# Study on cultural marks in threes in the Norwegian part of the Pasvik valley

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- -What is cultural modified trees (CMT)?
- -What is not
- -Where?

Result?

-Used for? /what can it tell us



## -What is cultural modified trees?







## What is cultural modified trees (CMT)?

- A way of scarification a tree (mostly pine) for a human purpose without killing the tree.
- Different purposes: Food, tools, religious reasons, reindeer sinew (senetråd in Norwegian)-threads-storing, compass trees
- In this presentation not including no-Sami markings as Norwegian/Finnish CMTs including signs from early time forestry.
- Trees holy for the Sami, while Norway and Finns cut the trees down, the Sami left 3 inches on both side making the tree survive and recover.
- Known from the Nordic countries, probably Russia and few places in USA.
- In Norway protected by law (Sami cultural act) including a 5 m radius round the tree.

- Due to lack of written history, pressure from Norwegian forest authorities and perhaps also since Norwegian and Finns used inner bark only in starvation times, it was totally forgotten among the Sami and the Sami cultural institutions as museums.
- Forest-biologists in Sweden (and Norway) also interested in foresthistory (fire-dynamics, virgin-forests and logging-history) began studying the subject.
- Most written material from Sweden.
- In Norway Written paper exist from Nordland (Grane, Hattfjelldal and Saltdal), Troms (Målselv) and Finnmark (Karasjok, Sør-Varanger).



#### Food-source

- Several thousand old tradition that died out in Norway 1870-1900.
  Survived to around 1930 in Inari, Finland.
- Inner-bark of pine have a high level of C-vitamins, fibers and Carbohydrates, making them an essential food source for everyday life. Avoiding cancer (fiber), scurvy (skjørbuk in Norwegian) (Cvitamins) and giving necessary carbohydrates to a very protein/fat dominated food.
- Not food in time of starvation as it normally was for Norwegians, Finns and Swedes.
- Also a tradegoods with coastal living Sami.
- Dried on tree-coal, smoke dried, cooked etc.





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## Reindeer-sinew storing

- Threads of reindeer was essential for making clothes.
- Gets dry fast and one need to store.
- Pine-bark are antiseptic and store the seen in a perfect condition for later use.





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## Tools

- Little knowledge about witch purposes.
- Also Norwegians/Finns, but mostly (?) used birch.
- So fare only known from Norway (found in Anarjohka and Pasvik).



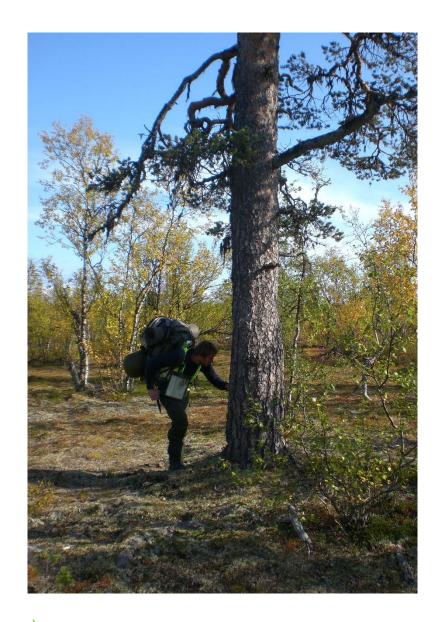


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# Signs and writings

- Both old and newer (and also no-Sami)
- Pre-cristian signs (sun/eye-marks), holy-trees (scarrifications), bear-trees, tooth-ake trees etc.
- «Bumerker»/personal signs marking "this is belonging to me".
- Modern writings

















## Other

- Compass-trees
- Border-trees
- Path-trees







## What is not CMTs?



Fire-scares

#### Where does excist Sami CMTs?

- In in Norway: Nordland, Troms and Finnmark (+Høylandet Nord-Trøndelag)
- In Finnmark known from pineforests in Alta (very few). Porsanger (2),
  Øvre Anarjohka in Karasjok (abundant in old pine forests) and Pasvik in Sør-Varanger (partly abundant in old pine forests).
- Sweden: Väster- and Norrbotten
- Finland: Little information known, but probably from historic Sami rangearea where still old pine forests exist.
- Russland: No information but exist in old-pine forests in historic Sami rangearea.



### CMTs in Pasvik

- «All over» where old pine forests still exists.
- Concentration in areas with low intensive fire history.
- Concentrated in curtain areas. Often close to rivers and creeks.

