

REPORT FOR APRIL, 1961.

Gokwe.

J.A. Farrell
Entomologist.

1. INTRODUCTION.

Patrols have been made along the southern edge of the Sessami basin, and on the Sengwa river, during the month.

2. TSETSE.

A patrol of the southern edge of the Sessami basin was made on foot, food being carried on donkeys; duration being 11 days. A close watch was kept on the donkeys during the march, and regular stops were made to search for tsetse.

No tsetse were seen on the Swiswi and Tari headwaters, in spite of thorough searches.

One tsetse was seen in the upper Gwave valley but during two afternoons and a complete day of intensive searches, using donkeys as bait, no fly was taken.

The upper Tsingwe valley was patrolled, without result.

Tsetse becomes readily available west of the Tsingwe valley, in the gap between Umpungwe and the Charama escarpment. 5 G. morsitons were taken between the Tsingwe and Korora rivers, in B. boehmii woodland at the foot of the escarpment.

Between the Pokwe river and the Magudi river, in open B. boehmii savanna at the foot of the escarpment, 41 ♂ and 2 ♀ G. morsitons were taken during the morning, at 10 stops.

The face of the escarpment is clothed with B. tamarindoides woodland. One G. morsitons ♂ was taken in this zone, above the Magudi valley, and one was seen in this zone above the Tsingini river.

Three G. morsitons were taken in the woodland of the plateau - B. spiciformis - J. globiflora - B. boehmii woodland, (4,000) in an area within ¼ mile of the Pokwe valley. Further away from the edge of the plateau, no tsetse were seen. The plateau is, however, only 2 miles across at this point, and if G. morsitons can be taken on the top, the fly belt may be considered to cover the westward - projecting arm of Charama escarpment.

I have been informed, from many sources, that tsetse occur in the Manyoni basin and tsetse have been taken by bicycle fly rounds on the game fence, north of the Sengwa river. On the accompanying map, a line has been sketched in, indicating the possible fly-line.

North of the Charama plateau, one ♂ G. morsitons was taken between the Tsingwi and Gwave rivers, one ♂ G. morsitons was taken east of the Gwave river near the Mangvera and one was seen near the Tari river.

The position towards the Sessami is not clear. Patrols on the Gwave River at the main road, in October, 1960, did not reveal tsetse.

In September, 1960, 2 G. morsitons were taken at a road camp, 2m NW of the Tari on the main road.

In July, 1960, tsetse were seen on the Gwave river by Mr. Bosman.

The Gwave is, however reputed to be the "fly-line".

On the Swiswi (Nyoka Estate) one *G. morsitans* was taken in November, 1960.

This was probably carried by a passing vehicle.

On 27th April, 1961, Mr. Bosman, the A.H.I. took a o *G. morsitans* at Nyoka Estate, after a journey from the Tari river.

Bait cattle patrols may be needed to detect tsetse south east of the Gwave river, and of the Tari river.

Cattle graze on the Tari river, and will increase with movement of stock and inhabitants from Nyoka Estates to the Tari river.

To the south of the Choroma plateau, tsetse have not been taken on my recent patrol.

At Ngomoni, where 13 cases of trypanosomiasis occurred in February an afternoon spent ox-watching was unproductive. Cattle occur north and South of the Sengwa in this area. To the north, I understand that they graze on the Chibowa river, and within a mile of the game fence. A careful survey was made along the Sengwa, when 25 stations were marked out for a bicycle traverse, as far as the Kaniatowa river, at the old drift. No tsetse were seen, and local residents did not know of tsetse south of the game fence.

An attempt was made to reach the Manyoni basin by the track from Gokwe. This has become indiscernable, and the route was lost in areas of grassland at the head of the Swiswi basin.

Fly rounds.

With the return of dry weather, it will be possible to proceed with the establishment of the bicycle fly round system.

In Gokwe district, it is intended to employ 6 pairs of fly boys - pairs being stationed at Ganderowe, Gungunkwe, Nambusia, Goredema, Gwave river, and at Chief Sais.

Each will have 5 - 6 rounds to patrol once a week, returning to Ganderowe or Gokwe at the end of each month. The system of foot paths, covering the area, is ideal for the working of cycle fly rounds.

3. TRYPANOSOMIASIS.

Blood smears from donkeys on the Tari river, taken on 26th April, 1961, revealed one positive for *T. brucei*, one for *T. congolense*.

At Maroti Store, (Sessami river) three *T. congolense* cases were diagnosed in donkeys.

