

# **An encyclopedic lexicon of the Saho traditional knowledge on beekeeping<sup>1</sup>**

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## **SOMMARIO**

Il presente articolo raccoglie, in ordine alfabetico, le principali voci collegate al lessico dell'apicoltura, così come sono state raccolte durante vari anni di lavoro sul campo in Eritrea fatto dagli Autori. Nello specifico, per quanto riguarda più propriamente l'apicoltura, investigazioni sono state fatte da tutto il team del progetto *Atlante della Cultura Materiale Tradizionale dei Saho* durante i mesi di gennaio e febbraio 2008 e 2009 in 6 diversi villaggi, con 6 informanti appartenenti a 5 differenti clan, parlanti tre diverse varietà dialettali. Il risultato è un sunto della conoscenza tradizionale dei saho riguardo la vita delle api e delle tecniche, degli strumenti e dei materiali connessi con l'attività dell'apicoltura tradizionale.

## **General information about the data**

Beekeeping is one of the traditional productive activities for which the Saho population is well-known. Even though it is not practiced on a large scale, there still are several people who engage in honey production either for their personal consumption or for commercial purposes.

After independence Eritrea promoted a modernization policy of honey production techniques, with specific local training courses, but Saho beekeeping is still done mainly the traditional way. What an individual beekeeper knows about it generally derives from his personal experience, or from what his father taught him. Accordingly, this lexicon documents the traditional terminology and knowledge as they have been told us by our informants. No attempt is made to provide a scientific description of their beekeeping activities, even if what they said was plainly wrong, e.g., the belief of some of them that queen bees are males.

The data in this lexicon are provisional, in the sense that they result from the field work that has been done by till now, covering southern varieties of Northern Saho and the two main varieties of Central Saho. The next field trips in Eritrea by the team of the *Atlas of the Traditional Material Culture of the Saho* project will attempt to elicit data in villages where the other varieties of Saho are spoken.

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Field data have been collected in Eritrea from 1999 to 2009 by Moreno and Roberta Vergari (Ethnorêma). Interviews with the informants mentioned below have been carried out in January and February 2008 and 2009 by Ahmedsaad Mohammed Omer [Axmadsacad Maxammad Cumar] (Eritrean Field Coordinator), Giorgio Banti (University of Naples “L’Orientale”), Giovanni Dore (University of Venice “Ca’ Foscari”), Moreno Vergari and Roberta Vergari.

The Ministry of Education of the State of Eritrea (MoE) generously provided the project with all the necessary authorizations and logistic support for visiting the towns and villages in the Southern (Debuub) Region. The Saho Panel of the Department of General Education of the MoE supported us with their expertise.

### **Documentary locations (field sites) and main informants**

Ciyaago and Safiira. Ciyaago is a small village very close to Safiira. Safiira is the main village on the 32 km<sup>2</sup> wide Qoxayto plateau, famous for its archaeological sites, its rock inscriptions and paintings.

The interviews about beekeeping were carried out on the 28th and 29th January 2008, in the house and the apiary of the informant in Ciyaago. The beekeeping wordlist was recorded in Safiira the 1st February 2009.

*Region:* South [Zooba Debuub]

*Sub-Zone (Province):* Caddi Qayyix

*Coordinates:* 14°52' N 39°25' E (Safiira), 14°52' N 39°24'50" E (Ciyaago)

*Altitude (approximative):* 2630 m

*Population:* 272 (76 households) (Safiira)<sup>2</sup>.

*Main informant:* Maxammadnur “Xajji” Axmad “Baska” (MN), a 62 year old beekeeper, of the Faqhat Xarak clan of the Minifire group of the Saho.

Kaaribossa. A village located 7 km. from Safiira (by car). The interviews on beekeeping were carried out on the 6th and 7th February 2008, in the house and the apiary of the informant. The beekeeping wordlist was recorded on the 3rd February 2009.

*Region:* South [Zooba Debuub]

*Sub-Zone (Province):* Caddi Qayyix

*Coordinates:* 14°55' N 39°25' E

*Altitude (approximative):* 2550 m

*Population:* 374 (80 households)<sup>3</sup>

*Main informant:* Maxammadcali Axmad Maxammad (MC), a 66 year old farmer and beekeeper, of the Xasabat Care group of the Saho.

Dhamxina. A village located 27 km. from Safiira (by car). The interviews on beekeeping were carried out the 26th January 2009, in the mosque of Dhamxina.

*Region:* South [Zooba Debuub]

*Sub-Zone (Province):* Caddi Qayyix

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<sup>2</sup> Source: *Population Census 20.04.2006, Adi Keih Administration, Southern Region.*

<sup>3</sup> Source: *Population Census 20.04.2006, Adi Keih Administration, Southern Region.*

*Coordinates:* 15°01' N 39°26' E

*Altitude (approximative):* 2550 m

*Population:* not available

*Main informants:* Maxmuud Ibraahim Aboobakar (MI) and Maxmuud Maxammad Ibraahim (MM), respectively 59 and 68 years old, herders, farmers and beekeepers, of the Casaleesan clan of the Casawurta group of the Saho.

Thiisha. A village located a couple of km. northeast of Sancafe. The interviews on beekeeping were carried out the 5th February 2008, in the house and the apiary of the informant.

*Region:* South [Zooba Debuub]

*Sub-Zone (Province):* Sancafe

*Coordinates:* 14°43' N 39°26' E

*Altitude (approximative):* 2450 m

*Population:* not available

*Main informant:* Cumardiin Ibraahim Ismaacil (CI), a ca. 50 year old beekeeper of the Gacaso clan of the Minifire group of the Saho.

Mako. A village on the Amba Soyra plateau. The interviews on beekeeping were carried out on the 29th January 2009, in front of the house of the informant.

*Region:* South [Debuub]

*Sub-Zone (Province):* Sancafe

*Coordinates:* 14°42' N 39°31' E

*Altitude (approximative):* 2720 m

*Population:* 620 (127 households)<sup>4</sup>

*Main informant:* Xammad Adam Axmad (XA), an 81 year old farmer, herder and beekeeper of the Dabrimeela clan of the Saho.

## Video and audio files

Short videos and audio files regarding beekeeping activities among the Saho are available in our website under the following links (see also the attached folder “Lexicon files”):

[Ciyaago beekeeping.wmv](#)

[Kaaribossa beekeeping.wmv](#)

[Thiisha beekeeping.wmv](#)

[chaachun\\_MC\\_KAA.mp3](#)

[chaachun\\_MN\\_CIY.mp3](#)

[saatsun\\_XA\\_MA.mp3](#)

[tsaatsun\\_CI\\_THI.mp3](#)

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<sup>4</sup> Source: Administration office in Mako, 29.01.09.

## Abbreviations and orthographical notes

<i>AB</i>	‘Afar schoolbooks (see Bibliography)	<i>rel to</i>	related to
<i>Af.</i>	‘Afar	<i>Rein.</i>	Reinisch 1890 (see the Bibliography)
<i>Ar.</i>	Arabic	<i>SB</i>	Saho schoolbooks (see the Bibliography)
<i>cf</i>	compare with	<i>sgtv</i>	singulative
<i>CS</i>	Northern and Southern Central Saho (Minifire)	<i>SS</i>	Southern Saho (Xazo ~ Xado)
<i>CS1</i>	Northern Central Saho (Northern Minifire)	<i>syn</i>	synonymous
<i>CS2</i>	Southern Central Saho (Southern Minifire - Dabrimeela)	<i>tr</i>	transitive
<i>Diario</i>	Mochi’s diary, (see Ciruzzi <i>et al.</i> in the Bibliography)	<i>Ty.</i>	Tigrinya
<i>e.g.</i>	for example	<i>UTSE</i>	Useful Trees and Shrubs of Eritrea - Bein <i>et al.</i> 1996 (see the Bibliography)
<i>f</i>	feminine	<i>vI</i>	first class verbs (verbs with prefixes and suffixes)
<i>G.</i>	Ge‘ez	<i>vII</i>	second class verbs (verbs with suffixes)
<i>intr</i>	intransitive	<i>vIII</i>	third class verbs (stative verbs)
<i>It.</i>	Italian	<i>vIV</i>	fourth class verbs (compound verbs)
<i>lit</i>	literally	<i>VV</i>	Vergari&Vergari 2003 (see the Bibliography)
<i>m</i>	masculine	~	variant
<i>n</i>	noun	→	see
<i>NS</i>	Northern Saho (Casawurta – Thaaruuca – Xasabat Care)	{ }	likely etymologically related words in other languages <sup>5</sup>
<i>pl</i>	plural		

See also the abbreviations of the informants’ names in the sections about “Main informants” on the previous pages.

All the Saho and ‘Afar names are written with the current orthography used in Eritrea (except the names Saho [Saaho] and ‘Afar [Qafar]. Notice in particular that *c* = [ʕ], *ch* = [tʃ], *č* = [tʃ], *dh* = [d] and its allophone *rh* = [ɾ], *gn* = [ɲ], *j* = [dʒ], *kh* = [x], *q* = [kʰ], *qh* = [xʰ], *sh* = [ʃ], *th* = [tʰ], *ts* = [sʰ], *x* = [ħ].

<sup>5</sup> Unless specified differently, Parker and Hayward (1985) and Parker (2006) have been used for ‘Afar; Wehr (1994) for Arabic; Leslau (1987) for Ge‘ez; Kane (2000) for Tigrinya. Notice that etymologies are not indicated systematically here.

*Sinah tanem tane*  
**Baska bathceh tane**  
*Xargi xarhak yane*  
*Cibna golod tane*

There is something for you  
There is **honey** for making **hydromel**  
There is a gelded animal tied to a tree  
There is the bride behind the curtain

(From a traditional *xorra* song for weddings)

**abba** *nm* father, chief, leader {*Af. abba*; *Ar.* أب [ab]; *Ty.* አቦ [ʔabbo], አባ [ʔabba] (only for ecclesiastics)} *pl* **abbub** *m*.

— **zizzaalet abba** *NS*, *CS1* ~ **didaalet abba** *CS2* ~ **dilaalet abba** *CS2*, *SS* queen bee; *cf* **ina**, **nugus**, **reezanto**, **shuum**.

(For information see under **shuum**).

