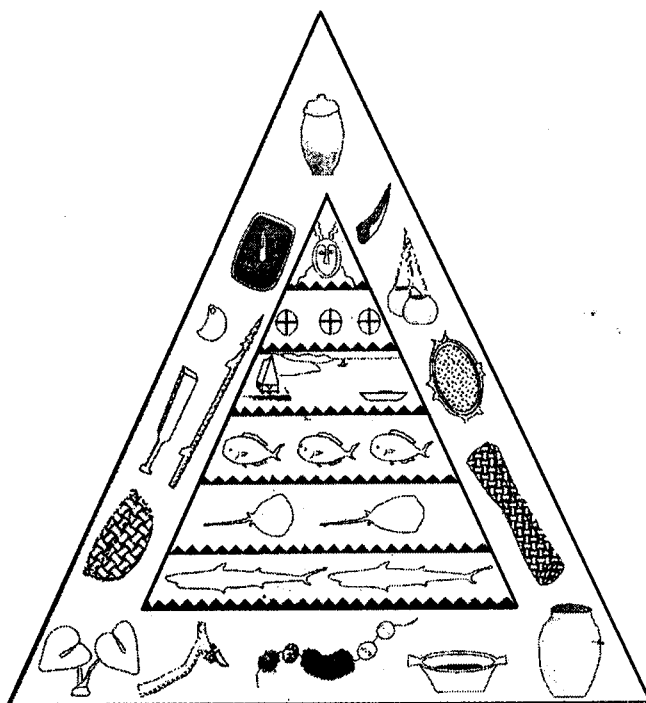


# **Traditional Items and Properties of a Household, Clan, and Village**

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**Division of Cultural Affairs**

**2001**

# ***Traditional Items and Properties of a Household, Clan, and Village***

*by*

The Palau Society of Historians

Division of Cultural Affairs  
Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs  
Koror, Republic of Palau

***Traditional and Customary Practices  
English Series 7***

**2001**

Traditional Items and Properties

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# Traditional Items and Properties in a Household, Clan, and Village

Belau had specific items and properties that were used in the house, in the clan, and in the village. There were designated things for males and females as well.

Home is a place for the nuclear family, extended family, and the clan. It provides everything to build a family and to help children to become successful persons one day. It plays an important role in the lives of all people. Therefore, each house is equipped with valuable items that make the household strong and alive. Listed below are the valuable items within the house.

## Traditional Items in a Household

### *Buk*

*Buk* is also known as *omchidel*. A *buk* is a plate object that has a oval shape with a shallow depression in the middle. It is used to serve starchy food specifically for the elders in the house. It is carved from strong trees like *btaches* (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), *beokl* (*Vitex coffassus*), *blacheos* (*Gmelina palawensis*), *ukall* (*Serianthes kanehirae*), and *las* (*Pterocarpus indicus*). There is another kind of *buk* called *madelchedeng*. *Madelchedeng* has the same shape as *buk* but is decorated with white shells around the edge. These type of *buk* are reserved for visiting elders. (Figure 33)

### *Ongall*

*Ongall* is a large-long and narrow platter that is carved from wood. It is used for non-starchy food (*odoim*) like fish and birds. *Ongall* is carved out of strong trees like *btaches* (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), *beokl* (*Vitex coffaassus*), *blacheos*



(*Gmelina palawensis*), *ukall* (*Serianthes kanehirae*), and *las* (*Pterocarpus indicus*). (Figure 31)

### *Omball*

*Omball* is a platter shaped like *ongall* but is much larger. It is used for uncooked non-starchy food. (Figure 32)

### *Chirt*

*Chirt* is a spoon like object that is used to ladle liquid. It can be made of many different materials. Some are carved from wood, others are made from coconut shell, or from a modified turtle shell. (Figure 26)

### *Omecheruul*

*Omcheruul* is a funnel that is made of a coconut shell and a piece of small bamboo. The piece of bamboo is attached to the hole in the coconut shell. A paste is used to hold these two parts together. *Omcheruul* is used to fill a container with coconut oil or syrup.

### *Olekall*

*Olekall* is a cooking pot made of clay. It is used to cook starchy and non-starchy food.

### *Ollumel (Bekai)*

*Ollumel* is a container made of clay to store liquids in. There are various sizes, the big ones are called *bekai*. These *ollumel* are used for storing water, coconut oil or syrup. (Figure 1)

### *Orsachel*

*Orsachel* is a carved object used to hold water, *chemlol* (fermented drink made from coconut), or *delebdeb* (drink made

from coconut meat and juice). These containers were made in various sizes depending on their use. (Figure 15a)

### *Olchesachel*

*Olchesachel* is a carved wooden container shaped like an *orsachel* but is much larger. It is used to store coconut oil or *seboseb* (similar to gelatin from tapioca). (Figure 15b)

### *Onges*

*Onges* is a coconut scraper. *Kikoi* (Andara sp., *Barbatia reeveana*) or *chesechur* (*Centella asiatica*) are the two species of bi-half shells used for making *onges*. *Onges* is also used to cut off the flowers of the betel nut tree. When a shell blade is used by hand it is called *onges* but when it is attached to a wooden sitting device it is called *ongerkor*. (Figure 30)

### *Orrokodel*

*Orrokodel* is a strainer used to produce a large amount of coconut milk to make coconut oil. The root of a mangrove tree is intertwined to build the main square structure. Coconut sheath is placed on top of the intertwined roots to complete it. The scraped coconut is placed on the *orrekodel* and is kneaded to separate the milk from the meat. (Figure 14)

### *Sumes*

*Sumes* is a skewer. It is made of *raod* (mangrove tree aerial root) and bamboo. There are designated skewers for starchy and non-starchy foods. A skewer for starchy food is thin and long where as the one for non-starchy food is long and its poking end is split into two.

### *Olbidel*

*Olbidel* is made of clay. It is a lamp used to light the house. The wick is made of coconut fiber and the fuel is coconut oil. The *olbidel* is shaped like a small tea pot. The fuel is poured in from the top and the wick is placed on the spout to be lighted. *Olbidel* is one of the items that a woman leaves in the house when she moves out.

### *Ochado*

*Ochado* are tongs made from bamboo. *Ochado* is used to grill the fish over fire and used to cook taro and coconut.

### *Ongosu ra cheluch*

*Ongosu* is a stirring paddle for coconut oil. This implement consists of a carved wood and a shell blade with a wooden handle. (Figure 27)

### *Chedecholl*

*Chedecholl* is a woven mat made from pandanus leaves. This woven pandanus mat has many uses:

1. sail for the canoe;
2. bedding called *ulekesiu*;
3. cover a death person called *klibitang*;
4. women use *chedecholl* as a protective coat in the taro patch, called *rengor*.

### *Bar ma Chiull*

*Bar* is also a mat made of pandanus leaves. It is woven like other mats but a tighter weave is employed. *Chiull* is a pillow made of pandanus leaves with banana leaf stuffed into it.

## *Beob*

*Beob* is a wooden stick used to beat taro to make it soft. *Beob* is carved from very strong wood. *Beob* is one of the items that a woman leaves in the house when she moves out.

