

THE BONE POINT, KNOWN AS *MUDUK*, IN EASTERN AUSTRALIA.

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(Plate xxxiii and Figures 1-2.)

For some years the *muduk* has been collected on kitchen-middens along the coast of New South Wales and Victoria; examples were found by Harper (1) in a cave deposit which he dug out at Port Hacking in 1899, and the excavation of the Devon Downs cave on the Lower Murray River yielded them in the Mudukian layers especially (2, p. 189-190, figs. 111-7, 153, 155-6, 125-6). A great deal of reliable evidence indicates that the principal use of the *muduk* was as a dual spear point and barb, but it has not been recognized; consequently, on the basis of one record from the Geelong district, Victoria, (12, p. 391), it is generally termed a fish-gorge. In this paper a review of the data is given, together with descriptions of spear prongs bearing *muduk* kindly presented to the Australian Museum by Mr. Ivor Jones, and of other specimens now available.

Records in Literature.

In 1770 Captain Cook (3) observed that some natives he saw at Botany Bay were all armed with "darts", which had four prongs pointed with fish bones and stingray spines; these were used more for striking fish than as offensive weapons. He noted also that these natives formed kitchen-middens, because he saw them gathering oysters, mussels, cockles, etc., on the mud banks, and saw mussels broiling on the fires at their camps.

In 1789 Captain Phillip (4) said that the natives of Botany Bay more frequently point their grass-tree spears with bone than by sharpening the point of the stem. In 1790 White (5) figured a four-pronged fish-spear from the neighbourhood of Port Jackson, and said that each of the prongs is terminated by the tooth of a fish stuck on by a lump of gum cement. In 1793 Captain Hunter (6) described fish-spears in Port Jackson as having 1, 2, 3, or 4 prongs, pointed and barbed with a fish, or animal's, bone, and Captain Tench (7) said they were barbed with the bone of kangaroos.

In 1798 Collins (8) said that the "natives on the sea-coast (from Botany Bay to Broken Bay) procure fish with the fiz-gig, which is made of wattle, and has a joint in it fastened by gum. It is from 15 to 20 feet in length, and armed with four barbed prongs, the barb being a piece of bone fastened by gum."

In 1816 Péron (9) figured a four-pronged fish-spear from Port Jackson. In 1843 Backhouse (10) recorded that he met a party of natives at the foot of Cambewarra Mountains who were carrying multi-pronged spears. In 1845 Hodgkinson (11) figured a native using a three-pronged fish-spear on the Bellingen