

Vocabulary of Words not to be found in
Bingham's Dictionary

Compiled by Arthur Grimble

Vol. I

Original deposited with Rev. Father
Ernest Sabatier, Mission of the Sacred
Heart, Tarawa, Gilbert Islands.

Department of Pacific History,
Australian National University,
Canberra, A.C.T.,
Australia.

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Amōna — (cf. Brigham for primary sense)

By navigators the word is used in an idiomatic sense amounting to "favorable" e.g. Eamona Kāma — the S. Cross gives good indications for travelling; E amona nānakainā — the moon is favourable (for fishing) perhaps "seasonable" is the best general translation.

Ae — tangled mass of driftwood, etc.

B.

Buahorua - to make a present to one's love.

Baretama - the platform on a canoe's outrigger for provisions, etc.

Buata - the garboard streak of a canoe.

Bora - land or canoes acquired by a niece or nephew at law for living with uncles or aunts at large; the price of Tasiaba.

Bainaine - land seized or acquired from a conqueror of one's wife or daughter.

Banwri - land acquired as payment for one's adoption of an infant.

Biria - to conquer, overrun, take possession of land in war.

Bo - the darkness of Chaos (found in the name Te Bo-ma-te-Maki, "the darkness and the clearing together", applied to the mixture of sea & sky at Creation era).

Bo - to arrive (in the sense of time), e.g.

E bo te raoi - peace arrives (is declared)

E bo te mukuri - work (time) comes.

E bo te buaka - war comes (is declared)

E bo te matua - spring tide comes.

Bo — (in idiomatic phrases) 1. E bo angi-a
lit. "my breath beats", i.e. "I have a
strong desire". E bo angi-ne ni Kan
nako Tarawa — he greatly wishes to go
to Tarawa. 2. E bo ati-n te makuri
"Work is continuous".

Borata — a minute beetle found chiefly
in the uru-blossom.

Bounaba — central roof tree or centre post
for ridge pole of maniaba (S.G.)

Boitabe — ditto (N.G.)

Bia — a gland

Bora — the temple (anatomic).

Bokākano — (S. Gilberts) to have a violent
argument, to dispute, to be angry.

Bungitarai — an exclamation used in
the dance to draw the attention of
the onlookers. (probably Bon tarai —
"Look well at me").

Bungibungira — to repeat, to do a second
time as an incantation.

Bakabakani Roroa — to be unduly eager for the lion's share; to desire to monopolise; thus secondarily (as Brigham translates) to be the first to meet a celebrity or a new arrival (in the officious sense).

Bukinibenebene — the tip of a coconut leaf, picked off for a fan or for magic.

Bekibekai — the seat of the affections, the inward source of love.

Bao — a vehicle or conveyance, such as a ship or bicycle. E ria te bao mai Banaba, the ship from Banaba ^{is sighted} has come. I toka ni bao-u te wa, I embark on my craft the canoe.

Bukinikoriri — same as Bukinibenebene.

Bai — a brace to the outrigger of a canoe.

Bana — the ^{foot} lower part of a canoe sail.

Bingibing — hollow (as wood gnawed by rats)

Baska — (bot.) *Hernandia Peltata*

Baireti — (bot.) *Barringtonia Butonica*

Bers — (bot.) *Ficus aspera*

Bwereraon — game of tip-cat.

Boiri — game of heel-ball, in which the
ano (ball) is kept in air by blows of
the heel.

B'ab'a — rotary or pump-drill.

Barn — The castor-oil fish (more commonly
called te ika-ni-beka)

Biriaitua — (idion) Biriaitua itera n te
taeka: lit. to run hither & thither be-
side the subject; hence, "to evade
the question"; "to beat about the
bush".

Bautu — the name of a tree, the?

Boroboro — (botanic) ?

Brarou-ni-Karawa —

Bau — another name for the Kanawa
tree: probably imported from Mic.
where name is Fau.

Be — elision of the conjunction ba and
pronoun e (Bingham's note is
c.f. me. misleading)

Botoa — floating lightly as the float of a canoe: (idiom) & botoa raman temrei — This man's outrigger floats lightly, i.e. he has a model wife.

Beti — can also be used in above idiom in place of botoa.

Baitongo — a large red seed found drifted after W. gales.

Bwerei-mi-marawa — a port where there are no currents in the ocean.

