Annotated Swadesh wordlists for the Upper Sepik group (Sepik-Ramu family).

Languages included: Abau [seu-abu].

Data sources.
Bailey 1975 = Bailey, David A. *Abau Language Phonology and Grammar*. Workpapers in Papua New Guinea Languages, Vol. 9. Ukarumpa: SIL. // *Detailed description of Abau phonology, including phonetic and phonological notation and a thorough description of the language’s tonal system. The accompanying “grammar” mainly consists of a theoretical introduction, executed in the “tagmemic” paradigm, and is of little use.*

Notes:
The default source for Abau is [Lock 2011], as the one that contains the most lexical material (most of which appears in syntactic contexts and is, therefore, of particularly great use for wordlist construction). However, that source omits much phonetic detail of the language, operating with a simplified (sometimes, perhaps, too simplified) phonological notation and not marking tones. Where possible, therefore, the data have been supplemented by additional info from [Lock 2007] (where phonological and phonetic notation are contrasted) and [Bailey 1975] (the only source that consistently marks tones, although, unfortunately, the lexical material is quite limited).
Although there are some significant phonetic and lexical differences between Abau dialects, lexically Lock and Bailey’s data coincide in all but two cases (‘fish’, ‘white’); it does not make sense to treat these sources as lexicostatistically different entities.

Database compiled and annotated by: G. Starostin (October 2011).
1. ALL
Abau lowp-a-lowp (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 32. Reduplicated stem; cf. lowp-way 'completely' [Lock 2011: 72]. In several other cases (e.g. on p. 151), written phonetically as lowparowp. Quoted as la gwàll in [Bailey 1975: 18].

2. ASHES
Abau yúhwán (1).

References and notes:


3. BARK

References and notes:

Abau: Not attested.

4. BELLY

References and notes:

Abau: Not attested. Cf. siup 'stomach' [Bailey 1975: 13]; quoted as s y̓i 'stomach' in [Lock 2007: 56] (phonologically analyzed as [swaw]).

5. BIG
Abau aiop-ey (1).

References and notes:


6. BIRD
Abau ahney (1).
References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2007: 11. Phonetically transcribed as peyk (i.e. aspiration is assimilated to the following nasal and becomes a voiceless nasal). Quoted as pek in [Bailey 1975: 53] and also transcribed as ajne for the Idam dialect [ibid.]. Cf. hne ‘bird’s nest’ [Lock 2011: 49].

7. BITE
Abau peyk (1).

References and notes:


8. BLACK
Abau or (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 69; Lock 2007: 9, 10. The latter source gives the variants or ~ orpey, phonetically transcribed as or ~ xd-bey. Quoted as or in [Bailey 1975: 19].

9. BLOOD
Abau nioh (1).

References and notes:


10. BONE
Abau i (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Bailey 1975: 57. According to Bailey, the same word means ‘leg’ in the Idam dialect, and also in Lock’s textual examples, e.g. wogo mo i mokwe harau lëwëk “as for the legs of fowls, they are short” [Lock 2011: 193]. However, cf. also i-mawk ‘skull’ (literally ‘bone-head’) in [Lock 2011: 307].

11. BREAST
References and notes:


12. BURN TR.
Abau *loum* (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 98; Lock 2007: 10, 20. Quoted phonetically in the latter source as *roum ~ loum*, but phonologically analyzed as [roum]. Transitive stem (used in such phrases as "he burned his house with fire", etc.) Cf. the Down-river dialect variant *lomu* [Lock 2007: 20].

13. CLAW (NAIL)
Abau *nám* (1).

References and notes:


14. CLOUD
Abau *waw* (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2007: 45, 63. Phonetically transcribed as [w]. Quoted as *wá* in [Bailey 1975: 10].

15. COLD
Abau *snól* (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Bailey 1975: 14. Meaning simply glossed as 'cold' (not clear if this is a noun or an adjective). Not attested in any of A. Lock's works.

16. COME
Abau *re* (1).

References and notes:

17. DIE
Abau lokrue (1).

References and notes:

18. DOG
Abau nwoh (1).

References and notes:

19. DRINK
Abau lowswa (1).

References and notes:

20. DRY
Abau som (1).

References and notes:

21. EAR
Abau nweyk (1).

References and notes:
Abau: Lock 2011: 48; Lock 2007: 35. Phonetically transcribed as ɬɬ.}

22. EARTH
Abau *ki* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 42. Meaning glossed as ‘ground’. Quoted as *ki* ‘earth’ in [Bailey 1975: 9].

