



## Betel Nut Mortar (Dap Dap)

### Date

20th Century

### Medium

Wood and lime

### Description

This betel nut mortar, vernacular name known as Dap Dap, is from Papua New Guinea area and dates to the 20th century. It is carved in the shape of a kneeling anthropomorphic figure topped with a plain bowl in place of a head. Betel nut, when mixed and chewed with lime powder, becomes a mild stimulant. Chewing betel is a special occasion ritual that occurs at weddings, funerals, births and settlements of disputes; it is present in less formal situations such as a welcoming offer to guests; and

on a daily basis as it is habit forming. Beautifully decorated mortars used to crush the nut are found throughout New Guinea. Some are traded widely and some are presented as bride price.

### Dimensions

6 × 2 1/2 × 2 1/2 in. (15.2 × 6.4 × 6.4 cm)