



Climbers and Vines of Mangarrayi Country





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This outline of climbers and vines has been developed to promote Mangarrayi biological knowledge. This booklet is based on the Mangarrayi knowledge of Jessie Garalnganjak Roberts, Sheila Yenybarrak Conway, Edna Burrbanja Farrar, Eileen Daylight & Fay Banjanja Roberts.

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Banganybangayn

Jungle Beads

Abrus precatorius subsp. precatorius



KNOWLEDGE

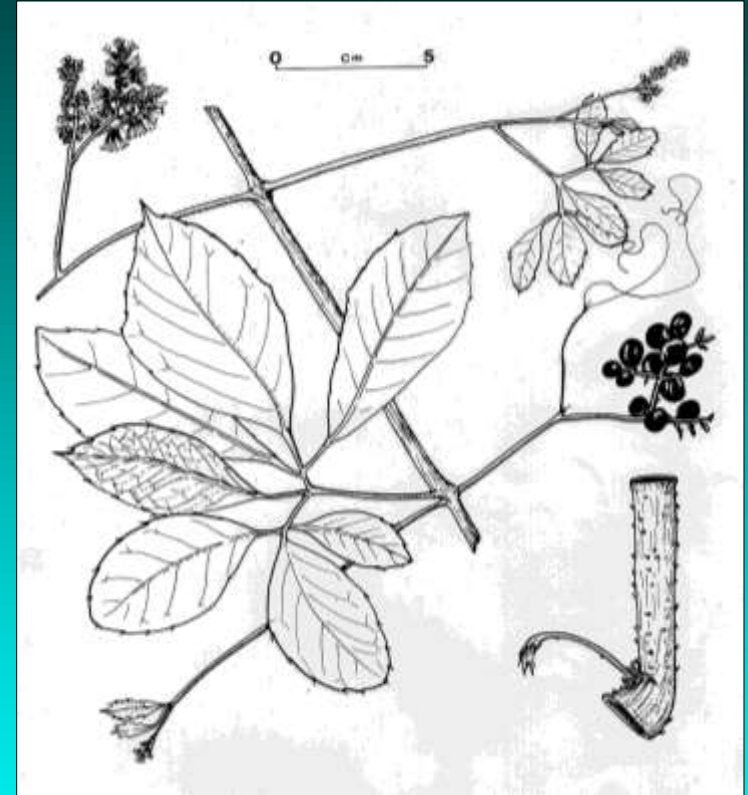
The small hard red and black seeds are boiled in water until they are soft. They are then pierced with a needle or heated wire and threaded onto string or fishing line to make decorative necklaces. They are used as decoration by young people and are sometimes sold to tourists.

Jindiwilg (*Erythrina vespertilio*) is also used to make necklaces.

Giwalwal

Bush Grape

Ampelocissus acetosa



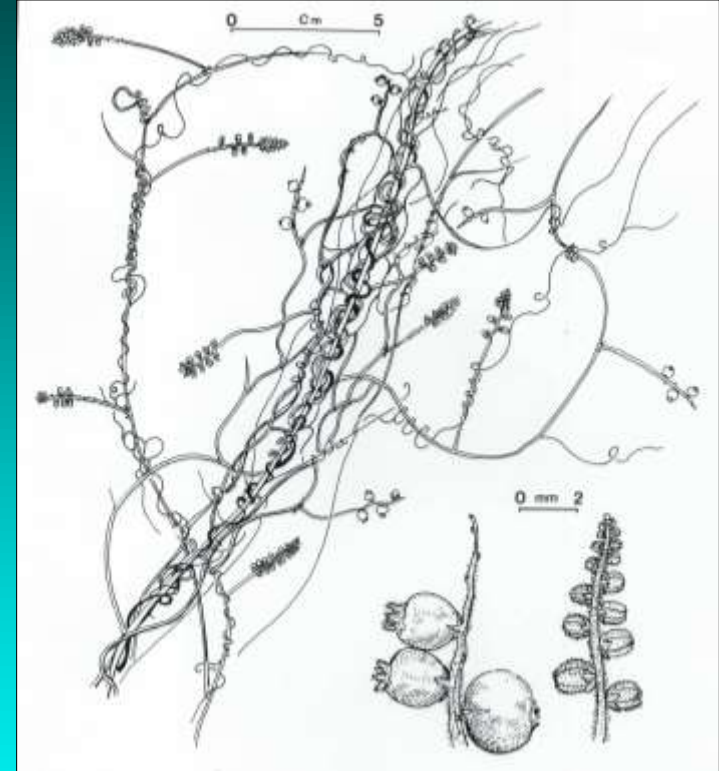
KNOWLEDGE

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 lying down or climbing on other plants.

