

MINNAN (HOKKIEN) ANIMAL NAMES USED IN SINGAPORE



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Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum
National University of Singapore
Singapore
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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	1
2.	About the Directory	3
3.	Pronunciation Key	4
4.	Tones and Tone Sandhi	7
5.	Directory of Minnan (Hokkien) Animal Names	9
a.	General	9
b.	Mammals	10
c.	Reptiles	19
d.	Amphibians	21
e.	Birds	22
f.	Fishes	28
g.	Marine Invertebrates	42
h.	Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrates	48
i.	Mythical Creatures	56
6.	Literature Cited	57
7.	Useful Online Resources for the Minnan Language	58
8.	Acknowledgements	58
9.	How to Cite this Book	58

INTRODUCTION

The Minnan language (闽南语; Southern Min or Southern Fujian language [Min being the abbreviation of Fujian]) is one of the several Chinese ‘dialects’ spoken in Singapore. Generally referred to in Singapore and much of Southeast Asia as Hokkien, it was the most commonly spoken primary Chinese language and effectively the lingua franca of the local Chinese population in Singapore until around the 1980s (Lee, 1980; Norman, 1988; Anonymous, 1995). Hokkien remains commonly used among the older generation in Singapore today (pers. obs.). The language is also spoken in other Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines where there are sizable Chinese communities descended from migrants from the south-eastern Fujian (福建) province of China (from the vicinity of Quanzhou (泉州) to the southern border shared with Guangdong (广东) province [see Fig. 1]), and on the island of Taiwan, which lies directly east of Fujian (Medhurst, 1832; Weightman, 1985; Kong, 1987; Norman, 1988, and other references herein cited).

In Singapore today, Hokkien is often erroneously regarded as a dialect of standard Mandarin (called 华语, 普通话 and 国语 in Singapore and Malaysia, China, and Taiwan respectively). This misconception appears to be largely due to the common translation of ‘fangyan’ (方言) to mean dialect in English (pers. obs.). The terms topolect and regionalect have been proposed as a more correct translation for ‘fangyan’, which originally and rather ambiguously mean local or regional language, and has even been used in the past to refer to foreign (non-Chinese) languages (DeFrancis, 1984; DeBernardi, 1991; Mair, 1991; see also Groves, 2008). Many Chinese languages are not actually dialects of Mandarin (a northern Chinese language group [i.e., 北方话]) in the usual sense, and Minnan or Hokkien is herein regarded as a language from a purely linguistic perspective.

The Hokkien being referred to herein is the Singapore variant of the Minnan language. The term Hokkien was itself derived from the Minnan pronunciation for the Fujian province (for other definitions of the language see Chiu, 1931). It is not a common tongue throughout the Fujian province and does not represent the provincial language. Fujian is in fact a linguistically diverse province where Minnan is spoken only in the southeast (Fig. 1) (Chao, 1943; Bodman, 1985; Norman, 1988). In the adjacent Chaoshan (潮汕) region in Guangdong, a distinct branch of the Minnan language (known in Singapore as Teochew) is spoken. Other Fujian topolects spoken in Singapore include, but are not limited to, Mindong (闽东; called Hockchew locally) from the Fuzhou (福州) region, Kejia (Hakka; 客家) of the more inland regions of southern Fujian (also referred to as ‘Hokkien Kheh’ by some older folks in Singapore), and Xinghua (兴化, locally known as Henghua) from the Putian (莆田) area between Fuzhou and Quanzhou (Kuo, 1978).

The Minnan language spoken in different places can have limited mutual intelligibility and its accents are highly varied and differ from one region to the next, even in Fujian (Chiu, 1931; Bodman, 1985). The Hokkien spoken in Singapore appears to be rather unique because the prevalent accent appears to be a hybrid of a few different Minnan accents and, to the best of our knowledge, is not exactly identical to other Hokkien accents in China or other parts of the world. From our observations, the Singapore accent can be very similar to that of southern Peninsular Malaysia, and is generally closer to the Xiamen (厦门) accent. The pronunciations of many common words are however, biased towards the accent of the region between Quanzhou and Xiamen, such as Tong’an (同安) (see also Teh & Lim, 2014). Based on the number of borrowed words, it is also clear that the language in Singapore has to some extent, been influenced by other Chinese languages, as well as the languages of coexisting ethnic groups, such as Malay (pers. obs.; see also Lim & Mead, 2011; Cui, 2012; Teh & Lim, 2014). Nevertheless for most Singaporean speakers with a good grasp of the language, communication with native Minnan language speakers in China, Taiwan, or other countries, is not a problem.

Interestingly the Min language group is regarded as one of the earliest among the Chinese language groups to have branched off from the Han language (Chiu, 1931; Norman, 1979, 1988; Chappell, 2001). Because of archaic features in the Min language that appear to be older than Middle Chinese from which most other groups are descended, linguists have suggested that it was derived directly from Old Chinese (Norman, 1979, 1988; Dong, 2014). Besides retaining many archaic pronunciations and usages of many words, the Minnan language contains numerous peculiar expressions, phrases, idioms, and proverbs not found in other Chinese languages (e.g., Chiu, 1931; 李, 2010, 2011). The language thus embodies a lot of cultural history, and has been spoken for hundreds of years by the ancestors of many Chinese Singaporeans. It is thus a form of intangible cultural heritage, which we feel is worth preserving and passing on to future generations. Sadly, Hokkien appears set to become a moribund language in Singapore with very few young people, even those of Minnan descent (or ‘Hokkien Lang’ [福建人]), able to speak it fluently (pers. obs.; see also Kuo, 1978; Lee, 2001; Singapore Department of Statistics, 2011).

From our collective personal experiences as native speakers of Hokkien who are born and raised in Singapore, we have compiled a directory of animal names in the language. The list consists of names in colloquial usage within Singapore, and is neither comprehensive nor authoritative. It includes only names that we have heard and/or gathered from Hokkien-speaking folk, particularly among the older members of our respective families and social circles. Although it is technically possible to construct names for practically all known fauna based on formal Chinese nomenclature, we have strictly refrained from doing so. It therefore appears that a large number of animal taxa do not have specific Hokkien names in Singapore as is the typical situation for any language.

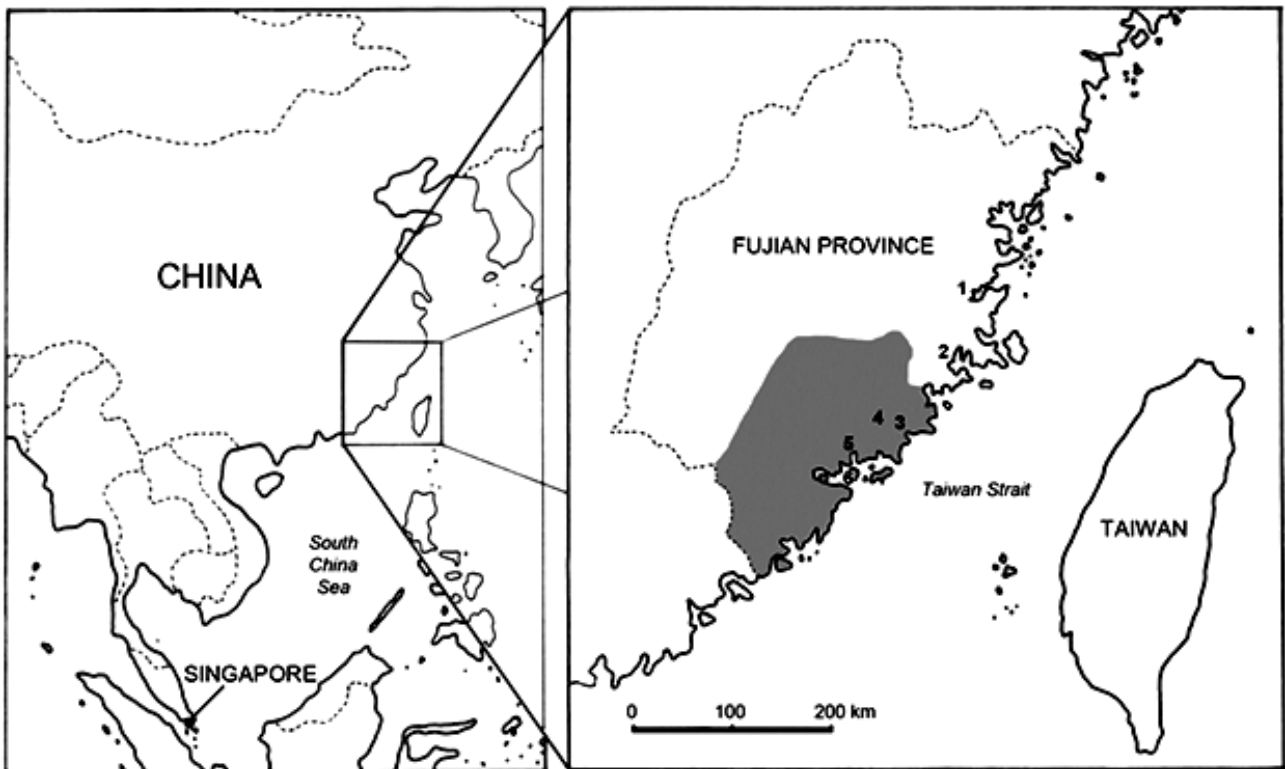


Fig 1. Map of East Asia (left) showing the location of Singapore in relation to China. Enlarged inset of south-eastern China (right) shows the Fujian Province with shaded patch indicating the general area, with approximate borders, where the Minnan language is spoken within the province (adapted from Chao, 1943, and Bodman, 1985). Numbers represent locations of cities mentioned in the text: 1, Fuzhou (福州), the provincial capital; 2, Putian (莆田); 3, Quanzhou (泉州); 4, Nan'an (南安); 5, Tong'an (同安); 6, Xiamen (厦门).

ABOUT THE DIRECTORY

The main purpose of the directory is to document Hokkien animal names and their pronunciations as they are used in Singapore. However, we hope that it will also be useful to people who are interested in learning about, or familiarising themselves with, the local Minnan language.

Many animal names have equivalents in Mandarin in written Han characters (汉字), but have very different pronunciations (e.g., 鳖, 牛, 虫). A number of names appear unique to Hokkien (e.g., 'Sian Nang' [gecko], 'Bit Poh' [bat], 'Hor Sin' [housefly]). As far as possible, the Han characters for all names have been researched for inclusion, but there remain words with characters that, to the best of our knowledge, may be non-existent, or cannot be confirmed or traced. The unverified are indicated with a suggested character and/or a question mark in brackets. It is also impossible to include all the known synonyms, or for us to verify the origins of all names. Han characters that are merely homophonous representations (in the Hokkien pronunciation) are indicated with inverted commas.

Some names are clearly derived or borrowed from other languages (e.g., 'Ba Tu' [short-bodied mackerel], 'Mor Sang' [palm civet], 'Sun Hok' [marbled gudgeon]), particularly if the taxon has no representative in southern China. These tend to be phonetically very similar or even identical to their equivalent in the donor languages. It should also be noted that such names are used only by Hokkien speakers in Singapore and some parts of Southeast Asia, and may not be understood elsewhere. Many of the animals on the list are not native to Singapore or adjacent areas, but are

included because they feature prominently in Chinese Singaporean culture. These are either symbolic (e.g., lion, Mandarin duck), have food and medicinal value (e.g., antelope), commonly seen in zoos, or are widely kept as pets. Some are even imaginary or mythical creatures (e.g., dragon, phoenix).

