

Sapta Nain

Wokim ol samting bilong painim sik o man i dai

Planti samting i gat wok wantaim kambang bilong painim husat salim posin o sanguma bilong kilim man. Mipela tok 'kambang', em wankain kambang tasol ol man save kaikai wantaim buai na daka. Long kastom, tewel bilong man i dai inap bai kisim kambang na wokabaut wantaim. Lek bilong tewel bai lusim kambang ples klia long rot i go long ples ol salim sanguma bin kilim dispela man.

I gat ol narapela rot long painim sanguma o posin, olsem bihainim bombom, tasol long dispela sapta mipela tok long kambang na katim tanget tasol.

Chapter Nine

Divination

Most of the plants that follow are used in a process of divination that uses the white calcined lime powder (a substance usually chewed with betel nut and betel pepper) to indicate the direction from which sorcery has come. The spirit of the dead man leaves marks of calcined lime on the paths leading from the place of his death to the village that sent the sorcery that killed him.

There are several other methods of divination, such as following lighted flares, but here we only talk of calcined lime, and the use of the leaves of cordyline plants.

Araratung

Bilong kambang

Kala long baksait bilong lip *Araratung* (Plate 9-1, 9-2) em wait na em bilong mekim kambang i kamap ples klia. Yu ken planim wantaim papul taro, olsem em bai no inap senis na taro *kapa* bai stap taro *kapa* stret.

***Pipturus argenteus*¹**

Lime divination

The undersides of the *Pipturus argenteus* leaves (Plate 9-1, 9-2) are white, which makes the lime stand out. This tree is also planted with baby taro *kapa* tubers to keep the variety from mutating.



Plate 9-1: *Araratung* (*Pipturus argenteus*)



Plate 9-2: *Araratung* (*Pipturus argenteus*)

Patuang taring

Lek bilong dok

Patuang taring (Plate 9-3) em gras bilong kambang. Taim yu holim, pikinini bilong en bai kalap kalap nabaut. Mipela laikim kambang em mas wokim olsem.

***Desmodium sp.*²**

'Dog's leg' grass

This *Desmodium sp.* (Plate 9-3) we call grass for lime powder because when you hold this grass, its seeds jump out and scatter. We make this connection with the way the grass seeds scatter because we want the lime powder to do the same.



Plate 9-3: *Patuang taring* (*Desmodium sp.*)

2. *Desmodium sp.* (Fabaceae).

Patuang artikering

Tel bilong dok

Dispela *Patuang artikering* (Plate 9-4, 9-5) i gat longpela plaua olsem tel bilong dok. Taim dok save wokabaut bihainim rot na tel bilong en rabim graun, mipela laikim kambang mas makim na kamap long rot.

Flower with burred seeds³

'Dog's tail'

This unidentified species (Plate 9-4, 9-5) has a long pendant spike of flowers that we refer to as 'dog's tail'. We use it because just as a dog's tail drags along the ground touching things it passes, so must the spirit of the dead man touch the path with lime powder.



Plate 9-4: *Patuang artikering* (flower with burred seeds)



Plate 9-5: *Patuang artikering* (flower with burred seeds)

Pununung artikering

Tel bilong kapul

Pununung artikering (Plate 9-6) em gat plaua olsem tel bilong kapul. Dispela tel bilong kapul em save hangamap na pulim graun na hukim ol lip samting taim em save wokabout long graun. Kambang bai makim dispela.

***Achyranthes* sp.⁴**

Cuscus tail

Achyranthes sp. (Plate 9-6) flower resembles the tail of a cuscus. The tail of a cuscus hangs down and hooks onto things as it passes. The lime must follow this example.



Plate 9-6: *Pununung artikering* (*Achyranthes* sp.)

4. *Achyranthes* sp. (Amaranthaceae).

Kipikieperi

Kambang

Plaua bilong *Kipikieperi* (Plate 9-7) em waitpela, kambang mas ples klia. Bungim ol dispela waitpela samting wantaim gras bilong wait koki, o gras bilong waitpela kakaruk meri, na wokim kambang.

***Mussaenda* sp.⁵**

Lime divination

The white flower of this *Mussaenda* sp. (Plate 9-7) is used to make the lime stand out. Mix the white flowers with the feathers of a white cockatoo or chicken and then proceed with the divinatory procedure called 'kambang'.



Plate 9-7: *Kipikieperi* (*Mussaenda* sp.)

5. *Mussaenda* sp. (Rubiaceae).

Masau

Painim tingting

Kisim lip bilong *Masau* (Plate 9-8) na raunim het bilong yu. Em bai yu yet painim tingting, i no tanget bai painim tingting. Holim lip *Masau*, na katim. Yu katim bruk stret, em mas tingting bilong yu i no stret. Em bruk long narapela hap, o hap i no bruk yu save em tok 'yes' long yu nau.

***Cordyline fruticosa*⁶**

Divination

Take the *Cordyline fruticosa* leaf (Plate 9-8) and pass it around your head. It is you that finds the answer, not the leaf. Think of your question as you pass the leaf around your head. Hold and cut the leaf in one motion. If it breaks straight across, the thoughts you have are incorrect. If it breaks at another point than your cut, or remains unbroken, the answer to your question is 'yes'.



Plate 9-8: *Masau* (*Cordyline fruticosa*)

6. *Cordyline fruticosa* (Laxmanniaceae), tanget.

