

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PUBLICATIONS  
AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

Vol. I

No. 1

---

LIFE AND CULTURE OF THE HUPA

BY

PLINY EARLE GODDARD

BERKELEY  
THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

September, 1903

PRICE \$1.25

## NET MAKING.

For nets and snares the Hupa make twine and rope from the leaves of *Iris macrosiphon*, mestcelen. The material is said to be better when taken from plants growing under oaks than from those found under pines. The leaves are gathered in the fall when fully mature. Two fibers only are obtained from each leaf near the margins. The fibers are separated from the rest of the leaf by drawing it past the thumb on which an artificial nail made from a mussel shell is worn (Pl. 14, Fig. 3). This shell is held in place by a strip of buckskin through which the thumb passes. The fibers are twisted by rolling them between the palm and the thigh, as a shoemaker twists his thread. The final product is two-ply and as large as desired.

The twine for net making is wound on a bobbin (Pl. 14, Fig. 2) about eighteen inches long and having in each end an oval eye. The diameter of the eyes are about three-fourths and five-eighths inches. The ends are pointed for convenience in tying the net. Slits are provided through which the thread passes readily to and from the eye.

Professor Mason says: "The net is knotted like those of civilized people; that is, the thread of each mesh is brought down around the mesh-stick (Pl. 14, Figs. 4 and 5), then through

the bight of the stitch above, and fastened by a half hitch quite around both strands of the same mesh.”\*

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 14.

Fig. 1.—Seine with floats of wood and sinkers of stone.

Fig. 2.—Bobin on which twine is wound.

Fig. 3.—A mussel shell worn on the thumb when separating the marginal fibers of the Iris leaf in twine making.

Figs. 4, 5, and 6.—Mesh-sticks of elk-horn.



4



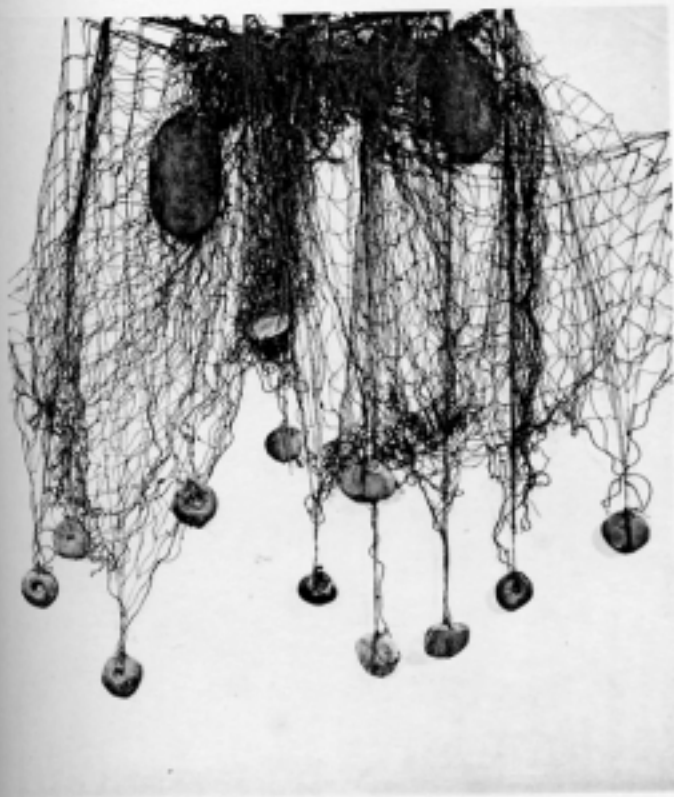
5



6



3



1



2