It should be noted that variations in the pronunciation of many words exist owing to differences in accents of the different Minnan regions. An attempt has been made to list the different ways the animal names are pronounced by Hokkien speakers in Singapore, where differences in accents have resulted in curious combinations of inconsistent pronunciations for many words. For example, pronunciation of the Hokkien word for tail (尾) as 'Ber', 'Beh', or 'Bueh' can be heard in Singapore. For names with more than one pronunciation, the more common variant (based on the personal experience of the authors) is listed first. Both 'Hur' and 'Hi' are acceptable pronunciations for fish (鱼), but to avoid unnecessary repetition in the directory, only the predominant pronunciation in Singapore (i.e., 'Hur') is listed. Similarly, the pronunciation of pig (猪) as 'Tur' or 'Ti', and rat (鼠) as 'Cur' or 'Ci' can also be heard in Singapore, but are not repeated in every instance. Apart from differences in pronunciation due to accent, there are also a number of heteronyms (i.e., more than one pronunciation for the same written Han character). An example is the word for cat (猫), which can be read as either 'Niau' or 'Ba'; the latter is strictly used to refer to wild animals. Differences in vernacular (白读) and literal (文读) pronunciations of many words also occur in the Minnan language (see Medhurst, 1832). Literal pronunciation is generally the standard for formal reading (e.g., Tang poems), and sentences composed entirely of words in the literal pronunciation are never used in everyday speech. Some examples found in the directory are dragon (龙; vernacular 'Leng', literal 'Liong'), worm (虫; vernacular 'Thang', literal 'Thiong'), and bird (鸟; vernacular 'Ziau', literal 'Niau').

Only a few examples of juveniles of animals (e.g., piglet, puppy) are herein listed. Distinct names for young animals are rare, and generally the word 'K'ia' (囡), meaning offspring or child, is added for the purpose. The same word is also often used to distinguish animals that are relatively small in size (i.e., fish is 'Hur' and small fish is 'Hur K'ia'). Gender nouns (e.g., rooster; hen) are also generally rare, and the word for either male ('Kang'; 公) or female ('Bu'; 母) is often added when a distinction is necessary. Only a few more commonly encountered examples are herein provided.

PRONUNCIATION KEY

The transliteration used in this article is our own since there is not one that has been universally adopted for the local Hokkien or for the Minnan language in general. It is therefore necessary to explain how the phonetic transcriptions are pronounced with a pronunciation key. Like Hanyu Pinyin (the phonetic alphabet for standard Mandarin), our transliterated words generally consist of an initial and a final to form a syllable. Initials are basically consonants that start the syllable while finals, which may be vowels, diphthongs, or triphthongs ending with or without a distinct stop, make up the rest. On its own, initials cannot form a syllable, but there are many words without initials. In addition a number of Hokkien words are pronounced with a nasal voice, which does not occur in Mandarin. Syllables with nasal pronunciations are herein indicated with a modifier letter vertical line (') before the finals (e.g., P'ia [饼], 'Iu [羊], Th'ia [疼]) unless the words start with the initial 'Ng', which is a nasalised initial (e.g., Ngeh [硬]).

Initials, with notes on their pronunciations, are presented in Table 1. Our transliteration is given in the first column. Remarks explaining how the words are pronounced are provided in the

second column and examples of transliterated words in local colloquial Hokkien, which we hope are simple enough to be easily consulted with native speakers of the language, are provided in the last. However, instead of listing the few dozen possible combinations of letters that make up the finals, we feel that it is sufficient to figure out the pronunciation of our phonetic transcription based on what we have used as basis for the vowels, diphthongs and triphthongs, and the different ends and stops. These are provided in Tables 2–4.

Table 1. Initials, with notes on their pronunciations and examples of some common words.

Initials	Notes	Examples
B...	as in ‘bee’	米 (Bi); 文 (Bun); 肉 (Baq)
C...	similar to ‘c’ and ‘q’ initials in Hanyu Pinyin; aspirated	菜 (Cai); 碎 (Cui); 试 (Ci)
G...	as in ‘girl’	牙 (Geh); 原 (Guan); 牛 (Gu)
H...	as in ‘how’	好 (Hoh); 番 (Huan); 雨 (Hor);
J...	as in ‘jig’	尿 (Jioh [also pronounced as Lioh]); 入 (Jip [also pronounced as Lip])
K...	not aspirated, as in sky; equivalent to ‘g’ in hanyu pinyin	记 (Ki); 国 (Kok); 旧 (Ku)
Kh...	hard ‘k’, aspirated	起 (Khi); 区 (Khu); 看 (Kh'ua)
L...	as in ‘land’	来 (Lai); 力 (Lat); 人 (Lang)
M...	as in ‘mine’	毛 (Mor [also pronounced as M'ng]); 名 (Mia); 门 (M'ng)
N...	as in ‘now’	年 (Ni); 烂 (Nua); 脑 (Nau)
Ng...	nasal sound; similar to ‘sing’	五香 (Ngor hiong); 硬 (Ngeh)
P...	as in ‘spin’, not aspirated; equivalent to ‘b’ initial in Hanyu Pinyin	肥 (Pui); 饱 (Pa); 饭 (P'ng)
Ph...	as in ‘pop’, aspirated	拍 (Phaq); 喷 (Phun); 骗 (Phien)
S...	as in ‘seen’	是 (Si); 衰 (Sueh); 屎 (Sai)
T...	not aspirated, as in ‘sting’; equivalent to ‘d’ initial in hanyu pinyin	大 (Tua); 刀 (Toh); 条 (Tiau)
Th...	as in ‘town’, aspirated	头 (Thau); 跳 (Thiau); 吞 (Thun)
Y...	not strictly an initial; herein included only because of habitual [mis]pronunciation by many people for finals beginning with ‘i’	烟 (Yen [also pronounced as Ien]); 容 (Yong [also pronounced as Iong])
Z...	similar to ‘z’ and ‘j’ initials in Hanyu Pinyin or to German ‘tz’; not aspirated	早 (Za); 准 (Zun); 招 (Zioh)

Table 2. Vowels in finals, notes on their pronunciation and examples of some common words.

Vowels	Notes	Examples
A... ; ... a ...; ... a	ah, as in 'bar'	红 (Ang); 工 (Kang); 饱 (Pa)
I ...; ... i ...; ... i	ee, as in 'see'	医 (I); 面 (Bin); 米 (Bi)
E ...; ... e ...; ... eh	ay, as in 'day'	用 (Eng [also pronounced as Iong]); 灯 (Teng); 短(Teh [also pronounced as Ter]); 下 (Eh)
... er	er, as in 'term'	短(Ter [also pronounced as Teh]); 妹 (Ber [also pronounced as Beh])
M	a humming sound with mouth closed; similar to the sound made in 'hmm'	姆 (M); 毋(M)
' Ng '; ...' ng	nasal sound similar to 'sing'; rather like making a humming sound with the mouth slightly open	黄 (' Ng); 酸 (S' ng); 饭 (P' ng)
O ...; ... o ...; ... or	or, as in 'for'	王 (Ong); 爽 (Song); 乌 (Or)
... oh	oh, as in 'toe'	无 (Boh); 学 (Ohq); 刀 (Toh)
U ...; ... u	oo, as in 'look'	有 (U); 输 (Su); 喷 (Phun);
... ur	similar to 'term', but with teeth clenched and with back of mouth more constricted	鱼 (Hur [also pronounced as Hi]); 语 (Gur [also pronounced as Gi or Gu]); 箸 (Tur [also pronounced as Ti or Tu])

Table 3. Combinations (diphthongs and triphthongs), notes on their pronunciation and examples of some common words.

Combinations	Notes	Examples
Ai ; ... ai	ah-ee, as in 'pie'	爱 (Ai); 来 (Lai); 屎 (Sai)
Au ; ... au	ah-oo, as in 'out'	后 (Au); 扫 (Sau); 头 (Thau)
Ia ; ... ia ...; ... ia	ee-ah	爷 (Ia); 赢 (' Ia); 咸 (Kiam); 名 (Mia); 疼 (Th' ia)
Iau ; ... iau	ee-ah-oo	妖 (Iau); 了 (Liau); 条 (Tiau)
Ie ...; ... ie ...	ee-ay	烟 (Ien); 莲 (Lien); 吉 (Kiet)
Ior	ee-or	羊 (' Ior [also pronounced as 'Iu]); 溶 (' Ior [also pronounced as 'Iu])
Ioh ; ... ioh	ee-oh	腰 (Ioh); 烧 (Sioh); 药 (Iohq)

Combinations	Notes	Examples
Iu; ...iu	ee-oo	油 (Iu); 收 (Siu); 球 (Kiu); 溶 (' Iu)
Ua...; ...ua...; ...ua	oo-ah	活 (Ua); 番 (Huan); 烂 (Nua); 换 (' Ua)
Uai; ...uai	oo-ah-ee	歪 (Uai); 乖 (Kuai); 怪 (Kuai)
Ueh; ...ueh	oo-ay	话 (Ueh); 衰 (Sueh); 杯 (Pueh)
Ui; ...ui	oo-ee	位 (Ui); 肥 (Pui); 水 (Zui)

Table 4. Ends and stops of finals, notes on their pronunciation and examples of some common words.

Ends/ Stops	Notes	Examples
...m	as in 'slim'	深 (Cim); 暗 (Am); 咸 (Kiam)
...n	as in 'bun'	安(An); 准 (Zun); 番 (Huan)
...ng	as in 'sing'	红 (Ang); 间 (Keng); 爽 (Song)
...p	as in 'pop', not aspirated	粒 (Liap); 涩 (Siap); 入 (Lip/Jip)
...q	a 'q' is added for words that end in a glottal stop (i.e., as in the 'uh' in 'uh-oh')	肉 (Baq); 桌 (Tohq); 学 (Ohq); 铁 (Thiq)
...k	not aspirated, somewhat like a pronounced glottal stop similar to 'egg' in English; with a stressed stop made by shutting the rear of the mouth with the tongue	目 (Bak); 国 (Kok); 毒 (Tok); 竹 (Tek)
...t	as in 'butter', not aspirated	直 (Tit); 踢 (That); 力 (Lat)

TONES AND TONE SANDHI

Minnan is a tonal language like Mandarin and other Chinese languages. However the tones are quite different compared to the four tones (five if the neutral tone is counted) recognised in standard Mandarin that young people in Singapore are generally familiar with. The Minnan language is traditionally regarded as having eight tones, but only seven tones are recognised in actual speech because tones 2 and 6 are indistinguishable (Table 5 [see also Medhurst, 1832]). Words pronounced in tones 4 and 8 typically end with a distinct stop ('...p', '...t', '...k') or a glottal stop (represented with the addition of a 'q' at the end of the respective transliterations herein). However, many words with a glottal stop may not be consistently pronounced due to tone sandhi. For example, table top (桌顶) is typically 'Toh[2] Teng[2]', though the original pronunciation for the word table (桌) is 'Tohq[4]'. It should be noted that examples herein given are for the Singapore Hokkien accent, and the tone and pronunciation may not be exactly identical for the same word in the many different Minnan accents.

