

# MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Aboriginal biocultural knowledge from  
Elsey and the Roper River, north Australia.



Jessie Garalnganyjak Roberts, Sheila Yanybarrak Conway,  
Rita Morgan†, Amy Dirn.gayg†, Splinter Harris†,  
Edna Burrbanja Farrar†, Fay Banjanja Roberts, Francesca Merlan,  
Eugenie Collyer, Taegan Calnan and Glenn Wightman



Mangarrayi and Yangman country is beautiful country; it is biologically diverse and landscape rich. It is the home of the magnificent Elsey National Park and the iconic book and film *We of the Never Never*.



This book outlines the equally diverse and rich Aboriginal biocultural knowledge associated with the plants, animals and landscapes that occur in this country. This knowledge is vitally important to the management of the plants, animals and landscapes in both a traditional and modern sense.

Traditional management has aspects that are socially and logistically important, and have been part of the human-cultural-biological landscape for tens of thousands of years.

In modern terms this book is a management tool with a number of definite functions.



Importantly, this book will be a source of pride for all Mangarrayi and Yangman people. It is a powerful indication of the wisdom and knowledge of the elders who worked on this book.

It is a detailed, rich and powerful biocultural heritage for all our future generations.



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Jilkminggan School  
PO Box 4054  
Matamula NT 0852  
PH. 89 754 896  
FAX. 89 754 897



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FRONT COVER: **Dowo'min** (Mang) or **jowogban** (Yang), the Koel or Stormbird looks after some of the most tasty and important bush tucker fruits, including **yurrulanyan** (Mang) or **julamarran** (Yang), the white currant. When the Koel calls out during the build-up time it is letting us know that the fruit are ready to harvest and eat.

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The Indigenous Literacy Foundation provided funding for design and printing of the book. Karen Williams and Deb Dank were particularly helpful.

## PREFACE

We have really enjoyed working together to make this book. We have spent a lot of time talking, and thinking, about plants and animals. We travelled around country a lot looking at plants and animals.

Mangarrayi and Yangman country is beautiful country; it is biologically diverse and landscape rich. It is famous as the home of the magnificent Elsey National Park and the iconic book and film *We of the Never Never*.

Our book outlines the equally diverse and rich Aboriginal biocultural knowledge associated with the plants and animals that occur in this country. This knowledge is vitally important to the management of the plants, animals and landscapes in both a traditional and modern sense.

Traditional management has aspects that are socially and logistically important, and have been part of the human-cultural-biological landscape for tens of thousands of years. This includes the day-to-day management such as harvesting edible species (bush-tucker), burning different habitats (cleaning-up) and monitoring populations (foot-walking country). There are also the important spiritual management aspects, such as increase ceremonies, totem restriction observance and sacred site management for certain species and areas.

In modern terms this book is a management tool with a number of functions.

Firstly, it preserves our biological knowledge and provides a way for young people to access the biological wisdom of their elders. The book will be used extensively at local schools and was developed with the Jilkminggan School.

Secondly, it allows visitors to Mangarrayi and Yangman country to learn about the public Aboriginal names and uses of plants and animals.

Thirdly, it provides a mechanism for Mangarrayi and Yangman people and visitors to our country to talk about plants, animals and natural resource management and be certain we are all talking about the same species. In the past this has been impossible due to language differences; different people have different names for the same species.

Fourthly, it allows Mangarrayi and Yangman people to access other peoples' knowledge of plants and animals through the scientific names of the species.

Importantly, this book is a source of pride for Mangarrayi and Yangman people. It is a wonderful indication of the wisdom and knowledge of our elders who worked on this book.

It is a detailed, rich and powerful biocultural heritage for all future generations.



Yurrulanyan (Mang), julumarran (Yang), the white currant, page 44 (Photo Glenn Wightman)



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Eugenie Collyer\*\*, Taegan Calnan\*\*\* and Glenn Wightman\*\*\*

### Authors' addresses

Mangarrayi elders  
c/o Jilkminggan School  
PO Box 4059  
Mataranka NT 0852  
AUSTRALIA

\* Professor of Anthropology  
Australian National University  
Canberra ACT 0200  
AUSTRALIA

\*\* Linguist  
Diwurruwurru-jaru AC  
PO Box 871  
Katherine NT 0851  
AUSTRALIA

\*\*\* Ethnobiologists  
Dept of Natural Resources,  
Environment, Arts & Sport  
PO Box 496  
Palmerston NT 0831  
AUSTRALIA

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## ABSTRACT

*The results of a study of Mangarrayi and Yangman plant and animal knowledge conducted by traditional owners with linguistic and biological support are presented. Mangarrayi and Yangman names and uses of plants and animals, scientific names and common English names for 208 plants and 252 animals are included. Introductory chapters outline Mangarrayi and Yangman terms for seasons, terms for implements and habitat terms. Mangarrayi and Yangman biological knowledge is categorised and discussed in later chapters. Indices of animal common names, plant common names and Mangarrayi and Yangman plant and animal names are provided; 94 plants and 115 animals are illustrated.*

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# INTRODUCTION

## BACKGROUND

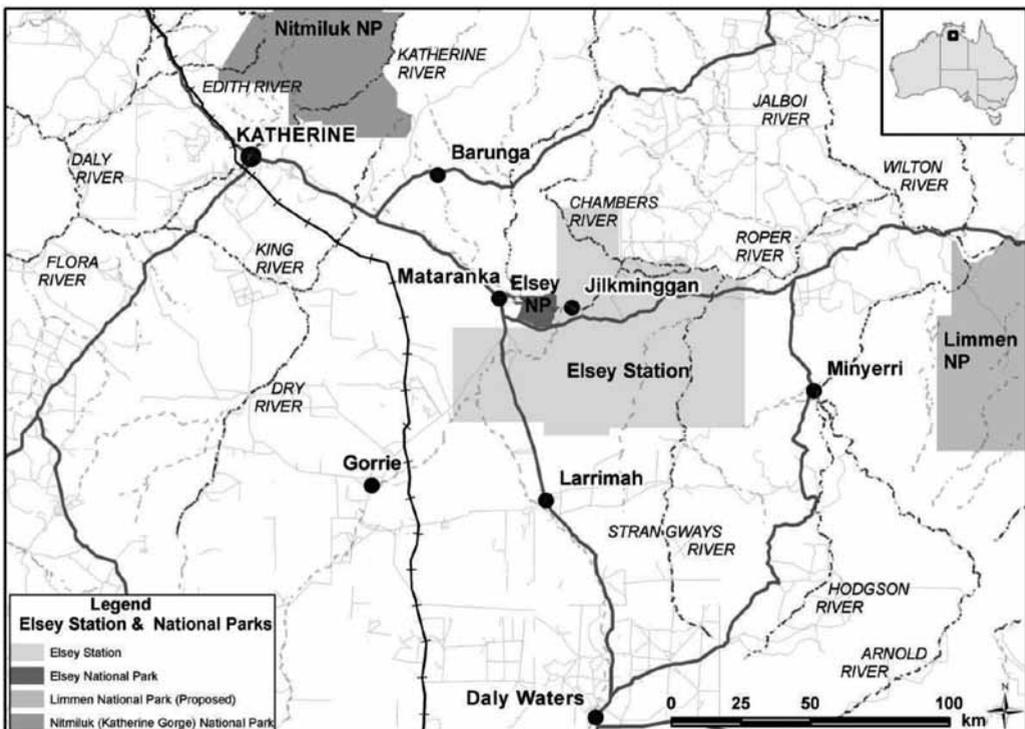
Work specifically associated with this book began when Jessie Garalnganyjak Roberts asked Glenn Wightman for help to record Mangarrayi plant knowledge in a book in late 1989. Jessie was concerned about the loss of Mangarrayi plant knowledge as elders passed away.

Jessie wanted to record this knowledge for three main reasons: firstly, to put the knowledge in a permanent format so that it would be 'passed on' to future generations; secondly so that it could be used in schools as part of children's cultural curriculum, and, thirdly; to have a book that could be used by non-Aboriginal people to begin to understand the depth and complexity of Mangarrayi cultural knowledge.

This book was called *Mangarrayi ethnobotany: Aboriginal plant use from the Esey area, northern Australia*, and was published in 1992.

In the years following the publication of this Mangarrayi plant book many of the senior elders who worked on the book passed away. This highlighted the threatened nature of the biocultural knowledge and emphasised the importance of recording traditional biological knowledge as requested by Jessie Roberts in 1989.

Figure 1: General location map for Mangarrayi and Yangman country, refer to text for details.



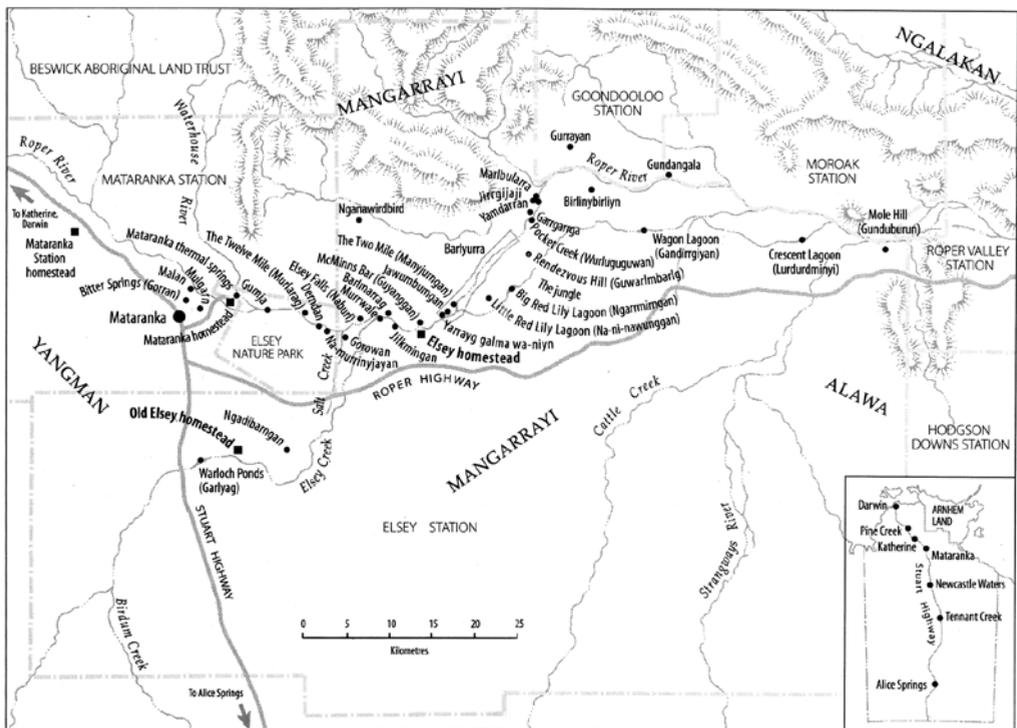
In 2008 due to serious concerns about impending knowledge loss we decided to begin recording Mangarrayi animal knowledge for the same reasons we recorded plant knowledge. We decided to also record Yangman plant and animal knowledge where we could, as Jessie Roberts and Sheila Conway had some Yangman knowledge and the language was no longer well known by others.

The project was undertaken by Mangarrayi traditional biological knowledge custodians with support from the Biodiversity Conservation and Parks divisions of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS), previously the Parks and Wildlife Commission, Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation (KRALC) and the Jilkminggan School.

We received funding from the Natural Resource Management Board (NT) through the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance and additional logistical and moral support from the Parks staff of NRETAS.

We have included biocultural information from the unpublished Mangarrayi dictionary prepared by elders and Francesca Merlan, from Arthur Capel's Yangman wordlist and our previously published *Mangarrayi ethnobotany* book.

Figure 2: Place name map for Mangarrayi country, used with permission (Merlan 1996).



## REGIONAL SETTING

Jilkminggan is the major community in the region and is where much of the fieldwork and recording associated with this book was undertaken. It is located on the banks of the Roper River about 25 kilometres from Mataranka. The word Jilkminggan is more accurately pronounced as Jilgminkan, but is legally gazetted and most commonly spelt as Jilkminggan. The community in the past was also known as Duck Creek.

The community was established in 1974 as the Djembere community on an excision from Eley Station. In 1984 the community name was changed to the Mangarrayi name Jilkminggan, which reflects the 'piccaninny dreaming' status of the site.

The main population centre close to Mangarrayi and Yangman country is Mataranka, a town of about 250 people. It is the major service and business centre for the region and provides facilities for the local population and the large, annual 'dry season' tourist population.

Katherine, the Northern Territory's third largest population centre is located 106 kilometres to the north-west, at the junction of the Victoria and Stuart Highways.

Eley National Park, the Mataranka Thermal Springs, Eley Station, the Roper River and Mataranka Homestead are famous features and tourist attractions of the region. Names of some special sites on Mangarrayi country are shown below in Figure 2. There are many more named sites on Mangarrayi and Yangman country.

## VEGETATION

The most common habitats on Mangarrayi and Yangman country are open Eucalypt woodlands with grassy understoreys. These habitats, dominated by different species of *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia*, make up the vast majority of Mangarrayi and Yangman country.

However, there are other less common vegetation types that are important even though they occupy a relatively small area.

Other significant vegetation types in the area include low Melaleuca (paperbark) forests, sparse open shrub-lands with a spinifex understorey on rocky scree slopes and ridges, and dense riparian vegetation along perennial creeks and rivers.

Billabongs, springs and swamps are important as they often contain waterlilies and other important aquatic species. The large, greyish cabbage-palm, **miririb** (Yang) or **lerrga** (Mang), *Livistona rigida*, associated with springs, creeks and rivers is a conspicuous and important part of the flora of the region. It is often referred to as the Mataranka Fan Palm, and only occurs near Mataranka and the Lawn Hill area in north west Queensland.

Distinctive areas of **mirlimun**, the Lancewood (*Acacia shirleyi*), occur in southern areas, while **gilirr**, the Gutta-percha (*Excoecaria parviflora*), low open woodlands occur in braided seasonal channels in the north.

A broad scale vegetation map of the area has been prepared (Wilson et al. 1990).

## CLIMATE

The climate of Mangarrayi and Yangman country is dry monsoonal, characterised by uniformly high daytime temperatures and solar radiation and distinctly seasonal rainfall.

Mean monthly minimum and maximum temperatures range from 24.2 °C to 37.6 °C in October and from 14.3 °C to 29.8°C in June (Tindal recording station) in northern Mangarrayi areas. In southern Mangarrayi country mean monthly minimum and maximum temperatures range from 24.3 °C to 37.9 °C in October and from 12.3 °C to 29.3°C in July (Larrimah recording station)

Frosts do not occur in the area; however, during the May to August period overnight minimum temperatures below 10°C are relatively common.

Rainfall varies from an annual average of 1022 mm spread over an average of 58 rain days in the northern Mangarrayi country (Tindal recording station), to 846 mm over 55 rain days in the southern areas (Larrimah recording station).

The bulk of the annual rainfall occurs in the 'wet' season from November to April inclusive, with January and February being the wettest months. The cooler months of May to September, the 'dry' season are virtually rain free. As temperatures and humidity rise from September to November rainfall increases but is still relatively low, this period is commonly referred to as the 'build-up' (Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology website, [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au), December 2008).

## MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN SEASON AND WEATHER TERMS

### SEASONS

There are four major Mangarrayi and Yangman seasons in each annual weather cycle. The timing of these seasons can vary from year to year as the onset and duration of seasons can be significantly different each year. We have provided a guide to the approximate timing of these seasons in relation to the Gregorian calendar months.

It should also be noted that the seasons outlined here are only the major annual seasons, within these seasons there are other weather patterns and climatic events recognised by Mangarrayi and Yangman people.

**Milgmilg** This is the cold weather time, when night time temperatures get very cold, day time temperatures are also cooler and the air is quite dry.

Approximately May to July.

The high, thin clouds called **winjiwinji**, are common at this time. When these clouds are seen, we know that it is time to go and harvest the **marndirrin**, yellow-faced turtle eggs on the riverbank, and that the **bunyjag** (Mang) and **bandalan** (Yang), sugar-leaf is ready for harvesting from bloodwoods.

**Jambirrina** (Mang) and **Jeyekbayn** (Yang), bush turkeys are fat and good to eat at this time; the pretty pink flowers of **murdiridi** (Mang), the turkey bush are seen. **Gunjird**, the bloodwood and **wigu**, the fern-leaved grevillea have lots of flowers, and the **wigu** flowers are very sweet and juicy on foggy cool mornings.

**Gaynwarr** (na-gaynwarr-wu) This is the build-up or hot weather time, when the temperature rises and the humidity builds up to high levels. Many of the creeks and waterholes dry out, and it is a hard time of year.

Approximately August to November.

**Gurawggurawg**, the channel-billed cuckoo, looks after **yarrayg**, the water yam, it calls loudly at this time of year to let people know the yams are ready to be harvested.

The bright red flowers of **jindiwilg**, the corkwood, tell us that **warrbiyan** (Mang) or **dagarl** (Yang), the freshwater crocodiles are laying eggs, and this is the time to collect them, cook them and eat them. This happens in the late dry season around August and September, as the weather starts to warm up.

When the yellow flowers of **biwarrg**, the yellow kapok, are produced this also tells us that freshwater crocodiles are laying eggs and ready to be collected for eating. When the fruit are ripe people know that the baby crocodiles have hatched and are swimming. The flowers also signal that various lily roots are ready to be collected as they are very fat and nourishing at this time of year.

**Dowo'min** (Mang) or **jowogban** (Yang), the koel or stormbird looks after some of the most tasty and important bush tucker fruits. These include **ngalanyburn**, the black plum, **dirrawan**, the green plum, **yurrulanyan**, the white currant, and **murrunggurn**, the black currant, as well as the **yarrayg**, the lily root and water yam. When the koel calls out during the build-up time it is letting us know that all the fruit are ready to harvest and eat.

**Garrwag** (Mang) and **Garrawadin** (Yang), the ghost gum tree starts shedding its bark and flowering to tell people the water-lily roots are ready to eat. When the clouds begin to build-up for the wet season it indicates that **jadaburl**, the red-leaf water-lily yams are ready to harvest.

Kangaroos and wallabies dig up and eat the roots of **bunjurr**, the wallaby grass, as all the other food has gone at this time of year.

At the end of the dry when the rain is about to start, **nganggangangga**, the cuckoo-shrike, flies around and you know it's nearly rain time. At the same time **bararuwan**, the Dollarbird, **birridbirrid**, the Rainbow Bee-eater, and the **dowo'min**, the Koel arrive on Mangarrayi and Yangman country and fly around a lot.

**Garnan** (na-garnan-gu) This is the wet season when the rains fall consistently, there is thunder and lightning, and the creeks, rivers and swamps are full. Grass is green and growing tall and yams are shooting and getting fat.

Approximately December to March.

When the ground gets really wet, **mundulbirri** (Mang) and **gawalyan** (Yang), echidnas dig a hole in termite mounds to stay dry and out of the water. In the past people used to hollow out large termite mounds and camp in them to stay dry.

**Jorgog** (Mang) and **nadi** (Yang), the giant frogs call loudly and **murlugumurlugumin**, fireflies blink at night. **Gorndongo** (Mang) and **Garrarlari** (Yang), spear grass grows seeds later in the wet and children play with the seeds. **Gagel** (Mang) and **Ganbirrbirr** (Yang), cheeky yams leaves grow tall and can be seen in the bush.

**Walywaru** This is the time of the knock-em downs or the build-down season. It is the period of the last rain storms of the wet season that often have strong, gusty winds.

Approximately April.

In the late wet and early dry season **jilibijilbi** (Mang), the sweet cane grass is full of very sweet juice and is tasty to chew. **Bumbum**, the barramundi are hungry and easy to catch and there are lots of **mongmong**, the Spangled Perch in the rivers and creeks.

**Bibib**, the bush potatoes are fat and good to eat. **Wan.gi** (Mang) and **ginang** (Yang), the caterpillar-bags are common hanging in trees.

## WEATHER TERMS

Lightning	<b>maran</b>
Rolling/rumbling thunder	<b>gurlurlu</b>
Thunder-clap	<b>dey</b>
Wind	<b>jab</b>
Rain	<b>garnan</b>

## MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN LANGUAGE

Mangarrayi and Yangman are Australian Aboriginal languages traditionally spoken in the Mataranka area of the central Top End of the Northern Territory.

Mangarrayi country is broadly located to the north east of Mataranka township, and covers an area north of the Roper Highway. Yangman country lies predominantly to the west of the Stuart Highway and stretches from about Katherine township south to the Daly Waters area.

Most Mangarrayi people live in settlements and outstations near traditional Mangarrayi country, such as Jilkminggan, Mataranka, Minyerri, Ngukurr and Barunga. There are no active Yangman speakers alive, though Jessie Roberts, and to a lesser extent, Sheila Conway, have knowledge of Yangman plant and animal names as they have a strong personal history of hearing Yangman plant and animal names when they were young.

It was estimated that there were six people who could speak and understand Mangarrayi in 2001 (Lee and Dickson 2003). The same survey concluded that there were no people who could speak and understand Yangman.

Linguists consider Yangman to be closely related to Dagoman and Wardaman, and less closely related to Mangarrayi. Mangarrayi may also be related to Alawa, Marra and Jawoyn.

In the past Mangarrayi has sometimes been spelt as: Mangarrai, Mangarayi, Mungerry, Mangarai and Mungarai.

## MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN SPELLING SYSTEM

In the orthography used here for Mangarrayi and Yangman language, a single letter, or two letter cluster (digraph), always represents the same sound, unlike English where one letter can often have different sounds.

### Consonants

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	b	d	rd	j	g	‘
Nasals	m	n	rn	ny	ng	
Laterals		l	rl	ly		
Flap		rr				
Glides	w		r	y		

### Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	e		o
Low		a	

**Notes on pronunciation:**

- *ng* Velar nasal as in *ngugu* 'water' or English *sing*.
- *n.g* The combination of two sounds- 'n'+ 'g' is spelled *Wan.garr* 'River Pandanus', like the English sound in *ungainly*
- *ngg* Two sounds- 'ng'+ 'g' as in *warrnggu* 'because', like the English sound in *finger*
- a glottal stop is indicated by ' (an apostrophe)
- where 'ny' occurs at the end of a word, the n and the y are transposed to 'yn', this is less likely to be mis-pronounced.

**PRONUNCIATION GUIDE**

## Single-letter consonant sounds

**b** as in **bat**, **hop****d** as in **dog**, **hot****j** as in **jet**, **church****g** as in **go**, **lick****l** as in **lot****m** as in **mat****n** as in **no****r** as in **rat****w** as in **wait****y** as in **yes**

## Two-letter sounds

**ly** as in **million****ny** as in **canyon****ng** as in **sing****rr** is a flapped r-sound (like the trilled r-sound heard in Indonesian)**rd** as in **card** (like a 'dee' sound with the tongue pulled back)**rl** as in **curl** (like an 'l' sound with the tongue pulled back)**rn** as in **born**(like an 'en' sound with the tongue pulled back)

## Vowel sounds

**a** as in **but****e** as in **bet****i** as in **bit****o** as in **pot****u** as in **put**

A guide to the pronunciation of Mangarrayi and Yangman language sounds is also provided on page 192. This guide has pictures to indicate the position of the tongue, lips and teeth when making the sounds.

## MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN NAMES FOR HABITATS OR COUNTRY TYPES

Stone country, broken country	<b>nadirirlin</b> (Mang, Yang)
Stony ground that is hard to walk on	<b>gawurrburr</b> or <b>gawurlburl</b> (Mang), <b>bonyolgin</b> (Yang)
Grassy plain with no trees	<b>wurlangman</b> (Yang), <b>dardardarr</b> (Mang)
Clay-pan, bull-dust country	<b>malurblurban</b> (Yang), <b>lurblurbminy</b> (Mang)
Swamp, boggy place, muddy	<b>jalwayi</b> (Mang), <b>bardarrin</b> (Yang)
Jungle areas	<b>ngajgan</b> (Mang)
Scrubby bush country	<b>birn.gan</b> (Mang)
Slope of a hill or ridge	<b>jinjin</b> (Mang)
Desert country	<b>buyirrin</b> (Yang),
(mainly in southern areas)	<b>werdeng</b> (Mang)
Black soil country	<b>wurray</b> (Mang), <b>wurdabardadaba</b> (Yang)
Billabong	<b>langgan</b> (Yang), <b>bundal</b> (Mang)
Water	<b>wiyan</b> (Yang), <b>ngugu</b> (Mang)
Salty water	<b>gurungaran</b> (Mang, Yang)
River	<b>jadbar</b> (Mang)
Little creek	<b>darrarranga</b> (Yang), <b>darrarra</b> (Mang)
Fast running water (rapids, waterfalls)	<b>wululu</b> (Mang)

## MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN TERMS FOR PLANT LIFE-FORMS AND PLANT PARTS

Some of the common terms used when talking about plants are outlined below.

Grass	<b>day</b> (Mang), <b>wodan</b> (Yang)
Tree	<b>landi</b> (Mang), <b>yumin</b> (Yang)
Climber	<b>marlb</b> (Mang), <b>agarlma</b> (Yang)
Leaf	<b>jurrjurr</b> (Mang), <b>nyanyarlin</b> (Yang)
Flower	<b>ngala</b> (Mang, Yang)
Seed, also eye	<b>jib</b> (Mang), <b>yimum</b> (Yang)
Bark	<b>dab-nawu</b> (Mang, Yang)
Roots	<b>jarrar-nawu</b> (shallow), <b>gindarawu</b> (deep) (Mang, Yang)
Wax from plants	<b>gunggal</b> (Mang)
Gum	<b>marn</b> (Mang), <b>yigarri</b> (Yang)
Prickle or spine	<b>jalmbuj</b> (Mang, Yang)
Food	<b>mawuj</b> (Mang, Yang)

## MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN TERMS FOR IMPLEMENTS AND TOOLS

Armband	<b>yerrel</b> (Yang), <b>manba</b> , <b>marrawub</b> (Mang)
Bark shelter (humpy)	<b>dujbuyin</b> (Mang, Yang)
Basket, bush-bag, handbag	<b>garlar</b> (Yang), <b>bajbarra</b> (Mang)
Billy can, cup, dipper	<b>mambad</b> (Yang)
(anything that can hold liquid)	<b>barrigord</b> (Mang)
Boomerang, normal	<b>buran</b> (Yang), <b>barlgan</b> (Mang)
Boomerang, number 7	<b>warradila</b> / <b>warrirdila</b> (Mang, Yang)
Boomerang, handle part	<b>wulagula</b> (Mang)
Bush rope, vine rope	<b>wirla</b> (Mang)
Clap-stick	<b>jamarlag</b> (Yang), <b>gundarl</b> (Mang)
Coolamon, wooden deep	<b>mardu</b> , <b>dudul</b> (Mang)
(for carrying lily roots, seeds, babies)	
Coolamon, wooden flat	<b>yanganyja</b> (Mang)
(for winnowing foods)	
Coolamon (ironwood or lancewood)	<b>guwarre</b> (Mang)
Coolamon, paperbark tied at ends	<b>gunggarlg</b> (Mang)
Didgeridoo	<b>marlugbarr</b> (Yang), <b>gulumburr</b> (Mang)
Digging-stick	<b>gamag</b> (Mang), <b>gumun</b> (Yang)
Dilly bag, general	<b>ginang</b> (Yang), <b>wan.gi</b> (Mang)
Dilly bag, small neck	<b>jerr'</b> (Mang, Yang)
Fighting-stick, nulla-nulla	<b>balmung</b> (Yang), <b>barrgu</b> (Mang)
Fire-stick	<b>jurruwug</b> (Mang, Yang),
Fish net made from grasses	<b>banja</b> (Mang)
Fish trap made from hollow log	<b>barlmurr</b> (Mang)
Grinding stone base	<b>jarljarl</b> (Mang, Yang)
Grinding stone, round	<b>ngadburr</b> (Mang, Yang)
Hair belt	<b>ngarlman</b> (Mang, Yang)
Headband	<b>baguri</b> (Mang, Yang)
Message-stick	<b>mag</b> , <b>dildil</b> (Mang)
Naga (Cock-rag)	<b>mardamarda</b> (Mang, Yang)
Necklace/beads	<b>murranyurrayn</b>
Paperbark bedroll or strips of bark	<b>jinygij</b> (Mang)
Paperbark chest covering for men	<b>barawa</b> (Mang)
Paperbark float	<b>warnbirribirri</b> (Mang)
Paperbark food wrapping wet to cool	<b>barlawag</b> (Mang)
Pounding stone for bones, lily roots	<b>galirriyn</b>
Rifle, matches, fire	<b>wuja</b> (Yang), <b>damayi</b> (Mang)
Shield	<b>guwarri</b> (Mang, Yang)

Smoking pipe	<b>larrwa</b> (Mang, Yang)
Stone axe	<b>garrab</b> (Mang), <b>berenyin</b> (Yang)
	<b>ber'bermin</b> , <b>jelerr</b> (Mang, Yang)
Stone knife	<b>bandarrwi</b> (Mang), <b>biynmala</b> (Yang)
Stone, ground oven	<b>yawga</b> (Yang), <b>yawg</b> (Mang)
String, plaited from plant fibre	<b>binyjinju</b> (Mang)
String bag for leaching cheeky yam	<b>bayidbarra</b>
Torch, paperbark	<b>jalarralarra</b> , <b>miling</b> (Mang)
Torch, pandanus	<b>wan.garr</b>
Throwing-stick, Waddy	<b>gurany.gu</b> , <b>wirrwarl</b> (Mang), <b>yirrbu</b> , <b>balurrgu</b> (Yang)
Walking stick	<b>garndina</b> (Mang, Yang)
Wax, hard one from paperbark	<b>yirnirniwun</b> (Mang)
Wax, black one from spinifex	<b>garradji</b> (Yang)
Wind-break	<b>garlgbu</b> (Mang, Yang)
Woomera	<b>banban</b> (Mang, Yang)
Woomera, small one	<b>jiirrg</b> (Mang)
Woomera handle	<b>wulagula</b> (Mang)

### **Spears**

General term for any spear	<b>barragarl</b> (Mang, Yang)
Simple spear with sharpened end	<b>jabunu</b>

### ***Bamboo spears***

small bamboo spear	<b>bardawg</b> (Mang)
large bamboo spear	<b>gar</b> (Mang)
type of light bamboo spear	<b>bulanggarri</b> (Mang)
light bamboo spear	<b>jindijindi</b>
big bamboo spear	<b>gomorl</b>
Spear point to put into bamboo shaft	<b>jangorl</b>
Hooked spear (ironwood, lancewood)	<b>jimbangu</b> , <b>yarrngiyn</b>

Wire spears in general	<b>jabardayan</b> ?, <b>garnu</b> (Mang)
Wire prongs generic	<b>wirlmurl</b>
Fish spear, three wire prongs	<b>jamurlburr</b>
Single prong wire spear with barbs	<b>birl</b> ?
Multi-pronged fish spear	<b>wirlmurl</b>

### ***Shovel or Stone spears***

Generic term	<b>biynmalawarrang</b> (Yang)
Stone spearhead	<b>lama</b> , <b>jangorl</b>
Spear with stone head	<b>bandarrwuyi</b> (Mang)
Spear with metal head	<b>gorrbgorrbmin</b> (Mang)

## FIELDWORK AND BIOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE RECORDING

Fieldwork and biological knowledge recording was undertaken over two main periods.

The first period of fieldwork was between February 1990 and August 1992, during this time we mainly recorded plant knowledge associated with the Mangarrayi language. This fieldwork involved Jessie Roberts, Shelia Conway, Rita Morgan†, Splinter Harris†, Harriet Jinbulbul†, Hannah Moore, Nellie Harris†, Lu-lu Jilimbirnga†, Amy Dirn.gayg†, Lorna Lirrawi†, Jimmy Conway†, Lorraine Williams, Donna Jackson and Glenn Wightman, with linguistic assistance from Francesca Merlan.

This first stage of fieldwork occurred over 28 days and involved 14 people totalling approximately 135 person days.

The second period of fieldwork occurred from August 2007 to May 2011, during this time we recorded Mangarrayi and Yangman animal knowledge and also checked Mangarrayi and Yangman plant knowledge. This fieldwork involved Jessie Roberts, Sheila Conway, Eugenie Collyer, Taegan Calnan, Edna Farrar†, Eileen Daylight, Fay Roberts, Christine Conway, Phyllis Conway, Michael Miller, Mark Ziembicki and Glenn Wightman.

The second stage of fieldwork occurred over 26 days and involved 13 people representing 135 person days.

Fieldwork was undertaken over a wide range of Mangarrayi country and a variety of seasons. As plants were encountered in the field the Mangarrayi and Yangman names and uses of the plants were recorded or checked. Vouchers of plants were collected to check scientific identifications and to be lodged at the Northern Territory Herbarium. Many plants were observed in the field many times, some less common plants were only found once or twice.

The scientific names of plants given here are based on the *Checklist of NT Vascular Plant species (March 2007)*, which is available on the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport website at [www.nt.gov.au/nretas/wildlife/plants/pdf/family\\_checklist.pdf](http://www.nt.gov.au/nretas/wildlife/plants/pdf/family_checklist.pdf). Authorities for the scientific names are not provided here but are available in the checklist (loc. cit.).

Plants are presented according to the dominant life-form or habit, in the following order: Trees and shrubs, Mistletoes, Vines, Grass-like plants, Lilies and Water Plants, Palm and Pandan, Yams and Weeds.

Animals were generally worked through by their natural larger groups, for example, birds, frogs, mammals, reptiles, crustaceans, insects, etc. Within these large groups we then worked through smaller groups, for example, within reptiles we worked through crocodiles, lizards/skinks, goannas, snakes and turtles.

The scientific names for animals presented here follow that of the most recent natural history references provided in the references section of this book. Where necessary we have updated names based on the advice of relevant zoologists and animal taxonomists.

## BIOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE, CREATION PERIOD STORIES AND CEREMONY

The information we have included in this book represents the public, or open, Mangarrayi and Yangman names and uses of the plants and animals. This knowledge has no restrictions placed upon its use and disclosure.

There also exists a large amount of biocultural knowledge that has restrictions upon its distribution and disclosure. This knowledge relates to special songs, creation period stories, ceremonial uses, culturally sensitive information and other non-public knowledge of plants and animals. These aspects of plant and animal information are very important, but they are often not suitable for presentation in a book such as this.

We have included a creation period story and an outline of a special ceremony associated with a species of yam, both told by Amy Dirn.gayg. These stories are in a book called *Big River Country: Stories from Elsey Station*, compiled by Mangarrayi elders and Francesca Merlan.

These stories allow the reader to glimpse the style and detail of biocultural knowledge that exist in the Mangarrayi and Yangman cosmology that is often not open to public view.

Many plant and animal species have creation period stories, special ceremonies and unique songs and dances associated with them. Many of these stories, ceremonies, songs and dances contain knowledge of a spiritual and personal nature that strongly link people, places, plants and animals.

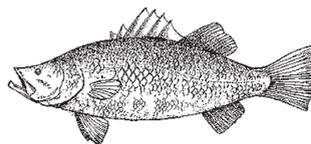
These knowledge systems are detailed, complex and critically important for cultural reasons and land management purposes.

The creation period story and increase ceremony outlined below and are used with the permission of the traditional knowledge custodians and the Institute of Aboriginal Development, Alice Springs, who published the book.

### ***Garrajaj and galbarn, the owlet nightjar and the red-bellied barramundi.***

told by Amy Dirn.gayg†

The story of owlet nightjar (below) and red-bellied barramundi (right) belongs to the area of **Jirrgijaji**, a beautiful place with fine sand banks on the Roper River well to the north of the Elsey homestead.



**Garrajaj**, owlet nightjar, was not truthful. When sent by **galbarn**, red-bellied barramundi, to bring together people for ceremony, he would return having made little effort, saying in his own peculiar way, 'Only smoke, only fire, only swag and hair belt hanging up.' He meant that he had visited other camps and had found them deserted.



Barramundi got tired of this, dressed himself appropriately, and went out visiting the camps of other tribes. He had great success, accomplishing the difficult task of bringing many different people together for ceremony. He brought together not only Mangarrayi people, but Yarrarg, Yangman, Ngalakan, Ritharrngu and Ngandi, and put them all into the 'business', or ceremony, associated with Jirrgijaji.

<i>Garrajaj wa'mama wayini jard jaygini darr'ma wad. 'Bagana malam?'</i>	Nightjar flew up and down, he came back and came out. 'Any men?' [asked barramundi]
<i>'Dayi, na-malam-wi. '</i>	'No, no men.' [said nightjar]
<i>Mirlam-jini, gana malam-ba ni marnarrawa.</i>	He was lying. Men were there in another place.
<i>Jagina-ba narra na-barnam, Marlbularra wuyirrab.</i>	What is that place? across from Marlbularra.
<i>Nyagagurl jirr jirr ja-jaygin narra namawuj.</i>	That water tucker is there, that tucker.
<i>Ja-wurla-mi ja-wurla-jalaj marr'-bana ja-wurla-ja mod mod.</i>	They get it and make it fine, make it and cut it up.
<i>Jard jaygini Marlbularra. 'Bagana malam?'</i>	He came back to Marlbularra. 'Any men?' [asked barramundi]
<i>'Dayi bula-dayi bula-dayi bula-damayi bula-julung bula-gurlinga janba mad, jarruyn-ba wurnya a-wurla-galawun. *</i>	'No, nothing, only fire, only smoke, and their objects and their hair belts that they hang up.'
<i>Mirla'mirlam-jini gana na-galbarn na-jurrwa.</i>	He was lying, but barramundi was truthful.
<i>Na-jurrwa marrng wanyjiyag na-gujbi.</i>	The truthful one painted himself with red ochre.
<i>Yaj dulul'bub malam. 'Niwa-ja malam-bayi' mayn.</i>	He went, and collected men. 'Here there are men!' he said.
<i>'Ngarla-yag yirrg la-gardji, ngarla-yag ngalngal-lama!'</i>	'Let's go! Get up! Let's go to finish off the ceremony!'
<i>Jard jaygini Yarrarrang bardnamdag, Jawoyn, narra-bayi gayarra-wa.</i>	He went back, put Yarrarg, Jawoyn from upriver.
<i>Mayali, Wardajbag, Yangman - bardnamdi, jarrbiyn bardnamdi.</i>	Put Mayali, Wardajbag, Yangman – he put young men in (to ceremony).
<i>Narriyan-wa Yarrarrang balalayi - ngarndala a-wurla-nuran na-werdeng-gan nangganwa wirilirla-yi ja-wurla-nidba, na-wirla ja-wuyanba-mi, nud ja-wuyanba-bun, gew ja-wuyanba-bun barla.</i>	A lot of Yarrarg the ones who live in the dry country - the ones who tie forehead bands on, who grab their young men and subincise them.
<i>Na-jurrwa na-galbarn-bayi.</i>	Barramundi was truthful.
<i>Lurlurl' wuyan-bub wuyan-nirij wurrwaj.</i>	He rounded them up and brought them together in one mob.
<i>Bardnamdi malam, Mangarrayi-wana, Yangman-garlama.</i>	He put them in, from Mangarrayi to Yangman.
<i>Burrburr buyini jinanggu Mangarrayi jinanggu Ngalakan-garlama Ritharrngu-lama, Ngandi-lama, bardnamdi.</i>	He joined them up, that way Mangarrayi to Ngalakan – that way – to Ritharrngu, to Ngandi, he put them into ceremony.

\* Nightjar has a special style of talking in which he puts bula before most of his words.

## Yarrayg, the water yam

told by Amy Dirn.gayg†

Amy tells how **yarrayg**, *Aponogeton vanbruggenii*, the water yam, was annually cared for and 'increased', from a stone just downriver of Elsey Station homestead, at a place called Yarrayg gal'ma wa-niyn, 'Where river lily went up'.

At that place is a large rock, partially submerged, the dreaming of the river lily. People for whom that place was their own dreaming used to chip away bits of the rock. They would wrap the rock fragments with grasses, and divers would carry it to the bottom of the river. Here, slowly the packet would come undone and carry the fragments of rock along the river bottom, renewing the river lily.

In Amy's time, the men who were responsible for doing this were Galburdu, or Old Nym, and his son Birrmaj. But this could not be done properly only by those people, known as *mingirringgi*, who were linked to a place and dreaming through their fathers, as were Galburdu and Birrmaj. They needed a category of people called *junggayi* to help them. These are people, to put it most simply, whose mothers regard the river lily as their own paternal dreaming; in other words, people linked to the dreaming through their mothers. The way Mangarrayi people see things, both *mingirringgi* and *junggayi* are needed to look after places and dreamings.

In addition those people sometimes call upon others who are *darlnyin* to a place and dreaming to help them. These are people whose mother's mothers regarded the dreaming as their own paternal dreaming. These categories of people look to each other for help, so that responsibility and ties to place, dreaming and other people are widely distributed and traced through kinship ties.

Amy also makes some comments on the changes she has seen over her life, as a person who grew up on bush foods, and with a strong attachment to certain traditional practices.



<i>Wurla-yinyi-wa ni na-gawarr-gan, na-gawarr-gan ni ja-lurdji-lurdjin narra-ba nanan na-yarrayg na-warriyan.</i>	They'd go there, and just up from the river there crouches that stone, the river lily dreaming.
<i>Nginyjag jigiga yarrayg-bayi, guwa-ba barlawag gana nanan.</i>	It's not a small thing, it's like a paperbark packet but it's stone.
<i>Gulb wurla-mari-wa junggurd junggurd, gulb wurla-mari-wa gi-narra-bayi nanan.</i>	They'd pound it into fragments, they'd pound that stone.
<i>Wurla-jarlu'-mari na-baragurr, na-day na-ngamda na-jirri narri-wa-ja mamiyn wurla-buni-wa.</i>	They'd fill paperbark with it, with jirri grass - that's the one they wrap into a bundle.
<i>Wardard wurla-wari-wa lun barl' wurla-jud-mari-wa.</i>	They'd carry it, and put it, set it down.
<i>Damayi jorle', jorle' wurla-mari-wa mayawa-ja wurla-narli-wa.</i>	They'd light a fire and cook it.
<i>Nani-ba narra-ba na-nanan, nani-waaa mayawa.</i>	That rock would burn – it would buuurn, all right.
<i>Gi-narra-ba day wurla-wurrgmari-wa jirri, wurla-babnamdi-waaaa marrb, marrb na-manba, mangaya na-manba mangaya na-gunyinggin marrb marrb na-giriri.</i>	They'd pull that jirri grass, and put it, they'd tie it up with bangle* – maybe with bangle or maybe with one kind of creeper or another.
<i>Liw wurr-gani-wa barda-yi, warriyan-garran-wa, nananggana-wa na-yarrayg warriyan-burra.</i>	Father and son would carry it, swimming past the two stones, river lily was their dreaming.
<i>Liw, nananggana-wa na-junggayi liw wurla-gani-wa.</i>	They'd swim with it, and then junggayi would swim with it from there.
<i>Wurla-gani-wa gana na-landi-ba narra jirr jirr ja-jaygin marnarrawa biyanggin lurlurr.</i>	They'd take it – a tree stands at another place right down under-neath.
<i>Burryib wurla-gani na-landi-yan-ba na-warriyan-gan biyanggin galngarrnggan.</i>	They hid it right in the tree, inside the dreaming, right under in the middle of the water.
<i>Ngij wurla-bandi-wa biyanggin barlaga bulbul' gardjin.</i>	They'd weight it down so it wouldn't float.
<i>Bab-ba-bab wurla-gardjini-wa, ngayangayag wurla-minyi-wa mayawa jina-bamgan.</i>	They'd come to the surface, take some others this way.

\* **Manba** is *Flagellaria indica*, which is a climbing plant that grows by the riverside and was often used for making arm bangles, hence the translation.

*Yirr' wurla-wari-wa ngugu-lama jorlow'-jo-jorlow' jigiga-bayi ngayangayag nanan bun.gu.*

They'd throw them into the water – splash, splash! Some other small stones.

*Gana ngayangayag nanan mingiwa liw wurla-gangiyn na-ngugu-yan balayarrg.*

Some stones they'd carry swimming into the middle.

*Ngayangayag yirr' wurla-wari-wa na-ngugu-yan, yirr' wurla-wari-wa jigiga nanan, gulb a-wurla-mari-wa ngardala.*

Some they threw into the water, they threw in the small stones, maybe the ones they'd pounded.

*Nananggana-wa na-ngamda na-day mamiyn wurla-buni-wa, na-ngugu ja-war-ma wurla-babnamdi-wa.*

Then they'd wrap it in grass, and put it where the current runs.

*Garri-wa gawarr mangaya Barlmarrag mangaya niwa Murrwale.*

Upstream there, maybe at Barlmarrag or maybe at Murrwale.

*Narra-ba ngamda mari-wa junggurd junggurd gani-wa-ba ngamda-nawu yarrayg.*

And that carried it, breaking the river lily into fragments.

*Gana bargi guwa bargi junggurd-ja ga-ngi-war ngugu biyanggin, mayawa-ja julbuwirrig.*

Like when you and I throw dirt into the water, all right, [like] floodwater.

*Mayawa-ba junggurd junggurd mari-wa, nangganyi mangaya jilwa wurla-gani-wa, bab gardjini-wa.*

It was broken into fragments then maybe later they'd remember this – the river lily would come up.

*Mayawa-ba barlarlaga dayi yirr' yirr wurla-war ngardala.*

Well I guess today they don't throw it in the water.

*Dayi ngayan-warrigmam ja-garranyjin.*

But it hasn't failed us, it grows.

*Dayi ngayagji juwu wurla-war na-bugbugbug mun juwu wurla-wari.*

They don't soak it at all, only old people used to.

*ja-wurla-warrb-ma-bayi mangaya na-guruggurung-gu mawuj ja-wurla-ja.*

They're making a mistake – maybe they eat white man's tucker.

*Larday ja-wurla-yag.*

They dislike it [bush foods].

*Ngugu-wana-ja!*

Because of alcohol!

*Guribirr ja-wurla-yag dayi wurla-mi'- min na-marr-wu.*

They get drunk, don't look around for fish.

*Dayi wurla-janggan na-wirrilmayin-gu dayi wurla-mi'-min jurrwa!*

They don't go hunting for goanna, they don't forage – true!

*Ngayagngayag motika ja-wurla-nidba ja-wurla-yag guwa na-Diny'diyn a-maman gurrubaba a-burndan.*

Some have cars and they go around, the way Jimmy Conway always does, he always gets flying-foxes.

*Gana yirr wurla-wari yirr wurla-wari  
mayawa-ja.*

Well, they threw it in and threw it in, all right.

*Durdurla mayawa darl darlag.*

It took root strongly.

*Na-wurlurlu na-balayi ja-ningan dayi  
warig war.*

Even if a big current is running it doesn't uproot it.

*Marnarrawa ja-war-ma na-wurlurlu na-  
julbulbuyi-bayi.*

Elsewhere the current flows, and [makes] dirty water.

*Ja-ni ja-galg-ma na-mawuj-bayi yarrayg*

It stays put, the river lily has gone right in.

*Nginyjag danjin na-warrwiyen-ja. Lirdma*

The dreaming cannot finish.

*yinyi jarlu-nawu ngarla-bugbug Dayi*

And old ladies would think about it.

*wurrg ma na-gamarn-gan.*

It doesn't get pulled out in hard ground under the water.

*Ja-garranyjin, na-wurlurlu ja-danjin,  
marnarrawa ja-ma garlwag ja-bun.*

It grows, when the current [floodwater] finishes, it's hanging on elsewhere, it's dug into the mud.

*Bab ja-gardjin na-ngala-nawu, na-  
jimbilili-nawu, guj-nawu ja-gardjin na-  
jalala bab ja-gardjin.*

Its flower comes up, its leaves, its shoots, the new growth comes up.

*Dawadawarr ja-ma.*

It shines.

*Wurla-yirriwani mingiwa geyegeyeg  
yarrayg, mayawa-ba garranyjini ngugu-  
wana.*

They'd see the river lily's stalk, growing up from the water.

*'Mayawa garranyjag na-yarrayg-bayi!' ja-  
wurla-miyin.*

'Now the river lily's come up!' they say to each other.



Paperbark and Roper River near Jilkminggan, February 1990 (Photo Glenn Wightman)



# MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN PLANT NAMES AND USES

The 208 plants we have recorded biocultural knowledge about are arranged according to their dominant life-form, or habit, as follows:

Trees and shrubs.....	118
Herbs .....	15
Mistletoes and orchid .....	5
Climbers and vines.....	15
Grass-like plants .....	16
Lilies and water plants.....	7
Palms and pandanus .....	5
Yams .....	15
Weeds and introduced plants.....	12

The plant name and use information is presented in the following order:

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'Common English name'	<b>Mangarrayi name</b> (Mang)
<i>Scientific name</i>	<b>Yangman name</b> (Yang)

The plant use information appears below the various names. Some plants have no specific use, some plants have multiple uses.

