



**AIATSIS**  
Australian Institute of Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Studies

**Finding aid**

**BNA\_03**

**Sound recordings collected by  
Baldwin Spencer, 1901 and 1912**

## ACCESS

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

**Date:** 1901, 1912

**Extent:** 16 sound tape reels : analogue, mono ; 7 in.

### Production history

This collection was collated from wax cylinder recordings collected by Sir Baldwin Spencer in 1901 and 1912. They were dubbed from the 'A', 'B' and 'C' series recorded in Central Australia in 1901, and from the 'D' series recorded in the Northern Territory, including Bathurst island, in 1912. The recordings were transferred to magnetic tape by the British Institute of Recorded Sound in 1978. The collection features Arrernte ceremonies and language, and Wardaman, Yugul, Mara, Ngalakgan, Binbinga and Tiwi ceremonies. The collection was deposited with AIATSIS in 1979.

## RELATED MATERIAL

**Important:** before you click on any links in this section, please read our [sensitivity message](#).

Audition sheets, compiled by the musicologist Alice Moyle, for this collection are held in the AIATSIS Library, see [MS 2125](#). For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult the Institute's Mura® online catalogue at <http://mura.aiatsis.gov.au>.

## ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by the Baldwin Spencer and audition sheets prepared by Alice Moyle.



## ITEM LIST

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
009206A 009206B 009207A 009207B	<a href="#">6</a>	Arrernte ceremonies, songs, language elicitation and conversation, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009208A	<a href="#">7</a>	Arrernte Unintha corroboree, Ultulpa corroboree and initiation song, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009208B	<a href="#">8</a>	Arrernte initiation and other songs, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009209A	<a href="#">9</a>	Arrernte songs, language elicitation, place names, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009209B	<a href="#">10</a>	Arrernte ceremonies and language elicitation, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009210A	<a href="#">11</a>	Arrernte language elicitation, conversation and initiation songs, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009210B	<a href="#">12</a>	Arrernte initiation and other ceremonial songs, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009211A	<a href="#">13</a>	Indigenous (Wardaman?) ceremonies at Katherine, NT, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009211B	<a href="#">14</a>	Indigenous (Wardaman?) ceremonies at Katherine, NT, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009212A	<a href="#">15</a>	Indigenous (Wardaman?) ceremonies at Katherine, NT; Indigenous ceremony at Wave Hill, NT; Mara ceremony, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009212B	<a href="#">16</a>	Mara ceremony; Wardaman ceremony; Indigenous ceremonies in Bathurst Island and Arnhem Land, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009213A	<a href="#">17</a>	Ceremonies on Bathurst Island; Wardaman ceremony; Maranunggu ceremony; Yugul ceremony, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009213B	<a href="#">18</a>	Ngalakgan ceremony; ceremonies at Katherine, on Bathurst Island, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009214A	<a href="#">19</a>	Ceremonies at Bathurst Island, Katherine; Wardaman ceremony,

Archive number	Field recording number	Description
		<b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009214	<a href="#"><u>20</u></a>	Wardaman ceremony; Binbinga ceremony, women's ceremony, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>
009215A	<a href="#"><u>21</u></a>	Wardaman ceremony, ceremony at Bathurst Island, women's ceremony, <b>RESTRICTED – CEREMONIAL, GENDER SPECIFIC MATERIAL</b>

## ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified female and male performers and speakers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Female, Ceremonies – Initiation, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences, Language – Vocabulary – Place names, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation
Language/people:	Arrernte / Aranda
Places:	Oodnadatta map area (SA Central Australia SG53-15), Charlotte Waters (South Central NT SG53-06)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009206A	00:00:00	Announcement from British Institute of Recorded Sound.	1978	
	00:01:16	A1, B2: Song from the Unintha ceremony performed by unidentified male.	1901	Stevenson Creek, SA
	00:08:01	A6, A6*: Initiation song performed by unidentified male.	22 March 1901	
	00:16:10	B9: Arrernte songs performed by unidentified male.		
	00:20:17	B10: Arrernte sentence and place name elicitation with unidentified speaker.		
	00:24:30	A11: Arrernte songs performed by unidentified male.		
	00:28:24	A12: Arrernte songs and language elicitation with unidentified males.		
	00:31:59	End of BNA_03-009206A.		
BNA_03-009206B	00:00:00	Continuation of A12.		
	00:01:00	A13: Arrernte songs performed by unidentified males.	28 March 1901	Charlotte Waters, NT
	00:05:21	A15: Arrernte songs performed by	29 March	

