

# THE FOOD RESOURCES OF THE ABORIGINES OF THE SOUTH-WEST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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## INTRODUCTION

The Aborigines in the South-West of Western Australia, in common with Aborigines in other parts of Australia, were hunters and gatherers. Like them they neither reared domestic animals nor cultivated crops, and were dependent on the environment for their food supply, moving from place to place within defined areas as the availability of food and the seasons dictated.

From our present knowledge of the fauna and flora of the south-west area of Western Australia, the sources of food most readily available to the Aborigines would have been mammals, birds and their eggs, most reptiles, some frogs, fish (where there was adequate water, especially in marine inlets) and some invertebrates (e.g. larvae of beetles), but most invertebrates seem to be unpalatable. As far as it is known the plant species available for food did not lend themselves to cultivation and no crops were grown. Seeds, fruits and roots of various sorts were gathered.

Few observers, apart from Nind (1831, p. 36), make positive statements on the division of labour between the sexes of their hunting and gathering activities, but from their descriptions it is reasonable to infer that the men were the hunters, they procured the larger animals, in particular kangaroos and emus, while the women were the gatherers, they collected seeds, dug for roots, and caught some of the smaller animals; but it is known that men also caught smaller animals and gathered roots. A further inference as to this division of labour can be drawn from the distribution between them of their implements; spears, axes, throwing-sticks or clubs, and boomerangs belonged to and were used by the men, while the women's main implement was the digging-stick.

The men and women usually went about their hunting and gathering activities independently; however, there were some of these, such as fishing, or catching animals by setting fire to the bush, in which they all took part.

By comparison with native peoples of most continents the Australian Aboriginal had access to relatively few major sources of animal protein, because, despite the appearances of the above list, mammals, with the exception of the great kangaroos, were mostly small, and the major protein sources available to man elsewhere in the world, which are provided by the ungulates (e.g. sheep, cattle, antelopes, deer, horses, etc.), are lacking in Australia (Ride 1971, p. 5).

Large mammals may once have been available to Aboriginal man in Australia because large marsupials of the families Diprotodontidae and Sthenuridae certainly occurred in Australia in Aboriginal times (Merrilees 1968, p. 1) and would almost certainly have provided a major food source.

It is one thing to go through the lists of the species of fauna and flora and say what could be eaten by man; it is quite another thing to be sure that the species were in sufficient numbers to be a recognized source of food, or that the Aborigines had techniques which were adequate to take and use them.

The object of this paper is to discover from records of explorers and early settlers, tradition, and archaeological data, which of these food sources were utilized and what techniques were employed in taking and using them. A list of animal foods, mostly from literature sources, is given in Appendix 1; it is arranged in alphabetical order of

Aboriginal names. Where these have been identified to species, the identification is included. The same species are arranged in alphabetical order of scientific names grouped according to major zoological taxa, e.g., mammals, birds, etc., in Appendix 2.

#### FOOD SOURCES

##### Kangaroos

The grey kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*) is the largest mammal in the area. It is widely distributed, being found on the coastal plain as well as the forest and woodland areas. It occurs in small mobs and was probably common throughout the area.

There is no doubt that the kangaroo was taken and eaten by the Aborigines as there are many references to it in the literature as a source of food (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 315; Armstrong 1871, p. 27; Backhouse 1843, p. 541; Bradshaw 1857, p. 98; Browne 1856, pp. 490, 534-5; Chauncy 1878, p. 248; Drummond 1843a; Eyre 1845, vol. 2, p. 277; Grey 1841, vol. 2, pp. 268-75; Hammond 1933, p. 29; Irwin 1835, p. 22; Moore 1884b, pp. 18, 37; Nind 1831, pp. 28, 29-30; Roth 1903, p. 47).

Skeletal remains of kangaroos are common in bone deposits in southwestern caves but, with the exception of Devil's Lair (Dortch & Merrilees 1971), they are not definitely associated with man. In the case of Devil's Lair, Dortch and Merrilees suggest (p. 112) that the presence of charred grey kangaroo remains in the deposit reveals that they were left by man.

Of the other large kangaroos the wallaroo (*Macropus robustus*) occurs on rocky outcrops in the area, but is only common at a few restricted localities. The red kangaroo (*Megaleia rufa*) occasionally enters the area in the vicinity of Morawa, but it is not known whether it did so before European settlement opened up the country.

The two main ways of taking kangaroos were by spearing them or catching them in traps. The methods used in spearing kangaroos varied according to the number of people involved. An individual hunter, or a small party, stalked a kangaroo until close enough to spear it. In winter they took advantage of the wind and/or rain to conceal their approach (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 315; Browne 1856, p. 534; Grey 1841, vol. 2, pp. 268-70, 273-4; Moore 1884b, p. 18; Nind 1831, p. 29). Moore (1884b, p. 18) also described the use of a portable leafy screen by the hunter.

When a large number of people were assembled they hunted kangaroos by surrounding an area frequented by them, and then they gradually closed in, driving the kangaroos from their retreats, and speared them as they attempted to escape (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 315; Backhouse 1843, p. 541; Bradshaw 1857, p. 98; Browne 1856, p. 490; Grey 1841, vol. 2, pp. 270-1; Moore 1884b, p. 37; Nind 1831, p. 28-9, 30). In the winter they drove the kangaroos out by shouting and striking their spears and spear-throwers together (Browne 1856, p. 490), while in the summer they set fire to the bush (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 270; Nind 1831, p. 28). Although hunting was primarily a task for the men, Nind (1831, p. 28) noted that the women sometimes went with them when they set fire to the bush to catch kangaroos or wallabies. According to Bradshaw (1857, p. 98) and Irwin (1835, p. 22) dogs occasionally accompanied the Aborigines when they were hunting kangaroos. [White (1972, p. 204) in a study of hunting dogs at Yalata, which lies outside the area of this study, questions whether native dogs were suitable for hunting. However the point which she raises does not rule out the contribution which semi-domesticated dogs could make in creating a fuss and flushing game from cover.]

The most common type of traps used to catch kangaroos were deep narrow pits, which were lightly covered with branches and earth. These pits were dug along the tracks frequented by kangaroos, or near their watering places. A kangaroo falling into one of these pits was wedged in by the narrow sides and was unable to get a footing to escape (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 315; Armstrong 1871, p. 27; Breton 1834, p. 22; Drummond 1843a; Eyre 1845, vol. 2, pp. 288-8; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 273;

Nind 1831, p. 30; Roth 1903, p. 47; Stokes 1846, vol. 2, p. 230; *pers. comm.*, Doust). The branches placed over the pits seem to have played some part in preventing the escape of the kangaroo from them (Drummond 1843a; Eyre 1845, vol. 2, p. 278). The pits were also sometimes associated with a system of fences (Drummond 1843a).

A less common type of trap was a row of pointed stakes placed on the banks of streams where the kangaroos usually crossed. However it is not known whether the kangaroos impaled themselves on these stakes when crossing the stream, or whether they were caught on them only when attempting to escape from the Aborigines (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 315). Netting and ambushing at drinking places seem also to have been employed (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 273).

There are very few accounts of how the kangaroo was cooked. The most detailed of these is that by Grey (1841, vol. 2, pp. 274-5) in which he describes two methods, the animal was either placed in a hole, covered with ashes and a slow fire built over it, or it was cut up and the pieces broiled on the fire. The blood, entrails and the marrow were considered delicacies, and the young men were not permitted to eat these (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 275). Bradshaw (1857, p. 100) described an Aboriginal eating the entrails and drinking the blood of a freshly killed kangaroo before it was cooked.

The by-products obtained from kangaroos included cloaks and bags made from the skins; nose-bones and awls from the bones; sinews from the tails (which were used for sewing cloaks and binding implements); and scrapers made from the teeth (see Dortch & Merrilees 1971, p. 109, for archaeological evidence of this).

### Wallabies

The other principal source of large to medium-sized mammals is treated here under the generic grouping "wallaby" (including rat-kangaroos). This is not particularly meaningful zoologically, but informants do not often distinguish between the various species occurring in the area which go to make up the group unless, like the woylie (see below), they have distinctive habits.

The principal species are:—

Brush wallaby (*Macropus irma*). This species, which is the largest of the wallabies, is confined to the forested areas and extends on to the Swan coastal plain.

Tammar (*Macropus eugenii*). This is the principal wallaby of the South-West inland<sup>1</sup> of the jarrah forest area, and occurred in fairly large numbers in thickets.

Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*). This small wallaby occurred in large numbers in swampy thickets where it makes runs and tunnels through dense undergrowth.

Woylic (*Bettongia penicillata*). This rat-kangaroo was a fairly common mammal in the sclerophyll woodland. It makes its nest under bushes.

Various other species of wallaby occurred (Shortridge 1910, pp. 803-48), but were probably never common through the south-west area.

Most descriptions of how wallabies were caught refer to those which lived in thickets. The Aborigines surrounded an area in which these animals lived and destroyed their runs by trampling or breaking down the bushes (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 290; Nind 1831, p. 30; *pers. comm.*, Blakers, Brockman). In some areas fences or snares were constructed at the ends of the runs (Drummond 1844 MS.).

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<sup>1</sup>Both the tammar and the quokka occur on offshore islands; the tammar on Garden Island, the Recherche Archipelago and the Aboilhos, and the quokka on Rottneest and Bald Islands (Ride 1970), but as far as is known the Aborigines did not visit these islands.

Towards the end of the summer the Aborigines set fire to the bush to drive the wallabies from their retreats (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 335; Gilbert (*in* Wagstaffe and Rutherford 1955, p. 12); Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 291; Nind 1831, p. 28). At other times of the year they drove them out with their dogs, or by making a loud noise (Drummond 1844 MS.; Nind 1831, p. 30; *pers. comm.*, Blakers, Broekman).

As the wallabies attempted to escape they were speared, elubbed, caught in snares set at the ends of the runs, or they became entangled in the trampled bush and were easily taken (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 335; Drummond 1844, MS.; Gilbert (*in* Wagstaffe and Rutherford 1955, p. 12); Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 291; Nind 1831, p. 30; Roth 1903, p. 47; *pers. comm.*, Blakers, Broekman).

Nind (1831, p. 30) notes that they were also caught in pits in the same manner as kangaroos.

There are no details as to how wallabies were cooked, but since they are like small kangaroos the techniques were probably the same.

According to Goldsworthy (1886, p. 338) the *bullua* (or conjurors) would not eat the male wallabies.

The rat-kangaroo, (*Bettongia penicillata*), known by the Aborigines as *walyo*, *woail*, or *woile* (see Appendix 1), which made its nest on the ground, was taken and eaten by them. The Aborigines speared them in their nests, or jumped on the nests, crushing the animal; if an animal tried to escape, it was chased until it took refuge, often in a hollow tree, where it was speared (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 339; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 290; Moore 1884b, p. 72).

As in the case of kangaroos, wallaby bones are present in eave deposits but, apart from the study made by Dortch and Merrilees (1971), there is no attempt to associate these with human utilization. Dortch and Merrilees list (p. 107) the following species in the upper part of the deposit in Devil's Lair which they associate with human activity: brush wallaby (*Macropus irma*), tammar (*Macropus eugenii*), roek wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*), quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*), woylie (*Bettongia penicillata*), potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*). Bones of the woylie were charred, possibly as the result of their having been cooked or discarded into a fire (p. 112).

### Possums

Of the arboreal mammals in the area the principal moderately large-sized ones were the following species of possums:—

Brush possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*). This species was common and widely distributed throughout the area; it sheltered in the broken limbs of large trees.

Ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*). This species was usually restricted to swampy thickets, and was really only common in the peppermint country of the coastal area of the South-West; it made nests or dreys in trees.

The common brush possum, known by the Aborigines as *comal*, *gunal*, *kuual* (see Appendix 1), was taken and eaten by them: that the ringtail possum, known as *uvorra* (see Appendix 1), was taken at King George Sound can only be inferred from the statement by Nind (1831, p. 32) that the fur of both species was easily detached from the skin. Although Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 263) lists two species of possum as being eaten by the Aborigines, my informant Elvard said that the ringtail was not eaten.

On moonlight nights the Aborigines hunted brush possums with their dogs. The possums were speared as they fled, or were driven into hollow trees from which they were extracted (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 285; Nind 1831, p. 32). However most descriptions of eating possums refer to those which were taken by day (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 319; Armstrong 1871, p. 27; Chaunev 1878, p. 248; Grey 1841, vol. 2, pp. 285-6; Hammond 1933, p. 41; Moore 1884b, p. 45; Nind 1831, p. 32; *pers. comm.*, Broekman, Elvard).

The most usual method of taking the brush possum was to extricate it from its haunt in a hollow tree. The Aborigines were able to determine whether a possum had ascended a tree and whether or not it had come down again by examining the bark (Armstrong 1871, p. 27; Bradshaw 1857, p. 99; Chauncey 1878, p. 248; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 286; Hammond 1933, p. 40; Nind 1831, p. 32).

The Aborigines climbed trees to catch possums, cutting toe-holds in the bark of the larger ones with their stone axes (Bradshaw 1857, p. 99; Chauncey 1878, p. 248; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 286; Moore 1884b, p. 45; Nind 1831, p. 32; *pers. comm.*, Brockman, Elvard, Hassell (W); see Eyre 1845, vol. 1, plate facing p. 68 for an illustration of this method being used in South Australia).

The easiest way to take a possum was to pull it out of its haunt by the tail; however, if it could not be reached, then it was smoked out, or poked out with a stick, the stick sometimes being twisted into the fur (Bradshaw 1857, p. 99; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 286; Nind 1831, p. 32; *pers. comm.*, Elvard). A possum which tried to escape by running along a branch was shaken off or knocked down with a stick (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 287).

Possums, like most of the other smaller animals, were cooked whole. They were roasted on the hot coals, or were covered with hot ashes. Before being cooked, however, the intestines were taken out, and the fur plucked off and stuffed into the stomach which was then pinned together with a stick. When the possum was cooked the fur, which had been stuffed into it, was removed and sucked to obtain the juices it had soaked up (Bunbury 1930, p. 88; Hammond 1933, p. 29; Knight *et al.* 1886, p. 329; *pers. comm.*, Brockman, Hassell (W)). Knight *et al.* (1886, p. 330) states that before it was cooked, the thigh bones of the possum were invariably bent back and broken, "this being a superstitious observance which is never neglected".

The main by-product from the possum was its fur, which was spun into long strands for use as belts and bands (see Meagher *in preparation*).

Dortch and Merrilees (1971, p. 107) include both brush and ringtail possums among the species associated with man in the Devil's Lair excavation. Bones of the brush possum were charred (p. 112). Roc (1971, p. 184) records both species in a deposit in a cave near Poison Hill, Gingin where struck flakes also occur at the same levels in the deposit.

### Burrowing mammals

The two principal burrowing mammals of the South-West are the dalgyte (*Macrotis lagotis*), and the boodie, a rat-kangaroo (*Bettongia lesueur*). Both were fairly common in the dry country of the inland part of the area.

Dalgytes, known as *dalgyte*, *dolgyt* (see Appendix 1), were dug out of their burrows, or were taken when they were feeding (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 291). They were also caught when the Aborigines set fire to the bush to drive out the larger animals such as the kangaroos and wallabies.

Burrowing mice *djilyur* (see Appendix 1), were also eaten (Moore 1884b, p. 105).