We **caution** people who use this book against eating food plants or using medicinal plants. Many species are difficult to identify or may require extensive preparation to make them safe to eat or use as medicine. These skills can only be gained from extensive experience and tuition.

The common English names included are those most often used by Mangarrayi and Yangman people, however, common names used in everyday speech may vary significantly from person to person and place to place.

We have recorded the Mangarrayi and Yangman names of plants where possible, these are indicated by the suffixes (Mang) and (Yang) respectively. However, where we were not certain of the Yangman name, we have not provided a language suffix, these names are Mangarrayi, and could also be Yangman, but we are not sure.

## TREES AND SHRUBS



'Wattle'  
**Bunbunba** (Mang)  
**Bunbunbanga** (Yang)  
*Acacia ampliceps*

'Wattle'  
*Acacia ampliceps*

**Bunbunba** (Mang)  
**Bunbunbanga** (Yang)

This tree is very common in drainage lines and seasonally waterlogged areas, especially in Eley National Park. This plant has the same Mangarrayi name as *Acacia auriculiformis*, however, the timber is too small to be useful.

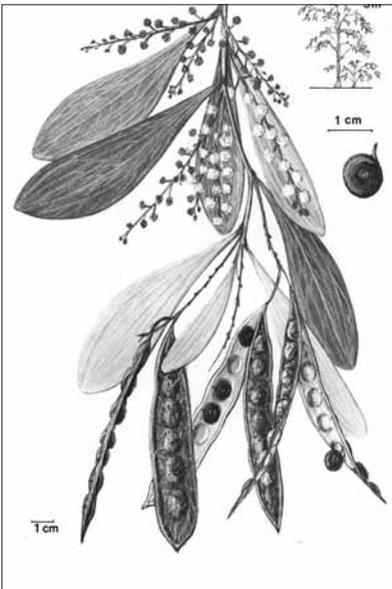
'Black Wattle'  
*Acacia auriculiformis*

**Bunbunba** (Mang)  
**Bunbunbanga** (Yang)

The dark, heavy timber is good firewood; it burns for a long period and produces long-lasting coals. It is a good shade tree and can get quite large.

The straight stems of smaller plants can be used to make spear shafts.

This plant is often seen in gardens, and around towns and communities, it has been planted a lot in recent times and is more common now than in the past.



'Wattle'  
**Jamja** (Mang, Yang)  
*Acacia hemignosta*

'Wattle'  
*Acacia difficilis*

**Jamja** (Mang, Yang)

The inner bark can be stripped off in long strips and rolled up to be used as honey brush for dipping honey out of sugar-bag. The inner bark can be peeled off the stems and used like a rope to tie up bundles of goods. The long stems can be used to knock flying-foxes out of trees, or to hit them as they fly out of their roost, so that they can be collected, cooked and eaten.

'Wattle'  
*Acacia hemignosta*

**Jamja** (Mang, Yang)

This tree has no particular use but is common around Mangarrayi country.

'Silver Wattle'  
*Acacia holosericea*

**Birliwirli** (Mang, Yang)

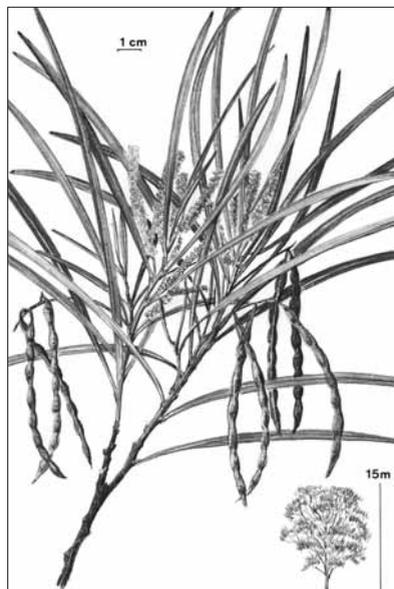
The leaves are rubbed between the palms with water to produce a soapy lather which is used for washing. The timber is light but is useful for lighting fires.

'Wattle'

**Jamja** (Mang, Yang)

*Acacia platycarpa*, *A. tumida*

The long, flexible stems can be used to knock down flying-foxes. The flying-foxes are scared out of their roosts towards people holding the stems and they are swung into the flying-foxes to break their wings, they can then be collected from the ground, cooked and eaten.



'Lancewood'

**Mirlimun** (Mang, Yang)

*Acacia shirleyi*

The dark, heavy timber is used to make clap-sticks, spears, boomerangs and digging-sticks. It is admired for its strength and durability. The digging-sticks are used for digging yams and goannas.

Spears can be made from this tree where the head is carved from the shaft in one piece, generally a separate head is added to the shaft. This head can be sharpened when it becomes blunt, and it holds its edge very well.

The timber has been used recently for fence building and structural purposes, and is also excellent firewood.

'Lancewood'  
**Mirlimun** (Mang, Yang)

'Wattle'

**Jamja** (Mang, Yang)

*Acacia umbellata*

The timber of the small stems is used to make small spears and digging-sticks; it is hard and has similar qualities to **Mirlimun** (*Acacia shirleyi*).

This bark is also used to make skirts and made into a brush to dip honey out of sugar-bag (native bee-hives).



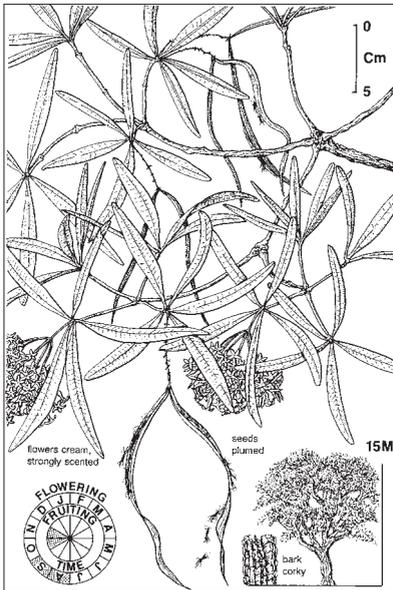
'Mimosa Tree'

**Yumbug** (Mang, Yang)

*Vachellia (Acacia) pachyphloia*

The timber is considered good firewood. The gum is eaten; it requires no cooking and is most easily seen during early morning or late afternoon when it reflects the sunlight.

'Wattle'  
**Jamja** (Mang, Yang)  
*Acacia umbellata*



'Wattle Tree'

*Vachellia (Acacia) valida***Yumbug** (Mang, Yang)

The gum can be eaten; it requires no cooking and is most easily seen during early morning or late afternoon when it reflects the sunlight.

'Soap Tree'

*Alphitonia excelsa***Birliwirli** (Mang, Yang)

The leaves are rubbed with water to make soapy lather, this is good to wash with.

'Milkwood'

*Alstonia actinophylla***Wirn.girr** (Mang)**Yarrayan** (Yang)

The wood from young stems are carved and hollowed to form bush pipes (long-stemmed smoking pipes), called **wubin** (Yang) or **larwa** (Mang). The corky bark is burnt and forms a fine black ash which is used to produce black paint.

'Milkwood'

**Wirn.girr** (Mang)**Yarrayan** (Yang)

'Black Currant'

*Antidesma ghesaembilla***Murrunggurn** (Mang, Yang)

The fruit are eaten when ripe (purple to black), they are very sweet and highly sought after when ripe. The fruit may also be crushed and soaked in water and the liquid drunk like cordial. The flesh and juice stain the lips and tongue a blue-purple colour.

'Black Currant'

*Antidesma parvifolium***Miyarlungguj** (Mang, Yang)

The fruit are eaten when ripe (purple to black), they are very sweet and highly sought after when ripe. This shrub occurs on rocky slopes and hillsides.

It is similar to **Murrunggurn**, above, but has smaller leaves.

'Ti-tree'

*Asteromyrtus symphyocarpa***Junyjuyn****Garnbarr**

This small tree has pretty orange flowers and the leaves smell like medicine.

'Black Currant'

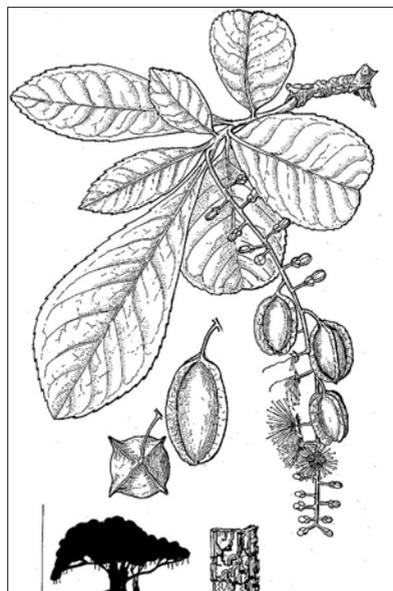
**Murrunggurn** (Mang, Yang)*Antidesma ghesaembilla*

'Whitewood'  
*Atalaya hemiglauca*

**Bambila** (Mang, Yang)

The timber is used as firewood.

The production of the small white flowers indicates that freshwater crocodiles are laying eggs; when flowering ceases, the crocodiles are hatching. Crocodile eggs are collected as they are a favoured food.



'Freshwater Mangrove'  
*Barringtonia acutangula*

**Manyal** (Mang, Yang)

The leaves and bark are crushed and used as a fish poison. The crushed leaves and bark is placed on the water surface of a billabong, causing the stunned fish to float to the surface. The fish can then be collected and eaten.

The sap of this tree can cause blindness if it enters the eye.

'Freshwater Mangrove'  
**Manyal** (Mang, Yang)

'Bauhinia, Bohemia'  
*Bauhinia cunninghamii*

**Gamulumulu** (Mang, Yang)

The red gum that is exuded from insect attack is eaten raw; it has a sharp, strong taste.

The sweet nectar can be sucked from the red flowers, it is pleasant tasting and favoured by children. The red flowers indicate that turtles are laying their eggs.

'Northern Kurrajong'  
*Brachychiton diversifolius*

**Dirlay** (Mang, Yang)

The inner bark is used to produce fibre for making string. The fibre is made into string by rubbing with the palm of the hand, backwards and forwards on the thighs. The string is then made into large dilly bags and also into small dilly bags that are used as good luck charms.

If you fill this small bag with buffalo blood, wherever you go a buffalo will find you. Some people used to fill it with buffalo blood for good luck for gambling, or you can fill it up with whatever you think brings you good luck.

The bark can also be used to make nagas or cock-rags for men.



'Northern Kurrajong'  
**Dirlay** (Mang, Yang)



'Red-flowered Kurrajong'  
**Mawuraybambin** (Mang)  
**Miyaga** (Yang)  
**Gabulya** (Mang, Yang)

The yellow seeds are eaten after the fruit is cooked on hot coals and ashes. The dangerous hairs surrounding the seeds are removed by fire whilst cooking.

The young plants have an edible tap root called **babirda** (Mang), which may be eaten raw, or cooked in the coals. The stringy bark of the root is peeled off prior to eating. The fleshy edible part is orange in colour.

'Red-flowered Kurrajong' **Mawuraybambin** (Mang)  
*Brachychiton megaphyllus* **Miyaga** (Yang)  
**Gabulya** (Mang, Yang)

Fibre is obtained from inner bark which is made into string for production of dilly bags in the same way as **dirlay**, *Brachychiton diversifolius*, above.

The large yellow seeds are called **guybambin** (Mang), they are eaten after roasting fruit to remove the cheeky hairs, they are tasty like pop-corn.

The fleshy taproot of small plants is also eaten after roasting, the stringy skin is peeled off before eating.

When the red flowers are produced this indicates that freshwater crocodiles are laying eggs and ready to be collected for eating. Flowering also signifies that various water-lily roots are ready to be collected as they are very fat and nourishing at this time of year.



'Green Plum'  
**Dirrawan** (Mang, Yang)

'Green Plum' **Dirrawan** (Mang, Yang)  
*Buchanania obovata*

The fruit are eaten when ripe (green but soft to touch). Sometimes the large hard seeds are crushed with a stone, so that they can be eaten as well.

The bark is used medicinally. The inner red bark is chipped and boiled in water, and the liquid used as an external wash for headaches. It may need to be used several times (but is not taken internally).

'Cypress Pine' **Magum** (Mang, Yang)  
*Callitris intratropica*

The timber is excellent firewood as it burns evenly and lasts for long periods. It has the added advantage of repelling mosquitoes due to its distinctive odour. In recent times the timber has been used for building purposes.

'Turkey Bush'  
*Calytrix exstipulata*

**Murdirdi** (Mang)

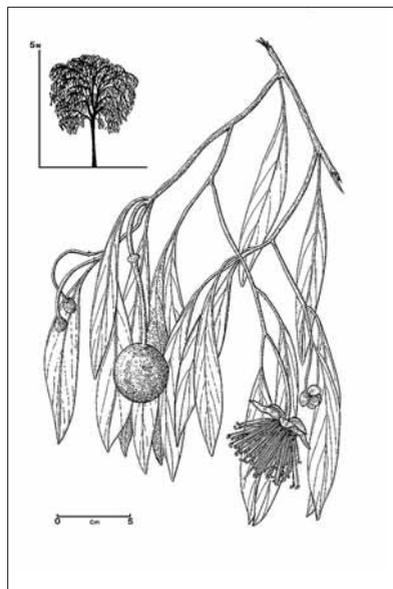
This plant produces lots of pretty pink flowers in the cold weather of the dry season.

'Beech Tree'  
*Canarium australianum*

**Bird** (Mang, Yang)

The fruit of this plant are eaten by birds but not by people. The straight trunks of large trees can be used to make dug-out canoes, the wood is fairly soft and easy to carve.

In the past the black ash from the burnt trunk was rubbed onto the skin of pale-skinned babies. This darkened their skin to reduce sunburn and also hid their pale skin from welfare and police officers.



'Bush Orange'  
*Capparis umbonata*

**Dawam** (Mang, Yang)

The fruit are eaten when ripe, pale green and soft. They are sweet and good to eat. When the fruit are ripe they have a strong pleasant smell.

The leaves and crushed inner bark are boiled in water and the liquid is used as an external wash to treat colds, skin sores, bone disorders and any sickness. It is considered an excellent general purpose medicine, and a small amount may be taken internally also.

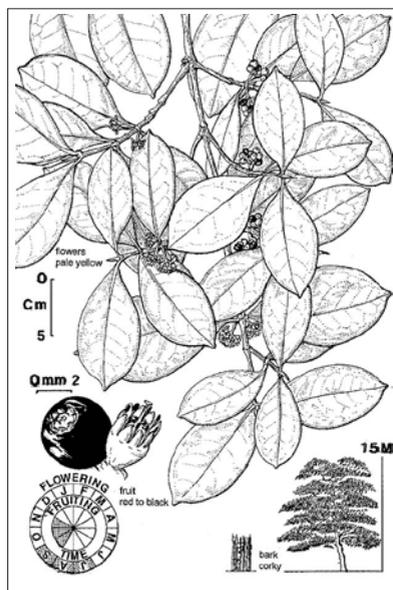
'Bush Orange'  
**Dawam** (Mang, Yang)

'Carallia'  
*Carallia brachiata*

**Wirn.girr** (Mang)

The fruit can be eaten when they are ripe, red. They are also eaten by many birds.

This tree grows on rivers and creek-lines and often occurs in jungle areas.

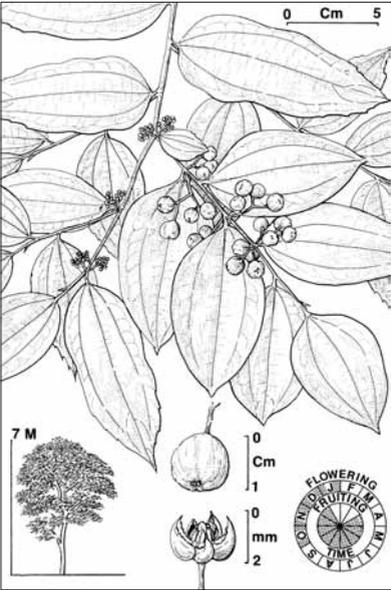


'Conkerberry'  
*Carissa lanceolata*

**Jinybarnay** (Mang, Yang)

The fruit are eaten when ripe (black), they are very sweet and tasty. **Jinybarnay** has sharp prickles and has white milk-like sap.

'Carallia'  
**Wirn.girr** (Mang)



The bark of the root is boiled in water which produces a yellow coloured dye for fibre.

The timber is used during the wet season as it burns well in wet conditions.

‘Whistling Tree’  
*Casuarina cunninghamiana*

**Warmi**

The timber is considered to be good firewood; it burns slowly and produces long-lasting coals.

The sound of the wind in the leaves makes a whistling noise which ‘sings people to sleep’.

*Cathormion umbellatum* **Jalmbalmbuj (Mang)**

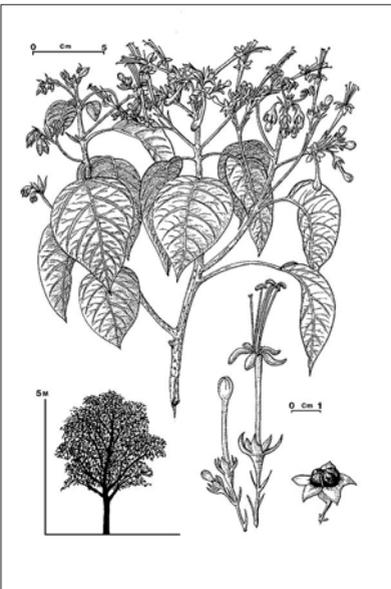
This tree is a good shade tree as its dense foliage provides deep, cool shade.

‘Celtis’  
**Wernwern (Mang)**

‘Celtis’  
*Celtis philippensis*

**Wernwern (Mang)**

This tree grows on rocky country in small jungle areas. Small spears can be made from straight stems. The fruit can be eaten when they are ripe, red.



‘Clerodendrum’  
*Clerodendrum floribundum* **Mornang Bordoga (Mang, Yang)**

‘Clerodendrum’  
**Mornang Bordoga (Mang, Yang)**

The leaves and bark are boiled in water and the liquid is used as a washing medicine for headaches, it may need to be used several times. This wash can also be used to treat sores and colds. It is also considered to be a good general medicine for bones when taken internally.

Young babies can be smoked or steamed on the leaves, this is often used along with termite mound soil. It makes the baby spiritually strong and sensible when they grow up.

The straight smooth stems may be used to make long-stemmed smoking pipes, which are called **wubin** or **larrwa**. Longer straight stems can be used to make spear shafts.

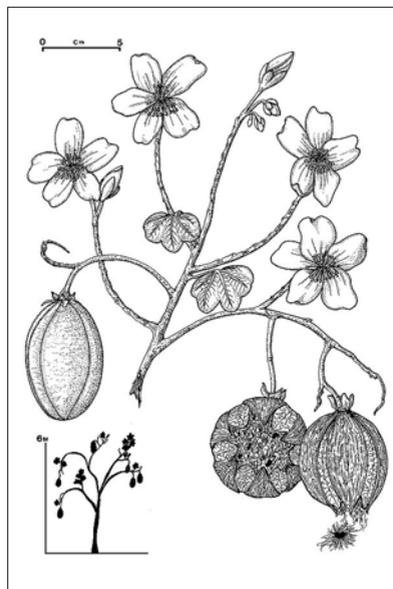
'Yellow Kapok'  
*Cochlospermum fraseri*

**Biwarrg** (Mang, Yang)

The swollen roots of young plants are dug up and the bark is scraped off, the root may then be eaten raw or cooked on the coals.

When the yellow flowers are produced this tells us that freshwater crocodiles are laying eggs and ready to be collected for eating. This happens during the early part of the build-up around August and September. When the fruit are ripe people know that the baby crocodiles have hatched and are swimming.

The flowers also signal that various lily roots are ready to be collected as they are very fat and nourishing at this time of year.



'Yellow Kapok'  
**Biwarrg** (Mang, Yang)

'Colour Root'  
*Coelospermum reticulatum*

**Jumbu** (Mang, Yang)

The root bark is chipped and boiled in water to colour fibre for production of dilly bags and other fibre products. The colour obtained varies from yellow to orange to brown, depending upon how long the fibre is immersed in the water and root bark mixture.

*Croton arnhemicus*

**Ganaburabura**

This small tree is commonly seen with its distinctive orange or reddish, large rounded leaves.

*Cyclophyllum schultzii*

**Girn.girnirr**

This tree grows on rivers and creek-lines. It has red, kidney-shaped fruit that can be eaten when ripe; they are sweet and tasty.

'Emu Tucker'  
*Denhamia obscura*

**Gabarl** (Mang)

Blue-tongued lizards and emus eat the fruit, people cannot eat them.



'Colour Root'  
**Jumbu** (Mang, Yang)

'Needle-bush'  
*Dichrostachys spicata*

(Mang, Yang)

This small rounded tree has sharp prickles on its stems and branches.



‘Ebony’  
*Diospyros humilis*

**Yumurlun** (Mang, Yang)

The fruit are eaten raw when ripe (deep orange to red) they are highly sought after by children but leave a dry taste in the mouth after eating.

The inner heartwood of large trees is black. The timber can be used to make clap-sticks, and spear shafts are made from smaller stems.

*Dodonaea platyptera* **Mirlimunmirlimun** (Mang, Yang)

The hard timber is used to make yam digging-sticks and small spears.

The language name is similar to the name used to refer to lancewood, *Acacia shirleyi*. Lancewood is a commonly used yam-stick, but the name **mirlimunmirlimun** indicates a smaller tree and a smaller digging-stick.

‘Lemonwood’  
**Dilil’min**

‘Skinny-leaf’  
*Dolichandrone filiformis*

**Yawal**  
**Woman** (Mang)

The stems and fine leaves were used in the past to make bush shelters or humpies.



‘Lemonwood’  
*Dolichandrone heterophylla*

**Dilil’min**

The dry, straight stems can be used as fire-sticks (or bush matches), to light a fire using the traditional drilling technique, which creates friction and in turn fire.

‘Corkwood’  
*Erythrina vespertilio*

**Jindiwilg**

The soft, pale coloured timber is carved to make coolamons.

The red, shiny seeds are made into ornamental necklaces in the same way as **banganybangayn** (Mang) or **murranymurrayn** (Yang), jungle beads (*Abrus precatorius*).

‘Corkwood’  
**Jindiwilg**

The bright red flowers tell us that **warrbiyan** (Mang) or **dagarl** (Yang), the freshwater crocodiles are laying eggs, and this is the time to collect, cook and eat them. This happens in the late dry season around

August and September, as the weather starts to warm up.

Small dry stems can be used as fire-sticks. The wood from larger trees can also be used to make a shield for fighting.

'Ironwood'  
*Erythrophleum chlorostachys*

**Yangarr** (Mang)  
**Yarramala** (Yang)

The timber is heavy, dense and strong; it is used for many structural purposes, recently for fence building, in the past it was used for spear shafts and heads. The timber can also be used to make **gundarl**, clap-sticks, **barrgu**, fighting-sticks and **barlgan**, boomerangs. However, other trees have timber that is better for these purposes.

The timber is also excellent firewood, it produces long-lasting coals and burns evenly for long periods.

The wax or resin is called **gabay**; it is obtained from burning the roots and it oozes out of the roots. When it cools it sets very hard and is used for fixing heads to spear shafts.

The boiled bark produces a red dye to colour fibre. The inner red bark is boiled in water and the liquid is used as a washing medicine to treat skin sores and rashes.

The leaves of this plant are burnt to produce smoke which is used in the cleansing stages of funeral ceremonies.

The gum from the sap can be eaten and it is tasty, like a bush toffee.

'Kerosene Wood'  
*Erythroxylum ellipticum*

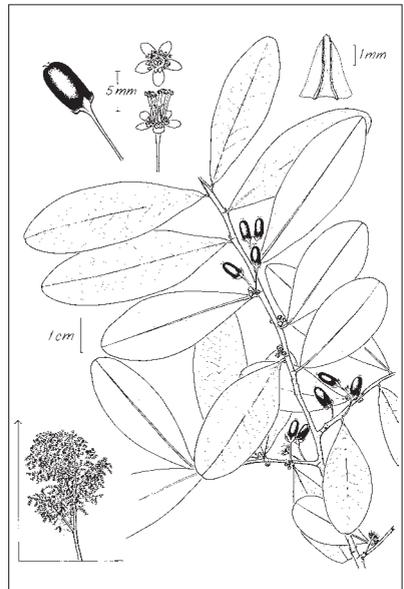
**Dayirriyirri** (Mang, Yang)

The timber is used to make boomerangs, it has a really nice colour and does not need to be painted or polished. Boomerangs made from this wood fly very fast.

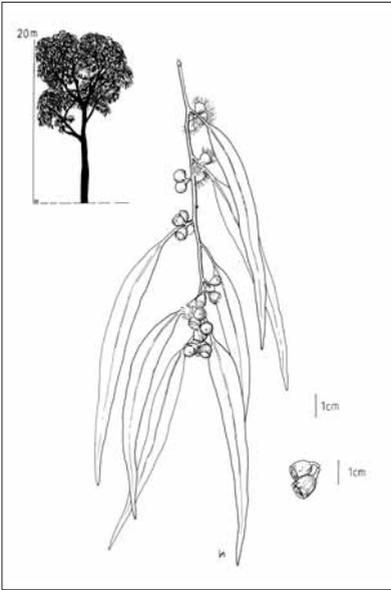
The small fruit are eaten raw when they are ripe (red). The timber is also used as firewood, especially in the wet season as it burns very well in wet conditions.



'Ironwood'  
**Yangarr** (Mang)  
**Yarramala** (Yang)



'Kerosene Wood'  
**Dayirriyirri** (Mang, Yang)



'Ghost Gum'  
**Garrwag** (Mang)  
**Garrawadin** (Yang)

### ***Eucalyptus* in general**      **Gum Trees, Bloodwoods, Coolibahs**

In the past plants belonging to the genus *Eucalyptus* were generally referred to as gum trees, bloodwoods, coolibahs, etc. Recent advances in the taxonomic understanding of the genus has resulted in the Top End members of the genus being split into two genera, *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* (mainly the bloodwoods). In this document the species are arranged alphabetically under *Corymbia* and *Eucalyptus* for presentation purposes.

'Ghost Gum'  
*Corymbia bella*

**Garrwag** (Mang)  
**Garrawadin** (Yang)

When the old bark from the trunk of the tree peels off, exposing the new white bark this signifies that water-lily roots are ready to be collected, as they are swollen and fat at this time of year.

The thick outer bark can be chopped off larger tree trunks, in the oval shape of a coolamon. They are called **dadal** (Mang). This is allowed to dry out and can be used like a large plate for carrying foods such as sugar-bag and sugar-leaf. They last quite a long time and are very handy.



'River Gum'  
**Gulu** (Mang, Yang)

'Salmon Gum'  
*Eucalyptus bigalerita*

**Wubam** (Mang)  
**Dolyan** (Yang)

Sugar-leaf (lerps) are found on the leaves of this tree during the hot weather time of year. They can be collected and eaten, and are very sweet and tasty.

Sugar-bag (native bee-hives) often occur in this tree. The timber is good firewood.

'River Gum'  
*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

**Gulu** (Mang, Yang)

The leaves and bark are crushed and boiled in water, the liquid is then used externally for a wash to cure colds. It is not taken internally as it is too strong.

Small pieces of bark can be chewed to treat colds and coughs.

Hollow stems are used to make didgeridoos.

'Cabbage Gum'

*Corymbia confertiflora*

**Wubam** (Mang)

The timber is considered good firewood. The bark is burnt to a fine, white ash which is mixed with commercial chewing tobacco (*Nicotiana tabaccum* L.) which frees more nicotine to potentiate the tobacco. The powder also improves the flavour and the texture of the chewing tobacco.

'Rusty-leaved Bloodwood' **Wararayan** (Mang, Yang)

*Corymbia ferruginea*

Didgeridoos can be made from hollow stems and branches, the wood is soft and easy to chop.

Sugar-bag (native bee-hives) containing honey, pollen and wax can be found in this tree.

'Bloodwood'

*Corymbia foelscheana*

**Wilinywiliyn** (Mang, Yang)

Sugar-bag (native bee-hives) containing honey, pollen and wax can be found in this tree.

The large fruit are called **jardbi**.

'White Gum'

*Corymbia grandifolia*

**Garrwag** (Mang)

**Garrawadin** (Yang)

When the old bark from the trunk of the tree peels off, exposing the new white bark this signifies that Waterlily roots are ready to be collected, as they are swollen and fat at this time of year.

The thick outer bark can be chopped off larger tree trunks, in the oval shape of a coolamon. They are called **dadal** (Mang). This is allowed to dry out and can be used like a large plate for carrying foods such as sugar-bag and sugar-leaf. They last quite a long time and are very handy.

'Broad-leaved Bloodwood'

*Corymbia latifolia*

**Wubam** (Mang)

**Dolyan** (Yang)

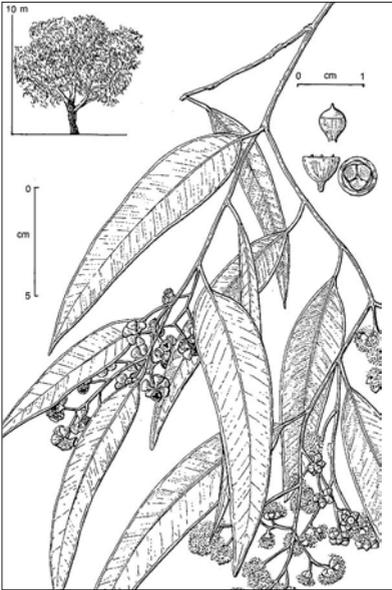
Sugar-leaf is found on the leaves of this tree during the hot weather time of year. This can be collected and eaten, it is sweet and tasty.



'Cabbage Gum'  
**Wubam** (Mang)



'Bloodwood'  
**Wilinywiliyn** (Mang, Yang)



'Coolibah'

**Warlan** (Mang)  
**Murrinyja** (Mang)  
**Warraya** (Yang)

In traditional times the sugar-leaf could also be dried in a large coolamon and wrapped in paperbark to be kept for eating later, especially in the full wet season when other foods were often scarce.

'Snappy Gum'  
*Eucalyptus leucophloia*

**Mirndiri** (Mang, Yang)

This tree grows on hillsides and is a good source of firewood, which is ideal in the wet season as it burns very well in moist conditions. Boomerangs are also made from the timber.

Sugar-bag (native bee-hives) containing honey, pollen and wax can be found in this tree.

'Coolibah'  
*Eucalyptus microtheca*

**Warlan** (Mang)  
**Murrinyja** (Mang)  
**Warraya** (Yang)

The bark is burnt to produce a fine, white ash. This is then mixed with commercial chewing tobacco, where it improves the flavour of the tobacco and allows it to release more nicotine.

Refer to **wubam**, the cabbage gum, *Corymbia confertiflora*.

Sugar-bag (native bee-hives) containing honey, pollen and wax can be found in this tree.



'Woollybutt'

**Gungguru** (Mang)  
**Malara** (Mang)  
**Bulgurun** (Yang)

'Woollybutt'  
*Eucalyptus miniata*

**Gungguru** (Mang)  
**Malara** (Mang)  
**Bulgurun** (Yang)

Hollow stems and branches are used to make didgeridoos. Sugar-bag (native bee-hives) containing honey, pollen and wax can be found in this tree.

'Weeping Box'  
*Eucalyptus patellaris*

**Warlan**

Hollow stems and branches are used to make didgeridoos. It is also a good source of sugar bag (native bee-hive) from which honey and wax are obtained.

‘Bloodwood’ **Bodog** (Mang, Yang)  
*Corymbia polycarpa*

Rounded insect galls form on the branches and twigs of this species. These are split open and the grub or insect out of the gall is eaten raw.

‘Smoke Tree’ **Barrwarla** (Mang, Yang)  
*Eucalyptus pruinosa*

Hollow stems and branches are used to make didgeridoos. The timber is also good for firewood as it has soft wood, which is easy to chop.

Sugar-bag (native bee-hives) containing honey, pollen and wax can be found in this tree.

‘Swamp Bloodwood’ **Gunjird** (Mang, Yang)  
*Corymbia ptychocarpa*

This tree occurs in low sandy country that is seasonally flooded, it has large leaves, red flowers and large fruit. The fruit can be made into necklaces.

‘Coolibah’ **Gunarra** (Mang)  
*Eucalyptus tectifica*

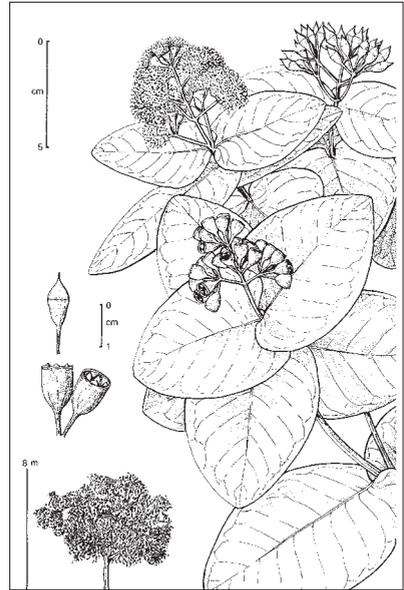
The bark is burnt to produce a fine, white ash. This is then mixed with commercial chewing tobacco, where it acts as a catalyst to release more nicotine (see *Corymbia confertiflora*).

Sugar-bag (native bee-hives) containing honey, pollen and wax can be found in this tree.

‘Bloodwood Tree’ **Gunjird** (Mang, Yang)  
*Corymbia terminalis*

The timber is good for firewood. Sugar-bag (native bee-hives) containing honey, pollen and wax can be found in this tree.

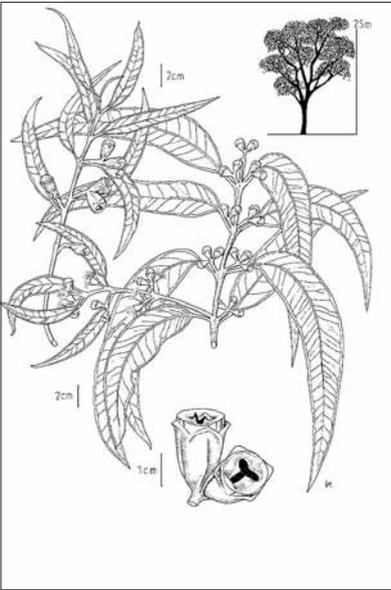
When this tree is in flower it is the cold weather time of the dry season, you need lots of blankets.



‘Smoke Tree’  
**Barrwarla** (Mang, Yang)



‘Swamp Bloodwood’  
**Gunjird** (Mang, Yang)



'Stringybark'  
**Yawal** (Mang)  
**Yan.galin** (Yang)

'Stringybark'  
*Eucalyptus tetradonta*

**Yawal** (Mang)  
**Yan.galin** (Yang)

Hollow stems and branches are used to make didgeridoos. Sugar-bag (native bee-hive) may also be found in this tree, honey and wax are obtained from native bee-hives.

The bark is used for bark paintings and in the old days it was used as roofing material for bush humpies, and is still used as roofing material on similar structures. Big strips of the bark would be taken off the tree, and then held over flames of a fire to uncurl it. Once it was straightened out, it could then be secured down as a good roof. The bark lasts for a long time.

The bark can be used to make small dilly bags that are used for good luck charms. If you fill this small bag with buffalo blood, wherever you go a buffalo will find you. Some people fill it with buffalo blood for good luck for gambling, or you can fill it up with whatever you think brings you good luck.

The wood can be used to make fighting sticks.



'Gutta-percha'  
**Gilirr** (Mang)

'Salmon Gum'  
*Eucalyptus tintinnans*

**Gulurdurdun** (Mang, Yang)

Sugar-bag (native bee-hive) may also be found in this tree, honey and wax are obtained from native bee-hives.

Sugar-leaf can be found on the leaves of this tree. The twigs and branches are spread out on calico and allowed to dry in the sun and the sugar-leaf falls off onto the calico. It is then collected and moulded into balls. In the past these were stored for the wet season when food was hard to find. They are very sweet and tasty.

'Gutta-percha'  
*Excoecaria parvifolia*

**Gilirr** (Mang)

The heavy, brown inner timber, which has a distinctive odour, is used to make boomerangs, **barlgan**, nit-sticks and clap-sticks, **gundarl**. Clap-sticks from this wood have the clearest sound and it carries for a very long way.

The white sap or wood chips can cause blindness if they enter the eye. The blindness caused by this tree

can be treated using **barnarr** (*Owenia vernicosa*) inner bark.

The leaves and twigs may also be used to 'poison' waterholes, this causes the fish to float to the surface, where they can be easily collected, cooked and eaten. Burning the wood makes smoke that keeps away mosquitoes.

'Native Cherry' **Warrinyjalan** (Mang, Yang)  
*Exocarpos latifolius*

Burning the wood and leaves makes a dense smoke that keeps mosquitos away.

'Sandpaper Fig' **Jalinyji** (Mang)  
*Ficus aculeata*

The fruit are eaten when ripe (dark brown).

The leaves (fresh or dry) are used as sandpaper for polishing wooden implements such as spears, coolamons and didgeridoos.

'Rock Fig' **Warndag**  
*Ficus brachypoda*

The fruit are eaten when ripe (red-brown). They are sweet and tasty.

'River Fig' **Garranba**  
*Ficus coronulata*

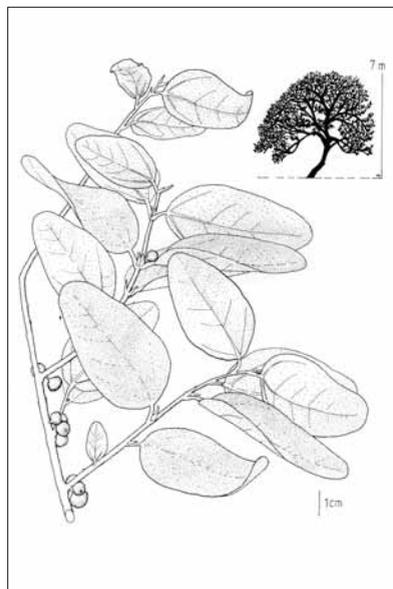
The fruit are eaten when ripe (yellow-brown). Turtles also eat this fruit when they fall in the water of creeks and billabongs.

'Cluster Fig' **Gularawarr** (Mang, Yang)  
*Ficus hispida*

The fruit are eaten when ripe (light yellow); they are good to eat and sometimes they are sweet.

'River Fig' **Manarliyn** (Mang, Yang)  
*Ficus racemosa*

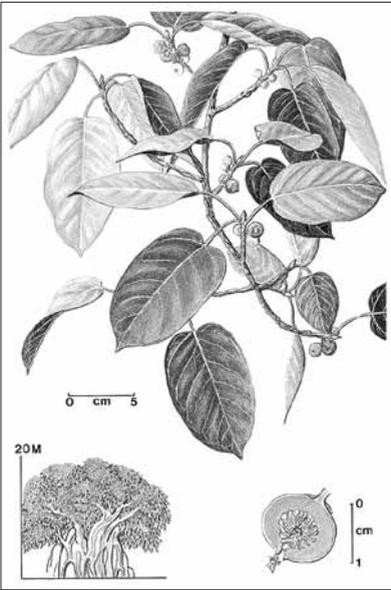
The fruit are eaten when ripe (pink, mottled); this fig is considered one of the sweetest and the fruit reaches peak sweetness when they are brown in colour.



'Sandpaper Fig'  
**Jalinyji** (Mang)



'River Fig'  
**Garranba**



'Banyan'  
**Bongi** (Mang, Yang)

'Banyan'  
*Ficus virens*

**Bongi** (Mang, Yang)

The fruit are only eaten by birds. It is considered a good shade tree due to its large size and dense canopy which casts heavy shade.

These large trees are often associated with sacred sites and special places on dreaming trails and song-lines. Ceremonial sites are often associated with these trees, and the shade they cast was an important factor for many ceremonial areas.

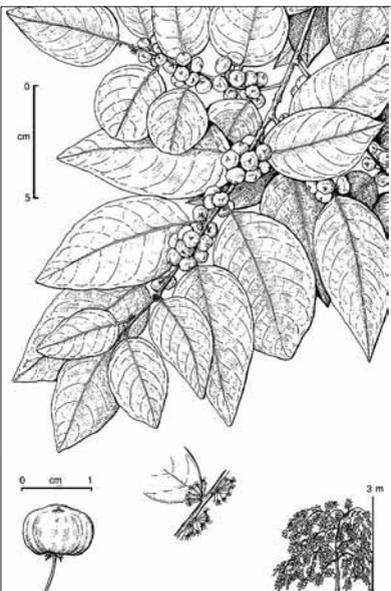
'White Currant'  
*Flueggea virosa*

**Yurrulanyan** (Mang)  
**Julamarran** (Yang)

The fruit are eaten when ripe (white), they are highly regarded as a food source as the fruit are very sweet and often produced in large quantities which are easy to collect.

The wood from forks in branches can be used to form the hook part of a woomera.

There is a place called **Julamarran** on Yangman country.



'White Currant'  
**Yurrulanyan** (Mang)  
**Julamarran** (Yang)

*Gardenia megasperma*

**Gurlgurl**

This tree has white flowers with a strong sweet scent, it has no specific use.

'Caustic Tree'  
*Grevillea dimidiata*, *G. mimosoides*

**Balawadwad** (Mang, Yang)

The green fruit are rubbed on the skin to produce ritual scars; the fruit are rubbed back and forth across the skin to cause scarring. Brushing against the leaves or twigs may also cause skin irritation.

When the flowers are produced, **balawadbad** is indicating that freshwater crocodiles are laying eggs. These are collected, cooked and then eaten and are a highly sought after food.

'Fern-leaved Grevillea'  
*Grevillea pteridifolia*

**Wigu**

The sweet nectar is sucked from the large inflorescences of orange flowers. They are sweetest during the early mornings of the cold weather time of the dry season.



'Plum'  
*Grewia breviflora*

**Wirlida** (Mang, Yang)

The fruit are eaten when ripe (brown); they are sweet. The bark is utilised as a poor quality string for short term usage (e.g. tying bundles of material to carry back to camp), this fibre is not of high enough quality to be used for dilly bags.

The wood is very strong and can be used for fishing spears, broomsticks and walking sticks.

'Coolamon Tree'  
*Gyrocarpus americanus*

**Munggululu** (Mang, Yang)

'Fern-leaved Grevillea'  
**Wigu**

The light, pale coloured timber is used to manufacture coolamons, these are good for collecting water-lily fruit as they float very well. The timber is also used for carving things such as ornamental ducks, fish, crocodiles and snakes. The timber can also be used to make shields.

The freshly cut timber has a noticeable odour, sometimes this tree is called Shitwood, probably because of this smell.



'Boomerang Tree'  
*Hakea arborescens*

**Birdilngirrin**

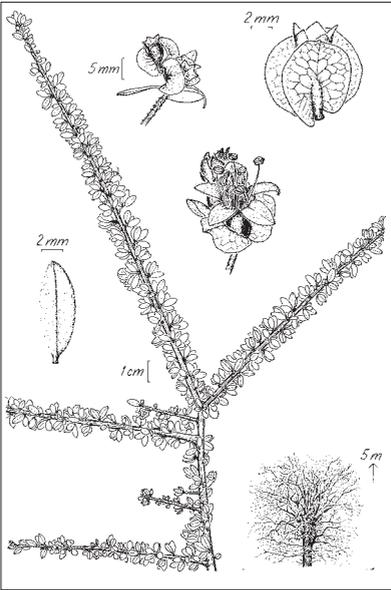
The timber is used to make boomerangs. It is also considered good firewood as it burns well when conditions are wet.

'Swamp Box'  
*Lophostemon grandiflorus*

**Wurarr**

The young, straight stems are used to make spears.

'Coolamon Tree'  
**Munggululu** (Mang, Yang)



'Bulwaddy'  
Giliwirnin (Yang)

'Bulwaddy'  
*Macropteranthes kekwickii*

**Giliwirnin** (Yang)

This tree grows in dense thickets in desert country to the south on Yangman country, it does not occur on Mangarrayi country.

It has hard wood with lots of sharp points that are dangerous. It is good firewood as it produces long-lasting coals.

The timber is heavy and strong, it can be used to make nulla-nullas and yam-sticks.

*Margaritaria dubium-traceyi*

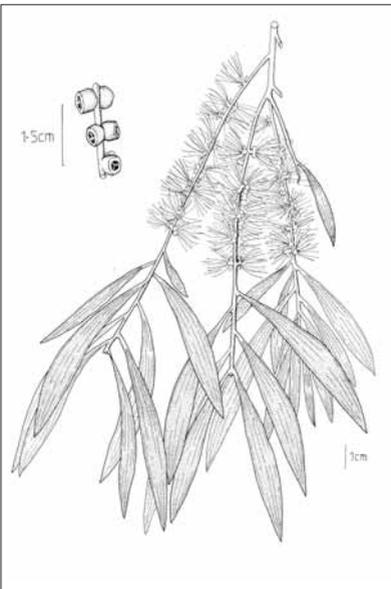
**Wernwern**

The stems are used to make small spears.

**Melaleuca**

**Paperbarks in general**

The plants in the genus *Melaleuca* are commonly referred to as paperbarks due to the fact that their bark usually forms thick papery sheets. This bark can be peeled off the trunk and used for many purposes, including making waterproof humpies, paperbark rafts, for wrapping and cooking food, and as bedding. The papery bark or skin is called **baragurr** (Mang), and **landing** (Yang).



'Grey River Paperbark'  
Garlayarr (Mang)

'Grey River Paperbark'  
*Melaleuca argentea*

**Garlayarr** (Mang)

This paperbark grows on rivers and creeks, it has grey or silver leaves. Flying-foxes eat the flowers and get fat on them, they are then very tasty to eat.

The bark is used to make shelters; it lasts for a very long time (over two years). It is also used as storage containers for food, coolamons for babies and storage vessels for bones.

'Ti-tree'  
*Melaleuca citrolens*

**Gurlag** (Mang)  
**Gulban** (Yang)

The leaves, bark and roots are boiled in water and the liquid used as a wash to treat colds and general sickness, or fever, especially for children. It is good medicine and works well and quickly.

'Ti-tree'

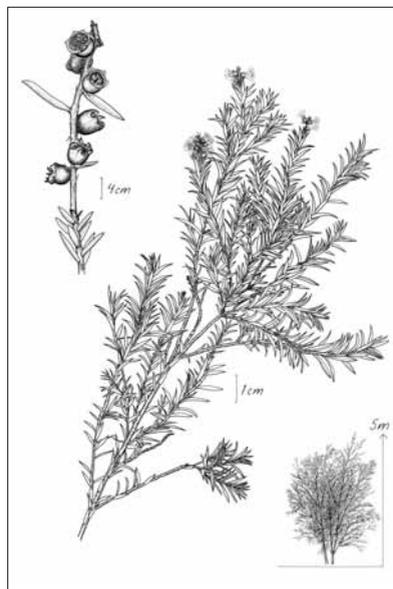
*Melaleuca bracteata*

**Gurlag** (Mang)

**Gulban** (Yang)

The leaves, bark and roots are boiled in water and the liquid used as a wash to treat colds and general sickness, or fever, especially for children. It is good medicine and works well and quickly.

The leaves can also be used to 'steam' babies, along with lemon grass, to make the baby strong and healthy in the future.



'Paperbark'

*Melaleuca cajuputi*

**Waray**

This paperbark has tight bark that cannot be used for anything.

'Paperbark'

*Melaleuca dealbata*

**Dawul** (Mang)

The leaves are crushed, boiled and used as an external wash. The bark is used for roofing material but doesn't last as long as *Melaleuca leucadendra*, **Garlayarr**.

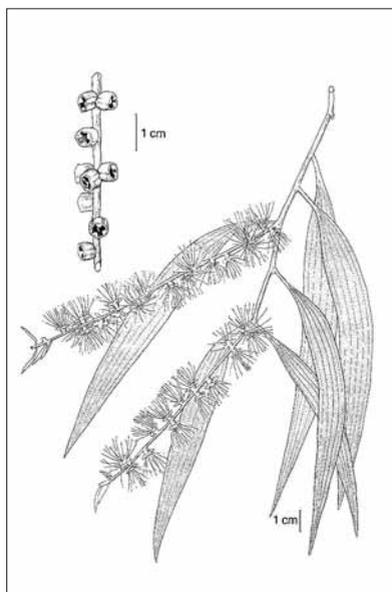
The leaves are also used to flavour fish when they are being cooked. This is done by wetting green leaves with water, wrapping the fish and leaves in the dampened paperbark and placing them in a bush oven.

