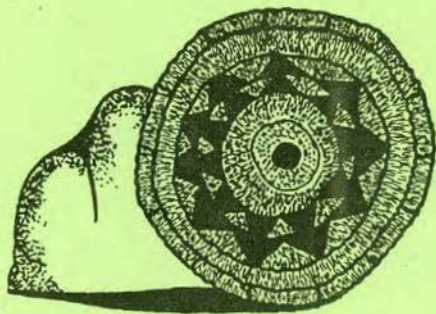


# ACORNS, ALDER AND FERNS



## INTRODUCTION

ACORNS, ALDERS, AND FERNS IS ABOUT THE USES OF PLANTS, DESCRIBING HOW THEY BENEFIT INDIANS TODAY. THE DESCRIPTIONS, WHETHER THEY DELINEATE HOW TO PREPARE ACORN SOUP, OR EXTRACT BASKET ELEMENTS FROM FERNS, ARE SIMPLE AND DIRECT. THEY PROVIDE STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTION, WITH EACH STEP BEING EQUIVALENT TO A SENTENCE. THE SHORT SENTENCE ON IT RESULTS IN EASY READING. ABBREVIATED INSTRUCTION FOR PREPARING MATERIALS IS POSSIBLE FOR 2 REASONS:

- 1) THE INSTRUCTOR CAN PRESUPPOSE THAT STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A HUMAN INSTRUCTOR, AND THEREFORE, TO MORE EXTENSIVE ORAL INSTRUCTION (AND THE BENEFIT OF MODELLING AFTER THE INSTRUCTOR).
- 2) WITHIN THE BOOK ITSELF, PICTURES ACCOMPANY INSTRUCTIONS.



THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN BY SHARON TATE, A KARUK BASKETMAKER,  
BASED ON HER EXPERIENCES WITH WEAVING. ILLUSTRATIONS WERE DRAWN  
BY LARRY SILLOWAY, A WELL KNOWN LOCAL YUROK ARTIST.

THIS EDITION OF THE TEXT IS PRESENTED IN ENGLISH. PREP-  
ARATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS FOR A BILINGUAL TEXT.

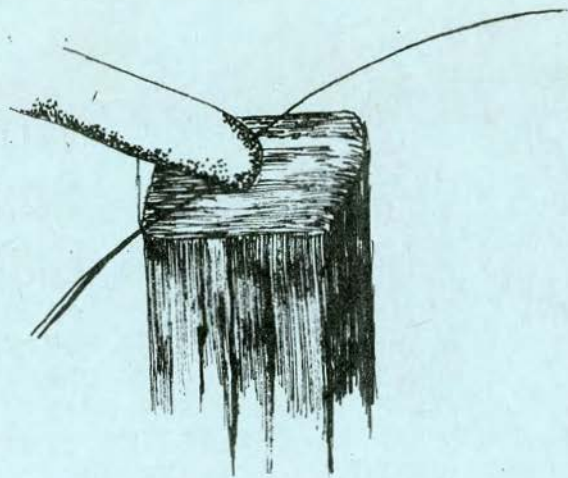
ACORNS, ALDERS, AND FERNS IS PUBLISHED BY THE BILINGUAL  
EDUCATION PROGRAM, CENTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND IN-  
TENDED TO HELP STUDENTS INTERESTED IN AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURE. IT IS INTENDED AS A GUIDE TO SOME IMPORTANT LOCAL  
FLORA AS WELL AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL READING TEXT FOR INDIAN  
CHILDREN.

RUTH BENNETT, DIRECTOR  
BILINGUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM  
DECEMBER 15, 1982



WOODWARDIA  
Spinulosa  
Giant Chain Fern

1. The fern is picked at the base of the stalk and the top and leaflets are taken off.



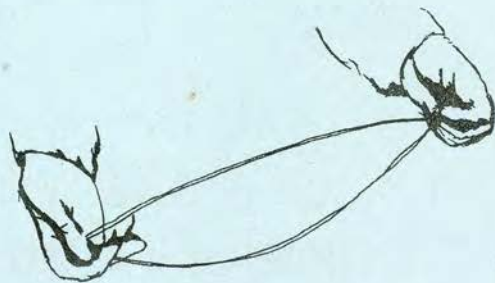
2. Pound vigorously with a rock on the flatter side of the stem.



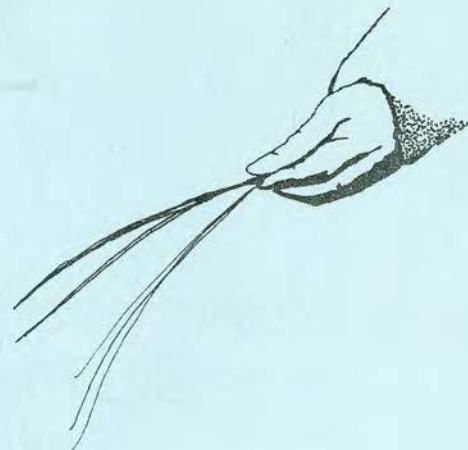
3. Twist back and forth to separate outer section of stalk.



4. Take out two leathery light yellow strands.



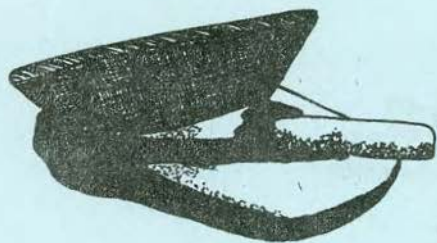
5. Discard outer section







6. The two strands are then dyed with alder bark.



TAN OAK ACORNS  
Quercus L.  
Q. californica

Acorn soup is a protein staple  
among California Indians



The acorn is placed on the stone mortar.





