

Korup National Park, Cameroon 1987

Microberlina

Microberlina trees stand
like hilltop fortresses,
with brown buttress roots, taller than a
man.

Raising from granite boulders,
the basement of Africa,
they twist into curved ramparts
circling the base.

A spiraling labyrinth leads upwards
to the massive scaly boles
seven arm spans around.

Cabled lianes ascend
to the bright canopy
one hundred forty feet above.

How old?

Lesser trees crowd below,
wilt or perish.

It rains, it dries.

There is no season,
no time.

Only the great trees.

