

**ḃàχlà híṇè kóé<sup>1</sup>**  
Hyena and Squirrel

1) **gbíí tò bḃṇ sīχĩ á Ì. gbířĩm.**  
(noise) tale 1sgPOSS:alien fall PREP water (noise)

2) **dùṇ-ú nè ḃàχlà híṇè kóé.**  
sit-PAST PREP hyena PREP squirrel

*There was once a hyena and a squirrel.*

3) **wá dùṇ-ù ndán kàrá.**  
3pl sit-PAST one long.time

*They remained friends (lit. one) a long time.*

4) **kóé làχ-á ḃṇ sóé nè ḃó á lé ndé:**  
squirrel leave-PAST certain day CONJ say PREP village COMP

*Squirrel went one day and said to (the people of) the village that:*

5) **ḃṇ sóé sóndè kà té kí é tà ṇgán ḃàχlà dám**  
certain day Sunday REL come DEM LOG FUT mount hyena throughout

**zàṇ lé.**  
bowels village

*Next Sunday (lit. day week that comes) he will ride hyena throughout the village.*

6) **yí tà nzóχ pĩrá é tà ṇgán zù ḃàχlà**  
people FUT see place LOG FUT mount head hyena

**dám zàṇ lé.**  
throughout bowels village

*Everyone will see where he will ride on hyena's head throughout the village.*

7) **mbè-â ḃàχlà gbò-á lé à yí mé lé**

---

<sup>1</sup> Phonetic transcription.

after-NOM hyena exit-PAST village CONJ people POSS village

**66 á nè ndé:**  
say PREP 3sg COMP

*After Hyena exited the village, but the people of the village said to him that:*

8) **é ɓò mà ndé kóé tà ɲán mé dám**  
3sgINDEF say ? COMP squirrel FUT mount 2sg throughout

**zàŋ lé á sóndè kè kà tè ná?**  
bowels village PREP Sunday DEM REL come NEG:INT

*“Squirrel will not ride you throughout the village next Sunday, will he?”*

9) **à ɓàɣlà kifi-dí é kě, kóé lèm-á mé**  
CONJ hyena change-CAUS EXCL CONJ squirrel able-PAST CONJ

**ɲàn é?**  
mount INT

*But (or then) Hyena responded “Well then? Was Squirrel able to ride?”*

10) **làɣ-á mé ɓàɣlà á kí, ná sǐ-ì né**  
leave-PAST:NOM POSS hyena PREP DEM FOC return-PAST go

**á lé wā.**  
PREP village 3sgPOSS:alien

*At Hyena’s departure from there, (he) returned going to his village.*

11) **kóé yèsidí só é-mò wā fét.,**  
squirrel arrange PERF PL-thing 3sgPOSS:alien already

**fár là fét.**  
wash clothes already

*Squirrel had already arranged his things, already washed (his) clothes.*

12) **sóé sóndè, ɓàɣlà gbò-á té á ɲò kóé.**  
day Sunday hyena exit-PAST come PREP home squirrel

*Sunday Hyena left and went to Squirrel’s house.*

13) kóé ná mé kà ɓà-á ndé é tà ɲǎn mí.  
squirrel FOC 2sg REL say-PAST COMP LOG FUT mount 1sg

14) m̀è gbó tè tè ɲǎn mí.  
2sg:IMP exit come PURP mount 1sg

*“Squirrel, it is you who said that you will ride me; (so) come out and ride me!”*

15) kóé kǐfí-ǫí ɓàɣlà, ná ò gón yéré kí á mé é?  
squirrel change-CAUS hyena FOC who cut lie DEM PREP 2sg INT

*Squirrel responded to hyena: “Who told you that lie?”*

16) tè mí kà hím-hím gâ, mí ɓó ɓóɲ  
body 1sgPOSS:inalien REL hurt-hurt like.that 1sg say debt

ɲǐ gè sóé é?  
DEM that day INT

*With my body that hurts so much, I would make such a (lit. that) commitment that day?*

17) ɓàɣlà ndé ðɓó kà dúɲ ná yéré, kóé à  
hyena COMP then if remain FOC lie, squirrel CONJ

tê á wâ né nè áɣ á lé.  
come PURP 3pl go CONJ ask PREP village

*Hyena (said) that then if, a lie that was, Squirrel is coming (with) for (that) they go and ask at the village.*

