

North Queensland Naturalist

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

Vol. XVI

CAIRNS, 1st DECEMBER 1948

No. 89

A SPEAR THROWER'S CHARM

By KEITH KENNEDY, Museum of Music, Townsville

Since the human race branched off from its primitive fore-runners, man has used charms to ensure luck in hunting, and accuracy in wielding his weapons, therefore it is not surprising to find such charms amongst the Australian aborigines.

The accompanying illustration (1) depicts what is probably a charm to give the owner accuracy in spear throwing. As far as I know there is only one other such charm in Australian museums, and that is in the National Museum, Melbourne, and is figured in the museum ethnological guide (2). There it is described as a charm called a "tikovina," worn during the fights by the natives on the Herbert River, Queensland. The text further states: "The natives say that in times past, a powerful being named Kohin came to the Herbert River in the form of a carpet snake from the Milky Way, which he said was full of fish. He brought two of these tikovina with him and instructed the men how to wear them, which they do by means of a string around the neck, the charm hanging down between the shoulders. It ensures accuracy of aim with the spear, and immunity from injury. It is further said that the head men of the tribe have to eat human flesh every three years, or else they are unable to commune with Kohin. (Presented by John Gagin, Esq.)" (3).

Through the courtesy of the Acting Director of the National Museum, I received the following additional particulars of this tikovina: "The charm is made of soft white wood, and is 15¼ inches long, five inches wide at its widest part (about half-way down), and scarcely more than a half inch thick at its centre line. It is double convex, i.e.

worked to almost a sharp edge all the way round... The diamond squares without dots are red (blood); the dotted diamonds are yellowish clay colour with black dots, and the dividing lines are black."



The charm in the Townsville collection figured above measures about 19½ inches in length; 3½ inches wide at its widest part; is seven-eighths of an inch thick at its centre line, and is also double convex. At its proximal end is a small handle three inches in length, while two and seven-eighth inches from the distal end are two notches cut in the sides. It is made from the soft light wood of a species of fig (4), similar to that used for the large painted shields of the rain-forest aborigines. On its obverse side, shown in the illustration, the lines of the design are drawn with a black pigment paralleled in parts with dots also black. The space without dots must have originally been filled in with red, for vestiges of the red pigment remain around the inner edges. The spaces with dots show no trace of

red, and might have been once filled in with yellow ochre as on the Melbourne specimen.

There is only one diamond-shaped figure and that is in the centre. The reverse side is unadorned.

Lumholz, who was in the Ingham country in 1882, makes no mention of this kind of charm; neither does Roth in his bulletins of North Queensland

ethnography; therefore it must be very rare and probably was only used in a restricted area.

REFERENCES:

- (1) KENNEDY, Museum, Townsville.
- (2) Guide to the Australian Ethnological Collection in the National Museum, Victoria, by Baldwin Spencer.
- (3) *Ibid.*, p. 66.
- (4) *Ficus ehretifoloides* F. Muell.

Some Notes on

THE DISTRIBUTION OF ORCHIDS

Species Common to North Queensland and S.E. Australia

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

The distribution of Orchids is a fascinating subject, abounding in unsolved problems. For instance, why should a cosmopolitan genus like *Habenaria*, abundant in temperate zones in so many countries, be restricted in Australia to a few species which are exclusively tropical? Again: why are some species abundant in one particular area, never found outside that area? On the highlands of Barrington Tops in New South Wales, the charming little terrestrial *Diuris venosa* occurs literally in myriads, yet up to the present all efforts to find it in similar high country have failed. On the other hand, what is there in the constitution of various other species, such as *Dipodium punctatum* or *Caladenia carnea*, which enables them to flourish under widely differing conditions over such a vast range of habitat?

However, the purpose of this paper is not to probe into the mysteries of questions like these, but merely to enumerate, with comments, the orchid species which are known to be common to the tropics of North Queensland and the more temperate regions of the south-eastern parts of our continent.

