Rooster) said: well, Elephant and I—, (we) will grab each other for a fight, we are courting a woman, (and) we have fought. So we will fight a fight.

Elephant likewise called all the quadrupeds together, until it arrived at (=ended with) frog. Well, he (=Elephant) said: it's a fight, they will fight with Rooster. So you (quadrupeds), muster up some courage now! It said: you, get ready (for a fight)!

Well, now, they gave each other (=set) the day that— they were to meet each other (for the fight). Rooster got up and took his people (=winged creatures) with him, and Elephant likewise got up and took his people (=quadrupeds) with him.

Well, winged termites,⁵ how shall I say? (Of those) around Rooster, they were the smallest. He said to winged termites: now, you go and look whether those (=Elephant's) people have gotten up. Now too, Elephant likewise sent frogs, (saying:) you go and look whether Rooster's people have gotten up.

The winged termites and frogs encountered each other (on the road). The frogs gathered up and ate these winged termites, they gathered up and ate (them), they gathered up and ate (them), until their bellies filled up (and were stretched). Then the frogs went back.

Z: The frogs went back.

⁵ Other than Rooster and elephant, each animal species mentioned is understood to be a plurality, although all but a few occurrences of the nouns (and pronouns) in question are singular in form.

Bo: The winged termites too went. Elephant asked the frogs: how is it? Ah, (he) asked the frogs. The frogs said to Elephant: all is well, all is peace (=well-being), jet black.⁶ He (=Rooster) said to the winged termites: how was it? (Termites:) ah, if it's like that, we will be finished off (=wiped out). (Rooster) asked: is it like that? It said: the man (=frogs) who came today in that way, his work (=action) is nasty indeed. (Rooster) said: yes, fine.

It was going (like that), it was going (like that). Then now, whatchamacallit—, Rooster sent honey bees. The hyenas said: today, he said to Elephant, I (=hyena) am going. He (=hyena) would look (=check) whether those people had come out, or had not come out, and then whether they had approached, or had not approached.

Z: Hyena said that he was going?

Bo: Hyena said that he was going. The hyenas were not small. Hares were there. Mice and squirrels were there. The hyenas said that they were going. The hyenas left.

Lo, over there they had sent the honey bees. Then they (=hyenas and honey bees) were going, they encountered each other. Thereupon the honey bees began to get the hyenas. They were stinging the hyenas, they were stinging the hyenas, they were stinging the hyenas, (so) the hyenas were running, they were stinging the hyena, (so) the hyenas were running, they were stinging the hyenas, (so) the hyenas were running.

The hyenas were gathering together, they went far away like that, (then) they left (the place), they went back. He (=Elephant) said to the hyenas: how (is it)?

Sa: Look, these (=their) heads were swelling up (from the bee stings).

Bo: The hyenas said: (anyone) who does (=attempts) what he cannot accomplish (=is incapable of) keeps breaking (destroying) the population. Look, the napes and the heads were all swollen, that's all.

Ah, lo, in that way it was getting hot (=unpleasant) for them. Now, now a dust storm arose. Now they were coming, walking. They were coming, walking. They encountered each other face to face. It was there now. They came together for a meeting.

Now, they (all) said: now they would talk. Now they would have a judgement first, then they would fight a fight. Now, a judgement now. Then—. Rooster said, who can lay the biggest egg? Ostrich said: me! (Rooster) said: you, lay three big eggs for me!

(Rooster) said: who can soar the most (=the highest)? Egyptian vulture⁷ said: me! (Rooster:) well, okay, well now, when we have gathered for the meeting, and after that now when they have said everything, well, you (=vulture), look! You will take those eggs and go (=fly) up above. Then look straight (down) at the head of Uncle Elephant and drop (the eggs). Egyptian vulture said: yes, fine.

⁶ It is unclear what the point of 'jet black' is here.

⁷ Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) and Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) are single individuals here, not pluralities like some of the other animals mentioned.

Then now, they were speaking the words, they were speaking words, they were speaking words, they were speaking words, until their words left each other (=they could not agree).