23. EAT
Abau *ra* (1).

References and notes:


24. EGG

References and notes:

**Abau:** Not attested.

25. EYE
Abau *nene* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 48; Lock 2007: 16. Phonetically transcribed as *nɛnɛ*. In [Lock 2007: 51], a rare and probably more archaic variant *none*, without vowel harmony, is noted.

26. FAT N.
Abau *won* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 218; Lock 2007: 58, 61. Meaning glossed as ‘fat’ or ‘grease’ in different contexts. Phonetically transcribed as *ɔn*. Quoted as *wɔn* in [Bailey 1975: 16].

27. FEATHER
Abau *ohma ~ owhma* # (1).

References and notes:
Abau: Lock 2007: 11. Meaning glossed as ‘hair’, and the same word, written phonologically as owhɔ, is also encountered several times in the meaning ‘hair’ in [Lock 2011]. However, the same word, transcribed phonologically as ɒhmà and phonetically as ɒmà in [Bailey 1975: 17], is in that source glossed as ‘feather’. Most likely, this is the default Abau form for ‘body hair / fur / feather(s)’.

28. FIRE
Abau yia (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 60; Lock 2007: 29 (written phonetically and phonologically as ia in the latter source). Quoted as yâ in [Bailey 1975: 10].

29. FISH
Abau ai (1).

References and notes:


30. FLY V.
Abau sian # (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 318; Lock 2007: 64. The former source literally glosses the meaning as ‘get up’, although all the textual examples only feature the usage ‘fly’ (as applied to birds). The latter source translates the word as ‘fly up’. A different stem, anyo, is found in [Bailey 1975: 122] (extracted from several complex verbal forms).

31. FOOT
Abau sune (1).

References and notes:


32. FULL
References and notes:

**Abau:** Not attested.

### 33. GIVE

Abau *kow* (1).

References and notes:

*Abau:* Lock 2011: 54; Lock 2007: 63. Phonetically transcribed as *ko*.

### 34. GOOD

Abau *yaprue* (1).

References and notes:


### 35. GREEN

References and notes:

*Abau:* Not attested. Cf., however, the complex term *wouknaw-si eyn* 'greenish', literally 'similar to the excrement of a dove' [Lock 2011: 69].

### 36. HAIR

Abau *vhnè* # (1).

References and notes:

*Abau:* Bailey 1975: 28. Phonetically transcribed as *v giè*. Not found in any of A. Lock’s works. Meaning is glossed as 'hair' (no indication as to whether this is 'body hair' or 'head hair'). Another candidate is *ohma*, but this is more likely to be 'body hair', 'fur', 'feather' q.v.

### 37. HAND

Abau *iha* (1).

References and notes:

38. HEAD
Abau *makw-ey* (1).

References and notes:


39. HEAR
Abau *lonuayk* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau**: Lock 2011: 130. Quoted as *hínwàk* in [Bailey 1975: 7].

40. HEART
Abau *uron* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau**: Lock 2011: 48. Quoted as *ròwu* in [Lock 2007: 60], phonetically transcribed as *r o*.

41. HORN

References and notes:

**Abau**: Not attested.

42. I
Abau *ha* (1).

References and notes:


43. KILL
Abau *lo* (1).
References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 77, 187. Meaning is almost always literally glossed as 'shoot' or 'hit', but in textual examples the most usual translation is 'kill', cf.: uwr hokwe awia po lo pak "as for this man, he may have been killed by enemies" [Lock 2011: 187].

44. KNEE

References and notes:

Abau: Not attested.

45. KNOW
Abau nonkway (1).

References and notes:


46. LEAF
Abau má (1).

References and notes:


47. LIE
Abau won (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 52. The directive verb is lia=won 'lie down' [Lock 2011: 173], same as 'sleep' q.v.

48. LIVER

References and notes:

Abau: Not attested.
49. LONG
Abau *mei* (1).

References and notes:


50. LOUSE
Abau *máplú* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Bailey 1975: 42. Cf. also the (collective?) form *km-km,* glossed as 'lice' in [Bailey 1975: 15] and also, for the Idam dialect, marked as *kŋŋkŋ‡ŋ* [Bailey 1975: 53]. Not attested in any of A. Lock's works.

51. MAN
Abau *uwr* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 42; Lock 2007: 20. Quoted as *óɾ* in [Bailey 1975: 21], furthermore, transcribed as *lu* for the Idam dialect [Bailey 1975: 56]. Cf. also *ara* ~ *ala* [Lock 2007: 9] id., phonologically analyzed as [ara]. Although both stems in [Lock 2007] are glossed as 'man', 'man' as 'male human being' is positively *óɾ* cf. *ol o sa o* "man and woman" [Bailey 1975: 121].