Like Mandarin, tone sandhi (tone change rules) occurs in the Minnan language. The rules are however much more complex. In Singapore Hokkien, tone change occurs each time a word is paired in front of another to give meaning, or in combinations to form a sentence. For example, the words for red (红) and flower (花), with tones in brackets, are pronounced as ‘Ang[5]’ and ‘Hueh[1]’, respectively; when the words are combined as 红花 to mean red flower, the tones become ‘Ang[3] Hueh[1]’, and when the words are combined as 花红 to mean commission or bonus, the words are pronounced ‘Hueh[7] Ang[5]’ (see Table 6). As a general rule, the last word in a ‘set’ (combinations of two or more words) always retains the ‘correct’ or original tone. In the directory, the tones are written as how the words are pronounced in the particular combinations, with the original tones indicated in superscript (i.e., red flower will be transliterated as Ang[3⁵] Hueh[1]).

Table 5. Tones of Minnan in the general Singapore accent.

Tones		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pitch	High	→	↘	↘	●	↗	↘	→	●
	Mid				●				
	Low					↗			
Examples of some common words in the respective tones (see Table 6 for tone sandhi)		丝 (Si)	死 (Si)	四 (Si)	熄 (Sit)	时 (Si)	死 (Si)	是 (Si)	翼 (Sit)
		君 (Kun)	滚 (Kun)	困 (Khun)	骨 (Kut)	裙 (Kun)	滚 (Kun)	近 (Kun)	滑 (Kut)
		芳 (Phang)	纺 (Phang)	放 (Pang)	拍 (Phaq)	房 (Pang)	纺 (Phang)	缝 (Phang)	暴 (Phak)
		刀 (Toh)	岛 (Toh)	倒 (Toh)	桌 (Tohq)	桃 (Toh)	岛 (Toh)	道 (Toh)	毒 (Tok)
		分 (Hun)	粉 (Hun)	搵 (Un)	熨 (Ut)	云 (Hun)	粉 (Hun)	份 (Hun)	佛 (Hut)


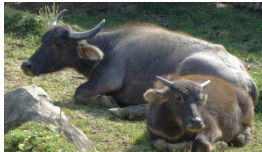




Table 6. The Singapore Hokkien tone sandhi. The usual tone changes are provided in the second row, and the last shows the occasional variations, which may occur because of differences in accent or habitual mispronunciations of certain words in Singapore.

Original tone	1	2 (= 6)	3	4	5	6 (= 2)	7	8
Tone sandhi	7	5	2	8	3	5	3	3
Variations	–	1	–	2	–	1	–	4

DIRECTORY OF MINNAN (HOKKIEN) ANIMAL NAMES

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
GENERAL			
Animal	动物	Tong[3 ⁷] But[8]	General term for all animals.
	禽兽 <small>See corrigenda 25 Nov.2015</small>	Khim[3 ⁵] Siu[3]	Refers usually to beasts and wild animals (generally birds and mammals). Also used to designate inhumane people or people exhibiting unacceptable behaviour.
	精牲 <small>See corrigenda 25 Nov.2015</small>	Zeng[7 ¹] S'i[1] Zeng[7 ¹] S'eh[1]	Refers generally to beasts, but more often used for domestic animals. Also used to designate inhumane people or people exhibiting unacceptable behaviour.
Animal, large and wild	野兽	Ia[5 ²] Siu[3]	Generally refers to ferocious wild animals.
Bird	鸟	Ziau[2]	
Bird, small	粟鸟	Cek[8 ⁴] Ziau[2]	Refers mainly to small finch-like bird (e.g., munia, sparrow).
Dinosaur	恐龙	Khiong[5 ²] Liong[5]	Literally 'terror dragon'. A direct translation from Mandarin.
Fish	鱼	Hur[5]	
Fish, drain	‘廊’沟鱼	Long[3] Kau[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers usually to livebearers (e.g., molly, mosquitofish), but also generally for any fish (usually small) found in drains. Literally ‘drain fish’, from the combining the corruption of Malay word ‘longkang’ for drain and fish.
	‘廊工’鱼	Long[3] Kang[7] Hur[5]	Refers usually to livebearers (e.g., molly, mosquitofish), but also generally for any fish (usually small) found in drains. Literally ‘drain fish’, from combining Malay word for drain ‘longkang’ and Minnan ‘fish’.
Insect	昆虫	Khun[7 ¹] Thiong[5]	A more formal term. Insects and other creepy-crawlies are otherwise generally called ‘Thang[5]’.
Poultry	家禽	Ka[7 ¹] Khim[5]	
Worm	虫	Thang[5]	Refers generally to any crawling or wriggling invertebrate.

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
MAMMALS			
Antelope	羚羊	Leng[3 ⁵] Iong[5] Leng[3 ⁵] Yong[5]	Mainly refers to horns of the Saiga antelope (<i>Saiga tatarica</i>) that are commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine.
Ape, e.g., orang-utan, chimpanzee	猿	Huan[3] Uan[5]	 KL
	猩猩	Seng[7] Seng[1]	
Bat	密婆	Bit[3 ⁸] Poh[5]	 KL
	夜婆	Ia[3 ⁷] Poh[5]	
Bat, flying fox, or fruit bat	果子猫	Keh[5 ²] Zi[5 ²] Ba[5] Ker[5 ²] Zi[5 ²] Ba[5] Kueh[5 ²] Zi[5 ²] Ba[5]	Usually refers to flying fox. Name also used for civet cat. Literally 'fruit cat'.  THH
Bear	熊	Him[5]	 KL
	狗熊	Kau[5 ²] Him[5]	
Bear, black	乌熊	Or[7 ¹] Him[5]	

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Bear, polar	白熊	Peh[3 ⁸] Him[5]	Refers specifically to polar bear. Literally 'white bear'.  KL
Buffalo	水牛	Zui[5 ²] Gu[5]	Literally 'water cattle'.  DY
Camel	骆驼	Lok[3 ⁸] Toh[5]	 KL
Cat	猫	Niau[1]	Also broadly used to designate people who are fastidious, fussy, or stingy.  KL
Cat, kitten	猫囡	Niau[7 ¹] K'ia[2]	Literally 'cat child'.
Cat, Siamese	暹猫	Siam[3 ⁷] Niau[1]	Literally 'Siam cat'.
Cat, leopard	山猫	S'ua[7 ¹] Niau[1]	Literally 'mountain/hill cat'.
	狸猫	Li[3 ⁵] Ba[5]	Also refers to civet cat.  KL
Cattle, ox or cow	牛	Gu[5]	 KL

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Civet, palm	果子猫	Ker[5 ²] Zi[5 ²] Ba[5]	Also refers to fruit bat. Literally ‘fruit cat’.
		Keh[5 ²] Zi[5 ²] Ba[5]	
		Kueh[5 ²] Zi[5 ²] Ba[5]	
	狸猫	Li[3 ⁵] Ba[5]	Also refers to leopard cat.
	‘毛松’	Mor[3] Sang[1]	After the Malay name ‘musang’ for civet cat.
Civet, with banded tail	九节猫	Kau[5 ²] Zat[8 ⁴] Ba[5]	Literally ‘nine-sectioned cat’, probably in allusion to the ringed tail.
Deer	鹿	Lok[8]	
Dog	狗	Kau[2]	
Dog, female	狗母	Kau[5 ²] Bu[2]	Literally ‘dog female/mother’.
Dog, male	狗公	Kau[5 ²] Kang[1]	Literally ‘dog male’.
Dog, puppy	狗囡	Kau[5 ²] K'ia[2]	Literally ‘dog child’.
Dog, chow chow	膨狮狗	Phong[2 ³] Sai[7 ¹] Kau[2]	Also often used for any dog with fluffy fur. Commonly mispronounced as Phong[2] Sai[5] Kau[2].
Dog, German shepherd	猎狗	La[3 ⁸] Kau[2]	Literally ‘hunting dog’.
	狼狗	Long[3 ⁵] Kau[2]	Literally ‘wolf dog’.



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English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Dog, Pomeranian	狐狸狗	Hor[3 ⁵] Li[3 ⁵] Kau[2]	Literally 'fox dog'.
Dolphin	海猪	Hai[5 ²] Tur[1] Hai[5 ²] Ti[1]	Literally 'sea pig'.  KL
Donkey	驴	Lur[5] Li[5] Lu[5]	 SS
Dugong	海牛	Hai[5 ²] Gu[5]	Also refers to manatee. Literally 'sea cattle'. Possibly a direct translation from the Mandarin name.  KL
Elephant	象	C'iu[7]	Refers generally to adult elephants regardless of gender. Literally 'elephant lord/grandfather'.  KL
	象公	C'iu[3 ⁷] Kong[1]	
	大象	Tua[3 ⁷] C'iu[7]	
	大象公	Tua[3 ⁷] C'iu[3 ⁷] Kong[1]	
Fox	狐狸	Hor[3 ⁵] Li[5]	 THH
Giant panda	猫熊	Niau[7 ¹] Him[5]	Literally 'cat bear'.  THH

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Giraffe	麒麟鹿	Ki[3] Lin[3 ⁵] Lok[8]	Literally ‘kirin deer’.
	长脚鹿	T'ng[3 ⁵] Kha[7 ¹] Lok[8]	Literally ‘long-legged deer’.
	长颈鹿	T'ng[3 ⁵] Keng[5 ²] Lok[8]	Literally ‘long-necked deer’. Probably a direct translation of the Mandarin name.
Goat (see sheep)	羊	'Iu[5] 'Ior[5]	Name also used for sheep.
	山羊	S'ua[7 ¹] 'Iu[5] S'ua[7 ¹] 'Ior[5]	Refers specifically to goat. Literally ‘mountain/hill goat’. Possibly a direct translation from the Mandarin name.
Guinea pig	竹鼠	Tek[8 ⁴] Cur[2]	Originally refers to the bamboo rat (genus <i>Rhizomys</i>) which the Guinea pig resembles in general appearance.
Hippopotamus	河马	Hoh[3 ⁵] Beh[2]	Literally ‘river horse’. Probably a direct translation from the Mandarin name.
Horse and pony	马	Beh[2]	



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English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
House shrew	钱鼠	Z'i[3 ⁵] Cur[2]	Literally 'money mouse'.  KL
Leopard	豹	Pa[3]	 JY
Leopard, black panther	乌豹	Or[7 ¹] Pa[3]	Refers specifically to black panther. Literally 'black leopard'.  KL
Lion	狮	Sai[1]	 KL
Monkey	猴	Kau[5]	Literally 'old monkey'.  THH
	老猴	Lau[3 ⁷] Kau[5]	
Mouse (see rat)	鼠	Cur[2]	Also refers to rat.  KL
		Ci[2]	
	鸟鼠	Niau[5 ²] Cur[2] Niau[5 ²] Ci[2]	