**alaaki** *nf* species of shrub(s) (*Psiadia punctulata*) *sgtv* **alaakitto** *m* (seed/fruit), **alaakittö** *f* - {*Ty.* አላኪት [ʔalakit]}.

A plant with yellow flowers, from which bees [**zizzaale** →] collect [**eskette**] nectar [**dhacammucus** →]. Yellow honey [**caaguyin baska** → **baska**] is produced from it.



(*Psiadia punctulata*. UTSE, 324)

**amo** *nf* 1. head 2. chief 3. top {*Af. amo*} *pl* **amom** ~ **amum** *m*.

— **zizzaalet amo** *NS*, *CS1* ~ **didaalet amo** *CS2* ~ **dilaalet amo** *CS2*, *SS* a bee's head; also *CS2* **dilaalet xangal** (*CI*).

On its head a bee [**zizzaale** →] has its eyes [**intit**, *pl* of **inti**], its mouth [**af**] and its antennae [**gawus** → **gashsha**].

**amoodasse** *nm* bee pupa; *pl* **amoodassit**, *m*; *cf* **dhanqacalla**, **xanane**.

A phase in the development of bees [**zizzaale** →], after the stage of larva [**xanane** →]. When the bee reaches its 25th day of life (*MN*, *MC*), it is ready to get out of its cell [**curum** →]. (According to *CI* the time for developing from larva to adult bee changes according to the climate.) An **amoodasse** has a black head and a white or yellow body (*MC*), and it is already a fully formed bee with its wings [**gale** →] and its antennae [**gashsha** →], but it cannot fly yet.

It is called **puppa** in *SB* 3.

**are** *vII* to bite {*Af. are*} *rel* to **arnan** biting, **arriime** *vI* to be bitten, **arriimeena** *nm* someone who used to gnaw, to bite, **arrishime** 1. to cause to be bitten 2. to quarrel, **arrite** *vI* to be bitten, **arro** *nf* bite, **arum** *nm* biting.

Bee [**zizzaale** →] bites, made with the sting [**iko** →] they have at the bottom [**ceerho**] of their abdomen, are regarded as poisonous. After biting, the bee dies because its sting remains in the victim's skins together with a part of its abdomen [**gabbe** →]. Drones [**canjur** →] have no stings.

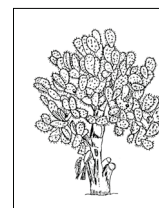
**askhamar** *nm NS*, *CS1* ~ **askamar** *CS2*, *SS* fermentation {*Ar.* خمّر [ħamr]} *rel to ikhmire NS*, *CS1* ~ **ikmire** *CS2*, *SS* to be fermented, **iskhimire** *NS*, *CS1* ~ **iskimire** *CS2*, *SS* to cause fermentation (of a substance) (*tr.*), **khamre** *NS*, *CS1* ~ **kamre** *CS2*, *SS* alcoholic drink.

Moslem Sahos prepare a beverage from milk [**xan**], water [**lay**] and, at times, buttermilk [**xangazza** →]. Yet they don't let it ferment, and drink it before it develops an alcohol content. *Cf* **bathce**, **birze**, **malab**, **mees**, **Xaliima macar**.

**balasa** *nm* prickly pears(s), Indian fig(s) (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) {*Ty.* በለስ [bäläs]} *sgtv* **balasso** *m* (fruit), **balassö** *f*.

A plant from which bees [**zizzaale** →] collect [**eskette**] nectar [**dhacammucus** →] and produce red honey [**casa baska** → **baska**].

(*Opuntia ficus-indica*. UTSE, 289)



**baska** *nf* honey; *sgtv* **baskatto** *f NS* ~ **baskayto** *CS*, *SS*; *pl* **baskak** *m*; *rel to basaaka nf* sweetness, **basak-erhxe** ~ **basak-e** *vIV* to be sweet, **basak-ishe** to sweeten; *cf* **bukke**, **inti**, **lanle**.

— **caaguayin baska** yellow honey (from **caaguyna** *vIII* 'to be yellow').

Honey collected in May [**gimbot**].



A common meal of white honey [**cado baska**], barley [**cadeelaw**] bread and clarified butter [**subax**]. *Kaaribossa*.

— **cado baska** white honey (from **cado** *vIII* 'to be white').

Honey produced in September [**maskarram**] and October [**thiqqimti**]. A couple of days after being harvested it crystallizes. It is regarded as the best quality of honey.

— **casa baska** red honey (from **casa** *vIII* 'to be red').

Honey produced particularly from prickly pears [**balasa** →], collected in May [**gimbot**] and June [**sayne**]. Red honey remains liquid and doesn't crystallize. It is believed to have particular curative virtues, and is used

by non-Muslim Eritreans for producing **mees** [→]. Sometimes they add it to **malab** [→].

— **dat baska** black honey (from **data** *vIII* 'to be black').

Honey obtained from old honeycombs [**ganra** →].

— **dhamxin baska** honey that has been collected from some time, coagulated honey (from **dhamxina** *vIII* 'to be cold').

— **intit baska** pure honey, liquid honey (from **inti** *nf* eye).

Also called simply **inti** [→]; *cf* **lanle**.

— **lacin baska** fresh honey, honey that has just been collected (from **lacina** *vIII* 'to be hot').

— **musannac kin baska** artificial honey (from **musannac** *nm* 'artificial thing').

Honey mixed with sugar [**shokkar**], bananas [**banana** or **muuz**] or other things for commercial purposes. Saho's do not produce it.

— **tsideenat baska** *NS, CS1* ~ **chideenat baska** *CS2* honey produced by mining bees [**tsideena** →].

This kind of honey is rather rare and difficult to harvest, because mining bees produce it underground. When it is collected [**eskette**], it fetches a very high price: the amount of a coffee [**buun**] cup can sell for 700 nakfas, ca. 35 euros at the exchange rate of February 2009. The area where it is produced lies to the west of Caddi Qayyix (Adi Keih), where mining bees are more frequent.

(*Rein.*) **baská** plur. *básōk* subst. fem. honig 1, 21; 2, 24; 8, 1.  
*dībī baská* wüstenhonig, Marc. 1, 6. *çidánā baská* erdbinen-  
 honig, *kākōytī baská* »rabenhonig« name einer pflanzensorte,  
*momordica morkorra* A. Rich., s. Bil. s. v. *má'rō*.

Bees don't produce any honey from October to March. The first harvest is made in April [**maaziya**] and May [**gimbot**]. After August [**naxaasi**], during the highland rainy season [**karma**], all the honey has to be removed from the smaller beehives [**qafo** →], in order to make room for the new honey that is produced abundantly in that period of time.

During the dry season [**xagaa**] the little amount of honey that is produced is usually left in the honeycombs [**samfe, xabaza** →] for the bees. During particularly dry seasons the beekeeper [**zizzaalet zan abatiya** → **zizzaale**] has to supplement the bees' diet with a mixture of sugar and water, usually 1 kg. of sugar for 1 lt. of water.

Honey is extracted from honeycombs by squeezing them after they are taken out of the hives [**qafo** →] (see under **xabaza** for more details). Since what is thus obtained is rather impure, it is left in a container for some time. In this manner the wax [**shimca** →] gathers on the surface while liquid and purer honey [**intit baska** → **baska**] remains below it. However, this honey never is wholly pure. Sometimes a piece is cut off a honeycomb, and it is eaten in a mouthful [**dhacto** *NS, CS1* ~ **daaroyta** *CS2*] of wax and honey.

Honey has different colours and qualities according to the plants from which it is produced. The main ones are: **alaaki** [→], **cawun** [→], **gargeera** [→], **gaaxunrhe** [→], **gelgel mesqel** [→], **kusura** [→], **muxumwaaxe** [→], **qalaaminthos** [→], **saraw** [→], **tabab** [→]. MC classifies the different qualities of honey according not only to their taste but also to the price they fetch with merchants: the best one is white honey (120 nakfa/kg = ca. 6 euro), then the red one (100 nakfa/kg = ca. 5 euro), the yellow one (80/90 nakfa/kg = 4/4,50 euro), the black one (60 nakfa/kg = ca. 3 euro), and finally the **bukke** [→] (40/50 nakfa/kg = 2/2,50 euro). The last one is generally not eaten by the Saho's, who also don't eat honey from plants such as **siraaceera** [→], **mazba** [→], **olaal** [→], **sucuda** [→] or **timbaako** [→]. The best areas in the Saho lands for honey production (according to MN) are Amba Soyra, Sarwa, Dhaalo, Mudxulo, Dhamxina and Xaalay.

**bathce** *nm NS, CS1* ~ **batce** *CS2, SS* 1. kneaded or mixed honey 2. fresh beverage prepared with honey and water, unfermented hydromel {*Ar.* بتع [bit<sup>é</sup>]; *Ty.* በተጫ [bät<sup>é</sup>] to stir up, to muddy (water), to dissolve honey in water} *rel to* **abthac** *nm NS, CS1* ~ **abtac** *CS2, SS* kneading, mixing the honey, **ibthice** *vI NS, CS1* ~ **ibtice** *CS2, SS* to knead, to mix the honey, **imbithice** *vI NS, CS1* ~ **imbitice** *CS2, SS* to be kneaded, to be mixed (of honey), **iybithice** *vI NS, CS1* ~ **iybitice** *CS2, SS* to

cause to knead, to mix the honey, **ombothoothoce** *vI NS*, *CS1* ~ **ombotootoce** *CS2*, *SS* to be dirty with mud, to be soiled with mud; *cf* **birze**, **malab**, **mees**, **Xaliima macar**.

**Bathce** is usually prepared and drunk after a short while, before its fermentation [**askhamar** →]. It is used on special occasions such as weddings [**marca**] or religious ceremonies [**tahliil**]. The honey-water ratio is variable and depends on several factors as well as on the experience of the person (always a man) who is preparing the hydromel. It is served only to men by pouring it from a skin bag [**idrotta** →] or another container. Sometimes the word **bathce** is used as a synonym of **birze** [→] or **Xaliima macar** [→].

