

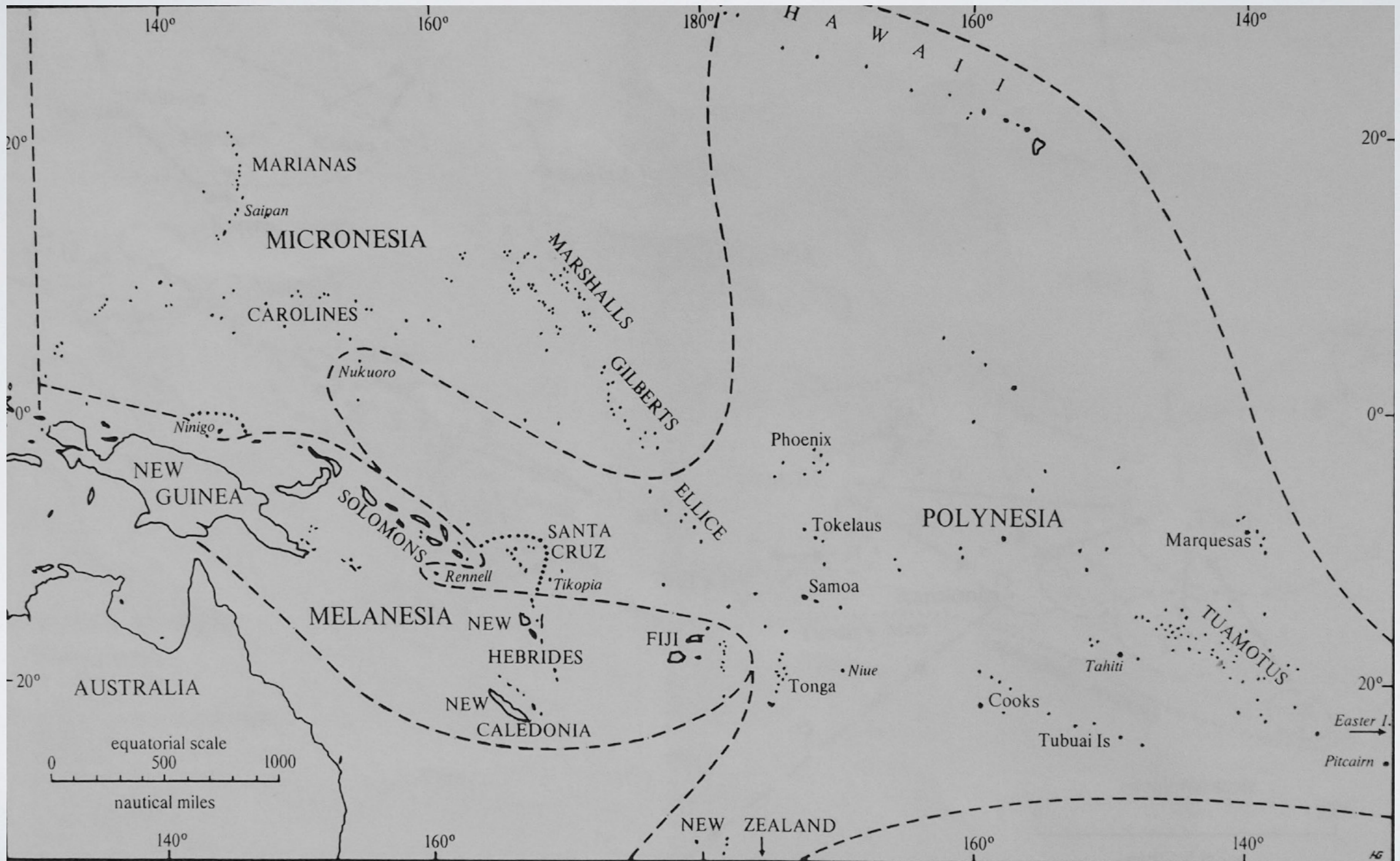
# EARLY PACIFIC EXPLORERS

Ruth Haynes  
7th March 2019

## Questions to be addressed

- Who are these people and what are their origins?
- When did they migrate across the Pacific?
- What type of vessels did they use?
- How did they navigate?
- What did they carry on their voyages?
- How did they establish new communities
- What plants and animals did they discover on their travels?

# Who are these people and what are their origins?



Map 1 Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia

# *‘Game-changing’ study suggests first Polynesians voyaged all the way from East Asia”*

**Ann Gibbons**

University of Indiana

“The first Polynesians left plenty of tantalizing artifacts, including distinctive stamped red pottery, obsidian tools, and shell ornaments. Collectively known as the Lapita culture, this set of artifacts first appeared more than 3000 years ago in the Bismarck Archipelago in New Oceania (see map below). This culture grew taro, yams, and breadfruit; brought pigs and chickens; and spread rapidly to the islands of Vanuatu and New Caledonia and eventually to Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, and beyond”