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Orang-utan	红毛猩猩	Ang[3 ⁵] Mor[3 ⁵] Seng[7 ¹] Seng[1]	Refers specifically to members of the genus <i>Pongo</i> . Literally ‘red hair ape’. Possibly a direct translation from the Mandarin name.  KL
Otter	水獭	Zui[5 ²] Thuaq[4]	 KL
Pangolin	鲛鲤	La[3 ⁵] Li[2]	 KL
Pig	猪	Tur[1] Ti[1]	
Pig, stud	猪哥	Tur[7 ¹] Koh[1] Ti[7 ¹] Koh[1]	Literally ‘pig brother [elder]’. Also used to designate lecherous men.
	种猪	Zeng[5 ²] Tur[1] Zeng[5 ²] Ti[1]	Literally ‘seed pig’.
Pig, sow	猪母	Tur[7 ¹] Bu[2] Ti[7 ¹] Bu[2]	Literally ‘pig mother/female’.
Piglet	猪仔	Tur[7 ¹] K'ia[2] Ti[7 ¹] K'ia[2]	Literally ‘pig child’.
Piglet, hand reared	牛奶猪	Gu[3 ⁵] Ni[7 ¹] Tur[1] Gu[3 ⁵] Ni[7 ¹] Ti[1]	Refers to rejected piglets that are hand reared with cow’s milk. Literally ‘cow’s milk pig’.
Pig, wild	山猪	S'ua[7 ¹] Tur[1] S'ua[7 ¹] Ti[1]	Literally ‘mountain/hill pig’.  THH

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Porcupine	豪猪	Hoh[3 ⁵] Tur[1] Hoh[3 ⁵] Ti[1]	Literally ‘grand pig’.
	刺猪	Ci[2 ³] Tur[1] Ci[2 ³] Ti[1]	Literally ‘spiny pig’.
Porpoise	和尚鱼	Her[3] S'iu[3 ⁷] Hur[5] Heh[3] S'iu[3 ⁷] Hi[5]	Name also used for dolphins without beaks. Literally ‘[Buddhist] monk fish’.
Rabbit	兔	Thor[3]	
Rabbit, white	白兔	Peh[3 ⁸] Thor[3]	Refers specifically to domestic albino rabbit. Literally ‘white rabbit’.
Rat (see mouse)	鼠	Cur[2] Ci[2]	Also refers to mouse.
	鸟鼠	Niau[5 ²] Cur[2] Niau[5 ²] Ci[2]	Also refers to mouse.
Rhinoceros	犀牛	Sai[7 ¹] Gu[5]	
Seal or sea lion	海狗	Hai[5 ²] Kau[2]	Literally ‘sea dog’.



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English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Sheep (see goat)	羊	'Iu[5] 'Ior[5]	Name also used for goat.
	绵羊	Mi[3 ⁵] 'Iu[5]	Refers specifically to sheep. Literally 'floss goat'. Possibly a direct translation from the Mandarin name.
Squirrel	膨鼠	Phong[2 ³] Cur[2]	Literally 'fluffy rat', probably in allusion to the fluffy tail.
Tiger	虎	Hor[2]	
	老虎	Lau[3 ⁷] Hor[2]	Literally 'old tiger'.
Tiger, white	白虎	Peh[3 ⁸] Hor[2]	Refers specifically to white tiger. Literally 'white tiger'.
Whale	海翁	Hai[5 ²] Ang[1]	Literally translates as 'old man of the sea'.
	鲸鱼	Keng[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Probably a direct translation from the Mandarin name.
Wolf	狼	Long[5] Liong[5]	
Zebra	花斑马	Hueh[7 ¹] Pan[7 ¹] Beh[2]	Literally 'flower-patterned horse'.
	斑马	Pan[7 ¹] Beh[2]	Literally 'patterned horse'
	乌白马	Or[7 ¹] Peh[3 ⁸] Beh[2]	Literally 'black-white horse'.



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English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
REPTILES			
Crocodile	‘磨页’	Bua[3] Ya[2] Bua[3] Ia[2]	After the Malay name ‘buaya’.
	鳄鱼	Ngok[3 ⁸] Hur[5]	Very rarely used in Singapore owing to dominance of the preceding Malay loan word.
Gecko, house	善虫	Sien[3 ⁷] Nang[5] Sien[3 ⁷] Thang[5] Sin[3 ⁷] Nang[5]	Literally translates as ‘good/kind worm’.
	[舌/钱?]龙	Ji[3] Leng[5]	
Lizard, green crested	大伯公鸡	Tua[3 ⁷] Peh[2 ⁴] Kong[7 ¹] Kueh[1]	Refers to <i>Bronchocela cristatella</i> . Literally ‘Tua Peh Kong’s (Taoist deity) chicken’.
	大伯公蛇	Tua[3 ⁷] Peh[2 ⁴] Kong[7 ¹] Zua[5]	Refers to <i>Bronchocela cristatella</i> . Literally ‘Tua Peh Kong’s (Taoist deity) snake’.
Lizard, monitor	四脚蛇	Si[2 ³] Kha[7 ¹] Zua[5]	Literally ‘four-legged snake’.
Skink, large	狗母蛇	Kau[5 ²] Bu[5 ²] Zua[5]	Usually refers only to the large species. Literally ‘bitch (female dog) snake’.
Skink, small	草龙	Cau[5 ²] Leng[5]	Refers only to the small species. Literally ‘grass dragon’.
Snake	蛇	Zua[5]	



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English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Snake, cobra	乌[?]	Or[7 ¹] Ph'ng[1]	Refers specifically to <i>Naja sumatrana</i> .
	目镜蛇	Bak[3 ⁸] K'ia[2 ³] Zua[5]	Literally ‘spectacled snake’. Probably a direct translation from its Mandarin name
	饭匙铙	P'ng[3 ⁷] Si[3 ⁵] Ceng[3]	Literally ‘rice-scoop gun’.
Snake, blind	铁蛇	Thi[2 ⁴] Zua[5]	Refers specifically to <i>Ramphotyphlops braminus</i> . Literally ‘iron snake’. According to local folklore, the animal turns into iron after it is burnt.
Snake, green vine	青竹丝	C'i[7 ¹] Tek[8 ⁴] Si[1] C'eh[7 ¹] Tek[8 ⁴] Si[1]	Refers to green-coloured members of the genus <i>Ahaetulla</i> . Literally ‘green bamboo strand’. The same name refers specifically to the Chinese tree or bamboo viper, <i>Trimeresurus stejnegeri</i> , in Fujian and Taiwan.
Snake, python	锦蛇	Gim[5 ²] Zua[5]	
Snake, sea	海蛇	Hai[5 ²] Zua[5]	Literally ‘sea snake’.
Snake, water	水蛇	Zui[5 ²] Zua[5]	Literally ‘water snake’.



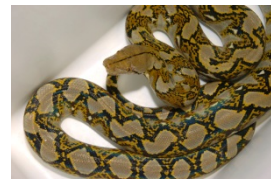
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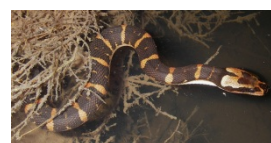
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English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Tortoise	龟	Ku[1]	Also refers to turtle and beetle-like insects.
	乌龟	Or[7 ¹] Kui[1] Or[7 ¹] Ku[1]	Literally ‘black tortoise’, but is a general term not restricted to black/dark animals.
Turtle, freshwater and terrestrial	龟	Ku[1]	Also refers to tortoise and beetle-like insects. Does not include softshell turtles.
	乌龟	Or[7 ¹] Kui[1] Or[7 ¹] Ku[1]	Literally ‘black tortoise’, but is a general term not restricted to black/dark animals.
Turtle, marine	海龟	Hai[5 ²] Ku[1]	Literally ‘sea turtle/tortoise’.
	[𪚩/𪚩]龟	Hang[7 ¹] Ku[1] Ham[7 ¹] Ku[1]	
Turtle, softshell	鳖	Piq[4]	Refers to members of the family Trionychidae.
AMPHIBIANS			
Frog	水鸡	Zui[5 ²] Kueh[1] Zui[5 ²] Keh[1]	Literally ‘water chicken’.
	蛤婆	Kap[8 ⁴] Poh[5]	Also used to refer to toad by some people.
	石[?]	Zioh[3 ⁸] Kang[3]	Probably refers to large edible frogs of the genus <i>Limnonectes</i> .



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English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Frog, banded bullfrog	地牛	Teh[3 ⁷] Gu[5]	Refers specifically to banded bullfrog. Literally ‘ground/earth cattle’, probably so named because of their calls that sound like bellowing cattle’.  KL
Tadpole	大头钉	Tua[3 ⁷] Thau[3 ⁵] Teng[1]	Literally ‘big head pin/nail’.  TCH
Toad	蟾蜍	Ziong[7] Zur[5] Z'iu[7] Zur[5]	Refers to members of the family Bufonidae.  KL
BIRDS			
Bulbul, red-whiskered	木瓜鸟 ‘莲雾’	Bok[3 ⁸] Kua[7 ¹] Ziau[2] Jiam[5] Bu[7] Liam[5] Bu[7]	Literally ‘papaya bird’. Probably so called because of pet owners’ habit of feeding papaya to the birds. After the Malay name ‘burong jambu’.  MC
Bulbul, yellow-vented	白头鵲	Peh[3 ⁸] Thau[3 ⁵] Khok[4]	The name can also be translated as ‘white head-shell’.  KL

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Chicken	鸡	Kueh[1]	Also slang for prostitute.
Chicken, hen	鸡母	Kueh[7 ¹] Bu[2]	Literally 'chicken mother/female'
Chicken, old hen	老鸡母	Lau[3 ⁷] Kueh[7 ¹] Bu[2]	Refers to an old hen. Literally 'old chicken mother/female'.
Chicken, rooster	鸡角	Kueh[7 ¹] Kak[4]	Literally 'chicken horn'.
	鸡公	Kueh[7 ¹] Kang[1]	Literally 'chicken male'.
Chicken, big rooster	鸡公	Kueh[7 ¹] Kong[1]	Literally 'chicken lord/grandfather'.
	鸡角公	Kueh[7 ¹] Kak[8 ⁴] Kong[1]	
Chicken, silky and black	乌鸡	Or[7 ¹] Kueh[1]	Literally 'black chicken'.
	乌骨鸡	Or[7 ¹] Kut[8 ⁴] Kueh[1]	Literally 'black-boned chicken'.
Chicken, wild	山鸡	S'ua[7 ¹] Kueh[1]	Literally 'mountain or hill chicken'. Also refers to pheasant. Also slang for wanton women.
Crane	鹤	Hohq[8]	Has cultural significance to the Chinese. Name also applies to the stork or flamingo.
Crow	乌鸦	Or[7 ¹] A[1]	
	歹鸟	Phai[5 ²] Ziau[2]	Literally 'bad bird'.