When their words had left each other, well, (they) said, now, now the war (=battle) has arisen. Now, as for Rooster, his tomtom went: “jeykiri jeyjeykiri, jeykiri jeyjeykiri, jeykiri jeyjeykiri, jeykiri jeyjeykiri.” Elephant’s tomtom rhythm went: “kurubammata, kurubammata, kurubammata, kurubammata.” He (=Elephant) beat (the tomtom) thus.

Then, it said: well, you, let’s enter among each other! Then: Egyptian vulture, ho! It (=vulture) took those three eggs. Egyptian vulture went (=flew) up. Egyptian vulture was climbing, Egyptian vulture was climbing, Egyptian vulture was climbing, Egyptian vulture was climbing. Egyptian vulture saw: by God, I have gone up to the top (=high in the sky).

(As for) Elephant, (vulture dropped the eggs) straight on the middle of the head of Uncle Elephant. It (=vulture) looked. When the (first) egg was coming down to hit hard, when that egg broke open then, and the liquid (from inside the egg) came out, well, Uncle Elephant’s head, the brain tissue preceded (=came out before) the blood.

Then, all at once, they (=quadrupeds) fled. Then again, again, the third one (=egg), (or rather) the second one came down and hit.

Then, now—, they (=quadrupeds) increased their speed (fleeing). Then ri-ri-ri-ri-ri-ri!, Rooster’s people (=the flying creatures) chased Elephant’s people (=the quadrupeds) away. Then he (=Rooster) went back.

Now Rooster got his wife. Rooster married his wife. Now, the dancing was hot (=exciting): “jeykiri jeyjeykiri, jeykiri jeyjeykiri, jeykiri jeyjeykiri, jeykiri jeyjeykiri, jeykiri jeyjeykiri, jeykiri jeyjeykiri.” Now they were just having their fun (=dancing).
Now Rooster—

Sa: ... got his wife.

Bo: ... got his wife. He (=Rooster) called all those people together. All the people of those villages there were staying up at night having fun, they were having fun for seven days, they were just having fun.

Well, the story and its tail are finished. Now it’s finished.

Z: Yes, it was good.

Bo: Very well.

2004-1b.02 Tree locust (description)

JH: Tree locust.⁸

Bo: Tree locust.

Sa: That one, (the way) that it is.

Bo: Tree locust. Tree locust is a long grasshopper, a flat(-sided) grasshopper. Its—, its wing⁹ is long, all the way to its rear end. It's blackish and brownish.

Sa: Some people eat (it)?

Bo: Some people eat (it). Some (other) people don't eat (it).

Sa: Tree locust now, the thing(s) among which—, Among what is it found? (What are) the thing(s) that it eats? The places that are its habitat. The way they (=locusts) moves. (Is it) by itself, or many (=in a swarm)? Now, (tell) what you know about them.

Bo: Tree locust, tree locust, in the woodland, tree locust is (there). It is in the woodland. It eats grass (=vegetation). It eats trees, whatever tree it gets, it doesn't choose (=discriminate).

(When) they go also, they go in swarms. As for (going) one by one, other than now at harvest time when they are hatching and making whatchamacallit, and when they keep flying around here individually, there aren't any who go individually. As for them, if you see them going, it's in a swarm.

Sa: A swarm.

Bo: When you see that they are going, it's in a swarm. Yes. Every tree too, the tree(s) that they encounter, they (=trees) are exactly the same for them. They don't consider ("look") whether it's bitter-tasting, they don't consider whether it isn't bitter, they eat everything.

Sa: As for their going (=flying around) now, do they have a (specific) time (of day), or don't they have (one)?

Bo: (Their) going, they do have a (specific) time for going. Tree locust, its going (is) sunset, with the twilight prayer, at this time they arise and they go (around). They go at night to go down (=alight). When day breaks on them, they don't go (i.e. in the daytime). So, (not until) another night has come.¹⁰

Sa: So, another night has come.

⁸ *Anacridium melanorhodon*.

⁹ lit. "hair."

¹⁰ lit. "come back."

Bo: So, another night has come, then they go (again).

Sa: Then they go (again).

2004-1b.03 Grasshopper medley (descriptions)

Sa: Pilgrim locust.¹¹

Bo: Pilgrim locust. As for it, we don't know it much. But that too, it's like the (same) way the tree locust is. But as for it, it—, its color, it's sulphur (=yellow). It's wing furthermore, it gets long like the wing of a tree locust, it's long to the point that it (=wing) covers its rear end (=abdomen).