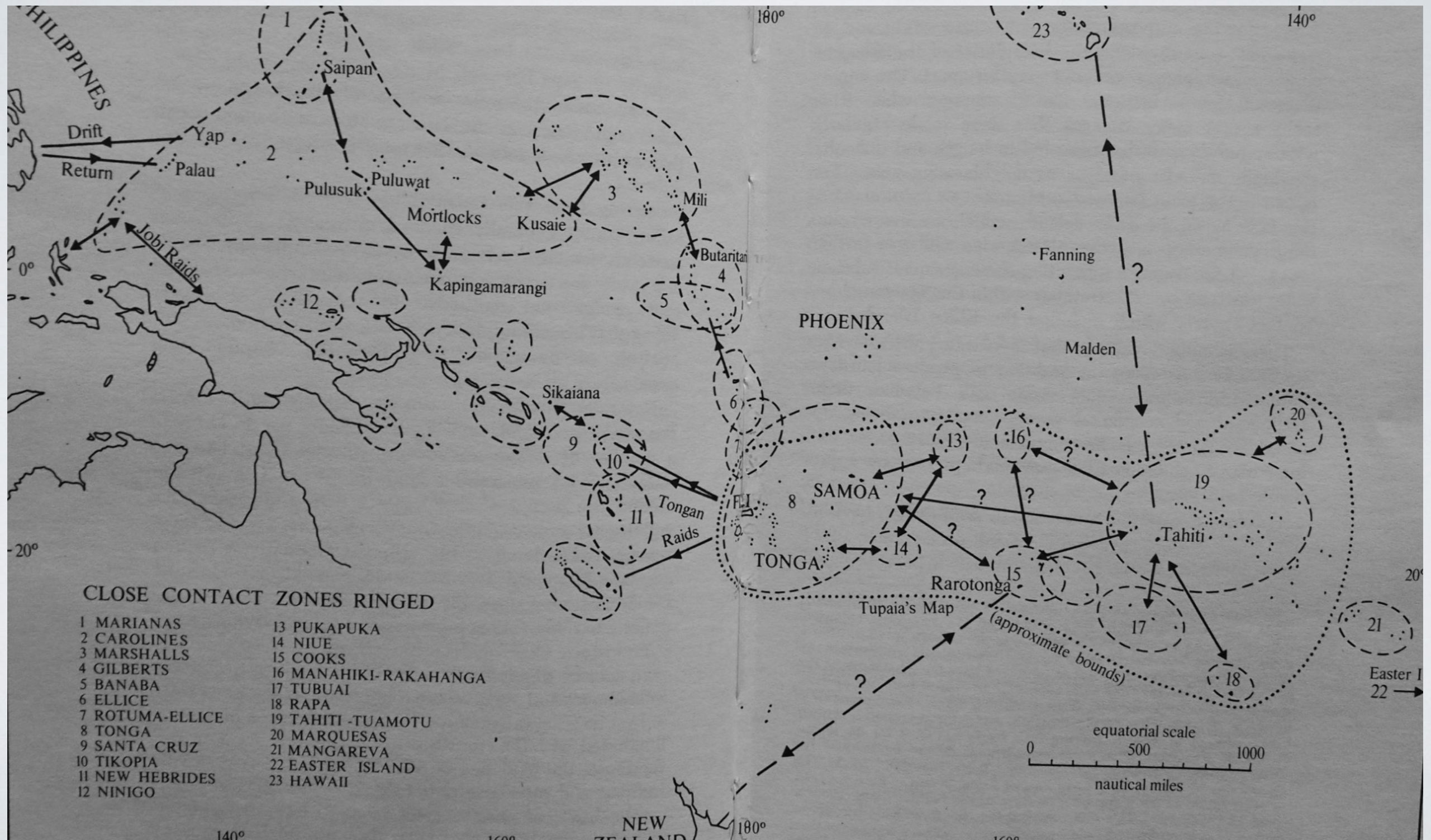
# When & from where did they migrate to Polynesia?



