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Umbuygamu is a Pama-Nyungan language of the east coast of Cape York Peninsula, in the northeast of Australia. Genetically, the language belongs to the Lamalamic subgroup (Laycock 1969, Rigsby 1997) of Paman languages, themselves a subgroup of Pama-Nyungan (as proposed by Hale 1964, 1966; see also Bower & Atkinson 2012). Umbuygamu is the language of three clans at the southern end of Princess Charlotte Bay, about halfway up the east coast of Cape York Peninsula. Their estates are centred on a lagoon called Emanha (or Dinner Hole in English); they extend inland into the upper Running Creek system, and include the Cliff Islands group along the coast; see Rigsby 1992 for more details, and Verstraete & Rigsby (2015: 2) for a map of the region and its languages. Neighbouring languages are the Middle Paman language Umpithamu, along the coast to the north (see, for instance, Verstraete 2010, 2012) and two Lamalamic languages, Rimanggudinhma to the southwest (located inland; Godman 1993, Sommer 1999b), and Lamalama to the southeast (along the coast; Sommer 1999a).

Umbuygamu is also known in the literature as Morrobolam (e.g. Ogilvie 1994), which is actually the name of one of the three clans associated with the language. The name Umbuygamu refers to the language proper, but is an exonym originating in the Umpila language, spoken at the northern end of Princess Charlotte Bay. The language has been described in previous work, most prominently in the grammar sketches by Ogilvie (1994) and Sommer (1998), as well as some studies of specific aspects of morphosyntax and historical phonology (e.g. Sommer 1976; Rigsby 1997; Verstraete 2011, 2012). The language is no longer spoken, but is represented in a fairly large corpus of elicited materials and texts, recorded between 1964 and 2009. The recorded corpus represents eight speakers: (i) Mrs Rosie Liddy, recorded by SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics) linguists in 1964 and by Bruce Rigsby in 1972; (ii) Mr King Armstrong, recorded by Don Laycock in 1964 and by Bruce Rigsby in 1974; (iii) Mr Norman King, recorded by La Mont West Jr. in 1965; (iv) Mrs Nellie Salt, recorded by La Mont West Jr. in 1965 and by Bruce Sommer in 1972; (v) Mr Bob Bassani, recorded by Bruce Sommer and by Bruce Rigsby (separately) in 1972; (vi) Mrs Nancy Gunnawarra, recorded by Bruce Rigsby in 1972 and by Bruce Sommer in 1974; (vii) Mrs Florrie Bassani, recorded by the present author between 2005 and 2009; and (viii) Mr Bobby Stewart, recorded by the present author between 2005 and 2009. These speakers represent two successive generations: people born around the turn of the 20th century (i–v), and the next generation born around the 1930s (vi–viii). As will be suggested below, there may be some changes in the inventories of the younger generation. Except for King Armstrong,

all of the speakers in the corpus represent the variety associated with the Morrobolam clan. Clan varieties are usually regarded as distinct in local linguistic ideology (see Sutton 2003; Verstraete & Rigsby 2015: 8–11), though the actual differences from a linguistic perspective are often limited. There are some lexical differences within clan varieties of Umbuygamu, but there is not enough data on other varieties than the Morrobolam variety to analyse phonetic differences. This study is based on all of the material representing the variety associated with the Morrobolam clan, i.e. seven of the eight speakers. Illustrations come from the following speakers, except where otherwise noted: Bob Bassani (BB), Rosie Liddy (RL), Nellie Salt (NS), Nancy Gunnawarra (NG) and Florrie Bassani (FB). This provides the reader with material from an older and a younger generation of speakers, as well as male and female speakers. None of the recordings were made in studio conditions, and most were made outside, as is the speakers' preference in this region. The analysis in this study deviates significantly from the analysis presented in the earlier sketches (Ogilvie 1994, Sommer 1998). I highlight differences whenever they are prominent or relevant enough.

Consonants

	Bilabial	Dental	Alveolar	Alveo-palatal	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b	t̪ d̪	t d		c ɟ	k g	ʔ
Nasal	m	n̪	n		ɲ	ŋ	
Fricative	ɸ	θ		ç			h
Lateral			l				
Trill			r̄ r				
Approximant	w	ø	ɹ		j		

	PHONEMIC FORM	ORTHOGRAPHIC FORM	GLOSS (SPEAKER)
/p/	/ɔ'pa/	<i>opa</i>	'palm tree, coolamon' (RL) ¹
/b/	/a'bal/	<i>abal</i>	'king parrot' (RL)
/t̪/	/a't̪a/	<i>atha</i>	'rotten' (NG)
/d̪/	/a'd̪a/	<i>adha</i>	'little shark' (RL)
/t/	/a'ta/	<i>ata</i>	'lower leg' (NG)
/d/	/ʔada/	<i>'ada</i>	'from the south' (FB)
/c/	/a'can/	<i>atyan</i>	'egg' (RL)
/ɟ/	/ɛ'jɛnu/	<i>edyenu</i>	'old man' (NG)
/k/	/ɔ'raŋ'maka/	<i>orrang maka</i>	'message stick' (RL)
/g/	/a'gan̪/	<i>aganh</i>	'mangrove sp.' (RL)
/ʔ/	/ɛ'ʔan̪/	<i>e'anh</i>	'plains turkey' (RL)
/m/	/a'ma/	<i>ama</i>	'person' (NG)
/n̪/	/a'n̪a/	<i>anha</i>	'liver' (BB)
/n/	/a'nam/	<i>anam</i>	'grub sp.' (FB)
/ɲ/	/a'ɲal/	<i>anyal</i>	'brother-in-law' (FB)
/ŋ/	/a'ŋa/	<i>anga</i>	'breath' (RL)
/ɸ/	/u'ɸa/	<i>ufa</i>	'sand' (NG)

¹ The orthography mainly follows standard Australian practice, except for fricatives and the dental approximant, which are rare in Australian languages. Digraphs are used for dental and palatal nasals and

