

Conference:

“Cultural Transfers in Historical Maritime Asia: Austronesian-Indic Encounters”

Singapore, 2–3 December 2013

Pre-Austronesian origins of seafaring in Insular Southeast Asia

Waruno Mahdi

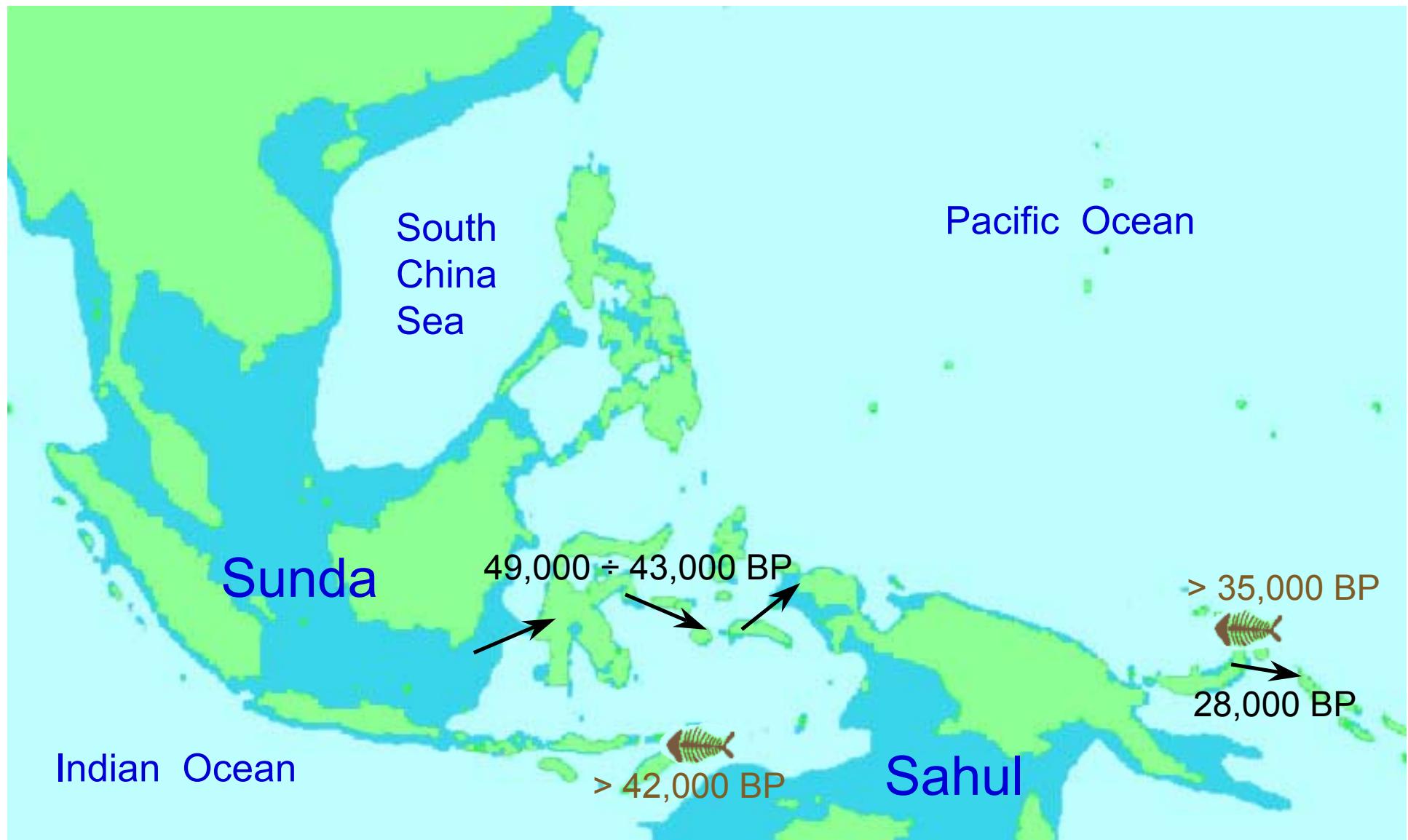


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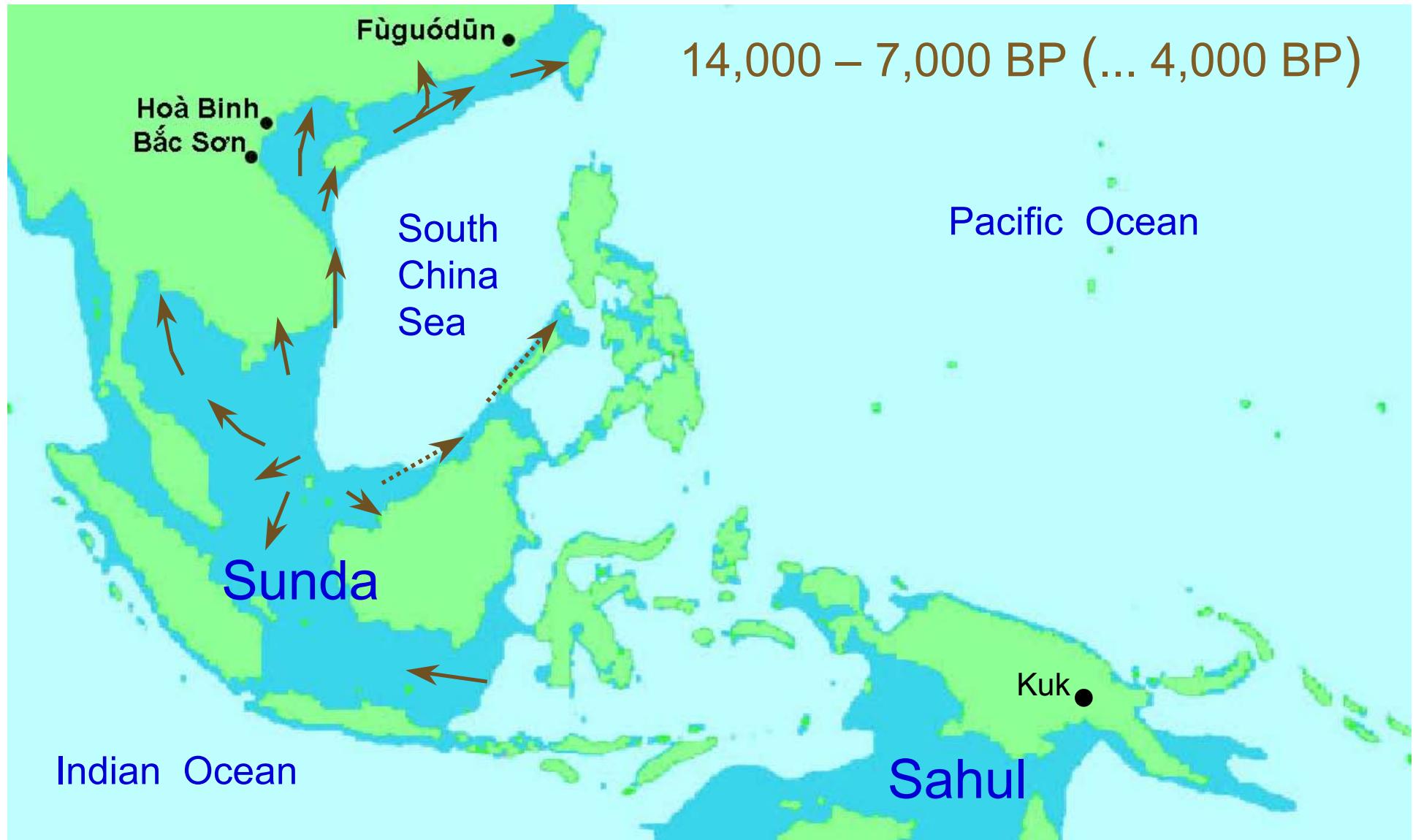
