

The North Queensland Naturalist

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

Vol. IV.

CAIRNS, 1st JUNE, 1936.

No. 45

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 June, 1936.

Lecture by Mr. S. E. Stephens, "Hastening and Directing Nature."

Election of Members.

Miss U. Mulholland, Grotto House, Cairns.

Miss B. Hinrichsen, Stratford School.

Proposers.

Dr. H. Flecker

Seconders.

Mr. R. L. Morris

Dr. H. Flecker Miss J. Whittick Mr. Bergman—Live Barbel Tortoise (Emydura latisternum).

Miss Hooper—A Gordius worm.

Mr. S. Dunn—Alamanda infested with mature and immature Flatidae (Order Hemiptera).

Dr. Flecker—A mud wasp's nest, on knob of roller blind. Herbarium specimens including eucalypts.

May Lecture.

Mr. E. Barke, Chief of Staff of the Meringa Sugar Experimental Station, chose "Sugar Cane Breeding" as his subject, and delivered an interesting lecture, which was much appreciated by the members of the Club.

The object of sugar cane breeding is to obtain a combination of characters in a variety, which will be suitable for a particular environment.

There are five species of sugar cane: Saccharum officinarum, in various parts; S. spontaneum, Java; S. sinense, India; S. barberi, India; S. robustum, New Guinea.

The Hawaiian method is used for crossing, and species and varieties are crossed and recrossed to develop canes with a high sugar content and a high disease resistance, at the same time obtaining a large type of cane.

When new varieties are obtained they are inoculated with the different cane diseases and should they not possess strong disease resisting qualities they are eliminated.

Exhibits.

Mr. R. L. Hunter—A case of Lepidoptera (moths) showing in particular Ophideres salamina Fabr. and Ophideres materna L., two species of orange sucking moths, sub-family Noctuinae, Family Noctuidae. Also the original photos of the life history of Hypolimnas bolina nerina Fabr.

Mr. W. H. Nicholl (Victoria)—Original drawings of the following orchids: Dendrobium Bairdianum, Beckleri, var. racemosum, Liparis cuneilabris, Phalaenopsis amabilis.

BOOK REVIEWS.

11. OUR BIRDS, 224 pp., 100 plates, printed 1932 by H. Pole and Co., Brisbane. Compiled by the Syllabus Notes Committee of the South Coast Inspectoral Dist., Brisbane. It is the first of the excellent series of handbooks published by this committee. Each bird is described in most interesting detail on a whole page, with a full page illustration alongside. This should certainly stimulate the interest of children in the study of birds as is intended, but it is most unfortunate that undesirable vernacular names, such as Laughing Jackass, Black Duck, Blue Mountain, Pheasant, Blue Crane, etc., should be specially stressed at the head of the page, and that the more appropriate vernaculars as recommended by the R.A.O.U. should be given much less prominently. The technical names appear in an appendix.

12. OUR PLANTS. 210 pp., 100 plates. Printed 1933 by H. Pole and Co., Brisbane. Compiled by the Syllabus Notes Committee of the South Coast Inspectoral District, Brisbane, is another excellent handbook on the model of "Our Birds," the description of the plant appearing on the left hand page and the illustration on the right. Some 29 wild flowers, 29 weeds, 5 grasses, 19 garden plants and 18 trees with both technical and vernacular names are

given, the plants being most commonly found in the South Coast District. The omission of anatomical details of the flowers according to families is most wise, and this has caused in the past the abandonment of interest in botany. No-

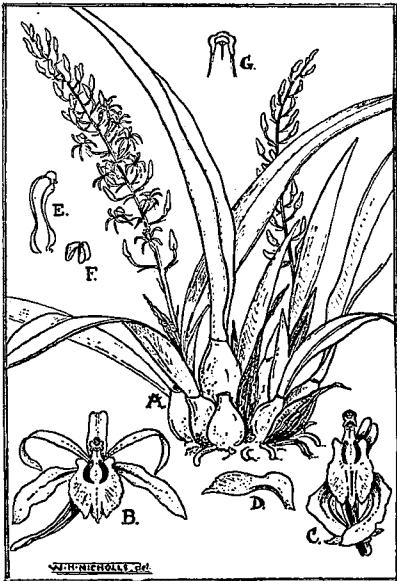
body but a specialist is at all interested in such dissections, and the present arrangement is calculated to promote a life long interest in a very interesting study.

SOME RARER NORTH QUEENSLAND ORCHIDS.

By W. H. Nicholls.

1. *Liparis cuneilabris*, F.v.M., is one of those forms orchid growers would label "Of botanical interest only."

Nevertheless, during the flowering season a well-grown specimen is sure to attract the eye of the orchid lover. To orchidologists it is especially interesting on account of its rarity. Published descriptions of this plant are in need of supplementary data. A figure of it has (apparently) never appeared in botanical literature, with the exception of Bailey's rough line drawing in "A Comprehensive Catalogue of Queensland Plants, 1909."