18) kóé ndé fólà kà é tà né né á lé  
squirrel COMP means REL LOG FUT go go PREP village

zí-ná.  
exist-NEG

*Squirrel (said) that he doesn't have the means to go to the village.*

19) é lém mé nè nò ná.  
LOG is.able PURP go walk NEG

*He is not able to walk.*

20) ɓàɣlà ndé wènè à tè é tà kán nè.

hyena COMP 3sg AUX come:IMP LOG FUT carry 3sg  
*Hyena<sub>1</sub> (said that he<sub>2</sub> must come, he<sub>1</sub> will carry him<sub>2</sub>).*

21) **kóé ndé wènè à kédí bín é fàr tè é dónj.**  
 squirrel COMP 3sg AUX wait:IMP a.little LOG wash body LOG first  
*Squirrel<sub>1</sub> (said) that he<sub>2</sub> must wait a little, he<sub>1</sub> (will) wash his<sub>1</sub> body first.*

22) **ḡàχlà ndé wènè à dē bèlé.**  
 hyena COMP 3sg AUX do:IMP quickly  
*Hyena said to hurry up.*

23) **kóé fàr-á tē nè, pí là kà**  
 squirrel wash-PAST body 3sgPOSS:inalien put clothes REL  
*Squirrel washed his body (and) put on the clothes that*

**wènè fàr só fēt.**  
 3sg wash PERF already  
*he had already washed.*

24) **à kóé tè bós á ḡàχlà ndé:**  
 CONJ squirrel come say PREP hyena COMP  
*But Squirrel came and said to Hyena, that:*

25) **ḡǎḡ-mò kà dé ná é, kè wènè à dē é**  
 cold-thing REL do FOC LOG CONJ 3sg AUX put/set:IMP LOG  
*(Because of) the cold that he<sub>1</sub> has, then he<sub>2</sub> must let him<sub>1</sub>;*

**pí bé pér á nú nè, ê bá nè mò**  
 throw little cord PREP mouth 3sgPOSS:inalien LOG catch 3sg thing  
*put a small cord in his<sub>2</sub> mouth, (so) he<sub>1</sub> hold (on to) him<sub>2</sub> with it like that, (and)*

**gó é zíkà síχ ná.**  
 like.that LOG FUT:NEG fall NEG  
*he<sub>1</sub> will not fall off.*

26) **pí-bòlò kà kóé pí á nú ḡàχlà.**

put-iron that squirrel put PREP mouth hyena  
*That bit, Squirrel put in Hyena's mouth.*

27) kóé tē-á tē áχ bàχlà ndé: mí b̀d mà ndé  
squirrel come-PAST PURP ask hyena COMP 1sg say ? COMP  
*Squirrel came to ask Hyena that: "Didn't I say that*

mí tà ngán mé ná?  
1sg FUT mount 2sg NEG:INT  
*I would ride you?"*

28) kà kóé dáχ pér, b̀dàχlà dē-á náná á ỳù,  
When squirrel pull cord hyena set-PAST feet PREP flight  
*The Squirrel pulled the cord (and) Hyena put his feet into flight*

sún ǹè dóló lé.  
toward PREP road village  
*toward the road to the village.*

29) kà é-yí mé lé kà dù̀n-ú á ǹd̀ kpàtà  
when PL-people POSS village REL sit-PAST PREP drink corn.beer  
*When the people of the village, who were sitting drinking corn beer,*

dē lí á dóló h̀, wà nz̀d̀χ ná kóé á z̀ù b̀dàχlà  
set eye PREP road field 3pl see FOC squirrel PREP head hyena  
*look toward the field path, they see Squirrel on Hyena's head,*

kà h́n ỳù té-né.  
REL run flight come-INTR  
*who runs, coming.*

30) kóé má ngán b̀dàχlà d́ám z̀àn lé g̀ó  
squirrel CON mount hyena throughout bowels village like.that

támpì b̀dàχlà.  
tire hyena  
*Squirrel rides hyena throughout the entire village, (and) like that tires out Hyena.*

31) k̀è kóé kp̀d-á ngán b̀dàχlà sún ǹè dóló h̀.