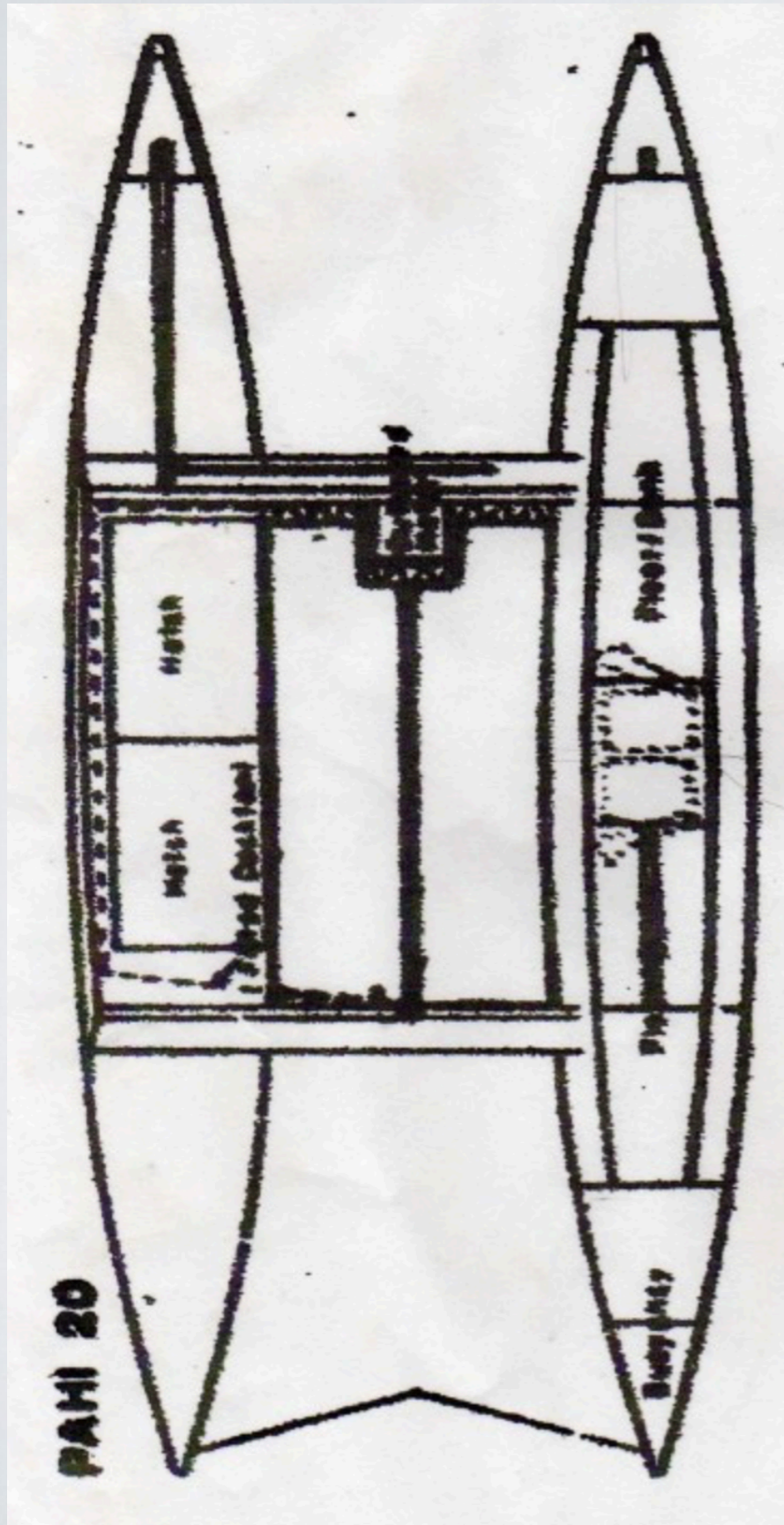
**“Early farmers rode 'express train' to remote Pacific Islands”**

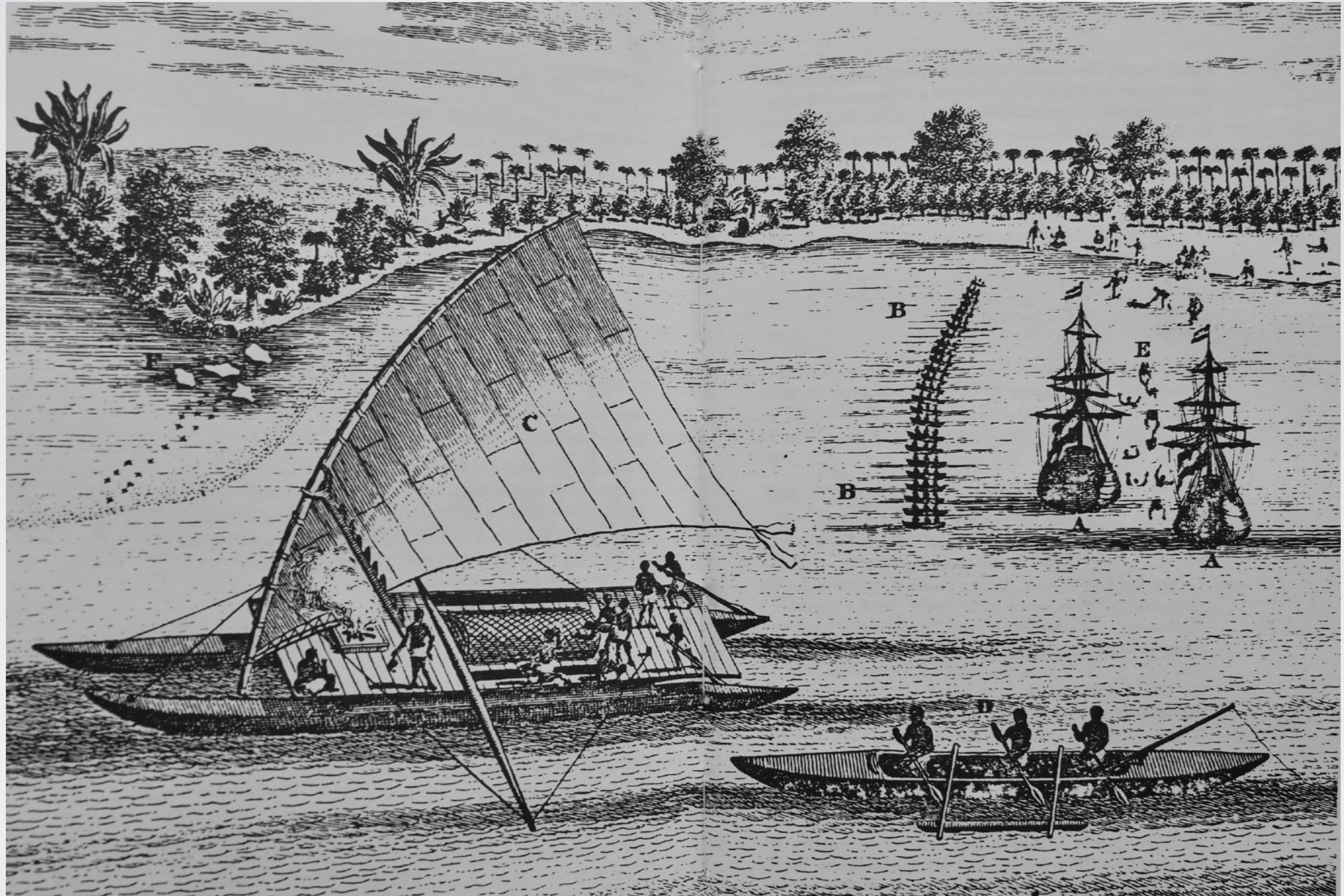
STEPHEN ALVAREZ/  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