TSK






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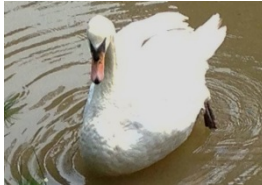







KL









English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Duck	鸭	Aq[4]	 KL
Duck, drake or male	鸭角	A[2 ⁴] Kak[4]	
	鸭公	A[2 ⁴] Kang[1]	
Duck, hen or female	鸭母	A[2 ⁴] Bu[2]	
Duck, common domestic	菜鸭	Cai[2 ³] Aq[4]	Refers specifically to duck farmed for meat. Literally ‘vegetable duck’.
Duck, Mandarin	鸳鸯	Uan[7 ¹] Iong[1] Uan[7 ¹] 'Iu[1]	Has cultural significance to the Chinese as symbol of marital fidelity.  KL
Duck, Muscovy	番鸭	Huan[7 ¹] Aq[4]	Literally ‘foreign duck’.  KL
Duck, wild	水鸭	Zui[5 ²] Aq[4]	Literally ‘water duck’.  KL
Eagle, including hawk, kite, etc.	鹰	Eng[1]	 KL
	老鹰	Lau[3 ⁷] Eng[1]	
	鸱鸺	La[3] Hiohq[8]	








English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Goose	鹅	Goh[5] Gia[5]	 TSK
Hornbill	飞机鸟	Pueh[7 ¹] Ki[7 ¹] Ziau[2] Per[7 ¹]] Ki[7 ¹] Ziau[2]	Literally ‘airplane bird’, so called because of the gliding birds’ supposed resemblance to airplanes.  THH
Laughing thrush (huamei)	画眉	Ueh[3 ⁸] Bi[5] Hueh[7] Bi[5]	Literally ‘drawn eye-brows’.
Magpie robin	乌白 水浸	Or[7 ¹] Pehq[8] Zui[5 ²] Zim[3]	Literally translates as ‘black and white (bird)’. Literally ‘water soak/immerse’.  THH
Munia	草鸟 栗鸟	Cau[5 ²] Ziau[2] Cek[8 ⁴] Ziau[2]	Literally ‘grass bird’. Also called Cek[8] Ziau[2]. Name also used for sparrow and other small finch-like birds.  MC
Myna	鸚鵡	Ka[7 ¹] Leng[7]	 TSK









English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Owl	暗光鸟	Am[2 ³] Kong[7 ¹] Ziau[2]	Literally ‘dim-light bird’.
	猫头鹰	Niau[7 ¹] Thau[3 ⁵] Eng[1]	Literally ‘cat-headed eagle’.
	猫头鸟	Niau[7 ¹] Thau[3 ⁵] Ziau[2]	Literally ‘cat-headed bird’.
			
MC			
Parrot	鹦哥	Eng[7 ¹] Koh[1]	
			
MC			
Peafowl	孔雀	Khong[5 ²] Ciok[4]	
			
TSK			
Pheasant	山鸡	S'ua[7 ¹] Kueh[1]	Literally ‘mountain or hill chicken’. Also refers to wild chicken.
			
KL			
Pigeon	粉鸟	Hun[5 ²] Ziau[2]	Literally ‘powder bird’.
	鸽	Kap[4]	
			
KL			
Quail	鹌鹑	An[7 ¹] Tun[1]	
		Ien[7 ¹] Tun[1]	





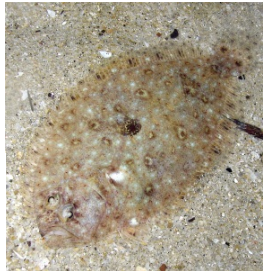
English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Rail, including waterhen	田鸡	Can[3 ⁷] Kueh[1]	Refers largely to members of the family Rallidae. Literally ‘paddy chicken’.
			 KL
Seabird, e.g., tern	海鸟	Hai[5 ²] Ziau[2]	Literally ‘sea bird’.
			 KL
Sparrow	麻雀	Ma[3 ⁵] Ciok[4] Ba[3 ⁵] Ciok[4] Mua[3 ⁵] Ciok[4]	Also used for ‘Mahjong’, the Chinese tile game, in the Minnan language.
	栗鸟	Cek[8 ⁴] Ziau[2]	Name also used for munia and other small finch-like birds.
			 KL
Starling	乌鸟	Or[7 ¹] Ziau[2]	Refers mainly to <i>Aplonis panayensis</i> . Literally ‘black bird’. Also generally for any black bird.
			 THH
Swallow (see swift)	燕	Ien[3] 'I[3]	Also used for swift.
			 THH
Swan	天鹅	Thien[7 ¹] Goh[5]	Literally ‘sky goose’. Possibly a direct translation from its Mandarin name.
			 MC
Swift (see swallow)	燕	Ien[3] 'I[3]	Also used for swallow.






English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Turkey	火鸡	Her[5 ²] Kueh[1] Hueh[5 ²] Kueh[1] Heh[5 ²] Keh[1]	Literally ‘fire chicken’. Probably a direct translation from its Mandarin name.  TSK
White egret	白鹭鹭	Peh[3 ⁸] Lor[3 ⁷] Si[1] Peh[3 ⁸] Leng[3 ⁷] Si[1]	 MC
White-eye	白目圈	Peh[3 ⁸] Bak[3 ⁸] Khuan[1]	Literally ‘white eye ring’.
	白目环	Peh[3 ⁸] Bak[3 ⁸] Khuan[5]	Literally ‘white eye circle’.  THH
White-rumped shama	长尾	T'ng[3 ⁵] Ber[2] T'ng[3 ⁵] Bueh[2] T'ng[3 ⁵] Beh[2]	Literally ‘long tail’.
FISHES			
Anchovy	江鱼	Kang[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genera <i>Stolephorus</i> and <i>Encrasicholina</i> . Literally ‘river fish’.  THH
Angelfish	鲳鱼	C'ior[7 ¹] Hur[5] C'iu[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Pterophyllum</i> , <i>Monodactylus</i> , and the family Pomacanthidae. Also refers to pomfrets.  THH








English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Arowana	龙鱼	Leng[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Literally ‘dragon fish’. Refers to members of the family Osteoglossidae.  THH
Barb	鲫鱼	Zit[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers to some members of the family Cyprinidae.  THH
Barb, tiger	老虎鱼	Lau[3 ⁷] Hor[5 ²] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Puntigrus</i> that are common ornamental fishes. Literally ‘old tiger fish’. Also applies to tiger perches of the genus <i>Datnioides</i> .  THH
Barracuda	沙君	Sua[7 ¹] Kun[1]	Literally ‘sand lord’.  THH
Barramundi	金目鲈	Kim[7 ¹] Bak[3 ⁸] Lor[5]	Literally ‘bright-eyed bass’.  THH
Batfish	密婆鲷	Bit[3 ⁸] Poh[3 ⁵] C'iu[1]	Literally ‘bat pomfret’. Refers to members of the genus <i>Platax</i> .  THH
Bream, emperor	龙占	Leng[3] Ziam[1]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Lethrinus</i> .  THH
Bream, threadfin	红哥鲤	Ang[3 ⁵] Koh[7 ¹] Li[2]	Refers to fishes of the genus <i>Nemipterus</i> . This name is also used for <i>Pristipomoides</i> snappers.  THH








English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Carp	鲤鱼	Li[5 ²] Hur[5]	Freshwater food and ornamental fish imported from China.  THH
Carp, bighead	松鱼	Song[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Freshwater food fish imported from China. Literally 'pine [tree] fish'.  KL
Carp, grass	草鱼	Cau[5 ²] Hur[5]	Freshwater food fish imported from China. Literally 'grass fish'  KL
Carp, silver	鲢鱼	Lien[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Freshwater food fish imported from China.  THH
Catfish, glass	玻璃猫	Poh[7 ¹] Leh[3 ⁵] Niau[1]	Refers to <i>Kryptopterus vitreolus</i> , a popular aquarium fish. Literally 'glass cat[fish]'. Probably a direct translation from the English name.
Catfish, marine, with forked tail	成鱼	Seng[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the family Ariidae.  THH
Catfish, suckermouth or sailfin	琵琶鼠	Pi[3 ⁵] Peh[3 ⁵] Cur[2]	Refers to suckermouth catfishes of the genus <i>Pterygoplichthys</i> from South America that are popular aquarium fish. Literally 'pipa [Chinese lute] mouse', owing to its resemblance in shape to the musical instrument when viewed from above.  THH
	食屎鱼	Zia[3 ⁸] Sai[5 ²] Hur[5]	Literally 'eat excrement fish'.
Catfish, walking	涂虱	Thor[3 ⁵] Sat[4]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Clarias</i> . Literally 'mud louse'.  THH








English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Cichlid, flowerhorn (luohan)	扩头鱼	Khok[8 ⁴] Thau[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Literally translates as ‘protruded-forehead fish’.
			 THH
Climbing perch	刺壳	Ci[2 ³] Khak[4]	Literally ‘spiny shell’.
			 THH
Clown fish	彪公鱼	Ang[7 ¹] Kong[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Popular ornamental fishes of the genus <i>Amphiprion</i> . Literally ‘doll/puppet fish’.
			 KL
Clown loach	三孔鼠	S'a[7 ¹] Khang[7 ¹] Cur[2]	<i>Chromobotia macracanthus</i> , a popular ornamental fish from Indonesia. Literally ‘three-hole mouse’.
			 THH
Cobia	海鲷	Hai[5 ²] Lueh[7] Hai[5 ²] Leh[7]	Literally ‘sea snakehead’.
			 THH
Corydoras	鸟鼠鱼	Niau[5 ²] Cur[5 ²] Hur[5]	Popular ornamental catfishes native to Latin America. Literally ‘mouse fish’.
			 THH
Perch, crescent	‘鸡珑’蛆	Keh[7] Long[7] Cur[1] Kueh[7] Long[7] Cur[1]	Literally translates as ‘kelong (Malay for fishing platform) aquatic insect larva’.
			 THH
Eel	鳗鱼	Mua[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	
Eel, conger or pike	金鳗	Kim Mua[5]	Refers to members of the family Muraenesocidae. Literally ‘gold eel’.
			 KL








English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Eel, snake	蛇鳗	Zua Mua[5]	Refers to members of the family Ophichthidae. Literally ‘snake eel’.
			 KL
Eel, swamp	鱨鱼	Sien[3 ⁷] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Monopterus</i> .
			 THH
Fighting fish	相拍鱼	Sioh[7 ¹] Pha[8 ⁴] Hur[5]	Refers to <i>Betta splendens</i> . Literally ‘fighting fish’.
			 THH
Filefish, large	拔皮鱼	Pak[8 ⁴] Peh[3 ⁵] Hur[5] Pak[8 ⁴] Per[3 ⁵] Hur[5] Pak[8 ⁴] Pueh[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Applies to larger edible members of the family Monacanthidae which are usually sold with their skin removed. Literally ‘pull skin fish’.
	拆皮鱼	Thia[2 ⁴] Peh[3 ⁵] Hur[5] Thia[2 ⁴] Per[3 ⁵] Hur[5] Thia[2 ⁴] Pueh[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Applies to larger edible members of the family Monacanthidae which are usually sold with their skin removed. Literally translates as ‘skinned fish’.
Filefish, small	竹圉	Tek[8 ⁴] K'ia[2]	Literally ‘bamboo child’.
			 THH
Flatfish	扁鱼	P'i[5 ²] Hur[5]	Refers generally to members of the order Pleuronectiformes. Literally ‘flat fish’.
	‘铁布’	Thi[2] Por[2] Thi[2] Por[3]	Applies to members of the order Pleuronectiformes.
			 TCH