Dortch and Merrilees (1971, p. 107) record the remains of the boodie (*Bettongia lesueur*) associated with man in the Devil's Lair deposit; and Roe (1971, p. 184) records it associated with struck flakes in the cave near Poison Hill, Gingin. The dalgyte is not known to have occurred in the area of Devil's Lair (*pers. comm.*, Ride).

### Dingoes

The dingo (*Canis familiaris*) was eaten by the Aborigines (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 279; Hassell 1936, p. 688; Nind 1831, p. 29). No information is given on how they were taken; Grey only noted that there was "nothing peculiar in their mode of killing wild dogs". The puppies were regarded as a delicacy, although these were sometimes reared by the Aborigines for hunting.

According to Hassell (1936, p. 688) the young people were not allowed to eat dingos, and if they caught one then they had to give it to the old people.

Dingoes were not cut up before being cooked. They were placed in a hole and covered with hot ashes (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 279).

Bracclets were made from the tails (King 1827, vol. 2, p. 143), and fur from the tail was worn as an ornament across the forehead (Moore 1884b, p. 26).

### Other land mammals

Grey (1841, vol. 2) notes that among the food eaten by the Aborigines there were "five animals, something smaller in size than rabbits" (p. 263), and "nine species of rats and mice" (p. 264). Moore (1884a, p. 285) lists mice as being one of the staple foods.

Bandicoots (*Isoodon obesulus*, *Perameles* sp., and ? *Chaeropus ecaudatus*) were eaten (as was the dalgyc *Macrotis lagotis*—see above under burrowing mammals) (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 339; Moore 1884b, p. 45). Nind (1831, p. 37) notes that "girls, after eleven or twelve years of age, seldom eat bandicoots, such food being considered a preventive to breeding".

Names given for various small mammals which were eaten include *kundi*, *mardo*, *nuiji*, *quoit* (see Appendix 1).

Dortch and Merrilees (1971, p. 107) list the species associated with human artifacts in the Devil's Lair deposits. These include the bandicoots, *Isoodon obesulus* and *Perameles* cf. *P. bougainville*; and the mardo, *Antechinus flavipes*.

In addition to the species which fall into the categories for which we have historical evidence (already discussed above) the Devil's Lair deposit includes the native cat, *Dasyurus geoffroii*; the wambenger, *Phascogale tapoatafa*; the dunnart, *Sminthopsis murina*; the Tasmanian devil, *Sarcophilus harrisii*; the mundarda, *Cereartetus concinnus*; the native rats and mice, *Pseudomys praeconis*, *Ps. alboinereus*, *Ps. shorridgei*, *Notomys* cf. *N. mitchellii* and *Rattus fuscipes*; and unidentified bats. Only one of these species (*Ps. praeconis*) occurs exclusively at levels above the first recovered human artifact (as do the known prey-species, the wallabies, *M. irma*, *M. eugenii*); it is therefore not possible to allocate these species unequivocally to human prey-species. The record of *Ps. praeconis* is probably not significant; it is represented by the remains of a single individual.

The probability that some of these (e.g. *Notomys* cf. *N. mitchellii*, the Tasmanian devil, the dunnart and the native cat) were taken by man is suggested by an apparent increase in their numbers in the upper levels of the deposit (i.e. those believed by Dortch and Merrilees, p. 112, to represent, "in part, food remains and other debris of human predators"). These authors point out that artifacts do not occur in lower parts of the deposit excavated by them and that it is in these lower parts that small animals predominate over large ones. That this increase means that they were taken by man is supported by a similar increase of numbers of individuals shown by the known prey-species (wallabies and possums) which also occur at these levels. Dortch and Merrilees (p. 112) suggest that the Tasmanian devil was a prey-species.

A small cave excavated near Poison Hill, Gingin, by Roe (1971, pp. 183-4), which contained human artifacts as well as mammal and plant remains, in two defined horizons, also yielded the remains of bandicoots (i.e. the quenda, *Isoodon obesulus*) and the following species of small mammals (as well as possums and the boodie—see above): ? *mardo*, *Antechinus flavipes*, ? dunnart, *Sminthopsis* sp., and the rats and mice *Pseudomys shorridgei*, ? *Ps. alboinereus*, and *Rattus* sp.

Other records of fauna obtained from deposits containing human remains or artifacts do not clearly indicate the nature of the association between the artifacts and animal specimens. Thus Glauert (1948, pp. 103-4), in listing material obtained from

Yonderup Cave by D. S. Davidson, merely states that grey kangaroo, (*Macropus fuliginosus*), brush wallaby (*M. irma*), tammar (*M. eugenii*), potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*), boodie (*Bettongia lesueur*), woylie (*B. penicillata*), brush possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), ringtail (*Pseudocheirus peregrinus*), quenda (*Isoodon obesulus*), native cat (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), and Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) were obtained in addition to human remains. Butler (1969, pp. 87-8) lists from coastal sand dunes lying between the Scott River and the Southern Ocean (east of Augusta) *Macropus* "probably *M. fuliginosus*", *Setonix*, *Bettongia penicillata*, *Pseudocheirus*, *Isoodon*, *Dasyurus*, and *Sarcophilus* as well as Aboriginal implements and other bone material including much of marine origin. The deposit is actively weathering out of the dunes and is clearly an admixture of a number of horizons. Hallam (1971a, p. 102) indicates that she has identified a fauna from Orchestra Shell Cave, near Wanneroo, upon which she intends to publish.

## Birds

Many species of birds occurring in the South-West of Western Australia could have been eaten since almost all are palatable and a number are relatively easy to capture because of their behaviour. Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 281) says that birds "formed a very considerable article of food for the natives, and their modes of killing them are so various that it would be impossible to enumerate them all".

Those birds which one might expect to identify from general descriptions in historical accounts are the emu, various species of water fowl, flocking birds such as parrots and cockatoos, and colonially nesting birds such as mutton birds (shearwaters) and various gulls and terns. Although Moore (1884b) includes the Aboriginal names for a number of birds in his vocabulary, and most of these names have been identified to species by Serventy and Whittell (1962), apart from the emu and the swan he does not state which of these were taken and eaten by the Aborigines.

The emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) occurred throughout the area. It was stalked and speared by the Aborigines (Chauncy 1878, p. 248; Moore 1884b, p. 78; Nind 1831, p. 30; Roth 1903, p. 47). Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 281) says that emus were caught in the same manner as kangaroos (see above), but Roth (p. 48) says that they were never trapped in pitfalls or nets. Nind (p. 30) noted that they were mainly speared in the winter, when they were nesting.

The flesh of the emu was highly prized, and, according to Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 281) there were restrictions on its distribution and heavy penalties were "pronounced against young men, and unauthorized persons", who ventured to touch it.

I was unable to find any descriptions of how emus were cooked.

The feathers were used as decorations.

Grey (1841, vol. 2, pp. 283-4) described how water fowl in general were either speared or caught with a noose, but, apart from the black swan, there are no references to species by name.

The black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) is abundant in the South-West and is particularly common in inlets and estuaries such as Peel Inlet, Leschenault Estuary, Augusta, Wilson Inlet, Pallinup, and Bremer Bay estuary where large flocks occur (Serventy and Whittell 1962, p. 127). It was easily taken by the Aborigines when it was moulting (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 283; Moore 1884b, p. 30), and large numbers of both young and old birds and eggs were also taken when it was nesting (Bunbury 1930, p. 72).

According to my informant Doust, water fowl were cooked by first being covered with mud, placed in a hole, and then covered with ashes, where they were left for several hours. When the baked mud was cracked open the feathers came away in the mud leaving the body clean. Chauncy (1878, p. 250) noted that this method of cooking large birds was also used in other parts of Australia. Hammond (1933, p. 29) however, says that large birds were always cut up before being cooked. Grey (1841, vol. 2,

p. 285) says that birds were plucked before being cooked but Hammond (p. 29) says that the feathers were wetted and then burnt off.

References to the taking of flocking birds are given by Grey (1841, vol. 2, pp. 281-2), Roth (1903, p. 47) and Brockman (*pers. comm.*); of these, the most complete description (of taking cockatoos) is given by Grey who describes the use of boomerangs and spears. This description also includes the use of a wounded bird as a decoy.

Some birds were restricted to classes of people by prohibition, thus young men could not eat wedge tails ("eagle hawk": Hassell 1936, p. 688; "black eagle": Nind 1831, p. 37), and quails were old men's diet (Nind, p. 37).

Pigeons were noted as being eaten (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 285; Nind 1831, p. 3.1). Scrventy and Whittell (1962, p. 239) state that:

"Bronzewing Pigeons . . . are given to feeding on the seeds of the box-poison plant, *Gastrolobium bilobum*, and as a result their entrails and bones, but not the flesh, are poisonous to dogs and cats. After eating such pigeons, dogs and cats are apt to have fits, become mad, bit at anyone within reach, and finally die in convulsions."

There is nothing in the literature to suggest that the Aborigines took any special precautions to avoid possible poisoning from eating bronzewing pigeons, although it is possible that the custom of drawing birds as described by Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 285) is in part related to this problem.

Birds' eggs were taken and eaten (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 263; Moore 1884b, p. 49; Nind 1831, p. 31; Ogle 1839, p. 63). Nind (p. 31) says that:

"At the spring time of the year, they live principally upon the eggs and young of birds, chiefly of the parrot tribe, but also of hawks, ducks, swans, pigeons, etc."

When eggs were cooked they were placed on end in moderately hot ashes. A small hole was pierced in the upper end to prevent them from bursting (Goldsworthy 1886, p. 338).

I have not been able to find any reference in the literature to the collection of the eggs or young of colonial nesters.

### Snakes and lizards

Snakes and lizards are extremely numerous in the South-West, and for women and children would probably have provided the most abundant, and most easily obtained, source of animal protein. Except in cold weather they are active during the day and can be easily caught by such methods as digging, turning over stones or logs, and searching through leaf litter, and lifting bark.

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 263) included in his list of animals eaten by the Aborigines "eight sorts of snakes", and "seven sorts of iguana". From the literature (see Appendix 2—Reptiles) it is possible to identify six kinds of snakes and four kinds of lizards known to the Aborigines. These are the dugite (*Demansia affinis*), known as *dubyt*, *karbarda*, *tornock*, or *tookyte*; the tiger snake (*Notechis scutatus*), known as *norne*; the carpet snake (*Python spiloptus*), known as *wakel*, or *wackul*; the bardiek, which was also the Aboriginal name, (*Brachyopsis curta*); Mueller's snake (*Rhinoplocephalus bicolor*), known as *torkite*; and the crowned snake (*Denisonia coronata*), known as *werr*; the common goanna (*Varamus gouldii*), known as *carta* or *mumnaar*; the King skink (*Egernia kingii*), known as *wandie*; the bobtail lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*), known as *youern*; and Burton's snake-lizard (*Lialis burtonis*), known as *kerrygura* or *william lunger*. While Moore (1884b) includes the Aboriginal names for a number of other snakes and lizards in his vocabulary, his descriptions of these are very brief and it is not possible to identify them.



Snakes were caught behind the head, either by hand or with a forked stick, to prevent them from biting themselves or their captors (Neill 1845, p. 417; *pers. comm.*, Doust, Brockman).

Although some snakes (and in particular the tiger snake) were feared by the Aborigines, they were eaten nevertheless, but only if they had been killed by an Aboriginal. Neill (1845, p. 417) says that this was due to some superstition, but it is more likely that it was so that they could be sure that the snake had not bitten itself. Nind (1831, p. 31) noted that, after a snake had been killed, its head was beaten to pieces. He also noted that, if its stomach contained undigested food the Aborigines would not eat the snake, as they believed that this would make them ill.

There are no detailed descriptions of lizard-eating. According to Hassell (1936, p. 690) the eggs of the common goanna were roasted in the ashes and eaten, but these were restricted to the old men and women.

Snakes and lizards were placed in a fire (Pl. 24 in *Histoire du voyage; atlas, vol. 1. Voyage de . . . l'Astrolabe . . . pendant . . . 1826-29, sous le commandement de M. J. Dumont d'Urville.* Paris, Tastu, 1830-33.) or roasted in the ashes.

### Frogs

Frogs are abundant in the area, but numbers of species are poisonous, or at least distasteful, and one would have expected to find rather specialized treatment of them by the Aborigines, but the only indication that they differentiated between different species is given by Moore (1884a, p. 281):

“It appears that the natives do not consider every frog fit for eating, for some of a greenish colour were under the stack, but they would not eat them, and said they lived above the waters, but the good ones lived in the ground.”

Various frogs, known as *goya*, *guya*, or *wurgyl*, (see Appendix 1), were collected from the swamps and shallow lakes throughout the year, but the greatest number were taken in the summer, when the water in these areas was low. They were dug out of the ground with the aid of the digging-stick (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 287; Moore 1884a, p. 265; Moore 1884b, p. 79).

As noted above not all frogs were considered as being fit to eat; and, in some cases, the females were preferred to the males because their eggs were regarded as a delicacy (Moore 1884a, pp. 265, 281; Moore 1884b, p. 79).

Frogs were cooked in the ashes (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 288; Moore 1884a, p. 184). Knight *et al.* (1886, p. 329) noted that before being cooked the thigh bones, like those of the possum, were invariably bent back and broken “this being a superstitious observance which is never neglected”.

### Fish

Fish were a major source of food for people living near the coast, particularly during the summer months (Browne 1856, p. 492; King 1827, vol. 2, p. 122; Nind 1831, p. 32; Neill 1845, p. 425; Stirling 1826 MS.).

The Aborigines confined their fishing activities to sheltered areas such as lakes, rivers and estuaries. They were not a seafaring people; they had no form of water transport; at King George Sound it was noted that they could not swim and were afraid of the water, although those living on the western coast were good swimmers (Armstrong 1871, p. 27; Barrow 1831, p. 12; Browne 1856, p. 540; Flinders 1814, vol. 1, p. 66; King 1827, vol. 2, p. 137; Hammond 1933, p. 17; Loekyer 1827a MS.; Moore 1884b, p. 9; Nind 1831, p. 32; Roth 1903, pp. 61, 65; Stirling 1926 MS.).

Fish were either speared or caught by hand. The Aborigines did not have any nets or lines with which to catch fish; nor is there any account of poisonous or narcotic plants being used to stun the fish.

Weirs or dams made from stones, bushes and/or sticks were built across rivers and streams; fish trapped in these were either speared or caught by hand (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 335; Armstrong 1871, p. 27; Bunbury 1930, pp. 69, 87; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 275; Hackett 1886, p. 343; Hammond 1933, p. 46; Irwin 1835, p. 22; Lockyer 1827a MS.; Nind 1831, p. 32; Paterson 1896, p. 288; Roth 1903, p. 47; Stirling 1826 MS.).

When a shoal of fish was sighted in the shallows of an estuary it was driven towards the shore, the fish penned in with branches and stones, and then either speared or taken by hand (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 335; Browne 1856, pp. 492-3; Chauncey 1878, p. 248; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 275; Neill 1845, p. 425; Nind 1831, p. 32).

Catching fish in weirs or drives was a group activity in which both men and women took part, and these methods were used when a large number of people were gathered together. However fish were also speared by individual fishermen in shallow water, or when crossing fords in the rivers (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 335; Baekhouse 1843, p. 527; Hammond 1933, pp. 19, 46; King 1827, vol. 2, p. 122; Nind 1831, p. 32; Neill 1845, p. 425).