52. MANY
Abau *krai-ar* # (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 286, 349. Extracted from such diagnostic phrases as *hiykwe mey-uwr kraiar non pankaw lwâk "did he have many workmen?"; uava kraiar... seyr ki ko ye⁹k mokwe kraiar '"there are many people... and also many cars". However, this seems to be a specialized usage of the nominal stem *krai-ar* 'strength, might' [Lock 2011: 78]. There are other potential candidates for 'many', e. g. *poyán* [Lock 2011: 21] (also attested in the reduplicated variant *poyá-poyá* in [Bailey 1975: 10]) and *liyay* [Lock 2011: 142]. Cf. also *huôn* 'many' in [Bailey 1975: 24].

53. MEAT
Abau *pion* (1).

References and notes:
Abau: Lock 2011: 64; Lock 2007: 64. Phonetically transcribed as bi:n. Quoted as oupyen in [Bailey 1975: 129]; this is probably the equivalent of Lock’s ho=pion ‘piece of meat’ [Lock 2011: 67].

54. MOON
Abau yen ~ yeyn (1).

References and notes:


55. MOUNTAIN
Abau mnuw (1).

References and notes:


56. MOUTH
Abau woki (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 368.

57. NAME
Abau uru (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 90; Lock 2007: 9. Phonetically transcribed as uru. Quoted as úrù in [Bailey 1970: 51]. There seems to be a separate word for ‘name (of woman)’: sau [Lock 2011: 67]. The word uru, judging by textual evidence, is applied to men, (male) animals (dogs), and people of uncertain sex.

58. NECK

References and notes:

Abau: Not attested.
59. NEW
Abau *iwon* (1).

References and notes:


60. NIGHT
Abau *nayr* (1) / *arawh* (2).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 150; Lock 2007: 28. Phonetically transcribed as *nʌr*. There are two words in Abau that are both translated as 'night': *nayr* and *arawh*. The difference between the two is chiefly syntactic: *nayr* behaves as an adverbial modifier, whereas *arawh* is essentially a noun. Both are frequently met in the same frame construction: *arawh ... nayr '... in the night'. For the moment, we treat both forms as synonyms. Lock 2007: 26, 67. Phonetically transcribed as *aɾʌ ~ aɾʌ*.

61. NOSE
Abau *kasaw* (1).

References and notes:


62. NOT
Abau *pey / pa =o* (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 238. Negative particles, encountered clause-finally; *pey* is met with verbs in imperfective aspect, *pa* corresponds to perfective aspect. Both are quite distinct from the negative verb *korey* 'not to be', also used in the predicative function of 'not' [Lock 2011: 241-242].

63. ONE
Abau *=mon* (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 57; Lock 2007: 10, 65. This is the most frequent allomorph of the numeral 1; it is encountered in 9 out of 12 nominal classes (e. g. *ka=mon* '1 (non-human)', *ta=mon* '1 (small objects with some volume)', etc.). The alternate variants are *=eyn* in *pru=eyn* '1
(of human beings and spirits); =rom in si=rom '1 (of flat surface objects; experience nouns); and =ron in pi=ron '1 (of long, relatively thin objects). It is unclear if these are allomorphic or suppletive variations (on the purely synchronic level, they are clearly suppletive). The variants i=m and li=km for 2 out of 12 classes are quoted in [Bailey 1975: 9].

64. PERSON

References and notes:
Abau: Not attested. Possibly not different from uwr ‘man’ q.v.

65. RAIN
Abau sueyr (1).

References and notes:

66. RED
Abau ou (1).

References and notes:

67. ROAD
Abau yerki (1).

References and notes:

68. ROOT
Abau meyk (1).

References and notes:

69. ROUND
References and notes:

Abau: Not attested.

70. SAND

References and notes:

Abau: Not attested.

71. SAY
Abau me (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 81, 85. This is the main verb to introduce direct speech. Quoted as me in [Bailey 1975: 110] (phonological notation).

72. SEE
Abau lira (1).

References and notes:


73. SEED
Abau i (1).

References and notes:


74. SIT
Abau liwak (1).

References and notes:

75. SKIN
Abau ohi # (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Attested only in compounds, cf.: ohi-weys ‘white person’ (literally ‘skin-white’) [Lock 2011: 69]; mu-ohi ‘crocodile skin’ [Lock 2011: 312].

