

## ANIMAL AND PLANT PALS

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Some animal and/or plant pairs are pals in the logological sense of forming **palindromes**. Whether or not they actually like each other is beyond our ken, but some are so remote that they probably never meet. All the below are Scrabble words unless marked W (Webster's 3rd), O (Oxford Eng.), or other sources as cited. The study excludes human pals (except our readers!).

### Animal Pairs

**ani mina** — tropical cuckoo, mynah bird  
**auk skua** — polar opposite birds (N. vs. S.)  
**bigeye gib** — fish, tomcat  
**bok kob** — S. African antelopes  
**buck cub** — male deer etc, young bear etc  
**cory roc** — catfish, giant mythological bird  
**crow orc** — bird, killer whale ( $\approx$  orca)  
**cur ruc** — dog, roc (alt. spelling)  
**degu ged** — ratlike rodent, pike fish  
**elk cockle** — wapiti or moose, bivalve  
**gull lug** — shore bird, lugworm  
**ka yak** — jackdaw (ka=kae), Himalayan ox  
**mara ram** — hare-like rodent, male sheep  
**mare ram** — farmyard pals

### Plant Pairs

**maypop yam** — wildflower, sweet potato  
**mint nim** — aromatic herb, Indian tree  
**oca maco** — sorrel, Egyptian cotton (W)

### Animal-Plant Pairs

**ai pia** — three-toed sloth, arrowroot plant  
**Aix ixia** — dabbling duck genus (W), iris  
**ani pina** — black cuckoo, pineapple  
**corn roc** — food grain, roc (see cory above)  
**deer reed** — cervid, marsh plant  
**dika kid** — mango, young goat  
**drum urd** — croaker fish, bean  
**euro rue** — kangaroo, herbal shrub  
**eyra rye** — jaguarundi, food/whisky grass  
**gnu tung** — wildebeest, oilseed tree  
**ita zati** — miriti palm, bonnet macaque  
**kae teak** — jackdaw, hardwood tree  
**leek eel** — onion relative, long fish  
**mink/mina nim** — animal/bird, Indian tree  
**oka mako** — sorrel (= oca; W), bonito shark

**moth tom** — common insect, male cat  
**napu Pan** — chevrotain, ape genus (both W3)  
**oi Papio** — petrel, baboon genus (W)  
**ois Asio** — petrels, owl genus (Wikipedia)  
**pupa pup** — insect chrysalis, young dog  
**redd adder** — frog spawn, poisonous snake  
**redleg gelder** — various birds (W), castrated horse  
**ree deer** — female ruff (sandpiper), cervid  
**sakis sikas** — monkeys, deer  
**sar tetras** — sea bream, tropical fish  
**sole melos** — flatfish, marine snails (W)  
**Suta catus** — snake genus, cat (L.) (both Wikipedia)  
**titi tit** — S.Am. monkey, small songbird  
**wasp saw** — bee relative, sawfly

**tung nut** — oilseed tree, plant embryo  
**wahoo haw** — elm (two types), hawthorn

**onager oregano** — wild ass, cooking herb  
**pen nep** — female swan, catmint  
**ragi gar** — cereal grass, garpike  
**rape par** — oil plant, young salmon  
**rasp sar** — raspberry, sea bream  
**sipo topis** — mahogany (W), antelopes (C)  
**smee neems** — various ducks, nim trees  
**spore, Merops** — fungus (etc), bee-eater genus (W)  
**Sula alus** — booby genus (W), potatoes  
**taki kat** — Mongolian horse, khat (stimulant shrub)  
**taro rat** — food plant, unloved rodent  
**ti kit/nit/tit** — tree, kitten/louse larva/songbird  
**ti pipit** — small Pacific tree, wagtail bird  
**topi pot** — antelope, cannabis  
**tuna nut** — large ocean fish, embryonic plant

Pal Gangs (plus all the above involving plurals; eg, sakis sikas = at least four animals)

**kid kid dikdik** — two goats, small antelope    **motmot tom tom** — colourful tropical bird, two cats  
**marmot tom ram** — rodent, cat, sheep    **oka miro korimako** — oca (W), NZ tree, NZ bellbird  
**martin nit ram** — ≈ swallow, louse, sheep    **tangelo mole gnat** — hybrid citrus, talpid, a fly  
**marten egret toad napu panda otter genet ram** — napu = chevrotain (W) + 7 common animals

### Self-pals 1. Animals

**aba** — knifefish; bat (both Wikipedia)  
**adda** — Egyptian skink (W)  
**araara** — NZ trevally fish  
**ataata** — grazing marine gastropod  
**Atta** — leafcutter ant genus (W)  
**aua** — NZ mullet  
**bib** — cod-like fish  
**bob** — bobfly  
**ewe** — female sheep  
**gipsy's pig** — hedgehog (O)  
**goog** — hen egg (or any species?)  
**hadedah** — African ibis (W)  
**ihi** — NZ fish; stitchbird (both W)  
**kakkak** — Guam bittern (W)  
**nun** — pigeon variety; blue tit  
**oio** — Hawaiian bonefish (W)  
**ono** — wahoo fish  
**oo** — Hawaiian honeyeater (W)  
**pup** — young dog  
**seesees** — sand partridges (W)  
**shamahs** — Indian songbirds (O)  
**socos** — Brazilian night herons (W)  
**soosoos** (= susus, cf.) — dolphins (O)  
**stots** — bullocks  
**Sus** — common swine genus (W)  
**susus** — blind dolphin relatives (W)  
**tit** — small songbird  
**tottot** — fruit pigeon (Funk and Wagnall's)  
**uhu** — parrotfish (Wikipedia)  
**uku** — Hawaiian snapper fish (W)  
**wow-wow** — 2 gibbons (Chambers Dict.)

### Self-pals 2. Plants

**Adinida** — Dinoflagellates group (W)  
**aka** — NZ vine  
**anana** — pineapple  
**Anona** — tropical tree/shrub genus (W)  
**apa** — wallaba tree (W)  
**marram** — beach grass (W)  
**mesem** — fig-marigold (W)  
**mum** — chrysanthemum  
**sabas** — Philippine bananas (W)  
**seeweas** (= sievas) — tropical beans (W)  
**siris** — betel plants (a mild stimulant)  
**sirris** — leguminous tree (O)  
**toot** (= tutu) — NZ shrub  
**ulu** — Indian grass (W)  
**waw-waw** — W. Indian shrub (O)  
**yaray** — fan palm (W)

Jeff's and Dan Tilque's *Palindromicron II* (Word Ways monograph #6, 2002) lists another ~150 palindromic animals and plants, archaic or of non-English languages.

### Fake Pals (added **a** or **o** required)

**a croc, orca** — crocodile, killer whale    **o, bonobo!** — great ape, "pygmy chimp"  
**a kaka** — NZ parrot    **o, Bubo!** — horned owl genus (W)  
**a Pipa** — Surinam toad genus (W)    **o, dodo!** — famously extinct flightless bird  
**a pup, Upupa** — dog, bird genus (hoopoe, W)    **o, galago!** — bushbaby (primate, loris relative)  
**a tur, bruta** — goat or pea, edentate (all W)    **o, Tyto!** — barn owl genus (W)  
**baobab, a boab** — two names for same tree    **sumac, a Mus** — see next, mouse genus (W)  
**coral, a roc** — coelenterate colony, roc

Finally, a couple that are not true pals but are circular pals of each other, neatly both at 32154:  
**Musca, sumac** — housefly genus (W), tree/shrub (cashew relative, one species poisonous).