'Ti-tree'

*Melaleuca bracteata*

**Gurlag** (Mang)

**Gulban** (Yang)



'River Paperbark'

*Melaleuca leucadendra*

**Garlayarr** (Mang)

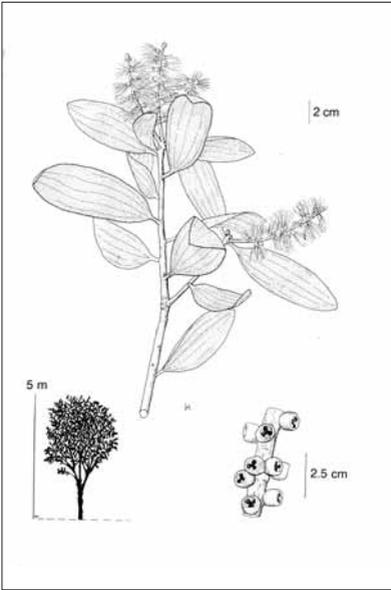
The bark is used to make shelters; it lasts for a very long time (over two years). It is also used as storage containers for food, coolamons for babies and storage vessels for bones.

In the past large floats were made from the bark to fish from, these were called **warnbirribirri**, boats are sometimes called by this name.

This boat used to be made from the *Melaleuca leucadendra* tree. It was a lot of hard work to build a boat such as this. Sometimes dinghies and other sorts of boats are called this name now – but mostly they are called **mardu** after the coolamon used to carry babies around.

'River Paperbark'

**Garlayarr** (Mang)



'Large-leaved Paperbark'  
**Jamanbarra** (Mang, Yang)

The leaves are used medicinally, they are boiled in water and used as an external wash for colds, influenza and congestion. The leaves are also used for flavouring fish, wallaby, and flying-fox when cooking, especially in a ground oven.

**Yirniwun** is the hard wax from paperbark, it is used to secure spear-heads to shafts.

'Paperbark' **Waray** (Mang, Yang)  
*Melaleuca nervosa*

The bark can be used to make coolamons.

'Large-leaved Paperbark' **Jamanbarra** (Mang, Yang)  
*Melaleuca viridiflora*

The bark can be used for carrying lily roots. It is made into a small canoe-shaped coolamon, and it floats on the water and can be filled with lily-roots harvested from billabongs.

The leaves have a strong smell when they are crushed, the odour can be inhaled to clear the sinuses and head when you have a cold.



'Emu Apple'  
**Barnarr** (Mang, Yang)

'Leichhardt Tree' **Jjwirrig** (Mang, Yang)  
*Nauclea orientalis*

The fruit are eaten when ripe (brown).

Dug-out canoes are carved from stems of large trees, the timber is pale yellow and light, it is easy to carve. In the past these were used a lot for hunting, especially for hunting turtles at night in rivers.

'Emu Apple' **Barnarr** (Mang, Yang)  
*Owenia vernicosa*

The inner bark or sapwood is scraped off in fine shavings, this is boiled in water and the liquid cooled. This is then used as an eye wash or eye-drops to treat sore eyes.

This wash can help people who have got sap from **gilir**, the gutta-percha tree (*Excoecaria parvifolia*) in their eyes.

The timber is also used for making **barrgu** (fighting-sticks), and it is the best timber for this purpose.

'Milky Plum'  
*Persoonia falcata*

**Ninggij** (Mang)  
**Gayabam** (Yang)

The fruit are eaten when ripe (light green) and soft to touch. They are quite tasty but contain a large seed; this is spat out along with the skin.

'Quinine Tree'  
*Petalostigma pubescens*

**Banggayi**

The hard, strong timber is used to make boomerangs.

'Cocky Apple'  
*Planchonia careya*

**Morlag** (Mang)

The fruit from this plant are eaten by kangaroos and wallabies.

'Date Plum'  
*Pouteria sericea*

**Dawam** (Mang, Yang)

This small rounded tree grows in jungles, it has dark purple fruit that are about the size of a date, they are sweet and very tasty. Many birds eat them also and they are often hard to find.

'Fire-stick Tree'  
*Premna acuminata*

**Jurruwug** (Mang, Yang)

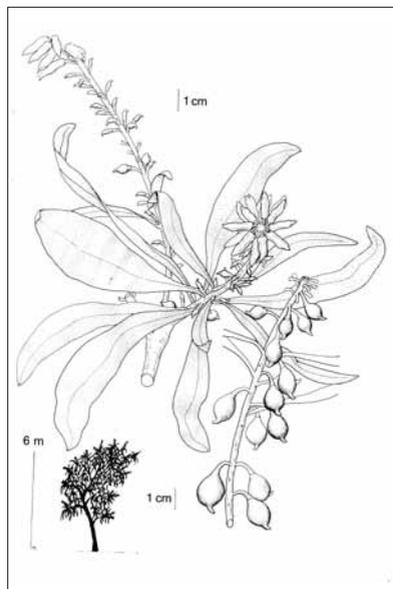
The stems are used for firesticks to create fire using the traditional drilling and friction technique; they are really good for this. In the past were also used for long-stemmed smoking pipes, **larrwa**.

'Sandalwood'  
*Santalum lanceolatum*

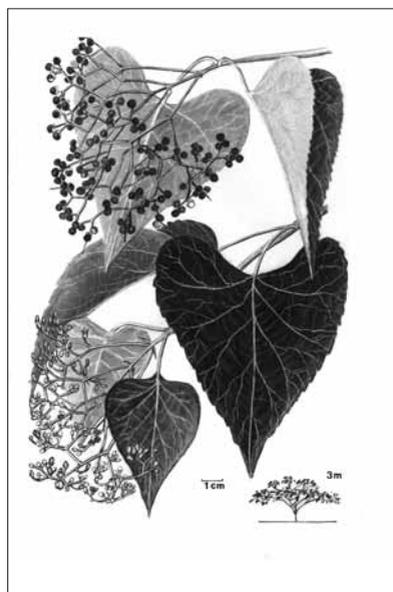
**Jumug** (Mang, Yang)  
**Dumbulyumbul** (Mang)

The inner white bark is used to treat venereal diseases. It is scraped into very fine shavings which are boiled in water and the resultant liquid is used to wash affected areas.

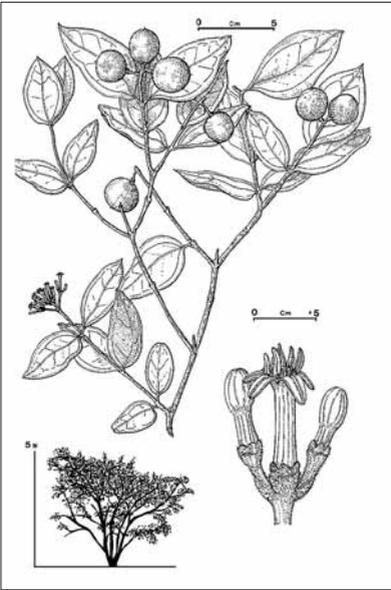
A small amount may be taken internally, but this medicine is considered to be very strong and should be used sparingly. It is also taken internally and applied externally when pain is felt when urinating.



'Milky Plum'  
**Ninggij** (Mang)  
**Gayabam** (Yang)



'Fire-stick Tree'  
**Jurruwug** (Mang, Yang)



'Strychnine Tree'  
**Gurnja** (Mang, Yang)

This medicine can also be used to treat cancer and other serious illness. It has the ability to 'clear out' all major organs and improve general health. It also helps people lose weight, and allows you to walk around easier if you use it for a long period.

It is considered the best and most powerful medicine.

*Sesbania cannabina* **Barragarl** (Mang, Yang)

The stems are used to make **gurluwurr**, small spears for hunting turtles, bustards (Plains Turkey) and emus, and also used for fighting.

The stems can also be used to make spears called **bandarrwuyi**, which have stone spear heads, and are good for hunting larger game.

The stems can also be used to make **juruwug**, firesticks. In the past the wood was also used to make **mag** or **dildil**, message-sticks.

'Strychnine Tree'  
*Strychnos lucida* **Gurnja** (Mang, Yang)

The outer bark is boiled in water and the liquid is used to wash skin sores; treatment may be required for up to seven days to cure infection. This liquid may also be mixed with soap to treat scabies.

The round, orange fruit is considered to be poisonous and it cannot be eaten.



'Red Bush Apple'  
**Jarul** (Mang)

'Red Bush Apple'  
*Syzygium suborbiculare* **Jarul** (Mang)

The fruit are eaten when ripe (red). This plant is not common in Mangarrayi country but is occasionally found in 'spring country'. It does not occur on Yangman country.

*Tarenna dallachiana* **Morlag**

This plant grows in sandy areas, kangaroos eat the fruit.

## **Terminalia**                      **Nut Trees and Billygoat Plums**

*Terminalia* is one of the most widely used genera by Mangarrayi and Yangman people. A number of species have edible fruit and seeds

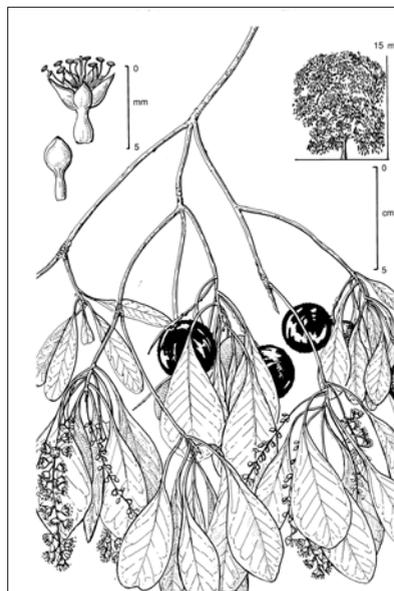
### 'Nutwood Tree'

*Terminalia arostrata*

### **Gedmayn**

The seed is eaten after extraction from the hard shell which needs to be split open. The seeds are a little like a peanut and they are good to eat.

The branches are used to make bush brooms for sweeping areas clear of leaves, twigs and tracks.



### 'Yellow-jacket'

*Terminalia canescens*

### **Gambula**

### 'Nutwood Tree'

**Gedmayn**

The gum can be eaten. If it is too hard it is boiled in water or cooked in ashes to make it soft. It is easier to collect in the early morning or late afternoon when the sun is shining on it.

### 'Billy Goat Plum'

*Terminalia carpentariae*

### **Morlag**

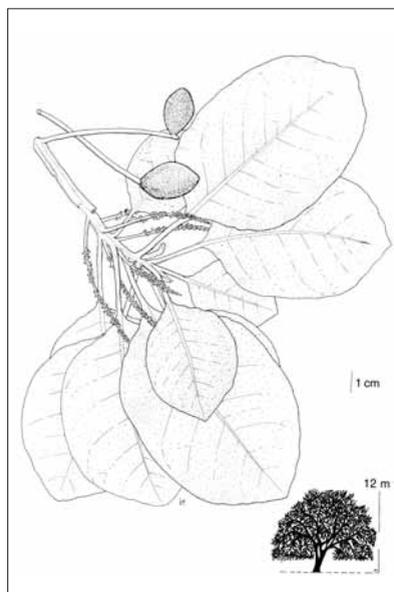
The fruit are eaten when ripe (yellowish), they are also eaten by kangaroos.

*Terminalia erythrocarpa*

### **Girn.girnirr**

The purple fruit are eaten when ripe (purple) and are favoured by children.

They are also eaten by turtles and fish, when they fall in the water.



### 'Billy Goat Plum'

*Terminalia ferdinandiana*

### **Morlag**

The pale green to yellow fruit are eaten when ripe, they are highly sought after. Kangaroos also eat this fruit.

### 'Billy Goat Plum'

**Morlag**

*Terminalia carpentariae*



'Nutwood Tree'  
**Gedmayn** (Mang)

'Nutwood Tree'  
*Terminalia grandiflora*

**Gedmayn** (Mang)

This species has the same name as *Terminalia arostrata* but it is recognised as being different in leaf, size and habitat preference.

The leaves are boiled in water and the liquid is used as a washing medicine to cure headaches. The bark can be boiled and the cooled liquid used as medicine for open weeping wounds.

The dried branches and stems of small plants are used as bush brooms to sweep around campsites. The seeds are eaten after splitting the hard fruit open.

'Pear Tree'  
*Terminalia platyphylla*

**Mardabula** (Mang)  
**Jawul** (Yang)

The fruit from this plant is only eaten by birds. The exuded gum can be eaten from the leaves and branches. If it is hard it is put in hot water to soften it.

'Wing-seed Terminalia'  
*Terminalia platyptera*

**Yarrardja**

This tree is a good shade tree due to its dense crown which provides deep shade.

'Yellow-wood, Rosewood'  
*Terminalia volucris*

**Liyinbi**

The timber is good for boomerangs. The leaves are eaten by cattle in dry times.

When **liyinbi** has flowers it indicates it is a good time to hunt for crocodile eggs in the sandy banks of rivers and creeks.



'Pear Tree'  
**Mardabula** (Mang)  
**Jawul** (Yang)

*Timonius timon*

**Mirniya**

The stems are used to make **gurluwurr**, small spears for hunting turtles, bustards (Plains Turkey) and emus, and also used for fighting. The stems can also be used to make spears called **bandarrwuyi**, which have stone spear heads, and are good for hunting larger game.

‘Black Plum’  
*Vitex glabrata*

**Ngalanyburn** (Mang)  
**Jolowol** (Yang)

The fruit are collected when ripe (black), they can be eaten straight away or they can be sun-dried and stored for long periods. The fruit may then be boiled in water and the sweet liquid drunk.

Crushed fruit are favoured by the elderly as they require no chewing. The crushed fruit are also used in certain ceremonies.

‘Milk Bush’  
*Wrightia saligna*

**Jurruwug** (Mang, Yang)

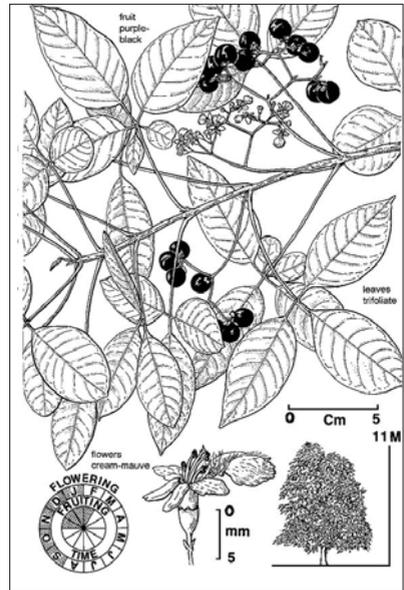
This small tree has long straight stems, they are very good for making fire-sticks for creating fire using the traditional drilling and friction method.

The timber can also be used to make woomera-shafts, small spear shafts and smoking pipe stems, **larrwa**, or for carving **mag** or **dildil**, message-sticks.

‘Plum’  
*Ziziphus quadrilocularis*

**Garrajgarraj** (Mang, Yang)

This small prickly tree has large round, brown plums that can be eaten, they are sweet and tasty. **Garrajgarraj** is not common and is not seen much.



‘Black Plum’  
**Ngalanyburn** (Mang)  
**Jolowol** (Yang)

**HERBS** (SMALL PLANTS THAT DO NOT HAVE WOODY STEMS)

‘Fern’  
*Acrostichum aureum*

**Garrarra** (Mang)

This fern grows in jungle areas and near rivers and creeks in wet areas. They are planted in people’s gardens and in pot plants. In the bush snakes sometimes live in them.

*Commelina agrostophylla*

**Waymbay**



‘Plum’  
**Garrajgarraj** (Mang, Yang)



'Onion Lily'  
*Crinum uniflorum*

**Ngarranyngarrayn**

This small plant has white flowers and a tuber that looks like an onion, however, you cannot eat it and it is considered to be poisonous.

*Flaveria australasica*

**Gurlurluru**

This small plant has yellow flowers, it grows on seasonally wet areas near the Jilkminggan main entrance.

'Emu Berry'  
*Grewia retusifolia*

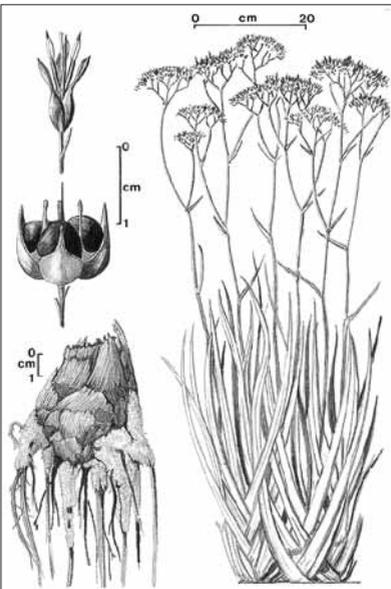
**Giwu** (Mang, Yang)

The fruit are eaten when ripe (brown), they are sweet tasting and highly sought after by children.

'Emu Berry'  
**Giwu** (Mang, Yang)

The roots are used medicinally. The bark is stripped off the root and pounded until soft, this is then boiled in water and the resulting red liquid is applied to sore eyes, or taken internally to treat diarrhoea.

The leaves are also smoked as a bush tobacco, in recent times it has been mixed with commercial tobacco.



'Red Root'  
*Haemodorum coccineum*

**Belyngmayin** (Mang)  
**Belyngman** (Yang)  
**Kala** (Kriol)

The red, tuberous roots are dug up and chipped to be added to fibres to dye them. This dye is dark red in colour. The flowers and fruit can also be used to make a purple-brown dye for fibre-crafts.

In the past, this plant was not used as a dye for fibre-crafts, however, in more recent times the use of this plant as a dye has led to it being called **kala** (colour).

*Neptunia gracilis*

name uncertain

The leaves are boiled in water and the liquid given to small children and babies to treat diarrhoea.

'Red Root'  
**Belyngmayin** (Mang)  
**Belyngman** (Yang)  
**Kala** (Kriol)

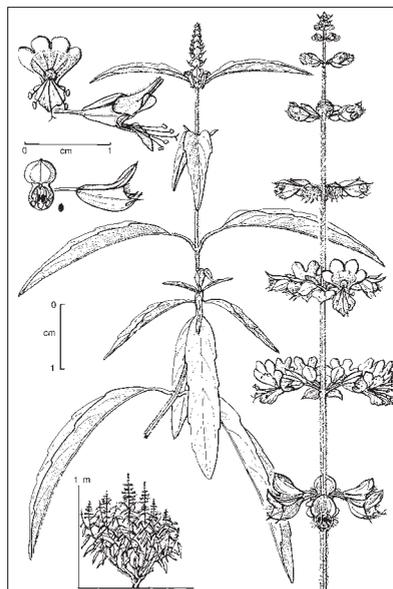
'Bush Tea-leaf'  
*Ocimum tenuiflorum*

**Mudjamudja** (Mang, Yang)

This small plant grows in country that gets a bit flooded in the wet season. It has nice smelling leaves.

The leaves are boiled in water to produce pleasant, clove tasting 'bush tea'. It is drunk for its pleasant taste and it is also good medicine for colds and congestion and for the heart. It is good medicine and it makes you feel less congested quite quickly.

You can also have a wash, or bogey, with the mixture. It makes you smell nice and feel healthy. It helps to clear congestion and relieve the symptoms of colds.



'Portulaca'  
*Portulaca* sp.?

**Murrunmani** (Mang, Yang)

This small plant has fleshy leaves and grows on the ground, they have pretty flowers and have fine black seeds like black sugar. These seeds can be ground into flour and made into dampers and johnny-cakes, they taste really good.

In the past the seeds were collected and ground with a flat stone and a grinding stone and the flour was made into damper, these were wrapped in paperbark and put in hot ashes and coals to cook.

These dampers were important food during ceremonies, as they could feed a lot of people and could be stored for a short period. The cooked dampers tasted really good.

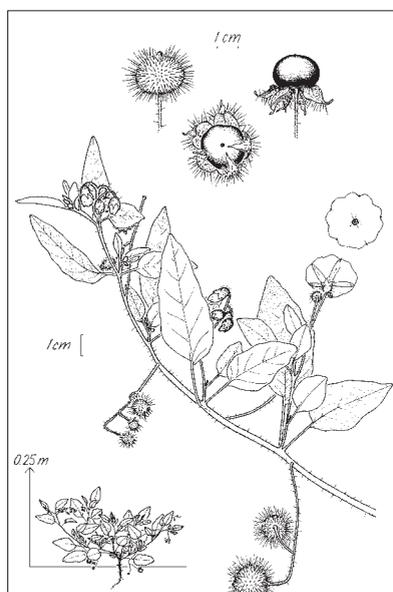
'Bush Tea-leaf'  
**Mudjamudja** (Mang, Yang)

*Pterocaulon serrulatum*  
*P. sphacelatum*

**Jorroy** (Mang)

The leaves are used as medicine to treat colds and congestion. They are crushed in the fingers and a small piece is placed in the nostrils to clear nasal and chest congestion.

This plant has the same Mangarrayi name as *Cymbopogon bombycinus* and *Streptoglossa odora*.

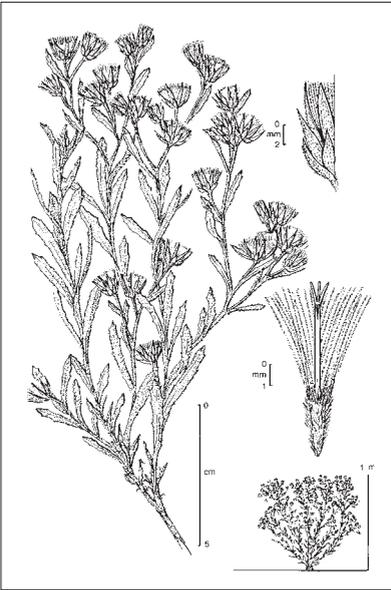


'Spiny Gooseberry'  
*Solanum echinatum*

**Banganybangayn** (Mang)

The fruit can be eaten when they are ripe, purple. They are sweet and tasty. The prickly fruit covering has to be peeled back to expose the fruit.

'Spiny Gooseberry'  
**Banganybangayn** (Mang)



*Streptoglossa odora*  
Jorroy (Mang)

*Streptoglossa odora*

**Jorroy** (Mang)

The leaves are boiled and used for medicinal purposes. Green leaves are also used to flavour meat, such as bush turkey, kangaroo and beef.

This plant has the same Mangarrayi name as similar smelling plants, *Cymbopogon bombycinus* and *Pterocaulon serrulatum*.

'Bush Tobacco'

**Bujirri** (Kriol)

*Trichodesma zeylanicum*

A long time ago, in wild country, old people used to smoke leaves as bush tobacco in long-stemmed smoking pipes.

The language name that is used is a Kriol term based on the word **pitjuri**, a desert language name for a plant traditionally traded and used as bush tobacco.

## MISTLETOES AND ORCHIDS

'Mistletoe'

**Darlugdarlug**

*Amyema bifurcatum*, *A. miquelii*

The stem is used medicinally. The inner white bark of the stem is scraped off and boiled in water and the liquid is drunk to treat coughs, colds and influenza. It is considered to be a strong medicine.

The fruit is eaten when ripe; the inner flesh is sticky like chewing gum. The Mistletoebird also eats this fruit.



'Tree Orchid'  
**Jalamari** (Mang, Yang)  
*Cymbidium canaliculatum*

'Tree Orchid'

**Jalamari** (Mang, Yang)

*Cymbidium canaliculatum*

The stems (pseudo-bulbs) are used medicinally. They are crushed and the juices are placed on bruises and broken bones which may then be bandaged into place.

The juice is also used as a glue to set colours in paints, which makes the colour stay strong and vibrant for a long period.

‘Tree Orchid’ **Jalamari** (Mang, Yang)  
*Dendrobium dicuphum*

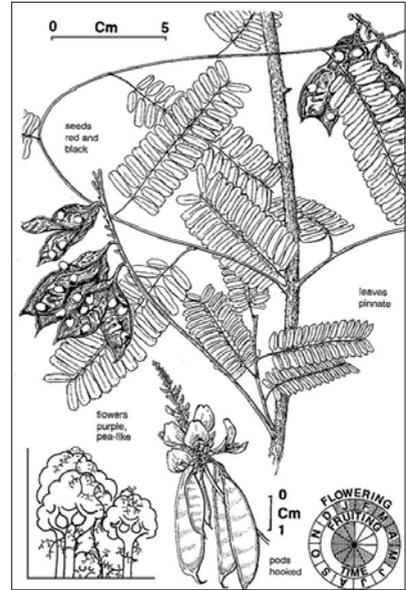
The stems (pseudo-bulbs) are used medicinally. They are crushed and the juices are placed on bruises and broken bones which may then be bandaged into place.

The juice is also used as a glue to set colours in paints, which makes the colour stay strong and vibrant for a long period.

‘Mistletoe’ **Darlugdarlug**  
*Lysiana spathulata*

This mistletoe is used for the same purposes as *Amyema bifurcatum*, which has the same Mangarrayi name.

However, this species grows on **Gamulumulu** (*Bauhinia cunninghamii*) rather than *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* species.



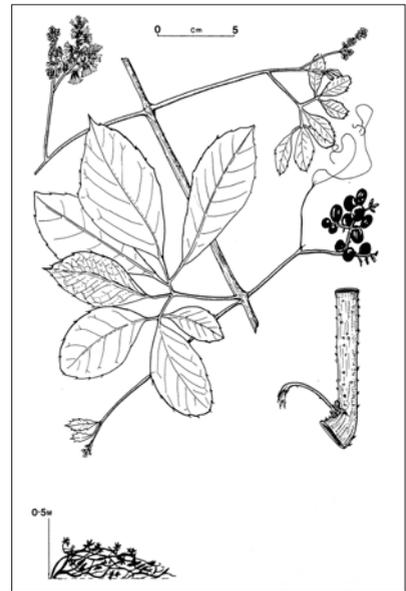
‘Jungle Beads’  
**Banganybangayn** (Mang)  
**Murraymurrayn** Yang)

**CLIMBERS AND VINES**

‘Jungle Beads’ **Banganybangayn** (Mang)  
*Abrus precatorius* **Murraymurrayn** Yang)

The small hard red and black seeds are boiled in water until they are soft. They are then pierced with a needle or heated wire and threaded onto string or fishing line to make decorative necklaces.

They are used as decoration by young people and are sometimes sold to tourists. **Jindiwilg** (*Erythrina vespertilio*) is also used to make necklaces.

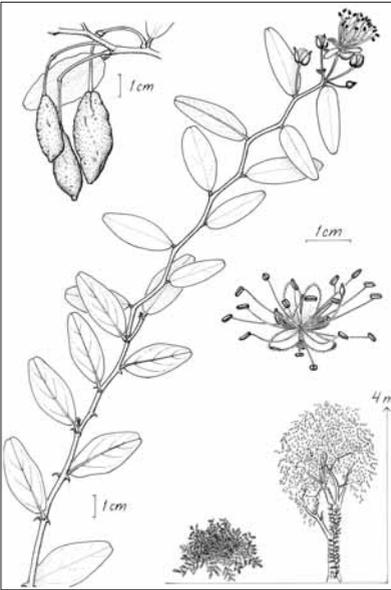


‘Native Grape’  
**Giwalwal** (Mang)

‘Native Grape’ **Giwalwal** (Mang)  
*Ampelocissus acetosa*

The fruit are eaten when ripe (black), they are sweet and a little like a commercial grape. Blue-tongued lizards also eat this fruit.

This type of bush grape grows along the ground or climbs over other plants. It is closely related to **magorlgorl** (below), which stands up straight rather than laying down or climbing on other plants.



'Native Grape'  
*Ampelocissus frutescens*

**Magorlorl** (Yang)

The fruit are eaten when ripe (black), they are sweet and a little like a commercial grape. Blue-tongued lizards also eat this fruit.

'Split-jack'  
*Capparis lasiantha*

**Gunbaba**

The fruit are eaten when ripe, pale yellow and soft.

'Dodder'  
*Cassytha filiformis*

**Mawajawaja** (Mang)

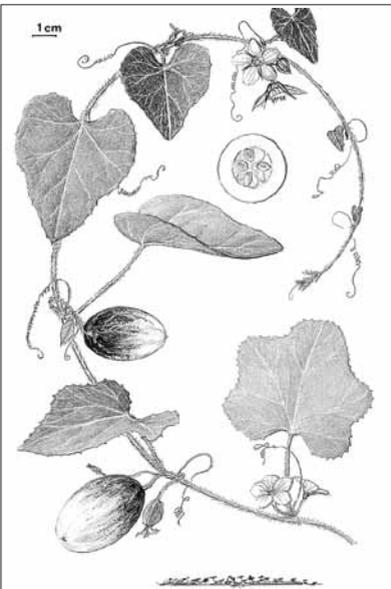
The fruit are eaten when ripe, clear or white; they are sweet and tasty.

'Split-jack'  
**Gunbaba**

'Native Grape'  
*Cayratia trifolia*

**Gunyinggin** (bitter form)  
**Yirriwurrburr** (sweet form)

The tuber (yam) is eaten after roasting or boiling. It is stringy and there are two forms: a bitter tasting one and a sweet tasting one. The fruit are eaten when ripe (dark purple), they are sweet to taste.



The soft stems are wrapped around paperbark torches to hold the paperbark in place.

Feral pigs like to eat the yams, and because of this there is less of this yam around now than in the past.

'Wild Cucumber'  
*Cucumis melo*

**Ngarrarnagan**

The fruit are eaten raw when ripe (yellowish-green), they may cause the tongue and lips to feel sore if too much is eaten. It is best to rub the fruit between hands or in water or sand prior to eating to remove any hairs on the fruit skin.

Sometimes one plant will have lots of fruit on it and when you lift it up off the ground all the fruit hang down. It is really nice to eat.

'Wild Cucumber'  
**Ngarrarnagan**

**Ngarrarnagan** is also the name of a place near **Jirrgijaji**.

'Emu Cucumber'  
*Cucumis picrocarpus*

**Mundugban** (Mang)  
**Ganbarwa** (Yang)

This plant is only emu and blue-tongued lizard tucker. It is a countryman for **ngarrarnagan** (above), and looks similar but it cannot be eaten.

This type of bush cucumber has more rounded fruit, rather than oval-shaped, and leaves with distinct lobes.

'Cane-vine'  
*Flagellaria indica*

**Manba** (Mang)  
**Yerrel** (Yang)

This climbing plant grows in jungle areas. The young stems are used to produce armbands and bracelets, these are used in circumcision ceremonies; the bracelets are also called **yerrel** and **manba**.

It is also used to make small bags that are used for good luck charms. If you fill this small bag with buffalo blood, wherever you go a buffalo will find you. Some people fill it with buffalo blood for good luck for gambling, or you can fill it up with whatever you think brings you good luck.



'Cane-vine'  
**Manba** (Mang)  
**Yerrel** (Yang)

*Gymnanthera oblonga*

**Giriri**

This plant is a climber with white sap. It has no specific use.

'Wild Banana'  
*Marsdenia viridiflora*

**Munburgg** (Mang, Yang)

The fruits are eaten when ripe (green but soft). They are highly sought after food. The young fruit are the best to eat, when they get to full size they can be a bit fibrous and stringy to eat.

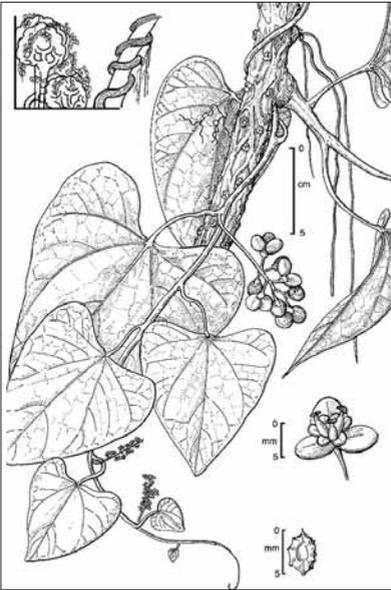
*Merremia gemella*

**Giriri**

The stringy stems are used for bush string or rope. Snakes hide in this vine on top of trees whilst waiting for flying-foxes.



'Wild Banana'  
**Munburgg** (Mang, Yang)



'Snake Vine'  
**Gunyinggin** (Mang, Yang)

*Opilia amentacea*

**Larlamurri**

The leaves are boiled in water and the liquid is used as an external wash to treat fever, colds and any general sickness. The liquid must not be drunk. The yellow fruit cause a sore mouth if they are eaten.

'Asparagus-vine'  
*Asparagus racemosus*

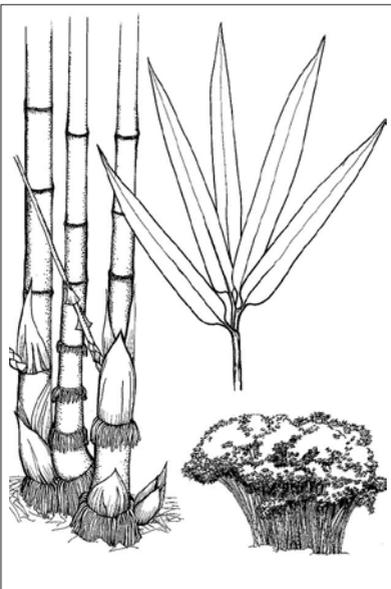
**Warrabarla** (Mang, Yang)

The root is used medicinally. It is dug up, pounded and boiled in water and the liquid is applied directly to skin sores, especially on the ankles. It is considered to be a strong medicine and it was widely used before modern medicine became available.

'Snake Vine'  
*Tinospora smilacina*

**Gunyinggin** (Mang, Yang)

This climbing plant wraps around stems of trees and sometimes looks like a snake. It has the same name as the bitter tasting form of native grape, *Cayratia trifolia*.



'Bamboo'  
**Jamarlak** (Mang, Yang)

**GRASS-LIKE PLANTS**

'Sugar-bag Grass'  
*Alloteropsis semialata* ?

**Jirri** (Mang, Yang)

The grass stems are pulled out of the ground and the smooth base is used to dip honey from sugar-bag, native bee-hives.

'Bamboo'  
*Bambusa arnhemica*

**Jamarlak** (Mang, Yang)

Didgeridoos can be made from the hollow stems. In many places the flexible stems are used for spear shafts but not by Mangarrayi and Yangman people.

'River Cane Grass'  
*Chionachne cyathopoda*

**Birnday** (Mang)

This tall grass grows near large rivers, it is very hard to walk through and has no specific use.

'Wallaby Grass'  
*Chrysopogon fallax*

**Bunjurr** (Mang, Yang)

The roots are dug up and eaten by wallabies and kangaroos, especially in the mid to late dry season when there is not much grass around.

The new stems have a sharp point and can poke into the base of your foot if you walk on it.

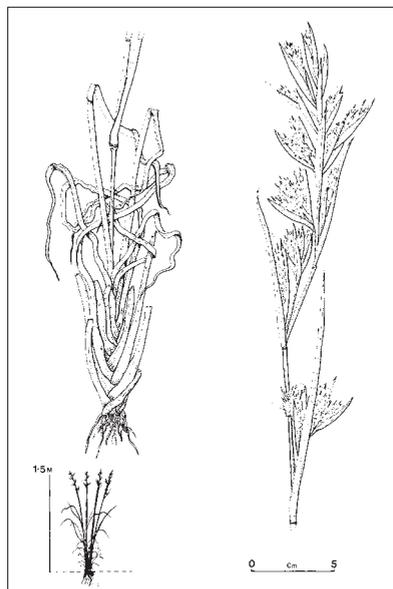
'Lemon Grass'  
*Cymbopogon bombycinus*

**Jorroy** (Mang)

The green foliage is placed on hot stones, coals and ashes to produce steam and smoke. This is surrounded by the bark of a *Melaleuca* to act as a windbreak. Mothers of newborn babies, young babies and sick people sit amongst the smoke and steam to promote good health and vigour.

The leaves are also boiled in water and used as an external wash to treat colds and congestions. This plant is also used in initiation ceremonies for young men.

This plant has the same Mangarrayi name as *Pterocaulon serrulatum* and *Streptoglossa odora*.



'Lemon Grass'  
**Jorroy** (Mang)

'Bush Rice'  
**Murrunmani** (Mang, Yang)  
*Eragrostis* spp., *Sporobolus australasicus*

This grass has lots of small seeds that fall to the ground. These seeds are often collected by ants and stored in and near their nests. The seeds can be easily collected, they are then ground up into flour, which is made into dampers or johnny-cakes and roasted on hot coals. It grows up to about 60 cm tall.

'Black Spear Grass'  
*Heteropogon contortus*

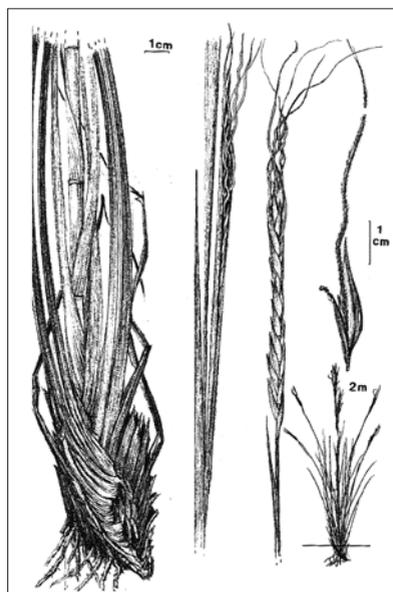
**Lurr** (Mang)

This grass is often seen along the sides of roads, it has no particular use.

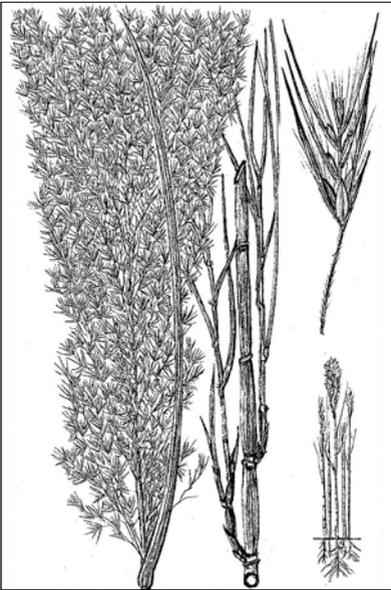
'Sweet Cane Grass'  
*Heteropogon triticeus*

**Jilibijilbi** (Mang)

The stems of this tall grass can be chewed and sucked as they contain a sweet juice like sugar cane. They are juiciest and sweetest at the end of the wet season and early in the dry season.



'Sweet Cane Grass'  
**Jilibijilbi** (Mang)



'Cane Grass'  
**Bardawg**

'Grass'

*Imperata cylindrica*

The small seeds are eaten by emus and kangaroos.

**Winja**

'Wild Rice'

*Oryza rufipogon*

This grass grows in swamps and billabongs. The seeds can be collected and allowed to dry in the sun for a while. They are then ground into flour on a grinding stone and made into johnny-cakes that are roasted and then eaten.

**Bidarra (Mang)**

'Cane Grass'

*Phragmites karka*

The light, straight stems are used to make small spears.

**Bardawg**

'Spear Grass'

*Sorghum intrans*

The stems were used for the construction of shade and water shelters (humpies) in the past when paperbark was not available. The green leaves are used to flavour kangaroo meat when cooking.

**Gorndongo (Yang)**

**Garrarlari (Mang)**

Children play with the stems and seeds like toy spears. This grass gets knocked down by the 'knock-em down' storms of the late wet season. When the stems dry out it is burnt and gives a nice clean burn leaving the ground clean and easy to walk and hunt on.



'Spear Grass'  
**Gorndongo (Yang)**  
**Garrarlari (Mang)**

'Spear Grass'

*Sorghum plumosum*

Children use the seed heads as toy spears. Kangaroos and wallabies are noted to eat the new shoots.

**Bunjurr**

*Schoenoplectus litoralis*

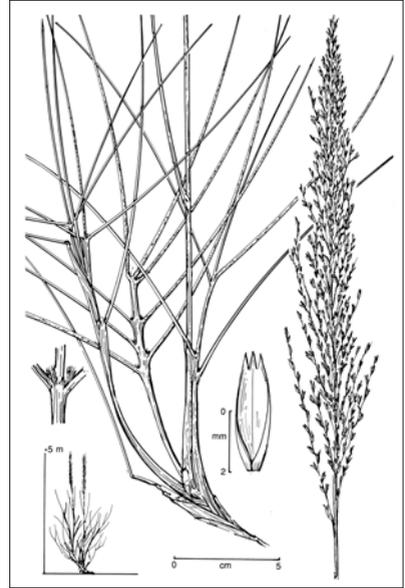
This bulrush-like plant grows in wet areas, it has no particular use.

**Barlarlbab**

‘Spinifex’  
*Triodia* spp.

**Jalg**

The black wax or resin is called **garradji**. It can be used to attach spear heads to shafts. It is also good medicine and is boiled in water and the liquid used as a wash to treat any sickness.



‘Bull-rush’  
*Typha domingensis*

**Danybayi** (Mang)  
**Garnbangayn** (Yang)

The horizontal, white roots are pulled out of mud where they grow, cleaned and then eaten raw. It was used a lot more in the past than today. It tastes nice and is good healthy food.

Magpie Geese make nests amongst it, and they also eat the roots.

The fluffy seeds from the cigar-like seed heads can be glued onto the bodies of people undertaking ceremonies, they can also be used to fill pillows.

‘Spinifex’  
**Jalg**

## LILIES AND WATER PLANTS

*Blyxa aubertii*

**Yangarla** (Mang)

A water plant with flat long leaves that grows in rivers and creeks, it has no specific use.

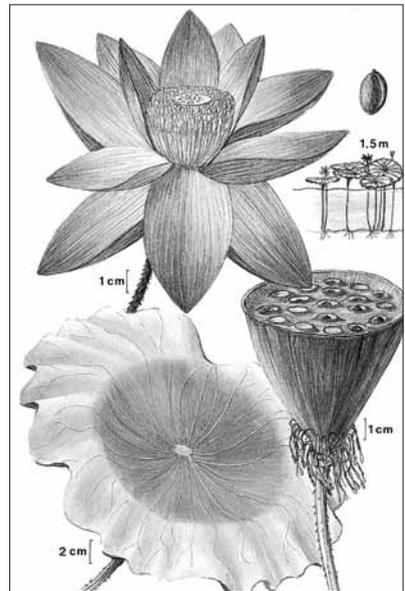
‘Red Lily, Lotus Lily’  
*Nelumbo nucifera*

**Gumgub** (Mang)

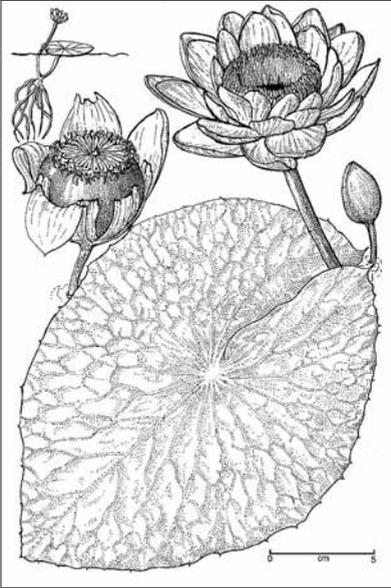
The seeds may be eaten raw or cooked. They are shaped like a peanut and have a pleasant taste like a peanut.

The large round leaf may be used instead of paperbark to wrap mussels prior to cooking. They can also be placed on top of the head like a hat.

There is a place called **ngarrmirn.gan**, Red-lily Lagoon, where this lily grows.



‘Red Lily, Lotus Lily’  
**Gumgub** (Mang)



'Water Lily'  
**Gurryag** (Mang)  
**Wayidbanga** (Yang)

'Water-hair Weed'  
*Nitella sp.?*

**Bunja** (Mang)

This green hair-like plant grows in slow moving waterways, sometimes it grows on the back of turtles as well.

'Water Lily'  
*Nymphaea macrosperma*

**Gurryag** (Mang)  
**Wayidbanga** (Yang)

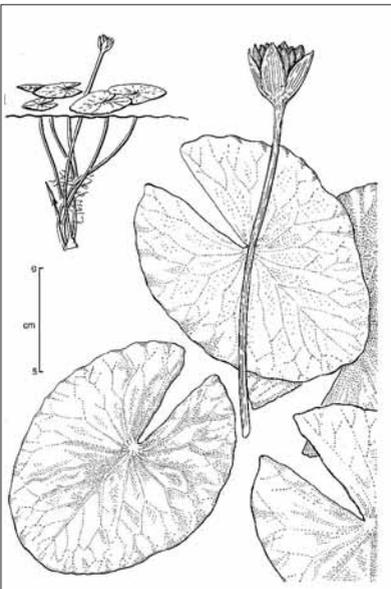
The whole water-lily plant is referred to as **gurryag** or **wayidbanga**, and these names also refer to the edible fruit.

The fruit are collected and the seeds are extracted from the fruit. They may be eaten without cooking; they are tasty and somewhat oily. They may also be dried in the sun and ground into flour. The flour is made into a damper by mixing with water, these are then wrapped in the leaves of the water-lily and cooked in the fire. The small unripe seeds are called **nyingilnyingil** and the larger darker ripe seeds are called **barrarrag**.

The green stems of the flowers and fruit are called **barrarna** (Mang); they may also be eaten raw after the outer skin is peeled off. They taste like celery and are really good to eat.

The tubers are called **garrinymal** and they can also be eaten, they may be eaten raw or roasted on hot coals.

The large floating leaves are called **jalbarr** (Mang). Small new plants are called **jerregelen**.



'Sweet Water Lily'  
**Larrajal** (Mang)  
**Yigigurlan** (Mang)

'Sweet Water Lily'  
*Nymphaea violacea*

**Larrajal** (Mang)  
**Yigigurlan** (Mang)

This lily grows in rivers, rather than billabongs and swamps, it is used for the same purposes as *N. macrosperma* (above), however, it has sweeter seeds called **gurriyak** that are very tasty. When they are collected they are not shared and are just eaten by the person who found them.

The tubers are called **jawurrwurr** and they can also be eaten, they may be eaten raw or roasted on hot coals.

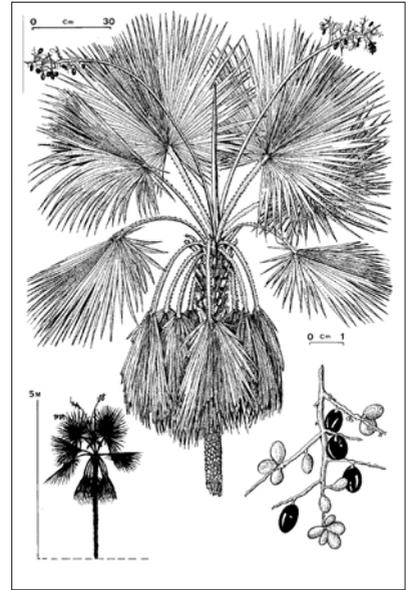
‘Red-leaf Water Lily’  
*Nymphaea* sp. ?

**Jadaburl** (Mang)

This water plant has pinkish leaves that turn red when the yams are ready to eat. The yams are small and have a sharp and sweet taste.

The yams are collected when the clouds gather before the rain during the build-up season.

In the past this yam was common and lots would be collected and eaten. In recent times it has not been seen or eaten. When the Roper River was shallower, this yam was common, since it has been deep there is none to be found.



‘Small Lily’  
*Nymphoides* spp.

**Garnulgarnul**

These very small water lilies have roots that can be eaten.

‘Fan Palm’  
**Garnbaj**  
*Livistona humilis*

**PALMS AND PANDANUS**

‘Fan Palm’  
*Livistona humilis*, *L. inermis*

**Garnbaj**

The cabbage at the base of the new leaves is eaten raw. It is obtained by chopping open the leaf base to expose the cream-coloured flesh. It has a crispy texture and pleasant starchy taste.

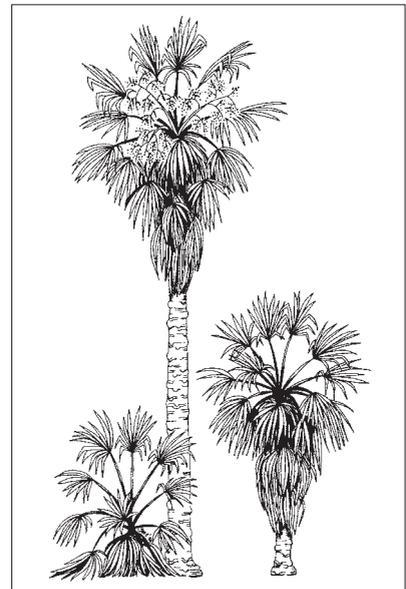
‘Cabbage Palm, River Palm, Mataranka Fan Palm’  
*Livistona rigida*

**Miririb** (Yang)  
**Lerrga** (Mang)

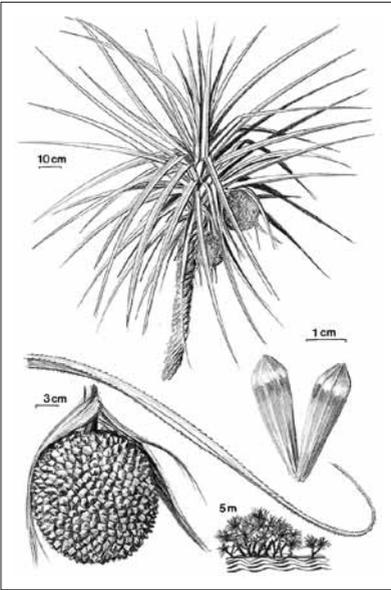
This large distinctive palm tree occurs in areas near perennial springs and permanent rivers and creeks in Mangarrayi country. It is common in patches along the Roper Highway and in various areas on the Roper River, Salt Creek and Elsey Creek.