4. VEGETATION.

The vegetation and Geomorphology of the Charama plateau area are of some interest.

The vegetation can be described briefly as follows:-

(1) "Gusu" woodland

On the level plateau:- *B. spiciformis*, *B. boehmii*, *J. globiflora*

Burkea Africana and other characteristic species.

No understory occurs in this woodland.

2. B. tamarindoides.

A pure stand of this species, often of considerable size covers the face of the Charams escarpment, and in the Swiswi basin occurs on steep hillsides.

The Mafungaburi escarpment supports B. tamarindoides here scattered among B. boehmii and other species.

3. B. boehmii

This species occurs throughout the area, either as a component of an open savanna, with other species such as J. globiflora and D. condylocarpon, or as a closed woodland. The latter is found in the upper valleys of the plateau and, to the South, on the Sengwa river.

The savanna occurs without "mopani" on higher levels below the escarpment, and with mopani at lower levels,

Clumps and zones of B. boehmii and mopani may alternate, somewhat as is seen in the Sanyati area.

4. Terminalia prunoides.

On steep hill slopes at lower levels, a number of species form a low, scrubbing cover with:-

T. prunoides, T. rhodesiaca, Euclea sp. Commiphora spp.
Kirkia acuminata

and other, unidentified species.

5. Ravine Thicket and Forest.

Steep sided gorges or ravines occur on most of the rivers cutting through the Chorama plateau. They appear to occur at the level of a rock stratum of unusual hardness, where waterfalls drop down to a ravine, which is choked with thicket or forest. The rivers, just above and below the waterfalls, are perennial.

The forest is highly developed on the upper Pokwe river where a mile long - ravine supports a forest including: Garcinia spp. Trickelia spp. Albizia spp. Acacia albida, Kigelia pinnata, Ficus spp. (of gnaphalocarpa) Euphorbia cooperi, Ostrya stuhlmannii, Strychnos stuhlmannii, Ziziphus spp. with dense thickets and lianes.

Elsewhere, more restricted areas of thicket occur in ravines with Garcinia and S. stuhlmannii being characteristic.

6. Riverine parkland.

Where rivers leave the narrow gorges of the Charama the wider flood-plain supports areas of tall grass, or a parkland of isolated trees, characteristically including:-

Terminalia services Acacia albida Piliostigma thonningii
Combretum Sclerocarya caffra, Ghazalense.

On the Sengwa, Combretum hereroense is very common in this

The Charama escarpment is in many ways comparable to the Chipinga escarpment, with the same occurrence of forest, *B. spiciformis* woodland, and *B. tamarindoides* woodland.

5. GAME:

No game was observed in the Swiswi basin. Sable spoor was observed in the West Tari gorge, in the Gwave gorge, and on the plateau. Kudi spoor was seen as above, Eland spoor was seen frequently on the plateau. Buffalo recent spoor on the plateau in several places. Bushbuck were seen in the Gwave and Pokwe gorges, and spoor on the plateau.

Elephant

The Pokwe gorge is a concentration area for elephant; the forest of the gorge is cut up by paths leading to two springs at the side of the river, and the numbers of elephants frequenting the gorge must be equal to that at Chipinga Pool. One elephant was seen.

Lion.

One lion was seen on the plateau above the Pokwe gorge.

It was trotting down the path towards the park when first seen, but turned aside into the grass, and remained concealed as we passed. The donkeys evinced sighs of distress as we passed the spot.

Snares

Snares in this area are of a noose type, attached to a sprung bough the noose arranged around a concealed hole in the ground, to snare a leg. This type contrasts with that in the Sabi, where a neck-noose was used with a sprung bough. These snares are used for game up to Buffalo.

6. ROADS:

Mr. Powell, the Native Commissioner informs me that the only new road work planned for this season is one running down the west bank of the Sengwa in O may Reserve from the main Binga road south to Chief Sai. This will link with the track from Sai to Gokwe.

The road from Ngomeni to Sai is passable, except for the Sengwa crossing, which requires a corduroy drift. I have not seen the Malinasinibi - Sai crossing on the Sengwa, but it, too, probably requires a drift.

A road to the north of the Charama plateau appears to be practicable, Owing to a steep ridge on the Tari - Gwave watershed, this route should start at the Tari drift on the main road. The main footpath to Sai can then be followed to the Tsingwi River. From here, the path can be followed up the escarpment to the Charama-Gokwe track. From the Tsingwi, also, the road can be cut along the foot of the escarpment, at some distance, to avoid gullies, to out the Charama track, and the new N.D. road on the Sengwa.

