

2.15.2. ISOLATES: IRIAN JAYA

C.L. Voorhoeve

2.15.2.1. INTRODUCTION

Among the known languages of Irian Jaya there are now only two languages left whose affiliation is not yet clear: Warenbori and Taurap (Borumeso). Five other languages which earlier had been regarded as isolates, viz. Morwap, Molof, Usku, Tofamna, and Kaure (Voorhoeve 1971) have since been included in the Trans-New Guinea Phylum (see 2.6.2.2.16.-17. and 2.5.3.3.2. in this volume).

2.15.2.2. WARENBORI

Warenbori is spoken in two or three villages in the delta of the Mamberamo River. The number of speakers is not known but is unlikely to exceed a few hundred. The only published source of information on Warenbori is Galis' survey of 1955, which contains one noun and ten numerals in Warenbori, and shows its location on the map. The present writer used an unpublished wordlist put at his disposal by J.C. Anceaux (see 2.6.2.1. in this volume).

Warenbori shares about 10% cognates with its western neighbour Baropasi of the East Geelvink Bay stock-level Family of the Geelvink Bay Phylum (see 2.14.3.2.1.), but neither with the other members of this family nor with any other language do its cognation percentages reach the phylum level. It is likely that the 10% shared with Baropasi reflects a borrowing relationship. The pronouns in Warenbori are:

	1	2	3
Sing.	iwi	awi	amagai
Plur.	iwiamia (incl.)	banuburemi	bainteme
	amimagai (excl.)		

They show similarities to the pronouns in Yava (2nd person singular, 1st person plural inclusive), Tarungare (2nd person singular) and Baropasi (3rd person singular) of the Geelvink Bay Phylum (see 2.14.3.2.), but no systematic correspondences.

Nearly all the nouns in the Warenbori list end in -ro or -ndo; possibly these are suffixes or clitics of unknown function, or perhaps allomorphs of one suffix or clitic. Some examples: *louse* kiro, *fish* antaro, *tree* awuro, *belly* kewararo; *meat* mindo, *ear* erarando; and *hand* keberaro (with prefix k- and suffix -ro?) besides *nail* ebera-tirbindo.

Some nouns seem to be compound nouns with a second constituent boro, or baro possibly referring to a round object: *bone* kekom-boro; *breast* tutu-boro, *knee* kepib^waro, *egg* manindo-baro (*bird*: maniro), *eye* i-baro. Probable cognates are found through the whole Trans-New Guinea Phylum, often as second constituent of compounds: Suki ti-bodu, Kiwai ke-puru *head*; Kampong Baru (South Bird's Head Family) i-mago *eye*, Kaeti kiri-mogo *eye*, and in the Finisterre-Huon group of languages: Nankina buun *round*, Selepet puru *cluster of fruit* (McElhanon and Voorhoeve 1970) are some of the examples. In these cases -ro does not seem to be a suffix. The morpheme i as first constituent in *eye* has also etyma in many Trans-New Guinea Phylum languages, see for instance the Kampong Baru form mentioned above. One may therefore expect that eventually Warenbori will turn out to belong to the Trans-New Guinea Phylum.

2.15.2.3. TAURAP (OR BORUMESO)

Taurap is spoken south-west of the Mamberamo River, south of Pioniersbivak. In the south it borders on the Bauri language of the Geelvink Bay Phylum near Lake Holmes (see 2.14.3.2.1.); in the north and west, on the opposite side of the Mamberamo, its neighbour is Kwerba (see 2.6.2.2.8.1.). It is not known how far the Taurap area extends towards the coast. Taurap is the language of the Monao, or Borumeso, tribe and until recently was known as Borumeso. The number of its speakers is not known.

An early wordlist in Taurap (Borumeso) was published anonymously in *Anthropos* 8 (1913); the present writer also had at his disposal one Taurap list from Anceaux' collection (see 2.6.2.1. in this volume) and a list recently collected by Myron Bromley. These lists contain some correspondences with languages of the East Bird's Head Phylum (2.14.3.1.), especially with Mantion, the Geelvink Bay Phylum (2.14.3.2.), and the Trans-New Guinea Phylum, especially with Kwerba, Kaure, and Dani, but their number is too low to tie Taurap firmly in with any of the three phyla.

Nothing is known of the grammatical structure of Taurap. The word-lists do not contain any clearly recognizable affixes except perhaps an adjective ending -koŋa, -sora, or -hoŋa : hũnkora *black*, ɓékoŋa *good*, kaisoŋa *red*, namkíhora *round*. Only four pronouns have been recorded; those in the 1st and 2nd person singular are similar to the corresponding forms in Mantion:

	1	2	3
Sing.	dawo (Mantion: dani)	ɓawo (Mantion: bani)	juane
Plur.	ɓoro	-	-

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