Early sailing routes attributed to Malay shipping



Sea crossings to and beyond Sahul, and high-sea fishing

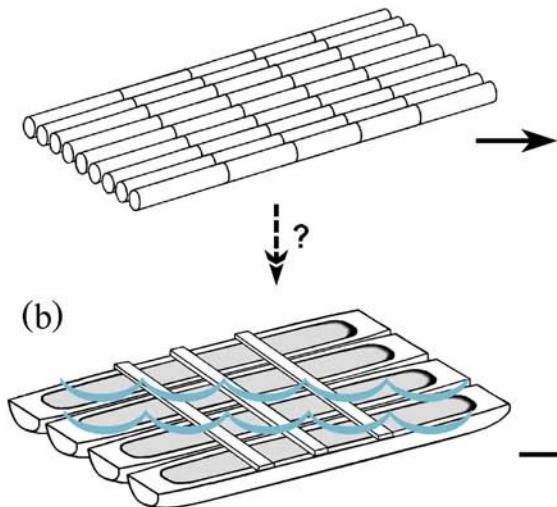


The rising sea and inundation of Sunda-Sahul from Late Pleistocene through Middle Holocene

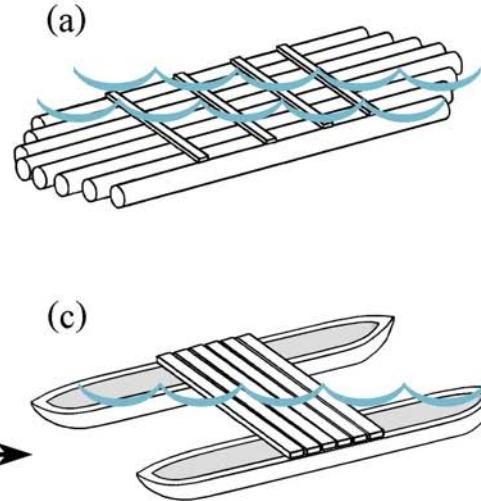


Primeval developments of watercraft construction in ISEA and around the South China Sea

