MONOCONSONANTAL WORDS

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In 1973, a reader of the British magazine Games & Puzzles wrote to me asking if anyone had ever compiled a list of the longest words using only one consonant, but several times over. The reader included ALLELUIA and ASSESSES in his letter, these being the longest "monoconsonantal" words that he knew using the letters L and S.

I couldn't recall seeing any such list during the past few years, so I set out to build one. For the sake of consistency, I decided to treat Y as a vowel. This means that the list I was out to build should contain 20 words, corresponding to the letters BCDFGHJKLMNPQRSTVWXZ. The following list includes only words taken from Webster's New International Dictionary (Second Edition) and Webster's Third New International Dictionary:

- B BAOBAB
- C COCCACEAE
- D DIODIDE
- F FEOFFEE
- G GEGGEE
- H HOIAH
- J AJAJA
- K KUKUKUKU
- L ALLELUIA
- M MAMMEE
- N NONANE
- P PIOUPIOU
- Q QUAEEQUAE
- R RIORIRO
- S ASSESSES
- T OTTETTO
- V VEUVE
- W WEEWOW
- X OXEYE
- Z ZOOZOO

If hyphenated words are to be allowed, there are two improvements to the above list: NONNY-NONNY and TAT-TAT-TAT.

Turning to dictionaries other than the two Websterian ones, a number of words on this list may be bettered. Thus, the Oxford English Dictionary gives FEOFFEE as a nineteenth-century variant spelling of FEOFFEE. Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary allows us to replace HOIAH with HUAIHQ, a Chinese river. And, returning to the Oxford English Dictionary, the triply V'd EVVIVA is a good replacement for VEUVE. EVVIVA, in case you wondered, is a cry whose meaning is roughly "long live the king".

Any improvements? Any suggestions for taking this idea further?