SINADUMPARAN is a low, stone and lime-walled house with thick cogon roof. It is usually 4-5 meters in width and 6-7 meters in length. Its walls have a thickness of a meter or so and a usual height of 5-6 meters from the ground. The floor plan is rectangular, commonly in two stories, composed of the basement (ahbu) and the upper story (sahad). Both kitchen and main building are similar in shape but differ in height, with the main being higher. The two structures are connected by a batalan, which is level to the floor of the kitchen. There are two or three steps going up the main structure.

Chivuvuhung – The walls of this structure are made of thatched cogon enclosing the floor space on all sides. This houses the hearth on one end with a sleeping area on the other.

Kamadid – This has a low structure made entirely of wood, reeds and cogon. It has a triangular shape when viewed from the front, with the two sides serving as its roof going down to its walls. It has a trapezoidal shape as seen from the side view where both ends are open. This type of house is commonly used as a shelter for fishing boats and other seacrafts. Very few of these remain today.

Mayhurahed – This resembles the chivuvuhung. The only difference is that this has a low wall made of stone, chopped cogon and mud or lime and sand between the ground and the cogon sides which is called hurabed.

Maytuab/Nituavan – The four sides of the roof of this structure tapers upward to the top to form a trapezoidal shape on the two opposite longer sides and triangular on the other two opposite shorter sides. It has a low basement.

Rahaung (B) – This essentially has the same basic structure as the (A) variant with an additional protection in the form of cogon and reeds on both ends.

Sinadumparan – A house with walls and sides made of stone and mortar. The narrower side walls are extended upward forming a triangle to which its cogon roof is leveled. It has a low basement used for storage or shelter for animals.

Sinadumparan a binedberan – This structure's slight difference with sinadumparan is the way the roof is made. The roof is placed above and extends to the triangular wall.

Felix Y. Adami

ITBAYAT, BATANES ISLAND GROUP PROVINCE, NORTHERN PHILIPPINES. The woven cone-shaped yuvuk (basket for women) is common in Itbayat, Batanes. The basket is shaped like an inverted cone and cannot stand upright by itself. It is carried at the back with a strap sling to the head called apid.

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The persistence of old traditions into the modern times, is seen in this desolate mountain road, where both people burdened with yuvuk, and carabao bearing people bearing yuvuks, pass one another.

© Cecilia V. Picache (Itbayat, 2010)

Traditional Craftsmanship
THE YUVUK is a sturdy wide-mouthed ovaloid basket used by women to carry harvests. Made by a single weaver, it is made of *didit* or *nito* (*Lygodium japonicum* Tard. & C. Chr.) strips intricately woven over a framework of *tiblas* vine and bamboo. It is provided with a strap (*apid*) of braided bark strips and sometimes slung on the forehead so that it serves as a counterweight while striding the rocky and hilly island of Itbayat.

The process of making the basket is simple. First, the framework (*pamakaw*) is prepared by selecting long and straight didit, preferably while still in the field. These are coiled around a piece of bamboo or banana stalk to straighten the didit without removing the petioles, only the leaves. The bundled strips are then left for two days to allow them to settle into a permanent shape.

On the third day, the strips are cleaned and smoothed with a dull knife. The cleaned strips are bundled for more efficient handling and storage. Meanwhile, *vayu* or *hanut* is collected from the bark of a vayu or hanut tree and stripped into a smaller width for the *apid*. A big ring of about 12 to 16 inches in diameter is formed. Weaving begins with the X-shape design between the pamakaw which is done in a circular direction. It does not need a molder. The depth depends on the maker but practically, it is the same as its mouth. When weaving is paused, the didit strips are soaked in water to soften it and to prevent it from becoming brittle.

Afterwards, the tiblas of around 4 meters is woven for the rim. This is fastened in two layers in and out the top part with didit. Tiblas of around 5-6 meters is needed for the *pakaw*, the frame of the woven basket. It is fastened from bottom to the mouth, extended above its brim forming scallops, or are arched back to the bottom. One quarter is framed. Each base of the big scallop or arch above the brim is tied by weaves of small scallops then the opposite side is done.

Inverted V-shape weave is done in the middle of each big scallop for support. It is where the rope of the *apid* is passed through. The strap is woven in a one-over-one, one-under design using vayu or hanut. The length of the strap depends on the user's needs.

Artemio C. Barbosa (ACB)