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
		two unidentified females.	1901	
	00:09:22	End of BNA_03-009206B.		
BNA_03-009207A	00:00:00	B16: Sentence elicitation in Arrernte with two unidentified female speakers.	29 March 1901	Charlotte Waters, NT
	00:04:19	A17, A17*: Two women quarrelling in Arrernte.		
	00:11:08	A19, A19*: Two men quarrelling in Arrernte.		
	00:19:00	B20, A21: Rain totem song performed in Arrernte by two unidentified males.	30 March 1901	
	00:27:18	End of BNA_03-009207A.		
BNA_03-009207B	00:00:00	A23, B24: Snake of Akiltja Kangaroo songs performed in Arrernte by unidentified males.		
	00:10:23	End of 6 and end of BNA_03-009207B.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male and female performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music - Vocal - Solo – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Female, Music - Vocal - Group – Male, Ceremonies – Initiation
Language/people:	Arrente / Aranda
Places:	Oodnadatta map area (SA Central Australia SG53-15)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009208A	00:00:00	C1, C1*, C2, C2*: Unintha ceremony songs performed in Arrente by unidentified male.	1901	Stevenson Creek, SA
	00:15:37	C3, C3*, C3**: Ultulpa ceremony songs performed in Arrente by unidentified females.		
	00:26:22	C4: Arrente initiation song performed by unidentified male.	22 March 1901	
	00:30:37	End of 7 and end of BNA_03-009208A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Ceremonies – Initiation
Language/people:	Arrente / Aranda
Places:	Oodnadatta map area (SA Central Australia SG53-15)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009208B	00:00:00	C5*, C4*, C5, C4**, C5**, C6: Arrente initiation songs performed by unidentified males	22-23 March 1901	Stevenson Creek, SA
	00:22:09	C7, C8: Urumpilla (Fire) and Tjitjingalla ceremonies performed in Arrente by unidentified males.	22 March 1901	
	00:29:20	End of 8 and end of BNA_03-009208B.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences, Language – Vocabulary – Place names
Language/people:	Arrernte / Aranda language, Lander Warlpiri people
Places:	Oodnadatta map area (SA Central Australia SG53-15)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009209A	00:00:00	C8**, C9, C9*, C9**: Arrernte songs performed by an unidentified male.	22 March 1901	Stevenson Creek, SA
	00:14:21	C10, C10*, C10**: Arrernte language and place name elicitation with an unidentified speaker.		
	00:25:55	C11: Arrernte songs performed by an unidentified Lander Warlpiri male.		
	00:29:41	End of 9 and end of BNA_03-009209A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male and female performers and speakers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Female, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences
Language/people:	Arrente / Aranda
Places:	Charlotte Waters (South Central NT SG53-06)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009209B	00:00:00	C12, C12*: Arrente ceremonial songs performed by unidentified males.	1901	Charlotte Waters, NT
	00:10:48	C13, C13*, C13**: Arrente ceremonial songs performed by unidentified females.	29 March 1901	
	00:20:10	C15: Arrente ceremonial songs performed by unidentified males.		
	00:24:00	C16: Arrente sentence elicitation with two unidentified females.		
	00:27:10	End of 10 and end of BNA_03-009209B.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male and female speakers and performers
Subject keywords:	Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Sentences, Language – Linguistics – Language elicitation – Discussion / Conversation, Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Ceremonies – Initiation
Language/people:	Arrente / Aranda
Places:	Charlotte Waters (South Central NT SG53-06)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009210A	00:00:00	C16*, C16**: Sentence elicitation in Arrente with two unidentified female speakers.	29 March 1901	Charlotte Waters, NT
	00:07:30	C17, C17*: Discussion in Arrente with two unidentified female speakers.		
	00:14:20	C18*, C18: Songs for Arrente initiation ceremony performed by unidentified male.	3 April 1901	Charlotte Waters, NT
	00:22:30	C19, C19**: Discussion in Arrente with two unidentified male speakers.		
	00:29:38	End of 11 and end of BNA_03-009210A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Ceremonies – Initiation, Music – Vocal – Group – Male