(*Rein.*) **Bata'** I v. 1 in *i* ('Af. *bél'i*, Ar. *بَتَّع*, Ti. **ብትብ**: mit wasser verdünnter honig als getränke) honig ins wasser geben um ein süßes getränke zu bereiten, subj. *abtá'ō*, impf. *á-*, pf. *í-btí'a*, imprt. *ibtí'* plur. *ibtí'ā* und *ibtá'ā!* 38, 23. neg. *mabta'in!* inf. *ábtí'*, nom. act. *abtí'nán*, subst. m. *bít'e* honigwasser.  
*y-bata'* caus. ein solches getränke bereiten lassen, subj. *aybatá'ō*, pf. *áybítí'a* imprt. *ey-*, *ī-bittí'* u. s. w.  
*m-bata'* pass., subj. *ambatá'ō*, pf. *imbítí'a*.

**birze** *nm NS*, *CS1* ~ **birde** *CS2*, *SS* unfermented or barely fermented beverage prepared with honey, water and (sometimes) buttermilk; hydromel; mead {*Ty.* **ብርዝ** [bərzi] or **ቦርዝ** [bärzi]} *pl birzit m NS*, *CS1* ~ **birdit** *CS2*, *SS*; *rel to* **ibrize** *vI NS*, *CS1* ~ **ibride** *CS2*, *SS* to make something sour, to prepare **birze**, **imbirrizze** *vI NS*, *CS1* ~ **imbirride** *CS2*, *SS* to be made sour, **iybirize** *vI NS*, *CS1* ~ **iybiride** *CS2*, *SS* to cause to become sour; *cf* **bathce**, **malab**, **mees**, **Xaliima macar**.

One or two days after it has been prepared **bathce** [→] begins to ferment [**askhamar** →]. Its fermentation is sped up by adding buttermilk [**xangazza** →]. Moslem Saho's drink it before it develops an alcohol content.

Sometimes **birze** is used as a synonym of **bathce** [→] or **Xaliima macar** [→].

**bukke** *nm* bitter red/brown honey mixed with pollen, beebread; *pl bukkit nm*; *sgtv bukketta f NS* ~ **bukkeyta** *CS*, *SS*.

When bees [**zizzaale** →] deposit pollen [**xawo** →] in the cells [**curum** →], it forms with the honey [**baska** →] a semifluid mixture [**cagun**]. After some time this mixture becomes **bukke**. Because of its bad taste, **bukke** is generally left in the honeycomb [**samfe**, **xabaza** →] for the bees to feed on, especially during the dry season [**xagaa**]. When a beekeeper extracts honey from a honeycomb that contains also some **bukke**, he usually puts it apart. It is either discarded, kept for the bees for dry periods, or sold on the market if there is a considerable amount of it. Non-Moslems employ also this kind of honey for the fermentation [**askhamar** →] of **mees** [→] (XA). Saho's don't usually eat it. Some beekeepers maintain that **bukke** is produced from the pollen of plants (e.g. **mulxuuxuna** or **xaaxot**) that cannot yield honey of good quality.

(*Rein.*) **Búke** plur. *buk-it*, indiv. *buke-ytā* subst. m. (*cf.* *bakü*) leere wachsscheibe in deren löchern weder honig noch brut sich befindet.

**bulac** *nm* small insect(s) that produces high quality honey; *sgtv bulacto m*; *cf* **tsideena**, **uxun**, **ziiza**.

It is found in tree holes or among rocks (MC).



**cafur** *nm* kind of lizard {*Af. cafur*} *pl* **cafuura** *f*.

One of the enemies [**caduu**] of bees [**zizzaale** →] that can attack their hives [**qafo** →]. MN believes that this lizard gets its poison [**xinze** →] from the bees, and that snakes [**caroora**] gets their poison from it.

**cako** *nf* spider *pl* **cakok** *m*.

One of the enemies [**caduu**] of bees [**zizzaale** →] that can attack their hives [**qafo** →]. MN states that spiders construct their webs [**thaqhar**] inside hives and kill many bees.

**canjur** *nm NS, CS* ~ **xunjur** *NS* ~ **candur** *SS*, male bee(s), drone(s) {*Ty. ፊንገራ* [ˈɛnzərə]} *sgtv* **canjurta** *m NS, CS* ~ **candurta** *SS*.

Male bee [**zizzaale** →], bigger than the worker bees [**shaqqaala** →]. It doesn't bite [**are** →]. Bees kill the drones between the end of September [**maskarram**] and the beginning of October [**thiqqimti**] at the **maatot** [→] when the male bees return to the hives [**qafo** →] (normally they go outside during the first afternoon [**zuhre**]). Drones are commonly believed by the Saho's to fetch water (e.g. CI), but expert beekeepers know that this is not true and that their only function is reproduction.

(*Rein.*) *Anzār-ā* plur. *-it*, indiv. *anzārā-ytō* plur. *-ytit* subst. *m*. (*Ty. አንገርያ*) drone, brutbine, bineumännchen.

**canqel** *nm syn* of **mascashala** [→] (CI).

**caretto** *nf NS* ~ **carayto** *CS1, CS2, SS* seasonal natural beehive; *pl* **carettot** *m NS* ~ **caraytot** *CS1, CS2, SS*; *rel to* **care** *nm* house or **cara** *nf* place; *cf* **gaxseena**, **murhcumse**, **mascashalä**, **qafo**.

This kind of natural beehives are found in hollow trees (sometimes also in holes made by a woodpecker [**har-harat**]) or in rock cavities, where bees [**zizzaale** →] generally remain for one season. They are easy to reach, and bees frequently come back the following years. Such hives can be spotted by looking for the bees' faeces [**thacal** →], or with the help of an indicator bird [**irir** →].

In order to catch the swarm [**cishle** →] of an **caretto** it is dislodged with some smoke [**tika**]. It then flees on a tree branch and the honey can be harvested from the hive. The swarm is shaken off from the branch and falls on a cloth or a bed sheet [**ansoola** o **natsala**]. Water is sprinkled on it for preventing the bees from flying away, and the queen [**abba**, **ina**, **nugus**, **reezanto**, **shuum** →] is caught and closed in a special small cage [**chaachun** →]. This **chaachun** is then put within a bundle of branches [**mascashala** →] and the bees gather around it. At this point it is wrapped in a cloth with a piece of it sticking out for transporting it.

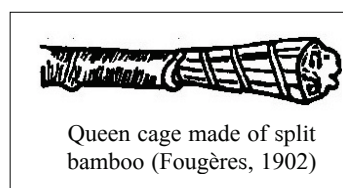
The beekeeper leaves a possession mark [**tuumar** →] outside the beehive until he is able to carry the swarm away.

The corresponding term for CI is **gaxseena** [→].

**cawun** *nm* species of plant(s) (*Sarcostemma viminalis* or *Sarcostemma andongense*) *sgtv* **cawunto** *m* (seed/flower), **cawuntö** *f*.

A plant from which bees collect [**eskette**] nectar [**dhacammucus** →].

**chaachun** *nm NS, CS1* ~ **tsaatsun** *CS2* ~ **saatsun** *CS2* queen bee cage(s) {*Ty. ሳጸጉ* [saʃun]} *sgtv* **chaachunto** *m*



*NS, CS1 ~ tsaatsunto CS2 ~ saatsunto CS2; pl chaachuuna f NS, CS1 ~ tsaatsuuna CS2 ~ saatsuuna CS2.*

A small cage use for transporting the queen bee [**abba, ina, nugus, reezanto, shuum** →] from one hive [**qafo** →] to another.



There are several types of **chaachun**, some of them traditional and some modern. The traditional ones are of two types: one of them consists of a folded piece of leather (**anada** or **rado**) closed by removable small pieces of wood or thorns (usually from *Acacia Abyssinica siica*). These form a small cage of ca. 8 cm. (*type A, see picture*). Another traditional type consists of a segment of maize cane (ca. 12-13 cm. in length), with a number of holes for enabling the queen to breathe. The open end of the cane segment is closed by wooden plug (*type B, see picture*). One of the modern types consists in a small rectangular wooden box (ca. 13 cm. circa in length) closed by a wire netting. On one side it has a hole for introducing the queen bee, that is plugged with a wooden cap (*type C, see picture*). This type has been devised in order to improve the ventilation of the cage, and makes it possible to transport queens even in the hot lowlands or over long distances.

Other modern types are prepared according to the beekeeper's whim (*types D and E, see pictures*).

The queen bee cannot be kept in a **chaachun** for more than 8 days, before putting it together with its (old or new) swarm.

**cishle** *nm NS, CS1, CS2 ~ cisle CS2* swarm, bee's colony {*Ty. ዕስለ* [ˈəslä] or ዕስሊ. [ˈəsli]} *pl cishlit NS, CS1, CS2 ~ cislit CS2, m rel to icshile vI NS, CS1, CS2 ~ icsile CS2* to form a swarm (of insects), to swarm (*intr*), **iscishile** *vI NS, CS1, CS2 ~ icsile CS2* to collect a swarm in a specific place, **issicishshile** *vI NS, CS1, CS2 ~ issicissile CS2* to cause to collect a swarm in a specific place, **mascashala** [→], **mascashalä** [→]; *cf dabaa, haadayto, xagaz, xawaz, zizzaaletta.*

A swarm consists of the queen bee [**abba, ina, nugus, reezanto, shuum** →], the drones [**canjur** →] and the other bees [**zizzaale** →].

There are both small [**cindha cishle**] and big swarms [**naba cishle** or **dabaa** → or **xagaz** →].

XA calls **bokhre** (a Tigrinya word: ቦኻሪ [boḵri] 'eldest') the first swarm that is born in a hive, **daagim** (a Tigrinya word: ደገም [dägim] 'wence, therefore, again') the second one, and **millax** the following ones. Since a swarm 'gives birth' to other swarms, the originary one is also called 'mother' **ina** [→].

A general term used for bee swarms is 'family' **xawaz** [→], while **zizzaaletta** [→] is used as a synonym.

A swarm that is found and collected in the wild is called **haadayto** [→].

**congoffe** *nm* wax (MC), prickly pear skin; *pl congoffit m*; *cf shimca*.

(For details see under **shimca**).

**curum** *nf* small hole(s); *sgtv curumto f*, *rel to curmuse vII* to do a hole.

A general term that is also used for the cells in a honeycomb [**samfe**, **xabaza** →]; *cf inti*. In *SB 4* the cells are called **xashaakul**.