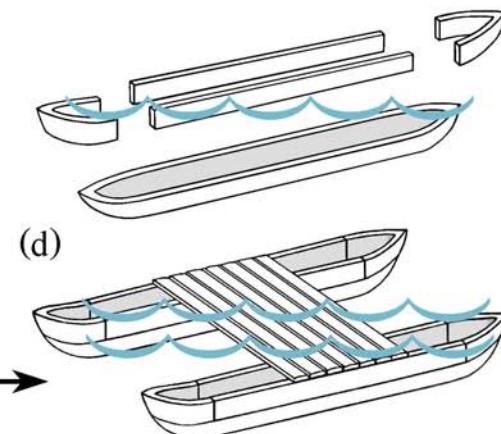
from a raft



tapered raft



elements of a
five-part hull



multiple canoe
with dugout hulls

double canoe
with dugout hulls

double canoe
with five-part hulls

Protoforms of words for ‘person’ in Austronesian languages

**qata* > (2) Ata-Manobo *?ata*, (4) Karo-Batak *hata ~ ata*, Enggano *ek-aka*,
(5) Manggarai *ata*, Lio *ata*, (8) Belau *gad*, North Kanak *kac* ‘person’;

(2) Samal *ata*, (3) Tombulu *ata*, Muna *gata*, (5) Sumba *ata*, Wetar *ada*,
(6) Rumakai *ata* ‘slave’

**qaRta* > (2) Casiguran-Agta *agta*, Pangasinan *?ayta*, Isneg, Tagalog *?agta*, West
Bukidnon-Manobo *agta* ‘Negrito person’

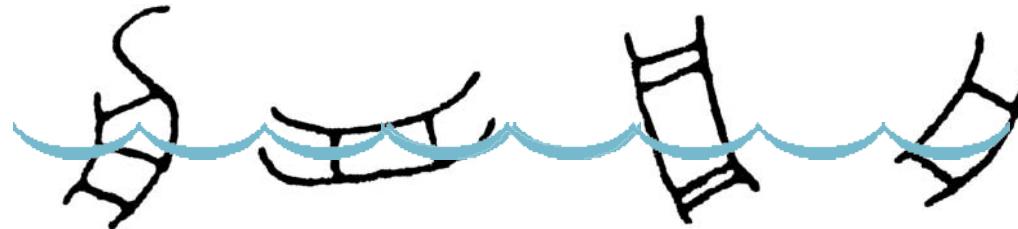
**Cau* > (1) Pazeh *saw*, Puyuma *tau*, (2) Tagalog *táo*, (3) Bugis *tau*, (7) Nakanai *tau*,
Motu *tau*, (8) Fiji *tau*, Futuna *tau* ‘person’

**Cau ma-qata* > (3) Sangir *taumata*, Ratahan *tomata*, (6) Paulohi *tamata*, Yamdena
tomwate, (7) Sobei *temto*, Mussau *taumata*, (8) Fiji *tamata*, Samoa *tanjata*
‘person’

(1) Taiwan; (2) the Philippines; (3) Sulawesi & surroundings; (4) west of Sulawesi;
(5) Nusa Tenggara; (6) Maluku; (7) West Papua & Papua-New Guinea; (8) Further Oceania

Development of the Chinese **junk** from a **double canoe**
as reflected in the form of the character 舟 *zhōu* ‘boat’

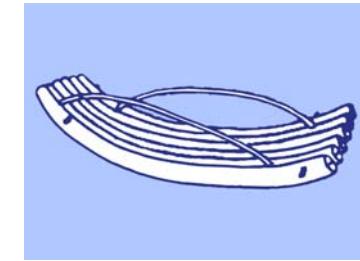
舟



modern

770 – 250 BCE

1300 – 1046 BCE



bamboo raft

(Karlgren 1940)

Modern & Eastern Zhou (770 – 250 BCE):

𦥇

𦥑

船

𦥑

fǎng

chuán

‘two boats lashed together’

‘boats, ship’

Words for ‘two boats lashed together’ in Chinese

fǎng (舫) ‘two boats lashed together, a large boat, a galley’ (Giles 1912),
‘two boats attached by the sides to each other, rectangular boat’
(Couvreur 1904) < EMC **puan̥h* < OC **pan̥*;

háng (航) ‘two boats lashed together, a large vessel’ (Giles 1912), ‘two
boats attached by the sides to each other, boat’ (Couvreur 1904:)
< EMC **yan̥*

bàng (榜) ‘two boats fastened side by side’ (Giles 1912);

páng (𦨇) ‘two boats lashed together, known as 舶舺 [*pángxiāng*] or 舶艙
[*pángshuāng*]’ (Giles 1912);

huáng (艎) ‘a fast sailing boat, a ferry boat’ (Giles 1912), ‘boat, a ferry formed
by two boats attached to each other by the sides’ (Couvreur 1908).

