

# The North Queensland Naturalist

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## A New Species of *Saccolabium*

*S. loaderanum*, sp. nov.

By the Rev. H. M. R. RUPP, Willoughby, N.S.W.



*Saccolabium loaderanum* sp. nov.  
(Key to plate)

- (1) Portion of a plant, natural size.
- (2) A flower, x3.
- (3) Section of a spur, x4.

*Epiphytica, dependens, usque ad 18 cm. longa, folia alterna, 6-8 cm. longa, cuneata, prope medium 2 cm. lata, obtusa. Racemi nonnulli, 6-9 cm. longi. Flores 5-9, in pedicellis 1 cm. longis. Sepalum dorsale et petala aequalia, illud cucullatum, obtusum, 4 mm. longum; sepala lateralia angustiora, fere 6 mm. longa, ad columnae pedem fixa; petala aliquantum latiora. Perianthi segmenta omnia concava, pallida cum maculis magnis ruscis. Labellum album calcari aeflexo longissimo, obtuso; intus appendice curvo infra foramen. Columna brevis lataque cum pede moderate longo.*

A pendant epiphyte up to 18 cm. long. Leaves alternate, about 1 cm. apart, 6-8 cm. long, 2 cm. wide near the middle, cuneate, obtuse. Racemes several, 6-9 cm. long. Flowers 5-9, on pedicels fully 1 cm. long. Dorsal sepal and petals equal, the former cucullate, obtuse, 4 mm. long; lateral sepals narrower, nearly 6 mm. long, adnate to the column-foot; petals somewhat broader. All perianth segments concave, pale green, each with a large dark brown blotch about the middle. Labellum white with a

very long greenish deflexed spur (up to 8 mm. long); this spur obtuse, furnished inside with a curved appendage below the orifice; tip of the appendage hirsute. Column short and broad with a moderately long foot.

Bambaroo, 60 miles N. of Townsville, Queensland; Arnold Johnson, July 1951 (not flowering). Flowering in the greenhouse of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Loader at Castlecrag, Sydney, N.S.W., December 1951.

This attractive little epiphyte is closer to *S. brevilabre* (Mueller) Rupp than to any other species, but there is no doubt of its distinctive character, as may be seen by comparing its description with that given by Mueller for his *Cicisostoma brevilabre* in *Fragm.* xi., 87 (Bailey, *Q. Flora* p. 1556). The species is named in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Loader, who have successfully grown plants, and who are doing so much towards the conservation of our native flora. I wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. H. K. C. Mair, of the National Herbarium, Sydney, in depicting the new species.

## A Legend of Durren Dae (Dream Time)

By DOUGLAS SEATON, Cairns

As told to the recorder by Maud, (Native name Joo-b-ee), of the Goo-rina totem (Echiḡna). Tchupaki People.

A man named Goy-yalla lived alone on the earth and one day he noticed a swelling in the calf of his leg (Baal-ah). He cut open the swelling and to his surprise took out a small baby boy (Wandee bandill bee-boi). He placed the bandill in his hut (Joo-gool) and went searching for food (miee). On his return he was surprised to see that the bandill had been fed and was growing rapidly. It appears that during his absence a woman named Wongul-Longul used to come down from the sky (Gin-kull) and feed the bandill. When the bandill had become a young man (Bama), he went up to the sky with Wongul-Longul and there they married. They returned to the earth and then created all animals, birds and fish in order that there would be food for future people. One day a brother

of Goy-yalla came down to earth with him. This brother was named Da-muree and he was a Gar-jar (devil). He was constantly trying to cut open Goy-yalla's head (Ba-ta) as he wanted to eat Goy-yalla's brain. One day Goy-yalla tried to make a fire but his fire stick (Jongamice) was no good, so he asked Da-muree to make a fire. Da-muree said it was too much trouble, but he would bring fire from a long distance. He waved his hand and caused a violent upheaval of fire and stone which became the mount known as Walsh's Pyramid, near Gordonvale. Goy-yalla was annoyed with these proceedings and spoke sharply to Da-muree, who picked up a stone and cut open Goy-yalla's head. Goy-yalla then said, I will leave the place to you, and he returned to the sky. Da-muree wandered about alone and

one day when he was thirsty went down to the Bunna-warraw (Big water) now called the Barron River, for a drink, and while he was drinking, a crocodile snapped off his legs and he

dragged himself up the valley (Warra-ba) and at the foot of the mountains died; in his death he changed into the outcrop of rock on the mountain top, now known as Glacier Rock.