**cuure** *nf* aloe(s) (*Aloe macrocarpa*) {*Af. cadcuure*; *Ty. ሞራ* [ˈerä], ሞሮ [ˈero], ሰራ [ˈerä]} *sgtv cuuretta m* (seed) *NS* ~ **cuureyta** *CS1*, *CS2*, *SS*, **cuurettä** *f NS* ~ **cuureytä** *CS1*, *CS2*, *SS*.

A plant whose nectar [**dhacammucus** →] is harvested by bees.

(*Aloe macrocarpa*. UTSE, 67)



**dabaa** *nm* big bee colony, big swarm; *cf cishle*, **haadayto**, **xagaz**, **xawaz**, **zizzaaletta**.

A term used by MC as a synonym of **xagaz** [→].

**dacmur** *nm* propolis.

A dark mixture that is collected by bees [**zizzaale** →] and employed by them for closing the entrance [**maatot** →] of the beehive [**qaf** →], in order to shelter it against the winds and the enemies [**caduu**].

CI states that it is collected by the drones [**canjur** →] and the worker bees [**shaqqaala** →]. MC instead believes that it may derive from wax [**shimca** →], while MN says it is a sort of pollen [**xawo** →].

Saho's don't use propolis, even though recent courses organized by the government have shown Eritrean beekeepers how it is used in other parts of the world.

**dagge** *nf* fence, enclosure, pen {*Af. dagge*} *pl daggeg m*.

— **cishli dagge** *NS*, *CS1*, *CS2* ~ **cisli dagge** *CS2* enclosure with beehives, apiary.

— **zizzaalet dagge** *NS*, *CS1* ~ **didaalet dagge** *CS2* ~ **dilaalet dagge** *CS2*, *SS* enclosure with beehives, apiary.

**dhacammucus** *nm* sugary fluid secreted by plants, nectar.

Nectar is usually called just 'water' [**lay**, **laye**]. Bees [**zizzaale** →] suck it up from flowers and regurgitate it in the honeycomb [**samfe**, **xabaza** →]. CI specifies that it is the working bees [**shaqqaala** →] who perform this job, whereas other informants believe that the drones [**canjur** →] do it. MN and XA don't know any special term for the nectar collecting bees.



An apiary [**cishli dagge**] with traditional and modern beehives [**qafof**]. *Ciyaago*.

**dhanqacalla** *nf* pupa of the queen bee; *cf amoodasse*.

MC says that it is a stage in the development of a queen bee [**abba, ina, nugus, reezanto, shuum** →]. Its body is still white, and its wings [**gale** →] are not completely formed yet.

**dhawrheena** *nm* guard(s), watchman (-men); *f* **dhawrheenä**; *pl* **dhawrheenit** *m*; *rel to dhawrhe* *vII* to take care, to keep, to guard, to defende, **dhawrwhite** *vII* to take care, ecc., for one's own benefit, **dhawrho** *nf* guard, difense; *cf* **maxaarho, wardiya**.

A general term used by some beekeepers for the guardian bees.

**dhuurhe** *nf* ant(s) {*Af. dhuune*} *sgtv* **dhuuretta** *NS* ~ **dhurheyta** *CS, SS m*; **dhuurettä** *NS* ~ **dhurheytä** *CS, SS f*.

One of the enemies [**caduu**] of bees [**zizzaale** →] that can attack their hives [**qafo** →].

**folotta** *nf NS* ~ **foloyta** *CS, SS* 1. piece of bread, food 2. honeycomb with honey; *sgtv of folo* *nf* bread, food *syn* **xabaza**; *cf* **ganra, lanle, lubud, samfe, sidda, takaro, xananeyta**.

The singulative form of the collective **folo**. It is used in beekeeping for indicating the honeycomb filled with honey, as a synonym of **xabaza** [→] (MI, MM).

**gaaxunrhe** *nm* plant of the family Acanthaceae.

A plant whose nectar [**dhacammucus** →] is harvested by bees [**zizzaale** →].

**gabbe** *nm* abdomen, lower part of the body.

This term is used only for bees [**zizzaale** →] and other insects [**awwaaxa**], e.g., flies [**qaca**]. Bees store in their **gabbe** the nectar [**dhacammucus** →] they collect from flowers (MN).

**gadca** *var of gidac* [→].

**galadda** *nm* wooden bowl {*Af. galadda*} *pl* **galaddit** *m*; *syn* **koora** [→]; *cf* **safxa, shaxan**.

The **galadda** is a wooden bowl with a base [**lak** 'foot/leg'] and one or two handles [**cokkak** ~ **aytit** 'ears']. One of its uses is carrying the honey from the beehive [**qafo** →] to the home, where it is stored into another container.

Like all other wooden objects, the **galadda** is carved by men, preferably by using tamarisk wood [**saagan**]. Nowadays it is increasingly rare, as it is replaced by plastic or metal bowls.

**gale** *nm* wing {*Af. gali*} *pl* **galil** *m*.

A general term used for any kind of flying bird [**kimbir**] or insect [**awwaaxa**].



Wooden bowl [**galadda/koora**]. *Kaaribossa*.



**Koora** (from *Diario Mochi*, pag. 97. (with permission).

**gamad** *nm* lid {*Af.* **gamad** buttock, end, rear} *pl gamud m.*

A general term used in beekeeping also for the lids that seal the open ends of traditional hives [**caadat qafo** → **qafo**].

The **gamad** can be made of different materials, e.g., wood, animal dung, stones, etc.

**ganra** *nm* ~ **garra** old empty honeycomb(s), broodcomb(s) {*G.* ገራ [gəra]; *Ty.* ገርፍ [garna]}  
*pl ganrit* ~ **garrit m**; *sgtv ganrayto* ~ **garrayto f**;  
*cf folotta, lanle, lubud, samfe, sidda, takaro, xabaza, xananeyta.*

A **ganra** comb is an old and blackish broodcomb, that is usually discarded after the swarm has abandoned it.

Even though it not a proper honeycomb [**samfe, xabaza** →], it may contain some honey [**baska** →]. At first this tends to be red, but it becomes darker after it has been used for several breeding cycles.

CI calls broodcombs **xananeyta** [→] generally, and **ganra** the old ones.



Old honeycomb [**ganra**].  
*Ciyaago.*

**gargeera** *nf* a kind of tree with white flowers (MN).

A plant whose nectar [**dhacammucus** →] is harvested by bees [**zizzaale** →].

**gashsha** *nm NS, CS1* ~ **gaysha** *CS2* ~ **gaysa** *SS* horn {*Af.* **gaysa**} *pl gawus* ~ **gashshush m NS, CS1** ~ **gayshush CS2.**

A general term used in beekeeping for the antennae of bees [**zizzaale** →]. (XA).

**gaxseena** *nf CS2* seasonal natural beehive; *pl gaxseenit m*; *rel to gaxe vII* to return; *cf caretto, murhcumse, qafo.*

(For more details see under **caretto**).

**gelgel mesqel** *nm* herbaceous plant of the family of the Asteraceae (*Coreopsis macrantha*; *Bidens macroptera*) {*Ty.* ገል ገል መስቀል [gäl gäl mäsqäl]}.

A plant whose nectar [**dhacammucus** →] is harvested by bees (CI).

**gidac** *nm* ~ **gadca** animal dung, manure {*Af.* **gudaace**} *sgtv gidacto* ~ **gadcayto f.**

— **gidacto** ~ **gadcayto** beehive made with animal dung; *cf caadat qafo* [→ **qafo**].

**gota** *nf* kind of tree(s); *sgtv gotatto NS* ~ **gotayto CS, SS.**

One of the trees whose trunks are used for carving out traditional wooden beehives [**caadat qafo** → **qafo**].

**haadayto** *nm* term used for indicating a swarm found and captured in the wild (XA); *rel to haade vI* to run away, to take away, to fly; *cf cishle.*

**idrotta** *nf NS* ~ **idroyta CS, SS** water bag made with a goat or sheep skin; *pl idrottit NS* ~ **idroytit CS, SS, m**; *cf sibbarh.*

A water bag, slightly bigger than a **sibbarh** [→], used for transporting several kinds of liquids and also honey [**baska** →]. (Now plastic [**gomma**] or metal containers [**macdanto** →] are more frequently used to this purpose).

If an **idrotta** or **sibbarh** filled with honey are closed properly and stored in a box or suitcase [**sanduqh**], the honey can last even for 10 years (MN). After some time the honey in the bag solidifies, and in order to take it out it can be necessary to cut the bag that is then discarded.

Skin containers are prepared by women.

**iko** *nf* tooth; *pl* **ikok** *m*.

— **zizzaalet-iko** (or simply **iko**) the sting of a bee.

(For details see under **are**).

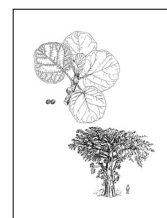
**ina** *nf* mother {*Af. ina*} *pl* **inon** *m*.

— **zizzaalet ina** *NS*, *CS1* ~ **didaalet ina** *CS2* ~ **dilaalet ina** *CS2*, *SS* queen bee; ‘mother swarm’; *cf* **abba**, **nugus**, **reezanto**, **shuum**.

(For details see under **shuum**).

**indacaaro** *nm* species of fig tree(s) (*Ficus vasta*) {*Ty. አዕሮ* [da‘əro]}  
*sgtv* **indacarto** *m* (fruit), **indacartö** *f*.

One of the trees whose trunks are used for carving out traditional wooden beehives [**caadat qafo** → **qafo**].



(*Ficus vasta*. UTSE, 217)

**inti** *nf* eye {*Af. inti*} *pl* **intit** *m*.

Saho’s call honey ‘eye’ when it is liquid and pure (see **intit baska** [→ **baska**]), especially when it is still in the cells [**curum** →]. Such cells are themselves called **inti** when they contain honey and before they are sealed with wax [**shimca** →], because they have the shape of an eye. Liquid honey is also called **lalle** or **lanle** [→] (XA).

**irir** *nf* bird that guides humans to the nests of honey bees, honeyguide, indicator bird (*Indicator indicator?* *Indicator minor?*).