# Contact zones among the islands



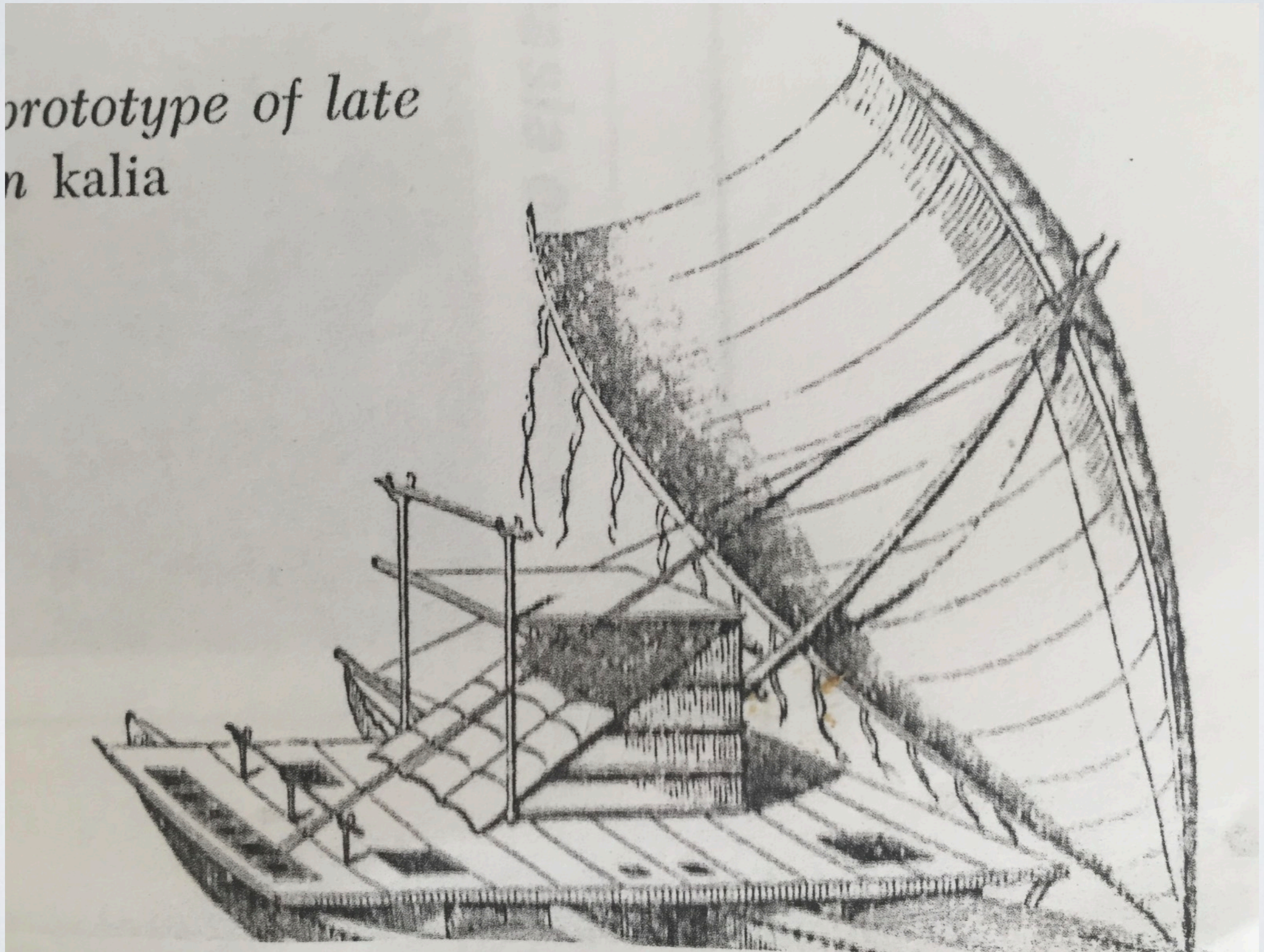
What type of vessels did they use?