## Rock Paintings of the Konkandji People

By DOUGLAS SEATON, Cairns

Acting on information supplied by Berkley Cook, we went across to Brown Bay, to record the Rock Paintings shown to him by a member of the Konkandji Tribe.

The first lot of paintings sketched are on a granite rock about two hundred yards to the rear of Mr. Cook's hut. There are very faint traces of paintings that were evidently done several generations ago. I was able to trace the outstanding figures.

The paintings comprise a rock python with a swelling in the stomach—a crocodile—a figure that looks like a marine object—a flight of birds—a bird like a scrub hen—two line drawings of insects—a boomerang and a wallaby. One interesting feature on the rock is a painting of a branched tree with a trunk shaped like a bottle tree on

which is a large panel containing a snake. This painting was done recently by an old aboriginal from Yarrabah and to me, the face of the snake having been painted shows that he has some of the old tribal ideas in his mind.

The second lot of paintings are on the sides of a granite rock shelter situated on the brow of a ridge in Sunny Bay about twenty-five minutes walk from Brown Bay. There are only six objects painted here. Two of the figures represent decorated shields—two sets of double diamond objects—a small coiled snake and a figure of a man without legs and one hand with outstretched fingers. There are signs of former feasts around the two galleries in the shape of oyster shells.

## A Day With the Townsville and District Naturalists' Club

By KEITH KENNEDY

A slight haze hung over Rowe's Bay when members of the Townsville and District Naturalists' Club commenced to gather singly and in twos and threes beneath the coconut palms at the Museum, Kissing Point, this being the rendezvous for our field day. Soon the haze cleared, revealing distant islands and the crystal bright day with turquoise blue sky became typical of a North Queensland early summer.

Kissing Point is a headland of reddish granite interspersed with occasional diorite dykes and was in past days a corroboree ground of the aboriginals. Relics of their occupancy, such as stone artifacts and broken shells telling of bygone feasts have been found on and around it. When the whites came, a fort was built on the summit, and muzzle loading cannon — a couple of which still

remain lying on the ground — once pointed out to sea. The Point is still under military control, and is therefore a reserve.

After assembling, the party of naturalists moved off in groups and reaching the base of the cliff, those geologically inclined examined some large weather worn boulders; those interested in botany studied the flora of the locality, and others their own particular phase of natural history. Further on, a grove of the stilted pandanus (*Pandanus pedunculatus*), was met with, imparting a Pacific Island atmosphere, and nearby the exotic tamarind grew (*Tamarindus indicus*), possibly planted by the crew of some trepang lugger, for the tamarind is of Asiatic origin.

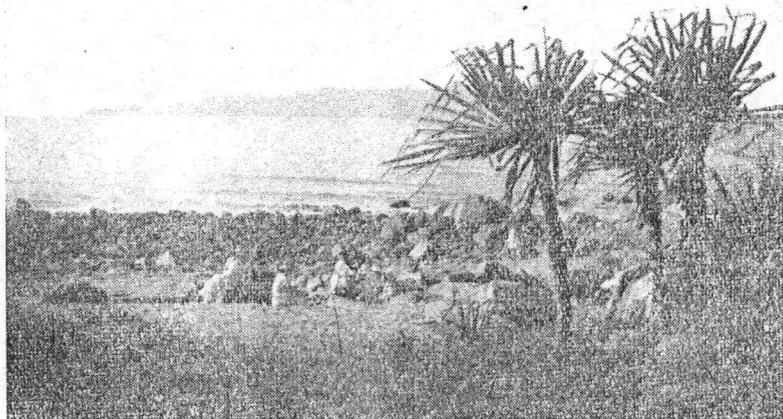
On the slopes of the cliff the white flowers of the wild passion fruit, a climber from Mexico



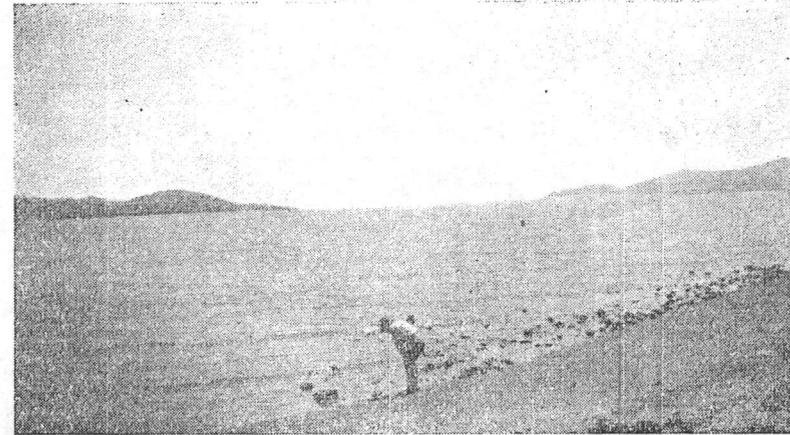
Those geologically inclined examined some large weather-worn boulders.