## *Ngot ma Chai*

*Ngot* is a mortar carved from strong trees. It has a rectangular shape and a shallow bowl. *Chai* is a pestle carved from clam shell. Both the *ngot* and *chai* are used to pound taro and other starchy food. *Ngot* and *chai* are items that are used together, and are not found separately. These two items have the same status as *olbidel* and *beob*, it can not be removed from the house. If for whatever reason the woman of the house moves out, she will take everything that belongs to her, but not the *ngot*, *chai*, *olbidel*, and *beob*. (Figure 40 & 41)

## *Techiir*

*Techiir* is a handnet used for pressing coconut milk. This is made from the sheath at the base of a coconut frond.

## *Chab ma Ingukl*

*Chab* and *ingukl* comprise the cooking area of the house. *Chab* is the stone platform where the fire is made for cooking. *Ingukl* are three stones on which cooking pots are placed. *Ingukl* are placed on top of the *chab*. (Figure 26)

## *Oruikl*

*Oruikl* is a general term for any woven basket made from coconut leaves. It is used to carry food and other materials. There are four kinds of *orruikl*:

1. *Uloik*- made for the elder male of the house;
2. *Oskuul*- used to carry taro;

3. *Oltatel*- made for the elder women of the house;
4. *Chelais*- used by young men to carry their fishing gear.

### *Mengchongch*

*Mengchongch* is produced from the *keai* (spathe of the betel nut tree). Its outer layer is stripped off and the remaining soft fiber is *mengchongch*. There are various uses for *mengchongch* such as to wrap food like taro, tapioca, fish, etc.. *Deluus* is a *mengchongch* used to cover a baby. It can also be used as material for a betelnut bag.

### *Ongilotel (reng)*

*Ongilotel* is a medicinal oil stored inside a bamboo container or a coconut shell.

## Women's Cooking Items

Women have many responsibilities in the household. The strength of the house depends on the way women handle these responsibilities. The women's main task is to prepare food for the family. Listed below are items used for cooking.

### *Beob*

*Beob* is a wooden stick used to beat taro to make it soft. *Beob* is carved from very strong wood. *Beob* is one of the items that a woman leaves in the house when she moves out.

### *Ngot ma Chai*

*Ngot* is a mortar carved from strong trees. It has a rectangular shape and a shallow bowl. *Chai* is a pestle carved from clam shell. Both *ngot* and *chai* are used to pound taro and other starchy food. *Ngot* and *chai* are tools that are used together, and are not found separately. They have the same status as the

*olbidel* and *beob*, that means they can not be taken away from the house. If for whatever reason a woman leaves the family she will take everything that belongs to her, except for *ngot*, *chai*, *beob*, and *olbidel*. (Figure 40 & 41)

### *Ngark*

*Ngark* is a shap-edged instrument in the shape of a half-moon used for cutting, scraping, or peeling taro. It is made from mother of pearl shell or shellfish. There are two types of *ngark*:

1. *Ngark*- made from *rudel* (a type of shell fish), it is strictly used for scraping uncooked taro. (Figure 37);
2. *Chesiuch*- made from mother of pearl shell used to cut cooked taro into smaller pieces. (Figure 38)

### *Ongosu ra cheluch ma chelbaki ma miich*

*Ongosu* is a stirring paddle for making coconut oil and *chelbaki* (sweetened crushed tapioca wrapped in leaves and boiled), and *miich* (*Terminalia catappa*). *Ongosu* can be carved from strong wood or have a wooden handle with a turtle shell blade.

The above listed tools are used by women to make food. There are other valuable items that women own. Listed below are the valuable items owned by women:

## **Women's Valuable Items**

### *Terir*

*Terir* is a large spoon with a deep bowl made of turtle shell. It is used to ladle soup or other liquids. *Terir* is strictly used by women.

## *Toluk*

*Toluk* is traditional money used by women in Palau. It has the form of a plate or tray and is made of turtle shell from *ngasech* (Hawkbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*). It is used as an appreciation gift for *buch el sechal* (the female in-law of the family) or somebody a woman is grateful to. In a traditional ceremony where money is collected, *toluk* is used to collect the money. The *toluk* used for this purpose is given by the sister of the man for whom this ceremony is being held. There are three kinds of *toluk*:

1. *chasu-toluk* that is dark all over;
2. *rilmiich*- the color is yellowish like the leaf of a *miich* (*Terminalia catappa*);
3. *oudeleaes*- a *toluk* that has predominant yellowish color overall with black spots like flies scattered throughout the area.

These *toluk* are taken from the respective parts of the turtle shell: *odangeb* (middle of the turtle shell); *melekau* (upper part of the turtle shell); *omertachel* (lower part of the turtle shell beside the tail).

## *Omsangel*

*Omsangel* is a basket woven from coconut leaves. It is used to store valuables such as Palauan money and usually in the care of the woman of the house.

## *Tet*

*Tet* is a woven basket for valuables. It shows the status and maturity of women. *Tet* is used to store valuables and other daily activity materials. A *tet* owned by an elder woman is made of *kerengims* (swamp reed, *Eleocharis ochrostachys*). A young woman who is ready to attend the women's group is given a *tet* called *delmik* (made from coconut leaves). (Figure 16)

### *Cheriut*

*Cheriut* is the traditional grass skirt made from the bark of *lab* (*Ambroma Augusta*), *chermall* (*Hibiscus Tiliaceus*), or *kerdikes* (type of grass). Young girls wear a one-sided *cheriut* that covers the front. Young women wear *cheriut* called *blilokl* and elder women wear *ulekesiu*. *Cheriut* made from *lab* and *cheremall* is used for festive occasions or funerals. *Cheriut* called *ririamel* and *ulalek* are usually owned by wealthy families. *Cheriut* made from *kerdikes*, *sosol* (white ginger brush), and *meolt* (young leaves of coconut tree) are used for everyday wear. The worn out *cheriut* called *susuud* or *kelekal* is worn when working in the taro patch. (Figure 13)

### *Omedokel*

*Omedokel* is a woven mat made from *such* (pandanus leaf). This mat is wrapped around a mat and a pillow to form a bundle. Such bundles are prepared and stored for emergencies such as death in the family.

### *Tet (Otungel)*

*Otungel* is a small woven basket to store Palauan money. It is tied around a woman's waist and inserted inside the grass skirt. Its position is aligned with womans' private part.

### *Btek*

*Btek* is a woman's belt woven from pandanus leaves. *Btek* holds the woman's stomach after giving birth. Other kinds of *btek* for decoration are made from mother of pearl shell or coconut shells.

### *Techull*

*Techull* is similar to *btek*, used to hold the grass skirt in place.



*Chilt (reng)*

*Reng* is turmuric when it is mixed with coconut oil it is called *chilt*. *Chilt* is used by women who just gave birth, they rub it on their bodies.

## **Women's Valuable Properties**

In addition to the above mentioned valuable items, women own valuable properties.

*Meselech*

*Meselech* is a wet land that has been prepared for planting *kukau* (taro, *Colocasia esculenta*).

*Dechel*

*Dechel* is a marsh area that can be cleared to plant *kukau* and *brak* (giant taro, *Cystosperma chamissonis*).

*Omrekongel*

*Omrekongel* is similar to *dechel* but is strictly a place to plant giant taro.