/θ/	/a ^h θa/	<i>aθa</i>	‘fire’ (NG)
/ç/	/i ^h çan/	<i>ishan</i>	‘big cabbage tree’ (RL)
/h/	/a ^h ha/	<i>aha</i>	‘north’ (FB)
/l/	/a ^h la/	<i>ala</i>	‘spear’ (BB)
/r/	/a ^h ram/	<i>arram</i>	‘wallaby sp.’ (RL)
/r̥/	/a ^h r̥am/	<i>arham</i>	‘sandridge goanna’ (FB) ²
/w/	/a ^h waɪ/	<i>awar</i>	‘head’ (BB)
/ð/	/ ^h haðar ₁ la/	<i>haðarr=la</i>	‘It is good.’ (NG)
		good=3SG.NOM	
/ɹ/	/e ^h ɹa/	<i>era</i>	‘ground’ (BB)
/j/	/a ^h ja/	<i>aya</i>	‘spider’ (RL)

The examples show the consonants in intervocalic position, which allows the largest number of consonantal contrasts in this language (see section ‘Stress and word structure’ below). The examples provide a phonemic representation, followed by a representation in practical orthography, and the abbreviation for the relevant speaker’s name (see above). Given the nature of the corpus, I do not have sound clips of sufficient quality by one and the same speaker for all of the examples. The same applies to allophonic variation (discussed in the second half of this section and the next), which cannot be systematically demonstrated with alternating tokens from one and the same speaker, and is illustrated with examples from different speakers instead. Whenever a specific variant is idiolectal, however, this is mentioned explicitly; all other variation is to be regarded as general for the different speakers in the corpus.

I first describe the inventory in the context of Australian languages more generally, and then focus on individual (sets of) phonemes, including patterns of allophony. The consonant inventory of Umbuygamu is unusual for an Australian language, for a number of reasons. First, its general architecture deviates markedly from the fairly uniform inventories found in most Australian languages. Australian consonant inventories have generally been described as ‘long and thin’ (Butcher 2006), combining relatively few contrastive manners of articulation with relatively many places of articulation (see further Butcher 2006, Fletcher & Butcher 2014, Gasser & Bower 2014). Umbuygamu has the ‘Standard Australian’ manner contrasts of paired plosives and nasals for most places of articulation, plus trills, laterals and approximants for a smaller set of places of articulation. In addition, however, it also has a contrastive fricative series, and a voicing contrast for plosives (see further below). Both features are rare in Australia. Contrastive fricative series are found in a number of subgroups of Paman languages in Cape York Peninsula, including Lamalamic (Sommer 1976, Rigsby 1997) and Northern Paman (Hale 1964, 1976a), as well as in the Western Torres Strait language just north of the Peninsula (e.g. Hunter, Bower & Round 2011), and in the Daly River area in the continent’s northwest (Evans 1995; Dixon 2002: 605–616). VOT-related contrasts for plosives are found, again, in some subgroups of Paman languages in Cape York Peninsula, including Lamalamic (Sommer 1976, Rigsby 1997), Alaya-Athima (Alpher 2016) and Southwest Paman (Alpher 1972), as well as some other regions of Australia (see Austin 1988 and Dixon (2002: 605–616) for overviews, and Butcher & Reid 1989 on the nature of the VOT contrasts involved). A second noteworthy feature in Umbuygamu is the presence of a contrastive glottal stop, both in initial position, as in /^hʔada/ ‘ada’ ‘from the south’ (FB), and intervocalically, as in /e^hʔan/ *e^hanh* ‘plains turkey’ (RL). Contrastive glottal stops are generally rare in Australia, but found in

plosives (*dh*, *th*, *nh* and *dy*, *ty*, *ny*, respectively), as well as for the alveopalatal fricative (*sh*) and the two trills (*rh* and *rr*). Other orthographic representations that are different from their IPA representation are used for the bilabial fricative (*f*), the dental, alveolar and palatal approximants (*ð*, *r* and *y*, respectively) and the glottal stop (‘).

² As noted by a reviewer, the final consonant in this token is not nasal. This is a peculiarity of this particular token – unfortunately, no alternative recording is available.

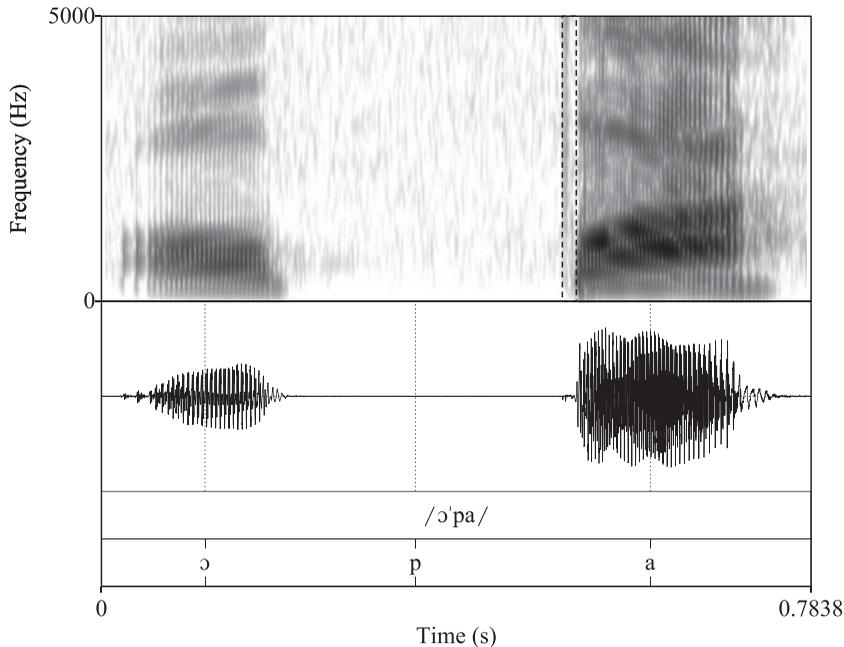


Figure 1 Spectrogram and waveform for /ɔ'pa/ *opa* 'palm tree' (RL), VOT highlighted.