(*Passiflora foetida*), looked pretty, but are not appreciated, for although the fruit is edible the leaves, on certain occasions, have a high content of prussic acid, and have caused numerous losses of stock. Sometimes we would tread on a herbaceous plant which when crushed gives out an aromatic perfume, an introduced labiate noxious weed, *Hyptis suaveolens*, which when dried can be used like lavender, another labiate to scent drawers and boxes. Another aromatic herb, a native composite, *Pterocaulon glandulosum*, was also found, and pieces of the very viscous leaves were crushed for the sake of the perfume.

Some of the party searched for a time in the locality, while others, after a scramble over rocks and boulders, rounded the Point and hiked back the landward side to Rowe's Bay, named after L. S. Rowe, one of the pioneers of Townsville, which is almost a miniature inland sea. On its southern side is Kissing Point; to the North is Cape Pallarenda, while athwart it lies Magnetic Island with its highest portion, Mount Cook, curving to 628 feet. In the gap between Cape Pallarenda and the north-western extremity of Magnetic Island can be seen a little island called Bay Rock, whilst away out on the horizon loom the distant Palm



Pandanus trees . . . imparting a Pacific Island atmosphere.



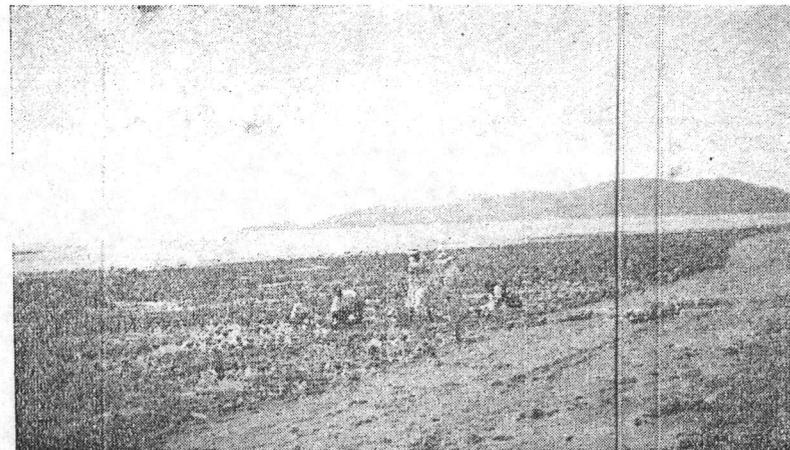
Rowe's Bay is almost a miniature inland sea . . .

Islands. When the tide is in, the calm surface of the bay has a lake-like effect, but the water is not deep, and at low tide an expanse of rocks, mud flats and sand banks come into view, which our students of marine life found to be an ideal hunting ground. Specimens of the cowrie, *Mystaponda vitellus*, were obtained. This shell when thrown up on the beach and exposed to the sun becomes purple in colour and when still more weathered a slaty grey. A beautiful staircase shell, *Architectonica perspectiva*, was

picked up, also an iridescent oyster, *Pinctada epitheca*, with both valves intact. A novelty was found in the form of a watering pot shell, *Aspergillum*, a bivalve, tubular in shape with one end of the tube closed but perforated like the rose of a watering pot.

Some cone shells were picked up, *Conus aculeiformis*, and an ear-shell, *Rhodostoma angulifera*, with an opening shaped like a human ear caused much interest.

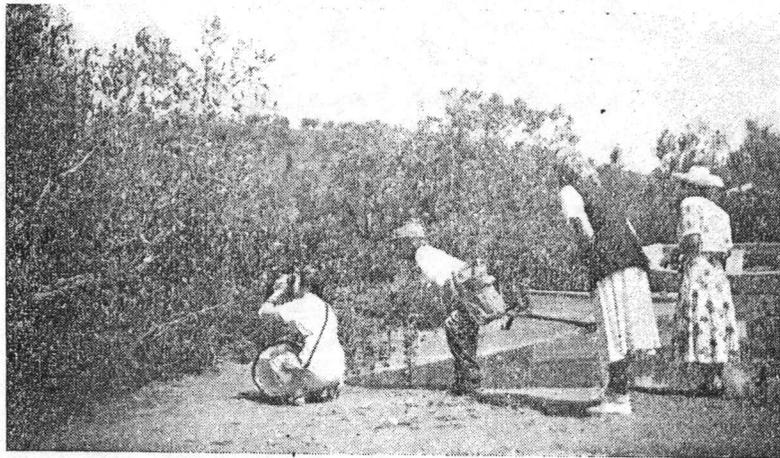
Jutting out into the bay is a fish-maze made of stakes driven into the sand, and connected with