*Ngeaol*

*Ngeaol* is a slash and burn type of garden where different kinds of plants are grown like papaya, taro, sugar cane and so on.

## **Men's Valuable Properties**

Men hold other responsibilities in the house hold, these includes fishing, building houses, canoes, and other tasks women can not handle.

*Chutem ra ongalk malchub eng telungalk*

*Chutem ra ongalk malchub eng telungalk* means land of the

nuclear family or the extended family. In the old times women did not own land. Men possessed the land of the family.

### *Omekedecheraol blai*

When a man is married he builds his house on the land that belongs to his father.

## **Men's Valuable Items**

Listed below are men's valuable items:

### *Lild/Olechodech (biskang)*

*Biskang* is a spear with a small piece of bamboo at its tip and a handle made of betel wood. It is used for spearing fish.

### *Otilech*

*Otilech* is an ax with a wooden handle and a clam shell blade. It is used to chop down trees and split woods.

### *Ebaki*

*Ebaki* is an adze. The wooden handle is carved and the blade is made from clam shell. It is used to hew canoes and parts of the house.

### *Usaker*

*Usaker* is a loincloth made from the fibers of hibiscus, *meduu* (*Artocarpus altilis*), and *lab* (*Ambroma augusta*) tree. There are two types of *usaker*:

1. *usaker*- this is a cloth with a length of two outstretched arms;
2. *meserou*- worn by elderly men. *Meserou* has a fiber rope that holds the material from falling. One part of the cloth hangs down in the front for cover. (Figure 28)

### *Oliich*

*Oliich* is a spoon made of *rudel* (a type of a shellfish) used as an eating utensil. (Figure 39)

### *Osongd*

*Osongd* is a comb made of *raod* (mangrove tree root). There are approximately 10 thin tips of the comb held together by an interwoven string. The tips are tied to a thin strip of a wooden handle that is as long as the palm of the hand.

### *Tet*

*Tet* is a woven basket for valuable things. *Tet* for an elderly man is called *uloik*, and is woven from the young leaves of a coconut tree. Young men who are ready to join the men's club have *tet* called *chelais*, they are woven from *melekaurad* (young coconut fronds that are older than those used for making *uloik*).

### *Rasm ra such*

*Rasm* is a needle used to thatch roof. *Rasm* can be made from many materials such as mother of pearl, turtle shell, bamboo, *raod* (mangrove tree aerial root), or *chelu* (*Cyathea lunulata*). (Figure 44)

### *Orusech el kim*

*Orusech* is a small pestle for pounding betel nut, made of clam shell. (Figure 17)

### *Klilt el olecholl*

*Klilt el olecholl* is a bracelet made from the vertebrae at the *omdael* (nape of the neck) of a dugong. Wealthy men usually wear this *klilt* because it is expensive. In former times it was considered to be the Palauan men's money.

### *Ngebtakl ma Oremael*

*Ngebtakel* is a foot strap for climbing betel nut trees. It is made of hibiscus fibers. *Oremael* is a small platform attached to the betelnut tree. The platform is attached to a tree with a fiber rope. (Figure 19)

### *Ongeched*

*Ongeched* is a wooden stake with a sharp tip for husking coconuts. It is made from strong wood such as *raod* (mangrove tree root), *kuat* (*Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea*), and *kesiil* (*Eugenia reinwardtiana*). There is a specific place for *ongeched* in the house. It is placed on *orengodel* (the corner of the house diagonally opposite from where the cooking is done).

### *Mlai*

*Mlai* is a general term for canoe. There are five different kinds of canoes: *kaeb*, *kabekel*, *koteraol*, *brotong*, and *omuadel*.

*Kabekel*, *omuadel*, and *brotong* are big and wide while *kaeb* and *koteraol* are narrow. *Kaeb* and *koteraol* were usually owned by the four highest clans of the village because they were expensive. *Kaeb* and *koteraol* are the fastest canoes among all types of canoes and they both have a sail. *Kabekel* is war canoe and *omuadel* is used for fishing. *Brotong* is for fishing and transportation of people and goods. (Figure 20)

## **Fishing Gear**

Fishing gear includes: *biskang* (spear); *bub* (trap); *uuked* (net); *derau* (hand net); *beng* (fish weir); *ongioll* (weir); *kereel* (fishing line); *chirocher* (fish hook); *ruul* (fish net), and *chebingel* (trap).

### *Bub*

*Bub* is made from *raod* (mangrove tree root), bamboo, hibiscus

fibers, small bamboo, and other small trees. There are three kinds of traps: *semael* (type of trap for catching fish), *dechall* (trap), and *techioll*. (Figure 45)

### *Uuked*

*Uuked* is a net made of hibiscus fibers. These are the kinds of fishing that uses *uuked*: *uat*; *olenganged*, *dirkork*, *omngukadel*, *derek*, *ousebuu*, *berober*, *omeliuch*, *sab*, and *metilab*. There are also *uuked* with wide mesh used to catch turtle, dugong, or big fish. (Figure 18)

### *Derau*

*Derau* is made of hibiscus or *lab* fibers. These fibers are woven into a net where small bamboo strips are inserted on both sides. This type of a hand net can be used by one or more persons. During low tide fish hide under the rocks and can be caught with these hand nets. (Figure 3)

### *Beng*

*Beng* is a fish weir, an arrangement of rocks that traps the fish when the tide is out. (Figure 36)

### *Ongioll*

*Ongioll* is also a fish wier that is arranged near the edge of the reef. The arrangement opens toward outside of the reef. There is a trap at the interior of the rock arrangement that catches the fish when it enters.

### *Kereel*

*Kereel* are coconut fiber cords used for fishing. (Figure 7)

### *Chirocher*

*Chirocher* is a fish hook carved from strong wood, mother of pearl shell, or *rudel* (type of shellfish)(Figure 5 & 6)

### *Ruul*

*Ruul* is made from coconut leaves. It is used like a net to catch fish. (Figure 4)

### *Chebingel*

*Chebingel* is a trap made of bamboos and *lild* (small bamboos). There are two types of *chebingel*. One is made of the regular bamboos woven together and the other is made of small bamboos (*lild*) also woven together. *Chebingel* is huge bamboo trap that has two arms extended from the front of the trap that serves as a path to direct fish into the trap. The trap's entrance is called *chural*. A smaller trap called *ilengel bub* is attached to the back of the bigger trap. The fish enter the bigger trap and from the bigger trap they move to the smaller trap. The fish are collected from the *ilengel bub* (small trap).

## **Traditional Items and Properties in a Clan**

Clans own valuable items and properties. Valuable items can be made by an individual or by a group of people. The head of the clan is responsible to find a skilled person to build the clan canoe and the house, where he resides and where traditional ceremonies are held. The clan canoe is used for activities of the clan members, too.

## **Clan Communal Properties**

1. *Omekedcheraol blai ra kebliil*- This is the house where the head of the clan lives;
2. *Chutem (omsolel a kebliil)*- Land for the clan house;

3. *Mesei ra kebliil (lkul a dui)*- The taro patch where the clan leader's wife harvests taro for food. When the head of the clan dies the *meolt* (young coconut leaf) that is used to transfer the title from one man to another will be buried in this taro patch;
4. *Odesongel (olekull ra kebliil)*: A stone platform used as a cemetery for clan members, it is situated in front of the clan house.

