



Fiji Basket Hook or ililili

A basket-hook or ililili. The central section of oval form (possibly a highly stylized “diamond” form) supports the lower knob sprouting the four dowel-like hooks. Hooks of this type were used by the Fijians to suspend either food baskets or ceremonial items from the rafters in order to preserve them from vermin. The suspension hole is pierced laterally at the top through a cylindrical lug with a double beveled top. This cylinder would have gone through and supported the large flat disc which was placed at the top of these hooks just under the attachment to the rafter in order to deter rats and other varmints from accessing the suspended goods. A hook of this caliber and stylistic representation can only have belonged to a man of importance.

Fiji Islands, Polynesia. Hard wood, vesi (*Intsia bijuga*), with a thick crusty patina. 30 cm. 18th/19th century.