Furthermore, its manner (is), it goes around at night. It goes around at night, it goes around in swarms, it goes around at night. It eats grasses, it eats trees, and it eats sand.

Sa: (Talk about) its millet¹² now.

Bo: Grass now, that's it, its millet now. It eats millet now, it doesn't leave (=spare) millet.

X: It's more on millet—

Bo: It's definitely worse (=more harmful) on millet than on ordinary grass. Millet, when it (=locust) descends, if it's young millet, it eats until it (=millet) is finished. When it descends on normal (=fully ripened) millet, it eats and finishes off every leaf, it eats (“gnaws”) the grains, now only the stick (=bare husk of the grain spike) remains. That [focus] is pilgrim locust.

Sa: Does it hatch there, or does it (just) come?

Bo: It goes (along), it comes to a place. Its laying (of eggs). In the place where it has laid eggs, they hatch, its larvae go around in swarms, they go around in swarms, until their flying stage arrives.¹³ When the (stage of) flying has arrived too, they too go around in swarms.

JH: *Gastrimargus* grasshopper.¹⁴

Sa: The talk (=information) of *Gastrimargus* .

Bo: *Gastrimargus*. As for *Gastrimargus* , as for it, I haven't seen it go around in large numbers. As for it, if you encounter (=see) it, male and female, now it is multicolored, black and tan (khaki) colors mixed.

¹¹ lit. “bad grasshopper.” *Schistocerca gregaria* (Fr *criquet pèlerin*) in its gregarious (=locust) phase, adults yellow. These locusts devastated the zone just before the millet harvest in 2004, but were not previously known to local Dogon. In its more usual solitary phase (darker colors), this species is present annually but is not distinguished by Dogon from the similar-looking and more common tree locust, *Anacridium melanorhodon*.

¹² kò yú could be interpreted as ‘the millet’ or as ‘its millet’, since a Ć monosyllabic noun remains Ć with the possessed-noun {HL} tone overlay.

¹³ i.e. until they are old enough to fly.

¹⁴ *Gastrimargus africanus*. A strong flyer, hard to catch. Inner wings have bright yellow base bordered by a blackish crescent (a feature shared in the region by *Morphacris* and *Humbe* spp.). *Gastrimargus* lacks the longitudinal ridges on the pronotum of *Morphacris*, and lacks the blue coloring of the inner femur of *Humbe*.

Sa: Does it eat millet, or doesn't it eat (it)?

Bo: *Gastrimargus*, *Gastrimargus* —, as for it, in our country it isn't abundant, but it does eat millet.

Sa: It eats (it).

Bo: Uh-huh. It eats grass, and it eats trees.

Sa: It eats trees.

Bo: It eats trees.

Sa: Do they (=people) devour it?

Bo: They don't eat *Gastrimargus*.

JH: *Acrida* grasshopper.¹⁵

Bo: *Acrida*, as for *Acrida*, it doesn't eat millet. It now, it's yellow, and it's sort of green, it's off-white. *Acrida* grasshoppers, them, it is (of) three colors: off-white, green, it's that, (and) it's tan-colored (khaki). As for it, (it eats) grass exclusively. As for millet, I haven't seen it (=grasshopper) eating it.

Sa: How is it?

Bo: Its head is pointed, its legs are long.

Sa: Does it fly around, or does it go (=walk)?

Bo: It flies.

Sa: It flies.

Bo: It too, its wing reaches the tip of its belly (abdomen).

Sa: (It makes) long flights, or short flights?

Bo: It flies short flights. It doesn't fly (=make) long flights. Just flying and alighting, flying and alighting (i.e. flying a short distance at a time). So it doesn't fly (=make) long flights.

JH: *Kraussaria* grasshopper.¹⁶

Bo: *Kraussaria*, as for *Kraussaria*, as for it, whatchamacallit, (it is) red (=brown) and sulphur (=yellow). As for it, it too, its motion is most often jumping (=hopping). Because the winged one, its wings only help it (to hop). In hopping, its wings help. As for it, it doesn't go flying around like those (other grasshoppers).

Sa: How are its hind legs?