Bait was sometimes used to attract fish; the fisherman sitting on a rock that jutted out into the sea, pounded up pieces of small shell-fish and threw it into the water; fish attracted by this bait were speared (Neill 1845, p. 424; Nind 1831, p. 32; *pers. comm.*, Hassell). There is no record of baited spears being used (as mentioned generally for Australia by Aflalo, 1896). Fish were also speared at night with the aid of torehes made from *Xanthorrhoea* (Bunbury 1930, p. 76; Irwin 1835, p. 22; Neill 1845, p. 425; Nind 1831, p. 32).

By these various methods large quantities of fish were caught, particularly in weirs or drives (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 335; Browne 1856, p. 493; Chauncey 1878, p. 248; Hammond 1933, p. 46; Irwin 1835, p. 22; Nind 1831, pp. 32-3). When the Aborigines caught more than they could eat they either left them to die (Irwin 1835, p. 22; Hammond 1933, p. 46), buried a quantity for another day (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 335), or cooked them, and wrapped the flesh in soft bark (Nind 1831, p. 33).

There were a number of fish which could be easily caught, but were not eaten by the Aborigines; Bunbury (1930, p. 133) found that the Aborigines would not eat King Fish (? *Belone gavialoides*) or "Guard" Fish (? *Hyporhamphus melanochir*), as they believed that green-boned fish were poisonous, and Neill (1845) noted that they would not eat *Rhynchana greyi*, *Ostracian flavigaster*, or *Platyrrhina*. Sharks, sting-rays and maiden-rays were sometimes caught, but it seems that this was done mainly for sport as they were not eaten (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 275; Moore 1884b, p. 4; Neill 1845, pp. 428-431; Nind 1831, p. 33).

The larger fish were cut up before being cooked on the fire (Hammond 1933, p. 29), while the smaller ones were either roasted whole on ashes, or were wrapped in soft bark and covered with hot ashes (Bunbury 1930, pp. 87-8; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 276; Hammond 1933, p. 29; Irwin 1835, p. 23).

The only by-product obtained from fish was the oil from the mullet. The Aborigines used this for greasing their heads and bodies (Neill 1845, p. 426).

### Marine mammals—whales and seals

Whales and seals inhabit the waters off the coast of the south-west area of Western Australia. But as the Aborigines were not a seafaring people they did not actively hunt these animals and depended upon their coming ashore, or being washed ashore, or stranded in the shallow waters. Some indication of the frequency of strandings of whales (including the small species such as dolphins) is given by records held at the Western Australian Museum. For example, between 1960 and 1967, from just north of Perth to Eucla, there are 20 records, comprising approximately 130 individuals, of remains washed up or animals stranded (*pers. comm.*, J. L. Bannister). The greatest

number of animals stranded at one time was approximately 45. The species most commonly represented are the sperm whale (*Physeter catodon*), the false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) and the bottle-nosed dolphin (*Tursiops* sp.); the two former generally strand in schools, the latter occurs most often as single carcasses, probably washed ashore. Some areas, e.g. Doubtful Island Bay and the Bremer Bay area on the south coast, are more prone to strandings than others, presumably because of the proximity of the continental shelf to the shore (allowing oceanic species to come close to land) and the configuration of the coast line.

When a whale, known by the Aborigines as *mimauga* (see Appendix 1) was washed ashore they feasted upon it, cutting off pieces of its flesh and roasting it on the fire (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 277; Johnston 1962, p. 71; Moore 1884b, p. 53; Nind 1831, p. 34). They greased their bodies with the blubber (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 277).

Seals were speared or struck with an axe when they were stranded in shallow water or came in close to the shore (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 278; King 1827, vol. 2, p. 126).

### Insects

Edible insect larvae, known by the names *bardi*, *bardie*, or *wulgang*, (see Appendix 1), were obtained from a number of trees including *Xanthorrhoea*, *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus*, and *Banksia*.

The grubs found in the blackboy (*Xanthorrhoea*) were the larvae of the beetle *Bardistus cibarius*. These were small white grubs and were to be found in large numbers, up to as many as a hundred, in the one tree.

The larvae of *Bardistus cibarius* occur in decayed or rotting trees, and so, to ensure a supply of them, the Aborigines killed the blackboy trees by knocking the tops off them (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 289; Nind 1831, p. 34). The grubs which were later found in such trees were regarded as the property of the man who had knocked the top off, and were jealously guarded by him (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 289; Nind 1831, p. 34).

The grubs which were found in the other trees were the larvae of the ghost moths (Hepialidae) which deposit their eggs in living *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus* and *Banksia*. The larvae were larger than those of *Bardistus cibarius*, but only one or two were found in each tree.

The larvae of both beetles and moths were eaten either raw or roasted; they were sometimes tied in a piece of bark before being roasted (Bradshaw 1857, p. 99; Hammond 1933, p. 30; Hassell 1936, p. 688; Moore 1884b, p. 5; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 289).

Scale insects (Hemiptera, superfamily Coccoidea) and their secretions known as *meenah*, *waunilyar* or *womela* (see Appendix 1) which were found on particular plants and trees, were collected and eaten by the Aborigines (Hammond 1933, p. 29; Moore 1884b, p. 75).

Ants' eggs (? larvae) were also collected and eaten (Hassell 1936, p. 690; Nind 1831, p. 34).

### Vegetable foods

Vegetable foods collected and eaten by the Aborigines included roots, bulbs, tubers, seeds, nuts, fruit and fungus. In addition to these nectar was obtained from the flowers of *Banksia*, *Dryandra* and *Eucalyptus*, and gum was collected from *Acacia*. A list of vegetable foods, mostly from literature sources, is given in Appendix 3; it is arranged in alphabetical order of Aboriginal names. Where these have been identified to species, the identification is included. The same species are arranged in alphabetical order of scientific names in Appendix 4.

Roots, bulbs and tubers appear to have been the main sources of vegetable food, some of which were available throughout the year. Those collected and eaten by the Aborigines included species of *Caesia*, *Dioscorea*, *Haemodorum*, *Platysace*, *Praso-*

*phyllum*, and *Typha*. Gathering roots was a task for the women and children, and for this the women used a long "digging" stick (Baekhouse 1843, p. 546; Bradshaw 1857, p. 99; Browne 1856, p. 537; Grey 1841, vol. 2, pp. 292-3; Hammond 1933, p. 28; Hassell 1936, p. 691; Moore 1884b, p. 73; Nind 1831, p. 36; Ogle 1839, p. 63; Roth 1903, p. 69). Vegetable foods were eaten either raw or roasted. The women and children ate some of them during their day's activities and took the remainder back to their camp.

It is known that complex methods of preparation were used for certain items, probably to rid them of poisonous or injurious qualities, for example Irwin (1835, p. 23) mentions that certain bitter nuts (not identified) were made edible by being rubbed with clay and baked in hot ashes. Another example is provided by the roots of *Haemodorum spicatum* and *Haemodorum* sp., known as *mean*, *meen*, *meernes*, *mein*, or *mene* (see Appendix 3). These roots, which had a hot taste when eaten raw, were roasted, and then pounded with a quantity of a particular type of earth, or "mould", which the women carried in their bags (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 319; Baekhouse 1843, p. 527; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 266). Different reasons for adding earth, or mould, to these roots have been given, including that it was a type of seasoning (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 319; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 293), or that it was rubbed on the grinding stones to prevent the roots from sticking to them (Nind 1831, p. 34), but, as it was known that these roots, when eaten by themselves could cause dysentery, it would seem that the most likely reason for the Aborigines using the mould was to remove the noxious qualities from the roots (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 293).

Another food which required considerable preparation before it could be eaten was the fruit of the *Zamia* palm (*Macrozamia riedlei*) which, being one of the few trees in the area which bore edible fruit (see below), was an important source of food. The "Zamia nuts", known as *baio*, *bayio*, *boyoo*, or *byyn* (see Appendix 3), caused vomiting if they were eaten raw, and were considered poisonous by the Aborigines (Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 295; Drummond 1839a MS.).

Towards the end of March, when the fruit was ripe, it was collected, soaked in water for a period, and then buried until the pulp was then safe to be eaten either raw or roasted (Baekhouse 1843, p. 541; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 296; Hammond 1933, p. 28; Moore 1884b, p. 17; Stokes 1846, vol. 2, p. 132).

Neectar was obtained from the flowers of *Banksia*, *Dryandra* and *Eucalyptus*. *Banksia grandis* flowered in September and October, *Banksia sphaerocarpa* from October till January, and *Dryandra fraseri* and *Eucalyptus calophylla* in February and March.

The flowers of *Banksia grandis*, and the neectar obtained from them, were known by the same name, *mangaitch*, *mangite*, *mangyt*, *moncat*, *mungat*, *munghite*, *mungite*, or *mungyte* and those of *Banksia sphaerocarpa* as *nugoo* (see Appendix 3). Neectar was primarily obtained by sucking the spikes (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 319; Bunbury 1930, p. 80; Hassell 1936, p. 689; Irwin 1835, p. 23; Moore 1884b, p. 7; Nind 1831, p. 35; Roth 1903, p. 49; Drummond 1839a MS.), but a sweet drink was also made from them. This was done by lining a hole in the ground with paper-bark, filling it with the spikes, and then covering these with water and leaving them to soak (Moore 1884b, pp. 7, 63; Roth 1903, p. 49).

The flowers of *Eucalyptus calophylla* (red-gum), known as *ngunbit*, *numbit*, or *numbrid* (see Appendix 3) were used to make a similar drink (Drummond 1843c; Moore 1884a p. 213; Moore 1884b, pp. 62, 67).

Neectar was also sucked from the flowers of *Dryandra fraseri* which were known as *budjan* or *butyak* (see Appendix 3).

In the summer months gum known as *galyang*, *kwonnat*, *manna*, *meen*, or *menna* (see Appendix 3) was collected from *Acacia* trees and made into cakes, which could be eaten as required (Bradshaw 1857 p. 115; Drummond 1839b MS.; Hassell 1936

p. 689; Grey 1841 vol. 2 p. 294; Moore 1884b pp. 27 52; Moore 1884b also adds p. 3 *balga* [= *Xanthorrhoea*] and p. 23, *dolgar* [= *Hakea*]; Drummond 1843c comments on another substance called *mnkar* obtained from a *Eucalyptus*—see Appendix 3 under *mnkar*).

As mentioned above edible fruits were not common, but, in addition to the *Zamia*, the fruit of the Quondong, the “wild cherry”, the “small Hottentot fig”, and a creeper known as *kuruba*, were collected and eaten by the Aborigines. (Hammond 1933, p. 28; Hassell 1936, p. 689; Moore 1884b, pp. 46, 48.)

The women collected seeds from the *Acacia*, known as *kunart* or *kwonnart* (see Appendix 3). These were ground up when required and made into cakes, which were baked in the ashes (Hammond 1933, p. 30; Hassell 1936, p. 690; Moore 1884b, p. 45).

The seeds from the sandal-wood tree, *poilyenum* or *willarak* (see Appendix 3) were sometimes eaten but they were mainly collected for the oil which they contained. The men used this oil for rubbing on their bodies (Hassell 1936 p. 689; Moore 1884b p. 77).

Of fungi growing in the South-West some species, including the common mushroom, were considered inedible by the Aborigines. However other species, including those known as *butogo*, *bwyego*, *dtalyil*, *mord*, *numar*, and *wurdo* (see Appendix 3) were eaten by them (Anon. [Collie] 1834, p. 339; Drummond 1839b MS.; Grey 1841, vol. 2, p. 294; Moore 1884b, pp. 16, 17, 98; Nind 1831, p. 35; *pers. comm.*, Brockman).

From discussion with my informants it is clear that it would still be possible to gain considerable knowledge of gathering, from the women, although some of the Aboriginal names of material gathered may not be known, these having been replaced by European names.

The following example illustrates the potential for study which still exists and should be pursued in depth. That studies are possible outside the South-West is clear from the recent literature (e.g. Gould 1968, Scott 1972).

I cannot judge whether first hand experience of traditional hunting techniques by men can still be gained in the South-West.

On August 19 and August 20, 1967, I accompanied two part-Aboriginal women (Maggie Bell and Nellie Parker of Mingenew) while they collected vegetable foods. We visited five sites and collected samples of eleven kinds of plants eaten by the Aborigines.

The plants were subsequently identified by the Department of Agriculture in Perth.

Site 1 (4.3 kilometres south-east of Mingenew)

*Dioscorea hastifolia*. This plant, which was called *worrain*, has a long tuber which grows to a considerable depth (i.e. about 2 metres) and was dug up with a digging-stick. It was cooked in the ashes and pounded before being eaten.

*Platysace maxwellii*. This plant, which was called *karno*, has a large number of round tubers; eighty-four were collected from one plant. The tubers are about half a metre below the ground and are dug up with a digging-stick. The younger tubers, which were nearer the surface, were preferred. These tubers are available throughout the year and, besides being roasted in the ashes, are sometimes eaten raw to quench the thirst.

*Thysanotus patersonii*. The leaves and flowers of this creeper, which was known as *tjungoori*, were collected and rolled into a ball. It was cooked in the ashes for about ten to fifteen minutes and then ground with a grinding stone. The green powder which resulted from this was eaten with the root of the York gum, *Eucalyptus loxophleba*.

Site 2 (8 kilometres south-east of Mingenew)

*Haemodorum paniculatum*. The tuberous root of this plant, known as *mutta*, has a hot taste when eaten raw. It was usually roasted in the ashes before being eaten.

*Haemodorum spicatum*. This plant, known as *koolung*, has a tuberous root similar to *H. paniculatum*.

*Prasophyllum* sp. This plant is known as the "wild potato". It has a tuber which grows about a quarter of a metre below the ground, and is dug with a digging-stick. It was roasted before being eaten.

Site 3 (0.8 kilometres east of Mingenew)

*Amyema fitzgeraldii*. This plant, which is a parasite, grows on the jam tree. The Aboriginal name was not known and it was referred to as "mistletoe". The berries were eaten by the Aborigines.

*Astroloma serratifolium*. The small green berries of this plant, known as *murrumburru*, were eaten by the Aborigines.

*Brachysema aphyllum*. This plant has a red flower. The Aborigines sucked the flowers to obtain nectar from them.

Site 4 (c. 22 kilometres west of Mingenew)

*Banksia sphaerocarpa*. Nectar was obtained from the flowers of this plant which were known as *nugoo*. On cool damp days the nectar was sucked from the spikes, but at other times the spikes were soaked in water which was then drunk.

Site 5 (c. 25 kilometres east of Dongara)

*Haemodorum simulans*. The tuberous root of this plant, known as *mutta*, was similar to *H. paniculatum* and *H. spicatum* (see above).

It has been noted in the literature (see p. 25) that special treatment was used in the preparation of the roots of *Haemodorum* but neither of my informants volunteered information that any special method was used in cooking these roots.