76. SLEEP
Abau lia=won ~ lian ~ lwon (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 117, 267; Lock 2007: 64. All of these forms are apparently judged as variants of the same stem lia=won ‘to lie down; to (go to) sleep’, where =won = ‘to lie’ q.v. The latter source gives the word as rian (phonetic notation), dian (phonological notation). Quoted as lian in [Bailey 1975: 19]. Synonym: lado [Bailey 1975: 23] (or is this a phonetic variant of the same root?).

77. SMALL
Abau sowpwaren-ey (1).

References and notes:


78. SMOKE
Abau kuw (1).

References and notes:


79. STAND
Abau lorok (1).

References and notes:

80. STAR

References and notes:

Abau: Not attested.

81. STONE
Abau mein (1).

References and notes:


82. SUN
Abau ey (1).

References and notes:


83. SWIM
Abau heyh (1).

References and notes:


84. TAIL
Abau orow (1).

References and notes:


85. THAT
Abau so- (1).

References and notes:
Abau: Lock 2007: 51. The basic stems are so-/ for sg. and so-/m- for pl. The actual paradigm is as follows: demonstrative topic = soho kwe sg., somo kwe pl.; demonstrative objective = sohe ~ sehe sg., some ~ some pl. (Notation is phonological).

86. THIS
Abau o- (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2007: 51. The basic stems are o-/ for sg. and o-/m- for pl. The actual paradigm is as follows: demonstrative topic = oho kwe sg., omo kwe pl.; demonstrative objective = ohe ~ ehe sg., ome ~ ome pl. (Notation is phonological).

87. THOU
Abau hwon (1).

References and notes:


88. TONGUE
Abau sane (1).

References and notes:


89. TOOTH
Abau nays (1).

References and notes:


90. TREE
Abau now (1).

References and notes:

91. TWO
Abau =reys (1).

References and notes:

Abau: Lock 2011: 57; Lock 2007: 29. This is the most frequent allomorph of the numeral 2; it is encountered in 9 out of 12 nominal classes (e.g. k=reys '2 (non-human)', m=reys '2 (small objects with some volume)', etc.). The alternate variants are =eys in pru=eys '2 (of human beings and spirits)' and s=eys '2 (of flat surface objects; experience nouns); and =deys in ein=deys '2 (of bundles of long non-cut items)'. All of these are clearly allomorphic variations.

92. WALK (GO)
Abau ley (1).

References and notes:


93. WARM (HOT)

References and notes:

Abau: Not attested.

94. WATER
Abau hu (1).

References and notes:


95. WE
Abau hro-m (1).

References and notes:

96. WHAT
Abau *pay* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 269. The object form is *pay-se*. Different stem (with the same interrogative morpheme) quoted in [Bailey 1975: 16]: *pök’in* ‘what?'; however, it corresponds to *penkin* ‘how?’ in [Lock 2011: 270].

97. WHITE
Abau *weys* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 69. A different word, *wip*, is found in [Bailey 1975: 23].

98. WHO
Abau *po-sokwaw / po-se* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 269. The first morphological variant is the subject form, the second one is the object form.

99. WOMAN
Abau *sa* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 42. Cf. the Down-river dialect variant *sao* [ibid.]. Quoted as *se* in [Bailey 1975: 121].

100. YELLOW

References and notes:

**Abau:** Not attested. Cf., however, the complex term *woknow-hu eyn* ‘yellowish’, literally ‘similar to the juice of ginger’ [Lock 2011: 69].

101. FAR
Abau *mei-aw* (1).
References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 429. Adverbial form. Same root as in *mei* 'long' q.v.

102. HEAVY

References and notes:

**Abau:** Not attested.

103. NEAR

Abau *ohri* (1).

References and notes:


104. SALT

Abau *sowr* # (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 239. Dubious; only attested within the compound *sowr-yawp* 'Salt River'.

105. SHORT

Abau *haraw* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 70. Quoted as *hālā* ξ in [Bailey 1975: 11]; also transcribed as *gfna* ξ for the Idam dialect [Bailey 1975: 56].

106. SNAKE

Abau *sok* (1).

References and notes:

**Abau:** Lock 2011: 48; Lock 2007: 12, 30. Phonetically transcribed as *sok*. Quoted as *sok* in [Bailey 1975: 25], transcribed as *sak* in the
Idam dialect [Bailey 1975: 55].

107. THIN

References and notes:

Abau: Not attested.

108. WIND
Abau howniy (1).

References and notes:


109. WORM

References and notes:

Abau: Not attested.

110. YEAR
Abau yia (-1).

References and notes: