

The  
**North Queensland Naturalist**

The Journal and Magazine of the North Queensland Naturalists' Club.

Vol. V.

CAIRNS, 1st MARCH, 1937

No. 49

**NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB**

Meets at Girls' and Infants' School, Abbott Street, Cairns,  
usually on second Monday in each month, at 8 p.m.

**BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING, Monday, 8th March, 1937.**

Lecture by Mr. A. Bruce Cummings, "Submarine Cinematography of the Great Barrier Reef."

**Reports of Meetings:**

14th September, 1936: Annual General Meeting. The following officers were elected: President, Dr. H. Flecker; Vice-Presidents, Miss M. E. Hooper, Mr. J. G. Brooks; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. R. L. Hunter; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Wyer; Hon. Auditor, Mr. S. Dunn. Messrs. T. Walsh, M. Auricchio and R. J. Gorton were elected on the Committee.

Mr. Cyril T. White, Government Botanist, gave "A General Talk on the Flora of North Queensland."

12th October, 1936: The Annual Address by the President, Dr. H. Flecker, which was deferred from the preceding meeting was read, the title being "North Queensland, a Naturalist's Paradise, and the Activities of the North Queensland Naturalists' Club."

Mr. J. Foster, of 121 Esplanade,

Cairns, was then elected a member and to fill the vacant seat on the Committee.

9th November, 1936: Mr. Chas. Barrett, C.M.Z.S., delivered an address giving his reminiscences as a naturalist in Australia.

Mr. E. M. Boden, 17 Digger Street, Cairns, was elected a member.

14th December, 1936: Dr. H. I. Jensen gave an address illustrated by charts and diagrams on the Geology of North Queensland.

8th February, 1937: Mr. V. H. Char- gois, F.R.S.A., gave an address entitled "Art in Relation to Natural History," which was illustrated.

Mr. S. Egan, of Kuranda, was elected to membership.

Mr. T. Walsh was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the relinquishment of Mr. R. L. Hunter as Hon. Treasurer.

**INSECT FAUNA OF THE UPPER WALSH RIVER,  
NORTH QUEENSLAND.**

By R. C. CANNON, B.Sc.Agr.

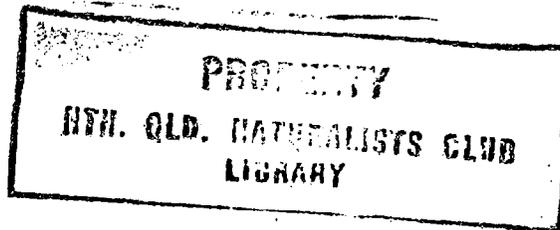
Continued From Vol. IV., Page 47.

Of the Homoptera the most obvious members are the cicadas which are to be heard drumming in the trees during the summer months. Examination of the twigs of trees and shrubs will reveal Membracids, Eurybrachids and Ricaniids. One small green Jassid is common on tomatoes

and tobacco, where the typical "tattoo" marks show where the insect has been feeding.

**Coleoptera:**

This order forms a very distinct and compact group characterised by the highly specialised form of the



forewings as hardened "elytra." The beetles are well represented here, which is only to be expected of the dominant order of the Insecta. They are fairly voracious feeders, many of them being harmful to man in one way or another. The dominant families would probably be the Curculionidae and the Chrysomelidae.

A search under the bark of trees will yield numbers of more or less flattened Carabs, Tenebrionids and Cicindelids. Under logs and stones one will find Carabidae, Tenebrionidae and a number of Curculionidae, all of a rather dull appearance. Foliage, on the other hand, will yield some prettier species of "elephant beetles." Amongst the leaf-eaters there are a large number of Chrysomelidae which comprises some elegant and bizarre forms. Of this family the curious group of primitive Casidinae or tortoise-beetles is represented by some dozen or more species. They have the head concealed beneath the prothorax, which, together with the elytra, has a definite flange around its margin.

The scarabs are common at certain times of the year. Most are rather drab forms, though the pretty *Calloodes grayanus* Wh., is not uncommon on eucalypts and often flies to lights. The coarse grasses often harbour beetles of many groups among which was a single species of Rhipidophoridae which was accidentally taken resting on a stalk of grass.

Probably the most beautiful of all insects are the Buprestidae or "jewel beetles." Several very pretty species are to be found, some of them being quite common. There is one very pretty species with the pronotum and elytra a deep metallic blue, with a red head. Boring into cypress pine is *Diadoxus* sp. which is quite common.

#### Hymenoptera:

Of all groups of insects this order is probably the least harmful and the most beneficial. With few exceptions they are harmless to man in the ordinary way. Thousands of species are predacious or parasitic on insect pests and constitute the principal factor in the maintenance of the balance of insect life.

The commonest representatives of the order are several families of wasps such as Thynnidae, Scollidae, Vespidae and Sphecidae. The commonest representatives of the sub-order Apoidea are a carpenter bee (Xylocopidae) and the very common native bee, *Trigona carbonaria* Sm., which quickly locates any fresh paint and in a short time will remove a complete coat, the linseed oil of which is apparently utilised as a source of raw material for the preparation of its "propolis." Ants occasionally prove an annoyance by removing freshly planted tobacco seed to their haunts, while several species are troublesome in the house for some months of the year.

#### Neuroptera:

This is a fairly insignificant group with species of ant-lions and green lacewings (Chrysopidae) occurring in this area. The finest specimen seen was a single species of *Psychopsis* collected at a light.

#### Diptera:

This is undoubtedly the most important order of insects insofar as they directly and indirectly affect the health of man. Only casual mention of these will be made in passing. The ubiquitous house-fly is, of course, present together with a number of other Muscidae and Anthophoridae. In certain seasons March flies are most troublesome and can inflict some very painful "bites." The several species of mosquitoes are by no means as common nor as troublesome as in the coastal regions. A few species of Trypetidae attack native and cultivated fruits.

#### Lepidoptera:

This order is a very large one comprising both butterflies and moths, the latter comprising countless pests of mankind. The larvae of most Lepidoptera feed on plant tissues. In this region very few butterflies are to be seen and comprise mostly rather dull forms, with a few skippers. As against this we have a fairly large range of both day and night-flying moths. Most of these are harmful to crops, in particular the stemborer, *Phthorimaea heliopa* Low., and the

leaf miner, *Ph. operculella* Zell., of tobacco.

With a very meagre amount of entomological attention such as this area has had, no attempt can possibly be made to assess the relative importance of the various orders and groups of insects of its fauna. The best that one can do at present is to point out the general types which have been found from time to time and the gen-

eral characteristics of its insect fauna. There are doubtless many species in the area yet to be collected as many orders have been viewed with no more than passing interest.

Despite the proximity to the Atherton Tableland with its tropical flora and fauna, the area bears no resemblance to its near neighbour, the intervening ranges forming a fairly effective barrier.

### CLEISOSTOMA TRIDENTATUM Lindl.

(= *C. cornutum* Rupp.)

By The Rev. H. M. R. Rupp.

In this Journal for December, 1935, I described a small *Cleisostoma* collected by Dr. H. Flecker near Ravenshoe as a new species—*C. cornutum*. Only two flowers were available, and ultimately these proved to be too much damaged by their long journey to provide reliable material for examination. I did not realise this until Dr. Flecker's plant produced flowers in my bush-house at Raymond Terrace, N.S.W. (September, 1936). I then found that they did not tally

with my drawings, and that the "horns" of the labellum were obviously shrivelled lateral lobes. I am now fully convinced that the Ravenshoe orchid must be placed in Lindley's *C. tridentatum*. It is a short-stemmed form, with flowers relatively larger and more richly coloured; but the identity of the floral details with those given by Fitzgerald is complete. I much regret having made this mistake.

### NEW NORTH QUEENSLAND RECORDS OF ORCHIDS.

*Pterostylis curta* R. Br.

*Pterostylis ophioglossae* R. B. var *collina* Rupp.

By The Rev. H. M. R. Rupp, Raymond Terrace, N.S.W.

