

Sapta Sikis

Wokim ol samting bilong kamapim yam na pik

I gat wanpela kastom bilong mipela long kamapim yam, olsem mipela bungim sampela plants na haitim i stap long graun long het bilong yam. Mipela save wokim dispela pasin kastom long taim yam i go antap pinis, na em 'wokim haus bilong en' pinis. Taim yu laik haitim, yu kolim nem bilong yam *Patuki* na putim samting i go daun.

Pik em i bikpela samting long Papua Niugini. Magistrate bilong mipela, em save tok olsem, 'Yu mas i gat pik bilong olgeta samting'. Olsem mipela save bisi tru long kamapim ol pik. Tasol long ples bilong mipela, em i hat long kamapim ol pik. I no olsem ol narapela hap we ol man save kilim planti pik olgeta taim. Long bikpela kaikai bilong man i dai o kain olsem, et o tenpela pik em inap. Long marit, foa o faivpela save inap long wokim wok na givim ol man.

Dispela hap sapta i gat ol plants mipela save yusim long mekim ol pik kamap bikpela hariap, na sampela bilong mekim ol kala kala, o kain olsem.

Chapter Six

Promoting growth of yams and pigs

The ritual followed to promote yam growth includes mixing the species noted in this chapter together, hiding the mixture at the head of the yam vine once the vine is established and has 'made its house' (as we say of the foliage it creates on its vine). The mixture is placed in the earth with the growing yam plant as a spell containing the name of the yam *Patuki* is recited.

Pigs are very important in Papua New Guinea. The magistrate from this area is always reminding us that we need pigs for everything we do! So we work hard at pig husbandry. In this area, we do not have a lot of pigs like in some other places where they kill many pigs for every celebration. Usually for a large obligation and ceremony such as when an important person dies, we make do with eight or ten pigs, and for bride wealth, we usually need about four or five to fulfill all the obligations we have. It is usual to give only one live pig as part of a bride wealth.

This chapter includes plants we use to make pigs grow quickly and some we use to make their skin colour change and so on.

Tepung

Kamapim planti han long yam

Dispela *Tepung* save kamap antap long ol diwai long bus (Plate 6-1). Taim em save kamap em luk olsem em kamap namel long diwai. Tripela lip bilong en em save putim olsem han bilong en hangamap i kam daun. *Tepung*, em bilong mekim kaikai bilong yam mas i gat planti han bilong en.

Tepung aing

Kamapim longpela yam

Tepung aing (Plate 6-2) em i gat longpela lip bilong en na nogat han bilong en olsem dispela *Tepung* (Plate 6-1). Long ples, mipela laikim yam mas karim wanpela longpela yam i nogat han bilong en.

***Platyserium wandae*¹**

Promote lobed growth in yams

Platyserium wandae is an epiphyte found growing on trees in the bush (Plate 6-1). As the staghorn grows it looks as though it is growing out of the tree. The leaf hangs in such a way that it resembles a hand hanging down. Using *Platyserium wandae* as part of the ritual offering encourages the yam to grow tubers with lobes.

***Asplenium nidus* var. *nidus*²**

Promoting growth of single tuber yams

Promotes tuber length. Another epiphyte, *Asplenium nidus* var. *nidus* (Plate 6-2), has elongated leaves without the hand-like feature of the *Platyserium wandae* (Plate 6-1). *Asplenium nidus* var. *nidus* as part of the offering is to help make the yams grow single, straight tubers.

1. *Platyserium wandae* (Polypodiaceae), staghorn fern.

2. *Asplenium nidus* var. *nidus* (Pteridophyta).



Plate 6-1: *Tepung*
(*Platycterium wandae*)



Plate 6-2: *Tepung aing*
(*Asplenium nidus* var. *nidus*)

Sanahu

Kamapim strongpela skin

Mipela save putim *Sanahu* (Plate 6-3, 6-4) long hed bilong yam bilong mekim yam i kamap wantaim strongpela skin. *Sanahu* i gat strongpela han na skin bilong en, na yu no inap brukim em isi tumas. Olsem, skin bilong yam bai kamap wankain, na bai no inap bruk, taim yu kukim long paia.

***Blechnum orientalis*³**

Promote strong skin

We bury *Blechnum orientalis* (Plate 6-3, 6-4) at the head of the yam because it has a strong stem and skin. Doing so makes the skin of the tuber strong so it can be baked on the fire without breaking.

3. *Blechnum orientalis* (Blechnaceae).



Plate 6-3: *Sanahu (Blechnum orientalis)*



Plate 6-4: *Sanahu (Blechnum orientalis)*

Sapo

Kamapim gris bilong yam na mekim gris bilong pik kamap

Sapo (Plate 6-5), mipela save putim long ofa bilong mekim gutpela gris kamap long yam. Mipela save yusim lip bilong *Sapo*. Blut bilong em, em i wait tru, na yumi save putim bilong ofa long mekim yam gris na wait. No inap ret nabaut.