Bo: Its hind legs are rough.¹⁷ Its hind legs are short and robust. If it kicks (=pushes off, while being held), blood will come out (=flow) from a person's hand. If it makes a kick in a person's hand, blood will come out.

Sa: Its body, is it long or short?

¹⁵ *Acrida bicolor* (and closely related species). This grasshopper has a long, pointed snout and very thin legs, giving a mantis-like appearance.

¹⁶ *Kraussaria angulifera* (large, brown and yellow). Edible. Infests millet.

¹⁷ The tibia of the hind leg has sharp spines.

Bo: Its body isn't long, its body is short.

Sa: Is it fat (=plump)?

Bo: It's exclusively (=invariably) fat.

Sa: Its motion.

Bo: As for it, it eats millet indeed, a lot. (However,) its millet eating is not very bad (=serious). It eats millet! As for it, it eats millet.

Sa: Its male bigger, or is its female bigger?

Bo: Its female is bigger.¹⁸

Sa: Its female is bigger than its male.

Bo: The female is bigger than its male. As for the female, it can carry two males on its back.

Sa: The female can carry two males on its back.

Bo: It can carry two males on its back.

Sa: It holds it (as passenger) and flies around.

Bo: It holds it and it goes hopping around.

Sa: <xxx>

JH: *Hieroglyphus* grasshopper.¹⁹

Bo: *Hieroglyphus*, it now is green. As for it, it doesn't have long outer wings. As for it, it hops (rather than flies). Its nape (=pronotum), it's lined. The nape is lined.²⁰

Sa: Its habitat.

Bo: Its habitat is in millet, in the fields. (Suppose) you say (= think)—, (maybe) you have come, and say (think) you'll try to catch it,²¹ (but) then it moves around, then it moves around (eluding you). Just when you say (think) you'll try to catch it, then it moves around. Just when you say (= think) you'll try to catch it, then it moves around, then it hops until it has gone (away).

Sa: Its motion is hopping.

Bo: Correct, its motion is hopping.

Sa: It (=its motion) isn't flying.

X: Is its male bigger, or its female ?

Bo: Its female is bigger.

Sa: Its female is bigger. Does it eat millet, or doesn't it eat (it)?

Bo: It too, it eats ("gnaws") millet.

Sa: It eats millet. Trees now?

Bo: Trees. As for (whether it eats) trees, (or) exclusively grass. As for it (= *Hieroglyphus*)—. I am unaware of its eating trees.

¹⁸ True of this and most other grasshopper species. Mestre (1988:172) gives typical lengths of *Kraussaria* adults as 52-63 mm for the female, 43-52 mm for the male.

¹⁹ *Hieroglyphus daganensis* (large, soft-bodied).

²⁰ The furrows in the side of the pronotum are lined in black. Similar comment made below regarding *Kraussella*.

²¹ i.e., if you try to catch it.

JH: *Oedaleus* grasshopper.²²

Bo: *Oedaleus*. *Oedaleus*, its outer wing is long. It's spotted, and multicolored. Spotted and multicolored. It eats millet. It eats grass. But as for trees, as for that, I am unaware (of it). It eats rags.

Sa: Plastic (bags).

Bo: It eats plastic (bags). It eats sand. As for *Oedaleus*, it's like that.

X: So, as for it, does it happen that it gets plump?

Bo: It isn't plump. As for *Oedaleus*, as for it, just its damage (to crops) is (most) bad. As for it, it doesn't get plump.

X: It has (=causes) damage.

Bo: It indeed has (=causes) damage. As for it, it eats sesame, it eats millet, it eats cow-peas, it eats sorghum ...

Sa: Watermelon.

Bo: Watermelon. Watermelons, it damages (them).

Sa: Is the male bigger, (or) the female?

Bo: Its female is bigger.

Sa: Its female is bigger than its male.

Bo: Than its male.

JH: *Poeciloceris* grasshopper.²³

Bo: *Poeciloceris*. As for *Poeciloceris*, it's only on *Calotropis* shrub. As for it, it keeps gnawing (=feeding) just on *Calotropis*. Just on *Calotropis*, as for it.

Sa: <xxx>

Bo: (It's) spotted. It's sulphur (=yellow) and blackish. Its body is spotted (with black), along with reddish (=orange). *Poeciloceris* is its (=Calotropis') match (in colors). Its head, furthermore, is pointed.