1. *Thelymitra aristata* Lindl. Usually known in southern areas as "Scented Sun Orchid." It has a very extensive distribution, occurring in all the Australian States, and also in New Zealand. In Southern Queensland and on the North Coast of New South Wales, it is found in a curious association with the rock-orchid *Dendrobium Kingianum*; as the colours are similar and the flowers are approximately of the same size, the presence of the *Thelymitra* is often only betrayed by its long, solitary leaf.

2. *Thelymitra pauciflora* R.Br. This also has a wide distribution, being found in all States except Western Australia, and also in New Zealand. It is an extremely variable plant, both in dimensions and in the colour of the flowers, which range from white to pink, purple, blue, and in New Zealand, red. The name is not happily chosen, as in robust specimens the flowers may be quite numerous.

3. *Diuris punctata* Sm. This has been recorded several times from North Queensland, where, however, both the plant and its flowers are relatively small. It extends through Southern Queensland and New South Wales to Victoria and South Australia. It varies considerably in size and colour. Sir J. E. Smith, the author of the species, illustrated it in his "Exotic Botany" in 1804. The plate shows large lilac-purplish flowers heavily spotted all over. By most Australian observers (including the writer) this was regarded as a gross misrepresentation; but in 1946, Mr. A. W. Dockrill discovered numerous specimens at Campbelltown, near Sydney, which agreed precisely with Smith's plate. As Campbelltown was one of the earliest Australian settlements, probably Smith's specimens were obtained there; but this form, though it must be regarded as the type, is evidently extremely rare. The flowers range in colour from white (rare) through varying shades of lilac to deep purplish-red (Stanthorpe); while on the New England plateau near Guyra a form has been found with sulphur-yellow flowers. In its larger forms this is one of the loveliest of all

our terrestrial orchids; the Stanthorpe form is perhaps the most beautiful. In some areas it is scented like the old-fashioned "Flag" Iris; in others it is quite scentless.

4. *Microtis unifolia* (Forst.) Reichb.f. Found in all Australian States, in New Zealand, and extending to Asia. A herb with a spike of very small green flowers, common in many areas.

5. *Spiculaea irritabilis* (F. Muell.) Schltr. This is the curious little "Hammer Orchid," so called from the extraordinary structure of the labellum, which is jointed like a human elbow, and terminates in a hammer-like process. It ranges from New Guinea southward to the extreme East of Victoria, where it was recorded once many years ago, but has not been seen since. The leaves are in a small basal rosette, and are often absent at the flowering time.

6. *Caladenia carnea* R.Br. One of the most variable and widely-distributed of our terrestrials. It does not occur in Western Australia, but is common in all the other States, and two or three varieties are found in New Zealand. There are at present eight named varieties. *Var. gigantea* Rog. is said to extend to Java. I have not seen this form from North Queensland, but it is plentiful as far north as Maryborough. My N.Q. specimens came from the neighbourhood of Whitsunday Passage, and they are the type form, practically identical in all respects with the plants so common about the outskirts of Sydney or Melbourne.

7. *Corybas aconitiflorus* Salisb. This quaint little terrestrial was collected by the late E. J. Banfield on Dunk Island, and no doubt occurs on the mainland near by; but like all the members of its genus (usually called Helmet Orchids), it easily escapes notice. It is found in all States except Western Australia, and also in New Zealand.

8. *Pterostylis ophioglossa* R.Br. A variety of this has been found near Proserpine. As it occurs in New Caledonia, it should be looked for further north. It is a characteristic "Greenhood"; but the hood (or galea, as it is called) is very bluntly truncate, and the labellum is acutely forked at the tip. It is common in Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales, but becomes rare south of the Hunter River.

9. *Pterostylis curta* R.Br. This is one of the very few Greenhoods known to occur in all Australian States. The North Queensland form, which is found on the Atherton Tableland, is very distinctive, and more material might prove the differences between it and the type form to be of specific importance. The species is very common in New South Wales and Victoria; it is easily recognised by its short floral segments and a curious twist of the labellum.

10. *Pterostylis Baptistii* Fitzg. With the possible exception of the New Zealand *P. Banksii*, this species produces the largest individual flowers of all the Greenhoods, though in both cases smaller flowers are not uncommon. Very fine specimens of *P. Baptistii* were recently sent to me from Maryborough, Queensland, by Mr. W. W. Abell. A few years ago Dr. Flecker sent a flower from the Atherton Tableland which seemed to me to be this fine species; but unfortunately it was badly damaged in transit, and the plants accompanying it died out. It occurs in abundance along the coastal belt of Southern Queensland and New South Wales, and has been found in the extreme east of Victoria.

11. *Galeola cassythoides* Reichb.f. A leafless climber, attaching itself to the trunks of trees by sucker-like aerial roots. It reaches a height of from ten to twenty feet, but is often much less. It is covered in springtime with very numerous brown-and-gold flowers. The larger species *G. foliata*, seems to be restricted to Southern Queensland and the far north of New South Wales; it attains a height of over forty feet, and has larger bright golden-yellow flowers.

12. *Liparis habenarina* F. Muell. A herb with small greenish flowers. It has been received from Dunk Island and Proserpine, and from near Byron Bay in New South Wales.

13. *Oberonia Titania* Lindl. A very small epiphyte with long spikes of microscopic greenish flowers. Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

14. *Epipogon roseum* (D. Don) Lindl. A weak saprophyte growing in shady places, with a bent stem carrying dingy white flowers, sometimes tinted with rose. Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

15. *Phajus Tankervilleae* (Banks) Blume. The largest of all our terres-

trials, except perhaps *Galeola foliata*. A noble plant, the flowering stems reaching a height of eight feet. Leaves very large, somewhat like those of an aspidistra. Flowers numerous, large, variable in colour, but in the type form they are white outside, mottled brown inside, with a trumpet-shaped magenta labellum. It is said to occur in many of the islands north of Australia; within the continent it comes as far south as Coff's Harbour in New South Wales, and probably extended further in the early days. Its conspicuous form, the beauty of its large flowers, and the fact that it often grows in comparatively open swampy places, have made it an easy victim of vandals, and great care should be taken to preserve it wherever it grows.

16. *Calanthe veratrifolia* R.Br. Plant somewhat resembling the last, but the leaves relatively broader, and of a duller green. Flowers numerous, pure white at the top of a tall scape, in southern areas blooming about Christmas time. From the tropics southward to the vicinity of Mount Dromedary on the south coast of New South Wales. Usually found in shady places in the rain-forests; thus being less conspicuous than *Phajus* it has not suffered to the same extent from vandalism.

17. *Geodorum pictum* Lindl. Plant somewhat resembling a diminutive *Calanthe*. Though not a showy species, it has a very beautiful veined labelum; and the habit of inflorescence is extremely interesting. At first the flowering spike is erect; but as the buds develop, the axis bends over till the flowers are all "upside down." After fertilization of the capsules, the whole raceme straightens up to the erect position again. It seems probable that fertilisation is effected by the agency of ground insects. The plant extends from the tropics southward as far as Byron Bay.

18. *Dendrobium speciosum* Sm.; the well-known King Orchid or Rock Lily. From the tropics southward as far as Eastern Victoria.

19. *Dendrobium gracilicaule* F. Muell. Common in many coastal areas from the tropics at least as far south as Kiama in New South Wales. Tropical flowers are usually smaller than those of more temperate areas.

20. *Dendrobium aemulum* R.Br. In the tropics, confined to highlands like

the Atherton Tableland. Common in Southern Queensland and in many parts of New South Wales as far south as the Clyde River. In the rain-forests it favours the Brush Box (*Tristania*) as a host; but in open forests it is often found on ironbark eucalypts, and is known as the Ironbark Orchid. Though small, it is very attractive. The writer has seen the upper portion of an ironbark eucalypt completely covered with dense masses of the white flowers.

21. *Dendrobium tetragonum* Cunn. Easily recognised by its pendulous quadrangular stems. The flowers of the North Queensland forms of this species are very much larger, and more richly coloured, than those of the south. They often have a curious resemblance to those of the southern terrestrial "Spider Orchid," *Caladenia Patersonii*, and are quite as large. Southern forms usually have rather small, greenish flowers, which however are exquisitely scented. Chiefly in rain-forests, from the tropics to the Illawarra district south of Sydney.