### Seasonal utilization of food resources

There is considerable evidence in the literature that the contemporary writers were struck by the mobile nature of Aboriginal groups (Anon. [Collie] 1834, pp. 315, 331, 335; Browne 1856, pp. 492, 534; Grey 1841, vol. 2, pp. 260, 262, 292, 297, 298; Hallam 1971b, pp. 2-3; Irwin 1835, p. 22; Nind 1831, pp. 28, 35, 36; Roth 1903, p. 59). Most writers attributed these movements to the abundance or lack of food in certain areas at certain seasons. There is particular evidence of movement between the coastal areas and the interior; the coastal areas being inhabited during the summer months and the interior during the winter (Anon. [Collie] 1834, pp. 315, 335; Browne 1856, pp. 492, 534; Nind 1831, pp. 28, 36). Hallam (1971b, pp. 5-6) has discussed other data showing movement between various places on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Information on the seasonal distribution and abundance of food species (e.g. kangaroos, fish, etc.) in the South-West of Western Australia, may in due course allow further interpretation of historical records and, in particular, the hypothesis that movements are related to these. Information that a prey species does not move (e.g. that the grey kangaroos in eastern Australia are sedentary—*pers. comm.*, Oliver), may be directly contrary to the inferences drawn by contemporary observers but this need not rule out the possibility that movement was the result of a shift in predation onto a more abundant, or concentrated, part of a non-mobile resource. In assessing modern zoological data it must also be remembered that factors causing seasonal abundance of species today may be different from those in the past as the result of European development. Social motives not understood by observers may also have underlain the reason for seasonal movement by the Aborigines. Finally, climatic effects may have played a considerable part.

In this section is presented, without comment, month by month, and season by season, such information as is in the literature which may reveal seasonal utilization of food resources. The information is summarized in the accompanying table. In literature the writers use months, European seasons, and Aboriginal seasons. In the table these have been translated into months, but in the body of the text I have listed them under the temporal headings used by the original observers.

TABLE 1.

	Swon River Colony Moore 1884b	King Georges Sound Nind 1831	Anon. [Collie] 1834
August	jilba	meerningal	?
September			mainungull
October	kambarang	maungernan	?
November			mondyeunung
December	birok	beruc	
January			
February	burnoru	meertilluc	peerruck
March			
April	wanyarang	pournner	
May			
June	maggoro	mawkur	mokkar
July			

Aboriginal names for seasons: MOORE (1884b, p. 10) "The aborigines seem to distinguish six particular seasons. They are:—1. Maggoru—June and July—*Winter*. 2. Jilba—August and September—*Spring*. 3. Kambarang—October and November. 4. Birok—December and January—*Summer*. 5. Burnoru—February and March—*Autumn*. 6. Wanyarang, or Geran—April and May." NIND (1831, p. 50) "Seasons, beginning with June and July, or *Winter*. Mawkur, Meerningal, Maungernan, Beruc, Meertilluc, Pournner". ANON. (Collie) (1834) p. 315 "... on the 24th May, after some rain had fallen, and in the commencement of *Mokkar*, (winter, or the rainy season,) ..."; p. 339 "In the middle of July (end of *Mokkar*,) ..."; p. 331 "As the spring advanced (in the native season of *Mainungull*) ..."; p. 335 "At this period of the year (*Mondyeunung* of our tribe) comprising from the latter part of October to the middle of January, ..."; p. 335 "The native season of *Mondyeunung* is succeeded by *Peeruk*, which continues till about the 20th of March, ...".

TABLE 2: SEASONAL UTILIZATION OF FOOD RESOURCES

Tabular arrangement of bibliographic references according to kinds of food and their monthly and seasonal distribution. The superscript to each reference indicates whether it is to a month \* or a season \*\*.

MONTH*	SEA- SON**	MAMMALS	BIRDS	REPTILES	FISH	ROOTS	NECTAR GUM	FRUITS BERRIES ETC.	GRUBS FROGS
SEPTEMBER		Nind (1831, p. 30)**	Nind (1831, p. 31)**		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 331)** Nind (1831, p. 36)*	Moore (1884b, p. 12)** Moore (1884b, pp. 20, 36)* Nind (1831, p. 36)*			Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)**
OCTOBER		Nind (1831, p. 30)**	Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)** Moore (1884b, p. 27)* Nind (1831, p. 31)**		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 331)** Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)* Nind (1831, p. 36)*	Gilbert ( <i>in</i> ) Wagstaffe & Rutherford 1954, p. 496)* Moore (1884b, p. 12)** Moore (1884b, pp. 20, 22)* Nind (1831, p. 36)*	Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)**		Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)**
NOVEMBER		Nind (1831, p. 30)**	Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)** Moore (1884b, p. 27)* Nind (1831, p. 31)**		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 331)**	Moore (1884b, p. 12)**	Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)**		Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)**

S P R I N G



TABLE 2: SEASONAL UTILIZATION OF FOOD RESOURCES—continued

MONTH*	SEA- SON**	MAMMALS	BIRDS	REPTILES	FISH	ROOTS	NECTAR GUM	FRUITS BERRIES ETC.	GRUBS FROGS
DECEMBER		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)* Bradshaw (1857, p. 102)** Nind (1831, p. 28)** Nind (1831, p. 36)*	Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)** Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 283)**	Moore (1884b, p. 10)* Nind (1831, p. 28)**	Browne (1856, p. 492)** Bunbury (1930, p. 80)* Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 279)* Moore, (1884b, p. 73)** Neill (1845, pp. 419, 425)** Nind (1831, pp. 32, 34)**	Moore (1884b, p. 12)**	Bradshaw (1857, p. 100)** Bunbury (1930, p. 80)* Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 294)** Moore (1884b, p. 45)**		Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)**
JANUARY		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)* Backhouse (1843, p. 541)* Bradshaw (1857, p. 102)** Nind (1831, p. 28)**	Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)** Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 283)**	Moore (1884b, p. 10)* Nind (1831, p. 28)**	Browne (1856, p. 492)** Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 279)* Moore (1884b, p. 73)** Neill (1845, pp. 419, 425)** Nind (1831, pp. 32, 34)**	Backhouse (1843, p. 540)* Moore (1884b, p. 12)**	Bradshaw (1857, p. 100)** Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 294)** Moore (1884b, p. 45)**		Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)**
FEBRUARY		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)* Bradshaw (1857, p. 102)** Gilbert ( <i>iii</i> ) Wagstaffe & Rutherford (1955, p. 12)** Nind (1834, p. 28)**	Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)** Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 283)**	Nind (1831, p. 28)**	Browne (1856, p. 492)** Moore (1884b, p. 16)* Moore (1884b, (p. 73)** Neill (1845, pp. 419, 425)** Nind (1831, pp. 32, 34)**	Moore (1884b, p. 12)**	Bradshaw (1857, p. 100)** Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 294)** Moore (1884b, p. 45)**	Moore (1884b, p. 16)*	Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)**

S U M M E R

TABLE 2: SEASONAL UTILIZATION OF FOOD RESOURCES—continued

MONTH*	SEA- SON**	MAMMALS	BIRDS	REPTILES	FISH	ROOTS	NECTAR GUM	FRUITS BERRIES ETC.	GRUBS FROGS
MARCH					Moore (1884b, p. 16)* Nind (1831, pp. 32, 33, 36)**	Moore (1884a, p. 220)* Moore (1884b, p. 12)**	Moore (1884a, p. 213)*	Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 296)* Moore (1884b, p. 16)* Stokes (1846, vol. 2, p. 132)*	Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)** Moore (1884a, p. 220)*
APRIL					Nind (1831, pp. 32, 33, 36)**	Moore (1884a, p. 220)* Moore (1884b, p. 12)** Moore (1884b, p. 81)*			Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)** Moore (1884b, p. 33)*
MAY		Anon. [Collie] (1834, pp. 315, 319)* Nind (1831, p. 36)**			Nind (1831, pp. 32, 33, 36)**	Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 319)* Moore (1884b, p. 12)** Moore (1884b, p. 81)*		Moore (1884b, p. 17)*	Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 319)* Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)** Moore (1884a, pp. 184, 265)* Moore (1884b, p. 33)*

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TABLE 2: SEASONAL UTILIZATION OF FOOD RESOURCES—continued

MONTH*	SEA- SON**	MAMMALS	BIRDS	REPTILES	FISH	ROOTS	NECTAR GUM	FRUITS BERRIES ETC.	GRUBS FROGS
JUNE		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 315)** Bradshaw (1857, p. 98)** Browne (1856, p. 534)**	Bradshaw (1857, p. 98)** Nind (1831, p. 30)**		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 331)** Eyre (1845, vol. 2, p. 97)* Moore (1884b, p. 47)* Neill (1845, p. 426)** Paterson (1896, p. 289)**	Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 294)* Moore (1884b, pp. 12, 74)** Moore (1884b, p. 36)*			Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)**
JULY		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 315)** Bradshaw (1857, p. 98)** Browne (1856, p. 534)**	Bradshaw (1857, p. 98)** Nind (1831, p. 30)**		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 331)** Moore (1884b, p. 47)* Neill (1845, p. 426)**	Moore (1884b, p. 12)**			Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)**
AUGUST		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 315)** Bradshaw (1857, p. 98)** Browne (1856, p. 534)**	Bradshaw (1857, p. 98)** Nind (1831, p. 30)**		Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 331)** Neill (1845, p. 426)**	Moore (1884b, p. 12)** Moore, (1884b, p. 36)*			Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)**

W I N T E R

SEPTEMBER

Moore (1884b, p. 20)

Djakat,—A small root eaten by the natives; in season in the months of September and October.

Moore (1884b, p. 36)

Jilba,—The spring; August and September. Djubak is now in season.

Nind (1831, p. 36)

They begin to return to the coast about September or October, and at this season they chiefly subsist on roots. In calm weather, however, they procure a few fish.

OCTOBER

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335, October 24)

Every hand engaged procured about a dozen [fish], and I think there were ten of them. Nor was this the only shoal they caught that morning, so that they feasted all day to gorging, buried a quantity for another day, and gave us several.

Gilbert (*in* Wagstaffe & Rutherford, 1954, p. 496, October 9, 1842)

. . . their [the Aborigines'] Season of meeting in great numbers to dig the edible Root called by them Wargae is now in full force . . .

Moore (1884b, p. 20)

[see SEPTEMBER]

Moore (1884b, p. 22)

Djubak,—An orchis, the root of which is the size and shape of a new potato, and is eaten by the natives. It is in season in the month of October.

Moore (1884b, p. 27)

Kambarang,—Beginning of summer—October and November. The natives leave off building huts about this time. Young birds begin to be plentiful.

Nind (1831, p. 36)

[see SEPTEMBER]

NOVEMBER

Moore (1884b, p. 27)

[see OCTOBER]

DECEMBER

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)

In December, but more particularly in January and February, the natives burn large tracts of country to catch wallabee, or bush kangaroo. For this purpose they generally go in considerable numbers and select a fine and warm day, and, having fired a portion of thick shrub or grass where they know these animals to live, they watch their being driven by the fire, and either spear them or knock them down with a short and rather slender baton called *toollila*. As the fire when once lighted cannot be extinguished when they have supplied themselves with a sufficient number, they go on catching not to lose the opportunity, and having thus procured a superabundance, they are glad to exchange them in the Settlement for bread, rice &c.

Bunbury (1930, p. 80)

At this season [December] food was plentiful—both fish, the favorite of which seems to be the Mullet, and “Munghites” as they call the flower of the Banksia,

from which they extract by suction a delicious juice resembling a mixture of honey and dew.

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 279)

. . . fresh-water turtle are extremely abundant, (p. 280) and are in high season about December and January. At this time the natives assemble near the fresh-water lakes and lagoons in large numbers; . . . I have known two or three of them to catch fourteen turtle, none of which weighed less than one, and many of them as much as two or three pounds, in the course of a very short time.

Moore (1884b, p. 10)

Birok,—The summer season, December and January. . . This is the very height of summer, when iguanas and lizards abound.

Nind (1831, p. 36)

About Christmas they commence firing the country for game, and the families, who through the winter have been dispersed over the country, reassemble.

#### *JANUARY*

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)  
[see *DECEMBER*]

Backhouse (1843, p. 540, January 20, 1838)

We examined some holes, where the Natives had been digging for roots of a *Dioscorea*, or Yam, for food.

Backhouse (1843, p. 541, January 22, 1838)

Much of the bush, on the road, had been recently burnt, and one house had been consumed by fire. The Natives are now setting fire to the scrub, in various places, to facilitate their hunting, and to afford young herbage to the Kangaroos.

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 279)  
[see *DECEMBER*]

Moore (1884b, p. 10)  
[see *DECEMBER*]

#### *FEBRUARY*

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)  
[see *DECEMBER*]

Moore (1884b, p. 16)

Burnur, or Burnuro,—The autumn of Western Australia, including the months of February and March. . . This is the By-yu or *Zamia*-fruit season; and mullet, salmon and tailor-fish abound.

#### *MARCH*

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 296)

The native women collect the nuts from the [*Zamia*] palms in the month of March, and having placed them in some shallow pool of water, they leave them to soak for several days.

Moore (1884a, p. 213, March 6, 1834)

Have been beset all day by natives. They pull the blossoms of the red gum tree (now in flower), steep them in water, and drink the water, which acquires a taste like sugar and water by this process.

Moore (1884a, p. 220, March 29, 1834)

They [the natives] are now busy digging the root of a broad sort of flag which grows in a swamp near this; some people say that this makes sago, or rather arrowroot.

Moore (1884a, p. 220, March 30, 1834)

The natives have been feasting on a sort of grub or worm which they find in numbers under the bark of the red gum trees. . . . The grub is a sort of long four-sided worm or maggot, with a thick flat square head and a small pair of strong brown forceps set on the end of the head.

Moore (1884b, p. 16)

[see *FEBRUARY*]

Stokes (1846, vol. 2, p. 132)

[*Zamia palm*] Red fruit, nut, called *baio* ripe in March, is considered a delicacy by the natives.

#### *APRIL*

Moore (1884a, p. 220, April 2, 1834)

Got from the natives a piece of bread made of the root of the flag which they called *yandyett*.

Moore (1884b, p. 33)

Gu-yu, or Goya,—A species of frog that burrows in the sand, and is eaten by the natives. It is in season in the months of April and May.

Moore (1884b, p. 81)

Yanjidi,—An edible root of a species of flag (*Typha angustifolia*), growing along fresh-water streams and the banks of pools. . . . The natives dig the roots up, clean them, roast them, and then pound them into a mass, which, when kneaded and made into a cake, tastes like flour not separated from the bran. This root is in season in April and May, when the broad leaves will have been burned by the summer fires, by which the taste, according to native ideas, is improved.

#### *MAY*

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 315)

. . . on the 24th of May, after some rain had fallen, and in the commencement of Mokkar, (winter, or the rainy season,) . . . they took their departure from the coast, and even to a boy proceeded inland for the purpose of spearing kangaroo—the season for that species of hunting commencing at that time.

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 319, May 3 & 4)

The animals which they [two men, a woman and child] had consisted of a possum, bandicoot, kangaroo rat, and frogs; . . . Next day, which was at first very rainy, our native companions followed us and stopped when we did to lunch. They had picked out of the hollow of some trees as they went along, an opossum or two, which were treated as the preceding night, but our afternoon's march did not lead through so good a foraging country, and they came to the evening's bivouac with empty hands and unfilled bags. As this place, however, was early selected, they made an excursion and returned before dark laden with mean, (*Haemodorum spicatum*), and this constituted their supper, . . .

Moore (1884a, p. 184, May 4, 1833)

Two natives came here today: . . . One of them had a number of frogs (which I think he called "dweep") nicely packed up in the bark of the tea-tree, and tied with grass; these he signified they roasted for food, with a long white root, growing like a parsnip, which they dig up in wet weather.