Sa: It's pointed. So, as for it, it doesn't have (=cause) damage (to crops).

Bo: As for it, it doesn't have (=cause) damage.

Sa: Do they (=people) eat them, or don't they eat (them)?

Bo: They don't eat them. But they (=sorcerors) do put them together and roast them with a potion.

JH: Sorcerer's grasshopper.²⁴

Bo: Sorcerer's grasshopper. Sorcerer's grasshopper is of no clear color. Sorcerer's grasshopper, there are two kinds. As for (the first) one, it's big-bellied. Now the (other) one has (conspicuous) outer wings, (and) it's thin. They furthermore, as for soft (young) sprouts (of millet), they eat them. Well, when it (=millet) gets bigger (and its stem hardens), they (=grasshoppers) aren't strong enough for millet. They furthermore are like that, but the female, its belly, it's bloated like the belly of a toad. The male now is small.

Sa: Do they (=people) eat it, (or) don't they eat (it)?

Bo: They don't eat it.

²² *Oedaleus senegalensis*. Small, brownish grasshopper, common in low grasses.

²³ Literally "Calotropis grasshopper." *Poeciloceris bufonius hieroglyphicus*, a colorful grasshopper that feeds on the shrub *Calotropis procera*. *Poeciloceris* has a yellow base color covered with tiny black or blue spots, and orange spots on the head and pronotum.

²⁴ *Acrotylus blondeli* and similar species (small, ground-dwelling, well-camouflaged), and (along with other terms) to the toad grasshopper *Chrotogonus senegalensis* (the "big-bellied" form mentioned in the text). Outer wings of *Chrotogonus* are of widely varying size but can be very small.

Sa: Is its habitat in the fields, or in the bush (uncultivated land)?

Bo: Nope. As for sorcerer's grasshopper, it's in the fields. Its habitat is just infertile fields (without manure) in (=among) the fields, abandoned infertile fields in (=among) the fields.

Sa: Its habitat is there.

Bo: Its habitat is mostly there.

JH: *Acrodideres* grasshopper.²⁵

Bo: *Acrodideres*. *Acrodideres* has no dominant color. It furthermore, it's strictly among the *Guiera* shrubs. It furthermore is not found among millet. It doesn't have (=cause) any damage (to millet).

Sa: It too, they (=people) don't know any harm from it (=grasshopper).

Bo: It too, they (=people) don't know any harm from it (=grasshopper).

Sa: Does it have its male and its female?

Bo: It has its male and its female. The female is bigger than the male.

JH: *Diabolocatantops* grasshopper.²⁶

Bo: *Diabolocatantops*. It too eats millet, it eats sesame, it eats cow-peas, it eats trees also. As for it, its harm is bad. It too is like *Oedaleus*.

Sa: Is it plump, or isn't it plump?

Bo: As for it, it gets plump. As for it, it eats all the roselle. It gets plump. When you do the harvest, it (=grasshopper) follows (=seeks) the dry millet, and it goes into granaries. They (=people) eat that one, any person who wants (it) will dry-roast it, it's very tasty! It is eaten.

Sa: If now it has gone into the granary.

Bo: If now it has gone into the granary, it doesn't die. It eats that dry millet (in granaries), it remains.

X: One that is inside the granary doesn't die—

Bo: It eats that dry millet.

X: <xxx>

Bo: It doesn't drink water.

Sa: <xxx>

²⁵ Lit. "Guiera's grasshopper." *Acrodideres strenuus*, an arboreal grasshopper associated with trees and shrubs of the family Combretaceae, e.g. *Guiera senegalensis* (Combretaceae).

²⁶ *Diabolocatantops axillaris*, a fairly large grasshopper, mostly tan-colored. Literally "sesame's grasshopper." Feeds on millet, sesame, and cotton.

JH: *Cryptocatantops* grasshopper.²⁷

Bo: *Cryptocatantops*. That one has a male and a female. Its female is bigger than the male. *Cryptocatantops* furthermore, *Cryptocatantops* furthermore, it is similar to *Diabolocatantops*. It is multicolored like *Diabolocatantops*. *Diabolocatantops* is more light-colored than *Cryptocatantops*. It's (like) that, it has a stripe, where it is pulled (=stretched) like a stripe. That one furthermore gets plump. That one eats sesame, it eats millet, it eats cow-peas too, it eats okra.