22. *Dendrobium monophyllum* F. Muell. A creeping epiphyte of the rain-forests, from the tropics to the Hastings River in New South Wales. Sometimes called Lily-of-the-valley Orchid, the nodding raceme with its solitary leaf suggesting a resemblance to the well-known garden flower; but the flowers are a dull yellow.

23. *Dendrobium teretifolium* R.Br. Common in the coastal belt and adjacent highlands, from the tropics as far south as the Clyde River. In southern areas it often shows a marked preference for the Swamp Oak (*Casuarina glauca*) as a host. It is a very variable species, and four varieties have been considered sufficiently distinct from the type form to be named. The curious, long, cylindrical, pendulous leaves have earned for it the popular name of "Rat's-tail;" but a more complimentary epithet is "Clematis Orchid," from the masses of spidery, white flowers hanging from the pendulous branches.

24. *Dendrobium linguiforme* Sw. Creeping closely to trees or rocks, from the tropics to Mount Dromedary in Southern New South Wales. The northern form has broader leaves and smaller flowers, and is distinguished as var. *Nugentii*. The form of the thick, tough leaves has suggested the name "Tongue Orchid."

25. *Dendrobium Mortii* F. Muell. "Slender Pencil Orchid," from the narrow terete leaves. Flowers very pale green or whitish, usually in pairs. From Proserpine southward to the Clarence River.

26. *Dendrobium Beckleri* F. Muell. "Stout Pencil Orchid." From the tropics to the Hunter River. The form from North Queensland is very distinctive, the flowers being racemose, while in the type form, though numerous, they are solitary.

27. *Bulbophyllum crassulifolium* (Cunn.) Rupp. A very small creeping epiphyte with thick succulent leaves and tiny flowers. From the tropics to Southern New South Wales.

28. *Bulbophyllum aurantiacum* F. Muell. Somewhat resembling the last, but larger; flowers often orange-tinted. From the tropics southward to Port Stephens.

29. *Bulbophyllum exiguum* F. Muell. Another small creeper, but with membranous leaves. Flowers racemose, very pale green or cream. The northern form var. *Dallachyi* has larger flowers. From the tropics to Southern New South Wales.

30. *Dipodium punctatum* R.Br. If *D. stenocheilum* be accepted, as I believe it should be, as a variety of *D. punctatum*, this species has a remarkable range of habitat, extending from the Northern Territory to Southern Tasmania. In many areas it is a very beautiful orchid, in spite of being leafless; it is widely known as "Hyacinth Orchid," and the name is not inappropriate, though it often attains far larger dimensions than any hyacinth. The flowers of the type form are bright pink with dark red spots; but this colour-scheme is very variable.

31. *Cymbidium canaliculatum* R.Br. One of the few epiphytes which extend on to the dry western plains, its immense root system penetrating down the hollow trunks of trees for as much

as forty feet. It ranges from the North West of Western Australia across round the Gulf of Carpentaria into North Queensland, and thence southward about as far as Forbes, on the edge of the Central Western Slopes of New South Wales. The colour-scheme of the flowers is extraordinarily variable, and a number of varieties and forms have been given distinctive names.

32. *Cymbidium iridifolium* Cunn. This bulky epiphyte is common in many of the coastal forests from North Queensland at least as far south as the Clarence River. It is often found growing in masses of staghorn fern.

33. *Cymbidium suave* R.Br. A far more slender plant than the last, although growing in large clumps. It has a more extensive range, reaching to the south coast of New South Wales. The flowers of the North Queensland form are very pale green; further south they are darker, and often brownish outside. They are delicately perfumed.

34. *Sarcanthus tridentatus* (Lindl.) Rupp. "Tangle Orchid." A small epiphyte of coastal forests, often with very numerous aerial roots. Flowers fragrant, but very small. Extends down to Eastern Victoria.

35. *Sarcochilus olivaceus* Lindl. Small epiphyte with olive-green fragrant flowers. From the tropics to the Clyde River in Southern New South Wales.

36. *Sarcochilus falcatus* R.I. "Orange-blossom Orchid." Chiefly in the highlands in the tropics, but further south having a wider range. Variable most forms are very sweetly scented but some have an objectionable odour. Extends to Eastern Victoria.