many languages of Cape York Peninsula, as well as Arnhem Land (Evans 1995; Dixon 2002: 615–618). A third unusual feature is the presence of a voicing contrast for alveolar trills, found in no other Australian languages apart from the Lamalamic languages and Yaygir of northern New South Wales (Dixon 2002: 578). A final feature that is typologically noteworthy is the presence of a dental approximant /ð/. This is again rare in Australian languages: it is found as a contrastive element in some languages of Western Australia – Yindyibarndi (Tabain & Butcher 1999: 334–335), Bunuba (Rumsey 2000: 42) and some less well-documented cases (Olson et al. 2010) – and in Cape York Peninsula as an allophone of a dental plosive in the Southwest Paman language Kuuk Thaayorre (Gaby 2006: 28). This extends the series of approximants found in Umbuygamu to almost the same set of places of articulation found for plosives and nasals.

The plosive series shows a contrast between voiced plosives and voiceless unaspirated plosives (except, of course, for glottal stops). In the Australianist literature, there has been some debate over the status of voicing as a contrastive feature. In some Australian languages, voicing has been demonstrated to be a typical correlate of consonant length, such that the length of the closure phase is the basic contrastive feature, with long plosives typically being voiceless, and short ones typically voiced (Butcher & Reid 1989, Butcher 2004). In Umbuygamu, by contrast, the basis of the contrast is related to VOT, and there is no correlation with length: consonant lengthening is a general allophonic process associated with a specific consonant position (see below), rather than a contrast restricted to plosives. For instance, in the tokens illustrating plosive contrasts at the start of this section, the voiceless plosives have VOT times between approximately 10 ms and 30 ms, regardless of length (compare long /p/ in /ɔ'pa/ *opa* 'palm tree' (RL) with short /k/ in /ɔ'raŋ 'maka/ *orrang maka* 'message stick' (RL)). Figure 1 illustrates /p/ in /ɔ'pa/ *opa* 'palm tree' (RL), with a long closure phase, and a VOT of approximately 15 ms. The figures in this paper were created using Praat (Boersma & Weenink 2015).

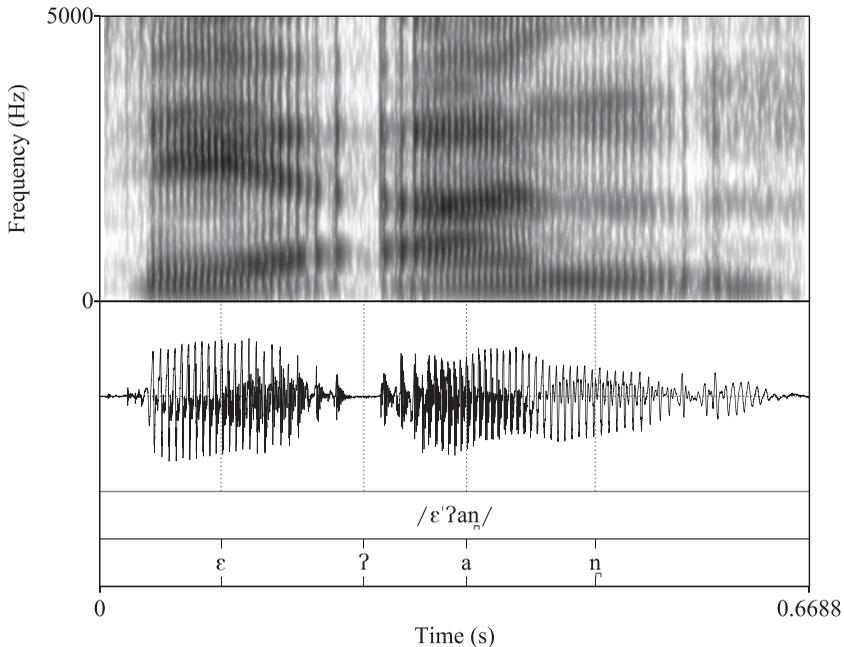


Figure 2 Spectrogram and waveform for /ε'ʔan̩/ *e'anh* 'plains turkey' (RL).

Within the plosive series, there is one phoneme that is very rare, namely the voiced palatal plosive /j/, found in eight roots, and one phoneme that is relatively rare, namely the voiceless velar plosive /k/, found in 16 roots (versus almost four times as many roots with voiced velar plosives). The rarity of the voiceless velar plosive in Umbuygamu is typologically somewhat unexpected. Cross-linguistically, voiceless velar plosives seem to be favoured over voiced ones (see Ohala 1983), as reflected, for instance, in the fact that inventories with a voicing contrast tend to lack voiced back plosives rather than voiceless ones (see Maddieson 2013). In Umbuygamu, the relative rarity of voiceless velar plosives can be attributed to historical developments, specifically the development of velar plosives to glottal stops in intervocalic contexts (e.g. *a'a* 'close' < Proto-Pama-Nyungan **nyaka* 'here' (Alpher 2004)), and to voiced plosives in the context of homorganic nasal-plosive clusters (e.g. *agarr* 'flesh' < Proto-Paman **pangkarr* 'flesh' (Hale 1976b)), which worked together to almost eliminate voiceless velar plosives from the lexicon. One final note on the plosive series concerns the glottal stop. As can be seen in Figure 2, the glottal stop is reflected in creaky voice in the surrounding vowels, a phenomenon that is cross-linguistically not uncommon (see Ladefoged & Maddieson 1996: 74–75).