Moore (1884a, p. 265, May 6, 1835)

One of the little native boys was busy eating frogs today. They looked so tempting that I ate one also, and it was delicious. The part I ate, however was the eggs of the female, which they seem to prize most, as they say, "the men frogs are no good," the taste was much like that of an egg. . . . The natives dig them out of the ground with their hands.

Moore, (1884b, p. 17)

By-yu,—The fruit of the *Zamia* tree. This in its natural state is poisonous; but the natives, who are very fond of it, deprive it of its injurious qualities by soaking it in water for a few days, and then burying it in sand, where it is left until nearly dry, and is then fit to eat. They usually roast it, when it possesses a flavour not unlike a mealy chestnut; it is in full season in the month of May.

Moore (1884b, p. 33)

[see *APRIL*]

Moore (1884b, p. 81)

[see *APRIL*]

#### *JUNE*

Eyre (1845, vol. 2, p. 97, June 28, 1841)

Upon getting up [near East Mount Barren] this morning we saw the smoke of native fires along the margin of the lake, at less than a mile from us. . . . Soon afterwards we saw them in the midst of the lake carrying boughs, apparently fishing.

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 294)

The former of these [roots] resembles, in appearance and taste, the unripe seeds of Indian corn; it is in season in June, and is really very palatable.

Moore (1884b, p. 36)

Jetta,—The root of a species of rush, eaten by the natives, in season in June. It somewhat resembles a grain of Indian corn, both in appearance and taste.

Moore (1884b, p. 47)

Maggoro,—The winter of Western Australia, including the months of June and July. . . . At this period of the year cobbler-fish abound, and the mullet become blind, occasioned it is supposed, by the superabundant mixture of the fresh water with the salt water in the estuaries.

#### *JULY*

Moore (1884b, p. 47)

[see *JUNE*]

#### *AUGUST*

Moore (1884b, p. 36)

[see *SEPTEMBER*]

*SPRING*

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 331)  
[see *WINTER*]

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)

At this period of the year (Mondyeunung of our tribe) comprising from the latter part of October to the middle of January, the Natives bring in considerable numbers of young parrakeets, and some cockatoos, to exchange for food. In the commencement of it, too, they brought us a liquid they had long talked about, which they call mungat, and, from some similitude or other, compared it to our oil and to honey. . . . It proved in reality to be the nectareous fluid of the flowers of the banksia, . . .

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)

The season of the year in which the natives catch the greatest quantity of frogs, and fresh-water shell-fish, is when the swamps are nearly dried up; these animals then bury themselves in holes in the mud, and the native women with their long sticks, and long thin arms, which they plunge up to the shoulder in the slime, manage to drag them out; at all seasons however they catch some of these animals, but in summer a whole troop of native women may be seen paddling about in a swamp, slapping themselves to kill the mosquitoes and sandflies, and every now and then plunging their arms down into the mud, and dragging forth their prey. I have (p. 288) often seen them with ten or twelve pounds weight of frogs in their bags.

Moore (1884b, p. 12)

Bohn, or Bohrn,—A small red root of the *Haemodorum spicatum*. This root in flavour somewhat resembles a very mild onion. It is found at all periods of the year in sandy soils, and forms a principal article of food among the natives. They eat it either raw or roasted.

Nind (1831, p. 30)

They [kangaroos] are also sometimes killed in *woits*, but this plan is more used for the small or brush kangaroo. In this case a portion of the brush is surrounded, and each person begins breaking it down and treading over it, so as to make a complete road all round, carefully stopping the runs of the animals. One or two of the hunters then go in with their dogs, and as the game attempts to pass the clear spot, they are entangled in the brush and knocked on the head. In this way they kill a great many; it is practised almost entirely in the spring before the burning season commences, but it requires a number of people, and the whole of the males of the tribe are generally present.

Nind (1831, p. 31)

At the spring time of the year, they live principally upon the eggs and young of birds, chiefly of the parrot tribe, but also of hawks, ducks, swans, pigeons, &c.

*SUMMER*

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 335)  
[see *SPRING*]

Bradshaw (1857, p. 100)

During the summer months the natives collect quantities of fine gum which they make into cakes, it is equally good as gum arabic; . . .



Bradshaw (1857, p. 102)

During the summer months they often get game by setting fire to the bush and burning out the different animals concealed amongst the logs of timber and scrub.

Browne (1856, p. 492)

During the summer months the tribes of the interior generally make towards the sea coast for the purpose of enjoying a feast on the various kinds of fish which are there to be obtained.

Gilbert (*in* Wagstaffe & Rutherford, 1955, p. 12)

It [a small kangaroo " which I suppose is identical with the *Halmaturus brachyurus* "] inhabits thickets and is destroyed in great numbers at the close of the dry Season, by firing the Bush; the Natives waiting in a clear space to spear them in their attempts to escape the Fire.

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 283)

During the period of the moulting season, they catch many black swans.

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)

[see *SPRING*]

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 294)

*Kwon-nat* is the kind of gum which most abounds, and is considered the nicest article of food. It is a species of gum-tragacynth. In the summer months the acacias, growing in swampy plains, are literally loaded with this gum, and the natives assemble in numbers to partake of this favourite esculent.

Moore (1884b, p. 12)

[see *SPRING*]

Moore (1884b, p. 45)

Kunart, or Kwonnat,—A species of acacia abundant on the banks of estuaries, and in districts having salt lakes. It produces a great quantity of gum in the summer months.

Moore (1884b, p. 73)

Wappi,—A small species of fish, found in the pools of rivers in summer, and taken by pushing boughs through the water from one end of the pool to the other.

Neill (1845, p. 419)

It [*Australuzza novaehollandiae*, or *Sphyraenella obtusata*] comes into the shallow bays in summer; and being a sluggish fish, is easily speared by the (p. 420) natives, who esteem it to be excellent food.

Neill (1845, p. 425)

Very common in all shallow bays in the summer time, where it [? *Phyllichthys punctata*] may be taken by the seine. The natives detect it when its body is buried in the sand, by the glistening of its eyes, and spear it. When fishing with the torch, in the night time, the natives feel for this fish with their naked feet.

Nind (1831, p. 28)

During the winter and early spring they [the Aborigines] are very much scattered; but as summer advances they assemble in greater numbers. It is at that season that they procure the greatest abundance of game. It is done by setting fire to the underwood and grass, which, being dry, is rapidly burnt. . . . As soon as the fire has passed over the ground, they walk over the ashes in search of lizards and snakes, which are thus destroyed (p. 29) in great numbers, and those which have escaped in their holes are easily discovered.

Nind (1831, p. 32)

During the summer and autumn months, the natives derive a large proportion of their food from fish. They have no canoes, neither can they swim, . . . They can, therefore, only catch those fish which approach (p. 33) the shores, or come into shoal water. They have neither nets, nor hook and line, and the only weapon they use is the spear, with which they are very dexterous. In the mouths of streams or rivers, they take large quantities, by weirs made of bushes, but the most common method is pursuing the fish into shoal waters, and spearing them, or as they lie basking on the surface. During calms, they walk over the mud and sand-banks, in search of flat fish, which are easily detected while lying at the bottom. At night, too, they light torches of grass-tree, and thus see the fish at the bottom, apparently asleep, when they very rapidly spear them. By these methods, vast quantities are taken, but it can only be done in dead calms. Another common method is to sit on a rock, motionless, and occasionally throw into the water pieces of limpet, or other shell-fish, keeping the spear under water until the bait is seized by a fish, when they are almost certain of striking it.

Nind (1831, p. 34)

The fresh-water swamps abound with a species of cray-fish, called *challows*, very like those found in rivulets in England. The procuring of these is the employment of the women. In the summer months when the water is partly dried up, they find them in holes in the ground, a foot or more deep, the entrance being small, but sufficiently wide within for the arm to be thrust to the bottom; they are very abundant, . . . The natives roast them in the ashes, and eat them in large quantities.

Nind (1831, p. 36)

At the dry seasons of the year large districts are abandoned for want of water.

#### AUTUMN

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)

[see *SPRING*]

Moore (1884b, p. 12)

[see *SPRING*]

Nind (1831, p. 32)

[see *SUMMER*]

Nind, (1831, p. 33)

In the autumn, when the smaller species of fish approach the shores in large shoals, they surround them, and keep them in shallow water upon the flats until the tide falls and leaves them, when they are easily speared, and very few escape.

Nind (1831, p. 36)

The greatest assemblages, however, are in the autumn (*pournner*), when fish are to be procured in the greatest abundance. Towards the end of autumn, also, they kill kangaroos, by surrounding them.

#### WINTER

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 315)

. . . on the 24th of May, after some rain had fallen, and in the commencement of Mokkar, (winter, or the rainy season,) . . . they took their departure from the coast and even to a boy proceeded inland for the purpose of spearing kangaroo—the season for that species of hunting commencing at that time.

Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 331)

During the winter (Mokkar of the Natives) scarcely any of them came into the Settlement. They appeared for some reasons already adduced to obtain their food more easily in the interior; and I may also mention that the floods at that season of the year, and more particularly when the waters of the rivers retire in the spring, afford great opportunities of procuring fish by means of wares.

Bradshaw (1857, p. 98)

In the winter months they often meet in large parties with their dogs for hunting the kangaroo and emus. When the bush is soft from the heavy rains a number will surround a herd of kangaroos and then close on them when they spear them with ease on account of their being unable to run.

Browne (1856, p. 534)

On the approach of winter the tribes draw off from the coast into the interior of the country, where, encamped in the depth of the forest, they lie sheltered from the severe storms with which the Australian shores are then visited. The fact of the kangaroo, their principal source of sustenance also seeking the shelter of the interior at this season, has, of course, great influence in attracting them from the coast.

Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 287)

[see *SPRING*]

Moore (1884b, p. 12)

[see *SPRING*]

Moore (1884b, p. 74)

Warran.—One of the Dioscoreae. A species of yam, the root of which grows generally to about the thickness of a man's thumb; and to the depth of sometimes of four to six feet in loamy soils. It is sought chiefly at the commencement of the rains, when it is ripe, and when the earth is most easily dug; and it forms the principal article of food for the natives at that season.

Neill (1845, p. 426)

“The flat-nosed mullet” of the natives. . . . In Wilson's Inlet, about forty miles west of King George's Sound, it abounds in the winter months; and the different tribes, from all parts of the coast, assemble there, by invitation of the proprietors of the ground, (the *Murrymin*,) who make great feasts on the occasion.

Nind (1831, p. 30)

The emu is speared chiefly in the winter, at which time they lay their eggs. When a nest is found, the hunters conceal themselves behind a bush near it, and endeavour to secure the male bird first. The female they are pretty certain of, unless she has been disturbed, when she will forsake the nest. Emus, however, are not very often procured by the natives, but, with the kangaroo, are highly esteemed as articles of food.

Paterson (1896, p. 289)

Sometimes very large catches [of fish] were made this way [in fish traps], particularly at the beginning of the winter, when, with the increased rains, the fish returned from the spawning places up stream. At this time the blacks would watch day and night for the fish to come, relieving each other.

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APPENDIX I

List of animal foods arranged in alphabetical order of Aboriginal names; references to quotations and scientific names are also given. The latter were provided by Drs W. D. L. Ride and G. M. Storr, and Mr R. J. McKay, of the Western Australian Museum.

- ballawara** Moore (1884b, p. 4)  
 "A small squirrel-like opossum."
- banggap** Moore (1884b, p. 4)  
 "The Walloby, a small species of kangaroo."
- bardi** Moore (1884b, p. 5) *Bardistus cibarius*  
 "The edible grub found in trees. . . . The Bardi of the Xanthorea [sic] are small, and found together in great numbers."  
 Chauncy (1878, p. 248)  
 ". . . the larvae of a species of cerambyx called bardi. . . . They are about an inch long, and sometimes fifty or a hundred are found boring their way through one grass-tree."
- bardick** Neill (1845, p. 416) *Brachyapis curta*  
 [Snake.] "Dirty olive green over the whole back; belly dirty white; . . . The natives state that the bite produces great swelling of the part for a day or two, and goes off."
- bardie** Hassell (1936, p. 688) Hepialidae  
 "A large white grub found in roots and under the bark of many trees. It was greatly prized and eaten raw or roasted. The taste resembles pounded almonds and cream."  
 Hammond (1933, p. 30) *Bardistus cibarius*  
 "The 'bardie' grub—a fat white grub found in blackboys or wattle trees—was either eaten raw or cooked. . . . The grubs from the black-boy and wattle were the best. The grubs from the banksia were always woody."
- bibilyer** Moore (1884b, p. 8) *Eupodotis australis*  
 "A bustard; colonially, the wild turkey. A fine large bird, frequently weighing twelve to fifteen pounds, and extending full six feet from tip to tip of the wing. It is excellent for eating."
- burdi** Moore (1884b, p. 16) *Bettongia lesueur*  
 "Macropus; a species of small kangaroo, having the habits of a rabbit."
- carta** Hassell (1936, p. 690) *Varanus gouldii*  
 "The iguana (Gould's Monitor). The eggs were highly prized for food. They are about the size of pidgeon eggs and have a tough outer skin but no shell. When roasted in wood ashes they taste like a rich custard, for the yolk and white seem mixed together. They were restricted to the old men and women."
- chondelar** Neill (1845, p. 425) *Phyllichthys punctata* ?  
 [Fish.] "Very common in all the shallow bays in the summer time, . . . The natives detect it when its body is buried in the sand, by the glistening of its eyes, and spear it. When fishing with the torch, in the night time, the natives feel for this fish with their naked feet. Specimen caught August, 1841."
- chudela** see chondelar.



- comal** Nind (1831, p. 32) *Trichosurus vulpecula*  
[A species of possum] "living chiefly in lofty and thick woods, . . . [It] is of a larger size [than the ring-tail], and much lighter in colour, with a brownish bushy tail: it is also fatter; the fur is longer, of a whitish colour, . . ."
- cooljaik** Bunbury (1930, p. 73) *Cygnus atratus*  
". . . black swans . . . during the breeding season they succeed in taking a good many swans (Cooljaik), both old and young, as well as eggs (Nooro)."
- cumbeak** *see ianont.*
- dalgyte** Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 291) *Macrotis lagotis*  
". . . an animal about the size of a weasel, burrow in the earth; these the natives surprise when they are feeding, or dig them from their burrows."
- djilyur** Moore (1884b, p. 21)  
"A small field-mouse, eaten by the natives."
- docat** *see norne.*
- dolgyt** Moore (1884b, p. 23) *Macrotis lagotis*  
"A marsupial animal allied to the kangaroo, except that it has no incisors or cutting teeth, and that the opening to the pouch is from below instead of from above. This seems to be a provision of nature suited to the habits of the animal, for the creature burrows in the ground, and it would be difficult for the young ones to seek shelter suddenly in the parent's pouch if it were otherwise formed, and which they can readily do now, though she should have entered her burrow; and, also, when she burrows, the earth would be thrown into the pouch, if the opening were in the usual position."
- dubyt** Moore (1884b, p. 24) *Demansia affinis*  
"A very venomous yellow-bellied snake, from five to six feet long, much dreaded but eaten by the natives."
- dyinda** Moore (1884b, p. 26)  
"A species of opossum. Portions of the fur of this animal are worn by the aborigines among the hair as an ornament."
- garlgyte** Moore (1884b, p. 28) *Potorous gilbertii*  
"Hypsiprymnus Gilbertii. A species of kangaroo."
- goya** Moore (1884b, p. 33)  
"A species of frog that burrows in the sand, and is eaten by the natives. It is in season in the months of April and May."
- guijak** Moore (1884b, p. 30) *Cygnus atratus*  
"Black swan. This bird may be readily taken when moulting, and soon becomes tame."
- gumal** Moore (1884b, p. 31) *Trichosurus vulpecula*  
"Phalangista vulpina. Large grey opossum."
- gurhra** Moore (1884b, p. 33) *Macropus irma*  
"Macropus caeruleus. The brush kangaroo. A very fleet, active animal of about twenty pounds' weight, having fur of a silver grey colour, with a white stripe on each side of its face."
- guya** *see goya.*
- ianont** Neill (1845, p. 427) *Haletta semifasciatus*  
[Fish.] "Inhabits weedy places in deep water, and along sandy bays. Sometimes taken by the natives on the edge of banks. Specimen caught March 18, 1841."