MC provided a detailed description of how this bird guides humans to a natural beehive [**caretto** →]. After spotting it and seeing a person, the **irir** lands on a tree near that person and utters its typical call for attracting his attention. The man answers by uttering ‘*irrii*’ when he recognises it. The **irir** then flies to another tree and utters again its call for guiding him. This sequence is repeated until the location of the bees is reached. The bird now utters a feebler call, flies a short stretch beyond the hive and then flies back, in order to show that the location has been reached. Sometimes it also lands on a tree near the bees [**zizzaale** →]. and flaps [**gifgifite**] its wings a couple of times against the tree. At this point the man collects the honey [**baska** →] and the **irir** remains nearby in order to eat the larvae [**xanane** →] that fall to the ground while it is being collected, or the honeycomb [**samfe**, **xabaza** →] pieces that he leaves for it. If the person approached by the **irir** doesn’t collect the honey, it flies away looking for somebody else.

Usually it is men, not women, who recognise an **irir**’s call and collect the honey. This is also due to the fact that seasonal beehives are frequently located in rather inaccessible places.

MC also mentioned another bird, with black wings, called **alago** (*Ty. አላጎ* [alago]), that indicates the presence of wild animals, snakes, and even bees.

(*Rein.*) **Irir** plur. -á, indiv. *irir-tā* plur. -tit subst. m. vogel, benannt nach seinem ruf *irir*, den er stets hören lässt, der honigkukuk (?), das was Bil. *firfirá*.

**isqithire** *vI* *NS*, *CS1* ~ **ihillile** *CS2*, *SS* to buzz; to swarm around the beehive, making noise.

**koora** *nf* wooden bowl; *pl* **koorar** *m*; *syn* **galadda** [→] *cf* **safxaxa**, **shaxan**.

(For more details see under **galadda**).

**kusura** *nm* jujube (*Ziziphus spina-christi*) {*Af.* **kusra**} *sgtv* **kusurto** *m* (seed/fruit), **kusurtö** *f*.

A plant whose nectar [**dhacammucus** →] is harvested by bees [**zizzaale** →].



(*Ziziphus spina-christi*. UTSE, 413)

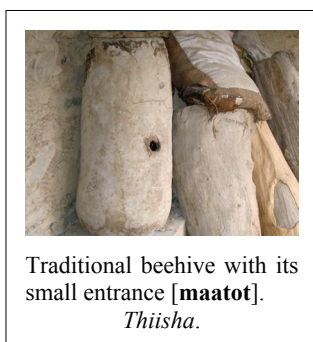
**lanle** *nf* ~ **lalle** 1. pure honey, liquid honey (XA) 2. the honeycomb when it has been removed from the hive, before the extraction of its honey (MI, MM); *cf* 1. **inti**, **intit baska** [→ **baska**] 2. **folotta**, **ganra**, **lubud**, **samfe**, **sidda**, **takaro**, **xabaza**, **xananeyta**.

**lashshab** *nf* *NS*, *CS1* ~ **layshab** *CS2* ~ **laysab** *SS* bat (animal); *pl* **lashshaabub** *m* *NS*, *CS1* ~ **layshaabub** *CS2* ~ **laysaabub** *SS*; *sgtv* **lashshabto** *NS*, *CS1* ~ **layshabto** *CS2* ~ **laysabto** *SS*.

Bats are regarded as one of the enemies [**caduu**] of bees, that they eat.

**lubud** *nm* closed/completed/finished thing {*Ty.* ለብህ [ləbud] blocked, plugged up} *rel* to **ilbide** *vI* to close, to complete, to finish; to put the traditional millstone on its support.

The term **lubud kin xabaza** ‘closed honeycomb’, or simply **lubud**, is used for honeycombs that have been sealed by bees with wax after they have been filled with honey [**baska** →] *cf* **folotta**, **ganra**, **lanle**, **samfe**, **sidda**, **takaro**, **xabaza**, **xananeyta**.



Traditional beehive with its small entrance [**maatot**].  
*Thiisha.*

**maatot** *nm* small entrance in a beehive used by bees for getting in and out of it; *pl* **maatooti**, *f*.

This rather small hole (a few cms.) is made by the beekeeper with the help of a sharp pointed metal tool [**mandal**] and a hammer [**martello**].

**macdanto** *nm* container with a lid, made of tin or another metal; *pl* **macdantit**, *m*.

Container also used for preserving and transporting honey [**baska** →].

**malab** *nm* fermented beverage, ‘beer’; *pl* **malob** *m* {*Af.* **malab** honey} *cf* **bathce**, **birze**, **mees**, **Xaliima macar**.

MC says that non-Muslims sometimes add red honey [**casa baska** → **baska**] to **malab** [→]. Today the most of the Sahos use the word **malab** for indicating the traditional beer **suwaa**.

(*Rein.*) **Maláb** plur. **málób** subst. m. (‘Af. So. id.) honig mit wasser vermengt, honigwasser zum trinken; die christlichen Saho (Irob) nennen so auch die merisa, das bier von der negerhirse wenn sie in dasselbe etwas honig geben 8, 22. 25; 270, 2 ff.; 278, 22; 279, 13. 19 u. a.

**mascashala** *nm NS*, *CS1* ~ **mascalala** *CS2* bundle of branches used to capture and transport a swarm {Ty. መዕሰሊ. [mä'säli]} *pl mascashalit m*; *rel to cishle* [→].

A **mascashala** is usually made of **alaaki** [→] branches. CI calls it **cangel** [→]. For further informations see **caretto**.

**mascashalä** *nf NS*, *CS1* ~ **mascalälä** *CS2* traditional beehive (of different kinds) {Ty. መዕሰሊ. [mä'säli]} *pl mascashalit m*; *rel to cishle* [→]; *cf qafö*.

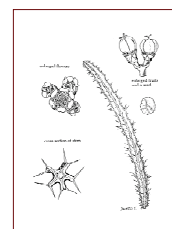
CI says that it is a hive placed by a beekeeper in a remote area, in order to entice bees [**zizzaale** →] to settle in it.

**maxaarho** *nm* 1. troop, army, warriors 2. spear {Af. maxarhu} *pl maxaarhit m*; *cf dhawrheena, wardiya*.

CI calls **maxaarho** (or **casaakir** 'soldiers') both the guardian bees [**wardiya** →] and the workers [**shaqqaala** →], especially when they are inside the beehive [**qafö** →].

**mazba** *nf NS*, *CS1* ~ **madba** *CS2*, *SS* specie(s) of euphorbia (*Euphorbia polyacantha*) {Ty. መዝባ [mäzba]} *sgtv mazbatto m NS* ~ **mazbayto** *CS1* ~ **madbayto** *CS2*, *SS* (seed/fruit), **mazbattö** *f. NS* ~ **mazbaytö** *CS1* ~ **madbaytö** *CS2*, *SS*.

Plant from which bees [**zizzaale** →] produce a low quality of honey [**baska** →] that is not consumed by the Saho's (MN).



(*Euphorbia polyacantha*. UTSE, 201)

**mees** *nm* fermented beverage made with honey, water and **geeso** (*Rhamnus prinoides*), hydromel, mead, honey wine {Ty. ሜስ [mes]}; *cf bathce, birze, malab, Xaliima macar*.

(Rein.) *Mēz* plur. -ä subst. m. Ti. (s. Bil. *mād* I) honigwein, hydromel 6, 19 ff.; 7, 1 ff.; A. ጠጅ፡

**murhcumse** *nm* ~ **murhcunse** permanent natural beehive; *pl murhcumsit* ~ **murhcunsit**, *m*; *cf caretto, gaxseena, qafö*.

Natural beehives of this kind are generally to be found in rock cavities [**galba**] and in inaccessible locations such as sheer cliffs [**bol**]. Bees [**zizzaale** →] live permanently in such hives, even for long periods of time (10, 20 years or more).

For reaching them, one has to use ropes for climbing down, and the following procedure is used. At first, the entrance of the beehive is smoked and sealed with stones and small branches. Bees must not be allowed to get out of it. The entrance remains sealed for two or three days, while the bees eat the honey [**baska** →] they have. After this time has elapsed, the hive is opened and smoked again. The swarm is so hungry, thirsty and disturbed by the smoke [**tika**] that it exits the hive and gathers on a nearby branch. At this point it is captured with the same method that is used for a **caretto** [→].

**muxumwaaxe** *nm* ~ **muxunwaaxe** herbaceous plant with white flowers (*Phaulopsis imbricata*); *sgtv muxumwaaxettä f NS* ~ **muxumwaaxeytä** *CS*, *SS*; *syn of waxamwaaxe* [→].

A plant whose nectar [**dhacammucus** →] is harvested by bees [**zizzaale** →]. The Tigrinya call it ጉርቢያ [gurbīya] or ግርቢያ [gərbiya].



**nugus** *nm* king {Ty. ንጉሥ [nəguś]} *pl* **nuguusa** *f*.

— **dilaalet nugus** *SS* queen bee (XA); *cf* **abba, ina, reezanto, shuum.**

**oolac** *nm* olive tree(s), African wild olive (*Olea africana*, *Olea chrysophylla*) *sgtv* **oolacto** *m* (seed, fruit), **oolactö** *f*.

Branches of wild olive trees are used for producing the smoke [**tika**] needed by beekeepers when they want to operate within a hive [**qafö** →]. Their smoke is believed not to harm the bees [**zizzaale** →]. *Cf* **waybo, zagaxo.**

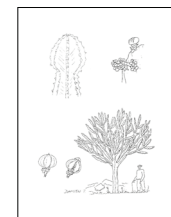
(*Olea africana*. UTSE, 285)



**oolal** *nm* specie(s) of euphorbia (*Euphorbia abyssinica*); *sgtv* **olalto** *m* (seed/fruit), **olaltö** *f*.

Plant from which bees [**zizzaale** →] produce a low quality of honey [**baska** →] that is not consumed by the Saho's.

(*Euphorbia abyssinica*. UTSE, 199)



**qafö** *nf* *NS*, *CS1*, *CS2* ~ **kafo** *CS2*, *SS* 1. beehive 2. large container made of clay and animal dung used as granary, normally place in traditional houses [**naxsa**] also for dividing a room {Ty. ቆፍ [qofo] or ቆፍ [q<sup>w</sup>äfo] or ቆፍ [qäfo]} *pl* **qafof**, *m* *cf* **caretto, gaxseena, gidacto, murhcumse, mascashälä.**

— **caadat qafö** traditional beehive made of animal dung or of a carved tree trunk.