Binera — to think over, to make preparations for.

Babange — sulken, or disappointed, or hurt at not getting a fair share of food. (Synonym — noku).

E

Eremao - ceremony of blessing a woman
in her 6th month of pregnancy.

En - (Abemaman dialect) sea-urchin
called Katunia in other islands

Li - progeny (Nui word).

I-tibabang — rapidly appearing and disappearing; ubiquitous.

Ibenras — unlucky, frustrated in hope, unanswered in prayer (especially the last), unblest. Ti a bon iben-nas Wai ko aki roroko ironua: we are unlucky now that you do not come to us.

I-kangwi — strife, altercation, quarrelling.
(Sonata Gibb).

I-Kākaiwi — ditto (N. Gibb.)

I-kai — (bot) *Calophyllum inophyllum*.

I-katokatoka — hand ball with te ano.

I-kabaeiae — game of hiding and finding an object.

I-karāba — game of hide and seek.

Iku — the skin of a stingray (the meaning given by Bingham are derivatives of this)

② A stomacher of the stingray's skin used as armor in war.

10 — (ornith) Noddy. *Anous stolidus.*

Kaniburunga - to make presents to gain
the favor of prospective
parents in law, or old men
in authority.

Kanoani varāua - to make a secret
present to an illicit love.

Katitiron - gratified by a sense of
power or wealth, as a new
king or a lucky heir.

Kaotinrikai - to appear and disappear.

Kaukau - S. Gilbertee (Bem) for Kainta.

Kuia - The third division of a canoe's
(Kuia) side measured from ~~fore~~^{Keel} to ~~stern~~^{gunwale}.

Kawekawe - (met only in one tradition)
a ray of the sun (c.f. Maori - a
tentacle).

Kekerna - rattle (as stones in a bag or a
coconut shell); resound as artillery
or the crackling (not rolling) of thunder.

Kiuiongong - to repeat parrot-wise, to
recite the letter but not the spirit (N.G.).

Kawinakoa — Kastinakoa; disclose,
veal, tell the tale of.

Kunnimata — over-lid of eye (c.f. rebenimata)

Kirimkirim — The second finger

Kirere — the little finger

Kere — the female pudendum

Kabanga — the penis.

Kainibairi — bridge of nose

Kō Konirorowā — having a fat, fleshy neck;
bulb-necked.

Kirē — c.f. iowawa: insolent. c.f. also
āngangi (Ko angangi-za, Ko tēta
n iowawa): also kirēmene

Kaneawai — a shovel pointed spear.

Kekernātai — rattle together like stones
in a bag.

Karakina — to desire, to yearn for as one's
home; to approach a subject in
conversation, to work up to....

Kainiman — rocks and solitary stones
out at sea where fish are abundant.

Kataenāka — hastes.

Kai — ① a tree; ② a piece or a sort of wood;
③ A weapon, missile; ④ a handle
⑤ A science, or art, a particular method
or school; e.g. in speaking of wrestling one
would refer to ana Kai Nakara, the
Nakara style; i.e., ⑥ A school of thought;
e.g. te Kai ni Kiritian, the Christian
doctrine; ⑦ the gestures used in a dance
as distinct from the words; ⑧ a stroke
or strike; to te Kai, to lashes; ⑨ a
punishment (never used so with def.
article, only in idiom; Nna Kakeea
Kai-ni; I will procure your punishment;
i.e. I will be avenged). ⑩ An effect, a
consequence (used particularly in
relation to magic) cf. Ka-Kai, mirac-
ulous, literally producing an effect:
E Kakai an tabunea — my magic
is effective (miraculous) ⑪ In song Kai
may be used to avoid undue repetition of
almost any substantive (common noun).
⑫ Rheumatism

Kabikoi — a little painful, slightly sore, uneasy
but not unbearably tender.

Kotōa — a squid (coleoidea).

Kainimarawa — the outmost batten lashed
across a canoe's outrigger poles.

Katannakoa — to isolate (as a girl in the
bleaching houses or a youth being prepared
for war).

(Taoraki — delivered of a child, confined,
accouchée, brought to bed.)

Karo (Karokaro) — a shoal or school of
fish. Tē Karo ni Kua — a school
of porpoise.

Karaea — to leave alone, to isolate in a
solitary or far place. Tē Karaea roto-
tuwhā-a-i-tabo ni Manra, I have
left my young manhood in the far
lands of Manra.

