

The second strake is sewn to the garboard with a padded and corded seam placed inboard. On the upper edge of this strake are disposed a set of beams (Fig. 8).



Figure 8. In the bow over the thwart-beams large pirogues have thwarts rabbeted on the sheer: a) 14.2m long. Siridao; b) laid-up pirogue 13.4m long showing thwarts and absence of internal stiffening. Arossim. P. O'Beirnes.

They project outboard; inboard each is secured to the second strake by a single diagonal stitch. The beams function also as thwarts, or as a discontinuous deck, since this is the level on which the crew stationed forward of midships propel the craft and operate fishing nets (Fig. 9). It is where the helmsman stands to work his steering oar over the gunwale on either port or starboard. In large pirogues the crew stood or sat on a second set of thwarts forward of midships, each rabbeted on the gunwale and immediately above a thwart-beam (Figs 8a,b). In the lower part of the hull a grapnel anchor is stored but little else (Fig.7a).