The nasal series shows allophonic variation between plain and prestopped nasals. Prestopping is found with all nasals, as illustrated in (1), but always optionally.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|----|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| (1) | a. | /a ¹ mal/ | [a ¹ p ^m ɐ] | <i>amal</i> | 'foot' (RL) |
| | b. | /a ¹ nar/ | [a ¹ t ⁿ ɐr] | <i>anharr</i> | 'saltwater crocodile' (RL) |
| | c. | /i ¹ na/ | [i ¹ t ⁿ a] | <i>ina</i> | 'ear' (RL) |
| | d. | /h ¹ nam/ | [h ¹ xac ⁿ æm] | <i>hanya-m</i> | 'put' (NS) |
| | | | | put-PRS | |
| | e. | /i ¹ nal/ | [i ¹ k ⁿ ɐ] | <i>ingal</i> | 'boomerang' (RL) |

There is no evidence that prestopped nasals constitute a separate contrastive series, as claimed in Ogilvie (1994: 26–27) and Sommer (1998: 8, 11). All of the items they present as contrastive

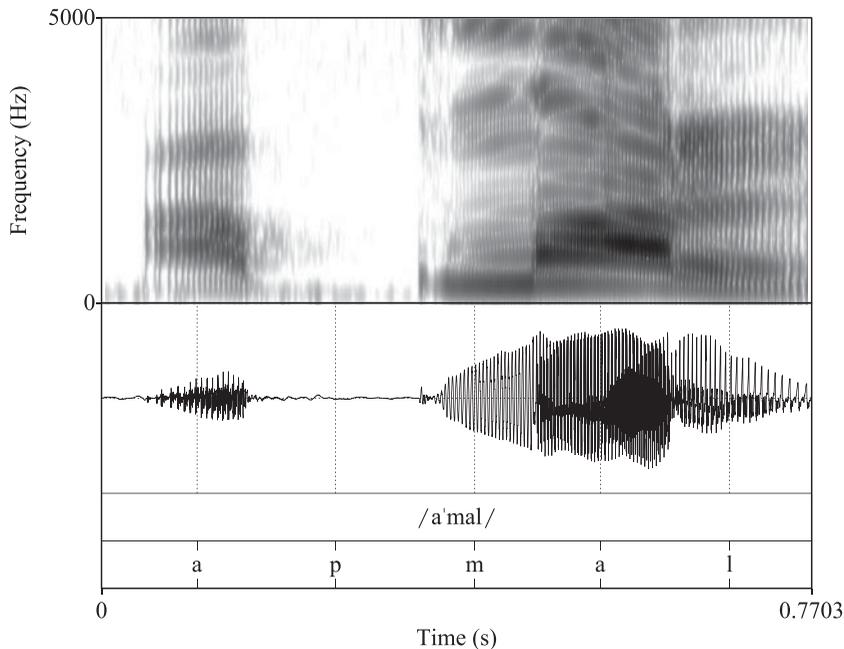


Figure 3 Spectrogram and waveform for /a'mal/ [a'p^mɐl] *amal* 'foot' (RL).

with prestopped nasals (e.g. *okngal* 'mosquito' in Ogilvie 1994: 26) actually show variation between plain and prestopped nasals in the present corpus.

The stop phase preceding the nasal is consistently voiceless, unlike with prestopped nasals in other Paman languages like *Olkola* (Hamilton 1997), and it is usually longer than (or at least as long as) the nasal phase. This is illustrated in Figure 3, where in /a'mal/ [a'p^mɐl] *amal* 'foot' (RL), the stop phase is nearly twice as long as the nasal phase. In fact, the relative prominence of the stop phase would justify a phonetic analysis as postnasalized (or nasally released) plosives rather than prestopped nasals (also when compared with other cases of allophonic prestopping in Australia (see Round 2014, Harvey et al. 2015), where the stop phase is usually quite short).³ I transcribe the sounds as such in (1) above and elsewhere in this paper, but given the systematic alternation with 'plain' nasals in *Umbuygamu*, as well as the tradition of work focused on prestopping in Australia (see Butcher 1999, Round 2014), I retain the label prestopped nasals in this description.

Prestopping in *Umbuygamu* is found most typically at the onset of a stressed syllable, less typically at the onset of unstressed syllables, and almost never in clusters. Not all speakers in the corpus show this variation, however: in the older generation, four out of five speakers use prestopped nasals, while in the younger generation only one uses them. It is difficult to interpret this in a straightforward way, but given that the one older-generation speaker who lacks prestopping is described as less than fluent in the recording notes, the distribution suggests that prestopping could be an older feature that is lost among younger speakers.

³ Phonetically, this has been related to a general dispreference for anticipatory velar lowering in Australian languages, 'with the result that orality perseverates into the nasal consonant' (Butcher 1999: 480). This type of prestopping is found in a number of Australian languages, either allophonically or contrastively: within Cape York Peninsula, it is also found in Southwest Paman (Alpher 1972, Hamilton 1997) and *Alaya-Athima* (Alpher 2016), and beyond Cape York Peninsula in a large set of Central Australian languages (Hercus 1972, Butcher 1999, Round 2014).

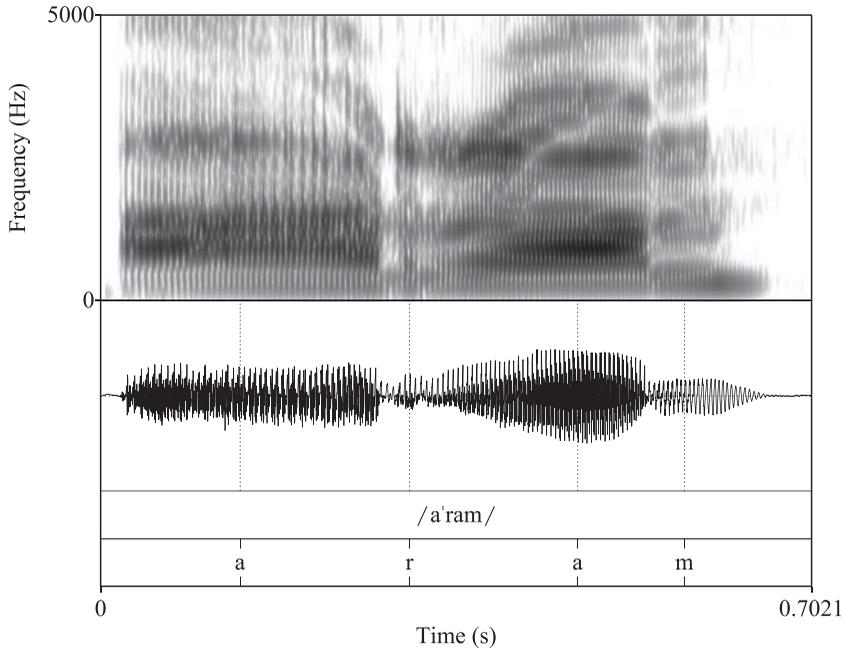


Figure 4 Spectrogram and waveform for /a'ram/ *arram* 'wallaby sp.' (RL).