Dispela *Sapo* mipela yusim long kamapim gris bilong yam olsem mekim gris bilong pik kamap. Bai yu putim liklik long kaikai bilong pik na pik bai kamap pat.

Tsulung

Mekim pik kamap

Lip bilong dispela diwai *Tsulung* (Plate 6-6), em save pundaun hariap, na kamap gen long han bilong diwai gen. Taim yu givim long pik, em bai lusim gras bilong en hariap, na kamap. Kolim nem bilong pik, paitim namel bilong diwai wantaim ston, na go kisim hap skin bilong *Tsulung* na putim wantaim kaikai bilong pik.

Mipela save yusim *Mandalee* (Plate 6-8) long givim long pik meri. *Mandalee* diwai i gat braunpela grile long skin bilong en. Sapos yu putim skin diwai

***Alstonia scholaris*⁴**

Promote smooth texture in yams and fattening pigs

We use *Alstonia scholaris* (Plate 6-5) because it ensures the yam will have a smooth texture and be white. The sap of the *Alstonia scholaris* leaves is white which will make the starch of the tuber white, not red.

We also add *Alstonia scholaris* to pig's food to promote pigs to grow fat with plenty of lard.

Plant for pig's growth

Promoting pig's growth

The leaves of this unidentified tree (Plate 6-6) fall soon after appearing, and then regrow again quickly. When given to a pig, it will lose its hair quickly and grow in size. The ritual we have for feeding the pig is to call the name of the pig while hitting the tree trunk with a stone. The bark is then mixed with the pig's food.

4. *Alstonia scholaris* (Apocynaceae).



Plate 6-5: *Sapo (Alstonia scholaris)*



Plate 6-6: *Tsulung*
(plant for pig's growth)

Teleparting

Mekim pik kamap

Moning yet bai yu kolim nem bilong pik, na kurungutim as bilong dispela *Teleparting* diwai (Plate 6-7). Kisim hap skin diwai bilong *Teleparting* na putim long kaikai bilong dispela pik. *Teleparting* save bikpela hariap, na pik bai bihainim olsem.

***Hibiscus* sp.⁵**

Promoting pigs' growth

The ritual followed when using this *Hibiscus* sp. (Plate 6-7) involves stepping over the roots of this tree at first light and calling out the name of the pig. The bark is given to the pig, mixed in with its food. This *Hibiscus* sp. tree grows rapidly and the pig will also grow fast when given the bark to eat.

5. *Hibiscus* sp. (Malvaceae).

Mandalee

Senisim kala bilong skin bilong pik

Mipela save yusim *Mandalee* (Plate 6-8) long givim long pik meri. *Mandalee* diwai i gat braunpela grile long skin bilong en. Sapos yu putim skin diwai bilong *Mandalee* long kaikai bilong pik meri taim em i gat bel, em bai senisim kala long skin bilong pikinini pik.



Plate 6-7: *Teleparting* (*Hibiscus* sp.)

***Actephila lindleyi*⁶**

Changing pig's skin colour

We feed *Actephila lindleyi* bark to pregnant sows to change the skin colour of the offspring. The bark of the *Actephila lindleyi* shrub (Plate 6-8) is scaly and brown in colour. When the bark is mixed with a sow's food, her offspring will have a different skin colour.



Plate 6-8: *Mandalee* (*Actephila lindleyi*)

6. *Actephila lindleyi* (Euphorbiaceae).

Rongoman

Bilong daunim narapela man

Kru bilong *Rongoman* (Plate 6-9) mipela putim long kaikai bilong pik long wokim pasin kastom. Bai yu wokim long wanpela pik yu laik givim long wanpela man yu gat kros wantaim. Em bai no inap tingting long bekim dispela pik. I gat hap tok bilong en, na spirit bilong dispela diwai bai mekim man longlong long bekim. (Lukim narapela wok bilong *Rongoman* long Sapta 1, Plate 1-46).



**Plate 6-9: *Rongoman*
(*Dracaena angustifolia*)**

***Dracaena angustifolia*⁷**

For shaming your exchange partner

The *Dracaena angustifolia* (Plate 6-9, 6-10) shoot is mixed with the food of a pig that you intend to give to someone with whom you are angry. Performing this ritual will ensure the recipient will not manage to achieve a reciprocal exchange. The spell so created means the spirit of the *Dracaena angustifolia* will make the recipient thoughtless about making a return payment. (See other use of *Dracaena angustifolia* in Chapter 1, Plate 1-44, 1-45).



**Plate 6-10: *Rongoman*
(*Dracaena angustifolia*)**