## Traditional Items and Properties of a Village

There are other valuable items and properties that are owned by the whole village. These village properties can be used by the villagers with the consent of the high chief. Village items are:

1. *Omsangel ra udoud*- a money basket kept in a particular house in the village. The money is used to pay the village credits and to pay for the construction of a *bai* (meeting house), *diangel* (canoe shed), or canoes.
2. *Rrengodel el bai ma diangel*- *Bai* is a meeting house. There are two different kinds of *bai*, one for the chiefs and the other for the young men's club. This is a place where festive occasions take place. *Diangel* is a canoe shed that all villagers can use, certain parts are reserved for the chiefs.
3. *Mlai beluu*- Village canoes are used for village functions, one man in the village takes care of them. *Kabekel* is the type of canoe that belongs to the village.

Listed below are properties owned by the village:

1. *chutem beluu*- village land;
2. *delmeklochel*- marsh land;
3. *ked*- hills;
4. *diong*- bathing spot;
5. *omoachel*- stream;

6. *iliud*- stone platform for resting;
7. *rael chades*- stone path;
8. *olkerodel*- harbor;
9. *keburs*- mangroves;
10. *oliochel ra beluu*- boundry between villages;
11. *cheleched*- shallow area exposed at low tide;
12. *euatel*- fortification;
13. *debusech*- conch shell;
14. *ongkerongel*- watchtower;
15. *roisbeluu*- mountain;
16. *tungelchutem*- sacred land;
17. *obuokel*- place where *buuk* (*Pandanus kanehirae*) grows.

## Traditional War Weapons (Figure 47)

Listed below are specific weapons used for wars.

### *Uloech ma etkongel*

*Uloech* is a spear carved from betel wood and its spikes are small pieces of bamboo, or *rus* (tip end of a sting ray's tail). *Etkongel* is a spear thrower that is made from bamboo. (Figure 42 & 43)

### *Olechodech*

*Olechodech* is a war club carved from betel wood. Its tip can be made of bamboo but some *olechodech* are entirely made from betel wood. The small bamboo tip is very sturdy. (Figure 34)

### *Ubirech*

*Ubirech* is similar to *olechodech* but lighter. *Uloech*, *olechodech*, and *ubirech* all have handles that measure the lengths of an arm. (Figure 35)



### *Besos*

*Besos* is a paddle that is similar to the canoe paddle but it is smaller and has a small bamboo blade. Its handle is approximately one arm long.

### *Brotech*

*Brotech* is a wooden paddle used as a war club. It is as long as the length of the forearm and has a string attached to it. *Brotech* is carved on one side and has three corrugations that are each three-fingers wide. (Figure 12)

### *Chereall*

*Chereal* is a wood with shark teeth attached to it or shark teeth intertwined into a fiber string. (Figure 11)

### *Teleber ma Bakituu*

*Teleber* is a hatchet (a small ax with a handle). *Bakituu* is similar to *ebakl* (adze). The blades of these two weapons are made from clam shell and have a wood handle.

### *Rus*

*Rus* is taken from the end tip of a sting ray's tail. A large *rus* is used as blade of *uloech*. The smaller *rus* are intertwined into a fiber string that is tied to the hand or can be carried in the loincloth. It is used like *chereall*. (Figure 10)

There are some tools that not everybody owns because not everybody has the skill to use them. These items are used for the skill of *omelngod* (tattooing), *omelenges* (making coconut syrup), and *omelai el charm* (hunting birds).

## Tatooing Tools

*Omelngod* is the skill of tatooing. Tatooing requires the following tools:

1. *Dngod*- a needle made from the sharp teeth of a needle fish or the bone of a bird;
2. *Chelebed*- a mallet made of a plant called *sui* (*Alpinia pubiflora*) used to hit the needle;
3. *Chas*- the ink used for tatooing. It is made of the soot of burned *beror* resin or bamboo leaves.

## Tools for Making Coconut Syrup

*Omelenges* is the skill of making coconut sap. (Figure 49)  
Listed below are the tools used in this skill.

1. *omail*- husked coconut shell with an opening on top (Figure 22);
2. *oles ra kim*- knife made of clam shell (Figure 25);
3. *ngebtakl*- foot strap for climbing made of hibiscus fibers
4. *ongelungel el bambuu*- a pole made from bamboo, it is used for shoulder carrying (Figure 21);
5. *oltall*- clay pot for boiling coconut sap;
6. *chirt*- spoon made from coconut shell;
7. *olad*- whetstone from *chesulech* (flat stone) (Figure 24);
8. *ongeomel*- half of a clam shell (Figure 23);
9. *olkiuul el buk*- a plate to place the used *chirt* on;
10. *besebes*- rope made from hibiscus fibers;
11. *ongermetellel a omail*- cleaning instrument for *omail* made from coconut fiber attached to bamboo;
12. *techerakl ra omail*- hook for *omail*;
13. *techiir ra lius*- handnet from coconut sheath;
14. *bekai* and *bengel*- *bekai* is a container to hold the coconut syrup and *bengel* is a cover woven from pandanus leaf.

## Hunting Tools (Figures 46 & 48)

Listed below are tools for hunting birds:

1. *Balech*- arrow (Figure 8);
2. *Sikerou*- hand net with a handle (Figure 2);
3. *Boes ra ulekbut*- *ulekbut* is a blow gun that is made from a bamboo with a cotton wad at the rear end and uses the breath to shoot it out (Figure 9);
4. *Bedikl*- trap made from wood and fiber string (Figure 29);
5. *Tiuallech*- stick for throwing made from a small piece of wood;
6. *Uuid ra kerrekar*- resin of a tree.

## Traditional Paint

### *Oriich el chutem*

*Oriich el chutem* is a yellow paint for canoes, houses, and etc. that need to be painted. This yellow paint is taken from a yellowish earth, that is sorted into smaller particles and is mixed with water. The mixture is left alone until the sediment settles on the bottom, thus creating the yellow color used for painting.

### *Laok ra cheritem*

*Laok ra cheritem* is a varnish applied after the first coating. The varnish is produced from the fruit of *cheritem* (*Parinarium glaberrimum*). The fruit is grated and boiled. Then it is pressed with the help of an instrument called *oserochel* to produce the oil. The oil is the varnish called *laok ra cheritem*. This oil is poured into a container and placed inside a taro patch to keep it cool. When a canoe or a house is ready for varnishing, the varnish is taken out from the taro patch, it is heated to melt it and then it is applied to the item that had been painted before.

### *Chaus*

*Chaus* is a white colored paint. *Chaus* is lime produced from burned coral, clam shell, or *badelchei* (rock from the reef).

### *Chas*

*Chas* is a black paint made from the soot of a burned *beror* (tree grown on the rock islands) or bamboo leaves.

## Traditional Items and Properties in Sonsorol

Sonsorol had different valuable items and properties in a household, clan, and village. All the below listed items if not otherwise indicated are items of a household. Clan properties are the houses (*imri hai rang*), the land (*masalo hai rang*), and the canoes (*wari hai rang*). Village properties are the beach (*ori pie*), the sea (*tati*), and the road (*yara*).

In traditional Sonsorol cooking pots were not in use. Food was wrapped in coconut leaves and cooked over the fire.