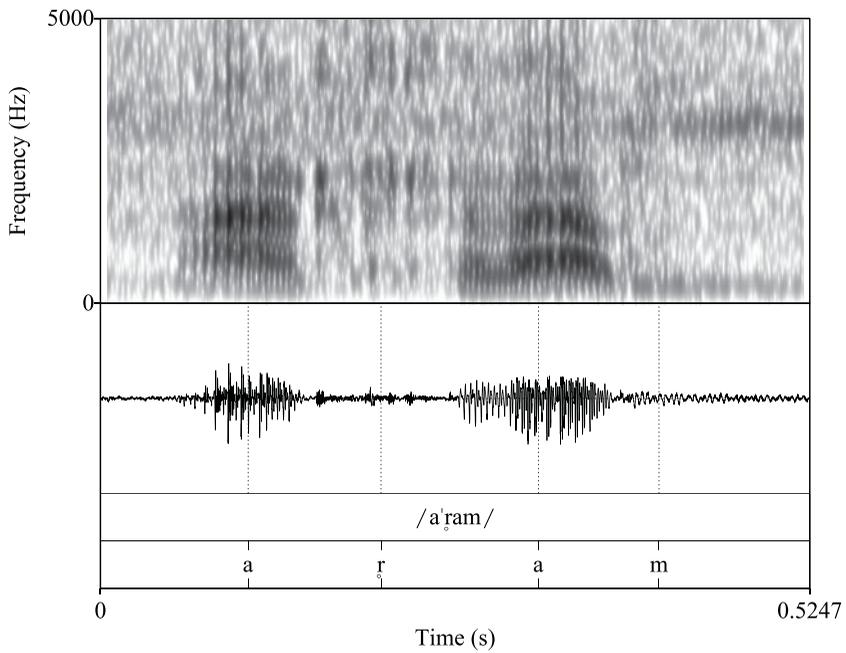


Figure 5 Spectrogram and waveform for /a'ram/ *arham* 'sandridge goanna' (FB).

there are two arguments: first, there is no perceptible friction in its realization, and second, in post-tonic position [ɔ̃] occasionally alternates with a dental lateral [l̪], as shown in (7a–b), which is also an approximant in articulatory terms.⁶

- (7) /ɛ'mɛðɛm/ *emeðem* 'armpit'
 a. [ɛ'mɛðɛm] (NG)
 b. [ɛ'mɛl̪ɛm] (BB)

Phonologically, moreover, the distribution of /ð̃/ is that of an approximant and not that of a fricative. Fricatives (and plosives) never occur in word-final position in Umbugamu, whereas /ð̃/ frequently occurs in word-final position (nine out the 30 roots with /ð̃/ in the lexicon), as shown in (8). Hence the present analysis of /ð̃/ as an approximant.

- (8) /ɛ'ɾɛð̃/ [ɛ'ɾɛð̃] *erheð* 'emu' (BB)

In fact, the articulatory features of /ð̃/ in Umbugamu correspond quite well to the description of dental approximants provided in Olson et al. (2010), the only general study available so far, which is mainly based on a detailed analysis of a number of Austronesian languages of the Philippines. The authors describe the sounds as voiced approximants, with a dental or interdental place of articulation, and showing perceptual (as well as articulatory, see Mielke et al. 2011) links with laterals. Most of these features are found in Umbugamu, although with just a few good tokens and no chance to do visual checking, it is difficult to determine whether the precise place of articulation is dental (in the narrow sense) or interdental. Acoustically, Mielke et al. (2010) report a clearly visible formant structure, with smooth transitions from and to the surrounding vowels. The same applies to /ð̃/ in Umbugamu, as shown in Figure 6, with F1 and F2 roughly within the ranges reported for Kagayanen /ð̃/ in Mielke et al. (2011), though a separate study is required to verify this.

Finally, Umbugamu exhibits two general allophonic processes that apply across the different classes of consonants. One concerns length: intervocalic consonants in the onset of stressed syllables allow lengthening, as illustrated for two different consonants in (9).

- (9) a. /a'la/ [a'l:a] *ala* 'spear' (RL)
 b. /a'da/ [a'd:a] *adha* 'little shark' (NG)

Consonant lengthening is found in the same context in other languages in the region, for instance in several Middle Paman languages to the north of Umbugamu – see Verstraete & Rigsby (2015: 73–74) for an overview. The other process concerns labialization of consonants following the high back vowel /u/, as illustrated in (10a–b).

- (10) a. /u'na/ [u't^{nw}a] *una* 'shit' (RL)
 b. /u'tal/ [u't^wɛl] *utal* 'rain' (BB)

Labialization is obligatory, with two exceptions: it is not found when the consonant precedes a high front vowel, as shown in (11), and rarely found when the relevant syllable is unstressed.

- (11) /u'piru/ [u'piru] *upirru* 'big carpetsnake' (BB)

Labialization is audible as a [w]-offglide following the consonant, which can also affect rounding of a following back vowel (see further in next section).

⁶ Sommer (1998: 10) analyses /l/ as a contrastive item with 'limited distribution', and Ogilvie (1994: 29) even distinguishes four laterals, but there is no evidence for [l̪] in the present corpus other than as an allophone of /ð̃/, and none for other types of laterals beyond /l/.