Kau — (Bengal: a whale) ① a porpoise
② (in song and in magic) Any fish that
is dangerous to life and cannot be

called a shark (i.e. Bakoa, which is a generic term including most of the other dangerous species); ⑤ (in song and idiom) A difficult task, a long labour. La mate te Kuai, te Atominarawa; the task is done, or equally well, "the enemy is defeated".

Kiremene — bold and insolent, impudent
in wrath (cf. Kire)

Kanawa — (bot.) Cordia Subcordata (canifolia) (≡)

Kiaou — (bot.) Triumfetta procumbens

Kawra — (bot.) Wedelia strigulosa

Kiango-ni-makin — (bot.) Polypodium (sp.)

Katebe — bow and arrow (game only).

Karebwerebwe — a jew's harp (native style:
a piece of coconut riblet between teeth).

Katiks — game of pitch and toss.

Kabiskuwi — game of top spinning.

Kainiwaiwai — a pointed stick used for
packing Kabutre in cylinders of leaf.
(prob. a corruption of Kai n ewaewa)

Kaibai — a ladle made of $\frac{1}{2}$ coconut shell
bound to a handle.

Kreake — to receive, make welcome (as
a stranger) and give food + lodging
to, is doing well to describe the
labouring of thyself, your bethel)

Kreke-wa — to give harbor to a fugitive.
*especially in
times of trouble* I mete-i-wa-mi wai Bure i-te
no Tenukai mi Sarava.

Kureea — to push off a canoe from
the bank.

Kaeter — to single out, to make for.

Kibui — (ornith.) Masked gannet: *sula*
cyanops.

Kewe (or Kiwi) — (ornith.) Curlew;
numenius tahitiensis.

Kitiba — (ornith.) Sandpiper; *calidris*
arenaria

Kaka — (ornith.) Raver; *Chadrius*
dominicicus fulvus

Kun — (ornith.) Sandpiper; *totanus*
meicanus.

Kiachia — (ornith.) White tern: *gygis*
alba.

Kāi - crane: *Antigone australasiae*.

Kabai - Mottled Hawk; *Asterix Rufifrons*.

Kunei - Noddy: *Anous stolidus*.

Kereekere - ~~Common Tropic Bird. Procton setosus.~~ A variety of Gannet

Korobars - Dusky Shearwater; *Puffinus griseus*.

Kororeka - to unstick as two sheets of paper by inserting a knife: synonym tirioreka (used in Creation-myth to describe the separation of heaven and earth).

Kororaea - (idiom) Kororaea rauki o te taeha: lit. "to cut abeward the edge of a word", hence, "to use a word in a strange or far-fetched sense"; also "to speak by insinuation".

Kiraea - synonym of Kororaea in use at Takitimu.

Kōria - (local: Nui) to wring.

Kirimumu — chronic diarrhoea (^{infantile} ~~ascites~~
complaint).

Kistoro — a sickness;

Kakawa — a small crab with round
scarlet spots on carapace.

Katainea — to cut off, to shear as hair (used
only in magic and poetry).

Kiebu — a plant resembling a lily:
crinum asiaticum.

Kaitita — to make clear, to remove ob-
structions.

Kabira — (S. Gilbert) go and look at: Nua
Kabiri an bai ake a tiken i nwiw: will
go & have a look at the things that
remained behind.

Kawaiia — to wait for the wind.

? Kamimako Kass tiniKecke = ake a tokui
atongam.

? Kamimako han ukemangananga = ake a
tokui atongam i ūba nako.

Ketanina — to sleep in a separate place
Kam'ae — to float to the surface (on purpose).

Kismrem (Banaban) — doll.

Kananga — shelving rock

Kiongo — stinging jellyfish.

Mangko - 1. land acquired from a wife, because her family was on the conquered side in a war; 2. land acquired from parents of one's son's wife as an aid to her upkeep.

Maniwairā - praying to death of a pregnant woman or her child.

Matēne - wistless, subject to evil dreams.

Mere (meremere) - insolent in speech, angry, loud of voice

Mata - a roko matan an long: my time has come, my hour has struck.

Maiahai - I am about to, I am fain to.

Mwia - to yearn after, to remember (applied to the land of one's birth)

Marewe - (idiom) Riria marewe n te ang- to sail on a beam wind or a fair wind.