### *Ititi*

*Ititi* is a spoon similar to *chirt*. This is used to ladle liquid food. It is made from coconut or nautilus shell.

### *Renir hade dei*

*Renir hade dei* is a funnel used to fill a container with coconut syrup. It is made from a coconut shell that has a hole.

### *Poul*

*Poul* is similar to *omail* (husked coconut shell with an opening on top). This is to contain coconut sap. It is made from coconut shell and has three strings attached to it.

### *Perik*

*Perik* is a scraper made from coconut shell or *ktor* (*Tellina virgata*). It is strictly used with the hand. The scraper is held in one hand and the object to be scraped in the other hand.

### *Habur*

*Habur* is a lamp, made of half of a clam shell. Coconut fiber is used as wick and coconut oil for fuel. Grated coconuts are dried

under the sun and pressed to produce the oil for fuel.

### *Sibesib*

*Sibesib* are tongs used for cooking food and they are made from a young *ulach* (petiole of a coconut frond).

### *Takaku ri ititi*

*Takaku ri ititi* is a ladle for water made from coconut shell.

### *Sob and Haut*

*Sob* is a woven mat that has many uses within the house as a flooring for the house, as a blanket (*haut*), or as a wrap for a dead person. *Sob* is woven from pandanus leaves.

### *Tapie dud and Fadud dud*

*Tapie dud* is a mortar carved from strong wood. *Fadud dud* is a pestle made from clam shell, strong wood, or rock from the reef. *Tapie dud* and *fadud dud* are instruments for pounding breadfruit and *bisech* (*Alocasia macrorrhiza*). Any man can make these instruments.

### *Takaka*

*Takaka* is a large spoon made from coconut shell. It is used to scoop soup.

### *Harais*

*Harais* is a bag woven from coconut leaves. In the old times Sonsorolese did not chew betel nut therefore, *harais* was used to carry their personal belongings. *Harais* was owned by male and female elders.

## *Ufa*

*Ufa* is a general term for clothing. *Yongi yongi* is a type of grass skirt that is worn by young children. It is made from coconut leaves. *Epeh* is another type worn by adults and it is made from pandanus leaves. Another type is *mesie*, made from banana fibers. Wealthy families usually use *mesie* because they can afford it.

## *Horori Puu*

*Horori puu* is a cord used to hold the grass skirt in place. It is made from coconut leaves, pandanus leaves, or hibiscus fibers.

## *Bur*

*Bur* is a belt similar to the above mentioned one. It is made of coconut shell and used by high ranking families.

## *Lang*

*Lang* is turmeric mixed with coconut oil. *Lang* is rubbed on the body as a medication for skin diseases. It is used as decoration during dances, rubbed on a dead person, or can be mixed in the food.

## *Latad*

*Latad* is a comb made from strong wood. The comb of a man is decorated with a white-tail feather of the *dudek* (*Phaethon lepturus*). The comb of woman does not have any decoration.

## *Iet*

*Iet* is a pole for picking fruit. This pole is made of a hibiscus branch or of bamboo.

## *Tae taei morue*

*Tae taei morue* is a half moon shaped instrument used to peel

*bisech* (wild taro) and *brak* (giant taro). It is made from clam shell.

## Men's Valuable Items

### *Baiasaro*

*Baiasaro* is an ax with a wooden handle and a clam shell blade. It is used to hew wood as for instance canoes as well as other materials.

### *Tarae*

*Tarae* is an adze with a narrow blade. Its shaft is of wood and the blade is made of clam shell. There are two kinds of *tarae*:

1. *okot*- the blade is curved and is used to hew the interior of a canoe;
2. *hasan*- the blade is straight and is used to hew the exterior of the canoe.

### *Tala*

*Tala* is a loincloth made of hibiscus fibers. Young and old men use the same style of loincloth. *Tala* for navigators are dyed and they are called *mesietau*.

### *Fatari ya do*

*Fatari ya do* is a wooden needle used to sew coconut leaves into roofs. It is made from strong wood.

### *Tani hasetar*

*Tani hasetar* is coconut fiber rope used to assist in climbing breadfruit trees. The rope is about 30 feet long. A pole is used to bring one end of the rope over a branch. This will make the ends of the rope hang from the branch. A man holds on to the rope while climbing up the tree.



### *Iafitek*

*Iafitek* is a climbing strap for the hand made of hibiscus fibers. It is about 6 feet long and is used to climb trees like breadfruit, *rebotel* (*Eugenia javanica*), or coconut.

### *Ia pitek ri kub*

*Ia pitek ri kub* is a foot strap for climbing. It is also made from hibiscus or coconut fibers.

## Fishing Gear

Sonsorol had many techniques and tools for fishing. Listed below are fishing gears:

### *Hasaiko*

*Hasaiko* is kite fishing. A kite called *sauri hasiko* is used in this type of fishing. These are the different tools for this kind of fishing:

1. *yaori hasaiko*- fishing line made of hibiscus fibers;
2. *sauri mai*- breadfruit leaf;
3. *temikel*- subsidiary rib of coconut frond after the leaves have been stripped off;
4. *hatabulala* or *haidrur*- spider web or shark skin tissue called *haidrur*.

Listed below are different kinds of hooks used in Sonsorol. Each of these hooks has a distinctive use:

1. *hauri halele*- to catch *mor* (small-toothed squirrel fish);
2. *haufong*- used to catch trigger fish;
3. *yaori firang*- to catch big fish in pelagic waters;
4. *yaoori hamaru*- to catch tuna fish
5. *makaori biri*- pole fishing.

### *Pari Bir and Hari bir*

*Pari bir* is a type of hook made from clam shell with a chicken feather attached to it. This is used to catch *halangab* (tuna fish). *Hari bir* is a hook made of turtle shell combined with *pari bir*.

### *Tuur*

*Tuur* is night fishing using fire to attract fish and a hand net to catch the fish .

1. *tur-* torch made from old coconut leaves tied together with young pandanus roots.
2. Hibiscus fiber or coconut fiber tied to a wooden circular frame, that is used to catch the fish called *kok* (*Cypseluris californicus*) when it surfaces.

### *Souri warimat*

*Souri warimat* is a net used to catch fish on the reef. It is made from hibiscus fibers and is used during low tide.

### *Faani*

*Fanni* is a hand held wooden trap. It is constructed from intertwined hibiscus fibers tied to a wooden frame. *Faani* is used to catch small reef fish. A bait is placed inside the trap to lure the fish.

### *Uko*

*Uko* is a net made of coconut or hibiscus fibers.

## **Traditional Properties in a Clan**

### *Masar*

*Masar* is a piece of land with different plants on it.

## *Fari ouor*

*Fari ouor* is a piece of land where giant taro grows.

## *Wa*

There are different kinds of canoes in Sonsorol:

1. *waarap*- transportation from one place to another (6-8 people);
2. *watur*- can carry 5 people to go fishing;
3. *haramaak/ warihalele*- carries only one person for fishing;
4. *waar*- carries 2 to 3 people for fishing.