Sa: It has (=causes) damage.

Bo: That one has (=causes) damage.

Sa: Insecticide²⁸ for that one, looking for insecticide for that one is normal.

Bo: We want (=need) it, looking for insecticide is normal. They eat it.

Sa: *Kraussella* grasshopper.²⁹

Bo: *Kraussella* too. It eats (crops). It eats millet. It is lined.³⁰ It furthermore—, it is lined. That one, the female is bigger than the male. It eats millet, it eats sesame, it eats roselle plants, and it eats sorghum. That one is harmful.

Sa: Is flying its action (=mode of locomotion), or jumping (=hopping)?

Bo: Flying is its action. *Kraussella* flies. Now if it has put (=is carrying) eggs, it hops.

Sa: For that one too, looking for insecticide is normal, it is harmful. That too is words (=worth mentioning).

Bo: Then, for that one too, looking for insecticide is normal. It too, it is harmful, it is harmful.

X: <xxx>

JH: *Sherifuria* grasshopper.³¹

Bo: *Sherifuria*. That too, they (=people) encounter it in fields. But *Sherifuria*, it eats cow-peas, but its damage is not much. That *Sherifuria* might gnaw (=feed on) millet, I haven't seen (it). But as for that one, the male and the female are equally long. Its outer wing furthermore covers its rear end (=abdomen).

Sa: That one now, how is its head?

Bo: Its head, it's a big head, flat (on the side).

²⁷ There are several grasshopper sp. closely related to *Diabolocatantops* but considerably smaller spp. in the area. The most common in the zone is *Cryptocatantops haemorrhoidalis*. Also present are *Harpezocatantops stylifer*, *Catantops stramineus*, and *Oxycatantops spissus*, and these spp. may be included in the native term. These smaller spp. are often called “slave of *Diabolocatantops*” in other Dogon languages of the zone.

²⁸ Lit. “medication.”

²⁹ *Kraussella amabile*. Small, attractive grasshopper with yellow-green and gray colors. The furrows on the sides of the pronotum are lined in black.

³⁰ Furrows on the sides of the pronotum are lined in black, as for *Hieroglyphus*.

³¹ *Sherifuria haningtoni*, a mostly montane grasshopper. If present in the area, a similar species *Duronia choloronota* would also be included in the native term.

Sa: Do they (=people) eat it, or don't they eat (it)?

Bo: They eat it.

Sa: It doesn't have (=cause) damage.

Bo: It doesn't have (=cause) damage.

JH: *Cataloipus* grasshopper.³²

Bo: *Cataloipus*. That one too, it eats gourd plants, it eats cow-peas. As for it, its harmfulness is not very much, among millet. But gourd and cotton plants, those it does eat.

Sa: Its work (=behavior)?

[interruption]

Bo: *Cataloipus* grasshopper. (As) I was saying, it eats gourd plants. It bites and severs the gourd's root. Cow-peas, that too, they (=people) encounter it among cow-peas too. It too, it bites and severs it. They encounter it among cotton, it eats the leaves of the cotton plant. That [focus] is what I know about it.

Sa: Millipedes.

Bo: *Cataloipus* kicks out (with its hind legs) at millipedes. If it (=grasshopper) kicks it, what has oozed out (from) the millipede, it (=grasshopper) drinks it, on a dead millipede, it eats it.

Sa: Is jumping (hopping) its work (=action), or flying?

Bo: Jumping is its work. The wings (merely) help it (along).

Sa: <xxx>

Bo: When it jumps, (it's) with those wings, (and just) a little. Those wings help it (jump). Other than jumping, as for flying, it can't fly.

Sa: It can't (even) do its jumping (=hopping), much less (can it fly). As soon as children see it, they get (=catch) it.

Bo: Mm!

Sa: It doesn't have (=cause) damage.

Bo: Its damage isn't very much.

JH: *Acorypha* grasshopper.³³

Bo: *Acorypha*. *Acorypha* doesn't have (=cause) damage.

