

DHARPAY MALA GA NAYATHAM GIRRI' GA DHÄWU



Dharpay Mala ga Nayatham Girri' ga Dhäwu

The Resources and Stories Trees Hold

Introduction by Shepherdson College Assistant Teachers

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Shepherdson College

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DHARPAY MALA

GA NAYATHAM GIRRI' GA DHÄWU



The Resources and Stories
Trees Hold

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Dharpay Mala

Dharpany dhuwal walḥa, ga dharpaynydja ḥuli gurrupan limurruḥ dhäwu ga mayali' ḥunhi limurr ḥuli dhäkay-ḥäma limurruḥgal ḥayaḥu.

Nhäkurr ga wanha witjan limurr dhu dhukarrkurr marrtji ga märram ḥatha manymakmirr wäḥa, gapuḥur ga diltjiḥur.

Dharpa dhuwal Dhuwa ga Yirrtja dhäwumirr. Ḥorrany ḥayi ga dharpaḥurnydja mala riḥgitj, manikay, bäpurru ga buḥgul.

Wiripuny mala dharpa munhawuyḥa bäpurru.

Dhuwa ga Yirritja dharpa mala wiripuny wurri'imirr, borummirr ga ḥathamirr. Man'tjarr ḥuli bäki mirritjin rumbalwu ga dharpa rumbalnydja ḥuli bäki ḥäku djämaw.

Gurrkurr guninyin ḥuli bäki miny'tjiw, djäma ḥuli gunga miny'tjimirriyam.

Trees

Trees are alive and give us stories and feelings. When the tide is out it is time to make fish traps from the trees that have been prepared.

Trees are Yirritja and Dhuwa and tell many different stories. They have ceremonial connections to the land with songs and songlines but some have been forgotten.

Trees and everything they represent are very important to Yolḥu.

Associated with one tree are many names and meanings. This is the same for flowers which also signal to Yolḥu directions of the wind.

Trees can be used for their resources such as leaves, bark to make string for bags and canoes. The flowers on trees show the season and what sea and land food is ripe and ready to collect. Leaves on trees can also be used for medicine and flowers show the direction of the wind.

Trees connect Yolḥu to the land.

Badarr

Paperbark Melaleuca Cajuputi

Moiety: Yirritja

**Wiripu-wiripu
yaku:** ranan / barrukala / rakal /
narinydjalk

The bark of paperbark tree (these words are also used for the tree)

Maraju wana: gulun'buy

Wurrki': Cream coloured flowers are arranged in spikes and often grouped in two or three. Flowers in bloom are a sign that honey (guku) and stingray (maranydjalk) are in season

Uses:

Ceremony & Art

- the bark is used by Yirritja people to wrap around the body of a deceased person (see also dharaw)

Material

- the bark is used make shelters, mats, canoes (lipalipa/naku) and rafts (djutu/buyku)

Cooking

- the bark is used and layered in bush ovens or as plates
- the bark is wrapped and folded to make containers (bowun/dhaniya)

Medicine

- young leaves are crushed and boiled. The vapours are then breathed in to help clear airways during colds and chest infections

Badarr dharpa



wurrki' badarr

ranan



man'tjarr badarr

wäna ranan

Munydjutj

Green Plum *Buchanania Obovata*

Moiety:

Yirritja

**Wiripu-wiripu
yäku:**

dhurrpinda / birrmanda /
guyuwu_lwu_l

Other words also used for the tree

Maraju wäja:

diltjipuy

Borum:

lukanhamirr
edible fruit

small green/yellow fruit ready at the end of the dry season; in the past the fruit was dried in the sun and stored - then called 'binydjitj' because of its squashed skinny flattened shape

Uses:

Medicine

- the bark, crushed up and mixed with human milk, or simply peeled up into small pieces is used as a medicine for the eyes
- the inner bark of the root is used as a traditional medicine for toothache; the inner bark is scraped and mixed with fresh water and the bark then placed on the affected tooth and held in place by the teeth; the roots are heated up, put in water to cool a little, and then bitten on, the heat making the tooth nerves feel better
- the leaves are used for a medicine for ringworm

Munydjutj dharpa



munydjutj man'tjarr

munydjutj borum



munydjutj makarr

munydjutj wurrki'

Dhanggi

Cocky Apple *Planchonia Careya*

Moiety:

Yirritja

Maraṅu wāṅa:

retjapuy, diltjipuy

Wurrki':

the flowers are large with numerous white and pink stamens

Borup:

ḷukanhamirr

edible fruit, plain with a slightly sour taste

galaṅarr - another name for the fruit, it is the word for the rock from which a yellow paint dye is made and the dhanggi fruit is so called because of the yellow colour of the inside of the fruit

Uses:

Hunting

- the bark is used as a fish poison. Bark is cut and crushed before being placed in saltwater held by stones or fish traps

Dhanggi dharpa



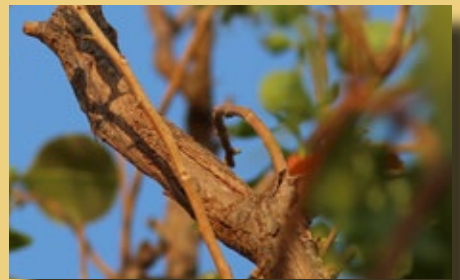
dhanggi wurcki'



dhanggi borum



dhanggi man'tjarr



dhanggi bana

Gadayka

Stringybark *Eucalyptus tetradonta*

Moiety:	Dhuwa
Wiripu-wiripu yäku:	<u>n</u> äku - the general term for the bark
Maran<u>a</u> wän<u>a</u>:	<u>d</u> iltjipuy
Wurrki':	guwatiti / dhanarra / natjali - the white flower of 'gad <u>a</u> yka' which blooms July-September and which makes good honey (guku). When the rainbow lorikeet (lindirritj) is eating the flowers the honey is ready

Uses:

Ceremony & Art

- yarrayarra - outer bark used for ceremonial purposes
- nuwayak / gulikayu / dan'parr - bark that is softened and used for shelters on which a body is laid and then wrapped up in

Material

- the wood, because it is good and strong is used for making yidaki, canoes and harpoons
- galawyu- big pieces of bark used for building shelter and possibly also for bark paintings
- nikidi - small pieces used for putting or carrying things on e.g. shellfish, fish, babies

Medicine

- the red-coloured leaves of a young gadayka are crushed up and mixed with a little water and used as a medicine for sores, the potion can be drunk or rubbed over the body

Gaḍayka dharpa



wurrki' gaḍayka



gaḍayka makarr



man'tjarr gaḍayka



gaḍayka wäna/gathawuḍu

Dharrangulk

Red flowering Kurrajong *Brachychiton parodoxis*

Moiety:	Dhuwa
Wiripu-wiripu yäku:	baḷwurr / bulwut Other words also used for the tree
Maraju wäṅa:	ḍiltjipuy
Wurrki':	flowers July-September signal stingray and black tipped shark (maranydjalk) season
Maṅutji:	ḷukanhamirr murrupal - edible seeds ready October-November when seed pods turn brown; care must be taken when collecting to avoid stinging hairs. Must be cooked in the hot sand

Uses:

Material

- the bark is used to make strong and containers (dhaniya/bowun)
- the root is used for mät/bäk, implements for eating wild honey
- raki' - string used for making dilly bags, tools and shelters

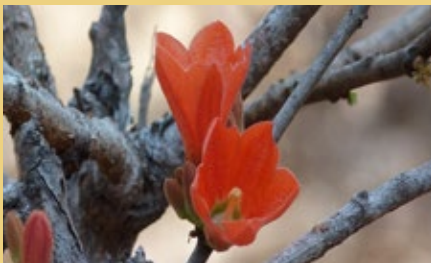
Dharrangulk dharpa



dharrangulk borum



dharrangulk manutji



dharrangulk wurcki'



dharrangulk raki'

Dingu

Cycad Palm *Cycas Media*

Moiety:	Yirritja
Wiripu-wiripu yäku:	warraga / ñathu / dhumal / mudhunay (also means 'starchy' root foods) Other words also used for the tree and its fruit, and food prepared from them
Marañu wäña:	ḍiltjipuy
Borum:	ḷukanhamirr the fruit of the cycad is edible but requires special preparation, the nuts must be soaked in running water (river) for at least three nights and then they are pounded up and kneaded into loaves which are wrapped in paperbark and cooked

Uses:

Cooking

- ñalkarañ - the nut of the cycad when there is no more shell on it
- ḷami - the nuts after they have been soaked
- rarrakrarak - the nuts which cannot be used after they have been soaked because they are still hard. This word is also used of dry land, where there is no water
- ḷurrya - juice from the pounding of the soaked nuts, used for washing hands during this part of the preparation
- ñurruk - nuts when they have been pounded and divided into small heaps
- baḷayin - small loaf made from cycad nuts
- ñurrumirr - longer loaf made from cycad nuts wrapped in paperbark and tied with string at the two ends
- buku-ḷumbak - largest and squarest loaf from cyad nuts, which cannot be broken by hand but must be sliced up with a knife