This species of palm is only known to naturally occur in the Mataranka area and the Lawn Hill area in north west Queensland in Australia.

**Miririb** or **lerrga** can only be harvested from certain places, as it has spiritual importance and is considered sacred in certain areas.



‘Cabbage Palm, River Palm, Mataranka Fan Palm’  
**Miririb** (Yang)  
**Lerrga** (Mang)



'River Pandanus'  
**Wan.garr** (Mang)  
**Wan.garrnga** (Yang)

The soft central cabbage is eaten raw or cooked in ashes or boiled in water, the cabbage is sweet and well regarded as food. The cabbage obtained from one palm would be sufficient to feed four or five people.

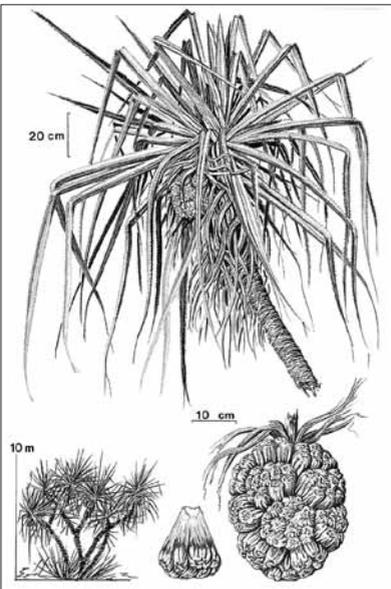
The underground fleshy roots of juvenile palms are also eaten raw.

'River Pandanus'  
*Pandanus aquaticus*

**Wan.garr** (Mang)  
**Wan.garrnga** (Yang)

The fruit are eaten by turtles and are called **galalijorn**. The new leaves are pulled out by hand and the soft non-stringy basal section is eaten, this cabbage is also eaten by white cockatoos and kangaroos. The leaves are not considered a good source of string as they are too soft.

The soft inner part of the stems that can be used as a torch is called **bodjolg** (Mang).



'Spring Pandanus'  
**Jamog** (Mang, Yang)

'Spring Pandanus'  
*Pandanus spiralis*

**Jamog** (Mang, Yang)

The seed is eaten after extraction from fruit. The cabbage at the leaf base is also eaten raw. The soft base of the orange fruit can be sucked, they are sweet. If they are sucked for too long you will get sore lips.

The leaves are used as a source of fibre to produce string for dilly bags, it is considered to be high quality fibre. This string bag woven from **jamog** (*Pandanus spiralis*) is used to leach out yams that are cheeky. Yams are placed in running water inside this bag to take out the toxins, and then they are good to eat.

The roots are used to extract sugar bag, as well as being crushed and boiled in water to dye fibres a grey-green colour.

## YAMS

'Cheeky Yam'  
*Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* **Giynjili** (Yang)  
**Yanburraburra** (Mang)

The large yams are eaten after extensive preparation. They grow in areas near rivers, creeks and springs. The leaves and flowers grow in the wet season and the leaf is large.

To prepare the yam for eating it is sliced up or smashed into small pieces and cooked in hot coals, this is then placed in a basket in running water for a whole day or overnight. After this soaking to remove the toxins it can be eaten.

In the past it was eaten a lot, but now it is not seen much as feral pigs eat the yams.

‘Water Yam’

*Aponogeton vanbruggenii*

**Yarrayg** (Mang)

**Binyimarr** (Yang)

The tubers are eaten raw or cooked in coals. They are preferably eaten at the beginning of the wet season when the tubers are larger.

**Yarrayg** grows in the rivers, while the closely related **binyimarr** grows in the billabongs. Small **yarrayg** yams are called **dagurdagun**.

There is a special ceremony for **yarrayg**. This ceremony is undertaken each year and it cares for the plant and increases its ability to make yams. The ceremony is undertaken by people who are linked to a special site and whose mothers regard **yarrayg** as their own paternal dreaming.

Amy Dirn.gayg tells this story in detail in the front of this book.

‘Bush Potato’

*Brachystelma glabriflorum*

**Bibib** (Mang, Yang)

This plant has flat, round yams, they are very good to eat and can be eaten raw or lightly roasted. The yams are produced at the end of the wet season and are best eaten in the late wet season or early dry season. The yams contain lots of water, they are a good source of water.

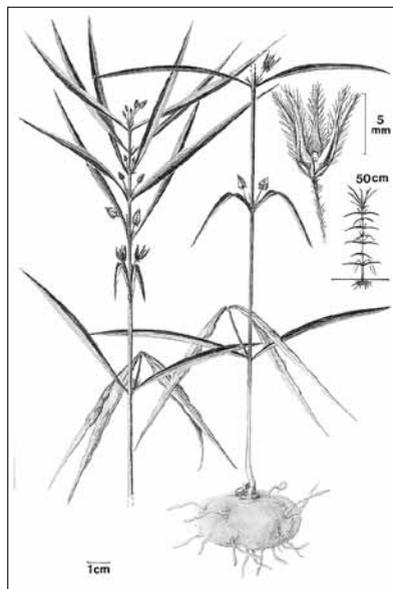
The Mangarrayi name also means knee-cap; the yams are similar in shape to a knee-cap.

‘Bush Onion’

*Cyperus bulbosus*

**Yurrungguj** (Mang)

The small yams can be eaten; they are tasty and can be eaten raw or lightly roasted. In the past they were eaten a lot, large amounts needed to be collected as the yams are quite small. The yams are rubbed



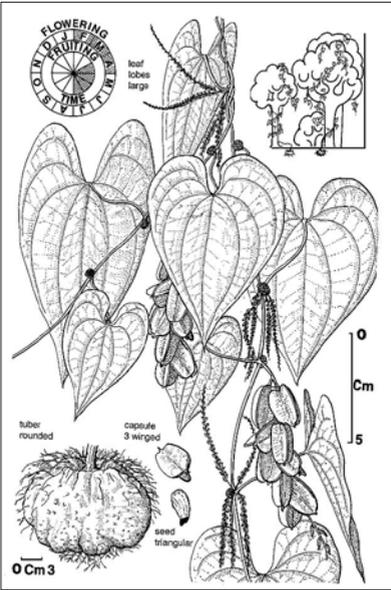
‘Bush Potato’

**Bibib** (Mang, Yang)



‘Bush Onion’

**Yurrungguj** (Mang)



'Hairy Cheeky Yam'  
**Minyjawurr** (Mang)  
**Gulburu** (Yang)  
**Bindjarungu** (Yang)

between the palms to remove the papery skin on them; the skins are then removed by blowing on the yams. They have crispy texture and taste like raw potato.

**Yurrungguj** grows in sandy soil and is easy to dig up, it is common and there is some at the old cemetery near Jilkminggin. When the first rains come the sprouts shoot up, and the kids run around and dig them all up.

Brolgas and magpie geese eat these small yams also. In recent times pigs have eaten this small yam a lot and there is now less of it around.

'Hairy Cheeky Yam'  
*Dioscorea bulbifera*

**Minyjawurr** (Mang)  
**Gulburu** (Yang)  
**Bindjarungu** (Yang)

The tuber (yam) is eaten but it requires preparation, otherwise it is 'cheeky' and cannot be eaten.

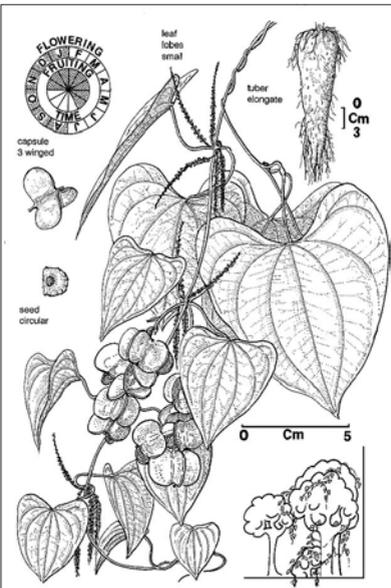
The tuber is cooked in coals then chipped into small pieces, in the past a wallaby shoulder blade was used to cut the yams. These are then leached in running water for one hour to two hours; the flesh may then be eaten. It tastes really good like commercial potato when it is properly prepared.

In the past this yam was a major source of food. In recent times pigs have eaten them a lot and there are far less yams than previously.

There is an important dreamtime story about the green grasshopper or katydid and this cheeky yam. When the green grasshopper is singing, it is calling up this yam and making it grow fat and healthy.

'Long Yam'  
*Dioscorea transversa*

**Jamburl** (Mang)  
**Yumdirrag** (Yang)



'Long Yam'  
**Jamburl** (Mang)  
**Yumdirrag** (Yang)

The tuber (yam) is eaten raw, lightly roasted in hot coals or boiled in water. It is highly regarded for its sweet potato-like taste and the tubers are often over 50cm long.

In the past this yam was eaten a lot and it was an important food resource. It is very healthy food and sometimes it is taken to people in hospital for them to eat, this will improve their health.

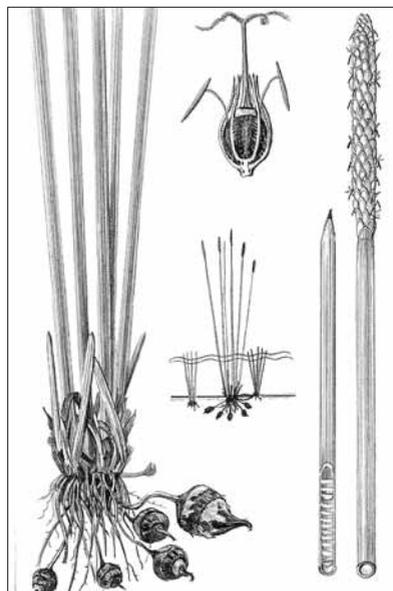
## 'Water Chestnut'

*Eleocharis dulcis***Bawa** (Mang)

The small chestnuts attached to the base of the stems may be eaten raw or cooked. They are good to eat and the flesh has a crisp, crunchy texture.

They are also eaten by kangaroos, broilgas and magpie geese.

The name **wurid** refers to the form of this plant that has 'lumpy chestnuts', these cannot be eaten by people and are only kangaroo food.



Water Chestnut'

**Bawa** (Mang)

## 'Yam'

*Ipomoea abrupta, I. velutina***Dambarlma** (Mang, Yang)

The tuber (yam) is dug up and roasted on hot coals. It may then be eaten and is similar to sweet potato in taste. These plants have larger leaves and pink flowers.

## 'Black-soil Yam'

*Ipomoea aquatica***Yulun** (Mang)

The long, thin tuber is eaten raw or roasted. This plant grows along the ground on black soil areas near rivers and billabongs.

## 'Grass Yam'

*Ipomoea graminea***Dambarlma** (Mang, Yang)

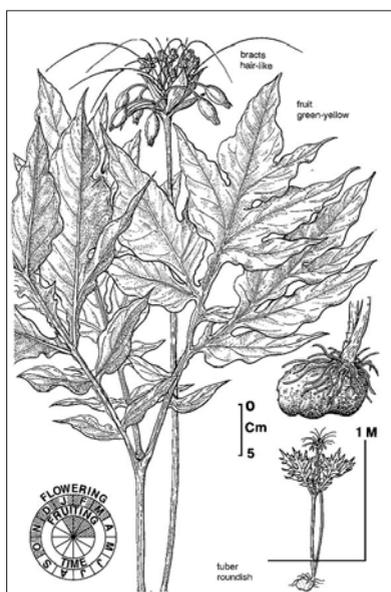
The yam can be dug up, lightly roasted and peeled then eaten. It has white flowers and thin, grass-like leaves.

## 'Cheeky Yam'

*Tacca leontopetaloides***Gagel** (Mang)**Ganbirrbirr** (Yang)

The yam can be eaten after preparation, it is cheeky if not properly prepared. The yam is crushed up and pounded for a while, then it is cooked in hot ashes before it is eaten.

This plant grows in the wet season and then the stems dry out and die back during the dry season. It grows in jungle areas and near rivers and creeks.



'Cheeky Yam'

**Gagel** (Mang)**Ganbirrbirr** (Yang)



'Water Yam'  
**Buwarnan** (Mang, Yang)

'Water Yam'  
*Triglochin dubium*

**Buwarnan** (Mang, Yang)

The small tasty yams are pulled out of the bottom of rivers and creeks, sometimes when you pull out the plant lots of yams come out with it. They are lightly roasted and eaten.

The yams are crunchy and tasty. In the past everyone used to fight over them as they were very popular.

'Pencil Yam, Peanut Yam'  
*Vigna lanceolata* ssp. *lanceolata*

**Garnduy** (Mang, Yang)

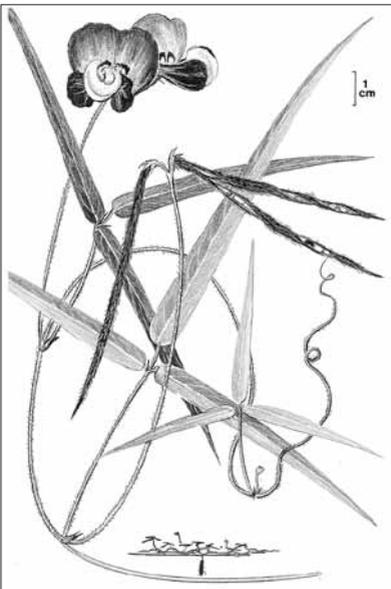
The pale white yams are like small potatoes, they can be dug up fairly easily as they are quite shallow in the soil. They are eaten after lightly roasting in hot coals and ashes.

They often occur in large numbers and are really good food. It grows on sandy banks and in red soil country.

'Bush Carrot'  
*Vigna vexillata*

**Garnduy** (Mang, Yang)

This climbing plant has a yam that is long and thin, it is quite fibrous and chewy but tastes nice. In the past the yam was eaten a lot. They taste better when they are younger, as they get older the yam gets more fibrous and chewy.



'Bush Carrot'  
**Garnduy** (Mang, Yang)

**WEEDS AND INTRODUCED PLANTS**

'Kapok Bush'  
*Aerva javanica*

no language names

This introduced plant grows along roadsides and in disturbed areas. The white, fluffy, cotton-like fruit are used as body decoration during ceremony. They can also be used to fill up pillows to make them soft.

'Sleeping Tree'  
*Albizia canescens*

No language names

This tree is considered to be introduced and has no Mangarrayi name, but it is a very good shade tree.

'Rubber Bush'  
*Calotropis procera*

**Larrbarlarrba**

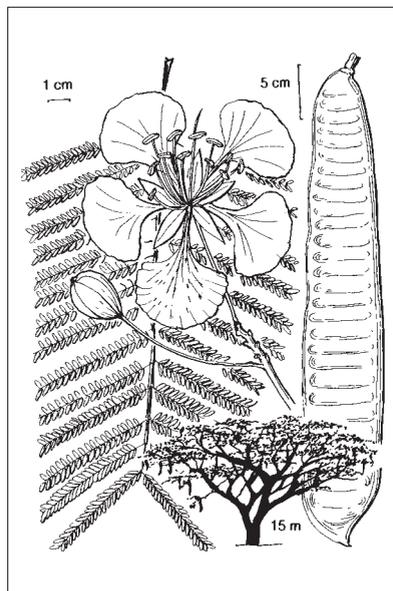
The stems can be used to make bush pipes, long-stemmed smoking pipes, which are called **wubin** (Yang) or **larrwa** (Mang). The stems are hollow and are well suited to making smoking pipe stems.

This is an introduced plant that has white sap and large green-grey leaves.

'Casacara, Golden Rain Tree' no language names  
*Cassia fistula*

This introduced tree is planted in towns and around homesteads on Mangarrayi and Yangman country, it has pretty yellow flowers.

The cylindrical brown pods are used as medicine by some Mangarrayi people. The edible soft pulp around the seeds has purgative qualities, and can be used as a laxative to relieve constipation.



'Flame Tree, Poinciana'  
no language name

'Flame Tree, Poinciana' no language name  
*Delonix regia*

This introduced tree has bright red flowers and large woody pods. It is commonly planted around Mangarrayi and Yangman country in towns and gardens. Children often play with the large woody pods.

'Cotton Bush'  
*Gossypium hirsutum*

**Gabaja** (Mang)  
**Gabajang** (Yang)

This introduced plant grows in a few places on Mangarrayi and Yangman country. It produces white fluffy hairs on its fruit, these are used to make commercial cotton in some parts of the world.

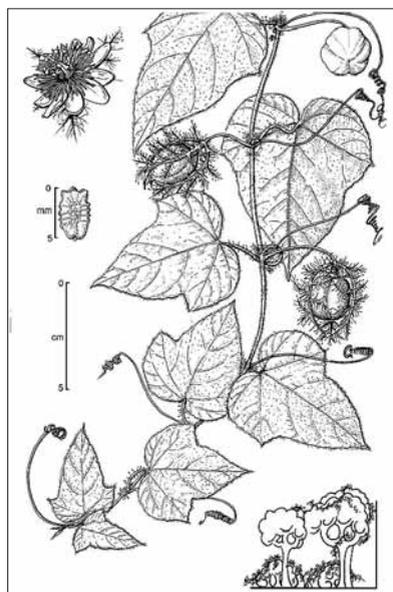
The cotton fluff can be used as body decoration during ceremonies or used to apply paint. The cotton can also be used to fill pillows to make them soft.

'Wild Passionfruit Creeper'  
*Passiflora foetida*

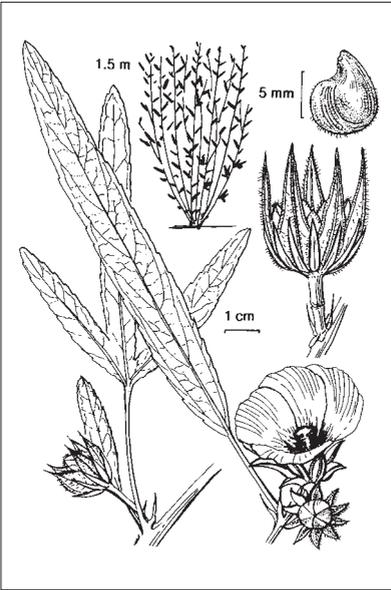
**Bulugun** (Mang)  
**Griba** (Kriol)

The inner pulp of fruit is eaten when the fruit are ripe (orange). The unripe fruit are called **garnbar**, they cannot be eaten and are dangerous.

The sticky and odorous secretion from the hairs on the



'Wild Passionfruit Creeper'  
**Bulugun** (Mang)  
**Griba** (Kriol)



'Rosella'  
no language names  
*Hibiscus sabdariffa*

leaves and stems will cause eye irritation if allowed to contact the eye.

This climbing plant was introduced a long time ago in north Australia. It is widespread and many birds eat the fruit.

Horehound  
*Hyptis suaveolens*

**Wid** (Kriol)

This introduced weed has strong smelling leaves. When the leaves are crushed in the hands they release a strong smell, it can clear your sinuses if you sniff it. A small wad of dried leaves can also be placed in the nose to clear the sinuses.

This plant is a bad weed in areas where there have been lots of horses or cattle.

'Rosella' no language names  
*Hibiscus sabdariffa*

The fruit can be eaten when they turn bright red, they have a sharp tangy taste. They are often made into jam as well, in the past they were used quite a lot to make jam at stations and homesteads.



'Gooseberry'  
no language names  
*Physalis angulata*

'Gooseberry' no language names  
*Physalis angulata*

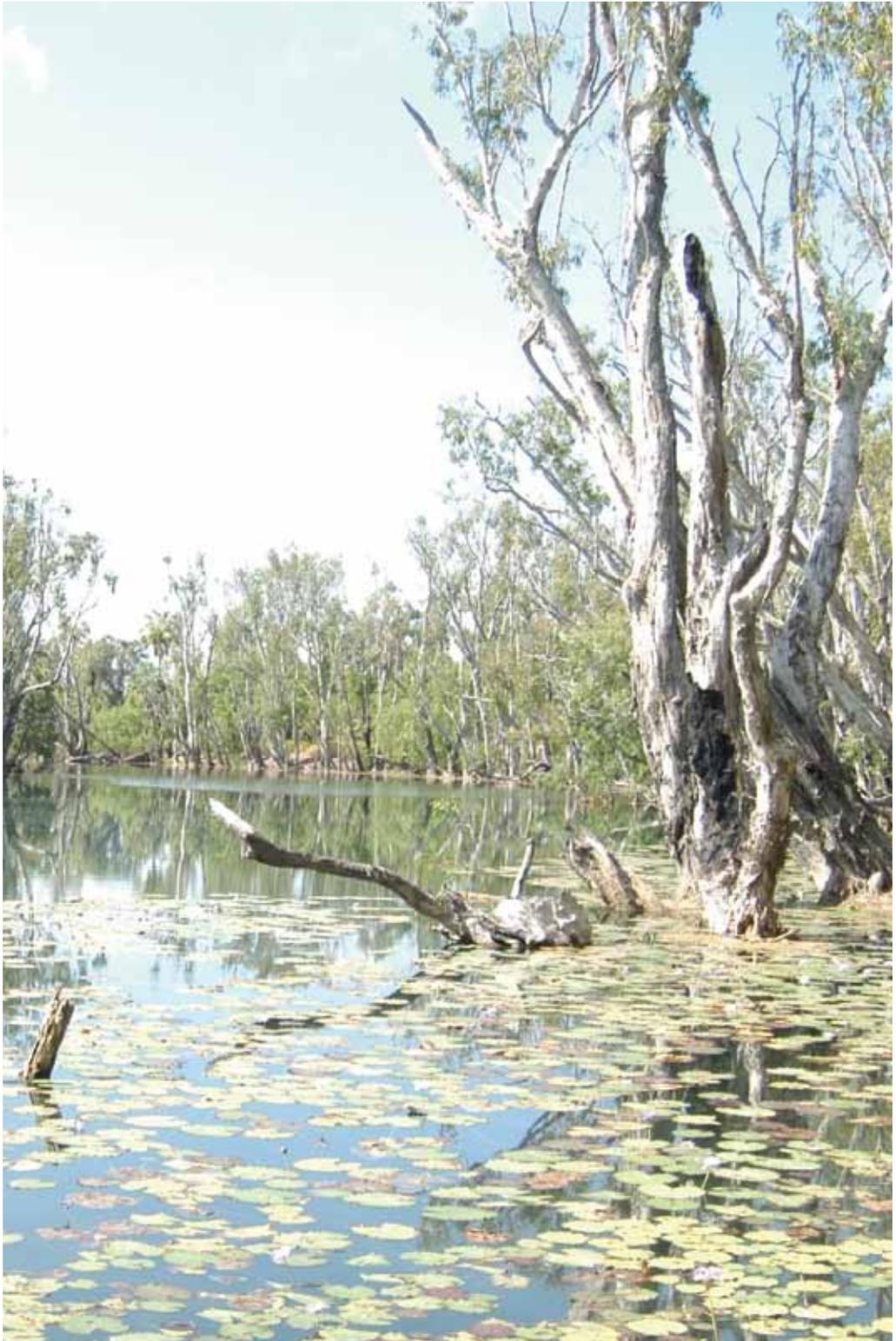
The fruits are eaten when ripe (pale green), the outer papery shell is pulled off and the round, inner fleshy segment is eaten. It is sweet and tasty when fully ripe.

'Tamarind Tree' no language names  
*Tamarindus indica*

The flesh of the fruit is eaten when ripe (brown), especially by children. It has a sharp tangy taste. This plant was introduced to the north coast by Macassan fishers a long time ago. It has no Mangarrayi or Yangman name.

'Bindi-eye' no language names  
*Tribulus terrestris*

This plant grows along the ground and has yellow flowers, it has fruit that has sharp prickles on it. You cannot walk near it as its thorns are sharp and hard.



Water lilies at Longreach Yard (Photo Eddie Webber)



Aerial view of Roper River fringed by Mataranka Fan Palms (Photo Eddie Webber)

Roper River fringed by Mataranka Fan Palms (Photo Eddie Webber)





Roper River near Jilkminggan, February 1990 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

Elsy Falls on Roper River, February 1990 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





Mataranka Falls (Photo Eddie Webber)

Punchbowl limestone formation (Photo Eddie Webber)





Recording knowledge at Warloch Ponds, February 1990 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

Harriet Jinbulbul† preparing the roots of emu berry at Jilkminggan, with Rita Morgan watching, February 1990 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





Rita Morgan and Jessie Roberts collecting white currant fruit near Mataranka, January 1991 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

Jessie Roberts collecting white currant fruit near Mataranka, January 1991 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





Harriet Jinbulbul† digging the roots of emu berry, near Mataranka, February 1990 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

Gathering bush medicine near Jilkminggan turnoff on Roper Highway, February 1990 (photo Andy Barr)





Mickey Ashley† holding bush tea-leaf, Salt Creek, January 1991 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

Amy Dirn.gayg†, Sheila Conway and Jackaroo Lirrawit†, hunting for bush tucker, February 1990 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





Rita Morgan† and Glenn Wightman, near Jilkminggan turnoff on Roper Highway, February 1990 (Photo Andy Barr)

Edna Farrar† getting paperbark for use in a ground oven on banks of Roper River, October 2008 (Photo Taegan Calnan)





Fay Roberts holding long-necked turtle, Elsey National Park, April 2010 (Photo Ingrid Phyland)



Preparing the roots of emu berry, Jilkminggan, February 1990 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

Boiling bush medicine at Jilkminggan, February 1990 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





Edna Farrarṯ and Eugenie Collyer preparing a ground oven on banks of Roper River, October 2008 (Photo Taegan Calnan).

Edna Farrarṯ preparing a ground oven on banks of Roper River, October 2008 (Photo Taegan Calnan)





Jessie Roberts with water lily fruit and seeds, Warloch Ponds, January 1991 (Photo Glenn Wightman)



Jessie Roberts, Edna Farrar†, Taegan Calnan and Sheila Conway recording biocultural knowledge on banks of Roper River, October 2008 (Photo Eugenie Collyer)

Taegan Calnan and Jessie Roberts at Jilkminggan, 01 Oct 2008 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





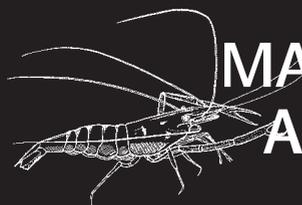
Sheila Conway and Taegan Calnan holding freshwater prawn, October 2008 (Photo Eugenie Collyer)

Eugenie Collyer and Sheila Conway with cooked rib-bone on banks of Roper River, October 2008 (Photo Taegan Calnan)





Hunting in Eley National Park, April 2010 (Photo Ingrid Phyland)



# MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN ANIMAL NAMES AND USES

The Mangarrayi and Yangman names and uses of animals are presented below. The animals are arranged according to the major natural groupings of birds, fish, frogs, mammals, reptiles, freshwater animals, insects, feral animals and other animals (invertebrates). Within these major groups they are further divided into smaller natural groups.

Most animal groups are broadly arranged from what are considered to be primitive to advanced life-forms, this matches most popular publications and other literature relating to animals. It also matches the Mangarrayi perspective of relationships between animals in some cases. However, in some major groups such as birds and water animals we have followed the Mangarrayi and Yangman concepts of species arrangement where it differs from western biological concepts.

In total we have recorded the Mangarrayi and Yangman names and uses of 251 animals, from the major groups as follows:

Birds .....	92 species
Insects.....	41 species
Reptiles .....	40 species
Fish.....	22 species
Mammals.....	17 species
Feral and introduced animals.....	16 species
Invertebrates .....	9 species
Freshwater animals .....	8 species
Frogs .....	6 species

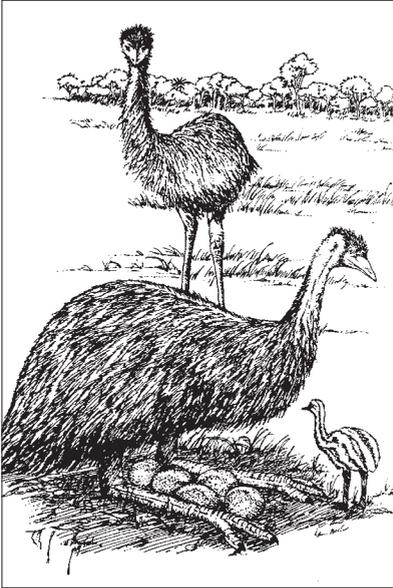
## BIRDS

A flock of birds is called **garrag** (Mang).

Eggs are called **banggal** (Mang) or **waydbin** (Yangman) and this term refers to all eggs, snake eggs, ant eggs, etc. The Yangman name is also the name for sugar-bag.

The general term for nest is **jir**, and this is also the name for the paperbark canoe. Feathers are called **bulbul** (Mang, Yang). White feathers that come from the white cockatoo and the egret, and under the wing of the bustard are called **margalala** (Mang).

The headdress and arm-band made from white feathers is called **majagarr** (Yang). A bird's beak is called **ijun** (Yang).



Emu  
**gulbiny** (Mang)  
**garnanganjan** (Yang)  
**wordordmaynja** (chick with stripes)

## GROUND BIRDS

Emu  
*Dromaius novaehollandiae*  
**gulbiny** (Mang)  
**garnanganjan** (Yang)  
**wordordmaynja** (chick with stripes)

This is really good meat, it is tasty and there is a lot of meat on a large bird.

There are plenty of emus on Mangarrayi country. To catch them people would wave something red in the air and the emus would become curious. When they got close enough they could be killed. Women would kill them with a long stick; men would use a shovel spear, **gorrbgorrbmin** (Mang).

The emu likes to eat **dirrawan**, green plums (*Buchanania obovata*) and **ngalanyburn**, black plums (*Vitex glabrata*). They also eat **murrunggurn**, black currants (*Antidesma ghesaembilla*) and **yurrulanyan**, white currants (*Flueggea virosa*). Another way to catch the emu is to hide in the **ngalanyburn**, black plum tree, and wait for the emu to arrive to eat the fruit, and then spear it.

The feathers, **bulbul** from this bird are used in some ceremonies as decoration.

The large eggs were eaten in the past by old people, they were roasted near hot ashes and coals.



Bush Turkey, Bustard  
**jambirrina** (Mang)  
**jeyekbayn** (Yang)  
**balardordo** (chick)

Bush Turkey, Bustard  
*Ardeotis australis*  
**jambirrina** (Mang)  
**jeyekbayn** (Yang)  
**balardordo** (chick)

The meat is really good to eat and they can be hunted at anytime. They are fattest during the cold weather of the dry season, and they get a bit skinny when the weather gets hot.

It can be cooked in a ground oven, or wrapped up in paperbark and roasted on the coals. For really quick cooking it can be buried in the coals and then covered up. Sometimes they are just roasted on hot coals and ashes.

**Jambirrina** is a dreaming for people who belong to the **kangila** skin group. **Kangila** cannot eat the meat from the bush turkey, unless it has been ritually cleansed by their **junggayi** or 'boss'.

Bush Stone-curlew **guwilwil** (Mang, Yang)  
 Bush Thick-knee **guwelo**  
*Burhinus grallarius*

There is a big creation period story about this bird. If you hurt this bird, even accidentally, it will bring you bad luck. The name **guwilwil** is based on the sound of the call of this bird.

When you hear the call of this bird at night and your small baby is sleeping, you must turn the baby on its side.

(Great) Bowerbird, Stealing Bird **jurerrgmin**  
*Ptilonorhynchus nuchalis*

This bird steals things like jewellery, money, eye-glasses, bottle-tops and earrings to decorate his home. Children like to eat this bird, they shoot them down out of the tree with a shanghai and then roast it.

Brown Quail, Grass Bird **jirrirndird** (Mang)  
*Coturnix ypsilophora* **jirri** (Yang)

These birds are small – too small to eat. They can fly up out of the bushes sometimes, moving very quickly, and give you a fright.

## NOISY BIRDS

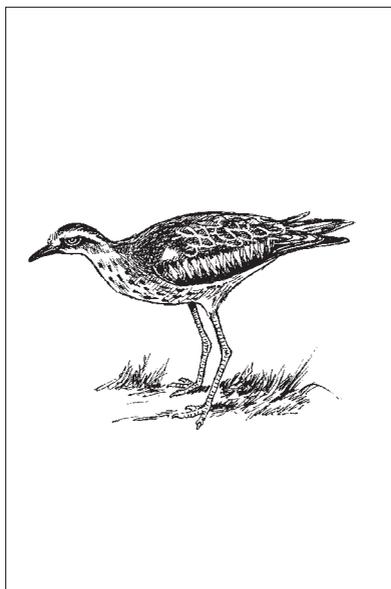
(Spur-winged) Plover **dederran** (Mang, Yang)  
 Masked Lapwing  
*Vanellus miles*

This bird will get cranky if you walk near its eggs or chicks. They swoop and try to hit you on the head with their wings.

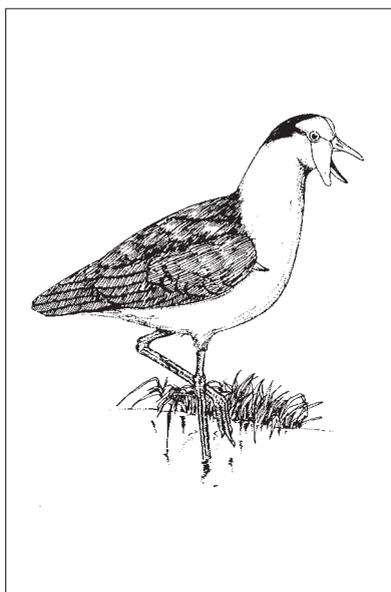
There is a creation period story about this bird, and it has special powers associated with people passing away.

Apostlebird **gergergerga**  
*Struthidea cinerea*

**Gergergerga** always travel in groups together. They make mud nests to live in, with grass, sticks and mud. They can be a bit cheeky. They run up and down tree trunks together.



Bush Stone-curlew  
 Bush Thick-knee  
**guwilwil** (Mang, Yang)  
**guwelo**



(Spur-winged) Plover  
 Masked Lapwing  
**dederran** (Mang, Yang)



Grey-crowned Babbler  
**jorr'min**

Grey-crowned Babbler  
*Pomatostomus temporalis*

**jorr'min**

These birds always travel together in a small group, climbing up and down trees together and making a lot of noise.

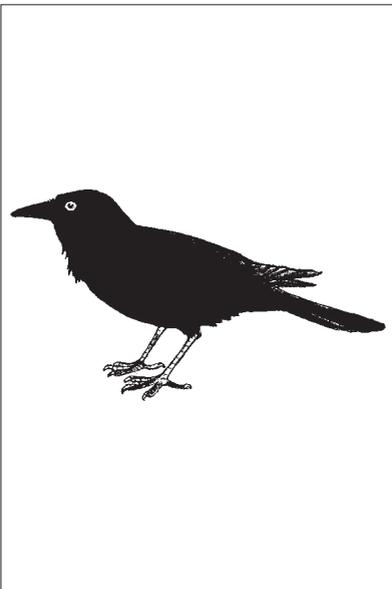
If you hear this one calling out you shouldn't take a trip into the bush by yourself. It is a 'devil-devil' bird, and is the mate of **jininggirrij**, the willy wagtail.

Peewee  
*Grallina cyanoleuca*

**golelgolel** (Mang, Yang)  
**diwildiwil** (Mang)

This little bird can always be seen chasing the birds of prey away, like **diwana**, the wedge-tailed eagle, and **mardird**, the whistling kite. It builds a mud nest in the tree.

It is most commonly called **diwildiwil** in the Jilkminggan community.



Crow, Torresian Crow  
**wargwargmin** (Mang, Yang)

Crow, Torresian Crow  
*Corvus orru*

**wargwargmin** (Mang, Yang)

This bird is dreaming for **Ngarritj** and **Bangari** people. It has an important dreaming story and there are important sites for this bird. There is a special dance for the crow and it 'has a lot of culture'. **Wargwargmin** cannot be eaten.

The crow is **gagag-ji** (mothers' mother) for **dowo'min**, the koel, and **gurrawgurrawg**, the channel-billed cuckoo. The crow will call out if someone wild with bad intentions is around.

Pied Butcherbird, Magpie  
*Cracticus nigrogularis*, *Cracticus tibicen*

**gorrborlo'min**

**Gorrborlo'min** can sing up the wind with his song. Sometimes when he sings very mournfully he is telling you that someone close to you has passed away. It can also warn you that there is someone with bad intentions around.

White-winged Triller  
*Lalage tricolor*

**durijmin**  
**jijidurij**  
**jijimin**

This is a 'devil-devil' bird – it is friends with **jininggirrij** (the Willie Wagtail). It will try and get you lost in the bush, and will bring bad luck closer to you. But it will also warn you if there is somebody wild with bad intentions around.

Varied Triller  
*Lalage leucomela*

**wilyigmin**

**Wilyigman** is a countryman for **durijmin** (above), the white-winged triller; sometimes their names are used for each other.

Friarbirds, Blue-faced Honeyeater  
*Philemon* spp., *Entomyzon cyanotis*

**jordowgmin**

These birds have a lot of words, their calls sound like they are talking to each other. The meat is good to eat, they are shot down from the tree with shanghais by children, they are then roasted and eaten. You need to get a lot of them for a good feed. These birds like to take nectar from the flowers of **gedmayin** (*Terminalia grandiflora*; *T. arostrata*).

Cuckoo-shrikes  
*Coracina* spp.

**nganggangangga**

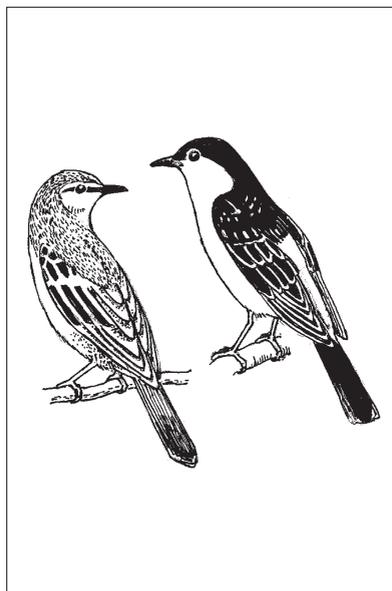
**Nganggangangga** tells you when the rain is coming up. When this bird flies around you know it's nearly rain time. It comes onto Mangarrayi country around the same time as the **bararuwan**, the Dollarbird, **birridbirrid**, the Rainbow Bee-eater, and the **dowo'min**, the Koel.

## SONGBIRDS AND KINGFISHERS

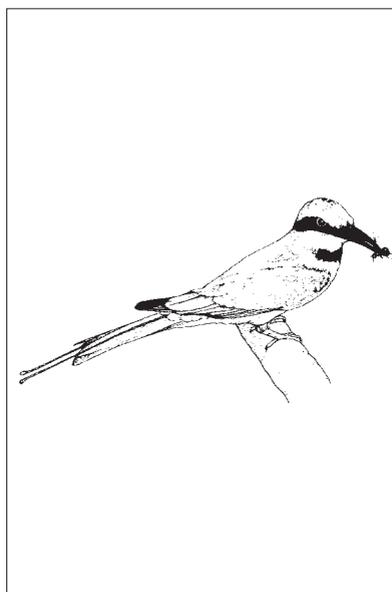
Rainbow Bee-eater  
*Merops ornatus*

**birridbirrid**

This bird arrives just before the rain time, like **bararuwan**, the Dollarbird. It makes a nest in the ground or in a termite mound.



White-winged Triller  
**durijmin**  
**jijidurij**  
**jijimin**



Rainbow Bee-eater  
**birridbirrid**



Kookaburra  
**gorrogorromin**

It makes good bait for fishing, and can be caught by watching the birds fly in and out of their burrows. They usually have a few entrances. You can block off these entrances with a stone, and then dig up the nest and use the babies or the adults as bait for fishing.

Azure Kingfisher  
*Ceyx azureus*

**dorrowol**

This little blue bird makes a nest in a burrow in the bank of rivers and creeks. It mainly eats fish.

Kookaburra  
*Dacelo leachii*

**gorrogorromin**

**Gorrogorromin** is everywhere. It knows when there is sad news around, and it cries and cries and cries when it has bad news. The morning after you hear this bird crying at dusk, someone might have passed away.

Dollarbird  
*Eurystomus orientalis*

**bararuwan**

This bird arrives just before the rain time, like **birrirdbirrird**, the Rainbow Bee-eater.



Red-tailed Black-cockatoo  
**lirrawi** (Mang)  
**lidagban** (Yang)

## PARROTS AND COCKATOOS

Red-tailed Black-cockatoo  
*Calyptorhynchus banksii*

**lirrawi** (Mang)  
**lidagban** (Yang)

These birds are some people's dreaming or totem. They are not eaten. They like to eat the fruit and seeds from trees, especially **gedmayn**, the nutwood tree and **dirrawan**, the green plum.

The feathers from this bird are used for decoration during ceremonies.

Little Corella  
*Cacatua sanguinea*

**ngelele** (Yang)  
**ngeleleg** (Mang)

This bird is always found in the jungle areas on Mangarrayi country. You can always hear it. It has an important dreaming story and has strong culture.

The feathers from this bird are used for decoration during ceremonies. It is a very noisy and sometimes bad-tempered bird.

White Cockatoo, **ngerrjngerrjmin** (Mang, Yang)  
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo  
*Cacatua galerita*

The name of the bird sounds like the call it makes. It warns people that payback is coming. People sometimes kill this bird to get the feathers, which are used for decorating the body during certain ceremonies.

Red-winged Parrot **manbajmanbaj**  
*Aprosmictus erythropterus*

This bird really loves to eat **jalinyji**, the sandpaper fig. Children will try and shanghai them out of the trees when they are flocking into the fig tree, as they are good to eat after lightly roasting.

Cockatiel **wirirwirirr** (Mang)  
*Nymphicus hollandicus* **wiriwunan** (Yang)

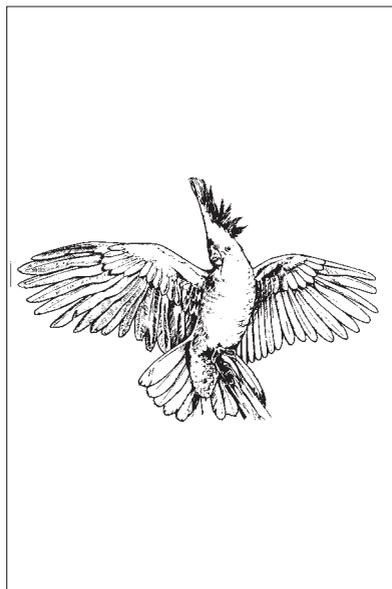
**Wirirwirirr** loves to play in the rain. When this bird is singing it tells you that **yurramij**, the Saratoga, is fat and good to eat.

Rainbow (Red-collared) Lorikeet **welejban**  
*Trichoglossus haematodus rubritorquis*

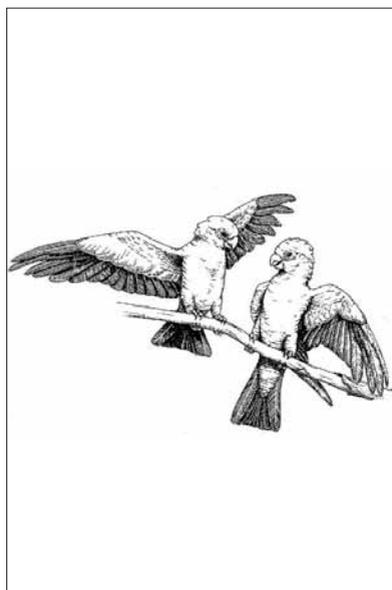
These birds have a powerful creation period story. In the creation period story they were the daughters of the wedge-tailed eagle woman who was a cannibal. They were hit with a fire-stick during the story and that's how they got the red stripe on their shoulders. Now these birds can only eat flowers, while the wedge-tailed eagle can only eat raw meat.

Galah **wiligwilig** (Mang, Yang)  
*Eulophus roseicapillus*

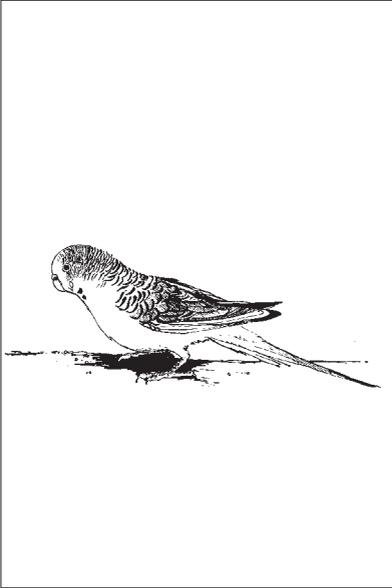
The meat is good to eat. Mostly they are caught when they are young in hollow nests, but kids will also shanghai them out of the tree. The feathers are taken off and it is roasted on the fire. The meat is like chicken in taste.



White Cockatoo, Sulphur-crested  
Cockatoo  
**ngerrjngerrjmin** (Mang, Yang)



Galah  
**wiligwilig** (Mang, Yang)



Budgerigar  
**yirrilinyin**

Varied Lorikeet  
*Psitteuteles versicolor*

**yirrilinyin**

There are plenty of these birds on Mangarrayi country, they look like **yirrilinyin**, budgerigars, but they are bigger.

They follow the flowering and fruiting of **gulu**, the river red gum and **garrwag**, the white gum trees.

Budgerigar  
*Melopsittacus undulatus*

**yirrilinyin**

These small green birds often occur in large flocks.

### SMALL BIRDS

Small colourful birds (incl. finches)  
*Neochmia phaeton*, *Erythrura gouldiae*,  
*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*

**biny'min**

The name **biny'min** refers to all the little birds with some brightly coloured feathers, such as Mistletoebird, Gouldian Finch and Crimson Finch. All of these can be used for bait when fishing with a hand-line.



Double-barred Finch,  
**nil'min** (Mang, Yang)

White-browed Robin; Rufous Whistler  
*Poecilodryas superciliosa*,  
*Pachycephala rufiventris*

**junbij**

These birds live near water and stay up in the pandanus trees near water. The language name can also be used for a larger group of nondescript mid-sized, non-colourful birds.

Double-barred Finch,  
Zebra Finch and others  
*Taeniopygia bichenovii*, *T. guttata*

**nil'min** (Mang, Yang)

These are all the little non-colourful birds. Small children call them **ninin**, but the proper word is **nil'min**. These little birds can also be used for bait when fishing with a hand-line.

The name **nil'min** is also used for the Red-backed Fairy-wren (*Malurus melanocephalus*).

Spangled Drongo  
*Dicurus bracteatus*

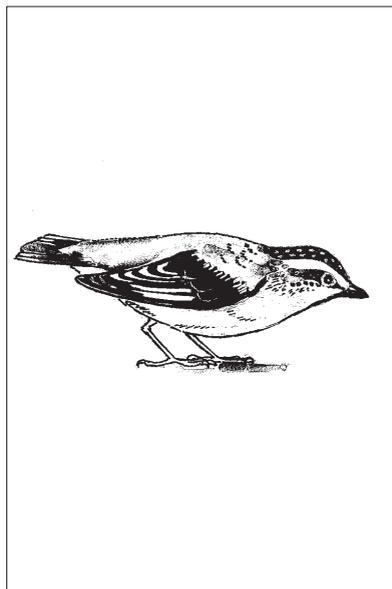
**jordowgmin**

This bird has the same name as the blue-faced honeyeater and the friarbird. This bird also really loves to eat all the different types of figs, and can be seen around fig trees when they are fruiting.

Striated Pardalote  
*Pardalotus striatus*

**jordjordog**

**Jordjordog** has a nest in the ground, dug into sandy banks. It makes good bait, and can be caught by watching the birds fly in and out of their burrows. It has special powers and this little whiskered bird digs up the freshwater mussels, **jibibi**, by the riverside.