English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Flying fish	飞鱼	Peh[7 ¹] Hur[5] Per[7 ¹] Hur[5] Pueh[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the family Exocoetidae. Literally ‘flying fish’.
Goldfish	金鱼	Kim[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Literally ‘gold fish’.
Goldfish, lionhead	狮头	Sai[7 ¹] Thau[5]	Literally ‘lion head’.
			 KL
Gourami	‘三板’	Sam[7 ¹] Pan[2]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Trichopodus</i> . Probably after the Malay name ‘sepat’.
			 THH
Grouper	猴鱼	Kau[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Literally ‘monkey fish’.
	石斑	Zioh[3 ⁸] Pan[1]	Literally ‘rock spot or speckle’. Possibly a direct translation from its Mandarin name.
			 THH
Grouper, black	乌猴	Or[7 ¹] Kau[5]	Literally ‘black monkey’. Refers to dark coloured or blackish groupers.
Grouper, giant	猴[盾]	Kau[3 ⁵] Tun[2]	Refers to exceptionally large groupers, usually <i>Epinephelus lanceolatus</i> .
Grouper, humpback	林米猴	Zut[3 ⁸] Bi[5 ²] Kau[5]	Specifically <i>Cromileptes altivelis</i> , a highly esteemed food fish. Literally ‘glutinous rice monkey’.
			 THH
Grouper, red	红猴	Ang[3 ⁵] Kau[5]	Literally ‘red monkey’. Refers to red coloured groupers.
Grunter	石鲈	Zioh[3 ⁸] Lor[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Pomadasys</i> . Literally ‘stone bass’.
			 THH









English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures	
Gudgeon, marbled	‘巡福’ (笋壳)	Sun[5] Hok[4] Sun[3] Hok[4]	Refers to <i>Oxyleotris marmorata</i> , an esteemed food fish. After its Yue (粤 [Cantonese]) name 笋壳, literally ‘bamboo-shoot shell’.	 THH
Halfbeak	尖嘴鱼	Ziam[7 ¹] Cui[2 ³] Hur[5]	Literally ‘pointed-mouthed fish’. Also refers to needlefish.	 THH
Harlequin fish	‘Stamp’ 鱼	‘Stem’[7] Hur[5]	<p>Literally a combination of an English word ‘stamp’ and Minnan ‘fish’. Refers to <i>Trigonostigma heteromorpha</i>.</p> <p>This popular ornamental fish, also a Singapore native, has been illustrated in a series of Singapore postage stamps.</p>	 THH
Kissing fish (also called kissing gourami)	相[噉]鱼	Sioh[7 ¹] Zim[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Specifically <i>Helostoma teminckii</i> . Literally ‘kissing fish’.	 THH
Lionfish or scorpion fish	虎鱼	Hor[5 ²] Hur[5]	Literally ‘tiger fish’. Also used for stonefish.	 THH
Livebearer (see also drain fish under General)	生囤鱼	S'i[7 ¹] K'ia[5 ²] Hur[5] S'eh[7 ¹] K'ia[5 ²] Hur[5]	Refers to various livebearers (e.g., guppy, molly, mosquitofish). Literally translates as ‘fish that gives birth to babies’.	 THH
	大肚鱼	Tua[3 ⁷] Tor[5 ²] Hur[5]	Refers generally to guppy and mosquitofish. Literally ‘big belly fish’.	 THH






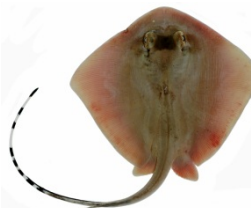

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Live bearer, guppy	‘美国’ 鱼	Bi[5] Kok[8] Hur[5]	Refers specifically to guppy (<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>). A corruption of its common English trade name peacock fish.  THH
Mackerel, barred Spanish	‘麻冬’	Ba[3] Tang[1]	Refers to <i>Scomberomorus commerson</i> . After its Malay name ‘tenggiri batang’.  THH
Mackerel, Indian	‘甘望’	Kam[7] Bong[7]	Refers to <i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i> . After the Malay name ‘kembong’.
Mackerel, short-bodied	‘麻拄’	Ba[3] Tu[2]	Refers to <i>Rastrelliger brachysoma</i> . After its Thai name ‘pla tu’.
Mackerel, spotted Spanish	马鲛	Beh[5 ²] Ka[1]	Refers to <i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i> .  THH
Mudskipper	涂[冲?]	Thor[3 ⁵] Ceng[3]	Literally ‘mud spurt/splash’.  THH
Mullet	乌鱼	Or[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the family Mugilidae. Literally ‘black fish’.  THH
Needlefish	竹‘琅桑’	Tek[8] Long[7] Song[1]	Refers to members of the family Belonidae.  THH
		Tek[8] Long[7] Song[2]	 THH
	尖嘴鱼	Ziam[7 ¹] Cui[2 ³] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the family Belonidae. Literally ‘pointed-mouth fish’. Also refers to halfbeaks.
	‘刀六’	Toh[7] Lak[8]	Refers to members of the family Belonidae. After the Malay name ‘todak’.








English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Parrotfish	鹦哥鱼	Eng[7 ¹] Koh[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the family Scaridae. Literally ‘parrot fish’. Also refers to tuskfishes.  THH
Pipefish	海龙	Hai[5 ²] Leng[5]	Literally ‘sea dragon’.  THH
Piranha	食人鱼	Zia[3 ⁸] Lang[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Literally translates as ‘man-eating fish’.  KL
Pomfret	鲷鱼	C'iu[7 ¹] Hur[5] C'ior[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genera <i>Pampus</i> , <i>Trachinotus</i> and <i>Parastromateus</i> . Also refers to angelfishes.  THH
Pomfret, black	黑鲷	Or[7 ¹] C'iu[1] Or[7 ¹] C'ior[1]	Refers to <i>Parastromateus niger</i> .  THH
Pomfret, Chinese	斗鲷	Tau[5 ²] C'iu[1] Tau[5 ²] C'ior[1]	Specifically <i>Pampus chinensis</i> . Sometimes mispronounced as Tau[3] C'iu[1].
Pomfret, white	白鲷	Peh[3 ⁸] C'iu[1] Peh[3 ⁸] C'ior[1]	Refers to <i>Pampus argenteus</i> .  THH
Ponyfish	‘格格’	Keh[3] Kehq[8]	Refers to fishes of the family Leiognathidae. After the Malay name ‘kekek’.  THH







English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Puffer fish	‘乖’鱼	Kuai[7] Hur[5]	 THH
Queenfish	三保公鱼	Sam[7 ¹] Poh[5 ²] Kong[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Scomberoides</i> . Named after the renowned Chinese mariner, Admiral Zheng He (Cheng Ho) who, according to Southeast Asian Chinese folklore, had left his fingerprints on the side of the fish.  THH
Rabbitfish	白肚鱼	Peh[3 ⁸] Tor[5 ²] Hur[5]	Specifically <i>Siganus canaliculatus</i> that is a highly esteemed food fish during the Chinese New Year period. Literally ‘white-bellied fish’.  THH
Ray, guitar; shovelnose	犁盆 犁头鲨	Lueh[3 ⁵] Phun[5] Lueh[3 ⁵] Thau[3 ⁵] Sua [1]	Literally ‘ploughshare’. Literally ‘plough head shark’.  THH
Red drum	台湾午	Tai[3 ⁵] Uan[3 ⁵] Ngor[2]	Refers to <i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i> , a food fish native to America, but imported from Taiwan. Literally ‘Taiwan threadfin’.  THH
Redbelly fusilier	蕃薯鱼	Han[7 ¹] Zur[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Refers to <i>Caesio cuning</i> , a common food fish. Literally ‘sweet-potato fish’.  THH
Ribbonfish	白带	Peh[3 ⁸] Tua[3]	Refers to members of the family Trichiuridae. Literally ‘white belt’.  THH







English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Sand whiting	沙尖	Sua[7 ¹] Ziam[1]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Sillago</i> . Literally ‘sand point’.
			 THH
Sardine	‘沙任’魚	Sa[7] Lin[3] Hur[5]	Refers specifically to canned sardines. Literally a combination of the English ‘sardine’ and Minnan ‘fish’.
Sardinella	‘淡万’	Tam[5] Ban[5] Tam[7] Ban[7]	After the Malay name ‘tamban’.
			 THH
Scad	‘色拉’	Sek[8] La[1]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Selar</i> . After the Malay name ‘selar’.
Scad, bigeye	大目	Tua[3 ⁷] Bak[8]	Specifically <i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i> . Literally ‘big eye’.
Scad, torpedo	硬尾	Ngeh[3 ⁷] Bueh[2] Ngeh[3 ⁷] Ber[2]	Specifically <i>Megalaspis cordyla</i> . Literally ‘stiff tail’.
			 THH
Scad, yellow-striped	‘君冷’	Kun[7] Leng[2] Kun[7] Leng[1]	Specifically <i>Selaroides leptolepis</i> . After its Malay name ‘kuning’.
			 THH
Seahorse	海马	Hai[5 ²] Beh[2]	Literally ‘sea horse’.
			 THH
Shark	鲨鱼	Sua[7 ¹] Hur[5]	
			 KL







English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Sicklefish	草扇	Cau[5 ²] S'i[3]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Drepane</i> . Literally 'grass fan'. 
			THH
Silver dollar	银[盾]	Gun[3 ⁵] Tun[2]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Metynnis</i> , popular aquarium fish native to South America. Literally 'silver coin'. 
			THH
Snakehead	𩶚鱼	Lueh[3 ⁷] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the family Channidae. 
			THH
Snakehead, giant	暹𩶚	Siam[3 ⁷] Lueh[7]	Specifically <i>Channa micropeltes</i> . Literally 'Siamese snakehead'. 
			TSK
Snapper	𩺰鱼	Ki[2 ³] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Lutjanus</i> with stripes or blotches. Literally 'mole [mark on skin] fish'. 
	红槽𩺰	Ang[3 ⁵] Zoh[3 ⁵] Ki[3]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Lutjanus</i> with distinct markings, such as stripes and especially referring to a dark blotch on the side hence the 'Ki' which means mole [mark on skin]. 
			THH
Snapper, emperor red	狮头红鸡	Sai[7 ¹] Thau[3 ⁵] Ang[3 ⁵] Kueh[1]	Specifically <i>Lutjanus sebae</i> . Literally 'lion-headed red chicken'. 
			THH
Snapper, <i>Pristipomoides</i>	红哥𩺰	Ang[3 ⁵] Koh[7 ¹] Li[2]	Refers to fishes of the genus <i>Pristipomoides</i> . This name is also used for threadfin bream. 