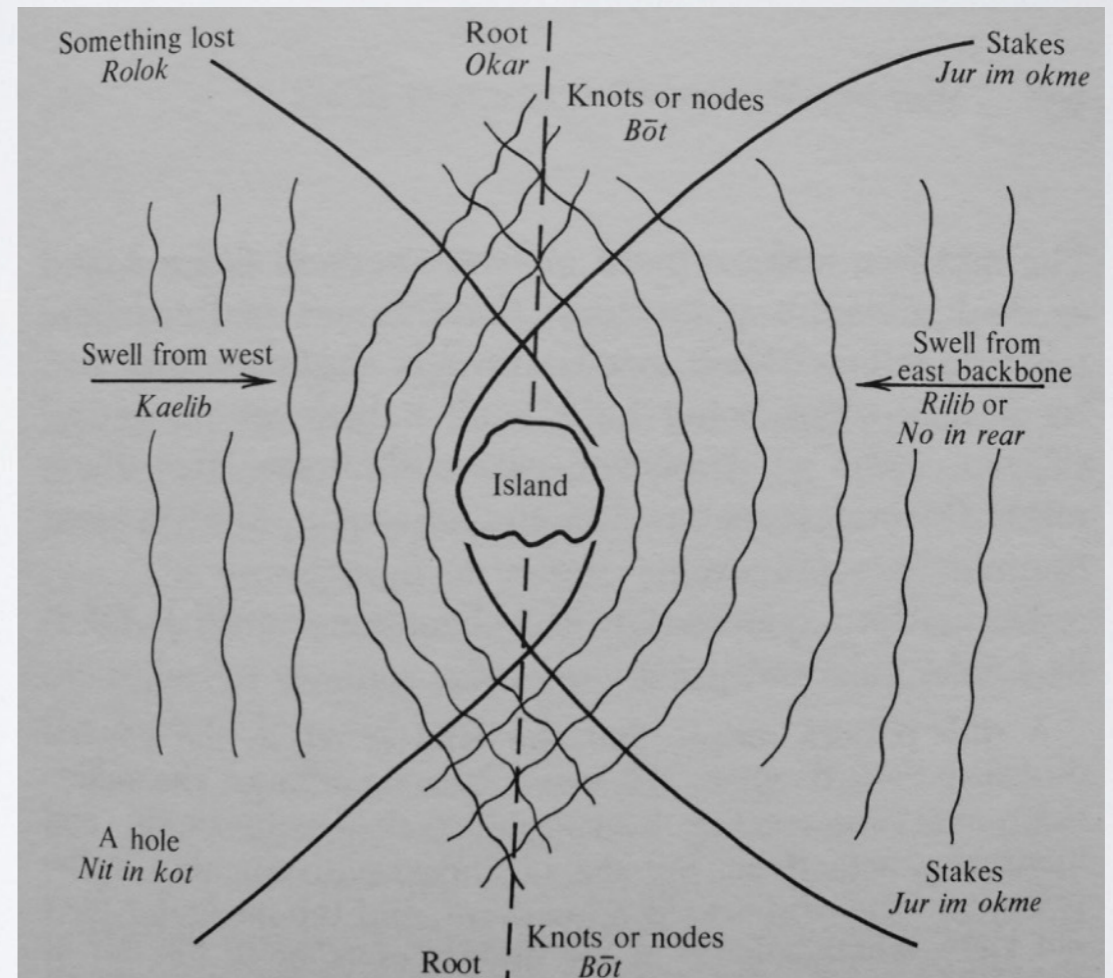
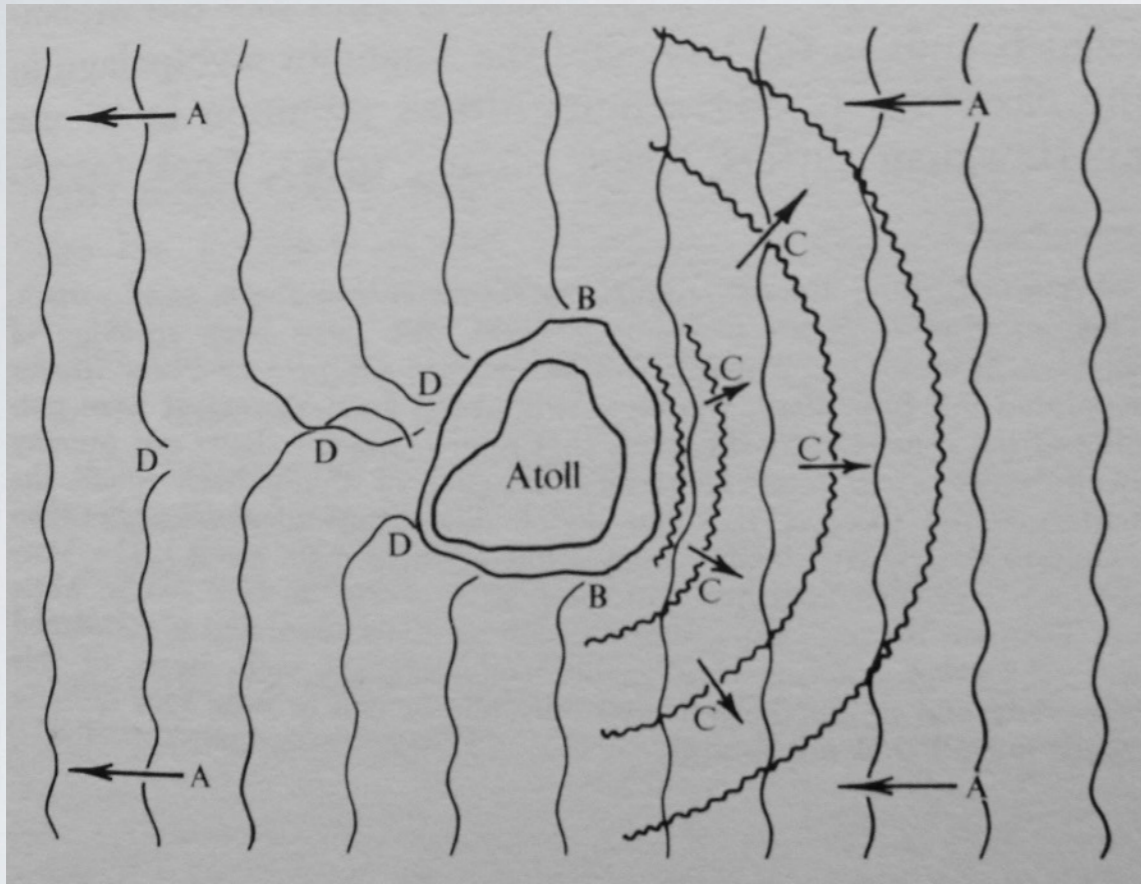




