

Fig.075 Illustration showing natives climbing a tree on their way to get wild honey. With smell they can detect which tree is blossoming and where honey is likely to be found. Moreover they know of what plant to use as a skin lotion in order not to be stung by the bees. They also know they should not get too much of the honey but leave part to mother nature.

Knowledge Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Natives are blessed with “botanical and zoological knowledge" and they know of "properties in plants and animals". They know which trees flower and when, because they know this affect the "whereabouts and the quality of the honey" and they know how to gather it without being stung by "covering themselves with a paste" of alpinia leaves. Also a plant they use to "reduce fever" has been found to kill "the cerebral malaria virus" (Mukerjee 2003). From the "valuable fibre" of the anadendron paniculatuni they make their bow-strings. From the fobre of the hibiscus tiliacetis they make their "harpoon lines" and "turtle-nets". From padauk they make their "sounding-boards". The arrowroot leaves "possesses medical properties" and is inhaled while the bark of the tare, the tip and the laro are crushed and rubbed as a "remedy for illness". An infusion of pare leaves is drunk case of "diarrhoea". The korotli creeper is "tied round a limb in cases of snake-bite". Entada seeds are "heated in the fire" and applied to wounds. In a case of pleurisy "black bees'-wax" is heated and "smeared over the chest". The flying fox fat is a "remedy for rheumatism" . And while yellow ochre is collected and "taken internally", red paint is applied to the throat and chest "for coughs and colds and sore throats" and is used as a "dressing for wounds" (Radcliffe-Brown 1922).