

Wuray

pyrenes

seed-gleam

shallow  
yet well  
-rooted  
tropical  
rain  
-forests'  
col  
-umns,  
we  
rise  
slow,  
a hand  
-ful of  
branches  
taking  
in all

we we  
are we are we  
are many are many  
many-winged many-winged  
we are we are  
we are many many  
many many  
-toothed, yet -toothed,  
our bark's bark's  
worse worse  
than than  
our our  
bite bite  
bite bite

we are we  
are we are many  
are many many  
many-winged many-winged  
we are we  
are many many  
-toothed, yet many  
our bark's -toothed,  
worse yet our  
than bark's  
our worse  
bite than  
bite than

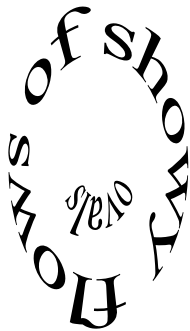
a sort of

arboreal  
alex  
-andrite,  
we grow  
plumb  
under  
canopies,  
speak  
every  
tongue  
w/o  
bumps

we blow  
on spikes,  
we glow  
pink &  
yellow

on winds  
our pollen

d r i f t s



blue  
-grey  
bloom,  
balm

w a pol  
-ished  
plash  
we fall  
to floors,  
accom  
-plished,  
plump,  
thin-s  
-kinned

yet firm,  
gilt-edged  
gloom  
-pruners

*Prunus?*  
we are  
(not a)  
plum, eyed  
up, full of  
the good  
stuff—u've  
a super  
-abun  
-dance  
of gold  
-green  
Gwens  
& Betty  
Blues

blue  
-grey  
bloom,  
balm

we are  
not of  
Davidson,  
hirsute  
Christian  
gentle  
-man ill  
-suited  
to love  
whose  
Latin  
irritates,  
who itched  
to plumb  
sugar  
cane's  
brain  
-twisters,  
spoke w  
a plum  
in his  
mouth,  
but had  
a worm

in his  
tongue

invaded  
Countries

massacred  
First  
Nations  
—the bruises,  
flesh, blood  
of the wound  
-ed, the dead  
resem  
-bled  
our drupes'  
skins,  
budding  
leaves,  
flowers

enslaved  
South Sea  
Islanders

devoured  
fish prawns,  
scrub hen eggs

burnt canoes,  
shields, swords  
for kicks

stripped from  
Peoples for  
*donated to*  
The British  
Museum

a green  
-stone axe,  
wooden  
handle  
attached  
w gum &  
beeswax

jawan

a sharp

-edged,  
gum  
-coated,  
wooden  
rain  
-forest  
sword

a fish  
-hook w  
vege  
-table  
fibre  
line  
attached,  
*iron*  
*obtained*  
*or stolen*  
*from the*  
*settlers*  
dumped  
by the  
colonisers

a  
cylin  
-drical,  
sedge  
-like  
fibre  
fish  
-trap  
for  
cat  
-ching  
eels

a mother  
-of-pearl  
-shell  
& fibre  
ornament

fibre,  
palm  
wood,  
cane for  
weaving  
baskets

a yellow,  
black &  
white oval  
shield  
cut out  
of a  
fig tree's  
buttress  
roots

a single  
-barb  
wooden  
spear  
-head

tinder, fun  
-gus, wood  
—fire light  
-ing equip  
-ment

Davidson  
plucked  
our comfort  
-ing, cottony,  
crimson  
clusters  
—jelly,  
jam, juice

his pal  
Dallachy  
shot down  
others,  
murdered  
a giant  
fern (we  
heard it  
through the  
pepper vine)

both plumb  
loco, like  
Larry, like  
Yasi

never  
-theless u  
question

y we  
question,  
are keen  
-eyed bean  
-poles

in a bowl  
of blue  
we are  
questions

to seed,  
or not  
to cede

do we need  
to be  
freeze or  
air-dried  
& powdered  
then recon  
-stituted  
for bliss  
balls, king  
fish sashimi,  
a green god  
-dess smoothie

cut up  
for cordial,  
chopped  
for chutney,  
coddled  
w champagne  
then chilled  
for compote,  
dashed  
w tequila,  
drubbed  
for dressing,  
paired  
w pink  
grapefruit  
(for Sips) or  
a splash of  
ginger beer,  
puréed  
for paste,  
simmered  
for sauce,

yoked  
to yoghurt

does our  
jam pair  
dreamily  
w the cream  
& shortbread  
of Tivoli  
Road's  
Monte  
Carlos

do we want  
to be  
the zing!  
in dishes

do we wish  
to be  
adored  
—aroma  
of stewed  
rhubarb,  
musk &  
lolly  
notes, over  
-powering  
sourness  
(pucker up,  
Buttercup!)  
—& washed  
down w  
water,  
unpared  
& raw

blue  
-grey  
bloom,  
balm

are we  
a  
-verse  
to living  
rooms'  
pots,  
gardens'  
partly



-shaded  
spots,  
parks,  
farms, or  
-chards,  
plant  
-ations

are we  
agree  
-able

do we  
put on  
(h)airs

do we  
seem to be  
weeping

our  
crowns are  
stellar bella a cappella—kin can  
stand  
under  
our  
umb  
-rel  
-las  
ellas  
ellas  
eh eh  
eh

older than  
Latin,  
we do  
not lie  
hidden,  
we can  
flatten  
Romance  
like a  
ripe  
plum  
—blam!

blue  
-grey  
bloom,

balm

we de  
-light  
jewel  
beetles,  
sulphur  
-crested  
-cocka  
-toos,  
king  
parrots,  
tree  
kanga  
-roos,  
casso  
-warries

we are  
airs, heirs,  
not dun  
nor done

we are  
concate  
-nations  
of glossy  
ever  
-greens  
soaring  
forwards,  
sawing  
forewords,  
thumbs  
-down  
-ing nom  
de plumes

blue  
-grey  
bloom,  
balm

note: 'Wuray' is a Dyirbal/Jirrbal and Yidiny word for Davidson's plum (*Davidsonia pruriens*); 'donated to' is from J. E. Davidson's Acquisition name details for 'axe', 'basket', 'club; sword', 'fish-hook', 'fish-trap', 'ornament', 'sample', 'shield', 'spear-head', 'tinder; fire/fire-lighting equipment', britishmuseum.org; 'iron obtained or stolen from the settlers' is from J. E. Davidson's register slip for 'fish-hook', britishmuseum.org; 'jawan' is a

Dyirbal/Jirrbal word for a bicornual cane and vegetable fibre basket; the poem reworks a phrase from Rihanna's 'Umbrella'