



## Staff (Serubule)

### Date

20th Century

### Medium

Wood, cord, mother-of-pearl, clam and shell

### Description

Open-worked, ring-shaped, and other carved shells are each unique in purpose and value among the peoples inhabiting the Roviana Lagoon region. Many shell rings, for instance, were placed in ancestor shrines and found in other significant ritual sites. The serubule combines a variety of ritually significant and highly valuable shells making it a particularly powerful and magical warring charm. In the possession of a chief or person of importance, it was carried on board elaborate war canoes during headhunting voyages to ensure success.

### Dimensions

22 × 3 3/4 × 1/2 in. (55.9 × 9.5 × 1.3 cm)