Shining Flycatcher and Northern Fantail  
*Myiagra alecto, Rhipidura rufiventris*

**jawayagwayag** (Mang, Yang)

Striated Pardalote  
**jardjardog**

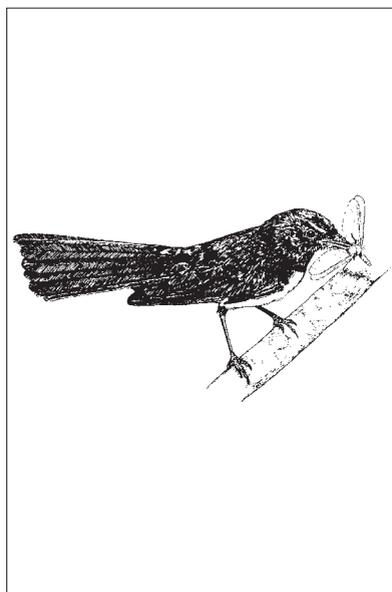
These birds are found close to creeks. These are 'devil-devil' birds that will try and get you lost in the bush.

Willie Wagtail  
*Rhipidura leucophrys*

**jininggirrij** (Mang, Yang)

A devil-devil bird that will try and get you lost in the bush.

It is a countryman with **durijmin**, the White-winged Triller.



Fairy-wrens  
*Malurus* spp.

**jirryirmin**

These little birds live in grasslands, and their name is like the sound of their call. They like to eat the seeds of grasses, like the **murrenmani**, *Eragrostis* spp. or *Sporobolus australasicus*.

Willie Wagtail  
**jininggirrij** (Mang, Yang)

## RAPTORS, HUNTING BIRDS



White-bellied Sea-eagle, Turtle-hawk  
**manunggurr**

White-bellied Sea-eagle, Turtle-hawk **manunggurr**  
*Haliaeetus leucogaster*

**Manunggurr** likes to eat fish, turtles and flying-foxes. It builds nests really high up in the trees.

This bird has an important creation period story and it is involved in the flying-fox creation story as well.

Wedge-tailed Eagle **diwana**  
*Aquila audax*

This bird is seen often near the road eating **balgij**, agile wallabies, that have been hit by cars and trucks.

There is a powerful creation period story about an old woman who was a cannibal. She turned into a **diwana** after being speared with a stone spear, and now she is only allowed to eat raw meat such as kangaroo, turkey and emu. This story also links the wedge-tailed eagle with red-winged parrots, her daughters in the dreamtime who were burnt when she was speared.



Wedge-tailed Eagle  
**diwana**

Brown Falcon **balirdirdin** (Mang, Yang)  
*Falco berigora*

These birds are good hunters. **Balirdirdin** and **garrgan** (below) play an important role in the creation period story for the young men's ceremonies.

Brown Goshawk **garrgayn** (Yang, Mang)  
*Accipiter fasciatus* **garmarnin** (Yang, Mang)

There is an important creation period story, that relates to young men's business, and sacred sites for this bird, who was a 'law-giver' in the dreamtime.

This story is told in detail by Jessie Roberts in the *Big River Country* book (Merlan and Mangarrayi elders, 1996).

This bird will follow your **galngbam** (spouse), and make sure that they never get too far away. It will head your **galngbam** back to you if they go too far. They sing a song to keep husband and wife together.

**Marram** is another name for this bird.

Black Kite  
*Milvus migrans*

**jalaya**

**Jalaya** builds a stick nest high in a tree. It eats flying-foxes and will grab your live bait while you are fishing.

Whistling Kite  
*Haliastur sphenurus*

**mardird** (Mang, Yang)

**Mardird** follows fires and has a distinctive whistling call. Sometimes you can accidentally catch this bird if you are fishing with live bait, it will swoop down and grab your bait!

Kestrel  
*Falco cenchroides*

**barlirdirdin** (Mang, Yang)

This bird hovers in the one spot for long periods of time.

It is involved in the creation period story for young men's ceremonies.



Kestrel  
**barlirdirdin** (Mang, Yang)

## OWLS AND CUCKOOS

(Eastern) Koel, Stormbird  
*Eudynamys orientalis*

**dowo'min** (Mang)  
**jowogban** (Yang)

This bird looks after the **ngalanyburn** (black plum, *Vitex glabrata*), **dirrawan** (green plum, *Buchanania obovata*), the **yurrulanyan** (white currant, *Flueggea virosa*) and the **murrunggurn** (black currant, *Antidesma ghesaembilla*), as well as the **yarrayg** (lily root and *Aponogeton*).

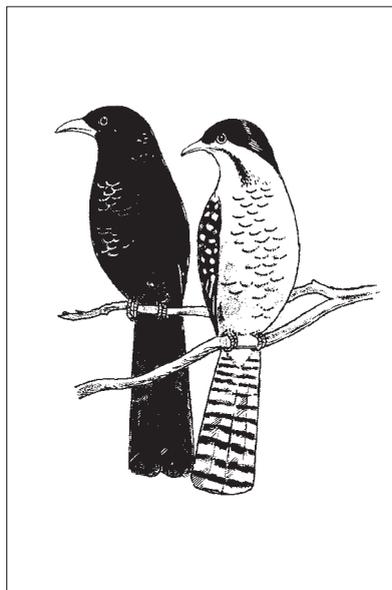
When he starts to sing out in the build up he is letting people know that these fruits are ready.

This bird is **gagag**(mother's mother/daughter's child) for the **gurrawgurrawg** (Channel-billed Cuckoo) and the **wargwargmin** (Torresian Crow).

Stormbird,  
Channel-billed Cuckoo  
*Scythrops novaehollandiae*

**gurrawgurrawg** (Mang, Yang)

This bird has an important creation period story linking it to the water yam. In the dreamtime **gurrawgurrawg**



(Eastern) Koel, Stormbird  
**dowo'min** (Mang)  
**jowogban** (Yang)



Pheasant Coucal  
**budbudban**

carried **yarrayg**, the water yam, from Mangarrayi country in the north all the way down the river systems through Yangman country and into Mudburra country to the south.

This bird is a dreaming for some people and there are important dreaming sites on Mangarrayi and Yangman country. It is only seen on Mangarrayi and Yangman country for part of the year, after the dry season.

**Gurrawgurrawg** looks after the **yarrayg**, (*Aponogeton*, the water yam), it calls loudly when they are ready to be harvested. The white gum tree starts shedding its bark and flowering at the same time of the year.

This bird is **gagag**(mother's mother or daughter's child) for **dowo'min**, the Koel, and **wargwargmin**, the Crow.

Pheasant Coucal

**budbudban**

*Centropus phasianinus*

This bird has no countrymen. It likes to stay up in the pandanus trees, though it is often seen running along the ground as well.



Tawny Frogmouth  
**jawarl** (Mang, Yang)  
**gebedgulujuj** (Kriol)

Tawny Frogmouth  
*Podargus strigoides*

**jawarl** (Mang, Yang)  
**gebedgulujuj** (Kriol)

**Jawarl** are often seen sitting still on tree branches. It has a story from the dreamtime, and a special dance used during certain ceremonies.

It's call goes up and down, and this is **jawarl** singing himself up and down the tree. It is a 'devil-devil' bird as well, and it will try to get you lost in the bush.

Barking Owl  
*Ninox connivens*

**gomdo** (Mang, Yang)  
**mugmug** (Mang)

This bird is heard everywhere, it is a 'devil-devil' bird that will try and get you lost in the bush.

**Mugmug** is the name this bird is most commonly called in Jilkminggan, it is based on the sound of the call.

(Eastern) Barn Owl  
*Tyto javanica*

**jalaya** (Mang)  
**yirramban** (Yang)

Boobook Owl, **mugmug** (Mang, Yang)  
Southern Boobook  
*Ninox novaeseelandiae*

This owl is around a lot, but you only see him at night. It likes to hide in cool places like tall trees and jungles during the day. It eats **wiliwurra**, mice, small mammals and other small animals.

If you are sleeping out in the bush alone, this call can be frightening for people.

Spotted Nightjar **barnangga**  
*Eurostopodus argus*

**Barnangga** is seen at night a lot, especially if you are driving on a road. This bird only likes really clean places, it goes to the toilet in the termite mounds, and stays along the road. It won't go into the bush because it's scared of snakes.



Spotted Nightjar  
**barnangga**

(Australian) Owlet-nightjar **garrajaj**  
*Aegotheles cristatus*

**Garrajaj** lives in the **jidbar** (termite mounds) or hollow logs all day, and then comes out at night.

There is a powerful creation period about **garrajaj** and **galbarn**, the small red-bellied barramundi. Amy Dirn. gayg tells this story in detail in the *Big River Country* book (Merlan and Mangarrayi elders, 1996).

## PIGEONS

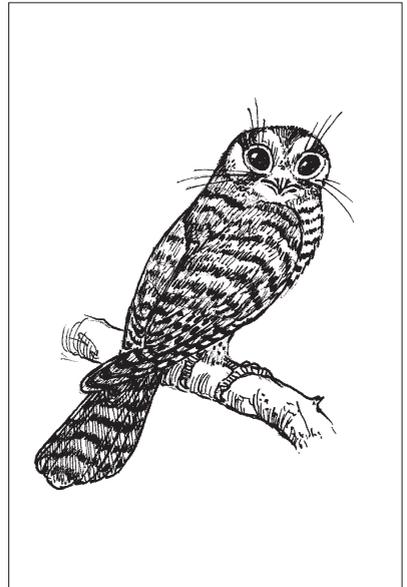
Peaceful Dove; Diamond Dove **golodog**  
*Geopelia striata*, *G. cuneata*

The name of this bird is like its call. The meat is pretty good eating.

When you hear **golodog's** call, you must get out of the water because **bologban** (the Rainbow Serpent) is coming.

This bird made Mataranka Falls in the dreamtime, a place called **Mularak**. This is a caterpillar dreaming site, you can put dead people's clothes there and the caterpillars will eat them up.

The language name can also be used to refer to men's genitals, and it should be used with care.



(Australian) Owlet-nightjar  
**garrajaj**



Bar-shouldered Dove  
**gudjugudjug** (Mang, Yang)

Bar-shouldered Dove **gudjugudjug** (Mang, Yang)  
*Geopelia humeralis*

The meat can be eaten after roasting. It is good to eat and tastes like the meat from **jibilyuman**, whistling-ducks.

This bird will warn you if the rainbow serpent is coming. Only your relatives can scare off this serpent for you. If you are fishing and you hear **gudjugudjug** singing out, you will not catch any fish.

There is a dreaming site for this bird, and it can be seen in the film *Jedda*, where Marbuk fights with a crocodile.

Torres Strait Pigeon, **mamawurranyan**  
Pied Imperial-pigeon  
*Ducula bicolor*

These pigeons are not common in the area and are not well known. Sometimes the feathers are used for decoration in ceremonies.

Crested Pigeon; Bronze-wings **marnbulu**  
*Ocyphaps lophotes*; *Phaps* spp.

These pigeons are good for eating.



Torres Strait Pigeon  
Pied Imperial-pigeon  
**mamawurranyan**

Spinifex Pigeon **jirrindird**  
*Geophaps plumifera*

This bird has the same language name as the quails; they also fly up very fast and can give you a big fright. The meat is tasty and good to eat.

## WATER BIRDS

Darter-duck, Darter **barragbarrag** (Mang)  
*Anhinga novaehollandiae* **garraggarrag** (Yang)

This bird is also often called the snake-necked bird. The meat is good to eat, it has a fishy flavour. They can be caught with a stick or a spear, sometimes they will catch onto live bait while you are fishing with a hand-line.

Pied Cormorant **jiliwirij** (Mang, Yang)  
*Phalacrocorax varius*

This bird is a countryman with **barragbarrag**, the darter duck. It dives into water and is a whitish colour underneath.

This bird is good to eat. It sometimes catches on to live bait, but it can also be speared or caught with a stick.

Little Black Cormorant **jarlene**  
*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Great Cormorant **gungurl** (Mang, Yang)  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*

This bird is good to eat; it takes live bait while you are fishing with a hand-line, or you sneak up on it with a stick or a spear. It nests in the paperbark, and when you walk along the river bank you can hear it diving into the water as it sees you.



Darter-duck, Darter  
**barragbarrag** (Mang)  
**garraggarrag** (Yang)

(Australian) Pelican **baya** (Mang)  
*Pelecanus conspicillatus* **wagaya** (Yang)

This is good eating, they can be caught on a hand-line with live bait. It tastes a lot like chicken and sometimes they have a lot of meat.

Cattle Egret **bilimardban**  
*Ardea ibis*

These white birds pick the ticks off the back of the cattle. The ticks are called **narndag**.

Spoonbill; Royal **burlumburlun** (Mang, Yang)  
and Yellow-billed **jarnarran** (Yang)  
*Platalea regia*, *Platalea flavipes*.

These birds have an important dreaming story. The feathers can be used for decorations during ceremony. It is good eating - it tastes like turkey. It can be hunted with a spear or a rifle.



(Australian) Pelican  
**baya** (Mang)  
**wagaya** (Yang)



Brolga  
*Grus rubicunda*

**darrgmin** (Mang)  
**gudarrgu** (Mang)  
**bornorong** (Yang)

**Darrgmin** is the nickname for this bird – it is derived from the name **gudarrgu**. This bird is good eating; it has a lot of meat on it.

Lotusbird, Jacana  
*Jacana gallinacea*

**birlbirlmanyja** (Mang)

This bird lives around swamps and billabongs. It has long toes and can walk across the lily leaves on top of the water.

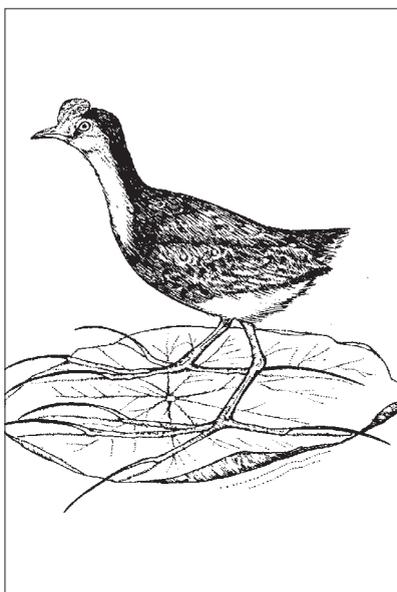
There is a men's ceremony associated with this bird.

Brolga  
**darrgmin** (Mang)  
**gudarrgu** (Mang)  
**bornorong** (Yang)

Teal Duck  
*Anas gracilis*

**ngundungundu** (Mang, Yang)

The meat is really tasty, they are good food. It tastes like the meat from magpie goose.



Wandering or  
Water Whistling-duck  
*Dendrocygna arcuata*

**jirrbiyug** (Mang, Yang)  
**birrida**  
**ngurilirri**

These ducks are good eating. You need a few of them to make a good feed, but then you can roast them or make a big soup from them. The meat is good to eat however it is cooked.

Grass or Plumed Whistling-duck  
*Dendrocygna eytoni*

**rangga**

Black Duck  
*Anas superciliosa*

**diwajbaj** (Mang)

The meat is really tasty, they are good food.

Lotusbird, Jacana  
**birlbirlmanyja** (Mang)

Magpie Goose  
*Anseranas semipalmata*

**ngo'min** (Mang)  
**lombul** (Yang)

**Ngo'min** love to eat **bawa**, the water chestnut (*Eleocharis dulcis*). The easiest way to catch them is to shoot them. They like the same places as buffaloes; it can be scary trying to catch them in amongst the buffaloes.

They breed in the swamp. Mangarrayi people don't eat the eggs of this goose. The goose is best cooked in an underground oven. You can eat all the flesh on this one, and the heart and liver are also good.

Burdekin Duck  
*Tadorna radjah*

**dinngananggarr** (Mang, Yang)

**Dinngananggarr** are good for eating. They have a lot of meat that tastes like chicken.

Red-kneed Dotterel **bamguluwirdwird** (Mang, Yang)  
*Erythrogonys cinctus*

This little bird is seen a lot around Red Lily billabong. It is all around swamps and billabongs. It bobs its head down a lot as it runs around. If you see this bird near a billabong you have to stay away from that place.

This bird keeps its eggs in the grass, and protects them by swooping and attacking, like the **dederran**, the masked lapwing or plover, which is considered to be its partner. There is a special song and ceremony for this bird.

Chestnut Rail  
*Eulabeornis castaneoventris*

**jarrardabuwa**

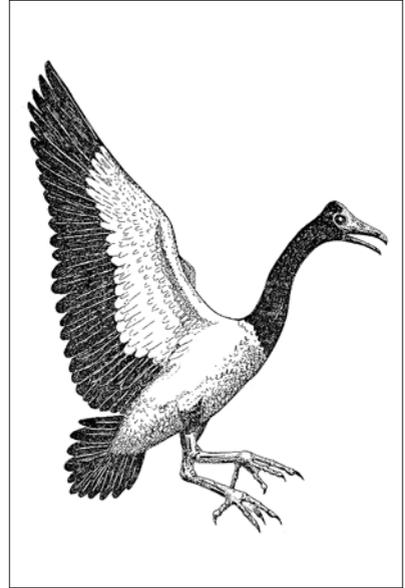
This bird lives in swamp country and jungles. In the creation period story this bird was dancing.

Black Bittern  
*Ixobrychus flavicollis*

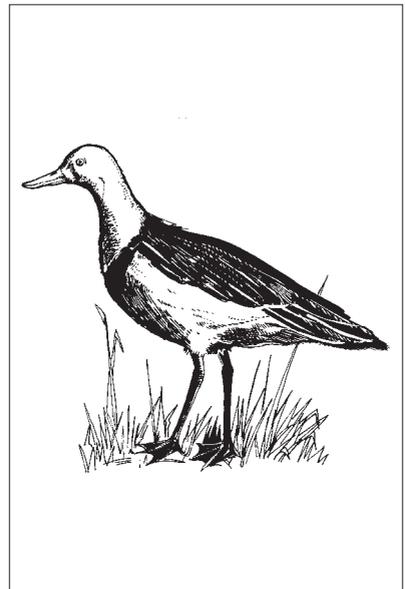
**gurrurumujun**

These birds live in swampy areas.

There is a creation period story about how they sing out to the fish and catch big barramundi, bigger than they



Magpie Goose  
**ngo'min** (Mang)  
**lombul** (Yang)



Burdekin Duck  
**dinngananggarr** (Mang, Yang)



White Ibis  
**gurndirndirn**

can carry, they must then drag the barra up the bank.

Pied Heron  
*Ardea picata*

**dendenmin**

This bird stands by the side of water looking for fish. It can be used as bait to catch fish.

This bird has a dreaming place near Mataranka.

White and Straw-necked Ibis  
*Threskiornis spp.*

**gurndirndirn**

This bird can be eaten, but only if you're really hungry. It is a dirty bird, it eats from unclean places.

It can be caught by stalking it and then hitting it hard with a long stick. It tastes pretty good, like **jambirrina**, the bush turkey.

Jabiru (Black-necked Stork)  
*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*

**gandaj  
jarnarran** (Yang)

This bird is an important dreaming for some people. It can be eaten, but not if it's your dreaming. The feathers are used during ceremonies for decorations.



Nankeen Night Heron  
**gargunyja**

Nankeen Night Heron  
*Nycticorax caledonicus*

**gargunyja**

This bird is only seen at night, or sometimes when it's hiding in the bulrushes during the day.

There is an important creation period story for **gargunyja** and there are special sites on Mangarrayi country.

Black-tailed Native-hen  
*Tribonyx ventralis*

**gurrurumujun**

This bird looks like a domestic chicken. It is a very fast runner and bobs its tail up and down as it moves around. They are always seen near water looking for food. The meat is good to eat but they are hard to catch.

Unidentified  
Large grey bird

**gunarrunggu**

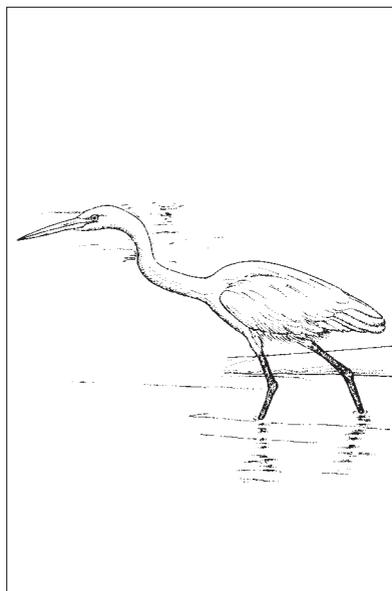
This bird has grey feathers and a long tail, it is quiet and watches people.

White Egret  
*Ardea alba*

**lawurr**

The feathers of this bird are used during the young man ceremony. They are used to stem the blood flow from ritual scarring.

The meat can be used as bait.



White Egret  
**lawurr**

## FISH

The general term for any fish is **marr** (Mang) or **barronin** (Yang).

The tail can be called **dawaynawu** or **jalmarr** - these terms can be used for the tail part of any animal.

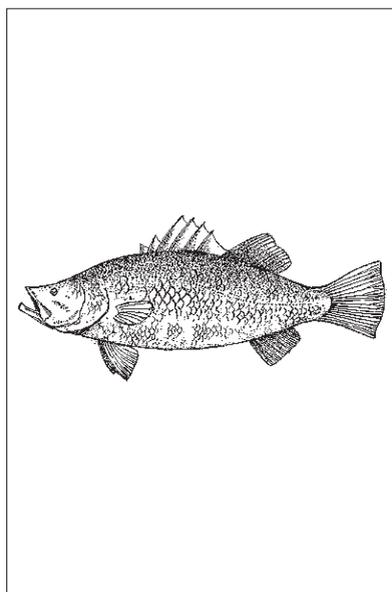
Barramundi **ngurluguyi** mid-sized (Mang)  
*Lates calcarifer* **jumburrung** small male (Mang)  
**bumbum** large female (Mang, Yang)  
**gorromunga** (Yang)  
**guwarambara**  
**galbarn** (small red-bellied one)

This fish is very good eating, many people try to catch them. This is the favourite fish of most people.

Many tourists and locals spend a lot of time fishing specifically for this fish. When it is caught it is a powerful fighter, sometimes jumping right out of the water. During the last rains of the wet season, around the knock'em down wind time, is the best time to fish for them.

The smaller sized ones, **jumburrung**, are often more tasty than the larger fish.

This fish has spiritual significance for Mangarrayi people. **Galbarn**, the small red-bellied barramundi, features in an important creation-period story with **garrajaj**, the owlet nightjar.



Barramundi  
**ngurluguyi** (Mang), **jumburrung** (Mang)  
**bumbum** (Mang, Yang), **gorromunga**  
(Yang), **guwarambara**, **galbarn**



Mullet  
**lugu** (Mang, Yang)

Mullet **lugu** (Mang, Yang)  
*Liza* spp.

This fish is good eating; it can get quite large like a saratoga or barramundi but is often smaller and occurs in large schools. They can be caught on hand-lines but are also often caught in throw-nets. They can live in freshwater creeks and rivers but also travel into the saltwater areas of rivers and coastal areas.

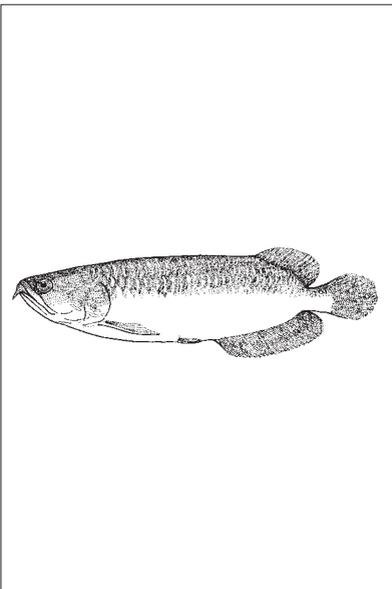
The flesh is roasted on hot coals and ashes, and then eaten off the bones.

Saratoga **yurramij** general (Mang, Yang)  
*Scleropages jardinii* **wunygarr** big (Mang)  
**yurramijga** big (Yang)  
**yurdij** small (Mang, Yang)  
**jawubuwubu** biggest (Mang, Yang)

**Yurramij** is the most commonly used name for this fish. **Wirirwirir**, the cockatiel sings out to let us know that **yurramij**, the Saratoga, is fat and good to eat.

These are big fish with lots of good meat, but the flesh along the backbone is very bony, so you have to be careful eating it. This can be cut out before cooking or eating, and used as bait instead. The eggs, fat, guts and liver are all good to eat.

They have sharp teeth and can bite, you have to be careful taking the hook out when you have caught one on a handline.



Saratoga  
**yurramij** general (Mang, Yang)  
**wunygarr** (Mang), **yurramijga** (Yang)  
**yurdij** (Mang, Yang)  
**jawubuwubu** (Mang, Yang)

Black-striped Grunter **darrarrarr** (Mang, Yang)  
*Amniataba percoides*

**Darrarrarr** can be used as a baitfish to catch bigger fish like barramundi. It is also good to eat when it is big enough. It is found deeper down in the water than **ngaladarr**, the riflefish.

Bony Bream **durlugurr** (Mang)  
*Nematalosa erebi* **dulugurin** (Yang)

**Durlugurr** is easy to catch. You can catch it on a hand-line, or by stirring up the water so that it swims into the clear water, and then it can be speared. They are pretty good to eat, but very bony. You need to look out

for these bones when you are eating it, if you fry it up dry you can eat it bones and all.

Black Bream, Sooty Grunter **bunjayi** (Mang, Yang)  
*Hephaestus fuliginosus* **ngbunguban** (Mang, Yang)

This is one of the best eating fish, the flesh is very tasty. **Bunjayi** are easy to catch on a hand-line as they take the bait very well. They are common in freshwater creeks and billabongs.

The light coloured form of the black bream is called **ngbunguban**; the dark coloured form called **bunjayi** is the most common.

Butler's Grunter, **libal** (Mang, Yang) big one  
Leathery Grunter **lel** (small one)  
*Syncomistes butleri* **mandarra**

This fish is good to eat, they can get quite large. It is also called silver or spotted bream sometimes.

Spangled Perch **mongmong** (Mang, Yang)  
*Leiopotherapon unicolor*

**Mongmong** lives in the billabong and comes out into the creeks and rivers when it rains. In the late wet season when the rivers are full they are very common.

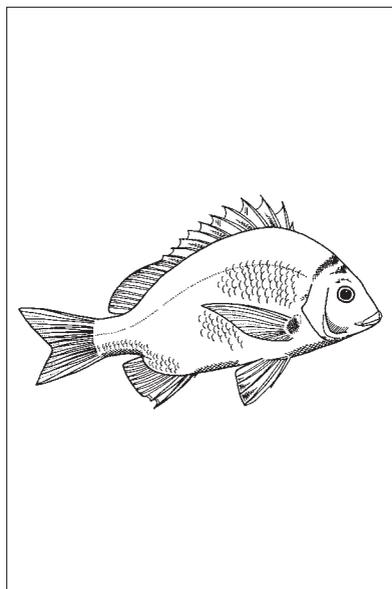
The larger ones have tasty flesh and are good to eat. The smaller ones are good to use as bait for catching a barramundi.

Sleepy Cod, Rock Cod **murla** (Mang)  
*Oxyeleotris* spp. **murlanga** (Yang)  
**mornojborr** small  
**jarryarwu** big

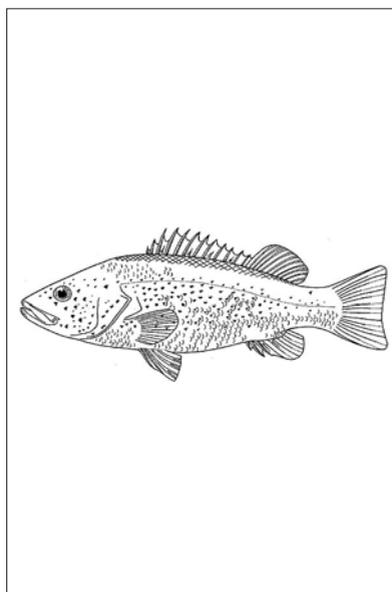
This fish is found in spring country, where it lives in deep quiet water areas. The big ones are good to eat. The flesh is soft with hardly any bones.

Fly-specked Hardyhead **julumburr` julumburr**  
*Craterocephalus stercusmuscarum* (Mang, Yang)

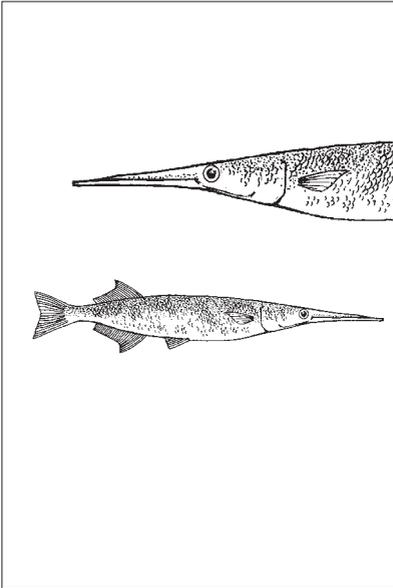
This fish can be used as bait to catch anything. This is a little fish that looks like a **jama**, the long-tom, but has a short face and a smaller body.



Black Bream, Sooty Grunter  
**bunjayi** (Mang, Yang)  
**ngbunguban** (Mang, Yang)



Spangled Perch  
**mongmong** (Mang, Yang)



Freshwater Long-tom  
**jama** (Mang)  
**jamarrin** (Yang)

Freshwater Long-tom  
*Strongylura krefftii*

**jama** (Mang)  
**jamarrin** (Yang)

**Jama** can be eaten, but it's a bit skinny with lots of bones. The bones are easy to see though, so you can pick them out.

This fish has a creation period story and a special ceremony and dance.

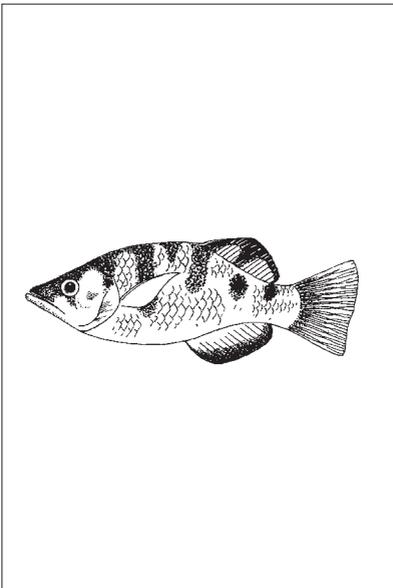
Riflefish, Archerfish  
*Toxotes chatareus*

**jogmayn** (Mang, Yang)  
**ngadbayn** (Mang, Yang)  
**ngalardarr** (Mang, Yang)

**Jogmayn** is the name for the really big ones that are good to eat. **Ngadbayn** refers to middle sized fish, these can also be eaten but there are a lot of bones.

**Ngalardarra** are the smaller Riflefish, they are too small to be eaten but are good bait.

These are good bait for barramundi and rock cod; they can also be eaten when they are big.



Riflefish, Archerfish  
**jogmayn** (Mang, Yang)  
**ngadbayn** (Mang, Yang)  
**ngalardarr** (Mang, Yang)

Rainbow-fish  
 and Glassfish

**larrgarrgan** (Mang, Yang)

*Melanotaenia* spp. and *Ambassis* spp.

These little fish are good for bait, but you will only catch bream with them.

Crimson-spotted Rainbow-fish  
*Melanotaenia splendida inornata*

**werlban** (Yang)

**Lugu**, mullet eat these little fish. They are good as live bait.

Mouth-almighty  
*Glossamia aprion*

**lambul** (Mang, Yang)

This flesh can be eaten after roasting in hot coals, it is very soft flesh and falls off the bones after cooking.

## CATFISH (FORK-TAILED CATFISH)

The word catfish is used locally to refer to all the fork-tailed catfish, they are also called **warrba**. Eel-tailed catfish are called 'nailfish'.

The term **garnagnawu** refers to the dangerous spine on nailfish and catfish.

All catfish and the larger nailfish are considered to be good to eat; the meat is roasted on hot coals and ashes and then eaten.

The spines in the fins are dangerous, they cause swelling and severe long-lasting pain if they puncture the skin. They are generally cut off and placed somewhere safe, burnt on a fire or thrown into deep water.

Silver Cobbler  
*Neoarius midgleyi*

**burriynburriyn** (Mang)  
**morroborl** (Yang)

This is a big catfish, sometimes they get very large over a metre long, but often they are smaller. The meat is really good eating. It can be made into a stew with garlic and onions or it can be roasted on the coals.

Salmon Catfish, dark form  
*Neoarius leptaspis*

**warrba** (Mang, Yang)

This catfish has dark skin and gets to a good size, it is good to eat and is fairly common. There is an important dreaming story and sacred site for this fish.

Salmon Catfish, light form  
*Neoarius leptaspis*

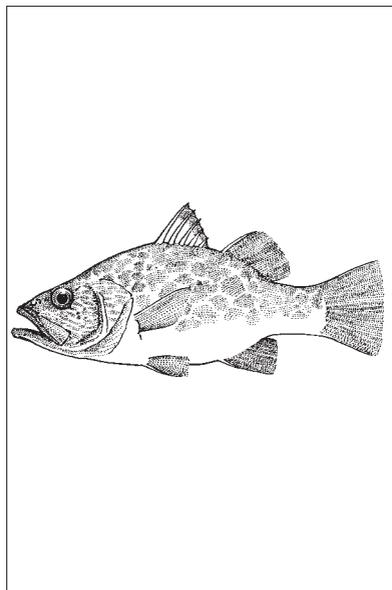
**dugurduguyi** (Mang, Yang)

This catfish has light coloured skin and often gets to a good size. It is good to eat. It is closely related to **warrba** but has lighter coloured skin.

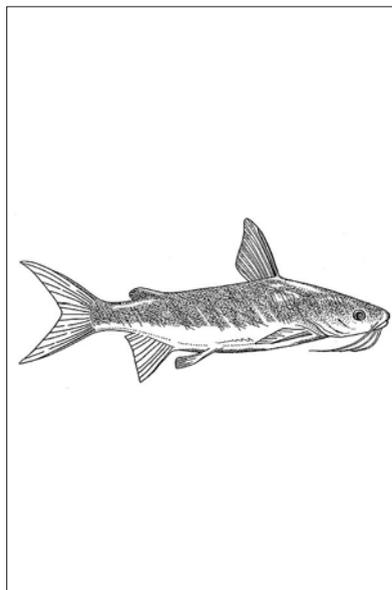
Blue Catfish  
*Neoarius graeffei*

**didardidabal** (Mang, Yang)

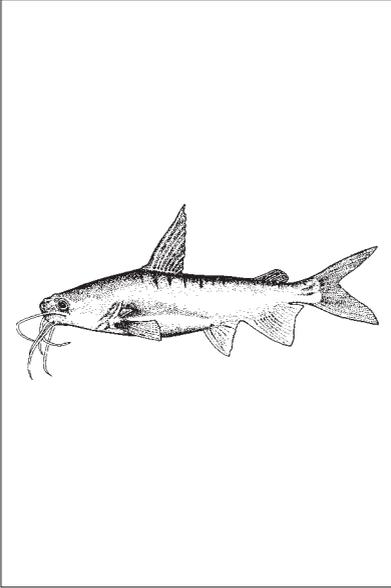
This is the smallest of all the catfish, it is often too small to be good eating but the larger ones are eaten. **Didardidabal** occurs in freshwater areas but can also be found in salt water country.



Mouth-almighty  
**lambul** (Mang, Yang)



Silver Cobbler  
**burriynburriyn** (Mang)  
**morroborl** (Yang)



Salmon Catfish, light form  
**dugurduguyi** (Mang, Yang)

**NAILFISH** (Eel-tailed catfish) **barndura** (Mang, Yang)

The terms nailfish and jewfish are used locally to refer to the eel-tailed catfish. They can be caught on hand-lines and the best bait to use is earthworms.

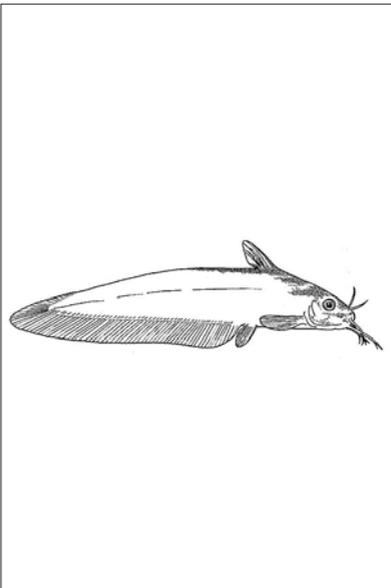
Dark Eel-tail Nailfish **lundu** (Mang, Yang)  
*Neosilurus ater*

This nailfish can get quite big and it has dark skin. The meat is good to eat after roasting on hot coals and ashes.

Pale Eel-tail Nailfish **yarggiji** (Mang, Yang)  
*Porochilus rendahli*

This nailfish has a yellow belly and is paler in colour than **lundu** (above). The meat is good to eat after roasting on hot coals and ashes.

## FRESHWATER ANIMALS



Dark Eel-tail Nailfish  
**lundu** (Mang, Yang)

Freshwater Crab **galijurru** (Mang)  
Potamonidae, various **murada** (Yang)

These are good for using as bait when fishing; turtles and large fish like to eat them a lot. The Yangman name is the same as the name for the scorpion.

Freshwater Prawn or Yabby,  
Cherabin **malulurr** (Mang)  
*Macrobrachium rosenbergii*

One way to catch these is to dive into the water and muddy it up. All the **malulurr** swim to the surface looking for the clear water, they can then be speared with small wire spears.

They can also be lured to the edge of the water by throwing in bones, and then lots of them speared from the bank. **Manyal**, the freshwater mangrove tree (*Barringtonia acutangula*) can also be used to stun them in the water to make them easier to catch.

Red-claw Crayfish  
*Cherax quadricarinatus*

**warn** (Mang)

**Warn** are caught in the same way as **malulurr**, the prawn or yabby (above). They have stronger shells, and they are much cheekier than **malulurr**. They also have less meat.

Large Freshwater Mussel  
*Velesunio wilsonii*

**jibibi** (Mang)

**Jibibi** are really good eating, they can be cooked on the coals once they have been dug up from the billabongs and creeks. They will grab your bait sometimes when you are fishing with a hand-line. The fat part of mussel is called **girri**.

These are also good medicine for colds and flu. They can be eaten as normal, or a juice can be made from the mussels for drinking. Small babies can also be smoked over a fire with mussels on it. This will make them strong, physically and spiritually.

These mussels are considered to have special powers and they like to eat **ngala**, flowers from various plants. They fly up in the night to eat the flowers, and if you listen very carefully you can hear the sound of their shells clacking together as they fly.

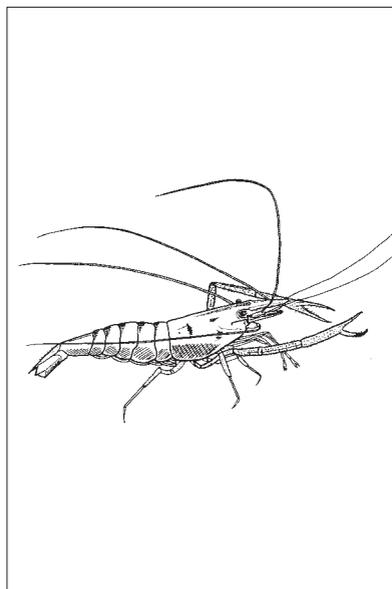
Small Freshwater Mussel  
*Corbiculina australis*

**wirlurra** (Mang)  
**ngabarrngabarr** (Mang)

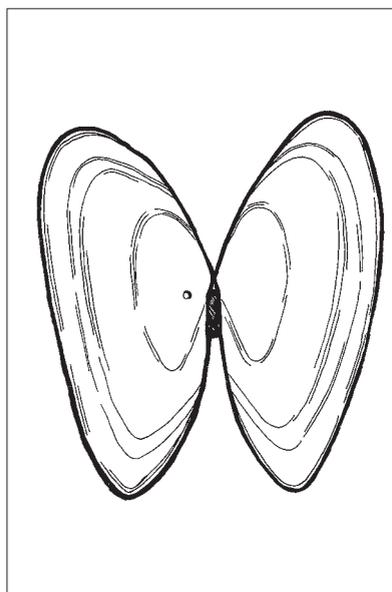
These small mussels occur on the edge of the river, they are round and about 10mm across, and vary from dark to light in colour.

These small mussels are often eaten by **galurra**, the water-rat, and some people also call these mussels **galurra**.

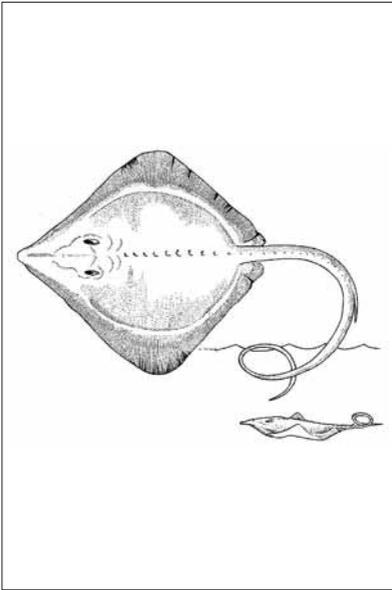
The word **jabagijan** refers to a mussel that is found in dry ground, while **jirrbirli'min** refers to a big yellow freshwater mussel.



Freshwater Prawn or Yabby,  
**malulurr** (Mang)  
Cherabin



Large Freshwater Mussel  
**jibibi** (Mang)



Freshwater Shark (Bull Shark) **lededmayn** (Mang)  
*Carcharhinus leucas*

**Lededmayn** are good to eat. They can be caught on a hand-line; little ones are best, the big ones can be too hard to handle as they can be dangerous. They are cooked up on the coals with the meat cooked up separately to the liver and fat. These are then mixed together and they taste really great.

Stingray **walbundubundu** (Mang)  
*Himantura dalyensis*

Stingrays are good eating. Once they are caught the tail is cut off so that the barb can not hurt anyone. Then they are cooked up on the coals with the meat cooked separately to the liver and fat. These are then mixed together and eaten.

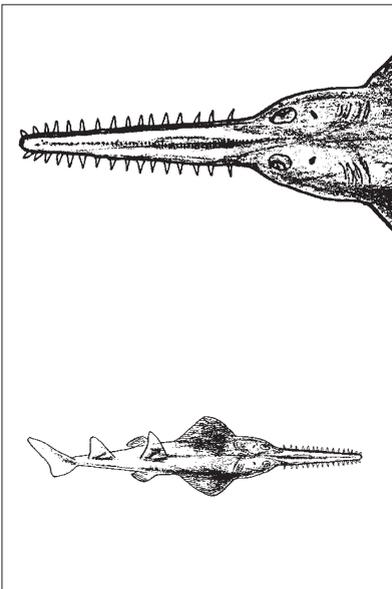
Stingray  
**walbundubundu** (Mang)

Sawfish, Comb-fish **yilimirndi** (Mang)  
*Pristis microdon*

You can catch **yilimirndi** using live bait. It is good eating.

The best way to kill it is by waiting until it is tired out and then hitting it hard on the head. For cooking, it is best to separate the liver and fat from the meat and cook them up in different pots.

When they are cooked you can mix them up together and make balls from the mixture. Once you start eating this you don't want to stop. The 'saw' nose is good for decoration, and can be painted and sold.



Sawfish, Comb-fish  
**yilimirndi** (Mang)

## MAMMALS

The term **juya**, is the word most commonly used for any beef, meat or flesh (of game animals). The word **da** (always with a pronominal postfix, e.g. da-nganju; my meat) has a kind of sentimental flavour, such as when people think about wanting to get meat to eat, it is often said hopefully or with a wistful memory of some good eating.

The tail of any mammal can be called **daway**.

## SMALL MAMMALS

Porcupine, Echidna  
*Tachyglossus aculeatus*

**mundulbirri** (Mang)  
**gawalyan** (Yang)

The flesh can be eaten after roasting. The hard prickles are softened with hot water and then chopped off, the intestines are taken out and the flesh roasted on hot coals. The meat has lots of fat and is very tasty. You don't want to share with other people once you start eating this one. The meat tastes like pork and is very nice; it always has a lot of white fat.

They often live in hilly and rocky country and are most active at night. They like to eat ants and termites and are often found hunting around termite mounds. They also like to eat the seeds and flowers of the **dirlay**, the kurrajong tree (*Brachychiton diversifolius*).

Old people used to train dogs to smell and track them. When you find them on the bitumen road they are able to grip the ground so tight that you have to find a tool to lever them off with. They are very good at hiding and escaping as well, so if you catch one you need to take it inside your house and then lock up the house.

You can hear the quills, **jin.gij** (Mang) of the echidna rattling against each other as he walks through the night. If his hole fills up with rain water in the wet season, he will camp in an antbed.

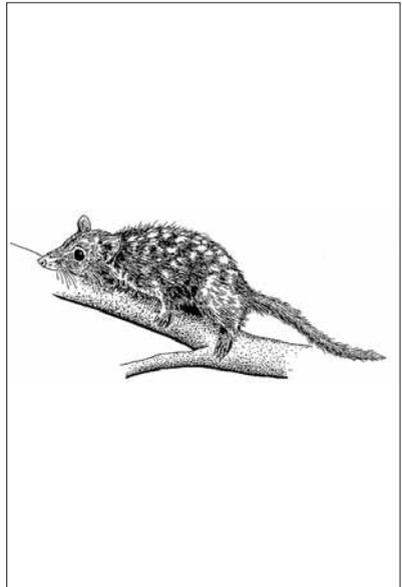
Quoll, Native Cat  
*Dasyurus hallucatus*

**gilngan** (Mang)  
**garlambu** (Yang)

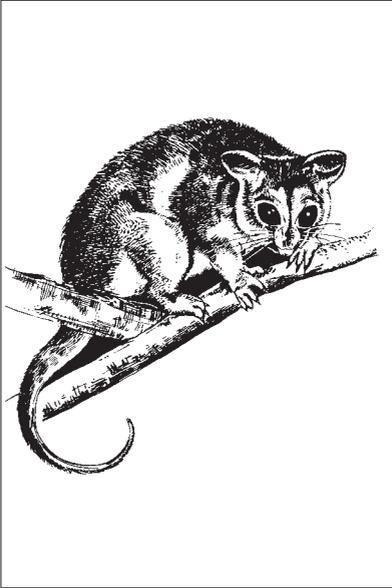
**Gilngan** used to be eaten in the past by old people, but have not been eaten in recent times. Sheila Conway remembers seeing this one once when she was a young girl, but hasn't seen one since. They lived in the



Porcupine, Echidna  
**mundulbirri** (Mang)  
**gawalyan** (Yang)



Quoll, Native Cat  
**gilngan** (Mang)  
**garlambu** (Yang)



Brush-tailed Possum  
**wijwij** (Mang)  
**balan** (Yang)

tops of **jamog**, the spring pandanus. The old people used to set the pandanus on fire and catch them as they jumped out. They also live in hollow logs.

Brush-tailed Possum **wijwij** (Mang)  
*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis* **balan** (Yang)

The flesh is eaten after roasting and it is very good to eat. The meat tastes like chicken but is tastier. They live in hollow trees and logs and are common. In the past the old people trained dogs to sniff out the tree they were hiding in, you can also see the tracks they make on the bark of trees they live in.

The tree can be chopped down or you can climb up and try to pull them out of the hole. They look around for food at night.

They can be roasted by taking out the intestines and singeing off the fur, then placing heated rocks in the gut cavity and wrapping them in paperbark and cooking them in a ground oven.

There is a dreaming site called **Balyuwurra** for them near the Roper River on Elsey Station. It is a totem or dreaming for some people. It has strong links with the sacred hair-belt that can be made from its fur.



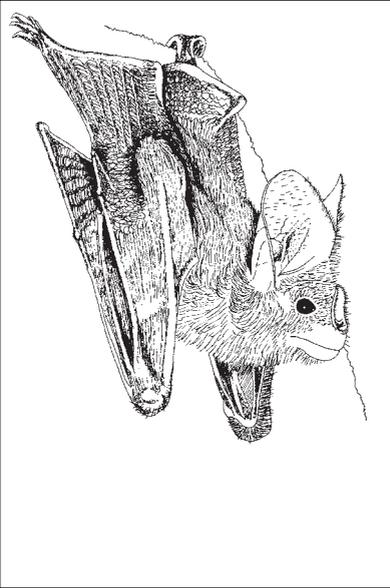
(Northern Brown) Bandicoot  
**gurluga** (Mang), **gulin** (Mang)  
**gurndayn** (Mang), **wombu** (Yang)  
**buluga** (Yang)

(Northern Brown) Bandicoot **gurluga** (Mang)  
*Isodon macrourus* **gulin** (Mang)  
**gurndayn** (Mang) large one  
**wombu** (Yang)  
**buluga** (Yang)

**Gurluga** were eaten in the past, but have not been seen in recent times, they taste like a possum. Sometimes when you burnt pandanus country they would run out of the low pandanus bush. Sometimes you would find them hiding in their nests in the grass. The best way to eat them is roasted in a ground oven or in the stove at home.

