

## 129\*. MIRIAMIC GROUP (PAPUAN)

The Miriamic dialects belong to the Eastern Torres Strait language, and though phonetically and lexically similar to *Mabuiag*, are structurally a Papuan type with linguistic links with Fly River languages. Dutton shows *Miriam* is related to *Kiwai* of the Fly River.

The term 'Miriam' is used in a similar way to that of 'Mabuiag', referring to both the language of Murray Island and those dialects that have Papuan linguistic affiliations.

There has not been any very recent research into *Miriam* and its dialects.

129a\* Miriam Murray Island

*Miriam* (AC, AIAS, 'RLS' incorrectly listed under *Saibai*, 116.2b, ML,), *Mer* (L)

Lawrie says 'pure' *Miriam* is spoken on Murray Island. She has recorded 34 myths and legends as well as songs. Songs have also been recorded by Laade, and Beckett & Jones (1972).

129b\* Karamir Murray Island  
(2TSr.)

Name recorded by Laade. *Abli* was a name for a Murray Island dialect recorded by Holmer (1972).

129c\* Erub Darnley Island  
(5TSr.)

Name recorded by Laade. Lawrie says 'debased' *Miriam* or pidgin spoken on this island. She has collected five legends and Beckett & Jones have some songs.

129d\* Yaru ? Daru ? Daru ? Duar ? Island  
(4TSr.)

No definite information. *Yaru* might be the language name and *Daru* the name of the island.?

129e\* Dauar ? Stephen Island

Language name above doubtful. Lawrie says the language of Stephen Island is today 'debased' *Miriam*.

129f\* Waier<sup>\*</sup> ? Murray Island ?

There is a listing of this name by Laade, but no information.

129g\* Ugar<sup>\*</sup> Stevens Island (LMW)

*Ugar* (ML), ?*Ugar* (LMW)

West (1965) recorded five tapes (A1464-1466), including texts, a 200 word list and enough data for a comprehensive analysis of the grammar of an Eastern Torres Strait language. Lawrie collected five legends. She says mostly pidgin is spoken today on the island.