Mao - (Bot.) *Scaevola Koenigii*

Maunui - (Bot.) *Azolla rubra* (fresh-water weed).

Mangkiri — White capped noddy.

Micranous leucoscapillus.

Monakena — Pomatorine Skua; Stercorarius parasiticus.

Matuanava —

Matuku — Rest, non. *Dromocitta sacra*.

Manewe — ① a word (especially a word considered as part of a song: in this sense it means "le mot juste")

② diction, exalted language.

Chakarorato au manewe, my diction is furious.

Miro — another name for Bengal tree: probably borrowed from Ute, Miro.

Mo — noded form of construction ma + noun + te (cf. be).

Maotona — fixed, decided upon: te maotona te bongi ni borau: The day for our voyage is fixed. I maotona te moti: judgment is decided.

Matabaiawa - to await a fitting day
for venturing to sea.

② A place where a canoe
is housed and launched.

Nimatewetewe — giddiness caused by too frequent sexual pleasure; love-sickness (used of women).

nangor — the planks of a canoe's side immediately above the gunboard streak (braka) and below the Kuria.

Nang — a host, an army, a multitude (nowadays only in poetic diction)

Nangi ni Hornawa — The people of Hornawa (but see idiom: Tae)

Nikawewe — a king's or chief's enclosed sitting place, at home or in the maneaba.

Namatani bure — The fore-arm.

Nanomiki — rectum

Ningoningo — The cricket, cicada.

Neio — a word used in moia chants to represent the speaker or composer. It corresponds with "The author" or "we" in English & is used to avoid the first person singular.

Namo — to adorn; garnish; beautify;
set about with beautiful things, as
a house with trees. Enamoaki
murengana n te aroka — his house
is beautified with plants.

Nano — the Depths of Ocean.

Naniman — the battens lashed ladder-wise
across the outrigger poles of a canoe.

Nimouma-nako — to search for knowledge,
to be greedy of information, to
live to learn.

Non (nomu) — (hot) Morinda citrifolia,
the Malay custard-apple.

Nei — a quantity; c.f. idiom E atan
nei n te amarake, there is plenty of
food.

Namaoti — a place under the sea
inhabited by any deity.

Non — (ichth.) Monacanthus fish, covered
with poisonous spines causing
acute agony, blast them.

Ōko - hair on forehead.

Ounga - to be unanimous, to have a single desire. Aounaga nanoia
aonata ni han takakaro. The people wish with one accord to play.

Rebenano — meddlesome.

Rebetoko — meddlesome in a more offensive sense than the above.

Rabaraba — a skin disease of suppurating ulcers (said to be caused by the spirit Titabrine, who was often called Ni Rabaraba).

Ribru }
Riniki } — the coccyx.

Rreakima — to compose, to write (a song)

Rebentaninge — lobe of the ear

Rebenimata — under-lid of the eye (cf. Kunnimata, over-lid).

Riakora — hare-lip.

Rorowikitai — having a thin neck.

Ri-n-nanoranga — pelvis.

Ririka — (secondary sense) full of desire, always thinking of, yearning for.

Rae — distant in time; in space.

Erae tangina — The land of its love is far away: The man of her heart is far away.

- Rabaraba — almost out of sight, far away.
do — i rabaraban = marikitin, Ko na
wene i rabaraban tenui; under the lee of.
- Raku — sword fish
- Raku-taburimai — blunt nosed swordfish.
- Rokea — ^{wolf toothed} ~~tabakku~~ - shark.
- Ren — (bot.) *Journefortia argentea*
- Riku — (bot.) *Dioclea violacea*
- Rivaki-ni-man — to preen oneself as a
bird (especially used of dancers who
show off their skill of gesture).
- Reikaku — a shark-hook of ironwood
made in a single piece.
- Rivaki — (as given by Bingham) to tack;
also, in a more general sense, "to
sail or walk over in every direction?
- Reke — a short topmast of a canoe, on
which the lariard blocks are generally
lashed.
- Renga — a red, sweet scented ~~flower~~ ^{food} eaten
in a ^{the} Western land. The food of the
ancestral spirits.

Riboista: a doll made of carved wood,
usually pampas (kiingra).

Tokabwebwere - gratified, highly pleased.

Jumwii - (shown as tumori in Brigham):
steady and constant as a
wind.