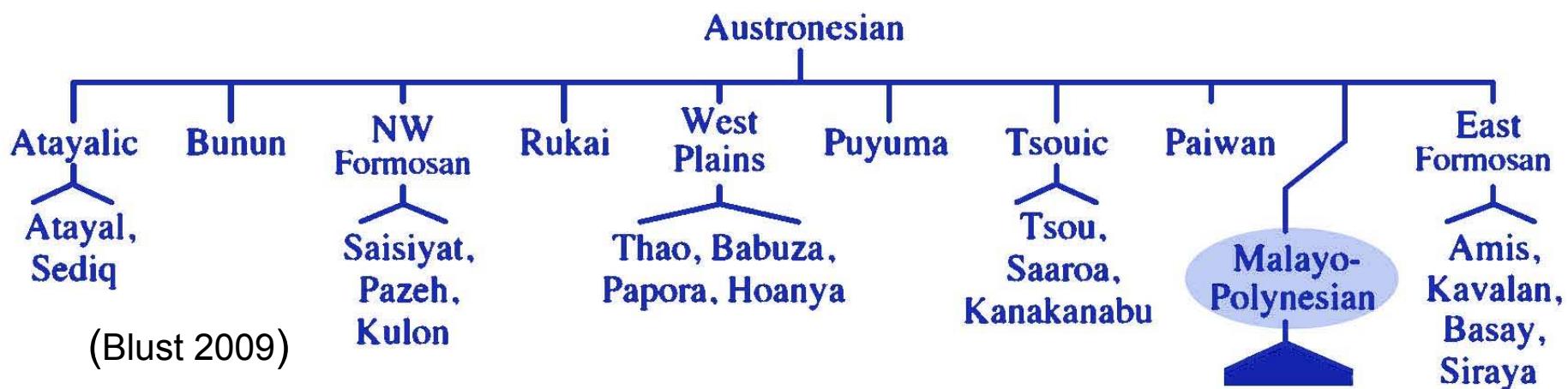
Protoforms of words for ‘boat’ in Austronesian languages

**qaCu* > (1) Squliq-Atayal *qasu?*, Pazeh *?asu?*, Bunun *hato?*,

**qaban* > (1) Kanakanabu *abaŋši*, Oponohu-Rukai *havaŋju*, Siraya *avang*,
(2) Gaddang *?abaŋ*, Tiruray *?awaŋ*, Ilanun *awaŋ*, (4) Mentawai *abak*,
Moken *kaban*;

**baŋka?* > (1) Kavalan *baŋka*, (2) Tagalog *baŋká?*, Tausug *baŋka?*,
(3) Mori, Muna *baŋka*, (5) Sumbawa *baŋka* ‘boat’;

**wan̥ka* > (5) Manggarai, Rempong *wan̥ka*, (6) Tifu *waga*, (7) Yautefa *wāgē*,
Yabem *wan̥*, Suau *waga*, (8) Fiji *wan̥ga*, Tonga *vaka*.



Derivations of the root **liu* ~ **liw* ‘change, exchange, return’

- *liu* ~ **liw* > (1) Ami *pa-liw* ‘work on another’s field (in place of payment)’,
(2) West Bukidnon-Manobo *liw-an* ‘replace (something)’,
(8) Samoa *liu* ‘change’, *ta-liw* ‘return’;

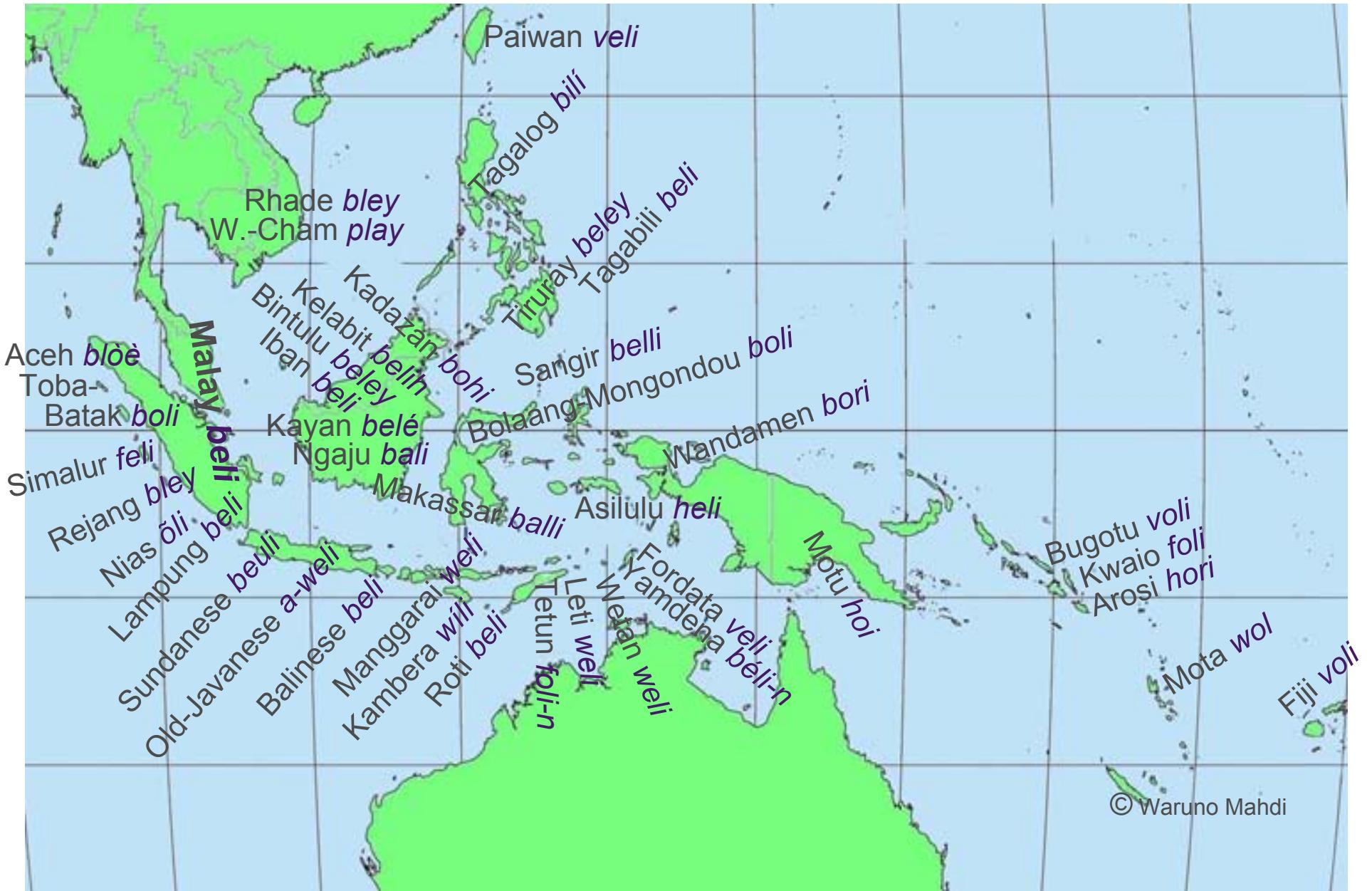
- *sa-liw* > (1) Amis *caliw* ‘borrow, lend’, Thao *θariw* ‘buy, sell’,
(2) Mabinay Ata *saliu* ‘trade’, (3) Sangir *saliu* ‘exchange’,
Bolaang Mongondou *mo-taloy* ‘buy’, (6) Buru *sali* ‘recieve’,
(8) Fiji *soli* ‘be given’;