- kangaronga** Moore (1884b, p. 40)  
 "Female kangaroo."
- karbarda** Moore (1884b, p. 37) *Demansia affinis*  
 "A species of snake, cream-coloured with dark spots. It is considered deadly, and is much dreaded by the natives; . . ."
- kerrygura** Neill (1845, p. 415) *Lialis burtonis*  
 [Lizard.] "Considered by the natives as harmless; the scales of the back are very minute; the tail when broken is sometimes terminated by three horny blunt ends; tongue divided and rounded."
- knamler** Neill (1845, p. 425) *Aldrichetta forsteri*  
 [Fish.] "Frequents shores with sandy beaches, and forms a principal article of food to the native youths, who are continually practising throwing their spears at this fish. Specimen caught April 12, 1841."
- kordong** Neill (1845, pp. 419, 20) *Australuzza novaehollandiae* or *Sphyraenella obtusata*  
 "The 'Common Baraceota' is found off the whole coast of New Holland, but the *Kordong* seems to be peculiar to Western Australia. It comes into the shallow bays in summer; and being a sluggish fish, is easily speared by the natives, who esteem it to be excellent food. It will lay for a minute looking with indifference at its enemy, while he poises the fatal and unerring spear. Specimen caught December 1841."
- kubit** Moore (1884b, p. 45)  
 "The male kangaroo."
- kumal** Moore (1884b, p. 45) *Trichosurus vulpecula*  
 "Phalangista vulpina; large grey opossum. This animal forms a great resource for food to the natives, who climb the tallest trees in search of them, and take them from the hollow branches."
- kundi** Moore (1884b, p. 45) ? *Isoodon obesulus*  
 "A species of marsupial rat. Colonially, Bandicoot. It is something like a guinea-pig, and is very good eating."
- kwakar** Moore (1884b, p. 46) *Setonix brachyurus*  
 "A small species of kangaroo."
- madawick** Neill (1845, p. 425) *Caranx georgianus*  
 [Fish.] "Very common in shallow sandy bays, and forming the staple food of the natives, who assemble in fine calm days, and drive shoals of this fish into weirs that they have constructed of shrubs and branches of trees. Specimen caught May 12, 1841."
- mardo** Moore (1884b, p. 50) *Antechinus flavipes*  
 "A species of rat or mouse eaten by the natives."
- marel** Moore (1884b, p. 51)  
 "A species of unio, or fresh water musel [sic]. Not eaten by the natives, because supposed by them to be poisonous. It has been eaten by the settlers with impunity."
- neenah** Hammond (1933, p. 29) Hemiptera  
 "A white scale which formed on the leaves of the blue gum tree was called 'Mee-nah'. It was not very plentiful but the natives used to eat it and also the insect that was found underneath the scale."

- memon** (1) Neill (1845, p. 424) *Scorpis aequipinnis*  
[Fish.] "It is a gross feeder and poor eating. Very common on rocky shores. Being a bold voracious fish, it is easily speared, . . . Specimen caught June 15, 1841."
- memon** (2) Neill (1845, p. 424) *Kyphosus sydneyanus*  
[Fish.] "Is a gross feeder, and its flesh has a strong disagreeable smell, but is much relished by the Aborigines. Specimen caught May 3, 1841."
- merrong** Neill (1845, p. 426) *Mugil cephalus*  
[Fish.] "In Wilson's Inlet, about forty miles west of King George's Sound, it abounds in the winter months; . . . In the summer it retires to the ocean. Specimen caught September, 1841."
- mimanga** Moore (1884b, p. 53)  
"A whale. Both sperm and black whales abound on the coast. Sometimes a dead whale is thrown on the shore, and affords luxurious living to the natives."
- mirrong** *see merrong.*
- moorhait** Nind (1831, p. 49) *Phaps chalcoptera*  
"Bronze Pigeon."
- muddier** *see memon* (2).
- munnaar** Nind (1831, pp. 30, 31) *Varanus gouldii*  
". . . appears to resemble an iguana found at Sydney; it is long, and generally very lean and lank. At one season, however, it is fat, and very good eating. It makes a hole in the nest of a species of ant, which is a mound of earth four or five feet high, the inner parts consisting of cells constructed of a gummy substance mixed with earth, and is very hard; yet the munnaar burrows from the top nearly to the bottom, and there deposits its eggs, which are the size of a large pigeon's egg, covered with a thick pellicle as tough as parchment. The eggs are about ten or twelve in number, and adhere together. The ants soon repair the hole made by the munnaar, and the warmth of the nest is sufficient to hatch the eggs."
- norn** Neill (1845, p. 417) *Notechis scutatus*  
(or **norne**) "This is the most fatal of the New Holland snakes; the animal bitten seldom recovers. The Aborigines have a great dread of this reptile; they however eat of it if they kill it themselves, but there is a superstition amongst them about snakes, which prevents their eating them if killed by a European."  
Nind (1831, p. 31)  
"The *norne* and the *docat* are much alike, of very dark colour, six and seven feet in length, and their bite generally fatal."
- nuji** Moor (1884b, p. 62)  
"A large species of mouse eaten by the natives."
- nworra** Nind (1831, p. 32) *Pseudocheirus peregrinus*  
". . . the common ring-tail [possum] . . . frequently found in swamps and the low brush which surrounds them."
- pining** Neill (1845, p. 428) *Gonorhynchus greyi*  
[Fish.] "When the skin was removed the flesh was very fat, resembling that of an eel, had an unpleasant smell, and could not be eaten. The natives also were averse to eating it, and only one man acknowledged to have seen it before. Specimen caught April 7, 1841."

- quoint** Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 339) ? *Perameles*  
 “. . . bandicoots (*perameles nasutus* and *ecaudatus*) . . .”
- tabeduck** Neill (1845, p. 430) ? *Nehusetta ayraud*  
 [Fish.] “Inhabits deep water in rocky places, and is very common. It is esteemed for food by the Aborigines: . . . Specimen caught May 12, 1841.”
- tchark** Neill (1845, p. 420) *Sciaena antarctica*  
 [Fish.] “Grows to a great size; as I am informed by the natives, that they often spear individuals weighing sixty or seventy pounds. This fish enters the fresh-water periodically, . . . to spawn, . . . Specimen caught August 30, 1941.”
- tdunjar** Moore (1884b, p. 69)  
 “A species of frog eaten by the natives.”
- tookyte** see **tornock**.
- toorjenong** Neill (1845, p. 422) *Psilocranium nigricans*  
 [Fish.] “They are sluggish, and easily speared by the Aborigines, whose chief food it constitutes at certain seasons. The specimen was speared in my presence by Wallup, on the 8th of June, 1841. The Toorjenong grows to a large size, exceeding twenty pounds in weight. It is a gross feeder, and its flesh is hard and dry, but the head and sides are much prized by the natives, . . .”
- tornock** Neill (1845, p. 415) *Demansia affinis*  
 [Snake.] “The women of King George’s Sound declare the bite of the Torn-ock mortal: but the men laugh at that, and maintain that three days ‘couple’, (sleep) will restore the patients. This is a favourite food of the natives of King George’s Sound.”
- torkite** Neill (1845, p. 416) *Rhinoplocephalus bicolor*  
 “Not at all dreaded by the natives; venomous, but not deadly, the bite merely producing a bad ulcer for a day or two.”
- tuk** Moore (1884b, p. 70)  
 “A species of frog eaten by the natives (thus named from the noise it makes).”
- wackul** Nind (1831, p. 31) *Python spilotos*  
 “The *wackul* is the common diamond snake of New South Wales, and is not venomous.”
- wait** Nind (1831, pp. 30, 49) *Dromaius novaehollandiae*  
 “The emu is speared chiefly in the winter, at which time they lay their eggs. . . . Emus, however, are not very often procured by the natives, but, with the kangaroo, are highly esteemed as articles of food.”
- wakel** Neill (1845, p. 417) *Python spilotos*  
 “This snake is considered by the natives a great delicacy, and by their account resembles mutton in flavour, being also remarkably fat. . . . easily caught by the women, who seize them behind the head and wring their necks.”
- walyo** Moore (1884b, p. 72) *Bettongia penicillata*  
 “The Kangaroo-rat. An animal nearly as large as a wild rabbit, tolerably abundant, and very good eating. The natives take them by driving a spear in the nest, . . . which is formed of leaves upon the ground.”

- wandie** Nind (1831, p. 31) *Egernia kingii*  
 “The . . . lizard, called *wandie*, is of a very dark colour, has a long round tail. It is generally found among rocks, and conceals itself under them; it also inhabits hollow trees or holes in the ground; and is a very lively animal, and quick in its motions.”
- wango** Moore (1884b, p. 72)  
 “. . . a species of snake particularly liked as food by the aborigines.”
- wappi** Moore (1884b, p. 73)  
 “A small species of fish, found in the pools of rivers in summer, and taken by pushing boughs through the water from one end of the pool to the other.”
- waumilyar** Moore (1884b, p. 75) Hemiptera  
 “Colonially called Manna. A white sweetish substance, found on and under certain trees and plants, supposed to be some insect secretion. It is much prized by the natives. . . . When the native women find a quantity of it collected about an ant-hill, they fling the furry side of their cloak upon it, to which it adheres. They then carry off the cloak and secure their prize, the ants have dropped off the fur in the meantime.”
- waunugur** *see pining.*
- werr** Neill (1845, p. 416) *Denisonia coronata*  
 [Snake.] “Doubtful if poisonous; little dreaded by the natives.”
- widji** Moore (1884b, p. 76) *Dromaius novaehollandiae*  
 “An emu. . . . A full-grown one, when erect, stands seven feet high. The natives creep on them and spear them. The flesh is very good for eating in the proper season, tasting something like veal.”
- william  
lunger** Neill (1845, p. 415) *Lialis burtonis*  
 [Lizard.] “Tongue not forked, broad, and rounded off at the point. Not poisonous or at all dreaded by the natives; finely striped down the back, and spotted with deep brown equal marks; has a lappel [sic] on each side of the vent.”
- woail** Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 4) *Bettongia penicillata*  
 “. . . kangaroo rats (wo-ail) . . .”
- wodta** Moore (1884b, p. 78) *Phaps chalcoptera*  
 “Columba. The Bronze-winged pigeon. Most delicate eating. It abounds in summer, when the acacia seeds are ripe.”
- woile** Moore (1884b, p. 78) *Bettongia penicillata*  
 “A small species of kangaroo.”
- womela** Drummond (1843c) Hemiptera  
 “They also collect a saccharine substance resembling manna, which they call ‘womela’ from the leaves of the York Gum.”
- worogut** *see ianont.*
- wulgang** Moore (1884b, p. 78)  
 “A grub found in the Xanthorea [sic] or Grass tree, distinguished from the Bardi by being much larger, and found only one or two in a tree, whereas the Bardi are found by the hundreds.”
- wurak** Moore (1884b, p. 79) ? *Lagorchestes hirsutus*  
 “Macropus elegans; a species of kangaroo.”

- wurgyl** Moore (1884b, p. 79)  
“ A frog. When this species of frog has the embryo within it in the state of the young roe of a fish, it forms a favourite food of the natives, and marks a particular season. They are found in great abundance in the swamp and shallow lakes.”
- yangor** Moore (1884b, p. 81) *Macropus fuliginosus*  
“ The kangaroo species in general.”
- yinbi** Moore (1884b, p. 82)  
“ A species of *Unio*, or fresh-water muscle [sic]. The natives will not eat it, though the settlers have used it with impunity.” [See **marel**.]
- youern** Nind (1831, p. 31) *Tiliqua rugosa*  
“ The . . . short-tailed *youern*, has a large head, and an enormous mouth, which, when attacked, it immediately opens, and exhibits a purplish coloured tongue; its body is covered with large scales of a grey colour, but having traverse patches of brown. It is very sluggish, and does not burrow in holes, but conceals itself in the long grass. They are frequently found in pairs. The female, when pregnant, has two large eggs in her, but I have never seen them deposited. According to the natives she buries them in the sand very near the surface, and they are hatched by the warmth of the sun. These *youerns* are frequently found in ants' nests, constructed of straw or leaves, with minute portions of sand.”
- youangur** Moore (1884b, p. 83)  
“ A species of frog eaten by the natives.”

## APPENDIX 2

## LIST OF ANIMALS USED FOR FOOD

	Scientific name			Aboriginal name	
MAMMALS	<i>Antechinus flavipes</i>	....	....	mardo	
	<i>Bettongia lesueur</i>	....	....	burdi	
	<i>Bettongia penicillata</i>	....	....	walyo woail woile	
	<i>Isoodon obesulus</i>	....	....	kundi	
	<i>Lagorchestes hirsutus</i>	....	....	wurak	
	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>	....	....	yangor	
	<i>Macropus irma</i>	....	....	gurhra	
	<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	....	....	dalgyte dolgyte	
	<i>Perameles</i> sp.	....	....	quoint	
	<i>Potorous gilberti</i>	....	....	garlgyte	
	<i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>	....	....	nworra	
	<i>Setonix brachyurus</i>	....	....	kwakar	
	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	....	....	comal gumal kumal	
	BIRDS	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	....	....	cooljaik guijak
		<i>Dromaius novaehollandiae</i>	....	....	wait widji
<i>Eupodotis australis</i>		....	....	bibilyer	
<i>Plaps chalcoptera</i>		....	....	moorhait wodta	
REPTILES		<i>Brachyopsis curta</i>	....	....	bardick
	<i>Demansia affinis</i>	....	....	dubyt karbarda tornock	
	<i>Denisonia coronata</i>	....	....	werr	
	<i>Egernia kingii</i>	....	....	wandie	
	<i>Lialis burtonis</i>	....	....	kerrygura william lunger	
	<i>Notechis scutatus</i>	....	....	norn norne	
	<i>Python spilottus</i>	....	....	wackul wakel	
	<i>Rhinoplocephalus bicolor</i>	....	....	torkite	
	<i>Tiliqua rugosa</i>	....	....	youern	
	<i>Varanus gouldii</i>	....	....	carta munnaar	
FISH	<i>Aldrichetta forsteri</i>	....	....	knamler	
	<i>Australuzza novaehollandiae</i>	....	....	kordong	
	<i>Caranx georgianus</i>	....	....	madawick	
	<i>Gonorhynchus greyi</i>	....	....	pining	

Scientific name						Aboriginal name
<i>Haletta semifasciatus</i>	....	....	....	....	....	ianont worogut
<i>Kyphosus sydneyanus</i>	....	....	....	....	....	memon (2)
<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	....	....	....	....	....	merrong
<i>Nelusetta ayraud (?)</i>	....	....	....	....	....	tabeduck
<i>Phyllichthys punctata (?)</i>	....	....	....	....	....	chondelar chundela
<i>Psilocranium nigricans</i>	....	....	....	....	....	toorjenong
<i>Sciaena antarctica</i>	....	....	....	....	....	tchark
<i>Scorpis aequipinnis</i>	....	....	....	....	....	memon (1)
<i>Sphyraenella obtusata</i>	....	....	....	....	....	kordong
INSECTS						
<i>Bardistus cibarius</i>	....	....	....	....	....	bardi bardie
Hemiptera	....	....	....	....	....	meenah waumilyar womela
Hepialidae	....	....	....	....	....	bardie



APPENDIX 3

List of plant foods arranged in alphabetical order of Aboriginal names; references to quotations and scientific names are also given. The latter were provided by Mr Paul Wilson of the Western Australian State Herbarium and Dr G. M. Storr of the Western Australian Museum.

A. Area from which information given in the list was collected

Anon. [Collie]	:	Albany
Bell	:	Mingenew
Drummond	:	Perth—Toodyay area
Gilbert	:	Perth
Grey	:	Perth—South-West area
Hammond	:	Perth—Pinjarra
Hassell	:	Jerramungup
Irwin	:	Perth
Moore	:	Perth (some from Albany)
Nind	:	Albany
Parker	:	Dongara
Roth	:	Bunbury

B. List of plant foods

<b>adtjikoh</b>	Hammond (1933, p. 23) "The 'Warryn' or 'Adtjikoh' was a white root which grew best amongst the loose stones and rocks of the Darling Ranges, generally in a very damp place. These roots were known to grow up to three feet in length and had a diameter of from half an inch to two inches."	<i>Dioscorea hastifolia</i>
<b>baio</b>	Stokes (1846, vol. 2, p. 132) "Red fruit, nut, called <i>baio</i> ripe in March, is considered a delicacy by the natives."	<i>Macrozamia riedlei</i>
<b>bayio</b>	Ward & Fountain (1907, p. 211) "There is one palm ( <i>Zamia media</i> —native, gherge), the nut of which, called bay-i-o by the blacks, is much sought after by them, as they are very fond of it."	<i>Macrozamia riedlei</i>
<b>balga</b>	Moore (1884b, p. 3) "The flower-stem yields a gum used for food."	<i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i>
<b>bhon</b>	Drummond (1842b) "The Bhon is the root of <i>Haemodorum Spicatum</i> ."	<i>Haemodorum spicatum</i>
<b>biara</b>	Moore (1884b, p. 7) "The <i>Banksia</i> tree, with long narrow leaves; colonially, honeysuckle, from the hairy, long, cone-shaped flowers, producing abundance of honey, which the natives are fond of regaling upon, either by sucking or soaking the flowers in water."	<i>Banksia attenuata</i>
<b>bohn</b>	Moore (1884b, p. 12) "Bohn, or Bohrn. A small red root of the <i>Haemodorum Spicatum</i> . This root in flavour somewhat resembles a very mild onion. It is found at all periods of the year in sandy soils, and forms a principal article of food among the natives. They eat it either raw or roasted."	<i>Haemodorum spicatum</i>
<b>boon</b>	Hammond (1933, p. 29) "'Boon' was the name of the red bulb which grew in sandy country."	? <i>Drosera</i>
<b>boyoo</b>	Hammond (1933, p. 28) "The 'Boyoo' was the fruit of the <i>zamia</i> palms, and grew in the centre of the palm in clusters that looked much like a large pineapple."	<i>Macrozamia riedlei</i>

- brigo** Moore (1884b, p. 14)  
 "An edible root resembling the Bohn."
- budjan** Moore (1884b, p. 14) *Dryandra fraseri*  
 "Dryandra Fraseri (a shrub). The flower abounds in honey, and is much sought after by the natives."
- butogo** Moore (1884b, p. 16)  
 "A species of edible fungus."
- butyak** Moore (1884b, p. 16) *Dryandra fraseri*  
 "Dryandra Fraseri. The flowers are thistle-shaped, and abound with honey; they are sucked by the natives like the Man-gyt or Banksia flowers."
- bwyego** Moore (1884b, p. 17)  
 "A species of fungus eaten by the natives."
- byyu** Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 295) *Macrozamia riedlei*  
 "This name is applied to the pulp of the nut of a species of palm; which, in its natural state, acts as a most violent emetic and cathartic; . . ."  
 Moore (1884b, p. 17)  
 "The fruit of the Zamia tree."
- cara** Drummond (1842b)  
 "... round white roots called . . . Cara, by the natives, which they sometimes eat."
- chokern** Nind (1831, p. 35) *Prasophyllum* sp.  
 "Before the young root [of the *tuboc*] comes to maturity it is called chokern."
- choket** Nind (1831, p. 35)  
 "The choket is the small bulbous root of a rush; it is very fibrous, and only edible at one season."
- chuek** Hassell (1936, p. 689) *Exocarpos sparteus* or *E. odoratus*  
 "Wild cherry. This is a graceful tree something like a weeping willow in habit, with pale green and narrow leaves. The fruit grows all along the stems between the leaves and is like a small red currant. Green seeds, about the size of grape seeds, grow on the outside near the ends. They have a sharp bitter flavour. The fruit is sub-acid like a currant. It was collected by spreading cloaks under the trees and shaking them."
- eonna** Drummond (1839a *MS. date*) *Eucalyptus wandoo*  
 "The White Gum . . . has large tuberous roots, sometimes 3-4 inches in diameter or more, the natives eat this root, which they call Conna, it is very juicy; the juice having a sweetish taste with a slight flavour of celery, the root seems to contain very little starch . . ."
- djakat** Moore (1884b, p. 20)  
 "A small root eaten by the natives; in season in the months of September and October."
- djanbar** Moore (1884b, p. 20)  
 "The same as Madja; an edible root; a coarse kind of Bohn."
- djettah** Hammond (1933, p. 29)  
 "'Djettah' was a white bulb that grew in and around water holes."
- djubak** Moore (1884b, p. 22) ? *Prasophyllum fimbria*  
 "An orchid, the root of which is the size and shape of a new potato, and is eaten by the natives. It is in blossom in the month of October. The flower is a pretty white blossom, scented like the heliotrope."

- djunbar** Moore (1884b, p. 22)  
 "A sort of gum caten by the natives."
- doatta** Drummond (1839a *MS. date*) *Eucalyptus loxophleba*  
 "The Eucalyptus found on the sandy loam, is called by the settlers York Gum, by the natives Doatta; they use the bark of the root as food in the dry season chewing it along with the gum of the Manna."
- dolgar** Moore (1884b, p. 23)  
 "An edible gum of the Hakea."
- dtalyil** Moore (1844b, p. 24)  
 "A small species of fungus eaten by the natives."
- dtulya** Moore (1884b, p. 24) *Exocarpos odoratus*  
 "Exocarpos cupressiformis. This with the By-yu and the Kolbogo, and a few other things deserving no better name than berries, of no particularly good flavour, are all that have yet been found in the country in the way of fruit."
- dulgar** Moore (1884b, p. 23)  
 "The gum of the Hakea. Eaten by the natives."
- dumbung** Moore (1884b, p. 25) *Xylomelum occidentale*  
 "Xylomela occipentalis; the native pear-tree. It bears a hard solid woody substance which has a most tantalising outward resemblance to a good fruit."
- eringo** Irwin (1835, p. 23) *?Platysace* sp.  
 "The principal root they use is the eringo, or wild parsnip, which grows to a depth of three or four feet in loam and other strong soils."
- galyang** Moore (1884b, p. 27) *Acacia microbotrya*  
 "The gum of the Gal-yang, or wattle tree, eaten by the natives. It is soluble in water, and is one of the best gums in the country for all common purposes."
- ganno** Moore (1884b, p. 28)  
 "A root found at York, eaten by the natives, and resembling a potato in shape."
- goatta** Drummond (1843 *MS. date*) *Eucalyptus loxophleba*  
 "The natives use the bark of the Goatta as food, chewing it until they separate the saccharine matter which the root contains when they spit out the residue, which is generally to be seen in quantities near their bivouacs."
- gurago** Moore (1884b, p. 32)  
 "A root caten by the natives."
- guardyn** Moore (1884b, p. 34)  
 "A root eaten by the natives; it somewhat resembles the Bohn, but is tougher and more stringy."
- jetta** Moore (1884b, p. 36) *Typha* sp.  
 "The root of a species of rush, eaten by the natives, in season in June. It somewhat resembles a grain of Indian corn, both in appearance and taste."
- jitetgoran** Moore (1884b, p. 37)  
 "A root eaten by the natives."
- jitta** Drummond (1842b)  
 "Round white roots called Jitta . . . by the natives, which they sometimes eat."  
 Moore (1884b, p. 36)  
 "The bulbous root of an orchis, eaten by the natives, about the size of a hazel-nut."

- joobuck** Hammond (1933, p. 29)  
 “ ‘Joo-buck’ was a white bulb with a long stalk. Some of the bulbs were as large as a tennis ball, and they were very nice to eat.”
- kamak** Moore (1884b, p. 39)  
 “ A small kind of Kuruba, found in the York district.”
- karhrh** Moore (1884b, p. 41) *Caesia* sp.  
 “ A tuberose root, like several small potatoes. It belongs to the Orchis tribe.”
- karno** Bell (*pers. comm.*) *Platysace maxwellii*  
 “ Roots from this plant are collected throughout the year. Each plant has a number of roots about 18–24 inches below the ground. A digging stick is used to reach the roots, which are brown on the outside and white inside. The younger ones which grow nearer the surface are preferred to the older ones. The roots are eaten either raw or roasted. The raw roots contain moisture and are sometimes eaten to quench thirst.”  
 (Collected by Maggie Bell 19 August 1967.)
- kolbogo** Moore (1884b, p. 43) *Carpobrotus* sp. probably *C. virescens*  
 “ Mesembryanthemum equilateralis; the Hottentot fig-plant. The inner part of the fruit is eaten by the natives. It has a salt sweetish taste.”
- koolah** Hammond (1933, p. 28) *Podocarpus drouyniana*  
 “ . . . the ‘Koolah’ was to be found only in the Augusta and Albany districts. In many respects it resembled the stone of the plum. Another peculiarity of this fruit was that it had two small blooms on the end of it.”
- koolung** Bell (*pers. comm.*) *Haemodorum spicatum*  
 “ A bulb with a hot flavour when eaten raw. Usually roasted before being eaten.”  
 (Collected by Maggie Bell 19 August 1967.)
- koragong** Moore (1884b, p. 44)  
 (or **wurdo**) “ A species of fungus growing on the ground, of a sweetish taste, red-coloured, and very juicy.”
- kunart** Moore (1884b, p. 45) *Acacia microbotrya*  
 “ A species of acacia abundant on the banks of estuaries, and in districts having salt lakes. It produces a great quantity of gum in the summer months. From the seeds of this tree the natives to the south obtain, by pounding them, a flour, which they make into dampers, or unleavened bread.”
- kuredjigo** Moore (1884b, p. 46)  
 “ A root eaten by the natives.”
- kurren** Moore (1884b, p. 46) ? *Baeckea camphorosmae*  
 “ A species of shrub to which medical properties are attributed by the natives of King George’s Sound. It is a sensitive plant, and when drying assumes an unnatural pale yellow colour, and emits a smell like most powerful garlic: in this state the natives use it in case of headache, waving it under the nose of the patient.”
- kuruba** Moore (1884b, p. 46) ? *Sollya*  
 “ The fruit of a creeper eaten by the natives. It is of a long slender, ovate shape, and when roasted in the fire is of a pleasant lemon peel flavour. It is one of the very few things which can be considered as approaching to an indigenous fruit.”

<b>kwonnat</b>	Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 294) “ <i>Kwon-nat</i> is the kind of gum which most abounds, and is considered the nicest article of food. It is a species of gum-tragacynth. In the summer months the acacias, growing in swampy plains, are literally loaded with this gum, and the natives assemble in numbers to partake of this favourite esculent.”	<i>Acacia ? microbotrya</i>
<b>madge</b>	Drummond (1842b) “The Madge is the root of <i>Haemodorum paniculatum</i> .”	<i>Haemodorum paniculatum</i>
<b>madja</b>	Moore (1884b, p. 47) “ <i>Haemodorum paniculatum</i> , an edible root.”	<i>Haemodorum paniculatum</i>
<b>majerak</b>	Moore (1884b, p. 48) “The small Hottentot fig. The fruit is eaten by the natives.”	<i>Carpobrotus</i> sp.
<b>manbibi</b>	Moore (1884b, p. 49) “The small Hottentot fig.”	<i>Carpobrotus</i> sp.
<b>mangaitch</b>	Roth (1903, p. 49) “Upon this sandy tract of country, . . . two species of <i>Banksia</i> grew abundantly, one conspicuous by its broad leaf, the other by its narrow leaf. Each species bore cones with pitcher-shaped flowers, which, containing a quantity of honey, were especially visited by the black cockatoos. The natives appreciated the honey also, and, . . . would bite into them and suck the saccharine matter out. At other times they utilized the honey by making a fermented drink of it, . . . The aboriginals called the cones and the fermented liquor produced therefrom by the same name—the mangaitch.”	
<b>mangite</b>	Drummond (1939a <i>MS. date</i> ) “One large <i>Banksia</i> the native Mangite . . . the natives, men, women and children live for five to six weeks particularly upon the honey which they suck from the flowers of this fine tree.”	? <i>Banksia grandis</i>
<b>mangyt</b>	Moore (1884b, p. 50) “The large yellow cone-shaped flowers of the <i>Banksia</i> , containing a quantity of honey, which the natives are fond of sucking. Hence the tree has obtained the name of the honeysuckle tree. One flower contains at the proper season more than a tablespoon of honey.”	? <i>Banksia grandis</i>
<b>manna</b>	Drummond (1839a <i>MS. date</i> ) “. . . the <i>Acacia</i> called Manna by the natives, which produces great quantity of gum resembling gum-arabic in the dry season, forming an important article of their food: . . .”	<i>Acacia microbotrya</i>
<b>marang</b>	Moore (1884b, p. 50) “One of the edible roots.”	
<b>mean</b>	Backhouse (1843, p. 527) “Among their articles of food, is the long bulb, of <i>Hemodorum</i> [sic] <i>teretifolium</i> , which they call Mean; and poor fare, it truly is, occasioning their tongues to crack grievously; it is prepared for eating by being roasted, and beaten up with the earth, from the inside of the nest of the White Ant, or with a red substance, found on burnt ground.”	<i>Haemodorum</i> sp.
<b>meen (1)</b>	Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 319) “. . . they made an excursion and returned before dark laden with meen ( <i>Haemodorum spicatum</i> ) and this constituted their supper, . . . they prepared the root by roasting and beating on one stone with the other, . . .”	<i>Haemodorum spicatum</i>