English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Snapper, red	红槽	Ang[3 ⁵] Zoh[5]	Refers to reddish members of the genus <i>Lutjanus</i> . Usually refers to <i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i> (mangrove jack), a popular food and game fish.  THH
	红鸡	Ang[3 ⁵] Kueh[1]	Refers to reddish members of the genus <i>Lutjanus</i> . Literally 'red chicken'.  THH
Sole, tongue	牛舌	Gu[5 ³] Ziq[8] <small>See corrigenda 25 Nov.2015</small>	Refers to members of the family Cynoglossidae. Literally 'ox tongue'. 
	龙舌	Leng[3 ⁵] Ziq[8]	Refers to members of the family Cynoglossidae. Literally 'dragon tongue'.  THH
Spotted scat	金鼓	Kim[7 ¹] Kor[2]	Specifically <i>Scatophagus argus</i> . Literally 'gold drum'.  THH
Stingray	魟(魛)鱼	Hang[7 ¹] Hur[5]	 THH
Stonefish	石头鱼	Zioh[3 ⁸] Thau[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Synanceja</i> . Literally 'stone fish'. 
	虎鱼	Hor[5 ²] Hur[5]	Literally 'tiger fish'. This name is also used for lionfish. THH

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Sweetlips	‘家指’	Ka[1] Zi[2] Ka[5] Zi[2]	Refers to members of the genera <i>Diagramma</i> and <i>Plectorhinchus</i> with distinct markings. After the Malay name ‘kaci’.
			 THH
Swordtail	红鱼	Ang[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Refers to <i>Xiphophorus helleri</i> , a common ornamental fish. Literally ‘red fish’.
Tarpon	海鲢	Hai[5 ²] Lien[5]	Refers to <i>Megalops cyprinoides</i> . Literally ‘sea silver-carp’.
			 THH
Threadfin	午鱼	Ngor[5 ²] Hur[5]	Applies to large members of the family Polynemidae that are highly esteemed food fish.
			 THH
Tilapia	日本鱼	Lit[3 ⁸] Pun[5 ²] Hur[5] Jit[3 ⁸] Pun[5 ²] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Oreochromis</i> . Literally ‘Japanese fish’, despite its African origin. Said to have been introduced by the Japanese during World War II.
			 THH
Trevally or threadfin	‘照明’	Zioh[2] Beng[5] Zioh[2] Meng[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Alectis</i> . After the Malay name ‘chermin’.
			 THH
Tuskfish	鹦哥鱼	Eng[7 ¹] Koh[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Choerodon</i> . Literally ‘parrot fish’. Also refers to parrotfish.
			 THH
Wolf herring	西刀鱼	Sai[7 ¹] Toh[7 ¹] Hur[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Chirocentrus</i> . Literally ‘western knife fish’.
			 THH

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
MARINE INVERTEBRATES			
Abalone	鲍鱼	Pau[3] Hur[5]	 TSK
Barnacle	[?]	Cip[4] Cit[4]	 TSK
Clam	蚶	Ham[1]	<p>General term for clams, but usually refers to <i>Tegillarca granosa</i>.</p>  TSK
	‘死’蚶 (蜆蚶)	Si[5] Ham[1]	<p>Refers specifically to <i>Tegillarca granosa</i>. After its Yue (粤 [Cantonese]) name ‘蜆蚶’, originally pronounced as ‘Si[1] Ham[1]’.</p>
	蜆蜆	La[3] La[2] La[3] La[5]	<p>Refers to various edible clams (usually of the family Veneridae).</p>  TSK
	沙蜆	Sua[7 ¹] La[5] Sua[7 ¹] Lai[5]	<p>Refers to various sand dwelling edible clams (usually of the family Veneridae).</p>
Clam, glauconomya	大头	Tua[3 ⁷] Thau[5]	<p>Refers specifically to clams of the genus <i>Glauconome</i>, but also used by some to refer to green mussel. Literally ‘big head’.</p>  TCH
Clam, green mussel	‘彩鬘’	Cai[5] Luan[5]	<p>Refers specifically to <i>Perna viridis</i>.</p>  TCH

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Clam, razor or sunset	[?]	Than[1]	Refers to edible clams with elongate and thin shells (e.g., members of the families Psammobiidae and Solenidae).  TCH
Conch	‘戇戇’	Gong[3] Gong[7]	Refers usually to <i>Laevistrombus turturella</i> , but also used for other species of the family Strombidae that are eaten. After the Malay name ‘siput gonggong’.  TSK
Crab	蟳	Zim[5]	General term for all crabs, but often used specifically on edible crabs of the genus <i>Scylla</i> .  THH
Crab, blue or flower	[?]	Ciq[8]	Refers usually to <i>Portunus pelagicus</i> , but also used for other swimming crabs of the family Portunidae less commonly seen in markets.  THH
Crab, stone	雷公蟳	Lui[3 ⁵] Kong[7 ¹] Zim[5]	Refers specifically to <i>Myomenippe hardwickii</i> . Literally ‘thunder crab’. According to local folklore, only a clap of thunder will make the crab release its grip once it pinches a person.  TCH
Cuttlefish	墨斗	Bak[3 ⁸] Tau[2]	Literally ‘ink pot’. Also used by some to refer to bigfin reef squid. 
	墨賊	Bak[3 ⁸] Zat[8]	Literally ‘ink thief’.
	花枝	Hueh[7 ¹] Ki[1]	Literally ‘flower twig’.

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Horseshoe crab	蜃	Hau[7]	Curiously regarded as unlucky animals by some fishermen, perhaps because of their tendency to entangle in nets, but regarded as lucky by others. Also a symbol of marital fidelity.  TSK
Jellyfish	水母	Zui[5 ²] Bu[2]	Literally 'water mother'.  THH
Lobster, slipper	虾婆	Heh[3 ⁵] Poh[5]	Literally 'prawn granny'.  TSK
Lobster, spiny	龙虾	Leng[3 ⁵] Heh[5] Liong[3 ⁵] Heh[5]	Literally 'dragon prawn'.  KL
Oyster	蠔 (蚵)	Oh[5]	 TSK
Peanut worm	涂笋	Thor[3 ⁵] Sun[2]	Literally 'mud bamboo shoot'.  TSK

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Prawn (see shrimp)	虾	Heh[5]	Name also used for shrimp. Shelled dried shrimp are called Heh[3 ⁵] Bi[2] (虾米), literally ‘prawn rice’.
			 KL
Prawn, banana	红脚虾	Ang[3 ⁵] Kha[7 ¹] Heh[5]	Refers to <i>Penaeus indicus</i> and <i>Penaeus merguensis</i> . Literally ‘red-legged prawn’.
	白虾	Peh[3 ⁸] Heh[5]	Refers to <i>Penaeus indicus</i> and <i>Penaeus merguensis</i> . Literally ‘white prawn’.
Prawn, giant tiger	九节虾	Kau[5 ²] Zat[8 ⁴] Heh[5]	Generally used only for very large tiger prawns, usually <i>Penaeus monodon</i> . Literally ‘nine-sectioned prawn’.
Prawn, greasyback	沙卢	Sua[7 ¹] Lor[5]	Refers to members of the genus <i>Metapenaeus</i> with red antennae and legs.
Prawn, tiger	虎虾	Hor[5 ²] Heh[5]	Refers to prawns with distinct striped markings (e.g., <i>Penaeus monodon</i> , <i>Penaeus japonicus</i>). Literally ‘tiger prawn’.
			 THH
Sea anemone	海奶	Hai[5 ²] Ni[1]	Literally translates as ‘sea mammary gland’.
			 TCH
			See corrigenda 25 Nov.2015
Sea cucumber	海参	Hai[5 ²] Sim[1] Hai[5 ²] Song[1] Hai[5 ²] Som[1]	
			 KL
Sea slater or sea louse	海蛇蛸	Hai[5 ²] Ka[7] Zuaq[8]	Literally ‘sea cockroach’.
			 KL
Sea snail	螺	Ler[5] Leh[5]	See also ‘seashell’.

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Sea snail, horn snail	‘卒卒’	Zut[8] Zut[8]	Refers specifically to members of the genus <i>Cerithidea</i> that are eaten. Onomatopoeia for sounds made during consumption, which involves sucking to extract flesh from the shell.
	‘峇厘洞’	Ba[7] Li[5] Tong[7]	After the Malay name ‘siput belitung’.
Sea snail, mud creeper	铁钉螺	Thi[2 ⁴] Tan[7 ¹] Ler[5]	Literally ‘iron nail snail’. Refers to members of the families Batillariidae and Potamididae that are present in large numbers on on mud or sand flats during low tide. Also used for other similarly elongate high spired shells.
Sea snail, telescope	棺柴钉	K'ua[7 ¹] Ca[3 ⁵] Teng[1]	Specifically <i>Telescopium telescopium</i> . Literally ‘coffin nail’.
Sea urchin	海胆	Hai[5 ²] T'a[2] <div>See corrigenda 25 Nov. 2015</div>	Literally ‘sea gallbladder’.
Seashell	贝壳	Pueh[3] Khak[4]	
Seashell, snail	螺壳	Ler[3 ⁵] Khak[4] Leh[3 ⁵] Khak[4]	Literally ‘snail shell’.
Seashell, clam	蚶壳	Ham[7 ¹] Khak[4]	Literally ‘clam shell’.
Shrimp (see prawn)	虾	Heh[5]	Name also used for prawn. Dried shrimp is called Heh[3 ⁵] Bi[2], literally ‘prawn rice’.
Shrimp, small	虾囡	Heh[3 ⁵] K'ia[2]	Literally ‘prawn child’.



TSK



TSK





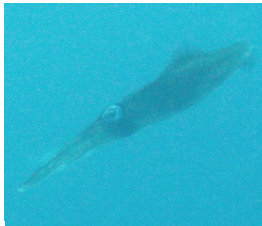


TSK














KL











TSK




English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Shrimp, mantis	虾蛄	Heh[3 ⁵] Kor[1]	 TSK
Shrimp, sergestid	虾苗	Heh[3 ⁵] Biau[5] Heh[3 ⁵] Bioh[5]	Refers specifically to members of the genus <i>Acetes</i> . Literally ‘prawn fry’. Also called Heh[3] Pi[1], but which should only be used for the dried shrimp.
	虾卑	Heh[3 ⁵] Pi[1]	Refers specifically to dried sergestid shrimp.
Sponge	海绵	Hai[5 ²] Mi[5]	Literally ‘sea floss’.  TCH
Squid	鱿鱼	Jiu[3 ⁵] Hur[5] Liu[3 ⁵] Hur[5]	Usually used only on bigger squids. Often mistaken to mean cuttlefish in Singapore because of common English mistranslation.  TCH
	‘苏东’	Soh[7] Tong[1]	After the Malay name ‘sotong’.
Squid, bigfin reef	青目	C'eh[7 ¹] Bak[8] C'i[7 ¹] Bak[8]	Specifically <i>Sepioteuthis lessoniana</i> . Literally ‘green eye’.
	软丝	N'ng[5 ²] Si[1]	Specifically <i>Sepioteuthis lessoniana</i> . Literally ‘soft strand’, probably referring to the soft squid pen despite the cuttlefish-like appearance.  TCH
Starfish	海星	Hai[5 ²] C'i[1] Hai[5 ²] Seng[1]	Literally ‘sea star’.  KL




English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
TERRESTRIAL AND FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES			
Ant	狗蚁	Kau[5 ²] Hia[7]	Literally ‘dog ant’.
			 TSK
Ant , alate or winged form (see termite)	狗蚁蟻	Kau[5 ²] Hia[3 ⁷] Bang[2]	Literally ‘ant mosquito’. Name also used for termite alates.
			 TSK
Ant, red	红狗蚁	Ang[3 ⁵] Kau[5 ²] Hia[7]	Literally ‘red dog ant’.
			 KL
Ant, stinging	火蚁	Heh[5 ²] Hia[7] Her[5 ²] Hia[7]	Literally ‘fire ant’.
Bee	蜜蜂	Bi[3] Phang[1] Bit[3 ⁸] Phang[1]	
	蜂	Phang[1]	 TCH
Beetle	龟	Ku[1]	Name also used for tortoise/turtle.
			 TSK
Beetle, click	[触]头龟	Tak[8 ⁴] Thau[3 ⁵] Ku[1] Tok[8 ⁴] Thau[3 ⁵] Ku[1]	Refers to beetles of the family Elateridae. Literally ‘strike head beetle’.
			 KL