- *ba-liw* > (1) Saisiat *baliw* ‘buy’, *ši-baliw* ‘sell’, Pazeh *bariw* ‘buy, sell’,
(2) Cebuano *baylu*¹ ‘exchange’, (3) Bugis *bali* ‘answer’, Muna *bhalu* ‘buy’,
(4) Malay *kem-bali* ‘return’, Kelabit *baliw* ‘transform’,
(5) Manggarai *wali* ‘exchange, return’, (8) Samoa *m-aliu* ‘go, come’

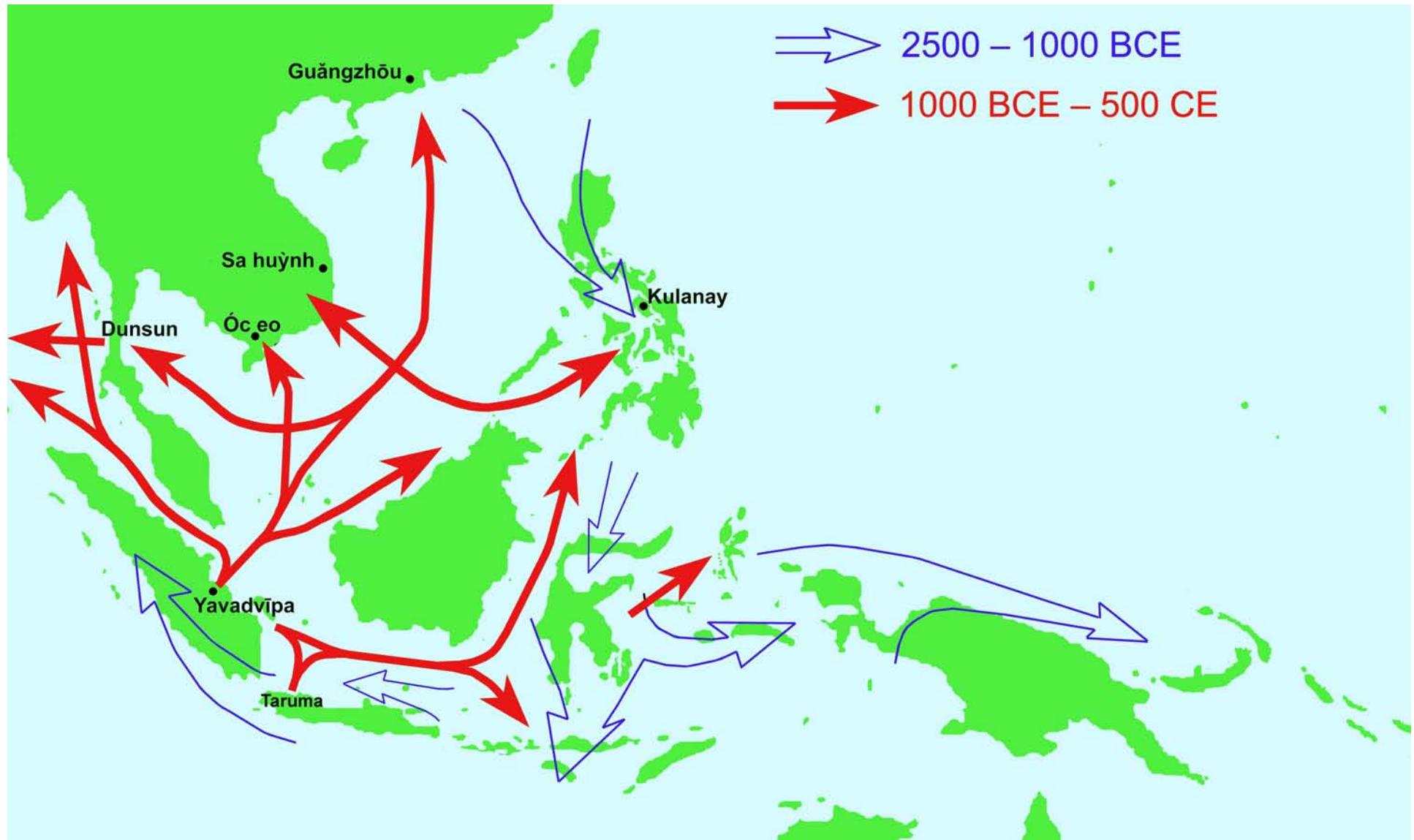
Secondary protoform **ba-liw* > **beli* ‘buy’