Liparis cuneilabris, F.v.M. A. A typical specimen. B. A flower. C. A flower with segments reflexed. D. Labellum from side. E. Column from side. F. Pollen masses. G. Head of column from front. Anther removed.

In Mueller's *Fragmenta phytographiae Australiae*, IV., p. 164, a very brief Latin description appears. Pentham in *Flora australiensis*, VI., p. 273, and likewise Bailey in his *Flora of Queensland*, V., p. 1520, base their descriptions (mere outlines) on Mueller's, thus proving the paucity of material at hand for examination.

Liparis cuneilabris has been suggested a possible variety of *L. reflexa*, Ldl., and in the descriptions referred to above (Bentham and Bailey) the flowers are "said to be yellow."

In March (1934) a fine clump of *L. cuneilabris* was received from Mr. A. Glindeman, of Brisbane, the result of one of his periodical visits to Northern parts (via Ingham). In the following autumn (during March) buds were observed, and on April 17th several neat racemes were fully expanded. Lindley's *L. reflexa* also flowered with me a few weeks earlier and as some of the flowers still remained in perfect condition comparisons were easy.

The following description is from my specimens:—

L. cuneilabris, F.v.M. Habit, etc., similar to *L. reflexa*, Ldl., but leaves longer (30-36 cm.); the sinus of lamina less acute (almost flat); pseudobulbs more slender and compressed laterally. Flowers quite yellow, smaller than those of *L. reflexa*. Racemes erect, compact; labellum more or less cuneate, the apical part broad, apex apiculate; disk of labellum-lamina with two dark-coloured curved lines—noticeably raised into plates at base. Dorsal sepal and petals narrower than lateral sepals; petals only half as wide. Column yellow, only slightly incurved, base broad, upper and lower parts winged.

In the mature flower the segments

reflex more definitely than in *L. reflexa*, Ldl.

(*Sturmia angustilabris*, F.v.M.)

Habitats in North Queensland:—Rockingham Bay (Dallachy), Mourilyan Harbour (J. W. R. Stuart), Mt. Fox, via Ingham (A. Glindeman).

(2) A new form of *Dendrobium Beckleri*, F.v.M. var. *racemosum*, N. var.

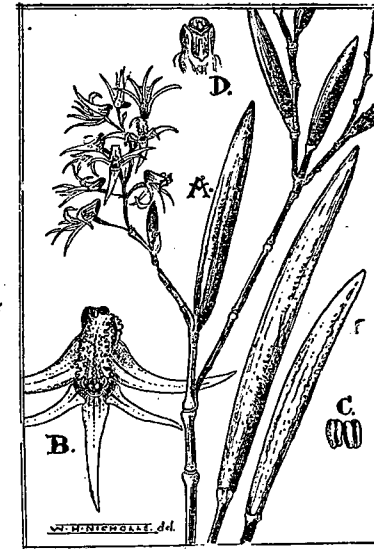
Planta robusta; flores olivacei, racemosi.

Plant more robust than the typical form, which is a well known *Dendrobium*.

Flowers olive-green, very fragrant, the dark purplish-brown striae, so characteristic a feature of the common form is, in this variety apparent only at the extreme base of segments. The racemes have up to 10 flowers.

This interesting and apparently local and therefore rare form was sent to me by Mr. H. G. Henson, of Cairns. It readily responded to treatment in a heated glass house in Melbourne, and flowered during the months of September and October.

Habitat: Cairns.



Dendrobium Beckleri, F.v.M. var. *racemosum* (N. var.), Nicholls. A. Portion of plant in bloom (reduced). B. Flower enlarged. C. Pollen masses enlarged. D. Column from front enlarged. (Column foot not shown).

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Vol 1., p. 6. *Xanthophyllum octandrum*. For F.v.M. read (F.v.M.) Domin.

Vol. III., p. 3. *Gastrolobium grandiflorum*. Add loc. Lr. slopes Mt. Spurgeon (Hawkins) and mos. 4 and 5.

P. 23. *Desmodium triflorum*. Add loc. Mareeba (Couper) and mos. 3, 4, 6, 8 to 12.

P. 43. *Mezoneurum brachycarpum*. Add loc. Green Island (Cummings) and mos. 4, 5.

Vol. IV., pp. 7 and 12. For *Ammania* read *Ammannia*.

Page 7. Before (A.) pentandra add

(A.) *Rotala*. F.v.M. 4. Hodgkinson R. (Flecker).

CENSUS OF NORTH QUEENSLAND PLANTS—(Continued)

(Figures after plants indicate flowering months)

Tristania suaveolens, var. *glabrescens*, F.M.B. 2. Mt. Mulligan (Flecker). conferta, R. Br. Brush Box. 9 to 4.