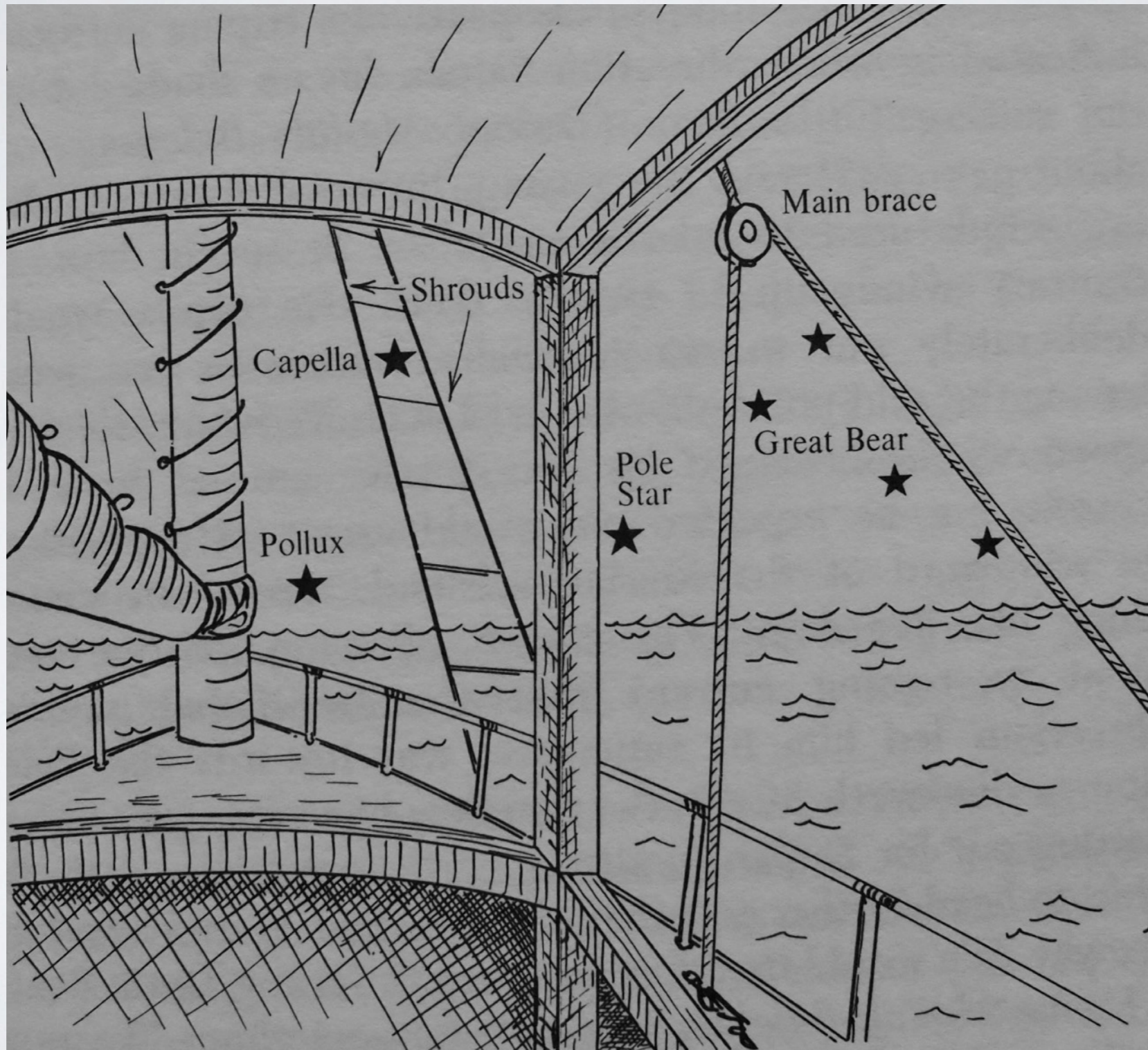
prototype of late  
n kalia



How did they navigate?