## **Traditional War Weapons**

1. *iladayau*- a hard wooden club used to hit a person;
2. *nir paho*- hard wood with shark teeth attached to it;
3. *pako*- a fist weapon made of fiber cord with shark teeth attached;
4. *pako waru*- a stick with shark teeth on its forked ends. One end is used to hit in a circular motion whereas the other end is used to pierce like a spear;
5. *kadiki*- this is a spear made of hard wood with coconut shell on its tip;
6. *fadal* and *hauhau*- *fadal* is a forked stick used to grab the opponent's hand whereas the *hauhua* is a stick that has the form of an adze. It is used to hook the opponents hand and break it.

## **Tattooing Tools**

1. *burat*- seeds of *btaches* (*Calophyllum inophyllum*) are burned and their soot is used for ink;
2. *fari rukuri pureya*- a thin strip of coconut frond is used to make straight lines for tattoo designs;
3. *harit*- needle made from the wing bone of a bird;
4. *taiio*- a wooden mallet used to paddle the *harit* into the skin;

5. *baloo*- a square wooden box to hold the *harit* for tatooing.

## Tools for Making Coconut Syrup

### *Poul*

*Poul* is similar to *omail* (a husked coconut shell with an opening on top). It is used to collect the coconut sap from the coconut buds.

### *Hosch*

*Hosch* is a string made of coconut fibers. It is used to hold the *poul* to the coconut flower where it collects the sap.

### *Paluri hos*

*Paluri hos* is a scraper made from clam or oyster shell. It is used to scrape the tip of the coconut flower.

### *Tiki*

*Tiki* is a cleaning brush for the *poul*. It is made from *chesechosu* (spade of the coconut frond) with a wooden handle.

### *Yao ri hadil*

*Yao ri hadil* is a fiber cord used to bring the *poul* from the coconut tree down to the ground.

## Hunting Tools

### *Sorimar*

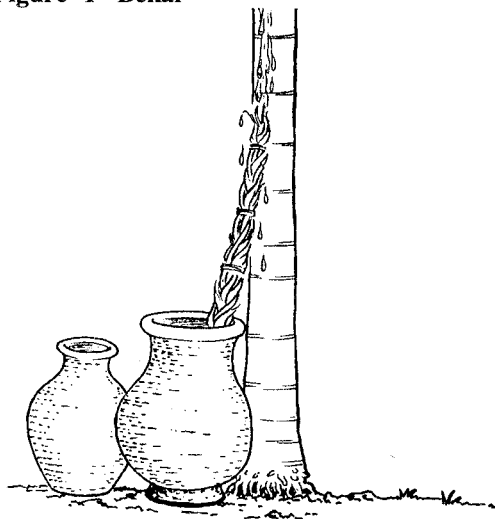
*Sorimar* is a net shaped like *techou* (hand net). It consists of a wooden handle and a fiber cord net.

### *Falorimar*

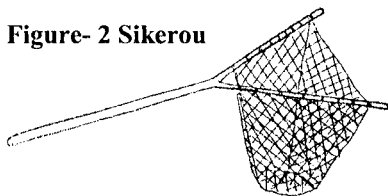
*Falorimar* is a trap made from *temikel* (subsidiary ribs of

coconut fronds after the leaves have been stripped off). This is used to trap a bird that is laying an egg.