X: < xxx >

Bo: As for *Acorypha*, it's of no dominant color. It's sort of red (=brown) here and there. But as for *Acorypha*, it only eats grass (i.e. herbs). It doesn't eat millet, it doesn't eat cow-peas, and it doesn't eat sorghum. As for *Acorypha*, it's only on the ground, it keeps landing hard (on the ground, after hopping). It (=this segment) is finished.

³² *Cataloipus cymbiferus*. A rather large species with long hind legs. Diet is mixed. The similar *Cataloipus fuscocoeruleipes* may also be present in well-watered spots.

³³ *Acorypha glaucopsis*, and perhaps *A. clara* if present in the zone. *A. glaucopsis* is mostly dark brown, with inner femur red. *A. clara* is lighter in color, with inner femur yellow. Both have very robust femurs and are hard to hold on to.

JH: *Heteracris* grasshopper.³⁴

Bo: *Heteracris*. It's only on wild-date tree. As for *Heteracris*, it's only on wild-date tree. As for it, any time you-Sg see it, it is stuck up on wild-date tree. It is bitter-tasting, it isn't eaten. As for it, it's bitter-tasting.

Sa: It doesn't eat millet.

X: It doesn't eat millet.

Bo: It doesn't eat millet.

Sa: It doesn't go down into millet.

Bo: Uh-huh. It doesn't go down into millet.

Sa: <xxx>

Bo: It's in the bush (=outback). It's only in the bush.

Sa: Is its male bigger, or is its female bigger?

Bo: Its female is bigger.

Sa: Its female is bigger than its male.

Bo: Its female is bigger than its male.

Sa: Is it black (=dark) or white (=light-colored)?

Bo: *Heteracris*, they are black (=dark).

Sa: They are black.

Bo: They are black.

Sa: Both its male and its female?

Bo: Both its male and its female are black.

JH: *Scintharista* grasshopper.³⁵

Bo: *Scintharista*. *Scintharista*, as for *Scintharista*, I don't know it.

Sa: Well, it's a red (=brown) grasshopper. The very one that is like sorcerer's grasshopper the children call *Scintharista* ("mountain grasshopper").

Bo: As for that one, it's sorcerer's grasshopper. There's the big sorcerer's grasshopper and the small sorcerer's grasshopper.

Sa: It too, describe how it is.

Bo: Yes. Sorcerer's grasshopper, sorcerer's grasshopper for its part, as for it, the big sorcerer's grasshopper is that *Scintharista* ("mountain grasshopper"). When it flies, it's dull-colored, light brown and grey. That one furthermore doesn't eat millet, you-Sg see it strictly among grass.

Sa: It doesn't have (=cause) any damage.

Bo: It doesn't have (=cause) any damage.

³⁴ *Heteracris annulosa*, a grasshopper found in grasses and trees, and specifically associated with the wild date tree (*Balanites aegyptiaca*) and the grass-like shrub *Leptadenia pyrotechnica*.

³⁵ *Scintharista notabilis*, a grasshopper of rocky areas. It takes short flights in which its bright red inner wings are visible. Specimens from Dogon country were once referred to *S. zolotarevskyi*, but Mestre points out that there is an intergradation between the two supposed species, and it seems best to recognize a single species. Some Tabi speakers call *Scintharista* "mountain grasshopper" as here, but one speaker in this text treats it as a subcategory of "sorcerer's grasshopper."

X: Its male—, its female is bigger than the male?

Bo: Its female is bigger than the male. Its female is bigger. As for it, it has a watermelon-shaped head. It too is big-headed.

Sa: They (=people) don't eat (it).

Bo: But they don't eat (it).

JH: *Ornithacris* grasshopper.³⁶

Bo: As for *Ornithacris*, as for it, it's a grasshopper—. As for it, it goes around by twos or singly. As for it, it's big indeed. *Ornithacris* is bigger than the tree locust (*Anacridium*).

Sa: It's longer than the tree locust?

Bo: It's longer than the tree locust.

X: They (=people) eat (it).

Bo: They eat (it) also.

Sa: It can get plump ...

Bo: It can get plump.

Sa: ... like a bird.