Our students of marine life found an ideal hunting ground.

wire netting. When the tide is high, the fish wander in, and when it recedes they find themselves in a cul-de-sac from which they are gathered by the fishermen.

After looking over the maze, a return was made above high water mark to examine the littoral plants along the fore-shore. The plant society consists largely of the purple flowered Goat's Foot *Convolvulus*, *Ipomoea pes-capri*, so called because its leaves, like those of the *Bauhinia* are in outline shaped like a goat's hoof, sand binding grasses including



The bird observers heard the singing of the Mangrove Warbler.

a silvery *Spinifex hirsutus*, which unlike the inland Porcupine Grass, *Triodia*, is a true *Spinifex*, and the prostrate mauve colored flowering *Vitex ovata*, the *Lochnera rosea* and its variety *alba*, which on insufficient grounds has been used in the treatment of diabetes, and further back a line of beach

## Round The Mangrove Creek

By JEAN DEVANNY

The tidal creek, lined for the most part with the lovely white mangrove, *Avicennia marina* var. *resinifera*, runs alongside my garden, about fifty yards below the fence. Just here, there is a creek on this side, in the mangroves permitting wide lawns of

sheoaks, *Casuarina equisetifolia*.

A short distance from Kissing Point we crossed a small creek overgrown with mangroves of several kinds, where our bird observers heard the singing of the Mangrove Warbler *Gerygone canator*. To date this is the furthest north that the little songster has been observed. On the mudflats, our ornithologists saw white egrets, *Egretta*, busily hunting amongst the little pools, a couple of dotterel, *Charadrius*, searching in the sand close to shore, the Mangrove Bittern (*Butorides striata*), the Nankeen Kestrel, Falco

*cenchroides* and a large Red Backed Sea Eagle *Haliastur indus*.

As evening drew on, the various groups into which the club had separated re-united under the coconut palms, and after relating experiences and exchanging information, the outing formally came to an end.

a succulent weed with a small albeit pretty pink flower, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, to slope gently down to the water's edge. And on this sward, at time of a making tide, and especially in the early morning, there gather ibis by the dozen—some of them black—

the strawnecked ibis, *Threskiornis spinicollis*, but most with white body, black head and tail, the white ibis, *T. molucca*, and small white and blue reef heron, *Demigretta sacra*. Pick, pick, pick go the stiletos of their bills as they fossick for titbits in the succulent saltpan weed. At times a solitary great white heron, the White Egret, *Egretta alba*, glides in, but he never stays long. And with the sun, up come dozens of fork-tailed kites, *Milvus migrans*, to circle ceaselessly, day-long above the creek and in its vicinity. They never seemingly alight. And a pair of red-backed white breasted sea-eagles, *Haliastur indus*, seem to nest hereabouts, for they, too, join in the winged joy-riding above the creek. Before the drought broke, many black ducks, *Anas superciliosa*, also came in; not so much, it appeared, to feed, for they kept always on the move. As the high spring tide crept up and covered the succulent carpet they came up, too, on its calm lacy surface, till they were sailing along close beside my fence.

Lately, a young pheasant-coucal, *Centropus phasianinus*, has taken to lodging of a morning on a small tamarind tree outside my fence. His youth I deduce from the fact that the feathers round his head are fluffy and fawn and his tail short. And in place of the chanting and bottle-pouring, the calls of the adult birds, his sole utterance is a loud complaining

wheeze. This morning I tried to creep up to him. He waited, with proud inquiring looks, till I was within a few yards, then took off into the refuge of a large mango in my garden.

The black-faced cuckoo shrike, blue jay, *Coracina novae-hollandiae* also likes that tamarind, visiting it in pairs or flocks up to seven, almost every day.