- *beli* > (1) Paiwan *vəli*, (2) Tagalog *bili* ‘buy’, (3) Bare’e *oli* ‘price’, Makassarese *balli*, (4) Malay *bəli*, Merina-Malagasy *vidy*, (5) Manggarai *wəli* ‘buy’,
Leti *vəli*, (6) Buru *fili-n* ‘price’, (7) Motu *hoi*, (8) Fiji *voli-a* ‘buy’-

Distribution of reflexes of the Malayo-Polynesian protoform *beli “buy”



The Malayo-Polynesian dispersal (2500 – 1000 BCE) and ISEA – South China Sea maritime communication (2100 BCE – 500 CE)



From ‘boat’ to ‘coffin’

West of the straits:

Proto-Kukish **r-Kuaŋ*, Mikir Kukish, Naga Bari *k'oŋ*,
Banpara Naga *k'uŋ* ‘trough used as a coffin or as a canoe’

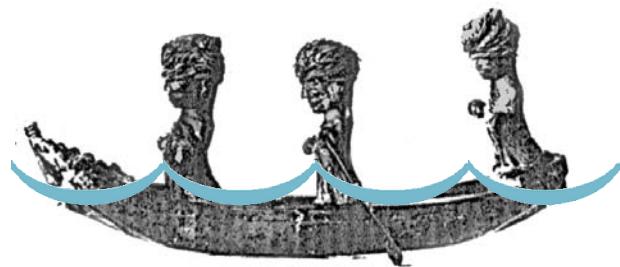
Garo *riŋ-kɔŋ* ‘trough’, Middle Burmese *k'oŋ*, Rawang *k'ōŋ-sí*,
Tamalu *goŋ-sí* ‘boat’

East of the straits:

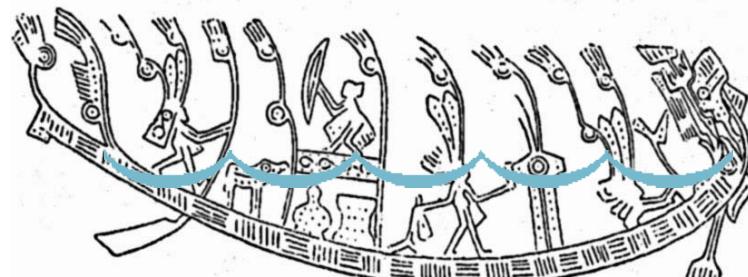
Biat-Mnong *?baŋ*, Sre *gəbaŋ* ‘coffin’
Mori *baŋka* ‘boat, coffin’

Ship-of-the-dead cult:

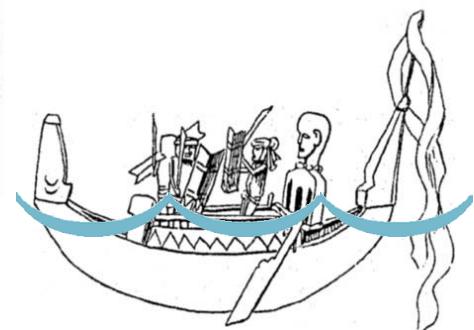
(Steinmann 1937)



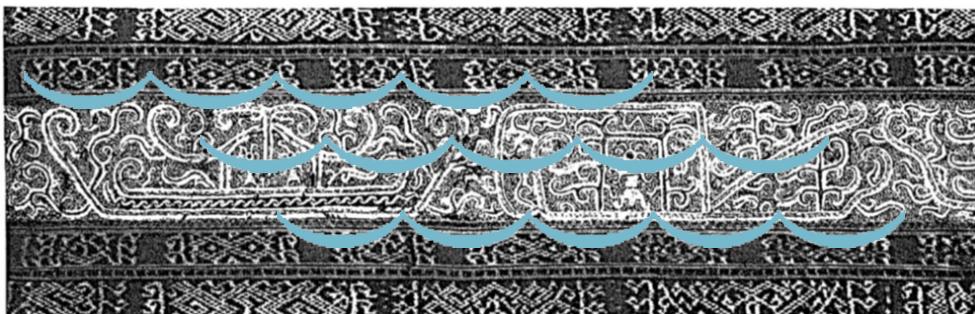
Toba Batak



Ngoc-lu (on bronze drum)