Atherton (Swain), Cardwell (Swain), Ayr. (Swain), Mth. Burdekin R. (F.v.M.), Strathdiekie N. (MacPherson), Bowen (Francis), Edgcombe B. (Dall.).

exiliflora, F.v.M. 11, 12. Daintree R. (Kajewski), Kuranda-Atherton Plat. (Swain), Rockingham B. (Dall.).

laurina, R. Br. Freshwater Cr. (Bates).

longivalvis, F.v.M. Buttercup-tree. Abt. 6.

36
V4 #45

THE NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALIST

- P. of Wales I. (R. Br.), Thursday I. (Scortechini), C. York (Gulliver).
lactiflora, F.v.M.
 Gulf Country (Palmer).
odorata, White et Francis.
 Johnstone R. (Ladbrook).
Syncarpia, Ten.
procera, Salisb. Turpentine Tree 10 to 12.
 Between Cairns and Ingham (Swain), Herberton (J. F. Bailey), Gadgarra (Kajewski), Ravenshoe to Kirrima (Swain).
Metrosideros, Banks.
tetrapetala, F.v.M.
 Gilbert R. (Daintree).
verticillata, White et Francis.
 Bloomfield R. (Poland).
Xanthostemon, F.v.M.
pubescens, Red Penda 5.
 Atherton Dist. (Mocatta), Gadgarra (Kajewski), Mazlin's Cr., Herberton Dist. (J. F. Bail).
chrysanthus, F. v. M. Northern Brown Penda.
 Barron R. (J. F. Bail), Johnstone R. (Harding), Rockingham B. (F.M.B.).
pachyspermus, F.v.M. Yellow Penda Cairns-Innisfail Dist. (Swain), Johnstone R. (Bancroft).
Youngii, White et Francis.
 Temple B., C. York Pen. (Young).
Backhousia, Hook. et Harv.
Bancroftii, F.M.B. et F.v.M. Johnstone River Hardwood, 6.
 Johnstone R. (Bancroft).
Osbornia, F.v.M.
octodonta, F.v.M.
 Is. of G. of Carp. (F.M.B.), Trinity B. (F.M.B.).
Psidium, L.
guajava, L. White Guava, Tropical America, 3, 6, 9 to 12.
 Cairns (Flecker).
Rhodomyrtus, DC.
trineura, F.v.M., 10.
 Gould I. (F.M.B.), Herberton (Kajewski), Mt. Bartle Frere (Kajewski), Rockingham B. (Hill).
cymiflora, F.v.M.
 Seaview Ra. (Dall.).
macrocarpa, Benth. Finger Cherry, 6.
 Barron Gorge (Cavall), Gadgarra (Kajewski), Mt. Bartle Frere (Flecker).
Myrtus, L.
rhytisperma, F.v.M.
 Rockingham B. (F.v.M.).
 var. *grandifolia*, Benth.
 Boonjie (Kajewski).
lasioclada, F.v.M.
 Herberton Ra. (Kajewski), Belenden Ker. Ras. (Hill).
Shepherdii, F.v.M.
 Rockingham B. (Dall.).
Hillii, Benth. Scrub Ironwood. 11.
 Barron R. (J. F. Bail).
Bidwillii, Benth.
 Ft. Denison (Dall.).
racemulosa, Benth.
 Rockingham B. (Dall.), Pt. Denison (Fitzalan), Edgecombe B. (Dall.).
 var. *conferta*, Benth.
 Pt. Denison (Fitzalan).
acmenioides, F.v.M. 5.
 L. Barrine (Kajewski), Gadgarra (Kajewski).
nitida, Gmel.
 Endeavour R. (Pers.).
exaltata, F.M.B.
 Scrubs abt. Barron R. (F.M.B.)
Metrosideros, F.M.B.
 Pks. of Bellenden Ker Ra. (F.M.B.).
Rhodamnia, Jack.
sessiliflora, Benth. Koorka-bidgan. 12.
 Barron R. (F.M.B.), Gadgarra (Kajewski), Garradunga (Bates), Rockingham B. (Dall.).
trinervia, Blume, 9, 10.
 Atherton Tableland (Swain),
 var. *spongiosa*, F.M.B. Din-din.
 Barron R. (Cowley), Tringilburra Cr. (F.M.B.)
 var. *macrophylla*, Domin. 12.
 Daintree R. (Pentzcke).
Blairiana, F.v.M.
 Mts. abt. Rockingham B. (F.M.B.)
Fenzlia, Endl.
obtusa, Endl. 4 to 7.
 Is. of Torres Sts. (Hutchinson), Badu I. (Endl.), Mt. Mulligan (Flecker), Cairns (Bates), Russell R. (Hill), Mürdering Pt. (Priest), Rockingham B. (Dall.).
retusa, Endl.
 Is. of G. of Carp. (R. Br.)
Decaspermum, Forst.
paniculatum, Kurz.
 var. *laxiflora*, Benth.
 Rockingham B. (Dall.).