CONJ squirrel begin-PAST mount hyena toward PREP road field  
*Then Squirrel began to ride Hyena (back) toward the field path.*

32) **hò-â mé kóé á nú kò wǎ,**  
arrive-PAST:NOM POSS squirrel PREP mouth hole 3sgPOSS:alien  
*At Squirrel's arrival at the entrance to his hole,*

**kóé ná kpèd-â lé zǎŋ kò.**  
squirrel FOC jump-PAST enter bowels hole  
*Squirrel jumped entered into the hole.*

33) **à ɓàχlà áχ mò ndé kóé tén ná mé**  
CONJ hyena ask thing COMP squirrel true FOC 2sg  
*But Hyena asked, "Is it really you, Squirrel,*

**kà sèmt-á mí á lí yí mé lé,**  
REL embarrass-PAST 1sg PREP eye people POSS village  
*that (can) embarrass me in the eyes of the village people,*

**á lí wànzà bòŋ? mé tà nzóχ!**  
PREP eye lover 1sgPOSS:alien 2sg FUT see  
*in the eyes of my lover? You will see!*

34) **ɓàχlà má kpò zǎ kò mé kóé.**  
hyena CON begin dig hole POSS squirrel  
*Hyena begins to dig Squirrel's hole*

35) **à ðilà ɓó ndé é lâχ.**  
CONJ lion say COMP LOG leave  
*Then Lion says that he leaves.*

36) **ðilà nzóχ ná ɓàχlà kà zá nù.**  
lion see FOC hyena REL dig ground  
*(It's) Hyena Lion sees who is digging in the ground.*

37) **ḍilà ndé yǎm yǎm dè á gè?**  
 lion COMP uncle uncle do PREP INT  
*Lion (asks), “Uncle, uncle, what are (you) doing?”*

38) **ḍàxlà ndé ḍilà ná gbèlè bé kóé ngàn-á é**  
 hyena COMP lion FOC simple little squirrel mount-PAST LOG  
*Hyena (said) Lion, (it’s a) simple little squirrel (that) rode me*

**dám zàṅ lé sémfī nè é.**  
 throughout bowels village embarrass PREP LOG  
*throughout the village embarrassing me.*

39) **ḍilà ndé yǎm ḍàxlà ná é tà gbáxḍī nè**  
 lion COMP uncle hyena FOC LOG FUT help 3sg

**á zǎ kò.**  
 PREP dig hole  
*Lion (said), “Uncle Hyena, (it is) I (who) will help you to dig the hole.*

40) **ḍilà kpò-á zǎ kò.**  
 lion begin-PAST dig hole  
*Lion began to dig the hole.*

41) **ḍàxlà á mbè á vèkī gásá fálá ḍilà**  
 hyena COP behind PURP measure big testicles lion  
*Hyena was behind to measure Lion’s large testicles*

**kà gbò-á nè mbè.**  
 REL protrude-PAST PREP behind  
*that were protruding behind (him).*

42) **kà ḍilà kífidī lí, à nzóχ ná ḍàxlà**  
 when lion turn eye 3sgTOP see FOC hyena  
*When Lion turned his eye to see Hyena,*

**kà pém fálá nè.**

REL stare testicle 3sgPOSS:inalien  
*who is staring at his testicles.*

43) à ðilà áχ m̀ ndé dè á gê yám?  
CONJ lion ask thing COMPdo PREP INT uncle

*Then Lion asks, “what (are you) doing, Uncle?”*

44) ɓàχlà ndé yám ná mí pém ná kóé  
hyena COMP uncle FOC 1sg stare FOC squirrel

*Hyena (responds), “Uncle, (it’s) me watching for Squirrel,*

kà wènè gbó á mĩ bá nè.  
when 3sg exit PURP 1sg catch 3sg

*when he exits, for me to catch him.*

45) ðilà kà wǎ ná zà-á k̀.  
lion REL? 3sREFLX? FOC dig-PAST hole

*Lion, that himself, dug the hole. (?)*

46) kpèc-â mé ɓàχlà, ná mgbàn-à fálá ðilà  
jump-PAST:NOM POSS hyena FOC tear.off-PAST testicle lion

láχ-né.

leave-INTR

*At the jump of Hyena, (he) tore off Lion’s testicles (and) ran away.*

47) ðilà má s̄iχ á nù kpó bì-â.  
lion CON fall PREP ground begin groan-PAST:NOM

*Lion fell to the ground and began to groan.*

48) kóé má gbò sàŋ áχ m̀  
squirrel CON exit now ask thing

*Squirrel exited at this time, asked*

kà làɓ-á á ðilà.  
REL pass-PAST PREP lion

*thing that happened to Lion.*



49) **ḍilà má ɓ̀ ã nè fét.**  
lion CON say PREP 3sg all

*Lion told him everything.*

50) **kóé má ɓ̀ ã ḍilà ndé à ñ-í ndé**  
squirrel CON say PREP lion COMP 3sgTOP? know-PAST COMP