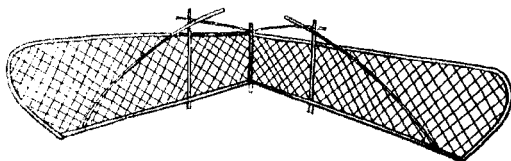
**Figure- 1 Bekai**



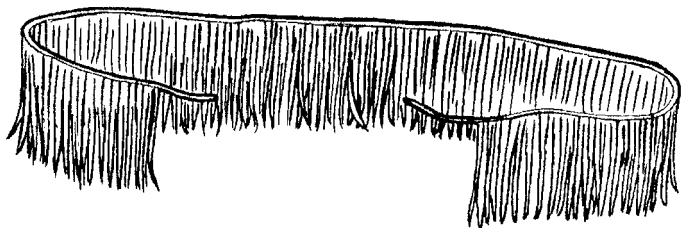
**Figure- 2 Sikerou**



**Figure- 3 Derau**

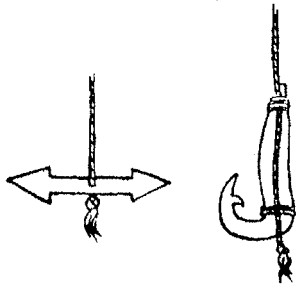


**Figure- 4 Ruul**



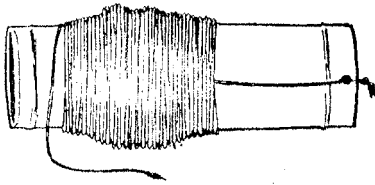
**Figure - 5**

**Figure - 6**

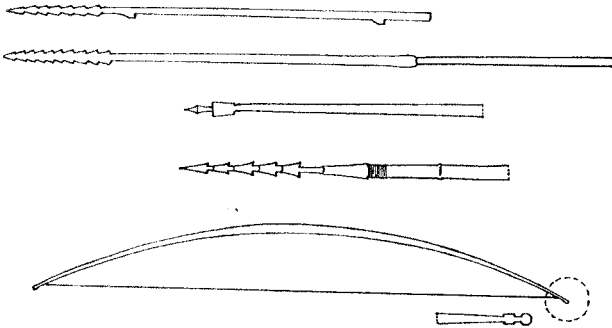


**Chirocher**

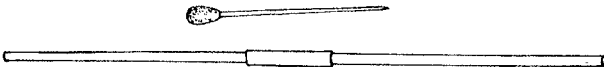
**Figure- 7 Kereel**



**Figure-8 Balech**

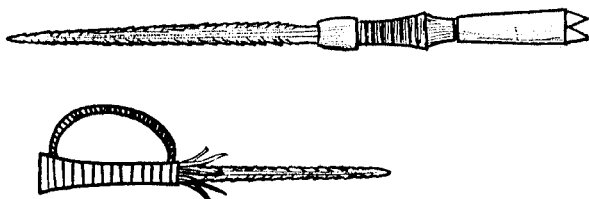


**Figure- 9 Boes ra Ulekbut**

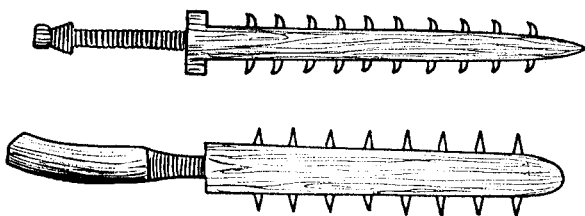




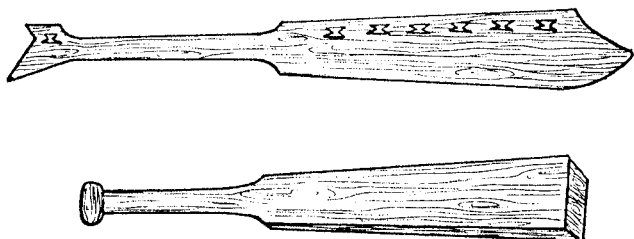
**Figure- 10 Rus**



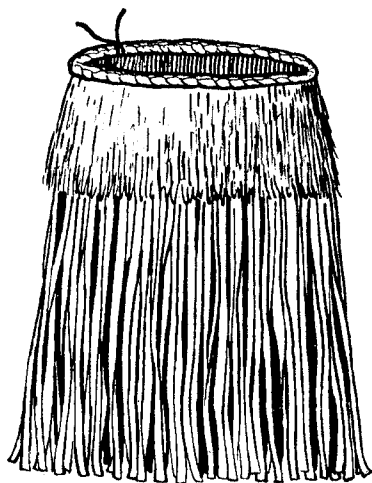
**Figure- 11 Chereal**



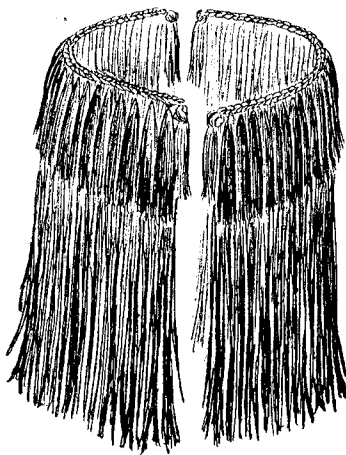
**Figure-12 Broth**



**Figure-13 Cheriut**



**Ulkesiu**



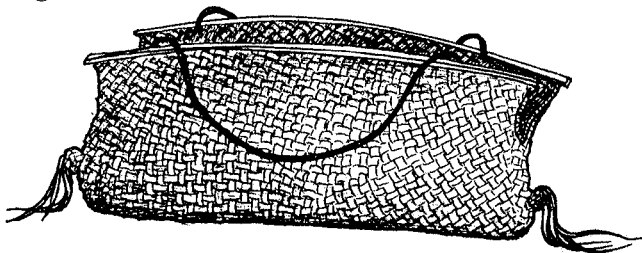
**Figure- 14 (Orrekodel)**



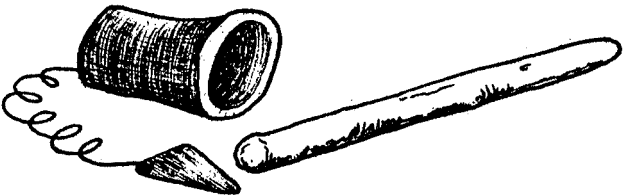
**Figure- 15a Orsachel**

**Figure-15b Olchesachel**

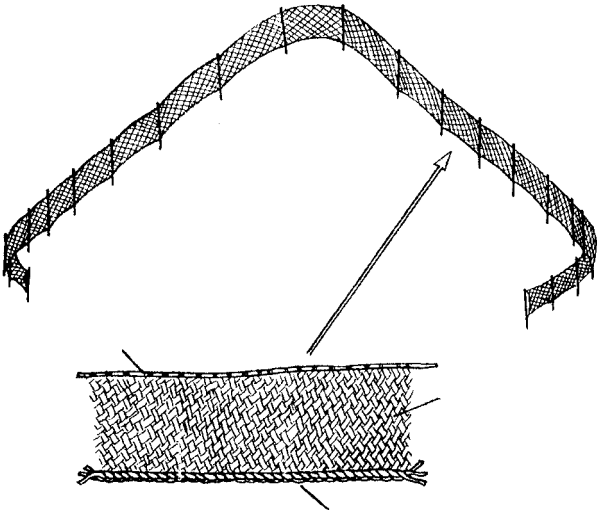
**Figure-16 Tet**



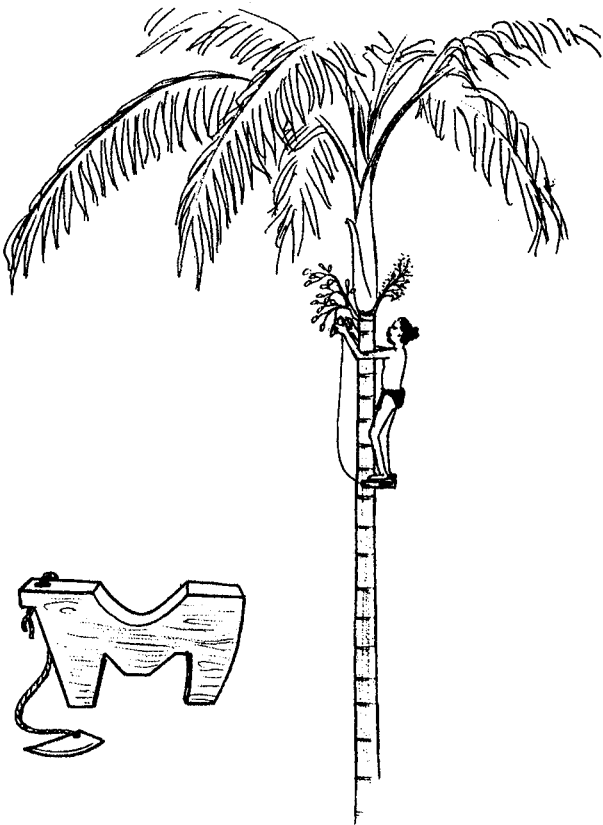
**Figure- 17 Orusche el kim**



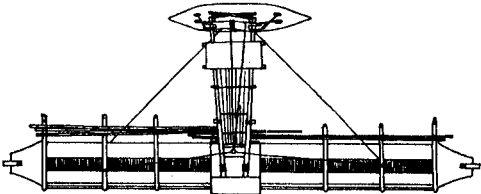
**Figure-18 Uuked**



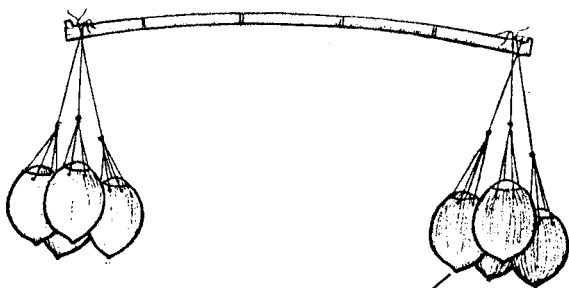
**Figure- 19 Oremael**



**Figure-20 Kaeb**

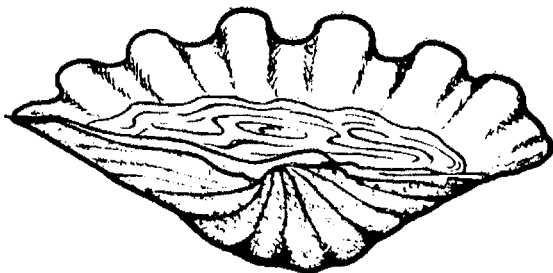


**Figure- 21 Ongelungel el bambuu**



**Figure - 22 Omail**

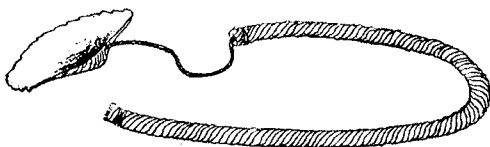
**Figure- 23 Ongeomel**



**Figure- 24 Olad**

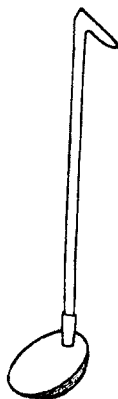
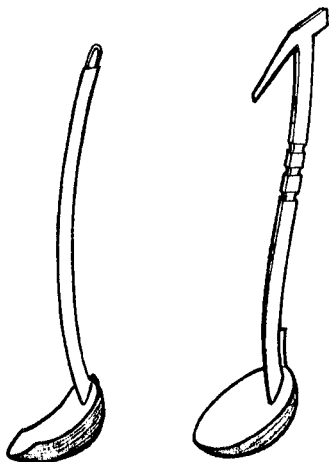


