

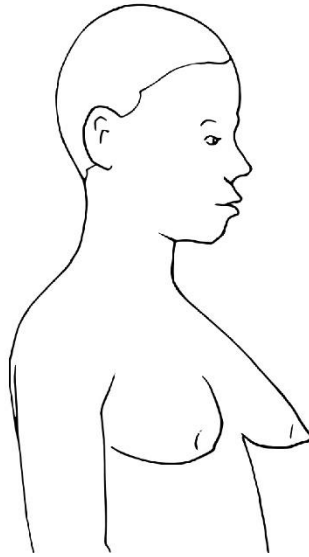


Fig.010 Illustration showing a native girl. In the period before marriage, she is free to experiment her sexuality and pick her partner with whom she is luckily to run off and make love in the very heart of the forest, a magical opening covered in butterflies. Without any shame love is enjoyed in broad light.

Sexuality Among the Natives of Higher Africa

Natives are not so obsessed with sexuality. "Adultery and incest are rare and universally despised" and homosexuality is "virtually unknown". Unlike their black neighbours, natives "never have sexual relations before reaching puberty" (Hallet 1964). Also, natives are "monogamous" which is "extraordinary" since they live "in the midst of the polygamous" blacks. The former show "greater continence in sex than" is found among the latter (Schebesta 1933). But when dancing "individual expression" is not "discouraged" and takes the form of "erotic dancing" strutting and jerking "in obvious imitation of the basic sex act". And not only "mature young ladies" with "pouting breast" make their entrance but even older women "swaying and twitching sensuously" their "bare buttocks". And also, when not dancing women are keen to wear "newly painted bark cloth with both red and black designs" and newly painted "legs and buttocks". Men too may have "well-formed breast" for a condition called "gynecomastia". And while "the two most effectively recognized taboos are incest between a brother and a sister and homosexuality", intimate friendship "between cousins" are common. And for the natives "making love in the warm, bright light of the day" is more romantic than in the "gloomy interior" of a hut (Duffy 1984).