*Squirrel said to Lion that he knows that*

**ɓ̀xlà ná wàn-sìlã, wàn-yéré kà ò-ú gó.**  
hyena COP proprietor-liver proprietor-lie REL stay-PAST like.that

*Hyena is a greedy person, a liar that will always be that way.*

51) **mí tà kú mé nè dé á tùà mè.**  
1sg FUT take 2sg CONJ set PREP house 2sgPOSS:alien

*I will take and put you at your house.*

52) **kóé má kù ḍilà nè dé á zàŋ**  
squirrel CON take lion CONJ set PREP bowels

**kírà wã.**  
compound 3sgPOSS:alien

*Squirrel took Lion, and put (him) in his compound.*

53) **à kóé bó ã ḍilà ndé**  
CONJ squirrel say PREP lion COMP

**é tà kimbili ɓ̀xlà**  
LOG FUT cause hyena

*Then Squirrel said to Lion that he will cause Hyena*

**té né á ḍilà á bá nè.**  
come go PREP lion PURP catch 3sg

*come go to Lion so that (he) could catch him.*

54) **à kóé áx ḍilà ndé:**  
CONJ squirrel ask lion COMP

*Then Squirrel asked Lion,*

**ḍilà    kà    m̀̀    dúṅ    ǹ̀    kpátá,    m̀̀    hã    há    mí.**  
 lion    if    2sg    stay    have    skin    2sg    give    BEN    1sg  
*“Lion, if you still have a skin, give (it) to me.;*

**55) à    mí    ǹ̀    ḍé    á    yèḅ.**  
 then    1sg    go    put    for    rot  
*Then I will put (it out) to rot.”*

**56) yàrà    v̀̀ḅ,    kpátá    kà    ḍilà    hã    só    há    kóé    má    yèḅ.**  
 lit    two    skin    REL    lion    give    PERF    BEN    squirrel    CON    rot  
*(After) two days, the skin that Lion had given to Squirrel rotted.*

**57) k̀̀    kóé    má    kp̀̀    ḍṅḡá:    kúró    k̀̀r̀̀,    kúró**  
 then    squirrel    CON    begin    sell:NOM    rotten.skin    rotten.skin    rotten.skin

**k̀̀r̀̀.**

rotten.skin

*Then Squirrel began to sell: Rotten skin, rotten skin, rotten skin, rotten skin!*

**58) ɓ̀̀ḅl̀̀    má    gb̀̀    s̀̀ṅ:    ḡ̀̀ǹ̀    á    ḡ̀̀?    ḡ̀̀m̀̀.**  
 hyena    CON    exit    now:    price    PREP    INT    100 (francs).  
*Hyena exited then (and asked): How much? (Squirrel responded) 100 francs.*

**59) ɓ̀̀ḅl̀̀    má    h̀̀    s̀̀ṅ    ṅ̀̀ṅ    f̀̀t.**  
 hyena    CON    buy    now    eat    completely  
*Hyena bought (it) now and ate it all up.*

**60) à    kóé    ɓ̀̀    á    ẁ̀ǹ̀    ndé,    ɓ̀̀ḅl̀̀    d̀̀r̀̀á    háṅṅ**  
 CONJ    squirrel    say    PREP    3sg    COMP    hyena    many    exist

**á    t̀̀à.**  
 PREP    house

*Then Squirrel said to him, “Hyena, there are many (more) at the house.*

**61) ẁ̀    má    l̀̀ḅ    né    á    ṅḡ̀̀    ḍilà.**  
 3pl    CON    leave    go    PREP    home    lion  
*They left went to Lion’s house.*

62) hò-â                      mùà      né      á      kí,      ðilà      ná      bà-á  
arrive-PAST:NOM      3plPOSS      go      PREP      DEM      lion      FOC      catch-PAST

ḃàχlà      gbé.  
hyena      kill

*At their arrival at that place, Lion caught Hyena killing him.*

63) ndé      ná      sīlà      mé      ḃàχlà      gbé      wènè é  
COMP      FOC      liver      POSS      hyena      kill      3sg      EXCL

*(Now) It's (like that) the greediness of Hyena killed him!*

64) ndé      nzégǐ.ḃi      tò      bḃḃ      gò      ê.  
COMP      end      tale      1sgPOSS:alien      like.that      EXCL

*(Now) like that ends my tale!*

65) tò      mè      ê.  
tale      2sgPOSS:alien      EXCL

*Your tale!*