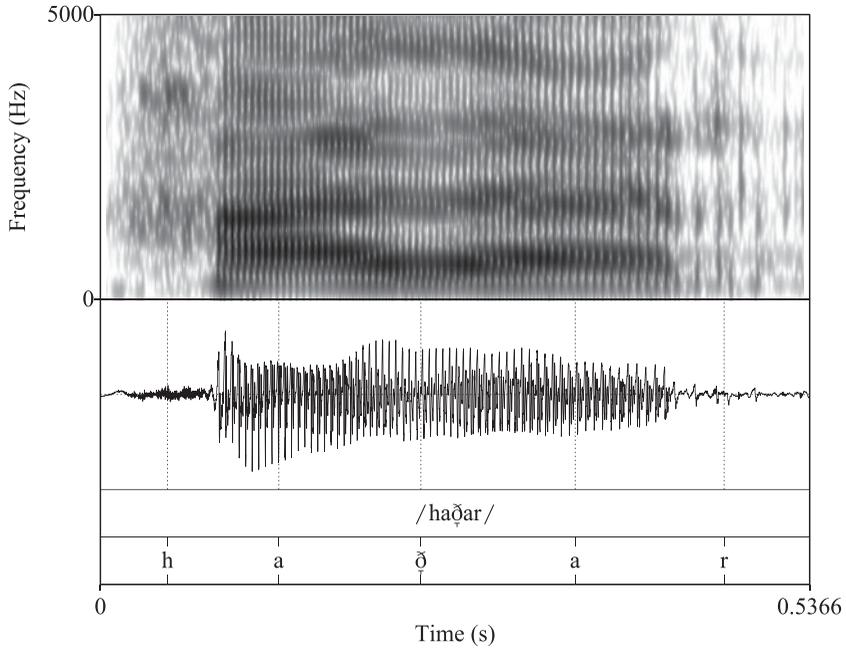
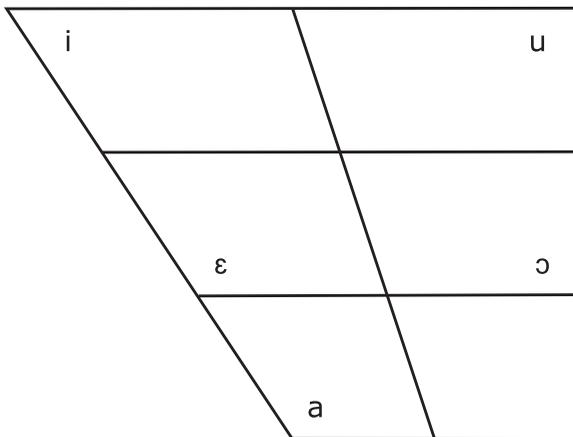


Figure 6 Spectrogram for /'haḏar/ *haḏarr* 'good' (NG).

Vowels



- | | | | |
|-----|---------|---------------|-------------------|
| /a/ | /a'ra/ | <i>arha</i> | 'wife' (NG) |
| /i/ | /i'ra/ | <i>irha</i> | 'other' (FB) |
| /ε/ | /ε'raŋ/ | <i>erhanh</i> | 'shell' (NS) |
| /ɔ/ | /ɔ'ra/ | <i>orha</i> | 'upper arm' (RL) |
| /u/ | /u'ra/ | <i>urhal</i> | 'big mullet' (RL) |

The examples show vowel contrasts in two positions. The first position is the (unstressed) initial syllable of a vowel-initial bisyllabic root (for the canonical root type in this language, see next section). In this context the examples form (near-)minimal pairs, except for the front mid vowel, which tends to show vowel harmony within the root (see below).

The second position for which contrasts are illustrated is the (stressed) second syllable of a bisyllabic root. Given that back vowels are relatively rare in this context, it is difficult to find one set of (near-)minimal pairs illustrating all vowel contrasts at once. However, all height contrasts can be illustrated pairwise, for front vowels and for back vowels, as well as backness contrasts for high vowels and for non-high vowels. The contrast between high and mid back vowels relies on consonant-initial forms, as no (near-)minimal pairs are available in other contexts in the corpus.

Height contrasts

/i/	/a ^h ri/	<i>arhi</i>	‘black antbed’ (FB)
/ε/	/pε ^h rε/	<i>inya</i> <i>erhe</i>	‘cooked meat’ (FB)
		game.animal cooked	
/a/	/ɔ ^h ra/	<i>orha</i>	‘arm’ (RL)
/u/	/wa ^h gun/	<i>wagun</i>	‘mouth’ (RL)
/ɔ/	/ ^h cɔkɔn/	<i>tyokon</i>	‘kangaroo sp.’ (NG)

Backness contrasts

/u/	/a ^h gu/	<i>agu</i>	‘goanna sp.’ (FB)
/i/	/a ^h bi/	<i>abi</i>	‘queenfish’ (RL)
/ɔ/	/u ^h wɔn/	<i>uwon</i>	‘grass’ (NG)
/ε/	/ε ^h mɛn/	<i>emen</i>	‘bandicoot’ (NG)
/a/	/a ^h paran/	<i>aparran</i>	‘thunderstorm’ (RL)
/ɔ/	/a ^h pɔr/	<i>aporr</i>	‘turtle sp.’ (RL)

Unlike its large consonant inventory, Umbuygamu’s vowel inventory is typical of the relatively small vowel inventories commonly found in Australian languages (see Fletcher & Butcher 2014, Gasser & Bovern 2014). There are three features in the architecture of the inventory that deserve some further comment. One concerns vowel length: some Australian languages have phonemic vowel length in at least the stressed syllable, but this is not found in Umbuygamu, which only shows length as an allophone in specific contexts (see the discussion of allophonic processes below). The second feature is the notable presence of a low back vowel [ɑ] in a number of lexemes, as /a^hpɔr/ [a^hpɑ:r] *aporr* ‘turtle sp.’ (RL). Given that the low back vowel never contrasts with the mid back vowel, however, the two are analysed here as allophones of the same phoneme (see below on the relevant context), and the inventory as counting five rather than six vowel qualities. A third noticeable feature is the presence of vowel harmony for front mid vowels. In the lexicon, front mid vowels almost exclusively co-occur with a mid or low front vowel, and rarely with high or back vowels. Similar patterns of vowel harmony are found in other languages in the region, specifically vowel height harmony for mid vowels in some Middle Paman languages, including Umbuygamu’s northern neighbour Umpithamu – see Verstraete & Rigsby (2015: 84–86) for an overview.