Mawajawaja

Dodder Laurel

Cassytha filiformis



KNOWLEDGE

The fruit are eaten when ripe (translucent), they are sweet and tasty.

Yirriwurrburr

Native Grape

Cayratia trifolia



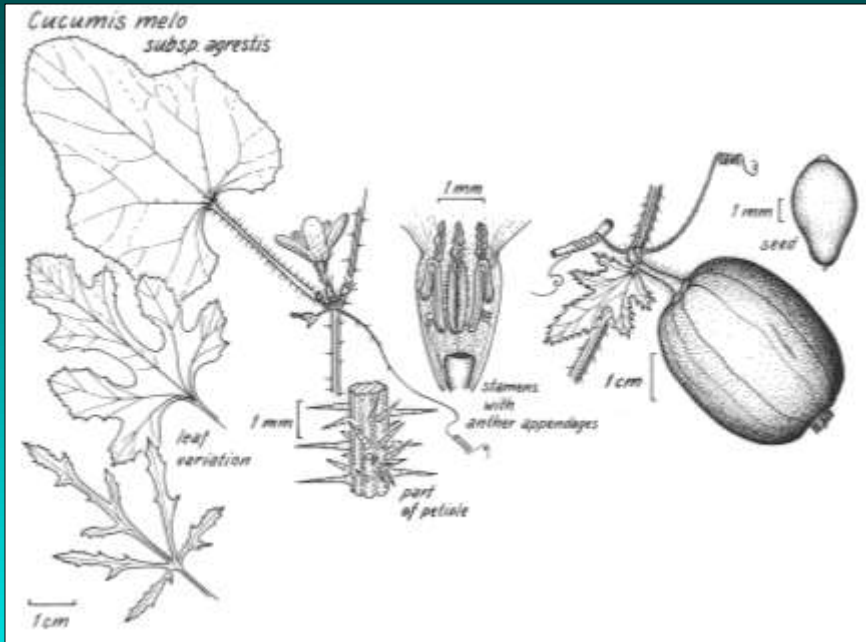
KNOWLEDGE

The tuber (yam) is eaten after roasting or boiling. It is stringy and there are two forms: a bitter tasting one called **Gunyinggin** and a sweet tasting one **Yirriwurrburr**. 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.

Ngarrarnagan

Bush Cucumber

Cucumis melo subsp. agrestis



KNOWLEDGE

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. **Ngarrarnagan** is also the name of a place near **Jirrgijaji**. There is another melon with the same scientific name, but called **Mundugban** by Mangarrayi people. 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.

Manba

Bamboo Vine

Flagellaria indica

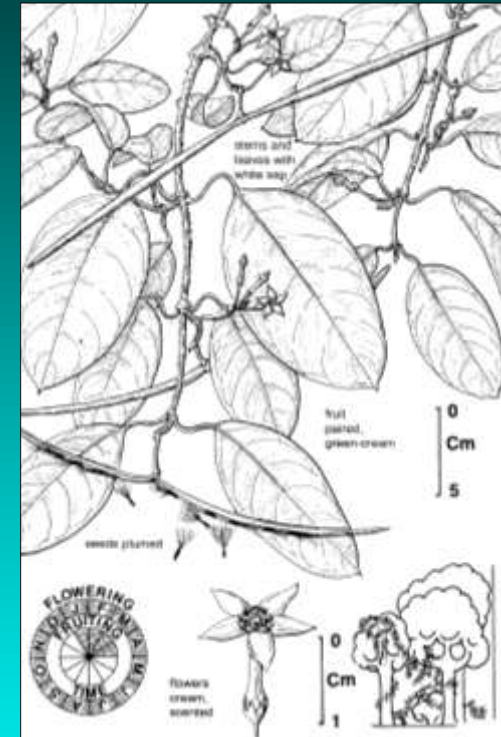


KNOWLEDGE

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**. 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 use fill it with buffalo blood for good luck for gambling, or you can fill it up with whatever you think brings you good luck.

