AN AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE.

1. 2. 3.

Head
Makarta
kuli
kuli

Two heads
Makartilla
kuleg
kuleg

Heads
Makartanna
kular
kular

One
Kuna
yanumuli
yammalaitye

Two
Purlaitye
neigeg
neigeg

Three
Mankutye
maalda
maalda.

Four
Purlaitye-pur
kukar-kukar
kiggarug or
kukar-kar

(C.)

GRAMMAR

OF THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY

THE ABORIGINES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

[This short sketch of the Grammar of the language of Western Australia is the only one that I can find anywhere. It is in "The Western Australian Almanac for 1842," and is printed there as an appendix, compiled by Cha. Symmons, Protector of the Aborigines, from material furnished by Mr. Francis F. Armstrong, the native interpreter. Some portions of it are taken from the preface to Captain (Sir George) Grey's vocabulary. I have abridged the material of the Grammar, and adapted it to present uses.—Ed.]

The Plural number is indicated by adding the numerals, but all beyond three are bula, 'much,' 'many.' The words for human beings add -man, or -arra, or -garr to form the plural; man is an abbreviated form of man-da, 'altogether,' 'collectively.' Words ending with a vowel take -man; those ending with a consonant take -garra; as, kardo, 'a husband or wife,' plu., kardo-man; yago, 'a woman,' plu., yago-man; djuko, 'sister,' plu., djuko-man; mammul, 'son,' plu., mammul-garra; gula-g, 'a child,' plu., gula-g-garra.

DECLENSION OF A NOUN.

Yago, 'a woman.'

Singular.

Nom. Yago
Gen. Yago-ak
Dat. Yago-ol or Yago-ul
Acc. Yago-in
Abl. Yago-al

Plural.

Nom. Yago-man
Gen. Yago-man-ak
Dat. Yago-man-ol or Yago-man-ul
Acc. Yago-man-in
Abl. Yago-man-al

The Ablative means 'with,' 'by means of.'

Examples:—Yago maiak-ul yugau bardi-a, 'a woman came to the house'; n'aggja yago-ak wanna, 'that is a woman's staff'; gadjo marain yago-al yogaga, 'I gave flour to a woman'; gadjo yago-in djinnag-ga, 'I saw a woman'; budjo yago-al bianaga, 'the ground was dug by a woman.'

The commonest and most useful nouns are:

Time, Weather, &c.

Cloud—mar-gabbi.
Comet (meteor)—binnar.
Darkness—maiart.
Dawn—waaru.
Daylight—birait.
Lightning—babbi-g-win.
Mid-day—malyarak.
Moon—miki.
Moonlight—mik-ag.
Rain—gabbi; mokoko.
Sky—gudjait.
Stars—gan-gar.
Sun—gan-ga.
Sunshine—monak.
Thunder—mulgar.
To-day—aiyi.
To-morrow—morogoto; binag.
Yesterday—mairh-ruk.

Elements.

Air (wind)—mar.
Earth—budjor.
Fire—kalla.
Water—gabbi.

Seasons.

Spring—jilba.
Summer—birok.
Autumn—burnuro.
Winter—mig-goro.

Individuals.

A man—mammarapak.
An old man—winda.
A young man—gulambiddi.
A woman—yago.
An old woman—winda.
A young woman—mandigara.
AN AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE.

2. ADJECTIVES.

The adjectives most commonly in use are:

Alive-wonnagin; dordak Hot-kallag.
Angry-gitlTag Like (similar)-mogin.
Arm (left)-n'yardo. Little-n'yu-map.
" (right)-gun-man. Long-length-walaiadi.
Bad-djul. Low-gar-dilk.
Big-gomon. Narrow-nulu.
Bitter-djallam. Near-bard uk.
Black-moan. Old-windo.
Clear (as water)-karrail. Red-wilgilag.
Cold-nagga. Short-gorad (-da).
Dead-wonnaga. Sick-mendaik.
Dry (not wet)--ilar. Slow-dabbak.
Far away-urar. Soft-gunyak.
Fresh-milgar. Tall-urri.
Good-gwabba. Thin-kotyelarra.
High-iragan. Wild-waii-waii.