There are two general allophonic processes that apply to all vowel qualities. One concerns lengthening: vowel length is not phonemic, as mentioned earlier, but vowels can be lengthened in three contexts. First, they are often lengthened preceding voiced trills, as illustrated in (12), except in post-tonic syllables, as illustrated in (13).

- (12) a. /ɔ^hraŋ/ [ɔ^hrɛŋ] *orrang* ‘tree’ (RL)
 b. /a^htir/ [ɐ^htɪ:r] *athirr* ‘white cockatoo’ (RL)

- (13) /a^hguθar/ [a^hguθɛr] *aguθarr* ‘long tom’ (RL)

Second, vowels are occasionally lengthened in stressed syllables, as illustrated in (14).

- (14) a. /^hʔada/ [ʔa:dɛ] *ada* ‘from south’ (FB)
 b. /a^hriil/ [a^hri:l] *arhil* ‘red’ (NG)

Finally, root-initial vowels can also be lengthened as part of a sandhi process repairing underlying vowel hiatus, illustrated in the compound structure in (15) (see further in next section on such structures).

- (15) /a'θa ε'jɛr/ → /θɛ'jɛr/ [θɛ:'jɛ:r] *aθa edyerr* 'ashes' (NG)
fire ashes

The second general allophonic process concerns vowel reduction: front vowels are occasionally centralized in post-tonic position, as illustrated in (16). This type of reduction is not found for back vowels but, as already mentioned, these are rare in post-tonic position anyway, so this may be an effect of the relatively small number of tokens in the corpus.

- (16) a. /'ŋari,bi/ [ˈŋarə,bi] *ngarribi* 'woman' (NG)
b. /ɔ'raŋam/ [ɔ'ɾəŋəm] *orhanham* 'grindstone' (FB)

A second set of allophonic processes concern specific vowels in the inventory. There are two notable processes for the low vowel. First, the low vowel varies between a front [a] and central [ɐ] realization. The front realization is more frequent in pre-tonic position, the central realization in post-tonic position; in tonic position both occur in what looks like free variation. Examples (17) illustrate these patterns: front realization in pre-tonic position in (17a, b), central realization in post-tonic position in (17c), and variation between front and central realization in tonic position.

- (17) a. /a'gan/ [a'gəŋ] *aganh* 'mangrove sp.' (RL)
b. /a'can/ [a'cəŋ] *atyan* 'egg' (RL)
c. /ɔ'rahar/ [ɔ'ɾəɦɛr] *orraharr* 'cloud' (RL)

I choose /a/ as the phonemic label because the pre-tonic position (initial V in V-initial roots, the canonical root type in the language) has a higher functional load for vowel contrasts than the other positions, which, as mentioned earlier, show some historical levelling of vowel contrasts, especially for back vowels.

A second process affecting the low vowel is raising: low vowels can be raised following palatal elements, as illustrated in (18), and raised and rounded following labialized consonants, as illustrated in (19).

- (18) /i'balam,ja/ [i'ba:ləm,je] *ibala-m=ya* 'I am afraid.' (BB)
be.afraid-PRS=1SG.NOM

- (19) /u'tal/ *utal* 'rain'
a. [u't^wɛl] (BB)
b. [u't^wɔl] (NG)

Raising following palatals is relatively rare in the corpus, but raising following labialized consonants is very frequent, effectively leading to neutralization of the contrast with mid back vowels in contexts of labialization.

For front vowels, there are two patterns to be discussed. One concerns the high front vowel /i/, which in the speech of Nellie Salt can be realized as lax [ɪ] in stressed contexts, as illustrated in /a'riwir/ [a:'riβɪr] *arriwirr* 'owl sp.' (NS). This is probably an idiolectal feature, as in the speech of all other speakers, vowel reduction is only found in unstressed syllables (see the discussion of vowel reduction above). The second pattern concerns the front mid vowel /ɛ/, which in root-initial position (i.e. pre-tonically) is frequently diphthongized to [ɛə] or even [ɛa] when preceding a stressed syllable with a low vowel. This process is found for roots in isolation, as shown in (20), but also in the resolution of vowel hiatus between roots, as in (21).

This difference is consistent with the hypothesis that historical loss of initial consonants may have gone hand in hand with a shift in stress pattern (Blevins & Marmion 1994). The majority of roots are bisyllabic, which implies that a bisyllabic vowel-initial form, as in (24) above, is the most typical root. There are a handful of monosyllabic roots, mainly verbs and cardinal directions, illustrated in (26), as well as a larger number of trisyllabic roots, illustrated in (27), although some of these may be complex diachronically.

- (26) a. /^hgaɪ/ *gar* 'west' (BB)
 b. /^hdɛm/ *de-m* 'fall down' (FB)
 fall-PRS
- (27) a. /a^htawaɪ/ *athawar* 'sugar glider' (RL)
 b. /^hɾawa,mar/ *rhawamarr* 'stormbird' (RL)

The distinction between roots and compounds is relevant because compound structures are defined by a distinct stress pattern, with stress falling on the stressable syllable of the second root. Furthermore, the first member of a compound can also undergo reduction if it is vowel-initial and/or vowel-final. When a vowel-initial root serves as the first element of a compound, it can drop the initial vowel, as in (28) and (29), in a process that is specific to compounds.

- (28) /a^hwaɪ ɛ^hpal/ → /waɪ ɛ^hpal/ *awar epal* 'hair' (BB)
 head hair
- (29) /a^hθa ɛ^hɟɛɾ/ → /θɛ^hɟɛɾ/ *aθa edyerr* 'ashes' (BB)
 fire ashes

When a vowel-final root serves as the first element and is followed by a vowel-initial root, the first element loses its final vowel, as in (29) and (30), in a general sandhi process to resolve vowel hiatus (which can also be observed in the transcribed passage in next section).