Language/people:	Arrente / Aranda
Places:	Charlotte Waters (South Central NT SG53-06)
Recording quality:	Poor to fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009210B	00:00:00	C20*, C21, C21**: Arrente Rain Totem song performed by unidentified males.	30 March 1901	Charlotte Waters, NT
	00:11:07	Arrente songs for initiation ceremony performed by unidentified males.		
	00:14:50	Arrente Great Snake (Akiltja) song performed by unidentified males.		
	00:29:48	End of 12 and end of BNA_03-009210B.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male and female performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group – Mixed voices, Music – Vocal – Group – Female, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male
Language/people:	(Possibly) Wardaman, Tiwi
Places:	Katherine (NT Top End SD53-09), Bathurst Island (NT SC52-15)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009211A	00:00:00	D1, D1**, D1***, D2: Arunji (Snake) ceremony performed by (possibly) Wardaman people.	28 October 1912	Katherine, NT
	00:10:09	D2*, D**: Arajuin Waduman music performed by (possibly) Wardaman females.		
	00:15:20	D3, D3*: Tiwi song performed by an unidentified male.	15 November 1912	Bathurst Island, NT
	00:20:30	D4, D4*, D4**, D1, D1**: Arunji (Snake) ceremony performed by (possibly) Wardaman people.	28 October 1912	Katherine, NT
	00:31:08	End of 13 and end of BNA_03-009211A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male and female performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Female
Language/people:	(Possibly) Wardaman, Tiwi
Places:	Katherine (NT Top End SD53-09), Bathurst Island (NT SC52-15)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009211B	00:00:00	D1**, D1***, D2: Arunji (Snake) ceremony performed by (possibly) Wardaman people.	28 October 1912	Katherine, NT
	00:09:26	D2*, D2**: "Arajuin" ceremony performed by unidentified (possibly) Wardaman females.	15 December 1912	
	00:16:10	D3: "Nabakawaila" ceremony performed by an unidentified Tiwi male accompanied by other singers.	7 December 1912	Bathurst Island, NT
	00:26:05	D4**: Arunji (Snake) ceremony performed by unidentified (possibly) Wardaman males.	28 October 1912	Katherine, NT
	00:29:30	End of 14 and end of BNA_03-009211B.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Female
Language/people:	(Possibly) Wardaman, Mara / Marra
Places:	Katherine (NT Top End SD53-09, Kakadu / Alligator Rivers area (NT SD53-01, SD53-05), Daguragu / Kalkaringi / Wave Hill (Central NT SE52-08)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009212A	00:00:00	D4***, D5, D5**: Arunji (Snake) ceremony performed by unidentified (possibly) Wardaman males	28 October 1912	Katherine, NT
	00:09:05	D6, D6*, D6**: “Kait Ba” ceremony performed by unidentified males and females	1912	Kakadu, NT
	00:19:40	D7, D7*: “Tin-unba” ceremony performed by unidentified males.	1 November 1912	Wave Hill, NT
	00:26:32	D8: “Lurkin” ceremony performed by unidentified Mara males.	October 1912	NT
	00:29:38	End of 15 and end of BNA_03-009212A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male and female performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Mixed voices, Music – Vocal – Group – Female, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male
Language/people:	Mara / Marra, Wardaman, Tiwi, Yugul
Places:	Northern Territory (NT), Bathurst Island (NT SC52-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009212B	00:00:00	D8*: “Lurkin” ceremony performed by unidentified Mara males.	1 October 1912	NT
	00:03:12	D9*: “Abakau-ulla” ceremony performed by unidentified males and female	1912	NT
	00:06:10	D10, D10*: “Walluja” ceremony performed by unidentified Wardaman males	15 November 1912	NT
	00:12:39	D11, D11*: “Nabaku-Wella” ceremony performed by unidentified Tiwi males	1912	Bathurst Island, NT
	00:19:01	D12, D12*: “Wei-pa” ceremony performed by unidentified Yugul male.	1912	NT
	00:27:59	End of 16 and end of BNA_03-009212B.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu, Religion – Rites – Kunapipi
Language/people:	Wardaman, Tiwi, Yugul, Maranunggu, unidentified language
Places:	Northern Territory (NT), Bathurst Island (NT SC52-15)
Recording quality:	Fair