1. Towards the close of July, 1934, Dr. H. Flecker sent for inspection a dried specimen of a *Pterostylis* which he had collected at Ravenshoe, on the Atherton Tableland. The plant was growing in company with others, near a road in open, grassy country, the soil being a reddish clay. As the specimen was a solitary one and had to be returned, I was unwilling to risk damage; but superficial examination suggested a very well-developed form of *P. curta*. The "Queensland Flora" only records this species from "southern localities." (The form listed by Bailey as "var ? *grandiflora*," from the Brisbane River, is almost

certainly *P. baptistii* Fitzg., a species subsequently recorded by Bailey himself in "Q. Agr. Journ.," July, 1904.) Ravenshoe, being more than 1000 miles to the north, I felt doubtful of expressing a definite opinion. The only *Pterostylis* recorded by Bailey for N. Queensland is his own *P. depauperata*, and Dr. Flecker's plant did not tally with the description of that at all. Yet the flower seemed very large for *P. curta*—larger than any I had seen from S. Queensland or the southern States, with the exception of a S. Australian specimen.

In June, 1935, Miss Phyllis Matthews sent a number of the plants to

Dr. Flecker from Ravenshoe, and of these some were sent to me. A freshly-pressed flower in excellent condition was forwarded to Dr. R. S. Rogers for inspection, and he agreed that it seemed to be *P. curta*. I grew the tubers, which had been sent in a pot, and early this year (1936) several plants appeared. One threw up a flowering stem, which duly produced a very fine flower in the third week of June. It lasted until July 26.

My first impressions of this living flower raised some doubts as to its identity with *P. curta*. Apart from the point that it was larger than any *P. curta* hitherto seen by me, the petals and the labellum seemed much broader, and the latter lacked the very pronounced and curious "twist" which is so characteristic of the species: moreover, instead of tapering to a somewhat obtuse apex, it was mucronate. Had I discovered such a flower in N.S.W. I should have been disposed to place it as a natural hybrid between *P. curta* and *P. Baptistii*. Subsequently, however, the labellum did develop a slight twist, and I now have no doubt that the Ravenshoe plant should be included in *P. curta*. The sepals and the column are typical; and the distinctions in petals and labellum would not warrant separation. Dr. Flecker's discovery is none the less interesting,

and should stimulate a search for this and other species of *Pterostylis* elsewhere in the north.

2. In July, 1936, and again in August, I received from Mr. H. Thorogood, of Kelsey Creek, Proserpine, a small Greenhood which he thought might be *P. concinna* R. Br. Examination soon satisfied me that the labellum, however, was forked as in *P. ophioglossa* R. Br.; and it was with considerable surprise that I found Mr. Thorogood's plant to be identical with a small form of *P. ophioglossa* from the hills flanking the Paterson Valley in N.S.W., which I had named *var collina* (Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. liv. Part 5, 1929). The surprise was not that *P. ophioglossa* should appear in N. Queensland, since I believe it is recorded for New Caledonia: but that it should appear in this particular form, which had not hitherto been known except at Paterson, at least 1200 miles away. *Var. collina* differs from the type in the consistently smaller flower, the upper portion of which is a rich red-brown. The galea is very shortly acute, and the paired sepals are not greatly prolonged. The type form is common in S. Queensland, and extends to the S. Coast of N.S.W., sometimes—but rarely—ascending the Dividing Range and appearing on the western slopes (e.g., Warialda).

### ALTERATIONS IN ORCHIDACEAE.

By W. H. Nicholls.

#### *Bulbophyllum intermedium*, Bail.

F. M. Bailey described the broad and short-leaved form as a distinct species under the above name. But, after several seasons' experience with plants received from Queensland I cannot discover any material difference from the type form of Mueller's *B. Shepherdii*. The flowers are exactly alike in every detail, and the leaves revert, after several years, to the slender form which characterises (more or less) Mueller's plant.

Habitat: Tambourine North, Queensland.

*B. Shepherdii*, F.v.M., *var. intermedium* (Bail) Nich.

#### *Dendrobium eriaeoides*, Bail.

This plant has long been known under the above name, but it was altered by Rolfe in "The Orchard Review," xvii, (1909), 95, and is now *Eria eriaeoides* (Bail.) Rolfe.

THE ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA (Census of N.Q. Plants) is issued as a supplement.