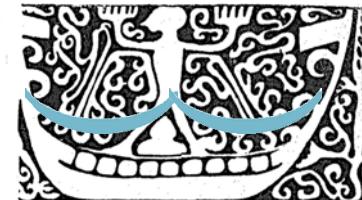
Alor



Kroë Lampung



SE Kalimantan

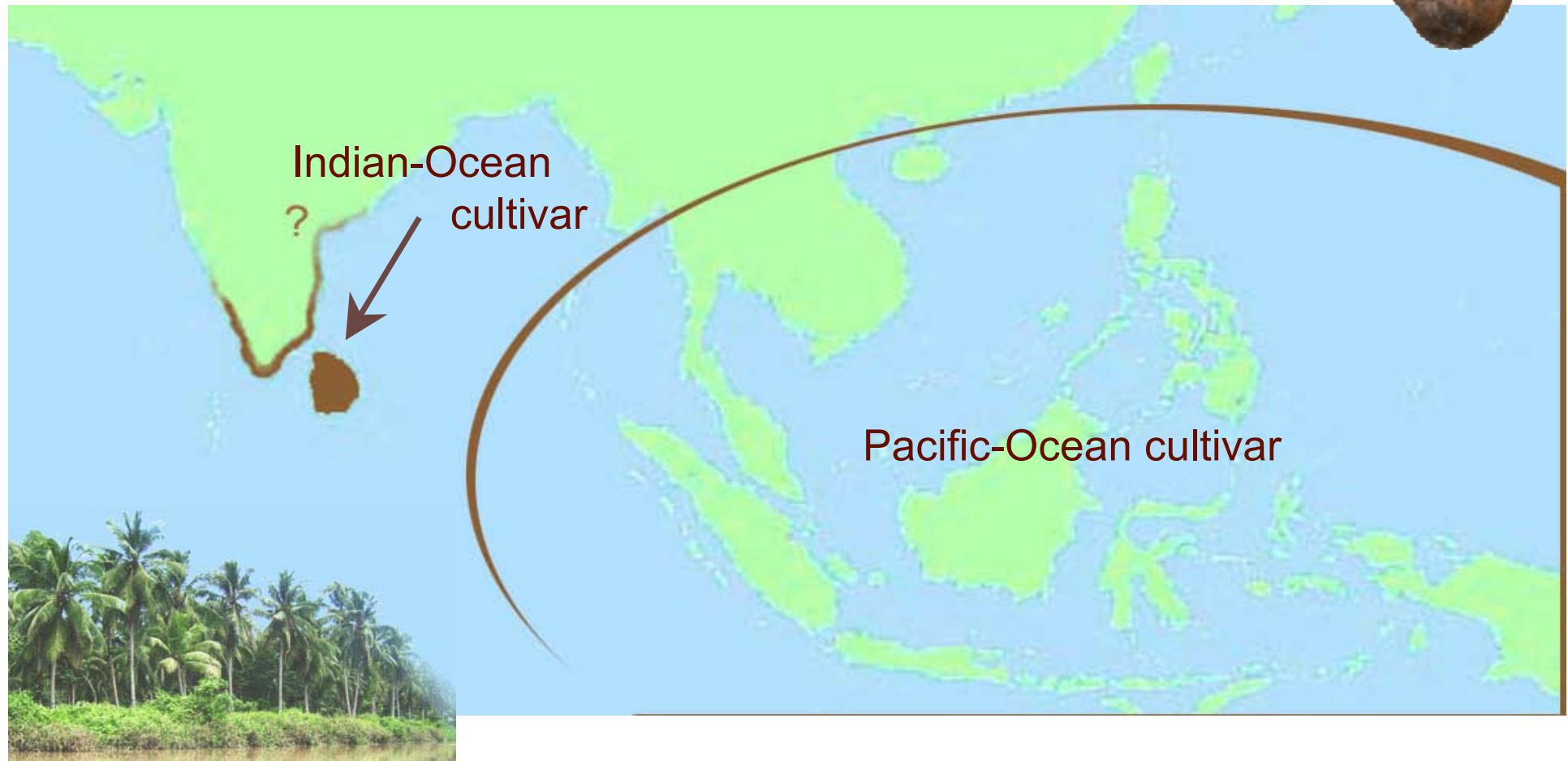


West Papua

The coconut in Valmiki's Ramayana:

on the Milky Sea's beach, and in *tamāla* woods live,
and of **coconuts** eat, their number is countless.

*kṣīroda velā nilayās tamāla vanavāsinah
nārikelāśana ścauva teṣam saṁkhyā na vidyate*