Work in progress: traditional beehives [**gidacto**] drying on the roof of a **naxsa**. *Kaaribossa.*



Empty **gidacto** in *Dhamxina.*

Beehives made of animal dung are also called **gidacto** ~ **gadcayto** [→]; cow, goat or sheep dung [**gidac** →] is used to this purpose. They are usually prepared by women, who use dung they collect during the rainy season, when there is more grass and the animals produce it more abundantly.

PREPARATION: First of all the dung is mixed with ashes [**gomboz**], red earth [**casa buure**], barley straw [**cadeelaw xasar**], dry grass [**kafin cashsho**] and some water. The hive is built vertically by placing successive layers of this mixture upon each other, so as to form a sort of cylinder, ca. 100-150 cm. in length, with bottom and top openings of ca. 25-30 cm. After laying one layer it is left to dry before laying the following ones. While building the hive and letting it dry up, it is usually kept on the roof of a **naxsa**, the traditional dwelling of the Saho's in the highlands, so as to prevent animals

from damaging it [*see picture*]. The whole procedure lasts ca. 15-20 days. After building the main body of the hive, the two lateral round lids are prepared, with animal dung or flat stones (that are later sealed with animal dung). A small hole [**maatot** →] is also made at the center of the long side of the hive, as an entrance for the bees. After laying it in a horizontal

position in the apiary [**dagge** →], it is protected from atmospheric agents – or other accidental causes of damage to its structure – by means of different layers of rags [**durruca**] covered by flat stones or corrugated zinc sheets [**zingo**] [*see picture*]. (In the past old skin carpets [**sido** or **warhxo**] were also used to this purpose). Some beekeepers cover the upper stones with a layer of earth like the roofs of the **naxsa**'s [*see picture*]. This kind of beehive is regarded as the best one for the bees, that may also consume some of the animal dung, but it doesn't last more than 6 or 7 years, even if it is well protected.



Protective covering for traditional beehives.  
Ciyaago and Kaaribossa

Traditional wooden hives are built by carving pieces of tree trunks, preferably from sycomores or similar trees [**indacaaro** →, **subula** → or **gota** →], because they provide a higher inner temperature. The trunk is cut with an axe [**faas**] or a saw [**magaaz**] into a piece of the length of three cubits [**xuluf** 'cubit'], i.e., ca. 150 cms. It is then shaped by means of a large chisel [**mishar**] in its inner and outer sides, practicing two lateral openings [*see picture below*]. An awl [**mandal**] is then used for opening a lateral hole that the bees will use as their door [**maatot** →], when going to harvest pollen and coming back. Even though these hives are much more resistant than the animal dung ones, they are provided with protective coverings of different kinds. These two traditional hives may yield up to 30 kg. of honey.

*«I see here [in Mako] for the first time some beehives obtained from cylindrical tree trunks, by carving them out and giving them a tubular shape,*

*whose two openings are closed by two tiles made of animal dung and earth. At the middle of the cylinder there is a hole allowing bees to enter. The wooden cylinder is placed horizontally on a heap of stones, and covered with pieces of tree bark.»* (Aldobrandino Mochi - Translated from *Diario*, pag. 121).



Empty wooden beehives. Kaaribossa and Thiisha.



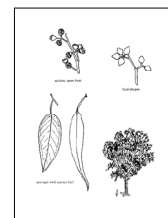
Modern beehive [xokomat qafɔ]. Ciyaago.

— **xokomat qafɔ** modern beehives with removable frames (*lit* ‘government hive’).

The Eritrean government has organised several courses for beekeepers and provided them with modern hives with removable frames [see picture]. These are frequently used together with the traditional ones. However, some people still prefer the old system, both because it yields higher amounts of honey (a modern hive may contain not more than 10 - 20 kg. of honey), and because bees seem to prefer the traditional **qafɔ**, especially those made of cow dung.

(*Rein.*) **Qafɔ**, seltener *qaffɔ* plur. *qáfɔf* subst. fem. (‘Af. id., s. Bil. s. v.)  
1) der bienstock 254, 27. 2) grosses bienstockartiges gefäss aus thon oder auch aus den blättern der dumpalme geflochten, für aufbewahrung von getreide 123, 5 ff.; 124, 2 u. a.

**qalaaminthos nm** ~ **qalaminthoos NS**, **CS1** ~ **kalaamintos CS2**, **SS** eucalyptus (different species) (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *E. cladocalyx*, *E. globulus*, *E. rudis*) {*Ty.* ቀለምንጦስ [qäleməntos] or ቀለጺጦስ [qälamiṯos]} *sgtv* **qalaaminthossa m** ~ **qalaminthoossa** (seed/fruit), **qalaaminthossä f** ~ **qalaminthoossä**.



(*Eucalyptus rudis*.  
UTSE, 195)

A plant whose nectar [**dhacammucus** →] is harvested by bees [**zizzaale** →].

**reezanto nm NS**, **CS1** ~ **reedanto CS2**, **SS** chief, leader {*Af.* **reedantu**} *pl* **reezon m NS**, **CS1** ~ **reedon CS2**, **SS**; *rel to* **reeza nf** pride, position of power, **reeze VII** to be proud, to get a position of power, **reezeena/ä nm** proud person (male/female), **reezishē VII** to cause to be proud, to give a position of power.

— **zizzaalet reezanto NS**, **CS** ~ **didaalet reedanto SS** ~ **dilaalet reedanto SS** queen bee [ape regina] *cf* **abba**, **ina**, **nugus**, **shuum**.

For further informations see **shuum**.

**safxa nf** large plate, platter {*Ar.* صفحة [ṣafḥa] surface, page, sheet, or صفيح [ṣafih] surface, metal sheet or plate; *Ty.* ጸፊሕ [ṣäffih] flat, level, plane, or ሰፊሕ [säffih] broad, wide, of big dimension} *pl* **safaaxi**, *m cf* **galadda**, **koora**, **shaxan**.

Normally used to serve the **thaabita** - a kind of bread - it is also used for carrying the honey [**baska** →] from the beehive [**qafɔ** →] to the house, where it is put into another container.

**samfe nm** ~ **sanfe** new empty honeycomb(s) {*Ty.* ሰፋ [safa]} *pl* **samfit** ~ **sanfit**, *m*; *sgtv* **samfetta** ~ **sanfetta NS** ~ **samfeyta** ~ **sanfeyta CS**, **SS f**, *cf* **folotta**, **ganra**, **lanle**, **lubud**, **sidda**, **takaro**, **xabaza**, **xananeyta**.

The honeycomb is built by the bees. But if a beekeeper wants to have a new colony in one of his hives [qafu →] he positions in it a piece of a honeycomb – empty or containing some honey [xabaza →] – supporting it by means of Y-shaped sticks. This new comb is called takaro [→]. It makes it easier for the bees to build the remaining part of the new comb. XA points out that the Dabrimeela say **sidda** rather than **samfe**.



**saraw** *nm* specie(s) of acacia (*Acacia etbaica*) {Ty. ሰራው [säraw]}  
*sgtv sarawto m* (seed/fruit), **sarawtö** *f*.

A plant whose nectar [dhacammucus →] is harvested by bees [zizzaale →].

(*Acacia etbaica*. UTSE, 21)

**saxdad** *nm* catlike animal(s), genet (*Genetta Abyssinica*); *sgtv saxdaddo m*, **saxdaddö** *f*.

One of the enemies [caduu] of bees [zizzaale →] that can attack their hives [qafu →].

**shaqqaala** *nf NS*, *CS1* ~ *CS2*, *SS sakkaala* worker(s) {*Ar.* شغالة [šagğāla]; *Ty.* ሻሻላ [šäqqali] or ሻሻላይ [šäqqalay]} *sgtv shaqqaalatto m NS* ~ **shaqqaalayto** *CS1* ~ **sakkaalayto** *CS2*; *rel to shuqhle nm NS*, *CS1* ~ **sukle** *CS2*, *SS work, job*, **ushtuqhule** *vI NS*, *CS1* ~ **ustukule** *CS2*, *SS to serve, to work*, **uyshuqhule** *vI NS*, *CS1* ~ **uysukule** *CS2*, *SS to cause to work, to cause to serve, to employ*.

MC uses this word for the worker bees, i.e., for those that harvest food. But there is an obvious influence of the new official terminology, different from the traditional one that generally distinguishes only the queen bees and the drones from the other bees.

In *SB 2 e SB 3* the worker bees are called **kaddaam** ~ **khaddaam**, an Arabic loanword meaning ‘worker, servant’.

**shaxan** *nm NS*, *CS1* ~ **saxan** *CS2*, *SS dish, plate* {*Af.* saxni; *Ar.* صحن [šahñ]; *Ty.* ሻሻን [šahñ] or ሻሻን [šəhani] or ሻሻን [šəhani], etc.} *pl shaxun m NS*, *CS1* ~ **saxun** *CS2*, *SS*; *cf galadda, koora, safxa*.

A usually metallic container that can be also used for carrying the honey [baska →] from the beehive [qafu →] to the house, where it is stored in another container.

**shimca** *nf NS*, *CS1* ~ **shimce** ~ **chimce** ~ **simca** *CS2*, *SS wax, candle(s)*, {*Af.* samci; *Ar.* شمعة [šam‘a] or شمع [šam‘], etc.; *Ty.* ሰምሩ [sämi‘i] or ሻምሩ [šäm‘i] or ሻምሩ [šäm‘a]} *sgtv shimcatto m NS* ~ **shimcayto** *CS1* ~ **simcayto** *CS2*, *SS*; *cf congoffe*.

Wax is produced by bees [zizzaale →] for building honeycombs [samfe, xabaza →]. Some people believe that they produce it from pollen [xawo →].

Usually the Saho don’t use the wax that remains after the honey [baska →] has been taken out, and discard it. Other groups use it for the traditional candles [thuwaaf, from Tigrinya ጥዋፍ [təwaf], obtained by soaking a strip of cloth in wax]. Some Saho’s use wax instead as a cleanser [mafaawaza] and lubricant of the gasa, the clay (or iron) griddle employed for cooking thaabita, a pancake-like bread.

Look under **baska** and **xabaza** for how wax is separated from honey.

**shuum** *nm NS*, *CS* ~ **suum** *SS chief, leader* {*Af.* suum (*AB 1*); *Ty.* ሻም [šum]} *pl shuuma f NS*, *CS* ~ **suuma** *SS* ~ **shuumom** *m NS*, *CS* ~ **suumom** *SS*.