37. *Sarcochilus Cecilliae* F. Muell. A small epiphyte or rock orchid with bright pink fragrant flowers, blooming in summer. A form with pure white flowers has been found in Southern Queensland. From the tropics southward to the Clarence River and New England.

SOME OBSERVATIONS MADE OF THE HABITS OF SPIDERS

By H. O. BARKUS

Since my last article introductory to a further study of spiders, I had occasion to search for a spider spinning a web fine enough for optical measuring. During this search I came across

a small spider which I found used the air as a means of transport. Looking for a likely spider to take a web from, I saw another spider letting out a web into the wind, which was blowing fairly

gently, and then it cast off. At first I had some doubts that it was adrift and looked for another aerial which was attached to some object which would form the basis for a spun web, and not finding one, decided to follow the web still seen in the air. The spider travelled about sixty feet and during the time it was in the air I noticed that the web had become a good deal longer and the breeze not so strong. Then the spider started to wind in the web, and it floated gently down to the ground and immediately started to construct a web. I had been told that such was a common occurrence of a particular spider found in the Cooktown district and was sceptical about the fact, and now I have seen the act myself, knowledge has been gained. The particular spider referred to is found around and on the hibiscus and sometimes on rose trees. Another spider observed is a whitish spider shaped like a crab with claw-

like legs. This spider spins two different types of webs, one strongly built and the other a very light affair, no doubt built to catch either a large insect or a smaller one. As a rule, spiders follow a definite plan in the building of their webs, some after laying the radials spin from the outside into the centre and others from the centre outwards. In a short talk I had with Mr. Brass of the Archbold Expedition, he told me that they had collected in North Queensland about 200 spiders not previously determined and we are looking with interest to seeing the determinations with descriptions. Spiders are easy to handle provided one is not too slow in movement, in the first place; it has been found that a tumbler is a method easy to use, first place the tumbler over the spider and slide a piece of paper under the tumbler and the spider remains inside the tumbler.

NORTH QUEENSLAND COLEOPTERA AND THEIR FOOD PLANTS.

Part 2.

J. G. BROOKS, B.D.Sc., F.R.E.S.

- FOOD PLANT.**
Eucalyptus gummifera Gaertn. (Red Bloodwood).
- Family BUPRESTIDAE.**
Themognatha jansoni Saund.
T. lobicolis Saund.
Castiarina analis Saund.
C. atronotata Waterh.
C. deleta Kerr.
C. triguttata Macl.
- Family SCARABAEIDAE.**
Clithria eucnemis Burm.
Liparetrus laevatus Macl.
L. parvulus Macl.
- Family CANTHARIDAE.**
Selenurus apiciniger Lea.
S. luteopictus Fairm.
- Family RHIPIDOCERIDAE.**
Evaniocera gerstackeri Macl.
Pelecotomoides nigrolineata Lea.
- Family LAGRIIDAE.**
Synatractus variabilis Macl. var. *impieus* Pic.
S. variabilis Macl. var. *limbatus* Bm.
S. variabilis Macl. var. *semiruber* Bm.
- Family ELATERIDAE.**
Melanoxanthus abdominalis Candz.
M. insolitus Cart.
Crepidomenus ignitus Schw.
Anilicus semiflavus Candz.
- Family MORDELLIDAE.**
Mordella auronotata Lea.
M. dumbrelli Lea.
Tomaxia aterrima Macl.
- Family CLERIDAE.**
Tenerus tumidicollis Elst.
- Family NITIDULIDAE.**
Macroura densita Reitt.
- FOOD PLANT.**
Eucalyptus racemosa Cav. (Narrow-leaved Red Ironbark).
- Family BUPRESTIDAE.**
Castiarina cinnamomea Macl.
- Family CERAMBYCIDAE.**
Thoris eburifera White.
Paphora modesta Pasc.
- Family CANTHARIDAE.**
Selenurus apiciniger Lea.
S. luteopictus Fairm.