A substantive acquires an adjective meaning by taking such suffixes as -gadilk, 'having, possessing,' -bru, 'without,' which corresponds to the English suffix 'less'; as, jiga 1 a-gadilk, 'having horns,' 'a cow'; kardo-gadilk, 'having a husband or wife, 'married'; boka-bru, 'cloak-less'; gabbi-bru, 'without water.'

Comparison of Adjectives.

Some adjectives add jin for the comparative; as, from dabbak, 'slow,' dabbak-jiin, 'slower'; gwidjir, 'sharp,' gwidjir-jiin, 'sharper'; yerrak, 'high,' yerrak-jiin, 'higher.' But usually a reduplication makes the comparative, and jil is added to the base for the superlative; as, gwabba, 'good,' gwabba-gwabba, 'better'; gwabba-jiil, 'best.' This intensive particle jil, equivalent to 'verily,' may be added to other parts of speech; as, kardo-jiil, 'one who is in the direct line for marrying with another'; dadja-jiil, 'it is certainly meat'; kannah-jiil, 'is it indeed so?' The English 'very' is rendered by a reduplication; as, mulyit-mulyit, 'very sweet.'
Numerals.

‘One,’ gain; ‘two,’ gudjal; ‘three,’ warh-raq; ‘four,’ gudjal-gudjal; ‘five,’ is marh-jin baga, ‘half the hands’; ‘ten’ is belli-belli marh-jin baga, ‘the hand on either side.’

In reckoning time the natives say ‘sleeps’ for days, and ‘summers and winters’ for years. There is no Article.

3. Pronouns.

The pronouns must be carefully used, for a very slight change in the termination of any one of them will alter altogether the force and meaning of a sentence.

The personal pronouns are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gadjo, or ganya, ‘I.’</td>
<td>Galata, ‘we.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N’yundo, or ginni, ‘thou.’</td>
<td>N’yurag, ‘ye.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bal, ‘he, she, it.’</td>
<td>Balgung, ‘they.’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

They are thus declined:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st.</th>
<th>2nd.</th>
<th>3rd.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>Gadjo</td>
<td>N’yundo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
<td>Ganna</td>
<td>Nyunno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>Ganna</td>
<td>N’yuragin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>Ganna</td>
<td>Bal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abl.</td>
<td>Ganna</td>
<td>Balgal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abl.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are thus two forms for the Sing. Nom. of the first and second pronouns; gadjo and n’yundo seem to be used with an active sense of the verb, but ganya and ginni with a passive sense; for there is no passive form of the verb, and there is no verb ‘to be;’ ganya and ginni are always used with a particle or an adjective; gadjo and n’yundo are never so used.

Examples of their use:—Gadjo djinnag, ‘I see,’ but ganya bardin, ‘I am going;’ gadjo dtan, ‘I pierce,’ but ganya gannauin, ‘I am eating;’ gadjo burno dendaqaga, ‘I climbed a tree,’ but ganya wangalal bukanaga, ‘I was bitten by a snake;’ ganya windo, ‘I am old;’ ganya garrag, ‘I am angry.’ Similarly for the second pronouns; as, n’yundo kattidj, ‘do you understand?’, but yan ginni wangaunin, ‘what are you talking about?’ n’yundo naitják gabb ganna gagnaunbru, ‘why do you not fetch me water?’ but ginni naitják bala bumaunin, ‘why are you beating me?’; ginni djul ‘you are wicked;’ ginni goradda, ‘you are short.’

4. Verbs.

The verbs in most common use are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arise—irabin</td>
<td>Fight—bakadju</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beat—buma</td>
<td>Fly—bårág</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Become—abbin</td>
<td>Go—bando; warro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bite—bakkana</td>
<td>Go away—kolbardo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break—takkana</td>
<td>Hear—kattidj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring; carry off; take</td>
<td>Pain—bakkana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>away—bårág</td>
<td>Pierce—dtan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marry—kardo bårág</td>
<td>See—djinnag; ganaun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burn (fire)—burrarap</td>
<td>Sit—ginnan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bury—bianan</td>
<td>Speak—wan-gana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry—gaun</td>
<td>Spear—gidjal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook—jukun</td>
<td>Stand—yugan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cry—mirag</td>
<td>Take—gagaun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cry out—mirau</td>
<td>Tear—jeran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dig—bian</td>
<td>Throw—gwardo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eat, drink—gana; nalgo</td>
<td>Tie—yutarn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear—wan</td>
<td>Understand—kattidj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk—gannah.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DECLENSION OF A TRANSITIVE VERB.