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009213A	00:00:00	D13, D13*: "Yoi-i" ceremony performed by unidentified Tiwi males.	1912	Bathurst Island, NT
	00:06:35	D14, D14*: Kunapipi ceremony performed by unidentified Wardaman males.	1912	NT
	00:13:10	D15, D15*, D15**: "Djadpar" ceremony performed by performed by unidentified Maranunggu male accompanied by didjeridu.	1912	NT
	00:23:14	D16: Arunji (Snake) ceremony performed by unidentified males	1912	NT
	00:26:19	D16*: "Wi-ipa (Bamboo) ceremony performed by unidentified Yugul men accompanied by didjeridu.	1912	NT
	00:29:40	End of 17 and end of BNA_03-009213A.		
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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Solo – Male, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu
Language/people:	Ngalakan, Wardaman, Tiwi, unidentified language
Places:	Northern Territory (NT), Katherine (NT Top End SD53-09), Bathurst Island (NT SC52-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009213B	00:00:00	D17, D17*, D17**: "Lareppi" ceremony sung by unidentified Ngalakan male accompanied by didjeridu.	31 October 1912	NT
	00:10:23	D18*: Arunji (Snake) ceremony performed by unidentified males.	28 October 1912	Katherine, NT
	00:13:55	D19, D19*, D11**: "Nabakuru Wella (yoi-i)" ceremony performed by by unidentified Tiwi males.	1912	Bathurst Island, NT
	00:24:12	D20, D20**: "Yoi-i" ceremony performed by unidentified Tiwi males.	1912	Bathurst Island, NT
	00:30:26	End of 18 and end of BNA_03-009213B.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group – Male
Language/people:	Tiwi, Wardaman, unidentified language
Places:	Northern Territory (NT), Katherine (NT Top End SD53-09), Bathurst Island (NT SC52-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009214A	00:00:00	D20**, D20***: “Yoi-i” ceremony performed by unidentified Tiwi males.	1912	Bathurst Island, NT
	00:06:24	D21, D21*, D22: Arunji (Snake) ceremony performed by unidentified males.	28 October 1912	Katherine, NT
	00:16:40	D22A: “Walluga” ceremony performed by unidentified Wardaman males.	15 November 1912	NT
	00:20:09	D23, D23*, D23**: “Yoi-i” ceremony performed by unidentified Tiwi males.	1912	Bathurst Island, NT
	00:30:15	End of 9 and end of BNA_03-009214A.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male and female performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Female, Music – Instruments – Wind – Didjeridu
Language/people:	Binbinga, Wardaman, Tiwi
Places:	Northern Territory (NT), Katherine (NT Top End SD53-09), Bauhinia Downs, Bathurst Island (NT SC52-15)
Recording quality:	Fair to good
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009214	00:00:00	D24: Arunji (Snake) ceremony performed by unidentified males.	28 October 1912	Katherine, NT
	00:03:40	D24*, D24**: "Wijudju" ceremony performed by unidentified Binbinga men accompanied by didjeridu.	1 November 1912	Bauhinia Downs, NT
	00:10:45	D25, D25*, D25: Women's ceremony performed by unidentified females.	1 November 1912	NT
	00:17:00	D25A: "Arajuin" ceremony performed by unidentified Wardaman females	15 November 1912	NT
	00:20:50	D26, D26*, D26**: "Nabakuwella" ceremony performed by unidentified Tiwi males.	7 December 1912	Bathurst Island, NT
	00:31:10	End of 20 and end of BNA_03-09214.		

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Performer/speaker(s):	Unidentified male and female performers
Subject keywords:	Music – Traditional – Ceremonial, Music – Vocal – Group – Mixed voices, Music – Vocal – Group – Male, Music – Vocal – Group – Female
Language/people:	Wardaman, Tiwi, unidentified
Places:	Northern Territory (NT), Bathurst Island (NT SC52-15)
Recording quality:	Poor
Notes:	The numbers in the description column, e.g. A1, B2*, etc., are the numbers assigned to each of the wax recording cylinders used by Baldwin Spencer

Archive item number	Timing point	Description	Date	Place
BNA_03-009215A	00:00:00	D27, D27*, D27**: "Warangin" ceremony performed by unidentified Wardaman males and females.	15 November 1912	NT
	00:10:33	D28, D28*, D28**: "Abakuwella" ceremony performed by unidentified Tiwi males.		
	00:20:56	D29, D29*: Women's Arunji (Snake) ceremony performed by unidentified smokers.		
	00:27:38	End of dubbings of the cylinder recordings collected by Baldwin Spencer.		

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