From this point it is perhaps 15 miles to Tivuli Spring on the Lusulu road.

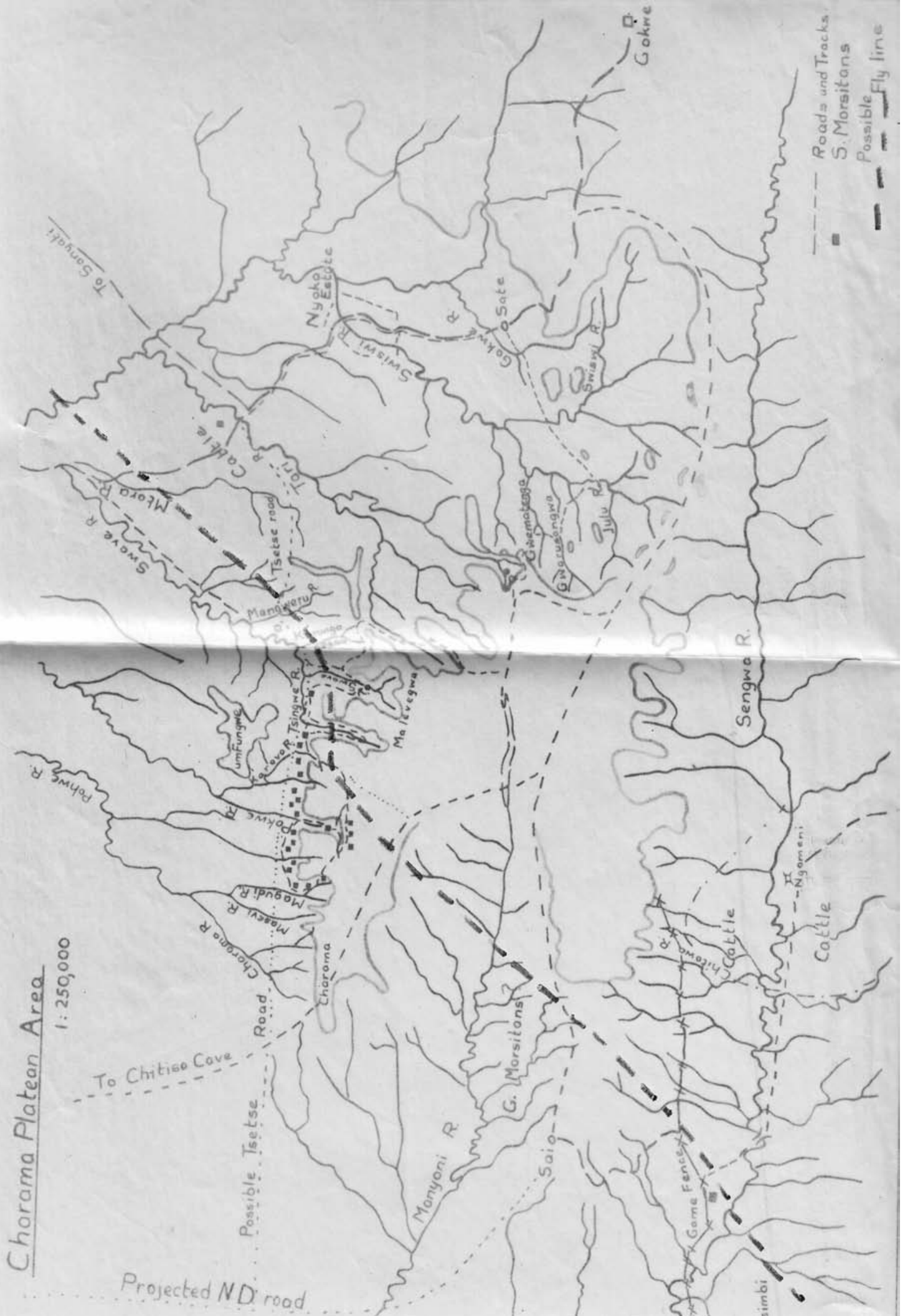
This possible road is marked (as a dotted line) on the attached map.

Labour for this road will be discussed with Mr. Lovenore.

Chorama Plateau Area

1:250,000

Projected ND road



- Roads and Tracks
- - - Possible Tsetse
- - - Game Fence
- - - Possible Fly line