- meen** (2) Hassell (1936, p. 689) *Acacia microbotrya*  
 "Gum from the wattle tree. It forms in soft and sticky lumps gathered by the women and pressed into large, round balls. When wanted for food, lumps were knocked off and chewed."
- meernes** Nind (1831, p. 34)  
 "The meernes, . . . are scarlet roots, not unlike, in shape and size, tulip-roots."
- mein** Hassell (1936, p. 689) *Haemodorum spicatum*  
 "A tall, edible, rush-like plant with a black stem. The roots are bright red in color and like a leek in shape. The juice leaves a red stain. The roots are sweet, juicy and hot."
- mene** Grey (1841, vol. 2, p. 293) *Haemodorum* sp.  
 ". . . the *mene* has rather an acid taste, and when eaten alone is said, by the natives, to cause dysentery; they never use it, in the southern districts, without pounding it between two stones, and sprinkling over it a few pinches of an earth which they consider extremely good and nutritious; they then pound the mould and the root together into a paste, and swallow it as a *bonne bouche*, the noxious qualities of the plant being destroyed by the earth."
- menna** Moore (1884b, p. 52) *Acacia microbotrya*  
 "The gum of one species of acacia, which is sometimes prepared by being first pounded, then mixed with spittle, and made into a ball, and finally, beaten into a flat cake, when it is kept by the natives, as a provision against a time of want."
- mini** Moore (1884b, p. 53)  
 "An edible root. A large species of Bohn."
- mnkar** Drummond (1843e) ? *Eucalyptus calophylla*  
 "The trunk of the red gum produces a remarkable saceharine substance which they call mnkar and esteemed much as food."
- monecat** Nind (1831, p. 35)  
 "When the different species of *Banksia* first come into bloom, they collect from the flowers a considerable quantity of honey, of which the natives are particularly fond, and gather large quantities of the flowers (*monecat*) to suck."
- mord** Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 339)  
 ". . . fungus . . . species of boletus . . . grows out of the ground, of a greyish colour, and globular form."
- mungah** Hassell (1936, p. 689) *Nuytsia floribunda*  
 "A tall tree with deep orange-coloured blossoms. The natives dug up the suekers, which are numerous, peeled off the pale yellow outer bark, and ate the moist brittle center which tastes like sugar eandy."
- mungat** Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 319) *Banksia* sp.  
 ". . . they brought us a liquid they had long talked about, which they call mungat . . . the nectareous fluid of the flowers of the banksia, . . ."
- munghite** Bunbury (1930, p. 80) *Banksia* sp.  
 ". . . Munghites as they call the flower of the *Banksia*, from which they extract by suction a delicious juice resembling a mixture of honey and dew."
- mungite** Hassell (1936, p. 689) *Banksia* sp.  
 "A species of banishia (?) which shows on the coast and near creeks. . . The flowers are about four inches long and are composed of slender stems. The podless ones have the longest blossoms. At the base of the flowers there are quantities of honey, which can easily be sucked out."

- murrumburru** Parker (*pers. comm.*) *Astroloma serratifolium*  
 "Small green berries eaten by the Aborigines."  
 (Collected by Nellie Parker 20 August 1967.)
- mutta (1)** Bell (*pers. comm.*) *Haemodorum paniculatum*  
 "A red bulb which when eaten raw has a hot taste. It is usually  
 roasted before being eaten."  
 (Collected by Maggie Bell 19 August 1967.)
- mutta (2)** Parker (*pers. comm.*) *Haemodorum simulans*  
 "Small red bulb which has a hot taste. Eaten either raw or roasted."  
 (Collected by Nellie Parker 20 August 1967.)
- naank** Nind (1831, p. 35) *Prasophyllum* sp.  
 "... the old one [root of the *tuboc*] is called *naank*."
- namman** Moore (1884b, p. 59) ? *Sollya* sp.  
 "A sort of fruit growing on a low shrub like the Kamak."
- nangergun** Moore (1884b, p. 59)  
 "An edible root."
- ngonyang** Moore (1884b, p. 66)  
 "The honey or nectar of flowers; sugar. The flower of the Budjan.  
 It abounds in honey. Also a saccharine juice, which exudes plentifully  
 from the red-gum tree in the warm season."
- ngulya** Moore (1884b, p. 67)  
 "An edible root of a reddish colour, something like Bohn in flavour,  
 but tougher and more stringy."
- ngumbit** Moore (1884b, p. 67) *Eucalyptus calophylla*  
 "The flower of the red-gum tree, which, steeped in water, affords a  
 honey-sweet beverage, much relished by the natives."
- nguto** Moore (1884b, p. 67)  
 "An edible root."
- nugoo** Parker (*pers. comm.*) *Banksia sphaerocarpa*  
 "The nectar from the spikes of a Banksia. On a wet day the nectar is  
 sucked straight from the spikes, at other times the spikes are soaked in  
 water for a few minutes and then the water is drunk."  
 (Collected by Nellie Parker 20 August 1967.)
- numar** Anon. [Collie] (1834, p. 339)  
 "... fungus ... species of boletus ... growing out of trees, of a  
 beautiful crimson colour above."  
 Drummond (1839b *MS. date*)  
 "The natives use several species of Boletus as food: two of the principal  
 they call Numar or Woorda, ... the Numar has the stem at one side,  
 it divides into several lobes and when full grown weighs many pounds,  
 it is seen near the roots of Mahogany trees and seems to be a para-  
 sitical."
- numbit** Drummond (1843e) *Eucalyptus calophylla*  
 "They collect the flowers of the red gum which they call 'numbit'  
 and washing them in their cloaks, drink the water which is sweetened  
 by the honey they contain."
- numbrid** Moore (1884b, p. 62) *Eucalyptus calophylla*  
 "The flower or blossoms of the red-gum tree, from which the natives  
 make a favourite beverage by soaking the flowers in the water."

- poilyenum** Hassell (1936, p. 689) *Santalum spicatum*  
 "A sandal-wood which has a round red seed. The skin of the seed is tough and tastes like alum. The nut has a smooth surface, a brown colour, and is about the size of a large marble. The kernals are oily and have a bitter flavour."
- quarandine** Drummond (1842b) *Haemodorum* sp.  
 "The Quarandine is the root of *Haemodorum Planifolium*."
- quirting** Hassell (1936, p. 689) ?*Typha* sp.  
 "A plant which grows like a flag. It has a broad, light green leaf and a root like a leek. It grows six or eight inches into the ground and is deep salmon in colour. The taste is like a chili or pepper."
- quonert** Hassell (1936, p. 690) *Acacia saligna*, *A. acuminata* and *Eucalyptus cornuta* or *E. occidentalis*.  
 "A native food consisting of the mixture of seeds from the black wattle and raspberry jam tree ground into a meal and mixed with *yate*."
- tjungoori** Bell (*pers. comm.*) *Thysantus patersonii*  
 "A creeper with mauve flowers. The vine and the leaves are collected and rolled into a ball. The ashes from the fire are cleared away and the tjungoori placed on the hot ground and covered with ashes where it is left for about 10 minutes. It is then ground producing a green powder. This is eaten with the root of the York Gum."  
 (Collected by Maggie Bell 19 August 1967.)
- tuboc** Nind (1831, p. 35) *Prasophyllum* sp.  
 "The *tuboc* is of the tribe Orchindae: it is very pleasant eating, when roasted. In the early part of spring it throws up a single stem, hollow, and similar in appearance to that of the onion, but is mucilaginous, and sweetish to the taste."
- twotta** Moore (1884b, p. 70) *Eucalyptus loxophleba*  
 "A Eucalyptus, of which the natives chew the bark of the roots, wrapped about gum, or pounded up with it into a cake. Colonially, the York gum-tree, being the principal timber which characterises that district."
- wargae** Gilbert in Wagstaffe & Rutherford (1954, p. 496)  
 "... Natives, for their Season of meeting in great numbers to dig the edible Root called by them Wargae is now in full force . . ."  
 (October 1842.)
- warran** Moore (1884b, p. 74) *Dioscorea hastifolia*  
 "One of the Dioscoreae. A species of yam, the root of which grows generally to about the thickness of a man's thumb; and to the depth of sometimes of four to six feet in loamy soils. It is sought chiefly at the commencement of the rains, when it is ripe, and when the earth is more easily dug; and it forms the principal article of food for the natives at that season. It is found in this part of Australia, from a short distance south of the Murray, nearly as far to the north as Gantheaume Bay. It grows in light rich soil on the low lands, and also among the fragments of basaltic and granite rocks on the hills."
- warryn** Hammond (1933, p. 28) *Dioscorea hastifolia*  
 "The 'Warryn' or 'Adtjikoh' was a white root which grew best amongst the loose stones and rocks of the Darling Ranges, generally in a very damp place. These roots were known to grow up to three feet in length and had a diameter of from half an inch to two inches."
- willarak** Moore (1884b, p. 77) *Santalum spicatum*  
 "Santalum latifolium, Sandalwood tree. The smoke of it when burning produces nausea in most persons. It bears a nut, having a white



- kernel of the size of a musket bullet, from which oil of a pure quality, without taste or smell, may be expressed. This nut, though not disagreeable, is not eaten by the natives."
- wolgol** Hassell (1936, p. 689)  
 "A kind of nut called quondong in eastern Australia. The trees are tall and not unlike a cherry tree, while yellowish pale green leaves are shaped like a narrow pear leaf. The berries are red, resembling a large deep-red cherry. The thick skin is separated from the stone by only a little flesh. The deeply crinkled stones have a slightly tart flavour. The kernals taste like Brazilian nuts. Stones vary from the size of a small marble to that of two thumbs."
- worrain** Roth (1903, p. 48) *Dioscorea hastifolia*  
 "Many kinds of roots and yams were eaten; among the latter the wor-rain, showing thick yellow blossoms, was very common, growing down to a depth of quite 3 feet, and running from the thickness of the finger to that of the wrist."  
 Bell (*pers. comm.*)  
 "The tubers which grew to a considerable depth were dug up by the women with a digging-stick. The tubers were roasted and then pounded."  
 (Collected by Maggie Bell 19 August 1967.)
- wuanga** Hassell (1936, p. 690) *Acacia saligna*  
 "The seed of the black wattle is called *wuanga*."
- wurdo** Moore (1884b, p. 44)  
 "A species of fungus growing on the ground, of a sweetish taste, red-coloured, and very juicy."
- wyrang** Drummond (1842a) *?Dioscorea hastifolia*  
 "The native Yam, called Wyrang, by the natives, the finest esculent vegetable the colony naturally produces is now [4 May 1842] beginning to flower."
- yandijut** Drummond (1842c) *Typha* sp.  
 "*Typha angustifolia*. This plant is an important one to the natives, as it furnishes them with, at one season of the year, with a large portion of their food. . . . The plant is abundant in most of our lakes and rivers, but it is only in the autumn months, when the plant is in a state of rest, that it contains much starch in the roots."
- yandyett** Moore (1884a, p. 220) *Typha* sp.  
 "Got from the natives a piece of bread made of the root of the flag which they call *yandyett*. . . . They peel the root, roast it and pound it, and bake it. The root is as thick as your finger, and a foot long."
- yanjidi** Moore (1884b, p. 81) *Typha* sp.  
 "An edible root of a species of flag (*Typha angustifolia*), growing along fresh-water streams and the banks of pools. It consists of many tender filaments with layers of a farinaceous substance between. . . . This root is in season in April and May, when the broad leaves will have been burned by the summer fires, by which the taste, according to the native ideas, is improved."
- yate** Hassell (1936, p. 690) *Eucalyptus cornuta* or *E. occidentalis*  
 "The *yate* is a species of Eucalyptus from which the sap was secured by scrapping pieces of bark stripped from the tree. The sap is a thick, purplish syrup, which is very sweet."

- yoke Nind (1831, p. 35)  
"They describe various kind of roots in the interior that are eaten by them. One species they call *yoke*, and say that it resembles our potato, being as large and as well tasted; but it has only one tuber to a stem, and is altogether different in its leaf and appearance."
- youck Hassell (1936, p. 689) *? Platysace* sp.  
"A sort of yam. The size varies from that of a thumb to as large as three-quarters of a pound. The roots may be red, pink or yellowish white according to the color of the ground they are in. The plants are round, small, scrubby bushes about two feet high and have a small sage green leaf. The roots spread over a considerable area and have tubers at their extremities."
- Bell (*pers. comm.*) *Prasophyllum* sp.  
"This plant has only one bulb about 9 inches below the ground. Women use a digging-stick to collect it. Usually roasted before being eaten."  
(Collected by Maggie Bell 19 August 1967.)
- Parker (*pers. comm.*) *Amyema fitzgeraldii*  
"This is a parasite which grows on *Acacia acuminata*. The berries are eaten by the Aborigines."  
(Collected by Nellie Parker 20 August 1967.)
- Parker (*pers. comm.*) *Brachysema aphyllum*  
"The flowers of this shrub contain nectar, which is sucked out by the Aborigines."  
(Collected by Nellie Parker 20 August 1967.)

## APPENDIX 4

## LIST OF PLANTS USED FOR FOOD

Scientific name	Aboriginal name
<i>Acacia acuminata</i>	
<i>Acacia microbotrya</i>	galyang kunart kwonnat manna meen (2) menna wuanga
<i>Acacia saligna</i>	
<i>Amyema fitzgeraldii</i>	
<i>Astroloma serratifolium</i>	murrumburru
<i>Baeckea camphorosmae</i> or <i>Astartea fascicularis</i>	kurren
<i>Banksia attenuata</i>	biara
<i>Banksia grandis</i>	mangite mangyt mungat mungite nugoo
<i>Banksia sphaerocarpa</i>	
<i>Brachysema aphyllum</i>	
<i>Caesia</i> sp.	karhrh
<i>Carpobrotus</i> sp.	majerak manbidi
<i>Carpobrotus virescens</i>	kolbogo
<i>Dioscorea hastifolia</i>	adtjikoh warran warryn worrain wyrang
<i>Drosera</i>	boon
<i>Dryandra fraseri</i>	budjan butyak
<i>Eucalyptus calophylla</i>	mnkar ngumbit numbit numbrid
<i>Eucalyptus cornuta</i> or <i>E. occidentalis</i>	yate
<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>	doatta goatta twotta
<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>	conna
<i>Exocarpus sparteus</i> or <i>E. odoratus</i>	chuck dtulya
<i>Haemodorum</i> sp.	mean mene quaradine
<i>Haemodorum paniculatum</i>	madge madja
<i>Haemodorum simulans</i>	mutta (1) mutta (2)

Scientific name	Aboriginal name
<i>Haemodorum spicatum</i>	bhon bohn koolung meen (1) mein
<i>Macrozamia riedlei</i>	baio bayio boyoo byyu mungah
<i>Nuytsia floribunda</i>	karno
<i>Platysace maxwellii</i>	eringo
<i>Platysace</i> sp.	youck
<i>Podocarpus drouyniana</i>	koolah
<i>Prasophyllum</i> sp.	chokern naank tuboc
<i>Prasophyllum fimbria</i>	djubak
<i>Santalum spicatum</i>	poilyenum willarak
<i>Sollya</i> sp.	kuruba namman
<i>Thysantus patersonii</i>	tjungoori
<i>Typha</i> sp.	jetta quirting yandijut yandyett yanjidi
<i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i>	balga
<i>Xylomelum occidentale</i>	dumbung