# Using the stars



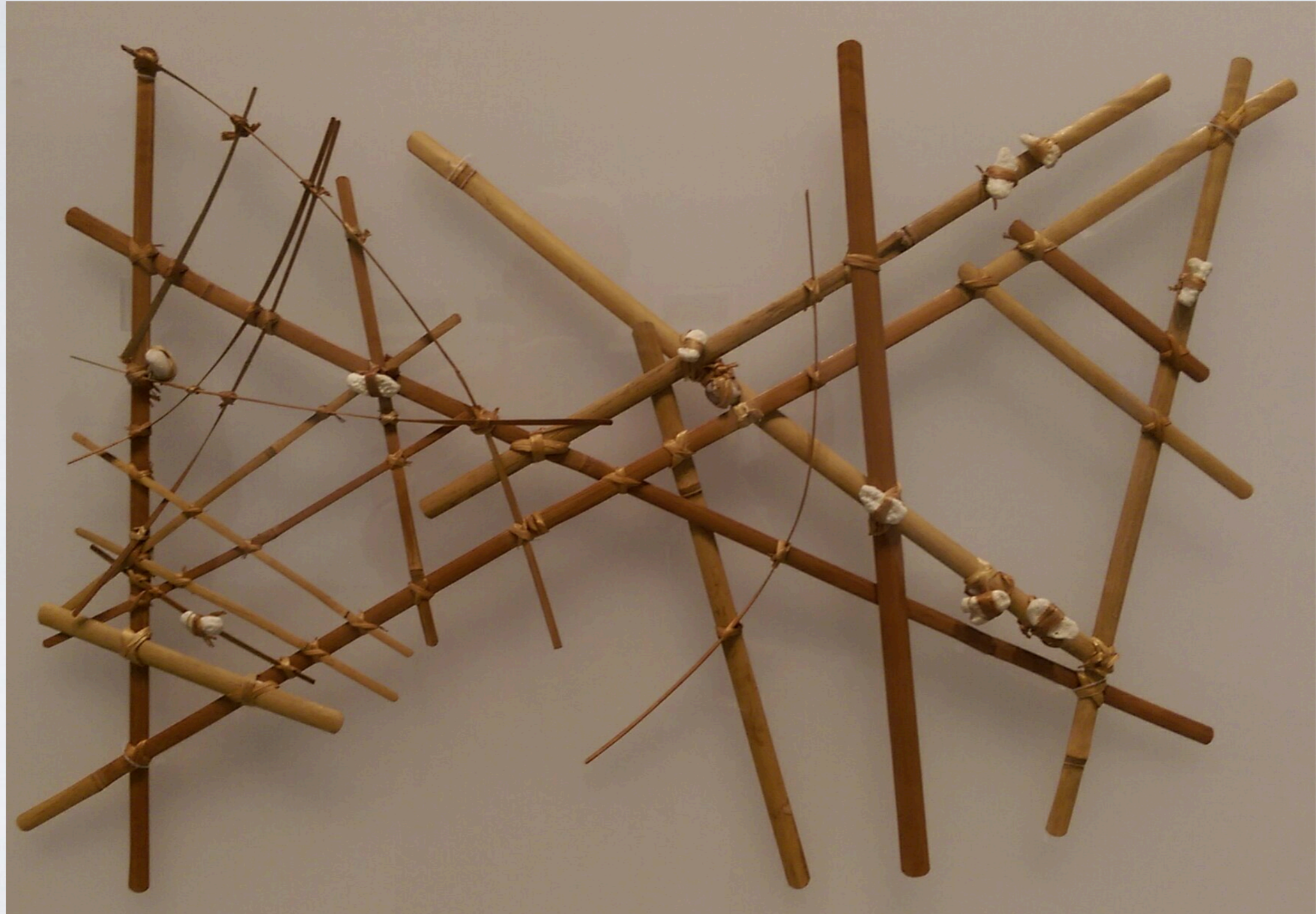
# Knowledge of bird behaviour



White-tailed Tropicbird by dirkr, Shutterstock



# Stick Map



A Micronesian navigational chart from the Marshall Islands, made of wood, sennit fiber and cowrie shells