Tia-Brown - a fierce warrior, a desperate
fighter.

Biria - to conquer, to overrun, to take pos-
session of in war (used especially in
regard to land).

Tete - wrath, violent anger, violence.

Taenanginang - quickly finished (as work),
expeditions.

Tae - (in the sense of completion as above)
& tae nangi-n te makuri; lit.
"the host of the work is soon defeated,"
i.e. the work is completely done.
cf. Nang.

Tambakinimoa - the King's council house,
the royal maneaba.

Tabotabo - the index finger

Tongabiri - the ring-finger; a pilot (the
latter also Tongabiti).

Jabonikiko — membrum virile, clitoris.

Taemaka — in haste.

Taoraki — brought to bed, delivered of a child.

Taobai-nikaki — to check in flight, ^{as a} to stop
bird; lit. to press down the wings down
& back.

Tokatoka (tokatoka-raoi) — to be excellent,
to be without faults (used only
of abstract matters such as the
law, wisdom, etc., not of persons)
E tokatoka raoi te wanawana
ironni.

Taeibennao — a charm to bring good luck.

(Taeibennao-pagkami — charm yourself
to bring good luck)

Jababa — shovel nosed shark

Take — the roach of a canoe sail.

Jianikubeka — selfish.

Tikitoki — resound, reverberate (to a blow)

Tongo — (bot.) *Rhizophora munerata*,
mangrove.

Taniniganiva — (nt.) *Polyporus*

Tang — (prob. original sense) love, desire.

E rae tangi-na: his love is far away

Tangira — (secondary sense) to chant the
praises of living or dead (generally
the dead).

Tiebwerci — game of skipping.

Tabwistokiz — a large adze for felling
trees.

Tamaka — a sandal of plaited fibre.

Tacomata — a swimming float used also
as a reel to the fishing line in
deep water.

Taomoa — (secondary sense) excessive,
out of reason. E rangi o taumoate
iowawa n te aba aei, the insolence
of this land is extreme.

Ten-tarawrena — an ironwood fish-
hook of which the barb is so turned
back as to nearly touch the shaft.
(used for Barn as a rule).

Take — Red tailed Tropic Bird;
Phaethon rubricauda.

Tirireka — c. + Kororeka.

Tabanibau — a variety of sea-slug found
on lagoon shoals.

Tabe — moving about as a child in the
mother's womb.

Taine — cut off, shorn away.

Taenakoa — to strike, with the arm in a
particular position (i.e. elbow bent,
hand thrown outward from chest)

Tamania — the fillip, the strike lightly
(hence secondarily only Bingham's
interpretation, "to finish or level")

Juture} — a small sea animal used as a
Juture} weather prophet by fishers. Often found
Sp. isopod in the mouth of flying fish. Sea-louse.

Ticua — an arrangement of wreaths across
the chest in the dance. Right shoulder
under left armpit: left shoulder to
right armpit — thus the wreaths

form a cross and hence the word
teua is often used in connection
with the stars in the S. Cross.

Taetango — coconut leaf, from which the under
surface has been stripped, used for
making viris.

Tania — an inhabitant of (used of fishes and
animals).

Titere — to set forth (a multitude)

Takua — thrasher shark

Nāki — taken into possession (used in phrases connected with land customs)

2 nāki te mangko (see Mangko).

Nāki — at close quarters, body to body.
2 nāki or un — they fought body to body.

Uri — (botanical) Guettarda speciosa

Unikārāra — game of juggling; Keeping three or four non fruit in the air at a time.

Una — an ornament of flowers on hair or in ears. I katekes una-na, I put in (lit. "stick in") an embellishment of flowers.

Uria — to perform an incantation by which a man is drawn towards one either spiritually or physically.

Uriabati — incantation by which a child was "hardened". (When rain + wind came child was taken to beach + struck on chest with stick with fitting prayers)

ukenangananga — famous far and wide, glorious, renowned.

ueka — to go to a place with the purpose of doing something there.

uma — the cloud hanging over land, recognised by navigators. A tame
uma ake tenua ao e na te abu.

omikantongor — to plant in close ranks, to crowd together.

Wi — the gunwale stroke of a canoe.

Wae-ni-Kinouta — to walk delicately, on tip-toe, to approach stealthily.

Wai — to balance a spear, poise before throwing.