- FOOD PLANT.**
Heteropogon triticeus Domin. (Giant Spear Grass).
- Family RHIPIDOCERIDAE.**
Rhipidocera mystacina Fabr.
- Family RHIPIDOPHORIDAE.**
Pelecotomoides marmorata Macl.
- FOOD PLANT.**
Hibiscus tiliaceus L. (Coast Cottonwood).
- Family RHIPIDOPHORIDAE.**
Evaniocera gerstackeri Macl.
- FOOD PLANT.**
Genus *Dendrobium*. (Orchidaceae).
- Family CURCULIONIDAE.**
Acythopeus aterrimus Waterh.
Blepiarda vittata Pasc.
- Family CHRYSOMELIDAE.**
Stethopachys formosa Baly.
Nisotra breweri Baly.
- Family SCOLYTIDAE.**
Xyleborus morigerus Bldfd.
- FOOD PLANT.**
Agathis Palmerstoni F. Muell. (North Queensland Kauri).
- Family CURCULIONIDAE.**
Aesiotes leucurus Pasc.
Larvae were taken from a fallen log and bred.
- FOOD PLANT.**
Acacia Mangium Willd. (A large-leaved Wattle).
- Family CHRYSOMELIDAE.**
Stethomela fulvicollis Jac.
Paropsis brunnea Marsh.
P. octomaculata Marsh.
- Family CURCULIONIDAE.**
Chrysolophus spectabilis Fabr.
- FOOD PLANT.**
Tamarindus indica L.
- Family CERAMBYCIDAE.**
Platyomopsis humeralis White.
A specimen of this beetle was bred from a dead branch of the tree.
- FOOD PLANT.**
Alphitonia excelsa Reiss. (Red Almond).
- Family BUPRESTIDAE.**
Briseis curta Kerr.
- FOOD PLANT.**
Tristania suaveolens Sm. (Swamp Box).
- Family CURCULIONIDAE.**
Baryopadus fasciculatus Lea.
Stenocorynus subfasciatus Pasc.
- FOOD PLANT.**
Bauhinia monandra Kurz.
- Family BUPRESTIDAE.**
Calodema regalis L. et G.
- FOOD PLANT.**
Eugenia Kuranda Bail. (Cherry Satinash).
- Family TENEBRIONIDAE.**
Dipsaconia pyritosa Pasc.
Platydemia laticollis Macl.
Ceropria peregrina Pasc.
Uloma westwoodi Pasc.
Promethis nigra Bless.
Toxicum punctipenne Pasc.
- Family CARABIDAE.**
Catascopus laticollis Macl.
Scopodes angulicollis Macl.
- Family CURCULIONIDAE.**
Phaenomerus notatus Pasc.
Euthyrrhinus meditabundas Fabr.
- Family BRENTHIDAE.**
Cerobates australasiae Fairm.
Ceocephalus exophthalmus Lea.
Caenorychodes diagramma Kleine.
- Family PLATYPODIDAE.**
Platypus australis Chaud.
- Family TROGOSTIDAE.**
Pathodermus rufosquamosus Fairm.
- Family STAPHYLINIDAE.**
Metoponcus cyanelpennis Macl.
Priochirus sarmoensis Blkb.
- Family COLYDIDAE.**
Nematidium posticum Pasc.
Ocholissa humeralis Fairm.
- Family EROTYLIDAE.**
Tritoma australasiae Lea.
- Family DIPHYLLIDAE.**
Althoesia leai Blkb.
- Family NITIDULIDAE.**
Brachyepelus binotatus Er.
These beetles are not necessarily restricted to this particular tree, but probably would be taken on all trees in the rain-forest. The particular area worked had a number of the trees which were dead or dying as the result of bush fires. The collecting took place both during the wet and dry seasons of the year.

(To be continued).

CORRECTION, PART 1. 1/6/48.
Under River Cherry, *Momadoretus* should read *Mimadoretus*.

Townsville and District Naturalists' Club

President: **K. Kennedy**, Esplanade and Rose St., Kissing Point.

Hon. Secretary: **Elizabeth Kennedy**, P.O. Box 178, Townsville

The Club meets usually on the first Friday of the month.

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Townsville and District Naturalists' Club were held at the Adult Education Centre Lecture Hall.