— **zizzaalet shuum** *NS*, *CS1* ~ **didaalet shuum** *CS2* ~ **dilaalet shuum** *CS2*, *SS* queen bee; *cf* **abba**, **ina**, **nugus**, **reezanto**.

MN says that many people call **abba** [→] ‘father’ the queen bee, even though it should rather be called **ina** [→] ‘mother’ because it is a female. CI states that the queen bee is a male that injects its semen [**shahwa**] into the honeycomb [**samfe**, **xabaza** →]. However, he is aware that the queen bee also lays [CI used **irhiggile** ‘to milk’] eggs [**ubub** →], but maintains that it is able to do this even though it is a male. XA – who calls the queen bee **nugus** [→] ‘king’ – says instead that it is not possible to distinguish male from female bees, but adds that his people regard the queen bee as a male and the broodcomb [**ganra** →] as a female.

According to MC it is the queen bee who builds it ‘home’ in the honeycomb [**xabaza** →]. It is easy to distinguish from the other ones because it is bigger and has a projection that looks like a nipple.

According to CI the queen bee organizes all the work that is made by the colony [**cishle** →].

(*Rein.*) *ḍiḍalé sūm* die binenkönigin,

**sibbarh** *nm* water bag made with a goat or sheep skin, normally used as a churn for preparing butter, smaller than **idrotta**; *pl* **sibborh** *m*; *cf* **idrotta**.

**sidda** *nf* name used for **samfe** [→] among the Dabrimeela (XA).

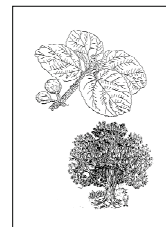
**siraaceera** *nf* kind of aloe (from **siraa** ‘poison’ and **ceera** ‘aloe’ {*Ty.* ሰራ [‘erä] or ኃራ [‘erä]. In Saho normally **cuure**}) *sgtv* **siraacerto** *f*.

Plant (also simply **ceera**) from which bees [**zizzaale** →] produce a low quality of honey [**baska** →] that is not consumed by the Saho’s.

**subula** *nm* sycamore fig(s) (*Ficus sycomorus*) {*Af.* **subla**} *sgtv* **subulto** *m* (fruit), **subultö** *f*.

One of the trees whose trunks are used for carving out traditional wooden beehives [**caadat qafö** → **qafö**].

(*Ficus sycomorus*. UTSE, 213)



**sucuda** *nm* very leaf evergreen bush (*Adhatoda schimperiana*) {*Ty.* ስዑዳ [sə‘uda]} *sgtv* **sucuddo** *f*.

Plant from which bees [**zizzaale** →] produce a low quality of honey [**baska** →] that is not consumed by the Saho’s.

**tabab** *nm* aromatic plant(s) (*Becium grandiflorum*; *Ocimum filamentosum*) {*Ty.* ተበብ [täbäb]} *sgtv* **tababto** *m* (seed/fruit), **tababtö** *f*.

A plant whose nectar [**dhacammucus** →] is harvested by bees [**zizzaale** →].

(*Becium grandiflorum*. UTSE, 85)



**takaro** *nf* 1. hanging, suspending 2. name of the new honeycomb hanged in the beehive {*Af.* **takar**} *pl* **takaror** *m*; *rel to* **takare** *vII* to hang, to suspend; *cf* **folotta**, **ganra**, **lanle**, **lubud**, **samfe**, **sidda**, **xabaza**, **xananeyta**. (For more details see under **samfe**).

**thacal** *nm NS*, *CS1* ~ **tacal** *CS2*, *SS* faeces of the bees; *sgtv thacalto* *m NS*, *CS1* ~ **tacalto** *CS2*, *SS*.

According to MC the colour of the bee faeces changes according to the honey they produce: they are white if it is white, red if it is red, etc.

Natural beehives [**caretto** →] can be spotted also by looking for the bee faeces.

**timbaako** *nf* tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*) {*Af. timmaako*; *Ar. تنباك* [tumbāk]; *Ty. ትምባኮ* [təmbako] or ትምባኮ [tombako]} *sgtv timbaakotta* *f NS* ~ **timbaakoyta** *CS2*, *SS*.

Plant from which bees [**zizzaale** →] produce a low quality of honey [**baska** →] that is not consumed by the Saho's.

**tsideena** *nf NS*, *CS1* ~ **chideena** *CS2* mining bee, soil-dwelling bee, digger bee (*Andrena sp.*) {*Ty. ጽድናይ* [ṣədānay] or ጽድና [ṣədēna] or ጭድናይ [čədānay]} *pl tsideenit* *m NS*, *CS1* ~ **chideenit** *CS2*; *cf* **bulac**, **uxun**, **ziiza**, **zizzaale**.

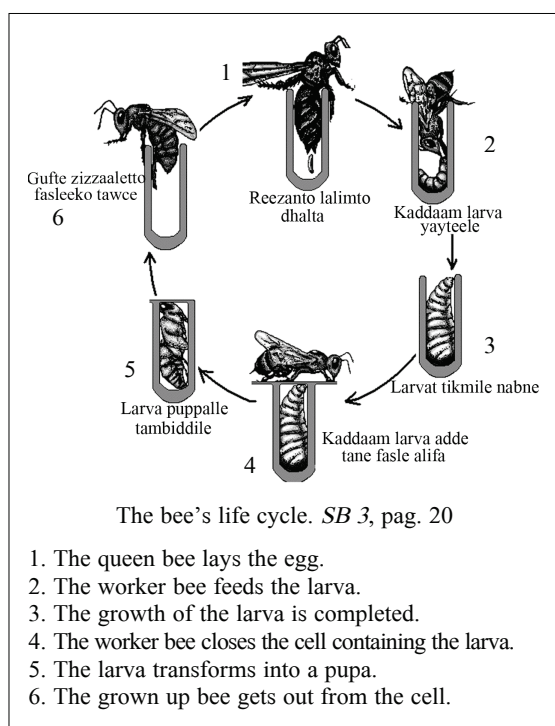
(For details about the honey produced by this insect see **tsideenat baska** under **baska**).

(*Rein.*) ርዕሳላ plur. -it subst. m. (s. Bil. s. v.) die erdbine, A. ጠዝማግ  
genanut, ርዕሳላት *baská* erdbienenhonig.

**tuumar** *nm* ~ **toomar** mark, sign, signal, note, identifying message, indication {*Ty. ትእምርቲ* [təʔmərti]} *rel to tuumaare* ~ **toomaare** *vII* to make a sign, to mark; **tuumaarime** ~ **toomaarime** *vII* to be marked, to be indicated.

This mark consists in a small leafy branch with a stone over it. It is left where a seasonal natural beehive [**caretto** →] has been found. It indicates to other people that the hive has already been found and its swarm will be carried away by its legitimate owner.

It is not necessary to place a mark near a permanent natural hive [**murhcumse** →], because the bees never leave it for ever.



**ubub** *nm* egg(s) (biology), larvae of insects {*Ty. አቡብ* [əbbub] or አቡብ [əbbub] fly larvae, maggot} *sgtv ububta* *m*; *cf* **amoodasse**, **xanane**.

Beekeepers have different opinions about how bees [**zizzaale** →] have their offspring [**emxeerese** 'to reproduce'] and about their life cycle [**rooxi makkalo** in *SB 3*], from when their eggs (called by CI and XA also with the generic term **lalim**) are laid to when the stage of adult insects is reached.

According to MN the eggs are laid in the broodcomb [**ganra** →] by the queen bee, that he calls **shuum** (yet see also **abba**, **ina**, **nugus**, **reezanto**). The bees feed the eggs with droplets of a white substance, and keep the eggs warm by closing the cells [**curum** →] with wax [**shimca** →]. The eggs grow inside this white fluid. After three days, if the queen bee is removed from

the colony [**cishle** →] the egg that has been fed in a special way for becoming a queen will develop into a queen bee. If the queen dies, the egg develops into a drone [**canjur** →]. The other thousands of eggs become ordinary bees.

Three days after they have been laid the eggs start to bend, but later they stretch out lengthwise. On the 15.th day it is possible to recognize their heads. Larvae are called **xanane** [→] at this stage. The Saho's sometimes eat **xanane** larvae because they regard them as a medicine against malaria and other diseases. XA points out that when the larvae still have a bent position they are called **gurah gaxe xanane** (lit. 'leftwards bent **xanane**').

After 25 days the bee is fully formed, with its black head and its wings, but it cannot fly yet. At this stage it is called **amoodasse** [→], and it is ready for getting out of the honeycomb. After ca. 30 days the bee has reached its full maturity and is able to fly.

According to MC and CI there is no difference between **ubub** and **xanane**, whereas according to XA the stage of **ubub** lasts ca. 4-5 days. MC claims that drones, although they are regarded as males, generate their own **xanane**, called **canjur xanane**. Also the queen bee generates a **xanane** that will become a queen, inside a special 'house' that is built for it within the honeycomb [**xabaza**] and that is easy to recognize (for further details see **shuum**). Bees reproduce when there is a suitable weather, with enough rainfall and, consequently, plenty of nourishment for them.

On the other hand, CI and XA say that bees mature [**igmirhe**] in ca. 15 days, but that this period can change according to the weather. In cold areas it can take 20-25 days for bees to reach maturity.

Climate can also 'burn' [**xararishe** 'cause to burn'] the larvae, especially misty weather [**awaa** or **budbud**] that prevents the sunbeams to reach the ground.

According to MC normal bees live ca. 5-6 months, whereas a queen bee may even live for 5-6 years.

**uxun** *nm* wasp(s); *sgtv* **uxunta** ~ **xuunta** *m*; *cf* **bulac**, **tsideena**, **ziiza**, **zizzaale**.

An insect that produces honey [**baska** →], that is different from what is produced by **zizzaale** [→].

**wardiya** *nf* guard(s), watchman(-men) {*It.* guardia; *Ty.* ዋርዲያ [wardiya]} *sgtv* **wardiyatto** *m* *NS* ~ **wardiyayto** *CS*, *SS*; **wardiyattö** *f* *NS* ~ **wardiyaytö** *CS*, *SS*; *cf* **dhawrheena**, **maxaarho**.

A general term used by some beekeepers for the guardian bees.