# What plants did they discover or bring?

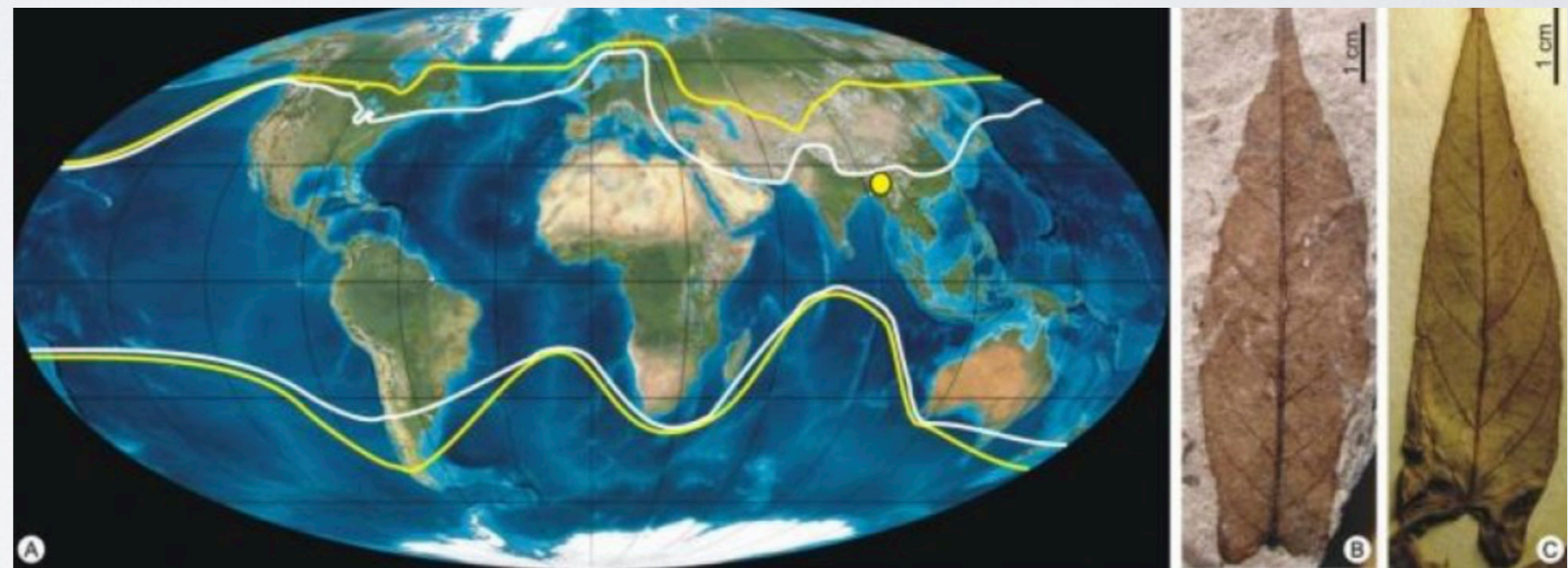
***Colocasia esculenta***



***Pandanus tectorius***



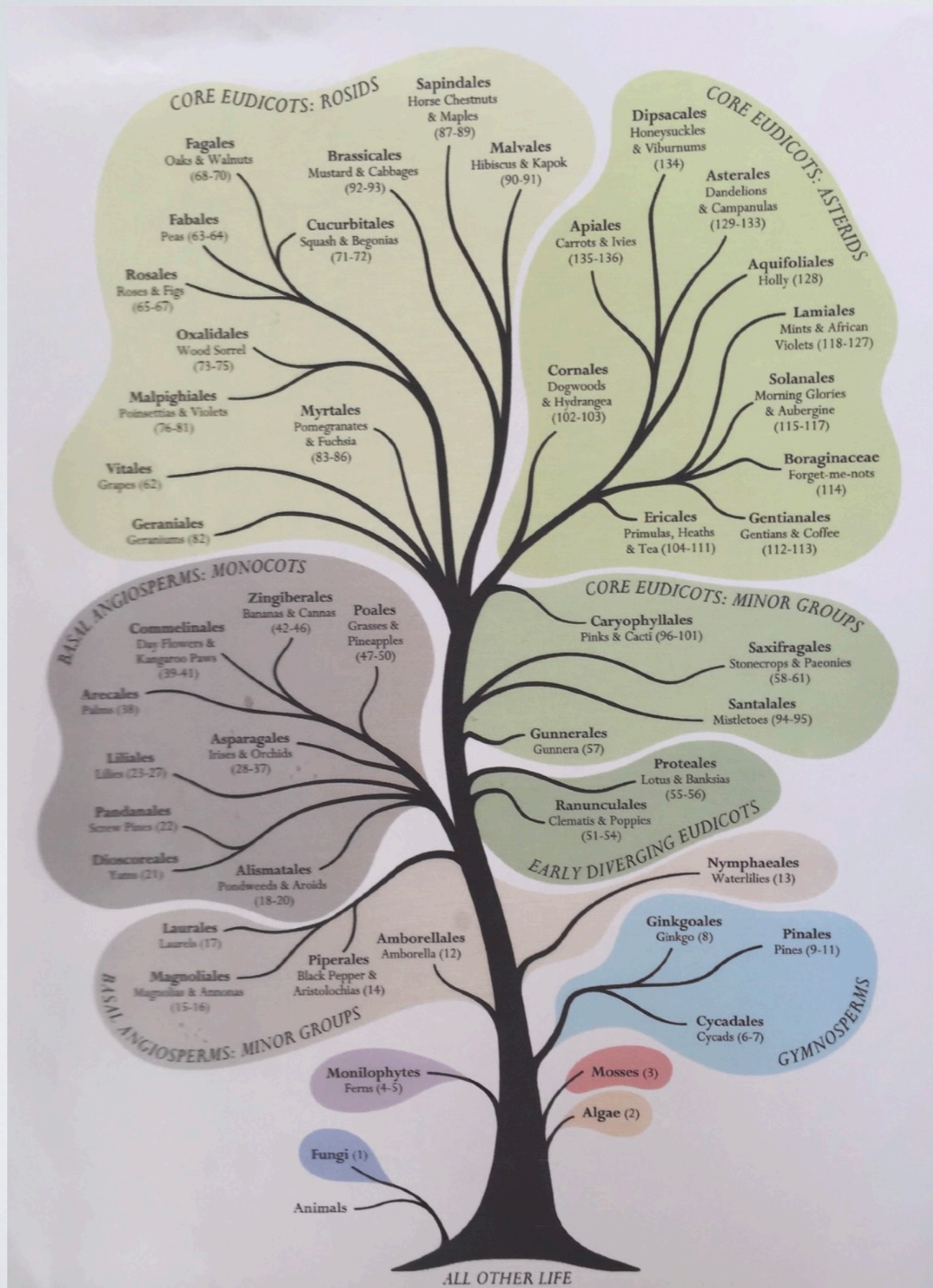
**“Sweet potatoes didn't originate in the Americas as previously thought”**



A) Modern distribution of the sweet potato family (yellow line) and genus (white line). B) Fossil leaf of *Ipomoea megalayensis*. C) Modern leaf of *Ipomoea eriocarpa*, showing similar size, shape and vein pattern.

*Credit: Indiana University*

Close



Tree of Plant Evolution