Waibakarere — a stabbing gesture of the hand in the moia (index finger extended as if to "prod").

Wenei — The wake of a fleeing canoe.

Etiinaki weneina: the pursuit is hot on the wake of the defeated.

Wa — (ornith) generic name for the three local species of Tern.

Wāngnga (wāwāngga) — to push along as one pushes a log in the sea by swimming behind it.

Winiman — to appear as a point of cloud above the horizon.

NG

Ngutu - beak of a bird [Preserved only in the proper names Koroa-ngutu-ngutu and Te Ngutu]

Ngwi (S. Gibb.) - a tooth, mouth, edge
(cf. N. Gibb. wi)

Ng- in the S. Gilberts is prefixed to all words which in N. Gilberts begin wi.

Ngea - (tot) *Pemphis acidula*, ironwood.

Ngongo - (cornuta) Bridled Tern: *sterna anaethete*

Ngutu - Yellow Billed Tropic Bird;
Phaeton lepturus.

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Australia.

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{ δ. 2. 5 Orionis }

(2)

- ✓ Rigel — Teituan māe. Iman Nati.
Procyon, Canis Minor B — Nakabibi
✓ δ Monoceros }
✓ Cancer : : — Nei Tumasi te Nakabibi.
✓ Sirius — Babanuman
✓ β Arietis — Nonuwabu Nonoaba. (β Arietis)
✓ Corona Borealis — Te O ni Kitiba.
✓ The Heart — Baikare
✓ α Ursa Major — Kameang.
Gemini — Anteniamia
✓ β Aurigae, Θ Tauri and several others, Nei
Nuti te Waewna.
✓ Virgo — Te Mataroa

Nakatari

Nakamotie

Nonbuwebwe

Tokabwebwere = gratified, highly content.

Katitiro = monarch of all I survey.

maere : to appear and disappear in quick alternation.

māi : bitter

m'ai : cooked soft.

māñan : branch.

2 bati māñan te aomata.

Katobibia : to go round in a circle (= Katabanina).

Katoko : to daub a bad odor into the finger or another person's face (an insult)

maewe : to see from the corner of the eye, entrevoir.

toto : about to die, moribund.

timoï : Knot

torn : stick dance

no : look on at a moia.

maea : a moia

tebe : off the track, détriqué,
snapped, pricked open
as a gathering or boil.

bubua : the bony part of a
joint such as knee or
elbow.

aña : shoulder.

The standard of Gilbert
measure is teña, a
fathom, which is the length
between fingertips when arms
are spread. This span is
divided into three:- tip to
shoulder (teaña'na): shoulder
to shoulder: shoulder to tip.

Two thirds of a fathom is
"teña n aonata nona".

Karañaina : The small hours
before dawn.

Kabuñinamakaina : to wait for
the moon set before
fishing (implies sleep).

Toroba : to stroke.

Torobaba : to squat around in
a company. (Also used
for toddy shells deposited
in a mass upon the
ground, awaiting use.)

N.B. Filled shells, not empty)

mi : dream (also mia)

makin'a : dream about

wirara : rainbow.

Kanakāka : to shrivel with heat.
also used to express
"shrinking" or "wilting"
from fear.

uàkákä : curled up with heat
or cold.

uakāka : burdened with many
cares, children, or
packages. Hamped.

Kriónón : one who learns like
a parrot.

baware. spited at - ~~at~~
- a ~~as~~ Java.
Kaōnōs ~~to make~~ ~~to do~~
~~not to be doing.~~ ~~at~~
Kamane. to plot, to be
underhand.

Te ötokoro.

Kam bon tan ñRami, ba
bon riRami

main left
atai right

te atanwae. pace.
winibaeaki.

Kakioia

ñira. to strain at a stool:
to be backward in
coming forward.

mawka. = iowawa.
niñiku. offended.

tarota - to perform incantations on a weapon.

trakatati - in straight lines.

tarika - first fruits of food, laid apart

buakoroa - make a present to one's love.

Kanoanib'arana - make a secret present to an illicit love

Kaniburuña - to make presents to enlist favour from parents in law or others.

Kimānu - shiftless, poor by reason of sloth, improvident.

toka ni maneana - well established, safely set.

tria — emanate from.

& tria mai Abemama te aro
aei — This custom eman-
-ates from Abemama.

tumuri — steady (as wind).