### Imperatives

- **Come here**—kowa-kowa, yul
- **Go on**—gatti
- **Get up**—irap
- **Go away**—watto

### Tenses

1. **Indic. present.** For this, use either the infinitive or the form of the present participle; as, gadjio djinnag, 'I see'; but ganya bumawin, 'I am beating.'
2. **Indic. preterite.** Use the past participle, or add -ga to the infinitive; the relative distance of the past time of periods is indicated by prefixing to the tense the words gori, 'just now,' karamb, 'a short time since,' gorah, 'a long time ago.'
3. **Indic. future.** Here the first and second personal pronouns singular become gadjul and n'yundul, 'I will,' 'you will.' The distance of the future time is indicated by placing before the verb the adverbs burda, 'presently,' and melia for any more remote time.
4. **Imperative mood.** Lay emphasis on the last vowel of the present indicative.
5. **Participle present.** Add -in or -win to the infinitive.
6. **Passive voice.** Here the form of the sentence is elliptical; therefore ganya, ginni are used with the past participle and the ablative of the instrument or cause.

### Declension of Buma

**Infinite**—Buma.  **Part. pres.**—Bumawin.  **Part. past.**—Bumaga.


These numbers indicate the Tenses as shown above.

*The pronouns to be used here are:—Sing. ganya, ginni, bal; Plur. galata, n'yurag, balgun; but instead of ganya and ginni, T. 2. takes gadjio and nyundo; there use the forms gadjul, n'yundul.

**Passive Voice.** For the passive voice, use the same tense-forms as in the active voice, that is, buma for the pres. and the fut., and burda for the past, but prefix to them the **accusative** cases of the personal pronouns; thus, ganyain gori bumaga, 'I was beaten lately'; lit., 'some one' beat me lately.' But the ablative of the cause or instrument may also be used to form a passive voice; thus, ganya gidjiāl dtannagā, 'I am pierced by a spear.'

The substantive verb.—There does not appear to be any copula; it is certainly not used in such sentences as ganyayulap, 'I am hungry'; ginnikotyelara, 'thou art thin'; balwindo, 'he is old'; galata gwabba, 'we are good'; n'yuragdjul, 'you are wicked'; balgun mindait, 'they are sick.'

5. ADVERBS.

The adverb is placed before the verb; useful adverbs are:

- After (behind)—golan-ga
- Never—yuadja
- Already—gori
- No—yuada
- Always—dowir
- Now—yaadja
- Before (in front)—gwaieagit
- Perhaps—gabbain
- Close to; near—barduk
- So—willnirak
- Continually—kalyagal
- So mally-winnir
- Enough—belak
- That way—wunno
- Formerly—karamb
- There (prox.)—yellinya
- How many—namman
- (remote)—boko; bokoja
- Immediately—gwaic; ilak
- Where—winji; winjal; yan
- Thus—wanno-ie
- Yes—qua
- Yonder—bokoja

6. PREPOSITIONS.

These are few in number:

- *After (dat.)—golag
- On (upon)—gadja
- Among (partitive)—manda
- To—ak or ál
- (mixed with)—kardagor
- With (in company with)—by (affix)—ál
- ginnbitrn (takes the ace.);
- In (within)—bURA
- Of—ak
- Without—bru

In use, they are all post-positions, and are always placed after the noun or pronoun. Gadjia is used of one thing lying on another, but never of anything lying on the ground.

7. INTERROGATION, AFFIRMATION, NEGATION.

A question is asked by putting kannah at the end of the sentence; as, n'yundo tonka, kannah, 'do you hear?' An answer may be given by qua, 'yes,' or by affixing -bák to the word used in reply; as, yallanait, 'what is that? burnu-bák, 'it is a tree.' If the reply is negative, put bart or bru after verbs, and yuanda after adjectives.
8. Conjunctions.

Gudjir, 'and'; minnig, 'if'; ka, 'or.' There is no word for 'when,' but minnig and ka are used in its stead; for instance, 'when I see you to-morrow' will be expressed by 'if I see you to-morrow'; and 'when did you come to Perth'? will be 'did you come to Perth to-day or yesterday'?

9. Interjections.

Nah—ah! so! (to indicate that a person is listening to what is related), and n'yón—'alas'!