**Figure- 25 Onges ra rabung**



**Figure- 26 Chirt**

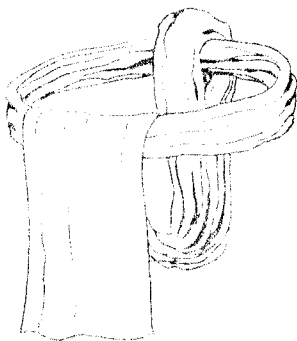
**Figure- 27 Ongosu ra**



**Figure-26 Ingukl**

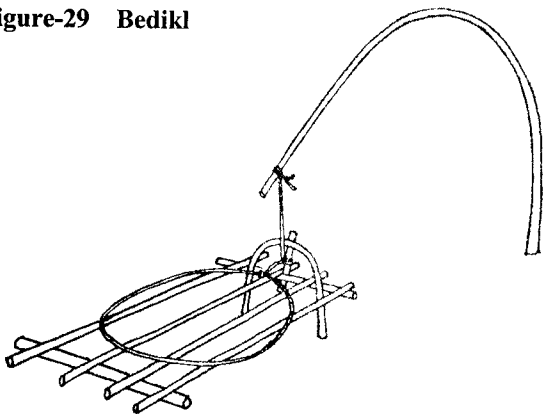


**Figure- 28 Usaker**

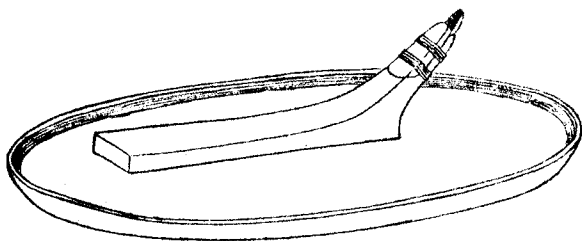




**Figure-29 Bedikl**



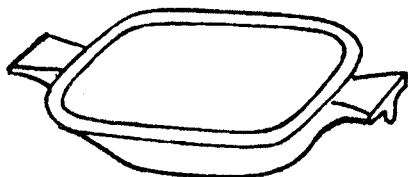
**Figure- 30 Onges (Ongerkor)**



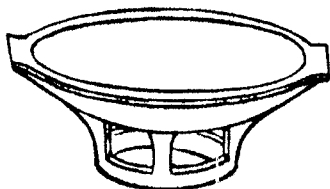
**Figure- 31 Ongall**



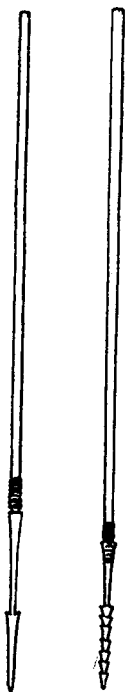
**Figure- 32 Omball**



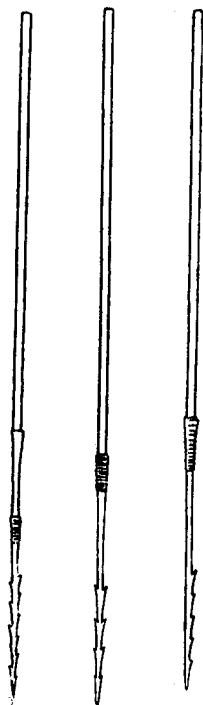
**Figure-33 Buk**



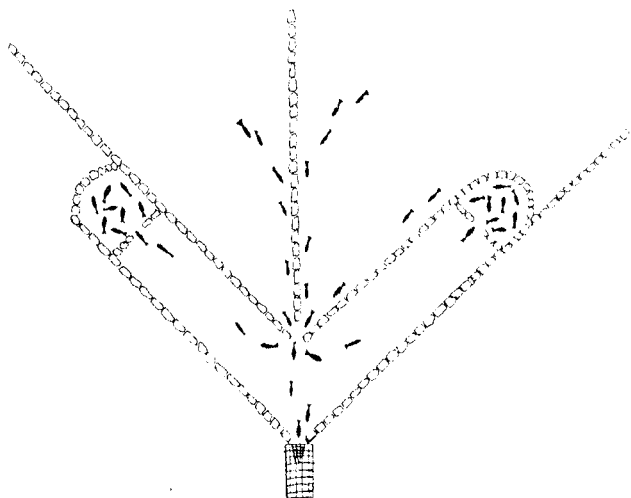
**Figure- 34**



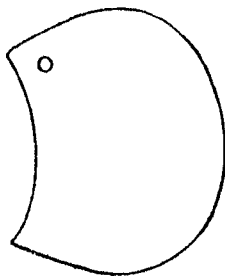
**Figure- 35 Ubirech**



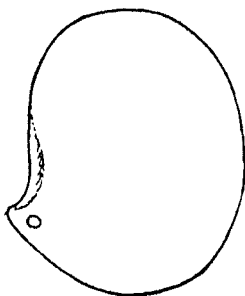
**Figure-36 Beng**



**Figure- 37 Ngark**



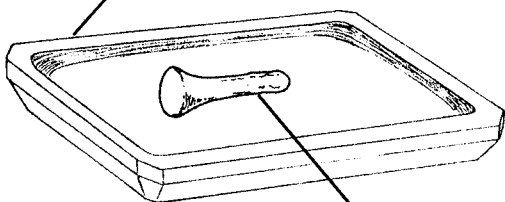
**Figure-38 Chesiuch**



**Figure-39 Oliich**



**Figure-40 Ngot**



**Figure-41 Chai**

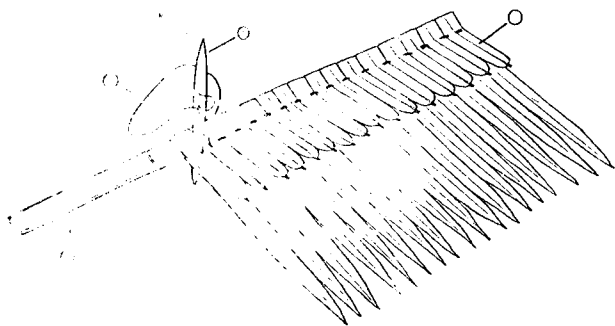
**Figure-42 Etkongel**



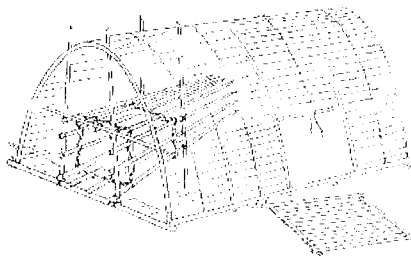
**Figure-43 Uloech**



**Figure-44 Rasm ra Such**



**Figure-45 Bub**



**Figure-46 Omelai el Charm (Balech)**



Figure-47 Mekemad





**Figure- 49- Omelenges**

