



Necklace

Date

mid to late 20th Century

Primary Maker

Dani

Medium

Capricorn beetle shell and plant fiber

Description

The Capricorn beetle is a colloquial name for a species of small, black long-horned beetle indigenous to New

Guinea. Even in their day to day lives Dani men wear a significant amount of ornamentation. Necklaces made of beetle wing cases strung as we see here are just one of the many mediums used to adorn the body. It is also important that the trade of ornamental items like these happens throughout New Guinea. Nearby cultures such as the Asmat also used Capricorn beetles as a bead, stringing their heads through plant fiber string to make headhunter necklaces indicating the relative success of the wearer. Based off Jean Brenner’s collection site, it is possible that this object was originally made by the Asmat.

Dimensions

Flexible: 5 1/2 × 5 1/4 × 5/8 in. (14 × 13.3 × 1.6 cm)