There is a special song that relates to bandicoots and the young men's ceremony. **Gulin** is a good Mangarrayi name for this bandicoot, but **gurluga** is the best name. **Gurndayn** refers to the biggest ones.





Ghost Bat  
**warlang**

There is a special song for **gurrababa** that relates to young men's ceremony. There are special sites on Mangarrayi country.

Small Insectivorous Bats, Microbats **yirriwinybiny**  
Microchiroptera, various taxa

They fly around at dusk and often hunt for insects near lights.

Ghost Bat **warlang**  
*Macroderma gigas*

**Warlang** lives in caves. These are mostly in hilly country. There are also some in caves around the flat limestone country of Mangarrayi country.

## KANGAROOS AND WALLABIES

The general term for the shoulder blade of kangaroos is **lamgarr**, they were used in the past for peeling and cutting the flesh from yams.

The sinew or ligament, **nganjug**, from any kangaroo or wallaby can be used to make the strong cord-like string to tie on spear heads to the spear-shafts, or woomera-hooks to the woomera-shafts.



Nail-tail Kangaroo,  
**ngulumurru** (Mang, Yang)  
Left-hand Kangaroo

Nail-tail Kangaroo, **ngulumurru** (Mang, Yang)  
Left-hand Kangaroo  
*Onychogalea unguifera*

The meat is good to eat and these kangaroos are common. When they hop they hold their left front paw up to their chest. They have a sharp nail in the end of their tail.

This is one of the smaller kangaroos, bigger ones are better as they feed more people. **Ngulumurru** can hop very fast and move quickly, it is hard to hunt.

Spectacled Hare-wallaby **mabirling** (Mang, Yang)  
*Lagorchestes conspicillatus*

These small wallabies were eaten in the past but have not been seen in recent times. This may be because people are not walking out on country as much as they used to. They are very quiet and difficult to see.

**Mabirling** is also the name for a place where this wallaby lived in the dreamtime. There is an important creation period story and dance for **mabirling** and the country it lives in.

Agile Wallaby, River Wallaby     **balgij** (Mang) large male  
*Macropus agilis*                     **walgij** (Yang)  
    **galyarr** big male

This small wallaby is found in low country around rivers and creek-lines. They are common and look for grass to eat at dawn and dusk. Sometimes they can be seen in large groups in grassy areas.

The meat is good to eat after roasting on hot coals or in a ground oven.

Plains Kangaroo,                     **garnjalawurru** (Mang, male)  
 Antilopine Wallaroo     **gandarrgij** (Mang, small one)  
*Macropus antilopinus*             **yundumurrugu** (Yang)  
    **ngarla-nguwamin** (Yang, female)  
    **jaganda** (Yang, male)  
    **ngalijirri** (Mang, female)  
    **garnawul** (Mang)  
    **garawi** (red coloured)

This big kangaroo can get very tall, and it stands up tall even as it hops around. This is a big kangaroo that can be very cheeky. They can tackle a person to the ground and really hurt them.

They are really good meat. The best way to cook them is in a stone oven. The fat and the heart, liver, lungs, kidney and other good offal bits are all placed together in the gut cavity after it has been cleaned out. Then these are all cooked up with the rest of the meat in the oven.

**Garawi** is **gagag** (mother's mother kin relationship) for **dorlogorr**, the plains goanna.

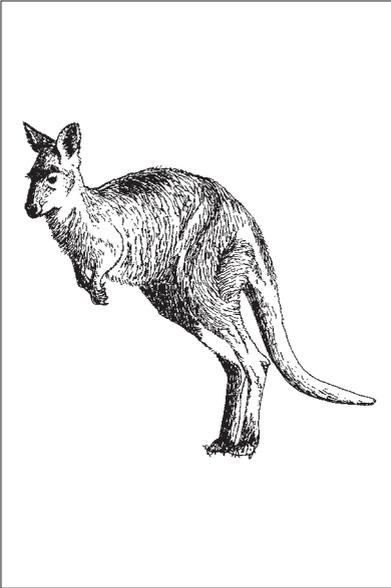
There is an important creation period story about how this kangaroo was chased by two **werrg**, dingoes, and made Mangarrayi country. **Dorlogorr** is involved in this creation period story as well.



Agile Wallaby, River Wallaby  
**balgij** (Mang) large male  
**walgij** (Yang)  
**galyarr** big male



Plains Kangaroo  
 Antilopine Wallaroo  
**garnjalawurru** (Mang, male)  
**yundumurrugu** (Yang)



Euro, Hill Kangaroo  
**ngirrmu** male  
**jorlwana** female

Euro, Hill Kangaroo  
*Macropus robustus*

**ngirrmu** male  
**jorlwana** female

This kangaroo lives in stony and hilly country. It's a long way from Jilkminggan to see this kangaroo, but it is good eating if you get one. It has short arms compared to the others, and a short nose too.

It can be cheeky if you get close to it, the big ones can be dangerous if they are injured as they are quite strong.

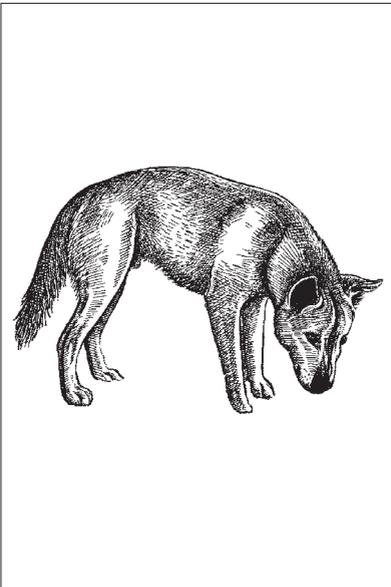
Dingo  
*Canis lupus dingo*

**werrg** (Mang)  
**berlgurr** (Yang)

When meat was short in the past, dingo pups used to be eaten by the old people, roasted up on a campfire. Adult dingoes were not eaten.

**Werrg** are really good hunters, and were always kept by old people in the past to help with hunting wallabies and goannas. If people find dingo puppies in the bush now they will sometimes take them home so that they have a good hunting dog. They are better hunters than **muyg**, domestic dogs, and they will bring game back still alive so that the person can kill the meat fresh. They will also come and find you wherever you are to let you know that they have caught something.

There is a big story for the **werrg** from the dreamtime, about how Mangarrayi country was made. It is a story that also involves **garawi**, the plains kangaroo a lot. In the story the **werrg** are called **Ganjirraman** and **Barralbab**.



Dingo  
**werrg** (Mang)  
**berlgurr** (Yang)

**REPTILES**

**SNAKES**

The general term for any snake is **bandi** (Mang) or **lilin** (Yang). The term **galgurndi** refers to the lair or hole of a goanna or snake.

**DANGEROUS SNAKES**

King Brown **balngarrangarra** (Mang)  
*Pseudechis australis* **jarlagban** (Yang)

These are really cheeky and dangerous snakes. There are plenty around Mangarrayi country. However, not many have been seen since cane toads arrived. This snake often gets large and is very aggressive. It has a large head.

Death Adder **jamben** (Mang)  
*Acanthophis praelongus* **jemben** (Yang)

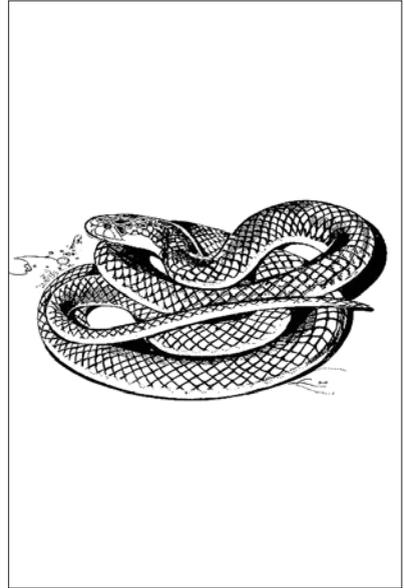
This snake is really deadly, and can kill people very quickly. Everyone is really scared of this snake.

Western Brown Snake **mimarn**  
*Pseudonaja nuchalis*

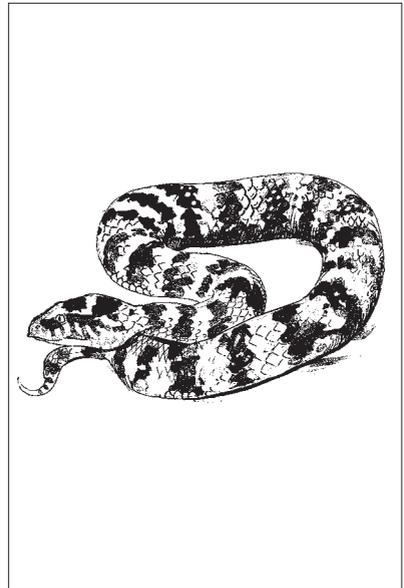
This snake is really poisonous, people cut open the bite to let the venom run out if they are bitten, but it can kill you very quickly.

Black Whip snake **burlumba** (Mang)  
*Demansia papuensis* **woyolung** (Yang)

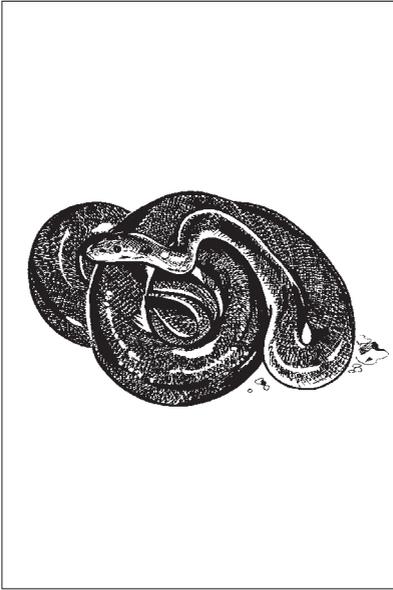
These snakes can be cheeky. If you get bitten the area swells and hurts but it is not deadly. There was one Mangarrayi man bitten by this snake at Jilkminggan who was able to make the pain go away by soaking his bitten limb in the river. Nowadays most people would prefer to go to hospital.



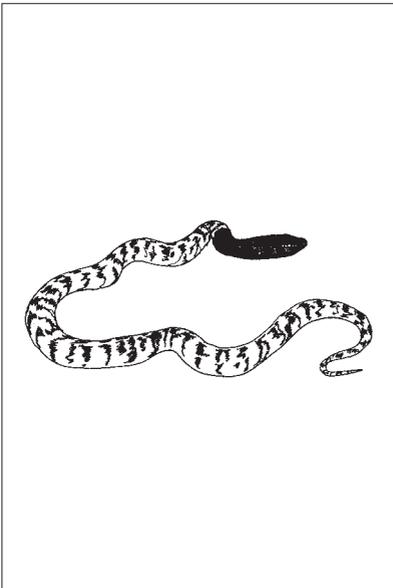
King Brown  
**balngarrangarra** (Mang)  
**jarlagban** (Yang)



Death Adder  
**jamben** (Mang)  
**jemben** (Yang)



Olive Python  
**gurrwandan** (Mang)  
**baninggula** (Yang)



Black-headed Python  
**junguj** (Mang, Yang)

## PYTHONS

Water Python (red or yellow belly) **gilirriyi** (Mang)  
*Liasis mackloti* **giliringa** (Yang)

This python is good to eat. It can be caught by picking it up at the head, and then it is killed and roasted on the fire. It is known as a 'quiet snake' and is considered harmless.

Rainbow Serpent **bologban**  
*Liasis sp. aff. mackloti*

This is the powerful mythical snake of the dreamtime or creation period.

If you try to cook up a **gurrwandan**, the olive python, and its flesh won't cook, you have actually caught **bologban**, the rainbow serpent.

If you hunt too many **gurrwandan** you'll get in trouble with the **bologban**. If you are breastfeeding or have a very small baby, you should not go too close to the water. **Bologban** will smell you and take you.

Olive Python **gurrwandan** (Mang)  
*Liasis olivacea* **baninggula** (Yang)

This is a big snake that can eat small wallabies. It can stretch its jaws and belly a lot so that it can eat large prey. The flesh can be eaten and it can be cooked in a ground oven.

The flesh is very tasty and comes off the spine and ribs easily when it is well cooked. People don't eat snake much these days, in the past they were eaten a lot.

This python is also sometimes called a 'quiet snake' and is considered harmless.

Black-headed Python **junguj** (Mang, Yang)  
*Aspidites melanocephalus*

This snake can be found everywhere around Mangarrayi country. Old people used to eat it, but people don't eat it much these days. It can be roasted on the coals, and if there are eggs inside these are very tasty.

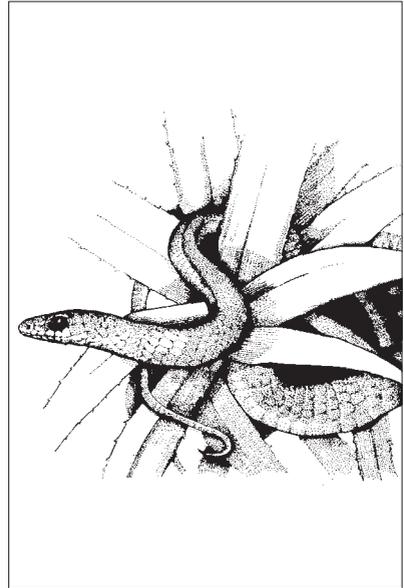
**NON-POISONOUS SNAKES**

Milk-snake **mandirrgmandirrgwalanggin**  
 Brown Tree Snake (Mang, Yang)  
*Boiga irregularis* **bimbi** (Mang, Yang)

These snakes are considered to have special powers. These snakes will come down out of the trees and try to drink the milk from nursing mothers' breasts. When one of these snakes is seen it is killed to stop it stealing milk.

Green Tree Snake **marranggarlbu** (Mang, Yang)  
*Dendrelaphis punctulata*

This snake is seen around rivers and creeks, mostly living in **jamog**, the pandanus trees. If you fall asleep and there are flies around, this snake will come down and eat all the flies buzzing around your head.



Green Tree Snake  
**marranggarlbu** (Mang, Yang)

File Snake **gunawun** (Mang)  
*Acrochordus arafurae* **gononnga** (Yang)

These snakes that live in the water are good eating. There are lots of them in Elsey Creek in the rain time. You can find them in rivers, creeks or billabongs. They can be caught on a hand-line or by hand.

The meat is good to eat after roasting on hot coals. To kill it you put the head in your mouth, bite it behind the head and then pull back, breaking its neck. Then they are curled up on the fire and roasted. There is a lot of delicious fat when it is cooked up.

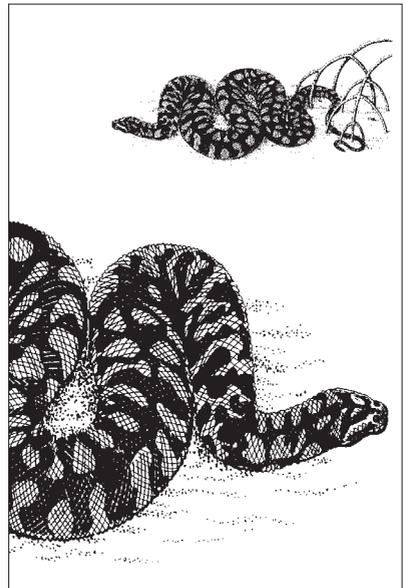
Orange-naped Snake **gimajun** (Mang)  
*Furina ornata* **miyagagarra** (Yang)

Keelback Snake **gimgimgan** (Mang, Yang)  
*Tropidonophis mairii*

This freshwater snake lives around water of rivers and billabongs, but it also travels on land a lot.

Blind Snake name uncertain  
 Northern Shovel-nosed Snake  
*Ramphotyphlops* spp., *Brachyuropis roperi*

These snakes live under the ground, they come out when it is very wet; otherwise you don't see them. Both are used as bait if they are found under the ground.



File Snake  
**gunawun** (Mang)  
**gononnga** (Yang)



Water Goanna  
**bardjarr** (Mang)  
**gayambardma** (Mang)  
**mayambarl** (Yang)

**LIZARDS**

**GOANNAS**

The general Mangarrayi name for all baby goannas is **janberdberd**. The general terms for the tail are **yinyjinyjimini** (Mang) or **walinja** (Yang). These terms can be used for the tail of any animal.

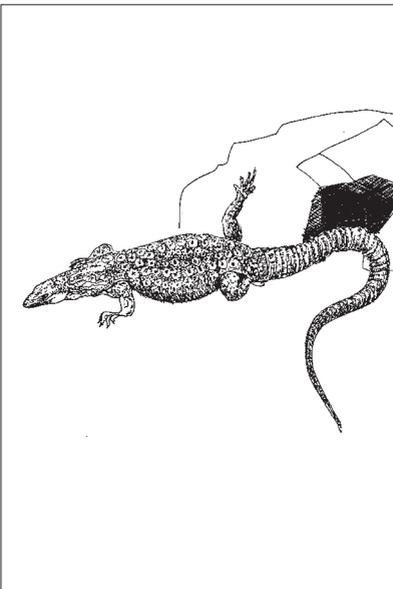
**Ganangadjan** (Yang) and **wirrlimayin** (Mang) are the general terms for all goannas. **Walanyja** is another Yangman name that is used for the plains goanna but can also refer to all goannas.

Goannas are a favoured food, there are a number of different types, all can be eaten, but some are better than others.

Water Goanna  
*Varanus mertensi*

**bardjarr** (Mang)  
**gayambardma** (Mang)  
**mayambarl** (Yang)

This goanna can sometimes be caught on a fishing line. The flesh is good eating after roasting on hot coals. **Bardjarr** is the best name for this goanna.



Spiny-tailed Goanna  
**birrab** (Mang)  
**yilaragban** (Yang)

Small Water Goanna  
*Varanus mitchellii*

**gomboy**

This small water goanna jumps straight into the water when it sees you. It is tasty to eat, but is usually quite small.

Spiny-tailed Goanna  
*Varanus acanthurus*

**birrab** (Mang)  
**yilaragban** (Yang)

This goanna's meat is very good to eat. It can be found up in the hilly country.

Plains Goanna,  
 Yellow-spotted Goanna  
*Varanus panoptes*

**dorlogorr** (Mang)  
**walanyja** (Yang)

This is the biggest of the goannas, and is very popular for food. People used to have dogs that would help them catch these goannas. The dogs would track them

into holes or logs, and then they would be dug up, caught by the tail and killed. They were best cooked in a ground oven.

There have been far less seen since cane toads arrived. The Yangman name for this goanna can also be used as a generic term for all goannas.

Small Tree Goanna **gawuy** (Mang)  
*Varanus tristis*; *V. scalaris* **warlarlun** (Yang)

This goanna is too small to be eaten.

This goanna has a powerful creation period story, it made the **Yumbuluyi** country with its big river and spring.

Sand-ridge Goanna **muda** (Mang)  
*Varanus gouldii* **galmarrarra** (Mang) biggest goanna  
**murruna** (Yang)  
**yarlnga** (Yang)

This is a big goanna and can have lots of meat, it is good to eat. It has become far less common since the cane toad arrived.

This big goanna has a powerful creation period story that covers a large area of country and is very important.

Geckoes **maran** (Mang)  
Family Gekkonidae

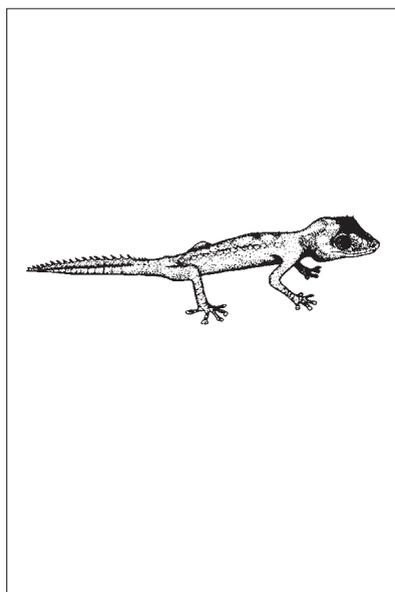
There are important creation period stories about **maran**. Geckoes change their skins regularly, like the snakes. They can live on the walls in houses and eat flies and mosquitoes.

Crowned Gecko, **maran**(Mang)  
and other large-eyed geckos **mangarrunan** (Yang)  
*Lucasium* spp.

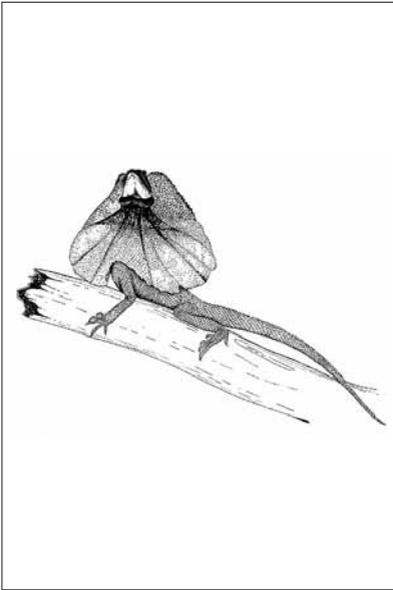
The gecko is very powerful, and makes the thunder and the rain. It can be a dangerous animal, and if you see one in the bush you should just pass it by and not harm it in any way.



Small Tree Goanna  
**gawuy** (Mang)  
**warlarlun** (Yang)



Geckoes  
**maran** (Mang)



Blanket Lizard, Frill-necked Lizard  
**nganyjalaw** (Mang)  
**ganangarrin** (Yang)

Slippery Lizard  
*Glaphyromorphus* spp.

**garlarlgarlarl**  
**miliyangin**

These are the generic names for all the 'slippery' lizards, including the moon lizard and the slippery lizard. They are all good for fish bait. They are also good to have around the house as they eat cockroaches and other bugs.

Wavy-paw Lizard  
*Diporiphora* spp.

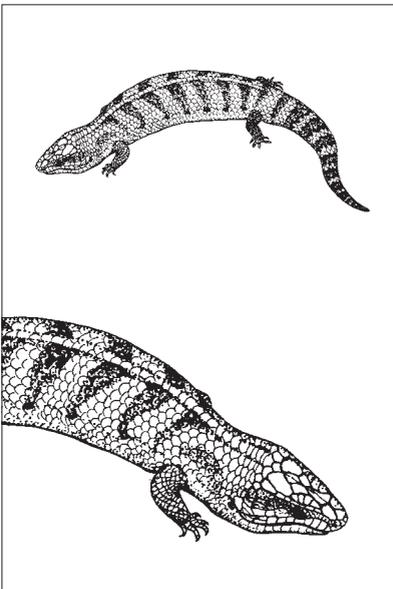
**jamorlmorl** (Mang, Yang)

Blanket Lizard,  
 Frill-necked Lizard  
*Chlamydosaurus kingii*

**nganyjalaw** (Mang)  
**ganangarrin** (Yang)

This lizard is good beef. To catch it you throw sticks to get it down from the tree and then grab it by the throat. It can be cheeky and bite.

The meat and fat of this lizard is yellow like the **yurramij**, the saratoga fish. It is very tasty. The blanket on its head gives good shade for its ears. This lizard is like the **ngambalma**, the wavy-paw lizard, it stops the lightning, thunder and rain.



Blue-tongued Lizard  
**yarlnga** (Yang)  
**gungarlag** (Mang, big one)  
**ngambilyalya** (Mang, small one)

The chameleon dragon (*Chelosania brunnea*) has the same name in Mangarrayi as the blanket lizard, it is considered to be the young blanket lizard before the blanket has grown, like the 'tadpole' of the **nganyjalaw**.

Blue-tongued Lizard  
*Tiliqua scincoides*

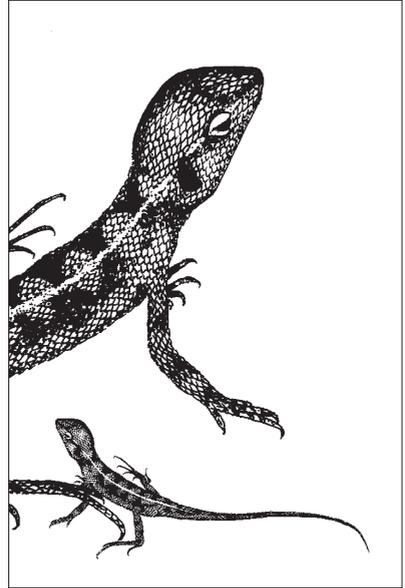
**yarlnga** (Yang)  
**gungarlag** (Mang, big one)  
**ngambilyalya** (Mang, small one)

This lizard is good for eating. The meat is roasted in hot coals and ashes, there is not much meat on them, but they are easy to catch. They live in open grassy country.

This lizard can also be called **bayangmayin**, this is a descriptive name that refers to the bald head. Both the centralian and the northern blue-tongued lizards have the same language names.

Ta-ta Lizard **ngambalma** (Mang, Yang)  
*Amphibolurus gilberti*

This lizard has an important creation period story about how he runs across the plain with a stick. He stops the thunder, lightning and the rain.



Ta-ta Lizard  
**ngambalma** (Mang, Yang)

Tree Lizard **giyn`giyn**  
*Cryptoblepharus* spp.

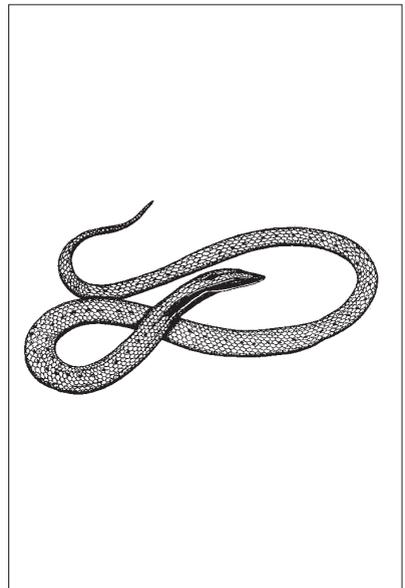
**Giyn`giyn** has special powers, it is used to wean children when it is time to stop breastfeeding. The skink is caught and its nose is rubbed on the throat of the child. This stops the child wanting the milk. If you hurt this lizard you won't be able to urinate for days.

Moon Snake-lizard (Burton's Snake-lizard) **gij**  
*Lialis burtonis*

This legless lizard is called moon snake because the shape of his head is the shape of the new moon. This is a gentle lizard that looks like a snake. It can't bite, and kids like to play with it.

Spinifex Snake-lizard **waran**  
*Delma nasuta*

This small legless lizard looks like a snake; it lives in spinifex areas in dry country in southern areas. It is not touched as it is considered to be dangerous and even poisonous.



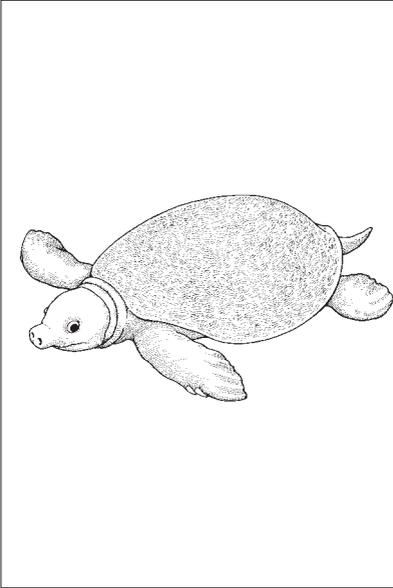
Moon Snake-lizard  
 (Burton's Snake-lizard)  
**gij**

**TURTLES**

All turtles can be eaten and are favoured for many Mangarrayi and Yangman people. Fishing for turtles with hand-lines is a common pursuit around shady billabongs and along rivers and creeks.

Turtles can also be caught by swimming or walking in swamps, billabongs and creeks and feeling around with your hands under the banks, especially around pandanus trees roots.

In the past there were more turtles caught and eaten. In recent times they have been less abundant. Turtle shells can be painted up with traditional designs and sold to tourists.



Pig-nosed Turtle  
**warliwirrurr** (Mang)

Pig-nosed Turtle **warliwirrurr** (Mang)  
*Carettochelys insculpta*

These turtles can be caught on a hand-line with a hook. They are good to eat and sometimes have lots of meat on them.

This turtle only occurs in the Roper River. It has large flippers like a saltwater turtle and they can get very large and are hard to pull in on a handline. They have a distinctive fleshy nose like a pig.

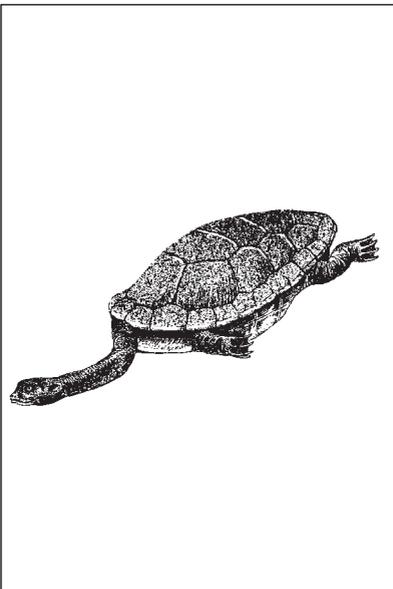
(Northern) Snapping Turtle **gorronani** (Mang, Yang)  
*Eseya dentata*

These turtles can be caught on a hand-line with a hook. They are good to eat.

They can bite hard and need to be handled carefully so they don't swing their head around to bite.

Saw-shelled Turtle **jabada** (Mang, Yang)  
*Wollumbinia latisternum*

This turtle is really good to eat. It can be cooked whole on the coals.



(Northern) Long-necked Turtle  
**jarnamanjarr** (Mang)

(Northern) Long-necked Turtle **jarnamanjarr** (Mang)  
*Chelodina rugosa*

There are lots of these turtles in the Roper River. You can catch them on a hook with bait, or catch them by diving down into a billabong or river and feeling around for them.

They often hide in the mud holes left by cattle on the edge of billabongs, and can be found by feeling around in these places. They can be killed with a sharp stick, and then cooked on the fire.

(Northern) Yellow-faced Turtle **marndirrin**  
*Emydura tanybaraga* (Mang, Yang)

This yellow or red-faced turtle is good eating. After the rains come they can be found as small turtles crawling around on land. Kids love to catch them and have them as pets.

The name **nernergnerngmayin** is a description of the striped face on the **marndirrin**.

Stinking Turtle  
*Chelodina canni*

**nganymarlin** (Mang, Yang)

This turtle has a lumpy gland under its front legs that really stinks. Before cooking it these small white lumps can be cut out.

Then it is cooked like other turtles on the coals. It can be found out in dry country as well as around rivers.

## CROCODILES

**Gorlomomo** is a term used for any crocodile, freshwater or saltwater.

Saltwater Crocodile  
*Crocodylus porosus*

**dirrag**

This is a big dangerous crocodile, when there are big ones around people don't swim. During the crocodile hunting times they could be speared and the skin sold. The meat would then be eaten, but generally people don't eat the meat or try to hunt this animal.

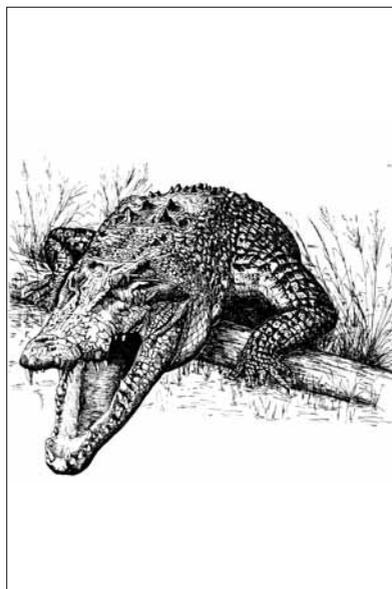
Freshwater Crocodile  
*Crocodylus johnstonii*

**warrbiyan** (Mang)  
**dagarl** (Yang)

These crocodiles can be caught with a spear and then eaten. A wire spear is the best spear to use. The tail is the best meat, and it can be roasted up on the fire. However, the tail is not eaten by young people, they can get headaches from eating it, which can be very severe. Older people can eat it without getting these headaches. It tastes good, with lots of yellow fat like **yurramij**, the saratoga.

The eggs are also eaten, after they are lightly cooked. The eggs are found by following the mother's tracks and digging with your hands in the soft sand where they lay their eggs. When the **biwarrg**, yellow kapok, has its bright yellow flowers, and **liyinbi**, the yellow-wood has its cream flowers it is the best time to hunt for eggs.

**Gorryow** is the name for a very big freshwater crocodile. These ones are big enough to fight with **dirrag**, the saltwater crocodile.



Saltwater Crocodile  
**dirrag**



Freshwater Crocodile  
**warrbiyan** (Mang)  
**dagarl** (Yang)



Giant Frog, Big-rain Frog  
**jornogog** (Mang)  
**nadi** (Yang)

## FROGS

The general terms for all frogs are **jornogog** (Mang) and **nadi** (Yang). Tadpoles are called **gunbegbeg**. Children like to play with tadpoles.

Giant Frog, Big-rain Frog **jornogog** (Mang)  
*Litoria australis* **nadi** (Yang)

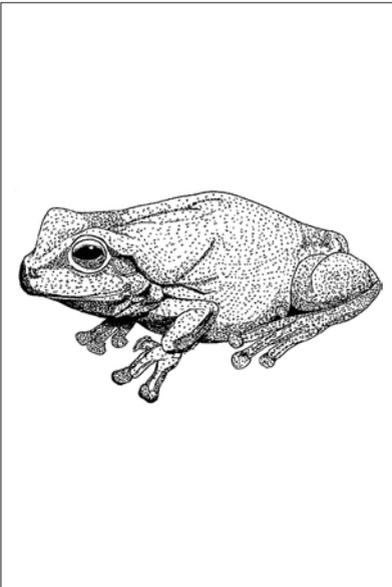
This large burrowing frog has a loud call during the wet season. It is often referred to by the generic term for frog, as is the cane toad.

Sand Frog **magujugujarna**  
*Platyplectrum ornatum*

This frog can be dug up in the cold weather time. It is good for bait, and is especially good for catching **bunjayi**, the black bream.

Tree Frog **mernbelgmin**  
*Litoria bicolor*; *L. caerulea*;  
*L. nasuta*; *L. rothii*

The name refers to frogs such as the pandanus frog, green tree frog, pale frog and pissing frog. They are all good for use as bait when fishing with a hand-line.



Tree Frog  
**mernbelgmin**

## INSECTS

Dragonfly **bararuwan**  
Odonata, Anisoptera

When there are lots of **bararuwan** around you know it's a good time to go fishing for **yurramij**, the saratoga, as they are really fat.

Bush Cockroach **gumbugumbuna** (Mang)  
Blattodea, *Cosmozosteria* spp.

The name for the bush cockroach refers to the **gumbu** (urine) they try to squirt on you if you try to pick them up. The urine from this animal has a strong unpleasant smell.

Termites (White-ants) **murrurlu** (Mang, Yang)  
Isoptera, *Mastotermes* spp., etc

The eggs of these termites can be dug out of the nest and eaten.

This termite will eat any wood that is lying around. It eats the wood until it all crumbles apart. If you bust open a hollow log you might find these.

Termite Mound, Ant-bed, Ant-hill **jidbar**  
Isoptera, *Amitermes* spp.

These termite mounds can be broken into rock sized pieces. They are put into the fire and then any sort of meat can be roasted on them, they make good coals.

The **banggal** (eggs) from these termite mounds can be eaten. They are found right down at the bottom of the mound. These eggs are good medicine for stomach pain and are good food for a baby with diarrhoea.

Sometimes **berlwarr** (sugar-bag) can be found in these antbeds.

Black Ant-hill **yarrban** (Mang, Yang)  
Isoptera, *Amitermes*

**Yarrban** are the dark brown to black termite beds that are seen around Mangarrayi country. They are more frequent further north around Daly River and Adelaide River. These termite mounds are in the same kind of country as **jidbar**.

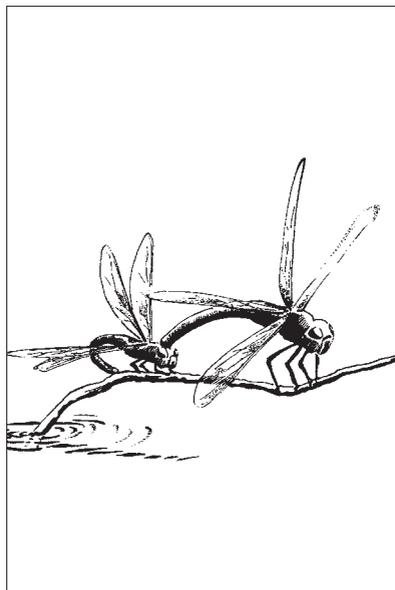
People used to live inside these sometimes, they would dig out the centre of them and use them as a waterproof humpy during the wet season.

Mole Cricket **muygmuynggan**  
Orthoptera, Gryllotalpidae, *Gryllotalpa* sp.

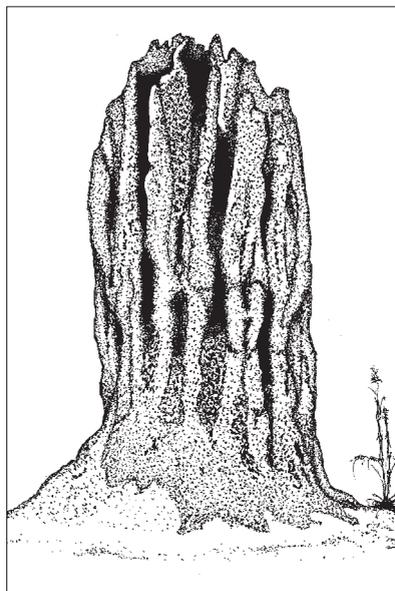
These are really good bait for catching **ngalardarr**, the riflefish; they run across the ground like a little dog. They are also good bait for catching **warrba**, fork-tailed catfish and **yurramij**, the saratoga.

The name **jirrigjirrig** is the name most often used for the mole cricket, but it is actually an Alawa word.

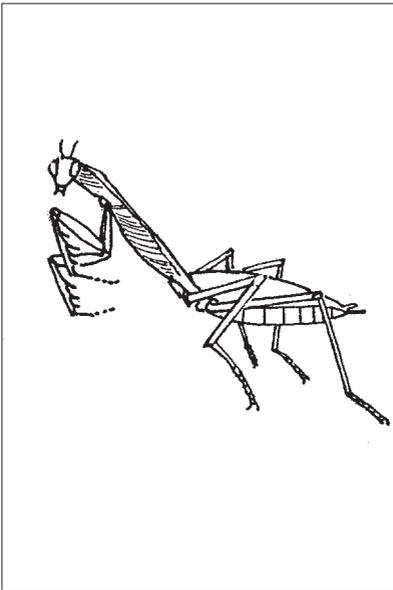
Mole Cricket ? **jarrarndij**  
Orthoptera



Dragonfly  
**bararuwan**



Termite Mound, Ant-bed, Ant-hill  
**jidbar**



Stick Insect and Praying Mantis  
**garran** (Mang)  
**wulgbarrwarra** (Yang)

Stick Insect and Praying Mantis **garran** (Mang)  
 Phasmatodea and Mantodea **wulgbarrwarra** (Yang)

If you grab this insect, they will try to bite you or grab you with their sharp legs. They have no particular use.

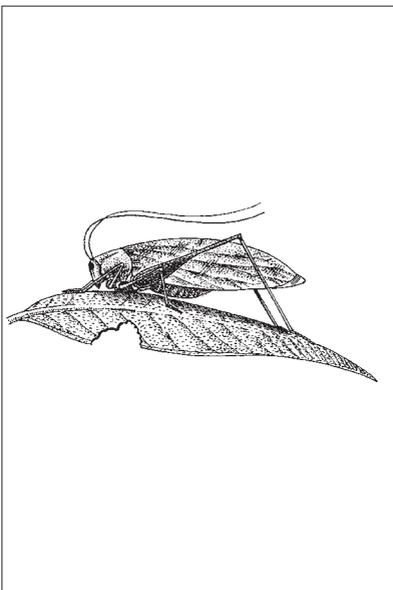
Green Grasshopper, Katydid **minyjiminyjawurran**  
 Orthoptera, Tettigoniidae, *Caedicia* spp.

This grasshopper has a creation period story associated with **minyjawurr**, the cheeky yam (*Dioscorea bulbifera*). When it is singing loudly, it is singing up the cheeky yam to make it fat and good to eat.

Old people would hear the **minyjiminyjawurran**, the green grasshopper or katydid singing and they would know that it was time to go looking for those cheeky yams.

Grasshopper **diny'diyn** (Mang)  
 Orthoptera, Caelifera **jadede** (Yang)

Grasshoppers are good to use for bait when fishing with a hand-line.



Green Grasshopper, Katydid  
**minyjiminyjawurran**

Lice **magerrg** (Mang)  
 Phthiraptera, *Pediculus humanus* **dirdin** (Yang)

People used to spend a lot of time picking these lice out of their hair. There is a special stick for squashing nits, it is called **melmelmin**, or nit-stick.

The adult insects are called lice and the eggs that attach to hair strands are called nits (below).

Nits, lice eggs **barlawiya**  
 Phthiraptera, *Pediculus humanus*

This louse grows in hair under the arms, eyebrows, eyelashes and groin areas, and on skin. It makes you itchy. To get rid of it you need to have a bath and shave all the hair off.

There is a dreaming site for this louse on Elosey Station. **Budu** is another name for this louse, but this is also the name of someone who passed away and it is not used anymore, the word **barlawiya** is used instead.

Big Lice  
Phthiraptera, *Pediculus*

**mulunyjuru**

Cicada  
Hemiptera, Cicadidae

**nirrinirrimin**

Boys and young men can swallow this cicada, it makes a noise like a **gurlumbu** (Mang) or **marlugbarr** (Yang), the didgeridoo. It improves their ability to play the didgeridoo or bamboo beautifully.

Giant Waterbug, Water Scorpion  
Hemiptera, *Lethocerus* spp.

**lardmardmin.gan**  
**larrganda**

When this insect bites, it really hurts, and it burns and swells up. It is sometimes called by the name **lardmardmin.gan**, which also refers to scorpions, but it can also be called **larrganda**, which means 'cheeky one'.

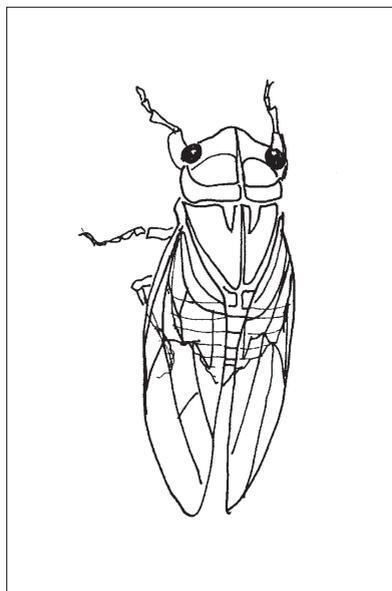
When you are diving in the water looking for waterlily roots and see this one swimming around, you need to get out of the water quickly.

Flea  
Siphonaptera, Pulicidae

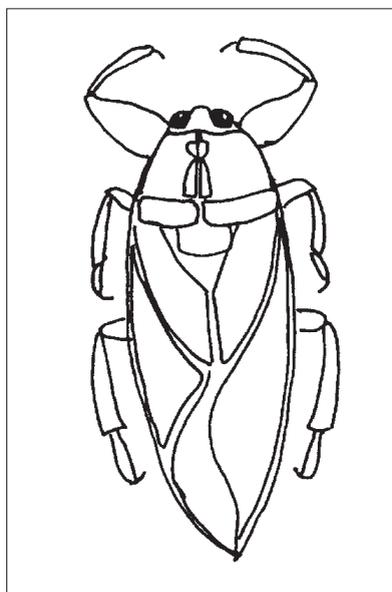
**magerrg**

These insects are found on dogs, and they also bite humans. They have the same name as nits, but nits are known as small ones, **jijga magerrg**. The only way to get rid of these insects is to use 'whitefella' spray.

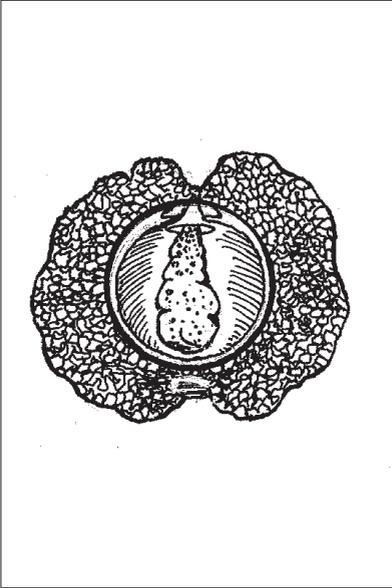
If you put your dog into fast running water lots of the **magerrg** will get washed away, but there are always some that hang on tight and stay there.



Cicada  
**nirrinirrimin**



Giant Waterbug, Water Scorpion  
**lardmardmin.gan**  
**larrganda**



Bloodwood Apple, Bush Coconut  
**lordo** (Mang, Yang)  
**mun** (Mang)

Bloodwood Apple, Bush Coconut **lordo** (Mang, Yang)  
Hemiptera, Sternorrhyncha **mun** (Mang)

This round brown growth on bloodwood trees can be picked off and broken open. There is a little worm that lives in there that is really tasty to eat. It is very sweet and can be eaten raw. The white flesh on the inside of the gall can also be eaten.

Sugar-leaf, Lerps **bunyjag** (Mang)  
Hemiptera, Psyllidae **bandalan** (Yang)

This bush-tucker grows mostly on the leaves of the bloodwoods, **wilinywiliyn** (*Corymbia foelscheana*) and **gunjird** (*Corymbia terminalis*).

To collect the sugar-leaf, lots of branches are cut off the tree and laid in a big heap on a piece of canvas. They are left to dry there for about a few days, then they are whacked hard with a big stick. This makes all the sugar-leaf fall onto the canvas, where it can be collected.

Once it is collected, it is winnowed in large, flat, lightweight coolamons called **yanganyja**. From this the white soft food part of sugar-leaf is collected. **Bun. gu** is the name for the food part of sugar-leaf.

Johnny-cakes that are then made from the sugar-leaf taste sweet like sugar. They last a really long time and are sometimes kept in dry places like caves, for periods when food is in short supply.



Sugar-leaf, Lerps  
**bunyjag** (Mang)  
**bandalan** (Yang)

Mosquito **liyu** (Mang)  
Diptera, Culicidae **garlilin** (Yang)

Sometimes these are called 'bush doctors' because they stick a needle in you, however, they can make you quite sick.

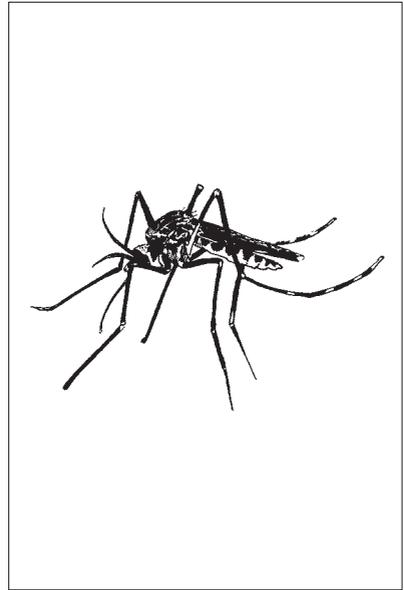
In the past the old people in the jungle areas used to cover themselves in mud so that the mosquitoes couldn't bite them. You can also put cow or buffalo dung on the fire to chase them away. Several plants can be burnt to chase away mosquitoes.

This includes the wood from **jinybarnay**, the conkerberry (*Carissa lanceolata*, **magum**, the cypress pine (*Callitris intratropica*), **gilirr**, the gutta-percha

(*Excoecaria parvifolia*) and the leaves and twigs of **warrinyjalan**, the native cherry (*Exocarpos latifolius*).

There is a mosquito dreaming site on Mangarrayi country.

The name **liyu** is also the verb ‘to dive in’, in the Mangarrayi language.



Mosquito  
**liyu** (Mang)  
**garlilin** (Yang)

**FLIES**

Sandfly **momomin**  
Diptera, Ceratopogonidae, *Culicoides* spp.

This small insect shares its name with **momomin**, the marchfly; they both have an irritating bite but are recognised as being quite different.