**waxamwaaxe** *nm* ~ **waxanwaaxe** herbaceous plant with white flowers (*Phaulopsis imbricata*); *syn of* **muxumwaaxe** [→].

(For more details see under **muxumwaaxe**).

**waybo** *nf* type of tree(s) (*Terminalia brownii*) {*Af.* waybu; *Ty.* ወይባ [wäyba]} *sgtv* **wayboyta** *m* (seme/frutto), **wayboytä** *f*.

Branches of this tree are used for producing the smoke [**tika**] needed by beekeepers for operating inside a hive [**qafo** →]. *Cf* **oolac**, **zagaxo**.

(*Terminalia brownii*. UTSE, 385)



**xabaza** *nf* *SS*, *CS1* ~ **xabada** *CS2*, *SS* 1. type of bread 2. honeycomb that contains honey {*Af.* xabda bread} *sgtv* **xabazatto** *m* *NS* ~ **xabazayto** *CS1* ~ **xabadayto** *CS2*, *SS*; *pl* **xabuz** *m* *NS*, *CS1* ~ **xabud** *CS2*, *SS*; *cf* **folotta**, **ganra**, **lanle**, **lubud**, **samfe**, **sidda**, **takaro**, **xananeyta**.

The empty comb [**samfe** →] becomes a **xabaza** after it has been filled with honey or eggs [**ubub** →]. This name is connected to a type of bread because of its shape and because it serves as food (*cf* **folotta**). When the cells [**curum** →] are closed the honeycomb is called **lubud** [→], while after it has been used as a broodcomb it is usually called **ganra** [→]. For collecting the honey the comb has to be removed from the hive [**qafu** →]. Approximately one third of it is cut out [**zage** →] from one of the two lateral openings, and another third from the opposite opening. Its central part is left inside the hive for the bees. (See **baska** and **shimca** for further details about how honey is extracted and separated from wax).

(*Rein.*) *Habadā, ḥabadā, habazā* plur. *ḥabūd* subst. fem. ('Af. id., s. d.)  
 1) eine sorte von brod in form einer runden, dünnen scheinbe.  
 2) honigwabe, so benannt nach der form des eben beschriebenen brodes.

**xagaz** *nm NS, CS1* ~ **xagad** *CS2, SS* big bee colony, big swarm; *cf* **cishle**, **dabaa**, **haadayto**, **xawaz**, **zizzaaletta**.

A term used as a synonym of **dabaa** [→].

**Xaliima macar** *nf* (lit. 'Halima's honey' with the Tigrinya word **macar** = Ty. **ጠግር** [mä'ar] or **ጠOC** [mä'är] honey) hydromel, mead; *cf* **bathce**, **birze**, **malab**, **mees**.

Sometimes used as a synonym of **birze** [→] or **bathce** [→].

The entry in Reinisch's dictionary hints at a folk-etymological change from **xaliib** into **Xaliima**.

(*Rein.*) *Halīb* plur. -ū subst. m. (Ti. G. **ሐሊብ**: **حَلِيب**, **حَلْب**, **حَلْب** lac, succus) honigsegen, reichliches erträgniss von honig 24, 6.  
*halībō-ma'ār* getränke aus milch und honig (G. **ጠግር**)  
 bereitet, honig in milch aufgelöst 253, 10, 15.

**xanane** *nm* bee larva; *sgtv* **xananetta** *m NS* ~ **xananeyta** *CS, SS*; *rel to* **ixinnine** *vI* to generate, to initiate, **imxinnine** *vI* to be generated, to be initiated; *cf* **amoodasse**, **dhanqacalla**, **ubub**.

A phase in the development of bees [**zizzaale** →], after the stage of eggs [**ubub** →]. It is called **larva** in *SB* 3. For further details about life cycle of bees see under **ubub**.

**xananeytä** *nf* broodcomb (CI); *cf* **folotta**, **ganra**, **lanle**, **lubud**, **samfe**, **sidda**, **takaro**, **xabaza**, **xananeyta**.

(*Rein.*) *Hanān, hanāne* plur. *hānōn* subst. m., indiv. *hānōn-t-tā* plur. -tit  
 ('Af. id.) löcher in den wachsscheiben worin sich der honig  
 oder die binenbrut befindet.

**xangazza** *nf NS, CS1* ~ **xangadda** *CS2, SS* buttermilk.

According to MN it is added to honey and water for obtaining the mead [**birze** →].

**xawaz** *nm NS, CS1* ~ **xawad** *CS2, SS* family(ies) {Ty. **ሐዋዝ** [ḥawwaz]} *sgtv* **xawazzo** *m* ~ **xawaddo** *CS2, SS*; *cf* **cishle**, **dabaa**, **haadayto**, **xagaz**, **zizzaaletta**.



Used in *SB 4* as synonym of swarm [**cishle** →].

**xawo** *nm* ~ **xawwo** flower pollen {?Ty. ሓዎ [ḥawo] red flower}.

Bees collect and lump pollen on their legs for carrying it inside their hive, where they use it as food. According to XA it is carried inside the cells where it is mixed with liquid honey [**lanle** →]. CI, who calles ‘troop, army’ [**maxaarho** →] the bees who harvest pollen, says that its color varies from white to deep yellow (or almost red) according to the flowers it is collected from.

(*Rein.*) *Háwō* subst. coll. m., plur. *háw-it*, indiv. *hawó-ytā* plur. *-ytit* (cf. ሓዎ und *háwā*) das was *ámab* blume, blüte 305, 24.

**xinze** *nm NS, CS1* ~ **xinde** *CS2, SS* poison (of animals); *pl xinzit m NS, CS1* ~ **xindit** *CS2, SS*.

MN believes that lizard [**cafur** →] gets its poison from the bees [**zizzaale** →], and that snakes [**caroora**] gets their poison from it. See also under **are** for further details.

**zagaxo** *nf* kind of tree(s) (*Combretaceae?*); *sgtv zagaxotta f. NS* ~ **zagaxoyta** *CS*.

Branches of this tree are used for producing the smoke [**tika**] needed by beekeepers for operating within a hive [**qafo** →]; cf **oolac**, **waybo**.

**zage** *vII NS, CS1* ~ **dage** *CS2* 1. to cut 2. to take out {*Af. dage* to dig, to make a hole, to pluck} *rel to zagite vI NS, CS1* ~ **daye** *CS2* to cut, **zagnan** *nm NS, CS1* ~ **daynan** *CS2* cutting, **zagum** *nm* cut.

— **baska zage** *NS, CS1* ~ **baska dage** *CS2* to remove a honeycomb from the hive, to collect honey.

Since it is a dangerous procedure, it is always men who collect honey from traditional and natural beehives. The removable frames of modern hives, instead, can also be taken out by women.

CI used the verb **daye** instead of **zage**. For further details see under **xabaza**.

**ziiza** *nm* ~ **ziizza** *NS, CS1* ~ **diida** ~ **diidda** *CS2, SS* beetle, coleoptera, dung-roller beetle {*Af. diida*} *pl ziizit* ~ **ziizzit** *m NS, CS1* ~ **diidit** ~ **diiddit**; cf **bulac**, **tsideena**, **uxun**, **zizzaale**.

Insect that produces honey in hollow trees (MC), especially in aloe [**cuure** →] branches (CI). It is also one of the enemies [**caadu**] of bees [**zizzaale** →].

**zizzaale** *nf NS, CS1* ~ **didaale** *CS2* ~ **dilaale** *CS2, SS* honeybee(s) {*Af. diidaale*} *sgtv zizzaaletta f NS* ~ **zizzaaleyta** *CS1* ~ **didaaleyta** *CS2* ~ **dilaaleyta** *CS2, SS*.

— **zizzaalet zan abatiya** *NS, CS1* ~ **didaalet** (or **dilaalet**) **dan abatiya** *CS2, SS* beekeeper (lit. ‘the one who performs the taking care of bees’).

MN distinguishes two kinds of bees: red bees [**casa zizzaale**] and black bees [**dat zizzaale**]. They can live together in the same hive [**qafo** →].

Another insect similar to bees is called **okoli zizzaale** (lit. ‘donkey bee’). It is a mining bee, like the **tsideena** [→], but doesn’t produce honey.

According to Dag and Weiss (see Bibliography) and other literature, there are three types of honeybees in Eritrea: *Apis mellifera monticola*, *Apis mellifera scutellata* and *Apis mellifera yemenitica*.

For informations about the life cycle of bees see under **ubub**.

(Rein.) *Didalé* die binen, apes; s. *ḍidalé*.  
*ḍidalé* und *zizalé*, seltener *didalé* subst. coll. fem., indiv. *-ytā*  
plur. *-ytit* ('Af. *didalé*, cf. G. **ጸጸንዖጸ**, **ጸንጸንዖጸ** fliege, **ጸጸነ**,  
**ጸንጸነ** susurrare) die bine, *ḍidalé sūm* die binenkönigin, 'A.  
80, 3. 5. 9. 12.

**zizzaaletta** nm NS ~ **zizzaaleyta** CS1 ~ **didaaleyta** CS2 ~ **dilaaleyta** CS2, SS  
swarm; cf **cishle**, **dabaa**, **haadayto xagaz**, **xawaz**.

For further details see under **cishle**.

## ENGLISH-SAHO INDEX

This is just a general reference list. More specific terms can be found under the main entries.

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pollen  
propolis  
wax

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**inti, lanle**  
**bukke**  
**dhacammucus**  
**xinze**  
**xawo**  
**dacmur**  
**congoffe, shimca**

### *Beehive and apiary*

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fence, apiary

**qafo**  
**caretto, gaxseena, murhcumse**  
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### *Bees life cycle and swarm*

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egg  
larva  
pupa  
queen bee  
  
swarm

**zizzaale**  
**dhawrheena, maxaarho, wardiya**  
**shaqqaala**  
**are**  
**canqel, mascashala**  
**isqithire**  
**canjur**  
**ubub**  
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**shuum**  
**cishle, dabaa, haadayto, xagaz,**  
**xawaz, zizzaaletta**

### *Enemies of the bees and other bee-related animals*

ant  
bat  
beetle  
genet  
honeyguide bird  
(kind of) insect  
lizard

**dhuurhe**  
**lashshab**  
**ziiza**  
**saxdad**  
**irir**  
**bulac**  
**cafur**

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