At the August Meeting a very interesting lecture on Minerals was given by Mr. H. G. Strauss. The lecture was made all the more interesting by the use of a large map which was used by Mr. Strauss to illustrate the different types of minerals in Australia.

The August Field Day was held in the vicinity of Mt. St. John Zoo where bird life was observed by a large number of the members.

The Annual General Meeting of the Townsville and District Naturalists' Club was held on Friday, September 3rd, 1948, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year. President, Mr. Keith Kennedy; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Perkin and Strauss; Hon. Secretary, Elizabeth Kennedy; Assistant Secretary, Miss Nancy Hopkins; Members of the Committee, Mrs. Hopkins, Messrs. Black and Brock. Mr. Perkin was appointed to be librarian. The formal business having been completed, Mr. Kennedy exhibited a number of baskets and articles of cloth manufactured by Australian aborigines. He explained the conditions under which they were made and indicated the difference in manufacture by different tribes. Mr. Brock exhibited a beautiful collection of entomological specimens, also some shells and gave a lecture explaining their habits. Mr. Perkin exhibited some lichen and spoke about the two species that grow together. Mr. Popham exhibited a winged seed from

New Guinea, and Mr. F. Breuer, a Butterfly Cod or Angel Fish.

The September Field Day was an expedition to Picnic Bay, Magnetic Island. Specimens collected by members included some green tree ants' nests, native flowers and other botanical specimens which were sent to the Barrier Field Naturalists' Club, Broken Hill, New South Wales, holding an Exhibition of Wild Flowers of Australia.

October Meeting. The speaker for the October Meeting was Mr. F. H. Brazier on a recent walking trip he made from Kirima Station to the Tully Gorge. Mr. Brazier made the talk all the more interesting by his extensive use of contour maps and some photos. He described the equipment they took and spoke of the highlights of the trip.

The October Field Day was held at Bluewater, where birds and entomological specimens were observed by one party of naturalists, whilst some members took the track through the bush to the coast to look out for aboriginal middens. None were recorded.

The November Meeting took the form of an exhibition of nature films, illustrated by a sound track, and one in colour, which was a silent film. One film was on Coral, others on:—Strange Shells, Fish, Caterpillars, Sea Urchins, Pollination, Life Story of an Onion, one on Central Australia, Barrier Reef, etc.

The November Field Day being an expedition to 3 Mile where up the Creek Bird and Marine Life were observed.

—ELIZABETH KENNEDY.

NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB

Hon. Secretary: **J. Wyer**, "Lochinvar," 253 Sheridan St., Cairns

Meets at School of Arts, Shields Street, Cairns, usually on second Tuesday in each month, at 8 p.m.

Next Meeting, Tuesday, 14th December, 1948.

MEETINGS

14th September, 1948. Annual General Meeting, Officers elected: President, Mr. J. M. Gray; Vice-Presidents, Mr. J. G. Brooks, Dr. H. Flecker, Mr. A. Read; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Wyer; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Legge; Additional Members of Council, Messrs. H. S. Sullivan, A. B. Cummings and Courtney; Hon. Auditor, Mrs. J. M. Gray. Section Leaders, Dr. H. Flecker, Librarian and Botanist, G. B. Stephens, Mammalogist; A. Read, Carcinologist; S. E. Stephens, Ornithologist; V. Vlasoff, Ichthyologist; G. McLoughlin, Lepidopterist; J. G. Brooks, Coleopterist.

12th October, 1948. Usual monthly meeting.

9th November, 1948. Lecture by H. Womersley, F.R.E.S., Entomologist to South Australian Museum, "Acarids or Mites—particularly those associated with Scrub Typhus."

NEW MEMBERS ELECTED

14th September, 1948. Mr. E. F. Tree, Fleming St., Edge Hill; Mrs. E. F. Tree, Fleming St., Edge Hill.

12th October, 1948. A. C. Baggott, Machan's Beach; (Junior Member) Miss K. M. Harsant, Box 101, Cairns.

9th November, 1948. Messrs. T. B. Masterson, Millaa Millaa Guest House, Cairns; T. J. O'Cavanagh, Mt. Peter, via Edmon-
ton.