Dingu dharpa



dingu wurrki'



dingu borum



lami



dingu natha

Gunurru'

Darwin Woollybutt *Eucalyptus Miniata*

Moiety:	Yirritja
Maran̄u wāṅa:	ḍiltjipuy
Wurrki':	the flower buds are ribbed and arranged in groups of seven, the flowers are numerous orange stamen with small pale orange tips. The flower is a sign that crab (nyoka') is in season.
Maṅutji:	the gumnut is cylindrical to barrel-shaped or urn-shaped, with ribs along the sides and edible seeds

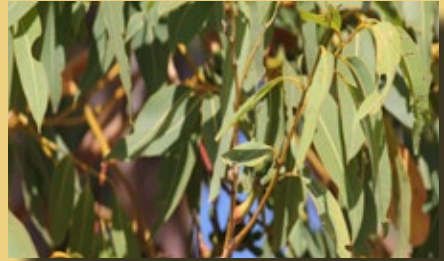
Gunurru' dharpa



gunurru' wuruki'



gunurru' man'tjarr



gunurru' dampu



gunurru' makarr

Gunga

Pandanus Pandanus Yirrkalaensis

Moiety:	Dhuwa
Wiripu-wiripu yäku:	makuyuk Other word also used for the tree
Maran̄u wän̄a:	<u>diltjipuy</u>
Borum:	<u>lukanhamirr</u> läluk / ṇaykurratjṇu gutu - the inner edible nut of the fruit the fruit (of both this and 'gandjuk - the fresh water pandanus) the fruit is orange/red when ripe (June/ May), it signals that it is a good time for turtle eggs

Uses:

Medicine

- the fruit acts as a mosquito repellent when dried out and put in a fire
- sap used for ointment for itches
- white part inside the leaves eaten straight or crushed up and mixed with water as a medicine for sores in the mouth, boils, sorethroats or skin sores
- the top part of the pandanus tree is used as a medicine for sores

Material

- buyu /djanyarr - the dried out pandanus leaves ready for weaving, these leaves are used for the weaving material for mats, baskets, sails (in the past) and newer objects like earrings

Gunga dharpa



gunga läluk



gunga dharpa



djäma gunga



miny'tjimirr gunga

Maypiny

Ironwood *Erythrophleum Chlorostacha*

Moiety:	Yirritja
Wiripu-wiripu yäku:	djinana / miniyarr / galanyin / ḥayan'ḥayan Other words also used for the tree
Maraju wäḥa:	ḍiltjipuy
Wurrki':	flowers long spikes with thin stamen white petals
Borum:	not edible

Uses:

Ceremony

- leaves and branches used in Yirritja wan'tjurr ceremony; (the cleansing ceremony after a funeral); wäwuru may also be used in Yirritja wan'tjurr ceremony but gaypaḷ and gawatjark would be used in a Dhuwa ceremony

Material

- manatja - strong wood used for making fighting or digging sticks
- galanyin' - resin from the roots is used as a glue, for example, to hold the blades to spears, the hook to spear throwers
- wood is used to make clapsticks (bilma)

Maypiny dharpa



maypiny dharpa

maypiny makarr



maypiny man'tjarr

maypiny galanyin'

Wadawada

Spear Bush *Macaranga Tanarius*

Moiety:	-
Wiripu-wiripu yaku:	gudatpa Other words also used for the tree
Maraju wana:	retjapuy
Wurrki':	small yellow flowers in clusters in spring and early summer

Uses:

Material

- the wood is used for making many types of spears (gara) including:
 - djimindi (fish spear)
 - gayit (shovel spear)
 - guyarra (stone headed spear)
 - djalakaritj (thin spear with steel tip)
 - warrngul (spear with stingray barbs as tip)
 - warrarri (ceremonial spear)

Cooking

- has large leaves, good for cooking on, or for cooking cycad or damper

Wadawada dharpa



wadawada wurrki'

wadawada man'tjarr



dämpa-dämpakum gara

djäma djimindi

Glossary

borum: fruit or nut

dharpa: tree or plant

makarr: truck

maran̄u wäṇa: where it likes to live

man'tjarr: leaves

man̄utji: seed

moiety: two parts into which a thing is or can be divided.
For Yolṅu people everyone and everything is either
Dhuwa or Yirritja

wurrki': flower

yäku: a name or named



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