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Beetle, scarab	牛屎龟	Gu[3 ⁵] Sai[5 ²] Ku[1]	Literally ‘cow dung beetle’.
Beetle, rhinoceros	犀角龟	Sai[7 ¹] Kak[8 ⁴] Ku[1]	Literally ‘rhinoceros horn beetle’.
			 TCH
Beetle, tortoise	玻璃龟	Poh[7 ¹] Leh[3 ⁵] Ku[1]	Literally ‘glass beetle’, probably in allusion to the rather transparent edges of the thorax and elytra.
			 TCH
Beetle [shiny metallic]	金龟	Kim[7 ¹] Ku[1]	Literally ‘shiny beetle’. Refers usually to green chafer beetle, <i>Anomala albopilosa</i> , but also used for various beetles that look shiny, glossy or metallic.
			 TCH
Beetle, rice beetle or weevil	米龟	Bi[5 ²] Ku[1]	Literally ‘rice beetle’.
	米虫	Bi[5 ²] Thang[5]	Literally ‘rice worm’. Also used as an insult to mean a worthless person.
Beetle larva, sago worm	‘谢鹅’虫	Sia[3] Goh[3] Thang[5]	Literally a combination of Malay or Tamil ‘sagu’ and Minnan ‘worm’. Refers specifically to edible larva of the palm weevil that thrives in sago palm.
Bloodworm	红虫	Ang[3 ⁵] Thang[5]	Usually referring to chironomid larva. Literally ‘red worm’.
			 KL
Bug, bed bug	木虱	Bak[3 ⁸] Sat[4]	Literally ‘wood louse’.
Butterfly	尾蝶	Ber[5 ²] Iaq[8] Beh[5 ²] Iaq[8]	Also refers to moth.
	蝴蝶	Hor[3 ⁵] Tiap[8] Or[3 ⁵] Tiap[8]	Also used to refer to hinges.
			 KL





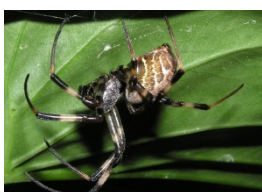


English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Caterpillar	毛虫	Mor[3 ⁵] Thang[5]	Literally ‘hairy worm’.
	狗毛虫	Kau[5 ²] M'ng[3 ⁵] Thang[5]	Literally ‘dog hair worm’.
Centipede	蜈蚣	Gia[3 ⁵] Kang[1] Ia[3 ⁵] Kang[1] Geh[3 ⁵] Kang[1]	 KL
Cicada	蝉	Sien[5]	 KL
Cockroach	蛇蜚	Ka[7] Zuaq[8]	 KL
Crab, coconut or robber	椰蜆	Ia[3 ⁵] Zim[5]	Refers specifically to <i>Birgus latro</i> . Literally ‘coconut crab’.
Crab, edible land	山蜆	S'ua[7 ¹] Zim[5]	Refers to large edible terrestrial crabs (e.g., species of the genera <i>Discoplax</i> or <i>Gercarcoidea</i>). Literally ‘mountain/hill crab’.
Cranefly	长脚蠓	T'ng[3 ⁵] Kha[7 ¹] Bang[2]	Literally ‘long-legged mosquito’. Also often used to designate tall people with long legs.

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Cricket	蟋蟀	Si[2] Sut[4] Si[2] Suai[2]	 KL
Dragonfly	田嬰	Can[3 ⁵] Ni[1] Can[3 ⁵] 'I[1]	Literally 'paddy baby'.  KL
Firefly	火螢 火金姑	Her[5 ²] 'Ia[5] Heh[5 ²] 'Ia[5] Hueh[5 ²] Kim[7 ¹] Kor[1] Heh[5 ²] Kim[7 ¹] Kor[1]	Literally 'fire glow aunt'.  THH
Flea	虻蚤	Ka[7] Zau[2]	
Fly, blowfly	金胡蠅	Kim[7 ¹] Hor[3 ⁵] Sin[5]	Literally translates as 'shiny fly'.  TSK
Fly, fruit fly	[蚊]	Bun[1]	
Fly, housefly	胡蠅	Hor[3 ⁵] Sin[5] Or[3 ⁵] Sin[5]	 KL




English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Grasshopper and Locust	草蜢	Cau[5 ²] Mi[2] Cau[5 ²] M'eh[2]	 TSK Generally refers to the larger grasshoppers. Literally 'grasshopper grandfather/lord'.
	草蜢公	Cau[5 ²] Mi[2] Kong[1] Cau[5 ²] M'eh[2] Kong[1]	
Hornet	虎头蜂	Hor[5 ²] Thau[3 ⁵] Phang[1]	Literally 'tiger head bee'.
Louse (see tick)	虱	Sat[4]	Name also used for tick.
Louse, bird	鸟虱	Ziau[5 ²] Sat[4]	Literally 'bird louse'.
Louse, head louse	虱母	Sat[8 ⁴] Bu[2]	Literally 'louse mother'.
Mealworm	鸟虫	Ziau[5 ²] Thang[5]	 KL Literally 'bird worm'.
	‘啰咤’虫	Loh[3] Ti[7 ¹] Thang[5]	
Millipede	火车虫	Heh[5 ²] Cia[7 ¹] Thang[5]	 KL Literally 'train worm'.
		Her[5 ²] Cia[7 ¹] Thang[5]	
		Hueh[5 ²] Cia[7 ¹] Thang[5]	
Mole-cricket	涂猴	Thor[3 ⁵] Kau[5] Tor[3 ⁵] Kau[5]	Literally 'mud monkey'.

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Mosquito	蠓	Bang[2]	 TCH
Mosquito larva	蛆	Cur[1]	
	水蛆	Zui[5 ²] Cur[1] See corrigenda 25 Nov.2015	
	[?]蛆	C'ia[7] Cur[1]	
Mosquito pupa	大头蛆	Tua[3 ⁷] Thau[3 ⁵] Cur[1]	Literally 'big-headed aquatic-insect-larva'.
Moth	尾蝶	Ber[5 ²] Iaq[8] Beh[5 ²] Iaq[8]	Also refers to butterfly.  KL
Prawn or shrimp, freshwater	洪水虾	Z'ia[5 ²] Zui[5 ²] Heh[5]	Literally 'freshwater prawn'. Generally used for any freshwater prawn and shrimps.  KL
Prawn or shrimp, small and freshwater	虾囡	Heh[3 ⁵] K'ia[2]	Literally 'prawn child'.
Prawn, giant river	大头虾	Tua[3 ⁷] Thau[3 ⁵] Heh[5]	Refers specifically to large edible freshwater prawns of the genus <i>Macrobrachium</i> . Literally 'big head prawn'.
	泰国虾	Thai[2 ³] Kok[8 ⁴] Heh[5]	Literally 'Thailand prawn'.
Praying mantis	草猴	Cau[5 ²] Kau[5]	Literally 'grass monkey'.
	树猫	Ciu[3 ⁷] Niau[1]	Literally 'tree cat'.

KL

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Scorpion	蝎	Giet[4]	 KL
Snail	螺	Leh[5] Ler[5]	Also refers to the empty shell. See also seashell.  KL
Snail, terrestrial	[露]螺	Lor[3 ⁷] Leh[5] Lor[3 ⁷] Ler[5]	 KL
Snail, edible and freshwater	田螺	Can[3 ⁵] Leh[5] Can[3 ⁵] Ler[5]	Literally ‘paddy snail’. Refers to members of the families Ampullariidae and Viviparidae.  KL
Snail, giant African	[癩][哥]螺	Thai[5] Koh[7] Ler[5] Thai[5] Koh[7] Ler[5]	Refers specifically to <i>Achatina fulica</i> . Literally ‘disfigured or dirty snail’.  KL
Spider	蜘蛛	Ti[7] Tu[1]	 KL
Spider, large	蟒蜈	La[3] Gia[5]	Refers to huntsman (family Sparassidae), and other similar large long-legged spiders.  KL

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Stick insect	柴麒麟	Ca[3 ⁵] Ki[3 ⁵] Lin[5] Ca[3 ⁵] Ki[3 ⁵] Lim[5]	Literally 'wood kirin'.  KL
Stink bug	臭龟	Cau[2 ³] Ku[1]	Literally 'smelly beetle'.  KL
	臭腥龟	Cau[2 ³] C'i[7 ¹] Ku[1]	Literally 'smelly beetle'.
Termite	白蚁	Peh[3 ⁸] Hia[7]	Literally 'white ant'.
Termite, alate or winged form	水蠓	Zui[5 ²] Bang[2]	Literally 'water mosquito'.
	狗蚁蠓	Kau[5 ²] Hia[3 ⁷] Bang[2]	Literally 'ant mosquito'. Name also used for ant alates.  TSK
Tick	虱	Sat[4]	Name also used for louse.
Tick, dog	狗虱	Kau[5 ²] Sat[4]	Literally 'dog louse'.
Wasp	鸳鸯蜂	Uan[7 ¹] 'Iu[7 ¹] Phang[1]	Literally 'Mandarin duck bee'.  TCH
Water flea (crustacean)	[蚊?]	Bun[1]	
	红[蚊?]	Ang[3 ⁵] Bun[1]	
	红[?]	Ang[3 ⁵] Tai[5]	
Worm, earthworm	杜蚓	Tor[3 ⁷] Un[2]	Name also refers to tubifex worm.  KL
	猴蚓	Kau[3 ⁵] Un[2]	Name also refers to tubifex worm.

English Nomenclature	Han Script (simplified)	Phonetic Transcription (with tones in brackets)	Remarks/ Figures
Worm, tape	蛔虫	Bun[3 ⁷] Thang[5] Bin[3 ⁷] Thang[5]	
Worm, tubifex	猴蚓	Kau[3 ⁵] Un[2]	Name also refers to earthworm.
	杜蚓	Tor[3 ⁷] Un[2]	Name also refers to earthworm.
			
KL			
MYTHICAL CREATURES			
Dragon	龙	Leng[5] Liong[5]	
KL			
Heavenly dog	天狗	Thien[7 ¹] Kau[2]	Literally 'sky dog' or translates as 'heavenly dog'. Solar and lunar eclipses were believed to be the act of a heavenly dog devouring the sun and moon respectively.
Phoenix	凤	Hong[7]	
	凤凰	Hong[3 ⁷] Hong[5]	
Pixiu	貔貅	Pi[3 ⁵] Hiu[1]	
TSK			
Qilin (also called kirin or kylin)	麒麟	Ki[3] Lim[5] Ki[3] Lin[5]	

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USEFUL ONLINE RESOURCES FOR THE MINNAN LANGUAGE

Maryknoll Language Service Center: Taiwanese Dictionaries: <http://www.taiwanesedictionary.org/>
闽南语词典: <http://kaifangcidian.com/han/minnan>
當代泉州音字彙: <http://alt.reasoning.cs.ucla.edu/jinbo/dzl/>
教育部台湾闽南语常用词辞典: http://twblg.dict.edu.tw/holodict_new/index.html

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