The acorn shell is removed

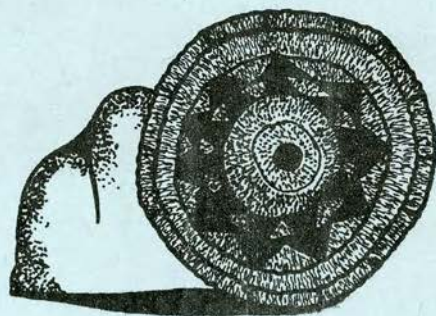


The basket with the hole in the center is called the hopper. It keeps the acorn meal centered on the mortar.

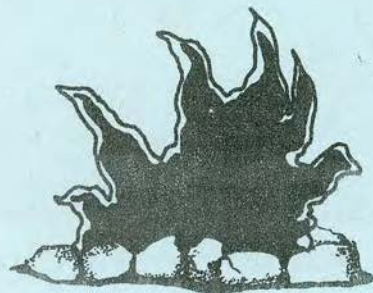


The sifted meal is placed in an open woven tray for leaching the tannic acid out of the acorn meal.





The flat basket with small holes in it is used for sifting.

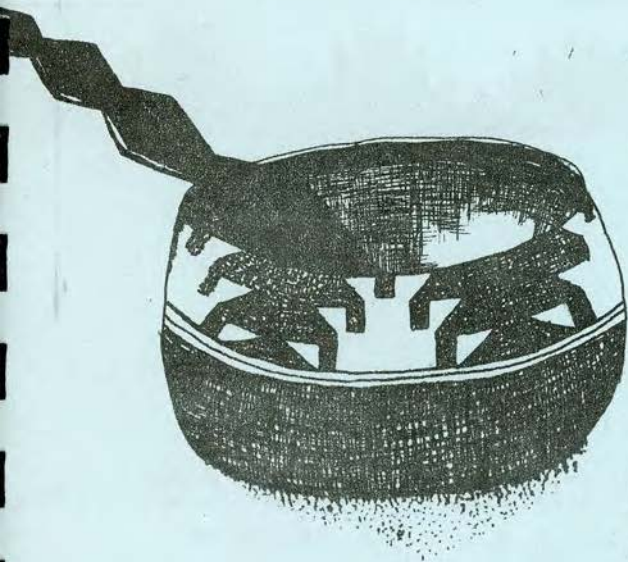


Rocks are heated in a fire.



The watery meal and the hot rocks are placed in the cooking basket. They must be stirred continuously to prevent burning a hole in the basket.

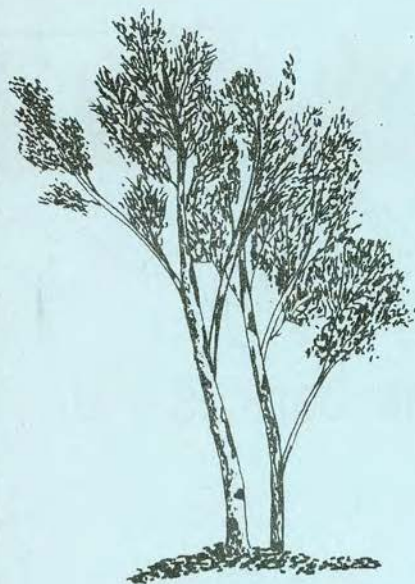




Only baskets with the double ridge are used for food. These baskets are woven with spruce or pine roots to make them watertight.



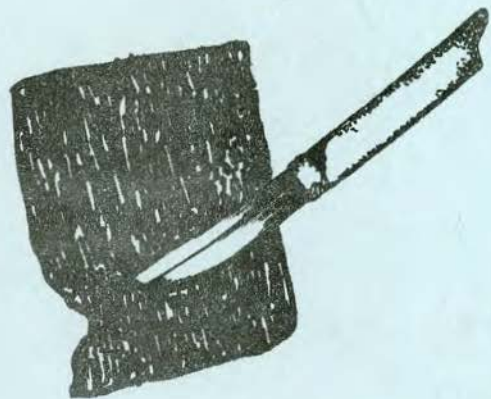
Children are curious and continuously seeking knowledge.



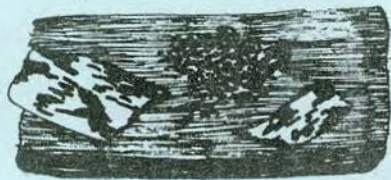
ALDER  
Alnus Hill  
A. organa

This is an alder tree used for dye-  
ing woodwardia fern.





The outer layer of the bark is cut off and discarded.

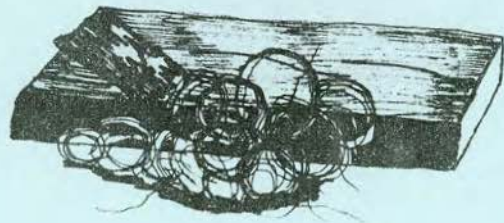


The inner bark is pounded and  
turns into a rust color.

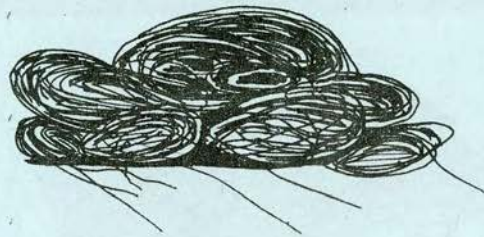


The fern and bark are soaked in warm or cold water until it turns the desired color.





Woodwardia is never used without  
being dyed first with alder bark.



It is then dried and stored away  
until needed.