- (30) /a^hla ɛ^hwɛɾɛɪ/ → /lɛ^hwɛɾɛɪ/ *ala ewerrɛɪ* 'wire spear' (FB)
 spear wire.spear

As mentioned earlier, the second process can be accompanied by lengthening of the first vowel of the second member (or diphthongization in the case of a front mid vowel).

I use the label 'compound' for any structure that has these formal features, i.e. a distinct pattern of stress and vowel elision. These features are most typically associated with forms that also look like compounds semantically, like (28)–(30) above, but not necessarily or exclusively. On the one hand, combinations of lexemes that look like compounds semantically also allow regular construal, as is shown in (31a), which is construed with stress on both lexemes. Conversely, lexeme combinations with other semantic relations also allow compound construal, as is shown in (31b), which is semantically a generic-specific combination.

- (31) a. /ɔ^hɾaŋ ɛ^hral/ [ɔ^hɾaŋ ɛa^hral] *orrang erral* 'tree root' (RL)
 tree root
- b. /i^hna i^hɕar/ → /ni^hɕaɪ/ *inya ishar* 'fish' (RL)
 game.animal fish

The vowel elision processes associated with compound structures create consonant-initial forms with second-syllable stress. Given that roots only allow second-syllable stress for

vowel-initial forms, any consonant-initial forms with stress beyond the first syllable should be analysable as compounds, as in /θe¹ʃer/ *aθa edyerr* ‘ashes’ (BB). There are a few such forms in the lexicon for which a synchronic compound analysis is difficult because not all elements are attested as independent roots, as is the case in the examples in (32).

- (32) a. /wɔ¹tanan/ *wothanan* ‘lip’ (RL)
 b. /wa¹par/ *waparr* ‘beard’ (RL)
 c. /wa¹gun/ *wagun* ‘mouth’ (RL)

In such cases, however, there is often comparative evidence to show that they derive from compounds and retain the typical compound stress pattern. The initial morpheme *wa-* in (32) is only attested in complex forms, but may be related to a Proto-Paman etymon **caawa* ‘mouth’ (Hale 1976b), which suggests that they derive from compounds with an element meaning ‘mouth’ as the first element. The semantic transparency of the second element varies in these structures. In (32a), the second element is attested independently as *othanan* ‘skin’, which suggests that the structure derives from a compound like ‘mouth skin’. In (32b), the second element is not attested independently, but is probably related to an etymon **calparr* ‘chin’ (Alpher 2004). In (32c), the second element is not attested independently and not obviously reconstructible, which means that *wa-*, as well as the paradigm of forms in (32), are the only evidence for an origin in a compound structure.

Transcribed passage

The following text is the first episode (about one-third) of a longer text describing a hunting trip: it was recorded in 1974 by Bruce Sommer; the speaker is Nancy Gunnawarra (NG). The text is elicited, with the fieldworker prompting the speaker for every new utterance. Although this is not the most representative type of text, it is the only longer text in the corpus that can be reliably glossed and translated (partly based on glossing provided in Bruce Sommer’s fieldnotes, as well as prompts in the recording). I provide a broad transcription of the text, followed by a morphemic breakdown in practical orthography, interlinear glosses, and a free translation.

ɛɹapar	garanja	ɔhaja
ɛraparr	garra-n=ya	ohar-a
yesterday	go-PST=1SG.NOM	hunt-DAT
‘Yesterday I went out hunting.’		

ɔraj	ʃal	ten
orray	thal	te-n
older.brother	1SG.GEN	come-PST
‘My older brother came along.’		

lala	garanlala		lɛwɛrɛɹa
lala	garra-n=lala		ala ewerrer-a
1DUEXC.NOM	go-PST=1DUEXC.NOM		spear wire.spear-DAT
‘We got a spear.’			

lala	garan	logapara
lala	garra-n	logaparr-a
1DUEXC.NOM	go-PST	river-DAT
‘We went to the river.’		

lala iralanlala narama
 lala irrala-n=lala nya arram-a
 1DUExc.NOM look.for-PST=1DUExc.NOM game.animal wallaby-DAT
 ‘We looked for wallaby.’

maganjaŋan | pigipigi garanla maθam
 maga-n=ya-ngan pigipigi gara-n=la maθam
 see-PST=1SG.NOM-3SG.ACC pig go-PST=3SG.NOM big
 ‘I saw a pig run past, a big one.’

jaŋan ɲanjaŋan
 ya-ngan nya-n=ya-ngan
 1SG.NOM-3SG.ACC hit-PST=1SG.NOM-3SG.ACC
 ‘I shot at it.’

ɲanjaŋan
 ara nya-n=ya-ngan
 NEG hit-PST=1SG.NOM-3SG.ACC
 ‘I didn’t kill it.’

oθa maθam
 oθa maθam
 scrub big
 ‘The scrub was (too) thick.’

uta maranlaŋan
 uta marra-n=la-ngan
 dog follow-PST=3SG.NOM-3SG.ACC
 ‘The dog chased it.’

oɾaj ʈal | ɲanlaŋan
 orray ʈal nya-n=la-ngan
 older.brother 1SG.GEN hit-PST=3SG.NOM-3SG.ACC

laŋanlaŋan | alaw
 langa-n=la-ngan ala-w
 spear-PST=3SG.NOM-3SG.ACC spear-INSTR
 ‘My older brother killed it, speared it with a spear.’

belbenlaŋan | ahaɾaɾiŋ
 belbe-n=lala-ngan ahar-rinh
 cut-PST=1DUExc.NOM-3SG.ACC fat-PRIV
 ‘We cut it open, but there was no fat.’

ABBREVIATIONS

1, 3 = first, third person	NEG = negator
ACC = accusative	NOM = nominative
DAT = dative	PRIV = privative
DU = dual	PRS = present
EXC = exclusive	PST = past
GEN = genitive	SG = singular

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