Bushfly, Fleshfly **muj** (Mang)  
Diptera, Sarcophagidae and Muscidae

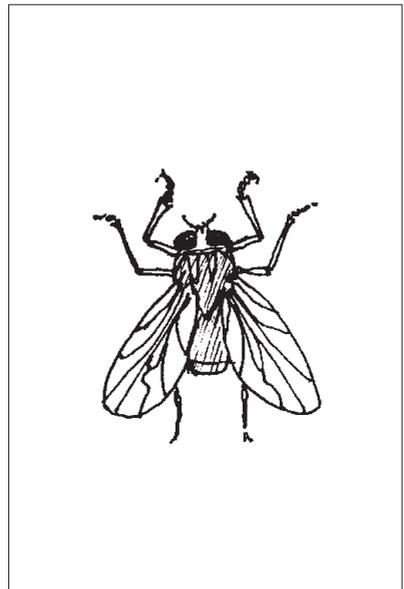
These small flies try to lay eggs, which hatch into maggots, on your meat. Whenever you see these flies around make sure your meat is covered to stop the maggots, **jird** (Mang, Yang). The maggots from this fly grow up quickly, almost by the time the adult is leaving the meat, the **jird** are hatching. They like raw or cooked meat.

Marchfly **momomin**  
Diptera, Tabanidae

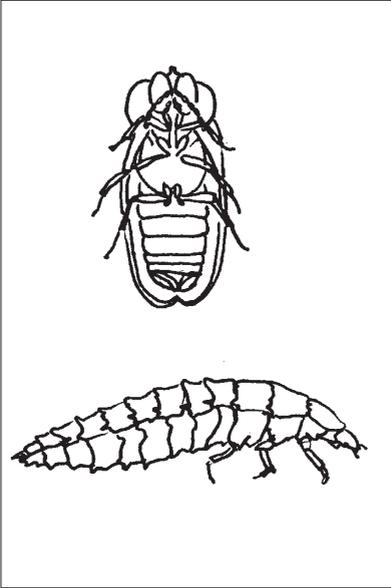
This fly has a sharp, painful sting that turns very itchy. They are common at dawn and dusk and often try to bite around the ankle area.

Blowfly **gunumurg** (Mang)  
Diptera, Calliphoridae **mardgan** (Yang)

These flies come around when there is fresh meat. The maggot is called **jird** (Mang, Yang). It is best to make a smoky fire to keep flies away, so that they do not make maggots in the meat. The maggots from these flies take a couple of days to be ready to hatch.



Bushfly, Fleshfly  
**muj** (Mang)



Firefly  
**murlugumurlugumin**

Firefly **murlugumurlugumin**  
Coleoptera, Lampyridae, *Luciola*

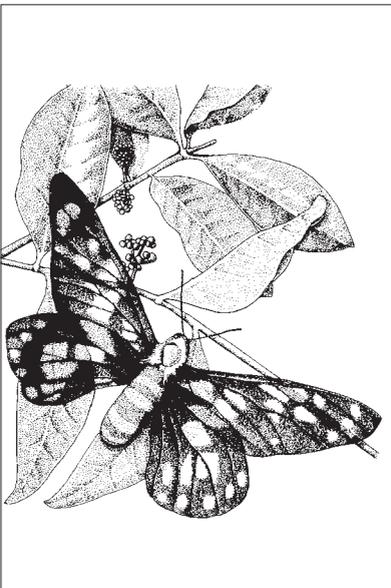
This firefly is seen during the wet season. The abdomen flashes on and off at night.

## BUTTERFLIES AND GRUBS

Caterpillar **wundurrgin** (Mang, Yang)  
Lepidoptera

If you try and eat these they will make you vomit. There is a story about a caterpillar called **wuyaguya** (Mang), that dances for people if they make the right noise (insert finger into rounded lips and rapidly oscillate finger from side to side). These are big caterpillars, up to 6 cm long, which are dark in colour and have white spots along the sides. You see them in big groups, but they don't necessarily follow each other in a line, they are all spread out.

These caterpillars are seen when **munggululu**, the shitwood tree (*Gyrocarpus americanus*) has new leaves.



Butterfly  
**bardbarda** (Mang, Yang)

Caterpillar-bag, Bag-shelter Moth, **wan.gi** (Mang)  
Processionary Caterpillar **ginang** (Yang)  
Lepidoptera, *Ochrogaster lunifera*

These caterpillars form a large bag that hangs down in trees in the wet season, they are full of hairy caterpillars. You must stay away from these, or else you could get really itchy all over. They can make people really sick, even crippled. If the caterpillar falls on you, it can paralyse you and you may die.

The language names also refer to dilly-bags in general.

Butterfly **bardbarda** (Mang, Yang)  
Lepidoptera

Moon Grub **gij** (Mang, Yang)  
Coleoptera, larval stage of several taxa

**Gij** look like witchetty grubs but you can't eat them. They are found in the ground and are good bait to use

when fishing with a hand-line.

Itchy Grub **lewan** (Mang, Yang)

Lepidoptera, Lymantriidae, *Euproctis lutea*

If you touch this caterpillar they will shoot at you with an irritating juice. This caterpillar has the same language name as the mud wasp.

Witchetty Grub

Lepidoptera, Cossidae,

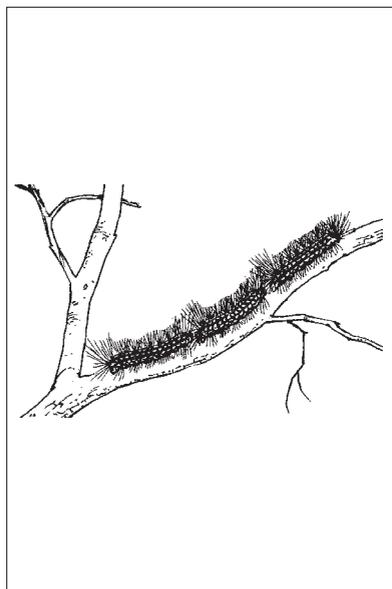
Hepialidae larval stage

**ngulun**

**lijirri** (Yang)

Witchetty grubs are found in the roots of trees, they have to be dug up and chopped out. Some old people used to eat them raw, but nowadays everyone thinks they taste better lightly cooked on hot ashes.

These grubs live in various trees such as **gulu**, the river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), **garrwag**, the white gum and ghost gum (*Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica*, *Corymbia bella*) and **murrinyja**, the coolibah (*Eucalyptus microtheca*).



Itchy Grub  
**lewan** (Mang, Yang)

## WASPS

Paper Wasp

**burrurran**

Hymenoptera, Vespidae, *Polistes* and *Ropalidia*

This insect has a sharp, painful sting, however the pain does not last too long. If you walk near, or bump the nest they will all fly out and chase you.

Digger Wasp

**minini**

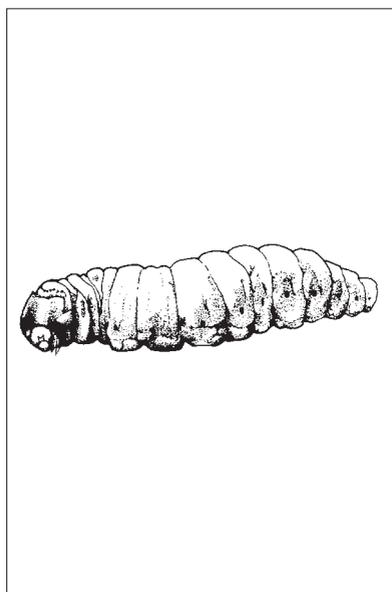
Hymenoptera, Sphecidae, *Bembix* spp.

This small wasp digs holes in the sand. It lures in sugar-bag bees to this hole, then traps and eats them.

Hornet, unknown

**wurrumumu**

Hymenoptera, ?



Witchetty Grub  
**ngulun**  
**lijirri** (Yang)



Mud Wasp, Hornet  
**lewan** (Mang, Yang)

Mud Wasp, Hornet **lewan** (Mang, Yang)  
Hymenoptera, Vespidae, *Delta* spp.

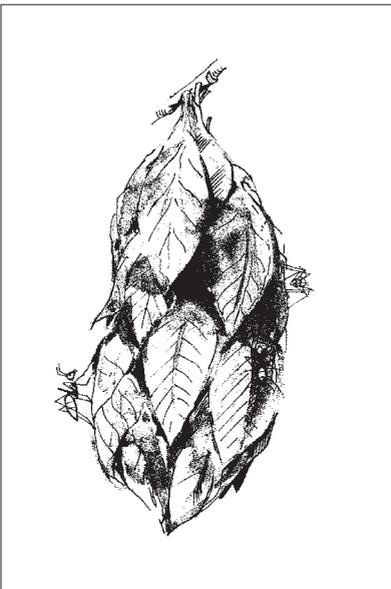
These insects store caterpillars in their mud nests for eating later. They can sting you, but will only sting you if you hurt them.

## ANTS

Green Tree Ant **galwarn**  
Hymenoptera, *Oecophylla smaragdina*

This ant has a sharp sting when it bites; it makes a nest of leaves in trees. These nests are good medicine. The nest is taken from the tree and crushed up to crack the eggs; these are then boiled in water to make the medicine.

The liquid is used as a wash to treat colds and flu. The eggs can also be rubbed straight onto the skin as medicine for skin sores, or to treat cold and flu sickness.



Green Tree Ant  
**galwarn**

Red Meat Ant **jirinyjirriyn**  
Hymenoptera, *Iridomyrmex sanguineus*

These meat ants make big nests just under the ground. The eggs in the nest are good to eat, you dig up the nest and find all the eggs, they taste really sweet. If you are eating food out bush and leave food scraps around, these ants will come and annoy you.

Black Bull Ant **gurg**  
Hymenoptera, *Odontomachus* spp.

This large ant bites, it hurts a lot and the place where it bit you swells up. The pain lasts for a few hours sometimes.

**Sugar-bag, native bee-hives wab** (Mang, Yang) generic Hymenoptera, Apidae, *Trigona* spp., *Austroplebia* spp.

Sugar-bag is the hive of the native sting-less bees that are common in the tropics. The hives contain sweet, dark honey, wax and pollen. The honey is much sought after and there are several different types of sugar-bag recognised.

Three types occur in trees and two are found in the ground.

### Tree sugar-bag

**Jonggo**, this short-nosed sugar-bag is usually lower in the tree, it is a male. This type of sugar-bag has the most honey in it.

**Garnamurru** (Mang), **Galban** (Yang), this is a long-nosed sugar-bag that occurs high in trees. This sugar-bag bee flies around, but he is very cunning. If he sees you watching him, he will stop moving. He has sugar-bag in all kinds of country, and all kinds of tree. He makes his nest very high up in the trees, but there is a lot of honey in the nest.

**Werdwerd**, this is another tree sugar-bag, which has only a small comb. This is the smallest of the tree sugar-bags; there is not much honey in it.

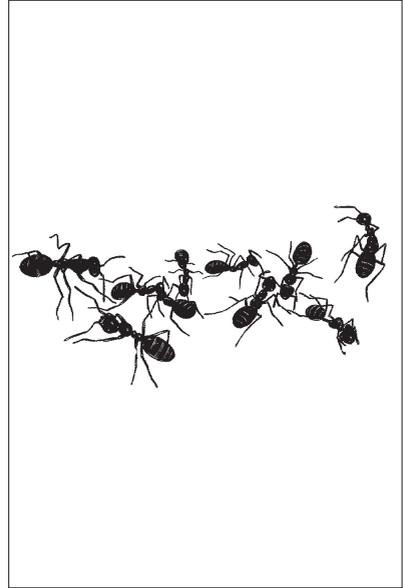
### Ground sugar-bag

**Wungubu**, is a ground sugar-bag that is very hard to get out. It makes a hole in the ground, and then long tunnels in different directions – it is very tricky to get to the honey. You need a crowbar to get it out. It is as hard to dig up as a goanna in its hole.

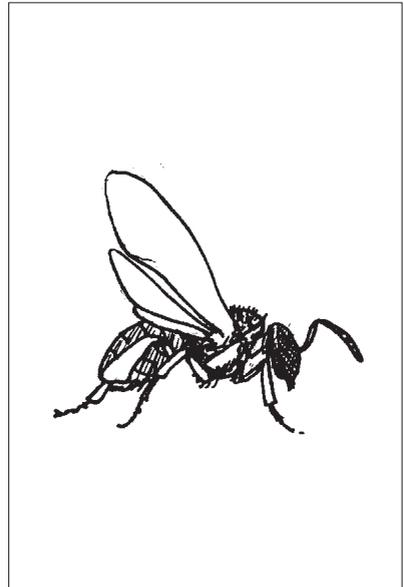
**Berl'warr**, this ground sugar-bag is much easier to get out. It really cools you down to eat this honey when you are out in desert country.

**Marlarr** (Mang) or **biriya** (Yang) is the name of the hard wax from sugar-bag, it blocks the bottom of sugar-bag so the honey can't run out.

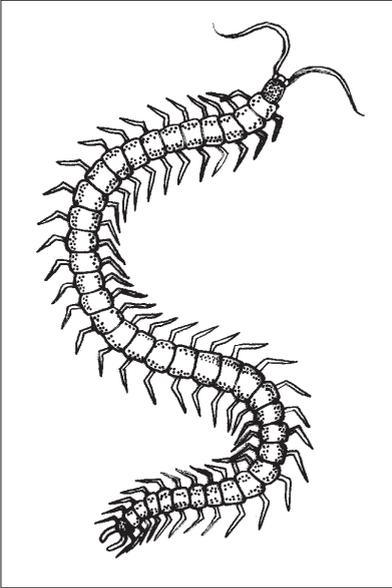
**Munya nawu** is the name of the bee shit. In the tree hollow, first there is the 'plug' of bee's wax, that blocks the hole and holds the nest in place. Above this is a layer of bee shit. This can be white and fresh, in which case it is good to eat, or if it is brown it can be a bit



Black Bull Ant  
gurr



Sugar-bag, native bee-hives  
wab (Mang, Yang) generic



Centipede  
**jarndab** (Mang)  
**jalarrin** (Yang)

too bitter. This can be used as a wax on spear heads. Above this **munya nawu** is the honey part of the nest, and then above this is the **banggal** section, where all the eggs are kept.

The small bees are called **minini** or **muj** (Mang), they look like a bushfly and don't have a sting.

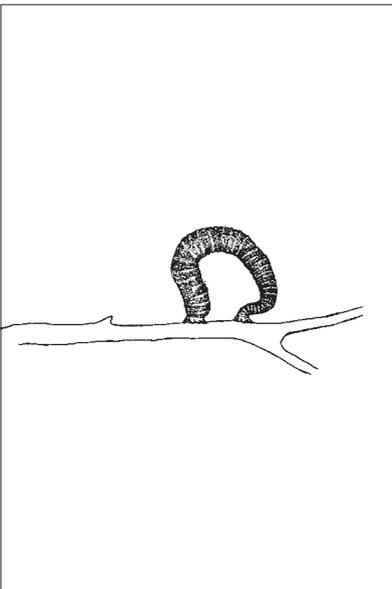
**OTHER ANIMALS (INVERTEBRATES)**

Centipede **jarndab** (Mang)  
 Myriapoda, Chilopoda **jalarrin** (Yang)

**Jarndab** have a painful bite, it causes swelling and intense pain for a while. They can be used as bait if using a hand-line; they are good for catching **warrba**, the fork-tailed catfish or **bunjayi**, the black bream.

Leech **mindayi** (Mang)  
 Annelida, Hirudinidae **balajin** (Yang)

They are found in swampy areas and suck blood. They are really hard to pull off, and where they sucked your blood bleeds for a long time.



Leech  
**mindayi** (Mang)  
**balajin** (Yang)

Earthworm **woying** (Mang, Yang)  
 Annelida, Oligochaeta

They can be used as bait for fishing with a hand-line.

Ground Spiders **garab**  
 Arachnida, Araneae

This is the name for all spiders that live on the ground. Some of these have a bad bite, and can make you sick.

Aerial or Web Spiders **jalmarninymarniyn**  
 Arachnida, Araneae

This is the name for spiders that live in their web most of the time. These ones are not dangerous, and can be used as bait.

Scabies

Arachnida, *Sarcoptes scabiei*

**dibjibji**

The best medicine to get rid of scabies is from **gurnja**, the strychnine tree (*Strychnos lucida*). The bark of the tree is boiled in water, and the cooled liquid is used as a wash to bathe the affected areas.

Scorpion

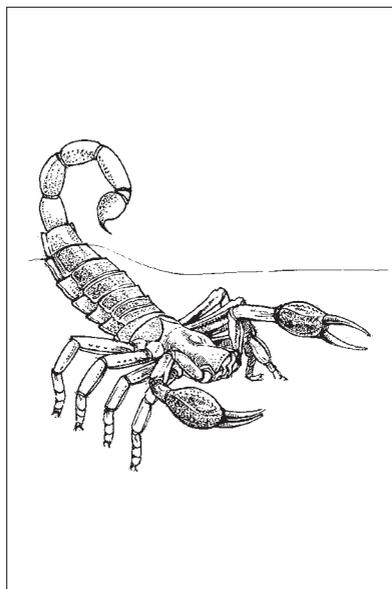
Arachnida, Scorpiones

**lardmardmin.gan** (Mang)

**murada** (Yang)

The scorpion has a sting that really hurts. It causes severe pain and swelling, which can last for a long time, sometimes a few days.

The Mangarrayi name can also refer to a police tracker or a policeman, possibly because it rhymes with **daymin.gan**, the Mangarrayi name for a policeman.



Scorpion

**lardmardmin.gan** (Mang)

**murada** (Yang)

Snail

Gastropoda, *Xanthomelon* spp.

**marrawub**

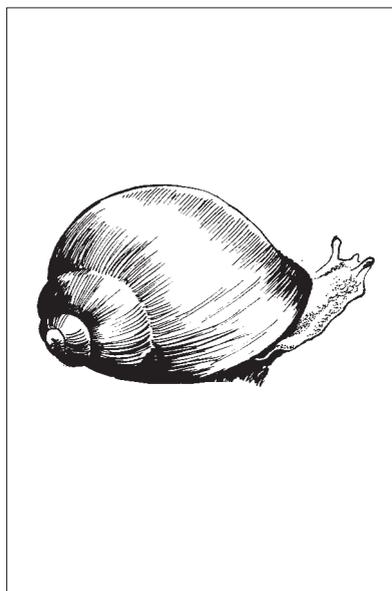
These snails are seen crawling around a lot in the wet time of the year. Mangarrayi and Yangman people do not eat these snails, but Edna Farrar remembers collecting lots of them for a Chinese relative who loved to eat them with onions and rice.

Tick

Arachnida, Acarina

**ngarndag**

Ticks can be found on dogs, cats, bullocks, wallabies, kangaroos and people.



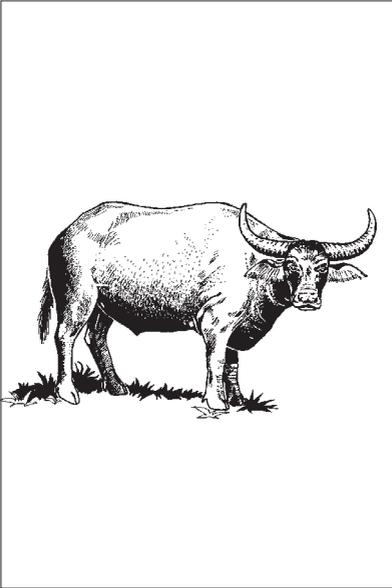
Snail

**marrawub**

## FERAL AND INTRODUCED ANIMALS

There are a number of feral animals on Mangarrayi and Yangman country; some have been given language names based on similar native animals or names based on the sound of their calls.

There are also a number of animal species that were kept on missions and stations for the eggs, milk and meat that have not become feral but are well known



Swamp Buffalo  
**belgmabelgmayin** (Mang)  
**ngana'barru** (Kriol)

to elders from their younger days.

Some also have well known Kriol names that are used by speakers of many languages in the Katherine region.

Swamp Buffalo  
*Bubalus bubalis*

**belgmabelgmayin** (Mang)  
**ngana'barru** (Kriol)

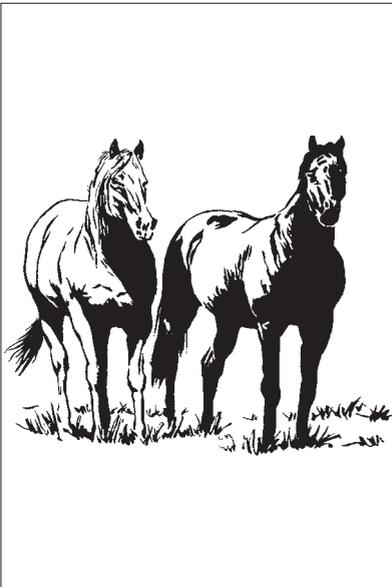
Buffalo could be caught with a very strong spear, like the shovel spear. This spear was made from the **mirniya** tree (*Timonius timon*) and melted down horseshoes. The buffalo meat was best cooked in a ground oven. There was so much meat that everybody would be invited to share in this food.

The Kriol name is **ngana'barru**, it has probably been borrowed from a more northern language near the coastal plains where buffalo first became feral.

Horse  
*Equus caballus*

**nendo** (Mang, Yang)

Horses were used for riding and chasing down bullocky and buffalo. The horses can be eaten if you are really desperate, but people don't like to eat them. People feel really sorry for horses when they get shot to control their numbers. Horses will tell you when someone close to you has passed away.



Horse  
**nendo** (Mang, Yang)

Donkey  
*Equus asinus*

**gingarr`gingarr  
 donkidonki** (Kriol)

The Mangarrayi name refers to the distinctive call they make. Donkeys are not eaten; however there are stories that the tinned bully beef is made from donkey meat.

In the past donkeys were used at Elsey Station to pull wagons and to carry heavy loads.

Mule  
*Equus caballus x asinus*

**myul** (Kriol)

Mules were used at Elsey Station by stockman as packhorses, they were very strong.

Cattle

*Bos taurus, Bos javanicus*

**buloki** (Kriol)

**bramen** (Kriol)

These animals are good to eat; the meat is highly favoured as a food. When someone gets a 'killer' there is a lot of good meat available for a lot of people.

**Buloki** is the name used for longhorn cattle (*Bos taurus*), and **bramen** is used for Brahmans (*Bos javanicus*).

Sheep

*Ovies aries*

no language name

There were sheep at Elsey in the past, but it was too hot for them and they all died. The meat is good to eat.

Domestic Dog

*Canis lupus*

**muyg** (Mang)

**miyun** (Yang)

These dogs are not as good at hunting as dingoes, and you can't eat them. However, they are good pets and companions.

Cat

*Felis catus*

**wail bujiked** (Kriol)

These wild cats are good to eat, they taste like rabbit when they are roasted up. Sometimes dogs can catch these cats for people to eat.

Goat

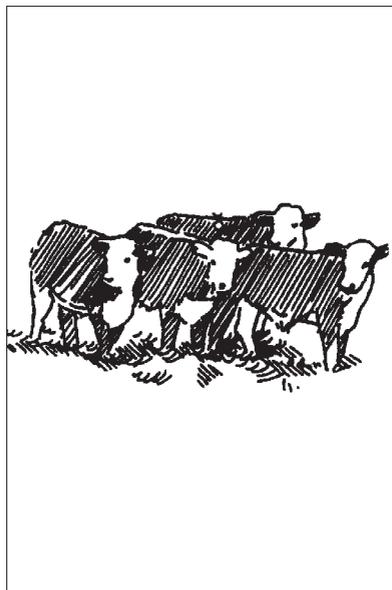
*Capra hircus*

**nanigot** (Kriol)

They used to be kept at Elsey station for milk. They would be milked every day. The milk is not as rich as cows' milk, but it's pretty good.

Sometimes when there was no fresh bullock meat at the station people would eat **nanigot**. The meat is good, but it can have a really strong smell.

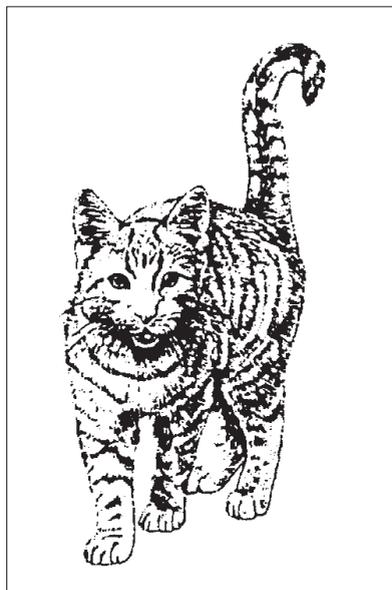
**Nanigot** can be really cheeky, and give people a real hiding. Billy-goats, the large males, smell bad, they are cranky and can be dangerous.



Cattle

**buloki** (Kriol)

**bramen** (Kriol)



Cat

**wail bujiked** (Kriol)



Pig  
**bigibigi** (Kriol)

Pig  
*Sus scrofa*

**bigibigi** (Kriol)

Also called **gingarr`gingarr** like the donkey, because of the call of the pig. Pigs have good tasty meat. They are best eaten roasted. The meat of the pig is more like the goat than bullock.

They make a mess of jungle country. They dig up the ground looking for yams, they destroy many native, edible yams and other good plants.

House Mouse  
*Mus musculus*

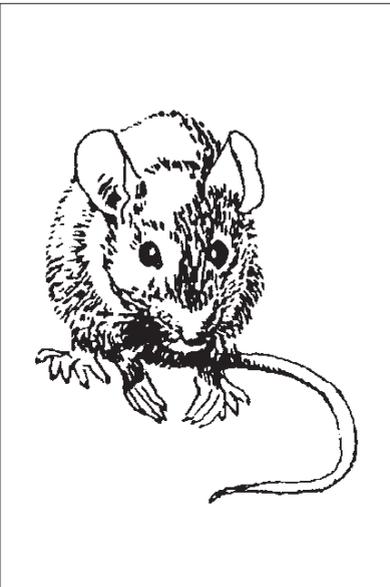
**wiluwurra**

There are a few of these around Jilkminggan community. They have the same name as the small native rodents.

Black Rat  
*Rattus rattus*

**burudburud**

There are a few of these rats seen around Jilkminggan, a whole nest was found in the old Jilkminggan store when it was torn down.



House Mouse  
**wiluwurra**

Domestic Turkey  
*Meleagris gallopavo*

**jambirrina**  
**gobulgobul** (Kriol)

**Jambirrina** is the Mangarrayi name for the native bustard, which is called Bush Turkey. This turkey is called the white man's **jambirrina**, while the bustard is the black man's turkey. These birds were kept at Elsey station, they are really tasty with a lot of meat.

The Kriol name of the domestic turkey is **gobulgobul** and it is based on the sound of the call they make.

Chickens, Fowl  
*Gallus gallus*

**tjuktjuk** (Kriol)  
**bawurl** (Kriol)

The meat and eggs are good to eat. They were kept at Elsey in the past for eggs and meat.

The Kriol name **bawurl** is based on the old English term fowl, this term was used regularly by station and mission staff in the past.

Duck  
*Anas spp.*

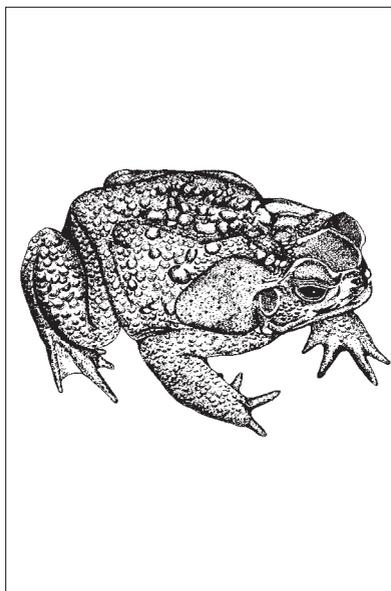
**dakdak** (Kriol)

The meat and large eggs are good to eat. Ducks can be cheeky and aggressive at times.

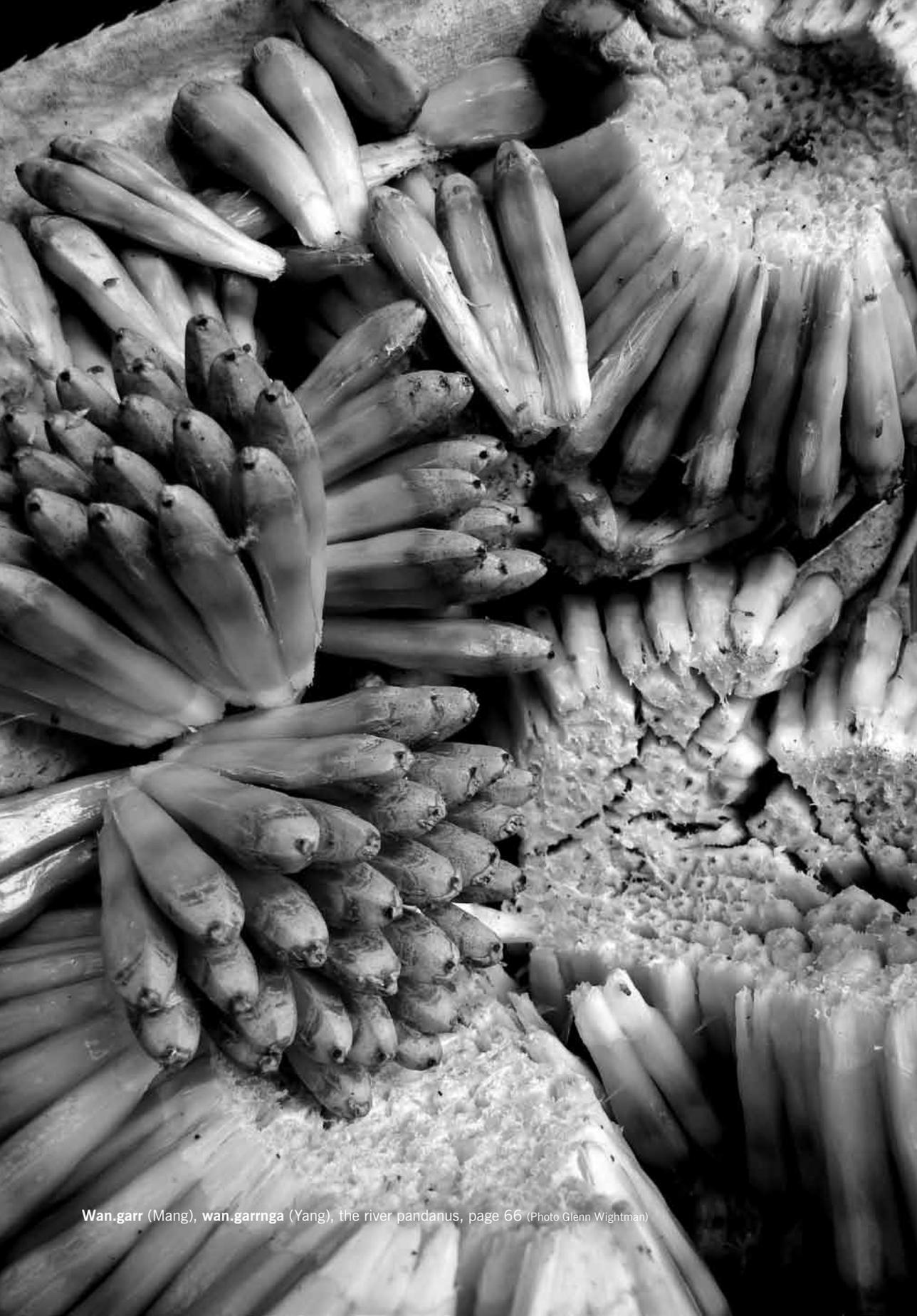
Cane Toad  
*Rhinella marina*

**jorngog**

The name for this frog comes from the generic Mangarrayi name for frogs. This frog has poisonous glands behind its eyes. They have killed many goannas, and freshwater crocodiles were found dead floating in the river when cane toads first arrived on Mangarrayi and Yangman country.



Cane Toad  
**jorngog**



Wan.garr (Mang), wan.garrnga (Yang), the river pandanus, page 66 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

## DISCUSSION

The information we have presented here is based upon the traditional, and contemporary, plant and animal knowledge of Mangarrayi elders and Yangman speakers. While it represents a significant amount of biological knowledge associated with the Mangarrayi and Yangman languages, it should be recognised that it does not represent the complete Mangarrayi and Yangman plant and animal story.

Firstly, some plant and animal knowledge has been forgotten and lost due to the massive changes in Mangarrayi and Yangman lifestyle brought about by the settlement of Mangarrayi and Yangman lands since the early 1800s. It needs to be emphasised that significant amounts of Yangman plant and animal knowledge have been lost since settlement. Whilst we have recorded as much as we could, Yangman has not been spoken fluently for several decades.

Secondly, although we have undertaken a lot of fieldwork over the 21 years of the project it is likely that we have missed some Mangarrayi and Yangman plant and animal names and uses. This is in part due to the seasonal nature of many plants, the restricted nature of some plants and the inaccessibility of some areas.

Thirdly, there also exists a great deal of Mangarrayi and Yangman knowledge relating to plants and animals that we cannot present here as it is culturally sensitive or secret, and cannot be printed in a public book such as this.

In the following sections we provide a categorisation and discussion of Mangarrayi and Yangman plant use followed by a similar discussion of animal use.

## CATEGORISATION AND DISCUSSION OF MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN PLANT USE

Table B (below) presents a grouping of plants based on a categorisation of use of plants by Mangarrayi and Yangman people. Table C presents the statistics of this categorisation of plant use. Following these tables is a brief discussion of Mangarrayi and Yangman plant use.

We have only included one language name in these tables for presentation purposes.

**Table A: Plants categorised by use.**

<i>Scientific name</i>	common English name	Mangarrayi and Yangman name
<b>FOOD PLANTS</b>		
<b>Cabbage or pith</b>		
<i>Heteropogon triticeus</i>	'Sweet Cane Grass'	Jilibijilbi
<i>Livistona humilis</i> , <i>L. inermis</i>	'Fan Palm'	Garnbaj
<i>Livistona rigida</i>	'Cabbage Palm'	Miririb
<i>Nymphaea macrosperma</i>	'Water Lily'	Gurryag
<i>Nymphaea violacea</i>	'Sweet Water Lily'	Larrajaj
<i>Pandanus spiralis</i>	'Spring Pandanus'	Jamog

Scientific name	common English name	Mangarrayi and Yangman name
<b>Fruit Flesh</b>		
<i>Ampelocissus acetosa</i>	'Native Grape'	<b>Giwalwal</b>
<i>Ampelocissus frutescens</i>	'Native Grape'	<b>Magorlgorl</b>
<i>Amyema bifurcatum, A. miqelii</i>	'Mistletoe'	<b>Darlugdarlug</b>
<i>Antidesma ghesaembilla</i>	'Black Currant'	<b>Murrunggurn</b>
<i>Antidesma parvifolium</i>	'Black Currant'	<b>Miyarlungguj</b>
<i>Buchanania obovata</i>	'Green Plum'	<b>Dirrawan</b>
<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	'Carallia'	<b>Wirn.girr</b>
<i>Carissa lanceolata</i>	'Conkerberry'	<b>Jinybarnay</b>
<i>Cassytha filiformis</i>	'Dodder'	<b>Mawajawaja</b>
<i>Cayratia trifolia</i>	'Native Grape'	<b>Guninggin</b>
<i>Cucumis melo</i>	'Wild Cucumber'	<b>Ngarrarnagan</b>
<i>Cyclophyllum schultzei</i>		<b>Girn.girnirr</b>
<i>Diospyros humilis</i>		<b>Yumurlun</b>
<i>Erythroxylum ellipticum</i>	'Kerosene Wood'	<b>Dayirriyirri</b>
<i>Ficus aculeata</i>	'Sandpaper Fig'	<b>Jalinyji</b>
<i>Ficus brachypoda</i>	'Rock Fig'	<b>Warndag</b>
<i>Ficus coronulata</i>	'River Fig'	<b>Garranba</b>
<i>Ficus hispida</i>		<b>Gularawarr</b>
<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	'River Fig'	<b>Manarliyn</b>
<i>Flueggea virosa</i>	'White Currant'	<b>Yurrulanyan</b>
<i>Grewia breviflora</i>		<b>Wirlida</b>
<i>Grewia retusifolia</i>	'Emu Berry'	<b>Giwu</b>
<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i>	Rosella	no language names
<i>Lysiana spathulata</i>	'Mistletoe'	<b>Darlugdarlug</b>
<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i>	'Wild Banana'	<b>Munburgg</b>
<i>Nauclea orientalis</i>	'Leichhardt tree'	<b>Jijwirrig</b>
<i>Pandanus spiralis</i>	'Spring Pandanus'	<b>Jamog</b>
<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	'Wild Passionfruit Creeper'	<b>Bulugun</b>
<i>Persoonia falcata</i>	'Milky Plum'	<b>Ninggij</b>
<i>Physalis angulata</i>	'Gooseberry'	no language names
<i>Pouteria sericea</i>	'Plum'	<b>Dawam</b>
<i>Solanum echinatum</i>	'Spiny Gooseberry'	<b>Banganybangayn</b>
<i>Syzygium suborbiculare</i>	'Red Bush Apple'	<b>Jarul</b>
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	'Tamarind'	no language names
<i>Terminalia carpentariae</i>	'Billy Goat Plum'	<b>Morlag</b>
<i>Terminalia erythrocarpa</i>		<b>Girn.girnirr</b>
<i>Terminalia ferdinandiana</i>	'Billy Goat Plum'	<b>Morlag</b>
<i>Vitex glabrata</i>	'Black Plum'	<b>Ngalanyburrn</b>
<i>Ziziphus quadrilocularis</i>	'Plum'	<b>Garrajgarraj</b>

<i>Scientific name</i>	common English name	Mangarrayi and Yangman name
<b>Fruit seeds</b>		
<i>Brachychiton diversifolius</i>	'Kurrajong'	<b>Dirlay</b>
<i>Brachychiton megaphyllus</i>	'Red Flowered Kurrajong'	<b>Mawuraybambin</b>
<i>Eragrostis, Sporobolus</i>	'Bush Rice'	<b>Murrunmani</b>
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	'Red Lily'	<b>Gumgub</b>
<i>Nymphaea macrosperma</i>	'Water Lily'	<b>Gurryag</b>
<i>Nymphaea violacea</i>	'Sweet Water Lily'	<b>Larrajal</b>
<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	'Wild Rice'	<b>Bidarra</b>
<i>Pandanus spiralis</i>	'Spring Pandanus'	<b>Jamog</b>
<i>Portulaca sp.?</i>	Portulaca	<b>Murrunmani</b>
<i>Terminalia arostrata</i>	'Nutwood Tree'	<b>Gedmayn</b>
<i>Terminalia grandiflora</i>	'NutwoodTree'	<b>Gedmayn</b>
<b>Gum</b>		
<i>Acacia (Vachellia) valida</i>	'Wattle Tree'	<b>Yumbug</b>
<i>Acacia (Vachellia) pachyphloia</i>	'Mimosa Tree'	<b>Yumbug</b>
<i>Bauhinia cunninghamii</i>	'Bauhinia'	<b>Gamulumulu</b>
<i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i>	'Ironwood'	<b>Yangarr</b>
<i>Terminalia canescens</i>		<b>Gambula</b>
<i>Terminalia platyphylla</i>		<b>Mardabula</b>
<b>Nectar, food preparation or food flavouring</b>		
<i>Bauhinia cunninghamii</i>	'Bauhinia'	<b>Gamulumulu</b>
<i>Grevillea pteridifolia</i>		<b>Wigu</b>
<i>Melaleuca argentea</i>	'Grey River Paperbark'	<b>Garlayarr</b>
<i>Melaleuca dealbata</i>	'Paperbark'	<b>Dawul</b>
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	'Paperbark'	<b>Garlayarr</b>
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	'Red Lily'	<b>Gumgub</b>
<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i>	'Bush Tea-leaf'	<b>Mudjamudja</b>
<i>Sorghum intrans</i>	'Spear Grass'	<b>Gorndongo</b>
<i>Streptoglossa odora</i>		<b>Jorroy</b>
<b>Tuber or yam</b>		
<i>Amorphophallus paeoniifolius</i>	'Cheeky Yam'	<b>Giynjili</b>
<i>Aponogeton vanbruggenii</i>	'Water Yam'	<b>Yarrayg</b>
<i>Brachychiton diversifolius</i>	'Kurrajong'	<b>Dirlay</b>
<i>Brachychiton megaphyllus</i>	'Red Flowered Kurrajong'	<b>Mawuraybambin</b>
<i>Brachystelma glabriflorum</i>	'Bush Potato'	<b>Bibib</b>
<i>Cayratia trifolia</i>	'Native Grape'	<b>Gunynggin</b>
<i>Cochlospermum fraseri</i>	'Yellow Kapok'	<b>Biwarrg</b>

<i>Scientific name</i>	common English name	Mangarrayi and Yangman name
<i>Cyperus bulbosus</i>	'Bush Onion'	Yurrungguj
<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	'Cheeky Yam'	Minyjawurr
<i>Dioscorea transversa</i>	'Long Yam'	Jamburl
<i>Eleocharis dulcis</i>	'Water Chestnut'	Bawa
<i>Ipomoea abrupta</i> , <i>I. velutina</i>	'Yam'	Dambarlma
<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>	'Yam'	Yulun
<i>Ipomoea graminea</i>	'Grass Yam'	Dambarlma
<i>Livistona rigida</i>	'Cabbage Palm'	Miririb
<i>Nymphaea macrosperma</i>	'Water Lily'	Gurryag
<i>Nymphaea violacea</i>	'Sweet Water Lily'	Larrajal
<i>Nymphaea purpurea</i>	'Red-leaf Water Lily'	Jadaburl
<i>Triglochin dubium</i>	'Water Yam'	Buwarnan
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	'Bull-rush'	Danybayi
<i>Vigna lanceolata</i>	'Pencil Yam'	Garnduy
<i>Vigna vexillata</i>	'Bush Carrot, Peanut Yam'	Garnduy

## PLANT / ANIMAL ASSOCIATIONS

### Edible animals found in plants

<i>Eucalyptus bigalerita</i>	'Salmon gum'	Wubam
<i>Corymbia ferruginea</i>		Wararayan
<i>Corymbia foelscheana</i>		Wilinywiliyn
<i>Corymbia latifolia</i>	'Broad-leaved Bloodwood'	Wubam
<i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i>	'Snappy Gum'	Mirndiri
<i>Eucalyptus microtheca</i>	'Coolibah'	Warlan
<i>Eucalyptus miniata</i>	'Woollybutt'	Gungguru
<i>Eucalyptus patellaris</i>		Warlan
<i>Corymbia polycarpa</i>	'Bloodwood'	Bodog
<i>Eucalyptus pruinosa</i>	'Smoke Tree'	Barrwarla
<i>Eucalyptus tectifera</i>	'Coolabah'	Gunarra
<i>Corymbia terminalis</i>	'Bloodwood Tree'	Gunjir
<i>Eucalyptus tintinnans</i>	'Salmon Gum'	Gulurdurdun

### Calendar plants

<i>Atalaya hemiglauca</i>		Bambila
<i>Brachychiton megaphyllus</i>	'Red Flowered Kurrajong'	Mawuraybambin
<i>Cochlospermum fraseri</i>	'Yellow Kapok'	Biwarrg
<i>Erythrina vespertilio</i>	'Corkwood'	Jindiwilg
<i>Corymbia bella</i>	'Ghost Gum'	Garrwag
<i>Corymbia confertiflora</i>	'White Gum'	Garrwag
<i>Corymbia terminalis</i>	'Bloodwood Tree'	Gunjird
<i>Eucalyptus tetradonta</i>	'Stringybark'	Yawal

Scientific name	common English name	Mangarrayi and Yangman name
<i>Grevillea dimidiata</i> , <i>G. mimosoides</i>		Balawadwad
<i>Terminalia volucris</i>	'Yellow-wood, Rosewood'	Liyinbi

### Plants that are food or shelter for specific animals

<i>Ampelocissus acetosa</i>	'Native Grape'	Giwalwal
<i>Ampelocissus frutescens</i>	'Native Grape'	Magorlgorl
<i>Amyema bifurcatum</i> , <i>A. miquelii</i>	'Mistletoe'	Darlugdarlug
<i>Canarium australianum</i>		Bird
<i>Capparis lasiantha</i>		Gunbaba
<i>Capparis umbonata</i>	'Bush Orange'	Dawam
<i>Chrysopogon fallax</i>	'Wallaby Grass'	Bunjurr
<i>Cucumis picocarpus</i>		Mundugban
<i>Denhamia obscura</i>	'Emu Tucker'	Gabarl
<i>Eleocharis dulcis</i>	'Water Chestnut'	Bawa
<i>Ficus coronulata</i>	'River Fig'	Garranba
<i>Ficus virens</i>	'Banyan'	Bongi
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	'Grass'	Winja
<i>Melaleuca argentea</i>	'Grey River Paperbark'	Garlayarr
<i>Pandanus aquaticus</i>	'River Pandanus'	Wan.garr
<i>Planchonia careya</i>	'Cocky Apple'	Morlag
<i>Sorghum plumosum</i>	'Spear Grass'	Bunjurr
<i>Tacca leontopetaloides</i>	'Cheeky Yam'	no language names
<i>Tarenna dallachiana</i>		Morlag
<i>Terminalia carpentariae</i>	'Billy Goat Plum'	Morlag
<i>Terminalia erythrocarpa</i>		Girn.girnirr
<i>Terminalia platyphylla</i>		Mardabula
<i>Terminalia volucris</i>	'Yellow-wood, Rosewood'	Liyinbi

### MATERIAL CULTURE

#### Artefacts, carving

<i>Gyrocarpus americanus</i>	'Coolamon Tree'	Munggululu
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#### Decoration

<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	'Jungle Beads'	Banganybangayn
<i>Aerva javanica</i>	'Kapok Bush'	no language names
<i>Erythrina vespertilio</i>	'Corkwood'	Jindiwilg
<i>Corymbia ptychocarpa</i>	'Swamp Bloodwood'	Gunjird
<i>Flagellaria indica</i>		Manba
<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	'Cotton Bush'	Gabaja
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	'Bull-rush'	Danybayi

Scientific name	common English name	Mangarrayi and Yangman name
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### Fibre-crafts

<i>Brachychiton diversifolius</i>	'Kurrajong'	<b>Dirlay</b>
<i>Brachychiton megaphyllus</i>	'Red Flowered Kurrajong'	<b>Mawuraybambin</b>
<i>Eucalyptus tetrodonta</i>	'Stringybark'	<b>Yawal</b>
<i>Flagellaria indica</i>		<b>Manba</b>
<i>Grewia breviflora</i>		<b>Wirlida</b>
<i>Haemodorum coccineum</i>	'Red Root'	<b>Kala</b>
<i>Merremia gemella</i>		<b>Giriri</b>
<i>Pandanus spiralis</i>	'Spring Pandanus'	<b>Jamog</b>
<i>Pogonolobus reticulatus</i>	'Colour Root'	<b>Jumbu</b>

### Firewood

<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	'Black Wattle'	<b>Bunbunba</b>
<i>Acacia holosericea</i>	'Silver Wattle'	<b>Birliwirli</b>
<i>Acacia (Vachellia) pachyphloia</i>	'Mimosa Tree'	<b>Yumbug</b>
<i>Acacia shirleyi</i>	'Lancewood'	<b>Mirlimun</b>
<i>Atalaya hemiglauca</i>		<b>Bambila</b>
<i>Callitris intratropica</i>	'Cypress Pine'	<b>Magum</b>
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	'Whistling Tree'	<b>Warmi</b>
<i>Erythroxylum ellipticum</i>	'Kerosene Wood'	<b>Dayirriyirri</b>
<i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i>	'Snappy Gum'	<b>Mirndiri</b>
<i>Eucalyptus pruinosa</i>	'Smoke Tree'	<b>Barrwarla</b>
<i>Corymbia terminalis</i>	'Bloodwood Tree'	<b>Gunjird</b>
<i>Hakea arborescens</i>	'Boomerang Tree'	<b>Birndilngirrin</b>
<i>Macropteranthes kekwickii</i>	'Bulwaddy'	<b>Giliwirnin</b>

### Glues and resins

<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>	'Tree Orchid'	<b>Jalamari</b>
<i>Dendrobium dicupham</i>	'Tree Orchid'	<b>Jalamari</b>
<i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i>	'Ironwood'	<b>Yangarr</b>
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	'Paperbark'	<b>Garlayarr</b>
<i>Triodia</i> sp.	'Spinifex'	<b>Jalg</b>

### Honey or Paint brush

<i>Acacia difficilis</i>	'Wattle'	<b>Jamja</b>
<i>Acacia umbellata</i>		<b>Jamja</b>
<i>Alloteropsis semialata</i> ?	'Sugar-bag Grass'	<b>Jirri</b>

