With the administrative reform of 1991, the awrāgā disappeared: the lowlands were incorporated into the ‘Afar kalal and the highlands into the Amhara kalal (North Šawa Administrative Zone). Between 1970 and 1984, its population more than doubled, from 141,500 (14 inhabitants/km²) to 331,271 inhabitants (32.8 inhabitants/km²). By adding the wārādās of the highlands, including Ansokia and Ganz (225.4 inhabitants/km²), Efrata and Gādām (281.9 inhabitants/km²), Mafud Māzazo Mog and Nadāra (132.8 inhabitants/km²), as well as of Qāwāt (151.5 inhabitants/km²), the population reaches almost 500,000 inhabitants.


Alain Gascon

Garre

G. (also referred to in the literature as Garreh, Gerra, Gherha, Garri etc.) is a Somali clan found in southern Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. According to Lewis (1955:27), the G. inhabit at least four different locations: the lower reaches of the Šāballe river near Awdegle, in southern Somalia; two areas in Ethiopia: around the border town of Dolo in the Upper Juba and bordering and intermingled with the ʾArsi in an area between the Wabi Gëstro (Wàyb) and the Wāb Mān; and further to the south in northern Kenya between the Ağıraan and Digodia Somali.

Except for those G. living along the lower course of the Šāballe river in southern Somalia and who speak a distinctive Somali variety, all the other G. are to a greater or lesser extent oromized and are part and parcel of those groups of “Proto-Rendille-Somali” culture which, according to Schlee (1989), have undergone “Booranization” after the 16th cent. While Booranization is apparently complete as far as language is concerned, the G. consider themselves and are considered Somali.

As to the agnatic position of the G. within the Somali clanic families, Colucci (1924), followed by Lewis (1955), considered them to represent the numerically most important clan of the “pre-

Hawiyee” family, who had preceded the ʾHawiyee in a very early migration from the north of Somalia. Local traditions investigated by Mohamed Nuuh Ali (1985) and already referred to by Cerulli (1957) and Turton (1975) ascribe to the G. (or a part thereof) a central role in the “Somalization” of the Lower Juba and of the coastal area around its mouth. In the course of their migrations, the G. came into contact with the Northern-Swahili-speaking Bajuni of the Bajuni Islands (certain Bajuni sections claim a G. origin) and dominated the whole area until the Orma invasions of the 16th cent. The most important linguistic result of the G. presence in what is today southern Somalia and northern Kenya has been the Somalization of the Boni (or Aweera), a hunting and gathering group of a few thousands living in the forest belt stretching along the coast of the Indian Ocean, immediately to the south of the Somalia-Kenya border (Tosco 1994b).

While nothing specifically links the G. to the north, there does not seem to be any evidence either of an ancient southward migration, all pointing to a “southern” origin of the G. in an area of strong Oromo/Somali (and Rendille) interaction. The internal clan-structure of the G. supports this view: like many groups of the area, the G. divide themselves into two moieties, which among the G. are called Tuuf and Quranyow; many almost identical names of sections are further found among the Rendille (cf. Schlee 1989 and Tosco 1994a).

Linguistically, the G. of southern Somalia speak a distinctive variety of Somali (Tosco 1989), which Lamberti (1985) classifies within
his highly heterogeneous “Digil group” of dialects (although, agnatically speaking, the G. have nothing to do with the Digil clan family). Giving credit to the historical traditions referred to above, the language of the G. (i.e. of the G. of southern Somalia) finds its closest linguistic relative, not among any other Somali dialects, but in the Boni language. The most important and unique isogloss linking G. and Boni is the devoicing of initial /d/ and /g/ (whereby these G. call themselves Karre and their language Af-Karre).

All the other G. groups, as anticipated, speak varieties of (Southern) Oromo.


Mauro Tosco

Gaš

The G. (Arab. خر al-Qāš, in the Sudan pronounced خر al-Gāš; Kunama Sona, Soba) is a seasonal river running through Eritrea and the Sudan. About 680 km long, it originates in the Eritrean highlands south-west of Asmara (called there مَرَاب). In dialectology the term “G.” designates a Beğa dialect; the G. region is an ancient settlement-area, allowing a local dialect to develop (s. Morin 1999).

Debates among 19th-cent. European geographers on whether the G. and the Mārab were one river were solved by Munzinger on his expedition to the Kunam (Munzinger 1890:359). From Arakebu on, the Mārab leaves the mountains and enters into the plains, in the beginning flowing underground. At this stage it is known under the name G., respectively Sona or Soba (ibid. 360, map). Hydrologically it is the same river, but in local tradition and naming both parts are de-

The Upper Gaš, Kunama area, Eritrea; photo April 1993, courtesy of Paul B. Henze