Book 1 of the Mahabharata, the Adiparva

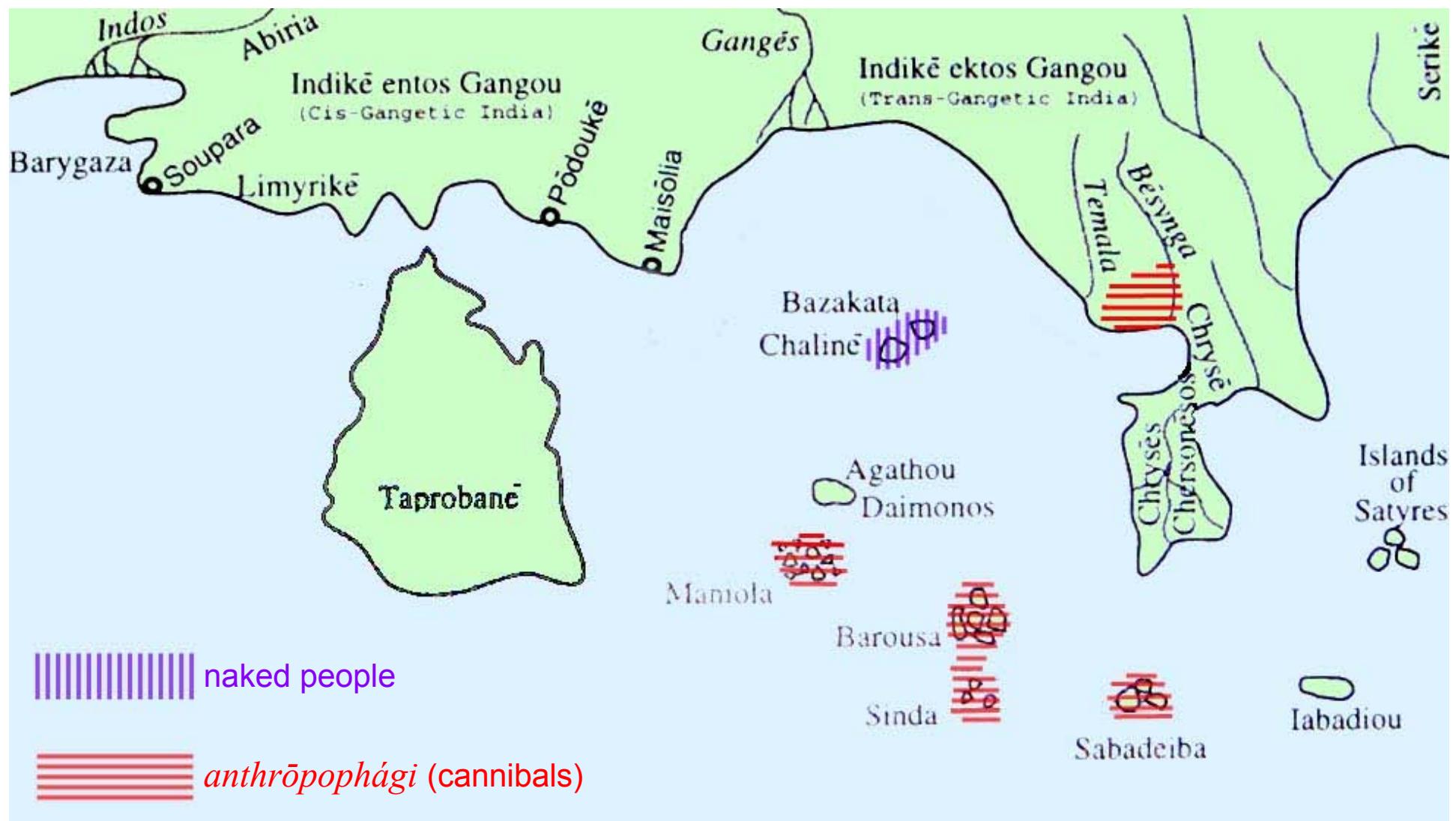
The abode of the *Nāga*-s, dear lovely *Ramaṇīyaka*
at the lonely ocean bay, do take me there.

*Nāgānām ālayam bhadre suramyam Ramaṇīyakam
samudra kuksya vakānte tatramām vinate vaha.*



नागानामालयं भद्रे सुरम्यं रमणीयकम्
समुद्रकुक्षावेकान्ते तत्र मां विनते वह

Ptolemaic atlas of the Indian “Sea”



Nâga “sea pirates” in the Bay of Bengal submitted to emperor *Asoka* after the latter adopted the Buddhist religion (c. 260 BCE). (according to *Ksemendra*)

The Mons called these sea rovers *Raksasa* ‘cannibal demons’

In Burmese tradition they were called *Bilù* ‘kind of monster which eats human flesh and possesses super-human eyes’



precursor *-ava-* / *-aba-* > Malay *-awa-*, Moken *-aba-* ;

precursor **q-* > Malay *h-*, Moken *k-*

PMP **qabəŋ* > Malay [pu -] *hawəŋ*, Moken *kabəŋ* ‘boat, ship’
Old Mon *kbəŋ* ‘ship’

precursor **-awa-* > Batak *-a-* ;

Prakrit *java* > Malay *jawa*, Karo-Batak *jaba*, Toba-Batak *jaba-ure*
‘foxtail millet, sorghum’.

Sanskrit *Yavadvipa* / Prakrit *Javadīv[a]* > Old Greek *Iabadiou* ;
Faxian *Yēpótí* (耶婆提; EMC **jia-ba-dej*);
Prakrit *Jāvaka* > Arabic *Zābağ*; Wan Zhen *Shèbó* (社薄; EMC **džia-bak*).

Hypothetical routes of pre-500 CE maritime communication by Malayo-Polynesian and Negrito shipping





Thank you

Terima kasih

ধন্যবাদ

謝謝你