

Basic Detail Report



Club (Iula Drisia)

Date
early to mid 20th Century

Medium
Wood

Description

This is a Fijian iula drisia wooden root missile club. Warfare was a constant feature throughout Fijian history, even into the 19th Century, but many weapons’ decorations saw more effort than their utility. Even as weapons intended to break bones and kill, clubs filled an equally important symbolic role as items of immense power in Fiji. These clubs were almost exclusively decorated with intricate carvings or ivory or shell inlays, making them important symbols of status for their owners and valuable exchange items. Iula drisia are a variant of the iula tavatava with spherical heads. Missile clubs were sometimes used as melee weapons, but their intended use as a thrown weapon was far deadlier. It was previously thought that the small triangles at the base of the club were kill tallies, but they in fact mark the passage of feast nights and rituals associated with deceased kin.

Dimensions
16 3/4 × 4 1/8 × 3 7/8 in. (42.5 × 10.5 × 9.8 cm)