

retired, aged in the mid-70s (he was wounded in the foot while carrying supplies for the Australian Army in 1944 near Wewak while in his early-20s).

'Expertise' in farming at Tumam is often equated with a willingness to work hard as well as the possession of particular knowledge. In the past at least, the knowledge of how to get the land to produce was not widely shared, because the produce was used for competitive exchanges and displays and status was dependent on producing more than everyone else. Today however it is not uncommon for a person with 'green-fingers' to help others plant particular cultivars. Even so, when a group of men was asked to classify village farmers into 'good' and 'not-so-good' farmers, their comments were about how hard the 'good' farmers worked, and how the 'not-so-good' farmers were 'lazy'.

The expert farmers have been particularly important in identifying the local names of both cultivated species and fallow regrowth species. Specimens are then formally identified at the Lae Herbarium by Stephane McCoy.

Postscript: Plate 11 is included to remind Edwin Gyasi of just how steep the slopes are at Tumam.

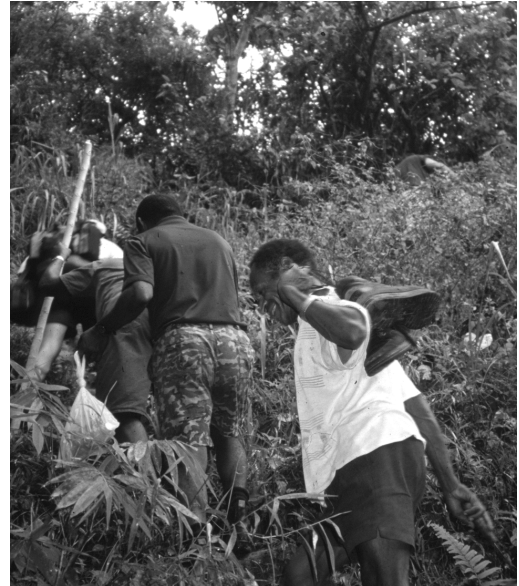


Plate 11 Edwin Gyasi (with stick) climbing a slippery path back to Tumam village, with a little help from Chris Tokomiyer