<i>Scientific name</i>	common English name	Mangarrayi and Yangman name
<b>Insect repellent</b>		
<i>Callitris intratropica</i>	'Cypress Pine'	Magum
<i>Carissa lanceolata</i>	'Conkerberry'	Jinybarnay
<i>Excoecaria parvifolia</i>	'Gutta-percha'	Gilirr
<i>Exocarpos latifolius</i>	'Native Cherry'	Warrinyjalan
<b>Poisonous, harmful or dangerous</b>		
<i>Barringtonia acutangula</i>	'Freshwater Mangrove'	Manyal
<i>Chrysopogon fallax</i>	'Wallaby Grass'	Bunjurr
<i>Crinum uniflorum</i>	'Onion Lily'	Ngarranyngarrayn
<i>Excoecaria parvifolia</i>	'Gutta-percha'	Gilirr
<i>Grevillea dimidiata, G. mimosoides</i>		Balawadwad
<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	'Wild Passionfruit Creeper'	Bulugun
<i>Strychnos lucida</i>	'Strychnine Tree'	Gurnja
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	'Bindi-eye'	no language names
<b>Shade, shelter</b>		
<i>Albizia canescens</i>	'Sleeping Tree'	no language names
<i>Cathormion umbellatum</i>		Jalmbalmbuj
<i>Dolichandrone filiforme</i>		Yawal
<i>Eucalyptus tetrodonta</i>	'Stringybark'	Yawal
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	'Paperbark'	Garlayarr
<i>Sorghum intrans</i>	'Spear Grass'	Gorndongo
<i>Terminalia platyptera</i>		Yarrardja
<b>Soap</b>		
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	'Soap Tree'	Birliwirli
<i>Acacia holosericea</i>	'Silver Wattle'	Birliwirli
<b>Tobacco or ashes for tobacco</b>		
<i>Corymbia confertiflora</i>		Wubam
<i>Eucalyptus microtheca</i>	'Coolibah'	Warlan
<i>Eucalyptus tectifera</i>	'Coolabah'	Gunarra
<i>Grewia retusifolia</i>	'Emu Berry'	Giwu
<i>Trichodesma zeylanicum</i>	'Bush Tobacco'	Bujirri (Kriol)
<b>Toys</b>		
<i>Sorghum intrans</i>	'Spear Grass'	Gorndongo
<i>Sorghum plumosum</i>	'Spear Grass'	Bunjurr

Scientific name	common English name	Mangarrayi and Yangman name
<b>Others</b>		
<i>Acacia difficilis</i>	'Wattle'	Jamja
<i>Acacia umbellata</i>		Jamja
<i>Alstonia actinophylla</i>	'Milkwood'	Wirn.girr
<i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i>	'Ironwood'	Yangarr
<i>Ficus aculeata</i>	'Sandpaper Fig'	Jalinyji
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i>	'Red Lily'	Gumgub
<i>Terminalia arostrata</i>	'Nutwood Tree'	Gedmayn
<i>Terminalia grandiflora</i>	'Nutwood Tree'	Gedmayn

## MEDICINE PLANTS

### Respiratory ailments

<i>Amyema bifurcatum, A. miquelii</i>	'Mistletoe'	Darlugdarlug
<i>Capparis umbonata</i>	'Bush Orange'	Dawam
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>		Mornang
<i>Cymbopogon bombycinus</i>	'Lemon Grass'	Jorroy
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	'River Gum'	Gulu
<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>	'Horehound'	Wid
<i>Lysiana spathulata</i>	'Mistletoe'	Darlugdarlug
<i>Melaleuca bracteata</i>	'Ti-tree'	Gurlag
<i>Melaleuca citrolens</i>		Gurlag
<i>Melaleuca dealbata</i>	'Paperbark'	Dawul
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	'Paperbark'	Garlayarr
<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i>	'Bush Tea-leaf'	Mudjamudja
<i>Opilia amentacea</i>		Larlamurri
<i>Pterocaulon serrulatum, P. sphacelatum</i>		Jorroy
<i>Streptoglossa odora</i>		Jorroy

### Skin ailments

<i>Capparis umbonata</i>	'Bush Orange'	Dawam
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>		Mornang
<i>Cymbidium canaliculatum</i>	'Tree Orchid'	Jalamari
<i>Dendrobium dicuphum</i>	'Tree Orchid'	Jalamari
<i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i>	'Ironwood'	Yangarr
<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	'Asparagus-vine'	Warrabarla
<i>Santalum lanceolatum</i>	'Sandalwood'	Jumug
<i>Strychnos lucida</i>	'Strychnine Tree'	Gurnja
<i>Terminalia grandiflora</i>	'Nutwood Tree'	Gedmayn

<i>Scientific name</i>	common English name	Mangarrayi and Yangman name
<b>Stomach ailments</b>		
<i>Capparis umbonata</i>	'Bush Orange'	<b>Dawam</b>
<i>Cassia fistula</i>	'Casara, Golden Rain Tree'	no language names
<i>Grewia retusifolia</i>	'Emu Berry'	<b>Giwu</b>
<i>Neptunia gracilis</i>		name uncertain
<b>General medicines</b>		
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>		<b>Mornang</b>
<i>Grewia retusifolia</i>	'Emu Berry'	<b>Giwu</b>
<i>Triodia</i> sp.	'Spinifex'	<b>Jalg</b>
<b>Other ailments</b>		
<i>Buchanania obovata</i>	'Green Plum'	<b>Dirrawan</b>
<i>Cymbopogon bombycinus</i>	'Lemon Grass'	<b>Jorroy</b>
<i>Melaleuca citrolens</i>		<b>Gurlag</b>
<i>Owenia vernicosa</i>		<b>Barnarr</b>
<i>Terminalia grandiflora</i>	'Nutwood Tree'	<b>Gedmayn</b>
<b>WEAPONS AND IMPLEMENTS</b>		
<b>Boomerangs</b>		
<i>Acacia shirleyi</i>	'Lancewood'	<b>Mirlimun</b>
<i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i>	'Ironwood'	<b>Yangarr</b>
<i>Erythroxylum ellipticum</i>	'Kerosene Wood'	<b>Dayirriyirri</b>
<i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i>	'Snappy Gum'	<b>Mirndiri</b>
<i>Excoecaria parvifolia</i>	'Gutta-percha'	<b>Gilirr</b>
<i>Hakea arborescens</i>	'Boomerang Tree'	<b>Birndilngirrin</b>
<i>Petalostigma pubescens</i>	'Quinine Tree'	<b>Banggayi</b>
<i>Terminalia volucris</i>	'Yellow Wood'	<b>Liyinbi</b>
<b>Clap-sticks</b>		
<i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i>	'Ironwood'	<b>Yangarr</b>
<i>Excoecaria parvifolia</i>	'Gutta-percha'	<b>Gilirr</b>
<b>Coolamons</b>		
<i>Erythrina vespertilio</i>	'Corkwood'	<b>Jindiwilg</b>
<i>Corymbia bella</i>	'Ghost Gum'	<b>Garrwag</b>
<i>Corymbia confertiflora</i>	'White Gum'	<b>Garrwag</b>
<i>Gyrocarpus americanus</i>	'Coolamon Tree'	<b>Munggululu</b>

<i>Scientific name</i>	common English name	Mangarrayi and Yangman name
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	'Paperbark'	Garlayarr
<i>Melaleuca nervosa</i>	'Paperbark'	Waray
<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i>	'Large leaved Paperbark'	Jamanbarra
<b>Didgeridoos</b>		
<i>Bambusa arnhemica</i>	'Bamboo'	Jamarlak
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	'River Gum'	Gulu
<i>Corymbia ferruginea</i>		Wararayan
<i>Eucalyptus miniata</i>	'Woollybutt'	Gungguru
<i>Eucalyptus patellaris</i>		Warlan
<i>Eucalyptus pruinosa</i>	'Smoke Tree'	Barrwarla
<b>Digging-sticks</b>		
<i>Acacia shirleyi</i>	'Lancewood'	Mirlimun
<i>Acacia umbellata</i>		Jamja
<i>Dodonaea platyptera</i>		Mirlimunmirlimun
<i>Macropteranthes kekwickii</i>	'Bulwaddy'	Giliwirnin
<b>Fighting-sticks</b>		
<i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i>	'Ironwood'	Yangarr
<i>Eucalyptus tetradonta</i>	'Stringybark'	Yawal
<i>Macropteranthes kekwickii</i>	'Bulwaddy'	Giliwirnin
<i>Owenia vernicosa</i>	'Emu Apple'	Barnarr
<b>Fire-sticks, fire carriers and fire starters</b>		
<i>Carissa lanceolata</i>	'Conkerberry'	Jinybarnay
<i>Dolichandrone heterophylla</i>		Dilil'min
<i>Erythrina vespertilio</i>	'Corkwood'	Jindiwilg
<i>Premna acuminata</i>		Jurruwug
<i>Sesbania cannabina</i>		Barragarl
<i>Wrightia saligna</i>	'Milk Bush'	Jurruwug
<b>Fish poisons, fish traps</b>		
<i>Barringtonia acutangula</i>	'Freshwater Mangrove'	Manyal
<i>Excoecaria parvifolia</i>	'Gutta-percha'	Gilirr
<b>Smoking pipes</b>		
<i>Alstonia actinophylla</i>	'Milkwood'	Wirn.girr
<i>Calotropis procera</i>	'Rubber Bush'	Larrbarlarrba

<i>Celtis philippensis</i>		<b>Wernwern</b>
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>		<b>Mornang</b>
<i>Premna acuminata</i>		<b>Jurruwug</b>
<i>Wrightia saligna</i>	'Milk Bush'	<b>Jurruwug</b>

### Spears

<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	'Black Wattle'	<b>Bunbunba</b>
<i>Acacia shirleyi</i>	'Lancewood'	<b>Mirlimun</b>
<i>Acacia umbellata</i>		<b>Jamja</b>
<i>Clerodendrum floribundum</i>		<b>Mornang</b>
<i>Dodonaea platyptera</i>		<b>Mirlimunmirlimun</b>
<i>Erythrophleum chlorostachys</i>	'Ironwood'	<b>Yangarr</b>
<i>Grewia breviflora</i>		<b>Wirlida</b>
<i>Lophostemon grandiflorus</i>		<b>Wurarr</b>
<i>Margaritaria dubium-traceyi</i>		<b>Wernwern</b>
<i>Phragmites karka</i>	'Cane Grass'	<b>Bardawg</b>
<i>Sesbania cannabina</i>		<b>Barragarl</b>
<i>Timonius timon</i>		<b>Mirniya</b>
<i>Wrightia saligna</i>	'Milk Bush'	<b>Jurruwug</b>

### WATERCRAFT

#### Rafts

<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	'Paperbark'	<b>Garlayarr</b>
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#### Canoes

<i>Canarium australianum</i>		<b>Bird</b>
<i>Nauclea orientalis</i>	'Leichhardt tree'	<b>Jijwirrig</b>

#### Woomeras

<i>Flueggea virosa</i>	'White Currant'	<b>Yurrulanyan</b>
<i>Wrightia saligna</i>	'Milk Bush'	<b>Jurruwug</b>

#### Others

<i>Acacia difficilis</i>	'Wattle'	<b>Jamja</b>
<i>Acacia platycarpa</i>	'Wattle'	<b>Jamja</b>
<i>Acacia tumida</i>	'Wattle'	<b>Jamja</b>
<i>Acrostichum aureum</i>	'Fern'	<b>Garrarra</b>
<i>Excoecaria parvifolia</i>	'Gutta-percha'	<b>Gilirr</b>
<i>Grewia breviflora</i>		<b>Wirlida</b>
<i>Erythrina vespertilio</i>	'Corkwood'	<b>Jindiwilg</b>
<i>Sesbania cannabina</i>		<b>Barragarl</b>
<i>Wrightia saligna</i>	'Milk Bush'	<b>Jurruwug</b>

**Table B: Statistics of Mangarrayi and Yangman plant use categories.**

Category of use	Number of species	Total species	% of total plant use
<b>FOOD</b>			
Cabbage or pith	7		
Fruit flesh	39		
Fruit seeds	11		
Gum	6		
Nectar, preparation or flavouring	9		
Tubers or yams	23		
		<b>95</b>	<b>29.1%</b>
<b>PLANT/ANIMAL ASSOCIATIONS</b>			
Edible plants found in animal 	13		
Calendar plants	11		
Plant foods for animals	24		
		<b>48</b>	<b>14.7%</b>
<b>MATERIAL CULTURE</b>			
Artefacts, carving	1		
Decoration	7		
Fibre-crafts	9		
Firewood	13		
Glues and resins	5		
Honey or paint brushes	3		
Insect repellent	4		
Poisonous or harmful	9		
Shade or shelter	7		
Soap	2		
Tobacco or ashes	5		
Toys	2		
Others	8		
		<b>75</b>	<b>22.8%</b>

Category of use	Number of species	Total species	% of total plant use
<b>MEDICINE</b>			
Respiratory ailments	16		
Skin ailments	9		
Stomach ailments	4		
General medicines	3		
Other ailments	5		
		<b>37</b>	<b>11.3%</b>
<b>WEAPONS AND IMPLEMENTS</b>			
Boomerangs	8		
Clap-sticks	2		
Coolamons	7		
Didgeridoos	6		
Digging-sticks	4		
Fighting-sticks	4		
Fire-sticks, fire carriers, fire starters	6		
Fish-poisons and traps	2		
Smoking pipes	6		
Spears	13		
Watercraft	3		
Woomeras	2		
Others	9		
		<b>72</b>	<b>22.1%</b>

## TAXONOMIC STATISTICS OF MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN PLANT USE

The 208 plant species we have recorded are from 131 genera and 67 families.

The most utilised family is Myrtaceae (eucalypts, paperbarks and others) with 31 species, followed by Mimosaceae (wattles and others) with 15 species, Poaceae (grasses) with 14 species, Combretaceae with 10 species, Euphorbiaceae and Moraceae with six species, and Fabaceae (pea-like legumes) Rubiaceae and Proteaceae with five species utilised.

Three families have four species used, six families have three species used, 14 families have two species used and 31 families have a single species used.

The combined legume families of Fabaceae, Mimosaceae and Caesalpiniaceae have 25 species used.

The plant genera with the most species used are *Eucalyptus* sens. lat. (19 species), followed by *Acacia* sens. lat. (11 species), *Terminalia* (10 species), *Melaleuca* (eight species) and *Ficus* (six species), *Ipomoea* (four species) and *Grevillea* and *Livistona* (three species). Fifteen genera have two species used and 108 genera have a single species used.

Taegan Calnan, Jessie Roberts, Eugenie Collyer and Sheila Conway at Jilkminggan, 01 Oct 2008

(Photo Glenn Wightman)



## CATEGORISATION AND DISCUSSION OF MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN ANIMAL USE

Mangarrayi and Yangman animal use is categorised in Table C, below. The statistics of Mangarrayi and Yangman animal use are shown in Table D, which shows the total number of animals used and the percentage of total fauna use for each group.

We have only included here animals with major usage or significant importance for Mangarrayi and Yangman people in the table, however, it must be emphasised that all animals are considered valuable.

**Table C: Categorisation of animal use and hunting methods.**

### LEGEND:

#### Type and frequency of use

CA	Calendar animal
CS	Cultural, spiritual significance
D	Dangerous
F	Food
FD	Feathers, down
LF	Leather, fur
MC	Medicine, cosmetic
NH	no longer hunted
OP	Occasional, opportunistic hunting
RH	Rarely hunted
SB	Sinew, bones (Macropods only)
SP	Specifically hunted
WC	Water-carrier

#### Hunting methods

CM	Camouflage
FL	Fishing-line
FP	Fish poison
H	Hand
HL	Hand-line (stronger than fishing line)
NI	Night hunting
NT	Nets, traps
SH	Shotguns, rifles
W	Wooden implements

Common Name	Type and Frequency of Use		Hunting methods		Mangarrayi and Yangman comments and observations	
	Past	Current Variation	Past	Present	Past	Present
<b>BIRDS</b>						
Emu	F, SP CS, eggs	OP OP	W, CM	SH	Common	Less common
Bush Turkey, Bustard	F, SP, CS	SP	W	SH	Common	Less common
Bush Thick-knee, Bush Stone-curlew	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Bower Bird	CS	CS	-	OP	-	-
Plover	CS, D	CS, D	-	-		
Babbler	CS	CS	-	-		
Peewee	CS	CS	-	-	-	-

Common Name	Type and Frequency of Use		Hunting methods		Mangarrayi and Yangman comments and observations	
	Past	Current Variation	Past	Present	Past	Present
Butcherbird	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Crow, Torresian Crow	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
White-winged Triller	CS	CS	-	-	-	
Friarbirds	F, CS	RH	W	SH		
Cuckoo-shrike	CA	CA	-	-	-	-
Rainbow Bee-eater	CA, bait	CA, bait				
Kookaburra	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Dollarbird	CA	CA	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Black Cockatoo	FD, CS	RH	-	-	-	-
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	FD, CS	RH	-	-	-	-
Corella	F, CS	RH	W	SH	-	-
Galah	F	RH	W	SH	-	-
Cockatiel	CA	RH	-	-	-	-
Finches	Bait	Bait	-	-	-	-
Pardalote	CS, bait	CS, bait	-	-	-	-
Willy Wagtail	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Sea-eagle	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Wedge-tailed Eagle	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Brown Falcon	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Brown Goshawk	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Kestrel	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Stormbird, Koel	CA	CA	-	-	-	-
Channel-billed Cuckoo	CS, CA	CS, CA	-	-	-	-
Nightjars	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Tawny Frogmouth	CS	CS	-	-	-	-

Common Name	Type and Frequency of Use		Hunting methods		Mangarrayi and Yangman comments and observations	
	Past	Current Variation	Past	Present	Past	Present
Barking Owl	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Peaceful, Diamond Dove	F, CS	RH	W	SH	-	-
Partridge Pigeon	F, OP	RH	W	SH	-	-
Crested Pigeon	F, OP	RH	W	SH	-	-
Bar-shouldered Dove	F, OP, CS	RH	W	-	-	-
Torres Strait Pigeon	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Darter-duck, Pied Cormorant	F	RH	H, W	HL	-	-
Great Cormorant	F	RH	H, W	HL	-	-
Pelican	F	RH	W	HL, SH	-	-
Spoonbills	F, CS	RH	W	W, SH	-	-
Brolga	F	RH	W	SH	-	-
Lotusbird, Jacana	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Burdekin Duck	F	OP	W	SH	-	-
Whistling Ducks	F	OP	W	SH	Common	-
Magpie Goose	F	SP	W	SH	Only in the north	-
Teal, Black Duck	F	OP	W	SH		
Red-kneed Dotterel, Chestnut Rail	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Black Bittern	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Pied Heron	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
Ibis	F	RH	W	SH	-	-
Jabiru	F, CS, FD	RH	W	SH	-	-
Nankeen Heron	CS	CS	-	-	-	-
White Egret	CS, bait	OP	W	SH	-	-
Black-tailed Native-hen	F	RH	W	SH	-	-

Common Name	Type and Frequency of Use		Hunting methods		Mangarrayi and Yangman comments and observations	
	Past	Current Variation	Past	Present	Past	Present
<b>FRESHWATER FISH</b>						
Barramundi	F	SP	W, NI, FP	FL	Common	-
Mullet	F	F, Bait	W, FP	FL, NT	-	-
Saratoga	F, eggs, D	SP	H	HL, FL, NT	-	-
Bony Bream	F	F, Bait	W	HL, FL	-	-
Black Bream	F	F, SP	FP, W	HL	Common	Common
Butler's Grunter	F	F	FP, W	HL	-	-
Spangled Perch	F	OP, Bait	FP, NT	HL, FL	Common	Common
Rock Cod, Sleepy Cod	F	F	FP	FL	-	-
Freshwater Long-tom	F, CS	F, CS, Bait	W	HL, FL	Common	-
Hardyhead, Glassfish	F	Bait	H	HL, FL		
Archerfish, Riflefish	F	Bait, OP	FP	FL	Common	-
Mouth Almighty	F	F	FP	HL	-	-
Freshwater Catfish in general	F, CS, D	F, CS, D	W, FP	HL, FL	Common	-
<b>FRESHWATER ANIMALS</b>						
Freshwater Crab	Bait			H, FL	-	-
Freshwater Prawn, Yabby	F, OP Bait,			H, FL, NT	-	-
Red-claw Crayfish	F, OP			H, FL, NT	-	-
Freshwater Mussel	M, CS			H	-	-
Small yellow Mussel	CS			H	-	-
Bull Shark	F, D		W	HL	-	-
Stingray	F, D			HL	-	-
Sawfish	F, D		W	HL	-	-

Common Name	Type and Frequency of Use		Hunting methods		Mangarrayi and Yangman comments and observations	
	Past	Current Variation	Past	Present	Past	Present
Sand Frog	Bait			-	-	-
Tree Frogs	Bait			-	-	-
<b>MAMMALS</b>						
Echidna	F, OP & SP, CS	OP, CS		W, NI, H	-	-
Quoll	F	-		-	Rare	Not seen
Brush-tailed Possum	F, OP, CS	F, OP, CS		axe	More common	Less common
Bandicoot	F, OP, CS	RH		H, W	More common	Less common
Water-rat	F	RH		-	Common	Less common
Native mice	CS	CS		-	-	-
Black Flying-fox	F, SP	OP		SH, W, H	Common	Common
Little Red Flying-fox	F, SP, CS	OP, CS		SH, W, H	Common	Common
Nail-tail Kangaroo	F, SB	F		SH	Common	Common
Spectacled Hare-wallaby	F, CS, SB	F, CS		SH	Common	Less common
Agile Wallaby	F, SP, SB	F, SP		SH	Common	Common
Euro, Hill Kangaroo	F, D, SB	OP		SH	Not common	Not common
Antilopine, Plains Kangaroo	F, SB, D, CS	F, SB, D, CS		SH	Common	Common
Dingo	F, CS	CS		-	Common	Common
<b>REPTILES</b>						
King Brown	D	D		-	-	-
Black Whip	D	D		-	-	-
Death Adder	D	D		-	-	-
Western Brown	D	D		-	-	-
Water Python	F, OP	OP		H	-	-

Common Name	Type and Frequency of Use		Hunting methods		Mangarrayi and Yangman comments and observations	
	Past	Current Variation	Past	Present	Past	Present
Olive Python	F, SP	OP		H	Eaten more in the past	-
Black-headed Python	F, OP	RH		H	-	-
Milk-snake, Brown Tree Snake	CS	CS		-	-	-
Green Tree Snake	CS	CS		-	-	-
File Snake	F, OP	F		H	-	-
Blind Snake	Bait	Bait		H	-	-
Water Goanna	F	F		W, H, HL	-	-
Spiny-tailed Goanna	F	RH		W, H	-	-
Tree Goannas	F	F, OP		W, H	-	-
Sand-ridge Goanna	F, SP, CS	F, SP		W, H, SH	Common	Not seen now
Plains Goanna	F, SP	F, SP		W, H, SH	Common	Not seen now
Gecko	CS	CS		-	-	-
Ta-ta Lizard	CS	CS		-	-	-
Frill-necked Lizard	F, CS	OP		W, H	-	-
Blue-tongued Lizard	F	F		W, H	-	-
Spinifex Snake-lizard	CS	CS		-	-	-
Tree Lizard	CS	CS		-	-	-
Snapping Turtle	F, SP, D	OP-SP		W, HL, H	-	-
Pig-nosed Turtle	F, SP, D	OP-SP		W, HL, H	-	-
Saw-shelled Turtle	F, SP	OP-SP		W, HL, H	-	-
Long-necked Turtle	F, SP	OP-SP		W, HL, H	-	-
Yellow-faced Turtle	F, SP	OP-RH		W, HL, H	-	-
Stinking Turtle	F, SP	OP-SP		W, HL, H	-	-
Freshwater Crocodile	F, SP, eggs	OP		HL, SH	Common	Common

Common Name	Type and Frequency of Use		Hunting methods		Mangarrayi and Yangman comments and observations	
	Past	Current Variation	Past	Present	Past	Present
Saltwater Crocodile	F, SP, D, CS	OP		-	Not common, rarely hunted	Rarely hunted
<b>INSECTS</b>						
Dragonflies	CA			-	-	-
Bush Cockroach	D			-	-	-
Termite eggs and mounds	MC, F			H	-	-
Green Grasshopper Katydid	CA, CS			-	-	-
Grasshopper	Bait			H	-	-
Mole Cricket	Bait			H	-	-
Cicada	CS			-	-	-
Giant Waterbug	D			-	-	-
Bloodwood Apple, Bush Coconut	F			H		
Sugar-leaf, Lerps	F, CS			H	-	-
Mosquito	D			-	-	-
Itchy Grub	D			-	-	-
Processionary Caterpillar	D			-	-	-
Witchetty Grub	F, Bait			H, steel axe	-	-
Moon Grub	Bait			-	-	-
Mud-wasp	D			-	-	-
Paper-wasp	D			-	-	-
Green Tree Ant	MC			-	-	-
Bull Ant	D			-	-	-
Sugar-bag (Bush Honey)	F, SP, CS			H, Steel axe	-	-

Common Name	Type and Frequency of Use		Hunting methods		Mangarrayi and Yangman comments and observations	
	Past	Current Variation	Past	Present	Past	Present
<b>OTHER ANIMALS, INVERTEBRATES</b>						
Centipede	D, bait			-	-	-
Leech	D			-	-	-
Earthworm	Bait			H	-	-
Spider	D			-	-	-
Scorpion	D			-	-	-
Scabies	D			-	-	-
<b>FERAL and INTRODUCED ANIMALS</b>						
Buffalo	F, OP			SH	Occasional for a period	Rare now
Horse	CS, F			-	-	-
Cattle, Bullock	F, OP			SH	-	Common now
Sheep	F			-	Food in the past	Not eaten now
Cat	F, OP			-	Eaten in the past	not eaten
Goat	F, milk			-	Eaten in the past	Not eaten now
Pig	F, OP			SH		Common now
Domestic Turkey	F			-	Eaten in the past	Not eaten now
Chicken	F, egg			-	-	-
Domestic Duck	F, egg			-	Eaten in the past	none present now
Cane Toad	-			-	Not present	Present now

**Table D: Recorded Mangarrayi and Yangman animal names with percentages of total names recorded**

Grouping	Number of species recorded	Total species recorded	% of total
<b>Birds</b>			
ground birds	5		
noisy birds	12		
songbirds and kingfishers	4		
cockatoos and parrots	9		
small birds	13		
raptors, hunting birds	7		
pigeons	7		
owls and cuckoos	9		
waterbirds	27		
		<b>93</b>	<b>36.9 %</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Fish</b>	22	<b>22</b>	<b>8.7 %</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Freshwater animals</b>	8	<b>8</b>	<b>3.2 %</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Mammals</b>			
small mammals	7		
flying-foxes and bats	4		
kangaroos, wallabies and dingo	6		
		<b>17</b>	<b>6.7 %</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Reptiles</b>			
snakes	15		
lizards	17		
turtles	6		
crocodiles	2		
		<b>40</b>	<b>15.9 %</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Insects</b>	41	<b>41</b>	<b>16.3 %</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Other animals (mainly invertebrates)</b>	9	<b>9</b>	<b>3.6 %</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Frogs</b>	6	<b>6</b>	<b>2.4 %</b>
<hr/>			
<b>Feral or introduced animals</b>	16	<b>16</b>	<b>6.3 %</b>

Of the 252 animal taxa recorded here the most widely utilised faunal group is birds, with 93 species documented representing 36.9 % of the total faunal listing. The next most utilised group is insects with 41 species (16.3 %), followed by reptiles with 40 species (15.9 %) and fish with 22 taxa (8.7 %).

Animals are primarily used as a food resource by Mangarrayi and Yangman people, 44.4 % of the uses of animals are for food (refer to Table E). However, animals are also of enormous spiritual significance, and we have recorded 63 species or 33.9 % of animals having spiritual importance.

It should be noted that we have only recorded public cultural knowledge and have not presented here information of a secret or sacred nature. Many plants and animals have spiritual and cultural importance that we have not included here.

Animals are also used as bait, primarily to catch fish, 21 species (11.1 %), as calendar animals, eight species (4.2 %), while only a few species have feathers used for ceremonies (four species) and the tendons or intestines used to attach spear heads to shafts (six species) and for medicine or cosmetics (two species).

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**Table E: Categorisation of Mangarrayi and Yangman animal use types.**

	Number of species	% of total animal use
Bait	21	11.1 %
Calendar animal	8	4.2 %
Cultural, spiritual significance	64 (+)	33.9 %
Food	84	44.4 %
Feathers, down	4	2.1 %
Tendons, intestines	6	3.2 %
Medicine, cosmetics	2	1.1 %

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Edna Farrar † hunting for turtles in Elsey National Park, April 2010 (photo Ingrid Phyland)

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

Aboriginal people of the Top End and the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport have produced a range of publications aimed at conserving and promoting traditional plant and animal knowledge. These publications are outlined below.

### IDENTIKITS

**Bush Tucker Identikit:** a full colour 64 page pocket-sized book detailing the common bush tucker plants of the Top End.

**Bush Medicine Identikit:** a full colour 64 page pocket-sized book detailing the common bush medicine plants of the Top End.

**Jawoyn Plant Identikit:** a full colour 64 page pocket-sized book detailing the common plants used by Jawoyn people in the Nitmiluk National Park and Katherine area.

**Mangrove Plant Identikit for north Australia's Top End:** a full colour 64 page pocket-sized book detailing the identification and Aboriginal uses of mangrove plants in the Northern Territory.

### Aboriginal plant use posters

Full colour, 85x60 cm posters providing bold images and details of traditional Aboriginal plant use based on different themes: Bush Tucker, Bush Medicine, Colour and String, Bush Pandanus, Bush Timber and Calendar Plants.

### Traditional Aboriginal Medicines

A full colour, hard bound, 650 page book that links traditional Aboriginal medicine with modern science (out of print).

### Aboriginal plant and animal names and uses Botanical Bulletins

The results of research aimed at conserving traditional plant knowledge of individual language groups, each booklet is illustrated providing a detailed insight into Aboriginal culture. These booklets are listed below in the Northern Territory Botanical Bulletin series.

They may be purchased by calling in person to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport main office in the Goyder Centre, Palmerston, or by phoning (08) 8999 4814 (please have your credit card handy) or email: [pwpermits.nretas@nt.gov.au](mailto:pwpermits.nretas@nt.gov.au)

### NORTHERN TERRITORY BOTANICAL BULLETIN SERIES

Listed below are the publications produced by the Northern Territory Herbaria, Alice Springs (NT) and Darwin (DNA), in the Botanical Bulletin series; note that certain numbers are out of print and are unavailable.

- no. 1 **A Botanical Survey of Elcho Island July 1975.** C.R. Dunlop, P.K. Latz and J.R. Maconochie. 1976. (not available)

- no. 2    1. **Botany of Maria Island, Gulf of Carpentaria.** C.R. Dunlop.  
2. **Vegetation Survey of the Keep River Study Area.** T.S. Henshall and A.S. Mitchell.  
3. **Botany of Peron Island, Anson Bay.** T. S. Henshall. 1979. (not available)
- no. 3    1. **A Botanical Survey of the Lander River-Lake Surprise Area, Tanami Desert.** J.R. Maconochie.  
2. **Checklist of vascular plants, Little Nourlangie Rock, Kakadu National Park, N.T.** C.R. Dunlop and R.J. Begg. 1980. (not available)
- no. 4    1. **General Plant Ecology and Biology of the Australian Arid Zone.** J.R. Maconochie.  
2. **Checklist of Vascular Plants, of Palm Valley, Finke Gorge National Park, NT.** P.K. Latz. 1981. (not available)
- no. 5    **The Family Moraceae in the Northern Territory.** M.O. Rankin. 1982. (not available)
- no. 6    **Ethnobotany, Vegetation and Floristics of Milingimbi, Northern Australia.** G.M. Wightman and N.M. Smith. 1989, reprinted 1991. \$4.95.
- no. 7    **Mangroves of the Northern Territory.** G.M. Wightman. 1989. (not available)
- no. 8    **Checklist of the vascular plants of the Darwin Region, Northern Territory, Australia.** S.N. Cousins. 1989. \$2.00.
- no. 9    **Arid zone Eucalypts of the Northern Territory.** B.G. Thomson and P.D. Kube. 1990. \$17.95.
- no. 10   **Ethnobotanical notes from Belyuen, Northern Territory, Australia.** N.M. Smith and G.M. Wightman. 1990. \$4.95.
- no. 11   **Alawa ethnobotany: Aboriginal plant use from Minyerri, northern Australia.** Glenn Wightman, Donna Jackson and Lorraine Williams. 1991. \$4.95.
- no. 12   **Northern Territory flowering plants: A key to families.** H.T. Clifford and I.D. Cowie. 1992 (not available)
- no. 13   **Northern Territory plants of conservation significance.** G.J. Leach, C.R. Dunlop, M.J. Barritt, P.K. Latz and N. Sammy. 1992 (not available)
- no. 14   **Mudburra ethnobotany: Aboriginal plant use from Kulumindini (Elliott), Northern Territory.** Glenn Wightman, Dilkbarri Dixon, Lorraine Williams and Injimadi Dalywaters. 1992. \$12.00.
- no. 15   **Mangarrayi ethnobotany: Aboriginal plant use from the Elsey area, northern Australia.** Glenn Wightman, Jessie Garalnganyjak Roberts and Lorraine Williams. 1992. \$15.00.

- no. 16 **Ngarinyman ethnobotany: Aboriginal plant use from the Victoria River area, northern Australia.** Nicholas Smith, Bobby Wididburu, Roy Nuwallat Harrington and Glenn Wightman. 1993. \$15.00.
- no. 17 **A key to grasses of the Northern Territory, Australia.** Brian K. Simon, and Peter Latz. 1994. \$15.95.
- no. 18 **Gurindji ethnobotany: Aboriginal plant use from Daguragu, northern Australia.** Glenn Wightman, George Jungurra Kalabidi, Topsy Nangari Ngarnjal Dodd, Roslyn Nawurla Dujungari Frith, Mildred Nampin Jiwijiwij, Josephine Nampin Nyidyngali Oscar, Ronnie Jangala Wirrba Wave Hill, Steve Holt, Jimmy Jalyirri Limbunya and Violet Nanaku Wadrill. 1994. \$12.00.
- no. 19 **Sundanese ethnobotany: traditional plant knowledge from Ciamis and Tasikmalaya, West Java, Indonesia.** Glenn Wightman, Inggit Puji Astuti and Esti Munawaroh (eds). 1994. \$18.00.
- no. 20 **Flora of the Darwin Region, Vol 2.** C.R. Dunlop, G.J. Leach and I.D. Cowie. 1995.
- no. 21 **Rirratjingu ethnobotany: Aboriginal plant use from Yirkkala, Arnhem Land, Australia.** Banygul (1) Yunupingu, Laklak Marika-Yunupingu, Dhuwarrwarr Marika, Banduk Marika, Balngayngu Marika, Raymattja Marika and Glenn Wightman. 1995. (not available)
- no. 22 **Ngan'gikurunggurr and Ngan'giwumirri ethnobotany: Aboriginal plant use from the Daly River area, northern Australia.** Patricia Marrfurra, Molly Akanburru, Mercia Wawul, Topsy Kumunerrin, Harold Adya, Kitty Kamarrama, Mabel Kanintyanyu, Topsy Waya, Mary Kannyi, Glenn Wightman and Lorraine Williams. 1995. (not available)
- no. 23 **Iwaidja ethnobotany: Aboriginal plant knowledge from Gurig National Park, north Australia.** Nelson Muluriny Blake, Glenn Wightman and Lorraine Williams. 1998. Jointly published with the Centre for Indigenous Natural and Cultural Resource Management, Northern Territory University. (not available)
- no. 24 **Tiwi plants and animals: Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from Bathurst and Melville Islands, northern Australia.** Justin Puruntatameri, R. Puruntatameri (deceased), Anita Pangiraminni, Lydia Burak, Cornelia Tipuamantymirri, Mercy Tipakalippa, Jovita Puruntatameri, Paulina Puruntatameri, John Baptiste Pupangamirri, Ruth Kerinauia, Doreen Tipiloura, Mary-Margaret Orsto, B. Kantilla (deceased), Sidney Puruntatameri, Paddy Freddy Puruntatameri, Tommy Daniel Puruntatameri, Leon Puruntatameri, Kitty Kantilla, John Wilson, Jack Cusack, Donna Jackson and Glenn Wightman. Jointly published with the Tiwi Land Council, 2001. \$40.00.
- no. 25 **Wardaman ethnobiology: Aboriginal plant and animal knowledge from the Flora River and south west Katherine region, north Australia.** Raymond, Mrs E. (deceased), Julai Blutja, Lily Gin.gina, Michael Raymond, Oliver Raymond, Lindsay Raymond, Jessie Brown, Queenie Morgan, Donna Jackson, Nicholas Smith and

- Glenn Wightman.1999. Jointly published with the Centre for Indigenous Natural and Cultural Resource Management, Northern Territory University. (not available)
- no. 26 **MalakMalak and Matngala plants and animals: Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from the Daly River area, northern Australia.** Bidy Yingguny Lindsay, Kitty Waliwararra, Frances Miljat, Helen Kuwarda, Rita Pirak, Albert Muyung, Edwin Pambany, Jack Marruridj, Patricia Marrfurra and Glenn Wightman. 2001. \$30.00
- no. 27 Useful plants in the Luku Melolo forest, East Sumba, Indonesia. Syamsul Hidayat, Inggit Puji Astuti, Esti Munawaroh and Glenn Wightman, 2001. (not available)
- no. 28 **Field Key for the Monsoon Rainforest Flora of the Darwin Region.** Booth, R., Harwood, R.K. and Mangion, C.P. 2001.  
Jointly published with the Key Centre for Tropical Wildlife Management. (not available)
- no. 29 **Jawoyn plants and animals: Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from Nitmiluk National Park and the Katherine area, northern Australia.** Phyllis Wijnjorroj, Sara Flora (deceased), Nipper Dayppilama Brown (deceased), Peter Jatbula (deceased), Judy Galmurr, Margaret Katherine, Francesca Merlan and Glenn Wightman. Jointly published with Jawoyn Association, 2005. \$40.00
- no. 30 **Wagiman plants and animals, Aboriginal knowledge of flora and fauna from the mid Daly River area, northern Australia.** Lenny Gappuya Liddy, Lulu Dalppalngali Martin (†), Joe Galwaying Huddlestone, Lena Jululuk (Liddy) (†), Helen Imorrotjba Liddy, Clara Gumbirtbirtta McMaha (†), George Jabargarri Huddlestone, Mark Harvey and Glenn Wightman.  
Jointly published with Diwurruwurru-jaru (Katherine Region Aboriginal Language Centre), 2006. \$20.00
- no. 31 **Mangroves of the Northern Territory, Australia: identification and traditional use.** Glenn Wightman.  
Jointly published with Greening Australia. 2006. \$20.00
- no. 32 **Marri Ngarr and Magati Ke plants and animals; Aboriginal knowledge of flora and fauna from the Moyle River and Kuy areas, north Australia.** Jimmy Nambatu, Patrick Nudjulu, Johnny Nama (†), Jeannie Jongmin (†), James Munar (†), Rex Munar, Killinang Benedict Tchimburrurr (†), Bernadine Kungul, Aloysius Kungul (†), Patricia Marrfurra McTaggart, Mark Crocombe and Glenn Wightman.  
Jointly published with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. 2009.
- no. 33 **Warray plants and animals, Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from the upper Adelaide River and upper Finnis River, northern Australia.** Doris Lidawi White†, Elsie Ajibak O'Brien†, Dolly Mabul Fejo†, Roger Wurdirdi Yates†, Ada Ajibak Goodman†, Mark Harvey and Glenn Wightman.  
Jointly published with Diwurruwurru-jaru (Katherine Region Aboriginal Language Centre), 2009. \$20.00

- no. 34 **Ngarinyman plants and animals, Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from Judbarra / Gregory National Park and the Victoria River region, northern Australia.** Bobby Widjiburru†, Daisy Harrington†, Ronny Balwanjer†, Eileen Roberts†, Laurie Roberts, Roy Harrington, Peter Waterloo, Josie Roberts, Noeline Nemit, Colleen Moerkerken and Glenn Wightman.  
Jointly published with Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation (Katherine Region Aboriginal Language Centre), 2010. \$20.00
- no. 35 **Uunguu plants and animals, Aboriginal biological knowledge from Wunambal Gaambera Country in the north-west Kimberley, Australia** Jack Karadada, Lily Karadada, Wilfred Goonack†, Geoffrey Mangolamara†, William Bunjuck†, Louis Karadada†, Basil Djanghara, Sylvester Mangolamara, Janet Oobagooma, Agnes Charles, Dianna Williams, Regina Karadada, Thomas Saunders and Glenn Wightman.  
Jointly published with the Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation, Kalumburu, 2011.
- no. 36 **Jaru plants and animals; Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from the south-east Kimberley and western Top End, north Australia.** Bonnie Deegan, Barbara Sturt, Doris Ryder†, May Butcher, Stan Brumby, Gracie Long†, Nora Badngarri, Jack Lannigan†, Joe Blythe and Glenn Wightman.  
Jointly published with the Kimberley Language Resource Centre, Halls Creek, 2010.
- no. 37 **Flora of the Darwin Region, Vol. 1.** P.S. Short and I.D. Cowie (editors). 2011. [www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/plants](http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/plants) (e-publication only).
- no. 38 **Jaminjung, Ngaliwurru and Nungali plants and animals, Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from the Bradshaw and Judbarra / Gregory National Park area, north Australia.** Judy Marchant Jones, Dolly Bardbarriya†, Eileen Raymond, Doris Roberts, Duncan McDonald†, Dinah McDonald†, Margaret McDonald, Candide Simard, Colleen Moerkerken and Glenn Wightman.  
Jointly published with Diwurruwurru-jaru Aboriginal Corporation / Mimi Aboriginal Art & Craft, 2011.
- no. 39 **Mangarrayi and Yangman plants and animals, Aboriginal biocultural knowledge from Esey and the Roper River, north Australia.** Jessie Garalnganyjak Roberts, Sheila Yanybarrak Conway, Rita Morgan†, Amy Dirn.gayg†, Splinter Harris†, Edna Burrbanja Farrar†, Fay Banjanja Roberts, Francesca Merlan, Eugenie Collyer, Taegan Calnan and Glenn Wightman.  
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Bitter Springs, July 2008 (Photo Eddie Webber)

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## MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN LANGUAGE SOUNDS AND HOW TO MAKE THEM



### LIP SOUNDS (BILABIAL)

These sounds are made with the lips only.

**b** as in **bat**

**m** as in **mat**

**w** as in **wait**



### TONGUE BEHIND TEETH SOUNDS (ALVEOLAR)

These sounds are made with the tongue behind the upper teeth.

**d** as in **dog**

**l** as in **lot**

**n** as in **no**

**rr** is a flapped r-sound, like the r -sound in Scottish English and Indonesian.



### TONGUE BENT BACK SOUNDS (RETROFLEX)

These sounds are made with the tongue bent back in the mouth.

**rd** as in **card**

**rl** as in **curl**

**rn** as in **born**

**r** as in **rat**



### TONGUE BENT DOWN SOUNDS (PALATAL)

These sounds are made with the tongue bent down touching the lower teeth. They are all y-flavoured sounds.

**j** as in **jet**

**ly** as in **million**

**ny** as in **canyon**

**y** as in **yes**



### BACK OF MOUTH SOUNDS (VELAR)

These sounds are made high in the mouth with the back of the tongue, and the tip of the tongue flat against the front teeth.

**g** as in **go**, **lick**

**ng** as in **sing**

### VOWEL SOUNDS

**a** as in **but**

**e** as in **bet**

**i** as in **bit**

**o** as in **pot**

**u** as in **put**



Biwarrg, the yellow kapok, page 36 (Photo Glenn Wightman)



**Wigu**, the fern-leaved grevillea, page 46 (Photo Glenn Wightman)



**Gedmayn**, the nutwood tree, page 51–52 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

**Ngalanyburn** (Mang), **jolowol** (Yang), the black plum, page 53 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





**Gunbaba**, the split-jack, page 58 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

**Larrajal (Mang)**, **yigigurlan (Yang)**, the sweet water lily, page 64 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





**Miririb** (Mang), **lerrga** (Yang), the Mataranka fan palm, page 65 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

**Wan.garr** (Mang), **wan.garrnga** (Yang), the river pandanus, page 66 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





**Bibib**, the bush potato, page 67 (Photo Glenn Wightman)



**Minjawurr** (Mang), **gulburu** (Yang), the hairy cheeky yam, page 68 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

**Gagel** (Mang), **ganbirrbirr** (Yang), the cheeky yam, page 69 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





**Buwarnan**, the water yam, page 70 (Photo Glenn Wightman)

**Lirrawi** (Mang), **lidagban** (Yang), the red-tailed black-cockatoo, page 94 (Photo Eddie Webber)





**Jambirrina** (Mang), **jeyekbayn** (Yang), the bush turkey, page 90 (Photo Ian Morris)

**Jirrirndird** (Mang), **jirri** (Yang), the brown quail, page 91 (Photo Ian Morris)



**Ngerrjngerrjmin**, the sulphur-crested cockatoo, page 95 (Photo Ian Morris)





**Gurrababa** (Mang), **ganabal** (Yang) roosting, page 117 (Photo Eddie Webber)

**Ngo'min** (Mang), **lombul** (Yang), the magpie goose, page 105 (Photo Ian Morris).





**Jumburrung**, the barramundi being cooked, page 107 (Photo Taegan Calnan)

**Yurramij**, the saratoga, page 108 (Photo Ian Morris)





**Warn**, the red-claw crayfish, page 113 (Photo Ian Morris)

**Malulurr**, the freshwater prawn, cooking on hot coals, page 112-113 (Photo Taegan Calnan)





**Jibibi**, the freshwater mussel, page 113 (Photo Ingrid Phyland)

**Gilgan** (Mang), **garlambu** (Yang), the quoll or native cat, page 115 (Photo Ian Morris)





**Galurra** (Mang), **yurra** (Yang), the water-rat, page 117 (Photo Ian Morris)

**Gunawun** (Mang), **gononnga** (Yang), the file snake, page 123 (Photo Ian Morris)





**Gij**, the moon snake-lizard, page 127 (Photo Ian Morris)

**Gorronani**, the snapping turtle baking on hot coals, page 128 (Photo Taegan Calnan)





**Lordo**, the bloodwood apple or bush coconut, page 134x  
(Photo Glenn Wightman)



**Ngulun**, the witchetty grub, page 137  
(Photo Glenn Wightman)

**wab**, sugarbag or bush honey, page 139 (Photo Glenn Wightman)





**Francesca Merlan**

Co-author  
Professor of Anthropology  
Australian National University, Canberra  
May 2011

From the time I first lived at Jilgmirngan in 1978, I saw how Jessie Roberts, Sheila Conway and their families, and many of the other people mentioned in the dedication, but now gone, spent innumerable hours in the bush and along their beautiful, well-known river systems with their families.

Over the years they were helpful to me in recording Mangarrayi (and Yangman) language, and gracious in explaining and helping to `collect' and `label' the world around them as part of that research effort. I can think of so many happy times we spent in country together – no matter getting bogged in sand so we had to stop digging and camp out for the night! No matter my wandering away from camp on the upper Roper – people eventually came and found me! For all the good times I will ever remember all the people named in this book, and other members of their families.

Most importantly, in their home on the river and in moving through the countryside the people of Elsey Station live in awareness of the places and wonders and meanings of their countryside. It has always been important to them to pass on their understandings and feeling for the Roper River country to their families. This book represents a part of that larger project.

May it be useful to the people of Elsey Station and to others.



**Glenn Wightman**

Co-author  
Biodiversity Conservation  
Dept. of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport  
Mataranka, March 2011

We have been working together on this book for a long time. We specifically started recording knowledge for this book in 1989, when Jessie Roberts asked me for help to 'look after' plant knowledge. However, some of us had already been working together prior to that recording cultural knowledge. Many Mangarrayi elders had worked with Francesca Merlan recording knowledge since the late 1970s.

'Passing on' knowledge is a critical responsibility for all senior elders. Keeping biocultural knowledge strong has been the driving force for all of us as we worked together.

It is a good feeling that we have completed this book and some of the biological knowledge of Mangarrayi and Yangman people can now be 'passed on' with this book.

I hope people who use this book enjoy it as much as we enjoyed making it.

# MANGARRAYI AND YANGMAN PLANTS AND ANIMALS

This book 'passes on' the Mangarrayi and Yangman biocultural knowledge of 460 plants and animals from Mangarrayi and Yangman country in the Elsey National Park and Roper River area of semi-tropical northern Australia.

It has been prepared by Mangarrayi elders and their families, with linguists and biologists, to preserve and promote this wonderful knowledge of country.

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Jessie Roberts



Sheila Conway



Edna Farrar†



Fay Roberts



Amy Dirn.gay†



Rita Morgan†



Splinter Harris†



Francesca Merlan



Eugenie Collyer



Taegan Calnan



Glenn Wightman