Giriri

Gymnanthera oblonga



KNOWLEDGE

This plant is a climber with white sap.

Munburrng

Bush Banana

Marsdenia viridiflora subsp. *tropica*



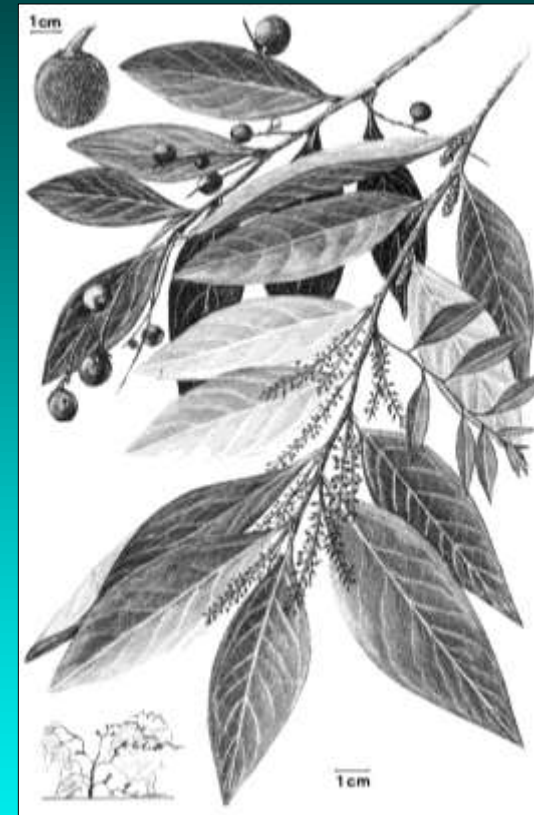
KNOWLEDGE

The fruits are eaten when ripe (green but soft). They are highly sought after food.

Larlamurri

Opilia

Opilia amentacea



KNOWLEDGE

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.

No language name

Asparagus Fern

Protoasparagus racemosus

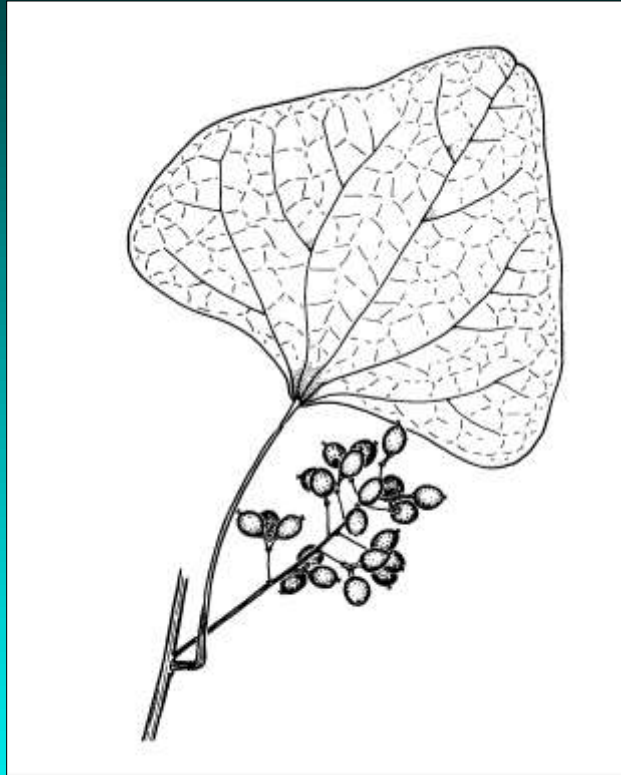


KNOWLEDGE

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.

No language name

Snake Vine
Tinospora smilacina



KNOWLEDGE

This climbing plant wraps around stems of trees and sometimes looks like a snake. The name could not be remembered.



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