But I don't know which end of the day I like better, for the birdlife round the creek. For at evening, the rainbow bird, *Merops ornans*, come in by the thousands to roost in the mangroves. The air is filled with the music of their sweet rattling cries. They begin to arrive as the trees are bathed with the calm mild glow of sunset, flock after flock. Straight out of the west they wing into the trees, but they do not stay there. For a time they flutter and gambol through the topmost boughs, then take off again and engage in circus tricks above the forest. Up, up they fly, with prodigious wing-movement, then fold their pinions and drop like a plummet. Or they glide, turning and twisting to delight the beholder with the play of sunlight upon their rainbow-hued plumage. The needles of their tails are clearly seen, black against the golden light. They keep up this play till near dusk, then settle in the trees, but their song continues until the last gleam of light has faded. After them come the fireflies. Pinpoints of pulsating light amongst the trees, they dart and streak across the intervening lawns.

## Townsville and District Naturalists' Club

President, Mr. Keith Kennedy, Museum of Music, Esplanade, Kissing Point, Townsville, Hon. Sec., Elizabeth Kennedy, Box 178, Townsville.

Meetings are held on the first Friday in each month in the Lecture Room of the Adult Education Centre, Wickham St., Townsville.

Meeting:- Sept. 7th, 1951. Mr. Black's Hughenden Report was read and discussed. Mr. Brock brought in a most interesting collection of shells and beetles and explained all their interesting points; he also read a report by the Clarence Valley Field Naturalists' Club on butterflies.

Mr. J. J. Selvage read a paper from the Clarence Valley Field Naturalists' Club on birds. Mr. Kennedy read a paper and exhibited an outside stone from the Upper Murray River District.

The Field Day was to Magnetic Island.

Meeting:- October 5th, 1951. Lecture given by Mr. J. J. Selvage on Bird Migration beginning with the earliest mention on the coming and going to other lands. He mentioned the various birds which fly thousands of miles from one continent to another to nest so that they could get more daylight in which to feed their hungry families. He

spoke of the time and height at which the various birds migrate. After an interesting discussion the speaker was given a hearty vote of thanks.

The Field Day was to the Black School Weir where a very enjoyable outing was had by all.

Meeting:- 2nd November, 1951. Mr. K. Kennedy spoke on Indians of the Painted Desert, which is in Arizona, and gets its name because of the varied colourings in the rocks and earth. Here the Indians still keep up their old customs and live their ancient way of life. Lantern slides made by the lecturer during his travels through this fascinating region were screened depicting Indian craftsmen, ceremonial dances and everyday life. To conclude the talk he played several tunes on the Indian flute, including a payote ceremony song and an eagle dance. Afterwards some magazine pictures sent to Mr. Selvage were shown, and Mr. Brock described a field day held by the club on Magnetic Island.

The Field Day was to Three Mile where Mr. Sleigh led the party to a bower birds' playground.

Meeting:- December, 1951. Lecture by Mr. Arnold Perkin on Insect Dispersal. He mentioned the economic aspect of the subject in its attempt to control insect pests by studying their life habits. Mr. Perkin said that there are two methods of dispersal—drift caused by wind and air currents, and migration caused by voluntary action of the insects. To study drift scientists have zoned the atmosphere. Above one thousand feet it is called the plankton zone because the innumerable wind borne insects suggest the current borne minute

animal life which constitutes the plankton of the ocean. Examples of butterfly life in Europe and America were cited, and some theories to account for their sense of direction were put forward. After a discussion, Mr. Kurth showed some coloured lantern slides of his collection of orchids which include some rare Cattleyas and Dendrobiums, also slides of Mr. Brock's orchids, and some cases of butterflies.

FIELD DAY. Because of the holiday season, the field day was declared to be a members' field day, all members to observe natural history subjects wherever they were and to report when they returned home.

Meeting:- 4th January, 1952. Miss Hopkins spoke of birds she had observed during December, mentioning the Red Winged Parrot, *Aprosmictus erythropterus*, which visits her home. At Ingham she observed the Shining Starling, *Aplonis metallica*, and watched them gathering nesting material; and the Grey Swiftlet, *Collocasia francica*, and the Crimson Finches, *Neocchia phaeton*, also the Golden Headed Fantail Warbler, *Cisticola exilis*, the Yellow Oriole, *Oriolus flavocinctus*, Dusky Honeyeater, *Myzomela obscura*, the Black Butcher Bird, *Cracticus quoyi*, and the Shining Flycatcher, *Piezorhynchus alecto*. Mr. Brock spoke on the currawongs and their habits. He also exhibited the leaves of the wanakai (finger cherry). Mr. Kennedy spoke of the trips he took to Shelly Beach, through the Common to the Black River and Shelly Beach from Cape Pallerenda.

Owing to members being away, the Field Day was observed as a members' Field Day.

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