Bo: Uh-huh. As for that one, it flies too, like a bird, whirr! it goes. When it has gone a long way, it goes down (=lands). As for that one, it can go along flying like a bird, until it has gone a long way.

Sa: Its habitat now.

Bo: Its habitat now. Ah, it too, it's in the bush (=outback). Uh-huh. <xxx> is in the bush.

Sa: As for it now, does it have a (distinct) female and a male?

Bo: It has a female and a male. The female is bigger than its male also.

Sa: It doesn't have (=cause) any damage.

Bo: It doesn't have (=cause) any damage, (at least) among us (=in our area).

Sa: Among us, it doesn't have (=cause) any damage.

Bo: Among us, it doesn't have (=cause) any damage.

JH: Sand grasshopper.³⁷

Bo: Sand grasshopper. Huh?

Sa: We and the Issa's³⁸ got together the other day and talked (about it).

Bo: Sand grasshopper, I don't know it.

Sa: <xxx> sand grasshopper.

Bo: As for sand grasshopper, I don't know it.

Sa: The Issa's spoke the other day (of) sand grasshopper.

X: Well, as for me, I have never heard of it.

Bo: As for "sand grasshopper," as for "sand grasshopper," unless it's a worm (i.e. larval stage of grasshopper), as for me, I haven't seen any such grasshopper.

Sa: Sand grasshopper, it's a black (=dark) grasshopper, it's a red (=brown) grasshopper. The one that's slender-necked and feeble. The one that keeps crawling (walking) on the sand. That is what sand grasshopper is.

³⁶ *Ornithacris turbida cavroisi*. A very large grasshopper.

³⁷ Term used by some speakers to denote certain small ground-dwelling (and well-camouflaged) grasshoppers. It centers on small ground-dwelling species of the subfamily Oedipodinae. A local specimen was *Acrotylus blondeli*, but the term should extend to *Eurysternacris*, *Aiolopus*, *Pseudosphingonotus*, etc. if locally present. It also extends to *Pyrgomorpha* spp. One speaker denies the validity of the term. Another explains that it denotes one subtype of the more general rubric "sorcerer's grasshopper."

³⁸ i.e. Issa and his people.

Bo: But it (=that) is sorcerer's grasshopper.

Sa: I said that, as for us, we call all (of those species) "sorcerer's grasshopper." The little one that is red (=brown) and feeble, red (=brown) and feeble, with a more or less pointed rear end (=abdomen) like sorcerer's grasshopper, (they said that) "sand grasshopper" [focus] is what they call it.

X, Sa, Bo: <xxx>

Sa: As for that, it is said that they (=younger generation) have added (i.e. a new word). As for that (other) one, a person cannot call it "sand grasshopper." But (they said) they call that one "sand grasshopper."

X: They are wrong.

Sa: Well, they said thus. <xxx>. Then they (e.g. the linguist) have written them.

Bo: As for that, it isn't sand grasshopper, the sand doesn't have grasshoppers.

Sa: The sand (has) grasshoppers—

Bo: It's (called) sorcerer's grasshopper.

Sa: Like all of those (species), just the name of sorcerer's grasshopper, <xxx>

2004-1b.04 Mantis (description)

Bo: Mantis. It doesn't have (=cause) any damage. As for it, it catches and eats grasshoppers.

Sa: After (=beyond) that, what is it like?

Bo: A mantis, its head is flat and wide. Its feet, it has feet. It has long arms (front legs). Its rear end (=abdomen) is very long. As for it now, in some cases the rear end is not very long. In some (other) cases, the rear end is big, they are flat and wide. Their hand(s), it (=hand) too, it has teeth.

Sa: Its neck.

Bo: Ah! Its nape (top of pronotum) is a little flat here. The neck is long and thin. It has a neck, very long. When it pinches a person, it hurts.

X: Do they (=people) eat it, or don't they eat (it)?

Bo: There are (some) that have wings and fly, and there are (some) that don't have wings.

Sa: As for that one, it catches birds.

Bo: The one that has wings and flies, that one is a grasshopper, when it (=mantis) is big, it catches (grasshoppers). It even catches finches. However, it doesn't have (=cause) damage in millet. Grasshoppers, birds, grubs, those [focus] are what that one, for its part, eats. That one for its part doesn't have (=cause) damage. They (=people) eat it.