

The bows (*bekcin'*)\* average about 1.15 meters in length, are unbacked, plain, with a slight tendency to a reverse curve. Saragossa wood is preferred. The fish-arrows (*kaapi'*) which have a pointed, very heavy iron wire head, average 80 centimeters in the shaft, and 50 in the head. Light reed shafts are preferred. Deer arrows, with laurel-leaved heads of hammered iron, are about 60 centimeters in the shaft, with a head averaging 10 centimeters in length. Ordinarily, the arrows are notched. Feathers are never used (fig. 46).

The unique characters to which I have referred occur in the complete lack of standardization of any part. The statement given above summarizes the general type, and the form towards which the bow-makers are tending. At present, it may be said that no two bows or arrows are of the same length. Some bows are finely smoothed, rounded on one side, flat on the other; some are knotty, retain part of the bark, and are almost flat, or faintly convex, on both sides. In most cases, the curved side is towards the string, but not in all. The string itself may be of ixtla, hennequen, or cheap, commercial cord; it may be finely braided, two or three-strand rolled, or a loose, fuzzy twine. The detachable end may be tied in a loop with a bowline or square knot, or made fast with a timber hitch. The fast end is usually tied with a clove or timber hitch.

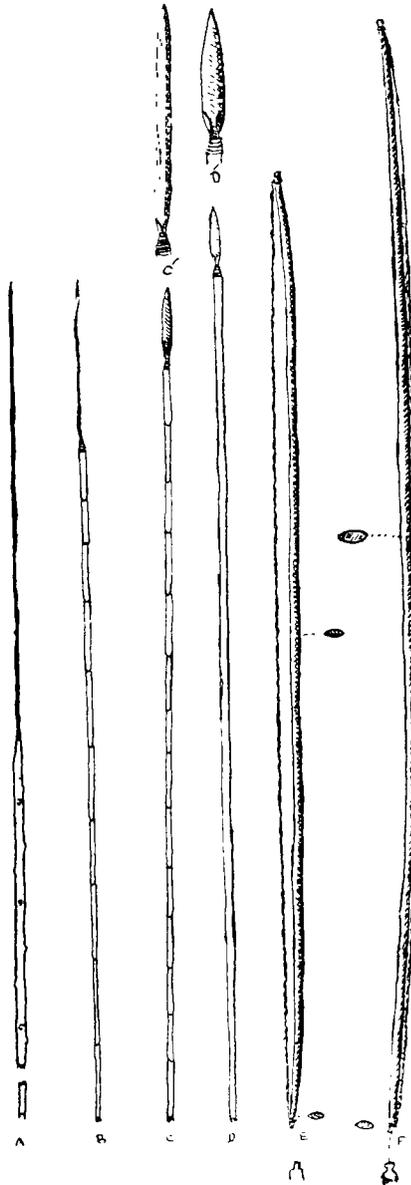


FIG. 46—San Martin Pajapan, Ver. Bows and Arrows.

The deer-arrows are fairly well standardized, probably because the difficulty of working the iron enforces a standard, small size of head. Fish arrows, on the other hand, show the widest possible

\*"Popoluca" names are given.