EBOLA

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Ebola virus disease, formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans. The first ebola outbreaks occurred in the mid-1970s in remote villages in Central Africa, near tropical rainforests, but the most recent outbreak in west Africa has involved major urban as well as rural areas. As this is written (January 2015), reports of ebola appear daily in the media, in both Africa and elsewhere. The name ebola comes the Ebola River. The Ebola River, also commonly known by its indigenous name Legbala, is the headstream of the Mongala River, a tributary of the Congo River, in northern Democratic Republic of the Congo; it is roughly 250 km in length.

As distressing as the disease and its spread is to all of us, ebola is interesting to the wordplay-loving logolist from several viewpoints. Firstly, it has a number of transposals. Here are 7 that have been unearthed:

Abole  a town 30 kilometers northwest of Degehabur, in the Somali Region of Ethiopia (Wikipedia)
Bolae  an ancient city of Latium that was repeatedly mentioned in the early history of Rome (Wikipedia)
Elboe  the surname of Ben Elboe, a boxer who fought in Brownsville, Texas, in 1916 (boxrec.com/date_search.php?yyyy=1916&mm=05&dd=30)
Laboe  a genus of carps in the family Cyprinidae; they are found mainly in the Old World tropics (Wikipedia)
Laboe  a municipality in the district of Plön, in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany; it is situated on the Baltic Sea coast, approximately 10 kilometers northeast of Kiel (Wikipedia)
Leabo  a food distribution company based in southern California (www.leabofoods.com)
Leoba  an Anglo-Saxon nun (c710-782) who was part of Boniface’s mission to the Germans, and a saint (Wikipedia)

The sequence of letters ebola can be found in various words and names. Here are 15 that have been identified:

aktiebolag  the Swedish term for "limited company" or "corporation" (Wikipedia)
cebola  a Spanish word mentioned in the etymology of chibol, a type of onion (OED – the Oxford English Dictionary)
Cerebolan  an anti-histaminic drug which is mainly used for the control of vomiting due to motion sickness (www.medicatione.com/?c=drug&s=cerebolan)
Denebola  the second brightest star in the constellation Leo (Collins English Dictionary 2014 edition)
Freebola  a pop rock song by Chilean rock band Gupl featured in their debut album 1999 (Wikipedia)
hebolac  a variant of herbelade, a kind of pork sausage mixed with herbs and baked in a crust (OED)
Illebolaro  a variant of Illibullero, a refrain of a song ridiculing the Irish (OED)
Mebolazine  an anabolic steroid (Wikipedia)
Rebola  a town in Equatorial Guinea (Wikipedia)
Rebolation  a style of Brazilian dance that originated in rave parties (Wikipedia)
thebolactic  a type of acid, a constituent of opium (OED)
Thelebolaceae  a family of fungi; the Thelebolales are an order of the class Leotiomyctes within the phylum Ascomycota; it contains the single family Thelebolaceae (Wikipedia)
Thelebolales  a fungus, which is an order of the class Leotiomyctes within the phylum Ascomycota; it contains the single family Thelebolaceae (Wikipedia)
Treboles  a village and rural locality in La Pampa Province in Argentina (Wikipedia)
Zebola  a town and commune in Madagascar (Wikipedia)

Reversing the letters of ebola gives us the simple two-word term a lobe, which is a roundish projecting part of some larger body. The reverse sequence abolne can be found in various words and names. Here are 18 that we have managed to find:

Ankaloibne  a town and commune in Madagascar (Wikipedia)
Astralabo  an old spelling (16th century) of astralabe, an astronomical instrument (OED)
Balbedu  a plural form of Lobedu, a member of a Northern Sotho people, living mainly in Limpopo province (formerly the northern Transvaal) in South Africa (OED)
Balobelu  a variant of Balbedu (OED)
Buffaloloberry  any shrub of the genus Shepherdia native to North America; the bitter tasting berry of such a shrub (Collins English Dictionary 2014 edition; the word is spelled solidly in Collins, but has a hyphen in the OED, and is spelled as two words in Webster’s Third New International Dictionary)
caliber
Generaloberst
halobenzene
halobenzoate
halobenzoyl
halobetasol
Kalobe
Manalobe
Paralobesia
pentalobe
Salobe
Salober
tetralobed

an old spelling (15th century) of caliber, a kind of fur (OED)

*Generaloberst* (or colonel general) was the second-highest rank in the Austro-Hungarian army, introduced following the German model in 1915 (Wikipedia)
in organic chemistry, any halogenated derivative of benzene (Wiktionary)
in organic chemistry, a halogenated salt of benzoic acid
in organic chemistry, a halogenated benzoyl radical
the generic name of a medication used to treat a variety of skin conditions, such as eczema, dermatitis, allergies, and rash (www.webmd.com)
an administrative ward in the Mbeya Urban district of the Mbeya Region of Tanzania (Wikipedia)
a town and commune in southwest Madagascar (Wikipedia)
a genus of moths belonging to the subfamily Olethreutinae of the family Tortricidae (Wikipedia)
the *pentalobe screw* drive is a five-pointed tamper-resistant system being used by Apple in its products (Wikipedia)
another town and commune in southwest Madagascar (Wikipedia)
a mountain of Bavaria, Germany (Wikipedia)

having four lobes (OED: see the 1996 illustrative quotation at porally)